

Comparative Immigration Figures: Canada and the United States

Canada

United States

Immigration Policy:

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| Immigration per year | 220,000 to 245,000 (foreign born persons in Canada: approx 20%) | 800,000 to 1 million (foreign born persons in U.S.: approx 12%) |
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| Admissibility | No significant differences in legislative inadmissibility requirements (security, criminal, medical) | |
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Immigration categories:

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| Economic | 60% | 10-15% |
| Family-related | 20-25% | 70-75% |
| Refugees/Humanitarian | 12-15% | 7-10% |

Visitor Visa Policy

Canada and the United States share the same visa requirements (and exemptions) for 175 countries and differ on only 18, with continuing effort for further convergence

Asylum Determination Systems:

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| Acceptance rates (2003-4) | 40% | US Citizenship and Immigration Services: 29%; Executive Office of Immigration Review: 36% |
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Canada and the United States have worked together in a number of areas in order to enhance the orderly handling of refugee claims, strengthen the public confidence in the integrity of our asylum systems and help reduce abuse of our refugee programs. For example, the *Safe Third Country Agreement* became operational on December 29, 2004 as part of the Smart Border Declaration's 32-point Action Plan.

Removals

Canada and the United States participate in joint charters to remove some individuals. These joint flights offer a viable alternative to commercial airlines and are necessary for high-profile security, dangerous or criminal cases. Removal experts from Canada and the U.S. meet regularly to exchange best practices for effecting removals and to discuss new ways to encourage uncooperative countries to honour their international obligation to accept the return of their nationals.