

## Forward

A key mandate of the Research and Evaluation Branch, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is the dissemination of immigration data. With its annual publication, *Facts and Figures: Immigration Overview - Temporary Residents*, IRCC provides a broad range of statistical information on admissions to Canada.

*Facts and Figures 2017: Immigration Overview - Temporary Residents* presents the annual intake of permit holders and refugee claimants from 1998 to 2017. The report also shows the total count of permit holders and refugee claimants with valid permit(s) in each calendar year and the total count of permit holders and refugee claimants on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The main body of the publication consists of a series of statistical tables and charts covering the ten-year period from 2008 to 2017.

All statistical information provided in this publication is derived from IRCC's administrative data files where transactions with the department are recorded. In this report, however, the key reporting unit is the individual rather than the number of visas or permits issued.

The statistics for temporary residents are provided for work permit holders, international students, and refugee claimants.

For information on Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, its priorities and activities, publications and reports, as well as application guides and forms, visit the IRCC Web site at [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

The numbers appearing in this report differ from those reported in earlier publications. These differences reflect recent changes on the reporting methods on permit holders.

## Overview

In addition to selecting permanent residents, Canada's immigration program provides for the temporary entry of foreign nationals. These temporary residents contribute to Canada's economic, social and cultural development. Foreign nationals wishing to come to Canada as temporary residents must satisfy the visa officer abroad that they meet all applicable requirements under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA), including that they will leave Canada voluntarily at the end of their authorized stay.

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) is jointly managed by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). On June 20, 2014, an overhaul of the TFWP was announced. This led to changes to the grouping and reporting of work permit holders which has now been split into two separate categories:

- Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) covers those work permit holders who require a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA - formerly Labour Market Opinion (LMO)) in order to receive a work permit. The purpose of the TFWP is to help fill genuine labour needs as a last and limited resort when qualified Canadians or permanent residents are not available. To hire temporary foreign workers, employers require a LMIA from ESDC.
- The International Mobility Program (IMP) covers those work permit holders who do not require an LMIA. By exempting some foreign nationals from needing a LMIA before being able to work in Canada, the IMP aims to provide competitive advantages to Canada and reciprocal benefits to Canadians.

In this publication, IRCC has revised its reporting methods to count permit holders by using:

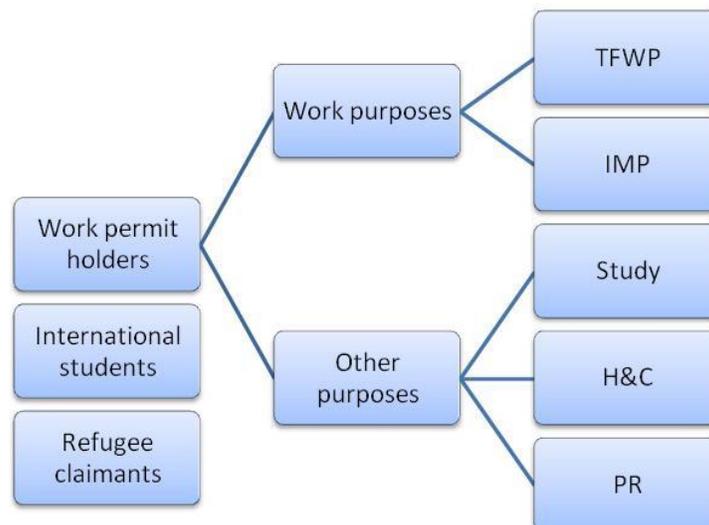
- Permit holders with a valid permit on December 31<sup>st</sup>. This measure only counts the most recently signed permit of each type that is valid on the last day of a given year.
- Permit holders with valid permit(s) in the calendar year. This measure is a unique count of all persons who held one or more valid permits between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> in a given year.

Note that an issued permit becomes valid on the date it is signed which is also known as its effective date; and the validity of a permit ends on the expiry date or when another permit with the same type becomes valid. See Appendix A: Year End versus Calendar Year, Appendix B: Expiring & Renewing Permits, and Appendix C: Permit Overlaps for details.

As a result of the changes above, the reports for each permit holder type were separated in order to improve clarity. In addition, the group of work permit holders was further separated by the purpose of the permits. This is derived by the special program codes and exemption codes on the permit.

This publication will focus on the following groups of temporary residents (as the following diagram illustrates):

- Work permit holders for work purposes
- Work permit holders for other purposes including study, humanitarian and compassionate, and permanent resident
- International students
- Refugee Claimants



Due to privacy considerations, some cells containing a count of less than five have been suppressed with "--" except in circumstances where, in IRCC's judgment, we are not releasing personal information on an identifiable individual. When only one cell is suppressed, the value in another cell is estimated and prefixed with "~" to protect the privacy of the individuals.

## Glossary of terms and concepts

**Age:** Six age groups are shown: 0 to 14 years, 15 to 29 years, 30 to 44 years, 45 to 59 years, 60 to 74 years, and 75 years or older. Age refers to the person's age at year end.

**FTA:** A free trade agreement (FTA) is a trade treaty between two or more countries. These agreements are meant to reduce or completely remove tariffs to trade. One example of such an agreement is the Canada–Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA).

**GATS:** The GATS is a treaty of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that came into force January 1995. The treaty was created to extend the multilateral trading system to the service sector. GATS Professionals possess the necessary academic credentials and professional qualifications which have been duly recognized by the professional association of Canada.

**Immigration Act (1976):** Federal legislation respecting immigration to Canada. The Immigration Act of 1976 became law in 1978 and remained in effect until 2002.

**Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA):** Federal legislation respecting immigration to Canada and the granting of refugee protection to people who are displaced, persecuted or in danger. IRPA received royal assent on November 1, 2001 and came into effect on June 28, 2002.

**Intended destination:** Intended destination refers to the geographical location where a temporary resident is destined in Canada according to the information provided on the permit.

**International Mobility Program:** The new International Mobility Program includes work permit holders who are not subject to an LMIA. By exempting some foreign nationals from needing a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) before being able to work in Canada, the International Mobility Program aims to provide competitive advantages to Canada and reciprocal benefits to Canadians, rather than filling particular jobs.

**Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA):** Labour Market Impact Assessment is a labour market verification process whereby Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) assesses an offer of employment to ensure that the employment of a foreign worker will not have a negative impact on the Canadian labour market. It was formerly known as Labour Market Opinion (LMO). A positive Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) means that the employer has tried but has been unable to find a Canadian or permanent resident for the job, that the job offer is genuine, and that the employer has met job offer commitments to temporary foreign workers they have hired in the past. After obtaining an LMIA, the worker needs to apply to IRCC for a work permit and the employer must provide a copy of the positive LMIA from ESDC for inclusion with the worker's application.

**Labour Market Opinion (LMO):** A Labour Market Opinion is an assessment provided from ESDC/Service Canada to an employer who wants to hire a foreign worker. The assessment is based on the impact a worker would have on Canada's labour market or, in other words, how the offer of employment would affect Canadian jobs. In some cases, special exemption applies. For example, some defined occupations do not require an LMO but need a Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC, currently known as IRCC) exemption approval. The LMO has been replaced by the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA).

**Live-in caregivers:** The Live-in Caregiver Program brings temporary foreign workers to Canada as live-in employees to work without supervision in private households to care for children, seniors or people with disabilities. Participants in this program may apply for permanent resident status within three years of arrival in Canada once they have completed two years of employment as live-in caregivers. The Live-in Caregiver Program replaced the Foreign Domestic Movement Program on April 27, 1992.

**NAFTA:** The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is an agreement signed by the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, creating a trilateral trade bloc in North America. The agreement came into force on January 1, 1994. It superseded the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement signed in 1988.

**National Occupational Classification (NOC):** The National Occupational Classification (NOC) is the nationally accepted categorization of occupations in Canada. It organizes over 40,000 job titles into 500 occupational group descriptions. The NOC provides a standardized framework for organizing the world of work in a coherent system. It is used to manage the collection and reporting of occupational statistics and to provide understandable labour market information:  
<http://noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/home.aspx>.

**Skill level:** Five skill levels, based on the National Occupational Classification, are shown for permit holders:

- **Level 0 (managerial):** management occupations.

- **Level A (professional):** professional occupations in business and finance; natural and applied sciences; health; social science, education, government service, and religion; and art and culture. Educational or training requirements: university degree.
- **Level B (skilled and technical):** skilled or technical occupations in administration and business; natural and applied sciences; health; law, social service, education, and religion; art, culture, recreation and sport; sales and service; as well as trades and skilled transport and equipment operators; skilled occupations in primary industries; and processing, manufacturing and utilities supervisors and skilled operators. Educational or training requirements: two to three years of post-secondary education, or two to five years of apprenticeship training, or three to four years of secondary school and more than two years of on-the-job training, occupation-specific training courses or specific work experience.
- **Level C (intermediate and clerical):** clerical occupations; assisting occupations in health services; intermediate occupations in sales and services; transport, equipment operations, installation and maintenance; primary industries; as well as processing and manufacturing machine operators and assemblers. Educational or training requirements: one to four years of secondary school education, or up to two years of on-the-job training, training courses or specific work experience.
- **Level D (elemental and labourers):** elemental sales and service occupations and labourers in construction; primary industries; and processing, manufacturing and utilities. Educational or training requirements: no formal educational requirements; short work demonstration or on-the-job training.

**Permit holders as at year end:** Permit holders who hold a valid permit as of the last day of each year – whether it started in a previous year or not. Since an individual can obtain a new permit before their existing one expires, only the most recently signed permit of each type (e.g., work permit, study permit, or Minister’s permit) that is valid on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year is counted.

**Permit holders in the calendar year:** Permit holders who hold a valid permit at some point in time within the calendar year – whether it started in a previous year or not. Since an individual can have more than one permit in any given year, a unique count is used in order to derive an accurate number of permit holders for the year.

**Refugee claimants:** Temporary residents in the humanitarian population who request refugee protection upon or after arrival in Canada. A refugee claimant receives Canada’s protection when he or she is found to be a Convention refugee as defined by the United Nations 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol, or when found to be a person needing protection based on risk to life, risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment, or danger of torture as defined in the Convention Against Torture. A refugee claimant whose claim is accepted may make an application in Canada for permanent residence. The application may include family members in Canada and abroad.

**Sign date:** The date the permit was signed by an authorized signing agent/officer of Citizenship & Immigration Canada. It is the date that an issued permit becomes effective.

**Signed in current year:** The term refers to permit holders with a valid permit that was also signed in the given year.

**Signed in a previous year:** This term refers to permit holders with a valid permit that was signed in a previous year. Permits that expired prior to the beginning of the given year are excluded.

**Study permit:** A permit authorizing foreign nationals to enter and study in Canada on a temporary basis. The study permit identifies the level of study and the length of time the individual may study in Canada. Students do not need a study permit for courses shorter than six months.

**International students:** Temporary residents who are in Canada on a study permit in the observed calendar year. International students have been issued a document that allows them to study in Canada and does not imply that they may or may not also be a permit holder of another type at the same time. Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, a study permit is not needed for any program of study that is six months or less.

**Temporary residents:** Foreign nationals who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a valid document (i.e. a work permit, study permit, Minister’s permit, etc) issued for the purpose of entering Canada and individuals who seek asylum upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim. Temporary residents include foreign workers, international students, and refugee claimants.

**Work permit:** Authorization that allows a non-Canadian citizen or a non-permanent resident to work in Canada. Some temporary jobs in Canada may not require a work permit—for example: news reporters, public speakers, performing artists, foreign government officers.

**Work permit holders:** Temporary residents who are in Canada on a work permit in the observed calendar year. Work permit holders have been issued a document that allows them to work in Canada and does not imply that they may or may not also be a permit holder of another type at the same time.

## Acronyms

- **CA** Census Agglomeration
- **CCFTA** Canada–Chile Free Trade Agreement
- **CMA** Census Metropolitan Area
- **ESDC** Employment and Social Development Canada
- **FTA** Free Trade Agreement
- **GATS** GATS Professional
- **H&C** Humanitarian & Compassionate
- **IEC** International Experience Canada
- **IMP** International Mobility Program
- **IRPA** Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- **LMIA** Labour Market Impact Assessment
- **LMO** Labour Market Opinion
- **NAFTA** North American Free Trade Agreement
- **NES** Not Elsewhere Specified
- **NOC** National Occupational Classification
- **P/T** Province or Territory
- **PR** Permanent Residence
- **TFW** Temporary Foreign Worker
- **WTO** World Trade Organization

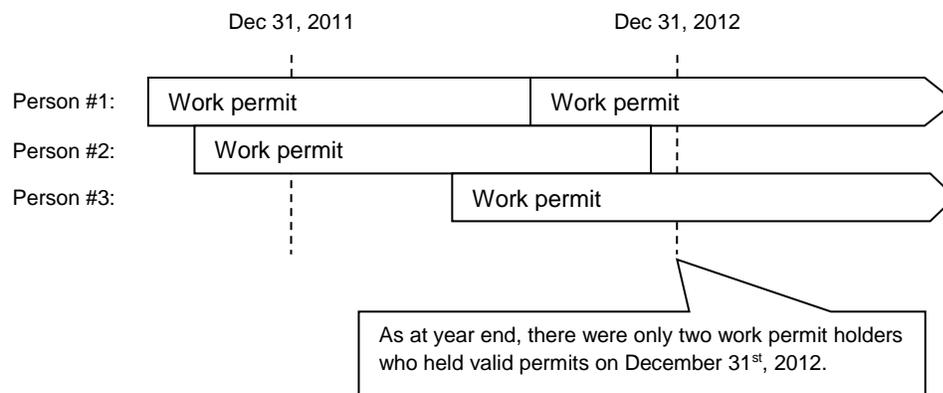
## Appendix A: Year End versus Calendar Year

The number of permit holders with a valid permit on December 31<sup>st</sup> is a unique count of all persons holding a valid permit on December 31<sup>st</sup> while the number of permit holders with valid permit(s) in the calendar year is a unique count of all persons who held one or more valid permits on one or more dates between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Permit holders with a valid permit on December 31<sup>st</sup>

This method of reporting shows the total number of permit holders who held a valid permit as at the last day of each year – whether it started in a previous year or not. Since a person can obtain a new work permit before their existing one expires, the reports will only count the most recently signed permit of each type (i.e. work permit and study permit) that is valid on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Using the example from above, the following diagram demonstrates how the report would display the total number of permit holders as at year end. As shown below, only two work permit holders held a valid permit on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

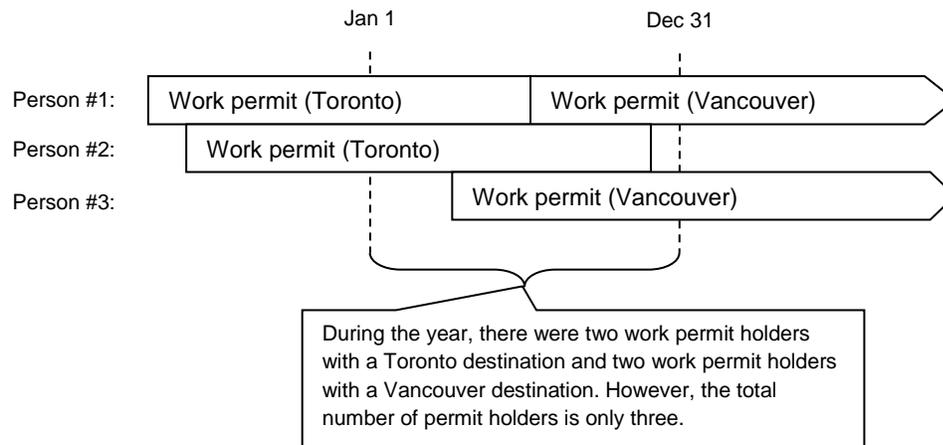


### Permit holders with valid permit(s) in the calendar year

This method of reporting shows the total number of permit holders who held a valid permit on one or more days within the calendar year. The tables in this report differentiate between permit holders with a permit signed in the current calendar year and permit holders with a permit signed in a previous calendar year. Since a person can potentially have more than one valid permit in any given year, a unique count is used in order to derive an accurate number of permit holders for the year.

The effect that a unique count has on reports is that some people could exist in more than one row within the same year if the information on each permit is different. However, the total will only count the person once (uniquely).

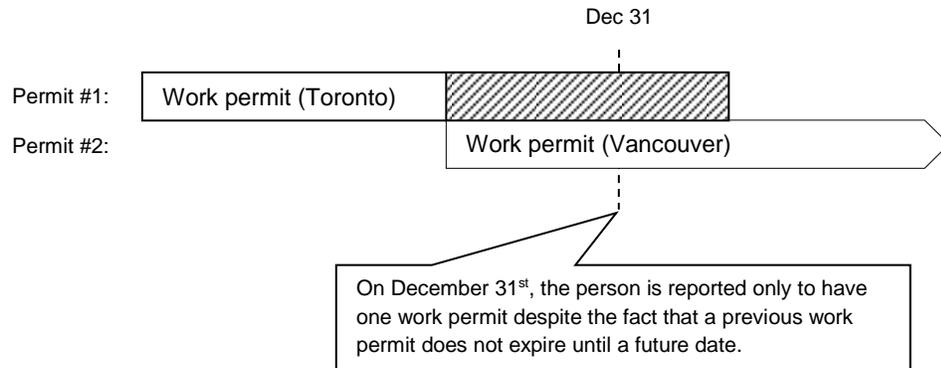
The following diagram demonstrates how the report would display the total number of permit holders if only three people held permits within the year. In this example, person #1 held two work permits with different destinations within the same calendar year, while persons #2 and #3 only held only one work permit in the same calendar year.



## Appendix B: Expiring & Renewing Permits

When a permit holder renews the permit before it expires, there is a period of time when the permit holder has two permits: the expiring permit and the renewed permit. For reporting purposes, the expiring permit is deemed to have ended the day the renewed permit was signed.

The following example helps explain the situation. A permit holder obtained a two-year work permit in early 2008 and identified Toronto as the intended destination. In October 2009, the permit holder renewed the expiring work permit but then identified Vancouver as the intended destination. As soon as the second work permit was signed, the first work permit is omitted from the reports so that the same person is not shown as being in both Vancouver and Toronto at the same time. The following diagram illustrates this example:



## Appendix C: Permit Overlaps

When a work permit holder decides not to renew the work permit but obtains a study permit before the existing work permit expires, there is a period in time when the permit holder holds two permits of a different type. For reporting purposes, neither permit is omitted during the period of time when the two permits overlap. Instead, they are each reported in different tables according to the type of permits held. For example, on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, this scenario applies to approximately 10% of the total number of work and study permit holders.

The following example helps explain the situation. A permit holder obtained a four-year study permit in early 2006 and identified Toronto as the intended destination. In October 2009, the permit holder obtained a work permit and then identified Vancouver as the intended destination. As at year end in 2009, this person would be counted as a study permit holder with an intended destination of Toronto. However, this person would also be counted as a work permit holder with an intended destination of Vancouver. The following diagram illustrates this example:

