



AP Poll: Three of Four Canadians Say Immigration Good For Country

New York, NY (AP) — Nearly three out of four Canadians think immigrants have been a good influence on their country, an Associated Press poll shows.

The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between May 7-17, 2004, the AP/Ipsos poll interviewed a representative sample of about 1,000 residents of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United States. The margin of error is +/- 3 for all adults. Please reference the topline results for the complete list of number of interviews and margin of error for each country.

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Associated Press

New York, NY (AP) — Nearly three out of four Canadians think immigrants have been a good influence on their country, an Associated Press poll shows.

Seventy-three percent have a favorable view, 21 percent say newcomers have been a bad influence and 7 percent weren't sure, according to the poll conducted by Ipsos-Reid, a Canadian firm.

That compares 42 percent of people in the United States having a favorable view of immigrants and 46 percent having a negative one. In Mexico, only 36 percent said immigrants were a good influence; 53 percent said they were a bad influence, the AP/Ipsos poll found.

"When you ask Canadians what's best about Canada, after our health care system, they mention multiculturalism and tolerance of difference," said Darrell Bricker, president of North American Public Affairs for Ipsos-Reid. "This is especially true of the younger generation."

Foreign-born residents make up about 18 percent of Canada's population of 29.6 million people, according to the 2001 Census.

Eighty-three percent of the 1,000 Canadians polled said a variety of religions was good for the country, and 15 percent said it was bad; 2 percent weren't sure.

Also, most Canadians believed in a variety of cultural customs, with 58 percent disagreeing that nearly everyone should share the same traditions; 40 percent agreed with that statement.

However, 18 percent of Canadians believe immigrants take away jobs. But most, 66 percent, believe immigrants are just filling jobs that Canadians don't want. Sixteen percent weren't sure.

The poll was conducted May 7-9 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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Ipsos Public Affairs

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