

Canada

Canada admitted about 252 000 permanent migrants in 2009, a 2% increase over 2008. As in previous years, the top sending countries were China (12%), the Philippines (11%) and India (10%). While the share of permanent immigrants from the Philippines and India increased by 15% and 6%, respectively, inflows from China decreased marginally by 1%. In 2009, the bulk of permanent migrants (61%) entered Canada for family-related reasons. Labour migrants (i.e. economic principal applicants) accounted for one-quarter of long-term inflows and one out of eight permanent migrants acquired a residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

Canada received 382 000 temporary immigrants in 2009, a decrease by 4% compared to 2008. With a share of 47%, temporary foreign workers remained the largest group of temporary migrants. However, their total number decreased for the first time since 2003, to 178 500, which is 7% less than in 2008. This decrease resulted from a reduction in the demand for foreign labour in 2009 in response to the economic downturn. The main sending country for temporary workers remained the United States. International students accounted for 22% of temporary inflows. Their total number increased by 7% over 2008, to 85 100.

In August 2010, the government announced changes to the temporary foreign worker programme that will come into effect in April 2011. To ensure that the temporary foreign worker programme is fair and equitable, the genuineness of job offers will be assessed more rigorously, and the employer's past compliance with labour laws will be checked. Moreover, the duration of temporary employment in Canada will be limited to four years, followed by a four-year re-entry ban. However, temporary foreign workers can apply for a permanent residence permit during or after their stay in Canada, and Canadian experience is a factor in considering their applications.

Canada received almost 23 000 refugees in 2009. More than half entered through resettlement programmes assisted by the government and private sponsors. These included over 4 000 Iraqi refugees for whom resettlement facilities were extended. The remaining refugees were granted asylum on the basis of successful asylum requests in Canada. Their main countries of origin were Sri Lanka, Colombia and China. In 2009, Canada recorded 33 200 requests for asylum, 10% less than in 2008. Preliminary data for 2010 indicate an even greater decrease for this year.

The number of naturalisations has been declining continuously since 2006. In 2009, 156 300 persons were naturalised, a decrease by 11% compared with 2008. The main countries of origin of new

citizens were the three top sending countries China, India and the Philippines. In April 2009, Canada implemented amendments to the Citizenship Act to restore citizenship to persons who had lost it under previous legislation, as well as to naturalise others for the first time. Citizenship by descent is now limited to one generation born outside of Canada.

In 2008, the Canadian government established an *Action Plan for Faster Immigration* that aims at reducing the backlog of applications from foreign workers by accelerating their processing. In order to make Canadian migration policy more flexible and responsive to changing labour demands, the plan also introduced the possibility to amend admission procedures on short notice through ministerial instructions. A first set of ministerial instructions was issued in November 2008 and defined eligibility criteria for foreign workers to have their applications considered. They either need to hold a job offer, or have been temporary residents in Canada before, or demonstrate work experience in one out of 29 shortage occupations. While even applications that were likely to be unsuccessful had to be processed before, the new measure now allows Citizenship and Immigration Canada to return unprocessed applications that are not aligned with Government of Canada objectives. A second set of ministerial instructions was issued in June 2010 and limited the number of new applications to be considered under the shortage occupation scheme to 20 000 per year and 1 000 per occupation. In addition, all permanent migrants now need to prove language proficiency through an independent test.

Two measures were launched in 2009 that aim at facilitating the recruitment of foreign workers, as well as their integration into the Canadian labour market. The government announced the establishment of an *Employer's Roadmap to Hiring and Retaining Internationally Trained Workers* in June 2009 to provide practical advice for employers in small and medium-sized enterprises concerning the recruitment, assessment of foreign qualifications, integration and retention of internationally trained workers. Furthermore, in November 2009, federal, provincial and territorial authorities jointly established a *Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Qualifications*. Immigrants wanting to enter regulated occupations in Canada will receive information on assessment as early as possible in the immigration process and timely communication of recognition decisions.

For further information:

www.cic.gc.ca

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

CANADA

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	7.4	8.1	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	252.2
Outflows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
<i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	2008	2009	2008	2009			
Work	61.3	64.0	24.8	25.4			
Family (incl. accompanying family)	153.3	153.0	62.0	61.3			
Humanitarian	32.5	33.4	13.1	13.2			
Free movements	..	..	..	..
Others	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0			
Total	247.2	252.2	100.0	100.0			
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09			
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	56.7	59.7	66.8	61.9			
Trainees	..	..	..	..
Working holiday makers	28.0	41.1	45.3	35.6			
Seasonal workers	20.3	24.2	23.4	22.3			
Intra-company transfers	6.8	10.5	10.1	9.0			
Other temporary workers	62.4	106.6	90.4	84.8			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	1.1	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.8	33 970
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total	9.7	9.9	12.4	12.0	9.9	11.2	404
Natural increase	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.9	135
Net migration	6.5	7.0	8.4	8.0	7.0	7.5	269
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	17.4	18.7	19.4	19.6	17.9	19.2	6 618
Foreign population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	..	..	..	..	..	..	156 304
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	77.4	..	77.0	74.0	..	..
Foreign-born men	77.0	..	77.8	73.9	..	..
Native-born women	66.0	..	71.8	70.7	..	..
Foreign-born women	59.6	..	64.0	63.4	..	..
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	5.7	..	6.6	9.3	..	..
Foreign-born men	6.1	..	6.9	10.7	..	..
Native-born women	6.2	..	5.3	6.4	..	..
Foreign-born women	8.7	..	7.6	9.6	..	..
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	5.2	3.0	0.5	-2.5	3.0	1.2	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	4.3	2.0	-0.7	-3.7	2.0	0.1	30 263
Employment (level in thousands)	2.5	1.4	1.5	-1.6	2.1	1.1	16 849
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	6.8	6.8	6.2	8.3	7.3	6.7	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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