Mobilizing Data on Immigrants in the Labour Market: The Experience of the Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative

Philip Kelly
Department of Geography
York University

Principal Investigator,
Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative (TIEDI)

Presentation to the Metropolis National Conference
Vancouver, March 24th 2011

What is TIEDI?

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

+

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

+

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

+

CERIS

=

TIEDI

Toronto Immigrant Employment DATA INITIATIVE

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

Some TIEDI Partners:

OCASI
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

TRIEC
Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council

WES
World Education Services

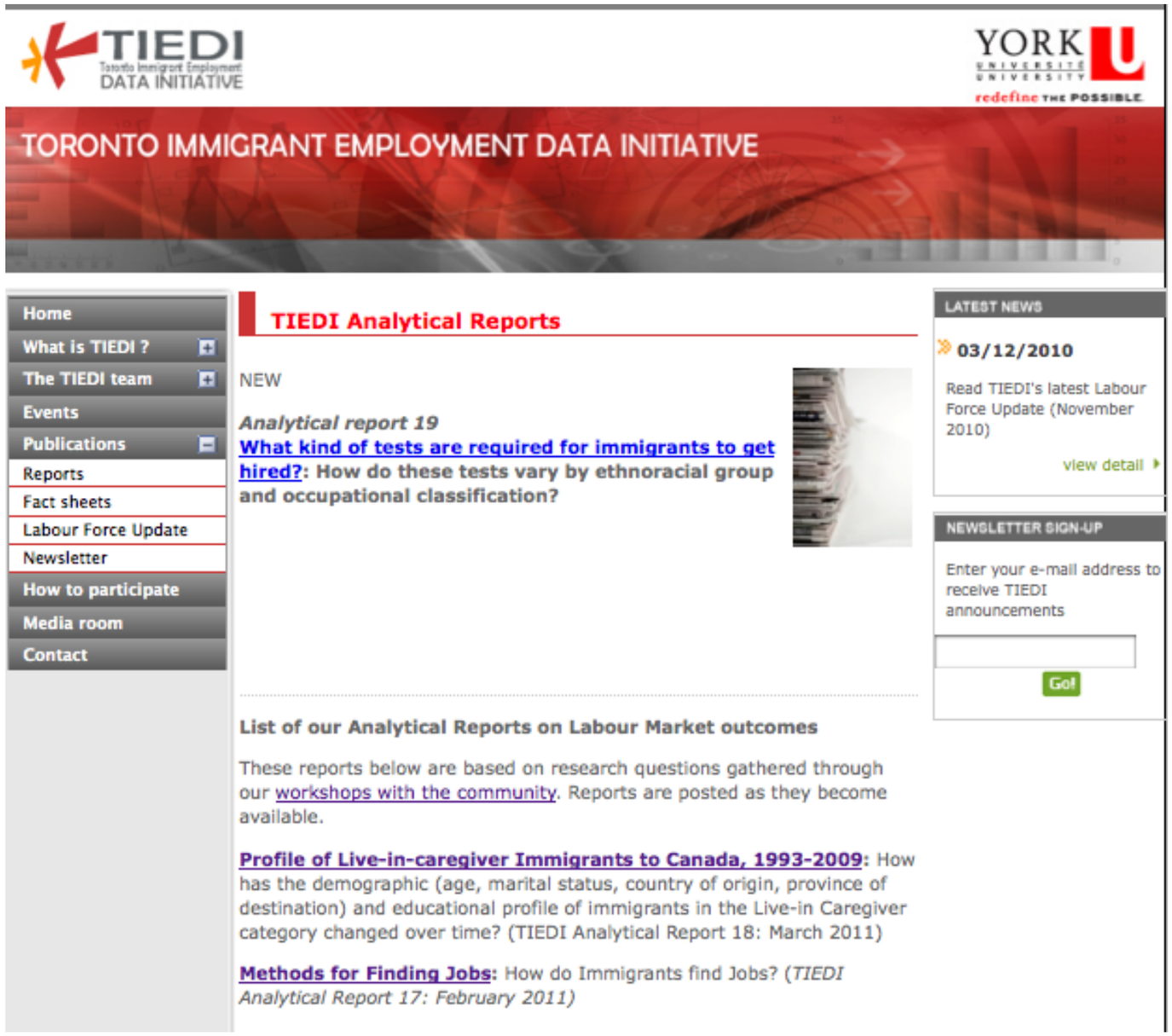
YMCA of Greater Toronto
Toronto Catholic District School Board
Delta Family Resource Centre
COSTI
South Asian Family Support Services
Newcomer Women's Services Toronto
Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change
North Etobicoke Local Immigration Partnership
Centre for Information & Comm.Services of Ontario
Aga Khan Economic Planning Board
Canadian Immigrant Integration Program, Assoc. of Canadian Community Colleges
Fuerza Latina Community Services
Workforce Planning Board
Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office

North York Central Employment & Social Services, City of Toronto
Skills for Change
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians
Toronto Workforce Innovation Group
YMCA Language Assessment & Referral Centre
Community Development Halton
Future Leaders Institute Project
Department of Human Services, Region of Peel
Community Impact Research and Innovation Alliance

Data Sources:

Census, 2006
Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001-04
Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002
Workplace and Employee Survey, 2005
Labour Force Survey, 2006-
Permanent Residents Data System, 1980-2009

TIEDI Output: Analytical Reports



TIEDI Toronto Immigrant Employment DATA INITIATIVE

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY redefine THE POSSIBLE.

TORONTO IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT DATA INITIATIVE

- Home
- What is TIEDI ?
- The TIEDI team
- Events
- Publications
  - Reports
  - Fact sheets
  - Labour Force Update
  - Newsletter
- How to participate
- Media room
- Contact

TIEDI Analytical Reports

NEW

Analytical report 19
What kind of tests are required for immigrants to get hired?: How do these tests vary by ethnoracial group and occupational classification?

List of our Analytical Reports on Labour Market outcomes

These reports below are based on research questions gathered through our workshops with the community. Reports are posted as they become available.

Profile of Live-in-caregiver Immigrants to Canada, 1993-2009: How has the demographic (age, marital status, country of origin, province of destination) and educational profile of immigrants in the Live-in Caregiver category changed over time? (TIEDI Analytical Report 18: March 2011)

Methods for Finding Jobs: How do Immigrants find Jobs? (*TIEDI Analytical Report 17: February 2011)*

LATEST NEWS

03/12/2010

Read TIEDI's latest Labour Force Update (November 2010)

view detail

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Enter your e-mail address to receive TIEDI announcements

Go!

TIEDI Output: Rapid Data / Factsheets

TIEDI Toronto Immigrant Employment DATA INITIATIVE

Fact sheet 11-02

March 2011

QUESTIONS:

1. Where do recent immigrants settle in Toronto CMA? What are the top 10 cities of destination for recent immigrants?

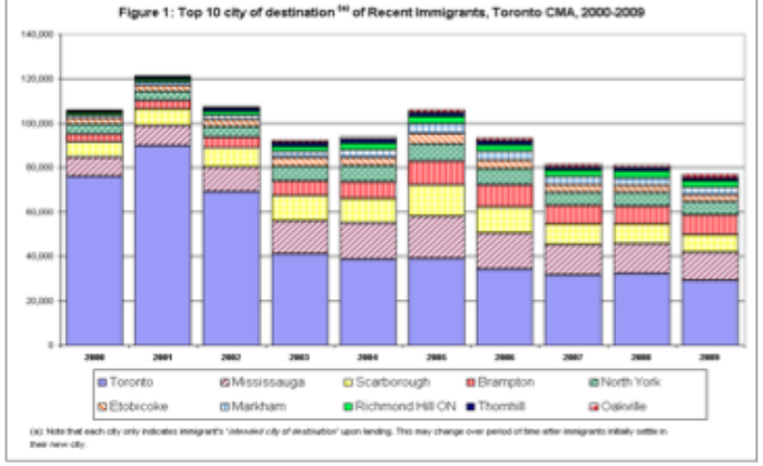
2. What is the category of immigrants landing in Toronto CMA? Has there been change in the type of immigrants arriving to Toronto?

ANSWERS:

1. Immigrants were asked on arrival to Canada what was their *intended city* of destination. Therefore, data do not take into account secondary migration to or from cities.

Figure 1 below shows that majority of recent immigrants, arriving between 2000-2009, have indicated Toronto as their top city of destination when they land in Toronto CMA. The next three popular cities of destination include Mississauga, Scarborough and Brampton. However, the figure below also shows that the number of immigrants arriving in Toronto has decreased since 2000 as more immigrants have recently indicated other intended destinations such as Etobicoke and Richmond Hill.

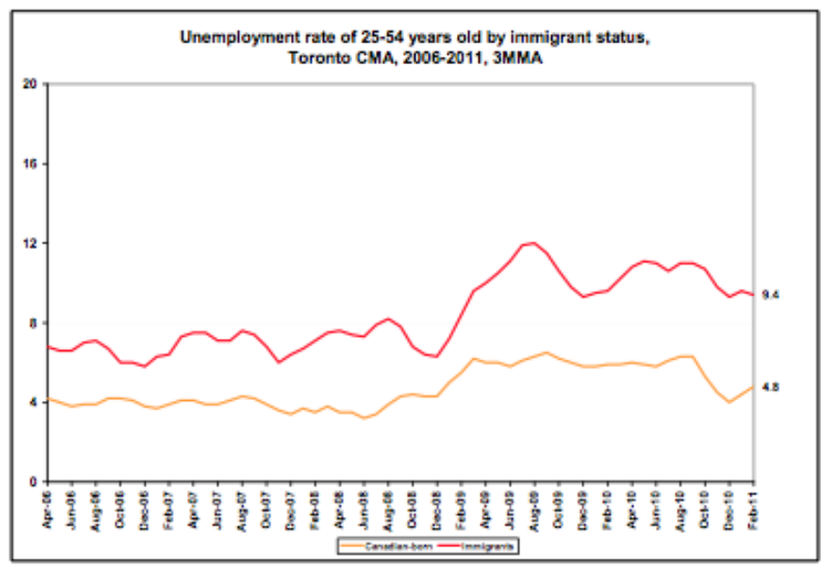
Figure 1: Top 10 city of destination [iii] of Recent Immigrants, Toronto CMA, 2000-2009



(iii) Note that each city only indicates immigrant's '*intended city of destination*' upon landing. This may change over period of time after immigrants initially settle in their new city.

TIEDI Output: Labour Force Update:

TIEDI Labour Force Update
February 2011



In February 2011, the unemployment rate for Canadian-born in the Toronto CMA was 4.8%, compared to 9.4% for immigrants.

When looking at long term trends, the unemployment rates of Canadian-born have been stable around 4% until the 2008-2009 recession. During the first quarter of 2009, their unemployment rates jumped to 6%, where it remained between March 2009 and September 2010. The final quarter of 2010 saw significant improvements for Canadian-born. In February 2011, the unemployment rate slowly began to rise since December 2010.

While immigrants have had higher unemployment rates than Canadian-born since April 2006, the gap has widened since the recession. When looking at unemployment rates, immigrants' rate is now 4.6% higher than the rate among Canadian-born.

Other dissemination formats

Plain Language Summary:

researchsnapshot
summarize mobilize

Immigrants who speak English or French earn more

What is this research about?

Past research shows that language skills have a large impact on the ability of immigrants to find high paying jobs in their chosen field. It is thought that some Canadian employers discriminate against immigrants who don't speak English or French very well. Poor language skills may also reduce an immigrant's ability to be productive, which can result in lower earnings. However, although recent immigrants to Canada tend to earn less than the Canadian-born, previous findings show that as immigrants learn English or French, they do better on the labour market – whether they are highly educated or not. This market can be divided into two parts: the general labour market and the ethnic economy. In an ethnic economy, immigrants often work among people of the same ethnic origin. It has been argued that those who work in the ethnic economy remain insulated from the culture of their host country; as a result, they earn less and don't acquire new language skills as quickly as others do.

What you need to know:

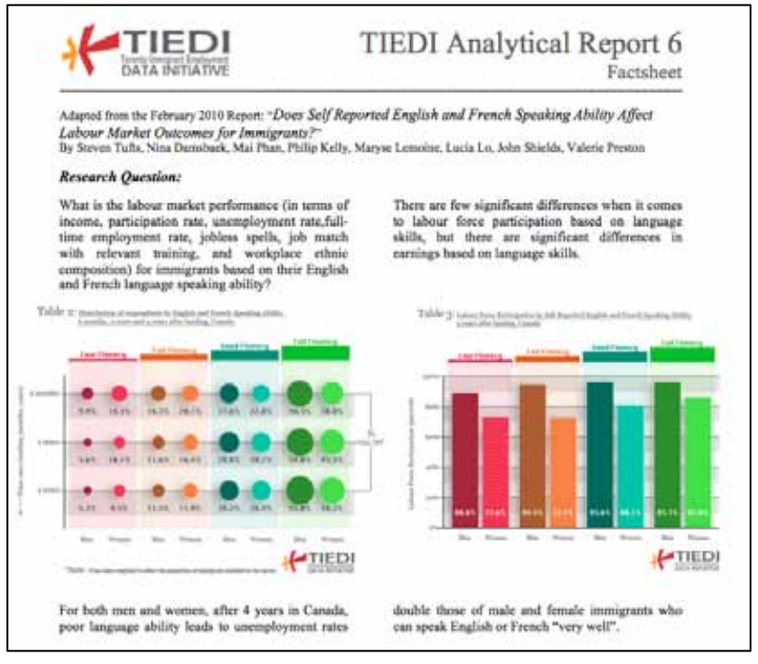
Immigrants to Canada who acquire strong language skills tend to be more successful in the job market than those who don't. Immigrant women tend to do worse than their male counterparts. The gender gap narrows for women with better language skills.

language skills have on an immigrant's success in the job market.

What did the researchers do?

The Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative (TIEDI) set out to determine how immigrants to Canada perform in the job market based on their language skills. Researchers with TIEDI looked at data from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC). The LSIC is a joint undertaking of Statistics Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. More specifically, it is a comprehensive survey that studies new immigrants at three different

Graphic factsheet:



TIEDI DATA INITIATIVE

TIEDI Analytical Report 6
Factsheet

Adapted from the February 2010 Report: *"Does Self Reported English and French Speaking Ability Affect Labour Market Outcomes for Immigrants?"*
By Steven Tufts, Nina Dumbaek, Mai Phan, Philip Kelly, Maryse Lemoine, Lucia Lo, John Shields, Valerie Preston

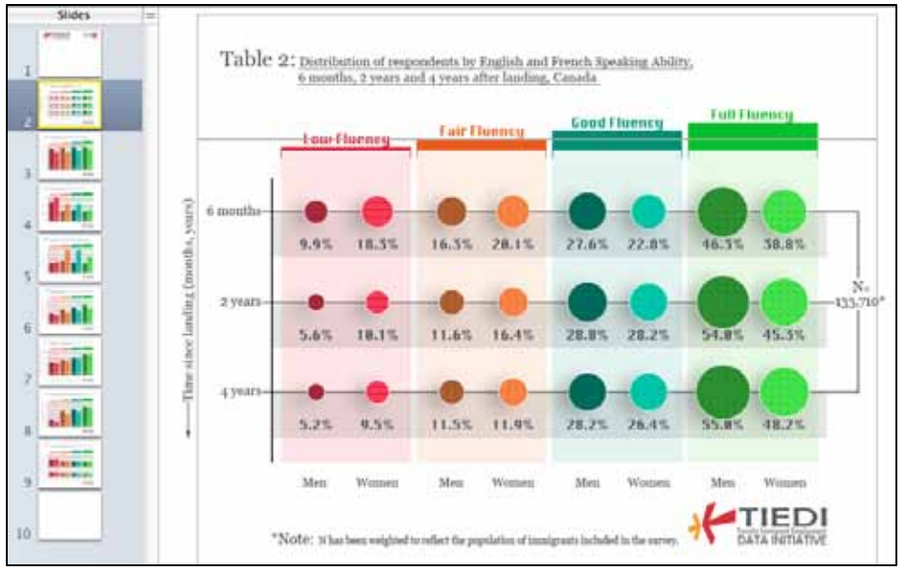
Research Question:

What is the labour market performance (in terms of income, participation rate, unemployment rate,full-time employment rate, jobless spells, job match with relevant training, and workplace ethnic composition) for immigrants based on their English and French language speaking ability?

There are few significant differences when it comes to labour force participation based on language skills, but there are significant differences in earnings based on language skills.

For both men and women, after 4 years in Canada, poor language ability leads to unemployment rates double those of male and female immigrants who can speak English or French "very well".

Powerpoint slides/notes:



Slides

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by English and French Speaking Ability, 6 months, 2 years and 4 years after landing, Canada

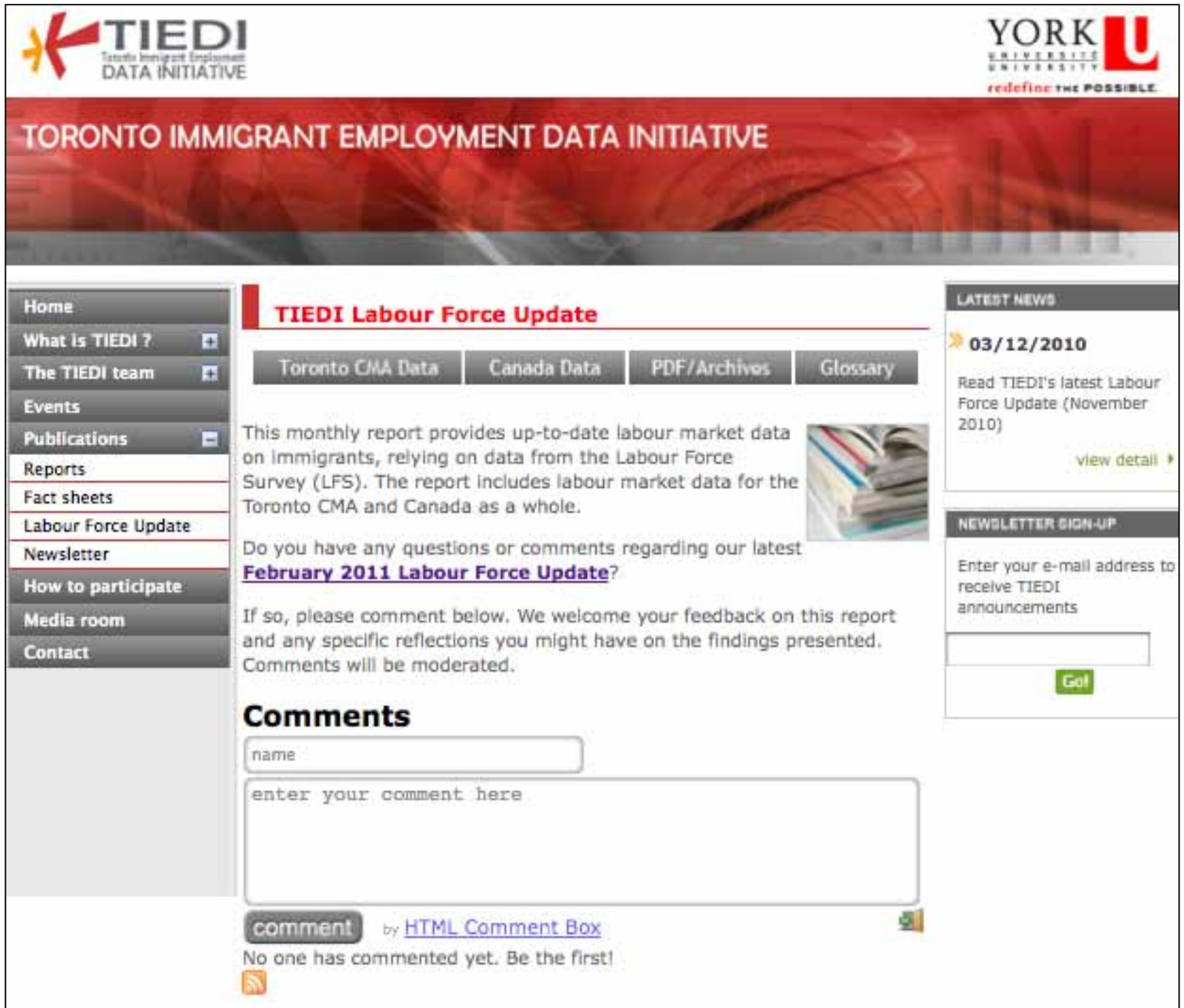
Time since landing (months, years)	Low Fluency		Fair Fluency		Good Fluency		Full Fluency	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
6 months	9.9%	18.5%	16.5%	28.1%	27.6%	22.8%	46.5%	38.8%
2 years	5.6%	18.1%	11.6%	16.4%	28.8%	28.2%	54.8%	45.5%
4 years	5.2%	9.5%	11.5%	11.9%	28.2%	26.4%	55.8%	48.2%

N = 133,710*

*Note: N has been weighted to reflect the population of immigrants included in the survey.

TIEDI DATA INITIATIVE

Feedback:


TIEDI
DATA INITIATIVE
YORK U
redefine THE POSSIBLE.
TORONTO IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT DATA INITIATIVE
Home
What is TIEDI ?
The TIEDI team
Events
Publications
Reports
Fact sheets
Labour Force Update
Newsletter
How to participate
Media room
Contact
TIEDI Labour Force Update
Toronto CMA Data
Canada Data
PDF/Archives
Glossary
This monthly report provides up-to-date labour market data on immigrants, relying on data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The report includes labour market data for the Toronto CMA and Canada as a whole.
Do you have any questions or comments regarding our latest February 2011 Labour Force Update?
If so, please comment below. We welcome your feedback on this report and any specific reflections you might have on the findings presented. Comments will be moderated.
Comments
name
enter your comment here
comment
by HTML Comment Box
No one has commented yet. Be the first!
LATEST NEWS
03/12/2010
Read TIEDI's latest Labour Force Update (November 2010)
view detail
NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP
Enter your e-mail address to receive TIEDI announcements
Go!

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

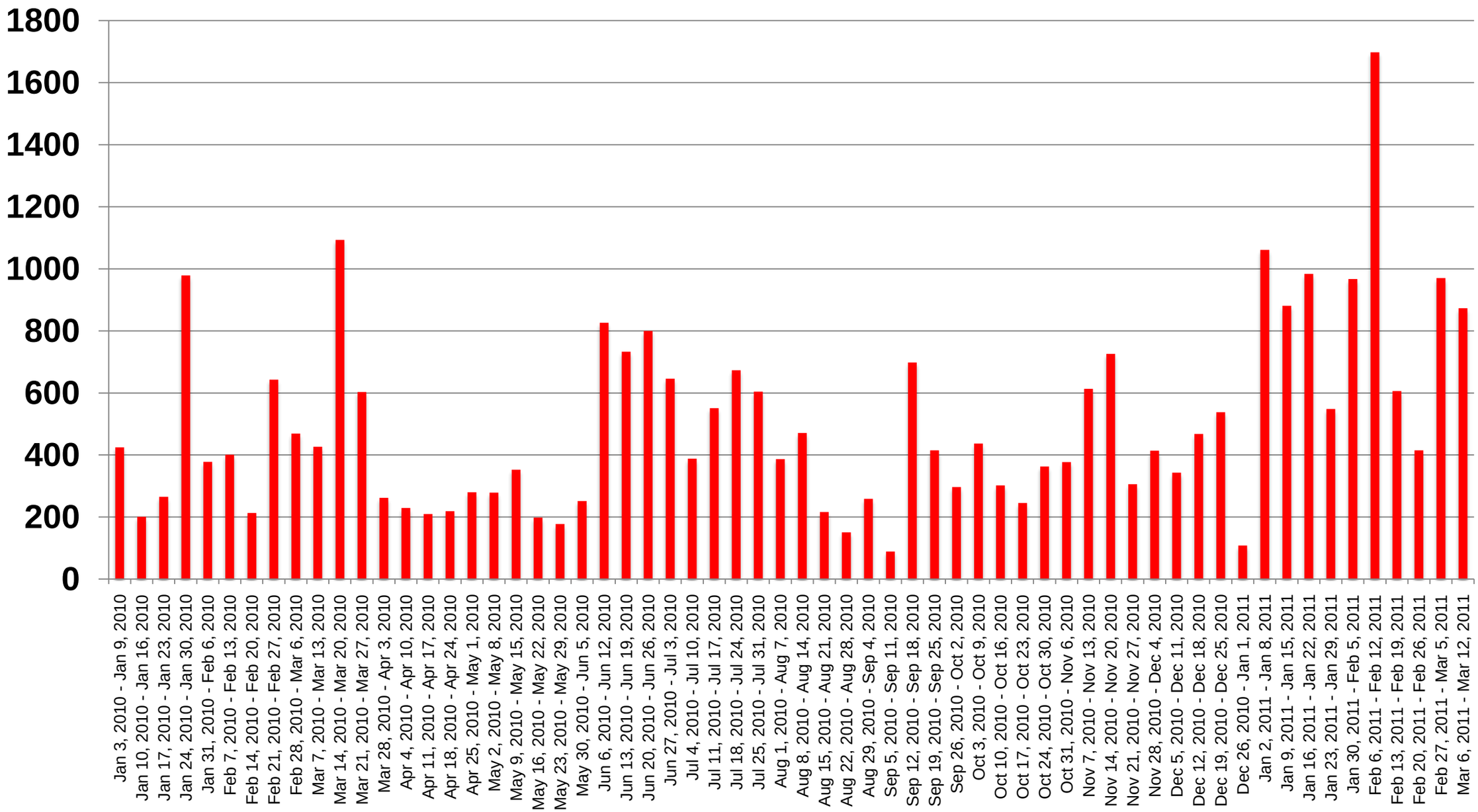
YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

Training and Presentations:

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

TIEDI website weekly page views, Jan. 2010 – Mar. 2011

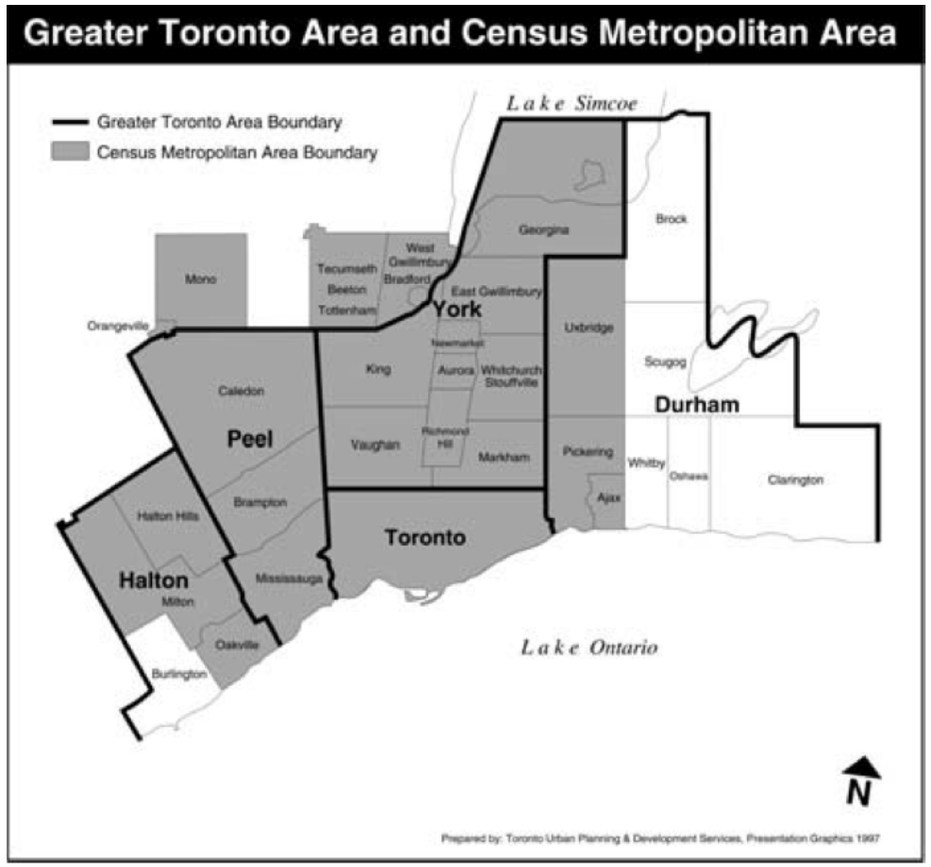


Issues with the TIEDI model (an auto-critique)

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

1. Mandate Creep

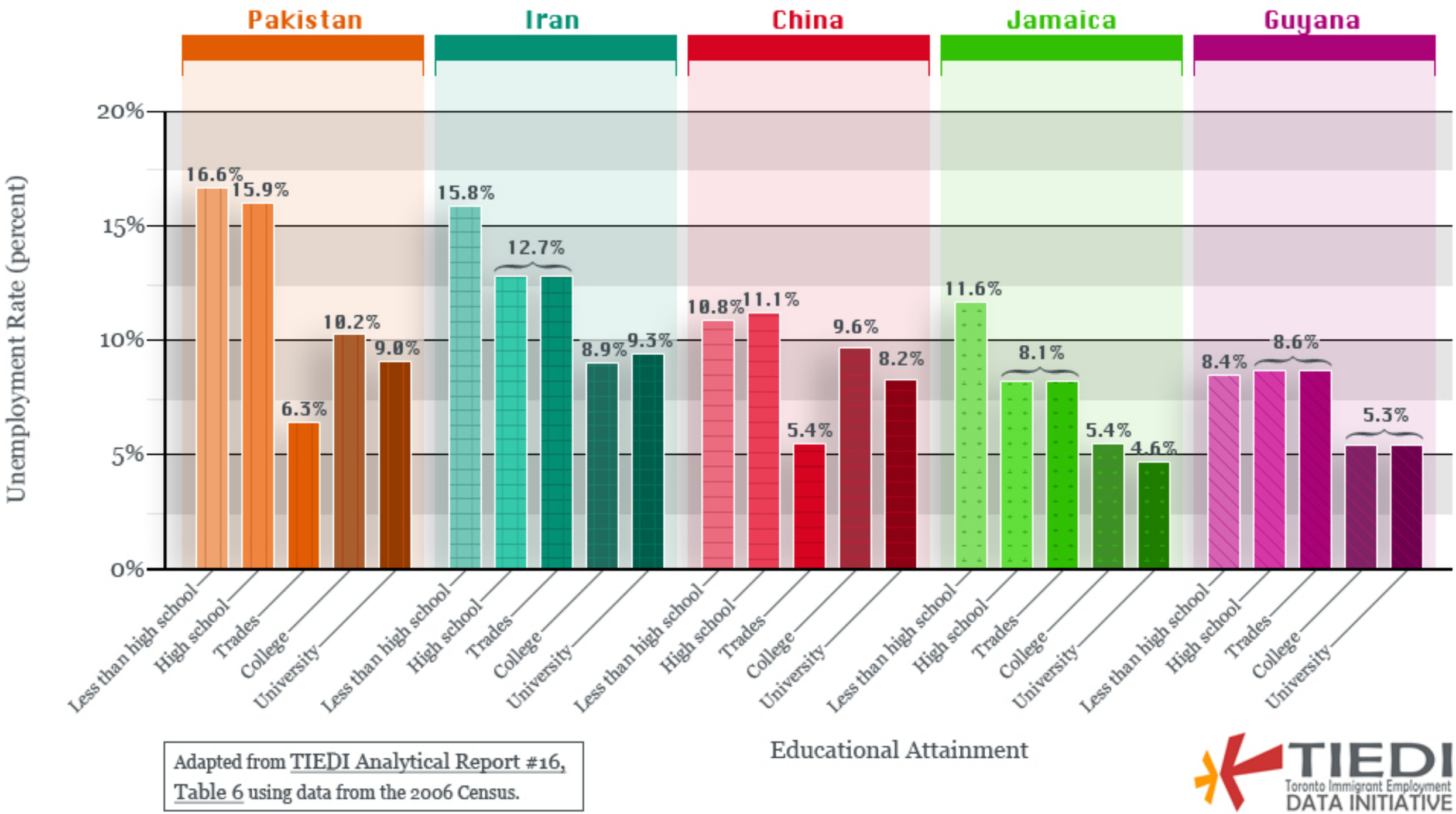


TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

2) To Liberate or to Analyze?

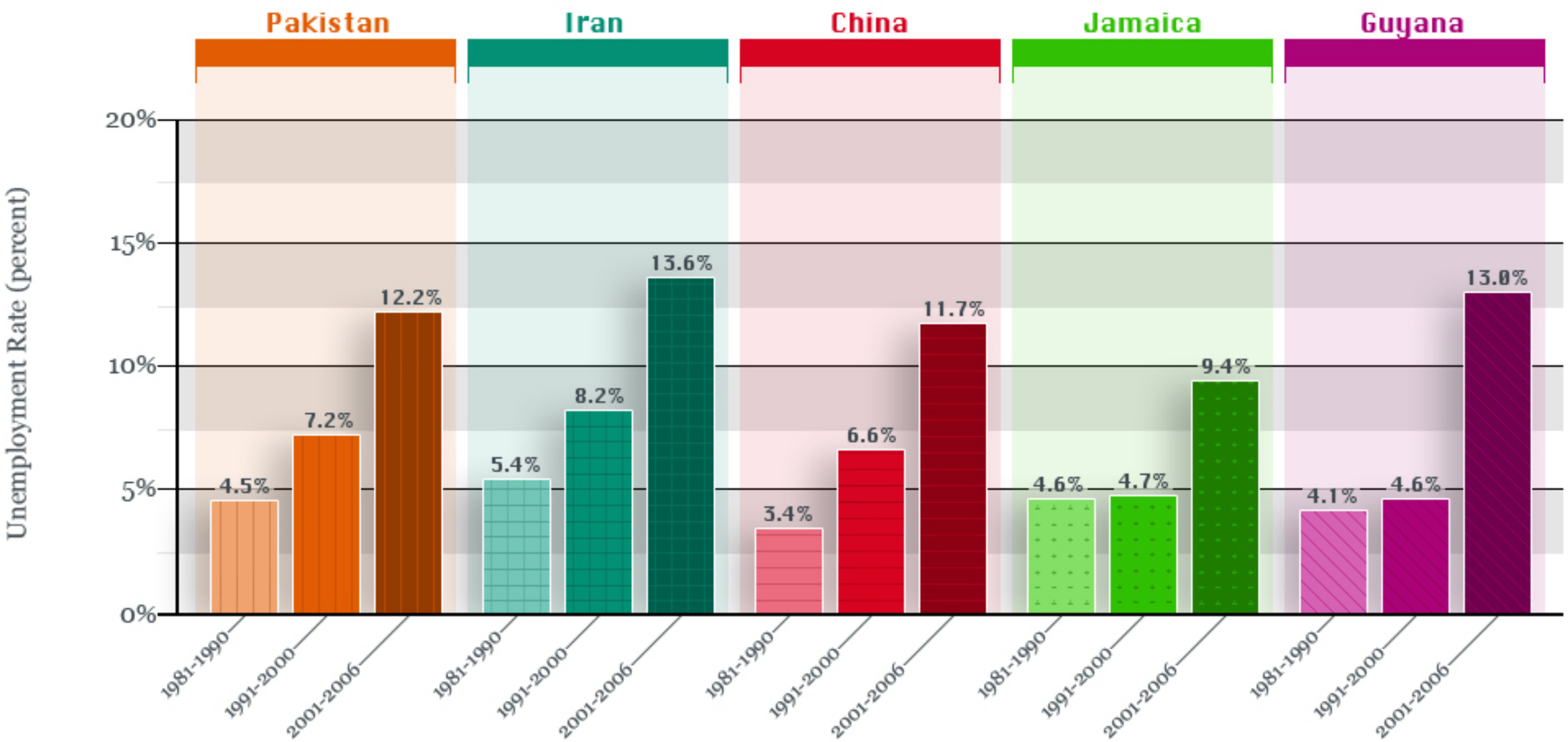
Figure 3: Unemployment Rate for Immigrants by Educational Attainment and 5 Selected Countries of Birth, Toronto CMA



Adapted from TIEDI Analytical Report #16, Table 6 using data from the 2006 Census.

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment DATA INITIATIVE

Figure 5: Unemployment Rate (percent) for University-Educated Immigrants by Period of Immigration and 5 Selected Countries of Birth, Toronto CMA

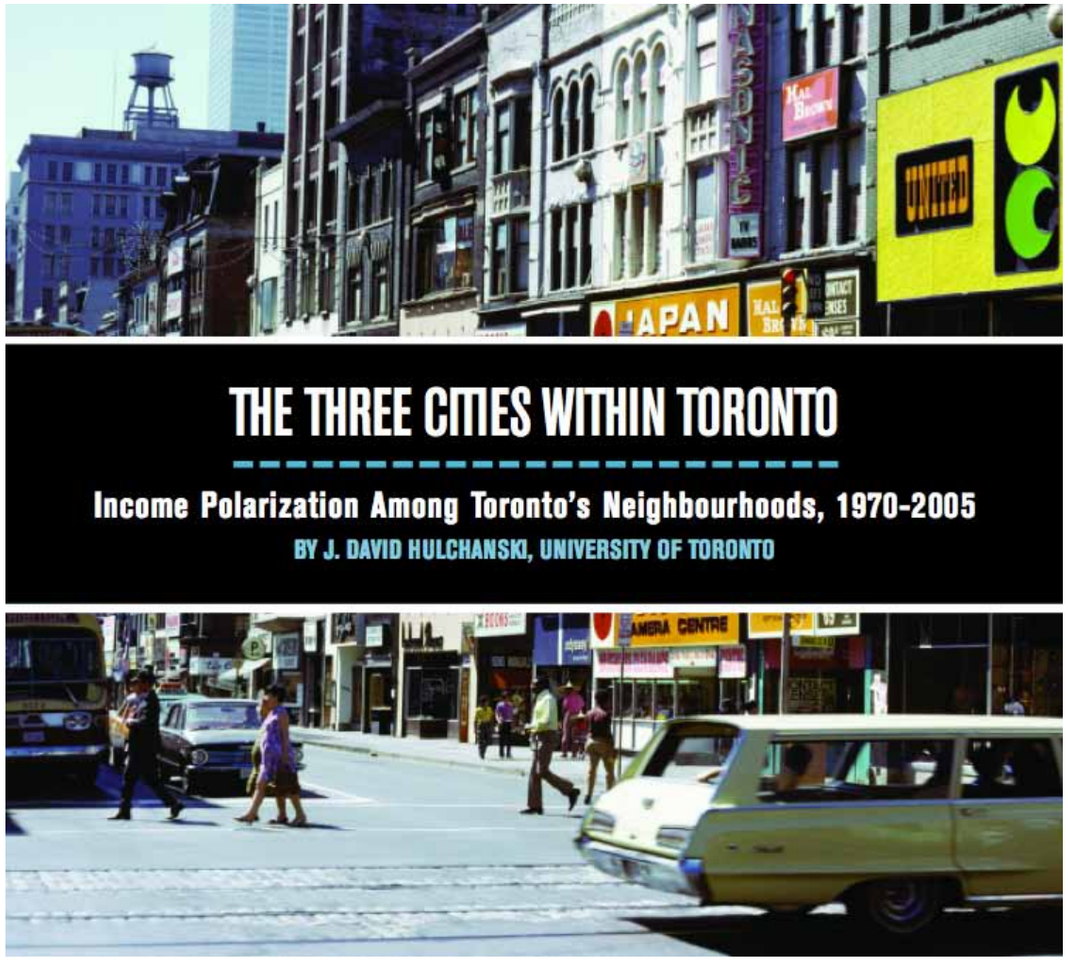


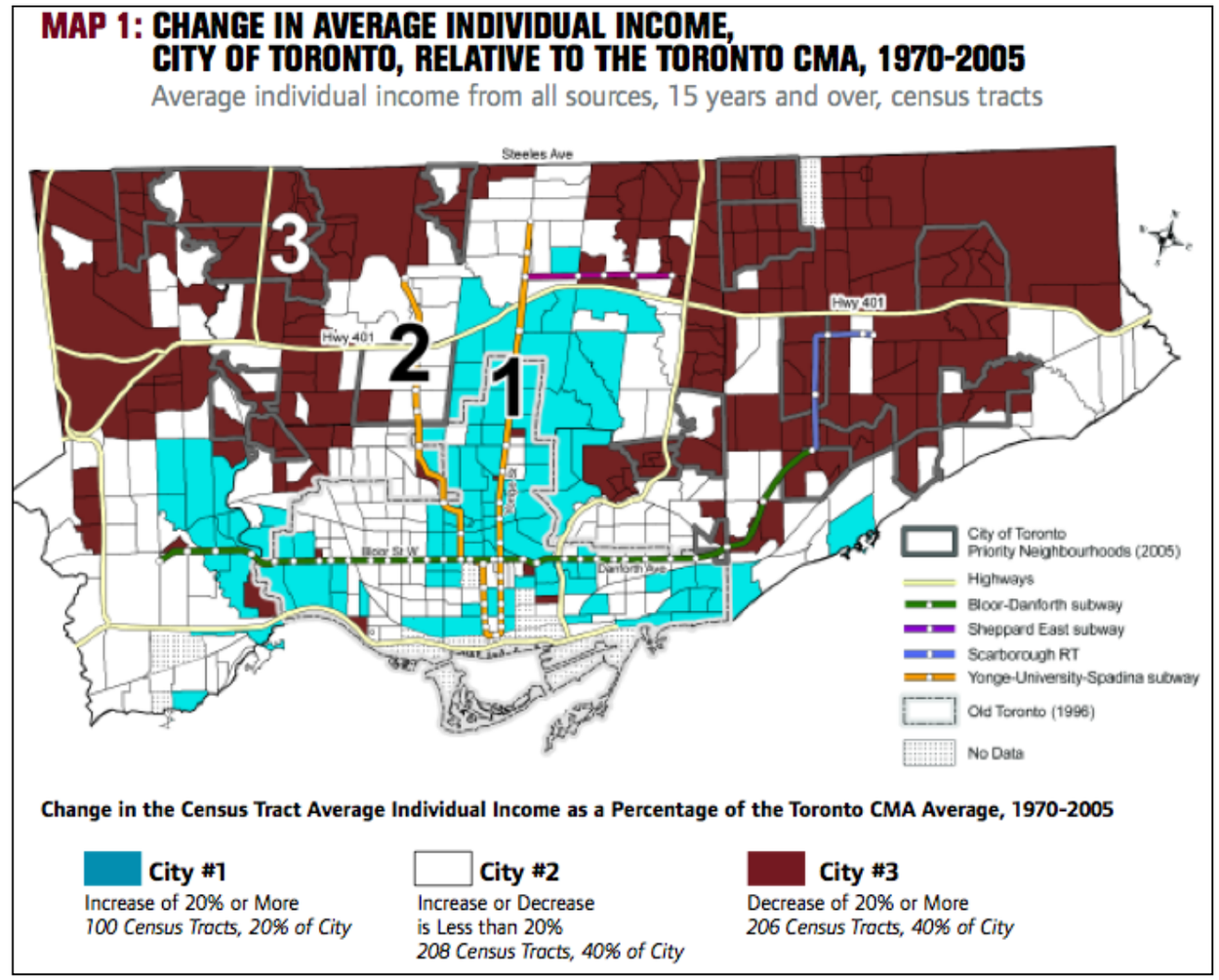
Adapted from TIEDI Analytical Report #16, Table 7 using data from the 2006 Census.

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment DATA INITIATIVE

3) Does the data tell its own story?

Constructing and effective narrative, a case study:





TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

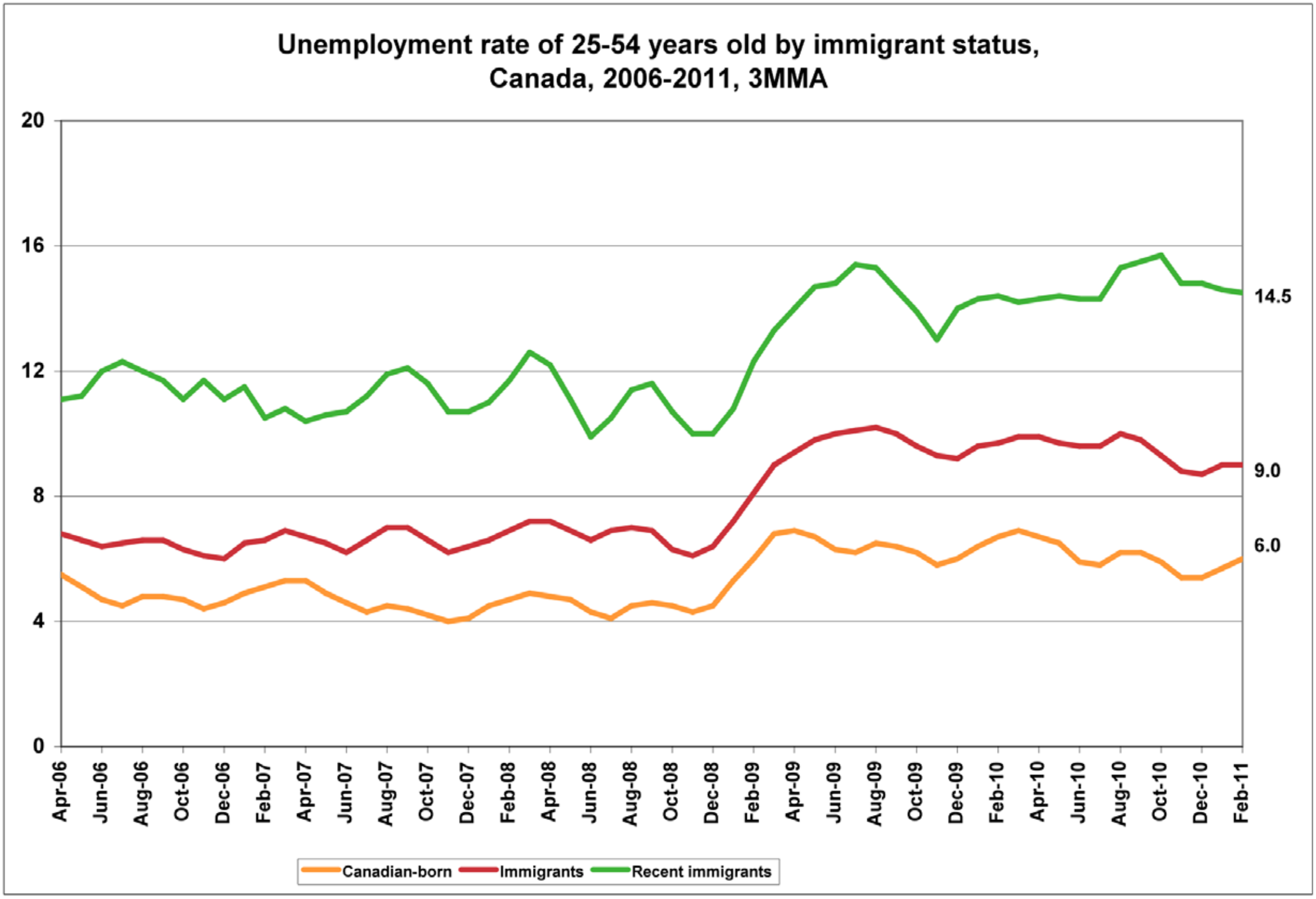
4) Closing the loop in terms of policy and practice

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.

5) Is TIEDI Replicable?

- Space
- Time

TIEDI
Toronto Immigrant Employment
DATA INITIATIVE

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY
redefine THE POSSIBLE.