

Shifting Views on Canada's Immigration Policy

Clement Nocos, Broadbent Institute



Outline

- Divisions on Immigration?
- Contradicting Values?
- Economic Priorities
- Conclusion



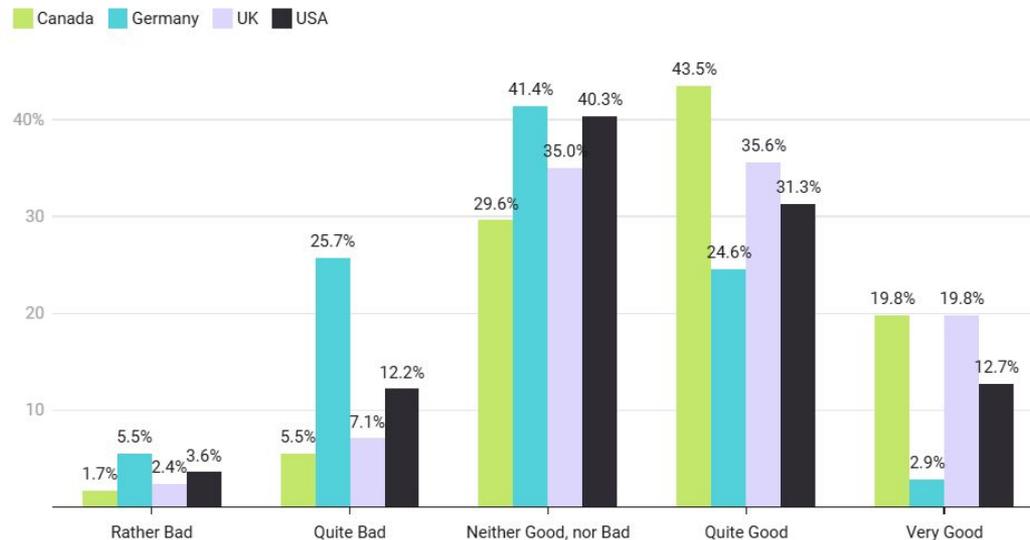
SHIFTING BORDERS:

Canadian Attitudes Towards Immigration

broadbentinstitute.ca/research/shifting-borders

Divisions on Immigration?

Chart 1 – Comparison of National Attitudes towards Immigration ²

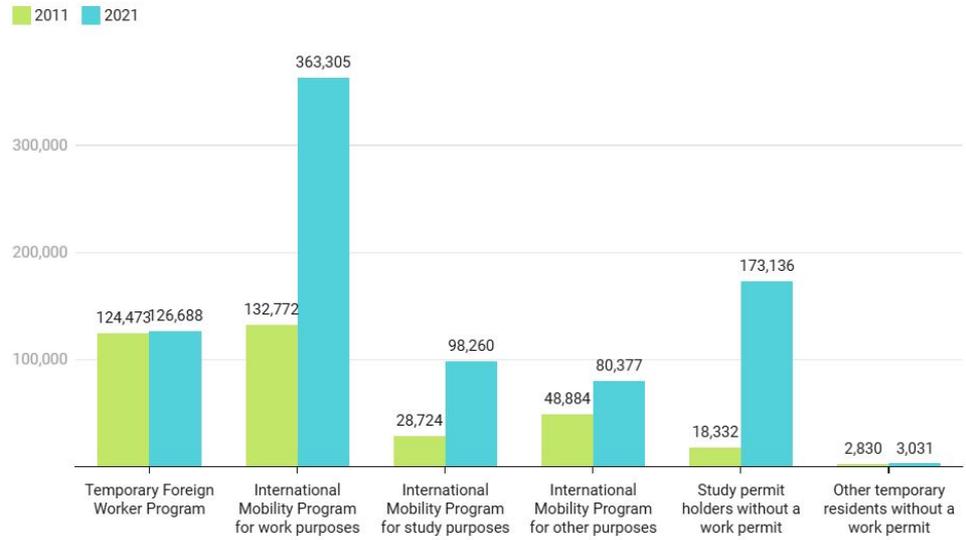


World Values Survey Wave 7 (2017-2022) G052: Evaluate the impact of immigrants on the development of [your country]

Chart: Clement Nocos • Source: Broadbent Institute • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Divisions on Immigration?

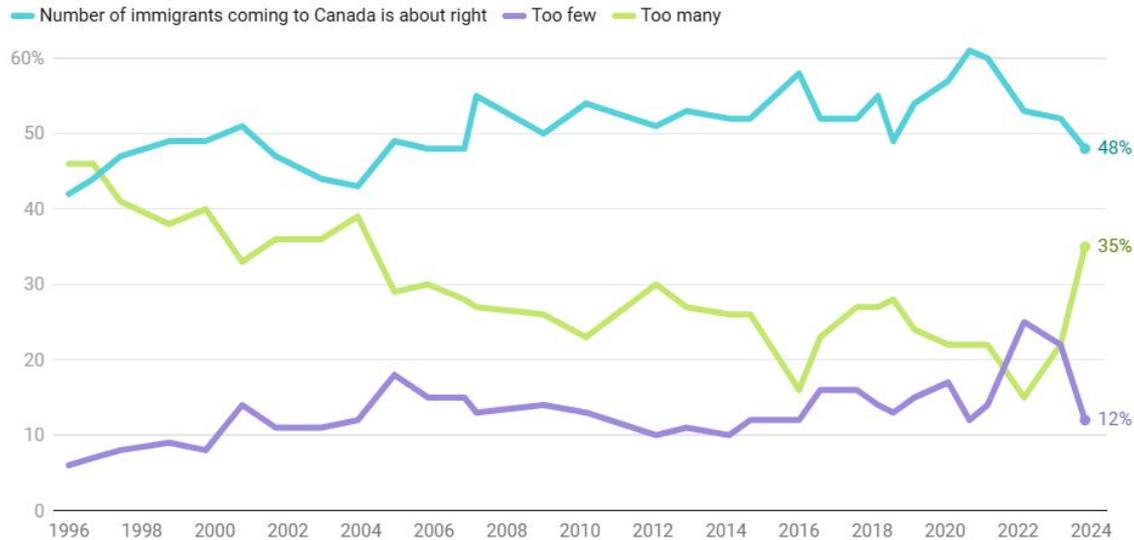
Chart 2 – A Dramatic Increase in Temporary Foreign Workers over the Last Decade ⁴



Statistics Canada - Number of non-permanent residents with employment income, 2011-2021.
 Chart: Clement Nocós • Source: Broadbent Institute • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Divisions on Immigration?

Chart 3 – Trends in Public Opinion on Canada's Immigration Policy^b



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, View of Immigration Levels - Public Opinion Research.

Chart: Clement Nocos • Source: Broadbent Institute • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Divisions on Immigration?

Table 1 – Generally, what kind of impact do you think immigration has on Canada?

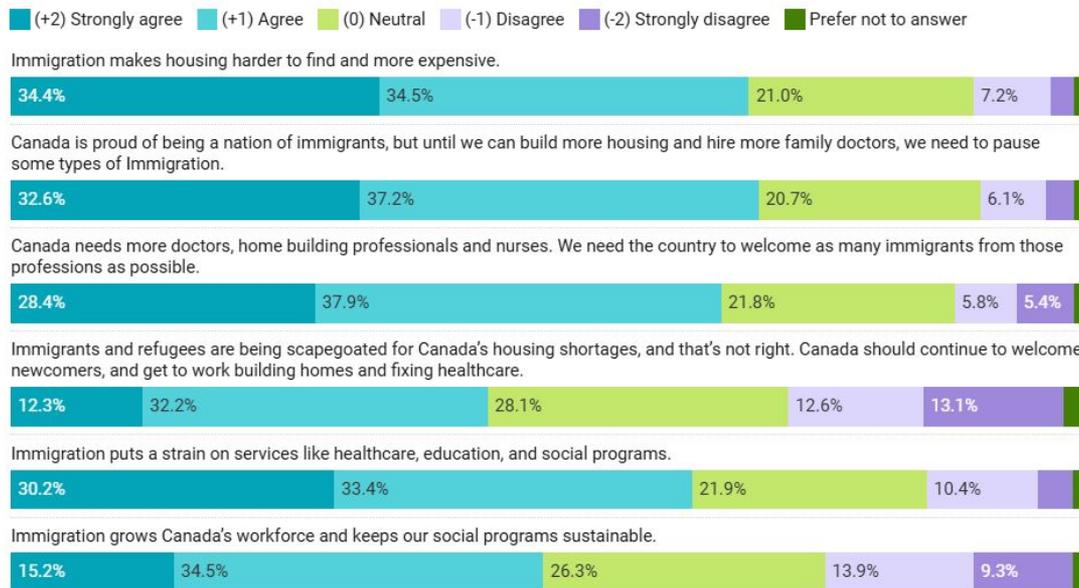
	(+2) Very good	(+1) Somewhat good	(0) Neutral	(-1) Somewhat bad	(-2) Very bad	Prefer not to answer
TOTAL	15.3%	30.1%	22.4%	18.2%	13.3%	0.8%

Table 2 – In the past year, has your opinion on immigration changed?

	Yes, I think we should allow more immigration	No, my opinion has stayed the same	Yes, I think we should allow less immigration	I'm not sure
TOTAL	12.9%	44.5%	38.4%	4.2%

Contradicting Values?

Chart 4 – Economic Perspectives on Canada’s Immigration Policy



Contradicting Values?

Chart 5 – Labour Perspectives on Canada’s Immigration Policy

■ (+2) Strongly agree ■ (+1) Agree ■ (0) Neutral ■ (-1) Disagree ■ (-2) Strongly disagree ■ Prefer not to answer

Successive governments have allowed fast food and coffee chains to use Temporary Foreign Workers as cheap labour they can exploit. It’s not fair to workers, and it’s not fair to Canadians looking for a home. We should stop that type of temporary immigration.



Immigration supports economic growth by filling labour shortages in key industries.



Immigration pushes wages lower and creates more competition for Canadian jobs.



Chart: Clement Nocos • Source: Broadbent Institute • [Get the data](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Contradicting Values?

Table 3 – Unionized Workers Are More Sympathetic to Immigrants and Recognize Issues

	(+2) Strongly agree	(+1) Agree	(0) Neutral	(-1) Disagree	(-2) Strongly disagree	Prefer not to answer
Supports Economic Growth						
Total	18.6%	39.4%	22.3%	11.4%	7.2%	1.1%
Unionized	24.4%	42.8%	17.8%	8.7%	5.5%	0.7%
Non-Union	16.6%	38.3%	23.8%	12.1%	7.9%	1.3%
Keeps social Programs Sustainable						
Total	15.2%	34.5%	26.3%	13.9%	9.3%	0.8%
Unionized	21.5%	38.7%	19.0%	12.4%	7.9%	0.4%
Non-Union	13.1%	33.1%	28.6%	14.4%	9.8%	1.0%

**Lower Wages
and Job
Competition**

Total	21.8%	31.0%	25.5%	16.4%	4.4%	0.9%
Unionized	23.1%	31.3%	23.0%	17.3%	4.3%	1.1%
Non-Union	21.5%	30.7%	26.1%	16.3%	4.5%	0.9%

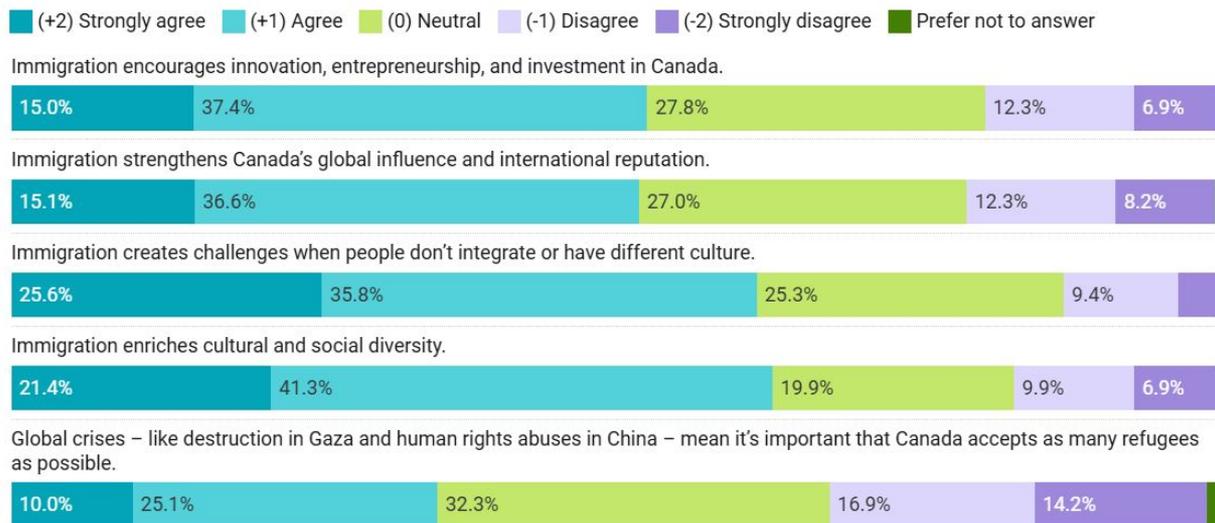
**The TFWP is
Unfair and
Should Stop**

Total	21.8%	31.0%	25.5%	16.4%	4.4%	0.9%
Unionized	23.1%	31.3%	23.0%	17.3%	4.3%	1.1%
Non-Union	21.5%	30.7%	26.1%	16.3%	4.5%	0.9%

Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with each statement: 1. Immigration supports economic growth by filling labour shortages in key industries; 2. Immigration grows Canada's workforce and keeps our social programs sustainable; 3. Immigration pushes wages lower and creates more competition for Canadian jobs; 4. Consecutive federal governments have allowed fast food and coffee chains to use Temporary Foreign Workers as cheap labour they can exploit. It's not fair to workers, and it's not fair to Canadians looking for a home. We should stop that type of temporary immigration.

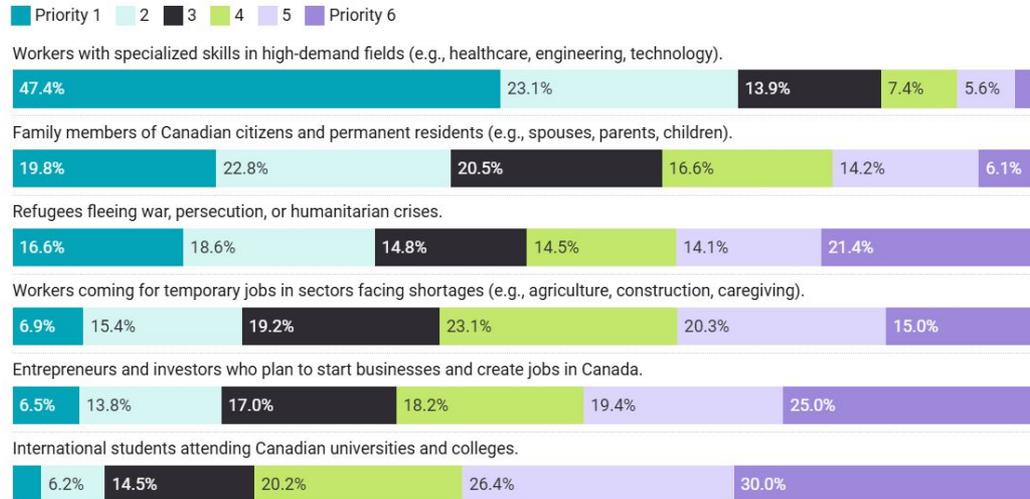
Contradicting Values?

Chart 6 – Views on Canada’s Immigration Policy and Global Leadership, Business, and Multiculturalism



Economic Priorities

Chart 7 – How much priority should governments place on different types of immigrants when making decisions around immigration policy?



Key Takeaways and Conclusion

- Views are certainly shifting as immigration policy shifts from fixing economic issues to catering to employer demands.
- Labour market shortages that immigration previously fixed are not being addressed by the current system.
 - Temporary Foreign Workers Program does not fix immigration backlogs and priority worker shortages while exacerbating economic problems.
 - UN Special Rapporteur: “breeding ground for contemporary forms of slavery”
- Multiculturalism and economic contributions are still celebrated outcomes of immigration policy, but shift is happening as immigration policy shifts.
- As other economic problems worsen, views on current immigration policy as part of economic policy worsen.