

Canada's Immigrants and their Children: Trends and Socio-economic Outcomes

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Outline

- Immigration programs and flows
- Outcomes for immigrants
- Issues and policy responses
- Outcomes for immigrants' children
- Broader institutional framework
- Concluding observations

Canada's Immigration Programs

- For migration leading to permanent residency/citizenship:
 - economic immigration (skilled workers, several other sub-categories)
 - family class
 - refugees/humanitarian
- 2010: 280,681 admitted (three categories combined)
- Starting with Quebec (1970s), provinces/territories participate in selecting certain immigrants
 - Quebec received 53,985 immigrants in 2010 – record number, more than 10,000 above the 2005 level
- Major rise in temporary foreign workers (TFWs)
 - End of 2010: 282,771 TFWs resident in Canada



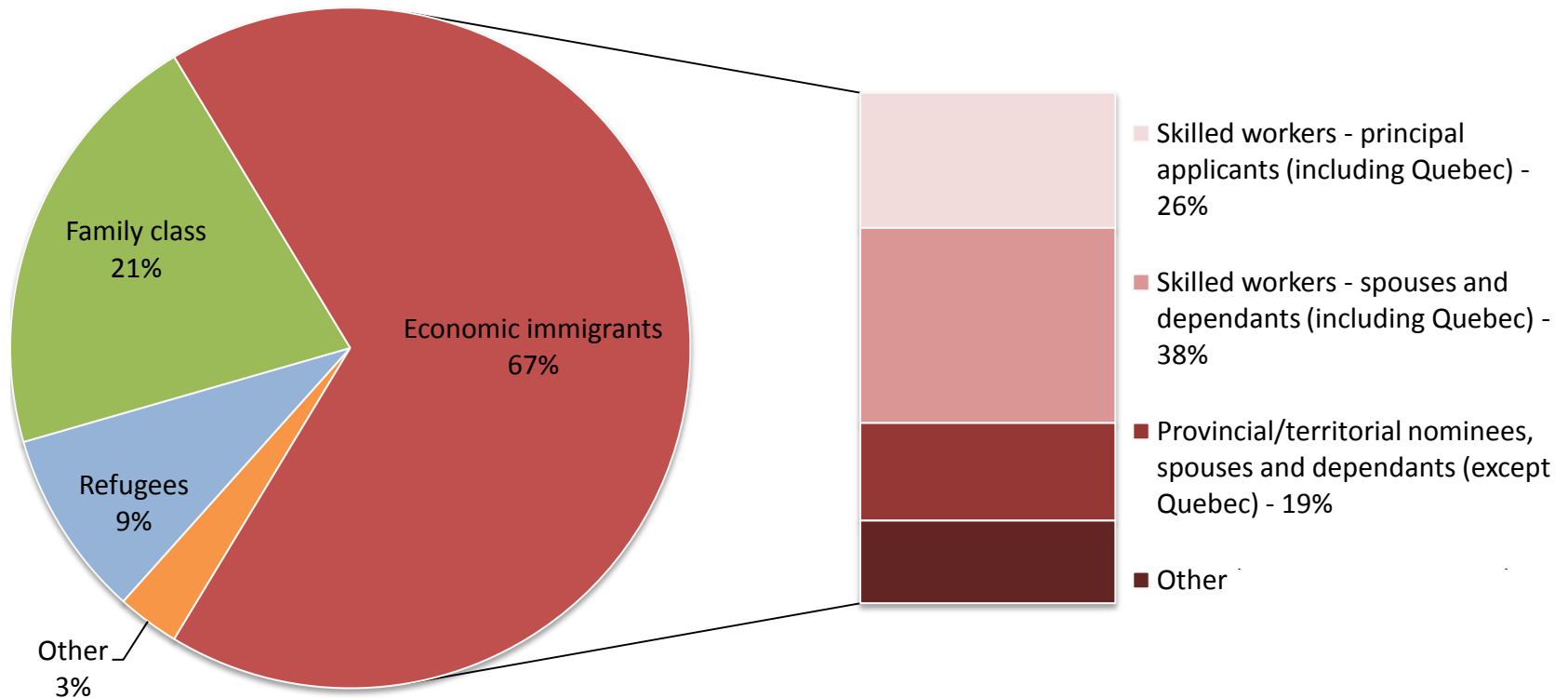
Permanent Immigration, 1960-2010



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Permanent Immigration by Category, 2010



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

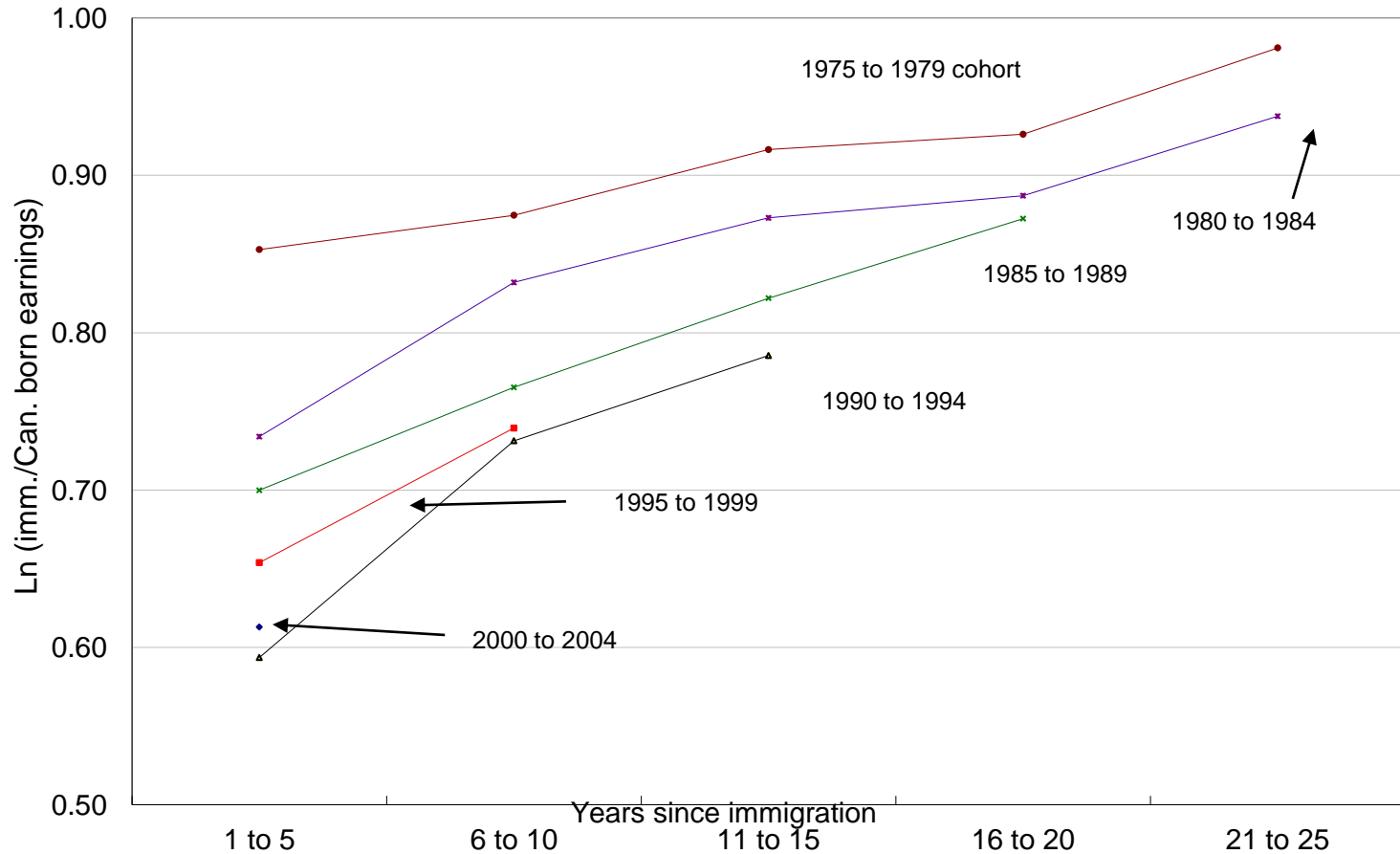
Leading Source Countries

- Canada: 7 of top 10 source countries in 2009 were Asian:
 - China (has been no. 1 since 1983)
 - India (has been no. 2 since 1995, in top 5 since 1980)
 - Philippines
- Three countries accounted for 35% of permanent immigration in 2009; large number of other countries send migrants
- Quebec: top 3 source countries (2009) reflect importance accorded ability in French:
 - Morocco
 - Algeria
 - France

Immigrants' Outcomes: Employment

- Unemployment rates during initial years have been rising
 - Men: 0.8 x Canadian-born rate for 1976-80 cohort, 1.6 x for 2001-06 cohort
 - Women: 1.2 x Canadian-born rate for 1978-80 cohort, 2.6 X for 2001-06 cohort
- Men's employment rates catch up after about five years and surpass those of Canadian-born
- During 2008-09 recession, unemployment rate for Canadian-born men rose by 2.1 percentage points, for male recent immigrants by 5.2 percentage points; immigrant women less affected (Picot and Sweetman, forthcoming)

Immigrants' Outcomes: Earnings*



*Immigrants' earnings compared with those of comparable Canadian-born for full-time, full-year male workers aged 16-24 (log earnings ratio)

Source: Picot and Sweetman (forthcoming)

Immigrants' Outcomes: Policy Responses

- Greater emphasis on language ability
 - Changes to points system under new 2002 Act
 - 2010: explicit language testing introduced at application stage
- Measures to improve recognition of foreign credentials
 - Federal government: focus on information
 - Provincial governments: responses vary, Ontario most pro-active
 - Professional bodies have major say but not all responsive
- Shift to list of priority occupations (2008)
 - Intended to reduce application processing times, but could lead to few immigrants working outside their fields

Outcomes for Children of Immigrants (1)

- Corak (2008) IRPP study of education and earnings of second-generation Canadians:
 - Education outcomes of immigrant children, particularly those of less-educated parents, not predetermined by family background
 - Adult earnings not strongly tied to parental earnings (immigrants and population as a whole)
- Recent Statistics Canada study:
 - In 2009, 40% of people aged 25 to 39 with at least one parent born outside Canada were university graduates — 29% for those with both parents born in Canada
 - Those with neither English nor French mother tongue more likely to hold a university degree than others (Turcotte 2011)



Outcomes for Children of Immigrants (2)

- Some variation in outcomes for children of immigrants among ethnic/source region groups
 - Second-generation Canadians with parents from developing nations (China, India, Africa) have higher educational outcomes
 - Those with backgrounds from developed regions (US, Europe) have better economic and labour market outcomes (Picot/Hou 2011)
- Earnings of second-generation visible minorities
 - Chinese: men in private sector have lower earnings than Whites, women in private sector earn more than White women, no gap in public sector
 - South Asian: small gap for both in private sector, none in public
 - Blacks: largest earnings gap (among vis. min.) for men in private sector, largest gaps for women in both sectors (Hou/Coulombe 2010)

Importance of Other Institutions/Policies

- Canada's pluralism bolstered by several key constitutional and legislative measures
 - *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, provincial charters — e.g. anti-discrimination clauses, protection of religious freedom
 - Human rights commissions, employment equity laws/oversight bodies
- Further progress still required: foreign credentials, discrimination, representation in public bodies
- Education system plays a key – if unstated – role in the integration of children from migration background
 - PISA 2009: “Canada could provide a model of how to achieve educational success in a large, geographically dispersed, and culturally heterogeneous country.”

Concluding Observations

- Canada's immigration system is now a hybrid, called on to serve several objectives that are sometimes in tension
 - Human capital vs. employer needs
 - Permanent vs. temporary
 - Pressures for more even regional distribution
- Annual levels expected to remain close to recent flows
 - Underpinned by support for multiculturalism (Reitz forthcoming)
 - Immigration level virtually absent from partisan debate
- Integration is a key policy goal along with the protection of difference
 - Major resources for language training, other settlement services
 - Emphasis on shared values, benefits of citizenship

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