

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.*

Temporary Foreign Workers - Part 1: Statistics and Trends

Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) has gained significant importance in recent years with over 338,000 TFWs currently residing in Canada and new arrival numbers rising substantially every year.¹ AMSSA has created Info Sheet 10 to highlight TFWP statistics and trends for both Canada and BC. Info Sheet 11 reviews TFWP policies and recent changes.

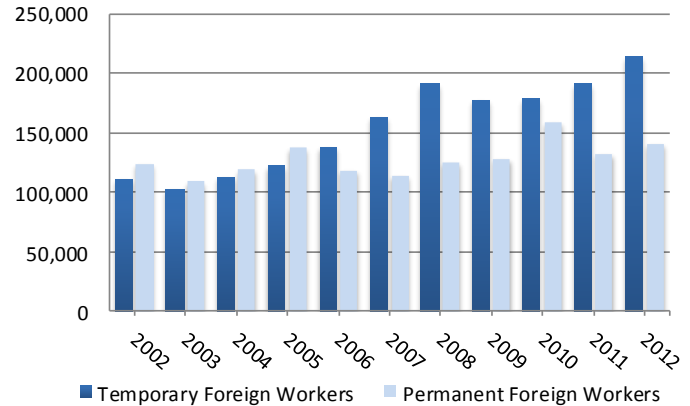
What is the Temporary Foreign Worker Program?

- ⇒ The Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) enables employers to hire foreign workers on a temporary basis to fill 'immediate and acute' skills and labour shortages.²
- ⇒ The TFWP has four main streams: Agricultural Workers, Live-in Caregivers, Lower-skilled Occupations and Higher-skilled Occupations.³ However, only the minority of TFWs arriving to Canada fit within these streams; in 2012, 62% of TFWs did not fall within one of these classifications.⁴ (See Info Sheet 11 for more information).

Program Nearly Doubles in Size Between 2002 and 2012

- ⇒ The TFWP has doubled in size in the past 10 years, from 102,932 entries in 2003 to 213,573 entries in 2012.⁵ As of December 1, 2012, there were 338,189 TFWs present in Canada (see Fig. 2).⁶
- ⇒ In 2012, Canada admitted 213,573 TFWs, and 141,549 permanent foreign workers.⁷ In 2006, Canada accepted more temporary than permanent foreign workers for the first time (see Fig. 1).
- ⇒ **Regional Breakdown:** The CIC Western Region received 44.3% of the national share of TFWs; Ontario 33.4%, and the Eastern Region 20.1% (see Fig. 2).⁸

Figure 1– Permanent⁹ vs. Temporary Workers



Graph created by AMSSA. Data Source: BC Stats¹⁰ & CIC¹¹.

- ⇒ **Provincial Breakdown:** In 2012, BC alone made up nearly a quarter of all TFW entries to Canada (see Fig. 2).¹² Since 2008, BC has accepted more TFWs than permanent residents every year.¹³
- ⇒ Between 2003 and 2012, BC's national share of TFW entries increased from 20% to 23% while Alberta's share grew from 9% to 17%.¹⁴

Figure 2– TFWs Present in 2012,¹ Total TFW Entries per year,¹⁴ National Distribution and 10 Year Change, by province

	Province	TFWs Present on Dec. 1 2012	2000 Entries	2003 Entries	2006 Entries	2009 Entries	2012 Entries	2012 Share	10 Year Change
Western	British Columbia	74,216	19,174	20,505	31,010	44,283	49,496	23%	141%
	Alberta	68,319	10,903	9,166	18,459	28,549	35,636	17%	289%
	Saskatchewan	9,349	1,505	1,179	1,879	3,923	5,076	2%	331%
	Manitoba	5,572	2,777	1,894	2,983	3,636	3,952	2%	109%
	Yukon & Territories	770	334	325	551	558	450	0%	35%
	Ontario	119,899	59,196	49,476	58,673	60,126	71,245	33%	44%
Eastern	Quebec	44,115	18,339	15,750	20,217	27,902	35,643	17%	126%
	New Brunswick	2,880	995	718	1,036	1,702	1,828	1%	155%
	Nova Scotia	4,364	1,770	1,616	1,699	2,797	2,325	1%	44%
	Newfoundland and Labrador	2,550	1,319	1,596	965	1,391	2,286	1%	43%
	Prince Edward Island	1,119	152	157	210	520	805	0%	413%
	TOTAL	338,189	116,540	102,932	138,450	176,745	213,573	100%	107%

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC.^{1, 14}

1, 6. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Foreign Workers Present'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012-preliminary/04.asp>
 2, 3. HRSDC, 'Temporary Foreign Worker Program'. Available at: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/foreign_workers/.
 4. CIC, 'Fact Sheet—Temporary Foreign Worker Program', Oct. 2012. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/employers/temp-foreign-worker-program.asp>.
 5, 8, 11, 12, 14. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Total Entries of Foreign Workers by Province'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/temporary/09.asp>.
 7, 9, 10. The numbers of Permanent Foreign Workers quoted in this Info Sheet includes the number of Federal Skilled Workers, the Canadian Experience Class and Provincial/Territorial Nominees. See: BC Stats, 'Immigrant Landings by Class'. Available at: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Files/80765e2c-bc05-4585-910b-84eb8605c06a/ImmigrantLandingsbyClass.pdf>.
 13. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Permanent Residents by Province'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012-preliminary/02.asp>.

TFW Source Countries and Regions

Figure 3— TFW Entries by Source Region: 2000, 2006 & 2012

Year	2000		2006		2012	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
United States	45,436	39.2	31,934	23.2	36,346	17.1
Europe	30,588	26.4	34,136	24.8	60,743	28.5
Asia and Pacific	14,434	12.5	36,668	26.6	52,669	24.7
Americas	20,551	17.7	27,779	20.2	42,362	19.9
Africa & Middle East	2,813	2.4	3,741	2.7	6,155	2.9
Country not stated	2,080	1.8	3,509	2.5	14,771	6.9

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC.¹⁵

Breakdown: Skill Levels & Gender

- ⇒ **Gender Differences:** 67% of all TFW entries in 2012 were male, however the share of male TFWs among high skilled¹⁶ jobs was significantly higher, reaching nearly 81% in 2012.¹⁷ Female TFWs more commonly hold low skilled and vulnerable jobs (eg. caregiving, hospitality).¹⁸
- ⇒ **Skill Level Trends:** There has been a strong shift away from high skilled foreign workers. Between 2000 and 2012, the number of high skilled workers declined from 64% to 37% (see Fig. 4).¹⁹ At the same time there has been a rise in TFWs with open work permits and in jobs not requiring Labour Market Opinions (LMO - see text box). This category is captured under 'No Skill Level Stated' (see Fig. 4) which rose dramatically from 14% to 37% in the time period from 2000 to 2012.²⁰

Figure 4 – TFW Occupational Skill Levels for Canada: 2000, 2006 & 2012

Year	2000		2006		2012	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High Skilled (NOC 0, A, B) ¹⁶	75,003	64.4	61,225	44.2	79,849	37.4
Low Skilled (NOC C, D)	24,973	21.4	40,417	29.2	55,175	25.8
No Skill Level Stated	16,555	14.2	36,814	26.6	78,546	36.8

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: CIC.²¹

- ⇒ The **Youth Exchange Program is the largest of all TFW categories.** 59,071 TFWs entered Canada through this program in 2012, over one in four of all TFWs.²² Between 2003 and 2012, the Youth Exchange Program grew by 247%, accounting in part for the major increase in the above-mentioned TFW category with 'No Skill Level Stated'.²³
- ⇒ Also of note is the **increased number of spouses** entering through the TFWP with open work permits. Between 2003 and 2012, the stream grew from 3,491 to 12,245 people.²⁴
- ⇒ The fast growing Youth Exchange Program and the spousal stream are both considered to reflect jobs in semi-skilled to low skilled occupations.²⁵

- ⇒ **Top Source Countries for TFW Entries to Canada:** US, Mexico, France, UK, Australia, India, Philippines and Jamaica.²⁶
- ⇒ **Top Source Countries for TFW Entries to BC:** Australia, US, Mexico, UK, South Korea, Japan, Germany and Ireland.²⁷
- ⇒ **Source Region Trend:** The US share of Canada's TFW arrivals declined from 39.2% in 2000 to 17.1% in 2012 while the share of TFWs arriving from the Asia and Pacific regions has increased from 12.5% to 24.7% in the same period (see Fig. 3).²⁸

Labour Market Opinion—LMO

Employers may be required to apply to HRSDC for a Labour Market Opinion before hiring a foreign worker. LMOs assess the impact that hiring a temporary worker will have on the Canadian labour market. A positive LMO will be issued if it is determined that there is a need to fill the job and that no Canadian worker can do the job.²⁹ **In 2012, 38% of TFWs worked in a position that required a LMO.**³⁰ (See footnote 31 for more information on LMO exempt occupations).

- ⇒ It is important to note that while the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) and the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) are the most commonly known streams of the TFWP, they only represented 3% and 12% respectively of entries under the TFWP in 2012.³²
- ⇒ In BC, TFWs on work and travel visas made up 50% of the 49,488 TFWs admitted in 2012.³³ The LCP and the SAWP made up 2% and 8% respectively of all entries under the TFWP in BC in 2012.³⁴

15, 26, 28. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Total entries of foreign workers by source country'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/temporary/07.asp>.

16. The National Occupational Classification (NOC) provides a standardized language for describing the work performed by Canadians. High skilled occupations are listed as NOC 0, A or B; low skilled occupations are listed as NOC C and D. See: <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/lmi/noc/index.shtml>.

17, 19, 20, 21. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Total entries of foreign workers by gender and occupational skill level'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/temporary/11.asp>.

18. Canadian Council for Refugees, Canadian Issues, 'Temporary Foreign Workers: Immigration Policy Shifts: From Nation Building to Temporary Migration', p. 94. Available at: http://canada.metropolis.net/pdfs/cdn_issues_CITC_mar10.pdf.

22, 23, 24, 32. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Total entries of foreign workers by yearly sub-status'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/temporary/05.asp>.

25. D. Nakache and P. Kinoshita, 'The Canadian TFWP—Do Short-Term Economic Needs Prevail over Human Rights Concerns?', May 2010, Institute for Research on Public Policy, page 6. Available at: <http://www.irpp.org/en/research/diversity-immigration-and-integration/new-research-article-3/>.

27, 33, 34. BC Stats, 'Temporary Resident Tables 2003-2012'. Available at: http://www.welcomebc.ca/welcome_bc/media/Media-Gallery/docs/communities/All-TR-tables-for-WelcomeBC.pdf.

29. CIC, 'Labour Market Opinion Basics'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/employers/lmo-basics.asp>.

30. CIC, Facts and Figures 2012, 'Total entries of temporary residents by yearly sub-status'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/temporary/03.asp>.

31. CIC, 'See if you need a Labour Market Opinion'. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/apply-who-permit.asp>.