



# CANADIAN VIEWS ON IMMIGRATION LEVELS AND IMMIGRATION CATEGORIES IN THE COVID ERA

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# INTRODUCTION:

- Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 contagion Canada has seen significant declines in the numbers of immigrants. This is not surprising given the collective desire to limit numbers of entrants to Canada. A survey conducted by Leger Marketing in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that while Canadians currently support limiting the numbers of new-comers they continue to value the contribution of immigrants to Canada and view them as important to the country's long-term economic recovery.

# IMMIGRATION DROPPED BY 2/3RDS BETWEEN Q2 2019 AND Q2 2020 WITH FAMILY SPONSORSHIP AND REFUGEE INTAKE ESPECIALLY AFFECTED BY DECREASES.

<b>Canada - Admissions of Permanent Residents by Country of Citizenship and Immigration Category, April to June (Q2) 2019 and (Q2) 2020</b>			
<b>Immigration Category</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Percentage Change +/-</b>
Atlantic Immigration Pilot Programs	1,165	490	-58%
Canadian Experience	7,845	9,965	+27%
Caregiver	2,990	325	-89%
Skilled Trade	200	50	-75%
Skilled Worker	20,560	4,570	-78%
Entrepreneur	25	--	
Investor	825	95	-89.5%
Self-Employed	275	45	-84%
Start-up Business	135	35	-74%
Provincial Nominee Program	17,645	9,230	-47%
<b>Economic Total</b>	<b>51,665</b>	<b>24,805</b>	<b>-52%</b>
<b>Sponsored Family</b>	<b>27,080</b>	<b>5,990</b>	<b>-78%</b>
<b>Resettled Refugee</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>-60%</b>
<b>Protected Person in Canada</b>	<b>6,570</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>-64%</b>
<b>Resettled Refugee &amp; Protected Person in Canada</b>	<b>14,570</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>-83%</b>
<b>Total - All Immigration Category</b>	<b>94,275</b>	<b>34,260</b>	<b>-64%</b>

REDUCTIONS TO IMMIGRATION CUT ACROSS ALL SOURCE COUNTRIES WITH DEEPEST PERCENTAGE DECLINES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN AND BRAZIL LESS AFFECTED; IN REAL NUMBERS IT IS INDIA AND PHILIPPINES THAT SAW THE BIGGEST DROP.

Country of Citizenship	2019 Q2 Apr to June	2020 Q2 April to June	Change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>94,275</b>	<b>34,260</b>	<b>-64%</b>
India	23,825	9,950	-59%
China, People's Republic of	8,495	3,515	-59%
Philippines	8,165	1,885	-77%
Nigeria	3,605	970	-73%
Pakistan	3,045	1,040	-66%
United States of America	2,950	1,435	-52%
Syria	2,655	385	-85.5%
Iran	2,050	880	-57%
Eritrea	1,810	190	-89.5%
Korea, Republic of	1,665	690	-59%
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	1,480	945	-36%
Brazil	1,380	1,000	-27.5%
Iraq	1,320	90	--96%
Afghanistan	1,270	95	-97%
France	1,160	675	-42%
Vietnam	1,115	360	-68%
Egypt	1,065	300	-72%
Mexico	995	555	-44%
Bangladesh	965	280	-71%
Jamaica	965	345	-64%

# AT VASTLY REDUCED LEVELS, CANADIANS OVER THE AGE OF 45 ARE FAR MORE CONCERNED ABOUT IMMIGRANTS COMING TO CANADA.

In April and May 2019 Canada admitted 60 000 permanent residents to the country. In April and May of this year some 15 000 were admitted. Knowing this, do you feel there are too many, too few, or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada?

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
Too many	37%	16%	28%	34%	44%	48%	43%
Too few	12%	21%	15%	14%	8%	9%	10%
About the right number	35%	43%	35%	37%	28%	33%	35%
Don't know / refuse	16%	21%	22%	14%	20%	10%	11%

# MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND QUEBEC RECORD THE BIGGEST PROVINCIAL DECLINES IN THE PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS ADMITTED TO CANADA BETWEEN Q2 2019 AND Q2 2020

Province/Territory	2019	2020	
	Q2 Total	Q2 Total	Change
Newfoundland and Labrador Total	435	150	-65.2%
Prince Edward Island Total	465	270	-58%
Nova Scotia Total	1,625	735	-54.8%
New Brunswick Total	1,210	465	-61.6%
Quebec Total	7,730	2,510	-67.6%
Ontario Total	36,365	14,260	-60.8%
Manitoba Total	4,155	1,165	-70.2%
Saskatchewan Total	2,960	930	-68.6%
Alberta Total	10,370	3,695	-64.6%
British Columbia Total	12,055	5,450	-54.6%
Yukon Total	100	20	-80%
Northwest Territories Total	55	25	-54.6%
Total	77,530	29,680	-61.8%

# CANADIANS STILL MOSTLY POSITIVE ABOUT IMMIGRATION AND THE YOUNGEST COHORT IS ESPECIALLY SO.

Canada? - At present, do you feel the effect of immigration is very positive, somewhat positive, neither positive nor negative, somewhat negative or very negative on...

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
<b>TOTAL POSITIVE</b>	46%	68%	45%	43%	42%	41%	45%
Very positive	18%	31%	21%	17%	14%	17%	16%
Somewhat positive	28%	37%	25%	26%	28%	24%	29%
Neither positive nor negative	22%	15%	25%	22%	23%	21%	21%
<b>TOTAL NEGATIVE</b>	26%	7%	22%	31%	27%	32%	29%
Somewhat negative	16%	6%	14%	19%	15%	20%	19%
Very negative	10%	1%	8%	12%	11%	12%	10%
Don't know/ refuse	7%	10%	7%	5%	8%	6%	5%

# QUEBECERS AND OTHER CANADIANS LESS POSITIVE ABOUT IMMIGRATION IN SMALLER CENTRES.

At present, do you feel the effect of immigration is positive on...

Positive	Total	Quebec	Rest of Canada
Canada	46%	37%	48%
Your city or town?	40%	31%	43%
Your neighbourhood?	37%	29%	40%



**CANADIANS SEE REUNIFYING FAMILIES AS A BIGGER PRIORITY IN 2020 THAN PREVIOUSLY AND REFUGEES AND ECONOMIC AS A LESSER PRIORITY.**

<b>Under the current circumstances rank which of the following group should be given priority in admission to Canada?</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2016</b>
The family members of people already in Canada	36%	30%
Refugees	16%	29%
Economic Immigrants	8%	27%
International Students	7%	
Temporary Foreign Workers	12%	

# FAMILY REUNIFICATION SEEN AS A BIGGER PRIORITY IN 2020 BY ATLANTIC CANADIANS, ALBERTANS AND BRITISH COLUMBIANS.

**% first priority: Currently, there are different categories of immigrants entering Canada. In your view, which of the following categories should be the most important priority?**

Leger/Association for Canadian Studies July 2020	Ekos Research Associates September 2016 1598	TOTAL	ATL	QB	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
		<b>The family members of people already in Canada</b>	2016	30%	33%	30%	29%	29%
	2020	36%	42%	32%	36%	28%	44%	34%
<b>Refugees</b>	2016	29%	36%	28%	29%	28%	23%	31%
	2020	16%	16%	15%	14%	13%	19%	20%

# CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT FAMILY REUNIFICATION SHOULD BE THE PRIORITY IN ADMITTING NEWCOMERS TO CANADA.

Under the current circumstances rank which of the following group should be given priority in admission to Canada?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
The family members of people already in Canada	36%	42%	32%	36%	28%	44%	34%
Economic Immigrants	8%	4%	12%	7%	10%	4%	9%
Refugees	16%	16%	15%	14%	13%	19%	20%
International Students	7%	9%	8%	7%	8%	5%	5%
Temporary Foreign Workers	12%	13%	18%	11%	5%	8%	9%

# MOST CANADIANS STILL AGREE THAT IMMIGRANTS WILL HELP CANADA'S LONG TERM RECOVERY.

Do you think immigrants help or hurt the Canada's long-term economic recovery?

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
<b>Help</b>	61%	67%	65%	58%	52%	58%	65%
<b>Hurt</b>	22%	17%	19%	24%	26%	26%	17%
<b>I don't know</b>	18%	16%	16%	19%	22%	16%	18%

# ONTARIO RECORDS AN OVERALL 61% DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF INTENDED OCCUPATIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS BETWEEN Q2 2019 AND Q2 2020 (PART I)

Ontario Intended Occupations	2019	2020	Change
	Q2 Total	Q2 Total	
Total	36,365	14,260	-61%
Other Occupations	2,350	555	-76%
Cooks	85	30	-65%
Food counter helpers and related support occupations	85	30	-65%
Transport truck drivers	85	20	-76%
Industrial butchers and meat cutters, poultry preparers and related workers	60	10	-83%
Other customer and information services representatives	55	20	-64%
Administrative assistants	40	20	-50%
Food service supervisors	40	15	-62%
Retail salespersons	40	15	-62%
Cashiers	35	--	
Retail and wholesale trade managers	30	15	-50%
Early childhood educators and assistants	30	--	

# ONTARIO RECORDS AN OVERALL 61% DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF INTENDED OCCUPATIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS BETWEEN Q2 2019 AND Q2 2020 (PART 2)

Ontario Intended Occupations	2019	2020	Change
	Q2 Total	Q2 Total	
Retail sales supervisors	30	--	
Food and beverage servers	30	10	-67%
Security guards and related security service occupations	30	--	

## METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From July 31 to August 2, 2020.

1531 Canadians 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1531 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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