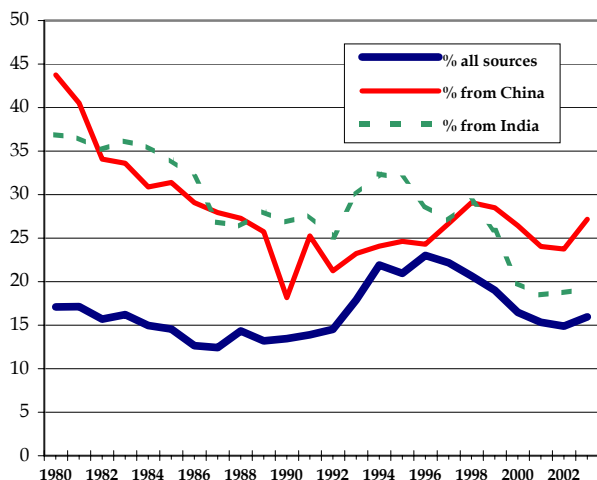


SPECIAL FEATURE: IMMIGRANTS FROM INDIA AND CHINA

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India and China have long been important sources of immigrants to BC. Recent immigration statistics show that these two countries accounted for 40% of the 145 thousand immigrants to BC during the period 2000-03. Immigrants from China and India tend to differ in terms of age, educational levels, language ability and the immigrant class under which they were admitted. This article will examine these differences as well as some changes in the characteristics of immigrants from India and China over the period of 1980 to 2003.

Figure 1: Percent of Immigrants to Canada Destined to BC

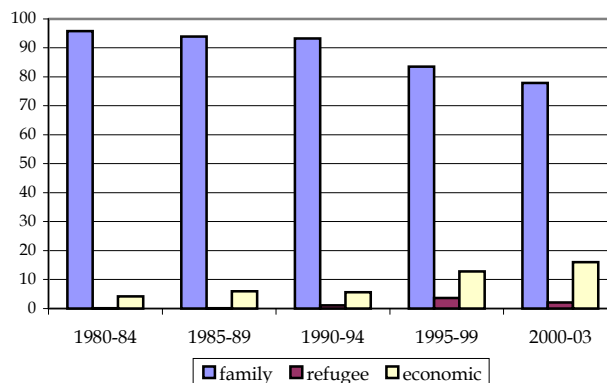


Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

BC has received a substantial proportion of the total immigration to Canada over the last 23 years. In 2003, 16% of all immigrants chose BC as their preferred destination. BC's share of immigrants has declined from the highs in 1980 of 37% of all Indian immigrants and 44% of all Chinese immigrants. However, in 2003, 27% of Chinese immigrants and 19% of Indian immigrants chose to settle in BC.

IMMIGRANT CLASS

Figure 2: Immigrants from India to BC by Class (%)



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

India has been the dominant contributor of Family Class immigrants to BC for the past 23 years, accounting for 30% of BC immigrants in this class. As Figure 2 shows, from 1980 to 1994, over 90% of Indian immigrants to BC were admitted to Canada under the Family Class. BC receives a large share of the total Indian Family Class immigrants to Canada, with about a third intending to settle here.

Figure 2 also demonstrates a slight increase in Indian refugees¹ to BC from 1980 to 2003. During the 1980's, the Refugee Class made up less than 1% of Indian immigrants to BC. This share increased slightly during the 1990's, peaking in 1998 at 6%.

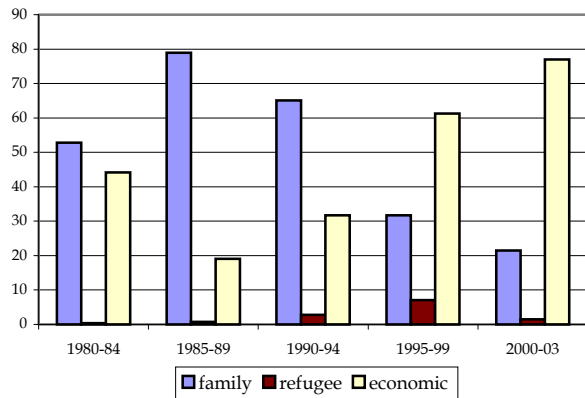
An increasing proportion of Indian arrivals in BC are economic immigrants.² This change is mainly due to an increase in the Other Independents Class, from 2% of Indian

¹ Refugee Class includes Convention Refugees as well as those in the Designated Class.

² Economic Class includes those admitted in Assisted Relatives, Entrepreneurs, Investors, Self-Employed and Other Independent categories.

immigrants to BC in 1980 to a high of 15% in 2001. Despite this, BC seems to be less successful in attracting Indian immigrants in this class than in the past. More Indian immigrants are entering Canada under this class but BC is attracting a lesser share of the total. From 1980-84, 16% of all Indian immigrants in this class chose BC. Since that time, BC's share of the national total has declined substantially, and by 2000-03 BC was the preferred destination of only 7% of Indian immigrants in the Other Independents Class.

Figure 3: Immigrants from China to BC by Class (%)



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Figure 3 shows that China has typically contributed a substantially smaller proportion of Family Class immigrants to BC than India. Since 1985-89, the proportion of family immigrants has declined while those in the economic classes have increased. In 2003 about one quarter of Chinese immigrants to BC were admitted under the Family Class.

China has been a 'top-five' source country for much of the last two decades and since 1999 has been the origin of about one-third of BC's economic immigrants. From 1980 to 2003 some changes in the class of BC's economic immigrants from China occurred. During the 1980's, the Other Independent Class formed a minor share of Chinese immigrants. From 1990 on, this category of immigrants increased dramatically and by 2003, 57% of Chinese immigrants to BC were Other Independents. Investor class immigrants to BC from China

have increased substantially over the last 23 years. From 1980 to 1992 it was a very small proportion of Chinese immigrants to BC. An increase in the proportion of this class is apparent from 1993 on, and by 2001-03, over 10% of immigrants from China to BC were admitted in the Investor Class.

Table 1: Percent of Immigrants from China to Canada

	1980-84	1985-89	1990-94	1995-99	2000-03
Assisted Relatives	41(18)	24(9)	18(14)	27(27)	26(17)
Entrepreneurs	20(20)	27(23)	29(27)	34(32)	36(28)
Self-Employed	29(21)	23(12)	20(21)	28(32)	35(24)
Investor	-	43(46)	56(53)	35(46)	37(34)
Other Independents	26(12)	14(11)	18(14)	26(21)	25(15)
BC(all sources)	16	13	16	21	16

Note: Numbers in brackets represent the percentage of total Canadian immigrant admitted under the selected classes who settled in BC

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

As Table 1 shows, while BC received a declining proportion of Chinese Assisted Relative Class immigrants from 1980-84 to 2000-03, its share of immigrants in the Self-Employed and Entrepreneur Classes has increased over the last 23 years. BC also attracts a large share of Canada's Investor Class immigrants from China. In 2002, almost half of the Chinese immigrants admitted to Canada under this class chose BC. In 2003, this figure was almost 60%.

In general, over the past 23 years, the inflow of refugees from China to BC has not been significant. However, the proportion of Refugee Class immigrants from China spiked in 1996 amounting to 17% of total Chinese immigrants to BC. Higher than usual proportions of Chinese refugees to BC reflects the same phenomenon at the national level. The inflow of Chinese refugees to BC was higher for much of the 1990's than it was in the 1980's, reflecting a pattern evident at the national level.

EDUCATION

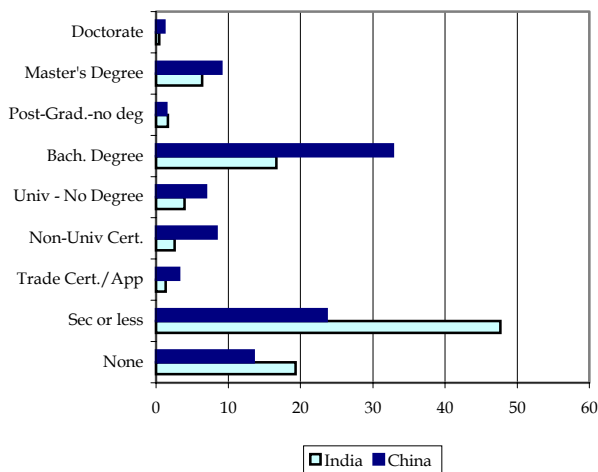
Table 2: Percent of Immigrants to BC by Years of Schooling*

Yrs.of Schooling	From China		From India	
	1980-84	2000-03	1980-84	2000-03
Less than 13	73	26	49	46
13 or more	7	60	13	35

*Percentages do not add to 100 because immigrants with 'unknown' years of education are not presented here.
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

As Table 2 demonstrates, overall, the educational level of immigrants to BC from these two countries has increased during the period from 1980 to 2003. The proportion of Indian immigrants who had 13 years or more of schooling increased from 13% in 1980-84 to 35% in 2000-03. A dramatic increase in educational level is seen among Chinese immigrants to BC. In 1980-84 only 7% had 13 or more years of schooling. By 2000-03, this proportion had jumped to 60%. Between 1980-84 and 2000-03 the proportion of Chinese immigrants with 12 or less years of education dropped by 47 percentage points. In contrast, the proportion of Indian immigrants with the same number of years of schooling declined by only about 3%.

Figure 4: BC Immigrants by Education Level (Landed 2000-03)



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Although recent Indian immigrants have more education than earlier immigrants, BC is still receiving roughly the same proportion with 12 or less years of education.

Figure 4, depicting education level of recent immigrants, demonstrates that Chinese arrivals are more likely to have a post-secondary education at the time of landing than are Indian immigrants. Differences in education could be due to the respective classes under which most new arrivals from China and India are admitted. A high proportion of Indian immigrants are Family Class, where educational qualification was not part of the admitting criteria.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

The majority of recent immigrants from both India and China did not have adequate English language skills at the time of landing. Among immigrants who landed in 2000-03, 21% of those from China and 33% of those from India reported English language skills. The proportion of immigrants to BC with language skills has increased from the earlier landing period of 1980-84, when only 4% of Chinese immigrants and 16% of Indian immigrants had skills in English.

Table 3: Percent in Selected Age Groups

	0-19		20-34		35-49		50+	
	1980-84	2000-03	1980-84	2000-03	1980-84	2000-03	1980-84	2000-03
India	22	16	38	48	7	13	33	24
China	29	22	34	41	14	28	23	9
BC*	27	26	38	36	13	26	22	12
Canada*	29	28	40	38	13	24	18	9

* Percentages for BC and Canada represent immigrants from all sources.
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

AGE

Immigrants from India tend to be older than both immigrants from China and those arriving in BC and Canada from all sources. In both 1980-84 and 2000-03, the age distribution of Indian immigrants was quite different than that for BC immigrants as a whole. The Indian pattern favouring young adults and those 50 years and older has been relatively consistent over the last 23 years. The proportion of those Indian immigrants 50+ years has declined

since the 33% recorded in 1980-84, but it remains significantly higher than the 12% for BC and the 9% for Canada in 2000-03. Perhaps because few Indian immigrants are admitted under the economic classes, a relatively smaller proportion of Indian immigrants were in the 35 to 49 year age group. The age distribution of Chinese immigrants to BC more closely follows the distribution pattern of landings as a whole during both time periods.

Family reunification has always been an important theme in Canadian immigration policy, as is the need to attract skilled worker and business class immigrants. It is expected that both India and China will continue to be important sources of immigration to BC and to Canada.

DEFINITIONS

Assisted Relatives Class-Includes relatives (distant) who are assessed against economic selection criteria, but also receive "points" because family members already in Canada are willing to help them become established.

Business Immigrants-Includes immigrants in the Entrepreneur, Investor, or Self-Employed Class.

Convention Refugee-Includes those persons who meet the definition specified by the United Nations Refugee Convention.

Designated Class-Includes those persons, assessed under relaxed immigrant selection criteria, who do not qualify as convention refugees under the United Nations' definition of refugees. In this article, Designated Class also includes persons under the Deferred Removal Order Class in which landed immigrant status was granted to applicants or unqualified refugees claimants after a deportation decision was revoked.

Economic Immigrants-Includes immigrants in the Assisted Relatives, Other Independents, Entrepreneur, Self-Employed, or Investor Class.

Family Class-Includes spouses, fiancés, dependent children, and parents or grandparents sponsored by a Canadian citizen.

Investor Class-Includes those persons (and dependents) with a proven track record and substantial self-worth who are willing to make a large investment for at least three years in specified activities that will contribute to the creation or continuation of employment opportunities in Canada.

Other Independents-Includes those persons selected on the basis of the "points" system, which measures the potential for successful establishment in Canada.

Self-Employed Class-Includes those persons (and dependents) who intend to establish a business in Canada that will employ him/herself, and will make a significant contribution to the economy.