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Immigration and the population of Canada: The 2000-2010 decade in historical context

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Purpose:
- role of immigration and immigration policy in the population history of Canada.
- comparisons to US
- implications for Canada and for immigrants

Context:
- migration transition
- two periods of globalization
- mobile populations and demand for labour in the largest cities
- transnational perspectives: networks and institutions

Phases of Canadian immigration

Pre-contact population

Charbonneau proposes the figure of 300,000.
It took almost two centuries, 1608-1790, for the European population to reach this figure.

New France: 1608-1760

25,000 immigrants had spent at least one winter in the new colony
14,000 settled permanently
10,000 had descendants in the colony
Population in 1760: 70,000

British colony: 1760-1860

1805: balance in favor of English compared to French
Population in 1860: 3,230,000

Net out migration: 1860-1896

1861-1901: 1.5 million total arrivals and 2.0 million departures
Population in 1901: 5,371,000

First wave of post-Confederation immigration: 1897-1913

1901-1921: 3.0 million total arrivals and 1.8 million departures

Interlude: 1914-1945

1921-1941: 1.3 million total arrivals and 1.2 million departures

Post-war white immigration: 1946-1961

1941-1961: 2.1 million total arrivals (average of 105,000 per year or about 0.7 immigrants per 100 population).

Diversification of origins: 1962-1988

1961-1986: 3.9 million total arrivals (average of 157,000 per year
or about 0.7 immigrants per 100 population).

Sustained high immigration: 1989-present

-neo-liberal
-no longer a reduction when unemployment is high
-increasing emphasis on the economic class of immigrants, and later the admission of temporary workers.
1986-2011: 5.9 million total arrivals (average of 237,000 per year or 0.8 immigrants per 100 population).

Populations of Canada and United States of America, 1760-2010

Date	Canada	U.S	U.S/Canada
	----------Thousands----------		
1760*	70	1,268	18.1
1790*	260	3,172	12.2
1860	3,230	31,443	9.7
1870	3,625	39,819	11.0
1880	4,255	50,156	11.8
1890	4,779	62,948	13.2
1900	5,301	75,994	14.3
1910	6,988	91,972	13.2
1920	8,556	106,711	12.5
1930	10,208	122,755	12.0
1940	11,381	131,669	11.6
1950	13,712	150,697	11.0
1960	17,870	179,823	10.1
1970	21,297	203,302	9.5
1980	24,516	226,546	9.2
1990	27,697	254,865	9.0
2000	30,689	287,842	9.3
2010	33,890	317,641	9.4

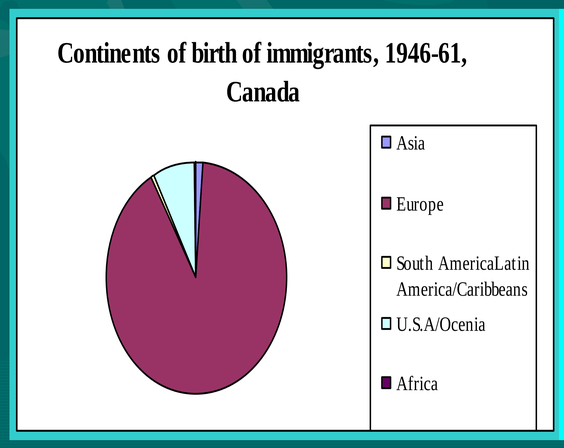
Since the early 1900s, Canada attracted a larger Share of immigrants coming to the Americas: US was 14.3 times the size of Canada in 1900, compared to 9.0 times in 1990.

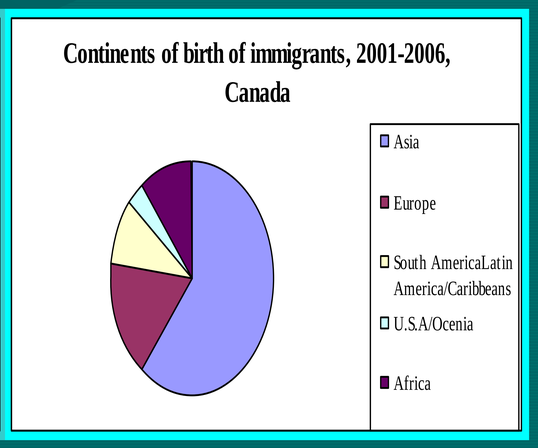
Measures of education, employment, labor force and income, by place of birth and immigration cohort, Canada, 2006

	--------Persons 25-64---------			------45-54------	
	Percent employed	Percent in labor force	Post secondary and above	Index of Income	Index of Income
				Males	Females
Canadian born	76.2	81.0	58.9	1.00	1.00
All foreign born	72.9	78.1	64.3	0.84	0.87
before 1950	52.6	54.4	53.8	---	---
1950-1954	62.1	64.6	58.0	1.46	1.18
1955-1959	68.5	70.6	53.6	1.17	1.23
1960-1964	65.5	68.0	49.7	1.19	1.11
1965-1969	68.3	71.1	58.6	1.06	1.15
1970-1974	73.8	77.0	61.7	1.02	0.99
1975-1979	78.1	81.4	62.5	0.91	1.01
1980-1984	78.3	82.5	58.9	0.87	0.92
1985-1989	77.1	81.7	58.9	0.84	0.86
1990-1994	74.4	79.5	59.5	0.72	0.74
1995-1999	72.8	78.4	67.6	0.66	0.66
2000-2004	67.9	75.1	74.5	0.53	0.50

At age 45-64, the average total income of the 1995-1999 Immigration cohort represents 66% of that of the Canadian born at the same ages.

At ages 25-64, compared to the Canadian born, 1995-2004 Immigration cohorts have more education but are less Likely to be employed.





Immigration and population: growth, distribution and age structure

1901-2011 net migration accounted for 32% of population growth.
Significant impact on population distribution, to advantage of West, then Ontario and British Columbia.
The immigration of the period 1951-2001 made the population younger only by 0.8 years.

Socio-cultural and socio-economic impact of immigration

By continents of origin, the arrivals of 1946-61 were 97.5% from Europe, US or Australia, but by 2001-06 the majority were from Asia (60.5%), with 19.8% from Europe, US or Oceania.

Discussion

In hindsight, it would appear that the post-war immigrants of 1946-61 benefited not only from the growing economy in which they arrived, but also from a previous period where immigration levels were low.

Benoît Laplante : There is a growing concern that the current level of immigration cannot be sustained if the economic integration of immigrants remains an objective