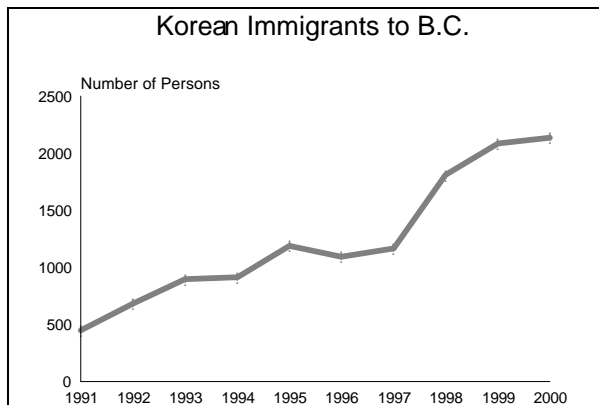


Special Feature: Immigrants from South Korea

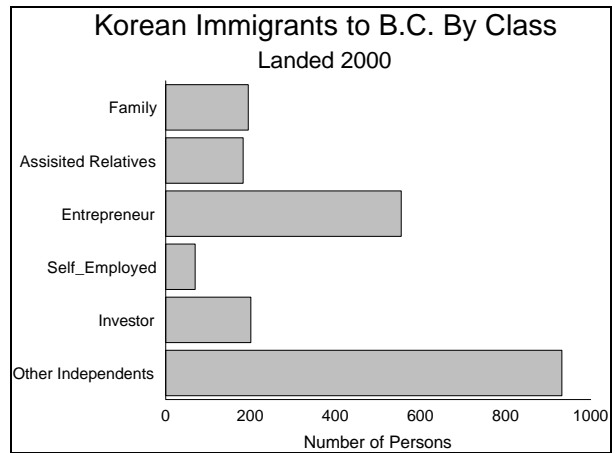
South Korea has been among the top immigrant source countries to British Columbia. Recently, it has also become the biggest supplier of entrepreneur immigrants to the province...

Over the last decade, there were about 43,200 immigrants who arrived in Canada from South Korea (or Republic of Korea, referred to as Korea for the rest of this article). Of those, 28.8 per cent (or about 14,500 persons) chose to settle in British Columbia. The number of immigrants from Korea has been increasing steadily over the past decade. Since 1992, Korea has always been ranked within the top ten immigrant sources to the province. In both 1999 and 2000, Korea was the fifth leading source. While the majority of Korean immigrants are destined for Ontario, B.C. has been the second most favored destination for immigrants from Korea.

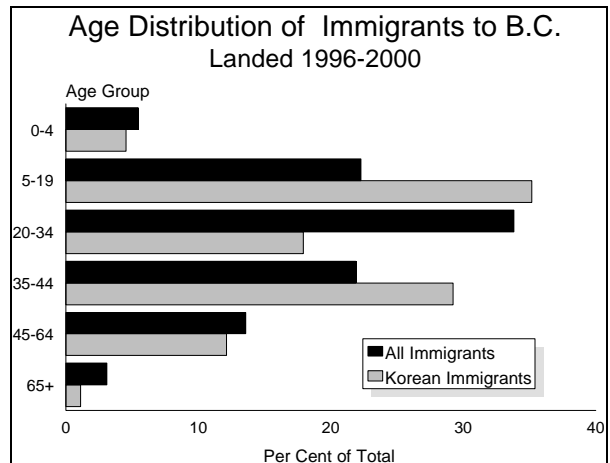


The most recent immigrants from Korea were admitted under the skilled worker or business classes. In fact, since 1999, Korea has surpassed Hong Kong and Taiwan to become the top source of entrepreneur immigrants to B.C. In 2000, entrepreneur immigrants from Korea represented 31.5 per cent of the total entrepreneur immigrants landed in the province, more than double the number from Taiwan which was the second top source of immigrants in that class. Last year, Korea was also ranked second in the number of immigrants who arrived under the Self-

Employed Class and third in the Investor Class.

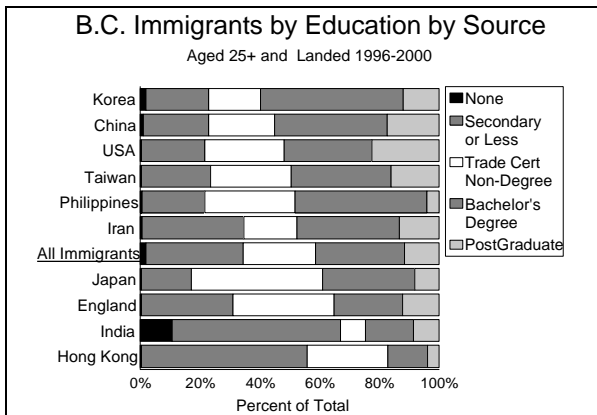


As a result of the high proportion who arrived under the economic classes, a majority of Korean immigrants came as members of a nuclear family that is commonly made up of middle-aged parents and teenaged children. For recent newcomers during the five year period 1996-2000, approximately 30 per cent were in the 35-44 age group, and 35 per cent in the 5-19 age group. This age distribution is typical for immigrants who come under the business or independent categories.

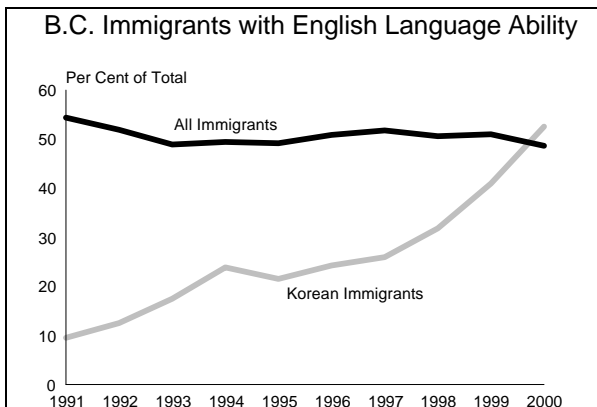


Education qualifications are relatively high in recent immigrants from Korea. This is, again, due partly to the high proportion of immigrants in the independent and business categories. Compared to all immigrants aged 25 or older from all sources in the last five years, immi-

grants from Korea are relatively less likely to have below high school education. Also, compared to immigrants who came from the top ten source countries, Korean immigrants represented the highest proportion who have university or higher education at time of landing. Of Korean immigrants aged 25 years or older who landed in the province during 1996-2000, almost 60 per cent possessed a bachelor's degree or higher post graduated education. This is considerably higher than the 41 per cent observed for the overall immigrant landings in the province.

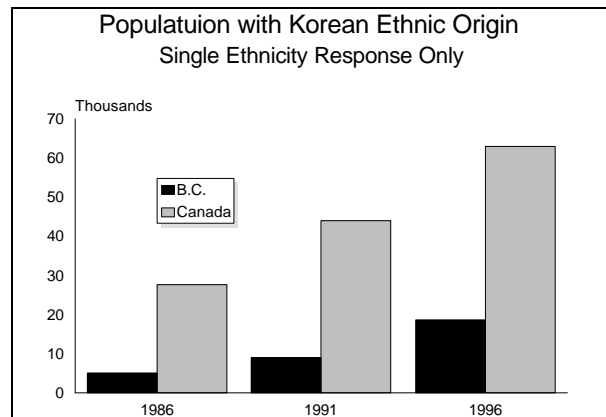


On the other hand, a relatively higher proportion of immigrants from Korea arrived without any English language ability. While the proportion without English language ability was about 50 per cent for the overall landings between 1996 and 2000, the proportion is significantly higher for immigrants from Korea at 62.3 per cent. However, overall English language ability of immigrants from Korea has been improving as the number arriving with some knowledge of English language has constantly been increasing over the last decade.



A very high percentage of immigrants from Korea chose to settle in the Greater Vancouver area. This trend has not changed in the last two decades. Generally, about 95 per cent of all Korean immigrants who were destined for B.C. have reported an initial place of settlement within Greater Vancouver.

With the steady inflow of immigrants from Korea, Korean population in the province will continue to grow. Census information indicates very strong growth in the B.C. population who are ethnic Koreans¹. The number of persons who reported Korean as their single ethnic origin in 1996 Census was more than double that in the 1991 Census. It is believed that Koreans will become one of the faster growing ethnic groups in B.C. and Canada in the foreseeable future.



¹ Census ethnicity data combined respondents of both South Korea and People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea). However, there have been virtually no immigrants to B.C. from North Korea in the last 20 years. Hence, any growth in Korean population due to immigration would have been from South Korea.