

ARGEIAD

Newsletter

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Permanent Resident Status, Work Permits, and Study Permits Issued in Canada and Atlantic Canada in 2024

In this article, we present statistics on new permanent resident status, work permits, and study permits issued in Canada and for Atlantic Canada in 2024. These statistics are derived from the dataset released to ARGEIAD by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC, Research and Data Branch).

For more information on data released to ARGEIAD by IRCC, please contact Ather.Akbari@smu.ca

Provincial Distribution of Permanent Resident Status Granted

In 2024, a total of 483,595 permanent resident (PR) status were granted in Canada out of which 8.2 percent were in Atlantic Canada. Among the four Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick hosted the largest number, while Prince Edward Island hosted the fewest. (Table 1).

Table 1: Permanent Resident status granted, Canada and Provinces, 2024.

Province	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,810
Prince Edward Island	3,980
Nova Scotia	14,235
New Brunswick	15,495
Quebec	59,490
Ontario	205,830
Manitoba	24,700
Saskatchewan	23,170

Alberta	66,355
British Columbia	63,060
Yukon	940
Northwest Territories	420
Nunavut	65
Not stated	45
Canada Total	483,595
Atlantic Canada Total	39,520

The list of top five source countries was identical in Canada and Atlantic Canada but comprised just about half of all PRs in Canada, while 57 percent in Atlantic Canada. India was the top source country of PRs both nationally and in Atlantic Canada. (Tables 2 and 3a).

Table 2: Top Five Source Countries of Permanent Residents, Canada, 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	127,360	1
Philippines	32,325	2
China, People's Republic of	29,955	3
Cameroon, Federal Republic of	21,205	4
Nigeria	20,395	5

Table 3(a): Top Five Source Countries of Permanent Residents, Atlantic Canada, 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	11,800	1
Philippines	5,645	2
Nigeria	1,850	3
Cameroon, Federal Republic of	1,785	4
China, People's Republic of	1,510	5

Source: Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship, Canada.

When data were disaggregated by Atlantic province, India ranked at the top in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador, where it was second to the Philippines. Afghanistan, Algeria, Hong Kong, Korea, Syria, Ukraine, and Vietnam appear on the top five source countries' list in some individual provinces but not regionally, which could reflect different appeals of each province to the newcomers attributed to immigrant attraction initiatives. (Table 3b).

Table 3b: Top Five Source Countries of Permanent Residents, Atlantic Provinces, 2024.

	NS		NL		PEI		NB	
Country	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.
India	1	6,235	2	1,105	1	1,615	1	2,845
Algeria							5	1,010
Philippines	2	1,490	1	1,485	2	905	2	1,765
Cameroon, Federal Republic of							3	1,675

Nigeria	4	355	4	385			4	1,040
Afghanistan			5	210				
China, People's Republic of	3	855			3	215		
Syria	4	355						
Korea, Republic of	5	345						
Ukraine			3	505				
Vietnam					4	185		
Hong Kong SAR Total					5	125		

Provincial Distribution of Work Permits Issued

Nationally, 910,150 work permits were issued in 2024, about 5 percent were for Atlantic Provinces (Table 4).

Table 4: New Work Permits Issued, Canada, Intended Destination Province and Territories, 2024

Province	Work Permit Issued
Newfoundland and Labrador	7,515
Prince Edward Island	4,470
Nova Scotia	19,125
New Brunswick	14,810
Quebec	133,130
Ontario	338,570
Manitoba	30,185
Saskatchewan	17,340

Alberta	89,900
British Columbia	140,295
Yukon	1,025
Northwest Territories	475
Nunavut	140
Not stated	113,170
Canada	910,150
Atlantic Canada	45,920

The composition of the top five source countries of new work permit holders in 2024 matched that of PRs (reported in Table 1), except for the absence of China and the inclusion of Ukraine in the second place (following India). Together, the work permit holders from the top five source countries comprised about half of the total work permits issued by Canada in 2024.

Table 5: Top Five Source Countries of New Work Permit Holders, Canada, 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	249,570	1
Ukraine	112,745	2
Philippines	58,535	3
Nigeria	17,405	4
Korea, Republic of	15,005	5

Work permit holders from the top five countries in Atlantic Canada comprised about 62 percent of their total in the region. India was the top source country of new work permit holders in Atlantic Canada as well, close to twice their numbers from the second top

source which was the Philippines. Mexico was also included in the regional list, but not nationally (Table 6a).

Table 6a: Top Five Source Countries of New Work Permit Holders, Atlantic Canada, 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	11,450	1
Philippines	5,825	2
Ukraine	4,480	3
Mexico	4,190	4
Nigeria	2,340	5

The top five source country composition was slightly different when individual Atlantic provinces are considered as Jamaica, Iran and China also found a place on the list in NS, NL and PEI. (Table 6b).

Table 6b: Top Five Source Countries of New Work Permit Holders, Atlantic Provinces, 2024.

	NS		NL		PEI		NB	
Country	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.
India	1	6,925	2	1,255	1	945	1	2,325
Ukraine	2	1,840	3	1,085	5	190	4	1,365
Philippines	3	1,490	1	1,390	2	775	2	2,170
Mexico	4	1,445			3	715	3	1,780

Jamaica	5	1,185						
China, People's Republic of					4	315		
Iran			4	415				
Nigeria			5	375			5	970

Provincial Distribution of Study Permits Issued

In 2024, Canada issued 518,350 new study permits. About 4.7 percent of study permit holders were destined for the Atlantic provinces, with Nova Scotia being their top destination. (Table 7)

Table 7: New Study Permits issued, Canada, Intended Destination Province and Territories, 2024

Province of intended destination	Study Permit Issued
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,385
Prince Edward Island	2,175
Nova Scotia	10,890
New Brunswick	8,110
Quebec	72,685
Ontario	249,095
Manitoba	15,275
Saskatchewan	9,435
Alberta	39,615
British Columbia	101,645

Yukon	225
Northwest Territories	75
Nunavut	15
Not stated	5,725
Canada	518,350
Atlantic Canada	24,560

Nationally, about 62 percent of new study permits were issued to Indians, making their country the top source country of study permit holders. China was in a distant second place.

Table 8: Top Five Source Countries of Study Permit Holders, Canada, 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	189,135	1
China, People's Republic of	56,650	2
Nigeria	26,635	3
Philippines	24,805	4
Algeria	9,305	5

In Atlantic Canada as well, India was the top source country of study permit holders, although in PEI it was the fourth largest source, Taiwan being the top there. Nigeria became the second largest source in the region, followed by the People's Republic of China. Ghana was also among the top five sources, while Algeria was not (despite having a place on the national list). There were some variations between provinces. (Tables 9a and 9b).

Table 9a: Top Five Source Countries of Study Permit Holders, Atlantic Canada, 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	5,405	1
Nigeria	3,240	2
China, People's Republic of	2,250	3
Philippines	1,140	4
Ghana	1,120	5

Table 9b: Top Five Source Countries of Study Permit Holders, Atlantic Provinces, 2024.

Country	NS		NL		PEI		NB	
	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.
India	1	3,360	1	645	4	235	1	1,165
Bangladesh			3	360				
Philippines	5	350					4	550
Ghana	4	510	4	290	5	110		
Taiwan					1	290		
China, People's Republic of	2	1,525			2	285		
Iran			5	195				

Nigeria	3	1,280	2	550	3	260	2	1,150
Algeria							3	645
Cameroon, Federal Republic of							5	330

Summary

Although Atlantic Canada was home to about 6.4 percent of Canadians, it was the intended destination of more than 8 percent of new Canadian PRs in 2024. The top five source countries of PRs comprised about 57 percent, leaving a diverse mix of countries to form the remaining 43 percent. The source country composition was identical to their national composition. The largest number came from India. The Philippines was a distant second source.

About 5 percent of new work permit holders in Canada had declared Atlantic Canada as their intended destination, with India being the top source with more than double the numbers coming from the Philippines, the second top source. Ukraine and Mexico were also in the list of the top five sources in the region, but not nationally.

About 5 percent of Canadian study permits were issued for Atlantic Canada, with India being the top source, followed by Nigeria, where 40 percent fewer permits were issued for Atlantic Canada.

Some source countries of new arrivals are from war-torn countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine. They appear in some provinces, but not all, perhaps due to deliberate attempts by their local communities or religious organizations in those provinces to attract them.

Resident immigrant communities attract new arrivals. The finding that both new permanent and temporary resident permit holders destined for Atlantic Canada originate in a diverse mix of countries is reflective of there being smaller resident immigrant communities in the region.

List of activities (Fall-Winter 2025)

Events held:

Under the auspices of 27th Metropolis Canada Conference (Toronto March 13-15, 2025)

Workshop organized by ARGEIAD: *Social networks, employer diversity, and some best practices in shaping immigrants' employment potential and firm's performance in Atlantic Canada-- March 13, 2025*

Presentation at a workshop organized by The Conference Board of Canada: *Beyond the Welcome Mat: Challenges and Opportunities of Immigrant Retention in Canada- March 15, 2025*

Presentation at EduNova Student Recruitment Committee Meeting - *"International Students in Atlantic Canada: A Survey on their Academic and Socio-Economic Experiences"*- held at Saint Mary's University, Halifax on December 11, 2024.

Forthcoming event:

Resetting Canada's Immigration Policy and Its Impact on Smaller Provinces
May 15, 2025

One-day pan-Atlantic event. [Information and registration here](#)

Research Projects:

Recently completed:

Academic and Socioeconomic Experiences of International Students in Atlantic Canada

Supported by: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada

[Report found here](#)

[Policy brief found here](#)

Recently started:

The past two decades of Immigration in Atlantic Canada: Socioeconomic and demographic profiles. One-year project supported by: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and four Atlantic Provinces.