

# IT firms create over 10,000 overseas jobs in last 6 months

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Even as they moved many hundreds of jobs back to India over the last couple of quarters to cut costs on the back of a slowing global economy, Indian IT firms have realised the importance of creating more local jobs in the geographies in which they operate. This is especially true in the US where they need to counter growing "protectionist" rhetoric from US senators and pressure from the Obama administration.

Thus, over the last six months alone, analysts estimate that for the first time, Indian IT-BPO firms would have created over 10,000 jobs in international locations, the majority of them in the US.

For instance, HCL Technologies alone has created approximately 2,500 jobs in US and UK combined in the last six months. In the recent past, the company has opened new centres in places like Raleigh in the US, and the company plans to hire local talent for

## FOREIGN HANDS

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- TCS has added over 2,100 employees in the US and UK in the last six months
- Infosys is committed to adding another 1,000 US citizens to its rolls in 12-18 months
- Wipro will hire over 750 US workers for its newly-opened centre in Atlanta

these centres too.

TCS, the largest employer in the IT sector in India, has added 2,146 employees in its overseas branches, including those in the US, UK and Mexico, in the last two quarters.

Infosys and Wipro declined to share the number of overseas recruits in the last two quarters, but industry sources said these numbers are well above the thousand mark. For

MindTree, about 10 per cent of the total recruits have been in the US. These are primarily for customer-facing and business development roles.

"It is a conscious strategy at HCL to increase our onsite presence and hire local talents," said Vineet Nayar, CEO of HCL Technologies. "Creating employment opportunities in the markets in which we operate like UK, US and continental Europe also increases our ability to get more business as customers today are sensitive on HR and want to know whether as a company you are creating jobs or taking them away to India," he added.

India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) had about 10,508 non-Indians on its payroll — around 8.3 per cent of its total workforce of 126,150 (as on March 31, 2009). In the US, which accounts for over half its annual revenue, TCS has over 900 locals on its payroll. The company plans to double its foreign workforce to about 20,000 over the next five years.

Turn to Page 14