



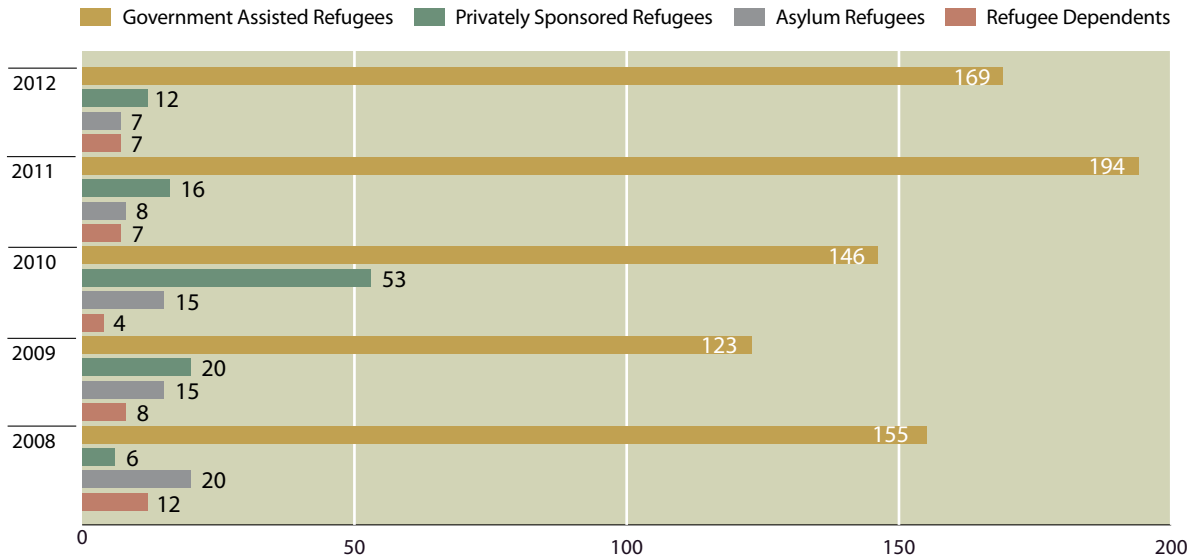
Refugees to Nova Scotia 2008-2012

Over the five-year period from 2008 to 2012, Nova Scotia welcomed **997** refugees, averaging almost 200 per year. This represents 8.3 per cent of all immigrants coming to Nova Scotia.

REFUGEE CATEGORY

Refugees arrive under four different categories: government assisted, privately sponsored, asylum refugees and refugee dependents. 79 per cent of all refugees to Nova Scotia from 2008-2012 came as government-assisted refugees.

Chart 1: **Refugees entering Nova Scotia 2008-2012**



COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

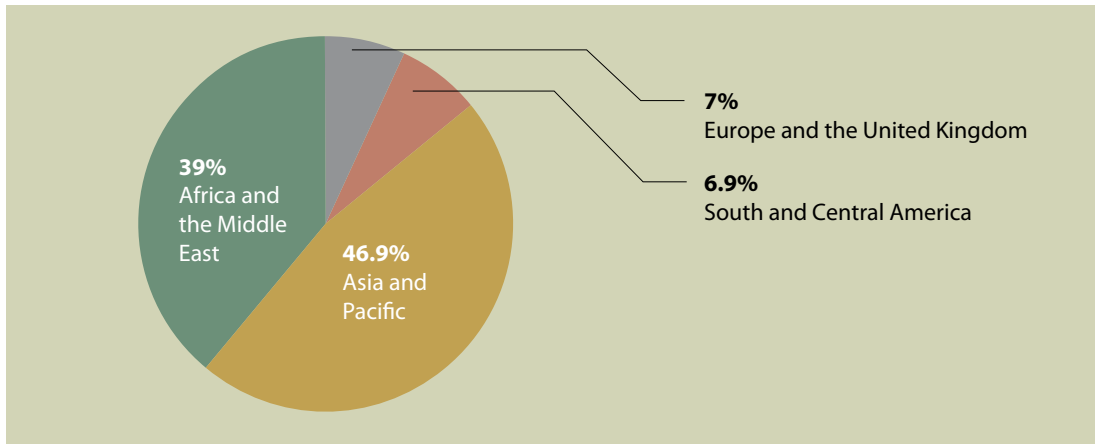
Country of Last Permanent Residence is used as source country for refugees due to difficulties establishing refugee citizenship in some cases

Most refugees come to Nova Scotia from Asia and the Pacific, followed by Africa and the Middle East.



Office of Immigration
 1741 Brunswick Street,
 Unit 110A, PO Box 1535
 Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3
 E: nsnp@gov.ns.ca
 T: (902) 424-5230
 F: (902) 424-7936

Chart 2: **Refugee Region of Origin 2008-2012**



The large number of Bhutanese government-assisted refugees is due to the Canadian government's 2007 commitment to resettling 5,000 Bhutanese refugees in Canada. This number increased to 6,500 in March 2013.

Table 1: **Top Source Countries for Refugees by Category 2008-2012**

Refugee Category	Top 3 Source Countries	Number
Government Assisted	Bhutan	357
	Iraq	72
	Afghanistan	65
Privately Sponsored	Iraq	57
	Eritrea	11
	Sudan	9
Asylum Refugees	Cuba	13
	Mexico	4
	Rwanda	4
Refugee Dependents	Cuba	10
	Sri Lanka	8
	Uganda	6

AGE AND GENDER

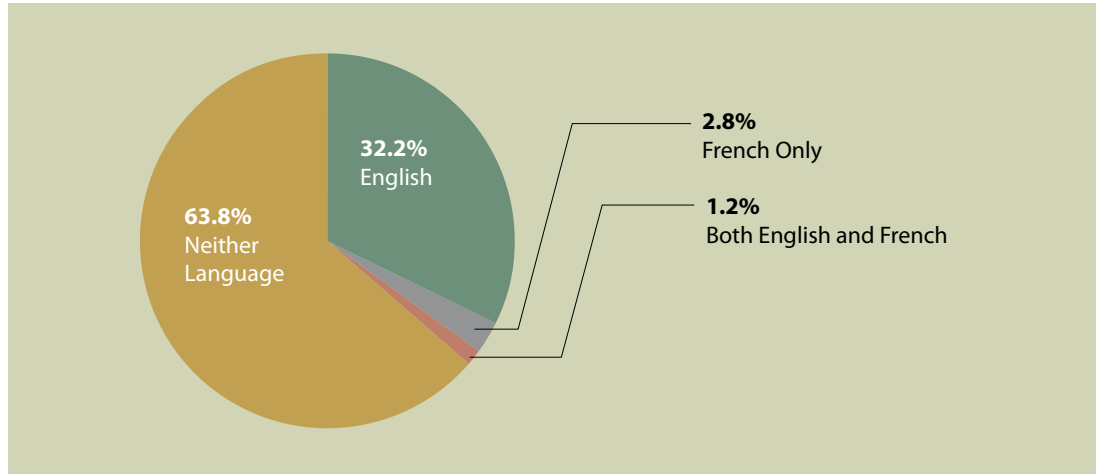
Of all refugees arriving in Nova Scotia from 2008-2012, 46.4 per cent were between the ages 25-64, with 51 per cent under the age of 25. The average age of refugees to Nova Scotia in 2012 was 25.6, slightly lower than the average age of 30 for overall immigration.

With regard to gender, 50.5 per cent were male and 49.5 per cent were female.

OFFICIAL-LANGUAGE ABILITY

From 2008-2012, 32.2 per cent reported having ability in English and 2.8 per cent reported ability in French. The majority of refugees, 63.8 per cent, reported no ability to communicate in English or French, reflecting the special circumstances under which refugees immigrate to Canada.

Chart 3: **Refugee Official-Language Ability 2008-2012**



EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Of the refugees arriving in Nova Scotia aged 25-64, 69.6 per cent had fewer than 12 years of schooling. 22.5 per cent of refugees had some kind of post-secondary accreditation.

DESTINATION

The vast majority of refugees, 92.3 per cent, settle in the Halifax region. This is because government-assisted refugees are resettled by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in cities where there are agencies that can provide settlement and integration support, most easily accessible in urban centers.

Table 2: **Refugee Destination 2008-2012**

NS Region	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Halifax	185	158	173	215	189	920
Cape Breton	0	0	42	0	0	42
Truro	1	6	1	2	1	11
Outside of Defined Regional Boundaries	7	2	2	8	5	24
Total	193	166	218	225	195	997