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# To what extent do newcomers receive the Canada child benefit? Insights from newly landed immigrants with employment income in Canada



by Tahsin Mehdi, Ying Gai, Ping Ching Winnie Chan, René Morissette,  
Jason Raymond and Rubab Arim

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# ***To what extent do newcomers receive the Canada child benefit? Insights from newly landed immigrants with employment income in Canada***

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## **Abstract**

This study assesses the degree to which immigrant couples who landed in Canada with young children from 2016 to 2019 received the Canada child benefit (CCB) in the year following landing. The study shows that newly landed permanent resident couples with some employment income in the year following landing were much more likely than other permanent resident couples to receive the CCB that year. Newly landed couples without employment income but with a T1 income tax form filed by a spouse were less likely to receive the CCB than their counterparts with employment income, but their CCB take-up rate was markedly higher than that of couples with no T1 or T4 records. Compositional effects do not explain these differences. The study also shows that if non-recipient families with no employment income had received the CCB, their low-income rates would have fallen by 1 to 2 percentage points, from a baseline rate of 61%.

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## Introduction

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada (2022) has called for an examination of the degree to which Canada's hard-to-reach populations receive the government benefits they are entitled to. Studying this question is challenging for a variety of reasons. First, some individuals may not satisfy the residency criterion for receiving specific benefits if they temporarily reside abroad during a given year.<sup>1</sup> This might be the case for highly skilled immigrants who have spells of residence outside the country (henceforth, temporary international emigration) (Qiu, Hou and Crossman, 2021; Bérard-Chagnon et al., 2024). Second, although take-up rates are commonly estimated using the population of tax filers—under the rationale that tax-filing is a prerequisite for receiving most benefits—some individuals, such as newly landed immigrants, may be entitled to specific benefits initially without having to file T1 income tax forms. This might happen with the Canada child benefit (CCB).<sup>2</sup> However, to continue receiving subsequent entitlements, individuals must file their T1 tax forms.

This study tackles these two challenges for a specific population and a specific government benefit: it assesses the degree to which newly landed **permanent resident** couples (married or common-law) with children younger than 18 receive the CCB shortly after landing. The study aims to improve the measurement of CCB take-up among this group in two ways.

It builds on the databases used by Mehdi et al. (2023)—the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) and T1 personal master file (T1PMF)—to examine the tax-filing behaviour of newly landed immigrants by adding monthly CCB files and the annual T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid into the analysis. As will be shown below, integrating the CCB files yields a more precise measurement of the number of CCB recipients among these couples than is feasible with the IMDB and T1 files.

The study addresses concerns regarding temporary international emigration by identifying couples where at least one spouse received paid employment income in Canada in a given year, as measured by a worker's province of employment on T4 records. Along with their counterparts where at least one spouse filed T1 income tax forms, these couples are presumably less likely than others to have resided abroad temporarily in a given year. The study compares the take-up rates of the CCB for these groups with those of other newly landed couples where neither spouse filed a T1 or appeared on the T4 files in the year following landing.<sup>3</sup> These two strategies will help improve knowledge of CCB take-up for newly landed immigrant families.

This study answers the following **research questions**:

1. What percentage of couples who landed in year  $t$  with children younger than 18 had at least one spouse file a T1 income tax return or receive paid employment income (T4) in Canada in  $t+1$ ?
2. What percentage of couples who landed in year  $t$  with children younger than 18 received the CCB in  $t+1$ ? How does this percentage vary
  - a. between couples appearing on the T1 or T4 files and other couples

- 
1. Canada child benefit: [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/t4114/canada-child-benefit.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/t4114/canada-child-benefit.html).
  2. Newly landed immigrants with children younger than 18 who fill form RC66SCH and whose income in the two years preceding landing does not exceed certain thresholds will be entitled to the CCB, regardless of whether they filed T1 income tax returns shortly after landing. However, income tax-filing becomes a prerequisite for subsequent CCB entitlements. In the case of eligible couples, both spouses must file T1 income tax returns to receive subsequent payments. Among couples with children younger than 18 who landed from 2016 to 2019, for around 2% of those who received the CCB in the year following landing, neither spouse appeared on T1 or T4 files in the landing year.
  3. Abdulla and Laporte (2023) examine benefit take-up more broadly by combining the 2021 Census of Population with T1 income tax returns. While the census offers a rich set of dimensions to analyze, it is not a population registry and, therefore, might miss some recent immigrants (Bérard-Chagnon, Hallman and Caron, 2019). By contrast, the IMDB is a population registry of immigrants.

- b. by landing characteristics, including immigration class of the principal applicant?
3. To what extent are group differences in CCB take-up rates driven by differences in tax-filing behaviour and in paid worker status—In other words, by differences in the percentage of couples where
    - a. at least one spouse filed a T1 income tax return and reported paid employment income but no self-employment income, or appeared on the T4 file with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing
    - b. at least one spouse filed a T1 income tax return and reported self-employment income in the year following landing, regardless of whether they received paid employment income
    - c. at least one spouse filed a T1 income tax return and did not report any employment income in the year following landing
    - d. neither spouse filed T1 income tax returns or received paid employment income (T4) in the year following landing?
  4. To what extent could the CCB have reduced low-income rates for newly landed couples with children younger than 18 who did not receive the CCB in the year following landing?

## Data and samples

The study builds on the databases used by Mehdi et al. (2023)—the IMDB and T1PMF—to examine the tax-filing behaviour of newly landed immigrants by adding monthly CCB files and the annual T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid into the analysis. Integrating the CCB files yields a more precise measurement of the number of CCB recipients among these couples than is feasible with the IMDB and T1 files.

The IMDB includes the annual Immigrant Landing File containing a record of all immigrants who landed in Canada from 1980 onward (Evra and Prokopenko, 2022). The T1PMF is an annual dataset consisting of the T1 individual income tax return records of Canadian tax filers who submitted their returns before an assessment date. The T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid is an annual tax form issued to employees by their employer. It identifies a worker's province of employment and enumerates paid employment income earned, as well as deductions such as pension and employment insurance contributions. The CCB file is a monthly record of all CCB recipients and their children, available from March 2017 onward. CCB payments are reassessed every July based on the information reported on the T1 income tax return from the previous tax year.<sup>4</sup> Combining the T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid with the IMDB and T1 files creates a more inclusive sample of potential CCB recipients residing in Canada because it captures couples who did not file T1 income tax returns but still received paid employment income in Canada, as indicated by a worker's province of employment. Because an income registry (independent of international emigration and tax-filing) before and after landing is not available, this study cannot assess the degree to which the rates of non-receipt of the CCB for various groups reflect income levels that are too high (ineligibility) or truly reflect non-receipt of the CCB by fully eligible families.

The study focuses exclusively on permanent resident couples, where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 at landing, who **landed together** from 2016 to 2019 with at least one child younger than 18 at the time of landing. The sample excludes couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident.<sup>5</sup> Including this subgroup would introduce many challenges to the analyses because some of them already received the CCB before becoming permanent

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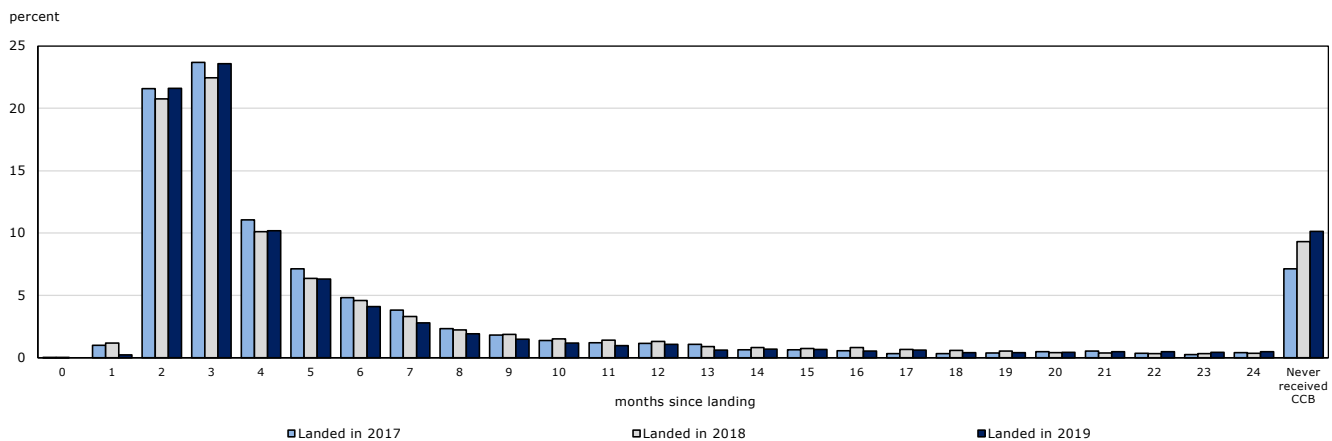
4. The CCB payment amount depends on family income, the number of children younger than 18, their ages and their disability status.

5. While this study focuses on permanent residents, future research could separately analyze temporary residents who may also be entitled to certain benefits.

residents. Moreover, retroactive CCB payments could further complicate analyses. From 2016 to 2019, over 200,000 immigrant couples landed in Canada; in 90% of cases, both spouses were aged 25 to 64 in the year of landing. Those aged 25 to 64 are more likely to be employed and therefore more likely to be residing in Canada, which is a criterion for accessing many benefits. Of these over 200,000 immigrant couples, more than half had a child younger than 18 at the time of landing, and in nearly 100% of those cases, both spouses were aged 25 to 64 at the time of landing. In around one-third of these couples, at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident. The study selects the two-thirds of couples who had no prior history in Canada. These couples represent about 30% of the over 200,000 couples who landed in Canada from 2016 to 2019.<sup>6</sup> Henceforth, any references to couples should be understood to mean permanent resident couples with no prior history in Canada, where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 at landing and who had at least one child younger than 18 in the year of landing. This restriction excludes the Canadian Experience Class from analyses because everyone admitted through that immigration class held temporary resident status to gain Canadian work experience prior to landing as permanent residents. However, the Canadian Experience Class represented less than 7% of all immigrant couples who landed from 2016 to 2019 with children younger than 18.

CCB payments can be issued retroactively. As a result, it is possible that a newly landed family will not receive its payment shortly after landing but will receive it at some point in the future. In fact, considering the subgroup of couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 at landing and who landed from 2017 to 2019 with a child younger than 18 for at least 24 months following landing, around 60% received their first CCB payment within the first 4 months of landing (Chart 1).

**Chart 1**  
 Distribution of first-time Canada child benefit payments over 24 months following landing among permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing



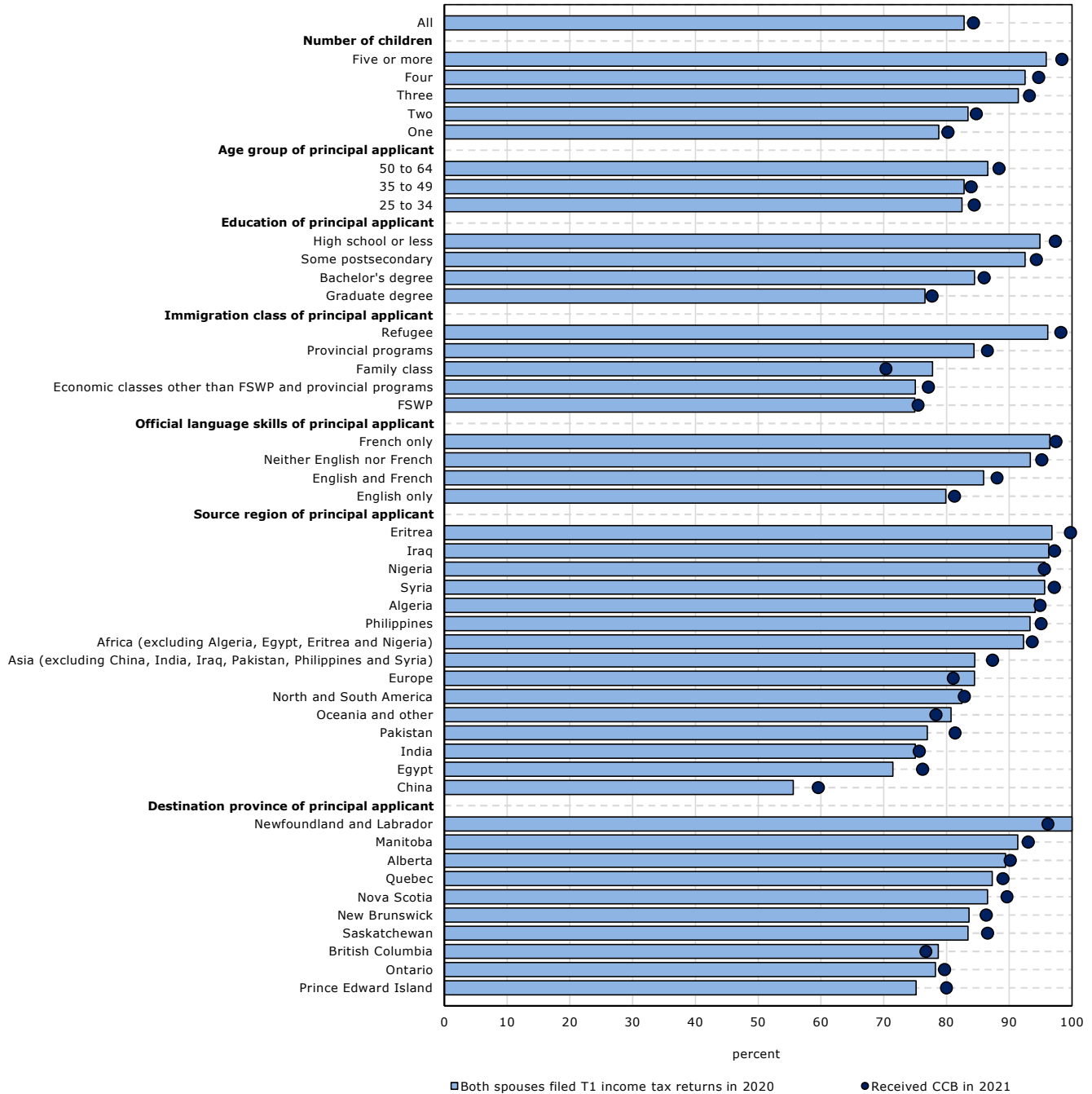
**Notes:** CCB = Canada child benefit. Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. The 2016 landing cohort is not shown here since monthly CCB files became available from March 2017 onward.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2017 to 2019, and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2021.

For some newly landed families, government transfers such as the CCB might be an important source of income in the short term. Hence, one concern is whether eligible families receive the CCB in a timely manner, if they receive it at all. To shed light on this issue, the study assesses whether couples who landed in year  $t$  received the CCB in year  $t + 1$ .<sup>7</sup>

6. In approximately 85% of couples with children younger than 18 who landed from 2016 to 2019, at least one spouse filed a T1 in the year of landing. Income information reported on the T1 was used to further refine the sample by excluding couples whose family income exceeded certain thresholds, beyond which families are not entitled to the CCB. These exclusions represented less than 1% of couples with children younger than 18.  
 7. To extend the potential CCB eligibility period for the sample of newly landed couples, the study focuses on those who had a child younger than 18 at least up to the end of July of the year following landing. This represents almost all cases.

Chart 2 highlights the strength of using CCB files to precisely measure the number of couples who received the CCB in a given year. It focuses on couples who landed in 2019 and compares the percentage of couples where both spouses filed T1 income tax forms in 2020 with the percentage of couples who received the CCB in 2021. For most dimensions considered, the percentage of couples who received the CCB in 2021 exceeds the percentage of couples who filed income tax forms in 2020. Overall, 82% of these couples filed income tax forms in 2020 but 84% received the CCB in 2021. Hence, focusing on tax-filing in the year following landing slightly underestimates the degree to which newly landed couples receive the CCB in the following year. This is possibly because some of them filed their T1 forms late or applied for the CCB but did not file T1 forms that year.

**Chart 2**  
**Percentage of permanent resident couples who landed in 2019 where both spouses filed a T1 for 2020 and percentage who received the Canada child benefit in 2021, where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 until at least July 2021**



**Notes:** CCB = Canada child benefit; FSWP = Federal Skilled Worker Program. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019. The destination province reflects only the intended province of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination. Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. Some rates could not be shown because of low sample size.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2019; T1 personal master file, 2020; and Canada child benefit, January 2021 to December 2021.



## **Most newly landed couples file a T1 or receive paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing**

This study partitions newly landed couples into four groups defined by their tax-filing status and their receipt of employment income in the year following landing: (1) couples where at least one spouse had paid employment income on their T1 or T4 records but no self-employment income; (2) couples where at least one spouse had self-employment income on their T1 tax records, regardless of whether they received paid employment income; (3) couples where at least one spouse filed a T1 income tax form but had no employment income; and (4) couples where neither spouse filed a T1 income tax form or had T4 records. The first two groups are most likely to reside in Canada because at least one of the spouses has an employment record, as indicated by their employment income reported on the T1 or T4. The third group is likely to reside in Canada, given that people were registered in the income tax system shortly after landing, but less so than the first two groups because the third group does not have a known employment history in Canada. The fourth group is least likely to reside in Canada because people have no income tax record or paid employment income in Canada.

The first three groups of couples represented 87% to 92% of couples who landed from 2016 to 2019 (i.e., at least one spouse filed a T1 or had a T4 record in the year following landing) (Table 1-1 and 1-1).

**Table 1-1**  
**Distribution of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source**

	Landed in 2016				Landed in 2017			
	At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017				At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018			
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income
	percent							
<b>Demographic characteristics at landing</b>								
All	8.4	13.4	70.2	8.0	7.7	16.6	68.8	6.9
<b>Number of children</b>								
One	11.5	15.1	65.1	8.2	9.9	17.4	66.0	6.8
Two	8.9	15.4	68.9	6.9	7.3	17.3	68.8	6.6
Three	4.7	10.6	77.2	7.5	4.6	15.8	73.9	5.7
Four	x	7.0	82.5	8.7	x	9.4	77.2	11.2
Five or more	x	x	82.1	13.4	x	x	78.6	x
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>								
Younger than 6	8.6	13.3	71.7	6.4	7.9	17.1	70.1	4.9
6 to 10	8.2	14.4	67.7	9.7	8.1	16.2	66.7	9.0
11 to 17	7.4	12.4	65.7	14.6	5.7	14.7	65.4	14.2
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>								
25 to 34	7.6	15.1	72.6	4.8	6.7	18.9	71.2	3.2
35 to 49	9.1	13.0	68.6	9.3	8.7	15.5	67.3	8.6
50 to 64	5.4	6.7	73.7	14.2	x	12.7	68.2	14.6
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>								
High school or less	x	7.0	82.4	9.8	x	13.0	77.5	8.6
Some postsecondary	4.3	14.1	73.0	8.5	3.6	16.3	72.8	7.3
Bachelor's degree	10.5	16.5	66.4	6.5	7.6	18.0	67.9	6.5
Graduate degree	14.7	15.7	61.9	7.7	13.4	17.2	63.1	6.3
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>								
Economic class	12.7	16.2	63.5	7.6	10.4	17.4	65.6	6.6
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	17.7	17.6	61.0	3.8	15.9	18.6	63.1	2.3
Provincial programs	9.1	14.9	65.6	10.5	8.8	16.7	66.4	8.1
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	x	x	55.0	x	x	32.3	62.3	x
Family class	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Refugee	x	8.2	82.8	8.7	x	14.3	77.4	7.9
Other	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 1-1**  
**Distribution of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source (continued)**

	Landed in 2016				Landed in 2017			
	At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017				At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018			
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income
	percent							
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>								
English only	11.6	15.6	66.2	6.7	10.1	17.4	66.4	6.1
French only	5.6	14.7	71.9	7.8	4.3	16.6	73.7	5.4
English and French	9.7	19.4	63.5	7.4	x	22.4	63.1	x
Neither English nor French	1.9	7.0	80.1	11.0	2.2	13.4	74.3	10.2
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>								
India	12.7	19.4	66.6	x	9.8	20.3	69.2	x
Syria	x	7.5	82.9	9.0	x	15.5	75.0	8.6
China	19.0	10.8	42.3	27.9	20.6	10.1	42.6	26.6
Nigeria	x	16.2	76.2	x	x	19.3	75.4	x
Pakistan	19.9	19.9	56.4	x	15.4	18.8	63.4	x
Philippines	x	10.4	86.1	x	x	10.1	87.5	x
Iraq	x	x	78.2	x	x	9.8	83.3	x
Eritrea	x	14.8	84.7	x	x	17.4	81.0	x
Algeria	x	x	67.8	15.0	x	x	74.9	x
Egypt	23.6	x	58.7	x	x	19.7	60.8	x
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	13.4	16.3	63.0	7.3	9.2	18.6	64.5	7.7
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	x	10.2	80.0	5.7	x	13.0	78.6	5.0
Europe	9.1	26.4	59.1	5.4	8.2	26.4	61.6	x
North and South America	x	14.8	67.5	10.3	x	x	69.3	x
Oceania and other	x	x	78.1	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Destination province or territory of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>								
Newfoundland and Labrador	x	x	87.7	x	x	x	x	x
Prince Edward Island	x	x	59.9	25.8	x	x	63.6	20.5
Nova Scotia	x	9.6	78.2	x	x	15.7	73.8	x
New Brunswick	x	x	67.8	17.6	x	x	65.8	13.4
Quebec	7.8	14.4	63.1	14.7	6.5	16.8	65.2	11.5
Ontario	9.8	14.4	71.2	4.5	9.8	18.3	69.1	2.8
Manitoba	3.8	14.6	77.2	4.4	4.9	18.1	73.2	3.7
Saskatchewan	6.6	10.4	76.2	6.8	11.0	13.0	70.2	5.7
Alberta	8.5	12.2	75.0	4.3	x	17.0	72.1	x
British Columbia	12.7	13.8	67.4	6.1	7.6	16.9	72.9	x
Territories	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 1-2**  
**Distribution of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source**

	Landed in 2018				Landed in 2019			
	At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019				At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020			
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income
	percent							
<b>Demographic characteristics at landing</b>								
All	9.6	19.9	65.0	5.4	12.8	20.3	61.7	5.2
<b>Number of children</b>								
One	12.0	20.0	63.5	4.4	15.7	21.1	59.0	4.2
Two	8.8	21.0	64.5	5.7	12.9	21.5	60.6	5.1
Three	5.8	20.3	67.7	6.1	5.7	18.5	68.8	7.0
Four	x	15.7	73.6	x	x	14.8	72.0	9.6
Five or more	x	x	77.8	14.2	x	x	81.1	12.6
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>								
Younger than 6	10.4	19.9	65.6	4.1	13.9	20.7	61.2	4.2
6 to 10	8.4	20.4	63.6	7.6	10.5	19.1	63.4	7.0
11 to 17	6.0	18.8	63.7	11.5	8.7	19.6	61.6	10.1
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>								
25 to 34	9.9	21.7	65.8	2.6	13.5	23.4	60.7	2.4
35 to 49	9.7	19.1	64.4	6.8	12.6	18.5	62.1	6.8
50 to 64	x	13.4	66.5	14.5	x	12.8	66.3	13.3
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>								
High school or less	x	12.6	77.4	8.7	x	11.9	78.0	9.1
Some postsecondary	x	22.8	68.7	6.2	x	20.9	70.8	5.3
Bachelor's degree	8.4	21.1	65.3	5.2	11.6	22.6	61.1	4.6
Graduate degree	14.8	20.6	60.3	4.3	18.6	20.7	56.0	4.6
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>								
Economic class	11.9	20.2	62.9	5.0	15.6	21.0	59.0	4.3
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	16.9	20.3	60.8	2.0	20.7	20.6	56.1	2.6
Provincial programs	8.1	20.0	64.6	7.3	10.7	21.0	62.4	5.9
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	x	x	x	x	x	36.8	40.0	x
Family class	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Refugee	x	19.1	73.2	6.8	x	17.1	72.7	9.0
Other	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 1-2**  
**Distribution of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source (continued)**

	Landed in 2018				Landed in 2019			
	At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019				At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020			
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment income	Without any employment income
	percent							
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>								
English only	11.4	21.3	63.3	3.9	15.3	21.6	59.0	4.1
French only	x	15.9	73.8	8.0	x	14.3	76.6	7.3
English and French	8.2	21.4	64.5	5.9	11.2	22.2	60.8	5.8
Neither English nor French	x	11.1	72.6	13.8	x	11.1	74.7	12.1
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>								
India	13.7	20.3	64.9	1.1	19.0	19.8	59.5	1.7
Syria	x	22.8	67.6	7.9	x	17.3	66.7	12.7
China	19.3	13.2	37.2	30.3	29.4	13.8	34.6	22.2
Nigeria	4.1	23.5	70.2	x	3.6	26.8	67.2	x
Pakistan	18.0	26.8	52.6	x	17.7	23.8	55.5	x
Philippines	x	14.3	83.1	x	x	x	84.1	x
Iraq	x	16.0	79.1	x	x	20.2	71.9	x
Eritrea	x	16.3	80.9	x	x	18.3	80.0	x
Algeria	x	19.1	67.3	x	x	20.3	66.2	x
Egypt	19.6	22.0	54.7	x	25.5	20.4	50.4	x
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	11.1	20.0	63.7	5.2	11.7	24.4	58.1	5.7
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	x	16.9	75.7	4.1	4.7	16.2	73.6	5.4
Europe	10.9	26.6	59.9	x	13.5	29.7	54.7	x
North and South America	x	16.8	67.4	x	x	23.2	58.2	x
Oceania and other	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Destination province or territory of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>								
Newfoundland and Labrador	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Prince Edward Island	x	x	62.2	x	x	x	60.0	x
Nova Scotia	x	19.4	70.7	x	8.5	26.6	62.0	x
New Brunswick	x	13.9	70.6	x	10.9	15.2	67.7	x
Quebec	5.9	19.1	63.9	11.1	9.3	18.1	60.9	11.8
Ontario	13.3	21.3	63.0	2.4	17.2	20.6	58.9	3.2
Manitoba	4.4	24.1	66.5	5.0	4.9	24.7	67.1	x
Saskatchewan	9.9	18.0	66.7	5.3	10.8	22.8	63.1	x
Alberta	7.2	18.2	71.1	x	7.2	19.9	69.0	3.9
British Columbia	12.4	19.2	65.3	x	16.9	18.1	60.7	x
Territories	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

- Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.
- The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

There is a strong correlation between couples' propensity to file a T1 and their propensity to receive paid employment income in Canada (results not presented on Table 1-1 and 1-2). For couples where at least one spouse filed a T1 in the year following landing, more than three-quarters also had a spouse who appeared on T4 records during that year. By contrast, for couples where neither spouse filed a T1 tax form in the year following landing, less than 5% had a spouse who was included in T4 records during that year.

For nearly all couples where the principal applicant was a refugee, at least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in the year following landing (Table 1-1 and 1-2). Although refugee couples were less likely than other couples to be found on T4 records in the year following landing, refugee couples were more likely to have a spouse file a T1 than other immigration classes. For 79% to 84% of Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) couples who landed from 2016 to 2019, at least one spouse filed a T1 income tax return or received paid employment income in the year following landing. These rates were lower than the rates observed for other immigration classes.

For almost all couples where the principal applicant had a high school education at most in the year of landing, at least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in the year following landing. Lower-educated couples were generally less likely to appear on T4 records than more highly educated couples but were more likely to have a spouse file a T1 in the year following landing. Of couples where the principal applicant had a graduate degree, 82% to 87% filed a T1 or received paid employment income in the year following landing. These rates were lower than the rates for couples with less educated principal applicants in the year of landing.

Differences in the percentage of couples where at least one spouse filed a T1 or had a T4 record could be indicative of who is more likely to reside in Canada. For example, highly educated immigrants or highly skilled workers could be inherently more mobile and prone to international emigration, while refugees—a relatively immobile group—are probably more likely to reside in Canada, at least in the short term (Bérard-Chagnon et al., 2024).

## **Newly landed couples who file a T1 or receive paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing are more likely to receive the Canada child benefit than other newly landed couples**

In the year following landing, 79% to 85% of couples received the CCB, depending on the landing year considered. However, these take-up rates mask considerable variation between different groups of couples. Take-up rates of more than 90% were observed among those with some employment income (who are the most likely to satisfy residency criteria for the CCB and who represent more than four-fifths of all newly landed couples with children). Meanwhile, rates of about 70% were observed among the group where a spouse filed a T1 but had no employment income, and rates of less than 10% were observed among the group with no T1 or T4 presence (who are most likely to reside abroad temporarily and who represent 8% to 13% of all couples, depending on the landing year considered) (Table 2).<sup>8</sup>

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8. Considering couples who landed from 2016 to 2019 who did not file T1 tax forms or appear on T4 records in the year following landing and did not receive the CCB, 47% did end up receiving the CCB eventually, after the first two years following landing. For couples who did not receive the CCB but where at least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in the year following landing, 62% eventually received the CCB.

**Table 2-1**  
Canada child benefit take-up rates of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source

	Landed in 2016						Landed in 2017						
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017				Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018				
	Total	With T1 self-employment income	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total	percent	Total	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total	
<b>Demographic characteristics at landing</b>													
All	85.0	6.4	93.1	94.1	73.8	92.2	84.8	6.0	93.4	93.3	68.9	91.5	
<b>Number of children</b>													
One	78.8	6.8	91.5	91.0	59.9	88.2	80.4	5.3	91.7	90.9	58.2	88.6	
Two	84.9	5.8	93.5	94.3	74.2	92.6	86.2	7.2	94.7	93.9	70.9	92.4	
Three	91.9	6.3	96.9	96.7	88.6	96.1	91.1	5.6	95.6	96.3	79.8	95.2	
Four	96.1	x	93.0	98.8	90.7	97.7	95.2	x	94.1	98.6	90.2	97.2	
Five or more	98.7	x	x	99.1	98.6	99.0	98.1	x	x	98.8	x	98.8	
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>													
Younger than 6	86.3	6.3	94.4	94.9	81.1	93.8	86.0	6.0	94.9	93.8	74.2	92.9	
6 to 10	83.2	4.7	92.0	93.4	65.4	90.2	83.7	5.6	92.3	93.3	67.4	90.6	
11 to 17	80.2	10.8	87.0	90.3	64.3	85.8	80.4	7.3	85.8	90.0	60.0	84.8	
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>													
25 to 34	87.6	6.3	95.4	94.7	83.7	94.3	87.9	7.6	95.7	93.7	81.2	93.6	
35 to 49	83.3	6.2	91.8	93.7	70.7	91.1	83.0	5.0	92.1	93.2	65.3	90.4	
50 to 64	87.2	11.5	89.2	94.9	75.2	91.6	84.4	x	87.5	91.1	73.3	87.9	
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>													
High school or less	97.5	x	95.5	98.9	93.0	98.0	95.6	x	95.4	97.0	92.7	96.4	
Some postsecondary	88.5	7.4	94.1	94.3	70.1	92.1	90.7	9.8	93.4	96.9	63.7	93.8	
Bachelor's degree	83.0	7.0	93.6	93.7	69.4	91.9	84.3	5.3	93.5	93.1	60.1	90.9	
Graduate degree	74.1	5.2	91.2	88.5	54.7	86.0	76.9	6.3	92.3	89.2	61.8	87.8	
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>													
Economic class	77.6	5.9	91.6	90.6	59.7	88.1	80.0	5.8	92.1	91.0	56.3	88.7	
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	72.1	5.1	91.7	87.5	46.2	86.5	71.5	3.7	89.4	84.3	46.2	84.4	
Provincial programs	81.8	7.1	91.8	92.8	63.7	89.3	82.7	6.9	93.2	93.2	57.4	90.0	
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	72.1	x	x	85.7	x	81.5	80.8	x	88.9	82.7	x	83.8	
Family class	x	x	x	x	x	x	75.0	x	x	x	x	78.0	
Refugee	99.0	x	99.1	99.3	96.8	99.1	98.3	x	98.4	98.6	97.4	98.5	
Other	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 2-1**  
**Canada child benefit take-up rates of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source (continued)**

	Landed in 2016						Landed in 2017						
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2017				Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2018				
	Total	2017	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total	Total	2018	2018	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>													
English only	79.6	5.0	92.0	91.7	59.3	89.3	80.7	5.2	92.5	91.2	57.2	89.1	
French only	91.3	20.0	98.1	95.7	88.6	95.5	92.3	15.9	96.7	95.7	92.4	95.7	
English and French	86.0	12.7	94.3	94.4	88.3	93.9	89.1	x	97.3	96.2	x	94.5	
Neither English nor French	95.2	5.7	94.5	98.3	88.1	96.9	93.7	5.8	94.1	97.7	82.9	95.6	
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>													
India	78.8	6.2	92.4	89.4	x	89.3	82.5	6.9	93.3	90.5	x	90.7	
Syria	98.8	x	99.3	99.4	97.1	99.2	97.5	x	98.2	98.6	96.7	98.4	
China	56.1	1.1	73.2	79.2	52.0	69.0	54.6	1.7	73.6	79.4	48.8	68.4	
Nigeria	88.0	x	90.5	93.9	x	92.6	92.6	x	96.0	97.0	x	95.7	
Pakistan	70.5	7.1	89.1	87.5	x	86.3	75.1	5.5	93.3	87.3	x	87.8	
Philippines	95.7	x	100.0	98.7	x	98.6	97.1	x	97.0	99.3	x	98.8	
Iraq	94.6	x	x	98.5	x	97.2	97.8	x	98.0	99.3	x	98.4	
Eritrea	97.9	x	96.9	98.4	x	97.9	98.0	x	98.7	98.0	x	98.0	
Algeria	90.7	x	x	97.1	98.1	97.5	96.8	x	x	98.3	x	98.7	
Egypt	64.1	1.1	x	84.3	x	83.6	77.3	x	93.4	93.1	x	91.9	
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	78.8	6.6	94.9	91.1	69.9	90.1	82.2	8.5	93.4	90.7	72.9	89.7	
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	92.2	x	95.9	96.1	89.7	95.7	92.5	x	94.2	95.8	94.9	95.5	
Europe	83.0	13.9	94.0	89.8	70.3	89.9	84.4	14.3	93.1	90.5	x	90.7	
North and South America	88.8	x	98.6	95.2	90.2	95.2	87.5	x	x	90.5	x	90.9	
Oceania and other	79.5	x	x	89.5	x	89.1	86.1	x	x	x	x	92.3	
<b>Destination province or territory of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>													
Newfoundland and Labrador	91.2	x	x	94.0	x	94.5	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Prince Edward Island	77.0	x	x	90.7	61.4	81.8	77.9	x	x	91.8	55.6	83.0	
Nova Scotia	87.0	x	94.7	95.9	x	94.1	87.3	x	94.7	95.9	x	94.6	
New Brunswick	80.0	x	x	92.7	60.0	86.0	78.6	x	x	93.8	49.2	86.4	
Quebec	85.6	9.8	92.9	95.1	77.8	92.0	86.8	6.2	94.6	95.0	74.1	92.4	
Ontario	83.8	5.7	93.7	93.1	74.5	92.3	82.2	4.5	93.0	90.8	69.1	90.5	
Manitoba	92.8	5.8	96.6	96.7	86.3	96.3	92.0	17.6	96.7	97.0	69.6	95.9	
Saskatchewan	85.1	6.4	91.9	92.4	69.1	90.6	79.3	5.1	91.9	90.8	52.1	88.4	
Alberta	86.4	4.3	94.8	94.6	81.5	94.0	88.1	x	89.5	94.0	x	92.9	
British Columbia	79.3	5.8	87.3	93.3	59.0	89.9	82.2	2.0	92.0	89.1	x	88.8	
Territories	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.



**Table 2-2**  
**Canada child benefit take-up rates of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source**

	Landed in 2018						Landed in 2019					
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019				Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020			
	Total	With T1 self-employment income	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total	With T1 self-employment income	With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total	
percent												
<b>Demographic characteristics at landing</b>												
All	82.1	4.8	93.6	91.5	65.0	90.4	78.7	2.4	93.8	90.1	71.8	89.8
<b>Number of children</b>												
One	77.4	4.6	91.3	88.4	54.1	87.3	73.6	2.7	92.9	86.5	61.3	86.9
Two	83.9	4.3	95.0	92.8	65.6	91.6	78.9	1.7	93.7	90.7	71.0	90.3
Three	89.8	3.7	97.1	96.3	76.3	95.2	90.4	1.9	98.0	96.4	83.1	95.7
Four	95.5	x	97.7	98.0	x	97.4	92.9	x	94.4	97.0	93.1	96.2
Five or more	95.2	x	x	97.3	86.8	95.9	97.7	x	x	99.7	90.9	98.6
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>												
Younger than 6	82.0	4.6	94.1	91.4	68.4	90.9	77.4	1.7	93.8	89.5	70.4	89.6
6 to 10	83.3	6.0	93.1	92.7	64.2	90.4	82.1	4.4	93.7	92.0	77.0	91.2
11 to 17	80.5	5.2	89.6	89.5	55.5	85.4	81.3	5.4	94.0	90.2	67.4	88.5
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>												
25 to 34	82.9	5.2	94.1	91.5	68.8	91.5	77.8	2.5	94.4	88.6	66.5	89.6
35 to 49	81.4	4.1	93.2	91.4	63.9	89.7	79.0	2.3	93.5	90.9	72.4	90.0
50 to 64	84.1	x	91.7	92.6	64.8	88.2	83.8	x	88.0	93.2	77.9	90.3
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>												
High school or less	95.5	x	96.0	97.4	88.2	96.4	96.4	x	98.0	97.8	90.9	97.2
Some postsecondary	91.6	x	95.9	96.4	54.7	93.7	92.2	x	95.5	95.9	77.8	94.9
Bachelor's degree	83.2	5.7	94.3	91.5	58.9	90.3	80.6	2.5	94.1	91.0	73.9	90.9
Graduate degree	75.1	3.8	91.9	87.9	60.0	87.5	69.9	2.1	92.6	85.0	58.7	85.5
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>												
Economic class	78.3	4.1	92.5	89.6	55.5	88.3	74.2	2.2	92.9	87.6	61.0	87.6
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	71.2	2.7	90.6	84.6	46.4	85.1	66.2	1.4	91.6	81.7	42.4	83.0
Provincial programs	83.7	6.4	94.0	93.2	57.6	90.6	82.3	3.8	94.5	92.9	69.3	91.7
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	72.5	x	x	x	x	80.5	69.7	x	86.0	82.3	x	80.6
Family class	x	x	x	x	x	x	65.2	x	x	x	x	73.7
Refugee	97.1	x	98.0	98.0	92.5	97.6	97.3	x	98.9	98.6	94.8	98.3
Other	x	x	x	x	x	x	91.4	x	x	x	x	91.4

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 2-2**  
**Canada child benefit take-up rates of permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by income source (continued)**

	Landed in 2018						Landed in 2019					
	Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2019				Neither spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020		At least one spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in Canada (T4) in 2020			
			With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total			With T1 self-employment income	With paid employment income in Canada (T1 or T4), but no self-employment	Without any employment income	Total
	Total	2019					income	self-employment				
percent												
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>												
English only	79.4	4.6	93.6	89.7	53.1	89.0	74.6	2.1	93.2	87.4	62.9	87.7
French only	95.6	x	96.8	97.8	95.2	97.4	95.6	x	100.0	97.3	91.7	97.3
English and French	86.3	4.1	94.0	94.6	81.0	93.6	83.4	3.6	95.0	94.3	78.9	93.5
Neither English nor French	90.1	x	90.6	96.3	71.4	92.1	93.8	x	96.6	97.5	84.0	95.7
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>												
India	76.1	4.5	93.1	86.5	37.7	87.5	68.4	2.5	90.9	82.6	46.7	83.9
Syria	96.1	x	98.4	97.5	94.7	97.5	95.3	x	98.7	98.4	97.0	98.3
China	55.1	1.3	81.8	78.1	49.6	68.0	51.3	1.0	84.6	76.3	58.3	72.2
Nigeria	92.3	10.7	98.5	96.4	x	95.8	92.4	3.9	98.2	95.9	x	95.6
Pakistan	73.0	4.1	93.4	88.0	x	88.2	72.4	1.2	95.1	86.3	x	87.7
Philippines	94.7	x	94.7	96.8	x	96.2	93.4	x	x	97.9	x	97.4
Iraq	97.5	x	96.6	98.2	x	97.7	96.4	x	98.9	98.4	x	97.9
Eritrea	97.7	x	95.4	99.1	x	97.7	99.3	x	98.6	99.4	x	99.3
Algeria	95.5	x	100.0	98.5	x	98.9	93.0	x	98.1	98.2	x	97.3
Egypt	71.1	2.4	89.1	89.5	x	87.8	64.2	0.0	94.8	82.6	x	86.1
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	82.1	2.3	94.8	92.3	77.8	92.0	80.3	2.0	94.4	91.6	66.0	90.7
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	90.5	x	93.3	94.3	80.3	93.5	91.1	2.2	95.9	96.3	84.1	95.5
Europe	80.1	11.1	85.7	90.9	x	88.6	73.9	5.9	89.3	82.2	x	84.4
North and South America	81.0	x	87.0	89.9	x	88.5	74.9	x	86.9	86.9	x	85.7
Oceania and other	58.6	x	x	x	x	71.4	73.8	x	x	x	x	92.5
<b>Destination province or territory of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>												
Newfoundland and Labrador	x	x	x	x	x	x	94.2	x	x	x	x	94.2
Prince Edward Island	73.9	x	x	82.1	x	77.3	77.0	x	x	91.9	x	85.8
Nova Scotia	86.2	x	97.0	93.7	x	92.5	84.7	3.9	94.4	91.7	x	92.2
New Brunswick	83.5	x	90.8	95.4	x	91.3	78.8	3.4	98.8	89.4	x	88.0
Quebec	87.9	6.3	95.4	95.9	72.2	93.0	85.6	3.1	96.3	95.6	82.3	94.0
Ontario	76.8	3.4	92.5	87.7	58.1	88.1	71.5	1.9	92.0	85.5	58.1	86.0
Manitoba	91.1	16.7	96.7	96.6	58.0	94.6	91.4	7.8	95.7	96.5	x	95.7
Saskatchewan	81.5	5.5	92.3	92.0	55.1	89.9	82.8	4.6	93.8	92.3	x	92.2
Alberta	85.7	5.2	91.8	93.0	x	91.9	86.9	2.2	96.1	93.6	78.0	93.5
British Columbia	77.7	5.9	92.3	87.4	x	87.9	71.2	0.5	91.9	85.9	x	85.5
Territories	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

Considering the couples who are most likely to reside in Canada (i.e., the groups with some employment income), CCB take-up rates were highest for refugees and lowest for FSWP couples among the top three immigration classes (provincial programs, FSWP and refugees) (Chart 3).<sup>9</sup> Nearly all couples where the principal applicant was a refugee received the CCB in the year following landing, while the take-up rate was 82% to 92% for couples where the principal applicant was from the FSWP and about 93% for couples where the principal applicant was admitted through a provincial program. The relatively higher take-up rates for refugees might also be explained by a greater propensity to use settlement services (Statistics Canada, 2022). But as mentioned earlier, this could also be related to greater mobility among highly skilled workers, who are more prone to international emigration, compared with refugees, who are less likely to move abroad shortly after landing.

Another way to disaggregate data is to compare couples with paid employment income (i.e., who have T4 records) with other couples. Couples with paid employment income in Canada are probably more likely to reside in Canada than other couples because the former group has a known employment history in Canada. Of all couples considered in this study, 62% to 70% received paid employment income in the year following landing. CCB take-up rates in the year following landing ranged from 93% to 95% for couples with paid employment income, while these rates ranged from 48% to 68% for other couples who did not receive paid employment income in Canada (Table 3).

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9. The family class and economic classes other than the FSWP and provincial programs had lower take-up rates than FSWP couples, but those classes did not represent a sizable segment of couples.

**Table 3**  
Canada child benefit take-up rates of permanent resident couples in the year following landing where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by receipt of paid employment income (T4) in Canada

	Landed in 2016			Landed in 2017			Landed in 2018			Landed in 2019		
	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2017	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2017	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2018	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2018	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2019	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2019	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2020	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2020
percent												
<b>Demographic characteristics at landing</b>												
All	85.0	67.6	95.2	84.8	61.4	94.6	82.1	53.5	93.0	78.7	47.6	92.7
<b>Number of children</b>												
One	78.8	47.8	93.1	80.4	45.3	92.8	80.4	36.8	90.5	77.4	31.6	90.2
Two	84.9	62.0	96.0	86.2	61.9	95.8	86.2	53.9	94.8	83.9	44.1	93.9
Three	91.9	84.0	97.5	91.1	78.7	96.7	91.1	73.8	97.3	89.8	74.8	98.2
Four	96.1	94.0	98.7	95.2	91.7	98.0	95.2	91.1	98.7	95.5	87.5	97.3
Five or more	98.7	98.9	98.3	98.1	97.7	99.1	98.1	94.6	96.3	95.2	96.9	99.3
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>												
Younger than 6	86.3	69.9	95.6	86.0	61.6	95.0	86.0	51.4	92.9	82.0	43.1	92.2
6 to 10	83.2	62.3	95.2	83.7	60.6	94.7	83.7	56.3	94.2	83.3	55.9	94.5
11 to 17	80.2	64.1	91.7	80.4	61.9	92.1	80.4	61.1	91.4	80.5	62.3	92.3
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>												
25 to 34	87.6	69.5	95.4	87.9	61.7	94.9	87.9	43.8	93.0	82.9	34.7	92.2
35 to 49	83.3	65.4	95.0	83.0	58.9	94.6	83.0	55.4	93.1	81.4	51.6	93.2
50 to 64	87.2	79.9	95.6	84.4	76.7	92.9	84.4	76.4	92.6	84.1	75.9	93.2
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>												
High school or less	97.5	96.7	98.3	95.6	93.3	97.0	95.6	93.4	96.9	95.5	95.5	97.1
Some postsecondary	88.5	73.0	95.4	90.7	65.0	97.8	90.7	69.0	97.4	91.6	76.7	96.3
Bachelor's degree	83.0	52.7	95.6	84.3	54.1	94.7	84.3	52.2	93.4	83.2	44.0	94.0
Graduate degree	74.1	38.9	92.3	76.9	42.0	92.0	76.9	33.6	90.7	75.1	26.6	90.0
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>												
Economic class	77.6	42.7	93.6	80.0	43.2	93.5	80.0	36.2	92.0	78.3	28.8	91.7
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	72.1	28.8	91.6	71.5	25.0	88.1	71.5	21.9	88.2	71.2	16.4	88.0
Provincial programs	81.8	52.9	95.2	82.7	48.5	95.4	82.7	47.7	94.8	83.7	43.2	95.1
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	72.1	43.1	92.7	80.8	x	86.6	80.8	x	83.6	72.5	47.1	88.2
Family class	x	x	x	75.0	x	x	75.0	x	x	x	x	x
Refugee	99.0	99.0	99.1	98.3	97.9	98.5	98.3	95.4	98.1	97.1	95.5	98.7
Other	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.
2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T4 file with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 3**  
Canada child benefit take-up rates of permanent resident couples in the year following landing where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by receipt of paid employment income (T4) in Canada (continued)

	Landed in 2016			Landed in 2017			Landed in 2018			Landed in 2019		
	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2017	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2017	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2018	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2018	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2019	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2019	Total	Neither spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2020	At least one spouse appeared on the T4 file in 2020
	percent											
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>												
English only	79.6	47.2	94.1	80.7	46.0	93.4	80.7	40.8	92.0	79.4	34.2	91.3
French only	91.3	77.0	96.8	92.3	78.2	96.4	92.3	86.9	97.8	95.6	83.7	98.1
English and French	86.0	64.1	96.2	89.1	67.6	98.7	89.1	58.1	95.8	86.3	47.5	96.3
Neither English nor French	95.2	93.0	97.8	93.7	87.7	97.9	93.7	84.9	95.8	90.1	91.6	96.9
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>												
India	78.8	24.3	91.7	82.5	25.5	92.0	82.5	18.5	89.3	76.1	13.6	87.1
Syria	98.8	98.2	99.4	97.5	95.9	98.9	97.5	94.2	98.0	96.1	93.2	99.3
China	56.1	39.0	84.0	54.6	35.1	85.1	54.6	37.9	84.2	55.1	33.6	82.2
Nigeria	88.0	50.0	95.4	92.6	46.4	98.1	92.6	47.5	98.2	92.3	41.8	98.4
Pakistan	70.5	37.7	92.9	75.1	39.6	93.0	75.1	32.4	93.0	73.0	35.4	93.5
Philippines	95.7	x	98.9	97.1	x	99.2	97.1	x	96.5	94.7	x	98.1
Iraq	94.6	88.3	98.7	97.8	94.6	99.4	97.8	96.0	98.3	97.5	94.3	98.0
Eritrea	97.9	x	98.2	98.0	98.1	97.9	98.0	x	98.6	97.7	x	99.2
Algeria	90.7	79.4	98.1	96.8	92.0	98.7	96.8	80.9	99.7	95.5	73.0	98.5
Egypt	64.1	33.5	92.6	77.3	46.2	96.4	77.3	37.8	94.3	71.1	32.6	92.5
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	78.8	51.4	96.0	82.2	59.8	94.6	82.2	54.0	95.1	82.1	49.2	95.9
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	92.2	76.3	97.2	92.5	80.5	95.7	92.5	72.6	94.6	90.5	71.4	96.9
Europe	83.0	58.1	91.7	84.4	58.2	92.5	84.4	46.7	90.1	80.1	39.3	86.5
North and South America	88.8	69.4	96.1	87.5	75.8	92.1	87.5	56.5	89.8	81.0	37.7	90.3
Oceania and other	79.5	x	88.9	86.1	x	92.2	86.1	x	x	58.6	x	x
<b>Destination province or territory of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>												
Newfoundland and Labrador	91.2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Prince Edward Island	77.0	61.0	90.3	77.9	51.7	94.7	77.9	56.3	85.3	73.9	55.7	92.6
Nova Scotia	87.0	70.3	96.1	87.3	55.8	95.8	87.3	40.2	95.6	86.2	54.7	93.5
New Brunswick	80.0	67.3	93.9	78.6	50.6	95.9	78.6	48.8	95.7	83.5	40.9	94.2
Quebec	85.6	68.1	96.8	86.8	65.7	96.9	86.8	67.7	97.2	87.9	62.7	97.5
Ontario	83.8	68.4	93.8	82.2	60.1	92.0	82.2	44.2	89.9	76.8	37.9	89.0
Manitoba	92.8	71.6	98.1	92.0	66.5	97.3	92.0	62.4	96.9	91.1	67.3	97.0
Saskatchewan	85.1	67.9	93.6	79.3	41.8	93.2	79.3	44.7	93.5	81.5	46.4	94.5
Alberta	86.4	71.1	95.3	88.1	77.3	93.0	88.1	66.7	93.3	85.7	61.2	95.7
British Columbia	79.3	53.5	93.1	82.2	58.0	89.9	82.2	45.3	89.0	77.7	39.5	88.6
Territories	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. A couple was deemed to have received paid employment income if at least one of the spouses appeared on the T4 file with paid employment income in Canada in the year following landing.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

## Most of the differences in Canada child benefit take-up rates persist after controlling for landing characteristics

Multivariate analysis is needed to ascertain whether the observed differences from the descriptive analysis remain robust when controlling for other landing characteristics. Logistic regressions were used to model CCB take-up status in the year following landing (1 if the couple received the CCB in the year following landing and 0 otherwise) as a function of tax-filing status and receipt of employment income in the year following landing; the number of children in the family; the age group of the youngest child; and the age group of the principal applicant, along with their education at landing, official language skills, country of citizenship and destination province (territories were excluded because of low sample size). For each covariate, a baseline model was estimated without incorporating any of the remaining covariates. The average partial effects from these baseline models were then compared with those of the model incorporating the other covariates.<sup>10</sup>

All else being equal, filing T1 tax forms or having a T4 record was the strongest predictor of CCB take-up (Chart 4). Descriptive evidence indicated that couples where a spouse filed a T1 or received employment income were substantially more likely to receive the CCB in the year following landing. This result holds after controlling for the set of landing characteristics mentioned above. All else being equal, there remains a 55 to 86 percentage point gap in CCB take-up rates between couples with a T1 or T4 record and couples without these records (Table 4). Couples with a T1 tax record but no employment income were 55 to 62 percentage points more likely to receive the CCB in the year following landing, compared with couples with no T1 or T4 records.

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10. The average partial effects multiplied by 100 indicate the percentage point difference in the CCB take-up rate relative to a reference group.

**Table 4**  
**Average partial effects of Canada child benefit take-up rates in the year following landing among permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing**

	Landed in 2016		Landed in 2017		Landed in 2018		Landed in 2019	
	Baseline	Controls	Baseline	Controls	Baseline	Controls	Baseline	Controls
average partial effects								
<b>At least one spouse appeared on the T1 or T4 files in the year following landing</b>								
No (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appeared on the T1 file with self-employment income	0.867 ***	0.694 ***	0.874 ***	0.747 ***	0.888 ***	0.814 ***	0.914 ***	0.856 ***
Appeared on the T1 or T4 files with paid employment income	0.877 ***	0.681 ***	0.872 ***	0.735 ***	0.866 ***	0.787 ***	0.876 ***	0.806 ***
Appeared on the T1 file without any employment income	0.668 ***	0.552 ***	0.621 ***	0.586 ***	0.595 ***	0.572 ***	0.693 ***	0.621 ***
<b>Number of children</b>								
One (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Two	0.061 ***	0.005	0.058 ***	0.011 *	0.065 ***	0.017 ***	0.052 ***	-0.002
Three	0.132 ***	0.008	0.106 ***	-0.001	0.125 ***	0.023 **	0.168 ***	0.023 **
Four	0.175 ***	-0.006	0.151 ***	0.022	0.180 ***	0.053 ***	0.190 ***	0.013
Five or more	0.202 ***	0.019	0.177 ***	0.035	0.179 ***	0.008	0.243 ***	0.063 ***
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>								
Younger than 6	0.062 ***	0.030 ***	0.057 ***	0.022 *	0.014	0.023 *	-0.040 ***	-0.002
6 to 10	0.031 **	0.015 *	0.034 **	0.018 *	0.028 *	0.031 **	0.007	0.017 †
11 to 17 (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>								
25 to 34 (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 to 49	-0.044 ***	-0.016 ***	-0.051 ***	-0.025 ***	-0.016 *	-0.034 ***	0.011 †	-0.037 ***
50 to 64	-0.004	-0.047 **	-0.040 **	-0.089 ***	0.012	-0.070 ***	0.056 ***	-0.110 ***
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>								
High school or less	0.145 ***	-0.018	0.112 ***	-0.015	0.123 ***	0.025 *	0.159 ***	0.000
Some postsecondary	0.054 ***	-0.011	0.064 ***	0.021 **	0.084 ***	0.011	0.116 ***	0.008
Bachelor's degree (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Graduate degree	-0.088 ***	-0.019 ***	-0.073 ***	0.000	-0.081 ***	-0.002	-0.106 ***	-0.016 ***

... not applicable

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.001$ )

\*\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.01$ )

\* significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.05$ )

† significantly different from reference category ( $p < 0.10$ )

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit (CCB) eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. The territories were excluded because of low sample size. The average partial effects multiplied by 100 indicate the difference in percentage points in the CCB take-up rate after controlling for the selected landing characteristics presented in this table. A positive average partial effect indicates that the particular group was more likely to receive the CCB in the year following landing relative to the reference group. The baseline models do not control for the other covariates.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 4**  
**Average partial effects of Canada child benefit take-up rates in the year following landing among permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing (continued)**

	Landed in 2016		Landed in 2017		Landed in 2018		Landed in 2019	
	Baseline	Controls	Baseline	Controls	Baseline	Controls	Baseline	Controls
	average partial effects							
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>								
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	-0.097 ***	0.007	-0.112 ***	-0.035 *	-0.125 ***	-0.046 ***	-0.162 ***	-0.045 ***
Provincial programs (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	-0.085 *	-0.002	-0.019	-0.025	-0.112 *	-0.020	-0.126 ***	-0.010
Family class	-0.080	0.050	-0.077	0.018	-0.080	0.046	-0.172 **	-0.027
Refugee	0.172 ***	0.149 ***	0.156 ***	0.124 ***	0.133 ***	0.097 ***	0.149 ***	0.085 ***
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>								
English only (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
French only	0.121 ***	0.052 ***	0.116 ***	0.041 ***	0.162 ***	0.062 ***	0.210 ***	0.054 ***
English and French	0.067 ***	0.045 ***	0.084 ***	0.043 ***	0.069 ***	0.036 ***	0.087 ***	0.039 ***
Neither English nor French	0.160 ***	0.006	0.130 ***	0.019 *	0.107 ***	-0.036 *	0.191 ***	-0.010
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>								
India	-0.043 **	0.016 †	-0.019	0.020 †	-0.040 *	0.012	-0.055 **	0.023
Syria	0.156 ***	0.024	0.131 ***	-0.003	0.159 ***	-0.006	0.213 ***	0.048 *
China	-0.270 ***	-0.053 ***	-0.298 ***	-0.102 ***	-0.249 ***	-0.084 ***	-0.227 ***	-0.051 **
Nigeria	0.049 **	0.037 **	0.081 ***	0.060 ***	0.122 ***	0.073 ***	0.185 ***	0.102 ***
Pakistan	-0.123 ***	0.008	-0.094 ***	0.010	-0.070 **	0.014	-0.026	0.030 †
Philippines	0.126 ***	0.077 ***	0.127 ***	0.082 ***	0.147 ***	0.057 ***	0.195 ***	0.092 ***
Iraq	0.118 ***	-0.014	0.134 ***	0.031	0.173 ***	0.017	0.224 ***	0.054 *
Eritrea	0.148 ***	-0.093 †	0.134 ***	-0.049	0.176 ***	-0.030	0.253 ***	0.087 **
Algeria	0.076 ***	0.052 ***	0.124 ***	0.065 ***	0.154 ***	0.077 ***	0.191 ***	0.093 ***
Egypt	-0.202 ***	-0.038 *	-0.096 ***	-0.005	-0.096 ***	-0.019	-0.100 **	-0.009
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	-0.041 **	0.016 †	-0.022	0.012	0.020	0.017	0.064 **	0.036 *
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	0.089 ***	0.014	0.077 ***	0.007	0.102 ***	-0.012	0.169 ***	0.048 **
Europe (reference group)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North and South America	0.054 **	0.038 ***	0.030	0.002	0.009	0.004	0.010	0.024
Oceania and other	-0.081	-0.057	0.023	0.033	-0.221 ***	-0.196 ***	-0.004	-0.016
<b>Destination province of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>								
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.073 †	-0.079	0.129 ***	-0.016	0.188 ***	0.014	0.230 ***	0.004
Prince Edward Island	-0.067 **	0.051 ***	-0.040	0.078 ***	-0.027	0.041 **	0.056 †	0.064 ***
Nova Scotia	0.032 *	0.041 **	0.054 **	0.051 **	0.096 **	0.034 **	0.134 ***	0.036 **
New Brunswick	-0.038 *	0.021	-0.033	0.051 ***	0.066 ***	0.038 **	0.074 ***	0.016
Quebec	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario (reference group)	0.020 **	0.022 †	0.049 ***	0.049 ***	0.112 ***	0.044 ***	0.143 ***	0.039 ***
Manitoba	0.090 ***	0.058 ***	0.101 ***	0.080 ***	0.144 ***	0.063 ***	0.201 ***	0.064 ***
Saskatchewan	0.013	0.038 **	-0.027 *	0.054 ***	0.048 ***	0.043 ***	0.115 ***	0.052 ***
Alberta	0.024 *	0.000	0.061 ***	0.001	0.088 ***	0.004	0.155 ***	0.018 †
British Columbia	-0.048 ***	-0.001	0.001	0.007	0.008	0.008	-0.002	-0.002

... not applicable

\*\*\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.001)

\*\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.01)

\* significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

† significantly different from reference category (p < 0.10)

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit (CCB) eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. The territories were excluded because of low sample size. The average partial effects multiplied by 100 indicate the difference in percentage points in the CCB take-up rate after controlling for the selected landing characteristics presented in this table. A positive average partial effect indicates that the particular group was more likely to receive the CCB in the year following landing relative to the reference group. The baseline models do not control for the other covariates.

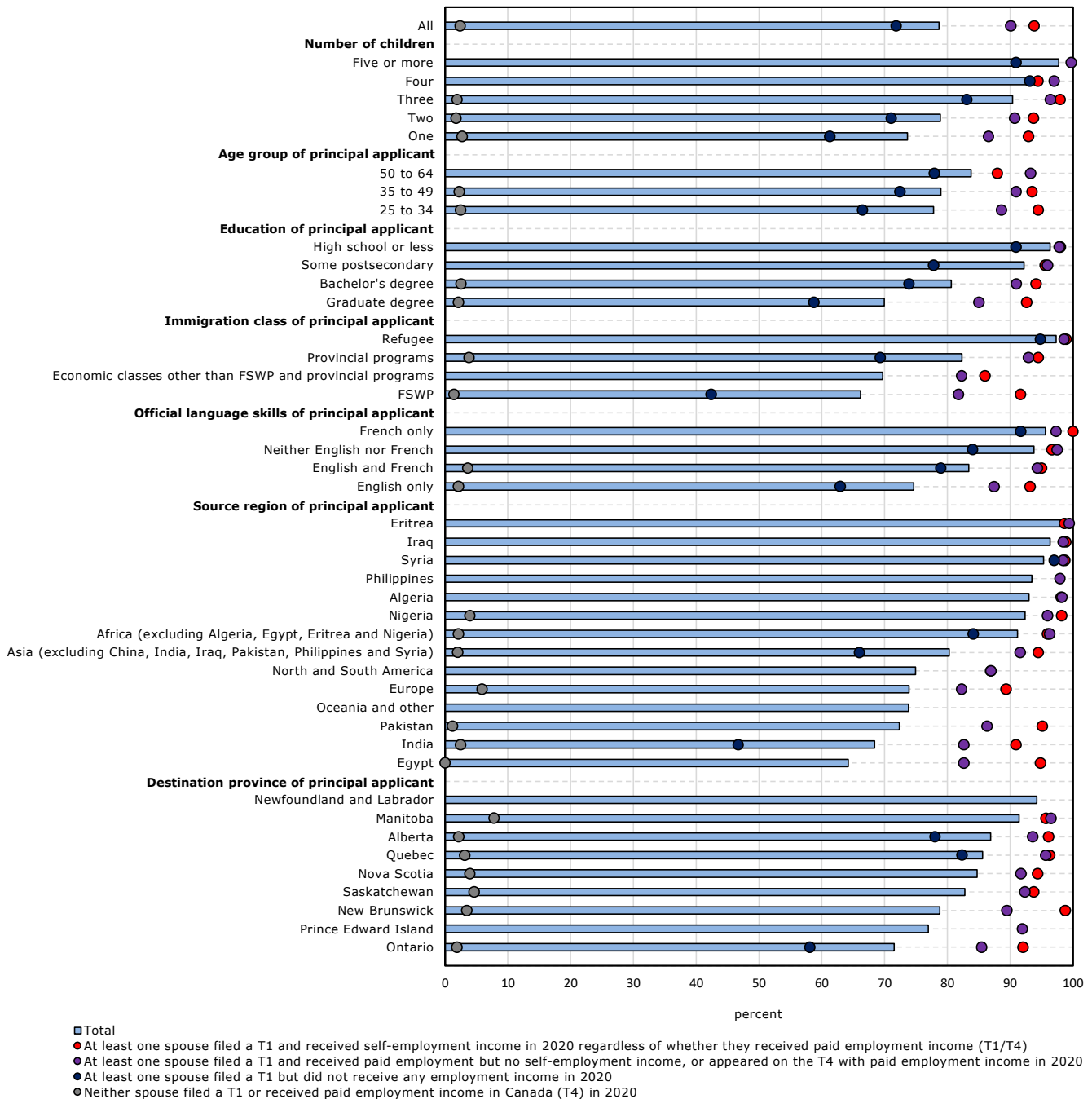
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.



All else being equal, refugee couples were 9 to 15 percentage points more likely to receive the CCB in the year following landing, compared with couples from provincial programs. Except for couples who landed in 2016, the CCB take-up rate was 4 to 5 percentage points lower for FSWP couples, compared with couples from provincial programs.

The baseline and controlled average partial effects for all the covariates considered are reported in Table 4.

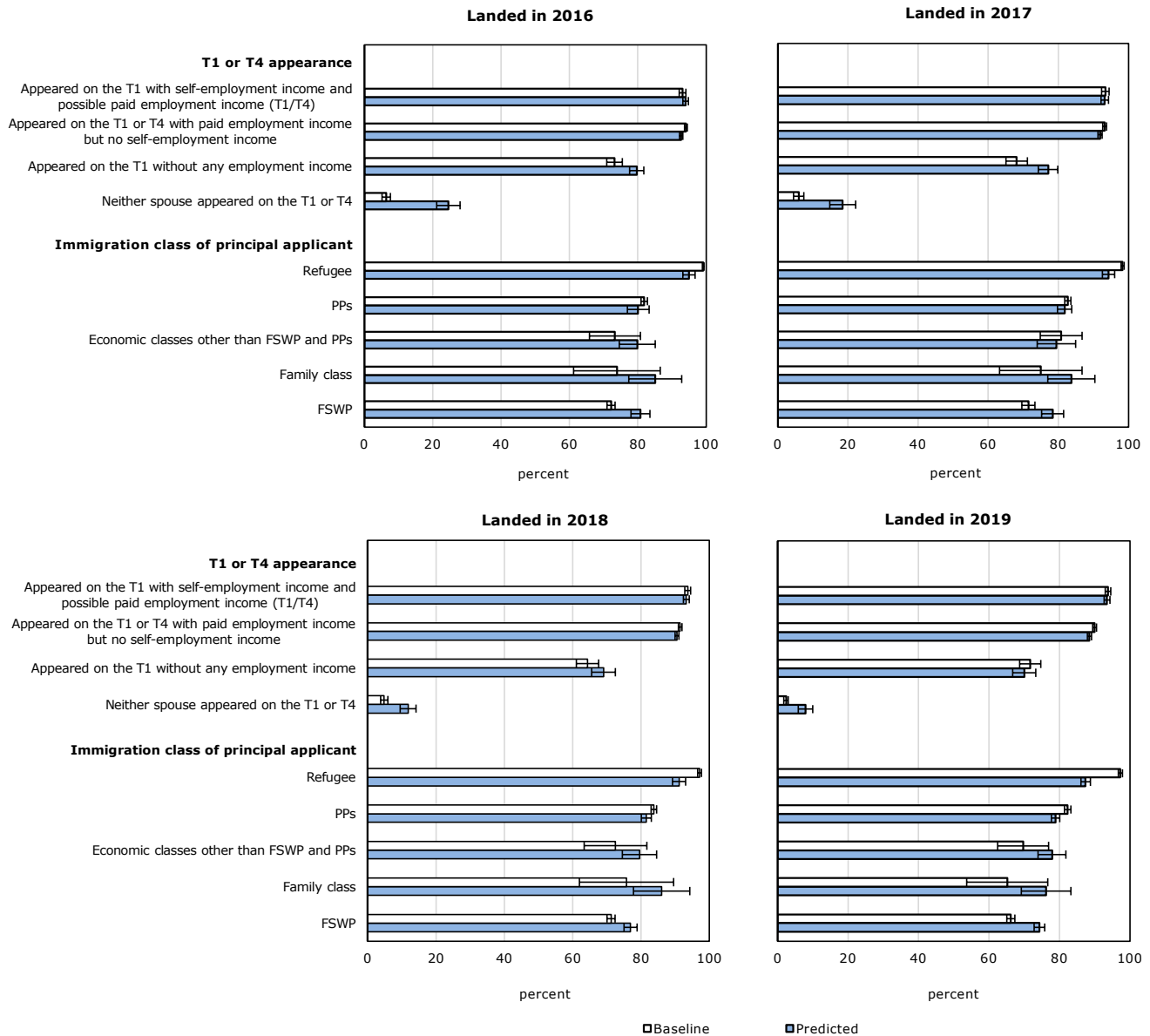
**Chart 3**  
**Canada child benefit take-up rates in 2020 of permanent resident couples who landed in 2019, where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by tax-filing and paid employment status and selected landing characteristics**



**Notes:** FSWP = Federal Skilled Worker Program. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019. The destination province reflects only the intended province of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination. Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July 2020. Some rates could not be shown because of low sample size.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2020; and Canada child benefit, January 2020 to December 2020.

**Chart 4**  
**Baseline and predicted Canada child benefit take-up rates in the year following landing among permanent resident couples where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing, by tax-filing and paid employment status of the couple in the year following landing and immigration class of the principal applicant**



**Notes:** PP = provincial program; FSWP = Federal Skilled Worker Program. The baseline probabilities are the Canada child benefit (CCB) take-up rates without controlling for any landing characteristics. The predicted probabilities are the CCB take-up rates based on a logistic regression model controlling for the number of children; the age of the youngest child; and the age group of the principal applicant, along with their education, official language skills, country of citizenship and destination province. In addition, it controls for the immigration class of the principal applicant and the tax-filing status and paid employment income receipt status of the couple. The horizontal lines overlaid on the bars indicate the 95% confidence interval. The results from the full models are reported in Table 3. Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. The territories were excluded because of low sample size.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 personal master file and T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

## Missing out on the Canada child benefit may put some newly landed couples at risk of low income

By helping eligible families with the cost of raising children younger than 18, the CCB can play a role in reducing low income. The extent to which it can reduce low income for newly landed couples is difficult to measure because their income prior to landing is not observed. However, low-income rates can still be estimated for a subset of couples where both spouses can be found on T1 records (around three-quarters of the baseline sample). Low income in this study is measured using after-tax family income. For this purpose, the T1 Family File (T1FF), a database similar to the T1PMF but that includes information on tax filers' census family, is incorporated into the analysis. A family is classified as being in low income if its size-adjusted after-tax family income falls below the low-income line, defined in this study as one-half of the median size-adjusted after-tax family income of the Canadian population.<sup>11</sup>

Considering the subset of couples who did not receive the CCB in the year following landing and had employment income in the T1 or T4 (i.e., those most likely to reside in Canada shortly after landing) for whom T1 records can be found for both spouses on the T1FF, the study shows that the low-income rates of these couples would have fallen slightly if they had received the CCB (Table 5). The reduction in low-income rates was generally uniform across landing characteristics. For the subset of couples who filed T1 tax forms but had no employment income, low-income rates would have fallen to a greater extent. For example, the low-income rate in 2020 for couples who landed in 2019 would have fallen from 61% (without the CCB) to 59% (with the CCB) in 2020.<sup>12</sup> Note that the analysis did not account for other benefits these newly landed couples might have missed out on.

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11. After-tax family income is adjusted by dividing it by the square root of family size. Low income is usually measured at the individual level but using after-tax household income (adjusted for household size). Household information is not available from tax data. The household is a broader concept than the census family (which is what is available from the T1FF), so low-income rates presented in this study might be overestimated to a certain extent. For example, if a newly landed family temporarily lives with a relative already residing in Canada, they will appear as separate census families on the tax data, even though they would be considered one household. The relative's income would not be counted as part of the newly landed census family's income, but it would be counted as part of the household income (unobserved on tax data). The low-income lines for census families were estimated as \$21,100 in 2017, \$21,800 in 2018, \$22,400 in 2019 and \$23,900 in 2020, in nominal dollars. The national low-income rates for census families were around 22% from 2017 to 2019 and 18% in 2020.
12. CCB take-up rates were examined across the income distribution using the adjusted after-tax family incomes of couples with employment income. The take-up rates were close to or over 95% for the bottom three-quarters of the distribution, using income thresholds based on the full T1FF population for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

**Table 5**  
**Low-income rates of permanent resident couples with employment income in Canada in the year following landing where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing**

	Landed in 2016		Landed in 2017		Landed in 2018		Landed in 2019	
	Hypothetical low-income rate in 2017 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to		Hypothetical low-income rate in 2018 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to		Hypothetical low-income rate in 2019 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to		Hypothetical low-income rate in 2020 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to	
	Actual low-income rate in 2017	Canada child benefit they were entitled to	Actual low-income rate in 2018	Canada child benefit they were entitled to	Actual low-income rate in 2019	Canada child benefit they were entitled to	Actual low-income rate in 2020	Canada child benefit they were entitled to
percent								
<b>Demographic characteristics at landing</b>								
All	41.7	41.1	36.7	36.0	29.8	29.3	24.1	23.4
<b>Number of children</b>								
One	34.0	33.3	32.7	32.1	23.8	23.2	18.7	18.0
Two	41.5	40.8	36.6	35.9	31.2	30.7	25.4	24.6
Three	54.8	54.2	44.9	44.0	41.4	41.0	33.2	32.6
Four	58.2	57.7	51.1	49.8	44.9	44.5	39.2	38.6
Five or more	36.6	36.6	40.0	39.6	40.5	40.5	32.0	32.0
<b>Age group of youngest child</b>								
Younger than 6	41.0	40.6	34.7	34.0	27.5	27.0	22.1	21.5
6 to 10	42.2	41.4	39.5	38.9	33.6	33.3	27.2	26.4
11 to 17	46.0	45.1	44.0	42.7	41.3	40.2	33.8	33.2
<b>Age group of principal applicant</b>								
25 to 34	38.5	37.9	30.5	30.0	22.9	22.5	18.9	18.3
35 to 49	42.4	41.8	38.9	38.2	33.4	32.9	26.7	26.0
50 to 64	57.1	56.4	59.5	58.4	54.3	53.2	43.0	42.6
<b>Education of principal applicant</b>								
High school or less	59.8	59.4	52.1	51.3	49.7	49.2	46.1	45.2
Some postsecondary	42.2	41.7	34.9	34.7	38.2	37.3	28.1	27.5
Bachelor's degree	32.9	32.2	33.0	32.4	27.5	27.0	20.9	20.4
Graduate degree	31.3	30.7	31.1	30.2	22.7	22.1	18.1	17.3
<b>Immigration class of principal applicant</b>								
Economic class	30.3	29.5	29.7	28.9	22.8	22.3	17.7	17.0
Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	22.8	22.0	22.2	21.4	13.9	13.4	12.2	11.5
Provincial programs	35.5	34.7	32.0	31.3	28.8	28.2	22.1	21.4
Economic classes other than FSWP and provincial programs	35.6	32.7	25.0	22.0	35.6	32.2	30.2	27.4
Family class	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Refugee	59.0	58.7	53.1	52.5	52.1	51.7	45.8	45.3
Other	x	x	x	x	x	x	33.3	31.4

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. The sample includes only couples where both spouses could be found on the T1 Family File. A family is classified as having low income if its after-tax family income adjusted for family size falls below the low-income line, which is one-half of the median adjusted after-tax family income among all families in Canada. Income was adjusted by dividing the after-tax family income of each individual by the square root of their census family size. Low income is usually measured for households (not available from most tax data) rather than census families. For this reason, the rates presented here will be overestimated to a certain extent. The household is a broader concept than the census family. This means that if a newly landed family temporarily moves in with some relatives already living in Canada in the year following landing, they will appear as separate census families according to tax data but they would be considered as one household (unobserved in tax data). Low income is also usually measured at the individual level and not the family level. But here the interest is on the extent to which the Canada child benefit can reduce low income among newly landed couples.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 Family File, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

**Table 5**  
**Low-income rates of permanent resident couples with employment income in Canada in the year following landing where both spouses were aged 25 to 64 and had a child younger than 18 at landing (continued)**

	Landed in 2016		Landed in 2017		Landed in 2018		Landed in 2019	
	Actual low-income rate in 2017	Hypothetical low-income rate in 2017 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to	Actual low-income rate in 2018	Hypothetical low-income rate in 2018 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to	Actual low-income rate in 2019	Hypothetical low-income rate in 2019 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to	Actual low-income rate in 2020	Hypothetical low-income rate in 2020 if all couples received the Canada child benefit they were entitled to
	percent							
<b>Official language skills of principal applicant</b>								
English only	31.4	30.7	29.7	29.0	24.7	24.2	19.5	18.8
French only	44.6	43.9	42.4	41.7	40.3	39.5	28.5	28.0
English and French	41.0	40.3	43.9	42.8	32.8	32.1	25.0	24.1
Neither English nor French	62.3	62.0	53.1	52.4	55.1	54.6	49.9	49.5
<b>Source region of principal applicant<sup>1</sup></b>								
India	18.5	17.9	17.9	17.3	15.5	15.2	10.1	9.6
Syria	61.8	61.6	61.2	61.0	63.4	63.3	53.6	53.3
China	50.6	49.4	52.6	50.2	50.8	49.2	44.4	42.3
Nigeria	19.6	19.3	13.8	13.4	13.9	13.6	12.9	12.1
Pakistan	38.9	37.5	42.0	40.8	32.4	31.1	27.7	26.9
Philippines	9.1	8.8	7.8	7.5	11.4	11.2	6.3	6.1
Iraq	53.3	53.3	48.3	47.2	51.8	51.6	51.1	51.1
Eritrea	39.8	38.3	33.8	32.6	27.5	26.4	30.1	28.3
Algeria	57.7	57.7	51.1	51.1	40.7	40.1	30.3	29.8
Egypt	50.2	48.5	46.7	45.3	39.1	38.4	31.1	30.2
Asia (excluding China, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Philippines and Syria)	44.2	43.2	48.5	48.0	36.5	35.9	30.2	29.5
Africa (excluding Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea and Nigeria)	43.5	42.8	39.8	38.8	31.6	30.6	28.7	27.6
Europe	23.2	21.9	28.5	28.0	18.8	18.0	12.8	12.6
North and South America	34.4	34.1	35.1	33.9	29.1	28.8	16.8	16.3
Oceania and other	34.0	34.0	38.6	38.6	x	x	53.3	53.3
<b>Destination province or territory of principal applicant<sup>2</sup></b>								
Newfoundland and Labrador	74.0	74.0	x	x	x	x	x	x
Prince Edward Island	53.3	53.3	49.7	49.2	53.2	51.4	48.0	48.0
Nova Scotia	44.6	44.4	28.9	28.9	24.8	24.1	21.7	21.5
New Brunswick	62.8	62.1	31.8	31.5	24.4	24.4	23.7	22.2
Quebec	45.9	45.1	44.1	43.4	41.8	41.1	31.6	30.9
Ontario	40.5	39.8	35.0	34.4	24.0	23.5	20.6	20.1
Manitoba	32.1	31.9	28.8	28.2	31.9	31.4	21.8	21.4
Saskatchewan	37.5	37.0	28.6	27.6	25.4	25.2	26.0	25.3
Alberta	37.1	36.4	32.4	31.5	26.9	26.3	22.7	21.5
British Columbia	46.0	45.4	38.7	37.6	26.2	25.6	22.4	21.4
Territories	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Source region was derived from the country of citizenship variable. These regions are based on the top 10 countries from which most permanent resident couples came from 2016 to 2019.

2. The destination province or territory reflects only the intended province or territory of residence at landing. The actual destination may differ from the intended destination.

**Notes:** Couples where at least one spouse held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as a permanent resident were excluded. The Canadian Experience Class of immigration, which was introduced in 2009, was excluded since almost every couple in that category held temporary resident status in Canada prior to landing as permanent residents. To extend the potential Canada child benefit eligibility period, the sample was restricted to couples who had a child younger than 18 until at least July of the year following landing. The sample includes only couples where both spouses could be found on the T1 Family File. A family is classified as having low income if its after-tax family income adjusted for family size falls below the low-income line, which is one-half of the median adjusted after-tax family income among all families in Canada. Income was adjusted by dividing the after-tax family income of each individual by the square root of their census family size. Low income is usually measured for households (not available from most tax data) rather than census families. For this reason, the rates presented here will be overestimated to a certain extent. The household is a broader concept than the census family. This means that if a newly landed family temporarily moves in with some relatives already living in Canada in the year following landing, they will appear as separate census families according to tax data but they would be considered as one household (unobserved in tax data). Low income is also usually measured at the individual level and not the family level. But here the interest is on the extent to which the Canada child benefit can reduce low income among newly landed couples.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2016 to 2019; T1 Family File, 2017 to 2020; and Canada child benefit, March 2017 to December 2020.

## Concluding remarks

This study offers insights into CCB take-up for permanent resident couples with no prior history in Canada, where both spouses are aged 25 to 64 and have a child younger than 18 at landing. The study focuses on couples who landed from 2016 to 2019 and combines an immigrant landing registry with T1 and T4 tax forms, as well as monthly CCB files, thereby allowing for a comprehensive measurement of CCB take-up.

A key takeaway from this study is that filing T1 tax forms or having a T4 record is the strongest predictor of CCB receipt. In most newly landed couples with children younger than 18, a spouse filed a T1 or received paid employment income in the year following landing. Results indicate that newly landed couples where at least one spouse had employment income in the year following landing were significantly more likely than other couples to receive the CCB that year. Couples where a spouse filed a T1 but had no employment income were less likely to receive the CCB than those with employment income, but their take-up rate was still markedly higher than that of couples with no T1 or T4 record. Compositional differences do not explain this difference in take-up rates. This might indicate that the relatively lower take-up rate for couples with no T1 or T4 record could be attributable to temporary international emigration. Because many benefits—including the CCB—have a residency criterion, focusing on the subgroup that is present in the tax system (i.e., T1 or T4) can minimize concerns regarding international emigration.

Certain subgroups of immigrants, such as refugees, had a relatively higher propensity to file T1 tax forms and receive the CCB. This could be because refugees are more likely to remain in Canada shortly after landing—thus satisfying the residency criterion for the CCB—while other groups, like highly skilled workers, who have a relatively lower presence on T1 or T4 records and lower CCB take-up rates, likely have greater mobility to work abroad temporarily.

The CCB can play a role in low-income reduction for newly landed couples who may not have adequate financial resources shortly after landing. The extent to which the CCB can alleviate low income depends on couples' income sources. One limitation was that this study could not assess the degree to which the rates of non-receipt of the CCB for various groups reflect income levels that are too high (ineligibility) or truly reflect non-receipt of the CCB by fully eligible families. This is because an income registry (independent of international emigration and tax-filing) before and after landing is not available; however, the study sheds light on groups more likely to satisfy the CCB residency criterion. Building a profile of immigrants more likely to reside in Canada shortly after landing and examining differences in take-up within this group, as was done in this study, may help inform outreach efforts.

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