

## Canada

In 2007, Canada received about 236 800 permanent residents. Although this is a decrease of 6% compared to 2006, the level of permanent residents is still higher than the most recent ten-year average (228 000). None of the permanent migration categories increased. As in the previous years, the largest share of permanent migrants came from China and India. Each accounted for approximately 11% of immigrants.

In 2008, a total number of 520 000 immigrants were admitted to Canada, setting a new record. The number of permanent residents (247 000) increased by 4% over the previous year. Furthermore 143 000 temporary foreign workers and more than 79 000 foreign students came to Canada in 2008.

Temporary migration rose again in 2007, by 14%, across all categories. About 269 000 temporary migrants – new and returning – entered in 2007. The largest increase accounts for 25% and was detected for seasonal workers. The share of other temporary workers increased by 17%.

The United States was the leading source country of all foreigners entering for employment.

200 000 former migrants were naturalized in 2007, a sharp decrease compared to 2006, when 261 000 became Canadian citizens, accounting for 85% of those eligible.

Immigrants contributed disproportionately to total employment growth. Total employment among immigrants aged 25 to 54 increased by 2.1% in 2007, while employment of the Canadian-born in the same age group increased by 1.3%. Employment growth was highest for migrants who had been in Canada for more than 10 years ago (+ 3.8%).

Although the increase in total employment was higher for immigrants than for natives, the employment gap between migrants and natives widened, because the immigrant population increased faster than their employment. While 77.9% of immigrants were employed, the employment rate of natives was 6% higher (83.8%).

Canadian immigrants are well educated. In 2008, more than 50% of recent immigrants to Canada held university degrees; this is more than twice the proportion of university graduates born in Canada. Nevertheless, immigrants are more frequently unemployed than natives.

In 2007, the unemployment rate among those aged 25 to 54 was 4.6% for natives and 6.6% for immigrants. Unemployment among migrants, however, declines with stay in Canada until it reaches that of natives. Immigrants who lived for up to five years in Canada had an unemployment rate of 11.9%, those who were in Canada from 5-10 years had an unemployment rate of 8.2%, and immigrants in Canada for at least 10 years had the same unemployment rate as natives (5.7%). This is a positive sign for the integration process. The overall unemployment rates remained the same in 2008.

In 2009, Canada changed the procedures for approving recruitment of temporary foreign workers, eliminating the shortage list and imposing stricter job advertising requirements on employers, especially those seeking to fill less skilled jobs.

As a reaction to the poor employment situation of recent immigrants, in 2009 the Canadian government has developed an Employer's Roadmap to improve the labour market integration of internationally trained workers. The Roadmap assists employers, guiding them through the hiring process of internationally trained workers and making the hiring and retaining process more efficient. This initiative results from the partnership, which was launched in Spring 2007, between the Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO) and the Alliance of Sector Councils (TASC).

Furthermore, a new online resource 'Work in Canada' has been put in place to support the labour market integration of immigrants.

In 2007, Canada's target range for permanent immigration was 240 000 to 265 000. Because of the increase of the unemployment rate - to 7.2% in early 2009 - Canada considered revising immigration targets. Together with provincial / territorial counterparts, at the end of March, the Ministry determined that the permanent immigration numbers for 2009 will remain at 250 000, because Canada's immigration needs are believed to be stable.

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