

Americans Go North: 2006 Migration of Americans to Canada hits 30 year record

Analysis by
 Jack Jedwab
 Executive Director
 Association for Canadian Studies

July 30, 2007

The number of Americans admitted to Canada in 2006 hit a 30 year record. As observed below nearly 11 000 Americans settled in Canada in 2006 a 20% increase over the previous year and nearly double the number that arrived here in the year 2000 (Table 1). As the number of Canadians admitted into the United States diminished between 2005 and 2006 the net loss to Canada was somewhat reduced relative to the previous year.

Table 1

	Number of Immigrants coming to Canada from the United States by country of last permanent residence, 1956-2006			
2006	10,942			
2005	9,262	1980	9 926	
2004	7,507	1979	9 617	
2003	6,011	1978	9 945	
2002	5,294	1977	12 388	
2001	5,910	1976	17,315	
2000	5,828	1975	20,155	
1999	5,533	1974	26,541	
1998	4,776	1973	25,242	
1997	5,028	1972	22,618	
1996	5 837	1971	24,366	
1995	5 185	1970	24,424	
1994	6 234	1969	22,785	
1993	8 014	1968	20,422	
1992	7 537	1967	19,038	

1991	6 597	1966	17,514	
1990	6 084	1965	15,143	
1989	6 931	1964	12,565	
1988	6 537	1963	11,736	
1987	7 967	1962	11,643	
1986	7 275	1961	11,516	
1985	6 669	1960	11,247	
1984	5 727	1959	11,338	
1983	7 381	1958	10,846	
1982	9 360	1957	11,008	
1981	10 559	1956	9,777	

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Facts and Figures, 1956-2006

In 2006 Canadians accounted for 1.4% of all immigrants to the US compared with 1.9% in the previous year. Americans admitted to Canada accounted for 4.4% of all immigrants in 2006 compared with 3.5% in the previous year.

Table 2

Immigrants Admitted From Canada to the United States by Region of last permanent residence and Americans to Canada by last permanent residence, 2000-2006

	Numbers of Canadians admitted to the United States	Numbers of Americans admitted to Canada	Net Loss to Canada
2006	23 913	10 942	12 971
2005	29 930	9262	19 968
2004	22,439	7500	14 939
2003	16 447	5990	10 457
2002	27,142	5288	21 854
2001	29,991	5902	24 089
2000	21,289	5809	15 480

Sources: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2000-2006

Looking at categories of immigration provides insight into the motivation of Americans choosing Canada. In 2001 37.9% of Americans moving here were in the economic category, 28.3% in 2003, 39.7% in 2004 and about 41% in the years 2005 and 2006. These figures remain below the overall percentage of immigrants to Canada that are in the economic category. In 2004 some 56.7% of Canadian immigration was in the economic category compared with 59.6% in 2005 and 54.9% in 2006. Still in 2006 US economic immigration to Canada was closer to the average in that regard than it has been in the previous five years.

Table 3

Americans admitted to Canada	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Family Class	2,495	2,603	2,953	3,180	3,615	2,782	2,986	3,705	4,145	4,468
Economic Immigrants	2,470	2,103	2,545	2,575	2,241	1,938	1,703	2,977	3,804	4,498
Refugees	54	57	30	69	55	33	45	132	772	1246
Other Immigrants	11	13	5	--	0	541	1,279	693	541	731
Total	5,030	4,776	5,533	5,828	5,911	5,294	6,013	7,507	9,262	10,943

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 1997-2006

It is interesting to observe the increase in the number of refugees coming from the United States in the last couple of years. It appears to be the result of refugees who are being admitted as Americans that are often the dependants (mostly children) of people who have spent a number of years in the US and have had children who were born in the US. When the parent crosses the border and makes a claim that is accepted, the dependants are also admitted and listed as American since that is the country of their birth (this is done instead of separating families).

Is Canada narrowing the brain drain with our US neighbor?

While 41% of Americans admitted to Canada in 2006 were in the economic category, approximately 39% of Canadians admitted to the US in that same year were in the comparable category. When looking at the differences over the past few years in the real numbers between the two countries Canada is undoubtedly narrowing the brain drain. Moreover as seen in the table below, Canada is receiving an increasingly well educated segment of arrivals from the United States implying that people coming this way are looking for either better quality of life both economically and probably from a social and political standpoint.

Table 4

	2004	2005	2006
Economic Immigrants From US to Canada	2,977	3,804	4,498
Employment-based preferences from Canada to US	9893	17 027	8,945
Net Drain in favor of the United States	6 916	14 223	4447

Sources: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States, 2004-2006 and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2004-2006

The most educated immigrant group arriving in Canada is coming from the United States with nearly half possessing a bachelor's degree or more. In the year 2000 it was immigrants from the Asia and Pacific regions that held that lead.

Table 5

Immigrants to Canada with Bachelor's Degree or better	2000	2006
Africa and the Middle East	38.1	43.0
Asia and Pacific	49.4	43.3
South and Central America	23.5	30.1
United States	46.0	49.5
Europe and the United Kingdom	41.6	46.8
Total	43.9	42.7

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2000 and 2006

There remains a huge gap between Canada and the United States in the extent to which the country receives economic migrants as part of its overall intake compared with the United States where family reunification plays a considerably bigger role in the overall immigration picture (much of which comes from Latin America). Hence debates about the increasingly marginal advantage that the US gains from the brain exchange with Canada need to consider the increasingly larger gains that Canada makes on the basis of immigration relative to the US and the possible impact that this may have on the respective social structure of the two countries. It is an issue that merits greater investigation. It is small wonder however that Canadians are more inclined to have favorable perspectives about the economic impact of immigrants on their country than do our neighbors to the South.

Table 6

Percentage of immigrants by category in the US and Canada	Family Class		Employment-Economic	
	Canada	United States	Canada	United States
2006	28.0	63.4	54.9	12.6
2005	24.3	57.9	60.0	22.0

2004	27.0	66.1	57.1	16.2
2003	29.4	69.7	55.0	11.6

Sources: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States, 2003-2006 and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2003-2006

Destinations of Americans Settling in Canada

As to the provincial destinations of Americans coming to Canada not has much changed in the past decade as Ontario remains the principle destination followed by BC and Quebec. Each saw an increase in the numbers of Americans coming here between 2005 and 2006 though Quebec and Nova Scotia had the largest increase in percentage terms.

Table 7

Immigration From the United States to Canada by province	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
NS	96	87	106	111	127	101	124	176	159	244
Other Atlantic	154	94	88	93	114	107	114	169	171	224
Quebec	412	403	425	493	501	521	701	775	731	1,006
Ontario	2,503	2,495	3,004	3,285	3,256	2,845	3,097	3,849	5,147	5,705
Manitoba	138	102	152	99	135	107	139	155	207	195
Saskatchewan	131	68	94	82	88	106	104	116	124	142
Alberta	468	499	548	549	581	474	555	759	758	980
BC	1,116	1,020	1,105	1,091	1,083	1,020	1,162	1,496	1,955	2,435
Territories	10	8	11	25	25	13	15	12	10	11
Total	5,028	4,776	5,533	5,828	5,910	5,294	6,011	7,507	9,262	10,942

It may appear paradoxical to some that while Quebec has seen an increase in immigration from the United States between 2005 and 2006 there was a slight decrease in immigrants from France. Perhaps more interesting was the fact that since 2005 the percentage of immigrants from France settling outside of Quebec has been on the upswing when examining the results in this decade.

Table 8

Immigrants admitted to Canada from France and the destination of settlement, 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
France-Canada	2,858	3,867	3,923	4,345	4,428	3,963	4,127	5,028	5,430	4,915
France-Quebec	1982	2580	2757	3119	3112	2926	3 050	3620	3565	3 236
France-Rest of Canada	876	1287	1166	1226	1316	1037	1067	1400	1860	1679
Percentage in ROC	30.6	33.2	29.5	28.5	29.9	26.1	26.0	28.0	34.4	34.1

As observed below between 2005 and 2006 there was an important increase in the number of immigrants admitted in the United States but a decrease in Canada. In 2006 Toronto continued to hold down the third spot in North America in terms of the numbers of immigrants it received. Still Toronto's share of Canada's total immigration stood at 43% in 2005 well ahead of that of New York's in the US (17.7%). Miami-Fort Lauderdale risks overtaking Toronto for the 3rd spot as an immigrant destination given their recent remarkable growth in that regard. If the MTV (Montreal-Toronto and Vancouver) has reflected the concentration of immigrant settlement in Canada in the US the emergence of the NLM (New York-LA-Miami) shows increased concentration south of the border as well though not on the same scale as Canada.

Table 9

Principal Cities where immigrants settled in North America, 2003-2006

	2006	2005	2004	2003
United States	1266264	1 122 373	957 853	705 827
Canada	251 649	262 236	235 824	221 352
New York City, Northern NJ, LI	224 444 (17.7)	172 858 (15.4)	138 577 (14.4)	117 677 (16.7)
Toronto	99263 (39.5)	112 790 (43.0)	99 867 (42.4)	97 546 (44.1)
Los Angeles	120 880 (9.6)	98 244 (8.8)	110 824 (11.5)	80 026 (11.3)
Miami-Ft. Lauderdale	98922 (7.8)	79 562 (7.1)	49 817 (5.2)	36 740 (5.2)
Vancouver	36 271	39 434	32 682	30 781
Montreal	38,379	37 167	37 877	33 787
Washington	54 556	37 150	32 275	29 720
Dallas	26 654	28 971	25 238	15 612
Boston	28 473	27 141	22 721	16 606
Atlanta	25 270	25 353	12 970	8 516
Other Destinations in the US	567 403 (44.8)	535 405 (47.7%)	449 386 (46.9)	327 802 (46.4)
Other Destinations in Canada	77763 (31.0)	72 485 (27.8%)	65 398 (27.8)	59 238 (26.9)

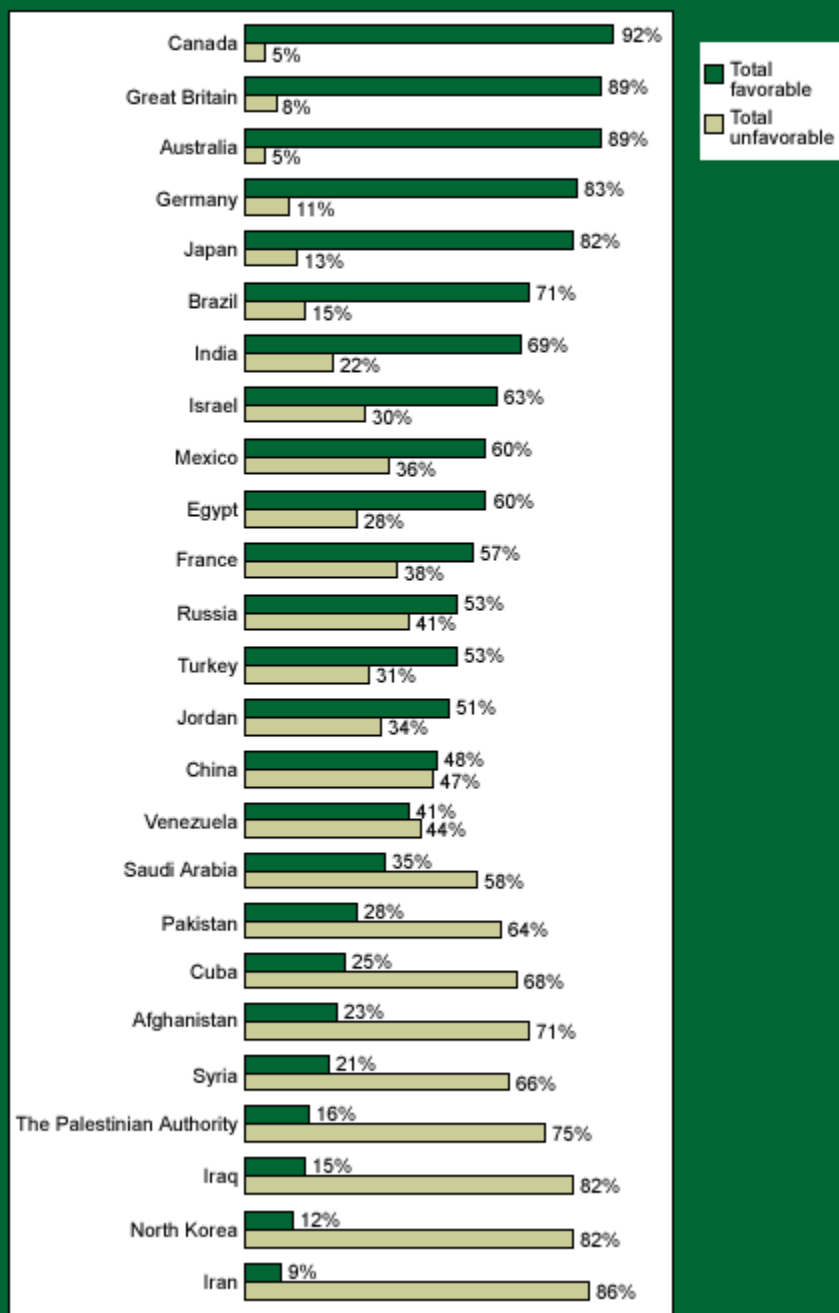
Sources: Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, United States, 2006 and
Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2006

Canada stays on top in US favorability ratings

The Gallup annual survey on the favorability of views of foreign countries released earlier this year reveals that Canada has been in top spot on the eyes of Americans in the past two years and in considering the reasons that Americans choose Canada, the generally favorable view of the country likely plays a role.

Next, I'd like your overall opinion of some foreign countries. First, is your overall opinion very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

February 1-4, 2007



Next, I'd like your overall opinion of some foreign countries. First, is your overall opinion of [RANDOM ORDER] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about -- [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

Canada	Very favor- able	Mostly favor- able	Mostly unfavor- able	Very unfavor- able	No opinion
2007 Feb 1-4	43	49	4	1	2
2006 Feb 6-9	40	49	6	3	2
2005 Feb 7-10	38	48	8	2	4
2004 Feb 9-12	36	51	7	4	2
2003 Feb 3-6	43	46	6	1	4
2002 Feb 4-6	49	43	4	1	3
2001 Feb 1-4 ^	51	39	4	3	3

Total Favorable 2001-2007	Canada	Australia	Great Britain
2007 Feb 1-4	92	89	89
2006 Feb 6-9	89	-	88
2005 Feb 7-10	86	-	91
2004 Feb 9-12	87	88	87
2003 Feb 3-6	89	-	89
2002 Feb 4-6	92	-	90
2001 Feb 1-4 ^	90	85	85