

The AMSSA Info Sheet series has been created to inform and support our members and community partners. The Info Sheets cover a wide range of topics and highlight important facts and trends from across Canada and BC. Our goal is to assist organizations in navigating the rapidly changing landscape of the BC settlement sector.*

Immigration Numbers and Statistics — Trends for Canada and BC

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney announced in November 2012 that immigration levels for 2013 would hold steady with a planned 240,000 to 265,000 new permanent residents, the same annual target range that has been set for immigration since 2007. In light of this announcement AMSSA has looked at recent immigration trends and levels across Canada and in BC, highlighting the information and statistics relevant to the settlement sector in BC.

Highlights: Immigration Levels 2010 — 2012

- ⇒ **Canada**, between 2010 and 2011, saw a decline in immigration by 8.9%.¹ In the first 6 months of 2012 however, immigration numbers have picked up by 9.4% or 11,059 new permanent residents (PRs) more than for the same period last year.²
- ⇒ **BC**, between 2010 and 2011, saw a significant decline in new permanent residents by 21.3% (nearly 10 000 fewer PRs).³ BC carried the brunt of the Canada-wide drop in immigration levels: 2010-2011 Canada received 31,943 fewer PRs than the year before while BC's number dropped by nearly 10,000 PRs—a third of the loss in immigration was carried by BC.
- ⇒ **BC**, in the first 6 months of 2012, however has seen an increase of new PR numbers by 18.8% compared to the same time period last year.⁴

Highlights: Temporary Migration Levels

- ⇒ The number of Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) in Canada has more than doubled since 2004, from 125,024 TFWs in 2004 to 300,211 in 2011.⁵
- ⇒ For the last 4 years BC has welcomed more TFWs than permanent residents – a group of migrants that is ineligible for services under federal settlement funding.⁶
- ⇒ In 2011 Canada admitted 190,842 TFWs and 248,748 PRs. BC in turn admitted 46,378 TFWs and 34,785 PRs.⁷

Fig. 1– New Permanent Resident number trends by Province

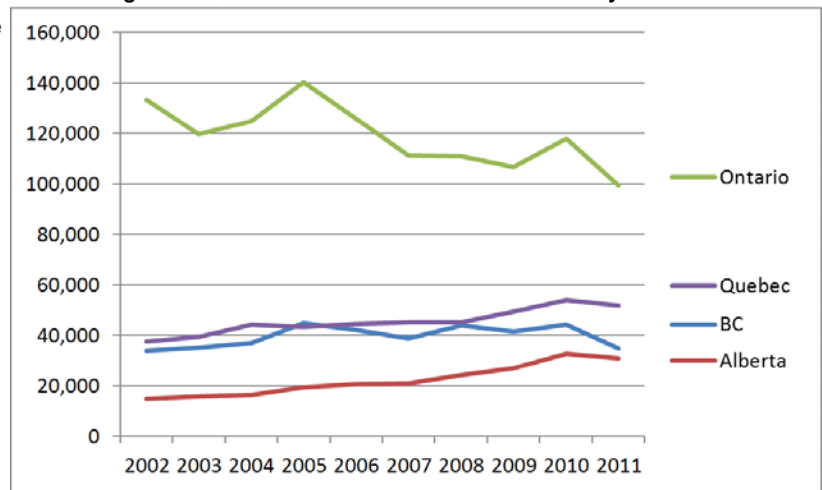


Figure created by AMSSA. Data source: BC Stats.¹

Potential Impacts

- ⇒ Federal settlement funding allocations have more than tripled, from \$200 million for 2005-06 to almost \$600 million for 2012-13 (not including Quebec). There has been a decrease of almost \$6 million between 2011-12 and 2012-13. However, all Provinces still received an increase in funding except for Ontario which received a cut of \$32 million. The funding is determined by the national settlement funding formula, which is based on the number of immigrants in each province, along with a capacity-building allocation amount added for each jurisdiction.⁸
- ⇒ With BC's 21.3% drop in immigration numbers, the sector could be facing cuts in the Federal settlement funding allocation for 2013-14. The rising number of Temporary Foreign Workers, a client group not eligible for Provincial or Federal settlement funding, will likely put increased pressures on service providers.

1. BC Stats, 'Immigrant Landings by Class', June 2012. Available at: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Files/80765e2c-bc05-4585-910b-84eb8605c06a/ImmigrantLandingsbyClass.pdf>.

2. CIC, 'Quarterly Administrative Data Release 2012'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/data-release/2012-Q2/index.asp>.

3. See above: Footnote 1.

4. BC Stats, 'Quarterly Migration Flow Maps', 2012 Q1+2. Available at: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/Mobility.aspx>.

5. CIC 'Foreign Workers Present on December 1', 2002-2011. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2011/temporary/10.asp>.

6. CIC 'Facts & Figures 2011: total entries of foreign workers by province', 2012. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2011/temporary/09.asp>.

7. See above: Footnote 6.

8. CIC Backgrounder, 'Government of Canada 2012-13 Settlement Funding Allocation', 25 Nov. 2011. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2011/2011-11-25.asp>.

- ⇒ This table below shows the total number of new permanent residents in Canada, broken up by Province and Year. The numbers are listed for a period of 10 years to capture trends. Note the drop in BC numbers between 2010-2011 as well as the steady decline in Ontario.
- ⇒ Alberta's immigration numbers on the other hand have been rising consistently and have doubled in the last decade. Should this trend continue, Alberta might overtake BC as the 3rd ranked destination for immigrants in Canada after Ontario and Quebec in the near future.

Table 1– New Permanent Residents, by Province

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
BC	34,057	35,229	37,026	44,770	42,083	38,961	43,992	41,440	44,187	34,785
Alberta	14,738	15,839	16,476	19,404	20,716	20,860	24,201	27,017	32,650	30,963
Ontario	133,587	119,723	125,093	140,526	125,891	111,316	110,877	106,861	118,111	99,458
Sask.	4,615	6,503	7,426	8,096	10,048	10,954	11,218	13,521	15,808	15,962
Manitoba	1,667	1,668	1,943	2,119	2,724	3,516	4,835	6,890	7,615	8,955
Quebec	37,581	39,555	44,245	43,315	44,682	45,200	45,218	49,492	53,984	51,746
Canada	229,048	221,349	235,823	262,242	251,640	236,753	247,246	252,174	280,691	248,748

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC Statistics.⁹

- ⇒ This table below shows the provincial distribution of new permanent residents across Canada in percent. BC in 2002 received 14.9% of Canada's new immigrants, this number peaked in 2008 with 17.8% and is now returned to 14.0% in 2011. Ontario's share has declined from 58.3% to 40% in 10 years and Alberta's share has doubled from 6.4% to 12.4% in this period.

Table 2– Provincial Distribution of New Permanent Residents

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
BC	14.9%	15.9%	15.7%	17.1%	16.7%	16.5%	17.8%	16.4%	15.7%	14.0%
Alberta	6.4%	7.2%	7.0%	7.4%	8.2%	8.8%	9.8%	10.7%	11.6%	12.4%
Ontario	58.3%	54.1%	53.0%	53.6%	50.0%	47.0%	44.8%	42.4%	42.1%	40.0%
Sask.	2.0%	2.9%	3.1%	3.1%	4.0%	4.6%	4.5%	5.4%	5.6%	6.4%
Manitoba	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%	1.5%	2.0%	2.7%	2.7%	3.6%
Quebec	16.4%	17.9%	18.8%	16.5%	17.8%	19.1%	18.3%	19.6%	19.2%	20.8%
Other Prov.	1.30%	1.20%	1.60%	1.50%	2.20%	2.50%	2.80%	2.80%	3.10%	2.80%
Canada	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC Statistics.⁹

9. CIC 'Facts & Figures 2011: Permanent Residents by Province', 2012. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2011/permanent/11.asp>.