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## IMDB 2008 Immigration Category Profile Series

### Parents and Grandparents

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.

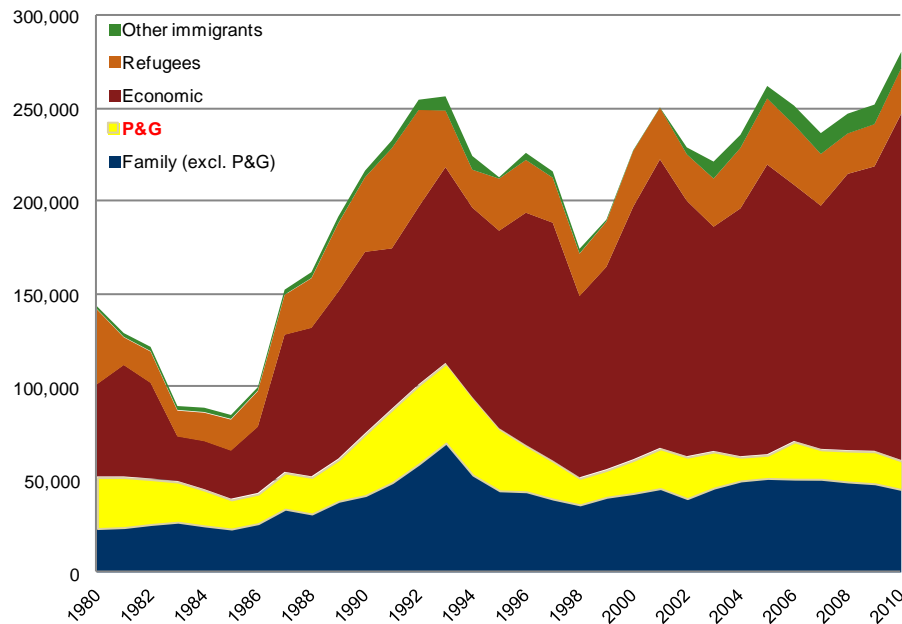
### IMDB Research Series - Technical Notes

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

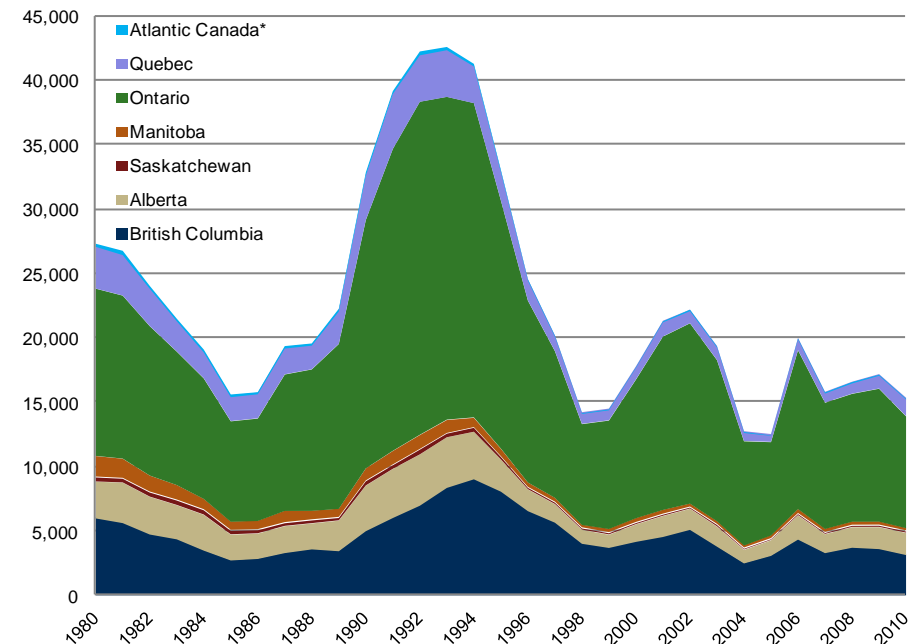
Figure 1: Immigrants by landing year, 1980-2010

### Immigration category



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

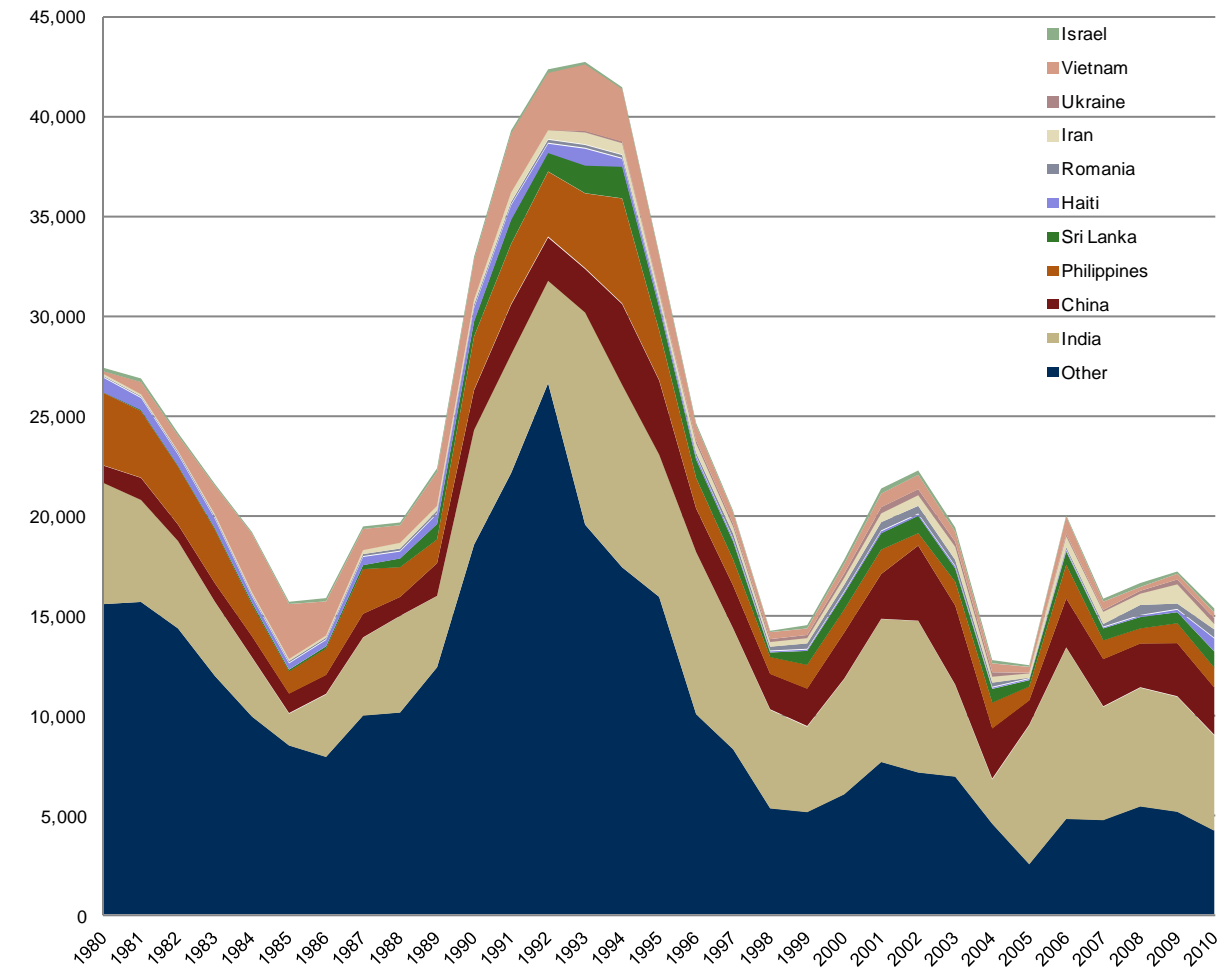
### Parents and grandparents by province of destination



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

- Over the last 30 years, Parent and Grandparent immigrants (P&G) accounted for 12% of all immigrant landings. During the first fifteen years P&Gs accounted for 17% of all immigrant landings and 43% of the family class. However, since 1995 the number and share of P&G landings has declined. From 1996-2000 P&Gs accounted for 8% of total landings and 28% of the family class. In 2010, just over 15,000 P&Gs landed in Canada, equalling 5% of total immigrant landings.
- In Canada, since 1980 Ontario has always been the top destination for P&Gs. The share of P&Gs destined to Ontario increased gradually from 47% in 1980 to slightly over 60% during the 2000s. On average, 10,000 P&Gs were destined to Ontario annually during the 2000s. British Columbia is the second top destination with roughly 4,000 P&Gs landing annually during the same time period.

Figure 2: Number of parent and grandparents by country of last permanent residence by landing year, 1980-2010

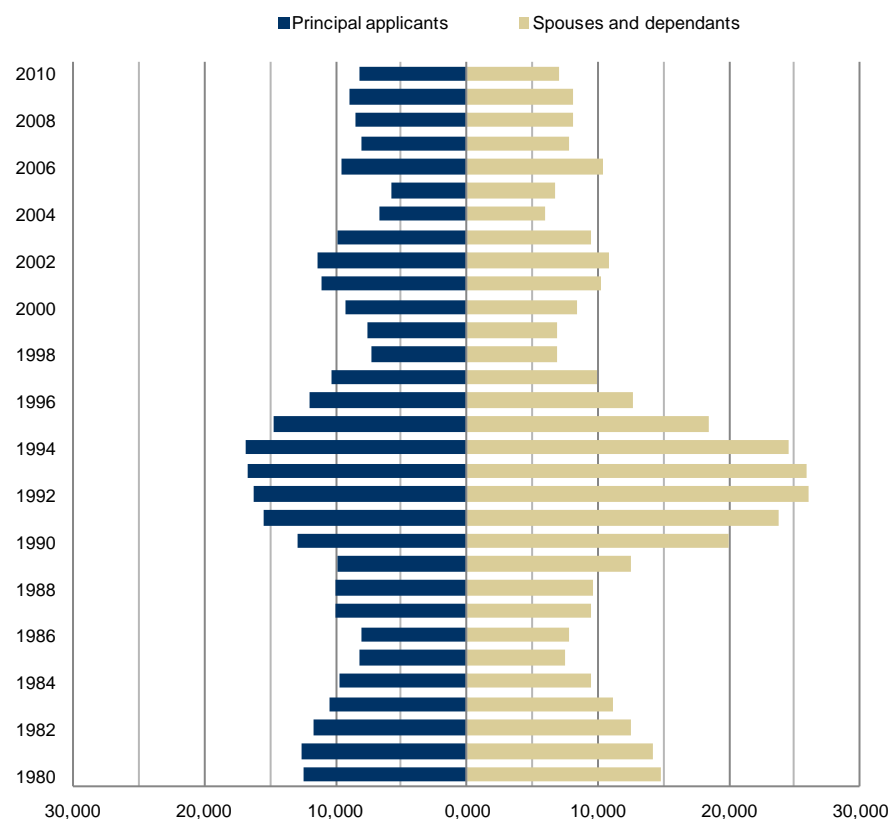


Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- Over the last 30 years, India, China, and the Philippines are the only three source countries of P&Gs that made the top ten ranking every year. India ranked first most years. India and China have steadily increased their share of all P&Gs. While accounting for respectively 19% and 5% on average in the 1980s, the same two countries made up 31% and 16% of this immigration category in 2010.
- In 2010, the top 10 source countries of P&Gs accounted for 73% of landings in this category. This proportion has been relatively constant since 1980.

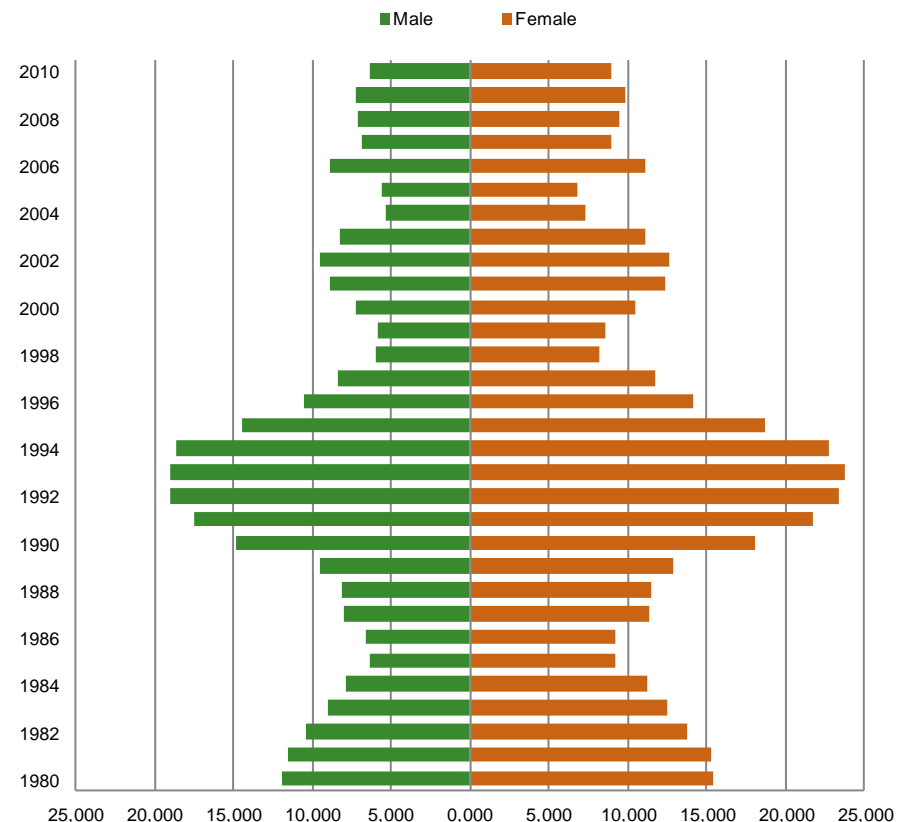
Figure 3: Number of parent and grandparents by landing year, 1980-2010

#### Family status



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

#### Gender

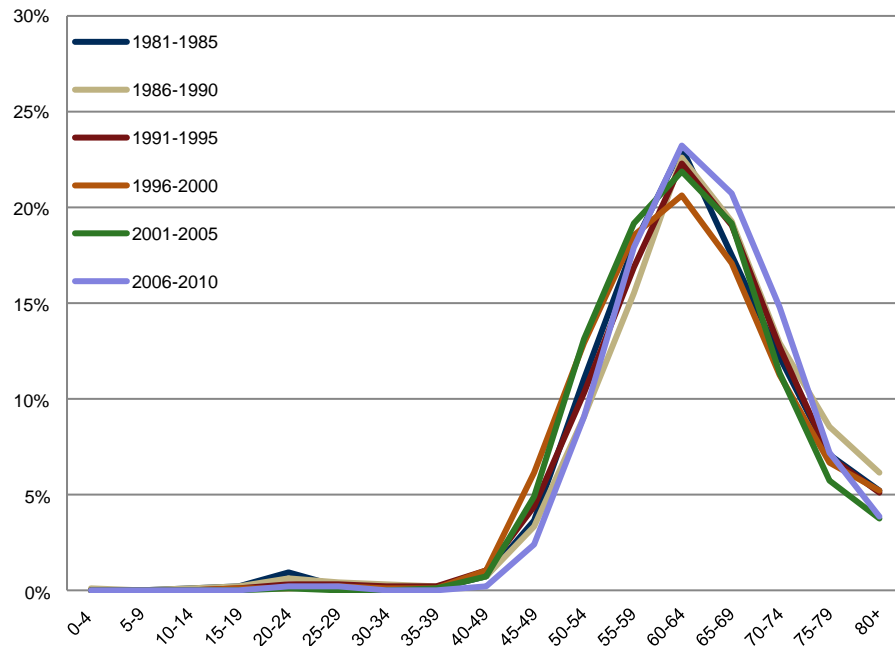


Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- Except for the period 1989 to 1995, P&G landings were made up of spouses and dependants and principal applicants in roughly the same proportion. Immigration policy changes during the late 1980s and early 1990s (known as the J88 regulations which were subsequently rescinded in 1992) relaxed admissibility criteria for dependent children in 1988. This regulation had the effect of increasing the family unit size. Under the J88 regulations, unmarried children of any age were allowed to enter Canada as sponsored immigrants or as accompanying family members (dependants). The impact of this policy on P&G landings is illustrated in Figure 3 in the larger number of spouses and dependants during the early 1990s.
- For P&Gs, the male/female ratio has never reached parity. Fewer males have landed annually relative to females throughout the 1980-2010 timeframe at a ratio of roughly 0.7 to 0.8 males for one female.

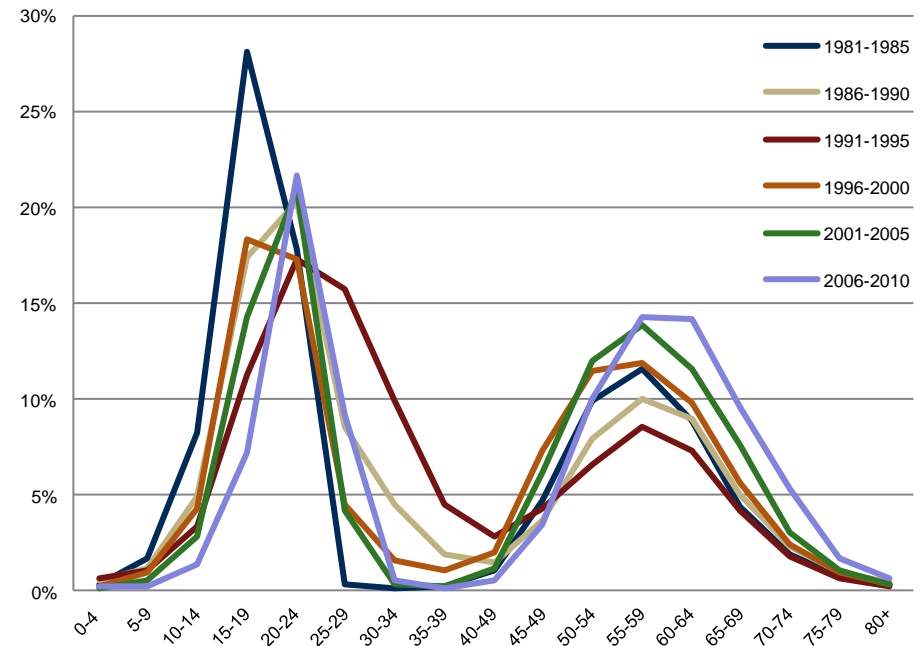
**Figure 4: Age distribution of parent and grandparents, by landing year, 1980-2010**

## Principal applicants



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

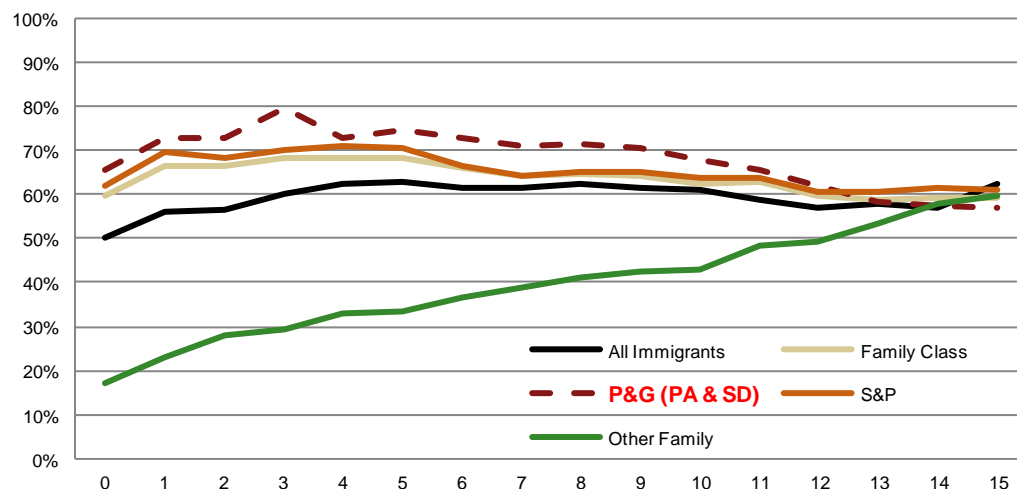
## Spouses and dependants



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- At time of landing, two thirds of all P&G principal applicants are generally aged 60 or older. This age threshold which captures the oldest two thirds of principal applicants does not appear to have fluctuated much between immigration periods since 1980. The share of those aged 75 or older at landing has been relatively high for most of the 1980s averaging over 13% of all P&G principal applicants. This share went down to account for only 7% in 2005 and then back up to 12% (2008 to 2010).
- The bimodal shape of the age distribution for P&G spouses and dependants is typical of a flow of older couples accompanied by relatively younger dependants.
  - The younger group of dependants, with 40% or more aged 15-29 years at time of landing, is older at time of landing than what is observed for the dependants of refugees and most immigrants in the economic class and the family class.

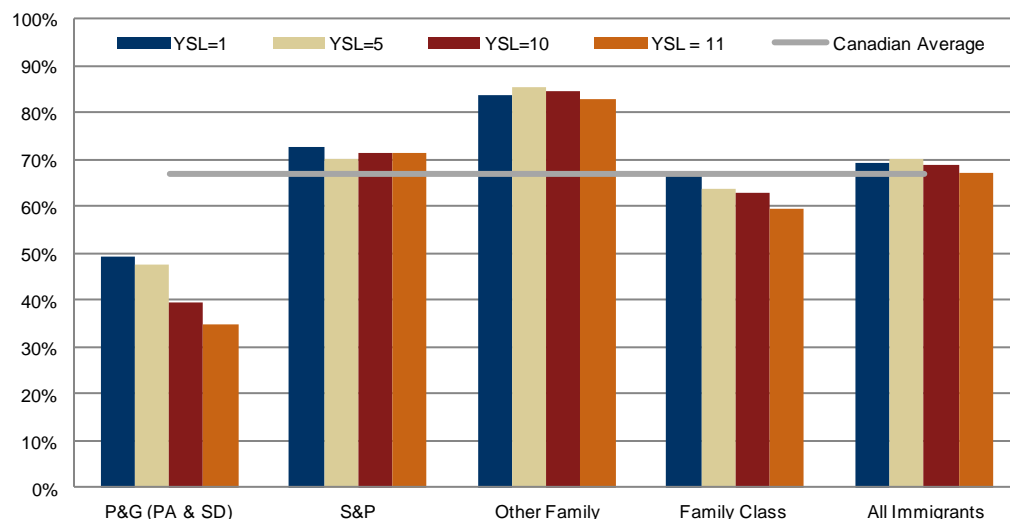
**Figure 5: IMDB capture rate for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008**



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

- As Figure 5 shows, the IMDB capture rates for parent and grandparent immigrants (P&G) are well above the rates for all immigrants, particularly for those with up to twelve year residency (ranging from 62% to 79%).
- The capture rate for all immigrants increases with years since landing to reach 63% for immigrants landed 5 years prior to 2008. It then remains within the 57% to 62% range for those landed in earlier years.
- However, contrary to all immigrants, P&Gs display declining capture rates as soon as five years after landing. This outcome is consistent with the age distribution of immigrants within the family class groups. Relative to family class spouses and partners (S&P) and other family class immigrants (including predominantly sponsored sons and daughters), P&Gs include fewer individuals under 15 (who are unlikely to file taxes in the first few years after arrival), and many more aged 65 or older (who have a higher probability of ceasing to file taxes as a result of death).

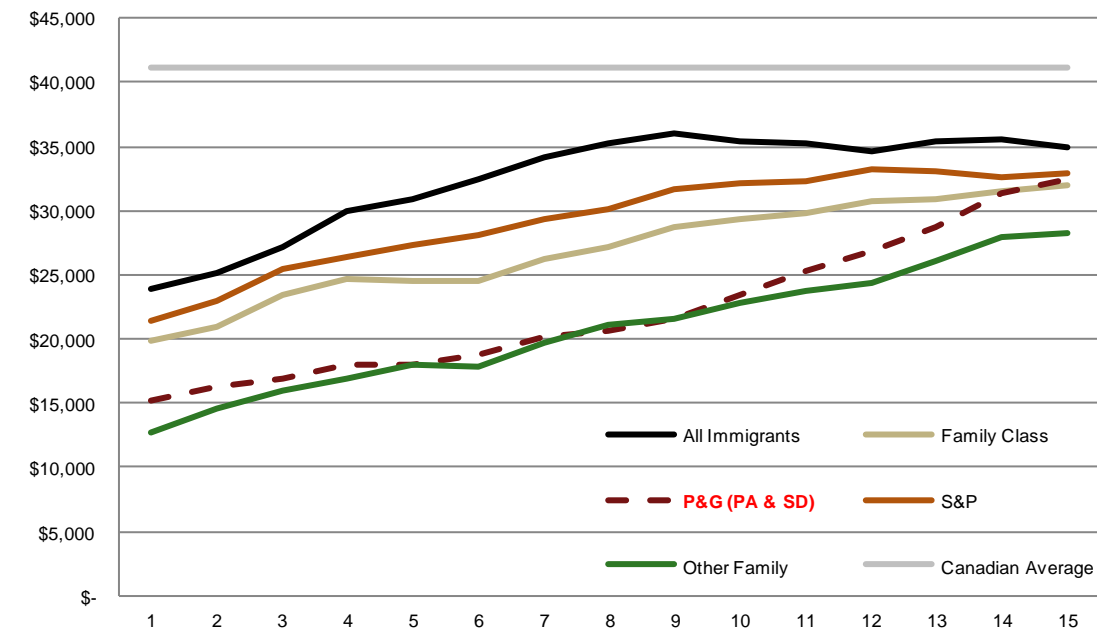
**Figure 6: Incidence of employment earnings for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008**



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- Based on tax year 2008, parent and grandparent immigrant tax filers (P&G) were much less likely to report employment earnings than all immigrants. They were also the least likely to do so among all family class immigrant tax filers.
- Only 49% of all P&G tax filers reported employment earnings one year following landing compared to 69% of all immigrant tax filers. On average, 67% of all Canadians (immigrants and non-immigrants combined) reported income from employment sources in 2008.
- Contrary to all other immigrant groups shown in Figure 6, the incidence of employment earnings for P&G tax filers declines sharply with the number of years since landing. While this source of income is present in tax year 2008 for 57% of the P&G tax filers landed three years before, it is the case for only 39% of those who have been in the country ten years and continues to decline thereafter.

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



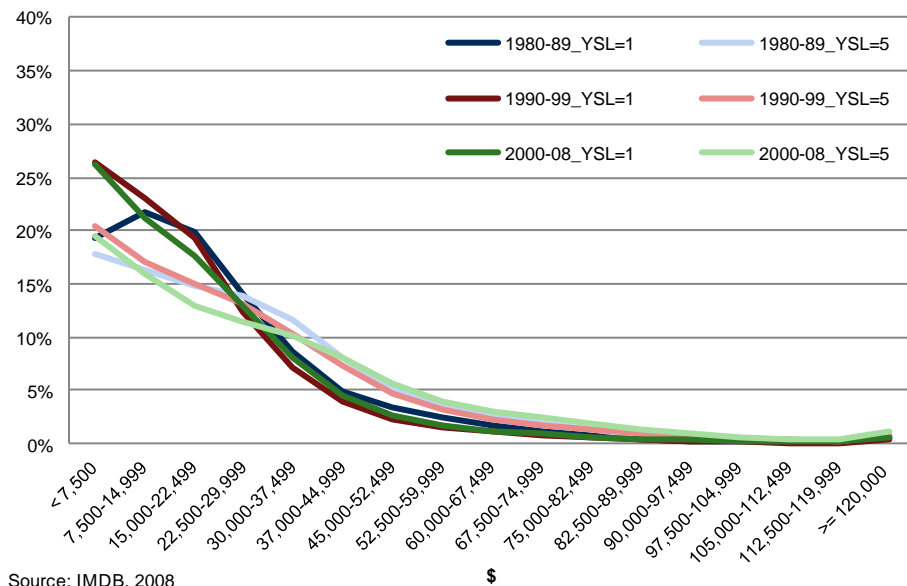
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- Not only do P&G tax filers report employment earnings in smaller proportions as compared to all immigrants and other family class immigrants, those who do, generally report also much lower earnings.
- On average all Immigrant tax filers with employment earnings reported average earnings just under \$24,000 one year following landing. P&Gs reported an average of roughly \$15,000 upon entry.
- However, there is a positive relationship between years since landing and average employment earnings for P&Gs. This may be driven by the younger age distribution of P&G tax filers reporting employment earnings.

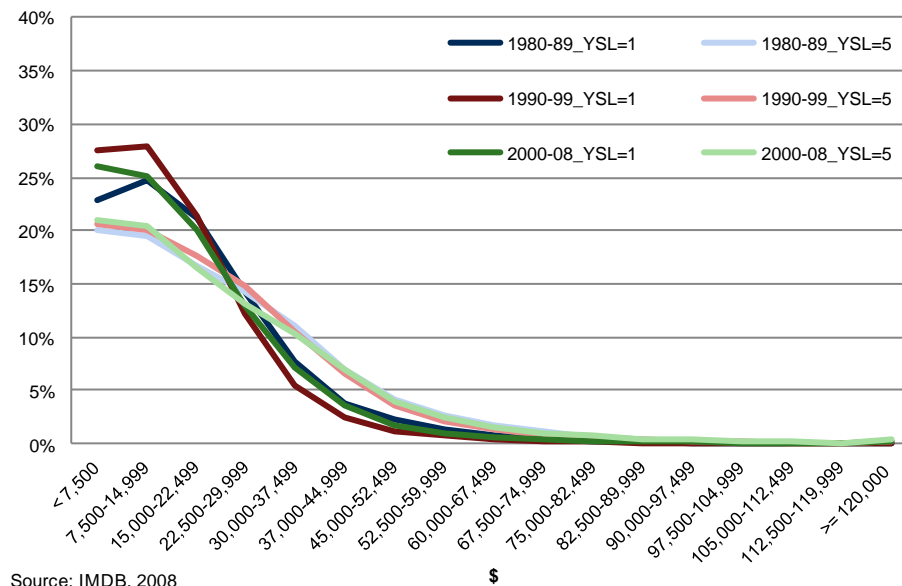


Figure 8: Distribution of employment earnings by cohort for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008

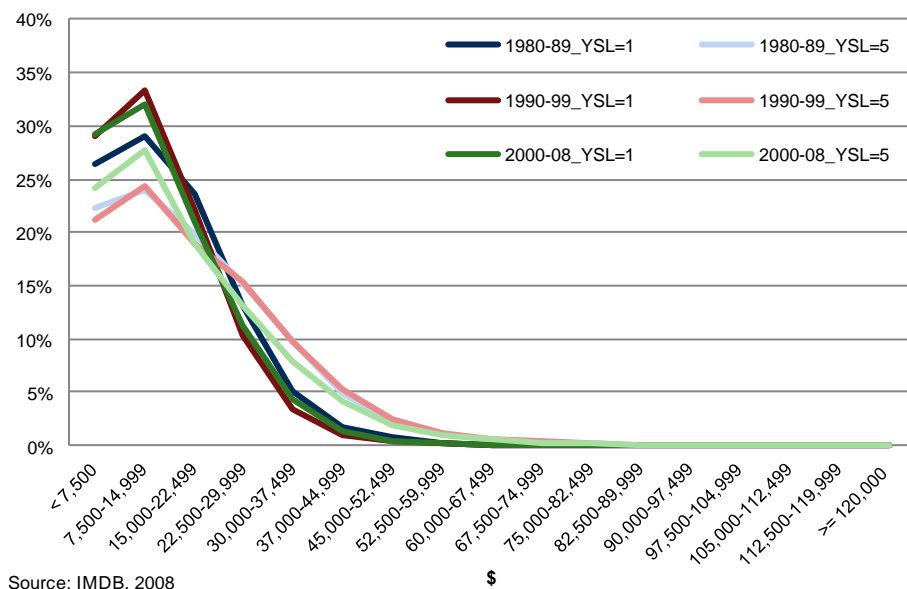
### All immigrants



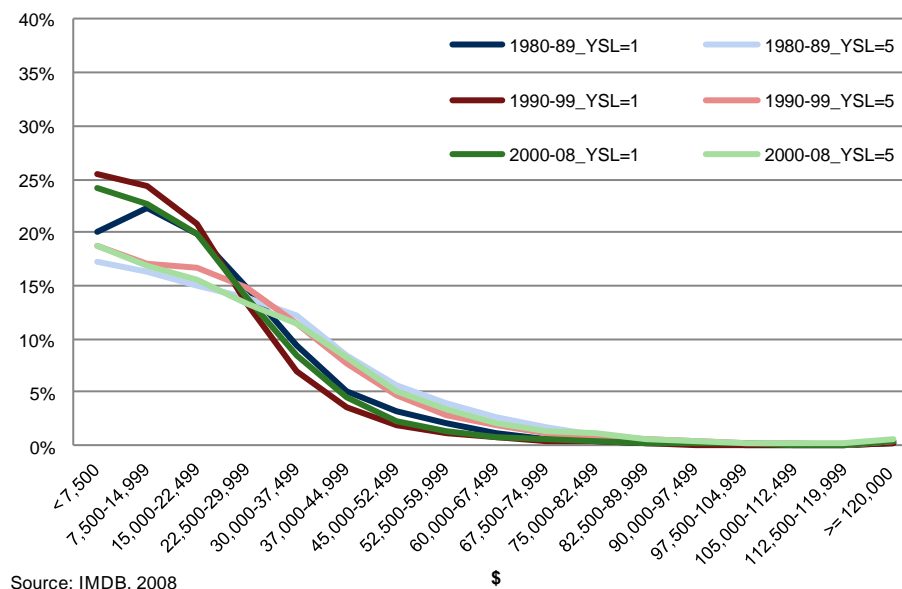
### Family class immigrants



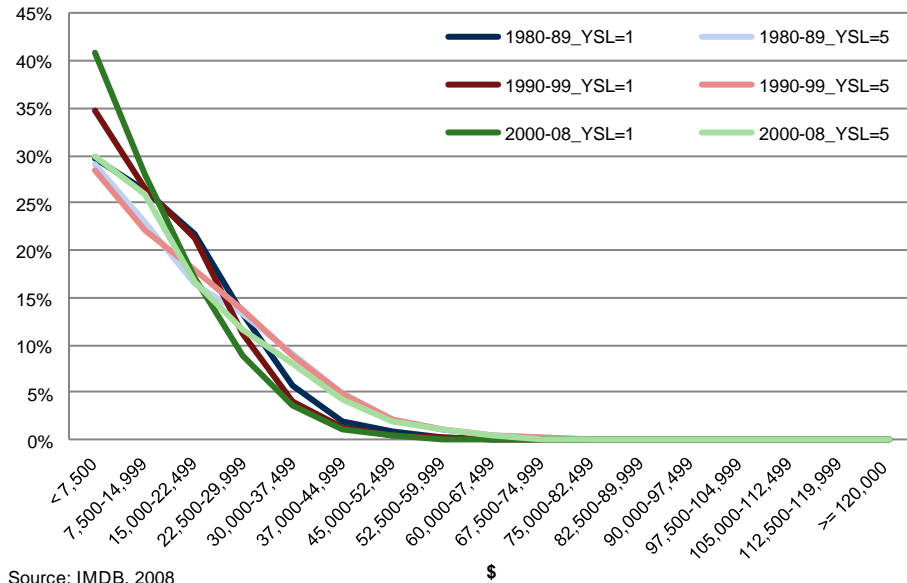
### Parents and grandparents



### Spouses and partners



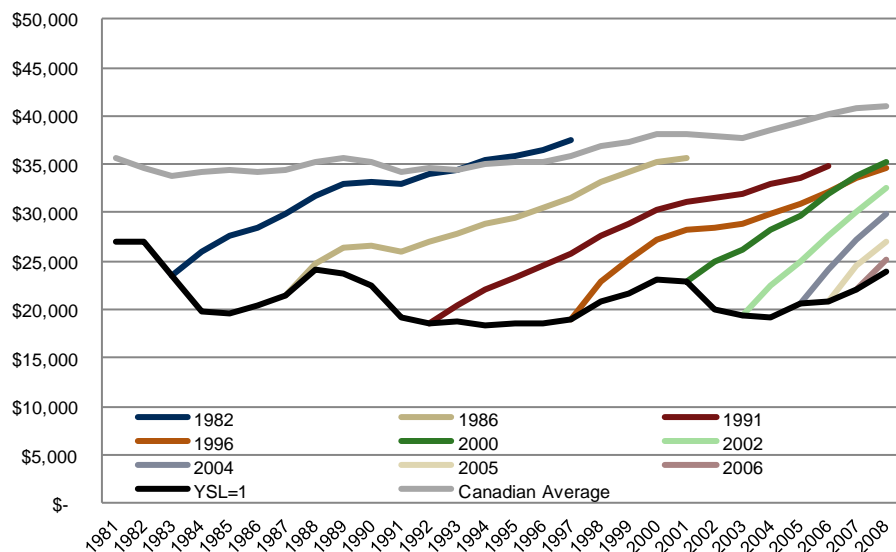
## Family class - other



- Figure 8 displays the distribution of employment earnings for grouped cohorts in the first and fifth year after landing. For all categories displayed 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, with an increase in years since landing the distributions begin to shift right, reflecting growth in employment earnings over time.
- There are differences in the relative earnings 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 P&Gs, the respective shares were notably higher at 82%, 76%, and 71% in the first, third, and fifth years following landing.
- There are also 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 P&Gs landing in the 1990s and the 2000s, the share reporting earnings lower than \$22,500 in the first year (85%, 82%) was higher than that seen for those landing in the 1980s (79%).

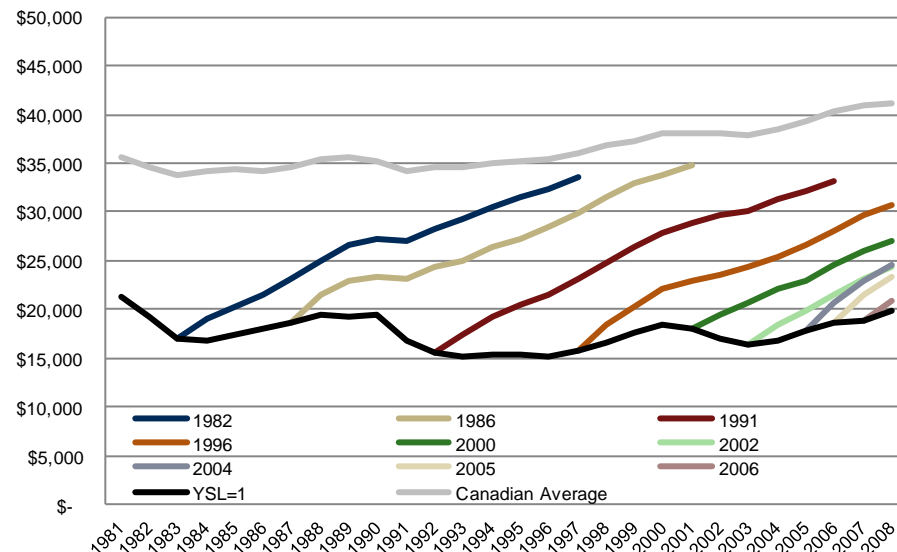
Figure 9: Average employment earnings (\$2008), by landing year and tax year, 1980-2008

### All immigrants



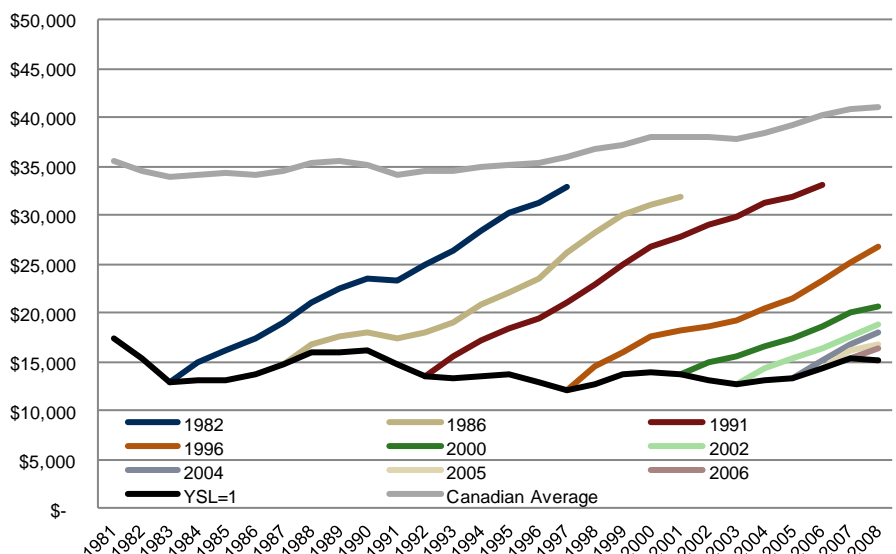
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

### Family class immigrants



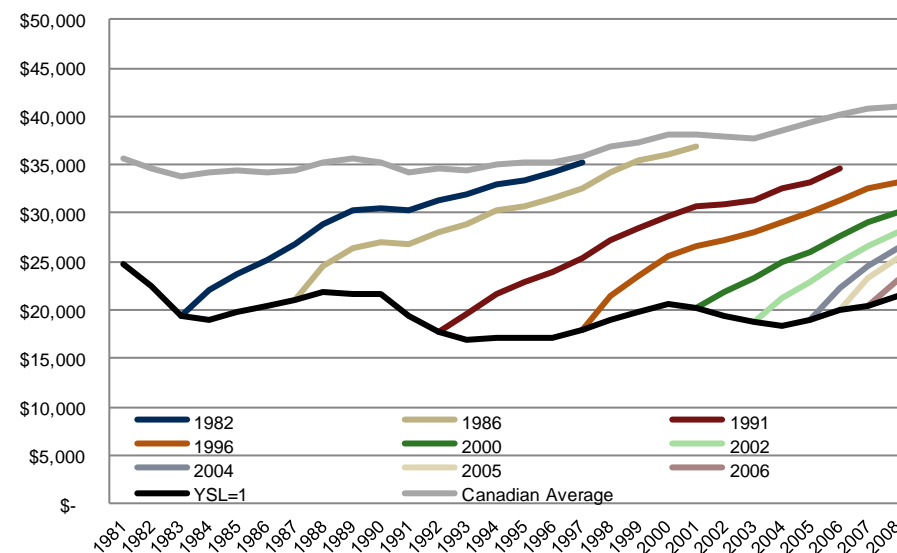
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

### Parents and grandparents



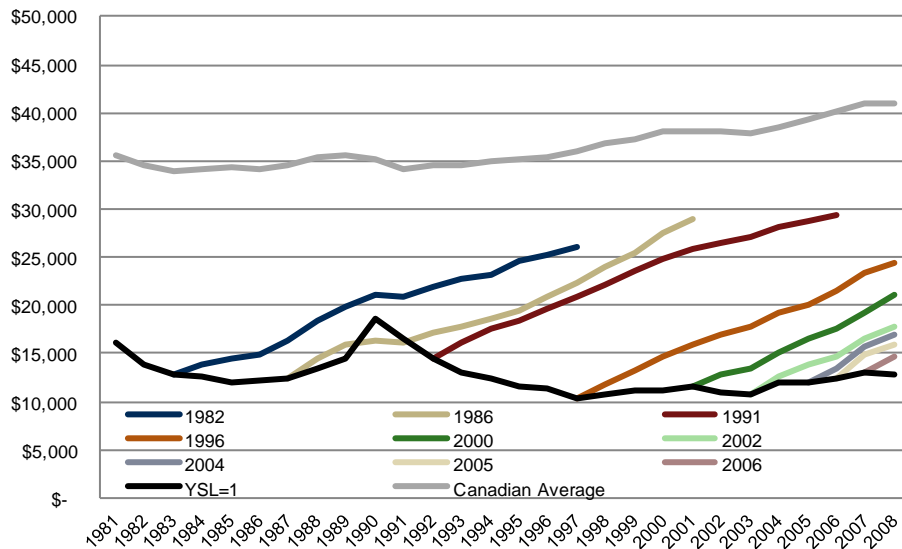
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

### Spouses and partners



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

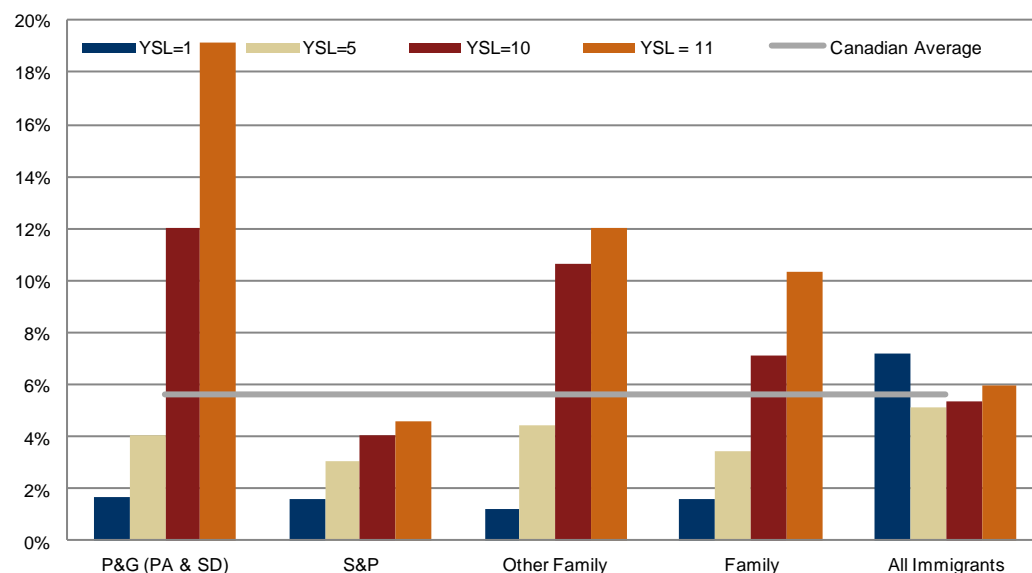
## Family class - other



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- While Figure 7 showed the average employment earnings in tax year 2008 - for 15 separate landing cohorts based on the number of years since landing - each panel of Figure 9 shows the trend in employment earnings over several tax years (i.e. 1981 to 2008) - for 9 separate landing year cohorts.
- For all selected tax years, P&G tax filers display lower entry employment earnings than S&Ps and all immigrants. All P&G landing cohorts also exhibit a slower earnings growth over time as compared to the other groups, particularly in the first few years after landing.
- Although over a period of about ten years the difference in earnings growth tends to shrink for P&G tax filers relative to all immigrants and S&Ps, their average level of employment earnings within that period remain lower.

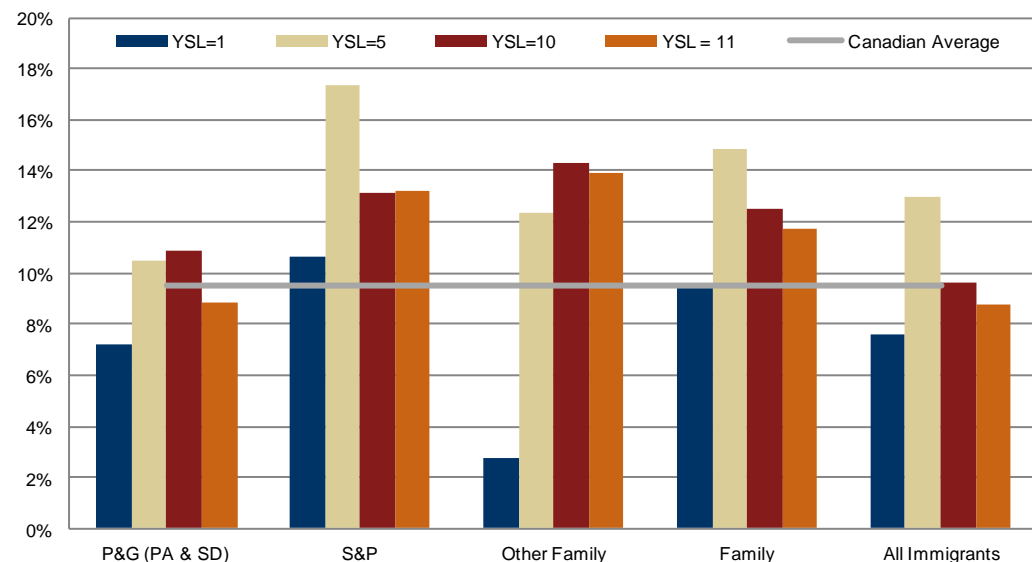
**Figure 10: Incidence of social assistance for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008**



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- Unlike the incidence of social assistance for all immigrant tax filers, the incidence of social assistance for P&Gs - as well as for all other family class immigrant tax filers - increases with years since landing.
- For the first five years following landing, the incidence of social assistance for P&Gs is well below the Canadian average and that seen for all immigrant tax filers at less than 2%.
- After 10 years 12% of the P&G tax filers were reporting SA and after 11 years it had increased to 19.1% - well above the incidence seen for all immigrants (5.4% and 5.9% respectively), and the Canadian average (5.6%).
- The increasing incidence of social assistance 10 years after landing reflects the impact of the sponsorship undertakings of assistance submitted by the sponsors of family class immigrants. The length of the undertakings varies according to the relationship of the immigrants to the sponsor and their age. For P&Gs, the undertakings normally remain in effect for a period of ten years.

**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.
- Overall, immigrants in the family class exhibit this trend, although to a lesser extent for P&Gs.
- P&Gs report a lower incidence of employment insurance than other family class immigrants at each of the points displayed in Figure 11, a reflection of their overall lower levels of labour market activity.