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Temporary Migrant Admissions in Canada: What a deeper dive into the numbers tells us about the first half of 2025

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TEMPORARY MIGRATION

PART 2

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/transparency/transition-binders/minister-2025-05/temporary-workers.html>

Background

A recently released survey conducted by the Angus Reid Institute (September 25) on opinion on Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW's) found that against the backdrop of the number of TFWP (P for program) permit holders precipitously increasing in recent years, fully half (52%) of Canadians say they view the program more negatively than positively, compared to one-quarter (23%) who view it in the inverse. Alongside this, Angus Reid points out that 55 per cent say Canada accepts too many TFWs and that a majority of Canadians say the TFWP has a negative impact on the labour market (54%), young workers in Canada (61%) and the housing market (66%). At the same time, they're twice as likely to agree (58%) than disagree (29%) that these workers are blamed for economic problems that they did not create.

These findings likely reflect broader public concern about immigration where distinctions between temporary and permanent migrants may not be as relevant to Canadians or well understood as assumed. Also awareness over the distinctions between categories of temporary migrants is likely not high. Recent public conversation has centered upon the TFW program where the larger number of temporary migrants come via the IMP (international mobility program). Additionally, foreign students (study permit holders) are also regarded as part of the temporary migrant stream. For that reason, admission numbers projected by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada that address temporary migration also include forecasts for foreign students.

Recent calls for the outright elimination of the TFW program need to consider the overall temporary migrant stream, who is coming to the country and in what part of Canada they're taking up residence.

Background

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recently released mid-year figures showing that Canada's temporary worker numbers exceeded the government's targets for 2025. Both the [International Mobility Program](#) (IMP) and the [Temporary Foreign Worker Program](#) (TFWP) are running ahead of projections, raising new questions about how Ottawa will manage temporary immigration in the months ahead. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/departmental-plans/2025-26-departmental-plan/departmental-plan-2025-2026-full.html>

Overall Temporary Resident Target:

The broader target for all temporary resident arrivals in 2025 is 673,650, which included study permit holders, TFWs, and workers in the International Mobility Program. In effect, there have been reductions to each of the categories but they're not in line with the size of the projected cuts which were expected to be much deeper than what transpired in the first half of 2025. Cuts might be much greater in the second half of the year to better approximate the desired goal. As observed in the case of the reductions in the number of permanent residents there is a certain degree of regional asymmetry. That which follows will offer a detailed look at how temporary migrant streams have evolved over the first half of 2025 compared with the same period in 2024. Doing so provides key insights into how IRCC envisioned the cuts. We'll also look at how the numbers of transitions from temporary to permit residency has evolved over the first half of the year.

Category	2025 Mid-Year Numbers	2025 Full-Year Targets
International Mobility Program	302280	285750
Temporary Foreign Worker Program	105195	82000
Study Permits	149860	305900

International Mobility migrants cut by 25% over first six months of this year compared with same period in 2024 with Eastern Canada more impacted than West

Province/Territory	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 Q1 & Q2	2025 Q1 & Q2	% change from 2024 to 2025
Newfoundland & Labrador	1,395	1,890	3,725	5,100	3,340	2,110	-36.8%
Prince Edward Island	1,440	2,295	2,635	3,815	1,610	1,065	-33.9%
Nova Scotia	6,115	7,855	10,050	16,565	9,030	6,170	-31.7%
New Brunswick	3,020	4,750	6,330	11,460	6,015	4,175	-30.6%
Quebec	41,405	54,765	64,140	81,575	44,130	33,450	-24.2%
Ontario	104,930	145,140	192,745	335,805	162,405	119,370	-26.5%
Manitoba	10,875	13,110	19,325	30,050	15,635	12,790	-18.2%
Saskatchewan	5,205	6,915	9,615	15,395	8,060	5,705	-29.2%
Alberta	17,795	23,995	40,415	67,280	40,250	29,620	-26.4%
British Columbia	46,175	64,670	83,255	123,490	62,040	49,450	-20.3%
Yukon	530	635	690	1,090	550	310	-43.6%
NWT	160	190	220	390	200	190	-5.0%
Nunavut	25	45	30	105	40	50	25.0%
Total	246,480	333,190	466,515	761,600	410,825	302,280	-26.4%

Declining shares of IMP migrants were disproportionately impacted by massive cuts to the number of Ukrainians when comparing Q1 and Q2 of 2024 and 2025

International Mobility Program	2023 Total	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% change from 2024 to 2025
India	250,785	109,125	102,905	94,010	-13.9%
Ukraine	102,975	91,055	24,415	30,110	-66.9%
Iran	47,325	24,460	19,925	19,910	-18.6%
Philippines	35,615	18,520	18,155	14,495	-21.7%
France	32,090	13,905	11,135	11,845	-14.8%
China, People's Republic of	30,475	13,035	13,615	11,325	-13.1%
United States of America	19,115	10,680	10,145	10,110	-5.3%
Nigeria	13,335	8,620	8,645	8,420	-2.3%
United Kingdom and Territories	13,655	7,190	7,650	7,235	0.6%
Korea, Republic of	10,655	7,805	5,720	6,785	-13.1%
Mexico	13,630	5,335	5,020	4,920	-7.8%
Japan	8,475	4,725	3,915	4,300	-9.0%
Colombia	10,255	4,295	4,260	4,100	-4.5%
Nepal	5,175	3,355	3,575	4,075	21.5%
Brazil	11,605	4,490	3,925	3,625	-19.3%

Engineers, Programmers, and IT professionals have seen major reductions over January –June 2025 compared with the same period in 2024

Ontario	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 Q1 & Q2	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
Other occupations	85,820	120,805	160,925	302,850	255,105	144,130	103,430	-28.2%
Program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness	50	490	1,595	2,255	2,120	1,950	1745	-10.5%
Specialist physicians	1,170	1,345	1,490	1,660	1,775	1,175	1145	-2.6%
Information systems analysts and consultants	1,945	2,225	3,370	3,245	2,775	1,410	1190	-15.6%
Software engineers and designers	1,130	2,020	3,100	2,645	2,195	1,155	845	-26.8%
Computer programmers and interactive media developers	2,610	2,800	3,350	2,305	1,795	940	745	-20.7%
Professional occupations in business management consulting	715	620	1,020	1,130	1,145	550	570	3.6%
University professors and lecturers	1,325	1,350	1,425	1,650	1,450	660	580	-12.1%
Computer and information systems managers	715	1,035	1,270	1,265	1,050	570	470	-17.5%
Actors and comedians	265	525	630	410	620	340	375	10.3%
Athletes	215	535	510	540	515	305	275	-9.8%
Senior managers - financial, communications and other business services	450	565	795	755	700	360	330	-8.3%
Accommodation service managers	125	140	140	155	170	160	150	-6.3%
Senior managers - construction, transportation, production and utilities	385	430	495	570	625	325	275	-15.4%
Engineering managers	190	295	350	380	405	215	190	-11.6%
Mechanical engineering technologists and technicians	300	355	455	445	485	285	215	-24.6%

Study Permit Holders

Study permit numbers drop considerably when comparing first half of 2024 with same period in 2025 with Ontario and BC taking the biggest reductions while PEI, New Brunswick and Quebec take a lower decrease

Canada - Study permit holders	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% change from 2024 to 2025
NFLD	1,380	3,295	3,895	4,140	1425	2055	1,085	-23.9%
PEI	1,295	1,890	2,420	3,060	765	1450	735	-3.9%
Nova Scotia	5,025	9,970	13,170	16,030	4,695	6,475	3,380	-28.0%
New Brunswick	2,260	5,930	7,690	10,925	2,840	5,460	2,805	-1.2%
Quebec	42,380	63,870	63,395	78,305	26,880	47,680	21,540	-19.9%
Ontario	119,560	219,755	290,980	362,875	125,160	131,505	68,035	-45.6%
Manitoba	8,380	12,600	14,840	19,200	7,280	8,515	5,595	-23.1%
Saskatchewan	3,485	6,395	8,460	12,090	3,890	5,750	2,980	-23.4%
Alberta	12,820	23,730	28,685	42,080	18,070	22,320	12,655	-30.0%
British Columbia	58,980	94,065	110,700	127,160	52,045	51,940	29,915	-42.5%
NWT	20	30	40	50	45	30	30	-33.3%
Nunavut	--	5	--	10	10	0	10	0.0%
NS	580	2,710	4,560	5,735	1900	3140	1,170	-38.4%
Total	255,530	443,515	548,065	681,005	245,055	286,445	149,860	-38.8%

Cuts to study permits are especially pronounced at post secondary levels

Canada - Study permit holders	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
Secondary or less	45,110	63,710	81,670	112,315	52,965	61,655	43,960	-17.0%
Post Secondary	194,375	348,065	427,900	526,105	174,715	205,605	96,465	-44.8%
Other Studies	19,130	34,780	41,975	45,385	17,365	19,140	9,540	-45.1%
Not stated	95	160	150	220	115	95	45	-60.9%
Total - All Canada	255,530	443,515	548,065	681,005	245,055	286,445	149,860	-38.8%

Massive declines in study permit holders between first half of 2024 and 2025 from India, china, Nepal, Ghana and Ukraine

Study Permit Holders	2023 Total	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
India	278,010	99,950	93,005	47,695	-52.3%
China	58,055	25,480	33,015	14,940	-41.4%
Nigeria	37,485	13,980	13,925	10,795	-22.8%
Philippines	33,755	11,780	13,670	8,535	-27.5%
Iran	14,730	5,350	5,965	3,580	-33.1%
Korea, Republic of	10,460	4,015	4,745	3,470	-13.6%
Vietnam	10,740	4,495	6,385	3,445	-23.4%
Algeria	9,340	3,585	6,020	3,395	-5.3%
Mexico	11,360	3,645	4,930	2,900	-20.4%
France	15,390	3,210	10,805	2,740	-14.6%
Colombia	10,450	3,635	3,405	2,535	-30.3%
Nepal	15,885	5,095	4,745	2,520	-50.5%
Brazil	10,365	3,495	3,720	2,505	-28.3%
Bangladesh	9,480	2,885	3,845	2,165	-25.0%
Morocco	7,045	2,600	3,670	2,075	-20.2%
Japan	7,830	2,735	3600	2,015	-26.3%
Cameroon, Federal Republic of	5,990	2,250	2,755	1,995	-11.3%
United States of America	7,705	2,085	4,880	1,990	-4.6%
Ghana	7,415	4,470	3,685	1,705	-61.9%
Ukraine	6,110	3,245	1,920	1,550	-52.2%

Temporary Foreign Workers

Temporary Workers Program Numbers Remained Steady Across the Country between 2024 and 2025

Temporary Foreign Workers Program	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 Q1 & Q2	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
NFLD	430	555	990	1210	2000	1365	1245	-8.8%
PEI	950	1110	1385	1600	1460	975	945	-3.1%
Nova Scotia	2060	2460	3360	4145	3890	2345	2300	-1.9%
New Brunswick	1350	2420	3645	4405	3825	2760	2785	0.9%
Québec	21910	30285	38325	58495	56425	35025	32335	-7.7%
Ontario	29655	33790	41100	49805	53645	31070	31625	1.8%
Manitoba	940	1100	1880	3015	4725	2245	2015	-10.2%
Saskatchewan	605	860	1330	1955	3315	1515	1525	0.7%
Alberta	6660	7130	11300	20280	24875	12080	9875	-18.3%
BC	19580	23420	32000	38360	36935	19640	20255	3.1%
Yukon	75	100	100	115	140	95	95	0.0%
NWT	25	35	70	85	120	55	55	0.0%
Nunavut	15	45	30	85	75	15	25	66.7%
Other	85	115	260	335	325	145	145	0.0%
Total Canada	84095	103150	135365	183275	191270	109310	105195	-3.8%

Numbers of TFW Agricultural workers for 2025 Q1 and Q2 exceeds same period for 2024

TFW Agricultural Workers	2020 total	2021 total	2022 total	2023 total	2024 total	2024 Q1 & Q2	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
NFLD	40	45	55	55	50	20	20	0.0%
PEI	350	395	460	540	420	225	240	6.7%
Nova Scotia	1270	1590	1840	1930	1880	1175	1125	-4.3%
New Brunswick	185	265	430	495	475	365	335	-8.2%
Québec	16205	20050	23045	23050	20935	16390	16495	0.6%
Ontario	22340	24215	27010	27680	27360	19455	19190	-1.4%
Manitoba	515	595	695	770	565	415	415	0.0%
Saskatchewan	280	405	465	450	395	255	250	-2.0%
Alberta	1650	1975	2175	2605	2250	1595	1755	10.0%
BC	8820	11040	13185	15650	11980	7940	8645	8.9%
Total	51655	60575	69360	73225	66310	47835	48480	1.3%

Number of Temporary foreign workers from Mexico on upward trend for first half of 2025 compared to 2024; increases also look to emerge for Guatemala and Jamaica

TFW Source Countries	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 Q1 & Q2
Mexico	27,150	32,770	41,015	45,955	42,135	33,675
India	10,115	10,045	18,910	28,120	39,695	16,560
Guatemala	12,275	15,390	18,575	20,485	20,890	14,595
Philippines	6,875	9,940	12,610	21,495	22,360	9,010
Jamaica	9,060	10,125	11,055	11,440	10,080	7,305
Vietnam	715	1,000	2,015	2,635	3,605	1,865
France	1,065	1,790	2,115	3,615	4,025	1,610
China, People's Republic of	1,005	1,295	1,550	3,270	4,680	1,410
Tunisia	620	1,125	1,625	4,080	3,945	1,175
Morocco	330	560	865	3,560	2,900	1,095

From January to June 2025 the levels of transition to PR status from temporary status has not changed much compared with January to June 2024

Transition to permanent residents from.....	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2
International Mobility Program	50,055	187,505	111,710	146,205	87,520	59,780	77,775
Study permit holders	7,755	22,680	19,740	25,605	14,810	10,770	11,175
TFW's	3,295	10,980	7,555	10,365	7,255	5,545	7,495

Numbers Transitioning from International Mobility program to permanent residents stable over first half of 2025 compared with 2024

Transition International Mobility permit holders to permanent residents	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
NFLD	380	940	1,025	1,960	1405	1020	1,265	-10.0%
PEI	675	1,870	1,525	2,330	1630	820	775	-52.5%
Nova Scotia	1,230	5,550	5,005	5,565	5,095	2735	2,750	-46.0%
New Brunswick	645	2,690	2,805	3,980	3,600	1995	2,565	-28.8%
Quebec	4,850	19,255	22,815	12,505	7,135	8,480	10,755	50.7%
Ontario	19,975	93,895	40,825	61,720	34,575	23,365	33,415	-3.4%
Manitoba	3,105	8,210	6,215	10,170	5,825	3,560	4,290	-26.4%
Saskatchewan	1,605	4,155	3,260	6,445	4,235	2555	2,920	-31.1%
Alberta	6,375	13,070	8,090	12,505	9,115	5,255	6,340	-30.4%
BC	11,080	37,240	19,745	28,265	14,395	9,685	12,280	-14.7%
Canada	50,055	187,505	111,710	146,205	87,520	59,780	77,775	-11.1%

Only slight reduction in numbers of transitioned study permit holders from first half of 2025 compared with first half of 2024

Transition study permit holders to permanent residents	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% Change from 2024 to 2025
NFLD	65	145	230	415	320	240	300	-6.3%
PEI	75	155	160	300	275	135	140	-49.1%
Nova Scotia	210	540	610	800	575	415	450	-21.7%
New Brunswick	135	340	485	780	785	440	575	-26.8%
Quebec	915	2,600	3,865	2,865	1765	1645	1,590	-9.9%
Ontario	3,035	10,505	6,840	8,855	4,765	3,655	3,765	-21.0%
Manitoba	395	965	820	1,795	835	595	705	-15.6%
Saskatchewan	300	625	900	1,635	830	575	615	-25.9%
Alberta	975	2,150	1,660	2,550	1760	1100	1,150	-34.7%
BC	1,635	4,605	4,130	5,505	2,835	1920	1,835	-35.3%
Total	7,755	22,680	19,740	25,605	14,810	10,770	11,175	-24.5%

TFW Transitions for first half of 2025 exceeded numbers for same period over 2024

Admissions of Permanent Residents with Prior TFW Program Work Permit	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Q1 & Q2	2024 Q3 & Q4	2025 Q1 & Q2	% change from 2024 to 2025
NFLD	15	30	30	60	35	30	20	-42.9%
PEI	15	25	20	55	40	30	20	-50.0%
Nova Scotia	35	80	75	120	115	65	70	-39.1%
New Brunswick	30	85	75	145	160	95	85	-46.9%
Quebec	65	235	980	1,345	1385	1555	1,560	12.6%
Ontario	1,240	3,850	2,125	3,490	1960	1575	3,010	53.6%
Manitoba	45	115	85	220	230	185	165	-28.3%
Saskatchewan	35	100	115	170	205	135	120	-41.5%
Alberta	705	1,750	1,440	1,515	1570	870	885	-43.6%
BC	1,110	4,705	2,605	3,230	1555	995	1,550	-0.3%
Canada –	3,295	10,980	7,555	10,365	7,255	5,545	7,495	3.3%