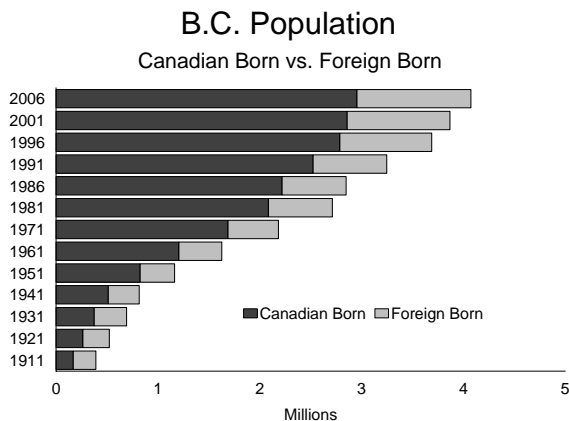


2006 Census Fast Facts

Immigrant Population of British Columbia

Immigrant population refers to people who were foreign born and have been permitted by Canadian immigration authorities to live in the country permanently. Due to high immigration inflows to the province over the last two decades, the foreign born population in B.C. has continued to increase to reach 1,119,215 persons in 2006, representing more than a quarter (27.5%) of the overall population in B.C. According to the 2006 Census, approximately 16%, or 177,800 of the 1.1 million new immigrants who arrived in Canada over the past 5 years settled in B.C.



Except for Ontario, B.C. had the highest proportion of foreign born population in 2006. The immigrant population has also grown faster than their Canadian born counterpart as indicated by the higher share of immigrants in the B.C. total population when compared to those recorded in previous census (22.3% in 1996 and 26.1% in 2001).

The census metropolitan area (CMA) of Vancouver was home to 831,300 immigrants in 2006, accounting for almost 74.3% of all the foreign born population in B.C. In the City of Richmond, foreign born persons out-numbered their Canadian born counterpart in 2006. More than one-half (57.4%) of the 173,600 residents in that city were not born in Canada. This made Richmond the top Canadian municipality with the highest proportion of immigrant population.

Among all Canadian cities, Surrey had the fastest growing number of foreign born persons over the last five years. The number of Surrey residents who were foreign born had increased by 30.9 per cent between 2001 and 2006.

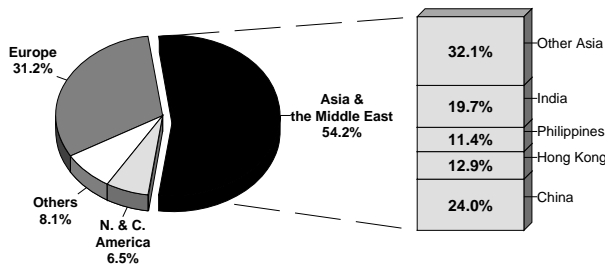


More than half of the foreign born persons living in B.C. in 2006 came from Asia or the Middle East. European immigrants accounted for approximately one-third of the immigrant

population in the province and the rest were mainly made up by immigrants from Africa and other world areas.

B.C. Immigrants Population

by Place of Birth - 2006



Source: Statistics Canada

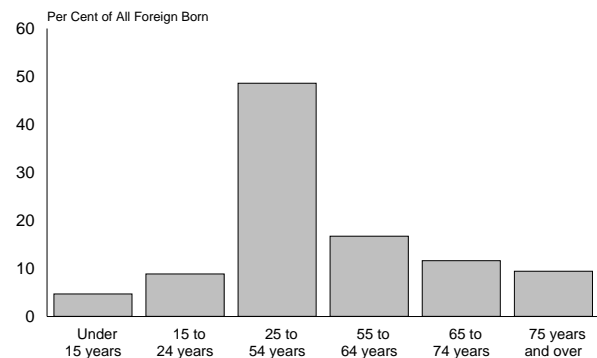
Of all the B.C. immigrant population in 2006 who were born in Asia, almost one-third were from China Mainland, followed by those from India, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Immigrants from China Mainland represented 13.0 per cent of all the foreign born population in the province, whereas India accounted for 10.7 per cent, Hong Kong 7.0 per cent and the Philippines 6.2 per cent. Immigrants born in the United States were the next largest group representing 5.1 per cent of B.C.'s immigrant population.

More than half (54.1%) of the B.C. foreign born population in 2006 had been living in Canada for at least 15 years. Approximately 15 per cent of the immigrant population in the province arrived in the country prior to 1991. A relatively higher proportion of the European immigrants had been living in Canada for a longer time when compared to those from Asia and Africa. In 2006, 81.2 per cent of European immigrants living in B.C. came to Canada before or in 1991, whereas 63.4 per cent of all Asian born immigrants in B.C. arrived in the country after 1991.

There were slightly more females than males in the immigrant population of B.C. In 2006, of 100 foreign born persons residing in the province, 52 were women. A majority of B.C.'s foreign born population were middle aged, with persons in the retirement ages representing the next largest group. Similar to what has been indicated by other immigration statistics, the 2006 Census also confirmed that recent immigrants to B.C. tended to be younger. More than half (56.7%) of the immigrant population in B.C. who arrived in Canada during the last five years prior to the 2006 Census were in the 25-54 age group. It has also been shown that recent immigrants to B.C. tended to have a younger median age than the overall population in the province.

B.C. Foreign Born Population by Age

2006



Source: Statistics Canada

Approximately nine in every one hundred foreign born persons in B.C. had no English language ability. Recent immigrants - those who landed between 2001 and 2006 - reported an even higher percentage (14.8%) of English language deficiency. In 2006, nearly half of the B.C. foreign born population stated neither English nor French as the language they spoke most often at home.

"Census Fast Facts" is a series of feature articles published by BC Stats that focus on different aspects of British Columbia's demography based on the 2006 Census. Please visit: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/facts/facts.asp