Why Does Atlantic Canada Struggle to Retain Immigrants?

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Out Migration/Retention (Cohort of 2006-11)

Retention Rates and Net Rates of Change of Immigrants Landed 2006-2011, by Province, 2011 Tax Year

- **NB**: 66% (+6%pts)
- **NS**: 72% (+4%pts)
- **PEI**: 32% (-22%pts)
- **NFLD**: 62% (+18%pts)

Retention by landing category

**Skilled workers**

Retention rates (Skilled workers):
- NB: 58%
- NS: 65%
- PEI: 36%
- NFLD: 56%

**Family Class**

Retention rates (Family Class Immigrants Landed 2006-2011, by Province, 2011 Tax Year):
- NB: 80%
- NS: 83%
- PEI: 67%
- NFLD: 75%

Shifts in immigration trends

Share of landing categories

Source: CIC Facts and Figures 2003 & 2014
Immigration trends (1990-2012)

Canada

Atlantic Canada

Source: IMDB 2012
The Issues and Question

- Immigrants under “economic streams” have higher rates of outmigration and lower retention rates than “family stream”

- There has been an increase in the proportion of the “economic stream” because immigrants are seen as a large piece of regional development

But...

- What are the economic activities across streams?
Employment (% working after 1 year of arrival)

Nova Scotia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cohort 1</th>
<th>Cohort 2</th>
<th>Cohort 3</th>
<th>Cohort 4</th>
<th>Cohort 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-94</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-99</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-04</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-12</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employment (% working after 1 year of arrival)

New Brunswick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Fam: S/P</th>
<th>Econ: PA</th>
<th>Fam: P/GP</th>
<th>Econ: S/P</th>
<th>Refugee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-94</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<td>47%</td>
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Average earnings (1 year after arrival)

Nova Scotia

- Fam: S/P
- Fam: P/GP
- Econ: PA
- Econ: S/P
- Refugee

New Brunswick

- Fam: S/P
Employment over time by landing category

Cohort of 1990-1994

Number of years since landing
Employment over time by landing category

Cohort of 2005-2009
Summary and implications

- Non-economic stream immigrants have high rates of employment
  - Family sponsored spouses and partners in NS
  - Refugees in NB

- Non-economic stream immigrants earn less than economic stream immigrants

- **BUT** non-economic stream immigrants are in the labour force longer and more consistently

- Overall there is a need for more balance among immigration streams
- Economic and social as well as short- and long-term contributions need to be re-considered by policymakers and communities
Thank you.