Longitudinal Immigration database (IMDB)

An Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada and Statistics Canada partnership

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IRCC and STC collaboration

- The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) was created in 1997.

- IRCC and Statistics Canada have been in collaboration extensively on the development since its beginning.
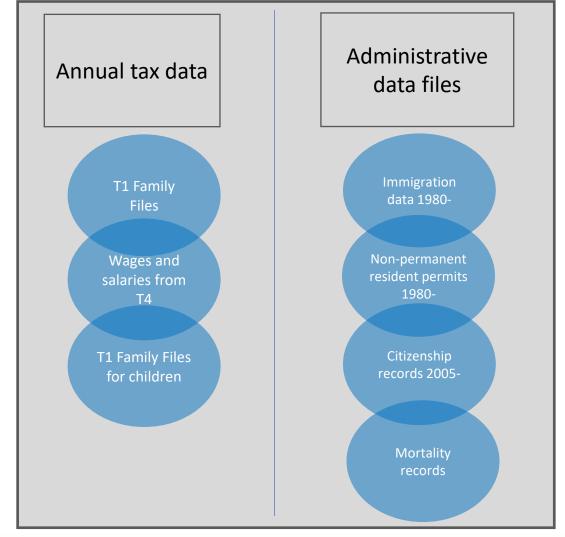
Context of immigration in Canada

- Two options to reside in Canada
  - Non-permanent residency
  - Permanent residency

- Immigrants are admitted as permanent residents for different reasons
  - Economic immigrants: Contributing to Canada's economy (60%)
  - Sponsored family: Reuniting with family members (27%)
  - Refugees: Seeking protection and escaping persecution (12%)

- Immigrants represent 21.9% of the population (2016 Census)

What is the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)?

- A database updated annually, the 2016 IMDB includes:
  - All immigrants admitted to Canada from 1980 to 2017
  - All non-permanent permits from 1980 to 2017
  - Tax files from 1982 to 2016 for linked immigrants

- A database that :
  - provides longitudinal, detailed, and reliable data on socio-economic outcomes of immigrants after admission

  - Permits analysis on immigrants' past non-permanent residency activity

  - Connects short- and long-term outcomes with characteristics at admission

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Source of IMDB content

Annual tax data
- T1 Family Files
- Wages and salaries from T4
- T1 Family Files for children

Administrative data files
- Immigration data 1980-
- Non-permanent resident permits 1980-
- Citizenship records 2005-
- Mortality records

What are some of the immigration data included in the IMDB?

- **For permanent residents :**

  - Admission category & admission date
  - Intended occupation
  - Knowledge of official language at admission
  - Country of birth
  - Intended place of residence in Canada
  - And more…

- **For individuals with non-permanent resident permits:**

  - Document type (refugee claims, work or study permits),
  - Effective and valid date
  - Study level & skill level
  - Selection program
  - And more..

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What are some of the tax data included in the IMDB for immigrants?

- Individual and family level incomes :
  - Employment income
  - Social assistance
  - Industry of employment (NAICS)
  - Tax credit for post-secondary education
  - Place of residence for taxation year
  - And much more…

- Family composition for each tax year
  - Family size
  - Marital status, spousal identifier
  - Number of children, by age
  - Number of immigrants in the family

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What are the advantages of using the IMDB?

- Longitudinal design permits analysis of cohorts over time

- Detailed annual update of socio-economic outcomes at the person and family level

- Its administrative nature facilitated numerous enhancements/integration over the years, e.g. linkages to social surveys and administrative databases.

- Permits detailed analysis of small populations e.g. Syrian refugees
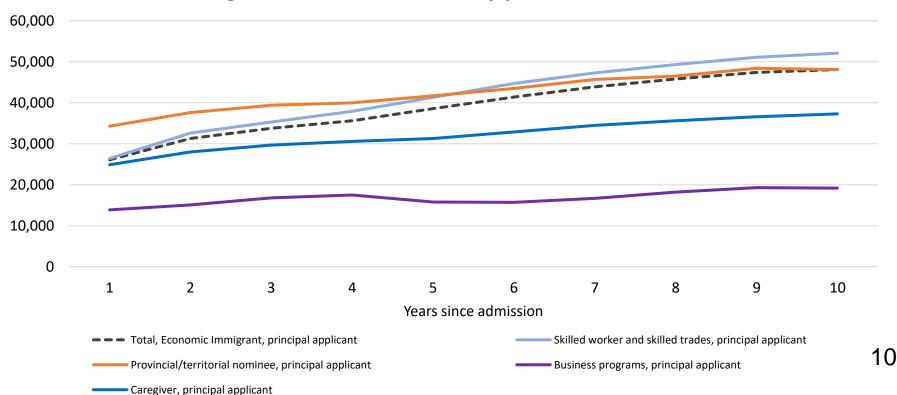
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Analytical capacity

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Measuring incomes trends

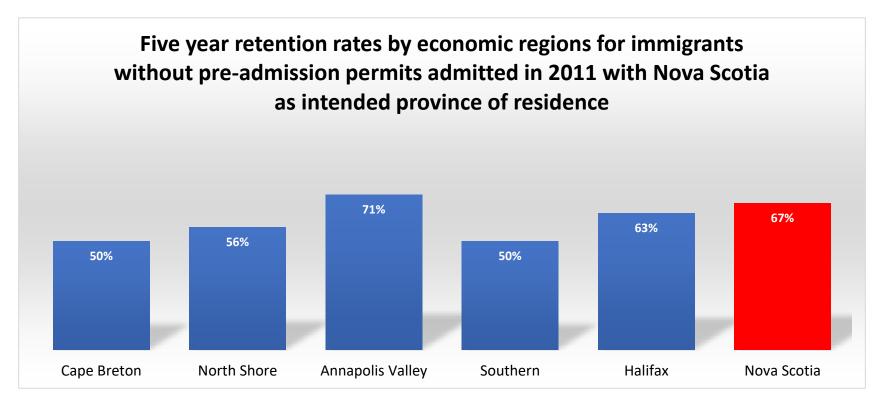**Median total income of principal applicants who were economic immigrants admitted in 2006, by years since admission**

Legend:
- - - - Total, Economic Immigrant, principal applicant
——— Provincial/territorial nominee, principal applicant
——— Caregiver, principal applicant
——— Skilled worker and skilled trades, principal applicant
——— Business programs, principal applicant

X-axis: Years since admission

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Longitudinal Immigration Database, product 43-10-0010

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Measuring mobility

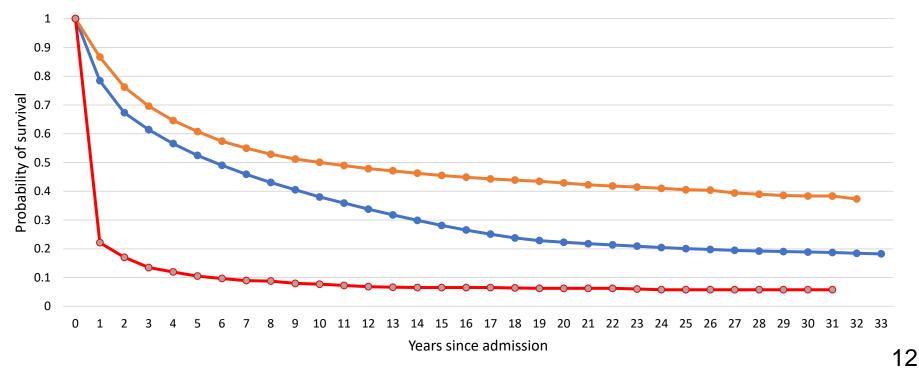**Five year retention rates by economic regions for immigrants without pre-admission permits admitted in 2011 with Nova Scotia as intended province of residence**

Cape Breton	North Shore	Annapolis Valley	Southern	Halifax	Nova Scotia
50%	56%	71%	50%	63%	67%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Longitudinal Immigration Database, product 43-10-0013

Event history analysis

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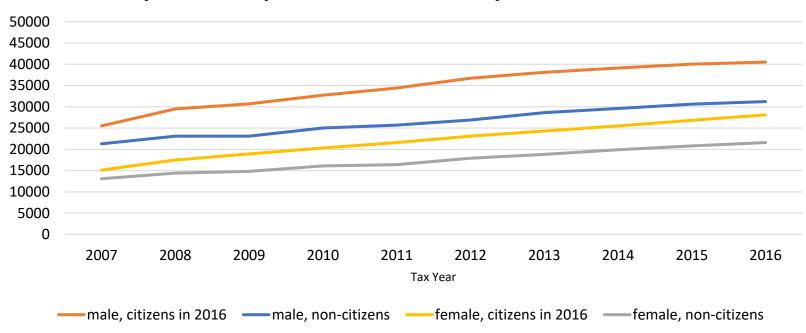

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New analytical capacity

Median wages of immigrant taxfilers who landed in 2006, by citizenship status and sex, tax year 2007 to 2016

Legend:
- male, citizens in 2016
- male, non-citizens
- female, citizens in 2016
- female, non-citizens

X-axis: Tax Year (2007–2016)
Y-axis: 0 to 50000

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Longitudinal Immigration Database

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Recent IMDB enhancements

- Data integration to the IMDB
  - Wages and salaries data from T4
  - Children family data from T1FF
  - Settlement service data

- New variables to the IMDB
  - Citizenship acquisition date
  - Syrian refugee flag
  - Express entry flag (i.e. immigrant selection)

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Accessing IMDB related data at a Research Data Centre (RDC)

RDCs are secure computer laboratories on university campuses that house Statistics Canada microdata master files

Researchers are deemed employees of Statistics Canada

Major statistical software packages

Vetted results are sent to researchers

Staffed by Statistics Canada employees

There are over 30 RDCs across Canada

Researchers at different RDCs can collaborate on projects

☆ Centre

■ Branch

IMDB data integration already available in the Research Data Centres

Canadian Community Health Survey (Annual and Focus content) linked to Longitudinal Immigration Database

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada linked to Longitudinal Immigration Database

Longitudinal Immigration Database linked to the Discharge Abstract Database 2000-2013
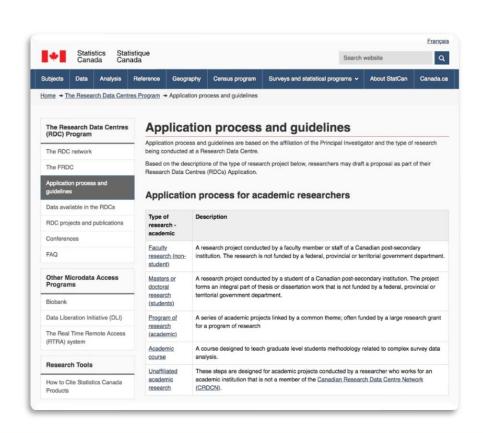
Other available data sources include:

Over 500 cycles of data

Major Household Surveys and Census

How to get access to the RDC?

process

- **(Does not take long!)**
  On average, researchers can be granted access to data already in the RDC within 2 months.

- No fees for student research projects.

- Generally no fees for academic researchers from participating institutions.

- Access is now easier for Provincial and Territorial Government researchers.

Support material

- Technical report / User Guide available online
  - Describe the IMDB, components, and data quality
  - Provide guidance/examples of best practices

- Dynamic Tables
  - National/provincial/sub-provincial level
  - Income and mobility outcomes
  - IMDB web page:
    http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&Id=1205537

- Custom tabulations
  - Tables produced by Statistics Canada upon request

- Data Dictionary available on demand

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Dynamic Charts

English: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2019003-eng.htm
French: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/71-607-x/71-607-x2019003-fra.htm

IRCC-Statistics Canada collaboration

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

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

- If you wish to contact IRCC regarding your research, please e-mail: IRCC.REKMPPartnerships-PartenariatsMCPDGRE.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

For more information, please visit
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THANK YOU!

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