

**CANADIAN IMMIGRATION FLOWS
IN PANDEMIC REALITY**

Canadian immigration is considered to be one of the best in the world as it is loaded with better opportunities for employment as well as for personal growth. Government promotes policies for skilled immigrants who can be used as a workforce, and it is actually what helps the country's economy. Professionals and skilled workers who wish to pursue permanent residence in Canada must demonstrate a strong likelihood to become economically settled in Canada. That is why the main selection factors of all economic programs are suitable education, work experience in a high-demand occupation and language abilities under one of Canada's official languages – English and French. Certainly, immigration can give substantial economic benefits – a more flexible labour market, greater skills base, increased demand, and a greater diversity of innovation. However, immigration can cause issues of overcrowding, congestion, and extra pressure on public services. There is also a debate about whether immigration of unskilled workers leads to downward pressure on wages and even unemployment of native workers.

And it is just a look at mostly the economic costs and benefits of immigration, though the hosting country needs to consider some other means in order to gain from immigration, and improve the economic situation, and the country's population number. Such means can be called rules or restrictions for the immigration process, and COVID-19 as the main one nowadays.

To manage the outbreak of the coronavirus disease, the Prime Minister of Canada announced travel restrictions that limit travelling to the country. Health authorities also issued guidance and restrictions that limit the ability to process applications normally. Until further notice, most foreign nationals cannot travel to Canada, even if they have a valid visitor visa or electronic travel authorization (eTA). These restrictions stop most non-essential travel to Canada.

Since the start of the pandemic, IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) and provinces, and territories across the country have continued to process new and existing immigration applications. It is done to complete the processing of as many applications as possible so that those eligible to obtain permanent or temporary status now can do so while travel restrictions and other pandemic disruptions persist. The reason why Canada's governments are processing applications now is to enable the country's immigration system to recover as quickly as possible following the pandemic. Looking ahead, Canada expects its immigration levels to exceed 200,000 newcomers in 2021 as IRCC has since adapted to the pandemic. A major reason why immigration failed to break the 200,000 newcomer barrier last year was that Canada's permanent residence landings plummeted between the middle of March and May 2020 as federal government officials were affected by lockdowns and other pandemic measures.

The arguments presented prove that the pandemic will continue to have an impact on Canada's Immigration Levels Plan, though Canada is determined to surpass 401,000 annually once COVID-19 has been contained globally.