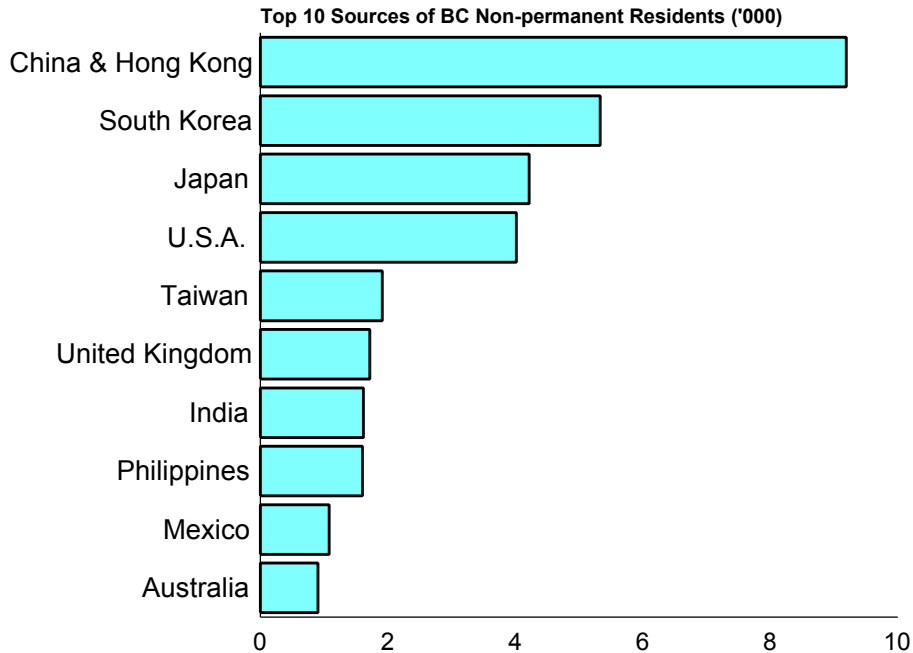

Special Feature: Non-Permanent Residents & Citizenship

British Columbia appears to be a preferred province for many non-permanent residents as it is home for a high share of all temporary residents living in Canada . . .



Non-Permanent Residents

Non-permanent residents (NPRs) are persons from another country who hold a student or employment authorization, a minister's permit, or who are refugee claimants and family members living in Canada with them. During the 2001 Census, there were 37,190 NPRs living in British Columbia, accounting for about 19 per cent of all the 198,645 non-permanent residents living in Canada at that time. While non-permanent residents usually represent a very small percentage of the population, they tend to exhibit slightly different social and economic characteristics when compared to the general population.

A high proportion of the non-permanent residents in B.C. are young indicating many are students or dependant children. In 2001, 44 per cent of NPRs in the province were under the age 25. Also, more than three-quarters of the NPRs lived in the Vancouver metropolitan area. Vancouver was the third most frequent destination for NPRs after Toronto and Montreal.

Similar to recent immigrants, a majority of NPRs are from Asia. In 2001, 61.3 per cent of all NPRs living in B.C. were Asian and seven out of the top ten NPR sources were

Asian countries. China Mainland and Hong Kong combined were the top sources of NPRs to the province. Korea was the second largest source of NPRs and most were students studying in the province. Some NPRs from certain countries tended to be in the temporary work permit category. For example, a majority of the NPRs from the Philippines were temporary workers under the Live-in Care Giver Program.

Canadian Citizenship

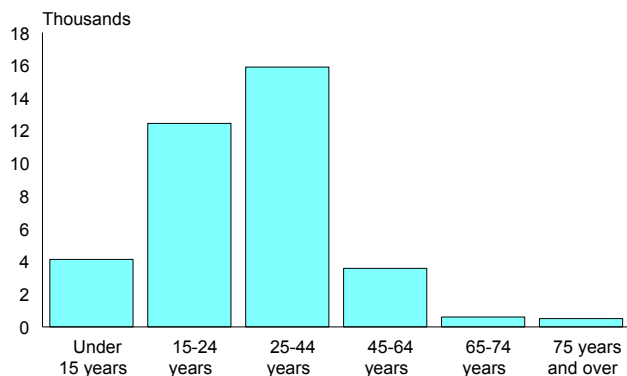
A person can become a Canadian Citizen by birth or by naturalization. While most of the Canadian population are Canadian citizens, there are permanent residents who immigrated to Canada and who are still not Canadian citizens. The 2001 Census indicates that about 7.8 per cent or 302,940 B.C. residents did not have Canadian citizenship. This proportion has declined slightly from the nine per cent observed in the 1996 Census.

While most immigrants had become Canadian citizens after settling in the country for a length of time, there is a small group of immigrants who still have not been naturalized even after living in Canada for a long time. The 2001 Census shows that of the immigrants living in B.C. who have not been naturalized, 20 per cent had arrived in Canada prior to 1980.

On the other hand, there is a small proportion of the population holding more than one citizenship. Canada is one of the few countries in the world that allows dual citizenship and as a result some immigrants have obtained Canadian citizenship through naturalization and continued to keep the citizenship status of their native country. Of the B.C. immigrant population in 2001 who have been naturalized, approximately 12 per cent still maintained citizenship of one or more other countries. However, naturalized immigrants tended to be less likely to hold citizenship of other countries after living in Canada for a longer period of time.

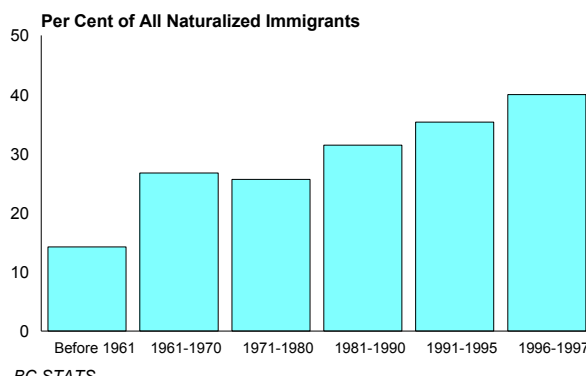
B.C. Non-Permanent Residents By Age

2001 Census



BC STATS

B.C. Naturalized Immigrants Having Other Citizenship
By Period of Immigration



BC STATS