

City Profile

Ottawa, Ontario



Ottawa—Where talent comes to work, play and grow

With a quality of life second to none, Ottawa is one of North America's most sustainable cities and one of the world's most progressive centres for innovation.

Fast Facts

Ottawa Overview

Ottawa benefits from having an abundant knowledge-based talent pool and a strong focus on innovation and product development. In 2015, Ottawa's tech sector maintains 68,000 jobs in over 1,700 companies.

Sector Strengths

One of the strengths of Ottawa's economy is the diversity of its technology sector. With the highest level of R&D spending per capita in the country, the Ottawa region has become the home of leading economic clusters in communications technologies, life sciences, aerospace, defence and security, digital media, software, cleantech and film and television production.

Why Canada

Canada's workforce is the most highly educated among the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with half of its working-age population having a tertiary level education. The availability of qualified engineers in Canada in the labour force is the second highest in the G-7 according to a survey conducted by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).

Ottawa is a nurturing ground for some of the world's brightest minds in telecommunications. The Canada Research Centre in Ottawa is not only helping Huawei strengthen R&D capabilities, the team of innovators is helping lead our long-term global wireless road map. This research will help drive further investment into Canada and ensure Huawei is a key contributor to the growth of Canada's digital economy.

Sean Yang, President, Huawei Canada

Ottawa Overview

Ottawa builds upon its traditional strengths as the nation's capital and is globally recognized as a centre for innovation and technological advancements as well as a national tourism and convention destination. With quick and easy access to the U.S. market, plus close proximity to Canada's largest cities—Toronto and Montreal—Ottawa provides a unique advantage for business growth.

Invest Ottawa, an expanded city initiative launched in 2012 to attract investment and retain/grow existing businesses, is focused on building key knowledge-based sectors in the city. These innovative sectors including communications technologies, life sciences, aerospace, defence and security, digital media, software, cleantech and film and television production.

Ottawa has the most educated workforce in Canada—61 per cent of the city's workers hold a post-secondary degree. Ottawa is second only to San Jose, California, in North America for a concentration of scientists and engineers.

Ottawa is home to 65 federal labs, and four post-secondary institutions with a total enrolment of over 120,000 students annually, of which 27,000 study in STEM programs. Together, the city's colleges and universities undertake \$357 million of sponsored research annually.

Why Ottawa

Ranked as one of the least congested, fastest growing and affordable cities in North America, Ottawa offers an exceptionally high quality of life.

Virtually 100 per cent of Ottawa's schools, universities, hospitals, libraries, research institutes and municipal facilities are wired with high-speed internet access. No other city in Canada has the breadth and depth of fibre optic connectivity of Ottawa—making it Canada's most connected city.

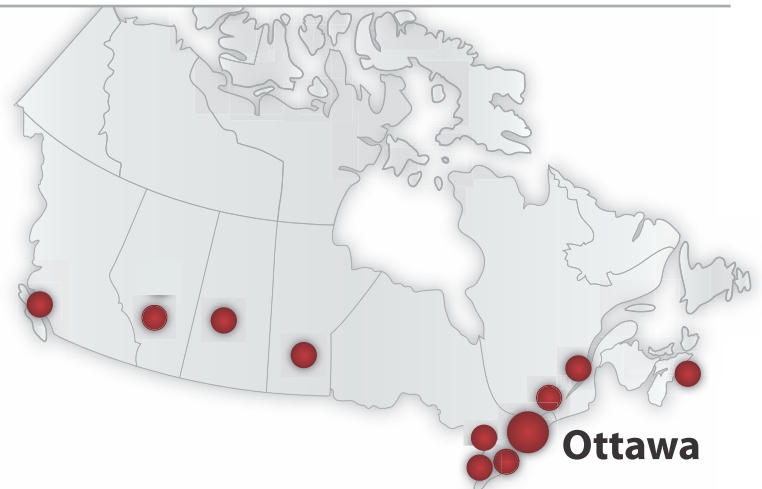
The city is home to a thriving and robust community of startups and entrepreneurs who have raised over \$4.7 billion in venture capital investment over the last 10 years.

[more...](#)

Ottawa Economic Indicators

Indicator	2013	2014
GDP value	\$63,661M	\$63,829M
GDP growth	0.3%	0.8%
Unemployment rate	6.4%	6.7%
Ottawa-Gatineau population	1,318,122	

Source: Conference Board of Canada



Sector Strengths

Communications Technologies – Ottawa is an established, internationally recognized centre of excellence in communications technologies encompassing telecommunications, semiconductor, optical technologies and wireless systems, as well as converging opportunities with photonics, optics and life sciences. 90% of the Canada's industrial telecom R&D is conducted in Ottawa and the world's largest wireless telecommunications network equipment companies such as Alcatel-Lucent, Ciena, Cisco, Ericsson, and Huawei are developing their next generation products in Ottawa.

Aerospace, Defence and Security - As a G7 capital city and headquarters for most federal government departments, including the Department of National Defence, Public Safety Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Communications Security Establishment Canada and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Ottawa is the national hub for Canada's defence and security sector.

Digital Media – Ottawa-based digital media companies create cutting-edge digital technologies backed by the city's longstanding history of software expertise. Ottawa's strengths are now built on a strong game development culture, robust engineering and software talent networks and an exceptionally creative workforce.

Cleantech – Ottawa hosts Canada's largest concentration of clean energy and technology researchers in academia, federal labs and companies. Areas of focus include: renewable energy generation, energy infrastructure and energy efficiency; water treatment, waste diversion, conversion and management; and, remediation, green buildings and resource efficiency in built environments.

Life Sciences - Within Canada, Ottawa is a leader in transforming biotechnology into a new focus for economic activity. There are more than 110 life sciences companies in the city, employing over 8,500 people. Ottawa is also home to 20 public research institutes and 20 associations focused on the sector. On the health side, there are 10 hospitals undertaking in excess of \$156 million of research annually.

Software - Ottawa's strong software sector provides industry-leading solutions in enterprise and web applications, e-security, graphics programs, development and more. An estimated 20,000 people are employed in the software industry with over 500 companies in the region. Ottawa's highly skilled software professionals and world-class R&D capability make it an ideal location for software-development activities.

Future Plans

Ottawa's economic development plans include:

- Funding for large scale cultural and sports events that will bring significant benefits for the local economy
- Increased support for knowledge-based sectors including life sciences, cleantech, communications technologies, security and defence, digital media, software and film and TV productions
- A two billion dollar upgrade to Ottawa's water infrastructure
- Boosting the convention industry with the new \$180 million convention centre in the heart of the city
- Building a \$2.1 billion light rail network to improve public transit

It's important to not be afraid and dream.

— Jim Watson, City of Ottawa Mayor, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



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