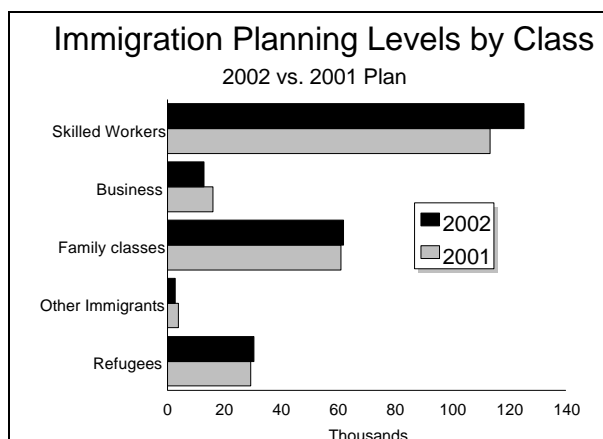


Special Feature: Federal Immigration Plan for 2002

The newly announced federal immigration plan sets 2002 immigration at a level slightly higher than that of this year, aiming at the long term goal of achieving an annual inflow of about 1% of the Canadian population...

The planned level of immigration for 2002 is between 210,000 to 235,000 persons. This includes a projection of 187,000-204,600 immigrants and 23,000-30,4000 refugees. When compared to the upper range in the planned levels for 2001, this new plan represents an increase of 4 per cent or 10,000 persons. The federal government has long established its long term objective of attaining an annual immigration level equal to approximately one per cent of the Canadian population. In year 2000, immigration was at approximately 0.74 per cent of the Canadian population.

As noted by the Citizenship and Immigration Minister, immigrants now account for more than 70 per cent of all labour force growth in Canada. Economic immigrants have become more important in the overall level planning. In fact, when compared to last year's levels, most increases in the new planning levels are observed in the number of immigrants under the economic classes. The new plan projects an upper range of 139,800 economic immigrants, which is about 60 per cent of the overall landings.



The number of business immigrants has been declining over the last few years and

the downward trend is also reflected in the new planning levels. The decline has primarily been a result of fewer business immigrants coming from Hong Kong and Taiwan. While the number of business immigrants coming from other Asian countries, such as South Korea and China Mainland is increasing, the level is still much lower than was observed during the first half of the last decade.

Family unification has always been a major theme of Canada's immigration policy. The number of family immigrants has generally been set at a relatively stable level. Family immigrants are mostly spouses, fiancés, children, parents and grandparents. The new plan projects an upper total of 62,000 persons, which is only slightly higher than the 61,000 persons planned for 2001.

The level for refugees is set at 23,000-30,400 persons, slightly higher than the 22,100-29,300 persons planned for 2001. Refugee immigrants include direct landings, dependents abroad, government assisted and privately sponsored refugees. In the new plan, refugees will represent approximately 10 to 12 per cent of the overall landings in 2002.

The new immigration plan also pointed out that the proposed Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Bill C-11) will enable government agencies to act more effectively on issues concerning public safety and security. The bill will introduce new inadmissibility grounds and strengthen authority to arrest/deport criminals or people who pose security threats. It will also restrict access to the refugee determination system for certain people such as those who have been determined to be inadmissible on security grounds.

The plan also mentioned that a number of initiatives are in progress to redesign programs related to temporary residents. These include a simpler and more efficient Temporary Foreign Worker Program for skilled workers and their spouse to work in Canada, which also allows qualified temporary skilled workers to obtain permanent resident status more easily.

