Immigration Data in Canada

A story of Statistics Canada and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada collaboration

Delivering insight through data for a better Canada
Context of immigration in Canada

**Immigrants**
- **Economic immigrants** (~60%): Contributing to Canada’s economy
- **Immigrants sponsored by family** (~27%): Reuniting with family members
- **Refugees** (~12%): Seeking protection and escaping persecution

**Non-permanent residents**
- Asylum seekers
- Persons with a work or study permit

In 2016, immigrants represented 21.9% of the Canadian population.

*Actual percentages by admission category vary year to year. Values shown are based on averages from 2000-2016.*
Various data sources are available to better understand immigration in Canada

**Census**

- **Surveys**
  - General Social Survey (GSS)
  - Canadian Community Health Survey
  - Labour Force Survey
  - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies
  - Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (2000/01 cohort)

**Integrated data sources**

- Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
- IMDB - Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamics Database
- IMDB – Census
- IMDB – GSS
- IMDB – Discharge Abstract Database (Hospitalizations)
- And more...
Census of Population

- The Census provides a cross-sectional snapshot of the population every 5 years.
- The most recent Census was conducted on May 10, 2016.
- New variables on admission category of immigrants added to the 2016 Census as a result of STC-IRCC collaboration.
The Census of Population is a key data source on immigration in Canada

- **Place of birth**
- **Immigration**
  - landed immigrants / permanent residents
  - non-permanent residents
  - year of immigration (can identify recent immigrants)
  - admission category and applicant type
- **Citizenship**
  - Canadian citizens by birth / by naturalization
  - citizens of other countries
  - multiple citizenships
- **Generation status and place of birth of parents**

- **Other topics...**
  - **Language**
    - mother tongue, home & work languages
    - knowledge of official languages and non-official languages
  - **Ethnocultural characteristics**
  - **Labour**
    - Labour force status
    - Industry and occupation of employment
    - Full-time vs. part-time
  - **Education**
    - Highest degree, diploma, certificate
    - Major field of study
    - Location of study (e.g. inside or outside Canada)
  - **Income**
  - **Housing**
  - And more...
Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)

- The IMDB connects immigration and citizenship data with longitudinal socio-economic outcomes, facilitating broad and detailed analysis and research
- The IMDB is updated every year with the latest tax information
- Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Statistics Canada have been in collaboration extensively on its development since its beginning
### IMDB: Coverage

**Target population:** All immigrants admitted to Canada since 1980  
All non-permanent resident permits since 1980

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<tr>
<th>Immigration Administrative Data</th>
<th>Longitudinal tax data and other administrative data</th>
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<td><strong>Permanent resident files 1980-</strong></td>
<td><strong>T1 Family Files 1982-</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Temporary resident permits 1980-</strong></td>
<td><strong>T1 Family Files for children 1982-</strong></td>
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<td>Citizenship records 2005-</td>
<td><strong>Statement of remuneration paid (T4) 1997-</strong></td>
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## IMDB: Content

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<th>Longitudinal tax data</th>
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<td><strong>• Information at admission for permanent residents:</strong></td>
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<td>• Admission category</td>
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<td>• Document type (refugee claims, work or study permits)</td>
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<td><strong>• Other:</strong></td>
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<td>• Marital status</td>
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<td>• Number of children, by age</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Number of immigrants in the family</td>
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<td>• and much more...</td>
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</table>
Measuring trajectories...

Median total income of principal applicants who were economic immigrants admitted in 2006, by years since admission

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Longitudinal Immigration Database, product 43-10-0010
Event history analysis...

Probability of retention of immigrants admitted to Atlantic provinces by pre-admission experience

- None
- In-province
- Other-province

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015 Longitudinal Immigration Database
Moving forward - Longitudinal Immigration Statistical Environment

Connections to other programs

- Census Program
- Health admin. data (e.g. DAD)
- Education admin. data (e.g. PSIS)
- General Social Survey (GSS)
- Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC)
- Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)
- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Other data sources

Enhanced IMDB with broader coverage and additional immigration files

- Longitudinal annual tax data 1982-
  - T1FF
  - Tax files (e.g. T4) for non-filers
  - Records for children
  - Mortality records

- Longitudinal immigration administrative files
  - Immigration data 1952-
  - Temporary resident permits 1980-
  - Citizenship records 2005-
  - Settlement Services Data

Connected to the LAD and CEEDD to compare against non-immigrant populations and to dig deeper

Canadian Employer-Employee Dynamics Database (CEEDD)

Longitudinal Administrative Databank (LAD)
IRCC-Statistics Canada collaboration

• IRCC and Statistics Canada’s collaboration led to various *enhancements* and *linkages* between the IMDB and other data sources (e.g. Census, GSS).

• In addition, the consortium of partners (IRCC and the provinces) funded the access of these *datasets in the RDCs* for a broader access to the research community.
  • This collaboration aims to facilitate access and research to immigration, settlement and citizenship information

• If you wish to contact IRCC regarding your research, please e-mail: IRCC.REKMPPartnerships-PartenariatsMCPDGRE.IRCC@cic.gc.ca
For more information, please visit
www.statcan.gc.ca

or contact:
SASD Client Services / DSSEA Service à clientèle (STATCAN) statcan.sasdclientservices-dsseaserviceaclientele.statcan@canada.ca

THANK YOU!

#StatCan100
Recent analytical and technical reports related to IMDB

**Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) Technical Report, 2016**
- Description of IMDB, its components, and data quality
- Provide guidance/examples of best practices

**Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series**
- Labour Market Outcomes Among Refugees to Canada
- Economic Immigrants in Gateways Cities: Factors involved in their initial location and onward migration decision
- Intergenerational Education Mobility and Labour Market Outcomes: Among the Second Generation of Immigrants in Canada

**Health Reports**
- Healthy Immigrant Effect by Immigrant Category in Canada
- Tuberculosis-related Hospital Use Among Recent Immigrants to Canada
- Hospitalisation Rates Among Economic Immigrants to Canada

**Insights on Canadian Society**
- Results from the 2016 Census: Syrian Refugees who Resettled in Canada in 2015 and 2016

**Ethnicity, Language and Immigration Thematic Series**
- Refugees and Canadian Post-Secondary Education: Characteristics and Economic Outcomes in Comparison