



# **BC PNP Statistical Report 2019**

BC Provincial Nominee Program

450-605 Robson Street

Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3

Canada

[PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca)

Website: [www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP](http://www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP)

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## Program Overview

The Province of British Columbia selects a limited number of prospective immigrants and nominates them for permanent residence under the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP), the province's only direct economic immigration tool. Individuals nominated under the BC PNP are eligible to apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for permanent residence for themselves and their dependents.

The BC PNP has two streams: The Skills Immigration (SI) stream, intended for people with the skills, experience, and qualifications needed by B.C. employers. The other is the Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) stream, for experienced entrepreneurs who intend to invest in and actively manage an eligible business in the province.

The SI stream typically accounts for about 99 per cent of BC PNP nominees. The EI stream typically accounts for about 1 per cent of BC PNP nominees. However, the assessment of EI registrants and applicants is a longer process that includes a period of temporary worker status before applying for nomination.

## Registration Intake

### Skills Immigration

Registration is required for all SI categories except Healthcare Professional, Express Entry BC (EEBC) – Healthcare Professional, International Post-Graduate and EEBC – International Post-Graduate. There is no fee to register. After a registration is received, it is immediately placed in the pool of registrants, from which invitations to apply are issued.

The BC PNP implemented its current registration system in 2016.

Skills Immigration	2019	2018	2017	2016
SI - Skilled Worker	6,213	4,455	3,147	2,412
SI - International Graduate	2,016	2,013	2,693	3,395
SI - Entry Level and Semi-Skilled	2,702	1,791	1,187	1,958
EEBC - Skilled Worker	6,033	4,230	2,557	2,471
EEBC - International Graduate	3,620	2,676	1,967	2,745
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,584</b>	<b>15,165</b>	<b>11,551</b>	<b>12,981</b>

\* including withdrawn by client

In 2019, the BC PNP received 20,584 registrations in the Skills Immigration categories, a 35.7 per cent increase over registrations received in 2018.

The SI - International Graduate and EEBC – International Graduate categories accounted for 27.3 per cent of all registrations received in 2019.

## Entrepreneur Immigration

Registration is required for Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) categories and there is a \$300 fee. After a registration is received, it is assessed to determine if it qualifies for entry into the EI pool of registrants, from which invitations to apply are issued. There are currently two EI categories: Base and Regional Pilot.

Registration Intake	2019	2018	2017	2016
Qualified registrations	293	196	211	383
Disqualified registrations	118	105	77	120
Withdrawn	40	61		
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>503</b>

In 2019, the BC PNP received a total of 451 registrations from entrepreneurs expressing interest to apply to the EI Base category. 293 of these were qualified for the pool of registrants eligible to receive an invitation to apply (65.0 per cent), a higher proportion than in 2018, when 196 of 362 EI Base registrations were qualified (54.1 per cent).

Registration Intake	2019
Qualified registrations	62
Disqualified registrations	10
Withdrawn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>

The EI Regional Pilot was launched in March 2019. To register for this category, an entrepreneur must have a referral from one of the 60+ [participating communities](#). Registration for this category opened in March 2019. In the remainder of 2019, the BC PNP received 74 registrations, of which 62 were qualified (83.3 per cent).

## Application Intake

In 2019, 8,292 candidates responded to invitations to apply to the BC PNP: 8,024 were SI applications (96.8 per cent) and 268 were EI applications (3.2 per cent). This is a 10.2 per cent increase from 2018, when the BC PNP received 7,507 applications.

The category breakdown is found in Table 3. In 2019, SI base applications accounted for 50.4 per cent and EEBC application intake accounted for 46.4 per cent of applications received.

The Skilled Worker and EEBC – Skilled Worker categories, combined, accounted for 54 per cent of applications received in 2019. International Graduate and EEBC – International Graduate categories, combined, made up 21.5 per cent of applications in 2019.

Table 3: Total BC PNP Applications Received				
Skills Immigration	2019	2018	2017	2016
SI - Skilled Worker	2,205	2,025	1,612	536
SI - Entry Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS)	827	794	726	726*
SI - International Graduate	568	388	360	570
SI - International Post-Graduate	509	611	1,555	908
SI - Healthcare Professional	70	95	89	126
EEBC - Skilled Worker	2,269	2,321	1,494	918
EEBC - International Graduate	1,270	965	1,210	1,234
EEBC - International Post-Graduate	280	197	147	252
EEBC - Healthcare Professional	26	16	8	12
<b>SI Total</b>	<b>8,024</b>	<b>7,412</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>5,282</b>
Entrepreneur Immigration	2019	2018	2017	2016
Entrepreneur (Principal Applicant)	224	92	101	80
Key Staff	10	3	5	1
Entrepreneur Regional Pilot	34	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>EI Total</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>81</b>
	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>BC PNP Applications Received Total</b>	<b>8,292</b>	<b>7,507</b>	<b>7,307</b>	<b>5,363</b>

\*Includes North East Pilot Project applications

## Nominations

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) allocates a specific number of nominations to each province annually. In 2019, B.C.'s initial allocation was 6,500 and the PNP ultimately made 6,551 nominations for permanent residence.<sup>1</sup>

Both of these numbers increased from 2018, when the BC PNP received an initial allocation of 6,250 and went on to make 6,500 nominations after receiving an in-year increase from IRCC due to unused nominations in other provinces and territories.

	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Skills Immigration</b>				
SI - Skilled Worker	1,672	1,607	1,218	1,232
SI - Entry Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS)	667	633	600	756
SI - International Post-Graduate	523	371	337	513
SI - International Graduate	420	636	1,334	1,238
SI - Healthcare Professional	70	92	92	132
EEBC - Skilled Worker	1,941	1,987	1,181	799
EEBC - International Graduate	964	936	1,038	1,036
EEBC - International Post-Graduate	226	165	126	209
EEBC - Healthcare Professional	20	12	5	6
<b>SI Total</b>	<b>6,503</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>5,931</b>	<b>5,921</b>
<b>Entrepreneur Immigration</b>				
Entrepreneur (Principal Applicant)	48	58	65	73
Key Staff	0	3	4	10
Entrepreneur Regional Pilot	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>EI Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>BC PNP Nominations Total</b>	<b>6,551</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,004</b>

<sup>1</sup> Following the initial allocation of 6,500, IRCC allocated up to 250 additional spots for Entry Level and Semi-Skilled nominations, leading to a total number of nominations that exceeds the original allocation.

In 2019, 55.2 per cent of all nominations were under the Skilled Worker categories. This figure is similar to 2018 nomination levels in those categories.

The BC PNP has specific categories for international students. In 2019, 32.6 per cent of nominations were under the International Graduate and International Post-Graduate categories. This percentage is similar to 2018, when 32.4 per cent of nominations were in these categories.

### Entrepreneur Immigration Work Permits

EI applications require an additional step prior to nomination. EI applicants who are approved at stage 1 are supported by the BC PNP to apply for a work permit so they can come to B.C. and implement their business plan.

Entrepreneur Immigration	2019	2018	2017	2016
Work Permits approved	77	73	111	113

Entrepreneurs at this stage have approximately two years to establish their businesses before they are eligible for nomination. In 2019, EI approved 77 work permit candidates, a small increase from 73 in 2018.



## Top Source Countries

Table 6 presents the top ten source countries for SI nominations, and Table 7 shows the top five source countries for EI nominations.<sup>2</sup>

### SI nominations

The top countries for SI nominations remain similar over time. The proportion of SI nominations from these top ten countries has been slowly but steadily decreasing over the past three years, from 77 per cent in 2017 to 76 per cent in 2018 and 75 per cent in 2019.

Almost half of SI nominees (48.7 per cent) came from India and China in 2019, up from 44.8 per cent in 2018 but a smaller proportion than the 53 per cent received in 2017.

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
India	33%	29%	32%	31%
China	15%	15%	21%	21%
Brazil	6%	6%	4%	2%
United Kingdom	5%	5%	4%	3%
Korea, South	4%	7%	5%	4%
Australia	3%	4%	4%	2%
United States	3%	3%	2%	3%
Ireland	2%	2%	2%	2%
Philippines	2%	2%	2%	4%
Other countries	25%	24%	23%	28%
<b>Total SI Nominations</b>	<b>6,503</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>5,931</b>	<b>5,921</b>

<sup>2</sup> A nominee's country of citizenship is used to determine source country.

## EI nominations

China continued to be the top source country for EI nominations. In 2019, the top five source countries accounted for 96 per cent of EI nominations. Those five countries accounted for 88 per cent of EI nominations in 2018, and 82 per cent in 2017.

Country	2019	2018	2017	2016
China	88%	70%	78%	76%
Vietnam	4%	3%	0%	2%
Iran	2%	7%	3%	2%
United States	2%	3%	0%	1%
India	0%	5%	1%	1%
Other countries	4%	11%	17%	17%
<b>Total EI Nominations</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83</b>



## Top Occupations – Skills Immigration

There was a shift in the order of the top ten occupations for SI nominations in 2019. There were significant increases in restaurant and food service managers, retail and wholesale trade managers, software engineers and designers, graphic designers and illustrators, and transport truck drivers.

Table 8: Skills Immigration Nominees - Occupations

NOC Level	Occupation	2019	2018	2017	2016
0	0631 - Restaurant and food service managers	553	397	393	232
0	0621 - Retail and wholesale trade managers	379	261	261	335
A	2173 - Software engineers and designers	280	220	119	132
B	5241 - Graphic designers and illustrators	278	179	87	38
C	7511 - Transport truck drivers	269	201	233	343
B	1241 - Administrative assistants	198	318	352	183
D	6711 - Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related	122	180	152	204
B	6211 - Retail sales supervisors	88	152	202	147
B	6322 - Cooks	74	345	267	311
B	7271 - Carpenters	71	184	122	59
Total Top 10 Occupations		2,312	2,437	2,188	1,984

Restaurant and Food Service Managers, and Cooks and Food Counter Attendants accounted for 11.4 per cent of all BC PNP nominations in 2019, down from 14.2 per cent of nominations in 2018.

Table 8a: Skills Immigration Nominees* - Occupations					
NOC Level	Occupation	2019	2018	2017	2016
0	0631 - Restaurant and food service managers	8.4%	6.1%	6.6%	3.9%
0	0621 - Retail and wholesale trade managers	5.8%	4.0%	4.4%	5.6%
A	2173 - Software engineers and designers	4.3%	3.4%	2.0%	2.2%
B	5241 - Graphic designers and illustrators	4.2%	2.8%	1.5%	0.6%
C	7511 - Transport truck drivers	4.1%	3.1%	3.9%	5.7%
B	1241 - Administrative assistants	3.0%	4.9%	5.9%	3.0%
D	6711 - Food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related	1.9%	2.8%	2.5%	3.4%
B	6211 - Retail sales supervisors	1.3%	2.3%	3.4%	2.4%
B	6322 - Cooks	1.1%	5.3%	4.5%	5.2%
B	7271 - Carpenters	1.1%	2.8%	2.0%	1.0%
Total Top 10 Occupations		35.3%	37.5%	36.5%	33.0%

\*As a proportion of total BC PNP nominations

## Tech Pilot

The priorities of the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness include establishing B.C. as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies, increasing the growth of domestic B.C. tech companies and removing barriers to attracting skilled workers.

In support of these priorities, the Tech Pilot works to ensure that the technology sector can thrive by attracting and retaining the talent it needs in 29 occupations in engineering, technology and business support services. These occupations can be found at:

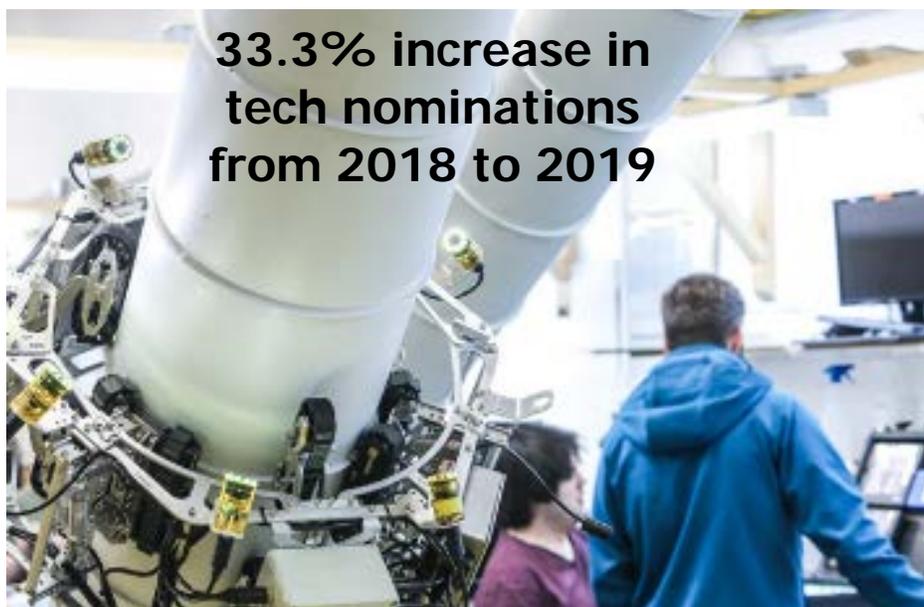
<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate-to-B-C/B-C-Provincial-Nominee-Program/Documents>.

2019	2018	2017
1,509	1,132	916

Includes Skilled Worker and International Graduate categories

\*Tech Pilot launched May 2017

In 2019, Tech Pilot nominations accounted for 23 per cent of all nominations, an increase from the 17.4 per cent they accounted for in 2018.



## Regional Distribution

### SI nominees

The city of intended residence (or residential address) is used to determine the SI regional distribution, with the top five regional districts shown in table 10.

The Metro Vancouver Regional District (formerly the Greater Vancouver Regional District) continues to be the primary destination for SI nominees.

Regional District	2019	2018	2017	2016
Metro Vancouver	75%	73%	73%	69%
Capital	4%	4%	4%	4%
Squamish-Lillooet	4%	4%	4%	3%
Fraser Valley	4%	4%	3%	4%
Central Okanagan	2%	2%	2%	3%
Other Regional Districts	12%	13%	14%	17%
<b>Total SI Nominations</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>6,439</b>	<b>5,931</b>	<b>5,921</b>

\*Excludes those with undeclared intended residential addresses

### EI nominees

For EI nominees, the business location is used to determine the regional district. In 2019, there were significant increases in the number of nominees whose businesses were in the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Regional Districts.

Regional District	2019	2018	2017	2016
Metro Vancouver	27%	15%	17%	31%
Fraser Valley	15%	7%	10%	5%
Capital	10%	31%	30%	18%
Nanaimo	8%	7%	4%	10%
Thompson-Nicola	6%	7%	7%	2%
Comox Valley	2%	8%	7%	0%
Other Regional Districts	31%	26%	23%	34%
<b>Total EI Nominations</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83</b>

## Average Salary

The average salaries for SI nominees<sup>3</sup> saw substantial increases in every category from 2018 to 2019, following a year in which salaries had remained relatively stagnant.

Category	2019	2018	2017	2016
EEBC - Skilled Worker	\$74,359	\$69,946	\$72,239	\$74,144
Skilled Worker	\$73,960	\$65,210	\$62,701	\$51,516
EEBC - International Graduate	\$47,736	\$42,213	\$39,321	\$44,318
International Graduate	\$47,407	\$39,675	\$39,132	\$36,497
Entry Level and Semi-Skilled	\$44,527	\$39,081	\$40,775	\$43,269

Increases in average salaries from 2018 to 2019 were especially notable in the International Graduate (19.5 per cent), Skilled Worker (13.4 per cent), and EEBC - International Graduate (13.1 per cent) categories.

Wage increases from 2018 to 2019 were especially notable in the International Graduate (19.5 per cent), Skilled Worker (13.4 per cent), and EEBC - International Graduate (13.1 per cent) categories.



<sup>3</sup> For salary calculations, International Post-Graduates, EEBC – International Post-Graduates, Health Care Professionals and EEBC – Health Care Professionals have been excluded.

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