

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.*

Economic Immigration Class — Trends for Canada and BC

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney recently announced that Canada will re-shuffle its immigration mix with a focus on economic immigration and with special emphasis on the Canadian Experience Class (CEC).¹ Interestingly, the distribution of admission targets 2013 for Canada did not change significantly for the economic category (62.3% for 2013; 61.6% for 2012), which suggests that the announced change in mix will happen within the economic immigration category. Between 2010 and 2011, BC's immigration numbers dropped by nearly 10,000 – most of this decrease was a result of lower numbers in the BC economic immigration class. AMSSA therefore took a closer look at the make-up of this immigration class.

Highlights: Canadian Experience Class

- ⇒ Fastest growing immigration category both Canada-wide and in BC. In BC numbers nearly doubled each year since the program began in 2009 (see Table 1 + 2, Page 2).²
- ⇒ Only immigration category which has seen a significant increase in the newly announced 2013 immigration targets (from 7,000 to 10,000).³
- ⇒ Recent policy changes have made it easier to apply for this category by reducing the work time requirement from 2 years to 1 year.⁴

Highlights: Provincial Nominee Program BC

- ⇒ Canada has seen significant (20%-35%) yearly growth between 1996 (program inception) and 2010. However, only a 5.4% growth between 2010 and 2011 and CIC's admission targets for Canada for this category have held steady for the first time ever for 2012 and 2013 at 42,000. BC on the other hand has seen a drop in numbers in 2011 for the first time since the program began in BC in 1999 (see Table 1 + 2, Page 2).⁵
- ⇒ In BC the Fast Track Nomination Option of the PNP was suspended on Nov. 15, 2012. It allowed applicants who put down a deposit of \$125,000 to get fast-tracked through the system. It was suspended due to suspected growing abuse.⁶

Highlights: Federal Skilled Worker Program

- ⇒ Canada received 88,786 immigrants in this category in 2011, the lowest number since 1998 and BC received 10,031 immigrants in this category in 2011, the lowest number since 1992 (see Table 1 + 2, Page 2).⁷
- ⇒ The FSW program was put on temporary hold on July 1, 2012 while CIC is reviewing it. It is planned to resume on May 4, 2013 with a new point system, which will place a higher emphasis on youth and language proficiency.⁸
- ⇒ The Federal Government has also announced plans to change the application model for this category and switch to a "Expression of Interest" model where applicants need to be pre-approved and then enter into a pool of potential immigrants. Employers (and possibly individuals and the Province as well as the Federal Government) then get to pick from the pool of skilled workers depending on their needs. This type of model has been used in New Zealand for several years and was introduced in Australia in July 2012.⁹

1. Macleans, 'Immigration levels to stay the same in 2013, mix to change: Kenney', Oct. 31 2012. Available at: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2012/10/31/immigration-levels-to-stay-the-same-in-2013-mix-to-change-kenney>.

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

4. CIC News Release, 14 September 2012. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2012/2012-09-14.asp>.

5. See above: Footnote 2, 3.

6. BC Government Newsroom, November 15, 2012. Available at: <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2012/11/pnp-fast-track-option-suspended-pending-review.html>.

7. See above: Footnote 2, 3.

8. CIC News Release, June 28, 2012. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2012/2012-06-28.asp>.

9. CICS News, 'Federal, Provincial Governments Reach Agreement on Future Canadian Immigration System', Nov. 20, 2012. Available at: <http://www.cicsnews.com/?cat=456>.

Highlights: Permanent Economic Immigrants compared to Temporary Foreign Workers

- ⇒ In **Canada**, the number of TFWs residing in the country has more than doubled since 2004 (from 125,024 TFWs in 2004 to 300,211 in 2011).¹⁰
- ⇒ In 2011 **Canada** admitted 190,842 TFWs and 248,748 new permanent residents – 156,121 of those in the Economic Immigration Class.¹¹
- ⇒ Table 1 displays the number of new permanent residents admitted to Canada (under the Canadian Experience Class, the Provincial Nominee Program, the Federal Skilled Workers Program) and contrasts those with numbers of Temporary Foreign Workers admitted in that year.

Table 1: Immigration numbers in selected economic immigration categories—Canada

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*	2013*
CEC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,545	3,918	6,027	7,000	10,000
PNP	8,407	13,336	17,093	22,418	30,379	36,430	38,420	42,000	42,000
FSW	130,239	105,942	97,852	103,732	95,955	119,359	88,786	90,400	88,700
TFW	122,368	138,461	163,542	190,766	176,800	179,179	190,842	n/a	n/a

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: BC Stats¹² and CIC¹³

* final numbers not available yet, these numbers are CIC's admission targets for 2012 and 2013.¹⁴

- ⇒ In **BC**, the number of TFWs residing in the province has more than doubled since 2004 (from 26,761 TFWs in 2004 to 69,955 in 2011).¹⁵
- ⇒ **BC** in 2011 admitted 46,378 TFWs and 34,785 new permanent residents—21,904 of those in the Economic Immigration Class. Since 2008, B.C. has admitted more TFWs than permanent residents every year.¹⁶
- ⇒ Table 2 displays the number of new permanent residents admitted to British Columbia (under the Canadian Experience Class, the Provincial Nominee Program, the Federal Skilled Workers Program) and contrasts those with numbers of Temporary Foreign Workers admitted in that year.

Table 2: Immigration numbers in selected Economic Immigration Categories—British Columbia:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*	2013*
CEC	-	-	-	-	385	572	1,021	n/a	n/a
PNP	789	1,924	2,522	3,629	4,709	4,900	4,306	n/a	n/a
FSW	21,810	16,688	14,793	16,040	12,086	16,661	10,031	n/a	n/a
TFW	27,914	31,013	36,419	46,839	44,279	45,381	46,378	n/a	n/a

Table created by AMSSA. Data Source: BC Stats¹⁷ and CIC¹⁸

* final numbers not available yet, Jason Kenney has yet to announce Provincial targets for 2013.

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

11. CIC, 'Permanent Residents by Category', 2002-2011. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2011/permanent/01.asp>.

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

13. CIC, 'Total Entries of Foreign Workers', 2002-2011. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2011/permanent/11.asp>.

14. See: CIC Notices with additional information on immigration levels. Available at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/notices/notice-levels2012.asp> and <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/notices/notice-levels2013.asp>.

15. See above: Footnote 10.

16. See above: Footnote 11.

17. See above: Footnote 12.

18. See above: Footnote 13.