

FACTS ABOUT CALGARY IMMIGRANTS

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INTRODUCTION

Immigration to Calgary may be examined in a number of ways; the information in this fact sheet explores the characteristics of:

- *Calgary's Immigrant Population* - those Calgary residents who are or have ever been landed immigrants in Canada (source: Statistics Canada's 2001 Census of Canada).
- *New Immigrants to Calgary* - new immigrants landing in Calgary in a given year (source: Citizenship & Immigration Canada [CIC]).

Note that all data reported refer to the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

CALGARY'S IMMIGRANT POPULATION

- According to the 2001 Census of Canada (Statistics Canada, 2003) **Calgary's immigrant population (197,410) made up 20.9% the total population (943,310) in 2001.** This represents a slightly higher proportion than the immigrant population of Canada as a whole, which at 18.4% was at the highest level in over 70 years.
- Statistics Canada (2002) reports that **34.9% of Calgary's immigrant population arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001; 65.1% immigrated before 1991.**
- **In 2001, 3.6% of Canada's immigrant population lived in Calgary;** the city placed fourth in terms of percentage of Canada's total immigrant population, behind Toronto (37.3%), Vancouver (13.6%) and Montreal (11.4%).

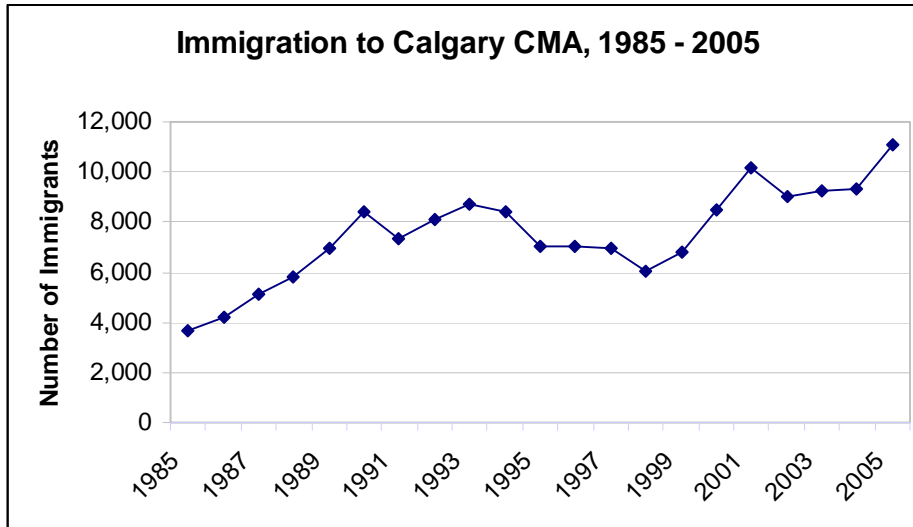
Population, Calgary CMA, 2001		
	Number	Percent
Canadian-born	738,310	78.3%
Foreign-born	197,410	20.9%
- Immigrated before 1991	128,555	65.1%
- Immigrated between 1991 and 2001	68,855	34.9%
Non-permanent residents	7,290	0.8%
Total Population	943,310	100.0%

QUICK FACTS:

- In 2001 197,410 Calgarians (one-fifth of the total population) were foreign-born
- 3.6% of Canada's immigrant population lived in Calgary in 2001
- An average of 7,520 new immigrants came to Calgary each year from 1985 to 2005
- 72.1% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 were born in Asia
- India, China and the Philippines were the leading countries of birth for immigrants to Calgary, in 2005.
- The majority of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 applied under either the Skilled Worker class (52.7%) or the Family class (27.4%)
- 48.2% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 were male and 51.8% were female
- The most frequent age of both male and female new immigrants to Calgary was 26 to 35
- Over half of all immigrants to Calgary in 2005 (66.8%) knew either or both Canadian official languages; 43.2% knew neither English nor French.
- While 52.2% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 knew English, only 10.0% reported that English was their native language.
- 44.8% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 held at least a Bachelor's degree or higher

NEW IMMIGRANTS TO CALGARY

- According to Citizenship & Immigration Canada (2005), over the past 20 years an average of 7,520 new immigrants came to Calgary each year from other countries.
- In total, approximately 157,916 new immigrants came to Calgary from 1985-2005. While certain years experienced declining immigration during this period, the overall trend was an increase in immigration, in particular for the periods of 1985-1990, 1998-2001 and 2004-2005.



Year	Number
1985	3,687
1986	4,190
1987	5,151
1988	5,829
1989	6,918
1990	8,388
1991	7,348
1992	8,118
1993	8,690
1994	8,407
1995	7,036
1996	7,024
1997	6,955
1998	6,010
1999	6,823
2000	8,478
2001	10,185
2002	9,021
2003	9,248
2004	9,363
2005	11,047

NEW IMMIGRANTS: PLACE OF BIRTH

- Data from Citizenship & Immigration Canada (2005) show that over the past few decades there has been a shift in the birth countries of immigrants to Calgary.
- In the early 1980s there were large numbers of immigrants born in Europe, while people coming to Calgary who were born in Asian countries, in particular South Asian countries, were proportionally smaller in number.
- By 2002, this pattern had changed, with 72.1% of immigrants to Calgary citing Asia as their birth place (16.9% from South Asian countries).

	1982	1992	2005
Africa	5.0%	4.0%	7.1%
Australia & Oceania	1.3%	1.9%	0.6%
Asia	14.5%	32.1%	44.1%
Caribbean	2.8%	1.6%	0.5%
Central America	0.6%	4.2%	1.0%
Eastern Europe	12.3%	9.0%	4.2%
Europe	27.8%	6.3%	5.4%
Middle East	4.2%	5.1%	3.2%
North America	7.0%	4.0%	2.3%
South America	2.9%	2.1%	3.8%
South Asia	7.7%	10.2%	16.9%
South East Asia	14.0%	19.6%	11.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

NEW IMMIGRANTS: PLACE OF BIRTH (CONTINUED)

- More than 65.5% of all immigrants were born in the top ten countries of birth in 2005. Asian countries continued to dominate the top ten list.
- India, China and the Philippines were the leading countries of birth for immigrants to Calgary. The data for 2005 show that immigrants came from a total of 152 countries (i.e. the top 10 list plus 142 'other' countries accounting for 35.5% of the total).

	Number	Percent
India	1999	18.1%
China	1409	12.8%
Philippines	1352	12.2%
Pakistan	799	7.2%
Republic of Korea	377	3.4%
England	351	3.2%
Iran	287	2.6%
United States	230	2.1%
Romania	230	2.1%
Russia	204	1.8%
Other Countries (142)	3809	65.5%

NEW IMMIGRANTS: IMMIGRANT CLASS

- As set out in Canada's *Immigration Act* (Alberta Learning, 2002) people may apply to immigrate to Canada under one of the following main classes:
 - Family* - close family members including spouses, common-law partners, dependent children, parents or grandparents who are sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
 - Economic and Independent* - skilled workers, business immigrants, live-in caregivers and provincial nominees.
 - Refugee* - government refugees, private refugees, inland determination refugees, and refugee dependents
 - Other*
- In 2005, over half of all immigrants to Calgary applied under the skilled worker category (n= 5,819; 52.7%). Current research and immigration policies highlight the growing reliance on highly skilled immigrants as a source of skills and labour force growth. The family class was the next most frequent category (n=3,030; 27.4%).

	1982		1992		2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Backlog	0	0.0%	37	0.5%	0	0.0%
Business	175	2.3%	921	11.3%	254	2.3%
Family class	2,622	33.8%	3,864	47.6%	3,030	27.4%
Government refugees	724	9.3%	357	4.4%	422	3.8%
Inland determination	0	0.0%	198	2.4%	0	0.0%
Live-in caregiver programme	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Private refugees	456	5.9%	448	5.5%	347	3.1%
Provincial nominees	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	205	1.9%
Refugee dependants	0	0.0%	9	0.1%	0	0.0%
Retired	22	0.3%	155	1.9%	0	0.0%
Skilled workers	3,753	48.4%	2,129	26.2%	5,819	52.7%
Total	7,752	100.0%	8,118	100.0%	11,047	100.0%

NEW IMMIGRANTS: AGE AND GENDER

- The proportion of male to female immigrants coming to Calgary was almost equal in 2005, with 48.2 % of new immigrants being male and 51.8% being female. For every year since 1983, the percentage of female immigrants has been slightly higher than that of male immigrants; the difference was greatest in both 1992 and 1993 at 55.3% female to 44.7% male (CIC, 2002).
- The most frequent age of both male and female new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 was 26 to 35.

New Immigrants by Age and Gender, Calgary CMA, 2005						
	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 12	1,095	20.6%	1,002	17.5%	2,097	19.0%
12 to 17	488	9.2%	461	8.1%	949	8.6%
18-25	537	10.1%	836	14.6%	1,373	12.4%
26-35	1,440	27.0%	1,759	30.7%	3,199	29.0%
36-45	1,152	21.6%	1,060	18.5%	2,212	20.0%
46-55	396	7.4%	347	6.1%	743	6.7%
56-65	144	2.7%	184	3.2%	328	3.0%
66 and over	74	1.4%	72	1.3%	146	1.3%
All Ages	5,326	100.0%	5,721	100.0%	11,047	100.0%

NEW IMMIGRANTS: LANGUAGE ABILITIES

- Language ability is often cited as one of the most important aspects in immigrant settlement, affecting both social and labour market integration. In Calgary, over half of all immigrants in 2005 (56.8%) knew either or both Canadian official languages; 43.2% knew neither English nor French (CIC, 2005).

New Immigrants by Official Language Ability, Calgary CMA, 2005		
	Number	Percent
None	4770	43.2%
English	5,766	52.2%
French	80	0.7%
Bilingual	431	3.9%
Total	11047	100.0%

- Of concern is the number of youth, 12-25 years, and seniors 56 + years who do not speak an official language. With cuts to English as a Second Language Programs and arbitrary cut-offs for education at 18 years, young immigrants may not be prepared to integrate effectively into the Canadian labour market. For seniors, lack of English may impact opportunities for social and recreational participation as well as create inter-generational communication difficulties in their own families.
- Official language abilities among male and female immigrants also differ. A smaller percentage of female immigrants do not know English, and a larger percentage have no knowledge of either official language. In particular, these differences are most pronounced among immigrants aged 26 to 65.

New Immigrants by Age, Gender and Official Language Ability, Calgary CMA, 2005								
	No Official Languages		English		French		Bilingual	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Under 12	74.0%	74.5%	23.8%	23.3%	0.9%	0.8%	1.4%	1.4%
12-17	51.2%	54.5%	46.9%	41.6%	0.2%	0.6%	1.7%	3.3%
18-25	35.9%	42.3%	60.0%	54.7%	1.0%	0.4%	3.1%	2.6%
26-35	26.3%	23.8%	67.2%	68.2%	1.0%	0.8%	5.5%	7.3%
36-45	40.0%	34.4%	54.8%	60.1%	0.2%	0.6%	5.0%	4.9%
46-55	39.8%	27.3%	57.1%	68.2%	1.2%	0.8%	2.0%	3.8%
56-65	71.2%	52.8%	27.7%	43.1%	0.0%	2.8%	1.1%	1.4%
66 and over	75.0%	70.3%	25.0%	29.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Ages	43.5%	42.9%	52.2%	52.2%	0.7%	0.7%	3.6%	4.2%

- While 52.2% of new immigrants to Calgary in 2005 knew English, only 10% reported that English was their native language.

New Immigrants' Top 10 Native Languages, Calgary CMA, 2005		
	Number	Percent
Mandarin	1,845	16.7%
Tagalog	1,238	11.2%
English	1,101	10.0%
Punjabi	1,049	9.5%
Spanish	729	6.6%
Urdu	599	5.4%
Russian	411	3.7%
Arabic	373	3.4%
African Languages	262	2.4%
Korean	209	1.9%

NEW IMMIGRANTS: EDUCATION

- Compared with the Canadian-born population of Canada, a higher percentage of recent immigrants have a university education. The 2001 Census of Canada (Statistics Canada, 2003) showed that 53.3% of recent immigrants age 25-44 had a university certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to only 21.6% of the Canadian-born population of the same age.
- Of the Canadian-born population age 25-44, 17.9% had not completed high school, compared to 11.5% of the recent immigrant population.
- Data for 2005 (CIC, 2005) show that 44.8% of new immigrants who had at least started school who came to Calgary held at least a Bachelor's degree or higher (i.e., graduate or post-graduate education/degree). In particular since the early 1990s, the percentage of new immigrants to Calgary who have completed university has risen substantially; this trend was due in part to changes to the selection criteria for immigrants that put greater emphasis on education.

New Immigrants by Education Level, Calgary CMA, 1982, 1992, 2005 ¹						
	1982		1992		2005	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Secondary or less	3,600	54.1%	4,665	64.4%	3,506	38.3%
Formal trade certificate or apprenticeship	695	10.4%	641	8.8%	337	3.7%
Non-university certificate or diploma	552	8.3%	455	6.3%	823	9.0%
Some university - no degree	395	5.9%	429	5.9%	391	4.3%
Bachelor's degree	1,038	15.6%	816	11.3%	2,842	31.1%
Master's degree	106	1.6%	50	0.7%	998	10.9%
Some post-graduate education - no degree	190	2.9%	149	2.1%	124	1.4%
Doctorate	61	0.9%	44	0.6%	124	1.4%
Unknown	17	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

1-Totals are for immigrants who had at least started one year of school.

SOURCES

Alberta Learning. (2002). *Immigration to Alberta: A Decade in Review*.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada. (2003). Special tabulations.

Statistics Canada. (2003, January 21). *Census of Population: Immigration, birthplace and birthplace of parents, citizenship, ethnic origin, visible minorities and Aboriginal peoples*. The Daily.

Statistics Canada. (2003). Special tabulations from the 2001 Census of Canada.

Statistics Canada. (2002). Special tabulations from the 2001 Census of Canada.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct questions or requests for further information to:

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The information, analysis, and opinions contained in this fact sheet are based on various sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Where possible, the most recent data available have been used.