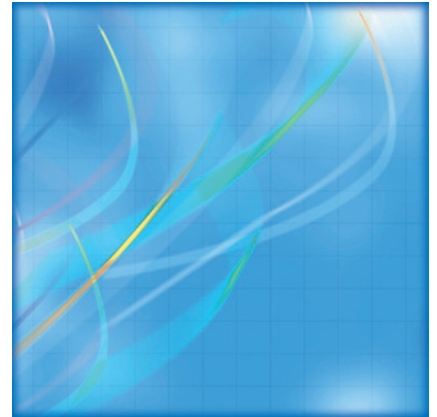




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Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada:

Process, progress and prospects



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Statistics Canada
Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada:

Process, progress and prospects

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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Highlights of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada

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Written by Tina Chui, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.

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A number of key individuals made this study possible and their contributions must be acknowledged: Tracey Leesti, Jessie-Lynn MacDonald, Michelle Simard and Sylvain Tremblay of the LSIC project team for their assistance; Peter Smith and Kelly Tran for their research and technical support; and John Flanders for his editorial advice.

Last but not least, a grateful thank you is extended to the colleagues from Citizenship and Immigration Canada for the valuable draft comments they provided.

Note to reader

A more detailed publication of the results from the first wave of interviews is planned for release in early 2004. The publication will cover the following themes: profiling the LSIC sample, motivations for immigrating to Canada, early outcomes related to the economic and social well-being of newcomers, and an examination of the barriers newcomers face.

The LSIC file will be available in Statistics Canada research data centres in September 2003. Further information on the research data centres can be found at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/rdc>.

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Standard symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada products:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- x** suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- E** use with caution
- F** too unreliable to be published

Background

Between 1991 and 2000, 2.2 million immigrants were admitted to Canada, the highest number admitted in any decade in the past 100 years. As a consequence, the 2001 Census recorded the highest share of foreign-born in the country in 70 years (18.4%).

Migration usually entails a period of adjustment. The issues of immigrant integration and the government's role in facilitating this process are of great importance.

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), conducted by Statistics Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada under the Policy Research Initiative, is a comprehensive survey designed to study how newly arrived immigrants adjust over time to living in Canada. It uses a longitudinal design to study a sample of immigrants and refugees aged 15 years and older who arrived in Canada between October 2000 and September 2001.

About 12,000 of the roughly 164,200 people aged 15 and over who were admitted from outside Canada during this year-long period are interviewed at three different points in time to gather information on their settlement experiences.

The first wave of interviews with immigrants for the LSIC was conducted between April 2001 and June 2002, some six months after their arrivals. This same group of individuals is currently being interviewed once again (approximately two years after their arrival) and will be interviewed for a third time, four years after their arrival.

Information collected from the first interview will serve as a benchmark for the settlement experiences of these newcomers. By late 2005, when all three interviews have been completed, the survey will provide a clear understanding of how the settlement process unfolds for new arrivals.

This article provides some key findings from the first wave of interviews. It examines who these immigrants are, where they settled, and why they settled where they did. It also examines their experiences in finding suitable housing, accessing health care services, obtaining education and training and entering the labour force.

As well, this article explores some of the barriers that the immigrants encountered, and who if any sources of help assisted immigrants in overcoming their difficulties.

Characteristics of Canada's newest immigrants

Asia and Europe are the leading sources of new immigrants

Between October 2000 and September 2001 an estimated 164,200 immigrants aged 15 years and older landed in Canada from abroad as permanent residents.

Consistent with trends shown by immigration data from the 2001 Census, released January 2003, the majority of these newcomers (68%) were born in Asia, including the Middle East. Another 15% were from Europe, 9% from Africa and 6% from Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The People's Republic of China was the leading country of birth, contributing 32,300 new immigrants to Canada. This was followed by India (25,800), the Philippines (11,300) and Pakistan (8,400).

Of these 164,200 immigrants, 66% were in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years. This was almost double the 38% of the Canadian-born population aged 15 years and older who were in the same age group at the time of the 2001 Census.

Economic immigrants comprised two-thirds of new immigrants

In general, immigrants entered Canada under three main classes: economic-class immigrants, family-class immigrants and refugees.

Of the immigrants included in the LSIC, economic-class immigrants made up the largest proportion (67%). The economic class comprised 56% principal applicants and 44% spouses and dependents (see Survey methodology).

Principal applicants in the economic class were more likely to be men. Of the 61,600 immigrants in this category, 77% were men. Immigrant women who were admitted under the economic class were more likely to be admitted as a spouse or a dependent. Women made up 75% of the 47,900 individuals in the category of economic-class spouse or dependent.

Family-class immigrants represented about 27% of the target population included in the LSIC who landed in Canada from abroad during this period. Of these 44,100 immigrants, 6 of every 10 were women.

The smallest proportion of new arrivals, about 6%, were admitted under the refugee class. Of these 9,800 immigrants admitted on humanitarian grounds, half were men and half women.

High proportion of newcomers have university education

Overall, new immigrants who arrived in Canada during the year-long period were highly educated. Over half (55%) reported having a university education. The proportion was even higher among newcomers who were aged between 25 and 44 years (69%), more than three times the 22% of the Canadian-born population in the same age group in 2001.

Economic-class principal applicants were selected for admittance to Canada on the basis of their labour market qualifications. Therefore, the majority (84%) of these principal applicants had a university degree, while 87% were in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years.

Most immigrants reported knowledge of at least one official language

A majority (82%) of new immigrants reported that they were able to converse well in at least one of Canada's two official languages when they arrived. Most of those individuals who had skills in an official language were in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years (88%) and were university educated (92%).

Still, 18% of the 164,200 immigrants were unable to converse in either English or French when they settled in Canada. This was partly because of the high proportion of immigrants from non-English- and non-French-speaking countries.

Immigrants who could not speak either official language on arrival tended to be older. Four in 10 immigrants aged 45 and 64 years could not speak English or French, nor could 6 in 10 seniors aged 65 years and older.

As well, women were more likely than men to have little knowledge of the official languages. About 23% of women couldn't converse in English or French, compared with 13% of men.

Vast majority of newcomers planned to become Canadian citizens

The vast majority of new immigrants reported that they had only one country in mind when they chose to leave their homeland: Canada. Virtually all (98%) of those who came

during the year-long period did not apply to immigrate to any other country.

Many immigrated for economic reasons; some came to reunite with their family. Others did not come by choice, but had to leave their homeland as refugees. The one thing that most immigrants had in common was the fact that they planned to make Canada their home. The vast majority (91%) expressed their intent to settle here permanently and become Canadian citizens.

Some six months after arriving in Canada, immigrants were making progress in building a new life in Canada. In fact, 73% of immigrants were satisfied with their new life in Canada. Only 9% were not satisfied with their experience and the remaining 18% reported being neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their new lives.

Most immigrants (85%) had made new friends since coming to Canada, especially with people from the same cultural background as themselves. In fact, 63% reported that all or most of their new friends were from the same ethnic group. As well, 47% of the immigrants reported that they wanted to bring their relatives to Canada by sponsoring their immigration.

Canada's immigration policy

Canada's immigration policy has been guided by three broad objectives: to reunite families, to fulfil the country's international obligations and humanitarian tradition with respect to refugees; and to foster a strong viable economy in all regions of Canada.

These objectives are reflected through the three main classes of immigrants under which people are admitted to Canada each year as permanent residents: family-class immigrants, economic-class immigrants and refugees.

Family-class immigrants include close relatives (spouses, dependent children, parents and grandparents) sponsored by a permanent resident or citizen of Canada who is at least 18 years of age. The sponsored immigrant can be accompanied by his or her spouse and dependent children. The sponsor must commit to provide for the maintenance of the sponsored immigrants.

People who are admitted under the economic class include principal applicants and accompanying spouses and dependants of skilled workers, business immigrants and provincial/territorial nominees. Since 1967, skilled worker principal applicants are selected for suitability for the Canadian labour force based on an assessment of their skills.

The assessment is based on a system that assigns points for age, education, work experience, intended occupation, knowledge of Canadian languages and adaptability. Additional points may be given if the principal applicant has pre-arranged employment in Canada. Business principal applicants are assessed for relevant experience as a business owner or manager.

In the economic class, spouses and dependent children are admitted along with the principal applicants, without being individually skills-tested.

Refugees can be selected from abroad (sponsored by the government or by private groups) or admitted after a determination of their refugee status after arriving in Canada as a refugee claimant. Refugees selected from abroad can be individuals recognized as Convention refugees on the basis of the 1951 Geneva Convention or individuals being re-settled for humanitarian reasons.

A refugee claimant receives Canada's protection only when he or she is found to be a Convention refugee. The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada does not include any refugee claimants admitted from within Canada in its population of interest.

Settlement services are offered to help newly arrived permanent residents—particularly refugees—settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society. Under the Canadian Constitution, the federal and provincial governments share responsibility for immigration.

Several provinces and territories have formal agreements with the federal government regarding immigration. The Canada–Quebec Accord is the most comprehensive of these agreements to date.

Source: *Citizenship and Immigration Canada.*

Immigrants' choice of destination

Canada's three largest metropolitan areas attracted most new immigrants

As the 2001 Census showed, the majority of Canada's most recent immigrants settled in the three largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs): Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal. This was also the case with the immigrants interviewed for the LSIC.

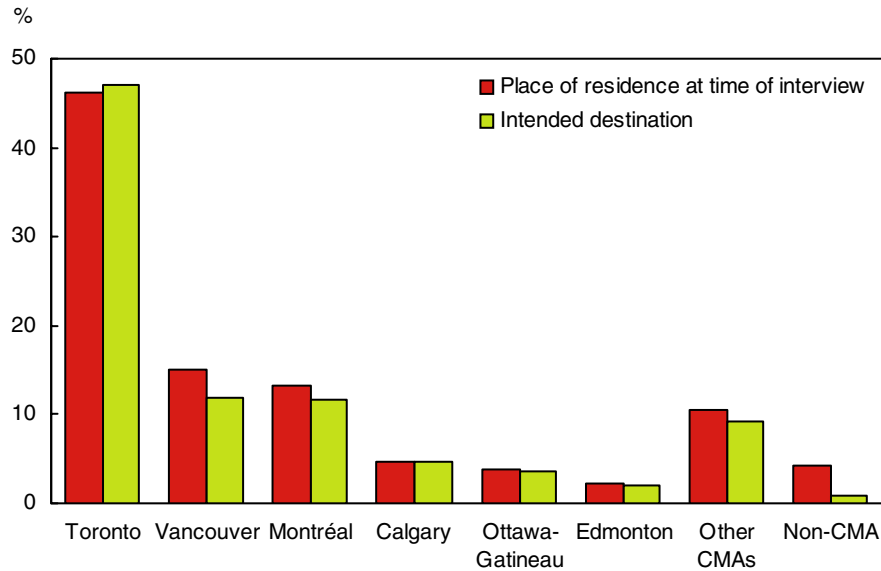
Of the 164,200 immigrants aged 15 years and older who arrived in Canada from abroad during this year-long period, 74% (121,400) settled in these three metropolitan areas. In contrast, in 2001, these three areas were home to only 26% of the Canadian-born population aged 15 years or older.

The CMA of Toronto received the majority (46%) of these newcomers, an estimated 75,400 immigrants. Toronto's intake was three times higher than that of either Vancouver (15%), the second most popular destination, or Montréal (13%).

In a distant fourth place was the CMA of Calgary, which attracted about 5% of the new immigrant population, followed closely by Ottawa–Gatineau (4%). Just over 2%—about 3,800 arrivals—chose Edmonton as their destination area.

Only 4% of the total new immigrant population resided outside a CMA.

Graph 1. Immigrants' intended destination before immigration and their place of residence at time of interview, by selected census metropolitan areas, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Majority of immigrants settled in their destination of choice

In general, the settlement pattern of these new immigrants was similar to the intended destination they had stated when they applied to immigrate to Canada. Three-quarters of the immigrants who had stated a destination at the time of admission to Canada actually settled where they had intended to. The remaining quarter ended up settling in a different area from their planned destination. Generally, these immigrants had originally planned to settle in a smaller metropolitan area, but subsequently decided to live in one of the three largest.

Overall, 47% of the immigrants had targeted Toronto as their intended place of residence. About 12% had planned to settle in Vancouver and another 12% in Montréal. The remaining 18% intended to reside in a CMA other than Toronto, Vancouver or Montréal. About 1 in 10 immigrants did not state any intended destination before coming to the country and only 1% planned to settle outside an urban area.

Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal were the top destinations of choice for most immigrants. Over 80% of the newcomers who had the intention to settle in these metropolitan areas ended up living there.

Of all the people who had intended to live in Toronto, 87% actually settled there. However, 3% wound up living in Vancouver instead, and another 3% in Montréal.

Of the newcomers who had planned to live in Vancouver, 83% actually did so, 11% wound up living in Toronto or Montréal.

Nearly 85% of the immigrants who intended to settle in Montréal lived there at the time of the survey, while 6% ended up settling in Vancouver and 4% in Toronto. The other 5% who originally planned to live in Montréal settled in other CMAs or outside a metropolitan area.

Among the immigrants who planned to settle in a smaller metropolitan area, or outside a metropolitan area, about 7% ended up living in Toronto.

The three largest CMAs also had the strongest drawing power among those who did not specify a destination when coming to Canada. About 30% settled in Vancouver, the largest proportion, followed by 24% in Toronto and 7% in Montréal.

Table 1. Intended destination before immigration and current place of residence of immigrants currently living in the three largest census metropolitan areas, 2001

| Intended destination | Current place of residence | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Toronto | Vancouver | Montréal | Other CMAs and non-CMAs | Total |
| | % | | | | |
| Toronto | 86.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 7.4 | 100.0 |
| Vancouver | 8.4 | 83.5 | 2.2 ^E | 5.9 | 100.0 |
| Montréal | 4.4 | 6.0 | 84.8 | 4.8 | 100.0 |
| Other CMA and non-CMAs | 7.3 | 2.6 | 4.6 | 84.9 | 100.0 |
| Not stated | 24.3 | 29.7 | 7.4 | 38.6 | 100.0 |

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Immigrants settled where they did to join family or friends

Overall, immigrants cited two main reasons for choosing to locate in a given CMA. First, the majority of immigrants chose their destination area based on the fact that they had a spouse, partner or other family member currently living there. Four in 10 (41%) newcomers cited that as the most important reason behind their location choice. Another 18% chose the area because they had friends living there.

In fact, when the newcomers were asked if they had family or friends living nearby, three-quarters said they already had kin or a network of friends in the region where they chose to live.

The second most important reason behind destination choice was the prospect of a job, which was cited by 14% of immigrants. Close to 5% made their decision based on education prospects, 5% on lifestyle criteria and 4% on housing.

The reasons given by the newcomers for settling in Toronto, Vancouver or Montréal varied. While the most important reason to settle in these three areas was to join family and friends, the next most important reason for choosing these particular areas varied.

In the case of Vancouver, the second most important reason, cited by just over 13% of immigrants, was not family- or economic-related. The reason was simply the climate. In Toronto, the second most common reason was the possibility of a job, while in Montréal, language was the next most important factor.

Job prospects were almost as important as family and friends for economic immigrants

The reasons for settling in different areas of the country varied by immigrants' admission class. For example, in any given metropolitan area, immigrants who were admitted in the economic class reported that family and friends and employment opportunities were equally important in location choice.

Nearly 25% of the principal applicants in the economic class chose their place of residence because they had friends living in the area. Another 18% of the immigrants in this admission category settled in the area to join family members who already resided nearby, while 22% cited jobs and job prospects as the most important reason.

Similarly, one-quarter of the spouses or dependents of the principal applicants in the economic class cited joining friends as the most important factor. A similar proportion

(23%) chose the area to join family, and another 17% cited job prospects as the reason to move to their destination.

Employment-related reasons were particularly important for economic-class principal applicants who chose to settle in smaller metropolitan areas or outside a CMA. One-third of these people cited jobs as the most important reason to move to these areas. In comparison, about one-fifth of these new immigrants lived in smaller areas to join spouses, partners or family members already living there.

Of the three largest metropolitan areas, Toronto was the most likely to be chosen by economic-class principal applicants because of the job prospects. Almost one-quarter (23%) of them chose Toronto for its employment possibilities, while only 16% selected Montréal and only a small proportion chose Vancouver for the same reason.

Still, one-half of the economic-class principal applicants settled in Toronto to join family and friends. In addition, Toronto had the highest proportion (5%) of economic principal applicants who chose to live there because there were people from their same country or ethnic community already living in the area.

In Vancouver, 41% of economic-class principal applicants chose to live there in order to join friends or family members. However, 20% picked Vancouver because of its climate and 12% preferred Vancouver's lifestyle.

In Montréal, as was the case in Toronto and Vancouver, joining family and friends was the most important reason for 31% of economic-class principal applicants. Language was the next most important factor (19%), followed by employment prospects (16%) and education prospects (10%). Another 8% pointed to housing factors in Montréal.

Just slightly over one-fifth of economic-class principal applicants settled in an area other than Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal.

The strongest reasons for choosing areas other than the three largest CMAs were to join family and friends and employment opportunities. Slightly over one-third (36%) of economic-class principal applicants cited family and friends as their primary reason for destination choice. Equally important, cited by 32%, were job opportunities that the area offered. In fact, in comparison with Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal, the highest proportion of economic-class principal applicants cited job prospects as the most important factor for settlement choice. Education prospects (12%), lifestyle (6%) and business prospects (6%) were the other top reasons to settle in areas other than the three largest CMAs.

Table 2. The five most important reasons principal applicants in the economic class chose to settle in Toronto, Vancouver or Montréal, 2001

| | % |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Toronto | |
| Family or friends | 49.7 |
| Job prospects | 23.4 |
| Lifestyle | 4.9 |
| Housing | 4.9 |
| Many people from the same ethnic group living there | 4.6 |
| Vancouver | |
| Family or friends | 41.3 |
| Climate | 20.0 |
| Lifestyle | 11.7 |
| Education prospects | 7.0 |
| Job prospects | 6.1 ^E |
| Montréal | |
| Family or friends | 31.3 |
| Language | 18.5 |
| Job prospects | 15.8 |
| Education prospects | 10.1 |
| Lifestyle | 8.3 |
| All other CMAs and non-CMAs | |
| Family or friends | 35.6 |
| Job prospects | 32.3 |
| Education prospects | 12.1 |
| Lifestyle | 5.6 |
| Business prospects | 5.5 |

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Most refugees joined relatives in the top three CMAs

Privately sponsored refugees normally settle in the community inhabited by their sponsor(s). As such, they are likely to report that they settled in areas where they have family or friends or that they did not choose their place of residence, at least during the initial months after landing.

One-half of the refugee immigrants who lived in smaller CMAs or outside a metropolitan region did not choose their destination.

In Montréal, 82% of the refugee-class immigrants who settled there reported family and friends as the most important reason, compared with 72% of those in Toronto and 63% of those in Vancouver.

Reunification was most important for family-class immigrants

Since family-class immigrants came to Canada in order to reunite with family members, over 90% of them chose their destinations based on where their spouse, partner or family members lived.

Housing

Majority of newcomers had accommodation arranged before arrival

The majority (81%) of the immigrants who arrived in Canada between October 2000 and September 2001 had some form of housing arranged before their arrival, even though the accommodation may have been on a temporary basis.

As expected, newcomers who had relatives or friends already in Canada at the time of their immigration were more likely to have arranged some form of accommodation before their arrival in their new country (89%), compared with those who did not have any kin or friendship network in Canada (62%).

After their arrival, about 24% of new immigrants did not need to look for any further housing. Most of these individuals arrived under the family reunification category, likely joining the household of other family members already in Canada.

Those immigrants who had to find further housing reported using various methods in their search. Slightly more than half (52%) talked to friends or relatives; 27% read English and French newspapers; 15% walked or drove around various neighbourhoods; and 11% consulted real estate agents. Smaller numbers (9%) browsed the Internet and ethnic newspapers.

Nearly 2 out of 10 immigrants already owned their home

At the time of the interview, 18% of the newcomers resided in their own homes. Another 74% were renting and 8% were housed in some sort of temporary accommodation, such as a hotel or motel or the home of an employer.

As expected, among the three main admission classes, family-class immigrants had the highest proportion living in their own home (38%) since many of these immigrants came to join other family members already living in Canada.

Of those people who were renting accommodations, 58% had plans to buy their own home, while 22% were unsure about plans for home ownership at the time of the survey. Only 21% had no plans to own a home.

While the majority (76%) of new immigrants lived in one-family households, 12% lived in multiple-family households. This represents a higher incidence than the total Canadian

population, when in 2001 only 2% were in this type of living arrangement. Another 12% of newcomers lived either alone or with other unrelated people.

Among immigrants who landed during the one-year period, the average household size was 3.5 people, compared with the Canadian average of 2.6 people.

Six in 10 had no problem finding housing

According to the LSIC, most (62%) of the 125,100 immigrants who needed to look for housing did not encounter any problem.

Among those who did encounter difficulties, the most serious problems reported were those of high costs and lack of guarantors or cosigners. Almost one-third (31%) of the immigrants who reported difficulties said they found housing costs too high, while almost one-quarter (23%) did not have a guarantor or cosigner or could not get credit rating.

The third most serious problem was the lack of suitable housing. Among those new immigrants who identified at least one problem when looking for housing, 11% reported that they could not find housing that met their needs.

Immigrants living in Ontario had the highest proportion of persons citing high costs as the most serious difficulty (37%) and those who resided in Quebec had the lowest proportion of persons reporting this obstacle (20%).

Table 3. Immigrants' experience finding housing, accessing health care services, training, and entering the labour market, 2001

| Immigrants' experience | Find housing | Access health care services | Acquire further education | Enter the labour market |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Number | | | |
| Immigrants who tried to obtain services | 125,100 | 122,500 | 108,900 | 116,700 |
| | % | | | |
| Immigrants who never tried to obtain services ¹ | 23.8 | 25.4 | 33.7 | 28.8 |
| Immigrants who tried to obtain services ¹ | 76.2 | 74.6 | 66.3 | 71.2 |
| Immigrants who did not experience any difficulty ² | 62.3 | 76.6 | 60.4 | 29.7 |
| Immigrants who had at least one difficulty ² | 37.7 | 23.4 | 39.6 | 70.3 |

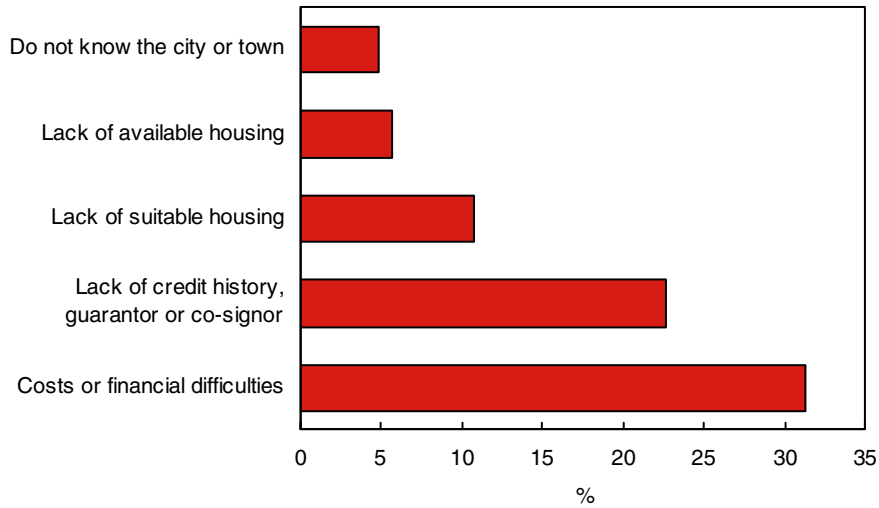
Notes:

1. Among all immigrants who arrived in Canada from October 2000 to September 2001, (164,200).

2. Among immigrants who tried to obtain services.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Graph 2. The most serious difficulties immigrants experienced when seeking suitable housing, 2001



Source: *Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.*

Health status and accessing health care services

Newcomers were generally in good health

Overall, a majority of the newcomers (78%) rated their health status as either excellent or very good. Another 19% reported themselves to be in good health. Only 3% rated their health as fair or poor.

In comparison, results of Statistics Canada's latest Canadian Community Health Survey show that 61% of the Canadian population aged 15 years and older rated their own health as either excellent or very good, 27% as good, and 12% as fair or poor.

Since their arrival, only a relatively small percentage of immigrant newcomers reported any health-related problem: about 16% reported some physical health problems, 11% identified the needs for dental attention, and 5% reported emotional problems.

Overall, this is consistent with previous research that showed immigrants, especially recent arrivals, reported better health than their Canadian-born counterparts. Possible reasons for this may be that healthier individuals are more willing to participate in the immigration process and that, in order to be admitted into Canada, immigrants must meet certain health status criteria, as stipulated in the Immigration Act of 1976.

Majority of newcomers did not encounter any problems when accessing health care services

Almost all newcomers (97%) had obtained a health card within six months of their arrival in Canada. Of the 122,500 immigrants who tried to access health care services, 77% did not encounter any problems; the rest (23%) reported at least one difficulty.

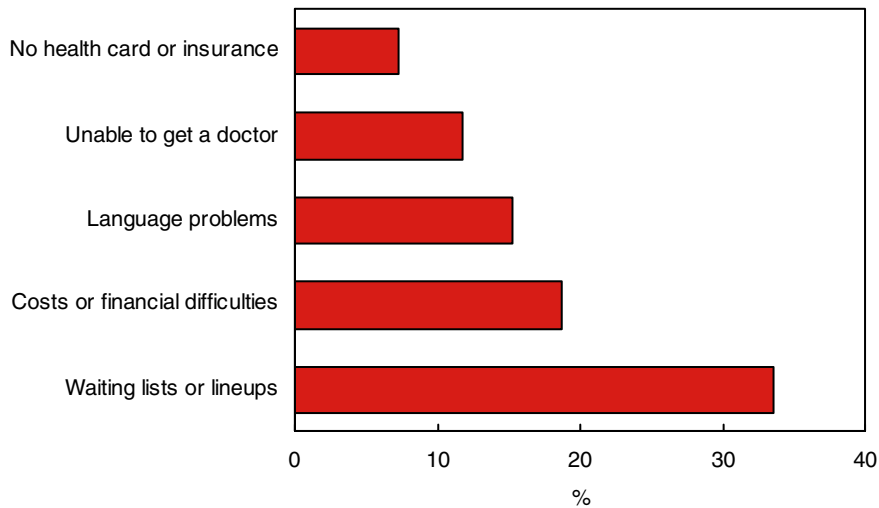
Of those people who reported problems in accessing health care services, 34% (or 9,600 newcomers) said their most serious difficulty was the long waiting lists. About 19% (or 5,400) stated that the services, as well as dental and prescription medication, cost too much. Language barriers were cited by 15% (or 4,400) of the immigrants who reported some difficulties. Another common difficulty, cited by 12% of new arrivals, was the inability to find a doctor who would accept new patients.

An estimated 43,400 immigrants experienced some health-related problems during the initial months after coming to Canada. A majority of these newcomers (74%) received medical attention. Of the 26% who did not receive any medical attention, 3% reported

that they did not seek help because the problems were not serious enough.

Among the newcomers who sought medical care for their health problems, about 72% went to a doctor's or dentist's office, 13% went to a walk-in clinic, and 10% went to a hospital emergency room.

Graph 3. The most serious difficulties immigrants experienced when accessing health care services, 2001



Source: *Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.*

Education and training

Two-thirds planned to get further education or training

For many immigrants, the key to labour market success depends on acquiring training in Canada and learning one or both of the official languages.

The survey showed that about 67% of the LSIC target population, or 109,300 newcomers, planned to further their education or training. As expected, immigrants in the younger age group were most likely to continue their education. Nine in 10 newcomers aged 15 to 24 years stated that they planned to get further education after arriving in Canada.

However, 70% of those in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years also expressed interest in further training, even though most of them had some formal education prior to immigration. About 42% of those aged 45 to 64 years also intended to continue their education in Canada.

The interest in furthering their education was highest among immigrants from Central and South America (82%). Fully 67% of those born in Asia and the Middle East and 66% of newcomers from Africa planned to further their training. A similar proportion of European-born immigrants (62%) also intended to obtain additional education or training in Canada.

Among the immigrant classes, refugees had the highest proportion of persons expressing interest in obtaining some training (79%), followed by the spouses and dependents of the economic class (75%).

Most immigrants believed that further education was important to their success in Canada. This was the case for 9 in 10 of the immigrants from Central and South America and the Caribbean, as well as Africa and Asia.

Most immigrants had university, language and job-related courses in mind

A university course was the most commonly planned type of education or training among immigrants. Four in 10 (or 43,400) new arrivals with the intention to further their education had university training in mind. About 3 in 10 (28%) cited language courses, and a further one-quarter (25%) cited job-related courses, workshops or seminars.

Half of all immigrants who had acquired a university degree prior to immigration were among those planning to further their postsecondary training after arriving in Canada.

In comparison, about one-quarter of immigrants with high school education planned to further their education at the university level.

University-level training was also popular among immigrants in the younger age groups. For example, 43% of newcomers aged 15 to 24 years who intended to obtain further schooling were interested in university-level training, as were 42% of those aged 25 to 44 years.

As well, 53% of the principal applicants in the economic class who planned to obtain training expressed an interest in pursuing university-level training, compared with 42% of spouses or dependents in the economic class, 27% of immigrants in the refugee class, and 23% in the family class.

Furthermore, 54% of newcomers aged 45 to 64 years who planned to get further education were interested in language training. Of the total immigrants admitted under the family class, 41% reported that they were also interested in language training, as well as 39% of the refugees who planned to obtain training once they arrived.

Job-related courses, workshops and seminars were the third most common type of training that immigrants wanted to pursue. One-third of economic-class principal applicants planned to take training intended to further their job skills, compared with only 23% of their spouses and dependents, 20% of the immigrants in the family class and 15% of refugees.

Nearly half of immigrants had started educational courses or training

Six months after arriving in Canada, 45% (or 73,500) of the LSIC target population who arrived between October 2000 and September 2001 had already pursued some kind of education, including language instruction. This participation rate was much higher than the Canadian average of 28% recorded in 1997, according to the Adult Education and Training Survey. (The Adult Education and Training Survey used a sample of the adult population aged 17 years and older that had enrolled in training activities after completing their initial education.)

The majority (87%) of immigrants who had taken some training during their initial months in Canada had enrolled in only one course. Another 12% had taken two courses. Only a small proportion had pursued three or more courses.

At the time of the survey, English language courses were the most popular type of training taken. Of the 73,500 immigrants who had started some training, 58% had taken one or more courses in English language training. Older immigrants aged 45 years and older who were already participating in training were most likely to enrol in English language training (76%).

One in 10 newcomers who had taken training after they had arrived in Canada took some form of French language training. Of those who were enrolled in French language training, the majority (95%) lived in Quebec, while most (93%) of those who took English language training resided outside Quebec.

Overall, 28% of immigrants who took part in training had enrolled in one or more courses that led to a degree, diploma or certificate. Spouses and dependents in the economic class had the highest proportion (32%) enrolled in a higher education program. Immigrants who participated in this type of training also tended to be in the younger age group; almost 59% of immigrants between the ages of 15 and 24 years had taken one or more courses in a higher education program.

About 12% of immigrants had taken some form of job-related type of training. This was especially true of prime working-aged immigrants, 16% of whom had taken a job-related course, workshops and seminars. This was also true among economic principal applicants who had pursued further training, with 23% participating in job-related courses.

Language and lack of money were both hurdles in furthering education

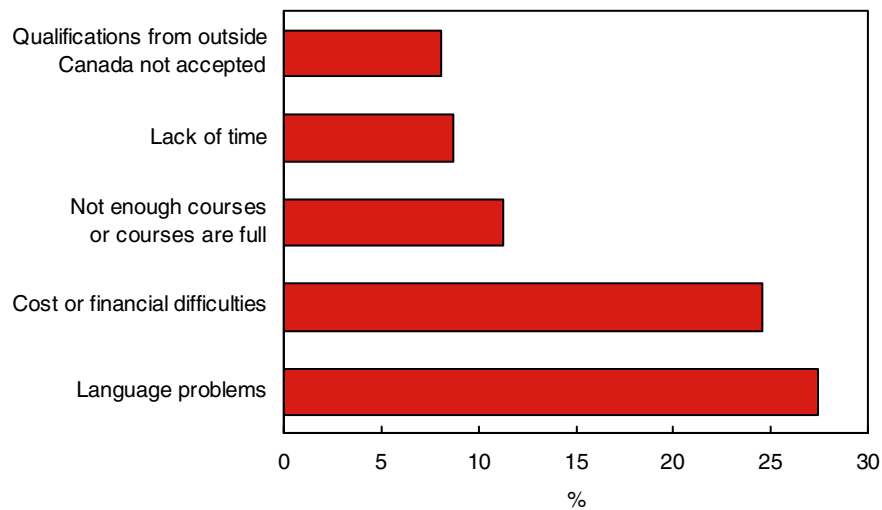
Of the 108,900 newcomers who tried to obtain training after coming to Canada, 40% (or 43,100) reported at least one problem with the process: 27% of these immigrants identified language barriers as the most serious obstacle, while another 25% reported difficulties in financing their training.

Unavailability of courses, the third most serious problem, was cited by 11% of the immigrants who encountered at least one problem when trying to obtain further training. Another 9% said they didn't have enough time, and 8% said their foreign qualifications were not accepted.

Among immigrants of all ages, those aged 15 to 24 years had the highest proportion (45%) identifying language barriers as the most serious obstacle. By area of birth, those immigrants born in Asia and the Middle East also found language barriers to be the most serious obstacle (32%). Language was also the most problematic area in furthering training among all immigrants admitted under the family class (32%), spouses and dependents or economic class (36%) and refugee (31%).

The cost of obtaining further education was of particular concern for immigrants from Africa, with 32% of those who identified at least one obstacle reporting this as their most serious problem.

Graph 4. The most serious difficulties immigrants experienced when pursuing further education or training, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Labour market entry

Majority of new immigrants planned to work

For most newcomers, finding employment is a key facet of establishing a new life in Canada. The vast majority of immigrants (85%) indicated that they had planned to work once they had arrived in Canada.

This was particularly true for immigrants who were in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years. Overall, 94% of the immigrants between the ages of 25 to 44 years indicated they planned to work after coming to Canada, compared with the 74% of newcomers aged 45 to 64 years and 73% of younger immigrants aged between 15 to 24 years.

Four out of 10 found work six months after arrival

Although it was a relatively short period of time, 44% (or 72,100) of newcomers had found employment within some six months of their arrival to Canada. Of the newcomers who had found jobs, 79% worked full time and the rest (21%) part time.

About 37% (or 42,200) newcomers who were looking for work had not found jobs yet at the time of the interview.

In total, 114,400 new immigrants were in the labour force, representing a 70% participation rate for all newcomers. The rate was even higher (78%) among new arrivals between the ages of 25 to 44 years, but was slightly lower than the equivalent age group for the total Canadian total population (86%) recorded in the Labour Force Survey.

Immigrants in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years had the highest employment rate. Half of those in this age group were employed six months after landing, compared with one-third (36%) of those aged 15 to 24 years and one-third (35%) of those aged 45 to 64 years.

Economic-class principal applicants had the highest employment rate

The class of admission under which immigrants were admitted to Canada often had an impact on their labour market entry. Given that principal applicants in the economic class were admitted on the basis of their skills, it is not surprising that this group had the highest employment rate.

At the time of the survey, 59% or 35,900 of those who entered as principal applicants in the economic class were employed, compared with 39% (or 17,300) of the immigrants admitted in the family class and 21% (or 2,100) in the refugee class.

Among immigrant women admitted as spouses or dependents in the economic class, the employment rate was almost the same as that of their counterparts in the family class. At the time of the survey, 32% of the women who entered as spouses or dependents in the economic class were employed, compared with 31% in the family class.

The case was somewhat different among immigrant men who entered as spouses or dependents in the economic class: 39% of these men were employed, compared with 54% of their counterparts in the family class.

Among those aged 25 to 44 years who were employed, economic-class principal applicants had the highest proportion working full time. About 86% of them worked full time, compared with 82% of their counterparts in the family class and 74% of refugees.

Conversely, only 14% of employed economic-class principal applicants worked part time, compared with 19% of their family class counterparts and 26% of the refugee class.

Language skills and education affected success in finding a job

In addition to their admission class, immigrants' human capital, such as skills in either of the two official languages, level of education and place of birth, often influenced the newcomer's entrance into the labour market.

It appears that official language skills might have an impact on whether the newcomers entered the labour force. At the time of the survey, 52% of immigrants aged 25 to 44 years who could converse in English or French were employed, compared with only 33% of those who had no knowledge of either language.

In terms of educational attainment, newcomers who were in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years and who had reported having a university degree were more likely to have found a job than their counterparts who had little education (52% versus 37%).

Labour market activity also varied by place of birth. While labour force participation rates were comparable across immigrants from various regions, employment rates were not. For example, the employment rate for Asian-born immigrants aged 25 to 44 years was 49%, compared with 38% for those from Africa.

Table 4. Labour force activities¹ of immigrants with selected characteristics, 2001

| Selected characteristics of immigrants | Immigrants 15 years old and over | | Immigrants 25 to 44 years old | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Participation rate ² | Employment rate ³ | Participation rate ² | Employment rate ³ |
| | % | | | |
| Both sexes | 70.0 | 44.1 | 77.6 | 49.8 |
| Men | 82.5 | 54.0 | 90.8 | 60.8 |
| Women | 57.6 | 34.4 | 63.9 | 38.4 |
| Admission class | | | | |
| Family class | 59.3 | 39.4 | 75.1 | 51.4 |
| Economic principal applicant | 89.6 | 58.7 | 90.9 | 60.3 |
| Economic spouse and dependent | 59.7 | 34.0 | 62.1 | 36.1 |
| Refugee | 43.7 | 21.3 | 48.7 | 24.9 |
| Knowledge of official language | | | | |
| At least one language | 75.4 | 47.7 | 80.9 | 52.1 |
| Neither English nor French | 45.3 | 28.1 | 53.2 | 33.3 |
| Education level | | | | |
| Less than high school | 43.4 | 23.8 | 56.7 | 36.5 |
| High school graduation | 59.4 | 39.5 | 62.3 | 43.5 |
| Some post-secondary, trade or college | 67.7 | 45.6 | 71.8 | 48.1 |
| University degree | 80.0 | 50.0 | 82.1 | 51.8 |
| Region of birth | | | | |
| United States. | 72.8 | 62.8 | 83.4 | 75.4 |
| Europe | 71.8 | 49.5 | 79.7 | 56.4 |
| Central and South America/Caribbean | 71.5 | 46.2 | 77.7 | 51.3 |
| Africa | 73.9 | 34.6 | 80.0 | 37.9 |
| Asia and Middle East | 68.7 | 43.6 | 76.5 | 49.3 |
| Oceania and other regions | 85.8 | 68.1 | 91.4 | 78.4 |

Notes:

1. The reference period for the labour force status concept in the LSIC was between the time of arrival in Canada and the time of the interview. The employed referred to immigrants who were working at a job, self employed or working for a family business (paid or unpaid) at the time of the interview.

2. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force (employed or unemployed) in the reference period, expressed as a percentage of the total immigrant population aged 15 and older included in the LSIC. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, admission class, etc.) is the labour force in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over, in that group.

3. Refers to the number of immigrants employed in the reference period, expressed as a percentage of the total immigrant population aged 15 and older. The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, admission class, etc.) is the number employed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over in that group.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Numerous studies have indicated that the employment situation of immigrants improves over time. As they gain Canadian work experience, achieve fluency in one of the official languages and obtain further training, the chances of finding employment improve.

However, other studies show that initial labour market experience often depends on the human capital that the newcomers acquire before landing in the country. The labour market conditions at the time of entry are another important factor that can influence the employment experience of new immigrants to Canada. Further analysis of the labour market entry among new immigrants is necessary to gain a better understanding of the employment experience of new arrivals to Canada. This will be easier to accomplish once all three waves of interviews have been undertaken and the information has been gathered.

Over half of immigrants did not work in the same field after immigration

Of the newcomers who were employed at the time of the survey, a high proportion were not working in the same occupational field as they did prior to immigrating to Canada. For both women and men, 6 in 10 employed immigrants worked in a different occupational group after their arrival.

Of the key landing characteristics, immigrants' country of birth and official language skills appeared to have had an impact on whether immigrants found a job within the same field as they had been employed in before coming to Canada.

Some 63% of immigrants who were born in the United States and 68% of the Oceania-born (Australia, New Zealand, etc.) were employed in the same occupational groups. However, the same could be said for only 33% of those born in Asia and the Middle East, and 36% of those immigrants from Central and South America.

Four in 10 (40%) immigrants who could converse in either English or French found jobs in the same occupational groups they had worked in before immigration, compared with only one-quarter (25%) of those who couldn't speak either official language.

The survey showed that the educational level of newcomers upon landing had little or no impact on whether they worked in the same field after coming to Canada as they had before immigration. About 4 in 10 of both those with university education and those with less than high school education were employed in an occupational group after their arrival that was similar to the one they had been in before coming to Canada.

Distribution in occupational groups shifted after coming to Canada

In general, the distribution of occupations of both male and female immigrants employed at the time of the survey differed from the distribution of occupations they had had before they came to Canada.

Among immigrant men who had a job at the time of the interview, 39% were employed in the field of natural and applied sciences occupations prior to arriving in Canada. However, six months after their arrival, only 19% were employed in these occupations.

About 13% of immigrant men had worked in a management position prior to arrival. At the time of the survey, only 4% of those were employed as managers.

One-quarter (25%) of immigrant men who had found a job six months after landing in Canada were in sales and service, the occupational group with the largest concentration. This proportion was two times greater than it was among these men prior to their immigration. Before coming to Canada, about 4% of these men worked in processing and manufacturing occupations. However, at the time of the survey, this proportion had increased five times to 22%.

This shift in occupational distribution was similar for immigrant women. Before coming to Canada, 25% of women who had a job at the time of the interview were employed in business, finance and administrative occupations. This proportion declined to about 18% after immigration.

Prior to arrival, 43% of women were employed in two main fields: business, finance and administrative and social sciences, education, government services and religious occupations. In Canada, when interviewed, the proportion of women working in these fields had decreased to 24%.

Another shift for immigrant women occurred in management occupations. About 8% of women worked as managers prior to their arrival in Canada; at the time of the survey, this percentage had dropped to 3%.

Among immigrant women at the time of the survey, the largest concentration worked in sales and service occupations. The 37% of employed women in this occupational group represented three times the proportion employed in this field prior to immigration. Again, fully 18% were employed in processing and manufacturing occupations after their arrival in Canada, about four times the proportion prior to immigration.

Table 5. Major occupation groups of immigrants before and after arriving in Canada, 2001

| Occupation groups | Men | | Women | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Before arriving | After arriving | Before arriving | After arriving |
| | Number | | | |
| Immigrants with occupations before and after arriving in Canada | 39,700 | 43,800 | 22,300 | 28,300 |
| | % | | | |
| Management occupations | 12.7 | 4.4 | 8.0 | 2.6 |
| Occupations in business, finance and administration | 8.1 | 9.8 | 25.3 | 17.9 |
| Natural and applied sciences and related occupations | 38.6 | 18.8 | 16.8 | 6.8 |
| Health occupations | 3.5 | 1.8 | 10.0 | 4.2 |
| Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion | 7.3 | 4.8 | 17.6 | 6.2 |
| Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport | 1.8 | 1.0 ^E | 3.8 | 1.8 ^E |
| Sales and service occupations | 10.2 | 24.9 | 12.1 | 37.3 |
| Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations | 9.9 | 10.4 | 0.7 ^E | 2.7 |
| Occupations unique to primary industry | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.3 ^E | 2.6 |
| Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities | 4.1 | 22.3 | 4.4 | 17.9 |

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Finding the right job

Among those who were employed at the time of the survey, 42% reported that they were looking for another job. Men were more likely than women to seek a different job (45% versus 36%).

In some cases, the search may have been motivated by the desire to switch from part-time to full-time employment. Half the immigrants employed in part-time jobs were also looking for a different job at the time of the study, compared with 39% of those already in full-time employment.

Newcomers in different occupational groups before immigration were more likely to be looking for another job

For many immigrants, employment during the initial months after landing may have been transitory. Some immigrants may still be in the process of pursuing the type of occupations for which they were trained.

Some six months after arriving in Canada, newcomers who were employed in a different occupational group before immigration were more likely to be looking for another job. Just over one-half (52%) of those not employed in the same occupation group were looking for another job, compared with only 30% of those who were working in the same field.

Immigrants who were in natural and applied science occupations before entering Canada and had yet to obtain similar employment were more likely to be looking for another job than those employed in the same field at the time of the survey (67% versus 22%). On the other hand, a smaller proportion (36%) of immigrants who were previously employed in sales and service occupations before immigration to Canada and had yet to obtain employment in the same field were looking for alternate employment at the time of the survey, compared with the 41% of those already working in the same field.

Lack of Canadian experience and transferability of foreign credentials were the most critical hurdles to employment

Of the 116,700 newcomers who looked for work, 70% reported at least one problem in the process. The most common problem cited by immigrants who encountered barriers when looking for employment was the lack of Canadian job experience. This was identified by 26% of the new immigrants.

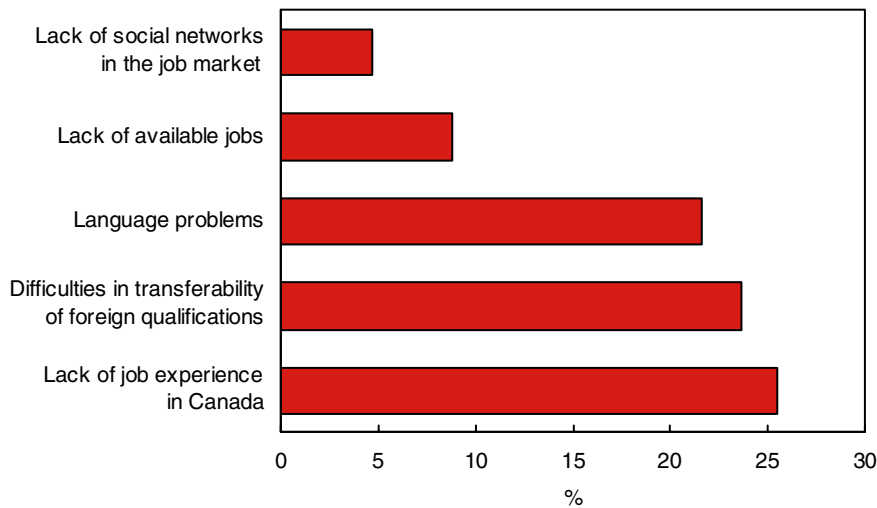
An almost equal proportion (24%) cited transferability of foreign qualifications or experience as the most critical obstacle.

These two problems were cited by many immigrants, with the exception of those born in the United States and Oceania countries. In fact, only 34% of immigrants in these two areas reported any problem in finding employment, compared with 70% of all immigrants who had tried to enter the labour market.

A lack of skills in either official language was identified by 22% of the immigrants as the greatest hurdle when seeking employment. Among immigrants who could not converse in English or French, 69% stated that this was the most serious problem.

Immigrants with little formal education were also more likely to cite language as the most critical problem. About 49% did so, compared with only 17% of their counterparts who had a university degree. The fact that there weren't enough jobs was reported by about 9% of the immigrants as the most serious obstacle to finding employment.

Graph 5. The most serious difficulties immigrants experienced when entering the labour force, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Four in 10 newcomers with foreign credentials¹ had qualifications validated

Previous studies have found that professionally trained immigrants who came to Canada in the 1990s have encountered difficulties in getting their foreign credentials assessed. This was especially true among immigrants who were trained in an education system different from that of Canada.

Of the 164,200 immigrants, 76% (or 124,700) had some sort of foreign credentials: 62% of immigrants with credentials had one qualification; another 26% had two; the remaining 12% had three or more.

Some six months after their arrival, 26% (or 32,300) of immigrants who had professional credentials had at least one of their qualifications verified by an employer, an educational institution or the governing body of their profession within Canada. Another 13% had credentials checked by other sources outside of Canada or by immigration officers, while 61% had not had any of their credentials validated.

Of those newcomers who had at least one of their credentials validated by an employer, educational institution or professional organization within Canada, 54% (or 17,400) reported having at least one accreditation agency fully accept their credentials; 22% had an agency partially accept at least one of their qualifications; 15% were still waiting for the results of the assessment; and 13% had at least one of their credentials rejected by an accreditation body.

Family and friends helped out

Few immigrants reported encountering major problems when trying to settle into their new life, whether entering the labour force, furthering their education, finding accommodation or accessing health care services.

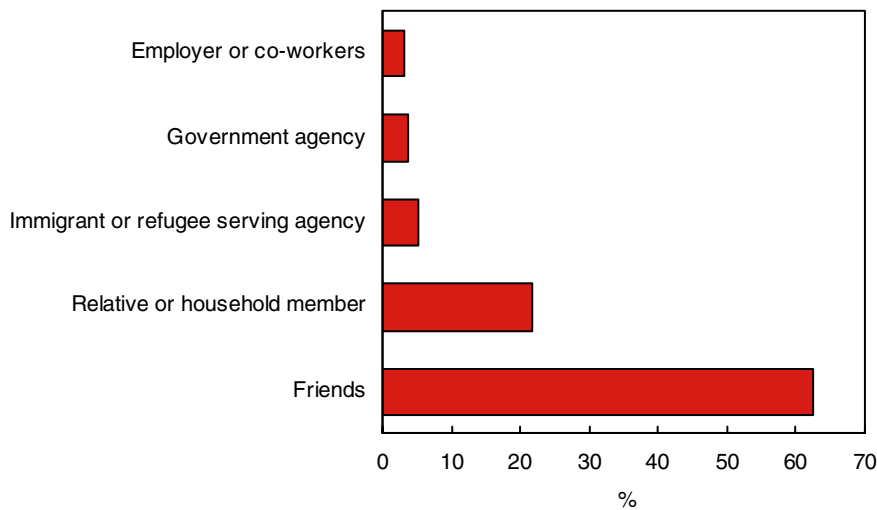
Immigrants who needed help when they experienced some difficulties in settling into their new lives in Canada most frequently turned to family and friends, depending on the problem. For example, 84% (or 16,114) of newcomers who had problems obtaining housing reported that family and friends provided help.

1. Credentials refer to any formal education higher than a high school diploma, which include professional or technical qualifications, and any other degrees, diplomas or certificates received outside Canada.

After family and friends, the most commonly cited source (5%) of help with difficulties in finding housing was immigrant and refugee service providers.

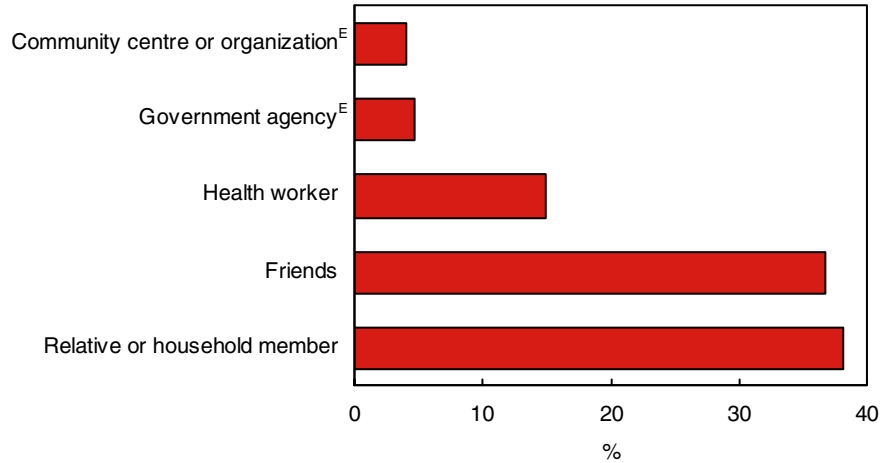
Of immigrants who encountered problems in finding employment, 36% received some help from friends and 26% received help from relatives. The next most commonly cited sources from which immigrants received help in entering the job market were educational institutions (18%), immigrant and refugee serving agencies (11%) and government agencies (11%).

Graph 6. Immigrants' most frequently cited sources of help when seeking suitable housing, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

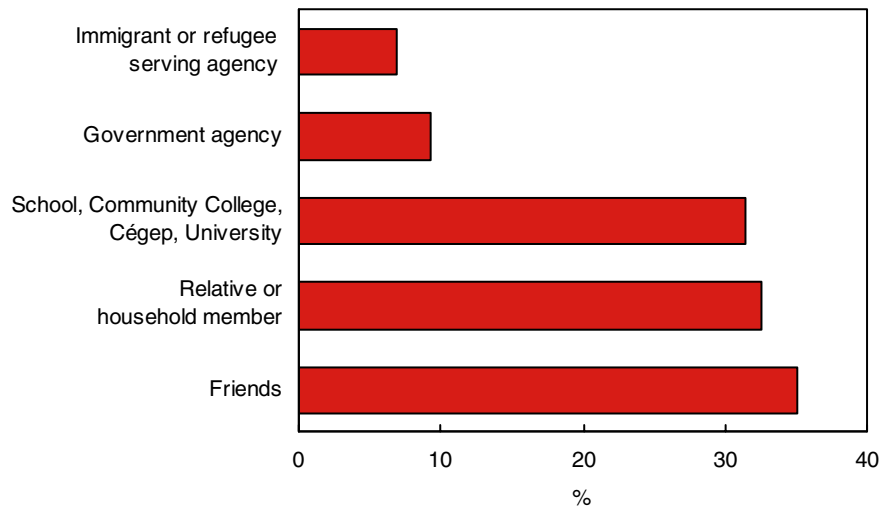
Graph 7. Immigrants' most frequently cited sources of help when accessing health services, 2001



^E Use with caution

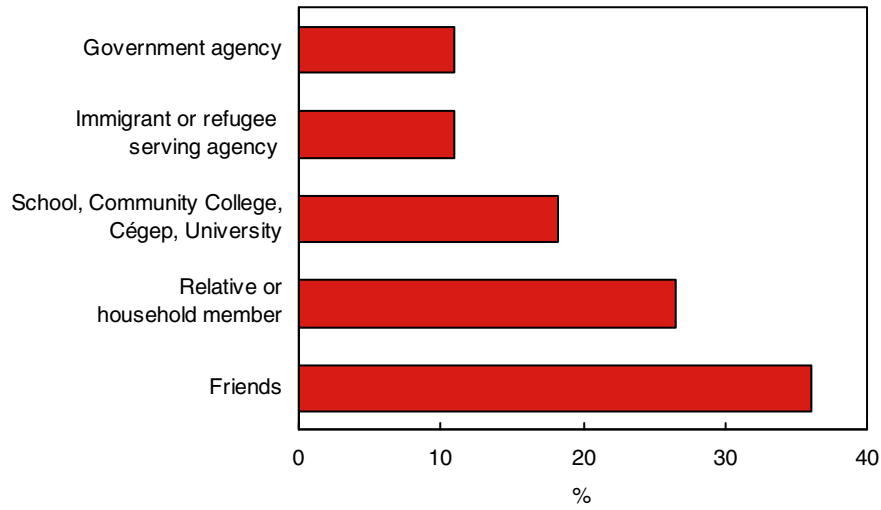
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Graph 8. Immigrants' most frequently cited sources of help when getting further training, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Graph 9. Immigrants' most frequently cited sources of help when finding employment, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Conclusion

Starting life over in a new country is not always easy. It involves a period of adjustment where new immigrants may face myriad challenges. Some six months after coming to Canada, newcomers who arrived between October 2000 and September 2001 and who were included in the LSIC study were well into their initial settlement. However, some of them had encountered difficulties during this process.

While it would be premature to conclude the outcomes of immigration, this article has highlighted some preliminary results of the early experiences of newcomers to Canada. More detailed analysis on this first wave of interviews will be available in an upcoming publication.

The research potential from the LSIC can be fully realized when all three waves of interviews are completed. By then, researchers will be able to examine the dynamic of immigrant integration and how activities in an earlier time affect subsequent outcomes. For example, to what extent does official language training affect the entry of immigrants into the labour market? What is the process of getting foreign qualifications assessed and what is its impact on immigrants utilizing their skills in their jobs? Will immigrants' participation in society progress over time? What means do newcomers use to resolve barriers and how effective are these means?

Survey methodology

Survey objectives

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) is a survey designed to study the process by which new immigrants adapt and integrate into Canadian society, including the various stages in the integration process, the factors that help or hinder integration, and the impact of different resettlement services. The survey also examines how the socio-economic characteristics of immigrants influence the process by which they integrate into Canadian society.

The results of this survey will provide valuable information on how immigrants are meeting various challenges associated with integration and what resources are most helpful to their settlement in Canada. The main topics being investigated include housing, education, employment, income, health, values, attitudes, language skills, recognition of foreign credentials, development and use of social networks and satisfaction with the settlement experience.

The respondents will be interviewed in three waves, each at a separate stage after their arrival in Canada. This will allow the LSIC to compile a dynamic picture of the experiences of these newly arrived people.

Survey methods

The target population of the survey consists of immigrants who meet all of the following criteria:

1. immigrant's arrival in Canada took place between October 2000 and September 2001;
2. immigrant was aged 15 years or older at the time of arrival;
3. immigrant landed from abroad and, therefore, must have applied for admission to Canada through a Canadian Mission Abroad.

This target population includes about 165,000 out of the total 250,000 persons admitted to Canada during the reference period. All individuals who applied within Canada have been excluded from the survey as these people may have been here for a considerable length of time before being granted permanent resident status and would likely demonstrate different adaptation characteristics from those recently arrived.

Refugees granted asylum from within Canada have also been excluded from the scope of the survey.

The population of interest for the LSIC, a subgroup of the target population, includes the immigrants in the target population and those who reside in Canada at the time of a given wave. Therefore, those immigrants who moved back to their original country or to another country have been excluded from the population of interest.

The survey is based on a longitudinal design with three waves of interviews. Immigrants were interviewed about six months after landing in Canada. This same group of immigrants will also be interviewed two years after arrival and then, finally, four years after arrival. The sample is made up of 12 independent monthly samples selected over consecutive months. Collection was completed separately for each month of landing.

For the first wave, the majority of interviews were conducted face to face and lasted about 90 minutes. They were completed in 1 of 15 languages, including English and French. With the exception of the Territories, the interviews were conducted across Canada.

In total, 20,322 immigrants were selected from the target population, with a total of 12,128 responding to the survey in the first wave. Each respondent in the survey has been assigned a specific weight, which estimates the number of other immigrants represented by this respondent in the population of interest. As a result of the complexity of the sample design and response adjustments, it is important to use the survey weights in order to generate unbiased and reliable statistics.

Data limitations

The figures appearing in this report are estimates based on the data collected from the sample of respondents and are subject to potential error. In all surveys, error can be divided into two components: sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error is the difference between an estimate derived from a sample and the one that would have been obtained from a census using the same procedures to collect data from every person within the population. The size of the sampling error can be estimated from the survey results. An indication of the magnitude of the sampling error is provided for the estimates in this report. If the estimated sampling error is greater than 33% of the estimate, it is considered too unreliable to publish. If this error occurs, it is indicated in the table cells by the dash symbol (-). Although not considered unreliable to publish, values with an estimated error between 16.6% and 33.3% of the related estimate should

be qualified and used with caution. These are identified by an asterisk symbol (*).

All other types of errors—such as coverage, response, processing and non-response—are considered non-sampling errors. Many of these errors are difficult to identify and quantify. Coverage errors arise when there are differences between the target population and the surveyed population.

To the extent that non-responding immigrants differ from immigrants who were untraceable and—more importantly—from immigrants who responded to the survey, separate weight adjustments were introduced in the final weights in order to compensate for the non-completed questionnaires.

A total of 72% of the LSIC sample was traced in the first wave. Of those traced, a total of 82.6% responded to the survey. Therefore, the overall response rate in terms of questionnaires completed was 59.2%. While there were some partially completed questionnaires and non-response items, the occurrences were minimal. In these instances, imputation methods were used to correct these errors.

For more details about the LSIC sample design, use of weights and non-response adjustments, please refer to the *LSIC User's Guide*.

Appendix A. Selected characteristics of newcomers to Canada for major census metropolitan areas, 2001

| Selected characteristics of immigrants | Canada | Toronto | Vancouver | Montréal | Calgary | Ottawa Gatineau | Other CMAs |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Number | | | | | | |
| Total number of immigrants ¹ | 164,200 | 75,400 | 24,500 | 21,500 | 7,800 | 6,100 | 20,900 |
| | % | | | | | | |
| Men | 49.7 | 49.7 | 46.5 | 53.3 | 51.2 | 51.9 | 50.3 |
| Women | 50.3 | 50.3 | 53.5 | 46.7 | 48.8 | 48.1 | 49.7 |
| Age group | | | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 years | 16.3 | 15.4 | 18.8 | 13.7 | 17.1 | 13.7 | 20.8 |
| 25 to 44 years | 66.3 | 66.6 | 60.6 | 75.9 | 65.4 | 68.8 | 63.3 |
| 45 to 64 years | 14.4 | 15.0 | 17.5 | 8.5 | 13.7 | 12.5 | 13.6 |
| 65 years and older | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.0 ^E | 3.8 ^E | 5.0 ^E | 3.0 ^E |
| Official language skills | | | | | | | |
| Knowledge of at least one official language | 82.0 | 82.3 | 73.9 | 89.6 | 79.5 | 85.5 | 82.4 |
| Knowledge of neither English nor French | 18.0 | 17.6 | 26.1 | 10.4 | 20.5 | 14.6 | 17.6 |
| Highest level of education | | | | | | | |
| No formal education or less than high school | 14.4 | 13.7 | 17.5 | 10.2 | 17.1 | 10.3 | 16.9 |
| High school graduation | 11.8 | 11.3 | 12.9 | 9.2 | 12.0 | 10.9 | 15.4 |
| Some post-secondary, trade or college education | 19.1 | 15.6 | 18.4 | 23.6 | 21.3 | 18.2 | 22.8 |
| University degree | 54.7 | 59.3 | 51.1 | 56.9 | 49.4 | 60.6 | 44.7 |
| Region of birth | | | | | | | |
| United States | 1.0 | 0.5 ^E | 0.9 ^E | 0.9 ^E | F | F | 1.9 ^E |
| Central and South America, Caribbean | 6.1 | 5.6 | 2.4 | 12.3 | 5.1 ^E | 7.7 ^E | 6.8 |
| Europe | 15.4 | 13.1 | 8.6 | 19.8 | 16.1 | 16.3 | 20.9 |
| Africa | 9.1 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 30.0 | 8.7 | 11.7 | 13.3 |
| Asia and Middle East | 67.7 | 76.9 | 83.1 | 37.0 | 67.4 | 61.9 | 56.3 |
| Oceania and other regions | 0.6 | F | F | F | 1.5 ^E | F | F |
| Admission class | | | | | | | |
| Family class immigrants | 26.9 | 26.7 | 27.3 | 21.1 | 27.8 | 27.1 | 29.3 |
| Economic class immigrants | 66.7 | 69.9 | 68.0 | 47.4 | 60.7 | 60.9 | 55.4 |
| Principal applicants in the economic class immigrants | 37.5 | 38.9 | 37.5 | 47.4 | 31.1 | 36.1 | 31.4 |
| Spouse and dependents in the economic class immigrants | 29.2 | 31.0 | 33.2 | 25.6 | 29.6 | 24.8 | 24.0 |
| Refugees | 6.0 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 9.6 | 15.2 |

Appendix A. Selected characteristics of newcomers to Canada for major census metropolitan areas, 2001 (continue)

| Selected characteristics of immigrants | Canada | Toronto | Vancouver | Montréal | Calgary | Ottawa Gatineau | Other CMAs |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------------|
| | % | | | | | | |
| Other education characteristics | | | | | | | |
| Newcomers with at least one foreign credential ² | 76.0 | 76.7 | 71.8 | 83.3 | 73.4 | 81.0 | 70.6 |
| Newcomers who tried to get at least one credential checked | 39.0 | 35.2 | 31.8 | 54.1 | 34.2 | 37.8 | 46.9 |
| Plan to obtain further training | 65.9 | 64.9 | 70.5 | 66.5 | 73.3 | 65.1 | 66.3 |
| Kin and friendship networks in Canada | | | | | | | |
| Had friends and/or relatives in Canada | 87.0 | 89.3 | 83.9 | 85.7 | 85.1 | 84.9 | 85.5 |
| Relatives and/or friends living nearby | 78.0 | 82.4 | 73.0 | 78.0 | 70.9 | 75.9 | 74.5 |
| Health | | | | | | | |
| Immigrants who reported their health status as excellent or very good | 78.1 | 78.7 | 70.8 | 80.3 | 77.4 | 77.7 | 80.9 |
| Labour market characteristics | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate ³ | 70.0 | 73.5 | 62.7 | 68 | 76 | 70.7 | 66.9 |
| Employment rate ⁴ | 44.1 | 47.7 | 38.5 | 31.4 | 57.1 | 40.1 | 46.8 |
| Immigrants who were satisfied or completely satisfied with their job | 75.0 | 70.1 | 75 | 78.3 | 80.7 | 74.5 | 84.1 |
| Immigrants looking for another job | 41.5 | 22.3 | 13.5 | 10.9 | 18.9 | 19.5 | 36.1 |
| Ease of accessing services | | | | | | | |
| Difficulties accessing education and training | 39.6 | 40.8 | 45.1 | 39.9 | 44.5 | 48.4 | 26.7 |
| Difficulties entering the labour market | 69.9 | 74.1 | 72.9 | 75.8 | 58.1 | 75.4 | 58.4 |
| Difficulties accessing health services | 23.4 | 19.3 | 23.8 | 37.1 | 26.2 | 42.1 | 20.4 |
| Difficulties finding suitable housing | 37.7 | 39.8 | 31.7 | 47.7 | 32.2 | 58.6 | 27 |

Notes:

1. All immigrants excluding the immigrant category 'Other immigrants from abroad.'
2. Includes any formal education higher than a high school diploma, such as professional or technical qualifications and any other degrees, diplomas or certificates received from outside Canada.
3. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force (employed or unemployed) in the reference period, expressed as a percentage of the total immigrant population aged 15 and older included in the LSIC. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, admission class, etc.) is the labour force in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over, in that group.
4. Refers to the number of immigrants employed in the reference period, expressed as a percentage of the total immigrant population aged 15 and older. The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, admission class, etc.) is the number employed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over in that group.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Appendix B. Selected characteristics of newcomers to Canada among different admission classes, Canada, 2001

| Selected characteristics of immigrants | Family class immigrants | Economic-class immigrants | | Refugees |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | Principal applicant | Spouse and dependants | |
| Number | | | | |
| Total number of immigrants ¹ | 44,100 | 61,600 | 47,900 | 9,800 |
| % | | | | |
| Men | 37.5 | 77.0 | 25.3 | 49.1 |
| Women | 62.5 | 23.0 | 74.7 | 50.9 |
| Age group | | | | |
| 15 to 24 years | 27.0 | 1.4 | 22.0 | 32.7 |
| 25 to 44 years | 36.1 | 86.7 | 70.7 | 54.0 |
| 45 to 64 years | 25.8 | 11.8 | 7.2 | 12.6 |
| 65 years and older | 11.1 | F | F | F |
| Official language skills | | | | |
| Knowledge of at least one official language | 64.7 | 95.8 | 83.4 | 65.4 |
| Knowledge of neither English nor French | 35.3 | 4.2 | 16.6 | 34.6 |
| Highest level of education | | | | |
| No formal education or less than high school | 29.8 | 0.7 ^E | 12.9 | 37.8 |
| High school graduation | 21.1 | 2.8 | 11.6 | 28.3 |
| Some postsecondary, trade or college education | 21.9 | 12.0 | 24.3 | 22.2 |
| University degree | 27.2 | 84.3 | 51.1 | 11.5 |
| Region of birth | | | | |
| United States | 2.0 | 0.8 ^E | 0.6 ^E | F |
| Central and South America, Caribbean | 10.6 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 6.8 |
| Europe | 10.7 | 17.5 | 16.7 | 17.2 |
| Africa | 6.2 | 10.2 | 7.5 | 23.6 |
| Asia and Middle East | 69.1 | 66.8 | 70.5 | 52.0 |
| Oceania and other regions | 1.3 | 0.3 ^E | 0.5 ^E | F |

Appendix B. Selected characteristics of newcomers to Canada among different admission classes, Canada, 2001 (continue)

| Selected characteristics of immigrants | Family class immigrants | Economic-class immigrants | | Refugees |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | Principal applicant | Spouse and dependants | |
| % | | | | |
| Kin and friendship networks in Canada | | | | |
| Had friends and/or relatives in Canada | 96.1 | 86.2 | 81.7 | 75.4 |
| Did not have relatives or friends in Canada | 3.9 | 13.8 | 18.3 | 24.6 |
| Immigrants who tried to: | | | | |
| Find suitable housing | 41.3 | 90.3 | 89.6 | 81.6 |
| Access health care | 77.4 | 71.3 | 75.1 | 80.8 |
| Pursue further training | 52.7 | 68.9 | 73.3 | 79.1 |
| Find employment | 61.5 | 88.2 | 62.7 | 47.6 |
| Ease of accessing services | | | | |
| Difficulties accessing education and training | 34.9 | 42.3 | 41.4 | 30.5 |
| Difficulties entering the labour market | 56.6 | 75.5 | 74.7 | 67.5 |
| Difficulties accessing health services | 15.2 | 26.9 | 27.8 | 19.6 |
| Difficulties finding suitable housing | 15.2 | 42.0 | 41.8 | 37.9 |
| Other selected characteristics | | | | |
| Immigrants living in rental housing | 55.6 | 78.7 | 80.5 | 91.6 |
| Immigrants with foreign credentials ² | 52.7 | 97.4 | 77.1 | 39.8 |
| Labour force participation rate ³ | 59.3 | 89.6 | 59.7 | 43.7 |
| Employment rate ⁴ | 39.4 | 58.7 | 34.0 | 21.3 |

Notes:

1. All immigrants excluding the immigrant category 'Other immigrants from abroad.'
2. Includes any formal education higher than a high school diploma, such as professional or technical qualifications and any other degrees, diplomas or certificates received from outside Canada.
3. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force (employed or unemployed) in the reference period, expressed as a percentage of the total immigrant population aged 15 and older included in the LSIC. The participation rate for a particular group (age, sex, admission class, etc.) is the labour force in that group, expressed as a percentage of the total population 15 years of age and over, in that group.
4. Refers to the number of immigrants employed in the reference period, expressed as a percentage of the total immigrant population aged 15 and older. The employment rate for a particular group (age, sex, admission class, etc.) is the number employed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over in that group.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.