



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada

# The Interprovincial Mobility of Immigrants in Canada

Ima Okonny-Myers

June 2010



Canada



## Table of contents

Introduction .....	1
About the data .....	1
Report content .....	1
Immigrants landed from 1991 to 2006 .....	2
Highlights .....	2
Immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 .....	4
Highlights .....	4
<i>Skilled workers</i> .....	7
<i>Family category</i> .....	8
<i>Business immigrants</i> .....	10
<i>Live-in caregivers</i> .....	11
<i>Refugees</i> .....	12
Immigrants landed under the Provincial Nominee Program .....	14
Province of nomination vs. province of residence in the 2006 tax year .....	14
<i>Highlights</i> .....	14
<i>Inflows vs. outflows of provincial nominees based on province of nomination</i> .....	15
Province of destination vs. province of residence in the 2006 tax year .....	16
<i>Highlights</i> .....	16
<i>Inflows vs. outflows of provincial nominees based on province of destination</i> .....	17
Conclusion .....	19
Next steps .....	20
Appendix I - Movement by destination and category: Tables .....	21
Appendix II - Provincial nominees landed over 2000 to 2006: Tables .....	23
Appendix III - Net interprovincial migration rates: 2000 to 2006 (Statistics Canada figures) .....	25

## List of tables

Table 1: Immigrants landed from 1991 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	3
Table 2: Immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	7
Table 3: Immigrants landed under the skilled worker category from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) ....	8
Table 4: Family class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	10
Table 5: Business class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	11
Table 6: Live-in caregiver class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	12
Table 7: Refugees landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	13
Table 8: Provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of nomination(2006 tax year)...	15
Table 9: Provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 based on province of destination(2006 tax year) .....	17
Table 10: Movement of skilled worker class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) ....	21
Table 11: Movement of family class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	21
Table 12: Movement of business class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	21
Table 13: Movement of live-in caregiver class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .	22
Table 14: Movement of refugee class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year) .....	22
Table 15: Movement of provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of nomination and province of residence (2006 tax year) .....	23

---

Table 16: Movement of provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of nomination (2006 tax year) .....	24
Table 17: Movement of provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of destination (2006 tax year) .....	24
Table 18: Net interprovincial migration for provinces, 2000 to 2006 .....	25

## List of figures

Figure 1: Immigrants found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (1991 to 2006 landing years) .....	2
Figure 2: Immigrants found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (2000 to 2006 landing years) .....	4
Figure 3: Immigrants found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on immigration category – 2000 to 2006 landing years).....	6
Figure 4: Skilled workers found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the skilled worker category – 2000 to 2006 landing years) ....	7
Figure 5: Filers landed under the family category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the family category – 2000 to 2006 landing years) .....	9
Figure 6: Filers landed under the business category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the business category – 2000 to 2006 landing years) .....	10
Figure 7: Filers landed under the live-in caregiver category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the live-in caregiver category – 2000 to 2006 landing years) .....	11
Figure 8: Filers landed under the refugee category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the refugee category – 2000 to 2006 landing years) .....	12
Figure 9: Provincial nominees found in nominating province vs. those found outside nominating province (2000 to 2006 landing years) .....	14
Figure 10: Proportion of provincial nominees found outside their nominating province by province of nomination (2000 to 2006 landing years – 2006 tax year) .....	16
Figure 11: Provincial nominees found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (2000 to 2006 landing years).....	16
Figure 12: Distribution of provincial nominees movers by province of destination (2000 to 2006 landing years – 2006 tax year) .....	18
Figure 13: Fifteen main interprovincial flows, 2001 to 2006 (based on the 2006 Census).....	19

## Introduction

This document highlights some of the key findings of analysis carried out on the interprovincial mobility of immigrants and the retention of immigrants, based on data extracted from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB). The information presented focuses on the 2006 tax year.

## About the data

The IMDB provides the opportunity to examine secondary migration patterns through a unique linkage between the information captured by both the immigration and taxation programs. This linkage allows the identification of immigrants through information provided on their confirmation of permanent residency document at landing and the tracking (on an annual basis) of the location of those immigrants through both the province and postal code information provided on their tax returns.

Immigrant tax filers contained in the IMDB are linked via their immigration visa to the taxation system. Immigrants who do not file tax returns (children for example), or for whom the linkage between the immigration and tax system failed, are absent from the database and are not accounted for in the number of movers and non-movers or in the calculation of migration rates presented in this profile. As a result, the actual number of movers and non-movers would be higher than that reported for tax filers. Whether this would alter the migration rates (i.e., the proportion of immigrants moving) is unclear.

The information on mobility presented in this document, represents the difference between an immigrant's original stated place of destination at the time he or she was admitted as a permanent resident to Canada and his or her place of residence in the 2006 tax year (Province of nomination is also used for tax filers who landed under the provincial nominee program). It should be noted that only those immigrants who were landed in Canada, and are resident and filing taxes are included in any calculation of migration rates. That is to say that those immigrants who leave the country or do not file a tax return in the year of observation are not accounted for in any calculations.

## Report content

This report is split into three sections (some additional tables are included in the appendix<sup>1</sup>).

- The first section of this report provides general findings on the patterns of interprovincial mobility and retention of immigrants who landed in Canada from 1991 to 2006<sup>2</sup>.
- The second section of this report provides general findings on the patterns of interprovincial mobility and retention of immigrants who landed in Canada from 2000 to 2006, and includes analysis based on the category in which they were admitted into Canada.
- The third section reports on key findings related to filers who landed in Canada (from 2000 to 2006) under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

In light of the significant number of immigrants who were admitted into Canada under the PNP<sup>3</sup> since 2000<sup>4</sup> and the analysis of mobility by immigration category, it was essential to examine the mobility patterns of more recent cohorts of immigrants in the second section of this report.

---

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, figures may not always add to total shown or discussed in the text.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics are based on cohorts 1991 to 2006 inclusively. Data limitations prevent the inclusion of previous cohorts.

<sup>3</sup> Note that PNP tax filers were analyzed via examining province of nomination, province of destination on landing and province of residence in 2006 tax year.

<sup>4</sup> Including previous cohorts would bias mobility measures and limit the comparability between immigration categories.

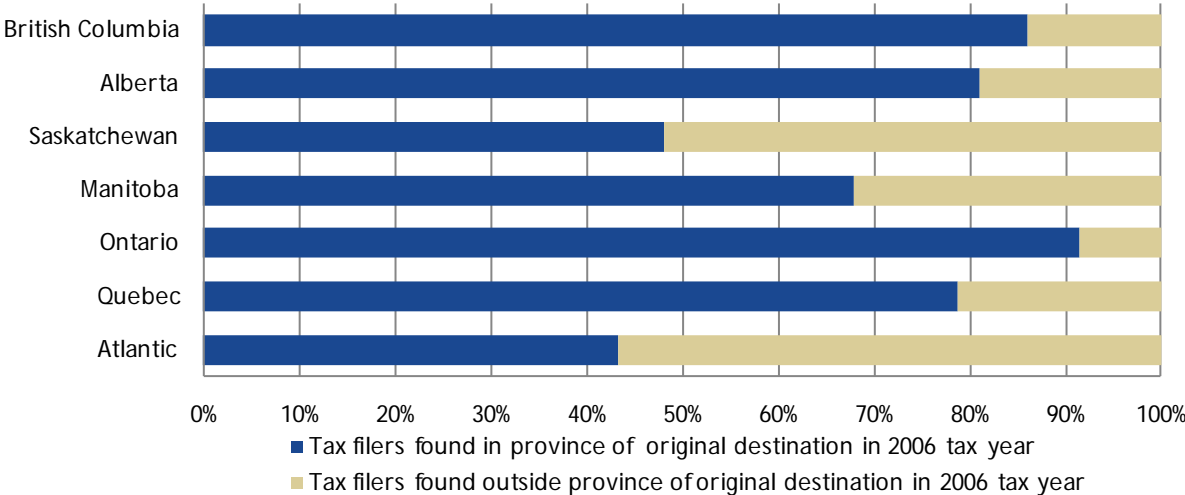
# Immigrants landed from 1991 to 2006

This section examines the mobility and retention of immigrants who landed in Canada from 1991 to 2006, and filed a tax return for the 2006 tax year. The province to which immigrants were originally destined on landing and the province in which they filed their tax return in the 2006 tax year were used in deriving the migration and retention rates presented in this section. (Please refer to Table 1 for details on figures referenced in this section).

## Highlights

About 3.7 million immigrants were admitted to Canada as permanent residents from 1991 to 2006, and approximately 2.1 million were captured in the IMDB for the 2006 tax year. Over this period, approximately 296,000 (14%) of these tax filers had moved from their original province of destination (Table 1).

Figure 1: Immigrants found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (1991 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- As evident from the figure above, immigrants originally destined for the Atlantic provinces were more likely to move to other provinces, compared to those originally destined for Ontario.
- Retention rates for Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec ranged from 91% to 79%, while the Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan and Manitoba registered retention rates ranging from 68% to 43%.
  - 17,140 immigrants moved from the Atlantic provinces by the 2006 tax year, giving the Atlantic provinces a retention rate of 43%. A similar pattern was observed in Saskatchewan, with an out-migration of 9,390 tax filers and with in-migration of only 2,930 (retention rate 48%). Approximately 16,000 tax filers moved out of Manitoba, with a little over 5,000 moving in (retention rate 68%).
- Based on the population of immigrants who filed taxes in 2006, in a province other than the one to which they were originally destined, Alberta registered the highest proportional in-migration rate with 37% more immigrants moving in than were destined there. This was reflective of the mobility in the general population and this finding was echoed in a report by Statistics Canada which stated that in 2006, “Alberta posted a record high net interprovincial migration”<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada. 2006. “Canada's population”. The Daily, September 27, 2006. Ottawa.

- With a positive net change rate of 18% Alberta led the way as the highest proportion of immigrants originally destined for other provinces moved to Alberta. British Columbia and Ontario also posted positive net change values of 8% and 1%, respectively.
- On the other hand, the Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec experienced higher proportional outflow than inflow<sup>6</sup> of interprovincial immigrant movers, posting negative net change values (-40%, -36%, -21% and -13%, respectively).
  - Of the immigrants who were originally destined for the Atlantic region, 57% had moved out by the 2006 tax year, and just 17% more than were originally destined there moved in.
  - 52% of immigrants originally destined for Saskatchewan had moved out by the 2006 tax year, compared with just 16% more than were originally destined for Saskatchewan moving in. Similarly, Manitoba and Quebec registered a higher proportion of immigrants moving out than moving in, with proportions of those moving out at 32% and 21% respectively.

Table 1: Immigrants landed from 1991 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

Province	Destined at landing	Destined and			Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
		Out-migration	resident in 2006	In-migration			
Atlantic	30,255	17,140	13,115	5,120	18,235	43.4	-39.7
Quebec	350,500	74,675	275,825	29,715	305,540	78.7	-12.8
Ontario	1,165,105	99,320	1,065,785	113,780	1,179,565	91.5	1.2
Manitoba	49,835	16,010	33,825	5,360	39,185	67.9	-21.4
Saskatchewan	18,095	9,390	8,705	2,930	11,635	48.1	-35.7
Alberta	150,830	28,610	122,220	56,125	178,345	81.0	18.2
British Columbia	366,805	51,080	315,725	80,045	395,770	86.1	7.9

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

<sup>6</sup> Proportional inflow and outflow rates are derived relative to the population of immigrants originally destined for a given province.

# Immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006

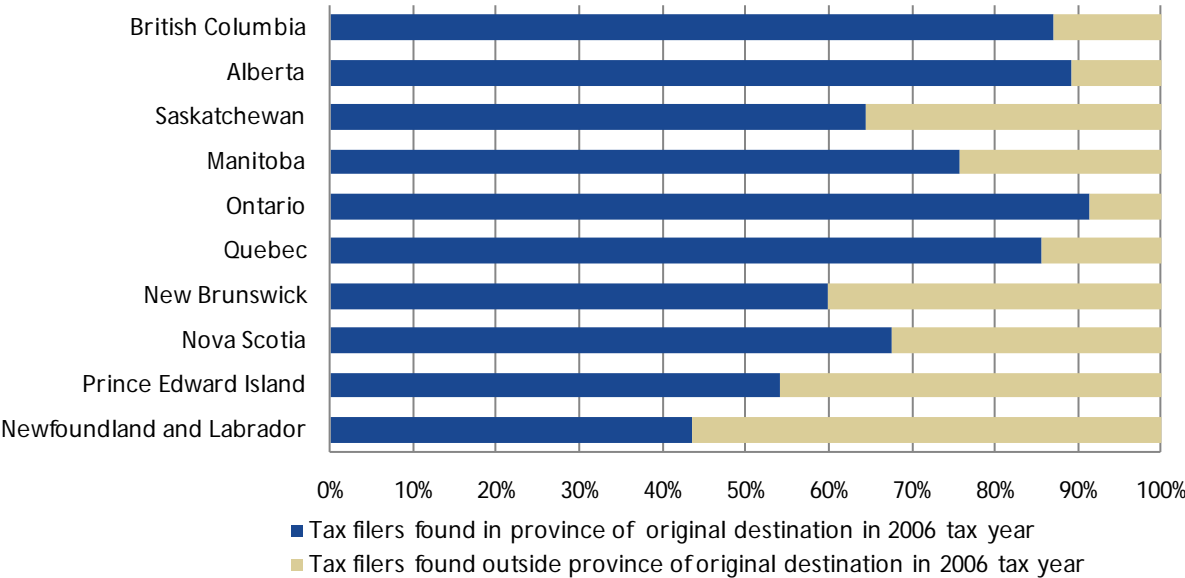
This section examines the mobility and retention of immigrants who landed in Canada from 2000 to 2006, and filed a tax return for the 2006 tax year – based on the category<sup>7</sup> in which they were admitted to Canada.

The province in which immigrants were originally destined for on landing and the province in which they filed their tax return in the 2006 tax year was used in deriving the migration and retention rates presented in this section. In light of the significant number of immigrants who were admitted into Canada under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) since 2000<sup>8</sup> and the analysis of mobility by immigration category, it was essential to examine the mobility patterns of the more recent cohort of immigrants. (Refer to Tables 2 to 7 and Appendix I tables for details on figures referenced in this section).

## Highlights

A little over 1.6 million immigrants were admitted to Canada as permanent residents from 2000 to 2006, and approximately 986,000 were captured in the IMDB for the 2006 tax year. Over this period, approximately 113,000 (11%) of these tax filers had moved from their original province of destination.

Figure 2: Immigrants found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- The figure above shows the number of filers who stayed within the provinces they were originally destined for compared to those who moved to other provinces. From the figure, it is clear that in comparison to other provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador registered the highest proportional immigrant filer outflow.
- The provinces registered retention rates ranging from 43% (Newfoundland and Labrador) to 91% (Ontario).
  - In terms of numbers, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia registered the highest influx of immigrant filers who were originally destined for other provinces, with about 90,000 filers originally destined for other provinces being found in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia in the 2006 tax

<sup>7</sup> In this analysis, spouses and dependants are counted in all cases.

<sup>8</sup> Including previous cohorts would bias mobility measures and limit the comparability between immigration categories.



year. This left these three provinces with the highest retention rates of 91%, 89% and 87%, respectively.

- Quebec ranked fourth, with a retention rate of 86%. About 14,600 more tax filers than were originally destined for the province, filed their 2006 taxes in the province while 24,170 filers originally destined for Quebec filed in other provinces.
- The Atlantic provinces registered a significantly higher proportion of outflow of filers originally destined for the region, than inflow. This left Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with retention rates of 44%, 54%, 60% and 68%, respectively.
  - Immigrant tax filers originally destined to Newfoundland and Labrador on landing, posted the highest proportion of filers who moved from their original province of destination in the 2006 tax year. In the 2006 tax year, over half of filers destined for the province were found in other provinces.
  - Prince Edward Island (-28%), New Brunswick (-16%) and Nova Scotia (-7%), all registered negative net change values as more filers, originally destined to these provinces, flowed out to Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.
- In terms of proportions, Alberta and British Columbia were the only provinces that registered a higher proportional inflow than outflow of immigrant filers originally destined for other provinces. This led to Alberta and British Columbia, registering the only positive net change values (30% and 3% respectively) among the provinces. On the other hand, Newfoundland and Labrador (-35%) and Prince Edward Island (-28%) registered the lowest net migration change rates. This finding was reflective of the mobility in the general population. (Figures from Statistics Canada's Demography Division showed that Newfoundland and Labrador consistently recorded negative net migration from 1981 to 2006).
- Saskatchewan and Manitoba also experienced a higher proportional outflow than inflow<sup>9</sup> of interprovincial immigrant movers, and registered retention rates of 65% and 76% respectively.

Mobility patterns of immigrant tax filers, based on the category<sup>10</sup> under which they were admitted, showed marked differences. Business, skilled worker and provincial nominee filers displayed a higher degree of mobility than other categories of filers.

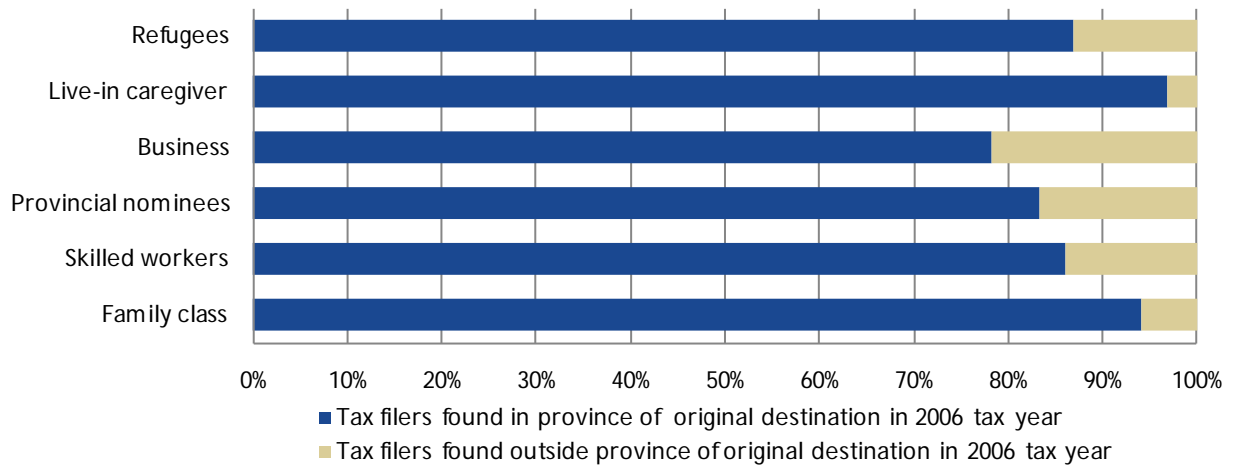
- The figure below shows a comparison of filers who were found in their original province of destination versus those who moved - based on the category in which they were admitted to Canada from 2000 to 2006. From the figure, it is evident that filers admitted under the business category (22%) moved at a higher rate than those admitted under the live-in caregiver category (3%).

---

<sup>9</sup> Proportional inflow and outflow rates are derived relative to the population of immigrants originally destined for a given province.

<sup>10</sup> In analysing tax filer trends by immigration category, the Atlantic provinces were grouped together.

Figure 3: Immigrants found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on immigration category – 2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- Of the 480,000 skilled worker immigrants who were captured in the IMDB for the 2006 tax year (and landed from 2000 to 2006), about 65,000 (14%) had moved from their “destination at landing” province by 2006, with a high proportion of movers moving to Ontario, Alberta or British Columbia.
- About 290,000 immigrants captured in the IMDB for the 2006 tax year (and landed from 2000 to 2006), were admitted to Canada under the family category. By 2006 about 17,000 (6%) of these immigrants had moved from their “destination at landing” province. Most movers (15,815) out-migrated to either Ontario, British Columbia or Quebec.
- Approximately 45,000 tax filers admitted to Canada from 2000 to 2006 under the business class program were captured in the IMDB. 22% of these filers were found in other provinces in the 2006 tax year. Business immigrant filers who had noted Quebec as their province of destination on landing were more likely to leave Quebec in comparison to other categories of filers. Almost all of these movers ended up in either Ontario or British Columbia in the 2006 tax year.
- Of approximately 20,000 tax filers admitted into Canada under the live-in caregiver program from 2000 to 2006, only 3% moved from their original province of destination by the 2006 tax year. 8 out of 10 of those who moved relocated to Alberta, Ontario or British Columbia.
- Of approximately 123,000 tax filers in the refugee category that landed from 2000 to 2006 (captured in the IMDB), approximately 13% of them had moved from their original province of destination by the 2006 tax year.

Table 2: Immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

Province	Destined at landing	Out-migration	Destined and resident in 2006	In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
New foundland and Labrador	1,655	935	720	350	1,070	43.5	-35.3
Prince Edward Island	925	425	500	165	665	54.1	-28.1
Nova Scotia	6,175	2,000	4,175	1,545	5,720	67.6	-7.4
New Brunswick	3,250	1,300	1,950	775	2,725	60.0	-16.2
Quebec	166,835	24,170	142,665	14,620	157,285	85.5	-5.7
Ontario	539,955	46,470	493,485	35,155	528,640	91.4	-2.1
Manitoba	26,570	6,415	20,155	2,650	22,805	75.9	-14.2
Saskatchewan	7,610	2,700	4,910	1,375	6,285	64.5	-17.4
Alberta	72,045	7,790	64,255	29,555	93,810	89.2	30.2
British Columbia	160,830	20,750	140,080	25,235	165,315	87.1	2.8

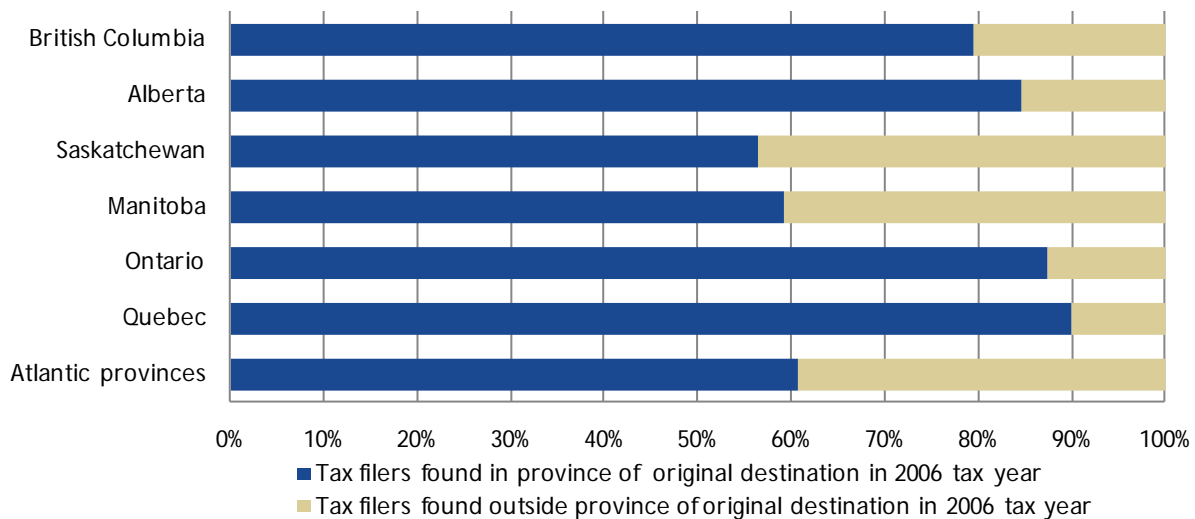
Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

### Skilled workers

Trends in interprovincial movement for this category of tax filers differed based on the province they were originally destined for on landing from 2000 to 2006. Provincial retention rates for tax filers admitted under the skilled worker program ranged from 56% (Saskatchewan) to 90% (Quebec).

- Figure 4, below, shows the share of skilled workers who stayed in their province of original destination and the share of those who left. Skilled workers destined to Saskatchewan left the province at a higher proportion than those destined for other provinces.

Figure 4: Skilled workers found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the skilled worker category – 2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- Half of all skilled workers who left the Atlantic provinces moved to Ontario, and a lesser portion moved to Quebec (18%), Alberta (16%) and British Columbia (15%). More tax filers under the skilled worker category flowed into the Atlantic provinces from Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec, enhancing the region's net migration positively.
- About 8,500 tax filers originally destined for Quebec moved primarily to Ontario (62%), Alberta (19%) and British Columbia (15%); however, in-flow was higher as Quebec recorded about 2,900

more skilled workers than were originally destined there. In-migrants came mainly from Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta.

- For those originally destined for Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec were the primary provinces of choice by the 2006 tax year, with a little over 21,000 moving to Alberta and British Columbia and just under 10,000 moving to Quebec. Those moving in to Ontario mostly came from British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta; however, their numbers were insufficient to give Ontario a positive net migration.
- Skilled workers originally destined for Manitoba, mostly moved to Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec at rates of 44%, 23%, 19% and 10% respectively, and those who moved in, came primarily from Ontario and British Columbia. Out-flow was greater than in-flow for this group of filers in Manitoba.
- Over 900 skilled workers originally destined for Saskatchewan on landing, had primarily moved to Alberta (320), Ontario (290) British Columbia (205) and Quebec (60) by the 2006 tax year. Half of those who moved in came from Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta; however, their numbers were not sufficient to give Saskatchewan a positive balance.
- Half of the skilled workers who out-migrated from Alberta moved to Ontario, with a lesser portion moving to British Columbia (32%) and Quebec (8%). A little over 10,000 skilled worker immigrants originally destined for Ontario fuelled the growth in Alberta's skilled worker population. This led to Alberta recording the highest net gain among the provinces.
- British Columbia lost about 13,800 skilled workers mostly to Ontario (8,415), Alberta (3,240) and Quebec (1,380). On the other hand, a total of 14,010 skilled workers moved in primarily from Ontario, Alberta and Quebec, leaving British Columbia with a positive balance.

Table 3: Immigrants landed under the skilled worker category from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

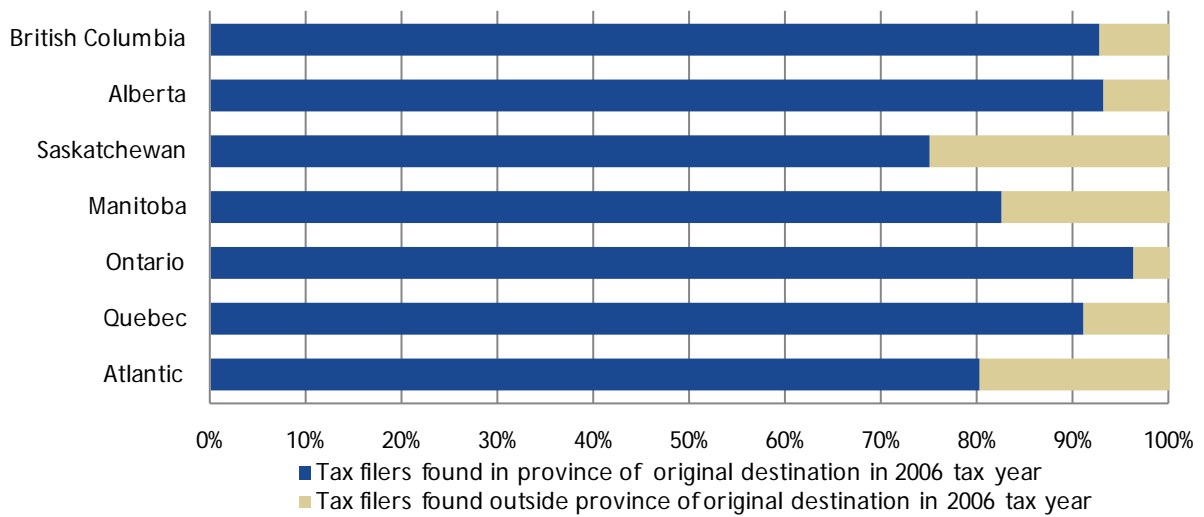
Province	Destined and			In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
	Destined at landing	Out-migration	resident in 2006				
Atlantic	3,675	1,445	2,230	1,750	3,980	60.7	8.3
Quebec	85,790	8,580	77,210	11,295	88,505	90.0	3.2
Ontario	269,480	33,640	235,840	17,895	253,735	87.5	-5.8
Manitoba	3,810	1,550	2,260	1,405	3,665	59.3	-3.8
Saskatchewan	2,180	950	1,230	780	2,010	56.4	-7.8
Alberta	30,885	4,720	26,165	16,410	42,575	84.7	37.9
British Columbia	67,615	13,825	53,790	14,000	67,790	79.6	0.3

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

### Family category

As shown in Table 4 and in the figure below, retention rates across the provinces were generally higher for tax filers admitted under the family category compared to filers admitted under the skilled workers category. Ontario led the way with a retention rate of 96% and Saskatchewan registered the lowest retention rate of 75%. The figure below shows that Ontario was more likely to retain immigrants admitted under the family category compared to other provinces.

Figure 5: Filers landed under the family category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the family category – 2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- As with the skilled immigrant category, Alberta was generally popular with immigrants in the family category that moved; however, trends in interprovincial movement, differed slightly based on the province they were originally destined for on landing from 2000 to 2006. Alberta was the only province to register a positive net change rate in mobility (14%) as 21% more tax filers than were originally destined for Alberta flowed in, away from their original province of destination on landing.
  - About half of the 535 immigrants under the family category who left the Atlantic provinces moved to Ontario, and a lesser portion moved to Alberta (25%), British Columbia (16%) and Quebec (9%). A lesser number moved into the region, mainly from Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.
  - 3,175 of those originally destined for Quebec moved out of the province. Movers primarily relocated to Ontario (68%), Alberta (18%) and British Columbia (10%). In-migrants mostly came from the same provinces that out-migrants had moved to; however, their numbers were insufficient to give Quebec a positive balance.
  - For those originally destined for Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta or Quebec was their primary province of choice by the 2006 tax year, with a little over 4,370 moving to Alberta and British Columbia and about 1,300 moving to Quebec. A lesser number moved in, thus leaving Ontario with a negative balance.
  - Those originally destined for Manitoba, mostly moved to Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia at rates of 38%, 32% and 22% respectively, and in-flow to Manitoba came mainly from the those provinces.
  - A little over 400 tax filers originally destined for Saskatchewan on landing primarily relocated to Alberta (45%), Ontario (24%) and British Columbia (18%) by the 2006 tax year.
  - The majority of tax filers under the family class that out-migrated from Alberta moved to British Columbia and Ontario, with a lesser proportion moving to other provinces.
  - Those originally destined for British Columbia that moved went overwhelming to either Ontario or Alberta.

Table 4: Family class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

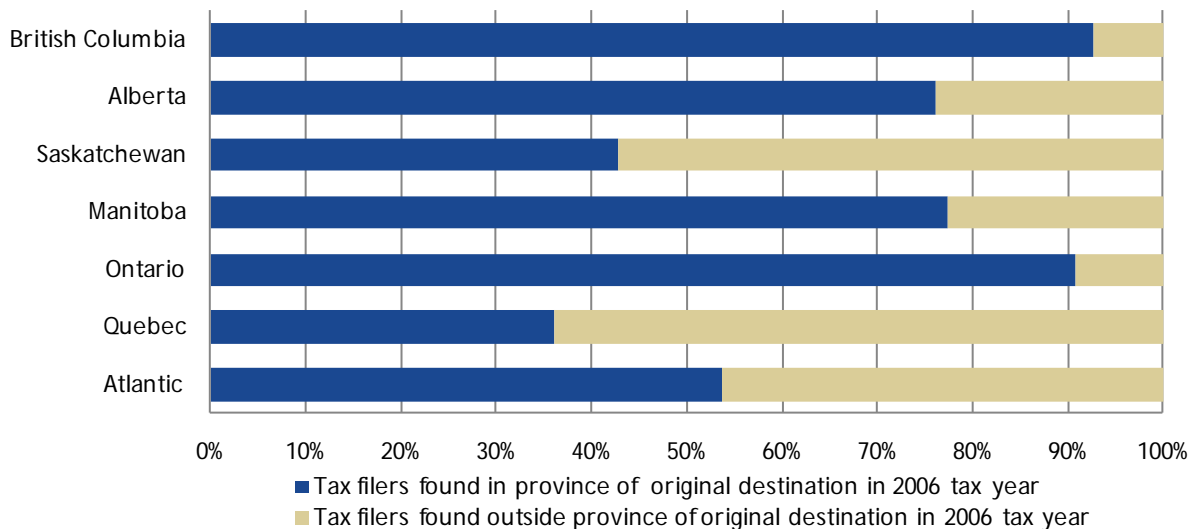
Province	Destined at landing	Out-migration	Destined and resident in 2006	In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
Atlantic	2,695	535	2,160	370	2,530	80.2	-6.1
Quebec	35,775	3,175	32,600	1,595	34,195	91.1	-4.4
Ontario	164,440	6,315	158,125	5,415	163,540	96.2	-0.6
Manitoba	4,815	840	3,975	465	4,440	82.6	-7.8
Saskatchewan	1,700	425	1,275	240	1,515	75.0	-10.9
Alberta	24,515	1,680	22,835	5,150	27,985	93.2	14.2
British Columbia	57,670	4,175	53,495	3,655	57,150	92.8	-0.9

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

### Business immigrants

The figure below shows that Quebec had the highest proportion of movers in comparison to other provinces. British Columbia, on the other hand, registered the highest retention rate (93%) of business immigrants among the provinces.

Figure 6: Filers landed under the business category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the business category - 2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- 22% more business tax filers in-migrated to British Columbia by the 2006 tax year. On the other hand, Quebec witnessed the highest proportion of out-migration of business immigrants. By the 2006 tax year, Quebec registered a retention rate of 36%.
- Immigrants admitted to Canada from 2000 to 2006 under the business class program displayed a different trend from those in the skilled worker class. Table 5 shows that British Columbia, with a net mobility change value of 22%, was popular for business immigrant tax filers.
  - Business immigrant tax filers who had noted Quebec as their province of destination on landing were likely to leave Quebec. By the 2006 tax year Quebec witnessed a loss of about 6,000 business immigrant tax filers who landed in the province from 2000 to 2006, with almost all of them moving to either Ontario or British Columbia.

- Less than 10% of immigrants destined for British Columbia at the time of landing, had moved to a different province by the 2006 tax year. Those who moved relocated mainly to Ontario. Ontario gained most of the business immigrants who moved out of British Columbia by the 2006 tax year.
- The Atlantic provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan all registered negative net change values (-33%, -4% and -34% respectively), with most movers being found in either Ontario or British Columbia in the 2006 tax year.

Table 5: Business class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

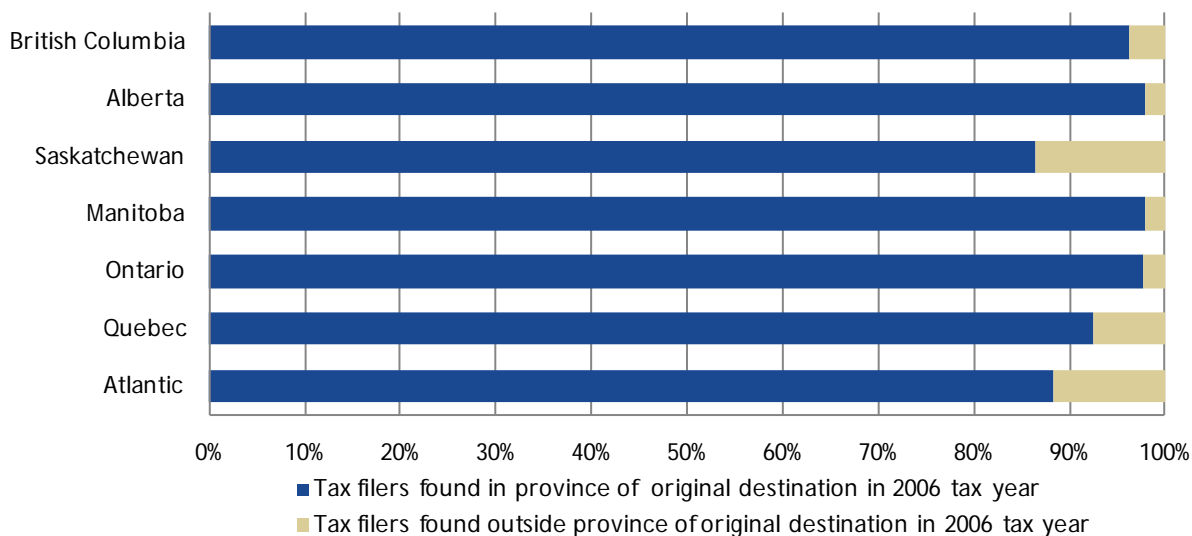
Province	Destined at landing	Out-migration	Destined and resident in 2006	In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
Atlantic	830	385	445	115	560	53.6	-32.5
Quebec	9,755	6,240	3,515	480	3,995	36.0	-59.1
Ontario	15,775	1,445	14,330	3,735	18,065	90.8	14.5
Manitoba	355	80	275	65	340	77.5	-4.2
Saskatchewan	175	100	75	40	115	42.9	-34.3
Alberta	1,785	425	1,360	595	1,955	76.2	9.5
British Columbia	16,655	1,210	15,445	4,825	20,270	92.7	21.7

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

### Live-in caregivers

In general, the retention rate of live-in caregivers across the provinces was high (above 85% for all provinces) (see Figure 7 and Table 6).

Figure 7: Filers landed under the live-in caregiver category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the live-in caregiver category – 2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- Of approximately 20,000 tax filers admitted into Canada under the live-in caregiver program from 2000 to 2006, just 3% moved from their original province of destination by the 2006 tax year. Eight out of 10 of those who moved relocated to Alberta, Ontario or British Columbia.

Table 6: Live-in caregiver class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

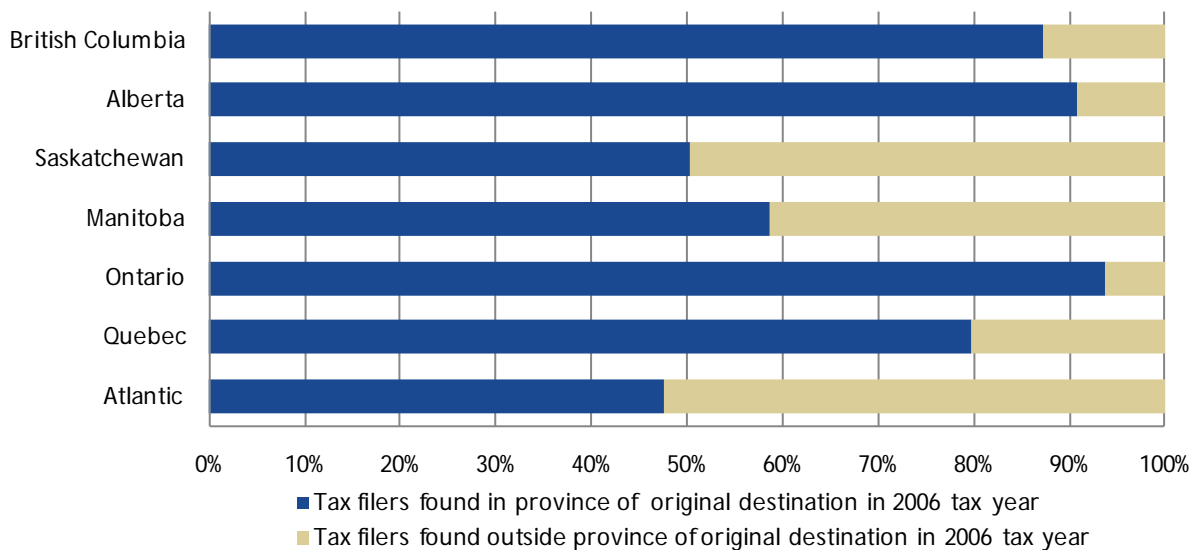
Province	Destined at landing	Out-migration	Destined and resident in 2006	In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
Atlantic	85	10	75	20	65	88.2	-23.5
Quebec	1,950	145	1,805	20	1,825	92.6	-6.4
Ontario	8,330	185	8,145	155	8,300	97.8	-0.4
Manitoba	250	5	245	25	270	98.0	8.0
Saskatchewan	220	30	190	20	210	86.4	-4.5
Alberta	4,020	80	3,940	270	4,210	98.0	4.7
British Columbia	5,295	195	5,100	125	5,225	96.3	-1.3

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

## Refugees

The Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan and Manitoba all registered relatively low retention rates for refugee tax filers, with retention values of 48%, 50% and 59% respectively. On the other hand, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec all registered retention rates above 79% (Table 7 and Figure 8).

Figure 8: Filers landed under the refugee category found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (based on those landed under the refugee category – 2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

- A high proportion of refugee tax filers who relocated from one province to another by 2006, were those originally destined for Quebec, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces on landing.
  - In terms of numbers, Quebec lost the most refugee tax filers (5,700) but gained about 1,000 tax filers from other provinces by the 2006 tax year. Most of these tax filers originally destined for Quebec ended up in Ontario (4,050) and Alberta (1,145).
  - About 9,000 refugee tax filers were originally destined for Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces between 2000 to 2006; however, by the 2006 tax year, approximately 4,000 of them had moved to other provinces. 87% of these tax filers who moved, had relocated to either Ontario or Alberta.



- Alberta recorded the highest proportional in-migration of refugee tax filers (aprox. 6,000) originally destined for other provinces.
  - The highest net inflow of refugee tax filers into Alberta came from Ontario (2,445) , Quebec (1,145) and Manitoba (1,135).

Table 7: Refugees landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

Province	Destined at landing	Out-migration	Destined and resident in 2006	In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
Atlantic	2,340	1,225	1,115	180	1,295	47.7	-44.7
Quebec	28,325	5,715	22,610	1,065	23,675	79.8	-16.4
Ontario	68,470	4,225	64,245	6,695	70,940	93.8	3.6
Manitoba	4,775	1,975	2,800	410	3,210	58.6	-32.8
Saskatchewan	2,125	1,055	1,070	260	1,330	50.4	-37.4
Alberta	8,400	765	7,635	6,075	13,710	90.9	63.2
British Columbia	8,865	1,330	7,735	1,365	9,100	87.3	2.7

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

## Immigrants landed under the Provincial Nominee Program

This section examines the mobility and retention of immigrants who landed in Canada from 2000 to 2006, and filed a tax return for the 2006 tax year. The province to which immigrants were originally nominated, their province of destination on landing and the province in which they filed their tax return in the 2006 tax year were used in the analysis presented in this section.

In light of the significant number of immigrants who were admitted into Canada under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) since 2000 it was essential to examine the mobility patterns of the more recent cohort of PN immigrants.

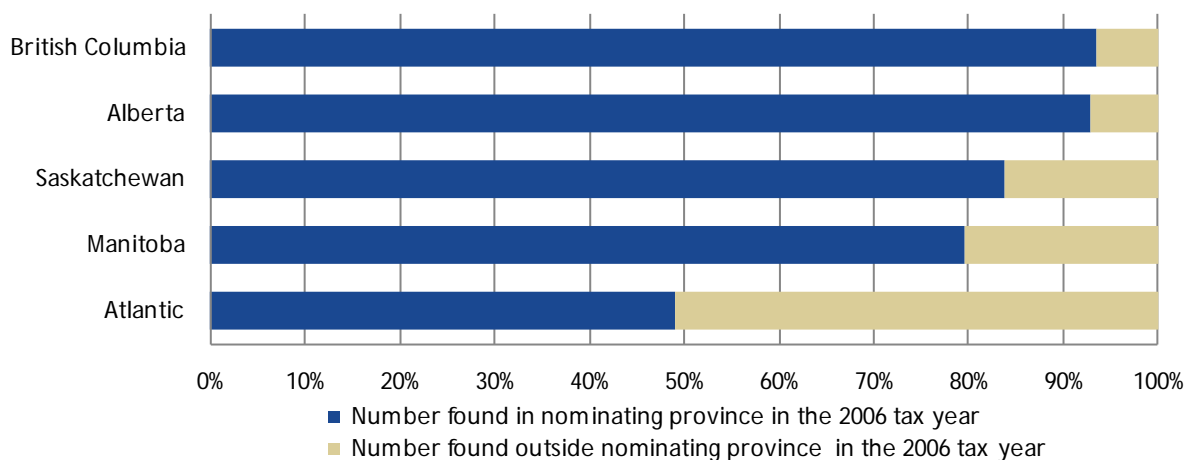
### Province of nomination vs. province of residence in the 2006 tax year

#### Highlights

Just under 20,000 of the tax filers found in the IMDB landed in Canada under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) from 2000 to 2006 and filed a tax return for the 2006 tax year. Of these, 67% were nominated by Manitoba, 14% were nominated by the Atlantic provinces, 8% were nominated by British Columbia, 6% were nominated by Saskatchewan and 5% were nominated by Alberta. IMDB data for the 2006 tax year reflected that 23% of PNP filers were found in provinces different from their original nominating province<sup>11</sup> in the 2006 tax year.

As reflected in the figure below, filers landed from 2000 to 2006 and nominated by the Atlantic provinces displayed a higher mobility than filers nominated in other provinces.

Figure 9: Provincial nominees found in nominating province vs. those found outside nominating province (2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

British Columbia (94%) and Alberta (93%) boasted the highest share of PNs staying within the province.

- The proportion of tax filers nominated and resident within Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces was found to be 84%, 80% and 49% respectively, in the 2006 tax year.
- In general, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta were the provinces of choice for PNP movers (94% of PNP filers who moved were found in either Ontario, British Columbia or Alberta in the 2006 tax year).

<sup>11</sup> Atlantic provinces were grouped together; hence, for the Atlantic provinces movers are defined as those would have been found in a province outside the Atlantic region in the 2006 tax year.

Table 8: Provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of nomination(2006 tax year)

Nominating province	Number nominated & found in the IMDB for the 2006 tax year	Number found in nominating province in the 2006 tax year	Number found outside nominating province in the 2006 tax year
Atlantic	2,865	1,405	1,460
Manitoba	13,265	10,560	2,705
Saskatchewan	1,115	935	180
Alberta	1,035	960	75
British Columbia	1,695	1,585	110

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

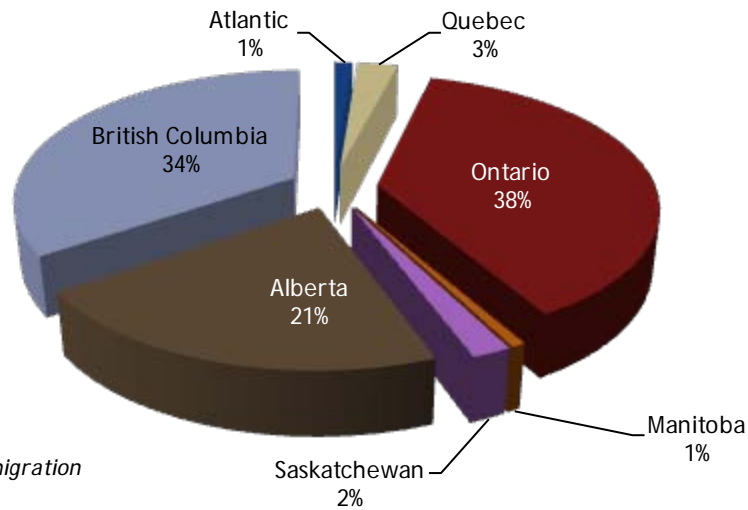
### *Inflows vs. outflows of provincial nominees based on province of nomination*

The analysis below examines PN outflows based on their province of nomination. The province where the PN filed their taxes in 2006 was used in determining their province of residence in 2006.

- In the 2006 tax year, one out of two Atlantic provinces nominated filers were found in other provinces, with 88% of these movers ending up in Ontario and British Columbia. Most of the PN filers who moved into the Atlantic region came from Manitoba (45).
  - Outflows (1,460) of PN filers nominated by the Atlantic region far outpaced inflows (55) of filers nominated by other provinces into the region.
- About 2,700 PN filers landed from 2000 to 2006 and nominated by Manitoba were found in other provinces in the 2006 tax year, with majority of these movers ending up in Ontario (955), British Columbia (825) and Alberta (730).
- Half of the PN filers nominated by Saskatchewan that moved (90) were found primarily in Alberta in the 2006 tax year. The other half were found primarily in British Columbia (45) and Ontario (40).
- Only 75 PN filers who were nominated by Alberta were found in other provinces in the 2006 tax year. Most of these movers were found in British Columbia (35) and Ontario (20). PN filer inflow (850) into Alberta from other provinces came primarily from filers nominated by Manitoba (730), leaving Alberta with a positive balance.
- 90 PN filers nominated by British Columbia filed their 2006 tax returns primarily in Ontario (35) and Alberta (30). Inflow of PN filers came mainly from Manitoba (825) and the Atlantic provinces (645).

As displayed in Figure 10, a relatively high proportion of PNs that were not found in their province of nomination in the 2006 tax year were found mostly in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta.

Figure 10: Proportion of provincial nominees found outside their nominating province by province of nomination (2000 to 2006 landing years – 2006 tax year)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

### Province of destination vs. province of residence in the 2006 tax year

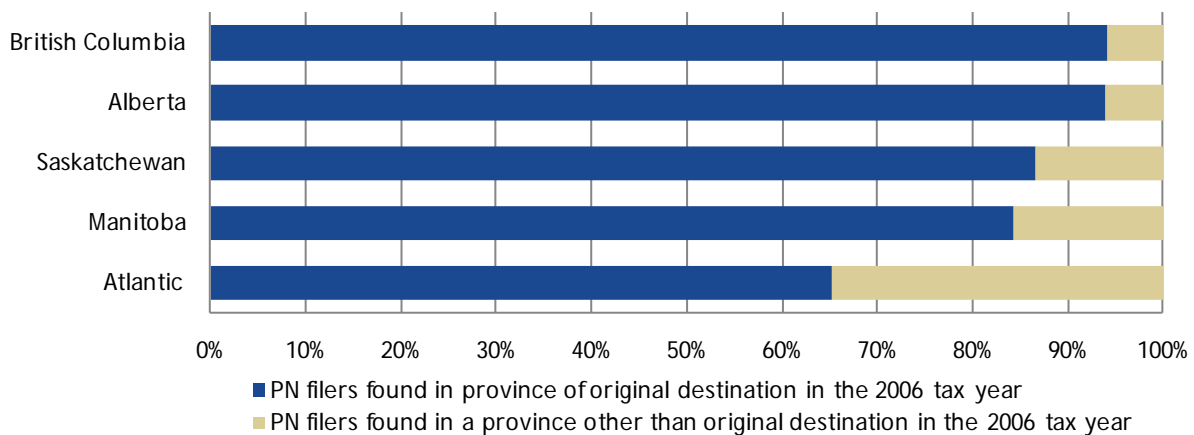
To enable comparison with other categories of immigrant filers in the IMDB, mobility of provincial nominees was also examined based on their province of original destination on landing. This means that a PN filer is counted as having moved to another province if the filer is found in a province other than the province he/she was originally destined for on landing in the 2006 tax year.

#### Highlights

Retention rates for PN filers differed based on their destination province on landing. Depending on the province PN filers were destined to, retention rates ranged from 65% to 94% (see Table 10).

The figure below shows that the Atlantic provinces lost a higher proportion of PNs in comparison to other provinces.

Figure 11: Provincial nominees found in destination province vs. those found outside destination province (2000 to 2006 landing years)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Comparison of PN filers' province of original destination and province of residence in the 2006 tax year reflected a 16% shift. In other words, under 3,000 PN filers were found in a province different from their original destination on landing in the 2006 tax year, with most relocating to British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta.

- The Atlantic provinces registered the lowest retention rates for PN filers found in the IMDB, with about 1 in 3 PN filers being found in a province other than their original destination province in the 2006 tax year.
- 900 PN filers nominated by other provinces were registered to have been destined to Ontario on landing and 70 were destined to Quebec.
- 12,365 of the PN filers found in the IMDB were originally destined for Manitoba on landing, in the 2006 tax year, 1,930 PN filers had out migrated from the province compared with 85 migrating into the province.
- 1,115 PN filers were destined to Saskatchewan on landing, and in the 2006 tax year, 150 of them were found in another province.
- Alberta lost just 70 of the 1,155 PN filers originally destined for the province to other provinces, and gained a significant number (780) of PN filers from other provinces.
- 2,150 PN filers were originally destined to British Columbia on landing, 125 were found residing in provinces different from their intended destination in the 2006 tax year and 1,075 PN filers left their original province of destination and flowed into the province.

Table 9: Provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 based on province of destination(2006 tax year)

Province	Destined at landing	Destined and			Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
		Out-migration	resident in 2006	In-migration			
Atlantic	2,050	715	1,335	85	1,420	65.1	-30.7
Quebec	70	15	55	90	145	78.6	107.1
Ontario	990	325	665	990	1,655	67.2	67.2
Manitoba	12,365	1,930	10,435	235	10,670	84.4	-13.7
Saskatchewan	1,115	150	965	70	1,035	86.6	-7.2
Alberta	1,155	70	1,085	780	1,865	93.9	61.5
British Columbia	2,150	125	2,025	1,075	3,100	94.2	44.2

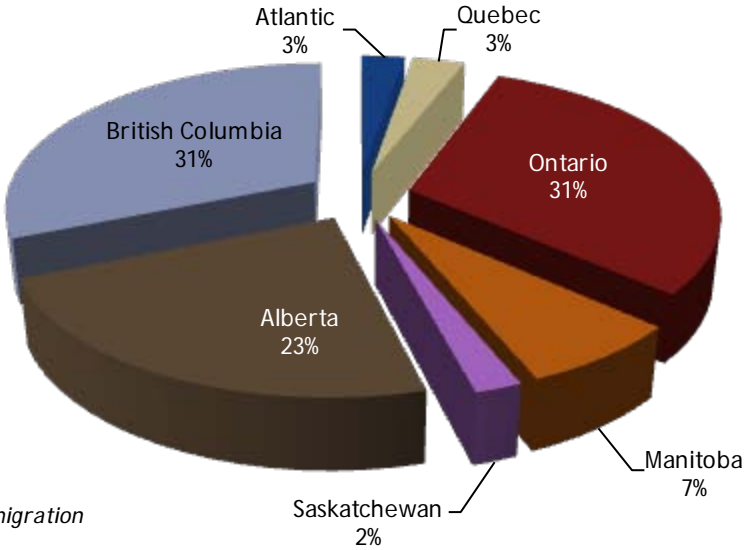
Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

### *Inflows vs. outflows of provincial nominees based on province of destination*

- PN filers originally destined to the Atlantic provinces displayed higher outflow rates compared with PN filers destined for other provinces. PN filers destined for the Atlantic provinces on landing were found mostly in British Columbia (330), Ontario (305) and Alberta (50) by the 2006 tax year. Less than 100 PN filers originally destined for other provinces were found in the Atlantic provinces in 2006.
- Just under 2,000 PN filers originally destined for Manitoba, were found in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Most of the 235 PN filers who flowed into the province came from Ontario (185).
- 150 PN filers originally destined for Saskatchewan ended up in other provinces, with half of them ending up in Alberta in 2006. Over half of the PN filers who moved into the province came from Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces.
- Alberta registered about 800 PN filers originally destined for other provinces flowing into Alberta in the 2006 tax year. Most of these filers flowed into Alberta from Manitoba.
- British Columbia led all the provinces in terms of net gain of PN filers. 1,075 PNs relocated from their original province of destination and filed their tax return in British Columbia in the 2006 tax year. Over half of those who moved in came from Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces. About half of the PN filers who moved out of the province were found in Ontario and Manitoba.

The chart below shows the share of movers by the province in which they were found in the 2006 tax year. Most filers found in a province different from their original destination province on landing were found in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta.

Figure 12: Distribution of provincial nominees movers by province of destination (2000 to 2006 landing years – 2006 tax year)



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

## Conclusion

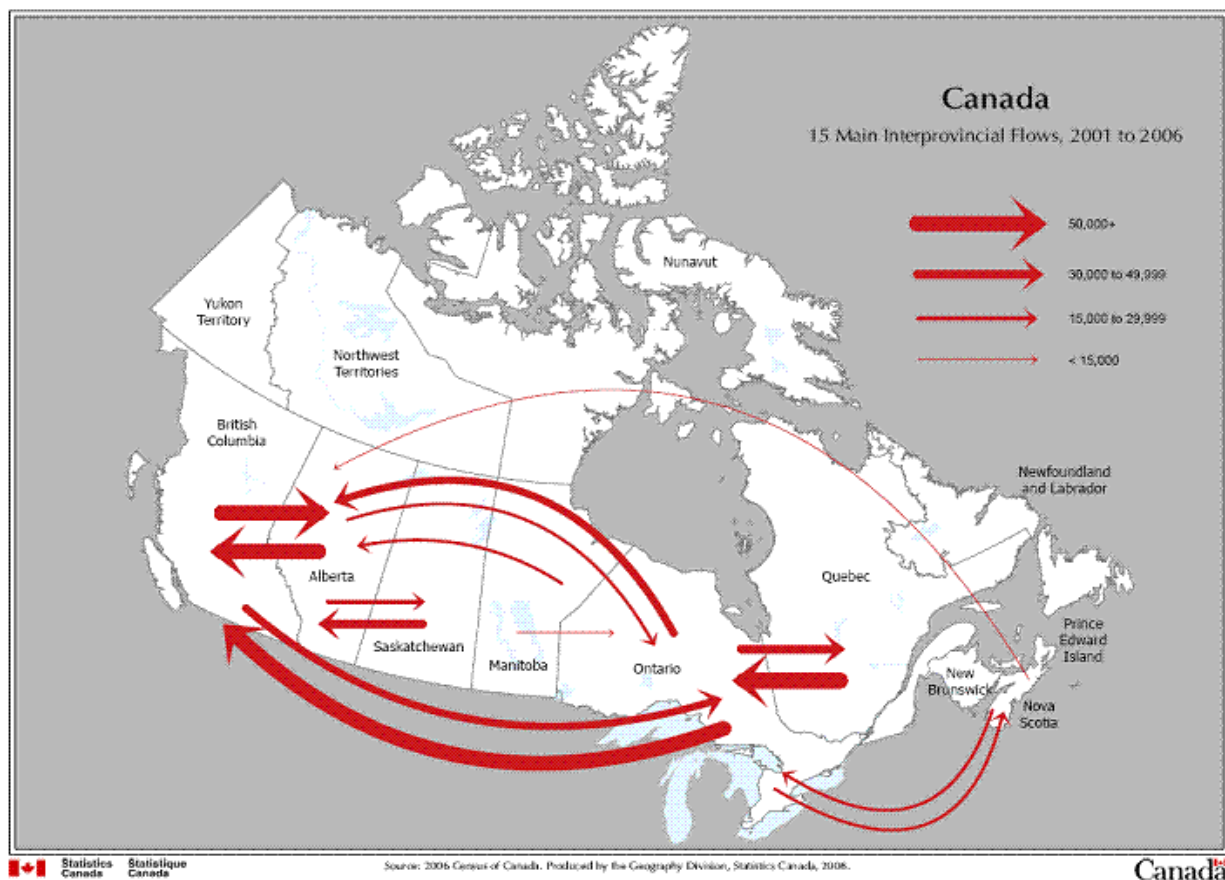
Mobility patterns of immigrants analysed in the IMDB mirrored some trends found in the general population.

While Ontario generally registered high retention rates for immigrant tax filers landed from 2000 to 2006, those who moved from their original province of destination tended to flow from the east to the west in high proportions. Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia received large volumes of immigrants; however, relative to the original destination of immigrant filers, Alberta witnessed a high proportional influx of interprovincial migrants.

These movers boosted Alberta and British Columbia's inflow; thus, making Alberta and British Columbia the only provinces with positive net migration in the 2006 tax year. This finding was consistent with net migration rates produced by Statistics Canada's Demography and Census Divisions (Figure 13 and Table 18).

The uneven spread in retention rates of immigrants across the provinces, and the varying flows of immigrant interprovincial migrants based on their original province of destination, followed similar trends noted in general population. For example, the census reported that between 2001 and 2006, Newfoundland and Labrador reported declines in population growth rates while Alberta reported a 10% growth rate increment, making it the fastest growing province in the country.

Figure 13: Fifteen main interprovincial flows, 2001 to 2006 (based on the 2006 Census)



Source: 2006 Census of Canada. Produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, 2008.

As with the general Canadian population, Alberta stood out as one of the key provinces for interprovincial migration exchanges for immigrants in Canada. Immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 clearly relocated to Alberta in high proportions.

Statistics Canada reported that findings from the 2006 census reflect that between 2001 and 2006 the proportion of Canadians who had moved provinces (3%) was “the lowest proportion recorded in at least 35 years”<sup>12</sup>. Findings from the IMDB; however, reflected significantly higher interprovincial mobility rates among recent immigrants, particularly among those admitted to Canada under the skilled worker, business and Provincial Nominee programs.

## Next steps

- Further studies on the demographic and other characteristics of immigrant movers could enrich this analysis and further provide the vehicle for understanding the factors contributing to the mobility of different categories of immigrant filers.
- Analysis of the phenomenon of “disappearance” (emigrating from Canada) of immigrants could be further examined, to help build a fuller picture on movers and some of the drivers fuelling mobility of certain filers.

---

<sup>12</sup> Statistics Canada. 2008. Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada: 2005 and 2006. Statistics Canada. Catalogue no. 91-209-X. Ottawa.



## Appendix I - Movement by destination and category: Tables

Table 10: Movement of skilled worker class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

TO:								British
FROM:	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Columbia	
Atlantic	2,230	265	755	30	20	230	155	
Quebec	200	77,210	5,220	120	40	1,610	1,235	
Ontario	1,200	9,120	235,840	950	415	10,670	10,620	
Manitoba	30	150	685	2,260	50	350	290	
Saskatchewan	10	60	290	40	1,230	320	205	
Alberta	105	365	2,515	60	105	26,165	1,505	
British Columbia	205	1,380	8,415	235	135	3,240	53,790	

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Table 11: Movement of family class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

TO:								British
FROM:	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Columbia	
Atlantic	2,160	50	275	5	5	140	90	
Quebec	75	32,600	2,145	45	15	560	330	
Ontario	230	1,255	158,125	265	95	2,145	2,225	
Manitoba	10	25	275	3,975	25	325	190	
Saskatchewan	15	20	110	25	1,275	210	85	
Alberta	25	95	640	50	75	22,835	770	
British Columbia	45	185	1,945	115	55	1,750	53,495	

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Table 12: Movement of business class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

TO:								British
FROM:	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Columbia	
Atlantic	445	100	175	5	-	20	80	
Quebec	55	3,515	2,440	25	-	195	3,545	
Ontario	35	270	14,330	30	5	160	905	
Manitoba	-	10	75	275	5	10	25	
Saskatchewan	-	10	45	5	75	15	45	
Alberta	5	10	130	-	20	1,360	245	
British Columbia	20	110	855	25	20	195	15,445	

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Table 13: Movement of live-in caregiver class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

TO:								British
FROM:	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Columbia	
Atlantic	65	5	5	-	-	-	-	
Quebec	-	1,805	50	5	-	70	15	
Ontario	10	25	8,145	20	5	90	55	
Manitoba	-	-	5	245	5	15	10	
Saskatchewan	-	-	10	-	190	10	15	
Alberta	5	-	25	-	15	3,940	35	
British Columbia	5	-	70	10	5	95	5,100	

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Table 14: Movement of refugee class immigrants landed from 2000 to 2006 (2006 tax year)

TO:								British
FROM:	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Columbia	
Atlantic	1,115	95	580	20	10	475	70	
Quebec	45	22,610	4,050	50	20	1,145	430	
Ontario	110	670	64,245	300	165	2,445	590	
Manitoba	5	60	645	2,800	15	1,135	115	
Saskatchewan	5	35	495	25	1,070	385	100	
Alberta	20	115	430	35	55	7,635	130	
British Columbia	15	65	515	40	20	495	7,735	

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

## Appendix II - Provincial nominees landed over 2000 to 2006: Tables

Table 15: Movement of provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of nomination and province of residence (2006 tax year)

	Province of Residence in 2006 TY	PNs found by province of residence in the 2006 tax year	Retention rate
Atlantic	Atlantic	1,405	<b>49.0%</b>
	Quebec	50	
	Ontario	640	
	Manitoba	10	
	Saskatchewan	10	
	Alberta	95	
	British Columbia	645	
	Territories	10	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,865</b>	
Manitoba	Atlantic	45	<b>79.6%</b>
	Quebec	65	
	Ontario	955	
	Manitoba	10,560	
	Saskatchewan	65	
	Alberta	730	
	British Columbia	825	
	Territories	20	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,265</b>	
Saskatchewan	Atlantic	-	<b>83.9%</b>
	Quebec	-	
	Ontario	40	
	Manitoba	5	
	Saskatchewan	935	
	Alberta	90	
	British Columbia	45	
	Territories	-	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,115</b>	
Alberta	Atlantic	5	<b>92.8%</b>
	Quebec	5	
	Ontario	20	
	Manitoba	5	
	Saskatchewan	5	
	Alberta	960	
	British Columbia	35	
	Territories	-	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,035</b>	
British Columbia	Atlantic	5	<b>93.5%</b>
	Quebec	5	
	Ontario	35	
	Manitoba	10	
	Saskatchewan	5	
	Alberta	30	
	British Columbia	1,585	
	Territories	20	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,695</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>19,975</b>	

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Table 16: Movement of provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of nomination (2006 tax year)

Province of Destination	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
Newfoundland and Labrador	55	5	160	5	-	25	255
Prince Edward Island	235	5	245		5	25	200
Nova Scotia	415	15	80			5	110
New Brunswick	700	25	155	5	5	40	80
Manitoba	45	65	955	10,560	65	730	825
Saskatchewan	-		40	5	935	90	45
Alberta	5	5	20	5	5	960	35
British Columbia	5	5	35	10	5	30	1,585

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Table 17: Movement of provincial nominees landed from 2000 to 2006 by province of destination (2006 tax year)

Province of Destination	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
Atlantic	1,335	45	305	15	15	50	330
Quebec	10	55	10	5	-	-	-
Ontario	40	5	665	185	5	40	45
Manitoba	15	50	630	10,435	30	580	625
Saskatchewan	-	-	45	-	965	80	30
Alberta	5	5	15	10	10	1,085	30
British Columbia	20	5	35	30	10	25	2,025

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

## Appendix III - Net interprovincial migration rates: 2000 to 2006 (Statistics Canada figures)

Table 18: Net interprovincial migration for provinces, 2000 to 2006

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Total number of migrants
	<b>Net number of migrants</b>										
2000	-4,884	-62	-1,393	-1,748	-11,233	23,292	-4,188	-8,301	24,397	-14,783	290,505
2001	-3,914	268	-1,946	-1,914	-6,388	10,622	-5,025	-8,600	24,614	-7,278	280,408
2002	-3,187	65	-256	-164	-4,228	5,065	-2,733	-7,431	17,883	-5,216	281,873
2003	-1,103	224	142	-1,277	218	-5,074	-3,162	-4,590	10,254	4,055	255,565
2004	-2,651	-259	-1,594	-867	-3,297	-8,222	-3,153	-6,027	19,348	7,551	269,727
2005	-4,497	-237	-3,679	-2,708	-6,834	-14,500	-9,298	-9,737	44,968	7,434	292,172
2006	-3,964	-591	-3,060	-3,574	-12,915	-32,318	-7,658	-2,856	58,166	10,221	358,516

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.