

IMMIGRATION FACTS

- Immigration promotes cultural diversity, benefitting all Canadians
- Immigrants help strengthen the economy by providing skills much needed by employers and contribute to the community in many ways (e.g. volunteers)
- Canada accepted 257,515 permanent residents in 2012. Since 2000 Canada has received well over 200,000 permanent residents every year
- The majority of immigrants to Alberta move to Calgary, followed by Edmonton, Red Deer, Wood Buffalo, and Lethbridge
- In 2012 Alberta received 35,764 permanent residents; 551 of them arrived in Lethbridge.
- The economic category of immigrants comprised 68.6% compared to 22.6% family class, 6.8% refugees, and 2% for others in 2010
- More than 35,000 persons immigrated to Alberta in 2012. This was an increase of at least 4,801 persons more than the previous year
- Immigrants to Alberta had the second highest labour force participation and employment rates in 2010 (Manitoba ranked first)
- Working age immigrants tend to be younger than native born Canadians, which will help lessen the impact of the large number of baby boomers retiring in the next 20 years
- 36.9% of immigrants to Alberta in 2010 held a university degree
- The top four industries employing immigrants in Alberta are: health care and social assistance; retail and wholesale; accommodation and food services; and professional, scientific, and technical services
- More than 35,000 temporary foreign workers arrived in Alberta in 2012. This was an increase of at least 10,000 foreign workers from 2011. Philippines was the top source country of foreign workers from 2007-2010.
- In 2012 there were 68,319 temporary foreign workers in Alberta, with 917 in Lethbridge.
- 1009 refugees arrived in Alberta in 2011, which brings the total number of refugees living in the province to 6,057.
- Lethbridge is home to over 700 Bhutanese refugees
- 794 refugee claimants arrived in Alberta in 2011, which brings the total number of refugee claimants to 5,750
- 6,344 international students arrived in Alberta in 2012; 230 of which were in Lethbridge
- As of 2012, there were 18,519 total number of international students present in Alberta; 591 of which were in Lethbridge

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