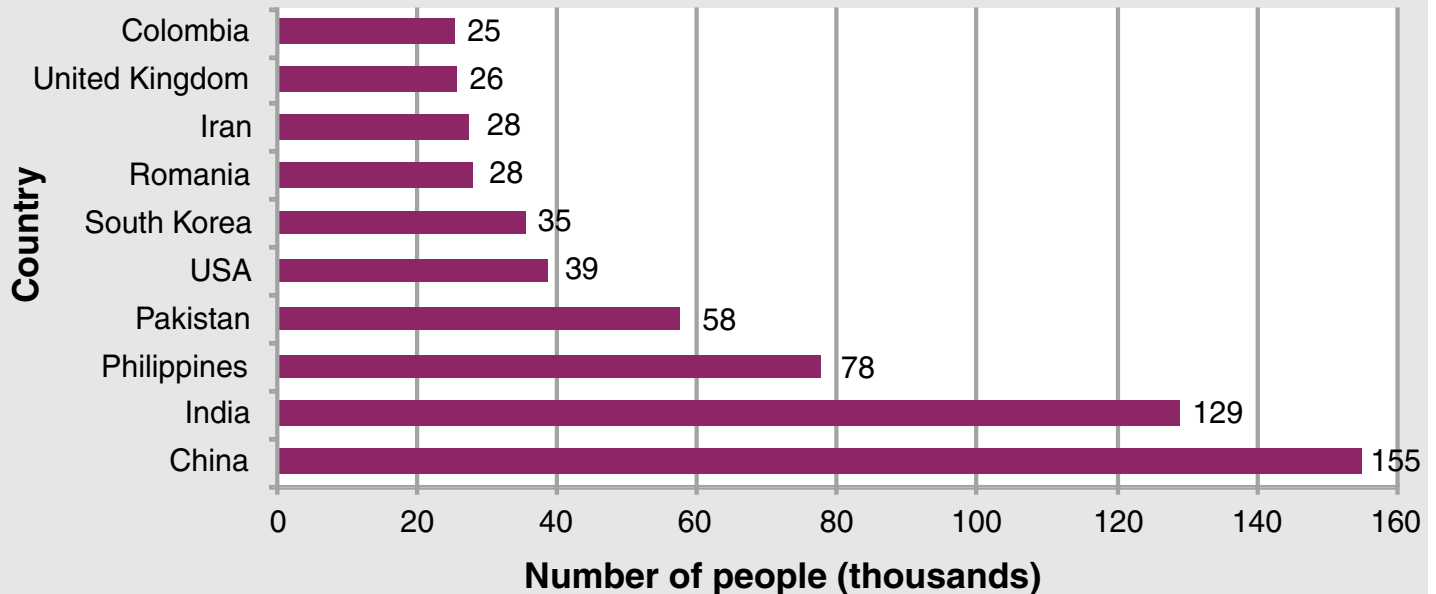




1.5.22 Families Immigrating to Canada

Fig. 1.5.22 Number of recent immigrants coming to Canada, by leading countries of origin, 2001 to 2006



Adapted from Statistics Canada, at <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demo24a-eng.htm>, accessed on November 28, 2011

Immigration is a key component of net population growth in Canada. The below-replacement fertility rate (1.7 children per woman in 2007)¹ suggests that immigration will become the primary source of population growth.²

The 2006 Census estimated that 1,110,000 people immigrated to Canada between January 1, 2001, and May 16, 2006.³ Immigrants from the 10 leading countries of origin accounted for 54% of all recent immigrants to Canada. Most came from China and various other regions of Asia, including the Middle East. Many others immigrated from the United States, Romania, the United Kingdom and Colombia.

¹OECD Factbook 2010. (doi: 10.1787/20752288-2010-table-can).

²Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Pursuing Canada's Commitment to Immigration: The Immigration Plan for 2002.

³Statistics Canada, 2007. Immigration in Canada: A portrait of the foreign-born population, 2006 Census. Ottawa, Statistics Canada. (Catalogue no. 97-557-XWE2006001)

Implications

Starting life anew in a foreign country is not without obstacles. Many new immigrants to Canada must secure employment, enrol in school, find housing, learn a new language and the customs, register for health care, make friends and familiarize themselves with the expectations of their new neighbourhood. Social services, including church groups, job assistant programs and life skills training, can help to smooth the transition.

