

LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES OF REFUGEES IN CANADA

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JOB STATUS DECLINE AND REFUGEES: WHAT DO WE KNOW?

- Individuals who are over educated and under employed have significant wellbeing and health related issues
- The unemployment rate of newcomers is about 3% higher than those born in Canada
 - Among refugees, the unemployment rate is twice as high as the national average for Canadian-born
 - Among refugee youth, the unemployment rate is three times as high as the national average for Canadian born youth
- Sense of belonging, community involvement and other issues related to successful integration are hampered when persons do not reach their earnings potential
- Under employment is a serious issue among newcomers, especially refugees
 - Refugees are more likely to have problems comprehending an official language
 - Refugees are more likely to have difficulty producing evidence of their education and work experience
 - It takes, on average, 14+ years for a refugee's income to meet that of a similarly educated Canadian citizen

Xu, 2012; Krahn et al., 2001; Wilkinson et al., 2012; Wilkinson 2010
Sweetman, 2010; Wanner, 2010; Li 2010.

REFUGEES TO CANADA: DEMOGRAPHICS

- Between 2009 and 2013 122,486 refugees arrived to Canada: the second highest of all industrialized nations
 - Less than 3% of all persons in refugee situations ever make it to an industrialized nation
- Between 15,000 and 25,000 refugees arrive per year
 - 24% government sponsored refugees
 - 18% privately sponsored (40% go to Winnipeg!)
 - 37% refugee claimants (but only 54% stay in Canada)
 - 21% are children
- Two-thirds arrive prior to their 15th birthday
 - 60% are female

CIC, 2014; UNHCR 2012 (calculations by author)
CIC, 2013

DATASETS USED

Pan Canadian (N=20,818), **Western Canadian** (N=3006) and **Alberta Settlement** (N=1006) Surveys

- Random samples drawn from a CIC data file
- Telephone survey conducted in late 2012/early 2013
- Response rates: between 24.6% and 38.0%

IMDB

- Landings records (LIDS) combined with tax files for all immigrants and refugees landing between 1980 and 2012
- Census of the population

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (2004)

- Followed 5,000 immigrants for their first two years in Canada (landing between 2002-2004)

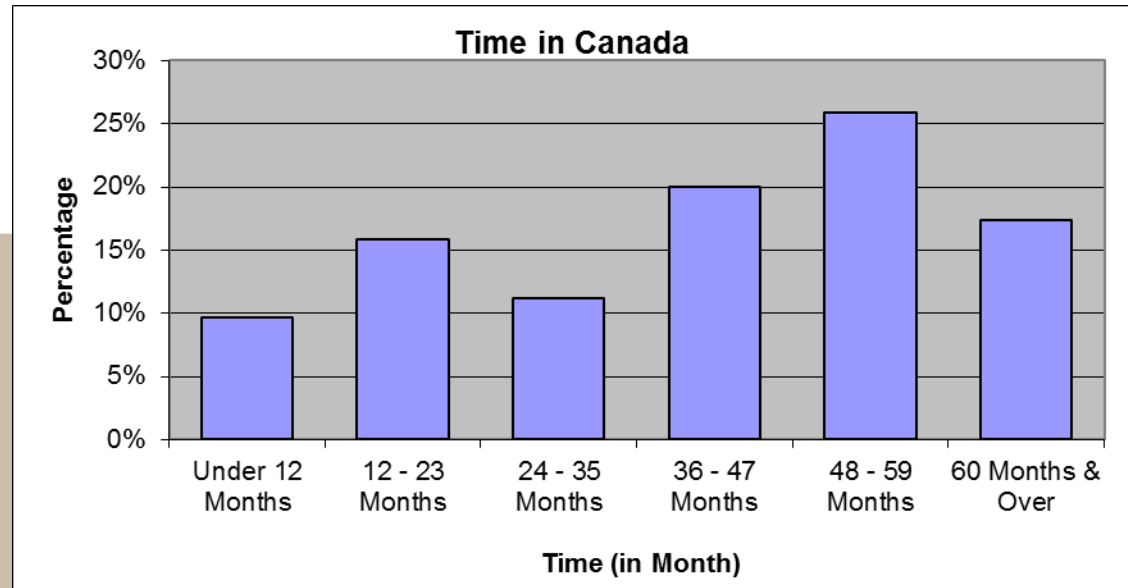
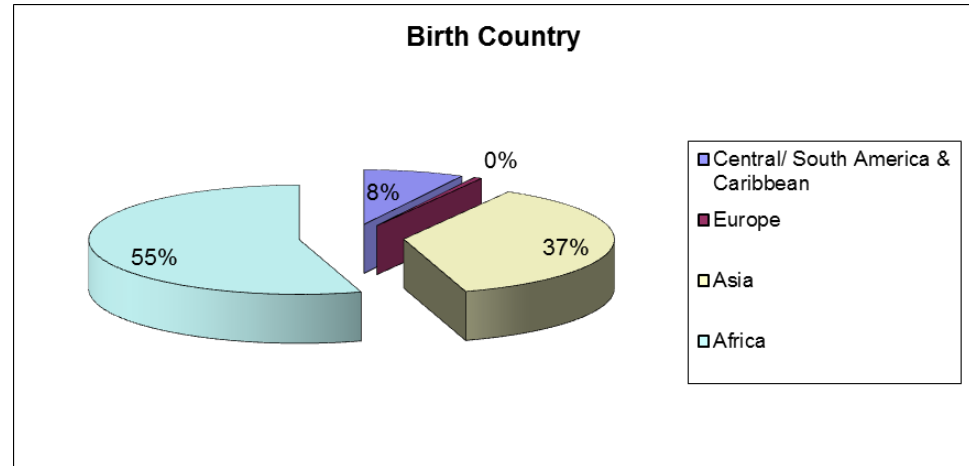
CHARACTERISTICS OF REFUGEES IN OUR STUDY

53% are male (so we weighted the data to bring the females higher)

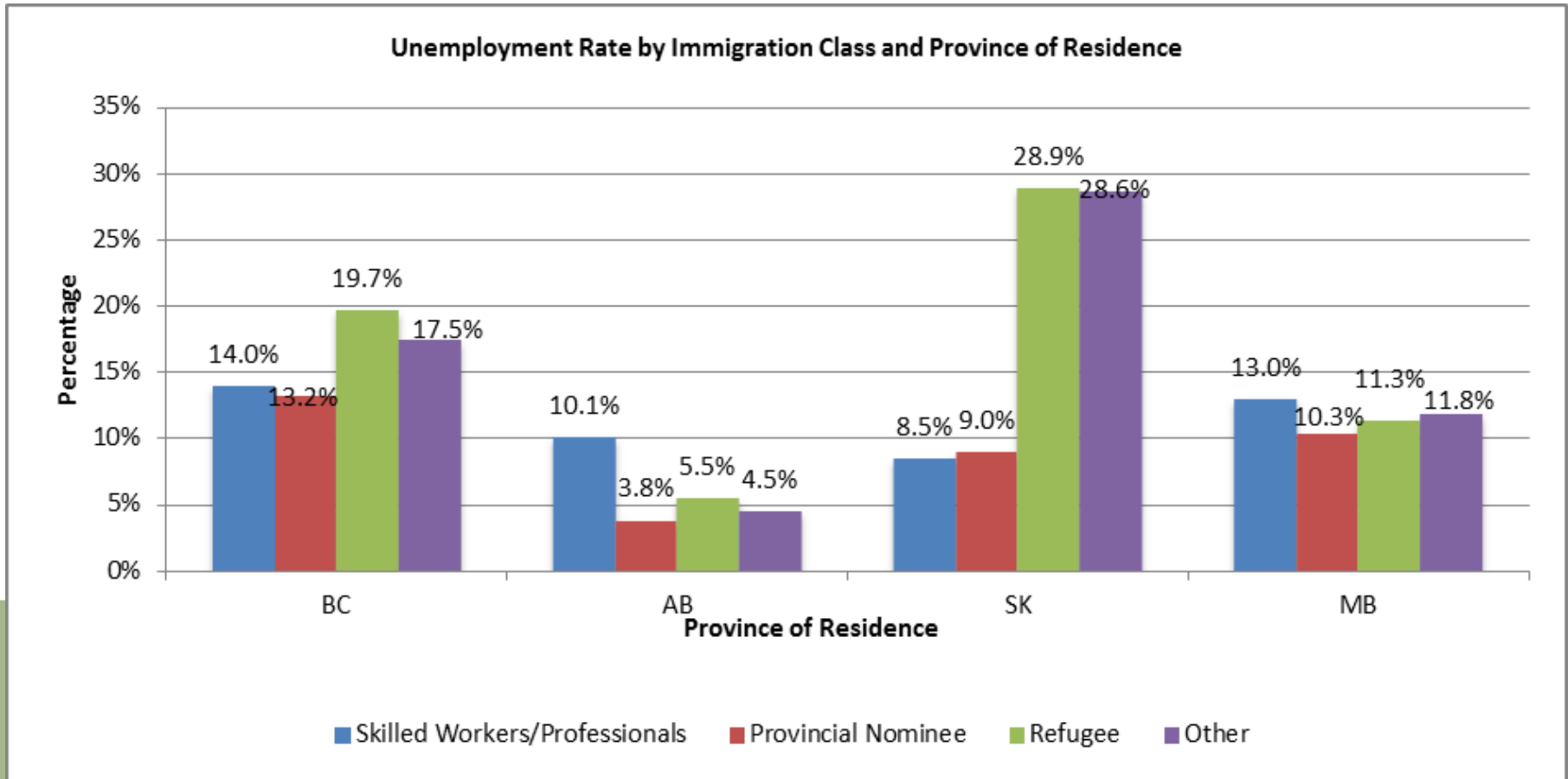
Refugees in Alberta over-represented

35.8% have (self-assessed) language difficulties

13% have French mother tongue

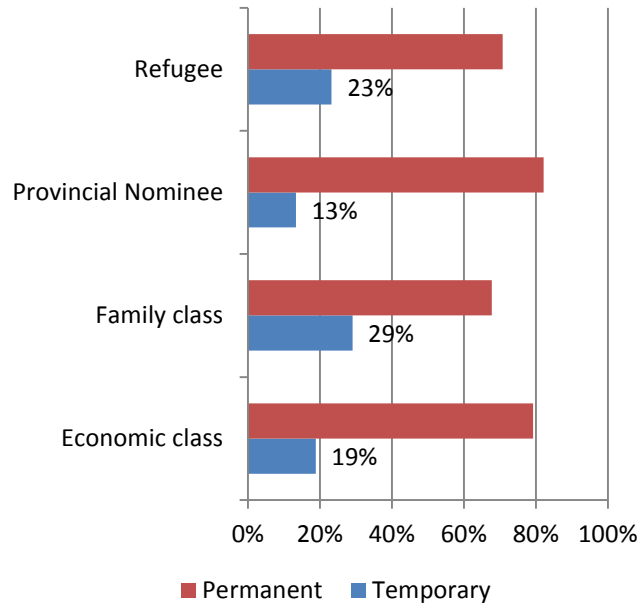


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY ENTRANCE CLASS & PROVINCE

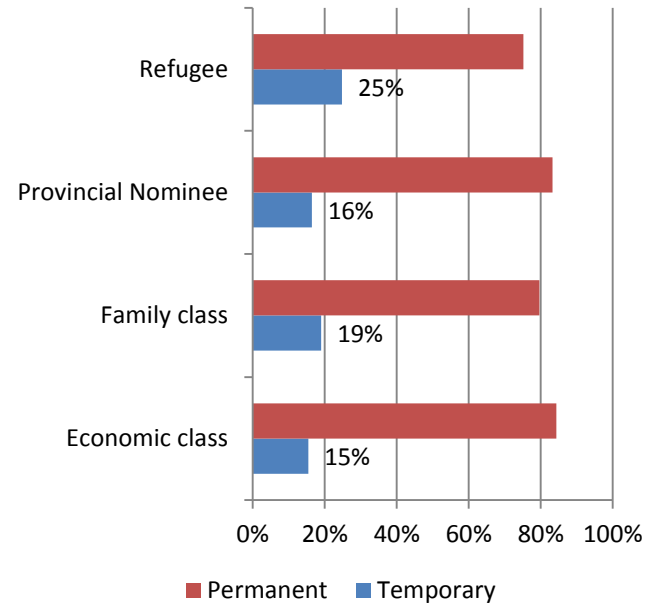


CURRENT JOB TENURE BY SEX AND CLASS

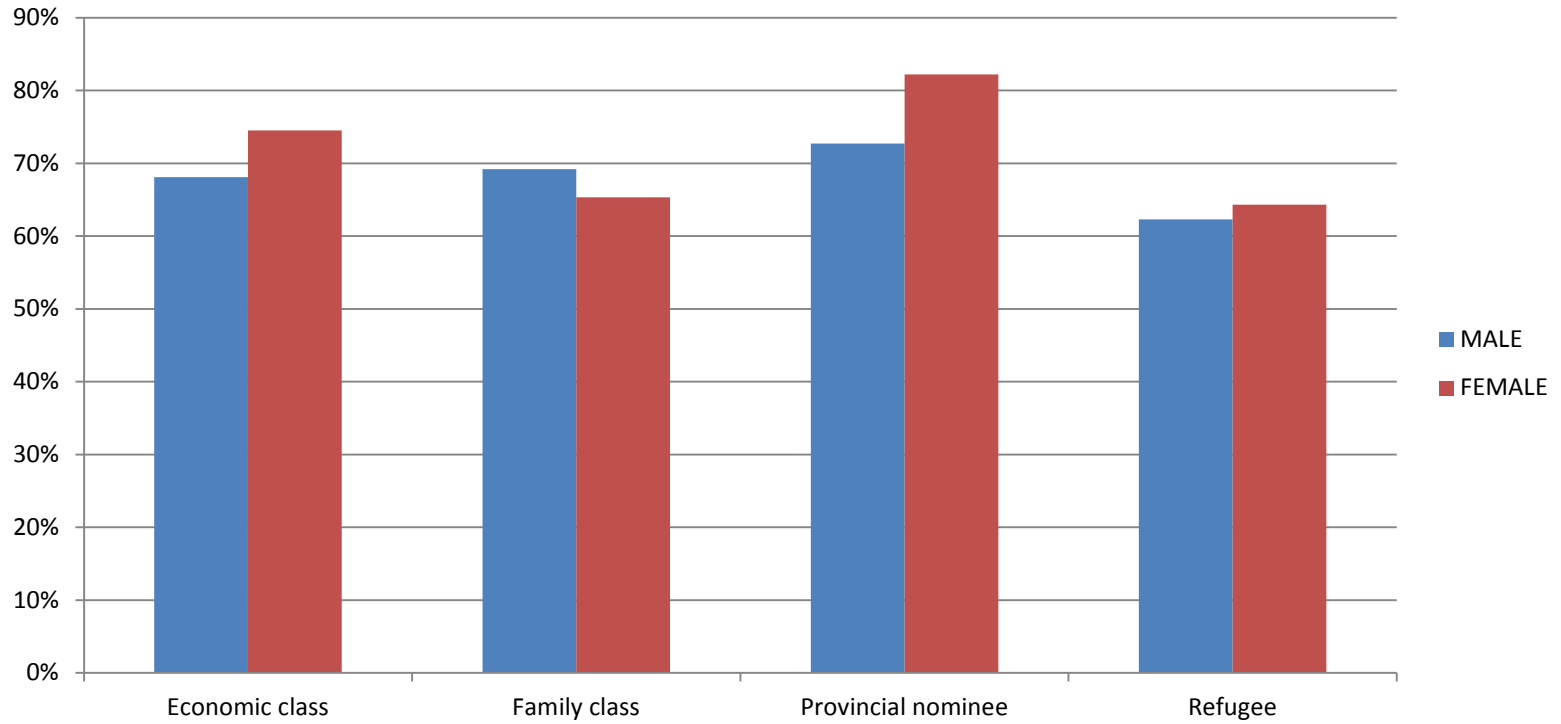
FEMALES



MALES

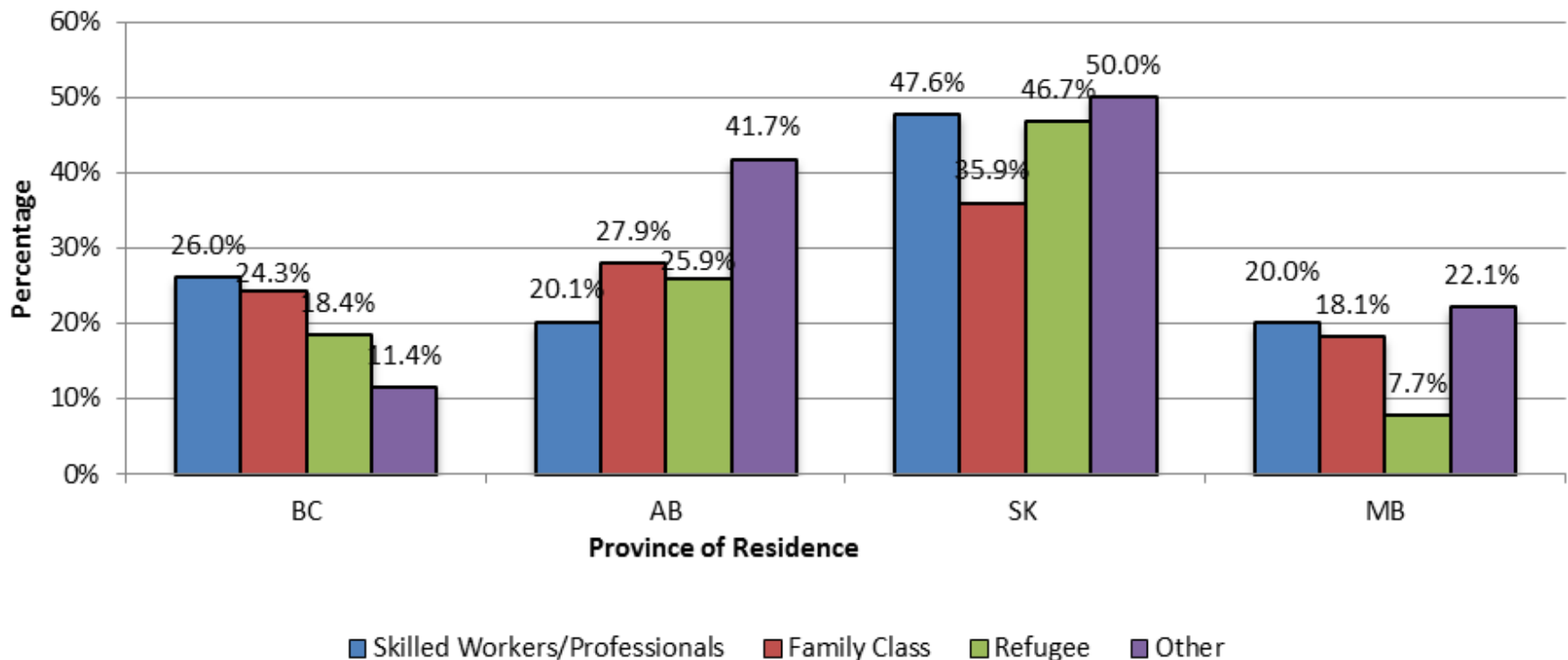


REFUGEES HAVE LOWER JOB SATISFACTION



REFUGEES HAVE THE MOST DIFFICULTY HAVING THEIR CREDENTIALS AND EXPERIENCE RECOGNIZED

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



POST-ARRIVAL JOB STATUS, IMMIGRANTS COMPARED TO CANADIAN-BORN

	<u>Immigrant</u>		<u>Refugees</u>	<u>Born in Canada</u>
	<u>Pre-arrival</u>	<u>Post-arrival</u>	<u>Post-arrival</u>	
NOC A	47%	28%	23%	37%
NOC B	30%	27%	25%	26%
NOC C	21%	31%	29%	28%
NOC D	2%	14%	21%	9%

Among university-educated immigrants 43% of women and 35% of men worked in occupations requiring a high school education or less. In comparison, the same rates for the Canadian-born is 15% (Uppall and Laroche-Cote, 2014)

NOC A: requires university level education

NOC B: requires college, vocational training and/or apprenticeship

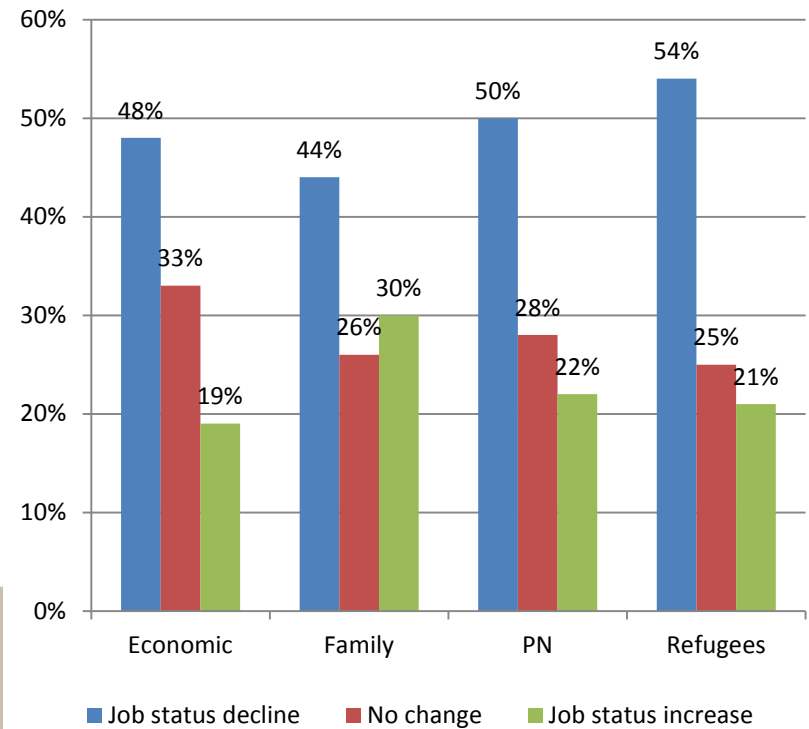
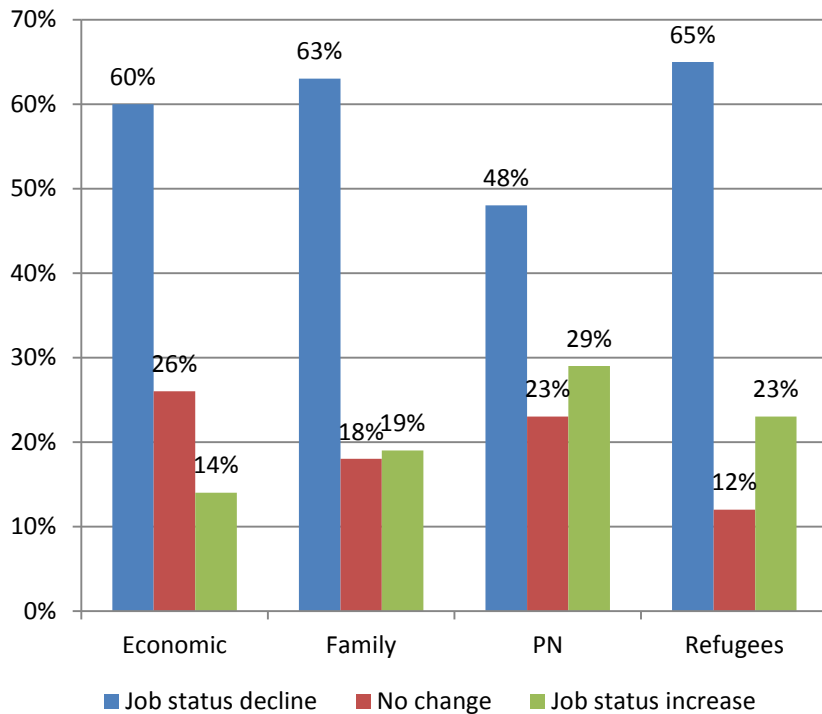
NOC C: requires high school and/or on-the-job training

NOC D: no formal schooling required

CHANGE IN JOB STATUS BY CLASS AND SEX

FEMALES

MALES



Source: WCSS

$\chi^2 = 38.163$

df= 8 P= 0.000


Source: WCSS

$\chi^2 = 18.974$

df= 8

P= 0.015

JOB STATUS DECLINE CREEPS INTO OTHER ASPECTS OF LIFE

- **Refugees are the most likely to have precarious employment or to be unemployed**
 - **They have lower job satisfaction than other newcomer groups**
 - **Refugee women and those with language proficiency problems are the most vulnerable**
 - **The degree of job status decline is greatest among refugees**
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DATA SOURCES

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