

Express Entry Year-End Report 2016



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Express Entry Year-End Report 2016

Express Entry Overview

Express Entry is Canada's application management system for certain economic programs including the Federal Skilled Worker Program, Federal Skilled Trades Program, Canadian Experience Class and a portion of the Provincial Nominee Program. Potential candidates express their interest in immigrating to Canada by first completing a profile online that is then pre-assessed to see if they meet criteria of one of the three federal immigration programs mentioned above. Candidates who meet these criteria are given a score by the system based on the information in their profile and ranked against others who also meet these same criteria. Only the candidates with top scores get an invitation to apply for permanent residence.

Express Entry was designed with three main objectives in mind: 1) flexibility in selection and application management, 2) responsiveness to labour market and regional needs and 3) speed in application processing. In its two years of operation, Express Entry has met its objectives.

In 2016, almost 34,000 invitations to apply for permanent residence were issued to Express Entry candidates representing an increase of 3,000 from 2015. Since the launch of Express Entry, a total of 43,202 individuals (applicants and their families) have been admitted to Canada as permanent residents. Key findings indicate that these applicants are highly skilled immigrants and many have studied in fields related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The top ten occupations of these permanent residents included software and computer engineering fields.

Provinces, territories and employers have successfully used Express Entry to fill regional and labour market needs. Express Entry increases the labour market responsiveness of the immigration system by providing employers with a greater role through job offers to candidates which, if all conditions are met, increases their chances of receiving an invitation to apply.

In addition, the processing time commitment of six months for 80% of cases has been met and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will continue to monitor the performance of Express Entry and make adjustments as necessary.

To ensure a more fair and responsive immigration system that addresses emerging needs and long-term economic growth for Canada, targeted improvements were made to Express Entry on November 19, 2016. These improvements include the following:

- Reducing the number of points awarded for job offers to 50 points to candidates with a valid job offer in a National Occupational Classification (NOC) O, A or B occupation and 200 points to candidates with a valid job offer in a NOC 00 occupation; this change rebalances the Comprehensive Ranking System and allows for more highly skilled candidates to receive an invitation to apply;
- Awarding points for job offer to certain candidates already in Canada on Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) exempt work permits. For example, candidates who are here under the North American Free Trade Agreement, a federal provincial agreement or Mobilité Francophone no longer need to obtain a LMIA to be awarded job offer points. These candidates

must meet certain criteria, such as at least one year of work experience from the same employer who is providing their job offer;

- Changing the job offer requirement from indeterminate to one year; this allows for more highly skilled candidates working in contract-based industries to have a higher likelihood of receiving an invitation to apply for permanent residence;
- Awarding 15 points for a one- to two-year diploma or certificate and 30 points for a degree, diploma or certificate of three years or longer, or for a Master's, professional or doctoral degree of at least one academic year; these changes allow for more former international students, which are a key source of candidates because of their age, education, skills and experience, to be able to transition to permanent residence using Express Entry;
- Finally, providing 90 days, instead of the previous 60 days, to candidates to complete their application for permanent residence after they receive an invitation to apply.

Express Entry Results to Date

In January and February 2016, IRCC held regular invitation rounds issuing about 1,500 invitations per round. As planned, smaller invitation rounds (between 750 and 1,000) were held between March and August 2016 to allow the department to continue processing applications received prior to the launch of Express Entry. During these months, a larger share of foreign nationals with a job offer or a Provincial Nomination were invited as they were awarded an additional 600 points. In doing so, a smaller share of candidates without either a job offer or a Provincial Nomination received an invitation to apply for permanent residence.

In September 2016, invitation round sizes began to grow reaching close to 3,000 invitations per round by December 2016. During this time, improvements to Express Entry were also implemented. These changes have helped to attract top talent in the world, including former international students, experienced professionals and talented workers who will strengthen Canada's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

The Express Entry pool is now the main source of permanent residence applications in the economic immigration category of the Immigration Levels Plan.

Express Entry Profiles Submitted to the Express Entry Pool

Those who meet the criteria of one of the federal immigration programs managed by the Express Entry system (i.e. Federal Skilled Worker, Canadian Experience Class and Federal Skilled Trades Program) are accepted into a pool of candidates. Provincial Nominees participating in Express Entry must also meet the criteria of one of these three immigration programs.

As of January 3, 2017, a total of 353,230 Express Entry profiles were submitted by foreign nationals since launched on January 1, 2015. Of these, 170,221 were found not eligible because they did not meet the criteria of at least one of the three programs; 1,554 were pending pool entry due to Job Bank registration or verification of their Provincial Nomination by a province or territory requirement; 64,938 were in the pool as active candidates or with an outstanding invitation to apply; and the remaining 116,517 profiles have exited the pool.

Exit from the Express Entry pool can occur due to a variety of factors:

- A profile expires (47,859 profiles expired as of January 3, 2017) because it has reached the 1-year expiry limit or a candidate does not decline an invitation to apply and does not submit an application within the 90-day mandatory period¹;
- A profile is withdrawn from the pool by a candidate (27,192 as of January 3, 2017);
- An invited candidate successfully submits an application for permanent residence (41,466 applications as of January 3, 2017);
- A candidate becomes ineligible (e.g. the candidate's language test expires).

Table 1: Cumulative Profiles Submitted to the Express Entry Pool

	As of January 3, 2016	As of January 3, 2017
Profiles submitted	188,262	353,230
Not eligible	88,048	170,221
Pending	1,303	1,554
Profiles in the pool		
Active candidates	60,042	58,328
Invitation to apply outstanding	3,895	6,610
Profiles no longer in the pool		
Expired	2,656	47,859
Profile withdrawn from the pool	13,684	27,192
Applications submitted for processing*	18,634	41,466

*Total applications submitted for permanent residence in years 2015 and 2016 excludes cancelled cases.

Composition of the Express Entry Pool

Express Entry automatically assigns a Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score to candidates who submit a profile. A candidate's CRS score is divided into two portions. The candidate's "core" CRS score can reach a maximum of 600 points and it is based on the candidate's age, education, official language proficiency, work experience, and a combination of these human capital attributes. An additional 600 points is awarded to the candidate if they meet policy or other objectives such as having a provincial nomination, a job offer, or obtained education in Canada above high school. A candidate's maximum CRS score is 1,200 points. All information is self-reported and must be supported with appropriate documentation at the application stage or the candidate will be refused.

Candidates in the pool are ranked according to their CRS score at the time of an invitation round. CRS scores may change as a candidate's circumstances change. For example, a candidate could complete another post-secondary degree, gain more work experience or be nominated by a province or territory. The Express Entry pool is dynamic and a candidate's rank may change as other candidates join and leave the pool.

Candidates with higher CRS scores have a higher likelihood of being invited. The CRS score distribution of candidates in the pool as of January 3, 2017, is presented in Table 2. This distribution is made up of candidates with a wide range of scores based on their human capital attributes and additional points.

¹Prior to November 19, 2016, the mandatory period to submit an application was 60 days.

Table 2: Comprehensive Ranking System Score Distribution of Candidates in the Express Entry Pool as of January 3, 2017*

Comprehensive Ranking System Score	Number of candidates
>1000	401
950 - 999	63
900 - 949	19
850 - 899	2
800 - 849	0
750 - 799	1
700 - 749	0
650 - 699	2
600 - 649	2
550 - 599	11
500 - 549	136
450 - 499	7,009
400 - 449	14,041
440 - 449	2,815
430 - 439	3,140
420 - 429	2,262
410 - 419	2,718
400 - 409	3,106
350 - 399	19,716
390 - 399	3,053
380 - 389	3,585
370 - 379	4,304
360 - 369	4,304
350 - 359	4,470
300 - 349	14,488
340 - 349	4,278
330 - 339	3,702
320 - 329	2,990
310 - 319	2,144
300 - 309	1,374
250 - 299	1,949
200 - 249	289
150 - 199	127
100 - 149	54
<100	18
Total	58,328

*The above table provides a snapshot of the Express Entry pool as of January 3, 2017, but it is important to note that the pool is dynamic with candidates entering and leaving the pool daily.

It is important to note that the distribution of the pool changes each time a new candidate enters or leaves the Express Entry pool. On January 3, 2017, about 7,600 candidates had a CRS score above 450. Since then, large rounds have taken place; most of these candidates have been invited, lowering the CRS cut-off, which is the CRS score of lowest-ranked candidate invited.

As a result of the improvements implemented on November 19, 2016, all candidates in the pool were re-ranked based on the new CRS structure. Many candidates that once had a CRS score above 600 for a job offer were reallocated into a CRS score range below 500. As a result, CRS score ranges in the high 400s are now considered to be more competitive.

To improve their rank in the pool, and if applicable, candidates are encouraged to update their profile and obtain additional points for a job offer, and education obtained in Canada. Candidates can also try to increase their CRS score by providing an Educational Credential Assessment for their education acquired abroad, provide language test results for their second language proficiency, and provide information on their spouse or partner's education and language proficiency.

Results of Express Entry Invitation Rounds to Apply for Permanent Residence

The following tables display the distribution of those invited by additional point type, across economic immigration program, top ten occupations, country of residence, and country of citizenship. Over time, we expect these distributions to continue to change as the size of invitation rounds remains constant and progressively lowers the CRS cut-off.

The first round in 2016 invited a larger than usual share of Provincial Nominees resulting in a minimum CRS score above 450. During the last three months of 2015, the share of Provincial Nominees increased in the pool. Some of these candidates were nominated after the last round in 2015 and stayed in the pool until the first round of 2016. For rounds in January and February 2016, invitation round sizes were stable at around 1,500. The minimum CRS score hovered just above 450.

Between March and August 2016, IRCC held small and regular invitation rounds. This allowed the department to continue processing permanent residence applications received prior to the launch of Express Entry. Smaller invitation rounds led to a higher CRS cut-off and in some rounds, it was above 500. Starting in September 2016, processing of these applications was well advanced and invitation round sizes began to increase. By the last invitation round of 2016, close to 3,000 invitations were issued. Express Entry is now the main source of permanent residence applications to meet annual immigration levels targets for Canadian Experience Class, Federal Skilled Workers and Federal Skilled Trades.

Candidates may be eligible to be invited in more than one program. At the time an invitation is sent, IRCC invites candidates to apply to a specific program. Those who are eligible for more than one program are invited according to a hierarchy established by IRCC. Prior to March 9, 2016, the hierarchy was Federal Skilled Workers (FSW), Canadian Experience Class (CEC) and Federal Skilled Trades (FST). Candidates nominated by a province or territory are only invited as provincial nominees (PNP). For the remainder of 2016, based on clients' feedback and in order to meet IRCC's commitment to process a permanent resident application in 6 months, a shift was made to invite candidates first as CEC, next as FSW and lastly as FST. This precedent does not affect who is invited as it does not change the CRS score. The exact same candidates would be invited regardless of the program hierarchy.

Table 3: Invitations Issued by Additional Point Type

Round	Date	Comprehensive Ranking System Cutoff	Invitations Issued	Job Offer	Canadian Study	Job Offer and Canadian Study	No Additional Points	Provincial Nominees
1	Jan. 6	461	1,463	398	N/A	N/A	524	541
2	Jan. 13	453	1,518	244	N/A	N/A	1,142	132
3	Jan. 27	457	1,468	510	N/A	N/A	620	338
5	Feb. 10	459	1,505	493	N/A	N/A	708	304
6	Feb. 24	453	1,484	476	N/A	N/A	801	207
7	Mar. 9	473	1,013	524	N/A	N/A	299	190
8	Mar. 23	470	1,014	456	N/A	N/A	403	155
9	Apr. 6	470	954	423	N/A	N/A	391	140
10	Apr. 20	468	1,018	454	N/A	N/A	504	60
11	May. 6	534	799	529	N/A	N/A	5	265
12	May. 18	484	763	361	N/A	N/A	264	138
13	Jun. 1	483	762	453	N/A	N/A	163	146
14	Jun. 15	488	752	437	N/A	N/A	129	186
15	Jun. 29	482	773	436	N/A	N/A	232	105
16	Jul. 13	482	747	380	N/A	N/A	200	167
17	Jul. 27	488	755	442	N/A	N/A	108	205
18	Aug. 10	490	754	409	N/A	N/A	155	190
19	Aug. 24	538	750	448	N/A	N/A	4	298
20	Sep. 7	491	1,000	375	N/A	N/A	265	361
21	Sep. 21	483	1,288	442	N/A	N/A	434	411
22	Oct. 12	484	1,518	594	N/A	N/A	292	632
23	Oct. 19	475	1,804	162	N/A	N/A	1,446	196
24	Nov. 2	472	2,080	433	N/A	N/A	969	678
25	Nov. 16	470	2,427	916	N/A	N/A	890	621
26	Nov. 30 [†]	786	559	0	0	0	0	559
27	Dec. 16	497	1,936	363	360	67	108	1,038
28	Dec. 22	475	2,878	281	1,475	42	545	535
Total:			33,782	11,439	1,835	109	11,601	8,798

[†]IRCC may choose to conduct program specific rounds of invitations. This round of invitations included only Express Entry candidates from the Provincial Nominee Program.

Table 4: Invitations Issued by Economic Immigration Program

Round	Date	Comprehensive Ranking System Cutoff	Invitations Issued	Provincial Nominees	Federal Skilled Workers	Federal Skilled Trades	Canadian Experience Class
1	Jan. 6	461	1,463	541	553	43	326
2	Jan. 13	453	1,518	132	987	26	373
3	Jan. 27	457	1,468	338	625	62	443
5	Feb. 10	459	1,505	304	712	46	443
6	Feb. 24	453	1,484	207	779	72	426
7	Mar. 9	473	1,013	190	153	54	616
8	Mar. 23	470	1,014	155	249	55	555
9	Apr. 6	470	954	140	199	60	555
10	Apr. 20	468	1,018	60	272	72	614
11	May. 6	534	799	265	94	86	354
12	May. 18	484	763	138	91	49	485
13	Jun. 1	483	762	146	80	59	477
14	Jun. 15	488	752	186	94	68	404
15	Jun. 29	482	773	105	125	62	481
16	Jul. 13	482	747	167	95	63	422
17	Jul. 27	488	755	205	94	61	395
18	Aug. 10	490	754	190	94	69	401
19	Aug. 24	538	750	298	86	72	294
20	Sep. 7	491	1,000	360	97	53	490
21	Sep. 21	483	1,288	412	113	77	686
22	Oct. 12	484	1,518	632	142	90	654
23	Oct. 19	475	1,804	196	885	23	700
24	Nov. 2	472	2,080	678	537	58	807
25	Nov. 16	470	2,427	621	620	170	1,016
26	Nov. 30 [†]	786	559	559	0	0	0
27	Dec. 16	497	1,936	1,038	49	0	849
28	Dec. 22	475	2,878	535	507	0	1,836
Total:			33,782	8,798	8,332	1,550	15,102

[†]IRCC may choose to conduct program specific rounds of invitations. This round of invitations included only Express Entry candidates from the Provincial Nominee Program.

Table 5: Candidates in the Express Entry Pool as January 3, 2017 and Invitations Issued in 2016 by Total CRS Score

Comprehensive Ranking System Score	Number of Candidates in the Express Entry Pool	Number of Invitations Issued in 2016
>1000	401	6,225
950 - 999	63	3,715
900 - 949	19	3,452
850 - 899	2	1,731
800 - 849	0	1,639
750 - 799	1	1,426
700 - 749	0	1,018
650 - 699	2	324
600 - 649	2	107
550 - 599	11	55
500 - 549	136	2,162
450 - 499	7,009	11,928
400 - 449	14,041	0
350 - 399	19,716	0
300 - 349	14,488	0
250 - 299	1,949	0
200 - 249	289	0
150 - 199	127	0
100 -149	54	0
<100	18	0
Total	58,328	33,782

Table 5 above depicts the distribution of active candidates in the Express Entry pool and invitations issued, broken down by total CRS score.

Chart 1: Candidates in the Express Entry Pool as of January 3, 2017 and Invitations Issued in 2016 by “core” CRS score

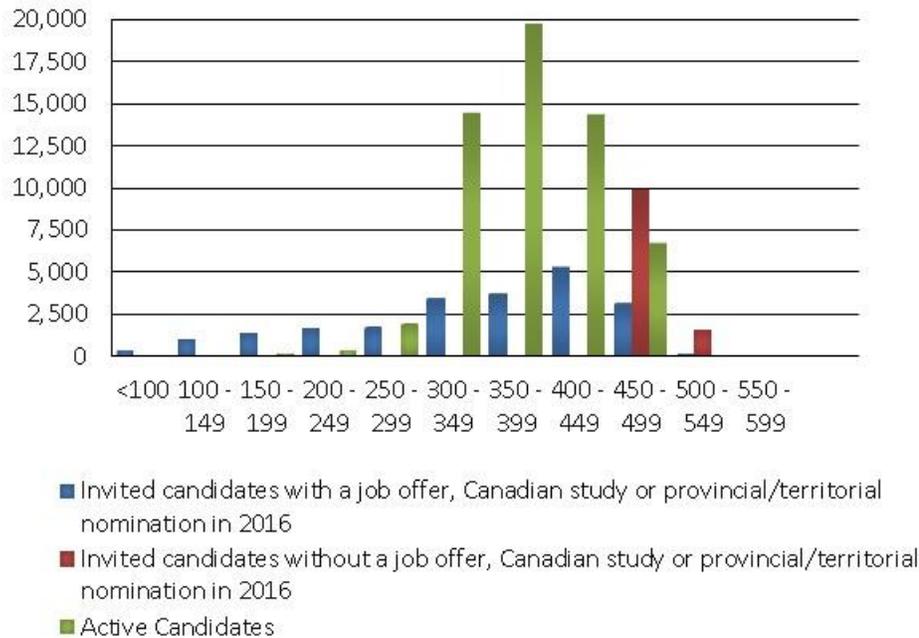


Chart 1 shows the distribution of active candidates in the Express Entry pool and invitations issued, broken down “core” CRS points and whether or not additional points were awarded. The core CRS score indicates a candidate’s score without the additional points for a provincial nomination, a job offer, or education obtained in Canada above high school.

Prior to November 19, 2016, the 600 additional points awarded for a job offer often made it difficult for some highly skilled candidates without job offers to get an invitation to apply. The core CRS score for candidates invited with additional points are often lower than the core CRS of those without any additional points. Candidates with 600 additional points awarded for a job offer did not have strong incentive to declare all of their qualifications since the job offer guaranteed an invitation to apply for permanent residence. Since job offer points are reduced, all candidates are now encouraged to declare all of their qualifications to raise their ranking in the pool.

Lowering the job offer points will allow more candidates whose skills and experience will support our economy to be invited to apply for permanent residence.

Round Results: Occupations of Invited Candidates

Express Entry facilitates a more direct employer role in the immigration process. Employers may connect with foreign nationals through recruitment techniques such as private job boards, recruiters, or job fairs and they can give candidates a job offer that will elevate a candidate’s ranking. The foreign national must become an Express Entry candidate before receiving an invitation to apply.

As economic immigration programs are designed for high skilled immigration, all job offers are in professional or skilled trade occupations as defined by the National Occupational Classification (NOC)

maintained by Employment and Social Development Canada. Prior to November 19, 2016, all job offers in the Express Entry system were awarded 600 additional points.

As of November 19, 2016, candidates with valid job offers are awarded 50 points for job offers in a NOC 0, A or B occupation, while a total of 200 points are awarded for job offers classified as NOC 00. The occupation mix of invited candidates has been influenced by invitation round sizes, and improvements made to Express Entry starting in November 2016.

Table 6: Invited Candidates by Occupation

Invited candidates in 2015			Invited candidates in 2016		
Occupation	Number*	%	Occupation	Number*	%
NOC6311 - Food Service Supervisors	2,356	8%	NOC2171 - Information Systems Analysts and Consultants	1,792	6%
NOC6322 - Cooks	2,295	8%	NOC2173 - Software Engineers	1,332	4%
NOC2171 - Information Systems Analysts and Consultants	1,255	4%	NOC2174 - Computer Programmers and Interactive Media Developers	1,254	4%
NOC2173 - Software Engineers	940	3%	NOC6322 - Cooks	1,234	4%
NOC2174 - Computer Programmers and Interactive Media Developers	935	3%	NOC6311 - Food Service Supervisors	999	3%
NOC4011 - University Professors and Lecturers	745	3%	NOC4011 - University Professors and Lecturers	797	3%
NOC6211 - Retail Sales Supervisors	669	2%	NOC5241 - Graphic Designers and Illustrators	671	2%
NOC5241 - Graphic Designers and Illustrators	550	2%	NOC1123 - Professional Occupations in Advertising, Marketing and Public relations	618	2%
NOC1111 - Financial Auditors and Accountants	494	2%	NOC1111 - Financial Auditors and Accountants	595	2%
NOC1112 - Financial and Investment Analysts	446	2%	NOC6211 - Retail Sales Supervisors	584	2%
Top 10	10,685	38%	Top 10	9,876	31%

* The total number of invitations issued in 2015 was 31,063 and 33,782 in 2016. Candidates may be invited more than once if they decline their first invitation. The results in this table on candidates invited omit duplicate invitations. Hence, 28,318 unique candidates have received invitations in 2015 and 31,676 in 2016.

Candidates working as food service supervisors (NOC 6311) or cooks (NOC 6322) were the largest group of invited candidates in 2015 followed by IT professionals (NOC 21), business and finance professionals (NOC 11) or university professors (NOC 40). Those in occupation group service supervisors and specialized service occupations (NOC 63) were more likely to have a lower human capital and a valid job offer while those in NOC 11, 21 and 40 often have high human capital with no valid job offer (their CRS score were in the 450-599 range).

In 2016, candidates working as IT professionals (NOC 21) were the largest group of invited candidates followed by cooks (NOC 6322) and food service supervisors (NOC 6311). Retail sales supervisors (NOC6211) ranked 10th in 2016. Between March and August 2016, when invitation rounds were smaller, larger shares of candidates in occupation group NOC 63 were invited as they were more likely to have an additional 600 points for a valid job offer. In September 2016, when invitation round sizes began to grow, candidates with higher human capital but without a valid job offer, such as those in occupation

groups NOC 11, 21 and 40, were invited in greater numbers. Since November 19, 2016, this trend has become even more pronounced and only a small number of candidates in occupation group NOC 63 have been invited.

Round Results: Country of Residence and of Origin of Invited Candidates

In 2015 and 2016, Canada was the main country of residence for invited candidates because of the high number of temporary foreign workers with a job offer that wished to settle in Canada permanently. The country of citizenship reflects the origin of qualified candidates from the pool. It is anticipated that the top ten countries of residence, and to a lesser extent of citizenship of invited candidate will continue to change throughout 2017 as the CRS cut-off progressively lowers.

Table 7: Invited Candidates by Country of Residence

Invited Candidates in 2015			Invited Candidates in 2016		
Country of Residence	Number*	%	Country of Residence	Number*	%
Canada	22,111	78%	Canada	21,764	69%
India	1,745	6%	India	3,266	10%
United States	622	2%	United States	832	3%
China	409	1%	China	484	2%
United Kingdom	294	1%	United Arab Emirates	432	1%
Philippines	283	1%	Nigeria	406	1%
Nigeria	248	1%	United Kingdom	383	1%
United Arab Emirates	213	1%	Philippines	370	1%
Pakistan	159	1%	Pakistan	307	1%
France	135	1%	South Africa, Republic Of	216	1%
Top 10	26,219	93%	Top 10	28,460	90%

Table 8.1: Invited Candidates by Country of Citizenship

Invited Candidates in 2015			Invited Candidates in 2016		
Country of Citizenship	Number*	%	Country of Citizenship	Number*	%
India	6,348	22%	India	10,499	33%
Philippines	3,574	13%	China	2,659	8%
China	1,678	6%	Philippines	1,593	5%
United Kingdom	1,644	6%	United Kingdom	1,395	4%
Ireland, Republic Of	1,210	4%	United States	1,155	4%
United States	949	3%	Ireland, Republic Of	1,095	3%
Nigeria	609	2%	Nigeria	1,001	3%
Korea, South	605	2%	Pakistan	898	3%
France	566	2%	Korea, South	786	2%
Australia	540	2%	France	777	2%
Top 10	17,723	63%	Top 10	21,858	69%

* The total number of invitations issued in 2015 was 31,063 and 33,782 in 2016.

Candidates may be invited more than once if they decline their first invitation. The results in this table on candidates invited omit duplicate invitations. Hence, 28,318 unique candidates have received invitations in 2015 and 31,676 in 2016.

Table 8.2: FSW, CEC and FST Program Intake in 2014 by Country of Citizenship

2014 Intake (CEC, FSW and FST)	%
India	34%
China	10%
Pakistan	8%
Nigeria	7%
Bangladesh	5%
United Kingdom	4%
Iran	3%
Egypt	3%
United States	2%
Top 10	77%

Compared with FSW, CEC and FST applications for permanent residence received in 2014, there have been changes in country of origin for invited candidates (e.g. India remained at the top while there were shifts in other countries). Among many possible factors that can explain the shift in country of origin is the structure of the CRS and its emphasis on language proficiency and educational credentials.

Applications for Permanent Residence through Express Entry

IRCC received a total of 41,466 applications (cases) for permanent residence in 2015 and 2016 from candidates who were invited to apply, which represents 78,015 total persons (applicants and their family members). About 26% (20,072 total persons) of these applications are still in progress but 53,762 people were approved resulting in 50,219 visas issued and 43,202 admissions to Canada.

Table 9: Aggregate Data on Applications for Permanent Residence Received Through Express Entry Between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016 (Total Persons)

Application Received*	Applications in Progress†	Applications Approved	Visas Issued	Admissions
78,015	20,072	53,762	50,219	43,202

*Total applications received for permanent residence in years 2015 and 2016 excludes cancelled cases.

†As of January 19, 2017.

Table 10: Applications for Permanent Residence Received (Total Persons) by Province of Destination in 2015 and 2016*

Applications Received (in persons) in 2015				Applications Received (in persons) in 2016			
Province of Destination	PNP (CEC, FSW & FST)	Other Programs	All	Province of Destination	PNP (CEC, FSW & FST)	Other Programs	All
Alberta	0	14,905	14,905	Alberta	2	9,176	9,178
British Columbia	1,526	4,458	5,984	British Columbia	2,672	6,973	9,645
Manitoba	210	227	437	Manitoba	60	253	313
New Brunswick	216	65	281	New Brunswick	1,076	107	1,183
Newfoundland	0	102	102	Newfoundland	10	113	123
Northwest Territories	7	36	43	Northwest Territories	25	20	45
Nova Scotia	1,014	224	1,238	Nova Scotia	2,135	251	2,386
Nunavut	0	19	19	Nunavut	0	4	4
Ontario	998	9,834	10,832	Ontario	3,254	12,112	15,366
Prince Edward Island	231	18	249	Prince Edward Island	871	38	909
Quebec	0	0	0	Quebec	0	0	0
Saskatchewan	758	446	1,204	Saskatchewan	3,185	356	3,541
Yukon	0	9	9	Yukon	2	17	19
Total	4,960	30,343	35,303	Total	13,292	29,420	42,712

*Total applications received for permanent residence in years 2015 and 2016 excludes cancelled cases.

The majority of Express Entry candidates who submitted a permanent resident application to IRCC chose Alberta, British Columbia, or Ontario as their province of destination. This aligns with destination provinces prior to Express Entry and has been explained by a combination of community connections, services, infrastructure, and jobs.

Express Entry Processing Times

The processing time standard for applications sourced via Express Entry is six months for 80% of cases. Processing times are measured from the day a complete application is received until a final decision is made by an immigration officer. IRCC is meeting processing time commitments for all cases finalized.

Results from 2015 were based on a small volume of applications and in 2016, processing times grew in parallel with application volumes but still met the six-month processing time commitment. Processing times will continue to be monitored closely and any necessary action will be taken to continue meeting service standards such as adjustments to processing, measures to increase the quality and completeness of received applications, or reducing the number of invitations issued.

Table 11: Processing Time for Express Entry Based on Final Decision Date

Processing Time for Express Entry Based on Final Decision in 2015*

Application data	Federal Skilled Workers (EE)	Canadian Experience Class (EE)	Federal Skilled Trades (EE)	Provincial/ Territorial Nominees (EE)	Total EE
80% of applications finalized in x months or less	5	4	5	4	4
Applications finalized	3,223	9,861	2,330	1,077	16,491

*Processing time is based on cases. Applications finalized, based on persons, refers to applications approved (14,058) and refused (2,433) between January 1, 2015 and January 3, 2016.

Processing Time for Express Entry Based on Final Decision in 2016†

Application data	Federal Skilled Workers (EE)	Canadian Experience Class (EE)	Federal Skilled Trades (EE)	Provincial/ Territorial Nominees (EE)	Total EE
80% of applications finalized in x months or less	6	6	6	5	6
Applications finalized	16,760	12,325	3,382	9,957	42,424

†Processing time is based on cases. Applications finalized, based on persons, refers to applications approved (39,863) and refused (2,562) between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016.

Admissions

In 2015 and 2016, 43,202 applicants and their family members were admitted into Canada as permanent residents. The following tables display the characteristics of these immigrants including their province of destination, country of origin and the applicant's primary occupation.

Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario were the main provinces chosen by immigrants who landed through Express Entry. The share of immigrants destined to Ontario increased significantly between 2015 and 2016 from 23% to 37%.

Express Entry candidates are usually admitted to Canada as permanent residents between 1 year and 1.5 years after they receive an invitation to apply for permanent residence. However, in early rounds of 2015, the vast majority of these candidates were working in Canada, were familiar with Canada's immigration system, and were able to submit an application for permanent residence quickly. As a result, they were admitted into Canada as permanent residents in late 2015.

Table 13 below shows admissions by country of citizenship. The country mix of admissions in both 2015 and 2016 is pretty similar to the country mix of invited candidates, with India, China and the Philippines dominating in both years. Over time, we expect the admissions country mix to continue to change as the size of invitation rounds remains constant and CRS cut off is progressively lowered.

Early rounds in 2015 invited many candidates with a valid job offer with primary occupations as food service supervisors (NOC 6311) or cooks (NOC 6322). With 600 points available for a job offer, they became top-ranked candidates, were invited quickly and many became permanent residents in late

2015. Many were already in Canada. The 2015 admission occupation mix is a reflection of these early 2015 rounds.

As the ITA round sizes remained consistent at approximately 1,500 invitations per round starting in mid-2015, the occupation mix of invited candidates became more diverse. More candidates with a primary occupation as information systems analysts and consultants (NOC 2171) and software engineers (NOC 2173) were invited. University professors (NOC 4011) were also invited in larger numbers. The occupation mix of admissions in 2016 is the result of the diverging occupation mix during later rounds of 2015.

Table 12: Admissions (Total Persons) by Province of Destination and Immigration Category in 2015 and 2016 under Express Entry*

Admissions (Total Persons) in 2015				Admissions (Total Persons) in 2016			
Province of Destination	PNP	Other (CEC, FSW & FST)	All Programs	Province of Destination	PNP	Other (CEC, FSW & FST)	All Programs
Alberta	0	5,502	5,502	Alberta	0	9,492	9,492
British Columbia	352	1,234	1,586	British Columbia	1,877	4,700	6,577
Manitoba	29	56	85	Manitoba	99	205	304
New Brunswick	0	18	18	New Brunswick	367	72	439
Newfoundland	0	27	27	Newfoundland	<5	<90	90
Northwest Territories	<5	<15	11	Northwest Territories	<15	<25	32
Nova Scotia	94	71	165	Nova Scotia	1,410	201	1,611
Nunavut	0	<5	<5	Nunavut	0	9	9
Ontario	11	2,221	2,232	Ontario	1,948	10,447	12,395
Prince Edward Island	<10	<5	11	Prince Edward Island	426	17	443
Saskatchewan	<5	<150	152	Saskatchewan	1,678	321	1,999
Yukon	0	<5	<5	Yukon	0	15	15
Total	497	9,299	9,796	Total	7,818	25,588	33,406

*In order to protect personal privacy, some values in this table have been suppressed and replaced with the notation "<" followed by a number (e.g. "<5"). As a result, components may not sum to the total indicated. In general we have masked numbers less than five except in circumstances where, in our judgment, we are not releasing personal information on an identifiable individual.

Table 13: Admissions (Total Persons) by Country of Citizenship in 2015 and 2016 under Express Entry

Country of Citizenship*	Admissions (Total Persons)			
	2015		2016	
	Number	%	Number	%
India	1,849	19%	9,579	29%
Philippines	2,444	25%	3,736	11%
China	361	4%	2,657	8%
United Kingdom	802	8%	1,990	6%
United States	366	4%	1,245	4%
Ireland, Republic of	555	6%	1,126	3%
Nigeria	98	1%	1,036	3%
Pakistan	104	1%	819	2%
Korea, South	347	4%	741	2%
France	102	1%	728	2%
Top 10	7,028	72%	23,657	71%

* Based on 2016 ranking.

Table 14: Admissions (Total Persons) by Applicant's Occupation in 2015 and 2016 under Express Entry

Occupation*	Admissions (Total Persons)			
	2015		2016	
	Number	%	Number	%
NOC2171 - Information systems analysts and consultants	152	3%	986	5%
NOC6322 - Cooks	831	14%	886	5%
NOC6311 - Food service supervisors	991	17%	824	4%
NOC2174 - Computer programmers and interactive media developers	136	2%	797	4%
NOC2173 - Software engineers and designers	124	2%	717	4%
NOC4011 - University professors and lecturers	102	2%	543	3%
NOC6211 - Retail sales supervisors	239	4%	397	2%
NOC1111 - Financial auditors and accountants	48	1%	378	2%
NOC1123 - Professional occupations in advertising, marketing and public relations	60	1%	354	2%
NOC5241 - Graphic designers and illustrators	113	2%	353	2%
Top 10	2,796	49%	6,235	34%

*Based on 2016 ranking.

Additional Analysis I: International Students

As of November 19, 2016, CRS points are now awarded for education obtained in Canada above high school.

The CRS awards 15 points for a one- or two-year diploma or certificate and 30 points for a degree, diploma or certificate of three years or longer, or for a Master's, professional or doctoral degree of at least one academic year. These points are awarded as long as candidates meet all the criteria for Canadian Study Points detailed in the Ministerial Instructions Respecting the Express Entry System².

With these changes, more former international students are able to transition to permanent residence through Express Entry. Former international students are a key source of candidates in Express Entry because of their age, education, skills and experience. In addition to the time already spent in Canada, integrating into Canadian society permanently will be easier because they will have established social networks and they will have familiarized themselves with life in Canada.

Tables 15 and 16 below show the distribution of former international students, defined here as any candidates with a Canadian education credential above high school, in the pool and those invited to apply for permanent residence. A large proportion of those in the pool have a CRS score between 400 and 499. In comparison, candidates in the pool who never obtained an education credential in Canada above high school are mostly in the CRS score range of 300 to 399. The proportion of former international students invited increased significantly between 2015 and 2016 from 26% to 35%.

Table 15: Candidates in the Express Entry Pool as of January 19, 2017 with a Canadian Education Credential*

CRS Score	With Canadian Education Credential		Without Canadian Education Credential	
	Education Credential	%	Education Credential	%
<100	0	0%	21	100%
100-199	7	3%	198	97%
200-299	120	5%	2,202	95%
300-399	2,286	7%	32,616	93%
400-499	5,304	30%	12,378	70%
500-599	17	13%	109	87%
600-699	0	0%	2	100%
700-799	0	0%	0	0%
800-899	0	0%	4	100%
900-999	34	35%	62	65%
1000-1099	39	34%	75	66%
1100-1199	0	0%	1	100%
Total	7,807	14%	47,668	86%
Median score	423		373	

*Candidates with a Canadian credential must have studied full time at an educational institution in Canada and received a certificate, diploma or degree for a post-secondary program of a year or more.

² Ministerial Instructions Respecting the Express Entry System is found here: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/mi/express-entry.asp>

Table 16: Invited Candidates with a Canadian Education Credential*

Invited Candidates in 2015					
EE Status	With Canadian Education Credential		Without Canadian Education Credential		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
PNP	1,783	43%	2,322	57%	4,105
FSW	4,389	33%	8,825	67%	13,214
CEC	1,827	16%	9,401	84%	11,228
FST	57	2%	2,459	98%	2,516
Total	8,056	26%	23,007	74%	31,063

Invited Candidates in 2016					
EE Status	With Canadian Education Credential		Without Canadian Education Credential		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
PNP	3,631	41%	5,167	59%	8,798
FSW	1,786	21%	6,546	79%	8,332
CEC	6,563	43%	8,539	57%	15,102
FST	12	1%	1,538	99%	1,550
Total	11,992	35%	21,790	65%	33,782

*Candidates with a Canadian credential must have studied full time at an educational institution in Canada and received a certificate, diploma or degree for a post-secondary program of a year or more.

Additional Analysis II: French-Speaking Candidates

While the number of French-speaking candidates in the Express Entry pool remains small, Express Entry has the potential to contribute to the vitality and to support the development of Canada's Francophone Minority Communities (FMC). Built into the Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS), candidates who have strong proficiency in both official languages receive points for their bilingualism, which can increase their rank in the pool. In addition, improvements made to Express Entry in November 2016 award job offer points to qualified temporary workers in Mobilité Francophone who wish to become permanent residents.

Express Entry active candidates in the pool who have submitted results to the Test d'évaluation du français (TEF) for their first official language have a higher median CRS score in comparison with others in the pool, respectively 389 and 375 as of January 19, 2017.

In 2016, 2.8% of invited candidates were French-speakers, an increase of 0.8% from 2015. While these percentages are currently small, with growing invitation rounds and targeted improvements made to Express Entry, more invitations will be issued to French-speaking candidates interested in applying to come to Canada through Express Entry.

Table 17: Francophones in the Express Entry Pool as of January 19, 2017 by Total CRS Score

Francophone Candidates In the Express Entry Pool				All Candidates in the Express Entry Pool		
Number	%	Average	Median	Average CRS Score	Median CRS Score	
		CRS Score	CRS Score			
725	1.3%	389	383	375	371	

For Tables 18 and 19, Francophones are defined to be applicants or admissions that have declared either French as their mother tongue or French only as their official spoken language. In 2016, 2.9% of all immigrants admitted into Canada were Francophones.

Table 18: Invitations and Applications for Permanent Residence Received (Total Persons) from Francophone Candidates in 2015 and 2016

Invited Candidates				Applications Received (Total Persons)*			
2015		2016		2015		2016	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
586	2.1	888	2.8	757	2.1	1,395	3.3

*Total applications received for permanent residence in years 2015 and 2016 excludes cancelled cases.

Table 19: Admissions of Francophone Candidates (Total Persons) in 2015 and 2016 under Express Entry

Admissions in 2015		Admissions in 2016	
Number		Number	
124		953	

Conclusion

This report demonstrates that in just two years of operation, Express Entry has welcomed a diverse range of highly skilled candidates from around the world. Provinces, territories and employers have also successfully used Express Entry to fulfill regional and labour market needs; and, the processing time commitment has been met.

IRCC will continue to monitor Express Entry results, and innovate processes and policies as needed.

In 2017, we expect that the recent system changes and other improvements planned for June 2017, will result in Canada welcoming more immigrants with the diversified skills and experience needed to grow our economy.