



# IMMIGRATION IN WATERLOO REGION

FORECAST 2023-2030



**IMMIGRATION  
PARTNERSHIP**  
WATERLOO REGION

Waterloo Region is set to grow to almost 1 million residents in the next 20 years. A significant component of that population growth will come from immigration. The Immigration Partnership has prepared this regional immigration forecast up to 2030. It is intended to be a tool to support community and organizational strategic, investment and service decision making and planning, to proactively meet the needs of a growing and changing population.

Utilizing regional and national data up to and including 2022, this forecast provides low, medium and high growth scenarios. In recent years, Waterloo Region has welcomed 1.64% of all permanent resident arrivals to Canada. These projections assume that Waterloo Region will continue to receive a similar proportion of the national immigration numbers, and that the total number of annual new permanent residents to Canada will plateau starting in 2025, as Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada recently projected.

In a medium growth scenario, 2023-2030 immigration projections in Waterloo Region are as follows:

- Waterloo Region will welcome an estimated 84,037 new permanent residents. This includes 64,793 who land here directly and a net additional 19,244 secondary migrants (those land elsewhere then move here). This compares to 37,735 new permanent residents welcomed from 2015-2022.
- The annual number of study permit holders is projected to grow from 57,095 to 121,740 (113%). This compares to an increase in the number of annual study permit holders from 8,860 to 47,860 (440%) from 2015-2022.
- The annual number of work permit holders is projected to increase from 24,273 to 44,415 (83%). This compares to an increase in the number of annual work permit holders from 4,155 to 21,395 (415%) from 2015-2022.
- The total number newcomers in Waterloo Region each year is projected to double from 78,838 to 154,692 (growing by 96%).
- Settlement providers will serve around 50,400 clients. This compares to approximately 28,200 clients served from 2015-2022.

# Waterloo Region Immigration Projections 2023 - 2030

<b>WATERLOO REGION</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>Total Permanent Resident Landings</b>	<b>7,628</b>	<b>7,956</b>	<b>8,202</b>	<b>8,202</b>	<b>8,202</b>	<b>8,202</b>	<b>8,202</b>	<b>8,202</b>
Economic PR	3,831	4,046	4,335	4,335	4,335	4,335	4,335	4,335
Family PR	1,705	1,825	1,889	1,889	1,889	1,889	1,889	1,889
Refugee PR	1,932	1,928	1,842	1,842	1,842	1,842	1,842	1,842
Other PR (including Afghan response initiative)	131	113	66	66	66	66	66	66
<b>Net Secondary Migration to WR</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>2,543</b>
<b>Current Study Permit Holders (medium growth scenario)</b>	<b>57,095</b>	<b>66,330</b>	<b>75,565</b>	<b>84,800</b>	<b>94,035</b>	<b>103,270</b>	<b>112,505</b>	<b>121,740</b>
Current Study Permit Holders (no growth scenario)	57,095	57,095	57,095	57,095	57,095	57,095	57,095	57,095
Current Study Permit Holders (high growth scenario)	62,899	82,663	108,637	142,774	187,636	246,596	324,082	425,916
<b>Current Work Permit Holders (medium growth scenario)</b>	<b>24,273</b>	<b>27,150</b>	<b>30,028</b>	<b>32,905</b>	<b>35,783</b>	<b>38,660</b>	<b>41,538</b>	<b>44,415</b>
Current Work Permit Holders (no growth scenario)	24,273	24,273	24,273	24,273	24,273	24,273	24,273	24,273
Current Work Permit Holders (high growth scenario)	25,331	29,992	35,510	42,043	49,778	58,937	69,780	82,618
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL NEWCOMERS</b> (permanent resident arrivals, secondary migrants, and current study and work permit holders, medium growth scenario)	<b>78,838</b>	<b>90,048</b>	<b>101,288</b>	<b>111,920</b>	<b>122,620</b>	<b>133,329</b>	<b>144,018</b>	<b>154,692</b>
Total Annual Newcomers (no growth scenario)	78,838	79,375	79,940	79,898	79,925	79,960	79,975	79,975
Total Annual Newcomers (high growth scenario)	85,171	107,802	137,101	174,462	223,219	286,793	369,716	477,969
<b>Settlement Service Clients</b> (may be served in multiple years)	<b>5,764</b>	<b>6,086</b>	<b>6,425</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,416</b>	<b>6,437</b>	<b>6,447</b>	<b>6,447</b>

# Waterloo Region Immigration 2015 - 2022

<b>WATERLOO REGION</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Total Permanent Resident Landings</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>3,980</b>	<b>4,590</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>8,875</b>	<b>7,780</b>
Economic PR	1,055	825	1,300	1,575	2,025	1,515	6,055	3,840
Family PR	780	985	1,060	1,200	1,380	845	1,245	1,790
Refugee PR	640	1,810	865	1,170	1,170	650	1,445	2,030
Other PR	45	25	35	20	15	35	120	125
<b>Net Secondary Migration to WR</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,753</b>
<b>Current Study Permit Holders</b>	<b>8,860</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>26,125</b>	<b>32,695</b>	<b>29,390</b>	<b>36,625</b>	<b>47,860</b>
<b>Current Work Permit Holders</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>5,655</b>	<b>6,985</b>	<b>8,890</b>	<b>12,165</b>	<b>15,640</b>	<b>19,725</b>	<b>21,395</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL NEWCOMERS</b> (permanent resident arrivals, secondary migrants, and current study and work permit holders)	<b>14,258</b>	<b>20,842</b>	<b>26,240</b>	<b>35,592</b>	<b>44,485</b>	<b>41,410</b>	<b>56,836</b>	<b>68,091</b>
<b>Settlement Service Clients</b> (may be served in multiple years)	<b>1,993</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>5,720</b>

# Notes

The 2023-2030 projections are estimates using historical data and a series of assumptions about the continuation of past trends. They should be used with caution. Any changes in trends could significantly alter the projections.

- Projected Permanent Resident Arrivals for 2023 are based on historical average of national immigration levels plan projections. Using arrivals data from the first nine months of the year, 2023 arrivals are on track to be about 30% higher – around 10,000 new permanent residents.
- 2023-2030 Permanent Resident Arrivals are based on the 2018-2022 average regional proportion of national arrivals applied to projected national arrivals.
- Net Secondary Migration to Waterloo Region was approximately 31% of new permanent resident arrivals over the previous five years, based on IMDB longitudinal database 2015-2020 data (Waterloo Region Immigration Profile, not yet published - anticipated Jan 2024)
- 2023-2030 Current Study and Work Permit Holders is based on growth over the past 2 years (2020-2022). The no growth scenario assumes an average numeric increase in 2023 and no growth in subsequent years. The medium growth scenario assumes average numeric increase each year to 2030. The high growth scenario assumes the rate of increase continues until 2030.
- Total Annual Newcomers is an estimate of permanent resident arrivals, secondary migrants, study permit holders and 50% of work permit holders in Waterloo Region. It assumes half of work permit holders also hold study permit in that calendar year. It does not include refugee claimants when they arrive in the community (but does when they obtain permanent residency).
- 2015-2022 Permanent Resident Arrivals are based on IRCC monthly arrivals data: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/f7e5498e-0ad8-4417-85c9-9b8aff9b9eda/resource/0f1e6cce-a2e3-4ded-92ca-47d3c7e55128>
- Current Study and Work Permit Holders 2015-2022 are those with a valid permit within a calendar year, including Ukrainian temporary work permit holders & dependants (IRCC custom data requests, 2019 and 2023)
- Settlement Service Clients is based on an average of 60% of permanent residents accessing service from 2015-2019 (ranging annually from 55% to 71%, IRCC iCare data and Statistics Canada taxfiler data (Immigrant Longitudinal Database, 2020)). Not all may receive settlement service in a particular year - individuals may receive service in multiple years before and after arrival.



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## Building Community through Immigration

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