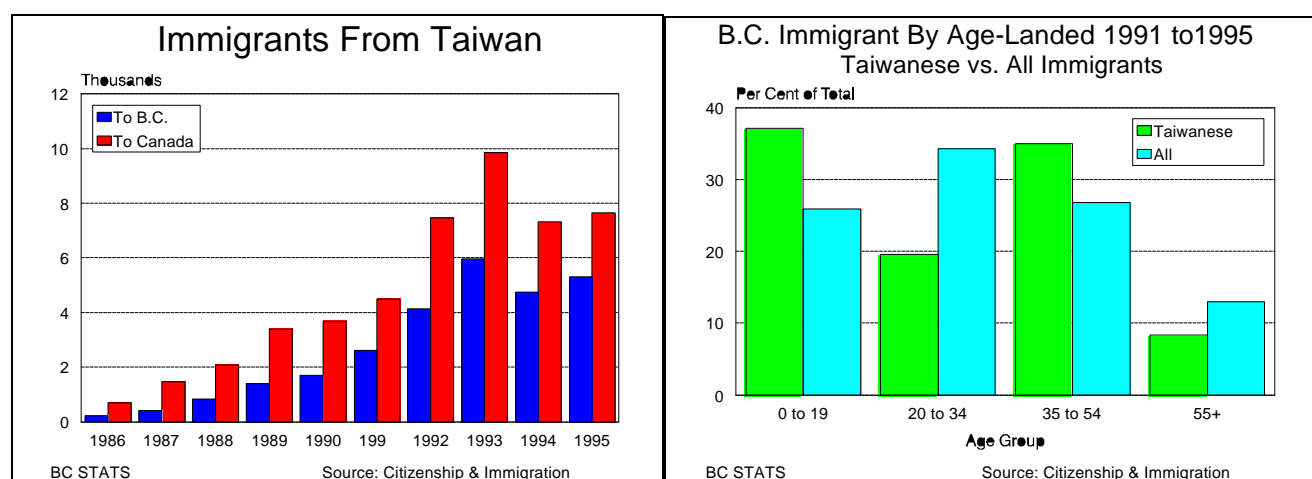

Feature Article: Taiwanese Immigrants to British Columbia

In 1995, Taiwanese immigrants to British Columbia represented 12 per cent of total landings to the province. Taiwan has been among the top five source countries of immigrants to British Columbia since 1989. In the last decade, the number of Taiwanese immigrants settling in the province increased steadily from 222 persons in 1986 to 5,327 in 1995. Also, since 1988, B.C. has been the most popular province of destination for Taiwanese immigrants. The province's share of total Taiwanese immigrants to Canada in 1995 was 70.3 per cent.

A majority of recent Taiwanese immigrants came to B.C. under the Business Immigration Program. In particular, more than half of those who landed between 1991 and 1995 were admitted under the Investor Class. The Self-Employed, Entrepreneur and Investor classes of immigrants represented about 70 per cent of all Taiwanese immigrants to B.C. during that period.



In addition to the relatively high concentration of business immigrants, a high proportion of Taiwanese immigrants were either children or middle-aged. Principal applicants of business immigration to Canada tend to be middle-aged business persons who are married with children. As a result, Taiwanese immigrants landed between 1991 and 1995 were relatively more concentrated in the age groups of 0-19 and 35-54.

Of the Taiwanese immigrants aged 35-54, 38 per cent possessed secondary or less education, 27 per cent had formal trade school training, and 34 per cent had studied in universities. Most Taiwanese immigrants speak Mandarin, and about 30 per cent of them possessed some English language ability.

Most recent Taiwanese immigrants settled in the Lower Mainland. Ninety-seven per cent of those who landed between 1991 and 1995 reported their intended destination to be Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby or Surrey.

Just as the Tiananmen Square incidence in Beijing in 1989 created a sudden urge for many Hong Kong residents to decide to emigrate to Canada, the recent political friction between Taiwan and Mainland China might have an impact on the number of people wanting to emigrate from Taiwan. Hence, in addition to the existing trend, the flow of Taiwanese immigrants to B.C. in the near future may accelerate.