



Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 25: Mobility and Migration

Produced by: Population Statistics Section

According to the 1991 Census, British Columbia was the greatest benefactor of interprovincial migration during the period from 1986 to 1991. In all, 238,175 people moved to B.C. from other provinces, and 112,296 moved out of B.C. to other provinces, for a total net gain of 125,880 people. Other than B.C., only Ontario (47,000) and the Yukon (780) recorded net gains through interprovincial migration during this period. British Columbia's net gain as a result of interprovincial migration was almost two and a half times larger than that of Ontario. This net figure for interprovincial migration for B.C. is a significant increase over the 1981 to 1986 period where there was only a net migration gain of 9,500 people, and is a return to the more substantial interprovincial movement into B.C. witnessed during the 1976 to 1981 period (110,930).

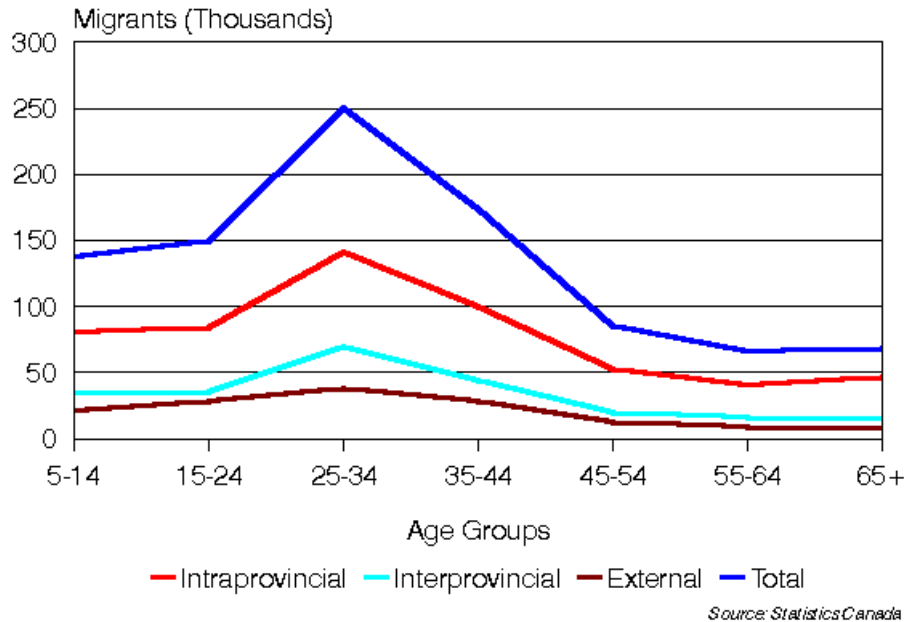
Of those moving to B.C. from other provinces, 67 per cent had been living in either Ontario or Alberta in 1986, and 20 per cent had been living in either Manitoba or Saskatchewan. Of those who left B.C., 74 per cent moved to either Alberta or Ontario.

Of those whose place of residence in 1991 was B.C., more people moved¹ (1,691,050) than did not (1,320,265) during the period of 1986 to 1991. In fact, B.C. was second only to the Northwest Territories in terms of the proportion of its population that moved in this period. Of those that moved, 55 per cent moved to a different municipality, and within that group 59 per cent moved within B.C., 25 per cent came from a different province, and 16 per cent immigrated from another country. This means that almost 23 per cent of all movers came from outside of the province. This is much higher than the national average of just under 8 per cent and gives a good indication of why B.C. is growing at a faster rate than other provinces.

There was very little difference overall between males and females in terms of moving, except for slight differences within age groups. Within age groups for both sexes, the most mobile group were those between 20 and 34. About 77 per cent of this group moved sometime between 1986 and 1991. The older age groups were less inclined to move, with all age cohorts greater than 45 reporting less than 50 per cent movement, and falling as low as 32 per cent for the group 65 and over.

¹ A move is considered to have occurred if the person is living in a different dwelling than during the previous census. There are basically four types of moves included in these figures: A move within the same municipality; a move to a different municipality, but within B.C.; a move from a different province to B.C.; and a move from a different country to B.C.

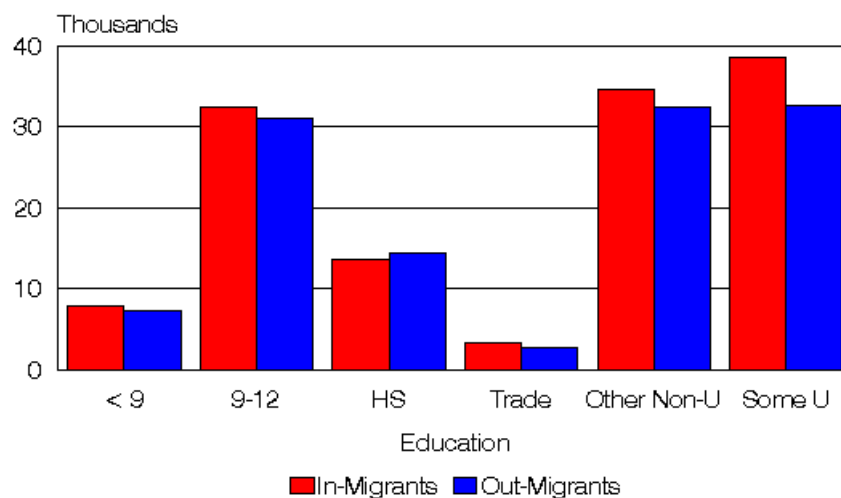
B.C. Mobility by Age, 5 Years and Over



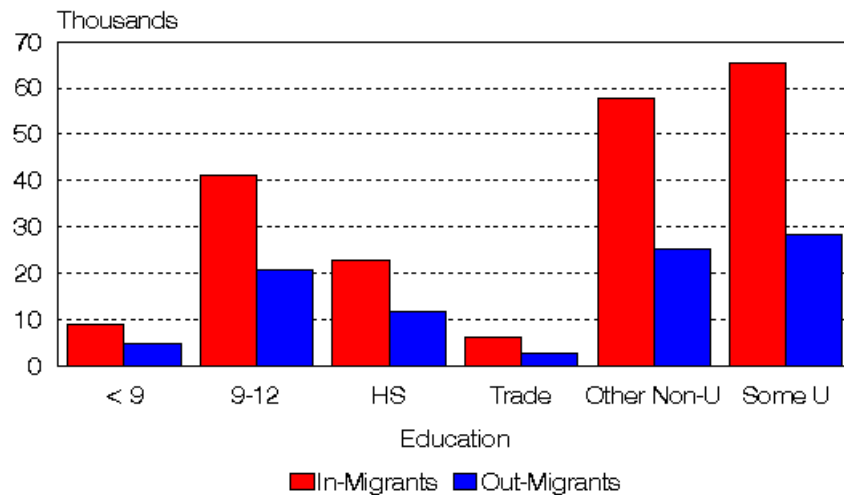
Migration and Level of Education

B.C. had a positive net interprovincial migration for every category of educational attainment, but the differences were greater for those with some university, or other non-university training which required a high school diploma. More than twice the number of people with university degrees moved into B.C. in the period from 1986 to 1991 than moved out, representing a net immigration of 20,120 people with university degrees. For the most part, mobility increased as the level of educational attainment increased.

B.C. Migration By Educational Attainment 1981-1986



B.C. Migration By Educational Attainment 1986-1991



Source: Statistics Canada

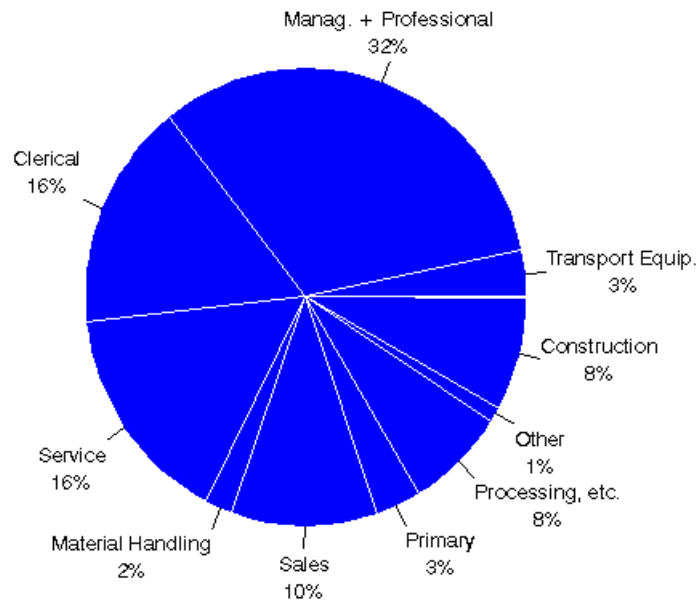
The 1981 to 1986 period was quite a contrast to the 1986 to 1991 period, mainly due to a smaller net interprovincial migration gain. While there was still a positive net migration in almost every category (except for those with high school graduation, but no further training), the net difference for 1981 to 1986 was significantly smaller than that of 1986 to 1991.

Migration and Occupation

The greatest movements both in and out of B.C., with respect to occupation, were people in the clerical, service, and managerial and professional occupations. While the percentages of people from each of these occupations were similar for both directions of movement, there were almost twice as many people from each category moving into B.C. than moving out. This is, of course, consistent with the fact that B.C. recorded a high positive net interprovincial migration gain overall. During the 1981 to 1986 period, the greatest movements also occurred in the clerical, service, and managerial and professional occupations, and again percentages were similar, but due to the smaller net interprovincial gain in population, the numbers of in-migrants and out-migrants were similar as well. Out-migrants actually outnumbered in-migrants for some occupational groups, and the significant net gain in managerial and professional people seen during the 1986 to 1991 period was not nearly as apparent in the previous five year interval. A move is considered to have occurred if the person is living in a different dwelling than during the previous census. There are basically four types of moves included in these figures: A move within the same municipality; a move to a different municipality, but within B.C.; a move from a different province to B.C.; and a move from a different country to B.C.

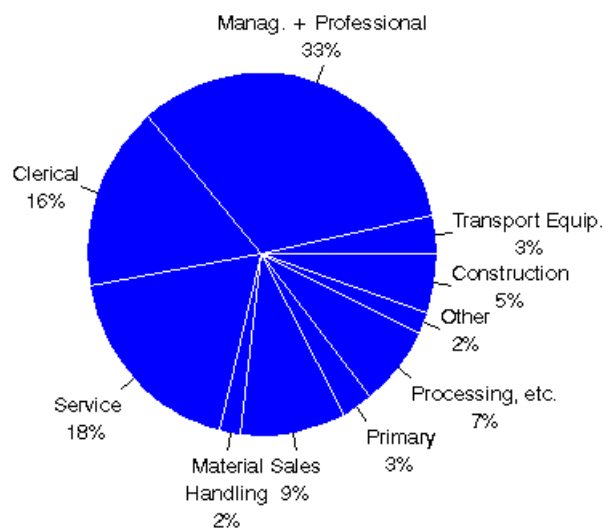
B.C. Interprovincial Migrants by Occupation

In-Migrants



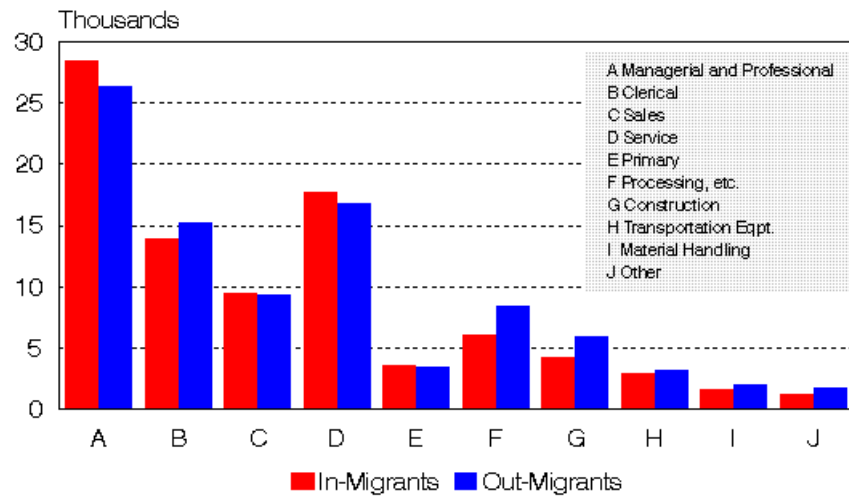
B.C. Interprovincial Migrants by Occupation

Out-Migrants



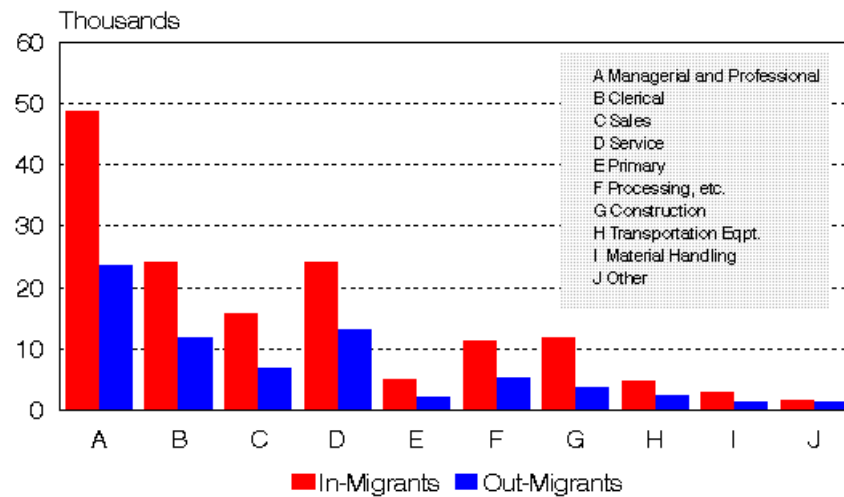
Source: Statistics Canada

B.C. Interprovincial Migrants by Occupation 1981-1986



Source: Statistics Canada

B.C. Interprovincial Migrants by Occupation 1986-1991



Source: Statistics Canada