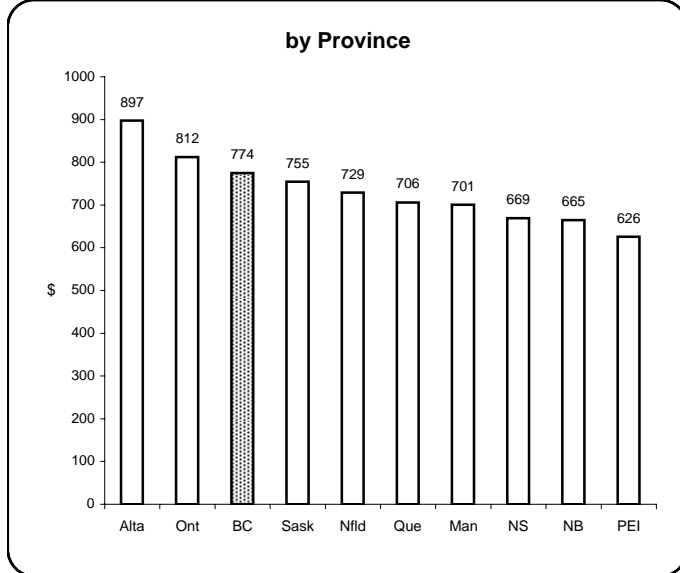
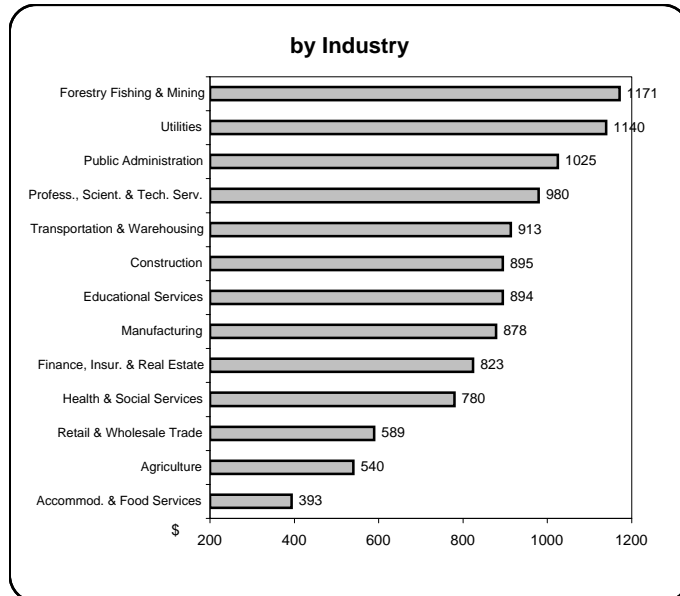
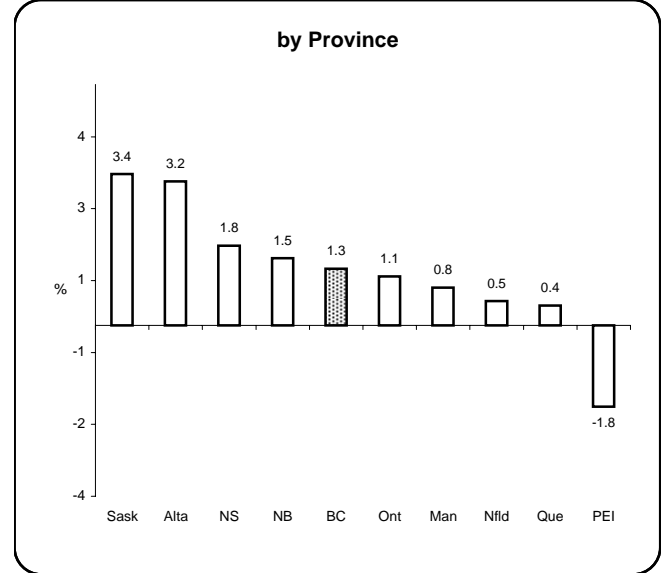


## Earnings & Employment Trends ♦ October 2008

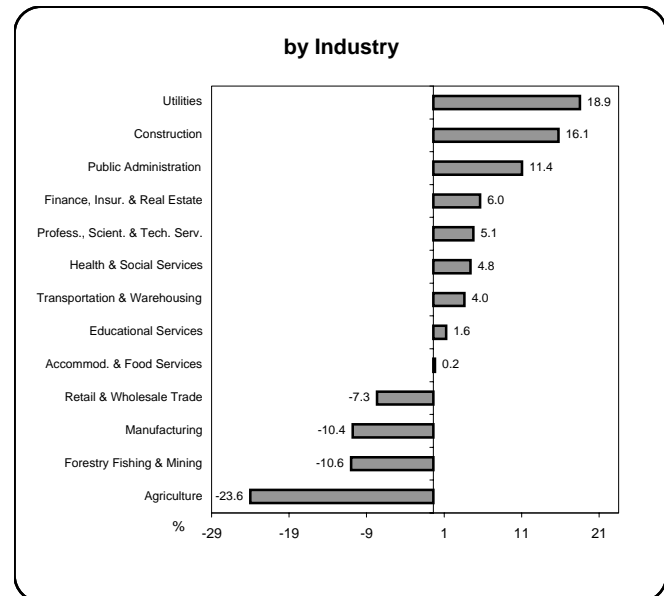
### Average Weekly Wage Rate\* - October 2008



### Employment Growth\* - October 2008



\* Latest 12 month average



\* Month over same month previous year (unadjusted)

Prepared by: BC Stats

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

**Feature Article: Labour Characteristics of the BC Immigrant Population from the 2007 Labour Force Survey**

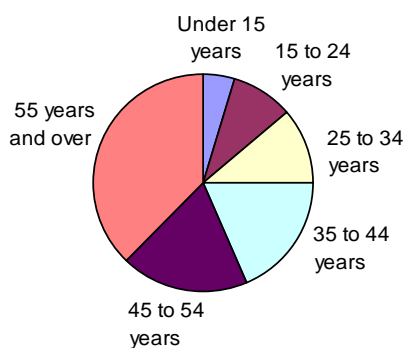
# Labour Market Characteristics of the BC Immigrant Population

## The immigrant population in BC

At the time of the 2006 Census over 1.1 million immigrants<sup>1</sup> were living in British Columbia. This represents 27.5% of BC's population or an increase of 1.4% from the 2001 Census figures. BC continues to have the second largest immigration population of all the provinces and territories—only behind Ontario (28.3%) and well above the national average of 19.8%.

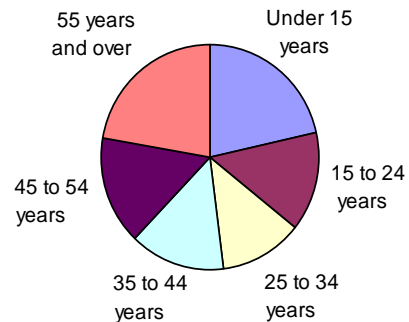
In 2006, immigrants over the age of 15 comprised 26.2% of the entire BC population. Proportionally, more immigrants are to be found in the prime working age group (25-54) than non-immigrants (48.6% vs. 41.7%). Additionally, there is a higher proportion of immigrants above the age of 55 (37.8% of total immigrants) and a lower proportion of immigrants under 15 years than for the Canadian-born population.

### Age of BC's immigrant population



<sup>1</sup> Immigrant population refers to people who were foreign born and have been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently.

### Age of BC's Canadian-born population



Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada

## Immigrant employment rates

Since January 2006, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market status of immigrants in Canada. In general, immigrants tend to have lower employment rates<sup>2</sup> in full- and part-time jobs compared to individuals born in Canada. The full-time employment gap between the Canadian-born and foreign-born population (age 15 plus) is small with a difference of 7%. Recent immigrants who landed between five and ten years ago had the highest employment rates of all landed immigrants in 2007 and 2006 which may be due to the higher number of individuals in the working age bracket (25-54 years) when compared with established immigrants (more than ten years in Canada) where more than half were above 55 years old.

<sup>2</sup> The employment rate (or the employment population ratio) is the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population.

Employment rates of immigrants by period of landing and Canadian-born in percent, population aged 15+, BC, 2007

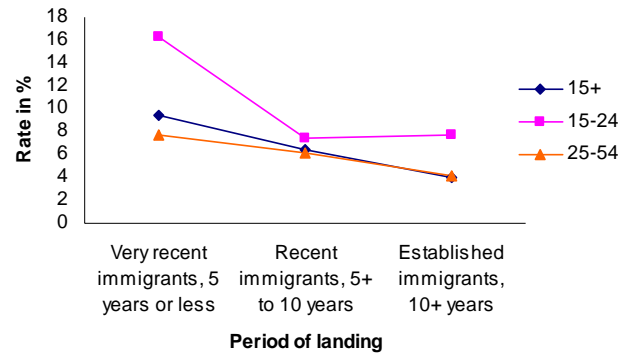
	Full-time	Part-time
Total population	50.6	12.8
Total landed immigrants	45.9	9.8
Very recent immigrants, 5 years or less	46.7	10.9
Recent immigrants, 5+ to 10 years	50.3	12.9
Established immigrants, 10+ years	44.9	9.1
Non-landed immigrants	43.3	9.9
Born in Canada	52.9	14.2

Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

Unemployment rates<sup>3</sup> for immigrants appear to be strongly correlated by period of landing. The unemployment rate is lower for higher periods of landing increases. The sharpest decreases are to be found for immigrants in the prime working age (25-54). Young immigrants (15-24) had a somewhat higher unemployment rate, indicating that education may be another factor influencing the employability of immigrants. While Canadian-born individuals of all age groups have lower unemployment rates, the difference with the corresponding immigrant population is small. Similarly, the employability of immigrants increases with the number of years in Canada, and is highest for immigrants aged 25-54. Established immigrants from that age category living more than ten years in Canada also have the smallest employability gap compared to the rest of the population of the same age (81.7% vs. 84.2%, respectively).

<sup>3</sup> The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

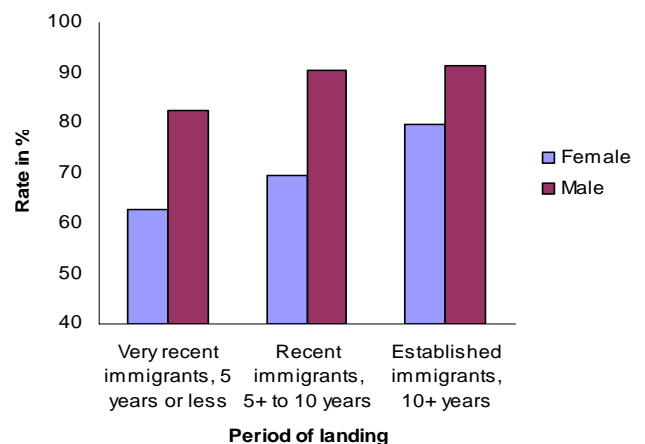
Unemployment rates by age group, 2007



Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

The labour force participation rates and unemployment rates for the immigrant population reveal a gender disparity. Specifically, female immigrants tend to have lower participation rates than male immigrants, independent of period of landing (74.8% for females and 89.7% for males aged 25-54). Canadian born women also tend to have lower participation rates than men; however the difference is not as pronounced—82.3% for women and 91.4% for men.

Participation rates by gender (25-54 years of age), 2007

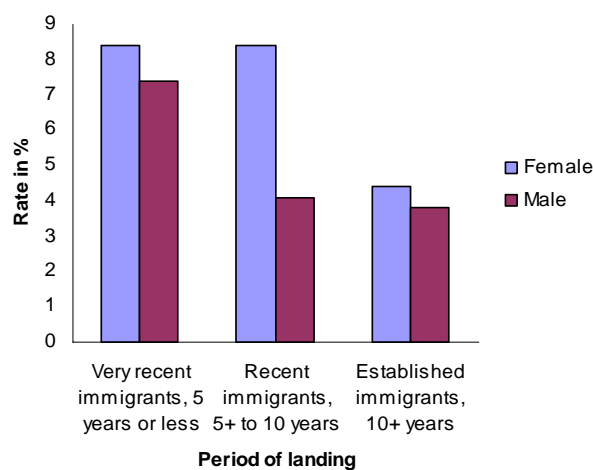


Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

The participation rates were largely similar in 2006 for male and female and immigrant and non-immigrant British Columbians.

The unemployment rates for non-immigrant women were 3.1% in 2007 and 3% for men. Interestingly, Canadian-born females experienced a decline in the unemployment rate in the period 2006-7 from 4% to 3.1%, while established immigrant women had an increased unemployment rate (3.8% in 2006 and 4.4% in 2007). The unemployment rate (3.8%) for established male immigrants remained unchanged between 2006 and 2007.

Unemployment rates by gender (25-54 years of age), 2007



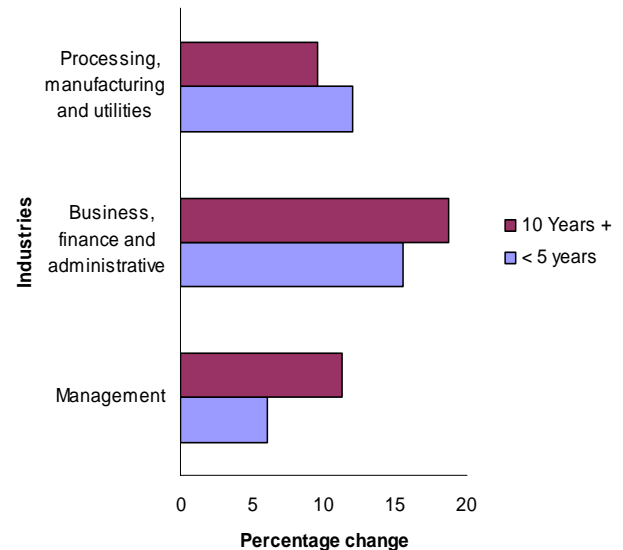
Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

### Industry mix of immigrants

The distribution of BC's immigrant population across industries mirrors that of the Canadian-born population. In particular, the majority of individuals for both groups are employed in the services sector, with the business and administration, finance in second place, and the trade and transport sectors having third highest number of employees. Differences between 2006 and 2007 were minimal. It is interesting to note that the labour distribution across industries differs slightly depending on the period of landing. While services and manufacturing industries dominate as the most likely job destinations for very recent immigrants (five or less years in Canada), their relative

importance declines, with other professions more prevalent for established immigrants.

Employment rates for immigrants (25-54 years of age) in selected industries, 2007



Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

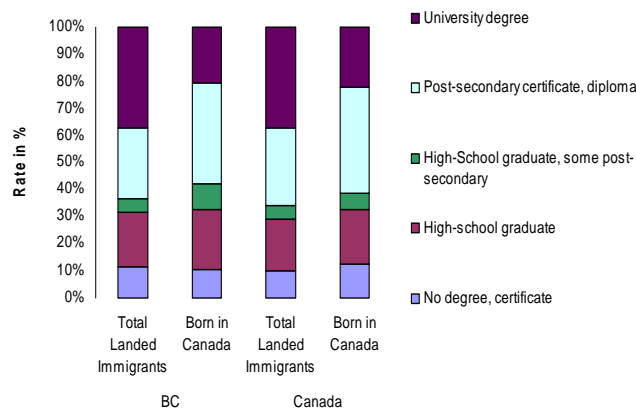
Canadian-born individuals are almost half-as-likely to work in the manufacturing sector than established immigrants, but are almost as likely to be found in management industries (10.1% vs. 11.2%).

### Education levels and employability

According to the Labour Force Survey the majority of immigrants residing in BC as of 2007 held a university degree.

The educational make-up of BC's population (immigrant and otherwise) is fairly similar to Canada's population.

Education attainment of immigrants and Canadian-born (25-54 years of age), 2007



Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

The chart above suggests that immigrants tend to have a higher level of education attainment than the Canadian-born population (university graduates: 37.3% vs. 20.7%). While significantly less than the proportion of immigrants with university degrees, still 26.1% of total landed immigrants hold a post-secondary certificate. The proportional make-up of educational levels for immigrants corresponds to the occupations immigrants are most likely to be found in. Furthermore, BC has a slightly higher proportion of immigrants with no degree, certificate in comparison to the segment of the population born in Canada. For Canada as a whole the relationship is reversed, with proportionally more individuals born in Canada possessing no degree or certificate.

Regardless of education attainment the full-time employment rates increase for established immigrants. Interestingly, recent immigrants and established immigrants with no certificates appear to perform better on the job market than the Canadian-born counterparts. Immigrants with university degrees also appear to have higher full-time

employment prospects than the remaining population.

Employment rates of immigrants by period of landing and Canadian-born with university degree in percent, population aged 25-54, BC, 2007

	Full-time	Part-time
Very recent immigrants, 5 years or less	56.1	9.3
Recent immigrants, 5+ to 10 years	67.1	10.9
Established immigrants, 10+ years	77.4	10.6
Born in Canada	75.7	14.0

Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada

Independent of the education level and period of landing, immigrants have higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population. The unemployment rate approaches that of the general population the longer immigrants have spent in Canada. For instance, established immigrants with no post-secondary education have an unemployment rate of 7.7%, which is 1.1 percentage points higher than for the non-immigrant population. Higher education for immigrants leads to better employment prospects when controlling for the period of landing. For established immigrants the decrease in the unemployment rate and the increase in employability as the level of education increases are steeper than for the Canadian-born population.

Summary

In general, immigrants to British Columbia lag behind in employment prospects when compared to the Canadian-born population. The gap is shortened by the number of years spent in Canada and is virtually non-existent for highly educated established immigrants. Most immigrants are to be found in occupations similar to the rest of the population.