

Where We Work, How We Commute, What We Earn

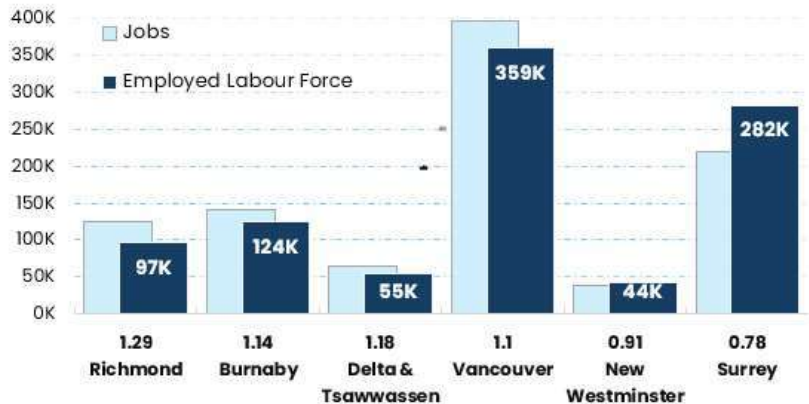
Where do Delta residents work?

Delta is job-rich, with more local jobs than employed residents.

Census 2021 reports 64,585 local jobs and 54,865 employed labour force (ELF) in Delta and Tsawwassen combined. This equals a jobs-to-ELF ratio of 1.18, meaning the area has more jobs than workers and attracts commuters from outside.

Compared with nearby municipalities, Delta and Tsawwassen area sits in the upper tier: higher than Burnaby (1.14) and Vancouver (1.10), and well above New Westminster (0.91) and Surrey (0.78). Richmond (1.29) remains the most job-rich in this group. This positioning reinforces Delta's role as a regional employment hub, even while many residents likely still commute outward for work.

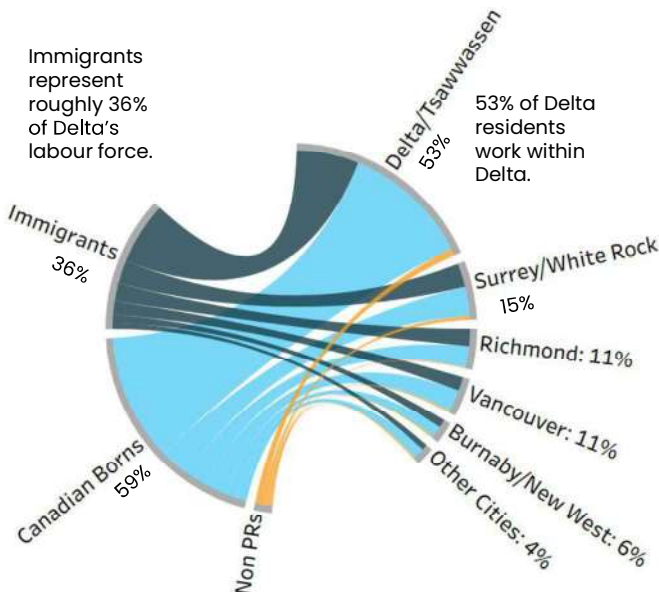
Jobs-to-Employed Labour Force Ratio
(Including Worked at Home and No Fixed Workplace)



Most Delta immigrants commute outside Delta.

Left side = Employed labour force (ELF) living in Delta, by immigration status (excluding no fixed workplace)

Right side = place of work
Ribbon size = % of ELF by immigration status or workplace



Place of Work for Delta Residents (Aged 15+)
(Excluding No Fixed Workplace)

Immigrants are less likely to work in their home municipality. Only **7,440 (47%)** of immigrants work in Delta, compared with about **57%** of Canadian-born residents. Most Delta residents work in surrounding cities, especially Surrey & White Rock, Vancouver, and Richmond, reinforcing that many residents are connected to the wider Metro Vancouver job market.

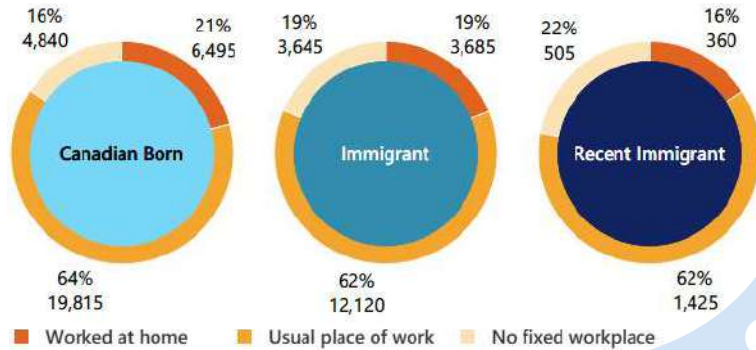
Place of Work	Canadian Born	Immigrant	Recent Immigrant	Non-PR
Delta & Tsawwassen	15,230	7,440	860	905
Surrey & White Rock	3,495	2,825	375	465
Vancouver	2,590	1,655	155	220
Richmond	2,565	2,100	190	120
Burnaby	990	730	70	125
New Westminster	370	260	40	50
Other Cities	1,295	690	85	215
Total	26,535	15,700	1,775	2,100

Note: Delta and Tsawwassen are reported as separate Census Subdivisions (CSDs) in Census 2021 Profiles.

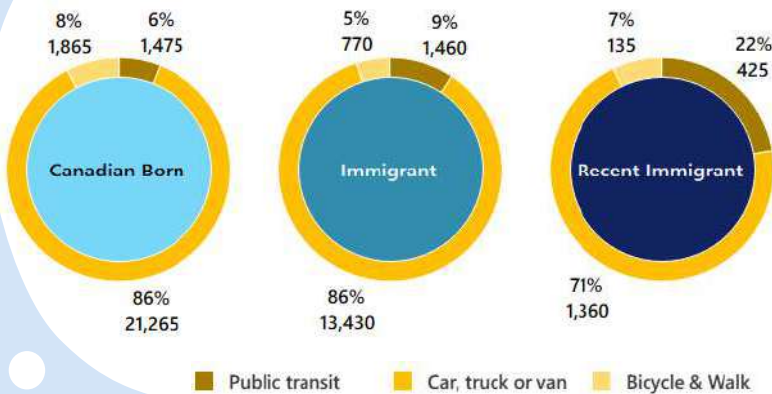
How do Delta residents get to work?

Recent immigrants are less likely to work from home and more likely to have no fixed workplace.

Across all groups (aged 15+), about 62–64% report a usual place of work. Compared with Canadian-born residents, recent immigrants are less likely to work from home (16% vs 21%) and more likely to have no fixed workplace (22% vs 16%). This suggests recent immigrants are more likely to work across multiple sites or on the road (e.g., building and landscape contractors, travelling salespersons, and independent truck drivers).



Recent immigrants rely more on public transit, while driving remains the main mode across all groups.



Across all commuters, the vast majority commute by car, truck or van. However, recent immigrants are less likely to drive than Canadian-born residents (71% vs 86%) and are more likely to use public transit (22% vs 6%), indicating a greater reliance on non-car options.

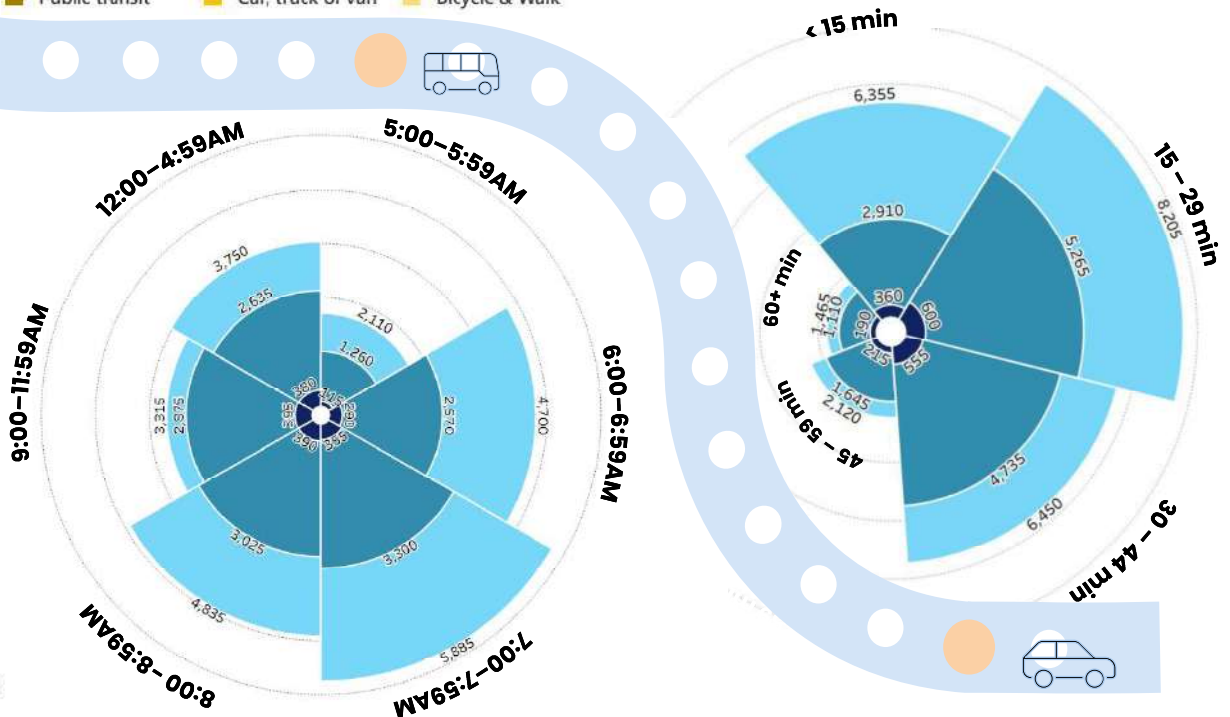
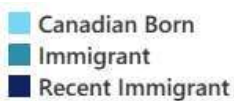
Commute Duration

About half of recent immigrants commute more than 30 minutes, compared with 42% of Canadian-born residents.

Departure Time

Most leave home for work in the early morning (6 a.m.–9 a.m.), but recent immigrants tend to start slightly later.

40% of recent immigrants leave before 8 a.m., compared with 48% of Canadian-born residents.

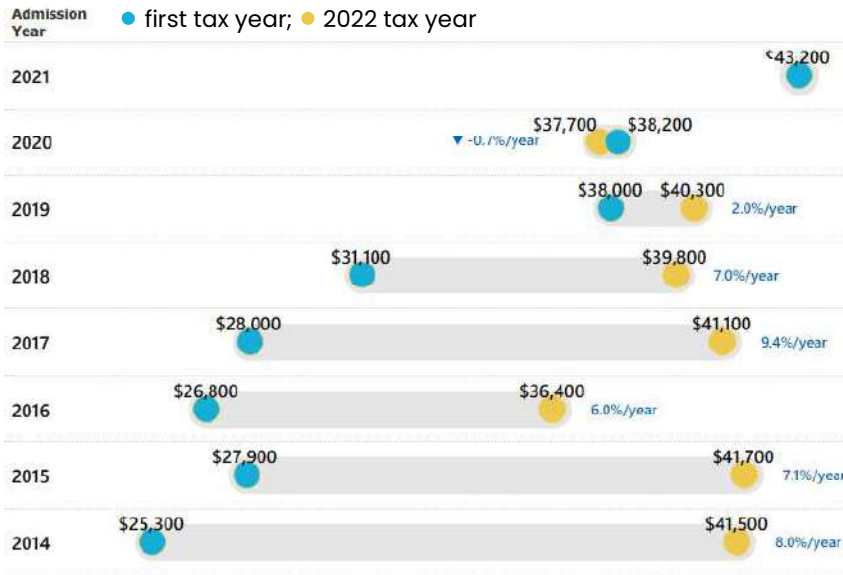


Note: Each wedge represents a time category, and the farther it reaches from the centre, the higher the population count.

How do newcomers' incomes change with time in Canada?

Median income rises with time since admission—and differs by language skills.

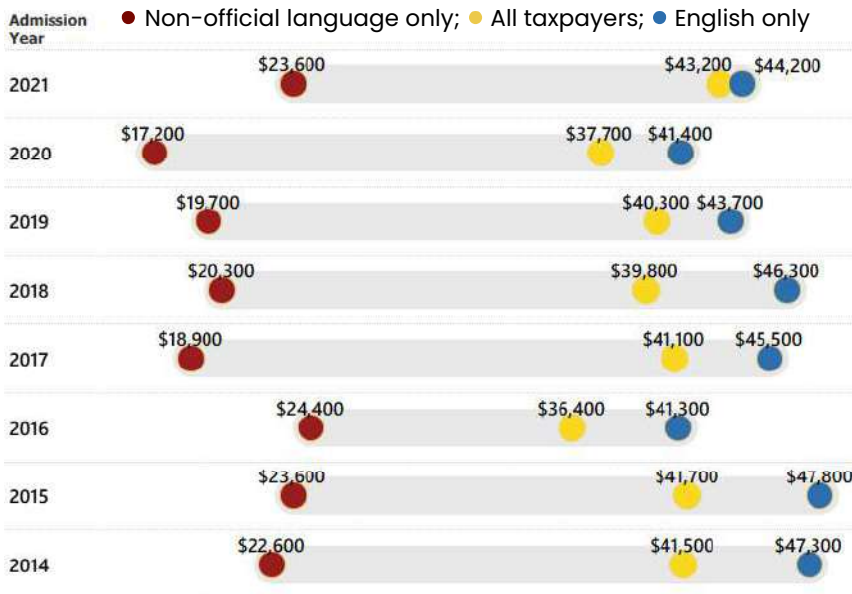
Median Income in First Tax Year and in 2022, by Admission Year



Median income generally increases the longer newcomers have been in Canada. Across admission cohorts, median income in 2022 exceeds median income in the first tax year for most cohorts, indicating earnings growth as newcomers establish themselves in the labour market.

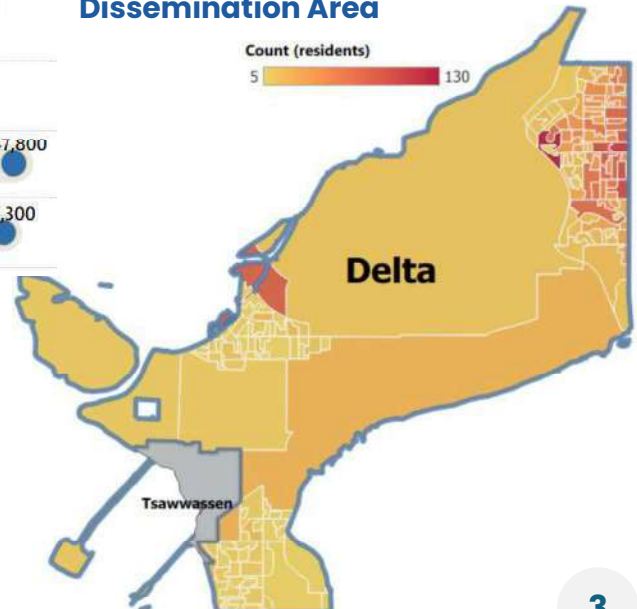
Earlier cohorts show the strongest gains: the 2017 cohort records the fastest average annual increase (+9.4% per year), rising from \$28,000 in the first tax year to \$41,100 in 2022; the 2014 cohort increases from \$25,300 to \$41,500 (+8.0% per year). More recent cohorts show smaller changes over a shorter follow-up period, with the 2019 cohort increasing from \$38,000 to \$40,300 (+2.0% per year). The 2020 cohort shows a modest decline from \$38,200 to \$37,700 (-0.7% per year), highlighting sensitivity to broader economic conditions (such as COVID-19) in the early years after admission.

Median Income in 2022 by Language Skills and Admission Year



In addition, official-language skills are associated with higher incomes. Across admission cohorts, the English-only group reports median incomes between \$41,400 and \$47,800, while the non-official-language speakers range from \$17,200 to \$24,400. The income gap between these groups is substantial in every cohort, ranging from \$16,900 (2016: \$41,300 vs \$24,400) to \$26,600 (2017: \$45,500 vs \$18,900).

Residents who speak neither English nor French, by Census 2021 Dissemination Area



Census 2021 shows that about **4,300** Delta residents speak neither English nor French. The map highlights where non-official language speakers are concentrated across Delta, showing neighbourhood differences that can support targeted services.

A census dissemination area (DA) is Statistics Canada's smallest standard geographic unit for publishing census data. Each DA typically includes about 400–700 people.

Who is at risk of low income or poverty?

Recent immigrants experience higher low-income prevalence and are more concentrated in lower income bands relative to other groups.

Distribution of Total Income (Age 15+) by Immigration Status (Census 2021)



Census 2021 reports that median annual total income among Delta residents aged 15+ is \$34,000 for recent immigrants, compared with \$39,600 for immigrants and \$47,200 for Canadian-born residents. The income distribution indicates a higher prevalence of low income among recent immigrants, while Canadian-born residents are more likely to be represented in higher income brackets (including \$100,000+). Immigrants overall fall between these two groups, suggesting an income gap that narrows with longer time spent in Canada.

Census 2021 also identifies approximately 1,300 working poor residents in Delta, including about 625 visible minority residents and 695 residents not belonging to a visible minority group. Within visible minority communities, working poverty is concentrated among South Asian (270) and Chinese (245) residents, together accounting for roughly four in five visible minority working-poor cases.

Income Sources (Age 15+) by Immigration Status (Census 2021)

	Canadian Born	Immigrant	Recent Immigrant
Employment income (%)	71.6	71.2	86.0
Government transfers (%)	9.2	12.8	8.8
EI benefits (%)	0.6	0.9	1.8

Note: These percentages show the share of total income coming from each source, not the share of people receiving that income.

Across all groups in Delta, most total income for residents aged 15+ comes from employment. Recent immigrants have the highest employment-income share (86.0%), compared with immigrants (71.2%) and Canadian-born residents (71.6%). Immigrants receive a larger share of their total income from government transfers (12.8%) than Canadian-born (9.2%) and recent immigrants (8.8%). EI benefits make up a small share overall but are highest for recent immigrants (1.8%).

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Data Source: Statistics Canada (2021) [Census Profile](#); [Community Data Program](#) (three datasets: Working Poor, Place of Work, Longitudinal Immigration Database).

Notes:

- ※ Recent immigrants: People who landed in Canada between 2016 and 2021.
- ※ Working Poor: Individuals between 18 and 64 years who live independently, are not students, and earn at least \$3,000 a year with an after-tax family income below the low-income threshold.
- ※ Totals may not sum due to rounding or category definitions.

The Delta Local Immigration Partnership (Delta LIP) is a network of community partners working toward a welcoming and inclusive city where immigrants, refugees, and all residents can thrive. Through shared research, dialogue, and coordinated action, members develop community-driven initiatives and strategies that support newcomer inclusion.

Contact: deltalip@dcrcs.ca
Website: <https://deltalip.ca/>