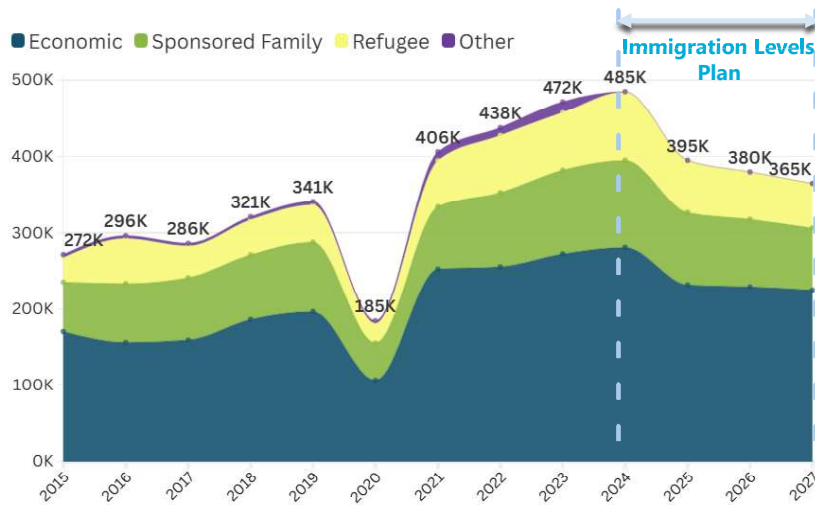


# Evolving Immigration Landscape

Surrey, along with major population centres across Canada, is experiencing shifts in the population of immigrants and temporary residents. Visualizing the evolving immigration landscape is essential to understanding the emerging needs for settlement and integration in our community.

## Trends in Permanent Resident Admissions

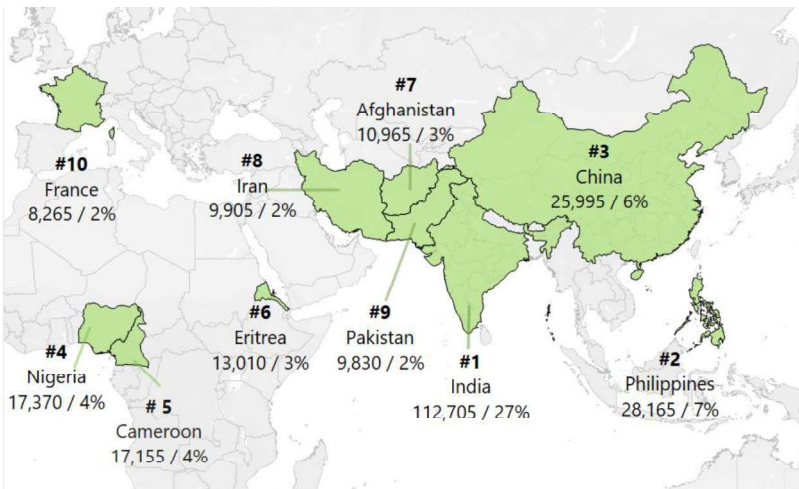
Between January and October 2024, Canada granted **414,465** PR admissions, reaching 86% of its annual target of 485,000.



Canada - Admissions of Permanent Residents (#) by Immigration Category

## Top 10 Countries of Citizenship of PR Admissions to Canada (January – October 2024)

India has emerged as the top source country for newcomers to Canada, with 112,705 admissions in 2024, accounting for 27% of the annual total—an increase from 39,340 (19%) in 2015.



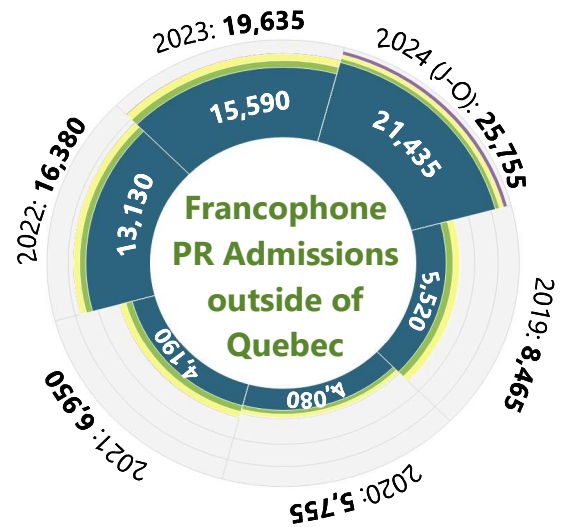
### Key Changes in Canada's Immigration Policy

**Reduction in Immigration Targets:** The 2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan lowers Permanent Resident (PR) admissions by 21-30% over the next three years.

**Focus on Economic Immigration:** The Plan prioritizes economic immigration, prioritizing the Canadian Experience Class (one-third of the economic category) and regional immigration programs.

**Pause on Private Refugee Sponsorship:** Applications from groups of five or more individuals and community sponsors under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program are paused until December 31, 2025.

**Support for Francophone Communities:** The Plan strengthens Francophone communities outside Quebec, with targets of Francophone PR admissions at 8.5% in 2025, 9.5% in 2026, and 10% in 2027.



■ Economic ■ Sponsored Family ■ Refugee ■ Other

French-speaking PR admissions outside of Quebec rose from 2.5% in 2019 to 6.2% in 2024, with over 80% coming as economic PRs.

Data Sources:

Census 2016 and Census 2021: Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration – 25% sample data

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). (2024, October). Open Data Monthly Update (January 2015 to October 2024, retrieved December 2024).

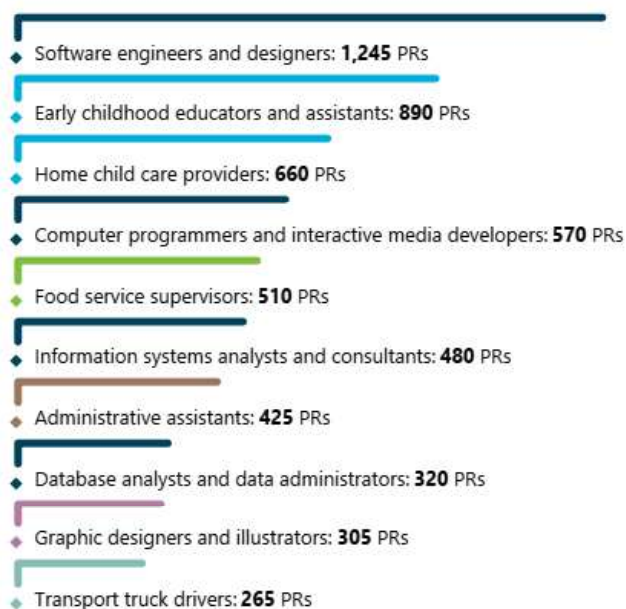
IRCC Supplementary Information: 2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan

## Permanent Resident Admissions to British Columbia

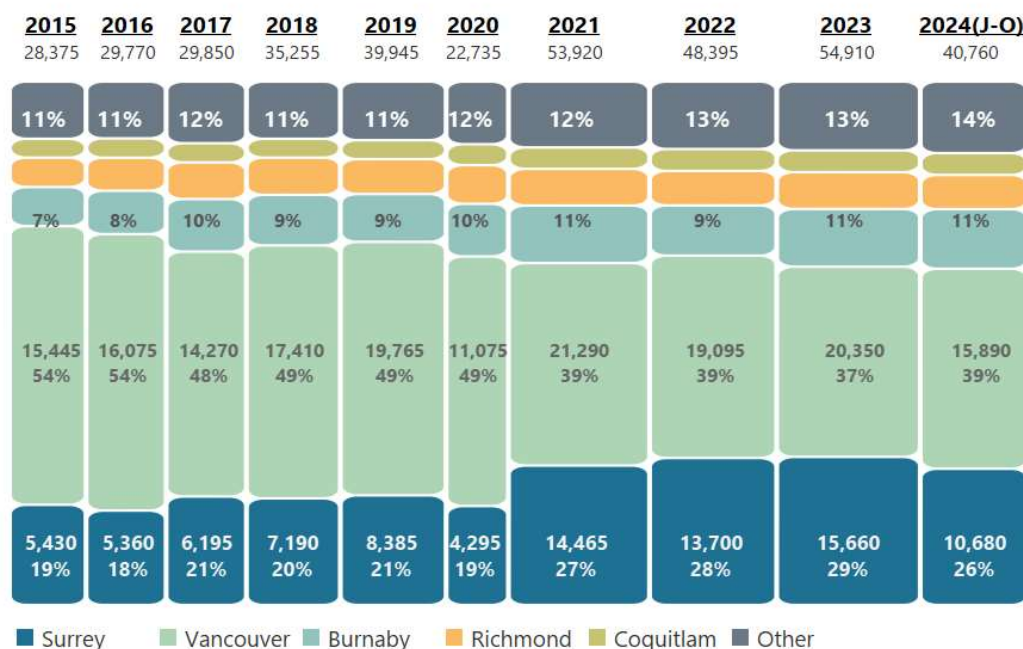
Immigration Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (J-O)
Economic	22,170	20,310	22,260	26,690	30,060	18,390	49,340	36,840	42,690	32,380
Sponsored Family	11,100	12,975	13,360	14,775	16,255	8,035	14,295	16,485	18,100	13,935
Refugee	2,180	4,605	2,680	3,195	3,710	1,815	5,175	7,045	7,520	5,985
Other	265	195	165	195	205	240	665	855	2,510	1,930
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,715</b>	<b>38,085</b>	<b>38,465</b>	<b>44,855</b>	<b>50,230</b>	<b>28,480</b>	<b>69,475</b>	<b>61,225</b>	<b>70,820</b>	<b>54,230</b>
French-Speaking PRs	300	480	525	610	790	525	825	825	975	855

- British Columbia mirrors national trends, focusing more on economic immigration and family sponsorship, with fewer refugees resettled.
- In 2024, approximately 13% of Canada's total PR admissions were intended for BC, though the province receives fewer French-speaking PR admissions, making up less than 2% of the annual total.
- City of Vancouver's share of PR admissions within Metro Vancouver has declined significantly, from 54% in 2015 to 39% in 2024, reflecting a shift in settlement patterns away from the city's central urban core.
- Surrey has experienced significant growth in its share of PR admissions over the same period, increasing from 19% in 2015 to 29% in 2023, before slightly declining to 26% in 2024.

### PR Admissions to BC by Top 10 Occupations (Jan - Oct 2024)



## Permanent Resident Admissions by Intended Destination within Metro Vancouver



- Other municipalities within Metro Vancouver are also attracting an increasing number of PRs, highlighting a shift toward suburban areas as newcomers seek more affordable housing and employment opportunities.

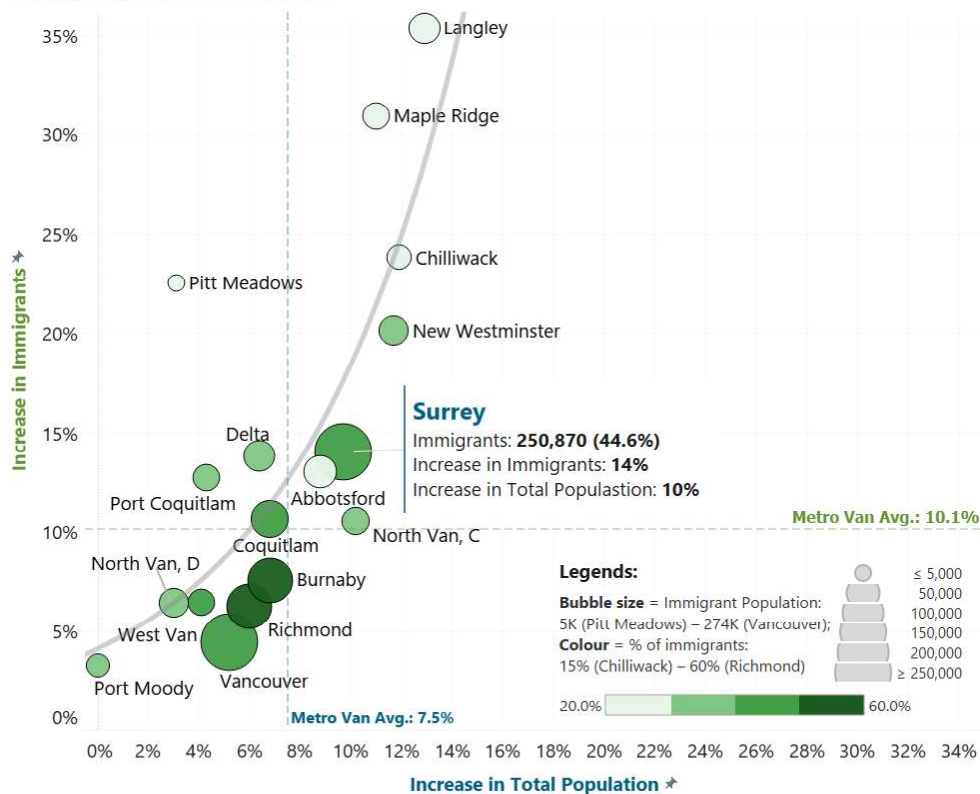
# Population Changes in Surrey and Surrounding Communities (Census 2021)

Community (CSD)	Total Population 2021	Growth in Population 2016-21(%)	Immigrant Population 2021	Growth in Immigrants 2016-21(%)	Recent Immigrants 2021	Non-Permanent Residents
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>4,915,945</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>1,425,715</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>197,425</b>	<b>171,000</b>
<b>Metro Vancouver</b>	<b>2,607,010</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>1,089,185</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>154,815</b>	<b>133,275</b>
Vancouver	650,380	5.2%	274,365	4.4%	41,360	42,830
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>562,565</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>250,870</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>39,910</b>	<b>34,750</b>
Richmond	208,400	6.0%	125,600	6.2%	13,705	8,965
Burnaby	245,725	6.8%	123,795	7.5%	18,920	16,765
Coquitlam	147,465	6.8%	67,540	10.6%	8,595	6,605
Abbotsford	150,800	8.8%	43,190	13.0%	6,130	5,505
Delta	107,270	6.4%	35,560	13.8%	4,325	3,750
Langley (Township)	130,960	13.1%	29,890	32.9%	3,805	2,255
New Westminster	78,055	11.7%	29,265	20.1%	5,050	4,040
North Vancouver, District	87,385	3.0%	28,195	6.4%	3,340	2,485
North Vancouver, City	57,505	10.2%	22,020	10.5%	3,585	2,405
Port Coquitlam	60,390	4.3%	20,765	12.7%	2,135	975
Maple Ridge	89,860	11.0%	20,230	30.9%	2,160	825
West Vancouver	43,385	4.1%	19,815	6.4%	2,080	1,530
Chilliwack	91,985	11.9%	13,600	23.8%	1,610	725
Port Moody	33,450	0.0%	11,105	3.2%	1,185	560
Langley, City	28,030	11.9%	6,530	48.6%	430	465
Pitt Meadows	19,025	3.1%	4,845	22.5%	1,310	110

- Surrey is the second-largest municipality in British Columbia by immigrant population, after Vancouver.
- In 2021, 44.6% of Surrey's population were immigrants, making it the 5th highest in BC. This figure exceeds Metro Vancouver's average of 41.8% and the provincial average of 29%.
- From 2016 to 2021, Surrey's immigrant population grew by 14%, adding over 30,700 new immigrants—the largest numeric increase among BC municipalities.
- Recent immigrants made up 7.1% of Surrey's population in 2021, higher than Metro Vancouver's 5.9% and the provincial average of 4.0%.
- Small suburban cities like Langley and Maple Ridge are experiencing rapid growth in both immigrant and total populations.
- Surrey, along with British Columbia as a whole, has a substantial population of non-permanent residents, primarily international students and foreign workers. This trend underscores the need for targeted policies and services to address the unique needs of both recent immigrants and non-permanent residents in the region.

## Comparison of Immigrant and Total Population Growth in Selected Cities (2016–2021)

Each dot represents a city. The x-axis shows total population growth, while the y-axis shows immigrant population growth. The bubble size reflects the city's immigrant population in 2021, and the color indicates the percentage of immigrants within the total population.



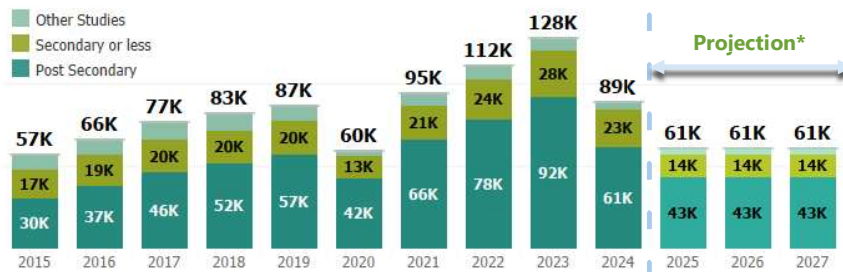
## Study Permit and Foreign Worker Trends in BC

Over the past decade, British Columbia has seen rapid growth in study permits and foreign worker admissions. To address challenges in housing and the labor market, IRCC has introduced policies to curb these numbers.

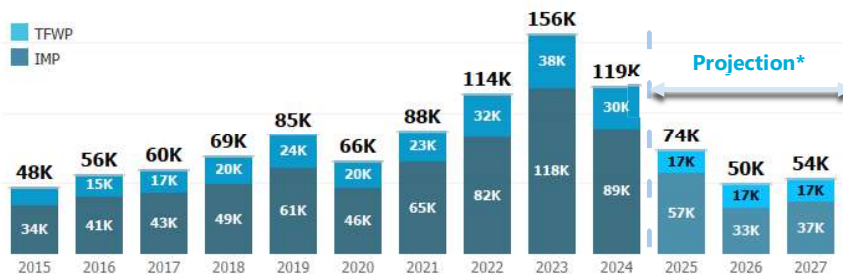
Nationally, between January and October 2024, IRCC issued 447,000 study permits and 789,560 foreign worker visas—162,100 under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and 627,460 under the International Mobility Program (IMP).

Approximately 20% of Canada's study permit holders and 15% of foreign workers intend to settle in British Columbia.

### Study Permits Issued with Intended Destination in BC



### TFWP and IMP Admissions with Intended Destination in BC



\* Numbers for the next three years (2025–2027) are projections based on IRCC's Immigration Levels Plan for Canada and the average proportion of non-permanent resident admissions to BC over the past five years.

## Asylum Claimant Trends in BC and Canada

Location of Claim	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (J-O)
BC	815	1,370	2,365	2,340	3,845	2,145	1,890	3,895	7,675	8,985
Canada	32,075	47,695	100,715	110,020	128,000	47,365	49,705	183,265	286,670	293,625

The data in this table show numbers of individuals who have made a refugee claim at a port of entry or at a designated IRCC office.

Nationally, asylum claims rose significantly from 32,075 in 2015 to 293,625 in 2024—an almost ninefold increase.

While British Columbia accounts for less than 10% of national asylum claims, the province saw substantial growth, with claims rising from 815 in 2015 to 8,985 in 2024.

### Canada's Immigration Levels Plan

After years of accelerated growth, IRCC aims to reduce the temporary resident population to 5% of Canada's population by the end of 2026.

Temporary Resident Program	2025	2026	2027
<b>Overall Levels</b>	<b>673,650</b>	<b>516,600</b>	<b>543,600</b>
IMP & TFWP	367,750	210,700	237,700
Students	305,900	305,900	305,900



### About the Surrey LIP

**Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP)** is a community-based initiative founded in 2014 with support from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Comprised of over 40+ diverse community organizations, Surrey LIP works to build an equitable and inclusive city where all residents, including immigrants and refugees, can thrive. Members represent a wide range of sectors, including community and immigrant services, education, business, government, health, and more. Through collaboration, dialogue, and research, Surrey LIP develops innovative, community-driven strategies to meet the evolving needs of Surrey, one of the fastest-growing cities in British Columbia. The partnership leverages the collective expertise and resources of its members to ensure a welcoming environment for newcomers and foster a fully inclusive community.

**Tina Balachandran | she/her/hers**  
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