Canadian Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)
Presentation to the 2019 UNECE Work Session on Migration Statistics

Delivering insight through data for a better Canada

Context of immigration in Canada

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

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

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

*Actual percentages by admission category vary year to year. Values shown are based on averages from 2000-2016
Developed with the participation of federal and provincial partners

- The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and all 10 Canadian provinces
- The IMDB connects administrative immigration and citizenship data with longitudinal socio-economic outcomes, facilitating broad and detailed analysis and research
- The results can be accessed via tables online, research publications, interactive applications, custom tabulations and microdata access in the Research Data Centres (RDC)

Primary statistical needs addressed

- Longitudinal design to understand short- and long-term outcomes of immigrants to Canada
- Connection between characteristics at admission (and immigration policy and program levers such as admission category) and socio-economic outcomes afterwards
- Ability to measure outcomes for very specific subsets of immigrants (e.g. specific admission categories for single cohort years)
- Understanding within-Canada migration patterns of immigrants at lower levels of geography
Traditional source files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permanent resident files from Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada, 1980-</th>
<th>Longitudinal Tax files (T1FF) from the Canadian Revenue Agency, 1982-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Information at admission:</td>
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<td>• Admission category</td>
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<td>• Admission date</td>
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<td>• Country of birth</td>
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<td>• Knowledge of official language at admission</td>
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<td>• Intended occupation</td>
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<td>• Intended place of residence in Canada</td>
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<td>• and much more…</td>
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<td>• Individual and family level incomes:</td>
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<td>• Employment income</td>
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<td>• Social assistance</td>
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<td>• Industry (NAICS)</td>
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<td>• Tax credit for post-secondary education</td>
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<td>• Place of residence for taxation year</td>
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<td>• Family composition:</td>
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<td>• Family size</td>
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<td>• Marital status</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of children, by age</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Number of immigrants in the family</td>
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<td>• and much more…</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Population coverage limitations of source administrative data

- Percentage filing taxes by age and admission category, immigrants landed in 1999 at the age of 14

- The rate of tax filing increases rapidly between 15 and 19 years of age. The tax filing rate stays constant for family class immigrants and refugees, but decreases from a peak of 81% to 70% among those in the economic class by the time they are 29 years old.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2014 Longitudinal Immigration Database
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Incomes of 25 to 30 year olds differ by age group at admission

Mean total income ($) vs. Age

- 0 to 4 years old
- 5 to 9 years old
- 10 to 14 years old

Source: Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB), 2014
Note: All amounts in this presentation are in 2014 Canadian dollars

Incidence of employment among refugees increases over time

Incidence of employment for refugees, by selected geographies of residence and years since admission (YSA), immigrants admitted in 2006

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Key new developments for the IMDB

- Expanded universe to include all immigrants and non-permanent residents since 1980
  - Including longitudinal NPR permits with details
- New module for children to connect outcomes of immigrant children with the outcomes of their parents
- Integrated Citizenship data since 2005
- Added salaries and wages data from T4s
  - Outcomes available 1 year earlier
  - Better coverage of temporary foreign workers
- New data tables and data visualization tool available online

**Target population:**

All immigrants admitted to Canada since 1980
All non-permanent resident permits since 1980

**Immigration Administrative Data**

- Permanent resident files 1980-
- Temporary resident permits 1980-
- Citizenship records 2005-
- Settlement services 2013-

**Longitudinal tax data and other administrative data**

- Annual tax files 1982-
- Wages & salaries 1997-
- Tax based Family Files for children 1982-
- Mortality records 1980-

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

Source: Statistics Canada, 2015 Longitudinal Immigration Database
Children admitted before 5 years old, living in low-income families two years after their admission, have lower incomes as adults than those who were not, 2016 constant $.

Next steps and upcoming developments

- Enhanced website presence
  - Portal dedicated to immigration statistics with focus on IMDB
  - New tables to better address emerging needs of provinces and other stakeholders
    - Asylum seekers, international students, and temporary foreign workers
    - Citizenship and pre-admission experience
    - More outcomes at lower levels of geography
    - Immigrant families and children
  - Increased use of data visualization
- Expanded universe to cover immigrants since 1952
- Connections between the IMDB and other data sources

For more information, please visit
www.statcan.gc.ca

Consult the IMDB technical report:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-633-x/11-633-x2018019-eng.htm

THANK YOU!

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