

2016 Public Views on Immigration Levels: Topline Summary (n=1,598)

The following is a summary of the findings from the *2016 Public Views on Immigration Levels* study.

Methodology (August 12-31, 2016)

The results involve 1,598 computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI) with Canadians 18 years of age and older. Within the interviews with members of the general public are 311 interviews with immigrants to Canada and 179 interviews with Indigenous peoples. The interviews were conducted in respondents' official language of choice. The margin of error¹ for the survey sample is ± 2.45 , 19 times out of 20. The data were weighted according to region, age, gender and membership in the Indigenous community (using Statistics Canada 2011 Census data) in order to reflect the actual proportions of these variables in the Canadian adult population.

Statistically significant differences between subgroups are highlighted in green.

Final Sample Distribution

| Demographic | Final weighted (count) | Weighted (%) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Total | 1,598 | 100% |
| Region | | |
| Atlantic Canada | 114 | 7% |
| Quebec | 383 | 24% |
| Ontario | 610 | 38% |
| Prairies (MB/SK) | 104 | 6% |
| Alberta | 168 | 11% |
| British Columbia/Territories | 219 | 14% |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 777 | 49% |
| Female | 821 | 51% |
| Age | | |
| 18 to 24 | 186 | 12% |
| 25 to 34 | 260 | 16% |
| 35 to 44 | 273 | 17% |
| 45 to 54 | 319 | 20% |

¹ The margin of error is greater for subgroups of the overall sample and for split samples where half of respondents are each asked a different question.

| | | |
|---|------|-----|
| 55 to 64 | 264 | 17% |
| 65 or older | 297 | 19% |
| Immigration Status | | |
| Immigrant | 358 | 22% |
| Non-immigrant | 1238 | 77% |
| Membership in the Indigenous peoples community | | |
| Indigenous | 68 | 4% |
| Non-Indigenous | 1520 | 95% |

Key Findings

Immigration Levels

Uninformed Opinion

Support for immigration levels has remained within the 50% range in the Tracking Survey since 2006 – in this survey, 52% say there are ‘about the right number’ of immigrants coming to Canada each year. The current perception of immigration levels is back in line with previous years’ tracking results following the shift seen in January 2016².

Those who are not members of the Indigenous community are more likely than those who are members to perceive that immigration levels are about right.

| Q1. In your opinion, do you feel there are too many, too few, or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada? | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| (Unaided - %) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Sample size | 1598 | 311 | 1285 | 179 | 1409 |
| Margin of error | ±2.45 | ±5.56 | ±2.73 | ±7.32 | ±2.61 |
| Too many | 23% | 18% | 24% | 30% | 23% |
| About right | 52% | 52% | 52% | 40% | 53% |
| Too few | 16% | 17% | 16% | 19% | 16% |

| Q1. In your opinion, do you feel there are too many, too few, or about the right number of immigrants coming to Canada? | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|
| (Unaided - %) | Nov-06 | Jan-09 | Feb-12 | Dec-12 | Feb-14 | Sept-14 | Jan-16 | Aug-16 | % Change – Jan-16 to Aug-16 |
| Sample size | 1200 | 1203 | 1500 | 3022 | 3016 | 3028 | 1500 | 1598 | --- |
| Margin of error | ±2.83 | ±2.83 | ±2.53 | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | ±2.53 | ±2.45 | --- |
| Too many | 28% | 26% | 30% | 27% | 26% | 26% | 16% | 23% | +7 |
| About right | 48% | 50% | 51% | 53% | 52% | 52% | 58% | 52% | -6 |
| Too few | 15% | 14% | 10% | 11% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 16% | +4 |

² In January 2016, the levels tracking questions were placed at the end of the survey following questions regarding the Syrian refugee crisis.

Canadians have underestimated immigration levels since tracking began with about one in ten estimating a level in the correct range. In this survey, 10% believe that about 150,000 to 299,999 immigrants are welcomed to Canada each year.

Immigrant status and membership in the Indigenous community does not impact perception of immigration levels.

| Q2. In total, approximately how many new immigrants do you think Canada allows into the country each year? | | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| (Unaided - #) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenou s | Non-Indigenou s |
| Sample size | 1598 | 311 | 1285 | 179 | 1409 |
| Margin of error | ±2.45 | ±5.56 | ±2.73 | ±7.32 | ±2.61 |
| Under 150,000 | 54% | 50% | 55% | 52% | 54% |
| 150,000 to 299,999 | 10% | 10% | 10% | 4% | 10% |
| 300,000 + | 6% | 7% | 6% | 4% | 7% |

| Q2. In total, approximately how many new immigrants do you think Canada allows into the country each year? | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| (Unaided - #) | Jan-09 | Feb-12 | Dec-12 | Feb-14 | Sept-14 | Jan-16 | Aug-16 | % Change – Jan-16 to Aug-16 |
| Sample size | 1203 | 1500 | 3022 | 3016 | 3028 | 1500 | 1598 | --- |
| Margin of error | ±2.83 | ±2.53 | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | ±2.53 | ±2.45 | --- |
| Under 150,000 | 52% | 36% | 46% | 40% | 46% | 48% | 54% | +6 |
| 150,000 to 299,999 | 13% | 12% | 11% | 9% | 11% | 8% | 10% | +2 |
| 300,000 + | 10% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 8% | 5% | 6% | +1 |

Impact of Immigration Information on Perceptions of Levels

When informed of the actual annual immigration levels, the percentage of those saying ‘about right’ remains at 50% and the percentage of those saying ‘too many’ increases by 9 points from 23% to 32%.

Overall, “post-information” perceptions of immigration levels have remained stable and close to the 50% range since 2006, with the exception of a shift seen in January 2016³.

Members of the Indigenous community are more likely than non-members to feel that there are too many immigrants coming to Canada each year once the actual immigration level is provided.

| Q3. In fact, in the last few years approximately 260,000 new immigrants came to Canada each year. Knowing this, do you feel there are... | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| (Aided - %) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Sample size | 1598 | 311 | 1285 | 179 | 1409 |
| Margin of error | ±2.45 | ±5.56 | ±2.73 | ±7.32 | ±2.61 |

³ In January 2016, the levels tracking questions were placed at the end of the survey following questions regarding the Syrian refugee crisis

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Too many | 32% | 29% | 33% | 43% | 32% |
| About right | 50% | 51% | 50% | 41% | 50% |
| Too few | 12% | 12% | 13% | 9% | 13% |

Q3. In fact, in the last few years approximately 260,000 new immigrants came to Canada each year. Knowing this, do you feel there are

| | 2012 | | | Feb-14 | | | Sept-14 | | | Jan-16 | | | Aug-16 | | |
|------------------------|----------|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------|----------|-------|---|
| (Aided - %) | Un aided | Aided | Change | Un aided | Aided | Change | Un aided | Aided | Change | Un aided | Aided | Change | Un aided | Aided | C |
| <i>Sample size</i> | 3022 | 3022 | --- | 3016 | 3016 | --- | 3028 | 3028 | --- | 1500 | 1500 | --- | 1598 | 1598 | |
| <i>Margin of error</i> | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | --- | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | --- | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | --- | ±2.53 | ±2.53 | --- | ±2.45 | ±2.45 | |
| Too many | 27% | 37% | +10 | 26% | 36% | +10 | 26% | 37% | +11 | 16% | 25% | +9 | 23% | 32% | |
| About right | 53% | 48% | -5 | 52% | 48% | -4 | 52% | 47% | -5 | 58% | 59% | +1 | 52% | 50% | |
| Too few | 11% | 10% | -1 | 10% | 9% | -2 | 12% | 11% | -1 | 12% | 8% | -4 | 16% | 12% | |

| Q3. In fact, in the last few years approximately 260,000 new immigrants came to Canada each year. Knowing this, do you feel there are... | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|
| (Aided - %) | Nov-06 | Jan-09 | Feb-12 | Dec-12 | Feb-14 | Sept-14 | Jan-16 | Aug-16 | % Change – Jan-16 to Aug-16 |
| Sample size | 1200 | 1203 | 1500 | 3022 | 3016 | 3028 | 1500 | 1598 | --- |
| Margin of error | ±2.83 | ±2.83 | ±2.53 | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | ±1.78 | ±2.53 | ±2.45 | --- |
| Too many | 35% | 36% | 39% | 37% | 36% | 37% | 25% | 32% | +7 |
| About right | 50% | 48% | 47% | 48% | 48% | 47% | 59% | 50% | -9 |
| Too few | 12% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 9% | 11% | 8% | 12% | +4 |

Immigration Priorities

Canadians are split on which category of immigrant should be prioritized. The economic immigrant category is prioritized by 37% of Canadians. About three in ten Canadians prioritize the family member category (30%) or refugees (29%).

Immigration status does not impact the ranking of immigration categories; however, immigrants to Canada are more likely to prioritize economic immigrants while those born in Canada are more likely to prioritize refugees.

| Q4. Currently, there are different categories of immigrants entering Canada. In your view, which of the following categories should be the most important priority? | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Sample size | 1598 | 311 | 1285 | 179 | 1409 |
| Margin of error | ±2.45 | ±5.56 | ±2.73 | ±7.32 | ±2.61 |
| Economic immigrants, for example, skilled workers, caregivers and entrepreneurs | 37% | 44% | 36% | 29% | 38% |
| The family members of people already in Canada | 30% | 33% | 29% | 36% | 29% |
| Refugees | 29% | 21% | 31% | 29% | 29% |

Perception of Potential Increases in Immigration Levels

Half of Canadians (51%) support an increase in mainly economic immigration over the next five years. One-quarter (26%) are neutral towards an immigration increase while one in five (21%) oppose an increase.

Canadians are split on whether they support or oppose specific increases of either 100,000 or 200,000 immigrants over the next five years. About two in five Canadians support either of the increases asked (42% support 100,000 and 38% support 200,000) while one in three oppose either of the increases asked (29% oppose 100,000 and 33% oppose 200,000).

| Q5. The Canadian population is approximately 36 million. This year, the Government of Canada may bring in up to 160,000 economic immigrants such as skilled workers, caregivers and entrepreneurs. Thinking ahead over the next five years, the government may wish to increase the number of immigrants coming to Canada with that increase coming MAINLY from economic immigrants. To what extent would you support or oppose this? |
|---|
|---|

| Q7. Over the next five years, to what extent would you support or oppose increasing the number of economic immigrants by [100,000/200,000]? | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Summary of support (7, 8, 9, 10) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Q5. Support increase (general) | 51% | 64% | 47% | 39% | 52% |
| Q7a. Support +100,000 [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 42% | 53% | 38% | 40% | 42% |
| Q7b. Support +200,000 [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 38% | 58% | 32% | 28% | 38% |

Immigrants to Canada and those who are not members of the Indigenous community are more likely to support a general increase.

Q5. The Canadian population is approximately 36 million. This year, the Government of Canada may bring in up to 160,000 economic immigrants such as skilled workers, caregivers and entrepreneurs. Thinking ahead over the next five years, the government may wish to increase the number of immigrants coming to Canada with that increase coming MAINLY from economic immigrants. To what extent would you support or oppose this?

| | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| <i>Sample size</i> | 1598 | 311 | 1285 | 179 | 1409 |
| <i>Margin of error</i> | ±2.45 | ±5.56 | ±2.73 | ±7.32 | ±2.61 |
| Support (7, 8, 9, 10) | 51% | 64% | 47% | 39% | 52% |
| Oppose (1, 2, 3, 4) | 21% | 13% | 24% | 36% | 21% |
| 10 - Strongly support | 15% | 22% | 13% | 16% | 15% |
| 9 | 5% | 8% | 3% | 1% | 5% |
| 8 | 18% | 21% | 17% | 15% | 19% |
| 7 | 13% | 12% | 14% | 7% | 14% |
| 6 | 8% | 8% | 8% | 7% | 8% |
| 5 | 18% | 12% | 20% | 15% | 18% |
| 4 | 5% | 2% | 6% | 7% | 5% |
| 3 | 5% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 5% |
| 2 | 2% | 1% | 2% | 3% | 2% |
| 1 - Strongly oppose | 10% | 7% | 10% | 21% | 9% |

Immigrants to Canada are more likely than those born in Canada to support either of the increases asked. Members of the Indigenous community are more likely to oppose either of the increases asked.

Q7. Over the next five years, to what extent would you support or oppose increasing the number of economic immigrants by [100,000/200,000]?

| | Aug-16 Total | | Immigrant | | Canadian Born | | Indigenous | | Non-Indigenous | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | +100,000 | +200,000 | +100,000 | +200,000 | +100,000 | +200,000 | +100,000 | +200,000 | +100,000 | +200,000 |
| <i>Sample size</i> | 799 | 799 | 152 | 159 | 647 | 638 | 90 | 89 | 708 | 701 |
| <i>Margin of error</i> | ±3.47 | ±3.47 | ±7.95 | ±7.77 | ±3.85 | ±3.88 | ±10.33 | ±10.39 | ±3.68 | ±3.70 |
| Support (7, 8, 9, 10) | 42% | 38% | 53% | 58% | 38% | 32% | 40% | 28% | 42% | 38% |
| Oppose (1, 2, 3, 4) | 29% | 33% | 20% | 17% | 32% | 37% | 47% | 53% | 28% | 32% |
| 10 - Strongly support | 14% | 13% | 22% | 19% | 11% | 11% | 16% | 10% | 14% | 12% |
| 9 | 4% | 3% | 6% | 6% | 3% | 2% | 0% | 1% | 4% | 3% |
| 8 | 14% | 13% | 15% | 20% | 13% | 10% | 15% | 10% | 13% | 13% |
| 7 | 11% | 10% | 10% | 14% | 11% | 9% | 10% | 7% | 11% | 11% |
| 6 | 7% | 8% | 8% | 5% | 7% | 9% | 3% | 3% | 7% | 9% |
| 5 | 19% | 17% | 16% | 14% | 19% | 19% | 10% | 11% | 19% | 18% |
| 4 | 5% | 6% | 4% | 1% | 6% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 5% | 6% |
| 3 | 6% | 9% | 3% | 5% | 7% | 10% | 13% | 13% | 6% | 8% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2 | 4% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 2% | 4% | 4% |
| 1 - Strongly oppose | 14% | 14% | 9% | 9% | 15% | 15% | 25% | 33% | 13% | 13% |

Impact of Immigration

The majority of Canadians agree that Canada has a history of welcoming immigrants (82%). About three in four Canadians agree that the Government of Canada has a role in integration, either by helping immigrants integrate into society (75%) or by helping Canadians welcome immigrants (72%). Two-thirds (67%) of Canadians agree that immigrants benefit Canada economically by working or creating jobs and slightly fewer agree (61%) that immigrants benefit Canada by fostering innovation. Two-thirds of Canadians feel that immigration is necessary to sustain economic growth (65%), particularly in the face of an aging population (64%). Just under half (47%) feel that Canada has the capacity to welcome more immigrants than it is currently accepting.

Immigrants, along with those who are not members of the Indigenous community, are more likely than those who were born in Canada to agree with each statement.

| Q8. Please tell me to what extent you either agree or disagree with each of the following statements. | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| % Agree (7, 8, 9, 10) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Canada has a history of welcoming immigrants. | 82% | 89% | 80% | 75% | 82% |
| The Government of Canada has an important part to play in helping immigrants to integrate into Canadian society. | 75% | 80% | 73% | 63% | 75% |
| The Government of Canada has an important part to play in helping Canadians to accept and welcome immigrants into their communities. | 72% | 78% | 70% | 62% | 72% |
| Immigrants contribute to our economy by working, starting businesses or creating jobs. | 67% | 77% | 64% | 50% | 68% |
| Immigration is necessary if Canada is to sustain its economic growth. [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 65% | 73% | 63% | 47% | 66% |
| Immigration is necessary if Canada is to sustain its economic growth in the face of an aging population. [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 64% | 76% | 61% | 49% | 65% |
| Immigrants to Canada support our country by fostering innovation and new ideas. | 61% | 72% | 58% | 51% | 62% |
| Canada has the capacity to welcome more immigrants than it is currently accepting. | 47% | 59% | 44% | 38% | 48% |

Effect of Immigration

Canadians are more likely to feel that immigration has a positive effect than a negative effect; however, they are more likely to feel positively about the effect on larger regions such as the country overall (72%) or their province (67%) than on smaller regions such as their neighbourhood (52%). About three in five feel that immigration positively effects them personally (58%). There is no difference in responses between an overall region versus a region's economy.

Immigrants are more likely than those who were born in Canada to feel a positive effect on each item.

| Q9. In general, what effect does immigration to this country have on...? | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| % Positive (somewhat or very) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Canada [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 72% | 84% | 69% | 70% | 72% |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Canada's economy [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 70% | 80% | 67% | 59% | 71% |
| Your province [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 67% | 81% | 63% | 63% | 67% |
| Your province's economy [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 63% | 70% | 62% | 47% | 64% |
| Your community | 61% | 75% | 57% | 53% | 61% |
| Your city | 59% | 72% | 56% | 53% | 60% |
| You personally | 58% | 73% | 53% | 52% | 58% |
| Your neighbourhood | 52% | 71% | 47% | 43% | 53% |

Refugees

Two in five (41%) Canadians feel that the number of refugees coming to Canada is about right. Three in ten (30%) feel that there are too many refugees coming to Canada while one in five (19%) feel that there are too few.

Immigrant status and membership in the Indigenous community does not impact perception of refugee levels.

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Q10. In your opinion, do you feel that there are too many, too few or about the right number of refugees coming to Canada? | | | | | |
| (Unaided - %) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| <i>Sample size</i> | 1598 | 311 | 1285 | 179 | 1409 |
| <i>Margin of error</i> | ±2.45 | ±5.56 | ±2.73 | ±7.32 | ±2.61 |
| Too many | 30% | 29% | 30% | 34% | 29% |
| About right | 41% | 38% | 41% | 37% | 41% |
| Too few | 19% | 16% | 19% | 20% | 19% |

The majority (72%) of Canadians agree that accepting refugees is part of Canada's humanitarian tradition. About two-thirds of Canadians agree that Canada has a responsibility to do its part in accepting refugees (68%), though slightly fewer agree the responsibility is to accept specifically from refugee camps (63%). In comparison, less than half (44%) of Canadians feel that Canada has a responsibility to help asylum seekers. Less than half of Canadians agree that refugees have a positive impact on Canada's economy (46%), though agreement is higher that refugees will positively impact the economy "in the long run" (54%).

Immigrant status and membership in the Indigenous community does not impact perception of refugees.

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Q11. Please tell me to what extent you either agree or disagree with each of the following statements. | | | | | |
| % Agree (7, 8, 9, 10) | Aug-16 Total | Immigrant | Canadian Born | Indigenous | Non-Indigenous |
| Accepting refugees is part of Canada's humanitarian tradition. | 72% | 74% | 72% | 64% | 73% |
| Canada has a responsibility to do its part in accepting refugees. [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 68% | 63% | 69% | 63% | 68% |
| Canada has a responsibility to do its part in accepting refugees from refugee camps. [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 63% | 64% | 63% | 63% | 64% |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Refugees have a positive impact on Canada's economy in the long run. [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 54% | 53% | 54% | 43% | 54% |
| Refugees have a positive impact on Canada's economy. [SPLIT SAMPLE] | 46% | 44% | 47% | 46% | 46% |
| Canada has a responsibility to help asylum seekers, that is, those who come to Canada as visitors and, after arriving, claim that they are refugees who cannot go home because they face danger or persecution. | 44% | 45% | 43% | 43% | 44% |