

Immigration in Canada and Atlantic Canada: January – June 2024

Data presented in this section are provided by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) under agreement with Saint Mary's University Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD) under the auspices of Saint Mary's University. We thank IRCC for sharing these data.

Permanent Residents destined towards Canada, Provinces and Territories

In the first six months of 2024, over a quarter million people were granted a permanent resident status (PR) in Canada. About 9 percent of them were destined towards Atlantic Canada. The highest number destined towards Atlantic Canada was towards New Brunswick, followed closely by Nova Scotia while Newfoundland & Labrador and Prince Edward Island together were destinations of a quarter of them. (Table 1).

Table 1: Permanent Resident status granted in Canada by Province and Territories of intended residence, 2024 (Jan-June)

Province	Permanent Residents
Newfoundland & Labrador	3,020
Prince Edward Island	2,500
Nova Scotia	8,335
New Brunswick	8,895
Quebec	30,325
Ontario	106,585
Manitoba	13,430
Saskatchewan	13,025
Alberta	34,405
British Columbia	34,545
Yukon	535
Northwest Territories	235
Nunavut	25
Not stated	20
Canada Total	255,870
Atlantic Canada Total	22,750

India was the top sending country of PRs in Canada, representing 29 percent of total. Philippines ranked second with a distant 7 percent, followed by China (4.4 percent), Nigeria (3.8 percent) and Afghanistan (2.3 percent). Together, these countries comprised 46.5 percent of total PRs during the first six months of 2024. (Table 2).

Table 2: Top five source countries of Permanent Residents destined towards Canada, 2024 (Jan-June).

Country	Number	Rank
India	74665	1
Philippines	17030	2
China, People's Republic of	11390	3
Nigeria	9740	4
Afghanistan	6985	5

The composition of top five source countries of PRs destined towards Atlantic provinces was different from that found nationally. India was the top source country in 3 of the 4 provinces, the exception being Newfoundland & Labrador where it ranked second, preceded by Philippines (Table 3).

Table 3: Top five source countries of Permanent Residents destined towards Atlantic Provinces, 2024 (Jan-June).

Country	NS		NL		PEI		NB	
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number
India	1	4,005	2	505	1	1,085	1	1,815
Philippines	2	815	1	825	2	505	2	995
China, People's Republic of	3	525			3	125		
Korea, Republic of	4	190						
Nigeria	4	190	4	190			5	550
Ukraine			3	300				
United States	5	170						
Vietnam					4	120		
Hong Kong					5	105		
Cameroon							3	750
Algeria							4	560
Afghanistan			5	160				

Work Permits issued in Canada and for Atlantic Canada during the first six months of 2024

Work permit holders are temporary residents admitted to meet labour shortages if current Canadian residents are not available to fill the vacant positions. During January–June, Canada issued 520,665 work permits, more than twice the number of PRs. Their number destined towards Atlantic Canada was 25,945 which was about 14 percent higher than PRs whose data were reported in Table 1. (Table 4).

Table 4: New Work Permits issued, Canada by intended destination province and territories.

Province	Work Permits issued (Jan-June 2024)
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,335
Prince Edward Island	2,520
Nova Scotia	10,845
New Brunswick	8,245
Quebec	77,315
Ontario	188,875
Manitoba	16,925
Saskatchewan	8,985
Alberta	49,075
British Columbia	77,810
Yukon	595
Northwest Territories	215
Nunavut	55
Not stated	74,870
Canada Total	520,665
Atlantic Canada Total	25,945

India was the top source country of new work permit holders in Canada, followed by Philippines, Iran, Ukraine and Mexico in the top five list. (Table 5).

Table 5: New work permit holders from top five source countries, Jan-June 2024.

Country	Number	Rank
India	124585	1
Philippines	24615	3
Iran	2328	5
Ukraine	89420	2
Mexico	23460	4

Among Atlantic Provinces, India was the top source country in NS for new work permit holders, followed by Ukraine, Mexico, Philippines and Jamaica. India ranked second in NL, and third in PEI and NB. Philippines was the largest source in NL, while Mexico sent the highest numbers in PEI and NB. (Table 6).

Table 6: Top five source countries of work permit holders in Atlantic Canada, Jan-June 2024.

	NS		NL		PEI		NB	
Country	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.	Rank	No.
India	1	3,920	2	475	3	465	3	1,060
Philippines	4	775	1	935	2	490	2	1,240
China, People's Republic of					4	180		
Nigeria			5	185				
Ukraine	2	1,330			5	110	4	1,015
Iran			3	250				
Mexico	3	1,025	4	235	1	510	1	1,465
Jamaica	5	680					5	415

Data and Research news

Data

Saint Mary's University and Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship entered a data sharing agreement in 2023 under which IRCC shares a list of data Tables with ARGEIAD. To gain access to these data, researchers may write to Dr. Ather H. Akbari (Ather.Akbari@smu.ca).

Research

On-going

- “Religion and human capital returns in Canada” in progress with Mohshinul Karim.
- Human capital returns for immigrants and native-born in Atlantic Canada (with Hui Xiao).
- How much does social interaction on campus help international students in finding jobs in their field of study? (with Nicholas Manuel).

Completed projects

- “Immigration in Atlantic Canada.” Three-year grant received from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) as a co-applicant with Tony Fang of Memorial University of Newfoundland (2021-24). A second student finished her MAE MRP based on this project.
- “Retention of International Students in Atlantic Canada.” A major survey-based research project completed under the auspices of Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD); funded by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Survey was conducted with cooperation

from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Final survey-based report and policy brief have been [posted on ARGEIAD's web site](#).

[Policy Brief\(English\)](#), [Policy Brief\(French\)](#))

- Movements of immigrants and native-born Canadians between Nova Scotia and other provinces of Canada. Survey research completed in collaboration with Group ATN on behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia. This project is an extension of another survey-based research completed for the [Province of Nova Scotia in 2021](#).

Presentations

- Presentation at the Annual Canadian Economics Association conference held at Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Ontario (June 2024).
- [Results of International Students research](#) presented for:
 - Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU)
 - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada (IRCC)
 - University of Prince Edward Island
- Presentation at the 4th [Canadian – German Webinar: Navigating the arrangements of entrance and settlement – Germany and Canada in comparative perspective](#). (Carleton University, University of Berlin and Federal Labour Department, Germany).
- [Presentation at Western Regional Enterprise Network \(Nova Scotia\): Who comes, who stays, who leaves Nova Scotia and why?](#)
- [Presentation at the 50th Annual conference of Atlantic Canada Economics Association \(ACEA\): Social Life on campus and job-education matching for international students in Atlantic Canada](#)
- [Panel organized at the 50th Annual Conference of Atlantic Canada Economics Association \(ACEA\): Long-term Care for Seniors: Some Best Practices and Public Policy in Nova Scotia](#)
- [Virtual presentation for Global Labour Organization](#)

News media mentions

- <https://www.affairesuniversitaires.ca/articles-de-fond/article/dommages-collateraux/>
- <https://universityaffairs.ca/opinion/in-my-opinion/atlantic-canada-needs-international-students/>
- <https://financialpost.com/news/economy/labour-shortage-atlantic-canada-immigration>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/week-how-international-students-drive-economic-development-cqahc/>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-27-information-morning-ns/clip/16090939-major-changes-coming-temporary-foreign-worker-program>