

Canadian Opinion on Ukrainian Migration

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Introduction

Between January to March 2024 and the same quarter in 2025 there was a substantial decrease in Ukrainian migrants to Canada via the international mobility program. Recent surveys of Canadians around immigration levels have seen pushback from a significant share of Canadians. This has impacted opinion on migration independent of how challenging the circumstances encountered by migrants. Canadians have generally been supportive of Ukrainian migrants since the outbreak of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Is that changing? How do Canadians currently feel about migration from Ukraine? That which follows provides insight into that question via an ACS (Association for Canadian Studies) detailed analysis of a survey conducted by Leger Marketing over the period June 6-8, 2025, with 1511 respondents in Canada and 1011 in the United States.

A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1511 respondents in Canada would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20 and a sample of 1011 respondents in the US a margin of error of $\pm 3.08\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Considerable decline the number and share of Ukrainians coming to Canada via the international mobility program between Q1 2024 and Q1 2025

Canada – International Mobility Program unique work permit holders by country of citizenship and year in which permit(s) became effective, January 2015 - March 2025												
	2016 Total	2017 Total	2018 Total	2019 Total	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 Q1 Total	2024 Total	2025 Q1 Total	Change by percenta ge from q1 2024 to q1 2025
Total	224,685	242,330	267,785	323,480	246,485	333,200	466,630	762,115	230,405	717,405	176,805	-24.3
Ukraine	1,825	1,800	1,865	2,060	1,575	1,640	78,360	103,250	66,720	111,960	21,110	-68.5
%	8	7.5	7	6.4	6.4	5	17	13.5	29	15.5	12	

The largest plurality of Canadians want Ukrainian migrants

Ukrainian residents - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or remain the same									
	Total	Male	Female	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
Increased	23%	26%	20%	27%	26%	22%	19%	19%	27%
Remain at current levels	40%	42%	37%	38%	38%	34%	43%	38%	45%
Decreased	23%	22%	23%	13%	23%	25%	23%	30%	20%
I don't know	14%	9%	19%	22%	13%	19%	15%	14%	8%

A plurality of Canadians want the numbers of Canadians admitted with temporary visas to remain at current levels with the rest split between increased and decreases

Ukrainian residents - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or remain the same?	Banner 1						
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Increased	23%	32%	22%	26%	17%	20%	19%
Remain at current levels	40%	33%	45%	36%	35%	46%	43%
Decreased	23%	18%	21%	23%	33%	22%	25%
I don't know	14%	17%	13%	16%	14%	13%	13%

Most Canadians want temporary worker numbers to remain at current levels but one third desire decrease; those who want increased admission of Ukrainians are somewhat more favorable to increase in temporary workers but most want to see numbers stay at current levels

Temporary workers - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or remain at current levels	Ukrainian residents - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or remain at current levels			
	Total	Increased	Remain at current levels	Decreased
Increased	12%	26%	11%	5%
Remain at current levels	41%	47%	58%	22%
Decreased	34%	23%	27%	71%
I don't know	13%	4%	4%	2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Those favoring increases in temporary workers are far more likely to support increases in admission numbers of Ukrainian migrants

Ukrainian residents - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or Remain at current levels	Temporary workers - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or Remain at current levels		
	Increased	Remain at current levels	Decreased
Increased	49%	27%	15%
Remain at current levels	35%	57%	32%
Decreased	10%	12%	48%
I don't know	6%	4%	5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst those Canadians who feel that they have a very good understanding of the conflict we find greater support for increased migration of Ukrainians

Ukrainian residents - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or r	Do you feel you have a good understanding or not about the conflict between Ukraine and Russia?			
	Very good understanding	Fairly good understanding	Not very good understanding	Barely any understanding at all
Increased	41%	25%	17%	10%
Remain at current levels	36%	47%	41%	27%
Decreased	18%	21%	25%	34%
I don't know	5%	7%	17%	29%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Amongst those Canadians who believe that Canada is not supportive enough of Ukraine the majority feel we need to increase admission of Ukrainian migrants

Ukrainian residents - Each year, the Government of Canada may decide to issue temporary visas to different categories of citizens who want to come to Canada. In your view, should the number of visas granted by Canada be increased, decreased or remain the same	Thinking about the relationship between Canada and Ukraine, do you think Canada is not supportive enough of Ukraine, its support is about right, or it is too supportive of Ukraine?			
	Not supportive enough	About right	Too supportive	No opinion
Increased	51%	26%	11%	8%
Remain at current levels	38%	52%	27%	22%
Decreased	7%	15%	55%	25%
I don't know	4%	7%	7%	45%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%