



**SOCIOECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF IMMIGRANTS IN
ATLANTIC CANADA
(1981-2008)**

Prepared by

Ather H. Akbari
Department of Economics
Saint Mary's University & Atlantic Metropolis Centre
Halifax

For the
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
2. Saint Mary's University

LIST OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------------|
| LIST OF CHARTS | iii |
| LIST OF TEXT TABLES | iv |
| LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES | v |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | vi |
| I. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| II. SOME DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN ATLANTIC CANADA AND THEIR POTENTIAL ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES | 4 |
| III. IMMIGRATION TRENDS IN ATLANTIC CANADA | 9 |
| IV. THE RURAL-URBAN SETTLEMENT PATTERN OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION | 14 |
| V. AGE DISTRIBUTION AMONG NEW IMMIGRANTS | 17 |
| VI. COMPOSITION OF IMMIGRANT CLASSES | 18 |
| VII. IMMIGRANT SOURCE COUNTRIES | 19 |
| VIII. IMMIGRANT RETENTION IN ATLANTIC CANADA | 22 |
| IX. EDUCATION LEVELS AMONG RECENT IMMIGRANTS | 27 |
| X. IMMIGRANTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE OF ATLANTIC CANADA | 29 |
| XI. SKILLED AND BUSINESS IMMIGRANTS IN THE ATLANTIC ECONOMY | 38 |
| XI.1. Immigration of Highly Skilled Workers to Atlantic Canada | 40 |
| XI.2. Provincial distribution of highly skilled immigrants | 47 |
| XI.3. Business Immigration | 48 |
| XII. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN ATLANTIC CANADA | 52 |
| XII.1. Annual Inflows of International Students | 52 |
| XII.2. International Students by their Level of Study | 53 |
| XII.3. Source Countries of International Students | 54 |
| XIII. SUMMARY AND SOME POLICY IMPLICATIONS | 57 |
| LIST OF REFERENCES | 61 |
| APPENDIX | 63 |

LIST OF CHARTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Chart 1: Components of Population Growth Rates in Atlantic Canada in the Post World War II Period (per thousand persons)..... | 4 |
| Chart 2: Birth and Death Rates, Atlantic Canada, 1945-2008 | 5 |
| Chart 3: Provincial Representations in the Canadian House of Commons Based on Current Rules and... Projected Population Growth Rates | 8 |
| Chart 4: Immigrants (Principal Applicants and Dependents) Destined for each Atlantic Province, 1981-2008..... | 10 |
| Chart 5: Annual Arrivals of Immigrants in Atlantic Canada under the Provincial Nominee Program, 2000-07..... | 11 |
| Chart 6: Annual Arrivals of Provincial Nominees in Atlantic Canada by Province, 2005-2008 | 12 |
| Chart 7: Population Distribution in Atlantic Canada, 2006 | 15 |
| Chart 8: Immigrants in Weak Metropolitan Influence Zones of Atlantic Canada by Source Country, 2006 | 16 |
| Chart 9: Recent Immigrants in Weak Metropolitan Influence Zones of Atlantic Canada by Source Country, 2006..... | 16 |
| Chart 10: Age Distribution of New Immigrants (Principal Applicants) and Non-immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006..... | 18 |
| Chart 11: Economic Immigrants (Principal Applicants) Destined to Atlantic Canada by Type, 1998-2008 | 19 |
| Chart 12: Five-Year Immigrant Retention Rates in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006..... | 22 |
| Chart 13: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada and Non-immigrants with High School or Less Education, 1986-2006..... | 27 |
| Chart 14: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada and Non-immigrants with a University Degree, 1986- 2006..... | 28 |
| Chart 15: Immigrants' Contribution to Atlantic Canada's Labour Force Growth Rate, 1981–2001 | 29 |
| Chart 16: Labour Force Participation Rates among Immigrants and Non-immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006..... | 30 |
| Chart 17: Unemployment Rates among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006 | 32 |
| Chart 18: Earnings of Immigrants Relative to those of Non-Immigrants Resident in Atlantic Canada, 1981- 2006..... | 34 |
| Chart 19: Age-Income Profile of an Immigrant and a Non-Immigrant Resident of Atlantic Canada, 2005. | 36 |
| Chart 20: Average Earning of an Immigrant by Period of Arrival, and a Non-Immigrant, Atlantic Canada, 2005..... | 37 |
| Chart 21: Percentage of Total Income Received as Government Transfers by Immigrants and Non- immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2001 | 38 |
| Chart 22: Immigrants Destined to Atlantic Canada by Skill Classifications, 1981-2008 | 40 |
| Chart 23: Provincial Distribution of Highly Skilled Immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 2001 and 2006 | 48 |
| Chart 24: Labour Market Earnings of Immigrants by Class Relative to those of Non-Immigrants, 2005 ... | 49 |
| Chart 25: Total Entries of International Students in Atlantic Canada by Province, 1998-2008..... | 53 |
| Chart 26: International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada by Level of Study, 1998-2008 | 54 |
| Chart 27: Top Five Source Countries of International Students Studying in Canada, 2008..... | 55 |
| Chart 28: Top Five Source Countries of International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada, 2008..... | 55 |

LIST OF TEXT TABLES

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1: Components of population growth, Atlantic Provinces, 2007–2008..... | 6 |
| Table 2: Immigrant status of population in Atlantic Canada, 1981 to 2006 censuses. | 9 |
| Table 3: Federal-provincial/territorial agreements currently in force in the Atlantic provinces..... | 11 |
| Table 4: Top five source countries of immigrants destined for Atlantic Canada, by year, 1981-2008 | 21 |
| Table 5: Migration of immigrants destined for the Atlantic provinces | 24 |
| Table 6: Labour force activity, total population by location of post-secondary education, Atlantic Canada, 2005..... | 33 |
| Table 7: Professionals in Atlantic Canada by selected occupations: immigrants and non-immigrants, 1991-2006 censuses | 42 |
| Table 8: Industrial distribution of non-immigrants and immigrants, Atlantic Canada, 2006 | 45 |
| Table 9: Average employment incomes of non-immigrants and immigrants by industry, Atlantic Canada, 2005..... | 46 |
| Table 10: Occupational distributions of non-immigrants and immigrants, Atlantic Canada, 2005. | 47 |
| Table 11: Immigrant tax filers in Atlantic Canada, 2005 taxation year..... | 49 |

LIST OF APPENDIX TABLES

| | |
|--|----|
| Table A1: Components of Population Growth Rates in Atlantic Canada in the Post World War II Period (per thousand persons)..... | 63 |
| Table A2: Birth and Death Rates In Atlantic Canada, 1945-2008 (per '000) | 63 |
| Table A3: Provincial Representations in the Canadian House of Commons Based on Current Rules and Projected Population Growth, 1976-2021 | 65 |
| Table A4: Immigrants (Principal Applicants and Dependents) Destined for each Atlantic Province during 1981-2008..... | 66 |
| Table A5: Annual Arrivals of Immigrants in Atlantic Canada Under the Provincial Nominee Program, 2000-07..... | 67 |
| Table A6: Annual Arrivals of Provincial Nominees in Atlantic Canada by Province, 2005-2008 (%) | 67 |
| Table A7: Population Distribution in Atlantic Canada, 2001-2006..... | 67 |
| Table A8: Immigrants in Weak Metropolitan Influence Zones of Atlantic Canada by Source Country, 2006 | 68 |
| Table A9: Age Distribution of Recent Atlantic Canada Immigrants (Principal Applicants) and Non-Immigrants, 1981-2006 (%) | 68 |
| Table A10: Economic Immigrants (Principal Applicants) Destined to Atlantic Canada by Type, 1998-2008 | 68 |
| Table A11: Immigrant Retention Rates for Atlantic Canada, 1986-2006 | 69 |
| Table A12: Recent Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada and Non-Immigrants by Education Levels, 2001-2006 | 69 |
| Table A13: Labour Force Net Growth Rate and Contribution of Recent Immigrants to the Growth of the Labour Force, Atlantic Canada, 1981-2001 | 70 |
| Table A14: Atlantic Canada Labour Market Statistics: Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate, Employment Income, and Government Transfer Payments as a Percentage of Total Income for Immigrants and Non-Immigrants, 1981-2006 | 71 |
| Table A15: Age Earning Profile of an Immigrant and a Non-Immigrant Resident of Atlantic Canada, 2005 | 72 |
| Table A16: Average Earning of an Immigrant by Period of Arrival and Non-Immigrant, Canada, 2005..... | 72 |
| Table A17: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada's Labour Force by Skill Classifications, 1981-2008 | 73 |
| Table A18: Provincial Distribution of Highly Skilled Immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 2001 and 2006..... | 74 |
| Table A19: Labour Market Earnings of Immigrants by Class Relative to those of Non-Immigrants, 2005. | 74 |
| Table A20: Total Entries of International Students in Atlantic Canada by Province and in Canada, 1998-2008..... | 74 |
| Table A21: International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada by Level of Study, 1998-2008..... | 74 |
| Table A22: International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada and Canada by the Top Five Source Countries, as of December 1, 2008..... | 75 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This report presents and analyzes socioeconomic and demographic profiles of immigrants in Atlantic Canada. It updates an earlier study that analyzed immigrant inflow data for Atlantic Canada up to 2005 and resident immigrant data up to 2001 (Akbari, Lynch, McDonald and Rankaduwa, 2007).

Analyses of immigrant inflows for the period 1981-2008 and of resident immigrants for the period 1981-2006 were conducted using descriptive tools of statistical analysis. The main sources of data used in these analyses were Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Statistics Canada. Some of the data were also custom ordered from these sources.

For interpretation of some results, discussions were also held with immigrant settlement agencies, provincial and federal officials, and community organizations.

CURRENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Since World War II, population growth rates in Atlantic Canada have declined continuously, becoming negative with a population level decline at the turn of the present century (2000-06). Declining fertility rates and net out-migration are two main reasons the Atlantic region has the highest percentage of seniors in Canada. In 2008, the population of Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest percentage of youth in the country, while Nova Scotia had the highest percentage of seniors (15.4 percent), followed by New Brunswick (15.2) and Prince Edward Island (15.1) (Charts 1- 2).

In responding to the declining population growth rates which could have adverse economic and political impacts on the region, each Atlantic province has developed a population growth strategy, with international immigration an important component.

Since 2007, regional population has begun to rise again, with lower net out-migration and increased international migration being the main causes of this increase (Table 1).

IMMIGRATION TRENDS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Immigrants comprise only 3.75 percent of the population in Atlantic Canada, much below the national average of 18 percent. While it is home to 7.2 percent of all Canadians, the region received only about 2.9 percent of immigrants coming to Canada in 2008. Most immigrants arrive in Nova Scotia, and recent policies to increase immigrant inflows are showing results. Each Atlantic province has welcomed more immigrants since 2003 (see Chart 4 and related discussion) and increased its retention rates (up from under 50 percent in the mid-1990s to about 80 percent during 2000-06, Chart 12). About half of the immigrants arriving in 2008 came as provincial nominees, while only one-quarter had come in 2005 as provincial nominees. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island received most of their immigrants as provincial nominees (Charts 5- 6). Part of the increase in immigrant retention is as a result of the slowing down of the onward movement of immigrants to other regions in Canada and an increase in the movement of new immigrants *from* those other regions. In fact, between 2000 and 2004,

the region attracted 200 more skilled immigrants (principal applicants) from other Canadian regions than it lost to them.

IMMIGRANTS SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

About 67 percent of non-immigrants, 73 percent of all immigrants and 82 percent of recent immigrants (those who arrived within five years of the 2006 census) live in urban Atlantic Canada (Chart 7). Most immigrants who live in rural areas reside in areas considered highly rural where the top five source countries of recent immigrants include the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, China, and India. Immigrants from the United States and Europe are engaged in farming operations, as well as in small businesses in the service sector, while those from India and China may be provincial nominees who located in rural areas to fill in shortages of professionals (Charts 8-9).

AGE DISTRIBUTION AMONG RECENT ARRIVALS

Among immigrants who arrived in Atlantic Canada during 2001-06, more than 75 percent were under 44, while less than half the resident population in 2006 was in that age group. Therefore, newly arrived immigrants increase the number of young Atlantic Canadians who are potential members of the region's labour force (Chart 10).

CLASS COMPOSITION OF IMMIGRANTS

Although most immigrants arrive under the family class, the number of skilled class immigrants has been rising in recent years, while that of business class immigrants has been falling. In 2008, the region received only 13 business class immigrants (Chart 11). This drop is mainly due to changes in the admission rules of business class immigrants. The number of refugees has stayed steady since 1981.

SOURCE COUNTRIES OF IMMIGRANTS

Largely due to changes in Canadian immigration rules and the world's political and economic environment, the source countries of immigrants to Canada began shifting in the early 1970s from those in western Europe to those in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This shift became prominent in Atlantic Canada only in the 1990s. In the aftermath of the first Gulf War (1991), many immigrants to Atlantic Canada came from the Middle East. Most were destined for Nova Scotia, where the immigrant inflow doubled to about 3,600 per year in the mid-1990s, mainly due to aggressive immigration consultant activity, but was short lived. Since the turn of the present century, immigration trends in Atlantic Canada have entered a new era in which deliberate policy and community initiatives have resulted in more consistent increases of immigration inflows to the region. The top five source countries of origin for immigrants during 2007-2008 were China, Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Iran (see Section VII).

EDUCATION LEVELS AND LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE

More immigrants now arrive with higher education levels than both those who came in the past and non-immigrants (Charts 13-14). Labour market outcomes of immigrants were stronger during 2001-05 than in the past. For example, in 1981, immigrants formed 4.5 percent of the labour force in Atlantic Canada while accounting for 19 percent of the national labour force. In 2001, immigrants formed only 3.6 percent of the regional labour force and 20 percent of the national labour force. However, by 2006, their contribution toward the labour force had risen to 4 percent. Labour force participation rates declined among new arrivals between the early 1990s and 2001, after which they stabilized, probably because larger percentages of immigrant families had

youth who were attending post-secondary institutions. By contrast, participation rates among non-immigrants have increased since the early 1990s, although remaining below those of recent immigrants. Finally, the participation rates are lower among the overall immigrant population, mainly because of their old age. One Nova Scotia study found that when immigrants and non-immigrants of the same age are compared, labour force participation rates are higher among male, but lower among female, immigrants than among corresponding non-immigrants.

Immigrants generally earn more income, have a lower unemployment rate, and receive a lower percentage of income as government transfers than non-immigrants. Among those who acquired their post-secondary education outside of Canada: 1) the labour force participation rate is lower than that among the resident population, with the least being among those educated in South Korea, 2) the unemployment rate is also generally lower than among the resident population, again with the exception of those educated in South Korea who have the highest unemployment rate. Those with Indian or Pakistani education experience unemployment rates very close to the unemployment rate experienced by the overall residents. No data on underemployment are available.

Recent immigrants earned the same income as non-immigrants in 1996 but 10 percent less than non-immigrants in both 2000 and 2005. Compared to non-immigrants, their unemployment rate was higher than that of non-immigrants in 2000 but equal to it in 2005.

Further analysis of labour market earnings indicates that an average immigrant's earnings reach an average non-immigrant's four years after arrival, and those aged 25 and older earn higher income than do non-immigrants (Charts 16-21 and Table 5).

Atlantic Canada experienced a decline in the inflows of highly skilled immigrants (professionals and managers) from the mid-1990s until 2002. Since then, however, their inflows have been rising, probably the outcome of Provincial Nominee Program agreements reached between the federal government and each Atlantic province. Most of the highly skilled immigrants are employed in the service sector. Immigrant professionals earn more, while immigrant managers earn less, than their non-immigrant counterparts (Chart 23 and Table 6).

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

During 1998-2008, the annual inflows of international students in Atlantic Canada more than doubled, from just under 2,000 to 4,700. In 2008, 8,000 international students were enrolled in universities across Atlantic Canada, the top five source countries of these students being China, the United States, Korea, Saudi Arabia and India. Three of these countries are also major source countries of immigrants in the region (Charts 26-29). An international student takes about three years to finish a university degree and is potentially a highly skilled immigrant who has advanced English language skills, fully recognized locally relevant professional training and a strong potential to integrate into Canadian society. Therefore, universities should continue promoting their academic programs for international students. They should also ensure that adequate language programs are available to these incoming students. Focusing on attracting students from countries that are major sources of immigrants in the region is also advised.

I. INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of this project was to analyze the socioeconomic and demographic profiles of Atlantic Canada's immigrants. This objective was achieved through

- the collection and tabulation of data on immigration to the Atlantic provinces between 1981 and 2008, with a focus on economic immigration, and
- a descriptive analysis of the data to highlight the socioeconomic, demographic and geographic dimensions of immigration to the Atlantic provinces.

The study also identifies some gaps in research that could provide necessary information to implement immigrant attraction, integration and retention strategies in the Atlantic provinces. The project updates a previous report written in 2007 (Akbari, Lynch, McDonald and Rankaduwa, 2007) that analyzed data up to 2005. At the time of writing that report, data on resident immigrants based on 2006 census were not available. These are, however, included in the present report.

By pursuing the above objectives, the study analyzed the role immigration has played in the demographic composition of the population and in the labour markets of Atlantic Canada. The collective regional analysis presented in this report is important for several reasons. First, the four Atlantic provinces share many demographic characteristics: for example, all have both low fertility rates and low international immigration and are generally below the break-even point in their migration exchanges with the rest of Canada. Second, on many fronts, the Atlantic provinces have adopted unified policies and cooperate in providing many public services. For example, the sales tax is harmonized across three of the four provinces, and they cooperate in selected health care and education services. Businesses have also developed linkages across the region, especially in professional services. As well, proposals for creating a single economy in the region have also been discussed (Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, 2007a).

A unique feature of the previous report was the analysis of the labour market performance of resident immigrants in Atlantic Canada over five census years: 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2001. Such an analysis has permitted an understanding of how changing immigration policies and world events may have affected the economic performance of new immigrants in the region over time. Data on the inflow of immigrants during 1981-2005 also were analyzed. The present report extends that analysis by including published and unpublished data on both resident immigrants based on the 2006 population census of Canada and on the inflow of immigrants based on data published by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for the period 1981-2008. This extension allows us to shed some light on the effectiveness of regional immigration policy and community initiatives to attract and retain immigrants. Most Atlantic provinces have adopted these initiatives in recent years, and the new immigration data will reflect their impact. In particular, we will be able to assess the impact of new regional initiatives on immigrant inflows under different immigrant classes and also analyze the labour market performance of immigrants who stay in the region.

The analysis is presented in several sections. Sections II-IX analyze data on the following: broad demographic trends in the region and their potential economic consequences; trends of immigrant inflows between 1981 and 2008; immigrants' contribution to population growth; immigrants' geographic distribution in the region, including their contribution to rural population growth; and retention rates. In Section X, educational attainments of immigrants at the time of arrival are also compared with those of the resident non-immigrant population. After this comparison, an average immigrant's labour market performance is analyzed in Sections XI and XII, using data from six population censuses between 1981 and 2006 and annual data obtained from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Also included are separate analyses of the economic performance of highly skilled and business immigrants. Finally, the report analyzes the trends of the international student population (Section XIII) in the region as they represent a pool of potential immigrants trained and educated in Atlantic Canada.

Following the previous literature, the term "immigrant" is used in this study to refer to all foreign-born individuals who are permanent residents of Canada. The primary data sources for this study were CIC and Statistics Canada.

Some data used in this study were obtained from the web sites of the above government sources. However, much of the required data were not available in the public domain and had to be acquired through different channels. Some data were made available to the authors under specific data sharing agreements between the Metropolis project team and Statistics Canada and CIC, while some Statistics Canada data were accessed through the Internet Data Library System (IDLS). Being a member of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries Data Consortium (CARLDC), the Patrick Power Library at Saint Mary's University shares this access with the University of Western Ontario under the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI). Through customized requests, some data were purchased from both Statistics Canada and from CIC.

The analysis we conducted is based primarily on descriptive tools. A distinction was made between immigrants destined for each Atlantic province and those who actually stayed in the province. Among those who stayed, separate data were also analyzed for more recent immigrants, i.e., those who arrived within five years before a population census, when possible. Some parts of the analysis also use data on the non-immigrant population to facilitate comparisons with immigrants.

The period of analysis of this study is 1981-2008. The CIC data are based on the landing documents of immigrants and are for annual immigrant inflows. Micro data from CIC based on the 2005 Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS) were made available to the Metropolis centers on a compact disc. These data covered the period 1981-2005. Data for the later period were purchased from CIC and are based on the unpublished portion of 2008 issue of *Facts and Figures* some of which are obtained from CIC's digital library and some through special tabulations. The Statistics Canada data are drawn from the six population censuses conducted during the period up to and including 2006. These census data provide information on the resident immigrant and non-immigrant populations. Thus, whenever immigrant inflows had to be compared with the numbers of resident immigrants and non-immigrants, the period of analysis ended in 2006.

IN THE NEWS

ATLANTIC CANADA: AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION DESTINATION THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

With smaller cities and a lower profile, Atlantic Canada traditionally has not seen large influxes of newcomers to Canada. Recent initiatives have somewhat altered this trend as immigrant communities are becoming established and are growing. However, the rate of immigration is not high enough to satisfy regional governments, which are facing the challenges of aging populations, low birth rates, and chronic labour shortages. To effectively manage these issues and plan for the future, Atlantic provincial governments have banded together to build a regional immigration policy to expand the Atlantic work force.

"While each province has something unique to offer, there are many areas where working together can accomplish more, and this initiative is a prime example," stated Peter MacKay, Canadian Minister of National Defense and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Through this agency, the federal government and the provincial governments of [Nova Scotia](#), [New Brunswick](#), [Prince Edward Island](#), and [Newfoundland and Labrador](#) have jointly invested \$4.4 million. Over three years, these funds will be allocated to attracting and retaining newcomers and helping them with workforce integration.

Specific projects include the creation of an Atlantic Immigration brand, the education of regional employers about more innovative and inclusive human resource strategies, and the development of a better understanding of population and workforce retention factors.

Through the [Provincial Nomination Programs](#) and other regional initiatives to promote Atlantic Canada as an immigration destination, Atlantic cities have seen significant increases in the number of newcomers. Over the past seven years, Moncton (New Brunswick) has experienced an increase of 74 per cent, followed by Charlottetown (Prince Edward Island) at 50.2 per cent and Halifax (Nova Scotia) at 44.8 per cent.

The Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) stated in a recent report that the number of newcomers to the region has doubled since 2002 to nearly 5,700 in 2007. Furthermore, the report notes that retention rates have shown a "noticeable improvement" since the 1990s.

Immigrant communities are reaching critical masses in many of Atlantic Canada's cities. Whereas two years ago there were only 40 Korean families in Fredericton (New Brunswick), now there are more than 220. The city has also built a mosque, an important cultural addition in the past ten years. Settlement services and English and French language training have been increasing as well. Successfully settled newcomers are spreading the word back home and bringing family members over.

Atlantic Canada's share of immigration in Canada was 2.4 per cent in 2007, the highest share since 1980. Nonetheless, this number is still quite low considering that the region accounts for 7.1 per cent of the country's population.

Provincial immigration ministers are pleased with the new regional immigration arrangement and look forward to implementing it.

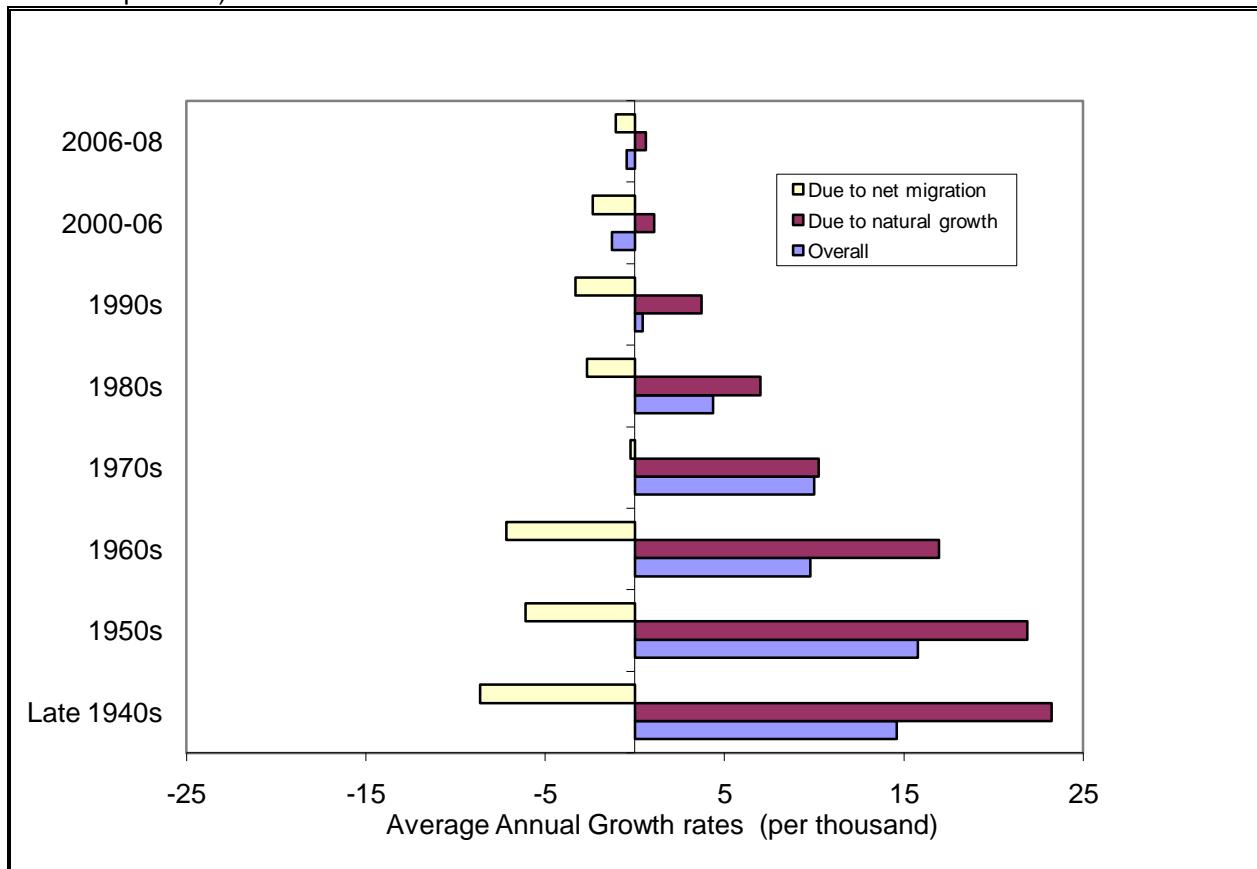
"Addressing these issues in a joint strategy will benefit the region because we all will be able to leverage more resources than if we acted on our own," states Prince Edward Island Minister Richard Brown.

Source: <http://www.canadavisa.com/atlantic-canada-important-immigration-destination.html>

II. SOME DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN ATLANTIC CANADA AND THEIR POTENTIAL ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

The population growth rate in Atlantic Canada has been in continuous decline for most of the post-World War II period, the most drastic taking place after the 1970s. Net out-migration from the region has been a permanent factor. This means that to maintain some population growth, the region relied solely on natural increase (births minus deaths). However, this component of the population growth has also declined continuously, falling below the out-migration rate in the new millennium, thereby causing the population *growth rate* to become negative. During 2006-08, the population declined more slowly - population growth rate increased although remaining negative - because of a lower net out-migration rate than observed at the beginning of the century. Chart 1 shows these trends.

Chart 1: Components of Population Growth Rates in Atlantic Canada in the Post World War II Period (per thousand persons)

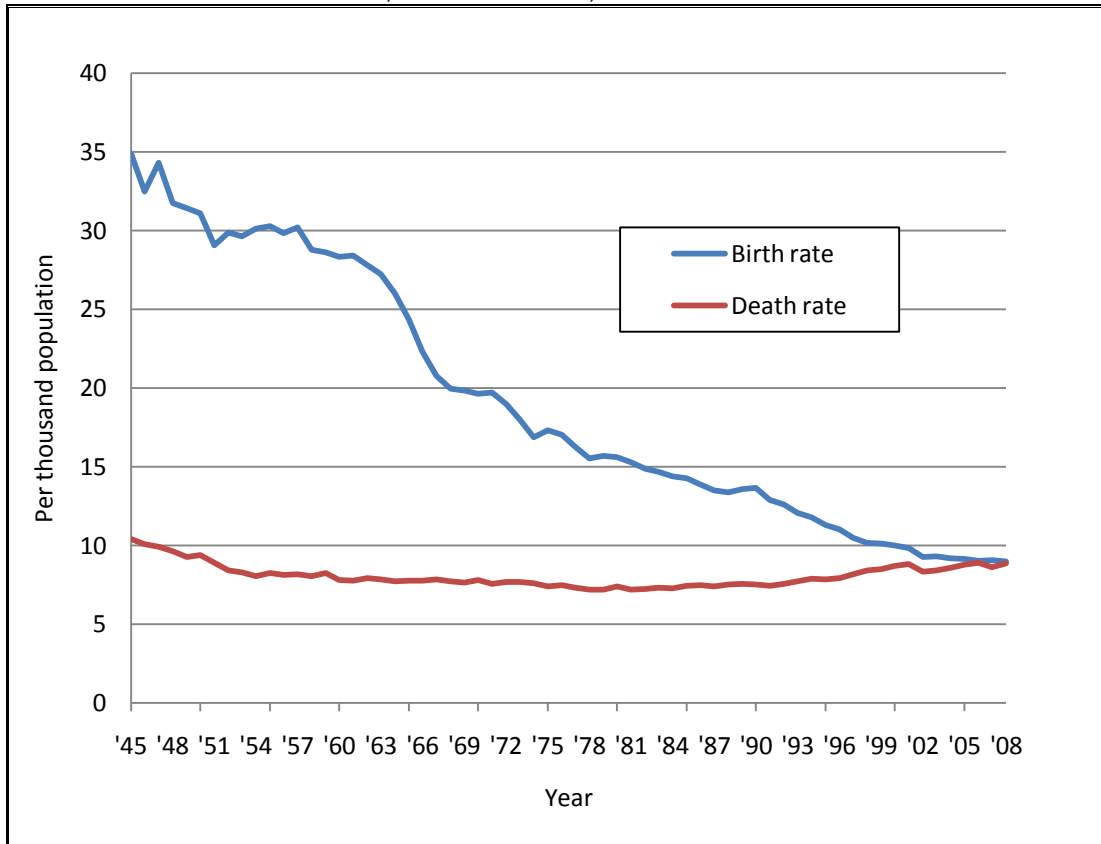


Source and notes: Table A1. A negative growth rate means population declined during that period.

Chart 2 shows that since 1945, the declining natural population growth rate in Atlantic Canada was due mainly to declining birth rates because death rates remained almost constant over the entire period. After reaching a zero natural population growth rate in 2006, the region experienced a slightly positive rate in 2007 when death rates declined

slightly but was again at zero in 2008. In that year, the natural growth in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador became negative (Table 1).

Chart 2: Birth and Death Rates, Atlantic Canada, 1945-2008



Source: Table A2.

Table 1 shows more detailed components of population growth in the Atlantic provinces during 2007-08. On the whole, the region experienced a population increase of 7,339 people in that year. About 86 percent of this increase was caused by international migration (66 percent by *net* international migration); only 9 percent came from a net natural increase. The contribution of international migration towards population growth was the least in Newfoundland and Labrador, where net *interprovincial* migration contributed the most (90.4 percent), largely due to the continuing development of offshore oil reserves.

| | July 1,2007/June 30,2008 | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| | N.L. | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Total |
| Births (1) | 4,386 | 1,420 | 8,372 | 6,918 | 21,096 |
| Deaths (2) | 4,663 | 1,206 | 8,333 | 6,216 | 20,418 |
| Immigration (3) | 598 | 1,281 | 2,660 | 1,803 | 6,342 |
| Emigration (4) | 287 | 65 | 669 | 484 | 1,505 |
| Net temporary emigration (5) | 258 | 70 | 473 | 378 | 1,179 |
| Returning emigrants (6) | 111 | 59 | 403 | 259 | 832 |
| Net non-permanent residents (7) | 250 | 239 | 428 | 355 | 1,272 |
| Net interprovincial migration (8) | 1,299 | 42 | -117 | -325 | 899 |
| Population Growth(9)=(1)-(2)+(3)-(4)-(5)+(6)+(7)+(8) | 1,436 | 1,700 | 2,271 | 1,932 | 7,339 |
| Immigrants in population growth (%=(3) of (9)) | 41.6 | 75.3 | 117.1 | 93.3 | 86.4 |

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 051-0004.

In fact, despite the small share of international immigrants that Atlantic Canada receives nationally, their contribution to population growth was strong throughout the 1981-2006 period. This is shown in Appendix Table A4, which provides immigrants' contribution towards regional population growth between each of the six censuses conducted during 1981-2006. During 2001-2006, immigrants accounted for more than half of population growth in the region. During the 1990s, population growth would have been negative without international immigration.

More recent population data show that the population in Atlantic Canada grew by about 6,000 people in the year ending the first quarter of 2009, which Statistics Canada attributes mainly to an increase in international migration (Statistics Canada, 2007, 2008 and 2009). With the current trends of birth and death rates in the region, the region will continue to rely on immigration to maintain a positive growth in its population for a long time.

The slowing of Atlantic Canada's natural increase in population has resulted in the highest percentage of seniors in its population among all Canadian regions. As of July 2008, Nova Scotia had the highest number of seniors in Canada (15.4 percent) and was the first to have more seniors than youth (population aged 15 and younger). New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island also had comparable percentages of seniors in their populations (15.2 and 15.1, respectively). Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest median age (42.5 years) and the lowest proportion of youth (at around 15 percent) in the country.

Population decline and population aging can have at least six economic consequences for the region:

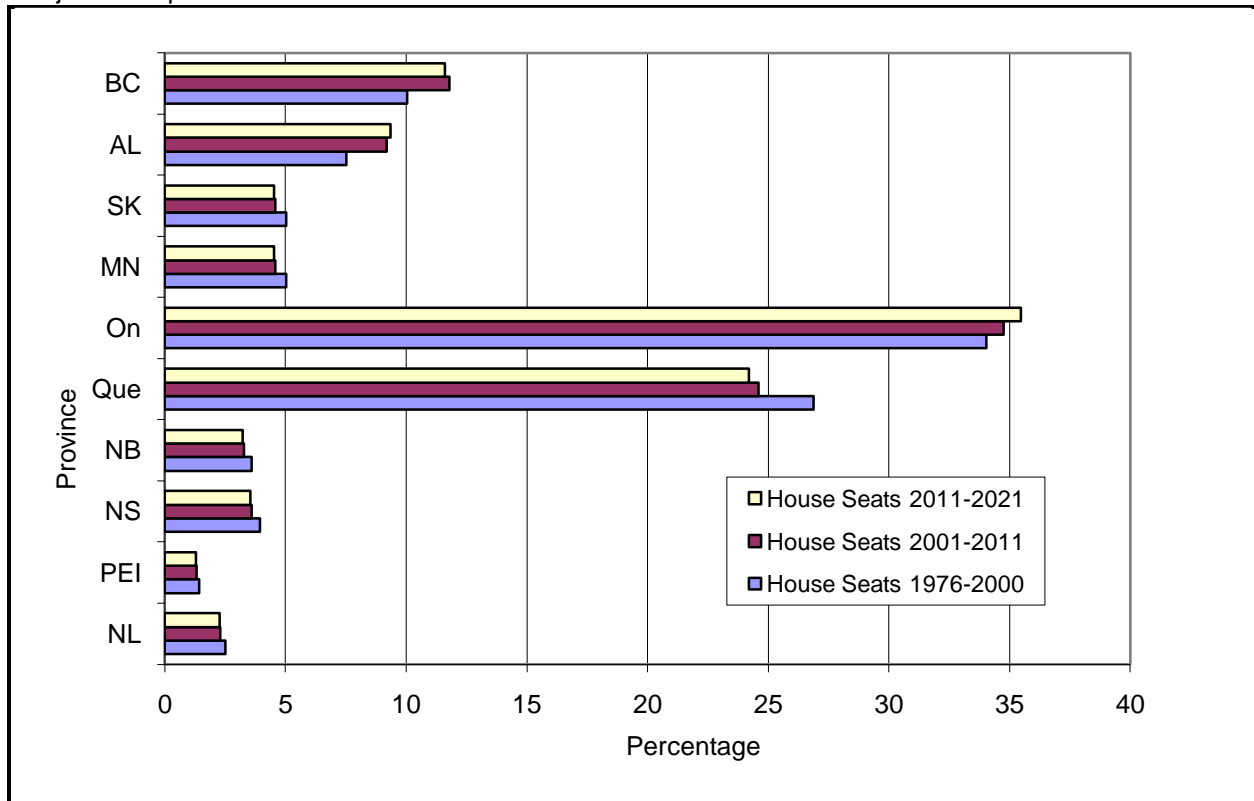
1. Population decline can lead to the creation of policies for restructuring the economy to provide the goods and services demanded by a growing elderly population. However, such restructuring cannot have a long-lasting effect since the death rate is soon expected to exceed the birth rate in Atlantic Canada (Chart 2).
2. An aging population can result in fewer labour force participants, thereby causing shortages of different types of labour demanded by employers in the region. For example, Skills Compétences Canada (date unknown) identifies shortages of construction workers, especially bricklayers and electricians, in Atlantic Canada. Shortages of professionals such as health care providers in the region are also well established.
3. An aging population can also create increased pressure on younger labour force participants to provide the social programs for the elderly (for example, higher contributions to Canada / Quebec Pension Plans and higher taxes).
4. Population decline can result in shrinking markets for goods and services, thereby creating an adverse impact on incentives for business investments.
5. Population decline also means a decline of federal funds transfers to the region because these are determined by population size.
6. As noted in a study published by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (2007b), rural Atlantic Canada has been affected the most by regional population decline. This phenomenon is of concern because most natural resource-based industries are located in rural Atlantic Canada. When populations decline, the cost of public, as well as private, services does not adjust immediately, and there is a point below which base costs cannot go regardless of population size. As a result, the economic feasibility of providing such services becomes questionable. Losses of hospitals and mail and banking services, as well as consolidation of schools in rural Atlantic Canada, have become more and more common. Closure of public and private services further accelerates rural population decline as people move closer to metropolitan areas in search of those services.

Another potential consequence of population decline that can also indirectly have an adverse economic impact in the region is the weakening political representation of each province in the Canadian House of Commons. According to the *Constitution Act* of 1985, each province's representation is based on its population size. A "Grandfather" clause, however, protects each province from losing seats in the House below its 1976 level. This method of determining a province's number of seats in the House implies that as the population of a province grows, not only would the number of seats allocated to that province but also its total number of seats in the House above its 1976 level. In turn, proportionate representation of other provinces, whose population either remains stable or falls, would decline.

A study published by the C.D. Howe Institute (Tomlin, 2007) notes the current imbalance in provincial representations in the House of Commons that has resulted from population imbalance among the provinces. The study also projects that if the current uneven trends in population growth rates across provinces continue, the imbalance in provincial representations will worsen by 2021. As Chart 3 shows, each Atlantic province had less than 4 percent of the total seats in the House of Commons in 1976. By 2021, declining population is projected to further weaken this representation.

The negative economic consequences of population decline and aging have not gone unnoticed by policymakers in Atlantic Canada. Each province has launched a population strategy to help reverse its negative demographic trends. Increasing the provincial share of annual Canadian immigrant inflows is an important component of this strategy. Separate government departments have been formed with the mandate to increase 1) the level of skilled worker immigration as a way to deal with skill shortages, and 2) the retention rate of annual immigrant inflows, which has been low in most Atlantic provinces since the mid-1990s. Each government is now 1) a signatory to a Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), a federal-provincial bilateral agreement that allows each participating Canadian province to target and recruit immigrants to meet its own particular needs and who are then fast-tracked through the system by CIC, and 2) collaborating with other provincial governments in the region and federal departments to

Chart 3: Provincial Representations in the Canadian House of Commons Based on Current Rules and Projected Population Growth Rates



Source: Table A3.

develop promotional material, participate in overseas marketing missions, conduct research, assess and recognize foreign credentials, and share information.

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), a federal government agency with a regional economic development mandate, also recognizes the importance of immigration in the economic development of the region. ACOA works closely with the region's governments, as well as with settlement organizations, to facilitate the

settlement and integration of immigrants. ACOA has also established an Atlantic Population Table with representation from the CIC, Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD), and the four Atlantic provincial governments. Another department of the federal government, the Rural Secretariat, has investigated a rural re-population strategy, with immigrant settlement in rural regions as one component of rural economic development.

With the above policy and community initiatives undertaken in Atlantic Canada and the observed demographic changes in its population, immigration will be playing an enhanced role in both the region’s population growth and its economic development. As a result, issues relating to the social and economic impacts of immigration, which are often raised in public circles in the immigrant-abundant regions of western and central Canada, are expected to occupy a central place in public policy discussions in this region as well. Some of those issues include the impacts of immigrants on the public treasury, poverty, employment and the wages of the native-born and surface more in public debates during periods of economic downturn such as the current one.

This project is an effort to build a broader and deeper stock of knowledge relating to the many economic issues that increased immigration to Atlantic Canada raises. This information will provide input to immigration policy discussions and design. It will also be useful for policymakers, immigrant settlement organizations, and academic researchers in the region who may wish to pursue some immigration-related issues in greater depth. The primary focus of this report is on the role of immigration in promoting economic growth and development in the region.

III. IMMIGRATION TRENDS IN ATLANTIC Canada

Unlike some provinces, such as Ontario, the Atlantic provinces are immigrant scarce; immigrants comprise less than 4 percent of the regional population compared to the national average of about 18 percent (Table 2).

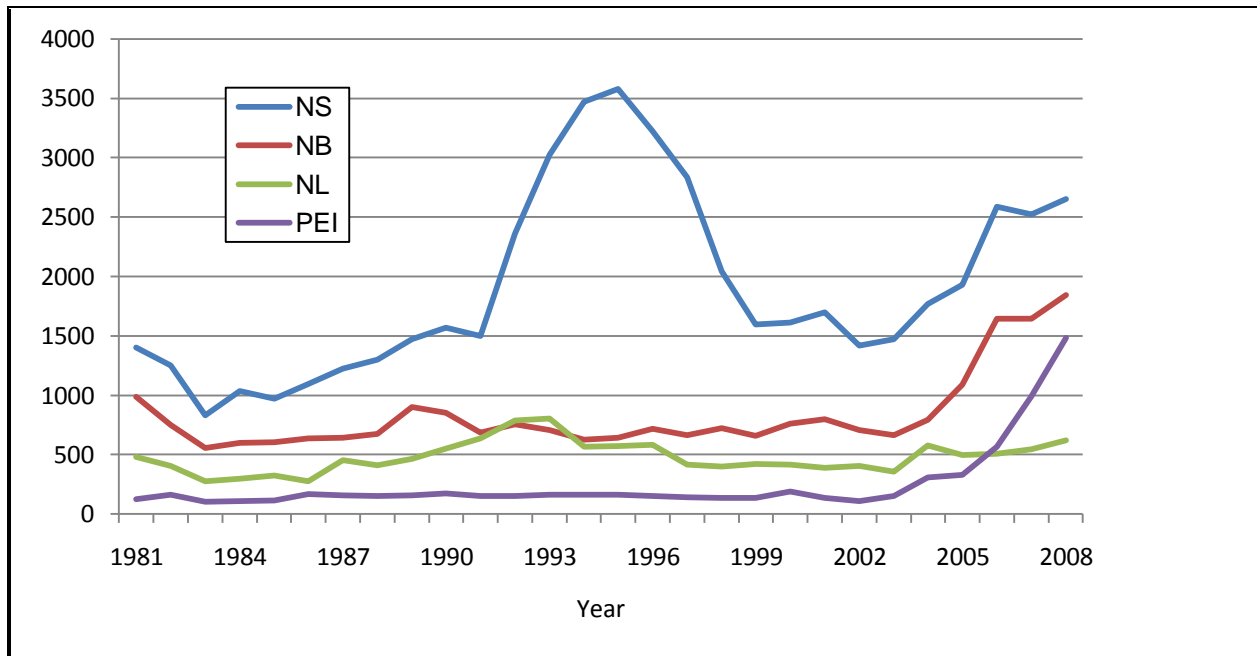
| Table 2: Immigrant status of population in Atlantic Canada, 1981 to 2006 censuses. | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Year | Total Population | Non-Immigrants | Immigrants | Immigrants in total Population (%) |
| 1981 | 2,214,140 | 2,130,015 | 84,125 | 3.80 |
| 1991 | 2,299,480 | 2,223,825 | 75,655 | 3.29 |
| 2001 | 2,258,750 | 2,182,790 | 75,960 | 3.36 |
| 2006 | 2,257,550 | 2,172,795 | 84,755 | 3.75 |

Source: Statistics Canada, catalogue no. 97-557-XCB2006006.

The region also receives a small share of annual immigrant inflows to Canada. In 2008, while its population was about 7.2 percent of the total Canadian population, Atlantic Canada was the destination of only 2.9 percent of immigrants who arrived in Canada. This was, nonetheless, the highest share since 1997. Chart 4 provides trends in immigrant inflows into the four Atlantic provinces for the period 1981-2008.

Nova Scotia is the most popular destination. During the mid-1990s, Nova Scotia experienced a sudden rise in its immigrant inflows, reaching a peak at about 3,600 in 1995 from about 1,500 in 1991. This dramatic rise took place soon after the first Gulf War, which resulted in the emigration of Palestinians and several expatriate groups from Kuwait and its neighbouring countries and had some specific reasons (see box entitled The Rise and Fall of Immigration in Nova Scotia in the 1990s, page 13). Towards the end of 1990s, however, annual inflows to the province returned to their early 1990s level, averaging at about 1,700. Immigrant inflows in the other three provinces remained relatively stable during the 1981-2002 period.

Chart 4: Immigrants (Principal Applicants and Dependents) Destined for each Atlantic Province, 1981-2008



Source: Table A4

Since 2002, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have been welcoming increasing numbers of immigrants each year. Growth has been slower in Newfoundland and Labrador but appears to have picked up since 2007. These increases may be largely attributed to deliberate attempts at government and community levels to attract and retain immigrants in the region. The introduction of the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is one example as it allows provinces and territories to nominate immigrants who have specific qualities that will contribute to the local economy. Under this agreement, each province nominates candidates who want to work and live in that province. Nominees must meet federal admissibility requirements, such

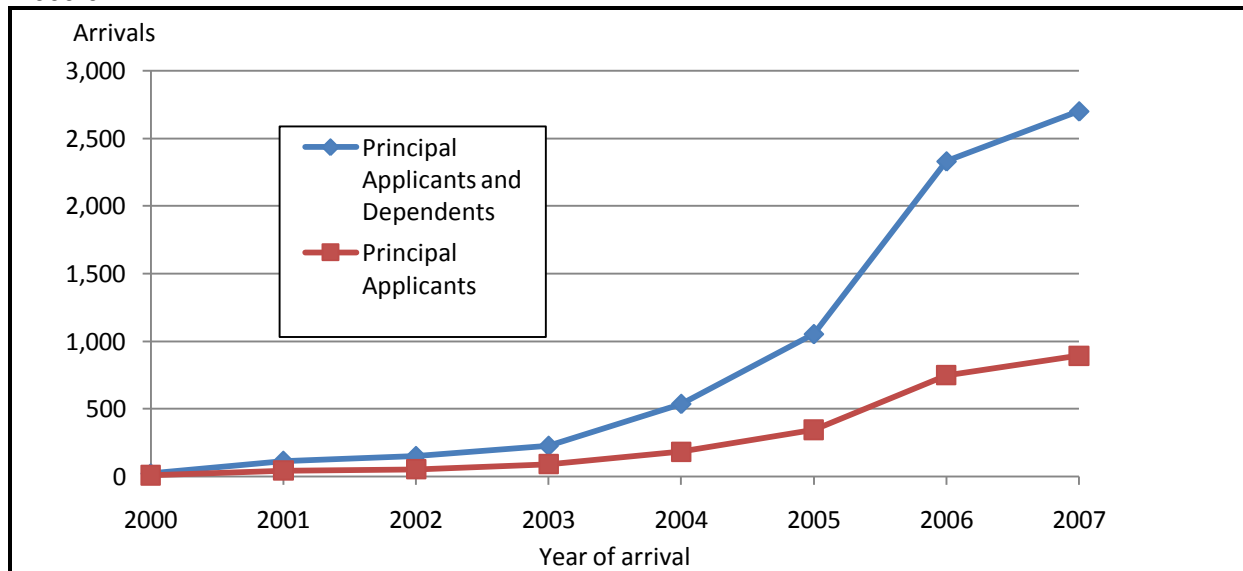
as those related to health, criminality and security. As a part of the agreement, local communities can also identify an immigrant nominee to fulfill their own labour market needs. As Table 3 shows, New Brunswick was the first province to enter such an agreement in 1999. Different provinces entered the agreement with the federal government at different dates, initially for a limited term, but now each has been granted indefinite extensions to its original agreements.

| | Date Signed | Expiry Date |
|--|---|-------------|
| <i>Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on Provincial Nominees</i> | January 28, 2005 Amended: March 29, 2005 (Original signed in February 1999) | Indefinite |
| <i>Agreement for Canada-Prince Edward Island on Immigration</i> | March 29, 2001 Extended: March 2007 | Indefinite |
| <i>Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on Provincial Nominees</i> | August 27, 2002 Extended: September 2007 | Indefinite |
| <i>Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Provincial Nominees</i> | September 1, 1999 Extended: December 1, 2005 and 2006 | Indefinite |

Source: CIC (retrieved from www.cic.gc.ca on March 20, 2009) and information gathered from individual provinces.

Chart 5 data show that since 2000, annual immigrant arrivals under PNPs have been on the rise and that on average, each provincial nominee in Atlantic Canada brings about three dependents.

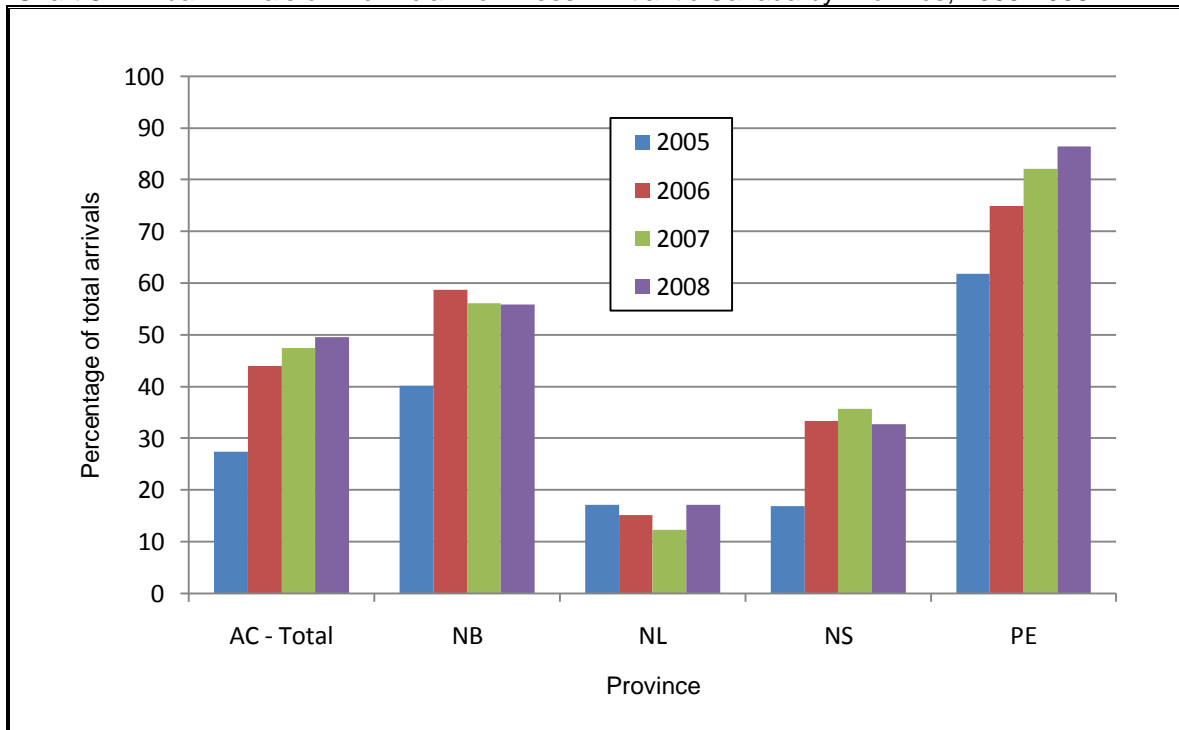
Chart 5: Annual Arrivals of Immigrants in Atlantic Canada under the Provincial Nominee Program, 2000-07



Source: Table A5

The nominee share of annual immigrant arrivals varies across provinces. Chart 6 shows the percentages of provincial nominees (principal applicants and dependents) in annual arrivals for Atlantic Canada and for each province since 2005. The region has experienced a consistent rise in the share of provincial nominees in its total immigrant arrivals since 2005, and in 2008 alone, about half the immigrants destined to the region came as provincial nominees. Prince Edward Island received the highest percentage of its immigrants as provincial nominees each year, totaling about 86 percent in 2008. Newfoundland and Labrador received under 20 percent as provincial nominees each year, the lowest among all provinces. Most arrivals in New Brunswick since 2006 were also provincial nominees, while their percentages in Nova Scotia were modest.

Chart 6: Annual Arrivals of Provincial Nominees in Atlantic Canada by Province, 2005-2008



Source: Table A6

In sum, the new immigration to Atlantic Canada can be viewed as more “job-oriented” than in the past. Larger numbers of immigrants now arrive in Atlantic Canada with job offers in hand than in the past, mainly due to the introduction of the PNP. As recent immigrant attraction and retention initiatives continue, the recent rising trends of immigrant arrivals are expected to be sustainable as a critical mass of immigrant population develops in the region. The presence of an immigrant population has been an important source of immigrant attraction to larger provinces, such as Ontario. The current rise in immigrant retention can also be attributed to the rising inflow of provincial nominees, which a more systematic research study should further investigate by estimating an econometric model for immigrants’ location choice and whether the rising immigrant trends would have been observed even without the introduction of the PNP.

The Rise and Fall of Immigration in Nova Scotia in the 1990s

In the aftermath of the first Gulf War, many Palestinian and expatriate groups living in Kuwait and in its neighboring countries started to leave. Rising emigration from the Middle East caught the attention of some aggressive immigration consultants, who began to promote Nova Scotia as a province that has a more conservative family lifestyle, is safer than big Canadian cities, and has nationally ranked educational institutions. As a result, immigration peaked at 3,600 in 1995 and remained close to 3,000 per year until 1997 (see Charts 1 and 2). Most of the immigrants from the Middle East came as business class immigrants. The federal entrepreneur program at the time had fairly relaxed requirements (start a business within two years and employ one Canadian). Many immigration consultants even helped clients write business plans so that they could get into the country. However, many of these immigrants were actually professionals with no prior business experience but were told by consultants that it would be easy to do business in Nova Scotia. They had the money to invest, and Nova Scotia appealed to them. However, they encountered the following problems:

- Many found that there were not as many business opportunities and settled for small retail operations, which they could not manage properly.
- Even those with some business experience had mostly done international trade (import/export business), which was not a lucrative business in Nova Scotia.
- Incomplete or erroneous information was provided by consultants about business opportunities in the province.

As a result, many immigrants started to leave the province and may have also advised potential newcomers not to immigrate to Nova Scotia. By 1999, the province had returned to its pre-1991 level of annual immigrant inflows.

In 2002, the federal government, concerned about the abuses of the system, changed the entrepreneur program drastically, requiring, among other things, recent entrepreneurial experience, a large initial investment, and more direct involvement in the business to be eligible under the program. As a result, business immigration to the province, which had already declined significantly since the 1990s, has now dropped to below its 1981 level. The federal government has also taken major steps to monitor immigration consultant activity throughout the country

The consultants' attention was also diverted away from business immigrants when Nova Scotia signed PNP agreements with the federal government in 2002.

Source: Based on information collected from Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association (Halifax).

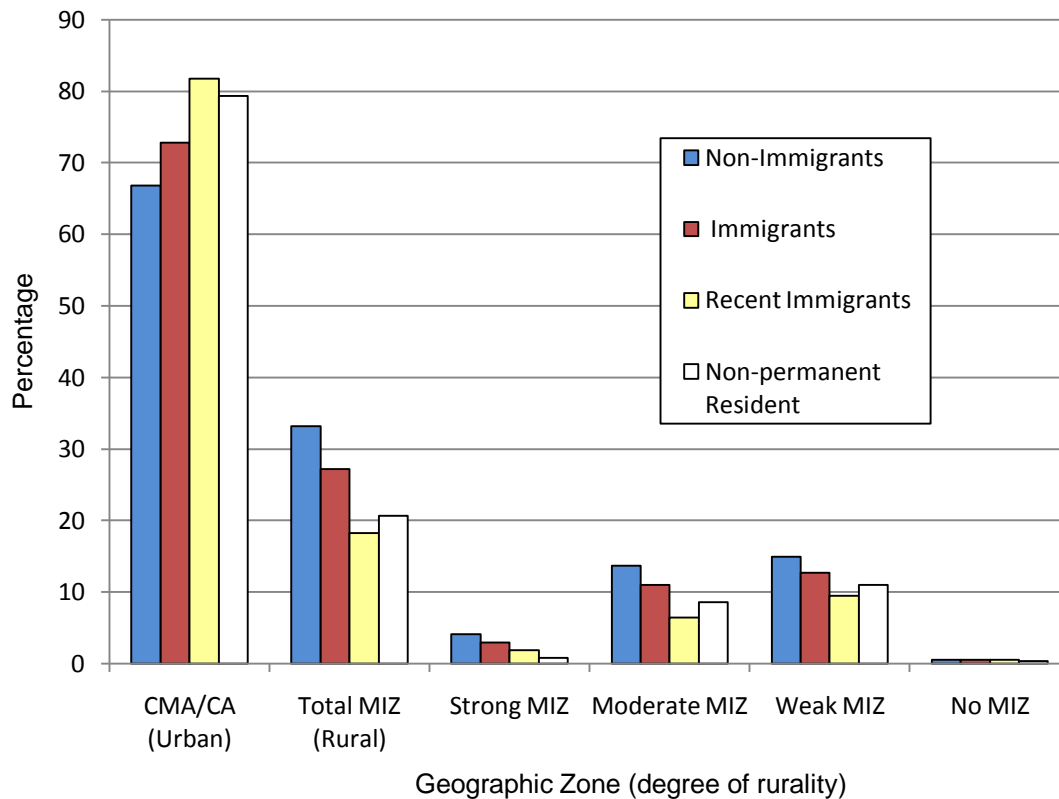
IV. THE RURAL-URBAN SETTLEMENT PATTERN OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION

Immigrants to Canada tend to prefer urban regions to rural ones. Updated census data reveal that in 2006, immigrants made up about 30 percent of the population living in census metropolitan areas compared with 7 percent of the population living in Canada's rural areas and small towns. (These numbers are based on OECD definitions of rural and urban, according to which the corresponding numbers were 27 and 6 percent in 2001). This urban trend was intensified by immigrants who had arrived since 1986 because they made up just 1.6 percent of the predominantly rural regional population but more than 15 percent of the predominantly urban regional population. Between 2001 and 2006, about 31,075 new immigrants settled in rural areas of Canada, representing only 0.5 percent of all people living in rural areas and small towns in Canada. During the same period, about 4.3 percent of those living in larger urban centres were new immigrants (Beshiri and He, 2009).

Declining rural population trends can cause 1) a decline of natural resource industries, such as agriculture and mining, 2) a decline in public and private services in rural regions, and 3) increased pressures on the provision of services in metropolitan (urban) areas as the rural population moves there. Federal and provincial governments have responded by adopting rural re-population strategies. One component is the initiative to attract immigrants to rural regions using PNPs and community-based initiatives as tools to achieve this goal. Some authors (for example, Broadway, 2007) have noted immigrant integration into the economies of communities that have established local services for an immigrant population.

Chart 7 shows the urban-rural distributions of immigrant and non-immigrant populations in Atlantic Canada as revealed by the 2006 census. Following Statistics Canada definitions, a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) and Census Agglomeration Area (CA) are considered to be urban. Based on the Metropolitan (CMA and CA) Influenced Zones (MIZ) classification system, rural regions are divided into four categories: strong MIZ, moderate MIZ, weak MIZ, and no MIZ. Each category represents a specific degree of "rurality," with strong MIZ being the least rural and no MIZ being the most rural. This type of categorization has proven useful for developing the profiles because they highlight differences between types of rural-based labour market integration as a basis for rurality. (Chuck, Puderer and Janes, 2000 provide a detailed explanation of the MIZ classification system.)

Chart 7: Population Distribution in Atlantic Canada, 2006



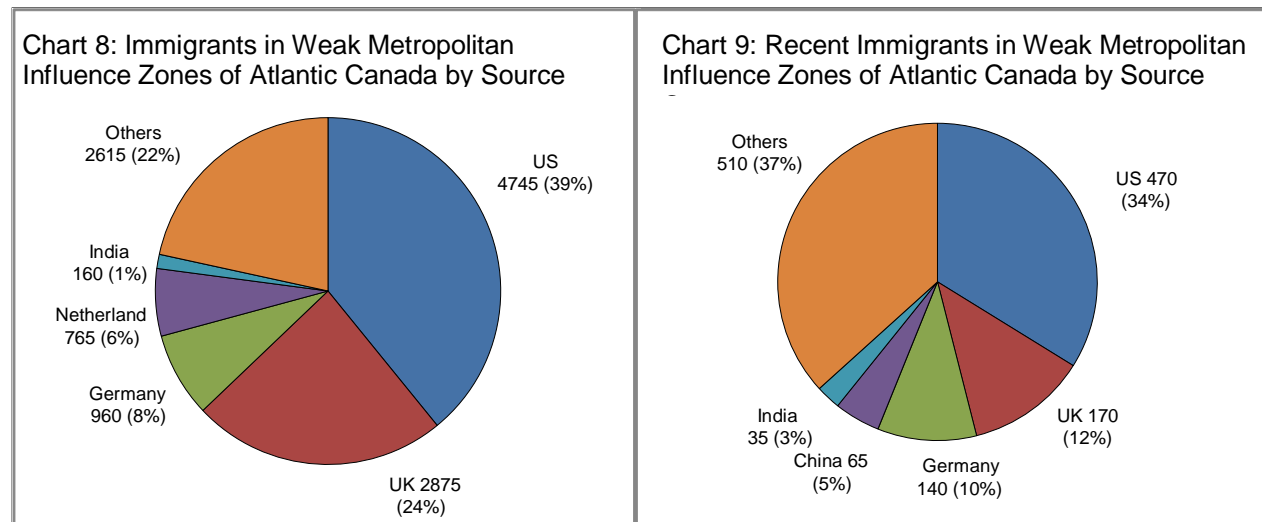
Source: Table A7. Note: Statistics Canada has adjusted the MIZ data by redefining some CMA boundaries. Therefore, data presented in this report cannot be directly compared with the 2001 census-based data as provided in Akbari, Lynch, McDonald and Rankaduwa (2007).

As shown in Chart 7, about 33 percent of Atlantic Canadians lived in rural areas at the time of the 2006 census (roughly the same percentage as in 2001, according to revised data). Therefore, any change in the composition of the rural population in the total population is expected to significantly impact the region's economy. As expected, a larger percentage of immigrants (73 percent) lives in urban Atlantic Canada than non-immigrants (67 percent). However, about 27 percent of all immigrants and 18 percent of recent immigrants also choose to live in rural areas. This indicates that such areas can be destinations of new immigrants. Interestingly, about half of recent immigrants who choose to live in rural areas go to those with high degrees of rurality (i.e., weak MIZ).

The chart also includes the distribution of non-permanent residents whose likelihood to settle in rural areas is higher than that of recent immigrants. Most of these non-permanent residents are temporary foreign workers, who are recruited to work in specific jobs for which non-immigrants are not available. These jobs could be in fishing, agriculture, or in care-giving to the elderly. The non-permanent residents who settle in urban areas also include international students enrolled in universities.

For more insights, Charts 8 and 9 provide a breakdown of immigrants and recent immigrants, respectively, who live in highly rural areas (weak MIZ) by the top five source countries: the United States, three western European countries, and India. This is different from the 2001 census, which showed the United States and four Western European countries (United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the Netherlands) to be among the top five source countries of immigrants resident in weak MIZ areas. The composition of recent immigrants is different but nevertheless is the same as in the 2001 census. Chinese immigrants represent a higher percentage than do Indian immigrants among recent arrivals. However, their percentage among overall immigrants is still lower. In sum, the overall shift in source country composition of immigrant inflows to Canada (to be discussed in Section VII) is also felt in rural regions but perhaps not so remarkably as in urban regions as evidenced by the continued dominance of American and Europeans among recent arrivals heading towards rural areas.

We do not have data on the labour market characteristics of immigrants living in rural areas. However, anecdotal evidence (based on discussions with the Rural Secretariat and some community organizations) suggests that most American and western European immigrants are engaged in various occupations, for example, farming, the hotel industry, retail, and professional occupations. Many involved in farming were attracted to Atlantic Canada because of the highly competitive land prices. Also, recent immigrants from India and China may have come under the PNP aimed at meeting the shortages of professionals in rural areas. Among them, Indian immigrants are located mainly in Newfoundland and Labrador, while Chinese immigrants are mostly found in Nova Scotia. The Statistics Canada study cited above (Beshiri and He, 2009) found that the share of Asian immigrants in rural zones of Atlantic Canada equals or surpasses that of eastern and southern Europeans. The study also found that recent immigrants are more mobile than non-immigrants, being more likely to move into and out of rural areas, especially in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in Atlantic Canada.



Note: Top five source countries are considered.
Source: Table A8.

V. AGE DISTRIBUTION AMONG NEW IMMIGRANTS

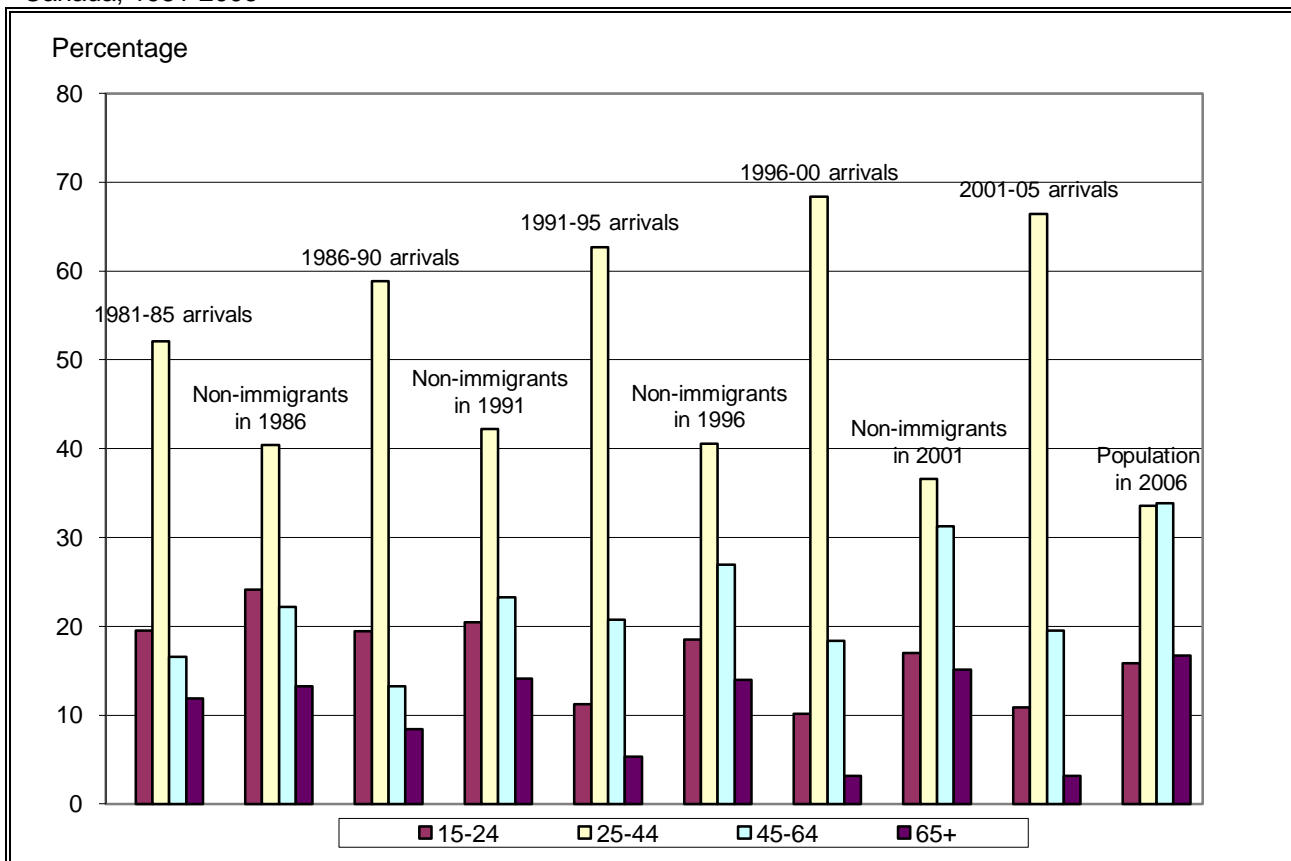
It is usually the young who migrate because young individuals can reap the benefits of their migration investment for a longer time at their destination than can the old. The young are also usually healthier and more energetic.

Chart 10 confirms that immigrants to Atlantic Canada are indeed younger than non-immigrants at the time of arrival (those who arrived within a given five-year period). Most immigrants and non-immigrants are aged 25-44, the prime working age group. However, the non-immigrants in this age group as a share of total population has been declining since 1991, and by 2006, the same share fell below that of the 45-64 age group, which is considered to be close to retirement age. On the other hand, since 1991, more than 60 percent of immigrants arriving in Atlantic Canada have been in their prime working age.

Chart 10 also reveals the overall aging trend of the Atlantic population. The share of non-immigrants aged 65 and over has been rising throughout the period, while the share of youth (aged 15-24) has been declining. These trends partly reflect declining birth rates, as discussed in Section II. In addition, more and more immigrants are arriving in this region with fewer elderly. The share of youth arrivals listed is lower because these data list only principal applicants.

The results of this section indicate that immigration can be used to 1) meet the labour shortages in the region, and 2) reverse the aging trend in the Atlantic population. However, the present levels of immigration are too low to help offset the aging trend of the region's population. Therefore, research is needed to determine what level of immigration would reverse the aging trend among Atlantic Canadians over the next ten years.

Chart 10: Age Distribution of New Immigrants (Principal Applicants) and Non-immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006



Source: Table A9. Note: Data reported for population aged 15 and over.

VI. COMPOSITION OF IMMIGRANT CLASSES

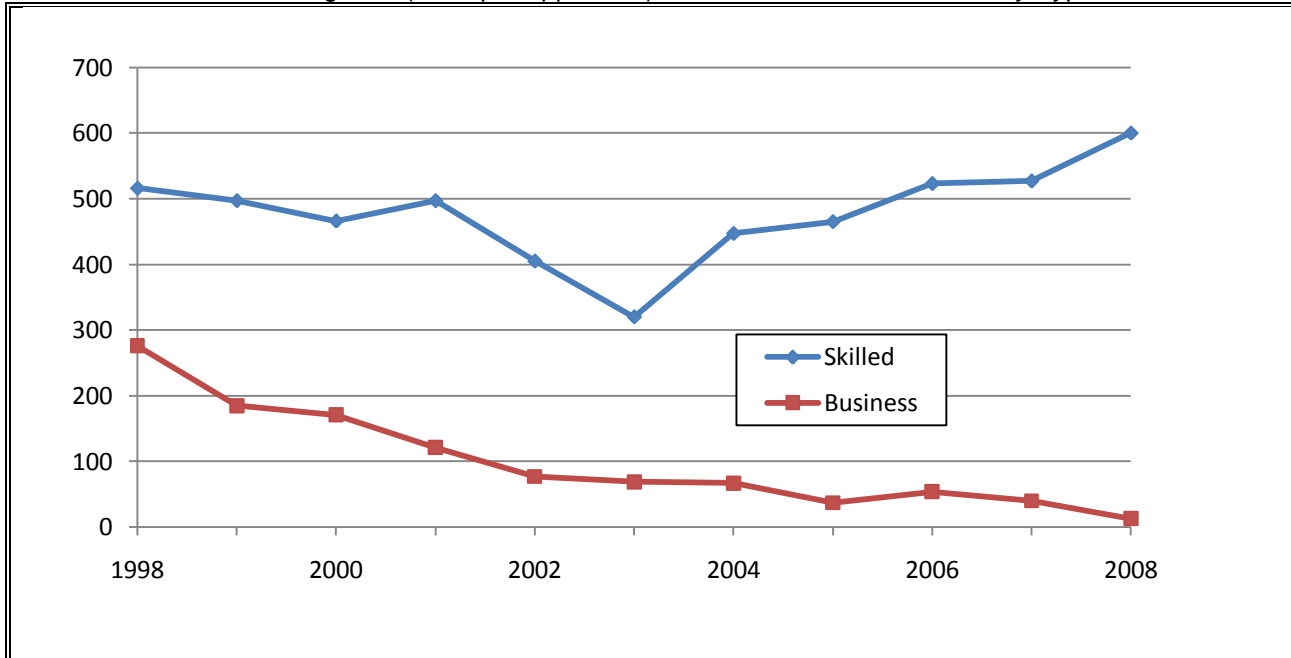
Immigrants come to Canada under different classes, and applications filed under each class are evaluated under different eligibility rules. **Refugee class** immigration reflects Canada's commitment to humanitarian principles, while **family class** immigration is intended to foster family re-unification, that is, facilitating the process of individuals entering Canada to join close relatives who are already permanent residents/citizens. **Economic immigrants**, on the other hand, are those expected to make a direct positive economic contribution to Canada through the skills, expertise, entrepreneurship, or capital they bring with them. The economic class category itself comprises two major sub-categories: skilled workers and business immigrants. In this study, the primary (but by no means exclusive) focus is on economic immigrants.

Table A1 (Appendix) provides data on the annual inflows of immigrants in Atlantic Canada by class. These data are for principal applicants and their dependents and show that the numbers of immigrants entering under the economic class exceed those of family class immigrants throughout the period. However, when one considers only principal applicants in economic class, their numbers are much smaller. Economic class immigrants' data can be further divided into two sub-classes, skilled workers and

business immigrants, which, in turn, can also be reported separately for principal applicants, as has been done in Chart 11 below, which shows data since 1998.

Since 2003, the Atlantic region has experienced a continuous rise in its annual inflow of skilled immigrants and a decline in business immigrants. In fact, business immigration into the region has been declining since 1998. In 2008, only 13 new business immigrants were destined to Atlantic Canada, while in 1998, close to 300 business immigrants were destined there. Section III provided information on the abrupt rise in business immigration in Nova Scotia in the mid-1990s and then their sudden fall. The region’s inability to attract business class immigrants directly from abroad needs to be investigated. However, as will be shown in Table 5, business immigrants also move to Atlantic Canada from other regions of Canada. For example, during 1990-2004, the region attracted 115 business immigrants from other regions of Canada who had landed there during that period, a number equal to about 63 percent of those directly destined to the region.

Chart 11: Economic Immigrants (Principal Applicants) Destined to Atlantic Canada by Type, 1998-2008



Source: Table A10.

VII. IMMIGRANT SOURCE COUNTRIES

Since the early 1970s, Canada has experienced a shift in the source country mix of its immigrants from the countries of western Europe to those of Asia, Africa, and South and Central America (see box entitled Shifting Source Regions of Immigrants to Canada).

Change in the source of immigrants has become more prominent in Atlantic Canada only since the 1990s, when China and some countries of the Middle East entered the list of top five immigrant source countries (Table 4). As discussed previously, the entry of

Middle Eastern countries in the 1990s can be attributed to the first Gulf War, which adversely affected some groups and prompted them to leave their countries of residence. These countries became more prominent in the list of top five source countries in the 1990s, when both principal applicants and dependents were considered, likely due to the larger family sizes of immigrants originating from there.

In recent years, the prominence of Middle Eastern immigrants among the top five source countries has diminished; instead, China has consistently been on the top of the list. The United States and the United Kingdom (despite the general fall in immigrant inflows from western Europe to Canada since the 1970s) are permanent members of this list, which is probably due to their traditional ties to Canadian society, shared history, common language, and nearness. The presence of the large immigrant population that came from those countries in the past may be another factor attracting them to the region. The inclusion of Korea and Iran on the list of top five source countries of immigrants is also worth noting.

Finally, it is also noteworthy that the top five source countries of immigrants have formed less than half of total immigrant inflows to the region for most of the period under study. This means that immigrants to the region also arrive in small numbers from diverse source countries.

Shifting Source Regions of Immigrants to Canada

In 1961, the Canadian government abolished the “preferred country” clause, which had given preference to immigrants from western European countries. This clause had formed the basis of a 1910 Immigration Act. With the abolishment of this clause, all immigrant applications are now evaluated using a “point system” under which importance is given to such criteria as an applicant’s age, education, suitability for the Canadian labour market, and presence of family members in Canada, regardless of country of origin. The new rules were fully promulgated in 1967. One reason for this change was that Canadians wanted to play a greater role on the international front in the post-World War II era. Another reason was that the economic prosperity that followed soon after the war resulted in an increased demand for skilled labour.

The period of the early 1960s was also a time when economic conditions in Europe, adversely affected by World War II, had begun to improve. More labour was in demand and incomes were rising. As a result, immigration from Europe to North America generally slowed down. It slowed further with the formation of the European Union and the re-unification of Germany, which allowed for greater mobility of workers within Europe.

A consequence of the above changes, as well as of the greater mobility of workers in a globalized world and continuing political discourse in the third world countries, has been a shift in source countries of Canada’s immigrant inflows from the countries of western Europe to those of Asia, Africa, and South and Central America over the past three decades.

| Table 4: Top five source countries of immigrants destined for Atlantic Canada, by year, 1981-2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| Period | 1981-1985 | | 1986-1990 | | 1991-1995 | | 1996-2001 | | 2002-2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
| | Country | Count | Country | Count | Country | Count | Country | Count | Country | Count | Country | Count | Country | Count |
| Principal Applicants & Dependents | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rank | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | USA | 3284 | USA | 2620 | Egypt | 1519 | China | 1948 | China | 1,919 | China | 924 | China | 1,342 |
| 2 | UK | 1931 | UK | 1606 | USA | 1510 | Kuwait | 1629 | USA | 1,488 | Korea | 621 | Korea | 726 |
| 3 | Vietnam | 748 | Poland | 693 | Kuwait | 1247 | Jordan | 828 | UK | 1,184 | UK | 537 | UK | 551 |
| 4 | Poland | 331 | Vietnam | 617 | Hong Kong | 1224 | Korea | 783 | Korea | 1091 | US | 394 | US | 534 |
| 5 | Germany | 321 | Lebanon | 444 | Saudi Arabia | 887 | Saudi Arabia | 677 | Iran | 246 | Iran | 261 | Iran | 282 |
| Total for 5 countries | | 6615 | | 5980 | | 6387 | | 5865 | | 5928 | | 2737 | | 3435 |
| Total arrivals | | 11398 | | 13340 | | 21495 | | 20841 | | 17886 | | 5704 | | 6593 |

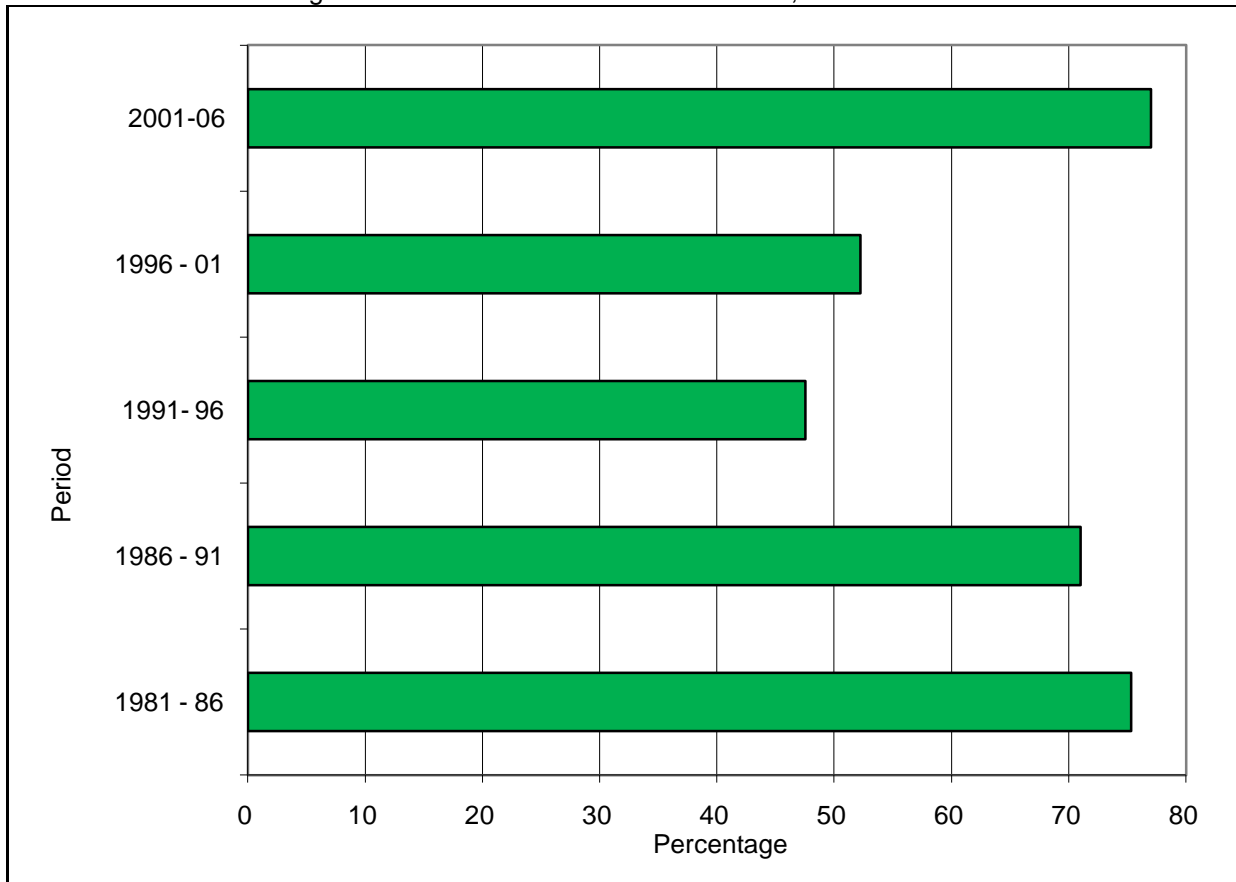
Source: From 1981 to 2004, Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS) micro-data as provided to AMC under contract with CIC. Principal applicant is based on variable "f_stat2", and source country is based on variable "f_clpr". For the post 2004 years, CIC [Facts and Figures 2008](#) (special tabulations).

VIII. IMMIGRANT RETENTION IN ATLANTIC CANADA

It is now well known that most immigrants who arrive in Canada aim to settle in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Reasons for attraction to these provinces include greater economic opportunities, existence of larger immigrant populations from the source countries of recent immigrants, and larger family networks than those offered by smaller provinces. Even many immigrants whose initial destination is a different province eventually end up in one of these four major provinces. As a result, smaller provinces, such as those of Atlantic Canada that wish to increase their share in total immigrant inflows, face the two-fold challenge of not only attracting, but also retaining, new immigrants.

In this study, immigrant retention rates are calculated using two sources: 1) census data combined with annual arrivals data provided by CIC, and 2) the latest available Longitudinal Immigrant Data Base (IMDB, 2005) produced by Statistics Canada and CIC. The IMDB data also help calculate retention rates for each class of immigrants and will be described shortly.

Chart 12: Five-Year Immigrant Retention Rates in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006



Source: Table A11.

Chart 12 provides five-year immigrant retention rates in the Atlantic region. Calculations are based on the number of recent immigrants living in the region (obtained from census data) as a percentage of those destined to the region in a given five-year period (data purchased from CIC based on Facts and Figures, 2008 and Permanent Resident Data System; PRDS, 2005). The number of immigrants living in the region includes those who were initially destined for both Atlantic Canada and for provinces outside the region.

Atlantic Canada had difficulty retaining its new immigrants from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, when the retention rate among recent immigrants plunged from more than 70 percent to about 45 percent. This sharp decline in retention rates may be attributed to the changing composition of immigrant source countries. More immigrants now arrive in Atlantic Canada from non-western European countries and with different ethnicity and language. Once they arrive, they appear to move towards the four major immigrant-receiving provinces, possibly because 1) larger numbers of immigrants originating from their own source countries live in those provinces, 2) larger provinces offer greater economic opportunities, and 3) immigrants arriving in Atlantic Canada face labour market barriers such as language difficulty or discrimination. It would be useful to investigate these reasons in a systematic research study.

In recent years, Atlantic Canadian provinces have begun to adopt new initiatives to increase their immigrant retention rates. For example, Nova Scotia's immigration strategy has a stated objective of raising its retention rate to 70 percent by 2010. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador has also stated this objective in its recently announced immigration strategy, as have New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. To pursue this objective, all provinces now actively provide, among other things, job counseling, help in settlement, and English language training to new immigrants. Some services are provided through immigrant settlement agencies, which receive funding from federal and provincial governments. The need to create more welcoming communities to attract more immigrants to the region is also emphasized in policy circles. Each province has also renewed its provincial nominee agreements with the federal government, as discussed earlier in this report.

The above initiatives have started to show results, as reflected in the immigrant retention rates for 2001-2006 (Chart 12). The retention rate in Atlantic Canada, which had started to rise in the late 1990s, showed a sharp rise at the turn of the present century. About 77 percent of immigrants who arrived in the region during 2001-06 were still living there at the time of the 2006 census. This retention rate exceeds even that of the early 1980s. In fact, all four provinces have experienced an increase in immigrant retention over the previous five-year period. New Brunswick retained the most (91 percent), followed by Nova Scotia (75 percent), Prince Edward Island (72 percent) and Newfoundland and Labrador (59 percent). The rise in retention rates during 2001-06 primarily reflects increased community and government initiatives in all provinces to attract and retain immigrants.

Table 5 shows more detailed data that were used to calculate retention rates by class of immigrants. These calculations are based on the IMDB (2005), compiled by Statistics Canada and CIC. The IMDB is for immigrants destined for a particular Canadian province in a given year who are followed for a period of 15 years in Canada according

to the information they provide while filing their tax returns, which includes province of residence at the time of filing. This database can be used to determine what percentage of immigrants destined for a particular province in a given year were living in another province at the time of filing. While census data allowed us to calculate retention rates without distinguishing between immigrants who may have moved from other provinces to Atlantic Canada, the IMDB data also permit calculations based on only those who were originally destined to Atlantic Canada and were still there in the 2005 taxation year. Separate calculations are also possible for refugees, economic immigrants, family class immigrants, and others. Economic immigrants are further divided into business and skilled immigrants (principal applicants only). Only region-wide data are available due to the small numbers in each of the Atlantic provinces. These data are further divided into different categories of immigrants who arrived in Canada over the period 1990-2004.

| Table 5: Migration of immigrants destined for the Atlantic provinces | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Period of Arrival in Canada: 1990-2004 | | | | | | | |
| | Number of immigrants | | | | | As percentage of numbers destined | | |
| | Resident in 2005 | Destined at landing | Out-migration* | In-migration** | Net out-migration | Out-migration | In-migration | Net out-migration |
| By category | | | | | | | | |
| Family | 4640 | 5645 | 1975 | 970 | 1005 | 34.99 | 17.18 | 17.80 |
| Business (P.A.) | 730 | 1995 | 1,380 | 115 | 1265 | 69.17 | 5.76 | 63.41 |
| Skilled (P.A.) | 3380 | 4305 | 2,520 | 1595 | 925 | 58.54 | 37.05 | 21.49 |
| Other Econ | 4135 | 8905 | 6,285 | 1515 | 4770 | 70.58 | 17.01 | 53.57 |
| Refugee | 2005 | 5660 | 4,050 | 395 | 3655 | 71.55 | 6.98 | 64.58 |
| Other | 855 | 1170 | 495 | 180 | 315 | 42.31 | 15.38 | 26.92 |
| Overall | 15745 | 27680 | 16705 | 4770 | 11935 | 60.35 | 17.23 | 43.12 |
| | Period of Arrival in Canada: 2000-2004 | | | | | | | |
| | Number of immigrants | | | | | As percentage of numbers destined | | |
| | Resident in 2005 | Destined at landing | Out-migration* | In-migration** | Net out-migration | Out-migration | In-migration | Net out-migration |
| By category | | | | | | | | |
| Family | 1910 | 2025 | 410 | 295 | 115 | 20.25 | 14.57 | 5.68 |
| Business (P.A.) | 190 | 260 | 115 | 45 | 70 | 44.23 | 17.31 | 26.92 |
| Skilled (P.A.) | 1700 | 1500 | 675 | 875 | -200 | 45.00 | 58.33 | -13.33 |
| Other Econ | 1510 | 1560 | 730 | 680 | 50 | 46.79 | 43.59 | 3.21 |
| Refugee | 980 | 1795 | 1005 | 190 | 815 | 55.99 | 10.58 | 45.40 |
| Other | 480 | 740 | 300 | 40 | 260 | 40.54 | 5.41 | 35.14 |
| Overall | 6770 | 7880 | 3235 | 2125 | 1110 | 41.05 | 26.97 | 14.09 |

*Those originally destined to Atlantic Canada now residing in other provinces.

**Those originally destined to a province outside of Atlantic Canada now residing in an Atlantic province.

Source: IMDB (2005, Summary Tables). P.A. = Principal Applicant.

Attraction and Retention of International Medical Graduates in Atlantic Canada (some evidence from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador)

Meeting the shortage of doctors in Nova Scotia

In order to meet its shortage of physicians, Nova Scotia uses the Defined License Program. A defined license is issued to international medical graduates (IMGs) to practice as physicians with some conditions. If a doctor has a recognized international medical degree and some post graduation training and certification, the Licensed Medical Council of Canada (LMCC) mandates the qualifications for physicians after they graduate from medical school. They also need a certification in Family Medicine or in a specialty. All applicants in Nova Scotia are assessed by a credential assessment committee set up by the Nova Scotia College of Physicians and Surgeons (NSCPS).

Some of the conditions in a “defined license” include the necessity of having a sponsor and a mentor. A sponsor can be the chief of staff at the district health authority, while the mentor is usually a local doctor with the same specialty. IMGs are also given a specified period of time to get Canadian qualifications.

The NSCPS has placed 28 physicians in rural Nova Scotia since 2005.

As a general rule, internationally trained doctors from British Commonwealth countries have an advantage over physicians trained in South Asia, the Middle East and eastern Europe.

Source: Colchester Regional Development Agency (2009).

Retention of IMGs in Newfoundland and Labrador

During 1997-2000, 157 doctors obtained their licenses in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Of these, 77 were IMGs, 42 were graduates of Memorial University of Newfoundland, and 38 were graduates of other Canadian medical schools. Most IMGs took 15 months to obtain their full license. These doctors were followed in a study until 2004. It was discovered that on average, all three groups of doctors worked in the province for a period of 25 months. Half of both the IMGs and other Canadian medical graduates had left the province after about 22 months. Doctors who graduated from medical school at Memorial University stayed in the province considerably longer: half stayed 39 months before leaving. IMGs with provisional licenses had the same chance to leave the province as other Canadian medical graduates yet made up the largest proportion of new doctors practicing in NL during 1997-2000. Hence, IMGs do, over the short term, meet the need for family doctors in rural areas.

Source: Basky, Mathews, Edwards and Rourke (2007).

Data in Table 5 indicate that most immigrants destined for Atlantic Canada (including those originally destined and those who came from other provinces) during 1990-2004

came as economic immigrants, while those who came as refugees or family class immigrants were evenly divided. Overall, about 60 percent of immigrants originally destined to Atlantic Canada were living outside the region in the 2005 taxation year. However, 17 percent of this loss was offset by in-migration of those originally destined to other Canadian provinces, thereby reducing the net loss of Atlantic Canada to about 43 percent. Refugees had the highest probability of moving out of the region, while family class immigrants had the least.

In sum, in 2005, about 57 percent of immigrants who had arrived in Atlantic Canada over the 15-year period ending in 2004, either directly or from other Canadian provinces, were still living there.

Among those who arrived in Canada during 2000-2004 and came either directly to Atlantic Canada or moved here from other provinces, the retention rate rose to 86 percent in 2005 (as evident in “net-outmigration” rate results). The out-migration rate among all classes was lower than 50 percent except for the refugee class and was lower than for the entire 15-year period (reported in the top panel of Table 5). On the other hand, the in-migration rate (inflows from outside of Atlantic Canada) rose during 2000-2004, with the exception of family class and those classified as “other” in the IMDB. In particular, the region had a net gain of skilled class immigrants from other Canadian provinces. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Defined License Program (DLP) for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) introduced by Nova Scotia has attracted many IMGs to that province from the province of Ontario (see box on page 25). The DLP creates an incentive for an IMG to stay in the province until he/she obtains the license. A Newfoundland and Labrador study has shown that about half of IMGs (as well as Canadian medical graduates) leave within seven months of obtaining their license (see box on page 25). A similar study should be conducted for other provinces to obtain an overall picture for the region.

In sum, both census- and IMDB-based data indicate a rise in immigrant retention in Atlantic Canada (77 percent among all immigrants and 86 percent among tax filers) since the turn of the present century. Notably, however, if one considers only those immigrant tax filers originally destined to Atlantic Canada, the retention rates are lower (40 percent for the 15-year period and 59 percent for the 5-year period, both ending in 2004).

The IMDB-based results are different from the census-based results because 1) census data do not distinguish between principal applicants and their dependents, while IMDB data consider only principal applicants within the economic category, and 2) as noted above, IMDB data are only for those who filed tax returns in 2005. In short, the IMDB data represent a smaller sample of immigrants than do census data.

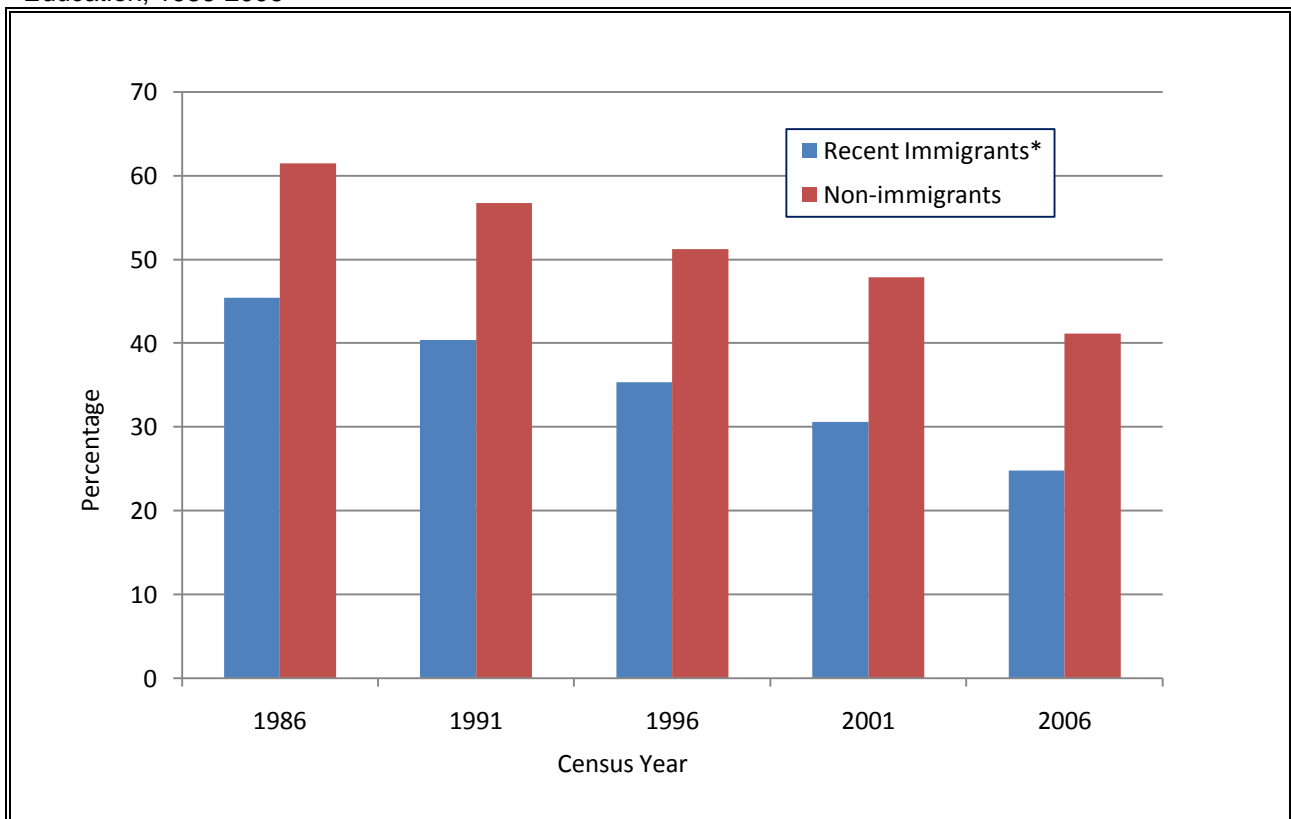
IX. EDUCATION LEVELS AMONG RECENT IMMIGRANTS

Education is an important predictor of economic success. Research has shown that individuals with higher education levels generally experience lower unemployment rates and earn higher incomes than those with lower education levels.

With the introduction of the “point system” in 1967, education has become a key requirement for the success of an immigrant’s application filed under economic class. As a result, educational levels among annual immigrant inflows to Canada have risen. Based on Charts 13 and 14 (below), clearly education levels among immigrant arrivals in Atlantic Canada have also been rising.

Chart 13 shows declining percentages among immigrants who arrived with only a high school or lower level of education. The same trend is observed among non-immigrants. However, throughout the period, lower percentages of new arrivals had only high school or lower education than did non-immigrants.

Chart 13: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada and Non-immigrants with High School or Less Education, 1986-2006



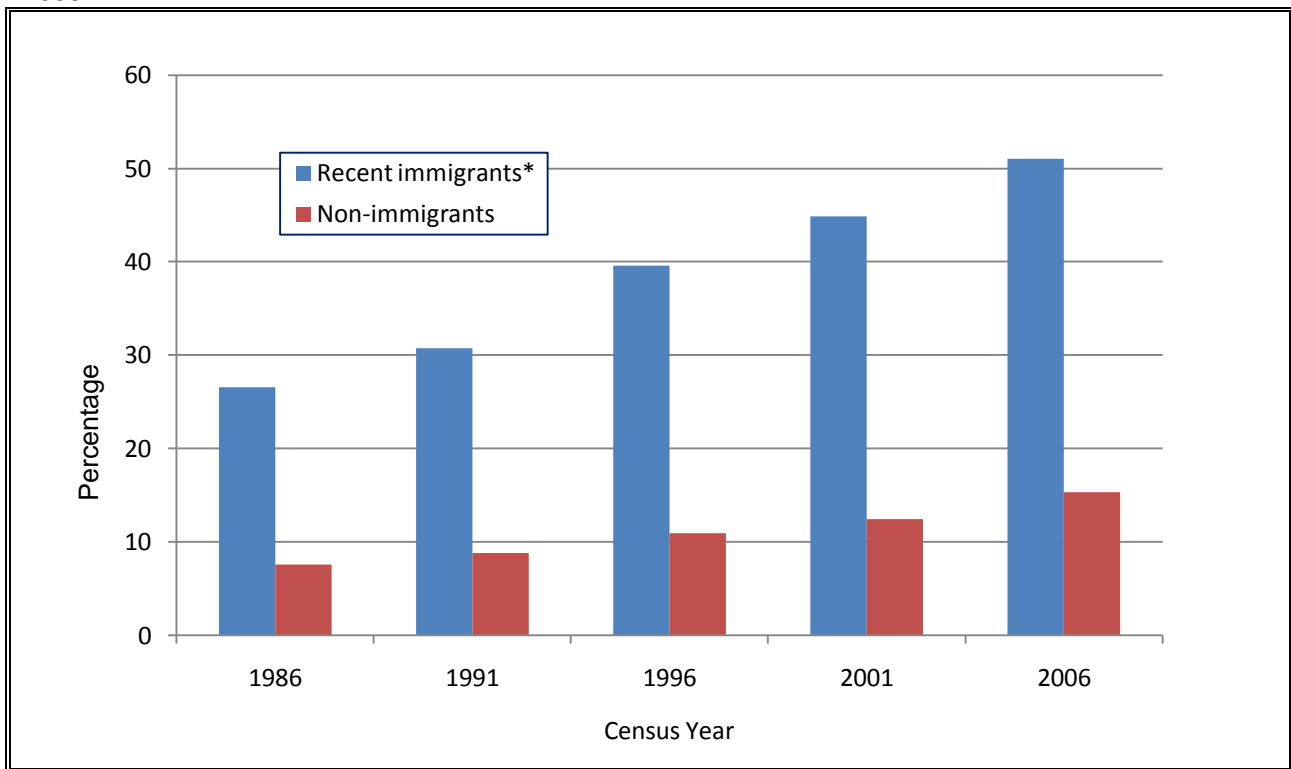
*Those who arrived within five years of the census year and were aged 25 and older at the time of the census.

Source: Table A12.

On the other hand, Chart 14 shows a sharp increase in the percentages of university degree holders among new immigrant arrivals. Although a similar trend is observed for non-immigrants, their percentages have risen slowly and have been below those of recent arrivals throughout the period.

No data are available on non-immigrant degree holders after 2006. According to Statistics Canada (CANSIM, [477-0014](#)), 38,604 new degrees were awarded by Atlantic Canadian universities during 2007-2008. During this two-year period, 3,925 immigrants holding foreign university degrees were destined toward the region, about 10 percent of the total degrees awarded in the region.

Chart 14: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada and Non-immigrants with a University Degree, 1986-2006



*Those who arrived within five years of the census year and were aged 25 and older at the time of the census.

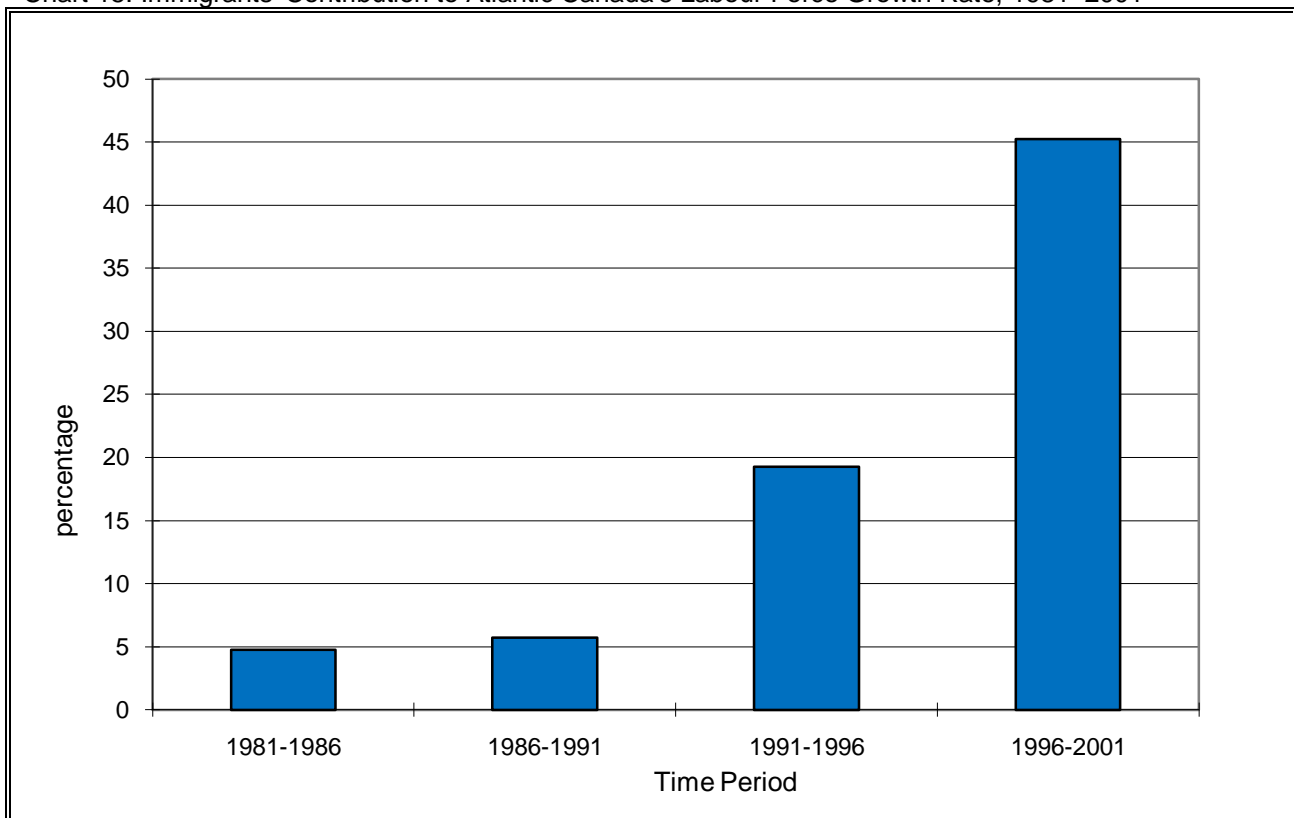
Source: Table A12.

Higher education levels among new immigrant arrivals can predict their labour market success only if their educational credentials are recognized in Canadian labour markets. Studies conducted by Statistics Canada have shown that many new immigrant arrivals in Canada face difficulty finding employment because their foreign educational credentials are not recognized in labour markets, adversely affecting their labour market performance, which makes it necessary to analyze data on the labour market performance of recent immigrants. In the next section we do this analysis for immigrants in Atlantic Canada, as well as analyze immigrants' contribution to labour force growth.

X. IMMIGRANTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE OF ATLANTIC CANADA

Declining population growth in Atlantic Canada has also increased the role of immigration in the growth of its labour force. As Chart 15 shows, labour force participation of new immigrants caused the Atlantic labour force to grow by only about 5 percent in the early 1980s. During 1996-2001, however, new immigrants increased the labour force in this region by about 45 percent, some nine times their earlier contribution. However, the composition of immigrants in the total labour force declined between 1981 and 2001, from 4.5 to 3.6 percent, while increasing nationally from 19 to 20 percent (data not shown here). These results imply a slower growth in the non-immigrant labour force in recent years.

Chart 15: Immigrants' Contribution to Atlantic Canada's Labour Force Growth Rate, 1981–2001



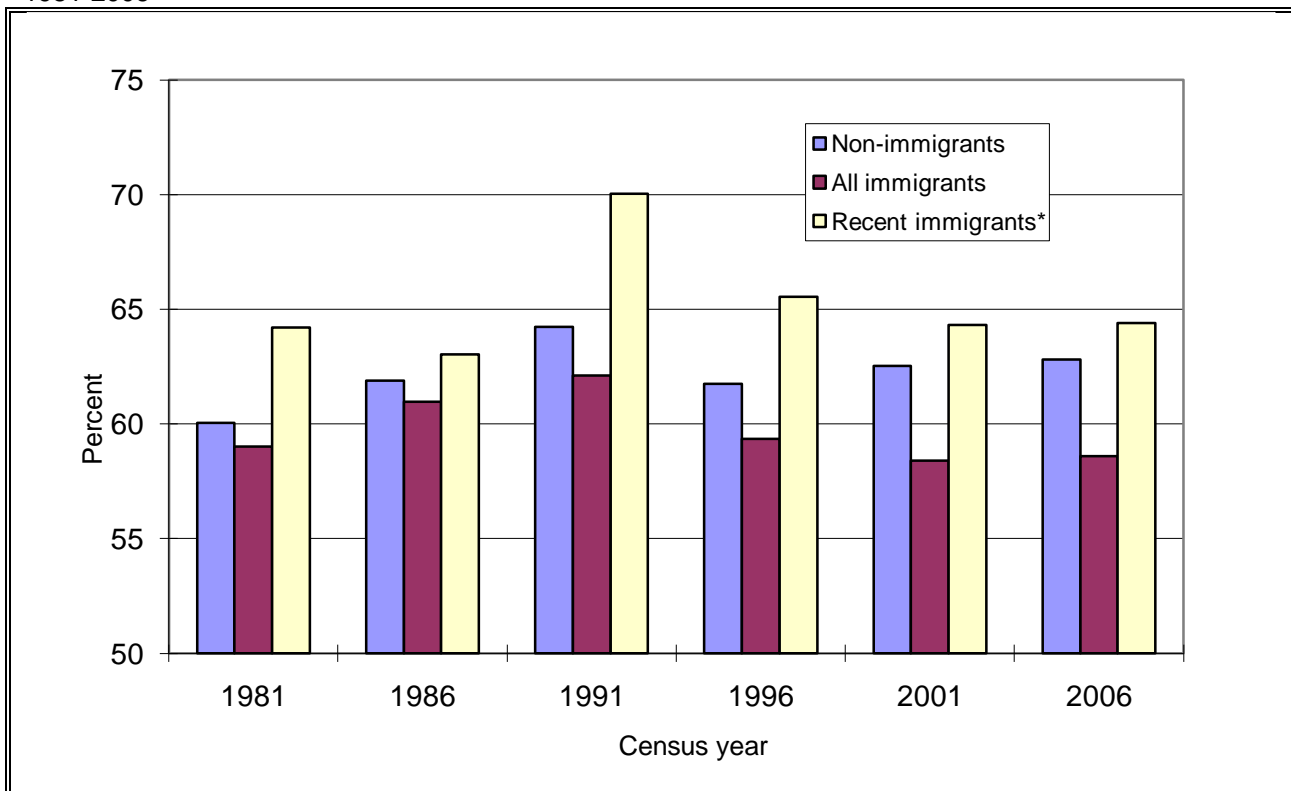
Source: Table A13

Available data from the 2006 census do not allow a comparable computation of immigrants' contribution to labour force growth during 2001-2006. However, these data show that immigrants comprised about 4 percent of the total regional labour force of 1.2 million in 2006.

As discussed in Section V, immigrants are generally younger than the resident population at the time of their arrival in Atlantic Canada. Most new immigrants of working age either have a job offer before arrival or become a member of the labour force by looking for a job immediately after arrival, thereby increasing the region's labour force.

Chart 16 (which provides data for the year before a census year) confirms a higher labour force participation rate among recent immigrants (those who arrived within five years of the corresponding census year) than among resident non-immigrants throughout the period 1981-2006. However, participation rates among recent immigrants declined substantially between 1991 and 1996 (from 70 percent to 66 percent) and then again between 1996 and 2001 (down to 64 percent) and have stayed constant since then. One reason may be that a large number of immigrants during 1991-95 arrived toward the end of that period (mostly in 1995) and thereafter. By the 1996 census, these newcomers were still adjusting to the labour market in Atlantic Canada. Another reason for the decline in participation rates after 1996 may be that most such immigrants arrived from the Middle East, and they tended to have large families with many youth members who, instead of entering the labour force, enrolled in secondary and post-secondary educational institutions. There is also some evidence, based on observations in Halifax, that 1) the enrollment of immigrant students from the Middle East increased in Nova Scotia universities during 1996-2001, and 2) in many Middle Eastern families, the family head may have returned to the country of origin for employment. A more formal research study should investigate these possibilities. The participation rates among all population groups remained unchanged at their 1996-01 level during 2001-06.

Chart 16: Labour Force Participation Rates among Immigrants and Non-immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006



*Those who arrived within the past five years of the census date. Labour force activity data are reported for the year before the census year.

Source: Table A14.

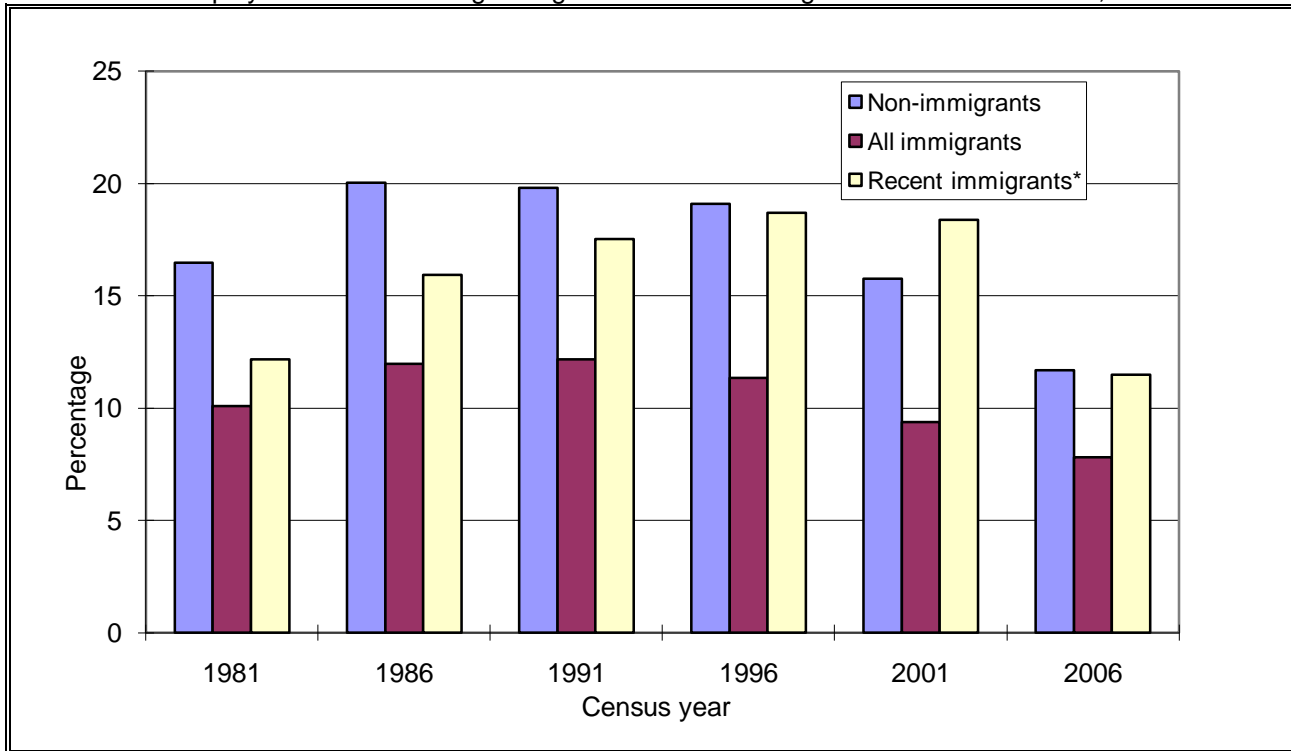
Chart 16 also shows that the labour force participation rate among the entire immigrant population was lower than that among non-immigrants throughout the period, which can be attributed to differences in age distributions of the two groups. Most immigrants in Atlantic Canada arrived before 2001, and the composition of the retirement-aged population (those over 65) is higher among them. One study, using 2006 census data for Nova Scotia (Akbari, 2009), found that when the age distribution of immigrants was adjusted to match that of non-immigrants, immigrants' labour force participation rate exceeded that of non-immigrants because an immigrant was likely to remain in the labour force longer than a non-immigrant. Higher motivation to work, which is also part of the migration decision, could be a rationale for this result. Further research could be conducted for the other three provinces and for immigrants identified by their place of birth to account for differences in social norms and cultural practices.

Unemployment rates among immigrants and non-immigrants are shown in Chart 17 for the period 1981-2006. This chart indicates that once they are in the labour force, immigrants do better overall in terms of finding a job than do non-immigrants. The unemployment rates are consistently lower among immigrants and have fallen since 1991, but so have these rates among non-immigrants.

Recent immigrants, however, experienced higher unemployment rates than their counterparts reported in previous censuses. In 1981 and 1986, unemployment rates among recent immigrants were four percentage points lower than among non-immigrants. However, the gap has narrowed over time, and in 2001, unemployment among recent immigrants was 2.5 percentage points higher than among non-immigrants.

That unemployment rates fell among both immigrant and non-immigrant populations toward the end of the 1981-2001 period indicated that the higher rates among recent immigrants in the 2001 census cannot be attributed only to the prevailing economic conditions of the region at that time. Possible employment barriers faced by recent immigrants due to their lack of knowledge of official languages (English or French), lack of credential recognition, or possible employer discrimination should be investigated in a separate research study.

Chart 17: Unemployment Rates among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006



*Those who arrived within the past five years of census date. Labour force activity data are reported for the year before the census year.

Source: Table A14.

A remarkable drop in the unemployment rate is observed for all population groups in 2006. This drop among overall immigrants and non-immigrants could be the result of out-migration of their working age members, mostly to Alberta, whose booming economy attracted a working age population from other regions, including Atlantic Canada, thereby reducing the number of people looking for jobs in Atlantic Canada. The drop in the unemployment rate of recent immigrants could also be because their immigration to the region has been mostly job oriented, as many came under one of the Provincial Nominee Programs to fill specific jobs. Initial results of the 2006 Labour Force Survey released by Statistics Canada show that in Atlantic Canada, the employment rate of those immigrants who arrived 5-10 years ago exceeds that of non-immigrants – 83.6 percent for immigrants and 76.4 percent for non-immigrants (Zietsma, 2007).

One important issue in the labour market outcome of immigrants is credential recognition. It is argued that immigrants coming from certain countries, such as those in the Third World, face employment barriers because their education and experience acquired in their country of origin are not recognized in Canada. Lack of immigrant credential recognition has at least three consequences. One is that these immigrants could face higher unemployment rates. Another is that even if they are employed, they may be working in a job that does not suit their qualifications. Finally, there is also a loss to the economy of Atlantic Canada of not fully benefiting from the human capital of its new residents.

To investigate this issue of foreign credential recognition, we use the available data from the 2006 census to review some indicators of the labour market performance of those who finished their post-secondary education in a different country. These indicators are reported for the total population (regardless of immigrant status) in Table 6. It was found that those who obtained their post-secondary education outside of Canada generally have lower labour force participation and employment rates than those who obtained their education in Canada. Unemployment rates are also generally lower among the foreign degree holders. However, data analyzed by the countries where education was obtained produced some mixed results. Those who finished their post-secondary education in India, Pakistan, and South Korea have higher unemployment rates, while all others have lower rates, regardless whether they obtained their education in an English-speaking country.

Table 6 results are general and do not account for any underemployment among immigrants, which should be addressed in a separate study. One should also analyze any differences in labour market incomes by countries where degrees were granted.

| Location of study (1) | Participation rate, % (1) | Employment rate, % (2) | Unemployment rate, % (3) | Labour force, no. (4) |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Overall | 62.57 | 55.37 | 11.52 | 1,182,970 |
| No post-secondary certificate, diploma/ degree | 51.85 | 43.72 | 15.67 | 518,970 |
| Post-secondary certificate, diploma/ degree | 74.64 | 68.47 | 8.27 | 664,005 |
| Inside Canada | 75.30 | 69.02 | 8.33 | 639,120 |
| Outside Canada | 60.90 | 56.88 | 6.61 | 24,885 |
| United States of America | 62.77 | 59.09 | 5.82 | 10,225 |
| United Kingdom | 52.34 | 49.92 | 4.74 | 4,645 |
| India | 63.39 | 58.48 | 9.86 | 710 |
| Philippines | 78.30 | 73.58 | 2.41 | 415 |
| China, People's Republic of | 65.04 | 60.18 | 6.12 | 735 |
| Germany | 57.06 | 53.74 | 6.31 | 1,030 |
| France | 73.55 | 69.03 | 7.02 | 570 |
| Poland | 72.27 | 73.95 | 2.33 | 430 |
| Pakistan | 73.13 | 64.18 | 8.16 | 245 |
| Korea, South | 36.14 | 31.33 | 13.33 | 150 |
| Other | 63.70 | 57.57 | 9.53 | 5,720 |

Source: Author's calculations using provincial data based on Statistics Canada - 2006 Census. Catalogue Number 97-560-XCB2006025. For detailed notes, please see the publication on www.statcan.gc.ca.

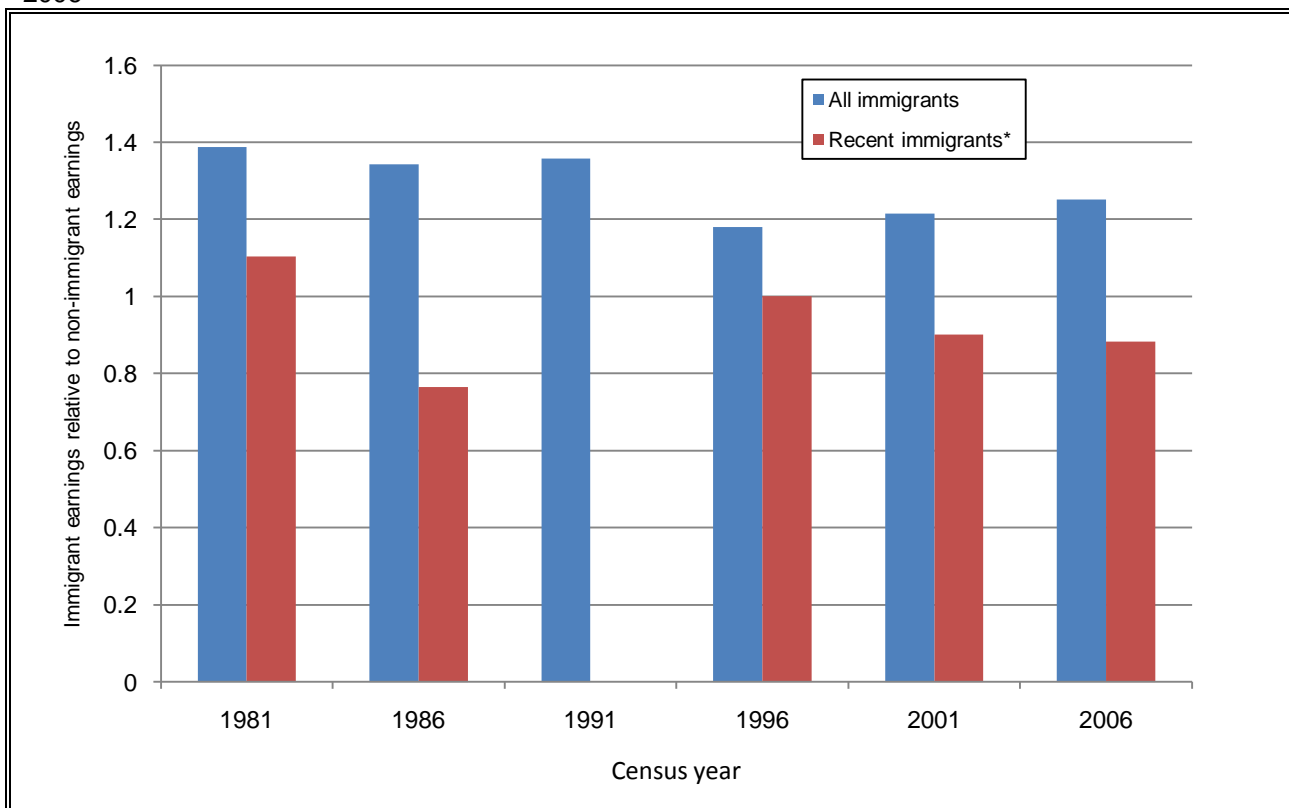
Notes:

1. Refers to where the highest post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree was completed.
2. Percentage of population 15 and over in the labour force.
3. Percentage of population 15 and over employed.
4. Percentage of labour force unemployed.
5. Population 15 and over employed or unemployed.

Chart 18 compares the labour market earnings of an average immigrant and average recent immigrant with those of an average non-immigrant in the year before each census year. Actual dollar amounts are not comparable over time because they may be affected by inflation. Instead, it is more meaningful to analyze the earning gap between groups within a given census year and also the changes in this gap between census years. To facilitate this analysis, the ratio of an average immigrant's earnings to a non-immigrant's earnings has been plotted. A ratio of less than one means that an average immigrant's earnings were lower than those of a non-immigrant's; greater than one means the opposite.

Average employment earning has been higher among immigrants than among non-immigrants throughout the 1981-2006 period. However, average earning among recent immigrants, relative to that of a non-immigrant, fluctuated until 2001 and then stabilized. In short, a recent immigrant in 1981 earned 10 percent more than an average non-immigrant in Atlantic Canada but earned 10 percent less than a non-immigrant in 2006.

Chart 18: Earnings of Immigrants Relative to those of Non-Immigrants Resident in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2006



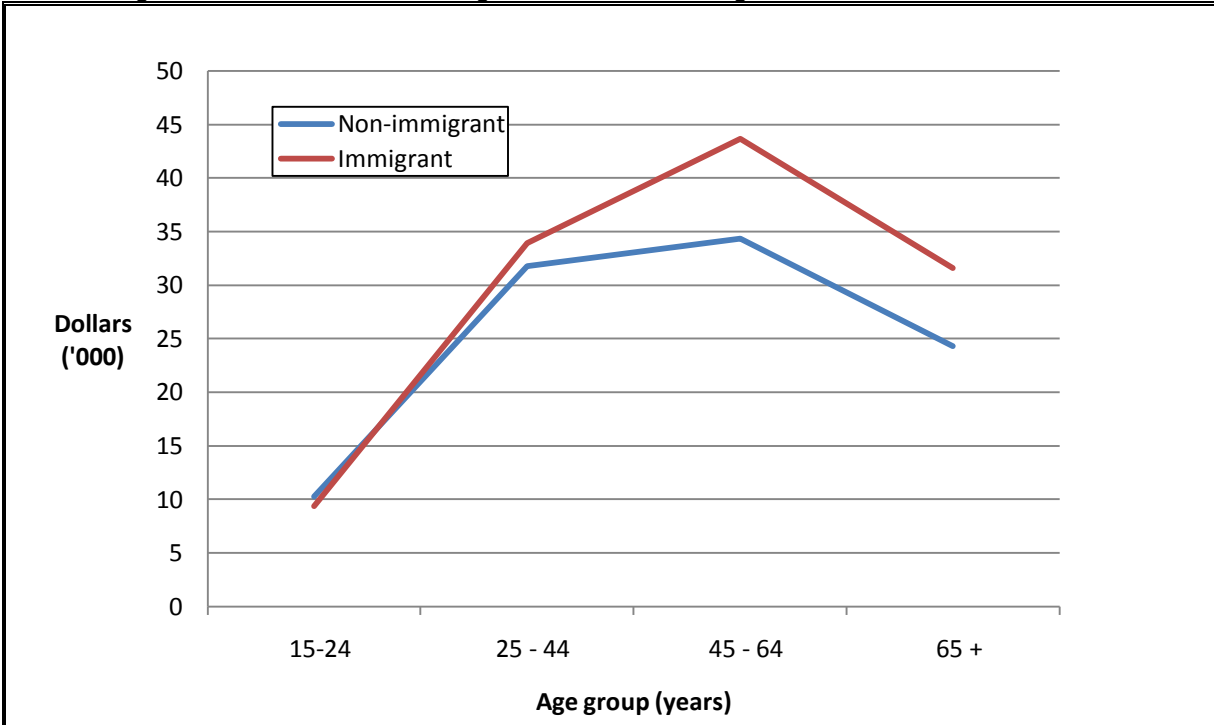
*Those who arrived within five years of the census year. Data on recent immigrants in the 1991 census were not available in the census PUMF for the Atlantic provinces. Incomes are reported for the year before the census year. A ratio of "1" means earnings of immigrants and non-immigrants are equal.
Source: Table A14.

When comparing an immigrant's earnings with those of a non-immigrant, analysts often control for differences in their demographic and labour market characteristics, such as age, gender, experience, and education, which are major determinants of earning differences between individuals. They also examine changes in immigrant earnings relative to immigrants' length of stay in Canada to determine how long it takes for an immigrant in Canada to earn the same income as a non-immigrant. This analysis helps in understanding the labour market integration of immigrants. A detailed analysis of this issue can be conducted in a separate research study by using the 2006 Canadian census data, but some broad patterns are presented below.

First, we provide a comparative analysis of the earnings of an average immigrant and non-immigrant by controlling for differences in their ages. Chart 19 provides the age-earning profile of an immigrant and a non-immigrant resident of Atlantic Canada aged 15 years and over based on labour market earnings in 2005. These profiles are based on the earnings of different individuals in the census, thus assuming that incomes of different individuals at different points in their life cycles represent the incomes of one typical individual at various points in his/her life cycle. However, this assumption may be challenged on the grounds that immigrants come from diverse backgrounds and face different challenges in labour markets. Differences in their educational attainment levels and employers' perceptions of the quality of their education may also have correspondingly different effects on different immigrant groups, so the age-earnings profiles plotted in Chart 19 should be interpreted with some caution.

Despite the above caveats, the shapes of the earning curves in Chart 19 are as expected. Growth in earnings is faster when an individual is young because the individual accumulates more human capital (such as training and experience) when young than when older. Earnings then decline at retirement. It is observed that an average immigrant's earnings rise faster than, and exceed those, of a non-immigrant after age 25. Even after reaching the retirement age, the immigrant earns more. Thus, the average earnings results for 2005 that were reported in Chart 18 may be viewed as stable. Over the life cycle, then, an average immigrant in Atlantic Canada earns higher employment income than a non-immigrant.

Chart 19: Age-Income Profile of an Immigrant and a Non-Immigrant Resident of Atlantic Canada, 2005

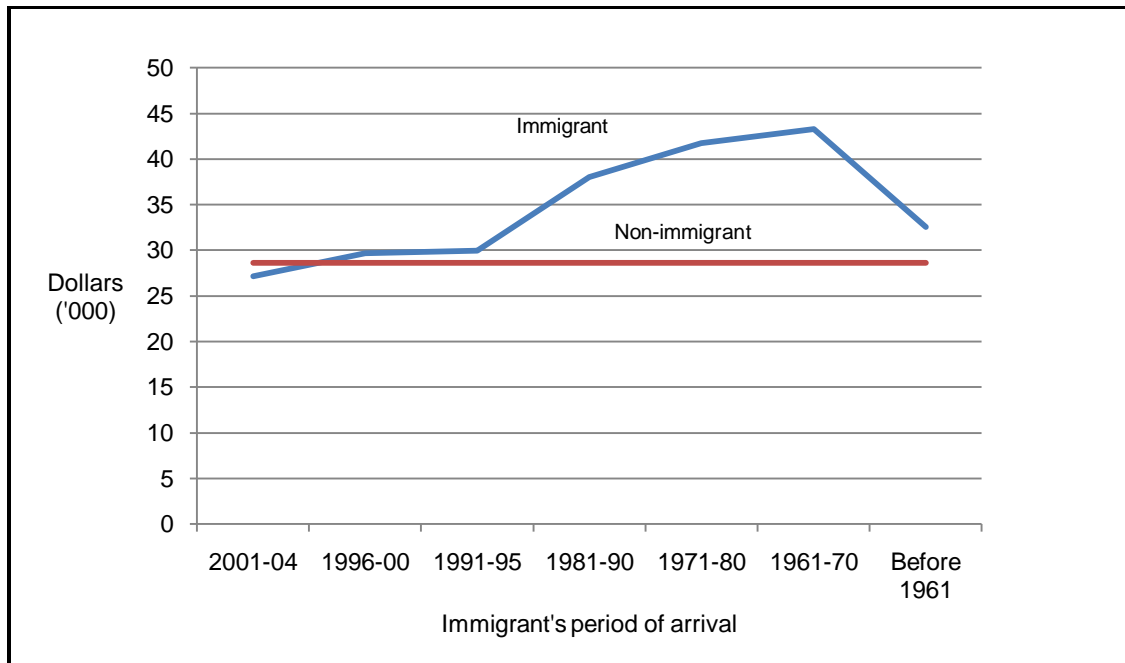


Source: Table A15.

Immigrants' incomes are also affected by their length of stay in Canada. A newcomer lacks Canadian labour market experience and information about availability of jobs and workplace culture, factors that may result in an underutilization of skills, thereby adversely affecting labour market performance, which could result in a lower income earned. Chart 20 plots the 2005 labour market earnings of an immigrant according to his/ her period of arrival in Canada and those of a non-immigrant for comparison. Immigrants who arrived during 2001-04 were the most recent immigrants to report 2005 income earned in Canada. Their income was observed to be lower than that of non-immigrants. However, all earlier entry cohorts had higher incomes, and even those who had stayed in the country for more than 45 years continued to earn more. In sum, an average immigrant in Atlantic Canada earns the same labour market income as a non-immigrant five years after arrival. In a separate unpublished analysis conducted by this author (using the same data source as for Atlantic Canada), it was found that at the national level, a Canadian immigrant takes about 15 years to begin earning as much as a native-born Canadian.

When more data are available, incomes of various immigrant entry cohorts can be compared by controlling for education, ethnicity, gender, and country of origin.

Chart 20: Average Earning of an Immigrant by Period of Arrival, and a Non-Immigrant, Atlantic Canada, 2005

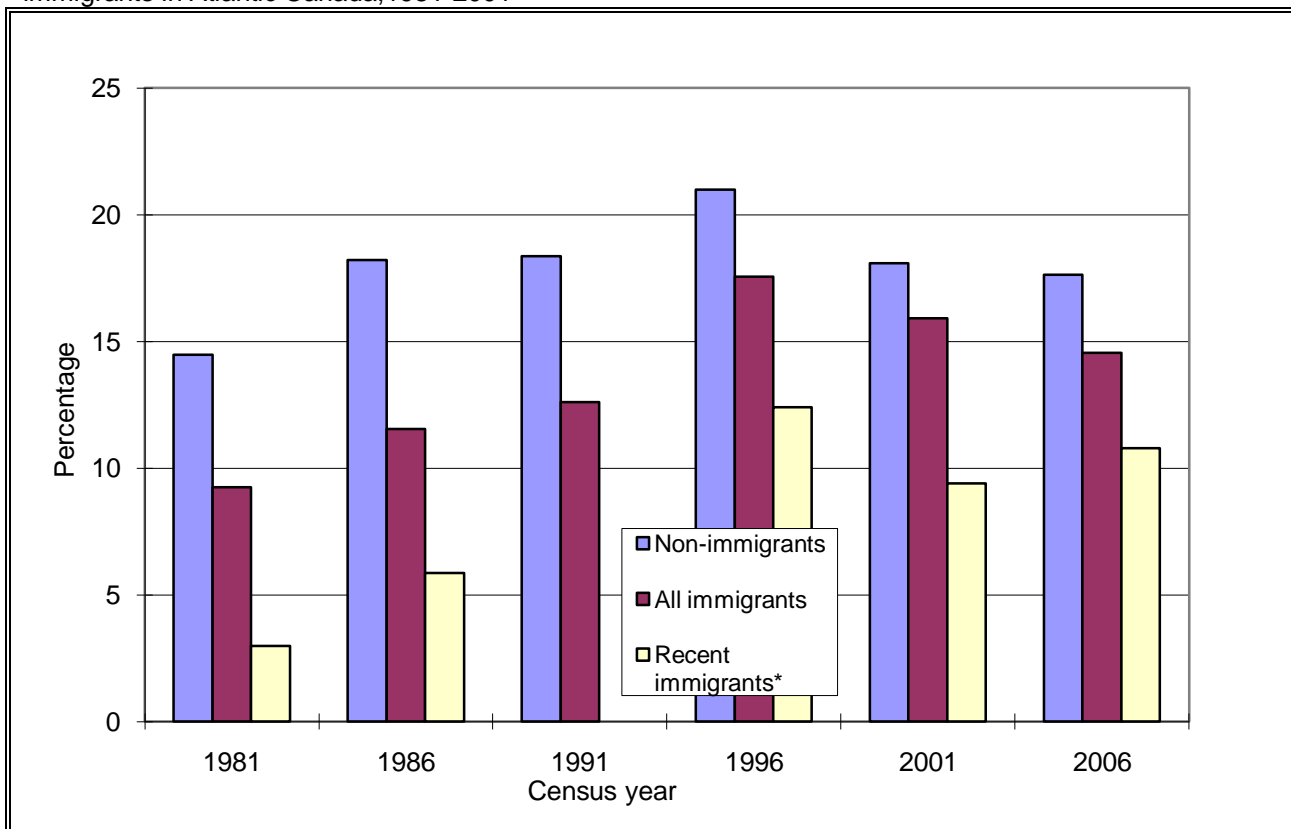


Source: Table A16.

A common public misperception about the economic impact of immigrants is that they tend to rely more on government transfers, such as public assistance income, employment insurance benefits, welfare payments, and old age security income. Rather, that immigrants have higher employment incomes suggests that their reliance on government transfer payments would be lower, as confirmed in Chart 21. In fact, immigrants overall, as well as recent immigrants, received lower percentages of total incomes as government transfers than did non-immigrants throughout the period.

A large component of government transfer incomes is age related. For example, income received in the form of Old Age Security and the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan is available only to those over 60. Since most immigrants are young at the time of arrival, they do not become eligible for such transfer incomes for a long time after arrival in Canada. Another component of government transfer payments is employment insurance income, which 1) is available only to those who have worked for a certain number of weeks in Canada, 2) supplements the income of the unemployed who contributed to the program while employed, and 3) is determined on the basis of the contribution made by the recipient when he/she was employed and by his/her employer. Also, as recent immigrants may not have accumulated sufficient work experience in Canada and may not have contributed enough into the program, many may not be eligible to receive employment insurance.

Chart 21: Percentage of Total Income Received as Government Transfers by Immigrants and Non-immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 1981-2001



*Those who arrived within five years of the census year. Data on recent immigrants in the 1991 census were not available in the census PUMF for the Atlantic provinces. All income data are reported for the year before each census year.

Source: Table A14.

In sum, the analysis in this section reveals that an immigrant in Atlantic Canada has strong labour market outcomes. At the time of the 2006 census, an immigrant's unemployment rate was lower than it was at the time of the 2001 census and was also lower than that of a non-immigrant. This was also true for a recent immigrant who faced the same unemployment rate as did a non-immigrant. A resident immigrant also earned about 20 percent more income in the labour market than did a non-immigrant in that year. The earning disadvantage faced by a recent immigrant over a non-immigrant was the same at the time of the 2006 census as it was in 2001. However, an immigrant's income rises faster than that of a non-immigrant over his/her life cycle and exceeds a non-immigrant's income five years after arrival.

XI. SKILLED AND BUSINESS IMMIGRANTS IN THE ATLANTIC ECONOMY

Skilled workers and business immigrants make up the so-called "economic" immigrant class. CIC defines the skilled worker class of immigrants as "people who may become permanent residents because they are able to become economically established in Canada." (www.cic.gc.ca)

“Business immigrants are people who can invest in, or start businesses in Canada and are expected to support the development of a strong and prosperous Canadian economy. The Business Immigration Programs seek to attract to Canada people experienced in business. Business immigrants are selected based on their ability to become economically established in Canada.” (www.cic.gc.ca)

CIC also divides business immigrants into three classes: investor, entrepreneur, and self-employed. Investors are experienced persons who must demonstrate business experience, have a minimum net worth of \$800,000, and make an investment of \$400,000. Entrepreneurs are experienced persons who will own and actively manage a business in Canada that will contribute to the economy and create jobs. Entrepreneurs must have business experience and a minimum net worth of \$300,000 and are subject to conditions on arrival in Canada that include creation of at least one job for original Canadians. Finally, the self-employed must have the intention and ability to create their own employment by operating a business or a farm in Canada. They are also expected to contribute to the cultural or athletic life of Canada.

Immigration policy falls under federal jurisdiction. While each Atlantic province abides by national objectives that allow immigration on humanitarian grounds for refugees and others for family re-unification, the main need is to foster economic immigration suited to the long-term needs of each province. Provinces can and do work out special agreements with the federal government to promote immigration perceived to be in their interest. For example, Quebec has had such an arrangement for many years. Smaller provinces, such as Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and all four Atlantic provinces, have begun engaging in such initiatives since the late 1990s. The PNP reflects this new thinking of enhancing the positive impact of immigration in each province.

Since economic immigration is likely to be central to policy in the Atlantic region, it is important to examine it in detail. Therefore, this section analyzes data from a number of sources to shed light on the various dimensions of economic immigration to Atlantic Canada. Our discussion will be divided into two parts – one dealing with skilled workers and the other with business immigrants.

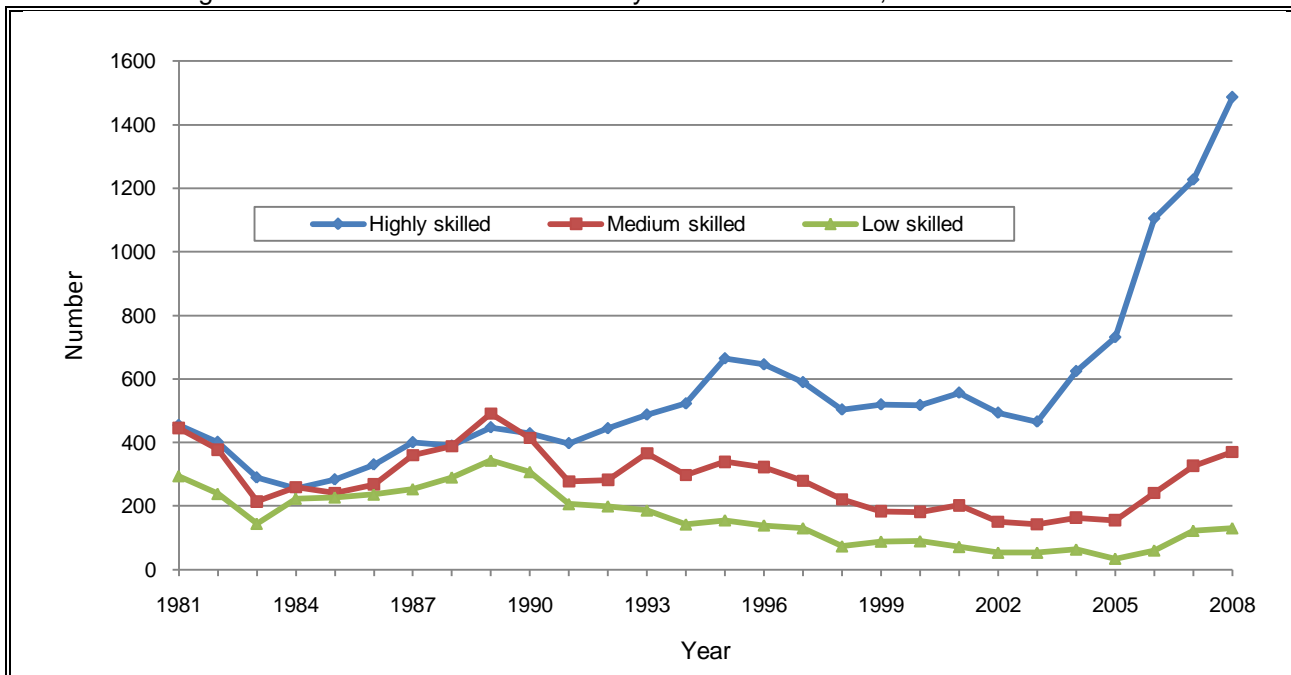
While PRDS provides data on the arrival of immigrants under the skilled and business classes, no direct data are available on the economic performance of those who arrived under these classes to compare with data on non-immigrants as a reference group. However, the economic performance of immigrants who practiced different occupations in Canada can be assessed using information from censuses. Since the present part of this study focuses on those immigrants who can establish themselves economically in Canada, census data are analyzed only for those who worked as professionals and managers. Human Resources and Skill Development (HRSD) lists these two occupations (“O” and “A”) among the top in terms of educational and skill requirements. Finally, to assess the performance of immigrants in the business sector, data are analyzed for those who declared themselves “self-employed” on the census questionnaire.

XI.1. Immigration of Highly Skilled Workers to Atlantic Canada

Chart 22 shows the trends of three occupational groups of immigrants destined for the Atlantic labour force: “highly skilled,” “medium skilled,” and “low skilled” immigrants, groupings based on the occupational classifications used by HRSD (see Table A19). It is important to note here, however, that only about half of the immigrants destined to work in Atlantic Canada have their occupations identified (see Appendix Table A13).

Throughout the period 1981-2008, highly skilled immigrants (i.e., groups “O and “A”, managers and professionals) comprised a significant proportion of those destined for the labour force of Atlantic Canada. Since the early 1990s, their levels have exceeded those of medium- and low-skilled immigrants. After some decline between 1994 and 2002, their numbers have risen sharply, reflecting the policy emphasis of attracting highly skilled immigrants.

Chart 22: Immigrants Destined to Atlantic Canada by Skill Classifications, 1981-2008



¹National Occupational Classifications (NOC) were further classified as highly skilled = “O” and “A”; medium skilled = “B”, low skilled = “C” and “D”.

Source: Table A17.

Table 7 captures the trend of highly skilled immigrant inflows by providing the distribution of one sub-group of resident highly skilled immigrants, i.e., professionals, across the 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 census years in selected occupations. The numbers of non-immigrant professionals are also provided for comparison. (These data are based on a 20 percent sample of individuals. Statistics Canada cautions that some numbers in Table 7 may not be accurate due to some miscoding of occupations. Furthermore, in the 2006 census, occupations were coded using a different scheme, so some categories

within an occupation group had to be re-grouped for the present study to make them comparable across censuses. However, Table 7 data do permit general comparisons between immigrants and non-immigrants and also between these groups and recent immigrants.)

Overall, immigrants constitute a significant proportion of the selected professionals in Atlantic Canada, as shown in Table 7. However, due to declining immigrant inflows, the number of non-immigrant professionals grew at a faster rate during 1991-2001, with the strongest growth coming in the latter half of that period. Growth in the number of non-immigrant professionals was more broad based during this period. Since then, the increase in immigrant professionals has been faster because many came to fill specific jobs under PNPs in all provinces. Except for two occupational groups, population increased within each demographic group.

Of particular importance is the increase in the number of immigrant scientists and engineers, who are generally viewed as direct contributors to economic growth by promoting innovation. The dramatic rise in immigrant health professionals is also worth noting. Atlantic Canada has faced shortages of physicians in recent years as many moved out of the region, a shortage felt especially in rural areas where many hospitals have had to close their emergency department some days each week because of the unavailability of professionals. To overcome this problem, provinces have taken special measures to attract internationally trained physicians. (The measures adopted by Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador are reported in the box on page 25.) Also, the number of university teachers and professors who came during 2001-2006 was more than twice the number who came during the previous five-year period.

| Table 7: Professionals in Atlantic Canada by selected occupations: immigrants and non-immigrants, 1991-2006 censuses | | | | |
|--|-------------|------|-------|--------|
| | Census Year | | | |
| PROFESSIONALS BY OCCUPATIONS | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 |
| <i>Business and Finance</i> | | | | |
| Auditors, accountants & other investment professionals | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 6610 | 7170 | 11395 | 12915 |
| Immigrants | 370 | 370 | 485 | 725 |
| Recent immigrants | 10 | 10 | 40 | 120 |
| Other professionals in business and finance* | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 1865 | 2275 | 2985 | 5295 |
| Immigrants | 90 | 125 | 245 | 250 |
| Recent immigrants | 5 | 0 | 10 | 20 |
| <i>Natural and Applied Science and Related</i> | | | | |
| Engineers | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 6465 | 5960 | 6520 | 7825 |
| Immigrants | 970 | 640 | 870 | 925 |
| Recent immigrants | 135 | 110 | 100 | 230 |
| Computer & information systems | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 6315 | 6870 | 14675 | 10505 |
| Immigrants | 540 | 650 | 1065 | 940 |
| Recent immigrants | 85 | 100 | 200 | 270 |
| Other scientists* | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 3815 | 3860 | 4375 | 4735 |
| Immigrants | 610 | 445 | 585 | 680 |
| Recent immigrants | 80 | 25 | 85 | 115 |
| <i>Health Professionals**</i> | | | | |
| Physicians, dentists, and veterinarians | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 3185 | 3660 | 4080 | 4805 |
| Immigrants | 1455 | 1290 | 1420 | 1845 |
| Recent immigrants | 295 | 220 | 145 | 290 |
| Other health professionals* | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 3165 | 3900 | 4980 | 6145 |
| Immigrants | 295 | 355 | 360 | 350 |
| Recent immigrants | 25 | 55 | 20 | 50 |
| <i>Social Science, Education, Government Services & Religion*</i> | | | | Contd. |

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Judges, lawyers, Quebec notaries | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 2665 | 2910 | 3155 | 3960 |
| Immigrants | 140 | 175 | 215 | 235 |
| Recent immigrants | 20 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Teachers and professors | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 40490 | 40080 | 37525 | 43050 |
| Immigrants | 3795 | 3765 | 3485 | 3730 |
| Recent immigrants | 255 | 385 | 240 | 570 |
| Other professionals in social science, education, government services and religion* | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 21105 | 22350 | 24440 | 22225* |
| Immigrants | 1445 | 1540 | 1445 | 1475* |
| Recent immigrants | 130 | 150 | 140 | 165* |
| Arts, Culture, Recreation, and Sports | | | | |
| Musicians and singers | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 1210 | 1575 | 1495 | 1645 |
| Immigrants | 215 | 170 | 170 | 215 |
| Recent immigrants | 45 | 25 | 25 | 15 |
| Other professionals in art and culture* | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 5340 | 5905 | 6870 | 8090 |
| Immigrants | 775 | 805 | 750 | 845 |
| Recent immigrants | 100 | 35 | 75 | 85 |

*Computed total of all other professionals. **Excludes nurse supervisors and registered nurses. Source: 1. 1991 – 2001 data are from Table entitled: "Occupation - 1991 Standard Occupational Classification (Historical) (707B), Selected Labour Force, Demographic, Cultural, Educational and Income Characteristics (252) and Sex (3) for Population 15 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas 1, 1991 to 2001 Censuses - 20% Sample Data". Statistics Canada. Catalogue number 97F0012XCB2001048. Data for 2006 are from Table entitled: "Occupation - National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2006 (720C), Sex (3) and Selected Demographic, Cultural, Labour Force, Educational and Income Characteristics (273) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data". Statistics Canada. Catalogue number 97-564-XWE2006005

At this time, we do not have 2006 census-based data on the industrial distribution of immigrant professionals in Atlantic Canada. However, the 2001 census data revealed that about 87 percent of immigrant professionals in Atlantic Canada worked in the service sector, and within that sector, 33 percent were working in the education sub-sector and 25 percent in health and social assistance. Public administration accounted for 8 percent, manufacturing for 2 percent, and agriculture, mining and utilities for 1.7 percent. When 2006 census-based data are available, we will be able to analyze whether job-focused immigrant attraction in the region has changed the distribution of immigrant professionals across the industry.

Although we cannot analyze the industrial distribution of immigrant professionals in the 2006 census, we did analyze that of all employed immigrants and compared the same with the industrial distribution of non-immigrants (Table 8). The service industry (nos. 6-20 in Table 8) is the major employer of immigrants and non-immigrants in Atlantic Canada. Within the service industry, education and health and social assistance sectors are major employers of immigrant workers, each employing more than 10 percent. These sectors also employ large numbers of recent immigrants. About 12 percent of recent immigrants were also employed in the food and accommodation sector, a much higher rate than for overall immigrants.

The distribution of non-immigrants is more broad based. Their employment exceeds 10 percent of their total employment only in the retail trade and health and social assistance sectors.

The manufacturing sector hires less than 10 percent of non-immigrant and immigrant workers in Atlantic Canada, but non-immigrants are represented more in this sector (close to 10 percent). This is an important finding because manufacturing is affected more by business cycle fluctuations than is any other sector of the economy. One implication of this finding may be that Atlantic Canada is less vulnerable to the current economic downturn than central Canada, where the manufacturing sector is larger, hiring about 14 percent of that region's total labour force. Another implication is that immigrants in Atlantic Canada are less likely to be affected by the current economic downturn than are non-immigrants.

| Industry & Total Labour Force | Non-immigrants | All immigrants | Recent immigrants |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Total employed labour force (Number) | 1,133,310 | 46,750 | 6,540 |
| Industry - Not applicable (%) | 1.77 | 1.87 | 4.36 |
| All industries (%) | 98.24 | 98.12 | 95.57 |
| 1 Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting | 5.42 | 3.42 | 1.76 |
| 2 Mining and oil & gas extraction | 1.37 | 0.65 | 1.07 |
| 3 Utilities | 0.74 | 0.33 | 0.15 |
| 4 Construction | 6.64 | 4.16 | 3.90 |
| 5 Manufacturing | 9.58 | 6.91 | 5.66 |
| 6 Wholesale trade | 3.25 | 2.75 | 3.13 |
| 7 Retail trade | 12.11 | 8.92 | 8.49 |
| 8 Transportation & warehousing | 4.70 | 3.75 | 3.67 |
| 9 Information & cultural industries | 2.01 | 2.44 | 2.22 |
| 10 Finance & insurance | 2.76 | 2.41 | 2.75 |
| 11 Real estate & rental & leasing | 1.29 | 1.58 | 0.76 |
| 12 Professional, scientific & technical services | 4.02 | 7.63 | 9.86 |
| 13 Management of companies & enterprises | 0.10 | 0.17 | 0.38 |
| 14 Administrative & support, waste management & remediation services | 5.07 | 5.14 | 7.19 |
| 15 Educational services | 6.62 | 11.54 | 12.00 |
| 16 Health care & social assistance | 11.33 | 13.99 | 11.16 |
| 17 Arts, entertainment & recreation | 1.67 | 2.31 | 1.45 |
| 18 Accommodation & food services | 6.65 | 8.05 | 12.39 |
| 19 Other services (except public administration) | 4.75 | 4.72 | 3.75 |
| 20 Public administration | 8.16 | 7.23 | 3.82 |

Source and notes: Based on Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-564-XCB2006008. Provincial data were used to obtain Atlantic totals and percentages. Data are reported for the population aged 15 years and over. Industrial definitions are based on North American Industry Classification System 2002. Please see the source for complete definitions.

Table 9 compares the employment earnings of immigrants with those of non-immigrants in 20 major industrial sectors of Atlantic Canada. Overall, an average immigrant worker in Atlantic Canada earns about 27 percent more than a non-immigrant, but a recent immigrant earns about 4 percent less due to his/her lack of experience in Canadian labour markets. An immigrant's income is higher than that of non-immigrant in 18 of the 20 industries reported, with the highest income difference in health care and social assistance industries, where an immigrant earns about 76 percent more than a non-immigrant. Mining and oil and gas extraction industries have the highest incomes. In these industries, an average immigrant, and even an average recent immigrant, is paid more than a non-immigrant. Overall, an immigrant in these industries is paid 30 percent more than a non-immigrant.

However, in the two industries in which immigrants are paid less than non-immigrants, i.e., finance and real estate and arts, culture and recreation, the immigrant income disadvantage does not exceed 4 percent.

The income difference between the two populations is largely determined by differences in their age distributions and human capital (education and experience). In Chart 19, we plotted age–earning profiles of an average immigrant and non-immigrant and observed that for individuals aged 25 and over, an immigrant earned more than a non-immigrant at all ages. A more complete analysis should also obtain age-earning profiles of an immigrant and a non-immigrant at different education levels. Impacts of other factors, such as knowledge of English and/or French, should also be investigated in an econometric model.

| Industry | Non-immigrants (\$) | All immigrants (\$) | Recent immigrants (\$) |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| All industries | 32,314 | 41,081 | 31,019 |
| 1 Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting | 22,338 | 25,222 | 14,220 |
| 2 Mining and oil & gas extraction | 61,236 | 79,777 | 65,590 |
| 3 Utilities | 58,404 | 77,045 | - |
| 4 Construction | 30,642 | 34,951 | 20,936 |
| 5 Manufacturing | 34,843 | 38,821 | 37,034 |
| 6 Wholesale trade | 38,807 | 41,515 | 27,616 |
| 7 Retail trade | 21,044 | 27,037 | 12,945 |
| 8 Transportation & warehousing | 36,138 | 37,024 | 22,435 |
| 9 Information & cultural industries | 39,882 | 41,181 | 20,743 |
| 10 Finance & insurance | 45,948 | 44,269 | 15,079 |
| 11 Real estate & rental & leasing | 30,309 | 31,356 | - |
| 12 Professional, scientific & technical services | 43,319 | 48,324 | 38,301 |
| 13 Management of companies & enterprises | 56,055 | 72,700 | 26,821 |
| 14 Administrative & support, waste management & remediation services | 20,042 | 21,718 | 14,689 |
| 15 Educational services | 38,083 | 48,767 | 34,531 |
| 16 Health care & social assistance | 34,700 | 61,036 | 67,749 |
| 17 Arts, entertainment & recreation | 19,846 | 19,033 | 9,193 |
| 18 Accommodation & food services | 13,920 | 19,814 | 15,676 |
| 19 Other services (except public administration) | 22,962 | 23,749 | 19,842 |
| 20 Public administration | 47,943 | 57,378 | 40,813 |

Source and notes: Based on Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, special tabulations. Provincial data were used to compute weighted averages. Data are reported for all employed persons (with and without income) in each industry. “-“ means data not available for confidentiality reasons (posted as zero in the B20/B20 file supplied by Statistics Canada).

Table 10 shows the occupational distribution of the immigrant and non-immigrant labour force in Atlantic Canada. Given that the service industry is a major employer, the highest percentages are found in sales and service occupations. Greater percentages of immigrants work as scientists and health professionals and in management occupations than of non-immigrants. That immigrant occupations are more broad based than those of non-immigrants probably reflects deliberate attempts at government and community levels to attract immigrant workers to fill labour shortages in specific occupations where it is hard to find local workers, perhaps due to out-migration from the region or due to the demographic trends in population discussed in Section II.

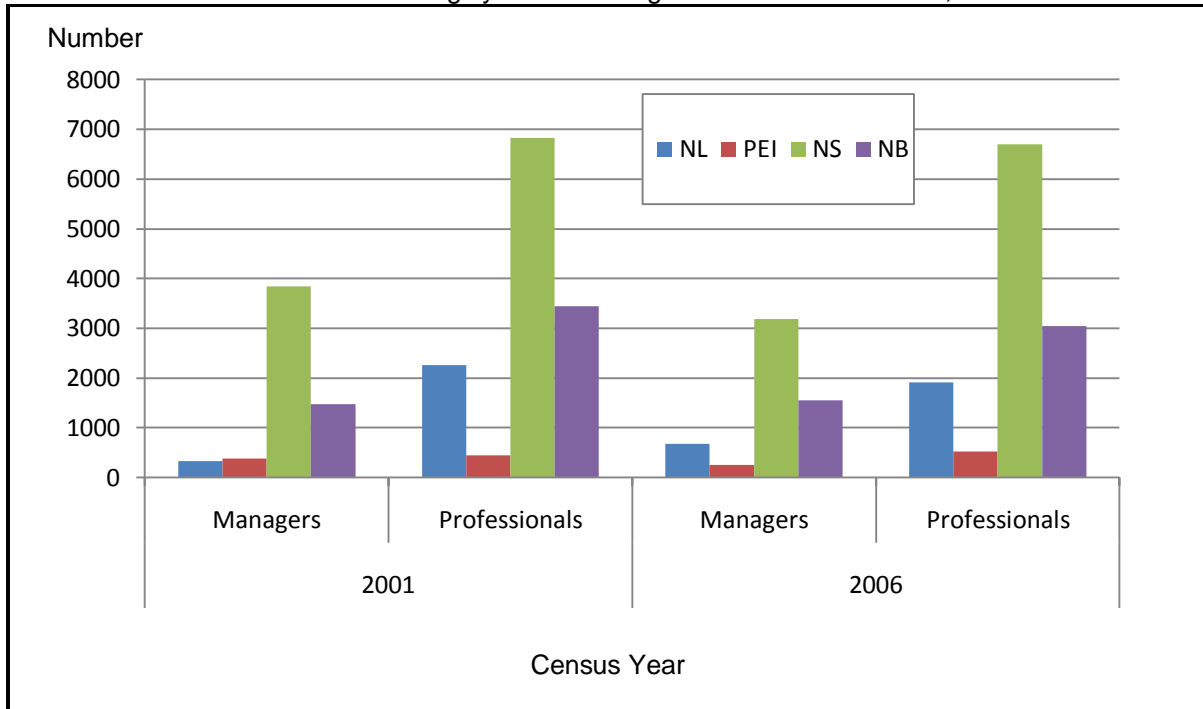
| Occupation & Employed Labour Force | Non-immigrants | All immigrants | Recent immigrants |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Employed labour force | 1,133,320 | 46,755 | 6,540 |
| Occupation - Not applicable | 1.76 | 1.87 | 4.36 |
| All occupations | 98.24 | 98.12 | 95.64 |
| A Management occupations | 7.91 | 12.13 | 9.56 |
| B Business, finance & administrative occupations | 16.53 | 15.66 | 16.44 |
| C Natural and applied sciences & related occupations | 5.09 | 8.74 | 12.69 |
| D Health occupations | 6.17 | 9.43 | 7.95 |
| E Occupations in social science, education, government service & religion | 7.62 | 12.85 | 12.69 |
| F Occupations in art, culture, recreation & sport | 2.14 | 4.13 | 2.98 |
| G Sales & service occupations | 25.48 | 19.89 | 21.79 |
| H Trades, transport and equipment operators & related occupations | 15.96 | 9.04 | 7.19 |
| I Occupations unique to primary industry | 6.01 | 3.49 | 2.29 |
| J Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing & utilities | 5.32 | 2.84 | 2.06 |

Source and notes: Based on Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-564-XCB2006008. Provincial data were used to obtain Atlantic totals and percentages. Data are reported for population aged 15 and over. Occupation definitions are based on National Occupational classification for Statistics 2006. Please see the source for complete definitions.

XI.2. Provincial distribution of highly skilled immigrants

Most highly skilled immigrants in Atlantic Canada live in Nova Scotia (Chart 23), more than twice as many as in New Brunswick. Relative to managers, the number of professionals living in Newfoundland and Labrador is the highest in the region, while Prince Edward Island has an even distribution of managers and professionals.

Chart 23: Provincial Distribution of Highly Skilled Immigrants in Atlantic Canada, 2001 and 2006



Source: Table A18.

XI.3. Business Immigration

As noted in Section II, business immigration to Atlantic Canada declined dramatically over the 1998-2008 period, from close to 300 in 1998 to only 13 in 2008. The rise in the inflow of business immigrants during the mid- to late 1990s was an anomaly and its reasons were discussed in Section II. The region also attracts business immigrants who initially land in other regions of Canada (Table 5). No information is available on the industrial distribution, occupation or countries of origin of those immigrants who arrived in Canada as business immigrants. However, the IMDB data do permit an analysis of their incomes earned in Canada according to their period of immigration. Table 11 reports the numbers of immigrant tax filers by six immigrant classes and period of arrival in taxation year 2005. Three sub-classes of economic immigrants are reported: business (principal applicants only), skilled worker (principal applicants only), and other economic. The economic class comprises the most tax filers, followed by family, refugee and other classes.

Chart 24 plots the labour market earnings (employment and self-employment) of the six immigrant classes. All data are for those who landed in Canada during 1990-2005, filed their income tax returns in 2005, and reported earning employment and self-employment incomes in that year. Also reported is the combined average of employment and self-employment incomes of non-immigrants, which is based on the 2006 census because the IMDB does not report any data on non-immigrants. Since IMDB data are collected from tax filers only, they may not be directly comparable to the census data, but it can be

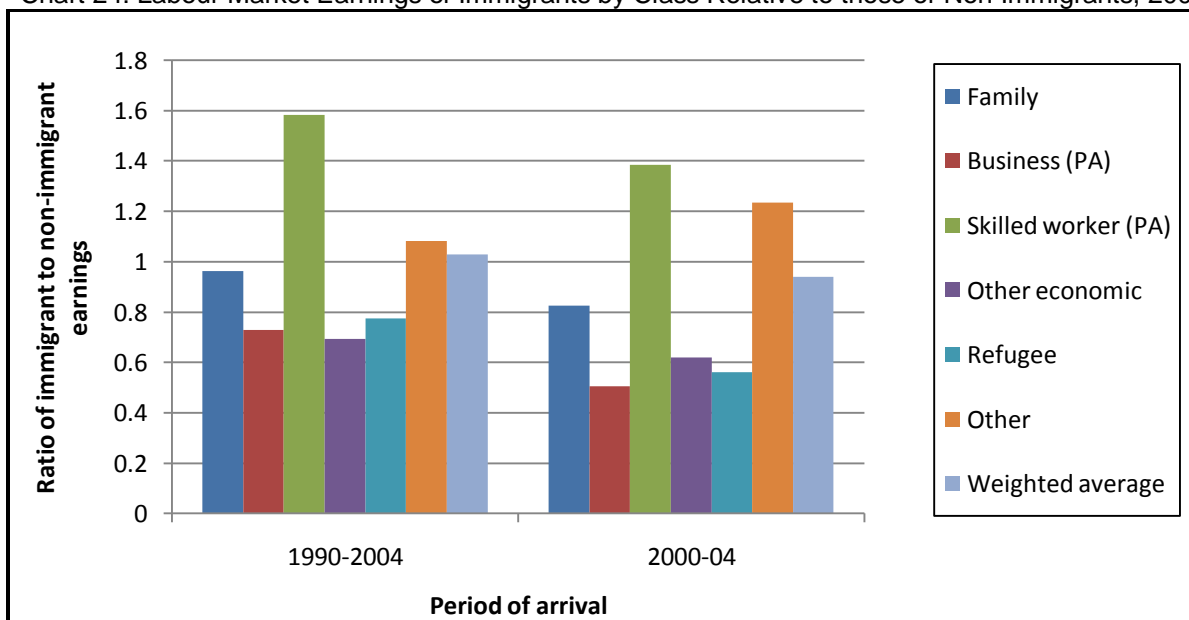
assumed that most census respondents are tax filers. All earnings are plotted relative to those of non-immigrants.

| Table 11: Immigrant tax filers in Atlantic Canada, 2005 taxation year | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|
| Immigrant class | Immigrants arriving | |
| | 1990-2004 | 2001-04 |
| Family | 4640 | 1910 |
| Business (PA) | 730 | 190 |
| Skilled worker (PA) | 3380 | 1700 |
| Other economic | 4135 | 1510 |
| Refugee | 2005 | 980 |
| Other | 855 | 480 |

Source: IMDB (2005), Summary Tables

Chart 24 results show that relative to non-immigrants in 2005, the earnings of those immigrants who had been in the country for 1-15 years were about 3 percent higher. Those who had been in the country for 1-5 years earned 6 percent lower. Skilled immigrants earned the highest, those with 1-15 years of residence earned close to 60 percent higher than non-immigrants, and those with 1-5 years of stay earned close to 40 percent higher. Those classified as “other” also earned higher than non-immigrants. Business class immigrants earned about 27 percent lower, and those who arrived during 2000-04 in this class earned the lowest of all classes.

Chart 24: Labour Market Earnings of Immigrants by Class Relative to those of Non-Immigrants, 2005



Source: Table A 19.

A summary profile of immigrant entrepreneurs in Atlantic Canada based on survey reports prepared for different government departments is provided in the box entitled Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Atlantic Canada. Most immigrant entrepreneurs are found in Nova Scotia, followed by New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. These entrepreneurs may or may not have entered Canada as business class immigrants. Many have also migrated from outside of Atlantic Canada.

Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Atlantic Canada

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador (2007) profiles 20 immigrant business entrepreneurs living in that province. Nine were engaged in the hospitality industry, managing businesses such as restaurants, pizza delivery, bakeries and catering. Most of them had come from Europe, but one business woman from Pakistan ran a restaurant and one businessman from Lebanon ran a pizza shop. The remaining eleven entrepreneurs were running a variety of businesses in arts and culture, trading and apparel, as well as a dental clinic, an electronic products shop, an imported furniture store, a sports shop, a paint shop, and a skin care store. Most had arrived since the 1990s, some landing directly in the province and some moving from other provinces.

Prince Edward Island

The Population Secretariat of Prince Edward Island commissioned a testimonial profiling immigrant entrepreneurs living on the island (Baldacchino and Fall, 2008). Sixty businesses were identified for the study, 47 of which were located in Queens County. Most immigrant entrepreneurs were involved in catering, including food outlets and ethnic restaurants (21 firms). These were followed by accommodation, including beach cabins, bed & breakfasts, cottages, hotels and campgrounds (13 firms); craft, professional, consulting and other services (12 firms); farm, food, beverage and natural products (9 firms); and computer gaming, automation, aerospace and navigation instruments (5 firms). Although immigrant entrepreneurs have been on the Island since 1977, most of those sampled in the study had come since the late 1990s. Most came from Europe and some from Asia and Africa.

Nova Scotia

In 2008, the Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Agency (MISA) surveyed a sample of 51 immigrant entrepreneurs living in the province to determine the factors that facilitate or hinder their success (Sharif, 2009). Most immigrant entrepreneurs have come to the province since 1990, mainly under the family or skilled worker category rather than as entrepreneurs. Europe is the dominant source region of these immigrants, followed by the Middle East and Asia. Immigrants from Africa, North America (the USA) and Central America make up the rest. Most live within the boundaries of the Halifax Regional Municipality, and their businesses are likely to be in food, import, or retail.

New Brunswick

There is no published report on profiles of immigrant business entrepreneurs in New Brunswick. Information provided by the Population Growth Secretariat (Immigration Division) indicates that business immigrants have come from a variety of countries, the top three (in order of their ranking) being China, Korea, and Iran. Some business entrepreneurs have taken over existing smaller retail, service or accommodation businesses or launched new ventures in these fields and others, but many are still in the adjusting and planning stage.

The Immigrant Investor Program

Canada has had some form of Immigrant Investor Program (IIP) since 1986. IIP seeks to promote economic growth in all regions of Canada by attracting experienced business persons and new investment capital. Before 1999, each province administered its own funds, competing aggressively with other provinces for available capital. Between 1986 and 2002, the total amount of capital attracted was \$8.7 billion from about 27,500 investors. Factoring in the dependents of these applicants means that IIP has attracted about 82,500 people to Canada.

IIP was modified in 1999 to tighten eligibility criteria and bring the flow of capital into a single Canada Fund administered by CIC. This replaced the provincially administered funds except in Quebec, which still runs its own fund independently of the Canada Fund. The other provinces can sign agreements with CIC to participate in, and receive allocations from, the Canada Fund. CIC allocates half the available funds, equally divided, to approved provincial funds; the other half is distributed according to provincial shares of gross domestic product (GDP).

Potential immigrant investors can approach, or be recruited by, financial institutions that have signed agreements with CIC to act as facilitators for the application process. These institutions are all members of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation. Currently, 11 institutions carry out this agency role, including most of Canada's biggest banks. Each receives a fee of \$28,000 for each immigrant investor on issuance of a visa fee paid from the \$400,000 an investor contributes to the fund.

Eligibility criteria now state that an applicant must pay \$400,000 to the Receiver General of Canada, have a net worth of at least \$800,000, and demonstrate the successful operation, management, and control of a business. Previous criteria were more modest, with a tier system that set required investment levels higher for the three biggest provinces. This system made it easier for smaller provinces to attract immigrant investors. Under the IIP, the principal (\$400,000) is repaid to investors about five years after payment into the fund. The repayment is guaranteed by the participating province, which effectively means that the province also pays the agent's fee (\$28,000) to attract the investor in the first place.

Most parts of Canada have benefited from the flow of funds under IIP since the program's inception but especially Quebec, which attracted 62% of the total capital that flowed into Canada between 1996 and 2005. In Atlantic Canada, Prince Edward Island did particularly well for its size, attracting almost 4% of the total capital flows. Nova Scotia also benefited from the program. Not all provinces have applied for participation in the re-designed fund, however; neither Nova Scotia nor New Brunswick was a participant in 2005.

After IIP was re-designed, there was a dip in capital flows to individual provinces, but these have since recovered. Prince Edward Island received \$5.4 million in 2000 but \$32 million in 2005. Also, participating provinces have considerable leeway in how they invest the funds they receive, the only constraint being that the money be used for economic development. The funds IIP raises have been used by provinces to undertake investments without placing further burdens on fiscal capacities. In Prince Edward Island, funds that began in the early 1990s have been invested in both public and private projects, including golf courses, resorts and other tourism infrastructure, diversified manufacturing, and commercial real estate. IIP does not require investors to live in the province where their capital is invested, which raises this question, "Is IIP used to attract immigrants or to attract capital?"

XII. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

International students are viewed as potential new immigrants. “International graduates are young with advanced English language skills, with fully recognized qualifications, locally relevant professional training and a high degree of acculturation” (Hawthorne, 2005). These characteristics are believed to facilitate integration into both the labour market and society as a whole.

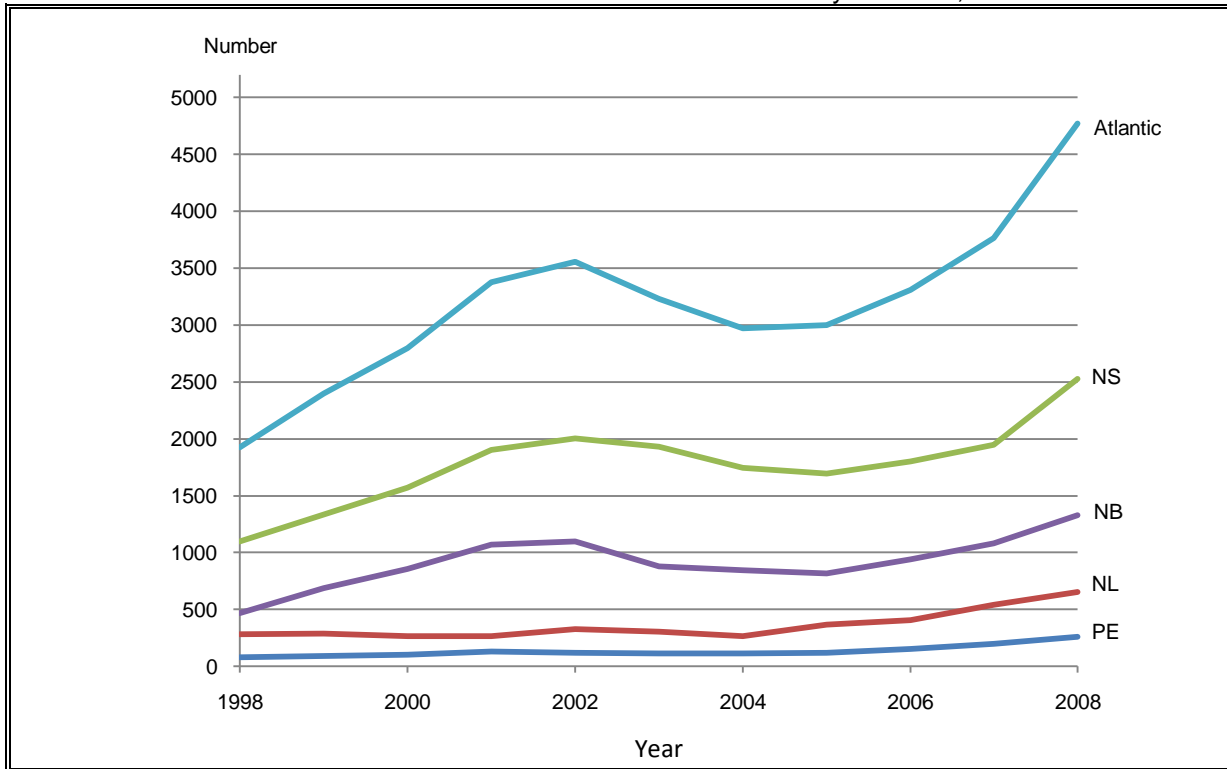
On average, according to CIC, 15-20 per cent of international students can be expected to eventually settle and work in Canada (data presented by Martha Justus, CIC, at the 11th International Metropolis Conference in Lisbon, 4 October 2006). In 2007 alone, international students who converted their status into permanent residents comprised 15.7 percent of such temporary residents in Canada. In Atlantic Canada, this percentage was 27.6 percent (CIC, 2007a and 2007b).

Attracting international students and retaining them after graduation is one of the goals of immigration strategies adopted by provincial governments in Atlantic Canada. For example, the Provincial Nominee Program of Nova Scotia includes the component “International Graduate Stream,” which fast tracks the landing process for those international students who wish to stay in the province after finishing their studies. The immigration strategy of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador explicitly supports the efforts of post-secondary institutions and K-12 schools in attracting an increasing number of international students. Memorial University is a key partner in that strategy. The province of New Brunswick has also signed an agreement with the federal government that makes it easier for foreign graduates in New Brunswick to gain an additional year of work experience in their field of study. This change is expected to help graduates who wish to apply for permanent residence status as skilled workers by providing them with additional points on the selection grid in the area of experience.

XII.1 Annual Inflows of International Students

CIC has published revised data on the annual entry of international students into Canadian provinces for the period 1998-2008. During this period, educational institutions in Atlantic Canada increased their share of annual inflows of international students in total Canadian inflows from 4.6 to 6 percent. The annual share increased consistently over the period. In terms of actual numbers, annual inflows began rising at an accelerating pace even before September 11, 2001, as shown in Chart 25. During this period, national inflows of international students were also rising rapidly as the Canadian government 1) introduced expedited procedures for medical screening of international students, and 2) established Canada Education Centres in two major source countries of international students: China and Korea. The decline observed in actual inflows between 2003 and 2005 is consistent with the decline in national inflows.

Chart 25: Total Entries of International Students in Atlantic Canada by Province, 1998-2008

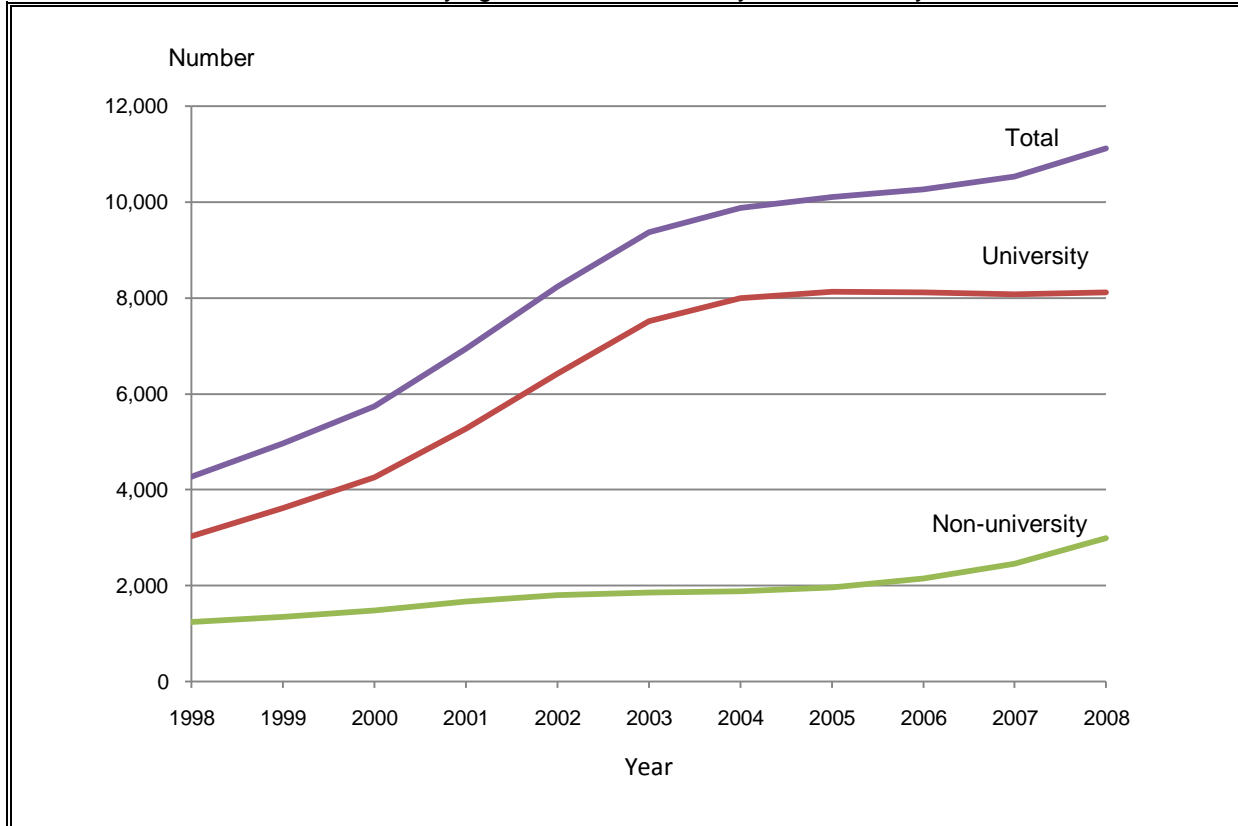


Source: Table A20.

XII.2 International Students by their Level of Study

Chart 26 shows the number of international students studying in Atlantic Canada by level of study. At the time of writing, these data were available only until 2007. Most are university students whose numbers are more than four times those of non-university students, whose numbers have, in turn, changed only slightly over the nine-year period. The population of international students grew rapidly in Atlantic Canada over the period, as it did for Canada. That the number studying in the region in a given year is greater than their inflow means that each international student takes more than one year to finish his/her studies, which is also true nationally. On average, an international student takes about three years to finish his/her education in Atlantic Canada.

Chart 26: International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada by Level of Study, 1998-2008



Source: Table A21.

XII.3 Source Countries of International Students

The contribution of the leading source countries to the Atlantic region's international student population differed only slightly from that to Canada as a whole in 2008 (Charts 27 and 28). Saudi Arabia is included in the top five source countries of international students in Atlantic Canada but not in Canada as a whole. Atlantic universities individually promote their programs in the Middle East through collaboration with local universities and on-campus visits. For example, Memorial University especially aims to recruit students from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. Mount Saint Vincent University's (MSVU) Internationalization Committee also connects with universities, colleges, and private firms in Saudi Arabia interested in what MSVU could offer in terms of exchanges and consultation services. Saudi Arabia hosts about seven million expatriates whose children will normally attend universities outside Saudi Arabia. The Tradewinds Flight Centre of Charlottetown does extensive marketing of its pilot training in India and offers courses that suit the requirements of the Indian Director General, Civil Aviation.

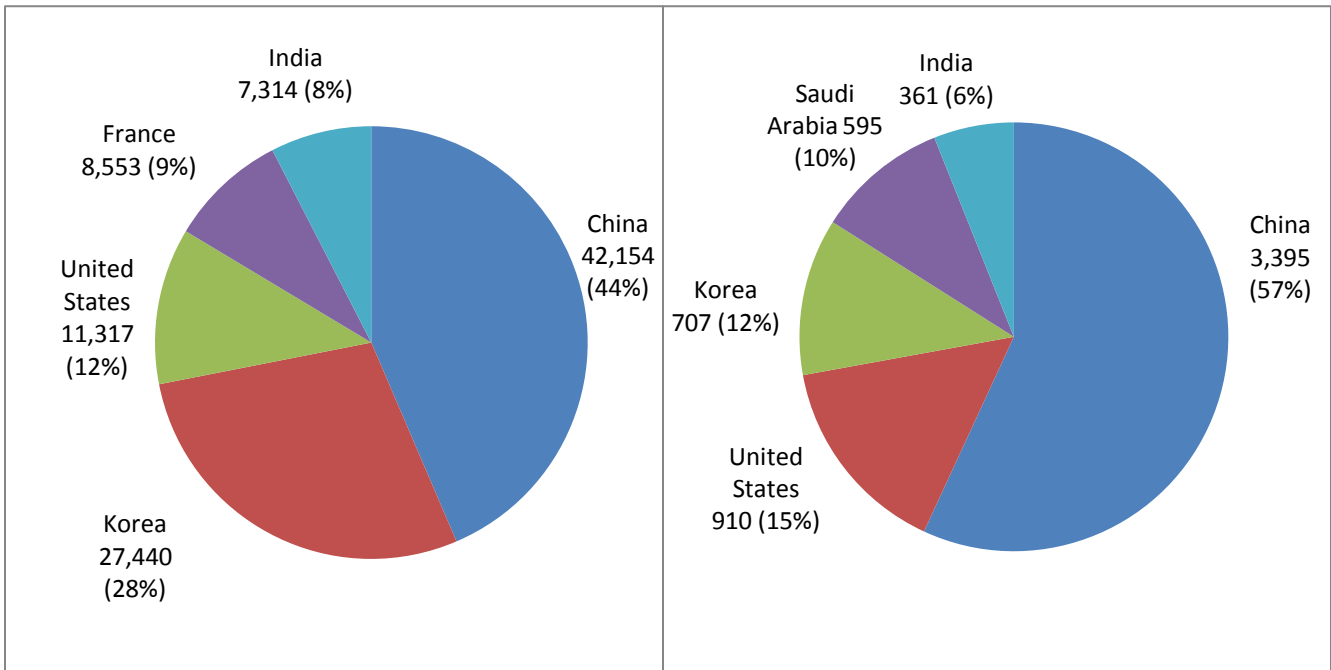
The absence of Europeans in the top five student source countries for Atlantic Canada is worth noting, especially because of the proximity of the region to Europe.

Students from the United States are attracted to Canada mainly because of the lower cost of university education, lower value of Canadian dollar, and closeness to home.

The establishment of Canadian Education Centres in the capital cities of China, India and Korea also has been instrumental in attracting rising numbers of students from those countries. A recent pilot project launched by the Canadian government in India to expedite the processing of student applications is expected to increase student applications from there significantly.

Chart 27: Top Five Source Countries of International Students Studying in Canada, 2008

Chart 28: Top Five Source Countries of International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada, 2008



Source: Table A22.

International Students in Atlantic Canada (Results of a Survey)

In 2008, more than 8,000 international students were studying in universities across Atlantic Canada, representing 6 percent of all international students in Canada, 1 percent higher than it was five years ago. A survey of 135 international students in universities across Atlantic Canada was commissioned by ACOA in 2005. That survey revealed that about 67 percent of international students wanted to stay in Atlantic Canada after finishing their education. This result was corroborated by another survey commissioned by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC, 2007), which found that 90 percent of graduates of Maritime universities tend to stay in the Maritime provinces. The employment rate among the graduates of 2003 was 95 percent, indicating that opportunities for the young and educated do exist in the region.

The ACOA survey also indicated that almost half of the international students cited full employment, a welcoming community, social supports, cost of living, and quality of life when considering applying for permanent residence status, factors that Atlantic universities could include in their international marketing efforts.

XIII. SUMMARY AND SOME POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The 2006 census of Canada revealed a population growth of about 5.4 percent from 2001 to 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2007). However Atlantic Canada's population remained almost unchanged at 2.3 million caused by slight increases in the populations of Nova Scotia (0.6 percent), Prince Edward Island (0.4 percent), and New Brunswick (0.1 percent) that were offset by the decline in the population of Newfoundland and Labrador (1.5 percent). As a result, Atlantic Canada's share in the national population declined from 7.6 percent to 7.2 percent between 2001 and 2006, while that of other parts of the country grew. Due to declining fertility rates and aging, since 1946, the natural growth of population in the region has been on a more rapid decline than it has been nationally. In fact, during 2005-06, natural population growth was almost zero in the region.

Rough estimates indicate that international immigration over the 2001-06 period contributed two-thirds of the Canadian population growth. Over this period, an average of about 240,000 newcomers arrived in Canada each year for a total of some 1.2 million immigrants in five years. Only 2 percent of these newcomers arrived in Atlantic Canada, preventing just one-sixth of the regional population decline.

Governments in Atlantic Canada view population decline and aging as resulting in adverse economic impacts for the region, which could include skill shortages, declining markets for goods and services, increased pressure on the future labour force to provide for programs for elderly, and declining federal transfers. Population decline could also weaken the political representation of the region in the federal government, which could indirectly add to the adverse impact of population growth on the economy. As a result, provincial governments in the region have launched population strategies to reverse population decline and aging, with one tool being to increase the region's share of international immigration, a unified goal of all provincial governments. Various initiatives have been adopted to attract and retain immigrants in the region, and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and the federal government have formed partnerships in implementing these initiatives.

As a result of the above initiatives, immigration now plays an important role in shaping future population growth in Atlantic Canada. In fact, immigration in the region rose about 2.5 times during the period 2002-2008 (from 2,638 to 6,604). Arrivals increased in all four provinces during this period, and each province is also able to retain more immigrants than it did in earlier periods. However, immigration targets set by provincial governments are too low to achieve a fair share for the region. To maintain an even share in annual Canadian immigrant inflows relative to its population, the region should receive between 16,000 and 18,000 new immigrants each year. These numbers correspond to the region's share of the national population (7.2 percent) and the national intake (which is 0.7-0.8 percent of population). Achieving this target may be difficult in the short term, but current initiatives are steps in the right direction and are producing desired results.

With increased immigration, issues relating to the social and economic impacts of immigration that are often raised in the public circles of immigrant-abundant regions of western and central Canada could occupy a central place in public policy discussions in this region as well. Some issues include the impacts of immigrants on the public treasury,

poverty, employment and the wages of the native-born. This report provides some broad information that can also be a useful input to public policy discussions around these issues.

Just as in other regions of Canada, immigrants tend to settle in urban areas of Atlantic Canada, where about 67 percent of the population lives. However, about 27 percent of immigrants also live in rural Atlantic Canada. The top five source countries of these immigrants are the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and India. (In 2001, France was also included among these countries, while India was not.) Separate data on their labour market performance are not available, but some evidence suggests that a large number of these immigrants are involved in farming occupations.

Among recent immigrants, less than 20 percent live in rural Atlantic Canada – mostly in moderate to highly rural areas. The top five source countries of these recent immigrants are the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, China and India. Because of the large existing population of immigrants from the first three countries who are involved in farming occupations, it is possible that recent immigrants from those countries are also. However, there is also evidence that some of them engage in small businesses. Immigrants from China and India are more likely to be professionals who came under the PNP to alleviate shortages of professionals such as doctors in rural areas.

Several policy implications emerge from the above findings: 1) rural areas can be developed as immigrant destinations; 2) farming opportunities and the presence of immigrant communities in Atlantic Canada should be promoted in the United States and Europe to attract more immigrants from there; 3) job availability for professionals should be promoted in all countries around the world by referring to the shortages of skilled labour; and 4) assistance with immigrant settlement in the form of language programs and cultural events should be a priority, especially for immigrants from countries other than the United States and those in Europe. Also, further investigation into the motivation for choosing a rural destination can provide information that can be used to attract future immigrants. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Canadian government succeeded in using immigration in its rural population strategy applied to western Canada and the Prairie provinces, with the objective of developing agricultural land. Given Atlantic Canada's relative proximity to Europe and the United States, a similar strategy for rural re-population in Atlantic Canada may be considered. Promotional materials being designed under the federal-provincial Atlantic Population Table's initiative to attract immigrants to the region should also promote farming opportunities and the presence of an immigrant population to potential immigrants from the United States and Europe. These materials could also be designed to inform potential immigrants from non-European countries, such as China and India, about available job opportunities for professionals.

Over the 1981-2008 period, larger proportions of immigrants with higher educational attainments than non-immigrants have arrived in Atlantic Canada. For example, during 2001-08, more than half the immigrants aged 25 and older arrived with a university degree, while the latest data for non-immigrants reveal that only 15 percent had a university degree in 2006. Immigrants who arrived in the late 1990s faced greater difficulties in labour markets since their unemployment rates were higher not only than those of immigrants who came in the past but also than those of non-immigrants. However, those who arrived more recently (during 2001-2006) did better in 2005. Their unemployment rate was comparable to that among non-immigrants, and the income gap between them and non-immigrants was the

same as that between non-immigrants and their counterparts in 2000. The income gap between an average immigrant and non-immigrant closes after five years of arrival, and the immigrant continues to earn more than a non-immigrant thereafter. Nationally, this gap closes after 15 years of an immigrant's stay in Canada. Overall, an immigrant earns a higher income than a non-immigrant in Atlantic Canada. However, those who obtained their post-secondary education in South Korea, India and Pakistan appear to have faced greater difficulties in labour market integration than other groups as their unemployment rates were higher.

In sum, the labour market outcomes of immigrants in Atlantic Canada are strong, except for some visible minority immigrants who obtained their education in South Korea, India and Pakistan. Therefore, it is important to facilitate the dissemination of more information about the educational systems of these countries to also facilitate employers' hiring decisions. Canadian universities are experienced in assessing foreign credentials as they admit large numbers of international students, most of whom successfully complete their education. Therefore, they can be a useful resource in assessing the education of an immigrant in a foreign country. Many Atlantic universities also have immigrant faculty members, whose knowledge can enhance the resourcefulness of those universities in assessing international credentials.

In addition, professional organizations and employers can also be involved in evaluating foreign education and experience.

One caveat in the analysis of unemployment rates is that no account is made for underemployment, which should be investigated in a separate study to further understand the issue of foreign credential recognition in Atlantic Canada's labour markets.

Business immigration in the region has been traditionally low. The significant increase in business immigrants during the mid-1990s had special causes, and most immigrant business people live in Nova Scotia. Labour market earnings (employment and self-employment earnings) of an average immigrant entrepreneur were the least among all classes of immigrants in 2005.

Therefore, the Atlantic provinces need to do better in attracting business immigrants, who need to have confidence in the local economy before investing in it. The experience of the 1990s with business class immigrants, whose annual inflows rose and fell rapidly due to the frustration of their expectations, suggests more government involvement is necessary in the settlement and integration of new business immigrants and their families. Assistance should also be provided in developing contacts with the existing network of entrepreneurs. The "Entrepreneur Forum" introduced by the province of Nova Scotia is a step in the right direction. Immigrant entrepreneurs may also be included in the promotional programs to market the region to potential immigrant entrepreneurs in foreign countries. Due to possible abuse of the system, however, close government monitoring of the local connections established by new arrivals is essential. Partnerships with commercial banks also should be sought to facilitate the availability of financial credit to new arrivals under business class.

More highly skilled immigrants arrived in 2008 than did in 1981. During 2000-2004, the region also achieved a net in-migration of skilled immigrants from other provinces of Canada, which helped increase the overall retention rate of immigrants who arrived during

that period. Their numbers had declined between 1995 and 2003, and the effect of this decline was quite broad based among professionals in the region. Since the adoption of certain initiatives, such as the PNP and strategies to fast track the integration of international medical graduates, the numbers of highly skilled immigrants have started to rise again. These programs have also been the main source of attraction for skilled immigrants from provinces outside of Atlantic Canada. Most of these immigrants are working in rural areas through special arrangements. Data on the occupational distribution of these immigrants and their economic performance should be analyzed to understand how well they have integrated into the region.

International students in Canada offer a large pool of potential highly skilled immigrants. On average, an international student takes about three years to finish his/her education in Atlantic Canada. Since most are university students (four times the non-university students), conversion of their residency status into that of landed immigrant will increase the supply of highly skilled immigrants who do not face the same labour market challenges as those who acquired their education at a non-Canadian university. They can also more easily integrate into Canadian society due to their proficiency in English or French (or both) and knowledge of Canadian culture.

In 2008, more than 8,000 international students were studying in universities across Atlantic Canada. To attract more international students, universities could focus more on students from countries that have existing communities in Atlantic Canada. A large immigrant population from the United States and the United Kingdom lives in Atlantic Canada, and due to their proximity to Atlantic Canada, it may be easier to attract more students from these countries. Some other factors that should be strongly promoted among students in these two countries about university education in Atlantic Canada could include the competitive tuition fees, high quality of education, and proximity to their source countries. Another dominant immigrant community in the region is Middle Eastern, whose members could help attract students from their countries of former residence. Also, some Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates, do not permit children of expatriates to attend local universities. Atlantic Canadian universities can also target those students.

Today, most international students, as well as immigrants, come from China. As the population of Chinese immigrants grows, it is expected that more Chinese students will also be attracted to the Atlantic region. Therefore, strengthening English as a Second Language (ESL) programs and industry-specific language training as part of university curricula will also attract students from China and other non-English-speaking countries.

At present, from the time of entry into Canada, it takes about ten years for an international student to acquire landed immigrant status. The federal government can help facilitate, as much as possible for international students, the process of landing and the procedures for obtaining a work permit after graduation. More provincial governments could also allow universities to participate in the PNP in collaboration with private employers.

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Akbari, A.H., S. Lynch, T. McDonald and W. Rankaduwa. 2007. Socioeconomic and Demographic Profiles of Immigrants in Atlantic Canada Atlantic Metropolis Centre
- Akbari, A. 2009. Labour Force Participation of Immigrants in Nova Scotia Circa: 2006, Dalhousie University (student paper, unpublished)
- Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. 2007a. Atlantic Report, (Winter)
- _____ . 2007b. Where Have all Workers Gone? (April)
- Baldacchino, G. and C. Fall. 2008. Immigrant Entrepreneurs on Prince Edward Island University of Prince Edward Island (ISBN: 978-0-9810620-0-6)
- Basky G, Mathews M, Edwards AC, Rourke JTB. 2007. Do they stay or do they go? Retention of provisionally licensed international medical graduates in Newfoundland and Labrador. St. John's: Division of Community Health and Humanities, Memorial University of Newfoundland [summary report]
- Beshiri, R. and J. He. 2009. Immigrants in Rural Canada: 2006 (Statistics Canada Cat # 21-006-X)
- Broadway, M. "Meatpacking and the Transformation of Rural Communities: A Comparison of Brooks, Alberta and Garden City, Kansas." Rural Sociology Vol. 72, No. 4, pp. 560-582)
- Chuck M., H. Puderer and D. Janes. 2000. Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Influenced Zones (MIZ): A description of the Methodology, Statistics Canada Cat # 92F0138MIE, no. 2000-2)
- Citizenship & Immigration Canada. 2007a. Facts and Figures
- _____ . 2007b. Facts and figures Special edition on Atlantic Canada
- Colchester Regional Development Agency. 2009. Colchester-CORDA Times (1st Quarter)
- Hawthorne, L. 2005. "Picking Winners: The Recent Transformation of Australia's Skill Migration Policy." International Migration Review, 39(2)
- Newfoundland and Labrador. 2007. Diversity and Opportunity: Profiles of Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (second edition)
- Sharif, N. 2009. Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Nova Scotia: Factors that Contribute to and Hinder Success Atlantic Metropolis Centre Working Paper # 20
- Skills Compétences Canada. Skills shortages and Labour Market Trends in construction Industry, Issue 2 (date unknown)
- Statistics Canada. 2007. Portrait of the Canadian Population, 2006: 2006 Census (Cat # 97-550-XIE)
- _____ . 2008. The Daily (March 27)
- _____ . 2009. The Daily (March 26)
- Tomlin, B. The Seat Shortage: Changing Demographics and Representation in the House of Commons C.D. Howe Institute (e-brief, May 29, 2007).

- Zietsma, D. 2007. The Canadian Immigrant Labour Market in 2006: First Results from Canada's Labour Force Survey (Statistics Canada, Cat # 71-606-XIE2007001)

APPENDIX:

| | Late 1940s | 1950s | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | 1990s | 2000-06 | 2006-08 |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| Rate of growth | 14.59 | 15.77 | 9.80 | 10.00 | 4.35 | 0.42 | -1.26 | -0.45 |
| Due to natural growth | 23.22 | 21.87 | 16.97 | 10.25 | 7.01 | 3.72 | 1.08 | 0.63 |
| Due to net migration | -8.63 | -6.10 | -7.17 | -0.26 | -2.66 | -3.30 | -2.34 | -1.08 |

Source: Table A2.

| Year | Population ('000) | Birth Rate | Death Rate |
|------|-------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1945 | 321.576 | 34.9 | 10.4 |
| 1946 | 1,509.671 | 32.5 | 10.1 |
| 1947 | 1,534.227 | 34.3 | 9.9 |
| 1948 | 1,560.201 | 31.8 | 9.6 |
| 1949 | 1,575.972 | 31.4 | 9.3 |
| 1950 | 1,597.040 | 31.1 | 9.4 |
| 1951 | 1,617.869 | 29.4 | 9.0 |
| 1952 | 1,652.839 | 30.2 | 8.5 |
| 1953 | 1,680.144 | 29.9 | 8.4 |
| 1954 | 1,708.595 | 30.4 | 8.1 |
| 1955 | 1,736.529 | 30.6 | 8.3 |
| 1956 | 1,764.057 | 30.0 | 8.2 |
| 1957 | 1,786.238 | 30.4 | 8.2 |
| 1958 | 1,811.924 | 29.1 | 8.1 |
| 1959 | 1,843.250 | 28.8 | 8.3 |
| 1960 | 1,866.581 | 28.6 | 7.9 |
| 1961 | 1,896.714 | 28.7 | 7.8 |
| 1962 | 1,925.826 | 27.9 | 8.0 |
| 1963 | 1,944.636 | 27.3 | 7.9 |
| 1964 | 1,957.895 | 26.1 | 7.7 |
| 1965 | 1,968.079 | 24.4 | 7.8 |
| 1966 | 1,975.475 | 22.4 | 7.8 Contd. |

| Year | Population | Birth Rate (Per '000) | Death Rate (Per '000) |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1967 | 1,988.767 | 20.9 | 7.9 |
| 1968 | 2,008.719 | 20.1 | 7.8 |
| 1969 | 2,027.834 | 19.9 | 7.6 |
| 1970 | 2,035.008 | 19.8 | 7.9 |
| 1971 | 2,066.051 | 20.0 | 7.7 |
| 1972 | 2,103.301 | 19.1 | 7.7 |
| 1973 | 2,127.306 | 18.1 | 7.7 |
| 1974 | 2,087.519 | 17.5 | 7.7 |
| 1975 | 2,176.233 | 17.5 | 7.5 |
| 1976 | 2,204.598 | 17.1 | 7.5 |
| 1977 | 2,184.522 | 16.6 | 7.4 |
| 1978 | 2,181.156 | 16.0 | 7.2 |
| 1979 | 2,244.369 | 15.8 | 7.2 |
| 1980 | 2,254.259 | 15.7 | 7.4 |
| 1981 | 2,259.357 | 15.3 | 7.2 |
| 1982 | 2,265.880 | 15.0 | 7.3 |
| 1983 | 2,287.407 | 14.8 | 7.3 |
| 1984 | 2,303.796 | 14.4 | 7.3 |
| 1985 | 2,314.985 | 14.3 | 7.4 |
| 1986 | 2,318.657 | 13.9 | 7.5 |
| 1987 | 2,323.675 | 13.5 | 7.4 |
| 1988 | 2,330.929 | 13.4 | 7.5 |
| 1989 | 2,343.857 | 13.6 | 7.6 |
| 1990 | 2,356.859 | 13.7 | 7.6 |
| 1991 | 2,368.937 | 12.9 | 7.5 |
| 1992 | 2,377.343 | 12.6 | 7.6 |
| 1993 | 2,384.233 | 12.1 | 7.7 |
| 1994 | 2,384.247 | 11.8 | 7.9 |
| 1995 | 2,381.153 | 11.3 | 7.9 |
| 1996 | 2,378.370 | 11.0 | 7.9 |
| 1997 | 2,371.889 | 10.5 | 8.2 |
| 1998 | 2,359.228 | 10.2 | 8.4 |
| 1999 | 2,353.543 | 10.1 | 8.5 |
| 2000 | 2,349.341 | 10.0 | 8.7 Contd. |

| Year | Population | Birth Rate (Per '000) | Death Rate (Per '000) |
|------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2001 | 2,341.410 | 9.9 | 8.8 |
| 2002 | 2,340.773 | 9.3 | 8.3 |
| 2003 | 2,343.142 | 9.3 | 8.5 |
| 2004 | 2,337.414 | 9.2 | 8.6 |
| 2005 | 2,340.422 | 9.1 | 8.8 |
| 2006 | 2,332.812 | 9.0 | 8.9 |
| 2007 | 2330.263 | 9.1 | 8.7 |
| 2008 | 2337.242 | 9.0 | 8.9 |

Source: Statistics Canada. No date. CANSIM Table no. 053-0001: "Vital Statistics, births, deaths and marriages, quarterly (number)" Using E-STAT (Accessed April 27-09).

| Table A3: Provincial Representations in the Canadian House of Commons Based on Current Rules and Projected Population Growth, 1976-2021 | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| House Seats 1976-2000 | House Seats 2001-2011 | House Seats 2012-2021 |
| 2.51 | 2.30 | 2.26 |
| 1.43 | 1.31 | 1.29 |
| 3.94 | 3.61 | 3.55 |
| 3.58 | 3.28 | 3.23 |
| 26.88 | 24.59 | 24.19 |
| 34.05 | 34.75 | 35.48 |
| 5.02 | 4.59 | 4.52 |
| 5.02 | 4.59 | 4.52 |
| 7.53 | 9.18 | 9.35 |
| 10.04 | 11.80 | 11.61 |

Source: Based on Tomlin (2007)

| Table A4: Immigrants (Principal Applicants and Dependents) Destined for each Atlantic Province during 1981-2008 | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|-----|------|-------|
| Year | Provinces | | | | Total |
| | NS | NB | NL | PEI | |
| 1981 | 1403 | 988 | 480 | 126 | 4372 |
| 1982 | 1254 | 751 | 407 | 165 | 3987 |
| 1983 | 833 | 554 | 275 | 105 | 3370 |
| 1984 | 1035 | 600 | 299 | 109 | 3619 |
| 1985 | 972 | 607 | 323 | 113 | 3564 |
| 1986 | 1094 | 640 | 274 | 168 | 3720 |
| 1987 | 1223 | 641 | 455 | 160 | 3851 |
| 1988 | 1298 | 674 | 410 | 152 | 3960 |
| 1989 | 1473 | 902 | 466 | 158 | 4364 |
| 1990 | 1571 | 853 | 552 | 176 | 4414 |
| 1991 | 1499 | 686 | 636 | 150 | 4176 |
| 1992 | 2360 | 757 | 788 | 151 | 5109 |
| 1993 | 3022 | 706 | 804 | 163 | 5721 |
| 1994 | 3469 | 627 | 565 | 161 | 6090 |
| 1995 | 3579 | 643 | 573 | 161 | 6217 |
| 1996 | 3224 | 717 | 581 | 150 | 5937 |
| 1997 | 2833 | 663 | 414 | 144 | 5493 |
| 1998 | 2042 | 723 | 402 | 136 | 4763 |
| 1999 | 1595 | 660 | 424 | 135 | 4254 |
| 2000 | 1610 | 759 | 417 | 189 | 4369 |
| 2001 | 1699 | 798 | 392 | 134 | 4498 |
| 2002 | 1419 | 705 | 407 | 107 | 4126 |
| 2003 | 1474 | 665 | 359 | 153 | 4142 |
| 2004 | 1770 | 795 | 579 | 310 | 4569 |
| 2005 | 1929 | 1091 | 496 | 330 | 5025 |
| 2006 | 2586 | 1646 | 508 | 565 | 6238 |
| 2007 | 2523 | 1643 | 546 | 992 | 6173 |
| 2008 | 2653 | 1845 | 623 | 1483 | 6506 |

Source: Data from 1981-2005 are from Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS), micro-data, CIC (variables used: province). The 2006-2008 data are from Facts and Figures (2008, CIC; www.cic.gc.ca; accessed May 4, 2009).

| Table A5: Annual Arrivals of Immigrants in Atlantic Canada Under the Provincial Nominee Program, 2000-07 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Province | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Principal Applicants and Dependents | | | | | | | | |
| NB | 22 | 70 | 105 | 146 | 161 | 438 | 967 | 921 |
| NL | 0 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 171 | 85 | 77 | 67 |
| NS | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 326 | 863 | 896 |
| PEI | 0 | 0 | 10 | 44 | 141 | 204 | 423 | 816 |
| Total | 22 | 116 | 151 | 227 | 537 | 1,053 | 2,330 | 2,700 |
| Principal Applicants | | | | | | | | |
| NB | 10 | 31 | 45 | 63 | 65 | 149 | 329 | 322 |
| NL | 0 | 13 | 9 | 15 | 55 | 27 | 30 | 25 |
| NS | 0 | -- | 0 | 0 | 20 | 105 | 253 | 286 |
| PEI | 0 | 0 | -- | 14 | 44 | 65 | 138 | 260 |
| Total | 10 | 44 | 54 | 92 | 184 | 346 | 750 | 893 |

Source: CIC, Facts and Figures (2008, special tabulations)

| Table A6: Annual Arrivals of Provincial Nominees in Atlantic Canada by Province, 2005–2008 (%) | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Province | Year | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| NB | 40.15 | 58.75 | 56.06 | 55.84 |
| NL | 17.10 | 15.16 | 12.27 | 17.07 |
| NS | 16.90 | 33.37 | 35.67 | 32.67 |
| PE | 61.82 | 74.87 | 82.16 | 86.40 |
| AC - Total | 27.37 | 43.92 | 47.39 | 49.58 |

Source: CIC (Facts and Figures, 2008, special tabulations)

| Table A7: Population Distribution in Atlantic Canada, 2001-2006 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Total Population | Non-Immigrants | Immigrants | Recent Immigrants | Non-permanent Resident |
| CMA/CA (Urban) | 67.18 | 66.78 | 72.81 | 81.74 | 79.33 |
| Total MIZ (Rural) | 32.82 | 33.22 | 27.19 | 18.26 | 20.67 |
| Strong MIZ | 4.02 | 4.10 | 2.97 | 1.91 | 0.80 |
| Moderate MIZ | 13.47 | 13.65 | 11.01 | 6.41 | 8.54 |
| Weak MIZ | 14.79 | 14.93 | 12.71 | 9.45 | 11.01 |
| No MIZ | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.32 |

Source: Statistics Canada (Rural Secretariat Community Information Database, BO-0355, Table 3 – Profile of Statistical Area Classification, 2006 Census, 20% Sample; B20/20 files)

| Rank | Country | Immigrants | | Rank | Country | Recent Immigrants | |
|------|------------|------------|-------|------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | USA | 4745 | 39.15 | 1 | USA | 470 | 33.81 |
| 2 | UK | 2875 | 23.72 | 2 | UK | 170 | 12.23 |
| 3 | Germany | 960 | 7.92 | 3 | Germany | 140 | 10.07 |
| 4 | Netherland | 765 | 6.31 | 4 | China | 65 | 4.68 |
| 5 | India | 160 | 1.32 | 5 | India | 35 | 2.52 |
| 6 | All others | 2615 | 21.58 | 6 | All others | 510 | 36.69 |

Source: Statistics Canada (Rural Secretariat Community Information Database, BO-0355, Table 3 – Profile of Statistical Area Classification, 2006 Census, 20% Sample; B20/20 files)

| Age group | 1986 | | 1991 | | 1996 | | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Recent immigrants | Non-immigrants | Recent immigrants | Non-immigrants | Recent immigrants | Non-immigrants | Recent immigrants | Non-immigrants | Recent immigrants | Non-immigrants |
| 15-24 | 19.53 | 24.13 | 19.46 | 20.43 | 11.22 | 18.53 | 10.12 | 17.02 | 10.88 | 15.86 |
| 25-44 | 52.06 | 40.40 | 58.86 | 42.19 | 62.69 | 40.57 | 68.38 | 36.57 | 66.44 | 33.54 |
| 45-64 | 16.53 | 22.19 | 13.24 | 23.27 | 20.75 | 26.91 | 18.35 | 31.28 | 19.55 | 33.88 |
| 65+ | 11.89 | 13.28 | 8.43 | 14.11 | 5.33 | 13.99 | 3.15 | 15.13 | 3.13 | 16.73 |
| Total | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source: Recent immigrant data 1) are based on PRDS for 1986-2001 and 2) Facts and Figures (2008, special tabulations) for 2006. Non-immigrant data for 1986-2001 are based on Canadian population censuses (Public Use Micro data Files PUMF, individual files), Statistics Canada. For the period 1991-2001, the non-immigrant data are based on the variable "immigrant status indicator", while for 1986, these are based on the variable "year of immigration" since the "immigrant status indicator" was not provided with 1986 census PUMF. The 2006 census-based data are from Statistics Canada Cat. No. 97-556-X2006012 available on www.statcan.gc.ca

| Year | Skill worker | Entrepreneurs | Self-Employed | Investors | Business | Total Economics |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| 1998 | 516 | 144 | 89 | 43 | 276 | 2255 |
| 1999 | 497 | 91 | 67 | 27 | 185 | 1587 |
| 2000 | 466 | 90 | 59 | 22 | 171 | 1598 |
| 2001 | 497 | 51 | 52 | 18 | 121 | 1561 |
| 2002 | 405 | 24 | 41 | 12 | 77 | 1324 |
| 2003 | 320 | 12 | 44 | 13 | 69 | 1221 |
| 2004 | 447 | 29 | 18 | 20 | 67 | 1870 |
| 2005 | 465 | 13 | 8 | 16 | 37 | 2333 |
| 2006 | 523 | 13 | 27 | 14 | 54 | 3660 |
| 2007 | 527 | 7 | 6 | 27 | 40 | 4051 |
| 2008 | 600 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 4795 |

Source: CIC, Facts and Figures (2008, special tabulations).

| Period | New immigrants arriving* | New immigrants residing at end of period | Retention rate (%) |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (3)=(2)/(1)×100 |
| 1981 - 86 | 12212 | 9200 | 75 |
| 1986 - 91 | 14359 | 10200 | 71 |
| 1991- 96 | 23136 | 11005 | 48 |
| 1996 - 01 | 19031 | 9940 | 52 |
| 2001-06 | 20920 | 13490 | 77 |

*Because censuses are conducted in mid-June, new immigrants residing in the region in the last year of each period do not include those who arrived in the latter half of those years, i.e. 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001. Hence arrival data for only the first five months of each of these years were used.

Source: Data in column (1) for the period 1981 – 2001 are based on Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS - microdata) as provided to AMC under contract with CIC; for 2001-06 are based on Facts and Figures (2008, Special tabulations), while those in column (2) are based on Canadian population censuses obtained from the following sources: 1. For 2001-06 data, Catalogue no. 97-557-XCB2006019, 2) For 1996-2001 data, Statistics Canada, Catalogue number 97F0009XCB-2001004. 3) For 1991-96 data, Statistics Canada Catalogue number 93F0023XDB96003, 4) For 1986-91 data, Citizenship and Immigration, Recent Immigrants in the Halifax Metropolitan Area (Selected Charts) Census 1991 (October 2002). 5) For 1981-86 data, Statistics Canada population census 1986, PUMF-microdata. Variables used: "prov" in PRDS, "province" and "year of immigration" in Census PUMF.

| Year | High School or Less | | University Degree | |
|------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | Immigrants | Non-immigrants | Immigrants | Non-immigrants |
| 1986 | 45.43 | 61.44 | 26.56 | 7.58 |
| 1991 | 40.37 | 56.74 | 30.76 | 8.83 |
| 1996 | 35.30 | 51.23 | 39.61 | 10.98 |
| 2001 | 30.63 | 47.84 | 44.83 | 12.47 |
| 2006 | 24.78 | 41.13 | 51.04 | 15.30 |

Note: Recent immigrants are those who arrived within five years of the census year.

Source: 1) Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS - microdata, CIC) for immigrants. Variables used: "prov", "ed_qua", "fage". High School or Less Education = None + Secondary or less. 2) The Canadian population censuses (PUMF, 1986-2001, individual files) for non-immigrants until 2001. Variables used: "province or territories", "immigrant status indicator", "age", "highest level of schooling". For the 1986 census, "place of birth" is used instead of "immigrant status indicator" because the latter is not available to determine whether the individual is a non-immigrant. High School or Less Education = less than grade 5 + grades 5-8 + grades 9-13 + secondary school graduation certificate. All data are reported for individuals aged 25 and over. For the 2006 census-based data, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 97-560-XCB2006025.

| Period | Total growth of labour force | Growth owed to new immigrants | Growth without new immigrants | Immigrants' contribution to population growth (%) |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4)=(2)/(3)×100 |
| 1981-1986 | 83320 | 3790 | 79530 | 4.77 |
| 1986-1991 | 88610 | 4795 | 83815 | 5.72 |
| 1991-1996 | -20850 | 4975 | -25825 | 19.26 |
| 1996-2001 | 13630 | 4245 | 9385 | 45.23 |

Source: Calculations based on population census data provided in Statistics Canada Catalogue 97F0012XCB2001003, accessed May 5, 2007, on web site: www.statcan.ca. Comparable data from 2006 census are not yet available.

| Table A14: Atlantic Canada Labour Market Statistics: Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate, Employment Income, and Government Transfer Payments as a Percentage of Total Income for Immigrants and Non-Immigrants, 1981-2006 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Census year | 1981 | 1986 | 1991 | 1996 | 2001 | 2006 |
| Labour Force Participation Rate | | | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 60.05 | 61.89 | 64.24 | 61.76 | 62.53 | 62.8 |
| Immigrants | 59.00 | 60.98 | 62.12 | 59.35 | 58.41 | 58.6 |
| Recent immigrants ¹ | 64.21 | 63.02 | 70.05 | 65.55 | 64.32 | 64.4 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | | | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 16.46 | 20.04 | 19.80 | 19.09 | 15.75 | 11.7 |
| Immigrants | 10.09 | 11.98 | 12.17 | 11.34 | 9.38 | 7.8 |
| Recent immigrants ¹ | 12.17 | 15.92 | 17.52 | 18.69 | 18.37 | 11.5 |
| Employment Income (\$) | | | | | | |
| Non-immigrants (1) | 11776 | 16450 | 21432 | 22510 | 26265 | 28642 |
| Immigrants (2) | 16339 | 22101 | 29102 | 26572 | 31890 | 35852 |
| Recent immigrants ¹ (3) | 12990 | 12583 | N/A | 22532 | 23660 | 25302 |
| Ratio (2/1) | 1.39 | 1.34 | 1.36 | 1.18 | 1.21 | 1.25 |
| Ratio (3/1) | 1.10 | 0.76 | N/A | 1.00 | 0.90 | 0.88 |
| Government Transfers (% of total income) | | | | | | |
| Non-immigrants | 14.48 | 18.22 | 18.36 | 20.99 | 18.09 | 17.63 |
| Immigrants | 9.25 | 11.55 | 12.61 | 17.55 | 15.90 | 14.55 |
| Recent immigrants ¹ | 2.99 | 5.87 | N/A | 12.41 | 9.40 | 10.78 |

¹. Recent immigrants those who arrived within five years of the census data. Since they include those who arrived in the census year and in the prior year; hence, their entire year's performance is not reflected.

Sources and notes: 1. Labour force participation and unemployment rates are based on "Historical Labour Force Activity (Based on the 1971 Concepts) (8), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (10), Age Groups (18), Marital Status (7) and Sex (3) for Population 15 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1971, 1981 to 2001 Censuses - 20% Sample Data". Ottawa: Statistics Canada, March 25, 2003, Census of Canada, Catalogue number 97F0012XCB2001003. The rest of the data are based on special tabulations performed by the author based on population censuses (PUMF, 1981-2001, individual files). 2. All income data are averages. Data on recent immigrants include those who arrived in the census year and in the year prior to it, so do not reflect their entire year's performance. Employment income is equal to the sum of wages and salaries and self-employment income and is reported only for those who were employed. 3. The following variables were used to obtain government transfers as a percentage of total income: For the 1991, 1996 and 2001 censuses, "total income" and "total government transfer payments" were available directly. For the 1986 census, "total income", "Old age sec pension & guaranteed income supplement (OASGIP)", "Canada, Quebec pension plan benefits (CQPPBP)", "Family allowances (FAMALP)", "Federal child tax credits (CHDCRP)", "Unemployment insurance benefits (UICBNP)" and "Other government transfer payments (GOVTIP)" were added. For the 1981 census, "total income", "OAS, GIS, CQPP", "Unemployment insurance benefits (UICBN)" and "Other government transfer payments (GOVTI)" were added. 4. All labour force and income information are for the year prior to the census year. 5. The 1991 PUMF does not provide separate data on recent arrivals in the Atlantic provinces. 6. The 2006 census-based data are from

| Age groups | Non-immigrants | | Immigrant | |
|------------|----------------|---------|----------------|-------|
| | Average income | N | Average income | N |
| Total - | 28,641 | 1714930 | 35,851 | 75745 |
| 15-24 | 10,253 | 221645 | 9,362 | 3945 |
| 25 - 44 | 31,789 | 578715 | 33,949 | 21025 |
| 45 - 64 | 34,325 | 620175 | 43,679 | 30200 |
| 65 + | 24,325 | 294390 | 31,569 | 20415 |

Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue # 97-563 XCB2006006.

| Year | Canada | | Atlantic Canada | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Immigrant | Non-immigrant | Immigrant | Non-immigrant |
| 2001-04 | 22186 | 36243 | 27158 | 28,634 |
| 1996-00 | 26844 | 36243 | 29698 | 28,634 |
| 1991-95 | 27431 | 36243 | 29952 | 28,634 |
| 1981-90 | 33826 | 36243 | 38053 | 28,634 |
| 1971-80 | 42634 | 36243 | 41732 | 28,634 |
| 1961-70 | 42480 | 36243 | 43291 | 28,634 |
| Before 1961 | 38228 | 36243 | 32540 | 28,634 |

Source: Author's calculations based on Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue # 97-563 XCB2006006.

Table A17: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Canada's Labour Force by Skill Classifications, 1981-2008

| Year | Highly skilled | Low skilled | Medium skilled |
|------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1981 | 454 | 294 | 445 |
| 1982 | 401 | 238 | 377 |
| 1983 | 289 | 144 | 214 |
| 1984 | 255 | 223 | 259 |
| 1985 | 283 | 227 | 241 |
| 1986 | 330 | 236 | 268 |
| 1987 | 400 | 253 | 360 |
| 1988 | 389 | 290 | 388 |
| 1989 | 447 | 343 | 491 |
| 1990 | 428 | 307 | 414 |
| 1991 | 397 | 206 | 277 |
| 1992 | 444 | 199 | 282 |
| 1993 | 487 | 186 | 366 |
| 1994 | 522 | 142 | 297 |
| 1995 | 664 | 155 | 339 |
| 1996 | 645 | 139 | 322 |
| 1997 | 589 | 130 | 279 |
| 1998 | 503 | 73 | 221 |
| 1999 | 519 | 88 | 183 |
| 2000 | 517 | 89 | 181 |
| 2001 | 556 | 71 | 202 |
| 2002 | 493 | 53 | 150 |
| 2003 | 465 | 53 | 142 |
| 2004 | 624 | 63 | 163 |
| 2005 | 731 | 34 | 155 |
| 2006 | 1105 | 60 | 241 |
| 2007 | 1227 | 122 | 326 |
| 2008 | 1487 | 130 | 370 |

Source: data for 1981-1997 are from Akbari, et al (2008), for 1998-2004 are from CIC Facts and Figures 2007, and for 2005 -2008 are from CIC Facts and Figures (2008, special tabulations).

¹National Occupational Classifications (NOC) were further classified as highly skilled = "O" and "A"; medium skilled = "B"; low skilled = "C" and "D". Detailed definitions of NOC are provided in Table A5. Source: PRDS – microdata, CIC. Variables used: "NOC2", "PROV".

| Province | 2001 | | 2006 | |
|----------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| | Managers | Professionals | Managers | Professionals |
| NL | 333 | 2261 | 680 | 1910 |
| PEI | 374 | 448 | 245 | 520 |
| NS | 3836 | 6823 | 3190 | 6695 |
| NB | 1478 | 3437 | 1555 | 3050 |

Source: Census 2001, 2006 Target Group Profile, Statistics Canada (Customized tabulations)

| Class | 1990-2004 | | | 2000-04 | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
| | Number | Income | Ratio | Number | Income | Ratio |
| Family | 3685 | 26002 | 0.96 | 1540 | 22279 | 0.83 |
| Business (PA) | 495 | 19680 | 0.73 | 150 | 13625 | 0.50 |
| Skilled worker (PA) | 3150 | 42716 | 1.58 | 1540 | 37385 | 1.38 |
| Other economic | 2935 | 18748 | 0.69 | 930 | 16737 | 0.62 |
| Refugee | 1640 | 20933 | 0.78 | 705 | 15160 | 0.56 |
| Other | 685 | 29246 | 1.08 | 410 | 33352 | 1.24 |

.Source: IMDB (2005), summary tables.

| PROVINCE | YEAR | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| PEI | 79 | 89 | 102 | 130 | 121 | 115 | 112 | 122 | 156 | 199 | 260 |
| NL | 282 | 287 | 265 | 268 | 326 | 304 | 268 | 365 | 408 | 542 | 656 |
| NS | 1,096 | 1,335 | 1,571 | 1,904 | 2,006 | 1,929 | 1,744 | 1,697 | 1,802 | 1,945 | 2,527 |
| NB | 469 | 688 | 858 | 1,072 | 1,100 | 879 | 848 | 815 | 941 | 1,080 | 1328 |
| TOTAL | 1926 | 2399 | 2796 | 3374 | 3553 | 3227 | 2972 | 2999 | 3307 | 3766 | 4771 |
| CANADA TOTAL | 42,018 | 52,283 | 63,066 | 73,559 | 68,683 | 61,186 | 56,467 | 57,890 | 62,300 | 64,636 | 79,509 |

Source: Facts and Figures (2007 digital library and 2008, special tabulations).

| | YEAR | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| University | 3,029 | 3,619 | 4,257 | 5,271 | 6,424 | 7,514 | 7,994 | 8,129 | 8,110 | 8,073 | 8,118 |
| Non University | 1,249 | 1,349 | 1,484 | 1,671 | 1,812 | 1,857 | 1,886 | 1,968 | 2,154 | 2,457 | 2,992 |
| Total | 4,278 | 4,968 | 5,741 | 6,942 | 8,236 | 9,371 | 9,880 | 10,097 | 10,264 | 10,530 | 11,110 |

Source: Facts and Figures (2007 digital library and 2008, special tabulations).

| Table A22: International Students Studying in Atlantic Canada and Canada by the Top Five Source Countries, as of December 1, 2008 | | |
|---|-----------------|--------|
| Source Country | Atlantic Canada | Canada |
| China | 3,395 | 42,154 |
| United States of America | 910 | 27,440 |
| Korea, Republic of | 707 | 11,317 |
| Saudi Arabia | 595 | X |
| India | 361 | 7,314 |
| France | X | 8,353 |

Source: Facts and Figures (2007 digital library and 2008, special tabulations).