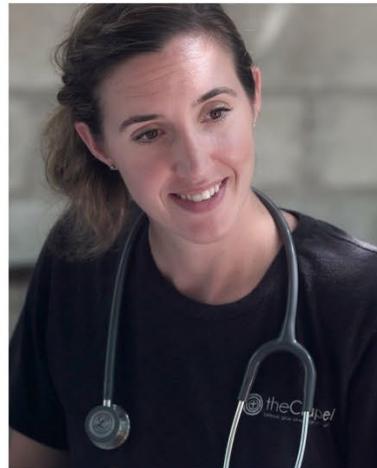




BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program

Statistical Report and Year in Review 2022



BC Provincial Nominee Program

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The central office of the BC Provincial Nominee Program is located on the territory of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, who have been stewards of this area for many generations.

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Introduction

In 2017, the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) began to produce an annual statistical report to share key program statistical results. The 2022 edition, which has been renamed the BC PNP Statistical Report and Year in Review, continues to provide an overview of key program statistics, but has been expanded in scope to also provide information about the program's activities during the 2022 calendar year.

The 2022 edition is organized so that each program component (Entrepreneur Immigration and Skills Immigration) has its own section, using an explanatory narrative to highlight their unique characteristics. Much of the statistical information is presented in the form of pie or line charts or simple diagrams, using visuals to convey the results of a complex program.

The central element of the expanded scope of this year's report is the "Year in Review" section that provides an overview of the work that the BC PNP accomplished in 2022 to improve the program's performance and strengthen anti-fraud measures. This year's report also replaces statistics on applications received with figures for decisions (the number of files processed), as they are a more accurate reflection of program's operational activities during 2022. This year's report expands the section that previously focused on BC PNP's efforts to support the technology sector into a broader section on strategic initiatives and priority occupations.

**New in 2022:
A review of the BC
PNP's activities
over the past year**



2022: Year in Review

After two successive years in which the COVID-19 pandemic had a large impact on immigration to Canada and the operations of the BC PNP, the year 2022 saw the program move toward renewed program expansion. The program nominated an all-time high of 7,000 individuals for permanent residence. It also added new capacities for better targeted strategic selection that will more precisely support B.C.'s economic needs in the years to come.

On March 10, 2022, the BC PNP announced the first phase of major changes to the Skills Immigration (SI) streams. These included the introduction of adaptable, targeted draws of invitations to apply for occupations that are aligned with strategic government priorities. While BC PNP Tech continues to have its own priority draws, new priority draws were added to support labour market needs in healthcare, childcare and veterinary services. In addition, the former Health Care Professional stream became the Health Authority stream, which is now open to applications from any employee of the province's public health authorities, regardless of occupation. In August 2022, the program added regional draws (i.e. for workers outside of Metro Vancouver) to help support regional labour market development.

The summer also saw important developments for Entrepreneur Immigration (EI). The Base stream, which had been paused since July 2021, reopened on July 13. The reopened stream featured changes to the scoring system and criteria that were designed to improve the quality of proposed business plans and their compatibility with B.C.'s strategic economic goals. As the EI section of this report explains in greater detail, these changes have resulted in a more efficient and transparent stream, in which a much greater percentage of registrants are invited to submit full applications.

The second phase of major changes to SI took place in the fall. The BC PNP closed its SI registration system in October in preparation for the changes, which took effect on November 16. These changes included an update to the SI points system that adjusted the overall balance in favour of human capital factors (e.g. education, work experience, language skill) and regional employment. Another major change was the expansion of the International Post-Graduate stream, which had previously been only for holders of graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines from B.C. universities. While the stream continues to only accept master's degrees in STEM disciplines, it now accepts applicants with doctoral degrees from B.C. universities in any discipline, as well as PhD students who have achieved candidacy in their programs. The program is also supporting the post-secondary sector with a change that allows university professors and lecturers to apply even if their job offers are not indeterminate.

The BC PNP also continued to prioritize the work of its Anti-Fraud and Investigations Unit. Working from the recommendations outlined in the report on SI tabled by the Office of the Auditor General in 2020, the unit has been working to implement a new fraud risk management framework. These efforts have heightened awareness of fraud risks and have included new policies and processes that have improved the BC PNP's ability to detect and mitigate fraudulent activities. The program is also actively improving public awareness about fraud schemes and scams that prospective applicants might encounter as they navigate the immigration system by featuring important information about these topics on the WelcomeBC website. The site also provides information about how fraud can be reported.

The BC PNP made changes in 2022 to increase the prioritization of health care workers



Program Overview

The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) was created in 2001 to strategically select and nominate a limited number of prospective immigrants for permanent residence status in Canada. B.C. provincial nominees can apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for permanent resident status for themselves and their dependants.

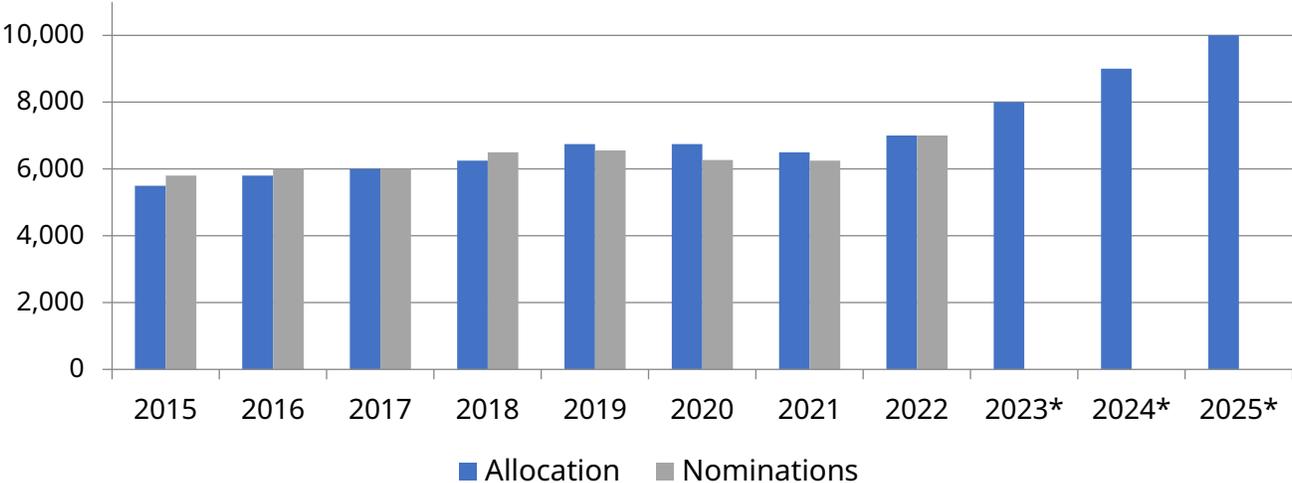
The BC PNP is the Province’s only tool to directly select economic immigrants who will be coming to B.C. to live and create economic benefit by working in a job or operating a business. It is governed by the [Canada-British Columbia Immigration Agreement \(CBCIA\)](#) and the [Provincial Immigration Programs Act](#).

Allocations

Each year, IRCC considers requests from provinces and territories that have a nominee program and allocates a specific number of nominations to each jurisdiction. For 2022, B.C. requested, received, and fully used an allocation of 7,000 nominations.

As the chart below indicates, the program generally uses its entire nomination allocation, with the most notable exceptions during the COVID-19 pandemic period (2020 and 2021). The federal government has recently moved to notionally approve an increase in nominations for the next three years. With this new longer-term planning system in place, B.C. is expected to reach 10,000 nominees by 2025.

Table: BC PNP Allocations and Nominations, 2015-25



*Notional allocation

Two Program Components: Skills and Entrepreneur Immigration

The BC PNP has two main components, each of which takes a unique approach to select immigrants who have the skills and experience needed to contribute to B.C.'s economic development and growth.

Skills Immigration (SI) is for workers with the skills, experience, and qualifications needed by B.C. employers.

Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) is for experienced entrepreneurs who intend to actively manage an eligible business in the province.

SI typically accounts for about 99 per cent of BC PNP nominees. The CBCIA allows up to 5 per cent of the program's nominations to be used for EI. The table below shows the nominations made by each program component over the past four years.

| Total BC PNP Nominations | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Program Component | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Skills Immigration (SI) | 6,503 | 6,251 | 6,213 | 6,966 |
| Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) | 48 | 17 | 38 | 34 |
| Total | 6,551 | 6,268 | 6,251 | 7,000 |

Strategic Objectives

The program works to align its program offerings to support government's broader strategic goals.

The BC PNP helps **improve the standard of living** for British Columbians by selecting nominees who are self-sufficient and contribute to increased wages in their sectors for all workers.

The BC PNP supports the provincial economy's ability to **deliver the services that people count on** by helping to address labour shortages in key service areas that British Columbians need, such as healthcare workers and early childhood educators.

The BC PNP helps **build a sustainable economy that creates opportunities for everyone** by supplementing the workforce in occupations that the domestic workforce cannot fully supply. The program also selects nominees who will encourage regional development by settling in

communities outside of major urban centers, and it selects innovators and experts who will transfer knowledge and skills to British Columbians.

Finally, the BC PNP **advances equality, diversity, and inclusion** by selecting nominees who contribute to the diverse social, cultural, and economic fabric of their new communities.

The BC PNP works to support an economy that is diverse, inclusive, sustainable, and affordable

Key Performance Measures

The BC PNP continues to develop and refine key performance measures so that the program's contribution to the economic development of British Columbia can be more easily quantified, understood, and reported publicly. Over the past two years, reporting was introduced to provide information about BC PNP nominee wages, regional nominations, and nominations in essential occupations in healthcare and early childhood education. Those objectives are covered again this year, but with more extensive discussion sections for each of them.

The BC PNP is part of the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, which aims to ensure that British Columbia has the skilled labour it needs over the years to come. The regional and occupational key performance measures in this section are a vital tool for encouraging strategically important skilled workers to stay in British Columbia over the long run.

For some performance measures, specific quantitative targets continue to be in development for future reporting.

Performance Objective 1: Wages

| Objective | Performance Measures | Baseline | BC PNP 2022 Data | Target (2023) |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| The BC PNP selects nominees who are self-sufficient and who help increase wages in their sectors for all workers | Median wage of Skills Immigration (SI) nominees compared to median wage of British Columbians | Median wage for all B.C. workers (\$28.00/hour in 2022) | Median wage for BC PNP SI nominees in 2022: \$31.25/hour | Within reasonable range of the median wage for individual British Columbians |

Discussion:

The median wage of BC PNP SI nominees in 2022 was \$2.41 per hour higher than the previous year, and \$3.25 above the overall median wage for British Columbia. In recent years, BC PNP nominations have generally targeted higher-skilled workers who bring their specialized knowledge and experience to the province. While the program has also nominated some workers in lower-paid occupations, over 99% of 2022 SI nominees who had a job offer had an hourly wage rate that was greater than the provincial minimum wage.

Performance Objective 2: Regional Nominations

| Objective | Performance Measures | Baseline | BC PNP 2022 Data | Target (2023) |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| The PNP selects nominee families who settle into affordable communities outside B.C.'s major urban centres | Skills Immigration (SI) Nominees who are settling outside of Metro Vancouver | 21% of SI Nominees outside of Metro Vancouver (2020 level) | 25% of the BC PNP's SI nominees in 2022 were outside Metro Vancouver | At least 26% of SI nominees outside of Metro Vancouver |
| | Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) Nominees who are settling outside of Metro Vancouver | 71% of EI Nominees outside of Metro Vancouver (2020 level) | 76% of the BC PNP's EI nominees in 2022 were outside Metro Vancouver | At least 60% of EI nominees outside of Metro Vancouver |

Discussion:

The BC PNP is supporting the immigration needs of all regions by progressively increasing the proportion of nominees settling outside of Metro Vancouver (“regional nominees”). The points system for Skills Immigration gives registrants extra points if they will be working outside Metro Vancouver. It also awards additional points to registrants who have experience working or studying in B.C. outside of Metro Vancouver, as an incentive to retain workers who have an existing familiarity with the regions. In addition, the program introduced new flexibility designed to increase regional SI nominations in August 2022 when it began the practice of conducting occasional draws of invitations to apply that were entirely devoted to regional registrants.

In Entrepreneur Immigration, the innovative Regional Pilot stream (created in 2019) directly involves communities in the selection of regional immigrants. It benefits both communities and immigrants by encouraging immigrant entrepreneurs to settle in smaller communities around the province and to start businesses identified as important to the communities’ economic development strategies. The target of 60% of EI nominee outside of Metro Vancouver includes nominees in both the Regional Pilot stream and the EI Base stream.

Additional initiatives are currently being developed to attract and prioritize regional candidates. These will be designed to lead to further increases in the percentage of regional nominees over the next few years, moving toward a target of at least 30% of SI nominees residing outside Metro Vancouver by 2025.

Performance Objective 3: Essential Services

| Objective | Performance Measures | Baseline | BC PNP 2022 Data | Target (2023) |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| The PNP selects nominees who help deliver essential services with identified shortages | Nominees who are essential service workers in health care and early childhood education | 172 nominees in healthcare occupations (2021 level) | 300 nominees in prioritized healthcare occupations | Increased level (Exact figure TBD, but no cap) |
| | | 90 nominees in early childhood education (2021 level) | 427 early childhood educator nominees | Increased level (Exact figure TBD, but no cap) |

Discussion:

In March 2022, the BC PNP started to prioritize care economy occupations, specifically in the health and childcare sectors. The program made process and criteria changes to support meeting the critical demands for these occupations, which provide important services on which British Columbians depend. As a result, there were 74% more healthcare occupation nominees and 374% more early childhood education nominees in 2022 than in 2021. Workers in veterinary occupations have also been introduced as a new priority, although numbers remain too small for reporting this year. As the BC PNP is currently evaluating the immediate-term impact of these changes, specific figure for future year targets have not yet been established for these priority occupations.

**427 nominees working in
early childhood education in
2022**



For workers
with the skills,
experience and
qualifications
needed by B.C.
employers

SKILLS IMMIGRATION



Skills Immigration (SI)

Skills Immigration is made up of five streams:

- Skilled Worker
- Health Authority (Healthcare Professionals prior to March 2022)
- International Graduate (IG)
- International Post-Graduate (IPG)
- Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS)

The Skilled Worker stream is for experienced workers in a professional, management, technical, trade or other skilled occupation. The Health Authority stream is focused specifically on workers employed by the province's public health authorities. The International Graduate and Post-Graduate streams are designed to retain international students (undergraduate and post-graduate) who have come to study at Canadian institutions and who wish to remain in Canada and start their careers in British Columbia. The Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled stream is open to workers in specific occupations in tourism/hospitality, and food processing.

Except for ELSS, all streams have an **Express Entry BC (EEBC)** option. Applicants who use the EEBC option must meet BC PNP criteria and those of the federal Express Entry streams to benefit from faster processing of their federal permanent residency application.

Skills Immigration has two streams designed to retain international students



The Registration Pool and Invitations to Apply (ITAs)

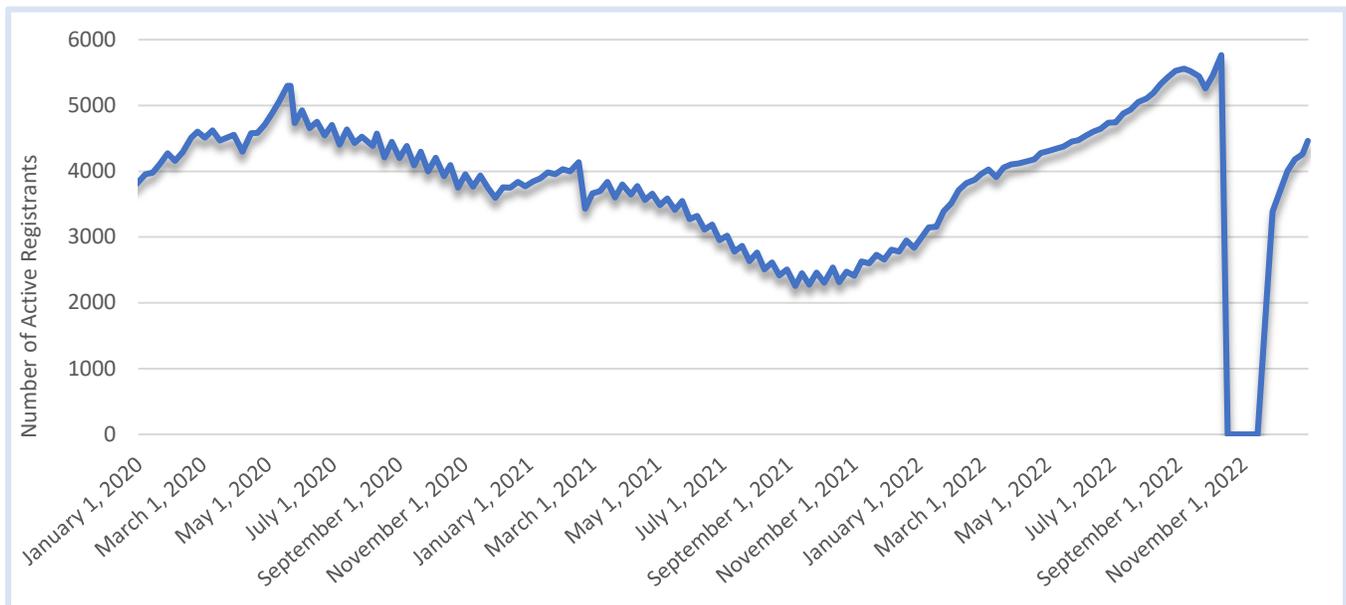
The BC PNP uses an online, points-based expression of interest system to manage application intake for the Skilled Worker, IG and ELSS streams. This system helps prioritize candidates who are a strong match with program criteria. It also helps the BC PNP meet the Ministry service standard to process 80 per cent of applications within 3 months.

Prospective applicants first complete a no-fee registration that establishes a point score based on six main factors:

- Level of education
- Experience
- Language skills
- Occupation
- Salary being offered to them by a B.C. employer
- Job location

After a registration is received, it is automatically scored and placed in a registration pool.

Chart: Number of active registrations in Skills Immigration pool, 2020-22*



* Note that the BC PNP expired all registrations in the pool in October 2022 to facilitate the transition to NOC 2021 and to introduce changes to SI points. The pool reopened on November 16.

Registrations may remain active in the pool for up to one year. Registrants may choose to withdraw voluntarily at any time. To proceed to the application stage, a registrant must receive an [invitation to apply \(ITA\)](#). The BC PNP periodically conducts draws and issues ITAs to the highest scoring active registrations. Some draws are limited to select, high-priority occupations. Recipients of ITAs have 30 days to apply. The minimum score necessary to receive an invitation fluctuates and is determined by factors that include BC PNP processing capacity and the size of and scores in the registration pool.



*The number of 2022 ITAs converted to applications is different from the number of applications received in 2022 in streams that require registration. This difference is caused by the fact that some late 2021 ITAs became applications in early 2022, and some late 2022 ITAs became applications in early 2023. Please also note that not all SI applications require registration, so the number of applications that result from ITAs is always smaller than the number of total applications in any given time period. All of the numbers above refer exclusively to ITAs that were issued during the 2022 calendar year and to applications that resulted from them.

Skills Immigration Decisions

The number of nominee application decisions completed in any given year is the most direct statistical indicator of the volume of work done under the BC PNP Skills Immigration streams. Applications received is a less reliable indicator of volume because they may or may not be processed in the same year that they were submitted.

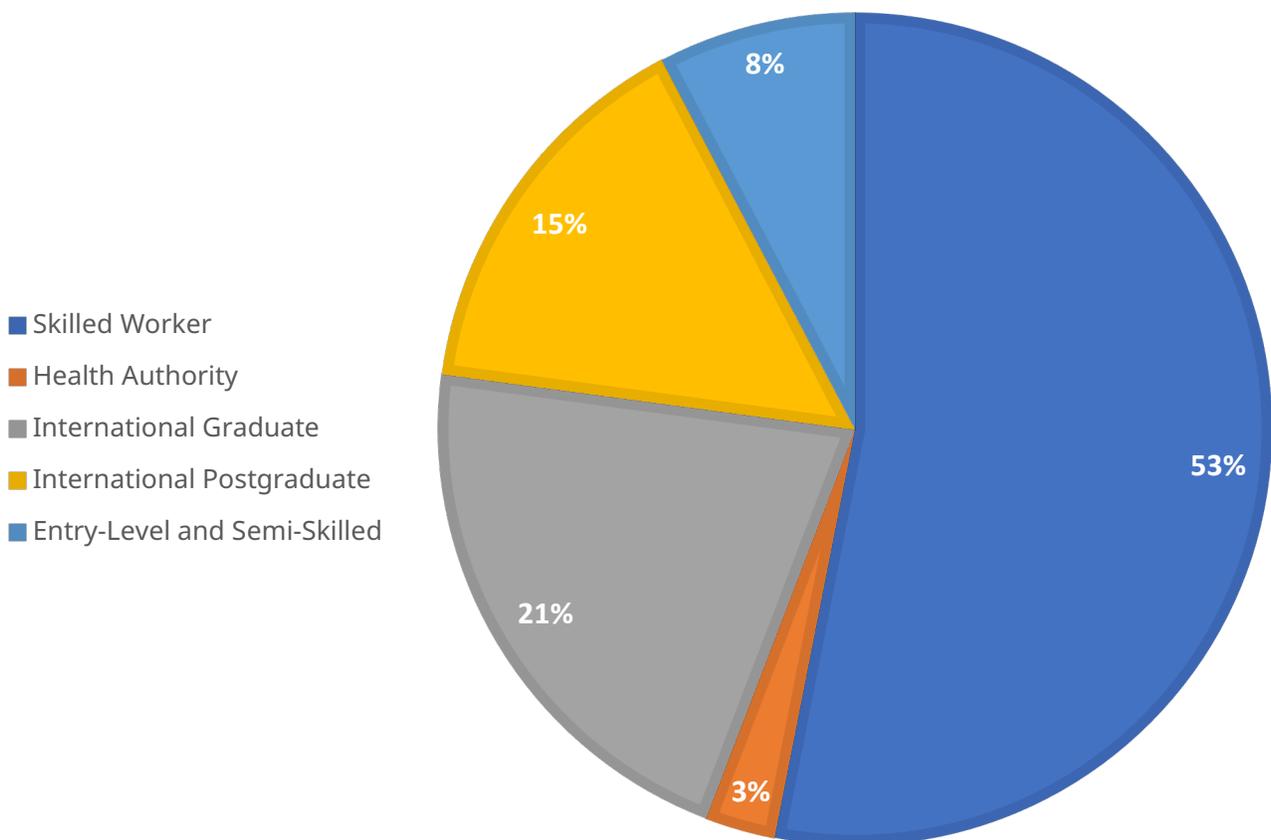
In 2022, the BC PNP made 7,868 decisions on applications to the SI streams. This is a 3.2% increase from 2021, when the BC PNP made 7,623 decisions on SI applications. 6,966 out of the 7,868 decisions in 2022 resulted in a nomination – an approval rate of 88.5%.

Nominations

As explained in the section on allocations, IRCC allocates a specific number of nominations to B.C. each year. Typically, the BC PNP uses about 99% of this allocation for its SI streams. In 2022, B.C. received an allocation of 7,000 and used 6,966 of them for SI.

The following chart and table show the overall share of nominations for each stream, as well as a more detailed breakdown.

Chart: Skills Immigration Nominees in 2022 by Stream



| Total Skills Immigration Nominations | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Stream | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Skilled Worker | 1,515 | 1,747 | 1,199 |
| Entry Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS) | 374 | 768 | 534 |
| International Graduate | 339 | 375 | 385 |
| International Post-Graduate | 558 | 501 | 592 |
| Health Authority (Healthcare Professional prior to March 10) | 72 | 71 | 106 |
| EEBC - Skilled Worker | 2,051 | 2,002 | 2,499 |
| EEBC - International Graduate | 1030 | 415 | 1,099 |
| EEBC - International Post-Graduate | 288 | 297 | 468 |
| EEBC – Health Authority (Healthcare Professional prior to March 10) | 24 | 37 | 84 |
| SI Total | 6,251 | 6,213 | 6,966 |

In 2022, 53% of all nominations were under the Skilled Worker stream and 37% of nominations were under the International Graduate and International Post-Graduate streams.

Strategic Initiatives and Priority Occupations

In recent years, the BC PNP has increasingly prioritized strategically important, high demand occupations.

The first initiative to do so was the Tech Pilot, which the program introduced in 2017 to help B.C. tech employers address their talent needs. It introduced concierge service for tech sector employers and special ITA draws for workers in specific tech-focused occupations. In May 2021, the BC PNP indefinitely extended the Tech Pilot under a new name: BC PNP Tech.

A list of the eligible occupations in engineering, technology, and business support services, along with other information about BC PNP Tech, can be found on our [website](#).

| BC PNP Tech Nominations | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Nominees | 1,855 | 1,697 | 2,351 |
| % of SI Nominees | 29.7% | 27.3% | 33.6% |

BC PNP Tech (which draws from the Skilled Worker and International Graduate streams) has grown to account for a large share of the program’s SI nominations. In 2022, BC PNP Tech nominees constituted more than a third of all SI nominees. Six of the top 10 occupations nominated in 2022 were tech occupations: software engineers and designers, graphic designers and illustrators, computer programmers and interactive media developers, information systems analysts and consultants, computer and information systems managers, and web designers and developers.

Building on the effectiveness of BC PNP Tech, the program has expanded its use of more specific, targeted rounds of ITAs to support workforce needs in health care, early childhood education, and veterinary science. The following table shows how many SI nominees work in health occupations, with a breakdown that shows how many are employed by one of B.C.’s health authorities and how many work for other employers. Increased prioritization for health workers led to a 74% increase in the number of health occupation nominees in 2022.

| Health Occupation Nominations | | |
|---|------|------|
| | 2021 | 2022 |
| Working for a Health Authority | 106 | 144 |
| Working for Other Employers | 66 | 156 |
| Total Health Occupation Nominees | 172 | 300 |
| % of SI Nominees in Health Occupations | 2.8% | 4.3% |

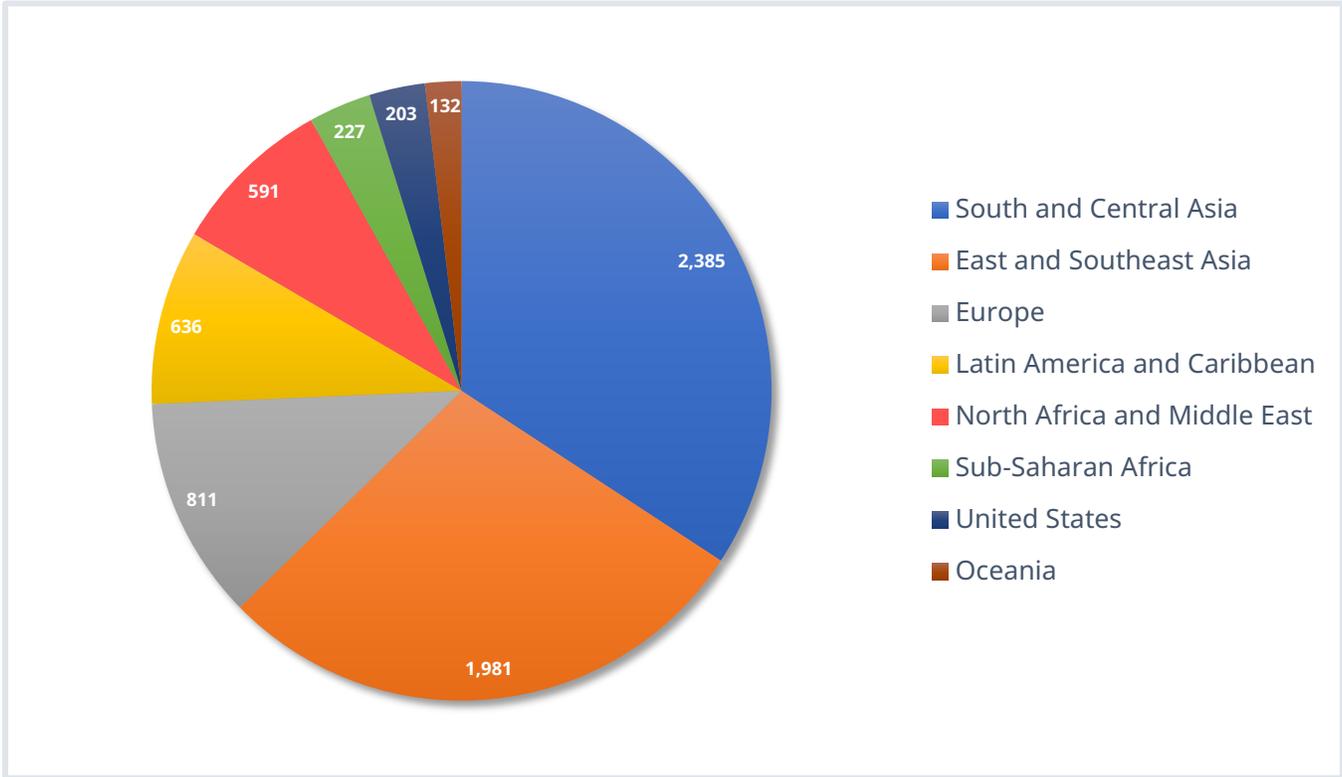
Note that these figures do not reflect all nominees working in the healthcare sector because there are several ways to break down the contribution of the BC PNP to that sector. For example, 46 of the 190 nominees in the Health Authority stream this year work for a health authority but not in an occupation that is classified as a health-specific occupation, such as food service workers and cleaners.

More information on results in healthcare and other priority areas can be found in the key performance measures section of this report.

Geographical Origins of Nominees

Many nominees in the SI streams come from countries in Asia. 63% of 2022 nominees came from either South/Central Asia or from East/Southeast Asia. Other regions that contributed significant numbers of nominees include Europe (11.6%) and Latin America/Caribbean (9.1%).

Chart: Geographical Origins of 2022 Skills Immigration Nominees



| Top 5 Individual Source Countries for the SI Streams | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| India | India | India |
| China | China | China |
| Brazil | Iran | Iran |
| United Kingdom | Brazil | South Korea |
| Iran | United Kingdom | United Kingdom |

Occupations

In 2022, there were some noteworthy shifts in the distribution of SI nominees among the major occupational categories. The natural and applied sciences and related category saw the largest gain and continued to be the largest group.

The occupational category that saw the second largest gain was education, law and social/community/government services, which increased from a 4.9 % share of 2021 SI nominees to a 9.5% share of 2022 nominees. The main reason for this increase was the BC PNP's prioritization of workers in early childhood education. Similar prioritization efforts also led to a notable increase in health workers from 2.4% to 3.7% of SI nominees.*

| Occupational Category of SI Nominees | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Natural and applied sciences and related | 26.5% | 24.6% | 30.7% |
| No listed occupation (IPG stream nominees) | 13.3% | 12.8% | 15.2% |
| Sales and service | 12.8% | 14.3% | 14.4% |
| Business, finance and administration | 18.4% | 16.8% | 11.3% |
| Education, law and social/community/government services | 5.0% | 4.9% | 9.5% |
| Trades, transport and equipment operators and related | 13.0% | 16.4% | 8.0% |
| Art, culture, recreation and sport | 5.4% | 5.0% | 5.3% |
| Health | 2.8% | 2.4% | 3.7% |
| Legislators and senior management | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.0% |
| Manufacturing and utilities | 0.8% | 1.0% | 0.6% |
| Natural resources, agriculture and related production | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.3% |

*Note that the figure presented here for health differs from healthcare occupation figures presented elsewhere. The reason for the difference is that the BC PNP definition for healthcare occupations includes a slightly different mix of occupations than the categories that are built into the NOC system, which is the basis of the breakdown presented in this section.

Regional Distribution

This section provides both tables and charts that describe the distribution of Skills Immigration nominees across the province in 2022.

The primary destination for SI nominees is the Mainland/Southwest development region, which received 81% of them in 2022. Most (74% of all SI nominees) went to the Metro Vancouver Regional District. Within that district, there was a significant increase from 2021 to 2022 in the number of nominees who settled in the City of Vancouver, which grew from a 21% share to a 34% share of all SI nominees.

Outside of the Mainland/Southwest region, most SI nominees settled in either the Vancouver Island/Coast region (including cities such as Victoria and Nanaimo) or the Thompson/Okanagan region (including Kamloops and Kelowna). Overall, 13% of SI nominees were in those two regions.

Table: 2022 SI Nominees by Development Region and by Stream

| Development Region | ELSS | Health* | IG | IPG | SW | Total | % |
|------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| Cariboo | 9 | 5 | 44 | 14 | 35 | 107 | 1.5% |
| Kootenay | 12 | 8 | 46 | 0 | 46 | 112 | 1.6% |
| Mainland/Southwest | 426 | 122 | 1,023 | 956 | 3,116 | 5,643 | 81.0% |
| Nechako | 0 | <5 | 15 | <5 | 13 | 29 | 0.4% |
| North Coast | 9 | 6 | 38 | 0 | 18 | 71 | 1.0% |
| Northeast | 27 | <5 | 30 | <5 | 27 | 89 | 1.3% |
| Thompson/Okanagan | 22 | 23 | 122 | 35 | 164 | 366 | 5.3% |
| Vancouver Island/Coast | 29 | 22 | 166 | 53 | 279 | 549 | 7.9% |
| Total | 534 | 190 | 1,484 | 1,060 | 3,698 | 6,966 | 100.0% |
| % | 7.7% | 2.7% | 21.3% | 15.2% | 53.1% | 100.0% | |

*Note that in this context, "Health" means nominees in the Health Authority stream. It does not include all workers in healthcare occupations.

The next three charts place a sharper focus on how the Mainland/Southwest region and the Metro Vancouver Regional District nominees can be further broken down.

Chart: 2022 Skills Immigration Nominees by Development Region

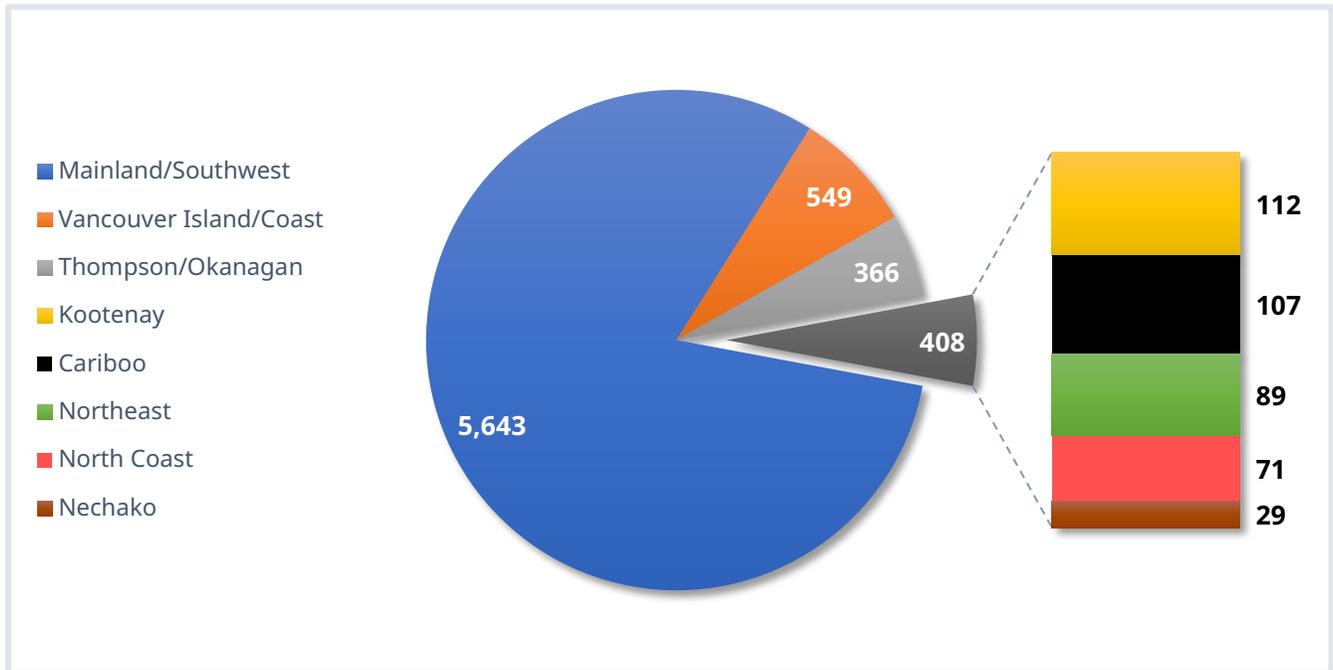


Chart: 2022 Skills Immigration Nominees per Regional District in the Mainland/Southwest Development Region

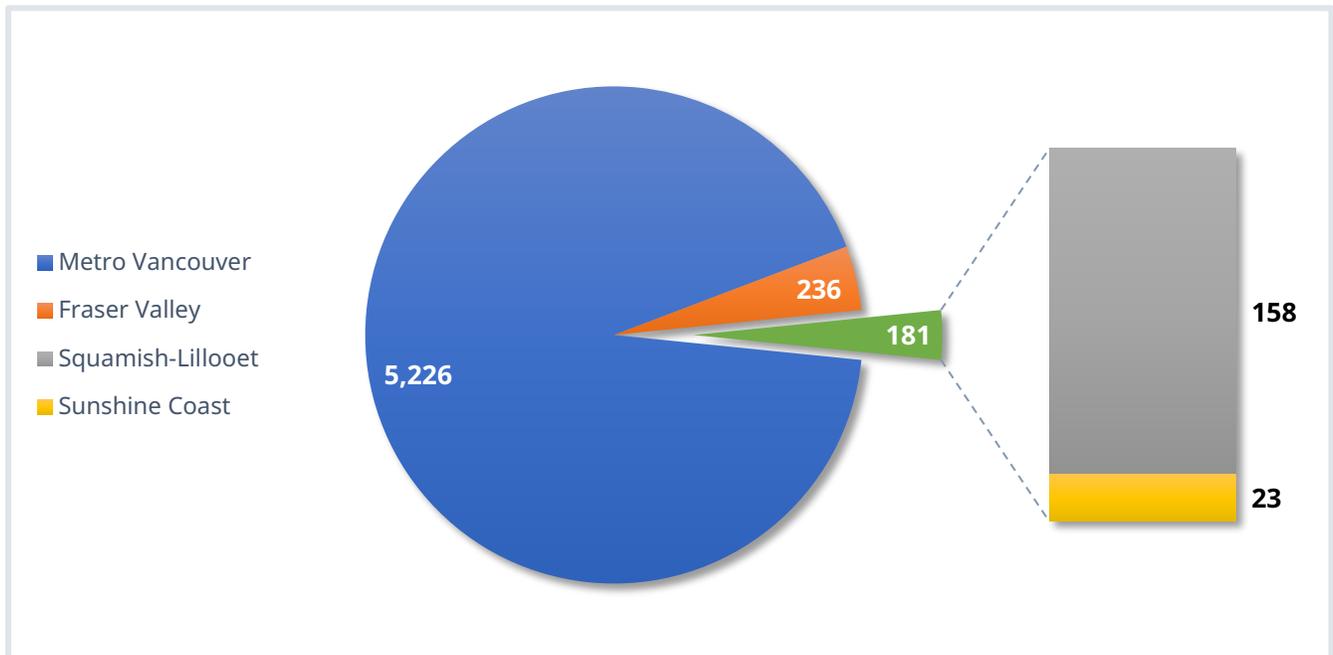
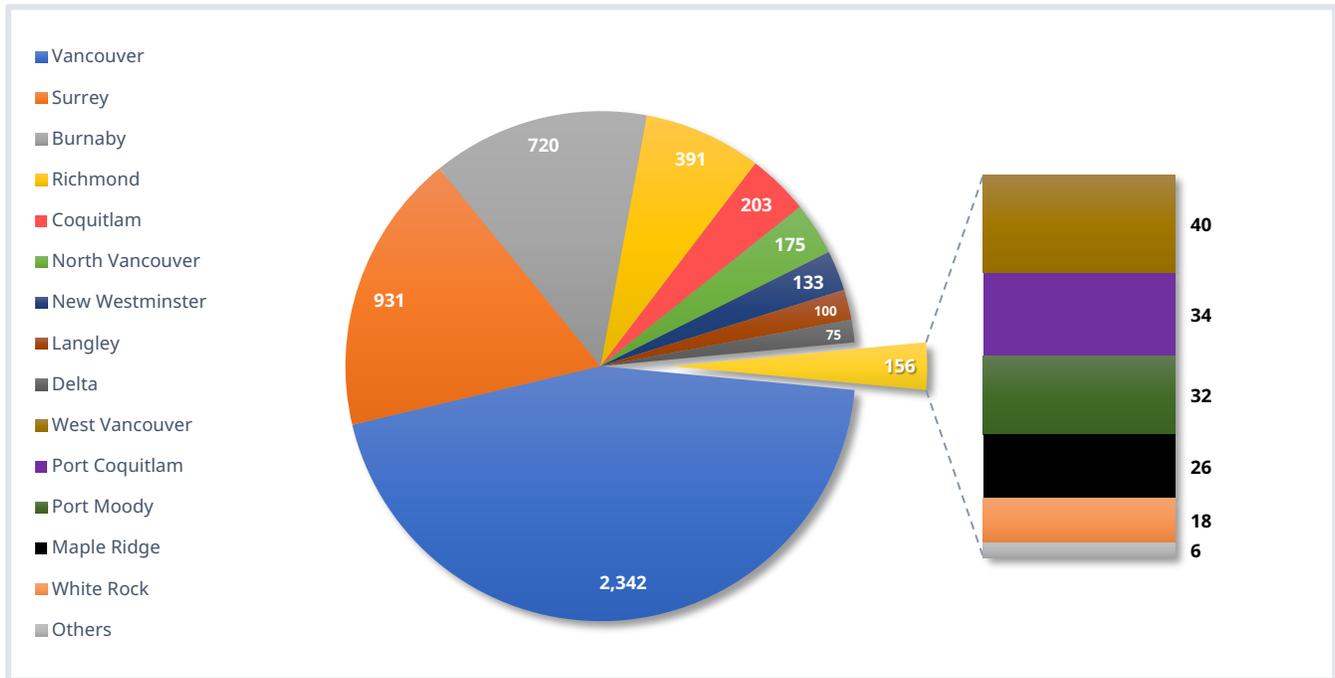


Chart: 2022 Metro Vancouver Regional District Skills Immigration Nominees by Municipality



Salary

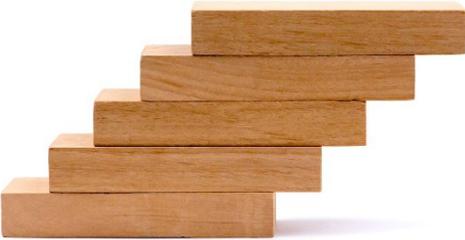
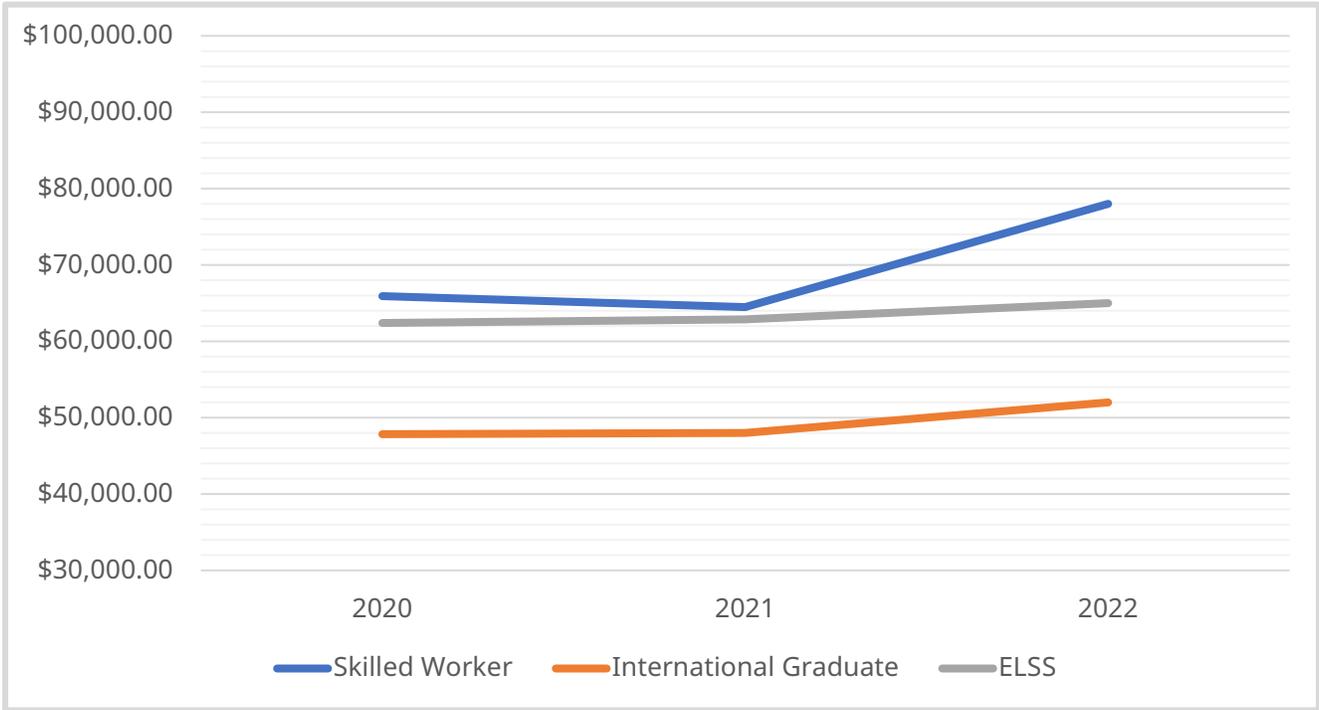
Salary information about 2022 SI nominees can be seen in the table below.¹ Both average and median salary data is included, although the median data gives the most accurate indication of what the typical salaries are for each category.

| Stream of Nominee | Average 2022 Salary | Median 2022 Salary |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Skilled Worker | \$93,649 | \$78,000 |
| International Graduate | \$57,583 | \$52,000 |
| Entry Level and Semi-Skilled | \$58,923 | \$65,000 |
| Health Authority | \$155,821 | \$80,925 |

¹ For salary calculations, International Post-Graduates have been excluded because no job offer is required and the BC PNP therefore does not receive salary information from all nominees in that stream. Average salaries are determined by dividing the sum of all the salaries by the total number of salary earners. Median salary data is found by identifying the middle number in the sequence of salary numbers when it is ordered from lowest to highest (or vice versa).

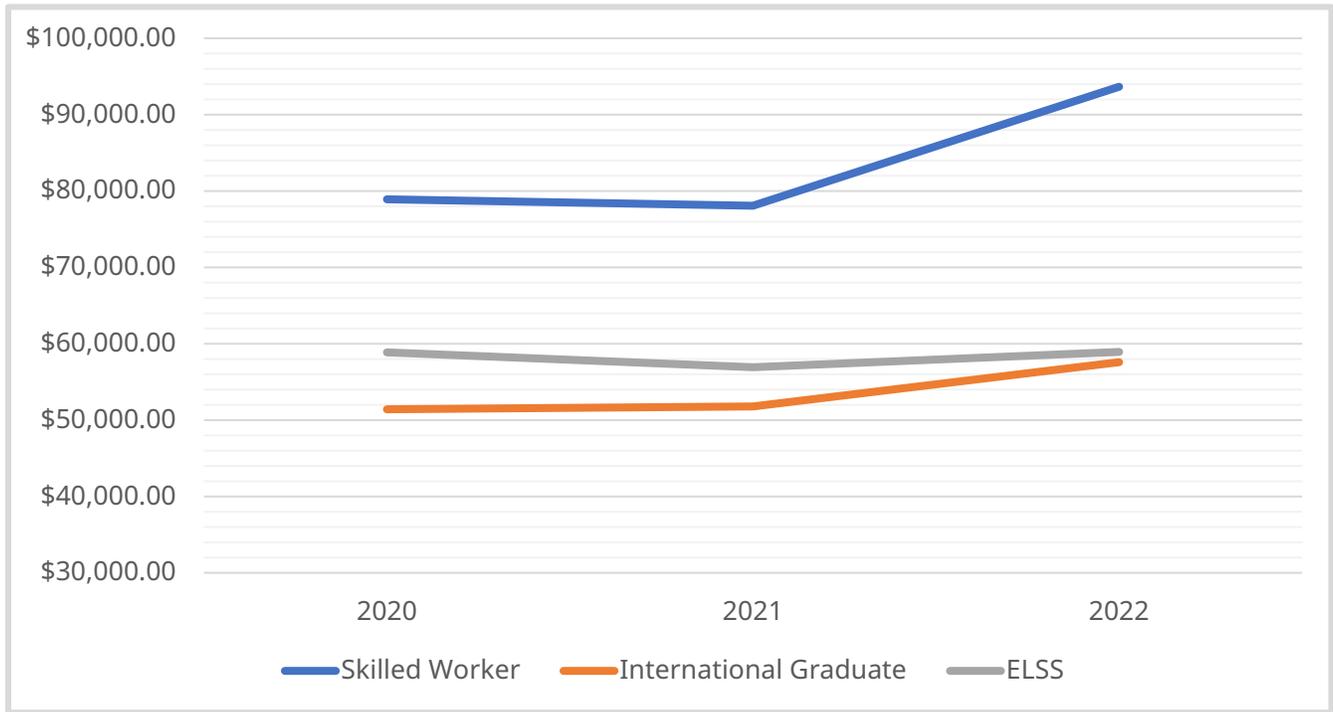
As the next two charts illustrate, SI nominee salaries have generally risen in recent years. In 2022, there were moderate increases in the salaries of ELSS and International Graduate nominees, and a much larger increase in the salaries of Skilled Worker nominees. This increase is partly because of a greater number of tech sector nominees. Recent inflationary pressures may have also contributed.

Chart: Median Salaries in Major Skills Immigration Streams, 2020-22



**Skilled Worker
median salaries
increased by 21%
from 2021 to 2022**

Chart: Average Salaries in Major Skills Immigration Streams, 2020-22



The Health Authority stream is not included in these multi-year charts because it has only existed in its current form since March 2022.



For experienced entrepreneurs who will actively manage a business in B.C.

ENTREPRENEUR IMMIGRATION

Entrepreneur Immigration (EI)

Entrepreneur Immigration is designed to target experienced entrepreneurs who can support innovation and economic growth in the province. It has three streams:

- Base
- Regional Pilot
- Strategic Projects

The EI selection process has several steps. If an entrepreneur's business proposal is approved, the Province supports their application for a federal work permit that allows them (and their dependants) to come to B.C. as a temporary resident to implement their business plan. The entrepreneur then has up to 20 months to establish their business and become eligible for nomination.

The Base stream allows foreign entrepreneurs to propose a new business or purchase an existing business in any part of British Columbia.

The BC PNP launched the EI Regional Pilot in March 2019. The Regional Pilot is limited to smaller communities that are not located within 30 km of a major center (population 75,000 or more). Unlike the Base stream, which does not directly involve communities, the Regional Pilot stream is delivered in collaboration with participating communities, with an applicant selection process that supports their specific economic development needs. In March 2021, the Province extended the Pilot for an additional three years. This new phase of the Pilot includes new participating communities and minor adjustments to eligibility criteria.

The Strategic Projects stream is designed for foreign corporations that have identified strategic investment opportunities in B.C. to establish operations that are integral to the growth and expansion of their core business. It enables foreign corporations to permanently transfer key staff with specialized corporate knowledge and expertise to their operation in British Columbia. The number of prospective applicants who meet the criteria for this stream is small, so their statistics are only captured in the aggregate totals for the EI streams.

Registration, Qualification, and ITAs

All EI streams require registration. Qualified registrants may remain in the pool for up to six months. Periodically, invitations to apply (ITAs) are issued to the highest scoring registrations. Draws for each stream are conducted separately and at different scores.

EI Base registrations submitted in 2022:



Registration for the Base stream is open to any interested entrepreneurs who meet the criteria for the stream. Please note that the overall numbers of registrations in 2022 are significantly lower than normal because the stream was closed to new registrants until July 13.

In 2022, 36% of registrants in this stream were assessed as qualified and entered the pool. This percentage is much smaller than the 76% that were assessed as qualified in 2021 because of changes made to the Base stream in July 2021, which included the introduction of an overall minimum qualifying score that significantly reduces the number of registrations that qualify.

The changes had the effect of increasing the percentage of registrations that go on to receive an invitation. The percentage of all Base registrations that received an ITA rose from 21% in 2021 to 36% in 2022.

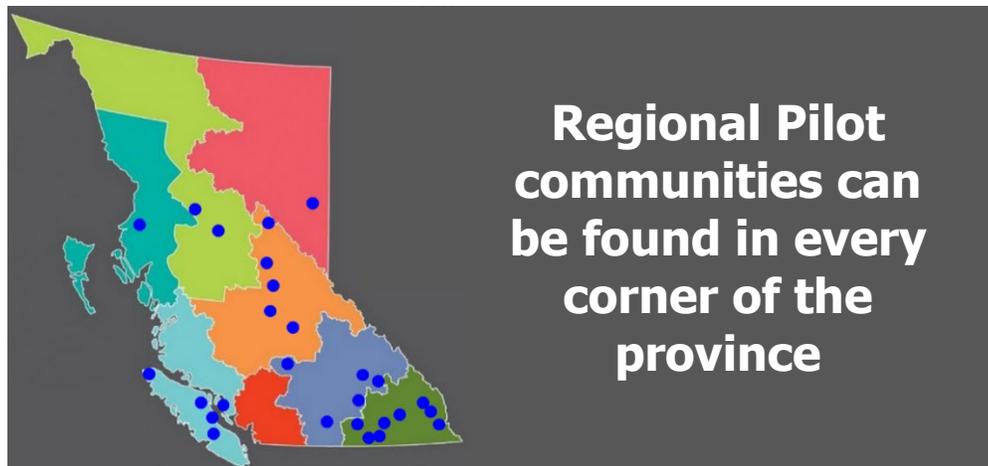
With these changes, the Base stream is now prompter when it comes to offering a clear resolution to all registrants, as they are either declined or receive an ITA in a short period of time. Before the 2022 changes, many Base stream registrants would remain in the pool for up to six months without receiving an ITA.

EI Regional Pilot registrations submitted in 2022:



To register for the Regional Pilot, an entrepreneur must have a referral from one of the [participating communities](#). In 2022, the BC PNP received 24 registrations for the Regional Pilot, a significant increase from the 10 registrations received in 2021. Almost all (92%) of these registrants went on to receive an ITA.

Part of the reason for this increase in Regional Pilot registrations is that there was a slowdown in registrations during the transition period between the first phase of the Pilot, which ended in March 2021, and the opening of registration intake for the second phase in November 2021. During this time, the BC PNP was mainly focused on working to bring new participating communities on board. In 2022, the Regional Pilot was operating under more normal conditions.



Application Intake

| EI Applications | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| EI-Base | 127 | 46* | 24* |
| EI-Regional Pilot | 70 | 11** | 14 |
| Key Staff | 10 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 207 | 57 | 41 |

*Note that applications were limited because EI-Base registration was closed between July 2021 and July 2022

**Regional Pilot had minimal intake during the transition period between Phase 1 and Phase 2 (April to November 2021)

There are three different types of EI applications, each of which is listed separately in the table above. In 2022, overall application volume was lower in both categories than in previous years. Although numbers were also lower than normal in 2021, at that time the COVID-19 pandemic was the main factor limiting application intake. By 2022, the impact of the pandemic had lessened and the decrease was mainly caused by the pause in the Base stream and the transition to the second phase of the Regional Pilot stream, as discussed in the previous section.

Key Staff applications are for key personnel who are attached to a Strategic Projects application, or to an EI-Base application that registered prior to January 29, 2020. On that date, the EI-Base stream was adjusted to no longer allow applicants to include additional key staff in their applications.



41 EI nominee candidates submitted applications in 2022

Work Permit Stage Processing

If approved by the Province, applicant entrepreneurs receive a work permit support letter from the BC PNP that they can submit as part of their federal work permit application. They also sign a performance agreement customized to their business proposal that outlines the terms that must be met (such as residency, investment amounts, jobs created, etc.) when they come to operate a business in British Columbia. Entrepreneurs are expected to arrive in their B.C. community within 12 months of signing their performance agreements and then have up to 20 months to establish their businesses before they become eligible for nomination.

| Entrepreneurs Approved at the Work Permit Stage | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| Year | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Work Permit Stage Approvals | 77 | 81 | 38 |

Of the 38 entrepreneurs approved at the work permit stage in 2022:

- 31 were for entrepreneurs in the Base stream
- 7 were for entrepreneurs in the Regional Pilot

In 2022, the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the ease of travel and immigration processing meant that significant numbers of entrepreneurs had to delay their arrival in the province.

Nomination Stage

In 2022, the BC PNP nominated 34 entrepreneurs for permanent residency through its EI streams, which is similar to the 38 nominees in 2021. Most of them applied through the EI-Base stream. Because the Regional Pilot was only launched in March 2019, entrepreneurs in that stream have only recently begun to complete the business establishment stage and become eligible for nomination. The BC PNP made its first nominations of Regional Pilot applicants in late 2021 and has nominated a total of 7 entrepreneurs through the Pilot up to the end of 2022.

| EI Nominations | | | |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Year | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Nominees | 17 | 38 | 34 |

The 34 nominated entrepreneurs in the BC PNP's 2022 cohort provided British Columbia with 93 new jobs and contributed more than \$11.5 million in total personal investment.

Because of the small number of EI nominees, it is not possible to provide useful, complete breakdowns of data on the geographical origins of entrepreneurs or their destinations in British Columbia. However, the following highlights can be shared:

- China continued to be the most common country of origin, with more than a third of nominees holding Chinese passports, but was also the country of origin that decreased the most, having made up half of nominees in 2021
- Hong Kong*, Iran and the United States all saw significant increases as the country of origin in 2022
- As was the case in other recent years, nominated entrepreneurs were split roughly evenly between the Mainland/Southwest Development Region and the rest of the province
- Three-quarters of nominees settled outside of Metro Vancouver, the same proportion as in 2021

*Note that Hong Kong is reported separately from China because the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) issues its own passports

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The central office of the BC Provincial Nominee Program is located on the territory of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, who have been stewards of this area for many generations.