Immigrant and Temporary Resident Youth in B.C.

From 2004 to 2008, approximately 40,000 immigrants arrived annually in B.C. and approximately 6,400 were youth. A large proportion of immigrant youth arrived as dependants, accompanying their families. Other youth came to B.C. as Temporary Residents including International Students, Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs), and humanitarian cases (including Refugee Claimants). Between 2004 and 2008, approximately 76,000 temporary residents arrived annually in B.C. and approximately 29,000 were youth. A large proportion of temporary resident youth arrived as International Students.

Whether young people come to Canada as dependants or come to study or to work, they may face challenges in integrating into Canadian society. For example, language can be a barrier for integration into society. Fewer immigrant youth arriving in B.C. have official language ability (English or French) than nationally.

This report focuses on immigrant youth arrivals to B.C. defined as youth aged 15 to 24, including their share of total immigrant arrivals, immigration class, source countries, source languages, official language ability and education levels. The report also profiles the temporary resident youth in B.C., focusing on youth coming to Canada to study and to work.

Immigrant data in this report comes from two different sources, the 2006 Census and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

Temporary resident data in this report come from CIC. Temporary resident data generally refer to stock numbers unless otherwise indicated. For definition of stock, see Glossary of Terms.

Data from CIC was extracted in September 2009. The data may differ slightly from the official statistics as published by CIC at http://www.cic.gc.ca
New Immigrant Youth Arrivals to B.C.

B.C. welcomes approximately 40,000 new immigrants each year, and approximately one in six are youth, comparable with the national share.

Between 2004 and 2008, B.C. became the new home to 32,116 immigrants aged 15 to 24. That is an average of 6,423 immigrant youth arriving each year. In 2008, 6,871 immigrant youth arrived in B.C., 24.5% more than in 2004.

Immigrants come to Canada in different immigration classes. There are eight broad immigration classes, which can be grouped down into two major classes, Economic Class and Non-Economic Class. Economic Class immigrants are selected for their skills and ability to contribute to Canada’s economy. This class of immigrants includes members of the Federal Skilled Worker, Business, Provincial Nominee, Live-in Caregiver, and Canadian Experience classes. Economic Class immigrants include the principal applicant and their dependants (i.e. spouses and dependent children).

Non-Economic Class immigrants are members of the Family Class, Refugee Class, and Others.

During the five years from 2004 to 2008, most youth immigrant arrivals to B.C. were either Economic Class arrivals (48.5%) or Family Class arrivals (42.7%).

Within the Economic Class, most immigrant youth arrivals (96.1%) were dependants rather than principal applicants (3.9%). Of the youth principal applicants, a large proportion were Live-in Caregiver Program Class (43.9%), followed by the PN Class (30.0%) and the Federal Skilled Worker Class (24.4%).

Source Countries

The top three source countries of immigrant youth arrivals to B.C. were Mainland China, India and the Philippines, which accounted for 53.7% (17,246) of the immigrant youth arrivals over the period. This was somewhat higher than for immigrants of all ages from these countries who accounted for 48.4% of arrivals.

Intended Destination

From 2004 to 2008, 85.2% (27,353) of immigrant youth intended to make their home in Metro Vancouver. This was comparable with all of B.C. immigrants at 86.5%.

Language Ability

From 2004 to 2008, 55.0% (17,678) of immigrant youth had official language ability (English or French), which was lower than the national share (64.8%). B.C. had the second lowest share of immigrant youth with official language ability across the provinces, following Prince Edward Island. Excluding Territories, Nova Scotia (79.6%), New Brunswick (75.0%) and Quebec (77.1%) had higher than the national share.
The official language ability of B.C. immigrant youth is in line with B.C. immigrant arrivals for all ages with 58.2% reporting having official language ability, lower than the national share of 67.0%. 43.8% of immigrant youth arrivals to B.C. had Mandarin and Punjabi as their native languages compared to 20.8% at the national level.


Chart 4: Shares of Top Five Native Languages of Immigrant Youth arrivals to B.C. & Canada, (2004-2008)
Chart 5: Distribution of Immigrant Youth arrivals to B.C. & to Canada by Education Levels, (2004 – 2008)

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Educational Attainment

As expected, a large proportion of youth immigrants arrived with secondary or less education. Immigrant youth (aged 15 to 19) are in the prime age group for attending secondary school. Within the immigrant youth aged 15 – 19 group, 90.5% had secondary or less educational attainment, slightly higher than the national share at 88.5%. Within the age group (20 - 24), 52.9% of B.C. immigrant youth arrivals had secondary or less education levels, comparable with the national share at 52.3%.

B.C. received a lower proportion of immigrant youth with no formal education than at the national level regardless of age groups 15 to 19 or 20 to 24. Within the age group 15 to 19, 5.3% of immigrant youth had no formal education, lower than the 6.4% nationally. Within the age group 20 to 24, 2.7% had no formal education, lower than 3.3% nationally.

Moreover, there were 18.8% of immigrant youth, aged 20 to 24, in B.C. with university degrees, slightly lower than the national share of 20.1%. Approximately one-quarter (25.5%) of immigrant youth in B.C. aged 20 to 24, had college or trade certificates, which was comparable to Canada at 25.3%.

Immigrant Youth in B.C. in 2006

The 2006 Census shows that there were 99,300 immigrant youth living in B.C. They represented 18.5% of the total youth population in B.C. in 2006, well above the national share of 13.0%. Only Ontario had a higher proportion of the immigrant youth population (18.9%). The proportion was much higher in Metro Vancouver where 30.3% of youth were immigrants and Greater Toronto had the highest proportion (33.5%) of the youth population who were immigrants.

Of the 99,300 immigrant youth in B.C. in 2006:

- 28.7%, immigrated to Canada between 2001 and 2006;
- 30.9% immigrated to Canada between 1996 and 2000; and
- 40.4% immigrated to Canada before 1996.

Immigrants living in B.C. are concentrated in Metro Vancouver, as are immigrant youth. According to the 2006 Census, while 53.0% of the total youth population in B.C. lived in Metro Vancouver, a full 87.0% of immigrant youth in the province lived there.

In Metro Vancouver in 2006, 24,685 of the 86,395 immigrant youth population, or 28.6%, were very recent immigrants, having arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006. Very recent immigrant youth made up 9.0% of the total youth population in Metro Vancouver.
Temporary Resident Youth in B.C.

In 2008, there were 126,050 temporary residents in B.C. and 37.5% of them were youth. This was higher than the national share of 29.3%.

International Student Youth

In 2008, there were 50,221 International Students in B.C. and 63.1% of them were youth, which was comparable with the national share (65.2%). It was higher than for adults aged 25 to 54 (24.3%) and children up to 14 years (12.5%).

International Student youth came from 161 countries. The top source countries were Mainland China (28.6%), South Korea (19.7%), Japan (7.5%), the United States (6.3%) and Taiwan (5.4%).

With the implementation of Canada’s Immigration and Refugee Protection Act in 2002, International Students taking a short-term course or program of six months or less (e.g., English language course) no longer require a study permit. For this reason, the reported number of International Students understates the total number engaged in studies.

In 2008, the largest proportion of International Student youth in B.C. were in university (39.1%), followed by secondary or less (24.9%) and other post-secondary education (18.4%).

The number of International Student youth in B.C. grew from 1999 to 2008 by 88.3% from 16,838 to 31,700. The largest increase was in university students (+167.9%) from 4,626 in 1999 to 12,394 in 2008. The second largest increase was in other post-secondary students (+128.1%) from 2,561 in 1999 to 5,841 in 2008. This was followed by secondary school or less (+79.4%) from 4,393 in 1999 to 7,881 in 2008.

There were 4,259 International Student youth studying in the trades in 2008, a slight 14.6% increase from 3,717 in 1999. There were also 1,325 International Student youth studying in ‘Other Education’ in 2008, a 14.0% decline from 1,541 in 1999.

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Stock on December 1st
Temporary Foreign Worker Youth

In 2008, there were 58,307 Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) in B.C. and 23.0% (13,383) of them were youth. This was higher than the national share of 13.2%.

During the ten-year period from 1999 to 2008, the total TFW population in B.C. increased dramatically (296.3%) from 14,714 in 1999 to 58,307 in 2008. However, the shares of TFW youth remained relatively stable between 26.5% in 1999 and 23.0% in 2008.

Among the TFW youth in B.C. in 2008, 88.1% (11,791) of them were between 20 to 24 years of age, with 11.9% (1,592) between 15 to 19 years of age.

Of the 11,791 TFW youth (aged 20 to 24), some of them came through International Youth Programs (IYPs). IYPs are reciprocal programs between the Government of Canada and the governments of participating countries that provide young adults (ages 18 to 35) the opportunity to develop a better understanding of other cultures through both travel and work in the host country. The IYPs are managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) which negotiates the terms of the bilateral agreements and determines the annual intake of participants, where applicable.

The IYPs have several categories including Working Holiday, Youth Professional/Young Worker Opportunities and the International Co-operative Education. Participants who enter Canada through these categories generally do not require a Labour Market Opinion from Service Canada and are given an “open” work permit. For these reasons, skill levels and occupations are generally not recorded for these foreign workers.

In 2008 in B.C., TFW youth, aged 15 to 24, came from 103 countries. The top source countries were Australia (28.9%), U.K. (10.6%), Japan (10.4%), Germany (5.7%) and Ireland (5.5%).

Humanitarian Youth

In 2008, there were 4,951 humanitarian cases in B.C. and 16.2% of them were youth, which was comparable with the national share of 15.3%. Most of them (97.0%) were Refugee Claimants.

During the ten-year period from 1999 to 2008, the total humanitarian cases in B.C. declined significantly (50.0%) from 9,909 in 1999 to 4,951 in 2008. The shares of the humanitarian youth also declined from 22.6% in 1999 to 16.2% in 2008.
In 2008, Mexico was the top source country for the humanitarian youth (19.8%) while China (10.9%) and Honduras (6.6%) were the second and the third top source countries for humanitarian youth in B.C.

**Immigrant and Temporary Resident Youth Trends**

Temporary resident data in this section refers to flow in order to compare with the immigrant arrivals. (For definition of flow, see Glossary of Terms (p.8)).

From 1999 to 2008, immigrant youth arrivals to B.C. increased 30.3%. This was lower than the growth of temporary resident youth arrivals to B.C. (+70.3%) over this period.

Between 1999 to 2008, TFWs youth arrivals to B.C. increased the most (+180.2%), followed by International Student youth (+46.4%) and Other Temporary Resident youth (+12.6%). However, the humanitarian youth arrivals declined by 56.5% over the ten-year period.
Chart 11: B.C. Immigrant & Temporary Resident Youth Arrivals, 1999 – 2008 (Flow)

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

For more immigration reports and statistics, please visit:
or
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/menu-research-stats.asp

For more information on the Immigrant and Temporary Resident Youth Fact Sheet, contact:
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Glossary of Terms

Temporary Resident Stock: The number of temporary residents with a temporary resident visa/permit on a specific date, usually reported as of December 1st. Stock measures the number of temporary residents at a point in time. This may include temporary residents that entered in the previous year, but still have a valid permit/visa and are present in Canada (or B.C.) on December 1st of the observation year. When text refers to the number in B.C., it is referring to the stock.

Temporary Resident Flow: The number of temporary residents with a temporary resident visa/permit entering Canada over a period of time during the calendar year. When text refers to the number to B.C., it is referring to the flow. When text refers to the number to B.C., it is referring to the flow.

2006 Census (Statistics Canada): The 2006 Census includes information on all residents (including immigrants, Canadian-born, and non-permanent residents) of Canada.

Landed Immigration Database System - LIDS (Citizenship and Immigration Canada): LIDS records information on each new immigrant (Permanent Resident) at the time of arrival in Canada (or at the time of becoming a Permanent Resident, if ‘landing’ from inside Canada).