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IMDB 2008 Immigration Category Profiles

Privately Sponsored Refugees

Findings from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)

March 2012

IMDB 2008 Research Series

IMDB Core Report

The *IMDB Core Report* is an annual update of previous research that focuses on incidence of employment earnings, average entry employment earnings, and growth in average employment earnings during immigrants' first five years in Canada. The *IMDB 2008 Core Report* provides outcomes for those landed in the period 2001 to 2008.

The *IMDB Core Report* consists of two volumes:

- 1) *National Portrait*, provides:
 - A detailed look at skilled worker principal applicant employment outcomes by age and gender; and
 - Immigration category highlights for provincial nominee principal applicants, family class immigrants, refugees, and economic spouses/dependants.
- 2) *Provincial Portrait*, provides:
 - Information about the mix of immigrant classes at landing by province and immigration category and highlights for skilled worker principal applicants and provincial nominee principal applicants by province.

Each volume is accompanied by an appendix containing a full set of supporting tables and the *IMDB Research Series – Technical Notes* providing information about data sources, a glossary of terms and concepts as well as additional notes.

The *IMDB 2009 Core Report* will be available in fall, 2012.

IMDB Immigration Category Profiles

The *IMDB 2008 Immigration Category Profiles* consist of the following twelve reports:

- Economic class: Skilled Workers (SW), Provincial Nominees (PN), Live-in Caregivers (LC), and Business immigrants – Entrepreneurs (ENT), Investors (INV) and Self-employed (SEI)
- Family class: Parents and Grandparents (P&G) and Spouses and Partners (S&P)
- Refugees: Government-assisted Refugees (GAR), Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR) and Refugees Landed in Canada (RLC)
- Other immigrants: Humanitarian and Compassionate/Public Policy Considerations (HC)

Each *IMDB Immigration Category Profile* consists of two main sections:

- 1) Background characteristics: Provides demographic landings information for the target category by province, country of last permanent residence, family status, age, and gender; and
- 2) Economic outcomes: Provides information on the economic performance of the target category compared to other selected immigrant categories and all Canadians including, average employment earnings, income distributions as well as incidence of employment earnings, social assistance and employment insurance.

The profiles are graphical presentations of the demographic and economic trends observed over time with corresponding text focusing on category specific highlights. Each profile is accompanied by an appendix containing a full set of supporting tables and the *IMDB Research Series – Technical Notes* providing information about data sources, a glossary of terms and concepts as well as additional notes.

The *IMDB 2009 Immigration Category Profiles* will be available in fall, 2012.

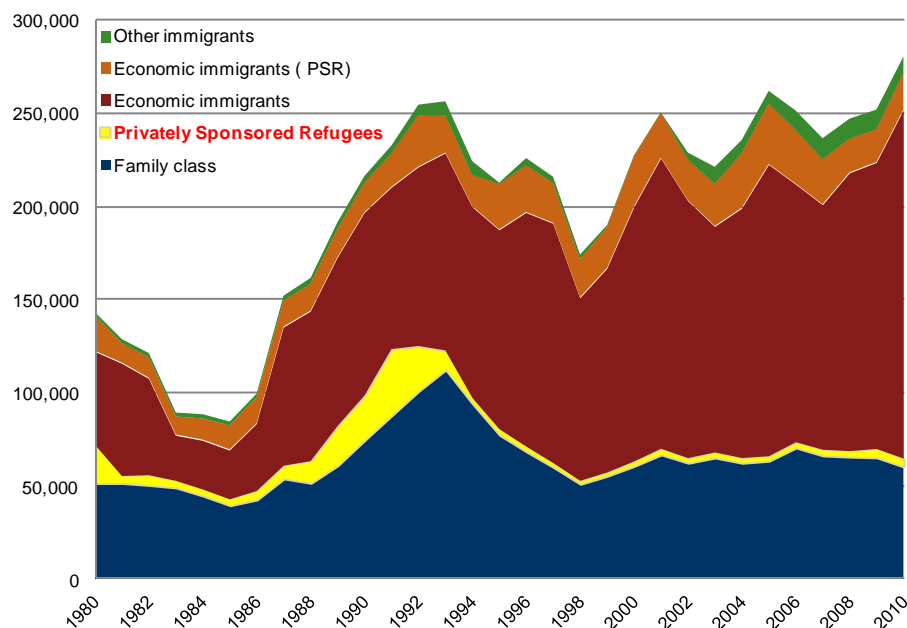
IMDB Research Series - Technical Notes

The *IMDB 2008 Research Series – Technical Notes* provide information about data sources, a glossary of terms and concepts as well as additional notes. The notes will be updated as required with the release of the *IMDB 2009 Core Report* and the *IMDB 2009 Immigration Category Profiles*.

Background characteristics

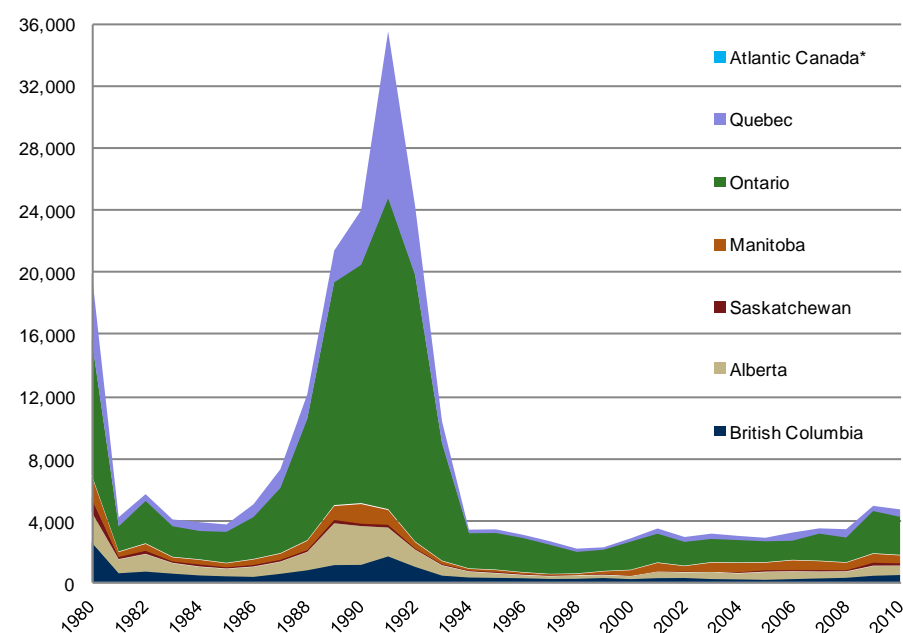
Figure 1: Immigrants by landing year, 1980-2010

Immigration category



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

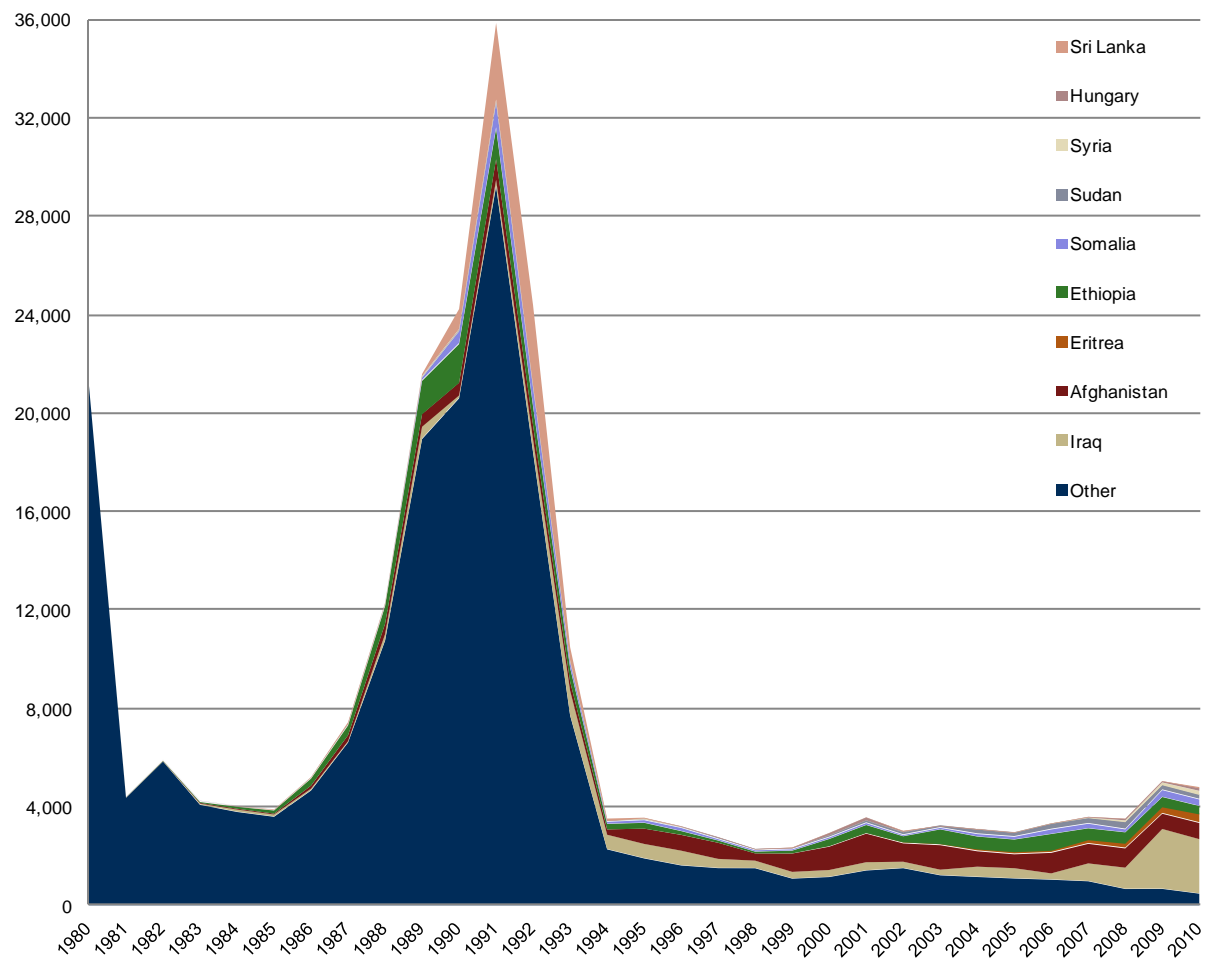
Privately sponsored refugees by province of destination



*Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick
Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) permanent resident records indicate that landings of Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) have exhibited large swings during the 1980-2010 timeframe. For both the 1980 and 1991 landing cohorts PSRs accounted for 15% of all landings; however, since 1994 PSRs have accounted for only 1%-2% of total landings.
- Landings of PSRs increased significantly in the late-1980s and into the first part of the 1990s (35,000 landings in 1991) with the implementation of a special Backlog Clearance Program in 1989. This program was put in place to resolve a backlog of refugee claims made prior to December 31, 1988 and this program resulted in a significant increase in landings during the 1989-1993 timeframe.
- Throughout the entire 1980-2010 period Ontario was the top intended destination of PSRs with an average of 58% going to the province. During the Backlog Clearance Program, the share going to Ontario surpassed 70% but the most recent trends indicate roughly 50% of the total is destined for Ontario.

Figure 2: Number of privately sponsored refugees, by country of last permanent residence, by landing year, 1980-2010

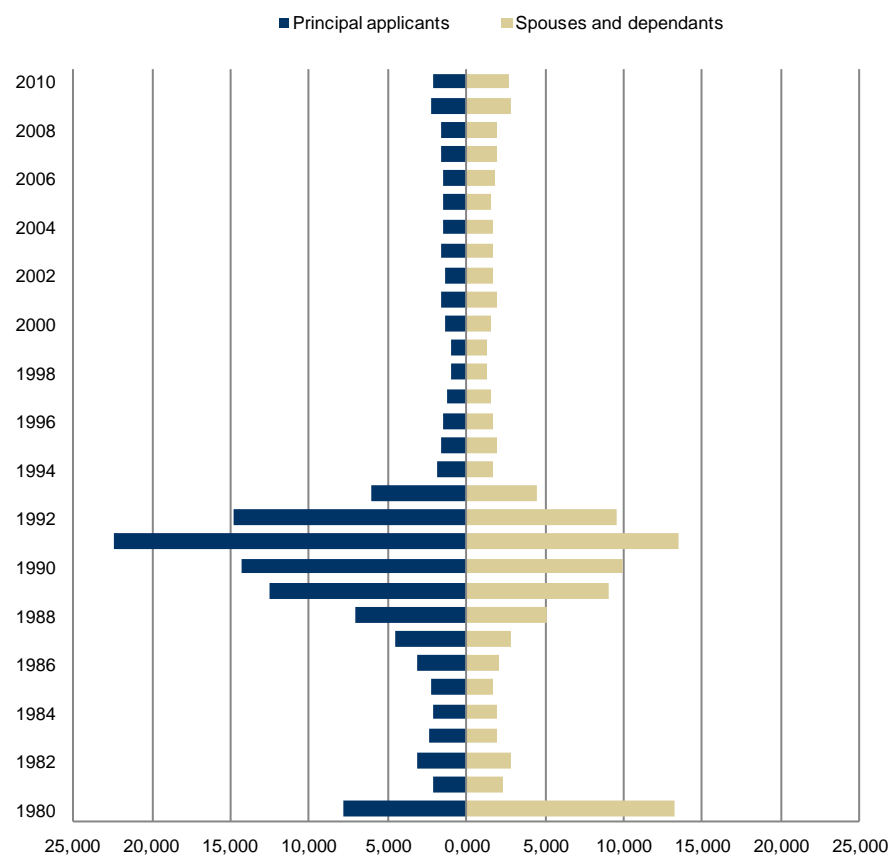


Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- Landings of PSRs by source country can be very diverse reflecting international events which displace people and the changing geopolitical situation in various regions of the world.
- In 2010, the top ten source countries of PSRs accounted for 90% of landings in this category.
- During the 1980s, the majority of landings originated from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Portugal. During the 1990s and into the 2000s the majority of landings originated from the former Yugoslavia and more recently, a greater share of landings have originated from Africa (Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia). A fairly constant flow has originated from Middle Eastern countries (Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran) since the late-1980s.

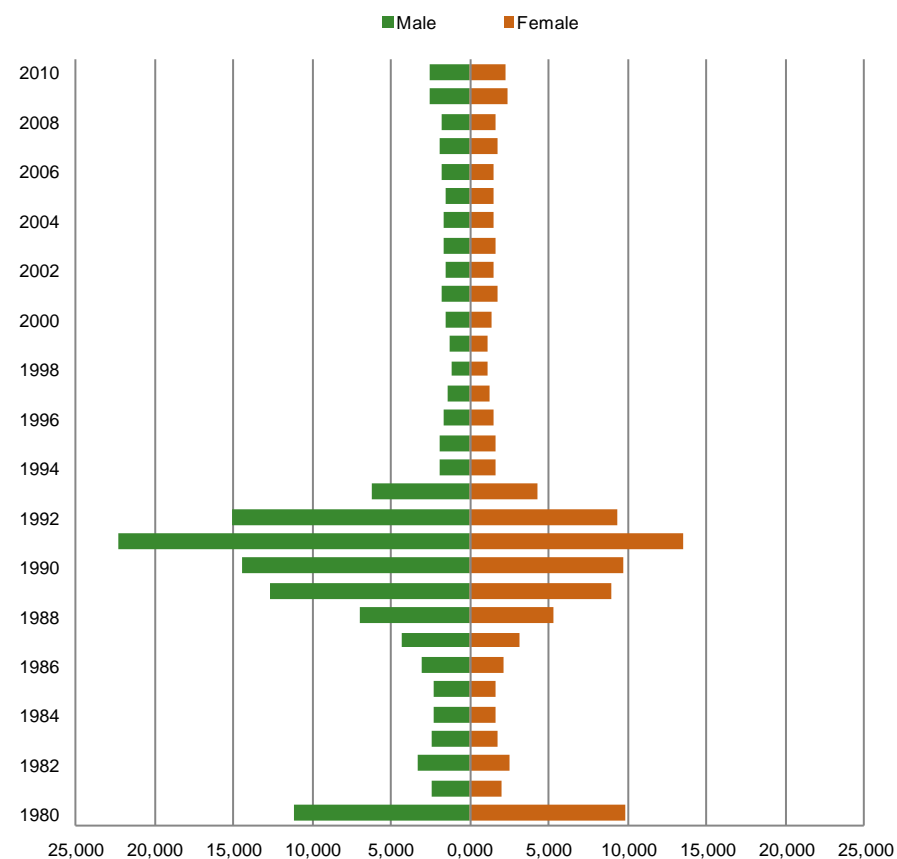
Figure 3: Number of privately sponsored refugees, by landing year, 1980-2010

Family status



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

Gender

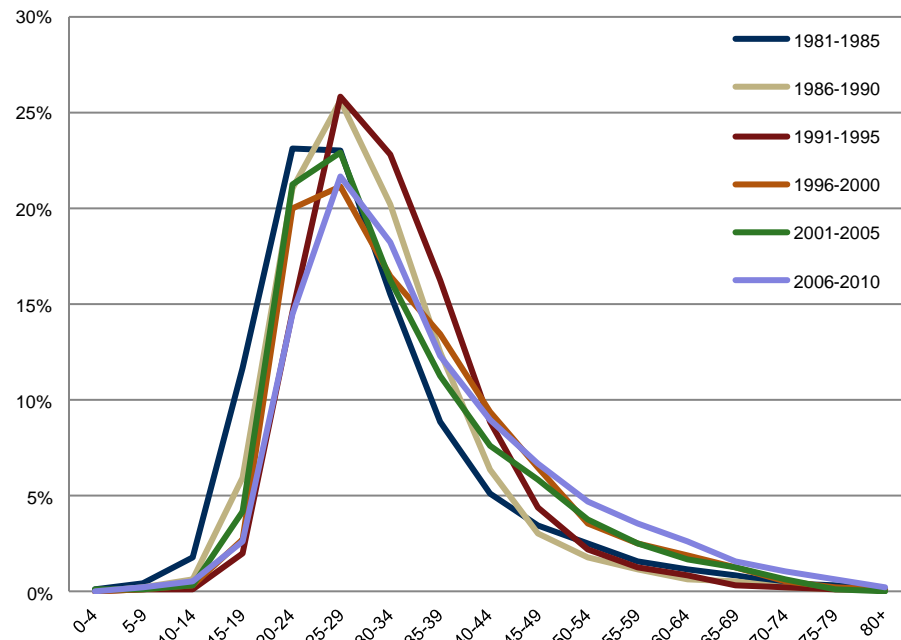


Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- In terms of gender mix, more PSRs are males as compared to females. The overall split during the 1980-2010 timeframe was 58% males and 42% females, but the latest trends (since the late-1990s) point towards a more even gender split (52% male and 48% female).
- Administrative data indicate slightly greater numbers of spouses and dependants arriving as PSRs as compared to principal applicants since the mid-1990s (a ratio of 1.2:1). This situation is significantly different than during the Backlog Clearance Program (1989-1993) when the number of principal applicants outnumbered spouses and dependants at a ratio of 1.5:1.

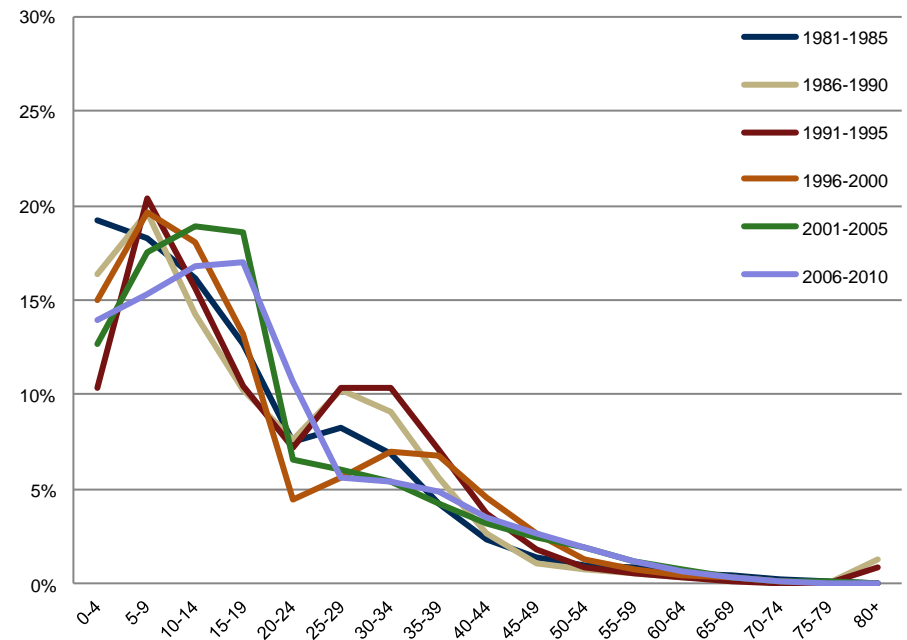
Figure 4: Age distribution of privately sponsored refugees, by landing year, 1980-2010

Principal applicants



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

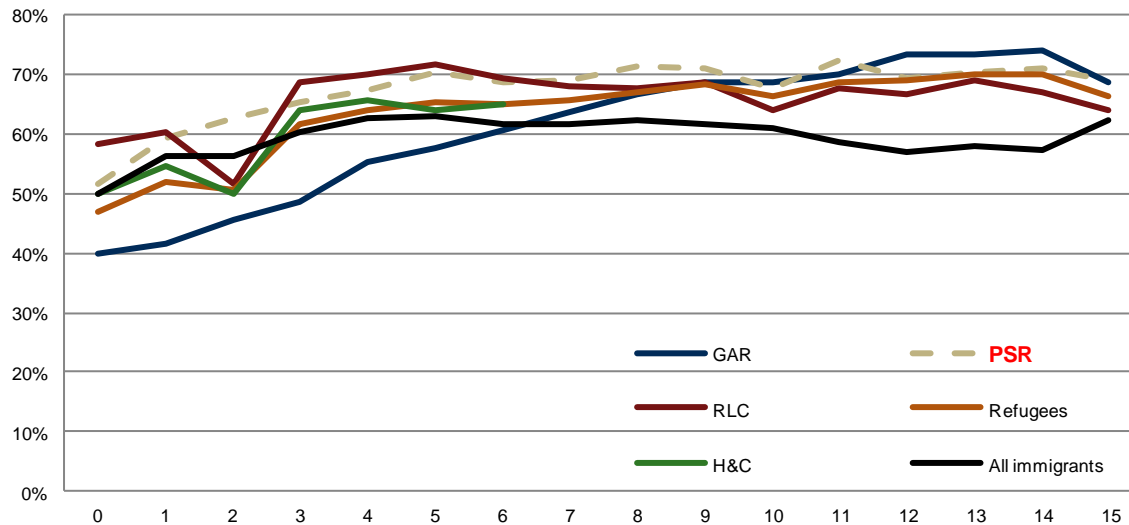
Spouses and dependants



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- As shown in the graphic above, the majority (roughly 70%) of PSR principal applicants arrive at core working ages (25-54).
- As expected, there exists a noticeable difference in the age structure of spouses and dependants (as compared to principal applicants) with greater shares of landings coming from younger individuals (0-24) in addition to those of core working age (25-54).

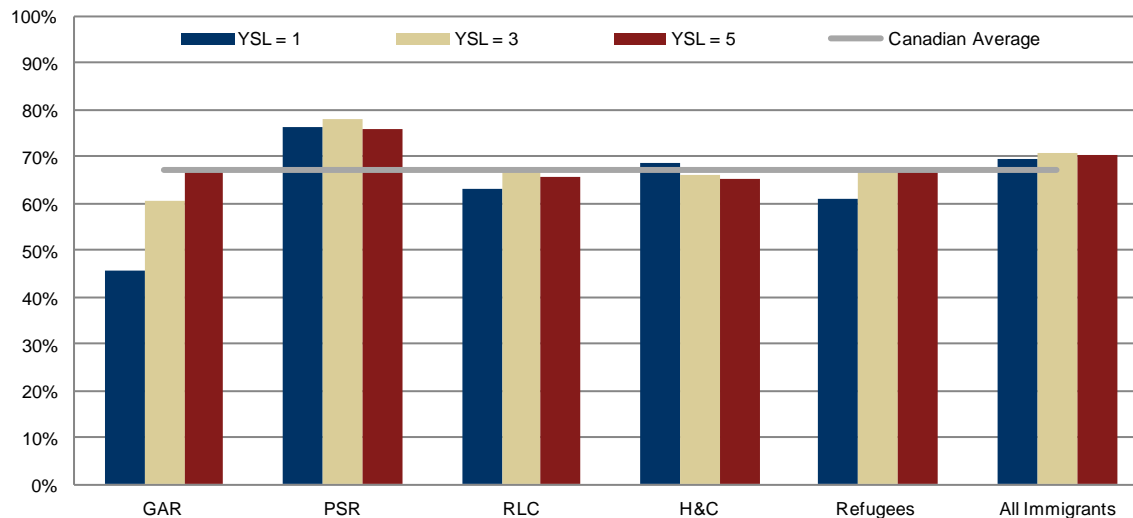
Figure 5: IMDB capture rate for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010 and IMDB, 2008

- The IMDB capture rate for PSRs increases steadily in the years following landing in Canada. The initial linkage rate is around 50%, below the all immigrants' average but above other comparable categories. The linkage rate increases steadily in subsequent years after landing and reaches 70% by the 5th year after landing.

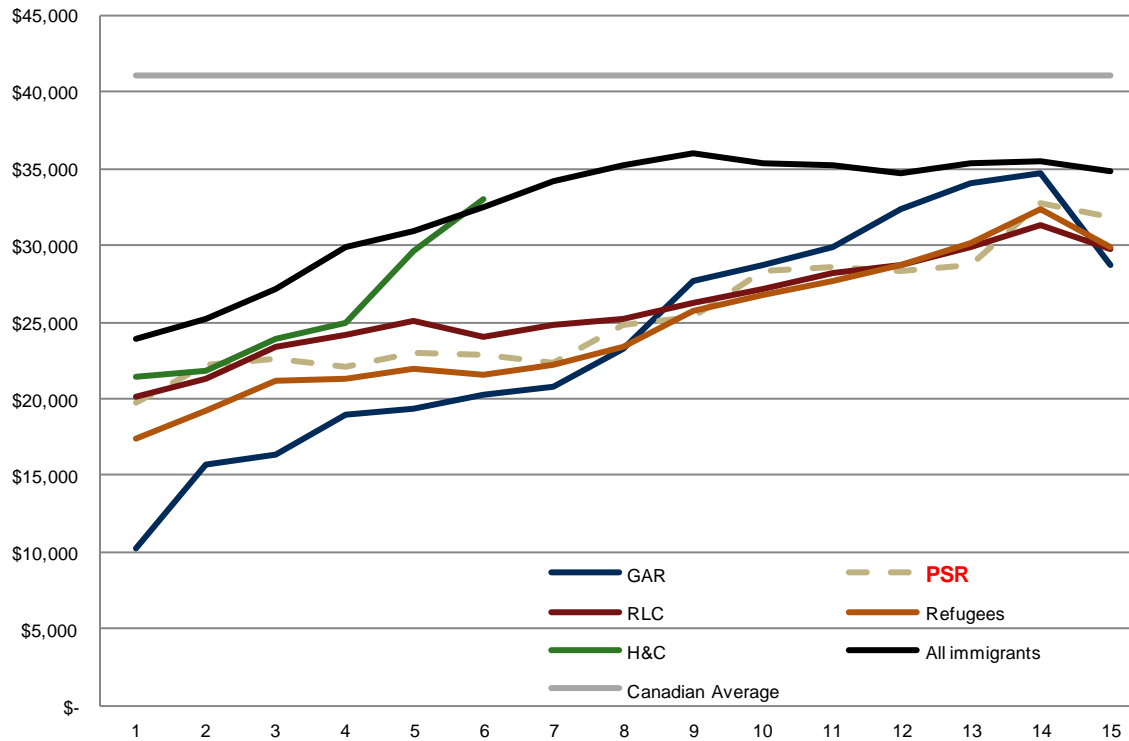
Figure 6: Incidence of employment earnings for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- During the 1st year after landing, 76% of PSRs captured in the IMDB report employment earnings - somewhat surprisingly, this well above the Canadian average of 67% and is also higher than the average for all immigrants and many other immigration categories.
- An interesting point to note regarding the incidence of employment earnings for PSRs is that the rate recorded a few years after landing is very much dependent on the rate recorded shortly after landing - that is the rates demonstrate "stickiness" in either direction despite increased time since landing. This is different than what is seen for GARs who demonstrate some upward movement in incidence rates post initial results.

Figure 7: Average employment earnings for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008

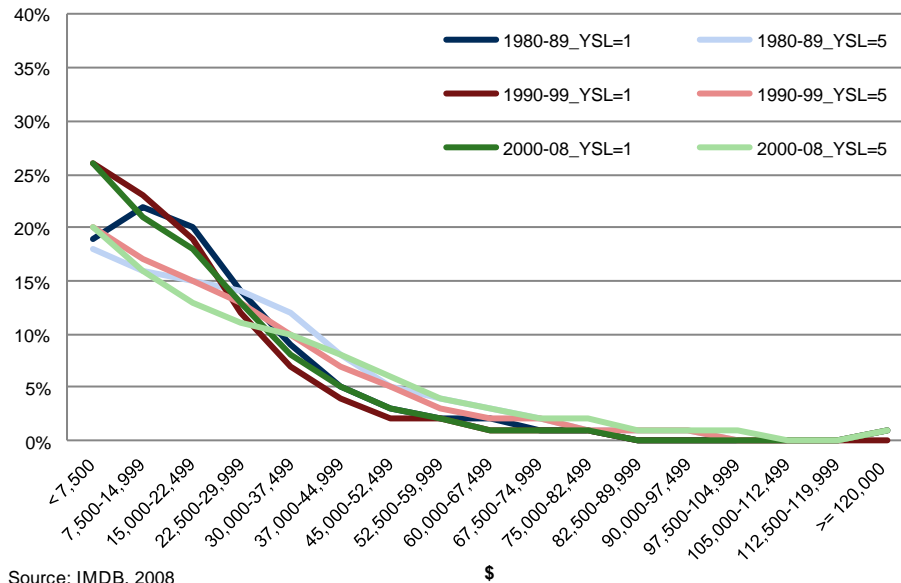


Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- Despite a relatively high incidence of employment earnings, findings from the IMDB show that average employment earnings of PSRs are among the poorest of all immigration categories and well below the Canadian average.
- For specific refugee categories, initial entry level earnings are higher for PSRs - reaching and exceeding \$20,000 after the first two years after landing. This level is above the refugee average, but below the all immigrants' average.
- Employment earnings do increase in subsequent years after landing and earnings congregate in the \$30,000 range for cohorts who have been in the country for the longest period of time.

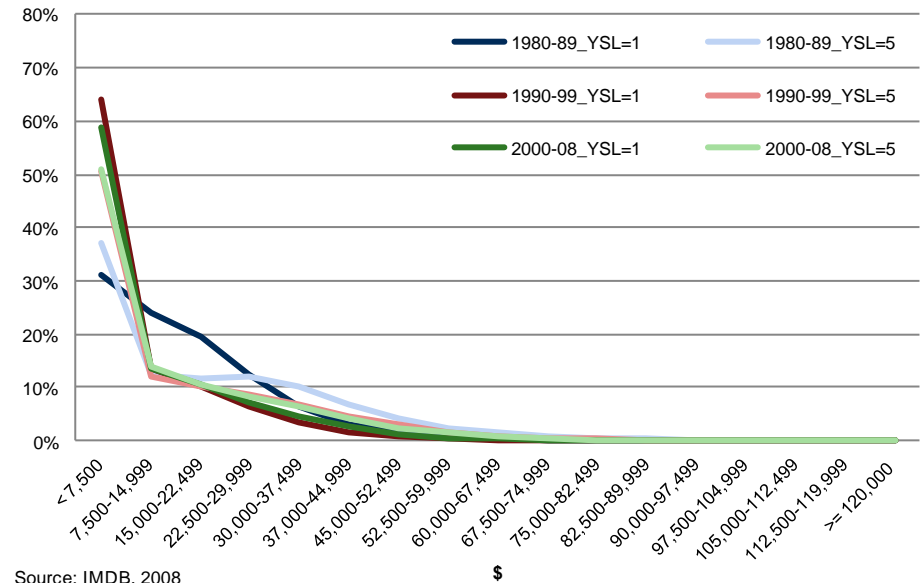
Figure 8: Distribution of employment earnings (\$2008) by cohort for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008

All immigrants



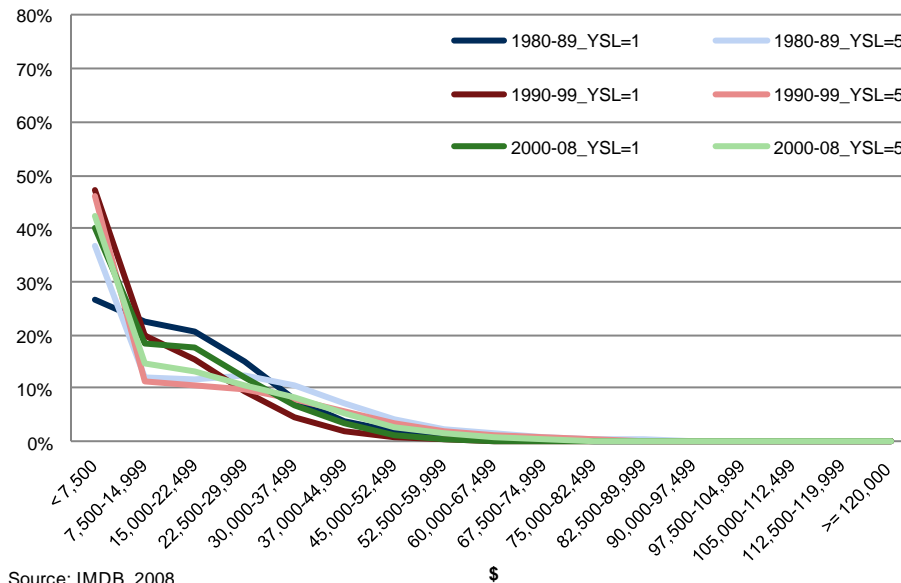
Source: IMDB, 2008

All refugees



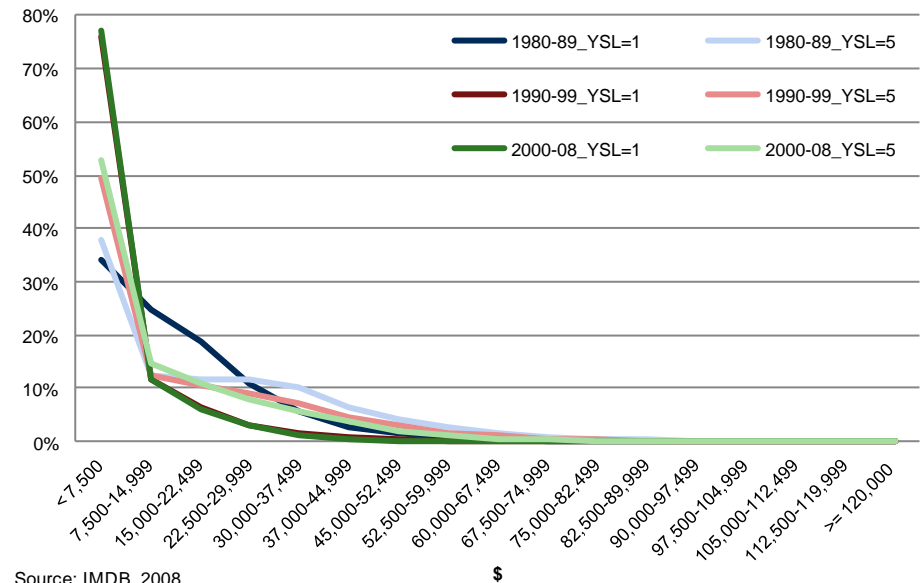
Source: IMDB, 2008

Privately sponsored refugees



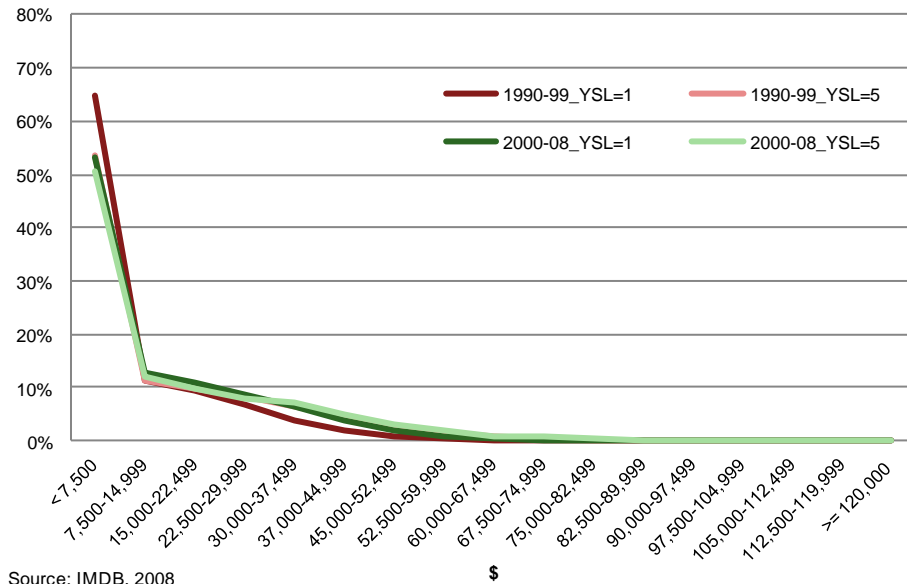
Source: IMDB, 2008

Government-assisted refugees

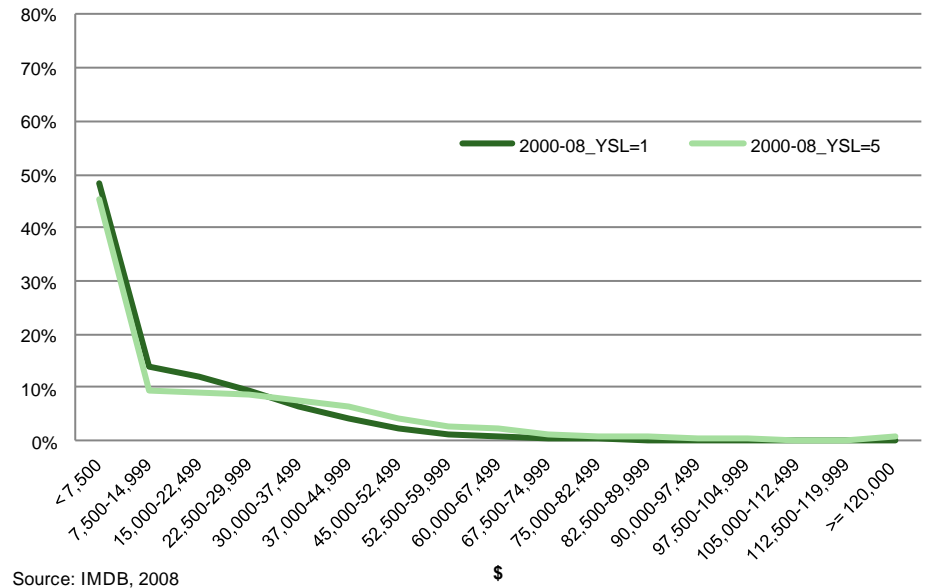


Source: IMDB, 2008

Refugees landed in Canada



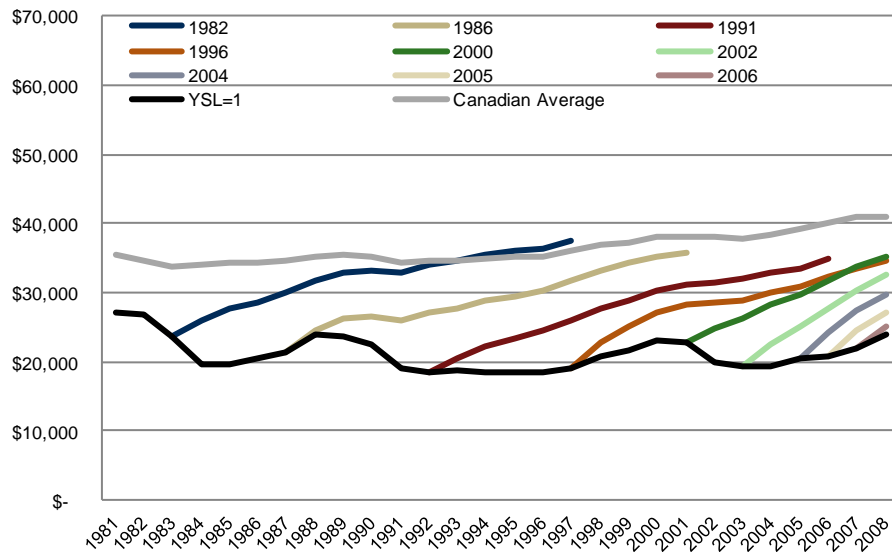
Humanitarian and compassionate cases



- Figure 8 displays the distribution of employment earnings for grouped cohorts in the first and fifth year after landing. For refugee categories there is a notable concentration in the left (lower) end of the distribution, reflecting a larger share of immigrants falling into the lower employment earnings bracket. However, PSRs note relatively fewer shares in the lower end of the distribution as compared to other refugees.
- There are differences in the relative earnings distributions by cohort groups.
 - For all immigrants landing in the 1990s the share reporting earnings lower than \$22,500 in the first year (69%) was higher than that seen for those landing in the 1980s (61%) and 2000s (65%). The comparable shares for the 1990s cohort of immigrants remained higher at the third and fifth years following landing as well.
 - For PSRs landing in the 1990s and the 2000s, the share reporting earnings lower than \$22,500 in the first year (83%, 76%) was higher than that seen for those landing in the 1980s (70%).
- There are also differences in the relative earning distributions by immigration category.
 - For all immigrants landing in 2000 and onward, 65% had earnings less than \$22,500 in the first year following landing. This share decreased to 55% and 48% in the third and fifth year following landing.
 - For all refugees, respective shares were notably higher at 83%, 77%, and 76% in the first, third, and fifth years following landing.
 - For PSRs, the shares were lower than that of all refugees at 76%, 71%, and 70% in the first, third, and fifth years following landing.

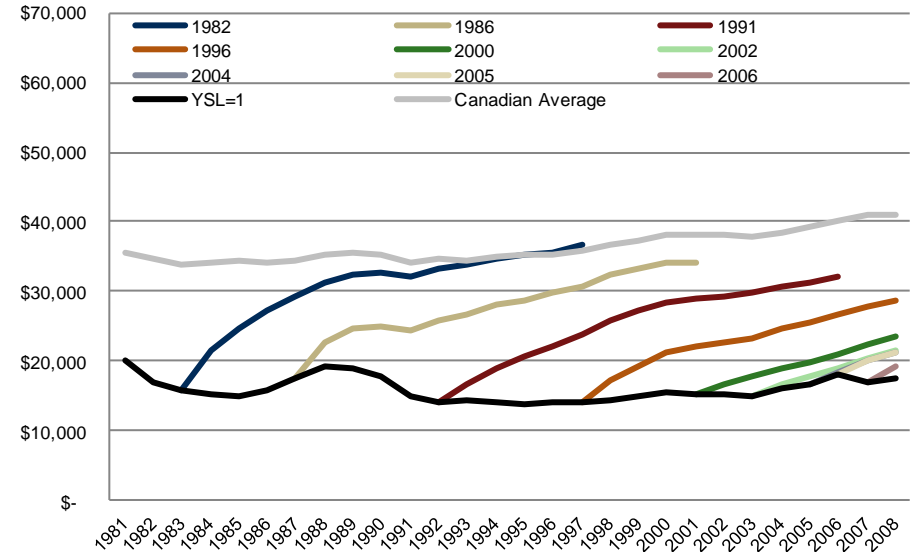
Figure 9: Average employment earnings (\$2008), by landing year and tax year, 1980-2008

All immigrants



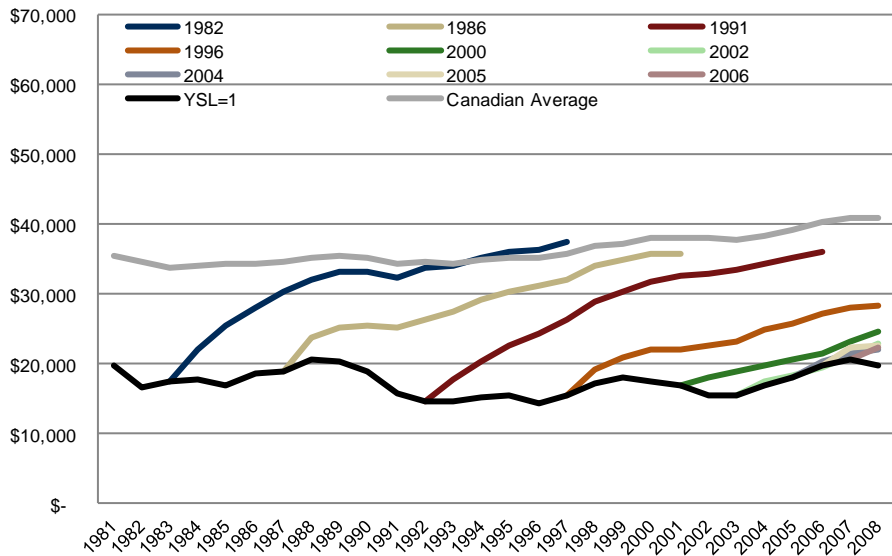
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

All refugees



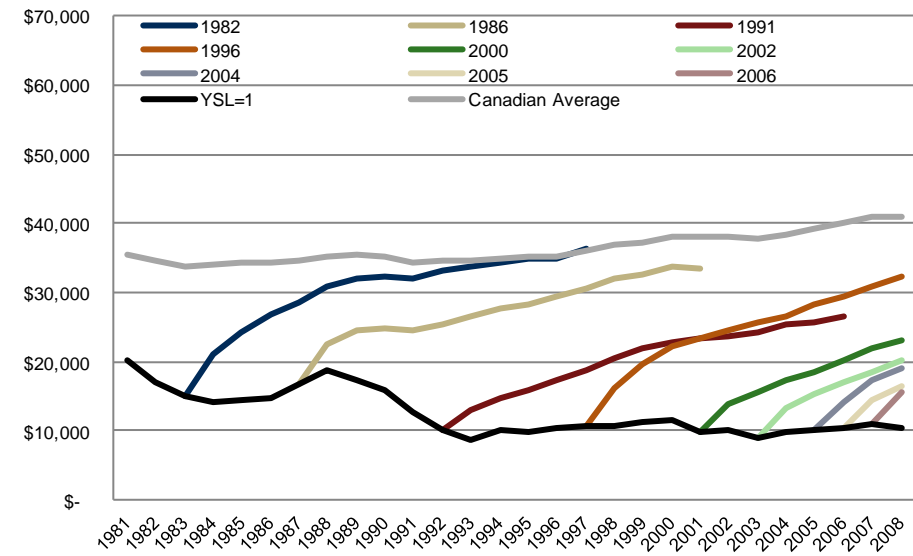
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

Privately sponsored refugees



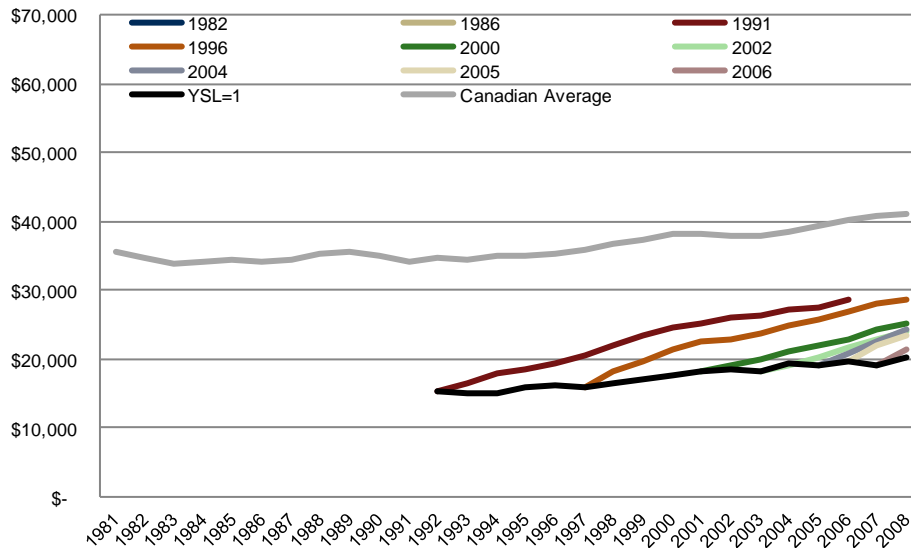
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

Government-assisted refugees



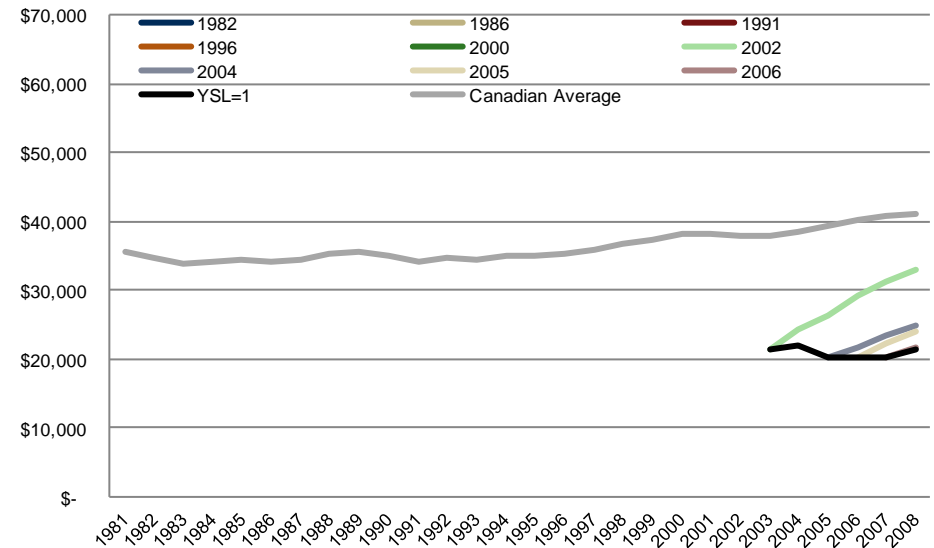
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

Refugees landed in Canada



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

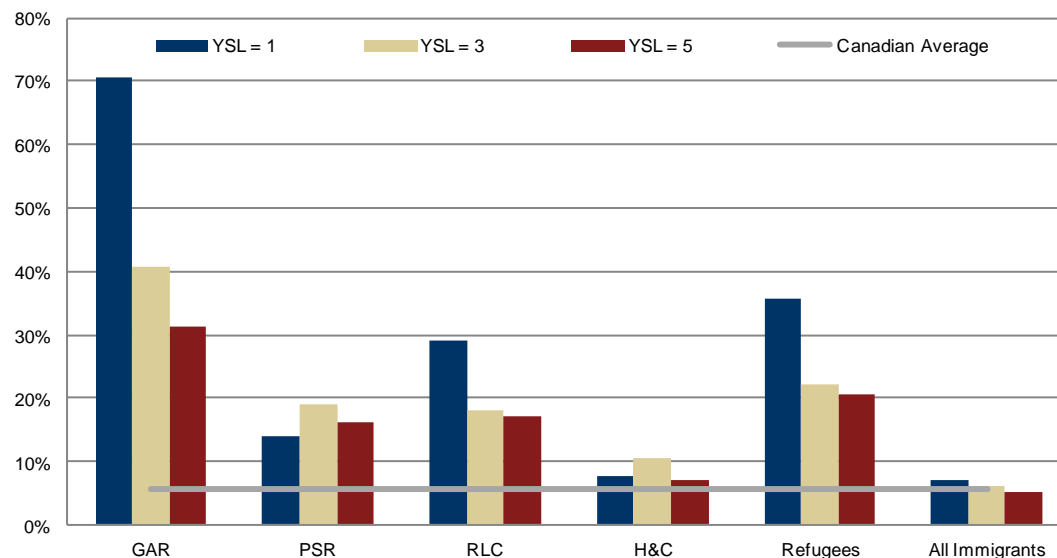
Humanitarian and compassionate cases



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- Data from the IMDB show that entry employment earnings (1 year after landing) of PSRs range from a high of \$20,800 for the 2006 landing cohort to a low of \$14,500 for the 1995 landing cohort. Entry level earnings have noted an upward trend since the 2002 landing cohort.
- PSRs consistently have a low initial earnings profile and are among the poorest of all immigrant categories - significantly weaker than the Canadian average.
- Employment earnings for PSRs increase considerably over time in Canada. Some cohorts have reached and surpassed the Canadian average (1982-1985 cohorts) while other cohorts (in the late 1980s and 1990s) do not show as strong growth in subsequent years after landing.

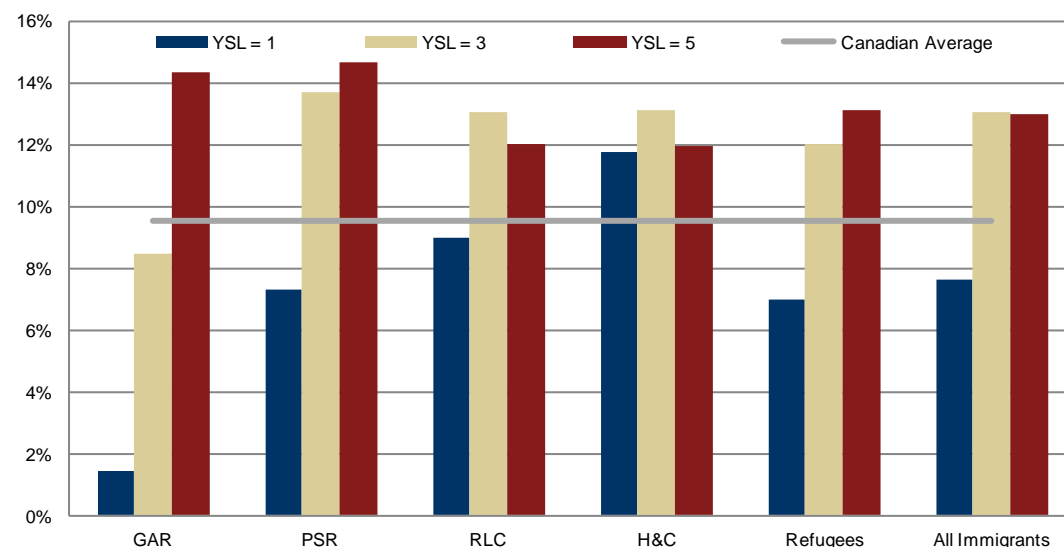
Figure 10: Incidence of social assistance for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- PSRs exhibit relatively high incidence of social assistance (SA) with higher rates than the all immigrants' average and the Canadian average.
- The incidence of SA remains high in subsequent years after landing; however they are lower than government-assisted refugees and refugees landed in Canada.

Figure 11: Incidence of employment insurance for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- Immigrants, on average, are expected to have a lower incidence of employment insurance (often below the Canadian average) in their first year following landing. With time spent in the Canadian labour market, the incidence increases, and then gradually declines as employment becomes more stable.
- The share of PSRs reporting income from employment insurance one year after landing is well below the Canadian average and the average for all immigrants. However, by the 3rd year after landing, PSRs incidence of employment insurance is well above the Canadian average and surpasses the average for all immigrants.
- Longer-term trends (after the 7th year landing) generally show declines in the incidence of employment insurance payments, but they remain higher than the Canadian average and all immigrants.