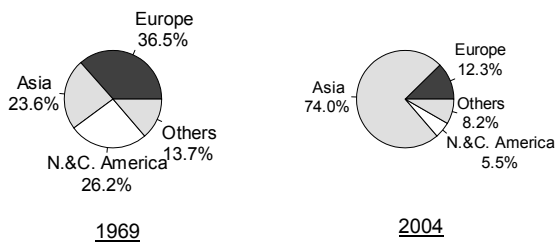


Special Feature: European Immigrants to British Columbia

Over the last two decades, more than 86,000 European immigrants had settled in British Columbia...

One of the most obvious changes in the mosaic of B.C. immigration is the shift in the source of immigrants from European to Asian countries over the last three decades. Since 1972, Asia has replaced Europe as the leading source of immigrants to B.C. Europe has since remained as the second top source of immigrants to the province. Over the last twenty years, the proportion of B.C. immigrants who came from Europe had shrunk from 18 per cent in 1985 to 12 per cent in 2004

B.C. Immigrants by Source

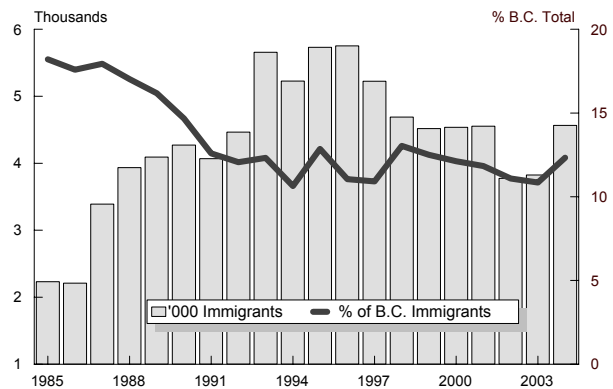


However, the actual number of European immigrants who arrived in the province during this period has been relatively stable. In fact, the number of European immigrants to B.C. was around two thousand in the earlier 1980's and increased steadily through the early 1990's to around four to five thousand. The shrinking proportion in European immigrants was primarily due to the fact that B.C. immigration had been increasing and that the number of Asian immigrants who arrived in the province had increased drastically. The proportion of Asian immigrants in total B.C. landings rose from 58 per cent in 1985 to a peak of 80 per cent in 1996 and has remained relatively steady at around 75 per cent since.

The distribution of European immigrants by class has been very similar to that of the overall landings in B.C. The majority were Independent Skilled Worker and Family immigrants. Over the twenty year period from 1985

to 2004, 54 per cent of Europe immigrants were in the skilled worker classes and 42 per cent in the family classes. Business and refugee immigrants each represented 12 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

European Immigrants to British Columbia



Relative to the rest of Canada, B.C. tends to receive a smaller proportion of European immigrants coming to the country. During 1985 to 2004, B.C. received a total of 17 per cent of all immigrants to Canada while only attracted 11 per cent of all European immigrants. Ontario and Quebec received 55 per cent and 20 per cent respectively, of all European immigrants during that period.

England, followed by Germany, have always been the two most prominent sources of European immigrants to B.C. although the province has experienced a growing inflow of Eastern European immigrants over the last decade.

B.C. Top 10 European Immigrants Landed 1985 to 2004

