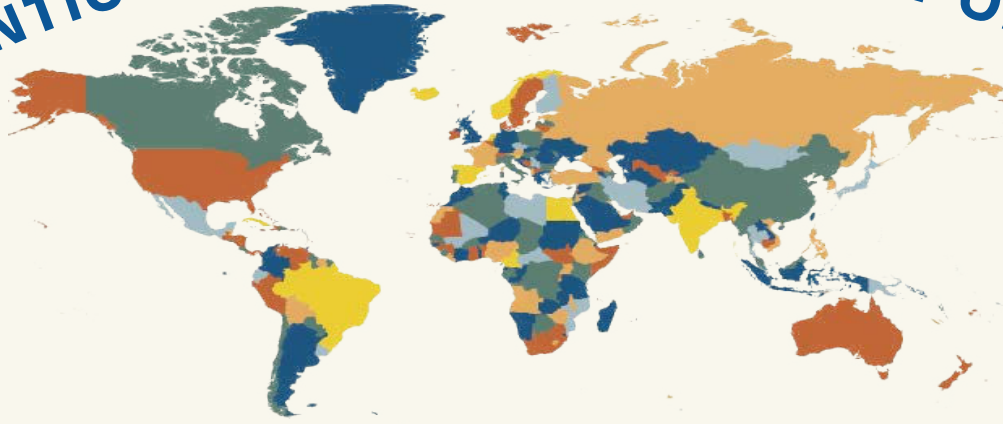


# ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION SPOTLIGHT ON DATA



## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR IMMIGRANTS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Atlantic Canada is becoming increasingly diverse through immigration.

While many immigrants to the region have come from Western countries, especially the United Kingdom and United States, recent immigrants are more likely to come from Asia.

Figure 1

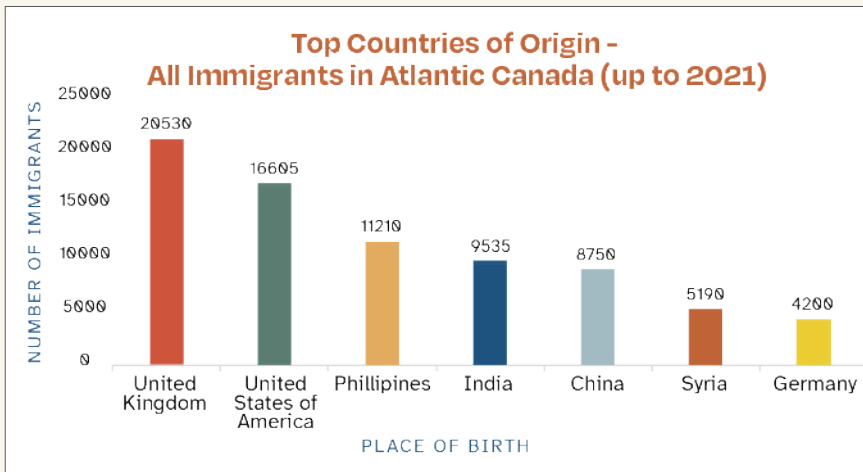
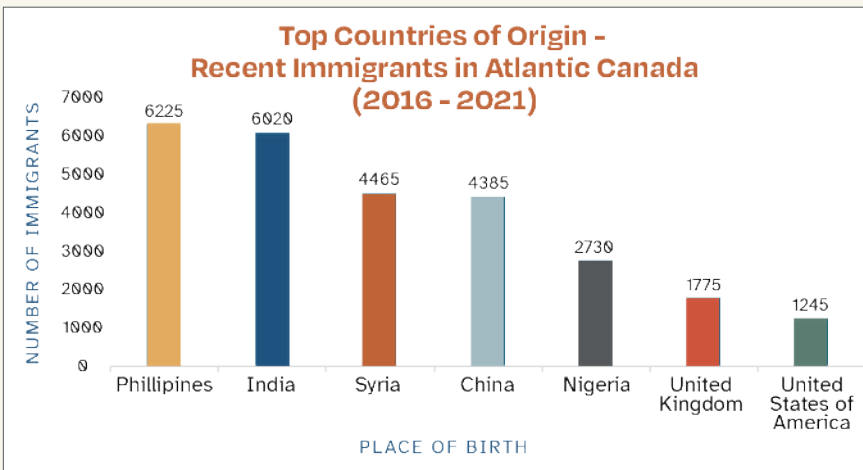


Figure 2



Immigrants from the Philippines, India, Syria, and China comprise about a quarter (24%) of the total immigrant population but nearly half (45%) of recent immigrants (i.e. landed between 2016 and 2021). Programming that focuses on intercultural awareness and cultural exchange can help to build bridges between newcomers and longer-term residents.

These graphs show the top countries of origin for immigrants in Atlantic Canada as of 2021. They combine data for the four Atlantic provinces based on:

- Place of birth.** Each graph shows *the top seven places of birth*; this is not an exhaustive list of birth countries. For Figure 1, the top countries account for 54% of the immigrant population. For Figure 2, the top countries account for 58% of the recent immigrant population.
- Period of immigration.** Each graph presents data for a different period of immigration. Figure 1 shows data for *all immigrants* in the Atlantic region as of 2021. Figure 2 shows data for *recent immigrants* in the region. “Recent immigrants” are those who received landed immigrant or permanent resident status from January 2016 to May 2021.
- 2021 census data.** Data is extracted from Canada’s 2021 Census of Population and is accurate to May 2021. It does not include immigrants who landed in Canada after that date.



## WHAT DOES THE DATA SAY?

- For both periods of immigration, many of the **top countries of origin are the same** (six out of seven). However, their **ranking** changes considerably. For all immigrants, the United Kingdom and United States outrank the following countries by a wide margin. For recent immigrants, the Philippines and India lead while Syria and China follow by a narrower margin.
- Immigration in Atlantic Canada is shifting from **Western to non-Western countries of origin**. For all immigrants, the United Kingdom and United States represent more than a quarter (26%) of the immigrant population; for recent immigrants, they account for only 6% of the population. At the same time, the Philippines, India, Syria, China, and Nigeria make up over half (51%) of recent immigrants.
- Immigration is a factor in **increasing ethno-cultural diversity**. While nationality does not necessarily correspond with ethnicity or culture, many recent immigrants come from countries that are demographically largely non-white.

## WHAT DOES THE DATA MEAN FOR SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION?

- Atlantic Canada is one of the least diverse parts of the country. According to the 2021 Census, only **7% of the population in Atlantic Canada identify as visible minorities**; in contrast, more than a quarter (27%) of Canada's population identify as visible minorities. Through immigration, however, the region is becoming increasingly diverse.
- Settlement service providers can **help newcomers adapt** to Atlantic Canada by providing services and programs informed by the region's culture and demography. For example, programming may highlight Canadian or regional values, histories, and multiculturalism. Services can also explore racism and other forms of discrimination, how newcomers can identify and respond to racism, and the legal frameworks that protect individuals and groups against discrimination.
- **Programming that engages the broader community** can make Atlantic Canada a more welcoming place for newcomers. Intercultural training and antiracism education can inform people about cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity; challenge misconceptions or prejudices; and provide strategies for conflict management. Furthermore, community outreach can facilitate positive and productive encounters between newcomers and longer-term residents. Examples include multicultural festivals, matching programs, community gardens, and many Local Immigration Partnership initiatives.

### SOURCES

Original data is from Canada's 2021 Census of Population. Data has been combined for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023. doi: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

