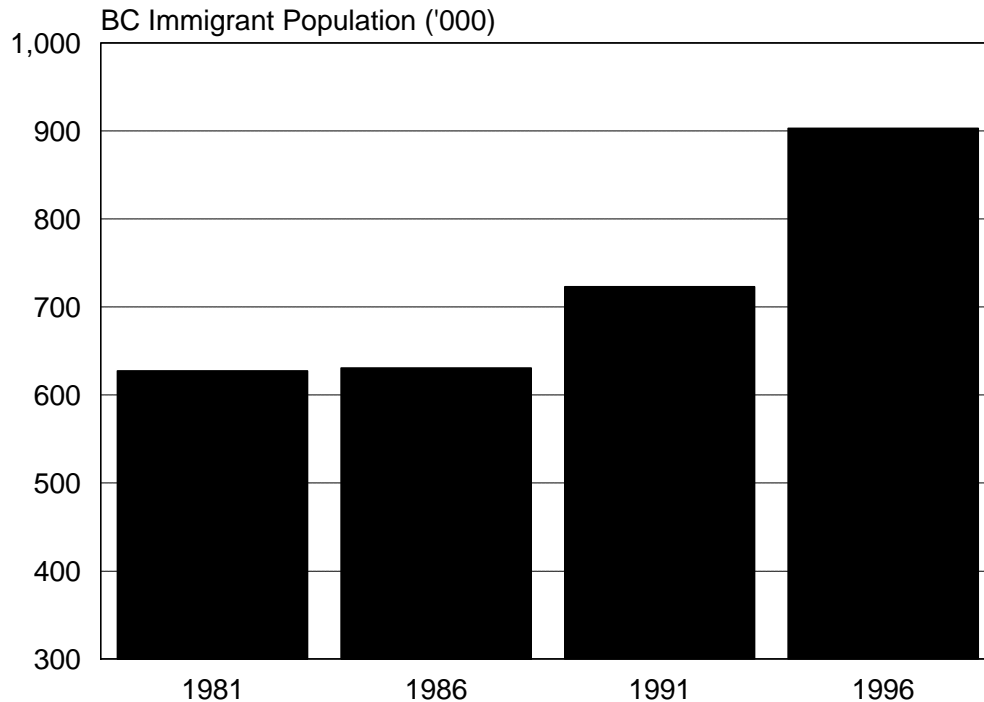


Focus on BC: Immigrant Population

Between 1991 and 1996, immigrant population in BC increased by almost 25%, which is the fastest growth among all provinces and territories ...



BC STATS

Immigrant population refers to people who were mostly foreign born and granted landed immigrant status by the Canadian immigration authorities. The proportion of the BC immigrant population has increased rapidly due to the high inflow of immigrants in the last few years. Since 1993, BC has become the second most popular province of destination for Canadian immigrants. During the 1991-96 period, BC received more than a quarter million immigrants. Net international migration is now the most important contributor to the province's population growth.

The number of immigrants living in BC as of the 1996 Census was 903,190 persons, which represented about one-quarter of the overall population of the province. This represented an increase of 25 per cent from the 723,170 immigrants living in the province in 1991, which accounted for 22.3 per cent of the overall population.

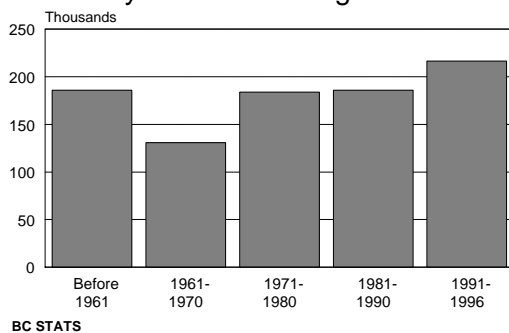
In 1996, BC's share of the total immigrant population in the country was 18.2 per cent, much higher than the overall population share of 13 per cent. At 25 per cent, BC had the fastest immigrant population growth rate in Canada, followed by Ontario with a 15 per cent increase



between the two censuses. The overall growth in immigrant population in Canada was also 15 per cent.

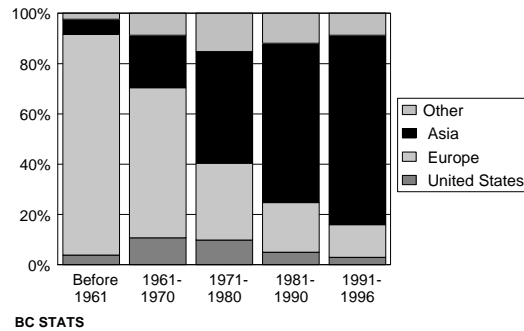
Due to the current high inflow of immigrants to the province, recent immigrants landed between 1991 and 1996, represented the largest share (24 per cent) of the overall BC immigrant population. The group of immigrants who arrived prior to 1961 has decreased in proportion from 30 per cent in 1991 to 21 per cent in 1996. Immigrants landed after 1971 made up almost two-thirds of the overall immigrant population in 1996.

**BC Immigrant Population
By Period of Immigration**



The ethnic mosaic of BC's immigrant population continues to shift as the share of the immigrant population who were European born dropped from 49.5 per cent in 1991 to 40.1 per cent in 1996, while those who were Asian born increased from 33.8 to 44.4 per cent. However, immigrants who were born in the United Kingdom still represented the largest single group (16.6%) of BC immigrants, followed by Hong Kong (9.9%), China (8.7%), India (8.2%), and the United States (6.1%).

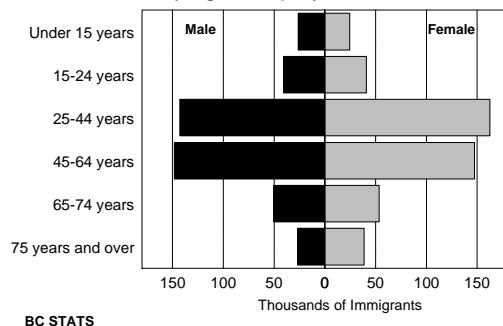
**BC Immigrant Population
By Origin By Period of Immigration**



More than 70 per cent (633,745) of BC's immigrants lived in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) where immigrants made up more than one-third of the population. This is an increasing trend as more and more recent immigrants choose to settle in the lower mainland. For immigrants who lived within the Vancouver CMA during the 1996 Census, 13.6 per cent arrived in Canada prior to 1961, 32.9 per cent arrived between 1961 and 1980, and 53.5 per cent came after 1980.

Most immigrants are aged 25 to 64, accounting for two-thirds of the overall immigrant population. Male immigrants, accounting for 48 per cent of the total, were slightly fewer than female immigrants. This is primarily due to the fact that there has been generally more female immigrants coming to BC each year.

**BC Immigrant Population
By Age Group By Sex**



B.C. Immigrant Population By Selected Geographic Area - 1996 Census

	B.C Total	GVRD	Van. City	Surrey	Burnaby	Richmond	CRD	Victoria
Total population	3,689,755	1,813,935	507,930	302,750	176,825	148,155	313,610	71,205
Non-immigrant population	2,756,530	1,156,360	269,480	211,090	99,855	74,805	250,770	55,640
Non-permanent residents	30,035	23,830	10,220	1,690	3,145	1,715	1,895	550
Immigrant Population	903,195	633,740	228,230	89,970	73,825	71,625	60,945	15,015
Immigrants By Place of Birth								
United Kingdom	150,285	75,415	16,470	11,815	5,175	5,240	22,860	5,275
Hong Kong	89,195	86,215	38,035	2,155	11,760	22,135	1,500	305
China, People's Republic of	78,655	72,915	45,945	2,385	8,085	9,650	3,115	975
India	74,360	53,470	11,180	25,465	3,510	3,910	2,030	235
United States	55,110	22,685	7,380	2,940	1,610	1,550	6,460	1,840
Germany	41,840	17,785	3,940	2,815	1,635	1,225	3,570	790
Philippines	39,220	34,640	14,025	5,030	3,100	5,450	1,150	370
Taiwan	30,015	29,330	9,995	2,800	6,270	5,135	300	55
Netherlands	25,770	10,010	1,450	2,085	710	715	2,350	400
Italy	20,480	13,505	5,215	1,010	3,680	205	770	170
Viet Nam	20,475	16,995	12,325	2,000	895	625	875	300
Poland	18,275	12,440	3,455	2,070	1,645	835	1,080	330
Fiji	14,800	13,860	4,530	5,130	1,335	925	60	20
Korea, South	13,935	12,690	2,480	1,995	3,060	505	185	80
Iran	10,965	10,060	2,085	270	845	460	360	95
Portugal	10,260	5,545	2,690	575	785	210	1,110	80
Hungary	8,425	4,780	1,610	845	550	265	655	160
South Africa, Republic of	8,355	5,750	1,655	475	295	435	730	160
Denmark	7,630	3,765	660	705	355	220	805	130
Yugoslavia	7,550	5,495	2,165	500	1,310	245	235	70
Malaysia	7,130	6,575	2,175	750	1,115	855	165	10
Austria	5,155	2,465	650	340	250	160	465	120
Russian Federation	4,985	2,200	985	230	185	350	195	65
Romania	4,920	3,575	1,085	350	455	160	150	35
Croatia	4,860	3,460	1,005	575	940	190	405	110
Ireland, Republic of (Eire)	4,845	2,690	790	370	170	160	490	95
Switzerland	4,695	1,810	565	245	125	100	220	55
El Salvador	4,540	3,540	1,470	870	490	135	165	55
Ukraine	4,435	2,280	915	330	195	350	185	110
France	4,310	2,510	1,095	290	175	210	405	95
Greece	4,175	3,340	1,660	400	215	240	180	20
Kenya	3,990	3,560	435	360	700	395	160	50
Czechoslovakia, n.i.e.	3,980	2,530	675	295	275	180	205	50
Pakistan	3,635	3,045	655	1,255	265	280	120	35
Mexico	3,300	2,015	680	170	170	225	210	50
Tanzania, United Republic of	3,190	2,935	505	135	895	480	40	-
Jamaica	3,020	2,240	495	440	345	165	365	105
Trinidad and Tobago	2,615	1,980	520	285	250	175	185	45
Chile	2,530	2,060	695	125	265	270	135	60
Belgium	1,770	900	240	85	90	85	190	50
Sri Lanka	1,720	1,575	755	240	165	200	65	25
Lebanon	1,605	1,355	370	155	235	85	140	75
Cambodia	1,510	1,350	855	170	180	40	55	35
Egypt	1,435	1,210	300	245	170	110	80	10
Guyana	1,410	1,080	220	220	85	170	95	20
Iraq	1,040	960	250	165	175	125	25	15
Israel	890	740	400	25	35	120	55	25
Somalia	760	700	215	165	185	35	30	25
Morocco	405	340	225	-	25	25	50	20
Haiti	245	100	35	15	20	-	10	-
All other places of birth	84,455	61,245	20,000	7,615	8,355	5,585	5,495	1,685
Immigrants by period of immigration								
Before 1961	186,035	86,415	25,370	12,260	9,710	5,360	22,335	5,315
1961-1970	130,685	78,635	27,150	10,130	8,465	6,090	11,840	2,595
1971-1980	184,000	129,830	48,010	20,670	13,770	12,220	11,850	2,830
1981-1990	185,860	149,200	59,550	22,665	15,435	17,390	8,375	2,075
1991-1996	216,615	189,655	68,145	24,245	26,435	30,565	6,540	2,200
Immigrants by age at immigration								
0-4 years	86,980	54,530	16,975	7,850	6,080	5,555	7,205	1,860
5-19 years	245,700	172,915	60,155	25,560	21,490	19,490	14,915	3,580
20 years and over	570,510	406,295	151,095	56,565	46,255	46,580	38,825	9,570