

2024 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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Message from the Minister

As Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, I am pleased to present to Parliament the 2024 Annual Report on Immigration.

The vast majority of our labour force growth has been driven by immigration – which remains a cornerstone of Canada’s economy, cultural diversity and humanitarian leadership. Canada’s aging population needs newcomers to help address demographic pressures and sustain our social programs over the long term.

We have been through a period of significant change in just a few short years. At the start of the pandemic, we saw the unprecedented closing of our borders and a halt on the flow of goods and people.

As we emerged from the pandemic, Canada faced severe labour shortages. We took steps and adapted with new and temporary measures. These actions were necessary to support the urgent needs of businesses and our economy, to prevent a recession and to help us navigate that challenging period.

Today, our economy has evolved, and the landscape is different.

Our immigration system has faced growing pressures both within and outside our borders. Multiple humanitarian crises, rising asylum claims and increased interest in Canada have bumped up against our own economic demands and community needs.

These pressures have required us to adapt our immigration levels planning to the current climate. Our annual plans must take into account the capacity to settle, integrate and retain newcomers, —which varies across the country—and monitor systemwide pressures in critical sectors such as housing, and healthcare. At the same time, immigrants make significant contributions to the labour market and are part of the solution.

What we heard from Canadians is that they expect Canada to identify the right number of newcomers with the needed skills, and help set them up for success.

We are adjusting certain immigration streams to better support newcomers and our country’s future. We’ve taken action to address challenges with the international student program, including updating financial requirements for prospective students, establishing a cap on most study permit applications, reforming work options for students and introducing a system to verify letters of acceptance.



Thanks to changes to our Express Entry system, we are now better able to prioritize permanent residence applications for critical areas, like trades workers to build more homes and healthcare workers for our hospitals and long-term care.

In order to maximize newcomers' participation in our economy, several provinces and territories are taking steps to improve foreign credential recognition, so more newcomers can work in occupations aligned with their skills and experience. In addition to the Provincial Nominee Program, we have been tailoring our economic immigration streams to support businesses in filling skilled labour shortages in remote, rural and Francophone minority communities.

Our humanitarian responses to global events and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations remain a priority. Canada continues to advocate globally for the rights of migrants and refugees by promoting regular pathways and policies that address specific needs. Helping employers access new talent pools, including refugees and other displaced people through the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot, is an innovative way we are using our immigration system to address labour shortages. Finding these skilled workers among people who happen to be displaced abroad is a made-in-Canada solution that we are promoting globally.

Considering the urgency of the global migration crisis, we have been funding temporary housing and services for asylum claimants and increasing our processing capacity as part of our efforts to improve Canada's asylum system.

We have also expanded support for settlement service providers, particularly to advance truth and reconciliation, gender equality and anti-racism. Everyone deserves an equal opportunity for success in Canada.

These are just some of the steps we've taken to ensure Canada's immigration system is fast, fair and efficient, which I believe is critical to responding to changes in the immigration landscape.

Our 2025 and 2026 immigration levels takes a hard, comprehensive look at our immigration programs – including where tough choices must be made – to reflect the needs of our economy and communities.

Our goal has and will always be to preserve the integrity of our programs – for a sustainable and well-managed immigration system.

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Introduction

The Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration provides the opportunity to inform Parliament and Canadians of key highlights and related information on immigration to Canada. This Report on immigration and its tabling in Parliament is a requirement of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#) (IRPA),ⁱ and serves to offer key details on the successes and challenges that have occurred in welcoming immigrants¹ to Canada in the past year.

This Report sets out information and statistical details regarding permanent resident admissions, temporary resident volumes, and the immigration levels plan for the upcoming year. In addition, this Report contextualizes the efforts undertaken with provinces and territories in our shared responsibility for immigration, highlights efforts made on Francophone immigration and ends with an analysis of gender and diversity considerations in Canada's approach to immigration.

About the data in this report

Admissions data can be found in annexes 1 and 2, as well as on the Government of Canada's [Open Government Portal](#).ⁱⁱ

Data in this Report that was derived from Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) operational systems is subject to change.

¹ For the purposes of this report, the term "immigrant" is defined as a person that has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. The term includes immigrants who obtained Canadian citizenship by naturalization and refugees. The term "newcomer" is defined as a Foreign National (who is not a Canadian Citizen) who has been in Canada for a brief time (usually less than five years). "Newcomer" is employed in this report to talk about settlement and resettlement services.

Balancing the Benefits and the Pressures of Immigration

Immigration has shaped Canada's economic, political, social, and cultural fabric and has been instrumental in post-pandemic recovery. Except for Indigenous Peoples, who have inhabited these lands since time immemorial, every resident of Canada immigrated here. First generation immigrants comprised 23% of the population in 2021.²

Canada's approach to immigration focuses on ensuring the country's long term economic well-being and prosperity as well as leadership in refugee resettlement. As more Canadians want to move into retirement, immigration brings in new workers, attracts new investments, and supports Canada's economic growth. At the same time, our immigration framework supports family reunification and offers protection to refugees, while providing flexibility for other humanitarian responses. Temporary residents including visitors, international students, and temporary workers provide contributions to Canada's social, cultural, and economic landscape.

Recognizing the challenges for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

IRCC is committed to developing policies that address the challenges related to border crossing and migration that Indigenous Peoples separated by Canada's international borders face on a daily basis. Together with the Canada Border Services Agency, IRCC is spearheading an [Action Plan Measure under the United Nations' Declaration Act Action Plan](#)ⁱⁱⁱ to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to pursue amendments to legislation, regulations and policies aimed at addressing the complex challenges. The changes also include exploring options to change Canada's right of entry provision, as well as requirements for work and study permits.³

Successful immigration requires an alignment between immigration levels and the ability to properly welcome newcomers with housing, accessible healthcare and education.

The country is experiencing system-wide pressures across critical sectors, including housing and access to social services. There is also a discrepancy between credential recognition⁴ and labour market needs in certain regions and economic sectors, which limits the ability of some newcomers to (re)settle successfully in Canada.

2 Statistics Canada – The Daily, Immigrants make up the largest share of the population in over 150 years and continue to shape who we are as Canadians, released 2022-10-26, online: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221026/dq221026a-eng.htm>. Statistics Canada defines immigrant as “a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. The 23% does not include asylum claimants, temporary residents or second generation (children of immigrants).

3 For more information, please see <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/indigenous-mobility.html>

4 Schimmele, Christoph and Feng Hou, Economic and Social Reports – Trends in education–occupation mismatch among recent immigrants with a bachelor's degree or higher, 2001 to 2021, 2024, online: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/36-28-0001/2024005/article/00002-eng.htm>

Canada is addressing pressures by taking responsible measures to achieve stable growth, announcing an ambitious federal housing plan, and better aligning immigration streams with the labour market. IRCC is also setting up pathways to permanent residence for individuals wishing to establish themselves in Canada and to become citizens, while also balancing the role of temporary workers to sustain the economy.

Immigration supports Canada's demographic and economic growth

Canada faces demographic challenges due to its aging population. It is projected that between 2024 and 2030, 5 million Canadians will retire, causing the worker-to-retiree ratio to decrease to just 3 to 1⁵ and causing significant challenges for the Canadian economy.⁶ In 2021, people aged 65 and older accounted for 19% of the total population.⁷ The fertility rates, which decreased to a record low of 1.33 children per woman in 2022, are below the population replacement level.⁸ Between July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023, nearly 98% of the population growth stemmed from net international migration, while the remaining 2% resulted from the difference between births and deaths.⁹ While not the only solution, immigration could address short-term labour shortages, and attract skills our communities need for the next generation.

Immigration is crucial to the country's future and is key to maximizing Canada's economic potential. In 2023, Canada welcomed 471,808 immigrants (237,031 females, 234,758 males, 17 another gender and two unspecified) and 58% of whom were admitted under economic streams. Visitors, temporary workers, and international students all contributed to Canada's economic growth by working, spending, and investing.

Maintaining collaborative relationships with provinces and territories is vital to strengthening and improving Canada's immigration system, which – concurrently with other policy measures – will support the country's long-term demographic and economic growth.

5 In 1971, Canada's worker to retiree ratio was about 7 to 1. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Infographic: Immigration and economic growth: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/infographics/immigration-economic-growth.html>

6 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Infographic: Immigration and Canada's economic recovery, released 2022-08-30: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2022/02/infographic-immigration-and-canadas-economic-recovery.html>

7 Statistics Canada – The Daily, In the midst of high job vacancies and historically low unemployment, Canada faces record retirements from an aging labour force: number of seniors aged 65 and older grows six times faster than children 0-14, released 2022-04-27: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220427/dq220427a-eng.htm>

8 Statistics Canada – The Daily, Canada's demographic estimates for July 1, 2023: record-high population growth since 1957, released 2023-09-27: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230927/dq230927a-eng.htm>

9 Statistics Canada – The Daily, Canada's demographic estimates for July 1, 2023: record-high population growth since 1957, released 2023-09-27: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230927/dq230927a-eng.htm>

Immigrants contribute to demographic and economic growth

- Highly-skilled professional, technical, and scientific services, as well as the information, culture, and recreation sectors have seen significant increases in the number of immigrant workers.¹⁰
- In 2023, immigrants represented 28.9% of the Canadian labour force.¹¹
- Immigrant entrepreneurship plays a key role in fostering economic growth through job creation, attracting investment to Canada, and fueling innovation. Canada is home to over 800,000 self-employed immigrants, with over 250,000 of these employing staff.¹²
- Canada is the most attractive country for start-up founders in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with high scores in all dimensions and a start-up visa that offers permanent residence to all successful start-up visa applicants upon arrival.¹³ Canada is ranked third in the OECD for attracting entrepreneurs to the country and tenth for attracting highly educated workers.¹⁴
- In 2023–24, 62.7% of immigrants were in the middle-income range or above, the same as 2022–23.¹⁵



10 Champagne et al., Assessing the effects of higher immigration on the Canadian economy and inflation, 2023, Bank of Canada.

11 Refers to people who are, or have been, landed immigrants or refugees in Canada. A landed immigrant (or refugee) is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently. Canadian citizens (including second generation of immigrants) by birth and non-permanent residents are not landed immigrants (or refugees). The 28.9% is a proportion from the Canadian Labour force where individuals aged 25–54 are employed or non employed people available to work and or actively seeking work.

12 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Immigration matters in business: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/immigration-matters/growing-canada-future/business.html>

13 OECD, Migration Policy Debates, “What are the top OECD destinations for start-up talents?”, no. 30, March 2023: <https://web.archive.oecd.org/2023-03-09/652853-What-are-the-top-OECD-destinations-for-start-up-talents-Migration-Policy-Debates-March-2023.pdf>

14 OECD, Talent Attractiveness 2023: <https://www.oecd.org/migration/talent-attractiveness/>

15 The middle-income range or above is defined as above the low-income measure which is 50% of the median adjusted household income as defined by Statistics Canada. Actual results for this indicator are based on the eight preceding years of income data. Specifically, 2023-24 result covers 2014 to 2021. In 2021, the median after-tax income of families and unattached individuals was \$68,400.

Immigrants contribute to the richness and inclusivity of Canadian society

- Recent immigrants accounted for nearly half of the increase in the proportion of Canadians holding a bachelor's degree or higher,¹⁶ bringing diverse perspectives and innovative ideas that enrich Canada's labour market and strengthen the country's capacity for research, development and technological advancement.
- In 2023–24, 23% of immigrants and refugees volunteered in Canada.
- Just over half of surveyed newcomers reported engaging in groups, organizations, or associations, including religious and cultural organizations.

Challenges associated with immigration: pressures on housing and services

Despite the significant contributions of immigration, successful immigration requires that housing, education, healthcare, childcare services and other key services keep pace with projected population growth. Since 2019, annual targets for new permanent resident admissions have increased by nearly 41% and there has also been an increase in non-permanent resident work permits and study permits.¹⁷ There was a 125% increase in asylum claimants between 2019 and 2023.¹⁸

Pressures on housing

Canada is in the midst of a housing crisis – highlighted by the insufficient supply of rental units and family homes. In this context, any population growth, which generally necessitates a corresponding increase in housing supply, puts additional strain on the overall supply and affordability of housing.¹⁹ Canada has experienced a decline in its vacancy rate in recent years,

indicating a shortage of available apartments and houses for rent.²⁰ The construction of new housing has also not been able to match the pace of population growth. In 2023, with a significant peak in immigrant arrivals, the vacancy rate reached a historic low of 1.5%,²¹ especially in big cities like Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver where newcomers tend to settle.²² The Government of Canada announced a number of new measures to incentivize construction of new rental housings in the [2023 Fall Economic Statement](#).^{iv}

Through the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP), the federal government has provided just over \$1 billion to provinces and municipalities to address extraordinary interim housing pressures related to the increased volumes of asylum claimants since 2017. Budget 2024 proposed to provide \$1.1 billion over three years, starting in 2024–25, to extend IHAP with a focus on permanent, sustainable approaches. The federal government is working with all orders of government to find long-term solutions to prevent asylum seekers from experiencing homelessness.

16 Statistics Canada – The Daily, Canada leads the G7 for the most educated workforce, thanks to immigrants, young adults and a strong college sector, but is experiencing significant losses in apprenticeship certificate holders in key trades, released 2022-11-30: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221130/dq221130a-eng.htm>

17 Toni Gravelle, (December 7, 2023), Economic progress report: Immigration, housing and the outlook for inflation, Bank of Canada: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2023/12/economic-progress-report-immigration-housing-outlook-inflation/>

18 Asylum Claimants – Monthly IRCC Updates, online: open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/b6c9cf4d-f763-4924-a2fb-8cc4a06e3de4

19 Julien Champagne et. Al, (December 7, 2023), Assessing the effects of higher immigration on the Canadian economy and inflation: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2023/12/staff-analytical-note-2023-17/>

20 Toni Gravelle, (December 7, 2023), Economic progress report: Immigration, housing and the outlook for inflation, Bank of Canada: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2023/12/economic-progress-report-immigration-housing-outlook-inflation/>

21 Toni Gravelle, (December 7, 2023), Economic progress report: Immigration, housing and the outlook for inflation, Bank of Canada: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2023/12/economic-progress-report-immigration-housing-outlook-inflation/>

22 Catherine Xhardez, 'Stand by me': competitive subnational regimes and the politics of retaining immigrants, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 2024: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2319179>

Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) Impacts: Finding Affordable and Adequate Housing for Immigrants

Upon arrival in Canada, many newcomers encounter initial obstacles that hinder their ability to find suitable accommodation, such as restricted access to credit, a lack of Canadian references, and limited familiarity with the local housing landscape. A survey conducted with immigrants in St. John's, Newfoundland, and Labrador, revealed that 63% of respondents identified "unaffordable housing costs" as a challenge.²³

Racialized immigrants may be more prone than their Canadian-born counterparts to live in housing that is unaffordable, which is largely attributed to structural inequalities within the labour market. In other words, immigrants from racialized backgrounds earn lower incomes and encounter difficulties with housing affordability. These discrepancies involve lower wage rates, fewer working hours, heightened vulnerability to insecure employment, and a higher incidence of unemployment when compared to their Canada-born counterparts.²⁴ Immigrant women face distinct challenges in securing suitable housing in Canada compared to immigrant men or Canadian-born women. Housing also provides access to essential services, such as transportation and education,²⁵ meaning that those without adequate housing may struggle to access these systems. In fact, the place where one lives defines the ease of access to these services.

Based on the Canadian Occupational Projection System's (COPS) extensive labour market information (LMI) data²⁶, the Department expects a shortage of 22,700 workers in the trades category until 2031. This is beyond the number of job seekers coming from school leavers, immigration, and others labour supply needs. In 2023, the Department introduced a trades-specific occupational category for selection in the Express Entry system, as part of category-based selection process. The average annual selection of workers required to meet labour demand needs until year 2031, is approximately 2,520. The two rounds conducted in year 2023 selected 2,500 candidates in total. These rounds, if conducted on an annual basis, could meet the COPS-forecasted labour market demand until 2031.

IRCC continues to welcome Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) to communities across the country and to shift the relative balance of GAR arrivals from large cities where housing pressures are more significant to small and medium-sized communities experiencing less pressure. In 2023, 12,468 GARs (53%) were destined to small and medium size communities with less than one million residents.

23 Pottie-Sherman, Y., Christensen, J., Foroutan, M., & Zhou, S. (2023). Navigating the housing crisis: A comparison of international students and other newcomers in a mid-sized Canadian city. *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien*, 68(1), 44–56: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cag.12869>

24 H. Choi, Kate and Sagi Ramaj, Ethno-racial and nativity differences in the likelihood of living in affordable housing in Canada, *Housing Studies*, February 2023: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2023.2170988>

25 Statistics Canada, The Daily, Housing conditions among racialized groups: A brief overview, 2023: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/daily-quotidien/230123/dq230123b-eng.pdf?st=cK6PnYhH>

26 The LMI data is based on forecasted data which includes a margin of error in future forecasting. The numbers above represent an approximate trend.

Pressures on education and healthcare fields

Immigrants make contributions to the healthcare sector, representing 1 out of every 4 healthcare workers in this country.²⁷ These individuals play critical roles in supporting healthcare for Canadians of all ages and relieving pressure on Canada's healthcare system.

At the same time, newcomers to Canada need access to education and healthcare services. As more people arrive in the country, the need for more health and education services rises. If these services do not keep pace, then the increase in immigration can worsen existing pressure on health and education systems in some regions.

IRCC is working to reduce pressures on the healthcare system. In 2023, [the Department invited 10,185 workers with work experience in the healthcare field](#)^v to apply under [Express Entry](#),^{vi} one of several key sectors of Canada's labour force that is facing unprecedented shortages.

[The Home Child Care Provider Pilot and the Home Support Worker Pilot](#)^{vii} provide pathways to permanent residence for homecare workers, with program elements to reduce vulnerabilities and family separation.

In 2023, the amount of [work experience in Canada required for a caregiver to qualify for permanent residency was reduced](#)^{viii} from 24 months to 12 months. The Department has also implemented measures to improve the opportunity for caregivers and their family members in Canada to transition to permanent residence by eliminating the numerical caps for each eligible occupation and by reserving application spaces for caregivers in Canada who have Canadian work experience and for clients with accommodation needs that are unable to apply online.

As of April 30, 2024, nearly 5,700 caregivers and their family members have become permanent residents since the launch of the Home Child Care Provider Pilot and the Home Support Worker Pilot in 2019.

Furthermore, as of April 2023, physicians who work in a fee-for-service model within the public healthcare system, became exempted from certain requirements of the Federal High Skilled Programs, to facilitate access to permanent residence and help address labour shortages in the healthcare sector.

Provinces and territories have primary authority over regulated occupations. Several provinces and territories have taken steps to enhance supports and streamline foreign credential recognition (FCR) processes for internationally educated professionals. The Government of Canada's role is to coordinate and facilitate stakeholder interaction and supports (loans, funding, federal policies/legislation, etc.) to make it easier for newcomers to obtain credential recognition. As the lead federal department for FCR, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) [invested \\$86 million in 15 projects](#)^{ix} for the [Foreign Credential Recognition Program](#)^x to help provide internationally-educated professionals with the support and experience they need to pursue opportunities in Canada's healthcare sector. IRCC's priority is to promote information on FCR to enable potential immigrants and newcomers to make informed choices and start the FCR process as soon as possible. Through the 2022 Federal Economic Statement funding for FCR, IRCC has made investments in the Settlement Program to support those newcomers in health occupations related to language training and employment services. Through the 2024 Settlement Program Call for Proposals, when new funding agreements are in place beginning on April 1, 2025, funding will be allocated to organizations that work with several occupations requiring more supports by the sector, including healthcare professions.

27 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Immigration matters in healthcare, modified December 13, 2022: [Immigration matters in health care – Canada.ca](#)

The challenge of foreign credential recognition

Census data from 2021 shows that some immigrants' talents are underutilized, as over one-quarter of all immigrants with foreign degrees were working in jobs that require, at most, a high school diploma. This is double the overqualification rate seen among Canadian-born or Canadian-educated degree holders.²⁸

IRCC works closely with provincial and territorial partners, which lead on licensing and credentialing in their areas through their regulatory bodies, to coordinate foreign credential recognition, including in the health sector, and selection processes for immigrants through regional programs and pilots.

IRCC uses language testing and Education Credential Assessments (ECA), both essential elements in the FCR process, as evidence of minimum program requirements and for obtaining points in Express Entry. This process differs from FCR processes that regulatory bodies use to authorize practice in regulated occupations. IRCC is looking at ways to align federal economic immigration requirements with licensure processes where possible by advancing the designation, for immigration purposes, of certain domain-specific language tests used by regulators in key sectors, starting with specialized languages tests used for nurses and physicians. The Department is also continuing to actively seek proposals to expand the number of designated professional ECA organizations.

Since, in the Express Entry system, more points are given to candidates based on Canadian work experience, Canadian education, and Canadian job offers, this may increase the likelihood of selection of practice-ready professionals. The Department has launched a social media campaign aimed at building awareness of FCR processes for regulated professions in Canada. This builds on informational resources the Department has been providing to prospective permanent residents, including through a letter to Express Entry applicants and a new Fact Sheet on FCR.

In June 2023, the Department implemented a temporary public policy granting a select cohort of temporary foreign workers the ability to study without a study permit for a limited time. Foreign nationals coming to Canada to work on a temporary basis cannot currently enroll in a program of study that lasts for more than six months unless they apply for and receive a study permit. This has been a barrier for those who wish to improve their education and get more training, including those needing to up-skill or take programs to validate their foreign credentials in programs that last longer than six months. This is a pilot measure that evaluated the feasibility of allowing temporary foreign workers to study to support expanding their future job prospects and increasing their opportunities to transition to permanent residence. Individuals who held a valid work permit and if the application associated with that work permit was received on or before June 7, 2023, or who have applied for a work permit extension as of that date are eligible to study without a study permit until their work permit renewal application is refused, the expiry of their work permit, or the expiry of the public policy, whichever comes first.

²⁸ Statistics Canada, The Daily, Canada leads the G7 for the most educated workforce, thanks to immigrants, young adults and a strong college sector, but is experiencing significant losses in apprenticeship certificate holders in key trades: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221130/dq221130a-eng.htm>

Temporary Resident Programs and Volumes

Canada recognizes the importance of temporary immigration, namely the significant social, cultural, and economic benefits that temporary residents can bring to the fabric of our communities. However, limiting the volumes will better serve the country as well as the temporary residents throughout their stay.

International students

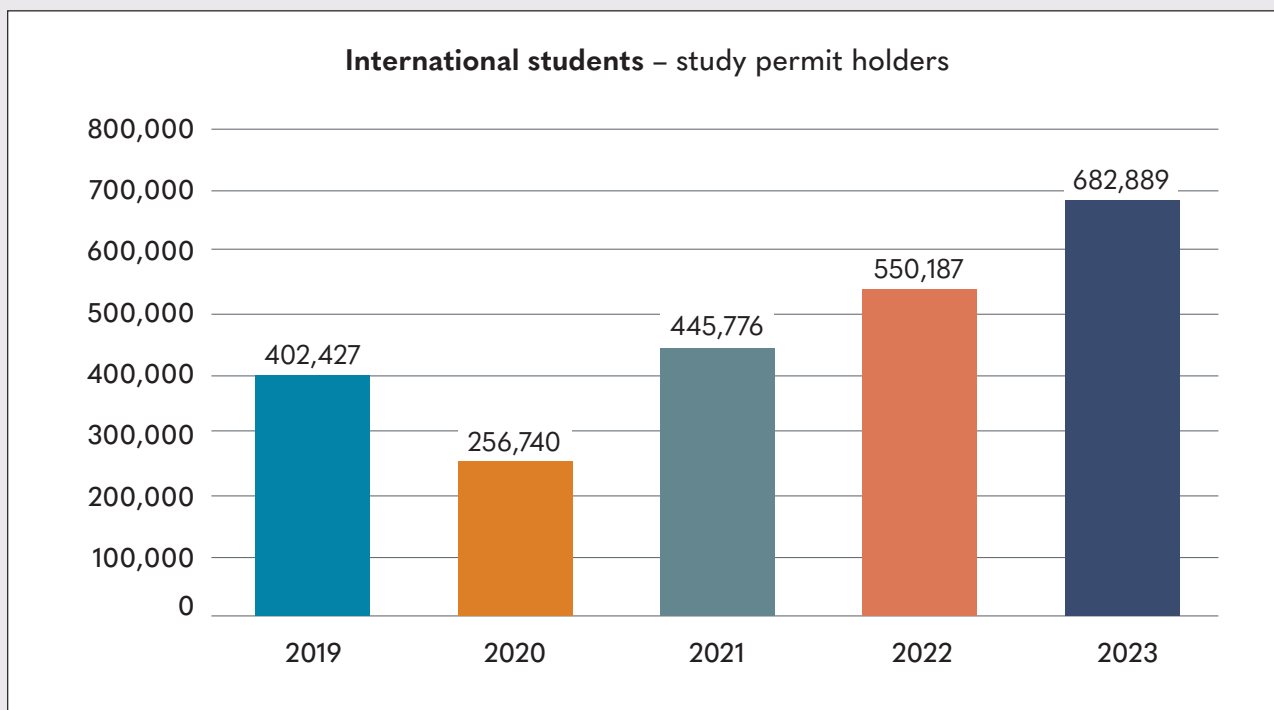
IRCC facilitates the entry of students who wish to study at a designated Canadian educational institution. Students approved to study in Canada are issued a study permit.

In 2023, 682,889 permit holders entered Canada. From this number, 319,991 were females and 362,824 were males. More study permit holders are now making the transition to permanent residency. In fact, in 2023 25,605 study permit holders were granted permanent residency, a 30% increase from 2022.

Canada values the significant social, cultural, and economic benefits that international students bring to Canada.

Over the course of 2023, IRCC conducted a review of the International Student Program to help modernize and strengthen the integrity of the Program. As a result of the review and to reign in unsustainable growth, [various policy changes](#)^{xi} were announced to help ensure students arriving in Canada are set up for success, to better ensure the temporary to permanent residence pathways, and to alleviate pressures on services in Canada. This includes:

- As of December 2023, post-secondary designated learning institutions (DLIs) are required to [verify the authenticity of letters of acceptance \(LOAs\) in a secure portal](#)^{xii} for IRCC to better detect cases of fraud.
- Announcing that as of January 1st, 2024, study permit applicants would need to meet an updated [financial requirement](#)^{xiii} that better reflects the current cost of living and to ensure that they are financially prepared for life in Canada.
- [IRCC implemented a cap on international student permit applications](#)^{xiv} to ensure sustainable growth in the International Student Program over a two-year period. In 2024, the cap was based on a net-zero growth model and is projected to lead to approximately 360,000 approved study permits, marking a 35% reduction from the figures recorded in 2023.



Temporary foreign workers

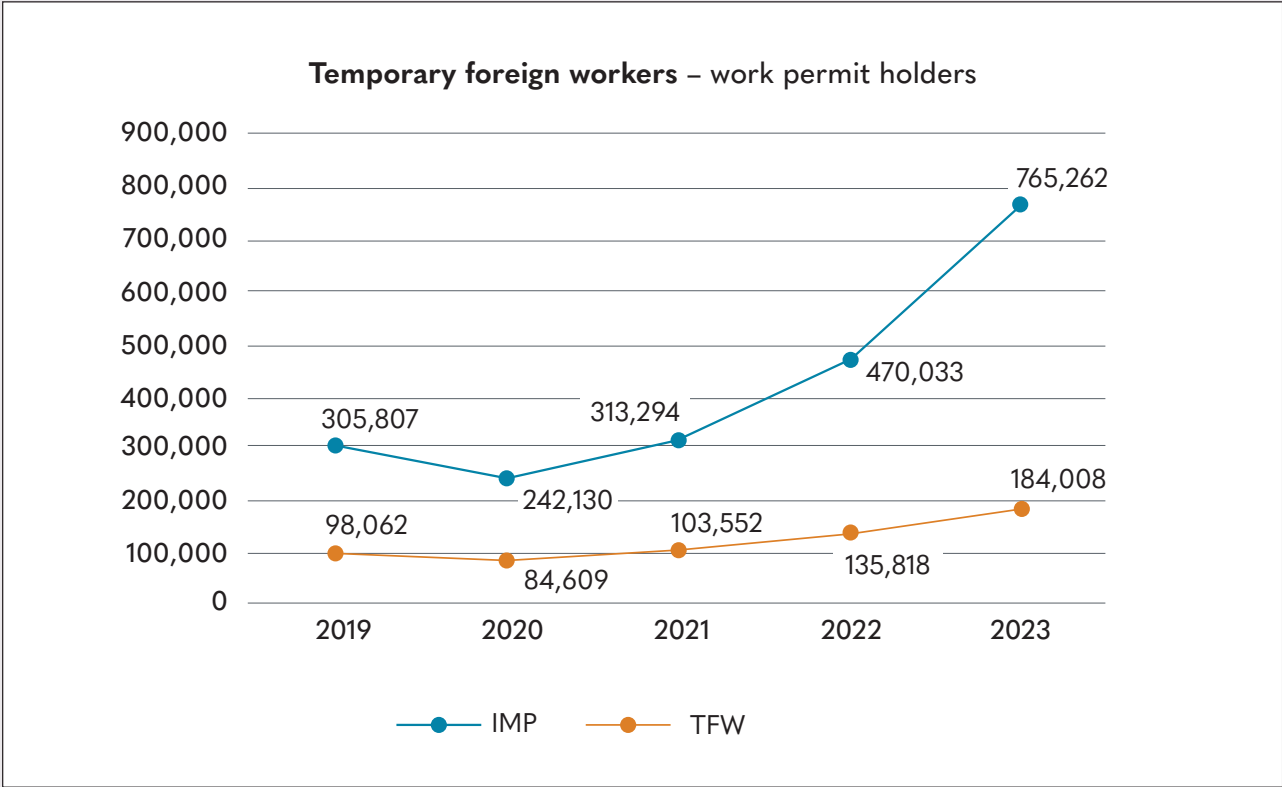
IRCC facilitates the responsible entry of foreign nationals who seek temporary work in Canada.

Through its management of the [International Mobility Program \(IMP\)](#)^{xv} and its joint-administration of the [Temporary Foreign Worker Program \(TFW\)](#)^{xvi} with ESDC, IRCC supports the effective and responsible entry of temporary foreign workers into the Canadian market. The IMP lets employers hire a temporary worker without a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), while the TFW requires a LMIA in order to hire a temporary worker. Exemptions from the LMIA process are based on the broader economic, cultural or other competitive advantages for Canada and the reciprocal benefits enjoyed by Canadians and permanent residents. The IMP also allows for certain foreign nationals to work without a permit when authorized under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations.

In 2023, 184,008 individuals (35,356 females, 148,648 males, one another gender and three unspecified) were issued work permits through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and 765,262 individuals (356,567 females, 408,619 males, 33 another gender and 43 unspecified) were issued a work permit primarily for work purposes under the International Mobility Program.²⁹ This represents an increase of 341,877 new permits from 2022.

²⁹ The total unique count may not equal to the sum of permit holders in each program as an individual may hold more than one type of permit over a given period.

Temporary work permit holders continue to transition to permanent residency in recognition of their skills and the contribution they have made to the Canadian economy. The Department has continued to focus on increasing transition opportunities to permanent residence and strengthen Canada’s ability to meet a range of labour needs. In 2023, the Department granted permanent residency to 156,580 temporary work permit holders, a 49% increase from the previous year. Of these work permits issued, 70,767 were female and 85,813 were male. This increase in permanent residencies trends with the overall growth of temporary work permit holders.



Permanent Immigration to Canada

In 2023, Canada welcomed 471,808 immigrants, which is 7.8% higher than in 2022. From this number, 237,031 were females, 234,758 were males, 17 were from another gender and two had gender unspecified.

Economic immigration

Canada has various immigration programs to attract talented people and to spread benefits to communities across the country. Programs are based on economic growth, family reunification and humanitarian responses. In 2023, processing time for the economic immigration category was five months compared to four months in 2022.³⁰

Some of these programs include:

- The **Provincial Nominee Program**^{xvii} allows workers who have the skills, education and work experience to contribute to a provincial or territorial economy. There were 108,619 provincial nominees and their families (50,166 females and 58,453 males) admitted through the Provincial Nominee Program in 2023, compared to 88,257 people admitted in 2022. This represented a significant source of economic immigration overall in 2023 (46% of total economic admissions, excluding economic admissions in Quebec and Nunavut). Overall, 90% of the provincial nominees who arrived in 2021 stayed in their intended province or territory by the end of that year. In 2023, the processing time for the Express Entry applications was 8 months compared to 16 months in 2022. For the other type of applications, the processing time was 16 months compared to 23 months in 2022.
- The **Atlantic Immigration Program**^{xviii} (AIP) is a pathway to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers and international graduates from a Canadian institution who want to work and live in one of Canada's four Atlantic provinces. The program helps employers hire qualified candidates for jobs they have not been able to fill locally. In 2023, the program has admitted 3,636 principal applicants and their families (1,726, females and 1,910 males). The processing time in 2023 was 6 months compared to 4 months in 2022.
- The **Start-up Visa Program**^{xix} targets immigrant entrepreneurs with the skills and potential to build businesses in Canada (outside Quebec) A total of 1,468 entrepreneurs and their families were admitted through this category in 2023. The processing time for this program was 37 months in 2023 compared to 32 months in 2022.

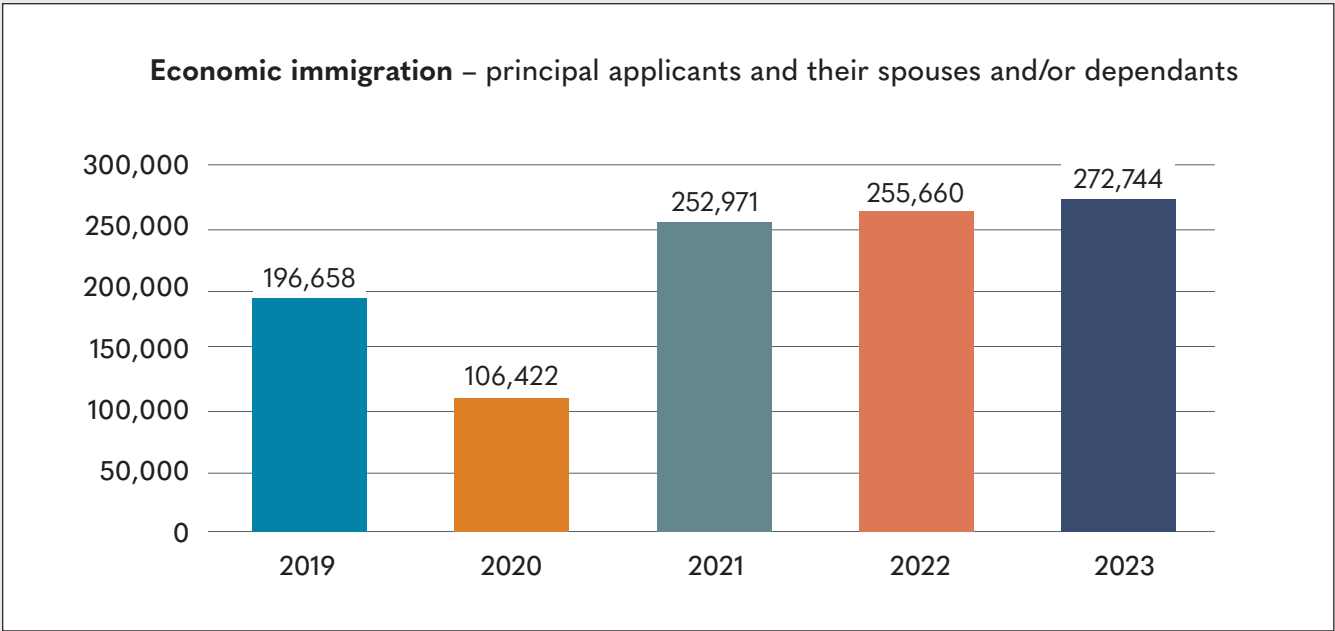
30 Processing times refer to the time in which 80% of applications received were finalized by IRCC for a given 12-month period.

- The **Agri-Food Pilot**^{xx} provides a pathway to permanent residence for experienced, non-seasonal workers in mushroom and greenhouse crop production, meat processing and livestock raising industries. The duration of the **Agri-Food Pilot was extended**^{xxi} to May 14, 2025, further facilitating access to permanent residence for workers and their families. There were 1,565 people (690 females and 875 males) admitted to Canada through the Agri-Food Pilot in 2023. In 2023, the processing time was 8 months, compared to 14 months in 2022.
- The **Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP)**^{xxii} is Canada's complementary pathway for refugee labour mobility. It enables skilled refugees and other displaced persons immigrate to Canada through economic programs, while also helping employers access a new global talent pool. At the end of 2023, there were 103 people admitted to Canada under the EMPP.
- The **Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot**^{xxiii} aims to spread the benefits of economic immigration to rural and northern communities by creating a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers who want to work and live in one of the **participating communities**.^{xxiv} There were 2,855 people (1,282 females and 1,573 males) selected through the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot in 2023, compared to 1,345 principal applicants and their family in 2022. In 2023, the processing time was 7 months, compared to 8 months in 2022.

Express Entry^{xxv} is Canada's application management system for the **Federal Skilled Worker Program**,^{xxvi} **Federal Skilled Trades**,^{xxvii} **Canadian Experience Class**^{xxviii}) and a portion of the Provincial Nominee Program. Express Entry helps to manage the intake of applications for permanent residence under key economic immigration programs, while facilitating the selection of individuals who are most likely to succeed economically. In summer 2023, an enhancement to Express Entry, known as **category-based selection**,^{xxix} was launched to supplement general and program invitation rounds by inviting applicants whose selection can support economic priorities. Following a public consultation process, the Minister set up six categories designed to support economic growth and help address long-term labour market shortages in communities across Canada, including in Francophone minority communities. Candidates with work experience in occupations eligible under the following categories were invited to apply for permanent residence through category-based selection in 2023: healthcare occupations; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); trade occupations; transport occupations; agriculture and agri-food occupations. The first use of category-based selection took place in June 2023. In total, there were 17 category-based selection rounds in 2023.

Last year, Canada admitted 120,822 principal applicants and their accompanying family members (56,888 females and 63,934 males) as permanent residents through Express Entry.

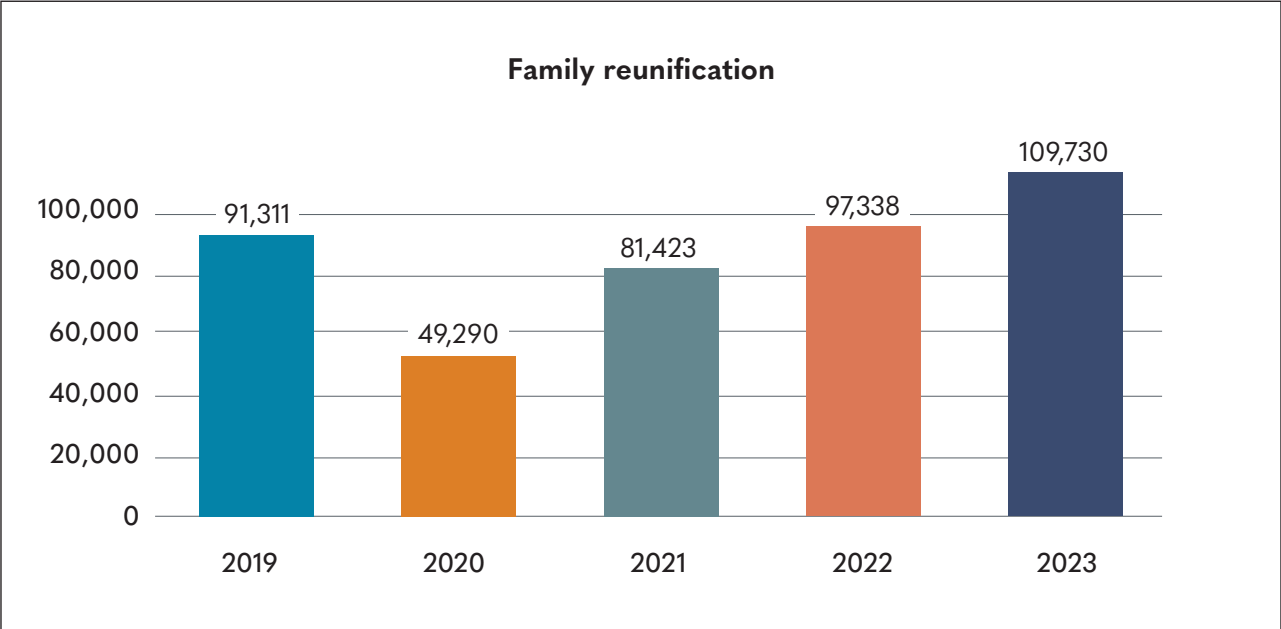
The economic immigration class is the largest source of permanent resident admissions, at approximately 58% of all admissions in 2023. In 2023, the number of individuals admitted to Canada under the Economic Class totaled 272,744, which is 6.7% higher than in 2022. From this number, 127,961 females were admitted to Canada under the Economic Class compared to 144,783 males.



Family reunification

Family reunification is a pillar of Canada’s immigration system. Canada is still committed to helping Canadian citizens and permanent residents sponsor certain relatives³¹ to come to Canada as permanent residents, bringing many economic, social, and cultural benefits to the communities across the country. Sponsors accept economic responsibility for the individual for a defined period. In 2023, 109,730 individuals (65,609 females, 44,115 males, four another gender and two unspecified) were admitted under this category, representing a 12.7% increase from 2022.

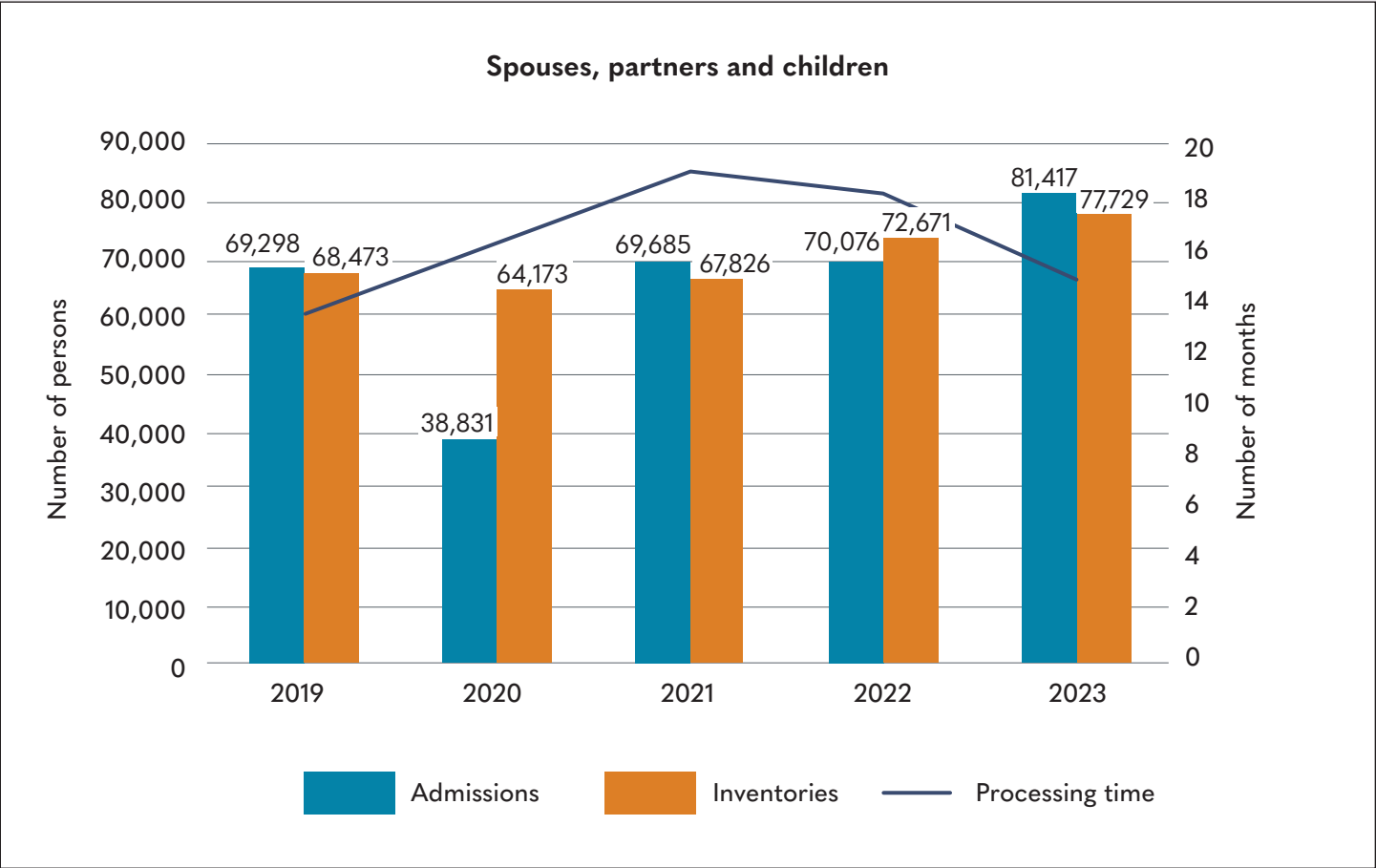
In 2023, [Canada announced new measures to strengthen family reunification](#),^{xxx} including faster [temporary resident visa](#)^{xxxi} (TRV) processing for some spousal applicants, new and dedicated processing tools for some spousal TRV applicants, a new open work permit for spousal and family class applicants and open work permit extensions for open work permit holders expiring between August 1 and the end of 2023.



31 Family members include spouses, partners, children (adopted and ‘to be’ adopted children), parents, grandparents, and other family.

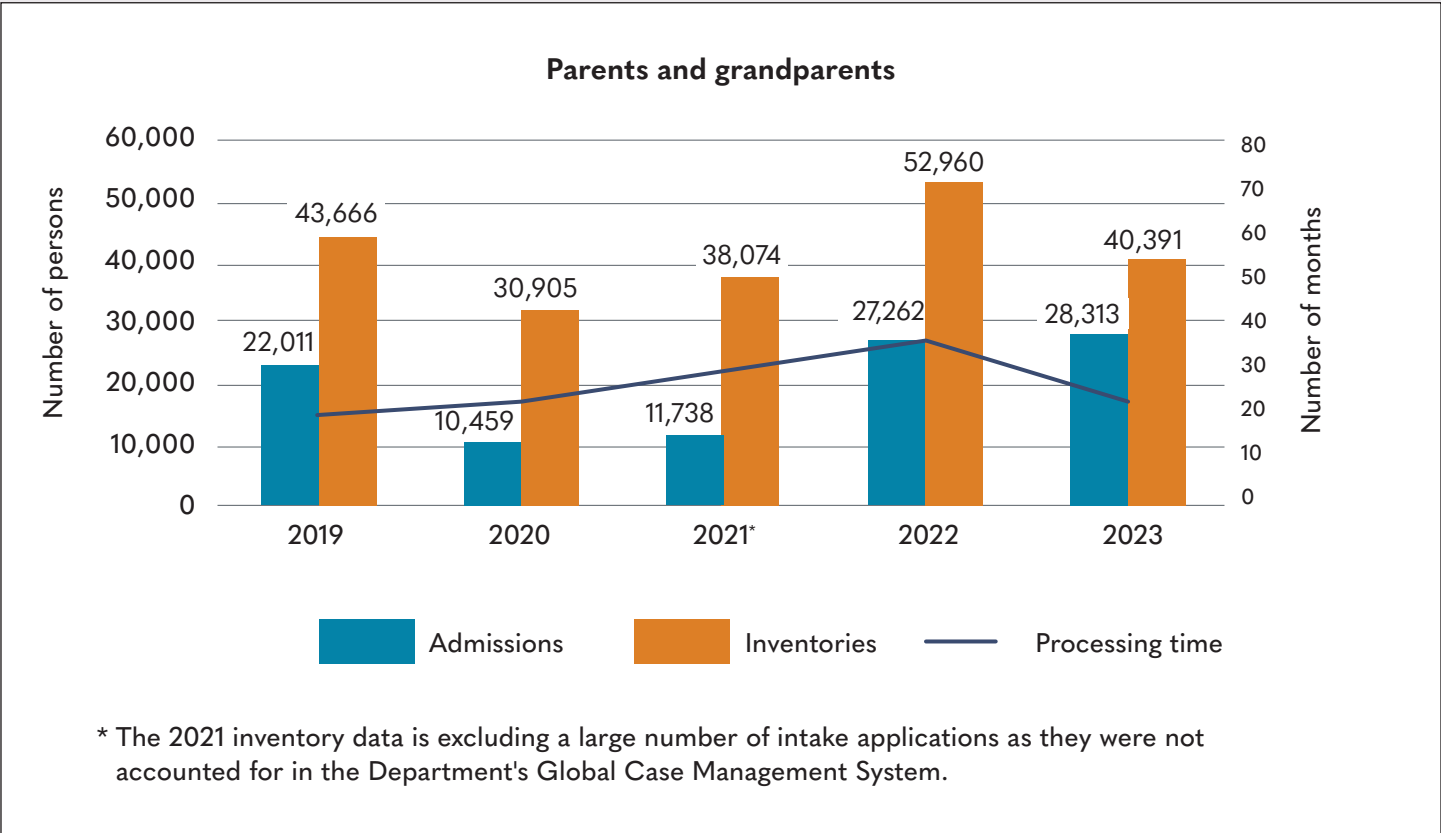
Sponsored spouses, partners, and dependent children

In 2023, 81,417 spouses, partners and children became permanent residents in comparison to 70,076 in 2022. From this number, 48,702 were females, 32,709 were males, four were another gender and two unspecified. In 2023, processing times for spousal permanent resident applications (excluding Quebec) were 15 months compared to 18 months for the same period in 2022.



Sponsored parents and grandparents

IRCC continued to receive applications for parent and grandparent sponsorship. In 2023, 28,313 individuals (16,907 females and 11,406 males) were admitted under the parent and grandparent category, representing a 4% increase from 2022.



Parents or grandparents may also apply for the super visa, which is a multi-entry temporary resident visa that allows parents and grandparents to reunite with their host families in Canada for extended periods. In 2023, the Department approved 73,113 super visas applications for parents and grandparents, 39% of them were males and 61% were females. In 2023, processing time was 24 months compared to 36 months in 2022.

Humanitarian and compassionate considerations

Permanent residency may be granted based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds on a case-by-case basis, or through public policy considerations under exceptional circumstances. In 2023, 14,355 permanent residents were admitted through these discretionary streams.³² From this number, 7,556 were females and 6,799 were males. In 2022, a total of 10,199 people were admitted to Canada for humanitarian and compassionate or public policy considerations. It represents an increase of 41% from 2022 to 2023. The processing time for this category was 16 months, compared to 11 months in 2022.

32 Includes admissions of persons selected on humanitarian and compassionate grounds for reasons of public policy and in the Permit Holder Class.

Refugees and Protected persons

In 2023, a total of 74,979 refugees and protected persons were admitted as permanent residents. From this number, 35,905 were females, 39,601 were males and 13 were another gender. In 2022, a total of 74,342 refugees and protected persons were admitted as permanent residents. It represents an increase of 1% from 2022 to 2023.

Resettled refugees

Each year, IRCC facilitates the admission of a targeted number of permanent residents under the refugee resettlement category. The Department offers protection to Convention Refugees, who are outside of their home country and are unable to return based on a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

In 2023, Canada continued its tradition of being a world leader in refugee resettlement, welcoming a total of 51,081 resettled refugees (24,037 females, 27,035 males and nine from another gender) including:

- 23,311 Government-Assisted Refugees.
- 27,660 Privately Sponsored Refugees.
- 110 refugees under the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR)³³ program, which enables sponsorship groups and government to jointly support resettled refugees identified by the [United Nations Refugee Agency](#) (UNHCR)^{xxxii}.

In 2023, Canada [doubled the number of dedicated resettlement spaces for human rights defenders](#)^{xxxiii} and is now resettling up to 500 defenders and their family members each year in partnership with the UNHCR, ProtectDefenders.eu and Frontline Defenders. Canada also announced a [new partnership with Rainbow Railroad](#)^{xxxiv} to protect and welcome more at-risk LGBTQI+ individuals and their families to Canada and worked with the organization throughout 2023 to provide the training and guidance necessary for Rainbow Railroad to undertake its new role as a referral partner in the Government Assisted Refugee program in 2024. In December 2023, in recognition of the challenges that Yazidis and other survivors of Daesh resettled to Canada have faced and to support their continued integration and settlement, Canada launched a [new temporary public policy](#)^{xxxv} to reunite family members overseas with those in Canada.

33 The BVOR program is a sponsor-driven program. The number of refugees resettled through the BVOR program is directly dependent on demand from sponsors. Several partners launched a project to support sponsorship groups and promote larger numbers of refugee sponsorship globally. IRCC adapts and responds to Canadians' interest in the program and encourages uptake.

In 2023, Canada welcomed 46,528 resettled refugees. It represented an increase of 10% from 2022 to 2023.

Categories	Processing time 2022	Processing time 2023
Federal government-assisted refugees	28 months	25 months
Quebec government-assisted refugees	43 months	39 months
Privately sponsored refugees	36 months	38 months

Protected persons in-Canada

Protected persons in Canada (PPIC) may apply for permanent residence in Canada and include in the application their dependents who are in Canada and abroad. PPIC include Convention refugees, persons in need of protection determined by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), people with positive pre-removal risk assessments, and protected temporary residents. In 2023, 23,898 obtained permanent residence under the protected persons in Canada and dependents abroad category. From this number, 11,868 were females, 12,026 were males and four were another gender. In 2022, 27,814 obtained permanent residence under the protected persons in Canada and dependents abroad category. It represents a decrease of 14% from 2022 to 2023. In 2023, processing time for the dependents abroad of protected persons was 46 months compared to 42 months in 2022. For the protected persons landed in Canada, the processing time was 25 months compared to 22 months in 2022.

Asylum claims

The In-Canada Asylum System is responsible for receiving and registering claims made within Canada, determining eligibility for referral to the IRB, conducting security screenings, providing protection—to persons deemed in need of protection—at or inside Canada's borders, and removing individuals who are determined not in need of protection. Canada received 143,370 in-Canada asylum claimants in 2023 in different ports of entry and inland offices. This number was 91,710 in 2022. It represents an increase of 56% from 2022 to 2023. During the eight-week period ending in December 2023, 80% of eligibility decisions have been finalized in 77 days or less.

As a result of the volume of non-genuine asylum claims originating from Mexico, work began towards a partial reimposition of the visa on Mexican nationals. Since the expansion of the Safe Third Country Agreement in March 2023, the number of irregular arrivals has decreased significantly.

Successful settlement and resettlement services

It is critical to ensure successful, responsive, and locally informed settlement and resettlement services to support integration for newcomers. Through contribution agreements, IRCC funds service provider organizations across Canada (outside Quebec³⁴), including immigrant-serving agencies and social service organizations to offer a diverse array of settlement services, including but not limited to: aiding newcomers in acquiring knowledge about life and employment in Canada, enhancing their proficiency in official languages, preparing for entry into the job market, fostering meaningful community connections, and building welcoming and inclusive communities. In November 2023, IRCC launched a call for proposals to fund settlement and resettlement service providers over the five-year period from 2025 to 2030. This year's call highlights key areas, including investments to support truth and reconciliation objectives, broadening the Francophone integration pathway for French speaking newcomers outside Quebec, and enhancing programming to serve racialized communities, 2SLGBTQI+ and other underrepresented people. It will also build on recent advancements by leveraging technology and partnerships to deliver services more efficiently while maintaining high quality support for clients.

In 2023, IRCC published its [Settlement Outcomes Report](#)^{xxxvi}, summarizing achievements and results from across the settlement sector over the preceding two years, as well as outcomes of newcomers who were eligible for settlement supports (clients and non-clients). Key indicators of success included that most clients (85%) were able to access the Settlement Program with no barriers, and the majority of clients reported that the program was helpful to them on their settlement journey. Generally, clients who accessed settlement services reported greater improvements to their skills than non-clients, for example in the areas of English skills, knowledge of employment-related topics, and knowledge about life in Canada.

34 The Government of Quebec administers the Settlement and resettlement services in Quebec. The federal government provides an annual grant to Quebec to compensate the province for the delivery of settlement and integration services in the province.

Francophone Immigration Outside Quebec

The modernization of the [Official Languages Act](#) (OLA)^{xxxvii} in 2023 makes Francophone immigration a key and permanent priority for IRCC. The OLA requires that the Department adopt a [Policy on Francophone Immigration](#)^{xxxviii} to enhance the vitality of Francophone minority communities. In 2023, IRCC developed the Policy and, as part of this process, the Department held consultations to understand the perspectives, priorities and challenges faced by Francophone community stakeholders, provinces, and territories, as well as counterparts from key federal departments.

Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–28

Led by Canadian Heritage, the [Action Plan for Official Languages 2023–28: Protection-Promotion-Collaboration](#)^{xxxix} was released in April 2023. The Action Plan includes an investment of \$137.2 M over five years to support seven specific measures across the Francophone immigration continuum and enables IRCC to support the government's commitment to restoring and increasing the demographic weight of Francophone minority communities.

Admissions targets for French-speaking permanent resident admissions outside Quebec

In 2023, 19,636 French-speaking permanent residents were admitted to Canada outside of Quebec, representing 4.7% of all permanent residents admitted in Canada outside of Quebec – surpassing the 4.4% target. Building on this achievement, in 2023, IRCC adopted a new approach to develop its target for French-speaking permanent resident, with annual and progressively increasing target for French-speaking permanent residents outside Quebec integrated into the Multi-Year Levels Plan. The admissions target for 2024 is 6% increasing to 8% by 2026.

In 2023, French-speaking permanent residents outside Quebec were admitted under all key immigration categories, with the majority coming via the Economic class.

Economic Class: 15,593
Sponsored by family: 1,851
Resettled refugees and protected persons in-Canada and dependants abroad: 1,934
Other immigrants: 258

Total: 19,636

Leveraging Francophone immigration to support labour-market needs

In 2023, IRCC implemented adjustments to make [Canada's Express Entry system tailored to provide a streamlined and efficient pathway for qualified French-speaking or bilingual immigrants](#).^{xi}

Also in 2023, the [Francophone Mobility Program](#)^{xii} was expanded (on a temporary basis for two years) to allow Canadian employers to extend job offers to eligible candidates with a moderate proficiency in French, excluding positions in primary agriculture. In 2023, 1,324 work permit applications were approved under the Francophone Mobility Program, up from 876 in 2022.

Francophone settlement and resettlement services

In 2023-24, uptake of Francophone settlement and resettlement services continued to increase with 64% of French-speaking newcomer clients accessing at least one service provided by a Francophone Service Provider Organization, compared to 51% in 2019-20.

Also, the Department supported the [Refugee Sponsorship Training Program](#)^{xliii} in 2023-24 to increase its capacity to support Francophone sponsors in refugee sponsorship.

As the pilot phase of the [Welcoming Francophone Communities initiative](#)^{xliii} was set to end in March 2024, IRCC consulted Francophone stakeholders in 2023 to evaluate the initiative's successes and challenges. Overall, the consultations have been positively received, and the 14 participating communities have expressed their willingness to continue the initiative. These consultations also informed the Department's decision to renew and expand the initiative in 2024 onwards.





In March 2023, Canada committed to welcoming 15,000 persons from the Western Hemisphere to continue expanding safe, regular pathways as an alternative to irregular migration. To support delivery of this commitment, on November 17, 2023, IRCC launched a special immigration measure to facilitate the issuance of permanent resident visas to certain [Colombian, Haitian and Venezuelan^{xliv}](#) nationals with family in Canada. The initiative provides a humanitarian pathway to permanent residence for individuals located in Central or South America or the Caribbean who have extended family connections in Canada. The public policy closed in February 2024 when IRCC received enough applications to meet the Department's commitment. Admissions under this measure began in 2024.

Furthermore, in October 2023, [IRCC announced a new investment of \\$75 million over six years to support origin, transit and destination countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region^{xlv}](#) to better respond to and manage increased irregular migration and forced displacement, and support Canada's commitment to address the regional challenges posed by the mixed migration movements.

In October 2023, [Canada announced that it had met its commitment to welcome at least 40,000 vulnerable Afghans since August 2021^{xlvi}](#). Canada's commitment came from a deep sense of obligation stemming from nearly 20 years of armed combat and development work in Afghanistan. Today, over 54,000 Afghans have arrived in Canada through the Government of Canada's Afghan Resettlement Initiative.

In response to the conflicts in Sudan, and in Israel and Gaza, the Department supported Global Affairs Canada (GAC) in assisted departure efforts. In April 2023, IRCC supported 462 Canadian citizens and permanent residents in returning to Canada from Sudan via assisted departure. Since October 2023, IRCC has supported GAC in the assisted departure of over 2,500 Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and eligible family members out of Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza (via Rafah).

International Engagement

Canada's international leadership on migration and refugee protection

Responding to humanitarian crises is a top priority for Canada, exemplifying its leadership in offering protection to the world's most vulnerable populations. Canada not only offers resettlement opportunities but also supports host countries and provides additional pathways for those in need. Furthermore, Canada recognizes and values the contribution that persons who arrive fleeing conflict or other difficult situations make to the country.



In 2023, Canada continued to support the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#)^{xlvii} as a Champion country, by promoting regular migration pathways; gender-responsive and inclusive migration practices; best practices for integration and social cohesion; balanced and evidence-based public narratives on migrants and refugees to counter discrimination and xenophobia; advocating for more equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing for the world's refugees; and by including refugee advisors in Canadian delegations to ensure the views of those with lived experience of forced displacement are incorporated.

Canada's commitments at the [Global Refugee Forum](#)^{xlviii} show its ongoing leadership in resettlement and complementary pathways.

At the Forum, Canada committed to [resettle over 136,000 refugees over 3 years](#)^{xlix} with a focus on the most vulnerable, including women in precarious situations, ethnic and religious minorities, members of LGBTQI+ communities, Rohingya refugees and human rights defenders. Canada co-sponsored the [Securing Sustainable Futures](#)^l mega-pledge, aimed at ensuring all refugee children have access to quality education, including within well-supported national education systems.

Recognizing the growing impact of climate change on human mobility, Canada announced, funding for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support the efforts of Mexico in addressing the connections between migration, disasters, climate change and environmental degradation.

Canada's response to international crisis

As global displacement intensifies and becomes more complex, IRCC is increasingly being called upon to respond to a range of unique humanitarian situations by implementing a migration response, including facilitative measures or the creation of new programs. In 2023, IRCC continued to work to improve pathways for the [people from Hong Kong](#)ⁱ to stay and work in Canada; created a family-based pathway to permanent residence for [Ukrainian nationals](#)^{lii}; created a new family-based humanitarian pathway for [Sudanese and non-Sudanese](#)^{liii} nationals who resided in Sudan when the conflict broke out in April 2023, so they can reunite on a permanent basis with their family in Canada; and announced temporary immigration measures to support family members of [Canadians and permanent residents from Gaza](#)^{liv}, as well as Israelis and Palestinians already in Canada.

IRCC also announced facilitative immigration measures in response to affected populations from the earthquakes that occurred in Türkiye, Syria, and Morocco. Special measures were introduced to support Moroccan, Syrian and Turkish nationals who were in Canada on a temporary basis and wished to extend their stay. These measures also provided fee waivers for Canadian citizens or Canadian permanent residents who were affected by the earthquakes and in need of replacement travel or citizenship documents to return to Canada.

Informed by lessons learned from recent responses, IRCC is developing a Crisis Response Framework that will enable the Department and its partners to better anticipate, respond to, and manage emerging humanitarian crises and other international situations while protecting its ability to deliver on existing refugee commitments and other departmental priorities. The development of a Crisis Response Framework is a key commitment of [An Immigration System for Canada's Future](#).^{lv}

International bilateral and regional engagement

Canada advanced its migration and refugee protection priorities through active collaboration with regional and bilateral partners and the delivery of capacity building assistance.

Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Migration Five partners

Engagement with countries from these regions occurred through:

- Bilateral consultations.
- Collaboration with the UNHCR and IOM.
- Relaunching the Joint Consultations on Migration and Asylum with the European Commission.
- Continued discussions with the European Union on efforts to support persons fleeing the war in Ukraine and Afghan refugees.
- Advancing Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy through bilateral engagement with key partners in the region, including Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.
- Continued work within the [Regional Conference on Migration](#)^{lvi} to address irregular migration in the Americas.
- Collaboration with Five Country Ministerial counterparts from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Promoting international protection and managed migration abroad

Canada showed its commitment to the human and labour rights of migrant workers, providing [funding to the IOM to support](#)^{lvii} the adoption of fair and ethical recruitment standards in the Philippines and contributing to a \$2.4 million grant with the IOM to support the development of an ethical recruitment corridor between Mexico and Canada.

Gender and Diversity Considerations in Immigration

In 2022, IRCC's [Anti-Racism Strategy 2.0 \(2021–2024\)](#)^{lviii} was adopted as part of the Department's commitment to solidify work towards building an equitable and inclusive organization. Anti-Racism and GBA Plus continues to be critical components of IRCC's work. They ensure that the impacts of our policies and programs factor gender, diversity, and many other considerations into our work:

Building awareness—expanded programming to address equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations

Training under the Atlantic Immigration Program

Under the Atlantic Immigration Program, all employers were required to take intercultural competency training, which includes training on how to overcome implicit bias in hiring and managing employees.

Corporate activities at IRCC

In 2023, the Department set up an Equity Branch to act as a centre of expertise, providing independent oversight, and employee support services to address racism, discrimination and conflict resolution. Equity Branch will include a new employee Ombuds office to offer a safe, independent, and impartial channel for employees to report and address systemic racism and discrimination in the workplace.

Senior executives' performance goals now include equity and anti-racism objectives.

IRCC prioritized numerous trainings on Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, emphasizing inclusive leadership and fostering a respectful workplace. They consulted extensively with designated groups and employee networks to develop diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, gathering feedback through surveys and focus groups. The Department implemented mandatory bias training for all staff, reflecting IRCC's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment.



Inclusion—initiatives to address inequities and improve inclusion for diverse populations

Giving opportunities to caregivers and their families

The Home Child Care Provider Pilot and the Home Support Worker Pilot^{lix} provide pathways to permanent residence for homecare workers, with program elements to reduce vulnerabilities and family separation.

In 2023, the amount of work experience in Canada required for a caregiver to qualify for permanent residency was reduced^{lx} from 24 months to 12 months.

Gathering information from stakeholders for humanitarian immigration

The Department maintains ongoing dialogue with a range of stakeholder groups, including the Black Legal Action Centre^{lxi} and Migrant Rights Network^{lxii} which advocate for diverse communities.

This engagement aims to gain deeper insights into the experiences of migrants. Through this collaborative effort, IRCC can formulate more inclusive public policies that fit to the diverse needs of various populations.

Including gender “X”

In 2021, the IRCC Sex and Gender Client Identifier Policy^{lxiii} was approved to enable individuals who do not identify as female or male to designate “Another Gender – X” for the gender identifier on their passport, travel documents, citizenship certificates, or permanent resident card. “X” aligns with international standards on travel document specifications and stands as the sole alternative to “F” and “M” for the obligatory sex field in travel documents. IRCC is ensuring the implementation of all aspects of the policy (i.e., collection, recording and display of sex/gender information) is consistent across program lines.

Including participation of refugees

In 2023, Canada continued its commitment to meaningful refugee participation in preparatory consultations for and on delegations to the Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways^{lxiv}, the UNHCR Executive Committee annual meeting^{lxv} and the Global Refugee Forum 2023^{lxvi}. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and IRCC, provided support to the Refugee Advisory Network of Canada^{lxvii} to further develop recommendations for strengthening the inclusion of refugee voices in delegations, policy development, and program design.

Through the International Migration Capacity Building Program^{lxviii}, Canada supported the Global Task Force for Refugee Labour Mobility^{lxix}, Talent Beyond Boundaries^{lxx} and RefugePoint^{lxxi} in establishing a Refugee Advisory Committee of five advisors with their own experiences of being resettled in a third country through labour complementary pathways. Three of these Refugee Advisors attended the 2023 Global Refugee Forum where they spoke at key events and shared their experiences with key decision-makers.



Promoting a gender-responsive approach to migration

Canada remains committed to promoting a gender-responsive approach to migration in the implementation of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#),^{lxxii} an intergovernmental agreement aimed at fostering unified approaches to international migration.

For instance, Canada promotes international initiatives such as the [Gender + Migration Hub](#),^{lxxiii} which develops tools and compiles resources to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people on the move; as well as the [Gender and Migration Research Policy Action Lab](#)^{lxxiv} (GenMig).

Supporting Canada's national action plan on women, peace, and security

In 2023-24, IRCC adopted the [Implementation Plan for Canada's third National action Plan on Women, Peace and Security – 2023 to 2029](#).^{lxxv} The action plan incorporates GBA Plus and inclusion commitments. It also backs the efforts of IRCC to include GBA Plus and gender equality principles into its work, alongside the department's anti-racism pledges. Furthermore, it fosters an understanding of the complex identities and diverse experiences of refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations escaping conflict, aiming to address their needs and priorities more effectively.



Improving access to permanent residence and family reunification through the Agri-Food Pilot

In 2023, the annual occupational caps were removed to provide an opportunity for more eligible candidates to apply, expanded open work permit access to family members of all principal applicants – regardless of the principal applicant’s job skill level, and allowed unions to attest to a candidate’s work experience in lieu of an employer reference letter.

Evaluating policy and program design

IRCC has started identifying how to address systemic racism in the Department’s policies and program designs by initiating an evaluation of the Caregiver Program in 2023 which will apply a GBA Plus and anti-racism lens to the assessment of expected outcomes.

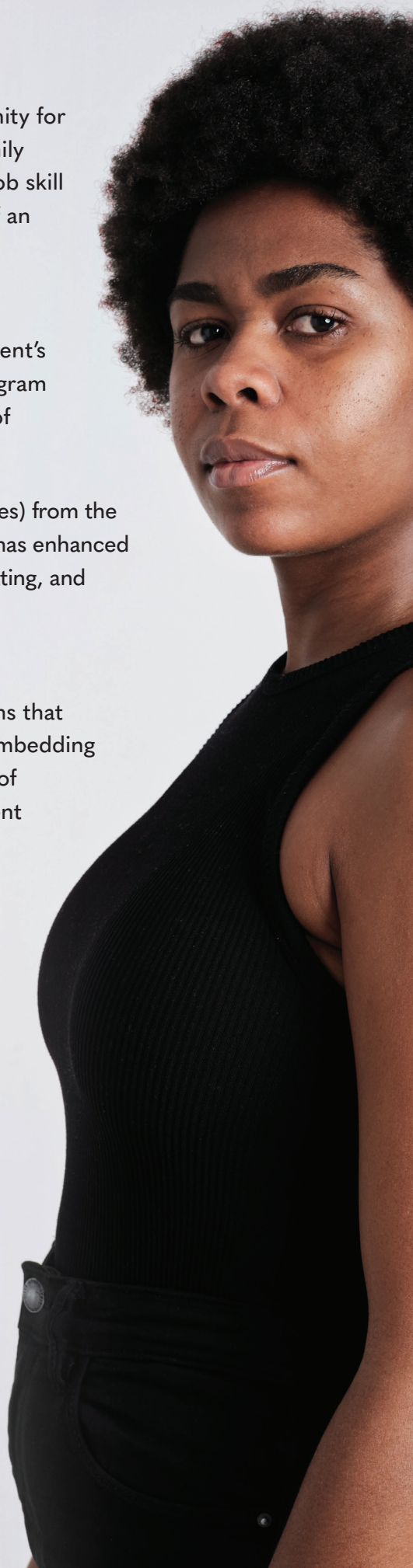
RCC has continuously engaged with stakeholders (including client representatives) from the Agri-Food, Home Child Care Provider and Home Support Worker pilots which has enhanced the Department’s ability to employ an intersectional lens when designing, evaluating, and adjusting policies and programs.

Including anti-racism in service delivery

IRCC addressed systemic racism by supporting Service Provider Organizations that represent racialized groups, promoting fair human resources practices and embedding Anti-Racism into their organizational culture. In response to the 2023 Office of the Auditor General of Canada audit on Processing Applications for Permanent Residence, IRCC is exploring the impact of voluntary race-based and ethnocultural data on processing times through client surveys. This initiative aims to refine methodologies, uphold data integrity, and strengthen privacy safeguards as part of IRCC’s Anti-Racism Strategy.

Supporting policy design improvements with data and research

IRCC has continued to build a robust evidence base for decision making in support of Anti-Racism work by collecting data and completing targeted research and reviews using an intersectional Anti-Racism lens to support policy design improvements. For example, the Department collects disaggregated data on Settlement and Resettlement services providers and clients. Within the Settlement Program, seventeen projects are underway that will enhance IRCC’s ability to identify, examine, and analyze the barriers and obstacles which racialized newcomers face as they settle and integrate into Canadian society. The results of these projects including identified best practices will begin to be available in 2024.



Addressing vulnerability—programs created to improve outcomes for individuals that may experience increased vulnerabilities

Resettling human rights defenders

Through the [Human Rights Defenders stream](#),^{lxxvi} Canada aims to resettle human rights defenders who are most at risk around the world. Human rights defenders are people who peacefully stand up for the rights of others, including activists, journalists, scholars, lawyers, trade unionists, and people representing communities like religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ people and Indigenous peoples. In 2023, [IRCC doubled the number of spaces available under the stream](#),^{lxxvii} from 250 to 500.

Assisting persecuted LGBTQI+ individuals

Canada supports the [Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership](#),^{lxxviii} which is dedicated to assisting Canadians and permanent residents in privately sponsoring LGBTQI+ refugees escaping violence and persecution. From 2012 to 2023, 274 refugees have been resettled through this partnership.

Protecting out-of-status foreign national in Canada victims of human trafficking

IRCC's anti-human trafficking measures focus on the protection of foreign national victims of human trafficking. These measures include:

- The issuance of a Temporary Residence Permit (TRP) to the victims and their accompanying dependants.
- Access to physical and mental healthcare through the Interim Federal Health (IFH).
- Access to work permit and study permit.
- Waiving of some processing fees related to the issuance of the initial TRP and work permits.

In 2023, 125 temporary resident permits were issued to victims of trafficking in persons and their dependants.



Annex 1:

Admissions Data

Table 1: Temporary resident permits and extensions issued in 2023 by provision of inadmissibility

Description of inadmissibility	Provision under the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i>	Total number of permits in 2023 ³⁵	Females	Males
Security (e.g., espionage, subversion, terrorism)	A34	3	0	3
Human or international rights violations	A35	1	0	1
Serious criminality (being convicted of an offence inside or outside Canada or committing an offence outside Canada that is punishable by at least 10 years or being sentenced to more than 6 months' imprisonment in Canada)	A36(1)	712	96	616
Criminality (being convicted, whether inside or outside of Canada of an indictable offence or two summary offences from separate events)	A36(2)	1,448	243	1,205
Organized criminality	A37	1	0	1
Health grounds (danger to public health or public safety, excessive demand)	A38	7	7	–
Financial reasons (unwilling or unable to support themselves or their dependants)	A39	13	4	9
Misrepresentation	A40	76	29	47
Cessation of refugee protection	A40.1	–	–	–
Non-compliance with Act (e.g., does not hold the required documents to enter/ remain in Canada, overstayed period of authorized period to remain in Canada)	A41	2,579	1,216	1,362

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³⁵ Gender-disaggregated data may not add up to the totals due to instances where gender was not confirmed or where another gender was written down for gender.

Description of inadmissibility	Provision under the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i>	Total number of permits in 2023 ³⁵	Females	Males
Inadmissible family member	A42	10	7	3
Other provisions ³⁶	A11	2,199	1,111	1,088
Total		7,049	2,713	4,335

Source: IRCC, Consolidated Business Reporting as of May 31, 2024.

³⁶ Other provisions include section A11 and unspecified cases.

Table 2: Permanent residents admitted in 2023 by destination and immigration category

Immigration category	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Un-specified	Total
Economic															
Federal economic – skilled ³⁷	155	82	891	844	0	55,588	676	575	6,151	12,784	39	49	11	0	77,845
Federal economic – caregiver ³⁸	1	0	9	6	77	1,556	11	40	516	824	1	1	0	0	3,042
Federal economic – business ³⁹	2	6	41	19	0	1,480	141	19	90	955	0	0	0	0	2,753
Agri-Food Pilot	0	13	0	0	0	691	6	3	197	655	0	0	0	0	1,565
Atlantic Immigration Pilot and Program	824	395	1,264	1,153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,636
Federal Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Provincial Nominee Program	2,816	2,621	5,854	6,662	0	21,438	15,492	19,788	15,326	17,781	688	153	0	0	108,619
Rural and Northern Immigration	0	0	0	0	0	1,867	188	89	46	665	0	0	0	0	2,855
Temporary resident to permanent resident pathway	228	164	944	788	0	19,863	1,700	796	2,759	9,024	25	18	6	0	36,315
Quebec skilled workers	0	0	0	0	29,826	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,826
Quebec business immigrants	0	0	0	0	6,281	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,281
Total economic	4,026	3,281	9,007	9,472	36,184	102,485	18,214	21,310	25,085	42,689	753	221	17	0	272,744

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37 Includes admissions in the Federal Skilled Worker Program, Federal Skilled Trades Program and Canadian Experience Class.

38 Includes admissions in all three streams of the Caregiver Program: the Live-in Caregiver Program, the High Medical Needs pathway, and the Caring for Children pathway.

39 Includes admissions in the Self-Employed Persons Program, Start-up Visa Program, and Immigrant Investor Venture Capital Program. This category also includes admissions resulting from a small number of applications in the Federal Immigrant Investor and Entrepreneur Programs, which were cancelled in 2014.

Immigration category	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Un-specified	Total
Family															
Spouses, partners, and children	219	143	991	552	7,731	42,466	2,250	1,480	11,297	13,321	92	67	22	0	80,631
Parents and grandparents	57	9	191	61	2,439	13,360	1,177	779	5,491	4,706	26	14	3	0	28,313
Family – other ⁴⁰	5	1	4	5	123	294	14	21	243	72	0	1	3	0	786
Total family	281	153	1,186	618	10,293	56,120	3,441	2,280	17,031	18,099	118	82	28	0	109,730
Refugees and protected persons in-Canada															
Protected persons in-Canada and dependants abroad	21	4	78	47	2,825	17,384	224	90	1,596	1,604	7	16	2	0	23,898
Blended visa office-referred refugees	4	0	4	0	0	48	20	0	9	25	0	0	0	0	110
Government-Assisted Refugees	1,045	151	1,000	1,162	1,420	9,611	1,262	842	3,620	3,192	0	0	0	6	23,311
Privately sponsored refugees	67	5	453	119	1,191	12,094	1,480	586	8,925	2,701	12	8	9	10	27,660
Total refugees and protected persons in-Canada	1,137	160	1,535	1,328	5,436	39,137	2,986	1,518	14,150	7,522	19	24	11	16	74,979
Humanitarian and other															
Humanitarian and other ⁴¹	42	24	79	40	896	9,085	272	66	1,321	2,511	0	2	1	16	14,355
Total humanitarian and other	42	24	79	40	896	9,085	272	66	1,321	2,511	0	2	1	16	14,355
Total	5,486	3,618	11,807	11,458	52,809⁴²	206,827	24,913	25,174	57,587	70,821	890	329	57	32	471,808
Percentage	1.2%	0.8%	2.5%	2.4%	11.2%	43.8%	5.3%	5.3%	12.2%	15.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.01%	0.01%	100%

Source: IRCC, Research and Data Branch (RDB), Permanent Residents, March 31, 2024, Data.

40 Family – Other includes Orphaned – brother, sister, nephew, niece and grandchild, and other relatives.

41 Includes admissions of persons selected on humanitarian and compassionate grounds for reasons of public policy and in the Permit Holder Class.

42 Includes a total of 34,360 francophone and 18,000 non-francophone permanent resident admissions. RDB, Permanent Resident Data as of March 31, 2024.

Table 3: Permanent residents admitted in 2023

Immigration category	2023 planned admission ranges ⁴³		2023 admissions				
	Low	High	Female	Male	Another gender	Un-specified	Total
Federal economic – high skilled ⁴⁴	67,750	88,000	37,419	40,426	0	0	77,845
Federal economic – public policies ⁴⁵	19,500	32,750	16,236	20,079	0	0	36,315
Federal economic – business ⁴⁶	2,350	4,000	1,343	1,410	0	0	2,753
Economic pilots: <i>Caregivers⁴⁷; Agri-Food Pilot; Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot; Economic Mobility Pathways</i>	4,650	10,800	3,822	3,750	0	0	7,469
Atlantic Immigration Program	3,000	8,800	1,726	1,910	0	0	3,636
Provincial Nominee Program	91,000	110,000	50,121	58,395	0	0	108,619
Quebec skilled workers and business immigrants ⁴⁸	See the Quebec Immigration Plan		17,294	18,813	0	0	36,107
Total economic	233,000	277,250	127,961	144,783	0	0	272,744
Spouses, partners, and children ⁴⁹	72,000	84,000	48,702	32,709	4	2	81,417
Parents and grandparents	25,000	38,000	16,907	11,406	0	0	28,313
Total family	100,000	118,000	65,609	44,115	4	2	109,730

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⁴³ Program and category specific ranges do not total to the overall ranges.

⁴⁴ Includes admissions in the Federal Skilled Worker Program, Federal Skilled Trades Program and Canadian Experience Class.

⁴⁵ Includes the time-limited temporary public policies for temporary resident to permanent resident pathways, with all admissions anticipated by the end of 2023.

⁴⁶ Includes admissions in the Self-Employed Persons Program and the Start-up Visa Program. This category also includes admissions resulting from a small number of applications in the Federal Immigrant Investor and Entrepreneur Programs, which were cancelled in 2014.

⁴⁷ Includes admissions in the Home Child-Care Provider Pilot and the Home Support Worker Pilot. Applications received under the legacy caregiver pilots and through the interim pathway will be processed to completion. Some admissions in this category are destined for Quebec.

⁴⁸ Under the Canada-Quebec Accord, Quebec has full responsibility for the selection of immigrants destined to Quebec, with the exception of the family class and protected persons.

⁴⁹ Includes Family – Other: Orphaned – brother, sister, nephew, niece and grandchild, and other relatives.

Immigration category	2023 planned admission ranges ⁴³		2023 admissions				
	Low	High	Female	Male	Another gender	Un-specified	Total
Protected persons in-Canada and dependants abroad	22,000	35,000	11,868	12,026	4	0	23,898
Blended visa office-referred refugees	-	400	49	61	0	0	110
Government-assisted refugees ⁵⁰	18,500	30,000	11,392	11,915	4	0	23,311
Privately sponsored refugees	20,000	29,000	12,596	15,059	5	0	27,660
Total refugees⁵¹ and protected persons	66,000	93,000	35,905	39,061	13	0	74,979
Total humanitarian and other total⁵²	11,000	16,750	7,556	6,799	0	0	14,355
Total	410,000	505,000	237,031	234,758	17	2	471,808

Source: IRCC, RDB, Permanent Residents, March 31, 2024, Data.

⁵⁰ Includes the stream for human rights defenders in need of protection, including women, journalists, and LGBTQI+ people.

⁵¹ Includes admissions from Canada's response to the situation in Afghanistan.

⁵² Includes admissions of persons selected on humanitarian and compassionate grounds for reasons of public policy and in the Permit Holder Class. This also includes some admissions from Canada's response to the situation in Afghanistan.

Table 4: Permanent residents by official language spoken, 2023⁵³

Immigration category		English	French	French and English	Neither	Unspecified	Total
Economic – principal applicants		121,764	6,026	20,710	764	285	149,549
	Female	49,813	2,612	9,419	244	143	62,231
	Male	71,951	3,414	11,291	520	142	87,318
Economic – partners and dependants		84,386	12,613	9,487	14,674	2,035	123,195
	Female	45,352	6,651	5,211	7,360	1,156	65,730
	Male	39,034	5,962	4,276	7,314	879	57,465
Total economic		206,150	18,639	30,197	15,438	2,320	272,744
	Female	95,165	9,263	14,630	7,604	1,299	127,961
	Male	110,985	9,376	15,567	7,834	1,021	144,783
Family reunification – principal applicants		67,745	3,427	3,637	14,284	278	89,371
	Female	40,622	2,003	1,982	8,082	162	52,851
	Male	27,120	1,424	1,653	6,202	115	36,514
	Another Gender	3	0	2	0	1	6
Family reunification – partners and dependants		9,669	1,054	331	8,898	407	20,359
	Female	5,792	552	199	6,005	210	12,758
	Male	3,877	502	132	2,893	197	7,601

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53 Another Gender may include instances where gender was not confirmed.

Immigration category		English	French	French and English	Neither	Unspecified	Total
Total family reunification		77,414	4,481	3,968	23,182	685	109,730
	Female	46,414	2,555	2,181	14,087	372	65,609
	Male	30,997	1,926	1,785	9,095	312	44,115
	Another Gender	3	0	2	0	1	6
Refugees and protected persons in-Canada – principal applicants		20,256	1,775	1,261	12,673	340	36,305
	Female	7,275	924	564	5,628	135	14,526
	Male	12,975	850	696	7,040	205	21,766
	Another Gender	6	1	1	5	0	13
Refugees and protected persons in-Canada – partners and dependants		11,872	1,074	667	23,755	1,306	38,674
	Female	6,663	601	378	13,051	686	21,379
	Male	5,209	473	289	10,704	620	17,295
Total refugees and protected persons in-Canada		32,128	2,849	1,928	36,428	1,646	74,979
	Female	13,938	1,525	942	18,679	821	35,905
	Male	18,184	1,323	985	17,744	825	39,061
	Another Gender	6	1	1	5	0	13
All other immigration – principal applicants		5,969	382	251	967	98	7,667
	Female	3,059	217	117	576	51	4,020
	Male	2,910	165	134	391	47	3,647

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Immigration category		English	French	French and English	Neither	Unspecified	Total
All other immigration – partners and dependants		4,177	316	255	1,803	137	6,688
	Female	2,205	167	129	967	68	3,536
	Male	1,972	149	126	836	69	3,152
Total all other and immigration		10,146	698	506	2,770	235	14,355
	Female	5,264	384	246	1,543	119	7,556
	Male	4,882	314	260	1,227	116	6,799

Source: IRCC, RDB, Permanent Residents, March 31, 2024, Data.

Annex 2:

Temporary Migration Reporting

Temporary resident permits

Under subsection 24(1) of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#) (IRPA), an officer may issue a temporary resident permit (TRP) to a foreign national who is inadmissible or who does not otherwise meet the requirements of the Act, to allow that individual to enter or remain in Canada when it is justified under the circumstances. TRPs are issued for a limited period and are subject to cancellation at any time.

Table 1 in Annex 1 illustrates the number of TRPs issued in 2023, categorized according to grounds of inadmissibility under IRPA. In 2023, a total of 7,049 such permits were issued.

Temporary resident permits for victims of human trafficking

TRPs can be issued to out-of-status foreign national victims of human trafficking in Canada as a protection measure. The TRP provides them with temporary resident status in Canada and allows them to obtain a work permit. They also have access to healthcare through the Interim Federal Health Program. In 2023, IRCC issued 125 TRPs to victims of human trafficking and their dependants. This number is included in the overall number of TRPs issued in 2023 (as per Table 1 in Annex 1).

Temporary resident permits for victims of family violence

Since 2019, newcomers experiencing family violence have been able to apply for a fee exempt TRP that gives them legal immigration status in Canada and includes a work permit and healthcare coverage. In 2023, 154 TRPs were approved for victims of family violence.

Public policy exemptions for a temporary purpose

In 2023, a total of 154 applications for temporary residence were facilitated for foreign nationals to come to Canada as visitors, students and workers, under the public policy to exempt certain foreign nationals from the Inadmissibility Provisions for a Temporary Purpose. This public policy has been in place since September 2010 to advance Canada's national interests while continuing to ensure to help the safety of Canadians.

Use of the negative discretion authority

In 2023, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship used once the negative discretion authority under subsection 22.1(1) of IRPA. This authority allows the Minister to make a declaration that, based on public policy considerations, a foreign national may not become a temporary resident for a period of up to three years.

Annex 3:

Ministerial Instructions

The [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#) (IRPA) provides the legislative authority for Canada's immigration programs and contains various provisions that allow the Minister to issue instructions to immigration officers to enable the Government of Canada to best achieve its immigration goals. These instructions are typically issued for limited periods of time and can touch on a diverse range of issues.

As required by section 94(2) of IRPA, the following table provides a description of the instructions given by the Minister in 2023 and the date of their publication.

Title	Description	Date of publication	Coming into force
Ministerial Instructions with respect to the submission of online applications for temporary resident visas and other documents	Pursuant to section 87.3 and subsections 92(1.1) and (2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions regarding online applications for temporary resident visas and other documents. All applications for a temporary resident visa (including a transit visa), a work permit, or a study permit submitted for foreign nationals who are outside Canada at the time of application must be submitted using electronic means (apply online) with some exceptions.	April 15, 2023	April 1, 2023
Ministerial Instructions Amending the Ministerial Instructions Respecting the Express Entry System, 2023-1	Pursuant to section 10.3 of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions to amend the Ministerial Instructions Respecting the Express Entry System.	April 25, 2023	April 25, 2023
Ministerial Instructions Respecting the Agri-food Immigration Class, 2023	Pursuant to section 14.1 of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions replace and repeal the <i>Ministerial Instructions Respecting the Agri-food Immigration Class</i> , published in the Canada Gazette, Part I, on August 31, 2019.	May 6, 2023	April 27, 2023
Ministerial Instructions Amending the Home Child Care Provider Class Ministerial Instructions and the Home Support Worker Class Ministerial Instructions	Pursuant to section 14.1. of IRPA, amended Ministerial Instructions apply to all applications for permanent residence under the Home Support Worker Class and the Home Child Care Provider Class.	April 29, 2023	April 30, 2023

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Title	Description	Date of publication	Coming into force
Parents and Grandparents	Pursuant to section 87.3 and subsections 92(1.1) and (2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions authorizing a maximum of 16,000 sponsorship applications made in relation to applications for a permanent resident visa, which are made by sponsors' parents or grandparents under the family class, to be accepted for processing in the 2023 calendar year, which begins on January 1, 2023, and ends on December 31, 2023. This 16,000 application number includes the remaining applications to be accepted into processing that were a part of the 2022 intake as well as new applications to be accepted into processing that are a part of the 2023 intake.	September 9, 2023	July 7, 2023
Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system (Healthcare occupations category)	Pursuant to section 10.3(1) (h.2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system. These instructions, given three times during 2023, established a Healthcare occupations category for the purpose of ranking as well as the eligibility criteria to be a member of that category, and authorized the invitation of the top-ranking members. These instructions supported the economic goal of improving the labour market responsiveness of federal high skilled immigration programs.	June 28, 2023 July 6, 2023 October 26, 2023	June 28, 2023 July 6, 2023 October 26, 2023
Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system (French-language proficiency category)	Pursuant to section 10.3(1) (h.2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system. These instructions, given six times during 2023, established a French-language proficiency category for the purpose of ranking as well as the eligibility criteria to be a member of that category, and authorized the invitation of the top-ranking members. These instructions supported the economic goal of supporting economic growth through Francophone immigration outside Quebec.	July 7, 2023 July 12, 2023 August 2, 2023 September 27, 2023 October 25, 2023 December 7, 2023	July 7, 2023 July 12, 2023 August 2, 2023 September 27, 2023 October 25, 2023 December 7, 2023
Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system (Trade occupations category)	Pursuant to section 10.3(1) (h.2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system. These instructions, given two times during 2023, established a Trade occupations category for the purpose of ranking as well as the eligibility criteria to be a member of that category, and authorized the invitation of the top-ranking members. These instructions supported the economic goal of improving the labour market responsiveness of federal high skilled immigration programs.	August 3, 2023 December 19, 2023	August 3, 2023 December 19, 2023

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Title	Description	Date of publication	Coming into force
Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system (STEM category)	Pursuant to section 10.3(1) (h.2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system. These instructions, given two times during 2023, established a Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) occupations category for the purpose of ranking as well as the eligibility criteria to be a member of that category, and authorized the invitation of the top-ranking members. These instructions supported the economic goal of improving the labour market responsiveness of federal high skilled immigration programs.	July 5, 2023 December 8, 2023	July 5, 2023 December 8, 2023
Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system (Agriculture and agri-food occupations category)	Pursuant to section 10.3(1) (h.2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system. These instructions, given two times during 2023, established an Agriculture and agri-food occupations category for the purpose of ranking as well as the eligibility criteria to be a member of that category, and authorized the invitation of the top-ranking members. These instructions supported the economic goal of improving the labour market responsiveness of federal high skilled immigration programs.	September 28, 2023 December 21, 2023	September 28, 2023 December 21, 2023
Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system (Transport occupations)	Pursuant to section 10.3(1) (h.2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions respecting invitations to apply for permanent residence under the Express Entry system. These instructions, given two times during 2023, established a Transport occupations category for the purpose of ranking as well as the eligibility criteria to be a member of that category, and authorized the invitation of the top-ranking members. These instructions supported the economic goal of improving the labour market responsiveness of federal high skilled immigration programs.	September 20, 2023 December 20, 2023	September 20, 2023 December 20, 2023
Ministerial Instructions regarding the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa (2023)	Pursuant to subsection 15(4) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions are issued to align with changes as a result of Bill C-242, <i>An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i> (temporary resident visas for parents and grandparents), receiving Royal Assent. They update and replace the previous Ministerial Instructions that were given on July 4, 2022.	September 15, 2023	September 15, 2023

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Title	Description	Date of publication	Coming into force
Ministerial Instructions for the Student Direct Stream Program	Pursuant to section 87.3 of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions are directed to officers who are charged with handling and/or reviewing certain applications for study permits and establish conditions that must be met for these study permits to receive priority processing. "Priority processing" refers to an intended shortened processing time as compared to the regular study permit application process. These Instructions require language test results for the Student Direct stream.	May 27, 2023	September 15, 2023
Ministerial instructions for the submission of online applications for permanent resident visas and other documents	Pursuant to section 87.3 of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions requiring that applications for permanent resident visas, permanent resident status and sponsorship applications under various immigration streams be submitted electronically. These ministerial instructions identify which IRCC applications must now be submitted online and provide the dates on which the requirement comes into force for each program.	December 9, 2023	November 9, 2023
Letter of acceptance verification	Pursuant to subsection 87.3(6) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions on the processing of study permit applications took effect on December 1, 2023. These instructions give officers the authority to return a study permit application if the associated designated learning institution has not verified the letter of acceptance submitted by the applicant. The goal is to protect vulnerable students and preserve the integrity of the International Student Program.	December 2, 2023	December 1, 2023
Parents and Grandparents	Pursuant to section 87.3 and subsections 92(1.1) and (2) of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions regarding the applications received as part of the 2023 intake. These applications will be accepted into processing in 2024. These instructions provide authority to accept into processing up to 15,000 applications received as part of the 2023 intake.	January 6, 2024	January 1, 2024
Ministerial Instructions for the Student Direct Stream Program	Pursuant to section 87.3 of IRPA, Ministerial Instructions replace and repeal the <i>Ministerial Instructions for the Student Direct Stream Program</i> that were given on May 12, 2023.	December 30, 2023	January 1, 2024

Other Ministerial instructions are available on [IRCC's website](#).^{lxxix}

Annex 4:

Canada's Next Temporary and Permanent Resident Immigration Levels Plan

Under the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#)^{lxxx} (IRPA), the Minister of IRC must table Canada's Immigration Levels Plan (Levels Plan) in Parliament each year on or before November 1. Since 2017, a rolling three-year Levels Plan has been presented, which projects permanent residents (PR) admissions to Canada. Starting in the fall of 2024, IRCC is expanding the Levels Plan to include targets for both PR admissions and new temporary resident (TR) arrivals. This approach aims to ensure a well-managed migration system by looking at the totality of newcomers, and that supports the economy, while taking into account impacts on housing, health care and other essential services.

With a commitment to build a whole-of-society approach to immigration planning, IRCC develops the Levels Plan taking into consideration extensive consultations with federal partners, provinces and territories, municipalities, stakeholder organizations, Indigenous Peoples, and the public, including through regional townhall meetings.

PRs are categorized under three overarching groups: Economic immigration; Family reunification; and, Refugees, Protected Persons, Humanitarian and Compassionate, and Other. In recent years, an increasing number of workers and students in Canada have transitioned to PR status, which has shown significant improvement in the labour market and economic outcomes of immigrants, particularly those in high-skilled occupations⁵⁴.

The TR targets introduced for the first time ever in the Levels Plan include *new* arrivals for international students as well as temporary workers to be admitted under the [Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#)^{lxxxi} (TFW Program) – jointly delivered with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) – and the International Mobility Program (IMP).

54 [Earnings of one-step and two-step economic immigrants: Comparisons from the arrival year \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

The 2025–27 Immigration Levels Plan

Immigration continues to be a vital source of Canada’s economic sustainability and now contributes to nearly 100% of the labour force growth, including for occupations that face persistent structural shortages – such as health care and trades – and for emerging industries which are key to advancing Canada’s goal of a growing and resilient economy. Despite its importance, a recent surge in immigration volumes has resulted in increases in population which has exacerbated existing pressures on services and infrastructure across the country, from housing and health care to education and social supports. Canada’s economy and labour market have also softened, showing higher rates of unemployment for youth and newcomers. The 2025–27 Immigration Levels Plan responds to these pressures and will help ensure that Canadians and newcomers continue to prosper.

Temporary Residents (TRs)

In recognition of recent, rapid population growth and the shifts in Canada’s economic landscape, the Minister of IRC announced in March 2024 the goal to reduce TRs to 5% of the total population by the end of 2026, and a commitment to include TRs in the Levels Plan. In order to achieve this objective and stabilize population growth, while also improving the integrity of Canada’s TR programs, a series of measures across student and temporary worker programs have been introduced throughout the past year.

Building on these measures, and taking into consideration those TRs that will transition to permanent residents or leave Canada, the arrival targets for TRs in the 2025–27 Levels Plan are set at 673,650 in 2025, 516,600 in 2026 and 543,600 in 2027. TR targets will capture new arrivals only, which will provide the number of new workers and students entering Canada each year. In 2025, the target for international students (305,900) decreases by 10% from the 2024 target⁵⁵ before stabilizing in 2026, while workers, which include arrivals under the IMP and TFW Program, are prioritized accounting for 55% of new TR arrivals in 2025. Targets for the TFW Program prioritize primary agriculture workers in order to protect Canada’s food security and food supply chain. The targets do not include seasonal workers, many of whom also contribute to Canada’s food security, who enter and leave Canada within the same year (e.g., some occupations in Canada for less than 270 days) and are, therefore, not counted in year end population estimates. These worker volumes will be in addition to the number included in the targets.

⁵⁵ [Strengthening temporary residence programs for sustainable volumes – Canada.ca](#)

Overall Projected TR Arrivals & Ranges	2025	2026	2027
	673,650 (604,900 – 742,400)	516,600 (435,250 – 597,950)	543,600 (472,900 – 614,250)
Workers ⁽¹⁾	367,750	210,700	237,700
Students ⁽²⁾	305,900	305,900	305,900

⁽¹⁾ Projected number of new work permits for foreign nationals entering Canada under one of two programs, the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFW Program) or the International Mobility Program (IMP) including work permits issued under humanitarian public policies.

⁽²⁾ Projected number of new study permits issued to foreign nationals studying for six (6) months or more in Canada at a [Designated Learning Institution \(DLI\)](#).

Permanent Residents (PRs)

To further support the alignment of immigration with labour market needs and to help alleviate the existing pressures on Canada's domestic systems, the 2025–27 Levels Plan reduces the overall PR projections set in the [2024–26 Levels Plan](#)^{lxxxii} to 395,000 admissions in 2025 and 380,000 for 2026, and sets the target at 365,000 in 2027.

The Levels Plan prioritizes the selection of TRs with in-demand work/study experience that want to become PRs, including under the "In-Canada Focus". It is anticipated that over 40% of overall PR admissions will be TRs already in Canada. This will reduce TR volumes, including the number of new PRs arriving from outside Canada, which will further alleviate the pressure on communities' capacity to welcome newcomers.

Supporting the Canadian economy continues to be a key priority of this Levels Plan as the economic class represents the largest proportion of admissions each year, reaching nearly 62% by 2027. A greater share of economic admissions are allocated to skilled workers with a focus on critical sectors, such as health care and the skilled trades.

Although admission targets within the family class are also set to decrease, their share is maintained at a relatively similar to the 2024–26 Levels Plan with a projected 22% of overall PR admissions in order to support family reunification.

Canada continues to fulfill its humanitarian commitments to resettle refugees and others in need of protection, with an allocation of 15% of overall PR admissions under this class, in addition to a target of 21,200 admissions over three years in support of commitments based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, and/or as part of public policies by the Minister of IRC (e.g., Sudan, Ukraine, and Hong Kong).

In line with the Government's long-term commitment to leverage immigration to enhance the vitality of Francophone minority communities, and IRCC's [Policy on Francophone Immigration](#)^{lxxxiii} launched in 2024, the Levels Plan includes gradually increasing targets of French-speaking PR admissions outside of Quebec to 8.5% of overall PR admissions in 2025, 9.5% in 2026 and 10% in 2027. This, in turn, will support continued progress towards the demographic growth Francophone minority communities in the context of a changing migration landscape.

	2025		2026		2027	
Overall Projected PR Admissions & Ranges	395,000 (367,000 – 436,000)		380,000 (352,000 – 416,000)		365,000 (338,000 – 401,000)	
French-speaking Admissions Outside of Quebec (overall)	8.5% (29,325)		9.5% (31,350)		10% (31,500)	
Economic Immigration ⁽³⁾	232,150		229,750		225,350	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
	215,000	256,000	214,000	249,000	207,000	246,000
Family Reunification	94,500		88,000		81,000	
	88,500	102,000	82,000	96,000	77,000	89,000
Refugees, Protected Persons, Humanitarian and Compassionate, and Other	68,350		62,250		58,650	
	63,500	78,000	56,000	71,000	54,000	66,000

⁽³⁾ Under the Canada-Quebec Accord, Quebec has responsibility for the selection of economic immigrants destined to Quebec.

Note: For a detailed breakdown of targets per temporary and permanent immigration programs, please see the [2025–27 Supplementary Tables on the Department's website](#).^{lxxxiv}

Net Change in Newcomers to Canada

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Non-permanent Residents				
<i>NPR outflows</i>	588,409	1,262,801	1,104,658	875,129
<i>NPR inflows of which:</i>	887,625	816,900	659,036	892,568
<i>Inflows subject to targets set for students and workers</i>		673,650	516,600	543,600
<i>Inflows for contingency reserve</i>		143,250	142,436	348,968
Net Change in Non-permanent Residents	299,216	- 445,901	- 445,622	17,439
New Permanent Residents	485,000	395,000	380,000	365,000
Total New PR and NPR in Canada	784,216	- 50,901	- 65,622	382,439
Population of Non-permanent Residents	2,961,000	2,515,199	2,069,477	2,086,916
NPRs as % of Canadian Population	71%	6.1%	5.0%	5.0%

Notes:

- *Projections are based on available data and proposed policies but may change as new data and external factors emerge. Projections in the above table show the total number of people admitted to Canada from 2025–27, which includes net new arrivals for NPRs, and total number of PRs admitted as per the Levels Plan. The table does not explicitly show net new arrivals for PRs, as the total number of PRs admitted includes individuals who transition from TR to PR status while already in Canada.*
- *“Non-permanent residents” (NPR) include asylum claimants, protected persons, temporary foreign workers, international students, and their dependents. Statistics Canada reports on this group, while IRCC’s Levels Plan sets targets for worker and student arrivals, contributing to the NPR population.*
- *“NPR Outflow” refers to NPRs leaving Canada, such as through permit expiration or transition to permanent residency. “NPR Inflow” is the net arrival of new NPRs, including workers and students. “Net Change in NPRs” is the difference between inflows and outflows. It is the change in total NPR population for each year. “New Permanent Residents” refers to those admitted as PRs, including former NPRs who transitioned to permanent residency. “New PR and NPR in Canada” refers to the total number of new permanent and non-permanent residents admitted to Canada.*

Endnotes

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