

ARGEIAD

News

**Atlantic Research Group on
Economics of Immigration, Aging
and Diversity**

September 2026

Contents

Immigration in Canada by Province: Comparing the first quarters of 2024–2026.....	3
Recent events held under the auspices of ARGEIAD	7
An Hour with Canada’s Assistant Chief Statistician	7
Dr. Ather Akbari Speaks at an international conference on AI, Futures Skills and Productivity	9
Completion of research projects	9
Upcoming Event _ Oct. 16 The Future of Canada’s Labour Market: Immigration, Diversity, AI, & Atlantic Canada	10
ARGEIAD in the News.....	11

Immigration in Canada by Province: Comparing the first quarters of 2024–2026

In October 2024, Canadian government announced its major shift to restrict and reduce immigration levels. The 2025–2027 Immigration Levels Plan was released, which was further updated through subsequent border and temporary residency restrictions announced on **February 12, 2025** and via [Bill C-12](#) receiving royal assent on **March 26, 2026**.

Overall, there was a 32 percent decline in the permanent resident status granted during the first quarters of the period 2024–2026. There was a decline in each province, except for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (Table 1). The Canadian federal government boosted permanent residency spots under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in 2025, while scaling back on the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. The province of NL appears to have benefited from this boost. It also adopted **an aggressive local strategy to fast-track in-province temporary residents to PR**. (<https://www.cicnews.com/2025/11/levels-plan-federal-government-gives-large-increase-to-provincial-nominee-program-scales-back-on-tfwp-and-study-permits-1161677.html>)

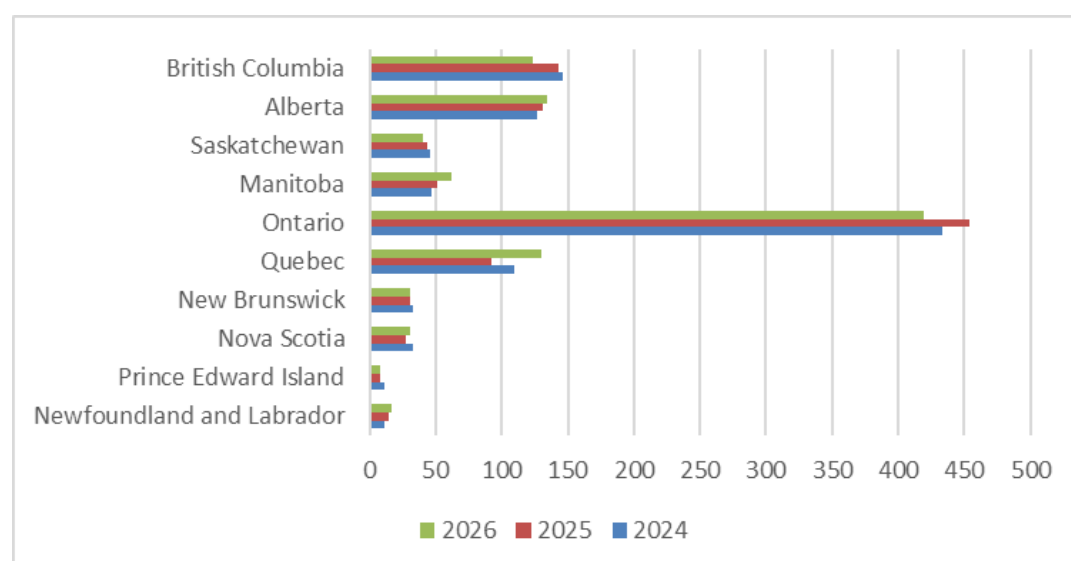
Table 1: Permanent resident status granted, Canada and Provinces: first quarters of 2024, 2025, 2026

Province	2024 (Jan–Mar)	2025 (Jan–Mar)	2026 (Jan–Mar)
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,385	1,565	1,400
Prince Edward Island	1,330	815	630
Nova Scotia	4,020	2,855	2,570
New Brunswick	3,985	3,220	2,535
Quebec	13,370	9,595	10,770
Ontario	52,785	47,340	34,835
Manitoba	5,675	5,390	5,190
Saskatchewan	5,605	4,590	3,355
Alberta	15,405	13,630	11,135
British Columbia	17,785	14,935	10,305
Canada Total	1,21,780	1,04,320	83,130

Source: IRCC

Out of each 1,000 permanent resident status granted nationally, the province of Ontario was intended destination of the most in each year, although this number declined between 2025 and 2026 (from about 454 to 419). Among Atlantic provinces, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador experienced an increase of their national shares, while the shares of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island remained steady. (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Provincial distribution of permanent residents per 1,000 admissions: first quarters of 2024, 2025 & 2026.



Source: Calculations based on Table 1

There was also a 41 percent decline in the study permits issued in Canada during the first quarters of 2024 to 2026. In Ontario, this decline was the largest – about 52 percent. Among the Atlantic provinces, while the numbers were lower in 2025 for Newfoundland and Labrador, they fully restored in 2026. New Brunswick had the least decline (only 2 percent). Prince Edward Island had the largest decline (about 28 percent) followed by Nova Scotia (about 23 percent).

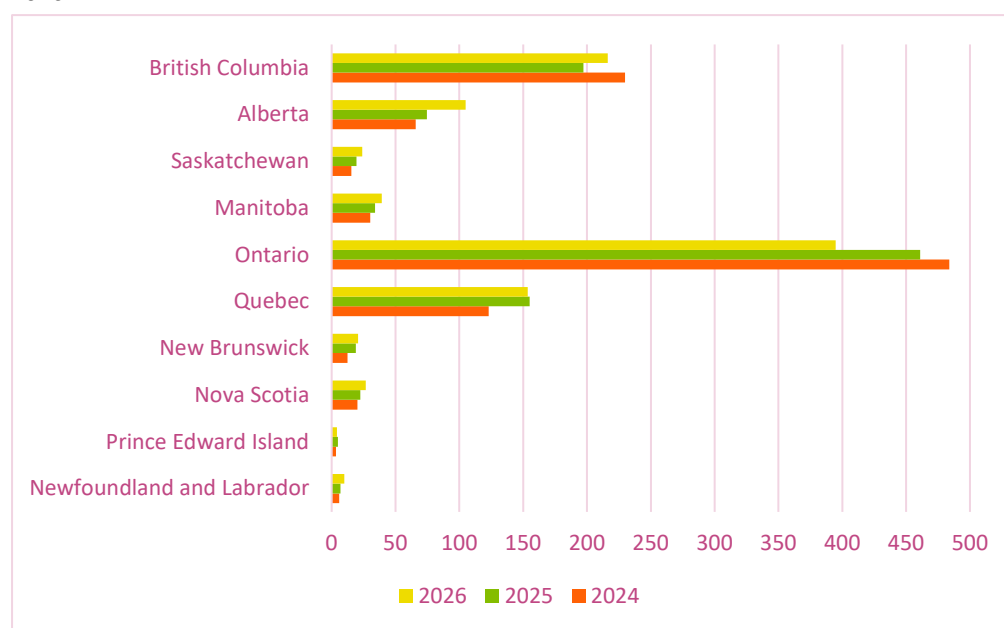
Table 2: Study permits issued, Canada and Provinces: first quarters of 2024, 2025 & 2026

Province	2024 Jan–Mar	2025 Jan–Mar	2026 Jan–Mar
Newfoundland & Labrador	710	655	710
Prince Edward Island	415	470	300
Nova Scotia	2,455	2,115	1,905
New Brunswick	1,495	1,775	1,470
Quebec	14,860	14,575	10,945
Ontario	58,515	43,285	28,160
Manitoba	3,655	3,195	2,795
Saskatchewan	1,855	1,825	1,715
Alberta	7,960	7,000	7,485
British Columbia	27,775	18,510	15,415
Canada Total	1,20,920	93,910	71,315

Source: IRCC

The national share of study permit holders declined consistently over the period in Ontario while all other provinces had an increase (Chart 2).

Chart 2: Provincial distribution of study permit holders per 1,000 admissions: first quarters of 2024, 2025 and 2026.



Source: Based on Table 2.

After a decline between 2024 and 2025 (first quarters) in the work permit holders, there was an increase in 2026 (first quarter). This increase was observed in all provinces (Table 3).

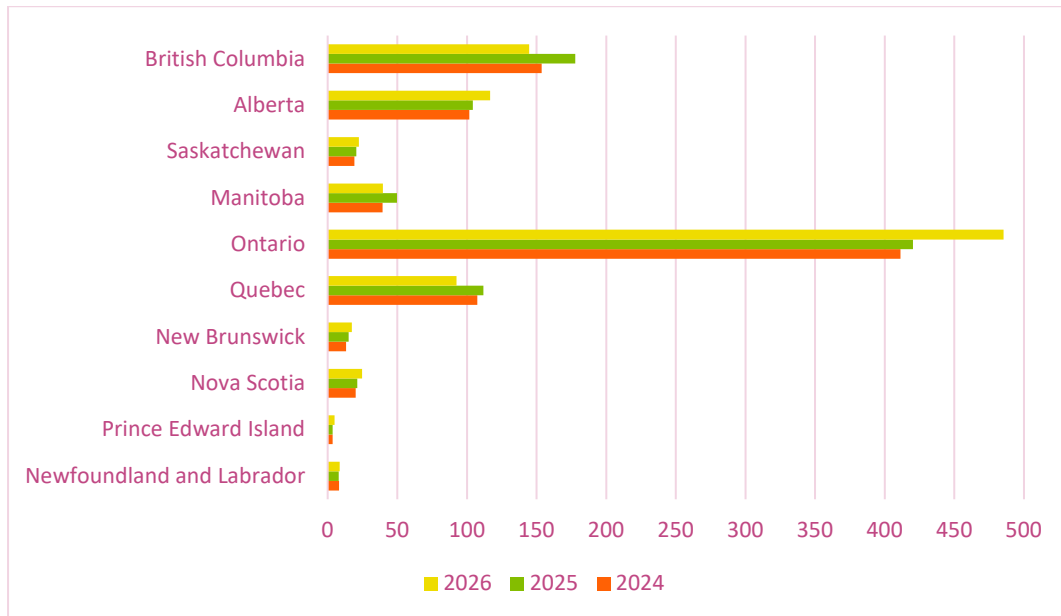
Table 3: Work permits issued under the International Mobility Program: first quarters of 2024-2026

Province	Work permit holders for International Mobility Program (IMP)		
	2024 (Jan–Mar)	2025 (Jan–Mar)	2026 (Jan–Mar)
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,870	1,365	2,140
Prince Edward Island	825	630	1,215
Nova Scotia	4,660	3,685	6,130
New Brunswick	3,060	2,595	4,300
Quebec	24,765	19,355	22,880
Ontario	94,825	72,755	120,060
Manitoba	9,090	8,605	9,815
Saskatchewan	4,430	3,555	5,560
Alberta	23,460	18,060	28,860
British Columbia	35,410	30,765	35,820
Canada Total	230,550	173,125	247,420

Source: IRCC.

The national shares of Ontario, Alberta, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick rose (Chart 3).

Chart 3: Provincial distribution of temporary foreign workers per 1,000 admissions: first quarters of 2024, 2025 and 2026.



Source: Calculations based on Table 3.

Recent events held under the auspices of ARGEIAD

An Hour with Canada's Assistant Chief Statistician

Contributed by: Kavya Sudarsan, Master of Applied Economics student, Saint Mary's University



On June 15, 2026, ARGEIAD hosted a virtual talk titled *"An Hour with Canada's Assistant Chief Statistician"* featuring Ms. Béatrice Baribeau, Assistant Chief Statistician of the Strategic Data Management, Methods and Analysis Field at Statistics Canada. The event brought together 28 students, faculty members, researchers, and members of the wider community interested in Canadian data, labour market trends, immigration, and evidence-based policy research. Some of them attended in-person.

The session commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Ather Akbari, Chair of ARGEIAD. Dr. Akbari welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of access to high-quality data for advancing research and informing public policy.

Participants were then welcomed by Dr. Michel Delorme, Dean of the Sobey School of Business at Saint Mary's University. Dr. Delorme

introduced the guest speaker and noted the growing importance of data literacy and evidence-based decision-making in addressing Canada's economic and social challenges. He also acknowledged the valuable collaboration between academic institutions and Statistics Canada in fostering research excellence and knowledge sharing.

During her presentation, Ms. Baribeau provided an overview of Statistics Canada's mandate and its role as Canada's national statistical agency. She discussed how Statistics Canada collects, manages, and disseminates information across a broad range of topics, including labour markets, immigration, housing, population dynamics, business activity, and economic performance. She highlighted the importance of maintaining public trust through rigorous data quality standards, confidentiality protections, and methodological innovation.

Ms. Baribeau discussed recent demographic and labour market trends, including population growth, immigration, workforce participation, and regional economic development. She explained how policymakers, researchers, and businesses rely on high-quality statistical information to make informed decisions and evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies.

The presentation also introduced participants to the wide range of research resources available through Statistics Canada. These resources provide researchers with opportunities to conduct detailed analyses on issues affecting Canadian society while ensuring the confidentiality of respondents.

Another important area of discussion was the role of technological advancement and artificial intelligence in modern statistical production. Ms. Baribeau highlighted how emerging technologies are transforming data collection and analyses while presenting new opportunities and challenges related to privacy, ethics, and data governance.

The presentation was followed by an engaging question-and-answer session, during which

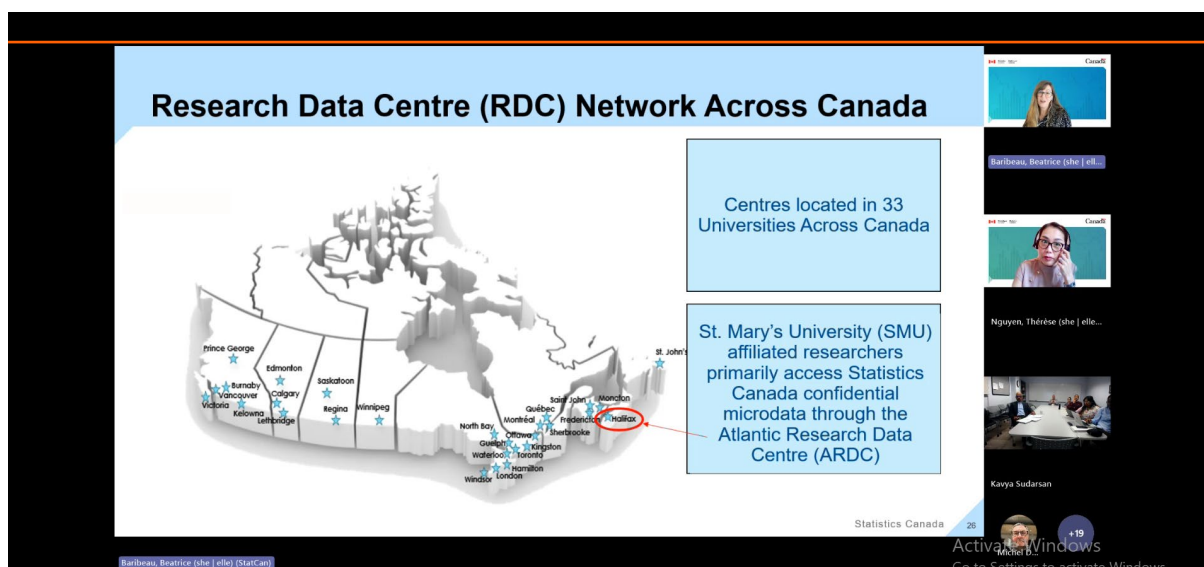
participants discussed data accessibility, labour market research, immigration trends, and the future of official statistics in supporting public policy and academic research. The discussion reflected the strong interest among attendees in leveraging data-driven approaches to address contemporary economic and social issues.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Ather Akbari, who thanked Ms. Baribeau for sharing her expertise and insights. He also expressed appreciation to all participants for their engagement and highlighted the importance of continued dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and statistical agencies.

ARGEIAD extends its sincere gratitude to Ms. Béatrice Baribeau for an informative presentation. The session provided attendees with valuable insights into Canada's statistical system and reinforced the critical role that high-quality data plays in supporting research, policy development, and informed public discourse.

View the presentation slides:

- [Statistics Canada Data Research and Opportunity.pdf](#)





Dr. Ather Akbari Speaks at an international conference on AI, Futures Skills and Productivity

On May 8, 2026, Dr. Ather Akbari spoke at this two-day conference, held at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The conference provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration, highlighting the importance of continued dialogue on the future of artificial intelligence and immigration with respect to their impacts on the economy, the labour market, and society. Dr. Akbari's presentation was based on the ARGEIAD's on-going research on the twenty-five years of immigration in Atlantic Canada. [His full presentation can be found here.](#)

Completion of research projects

The research project *"Twenty-five years of immigration in Atlantic provinces"* was completed in May 2026. The project culminated in four provincial reports and one regional report. Each report:

- Compiled and analyzed data on immigration to Atlantic Canada from 2001 to 2024;
- Examined the demographic, geographic, and labour market dimensions of immigration and their implications for regional development;
- Assessed the contribution of immigrants to population growth, labour force expansion, and economic performance; and
- Identified research gaps and data limitations that should be addressed to support evidence-based immigration policy and effective immigrant attraction, integration, and retention strategies.

Full reports can be found here:

- [Atlantic Canada Report 2026.pdf](#)
- [Final NB Report 2026.pdf](#)
- [Final NL Report 2026.pdf](#)
- [Final NS report 2026.pdf](#)
- [Final PEI report 2026.pdf](#)

Upcoming Event

Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity presents

Fireside Chat
Michelle Alexopoulos,
External Deputy Governor,
Bank of Canada

PM Keynote
Rupa Banerjee,
Toronto Metropolitan
University

October 16,
2026
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

[REGISTER](#)



**The Future of Canada's
Labour Market:**

IMMIGRATION, DIVERSITY, AI,
AND ATLANTIC CANADA

Oct. 16 | The Future of Canada's Labour Market: Immigration, Diversity, AI, and Atlantic Canada

Canada's labour market is being reshaped by immigration, demographic change, technological innovation, and the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. These transformations are especially important for Atlantic Canada, where population aging, labour shortages, and newcomer integration are central to the region's economic future. This public outreach event will bring together researchers, policymakers, employers, community organizations, students, and the public to discuss how immigration, diversity, and AI are changing work, skills, and opportunity in Canada and Atlantic Canada. The event will explore emerging labour market trends, regional workforce challenges, and policies that can support inclusive growth, innovation, and long-term prosperity.

Featured speakers:

Michelle Alexopoulos

External Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada: Fireside Chat

Rupa Banerjee

Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University: "Diversity and Economic Growth"

- [Click here to learn more.](#)
- [Click here to reserve your seat. Admission is free.](#)

ARGEIAD in the News

Dr. Akbari (ARGEIAD chair) was interviewed on CBC Radio NS by:

1. Ben Dorman (April 21, 2026) on labour disruptions in education institutions.
(<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/dalhousie-union-mount-saint-vincent-smu-9.7170637>)
2. CBC Morning – NS with Portia Clark(August 5, 2026) on what decreasing Canada's immigration numbers could mean for the economy (<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-27-information-morning-nb/clip/16229979-what-decreasing-canadas-immigration-numbers-mean-economy>)