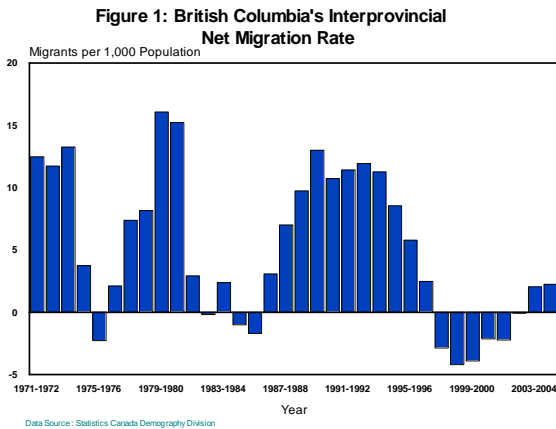


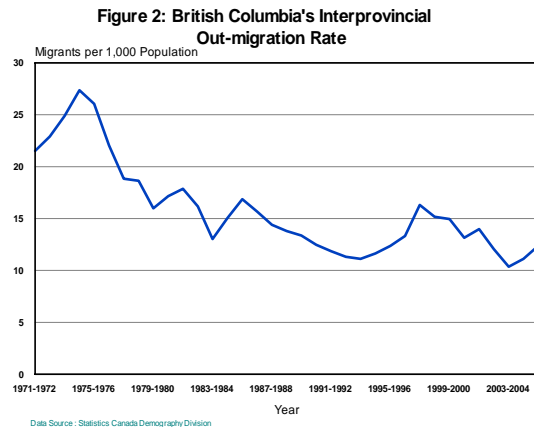
Migration Rates and the Age Composition of Interprovincial Movers

The rates of interprovincial migration have changed over time. Generally, declines in overall rates of migration have been mirrored in declines of age specific rates. However, the rates of younger age groups have maintained some buoyancy and, still represent the dominant age groups for migration. In this Special Feature, the migration rates of B.C.'s age groups, and the age composition of overall net interprovincial migration flows across provinces will be examined.

British Columbia's net interprovincial migration rate, or the net number of individuals who moved per 1,000 population, has varied over time. As seen in Figure 1, before the late 1990's B.C. received, on net, more interprovincial in-migrants than out-migrants. Beginning in 1997, B.C. experienced a five year period of negative net migration. On average, 3 individuals per 1,000 population in B.C. moved out each year over this period. However, recently, B.C. has moved into positive territory again.



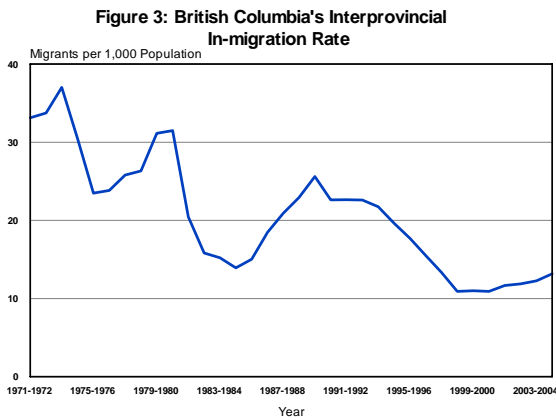
However, decomposing the net migration rate to examine the interprovincial in and out migration rates separately, provides a clearer indication of underlying trends in migration patterns. Individuals living within B.C. have lower out-migration rates than thirty years ago. Figure 2 shows that over the 1971 to 1972 period, 21 per 1,000 population moved out of British Columbia¹. In the recent 2004 to 2005 period approximately 11 individuals per 1,000 population chose to leave B.C. for other provinces². However, in-migration rates have also declined. Starting from a level of 33 in-migrants per 1,000 population over 1971 to 1972, rates of migration have fallen to 13 in-migrants per 1000



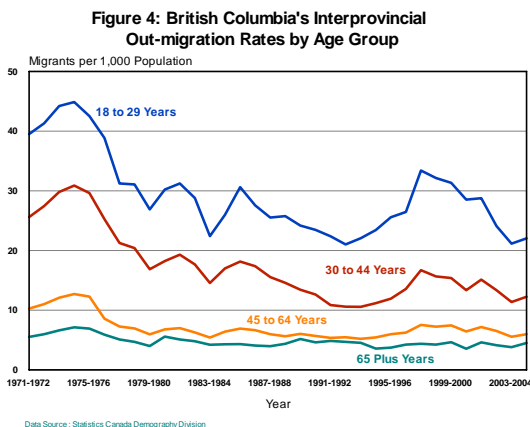
¹ Interprovincial out migration rates are expressed here as the number of individuals who moved out of the province over, for example, the July 1st 1971 to June 30th 1972 period, per 1,000 population as of July 1st 1971.

² Age –specific interprovincial migration estimates are obtained by Statistics Canada from tax-filer data. Therefore the most recent age-specific estimates lag the current period by approximately one and a half years.

population in the 2004 to 2005 period³.

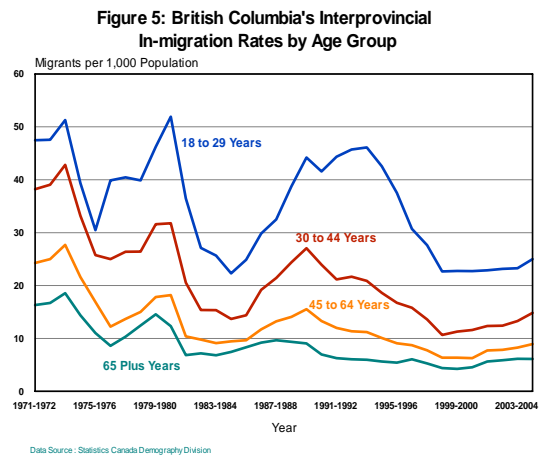


The decline in B.C.'s overall rate of interprovincial out-migration results from lower rates of out migration for all age groups. As seen in figure 4, younger and middle aged individuals have both seen the largest drops in their rates. Between 1971-1972 and 2004-2005, out-migration rates fell from 39 to 24 persons per 1,000 for persons aged 18 to 29 years, and for individuals aged 30 to 44 years, rates have fallen from 25 to 13 out-migrants per 1,000 population.



³ Interprovincial in-migration rates are expressed here as the number of individuals who moved out of the province over, for example the July 1st

Interprovincial age specific in-migration rates have been more variable than out-migration rates over the past 35 years. Between the years of 1984 to 1999, B.C. experienced a large increase in the rates of in-migration for individuals aged 18-29 years of age, as seen in Figure 5. Individuals aged 30 to 44 also migrated to B.C. from other provinces at higher rates over this period. Overall, however, a clear downward trend in both out and in-migration rates and a convergence in the rates of older individuals has been seen.

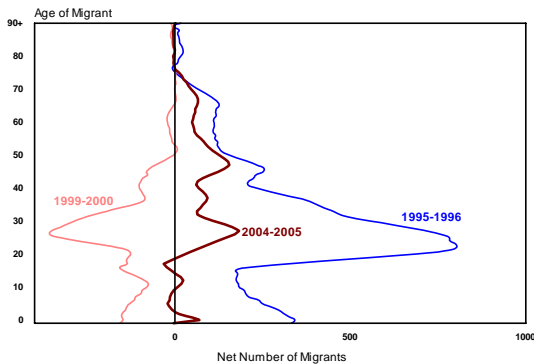


Despite this downward convergence in migration rates, the general aging of Canada's population has still allowed for a steadily increasing average age of inter-provincial migrants for BC. The average age of in-migrants from BC has increased from 27 to 32 years of age over the past 30 years. Further, the average age of interprovincial out-migrants has also increased from 24 to 39 years

1971 to June 30th 1972 period, per 1,000 population as of July 31st 1972 population.

of age. Over the same period the average age of B.C.'s population has increased from 27 to 39 years of age. The net contribution interprovincial migrants have made to each age group in B.C.'s population is seen in Figure 6 for the years 1995-1996, 2000-2001 and 2005-2006. The high rates of in-migration of younger individuals over the 1984 to 1999 period are apparent through the large positive contribution to population this age group had in 1995-1996. In 2000-2001, B.C. lost individuals aged 45 years and younger to other provinces. Over the most recent 2005-2006 period, B.C. has experienced positive net interprovincial migration for individuals aged 20 to 32 years. Of the three periods presented, B.C. has consistently received, on net, a positive number of interprovincial migrants aged 50 years and older.

Figure 6: British Columbia Net Interprovincial Migrants

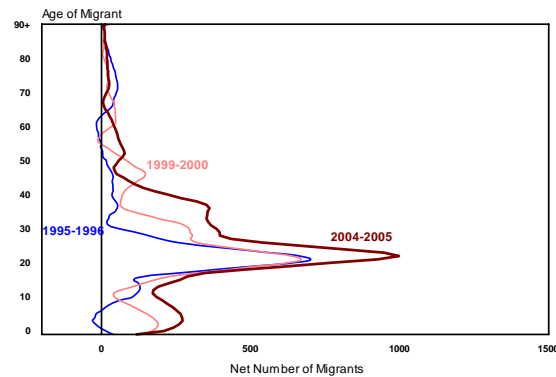


Data Source : Statistics Canada Demography Division.

Compared to other provinces, the age structure of BC's net-interprovincial

migrants contrast starkly with the patterns of other areas. The vast majority of age groups in Alberta's population experienced positive contributions from interprovincial migration for the three years presented.

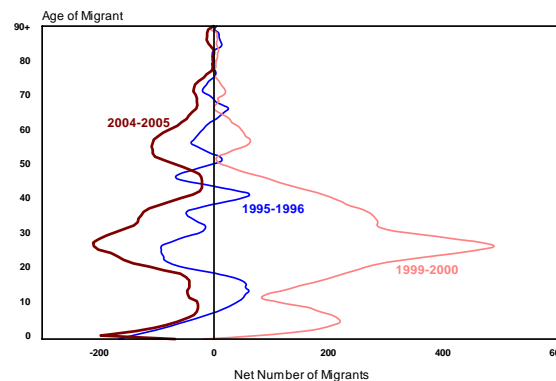
Figure 7: Alberta Net Interprovincial Migrants



Data Source : Statistics Canada Demography Division.

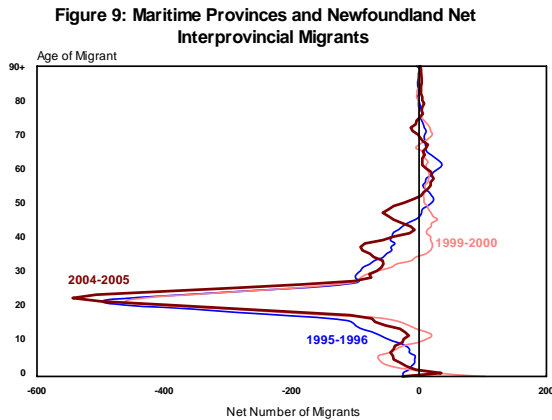
Ontario has experienced much the same variability in net migration flows as British Columbia for 1995-6, 2000-01 and 2005-6, for the working age populations. However, during periods where Ontario has received a positive net number of migrants, for example 2000-2001, B.C. has experienced a net outflow.

Figure 8: Ontario Net Interprovincial Migrants



Data Source : Statistics Canada Demography Division.

Finally, the reverse image of Alberta's pattern of age specific interprovincial migration is seen for the patterns of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. This region consistently experienced out-migration of its younger populations over the periods presented.



Data Source : Statistics Canada Demography Division.

Interprovincial migration is the result of, and important for, determining the health of local economies. While age specific rates have declined over the past 30 years, a pattern also evident at the National level, those age groups that form key components of the overall labour pool continue to dominate interprovincial migrant flows. While some economies continue their recent patterns of attracting, or losing young workers, B.C.'s ability to gain workers depends on the relative attractiveness to other large economies in Canada. A factor that will be important if interprovincial migration is to help supplement B.C.'s labour market in the future.