



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada

Performance results by LINC level

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Executive Summary

- This report is the second of two analyses on the most recently available LINC program data. The first report profiled the LINC client population and provided information on client performance at an aggregate level.
- This analysis looks at the LINC program by specific LINC level. For each of the levels, the following three broad characteristics are examined:
 - Number of clients in training at a specified LINC level.
 - Number of clients who have completed courses at a specified LINC level.
 - Average number of hours taken to complete a course at the specified LINC level.

Table 1: Average Annual Number of Clients in Training and with Completed Training, by LINC Level, 2003-2008¹²

	Literacy	LINC 1	LINC 2	LINC 3	LINC 4	LINC 5	LINC 6&7
Clients in Training	2,352	9,489	13,198	19,034	14,007	7,924	1,530
Clients with Completed Training	655	3,033	4,603	6,569	4,886	2,470	332

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- As illustrated in Table 1, the average number of clients in training each year differs for each LINC level. The largest numbers of clients in training are found in LINC levels 2, 3, and 4. Not unrelated, the largest numbers of clients with completions are also found in these levels.
- For all LINC levels Ontario has the highest share of clients in training and the highest share of clients with completions. For most LINC levels Ontario's share accounts for nearly 85 percent of all clients. The two exceptions are in the literacy level where the share is lower (72 percent) and in level 5 and beyond where the share is around 95 percent.
- Ontario continues to have the highest share of clients (in training and with completions) despite the declining trend in the number over time. Over the 6-year period the share of clients in Ontario has declined by 7-10 percent depending on the LINC level while the share of clients in Alberta has increased by 4-11 percent.³
- This trend coincides with the trend seen in immigrant landings over the period. The share of new immigrants landing in Ontario has declined from 54 percent in 2003 to 45 percent in 2008. Over the same period, the proportion of immigrants who landed in Alberta has increased from 7 percent to 10 percent.
- The category distribution of clients in training and clients with completions are different across LINC levels as well. Refugees and family class immigrants make up the overwhelming majority of clients in the lower LINC levels (LINC literacy level to level 2) while skilled workers make up a relatively smaller share (10-25 percent).

¹ The completion rate referred to in this analysis refers to the number of unique clients completing LINC courses at a certain LINC level (2003-2008) divided by the number of unique clients training at the same LINC level (2003-2008) and this rate is expressed as a percent.

² For LINC level 6&7 the annual average is calculated for the period 2006-2008 due to the unavailability of data prior to 2006.

³ The one exception to this is in the literacy level in where the trend was reversed. Over the period, Ontario's share of clients in training and clients with completions increased by 4 and 13 percent, respectively. In contrast, Alberta's corresponding shares decreased by 3 and 8 percent.

- In the higher LINC levels (levels 3 to level 7) skilled workers account for the largest share of clients. In LINC level 3 they account for over 40 percent of the clients in training and with completions and in level 5 and beyond the share increases further to roughly 60 percent. This may reflect the fact that a large share of skilled workers are selected based on their labour market skills (including language proficiency) and as a result, are less likely to enrol in lower levels of language training.

Table 2: Completion Rates (%) and Average Hours Taken to Complete a LINC Literacy Course by LINC Level⁴

	Literacy	LINC 1	LINC 2	LINC 3	LINC 4	LINC 5	LINC 6&7
Completion Rate	32%	35%	35%	35%	35%	31%	22%
Average Hours to Complete	384	379	368	337	309	310	300

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Overall, roughly 1 in 3 immigrants enrolled in LINC training completes a LINC course. Completion rates are lowest for LINC levels 6&7 (22%), however our analysis suggests that caution should be exercised when looking at these figures since training at LINC level 6&7 started in 2006 and incomplete data may be impacting the results.
- Completion rates also vary by immigration category with skilled workers noting the highest completion rates (in the 40 percent range) and lower rates recorded for family class immigrants and refugees (in the 30 percent range).
- As illustrated in Table 2, the average number of hours taken to complete a LINC course is negatively correlated with the LINC level. In the literacy level clients take an average of 384 hours to complete while in LINC level 4 and beyond the average hours taken to complete is just over 300.
- As previously mentioned, at lower LINC levels a larger share of clients (in training and with completions) are refugees and family class immigrants. Both groups, especially the refugee group, require more time to complete a LINC course. Refugees, for example, require 70 to 80 additional hours to complete a course as compared to the overall average. In contrast, skilled workers require fewer hours to complete a LINC course.
- The differences in the immigrant category distribution across LINC levels coupled with the differences in the length of time certain immigrant groups require to complete a course are driving the negative correlation between average hours taken to complete and LINC level.

⁴ Due to the availability of data, completion rates are based on the 2003-2008 period for all levels except LINC 6&7. The average hours taken to complete a LINC course are based on the 2005-2008 period.

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Introduction

The following analysis looks at the LINC program by specific LINC level. For each of the levels, the following three broad characteristics are examined:

- Number of clients in training at a specified LINC level.
- Number of clients who have completed courses at a specified LINC level.
- Average number of hours taken to complete a course at the specified LINC level.

The clients being referred to in each specific LINC level for this analysis are unique clients. That is, clients can only be counted 1 time per year for a specific LINC level, even if the clients have participated more than once in the same level of training during the calendar year. A client may be counted in more than 1 specific LINC level per year. This situation may arise if a client takes training or completes LINC courses at different LINC levels during the same calendar year.⁵

The number of clients in training and completing courses is consistent with data runs completed through February 2009. There exists a possibility that the most recent LINC training and completions data from all service provider organizations (SPOs) has not been captured in the current cut of iCAMS and HARTS data and therefore client counts in the most recent years may be understated. Also note that LINC data from Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia are not captured in iCAMS or HART's due to Alternative Funding Arrangements with CIC.

The completion rate referred to in this analysis refers to the number of unique clients completing LINC courses at a certain LINC level divided by the number of unique clients training at the same LINC level and this rate is expressed as a percent.

For this analysis the average hours taken to complete courses corresponds to an adjusted average (mean) number of hours taken to complete each LINC courses during 2005-2008. Note that adjustments have been made to exclude records that are inconsistent with “normal” durations associated with LINC language training. As a result, records with negative, zero, very small or extremely high numbers of hours taken to complete a course have been excluded.⁶

⁵ Adding all the unique clients by LINC level does not equal the unique client count presented in Section 1 (Table 1) of the accompanying report due to the double counting that is present for some clients when decomposing the LINC program by each specific level by calendar year.

⁶ For this analysis, it is assumed that the average hours taken to complete a LINC level reflects a normal distribution that clusters around the mean. However, due to the nature of administrative data and the possibility of data-entry errors, outliers were removed and the mean scores represent the mean of the center 99.7% of the distribution.

LINC Literacy Population

Clients in Training

Table 3: Number of LINC Literacy Clients by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	95	119	115	148	161	156
<i>Newfoundland</i>	41	43	46	57	59	60
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	20	24	15	27	36	43
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	4	2	0	0	15	15
<i>New Brunswick</i>	30	50	54	64	51	38
Ontario	1,228	1,421	1,482	1,677	2,196	2,231
Saskatchewan	64	107	91	104	105	79
Alberta	338	415	365	411	495	507
Total	1,725	2,062	2,053	2,340	2,957	2,973

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of approximately 2,350 clients took LINC literacy training annually. The annual total peaked at 2,973 in 2008 and lowest numbers were recorded in 2003 at 1,725.
- Ontario accounts for the majority of clients in LINC literacy training with an average of 72 percent of clients at this level during the 2003-2008 period. Alberta accounts for approximately 18 percent of clients during the same period with the other provinces accounting for the remaining 10 percent.
- With the exception of Ontario and Alberta, the distribution of LINC literacy clients across the provinces has remained relatively consistent during the 2003-2008 period. Ontario's percentage of the total population taking literacy classes has increased from 71 percent in 2003 to 75 percent in 2008. In contrast, Alberta's percentage has dropped from 20 percent in 2003 to 17 percent in 2008.

Table 4: Number of LINC Literacy Clients in Training by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family	670	719	648	795	1,092	1,094
Skilled Workers	133	120	140	151	170	131
Other Economic	64	94	129	163	216	238
Refugees	839	1,097	1,113	1,194	1,427	1,463
Other / Unknown	19	32	23	37	52	47
Total	1,725	2,062	2,053	2,340	2,957	2,973

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- During the 2003-2008 period, refugees made up the majority of LINC literacy clients in training with an average of roughly 1,200 clients per year, or 51 percent of total clients.
- Family class immigrants account for 36 percent of LINC literacy clients and skilled workers 6 percent during the 2003-2008 period.

Clients with Completed Training

Table 5: Number of LINC Literacy Clients by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	37	46	47	56	49	45
<i>Newfoundland</i>	13	21	24	34	25	23
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	8	2	3	4	8	11
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	2	0	0	0	5	0
<i>New Brunswick</i>	14	23	20	18	11	11
Ontario	258	345	397	404	548	534
Saskatchewan	13	27	22	20	8	12
Alberta	147	176	159	188	189	191
Total	455	594	625	668	794	782

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of 655 clients completed LINC literacy courses annually. The annual total peaked in 2007 at 794 clients and lowest numbers were recorded in 2003 (455).
- As might be expected, Ontario accounts for the majority of LINC literacy completions with an average of 63 percent of all completions during 2003-2008. Alberta accounts for an average of 27 percent of completions during the same period.
- The distribution of clients who completed LINC literacy has changed during the 2003-2008 period – the percentage from Ontario has increased from approximately 55 percent in 2003 to 68 percent in 2008. In contrast, the percentage of clients who completed LINC literacy in Alberta has decreased from 32 percent in 2003 to 24 percent in 2008.

Table 6: Number of LINC Literacy Clients Completions by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family	157	208	202	210	284	260
Skilled Workers	50	46	54	48	70	51
Other Economic	26	25	35	47	59	56
Refugees	219	308	328	355	364	405
Other / Unknown	3	7	6	8	17	10
Total	455	594	625	668	794	782

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- The majority of those who complete LINC literacy are refugees with an average of 350 (or 51 percent of total completions) clients during the 2003-2008 period. During the same period, approximately 200 family class immigrants (or 34 percent of total clients) completed LINC literacy courses while skilled workers and other economic immigrants made up 8 percent and 6 percent of completions, respectively.
- It is not surprising to see the low numbers of skilled workers in this LINC level given the point allotment skilled worker principal applicants obtain for official language knowledge. Current data suggests LINC literacy clients in the skilled worker category are dominated by spouses and dependants (who are not points tested). Further data manipulation of the skilled worker category is required to obtain a specific split of principal applicants and spouses and dependents
- Roughly 33 percent of clients who were in LINC literacy training completed a LINC literacy course during the 2003-2008 period. Completion rates for refugees were slightly above average at 36 percent while they were a little lower for family class immigrants at 30 percent.

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC Literacy Courses

- As shown in the table below, on average, a LINC literacy client spends 384 hours in class to complete the course, ranging from a low of 258 hours for skilled workers to a high 467 hours for refugees.

Table 7: Average Hours Taken to Complete a LINC Literacy Course by Immigration Category, 2005-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
Family	108	n/a	231	338	324	287	252	305
Skilled Workers	n/a	n/a	n/a	106	293	447	180	258
Other Economic	122	200	422	149	372	175	221	294
Refugees	330	200	367	180	512	575	438	467
Other / Unknown	n/a	n/a	489	95	474	n/a	166	388
Total	316	200	363	184	395	539	350	384

Source: ICAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Among all immigration categories, refugees spend 83 more hours, or 22 percent more time, in class to complete a course than the average for all immigrants (384 hours). Family class immigrants and other economic immigrants spend 305 and 258 hours, respectively.
- Across provinces, the average number of hours ranges from a low of 184 in New Brunswick to a high of 539 hours in Saskatchewan. Given the large number of completions in Ontario and Alberta, it is not surprising that the national average (384) is close to the averages for Ontario (395) and Alberta (350).

LINC Level 1 Population

Clients in Training

Table 8: Number of LINC Clients in Level 1 Training by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	199	282	253	302	323	249
<i>Newfoundland</i>	54	45	43	67	45	52
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	78	116	107	122	133	125
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	17	30	23	42	78	7
<i>New Brunswick</i>	50	91	80	71	67	65
Ontario	7,524	8,055	7,672	7,922	7,556	7,655
Alberta	933	1,029	1,044	1,202	1,463	1,630
Saskatchewan	180	224	234	274	411	318
Total	8,836	9,590	9,203	9,700	9,753	9,852

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Ontario accounts for the majority of LINC clients attending level 1 courses during 2003-2008. Among the average of 9,500 clients enrolling in LINC 1 training over the six-year period, 7,700 clients were in Ontario, representing 82 percent. However, the share for Ontario dropped from 85 percent in 2003 to 78 percent in 2008 while the share of clients in Alberta has increased 6 percent since 2003.
- The change in the distribution of LINC 1 clients corresponds to the trend of landings across provinces during the same period. The share of new immigrants landing in Ontario has declined from 54 percent in 2003 to 45 percent in 2008. Over the same period, the proportion of immigrants who landed in Alberta has increased from 7 percent to 10 percent.

Table 9: Number of LINC Clients in Level 1 Training by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	4,092	4,370	3,825	4,382	4,327	4,447
Skilled Workers	1,578	1,562	1,727	1,423	1,175	1,011
Other Economic	457	466	551	657	765	842
Refugees	2,628	3,095	3,013	3,045	3,225	3,298
Other / Unknown	81	97	87	193	261	254
Total	8,836	9,590	9,203	9,700	9,753	9,852

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Family class immigrants account for the largest number of clients participating in LINC 1 courses for each year during 2003-2008, followed by refugees and skilled workers. Once again, a large share of skilled workers are selected based on their labour market skills (including language proficiency) and as a result, may be less likely to enroll in lower levels of language training.
- The share of family class immigrants in LINC 1 training has been stable at around 45 percent since 2003, with a small decline in 2005.
- The share of skilled workers taking LINC 1 courses has decreased significantly, from 18 percent in 2003 to 10 percent in 2008. Over the same period, refugees and other economic immigrants have shown modest increases in enrolments in LINC 1.

Clients with Completed Training

- During 2003-2008, an average of 3,000 immigrants completed a LINC 1 course. The distribution of LINC 1 clients with completed courses across provinces mimics the trend of LINC 1 clients in training.
- Ontario accounts for the largest number of clients who completed training for each year during 2003-2008, followed by Alberta.
- The share of Ontario clients with completed LINC Level 1 training has decreased from 83 percent in 2003 to 76 percent in 2008. Over the same period, the share of clients in Alberta has increased 6 percent, from 13 percent in 2003 to 19 percent to 2008.

Table 10: Number of LINC Clients Completing Level 1 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	80	105	87	114	106	80
Newfoundland	25	20	25	45	28	23
Nova Scotia	29	38	27	37	34	41
Prince Edward Island	9	13	10	13	25	0
New Brunswick	17	34	25	19	19	16
Ontario	2,574	2,732	2,471	2,449	2,148	2,051
Alberta	385	434	437	454	455	514
Saskatchewan	47	95	93	93	132	63
Total	3,086	3,366	3,088	3,110	2,841	2,708

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Family class immigrants show the largest number of LINC 1 clients with completed training among all immigrant categories throughout the six-year period, followed by refugees and skilled workers.
- Since 2003, the share of skilled workers with completed LINC 1 courses has declined 10 percent, from 23 percent to 13 percent. In contrast, the share of refugees with completed LINC 1 training has increased 6 percent over the same period. Other economic immigrants also show increased numbers of clients completing a LINC 1 courses since 2003.

Table 11: Number of LINC Clients Completing Level 1 Courses by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	1,320	1,493	1,189	1,248	1,161	1,140
Skilled Workers	707	712	758	627	454	358
Other Economic	144	146	174	207	227	218
Refugees	894	990	935	976	939	943
Other / Unknown	21	25	32	52	60	49
Total	3,086	3,366	3,088	3,110	2,841	2,708

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- The overall completion rate has declined since 2003, from about 35 percent to 28 percent in 2008. This trend is evident in every province over the six-year period.
- The completion rates for LINC 1 courses vary across provinces. Clients in Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta have relatively higher completion rates than those in Ontario for each year during 2003-2008.
- Skilled workers have the highest completion rates among all immigrant categories throughout the six years since 2003 (an average of 42 percent for 2003-2008). The completion rates do not vary much among family class immigrants, refugees and other economic class immigrants, sitting at around 30 percent during 2003-2008.

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC 1 Courses

Table 12: Average Hours Taken To Complete a LINC Level 1 Course by Immigrant Category, 2005-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
Family Class	245	241	268	384	366	295	275	351
Skilled Workers	115	n/a	205	273	311	295	250	301
Other Economic	473	255	269	244	423	239	270	382
Refugees	322	398	360	304	499	415	372	459
Other / Unknown	n/a	n/a	279	318	382	158	227	359
Total	320	333	312	283	397	350	309	379

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- For all LINC 1 clients completing courses during 2005-2008, the average time taken to complete a course is 379 hours.
- Among all immigrant categories, refugees spend the longest time (459 hours) in class to complete a LINC 1 course, followed by other economic class (382 hours) and family class immigrants (351 hours). In contrast, skilled workers spend the shortest (301 hours).
- Clients in Ontario spend an average of 397 hours to complete a LINC 1 course, the longest time among all provinces. Given the large share of Ontario clients among all LINC 1 clients, this number drives up the Canadian average hours.
- Clients in Saskatchewan spend an average of 350 hours during 2005-2008 to finish a LINC 1 course, the second longest duration in class following the 397 hours for clients in Ontario. In contrast, clients in New Brunswick have the lowest number of hours in class to complete a LINC 1 course (283 hours).

LINC Level 2 Population

Clients in Training

Table 13: Number of Clients in LINC 2 Training by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	294	315	277	318	363	332
<i>Newfoundland</i>	43	52	40	73	53	52
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	150	136	127	133	154	180
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	25	34	31	27	47	4
<i>New Brunswick</i>	76	93	79	85	109	96
Ontario	11,222	11,544	10,971	10,846	10,376	10,295
Saskatchewan	159	224	231	228	303	253
Alberta	1,391	1,565	1,622	1,853	2,140	2,068
Total	13,066	13,648	13,101	13,245	13,182	12,948

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of 13,200 clients took LINC 2 training annually. The annual total peaked at 13,648 in 2004 and lowest numbers were recorded in 2008 at 12,948.
- Ontario accounts for the majority of clients in LINC 2 training with 82 percent of clients taking training over the 2003-2008 period. Alberta accounts for 13 percent of clients during the same period with other provinces making up the other 5 percent.
- The distribution of clients has changed slightly over time with two notable trends emerging. For Ontario, the proportion of clients in training has declined steadily from 86 percent in 2003 to 80 percent in 2008. In contrast, Alberta has noted an increase accounting for 11 percent of clients in training in 2003 to 16 percent in 2008.

Table 14: Number of Clients in LINC 2 Training by Immigration Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	5,063	5,468	5,179	5,351	5,505	5,455
Skilled workers	3,788	3,556	3,531	3,305	2,674	2,371
Other Economic	646	611	647	778	913	1,002
Refugees	3,431	3,839	3,569	3,508	3,704	3,737
Other / Unknown	138	174	175	303	386	383
Total	13,066	13,648	13,101	13,245	13,182	12,948

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Family class immigrants make up the majority of LINC 2 clients in training at just over 5,000 per year or 40 percent of clients during the 2003-2008 period. Refugees account for 28 percent of LINC 2 clients while skilled workers were at 24 percent during the 2003-2008 period.
- The share of refugees taking LINC 2 training is fairly stable, ranging from 26 percent to 29 percent from one year to the next. In contrast, skilled workers have noted steady declines in LINC 2 training, falling from 29 percent of LINC clients in 2003 to 18 percent of LINC clients in 2008.

Clients with Completed Training

Table 15: Number of Clients Completing LINC 2 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	93	108	94	128	115	98
<i>Newfoundland</i>	15	25	16	50	22	25
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	49	44	40	53	37	60
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	11	13	15	9	22	4
<i>New Brunswick</i>	18	26	23	16	34	9
Ontario	4,214	4,271	3,828	3,573	3,251	3,000
Saskatchewan	46	90	84	87	87	70
Alberta	556	671	725	780	859	791
Total	4,909	5,140	4,731	4,568	4,312	3,959

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of 4,600 clients completed LINC 2 courses annually. The annual total peaked at 5,140 in 2004 and lowest numbers were recorded in 2008 at 3,959.
- As might be expected, Ontario accounts for the majority of LINC 2 completions with 80 percent of all completions during 2003-2008. Alberta accounts for 16 percent of clients during the same period with other provinces making up the other 4 percent.
- As with the training data, the distribution of clients has also changed over time with two common trends emerging. For Ontario, the proportion of clients completing courses has declined steadily from 85 percent in 2003 to 75 percent in 2008. In contrast, Alberta has noted an increase, with 11 percent of clients in training in 2003 and 20 percent in 2008.

Table 16: Number of Clients Completing LINC 2 Courses by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	1,762	1,954	1,777	1,685	1,678	1,582
Skilled workers	1,725	1,575	1,505	1,405	1,067	838
Other Economic	237	226	212	265	312	306
Refugees	1,150	1,321	1,181	1,140	1,124	1,130
Other / Unknown	35	64	56	73	131	103
Total	4,909	5,140	4,731	4,568	4,312	3,959

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Looking at completions by category, family class immigrants make up the highest number of LINC 2 completions with an average of 1,740 clients completing courses (or 38 percent of total completions). Skilled workers average 1,350 completions (29 percent of total completions) and the average for refugees during 2003-2008 is 1,170 (26 percent of total completions).
- Skilled workers have the highest completion rates among all categories presented in this analysis. Over 2003-2008, 42 percent of skilled workers who were in LINC training completed a LINC course while the family class (33 percent) and refugees (32 percent) recorded lower completion rates.

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC 2 Courses

- As shown in the table below, on average, a LINC 2 client spends an average of 368 hours in class to complete a LINC 2 course, ranging from a low of 324 hours for skilled workers to a high of 441 hours for refugees depending on the year.

Table 17: Average Hours Taken to Complete a LINC 2 Course by Immigration Category, 2005-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
Family Class	228	330	245	658	350	269	335	346
Skilled Workers	318	n/a	208	676	319	265	347	324
Other Economic	385	295	285	513	414	279	344	396
Refugees	336	631	308	591	462	369	397	441
Other / Unknown	n/a	n/a	270	530	373	n/a	291	367
Total	331	518	278	556	372	313	359	368

Source: ICAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Among all immigration categories, refugees spend 73 more hours, or 20 percent more time in class to complete a course than the average for all immigrants (368 hours). Family class immigrants and skilled workers spend comparable hours to complete a course (346 and 324 hours, respectively).
- Across provinces, the average number of hours range from a low of 278 hours in Nova Scotia to a high of 556 for New Brunswick, however it should be noted that these regions have relatively small numbers of clients completing courses. Given the large shares of completions in Ontario and Alberta, it is not surprising to see the average number of hours for Ontario (372) and Alberta (359) very close to the national average (368).

LINC Level 3 Population

Clients In Training

Table 18: Number of Clients in LINC 3 Training by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	287	299	273	365	426	441
<i>Newfoundland</i>	44	54	34	80	47	52
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	137	129	112	151	187	239
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	20	22	27	23	36	15
<i>New Brunswick</i>	86	94	100	111	156	135
Ontario	16,692	17,486	16,928	15,761	14,931	14,588
Saskatchewan	178	230	260	226	277	206
Alberta	2,067	2,132	2,416	2,418	2,550	2,766
Total	19,224	20,147	19,877	18,770	18,184	18,001

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- From 2003 to 2008, an average of 19,000 clients enrolled in training for LINC level 3 each year.
- The majority of clients in LINC 3 are enrolled in training in Ontario (84 percent). Alberta accounts for an additional 13 percent of clients while the other provinces account for the remaining 3 percent.
- Although Ontario continues to account for the largest share of clients in training, its share has declined since 2003 from 87 percent to 81 percent in 2008. In contrast, Alberta has noted an increase in its share, accounting for 11 percent of clients in training in 2003 and 15 percent in 2008.

Table 19: Number of Clients in LINC 3 Training by Immigration Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	5,733	6,341	6,188	6,205	6,389	6,525
Skilled Workers	9,205	8,815	8,756	7,783	6,589	5,932
Other Economic	837	840	886	914	1,178	1,376
Refugees	3,286	3,887	3,777	3,437	3,441	3,556
Other / Unknown	163	264	270	431	587	612
Total	19,224	20,147	19,877	18,770	18,184	18,001

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Skilled workers make up the majority of LINC 3 clients in training at roughly 7,800 per year or 41 percent of clients during the 2003-2008 period. Family class immigrants account for 33 percent of LINC 3 clients while refugees made up 19 percent of clients during the 2003-2008 period.
- The share of refugees taking LINC 3 training is fairly stable, ranging from 17-20 percent throughout the period. In contrast, skilled workers have noted steady declines in LINC 3 training, falling from 48 percent of LINC clients in 2003 to 33 percent of LINC clients in 2008.

Clients with Completed Training

Table 20: Number of Clients Completing LINC 3 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	112	115	103	139	150	136
<i>Newfoundland</i>	18	23	12	49	28	25
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	60	61	38	57	63	76
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	10	13	17	9	20	2
<i>New Brunswick</i>	24	18	36	24	39	33
Ontario	6,240	6,336	5,967	5,269	4,831	4,537
Saskatchewan	45	65	69	51	60	57
Alberta	712	819	923	935	881	864
Total	7,109	7,335	7,062	6,394	5,922	5,594

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of 4,600 clients completed LINC 3 courses annually. The annual total peaked at 7,320 in 2004 and hit a low of 5,632 in 2008.
- As might be expected, Ontario accounts for the majority of LINC 3 completions with 84 percent of all completions during 2003-2008. However, this share is falling over time. Ontario's share decreases from nearly 90 percent in 2003 to 80 percent in 2008. Contrastingly, in 2008 Alberta accounts for 14 percent of clients, doubling from 7 percent in 2003.

Table 21: Number of Clients Completing LINC 3 Courses by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	1,988	2,173	2,029	1,924	1,936	1,917
Skilled Workers	3,835	3,558	3,554	3,070	2,503	2,160
Other Economic	259	269	291	269	319	342
Refugees	986	1,246	1,118	1,026	998	990
Other / Unknown	41	89	70	105	166	185
Total	7,109	7,335	7,062	6,394	5,922	5,594

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Skilled workers make up the highest number of LINC 3 completions, with an average of 3,100 clients completing courses (or 47 percent of total completions). Family class immigrants average 2,000 completions (30 percent of total completions) and the average for refugees over the period is 1060 (16% of total completions).
- Skilled workers have the highest completion rates among all categories presented in this analysis. Over 2003-2008, 40 percent of skilled workers who were in LINC training completed a LINC course while the family class (32 percent) and refugees (30 percent) recorded lower completion rates.

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC 3 Courses

- As shown in the table below, the average time taken to complete a LINC 3 course is 337 hours; however, there is substantial variance in this average across immigrant category and province.

Table 22: Average Hours Taken to Complete a LINC 3 Course by Immigration Category, 2005-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
Family Class	293	178	229	399	337	514	369	342
Skilled Workers	176	n/a	267	566	285	501	357	297
Other Economic	374	231	253	443	360	504	356	357
Refugees	329	317	260	355	440	569	393	425
Other / Unknown	122	n/a	232	135	388	480	298	382
Total	316	273	252	437	330	526	369	337

Source: ICAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Skilled workers spend less time in class to complete a LINC 3 course compared to the national average for all immigrants, with 40 fewer hours in class. In contrast, refugees spend the most time in class to complete a LINC 3 course, with 88 additional hours, or 26 percent more time in class.
- Clients in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia take the fewest number of hours to complete a LINC 3 course, while those in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick spend the most time in class to complete a course at this level.
- The large number of completions in Ontario and Alberta clearly influence the national averages and thus, the average number of hours taken to complete in Ontario (330) and Alberta (369) are very close to the Canadian average (337).

LINC Level 4 Population

Clients in Training

Table 23: Number of LINC Clients in Level 4 Training by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	198	208	193	223	340	382
<i>Newfoundland</i>	41	41	35	63	50	49
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	138	134	114	129	181	247
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	9	21	35	31	39	10
<i>New Brunswick</i>	10	12	9	0	70	76
Ontario	12,710	13,004	11,952	11,169	11,154	11,148
Alberta	1,253	1,673	1,900	1,934	2,084	1,900
Saskatchewan	75	103	130	103	114	92
Total	14,236	14,988	14,175	13,429	13,692	13,522

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- On average, 14,000 immigrants attended LINC 4 courses per year during 2003-2008. Among those immigrants, nearly 12,000 or 85 percent are in Ontario, followed by an average of 1,800 clients in Alberta, representing 13 percent of clients in LINC 4 training.
- The number of Ontario clients has declined since 2003. Its share of LINC 4 clients in training has dropped from 89 percent in 2003 to 82 percent in 2008. In contrast, during the same period, the share of Alberta clients in LINC 4 increased 5 percent, from 9 percent in 2003 to 14 percent in 2008.
- The trends of provincial shares of LINC 4 clients over time, once again, reflect the changes in trend of landing destinations among new immigrants since 2003. A decreased proportion of newcomers have landed in Ontario compared to earlier landing cohorts, while an increased share of immigrants choose Alberta as their destination to land.

Table 24: Number of LINC Clients in Level 4 Training by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	3,318	3,870	3,831	3,788	4,089	4,110
Skilled Workers	8,697	8,271	7,502	7,019	6,578	6,084
Other Economic	463	530	518	530	726	856
Refugees	1,634	2,111	2,103	1,802	1,907	2,042
Other / Unknown	124	206	221	290	392	430
Total	14,236	14,988	14,175	13,429	13,692	13,522

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Skilled workers represent the largest proportion of LINC 4 clients in training for each year during 2003-2008. An average of 7,400 skilled workers participate in LINC 4 training each year over the period from 2003 to 2008, representing 52 percent of all clients in LINC 4 courses.
- Family class immigrants account for the second largest number of clients in LINC 4 training during 2003-2008. Around 3,800 family class immigrants enroll in LINC 4 courses – representing 27 percent of all clients taking LINC 4 courses.
- A relatively steady number of refugees take LINC 4 courses over the period from 2003 to 2008. They represent about 14 percent of all clients.

- The proportion of skilled workers enrolling in level 4 training has dropped 15 percent since 2003. The share of family class immigrants has increased 7 percent during 2003-2008. The share of refugees in LINC 4 training has been quite stable over the same period, except for an initial increase in 2004.

Clients with Completed Training

- During 2003-2008, an average of 4,900 clients completed a LINC 4 course each year. Of those clients, a vast majority (85 percent) were in Ontario, followed by clients in Alberta (12 percent).

Table 25: Number of LINC Clients Completing Level 4 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	65	92	66	93	118	148
<i>Newfoundland</i>	14	11	5	25	11	25
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	38	59	33	56	60	88
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	4	11	23	12	16	4
<i>New Brunswick</i>	9	11	5	0	31	31
Ontario	4,733	4,632	4,053	3,837	3,917	3,822
Alberta	410	474	629	648	757	648
Saskatchewan	21	42	31	23	25	32
Total	5,229	5,240	4,779	4,601	4,817	4,650

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Consistent with the trend over time in provincial distributions of clients in LINC 4 training, the changes in distribution of clients completing LINC 4 courses across provinces since 2003 feature an increased proportion in Alberta and a lower share in Ontario.

Table 26: Number of LINC Clients Completing Level 4 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	1,214	1,311	1,206	1,242	1,394	1,395
Skilled Workers	3,284	3,030	2,690	2,553	2,443	2,234
Other Economic	153	157	153	159	248	260
Refugees	545	683	667	574	599	625
Other / Unknown	33	59	63	73	133	136
Total	5,229	5,240	4,779	4,601	4,817	4,650

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Skilled workers account for the majority of clients completing a LINC 4 course. During 2003-2008, about 55 percent of clients with completed LINC 4 courses are skilled workers, followed by family class immigrants (27 percent) and refugees (13 percent).
- The share of skilled workers completing a course has dropped from 63 percent in 2003 to 48 percent in 2008, a 15 percent decline. In contrast, over the same period, the proportion of family class immigrants with completed courses increases 7 percent.
- The average overall completion rate for LINC 4 courses is 35 percent during 2003-2008. And completion rates vary by province and immigrant category.
- During 2003-2008, Atlantic region (an average of 38 percent) and Ontario (an average of 35 percent) have relatively higher completion rates than other regions. Saskatchewan shows the lowest average completion rate (29 percent) over the six-year period.
- Skilled workers show the highest completion rates for each year during 2003-2008, resulting in an average of 37 percent completion rate over the six years, followed by family class immigrants and refugees (34 percent and 32 percent, respectively).

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC 4 Courses

Table 27: Average Hours Taken To Complete a LINC 4 Course by Immigrant Category, 2005-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
Family Class	292	165	260	362	303	444	369	312
Skilled Workers	125	318	271	273	273	391	357	285
Other Economic	n/a	233	264	353	328	429	323	320
Refugees	254	362	268	232	395	512	378	387
Other / Unknown	363	n/a	n/a	325	339	400	402	343
Total	246	301	265	332	299	445	364	309

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- It takes 309 hours for a client to complete a LINC 4 course during 2005-2008. The average hours taken to complete a course varies significantly by immigrant category and across provinces.
- Among all immigrant categories, refugees have to spend the longest time in class to complete a LINC 4 course (387 hours), followed by other economic class immigrants (320 hours) and family class immigrants (312 hours). Overall, skilled workers spend 285 hours, the shortest time to finish a LINC 4 course.
- As Ontario represents the lion's share of clients completing a LINC 4 course, the average hours reflect the Canadian numbers. A client in Ontario spends 299 hours on average to complete a LINC 4 course.
- Clients in Saskatchewan tend to spend much longer time in class to finish a LINC 4 course (445 hours), compared to those in other provinces. Clients in Alberta and New Brunswick also have to spend longer-than-average times to complete a LINC 4 courses (364 hours and 332 hours, respectively).

LINC Level 5 Population

Clients in Training

Table 28: Number of Clients in LINC 5 Training by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	172	195	175	210	211	283
<i>Newfoundland</i>	39	34	9	36	28	35
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	126	153	150	155	147	210
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	2	8	14	18	29	11
<i>New Brunswick</i>	5	0	2	1	7	27
Ontario	7,403	7,890	7,258	6,866	7,576	7,785
Saskatchewan	30	41	50	35	30	40
Alberta	189	324	302	62	116	298
Total	7,794	8,450	7,785	7,173	7,933	8,406

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of 7,900 clients took LINC 5 training annually. The annual total peaked at 8,450 in 2004 and lowest numbers were recorded in 2006 at 7,173.
- Ontario accounts for the overwhelming majority of clients in LINC 5 training accounting for 94 percent of clients over the 2003-2008 period. Alberta accounts for 3 percent of clients during the same period and clients training in Nova Scotia made up 2 percent of the total.
- The distribution of clients has not changed that much over the duration of the LINC program with immigrants in Ontario consistently making up between 93 and 96 percent of clients.

Table 29: Number of Clients in LINC 5 Training by Immigration Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	1,617	1,933	1,938	1,825	2,170	2,354
Skilled workers	5,121	5,213	4,513	4,121	4,254	4,335
Other Economic	229	259	240	274	355	479
Refugees	762	944	963	805	924	970
Other / Unknown	65	101	131	148	230	268
Total	7,794	8,450	7,785	7,173	7,933	8,406

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Immigrants in the skilled worker category make up the majority of LINC 5 clients in training at close to 4,600 per year or 58 percent of the total during the 2003-2008 period.
- Family class immigrants account for 25 percent of LINC 5 clients while refugees made up 11 percent during the 2003-2008 period.
- Skilled workers have noted steady declines in LINC 5 training, falling from 66 percent of clients in 2003 to 52 percent in 2008. Family class immigrants noted increases from 21 percent in 2003 to 28 percent in 2008.

Clients with Completed Training

Table 30: Number of Clients Completing LINC 5 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	39	59	46	70	67	74
Newfoundland	11	14	5	0	6	1
Nova Scotia	22	38	35	58	54	68
Prince Edward Island	1	7	6	12	7	2
New Brunswick	5	0	0	0	0	3
Ontario	2,202	2,542	2,094	1,988	2,566	2,473
Saskatchewan	8	13	23	6	5	3
Alberta	70	124	140	24	34	151
Total	2,319	2,738	2,303	2,088	2,672	2,701

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Over the 2003-2008 period, an average of 2,500 clients completed LINC 5 courses annually. The annual total peaked at 2,738 in 2004 and lowest numbers were recorded in 2006 at 2,088.
- As might be expected, Ontario accounts for the majority of LINC 5 completions with 94 percent of all completions during 2003-2008. Alberta accounts for nearly 4 percent of clients during the same period and Nova Scotia at 2 percent.

Table 31: Number of Clients Completing LINC 5 Courses by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	506	607	557	513	723	738
Skilled workers	1,534	1,768	1,391	1,250	1,501	1,483
Other Economic	72	71	61	83	96	123
Refugees	196	273	263	213	279	282
Other / Unknown	11	19	31	29	73	75
Total	2,319	2,738	2,303	2,088	2,672	2,701

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Looking at completions by category, skilled workers make up the highest number of LINC 5 completions with an average of 1,500 clients completing courses (or 60 percent of total completions). Family class immigrants average 600 completions (25 percent of total completions) and the average for refugees during 2003-2008 is 250 (10 percent of total completions).
- Completion rates are fairly consistent among all categories presented in this analysis with slightly higher completion rates for skilled workers and lower for other immigrants and refugees.

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC 5 Courses

- As shown in the table below, on average, a LINC 5 client spends an average of 310 hours in class to complete a LINC 5 course, ranging from a low of 289 hours for skilled workers to a high of 404 hours for refugees.

Table 32: Average Hours Taken to Complete a LINC 5 Course by Immigration Category, 2005-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
Family Class	214	240	325	n/a	314	422	301	313
Skilled Workers	98	300	312	n/a	291	392	216	289
Other Economic	n/a	326	285	383	353	259	307	336
Refugees	260	315	440	n/a	408	392	331	404
Other / Unknown	n/a	n/a	280	350	324	n/a	257	323
Total	227	317	333	372	311	393	262	310

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Refugees spend 94 more hours, or 30 percent more time in class to complete a course than the average for all immigrants (310 hours). Family class immigrants spend slightly more time than skilled workers to complete a course (313 and 289 hours, respectively).
- Across provinces, the average number of hours range from a low of 227 hours in Newfoundland to a high of 393 for Saskatchewan, however it should be noted that these regions have relatively small numbers of clients completing courses and are influenced to a greater degree by outliers in the data. Given the large number of completions in Ontario, it is not surprising to see the average number of hours for Ontario (311) is very close to the national average (310).

LINC Level 6 and 7 Population

Clients in Training

Note that LINC 6 and LINC 7 are combined in this analysis due to the small numbers of clients enrolled in these LINC levels. Information for LINC level 6 and 7 begins in 2006 as LINC training at these levels was not offered prior to that.

Table 33: Number of Clients in LINC 6 and 7 Training by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	0	0	0	12	33	69
<i>Newfoundland</i>	0	0	0	1	0	3
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	0	0	0	11	32	64
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>New Brunswick</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ontario	0	0	0	311	3,681	5,008
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	1	2	4
Alberta	0	0	0	1	13	46
Total	0	0	0	325	3,729	5,127

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- As can be seen from the table above, training at LINC 6 and 7 has increased considerably since 2006 – rising from 325 in training in 2006 to 5,127 by 2008. Ontario makes up the overwhelming majority of LINC clients at these levels.

Table 34: Number of Clients in LINC 6 and 7 Training by Immigration Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	0	0	0	81	915	1,268
Skilled workers	0	0	0	208	2,289	3,051
Other Economic	0	0	0	8	102	182
Refugees	0	0	0	25	334	486
Other / Unknown	0	0	0	3	89	140
Total	0	0	0	325	3,729	5,127

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- The initial figures for LINC 6 and 7 training indicate that 60 percent of clients are skilled workers. Family class immigrants make up 25 percent of clients and refugees make up less than 10 percent. This is not surprising given the lower levels of official language knowledge for family class and refugees which result in greater numbers of these immigrants enrolling in LINC courses at lower levels.

Clients with Completed Training

Table 35: Number of Clients Completing LINC 6 and 7 Courses by Province, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Atlantic Region	0	0	0	0	8	34
<i>Newfoundland</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	0	0	0	0	8	34
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>New Brunswick</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	0	0	0	14	810	1,086
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta	0	0	0	0	10	29
Total	0	0	0	14	828	1,149

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- The completions data mirror trends observed for those in training, except at a lower overall count. There were 14 clients completing LINC 6 and/or 7 courses in 2006 and this number increased to 1,149 by 2008. Ontario accounts for 96 percent of all clients who completed a LINC 6 and/or 7 courses.

Table 36: Number of Clients Completing LINC 6 and 7 Courses by Immigrant Category, 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Family Class	0	0	0	5	213	299
Skilled workers	0	0	0	5	512	671
Other Economic	0	0	0	0	20	43
Refugees	0	0	0	4	68	105
Other / Unknown	0	0	0	0	15	31
Total	0	0	0	14	828	1,149

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- Skilled workers account for 60 percent of clients completing LINC 6 and/or 7 courses – the same proportion enrolled in training.
- The completion rates for LINC 6 and/or 7 (22 percent) are substantially lower than the rates for the other LINC levels. The lower rate may be the result of incomplete completions data for the most recent observations or it may be due to the fact that clients feel that they have reached an adequate language competency level and have declined further language instruction.

Average Hours Taken to Complete LINC 6 and 7 Courses

Due to the low number of completions for LINC 6 and LINC 7, the average hours taken to complete LINC courses at these two levels is subject to large variability and a detailed breakdown of the average hours by province and immigration category is not shown. Instead, provincial totals are shown for all immigrants.

Table 37: Average Hours Taken to Complete a LINC 6-7 Course by Immigration Category, 2006-2008

	NL	PE	NS	NB	ON	SK	AB	Canada
All Immigrants	n/a	n/a	234	n/a	250	n/a	390	252

Source: iCAMS and HARTS, CIC

- As shown above, on average, LINC 6 or 7 clients spend an average of 252 hours in class to complete the LINC course, ranging from a low of 234 hours in Nova Scotia to a high of 390 hours in Alberta.⁷

⁷ Due to the low number of completions observed for these LINC levels, caution should be used when interpreting results.