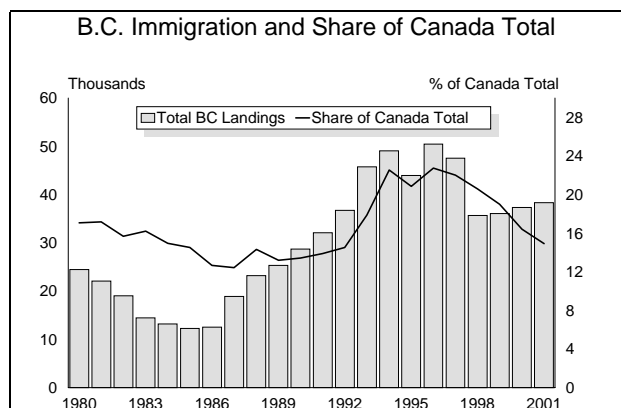


Immigration Highlights – Fourth Quarter 2001

B.C. immigration remained steady in 2001 while fourth quarter showed some decline ...

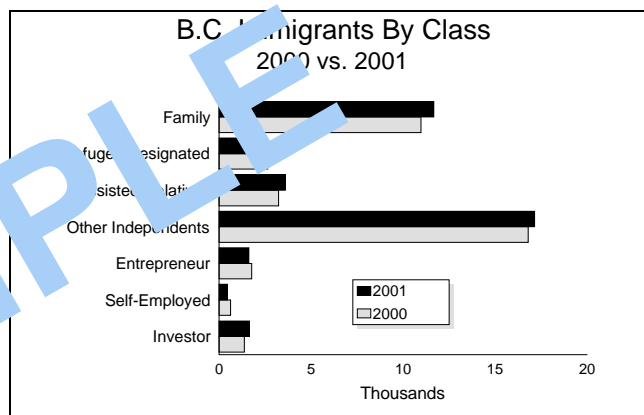
Total immigrant landings in B.C. during 2001 were 38,289 persons, a slight increase from 37,388 persons in 2000. Immigration during the first three quarters of the year was relatively strong while the fourth quarter recorded a noticeable decline. During the fourth quarter, total landings were 7,700 persons, a drop of 14 per cent from the 8,986 persons landed during the same period in 2000. B.C.'s share of total Canadian immigrants was at 15%, a decline of more than a half percentage point from the same quarter in 2000. The September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S. might have been one of the reasons that caused fewer arrivals during the fourth quarter.

Total landings for Canada were 51,700 persons, a decrease of 10% from the 57,420 persons recorded during the fourth quarter of 2000. During this period, B.C. has been replaced by Quebec as the second most popular destination for immigrants to Canada. Quebec received 8,630 immigrants whereas Ontario received the highest number with 29,772 immigrants during the fourth quarter of 2001.



Skilled workers and sponsored family members formed the majority of immigrants ...

Of all landings to B.C. during the fourth quarter of 2001, 46% were in the Assisted Relatives or Other Independents Classes, and 39% were in the Family Class. However, a relatively lower proportion was admitted as skilled workers when compared to the same period of 2000.



B.C. is the favoured destination for business immigrants ...

Although the number of immigrants arriving under the Business Immigration Program has generally been declining, B.C. is still the favoured province for business immigrants. During the fourth quarter of 2001, B.C. was the second most popular destination for immigrants in the Investor or Entrepreneur Classes. B.C. attracted 26% of all entrepreneur immigrants and 28% of all investor/self-employed immigrants that arrived in Canada during the period.

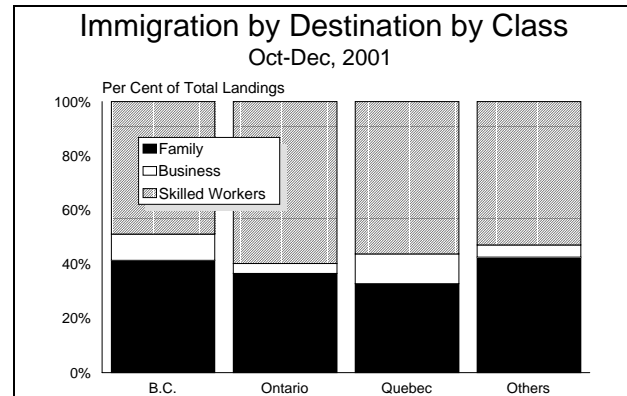
B.C. receives a relatively lower number of refugee immigrants ...

Compared to other provinces, B.C. receives a much lower share of refugees and

immigrants in the designated classes. During the fourth quarter of 2001, B.C. received a total of 528 refugee/designated immigrants. This represents 7% of the total for Canada, which is a disproportionately lower share when compared to the overall immigrant share of 15%.

Asia is still the leading source . . .

Asian immigrants represented 74% of all landings in B.C. During the fourth quarter of 2001, the top five source countries of immigrants to B.C. were all in Asia. China Mainland, the leading source country of immigrants to B.C., was also the source of most immigrants in the Investor class. India, the second top source, accounted for the majority of family immigrants. South Korea was the major source of Entrepreneur immigrants to B.C. during the period.



Most immigrants settled in the Greater Vancouver Area . . .

Approximately 79 per cent of immigrants landed in B.C. during the fourth quarter of 2001 reported an intended destination within the Greater Vancouver area. A relatively high proportion of immigrants from non-Asian countries settled outside the Greater Vancouver area.

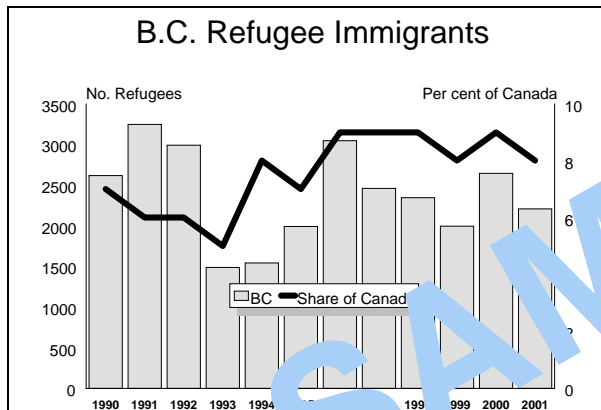
Previously Released Feature Articles

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Jun 2001	Immigrants from India
Feb 2001	Welfare Benefits and Recent B.C. Immigrants (IMDB Series)
Dec 2000	Mother Tongue of Recent Immigrants to British Columbia
Sep 2000	Occupations of Recent Immigrants to British Columbia
Jun 2000	Recent Change in British Columbia Immigration Levels (An Update)
Feb 2000	Income Characteristics of Recent Immigrants (continued)
Nov 1999	Income Characteristics of Recent Immigrants
Aug 1999	Interprovincial Mobility of Recent Immigrants (continued)
Jun 1999	Interprovincial Mobility of Recent Immigrants
Feb 1999	Immigrants to B.C. from China-Mainland
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Jan 1997	Team Canada's Mission to South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand

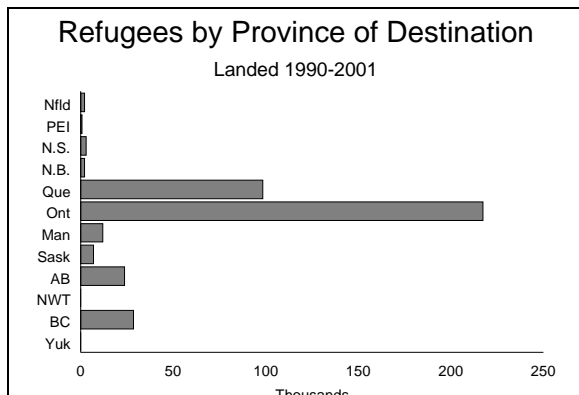
Special Feature: Refugee Immigrants to British Columbia

Accepting and settling refugees has always been an important theme in Canada's immigration policy. It is estimated that about 23,000 to 30,400 refugees will be admitted to Canada during 2002...

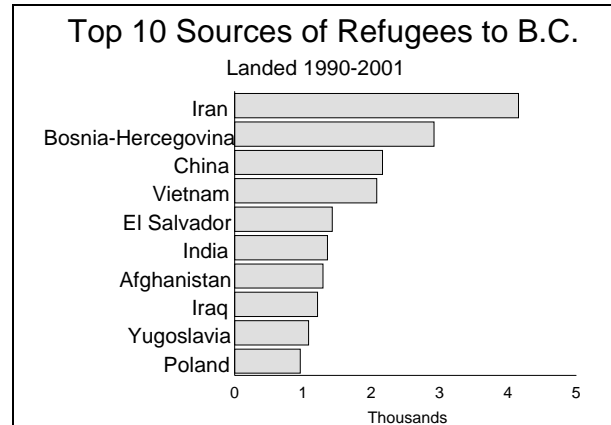
Historically, the number of refugee immigrants arriving in British Columbia has been small relative to other provinces such as Quebec and Ontario. Over the past decade, the annual number of refugee immigrants to B.C. has been less than three thousand people, representing between six to seven per cent of all landings in the province. This accounted for less than ten per cent of all refugees who arrived in Canada during the last ten years.



B.C.'s share of refugees has been steady and never exceeded its share of total Canadian immigrants. B.C.'s share of refugees remained at about 8 per cent even at the peak immigration period during the mid 1990's when the province attracted more than 20 per cent of immigrants to Canada.



Also, during the early 1990's when refugees represented more than 20 per cent of all new comers to Canada, B.C. share of total refugees was still at about 6 to 7 per cent.



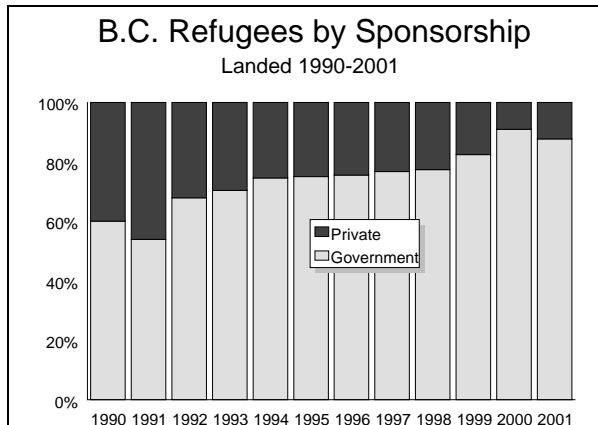
Over the last decade, most refugees destined for B.C. arrived from countries in the Middle East and Asia with Iran being the top source. The top 10 sources of refugees accounted for about 65 per cent of all refugees landed in the province during that time. Vietnam and Poland, the two dominating sources of refugees during the 1980's, have now moved down in the top ten list.

Generally speaking, refugees to Canada can be divided into two major categories – those who are sponsored privately and those who are sponsored by government. Over the last decade, most refugees to B.C. were admitted under the sponsorship of a government body. The trend also indicated that fewer refugees were privately sponsored in recent years.

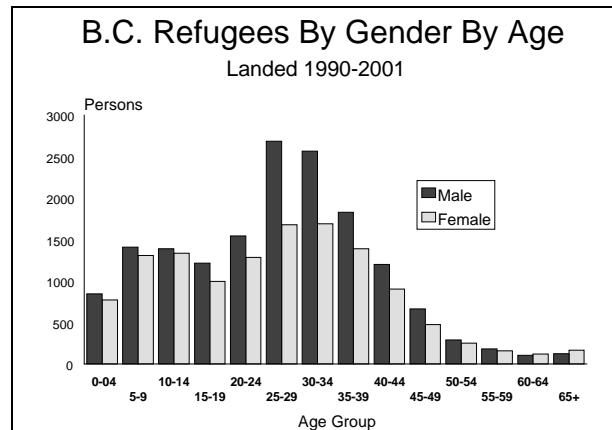
Until recently, refugee immigrants could also be sub-categorized into two classes, namely Convention Refugees and Designated Classes. Convention refugees are those who suit the definition of a refugee stipulated by the United Nations, whereas persons in the Designated Classes include those who face similar situations in being refugees but do not satisfy the strict definition of a convention refugee.

Compared with the overall immigration to B.C., refugees are relatively younger. For those who landed between 1990 and 2001, a

higher proportion of refugees was in the 25-34 age group. Also, contrary to the overall landings in the province, where a higher proportion of immigrants were female, male refugees out-numbered female refugees in most age groups. Males represented about 60 per cent of all refugees landed during the given period.



Education qualifications of refugees were relatively lower than those of other immigrants. Over the period 1990-2001, approximately 60 per cent of refugees aged 20 and over had only secondary or less education, comparatively higher than the 44 per cent observed for the non-refugee immigrants.



English language ability of refugees was only slightly lower than that of the non-refugee immigrants. At time of landing during 1990-2001, 54 per cent of refugees reported having no English language ability, which is only marginally higher than the 50 per cent reported by non-refugee immigrants. Spanish, Serbo-Croatian, Persian, Vietnamese and Farsi were the most often spoken languages by refugees who came during 1990-2001.

SAMPLE