

Special Feature: Immigration from APEC Members

APEC, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, was created in 1989 by a group of 18 Asian Pacific economies, including Canada, to collectively promote trade, investment and economic as well as technological cooperation. The other APEC members include:

- Australia
- Mexico
- Singapore
- People's Republic of China
- Indonesia
- Chile
- Malaysia
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of Philippines
- Brunei Darussalam
- Republic of Korea
- Japan
- USA
- Thailand
- Hong Kong, China
- New Zealand
- Chinese Taipei

All APEC members are British Columbia's trading partners. In 1996, the province's total export to all other APEC members excluding Canada was more than \$23 billion. It is also estimated that the overall APEC economy accounted for approximately 60 per cent of total output in the world and half of global merchandise trade. APEC also includes most of the fastest growing economies in the world. British Columbia, located at the Pacific Rim, is an important province with respect to Canada's relations with the other APEC members. B.C. has served as a hub for trade between Canada and many of the APEC members.

It is believed that trade and immigration have a positive influence on each other. Trading and business activities between Canada and other APEC members increase the exposure of B.C. to other APEC members and hence tend to promote immigration to the province. B.C. has been receiving immigrants from each of the APEC members although the magnitude of inflow varies considerably among different members. Over the last few years, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and U.S.A. have consistently been among the top ten sources of immigrants to the province.

In 1996, B.C. received a total of 32,415 immigrants from all APEC members, representing almost two-thirds of all immigrants landed in the province during the year. Compared to other provinces, B.C. is also the favored destination for immigrants from APEC members. In 1996, B.C.'s share of total Canadian immigrants from all sources was 23 per cent but the province attracted a much higher share (37 per cent) of immigrants from the APEC members.

While collectively APEC is an important source of immigrants to the province, the level and characteristics of immigrants from individual APEC members may vary significantly. Over the last ten

Immigrants to British Columbia From APEC Members											Ten Year Total
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
Hong Kong, China	3,520	5,185	4,847	7,652	6,300	10,049	11,419	16,100	11,830	11,921	88,823
Chinese Taipei	410	887	1,391	1,669	2,617	4,131	5,975	4,745	5,340	9,284	36,449
Republic of Philippines	1,228	1,531	1,883	1,992	1,950	2,460	3,812	3,703	3,341	2,988	24,888
People's Republic of China	734	758	1,141	1,420	3,544	2,231	2,190	2,976	3,267	4,227	22,488
U.S.A.	1,515	1,280	1,305	1,255	1,345	1,537	1,734	1,331	1,195	1,196	13,693
Republic of Korea	456	558	536	443	450	679	896	889	1,137	999	7,043
Singapore	156	443	657	424	331	239	282	190	219	247	3,188
Malaysia	189	535	609	547	317	336	240	189	111	85	3,158
Japan	135	119	231	199	226	265	464	498	437	543	3,117
Australia	162	159	211	238	253	299	373	314	312	306	2,627
Mexico	124	113	124	171	163	137	162	106	180	243	1,523
Brunei Darussalam	116	301	274	208	178	130	73	53	23	8	1,364
New Zealand	87	81	128	119	98	136	133	72	83	101	1,038
Indonesia	71	94	73	65	119	91	96	104	99	142	954
Thailand	29	48	51	53	79	77	88	82	94	86	687
Chile	66	40	41	40	57	60	48	31	21	34	438
Papua New Guinea	2	1	-	7	1	-	-	1	-	5	17
Total	9,000	12,133	13,502	16,502	18,028	22,857	27,985	31,384	27,689	32,415	211,495

years, the six APEC members of People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and U.S.A. accounted for 94 per cent of all immigrants from the APEC group. In 1996, the number of immigrants to B.C. from various APEC members ranged from 5 persons from Papua New Guinea to 11,921 persons from Hong Kong, While Japan, after U.S.A., has been the most important country for export from B.C., the province only attracts a few hundred Japanese immigrants each year.

Comparing immigrants from APEC members by immigration class also shows significant variations. Over the last ten years, a relatively higher proportion of immigrants from Chinese Taipei, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Hong Kong came under the Business Immigration Program which includes the Entrepreneur, Investor and Self-employed classes. On the other hand, Family Class represented more than half of the immigrants from the People's Republic of China, U.S.A., Mexico, New Zealand, and Thailand. The skilled worker immigrants accounted for a higher proportion of immigrants who came from Republic of Philippines, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. The Retired Class of immigrants were mainly from Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, U.S.A., Indonesia and Singapore.

While it may not be completely appropriate to consider APEC as a collective group when analyzing and promoting immigration from its members due to the diversity in the level and characteristics of its immigrants, it is nevertheless important to note that increased cooperation and trade between the APEC members may eventually stimulate more immigrants to B.C. and Canada in the future.

