A Snapshot of Labour Market Outcomes among Immigrants in Alberta

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Objectives of Triangulation Project

• **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**: to better understand the settlement experiences of immigrants in western Canada and how they may compare to immigrants in other western provinces
  – *Labour market, service use, social integration, language*

• **TODAY’S OBJECTIVES**
  – Examine and compare various labour market outcomes among immigrants in Alberta and the rest of Canada with special attention to: *unemployment indicators, accessing information about finding work and job status decline*
Selected demographics of Immigrants in Alberta

- 16.3% live in rural areas
- 13.2% live in small cities

Immigrants by Area of Birth, Alberta

- 57% North America
- 20% Europe
- 8% Asia
- 3% Africa
- 3% Central/South America & Caribbean

Immigrants by Entrance Class, Alberta

- 40% Skilled Worker or Professional
- 17% Family Class
- 3% Provincial Nominee
- 3% Refugee
- 10% Other
- 30% Other

- 18.1% of Alberta born outside of Canada
- 14.5% of all immigrants to Canada move to Alberta, #3 in Canada
- Annually 45,000 TFWs in Alberta
- Annually over 20,000 international students in Alberta
Unemployment rate is lowest in Alberta

Unemployment Rate by Immigration Class and Province of Residence

- **BC**
  - Skilled Workers/Professionals: 14.0%
  - Provincial Nominee: 13.2%
  - Refugee: 17.5%
  - Other: 19.7%

- **AB**
  - Skilled Workers/Professionals: 10.1%
  - Provincial Nominee: 3.8%
  - Refugee: 5.5%
  - Other: 4.5%

- **SK**
  - Skilled Workers/Professionals: 8.5%
  - Provincial Nominee: 9.0%
  - Refugee: 28.9%
  - Other: 28.6%

- **MB**
  - Skilled Workers/Professionals: 13.0%
  - Provincial Nominee: 10.3%
  - Refugee: 11.3%
  - Other: 11.8%
Males in Alberta find job information most easily but females have more difficulty

Source: Pan-Cdn

$X^2$ (Male) = 158.677 df=18  P≤0.000;  $X^2$ (Female) = 172.974 df=18  P≤0.000
Rural residents in AB & SK feel lack of Canadian experience makes it difficult for them to find work.

### Difficulty finding a job due to lack of Canadian experience by Urban Residence and Province of Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province of Residence</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>SK</th>
<th>MB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
<td>881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>1573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trouble finding work that matches my qualifications by province and class

Respondents who indicated it has been difficult to find a job due to not a lot jobs available that match my qualifications by Immigration Class and Province of Residence

- BC: 24.3% (Skilled Workers/Professionals), 8.4% (Family Class), 11.4% (Refugee), 26.0% (Other)
- AB: 27.9% (Skilled Workers/Professionals), 20.1% (Family Class), 25.9% (Refugee), 27.9% (Other)
- SK: 41.7% (Skilled Workers/Professionals), 35.9% (Family Class), 46.7% (Refugee), 50.0% (Other)
- MB: 18.1% (Skilled Workers/Professionals), 7.7% (Family Class), 20.0% (Refugee), 22.1% (Other)

2nd highest
lowest
Alberta immigrants satisfied with pre-arrival FQR

PCSS, 2013

$X^2$ (Male) = 122.358  df= 18  $P \leq 0.000$; $X^2$ (Female) = 108.970  df= 18  $P \leq 0.000$
Post-arrival job status, immigrants compared to Canadian-born

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Immigrant</th>
<th>Born in Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-arrival</td>
<td>Post-arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC A</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC B</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC C</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC D</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among university-educated immigrants, 43% of females and 35% of males worked in occupations requiring a high school education or less. In comparison, only 15% of university-educated Canadian-born worked in occupations requiring high school education or less.

Statistics Canada ALF 2014; WCSS 2013; Uppall and Larochelle-Côte 2014
Change in post-arrival skill level by province

- MB: 23% Up, 27% Same, 51% Down
- SK: 20% Up, 28% Same, 52% Down
- AB: 23% Up, 27% Same, 51% Down
- BC: 23% Up, 25% Same, 53% Down
Job Status Decline by province REFUGEES

Source: WCSS
$X^2=35.927$
P<0.01
Job Status Decline by province: PN

Source: WCSS

\[ X^2 = 19.454 \]

\[ P < 0.01 \]
Job status decline by province: Skilled/Prof Worker

Source: WCSS

$X^2=15.227$

$P<0.01$
What do we know about labour market indicators for immigrants in Alberta?

• Labour market indicators for many immigrants in Alberta are mostly strong
  – It’s the easiest place to locate information about finding a job
  – More likely to identify a strong mismatch between skills and job, especially among those living in rural areas
  – Lack of Canadian experience makes it difficult to find work

• Job status decline is a real problem and is linked to belonging and happiness
  – Refugees in AB have the least job status decline
  – AB second worst performer for PN and Skilled/professional workers
Additional Findings, Reports and Information

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http://umanitoba.ca/about_RIW.html
Selected Data Sources

Acknowledgements

- Immigration Research West
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Western Region
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada, National Headquarters
- Western Settlement Survey University of Saskatchewan: Martin Gaal, Joe Garcea and SSRL
- Population Research Laboratory, University of Alberta
- Western Settlement Survey researchers: Victoria Esses (Western University), Leah Hamilton (Mount Royal University) and Li Zong (University of Saskatchewan)
- Research assistants: Janine Bramadat, Palak Dhiman, Kaitlyn Fraser, University of Manitoba