



Special Feature: Interprovincial Mobility of Recent Immigrants

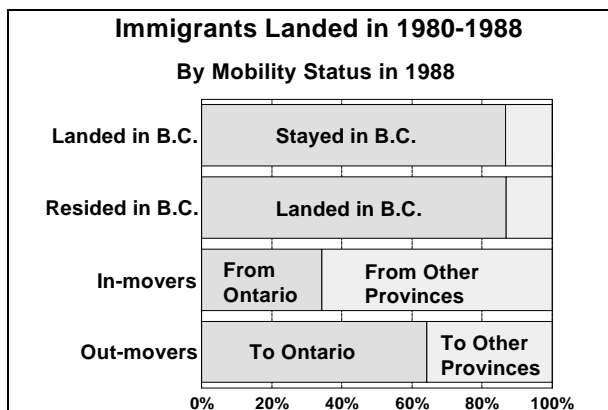
Highlights

For immigrants landed in Canada between 1980 and 1988, the number that move from, and the number that moved to British Columbia subsequent to their initial landing is approximately equal.

Ontario had been the largest recipient of British Columbia's immigrants. On the other hand, about one-third of the B.C. immigrant population who landed outside the province came from Ontario.

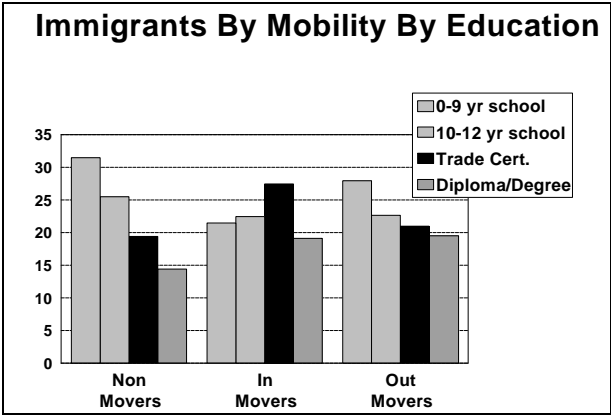
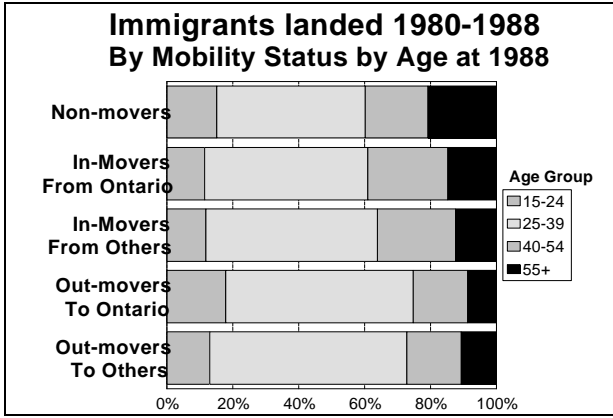
Immigrants who moved to live in another province subsequent to their initial landing tended to be middle aged, earning employment income, better educated and more likely to possess English language ability, when compared to immigrants who remained as residents in their province of landing.

The recently released *Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)*, which was created by combining immigration records and income tax records, provides information on mobility, income characteristics, and many other socio-economic indicators of immigrants landed in Canada between 1980 and 1988. By comparing an immigrant's province of landing and the reported province of residence on tax returns filed by the same immigrant in subsequent years, interprovincial mobility of this immigrant can be determined. In this article, "in-movers" and "out-movers" refer to immigrants who, after their initial landing, moved to and left from British Columbia, respectively. "Non-movers" refer to those who landed in British Columbia and remained as residents in the province. Also, the term "immigrant population" referred to in this article relates only to immigrants aged 15 years or older landed between 1980 and 1988.

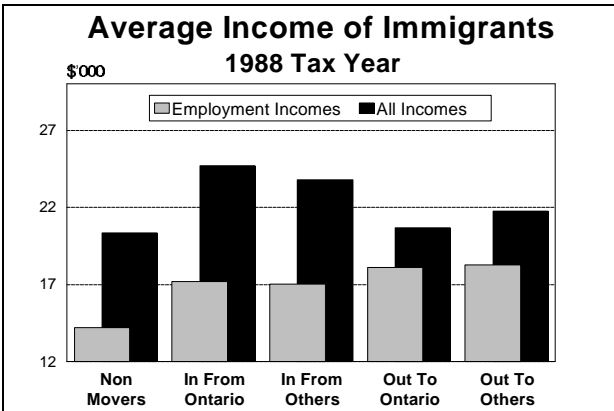
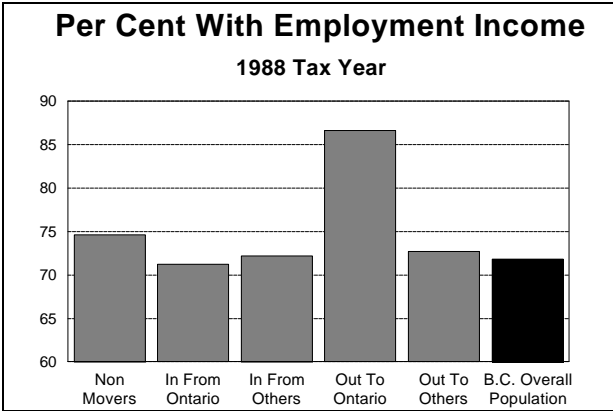


In 1988, 13.1 per cent of the immigrant population who resided in British Columbia came from other provinces, with about one-third of these in-movers arriving from Ontario. On the other hand, approximately the same proportion (13.3 per cent) of immigrants who originally landed in British Columbia between 1980 and 1988 had moved to live in another province. Also, most of these out-movers (64.3 per cent) left British Columbia for Ontario.

Movers were generally middle aged and tended to possess higher education qualifications. In 1988, 75.2 per cent of the in-movers and 74.4 per cent of the out-movers were in the 25-54 age group, compared to only 64 per cent of the non-movers in this age group. Also, relative to non-movers, a larger proportion of the movers had trade school or higher education and a lower proportion had nine years or less of education.



English language ability of in-movers also tended to be better than that of out-movers and non-movers. The proportion of immigrants who possessed English language ability was 63.7 per cent for the in-movers, 52.8 per cent for the out-movers, and 55.5 per cent for the non-movers.



Proportionally, out-movers to Ontario were more likely to earn employment income than movers in other categories. The proportion of immigrants who reported employment earnings in 1988 was 86.6 per cent for the out-movers to Ontario, 72.7 per cent for out-movers to other provinces, and 74.6 per cent for the non-movers. The same statistics for the in-movers were 71.2 per cent for those coming from Ontario and 72.2 per cent from the other provinces. The proportion of the British Columbia population who reported employment income in 1988 was 71.8 per cent.

Movers also reported significantly higher average employment income than did non-movers. In 1988, average employment earnings for those who reported employment earnings was \$18,119 for out-movers to Ontario, \$18,280 for those who moved to other provinces, \$17,182 for in-movers from Ontario, and \$17,040 from other provinces. Comparatively, non-movers in this category reported average employment income of only \$14,186. In-movers also tended to earn higher average total income than out-movers and non-movers. In 1988, in-movers from Ontario and other provinces reported average total income of \$24,696 and \$23,792 respectively, whereas non-movers and out-movers reported average total income of about \$21,000.