

IRCC Recent Research Insights

Pathways to Prosperity – 2019 National Conference
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Research & Evaluation Branch



Outline

- Policy Research Team Mandate
- IRCC Departmental Results Framework
- Key data sources and strategic data enhancement initiatives
- Previously completed research and selected highlights
- Forward research plans

Policy Research Team

- Mandate
 - The Policy Research team develops and implements a research program to deepen our understanding of immigration policies, including outcomes and impacts.
 - We work to articulate and contextualize research findings to advance their proper use and provide new insights to strengthen policy and program decision-making.
- Team Organization & Activities
 - Our team is currently organized and aligned with our Departmental Results Framework and Program Inventory.
 - Economic Programs Team
 - Social Programs Team
 - Strategic Research Team
 - We produce both in-house, co-authored and commissioned (contract) research projects, while collaborating with our data colleagues in order to advance data development projects for research purposes.

IRCC Departmental Results Framework

DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM INVENTORY

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES (WHAT WE DO)



Visitors, International Students and Temporary Workers



Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration



Citizenship and Passports

DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS (WHY WE DO IT)

Entry to Canada of eligible visitors, international students and temporary workers is facilitated
Facilitation of temporary entry helps to generate economic benefits

Potential permanent residents are selected for immigration to Canada
Permanent residents are welcomed and benefit from settlement supports
Immigrants and refugees achieve economic independence and contribute to labour force growth
Immigrants and refugees feel part of and participate in Canadian society

Eligible permanent residents become Canadian citizens
Canadians' international travel is facilitated

PROGRAM INVENTORY (HOW WE DELIVER)



Visitors

International Students

Temporary Workers



Federal Economic Immigration

Provincial Economic Immigration

Family Reunification

Humanitarian/Compassionate and Discretionary Immigration

Refugee Resettlement

Asylum

Settlement



Citizenship

Passport

Key Data Sources and Strategic Data Development Initiatives

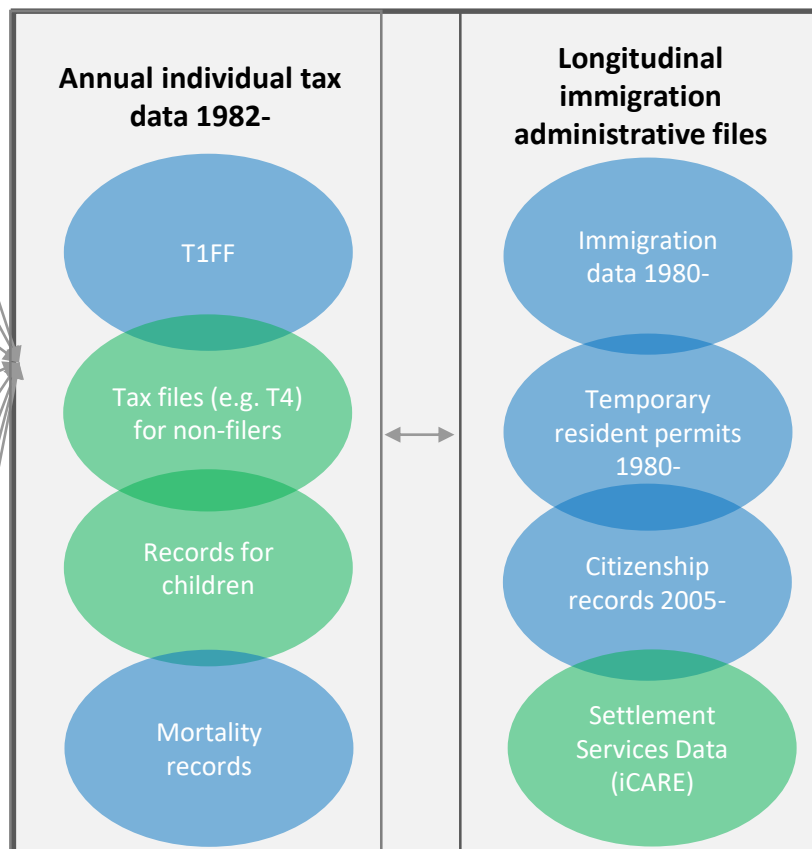
- Immigration landing file (ILF): administrative data of permanent residents
- Temporary resident file: administrative data of temporary residents
- Economic outcomes data sources:
 - Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
 - Labour Force Survey (LFS)
 - Census
 - Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamic Database (CEEDD)
- 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
- Settlement service data:
 - Immigration Contribution Agreement Reporting Environment (iCARE); iCARE linked to the IMDB

Enhanced IMDB through data linkages

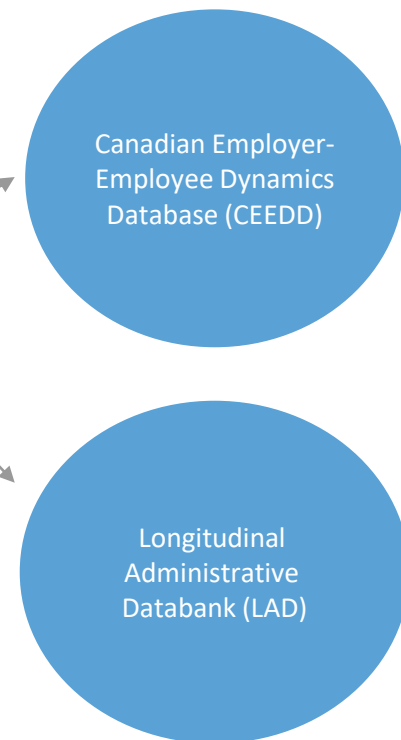
Connections to other programs for additional outcomes



Enhanced IMDB with broader coverage and additional immigration files



Connected to the LAD and CEEDD to compare against non-immigrant populations and to dig deeper





**Recently Completed Research
2017 – present**

Visitors, International Students and Temporary Workers

- Temporary Residents Profile Series (2017 data)
- Temporary Foreign Workers and International Students: Transitions and Economic Outcomes
- The Uptake of Settlement Services of Transitioned Temporary Residents
- Temporary Resident (TR)-Canadian Employer Employee Dynamic Database (CEEDD) Linkage (*data project*)
- Development of Open Work Permit Holders Data Cube (*data project*)
- Overview of Open Work Permit Holders (Transitions and Economic Outcomes)

- What Types of Firms Hire Temporary Foreign Workers
- Are Canadian Companies Transient or Persistent Users of Temporary Foreign Workers?
- Open Versus Employer-Specific Work Permits: Labour Market Outcomes of Temporary Foreign Workers
- The Postsecondary Experience and Early Labour Market Outcomes of International Study Permit Holders

Visitors, International Students and Temporary Workers

Selected Highlights

- **Work permit holders who transitioned to permanent resident status were more likely to be:** economic immigrants, between 25-44 years of age, reported knowing at least one official language, destined to Ontario/Alberta/British Columbia/Quebec.
- **Study permit holders who transitioned to permanent resident status were more likely to be:** economic immigrants, under 35 years of age, reported knowing at least one official language, destined to Ontario/British Columbia/Quebec/Alberta.
- Immigrants with pre-admission experience have higher incidence rates of employment than those who did not; however, median entry earnings varied depending on the type of pre-admission experience.
- Between 2009 and 2015, the number of international postsecondary students nearly doubled. International students enrolled in university bachelor's degree programs accounted for about half of the increase observed. Although a smaller proportion of international students enrolled in college diploma programs, this was the fastest-growing group.

Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration

- Immigrant Category Demographic and Economic Profiles (2014 IMDB)
- Incorporation of Immigration Category into Census 2016 (*data project*)
- The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigrants: the Canadian Evidence
- IRCC-SSHRC Research on Syrian Refugees: Synthesis of Findings
- Research Insights in Settlement Services: Uptake, Mobility of Clients, and Service Outcomes
- Children of Immigrants in Canada: Recent Findings
- Report to OECD Expert Group on International Migration (SOPEMI): Canada's Immigration Policies, Programs and Trends (annual)

- Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Canada: A Synthesis of Recent Research Findings
- Immigrants in Gateway Cities: Factors Involved in their Initial Location and Onward Migration Decisions
- The Wealth of Immigrant Owned-Families
- Labour Market Outcomes of Refugees: Diversity Among Major Source Country Groups

Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration

Selected Highlights

- Immigrants' economic outcomes generally improve with more time spent in Canada.
- Immigrants as a group have a positive net direct fiscal impact, paying more income tax than they receive in government transfers.
- In the next 20 years, immigrants are projected to account for a much larger portion of the low-skilled labour force, mainly due to a shrinking population of the Canadian-born without a bachelor's degree.
- Refugees, especially Government-Assisted Refugees are more likely to use settlement services, while immigrants in the Canadian Experience category are the least likely to utilize services.
- The likelihood of using support services is especially high for refugee clients, clients with low education levels, those with no knowledge of either official language and older settlement service clients.
- While refugees and Parents/Grandparents immigrants require the most number of language training hours on average to improve 1 Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB), economic immigrants require the least.

Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration

Selected Highlights

- The IRCC-SSHRC joint research initiative engaged Canadian researchers in understanding the early resettlement outcomes and challenges of Syrian refugees. Initial research findings on the post-arrival experience of Syrian refugees have identified a number of barriers to integration, such as limited language proficiency among Syrian refugees, difficulties securing permanent housing, finding employment, and accessing healthcare services.
- Immigrants are more likely to be business owners than the Canadian-born population. Economic immigrants are more likely to own firms in knowledge-based industries, while refugees and family class immigrants tend to own firms in traditional industries.
- Overall, economic well-being is not as bad as the employment earnings suggest for recent immigrants. When wealth is taken into consideration, immigrant families are quite comparable to the Canadian-born.
- There are very large variations in the employment rates and average earnings among refugee groups (from thirteen source countries). Groups with low employment rates also tend to have low earnings levels among the employed. Furthermore, groups with low (high) employment rates and earnings among the men also tended to have low (high) rates among the women.

Citizenship and Passport

- Citizenship Knowledge Test Results in 2016

Selected Highlights

- The average test pass rate was 86.1% in 2016, higher than the rate of 83.5% in 2011 for first-time knowledge test takers in the same age range.
- The test pass rate varies considerably according to applicants' socio-demographic and immigration-related characteristics.
- The rates are relatively low among immigrants with the following characteristics: with secondary or less education, admitted under Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR) or Government-Assisted Refugees (GAR), and those having no knowledge of an official language at landing.



Forward Plans

Visitors, International Students and Temporary Workers

- Investigation on multiple permit holders – demographic characteristics and pathways
- Working Conditions of Migrant Workers in Canada
- Scan of Provincial Frameworks Used to Regulate the Recruitment of Foreign Workers
- Overview of the Characteristics of Employers for Open and Employer-Specific Work Permit Holders and Their Comparisons

- Overview of Permit Holder's Employers and Analysis of Impact of Temporary Residents on the Canadian Labour Market
- Temporary Foreign Worker Case Study – Labour Market Activities in the Agricultural Sector
- Temporary Foreign Worker Case Study – Labour Market Activities in the Food Processing Sector
- Retention Rates, Transition Rates and Labour Market Outcomes of International Students
- Labour Market Outcomes of Refugee Claimants in Canada

Immigrant and Refugee Selection and Integration

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Occupation Match
- Refugee Profile Series (Census 2016)
- Economic Outcomes of Settlement Service Users and Non-Users
- Economic Return of IRCC-Funded Language Training Services for Immigrants
- Impact of Immigration:
 - The Fiscal Impact of Immigrant-Owned Firms
- Educational and Labour Market Outcomes of Children of Immigrants
- Importance of Temporary Foreign Workers in the Selection and Labour Market Outcomes of Immigrants
- Pathways of Temporary Resident-Permanent Resident Transition and Immigrant Labour Market Outcomes
- Innovation Activity of Immigrant-Owned Firms
- Labour Market Outcomes of STEM-Educated Immigrants in Canada and the US
- Forward Migration and Remigration
- Status and Determinants of Immigrants' Self-Rated Mental Health
- The Use of Mental Health Consultations Among Immigrants

Citizenship and Passport

- Recent Trends in Citizenship Rates in Canada
- The Decline in the Naturalization Rate among Recent Immigrants in Canada: Effects of Policy Changes versus Structural Factors
- Non-Canadian residents births in Canada: data assessment

Horizontal & Cross-Cutting Files

- Research on Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)
 - Annual Call for Proposals
- Demosim
- Data and survey working group participation (e.g. Census, General Social Survey etc.)

Concluding Remarks

- This is not an exhaustive list of research projects and only covers the work of 2 of our 3 research teams.
- Researching and understanding the social and cultural outcomes and impacts remains a challenge.
- In addition to complex research projects, our team is responsible for ensuring the information is interpreted correctly, especially by our colleagues within the department, and responding to ad-hoc requests.
- In many ways, the “immigration continuum” has expanded and changed in recent years (e.g. increase in temporary residents and increasing transitions to permanent residency).
 - Our research agenda aims to cover as best it can this continuum from temporary residency, selection to citizenship, and even beyond.

THANK YOU!

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