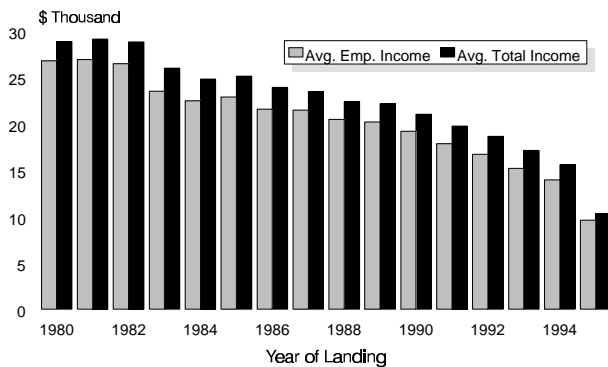


Special Feature: Income Characteristics of Recent Immigrants (IMDB Series)

While female immigrants had lower average employment income than their male counterparts, the level of employment income, regardless of the gender of immigrants, seems to be related proportionally to their length of time in Canada.

Sixty one per cent of the immigrants who landed in Canada during 1980-95 and who were residing in B.C. in 1995 reported earnings from employment (excluding self-employment income). The average employment income for this group was around \$19,000 in 1995. Comparing average employment income for immigrants residing in B.C. in 1995 by their year of landing indicates that earnings tended to be higher for immigrants who arrived earlier. The same observation was also made for average total income reported by this same group of immigrants who had employment income. Total incomes in this article included employment income, unemployment benefits, self-employment income and all investment income.

1995 Average Income of B.C. Immigrants Landed Between 1980 and 1995



Differences in employment income for immigrants landed in different periods might have been due to factors related to settlement issues such as length of Canadian job market experience and English language proficiency.

Significant discrepancies also existed in employment income between male and female immigrants over the study period. Average employment income in 1995 was \$22,200 for male immigrants and \$15,600 for female

New Data Makes Studies of Mobility and Performance after Landing Possible

New studies are made possible by using data available from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) developed jointly by Statistics Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. This database is created by combining income tax records from Revenue Canada and immigration records for a sample of immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1980 and 1995. By comparing an immigrant's province of initial landing and the province of residence as indicated on the same immigrant's tax return, interprovincial mobility of this immigrant can be determined. Also, indicators can be developed to examine certain characteristics of immigrants, such as their earnings, for a period after they arrived in Canada.

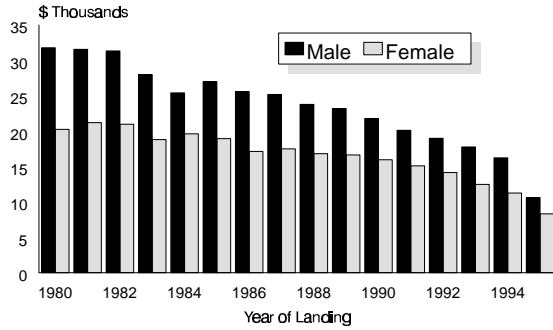
The sample in the database is large enough to be representative for the general immigrant population who landed between 1980 and 1995. For example, the actual number of immigrants aged 15 and older who landed in B.C. between 1980 and 1995 was about 347,789 persons. The sample contained within the IMDB was 194,565 immigrants, about 56% of the actual total landings. This is the third feature article utilizing the IMDB.

immigrants. One of the explanations for this large difference in employment earnings was that a relatively higher proportion of immigrant families/couples in the economic classes were headed by males, and hence, male immigrants were more likely to be employed full time. Statistics show that two-thirds of the principal applicants arriving during 1980-1995 under the economic classes were men.

Another possible reason for this income difference was that woman immigrants, when compared to their man counterparts, were relatively more likely to be engaged in lower paying jobs and/or part time employment.

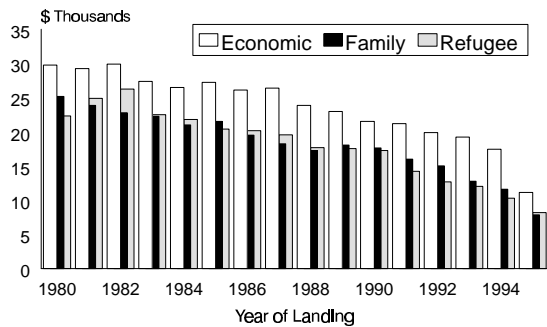
. . . Continued in the next page

1995 Average Employment Income of B.C. Immigrants
By Gender



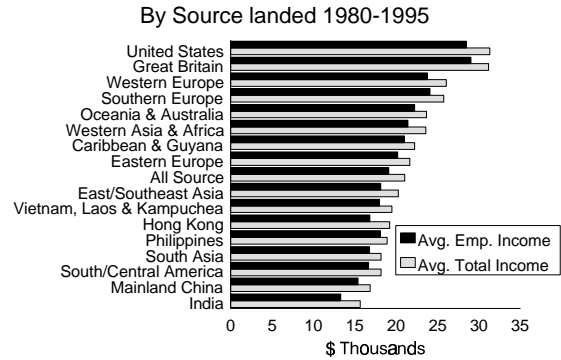
Both average employment income and average total income were significantly higher for those who landed under the independent or business classes, which represented 38 per cent of all immigrants who reported having earned employment income in 1995. Except for those in the Retired Class, immigrants from family classes tended to earn a lower average employment income. Immigrants in the Retired Class reported the lowest employment income but a much higher income from sources other than employment. Regardless of the class under which they arrived, immigrants tended to earn higher employment income as their time in Canada become longer.

1995 Average Employment Income of BC Immigrants
By Class By landed Year



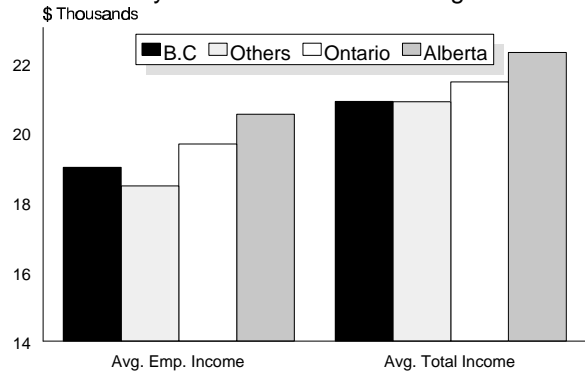
Immigrants who came from the United States and Western Europe, Great Britain in particular, tended to have higher employment income and total income than those who came from South Asia and South/Central America. Among immigrants from the top source countries in Asia, immigrants from India and China Mainland tended to earn a relatively lower income than those from Vietnam, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Average 1995 Income of B.C. Immigrants



As discussed in previous feature articles, some immigrants living in B.C. during 1995 had moved from other provinces in which they initially landed. A comparison of earnings among immigrants residing in B.C. during 1995 by their initial province of landing shows that immigrants who moved from Alberta and Ontario tended to have higher average employment or total income than those who landed in B.C. or the rest of Canada.

1995 Income of Immigrants residing in B.C.
by Initial Province of Landing



While the IMDB is useful for comparing income characteristics of immigrants based on various social/demographic characteristics of immigrants at the time of their landing, it is insufficient to be used for determining the factors that caused the differences in income levels. For example, the IMDB cannot be used to analyze the reason why there were income differences between males and females or between Europe and Asian immigrants. This is due to the lack of associated information in the IMDB related to employment characteristics such as length of employment, part time/full time job mix and occupation/industry representation, etc.