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IMDB 2008 Immigration Category Profile Series

Spouses and Partners

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.

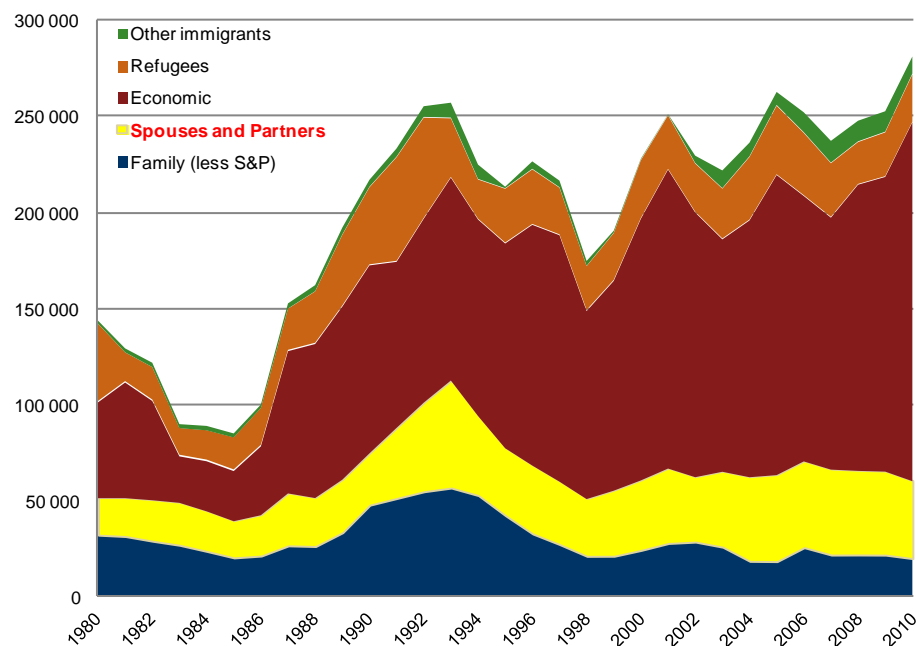
IMDB Research Series - Technical Notes

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:

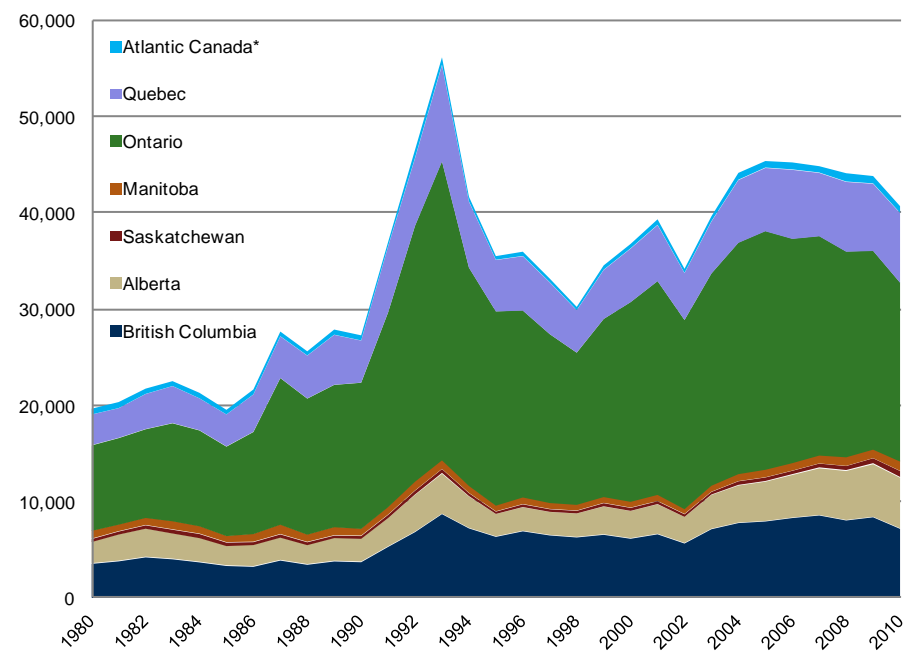
Figure 1: Immigrants by landing year, 1980-2010

Immigration category



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

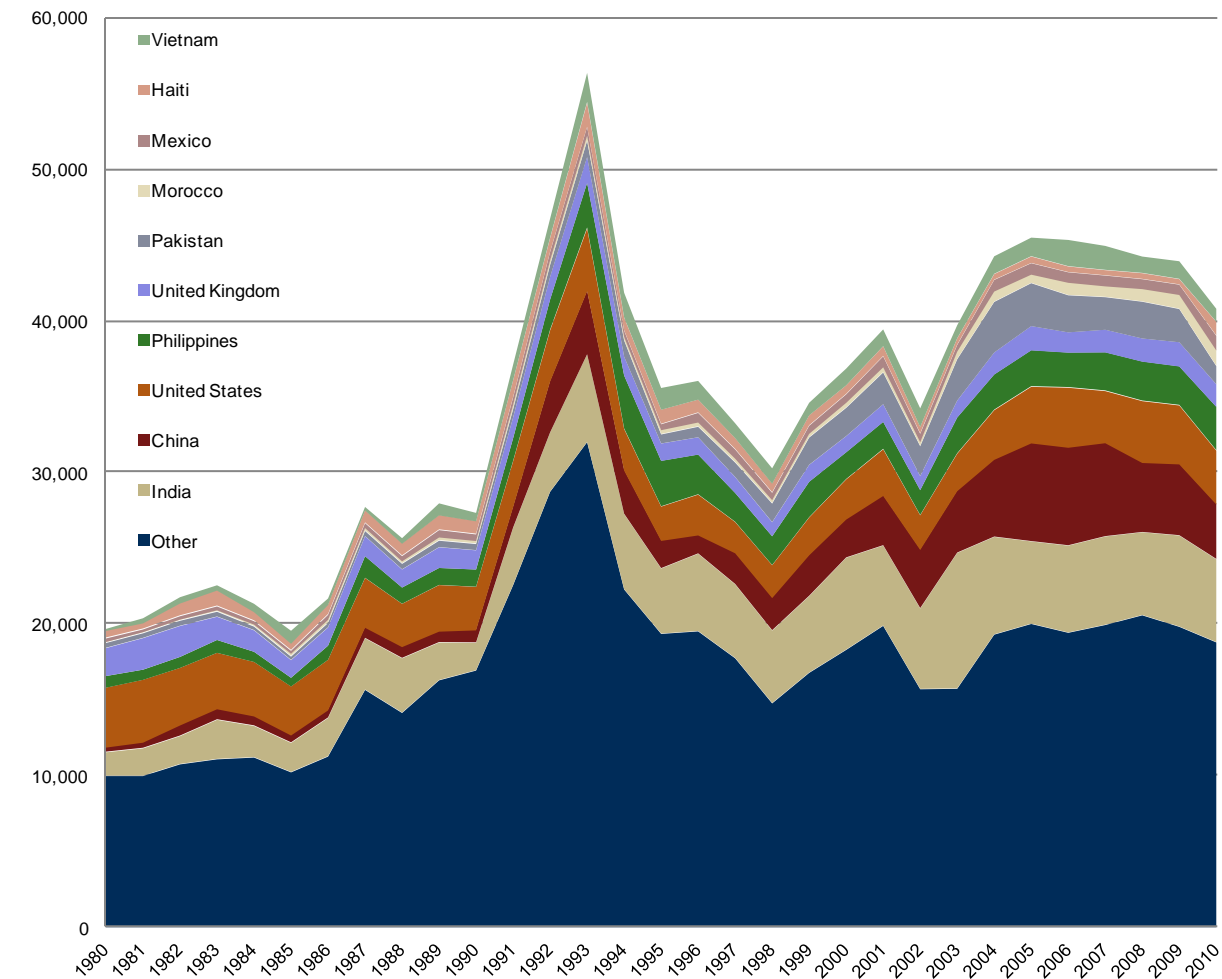
Spouses and partners by province of destination



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

- Over the past three decades, the Family Class, including the category of Spouses and Partners (S&P), has decreased its share of overall landings. S&P have accounted for approximately half of the landings within the Family Class since 1980.
- The number of S&Ps reached a peak in 1993 with over 56,000 landings, corresponding to 22% of all immigrant landings. In relative terms, the largest share of S&Ps landed in 1983, amounting to 25% of total landings (corresponding to over 22,500 landings). In the most recent 5 years (2006-2010), the number of landings remained between 40,000 and 45,000, equalling 14%-19% of all immigrants.
- The increase in landings in the five years leading to the 1993 peak can be associated with the relaxation of admissibility criteria for dependent children introduced in 1988 and rescinded in 1992, known as "J88 regulations". This change allowed unmarried children of any age to enter as sponsored immigrants or dependants. For S&P, the number of landings more than doubled in 1988-93, and dropped sharply in the two years that followed.
- The geographical distribution of landings in the category of S&P has not varied much throughout the years. Ontario remained the most popular province of destination by far, accounting for roughly half of all S&Ps each year. Quebec and British Columbia have been alternating second and third place, followed, in order, by Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Atlantic Provinces and the Territories.

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

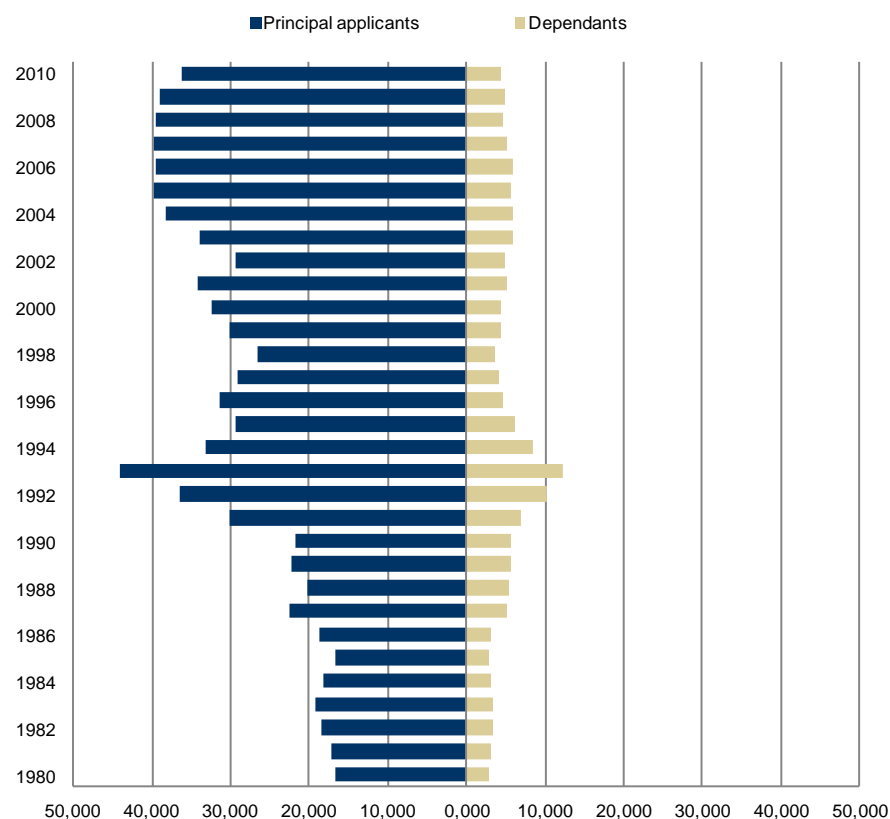


Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- India has been the top source country for S&Ps since 2008, with China being a very close second. In the previous three years (2005-2007), their position was reversed.
- S&P landings from China have been growing, especially since the early 1990s. The landings from India were already over 1,500 in the early 1980s and increased slowly over the last two decades, with a sharp increase between 2002 and 2003.
- The United States have been a steady source of S&Ps since 1980, with numbers ranging from over 2,000 to over 4,000. They have been overtaken as top source country by India since the early 1990s, and as second by China in the last ten years.
- Overall, the top ten source countries shown in Figure 2 have accounted for roughly half of all S&Ps from 1980-2010. In 2010, these top ten source countries accounted for 46% of S&P landings.

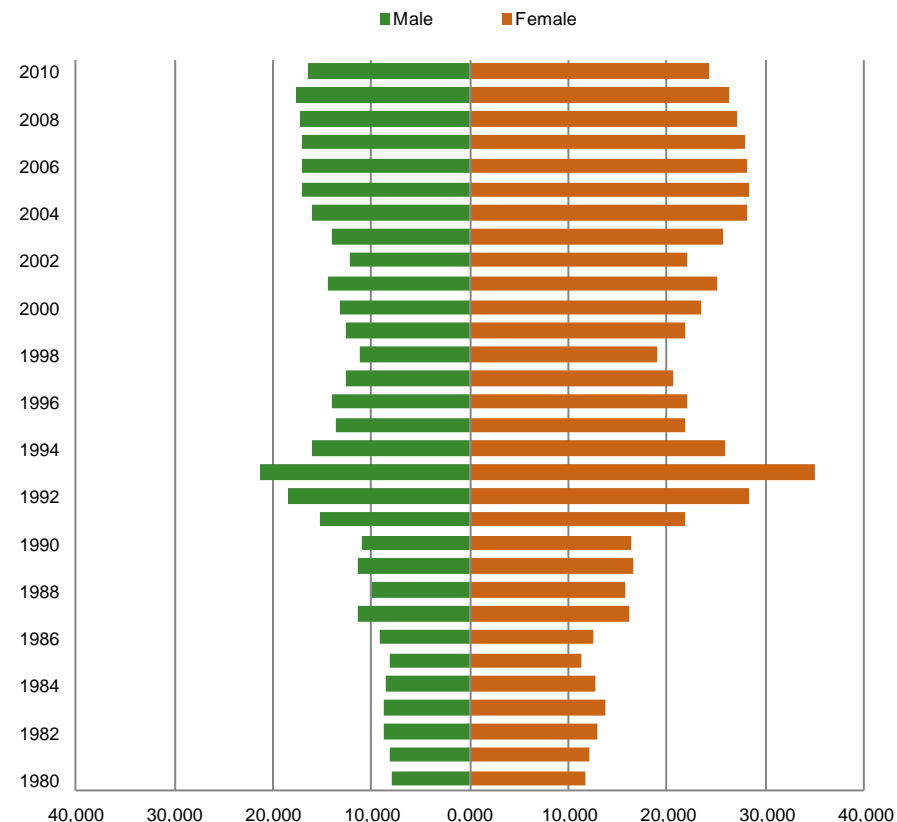
Figure 3: Number of spouses and partners, by landing year, 1980-2010

Family status



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

Gender

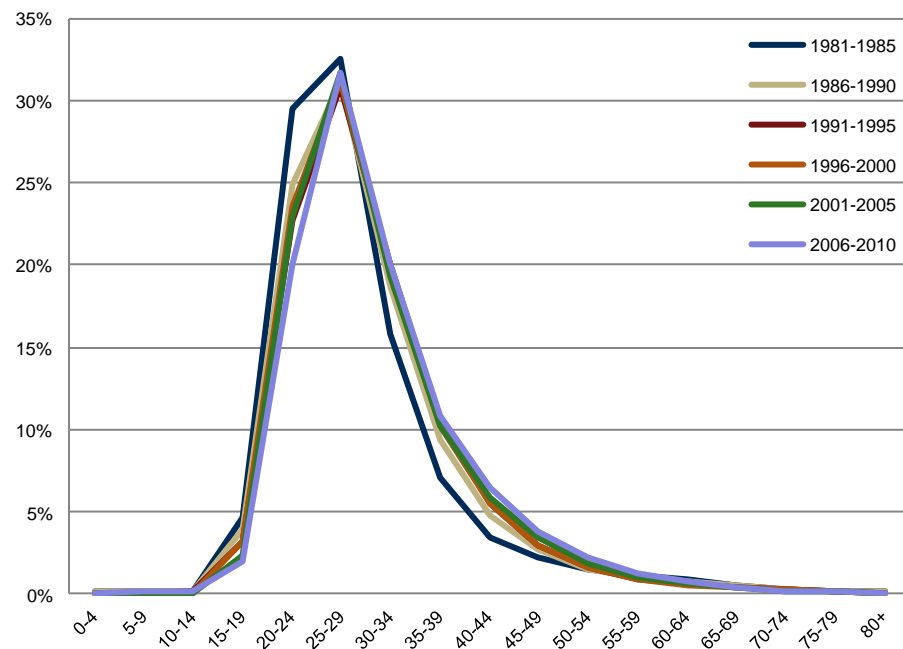


Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- The majority (85-90%) of S&Ps come to Canada as principal applicants. With respect to the gender mix, there is a larger share of female S&Ps, with a fairly constant female to male ratio of approximately 1.5:1 throughout the 30-year period.
- The peak in S&P landings associated with the relaxation of admissibility criteria for dependent children (J88 regulations), introduced in 1988 and rescinded in 1992, is evident for both S&P dependants and principal applicants. This indicates that the change favoured not only the number of dependants landing but also principal applicants' decision to immigrate.

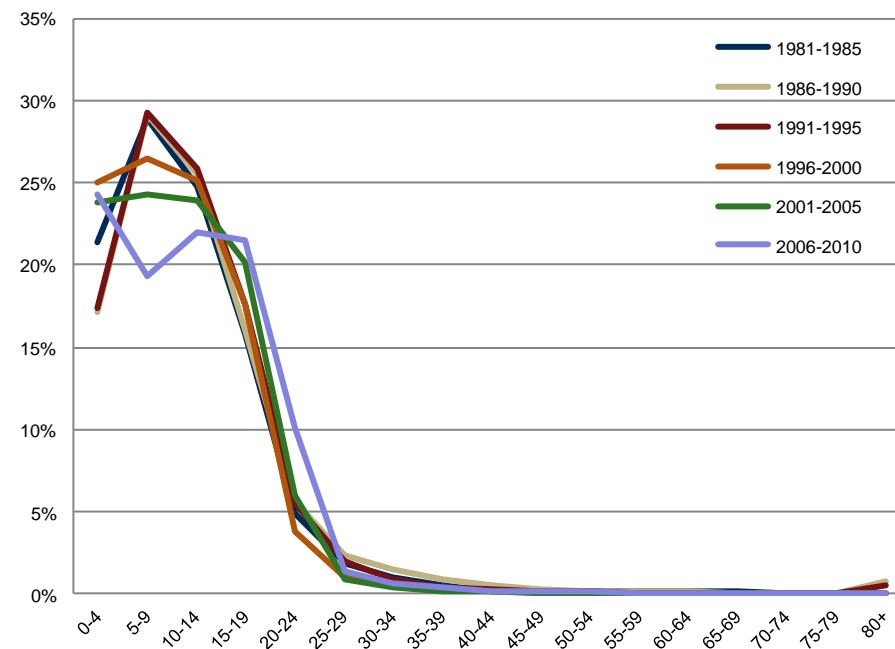
Figure 4: Age distribution of spouses and partners, by landing year, 1980-2010

Principal applicants



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

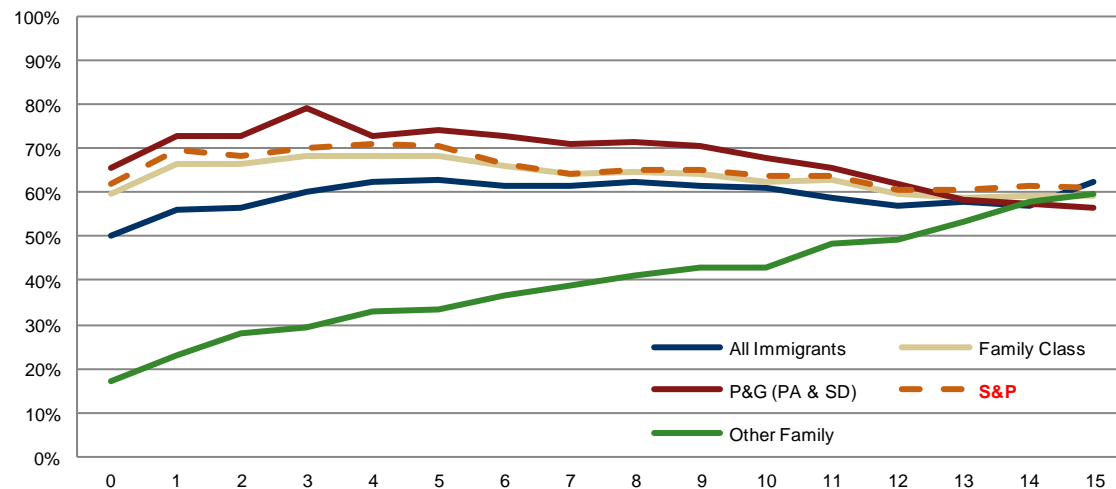
Dependants



Source: CIC, Facts and Figures, RDM, 2010

- The majority (75%) of S&P principal applicants are between 20 and 34 years of age at landing, while for dependants, roughly 90% are 19 years of age or younger at time of landing.

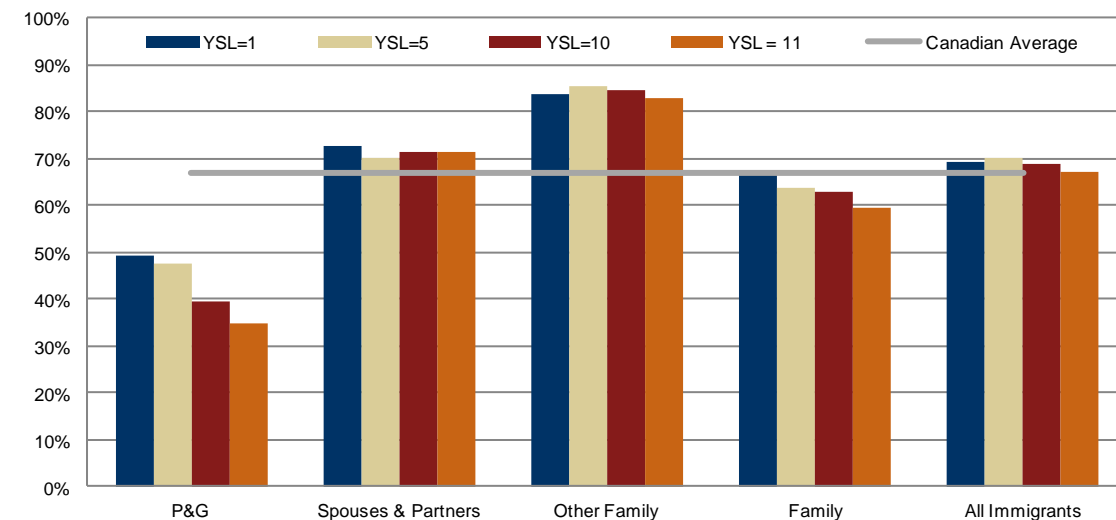
Figure 5: IMDB capture rate for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



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

- The capture rate of S&Ps remains between 60% and 70% for the first 15 years since landing. It shows less variation than the capture rate for all immigrants, which is lower in the years immediately following arrival and converges to that of this category after about 7 years.
- The category of “Other Family” includes, for the greatest part, sponsored sons and daughters and shows a capture rate that grows from 20% to 60% in the 15 years following landing. This is a reflection of the relatively younger average landing age of this category.

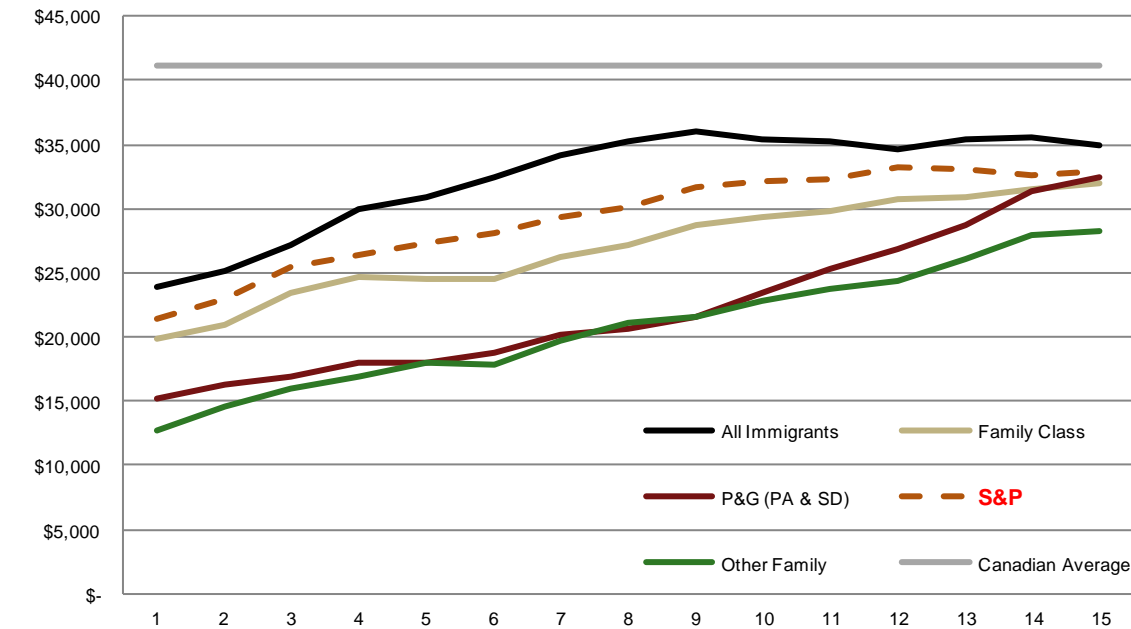
Figure 6: Incidence of employment earnings for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 2008



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

- For S&Ps, the incidence of employment earnings in the first year following landing is slightly above 70%, and higher than the Canadian average (67%) and the all immigrant average (69%).
- The incidence of employment earnings of S&Ps is higher than that of Parents and Grandparents and, unlike the latter, does not decrease with the passing of years since landing. This result reflects the age profiles of these two categories, which are at opposite ends of the working age—most S&Ps are close to the beginning of the working age while most Parents and Grandparents are approaching the end.
- When considering the high incidence of employment earnings of the “Other Family” category in the family class (83% to 85%), it is important to note that only approximately 20 to 25 percent in this category are tax filers, primarily due to their young age.

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

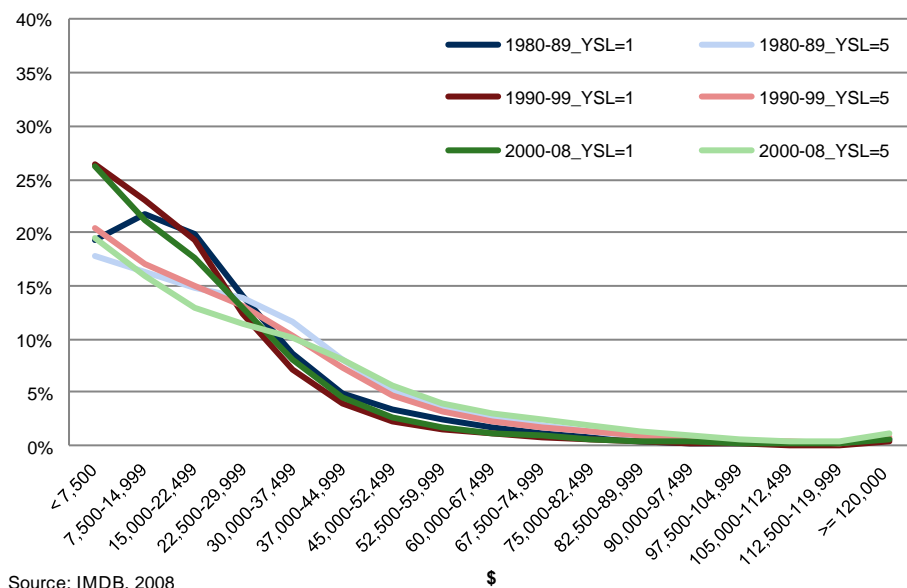


Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

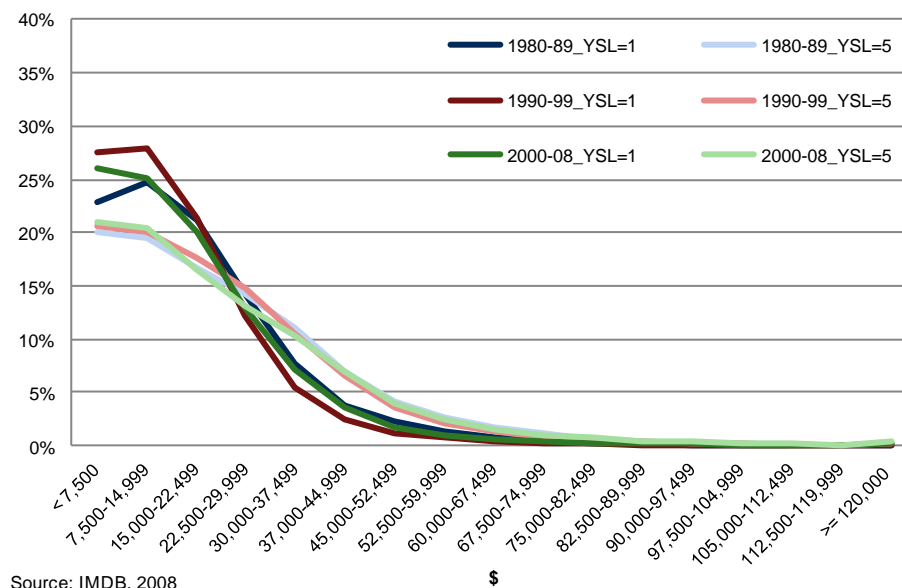
- The average employment earnings of S&Ps grew with years since landings from approximately \$21,000 at entry (YSL=1) to approximately \$32,000 in the fifteen year after landing. The growth of the employment earnings of S&Ps paralleled that of all immigrants.
- During the first fifteen years following landing, the average employment earnings of S&Ps remained below the average of all immigrants and the Canadian average.
- Compared to Parents and Grandparents, S&Ps received higher employment earnings between one and 14 years since landing, but converged at about 15 years since landing. It is important to note, as previously seen, that Parents and Grandparents have a much lower and faster decreasing incidence of employment earnings than S&Ps.

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

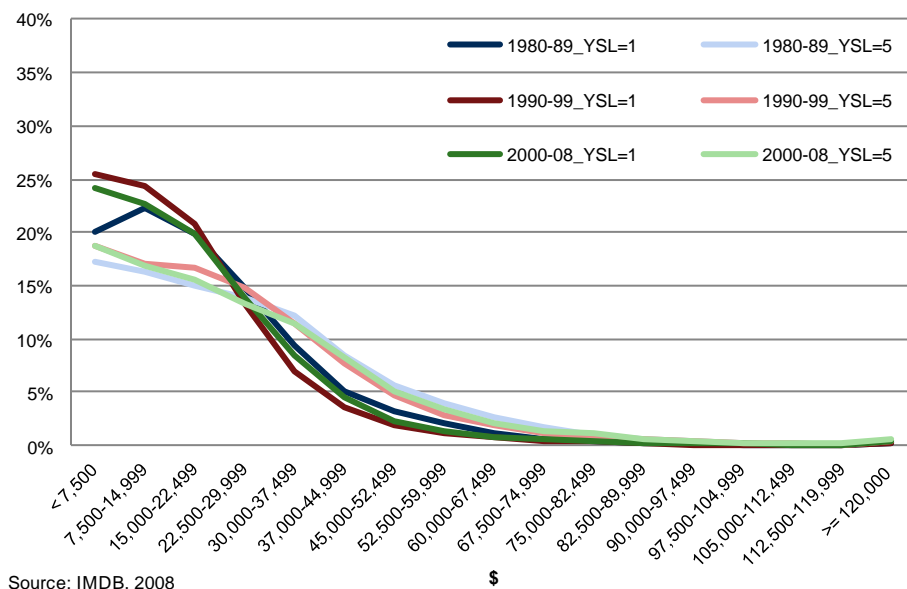
All immigrants



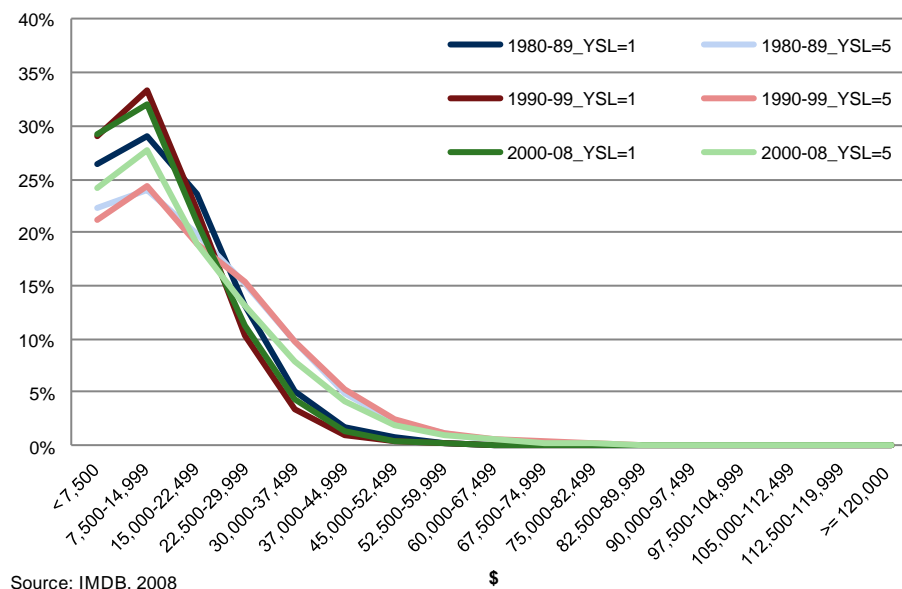
Family class immigrants



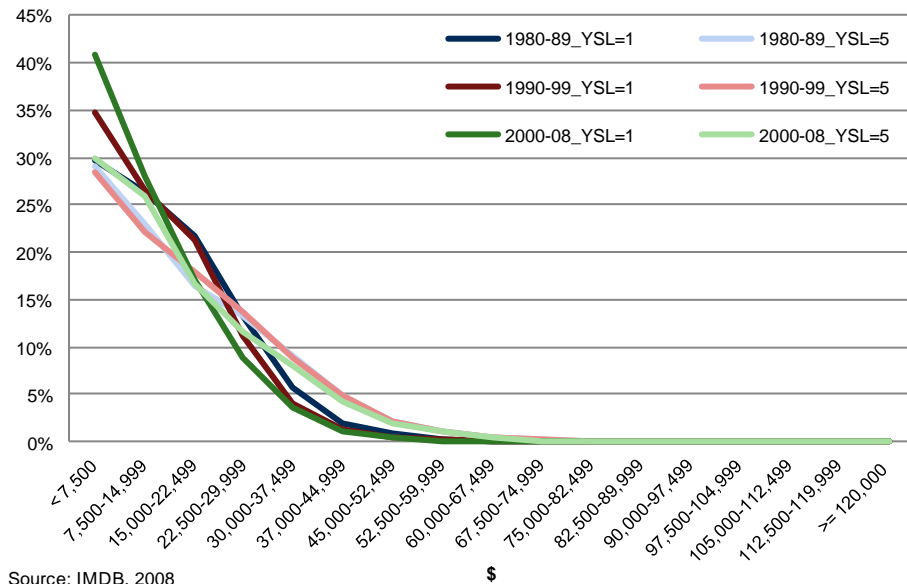
Spouses and partners



Parents and grandparents



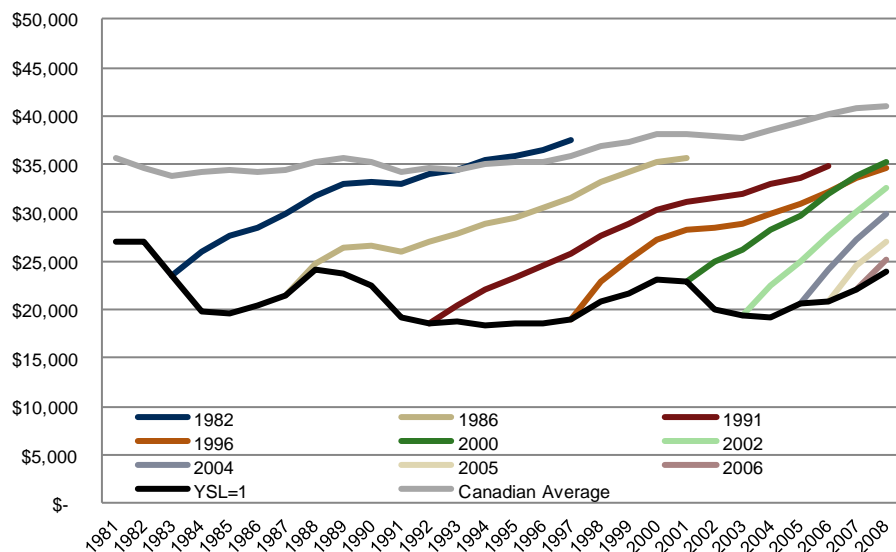
Family class - other



- 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 S&Ps, the respective shares were very similar at 67%, 56%, and 51% 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 S&Ps, a similar pattern holds, with higher shares in the lower income end of the distribution for those landing in the 1990s as compared to those landing in the 1980s and 2000s.

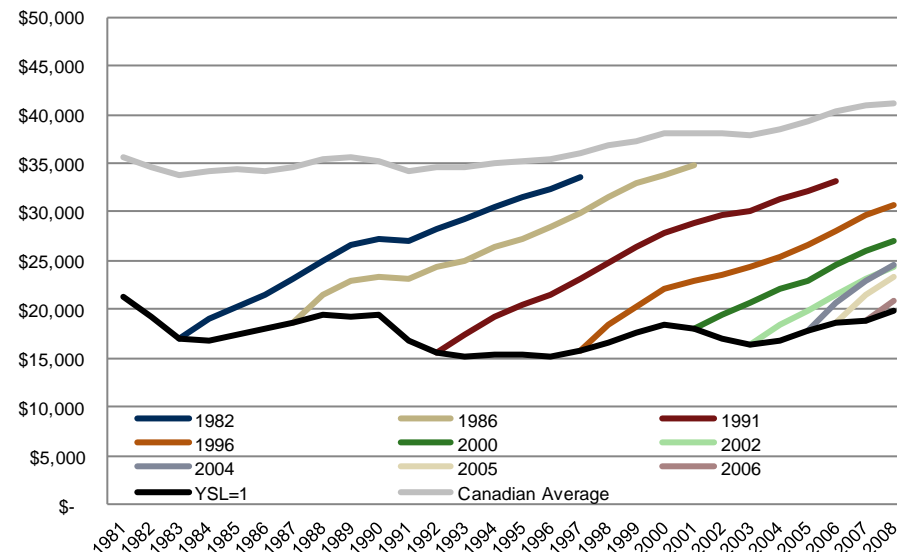
Figure 9: Average employment earnings (\$2008), by landing year and tax year, 1980-2008

All immigrants



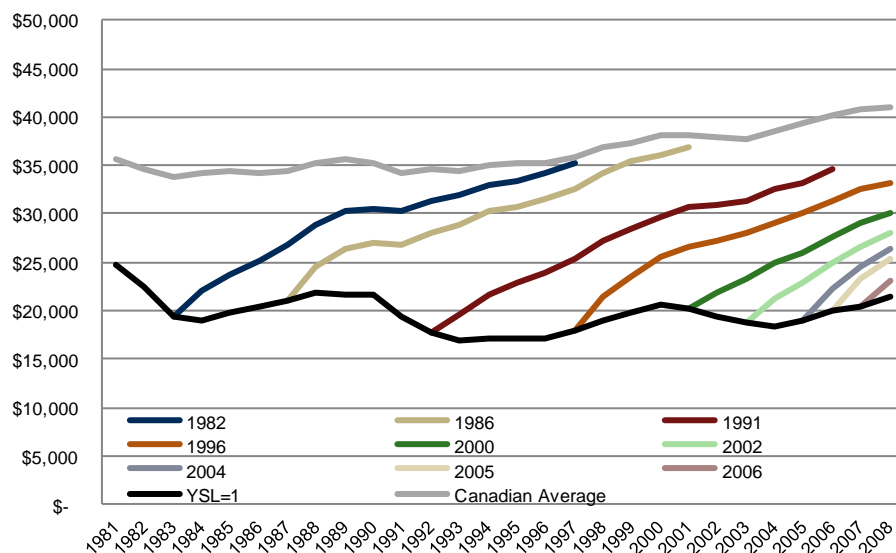
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

Family class immigrants



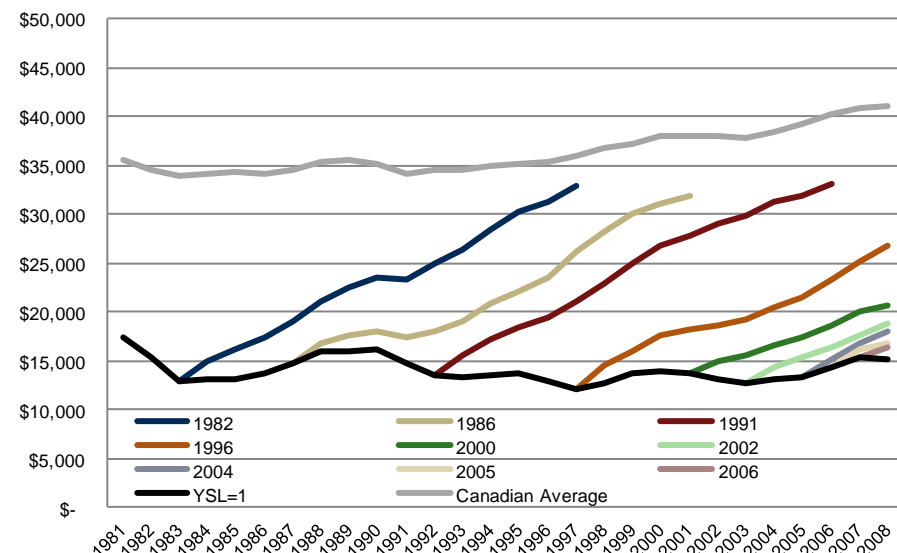
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

Spouses and partners



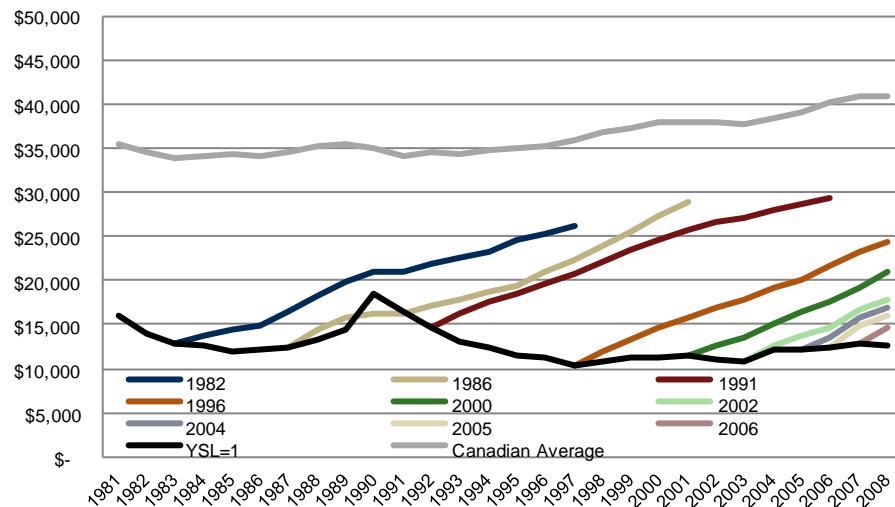
Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

Parents and grandparents



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

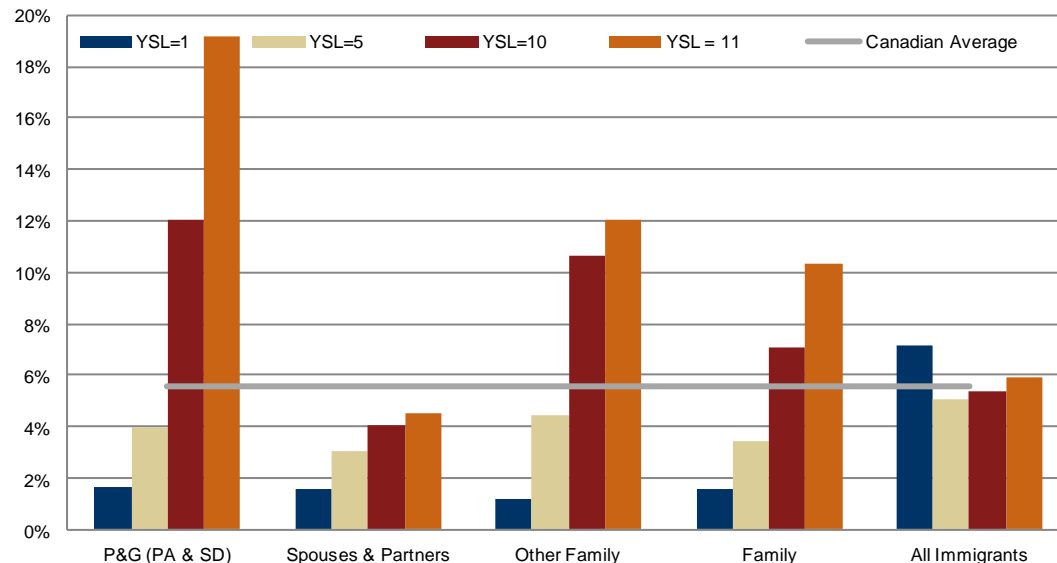
Family class - other



Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008

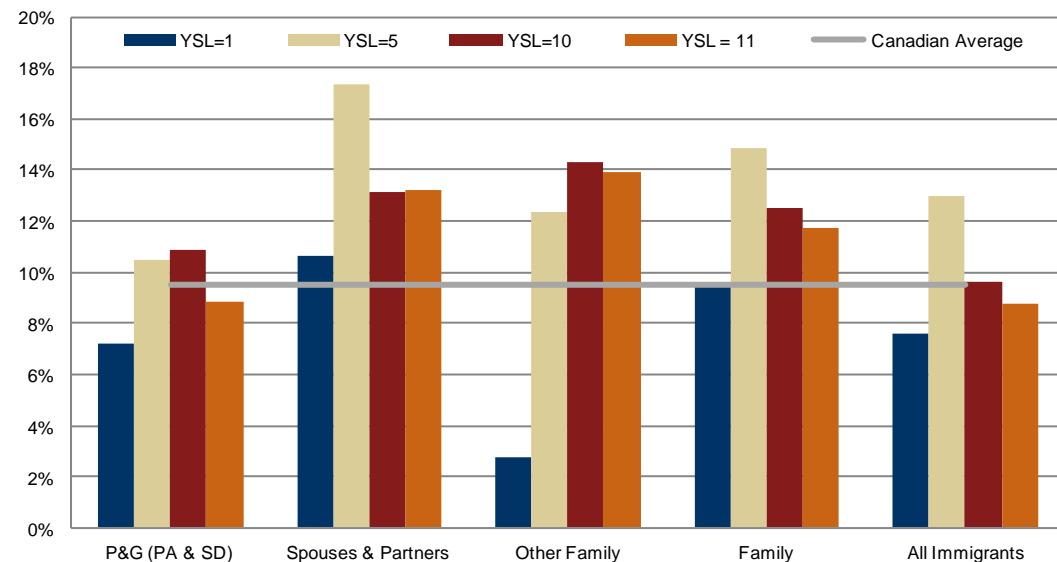
- The earnings of cohorts of S&Ps landing in the early 1980s progressed to almost reach the Canadian average in approximately fifteen years. The earnings of the later cohorts (landing in the 1990s and later) increased at a similar pace, but at a time when the Canadian average was growing (by over \$5,000 between 1981 and 2008) and the average earnings of immigrants at one year since landing were decreasing (by over \$3,000 for S&Ps). As a result, the earnings of later cohorts not only did not reach the Canadian average fifteen years after landing, but also remained lower by an increasingly wider gap.
- Overall, the average earning progressions of S&Ps is better than the average of the entire family class; however, not quite as strong as the average for all immigrants.

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



- The incidence of social assistance of S&Ps increased from 1.6% at 1 year since landing to 4.5% at 11 years since landing, but remained lower than the Canadian average (5.6%) at all years since landing.
- In comparison, the other categories of the Family Class—Parents and Grandparents and Others—grew to a much greater extent, surpassing by far the Canadian average at 10 years since landing.
- The increase in incidence of social assistance at the end of the sponsorship period is considerably less pronounced for S&Ps than for other categories in the Family Class. The normal duration of the sponsorship undertakings is 3 years for S&Ps, between 3 and 10 years for Sons and Daughters (who constitute the prevailing share of the Other category), and 10 years for Parents and Grandparents.

Figure 11: Incidence of employment insurance for selected immigrant categories, by years since landing (YSL), in tax year 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, as do S&Ps specifically.
- The incidence of employment insurance for S&Ps remains higher than the Canadian average (9.5%) at all periods since landing, with rates settling around 13% in the tenth and eleventh year following landing, respectively.