

# Rural Migration News

## Blog 292

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### Canadian Immigration

Canada is the great immigration exception among industrial countries. The government aims to increase the population of 38 million by one percent each year with immigrants, has a generous social welfare system, and enjoys widespread public support for its immigration and integration policies. Canadian exceptionalism is due in part to a flexible point system that gives priority to young and well-educated foreigners who know English or French and who studied or worked in Canada.

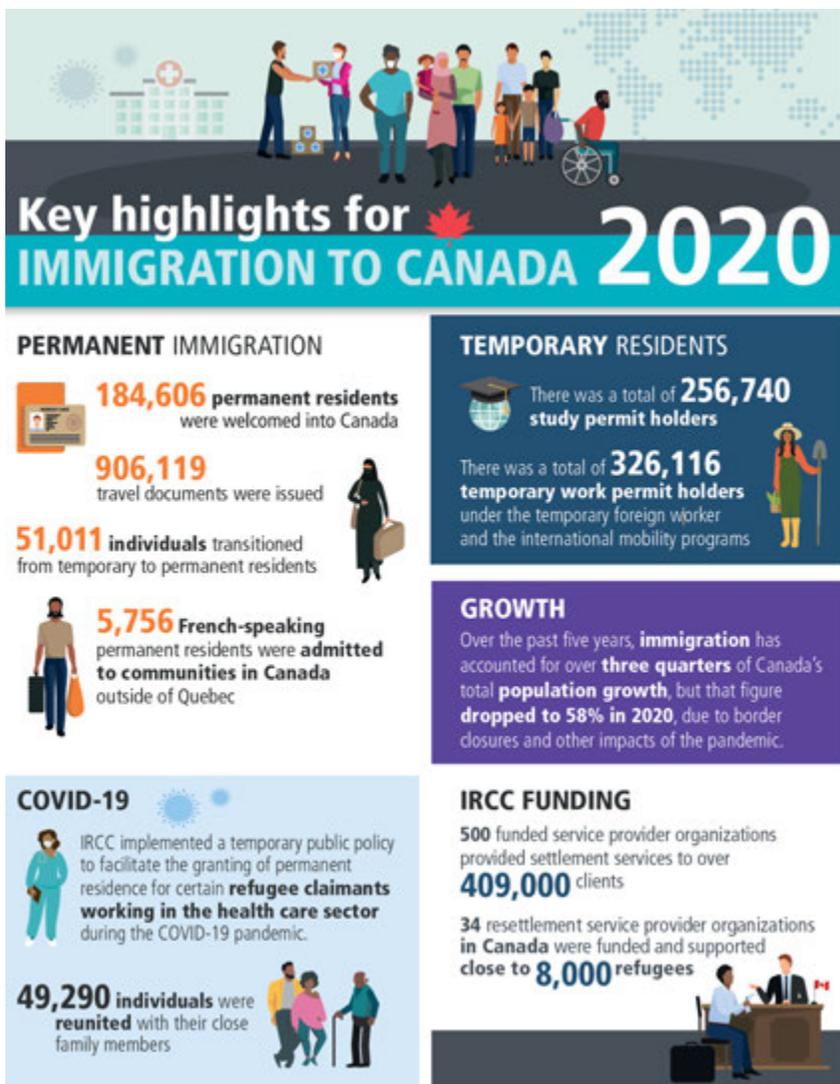
#### Immigration

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) ministry sets annual targets for the admission of various types of immigrants. Immigration fell to less than half of the 400,000 target in 2020 due to covid. Of the 185,000 immigrants who were admitted, a quarter were from India, nine percent were from China, and six percent were from the Philippines, so that 40 percent were from the top three countries of origin. The US, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria each accounted for three percent of Canada's 2020 immigrants.

The immigration target for 2022 is 432,000, including 56 percent admitted under economic criteria, 24 percent admitted for family reasons, and 20 percent admitted for humanitarian and other reasons. Canada aims to admit over a million immigrants in the next three years. If the US had the same immigration rate, over three million rather than one million immigrants would be admitted to the US each year.

Immigration to Canada peaked between 1895 and 1913, when 2.5 million newcomers arrived, including 400,000 who arrived in the peak year of 1913, adding five percent to the then-population of 7.6 million. The Canadian govern-

Covid Reduced Immigration to Canada in 2020



ment encouraged Europeans to immigrate and settle the midwestern provinces, offering 160 acres of land to farmers.

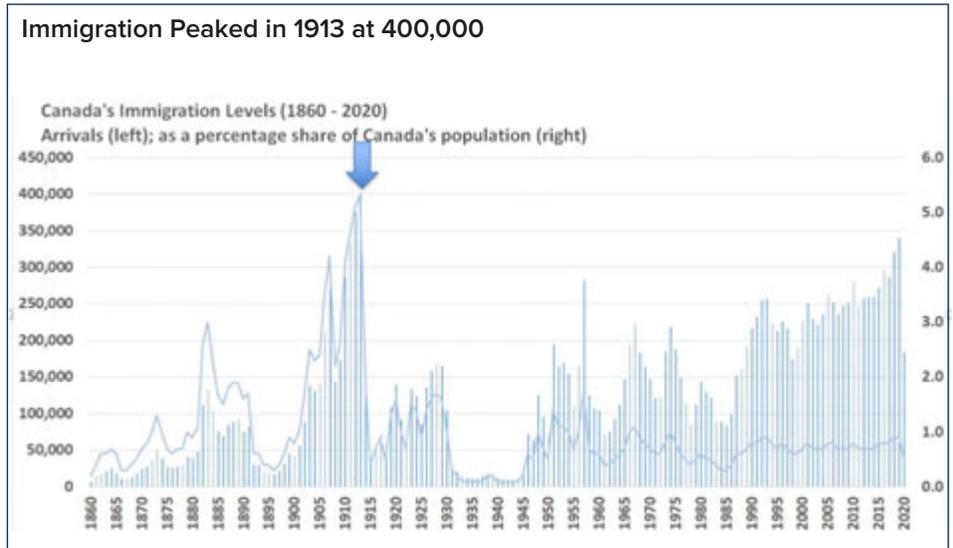
Immigration was low during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, rose in the 1950s, but began to fall as European countries recovered from WWII. Canada opened doors to Asian immigrants in 1962 and introduced a point system in 1967 to give priority to young and educated immigrants who speak English or French. One member of a family had to achieve at least 67 of 100 possible points to receive an immigrant visa, resulting in a higher share of immigrants having college degrees than Canadian-born residents.

Well-educated immigrants sometimes fail to find jobs that use their skills, leading to brain waste, as when doctors trained in India drive taxis in Canada. There are many explanations for and policies to reduce brain waste, ranging from anti-discrimination laws to programs that speed up the recognition of credentials earned outside Canada.

Most of Canada's eight million immigrants settle in metro Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal, the three cities with a third of Canadians.

The Express Entry system has since 2015 tried to reduce brain waste by adding points for Canada-earned credentials, work experience, and relatives settled in Canada. Foreigners seeking immigrant visas provide their personal details on a government web site: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/submit-profile.html>.

The IRCC awards up to 1,200 points for personal human capital (youth, education, English and/or French and Canadian education or work experience), spouse's human cap-



ital, foreign work experience, and up to 600 points for having a Canadian job offer, relatives in Canada, or being nominated by a provincial government at the behest of an employer.

Almost half of the foreigners invited to apply for immigrant visas under express entry in recent years were already in Canada, highlighting the importance of Canadian education, work experience, and job offers. Immigrating to Canada often means arriving as a student, foreign worker, or other temporary visitor and finding a Canadian employer or provincial government to support an application for an immigrant visa.

Canada establishes immigration targets that aim to make the country a destination for global talent, unite families, and “fulfill Canada’s humanitarian commitments.” The government says that immigrants contribute to short-term economic growth by addressing labor market needs and bolster the long-run growth potential of the country.

### Guest Workers

The rising share of immigrants who adjust status to immigrant while in Canada focuses attention on the employer and education gatekeep-

### Canada Offered 160 Acres of Land to Immigrant Farmers



ers who bring foreigners to Canada as guest workers and students.

Canada had over 400,000 guest workers in 2019, compared to a million in the US, even though Canada’s labor force of 20 million is only an eighth of the US labor force of 160 million.

Canada has several Temporary Foreign Worker Programs (TFWPs), including the Seasonal Agricultural Worker program that allows employers to hire foreign guest workers after receiving a Labor Market

Impact Assessment confirming that Canadian workers are not available to fill the job. Some 103,830 work permits were issued under Canadian TFWP in 2021.

The separate International Mobility Program allows employers to hire foreign workers without testing the labor market if the job serves Canada's cultural and economic interests. Employers post their job offers in a government portal and provide the code to the foreign worker they want to hire, who submits an application for a work permit. The IMP is used to bring workers to Canada under free-trade agreements such as NAFTA-USMCA, to move workers within a company (intra-corporate transfers), and for 18-to-35-year old youth who want to work and learn in Canada. Some 341,745 work permits were issued under the IMP in 2021.

There have been periodic protests against guest workers, as when several McDonald's restaurants gave more hours of work to Filipino guest workers than to Canadian employees and banks subcontracted their IT work to firms that relied on Indian guest workers, displacing Canadians. The government in 2014 promised to step up enforcement to ensure that employers hired Canadians first, generate more reliable data on wages and labor market conditions, and increase penalties on employers who violate guest worker program regulations.

Provinces are responsible for determining which schools are Designated Learning Institutions that may admit foreign students. In 2019, there were over 400,000 international students in Canada, but covid reduced their number to 257,000 in 2020. Some international students, typically three to five percent, are able to become immigrants each year.

### The Express Entry System Awards Points for Canadian Experience and Ties

Factors	Sub-factors	Maximum points No spouse/partner	Maximum points With spouse / partner	
1. Core human capital factors	Age	110	100	
	Education	150	140	
	Language	First	136	128
		Second	24	22
	Canadian work experience	80	70	
2. Skills Transferability (maximum 100 points for this section)	Post-secondary Education with strong language or Canadian work experience	50	50	
	Foreign work experience with strong language or Canadian work experience	50	50	
	Certificate of Qualification (trade occupations)	50	50	
3. Additional Points (maximum 600 points for this section)	Canadian Post-Secondary Education (1-2 years)	15	15	
	(3 years)	30	30	
	Arranged Employment NOC O, A, B	50	50	
	NOC OO	200	200	
	Provincial/Territory (Express Entry) Nomination	600	600	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1200</b>	<b>1160 – up to 40 points for spouse 1200</b>	

### Almost Half of Express Entry Immigrants are Already in Canada

	2017	2018	2019	Growth 2017-2019
All	86,022	89,800	85,300	-1%
Canada	42,233	39,936	40,550	-4%
India	14,910	17,636	14,926	0%
United States	5,829	9,981	10,185	75%
Nigeria	2,910	3,724	3,819	31%
UAE	2,436	2,029	1,708	-30%
Pakistan	1,331	1,365	1,180	-11%
Morocco	255	585	860	237%
Australia	673	831	791	18%
China	985	871	768	-22%
UK	1,560	1,186	699	-55%
Other	12,900	11,656	9,814	-24%

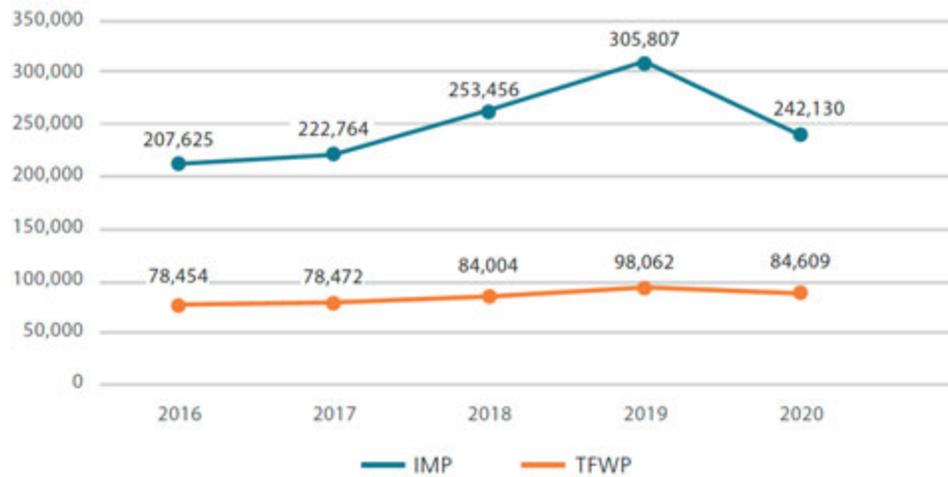
### Canada Plans to Admit Over 400,000 Immigrants a Year

#### 2022–2024 Immigration Levels Plan

	2022		2023		2024	
Projected admissions – Targets	431,645		447,055		451,000	
Projected admissions – Ranges	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Economic immigration*	210,000	248,000	222,000	259,000	235,000	273,000
Family reunification	90,000	109,000	94,000	113,000	99,000	117,000
Refugees, protected persons, humanitarian and compassionate and other	60,000	88,000	64,000	93,000	56,000	85,000
<b>TOTAL**</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>445,000</b>	<b>380,000</b>	<b>465,000</b>	<b>390,000</b>	<b>475,000</b>

Canada had Over 400,000 Guest Workers in a Labor Force of 20 million

### Temporary Foreign Workers



Canada has Several Streams or Guest Worker Programs

## Temporary Foreign Worker Program

The Temporary Foreign Work Program (TFWP) allows Canadian employers to apply for LMIA's in order to hire foreign workers within a wide range of job positions. The TFWP is overseen by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).

### What are the TFWP Streams?



### What Type of Work Permit is Issued Under the TFWP?

Temporary foreign workers are issued employer-specific work permits /closed work permits under the TFWP. This allows them to only work for the employer specified in their work permit application.

## The IMP Does Not Require Labor Certification

Employers can hire temporary foreign workers through two different programs.  
The program you use depends on whether or not you need a [Labour Market Impact Assessment \(LMIA\)](#).

If you are hiring in Quebec, please visit the [Immigration website for the Government of Quebec](#).

### TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM

This program helps employers fill labour shortages on a temporary basis when no qualified Canadian citizens or permanent residents are available.

#### EMPLOYERS

- Step 1** Determine if you need an [LMIA](#)
- Step 2** Apply to [Service Canada](#) for an [LMIA](#) and pay the \$1,000 processing fee
- Step 3** Once a positive LMIA has been issued,
- ✓ provide a copy of the confirmation letter to the worker
  - ✓ advise them to apply for a work permit

#### FOREIGN WORKERS

Apply for an [employer-specific work permit](#) online (recommended) or on paper

Where to apply

- ✓ [Outside Canada](#)
- ✓ [Inside Canada](#), or
- ✓ [At a port of entry](#)

There are [specific requirements](#) you need to meet depending on where you are when you apply for your work permit.

For more information, visit [Employment and Social Development Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#) web page.

### INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAM

This program lets employers hire temporary workers without an LMIA. Exemptions from the LMIA process are based on:

- ✓ broader economic, cultural or other competitive advantages for Canada
- ✓ reciprocal benefits enjoyed by Canadians and permanent residents

#### EMPLOYERS

- Step 1** Determine if you are exempt from needing an [LMIA](#)
- Step 2** Create an Offer of Employment in the [Employer Portal](#) and pay the \$230 Employer Compliance Fee
- Step 3** Once you receive an Offer of Employment Number,
- ✓ provide the number to the worker
  - ✓ advise them to apply for a work permit

#### FOREIGN WORKERS

Apply for an [employer-specific work permit](#) online (recommended) or on paper

Where to apply

- ✓ [Outside Canada](#)
- ✓ [Inside Canada](#), or
- ✓ [At a port of entry](#)

There are [specific requirements](#) you need to meet depending on where you are when you apply for your work permit.

For more information, visit [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's International Mobility Program](#) web page.

## The Government in 2014 Promised to Tighten TFWP Regulations

### OVERHAULING THE TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER PROGRAM

#canadiansfirst

**LIMITING ACCESS**  
CANADIAN WORKERS COME 1st

- New Labour Market Impact Assessment Cap on Low-Wage TFWs per Work Site
- Reduced duration of Work Permits

**BETTER LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION**

- New Quarterly Job Vacancy Survey
- New Annual National Wage Survey
- Enhanced Job Matching Service

**STRONGER ENFORCEMENT & TOUGHER PENALTIES**

- More Investigations & Detection of Abuse
- Blacklist, Suspension & Revocation
- Fines for Employers who Break the Rules

New Application Fee: \$1,000

## The Number of International Students Topped 400,000 in 2019

### International Students



Appendix. Detailed Immigration Plans for 2022–24

Immigrant Category		2022			2023 <sup>10</sup>			2024 <sup>10</sup>		
		Target	Low Range <sup>11</sup>	High Range <sup>11</sup>	Target	Low Range <sup>11</sup>	High Range <sup>11</sup>	Target	Low Range <sup>11</sup>	High Range <sup>11</sup>
<b>Overall Planned Permanent Resident Admissions</b>		<b>431,645</b>	360,000	445,000	<b>447,055</b>	380,000	465,000	<b>451,000</b>	390,000	475,000
<b>Economic</b>	Federal High Skilled <sup>1</sup>	<b>55,900</b>	52,000	64,000	<b>75,750</b>	63,000	84,000	<b>111,500</b>	91,000	118,000
	Federal Economic Public Policies <sup>2</sup>	<b>40,000</b>	30,000	48,000	<b>32,000</b>	25,000	42,000	-	-	-
	Federal Business <sup>3</sup>	<b>1,000</b>	800	1,500	<b>1,000</b>	800	1,500	<b>1,500</b>	1,000	2,000
	Economic Pilots <sup>4</sup> ; Caregivers <sup>5</sup> ; Agri-Food Pilot; Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot; Economic Mobility Pathways Project	<b>10,250</b>	4,000	10,500	<b>11,250</b>	7,000	18,000	<b>12,750</b>	8,000	20,000
	Atlantic Immigration Program	<b>6,250</b>	4,000	8,000	<b>6,500</b>	4,000	10,000	<b>6,500</b>	4,000	12,000
	Provincial Nominee Program	<b>83,500</b>	80,000	95,000	<b>86,000</b>	82,000	95,000	<b>93,000</b>	88,000	98,000
	Quebec Skilled Workers and Business <sup>6</sup>	See the Quebec immigration plan			To be determined			To be determined		
	<b>Total Economic</b>	<b>241,850</b>	210,000	248,000	<b>253,000</b>	222,000	259,000	<b>267,750</b>	235,000	273,000
<b>Family</b>	Spouses, Partners and Children	<b>80,000</b>	68,000	81,000	<b>81,000</b>	70,000	84,000	<b>81,000</b>	70,000	84,000
	Parents and Grandparents	<b>25,000</b>	19,000	31,000	<b>28,500</b>	22,000	38,000	<b>32,000</b>	27,000	43,000
	<b>Total Family</b>	<b>105,000</b>	90,000	109,000	<b>109,500</b>	94,000	113,000	<b>113,000</b>	99,000	117,000
<b>Refugees and Protected Persons</b>	Protected Persons in Canada and Dependents Abroad	<b>24,500</b>	20,000	27,500	<b>25,000</b>	20,500	28,000	<b>25,500</b>	21,000	28,500
	Resettled Refugees - Government-Assisted <sup>7</sup>	<b>19,790</b>	15,500	24,000	<b>17,260</b>	13,500	26,000	<b>13,000</b>	10,000	19,500
	Resettled Refugees - Privately Sponsored	<b>31,255</b>	19,000	34,000	<b>30,795</b>	19,400	34,000	<b>23,000</b>	15,500	28,000
	Resettled Refugees - Blended Visa Office-Referral	<b>1,000</b>	100	1,100	<b>1,000</b>	100	1,100	<b>1,000</b>	100	1,100
	<b>Total Refugees <sup>8</sup> and Protected Persons</b>	<b>76,545</b>	55,000	79,500	<b>74,055</b>	57,000	82,000	<b>62,500</b>	50,000	75,500
<b>Humanitarian and Other</b>	<b>8,250</b>	5,000	8,500	<b>10,500</b>	7,000	11,000	<b>7,750</b>	6,000	9,500	

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