

ALBERTA PROFILES:
**IMMIGRANTS
IN THE
LABOUR FORCE**

Data Development and Evaluation

Revised: February 2006



Highlights

1. Alberta Population Statistics

- Alberta's population growth rate of 1.4% for 2004 was above Canada's rate of 0.94%
- Only Nunavut had a higher growth rate than Alberta in 2004

2. Alberta Immigration Statistics

- Alberta received 16,474 immigrants in 2004 – the fourth highest among the provinces
- In 2004, over eighty-five percent of immigrants to Alberta landed in either Calgary or Edmonton

3. Alberta Immigrant Characteristics

- Approximately half of immigrants in 2004 were between the ages of 25 and 44
- The top three source countries of Alberta's immigrants were China, the Philippines and India
- Of immigrants to Alberta in 2004, 60.8% had knowledge of English

4. Alberta Immigration Education Levels

- Nearly half (48.4%) of immigrants to Alberta held university degrees in 2004

5. Alberta Immigration Occupations

- In 2004, 65.5% of the immigrant working age population intended to work

6. Alberta Immigration Income Levels

- Nearly half of immigrants had incomes of less than \$10,000 per year

7. Alberta Immigration Labour Force Statistics

- Both the participation and employment rates for immigrants improved between the 1996 and 2001 censuses
- The unemployment rate for immigrants in 2001 was 7.9%

1. Alberta Population Statistics

Population growth in Alberta and Canada between January 1, 2001 and January 1, 2005 can be seen in Table 1. For each year, Alberta's growth rate was above the national average. In 2004 Alberta's population growth rate was above the national rate of 0.94%, at nearly 1.5 times the Canadian rate. Over the five-year period between 2001 and 2005, Alberta's population increased by 194,642. During the same period, Canada's population increased by 1,250,689. Alberta's population increase accounted for 15.6% of Canada's growth.

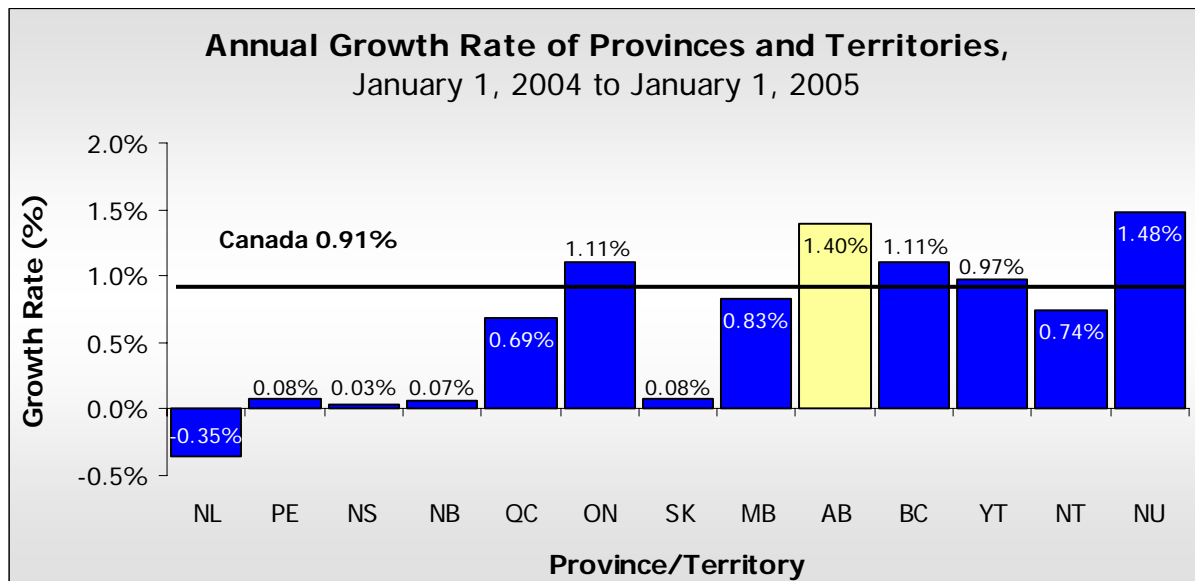
Table 1

Canada and Alberta Population and Growth Rates, January 1, 2001 to January 1, 2005				
	Canada		Alberta	
January 1	<i>Population</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>
2001	30,828,130		3,028,773	
2002	31,182,448	1.15%	3,087,024	1.92%
2003	31,496,751	1.01%	3,136,581	1.61%
2004	31,788,635	0.93%	3,179,066	1.35%
2005	32,078,819	0.91%	3,223,415	1.40%

Source: Alberta Population Report, Fourth Quarter, 2004, Alberta Finance Statistics (Statistics Canada data)

Chart 1 displays the population growth rates for Canada and the provinces and territories between January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2005. For 2004, Alberta's population growth rate continued to be among the highest in the country, with only Nunavut having a higher rate for the year.

Chart 1



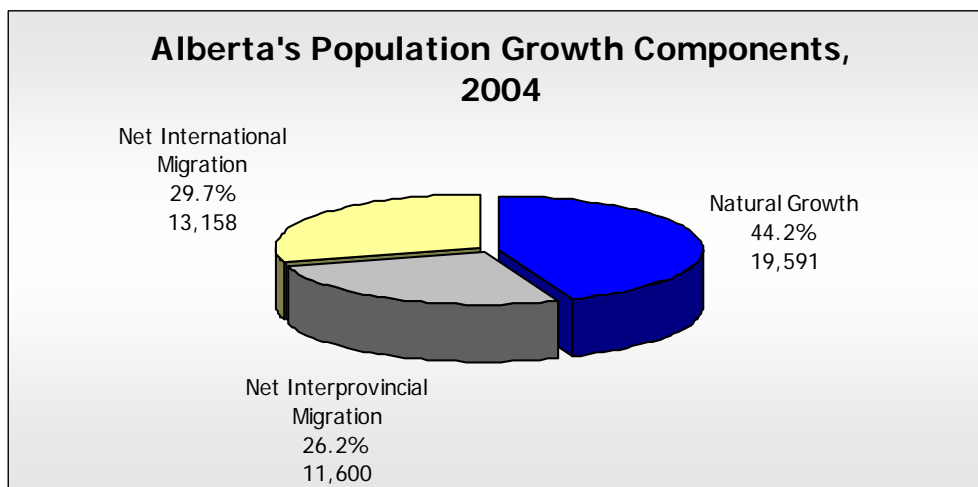
Source: Alberta Population Report, Fourth Quarter, 2004, Alberta Finance Statistics (Statistics Canada data)

1. Alberta Population Statistics

The following chart shows the components of Alberta's population growth for 2004. Net interprovincial migration represented 26.2% of Alberta's average growth during this period. Natural growth accounted for 44.2% of population growth while net international migration represented 29.7%. See [Appendix A](#) for definitions of the population growth components.

Alberta gained 24,758 people through migration in 2004. International migration accounted for 53% of Alberta's net migration and 47% was the result of interprovincial migration.

Chart 2



Source: Alberta Population Report, Fourth Quarter, 2004, Alberta Finance Statistics (Statistics Canada data)

2. Alberta Immigration Statistics

In 2004, a total of 235,818 immigrants¹ came to Canada and, of those, 16,474 landed in Alberta. Over half of all immigrants to Canada landed in Ontario in both 2003 and 2004. At 7.0%, Alberta received the fourth largest number of immigrants, behind Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia.

From 2003 to 2004 the number of immigrants to Alberta increased from 15,834 to 16,474, however the proportion of total immigrants to Alberta decreased from 7.2% to 7.0%. Table 2 provides further information about immigration to Canada's provinces.

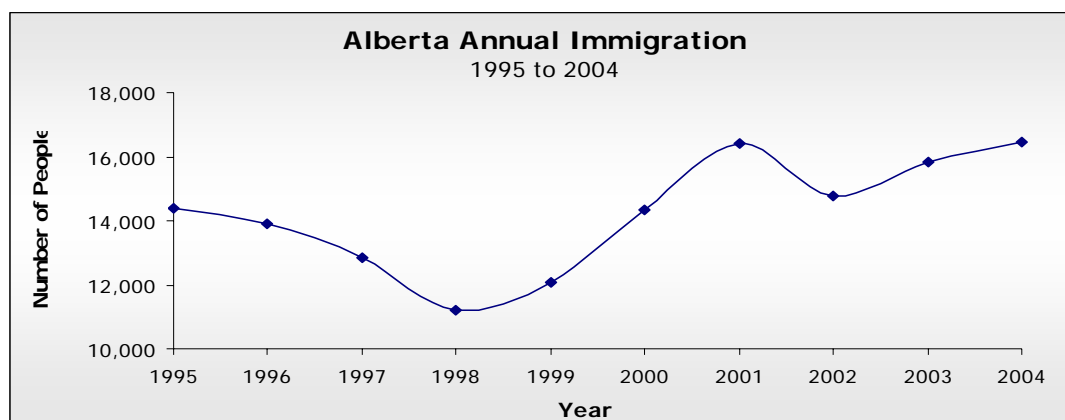
Table 2

Canadian Immigration by Province, 2003 and 2004				
Destination	2003		2004	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Canada	221,344	100.0%	235,818	100.0%
Ontario	119,723	54.1%	125,099	53.0%
Quebec	39,556	17.9%	44,245	18.8%
British Columbia	35,239	15.9%	37,020	15.7%
Alberta	15,834	7.2%	16,474	7.0%
Manitoba	6,500	2.9%	7,426	3.1%
Other	4,492	2.0%	5,554	2.4%

Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

Figure 1 shows the annual immigration to Alberta from 1995 to 2004. Alberta immigration has fluctuated over the last ten years. Immigration levels decreased from 1995 to a low in 1998 before increasing until 2001. After a decrease again in 2002, the number of immigrants has continued to increase. Alberta received its highest number of immigrants in 2004 with 16,474.

Figure 1



Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

¹ For the purpose of this report, the word immigrant is defined as migrants who have moved to Canada from outside the country

2. Alberta Immigration Statistics

Figure 2 shows the geographical distribution of immigration within the province by Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) region.² Over eighty-five percent (85.9%) of immigrants coming to Alberta between 1996 and 2001 have resided in the Edmonton and Calgary regions.

Alberta Regional Working Age Population Immigrants by AHRE Region, Five-Year Mobility, 1996-2001

Figure 2

Alberta Immigrants: 66,610



Data Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001

² Map of AHRE Regions: <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/offices/map.asp>

2. Alberta Immigration Statistics

Table 3 displays immigration to ten of Alberta's cities in 2003 and 2004. Over 85% of immigrants to Alberta in 2004 landed in one of its two major cities. In 2004 Calgary received the most new immigrants with 56.5% followed by Edmonton with 29.2%. No other town or city in the province received more than 2.0% of immigrants; few immigrate to rural Alberta.

Both Edmonton and Calgary had an increase in the number of immigrants from 2003 to 2004. However, over the same period, Calgary's proportion of total Alberta immigrants decreased while Edmonton's increased.

Table 3

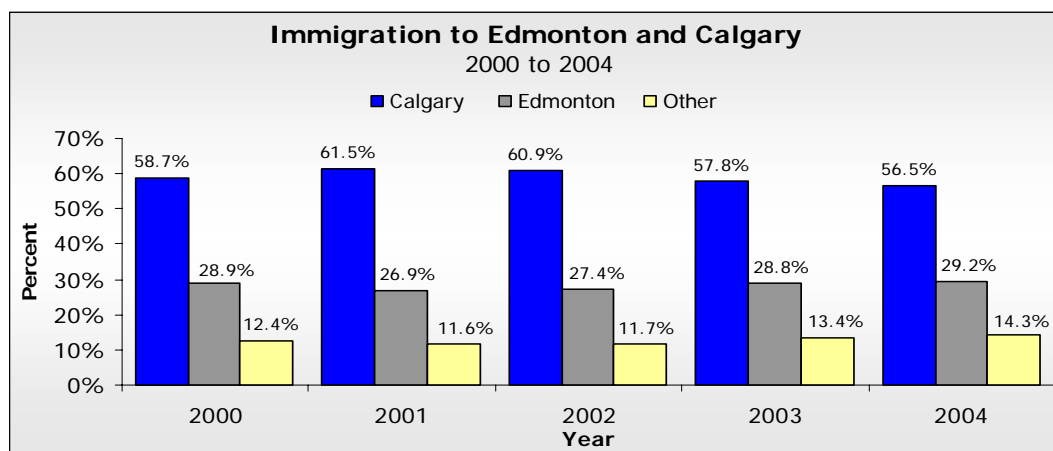
Alberta Immigration by City/Town 2003 and 2004				
City of Destination*	2003		2004	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Calgary	9,153	57.8%	9,309	56.5%
Edmonton	4,566	28.8%	4,810	29.2%
Red Deer	204	1.3%	254	1.5%
Lethbridge	169	1.1%	177	1.1%
Medicine Hat	136	0.9%	146	0.9%
Fort McMurray	130	0.8%	130	0.8%
Grande Prairie	66	0.4%	126	0.8%
Brooks	80	0.5%	83	0.5%
Sherwood Park	73	0.5%	75	0.5%
Banff	48	0.3%	54	0.3%
Other	1,209	7.6%	1,310	8.0%
Total	15,834	100.0%	16,474	100.0%

*Given cities may not be the top ten

Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

Chart 3 shows the percentage of immigrants to Edmonton and Calgary between 2000 and 2004. Over the last five years Calgary has received more than twice as many immigrants than Edmonton.

Chart 3



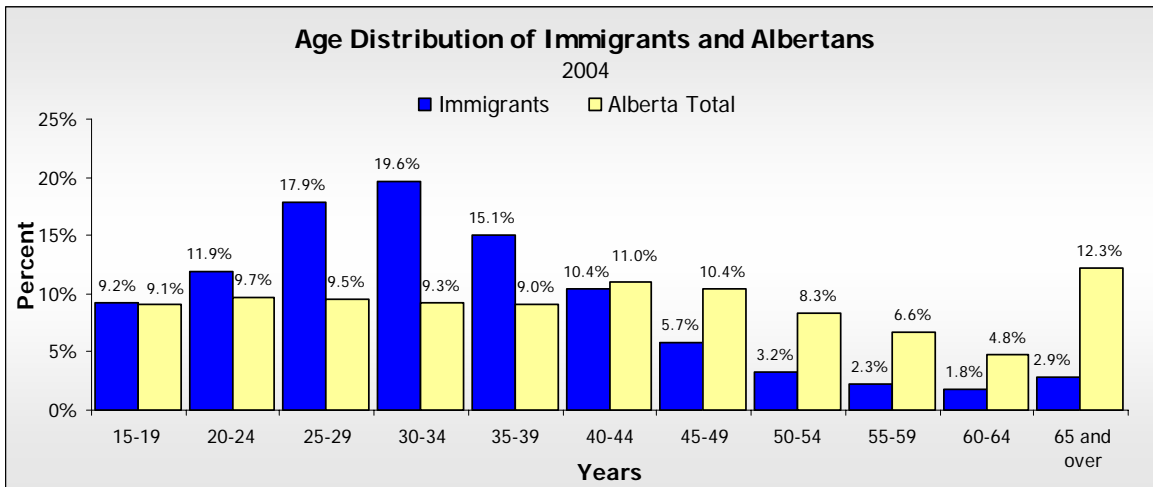
Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

3. Alberta Immigrant Characteristics

In 2004, nearly half (49.4%) of immigrants to Alberta were between the ages of 25 and 44. Approximately 39% were younger than 25 while 15.8% were aged 45 and older.

Chart 4 compares the age distribution of the working age population of immigrants and Albertans for 2004. The immigrant population tends to be younger than the Alberta population. The immigrant population has a larger percentage of people aged 20-39 than the Alberta population and a smaller percentage for all age groups above the age of 40.

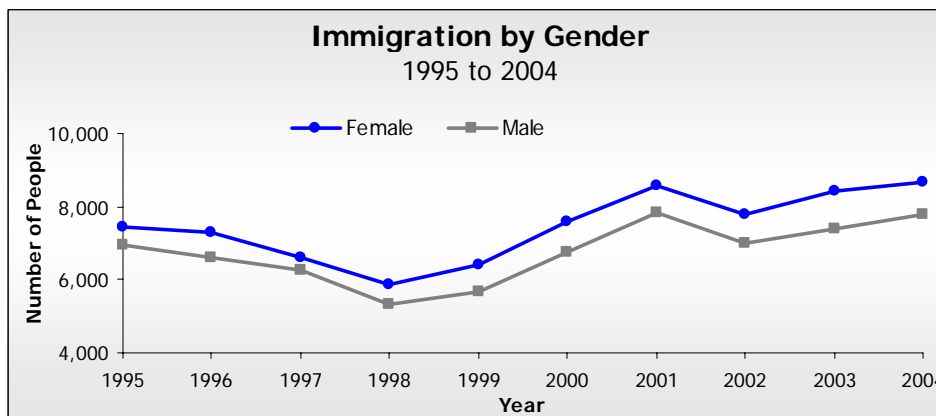
Chart 4



Sources: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File Third Quarter 2005 Version, Permanent Residence Data System (PRDS) and Alberta Labour Force Historical Review, 2004

As shown in Figure 2 below, over the last ten years there have consistently been more females immigrating to Alberta than males, however the split remains close to the 50 percent mark. Between 1995 and 2004, the proportion of male immigrants averaged 47.5% while the proportion for females averaged 52.5%. In 2004 52.8% of immigrants were female and 47.2% were male.

Figure 2



Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

3. Alberta Immigrant Characteristics

The following table provides the top six countries of last permanent residence of immigrants to Alberta in 2004. Nearly half (49.9%) of all immigrants to Alberta came from China, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The remainder of Alberta's immigrants came from a large variety of countries. No single country was the source of a large proportion of Alberta's immigrants.

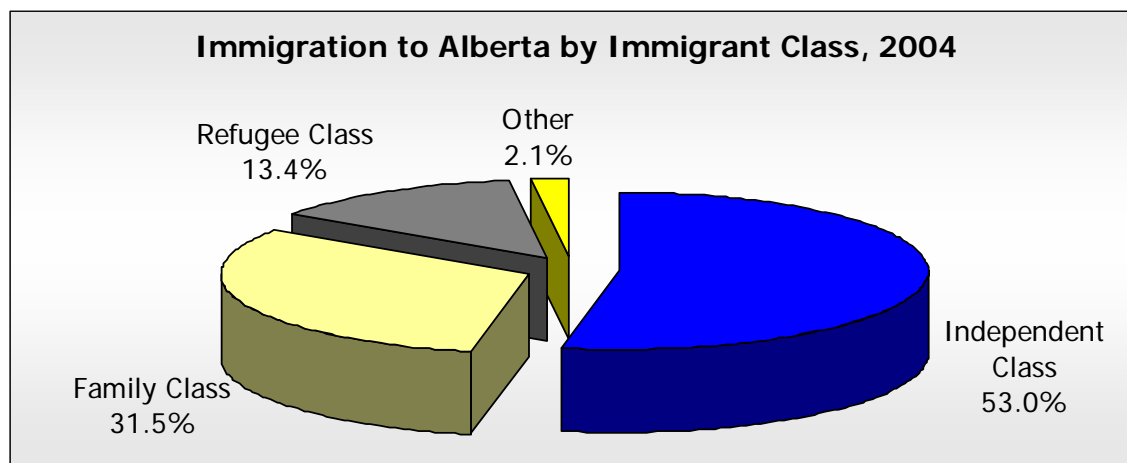
Table 4

Alberta Immigration by Source Country 2004		
Source Country	Number	%
China, People's Republic of	2,177	13.2%
Philippines	1,856	11.3%
India	1,472	8.9%
Pakistan	1,069	6.5%
United Kingdom and Colonies	883	5.4%
United States of America	759	4.6%
Other	8,258	50.1%
Total	16,474	100.0%

Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

When applying for immigration status in Canada a classification must be selected. In 2004, people immigrated to Alberta as one of the following classes: Family; Independent; and Refugee. Definitions of the different immigrant classes can be found in [Appendix A](#). Over half (53.0%) of all immigrants to Alberta applied in the independent class while 31.5% came in the family class and 13.4% in the refugee class. Immigrants in the Independent Class are evaluated on a number of factors such as their education level, skill level and Canadian language ability.

Chart 5

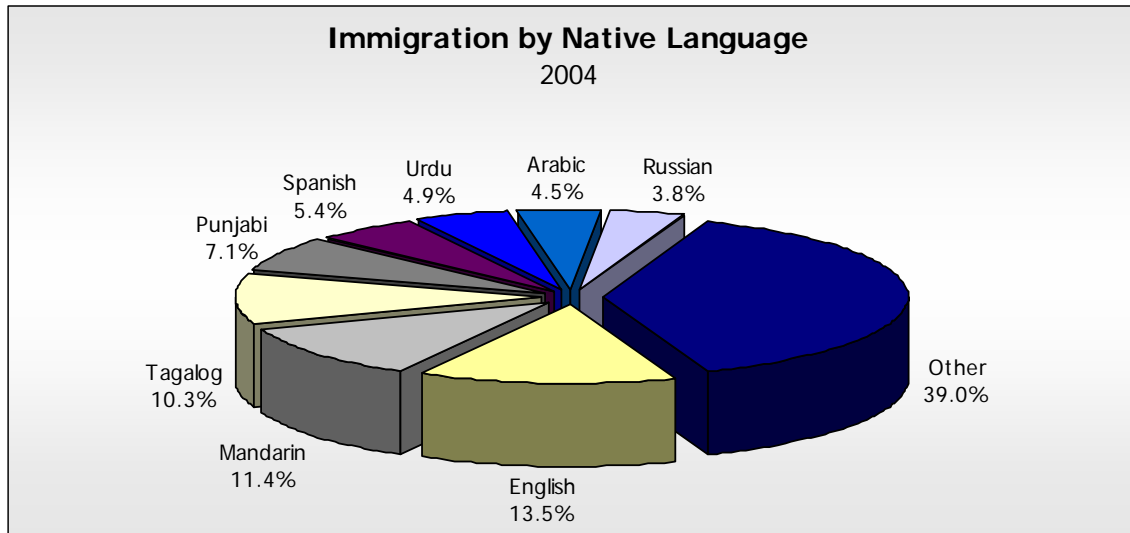


Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

3. Alberta Immigrant Characteristics

In 2004, the top eight languages indicated as native language by immigrants were English, Mandarin, Tagalog, Punjabi, Spanish, Urdu, Arabic and Russian. 39.0% of immigrants reported a language other than those in the top eight. Chart 7 shows more detail on Immigration by Native Language in 2004.

Chart 7



Data Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File Third Quarter 2005 Version, Permanent Residence Data System (PRDS)

The following table shows the percentage of immigrants with knowledge of English upon entering Alberta between 1995 and 2004. Level of language ability is self assessed. Over that period, the percentage has fluctuated, with the highest proportion being 60.8% in 2004. On average between 1995 and 2004 just over half of immigrants (54.4%) had knowledge of English.

Table 5

Year	% with Knowledge of English
1995	51.7%
1996	55.8%
1997	55.7%
1998	52.8%
1999	55.2%
2000	54.4%
2001	54.2%
2002	51.7%
2003	51.4%
2004	60.8%

Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

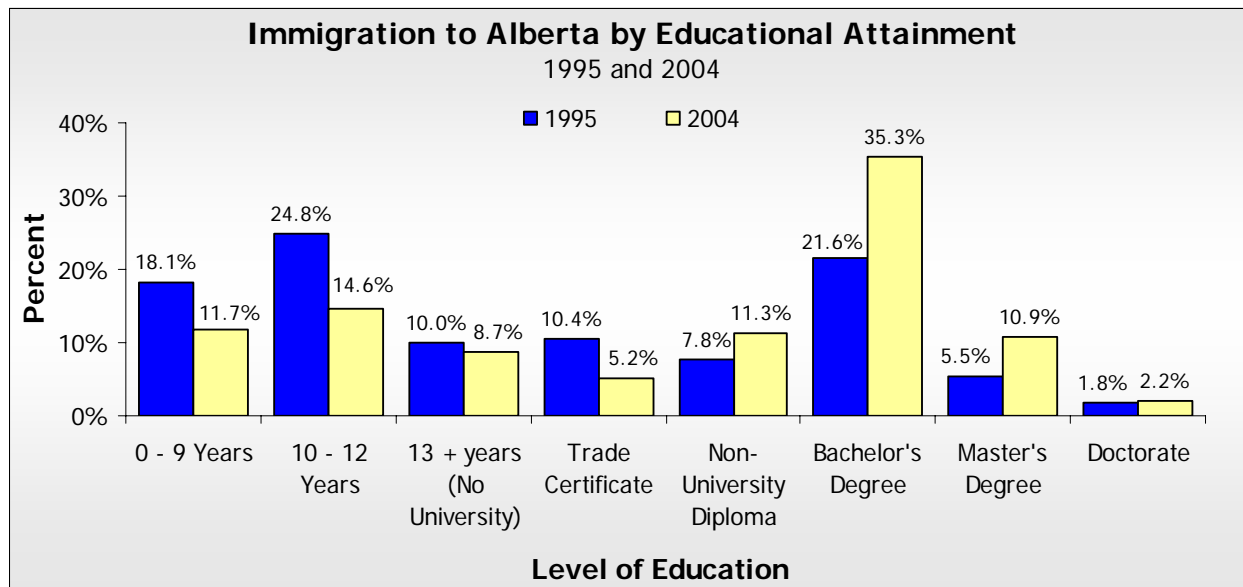
4. Alberta Immigration Education Levels

The chart below shows educational attainment of immigrants to Alberta aged 20 and older. In 1995, more than half of immigrants (52.9%) landing in Alberta did not have post secondary education. Immigrants landing in Alberta in 2004 had higher education levels than those arriving ten years earlier. In 2004 more than two thirds (64.9%) of immigrants had completed some form of post secondary.

Since 1995, there has been an increase in the proportion of immigrants to Alberta with university degrees. In 1995, 28.9% of immigrants held university degrees (including masters and doctorates), while in 2004 48.4% did, an increase of 19.6 percentage points. Of those who held university degrees in 2004, 10.9% had completed a master's degree and 2.2% had a doctorate.

The only form of post secondary education that experienced a decrease in proportions from 1995 to 2004 is trade certificate. In 2004 there were half as many immigrants with trade certificates as in 1995.

Chart 8

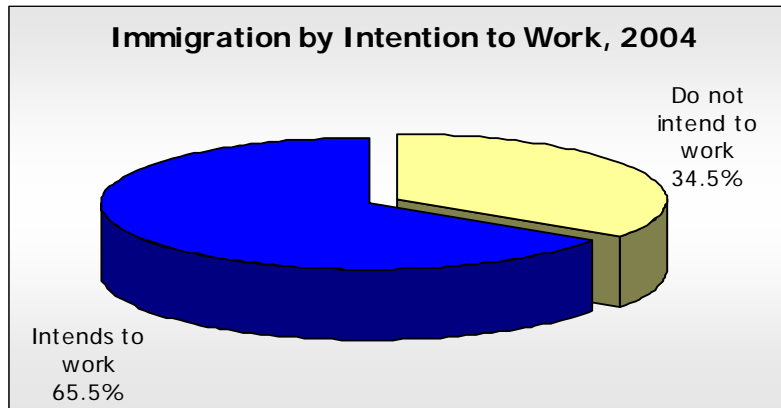


Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) - Landing File, Second Quarter 2005 Version

5. Alberta Immigration Occupations

The following chart shows that 65.5% of immigrants to Alberta over the age of 15 indicated they intended to work upon landing. This represents nearly two thirds of the working age population (see [Appendix A](#) for definition) of immigrants in 2004.

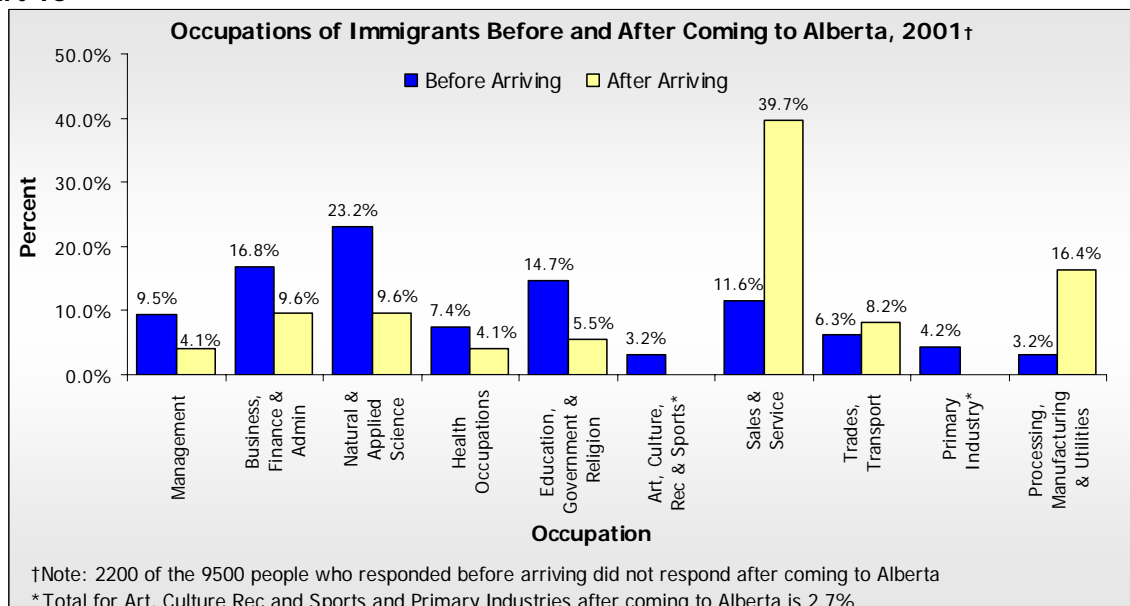
Chart 9



Data Source: IMM Immigration Data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) – Landing File Third Quarter 2005 Version, Permanent Residence Data System (PRDS)

Chart 10 shows that greater proportions of immigrants reported occupations in Management, Business, Finance and Administration, Natural and Applied Sciences, Health and Education before coming to Alberta than after. The proportion of immigrants employed in Sales and Service and Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities occupations increased upon coming to Alberta. The percentage employed in Sales and Services after arriving in Alberta was 39.7%, compared to 11.6% before, more than three times higher than it was prior to coming. For Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities, the proportion was more than five times greater.

Chart 10

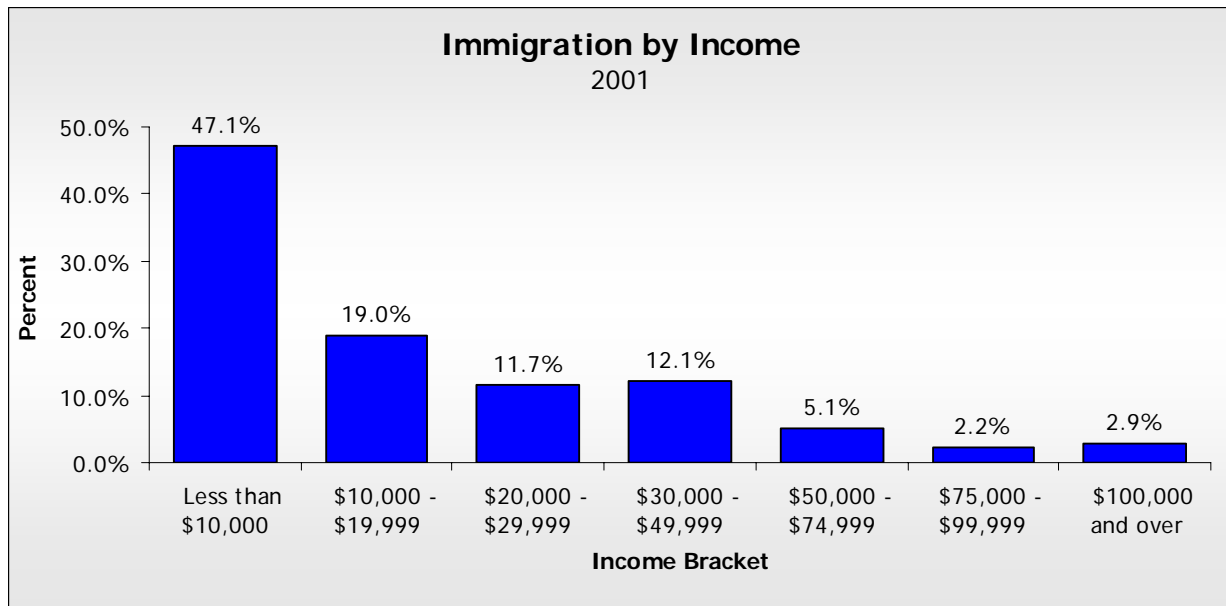


Source: Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC)

6. Alberta Immigration Income

Chart 11 shows the proportion of immigrants who landed in Alberta between 1996 and 2001 by income bracket, as of 2001. Nearly half of immigrants had incomes that were less than \$10,000 per annum. Just over 10% of immigrants had incomes over \$50,000 per year.

Chart 11



Data Source: Statistics Canada Census 2001

Note: Immigration data includes immigrants who landed in Canada within the 5 year period prior to Census Day

7. Alberta Immigration Labour Force Statistics

Between 1996 and 2001, the total number of Alberta immigrants who were in the labour force was 45,655, a 20.2% increase from the 1996 total of 37,995.

Labour force outcomes for Alberta immigrants improved between censuses. Both the participation and employment rates increased, by 6.1 and 7.3 percentage points respectively. Rates for the province as a whole increased as well and both rates for immigrants remain below those of the Alberta population. However the growth of these rates between 1996 and 2001 was greater for immigrants.

Both the Alberta unemployment rate and the Alberta immigrant unemployment rate fell in 2001, to 5.2% and 7.9% respectively. Unemployment was higher for immigrants than for the Alberta population as a whole. Table 6 displays further labour force statistics for Alberta and Alberta immigrants by landing period. See [Appendix A](#) for definitions of Labour Force Statistic terminology.

Table 6

Alberta Labour Force Statistics				
	Alberta Immigrants		Total Alberta Population	
	<i>1996</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>2001</i>
Working Age Population	60,780	66,610	2,055,020	2,322,025
Labour Force	37,995	45,655	1,486,980	1,696,760
Employment	33,975	42,065	1,379,710	1,608,840
Unemployment	4,020	3,600	107,270	87,920
Participation Rate	62.5%	68.6%	72.4%	73.1%
Employment Rate	55.9%	63.2%	67.1%	69.3%
Unemployment Rate	10.6%	7.9%	7.2%	5.2%

Data Source: Statistics Canada Census, 1996 and 2001

Note: Immigration data includes immigrants who landed in Alberta within the 5 year period prior to Census Day

Appendix A

GLOSSARY

Employment: refers to people who, during the week prior to Census Day did any work at all for pay or in self-employment, or without pay in a family farm, business or professional practice or were absent from their job or business, with or without pay, for the entire week because of a vacation, an illness, a labour dispute at their place of work, or any other reasons.²

Family Class – applicants must have a close relative living in Canada who has made a legal promise to provide them with financial support. The relative may be a spouse, fiancé (e), child, parent or grandparent.

Five Year Mobility: refers to persons who are movers and who live in a residence other than the one they did on the previous Census Day five years earlier. Immigrants are movers who were living in Canada on Census Day (May 15, 2001), but were living outside Canada five years ago.³

Income: Migrants' income refers to their total income from all sources, including employment, farm income, government programs, pension, and investments. The less than \$10,000 category includes those making zero or negative income.

Independent or Economic Class – applicants apply to come to Canada on their own, with or without the financial help of relatives in Canada. They are evaluated on a number of factors such as their education level, skill level and Canadian language ability. There are three categories of independent or economic class immigrants: skilled workers; assisted relatives and business immigrants.

Interprovincial migrants: Those coming to Alberta from another province

Intraprovincial migrants: Those moving within Alberta

Labour Force: refers to people who were either employed or unemployed during the reference week (Sunday to Saturday) prior to Census Day (May 15, 2001).⁴

Natural growth - births minus deaths

Net international migration – calculated by taking the sum of international immigrants and non-permanent residents and subtracting from it total international emigrants.

^{2, 3, 4} 2001 Census Dictionary, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 92-378-XIE

Appendix A

Net interprovincial migration - calculated by subtracting interprovincial out-migration, where people are moving from Alberta to another province, from interprovincial in-migration, where people are moving to Alberta from another province.

Other Classes – Live-in Caregivers allows workers to enter Canada on a temporary basis for certain kinds of live-in work when there are not enough Canadian citizens or permanent residents to fill the available position. Provincial Nominees immigrate to Canada as permanent residents. Other classes of immigrants established for humanitarian or public policy reasons may be defined by regulation.

Refugee Class – are admitted under special rules and are considered either a Convention refugee or a member of a humanitarian designated class. Convention refugees are people who leave their country because of a well-founded belief that they will be persecuted due to their religious beliefs, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a given group. The humanitarian designated class was introduced by the federal government in 1997 to provide for the possibility of resettlement to individuals personally or seriously affected by situations including civil war and armed conflicts. Refugees may be selected abroad for resettlement in Canada or may apply for and receive Convention refugee status from the federal Immigration and Refugee Board within Canada.

Unemployment: refers to people who, during the week prior to Census Day, were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either, had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks, were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job, or had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.⁸

Unemployment Rate: calculated by dividing the number of people in the labour force who are unemployed by the total labour force.

Working Age Population: refers to people that are 15 years or older.

⁸2001 Census Dictionary, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 92-378-XIE