

## 11 great jobs for 2011

Kaitlin Madden, CareerBuilder Writer, January 15, 2011

The Canadian job market came to a strong close at the end of 2010. The unemployment rate fell to 7.6 per cent at the end of November and held steady in December, the lowest level since January 2009, and the economy added 369,000 jobs from December 2009 through December 2010. Luckily, employment growth shows no signs of slowing down this year, meaning 2011 could be the best year for job seekers in awhile.

Yet despite a more inviting job climate, competition for jobs will remain relatively high. While the number of employed Canadians is roughly equivalent to pre-recession levels, the labour force has grown by 1.7 per cent since 2008, which is why the unemployment rate continues to remain relatively high. Additionally, many Canadians that have been forced to take on-part time or temporary work and feel as if they're under-employed will be seeking new, full-time positions.

If you're looking for a new job this year, consider honing your skills and applying to a job in one of these 11 occupations, all of which are expected to experience an increase in demand this year.

- 1. Lawyer:** According to the Robert Half Professional Employment Report, 42 per cent of law firms anticipate staff increases in 2011, more than any other industry. Additionally, the survey reported that nine out of 10 lawyers said they felt good about their company's growth prospects in the coming year.
- 2. Accountant:** Accounting has consistently been one of the strongest jobs in Canada. According to data from financial analysis firm Sageworks, Inc., the accounting, tax preparation and bookkeeping industry has grown by more than 11 per cent in the last four years, one of the highest growth rates of any sector. And with companies looking to get their books out of the red and into the black in 2011, growth should continue to be strong for accountants.
- 3. Administrative assistant:** As employers seek to regenerate their businesses, positions that were cut during the recession, like administrative assistants, will be brought back. Another good sign? The number of workers employed as administrative clerks grew by nearly 54 per cent during the most recent five year period from which Canadian census data is available.
- 4. Dentist:** Another consistently thriving profession, the offices of dentists have experienced a sales growth rate of more than 8 per cent in the last four years, Sageworks reports, and should continue to see growth this year.

- 5. Real estate agent:** According to a recent article published in the Vancouver Sun, the real estate industry saw a 3.1 per cent growth in sales during the 12-month period between August 2009 and August 2010, the second-highest of any private sector industry. Additionally, according to the Robert Half Professional Employment Report, executives in finance, insurance and real estate anticipate an expected net hiring increase of 17 per cent in the first quarter of 2011, more than any other sector.
- 6. Nurse:** Nurses make up the largest portion of health care workers in the country, according to Statistics Canada. Add in a perennial shortage of Licensed Practical Nurses and the fact that a substantial number of nurses are slated for retirement in the next decade, and opportunities for new nurses will abound.
- 7. Retail sales manager:** The wholesale and retail trade industry is expected to increase hiring by 17 per cent in the first quarter of 2011, according to a survey by staffing firm Manpower Canada; a 6 per cent increase over the fourth quarter of 2010.
- 8. Engineer:** According to Sageworks, the engineering industry has experienced more than 10 per cent sales growth since 2007, one of the highest growth rates of any industry. Engineers also consistently earn some of the highest salaries in Canada.
- 9. Insurance sales:** Seventeen per cent of executives in the insurance industry said that they planned to add to their professional staff in the first quarter of 2011, more than any other industry, the Robert Half report found. Additionally, Sageworks reports that insurance agencies and brokerages across Canada typically experience faster-than-average sales growth.
- 10. Computer software engineer:** As the world becomes more dependent on technology, we also become more dependent on those who create it. Executives surveyed by Robert Half International named applications and web developers as one of the top positions in demand for 2011.
- 11. Medical data entry specialist:** According to the 2006 Census, health care is Canada's second largest industry, and it will only continue to expand as the population of Canada grows both larger and older. Medical data entry specialists will have the added benefit of a pay increase this year: Robert Half's Salary Guides report that base compensation for medical data entry specialists is expected to grow an average of 3.7 per cent this year.

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