

Distr.
GENERAL

CES/SEM.42/22/Add.1/Rev.1
1 May 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROTAT)

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

Joint ECE-EUROSTAT-ESCWA work session
on Migration Statistics*
(Geneva, 8-10 May 2000)

Topic 3

Stock Data on Canadian Immigration*

by M.V. George (member of the Task Force from Statistics Canada)

1. Canadian censuses provide the bulk of the stock data on immigration to Canada. The data collected can be classified as (a) lifetime immigration of the foreign born; (b) landed immigrant population by year of arrival; and (c) immigration from abroad during a specified period of time prior to the census date. An attempt is made in this document to briefly describe the census stock data on immigration, and touch upon supplementary sources of stock data, and other data sources on inflows and outflows, not covered by the flow data on immigration.

Immigration of the Foreign Born and Landed Immigrant Population by Year of Immigration

2. In the 1996 Census, responses to four questions (Questions 13,14, 15, and 16) asked of a 20 percent sample of the population provide the basic data on country of birth, citizenship, and landed immigrant status of the population by year of immigration to Canada. The questions asked were the following:

- Q.13. Where was this person born?
- Q.14. Of what country is this person a citizen?
- Q.15. Is this person now, or has this person ever been, a landed immigrant?
- Q.16. In what year did this person first become a landed immigrant?

* The documentation for this work session will be processed as for seminars.

3. Question 13 has been a traditional question in all the decennial censuses from 1871, and in the quinquennial censuses of 1986 and 1996. Questions 14 and 16 have been asked in all the decennial censuses, from 1901, and in the quinquennial censuses of 1986 and 1996. Question 15 was asked for the first time in 1991, and then in 1996.

4. A landed immigrant is defined as "a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities" (Statistics Canada, 1999, p.25). Landed immigrants are also entitled to obtain citizenship after 3 years, and they belong to the long-term immigrant-category. Answers to question 13 by persons born outside Canada according to country of birth provide the information on the number of persons who have immigrated to Canada over the years and who still live in Canada on the census date (lifetime immigrants). The data collected on foreign-born population did not include temporary foreign residents until the 1991 Census. The countries of birth reported refer to the boundaries at the time of the census.

5. Responses to the question on citizenship provide the information on citizenship status of the total target population, including immigrants. The sum of the foreign born non-Canadian citizens (excluding non-permanent residents), and the naturalized Canadian citizens constitutes the immigrant population. Persons born outside Canada who are

* Prepared for the joint ECE-EUROSTAT Work Session on Migration Statistics, Geneva, May 8-10, 2000.

Canadian citizens by birth are excluded from the immigrant category. They were born outside Canada to Canadian parents who are included in the non-immigrant population, i.e., Canadian citizens by birth.

6. The landed immigrant status question, in conjunction with the citizenship question provides information on non-immigrant population (Canadian citizens by birth), the immigrant population (landed immigrants), and the non-permanent-residents (NPR). The NPRs consist of refugee claimants and holders of student authorizations, employment authorizations and Ministers' permits, as well as family members born abroad and living with them.

7. From the question on year of first immigration (the year landed immigrant status was first obtained), the information on the volume of immigration (for surviving immigrants) for specified past periods is obtained. Actual year of immigration data are available only for the 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses. Due to processing restrictions, the 1971 Census and earlier censuses provided only pre-defined periods of immigration. The question asked since the 1991 Census was the year of landing, that is, the year a person received his/her landed immigrant status. Prior to the 1991 Census, the question asked was the year of immigration, the year in which the respondent first immigrated to Canada. There is a limitation to asking a year of landing question, as it does not capture the time of first arrival, or year of arrival. A growing number of immigrants now reside in Canada as non-permanent residents for several years before obtaining their permanent resident status. An additional variable, viz., age at immigration is derived based on year of immigration, year of birth, and an estimated month of immigration.

8. Age at immigration data were derived for the 1981, 1986, 1991, and 1996 Censuses. This variable is especially useful to distinguish between persons who immigrated as children and those who immigrated as adults.

Migration from Abroad During a Specified Period

9. Data on immigration can also be obtained from the 1996 Census internal migration questions, "Where did this person live 1- year ago, that is, on May 14, 1995?" (Question 22); and "Where did this person live 5- years ago, that is, on May 14, 1991?". Since the one year mobility question was asked only in the 1991 and 1996 censuses, the immigration data for 1-year prior to the census are available only for these two censuses. Immigration data for 5-years prior to the census are available for the censuses, 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996. Persons 1- year of age and over who were enumerated but lived outside Canada 1- year ago would be classified as immigrants during the 1- year period. Persons 5- years of age and over enumerated but lived outside Canada 5- years ago would be classified as immigrants during the 5- year period. Since the respondents were asked to write the name of the "country" of residence for both questions, the information on immigrants from these questions could be obtained by the country of residence 1- year ago, and 5- years ago.

Appraisal of the Data

10. The stock data collected from the questions on nativity, citizenship, landed immigrant status, and year/period of immigration provide information on "net lifetime immigration of the foreign born only, i.e., net immigration over the lifetime of the population enumerated". Foreign-born persons who returned to live abroad or who died prior to the census date are excluded. Surviving immigrants are counted only once even though they have moved to the country more than once in a lifetime.

11. The derivation of the immigrant population was slightly different in 1991 and 1996, compared with the earlier censuses. This was because of the addition of the new direct question on landed immigrant status, which was to identify the immigrant population since the census was expanded to include non-permanent residents. The response to the new question in conjunction with the citizenship question provided the total immigrant population (persons immigrating to Canada at the time of the census, or those who had ever been landed immigrants, including Canadian citizens by naturalization) as of the census date. The immigrant population thus obtained is analogous to the stock of long-term immigrants, as defined by the U.N. recommendations (United Nations, 1998).

12. The stock of non-permanent residents (NPR), as defined earlier, was derived in the 1991 and 1996 censuses. The number of non-permanent residents was obtained by adding the persons who are not Canadian citizens by birth and those who answered "No" to the landed immigrant status question. According to the U.N. recommendations, the NPR population belongs to the category of either short-term or long-term immigrants. Comparison of the NPR data from census with the flow data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is affected by the inclusion of dependents in the former and their exclusion in the latter. Further, the number of NPR from census stock data is generally lower than that of the flow data from CIC due to high undercount of this group in the census. Hence, for population estimation purposes, the NPR data from census are adjusted to correspond with the flow data.

13. The possibility of deriving the data on age at immigration from the censuses since 1981 makes the immigration stock data richer for analysis purposes. Further, comparison of census data on immigrant population by year of arrival with the corresponding flow data on immigrants collected at time of arrival, permits an estimation of the number of immigrants who have left the country (return migrants).

14. The data on the number of migrants from abroad from the 1- year and 5- year migration questions cover only the survivors of immigrants who arrived during the 1- year and 5- year periods prior to the

census. Thus, the number of immigrants excludes those who died after immigration and those who returned to the country of origin during 1- year and 5- year periods. Also excluded are the immigrant children who were born during the 1- year and 5- year periods. However, unlike the data from Questions 13, 14, 15 and 16, the data from the 1- year and 5- year migration questions include the Canadian-born persons, foreign-born immigrants, and non-permanent residents.

15. The data on foreign born by country of birth will be available for almost all the countries in the world. The data were cross-classified by various demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population which would permit detailed analysis of the characteristics of immigrants and the impact of immigration on the composition of the population.

Comparison With Flow Data

16. In comparing the stock data on immigrant population from the census, and the flow data on immigrants collected at the time of arrival by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the following differences between the two data sources may be noted. Information on where immigrants come from may be obtained from data on "country of birth", "country of last permanent residence", and "country of citizenship". Unlike the stock data from census which identify the source of immigrants by country of birth or country of citizenship, the flow data are based on country of last permanent residence. Many immigrants come to Canada from countries other than their countries of birth or citizenship. Thus, there are difficulties in comparing data on country of origin based on different definitions of origin.

17. Data on the characteristics of immigrants pose another problem of comparability. While all the flow data on immigrants with the exception of that on occupation refer to the characteristics of immigrants at the time of migration, the census data refer to the characteristics at the time of the census. The data on occupation of immigrants according to the flow data refer to "intended occupation" rather than to "actual" occupation at the time of leaving the country of previous residence.

18. Comparability of immigration data derived from the mobility question is affected by the difference in the time period used, as these data are available in census years (depending upon the census date) and not in calendar years. However, the landed immigrant data, available in calendar years, are comparable with the flow data. A more serious limitation is the differences in the reported and actual time of arrival of immigrants. A number of immigrants, especially asylum seekers and non-permanent residents, have obtained landed immigrant status after living in Canada for several months/years. The actual arrival of such people predates the time when they are recorded as immigrants. In the census, these persons were to report the year they received landed immigrant status and not the year they first took up residence in Canada. The integration of these persons begins at the time of arrival in Canada, not at the time they receive their landed immigrant status. Hence, the census does not fully capture the integration process/period of persons who have lived in Canada prior to obtaining resident status.

Compliance of Data With the U.N. Recommendations

19. As in past censuses, the 1996 Census data on immigration (information from Questions 13, 14, 15 and 16) are cross-tabulated by the relevant demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population. Since the coding of the variables is done in great detail and the data files are available in machine readable form, additional tabulations tailored to user requirements are possible using the special retrieval system. The census questions on place of residence 1- year ago and 5- years ago are basically mobility questions for collecting data on internal migration and so the information on immigrants from abroad de-

rived from responses to these questions is not generally cross tabulated by socio-economic variables. However, they can be cross-tabulated in greater detail according to user requirements.

20. The data collected in the 1996 Census, based on the four questions as discussed, provide the stock of the long-term immigrant population by year of immigration, as defined by the United Nations¹. The data on non-permanent residents (NPR) can also be derived.

21. The immigrant stock data, as recommended by the United Nations (1998), cover the following topics: country of birth, country of citizenship, period/year of arrival, sex, age, marital status, educational attainment, economic activity status, employment status, industry, and ability to speak official language(s). Data are collected on all these recommended topics in the 1991 and 1996 Censuses of Canada. Hence, census stock data on immigration cross-tabulated by these topics can be made available, as recommended by the United Nations (1998, pp. 89-90), which will permit in-depth analysis of immigration. As mentioned earlier, the census data on these variables refer to the census date and not the time of migration.

22. Further, by combining the census stock data and CIC flow data on non-permanent residents (NPR), it is possible to derive estimates of stock data on NPR by duration of residence in Canada. NPR is a depleting stock which changes due to three factors: (i) out-flows abroad; (ii) out flows to landed immigrant population; and (iii) deaths among NPR. Therefore, NPR in year $t_{+1} = NPR$ t + net change in NPR, including new inflows of NPR, during t to t_{+1} . Based on the information on duration of residence of the NPR, including new in flows of NPR, it is possible to derive estimates of NPR according to the U.N. recommendations of long-term and short-term immigrants².

Other Data Sources on Immigration

23. In addition to the Canadian census, there are two other potential data sources on the immigrant population in Canada. The first is the Longitudinal Immigration Database, which links immigration and taxation administrative records into a comprehensive source of data on the labour market behavior of the immigrant population in Canada. The database currently covers the period 1980 to 1985, and will be updated annually. Secondly, a new data initiative is the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, which will be designed to improve understanding of how immigrants adjust to life in Canada. The proposal is to interview recent immigrants three times: six months, two years, and four years after immigrating to Canada, with a sample size of upwards of 20,000 recent immigrants. This design will allow researchers to conduct detailed analyses of the factors influencing how new immigrants adapt to life in Canada during the first few critical years in their new country.

Other Data Sources on Outflows and Inflows

24. Data on outflows from Canada (emigration) are not collected. However, Demography Division of Statistics Canada estimates total emigration from Canada for population estimation purposes. It has

¹ The stock of international migrants are "the set of persons who have ever changed their country of usual residence, that is to say, persons who have spent at least one year of their lives in a country other than the one in which they live at the time the data are gathered" (United Nations, 1998, p. 83).

² Short-term migrants are "defined as persons who move to a country other than that of their usual residence for a period of at least 3 months but less than a year (12 months)" (United Nations, 1998, p. 10).

three constituents: (i) permanent emigration; (ii) persons temporarily abroad; and (iii) return emigration. A variety of techniques and data sources are used for estimating them.

Emigration

25. Emigration is estimated from two data sources: (i) the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of the U.S. Department of Justice; (ii) administrative data gathered in implementing the federal Child Tax Benefit Program (CTB) in Canada. The former source is used in estimating emigration to the United States, whereas the latter, gathered by the Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) is used in estimating emigration to all other countries (for estimation details, see Statistics Canada, 2000, p. 201). Emigrants estimated are persons leaving Canada who intend to remain abroad permanently (flow data on "long-term emigrants").

Canadians Living Temporarily Abroad

26. These are persons with no usual place of residence in Canada and are classified as "persons temporarily abroad". An estimate of net change in the number of persons living temporarily abroad is now taken into account in the Canadian population estimates. Data from the Reverse Record Check (RRC), the most important of the Census Coverage Error Studies, are used to estimate the net change in the number of persons living temporarily abroad (for further details, see Statistics Canada, 2000, p. 202). Since the RRC is a sample survey, the statistics on persons temporarily abroad from this source are stock data.

Return Emigration

27. Return emigration is measured as persons returning to Canada, after having previously been classified as emigrants. The flow data from the Child Tax Benefit files (CTB) are used in estimating returning emigrants. (for further details, see Statistics Canada, 2000, p. 202). It is difficult to categorize returning emigrants as "long-term" and "short-term".

References

- George, M.V. 1978. Place of Birth and Citizenship of Canada's Population. 1971 Census of Canada Profile Study, (Catalogue 99-711), Statistics Canada, Ottawa.
- United Nations. 1998. Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. Revision 1, Statistical Papers Series M No. 58, Revision 1, Statistics Division, New York.
- Statistics Canada (1996). Census 1996, Questionnaire 2B, Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada (1999). 1996 Census Dictionary. 1996 Census of Canada, (Catalogue 92-351-UPE), Ottawa.
- Statistics Canada (2000). Annual Demographic Statistics. Demography Division, (Catalogue no. 91-213), Ottawa.

Acknowledgements:

Comments and suggestions by Gilles Montigny, Jane Badets, François Nault, and Edward Shin in preparing this document are acknowledged with thanks.

MIGRANT STOCK

For each of the following categories, please specify the potential data source in order to identify the number of persons or to estimate the volume of that stock

Check if the whole population is concerned and detect all sub-population that is not concerned (e.g. dependants and employees)

Please indicate the time of the year for each migrants stocks (e.g. 30th June, 1st December, 31 December).

Give an indication on the reliability of the data collection (good = more than 90%, medium from 50 to 90% or low below 50%)

Is there a systematic link between the data collection on migrants stocks and the related flow statistics ?

CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD

NON CITIZENS LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

Categories of migrants stock

Canadian Censuses from 1871 to 1996

(for details see the attached note on stock data)

For education and training	R.1
For employment on a permanent base (long term)	S.1
For employment on a temporary or seasonal base	T.1
International civil servants	U.1
With free establishment	V.1
For settlement	W.1
For family reunification or family formation	X.1
Admitted refugees	Y.1
For seeking asylum	Z.1
Diplomatic or consular status	AA.1
Military personnel	AB.1
Other migrant stock (please specify)	AC.1
TOTAL MIGRANT STOCKS: (1) total landed immigrants,	RRC AD.1 Persons temporarily abroad (total only)

Census: R.2 part of NPR (student); can be retrieved.
N.A. S.2
Census: Part of NPR (work visa holder); NA
Excluded from the census
N.P.
Census: Landed immigrants (including naturalized citizens)
Census: Part of landed immigrants (NA separately)
Census: Part of landed immigrants (NA separately)
Census: Part of NPR (refugee claimants); may be retrieved as residual category.
Excluded from the census
Excluded from the census
Immigrants sample surveys (eg., Longitudinal survey of immigrants)
Census

Codes:

and NPR and their dependants and born abroad and living with them; (2) citizens temporarily abroad. NA = Not available

COMMENTS: categories of migrant stock from Canadian censuses include (i) landed immigrants (ii) non-permanent residents (NPR); and (iii) persons born abroad 1-year and -5 year prior to 1991 and 1996 censuses (mobility questions). The NPR refers to persons who at the time of the census, held a student or employment authorization, Ministers permit, or who were refugee claimants, as well as family members born abroad and living with them.

The population universe does not include the following: government representatives of another country and their families with them; members of the armed forces of another country visiting Canada temporarily (persons who are on visitor's permit).

The migrant stock data refer to the census date. The 1996 Census reference date was May 14, 1996. The census stock data on immigration are "very good".

The estimated net census undercount was 2.8% in 1996. See the note on "stock data on Canadian immigration" for more details of the data and their comparison with the flow statistics. The potential data source for estimating the stock of citizens living abroad is the censuses of other countries which collect data on foreign born population, international passenger surveys, and the U.N. Demographic Year Book.

RRC refers to reverse record check conducted by Statistics Canada to estimate the extent of net-census undercount after each census. It is a sample survey check which yields also the stock of persons temporarily abroad, and an estimate of permanent emigration. The stock of persons temporarily abroad can be broken down by long-term emigrants according to the U.N. recommendations.

COUNTRY: Canada

Person to be contacted for clarification: M.V. George

Addendum to Submission by CIC

The following table will help to the implementation of the recently revised recommendations on statistics of international migration

FLOW OR MIGRATION DATA

For each of the following cells please give the potential data source in your country (e.g. population register, census, foreign register, survey...) and the body responsible for the data collection (Ministry of Interior, Justice, Education...).

Note if the time constraint is respected as described in box 1 on page 10 (3 months or 1 year)

Check if the whole population is concerned and specify all sub-population that are not included

Give an indication on the reliability of the data collection (e.g. good = more than 90%, medium from 50 to 90% or low below 50%)

INFLOWS - ARRIVALS

Categories of inflows in the country (numbers are related to box 2, p. 14)

	SHORT - TERM MIGRATION			LONG - TERM MIGRATION			TOTAL MIGRATION		
	Non-citizens		TOTAL	Non-citizens		TOTAL	Non-citizens		TOTAL
	Citizens	citizens		Citizens	citizens		Citizens	citizens	
(9,10) Entry linked to education and training	A.1	A.2	A.3	A.4	A.5	A.6	A.7	A.8	A.9
(11) Entry linked to employment	B.1	B.2							
(12) Entry of international civil servants	C.1	C.2							
(13) Entry with free establishment	D.1	D.2							
(14) Entry for settlement	E.1	E.2							
(15) Entry linked to family reunification or family formation	F.1	F.2							
(17) Entry to seek asylum		G.2							
(16,18) Other entries (please specify)	H.1	H.2							
Total entries	I.1	I.2		CTB: data:		CTB data:			

OUTFLOWS - DEPARTURES

Categories of outflows in the country (numbers are related to box 2, p. 14)

	SHORT - TERM MIGRATION			LONG - TERM MIGRATION			TOTAL MIGRATION		
	Non-citizens		TOTAL	Non-citizens		TOTAL	Non-citizens		TOTAL
	Citizens	citizens		Citizens	citizens		Citizens	citizens	
(9,10) Departure linked to education and training	J.1								
(11) Departure linked employment	K.1								
(12) Departure of international civil servants	L.1								
(13) Departure with free establishment	M.1								
(14) Departure for settlement	N.1								
(15) Departure linked to family reunion or family formation	O.1								
(16,18) Other departures (please specify)	P.1								
(17) Departure of a former asylum seeker		Q.2							

TOTAL

(1) Total return migration (long-term). Not possible to distinguish between short term and long term. Return migration is estimated from Child Tax Benefit files (CTB)

(2) Emigration (long-term). Not possible to distinguish between long-term and short-term. They are measured using data from INS of the U.S., and CTB files.

Country: Canada

Person to be contacted for clarification: M.V. George