BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program

Statistical Report and Year in Review 2024

BC Provincial Nominee Program

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 2001, the Province of British Columbia created the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) to strategically select and nominate a limited number of prospective immigrants for permanent residence status in Canada. Provincial nominees can apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for permanent resident status for themselves and their dependants. The BC PNP differs from federal-only immigration pathways in that it is the only tool that is entirely focused on meeting British Columbia's specific economic needs.

Initially, the BC PNP was limited to nominating internationally trained registered nurses but soon expanded to include many other occupations that were demanded by the B.C. economy. Since its creation, the BC PNP has been responsible for selecting and nominating more than 93,000 international workers and entrepreneurs who have made British Columbia their new home. More than 66,000 of those nominations have taken place within the last decade (2015-2024). All told, when accompanying family members are considered, almost 150,000 new British Columbians have become permanent residents because of the BC PNP since 2001.

The BC PNP achieves results that are among the best for a program of its type, and that are equivalent to or better than other provincial and federal pathways. For example, among the cohort of immigrants who arrived between 2015 and 2019, BC PNP principal applicants had higher average annual earnings ($58,100) one year after admission than provincial nominees in any other province. According to recent Statistics Canada data, British Columbia is very successful at retaining its provincial nominees. One year after becoming permanent residents, 97% of them continue to live in the province, and 92% continue to do so after five years.

In 2017, the BC PNP began to produce an annual statistical report to share key program statistical results. Starting with the 2022 edition, the report was expanded into the BC PNP Statistical Report and Year in Review, which provides an overview of key program statistics, performance measures, and information about the program's activities.

Like other recent editions, the 2024 edition is organized in a way that each program component (Entrepreneur Immigration and Skills Immigration) has its own section, using an explanatory narrative to highlight their unique characteristics.

2024: Year in Review

In 2024, the federal government reduced the intake of temporary residents while increasing the rate at which existing temporary residents became permanent residents. After the federal government admitted an all-time high of 70,825 new permanent residents to British Columbia in 2023, it admitted only 63,125 in 2024, with a further reduction to a projected 55,300 planned for 2025.

For the BC PNP, this changing environment meant that plans for continued growth had to be indefinitely paused. The program began 2024 expecting an allocation of 9,000 nominations from the federal government for the year, but subsequently had that number reduced to 8,000. For 2025, B.C. requested 11,000 nominations but received only 4,000.

The unilaterally imposed federal allocation reduction meant that the BC PNP had to reduce its intake of new applications in the second half of the year, to avoid the creation of a backlog of applications that could potentially have taken multiple years to process.

Nevertheless, the BC PNP laid important groundwork for the future in 2024 while continuing to support the strategic priorities established in the previous two years. It also forged ahead as an even more vital tool for supporting B.C.'s economy across all regions, with 3,403 nominees (42% of all nominees) based outside of Metro Vancouver.

In March 2024, the program announced that there would be changes coming to the BC PNP's offerings for international students. It was announced that the two existing options (the International Graduate and International Post-Graduate streams) would be winding down and closed around the end of 2024. The two established streams were intended to be replaced by three new student streams (Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate), but their introduction has been delayed by the reduced BC PNP allocation. Connecting the student streams directly to degree levels will help improve the program's ability to ensure that applicants have the skills they need to establish themselves economically and thrive in their chosen careers.

The Entrepreneur Immigration portion of the program reached a major milestone in 2024 when the Regional Pilot came to an end in March and became the permanent Regional stream. By the end of 2024, the Regional stream has brought 45 international entrepreneurs to participating communities around the province to start new businesses and help those communities meet their specific, targeted economic development needs, and it will continue to play that important role in future years.

The BC PNP continues to prioritize program integrity and anti-fraud measures. New policies and processes are continually implemented to mitigate, detect, and deter fraud. The program is also working on improving public awareness about fraud schemes and scams. These issues are highlighted on the WelcomeBC website, which also provides information on how fraud can be reported. It includes a downloadable fraud brochure as well as a fraud awareness quiz that highlights some of the most frequently observed integrity issues.

By the end of 2024, the BC PNP's Anti-Fraud and Investigations Unit had conducted more than 2,000 case reviews or investigations and had responded with appropriate actions when fraud or misrepresentation was detected.

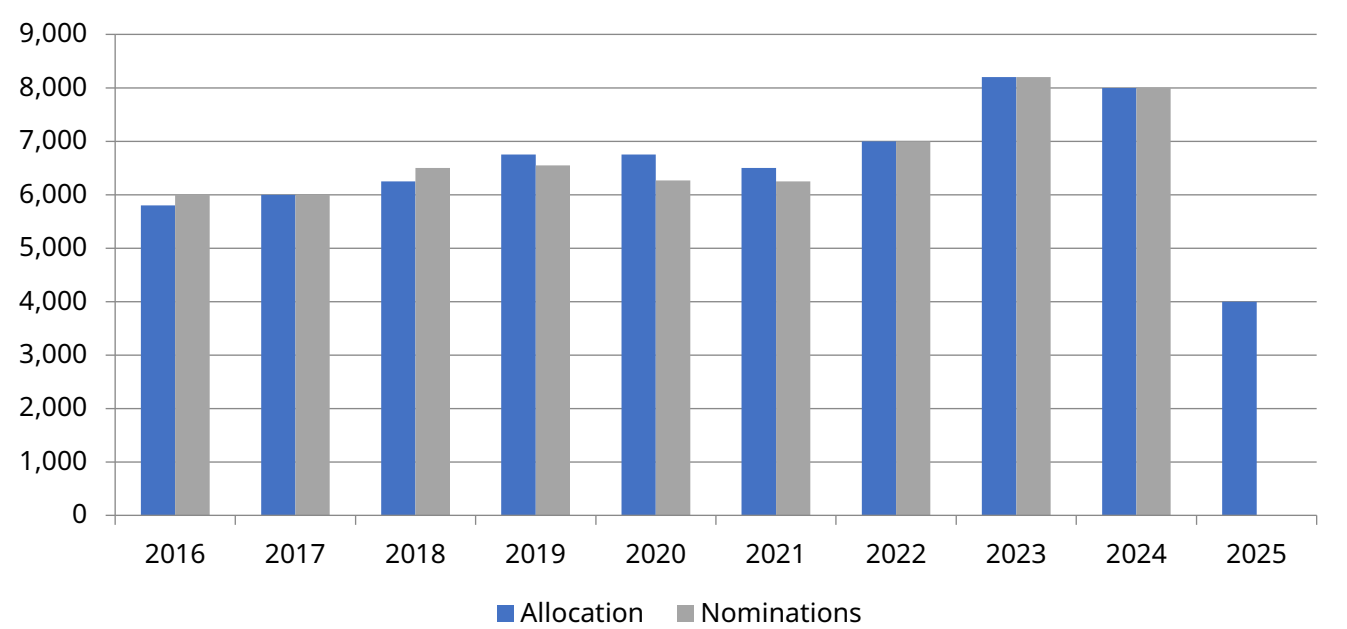**42% of workers nominated in 2024 are based in regional communities**

Program Overview

The BC PNP is the Province's only tool to directly select economic immigrants who will live in B.C. 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 2024, B.C. received and fully used an allocation of 8,000 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).

Table: BC PNP Allocations and Nominations, 2016-25

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 in B.C.

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

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

Total BC PNP Nominations				
Program Component	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Skills Immigration (SI)	6,213	6,966	8,168	7,972
Entrepreneur Immigration (EI)	38	34	32	28
Total	**6,251**	**7,000**	**8,200**	**8,000**

Strategic Objectives

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

The BC PNP helps **deliver more homes for people, faster** by prioritizing workers in occupations that the construction sector needs to succeed with this objective.

The BC PNP helps **strengthen health care and the services people rely on** by selecting workers in key sectors that British Columbians need, such as healthcare, child care, and veterinary care.

The BC PNP helps **build a stronger, cleaner economy that works better 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 centres, and it selects innovators and experts who will transfer knowledge and skills to British Columbians.

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 four years, reporting was introduced to provide information about BC PNP nominee wages, regional nominations, and nominations in priority occupations in healthcare and early childhood education. As in last year's report, these objectives are highlighted and discussed.

The BC PNP supports the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, which aims to ensure that British Columbia has the skilled labour it needs for the future. The program is also supporting the StrongerBC: Good Lives in Strong Communities strategy to ensure rural, interior and coastal communities can attract and retain needed talent into their region. 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 2024 Data	Target (2025)
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 ($31.25/hour in 2024)	Median wage for BC PNP SI nominees in 2024: $29.00/hour	Within reasonable range of the median wage for individual British Columbians

Discussion:

The median wage of the BC PNP's SI nominees in 2024 was $5.25 per hour lower than the previous year, and $2.25 below the overall median wage for British Columbia. This shift toward somewhat lower wages was largely caused by increased prioritization of early childhood educators (median wage of $22.00/hour in B.C.) and non-clinical health sector workers who are in demand but tend to earn lower wages. This prioritization was temporarily intensified to meet an acute short-term gap in labour supply. Nevertheless, over 99% of 2024's SI nominees with a job offer had an hourly wage rate higher than the provincial minimum wage in that year.

Performance Objective 2: Regional Nominations

Objective	Performance Measures	Baseline	BC PNP 2024 Data	Target (2025)
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)	42% of the BC PNP's SI nominees in 2024 were outside Metro Vancouver	At least 35% 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)	75% of the BC PNP's EI nominees in 2024 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 increasing the proportion of nominees settling outside of Metro Vancouver ("regional nominees"). Skills Immigration registrants get points if they will be working outside of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD). They receive additional points if they have experience working or studying in B.C. outside of the MVRD, as an incentive to retain workers who have an existing familiarity with or roots in the regions. In 2024, the BC PNP surpassed its SI regional target of 30%, as 42% of SI nominees were based outside of the MVRD. It was the second year in a row with an unexpectedly large regional percentage, as 2023 also saw the target exceeded by a significant margin. One of the main reasons for this phenomenon over the past two years is the program's continued strong success with the prioritization of occupations in healthcare and child care.

In Entrepreneur Immigration, the innovative Regional stream (initially launched as a pilot 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 having 60% of EI nominee outside of Metro Vancouver includes nominees in both the Regional stream and the EI Base stream.

Performance Objective 3: Essential Services

Objective	Performance Measures	Baseline	BC PNP 2024 Data	Target (2025)
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)	1,331 nominees in prioritized healthcare occupations	To be determined due to the reduction in program's allocation
		90 nominees in early childhood education (2021 level)	1,279 early childhood educator nominees	To be determined due to the reduction in program's allocation

Discussion:

In March 2022, the BC PNP started to prioritize care economy occupations, specifically in the health and child care sectors. The program made process and criteria changes to support meeting the critical demands for these occupations, which provide important services that British Columbians count on. As the table above illustrates, the volume of nominees in these areas has

increased rapidly, and that trend has continued over the past year. There were 71% more healthcare occupation nominees, 52% more early childhood education nominees, and 17% more veterinary occupation nominees in 2024 than in 2023. More information on prioritization is available in the section on Strategic Initiatives and Program Priorities on page 18. As the BC PNP is still evaluating the immediate-term impact of these changes, specific figures for future year targets have not yet been established for these priority occupations.

1,279 nominees working in early childhood education in 2024

To attract and retain international workers to fill critical labour market needs in B.C.

SKILLS IMMIGRATION

Skills Immigration (SI)

Skills Immigration contributes to economic development across British Columbia by strategically selecting prospective immigrants to help address labour market needs that cannot be reliably supplied by the domestic workforce. In 2024, it had five streams:

- Skilled Worker
- Health Authority
- Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS)
- International Graduate (IG)
- International Post-Graduate (IPG)

Each stream is designed to retain workers with different skills and experience.

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 Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled stream is designed to retain workers in specific occupations in tourism, hospitality, and food processing.

The International Graduate and Post-Graduate streams were designed to retain international students who studied at Canadian institutions and who wish to live, work and economically establish in British Columbia. In March 2024, B.C. announced that the International Graduate and Post-Graduate streams would be replaced by three new student streams in 2025. These new streams would be based on degree level, with criteria aligned with expected outcomes for each level of education. The two old streams have been closed, but the introduction of the new streams has been delayed for now.

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

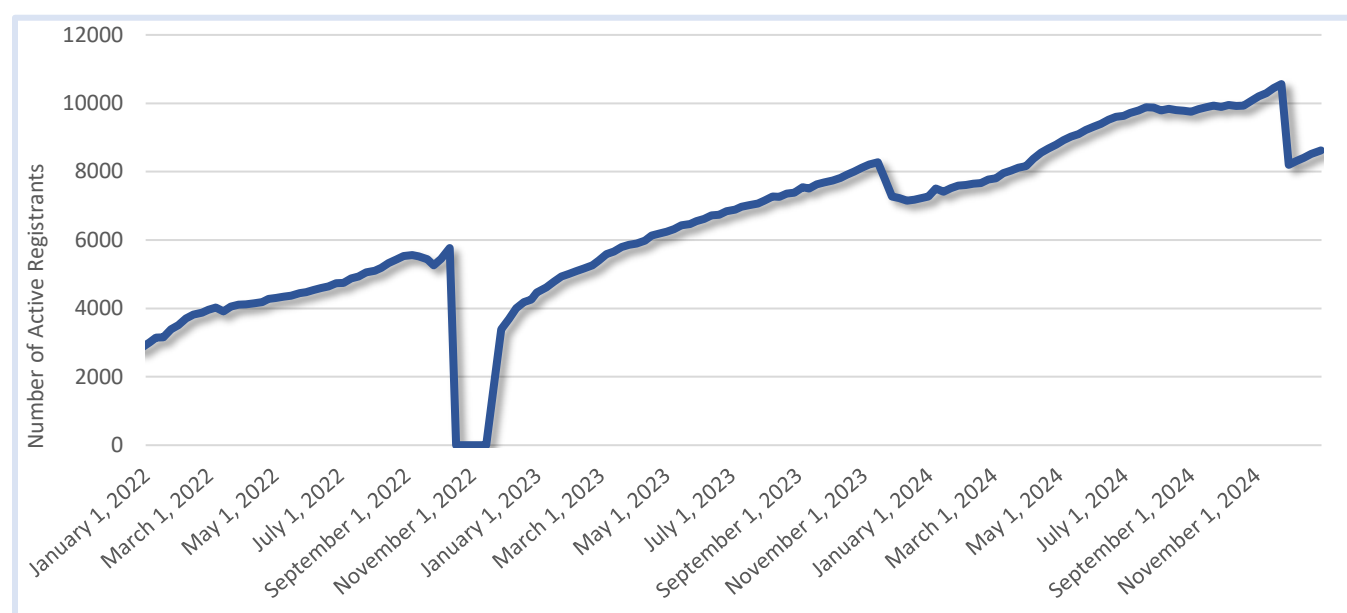## The Registration Pool and Invitations to Apply (ITAs)

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 strategically select registrants who are a strong fit with program criteria and matches the number of ITAs to the allocation received from the federal government.

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

- Level of education
- Experience
- Proficiency in Canada's official languages
- Hourly wage being offered to them by a B.C. employer
- Job location

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

Chart: Number of active registrations in Skills Immigration pool, 2022-24*

* 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, 2022. The notable drop in registrations in November 2024 was due to the closure of the part of the pool associated with the International Graduate stream, which stopped accepting registrations at that time.

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 issues ITAs to the highest scoring active registrations. Invitations may also be targeted to select occupations, or to support provincial priorities. 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, the size of the registration pool, scores of other registrations, and the number of nominations allocated to B.C. by the federal government.

2024 ITAs Issued:		2024 ITAs that led to applications:		2024 ITA conversion rate:
6,006	→	4,848*	→	80.7%

*The number of 2024 ITAs converted to applications is different from the number of applications received in 2024 in streams that require registration. This difference is caused by the fact that some late 2023 ITAs became applications in early 2024, and some late 2024 ITAs became applications in early 2025. Note that not all SI applications require a registration (the Health Authority and International Post-Graduate streams do not), so the number of applications that result from ITAs is always smaller than the number of total applications in any given time period. All the numbers above refer exclusively to ITAs that were issued during the 2024 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 2024, the BC PNP made 8,784 decisions on applications to the SI streams. This is a 3.6% decrease from the 9,112 decisions made on SI applications in 2023. 7,972 out of the 8,784 decisions in 2024 resulted in a nomination – an approval rate of 90.8%.
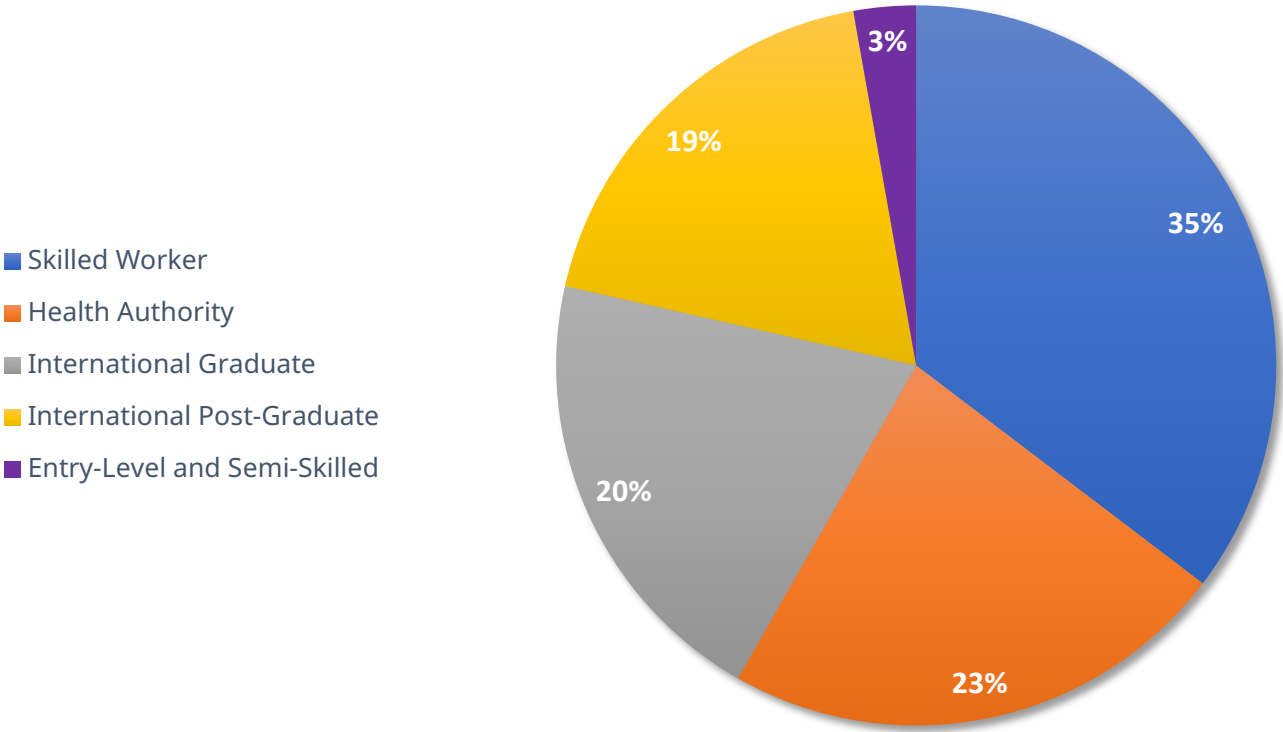
This high approval rate reflects the effectiveness of the BC PNP's program design and intake management system when it comes to identifying and inviting applications from qualified candidates who are an excellent fit for B.C.'s economic needs.

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 2024, B.C. received an allocation of 8,000 and used 7,972 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 2024 by Stream

Legend:
- Skilled Worker
- Health Authority
- International Graduate
- International Post-Graduate
- Entry-Level and Semi-Skilled

Pie chart values: 35%, 23%, 20%, 19%, 3%

Total Skills Immigration Nominations			
Stream	2022	2023	2024
Skilled Worker	1,199	996	656
Entry Level and Semi-Skilled (ELSS)	534	425	223
International Graduate	385	369	521
International Post-Graduate	592	1,055	1,001
Health Authority (Healthcare Professional prior to March 2022)	106	473	1,430
EEBC - Skilled Worker	2,499	2,800	2,162
EEBC - International Graduate	1,099	1,140	1,097
EEBC - International Post-Graduate	468	664	487
EEBC – Health Authority (Healthcare Professional prior to March 2022)	84	246	395
SI Total	6,966	8,168	7,972

In 2024, 35% of all nominations were under the Skilled Worker stream and 39% of nominations were under the International Graduate and International Post-Graduate streams. 81% of all SI nominees were in streams that required them to have a job and be filling a gap in the labour market.

Strategic Initiatives and Program Priorities

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

In 2017, the BC PNP introduced the Tech Pilot, which was designed to help meet the labour market needs of B.C.'s tech industry. The Pilot introduced a "concierge" service for tech employers and targeted draws for workers in specific tech-focused occupations. In May 2021, the BC PNP announced that it would indefinitely continue these measures for priority technology occupations. This initiative has been very successful, as the BC PNP has nominated 13,261 workers in technology occupations between 2017 and 2024.

Building on the effectiveness of prioritizing the technology sector, the program has expanded its use of more specific, targeted rounds of ITAs to support workforce needs in other sectors since 2022. A list of program priorities can be found on our website.

Technology occupations continue to have a significant share of the program's SI nominations. In 2024, technology nominees constituted about 16% of all SI nominees. Three of the top 10 occupations nominated in 2024 were in this area: software engineers and designers, software developers and programmers, and computer and information systems managers.

Priority Technology Nominations			
	2022	**2023**	**2024**
Nominees	2,351	2,490	1,302
% of SI Nominees	33.6%	30.4%	16.3%

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 private health employers. Continued prioritization for health workers has led to a 76% increase in the annual number of health occupation nominees in 2024. These included 107 physicians and 374 registered nurses and nurse practitioners.

Clinical Health Occupation Nominations			
	2022	**2023**	**2024**
Working for a Health Authority	144	376	641
Working for Other Employers	156	403	698
Total Nominees	300	779	1,339
% of SI Nominees	4.3%	9.5%	16.8%

Note that these figures do not reflect all nominees working in the healthcare sector. Some nominees in the Health Authority stream this year work for a health authority but in an occupation that is not classified as a clinical occupation, such as food service workers and cleaners.

SI nominees in construction occupations increased by 675% from 2023 to 2024, as the latter was the first full calendar year of prioritization for those occupations. Meanwhile, continued prioritization of childcare occupations led to a 52% increase, while SI nominees in veterinary care saw a more moderate 17% increase.

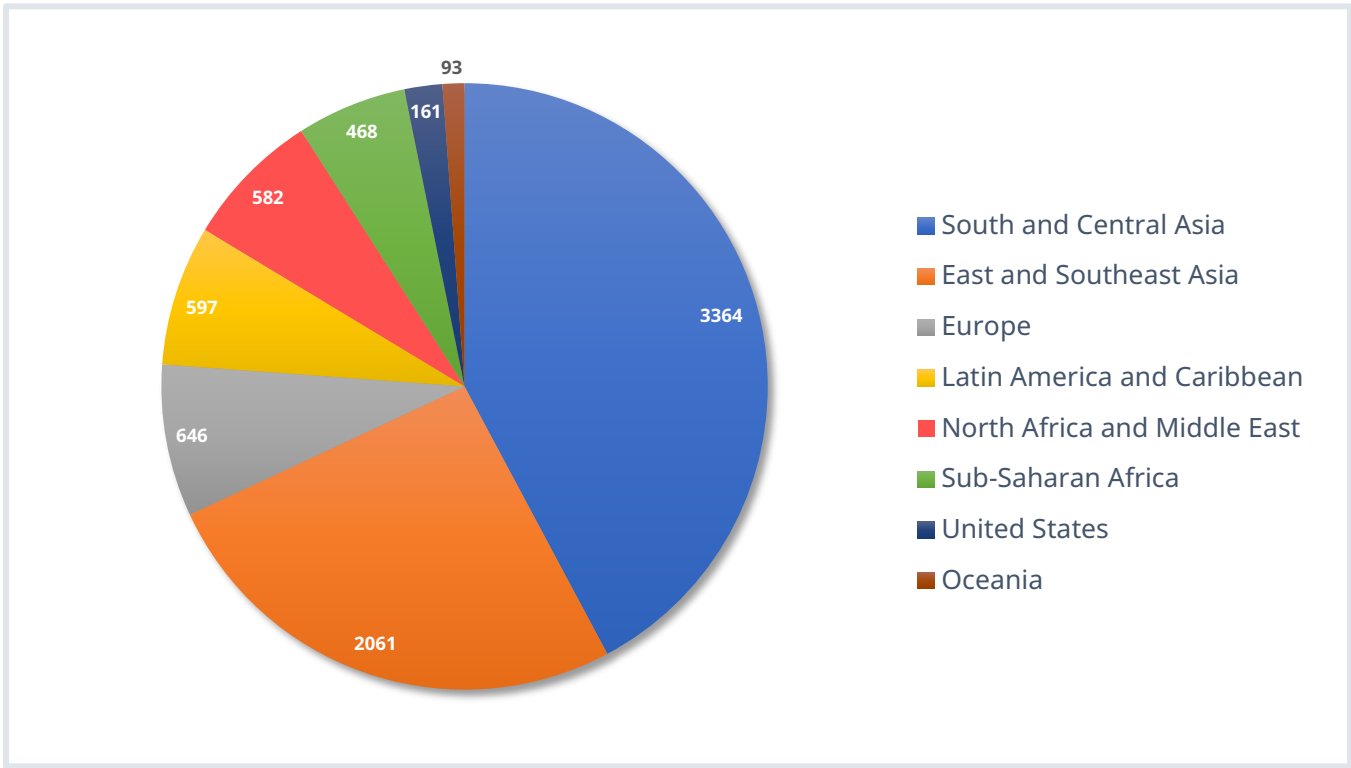| Other Priority Nominations			
	2022	**2023**	**2024**
Childcare	427	842	1279
Veterinary Care	28	41	48
Construction*	N/A	64	496

*Prioritization began in November 2023

More information on results of program priorities 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. 64.5% of 2023 nominees came from either South/Central Asia or from East/Southeast Asia. Other regions that contributed significant numbers of nominees include North Africa and Middle East (9.8%) and Latin America/Caribbean (9.1%).

Chart: Geographical Origins of 2024 Skills Immigration Nominees

Top Five Individual Source Countries for the SI Streams		
2022	**2023**	**2024**
India	India	India
China	China	China
Iran	Iran	Philippines
South Korea	Philippines	Iran
United Kingdom	Brazil	Nigeria

Occupations

In 2024, there were some noteworthy shifts in the distribution of SI nominees among the major occupational categories. The education, law and social/community/government services category became the largest group, driven mainly by the BC PNP's prioritization of workers in early childhood education. The natural and applied sciences and related category experienced a significant decline and became the second largest group.

Health built on its 2023 gains from targeted prioritization measures and became the third largest occupational category in 2024, increasing from 7.2% to 12.1% of SI nominees.*

Occupational Category of SI Nominees	2022	2023	2024
Education, law and social/community/government services	9.5%	15.0%	23.5%
No listed occupation (IPG stream nominees)	15.2%	21.0%	18.7%
Natural and applied sciences and related	30.7%	29.1%	16.3%
Health	3.7%	7.2%	12.1%
Sales and service	14.4%	11.0%	12.0%
Business, finance and administration	11.3%	7.7%	8.0%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	8.0%	2.9%	7.4%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	5.3%	3.3%	1.2%
Legislators and senior management	1.0%	2.1%	0.4%
Manufacturing and utilities	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Natural resources, agriculture and related production	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%

*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 2024.

The primary destination for SI nominees is the Mainland/Southwest development region, which received 63% of them in 2024. Most of that group (or 58% of all SI nominees) went to the Metro Vancouver Regional District. Within that district, the City of Vancouver continued to have the greatest number of nominees, with a 22% 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, five out of the province's seven development regions outside of the Mainland/Southwest region saw their share of nominees increase from 2023 to 2024.

Table: 2024 SI Nominees by Development Region

Development Region	Students*	Workers*	Total	%
Cariboo	92	184	**276**	3.5%
Kootenay	33	68	**101**	1.3%
Mainland/Southwest	1,992	3,009	**5,001**	62.7%
Nechako	6	30	**36**	0.5%
North Coast	44	109	**153**	1.9%
Northeast	56	131	**187**	2.3%
Thompson/Okanagan	439	486	**925**	11.6%
Vancouver Island/Coast	444	849	**1,293**	16.2%
Total	**3,106**	**4,866**	**7,972**	100.0%
%	39.0%	61.0%	100.0%	

*Note that "Students" refers to nominees who were part of the International Graduate and International Post-Graduate streams. "Workers" refers to nominees who were part of the Health Authority, Skilled Worker, and Entry Level and Semi-Skilled streams.

The next three charts provide a detailed breakdown of nominees by development region, and of those in the Mainland/Southwest region and the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

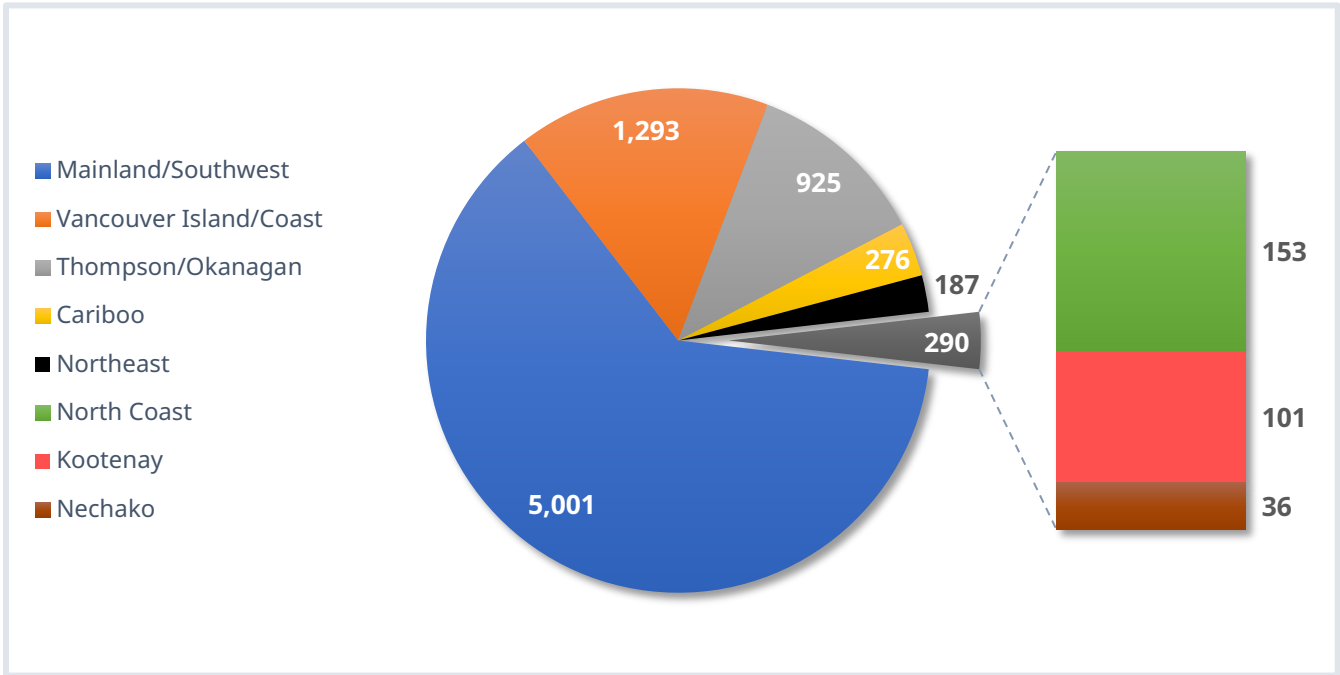**Chart: 2024 Skills Immigration Nominees by Development Region**

- Mainland/Southwest
- Vancouver Island/Coast
- Thompson/Okanagan
- Cariboo
- Northeast
- North Coast
- Kootenay
- Nechako

5,001
1,293
925
276
187
290
153
101
36

Chart: 2024 Skills Immigration Nominees per Regional District in the Mainland/Southwest Development Region

- Metro Vancouver
- Fraser Valley
- Squamish-Lillooet
- Sunshine Coast
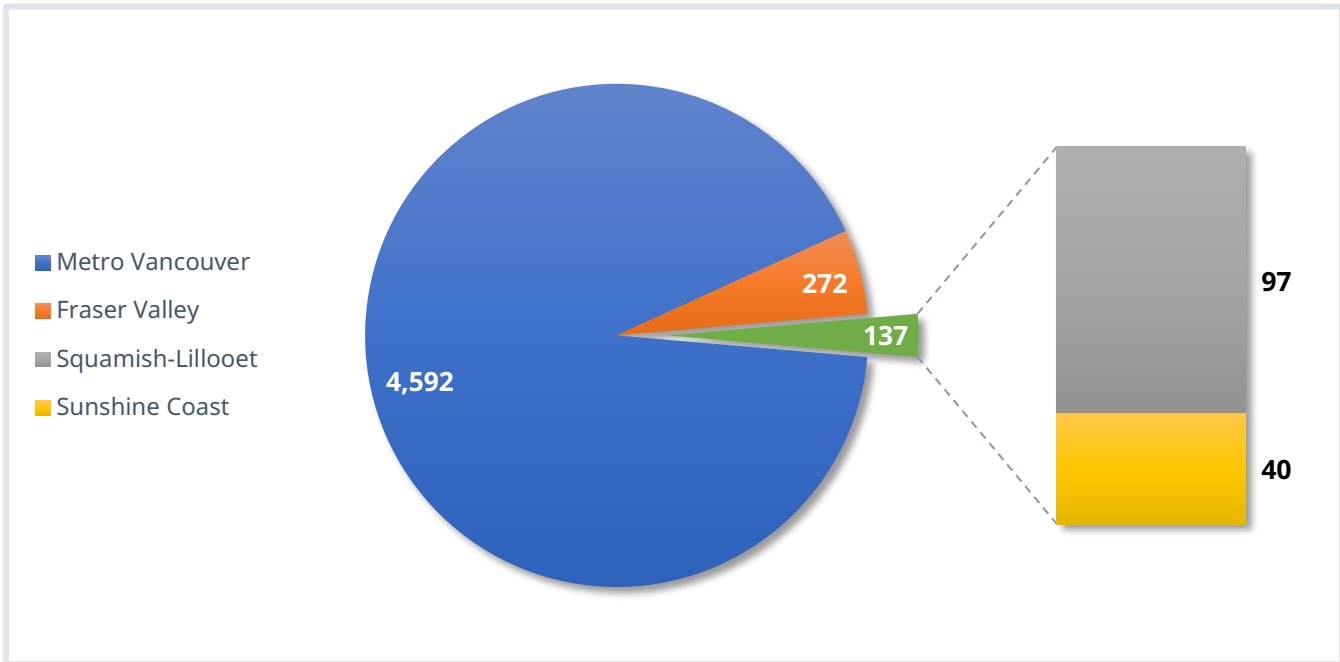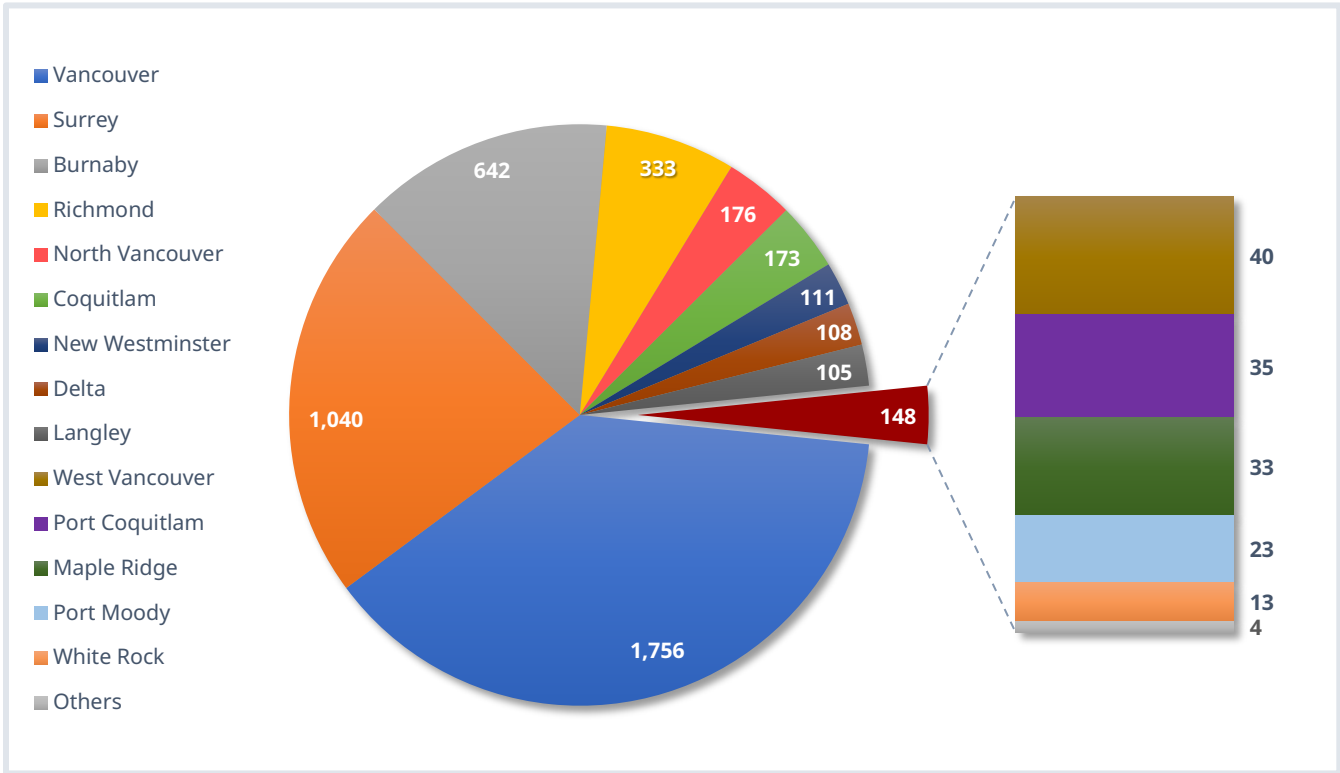
4,592
272
137
97
40

Chart: 2024 Metro Vancouver Regional District Skills Immigration Nominees by Municipality
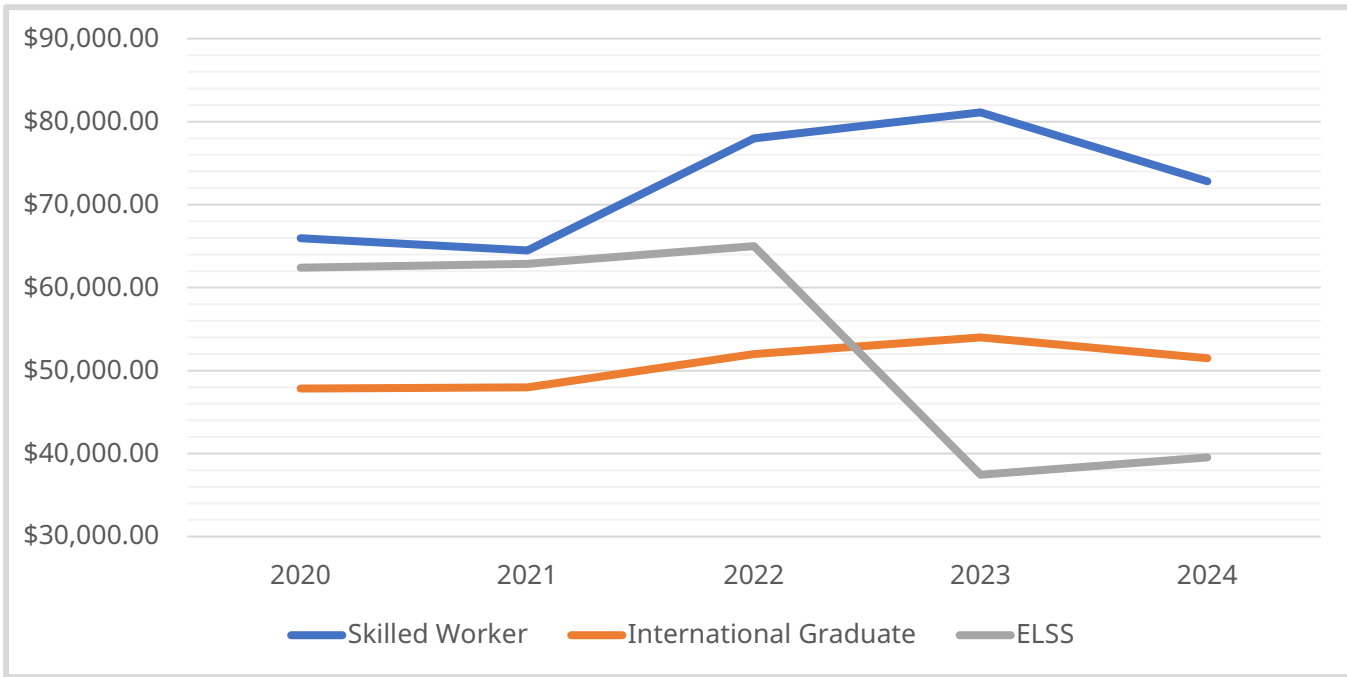

Salary

Salary information about 2024 SI nominees can be seen in the table below.[1] While both average and median salary data is included, the median data gives the most accurate reflection of typical salaries in each category.

Stream of Nominee	Average 2024 Salary	Median 2024 Salary
Skilled Worker	$89,846	$72,800
International Graduate	$56,175	$51,501
Entry Level and Semi-Skilled	$40,529	$39,520
Health Authority	$81,199	$56,992

[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).
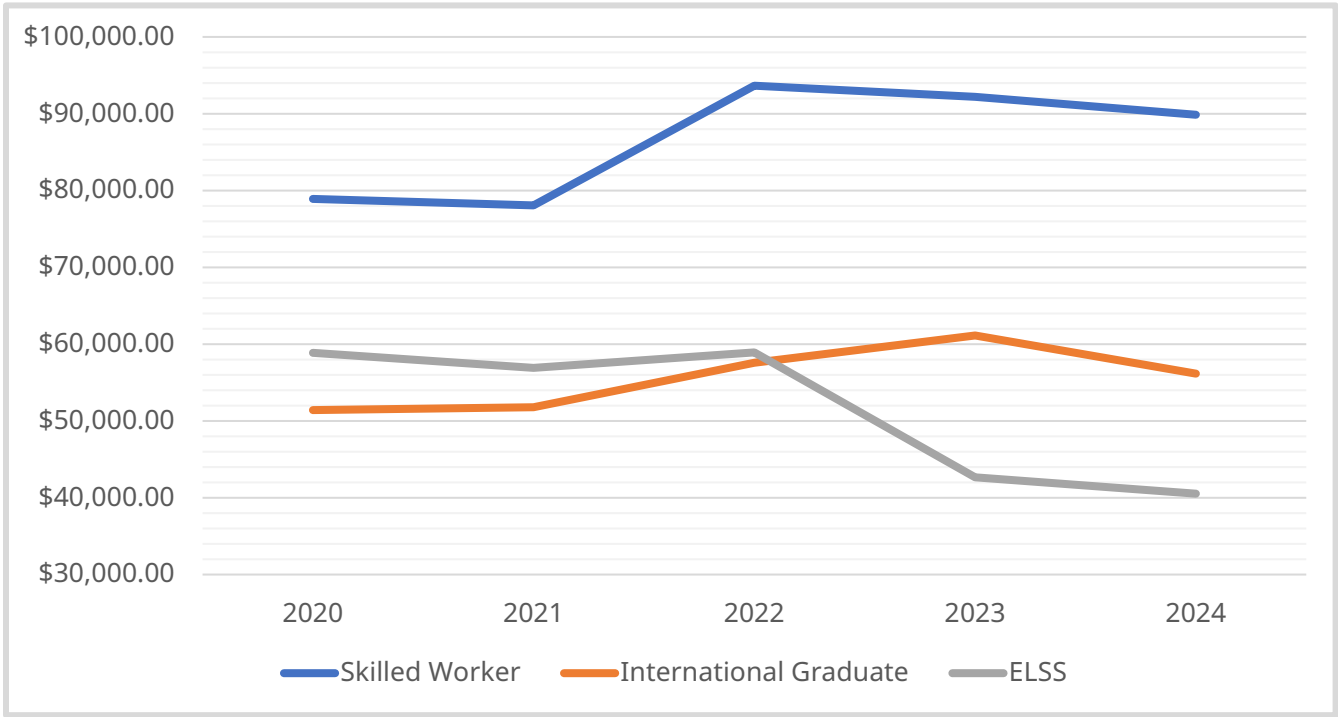
As the next two charts illustrate, there were moderate decreases in the salaries of Skilled Worker and International Graduate nominees in 2024. This change was not caused by decreases in the salaries paid to any individual occupations. Rather, it was changed by shifts in which occupations were emphasized in the BC PNP's strategically targeted invitations to apply. For example, in 2024, a significant amount of space was made for early childhood educators – an occupation that is in high demand, but which does not typically have very high salaries.

Chart: Median Salaries in Major Skills Immigration Streams, 2020-24

Skilled Worker nominees had a median salary of $72,800 in 2024

Chart: Average Salaries in Major Skills Immigration Streams, 2020-24

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

To attract experienced entrepreneurs who will own and actively manage a business in B.C.

ENTREPRENEUR IMMIGRATION

Entrepreneur Immigration (EI)

Entrepreneur Immigration is designed to target experienced entrepreneurs who can support innovation, diversification, and the economic development and labour market needs of regional communities. It has three streams:

- Base
- Regional
- Strategic Projects

Over the 10-year period from 2015 to 2024, EI nominees established 438 new businesses, created 1,433 jobs, and invested $208 million in the British Columbia economy.

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 international entrepreneurs to propose a new business or purchase an existing business anywhere in British Columbia.

The Regional stream is limited to smaller communities that are not located within 30 km of a major centre (a city with a population of 75,000 or more). Unlike the Base stream, which does not directly involve communities, the Regional stream is delivered in collaboration with participating communities, with an applicant selection process that supports their specific economic development needs. The Regional stream began as a pilot in 2019 and was extended in 2021 for an additional three years. The second phase of the Pilot included new participating communities and minor adjustments to eligibility criteria. In 2024, the Regional Pilot transitioned into the Regional stream that will be an ongoing part of the BC PNP.

The Strategic Projects stream is designed for international 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 the 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. The program conducts separate draws with distinct minimum scores for each stream.

EI Base registrations submitted in 2024:

2024 EI Base Registrations:	→	Portion that Qualified for Pool:	→	Portion that Received ITAs:
111		**54** (49%)		**54** (49%)

Registration for the Base stream is open to any interested entrepreneurs who meet the criteria for the stream.

In 2024, 49% of registrants in this stream were assessed as qualified and entered the pool. This percentage is similar to the 52% that were assessed as qualified in 2023. The number of registrations was slightly higher in 2024, up 13% from 98 registrations received in 2023. These numbers demonstrate that EI Base registrants continue to have a strong chance of being qualified for the pool and then invited to apply.

EI Regional registrations submitted in 2024:

2024 EI-RP Registrations:	→	Portion that Qualified for Pool:	→	Portion that Received ITAs:
16		**15** (94%)		**15** (94%)

To register for EI Regional, an entrepreneur must have a referral from one of the [participating communities](). In 2024, the BC PNP received 16 registrations for the Regional stream. Almost all (94%) of these registrants received an ITA.

Application Intake

EI Applications	2022	2023	2024
EI-Base	24*	32	34
EI-Regional	14**	12	8
Key Staff	3	0	0
Total	41	44	42

*Note that applications were limited because EI-Base registration was closed between July 2021 and July 2022
**The Regional stream operated as the Regional Pilot stream until April 2024

There are three different types of EI applications, each of which is listed separately in the table above. In 2024, overall application volume was similar to that of previous years.

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. Since that date, the EI-Base stream has not allowed applicants to include additional key staff in their applications.

EI nominees in 2024 created 67 new jobs and invested more than $12 million

Work Permit Stage Processing

If approved by the Province, entrepreneur applicants 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 to be 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	2022	2023	2024
Work Permit Stage Approvals	38	31	34

Of the 34 entrepreneurs approved at the work permit stage in 2024:

- 24 were for entrepreneurs in the Base stream
- 10 were for entrepreneurs in the Regional Pilot

Nomination Stage

In 2024, the BC PNP nominated 28 entrepreneurs for permanent residency through its EI streams, which is a similar volume to the 32 nominees in 2022. Most of them applied through the 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 20 entrepreneurs through the Pilot up to the end of 2024.

EI Nominations			
Year	2022	2023	2024
Nominees	34	32	28

The 28 nominated entrepreneurs in the BC PNP's 2024 cohort created 67 new jobs in British Columbia and contributed more than $12 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 was the most common country of origin in 2024 with almost a third of nominees, a level that was essentially unchanged from the year before.
- Vietnam saw the largest increase as a country of origin, moving up from about a tenth of nominees in previous years to about a quarter of nominees in 2024.
- About three quarters of 2024 nominees came from one of these four countries: China, Vietnam, Iran, and India.
- EI became more regional in 2024, with only about a quarter of nominees based in Metro Vancouver.
- The Cariboo development region had a strong presence in 2024, with almost a quarter of nominees based there.

BC Provincial Nominee Program

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Website: www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP

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