

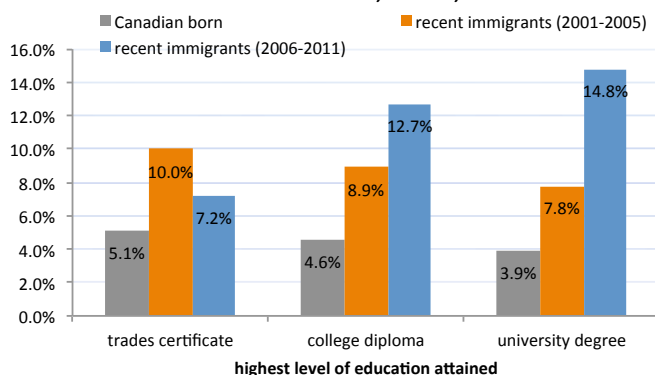
HIO FACT SHEET

Ottawa's Underutilized Immigrant Workforce

The report of the Commission on the reform of Ontario's public services – the [Drummond Report](#) – points out that “the degree to which Ontario can successfully integrate new arrivals into the province's labour market and social fabric will have a significant effect on Ontario's fiscal fortunes.” Currently, however, immigrants coming to Ontario and to the city of Ottawa are experiencing much higher levels of unemployment than the Canadian-born population, even though they are more likely to have post-secondary qualifications. Immigrants are also more likely to work in jobs not commensurate with their skill levels and training. The [Conference Board of Canada](#) puts the annual national cost of underutilizing immigrant skills between \$4.1 and \$5.9 billion.

Successful labour market integration is also an issue for immigrants settling in the city of Ottawa. According to the 2011 National Household Survey, recent immigrants to Ottawa who held a university degree had an unemployment rate of 14.8%, more than three times higher than their Canadian-born counterparts.

Unemployment Rates, Canadian-born and Immigrants, by Educational Attainment, Ottawa, 2011



Source: Prepared by Hire Immigrants Ottawa using Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey, CANSIM table 99-012-x2011038

Quick Facts

- Among Ottawa's immigrants who arrived in Canada between 2006 and 2009, the median earning in 2010 was \$22,403, which is \$22,400 lower than the median earnings of the Canadian-born population.
- If the employment rate and average earnings of Ottawa's immigrants matched that of Ottawa's Canadian-born population, in 2010, the aggregate earnings of immigrants would have increased by \$1.1 billion — equivalent to 2.3% of Ottawa-Gatineau's GDP in 2010.
- A recent report by RBC Economics puts the national earnings gap between immigrants and Canadian-born at more than \$30 billion.
- 95% of employers who have hired a skilled immigrant in the past say that hiring skilled immigrants has been beneficial to the company.ⁱ

WHAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD KNOW

Leveraging the full potential of immigrant employees can lead to a competitive advantage in the marketplace and to service excellence.

We Can Help

Hire Immigrants Ottawa has the tools and resources to help employers fully utilize Ottawa's immigrant talent by recruiting and integrating skilled immigrants into skills appropriate positions.

Learn more at: www.hireimmigrantsottawa.ca info@hireimmigrantsottawa.ca 613-228-6700

ⁱ EKOS Survey, 2012.

* Unless otherwise cited, all statistics shown are derived from Statistics Canada data.