



Catalogue no. 89-614-XIE

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada

A Portrait of Early Settlement Experiences



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

Specific inquiries about this product and related statistics or services should be directed to: Client Services, Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (telephone: (613) 951-3321).

For information on the wide range of data available from Statistics Canada, you can contact us by calling one of our toll-free numbers. You can also contact us by e-mail or by visiting our website.

National inquiries line	1 800 263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1 800 363-7629
Depository Services Program inquiries	1 800 700-1033
Fax line for Depository Services Program	1 800 889-9734
E-mail inquiries	infostats@statcan.ca
Website	www.statcan.ca

Ordering and subscription information

This product, catalogue no. 89-614-XIE, is available for free. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.ca and select Our Products and Services.

This product, catalogue no. 89-614-XPE, is also available as a standard printed publication at a price of CAN\$35.00. The following additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada:

	Single issue	Annual subscription
United States	CAN\$6.00	CAN\$72.00
Other countries	CAN\$10.00	CAN\$120.00

All prices exclude sales taxes.

The printed version of this publication can be ordered

- by phone (Canada and United States) 1 800 267-6677
- by fax (Canada and United States) 1 877 287-4369
- by e-mail infostats@statcan.ca
- by mail Statistics Canada
Finance Division
R.H. Coats Bldg., 6th Floor
120 Parkdale Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1A 0T6
- In person from authorised agents and bookstores.

When notifying us of a change in your address, please provide both old and new addresses.

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner and in the official language of their choice. To this end, the Agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1 800 263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.ca under About Statistics Canada > Providing services to Canadians.



Statistics Canada
Special Surveys Division

Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada

A Portrait of Early Settlement Experiences

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2005

All rights reserved. The content of this publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it is done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review, newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, name of product, catalogue, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, for any purposes, without the prior written permission of Licensing Services, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

September 2005

Catalogue no. 89-614-XIE
ISBN 0-662-41249-4

Catalogue no. 89-614-XPE
ISBN 0-660-19511-9

Frequency: Occasional

Ottawa

Cette publication est disponible en français sur demande (n° 89-614-XIF au catalogue).

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Symbols

The symbols described in this document apply to all data published by Statistics Canada from all origins including surveys, censuses and administrative sources, as well as straight tabulations and all estimations.

The following symbol legend should be included with all publications.

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^p preliminary
- ^r revised
- x confidential to meet secrecy requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

Acknowledgments

This publication is a compilation of research done by authors at Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Statistics Canada (STC). Contributors from CIC include: Elizabeth Ruddick, Jean Bergeron, Mary Grant, Martha Justus, Stan Kustec and Stephanie Potter. Contributors from STC include: Cindy Bryant, Patrice Dion, Jessie-Lynn MacDonald, Owen Phillips, Michelle Simard and Sylvain Tremblay.

Various other individuals made this study possible and their contributions must be acknowledged. In particular, sincere thanks are extended to: Sonia Chouinard for her technical assistance and Johanne Denis, Chantal Grondin, Tracey Leesti and Amélie Lévesque for their support. Many thanks also go to the various individuals who took the time to review and provide comments on this publication.

Sincere thanks are extended to the immigrants who took the time to participate in the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada.

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 – 1984.



Foreword

Results from the first wave of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) were officially released on September 4th, 2003. The data were released in the form of a Statistics Canada *Daily* article accompanied by a more detailed analytical article entitled “Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada: Process, progress and prospects”. The article focused on the initial experience of newcomers. A few key areas of settlement were explored including: immigrants’ destination choice and the reason for that choice; initial experiences in finding suitable housing, accessing health care services, pursuing further training and entering the labour force; and difficulties encountered during the settlement process. In addition, the file was also made available through Statistics Canada’s Research Data Centres.

Data from the second wave of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada will be released in the fall of 2005. Results from Wave 2, which follow up on the same immigrants two years after their arrival, will allow researchers, using longitudinal analysis, to look at the settlement experiences of new immigrants after six months and two years.

The purpose of this publication is to expand on the descriptive analysis previously released and to provide a more detailed benchmark from which the upcoming results from Wave 2 can be expanded.

Analysis Notes

This publication is a compilation of research conducted by individual authors from Statistics Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). Each chapter has been analyzed and written independently. Measures have been taken to ensure consistency for major concepts and variables. However it was up to the discretion of each author how to approach the analysis. As a result there may be some variation in the approach to analysis between chapters.

In the LSIC, all references to family variables are characteristics of the longitudinal respondent (LR). The weights on the file used in all analysis are based on the longitudinal respondent.

Table of Contents

Highlights.....	5
1 Introduction.....	7
2 Pre-migration and arrival in Canada.....	10
3 The first six months	18
4 Choosing where to live and finding a home	22
5 Adapting to a new linguistic environment.....	29
6 Maintaining health	36
7 Building on education and training.....	46
8 Finding employment	56
9 Making ends meet	74
10 Settling in a new country	84
11 Challenges to integration	90
12 Methodology and data quality	96

Highlights

- According to the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), 2001, in spite of challenging access conditions to suitable accommodation in some areas of the country, many new immigrants had different housing experiences: most lived in only one place, a few moved more than once and some relied on relatives or a friend temporarily.
- A large number of recent immigrants perceive that they are able to carry on a conversation in at least one of the two official languages. Including language ability as part of the selection criteria for skilled workers seems to have an impact on the language ability of new immigrants.
- New immigrants are generally in good health. Older immigrants and refugees were most likely to report health problems. Six months after arrival almost all of the LSIC immigrants had a provincial health card, and therefore access to a broad range of health services.
- Although the majority of immigrants were highly educated upon arrival, a large proportion of immigrants have continued with their education or training: specifically taking language training and education leading to a degree or diploma or job-related training.
- Most immigrants had tried to enter the labour market, of those, 44% were employed and 26% unemployed. Skilled worker principal applicants had the highest participation rate. Immigrants in the prime working age (25 to 44 years old) and males were most likely to be employed. By region, the Prairies had the highest employment and lowest unemployment rate.
- Most immigrants brought saving to Canada. Immigrants in the family category report highest family income levels. Employment earnings constitute three-quarters of family income. In total, about one-third of LSIC immigrants report not having enough money to meet their basic needs.
- The high proportion of immigrants reporting satisfaction with their early experiences in Canada may indicate that, in spite of obstacles for some of them, most immigrants are adjusting and are committed to establish themselves successfully in Canada.
- The majority of immigrants (92%) expressed their intention to settle permanently and become Canadian citizens. As well, 47% of the immigrants reported that they wanted to bring their relatives to Canada by sponsoring their immigration.

- Moving to a new country is challenging. Although many new immigrants encountered difficulties, it appears problems finding employment was the biggest hurdle. Lack of recognition of foreign qualifications and/or work experience, financial problems and language barriers were the most serious problems reported.
- New immigrants most often depend on relatives or household members and friends for help with problems.

1 Introduction

Canada is one of the few countries in the world that actively pursues admission of permanent residents as a means to help build a stronger nation¹. In the 1990s, 2.2 million immigrants were admitted to Canada – the highest number admitted in any decade in the past 100 years. During this period, immigration accounted for the largest source of population increase in major urban centres and also represented a substantial proportion of total labour force growth.

Immigration and the integration of newcomers are central to many public policies, and are the focus of much public interest. The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), conducted by Statistics Canada with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), will help to guide policy development and inform the public. This comprehensive survey is designed to study how recent immigrants adjust to living in Canada and to provide information on the factors that can help or hinder this adjustment.

Immigrants in the LSIC population² entered Canada under the Immigration Act of 1976, which became law in 1978 and was amended in 1993. This Act set out three basic social, humanitarian and economic goals for the immigration program:

- to foster the development of a strong, viable economy in all regions of the country;
- to facilitate the reunion in Canada of Canadian residents with close family members from abroad, and;
- to fulfil Canada's legal obligations with respect to refugees and to uphold its humanitarian tradition.

While the relative importance of these goals has shifted over recent years, each has remained an integral part of the Canadian immigration program. With these shifting priorities, the composition of the immigration flow by category has fluctuated, but the volume has remained relatively stable as a proportion of the total Canadian population – ranging from 0.6% to 0.9% during the 1991-2001 period.

Until the early 1970s, despite some minor diversification of source countries, immigrants to Canada came almost exclusively from Western European countries. Between 1970 and 2000, the predominant source countries changed from Britain, the United States, Italy, Portugal and Greece, to China, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. As newcomers have increasingly arrived from countries with a wide range of histories and experiences the issue of integration may imply different challenges.

1. In 2001, immigrants per 1000 population - Canada: 8.3; Australia: 5.7; US: 3.1; European Economic Association: 3.0; Japan: 0.3.

2. In this publication the immigrant or the LSIC population refers to immigrants who met a specific criteria outlined in section 1.1 and who were interviewed in Wave One. The sample was drawn between October 2000 and September 2001, prior to when the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) came into effect (June 28, 2002).

1.1 Filling the gaps: the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada

As positive settlement outcomes benefit both the immigrant and host society, there exists a need for information on immigrant integration – particularly the timing of stages in the settlement process, the factors that affect integration and the services used or needed by immigrants to facilitate the process.

While full integration may take generations to achieve, the LSIC is designed to examine the process during the critical first four years of settlement, whereby newcomers establish economic, social and cultural ties to Canadian society.

Although other data sources, such as the Census, provide important information, they lack specific detail on key settlement issues. The LSIC was implemented to fill major data gaps and to complement traditional sources of data in this area. The LSIC is the first national longitudinal survey conducted with the recent immigrant population since the 1970s.

The survey employs a longitudinal design, interviewing the same selected immigrants at three points in time: approximately six months (Wave 1), two years (Wave 2), and four years (Wave 3) after landing. The target population includes all immigrants and refugees aged 15 and over who landed from abroad between October 1st, 2000 and September 30th, 2001. This group accounts for approximately 170,000 of the total 250,000 persons admitted to Canada during the reference period³. From the target population⁴, about 21,000 individuals – representing as many immigrant categories, by province, as possible – were selected to participate in the survey. Approximately 12,000 respondents participated in the survey.

Some immigrants landed in Canada, but resided only for a short period of time before returning to their original country or migrating to another country. The main objective of the survey is to understand the integration process of new immigrants who settle in Canada and not those who arrive and then leave. To address any potential bias that may be introduced, a breakdown of populations was established: concepts for the population of interest and population out of interest.

In the LSIC, the population of interest refers to immigrants who meet the criteria noted above AND have lived in Canada for more than 6 months. The out-of-interest population refers to immigrants who no longer live in Canada (i.e. who have left since landing in Canada). Between October 2000 and September 2001, 169,430 immigrants aged 15 and over landed from abroad. Six months after their arrival, an estimated 5,227 immigrants left and approximately 164,203 still resided in Canada.

3. The other 80,000 immigrants who landed in Canada during the sampling period were children or landed from inside Canada.

4. See definition in Chapter 12 – Methodology and data quality.

The main topics examined in the LSIC include: housing, education, foreign credential recognition, employment, income, the development and use of social networks, language skills, health, values and attitudes and satisfaction with the settlement experience. There are also a set of questions pertaining to the access of services – with a focus on housing, education, employment and health.

By examining newcomers' progress over time, the LSIC affords the possibility of assisting researchers and policy-makers to go beyond existing descriptions of immigrant integration outcomes to an examination of how newcomers achieve these outcomes – in essence, the “how” and “why” dimensions. While the full value of the survey will be reached when the three waves of data collection are completed, this first wave of data provides important benchmark information.

The focus of this publication is on the early settlement experiences of immigrants, from pre-migration to the first six months after arrival. First an overview of the LSIC population is provided, looking at both pre-migration characteristics as well as those at arrival. This is followed by a comprehensive look at the first six months of the settlement process, looking at things such as health, housing and mobility; education and training taken since arrival; employment, income and the general perception of the immigrant's settlement experience. The last section presents a more in-depth look at problems and difficulties newcomers experience in four key areas of integration: accessing health services, finding housing, accessing education and training and finding employment. Challenges to integration are examined in terms of what help was needed, received and from whom, or needed and not received.

2 Pre-migration and arrival in Canada

Immigrants have different reasons for leaving their homeland and as a result, arrive in Canada with different resources. They bring with them their individual sets of skills, experiences, and backgrounds – their personal resources – that we can loosely classify as their human capital (i.e. education, employment skills, and language ability); social networks (i.e. friends or relatives in Canada); and financial capital that they have brought with them or left behind.

Newcomers entering Canada for different reasons and with different resources are likely to face different challenges during the settlement process. Thus, to better understand the experiences of newcomers, it is important to know their characteristics. This chapter presents a profile of the immigrants from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), including immigration category, age, gender, ethnicity and highest level of education attained outside Canada. Specifically, these are the characteristics or traits that the immigrant had at arrival.

2.1 Immigration categories

In Canada, immigration is based upon three major streams which broadly correspond to the economic, family reunification and humanitarian or refugee protection objectives. The experiences of immigrants entering the country for economic reasons will differ from those who are coming to reunite with family members or entering as refugees – who may have been forced to leave their homeland. In the analysis of settlement experiences of new immigrants, the category through which they were granted admittance is an important consideration.

2.1.1 Economic category

Immigrants admitted under the economic category are persons who have actively sought to settle in Canada and have presumably prepared themselves for the transition – some may have been recruited. They are selected as individuals but may be accompanied by a spouse and dependant(s). Within the LSIC population, 61,551 (38%) are principal applicants and 47,932 (29%) are spouse or dependants.

Within the economic category there are several sub-categories: skilled workers, provincial and territorial nominees, and business immigrants. Skilled worker principal applicants (SPAs) are those selected based on a number of criteria including their education, language ability and employment skills. These immigrants are deemed to be more likely to succeed in the labour market and contribute to the Canadian economy. It is important to note that economic applicants destined for Quebec are subject to provincial selection criteria which, although different, emphasize similar characteristics.

Provincial and territorial⁵ nominees are selected by some provinces and territories for specific skills that will contribute to local economies. Business immigrants (entrepreneurs, investors and self-employed immigrants) become permanent residents on the basis of their ability to become economically established. They must demonstrate that they:

- have managed and controlled a percentage of equity in a qualifying business for at least two years in the period beginning five years before they apply and have a legally obtained net worth of at least \$300,000 Canadian, or;
- have business experience, a legally obtained net worth of at least \$800,000 Canadian and have invested \$400,000 Canadian before receiving a visa, or;
- have shown that they can and intend to create their own employment in Canada and that they can contribute significantly either to the Canadian economy as farmers or to the cultural or athletic life of Canada⁶.

Text box 2.1

According to the *Canada-Quebec Accord*, Quebec has selection powers and sole responsibility for integration services. The federal government is still responsible for defining immigration categories, planning levels of immigration and enforcing laws.

With respect to permanent residents, the *Canada-Quebec Accord* gives Quebec exclusive responsibility for all foreign nationals who are neither members of the family class nor persons whom the Immigration and Refugee Board has determined to be Convention refugees. Those selected by the province receive a document called a *Certificat de sélection du Québec*. Before issuing visas, the federal government ensures that immigrants meet statutory admission requirements, such as medical and criminal checks.

The *Ministère des relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration* (MRCI) sets criteria for sponsors and assesses sponsors' finances. Case Processing Centres forward sponsorship applications from Quebec residents to the MRCI for approval. Applicants then commit to sponsorship agreements with the province of Quebec.

The Quebec Government also provides settlement and integration services to newcomers to the province. These services include reception, counselling, language training and other services to help newcomers adapt to Quebec society. Often, the provincial government provides them in partnership with community organizations. These services must correspond overall to those provided by the federal government elsewhere in the country.

The LSIC population includes immigrants in all economic categories, but the number of immigrants who were admitted during the specified period in each category may limit the potential for a detailed investigation. Throughout this publication, the economic category is disaggregated into two key components – skilled workers (90%) and other economic immigrants (10%). Hence, within the skilled worker category, it is feasible to analyze principal applicants (SPAs) (60%) and spouse and dependants (SSDs) (40%), respectively.

5. The LSIC does not cover immigrants who settled in the Territories.

6. For more information about the immigration categories see:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada. *You asked about...immigration and citizenship*, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Catalogue no. Ci 63-16/1999, Ottawa, 1999.

2.1.2 Family category

The family reunification category is made up of individuals who are joining family members already in Canada. Immigrants are sponsored by a relative in Canada who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and who has taken the responsibility of providing support for their settlement. They account for just over one quarter (27%) of the LSIC immigrants. There are no selection criteria for immigrants admitted under this category.

2.1.3 Refugees

The refugee category is made up of Convention refugees and other refugee-like persons who are deemed to require protection or relief. These persons may not have wanted to leave their country of origin, and may not have had the opportunity to prepare for moving to Canada. Refugees are less likely to have relatives or close friends already in Canada willing to provide support as compared to other newcomers. Resettled refugees landed from abroad as government-assisted and privately-sponsored refugees account for 6% of the LSIC immigrants. The LSIC population does not include, however, persons who made a refugee claim from within Canada.

2.1.4 Other immigrants

Permanent residents not classified in one of the immigration categories listed above are dependants landed from abroad of live-in caregivers⁷, post-determination refugee claimants⁸ or of members of the deferred removal order class⁹. They account for a small number of immigrants in the LSIC population. This group of roughly 750 immigrants is not large enough to analyze in detail. However, all table totals include these immigrants unless otherwise stated.

2.1.5 Admissibility

It is important to note that the federal government determines whether immigrant and refugee applicants are inadmissible for medical, or security reasons. A visa for permanent residence will not be issued to a person if that person's health is a danger to public health or safety or would cause excessive demand on health or social services. All immigrants and dependants

7. "Live-in caregivers" refer to immigrants granted permanent resident status after their participation in the *Live-in Caregiver Program*. This program brings temporary residents to Canada as live-in employees to work without supervision in a private household to care for children, seniors or people with disabilities. Participants in this program may apply for permanent resident status within three years of arrival in Canada, after completing two years of employment as live-in caregivers.

8. The post-determination refugee claimants in Canada class is a prescribed immigration class where permanent residence is granted to protect a person from a threat in the country of nationality or origin where there is a risk to the life of the applicant, or a risk of excessive sanctions or inhumane treatment.

9. The deferred removal orders class was established to resolve the cases of certain failed refugee claimants who have not been removed from Canada.

must pass a medical examination prior to coming to Canada. Additionally, access is denied to individuals who have been involved in serious crimes or who pose a threat to Canada's security, including criminality, or violations of human or international rights¹⁰.

2.2 Gender and age

The overall gender makeup of the LSIC population is 50% male and 50% female. However, there are distinctions by immigration category. For example, as shown in Table 2.1, more males immigrated as skilled worker principal applicants (77%). The opposite is true in the skilled worker spouses and dependents group as well as in the family class where females accounted for 75% and 63% respectively.

Table 2.1: Immigrants' gender distribution, by immigration category, 2001

Immigration category	Gender		All immigrants
	Male	Female	
Total (number)	81,552	82,651	164,203
	percentage		number
Family	37	63	44,149
Skilled worker principal applicants ¹	77	23	57,625
Skilled worker spouse and dependants ¹	25	75	41,390
Other economic	49	51	10,467
Refugees	49	51	9,822

1. Part of the economic category.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

At the time of interview, the majority of immigrants were 25-44 years of age (66%) and roughly equal proportions were 15-24 years of age (16%) and 45 years of age and over (17%). Table 2.2 shows that older immigrants account for a greater proportion of the family class group as compared to their proportion in other immigrant groups. Almost two in five immigrants (37%) in the family class were older than 44 years of age while this proportion ranges from 6% to 28% in other immigration groups. On the other hand, it is among refugees that we find the greatest proportion of newcomers aged 15-24 (33%). The skilled worker immigrants are essentially concentrated in the 25-44 age group, specifically in the case of principal applicants (89%).

10. This includes war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Table 2.2: Immigrants' age group distribution, by immigration category, 2001

Immigration category	Age group				All immigrants
	15 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 years or older	
Total (number)	26,729	108,796	23,574	5,104	164,203
Total (%)	16	66	14	3	100
		percentage			number
Family	27	36	26	11	44,149
Skilled worker principal applicants ¹	1	89	10	F	57,625
Skilled worker spouse and dependants ¹	19	76	6	F	41,390
Other economic	28	45	28	F	10,467
Refugees	33	54	13	F	9,822

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Part of the economic category.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

2.3 Immigrating unit

The immigrating unit refers to the individuals who applied together to immigrate to Canada. In the LSIC, most immigrants arrived in Canada as a family unit¹¹ (42%), while 29% arrived alone, 23% arrived as two or more adults without children and 4% arrived as a single adult with children.

The make up of the immigrating unit coming to Canada differed by category. For instance, skilled workers and other economic immigrants were most likely to arrive with two or more adults and children (70%). In contrast, immigrants in the family category were most likely to arrive by themselves (54%) as they joined family members already in Canada.

2.4 Country of birth and country of last permanent residence

When looking at the countries of birth of the LSIC immigrants, ten countries account for two-thirds (63%) of the LSIC population¹². Together, immigrants born in China and India represented more than one-third of all immigrants (20% and 16% respectively) and more than one-half of immigrants originating from the ten most common countries of birth (31% and 25% respectively).

11. Two or more adults with children.

12. Throughout this publication the top ten or ten most common countries refers to the ten countries in which the majority of the LSIC population were born. See appendix A.

By category, China ranks first as country of birth for economic immigrants (29%) followed by India (26%). For immigrants in the family category, India was by far the most prevalent country of birth (28%), followed by China (12%). As one might expect, regions experiencing war, political unrest or famine dominated the country of birth composition of the refugee category: Afghanistan (23%), Iraq (8%), Iran (8%), Sudan (7%) and Bosnia-Herzegovina (7%).

For almost one-fifth (18%) of immigrants, their country of birth does not match their country of last permanent residence (for more than six months). This proportion ranges from 11% for immigrants in the family category to 17% for economic immigrants, to 64% for refugees¹³.

2.5 Ethnic origin and visible minority status

Respondents in the LSIC were asked to identify their ethnic or cultural background. Immigrants were asked: to which ethnic or cultural group(s) do you belong¹⁴? Six in 10 immigrants reported their ethnic origin as East/Southeast Asian (35%) or South Asian (25%), followed by Arab (8%), Eastern European (7%) and West Asian (5%)¹⁵.

Immigrants were also asked whether or not they belonged to a visible minority group¹⁶, and where appropriate, respondents were able to identify with more than one group. Four-fifths of the LSIC immigrants identified themselves as a visible minority, 32% identified themselves as South Asian and 28% Chinese, followed by Filipino and Arab (8% for both).

2.6 Level of education received outside Canada

Immigration to Canada has undergone a number of rapid and large-scale changes in recent years. In particular, immigrants possess higher skill levels and credentials. For example, data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada's *Facts and Figures*¹⁷ show that between 1980 and 2000 the proportion of immigrants arriving with a university degree went from 10% in 1980, to 18% in 1990, to 44% in 2000.

Consistent with Census data for recently arrived immigrants, results from the LSIC also indicate that immigrants are generally well-educated. More than half (55%) of immigrants who arrived between October 2000 and September 2001, had a university degree, while 19%

13. See appendix B for a table of the ten most common countries of last permanent residence.

14. For example: Chinese, East Indian, Filipino, Polish, Vietnamese, Iranian, etc.

15. The interviewer was instructed to specify as many groups as applicable and to clarify, if necessary, that the question was about the person's ethnic or cultural identity, or that of their ancestors, not his or her citizenship.

16. Respondents were able to choose from the following categories: White, Chinese, South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.), Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian (e.g., Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, etc.), Arab, West Asian (e.g., Afghan, Iranian, etc.), Japanese, Korean or Other (specify).

17. Citizenship and Immigration Canada. *Facts and Figures 2003*, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Catalogue no. Ci1-8/2003E, Ottawa, 2003.

had some post-secondary, trade or college education (Table 2.3). Almost seven in 10 (68%) newcomers in the LSIC population reported having one degree or diploma, while 19% reported more than one.

It is important to remember that immigrants applying to come to Canada within the economic category are assessed against a selection criteria based on factors including: education, work experience, knowledge of English and/or French, etc. As a result, economic immigrants are more likely to be well educated and/or skilled than immigrants in other categories. In the LSIC, 87% of skilled worker principal applicants and 56% of their spouses and dependents arrived in Canada with a university degree, much higher than for immigrants in the other economic, family and refugee categories (30%, 27% and 12% respectively).

By gender, six in 10 male immigrants (62%) and almost half of all female immigrants (47%) arrived in Canada with a university degree, while a slightly higher proportion of females than males arrived with some post secondary, trade or college education (21% and 16% respectively).

Table 2.3: Immigrants' level of education, by immigration category, 2001

Immigration category	Highest level of education attained			
	No formal education or less than high school	High school graduation	Some post-secondary, trade or college ¹	University degree
	percentage			
Family	30	21	22	27
Skilled worker principal applicants ²	F	F	11	87
Skilled worker spouse and dependants ²	11	9	24	56
Other Economic	18	24	28	30
Refugees	39	28	22	12
All immigrants	14	12	19	55

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Includes completed college.

2. Part of the economic category.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

The higher proportion of educated males in the LSIC is likely because males dominate skilled worker principal applicants (77%) and are therefore evaluated on their level of education, while a higher proportion of skilled worker spouse and dependents are female (75%), and are admitted based on their partner's qualifications rather than their own. That being said, females in the LSIC population were still highly educated despite being typically admitted as spouse and dependents or under the family category.

Immigrants in the prime working age group arrived with higher levels of education than those aged 45 to 64 years. Almost seven in 10 (69%) immigrants aged 25 to 44 years compared to just over four in 10 (43%) of those between 45 and 64 years arrived with a university degree.

Two-thirds of immigrants arrived with education in a specific field. Just over one quarter (26%) were trained in the field of commerce, management and business administration, 13% in engineering and applied sciences, and 10% in social science and related fields.

The most common field of training for both males and females was commerce, management, and business administration. Males were more likely to be trained in engineering and applied sciences (19%) or in the technical aspects of engineering and applied sciences (12%), while females were more likely to have been trained in the field of education, recreation and counselling service (12%) or social science and related fields (12%). A more detailed discussion on education and training is presented in Chapter 7.

3 The first six months

During their first few years in Canada, immigrants set about the process of integration: adapting and settling into a new environment, and finding housing, employment, health care, and schools for themselves or their children. Newcomers face many challenges as they engage in their settlement and integration activities. These include learning or becoming more fluent in one or both of Canada's official languages; having their previous education and skills accredited and recognized; accessing education and training opportunities.

Newcomers' subjective assessments of how they are integrating and their satisfaction with life in Canada are essential components in understanding the settlement process. While six months may be early to fully understand early settlement experiences it provides a foundation and will serve as a baseline against which outcomes from later waves of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) can be measured.

3.1 Choosing Canada

The majority of new immigrants (98%) reported Canada as the only country to which they applied to immigrate. Many immigrated for economic reasons. Some came to reunite with their family, while others did not come by choice, but had to leave their homeland as refugees.

The most commonly cited reasons for immigrating to Canada include: to improve the future for their family (30%), to join family or close friends already living in Canada (27%) or for education purposes (11%). By immigration category, the most important reason for choosing Canada differed, although the top reason was one of the three previously mentioned (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Five most cited reasons for immigrating to Canada, by immigration category, 2001

Reasons for moving to Canada	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
	percentage					
Improve future for family	6	43	43	24	23	30
Join family or close friends	75	5	10	12	25	27
Education	3	12	15	28	6	11
Better job opportunities	F	15	6	4	F	7
Peaceful country, no war	F	6	6	8	20	5

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Joining family or close friends was cited as the most important reason for immigrating to Canada for individuals in the family category, while improving the future for their family was the most commonly cited reason for skilled workers. Refugees also cited the importance of joining family and friends but in almost equal numbers, sought to improve the future of their family. Compared to the other newcomers, refugees report in a much greater proportion (20%) reasons related to peace as a key motivating factor for immigrating to Canada.

3.2 Most immigrants had family and/or friends already settled in Canada

Faced with challenges, or simply as a foundation to progress successfully in their new environment, many newcomers choose to settle where they have relatives or friends who may provide settlement assistance and social supports. For newcomers to Canada, just as for Canadians already living here, social support is important. For immigrants, social networks may facilitate the settlement process with tasks such as: finding a house, a job or school, and accessing health services—as well as to longer-term integration issues—like fitting into Canadian society, joining community groups, and feeling a sense of belonging¹⁸. At arrival, the majority of immigrants reported having either friends and/or relatives in Canada (87%), while 13% reported having neither.

Table 3.2: Immigrants' network at landing, by immigration category, 2001

Network at landing	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)	44,149	57,625	41,390	10,467	9,822	164,203
	percentage					
Relatives at landing	64	12	18	22	40	30
Friends at landing	2	52	44	37	15	33
Relatives and friends at landing	30	22	20	22	20	24
Neither relatives nor friends at landing	4	13	18	19	25	13

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Looking at the presence of networks at landing by immigration category (Table 3.2), immigrants in the family category appear to be the 'best connected'. While it is encouraging that so many newcomers had some kind of network in Canada at arrival, it is important to recognize that many economic immigrants and refugees knew no one which may impact their settlement in different ways.

By ethnic origin, immigrants who identified themselves as South or South East Asian reported a predominance of having family in Canada at arrival (36% and 26% respectively) while East Asian were more likely to report a predominance of friends at arrival (44%)

18. J. Goldlust and A.H. Richmond. *A Multivariate Model of Immigrant Adaptation*, International Migration Review, 1974.

compared with South Asians (15%). These results are consistent with the history of immigration that each country has with Canada. For example, recent immigrants have a greater chance of knowing relatives and friends in Canada if they are from countries that have been sending immigrants for longer periods of time.

A higher proportion of people in the younger and oldest age groups reported knowing relatives at landing, while higher proportions of those aged 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 reported knowing friends in Canada when they arrived. Immigrants 15 to 44 years of age were most likely to report having no network at arrival.

When looking at settlement patterns by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), newcomers who settled in one of the five larger CMAs¹⁹ were more likely to know only friends in Canada at arrival (on average 35%). Immigrants living in all other locations in Canada were more likely to report knowing relatives only in Canada at landing (40%), and 21% reported knowing both family and friends. The proportion of newcomers who had no network at landing (excluding members of immigrating unit) ranges from 17% of immigrants who settled in Vancouver to 11% for immigrants who settled in Toronto.

Table 3.3: Immigrants' network at landing, by most popular census metropolitan areas of residence, 2001

Network at landing	Place of residence						All immigrants
	Toronto	Vancouver	Montreal	Calgary	Ottawa-Gatineau	All other CMAs	
Total (number)	77,464	19,443	19,323	7,650	6,032	34,291	164,203
	percentage						
Relatives at landing	29	25	24	30	28	40	30
Friends at landing	35	34	37	32	34	23	33
Relatives and friends at landing	25	21	24	22	22	24	24
Neither relatives nor friends at landing	11	17	15	16	15	13	13

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

3.3 Majority have relatives in the same city

Immigrants are more likely to rely on, or receive support from their social networks if they are living within a close proximity²⁰. Many newcomers choose their destination to have family and/or friends nearby. Table 3.4 shows that the majority of all newcomers with family in Canada (88%) reported that their relatives live in the same city.

19. For the purpose of this analysis the reference to five most common or larger CMA's refers to the CMA's where the majority of the immigrants settled.

20. B. Wellman and S. Potter. "The Elements of Personal Communities", *Networks in the Global Village*, published under the direction of Barry Wellman, Boulder, CO, Westview Press, 1999.

Table 3.4: Proximity of immigrants' relatives in Canada, by immigration category, 2001

Proximity of relatives	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	41,318	19,913	15,792	4,529	5,876	88,163
	percentage					
Same city	95	80	81	80	88	88
Same province	4	9	9	10	7	6
Other province	2	11	10	9	5	5

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Based on immigrants who reported having family in Canada.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Immigrants in the family and refugee category reported the highest proportion of relatives living in the same city (95% and 88% respectively), although 88% of all categories reported such proximity. In terms of the proximity of friends in Canada, skilled workers were more likely to report friends living in the same city (84%), compared with 77% of immigrants in the family category.

4 Choosing where to live and finding a home

Finding suitable housing is an important settlement requirement. Securing accommodation allows immigrants to focus on other key settlement activities such as finding employment, education or training, or fulfilling other ambitions. While family and friends may influence where immigrants choose to settle, vacancy rates and housing costs may determine the type of accommodation in which immigrants will live.

4.1 Vacancy rate low at time of interview

Six months after arrival, more than 80% of immigrants in the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) reported that they were living in rental accommodations. Availability and affordability of suitable rental housing likely influenced choices these immigrants made during their first six months in Canada.

In recent years, the rental market in Canada has changed, and has been characterized by a gradual decrease in the vacancy rate and an increase in the average rent. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)²¹, the overall vacancy rate in metropolitan areas in October 2001 was 1.1%²² – the lowest rate since 1987. At the same time, the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment ranged from approximately \$1,000 in Toronto, the most popular destination for new immigrants, to \$900 in Vancouver and Ottawa, and \$500 in Montreal.

Cost of housing may constitute a major expenditure for newcomers in proportion to their family income. For example, 14% of the LSIC immigrants reported no family income, while 50% of those with a family income reported that it was less than \$1,600 monthly²³.

4.2 Most immigrants settled in Ontario

New immigrants settle all over Canada, however, the largest proportion choose to live in Ontario. According to the LSIC, almost six in ten new immigrants (57%) were living in this province six months after arrival and most chose to reside in Toronto (46%). Outside Ontario, large numbers of immigrants also settled in Vancouver and Montreal (15% and 13% respectively). Vancouver attracted a large proportion of Other (essentially business) economic immigrants (32%). Although Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver were the three most common Census Metropolitan Area's (CMA) of residence for the LSIC immigrants (74%), refugees were less likely to settle in these areas. More than half (52%) of all refugees settled in smaller locations.

21. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. *CMHC Housing Outlook, National Edition*, first quarter, 2002.

22. For privately-initiated apartments in structures with three units and over.

23. For more details on income, see Chapter 9.

Table 4.1: Immigrants' distribution, by selected census metropolitan areas of residence and immigration category, 2001

	Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	Refugees	All immigrants
	percentage				
Census metropolitan area of residence, by immigration category					
Montreal	21	69	4	6	100
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario only)	28	60	4 ^E	8 ^E	100
Toronto	27	65	4	3	100
Calgary	29	58	4 ^E	9	100
Vancouver	27	54	14	4	100
Other locations	30	47	8	14	100
All places of residence	27	60	6	6	100
Immigration category, by census metropolitan area of residence					
Montreal	10	15	8	12	13
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario only)	3	3	2 ^E	4	3
Toronto	46	50	32	25	46
Calgary	5	5	3 ^E	7	5
Vancouver	15	13	32	10	15
Other locations	20	14	23	41	18
All places of residence	100	100	100	100	100
Total (number)	44,149	99,015	10,467	9,822	164,203

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

4.3 Immigrants move quickly after arrival

The process of immigration is a period of transition and many new immigrants have limited financial resources and limited knowledge of their new surroundings. While many, such as those in the family category, may have prearranged accommodation, many others stay in temporary housing or with a relative or friend already settled in Canada.

Slightly more than half (53%) of new immigrants had, at the time of interview, lived in only one location since their arrival in Canada, 41% had moved once, and the remaining 6% had relocated more than twice. As immigrants admitted under the family reunification program come here to join other family members or relatives already established in the country, it is not surprising that approximately three quarters of them (76%) lived in only one location since their arrival, while most others (23%) moved only once. Conversely, just four refugees in ten (43%) reported living in a single place of residence since arrival, and approximately 5% said that they had moved more than twice. As well, 8% of skilled workers moved more than twice since arrival.

Among the most common CMAs of residence for new immigrants, those living in Calgary moved most frequently. Since arrival, 45% did not relocate while nearly 10% moved more than twice. Immigrants who settled in Montreal or Ottawa were less likely to have moved (57% and 59% respectively did not move).

Table 4.2: Number of places immigrants have lived in since arrival, by immigration category, 2001

	Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	Refugees	All immigrants
Total (number)	44,149	99,015	10,467	9,822	164,203
	percentage				
Lived in one place	76	44	47	43	53
Lived in two places	23	48	49	52	41
Lived in more than two places	1 ^E	8	4 ^E	5 ^E	6

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Of the immigrants who moved since their arrival, half moved from their first place of residence (or temporary accommodation) within six weeks of their arrival. Immigrants in the family category had the longest median²⁴ stay, approximately 11 weeks, while other newcomers had a median stay in their first place of residence ranging between four and six weeks.

4.4 Most immigrants living in their own home

As described in Table 4.3, at the time of interview, more than nine in ten (92%) immigrants were living in their own residence (as owners or tenants): two thirds (67%) had the same housing arrangement as at arrival, 17% moved from the residence of a relative or a friend and about 8% moved to their home from a hotel/motel or other type of temporary accommodation. Five percent of all immigrants were still living with a relative or a friend after six months. Roughly one quarter (24%) of skilled workers immigrants found their own residence after spending some time at a relative's or a friend's. A similar proportion of refugees (27%) moved to their home after having stayed in a hotel/motel or other temporary housing at arrival, suggesting that commercial and institutional accommodations are common for refugees at arrival.

4.5 Household size larger than Canadian average

The 2001 Census reported that the average size of a Canadian household was 2.6 persons, but the average household size for LSIC immigrants was 3.4 persons, ranging from 3.1 for skilled worker immigrants to 4.0 persons for refugees. Most LSIC immigrants reported living in two (21%), three (24%) or four (22%) person households, and were more likely to report living in a household of six or more people (12%) as compared to the Canadian average (3%).

24. The median refers to the value in weeks where half of the immigrants who moved at least once stayed in their first place of residence for a shorter period of time and where the other half stayed longer.

According to the Census definition, an indicator of crowding is when a dwelling unit has more than one person per room²⁵. Table 4.4 shows the distribution of new immigrants who live in a dwelling with less than or more than one person per room. Given that the likelihood of living in crowded accommodations increases with household size, the results are broken down by household size—less than four people and four or more people.

Table 4.3: Immigrants' pattern of housing arrangements at time of arrival versus at time of interview, by immigration category, 2001

		Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	Refugees	All immigrants
		percentage				
At time of arrival	At time of interview					
Own residence	Own residence	90	58	64	58	67
Residence of a relative or friend	Own residence	3	24	16	9	17
Hotel or temporary housing	Own residence	F	8	12	27	7
Other	Own residence	F	2	F	F	1
Residence of a relative or friend	Residence of a relative or friend	4	5	5 ^E	3 ^E	5
Other	Other	3 ^E	3	F	3 ^E	3
Total (number)		44,149	99,015	10,467	9,822	164,203

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Table 4.4: Immigrants' household size, by immigration category, 2001

		Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	Refugees	All immigrants
		percentage				
Households of less than four persons						
One person or less per room		95	89	93	94	91
More than one person per room		5	11	7 ^E	6 ^E	9
Total (number)¹		20,728	60,546	3,114	3,494	88,083
percentage						
Households of four persons or more						
One person or less per room		49	65	72	41	59
More than one person per room		51	35	28	59	41
Total (number)¹		20,270	35,893	6,143	6,206	69,022
percentage						
All immigrants						
One person or less per room		72	80	79	60	77
More than one person per room		28	20	21	40	23
Total (number)¹		40,998	96,440	9,257	9,699	157,105

1. LSIC does not report the exact dwelling size for respondents living in dwellings of more than four rooms. For this table, assumptions were made to impute a dwelling size to respondents living in dwellings of more than four rooms on the basis of information available on the number of bedrooms in the dwelling. However, it was not possible to impute a dwelling size for about 7,100 immigrants.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

25. Includes the living room, the bedrooms, the kitchen and the finished rooms in attic or basement. Habitable space excludes bathrooms, entrance halls, vestibules and rooms used exclusively for business purposes.

Nearly one in four new immigrants (23%) reported living in a dwelling that had more than one person per room. Refugees were more likely to report living in crowded accommodations (40%). Few immigrants living in smaller households (i.e., those with less than four members) experienced crowding (9%). However, the majority (59%) of refugees in larger-sized households were living in crowded conditions. For some immigrants, larger household sizes may be an early coping strategy used to minimize costs, or it could be a reflection of lack of suitable affordable housing.

4.6 HOUSING COSTS CONSUMING LARGE PORTION OF RESPONDENT'S FAMILY INCOME

In the LSIC all immigrants are asked about their housing costs, whether they owned or rented their residence. The following analysis on housing costs is specific to immigrants who reported that they were renting their accommodation, which encompasses 81% of all immigrants.

It is fairly common for recent immigrants to face high housing costs relative to their family or household income. Citizenship and Immigration Canada advises newcomers to expect to allocate 35 to 50% of their income for housing²⁶. According to the 2001 Census, 25% of households of recent immigrants who were living in rented accommodation allocated more than half of their income to housing. The immigrants in the LSIC had been living in Canada for only six months at the time of interview and therefore, may not have had an opportunity to secure sufficient income. In fact, 14% had no family income and half of those respondents with a family income reported a monthly amount of less than \$1,600.

Slightly more than half of immigrants (54%) reported spending more than half of their family income on housing, while 20% spent 30 to 50% of their income on lodging and a further 22% expended less than 30%. The largest proportion of immigrants who allocated 50% or more of their family income to housing was found in Toronto (60%), where the average apartment rent was the highest in the country.

Economic immigrants were more likely than those in other categories to spend more than half of their family income on housing. Six in ten (60%) skilled workers and more than two thirds (67%) of other economic immigrants – essentially business immigrants – reported spending more than half of their income on housing.

Fourteen percent of refugees reported housing costs greater than their family income. This may be because many refugees are entitled to federal government income support. However, more than four refugees in ten (46%) reported spending the largest share of their income on housing.

26. Citizenship and Immigration Canada. *Welcome to Canada: What You Should Know*, ISBN 0-662-85304-0, 2003.

Table 4.5: Distribution of tenant immigrants, by cost of housing relative to family income and immigration category, 2001

	Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	Refugees	All immigrants
Total (number)¹	26,567	89,202	6,522	9,477	132,439
	percentage				
Greater than family income	15	35	52	14	31
50% to 100% of family income	13	25	15	32	23
30% to 49.9% of family income	22	19	10	40	20
Less than 30% of family income	43	18	17	13	22
Accommodated free of charge	7	3	6 ^E	F	4

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. This line includes approximately 4% of immigrants for whom the cost of housing cannot be calculated. These cases have, however, been withdrawn from the calculation of the distribution by cost.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

The impact of high rental accommodation costs relative to income may have varied depending on the savings immigrants brought with them to Canada. According to the LSIC, more than 85% of refugees reported no savings at arrival, while more than 90% of skilled workers and other economic immigrants had savings which for half of them exceeded \$15,000 and \$100,000 respectively²⁷.

4.7 FINDING HOUSING MORE CHALLENGING FOR SKILLED WORKERS AND REFUGEES

Overall, more than three quarters (76%) of newcomers reported looking for housing within six months of their arrival²⁸. The proportion of immigrants in the family category who looked for housing was below the average (41%), and highest for economic immigrants (90%).

Of the newcomers who looked for housing, nearly four in ten (38%) reported that they faced at least one problem or difficulty. Immigrants in the family category were less likely to report problems (15%), along with new immigrants living in Alberta and British Columbia (30%). The high cost of housing was the most serious problem identified most often. More than three in 10 (31%) who reported problems cited high costs as the problem, particularly for new immigrants to Ontario (37%).

More than 40% of individuals who had difficulty finding housing reported that they had received assistance, including more than half of the refugees. More immigrants reported receiving assistance in this area compared with the other three areas of settlement examined: health, employment, education or training²⁹. Friends who were already settled in Canada

27. For more details on savings, see Chapter 9.

28. This statement is based on the number of immigrants who did not report that they “never tried to find housing” when they were asked whether they experienced difficulties in finding housing in Canada.

29. For more details see Chapter 11.

were the largest source of assistance (63%). Despite the assistance received, gaps were identified with regard to the availability of information, counselling services and financial assistance.

Table 4.6: Immigrants reporting difficulties in finding housing, by immigration category, 2001

	Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	Refugees	All immigrants
Tried to find housing					
Total (number)	18,242	89,166	9,375	8,017	125,051
Share of all immigrants (%)	41	90	90	82	76
Reporting problem(s)					
Total (number)	2,767	38,724	2,552	3,037	47,138
Share of immigrants who tried to find housing (%)	15	43	27	38	38

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

4.8 Conclusion

Securing suitable accommodation is an important step for many new immigrants coming to Canada. This initial analysis of the LSIC reveals that in spite of challenging access conditions to suitable accommodation in some areas of the country, many new immigrants had different housing experiences: most lived in only one place, a few moved more than once and some relied on relatives or a friend temporarily.

Among those who tried to find housing, a majority did not report any major difficulties. Nonetheless, many new immigrants, specifically refugees and skilled workers, said that they had difficulties finding suitable housing, and reported the high cost of housing and the lack of a guarantor as major obstacles.

Other analyses, such as the Census, indicate that the housing situation of immigrants improves the longer they are in Canada. It can therefore be expected that the second wave of the LSIC will show improvements in housing situations for many immigrants.

5 Adapting to a new linguistic environment

For new immigrants to Canada, knowledge of one or both official languages is closely tied to their economic and social success. Immigrants who are able to converse in one of Canada's official languages have higher employment rates and better incomes³⁰. Conversely, lack of linguistic knowledge can be a major obstacle to such things as accessing education, employment and health care services. Many factors influence an immigrant's knowledge of either English or French upon arrival including: country of last permanent residence, mother tongue, immigration category, age and education.

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) data related to knowledge of official languages is based on self-assessment. Consequently, the results obtained depend both on the respondent's true ability to speak either or both official languages and on their perception of their skills. This chapter focuses on the immigrant's perception of their language ability.

Because French is the language most often used by the majority of the population in Quebec and English elsewhere in Canada, the analysis of the language ability of new immigrants has been done separately for immigrants who settled in Quebec and those who settled in areas outside of Quebec.

5.1 MOST IMMIGRANTS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN ONE OF CANADA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Six months after their arrival 68% of immigrants reported at least some knowledge of English³¹, 4% of French and 11% of both English and French (Table 5.1). The remaining 18% reported no knowledge of either English or French. These results are consistent with the 2001 Census.

Three quarters (76%) of the 139,530 immigrants who settled outside Quebec reported an ability to speak English and 5% reported being able to speak both English and French. While 44% of the 24,675 immigrants living in Quebec reported being able to speak both English and French, 23% were able to speak English only and 23% knew French only. The largest concentration of immigrants who reported knowing neither English nor French was in the province of British Columbia (26%).

30. Statistics Canada. *The Changing Profile of Canada's Labour Force*, Daily release, February 11, 2003.

31. For the purpose of this analysis, respondents deemed to know the language were those who declared that they knew «quite well», «well» or «very well», or those for whom this was their first language and the language that they most frequently spoke at home. Respondents referred to as not knowing a language are those who reported that their knowledge of the language was poor or they did not know the language.

Almost all skilled worker principal applicants (99%) reported being able to speak English and/or French, including 17% who were able to speak both French and English. This may reflect the selection criteria for skilled worker principal applicants. Nearly 85% of the skilled worker spouse and dependents reported that they were able to speak English and/or French.

Almost three quarters (72%) of economic immigrants other than skilled workers reported that they were able to speak at least one of the official languages, and 65% of both family class and refugee immigrants stated that they knew English and/or French.

Table 5.1: Immigrants' knowledge of official languages, by immigration category, 2001

Knowledge of official languages	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Canada, excluding Quebec (number)	39,040	46,537	36,015	9,625	7,642	139,528
			percentage			
English only	60	91	78	68	60	76
French only	F	F	F	F	F	F
English and French	3	6	6	4	3	5
Neither English nor French	37	3	16	28	36	19
Quebec (number)	5,109	11,088	5,375	842	2,179	24,675
			percentage			
English only	27	20	24	32	16	23
French only	25	18	28	14	37	23
English and French	24	61	40	36	16	44
Neither English nor French	23	1	9	18	31	10
Total (number)	44,149	57,625	41,390	10,467	9,822	164,203
			percentage			
English only	56	78	71	65	50	68
French only	3	4	4	F	9	4
English and French	5	17	10	7	6	11
Neither English nor French	35	2	15	27	35	18

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

5.1.1 Perception of ability varies by age and level of education

Nine in 10 immigrants between 25 and 44 years of age were able to converse in at least one of Canada's official languages (91%), followed by 68% of immigrants between 45 and 54 years and 41% of immigrants 65 years of age and older. Also, 14% of immigrants between 25 and 44 years of age reported knowing both English and French, followed by 8% of immigrants between 45 to 54 and 3% of immigrants 65 years of age and older.

When looking at the relationship between language ability and age, the immigration category must also be considered. For example, nearly half of immigrants aged 25 to 44 years were skilled worker principal applicants and therefore more likely to speak English and/or French, while almost all immigrants aged 65 and over arrived in the family category which does not favour knowledge of an official language for admittance.

In the LSIC, an immigrant's self-perception of language ability seems to be associated with level of education. For example, among immigrants whose level of education was less than high school, 55% reported that they could carry on a conversation in either English or French, compared to 70% of immigrants with a high school diploma or its equivalent, and 87% of those with an undergraduate degree. Almost all (95%) of immigrants with a master's or doctoral degree reported that they were able to speak either English and/or French.

Immigrants with a college diploma or trade certificate were more likely than immigrants with a higher educational achievement to report knowledge of both English and French. Nearly one quarter (23%) of the immigrants with this level of education reported that they were able to speak both official languages, compared to 14% of immigrants with a master's or doctoral degree and 11% of immigrants who had an undergraduate degree.

These differences may be explained by the selection criteria for skilled workers where fewer points are granted for college diploma or a trade certificate than for a university degree. As a result, skilled workers with a college diploma or trade certificate must make up points elsewhere, language ability being one potential area. In the LSIC, 48% of all skilled workers with a college diploma or trade certificate reported being able to communicate in both official languages, compared to 16% of skilled workers with a university degree.

5.1.2 One in five immigrants spoke English or French at home

Immigrants who speak English or French at home are more likely to speak English or French outside the home. Six months after arrival, 15% reported speaking English at home and 5% reported speaking French at home.

Among the 126,600 immigrants who settled in areas outside of Quebec and whose mother tongue is neither English nor French, nearly one in ten (9%) spoke English most frequently at home. In addition, one quarter (25%) of the 3,500 immigrants whose mother tongue is French spoke English most frequently at home.

In Quebec, 16% of the 20,670 immigrants whose mother tongue is neither English nor French speak French most frequently at home, and 4% speak English. Finally, nine in 10 (90%) immigrants whose mother tongue is English speak this language at home.

5.2 Perceptions of linguistic competency

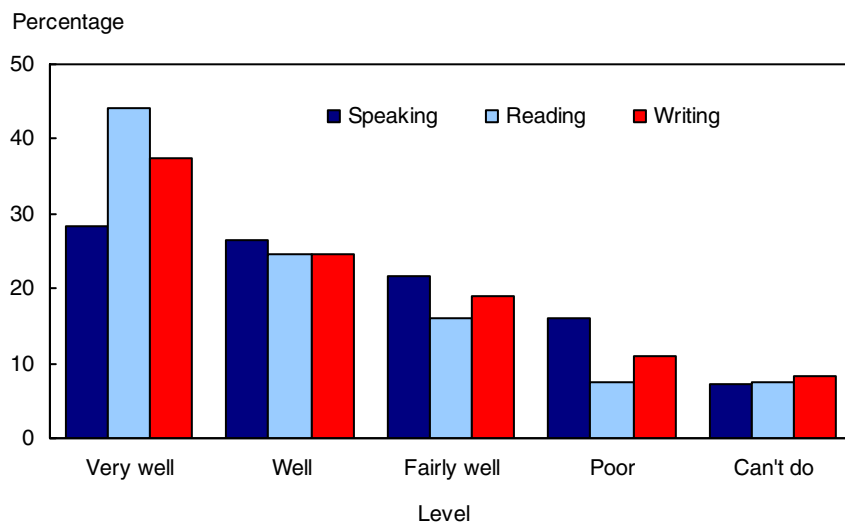
In the LSIC, respondents were asked to rate their speaking, reading and writing abilities in both official languages using a scale of “very well”, “well”, “fairly well”, “poorly” and “cannot do”. These questions were not asked to immigrants who reported English and/or French as their mother tongue and also reported speaking the same language most often at home - 7% and 2% respectively of all LSIC immigrants.

5.2.1 Perception of English language skill level

After six months in Canada, 152,390 immigrants reported that English was neither their first language nor the language they spoke most often at home. However out of those, 28% reported that they spoke English “very well”, 26% “well” and 22% “fairly well”, while 23% reported that they spoke English «poorly» or not at all.

As shown in Figure 5.1, 44% of immigrants reported being able to read in English “very well”, while 16% reported their ability as «poor» or that they could not read. About 4 in 10 immigrants reported being able to write in English “very well” (37%), while 19% reported that they could write it “poorly” or that they could not write it.

Figure 5.1: Immigrants' self-perception of English language skills, 2001¹



1. Excludes the 7% of immigrants for whom English was the first language and the language they spoke most frequently at home.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Of those immigrants who reported having more than a limited knowledge of English, 91% reported that they had learned most of their English prior to their arrival³².

32. Excluding those whose first language was English and the language spoken most often at home.

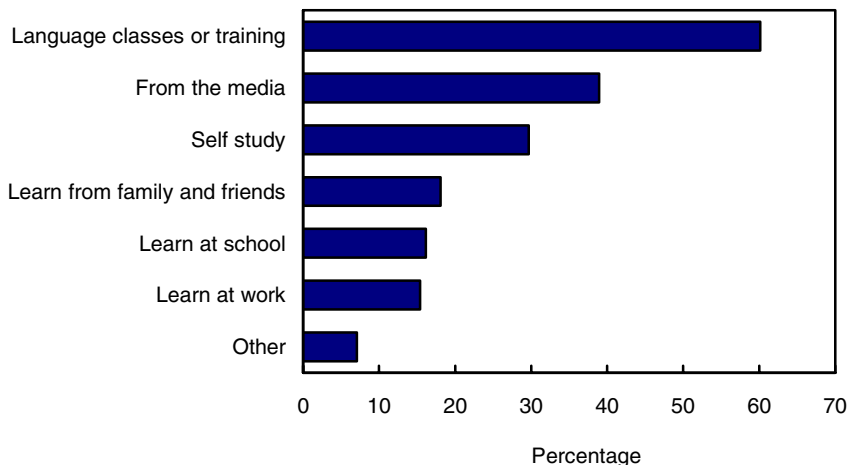
5.2.2 Immigrants think it is very important to improve English

Almost all recent immigrants to Canada think that learning or improving English is either very important (81%) or important (14%)³³. Upon their arrival, two thirds (67%) of immigrants had plans to improve their English and many enrolled in training. For example, at time of interview 82% of those residing in a province other than Quebec and had plans to study or improve their English, had already started some form of training.

Among all those who reported taking action to improve their English, six in 10 reported taking language training, almost four in 10 (39%) were learning using English-language media, and 30% were using other means of self-learning.

Figure 5.2: Method of learning English for immigrants outside of Quebec, 2001

Ways of learning English (Canada excluding Quebec)



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Although two thirds of immigrants had plans to improve their English upon arrival, 39% of immigrants who settled in Quebec had not taken any measures to do so, compared to 18% of immigrants living outside of Quebec.

Of the 25,610 immigrants across Canada who reported not having the opportunity to learn English, half reported no need or interest in improving their English. This was more frequently cited for immigrants living outside of Quebec (58%) than for those who settled in Quebec (30%). Lack of time was also a frequently cited reason (27%).

33. These questions were not asked to immigrants who reported English as their mother tongue and also reported speaking English most often at home.

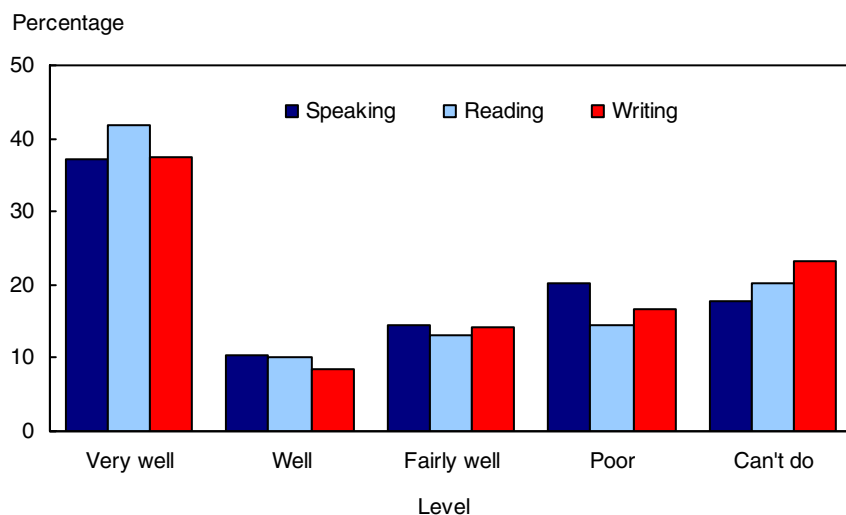
5.3 Perception of French language skill level

For immigrants residing in Quebec for whom French was neither their first language nor the language most frequently spoken at home, 37% reported that they spoke French “very well”, 10% “well” and 15% “fairly well”. Four in 10 immigrants (38%) reported that they spoke French “poorly” or “not at all”.

Among immigrants for whom French was neither their first language nor the language spoken most frequently at home, four in 10 (42%) reported they could read French “very well” (Figure 5.3) while 35% reported their reading ability as “poor” or that they “could not” read in French.

When asked to rate their French writing skills, nearly four in 10 immigrants reported “very well”, 8% as “well” 14% as “fairly well”, 17% as “poor” and 23% reported they “could not” write in French.

Figure 5.3: Self-perception of French language skills for immigrants in Quebec, 2001¹



1. Excludes the 2% of immigrants for whom French was the first language and the language that they most frequently speak at home.

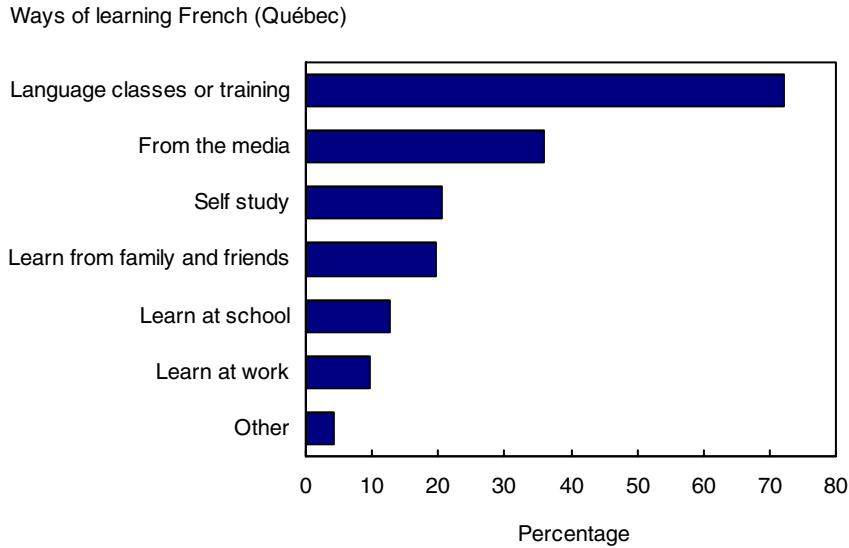
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

5.3.1 Learning French very important for immigrants settled in Quebec

Of the 17,820 immigrants who settled in Quebec and for whom French was not their mother tongue but currently the language spoken most often at home, 34% reported learning most of their French after their arrival in Canada. At arrival, almost one in six (59%) immigrants indicated they had plans to improve their French and after six months, three quarters of these immigrants had started.

Methods of learning French parallel methods used to learn English. The most common method of learning French was through “language training” (72%), followed by “through the Francophone media” (36%) and very similar proportions for “self study” and “learned from family and friends” (21% and 20% respectively).

Figure 5.4: Method of learning French for immigrants in Quebec, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

In Quebec, immigrants who reported that they could not speak French “very well” were asked about the importance of learning that language; nine out of 10 immigrants reported that learning French was either “very important” (69%) or “important” (22%).

5.4 Conclusion

A large number of recent immigrants perceive that they are able to carry on a conversation in at least one of the two official languages. It also appears that including language ability as part of the selection criteria for skilled workers has an impact on the language ability of new immigrants. For example, skilled workers set themselves apart from immigrants in other categories with respect to their ability to communicate in either or both English and French. Results from the next two waves will allow for a more complete investigation of changes in perception of language ability and perhaps the subsequent impact on integration experiences.

6 Maintaining health

Good physical and emotional health is important and may impact how new immigrants handle the many challenges of moving to a new country, such as looking for a job, finding a place to live, etc. Conversely, the settlement process is stressful and may affect the health of new immigrants and thus their integration into Canadian society.

In this chapter, different aspects of health will be examined, such as health status, prevalence of health problems, use of health care and access to health care services.

6.1 Health status

6.1.1 New immigrants are generally in good health

After six months in Canada, new immigrants appear to be experiencing good health. More than three quarters of them reported to be in excellent or very good health condition while only 3% reported a fair or poor health status.

Table 6.1: Self-rating of health by age group for Canadian population and LSIC immigrants, 2001

Age group	Population	Self-rating of health			
		Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair or poor
		percentage			
15 to 19 years	Canadian population	29	41	25	6
	LSIC immigrants	53 **	33 **	12 **	2 ** ^E
20 to 34 years	Canadian population	32	41	22	5
	LSIC immigrants	48 **	35 **	15 **	2 **
35 to 44 years	Canadian population	29	38	25	8
	LSIC immigrants	41 **	36	20 **	2 **
45 to 64 years	Canadian population	23	33	29	15
	LSIC immigrants	28 **	39 **	27 *	7 **
65 years and older	Canadian population	12	25	34	30
	LSIC immigrants	12	30 *	45 **	13 **

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

* Significantly different from average rate for the Canadian population in this age group ($p < 0.05$).

** Significantly different from average rate for the Canadian population in this age group ($p < 0.01$).

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2000-2001 (Cansim Table 105-0022) and Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

According to research, recent immigrants report a better health status than immigrants who have been in Canada for a longer period of time or native-born Canadians³⁴. The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) data support this finding in all age groups, the LSIC immigrant population consistently report better health status than the Canadian population.

6.1.2 A low proportion of new immigrants report health problems since their arrival

In LSIC, 16% of new immigrants reported physical health problems, 11% dental problems and 5% emotional or mental problems. Overall, 43,000 immigrants (26%) declared a health problem of some kind.

Even under the most favourable conditions, leaving behind a familiar environment for a new country with perhaps a different culture and a different way of doing things can be stressful. This transition can be a source of increased susceptibility to risks of anxiety or physical hardship. Many immigrants may postpone receipt of health care for minor concerns until they are settled. This may be the case for example, with refugees whose migration is often caused by unfavourable circumstances such as war, famine or human rights violations which also adds to other risk factors affecting physical and emotional health.

Table 6.2: Immigrants' reported type of health problem, by immigration category, 2001

Type of health problem	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	44,134	57,614	41,390	10,467	9,803	164,158
	percentage					
Physical	20 **	12 **	15	12 **	23 **	16
Dental	11	10	10	6	22 **	11
Emotional	3 **	5	7 **	3 **E	8 **	5

1. Don't know, refused and not stated removed from total.

** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants (p<0.01).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

34. Health Canada. I. Hyman. *Immigration and Health*, 2001, working paper available at <http://dsp-psd.communications.gc.ca/Collection/H13-5-01-5.pdf> (accessed October 14, 2003).

6.1.3 Older immigrants are more likely to report physical health problems

Age may also influence the health status of immigrants. The proportion of immigrants in the family category who reported health problems is similar to that of refugees (20% and 23% respectively), and higher than the incidence reported by skilled worker principal applicants (12%). However, it should be noted that immigrants admitted in the family category are also on average, older than immigrants in other immigration classes. Nine in 10 of the immigrants aged 55 years and older were admitted under the family category.

Age is, in fact, an important determinant of health, and new immigrants are no exception to this rule. The proportion reporting physical health problems increases by age category. For example, 15% of immigrants between 15 and 54 years reported physical health problems, while 28% of those 55 years and older reported physical health problems.

The relationship between age and mental or emotional health shows a different dynamic. A higher proportion of immigrants aged 25 to 44 (6%) suffered from these problems when compared to the 15 to 24 age group (4%) or to the 55 and over age group (3%).

Finally, age did not have a noticeable impact on the prevalence of dental problems, the proportion of immigrants having suffered from such problems varied between 11% and 12% in all age groups.

6.2 Access to health services

6.2.1 Nearly all recent immigrants have a health insurance card

In Canada, only permanent residents have access to health cards which provide no fee access to a broad range of health services. Although health insurance is universal in Canada each province and territory administers an independent program. In Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick, new permanent residents must wait three months before being eligible for a health card, while in Alberta for a cost, residents can apply immediately. Immigrants who do not have immediate access to provincial health insurance may purchase private insurance. Refugees are eligible for the *Interim Federal Health Program*, which guarantees essential medical services and emergency services.

Text box 6.1

Note that refugees and persons in similar circumstances selected abroad are also provided with coverage under the *Interim Federal Health (IFH)* program during the period covered by the *Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)* or the period covered by a private sponsorship. Once access to provincial health insurance is gained (normally within 90 days), these individuals will only be eligible for limited coverage under IFH for the duration of the RAP or for the duration of the private sponsorship, as applicable. Note that privately sponsored and government-assisted Convention Refugees are not eligible for provincial and municipal social assistance during their sponsorship period. Although they benefit from provincial health care plans, their prescription medications, dental care and other such medical needs are not covered by the provinces during this time period. Consequently, the IFH program extends partial health coverage.

The LSIC data show that at the time of the interview, almost all immigrants (97%) had obtained their health card. The most often cited reasons for not obtaining a health card were: delays in applying for a card (56%) and waiting to receive their health card (18%).

6.2.2 One in five accessed health care services

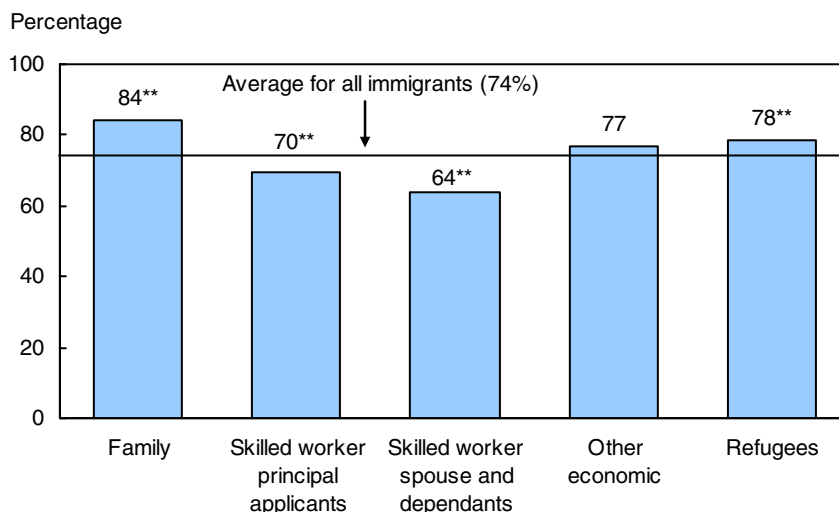
The LSIC data show that approximately six months after their arrival in Canada, nearly 32,000 or 19% of new immigrants had accessed health services for a health problem. Among these immigrants (72%) visited the office of a physician or a dentist, 13% went to a walk-in clinic, 10% to a hospital emergency department, 5% to a clinic by appointment or hospital outpatient clinic and 3% to a local community services centre³⁵.

The majority of immigrants who reported physical, dental or emotional problems received care. Two thirds received care for all of their problems, while a smaller proportion received care for only some of their problems (6%).

The degree to which immigrants receive help for health problems varies by category, ethnicity and province. Individuals in the family category were more inclined to get help for health problems while skilled worker spouse and dependents were less inclined to do so.

By ethnic origin, 61% of immigrants having declared their ethnic origin to be Eastern or South Eastern Asian and having reported health problems obtained care for all or some of their problems. In comparison, higher proportions were observed for other ethnic origin groups. These differences may reflect the diversity of newcomers to Canada with regard to culture, traditions and experience with health care services. Consulting health professionals may not be customary for immigrants from countries where religious or traditional healers are common providers of such services.

Figure 6.1a: Proportion of immigrants who received health care¹, by immigration category, 2001



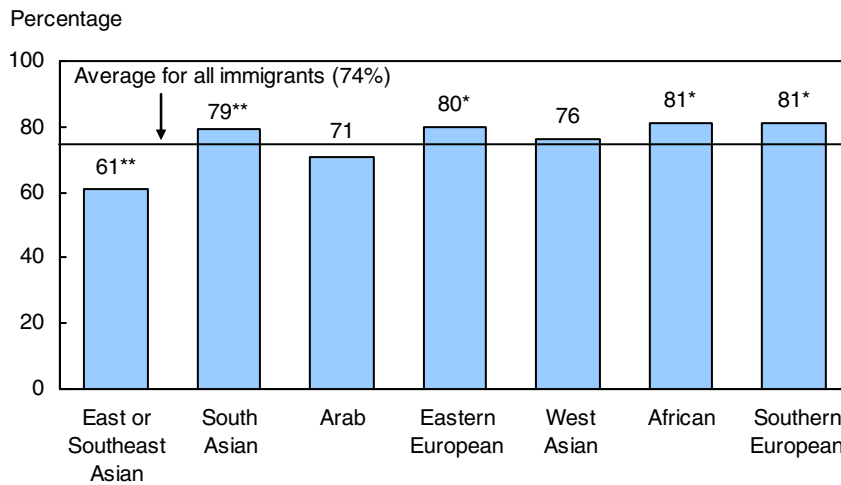
** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.01$).

1. Based on immigrants who reported having at least one health problem.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

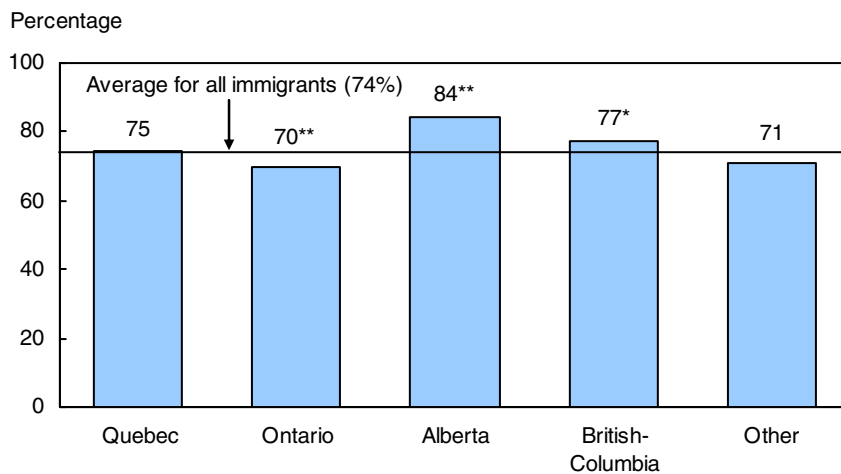
35. More than one response may be chosen therefore the total does not equal to 100.

Figure 6.1b: Proportion of immigrants who received health care¹, by ethnic origin (seven most common), 2001



* Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.05$).
 ** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.01$).
 1. Based on immigrants who reported having at least one health problem.
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Figure 6.1c: Proportion of immigrants who received health care¹, by province of residence, 2001



* Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.05$).
 ** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.01$).
 1. Based on immigrants who reported having at least one health problem.
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

By province, 84% of immigrants from Alberta received care for all or some of their health problems, which is noticeably higher than the proportion found for all immigrants (74%). The difference between Alberta and the other provinces may reflect the three month waiting period for a health card in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, whereas in Alberta immigrants can obtain a health card immediately for a fee.

6.2.3 Lack of seriousness and high cost of care, reasons cited for not accessing health care

Just over one quarter of immigrants did not access health services for their problems. When asked why, 44% reported that the problem was not serious, 31% reported the cost of care was too high and 15% reported not being eligible for insurance or that the problem was not covered by insurance.

The high cost of some health services was the second most commonly cited reason for not accessing health care and highest for residents in Quebec. This may suggest that some immigrants may not be obtaining the health care they need due to a lack of financial resources. It is hard to determine the relationship between income and those who cited lack of financial resources because the data only represent the initial transition period. By separating immigrants into four groups based on quartiles of monthly family income – less than \$485, \$485 but less than \$1,350, \$1,350 to less than \$2,700, and \$2,700 or more – it appears that for respondents whose monthly family income was less than \$1,350, one in three immigrants (34%) did not receive care for their health problems, while 25% of immigrants with a family income between \$1,350 and \$2,700 and 14% of immigrants with a family income great than \$2700 did not receive care for their problem.

Table 6.3: Immigrants' most frequently reported reasons for not obtaining health care, by province of residence, 2001

Reasons for not obtaining health care	Province of residence					All immigrants
	Quebec	Ontario	Alberta	British Columbia	Other	
Total (number)¹	2,505	7,901	927	2,338	608	14,278
	percentage					
Problems not serious enough	32	45	52	52	46 ^E	44
Cost too high	45 ^{**}	31	25 ^{*E}	23 ^{**}	23 ^E	31
Not eligible for insurance or problem not covered	21 [*]	15	7 ^{**E}	14 ^E	F	15

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

1. Based on immigrants who had at least one health problem for which they did not receive attention.

* Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.05$).

** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.01$).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

6.3 Health care providers

When describing concerns to a health care professional and when receiving medical advice or treatment, being able to communicate effectively is important. Nearly six in 10 immigrants (57%) said it was important or very important that the person providing them with health care speak their language. This proportion is consistent for both immigrants who had accessed health care since their arrival, and those who had not. However, this proportion varies slightly by gender: more females (60%) than males (54%) attached importance to this factor.

Language barriers become more problematic when the patient does not speak either English or French well. Proportionally more individuals who reported not being able to speak either English or French “fairly well”, “well” or “very well” thought that it was “important” or “very important” that health care providers speak their language (81%).

Gender differences were most notable when it came to having the same gender of the health care professional. Nearly one in three females (31%) reported that it was “very important” or “important” that the physician be a female, while only 11% of males preferred having a male doctor.

Just over one third (36%) of immigrants reported that it was “very important” or “important” that the health care provider is of the same ethnic background as they are. More females than males reported this (38% and 33% respectively). However, those who had received health care in Canada for medical, dental and/or emotional problems attached slightly less importance to having the medical care provider share their ethnic background (31%), compared with 40% who had not received health care.

6.4 Health of children of LSIC immigrants

Among the LSIC immigrants, 71,900 had at least one child living in the same household. Among them, 19% reported at least one child had physical health problems, 13% dental problems and 2% had emotional problems during their first six months in Canada.

In families where at least one child had health problems, 82% of respondents received health care for all of these problems, and 4% for only some problems. This proportion is higher than for immigrants receiving help for their own health problems (74%). Two thirds of the immigrants went to a doctor’s office to obtain care for their children’s health problems, 17% went to an emergency department and 14% went to a walk-in clinic.

The most frequently cited reason for not consulting health services for children’s problems were the same as for the respondent: the problem was not serious enough (47%), the cost of care was too high (30%), or the individual was not eligible for insurance or the treatment was not covered by insurance (15%).

6.5 Problems or difficulties accessing health services³⁶

6.5.1 Immigrants from the family category encountered less difficulties accessing health care

Problems or difficulties accessing health care are not concerns specific to immigrants, but to all Canadians. In a 2001 study on access to health care, it was estimated that 18% of Canadians experienced difficulties in obtaining first-contact services such as routine or

36. In the LSIC, respondents are asked to identify problems or difficulties accessing health services. They are then asked to identify which of the reported problems would they consider the most serious. In this section, the analysis is based on all of the problems identified by respondents and are therefore not directly comparable with the analysis in chapter 11, section 11.2, where it is based on the most serious problem identified by the respondent.

follow-up care, health-related information or advice, or immediate care for a minor health problem³⁷. In the LSIC, 23% of the immigrants who tried to access health care reported problems or difficulties.

Immigrants from the family category were less likely to report problems accessing health care services (15%) than refugees (20%), skilled workers – principal applicants (27%), spouse and dependents (28%) and other economic immigrants (25%). This may be because members of their family who were already present in Canada had established access to health care.

6.5.2 Long waits is the most cited problem accessing health care

The most frequently cited problem or difficulty for immigrants trying to access health care services was long waits (48%). This problem is not specific to immigrants: in a health survey of Canadians³⁸ long waits was also cited as the most common problem (23%). As show in Table 6.4, the high cost of health care and language problems were also commonly cited problems for the LSIC respondents (29% and 26%).

Table 6.4: Immigrants' reported problems or difficulties accessing health care, by immigration category, 2001

Problems accessing health care	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	5,207	11,124	8,918	1,780	1,558	28,649
	percentage					
Waiting lists or lineups	42 **	49	52 *	53	28 **	48
Costs too much money	29	29	28	15 **E	43 **	29
Language problems	34 **	17 **	29 *	36 *	39 **	26
Inability to find a physician	8 **E	16 *	16	12 E	7 **E	14
No health card or insurance	15 *	13	10	7 *E	7 *E	11

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

1. Based on immigrants who reported having problems or difficulties accessing health care services.

* Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.05$).

** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.01$).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

37. C. Sanmartin, C. Houle, J.-M. Berthelot and K. White. *Access to health care services in Canada*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-575, Ottawa, 2001.

38. J. Chen and F. Hou. "Unmet Needs for Health Care", *Health Reports*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-003, vol. 13, no. 2, 2002, p. 23 to 34.

6.5.3 High cost of health care was a problem for three new immigrants in 10 having declared difficulties accessing health services

In Canada, it is estimated that approximately 70% of health services are subsidized by the government³⁹. Canadians must pay for some services, including drugs, dental and vision care and alternative medicine treatments, while some Canadians have private health insurance, most frequently offered by their employer. Others, including those on social assistance, are covered by government insurance plans. Despite subsidized health care, high cost appears to be the second most commonly cited problem when accessing health services, being cited by almost three in 10 who reported problems (29%).

Table 6.5: Immigrants' problems or difficulties accessing health care, by province, 2001

Problems or difficulties	Province of residence					All immigrants
	Quebec	Ontario	Alberta	British Columbia	Other	
Total (number)¹	5,795	15,763	1,969	4,601	521	28,649
	percentage					
Waiting lists or lineups	66 **	45 **	47	37 **	40 ^E	48
Costs too much money	28	29	16 **	34 *	34 ^E	29
Language problems	22	27	26	28	31 ^E	26
Inability to find a physician	5 ** ^E	16 **	24 **	12	26 ^E	14
No health card or insurance	6 ** ^E	14 **	F	14	F	11

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

1. Based on immigrants who reported having problems or difficulties accessing health care services.

* Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.05$).

** Significantly different from average rate for all immigrants ($p < 0.01$).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

The high cost of health was cited more frequently by refugees: 43% of them said it was a problem in accessing health services. Because refugees also have the lowest monthly average family income by household member among all categories this may not be surprising.

By province, immigrants living in Alberta mentioned high costs of health care in a smaller proportion (16%) than in other provinces. As stated earlier, immigrants in Alberta, for a fee, do not have a three month waiting period in order to obtain a health card and therefore can access health services with no supplementary charges in the first three months.

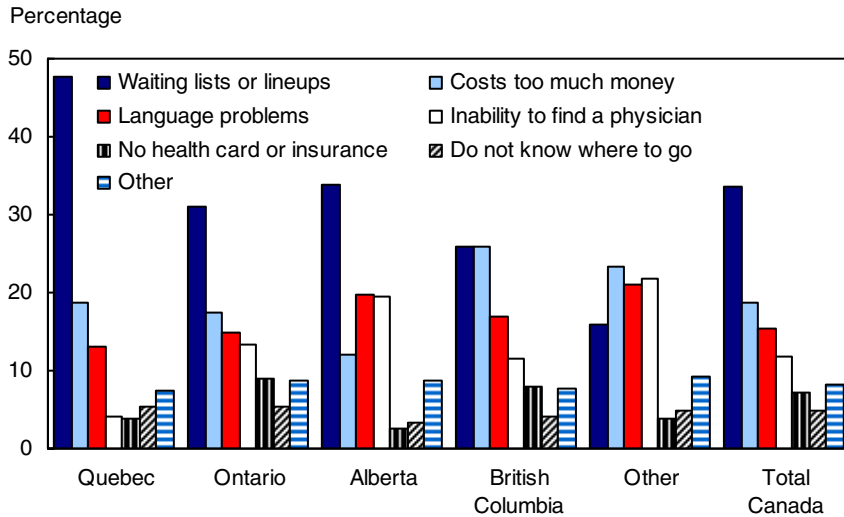
6.5.4 Language is an important barrier for immigrants trying to access health care

Language barrier was also a commonly cited problem, identified by 26% of immigrants who reported at least one problem when trying to access health care services. By category, immigrants admitted as skilled worker principal applicants were least likely to report the problem of language barrier (17%). This may be because knowledge of either English or

39. Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. *Health Care in Canada—A First Annual Report*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-222, Ottawa, 2000.

French is one of many factors considered in the assessment criteria for skilled worker principal applicants.

Figure 6.2: Immigrants' most serious problem accessing health care¹, by province of residence, 2001



1. Based on immigrants who reported problems or difficulties accessing health care services.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

6.6 Conclusion

New immigrants are generally in good health. Since their arrival in Canada older immigrants and refugees were most likely to report health problems. Six months after arrival almost all of the LSIC immigrants had a provincial health card, and therefore access to a broad range of health services.

Few immigrants reported difficulties in accessing health services. The most common problems reported by immigrants trying to access health care were long waits, high costs and language barriers. Although provincial health insurance programs cover a wide range of services, many medical and related needs are subject to private expenses that may influence access to some services and represent major draws on many new immigrants' limited financial resources.

While the long waits are a national problem for all Canadians, it is hopeful that financial and linguistic problems will decrease in waves two and three when immigrants will have had two and four years to find employment, and increase their language ability in either of Canada's official languages.

7 Building on education and training

The literature suggests a strong relationship between pre-migration level of education and immigrant integration after landing. The broad conclusions are that the more educated eventually fare better in terms of labour force participation, employment and earnings than those with less education.

However, literature also suggests that in the early years after arrival immigrants also experience a downgrading of their occupational status due to things such as: underutilization of their skills, lack of Canadian work experience, transferability of foreign credentials, lack of knowledge of at least one official language, lack of available jobs or through personal choice⁴⁰.

For some immigrants, taking education or training courses may be seen as a way to facilitate their integration in Canada. For newcomers surveyed for the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), respondents were asked how important it was to their future in Canada to further their education. The majority of newcomers reported that it was either very important (71%) or important (18%) to obtain education or training in Canada. At the time of arrival, approximately two-thirds of new immigrants interviewed had plans to take education or training.

According to research, higher education levels at arrival are associated with a greater probability of enrolling in school after migration⁴¹. Data from the LSIC provide support to this as results indicate that 68% of the 109,300 immigrants who planned to pursue education or training arrived in Canada with a university degree and a further 15% with some post secondary, trade or college education.

The majority of those who planned to obtain education or training planned to attend university (40%), acquire language training (28%), or further their job related skills (25%). Almost half of the immigrants in the economic category who planned to further their education or training planned to attend university (47%) while immigrants in the family category and refugees planned to acquire language training (41% and 39% respectively).

7.1 Most immigrants enrolled in language courses

Six months after arrival, 73,500 (67%) of immigrants who planned to further their education had started. Of these, the majority were enrolled in English language training (58%), followed by education leading to a degree or diploma (23%), French language training (9%), and job-related training (8%).

40. D. Drachman and A. Halberstadt. "Stage Migration Framework As Applied to Recent Soviet Emigres", *Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees*, published under the direction of A.S. Ryan, New York, Haworth Press, 1992.

41. A.G. Green and D.A. Green. "The Economic Goals of Canada's Immigration Policy", *Canadian Public Policy*, vol 25, 1999, p. 425 to 451.

Immigrants of prime working age were most likely to be enrolled in training: 68% of immigrants between 25 and 44 years of age and 24% between the ages of 15 and 24 years. By category, 70% of economic immigrants, 20% of immigrants in the family category and 10% of refugees were enrolled in training.

Consistent with their plans at arrival, a higher proportion of family and refugee class immigrants were enrolled in language training while a higher proportion of economic class immigrants were enrolled in education leading to a degree or diploma or job-related training.

One reason that skilled worker principal applicants are less likely to be enrolled in language training may be that their language skills upon arrival were on average better than those of immigrants in other categories, and immigrants in the family category and refugees were less likely to report knowledge of either official language.

Table 7.1: Immigrants' type of training taken, by immigration category, 2001

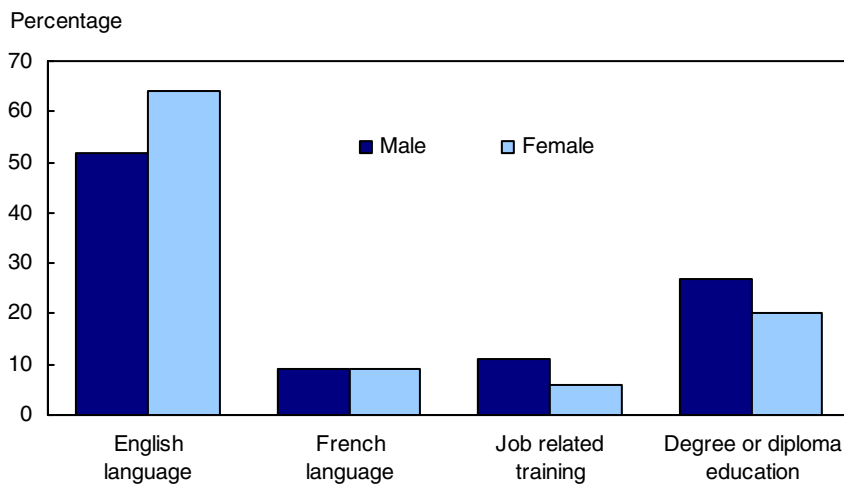
Immigration category ¹	Type of training			
	English language	French language	Job-related	Education leading to a degree or diploma
	percentage			
Family	64	9	6	20
Skilled worker principal applicants	51	9	16	23
Skilled worker spouse and dependants	61	8	5	26
Refugees	63	16	36	19
All immigrants	58	9	8	23

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

1. Based on the number of immigrants who had taken training since their arrival.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Figure 7.1: Immigrants' type of training taken, by gender, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

There were slightly more females (53%) than males (47%) enrolled in training. Higher proportions of females were enrolled in language training, while higher proportions of males were enrolled in job-related training and education leading to a degree or diploma.

7.2 Difficulties getting education or training

Six months after arrival, two-thirds of newcomers had tried to obtain education or training. Of the 108,900 who reported trying to access education or training, four in 10 reported some problems or difficulties. There is only a slight variation by immigration category, for example, 42% of skilled workers, 35% of immigrants in the family category and 31% of refugees reported problems. Immigrants of prime working age and those of pre-retirement age were most likely to report problems or difficulties. Just over four in 10 (43%) immigrants between 25 to 44 years and 41% of those between 55 and 64 years reported problems or difficulties.

Among the five largest census metropolitan area's (CMA) where immigrants settled, those living in Vancouver (48%), Calgary (46%) and Ottawa-Gatineau (46%) were more likely to report problems or difficulties getting education or training than immigrants living in Toronto (40%) and Montreal (38%).

7.2.1 Language barriers and financial problems most frequently cited

Of those who had problems accessing education or training, 27% reported language barriers, and 25% reported financial problems to be the most serious. Just over one in 10 (11%) reported problems with classes being full.

Among categories, immigrants admitted under the family category, skilled worker spouse and dependants and refugees were more likely to report language barriers as a problem, while skilled worker principal applicants were more likely to report financial problems as the most serious problem. The proportion of immigrants who reported problems with classes being too full was consistent across categories; skilled workers (11%), family (10%) and refugees (14%).

Language barrier was the most commonly cited problem for immigrants between 15 to 24 years of age (45%), while financial problems were most commonly cited for those between 25 and 44 years (28%). This may be because immigrants of prime working age are also working as well as upgrading their education or skills. Immigrants of prime working age (25 to 44 years) are also likely to have more financial commitments.

For immigrants living in Vancouver and Ottawa-Gatineau, language barriers was the most commonly cited problem (32% and 30%) while in Toronto both financial and language barriers were the most commonly cited problems (29% and 28% respectively).

7.3 Foreign credentials

Research shows that the immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1990s were the most highly educated cohort of immigrants to date and the national pool of foreign-trained immigrants is estimated to be growing by at least 60,000 a year⁴².

The most common countries where the LSIC immigrants attained their education were China (18%), India (14%) and the Philippines (6%)⁴³. The majority of immigrants who were educated in China received a university degree (68%) and/or some post secondary, trade or a college education (17%). In India 58% of immigrants received a university degree. For immigrants who were educated in the Philippines, 56% received a university degree and 27% had some post secondary, trade or college education.

Of the immigrants who arrived from abroad between October 2000 and September 2001, 76% reported having at least one type of foreign credential and almost four in ten of these immigrants (38%) had more than one credential.

In the Canadian context, accreditation is formally defined as “the process by which an agency or association grants public recognition to a training institution, program of study or service which meets certain pre-determined standards”⁴⁴. Within the LSIC, any pre-migration education above a high school diploma is considered a credential.

To facilitate a better understanding of the credential recognition discussion within the LSIC, the type of credential has been broken down into three categories: ‘courses’ identifies some courses taken either at a trade school, college or university, ‘diploma or degree’ signifies receipt of a college diploma or university degree and ‘professional credential’ refers to immigrants who hold a degree in dentistry, law etc. or a technical or professional certification.

Most newcomers arrived with a diploma or degree type of credential (85%), followed by 10% with a course type of credential and 6% with a professional or technical credential. There was a slightly higher proportion of males than females who had at least one foreign credential (81% and 71% respectively). Again, this may be due to the higher proportion of male skilled worker principal applicants whose admittance is based on level of education and/or skill.

Although the majority of immigrants with credentials have a diploma or degree type of credential, there is some variation by category. Almost three quarters (72%) of immigrants in the family category and just over half of the refugees (54%) have a diploma or degree credential. While fewer refugees have diploma or degree type credentials, one fifth of them had a professional or technical type of credential – the highest proportion among all

42. Open Learning Agency (OLA). *Draft Proposal to Develop the Open Learning Agency Credential Evaluation Service (OLACES)*, OLA, September 1993.

43. See appendix A.

44. Employment and Immigration Canada. *1993 Occupational Standards and Certification: Issues and Trends*, Ottawa, Minister of Supply and Services, p. 39.

categories. This shows that although family and refugee category immigrants are not selected based on their skills or level of education, they are still quite educated.

Table 7.2: Immigrants with credentials, by immigration category and type of credential, 2001

Immigration category	Population		Type of credential		
	Total population	Population with credentials	Courses	Diploma or degree	Professional credential
	number			percentage	
Family	44,149	23,264	19	72	9
Skilled worker principal applicants	57,625	56,647	4	93	4
Skilled worker spouse and dependants	41,390	33,591	10	86	5
Other economic	10,467	6,547	17	75	9
Refugees	9,822	3,893	29	54	18
All immigrants	164,203	124,587	10	85	6

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

7.4 Credential recognition major hurdle for newcomers

Credential and skill recognition are important to both immigrants as well as the host country. For newcomers, credential accreditation should enhance their employability and hence their economic success and subsequently facilitate the integration process. For the host country, credential recognition means a greater pool of resources available. It also facilitates the likelihood of immigrants being able to contribute to rather than depend on, society and the government to survive in Canada.

A delay in credential recognition is a major hurdle that many newcomers experience. Many immigrants come to Canada believing their skills or qualifications are needed and will facilitate securing suitable employment. After arrival some may become frustrated with the delay and in the lengthy formal recognition process they must go through to utilize their skills or have their credentials, skills and/or foreign work experience recognized. This process is often time consuming and may be costly, more so if further education is required.

For the host society an additional challenge to the evaluation of credentials may be the recent change in countries of origin of most immigrants. Previously, immigrants were most likely to come from European nations such as the British Isles, Italy and Germany, or from the United States where training and education were more likely to be similar to that of Canada. Currently the majority of immigrants are from Asian countries such as China, India and the Philippines where the culture, education and skills are quite different. This may present a challenge for the institutions responsible for credential assessment where they may not be familiar with the credentials or know how to assess their equivalence appropriately.

Within Canada, four major institutions or agencies are involved in the process of recognition of foreign credentials including: post-secondary educational institutions, provincial governments, professional self-regulating bodies and employers. Immigrants in the LSIC were asked about credential recognition within Canada from the following: employer when

applied for job, work-related or professional organization, immigration officer, educational institution and/or federal or provincial government departments.

In the LSIC, questions pertaining to the credential assessment process may not meet the Canadian definition of formal accreditation, for example when asked whether or not their credentials were accepted respondents could have interpreted this as either a formal or informal acceptance.

Six months after arrival, 32% of the immigrants who arrived in Canada with at least one credential had checked to see if their credentials would be recognized in Canada. Of those, 83% had their credentials assessed by an organization or institution within Canada.

Table 7.3: Immigrants' credentials checked, by immigration category, 2001

Immigration category	Population with credentials	Proportion who checked credentials ¹
	number	percentage
Family	23,264	21
Skilled worker principal applicants	56,647	44
Skilled worker spouse and dependants	33,591	24
Other economic	6,547	20
Refugees	3,893	1
All immigrants	124,587	32

1. Refers to immigrants who reported having their credentials checked within Canada.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Among those with credentials, six months after arrival almost half (44%) of the skilled worker principal applicants, 21% of immigrants in the family category and 1% of refugees reported that they had had their credentials assessed in Canada.

Table 7.4: Where immigrants' credentials checked, by immigration category, 2001

Immigration category	Credentials checked	Where checked for credential assessment ¹				
		Employer	Work-related organization	Immigration officer	Educational institution	Federal or provincial department
Family	4,848	12	20	10	45	4
Skilled worker principal applicants	25,020	18	24	13	35	5
Skilled worker spouse and dependants	8,059	9	22	10	47	5
Other economic	1,335	17	25	14	29	F
Refugees	1,003	6	5	39	34	4
All immigrants	40,442	15	23	13	39	5

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

1. Refers to institutions for credential assessment within Canada only.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

While the majority of immigrants in each category checked with an educational institution or a work-related organization, refugees were more likely to check their credentials with an immigration officer. Immigration officers do not have the ability to officially assess foreign credentials and as such, this proportion may reflect immigrants who had their credentials

assessed informally or may be a misinterpretation of the question. More research needs to be done in this area.

7.4.1 Majority of credentials assessed were fully accepted

Of the 40,442 immigrants who had at least one credential assessed 56% reported that their credentials were fully accepted, 19% partially accepted, 15% were still in the process of finding out and 11% reported that their credentials were not accepted⁴⁵.

Table 7.5: Immigrants' credential acceptance, by immigration category, 2001

Immigration category	Credential acceptance ¹			
	Fully accepted	Partially accepted	Not accepted	In process of finding out
	percentage			
Family	42	23	14	21
Skilled worker principal applicants	63	17	8	12
Skilled worker spouse and dependants	44	21	15	20
Other economic	53	18	15	14
Refugees	23	17	22	38
All immigrants	56	19	11	15

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Refers to institutions for credential assessment within Canada only.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Six months after arrival, immigrants in the economic category were most likely to have their credentials fully accepted, while refugees were least likely to report their credentials were fully accepted (Table 7.5). A large proportion of refugees were still waiting to find out whether their credentials would be accepted or not (38%) and 22% reported that they were not accepted.

In addition to certification examinations, in Canada, candidates for accreditation must often show an ability to communicate in either English or French⁴⁶. Six months after arrival, immigrants who reported the ability to speak English only or both English and French were more likely to have their credentials fully accepted (53% and 50%) than those who reported the ability to speak French or neither French nor English (39% and 36%). At the time of the interview, 37% of immigrants who spoke French only were in the process of finding out whether or not their credentials would be accepted, while for 34% of immigrants who spoke neither French nor English, their credentials were not accepted. Differences between credential acceptance and language ability may reflect provincial variation and/or legislation on foreign credentials, this is examined further in the next section.

45. This analysis focuses on credential assessment within Canada – credentials assessed outside have been removed.

46. B. R. Chiswick and P. W. Miller. "The Determinants of Post-Immigration Investments in Education," *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 13, no. 2, 1994, p. 163 à 177.

Table 7.6: Immigrants' credential acceptance, by language ability, 2001

Language ability	Credential acceptance ¹			
	Fully accepted	Partially accepted	Not accepted	In process of finding out
	percentage			
English only	53	51	12	14
French only	39	14	10	37
English and French	50	19	12	20
Neither English nor French	36	17	34	14
All immigrants	56	19	11	15

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Refers to institutions for credential assessment within Canada only.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

7.4.2 Credential assessment is a shared jurisdiction

Currently there is no centralized system of accreditation in Canada. Official recognition or accreditation of post-secondary programs and institutions takes place through a combination of legislative, regulatory and/or formalized methods. Responsibility for post-secondary education lies within the jurisdiction of the provinces and territories. For this reason, accreditation of foreign qualifications varies across the provinces. In regulated professions and most trades, the provincial associations have power to determine licensing and certification requirements, to grant recognition of credentials, and to set standards and qualifications in general.

Table 7.7: Immigrants' credential acceptance, by province, 2001

Province where credentials checked	Total credentials checked	Credential acceptance ¹			
		Fully accepted	Partially accepted	Not accepted	In process of finding out
	number	percentage			
British Columbia	4,697	48	24	17	11
Alberta	3,095	45	25	12	17
Ontario	21,394	51	22	13	15
Quebec	7,740	55	14	7	24
All other provinces	1,435	61	15	11	14
All immigrants	38,361	51	20	12	16

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Refers to institutions within Canada only.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

In most of the provinces, the majority of credentials were either fully or partially accepted with the exception of Quebec where following those whose credentials were fully accepted, immigrants were still waiting to find out whether or not they would be accepted (24%). Since credential recognition falls under provincial jurisdiction, one would expect to see variation between the provinces. The higher proportion of immigrants waiting to see if their credentials will be recognized in Quebec may be the result of provincial differences in the evaluation process.

Waves two and three will provide a better understanding of the credential evaluation process over time and help determine whether the evaluations from wave one helped newcomers or if further actions (such as language training) were required.

7.4.3 Future plans for credential recognition

Just over four in 10 (44%) of the 88,250 who did not have their credentials assessed six months after their arrival, still planned to do so.

Table 7.8: Immigrants' plans to have credentials assessed, by immigration category, 2001

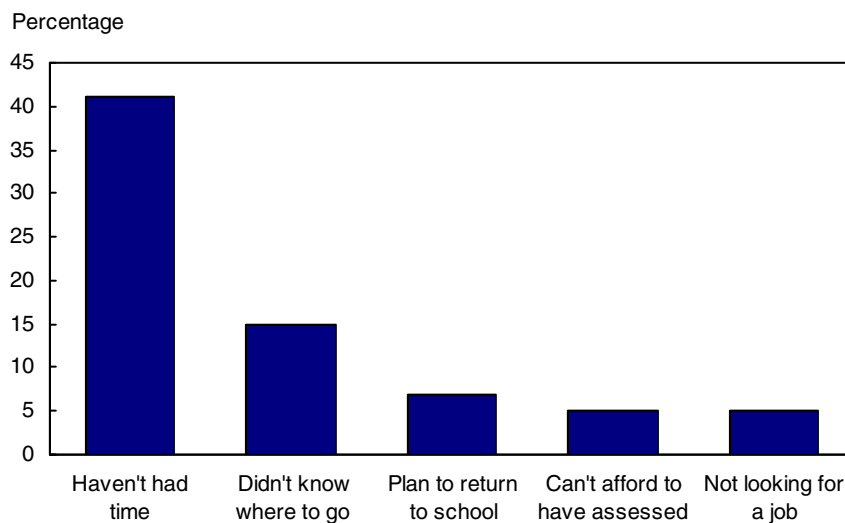
Immigration category	Immigrants who have not had credentials assessed	Plan to have credentials assessed
	number	percentage
Family	18,920	43
Skilled worker principal applicants	34,848	44
Skilled worker spouse and dependants	26,063	46
Other economic	5,104	19
Refugees	2,870	64
All immigrants	88,257	44

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

When asked why they had not yet had their credentials assessed, the majority reported lack of time (41%), while a further 15% reported not knowing where to go to have their credentials assessed. This latter point identifies the need for more information about credential recognition to be readily available for new immigrants who are interested in having their credentials assessed.

Other reasons reported for not having their credentials assessed were plans to further their education or training first, and lack of funds (7% and 5% respectively).

Figure 7.2: Immigrants' reasons for not having credentials assessed six months after arrival, 2001

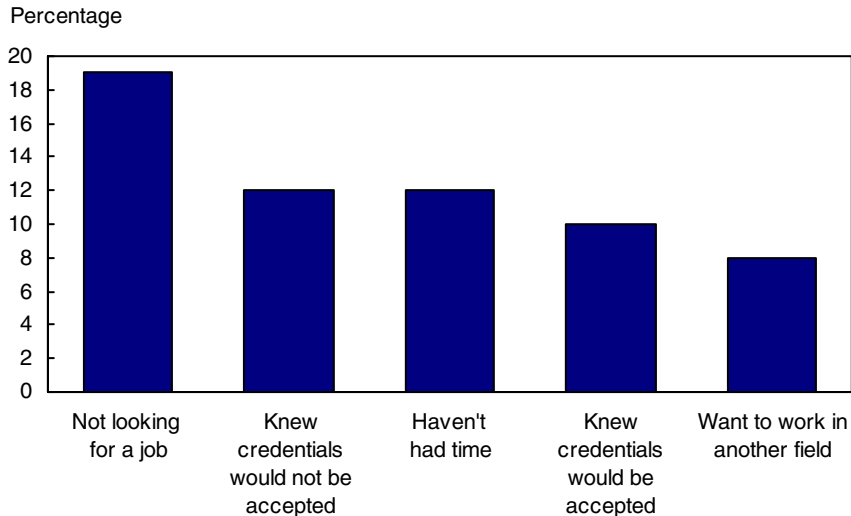


Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

7.4.4 Some immigrants had no plans to have their credentials assessed

Although credential recognition is said to be a major hurdle for new immigrants, more than half of the 88,250 LSIC immigrants who did not have their credentials assessed at the time of the interview did not plan to do so (56%).

Figure 7.3: Immigrants' reasons for not planning to have credentials assessed, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

The majority of immigrants who did not plan to have their credentials recognized were not looking for a job and although one in 10 reported knowing their credentials would be accepted, they had no plans to have them assessed.

7.5 Conclusion

Although the majority of immigrants from the LSIC population were highly educated upon arrival, a large proportion of immigrants have continued with their education or training: specifically taking language training and education leading to a degree or diploma or job-related training. Many immigrants may be taking education or training to increase the chances that their credentials or foreign work experience will be recognized.

Credential recognition may better the chance of immigrant integration as well as permit the immigrant to more readily contribute to their new society. It is difficult to determine if credential acceptance as captured in the first wave of the LSIC has been interpreted as informal or a more formal acceptance of qualifications. This will require further analysis and waves two and three will provide a more detailed examination of the credential recognition for newcomers.

8 Finding employment

Participation in the labour force is an important indicator of settlement. It is associated with economic integration, financial independence and with social integration. It is regarded by most immigrants of working age as central to their successful settlement. The Canadian public often expresses strong expectations with respect to newcomers' labour force achievements.

The analysis based on the first wave of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) investigates the initial settlement period—the first six months of newcomers' lives in Canada. During this short period of time, most immigrants have several tasks to complete including finding a new job, a place to live and a school for their children or themselves. As a result, labour force participation among immigrants tends to be low in the initial adjustment period, but it is expected to gradually increase over time. Entering the job market (i.e., obtaining paid work) is perhaps, for a large number of immigrants, a major goal to achieve in the short-term. Obtaining employment comparable to that held prior to migration, or consistent with skill level or field of interest, and general career advancement are regarded as longer term objectives.

Text box 8.1

Important note on the LSIC labour force rates

The LSIC was designed to allow proper measurement of employment rates—to do this, start and end dates were collected for every job spell. However this is not true for unemployment and labour force participation rates. Because respondents were not asked if they were looking for a job during every jobless spell, the LSIC does not differentiate between unemployment and out of the labour force status.

In an attempt to approximate labour force participation rates and unemployment rates at the time of interview, the LSIC has derived its own labour force status. Hence if a person is not working at the time of the interview but has been employed at any given time since arrival to Canada, then this person was considered in the labour force. Those who never worked since arrival were asked if they had ever looked for a job. If so, they were classified as unemployed.

Consequently, the LSIC participation and unemployment rates may be overestimated.

We strongly recommend that these differences are noted if comparing participation or unemployment rates data from the LSIC and other sources.

8.1 Most new immigrants tried to enter the labour market

During the first six months, an estimated 71% (116,700) of immigrants in the LSIC tried to find employment, this varies by immigration category. Not surprisingly a high percentage of skilled worker principal applicants (SPAs) tried to enter the labour market (90%), given that most of these immigrants are selected based on their labour market qualifications. Smaller proportions of immigrants in the family category (61%), skilled worker spouse and dependants (66%) and refugee categories (47%) tried to find employment during their first six months in Canada.

The data from the first set of interviews show that a higher proportion of males than females tried to enter the labour force (82% and 60% respectively). In addition, higher proportions of immigrants in the prime working age group of 25 to 44 years looked for employment during the first six months in Canada.

Immigrants used a number of methods in order to find employment. The most popular of these was applying directly to employers, followed closely by looking in newspapers, asking friends and relatives, and looking on the internet.

Table 8.1: Immigrants' methods for finding employment, by immigration category, 2001

Method of finding employment	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)	44,149	57,625	41,390	10,467	9,822	164,203
Immigrants who tried to find employment (number)	27,069	51,877	27,352	5,045	4,661	116,695
Immigrants who tried to find employment (%)	61	90	66	48	47	71
How immigrants looked for employment	percentage					
Applied directly to employer	48	56	48	31	35	51
English or French newspapers	41	58	52	33	34	50
Friends or relatives	49	44	42	30	48	45
Internet	19	64	40	16	10	43
Employment agency	21	44	30	12	21	33

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

The way in which immigrants looked for employment differed by immigration category. The majority of skilled worker principal applicants reported searching the internet (64%) followed by looking in newspapers (58%) while skilled worker spouses and dependants reported looking in newspapers (52%) followed by applying directly to employers (48%). In contrast, immigrants in the family category most often asked friends and relatives about job prospects (49%), followed by applying directly to employers (48%). For refugees, asking friends and relatives about job prospects was the most common way they tried to find a job (48%).

As mentioned earlier, a higher proportion of males tried to find employment during the first six months—82% males and 60% females (Table 8.2). However, the means of looking for employment differed slightly; a higher proportion of males applied directly to employers or looked in newspapers.

Table 8.2: Immigrants' methods for finding employment, by gender, 2001

Method of finding employment	Gender	
	Male	Female
Total (number)	81,552	82,651
Immigrants who tried to find employment (number)	66,912	49,783
Immigrants who tried to find employment (%)	82	60
	percentage	
How immigrants looked for employment		
Applied directly to employer	54	46
English or French newspapers	53	47
Friends or relatives	47	41
Internet	49	35
Employment agency	37	28

Percentages may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

8.2 Entering the labour force a challenge

Entering the labour market is a challenge for new immigrants. At the time of interview, roughly 44% of all immigrants were employed, 26% were unemployed and 30% were not in the labour force. By comparison, results from The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA 2000) showed that after six months in Australia, 49% were employed, 10% were unemployed and 41% were not in the labour force.

Table 8.3: Labour force status of immigrants, 2001

Labour force status ¹	Number	Percentage
Not in the labour force	49,073	30
Employed or self-employed	72,141	44
Unemployed	42,212	26

1. Excludes other immigrants, as defined in section 2.1.4.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Of the 49,000 immigrants who were not participating in the labour force, 42% were students and the same proportion were homemakers—the other 16% were either retired or had other reasons for not participating in the labour market.

There are a higher proportion of females not in the labour force than males (71% versus 29% respectively). The gender makeup of students and homemakers support these results. Of particular note, females accounted for 94% of homemakers and 59% of students, while males accounted for a slightly higher percentage (53%) of retired immigrants. A possible explanation for this is that females may view themselves as homemakers all their life, and never as retired.

8.2.1 Labour market characteristics by immigration category

The proportion of people in the labour force varies by immigration category. This is not surprising, given the wide range of reasons for coming to Canada. The vast majority of skilled worker principal applicants entered the labour force after six months, while a lower proportion of immigrants in the family category and refugees did.

Table 8.4: Labour force status of immigrants, by immigration category, 2001

Labour force status	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
	number					
Total	44,149	57,625	41,390	10,467	9,822	164,203
In labour force	26,080	52,343	25,948	4,990	4,290	114,353
Not in labour force	17,871	4,885	15,283	5,466	5,520	49,073
	percentage					
In labour force	59	91	63	48	44	70
Not in labour force	40	8	37	52	56	30

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

As seen in Table 8.4, the majority of skilled worker principal applicants were participating in the labour force at the time of interview (91%), which is not surprising given that immigrants in this category are chosen for their labour market suitability. In contrast, the skilled worker spouse and dependants (63%), immigrants in the family category (59%), and refugees (44%) had fewer proportions participating in the labour force (many of whom were students, homemakers and retired individuals).

While refugees had the lowest labour market participation rate after the first six months in Canada, 70% of refugees who were not in the labour force said their main/major activity during the initial months after landing was studying. This is the largest proportion among all immigration categories and suggests that increased labour market participation should evolve over time as courses are completed. The second and third wave of the LSIC interviews will provide more insight on the progression of labour market integration of refugees and of all immigrants.

Table 8.5: Immigrants' labour force rates, by immigration category, 2001

Labour force rates	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
	percentage					
Participation rate ¹	59	91	63	48	44	70
Employment rate ²	39	60	36	29	21	44
Unemployment rate ³	34	34	43	40	51	37

1. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

2. Refers to the number of employed immigrants over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

3. Refers to the number of immigrants who are unemployed and looking for work over the total number of immigrants in the labour force.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

As shown in Table 8.5 the employment rate for new immigrants is 44%, a figure that is lower than the Canadian average of 61%⁴⁷. In addition, the unemployment rate for newly arrived immigrants is 37%, which suggests that recent immigrants are having difficulty in finding employment, or that they are occupied with other necessities such as finding adequate housing.

By category, the unemployment rate for skilled worker principal applicants is equal to that of immigrants in the family category (34%), but lower than that of skilled worker spouse and dependants (43%). Refugees face even greater obstacles in terms of finding employment, especially during the first six months in Canada and this is reflected in the higher unemployment rate for this group of immigrants (51%).

8.2.2 Employment rates by immigration category

Figure 8.1 shows the employment rates by immigration category on a week-by-week basis. Skilled worker principal applicants have the highest employment rates at any one point in time throughout the first six months⁴⁸.

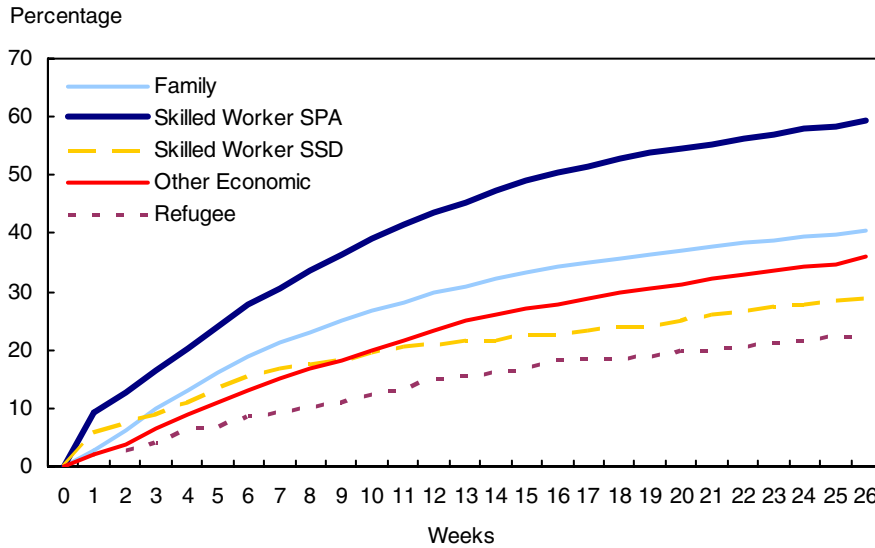
All categories show a steady progression of being employed as time goes on and this is an encouraging sign, given that integration into the labour market is a major hurdle for many new immigrants to Canada. The chart shows a continuous upward trend for all categories and suggests improved employment prospects should evolve in the second round of LSIC interviews⁴⁹.

47. Data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) show that the employment rate for Canada during 2001 was 61.2%.

48. Slightly more than 9,000 immigrants had a pre-arranged job prior to their arrival in Canada of which roughly 70% were in the skilled worker principal applicant category.

49. Figure 8.1 shows weekly employment rates by immigration category. Week 26 rates correspond to employment rates at time of interview.

Figure 8.1: Immigrants' weekly rates of employment, by immigration category, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

8.2.3 Labour market characteristics by gender and age

Results from the first six months in Canada indicate that female immigrants appear to have greater difficulty finding employment than their male counterparts. As shown in Table 8.6 the employment rate for males was 54% while for females it was 34%.

Table 8.6: Immigrants' labour force rates, by gender and age group, 2001

	Labour force rates		
	Employment rate ¹	Unemployment rate ²	Participation rate ³
	percentage		
Gender			
Male	54	35	83
Female	34	40	58
Age group			
15 to 24 years	36	39	59
25 to 44 years	50	36	78
45 to 64 years	35	41	60
65 years and older	7	46	12

1. Refers to the number of employed immigrants over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

2. Refers to the number of immigrants who are unemployed and looking for work over the total number of immigrants in the labour force.

3. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

There are differences in labour force characteristics by age. Immigrants in the prime working-age group of 25 to 44 years had the highest participation and employment rates. Almost eight in 10 in this age group (78%) were in the labour force, while roughly six in 10 of immigrants aged 45 to 64 and 15 to 24 were in the labour force. Half of the recent immigrants in the 25 to 44 age group were employed six months after landing, compared to

just over one-third (36% and 35% respectively) of those aged 15 to 24 years and those aged 45 to 64 years.

Despite having the highest participation and employment rates, immigrants in the prime working-age (25-44) group had an unemployment rate of 36% at the time of interview. The unemployment rate was 39% for immigrants between 15 and 24 years of age and 41% for those between 45 and 64.

8.2.4 Labour market characteristics by region

The LSIC data indicate that the Prairies have the highest employment and lowest unemployment rates. This is consistent with the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Labour market outcomes were particularly weak in Quebec. Immigrants in that province had an employment rate of 32% (below the national rate of 44% for the LSIC immigrants) and an unemployment rate of 53% (above the national rate of 37% for the LSIC immigrants).

Table 8.7: Immigrants' labour force rates, by province and selected census metropolitan areas, 2001

	Labour force rates		
	Employment rate ¹	Unemployment rate ²	Participation rate ³
	percentage		
Canada	44	37	70
Province			
Atlantic	42	33	63
Quebec	32	53	67
Ontario	47	35	72
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	55	22	70
Alberta	56	24	73
British Columbia	40	37	64
Census metropolitan area			
Toronto	48	35	74
Montreal	31	54	68
Calgary	57	25	76
Vancouver	38	39	63

1. Refers to the number of employed immigrants over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

2. Refers to the number of immigrants who are unemployed and looking for work over the total number of immigrants in the labour force.

3. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Labour force status for immigrants who settled in major Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) mirror the trends at the regional level. Those who chose to settle in Calgary benefited from the best labour market scenario among all new immigrants. In addition, the data show that immigrants in Toronto fared better than other major metropolitan centres such as Vancouver and Montreal, with higher participation and employment rates and a lower unemployment rate.

The variability in labour force status may account for some of the differences in the immigrants' intended destination and their place of residence at the time of interview. For example, a higher number of immigrants settled in Toronto than originally intended. In contrast, fewer immigrants settled in Vancouver and Montreal than originally intended. In smaller CMAs such as Calgary, Ottawa, and Edmonton, the intended destination and place of residence at time of interview are very similar. Waves two and three will allow for a more in-depth look at labour mobility.

8.2.5 Labour market characteristics by official language knowledge

Data presented in this section provide support to the premise that knowledge of an official language plays a key role in terms of participation in the labour market, and may also be reflective of regional linguistic needs and abilities. However, readers are also reminded that when doing analysis by knowledge of official language it is important to note the regional differences between Quebec and the rest of Canada from chapter five.

Table 8.8: Immigrants' labour force rates, by knowledge of official languages, 2001

Knowledge of official languages	Labour force rates		
	Employment rate ¹	Unemployment rate ²	Participation rate ³
	percentage		
English only	49	35	76
French only	28	54	61
English and French	43	45	79
Neither English nor French	28	38	45
English or French	48	37	75

1. Refers to the number of employed immigrants over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

2. Refers to the number of immigrants who are unemployed and looking for work over the total number of immigrants in the labour force.

3. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Six months after arrival 75% of all immigrants who could converse in at least one official language were in the labour force. However, only 45% of immigrants who could not converse in either official language were in the labour force. The same trends were also evident for employment rates. Six months after arrival, immigrants who could converse in at least one official language had an employment rate of 48%, while immigrants with neither official language had an employment rate of 28%.

8.2.6 Labour market characteristics by major source world region and country of origin

Immigrants in the LSIC arrived in Canada from various regions around the world. Labour force participation rates were comparable for immigrants from most world regions (69%-74%), with the exception of Oceania that had a participation rate of 83%. Employment rates, on the other hand, varied considerably by region. Immigrants from Oceania and North America recorded the highest employment rates (68% and 61% respectively), while immigrants from Africa had the lowest employment rate (35%).

Table 8.9: Immigrants' labour force rates, by major world region and country of origin, 2001

Region or country of origin	Labour force rates		
	Employment rate ¹	Unemployment rate ²	Participation rate ³
	percentage		
Major world region			
Oceania	68	18 ^E	83
North America	61	14	71
Europe	50	31	72
Central and South America, Caribbean	46	35	72
Asia and Middle East	44	37	69
Africa	35	53	74
Country			
Philippines	67	19	83
India	58	27	80
Romania	51	36	80
Russia	44	32	66
Pakistan	40	39	65
China	38	44	69
Sri Lanka	38	31	55
Morocco	27	68	82
Iran	27	53	57
South Korea	24	53	51

1. Refers to the number of employed immigrants over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

2. Refers to the number of immigrants who are unemployed and looking for work over the total number of immigrants in the labour force.

3. Refers to the number of immigrants in the labour force over the total number of immigrants aged 15 and over (i.e. the overall LSIC population).

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Labour force rates for the ten most common countries of origin vary considerably. For example, six months after their arrival 83% of immigrants from Philippines were in the labour force, 67% were employed and the unemployment rate for this particular group was well below average (19%). By comparison, figures from the leading country of origin (China) were not as promising, with a participation rate of 69%, an employment rate of 38% and an unemployment rate of 44%.

8.2.7 Labour force status and hours worked

At the time of the interview, the majority of working immigrants held full-time jobs (79%) while the remaining 21% worked part-time⁵⁰. Immigrants who entered the country as skilled worker principal applicants were more likely to be working in full-time jobs. In fact, 85% of skilled worker principal applicants held full-time jobs, a higher proportion than the 66% of skilled worker spouse and dependants' category and 78% of immigrants in the family category. The proportion of refugees with full-time positions was lower than most other categories at 68%.

The majority of respondents worked between 30-44 hours per week. However, the number of hours worked varied by category with a higher proportion of skilled worker principal applicants working between 30 to 44 hours per week (69%), compared with 58% of skilled worker spouse and dependants. Almost one fifth of immigrants (18%) reported working more

50. Full-time is defined as 30 hours or more per week, while part-time is defined as less than 30 hours per week.

than 45 hours per week. Approximately one in five immigrants in the family and skilled worker spouse and dependant categories reported working more than 45 hours per week.

Table 8.10: Immigrants' type of employment, by immigration category, 2001

Type of employment	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	17,330	34,319	14,835	2,995	2,085	72,141
	percentage					
Full-time ²	78	85	66	73	68	79
Part-time	22	15	34	27	32	21

1. Based on the number of immigrants employed at the time of interview.

2. Full-time is defined as 30 hours or more per week.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

8.3 Pre and post-migration shift from higher to lower-skilled occupational groups

At the time of the interview, an estimated 72,100 immigrants were employed. The jobs occupied by immigrants ranged across different occupational classifications and skill levels and there are some specific characteristics worth noting. Sales and service occupations were the most common type of job held by new immigrants. Roughly three of every 10 employed immigrants held a job in sales and services, and another two of every 10 immigrants held positions in the processing, manufacturing and utilities category.

After six months in Canada the LSIC data shows that there was a pre and post migration shift from higher to lower-skilled occupational groups⁵¹.

At the time of interview, 14% of working immigrants had jobs in natural and applied sciences whereas prior to arrival, 26% had held comparable jobs. A similar pattern is seen for those working in management, health, social sciences, education and government service categories with smaller proportions of immigrants working in these occupations following landing.

In contrast, a higher proportion of working immigrants are now employed in sales and service occupations (30%) and processing, manufacturing and utilities (20%). Generally, occupations in sales and services and in processing, manufacturing and utilities tend to be classified as lower-skilled occupations.

51. All occupational groups can be classified by skill level based on education and training needs. Lower-skilled occupations usually require secondary school and/or occupation-specific training. Higher-skilled occupational groups usually require university education or college education and/or apprenticeship training.

Table 8.11: Immigrants' occupational distribution pre and post arrival in Canada, 2001

Occupation ¹	Pre and post arrival	
	Pre-arrival	Post-arrival
Total (number)²	72,141	72,141
	percentage	
Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations	26	14
Business, Finance and Administrative Occupations	12	13
Sales and Service Occupations	9	30
Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Service and Religion	9	5
Management Occupations	9	4
Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations	6	7
Health Occupations	5	3
Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	4	20
Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	2	1
Occupations Unique to Primary Industry	2	2
Not coded or not working before arrival	14	1

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Based on the first level of occupational groupings from the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).

2. Based on the number of immigrants employed at the time of interview.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

These results suggest that immigrants may be having difficulty entering certain segments of the labour market. This might be reflective of problems getting credentials or foreign work experience recognized or perhaps because of the short period of time the immigrants have been in Canada—six months. A natural progression to higher-skilled jobs is expected as the length of time in Canada and job experience increase.

8.4 Many immigrants may be working in lower-skilled occupations to secure entry to the labour market

In addition to the skill types identified above, the LSIC survey also identified 2-digit Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) for employed immigrants. An examination of the data reveals that the most common jobs held by new immigrants are classified as lower-skilled occupations. For example, six months after arrival the most common occupational groups reported by immigrants were sales and service (13%), followed by professional occupations in natural and applied sciences (11%) and by clerical occupations (11%). Note that professional occupations in natural and applied sciences are the only “high-skilled” occupational group within the top 5.

By gender, sales and service occupations ranked as the most common occupation for females (16%) and second for males (11%). However, professional occupations in natural and applied sciences was the most common occupation for males (14%) but was not in the top five for females. In addition, females were much more likely to be employed in clerical occupations (14%) as compared to males (8%).

Table 8.12: Immigrants' most common occupations, by gender, 2001

Occupation ¹	Gender		All immigrants
	Male	Female	
Total (number)²	43,807	28,334	72,141
	percentage		
Sales and Service Occupations (not elsewhere classified)	11	16	13
Professional Occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences	14	5	11
Clerical Occupations	8	14	11
Machine Operators in Manufacturing	9	7	8
Labourers in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	5	7	5

1. Based on the second level (i.e. two-digit) of occupational groupings from the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC).

2. Based on the number of immigrants employed at the time of interview.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

The results of the first wave of the LSIC seem to suggest that many immigrants may be working in lower-skilled occupations to secure entry to the labour market. This is also evident for skilled worker principal applicants, who are very well educated but at the time of interview, a high number occupy lower-skilled occupations.

The most common occupational group reported by SPAs was professional occupations in natural and applied sciences—accounting for 18% of all jobs in this immigration category. While this might seem like an impressive result, one has to take into account the reference period during which these immigrants landed (October 2000 to September 2001). This was the tail end of a period of severe labour market shortage for many “high-tech” occupations (which are concentrated in professional occupations in natural and applied sciences) and entry into this segment of the labour market should have been easier during that time⁵². Other common occupations reported for SPAs were sales and service and clerical occupations. It will be interesting to track the progression of these occupations during the subsequent waves of interviews.

8.5 Many skilled worker principal applicants working in different occupations than intended

In the LSIC, 57,600 immigrants entered the country as SPAs. Six months after arrival over 90% (52,300) were participating in the labour force, of whom 34,300 had found jobs. However, many of the jobs these immigrants found were in different occupational groups than originally intended.

52. Analysis of “current labour market conditions” of the Job Futures 2001 publication (HRDC) reveals that many “high-tech” occupations were in shortage during 2000-01 (that is many of the occupations had higher than average employment growth, higher than average wage growth and lower than average unemployment rates).

The SPA category is a well-educated segment of the immigrant population and their intended occupations reflect this. Professional occupations in natural and applied sciences were, by far, the most common intended occupational group for SPAs (22,000). Other popular choices of intended occupations included business and finance (3,400), technical occupations related to natural and applied sciences (2,500) and teachers and professors (2,200).

Out of the five most common intended occupational groups reported, only clerical occupations are considered to be lower-skilled, usually requiring secondary schooling and/or occupation specific training. The other top occupational groups are highly-skilled occupations, usually requiring college or university education. This presents an optimistic picture in terms of intended occupations for the immigrant population. However, results from the first wave of the LSIC interviews show that SPAs are having difficulty securing employment in their intended occupation.

Approximately 22,000 SPAs entered the country with the intention of working as a professional in natural and applied sciences (an occupational group that is highly concentrated with engineers and computer professionals). After six months, 12,900 found employment, of whom 38% (4,900) were in the same occupational group as originally intended. The remaining 62% (8,000) found jobs in other occupations such as clerical occupations, technical occupations in natural and applied sciences, machine operators in manufacturing and sales and service occupations. Similar findings exist among many higher-skilled intended occupational groupings and suggest many SPAs are taking lower-skilled jobs in order to start work.

Table 8.13: Employment status of immigrants in the skilled worker principal applicant category, by intended occupation, 2001

Labour force status	Type of occupation					
	Professional occupations in natural and applied science	Professional occupations in business and finance	Technical occupations related to natural and applied science	Teachers and professors	Clerical occupations	All intended occupations
	number					
Total¹	21,851	3,391	2,460	2,239	1,872	57,229
Total employed	12,866	1,847	1,563	1,535	997	34,319
	percentage					
Employed	59	54	64	69	53	60
Unemployed	35	38	29	21	39	31
Not in labour force	6	7 ^E	7 ^E	10 ^E	8 ^E	9
Same as intended job	38	42	27 ^E	71	46	33
Different than intended job	62	58	73	29 ^E	54	67

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Based on the number of skilled principal applicants who reported an intended occupation, and who were participating in the labour force at the time of interview.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Immigrants who intended to work as teachers and professors fared somewhat better than other occupational groups. Approximately 2,300 SPAs intended to be teachers and professors and 1,500 of these immigrants found jobs after six months in Canada. However, for this group of immigrants, the majority (71%) found jobs in their intended occupational field and the incidence of unemployment was significantly lower.

The variation in labour market outcomes among different intended occupational groups warrants some additional research. This may be because many new immigrants are taking lower-skilled jobs in order to enter the work force or may reflect a period where new immigrants are waiting for foreign skill or credential recognition or improving their language skills. Future waves will provide a better understanding of this.

8.6 One quarter of new immigrants held more than one job since arrival

Finding employment during the first six months after arriving in Canada can be difficult for many immigrants. Those who found jobs did not always find the “ideal” job and this may be reflected in the number of jobs (or businesses) held by immigrants during their first six months in Canada.

Table 8.14: Number of jobs (or businesses) held by immigrants, by immigration category, 2001

Number of jobs	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
	percentage					
1 job	77	74	75	85	80	75
2 jobs	19	20	21	15	20	20
3 jobs or more	4	6	4	0	0	5

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Of the immigrants who reported having a job (or business) since coming to Canada, 75% stated they had one job, 20% had two jobs and 5% reported having three or more jobs since their arrival. The number of jobs held by immigrants is fairly consistent across immigration categories. The transitory nature of the labour market for immigrants is evident from the numbers, which show that 25% of employed immigrants had two or more jobs within the first six months of landing in Canada⁵³. In addition, 41% of employed immigrants stated that they were looking for another job at the time of interview.

53. These figures include both respondents who occupied more than 1 job at the same time, and respondents who changed jobs during the first six months in Canada.

8.7 Three quarters of new immigrants satisfied with their jobs

Despite the fact that a high number of immigrants were working in lower-skilled occupations, experiencing high job turnover or looking for another job, the majority of immigrants seemed to be happy with their main jobs. Three quarters of immigrants reported being either very satisfied or satisfied with their main jobs. Almost one quarter (24%) of skilled worker principal applicants reported being very satisfied while skilled worker spouses and dependants had the highest share of dissatisfied workers (23% dissatisfied and 7% very dissatisfied).

Immigrants in the family category reported relatively high levels of satisfaction (21% very satisfied and 60% satisfied). This may reflect being reunited with family members and finding work.

A higher proportion of immigrants with similar occupations, pre and post migration are more satisfied than those working in different occupational groups. Almost nine in 10 (87%) immigrants working in the same occupation were either very satisfied or satisfied with their main occupation. In comparison, 66% of those who were employed in different occupations were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current occupation. Respondents who were working at the time of interview, but recorded no previous job also seemed to be happy with their current occupation. Over 80% in this group were either very satisfied or satisfied with their main job.

Table 8.15: Immigrants' job satisfaction, by immigration category, 2001

Level of satisfaction	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	17,330	34,319	14,835	2,995	2,085	72,141
	percentage					
Very satisfied	21	24	16	28	18	21
Satisfied	60	50	54	57	59	54
Dissatisfied	16	21	23	F	20	20
Very dissatisfied	3	5	7	F	F	5
Not specified	2 ^E	2	F	10	F	2

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Based on the number of immigrants employed at the time of interview.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

8.8 Most immigrants who left a job did so of their own volition

Despite being in the country for only six months, a number of immigrants had already moved on from their initial jobs. Employment could have been terminated by the choice of the immigrant, by the employer or a variety of other circumstances. Approximately 27,000 immigrants reported leaving a job since coming to Canada—of these, 64% decided to leave the job while 35% reported that the employer had terminated their job. A slightly higher proportion of immigrants in the family category and refugees reported that their employment had been terminated by the employer.

Table 8.16: Immigrants' reason for leaving job, by immigration category, 2001

Reason job ended	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	6,244	12,296	6,338	769	801	26,671
	percentage					
Left job	60	64	66	79	59	64
Job terminated	39	36	33	21	41	35

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Based on the number of immigrants who reported having a job that ended.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Immigrants who decided to leave a job did so for a number of reasons—39% found a new job, 23% were dissatisfied with their job and decided to leave, and 12% returned to school. The remaining 26% left for a number of other reasons, including family-related reasons, illness, transportation problems, retirement and immigrants deciding to move.

Reasons for leaving a job differed by gender, higher proportions of males reported leaving a job because they found new employment, while higher proportions of females reported leaving a job in order to care for children or other family members.

Over 11,000 immigrants in the LSIC reported having their job terminated by the employer. The most common reasons for job termination by an employer were due to a layoff/business slowdown (36%) or that the job was temporary (36%). An additional 17% were let go by the employer due to the seasonal nature of the employment. Job dismissal accounted for a very small proportion of overall terminations (less than 5%).

The reasons for having a job terminated also varied by gender. Males were more likely to be laid-off while females were more likely to be let go due to temporary or seasonal employment.

8.9 Problems or difficulties finding employment

Results from the first wave of the survey suggest that entering the labour market is one of the hardest tasks for all immigrants. Among the 116,700 immigrants who tried to enter the labour market 70% reported at least one problem or difficulty.

Although a large proportion of immigrants in all categories reported at least one problem or difficulty, it was most prevalent among skilled worker principal applicants (75%) and skilled worker spouse and dependants (74%). For skilled worker principal applicants this may be a result of their initial labour market expectations after being selected based on their labour market qualifications.

As shown in Table 8.17 lack of Canadian work experience and difficulty in transferring foreign credentials are the two most common difficulties reported by skilled worker principal applicants. In contrast, language problems are the most commonly cited difficulty for refugees and immigrants in the economic and family categories. For example, 44% of all refugees who tried to find employment reported lack of official language knowledge as the most serious problem in terms of finding employment.

Table 8.17: Immigrants' employment problems, by immigration category, 2001

Immigrants who reported problems	Immigration category					All immigrants
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
	number					
Total	44,149	57,625	41,390	10,467	9,822	164,203
Immigrants who tried to find employment	27,069	51,877	27,352	5,045	4,661	116,695
	percentage					
Immigrants who tried to find employment	61	90	66	48	47	71
Immigrants who had problems	56	75	74	53	67	70
Most serious problems finding employment^{1,2}						
Lack of Canadian job experience	21	28	27	17	19	26
Lack of credential recognition or foreign experience	15	28	24	12	12	24
Lack of official language knowledge	33	13	24	35	44	22

1. Based on immigrants who reported having problems or difficulties finding employment.

2. Totals may exceed 100% because multiple responses allowed.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

8.10 Conclusion

Six months after their arrival most immigrants had tried to enter the labour market, of those 44% were employed and 26% unemployed. By category, skilled worker principal applicants had the highest participation rate while refugees had the lowest. Immigrants in the prime working age and males were most likely to be employed. By region, the Prairies had the highest employment and lowest unemployment rate.

Results from the first wave of the survey suggest that entering the labour market is one of the hardest tasks for all immigrants. Among the 116,700 immigrants who tried to enter the labour market 70% reported at least one problem or difficulty. Lack of Canadian job experience, lack of foreign credentials recognition or work experience and lack of knowledge of at least one official language were among the most serious cited problems or difficulties reported.

Despite the fact that immigrants experienced a shift to lower skilled occupations since their arrival, the majority of immigrants reported that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with their jobs. The second and third wave of the LSIC interviews will provide more insight on the progression of labour market integration.

9 Making ends meet

A new immigrant's overall financial situation is determined by several factors including savings brought to Canada, personal and family income sources (e.g., employment earnings, government transfers) and assets. Within this chapter, savings brought to Canada, personal and family income, loans, and the newcomers' self-assessment of their financial situation after six months in Canada are briefly explored.

9.1 Three quarters of immigrants brought savings to Canada

Until immigrants are able to secure employment in Canada, they must rely on their savings and support networks to meet their consumption needs. Some also receive financial assistance from government transfers to support them during the initial settlement phase. In total, three-quarters (74%) or about 121,000 immigrants from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) reported bringing savings to Canada.

Table 9.1: Immigrants bringing savings to Canada, by immigration category, 2001

	Family	Economic			Refugees	All immigrants
		Skilled workers	Other economic	All economic		
percentage						
Immigrants with savings	40	93	90	93	16	74
Immigrants without savings	60	7	10	7	84	26
Total (number)	44,149	99,015	10,467	109,482	9,822	164,203

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Immigrants in the family category and refugees had the lowest proportions bringing savings to Canada, at 40% and 16% respectively, whereas skilled workers and other economic immigrants had the highest proportions bringing savings to Canada, at 93% and 90% respectively. These differences across immigration categories largely reflect distinct circumstances of arrival, including financial entry requirements for those landing as principal applicants in the economic immigration category (see text box 9.1).

Text box 9.1

As an acknowledgement of the financial draws immigrants face between landing and securing income, immigrants landing as skilled worker principal applicants can be refused entry to Canada if they do not demonstrate that they have \$10,000 in funds with an additional \$2,000 per accompanying family member. Business immigrants who comprise 90% of the economic immigrants other than skilled workers can arrive under one of three programs: self-employed, investor or entrepreneur. These individuals, who become permanent residents on the basis of their ability to become economically established, have to demonstrate considerable net worth to successfully immigrate to Canada. The financial requirements for those landing as investors and entrepreneurs are further described in Chapter 2.

The average amount of savings brought to Canada was \$38,580, ranging from \$4,680 for refugees to \$165,110 for the economic immigrants other than skilled workers.

As the calculation of average savings is sensitive to extreme values, the median savings amount is also reported in Table 9.2. The median savings amount designates the level of savings for which one-half of the population bringing savings brought more savings and for which the other half of the population bringing savings brought fewer savings. The median savings amount brought by all LSIC immigrants was \$15,000. It ranges from \$1,000 for refugees to \$100,000 for those landed in the economic stream other than skilled workers – amounts that are considerably less than the average saving amounts for these two groups, at \$4,680 and \$165,110 respectively.

Table 9.2: Immigrants' amount of savings brought to Canada,¹ by immigration category, 2001

	Family	Economic			Refugees	All immigrants
		Skilled workers	Other economic	All economic		
dollars						
Average savings brought to Canada	20,820	31,020	165,110	42,220	4,680	38,580
Median savings brought to Canada	4,500	15,000	100,000	16,000	1,000	15,000
Average savings remaining after six months	10,810	14,320	76,760	19,480	1,540	17,940

1. Amounts calculated based on immigrants bringing savings to Canada. Calculation does not include those who do not know, refuse or do not state these savings.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

For many immigrants, savings brought to Canada are used to finance shelter, clothing, food and other basic needs during the initial settlement period in the country. After six months, immigrants who brought savings had an average of \$17,940 remaining. The average amount of savings remaining ranged from \$1,540 for the 16% of refugees bringing savings to \$76,760 for the 90% economic immigrants other than skilled workers bringing savings.

9.2 Skilled worker principal applicants report high level of personal income relative to other immigrants

Over the first six months in Canada, nearly two thirds (63%) of all LSIC immigrants received personal income. On average this income was \$1,280 per month^{54 55}. The amount ranged from \$770 (see Table 9.3) for refugees to \$1,630 (see Table 9.4) for skilled worker principal applicants and \$1,750 (see Table 9.3) for economic immigrants other than skilled workers. For half of all immigrants with personal income, the amount received did not exceed \$730 per month (i.e., the median income). Skilled worker principal applicants were the ones with the highest median personal income at \$930 per month (see Table 9.4).

54. Total income is converted to monthly income as the exact length of time in Canada at time of interview was most commonly 6 months (mode) but did vary such that the average length of residence was 6.7 months.

55. All income figures are in gross amounts and rounded to the nearest ten.

Table 9.3: Immigrants' gross monthly income, by immigration category, 2001

	Economic				Refugees	All immigrants
	Family	Skilled workers	Other economic	All economic		
	percentage					
Monthly Individual Income						
Without income	47	31	56	34	28	37
With income	53	69	44	66	72	63
	current dollars					
Average income ¹	1,010	1,400	1,750	1,420	770	1,280
Median income ¹	680	770	800	770	590	730
Total (number)²	43,986	98,414	10,460	108,873	9,740	163,350
	percentage					
Monthly Family Income						
Immigrants with no family income	12	14	34	16	3 ^E	14
Immigrants with family income	88	86	66	84	97	86
	current dollars					
Average income ³	3,750	2,180	3,350	2,270	1,600	2,620
Median income ³	2,860	1,290	1,600	1,320	1,440	1,590
Average income per member ³	1,100	870	1,010	880	440	910
Total (number)⁴	42,245	97,752	9,964	107,717	9,636	160,348

1. Only for immigrants with personal income.

2. Excludes immigrants who do not know or refuse to state their personal income situation.

3. Only for immigrants living in families with income.

4. Excludes immigrants who do not know or refuse to state their family income situation.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

To understand an immigrant's overall financial situation, one must also consider income received by other family members. Of all LSIC immigrants, 14% were living in families that received no income during the first six months after landing (see lower panel of Table 9.3)⁵⁶. This was true for about 3% of refugees, 12% of immigrants in the family category, 14% of skilled workers and 34% of economic immigrants other than skilled workers. The low proportion of refugees reporting no family income reflects the high receipt of social assistance⁵⁷ among this group – 62% versus 11% for all LSIC immigrants with family income (see second panel of Table 9.5). The high proportion of economic immigrants other than skilled workers reporting no family income does not necessarily reflect immigrants living in dire circumstances. For example, most of these immigrants arrived in Canada with considerable savings, and they had on average \$76,760 remaining from these savings after six months in the country.

The average family income of all LSIC immigrants with family income was \$2,620 per

56. For family income questions, the person most knowledgeable (PMK) about family income was interviewed (if available). For 73% of all interviews the longitudinal respondent (LR) was the PMK, while the PMK other than the LR answered the questions for an additional 14% of all interviews and the remaining interviews about family income (13%) were answered by the LR who was not the PMK. Family income includes income received by relatives (spouse, a brother, grandfather, cousin, etc.) living with the LR.

57. Including other temporary financial assistance from governmental programs such as the *Resettlement Assistance Program*.

The average family income of all LSIC immigrants with family income was \$2,620 per month. Immigrants in the family category, who had the second lowest individual incomes, are those with the highest average family income, at \$3,750 per month. The higher family income of immigrants in the family category results from the fact that these immigrants come to Canada to join established relatives. These relatives, as a condition of their sponsorship, must demonstrate their financial viability and commit to be financially responsible for the person they sponsor for up to ten years⁵⁸. Skilled workers had the second lowest average family income at \$2,180 per month, about 36% higher than that of refugees (\$1,600) and 35% lower than that of other economic immigrants (\$3,350).

Table 9.4: Skilled worker immigrants' gross monthly income, by immigration category, 2001

	Principal applicants	Spouses and dependants	All skilled workers
	percentage		
Monthly Individual Income			
Without income	23	43	31
With income	77	57	69
	dollars		
Average income ¹	1,630	960	1,400
Median income ¹	930	530	770
Total (number)²	57,086	41,328	98,414

1. Only for immigrants with personal income.

2. Excludes immigrants who do not know or refuse to state their personal income situation.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

To show the importance of the family size, the average per member monthly family income is also shown in Table 9.3. Average per member family income is highest for immigrants in the family category (\$1,100) and lowest for refugees (\$440), with an average of \$910 for all immigrants. After taking family size into account, skilled workers have considerably higher per member income (\$870) than refugees (\$440). This change in relative income level for skilled workers – from 36% higher than the overall average family income of refugees to 97% higher when the per member family income measure is considered – results from the larger size of refugee families relative to skilled worker families.

9.3 Employment earnings constitute three-quarters of immigrants' family income

More than eight in ten (84%) immigrants living in a family with income reported family earnings from employment during their first six months in Canada (see second panel of Table 9.5)⁵⁹. On average, immigrants stated that employment earnings accounted for almost three-quarters (74%) of all family income over this period (see lower panel of Table 9.5). Generally, the higher the incidence of family earnings from employment in a group of

58. Potential sponsors must meet some minimum income requirements for the twelve-month period before the sponsorship application is submitted.

59. Family earnings from employment in this analysis refer to earnings from employment and self-employment in Canada of any members of the immigrants' families and excludes earnings from employment outside Canada.

immigrants is, the higher the proportion of this source of earnings in total family income for the same group of immigrants.

Almost all immigrants in the family category (95%) and more than eight in ten (85%) skilled workers reported employment earnings by at least one member of their family, accounting for 89% and 74% of their respective total family incomes. The incidence of family income from employment was much lower among refugees and economic class immigrants other than the skilled workers⁶⁰. About two-thirds of these other economic immigrants (67%) and four in ten refugees (40%) reported family income from employment sources, accounting for 56% and 28% of their respective family income.

As immigrants in the family category come to join established family members in Canada, it is not surprising that they have the highest incidence of family income from employment, and that these employment earnings account, on average, for more of total family income than for any other immigrants. On the other hand, the relatively lower presence of employment earnings for economic immigrants other than the skilled workers is expected to be related to investment and entrepreneurial efforts.

For refugees, the relatively lower receipt of family income from employment can be linked to this group's initial challenges of coming from traumatic situations, of not having planned for the trip to Canada and of the official language needs of this group of newcomers.

By world region, immigrants born in South Asia, Southeast Asia, South Africa and Oceania had the highest proportions reporting family income from jobs or self-employment, ranging from 94% to 99%⁶¹. In contrast, immigrants from Southern Europe, North Africa, West Central Asia and Middle East had the lowest proportions ranging from 52% to 67%. Refugees, who are less likely to declare family income from employment, account for a greater than average share of all immigrants from these three world areas.

Economic immigrants other than those landed as skilled workers were four times more likely than all immigrants to report family income from investment during the first six months in Canada (17% versus 4%). The incidence of family income from private sources other than employment and investment for this group was also more than twice the incidence observed for all immigrants (25% versus 11%)⁶². These two sources of income accounted for 8% and 19% respectively of the other economic immigrants' family income, compared to 1% and 6% for all immigrants. Immigrants born in the United States had by far the highest proportion reporting receipt of family income from private sources other than employment, at 49%. This type of income accounted for more than a quarter of their family income. Immigrants born in the Western and Northern Europe and United Kingdom world area as well as those from North Africa also reported a higher proportion, with family income from private sources other than employment relative to all immigrants at 26% and 20% respectively.

60. Business immigrants account for approximately 90% of all economic immigrants other than skilled workers.

61. Immigrants from these four world regions account for approximately one-third of all LSIC immigrants.

62. Family income from other private sources includes: income from employment outside Canada, from a foreign government, private retirement income from inside or outside Canada, income from a private sponsor and income from sources other than governmental sources inside and outside Canada not specified elsewhere.

In Table 9.5, transfers from a government in Canada have been sorted into four groups: employment insurance, social assistance⁶³, child tax benefits or credits and other government transfers. Child tax benefits or credits were the most reported source of family income from government transfers by all immigrants (37%), accounting for 9% of all income received.⁶⁴ While child tax benefits or credits accounted for about 11% of all refugees or economic immigrants' family income, it represented only 3% of immigrants' income in the family category, reflecting higher incomes in this immigrant group as well as a lower than average proportion living with dependent children.

Table 9.5: Immigrants' sources and distribution of family income, by immigration category, 2001

	Family class	Economic			Refugees	All immigrants
		Skilled workers	Other economic	All economic		
dollars						
Gross monthly family income¹						
Average income	3,750	2,180	3,350	2,270	1,600	2,620
Median income	2,860	1,290	1,600	1,320	1,440	1,590
Average income per member	1,100	870	1,010	880	440	910
Immigrants with family income (number)	37,146	84,002	6,620	90,622	9,326	137,836
percentage						
Family income from²:						
Private sources:						
Employment in Canada	95	85	67	84	40	84
Investment	F	4	17	5	F	4
Other private sources	9	11	25	12	12	11
Government transfers ³ :						
Employment Insurance	5	F	F	1	F	2
Social assistance ⁴	3	9	4 ^E	8	62	11
Child tax benefits or credits	26	41	38	41	42	37
Other government transfers	4	4	3 ^E	4	11	5
Immigrants with family income (number)	37,040	83,469	6,340	89,809	9,326	136,916
percentage						
Proportion of family income from²:						
Private sources:						
Employment in Canada	89	74	56	73	28	74
Investment	1 ^E	1	8	1	F	1
Other private sources	4	6	19	7	3	6
Government transfers ³ :						
Employment Insurance	1	0 ^E	F	0 ^E	1 ^E	1
Social assistance ⁴	1	6	2 ^E	6	52	8
Child tax benefits or credits	3	11	14	11	10	9
Other government transfers	1	2	F	2	5	2

1. Based on immigrants with family income excluding those who did not know or refused to report any sources of income.

2. Based on immigrants with family income excluding those who did not know or refused to report values for total income or for any sources.

3. Canadian sources only.

4. Including other temporary financial assistance from governmental programs such as the *Resettlement Assistance Program*.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

63. Including other temporary financial assistance from governmental programs such as the *Resettlement Assistance Program*.

64. The child tax benefit is an income supplement designed to provide support to children living in poverty. Eligibility for this benefit, and the value of this benefit, are determined on the basis of net family income, as calculated from income tax returns.

Whereas one-tenth (11%) of all LSIC immigrants reported receiving income from social assistance during their first six months in Canada, three-fifths (62%) of refugees reported this income source. These payments accounted for 8% of total family income for all LSIC immigrants and 52% of income for refugee families. Much of the high proportion of refugees reporting social assistance can be attributed to the receipt, by government-assisted refugees (57% of all refugees in the LSIC population), of financial assistance under the *Resettlement Assistance Program* administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

Text box 9.2

The *Resettlement Assistance Program* funds provide income support, and help newcomers pay for basic household items and immediate essential services, including reception, temporary accommodation, help in finding permanent accommodation and financial orientation. This program also provides links to mandatory federal-provincial programs and services. Income support can last for up to one year or until the refugee is self-sufficient, whichever occurs first.

Newcomers residing in Montreal show high proportions reporting social assistance (33%). By country of birth, immigrants showing higher proportions of social assistance are those born in Africa (41%), Southern Europe (28%), West Central Asia and Middle East (26%). For immigrants born in these countries, the explanation for the high take-up rates may lie in the relatively higher proportion of newcomers that are refugees.

9.4 Business immigrants and refugees are the most likely to report loans

One in ten, or approximately 16,500, immigrants reported having received a loan during their first six months in Canada. Loans received include, for example, bank loans, student loans or loans from a friend or relative. By immigration category, economic immigrants other than the skilled workers and refugees had the highest proportions reporting receipt of a loan, at 16% and 13% respectively. Although there is no information available as to what type of loans are taken by each immigrant, it is expected that these economic immigrants – of whom Business immigrants account for 90% – are in possession of bank loans and that refugees have loans through Citizenship and Immigration Canada's *Immigration Loans Program*. Skilled workers were reporting loans at 11% while immigrants in the family category had the lowest proportion reporting loans (7%). The lower proportion of immigrants in the family category reporting loans is likely due to the support provided to these immigrants by their sponsors.

Text box 9.3

Under Citizenship and Immigration Canada's *Immigration Loans Program*, loans are made to applicants for permanent residence, mostly refugees and other protected persons, to cover the costs of medical examinations abroad, travel documents, transportation to Canada and the right of permanent residence fee. Disadvantaged newcomers can also get loans to cover some expenses.

For those immigrants with loans, the average loan amount reported was \$52,720, ranging from \$4,520 for refugees to \$171,480 for economic immigrants other than the skilled workers. For half of the 16,500 immigrants who reported having received a loan, the amount of money borrowed is less than \$10,000.

Table 9.6: Immigrants' incidence of loans and average loan amount, by immigration category, 2001

	Family	Economic			Refugees	All immigrants
		Skilled workers	Other economic	All economic		
percentage						
Without loan	93	90	84	89	87	90
With loan(s)	7	11	16	11	13	10
dollars						
Average amount ¹	57,410	41,120	171,480	57,330	4,520	52,720
Median amount ¹	19,000	8,000	140,000	10,000	3,500	10,000
Total (number)²	43,794	98,919	10,467	109,386	9,769	163,681

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Immigrants who do not have loans or who do not know, refuse or do not state their loan amount are excluded from this calculation.
2. Immigrants who do not know, refuse or do not state existence of loans are excluded.

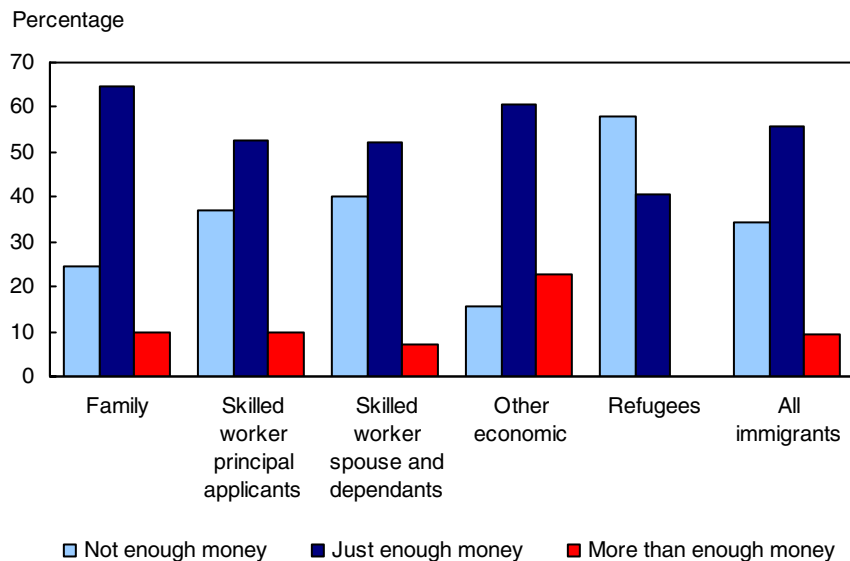
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

9.5 One-third of immigrants report not having enough money

When asked to describe their overall financial situation after six months in Canada, more than one-half (56%) of LSIC immigrants reported having just enough money, about one-third (34%) reported not having enough money and almost one-tenth (9%) reported having more than enough money to meet their basic needs.

Satisfaction with one's financial situation differed substantially by immigration category. Refugees had the highest proportion of respondents reporting that they did not have enough money (58%). Economic immigrants other than the skilled workers had the lowest proportion reporting not having enough money and the highest proportion reporting "more than enough money", 16% and 23% respectively. Skilled workers have the second highest proportion reporting "not enough money" (37% of principal applicants and 40% of spouses and dependants) after refugees.

Immigrants with similar income positions may also report different levels of satisfaction with their financial situation. This could be due to, for example, different circumstances of arrival, different expectations, the existence of support networks as well as different situations in their country of origin.

Figure 9.1: Immigrants' satisfaction with financial situation, by immigration category, 2001

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Table 9.7 expands on the previous analysis by comparing reported level of financial satisfaction with monthly average per member family income. After six months in Canada, almost one-third (29%) of immigrants with no family income reported that they did not have enough money to meet their basic needs. One might expect this group of immigrants to have the highest proportion reporting that they did not have enough money to meet their basic needs, however, about one-half of immigrants with per member family incomes between \$1 and \$250 per month and those with per member family incomes between \$251 and \$500 were reported to not be financially satisfied (53% and 47% respectively). The fact that immigrants with no family income are not the group with the highest proportion reporting “not enough money” implies the presence of other sources of financial support (e.g., savings, assets)⁶⁵.

If one considers the proportions reporting “more than enough money”, the same conclusion regarding other support sources – such as savings, assets and family or friends – emerges. To expand, immigrants with the highest average per member family income have the highest proportion reporting “more than enough money” (22%). The group with the second highest proportion reporting this level of financial satisfaction is immigrants with no family income (13%). For this to be true, factors other than income must also figure into the assessment of their financial situation in regard to meeting basic needs.

65. This analysis was also completed by immigration category. Results for each category were closely linked to those for all immigrants.

Table 9.7: Immigrants' satisfaction with financial situation, by average per member monthly family income, 2001

Satisfaction with financial situation ¹	Average per member monthly family income					All
	None	\$1 to \$250	\$251 to \$500	\$501 to \$1,000	More than \$1,000	
	percentage					
More than enough money	13	4	3	6	22	9
Just enough money	57	42	50	63	65	56
Not enough money	29	53	47	32	13	34
Total (number)	22,513	30,762	37,941	34,190	34,943	160,349

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Respondents who refused to answer or did not know are excluded from the analysis.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

9.6 One in seven immigrants already sending money abroad to relatives or friends

Already after six months in Canada, almost one in seven, or approximately 22,000, immigrants (14%) reported sending money abroad to relatives or friends⁶⁶. With time, remittances may increase for those immigrants who find gainful employment and remittances may decrease for those individuals who successfully bring their relatives to Canada.

9.7 Conclusion

In total, about one-third of LSIC immigrants report that they do not have enough money to meet their basic needs. Like much of the analysis presented in this chapter, immigrants' assessment of their ability to meet their own basic needs differs by category of immigration. These differences consistently reflect the particular migration and settlement circumstances of refugees, family category and economic immigrants. For example, refugees, who experienced traumatic situations overseas, have the highest proportion reporting that they do not have enough money to meet their basic needs. They are also those most likely to be reporting income from social assistance, and least likely from employment. Immigrants in the family category, who come to Canada to join established relatives, have the highest average family incomes and most report they have enough, or more than enough, money to meet their basic needs. Skilled worker principal applicants, who are selected for their potential contribution to the Canadian labour market, are among those with the highest personal income levels.

As information becomes available from the second wave of interviews (i.e. two years after arrival), it is expected that the proportion of LSIC immigrants reporting income from employment earnings will increase, which may lead to increased individual and family incomes, and hopefully more immigrants reporting that they have enough money to meet their financial needs. Also, the needs and expectations of immigrants may change once they settle.

66. Information on the dollar value of remittances was not collected for this survey.

10 Settling in a new country

Immigrants face a variety of challenges when they move to a new country. Their initial experiences may impact their decisions to settle permanently. As such, successful integration is mutually beneficial for both the immigrant and the host country. Through this process, immigrants become more self-sufficient, productive and are more readily able to contribute to Canadian society.

The integration process is complex and the Longitudinal Survey of immigrants to Canada (LSIC) data show that family and friends are important to new immigrants. Through these networks, immigrants are more likely to receive help with settlement tasks such as finding accommodations, getting a job, accessing education or training and health care.

The majority of the immigrants in LSIC had family, friends or both in Canada at the time of arrival (87%). In addition to an established social network prior to arrival, post-migration new friends may help ease the settlement process and encourage a sense of belonging for new immigrants. Since arrival, 85% of immigrants reported meeting new friends.

10.1 Close ethnic and/or cultural ties important

New immigrants are more likely to establish social networks with individuals from the same ethnic or cultural background as themselves. Table 10.1 shows the number of immigrants who made new friends and the distribution according to their co-ethnic concentration. In the LSIC, among the immigrants who made new friends, three quarters reported that at least half of these new friends were of the same ethnic or cultural group. The proportion varies slightly by category of immigration, with 61% of refugees reporting co-ethnic new friends, compared with 73% of family class immigrants, approximately 75% of skilled workers and 78% of other economic immigrants.

One explanation for the variation between refugees and the other categories may be that many refugees arrive in Canada as a result of a forced migration, are likely to settle in smaller communities and have a greater requirement for assistance from a range of agencies and organizations in Canada. This assistance would also provide refugees with opportunities to make friends from a range of ethnic backgrounds.

Immigrants in the family category had the highest proportion reporting that all of their new friends belonged to the same ethnic or cultural group: 36% compared with 18% of skilled worker principal applicants and 22% of skilled worker spouse and dependents. By contrast, higher proportions of skilled workers and other economic immigrants (approximately 42% and 38% respectively) reported that most of their new friends were co-ethnic, compared to 28% of immigrants in the family category. In essence, a greater proportion of newcomers in the family category made new friends exclusively within their ethnic group compared to immigrants from the other categories, with the opposite true for refugees.

Examining new friends by ethnicity reveals variations in the extent to which newcomers make friends within their own ethnic group. The majority of East/Southeast and South Asians reported that all or most of their new friends are co-ethnic (90% and 77% respectively), followed by 58% of Eastern European Immigrants. This difference in social network composition may affect the type and quantity of resources flowing through newcomers' social networks, and help explain differences in the integration process by ethnicity.

Table 10.1: Extent to which immigrants' new friends in Canada are of the same ethnic group, by immigration category, 2001

Friends that are of the same ethnic or cultural background	Immigration category					All immigrants ²
	Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Other economic	Refugees	
Total (number)¹	31,626	52,925	37,243	9,233	7,842	139,619
	percentage					
All	36	18	22	28	17	24
Most	28	42	41	38	30	38
Half	9	15	13	12	14	13
Few	16	18	16	16	28	18
None	10	7	7	6	12	8

Due to rounding, percentages may not add up exactly to 100%.

1. Based on immigrants who reported having made new friends since their arrival.

2. Excludes other immigrants, as defined in section 2.1.4.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Finally, there were variations in the extent to which new friends were co-ethnic by the top five census metropolitan areas (CMA) where immigrants were settled at the time of the interview. In larger centres, a higher proportion of newcomers' networks were populated by co-ethnic friends: Vancouver (81%), Toronto (80%), Ottawa-Gatineau (70%), Montreal (66%) and Calgary (61%).

One reason for the high proportion of co-ethnic friendships may be because immigrants are more likely to carry on the traditions and values of their ethnic or cultural group or their homeland with friends who are of the same background. In the LSIC, 83% of immigrants reported that carrying on the traditions and values of their homeland is important⁶⁷. However, a larger proportion (93%) also reported that it is important to learn about the values and traditions of their new homeland – Canada.

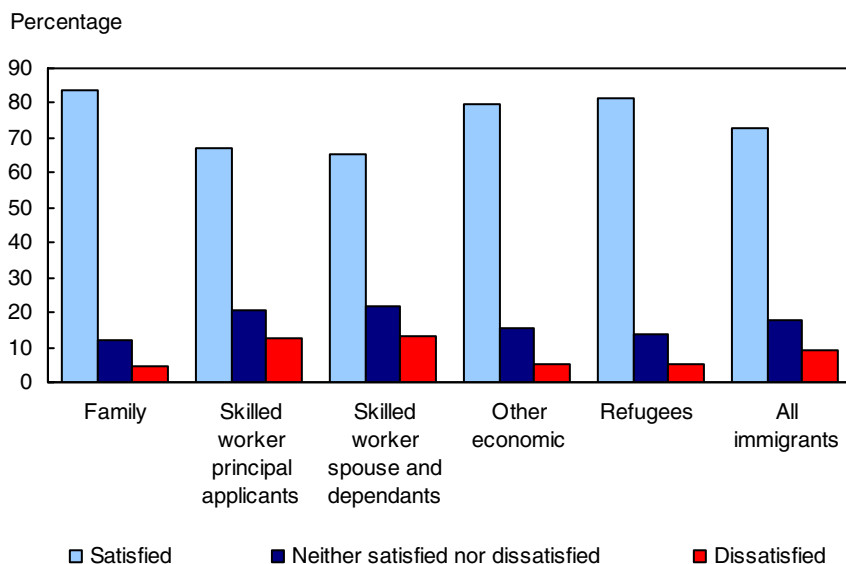
67. This proportion combines immigrants having reported that carrying on the traditions and values of their homeland is "important" or "very important".

10.2 Most immigrants satisfied with their experiences in Canada

Six months after arrival, almost three-quarters of the LSIC population reported being satisfied with their experiences. Satisfaction varied most by age group and immigration category. A higher proportion of immigrants in the youngest and eldest age categories reported being satisfied (84% and 91% respectively), while immigrants between 25 to 44 years and 45 to 64 years reported slightly lower proportions being satisfied (68% and 78% respectively). Immigrants between 25 to 44 years also had the highest proportion reporting being dissatisfied with their experiences in Canada (12%).

Immigrants in the family category, refugees and other economic immigrants reported the highest levels of satisfaction with their experiences (83%, 81% and 79% respectively), compared to 67% of skilled workers. Differences across immigration categories may be partially attributable to differences in motivations and expectations upon arrival, for example, misconceptions about potential employment opportunities and delays in skill and credential recognition. Skilled-worker immigrants had the highest proportion reporting being dissatisfied with their experience in Canada (12%).

Figure 10.1: Immigrants' satisfaction with experiences in Canada, by immigration category, 2001



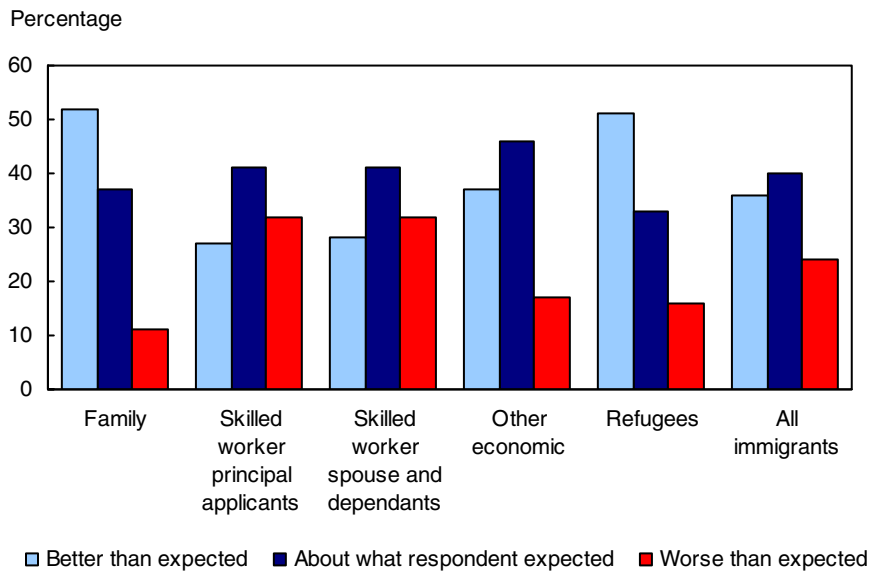
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

By region, immigrants settled in Calgary reported the greatest level of satisfaction (80%), followed by immigrants settled in Montreal and Ottawa-Gatineau (73%), Vancouver (71%) and Toronto (69%). Nine out of ten immigrants who were living in non-metropolitan areas (89%) and eight in ten who were living in all other metropolitan areas (81%) were satisfied with their experiences in Canada.

10.3 Experiences in Canada similar or better than what immigrants had expected

Overall, 36% of immigrants report their experiences in Canada have been better than expected, 40% what they expected, while 24% reported their experiences have been worse. Rating of experiences in Canada based on expectations differs by immigration category. Slightly more than half of refugees and family class immigrants reported their experiences had been better than expected. Proportionally, this is near twice as much as for skilled workers who, in contrast reported the highest rates of disappointment (31%).

Figure 10.2: Immigrants' rating of experiences in Canada, by immigration category, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

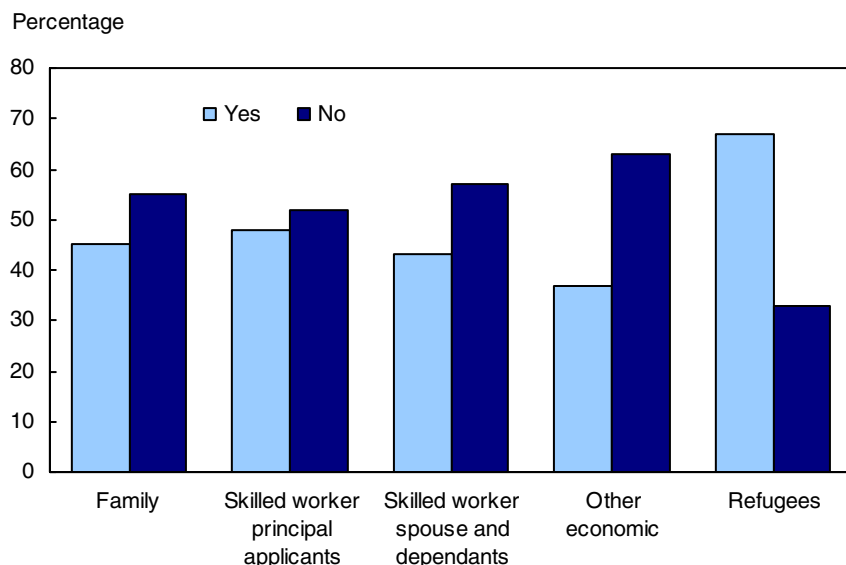
If they had to make the choice over again, 89% would choose to come to Canada. Among the LSIC immigrants it is the ones who were satisfied with their experiences in Canada or who reported that their experiences were better than expected who were likely to indicate that they would move to Canada if they had to make the choice again.

10.4 Many want to help family and friends immigrate to Canada

An indication of positive settlement experiences is the intention to sponsor an immigration application for other family members or otherwise assist friends to immigrate to Canada. Plans to obtain Canadian citizenship can also be a sign of satisfaction with life in Canada. Immigrants, whether permanent residents or Canadian citizens, may sponsor family members or relatives including: a spouse; conjugal partner; dependent children; parents; grandparents; adopted children; orphan brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and grandchildren; and any other relatives, subject to particular conditions.

Almost half (47%) of all new immigrants report plans to sponsor eligible family members or relatives or to help others immigrate to Canada. Many were planning on assisting brothers and sisters (46%), their parents (38%), their in-laws (16%), their friends (11%), and their children (10%)⁶⁸. Refugees were most likely to report plans to assist family members or friends to come to Canada (67%).

Figure 10.3: Immigrants' intention to sponsor or help others immigrate to Canada, by immigration category, 2001



Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Immigrants may apply for Canadian citizenship when they have lived in Canada for at least three of the four years before their application for citizenship. In the LSIC, the majority of immigrants reported that they were planning to apply for Canadian citizenship (92%). Even for the 9% of recent immigrants who reported that if they had to choose again, they would not have chosen to come to Canada⁶⁹, more than four out of five indicated their intention to apply for Canadian citizenship (82%).

10.5 Conclusion

The process of settling and integrating into a new society is complex. If this process progresses smoothly, it is mutually beneficial to both new immigrants and the host society. Results from the LSIC show that family and friends are an important part of the integration process.

68. Respondents were able to select more than one answer category therefore the total of the percentages is greater than 100%.

69. There were also 2% of immigrants who reported that they did not know if they would immigrate to Canada again if they had the choice to make over.

While the majority of the immigrants in the LSIC had family, friends or both in Canada at the time of arrival, 85% also reported making new friends since their arrival. Most immigrants reported that their new friends were from the same ethnic or cultural background. This may ease the integration process of new immigrants while helping to maintain ethnic or cultural ties with their homeland which was also important to new immigrants. However meeting friends who are not co-ethnic may facilitate a better understanding of local norms and establish local networks.

The high proportion of immigrants reporting satisfaction with their early experiences in Canada may indicate that, in spite of obstacles for some of them, most immigrants are adjusting and are committed to establish themselves successfully in Canada.

Additionally, six months after arrival, both the intention to sponsor others to Canada and intention to apply for Canadian citizenship are indicators of permanent settlement and also of positive immigrant experiences. Waves two and three will allow for a follow up of sponsorship and citizenship intentions.

11 Challenges to integration

The previous chapters have outlined characteristics of the immigrants from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) and some of their experiences since arrival. This chapter examines problems or difficulties immigrants encountered during the initial six months, looking specifically at finding accommodations, finding a job, accessing health care and accessing education or training.

Immigrants who reported at least one problem or difficulty are the population of interest in this chapter. Immigrants who reported problems or difficulties were asked to identify all problems or difficulties and then the most serious problem which is the focus of this analysis. Respondents were asked whether they needed help for the problem they identified as most serious. If they reported needing help they were asked a series of follow up questions on whether or not they received the help and if they received help, what type of help and from whom. Respondents who reported needing but not receiving help were asked what type of help they needed.

This examination provides a better understanding of the type of obstacles that new immigrants face during the initial settlement period and of the types of help most needed and received, or not received. This will also help identify potential gaps with integration or settlement services for new immigrants.

11.1 Finding housing

More than three quarters of the immigrants in the LSIC looked for housing within the first six months. By category, immigrants in the economic category were most likely to report trying to find housing (90%) compared with 41% of immigrants in the family category.

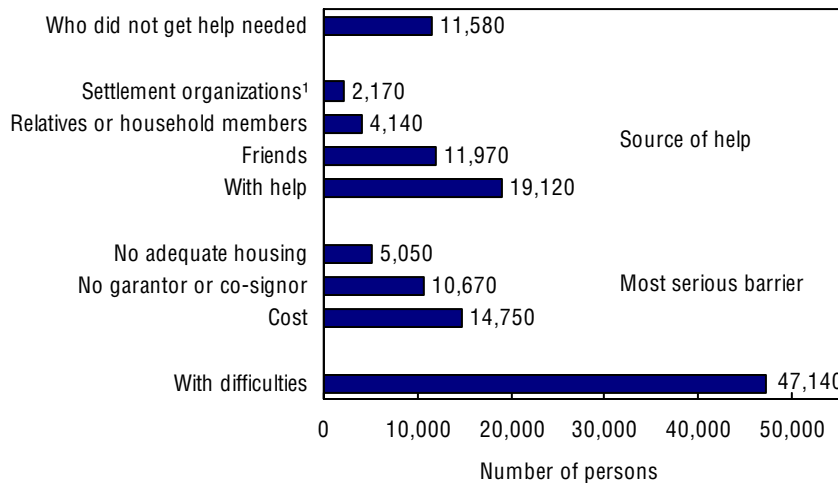
Of those who looked for housing, nearly four in 10 indicated that they had at least one problem or difficulty. Skilled workers and refugees were most likely to report difficulties finding housing (42% and 38% respectively), while immigrants in the family category were least likely to report problems (15%).

The high cost of housing was the most serious problem – identified by three in 10 immigrants – more so for immigrants in the family category (53%) and refugees (39%) compared with economic immigrants (30%). By province, immigrants who settled in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia were more likely to report high costs as their most serious problem (37%, 27% and 26% respectively) compared with immigrants who settled in Quebec (19%). Following high costs, lack of a guarantor or co-signer was reported as the most serious problem for 25% of economic immigrants and 28% of immigrants who settled in Ontario. Lack of adequate housing was more likely to be reported as the most serious problem for immigrants living in British Columbia (22%), Quebec (16%) and Alberta (14%) than for immigrants in Ontario (5%).

Although fewer immigrants reported problems finding housing than for other areas of integration, it was the area for which the highest proportion of immigrants received assistance. More than 40% of individuals who reported difficulties or problems finding housing received assistance, including more than half of the refugees who experienced problems. Friends who were already settled in Canada was the most commonly reported source of assistance (63%), followed by relatives or household members (22%) and settlement organizations (11%). Immigrants in the economic category were more likely to rely on friends for assistance (67%) compared with immigrants in the family category (29%). Immigrants in the family category were more likely to report relying on relatives or household members for help (56%) compared with refugees (25%) and economic immigrants (20%). A higher proportion of refugees relied on settlement organizations compared with economic immigrants (31% versus 10%).

Immigrants who did not receive assistance with reported problems or difficulties finding housing indicated that the availability of information, counselling and financial assistance were the most common types of help needed but not received⁷⁰.

Figure 11.1: Immigrants who had housing difficulties, and sources of assistance, 2001



These results refer to the 125,050 immigrants who looked for housing.

1. Settlement organizations grouping includes ethnic or cultural groups, religious groups, immigrant or refugee serving agencies and community organizations.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

11.2 Accessing health care services

Of the four integration areas examined, fewer immigrants reported problems or difficulties accessing health care services. Within the first six months of arrival, 75% of newcomers tried to access health care services, of these, 23% reported at least one problem or difficulty.

70. See appendix C for information by province and appendix D for information by immigration category.

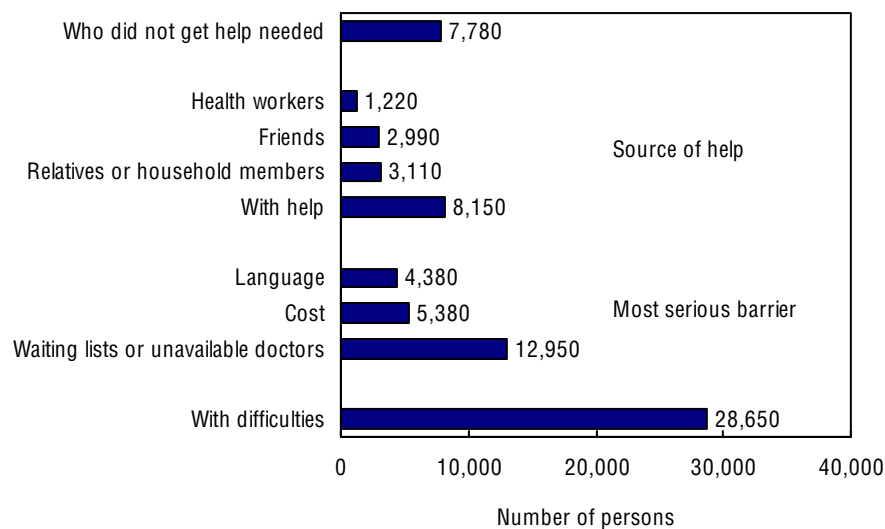
Immigrants in the family category reported fewer problems than refugees and immigrants in the economic category (15% versus 20% and 28% respectively). By province, immigrants who settled in Quebec were more likely to report difficulties accessing health services (35%).

Similar to the concerns of Canadians (for reference see Chapter 6), long waiting lists and doctor availability was cited as the most serious problem among immigrants who tried to access health care services (45%), followed by high cost of health care and language problems (19% and 15% respectively). Refugees were most likely to report the high cost of health services as a serious problem (34%) compared with all other categories. Refugees were also most likely to report language problems as the most serious problem (26%) followed by immigrants in the family category (21%) and skilled worker spouse and dependents (18%).

Among the new immigrants who sought health care services, 28% reported receiving assistance doing so. Relatives or household members and friends provided the most support, in similar proportions (38% and 37% respectively), followed by health workers (15%). A large proportion of immigrants in the family category reported receiving help from relatives or household members (79%), while skilled workers were more likely to receive help from friends (50%).

Just over one quarter of immigrants who tried to access health care services indicated they needed but did not receive help (27%). Financial help was identified as the type of help needed but not received (32%), followed by information (26%) and counselling (20%). Refugees, as well as newcomers who settled in Quebec, had the highest proportion of persons who reported needing but not receiving financial assistance for problems accessing health care services.

Figure 11.2: Immigrants who had health difficulties, and sources of assistance, 2001



These results refer to the 122,540 immigrants who looked for health care.
Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

11.3 Accessing education and/or training

Two thirds of the LSIC immigrants indicated they had tried to access education or training since their arrival. Four in 10 of these immigrants reported at least one problem or difficulty doing so. The most serious problem reported by immigrants in the LSIC was language barriers (27%) followed by financial problems (25%) and courses being full or not enough courses (11%).

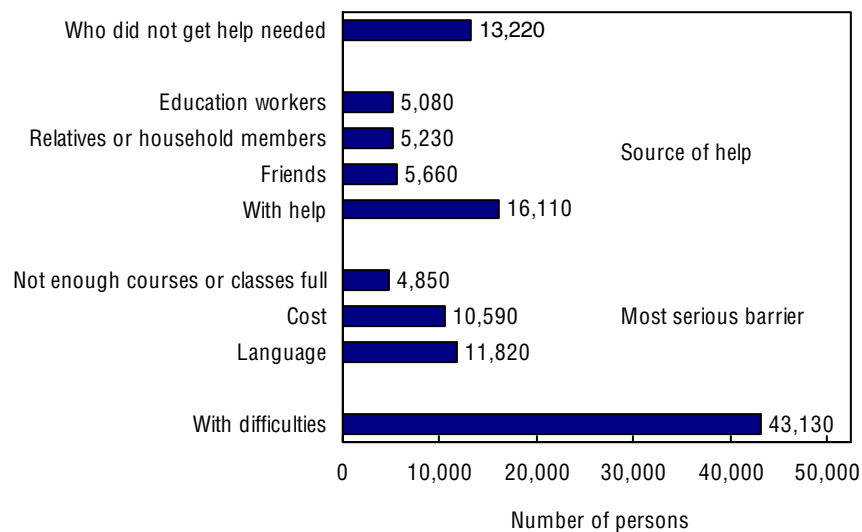
Language barrier was most often reported as the most serious problem for skilled worker spouse and dependents (36%), immigrants in the family category (32%) and refugees (31%) and less so for skilled worker principal applicants (18%). Skilled worker principal applicants were more likely to report financial problems as the most serious problem (34%), compared with all other categories (18%). Financial problems were less of a serious problem for immigrants who settled in British Columbia (14%), compared with Ontario (29%), Alberta (28%) and Quebec (21%).

Nearly four in 10 (37%) immigrants who reported problems or difficulties accessing education or training received assistance for their most serious problem. Among immigration categories, 47% of refugees, 46% of immigrants in the family category, 40% of skilled worker spouse and dependents and 30% of skilled worker principal applicants received help.

Just over four in 10 (42%) economic immigrants reported receiving help from friends compared to 19% of immigrants in the family category. Almost two thirds of immigrants in the family category (65%) received help from relative or household members compared with 28% of skilled worker spouse and dependents and 16% of skilled worker principal applicants.

Three in 10 immigrants reported needing but not receiving help. Refugees and skilled worker principal applicants were the least likely to receive help (34% and 33% respectively). More immigrants who settled in Quebec reported needing but not receiving help (44%), compared with immigrants in Ontario (32%), Alberta (29%) and British Columbia (17%).

Skilled worker principal applicants and refugees reported needing but not receiving financial help (52% and 50% respectively), while immigrants in the family category were more likely to report needing information (36%).

Figure 11.3: Immigrants who had difficulties with education or training, and sources of assistance, 2001

These results refer to the 108,865 immigrants who looked for education or training.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

11.4 Finding employment

Of the four areas of integration examined, immigrants were most likely to report problems or difficulties finding employment. After six months in Canada, seven in 10 newcomers reported that they had tried to find employment, and 70% of these immigrants reported at least one problem or difficulty. The most serious problems were lack of Canadian job experience and/or references (28%), lack of recognition of foreign credentials and/or work experience (24%) and language problems (22%).

Only in Alberta, did newcomers encounter significantly fewer problems. This may be due to the fact that almost 6 in 10 of the new immigrants who settled in Alberta were employed at the time of the interview, whereas the national rate of employment for immigrants in the LSIC was 44%.

A lack of recognition of foreign credentials and/or work experience was more common for skilled workers—28% for principal applicants and 24% for spouse and dependents. Language problems were more of a problem for refugees (44%), and immigrants in the family category (33%).

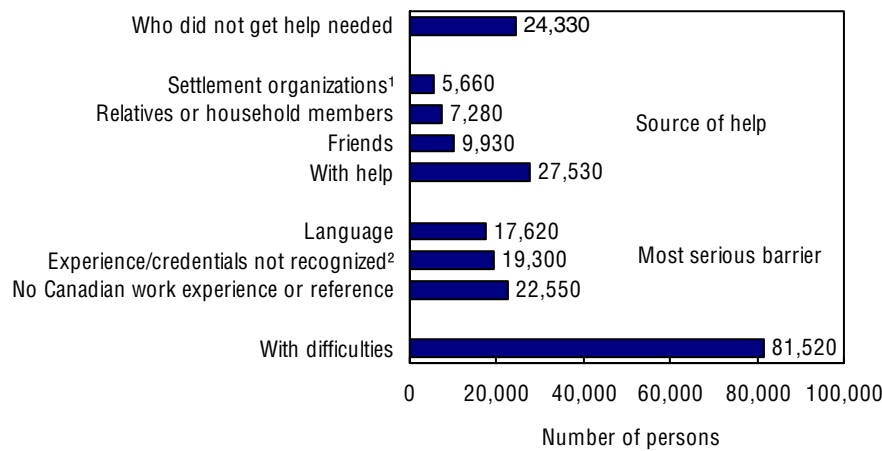
More than one in three newcomers who experienced problems finding employment received help (34%). Refugees and immigrants in the family category were most likely to receive help for problems finding employment (46% and 39% respectively). By province, immigrants in Alberta were the most likely to receive assistance (44%). This may be due to the distribution of new immigrants where a higher proportion of immigrants in family category and refugees settled in Alberta than in the rest of the country.

Immigrants who had problems finding employment received help from friends (36%), relatives or household members (26%) and settlement organizations (21%). Skilled worker principal applicants were most likely to receive help from friends (44%), while immigrants in the family category received help from relatives or household members (63%).

Among the individuals who encountered problems finding employment, three in 10 reported needing but not receiving help. By immigration category, skilled workers and refugees were most likely to report needing but not receiving help (32% and 29% respectively). Immigrants who settled in Quebec were most likely to report not receiving help (40%), compared with immigrants who settled in British Columbia (16%).

Counselling and information were the most common types of help needed but not received (44% and 40%), followed by help with language problems (12%).

Figure 11.4: Immigrants who had difficulties with employment, and sources of assistance, 2001



These results refer to the 116,695 immigrants who looked for employment.

1. Settlement organizations grouping includes ethnic or cultural groups, religious groups, immigrant or refugee serving agencies and community organizations.
2. Refers to foreign work experience and credentials.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

11.5 Conclusion

Moving to a new country is challenging. Although many new immigrants encountered difficulties, it appears problems finding employment was the biggest hurdle. Six months after arrival, lack of recognition of foreign qualifications and/or work experience, financial problems and language barriers were the most serious problems reported.

New immigrants most often depend on relatives or household members and friends for help with problems in all four areas of integration examined, followed by settlement organizations. The results presented here provide insight into barriers new immigrants experienced during the first six months in Canada, waves two and three will identify which if any, of these problems are temporary and which are longer term challenges for new immigrants.

12 Methodology and data quality

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) was established in response to the growing need for information on immigrants to Canada. Particular emphasis is given to the settlement process and the factors that influence immigrants' ability to integrate and adapt to Canadian society, and the services used by immigrants to facilitate the transition.

The completed survey will consist of three interviews (waves): the first of these was conducted six months after the immigrant's arrival in Canada, with subsequent interviews occurring two and four years after their arrival. Only immigrants who respond to the wave one interview will be traced for the wave two interview; only those who respond to the second wave interview will be traced and interviewed for wave three.

The following sections describe the survey methodology and outline some of the limitations of the data. A more detailed discussion of the methodology and data quality can be found in the *Microdata User Guide – Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada – Wave 1*⁷¹.

12.1 Survey populations

The target population for the survey consists of immigrants who arrived in Canada from abroad between October 1st, 2000 and September 30th, 2001, and were 15 years old or more at the time of landing.

Individuals who applied and landed from within Canada are excluded from the survey. These people may have been in Canada for a considerable length of time before officially "landing" and would therefore likely demonstrate quite different integration characteristics from those who recently arrived in Canada. Refugees claiming asylum from within Canada are also excluded from the scope of the survey.

The target population accounts for approximately 169,400 of the 250,000 persons admitted to Canada during this period. Coverage of the survey included all Census Metropolitan Areas and non-remote Census Agglomerations.

The population of interest are those immigrants in the target population who still reside in Canada at the time of a given wave. For example, during the six months between arrival and the time of the wave one interview, some immigrants left Canada to return to their country of origin, or to another country, and are thus excluded from the population of interest.

71. Statistics Canada. *Microdata User Guide – Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada – Wave 1*, 2003, http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/document/4422_D1_T1_V1_E.pdf.

12.2 Survey design

The frame for the LSIC is an administrative database of all landed immigrants to Canada which comes from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The database, known as FOSS (Field Operation Support System), includes various characteristics of each immigrant that can be used for survey design purposes, such as: name; age; sex; mother tongue; country of origin; knowledge of English and/or French; category of immigrant; date of landing; and intended province of destination in Canada.

The survey was designed based on probability sampling theory, using a two-stage stratified sampling method. The first stage involved the selection of the immigrating unit (IU) using a probability proportional to size (PPS) method. The size was defined as the number of immigrants in the IU. The second stage involved the random selection of one IU member within each selected IU. The selected member of the IU is called the longitudinal respondent (LR). Only the LR will be followed throughout the survey and no interviews will be conducted with other members of the IU or the LR's household.

To ensure reliable estimates and to satisfy various requirements of federal and provincial government departments, the sample was stratified by month of landing, province of destination and class of immigrant, and the following subgroups were over-sampled:

- government sponsored refugees;
- refugees other than government sponsored;
- entrepreneur and investor immigrants ("Economic-Business");
- family immigrants in British Columbia;
- overall immigrants in Alberta, and;
- economic immigrants in Quebec ("Economic-Skilled" and "Economic-Business").

As a result of sampling, the sample of immigrants becomes representative of the target population only through the use of the survey weight. The survey weight can be thought of as the number of immigrants in the population represented by a sampled immigrant. The estimates presented earlier in this document are weighted estimates.

To ensure reliable estimates at wave three, a minimum sample size of at least 5,755 respondents is required. The determination of the initial sample size was based on several sample attrition hypotheses applied to the wave three minimum sample size requirements. As a result, 20,322 immigrants were selected for the wave one interview.

12.3 Data collection

The questionnaire is administered by computer assisted interview in French and English. The use of computer assisted interviews facilitates the collection of data that would be difficult to capture using paper and pencil. Translated paper versions are available in thirteen additional languages. The fifteen languages cover 93% of the immigrant population.

Collection of wave 1 data took place between April 2001 and May 2002. Most (68%) of the interviews were conducted face-to-face. The remaining interviews were conducted over the telephone for various reasons (remote location, language requirements, etc.). Interviews lasted approximately 90 minutes.

Of the 20,322 immigrants selected in the initial sample, 12,040 participated in the wave 1 interview (respondents); 2,120 chose not to participate (non respondents); and 411 were found to be no longer in the population of interest (out of scope). Additionally, 5,751 of the selected immigrants could not be located, and thus their status was unresolved.

12.4 Data quality and limitations

There are two main types of errors: sampling errors and non-sampling errors. A sampling error is the difference between an estimate derived from a sample and the one that would have been obtained from a census that used the same procedures to collect data from every person in the population. All other types of errors such as frame coverage, response, processing and non-response are non-sampling errors. Many non-sampling errors are difficult to identify and quantify.

Statistics Canada's *Standards and Guidelines on the Documentation of Data Quality and Methodology*⁷² states that external users must be given with an indication of the magnitude of the sampling error. The basis for measuring sampling error is the standard error of the estimates derived from survey results. However, because of the large variety of estimates that can be produced from a survey, the standard error of an estimate is usually expressed relative to the estimate to which it pertains. This measure, known as the coefficient of variation (CV) of an estimate, is obtained by expressing the standard error of the estimate as a percentage of the estimate.

An indication of the magnitude of sampling error has been provided for the estimates appearing in this report. A CV greater than 33.3% indicates that an estimate is too unreliable to publish. In this report, such values have been suppressed and replaced with a letter code *F*. While publishable, estimates with a CV between 16.6 and 33.3% are considered marginally acceptable and should be interpreted with caution. Such estimates are accompanied by the letter code *E* in this document.

The weights of resolved units (respondents and out-of-scope) are inflated to account for the non-responding and unresolved immigrants. Every effort is made to minimize non-response bias, however given the importance of the latter two groups, the potential for bias is considerable. In the absence of a reliable, independent source of information on these immigrants, these biases cannot be quantified. Thus, the reader should be aware of this potential.

72. Statistics Canada. *Standards and Guidelines on the Documentation of Data Quality and Methodology*, 2002, www.statcan.ca/english/about/policy/infousers.htm.

Among some responding units, incomplete data are obtained: a respondent may fail to provide data for a specific set (module) of questions (partial non-response); or may not provide a response to an individual question (item non-response). Partial and item non-response are corrected by imputation. Imputation consists of replacing a missing or inconsistent value with a plausible value. When carried out properly, imputation improves data quality by reducing non-response bias.

As in many surveys, the questions on income were the most under-reported, with non-response to this module in roughly 3.7% of cases (i.e. 96.3% provided a complete response to the questions in income). Partial non-response was dealt with using a process called massive imputation, whereby the entire incomplete module is replaced for a partial respondent using data from a donor (a respondent for whom all modules are complete).

Item non-response was highest among family income amount questions. Imputation rates for the income amount questions are provided in Table 12.1. Income values are imputed on a question-by-question basis (field imputation), again using data from a respondent. The potential for bias is greater as the imputation rates are quite high for many of these questions.

Table 12.1: LSIC imputation rates for income and earnings, 2001

Variable description	Variable name	Number of non-skips	Number of imputed values	Imputation rate (%)
Income from all jobs	in1i004	7,899	1,210	15
Income from self-employment	in1i006	493	258	52
Pension from a Canadian business or company	in1i028	41	14	34
Private sponsor	in1i031	86	4	5
Investments	in1i034	312	68	22
Other sources	in1i037	516	34	7
Social Assistance	in1i009	1,530	36	2
Employment Insurance	in1i012	325	45	14
Child tax benefits or credits	in1i015	3,781	221	6
Canadian or Quebec Pension	in1i018	176	28	16
Other government sources	in1i021 and in1i024	842	52	6
Longitudinal respondent's personal income from all sources	in1i007	12,040	355	3

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Appendix A. Immigrants' top ten countries of birth, by immigration category, 2001

All immigrants		Family		Skilled worker principal applicants		Skilled worker spouse and dependants		All skilled workers		Other economic		Refugees	
Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
1 China	20	India	28	China	24	China	25	China	25	China	25	Afghanistan	23
2 India	16	China	12	India	14	India	12	India	13	S. Korea	16	Iraq	8
3 Philippines	7	Philippines	8	Philippines	7	Philippines	7	Philippines	7	Taiwan	7 ^E	Iran	8
4 Pakistan	5	Pakistan	5	Pakistan	5	S. Korea	7	Pakistan	6	Iran	7 ^E	Sudan	7
5 S. Korea	4	Sri Lanka	4	S. Korea	4	Pakistan	6	S.Korea	5	Pakistan	5 ^E	Bosnia-Herzegovia	7
6 Romania	3	Jamaica	2	Romania	4	Romania	5 ^E	Romania	4			Colombia	5
7 Iran	3	United States	2	France	3	Russia	4 ^E	Russia	3			Sri Lanka	5
8 Russia	2	Guyana	2	Morocco	3	Ukraine	2 ^E	Morocco	3			Croatia	4
9 Sri Lanka	2	Iran	2	Algeria	3	Iran	2 ^E	Iran	2			Yugoslavia	4
10 Morocco	2	Lebanon	2	Iran	2	Bangladesh	2 ^E	Algeria	2			Sierra Leone	3
Total	63		66		69		72		69		60		74

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Appendix B. Immigrants' top ten countries of last permanent residence, by immigration category, 2001

All immigrants		Family		Skilled worker principal applicants		Skilled worker spouse and dependants		All skilled workers		Other economic		Refugees	
Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
1 China	18	India	28	China	22	China	22	China	22	China	22	Pakistan	14
2 India	14	China	10	India	10	India	9	India	9	S.Korea	15	India	10
3 Philippines	6	Philippines	8	Philippines	5	S.Korea	7	Philippines	6	Taiwan	6	Turkey	7
4 Pakistan	5	Pakistan	5	United States	5	Philippines	6	S.Korea	5	Iran	6	Bosnia-Herzegovia	6
5 United States	4	United States	4	Pakistan	4	Pakistan	5	United States	5			Yugoslavia	5
6 S.Korea	4	Sri Lanka	4	S.Korea	4	United States	5 ^E	Pakistan	5			Colombia	5
7 Romania	3	Guyana	2	France	4	Romania	4 ^E	Romania	4			Kenya	4
8 Iran	2	Jamaica	2	Romania	3	United Arab Emirates	3 ^E	France	3			Sri Lanka	4
9 United Kingdom	2	Iran	2	Morocco	3	Iran	2 ^E	Morocco	2			Iran	3
10 France	2	Lebanon	2	Algeria	2	Russia	2 ^E	Iran	2			Egypt	3
Total	60		66		62		65		63		49		61

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

Appendix C. Immigrants' integration challenges, by province of residence, 2001

	Province of Residence				Canada
	Quebec	Ontario	Alberta	British Columbia	
(1) Total (number)	24,675	93,448	12,585	28,275	164,203
	number				
Tried to get services or achieve task					
(2) Health care	16,468	71,887	10,097	19,889	122,540
(3) Find housing	20,472	69,993	9,423	21,200	125,051
(4) Get education or training	18,005	62,017	7,723	17,744	108,865
(5) Find employment	16,547	69,311	9,211	18,101	116,695
	percentage				
Tried to get services or achieve task (as % of line 1)					
(6) Health care	67	77	80	70	75
(7) Find housing	83	75	75	75	76
(8) Get education or training	73	66	61	63	66
(9) Find employment	67	74	73	64	71
	number				
Reported problem(s) getting services or achieving task					
(10) Health care	5,795	15,763	1,969	4,601	28,648
(11) Find housing	9,255	27,731	2,817	6,392	47,138
(12) Get education or training	6,790	24,539	2,974	7,858	43,131
(13) Find employment	12,026	50,280	5,130	12,386	81,518
	percentage				
Reported problem(s) getting services or achieving task (as % of lines 2 to 5)					
(14) Health care	35	22	20	23	23
(15) Find housing	45	40	30	30	38
(16) Get education or training	38	40	39	44	40
(17) Find employment	73	73	56	68	70
	percentage				
Most serious problems (top 3)					
Health care (as % of line 10)					
(18) Waiting list or doctor availability	52	44	53	37	45
(19) Financial	19	17	12 ^E	26	19
(20) Language	13	15	20	17	15
Find housing (as % of line 11)					
(21) Too expensive	19	37	27	26	31
(22) No guarantor or co-signer	19	28	15 ^E	12	23
(23) No suitable housing available	16	5	14 ^E	22	11
Get education or training (as % of line 12)					
(24) Language	24	29	23	29	27
(25) Cost	21	29	28	14	25
(26) Not enough courses or courses are full	...	...	14 ^E	21	11
(27) Lack of recognition of foreign qualification or work experience	13	...	...	...	...
(28) Lack of time	...	10	...	...	...
Find employment (as % of line 13)					
(29) Lack of Canadian job experience or references	29	28	25	27	28
(30) Lack of recognition of foreign qualifications or work experience	20	27	23	...	24
(31) Language	23	19	24	28	22
(32) No suitable jobs or no jobs available	...	...	...	16	...

Appendix C. Immigrants' integration challenges, by province of residence, 2001 (continued)

	Province of Residence				Canada
	Quebec	Ontario	Alberta	British Columbia	
	number				
Received help with most serious problem(s)					
(33) Health care	1,674	4,070	752	1,451	8,149
(34) Find housing	4,215	11,088	1,100	2,273	19,124
(35) Get education or training	3,283	8,789	1,160	2,553	16,114
(36) Find employment	4,476	16,411	2,234	3,819	27,525
	percentage				
Received help with most serious problem(s) (as % of lines 10 to 13)					
(37) Health care	29	26	38	32	28
(38) Find housing	46	40	39	36	41
(39) Get education or training	48	36	39	32	37
(40) Find employment	37	33	44	31	34
	percentage				
Sources of help (top 3)					
Health care (as % of line 33)					
(41) Relatives or household members	28	42	38 ^E	40	38
(42) Friends	36	39	30 ^E	37	37
(43) Health workers	25 ^E	12 ^E	24 ^E	9 ^E	15
Find housing (as % of line 34)					
(44) Friends	70	63	49	58	63
(45) Relatives or household members	14	25	18 ^E	19	22
(46) Settlement organizations ¹	17	9	16 ^E	9 ^E	11
Get education or training (as % of line 35)					
(47) Friends	39	37	28 ^E	29	35
(48) Relatives or household members	27	36	25 ^E	30	32
(49) Education workers	30	33	...	32	32
(50) Settlement organizations ¹	...	...	28 ^E	...	...
Find employment (as % of line 36)					
(51) Friends	30	39	29	37	36
(52) Relatives or household members	...	29	19 ^E	26	26
(53) Settlement organizations ¹	36	...	34	...	21
(54) Education workers	...	20	...	18	...
(55) Government agencies	21	...	...	...	...
	number				
Did not receive help needed for most serious problem					
(56) Health care	1,978	4,503	468	675	7,777
(57) Find housing	3,015	7,073	529	767	11,582
(58) Get education or training	3,019	7,820	872	1,313	13,216
(59) Find employment	4,775	15,768	1,491	2,043	24,327
	percentage				
Did not receive help needed for most serious problem (as % of lines 10 to 13)					
(60) Health care	34	29	24	15	27
(61) Find housing	33	26	19	12	25
(62) Get education or training	44	32	29	17	31
(63) Find employment	40	31	29	16	30

Appendix C. Immigrants' integration challenges, by province of residence, 2001 (concluded)

		Province of Residence				Canada
		Quebec	Ontario	Alberta	British Columbia	
		percentage				
Type of help needed and not received (top 3)						
Health care (as % of line 56)						
(64)	Financial	40	29	F	30 ^E	32
(65)	Information	21 ^E	26	36 ^E	31 ^E	26
(66)	Counselling	13 ^E	22	26 ^E	21 ^E	20
Find housing (as % of line 57)						
(67)	Information	43	34	37 ^E	40 ^E	37
(68)	Counselling	32	27	36 ^E	34 ^E	29
(69)	Financial	25	29	F	F	26
Get education or training (as % of line 58)						
(70)	Financial	44	45	41	21 ^E	42
(71)	Information	33	25	42	38	30
(72)	Counselling	20	25	30 ^E	43	26
Find employ. (as % of line 59)						
(73)	Counselling	34	48	41	45	44
(74)	Information	42	40	33	42	40
(75)	Language	15	...	10 ^E	...	12
(76)	Financial	...	13	...	...	...
(77)	Transportation	...	...	...	8 ^E	...

1. Settlement organizations grouping includes ethnic or cultural groups, religious groups, immigrant or refugee serving agencies and community organizations.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.

**Appendix D. Immigrants' integration challenges, by major immigration category, 2001
(continued)**

		Major immigration categories				All immigrants ¹
		Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants	Refugees	
Received help with most serious problem(s)						
		number				
(31)	Health care	2,211	2,663	2,656	603	8,149
(32)	Find housing	856	9,617	6,989	1,662	19,124
(33)	Get education or training	3,703	5,371	5,847	1,110	16,114
(34)	Find employment	5,988	12,950	7,044	1,454	27,525
Received help with most serious problem(s) (as % of lines 10 to 13)						
		percentage				
(35)	Health care	42	23	26	39	28
(36)	Find housing	31	41	39	55	41
(37)	Get education or training	46	30	40	47	37
(38)	Find employment	39	32	32	46	34
Sources of help for most serious problem (top 3)						
Health care (as % of line 31)						
(39)	Relatives or household members	79	14 ^E	29	35 ^E	38
(40)	Friends	11 ^E	52	47	21 ^E	37
(41)	Health workers	...	23	16 ^E	...	15
(42)	Government agencies	F	...	...	...	...
(43)	Settlement organizations ²	...	...	...	22 ^E	...
Find housing (as % of line 32)						
(44)	Friends	29 ^E	69	65	36	63
(45)	Relatives or household members	56	19	21	25	22
(46)	Settlement organizations ²	F	10	9	31	11
Get education or training (as % of line 33)						
(47)	Friends	19	43	41	...	35
(48)	Relatives or household members	65	16	28	29 ^E	32
(49)	Education workers	27	30	36	34 ^E	32
(50)	Settlement organizations ²	...	...	...	30 ^E	...
Find employment (as % of line 34)						
(51)	Friends	24	44	35	...	36
(52)	Relatives or household members	63	...	...	32	26
(53)	Settlement organizations ²	...	23	22	29	21
(54)	Education workers	14	17	23	23	...
Did not receive help needed for most serious problem						
		number				
(55)	Health care	1,327	3,505	2,361	563	7,777
(56)	Find housing	467	6,110	4,200	805	11,582
(57)	Get education or training	2,201	5,896	4,254	816	13,216
(58)	Find employment	3,162	13,200	6,971	907	24,327
Did not receive help needed for most serious problem (as % of lines 10 to 13)						
		percentage				
(59)	Health care	25	30	24	36	27
(60)	Find housing	17 ^E	26	23	27	25
(61)	Get education or training	27	33	29	34	31
(62)	Find employment	21	33	31	29	30

Appendix D. Immigrants' integration challenges, by major immigration category, 2001 (concluded)

		Major immigration categories			All immigrants ¹	
		Family	Skilled worker principal applicants	Skilled worker spouse and dependants		Refugees
Type of help needed and not received (top 3)		percentage				
Health care (as % of line 55)						
(63)	Financial	38	28	27	55	32
(64)	Information	24 ^E	29	25	F	26
(65)	Counselling	16 ^E	22	21	F	20
Find housing (as % of line 56)						
(66)	Information	42 ^E	39	36	25 ^E	37
(67)	Counselling	F	31	28	26 ^E	29
(68)	Financial	41 ^E	24	25	44	26
Get education or training (as % of line 57)						
(69)	Financial	27	52	33	50	42
(70)	Information	36	29	29	22 ^E	30
(71)	Counselling	24	24	32	21 ^E	26
Find employment (as % of line 58)						
(72)	Counselling	37	46	46	36	44
(73)	Information	37	41	42	38	40
(74)	Language	14 ^E	...	13	28 ^E	12
(75)	Financial	...	11	...	...	...

1. Includes family class and economic class immigrants, refugees and other immigrants landed from abroad.

2. Settlement organizations grouping includes ethnic/cultural groups, religious groups, immigrant/refugee serving agencies and community organizations.

Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2001.