



NEWCOMERS

2016 March 12

Newcomers to Calgary are a diverse group; individual newcomers and newcomer families have varying characteristics, requirements, and aspirations depending on their particular circumstances and priorities. Understanding the demographic make-up of our newcomer population including information like their country of origin and languages spoken, helps us to better plan the programs and services that we offer.

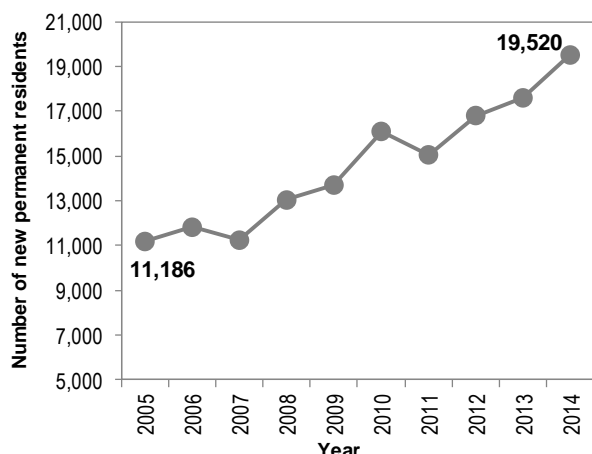
- The number of persons granted permanent resident status in Calgary^(a) each year has tended to increase over the past decade (Figure 1).
 - In 2005, Calgary welcomed 11,186 new permanent residents. In 2014, this number had grown to 19,520 new permanent residents – an increase of 75 per cent.^(b)
- Over the past decade, Calgary has welcomed an increasing share of all permanent residents admitted to Canada (Figure 2).
 - In 2005, new permanent residents in Calgary represented 4.3 per cent of the national total; in 2014, Calgary’s share of the national total had risen to 7.5 per cent.^(b)
- According to the most recent data available, in 2012, 65 per cent of new permanent residents in Calgary were economic immigrants or their spouses and dependents; 26 per cent were admitted under the family class; and six per cent came to Canada as refugees (Figure 3).^(c)
- In 2012, over 60 per cent of new permanent residents in Calgary were born in the Asia and Pacific region; 18 per cent were born in Africa and the Middle East; 10 per cent were born in Europe and the United Kingdom; eight per cent were born in Central and South America; and three per cent were born in the United States (Figure 4).^(c)
- In 2012, 70 per cent of new permanent residents in Calgary had knowledge of English; three per cent had knowledge of both English and French; and 26 per cent had no knowledge of either of Canada’s official languages.^(c)
- Calgary has one of five federally-designated refugee reception centres located in Alberta. The others include Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer.^(d)
 - According to the Government of Canada, 1,400 Syrian refugees have arrived in Calgary between 2015 November 04, and 2016 March 04.^(e)
 - In comparison, in Calgary between 2003 and 2012, an average of approximately 1,150 refugees became permanent residents each year.^(c)

This note provides information about newcomers to Calgary.^(a)

The term “newcomer” refers to individuals who have been in Canada for a short time, usually less than three or five years.^(f)

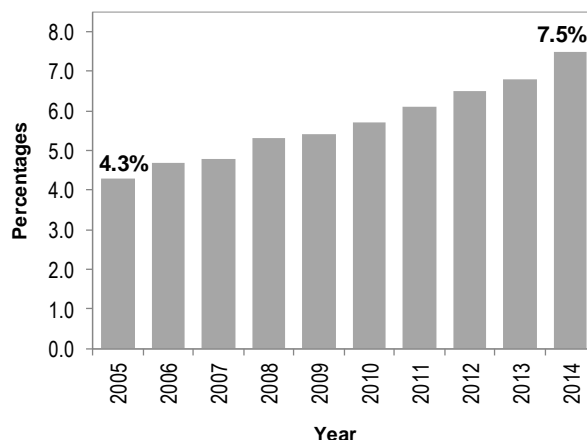
Newcomers are immigrants and refugees who have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Prospective immigrants to Canada can apply through a number of economic programs or can be sponsored by a family member. Refugees who are resettled from overseas, including many recent refugees from Syria, generally become permanent residents through the Government-Assisted Refugee Program or the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program.^(g)

Figure 1. Number of persons granted permanent resident status in Calgary, annually (2005 to 2014)



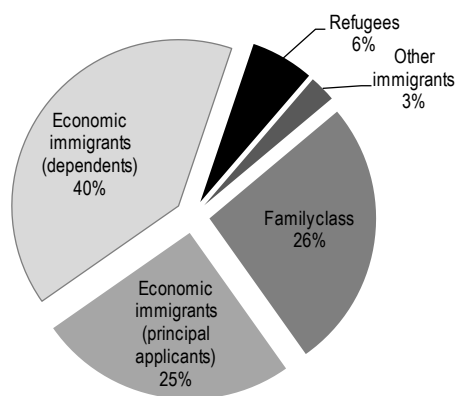
Based on data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and figures 2014, Immigration overview: Permanent residents.

Figure 2. Calgary's share of persons granted permanent resident status in Canada, annually (2005 to 2014)



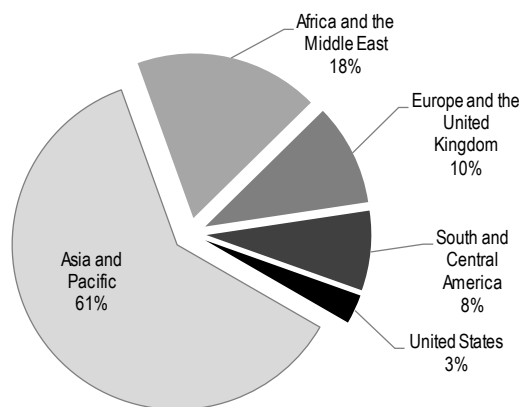
Based on data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and figures 2014, Immigration overview: Permanent residents.

Figure 3. New Permanent Residents, Calgary, by landing category (immigration class), 2012



Based on data from CIC Permanent Residents Rounded Data Cube 2012; accessed using the Community Data Program.

Figure 4. New Permanent Residents, Calgary, by source area (region of birth), 2012



Based on data from CIC Permanent Residents Rounded Data Cube 2012; accessed using the Community Data Program.

NOTES

- (a) Due to the availability of data, in this note "Calgary" refers to the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). The CMA includes the greater Calgary area. In 2012, 97% of new permanent residents in the Calgary CMA are within the City of Calgary.
- (b) Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and figures 2014 – Immigration overview: Permanent residents by province or territory and urban area. <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2014/permanent/11.asp>
- (c) Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Permanent Residents Rounded Data Cube 2012; accessed using the Community Data Program.
- (d) Government of Alberta, "Refugee response for Alberta". http://www.alberta.ca/documents/FAQ_SyrianRefugees_Dec21.pdf.
- (e) Government of Canada, "Map of destination communities and service provider organizations". <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/map.asp>. Accessed 2016 March 07. Note: The figure of 1,400 is the sum of government-assisted refugees (GARs), privately-sponsored refugees (PSRs), and Blended Visa Office-Referred refugees (BVRs) admitted since 2015 November 04.
- (f) The City of Calgary, Community & Neighbourhood Services, "Defining Key Terms", <http://bit.ly/1R8crXP>
- (g) Someone who makes a refugee claim upon arrival in Canada does not become a permanent resident at that time. To become one, the Immigration and Refugee Board must first approve their claim. Then, they must apply for and receive permanent resident status. Government of Canada, "Understand Permanent Resident Status". <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/about-pr.asp>