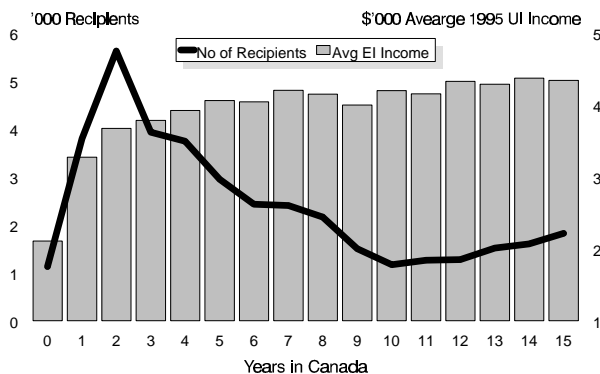


## Special Feature: Income Characteristics of Recent Immigrants (IMDB Series)

**Immigrants who have been in Canada for about 2 years are most likely to receive employment insurance (EI) income. However, as the length of stay increases, they are less likely to be EI recipients.**

Approximately 17 per cent of the B.C. immigrant population who came to Canada between 1980 and 1995 received EI income in the 1995 tax year. The proportion is similar to the national average of 16 per cent. Average EI income in 1995 for B.C. immigrants in this group ranged from \$2,105 to \$4,367 depending on the year of landing. It appears that immigrants who have been in Canada for about 2 years have the highest likelihood of receiving EI benefits. The longer the immigrants are in the country, the less likely they are to receive EI income. This may result from the fact that immigrants who have been in Canada for less than two years may have remained unemployed and hence not eligible for EI benefits.

1995 Average EI Income of B.C. Immigrants  
By Years in Canada



Immigrants who have been in Canada longer tended to receive a higher average EI income. Average 1995 EI incomes for B.C. immigrants ranged from a low of \$2,105 for those who landed in the 1995 to a high of \$4,367 for those who landed in 1981. Again, this likely relates to the length of employment of immigrants in Canada. As presented in previous studies, immigrants who have been in Canada longer tended to receive higher employment incomes and hence have higher EI income eligibility.

### **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.

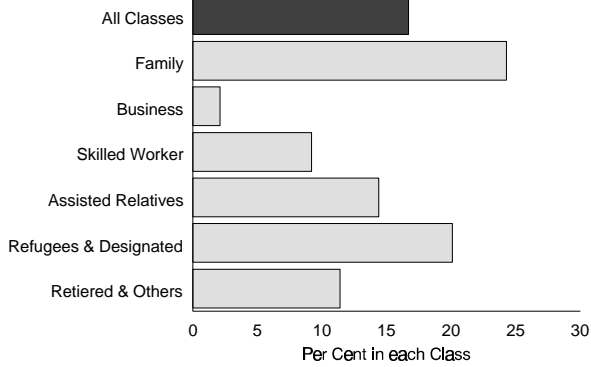
The sample in the database is large enough to be representative for the general immigrant population who landed between 1980 and 1995. For example, the actual number of immigrants aged 15 and older who landed in B.C. between 1980 and 1995 was about 347,789 persons. The sample contained within the IMDB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

Almost one in every four immigrants who resided in B.C. in 1995 has moved from another province. That is, they did not originally land in B.C. Most of these movers were from Ontario and Alberta. Those who moved from Alberta or originally landed in B.C. (17 per cent) were relatively more likely to receive EI benefits than those who moved from Ontario or other provinces (15 per cent).

Immigrants who came under the Family and Refugee/Designated classes tended to be the most likely to have received EI income in 1995. On the other hand, those under the Business/Skilled Workers classes were the least likely to receive EI benefits. This is primarily due to the fact that immigrants in the Family and Refugee classes were not admitted based on their skills, work experience, or educational qualification. On the other hand, Business immigrants are more likely to be self-employed or

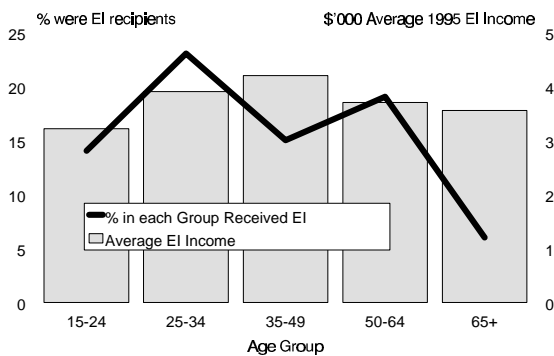
business owners and hence less likely to receive employment incomes or EI benefits.

1995 EI Income of B.C. Immigrants Landed 1980-1995 By Class



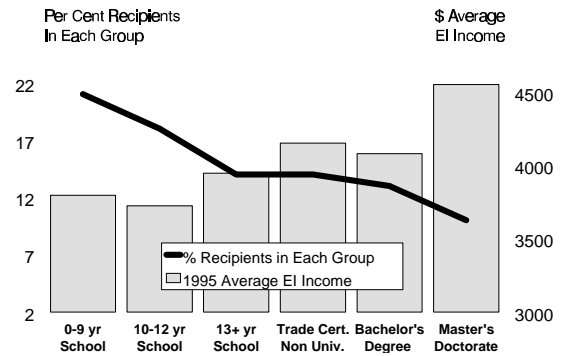
Female immigrants were slightly more likely to be EI recipients than their male counterparts. On the other hand, male EI recipients received a higher average EI income than female recipients in 1995. Regardless of gender, more EI recipients were in the 25-34 and 50-64 age groups. However, immigrants in the age group of 35-49 received a relatively higher average EI income than those in other age groups.

1995 EI Income of BC Immigrants Landed 1980-1995 By Age Group



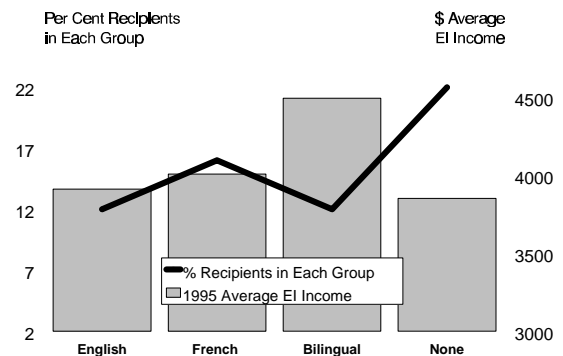
Immigrants having a higher educational qualification at time of landing were less likely to receive EI benefits. Also, immigrant recipients of EI tended to receive a relatively higher average EI income in 1995 if they possessed higher educational qualification at the time of landing. It is also interesting to note that EI recipients with a trade certificate or non-university training diploma tended to receive a slightly higher average EI income than those who had a bachelor's degree.

1995 EI Income of BC Immigrants Landed 1980-1995 By Education at Landing



Immigrants who possessed some official language ability at the time of landing were less likely to receive EI benefits, and if they did, they tended to receive a higher average EI income than those who had no official language ability. Relative to other EI receiving immigrants, bilingual immigrants received a considerably higher average EI income in 1995.

1995 EI Income of BC Immigrants Landed 1980-1995 By Official Language Ability



Variations in the likelihood of receiving EI benefits also existed between immigrants from different sources. For immigrants who arrived between 1980 and 1995, those from South Asia were the most likely to receive EI benefits whereas those from Western Europe were the least likely to have EI income during the 1995 tax year.