

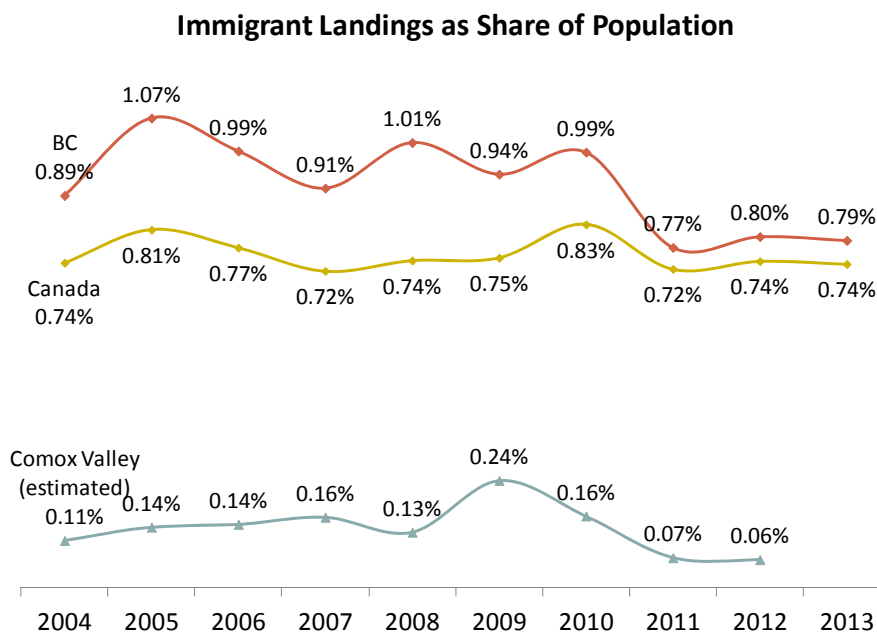
COMOX VALLEY IMMIGRATION PROFILE

Note: This profile is an update of Appendix A of the 2012 study *International Education in the Comox Valley: Current and Potential Economic Impacts*.

IMMIGRATION TRENDS

Canada has welcomed an average of 253,000 international immigrants per year over the last decade, adding 0.7% to 0.8% to the national population each year.

British Columbia's immigrant landings are typically between 35,000 and 45,000 people per year, although they are significantly lower in the last three years (2011-2013) compared to previous years. The population increase from immigration has been around 0.8% per year since 2011, down from the 1.0% range in prior years.



The estimated level of immigration to the Comox Valley has averaged 85 people per year over the last decade, but has varied significantly from a high of 155 immigrants in 2009 to a low of 40 immigrants in 2012.

Table 1. Immigrant Landings

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Canada	235,823	262,242	251,640	236,753	247,245	252,172	280,688	248,748	257,894	258,619
British Columbia	37,026	44,770	42,084	38,961	43,993	41,440	44,188	34,787	36,242	36,161
Comox Valley*	62	82	87	99	80	155	104	44	41	n/a

*Note: The number of immigrants is still reported for the old Comox-Strathcona regional boundaries. From 2006 to 2011 the Comox Valley attracted 69% of the total external migrants to the combined Comox-Strathcona area (according to the National Household Survey), so it is assumed that the Comox Valley receives 69% of the total Comox-Strathcona immigrants each year. Regional data for 2013 has not yet been released.

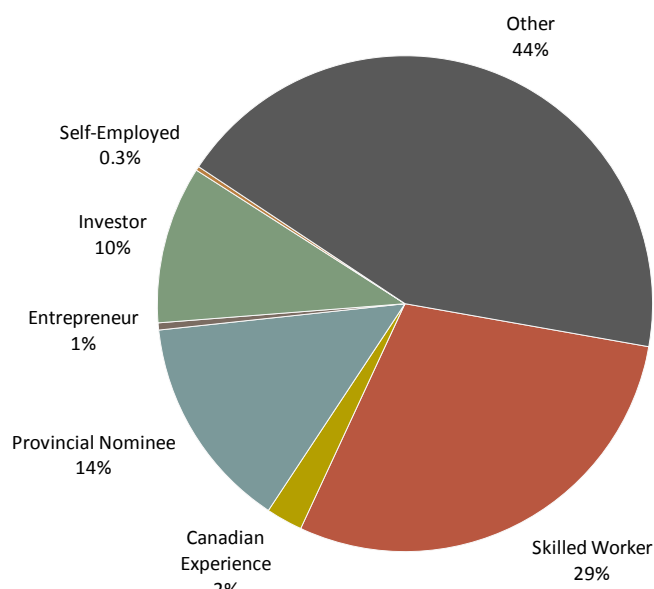
Source: BC Stats (using Statistics Canada immigration data, BC Stats and Statistics Canada population estimates)

There are many different categories of immigrants and not all are equally relevant to economic development.

Table 2 shows that in 2013, just under half of immigrants to BC were in the "economic classes," but there has been a significant decline in the number of skilled worker, provincial nominee, entrepreneur and self-employed immigrants

from 2011 to 2013 relative to previous years. Only the investor class is consistently trending upward.

BC Immigrants by Class, 2009-2013



Note the "Canadian Experience" class was introduced only in 2009 and applies to people who were previously in the country as students or some other temporary basis but had acquired language and other relevant skills for contributing to the economy.

Table 2. BC Immigrant Landings by Class

Immigration Class	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average, 2009-2013
Skilled Worker	12,086	16,661	10,031	9,939	7,452	11,234
Canadian Experience	385	572	1,021	1,613	1,000	918
Investor	4,709	4,900	4,305	5,943	7,128	5,397
Provincial Nominee	336	234	152	104	66	178
Entrepreneur	5,557	5,510	3,861	2,644	2,263	3,967
Self-Employed	181	116	75	66	78	103
Other*	18,186	16,195	15,342	15,867	18,174	16,753
Total	41,440	44,188	34,787	36,176	36,161	38,550
Immigrants in "Economic Classes"	56%	63%	56%	56%	50%	57%

* Other includes Family, Refugee, Live-In Caregiver and Other.

Source: BC Stats (using data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada)

Table 3 shows the top source countries for economy-related immigrants over the last three years (2011 to 2013). China is easily the biggest source of economy-related immigrants and the top four countries are all in Asia.

Overall 54% of immigrants in the last three years were in the economy-related classes but the share varies significantly by country. Some countries send primarily economy-related immigrants (more than three-quarters of all immigrants from South Korea, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates are economy-related), while economy-related immigrants are the minority from India, the Philippines, the United States and Mexico.

Table 3. Main Source Countries for Economy-Related Immigrants, 2011-2013

Source Country	Economy-Related Immigrants*	Total Immigrants	Economy- Related Share
China	14,917	24,388	61%
India	6,300	15,726	40%
Philippines	6,243	14,319	44%
South Korea	4,573	5,471	84%
England	2,894	4,116	70%
Iran	2,785	3,963	70%
United States	2,111	4,959	43%
Taiwan	1,511	2,138	71%
Japan	949	1,758	54%
Mexico	939	1,947	48%
South Africa	814	1,024	79%
Australia	751	1,297	58%
Germany	740	1,068	69%
Pakistan	721	1,241	58%
United Arab Emirates (not inc. 2013)	538	631	85%
Russia	497	915	54%
Hong Kong	370	978	38%
Other	9,657	19,917	48%
Grand Total	57,310	105,856	54%

* Economy-related immigrants include the categories shown in Table 2 (Skilled Worker, Canadian Experience, Investor, Provincial Nominee, Entrepreneur and Self-Employed).

Source: BC Stats (using data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada)

COMOX VALLEY IMMIGRANTS

As of 2011, the Comox Valley had nearly 600 immigrants who had arrived in the previous five years. The United Kingdom, the United States and South Korea are the largest sources of new immigrants to the region. The UK and US are long-established sources of immigration to the region, but the influx of South Korean immigrants is new and more than tripled the South Korean immigrant population.

In total, immigrants make up about 13% of the Comox Valley population, which is less than half the BC rate of 28%. But the percentage of UK immigrants in the Valley is nearly double the provincial rate and there are also slightly more American immigrants. The number of immigrants from elsewhere in Europe is close to the provincial average, but the Valley has significantly fewer immigrants from most other parts of the world, particularly Asia (see the comparisons in the two right-hand columns of Table 4 below).

Table 4. Place of Birth for Immigrants Living in the Comox Valley, 2011

Place of Birth	Comox Valley			BC
	Recent Immigrants (2006-2011)	Total Immigrants (as of 2011)	Immigrant Share of Population	Immigrant Share of Population
United Kingdom	165	3,285	5.3%	3.0%
United States	100	980	1.6%	1.3%
South Korea	90	125	0.2%	0.9%
Other Europe	45	2,090	3.3%	4.4%
Other Asia	35	270	0.4%	5.2%
Philippines	30	155	0.2%	2.2%
China	25	150	0.2%	3.9%
Oceania and other	20	250	0.4%	0.7%
Africa	10	175	0.3%	0.9%
India	10	50	0.1%	3.3%
Viet Nam	10	190	0.3%	0.6%
Other Americas	10	240	0.4%	1.1%
Total Immigrants	595	7,960	12.7%	27.6%

Source: Statistics Canada Census