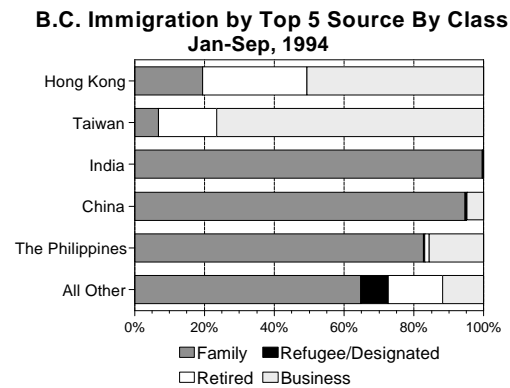
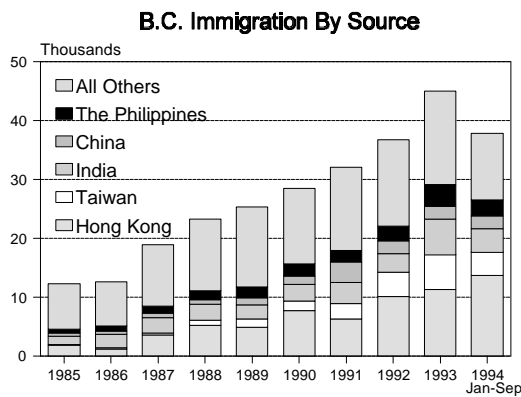


Special Feature: Top Five Source Countries of Immigrants to British Columbia

Since 1989, the top five source countries of immigrants to British Columbia have consistently been Hong Kong, India, Taiwan, the Philippines, and China-Mainland. In 1993, the number of immigrants from these countries were 11,288, 6,036, 5,932, 3,726, and 2,175 persons, respectively.

These five sources represented 64.8% of all immigrants to B.C. in 1993. Although these immigrants are all from Asia, they exhibit diverse characteristics.

For the first three quarters of 1994, Hong Kong immigrants accounted for more than one-third of all landings in B.C. The high inflow of Hong Kong immigrants has primarily been related to the uncertain political future of Hong Kong which will revert to China in 1997. While some Hong Kong immigrants came under the family class, the majority are admitted under the retired or business classes. Of those who came from Hong Kong in the first nine months of 1994, 14% were in the family class, 13.3% in the entrepreneur class, 21.4% in the investor class, 21.2% in the retired class, and 28.6% in the independent skilled worker classes.



Similarly, Taiwanese immigrants to B.C. were also concentrated in the business and retired classes. In the last four years, more than half of all Taiwanese immigrants came under the investor class, and less than 10% in total were admitted under the family or skilled worker classes. On the other hand, immigrants from India, China and the Philippines were heavily concentrated in the family class. During the first three quarters of 1994, the proportion of total immigrants who came under the family class was 94% for India, 71.2% for China, and 50.3% for the Philippines. Comparatively, a higher proportion (40%) of Filipino immigrants was in the independent worker class. Also, a majority (36.4%) of these independent Filipino immigrants were admitted under the Live-in Caregiver Program.¹ As a result, more than two-thirds of the recent immigrants from the Philippines were female, while immigrants from the other four top source countries showed a greater degree of gender balance.

¹ The Live-in Caregiver Program allows qualified foreign workers to work in Canada as live-in house keepers or special care givers. These workers will be eligible to apply for landed immigrant status after two years of working in Canada. Since most will apply and obtain the landed immigrant status, they are considered to be immigrants at time of entry.

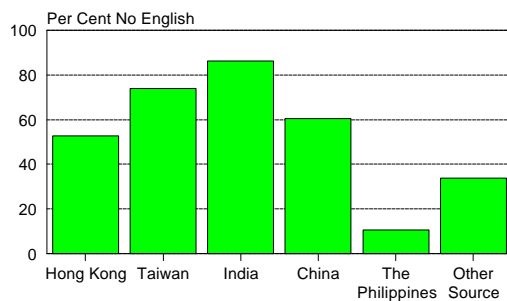
- With the exception of those from the Philippines, the majority of the immigrants from the other four top source countries do not have English language ability. In the first three quarters of 1993, the proportion of immigrants with no English language ability was 52.6% for those from Hong Kong, 60.6% for China, 74.0% for Taiwan, 86.4% for India, and 10.7% for the Philippines. For all other countries the share was 34.4% with no English language ability.

Immigrants from India tend to be younger than those from the other top four source countries. The median age of all immigrants landed in B.C. in the last four years is approximately 30, compared to 27.5 for those from India, 31.1 for China, 29.2 for Taiwan, 33.4 for Hong Kong, and 31.5 for the Philippines. A relatively higher proportion of immigrants from India was in the 18-24 age group.

While recent immigrants from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and the Philippines are highly concentrated in the three cities of Vancouver, Richmond, and Burnaby, immigrants from India favour Surrey for settlement. For those who landed in the first three quarters of 1993, the proportion who reported Vancouver, Richmond, or Burnaby as the intended destination was 89.3% for those from Hong Kong, 95.7% for Taiwan, 85.2% for China, 65.4% for the Philippines, and only 31.0% for India. However, Surrey alone attracted 28.8% of Indian immigrants landed in that period. Also, immigrants from India, and to a lesser extent, the Philippines, tended to be less concentrated in the Vancouver Metropolitan Area. For the first three quarters of 1993 the proportion of immigrants settling in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area was 96.2% for Hong Kong, 98.4% for Taiwan, 91.0% for China, 88.1% for the Philippines, and only 67.7% for India.

With the exception of immigrants from India, the majority of immigrants from the other top four source countries reported an intended occupation in the Managerial/Professional, Clerical, Sales, or Services occupations. A high proportion of immigrants from India reported a primary occupation such as farming or lumber milling.

B.C. Landed Immigrants by Top 5 Source by English Ability
Jan-Sep, 1993



Per Cent Settled in Vancouver CMA by Source
Jan-Sep, 1993

