

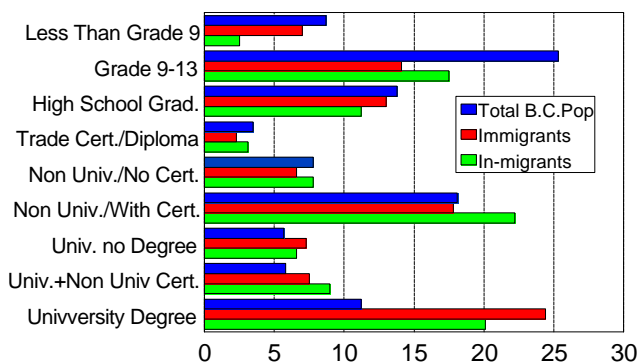
Special Feature: Education Level and Occupation of Recent Immigrants

Highlights:

- Recent immigrants are relatively better educated than the overall B.C. resident population, as are inter-provincial migrants;
- Immigrants are more likely to work in the services, sales, or clerical related fields; and
- Of those with a university degree, immigrants are more likely than inter-provincial migrants to work in the services or clerical fields.

Statistics from the 1991 Census show that recent immigrants who came to B.C. between 1986 and 1991 possess a relatively higher level of education when compared to the overall population of the province. For the entire B.C. population age 15 year and over in 1991, 8.7 per cent had less than grade 9 education and 25.3 per cent had up to grade 13 education without graduation, whereas for the recent immigrant population in the same category, 1991 Census figures show 7.0 per cent and 14.1 per cent, respectively.

B.C. Pop. Aged 15+ By Mobility Status By Education Level - 1991 Census



Two factors might have contributed to these differences. The first is that, on average, immigrants tend to be younger than the overall B.C. population. Statistics show that younger age cohorts tend to have a higher level of education than older cohorts. A possible second factor is that since 1981 a higher proportion of immigrants to B.C. have been admitted under the business and independent classes, which use education as one of the selection criteria. Hence recent immigrants to B.C. may possess a higher level of education qualifications.

While more than one in every three recent immigrants possesses at least some university education, less than one in every four persons in the entire B.C. population does so. The proportion of the population who attained a university degree is 24.4 per cent for recent immigrants and 11.2 per cent for the overall B.C. population.

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Similar indications were also observed when comparing the education level of those who recently moved to B.C. from other provinces (in-migrants) to that of the overall population. Compared to the entire B.C. population, in-migrants tend to be better educated than the overall population. A relatively higher proportion of in-migrants have a university degree or trade certificate, and a relatively lower proportion have less than grade 9 education.

The 1991 Census also shows that recent immigrants are relatively more likely to be engaged in a services related occupation. In 1991, 23.5 per cent of the recent immigrants in B.C. reported an occupation in the services related field, while only 14.6 per cent of the entire provincial population did so. Other more common occupations for recent immigrants include sales, clerical, as well as managerial or administrative related occupations.

Comparing immigrants and in-migrants who came to B.C. between 1986 and 1991 and who possess a university degree, a relatively higher proportion of immigrants in this category reported an occupation in the clerical, sales or services field. In 1991, 12.9 per cent of the recent B.C. immigrants in this category reported a clerical related occupation, whereas only 8.8 per cent of the in-migrants did so. Also, a slightly lower proportion of the immigrants with a university degree were engaged in the managerial, and administrative related occupations. These discrepancy may be due to factors such as recent immigrants' qualification recognition and acceptance by provincial and national standards, initial adaptation and adjustment to Canadian society, and the lack of English language proficiency.

B.C. Pop. Aged 15+ By Mobility Status

By Occupation - 1991 Census

