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Canadian Citizenship: Immigration and Identities

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Background

Although not all countries allow dual citizenship, where it is permitted it enables someone to hold two nationalities at the same time without losing any rights. By becoming a dual citizen or dual national, you can benefit from access to both countries' social and healthcare services, avoid visa restrictions and hold two passports for global mobility. However, at the same time, you might face legal and tax obligations in both countries. While exact global rankings are difficult to obtain the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and many EU nations have high rates of dual citizenship with Canada reporting 11.2% (3.7Million) dual citizens. This said, debates about dual citizenship are rising globally and have been generated by an increase in country acceptance and to that end we're seeing some high-profile legislative pushback most recently in the US and elsewhere.

A survey conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that younger Canadians and newcomers like the idea of holding dual citizenship. And a plurality of Canadians disagree that dual citizenship results in dual loyalties. The survey also finds that a majority of Canadian born and immigrant would prefer to be citizens of Canada than any other country. Yet on each of the questions regarding citizenship there are some important differences in opinion which to some extent reflect on debates over national identity. Unlike the US where some legislators want to revisit the issue of dual citizenship, thankfully there is no legislator driving such a conversation in Canada. That which follows will present the latest numbers on dual citizens, where they originate, revisit the most recent newcomer numbers and source countries and present public opinion data on dual citizenship from a survey that was conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies with 1723 respondents in Canada over the period December 19-21, 2025. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparison purposes. A probability sample of 1723 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The growing interest in dual citizenship

- The growing interest in dual citizenship reflects a bigger shift in how people now think about nationality. For generations, passports primarily signaled where someone came from; today they also shape where people can travel, work and live. Until relatively recently, many countries restricted or prohibited dual citizenship, making multiple passports far less common than they are today. However, as geopolitical tensions, pandemic border closures and shifting visa regimes reshape global mobility – and remote work fuels a growing population of digital nomads – a second passport is increasingly seen as a way to keep options open.
- <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20260318-the-rise-of-the-backup-passport>

Dual Citizenship: Key Changes and Trends

Many European countries allow dual citizenship, while many nations in Asia and the Middle East prohibit it. Although 76% of countries allow dual citizenship with the US, some are tightening access to manage security and integration concerns. Despite some tightening, some countries like **Germany** only recently began allowing dual citizenship in June 2024.

- **Japan, China, India, and Singapore** continue to enforce strict single-citizenship policies, requiring the renunciation of foreign citizenship.
- **France** has increased language and integration requirements.
- **Sweden** is proposing to extend residency requirements to seven years.
- **Italy** has reduced the number of generations allowed for citizenship claims.
- **Malta and Cyprus** have terminated or curtailed certain investment-based citizenship programs.

Key Changes to UK Dual Citizenship Entry Rules:

- **Mandatory UK Passport:** Dual citizens cannot use an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) and must use their British (or Irish) passport to enter the UK.
- **Certificate of Entitlement:** If a British passport is not held, travelers must obtain a certificate of entitlement to right of abode, costing £589.
- **Airlines & Boarding:** Carriers may deny boarding to passengers who cannot prove their right of return to the UK via a British passport.

Two-thirds or more of persons born in Bulgaria, Romania, Taiwan, Poland and Switzerland hold dual citizenship and have the highest percentage of such citizenship holders

Canada...Countries with highest percentage of dual citizens by place of birth 2021	Total –Place of Birth Citizenship	Canadian citizens, by birth, and at least one other country	Canadian citizens, by naturalization, and at least one other country	Canadian citizens, by birth, and at least one other country %	Canadian citizens, by naturalization, and at least one other country %	Dual Citizens %
Total – Place of birth	36328475	1000070	2724605	0.027529	0.074999	10
Bulgaria	19700	125	15820	0.006345	0.803046	81
Romania	88650	285	65645	0.003215	0.740496	74
Taiwan	72075	2150	48700	0.02983	0.675685	70
Poland	137605	550	91155	0.003997	0.66244	66
Switzerland	21795	1365	12860	0.062629	0.590044	65
Algeria	87835	370	56450	0.004212	0.642682	65
Lebanon	103405	3295	63455	0.031865	0.613655	64
Moldova	20470	15	12680	0.000733	0.619443	62
Morocco	90395	690	55135	0.007633	0.609934	62
Uruguay	6890	95	4105	0.013788	0.595791	61
Pakistan	245525	2765	146860	0.011262	0.598147	61
Argentina	21520	400	12435	0.018587	0.577835	59
Israel	33840	1740	18305	0.051418	0.540928	59
Colombia	99165	930	56435	0.009378	0.569102	58
Peru	34650	535	19370	0.01544	0.559019	57

Persons born in UK hold highest number of dual citizens followed by the American born, Pakistani and Iranian Born

Total – Place of birth Top 20 numbers of dual citizens by country of birth 2021	3724675
United Kingdom	229900
United States of America	179540
Pakistan	149625
Iran	114825
Hong Kong	107760
Poland	91705
Philippines	87780
France	73050
Lebanon	66750
Romania	65930
India	65795
Portugal	65600
Colombia	57365
Algeria	56820
Italy	56410
Morocco	55825
Jamaica	55515
Taiwan	50850
Mexico	49100
China	49025
Russian Federation	45635

Big drop in the numbers of new citizens to Canada between 2024 and 2025 although Afghanistan was an important exception

Source Countries (Country of Birth) - New Canadian Citizens (in Persons) by Month, January 2023 to January 31, 2026	2023 Total	2024 Total	2025 Jan	2025 Total	2026 / Jan	2026/February
Total	380,005	375,445	28,635	293,920	23,270	27,205
India	77,845	87,285	6415	69,540	5545	6675
Philippines	36,600	37,750	2810	27,505	1995	2095
Nigeria	14,135	13,115	1440	12,760	1270	1 695
Afghanistan	4,165	3,660	280	6,540	790	865
People's Republic of China	12,600	14,150	830	8,885	730	730
Pakistan	13,325	10,815	815	7,470	635	810
United States of America	8,620	9,610	715	9,490	630	725
Iran	10,710	10,310	1050	8,725	595	815
France	8,245	9,245	550	8,810	545	775
Brazil	6,835	9,340	635	6,620	510	520
Syria	12,985	6,945	405	4,470	455	485
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	6,755	6,895	415	5,090	415	450
Vietnam	5,365	5,855	345	4,020	345	395
Algeria	5,455	4,780	270	3,510	335	415
Mexico	4,210	4,875	450	4,045	325	325
Iraq	6,080	3,660	230	2,830	310	335
Morocco	4,835	4,535	245	3,725	290	390
Haiti	4,300	3,400	540	3,395	270	370
Jamaica	5,110	5,400	390	3,865	265	370
Colombia	3,755	4,070	390	3,450	250	305

Applications for PR status also down substantially and the decline continued into February 2026 with Cameroon an important exception

	2023	2024	2025 / Jan	2025	2026 / Jan	2026/Feb
Applications for PR Status	567,195	658,540	40,950	441,745	30,080	27,350
India	135,520	151,060	7,785	78,655	7,230	7,255
Federal Republic of Cameroon	20,335	32,805	1,830	47,235	5,565	5,795
Nigeria	21,830	27,080	2,340	21,750	2,145	1,220
Hong Kong	6,050	8,605	1,175	12,350	1,025	915
Algeria	7,805	9,670	515	9,005	835	650
People's Republic of China	33,870	36,490	1,960	18,000	1,030	785
Philippines	33,565	41,870	2,735	20,865	970	605
Republic of Ivory Coast	3,110	4,660	315	5,380	585	480
Iran	15,745	14,265	765	7,905	535	515
Morocco	7,335	8,700	580	7,095	455	340
France	9,640	12,100	1,095	11,020	430	250
Pakistan	14,390	15,965	1,280	9,035	490	305
Ukraine	13,320	40,345	1,570	11,910	345	320
United States of America	10,550	10,110	805	9,510	580	275

Applications for PR status also down (continued)

	2023	2024	2025 Janaury	2025	2026 January
Applications for PR Status	567,195	658,540	40,950	417,985	26,765
Brazil	6,425	7,610	405	4,520	265
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	4,795	4,840	440	3,935	260
Bangladesh	5,110	5,455	335	3,155	240
Sri Lanka	3,875	5,090	340	2,735	235
Colombia	14,320	8,665	710	5,740	210
Afghanistan	23,410	14,785	865	11,695	200
Togo, Republic of	1,210	1,720	145	1,895	200
Tunisia	5,670	6,555	410	5,095	190
Peoples Republic of Benin	965	1,345	90	1,690	180
Syria	8,990	7,990	490	4,635	175
Mexico	9,575	12,670	1,095	8,070	170
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	4,975	5,160	330	4,535	165
Ghana	2,140	3,460	340	3,490	150
Nepal	2,140	3,265	250	1,840	135
Senegal	1,205	1,845	225	1,875	135
Burkina-Faso	530	990	55	900	120

New study permits issued down from 2023 to 2025 by over 70% and from January 2025 to 2026 it went down yet another 50%...New study permits to students from india went down over 80% from 2023 to 2025 and by another

Source Countries - Applications Processed by IRCC for New Study Permit Applications (in Persons) by Month, from January 2023 to January 2026	2023	2024	2025		2026
	Total	Total	January	Total	January
Total	860,430	578,920	33,940	282,475	14,565
India	306,410	126,860	6,215	49,925	2,110
Nigeria	90,160	57,605	3,845	28,345	2,035
Ghana	17,670	29,420	1,010	7,415	1,065
People's Republic of China	39,610	31,680	1,245	21,130	730
Senegal	13,545	17,975	2,065	11,930	650
Philippines	42,360	24,180	1,040	8,575	460
Federal Republic of Cameroon	18,770	16,725	1,060	7,880	395
Guinea, Republic of	17,175	29,915	3,650	12,515	380
Korea, Republic of	6,115	5,145	330	4,505	370
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	15,350	10,505	840	6,340	360
Haiti	5,485	2,830	305	4,765	340
France	10,980	10,745	260	9,395	325
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	8,565	9,205	440	6,030	320
Japan	6,045	4,850	475	3,775	290
Republic of Ivory Coast	10,320	10,275	1,200	6,260	275
Algeria	25,590	24,160	800	7,570	245
Iran	16,090	13,650	1,165	7,230	230
Mexico	8,580	6,485	460	4,325	205
United States of America	3,925	3,400	160	3,980	195

January 2025 to 2026 authorizations and Visas issued down by over 25% with India the source of the largest number issued

Source Countries - Authorizations and Visas Issued for Permanent Residents (in Persons) January 2023 to February 2026	2023	2024	2025		2026	
	Total	Total	Jan	Total	Jan	Feb
Total	474,795	479,065	38,720	380,485	27,060	30,730
India	138,085	123,640	12,985	97,040	7,010	7,210
Philippines	27,230	33,400	2,820	23,995	1,790	2,495
Nigeria	17,545	20,220	1,810	15,205	1,485	1,465
People's Republic of China	31,670	28,660	2,145	19,830	1,435	1,565
Federal Republic of Cameroon	13,085	22,365	2,005	22,745	1,315	1,135
Eritrea	11,290	15,430	1,005	11,310	785	980
Pakistan	11,465	12,210	700	7,960	655	665
France	10,015	9,880	550	12,165	620	730
Ukraine	3,035	6,770	940	8,400	600	875
Iran	11,870	10,480	585	7,210	530	540
United States of America	10,610	9,275	660	7,550	530	575
Democratic Republic of Sudan	1,990	2,430	335	4,750	470	510
Afghanistan	21,890	10,060	690	7,875	445	535

Columbia and Vietnam were amongst the larger declines in authorizations and visas issued for PR's between 2024 and 2025

Source Countries - Authorizations and Visas Issued for Permanent Residents (in Persons) by Month, January 2023 to January 2026	2023	2024	2025		2026
	Total	Total	January	Total	January
Algeria	6,070	8,085	445	7,375	430
Colombia	4,580	10,080	445	5,630	420
Brazil	7,170	6,025	420	5,095	395
Syria	8,605	7,800	260	4,435	395
Mexico	5,765	6,405	575	5,460	390
Haiti	3,110	5,630	405	5,170	385
Morocco	6,835	7,425	440	6,450	380
Tunisia	3,790	5,670	270	5,000	300
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	4,895	4,250	300	3,190	300
Somalia, Democratic Republic of	4,855	5,620	310	4,265	275
Sri Lanka	2,595	3,945	315	2,940	265
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	6,730	6,695	470	3,875	260

Declines in New Applications and Extensions approved by 15-20% annually from 2023 to 2025 but February 2026 saw gain from February 2025

Source Countries - New Applications and Extensions Approved by IRCC for Temporary Residents (in Persons) by Month, from January 2023 to February 2026	2023	2024	2025			2026	
	Total	Total	January	February	Total	January	February
Total	4,189,450	3,469,355	287,580	263,295	2,819,140	249,870	295,055
India	1,270,920	1,101,550	92,720	82,950	771,645	86,090	97,550
People's Republic of China	383,330	411,085	28,420	23,285	329,065	25,040	21,310
Mexico	122,415	163,005	12,905	14,715	126,830	11,885	15,465
Nigeria	154,355	125,765	13,875	10,550	120,480	9,565	11,790
Philippines	195,590	164,915	11,815	10,480	114,165	8,790	8,880
Ukraine	425,935	74,210	7,485	11,215	98,380	9,920	15,805
Iran	148,415	118,310	11,920	8,590	81,710	4,255	4,325
Colombia	74,660	73,985	6,650	5,900	74,060	6,470	7,645
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	70,115	56,375	4,380	3,960	46,655	3,445	3,610
Algeria	55,845	55,415	5,200	3,685	45,720	3,680	4,225
Jamaica	50,120	42,845	3,625	6,775	44,420	2,720	4,190
Pakistan	64,125	50,925	3,815	3,100	42,940	3,765	4,120
France	49,590	42,285	3,300	4,050	41,800	2,695	4,600
Bangladesh	67,440	61,670	3,870	2,970	37,750	3,530	4,640

**New applications and extensions for temporary residents declined by 20%
between 2024 and 2025 with Nigeria and Iran leading the declines in
percentage...continued...**

Source Countries - New Applications and Extensions Received by IRCC for Temporary Residents (in Persons) by Month, from January 2023 to February 2026			2025			2026	
	Total	Total	January	February	Total	January	February
Total	6,307,480	5,851,400	427,635	383,315	4,413,875	340,340	366,025
India	1,816,860	1,790,185	128,265	90,675	1,237,485	92,950	91,995
People's Republic of China	483,840	489,430	30,980	32,510	421,765	31,690	25,705
Mexico	131,175	233,410	19,940	19,365	186,860	17,820	17,935
Nigeria	340,260	340,500	22,095	18,155	244,465	16,460	17,880
Iran	248,435	200,410	15,140	22,575	112,390	7,105	16,625
Ukraine	449,170	87,980	17,075	23,860	117,150	13,420	16,415
Philippines	254,400	235,490	21,205	13,210	173,700	13,305	12,000
Pakistan	231,960	163,825	10,055	8,685	129,645	9,980	10,125
Colombia	97,795	105,565	9,115	8,935	105,655	8,585	9,830
France	55,425	51,305	4,840	6,735	51,590	4,070	6,765
Algeria	148,175	144,415	8,405	7,565	92,320	5,885	6,565
Bangladesh	151,870	184,765	9,010	7,110	88,430	6,950	6,245
	Temporary Resident applications include: Temporary Resident Visas, Visitor Records, Study Permits, Study Permits Extensions, Work Permits and Work Permits Extensions						



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Public opinion on Citizenship: December 2025



British Columbians most likely to say they would like to hold citizenship in more than one country

	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
I would like to hold citizenship in more than one country							
Yes	37%	28%	32%	40%	35%	35%	46%
No	47%	59%	52%	45%	46%	50%	34%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	16%	13%	16%	15%	19%	16%	20%

Nearly half of Canada's immigrants would like to hold citizenship in more than one country

I would like to hold citizenship in more than one country	Non –Immigrant	Immigrant	White	Visible Minority	South Asian	Chinese	Middle Eastern
Yes	35%	48%	35%	44%	44%	46%	52%
No	50%	35%	50%	35%	24%	42%	34%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	15%	17%	15%	21%	32%	12%	14%

Nearly one in three Canadians agree that people who are citizens of Canada and another country are less loyal to Canada

People who are citizens of Canada and another country (dual citizens) are less loyal to Canada than those who are citizens of Canada only	Total	Male	Female	Betwe	Betwe	Betwe	Betwe	Betwe	65+
				en 18 and 24	en 25 and 34	en 35 and 44	en 45 and 54	en 55 and 64	
Yes	31%	37%	25%	22%	30%	34%	27%	35%	31%
No	41%	39%	43%	51%	49%	42%	41%	35%	35%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	28%	24%	32%	27%	21%	24%	31%	30%	34%

Albertans are more likely to agree than other Canadians that dual citizens are less loyal to Canada

People who are citizens of Canada and another country (dual citizens) are less loyal to Canada than those who are citizens of Canada only	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	31%	29%	28%	33%	26%	39%	25%
No	41%	39%	40%	42%	43%	37%	44%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	28%	32%	32%	25%	31%	25%	31%

A majority of immigrants disagree that people holding dual citizenship are less loyal to Canada

People who are citizens of Canada and another country (dual citizens) are less loyal to Canada than those who are citizens of Canada only	Non –Immigrant	Immigrant	White	Visible Minority	South Asian	Chinese
Yes	32%	26%	32%	24%	22%	29%
No	38%	53%	39%	50%	56%	46%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	30%	21%	29%	26%	22%	25%

A majority of those saying that they would like to hold citizenship in more than one country don't agree that people who have dual citizenship are less loyal to Canada

People who are citizens of Canada and another country (dual citizens) are less loyal to Canada than those who are citizens of Canada only -	I would like to hold citizenship in more than one country - Please answer Yes No or I don't know / I prefer not to respond to the following:	
	Yes	No
Yes	29%	38%
No	54%	36%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	17%	26%
Total	100%	100%

Has there been a decline since march 2023 in the degree to which Canadians say that they would rather be a citizen of Canada than of another country?

I would rather be a citizen of Canada than of any other country in the world (Feb-March 2023)	Total	Born in Canada	Born outside of Canada
NET AGREE	81%	83%	74%
NET DISAGREE	13%	11%	16%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	7%	6%	10%

I would rather be a citizen of Canada than any other country in the world (December 2025)	Total	Non – Immigrant	Immigrant
Yes	67%	68%	62%
No	19%	19%	21%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	14%	13%	17%

Quebecers less likely to have seen decline in preference to be citizen of Canada over other country; gap widens on the basis of age as regards preference for Canadian citizenship over other country

I would rather be a citizen of Canada than of any other country in the world	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
NET AGREE Febr-March 2023	84%	79%	80%	84%	77%	83%
YES December 2025	66%	71%	66%	67%	61%	67%

I would rather be a citizen of Canada than any other country in the world	Between 18 and 24	Between 25 and 34	Between 35 and 44	Between 45 and 54	Between 55 and 64	65+
NET AGREE Febr-March 2023	75%	75%	74%	79%	88%	88%
YES December 2025	40%	57%	54%	71%	74%	85%

A majority of Canadians saying no to preferring Canadian citizenship over others would like to hold citizenship in more than one country; one in three Canadians saying they would rather be citizens of Canada would like to have dual citizenship

I would like to hold citizenship in more than one country - Please answer Yes No or I don't know / I prefer not to respond to the following:	I would rather be a citizen of Canada than any other country in the world - Please answer Yes No or I don't know / I prefer not to respond to the following:	
	Yes	No
Yes	31%	57%
No	56%	35%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	12%	7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

A plurality of Canadians don't think that Quebecers should be allowed to remain citizens of Canada should Quebec become an independent country; Quebecers feel otherwise

Quebecers should be allowed to remain citizens of Canada should Quebec become an independent country -	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	33%	31%	58%	25%	15%	26%	28%
No	45%	45%	26%	51%	57%	57%	44%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	22%	23%	16%	24%	28%	17%	28%

A majority of francophone and anglophone Quebecers believe that Quebecers should be allowed to remain citizens of Canada should Quebec become an independent country

Quebecers should be allowed to remain citizens of Canada should Quebec become an independent country (Quebec Sample)	What is the language you first learned at home in your childhood and that you still understand?		
	Total	French	English
Yes	58%	57%	64%
No	26%	25%	22%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	16%	18%	14%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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