

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.*

CIC Western Region of Canada — Comparisons with Ontario and the Eastern Region

In April 2012, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) reorganized the British Columbia/Yukon region and the Prairies region into the new Western region; the Quebec and Atlantic Regions were reorganized into the Eastern Region, and Ontario remained a single CIC region. AMSSA has compiled this Info Sheet to examine and compare migration patterns, settlement and integration funding levels and economic forecasts across these three CIC regions.

CIC's Western Region: Population, Migration and Funding Highlights

⇒ The CIC Western Region is comprised of British Columbia (BC), Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Ontario is a single CIC region, and the Eastern Region is comprised of Quebec, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

⇒ Breakdown of total **population** by region: the Western Region has 31.4% of the population of Canada; Ontario 38.7%, and the Eastern Region 29.9%.¹

⇒ Breakdown of **new permanent residents** by region: the Western Region accounted for 37.7% of new PRs that arrived in Canada in 2012; Ontario 38.4%, and the Eastern Region 24.0%.² Every region experienced a decline in PR arrivals in 2010-11, with the Western Region declining by 9.7%, Ontario by 15.8%, and the Eastern Region by 5.9%. Growth was seen in all Western Region provinces in 2011-12.³

⇒ Breakdown of **temporary foreign worker arrivals** by region: the Western Region received 45.3% of the national share; Ontario 34.1%, and the Eastern Region 20.5%. **BC alone made up nearly a quarter of all TFW entries to Canada in 2012.**⁴

⇒ Breakdown of **funding levels** by region: the Western Region received 28.2% of all Settlement funding in 2012-13; Ontario 36.7%, and the Eastern region 35%.⁵

Figure 1– CIC's Three Regions: Western (Red), Ontario (Green), Eastern

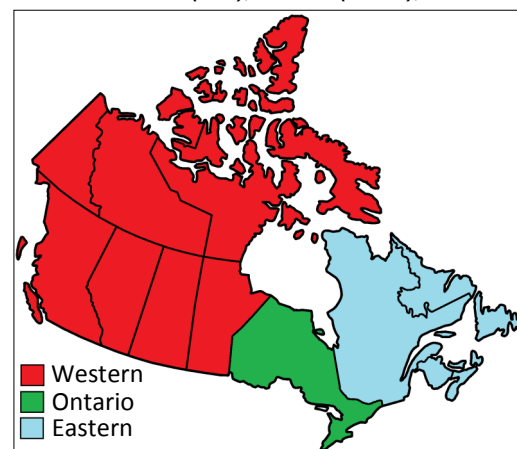


Figure 2– Regional Breakdown of Population, Permanent and Temporary Migration, and Funding Allocations

Province / Region	Population (2012) ⁶	% of National Population (2012)	PR Arrivals (2012) ⁷	% of National PR Arrivals (2012)	TFW Entries (2012) ⁸	% of National TFW Entries (2012)	2012-13 Settlement Funding (Millions) ⁹	% of National Funding (2012-13)
British Columbia	4,622,573	13.1%	36,176	14.0%	49,488	23.2%	\$109.8	12.8%
Alberta	3,873,745	11.1%	35,764	13.9%	35,615	16.7%	\$75.0	8.7%
Saskatchewan	1,079,958	3.1%	11,182	4.3%	5,075	2.4%	\$18.0	2.1%
Manitoba	1,267,003	3.6%	13,391	5.2%	3,950	1.8%	\$36.5	4.3%
Yukon, NWT and Nunavut	113,147	0.3%	458	0.2%	449	0.2%	\$2.1	0.2%
Western Region	10,956,426	31.4%	96,971	37.7%	94,577	45.3%	\$241.4	28.2%
Ontario	13,505,900	38.7%	98,826	38.4%	71,233	34.1%	\$315.0	36.7%
Eastern Region	10,418,165	29.9%	61,692	24.0%	42,872	20.5%	\$300.9*	35.1%*
Canada	34,880,491	100.0%	257,515	100.0%	213,516	100.0%	\$857.2	100.0%

Table created by AMSSA.

*Note: Funding levels for the CIC Eastern Region include a \$283.1 million grant to Quebec, provided by the Canada-Quebec Accord.

1. Statistics Canada, 'CANSIM Table 051-0001: Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories', 2012. Available at: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a33?RT=TABLE&themeID=3433>.

2, 3, 4. Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 'Preliminary Tables - Permanent and Temporary Residents', 2012. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012-preliminary/03.asp>.

5. Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 'Background—Government of Canada 2012-13 Settlement Funding Allocations', 2011. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2011/2011-11-25.asp>.

6. See above: Footnote 1.

7. See above: Footnote 2.

8. See above: Footnote 2.

9. See above: Footnote 5.

CIC Regional and Local (Provincial) Economic Highlights

Figure 3– Unemployment rates & growth forecasts, by Province

Province / Territory	Unemployment Rate (Jan 2013) ¹⁴	Forecasted GDP Growth for 2014 ¹⁵	Forecasted Employment Growth for 2014 ¹⁶
Western Region			
British Columbia	6.5%	2.6%	1.4%
Alberta	4.5%	3.1%	1.4%
Saskatchewan	4.6%	2.9%	1.2%
Manitoba	5.2%	2.3%	1.0%
Yukon	6.1%	--	--
NWT	7.4%	--	--
Nunavut	14.2%	--	--
Eastern Region			
Quebec	7.3%	1.8%	1.0%
Newfoundland and Labrador	11.5%	1.8%	0.3%
PEI	11.8%	1.7%	0.4%
Nova Scotia	9.7%	2.0%	1.0%
New Brunswick	11.3%	1.6%	0.6%
Ontario	7.9%	2.3%	1.4%
Canada	7.1%	2.3%	1.3%

Table created by AMSSA.

Note: 2014 Economic forecasts were unavailable for the Territories

⇒ British Columbia’s economy is expected to grow by 2.6% in 2014, higher than the Canadian average of 2.3%. The Alberta and Saskatchewan economies are expected to grow by 3.1% and 2.9% respectively.¹⁰

⇒ Western provinces’ GDP growth rates are expected to continue to outpace the rest of the country in the long term. Long-term economic forecasts (2016-2021) predict the Western Region provinces to continue to be growth leaders, with Alberta is expected to grow by 2.5% annually, followed by Saskatchewan (2.3%), BC (2.1%) and Manitoba (1.7%); Ontario is predicted to grow by 2.1% annually over the same period.¹¹

⇒ It is significant to note that while all provinces witnessed a drop in unemployment rates between January 2012 and January 2013, the provinces of the Western Region all had unemployment rates that were well below the Canadian and other CIC regional averages. British Columbia’s unemployment rate dropped by 0.7% over the year down to 6.5% in January 2013.¹²

⇒ BC, Alberta and Ontario tied for the highest expected employment growth rate of 1.4% in 2014.¹³

CIC Regional and Local (Provincial) Linguistic Highlights

⇒ BC is the most linguistically diverse province in Canada, with 26.5% of the population speaking a non-official language (English or French) as their mother tongue. Ontario follows (25.7%), then Alberta (19.4%), Manitoba (21.5%), Saskatchewan (12.7%), Quebec (12.3%), Nova Scotia (4.1%), PEI (3.5%), Newfoundland (1.7%), New Brunswick (2.5%), Yukon (10.8%), NWT (70.9%), and Nunavut (94.3%).¹⁷

⇒ In BC, nearly 1.1 million people in BC do not speak English or French as a mother tongue, compared to 698,000 in Alberta, 129,000 in Saskatchewan and 256,000 in Manitoba.¹⁸

⇒ BC is substantially more linguistically diverse than other provinces in CIC’s Western Region (see Chart 1).¹⁹

Chart 1 – Number of speakers of the top immigrant languages, by Province

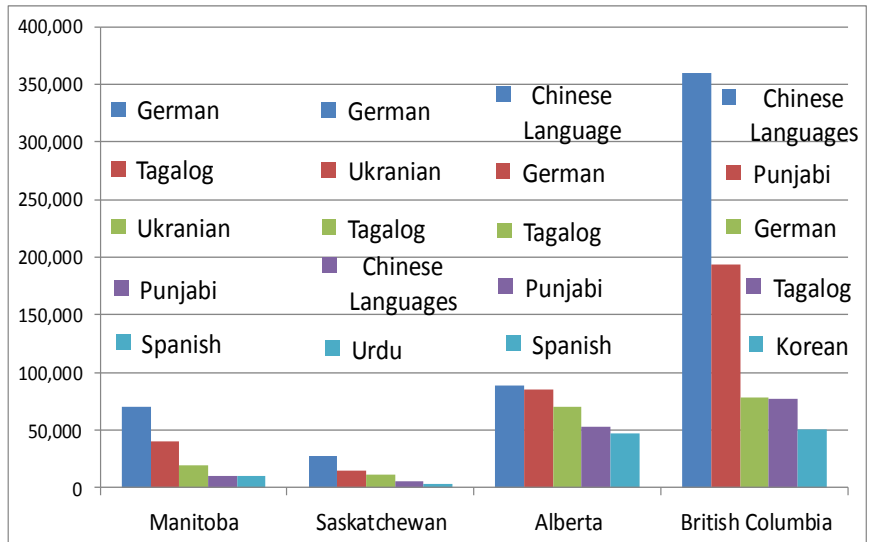


Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: Statistics Canada.²⁰

10. Bank of Montreal Capital Markets Economics, 'Provincial Economic Outlook', February 2013. Available at: <http://www.bmonesbittburns.com/economics/forecast/prov/ProvincialOutlook.pdf>.

11. TD Economics, 'Estimating Longer-Term Growth Prospects in Canada's Provincial Economies,' February 2012. Available at: http://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/special/sq0212_longterm.pdf.

12. Statistics Canada, 'Labour force characteristics, seasonally adjusted, by province (monthly),' February 2012. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/lfs01a-eng.htm>.

13. See above: Footnote 10.

14. See above: Footnote 12.

15, 16. See above: Footnote 10.

17, 18, 19, 20. Statistics Canada, 'Focus on Geography Series, Census 2011,' January 2012. Available at: <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/fogs-spg/select-Geo-Choix.cfm?Lang=Eng&GK=PR>.