

Hennessy's Index: April 2014

The Skills Gap Trope



Hennessy's Index is a monthly listing of numbers, written by the CCPA's Trish Hennessy, about Canada and its place in the world. For other months, visit: <http://policyalternatives.ca/index>

■ #1

Canada has more workers with post-secondary training than any other industrialized country. More than half of Canadians aged 25-34 have a post-secondary diploma or certificate; 28.9 per cent held a university degree in 2006 – up from 14.9 per cent in 1981. [Source [1](#), [2](#)]

■ Half

Number of Canadian university students who complete at least one co-op placement, practicum, internship or field placement during the course of their degree. [Source]

■ 23

Percentage of Canadians aged 15-29 who are estimated to have been underemployed in 2013. About a third of young Canadians work in part-time jobs, many of which are low paying and temporary. [Source]

■ 12.1

Percentage of very recent immigrants to Canada, aged 25-54, who were among the unemployed in 2012. If there was a true labour shortage, newcomers would rapidly find work. [Source]

■ 24.6

Percentage of Canadian youth armed with a university degree who were employed full-time, year-round in 2005 performing duties that did not require a degree. [Source]

■ 26

Percentage of employers who told a Bank of Canada survey in the last quarter of 2013 that they face a

labour shortage that restricts their ability to meet demand. That's lower than at any time between 1997 and mid-2008, when recession struck. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **20**

Canada's job creation ranking among 34 OECD countries (cumulative change in employment rate between 2008 and 2012). Net job creation lags 1.4 points behind population growth. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **40**

Percentage drop in the amount of money Canadian businesses spent on employee training (per employee) in 2013 compared to 1993. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **10th**

Canada's ranking in informal job-related education – that's a drop since 2003. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **49**

Number of hours of informal job-related education Canadian adults received in 2009, compared to the OECD average of 59 hours. In Denmark, adults get 105 hours of informal work-related education. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **Kijiji**

Highly fallible data source the federal government partially relied upon when it trumped up claims of a skills gap in Canada. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **0**

The conclusion based on a review of the “best peer-reviewed research in Canada” is that there “is no evidence of a national labour shortage at present or in the foreseeable future”. [\[Source\]](#)

■ **Zombie**

The word Pulitzer Prize winning economist Paul Krugman ascribes to the skills gap myth in that country, saying it's time to 'kill this zombie'. [\[Source\]](#)

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