

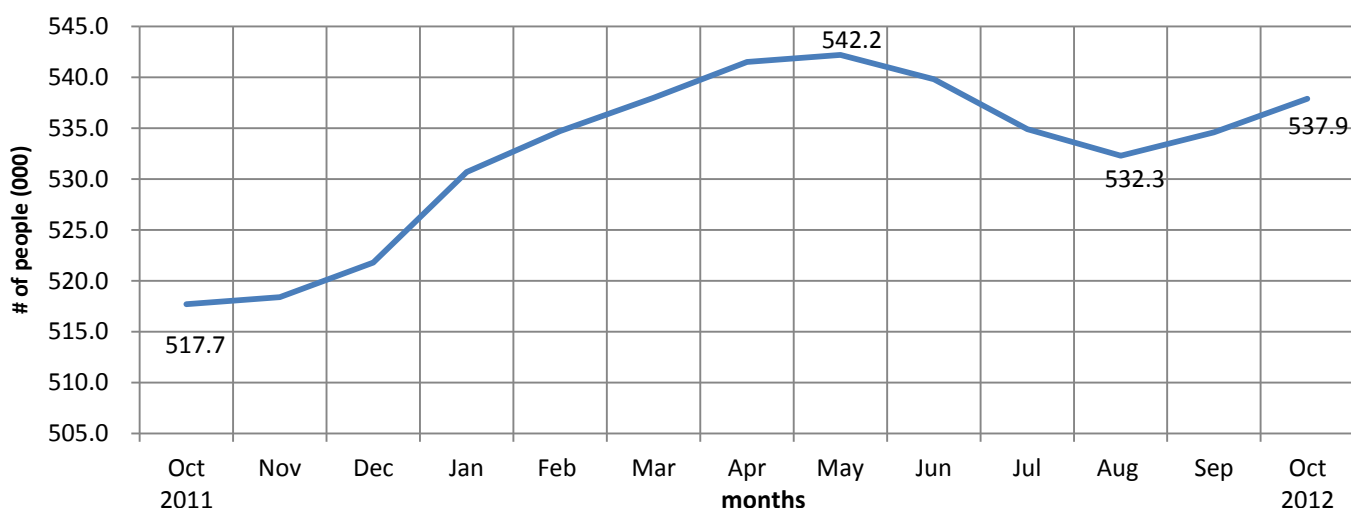
Ottawa's Labour Market in Brief

October, 2012

Employment up in October but unemployment unchanged as more people look for work

October marked the second consecutive month of employment gains in Ottawa. In October, total employment stood at an estimated 537,900, which is 5,600 higher than in August 2012¹. These recent employment gains are in contrast to the three month (June through August) slide in Ottawa's employment numbers, which saw total employment fall by 9,900. In short, the gains of the last two months leave Ottawa's total employment 4,300 below the peak employment level of 542,200 recorded in May 2012, but 20,200 higher than one year ago.

Number of Employed Persons, Ottawa*



* 3-month moving average, adjusted for seasonality. Ottawa refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0116.

Compared to one month earlier, the unemployment rate remained essentially unchanged in October, at 6.6%. However, Ottawa's October unemployment rate is a full percentage point higher than one year ago (October 2011) and is 1.7 percentage points higher than the 4.8% recorded in 2008, prior to the onset of the last recession. Nevertheless, Ottawa's jobless rate remains below that of Ontario's (8.3%) and Canada's overall (7.4%). It is also worth noting that Ottawa's current unemployment rate remains well below the 1995 peak unemployment rate of 9.7%, which followed the recession of 1991 and public service cuts of the mid 1990s². A comparison of Canada's 33 largest Metropolitan Areas shows Ottawa-Gatineau to have the 15th highest unemployment rate. Metropolitan areas in the western provinces generally have the lowest rates (Regina 3.9%; Edmonton 4.3%; Calgary 4.7%) while the highest rates of unemployment are in Windsor (9.6%) and Oshawa (9.1%).

Employment Trends by Occupation³

On a year-over-year basis, total employment in Ottawa increased by 4%, but in several occupations the rate of employment growth has been significantly higher. Leading the way was the occupational group consisting of trades, transport and equipment operators, where employment increased from 34,700 in October 2011 to 42,300 in October 2012 - an increase of 7,600 or 22%. Also experiencing above average growth in the past year were occupations in Business, Finance and Administration, which increased by 11,600 or 13%. Within this occupational group, professional occupations increased by a remarkable 31%. Employment gains were also notable in Management occupations (+ 5,200 or 9.4%) and Sales and Service occupations (+10,100 or 9.7%). Occupations in which employment declined include the grouping of Social Science, Education and Government Service occupations, which declined from an estimated 76,000 in October 2011 to 69,300 (-9%) in October 2012. Employment declines also occurred in Health occupations (-1,400 or -4%) and Natural and Applied Science Occupations (-2,200 or -3%).

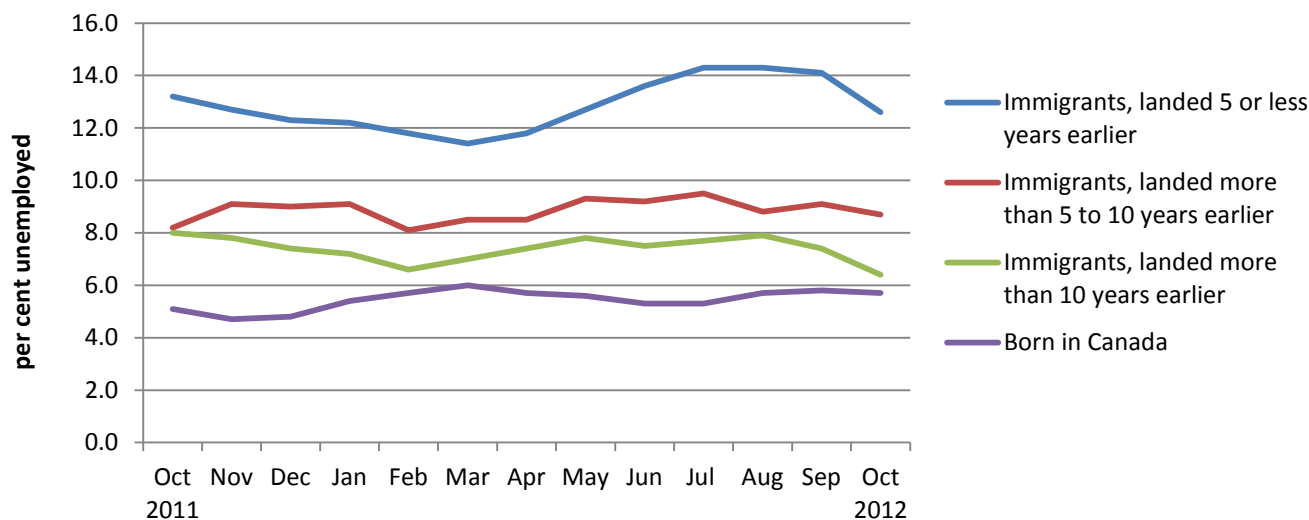
Employment by Occupational Group, Ottawa CMA (Ontario part)					
Occupational Group (NOC-S)	Oct. 2012	Oct. 2011	One Year Change		Oct.2012
			#	%	% distribution
Management	60,300	55,100	5,200	9.4	11.2
Business, Finance, Administration	104,200	92,600	11,600	12.5	19.4
Natural and Applied Science	75,400	77,600	(2,200)	(2.8)	14.0
Health	33,600	35,000	(1,400)	(4.0)	6.3
Social Science, Education, Government	69,300	76,000	(6,700)	(8.8)	12.9
Art, Culture, Recreation, Sport	30,500	31,400	(900)	(2.9)	5.7
Sales and Service	113,700	103,600	10,100	9.7	21.1
Trades, Transport & Equipment Operators	42,300	34,700	7,600	21.9	7.9
Occupations unique to Primary Industry	4,500	7,400	(2,900)	(39.2)	0.8
Occupations unique to Manufacturing & Utilities	3,600	5,800	(2,200)	(37.9)	<u>0.7</u>
					100.0%

Source: Prepared by Hire Immigrants Ottawa using Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 282-0113 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by census metropolitan area based on 2006 census boundaries and National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons). Accessed Nov. 6, 2012.

A difficult job market for recent immigrants

The relatively weak job market has been particularly difficult for recent immigrants in Ontario over the past year⁴. The unemployment rate of recent immigrants (landed for less than 5 years) aged 25-54 decreased from 13.2% in October 2011 to as low as 11.4% in March 2012, only to climb again to 13.3% in August 2012. While the last two months have seen the jobless rate for recent immigrants fall to 12.6%, it remains more than double the 5.7% jobless rate of the Canadian-born population in Ontario⁵.

**Unemployment Rate by Immigration Status, Persons Age 25-54
October 2011 - October 2012, Ontario**



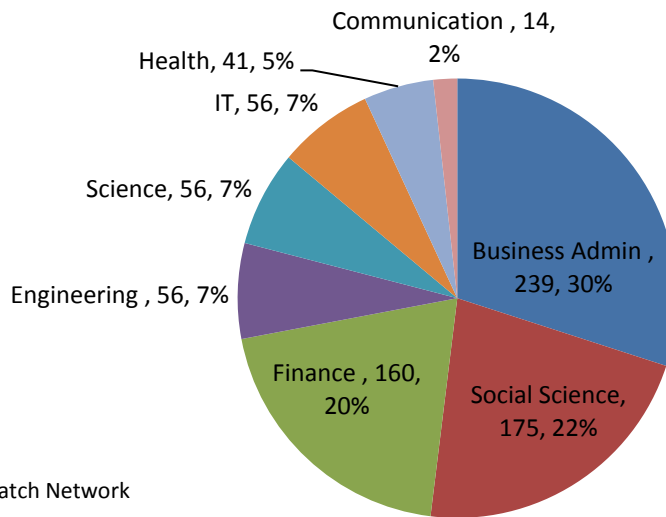
Source: Prepared by Hire Immigrants Ottawa using Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 282-0101 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), 3-month moving average., not adjusted for seasonality. Accessed Nov. 7, 2012

Job ready skilled immigrants available, ready and willing to work in Ottawa

While recent business outlook surveys suggest that global economic uncertainty has tempered hiring expectations⁶, employers in Ottawa continue to recognize the importance of attracting top talent. According to a new business outlook survey undertaken by the city of Ottawa, the number one priority of local businesses is increasing the availability of qualified labour.⁷

An important but often underutilized source of qualified labour is internationally trained workers. The Ottawa Job Match Network (OJMN)⁸ currently has more than 800 pre-screened internationally trained professionals, ready and available to work. Currently, about 400 of these professionals have expertise in business administration and finance - occupations that have experienced above average employment growth over the past year in Ottawa. OJMN's job-ready clients also include scientists, engineers, information technology professionals, and many others.

Job-ready clients by Specialization, OJMN Database, October 2012



Source: Ottawa Job Match Network

For more information on how to access these qualified workers, contact Andy Rapoch at andy@ottawa-worldskills.org or 613-233-0453 Ext 342.

Contact Us

For more information about this issue of *Ottawa's Labour Market in Brief*, contact Clarence Lochhead, Senior Manager, Policy and Research, clochhead@hireimmigrantsottawa.ca or 613-683-3797.

¹ All statistics in this report are from Statistics Canada's monthly [Labour Force Survey](#). In this article, "Ottawa" refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau Census Metropolitan Area. Unless otherwise noted, statistics pertaining to Ottawa are seasonally adjusted three-month moving averages.

² Public sector job cuts took place between 1994 and 1999. During those years, Ottawa's unemployment rate peaked in 1995 (9.7%) and then fell slowly to 6.4% in 1999.

³ Occupations are defined according to the [2006 National Occupational Classification - Statistics \(NOC-S\)](#). All estimates pertaining to occupations are three month moving averages, not adjusted for seasonality.

⁴ Statistics Canada does not publish monthly LFS data pertaining to immigrants in Ottawa.

⁵ Unemployment rate is a three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

⁶ <http://manpower.ca/ca/en/multimedia/4Q12-EOS-National-News-Release.pdf>

⁷ As reported in <http://metronews.ca/news/ottawa/423609/ottawa-business-survey-reveals-optimism-in-the-face-of-challenges/>

⁸ Led by LASI World Skills, the [OJMN](#) is a partnership that includes the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO) and the National Capital YMCA-YWCA. Hire Immigrants Ottawa collaborates with OJMN to match internationally trained individuals with jobs commensurate with their education, skills and experience.