



Citizenship and  
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## Immigration to Canada: Trends and Policy Challenges

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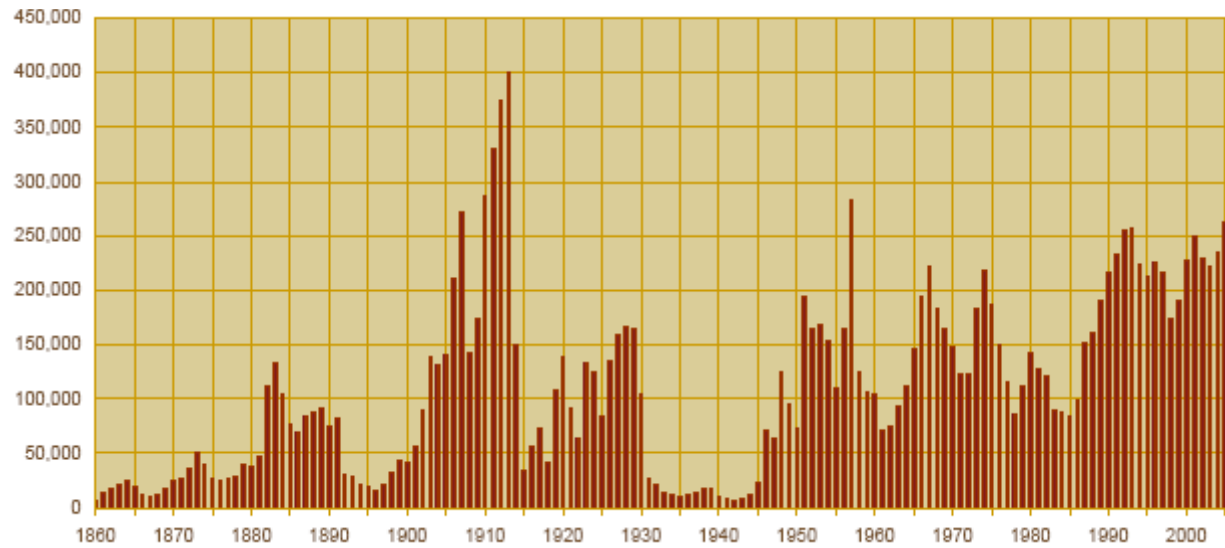


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Canada

# Immigration to Canada since 1860

Canada – Permanent Residents, 1860 to 2007



# Canada's Immigration Program

- Permanent Residents
  - Family Class (spouses, dependent children, parents and grandparents)
  - Refugees (government assisted and privately sponsored resettled refugees; successful refugee claimants)
  - Economic (skilled workers, business immigrants)
- Temporary residents (temporary foreign workers, foreign students, refugee claimants)
- Citizenship



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# Institutional/Legislative Context

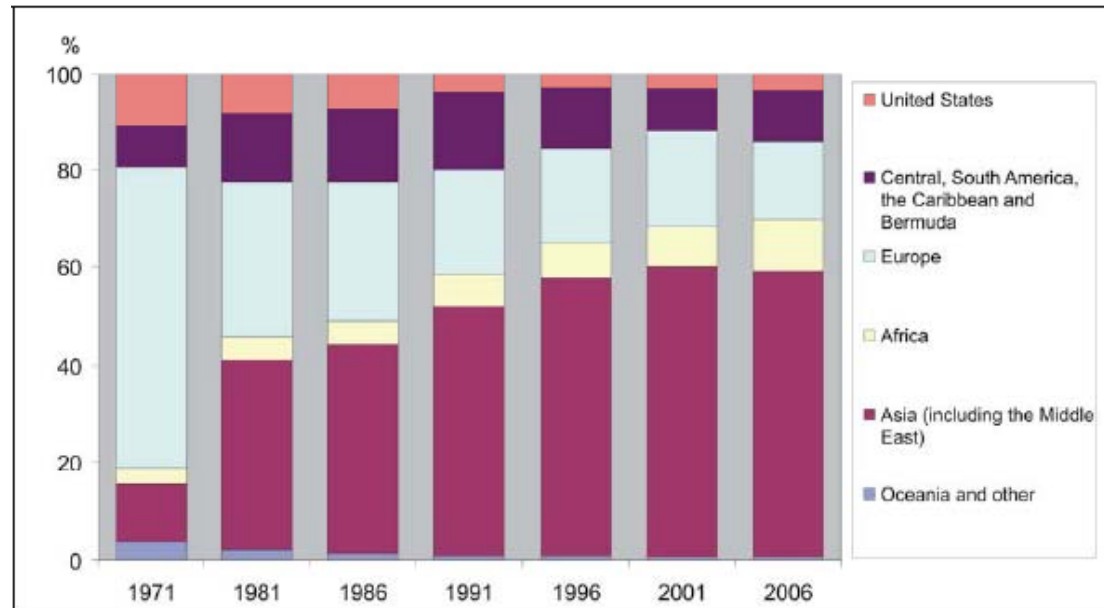
- Canadian Bill of Rights
  - Non-discriminatory Immigration Legislation (1962)
  - Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
  - Employment Equity Act
  - Canadian Human Rights Act
  - Canadian Multiculturalism Act
- 
- Immigration is a shared federal/provincial territorial jurisdiction
  - Jurisdictional responsibility for education/credentials with the provinces/territories



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# Canada's Recent Immigrant Population

## Share by World Area, 1971 to 2006 Censuses



**Notes:**

1. 'Recent immigrants' refers to landed immigrants who arrived in Canada within five years prior to a given census.
2. 'Other' includes Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon, the category 'other country', as well as a small number of immigrants born in Canada.

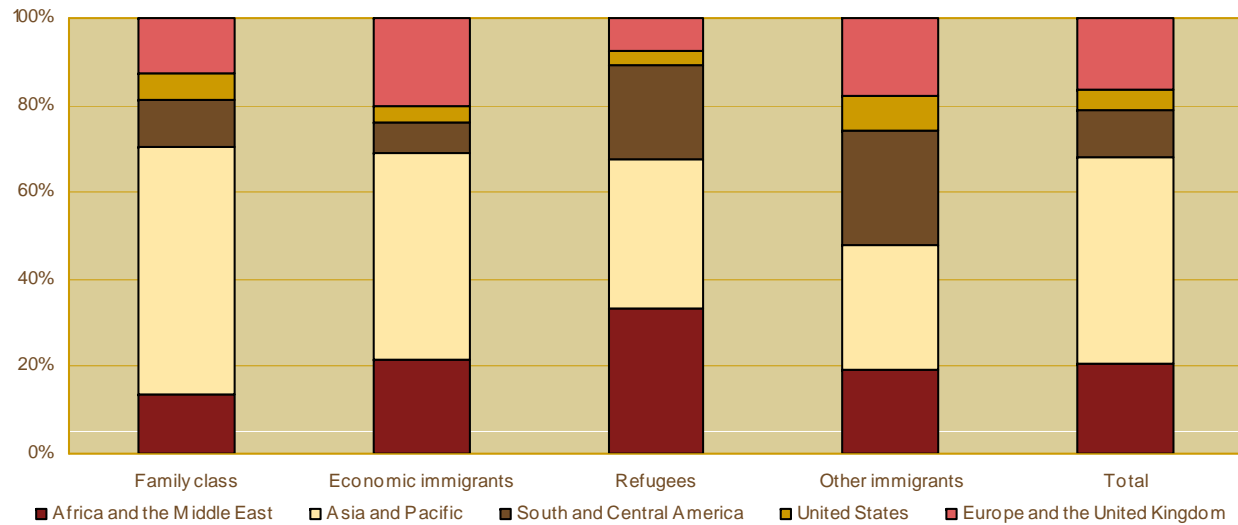
Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006.

World area refers to country of birth.



# Immigration to Canada

## Share by Immigration Category and World Area, 2007



**Note:** World area refers to country of last permanent residence.

**Source:** Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2007*



## Immigration of Permanent Residents, Temporary Foreign Workers, and Refugee Claimants by Top Five Source Countries, 2007

Permanent Residents	Temporary Foreign Workers	Refugee Claimants
China, People's Republic of India Philippines United States Pakistan	United States Mexico Philippines France United Kingdom	Mexico Haiti Colombia China, People's Republic of United States
<b>Percent share of top 5 source countries</b>		
<b>38.9%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>56.7%</b>

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2007*



# Factors influencing economic outcomes

- Labour market conditions (40%)
- Human Capital (60%)
  - Education (quality of education, field of study)
  - Experience (relevance to western labour markets)
  - Knowledge of Official Languages, Literacy and Communications skills
- Other
  - “source country”
  - immigrant category – being a refugee



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# Policy Concerns

- Economic outcomes of highly educated immigrants have declined since the 1980s and are not what we would wish
- Poverty (rates of low income) of immigrants are high and have increased as rates for Canadian born have declined
- A high percentage of immigrants have lower official language literacy than what is needed to function in the Canadian economy/society



## Policy Concerns (2)

- Recent high demand for low-skilled labour in Western provinces to support resource boom
- Balancing needs: urban/rural, small/large provinces
- Demographics suggest that all net labour force growth will come from immigration within less than a decade
- Impact of present/anticipated economic situation on outcomes
- “Social integration”



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# Policy Research

- How do you develop a policy research agenda to meet government needs?
  - Define needs based on mandate
  - Define questions to be answered
  - Define what is needed to answer these questions (e.g. data)
  - Set priorities



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## Policy Research (2)

- Multi-pronged approach
  - Research (basic program/policy information; answer initial research questions; meet immediate policy research needs)
  - Data development (requires significant investment, with only a medium to long term payoff)
  - Keep ahead of emerging issues (issues may not have a direct link to policy, but Minister/Government may be held accountable)



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# Research gaps related to refugees

- Increasingly, refugees to Canada are coming from protracted situations.
  - Karen from Thailand and Bhutanese from Nepal.
- What are their needs?
- What are reasonable expectations for their economic/social integration?
- Do their children require additional support?



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*Thank You · Merci*

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