



Census 91 Fast Facts

Issue 30: In-Migrant Characteristics

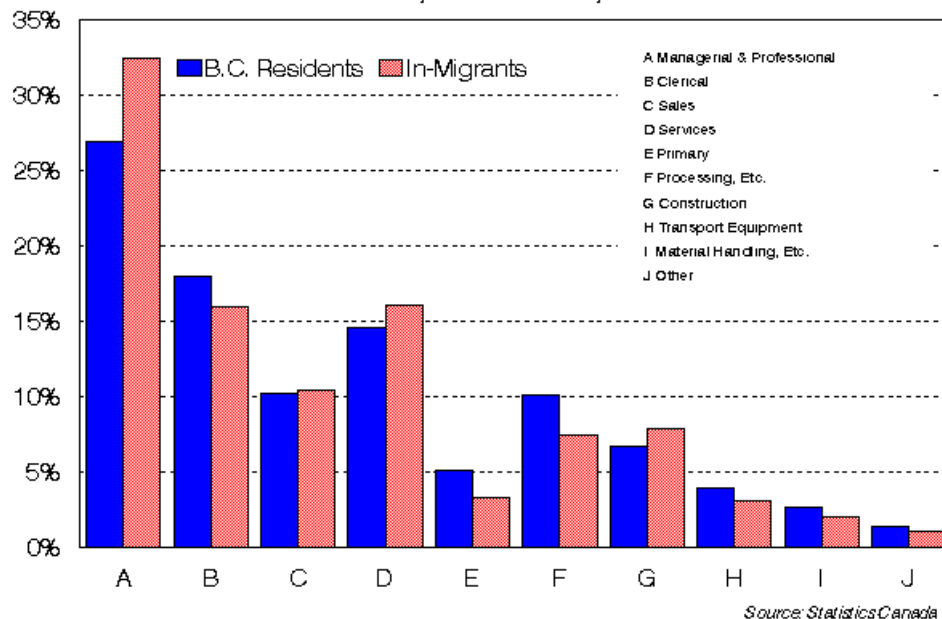
Produced by: Population Statistics Section

According to the 1991 Census, British Columbia had the largest net interprovincial migration of all provinces in the period from 1986 to 1991. This group of migrants had, on average, a higher degree of occupational skill, and a greater level of educational attainment than existing B.C. residents.

Occupation

The greatest difference with respect to occupation is in the managerial and professional category. There were slightly over 5 per cent more people in this group among interprovincial in-migrants to B.C. than among B.C. residents as a whole. Just over 32 per cent of interprovincial in-migrants were in the managerial and professional occupational group, compared to just under 27 per cent of total British Columbians.

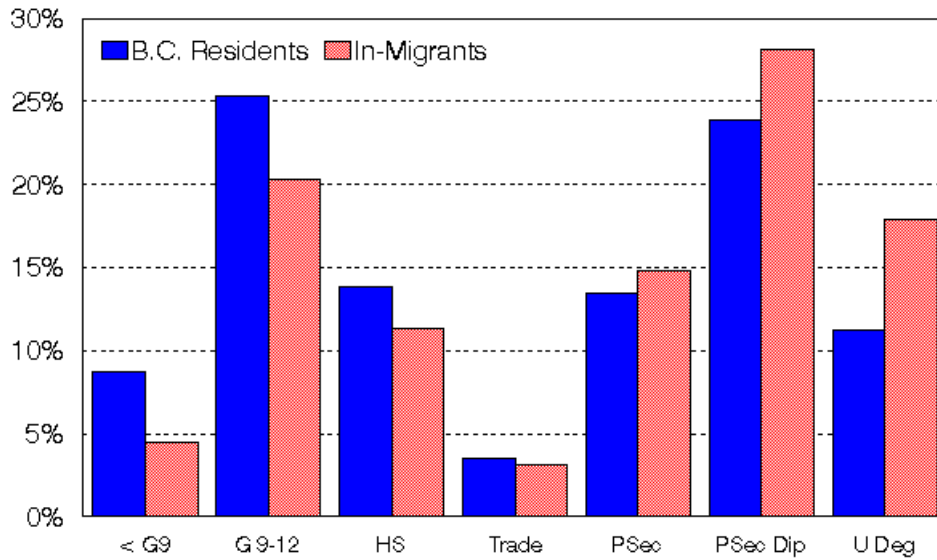
Comparison of B.C. Residents vs. Interprovincial In-Migrants
Occupational Group



Education

In terms of educational attainment, interprovincial in-migrants to B.C. were, on average, better educated. Approximately 28 per cent of in-migrants had a post-secondary certificate or diploma, and 18 per cent had at least a bachelor degree. This compared to only 24 per cent of all B.C. residents having had a post-secondary certificate or diploma, and only 11 per cent a university degree.

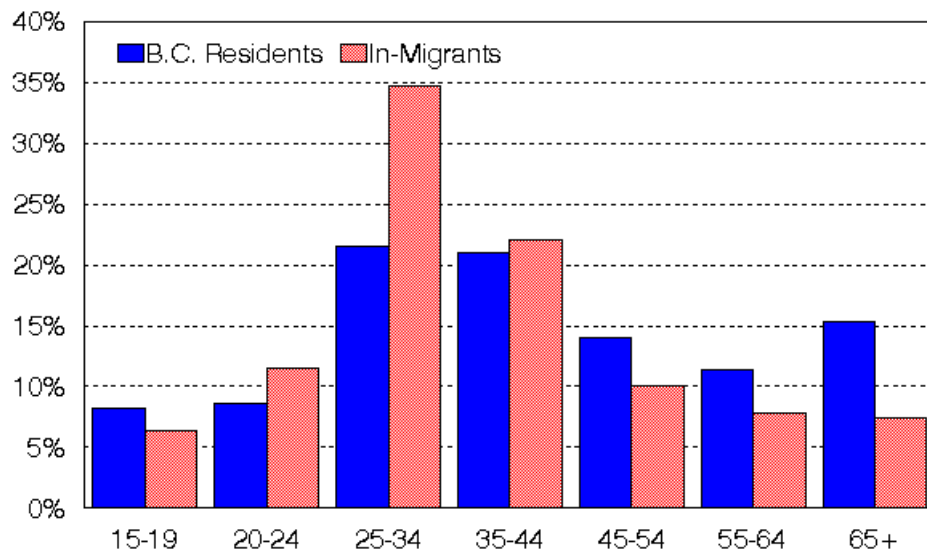
Comparison of B.C. Residents vs. Interprovincial In-Migrants
Level of Educational Attainment



Source: Statistics Canada

These statistics need to be interpreted carefully, however, since they do not take into account age differences in the total provincial population versus the in-migrant population. The B.C. population is much older, on average, than the population of in-migrants. Almost 35 per cent of in-migrants 15 years and over are in the 25 to 34 age range, compared to just under 22 per cent of all B.C. residents. At the same time, almost 15 per cent of B.C. residents 15 and over are over 65, compared to just over 7 per cent of interprovincial in-migrants. From the chart comparing age distributions, it is clear that B.C. residents are more concentrated in the older age groups than are interprovincial in-migrants.

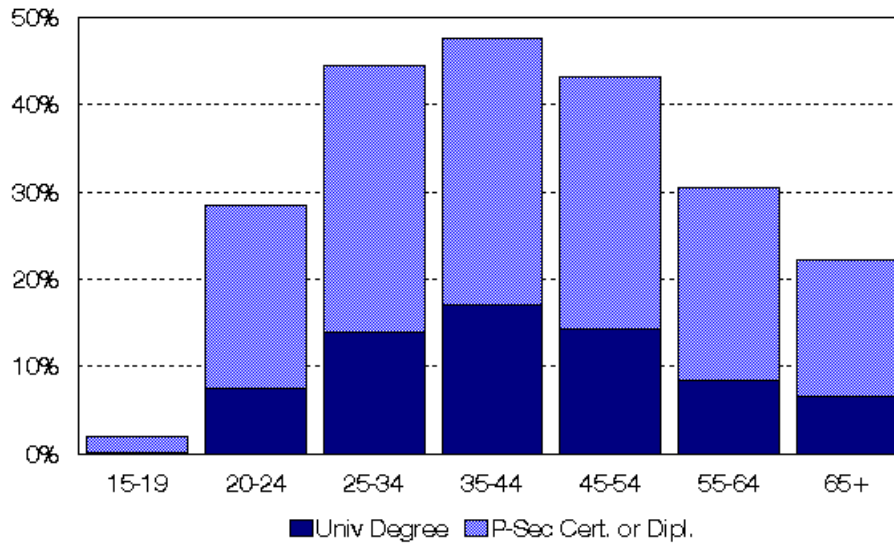
Comparison of B.C. Residents vs. Interprovincial In-Migrants
Age Cohorts as a Per Cent of Population 15 and Over



Source: Statistics Canada

From the chart examining educational attainment in B.C. by age cohort it can be seen that the younger age cohorts tend to have a higher level of education than the older cohorts. In the group aged 25 to 34, over 30 per cent have a post-secondary certificate or diploma, and 14 per cent have at least a bachelor degree. By contrast, of the group aged 65 and over, less than 16 per cent have a post-secondary certificate or diploma, and less than 7 per cent have a degree. Even more striking is the difference in the per cent of people with less than a grade nine education. Almost 26 per cent of those 65 and over are in this category, compared to less than 3 per cent of those 25 to 34.

Educational Attainment in B.C. by Age Cohort



Source: Statistics Canada

These numbers imply that it is not so much that people coming from other provinces are better educated than current B.C. residents, but rather, that the age composition of these in-migrants is significantly different from the age composition of residents. The disparity with respect to level of educational attainment may be more a reflection of this difference in age than anything else. There may still be a difference even after normalizing for age, but without migration statistics by age cohort and level of educational attainment, it cannot be stated with any certainty that this is the case.