

Data Documentation

1. CBSA, IRCC, and RCMP data

data/ircc/

Sources

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522143050/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2023.html>,
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522143410/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2022.html>,
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522143710/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2021.html>,
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522143832/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2020.html>,
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522143842/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2019.html>,
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522143842/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2018.html>,
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522144008/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/asylum-claims-2017.html>

Description These are the data published by the Government of Canada on behalf of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The main page can be accessed in <https://web.archive.org/web/20240520032831/https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims.html>.

Method Webpages are downloaded from the original URL, which is also archived on the Wayback Machine. Each webpage has one year's worth of data with monthly resolution. Each webpage contains 9 tables; one from RCMP, six from CBSA, one from IRCC, and one combined CBSA and IRCC data. We aggregate each table type from 2017-2023 which results in 9 cleaned tables in the data/clean/ircc sub-directory. The raw webpages are available in data/raw/web_ircc and the R script for processing is in R/scrape_ircc.R.

RCMP Interceptions

data/ircc/rcmp_interceptions.csv

Description The number of "RCMP interceptions" refers to asylum seekers apprehended between the ports of entry and does not reflect other border crossings. These numbers may be included in either CBSA or IRCC processing results as the asylum seekers are turned over by the RCMP to these agencies if a claim of refugee status is made. Numbers are manually verified and subject to change.

Year

The year of entry

Required

integer

column name: year

Provinces

The province of interception

Required

factor

column name: province

January

Number of asylum claimants intercepted in January

integer

column name: january

February Number of asylum claimants intercepted in February	integer	column name: february
March Number of asylum claimants intercepted in March	integer	column name: march
April Number of asylum claimants intercepted in April	integer	column name: april
May Number of asylum claimants intercepted in May	integer	column name: may
June Number of asylum claimants intercepted in June	integer	column name: june
July Number of asylum claimants intercepted in July	integer	column name: july
August Number of asylum claimants intercepted in August	integer	column name: august
September Number of asylum claimants intercepted in September	integer	column name: september
October Number of asylum claimants intercepted in October	integer	column name: october
November Number of asylum claimants intercepted in November	integer	column name: november
December Number of asylum claimants intercepted in December	integer	column name: december
Total Number of asylum claimants intercepted in a year	integer	column name: total

CBSA Air Ports of Entry

data/ircc/cbsa_air_entry.csv

Description These statistics include asylum claimants intercepted by the RCMP and brought to a CBSA air port of entry, and do not include asylum claims made at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada offices. Figures may vary slightly depending on the date when the claim was received.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year The year of entry	Required	integer	column name: year
Provinces/Territories 2 options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province/territory of entry The national total 	Required	factor	column name: prov_territory

January Number of asylum claimants who enter in January	integer	column name: january
February Number of asylum claimants who enter in February	integer	column name: february
March Number of asylum claimants who enter in March	integer	column name: march
April Number of asylum claimants who enter in April	integer	column name: april
May Number of asylum claimants who enter in May	integer	column name: may
June Number of asylum claimants who enter in June	integer	column name: june
July Number of asylum claimants who enter in July	integer	column name: july
August Number of asylum claimants who enter in August	integer	column name: august
September Number of asylum claimants who enter in September	integer	column name: september
October Number of asylum claimants who enter in October	integer	column name: october
November Number of asylum claimants who enter in November	integer	column name: november
December Number of asylum claimants who enter in December	integer	column name: december
Total Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year	integer	column name: total

CBSA Land Ports of Entry

data/ircc/cbsa_land_entry.csv

Description These statistics include asylum claimants intercepted by the RCMP and brought to a CBSA land port of entry, and do not include asylum claims made at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada offices. Figures may vary slightly depending on the date when the claim was received.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year The year of entry	Required	integer	column name: year
Provinces/Territories 2 options:	Required	factor	column name: prov_territory

- The province/territory of entry
- The national total

January

Number of asylum claimants who enter in January

integer

column name: january

February

Number of asylum claimants who enter in February

integer

column name: february

March

Number of asylum claimants who enter in March

integer

column name: march

April

Number of asylum claimants who enter in April

integer

column name: april

May

Number of asylum claimants who enter in May

integer

column name: may

June

Number of asylum claimants who enter in June

integer

column name: june

July

Number of asylum claimants who enter in July

integer

column name: july

August

Number of asylum claimants who enter in August

integer

column name: august

September

Number of asylum claimants who enter in September

integer

column name: september

October

Number of asylum claimants who enter in October

integer

column name: october

November

Number of asylum claimants who enter in November

integer

column name: november

December

Number of asylum claimants who enter in December

integer

column name: december

Total

Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year

integer

column name: total

CBSA Marine Ports of Entry

data/ircc/cbsa_marine_entry.csv

Description These statistics include asylum claimants intercepted by the RCMP and brought to a CBSA marine port of entry, and do not include asylum claims made at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada offices. Figures may vary slightly depending on the date when the claim was received.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year

The year of entry

Required

integer

column name: year

Provinces/Territories

2 options:

- The province/territory of entry
- The national total

Required

factor

column name: prov_territory

January

Number of asylum claimants who enter in January

integer

column name: january

February

Number of asylum claimants who enter in February

integer

column name: february

March

Number of asylum claimants who enter in March

integer

column name: march

April

Number of asylum claimants who enter in April

integer

column name: april

May

Number of asylum claimants who enter in May

integer

column name: may

June

Number of asylum claimants who enter in June

integer

column name: june

July

Number of asylum claimants who enter in July

integer

column name: july

August

Number of asylum claimants who enter in August

integer

column name: august

September

Number of asylum claimants who enter in September

integer

column name: september

October

Number of asylum claimants who enter in October

integer

column name: october

November

Number of asylum claimants who enter in November

integer

column name: november

December

Number of asylum claimants who enter in December

integer

column name: december

Total

Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year

integer

column name: total

CBSA All Ports of Entry (Air, Land and Marine)

data/ircc/cbsa_all_entry.csv

Description These statistics include asylum claimants intercepted by the RCMP and brought to any CBSA port of entry, and do not include asylum claims made at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada offices. Figures may vary slightly depending on the date when the claim was received.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year The year of entry	Required	integer	column name: year
Provinces/Territories 2 options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The province/territory of entry The national total 	Required	factor	column name: prov_territory
January Number of asylum claimants who enter in January		integer	column name: january
February Number of asylum claimants who enter in February		integer	column name: february
March Number of asylum claimants who enter in March		integer	column name: march
April Number of asylum claimants who enter in April		integer	column name: april
May Number of asylum claimants who enter in May		integer	column name: may
June Number of asylum claimants who enter in June		integer	column name: june
July Number of asylum claimants who enter in July		integer	column name: july
August Number of asylum claimants who enter in August		integer	column name: august
September Number of asylum claimants who enter in September		integer	column name: september
October Number of asylum claimants who enter in October		integer	column name: october
November Number of asylum claimants who enter in November		integer	column name: november
December Number of asylum claimants who enter in December		integer	column name: december
Total Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year		integer	column name: total

CBSA Inland Offices

data/ircc/cbsa_inland_office.csv

Description These statistics include asylum claimants intercepted by the RCMP and brought to a CBSA inland office, and do not include asylum claims made at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada offices. Figures may vary slightly depending on the date when the claim was received.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other val-

ues are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year The year of entry	Required	integer	column name: year
Provinces/Territories 2 options: • The province/territory of entry • The national total	Required	factor	column name: prov_territory
January Number of asylum claimants who enter in January		integer	column name: january
February Number of asylum claimants who enter in February		integer	column name: february
March Number of asylum claimants who enter in March		integer	column name: march
April Number of asylum claimants who enter in April		integer	column name: april
May Number of asylum claimants who enter in May		integer	column name: may
June Number of asylum claimants who enter in June		integer	column name: june
July Number of asylum claimants who enter in July		integer	column name: july
August Number of asylum claimants who enter in August		integer	column name: august
September Number of asylum claimants who enter in September		integer	column name: september
October Number of asylum claimants who enter in October		integer	column name: october
November Number of asylum claimants who enter in November		integer	column name: november
December Number of asylum claimants who enter in December		integer	column name: december
Total Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year		integer	column name: total

All CBSA Asylum Claims

data/ircc/cbsa_total.csv

Description These statistics include asylum claimants intercepted by the RCMP and brought to any CBSA port of entry or inland office, and do not include asylum claims made at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada offices. Figures may vary slightly depending on the date when the claim was received.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year Required integer column name: year
The year of entry

CBSA designated ports of entry/inland offices Required factor column name: cbsa_office

One or a combination of these types of CBSA office:

- Air Ports of Entry
- Land Ports of Entry
- Marine Ports of Entry
- All Ports of Entry (Air, Land and Marine)
- Inland Offices
- Total - CBSA Land, Air and Marine port of entry and Inland Offices

January integer column name: january
Number of asylum claimants who enter in January

February integer column name: february
Number of asylum claimants who enter in February

March integer column name: march
Number of asylum claimants who enter in March

April integer column name: april
Number of asylum claimants who enter in April

May integer column name: may
Number of asylum claimants who enter in May

June integer column name: june
Number of asylum claimants who enter in June

July integer column name: july
Number of asylum claimants who enter in July

August integer column name: august
Number of asylum claimants who enter in August

September integer column name: september
Number of asylum claimants who enter in September

October integer column name: october
Number of asylum claimants who enter in October

November integer column name: november
Number of asylum claimants who enter in November

December integer column name: december
Number of asylum claimants who enter in December

Total integer column name: total
Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year

All Claims Processed by IRCC data/ircc/ircc_processed.csv

Description The number of asylum claimants processed by IRCC.

Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year Required integer column name: year
The year of entry

Provinces/Territories Required factor column name: prov_territory
2 options:

- The province/territory of entry
- The national total

January integer column name: january
Number of asylum claimants who enter in January

February integer column name: february
Number of asylum claimants who enter in February

March integer column name: march
Number of asylum claimants who enter in March

April integer column name: april
Number of asylum claimants who enter in April

May integer column name: may
Number of asylum claimants who enter in May

June integer column name: june
Number of asylum claimants who enter in June

July integer column name: july
Number of asylum claimants who enter in July

August integer column name: august
Number of asylum claimants who enter in August

September integer column name: september
Number of asylum claimants who enter in September

October integer column name: october
Number of asylum claimants who enter in October

November integer column name: november
Number of asylum claimants who enter in November

December integer column name: december
Number of asylum claimants who enter in December

Total	integer	column name: total
Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year		

Total Asylum Claimants Processed by CBSA and IRCC	data/ircc/ cbsa_plus_ircc.csv
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Description Please note that all values between 0 and 5 are shown as NA. This is done to prevent individuals from being identified when data is compiled and compared to other publicly available statistics. All other values are rounded to the closest multiple of 5 for the same reason; as a result of rounding, data may not sum to the totals indicated.

Year	Required	integer	column name: year
The year of entry			

Provinces/Territories	Required	factor	column name: prov_territory
2 options:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The province/territory of entry• The national total			

January	integer	column name: january
Number of asylum claimants who enter in January		

February	integer	column name: february
Number of asylum claimants who enter in February		

March	integer	column name: march
Number of asylum claimants who enter in March		

April	integer	column name: april
Number of asylum claimants who enter in April		

May	integer	column name: may
Number of asylum claimants who enter in May		

June	integer	column name: june
Number of asylum claimants who enter in June		

July	integer	column name: july
Number of asylum claimants who enter in July		

August	integer	column name: august
Number of asylum claimants who enter in August		

September	integer	column name: september
Number of asylum claimants who enter in September		

October	integer	column name: october
Number of asylum claimants who enter in October		

November	integer	column name: november
Number of asylum claimants who enter in November		

December	integer	column name: december
Number of asylum claimants who enter in December		

Total	integer	column name: total
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Number of asylum claimants who enter in a year

2. IRB Irregular crossers claims data

data/quarterly_irregular_claims/

Sources

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Description This is data that was published by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on the number of claims made to the Refugee Protection Division (RPD), from 2017 Feburary onwards.

Method The same webpage at different time periods is accessed through the Wayback Machine. The webpage is updated quarterly, though some periods are not archived on the Wayback Machine, and as such are missing time periods. The webpage at different times each contain one table. We aggregated data from 2017-2024, using Excel to replace ‘-’ values with NA, creating the quarter_name, year, and number_of_quarters_represented columns to represent time, and cleaning country names. This results in 1 cleaned table in the data/clean/quarterly_irregular_claims subdirectory. The raw webpages are available in data/raw/web_quarterly_irregular_claims.

IRB Irregular crossers claims data

data/quarterly_irregular_claims/
irregular_claims.csv

Description This is data that was published by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on the number of claims made to the Refugee Protection Division (RPD), from 2017 Feburary onwards.

Quarter name

Required

character

column name: quarter_name

The year and month of the time period

Year

Required

integer

column name: year

The year of claims

Number of quarters represented

Required

integer

column name: number of quarters
represented

The number of quarters observed starting from 2017 february

Country of alleged persecution

Required

factor

column name: country

The first listed country of alleged persecution as entered into the IRB case management system by the officer from CBSA or IRCC when the claim was made and referred to the RPD.

Intake

integer

column name: intake

The number of claims received by the RPD by irregular border crossers

Accepted

integer

column name: accepted

The RPD has determined that the claimant is either a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection

Rejected

integer

column name: rejected

The RPD has determined that the claimant is not a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection.

Abandoned

integer

column name: abandoned

The RPD has declared that the claim has been abandoned because, for example, the completed Basis of Claim Form was not provided on time, the claimant’s current and correct contact information was not

provided, or the claimant did not attend their refugee protection claim hearing or the special hearing on the abandonment of the claim (if required).

Withdrawn or other

integer

column name: withdrawn other

Withdrawn describes cases in which the claimant does not continue with their claim. The claimant can decide to withdraw their claim before the hearing upon written notice to the RPD. Once substantive evidence has been accepted at a hearing, the claimant must make an application to the RPD to be able to withdraw their claim. Other describes cases in which the proceeding is terminated upon notice from a CBSA officer because the claimant is not eligible to claim refugee protection (e.g., determined inadmissible to Canada on grounds of serious criminality or organized criminality) or other situations such as when the claimant has passed away.

Total

integer

column name: total

Total of all claims accepted, rejected, abandoned, withdrawn & other. Claims finalized in the time period indicated may have been referred to the RPD in a previous time period.

Pending at the end of period

integer

column name: pending at the end of period

All claims that have not been finalized by the end of the identified time period.

3. RAD appeals data

data/rad/

Sources

- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522150106/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2023.aspx>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522145949/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2022.aspx>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522150030/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2021.aspx>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522145918/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2020.aspx>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522145650/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2019.aspx>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522145912/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2018.aspx>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522145909/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/RADStat2017.aspx>

Description This data is published by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) on the number of yearly asylum appeals processed by its Refugee Appeals Division (RAD). The main page can be accessed in <https://web.archive.org/web/20240522145650/https://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/statistics/appeals/Pages/index.aspx>.

Method Webpages are downloaded from the original URL, which is also archived on the Wayback Machine. Each webpage has one year's worth of data in one table. We aggregate each table type from 2017-2023 which results in one cleaned table in the data/clean/rad subdirectory. The raw webpages are available in data/raw/web_rad and the R script for processing is in R/scrape_rad.R.

Appeals by Country of Alleged Persecution

data/rad/rad_appeals.csv

Description The table includes all intake: appeals by the claimant or by the Minister that have not yet been decided by the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD), and appeals that have been returned to the RAD from the Federal Court.

Appeals finalized in a given year may have been filed in a previous year.

The country of alleged persecution in the table below corresponds to the first listed country of alleged persecution as identified by the claimant when they made their claim before the Refugee Protection Division (RPD), and which was entered in the case management system.

Only countries for which an appeal was filed, finalized, or pending within this reporting period are displayed.

The table below reflects the data on countries contained within the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) case management system and is used solely to support the refugee determination process. The fact that these countries are listed should not be construed as implying that the IRB recognizes these particular countries' sovereignty or political status.

Furthermore, country names may not accurately reflect the current geopolitical situation; rather, they reflect the information as it currently exists in the IRB case management system and some are corrected by researchers for consistency.

Year

Required

integer

column name: year

The year of appeal

Country

Required

factor

column name: country

One of:

- Refugee's country of origin
- Stateless
- Unknown
- Blank

Merit

logical

column name: merit

Whether the appeals are read by the RPD.

- TRUE: Appeals finalized with an analysis of the substance of the RPD decision.
- FALSE: Appeals dismissed and finalized without an analysis of the substance of the RPD decision.

Outcome

Required

factor

column name: outcome

One of 9 possible outcomes:

- Filed: New appeals filed to the RAD.
- Dismissed – Lack of RAD Jurisdiction: Certain types of RPD decisions cannot be appealed to the RAD—for example, claims of designated foreign nationals, rejected claims where the RPD stated that the claim had no credible basis, rejected claims that were referred as an exception under the Safe Third Country Agreement, and claims that were determined by the RPD to be abandoned. Note: Until August 2014, this included appeals filed by nationals of designated countries of origin.
- Dismissed – Appeal not Perfected: After the filing of a notice of appeal, a record that complies with the RAD rules was not submitted by the appellant to the RAD, or not within the proper time limit.
- Dismissed – Withdrawn, Abandoned & Other: Other reasons or default in the proceedings that led the RAD to dismiss the appeal without an analysis of the merits.
- Dismissed – Confirmed RPD: The RAD has confirmed the determination of the RPD, meaning that the appeal is dismissed.

- Allowed – Referred Back: The RAD has allowed the appeal and referred the matter to the RPD for re-determination, giving the directions to the RPD that it considers appropriate.
- Allowed – Substituted Determination: The RAD has allowed the appeal, set aside the RPD determination and substituted a determination that, in its opinion, should have been made.
- Total Finalizations: All appeals finalized on merit or non-merit during the time period indicated. Appeals may have been filed in a previous time period.
- Pending: All appeals that have not been finalized.

Count

Number of appeals

integer

column name: count