

# Update on Express Entry

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Since Express Entry began on January 1, 2015, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (“CIC”) has issued several rounds of Invitations to Apply (“ITAs”). An ITA allows a foreign national to submit their application for permanent residence under one of the following categories:

- The Federal Skilled Worker (“FSW”) Class;
- The Canadian Experience Class (“CEC”);
- The Federal Skilled Trades (“FST”) Class; or
- Members of the Provincial Nominee Class who fall within the Express Entry Stream of a Provincial Nominee Program (“PNP”).

Express Entry applicants are selected to receive an ITA based on how many points they are assigned under the Comprehensive Ranking System (“CRS”).

As of the date of this article, CIC has issued a total of 26 rounds of ITAs. A summary of these Express Entry rounds appears below:

- In Round #1 (January 31, 2015), CIC issued 779 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 886 CRS points.
- In Round #2 (February 7, 2015), CIC issued 779 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 818 CRS points.
- In Round #3 (February 20, 2015), CIC issued 849 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 808 CRS points.
- In Round #4 (February 27, 2015), CIC issued 1187 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 735 CRS points.
- In Round #5 (March 20, 2015), CIC issued 1620 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 481 CRS points.
- In Round #6 (March 27, 2015), CIC issued 1637 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 453 CRS points.
- In Round #7 (April 10, 2015), CIC issued 925 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 469 CRS points.

- In Round #8 (April 17, 2015), CIC issued 715 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 453 CRS points.
- In Round #9 (May 22, 2015), CIC issued 1361 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 755 CRS points.
- In Round #10 (June 12, 2015), CIC issued 1501 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 482 CRS points.
- In Round #11 (June 26, 2015), CIC issued 1575 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 469 CRS points.
- In Round #12 (July 10, 2015), CIC issued 1516 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 463 CRS points.
- In Round #13 (July 17, 2015), CIC issued 1581 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 451 CRS points.
- In Round #14 (August 7, 2015), CIC issued 1402 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 471 CRS points.
- In Round #15 (August 21, 2015), CIC issued 1523 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 456 CRS points.
- In Round #16 (September 8, 2015), CIC issued 1517 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 459 CRS points.
- In Round #17 (September 18, 2015), CIC issued 1545 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 450 CRS points.
- In Round #18 (October 2, 2015), CIC issued 1530 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 450 CRS points.
- In Round #19 (October 23, 2015), CIC issued 1502 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 489 CRS points.
- In Round #20 (November 13, 2015), CIC issued 1506 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 484 CRS points.
- In Round #21 (November 27, 2015), CIC issued 1559 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 472 CRS points.
- In Round #22 (December 4, 2015), CIC issued 1451 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 461 CRS points.
- In Round #23 (December 18, 2015), CIC issued 1503 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 460 CRS points.
- In Round #24 (January 6, 2016), CIC issued 1463 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 461 CRS points.
- In Round #25 (January 13, 2016), CIC issued 1518 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 453 CRS points.
- In Round #26 (January 27, 2016), CIC issued 1468 ITAs. Applicants in this round were required to receive at least 457 CRS points.

The lowest minimum CRS score that was previously eligible to receive an ITA was 450 points, which occurred in rounds 17 and 18. However, the minimum CRS score subsequently rose to over 480 in the rounds 19 and 20.

This was still a low enough score for a candidate to be selected without a Labour Market Impact Assessment or a nomination under a provincial nominee program Express Entry stream. However, many applicants were hoping that the minimum CRS score would continue to drop before the end of 2015; this clearly did not occur.

Fortunately, the minimum CRS score appears to be dropping again. The last two rounds (rounds 25 and 26) have required minimum CRS scores (453 points and 457 points) that have approached the levels used in rounds 17 and 18.