

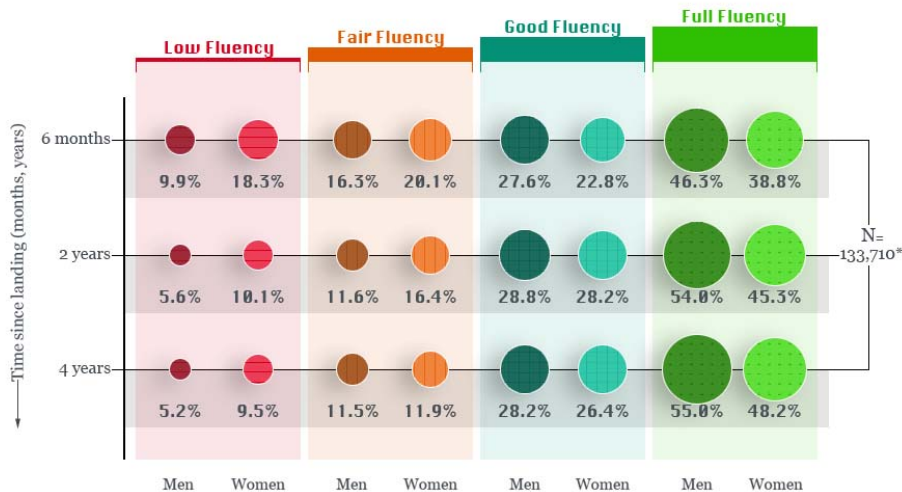
TIEDI Analytical Report 6 – February 2010

DOES SELF-REPORTED ENGLISH AND FRENCH SPEAKING ABILITY AFFECT LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES FOR IMMIGRANTS?

by
**Steven Tufts, Nina Damsbaek, Mai Phan, Philip Kelly, Maryse Lemoine,
 Lucia Lo, John Shields, Valerie Preston**

Alternative Dissemination Formats Presentation
 (Graphics produced by Jeff Priest)
 TIEDI Forum, Schulich School of Business
 June 23, 2010

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by English and French Speaking Ability, 6 months, 2 years and 4 years after landing, Canada



*Note: N has been weighted to reflect the population of immigrants included in the survey.

Table 3: Labour Force Participation by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, 4 years after landing, Canada

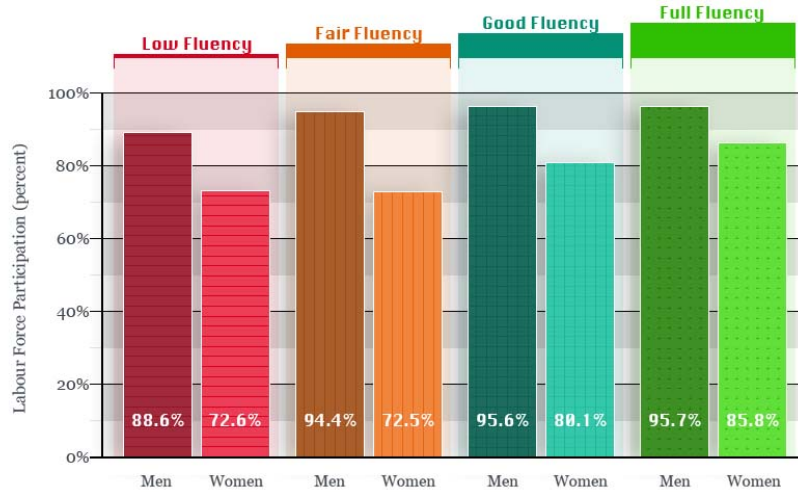


Table 4: Unemployment rate by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, 4 years after landing, Canada

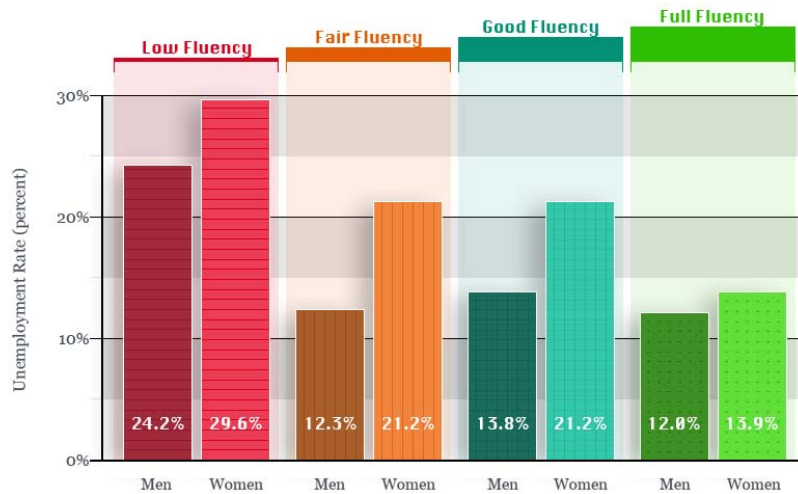


Table 6: Average Months to First Job by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, Canada

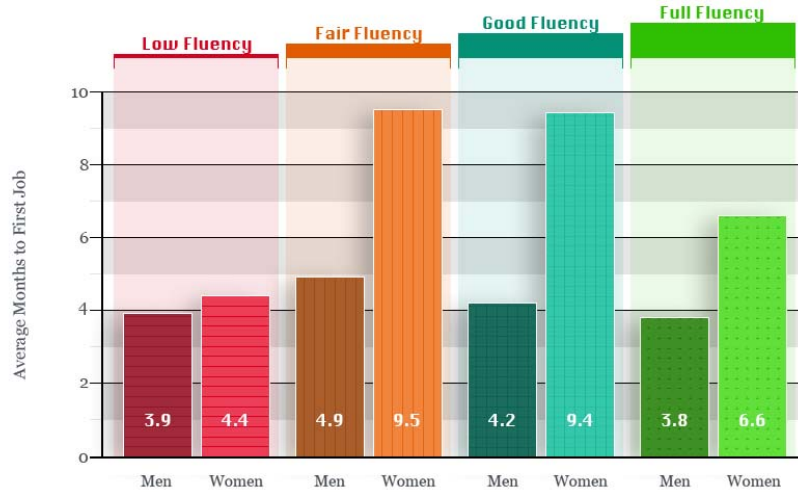


Table 8: Average Hourly Wage (2005 dollars) by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, 4 years after landing, Canada

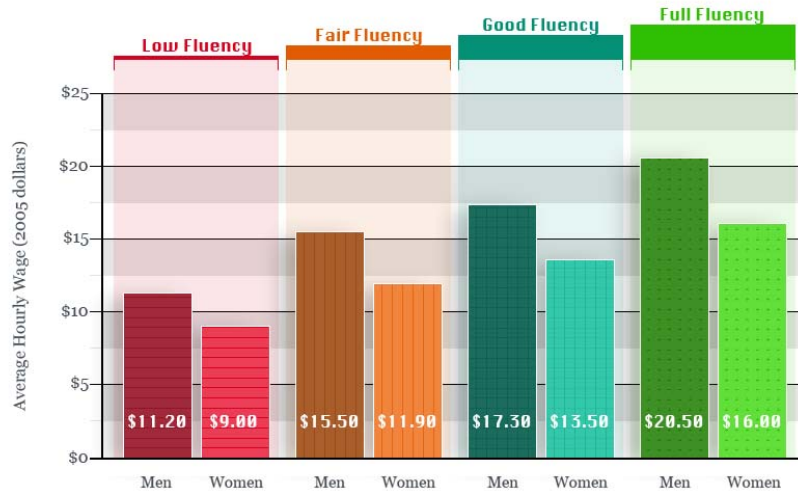
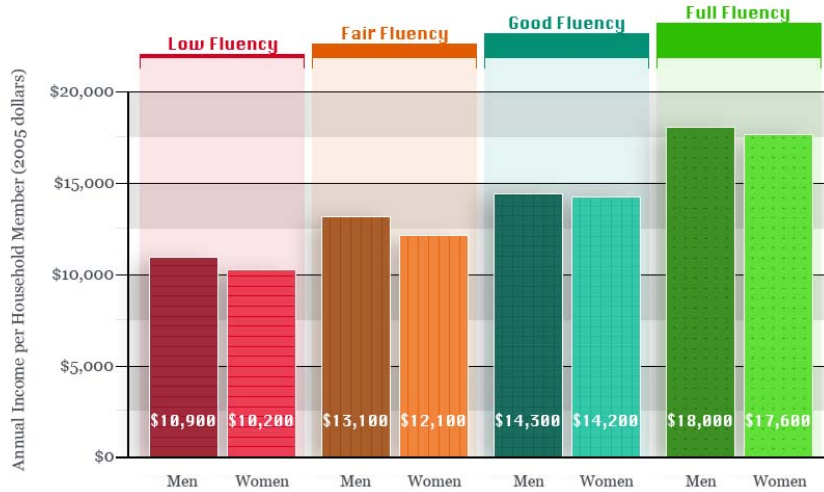


Table 9: Annual Income per household member (2005 dollars) by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, 4 years after landing, Canada



*Note: These figures can be affected by the number and language skills of family members.



Table 10: Percentage of Main Job being related to Training or Field of Study by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, 4 years after landing, Canada

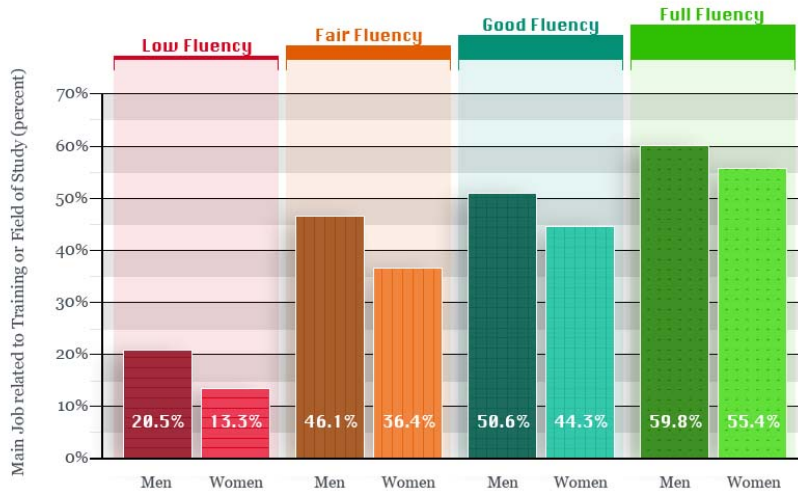
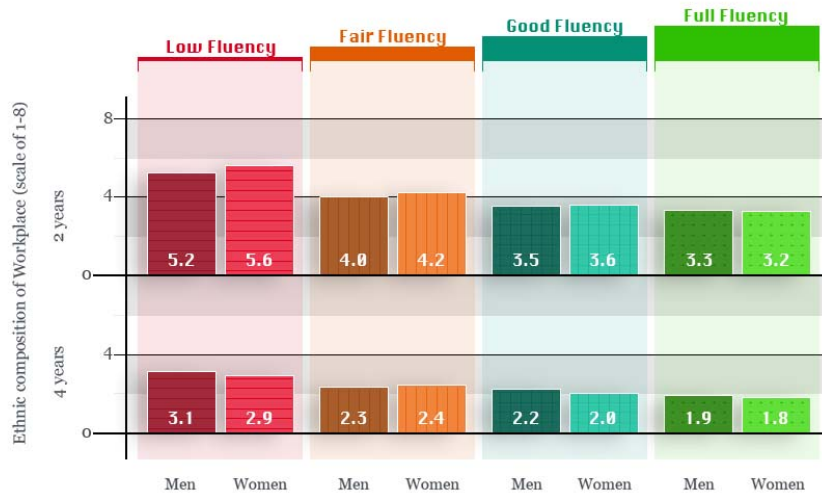


Table 11: Ethnic composition of Workplace by Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability, 2 years and 4 years after landing, Canada



Key Points

- There are few significant differences when it comes to labour force participation based on language skills, but there are significant differences in earnings based on language skills.
- More than half of immigrants who speak English or French very well or fluently find work in a field related to their education / training, compared to less than 1 in 5 for immigrants with poor language skills.
- For both men and women, after 4 years in Canada, poor language ability leads to unemployment rates double those of male and female immigrants who can speak English or French "very well".
- There are substantial differences in workplace ethnic composition according to language skills: immigrants with poorer spoken English or French are more likely to work with a higher proportion of people of their own cultural/ethnic group.
- Immigrant women fare worse than their male counterparts, both over time and across language skills, in all measured labour market outcomes. Gender differences are accentuated for women with poorer language skills, while those with strong language skills have outcomes closer to their male counterparts.

Adapted from the February 2010 Report "Does Self-Reported English and French Speaking Ability Affect Labour Market Outcomes for Immigrants?"
By Steve Tuohy, Steve Donohue, Xiaolin, Philip Kelly, Merve Lemanur, Leticia Lu, John Martin, Valerie Perron

Research Question:

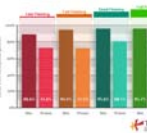
What is the labour market performance (in terms of income, participation rate, unemployment rate, job tenure, employment rate, jobless spells, job match with relevant training, and workplace ethnic composition) for immigrants based on their English and French language speaking ability?

There are five significant differences when it comes to labour force participation based on language skills, but there are significant differences in earnings based on language skills.

Table 1: Participation in employment by gender and language skills



Table 2: Income by participation in employment by gender and language skills



For both men and women, after 4 years in Canada, poor language ability leads to unemployment rates.

double those of male and female immigrants who can speak English or French "very well"

Table 3: Unemployment rate by gender and language skills



Table 4: Income by participation in employment by gender and language skills



Table 5: Income by participation in employment by gender and language skills

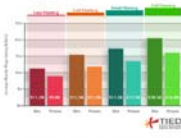
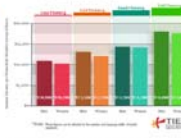


Table 6: Income by participation in employment by gender and language skills



Immigrant women speaking English or French very well or fluently have labour outcomes much closer to those of non-immigrants with good language skills than immigrant women with poorer language skills.

Speaking English or French very well or fluently narrowed the gender gap in terms of participation rates, unemployment rates, duration of jobless spells and relevance of main job.

Table 7: Income by participation in employment by gender and language skills

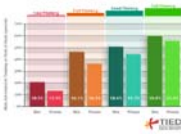
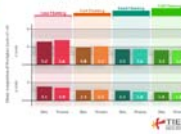


Table 8: Income by participation in employment by gender and language skills



More than half of immigrants who speak English or French very well or fluently had work in a field related to their education or training, compared to less than 1 in 3 for immigrants with poor language skills.

There are substantial differences in workplace ethnic composition according to language skills: immigrants with poorer spoken English or French are more likely to work with a higher proportion of people of their own cultural or ethnic group.