

Immigration Update Canada 2026 Q1 Change relative to Q1 2025

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Twenty percent decline Q1 2025 to Q1 2026 in PRs with Ontario and BC taken bigger share of the drop. In 2025 Quebec accounted for 15% of overall immigration at just over 60 000; In the first three months of 2026 Alberta received the 2nd largest number of PR's

Permanent Residents	2025		2025 Total	2026		2026 Total
	Q1 Total	Apr		Q1 Total	Apr	
Newfoundland and Labrador - Total	1,565	345	5,065	1,400	380	1,780
Prince Edward Island - Total	815	145	2,230	630	150	780
Nova Scotia - Total	2,855	565	9,175	2,570	930	3,500
New Brunswick - Total	3,220	785	10,940	2,535	630	3,165
Quebec -	9,595	4,065	60,130	10,770	4,040	14,810
Ontario - Total	47,340	12,795	169,685	34,835	12,790	47,625
Manitoba - Total	5,390	1,325	18,955	5,190	1,575	6,765
Saskatchewan - Total	4,590	995	14,045	3,355	1,300	4,655
Alberta - Total	13,630	3,535	51,615	11,135	4,170	15,310
British Columbia - Total	14,935	3,420	50,675	10,305	3,710	14,010
Yukon - Total	245	40	715	215	60	275
Northwest Territories - Total	120	35	440	170	50	220
Nunavut - Total	20	5	75	15	20	35
Province/Territory not stated - Total	5	0	25	5	5	10
Total	104,320	28,055	393,770	83,130	29,810	112,940

Ontario and BC take biggest cuts in numbers of economic migrants between 2025 Q1 and 2026 Q1

Economic Immigration						
		Q2	2025 Total		Q2	2026 Total
	Q1 Total	Apr		Q1 Total	Apr	
NFLD	1,395	285	4,130	1,255	305	1,560
PEI	730	130	1,920	560	115	675
Nova Scotia	2,330	430	6,980	2,105	695	2,800
Quebec	6,515	3,130	42,380	6,950	2,480	9,430
Ontario	28,260	7,425	88,570	18,620	5,195	23,810
Manitoba	4,020	860	12,875	4,095	1,015	5,110
Saskatchewan	3,750	745	10,710	2,725	995	3,720
Alberta	6,815	1,470	21,880	5,910	1,730	7,635
British Columbia	9,795	2,050	28,545	5,890	1,535	7,425
Yukon	215	30	595	190	50	245
NWT	95	15	320	150	35	185
Nunavut	10	--	35	10	15	25

Numbers of Refugees admitted remains stable between 2025 Q1 and 2026 Q1 in the East, less so in the West

Resettled Refugee & Protected Person in Canada - Total						
		Q2	2025 Total		Q2	2026 Total
	Q1 Total	Apr		Q1 Total	Apr	
NFLD	85	50	585	95	40	135
PEI	30	0	90	15	10	30
Nova Scotia	220	65	930	195	75	270
New Brunswick	115	55	655	120	75	195
Quebec	1,025	330	6,620	1,510	445	1,955
Ontario	5,730	1,750	28,525	5,885	2,530	8,415
Manitoba	440	215	2,450	285	205	490
Saskatchewan	300	90	1,130	220	85	305
Alberta	2,580	840	12,420	1,840	790	2,630
British Columbia	1,175	330	5,735	990	420	1,410

Quebec sees biggest increase in family reunification in first four months of 2026

Sponsored Family						
		Q2	2025 Total		Q2	2026 Total
	Q1 Total	Apr		Q1 Total	Apr	
NFLD	70	15	305	50	35	80
PEI	55	15	205	55	20	75
Nova Scotia	280	65	1,185	255	160	410
New Brunswick	180	60	855	175	100	270
Quebec	1,825	590	10,370	2,150	1,080	3,230
Ontario	11,190	3,245	46,655	9,355	4,785	14,145
Manitoba	805	235	3,335	765	340	1,105
Saskatchewan	490	155	2,085	400	220	620
Alberta	3,600	1,135	15,730	3,150	1,570	4,720
British Columbia	3,610	995	15,195	3,240	1,700	4,945

Almost Half of the overall reduction in PR numbers came from the decline in admissions from India

Country of Citizenship permanent residents	2025 Q1 Total	2026 Q1 Total	Difference
Total	104,320	83, 130	-20%
India	31,690	21,565	-32%
Philippines	7,160	6,225	-13%
China, People's Republic of	6,300	4,695	-25%
Nigeria	4,585	4,270	-7%
Cameroon, Federal Republic of	4,655	3,845	-17%
Ukraine	2,445	2,270	-7%
France	2,015	2,235	+11%
Pakistan	2,410	1,830	-24%
United States of America	1,965	1,720	-12%
Iran	1,845	1,645	-11%
Colombia	2,295	1,600	-30%
Mexico	1,465	1,465	0
Eritrea	2,410	1,400	-42%
Algeria	1,180	1,325	+12%
Morocco	1,015	1,025	+1%

After major drop in study permit holders declines continue into 2026 with
India reduction at 42% from Q1 2025

Country of Citizenship Study Permit Holders	2025	2025	2026	Q2	
	Q1 Total	Total	Q1 Total	Apr	Reduction Q1 2025 to Q1 2026
Total unique persons Canada	93,910	381,310	71,315	24,345	
India	29,940	93,915	17,480	5,795	-42%
China, People's Republic of	9,305	48,825	7,645	3,175	-18%
Nigeria	6,800	25,395	5,085	1,755	-25%
Philippines	4,480	19,870	4,020	1,160	-10%
Ukraine	870	6,535	3,095	1,460	+256%
Korea, Republic of	2,540	8,735	1,905	740	-25%
Vietnam	2,050	9,745	1,845	710	-10%
Iran	2,310	9,090	1,710	590	-26%
France	2,070	13,340	1,620	445	-22%
Mexico	1,940	7,920	1,515	415	-7%
Brazil	1,440	6,180	1,345	360	-7%
Algeria	2,175	7,655	1,280	405	-41%
United States of America	1,120	8,475	1,240	375	+11%
Bangladesh	1,365	5,545	1,135	410	-17%
Colombia	1,540	5,780	1,145	335	-26%

Asylum Claimants drop considerably from Q1 2025 to Q1 2026

Canada - Asylum Claimants by Province/Territory* of Claim, Age and Claim Year, January 2025-April 2026						
		Q2	2025		Q2	2026
	Q1 Total	Apr	Total	Q1 Total	Apr	Total
Canada	28,450	10,495	113,105	18,605	3,970	22,580
Newfoundland and Labrador	15	10	115	30	0	30
Prince Edward Island	15	--	55	25	0	25
Nova Scotia	95	25	410	110	20	125
New Brunswick	85	30	390	85	20	100
Quebec	9,125	4,500	38,500	5,000	1,015	6,015
Ontario	13,930	4,345	52,520	9,050	2,105	11,155
Manitoba	420	105	1,700	340	120	460
Saskatchewan	130	50	635	135	20	155
Alberta	1,710	565	7,380	1,415	285	1,695
British Columbia	2,915	865	11,370	2,410	390	2,805

Asylum Claimants Drop considerably especially Haitian border claims in April 2026, airport and inland claims from India, airport and inland claims from Iran

Canada - Asylum Claimants by Top Twenty-Five Countries of Citizenship (2025 ranking), Claim Office Type and Claim Year, January 2025 - April 2026						
			Q2	2025		Q2
		Q1 Total	Apr	Total	Q1 Total	Apr
	Airport	40	30	255	30	10
	Border	2,110	2,675	13,855	1,340	120
	Inland	370	115	3,500	645	135
(1) Haiti		2,520	2,820	17,610	2,010	265
	Airport	995	265	2,245	175	50
	Border	70	10	155	25	15
	Inland	4,130	1,230	14,800	2,990	325
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(2) India		5,190	1,505	17,200	3,185	390
	Airport	35	5	90	10	--
	Border	--	0	10	--	--
	Inland	1,710	600	6,825	1,440	185
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(3) Iran		1,745	605	6,930	1,455	190
	Airport	435	185	1,390	160	75
	Border	5	5	45	10	0
	Inland	1,325	405	4,965	875	145
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(4) Nigeria		1,765	595	6,400	1,045	220
	Airport	70	15	210	65	25
	Border	45	35	160	15	--
	Inland	1,110	345	4,470	1,010	165
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(5) Mexico		1,220	395	4,840	1,090	195

Smaller but significant reductions in inland claims from China,
Pakistan and Bangladesh

Q1 Canada - Asylum Claimants by Top Twenty-Five Countries of Citizenship (2025 ranking), Claim Office Type and Claim Year, January 2015 - April 2026Q2		Q1 Total	Q2 April	2025 Total	Q1 April	Q2
	Border	10	0	20	5	0
	Airport	10	0	20	5	0
	Inland	1,035	320	4,015	720	185
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(6) China, People's Republic of		1,130	355	4,385	790	210
	Airport	40	10	165	30	20
	Border	185	65	750	115	35
	Inland	625	190	2,700	405	120
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(7) Pakistan		850	265	3,615	550	170
	Airport	75	10	275	20	10
	Border	--	--	20	--	--
	Inland	905	275	3,315	470	115
(8) Bangladesh		985	290	3,610	495	130
	Airport	90	30	330	45	25
	Border	5	--	25	--	--
	Inland	660	225	2,540	370	50
(9) Ghana		755	255	2,900	420	75
	Airport	125	25	345	70	40
	Border	230	65	685	80	15
	Inland	390	130	1,380	240	95
	Other Offices	0	0	0	0	0
(10) Colombia		745	220	2,410	390	150

Causes of reductions in asylum claimants

- **Stricter Visa Requirements:** Canada implemented heightened screening for Temporary Resident Visas (TRVs) and introduced a partial visa requirement for Mexican nationals, causing airport-based claims to plummet. [[1](#), [2](#)]
- **Bill C-12 (Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act):** Enacted to increase the integrity of the system, this legislation introduced stricter eligibility rules and closed loopholes utilized by temporary residents (such as some students) trying to use the asylum system as an alternative immigration route. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]
- **Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) Expansions:** The additional protocol to the STCA requires asylum-seekers to claim protection in the first safe country they arrive in. This has drastically reduced claims from individuals crossing between ports of entry (such as the former Roxham Road route)
- **Broader Immigration Reduction Targets:** Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has actively reduced overall temporary resident arrival targets to alleviate strain on domestic housing and social services.
- **System Pressures:** While 2026 application numbers have hit a two-year low, the existing mountain of unresolved cases means wait times will remain elevated for months.