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PROFILE OF PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAM (PNP) IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA, 1996-2009

By

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KEY POINTS:

- The number of immigrants arriving in Canada through Provincial Nominee Programs (PNP) has increased dramatically between 2004-2009. PNP principal applicants and dependents accounted for over 12 per cent of all immigrant landings in 2009.
- Over the last decade, the PNP category has been far more widely used in Western provinces, especially Manitoba. While the program has seen some success in distributing immigrants to non-traditional provincial destinations, the majority intend to settle in major metropolitan areas upon arrival.
- The PNP category has been used by a small but growing number of immigrants to Ontario. Almost 80 per cent of those arriving under the program intended to settle in Toronto.
- Most principal applicants who came to Canada under the PNP from 1996-2009 were of prime working age, and almost three-quarters were men.
- From 1996-2009 the country of last permanent residence of most PNP principal applicants was in the Asia-Pacific region, or in Europe. The Philippines and China, in particular, are important sources of PNP immigrants, together accounting for over 40 per cent of arrivals in 2009.
- Just over 50 per cent of PNP principal applicants had a bachelor's degree (or higher) when they arrived in Canada. This is less than the average for Economic Class immigrants as whole.
- Over the course of the PNP scheme, almost 16 per cent of principal applicants were deemed to speak neither English nor French upon arrival.

INTRODUCTION TO TIEDI

The [Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative \(TIEDI\)](#) seeks to assist organizations whose mandate includes the better integration of immigrants into Toronto's labour force. Such partner organizations include immigrant service agencies and advocacy groups, labour organizations, regulatory bodies, professional associations, training organizations, and credential assessment agencies.

The purpose of the project is to provide organizations with free access to statistical data and analysis on various aspects of immigrant labour market integration. The goal is to help organizations access the quantitative data they need in order to: identify priorities, develop programs and services, compose proposals and reports, and carrying out advocacy and public education endeavours.

TIEDI provides a unique service in which community organizations' data needs are met by a team of academic researchers and student analysts. Our partners define the data that they need - the project is thus driven by their agendas and not by academic research priorities.

TIEDI is based at York University, with a team of academic researchers drawn from York, the University of Toronto, and Ryerson University. Core members of the project team also include representatives of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) and World Education Services. The project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under its Knowledge Impact in Society program, and by York University.

The datasets used by the project include a range of large-scale surveys such as the Census, the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, the Ethnic Diversity Survey, the Workplace and Employee Survey, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, the Labour Force Survey and the Permanent Residents Data System.

TIEDI Analytical Reports provide tabulations of data, some brief analysis and contextualization, and some necessary caveats about the limitations of the data and analysis. Since the data presented have not been treated to detailed statistical analysis, any conclusions must be seen as preliminary and as starting points for further, more detailed, research.

For further information, contact the TIEDI Principal Investigator, Dr. Philip Kelly (pfkelly@yorku.ca), or the TIEDI Project Coordinator, Stella Park (pstella@yorku.ca).

While the research and analysis presented here are based on data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the analysis and interpretation of the data are the sole responsibility of the authors.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How has the profile (age, marital status, education, languages, country of origin, and province of destination) of immigrants in the Provincial Nominee Programs changed over time?

LITERATURE REVIEW: BACKGROUND

It has been argued that the spatial concentration of immigrant newcomers in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver does not fulfil labour market needs across different regions in Canada (Carter et al. 2008). Emphasis has therefore been placed on developing policies to distribute immigrants more widely across the country, and to more closely reflect labour market demand. The Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs) were launched in the late 1990s with these goals in mind. The programs consist of incentive-based strategies to attract newcomers to non-traditional settlement locations outside the major gateway cities (Leo and August 2009). They represent a joint effort by federal and provincial governments in regulating the selection and settlement patterns of immigrants to Canada (Biase and Bauder 2004).

The PNP category allows provinces to recruit and nominate potential immigrants by using selection criteria tailored to local labour market needs. Applicants who want to immigrate to Canada under the Provincial Nominee Program must apply to the province where they wish to settle. The province then considers the applications based on several criteria: 1) economic and demographic needs of the province; 2) the intention of applicants to settle in the province; and 3) the potential of applicants to make economic contributions to the province based on their skills, education and work experiences (Leo and August 2009).

During last two decades, PNPs have greatly influenced the employment and settlement patterns of immigrants in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Atlantic provinces (Biase and Bauder 2004). PNPs have become an important segment of immigration policy and according to the CIC, by 2012, almost one third of all economic immigration to Canada will occur through PNPs (Pandey and Townsend 2010). A comparative study of the earnings and retention rates of nominees and federal economic class immigrants shows that nominees had higher earnings than economic class immigrants in the first two years after coming to Canada (Pandey and Townsend 2010). However, little research has been conducted on the long-term social and economic integration of nominees after arriving in Canada.

Initially, PNPs were criticised for applying uniform national criteria to diverse localities, but over time provinces have adapted the programs to local needs. For example, in Manitoba the nominee program was modified in 2004 so that the occupation list reflected changing labour market needs. In addition, selected companies have been allowed to nominate employees based on job vacancies and required skills (Garcea 2006). The Manitoba experience has been a success in terms of ensuring employment for immigrants, but has not been without critics. Lewis (2010), for example, points out that the program disperses immigrants to locations that are not well endowed with settlement services. He also argues that the implementation of the program has effectively lead to inequalities based on ethno-cultural differences, as certain groups have become concentrated in particular kinds of employment.

THE DATA: Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS)

The data used in this report are derived from an administrative dataset made available to researchers by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Known as the Permanent Resident Data System (PRDS) (formerly the Landed Immigrant Data System, or LIDS), it includes anonymous data from the landing cards of each immigrant arriving in Canada between 1980 and 2009. Since this report focuses on immigrant arrivals under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) through which landings started in 1996, only data from 1996-2009 are used here.

The PRDS database provides a rich portrait of immigrants' characteristics at the time of their arrival, including: age, gender, marital status, education, skill level, intended occupation, country of birth, citizenship and last permanent residence, immigration category, and intended province and city of settlement. Furthermore, the dataset represents every immigrant – it is not a sample.

At the same time, there are clearly limits to the data in the sense that an “intended” occupation may not be where an immigrant finally finds employment. Nor may their intended destination be where they stay in the long term. In that sense, the data provides only a snapshot of immigrants at the time of their arrival.

RESULTS

a) Growth in PNP Immigration

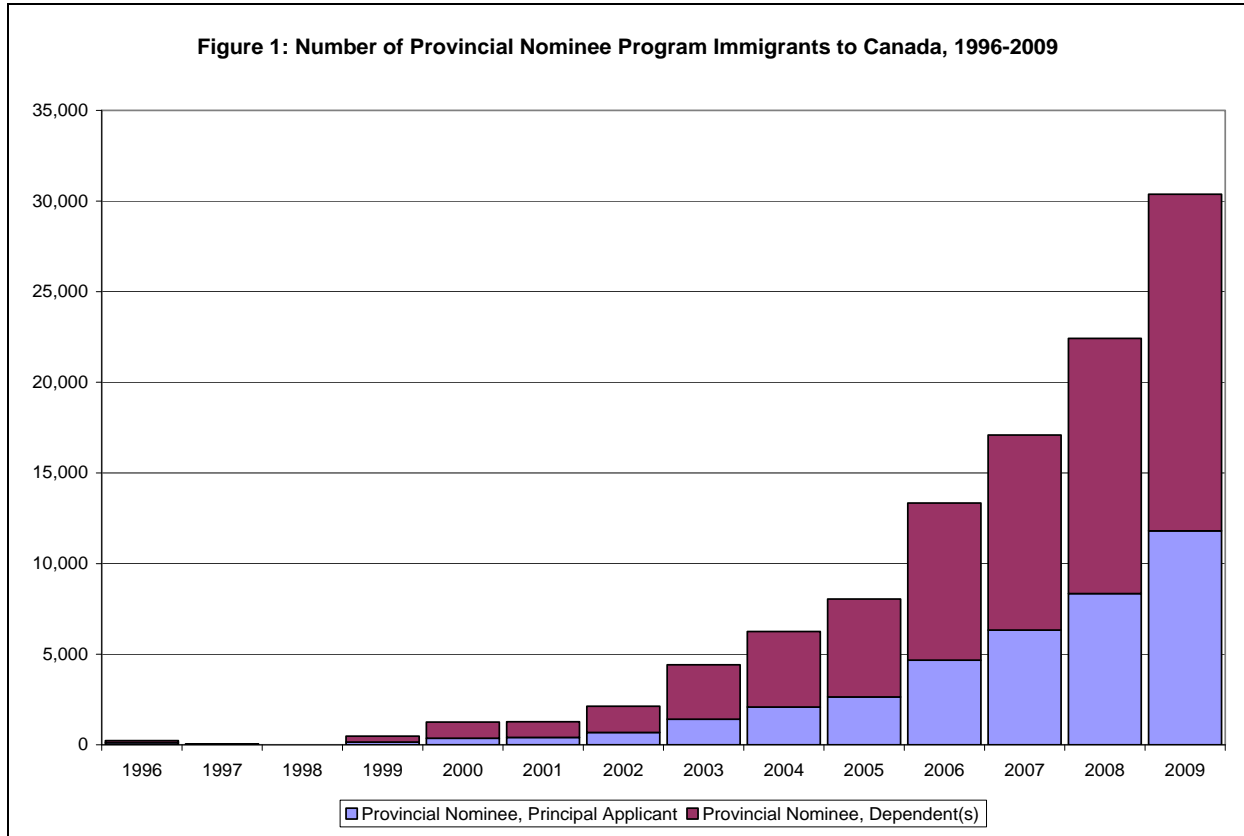


Table 1: Number and Percentage of Provincial Nominee Program Immigrants to Canada, 1996-2009

Number	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Provincial Nominee, Principal Applicant	116	23	(n/a)	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,329	8,343	11,801	39,039
Provincial Nominee, Dependent(s)	117	24	(n/a)	326	884	864	1,447	3,001	4,162	5,404	8,664	10,765	14,075	18,577	68,310
All other Immigration Class	225,839	215,991	174,198	189,475	226,203	249,365	226,922	216,929	229,577	254,192	238,304	219,659	224,827	221,800	3,113,281
Total Number	226,072	216,038	174,198	189,952	227,455	250,639	229,049	221,347	235,825	262,239	251,640	236,753	247,245	252,178	3,220,630

Percentage (%)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Provincial Nominee, Principal Applicant	0.1	0.0	(n/a)	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.9	2.7	3.4	4.7	1.2
Provincial Nominee, Dependent (s)	0.1	0.0	(n/a)	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6	1.4	1.8	2.1	3.4	4.5	5.7	7.4	2.1
All other immigration class	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.7	99.4	99.5	99.1	98.0	97.4	96.9	94.7	92.8	90.9	88.0	96.7
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
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(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Figure 1 shows the number of principal applicants and their dependents arriving under the Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs) from 1996-2009. The number of PNP immigrants increased dramatically starting in 2000. As Table 1 indicates, although the percentage of immigrants who came to Canada through PNPs was small (less than 0.1%) in the late 1990s when the program first began, the proportion of provincial nominee applicants and dependents has increased steadily, reaching 2.7% in 2004 and 12.1% in 2009. Principal applicants are outnumbered by dependents in every year of the program, with a ratio of 1:1.75 across the duration of the program.

b) Province of Destination

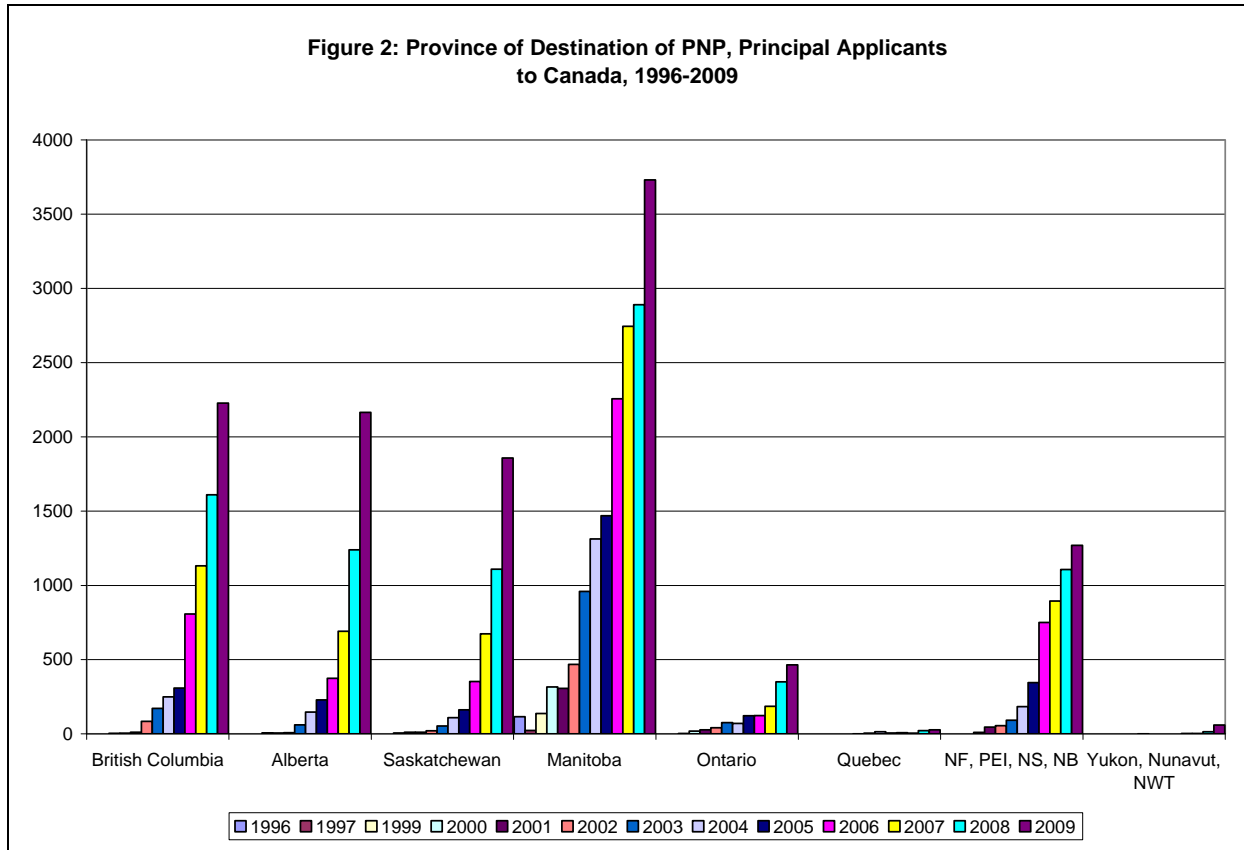


Table 2: Province of Destination of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
British Columbia	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	2.7	12.4	12.1	11.9	11.7	17.3	17.9	19.3	18.9	16.9
Alberta	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	4.3	7.0	8.7	8.0	10.9	14.9	18.3	12.6
Saskatchewan	(n/a)	(n/a)	4.0	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.7	5.2	6.1	7.5	10.7	13.3	15.7	11.2
Manitoba	100.0	100.0	91.4	85.9	74.9	68.8	67.7	62.9	55.6	48.3	43.4	34.6	31.6	42.9
Ontario	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	4.9	6.8	6.0	5.4	3.4	4.6	2.6	2.9	4.2	3.9	3.8
Quebec	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	0.7	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	0.3	0.2	0.2
NF, PEI, NS, NB ¹	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	2.7	11.2	8.2	6.5	8.8	13.1	16.1	14.1	13.3	10.8	12.2
Yukon, Nunavut, NWT ²	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	0.2	0.5	0.2
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,328	8,343	11,801	39,038

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

¹: NF=Newfoundland, PEI=Prince Edward Island, NS=Nova Scotia, NB=New Brunswick

²: NWT= Northwest Territories

Figure 2 and Table 2 show the destination of PNP principal applicants across Canadian provinces between 1996-2009. It is evident that Manitoba has always been the primary user of the Provincial Nominee Program, but starting in 1999 other provinces began to participate. In 1996-97, 100% of principal applicants who came to Canada under the PNP went to Manitoba, but by 2006 less than half did so (48.3%), with 17.3% settling in BC and 16.1% in Maritime provinces. To a certain extent, then, the Provincial Nominee program has been successful in dispersing immigrants outside of the tradition destination provinces of BC, Ontario and Quebec.

Table 3 - Distribution of PNP Principal Applicants across Major CMAs and other regions, by Province, 1996-2009

Province	CMA and other regions	Total PNP Principal Applicant arrivals, 1996-2009	Percentage of provincial total
British Columbia	Vancouver CMA	4,963	75.1
	All other areas	1,647	24.9
	Total	6,610	100.0
Alberta	Edmonton CMAs	3,131	63.5
	All other areas	1,796	36.5
	Total	4,927	100.0
Saskatchewan	Regina, Saskatoon CMAs	2,854	65.3
	All other areas	1,514	34.7
	Total	4,368	100.0
Manitoba	Winnipeg CMA	12,626	75.5
	Brandon CMA	1,088	7.9
	All other Areas	3,015	18.0
	Total	16,729	100.0
Ontario	Toronto CMA	1,187	79.8
	All other Areas	300	20.2
	Total	1,487	100.0
NB, NS, PEI, NF	Fredericton, Halifax, Charlottetown, St.John's CMAs	2,944	61.7
	All other Areas	1,825	38.3
	Total	4,769	100.0

Table 3 shows the distribution of PNP Principal Applicants according to their intended place of residence upon arrival. Although these data tell us nothing about subsequent movements, they do suggest that within those provinces where the PNP has extensively used, it has not been especially successful at dispersing immigrants beyond major CMAs. Across the country, between two-thirds and three-quarters of all PNP Principal Applicants are arriving in major urban areas. In Ontario, the PNP category is used by a very small percentage of immigrant arrivals, but of those who use it, almost 80 per cent intend to settle in Toronto.

c) Gender, Age and Marital Status of PNP Principal Applicants

Table 4: Gender Distribution of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Men	10.3	(n/a)	79.5	82.1	76.8	79.0	78.5	78.6	76.4	76.4	72.4	74.1	72.9	74.3
Women	89.7	73.9	20.5	17.9	23.2	21.0	21.5	21.4	23.6	23.6	27.6	25.9	27.1	25.7
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,329	8,343	11,801	39,039

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Table 4 shows the gender distribution of immigrants who have come to Canada as principal applicants under the PNP from 1996-2009. While the first year of the program saw a very high percentage of female principal applicants (89.7%), the reverse has occurred in every subsequent year, with men dominating the program. Over the 13 years of the program up until 2009, male principal applicants outnumbered women by a ratio of 3:1.

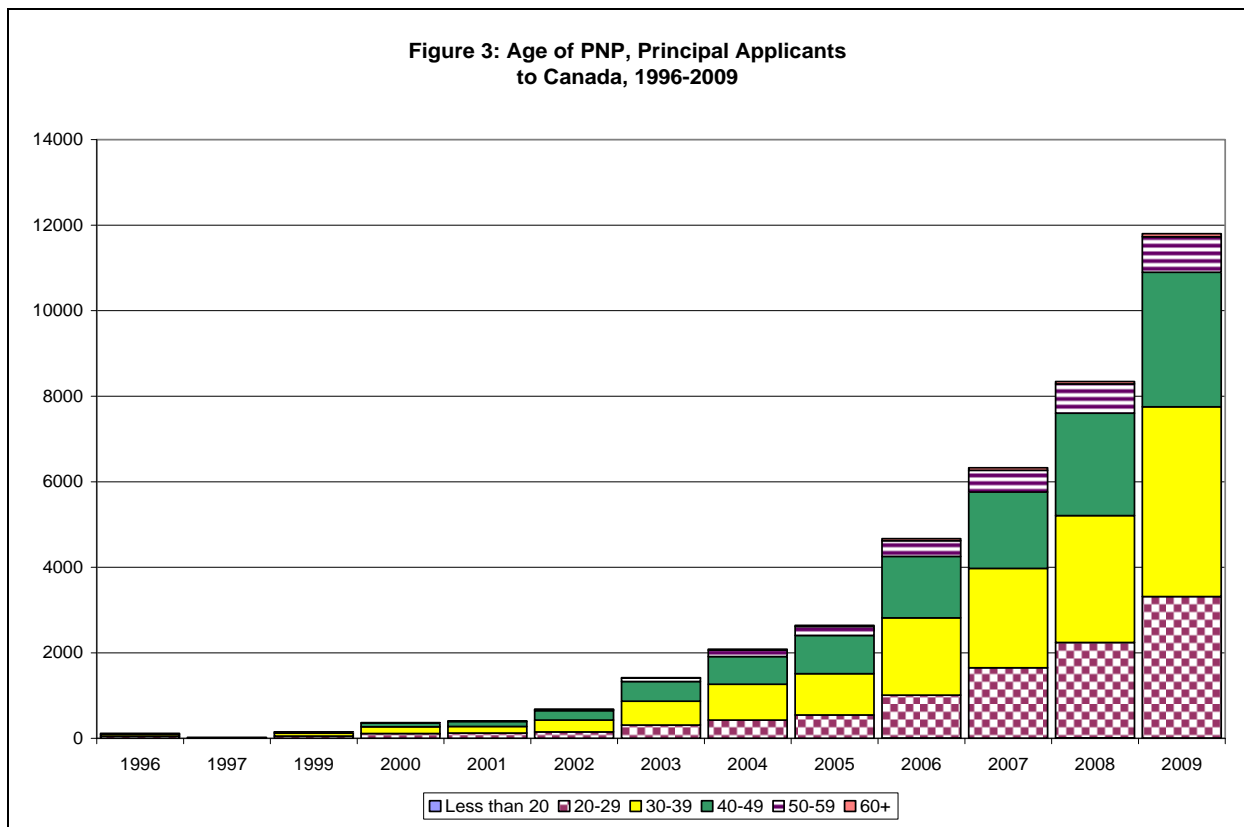


Table 5: Percentage distribution of Age of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Less than 20	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	0.1	(n/a)	0.1
20-29	42.2	(n/a)	34.4	30.2	30.2	22.1	21.9	20.5	20.5	21.5	26.0	26.7	28.0	25.5
30-39	37.9	47.8	45.7	42.7	37.3	40.6	39.4	40.2	36.7	38.6	36.7	35.5	37.6	37.4
40-49	19.8	47.8	17.9	24.7	28.8	32.4	32.5	31.0	33.7	30.8	28.2	28.7	26.7	28.8
50-59	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	3.7	4.3	5.6	7.1	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.2	7.0	7.4
60+	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.8
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,329	8,343	11,801	39,039

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Figure 3 and Table 5 show the age distribution of principal applicants at the time of their arrival in Canada under the PNP from 1996-2009. Not surprisingly, the overwhelming majority were in the prime working age groups: 20-29, 30-39 and 40-49. Over the 13 years of the program, more than 90% of principal applicant arrivals were in these age groups, with the highest frequency in the 30-39 age cohort.

Table 6: Marital Status of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Single	50.0	(n/a)	30.5	26.1	26.8	26.2	25.4	28.6	26.4	28.4	32.8	33.4	35.5	32.1
Married/ Common-law	44.0	78.3	62.3	72.8	71.2	72.1	71.9	68.6	70.2	68.3	63.8	63.8	61.6	64.9
Divorced/ Separated/ Widowed	(n/a)	(n/a)	7.3	(n/a)	(n/a)	1.8	2.7	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.4	2.9	2.9	3.0
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,328	8,343	11,801	39,038

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Table 6 shows the marital status of principal applicants who came to Canada under the PNP from 1996-2009. Except in the first year of the program, around two-thirds of arrivals have been married, with most of the rest arriving as unmarried singles.

d) Source Countries / Regions

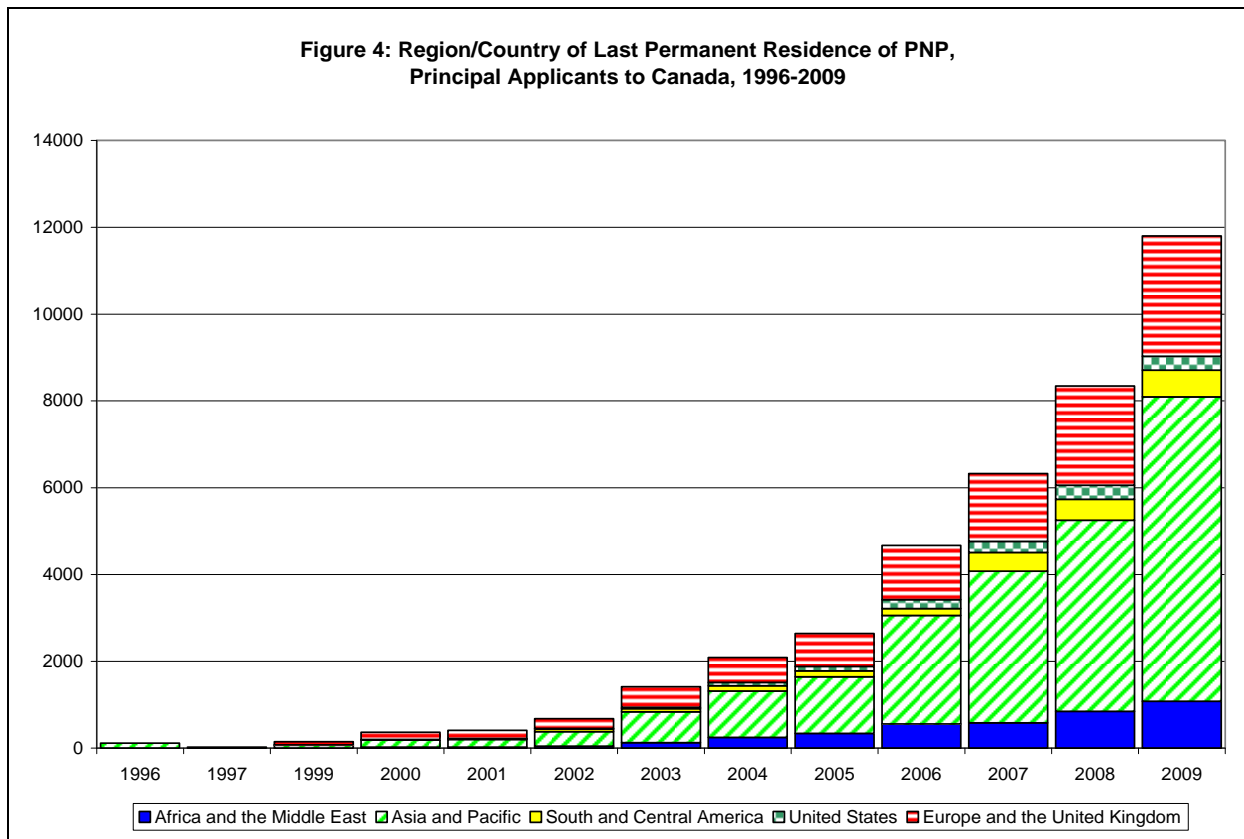


Table 7: Region/Country of Last Permanent Residence of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Africa and the Middle East	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	5.7	5.9	6.8	9.1	11.8	12.9	11.9	9.2	10.2	9.2	9.9
Asia and Pacific	99.1	100.0	43.0	45.4	43.4	49.3	49.9	51.3	49.3	53.5	55.2	52.7	59.4	54.7
South and Central America	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	2.2	3.9	8.5	5.4	5.9	5.2	3.4	6.8	5.8	5.2	5.4
United States	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	2.5	2.0	3.6	3.8	4.4	4.0	3.9	2.7	3.4
Europe and the United Kingdom	(n/a)	(n/a)	49.0	45.7	45.6	32.9	33.7	27.3	28.8	26.8	24.7	27.4	23.5	26.5
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,328	8,343	11,801	39,038

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Figure 4 and Table 7 show the region/country of last permanent residence of principal applicants who came to Canada under PNP from 1996-2009. During this period, the Asia-Pacific represented the region of last permanent residence for around half of all principal applicants. Starting in 1999, the second highest percentage of principal applicants came from Europe and United Kingdom. Since 2000, principal applicants from other regions/countries (Africa and the Middle East; South and Central America) have started coming to Canada under PNPs, but their numbers remain very small. The same applied to applicants from the United States who started to arrive after 2002.

Table 8: Ranking of Top source countries by landing year, based on total number of PNP Principal Applicants arriving between 1996-2009

Rank (based on Total, 1996-2009)	Country of Birth	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
1	Philippines	87.9	100.0	0.0	31.1	28.5	23.7	19.6	21.0	19.6	18.8	18.3	23.2	17.4	24.3	21.4
2	China	3.4	0.0	0.0	4.6	3.0	6.8	4.0	6.6	7.8	6.7	10.5	12.4	16.7	17.5	13.4
3	India	6.9	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.1	3.4	5.9	6.1	8.3	7.0	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.5	7.7
4	England	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	6.3	5.6	5.9	4.5	5.8	6.8	7.0	7.5	7.3	5.7	6.5
5	South Korea	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.7	3.9	10.4	7.1	8.0	9.2	9.9	5.7	5.9	4.4	6.2
6	Russia	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.2	19.6	11.5	8.4	6.8	4.7	4.3	3.9	2.8	3.1	2.2	3.6
7	Germany	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	3.0	5.1	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	3.8	3.5	3.0
8	Kazakhstan	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	6.3	7.3	4.9	6.8	4.3	4.0	3.2	2.2	2.9	1.6	2.9
9	Ukraine	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	3.8	3.7	5.7	2.8	4.3	3.3	2.8	3.0	2.3	2.4	2.8
10	United States of America	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.8	1.0	2.1	1.6	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.2	2.7
	All other countries	1.7	0.0	0.0	15.2	22.0	28.0	31.8	34.5	32.0	34.9	31.5	30.1	29.5	27.7	29.8
	Total (%)	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 9: Ranking of Top source countries for each province, based on number of PNP Principal Applicants arriving between 1996-2009

Ranking	BC	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec	NF, PEI, NS, NB	Yukon, Nunavut, NWT	Total
1	China	Philippines	Philippines	Philippines	China	China	China	Philippines	Philippines
2	England	England	China	India	Iran	Mauritius	Korea	Germany	China
3	USA	India	England	China	India	Pakistan	Iran	Fiji	India
4	Korea	China	Ukraine	Russia	Portugal	England	England	France	England
5	Philippines	Germany	South Africa	Kazakhstan	Korea	Morocco	Tawian	China	Korea
6	Germany	South Africa	India	Korea	Russia	Iran	USA	Switzerland	Russia
7	India	USA	Korea	Ukraine	Kazakhstan	India	India	India	Germany
8	Japan	Venezuela	Vietnam	El Salvador	Ukraine	Korea	Germany	Vietnam	Kazakhstan
9	Australia	Korea	Russia	Germany	Pakistan	USA	Philippines	Japan	Ukraine
10	South Africa	El Salvador	Serbia	England	England	France	Bangladesh	Czech Republic	USA

Tables 8 and 9 show that within the source regions for PNP immigrants, certain countries have played a significant role. In particular, by 2009, The Philippines and China together accounted for over 40% of PNP arrivals. In all of the Prairie provinces, The Philippines represented the top source country.

e) Educational Attainment and Language Skills

Table 10: Educational Level of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
High School or Less	82.8	95.7	15.2	20.4	26.6	22.8	16.2	15.0	14.0	15.7	18.0	18.7	18.8	18.0
Trade/Non-University diploma	12.1	(n/a)	43.0	42.9	37.6	32.5	39.3	34.7	32.9	30.3	29.8	31.9	31.0	31.7
Bachelor's Degree	(n/a)	(n/a)	35.8	33.7	30.2	35.1	33.5	37.2	39.4	38.3	40.0	37.1	39.2	38.1
Masters/Doctorate Degree	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	3.0	5.6	9.6	11.0	13.2	13.7	15.7	12.2	12.3	10.9	12.1
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,328	8,343	11,801	39,038

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Table 10 shows the highest level of education held by PNP principal applicants at the time of their arrival. In recent years, approximately half of all PNP principal applicant have held a Bachelor's degree or higher. Fewer than 20 per cent are educated only to High School level or below. In 2009, 50.2 per cent of PNP principal applicants had a Bachelor's degree or higher when they arrived in Canada. By way of comparison, among Economic Class principal applicants as a whole in 2009, 68.7 per cent of immigrants had a Bachelor's degree of higher (CIC, 2010).

Turning to those with less formal education, 11.4 per cent of all Economic Class principal applicants had only High School education or less in 2009, compared with 18.8 per cent of PNP principal applicants. Overall, then, the educational profile of PNP arrivals is lower than economic migrants as a whole

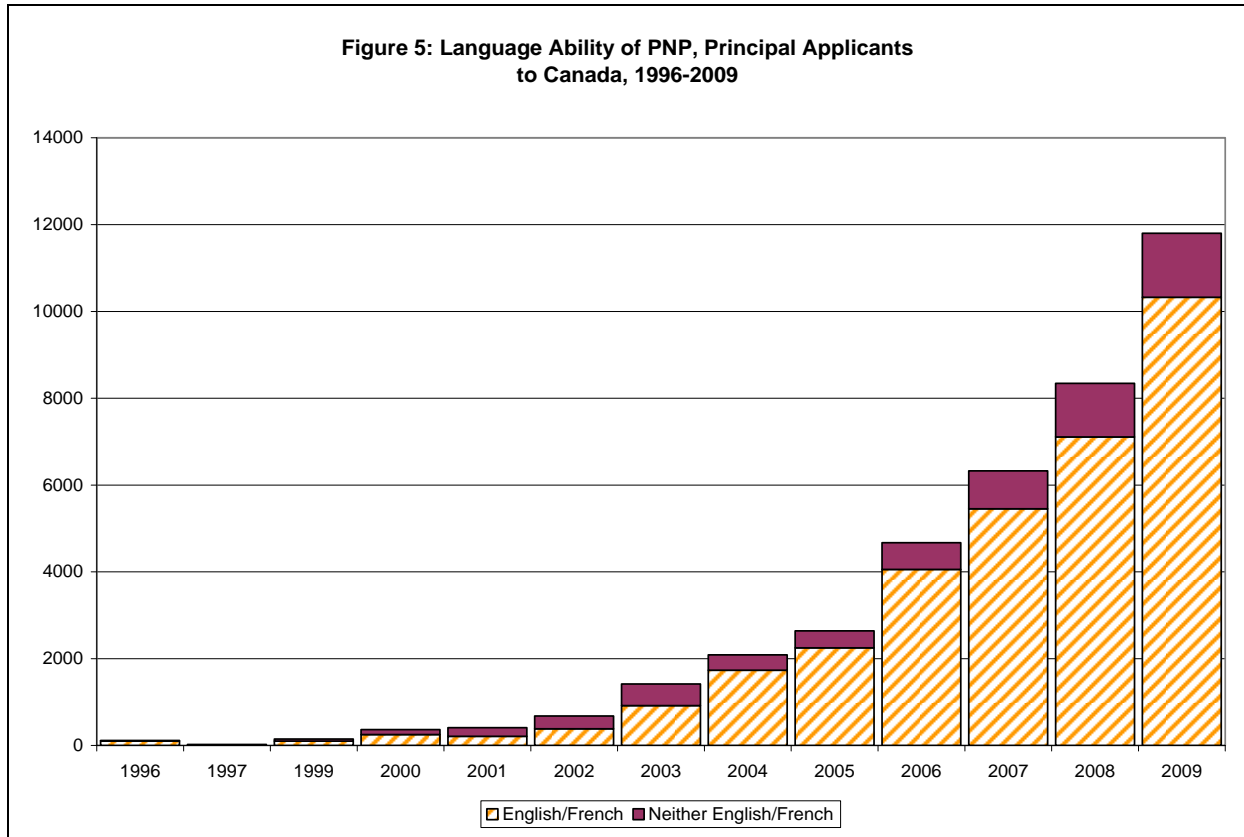


Table 10: Language Ability of Provincial Nominee Program, Principal Applicants to Canada, 1996-2009

%	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
English/French	90.5	95.7	67.5	68.2	51.7	56.5	64.9	83.1	85.2	86.8	86.2	85.2	87.5	84.3
Neither English/French	9.5	(n/a)	32.5	31.8	48.3	43.5	35.1	16.9	14.8	13.2	13.8	14.8	12.5	15.7
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (N)	116	23	151	368	410	680	1,417	2,086	2,643	4,672	6,328	8,343	11,801	39,038

(n/a): Number has been suppressed because it is less than 10 cases

Figure 5 and Table 10 show the language ability recorded for PNP principal applicants on their landing cards upon arrival. The data from the late 1990s can be largely disregarded, given the very small numbers involved, but some striking patterns are evident among the larger numbers of arrivals after 2002. In particular, the early years of the program saw large numbers of PNP immigrants arriving with little capacity in either English or French. The percentage of arrivals without capacity in one of the official languages has declined, but even in 2009, over 12 per cent of arrivals fell into this category. This is a concern, as it suggests a sizeable minority would face a significant challenge in navigating their rights and responsibilities in workplaces and in Canadian society in general.

CONCLUSIONS

There are limitations to the data reported here, since the dataset used provides only a static snapshot of PNP immigrants at the time of their arrival. It thus tells us nothing about subsequent employment, education or migration trajectories. Nevertheless, the advantage of the dataset is that it records every single immigrant at the time of their arrival, with no errors due to sampling problems. Analysis of the data shows some important patterns:

- The number of immigrants arriving in Canada through Provincial Nominee Programs (PNP) has increased dramatically between 2004-2009. PNP principal applicants and dependents accounted for over 12 per cent of all immigrant landings in 2009.
- Over the last decade, the PNP category has been far more widely used in Western provinces, especially Manitoba. While the program has seen some success in distributing immigrants to non-traditional provincial destinations, the majority intend to settle in major metropolitan areas upon arrival.
- The PNP category has been used by a small but growing number of immigrants to Ontario. Almost 80 per cent of those arriving under the program intended to settle in Toronto.
- Most principal applicants who came to Canada under the PNP from 1996-2009 were of prime working age, and almost three-quarters were men.
- From 1996-2009 the country of last permanent residence of most PNP principal applicants was in the Asia-Pacific region, or in Europe. The Philippines and China, in particular, are important sources of PNP immigrants, together accounting for over 40 per cent of arrivals in 2009.
- Just over 50 per cent of PNP principal applicants had a bachelor's degree (or higher) when they arrived in Canada. This is less than the average for Economic Class immigrants as whole.
- Over the course of the PNP scheme, almost 16 per cent of principal applicants were deemed to speak neither English nor French upon arrival.

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