

Socio-Economic Outcomes of Immigrants: What We Know, Where We Are Going, and Knowledge Gaps

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Purpose and Outline

Purpose

- To present on data sources for measuring integration outcomes
- To present selected highlights of economic, social and health outcomes of immigrants, refugees and children of immigrants

Overview

- Key data sources and strategic data development initiatives
- Historic Immigration Levels
- Select economic, social, health and mental health outcomes
- Outcomes of Children of Immigrants
- Forward Plans

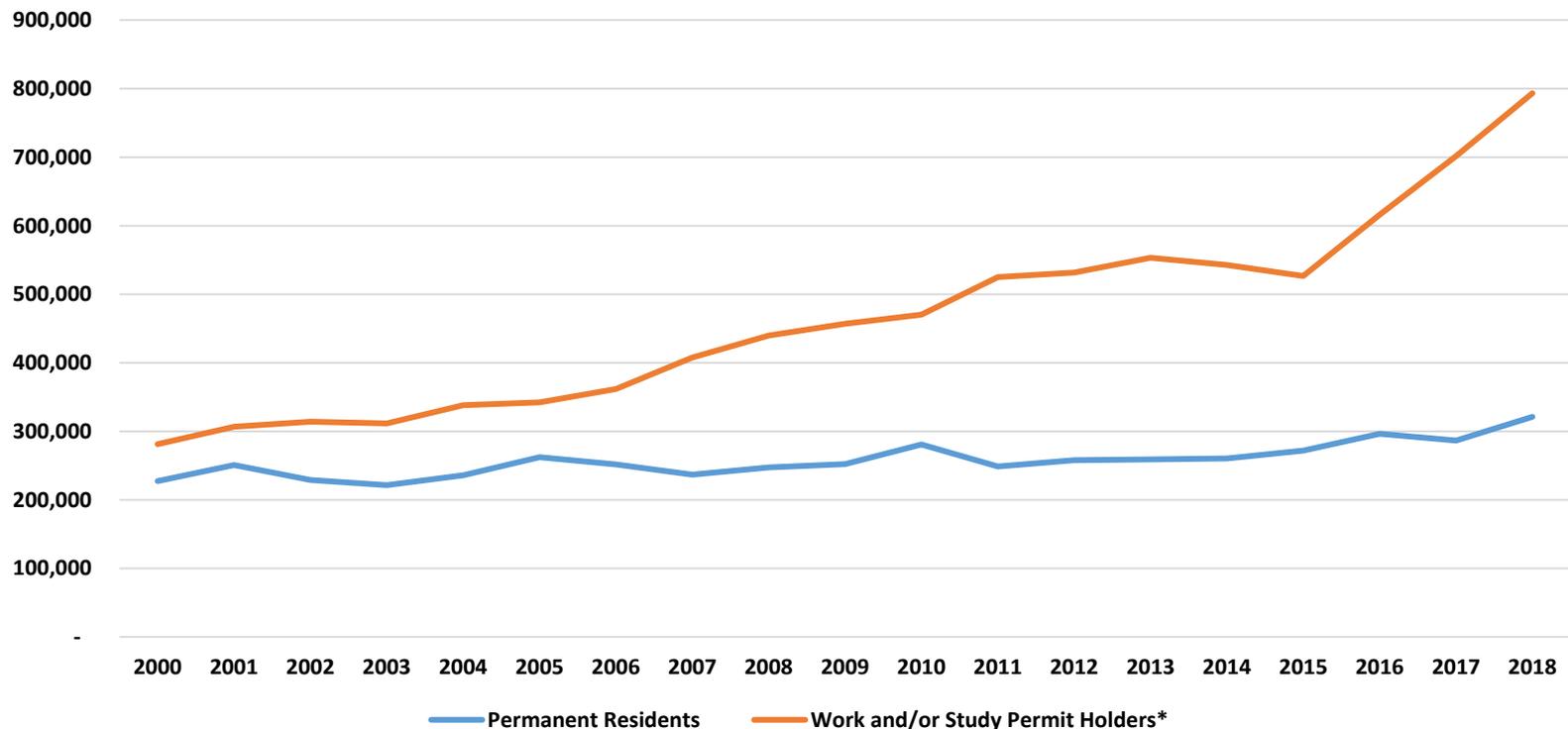
Key Data Sources and Strategic Data Development Initiatives

- Immigration landing file (ILF): administrative data of permanent residents
- Economic outcomes data sources:
 - Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
 - Labour Force Survey (LFS)
 - Census
 - Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamic Database
- Social and health outcomes data sources:
 - Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS); CCHS linked to the IMDB
 - General Social Survey (GSS); GSS linked to the IMDB
- Data development projects:
 - iCARE (settlement service data) linked to the IMDB

Historic Immigration Levels - How many are there?

- In 2018, the number of permanent residents admitted to Canada was 321,121. Canada's Immigration Plan for 2019-2021:
 - 2019: **330,800**; 2020: **341,000**; 2021: **350,000**
- Since 2015, there has been a notable increase in temporary residents (work permit and study permit holders). In 2018, the number of work and/or study permit holders reached 793,289.

Number of Permanent Residents Admitted, Work and/or Study Permit Holders, 2000-2018



*Note: Work and/or Study Permit holders denotes those with permits becoming effective in a given year

Permanent Resident Source: Netezza_DM2 - RDM, Permanent Residents, December 31, 2018

Temporary Resident Source: Netezza_DM2 - RDM, Temporary Residents, December 31, 2018

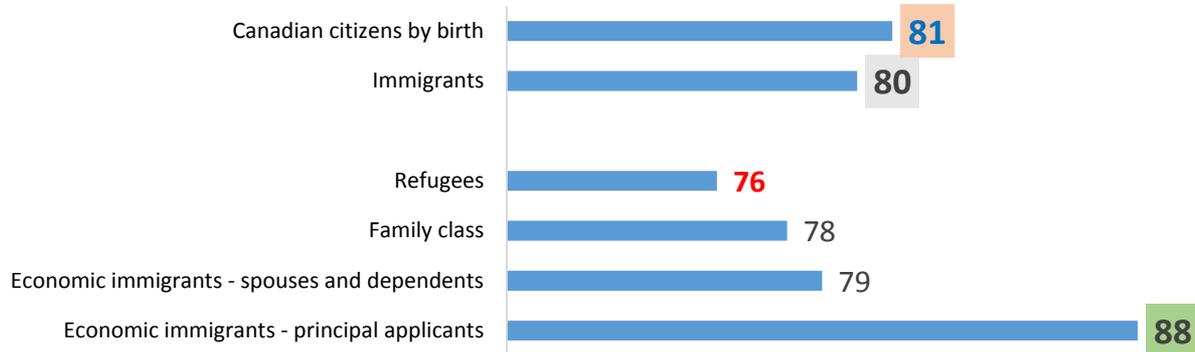
“Believe nothing you hear, and only one half
that you see.”

— Edgar Allan Poe

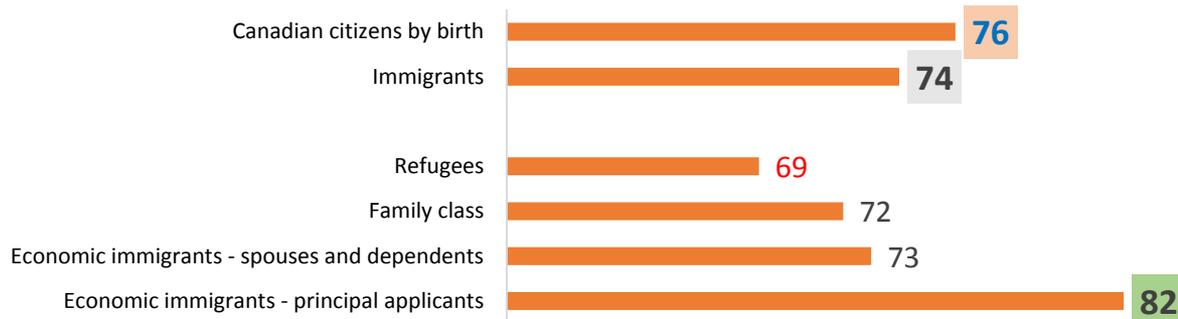
What do we know? Economic Outcomes of immigrants

How do they fare in the Canadian labour market?

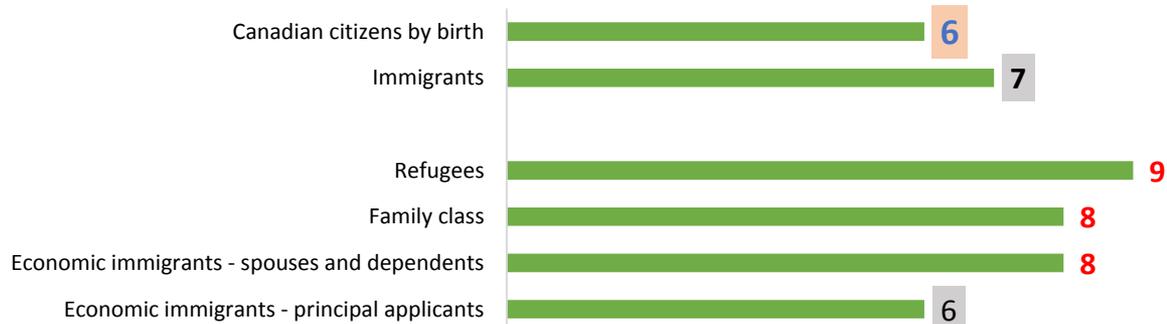
Labour Force Participation Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64)



Employment Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64)

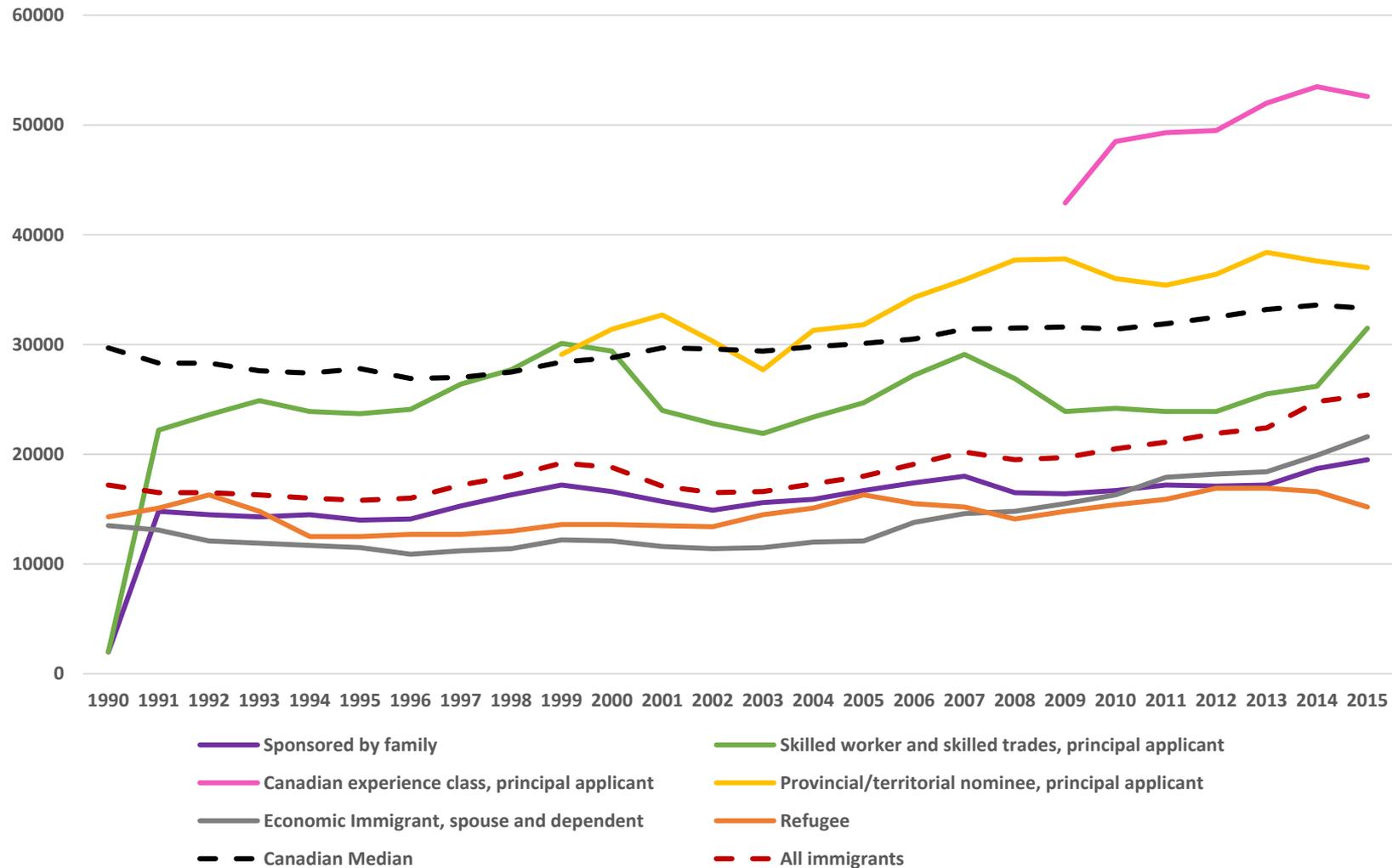


Unemployment Rates of Immigrants and Canadian-born (25-64)



How much do they earn initially?

Median Entry Employment Earnings, by Immigration Category (\$2016)



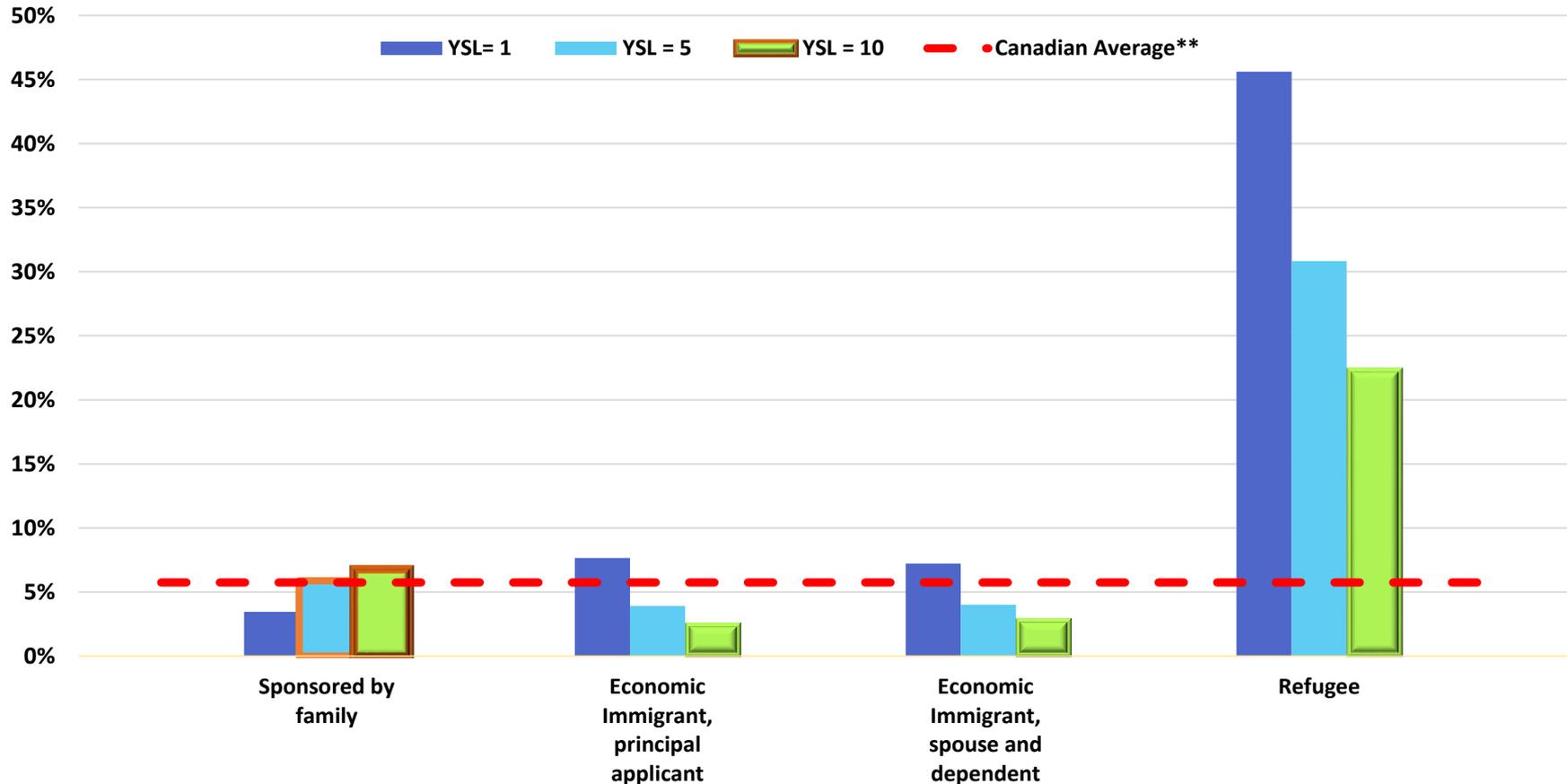
Source: IMDB 2016, Statistics Canada Table: 11-10-0239-01

*Canadian median is calculated based on tax filers, excluding immigrants who arrived post-1980

Do they use social assistance?

- The incidence of social assistance generally declines over time for all immigrant categories, with the exception of the **Family class**.

Incidence of Social Assistance, by Immigration Category and Years Since Landing*



Source: IMDB 2016, Statistics Canada Table: 11-10-0239-01

*Analysis based on the 2006 immigrant landing cohort.

**Canadian average is based on the incidence of social assistance among Canadians from 2006 to 2016.

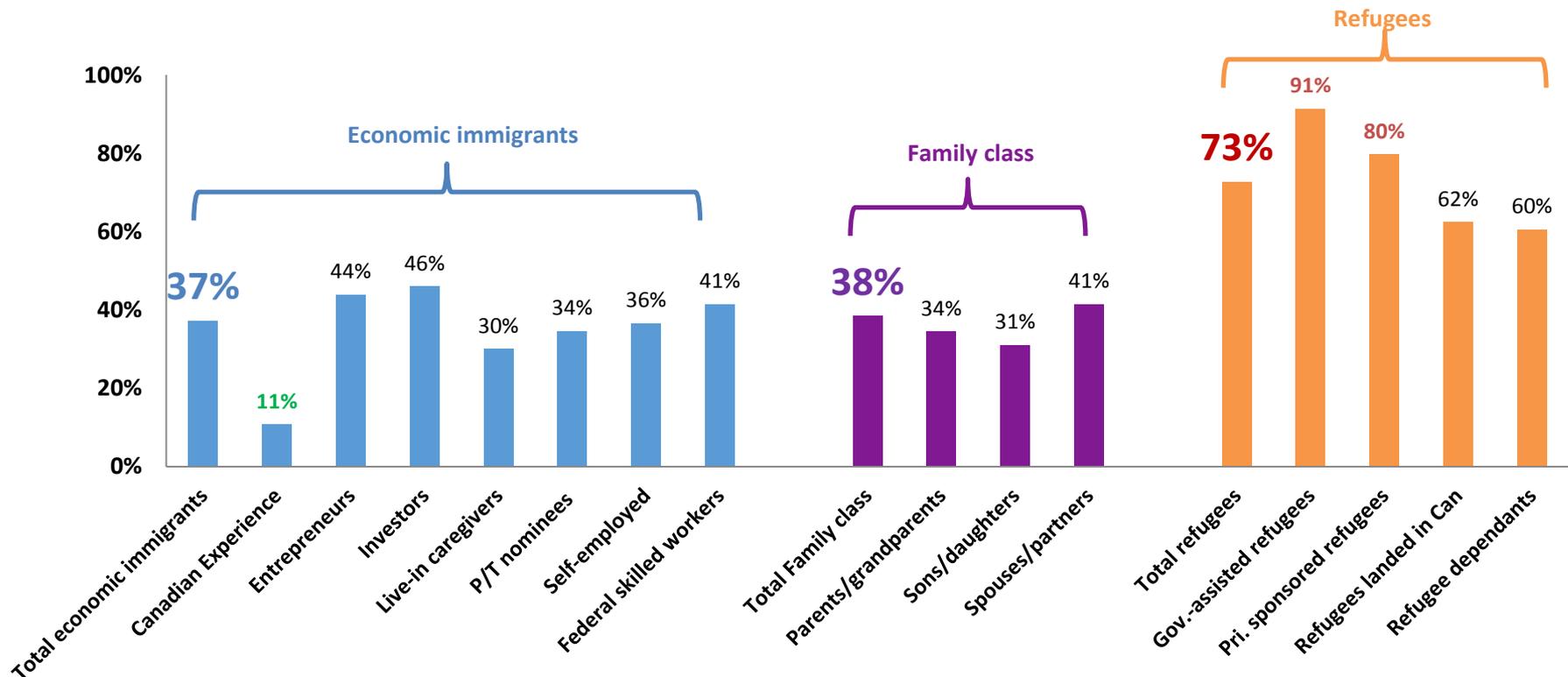
Other Economic Outcomes

- **Employment earnings:**
 - Annual earnings of **high-skilled principal applicants** surpass the Canadian average soon after landing and increase over time.
- **Time needed to catch up:**
 - **Economic principal applicants** reach the Canadian average in less than 5 years for all cohorts, while **refugees and family class** immigrants need much more time to catch up to the Canadian average.
- **Net direct fiscal contribution:**
 - **Immigrants as a group** have positive net direct fiscal contributions (average income tax paid net of government transfers), while **economic principal applicants** have higher net contributions than other immigrants and average Canadians.
 - The average net direct fiscal contributions of **refugees and family class** immigrants are consistently below the national average, *though the gap narrows* with time spent in Canada.

Who is more likely to use IRCC Settlement Services?

- **Refugees**, especially **Government-assisted refugees** are more likely to use settlement services, while immigrants in the **Canadian Experience** category were the least likely to utilize services.

Percentage of immigrants who used services, by immigration class and category



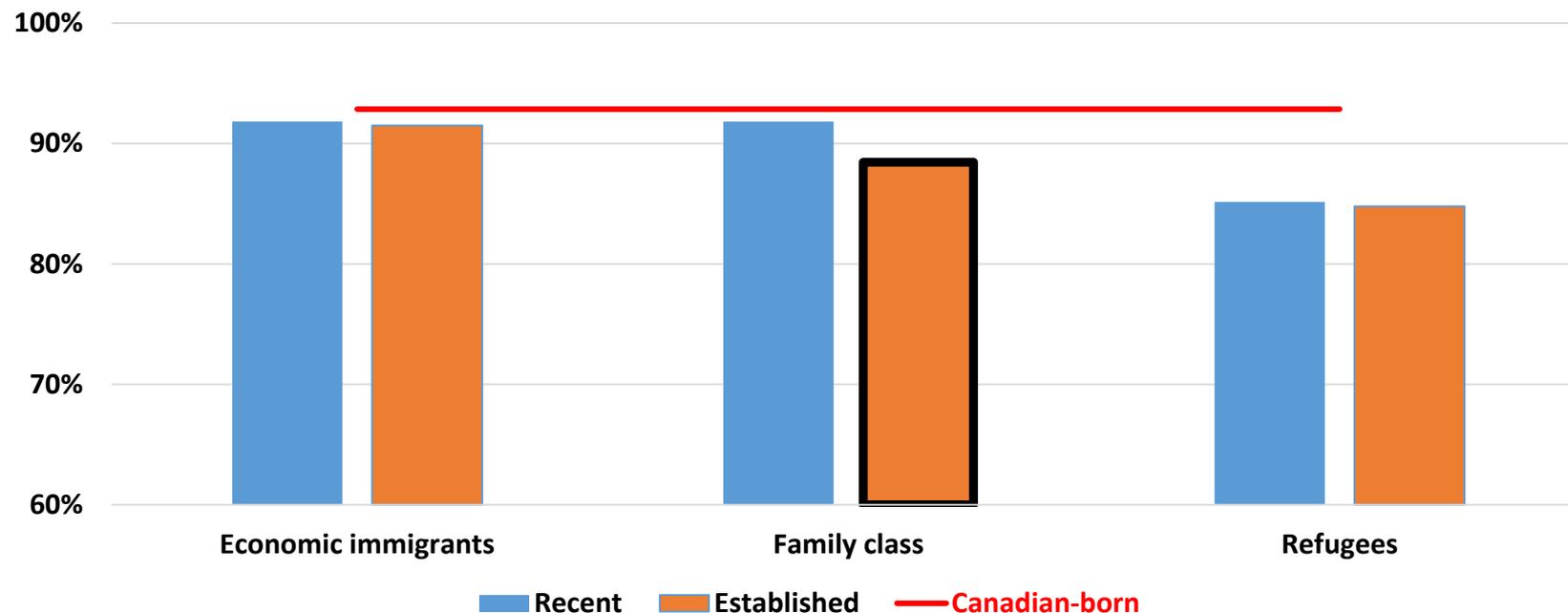
Note: The estimates use data as of October 2014 for immigrants landed from 2007/08 to 2014/15, excluding those landed in QC, in BC before 2014/15, and in MB before 2013/14.

What do we know? Social Outcomes

Are they satisfied with life?

- *Economic immigrants* have a comparable level of life satisfaction with **the Canadian-born**, while *refugees* are less satisfied with life than other immigrants and the Canadian-born.

Percentage of the population who are “satisfied with life,” by immigration class and length of time in Canada



Note: “Recent” means the length of time in Canada is less than 10 years, and “established” means the length of time is greater than or equal to 10 years.

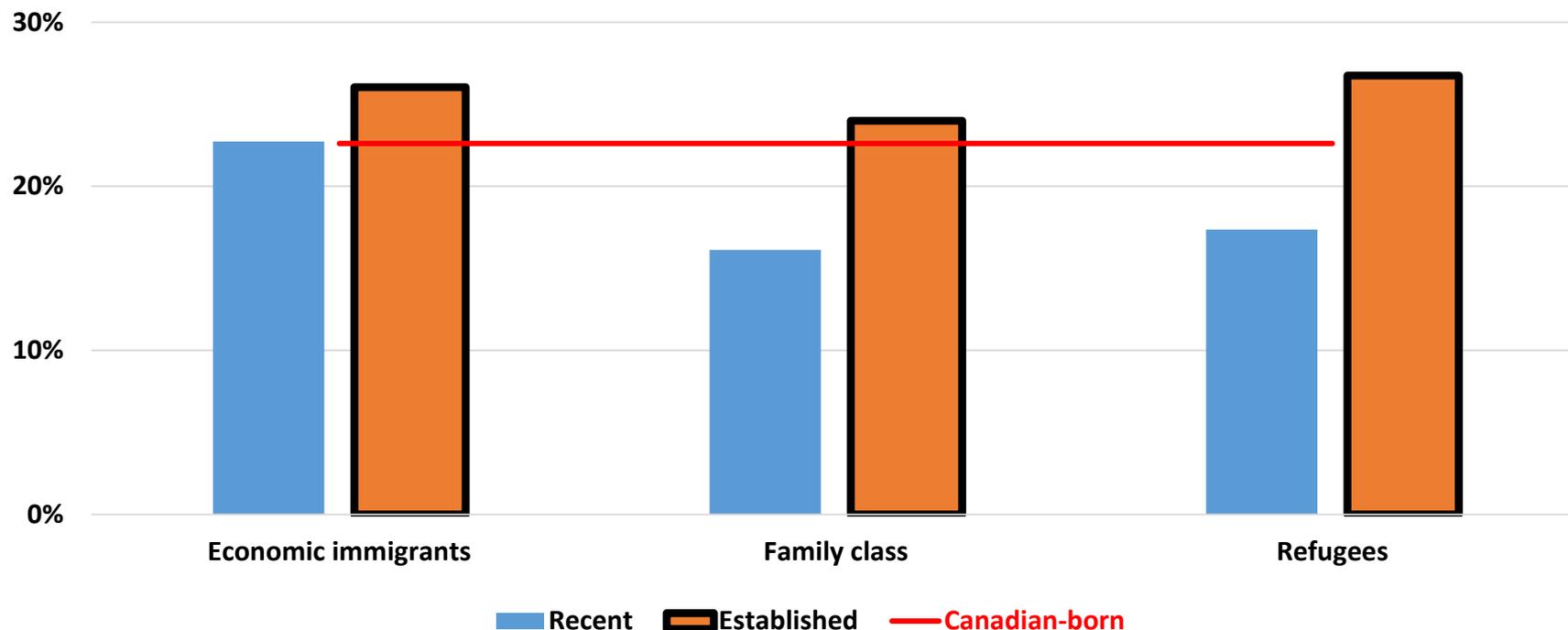
Source: CCHS-IMDB linkage produced in 2017, the chart uses CCHS variables in the 2013/2014 cycle.

Are they stressed?

- Compared to the **Canadian-born**, recent immigrants feel less or comparable levels of stress in life...

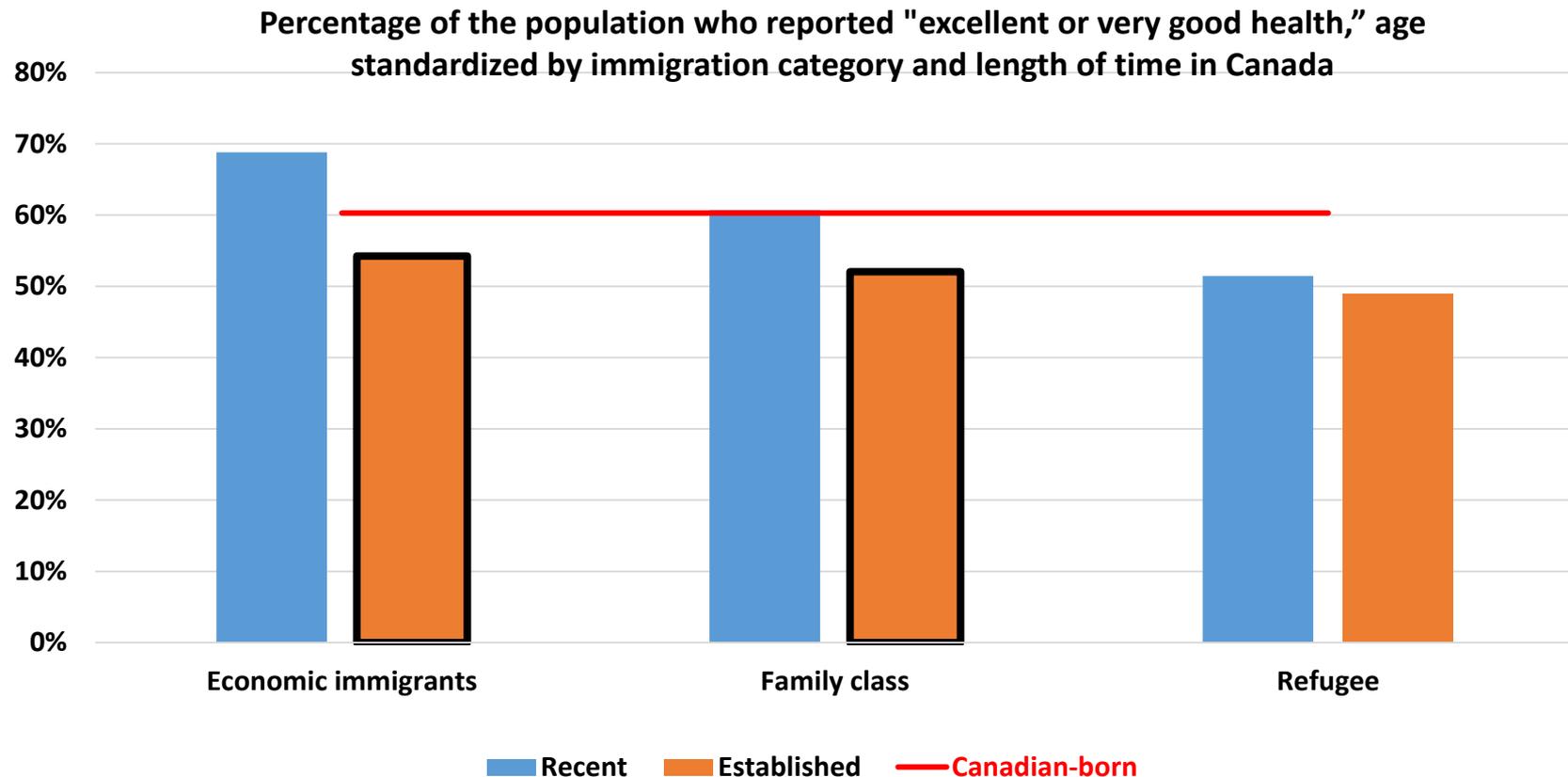
... but stress **increases**, especially among **refugees and family class** immigrants, as more time is spent in Canada.

Percentage of the population that reported life stress to be "quite a bit/extremely stressful," by immigration class and length of time in Canada



Do they report being healthy?

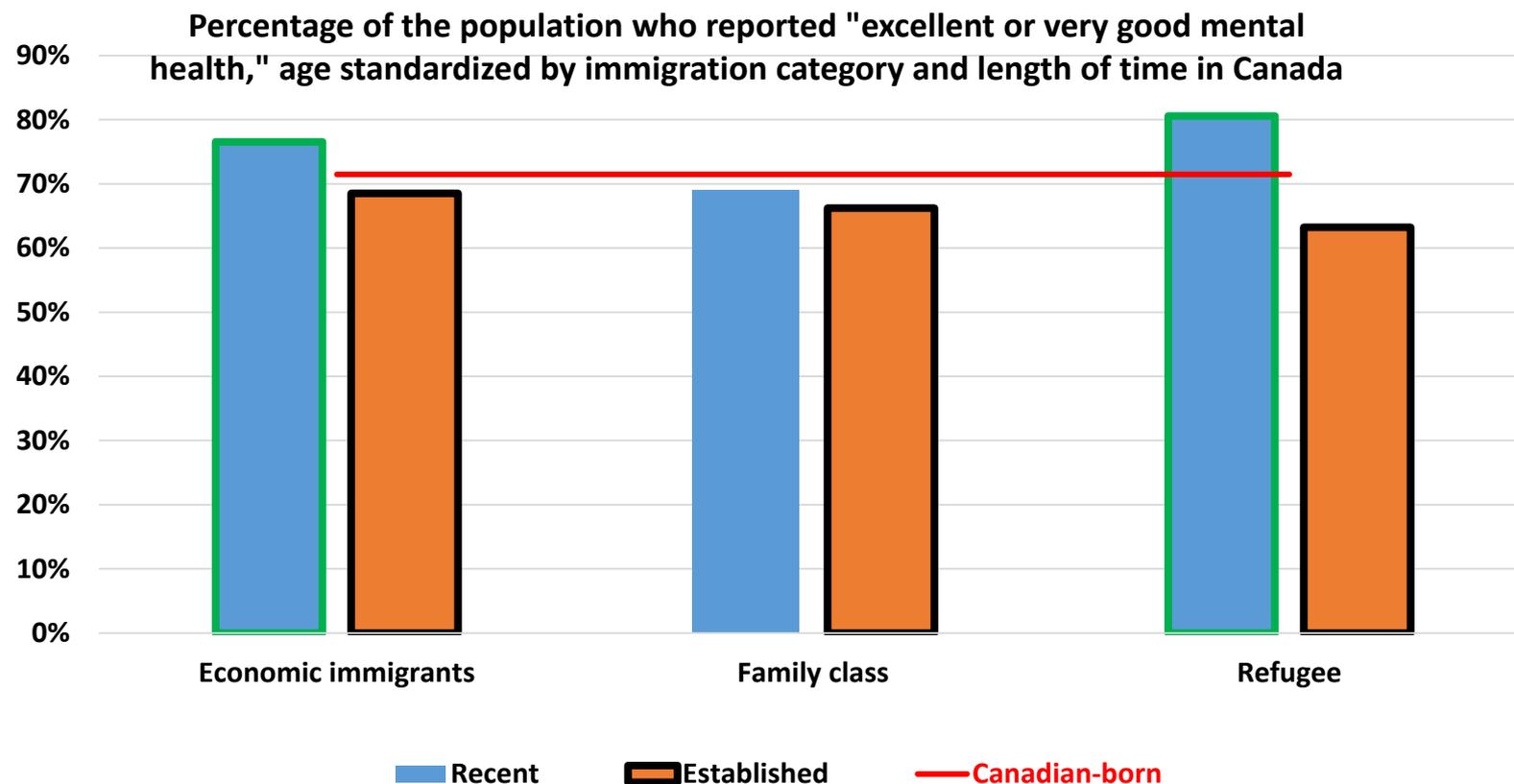
- **Recent *economic and family class* immigrants reported a better or comparable health status compared to the *Canadian-born*.**
- **but their *perceived* health declines as more time is spent in Canada, suggesting a “healthy immigrant effect.”**



Do they report being in good mental health?

- Recent economic immigrants and refugees are more likely to report “excellent or very good mental health” than the **Canadian-born**.

but **established** immigrants, especially established *refugees* report a worse state of mental health, supporting the notion of a “healthy immigrant effect.”



Source: CCHS-IMDB linkage produced in 2017, the chart uses CCHS variables in the 2013/2014 cycle.

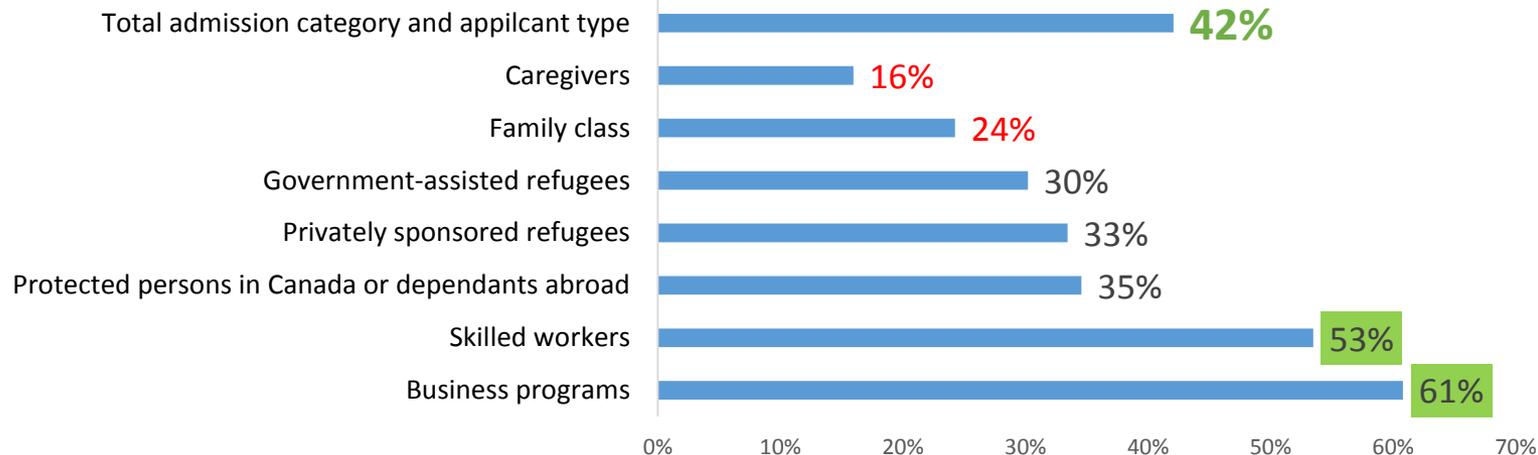
What about their children?

Generation status

University completion rate (aged 25-44)



1.5 generation by immigration category for immigrants landed since 1980



Notes:

- First generation includes immigrants who landed at age 15 or above.
- 1.5 generation includes those who immigrated to Canada at age under 15.
- The second generation includes those who were born in Canada and had at least one parent born outside Canada.
- Third generation or more includes persons who were born in Canada to two Canadian-born parents

Source: 2016 Census

*To cling to the known is to remain a
prisoner of ignorance.*

Yvon Rivard

Where are we going?

Settlement Services - Are they effective?

- **A key knowledge gap is understanding how effective settlement services are.**
 - **E.g.: What are the economic outcomes of settlement service users, and how do their outcomes compare to non-users? How effective are settlement services in improving the economic outcomes of clients?**
 - In order to do so, IRCC recently completed a data linkage between settlement service data (iCARE) with immigrant tax data (IMDB).
- **Planned research projects for 2019-2020 include:**
 1. Economic outcomes of settlement service users and non-users
 2. An in-depth examination of the impact of language training on immigrants' economic outcomes
- *Preliminary results indicate that overall, settlement services are being used by immigrants who need them (i.e. those who are unemployed and/or those who need help acquiring the skills, resources, language proficiency etc. in order to enter the labour market.*

Additional Forward Plans

- Examine the *interactive relationships* of economic, social, health and mental health characteristics of immigrants and refugees, and how they impact immigrant outcomes
- Differences in outcomes of landed permanent residents vs those who transitioned from *temporary status*
- The economic and fiscal impact of immigrants, refugees and **temporary residents**

"A conclusion is when you start to be tired of thinking"

Harold Fricklestein

Conclusion

- IRCC has been able to consistently report on the economic outcomes of immigrants for many years.
 - Overall, immigrants, particularly economic principal applicants, have strong, positive economic outcomes.
 - Despite being admitted to Canada based on a humanitarian basis, refugees become increasingly self-sufficient with more time spent in Canada.
- The social outcomes of immigrants and refugees has been more difficult to measure. Further discussion is needed on which indicators provide reliable, objective information on their social integration.
 - What are other social measures that would enhance our understanding of how immigrants are integrating?
 - How do other countries measure social integration of immigrants and refugees?

THANK YOU!

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.

Chinese Proverb

QUESTIONS ?

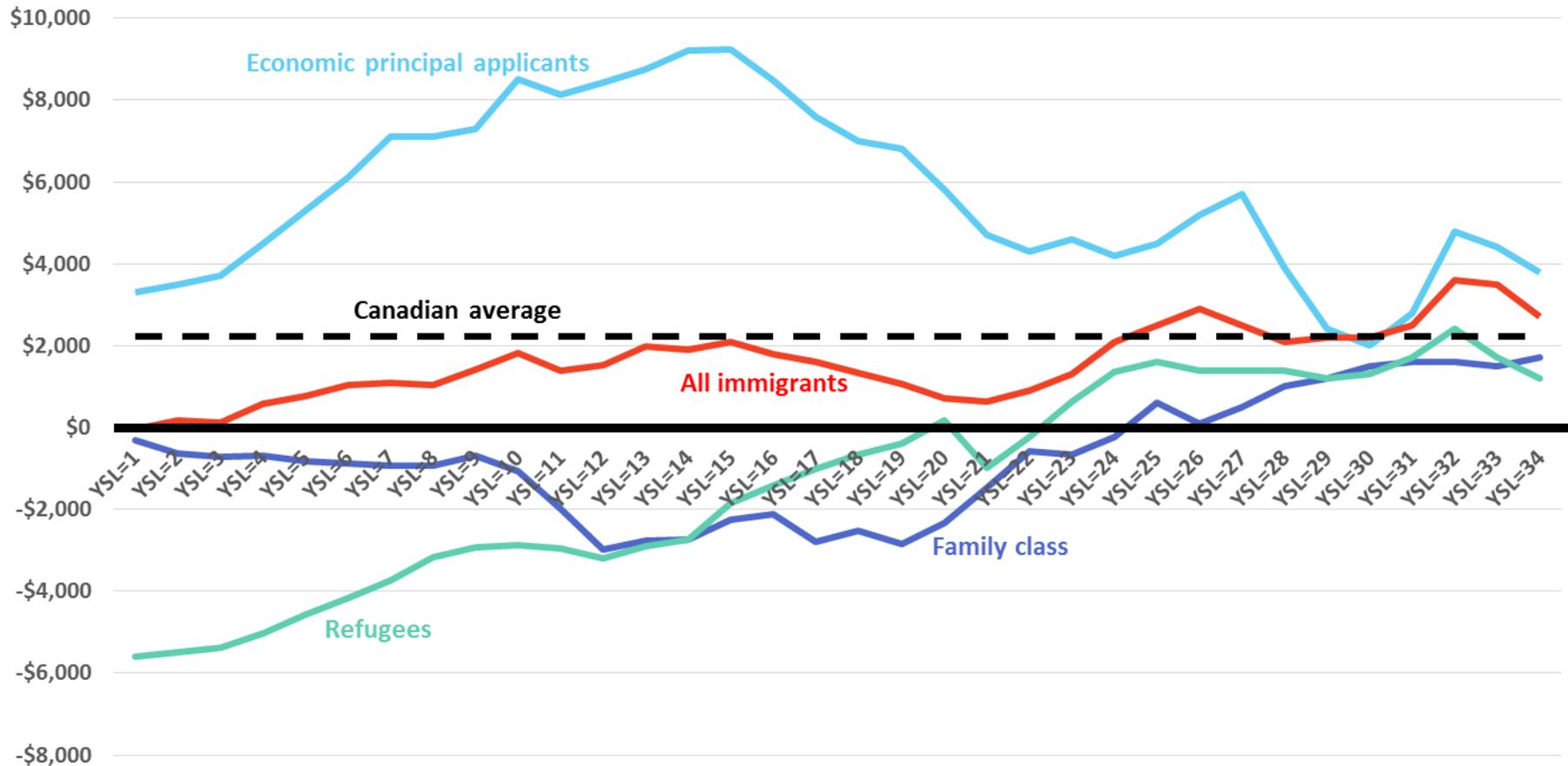
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Annex: Supporting Research Projects

- “2014 Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) : Current Measures of Immigrant Economic Outcomes and Strategic Enhancements,” April 2017, IRCC, Research and Evaluation Branch, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang)
- “Children of Immigrants : Recent Findings,” June 2017, IRCC, Research and Evaluation, Policy Research Division (L. Xu)
- “The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Immigration: the Canadian Evidence,” November 2017, IRCC, Research and Evaluation Branch, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang)
- “Research Insights in Settlement Services : Uptake, Mobility of Clients and Service Outcomes,” October 2018, IRCC, Research and Evaluation, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang, J. Zhong & R. Lee)
- “Social, Health and Mental Health Outcomes of Immigrants: the Canadian Evidence” (*working title*) forthcoming, IRCC, Research and Evaluation, Policy Research Division (H. Zhang)

What is the direct fiscal contribution of immigrants?

Average income tax paid net of transfers received (\$2014) by immigration category and YSL, 2014 tax year



Source: IMDB 2014 and Statistics Canada's T1 Family File (2014)