

Other classes of admissible immigrants consist of persons in the close-relative and immediate-dependant category who may be sponsored by Canadian citizens or by persons other than Canadian citizens who have been legally admitted to Canada for permanent residence and wish to bring forward a mother, father, husband, wife, intended wife, grandparent or an unmarried minor child and who are able to receive and care for them. This provision is of universal application; its principal effect is to improve the position of persons from countries which have received less favoured treatment in the past, by including grandparents and fiancées in the admissible categories of dependants and eliminating age limits with respect to fathers and mothers. The special provisions under the former Regulations regarding the admissibility of other classes of relatives, such as brothers and sisters, adult sons and daughters, orphan nieces, etc., which applied to certain countries, remain unchanged. The new Regulations make no reference to special agreements in effect with India, Pakistan and Ceylon. The enlarged provisions of the new Regulations bring directly into the admissible classes those qualified but unsponsored immigrants from these three countries who formerly were covered by the agreements and make it unnecessary to have a special regulation to provide for them.

The Immigration Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration administers the Immigration Act and Regulations. Twenty-eight visa offices are located abroad at London, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, Paris, Brussels, Berne, The Hague, Copenhagen, Cologne, Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Stuttgart, Vienna, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, Lisbon, Rome, Athens, Cairo, Tel Aviv, New Delhi and Hong Kong. Four offices in the United States—at New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Denver—furnish information and counselling but do not issue visas. Personnel at all posts are kept in close touch with economic conditions in Canada and thus are able to advise immigrants regarding prospects for successful settlement. Examination of immigrants and visitors is carried out at 348 ports of entry on the Canadian coasts, at points along the International Boundary, and at certain airports.

A primary objective of the immigration program is satisfactory settlement. The Federal Government assists immigrants in establishing themselves in the Canadian community through the work of the specialized settlement officers of the Immigration Branch, the Canadian Citizenship and Canadian Citizenship Registration Branches and other government agencies, and co-operates closely with several voluntary agencies having the same objective.

Section 2.—Immigration Statistics

Postwar Immigration.—The extent of immigration to Canada in any period is affected both by domestic conditions and by conditions abroad. However, these influences are seldom immediately decisive. News of good economic conditions in Canada predisposes people in favour of this country but, because the immigration process usually takes from six to eighteen months, actual immigration is not always fully coincidental with the economic situation, so that immigration may at times be slight in good years but appear unduly heavy in less buoyant periods. The time-lag caused by selection, medical examination and documentation is unavoidable. Transportation is often another delaying factor and to these considerations must be added the effect of seasonal unemployment in Canada, which tends to discourage immigration during the months from November to April.

Since the end of World War II there have been wide annual fluctuations in immigration to Canada caused mainly by economic and political factors. Many of the persons who arrived in 1946 and 1947 were the wives and children of Canadian service men and their numbers were dictated by the availability of shipping. In 1948, as more shipping became available, the number of immigrants doubled. In addition to the large movement