

ATLANTIC RESEARCH GROUP
on ECONOMICS of IMMIGRATION,
AGING *and* DIVERSITY**WHO COMES, WHO STAYS, WHO LEAVES NOVA SCOTIA, AND WHY?**

A BACKGROUND REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rate of increase of Nova Scotia's population has declined almost continuously since 1945, and the resident population has been aging faster than the rest of Canada. Both of these trends affect the pace of economic activity in the province. To counter the threats to overall population growth there has been an increase in the number of international immigrants coming to the province, and more of these have been staying. Larger provinces still are the main targets for immigrants to Canada, however, which have established communities of earlier settlers and may offer greater opportunities for employment and enterprise.

This is the first of a three part study to examine trends in immigration to Nova Scotia. Subsequent parts will examine the literature to identify possible reasons surrounding location choice, while a third will be a survey of a target population of 3000 immigrants in Nova Scotia to determine their specific location decisions. The two earlier parts will essentially set the stage for the important third part. The entire study is intended to help governments, communities, settlement associations and business groups design policies to attract and retain new immigrants. This report summarizes findings from the first part of the project, based on data obtained from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Statistics Canada, providing context for subsequent investigation.

Deaths began to exceed births in Nova Scotia in the early 2010s. With no natural increase, any population growth must depend on movement to the province either from other parts of Canada or from overseas. The latter of these has become the more important, contributing to modest increases in overall population since 2010, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

The effects of population decline and aging on economic activity include restructuring of markets to reflect an aging population, fewer people in labour force age groups which reduces available skills, relying on fewer people of working age to pay for social services and health care for seniors, a shrinking market for goods and services which affects business investment decisions, a decline in population-based federal transfers, and a particular impact on rural areas where most resource-based industries reside. There is also the democratic impact of proportionally lower representation in the national Parliament.

The Atlantic Provinces have acted individually and together, and with the federal government, to increase immigrant flows to the region, and to retain more of those who arrive. Provincial Nominee Programs (PNPs) are one important means to this end. They allow provinces to target immigrants to match particular provincial labour market needs.

Immigration is also an important component of the federal-provincial Atlantic Growth Strategy.

Between 2005 and 2017 there was a threefold increase of immigrants who declared Atlantic Canada as their destination, with the largest number choosing Nova Scotia. They came as refugees (to reflect Canada's commitments to humanitarian principles); to reunify close family members with those already living in Canada; and as economic immigrants either to fill gaps in labour markets or to diversify businesses. Economic immigrants have become the dominant class.

Nova Scotia received about 13,000 immigrants between 2011 and 2015, most of these from India, China and the Philippines, with contributions from the United States, Britain, and elsewhere. The province had the highest retention rate in Atlantic Canada, but this still falls short of other parts of the country. Family members and refugees are more likely to remain than economic immigrants. Despite its recent success in attracting immigrants, Nova Scotia can still be regarded as immigrant-scarce, with only six percent of its population foreign-born compared with a national share of more than one-fifth.

Settlement in non-metropolitan areas is particularly important in countering rural decline and maintaining the health of natural resource and agricultural industries. Most immigrants to Nova Scotia gravitate towards Halifax as the main urban centre, but there has been a movement to other smaller centres away from the provincial capital. . In particular, the 2016 census reveals larger numbers of immigrants settling in Annapolis, Cape Breton, Colchester, Hants, Lunenburg and Pictou counties. This may be attributed to participation of these communities in the Community Identified Stream of the Nova Scotia PNP. That stream closed in 2014. Employers across the province are now able to recruit new comers mainly through the Atlantic Immigration Pilot, and work with local settlement providers (SPOs) to facilitate their integration in local communities. SPOs receive their funding from the provincial government. The YMCA also receives provincial funding to provide welcoming services to immigrants moving to rural Nova Scotia.

In 2016 about two-thirds of immigrants who chose to come to Nova Scotia since 2011 were still living there, meaning a loss of about one-third to other provinces. This loss was distributed across the province, in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

Recent data have confirmed earlier findings that immigrants in general are more highly educated than resident non-immigrants in Nova Scotia, indicating that immigration improves the quality of the human capital stock of the province. This may remain just a potential, however, if this higher-quality human capital is not recognized and employed. Although recent immigrants participate more in labour markets (perhaps to get established as early as they can) their unemployment rate is higher than non-immigrants and all immigrants. Immigrants receive lower levels of government payments than non-immigrants.

Retention of immigrants remains a challenge for Nova Scotia, although rates have been improving. The quality of their reception and acceptance in their new home is one reason determining whether immigrants stay, as is an established immigrant community offering the comfort of shared culture or religion, and economic opportunities.

Between 2011 and 2016 almost 47,000 residents of Nova Scotia (aged 15 and up), left the province, mostly to go to Alberta and Ontario. Overall the province had a net loss of about 7000 adults over this period, but this was offset by the arrival of more residents from abroad (both immigrants and non-immigrants) ,for an overall net gain of almost 10,000 to the province. Most adults leaving Nova Scotia went to Alberta. The province had a small net gain from the other Atlantic provinces. A breakdown of the above data by place of birth indicates that there was a net loss of about 5,200 Canadian-born to other parts of Canada between 2011 and 2016, offset by 3,100 Canadian-born coming to the province from outside Canada. About 1,400 more immigrants (foreign-born) moved from the province to elsewhere in Canada than came to the province over the same period, offset by 5,200 new comers coming directly from outside Canada

INTRODUCTION

Over the past ten years, annual immigrant inflows to the province of Nova Scotia have been higher than before, attributed largely to deliberate attempts by governments and communities to attract new settlers. The main motivation behind these attempts has been to address a population growth decline and aging, both of which can slow down economic activity.¹

Most immigrants who come to Canada gravitate towards the larger provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec where there are established resident immigrant communities and more diversified labour markets that offer wider opportunities to new comers and all residents. Smaller provinces, such as Nova Scotia, face difficulties in retaining immigrants who arrive. Two reasons for this are smaller established resident communities and narrower labour market opportunities. In order to address this issue, governments, immigrant settlement organizations, communities, and business groups in smaller provinces have adopted several initiatives to welcome immigrants and to disseminate information about the availability of economic opportunities and other social and natural attributes a province has to offer. These initiatives are showing results as immigrant retention has increased over the past ten years in smaller provinces, including Nova Scotia. However, retention continues to be lower than provinces outside Atlantic Canada.

This study aims to investigate the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of immigrants who decide to come to Nova Scotia, stay in the province, or leave. Systematic research to identify the causes of lower retention of immigrants can provide useful information for future policy design and planning in Nova Scotia in its pursuit of attracting and retaining immigrants. An understanding of these factors and also of the factors determining Nova Scotia as a destination province and making it home is also important if the provincial government is to attract professional and innovative immigrants and ensure that they get the support they need to settle there.²

The study is divided into three parts. The first part will provide background and contextual information by presenting evidence on the socio-economic and demographic profiles of immigrants who came to Nova Scotia between 2011 and 2016 and also of those who have stayed in the province longer. Inter-provincial migration patterns of immigrants and non-immigrants are also investigated in this part of the study. The second part will review the current literature to identify the possible reasons for an individual's reasons to migrate and for his or her location choice. Some major demographic groups among all residents, non-immigrants, and immigrants, who move between Nova Scotia and other Canadian provinces, will be identified using data from 2016 census. Both of these will lead to the important third part of the study, which will focus on investigating the reasons for immigrants' choice of Nova Scotia as the

¹ The 2016 Canadian Population Census recorded a 5% increase in Canadian population since 2011. In Nova Scotia, the population rose by only 0.2%. The census also recorded that about 17% of all Canadians and 20% of Nova Scotians were aged 65 and over.

² These are also the objectives of current provincial immigration strategy.

destination province, whether to stay in the province, or to leave. This part of the study will be based on a survey of a target population of 3000 respondents designed on the basis of the factors identified in current literature, and reviewed in the second part. It will also solicit inputs from different stakeholders including policymakers, settlement organizations, and academics.

Each part of the study, as described above, will culminate in a report presenting the analyses and literature review. The present report is the first of these.

METHODOLOGY USED FOR THIS REPORT

To be consistent with previous literature, “immigrant” in this study refers to all foreign-born individuals who are permanent residents of Canada.

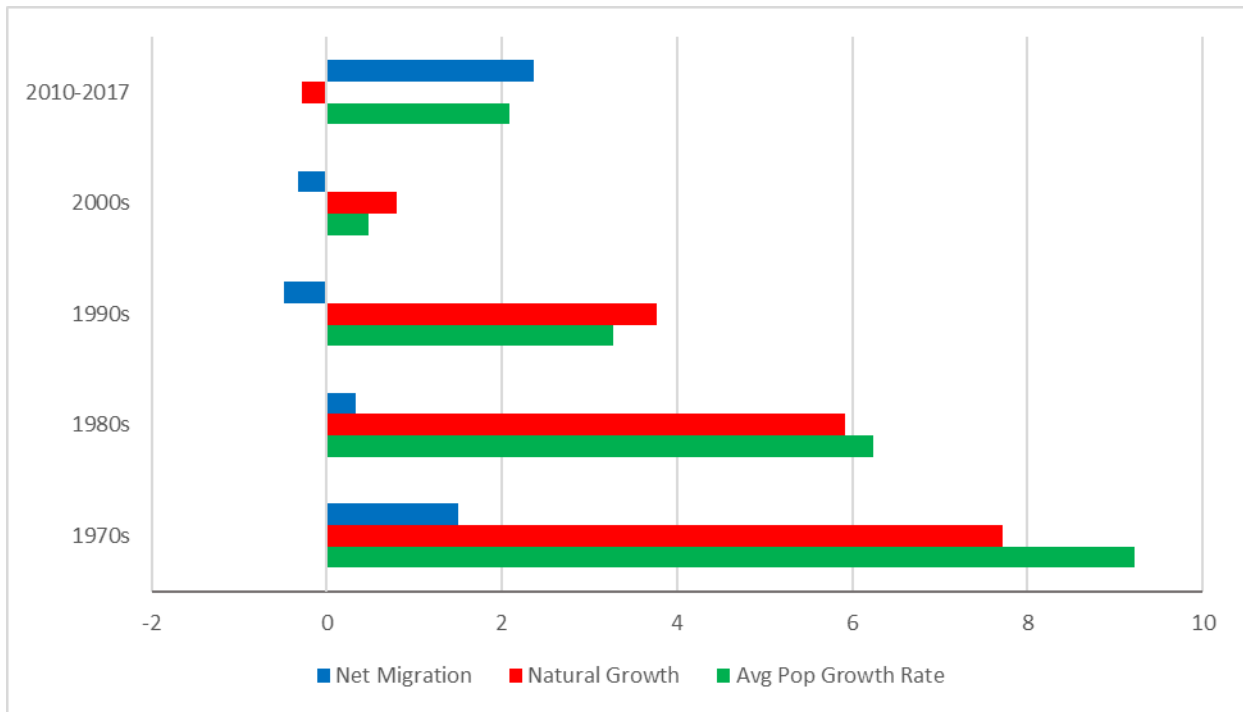
The background analysis conducted in this report is based on a time series of provincial data on *destined* immigrants and 2016 Canadian census data on *resident* immigrants and non-immigrants. Data on destined immigrants are collected by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). These were provided for the purposes of this study by the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration (NSOI) under an agreement with IRCC. The census-based data were purchased directly from Statistics Canada, in customized tabulated form, as microdata files from 2016 census are not yet available for researchers. Some data were also obtained from the websites of these government sources.

The analysis presented in this report primarily uses descriptive tools of statistical analysis. A distinction is made between immigrants destined for Nova Scotia and those who actually resided in the province at the time of 2016 census. Separate data are also analyzed for more recent immigrants, who arrived within five years of the 2016 census. Some parts of the analysis also used data on the non-immigrant population for comparison with immigrants.

SOME DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN NOVA SCOTIA AND THEIR POTENTIAL ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

The rate of population growth in Nova Scotia has been in continuous decline for most of the post-World War II period, the most drastic decline taking place after the 1970s. Net out-migration from the province was a permanent factor in the 1990s and continued in the first decade of current century. This means that to maintain some population growth, the province relied solely on natural increase (births minus deaths). However, this component of the population growth also has declined continuously since the mid-1960s. Since 2010 the natural growth rate has turned negative, but the net migration rate turned positive (more people came to the province than left) after being negative for the previous two decades, which helped increase population growth. Chart 1 shows the trends of the province’s increasing reliance on a net in-migration of people (from other provinces or countries) for population growth since the 1970s.

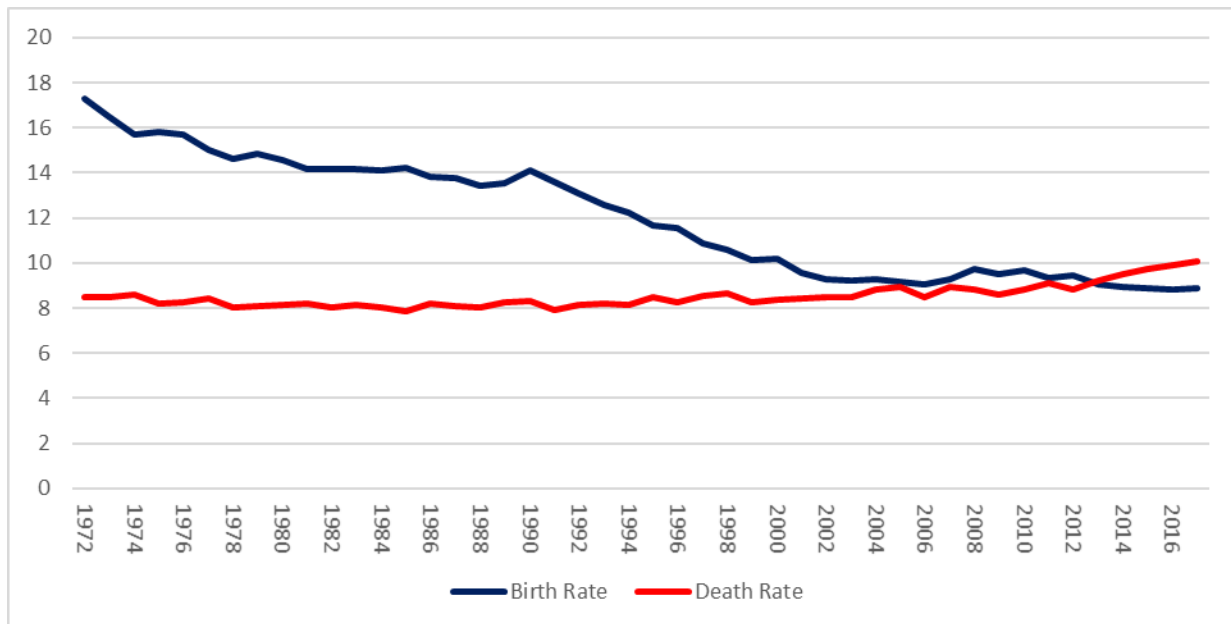
Chart 1: Components of population growth rates in Nova Scotia since 1970s (per thousand persons)



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM tables 051-0001 and 051-0004)

Chart 2 shows that the declining natural population growth rate in Nova Scotia has been due mainly to lower birth rates; death rates remained almost constant over most of the period since the early 1970s. In the early 2010s the birth rate fell below the death rate resulting in a negative natural growth rate of population. Since then the death rate has been rising slowly due to aging of population. Hence, natural growth is unlikely to become a source of population increase in Nova Scotia in the near future unless there is a significant increase in fertility rates.

Chart 2: Birth and death rates, Nova Scotia, 1972-2017 (per thousand persons)



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 051-0004)

Table 1 provides more detailed components of population growth in Nova Scotia in 2009-10 and 2016-17. As a whole, the province had a population increase of 4,894 people in 2009-10 and 5,251 people in 2016-17. About 49 percent of this increase in 2009-10 resulted from international migration (32.4 percent by *net* international migration, i.e., the excess of international in-migrants to the province over out-migrants). In 2016-17, the contribution of international migration to population growth rose to 83 percent (63.5 percent by *net* international migration). While the natural growth in 2009-10 was 794 people, it fell by 1,147 people in 2016-17. In 2009-10, about 31 percent of population growth resulted from net non-permanent residents (mainly including temporary foreign workers and international students), and 12.5 percent from net inter-provincial migration. In 2016-17, 41 percent of population growth was accounted for by net non-permanent residents and 12.3 percent by net inter-provincial migration. To summarize, population growth in Nova Scotia is becoming increasingly dependent on international (temporary and permanent) migration. The contribution of inter-provincial migration towards population has been stable over the past seven years.

Table 1: Components of population growth in Nova Scotia, 2009-10 and 2016-17

Component of population growth	2009-10	2016-17
Births (1)	9,096	8,467
Deaths (2)	8,302	9,614
Immigration (3)	2,413	4,356
Emigration (4)	826	1,022
Net temporary emigration (5)	231	230
Returning emigrants (6)	600	509
Net non-permanent residents (7)	1,532	2,140
Net interprovincial migration (8)	612	645
Population Growth (9) = (1) - (2) + (3) - (4) - (5) + (6) + (7) + (8)	4,894	5,251
Immigrants in population growth % = (3) of (9)	49.31	83

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM database (Table 051-0004).

The slowing of Nova Scotia's natural increase in population has resulted in one of the highest percentage of seniors in its population among all Canadian provinces in 2017 (15.4 percent). The province also has more seniors than youth (aged 15 and younger). Box 1 summarizes some demographic implications for the province in 2026 if current conditions prevail. With these current trends of birth and death rates, Nova Scotia will continue to rely on immigration to maintain positive population growth for a long time.

Box 1 Nova Scotia in 2026 if current conditions prevail

- Population: 895,000, down 4.6 per cent from 2004
- Seniors (65+): up by 70.8 per cent
- Primary and secondary students: down 31.5 per cent
- University-aged population: down 29.8 per cent
- Traditional workforce: three times more rapid drop than population as a whole.

(Source: Population Forum 2010, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2010/02/10/ns-aging-population.html> accessed April 8-2012).

Population decline and population aging potentially can have at least six economic consequences for the province:

1. Population decline can lead to a restructuring of the economy to provide the goods and services demanded by a growing elderly population. However, such restructuring cannot have a long-lasting effect if the death rate continues either to exceed or remain close to the birth rate in the province;
2. An aging population can result in fewer labour force participants, thereby causing shortages of different types of skills demanded by employers in the region. Box 2 cites some examples of emerging skill shortages in Nova Scotia;
3. An aging population can also create increased pressure on a younger labour force to pay for social programs and health care for the elderly (for example, higher contributions to the Canada Pension Plan and higher taxes);
4. Population decline can result in shrinking markets for goods and services, thereby creating an adverse impact on incentives for business investment;
5. Population decline also means a corresponding decline of some federal funds determined by population size, such as social and health care transfers; and
6. As noted for some time, rural Atlantic Canada has been affected most by regional population decline.³ This phenomenon is of concern because most natural resource-based industries are located in rural Atlantic Canada, including Nova Scotia. When populations decline, the cost of public, as well as private, services does not adjust immediately, and there is a point below which base costs cannot go regardless of population size. As a result, the economic feasibility of providing such services becomes questionable. Losses of hospitals and mail and banking services, as well as consolidation of schools in rural Atlantic Canada have become increasingly common. Closure of public and private services further accelerates rural population decline as people move closer to metropolitan areas in search of those services.

³ Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. 2007. Where Have All the New Workers Gone? Why Atlantic Canada's Labour Force Has Stopped Growing and What We Can Do About It? (January 5).

Box 2: Labour Market Outlook for Nova Scotia (2017-2019)

- Over the three-year period 2017-2019, 33,315 job opportunities are expected for Nova Scotia's labour market. Growth in employment tied to industry expansion should be fairly modest, averaging 0.3% per year, contributing to just one in nine of these opportunities.
 - Stronger growth is expected in the Halifax region, which has been the trend in previous years. Halifax should see job growth of nearly 4,200, while regions outside of Halifax are expected to see slight employment reductions of 580 by 2019.
 - Nearly 29,700 job opportunities are forecast as a result of attrition (through deaths and retirements), making it the predominant factor behind opportunities in the province. Given the older age profile of many communities throughout Nova Scotia, the rate of attrition for regions outside Halifax is expected to be higher, averaging 2.5% per year versus 1.9% for the Halifax region.
- Source: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Atlantic Region.

Another consequence of population decline that can also have an indirect adverse economic effect on the province is the weakening of its political representation in the House of Commons. Although the Canadian constitution protects each province from losing seats in the House below 1976 levels, they can be added in provinces where population is increasing. This will result in a declining proportionate representation in provinces with stable or declining populations.

A study published by the C.D. Howe Institute in 2007 noted the imbalance in provincial representation in the House of Commons that has resulted from population imbalance among the provinces.⁴ The study also projected that if the uneven trends in population growth rates across provinces continue, the imbalance in provincial representation will worsen by 2021. As Chart 3 shows, each Atlantic province had fewer than four percent of the total seats in the House of Commons in 1976. By 2021, declining population is projected to weaken this representation further.

This weakening of representation of smaller provinces in the House of Commons has already started. On October 27, 2011, the federal government introduced Bill C-20, the Fair Representation Act, to add a total of 30 new seats to the House of Commons, 15 in Ontario, six each in Alberta and British Columbia, and three in Quebec, while all other provinces were to maintain their existing numbers. The bill passed on December 16, 2011. Changes in the number of seats were based on the changes in each province's

⁴ Tomlin, B., 2007. The Seat Shortage: Changing Demographics and Representations in the House of Commons C.D. Howe Institute C.D. Howe e-Brief (May 29).

population size.⁵ As a result of these additions, the percentage representation of the Atlantic Provinces in the House has declined, with Newfoundland and Labrador down from 2.09 to 1.41 percent, Prince Edward Island down from 1.41 to 0.42 percent, Nova Scotia down from 3.61 to 3.28 percent, and New Brunswick down from 3.28 to 2.99 percent.

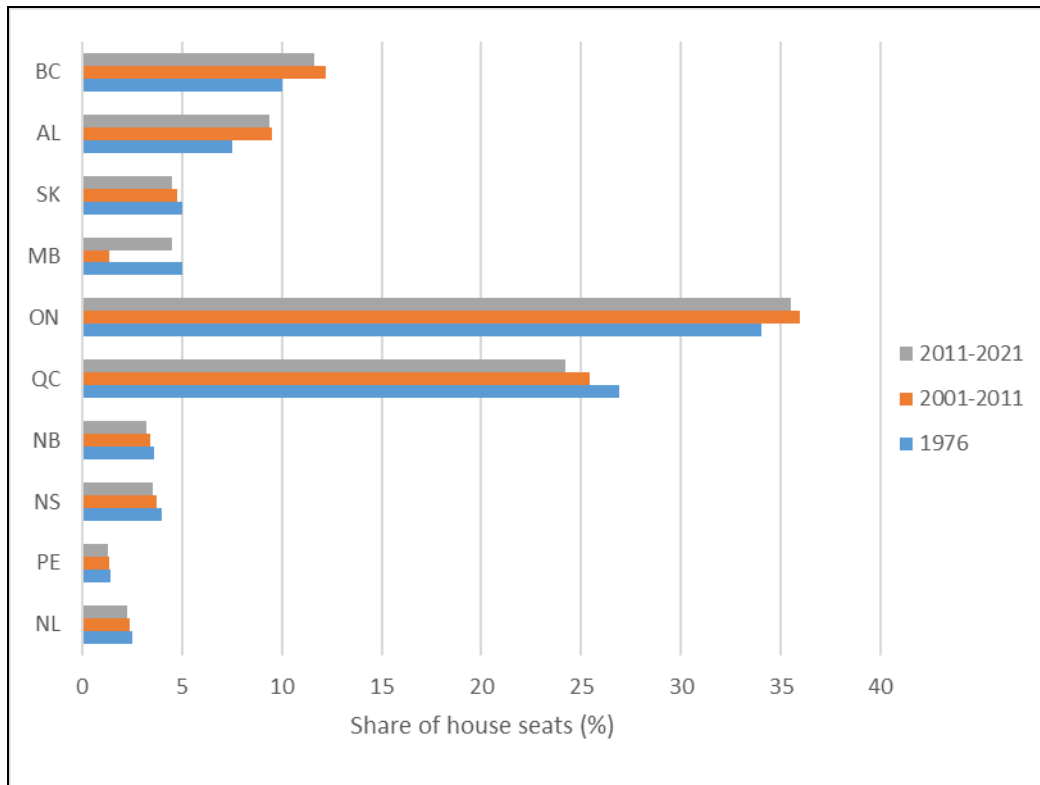
The above challenges have not gone unnoticed in the region by academic researchers and policy circles. For example, a 2014 report commissioned by the Province of Nova Scotia to One Nova Scotia, commonly referred to as the “Ivany Report”, presented a plan to revitalize Nova Scotia's economy. The report set ambitious targets for Nova Scotians to strive for by 2024, including increasing immigration, growing the number of business startups, doubling tourism revenues and increasing exports⁶.

On immigration front, the province, is aiming to increase its annual share of Canadian immigrant inflows. The Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, has been formed with a mandate to increase both the level of skilled worker immigration as a way to deal with skill shortages, and also the retention rate of new immigrants. The province has a Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), a federal-provincial bilateral agreement that allows a provincial government to target and recruit immigrants to meet its own particular needs. These are then fast-tracked through the system by IRCC. It is also collaborating with other Atlantic provincial governments and federal departments to develop promotional material, participate in overseas marketing missions, conduct research, assess and recognize foreign credentials and share information.

⁵ <http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&Bill=C20&Parl=41&Ses=1>

⁶ Ivany, R. I. D'Entremont, D. Christmas, S. Fuller and J. Bragg. 2014. “Now or Never: An Urgent Call to Action for Nova Scotians.” One Nova Scotia (The Nova Scotia Commission On Building Our New Economy)

Chart 3: Provincial representation in the Canadian House of Commons based on current rules and projected population growth rates⁷



Source: Tomlin (2007).

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), a federal agency with a regional economic development mandate, also recognizes the importance of immigration in Atlantic Canada’s economic development.

Through its collaboration with provincial governments in the region, the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS) was launched in 2017. AGS aims to “build a vibrant economic future for Atlantic Canada by focusing their efforts and resources to stimulate the region’s economy, support the middle class and address both longstanding and emerging regional challenges”. The strategy has identified five action areas for regional economic growth. One such area is development of a skilled workforce by making Atlantic Canada a destination choice for immigrants. Launching the Atlantic Immigration Pilot (AIP) in

⁷ We use postal code abbreviations for each province: NL-Newfoundland & Labrador, PE-Prince Edward Island, NS-Nova Scotia, NB-New Brunswick, QC-Quebec, ON-Ontario, MB-Manitoba, SK-Saskatchewan, AB-Alberta, BC-British Columbia.

2017 is an important step in this regard. AIP is a three-year employer-driven immigration program to attract and retain global talent while supporting population growth and addressing labour shortages. The pilot will allow up to 2000 additional immigrants and their families per year to come to the four Atlantic Provinces, a key component of AGS.

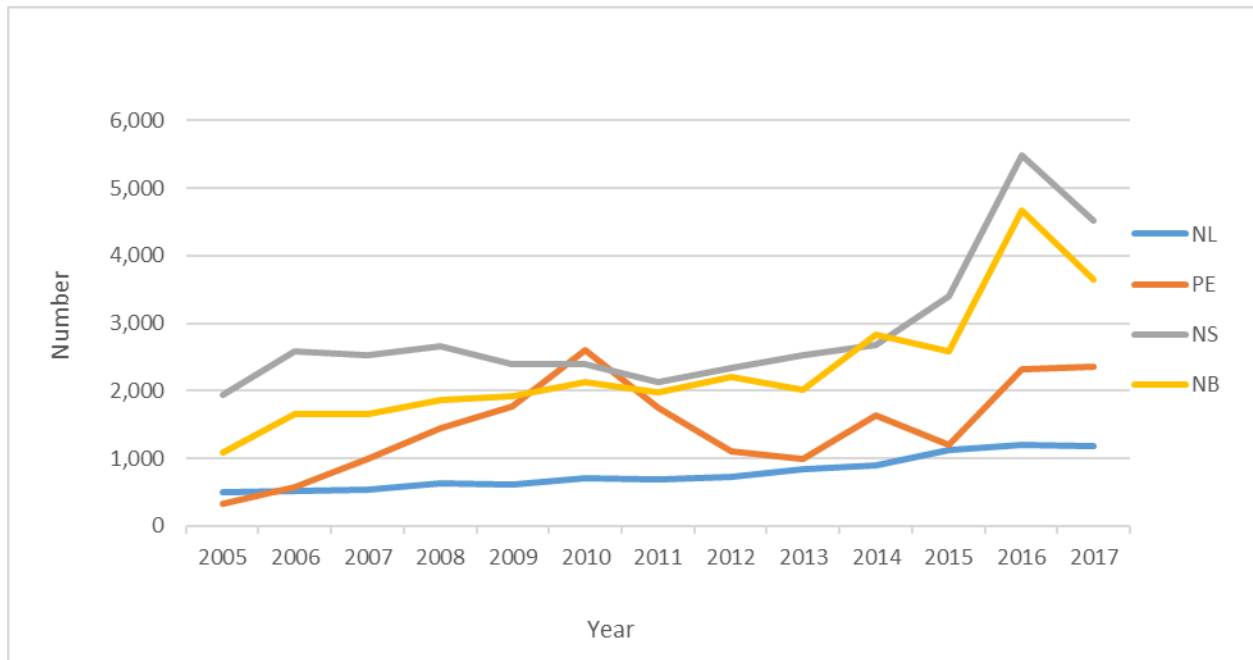
With the above policy and community initiatives undertaken in Atlantic Canada and the observed demographic changes in its population, immigration has begun to play an enhanced role in both the region's population growth and its economic development. As a result, wider issues relating to the social and economic impacts of immigration, which are often raised in public debate in the immigrant-abundant regions of western and central Canada, are expected to occupy a central place in public policy discussions in this region as well. Some of those issues include the impact of immigrants on the public treasury, poverty, employment and the wages of the native-born. Analysis of data collected in the present study will be an important input for public policy discussions on the importance of immigration in Nova Scotia's population and economic growth and the need to adopt initiatives to attract and retain immigrants.⁸

AN OVERVIEW OF IMMIGRATION IN NOVA SCOTIA: 2005-2017

Over the 12 year period ending in 2017, there was a threefold increase in immigrants who declared Atlantic Canada as their intended destination in Canada, the numbers rising from 3,847 to 11,683. The largest increase, about seven times, was in Prince Edward Island. The corresponding increase in New Brunswick was about three times and about two times in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. Chart 1 below shows these trends. The largest number of immigrants was destined for Nova Scotia.

⁸ It is also important to note that immigration is only one tool to address the demographic shift that Nova Scotia is facing. AGS also emphasizes enhancing the participation of underrepresented groups, such as seniors, women and aboriginals in the economy of Atlantic Canada. Nova Scotia has adopted various initiatives in this regard (for example, [Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population](#) is an initiative of the Department of Seniors, NS). The Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD) held four provincial events across Atlantic Canada, between October 2017 and March 2018, to highlight the opportunities that population of seniors in the region presents. The reports of these events can be found at: <http://www.smu.ca/centres-and-institutes/arg-events.html>

Chart 4: Immigrants Destined for Atlantic Provinces, 2005-2017.



Source: IRCC.

The composition of immigrants

Box 3 Entry Class Composition of Immigrant Residents Who Arrived during 2011-2016

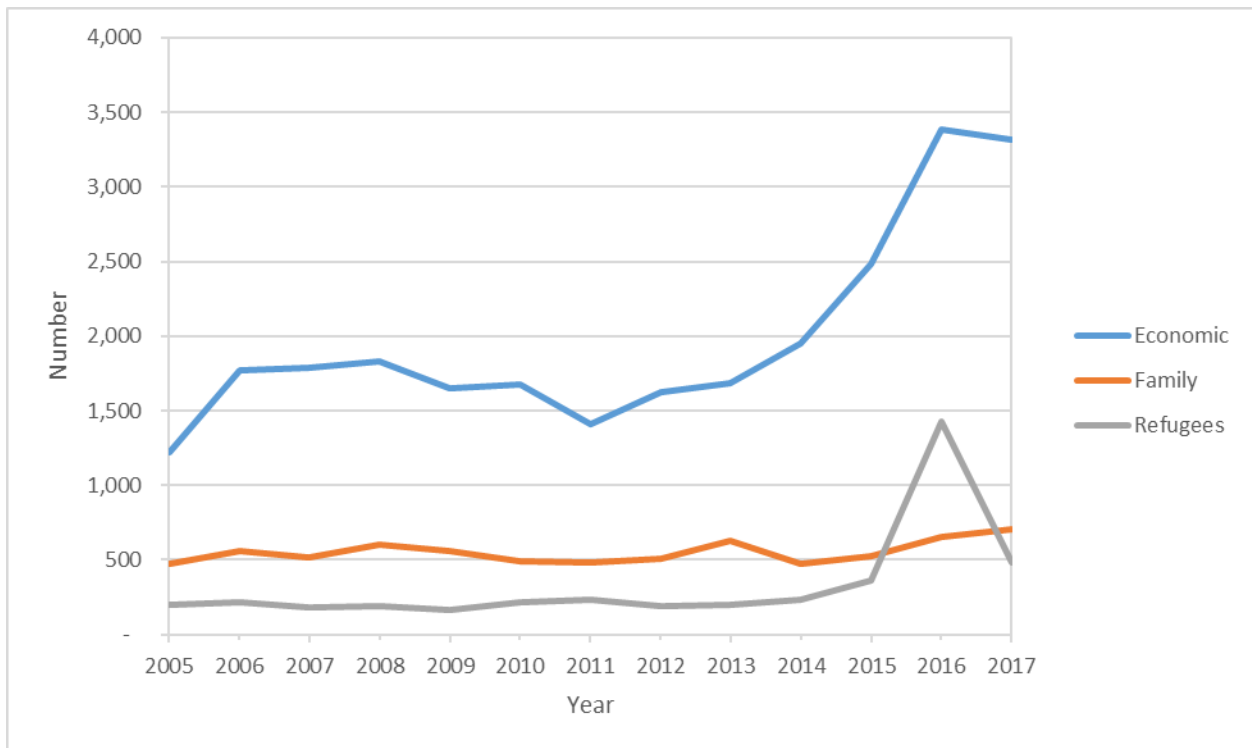
- In 2017, almost three-quarters of all immigrants destined for Nova Scotia were in the economic class (principal applicants and their spouses and dependents), followed by family class immigrants (16 percent) and refugees (11 percent).
- Economic immigrants come as skilled workers, business persons or as provincial nominees. In 2017, about 82 percent of all economic class immigrants were destined towards Nova Scotia as provincial nominees, comprising 66 percent of principal applicants.

New settlers come to Canada as economic, family sponsored, or refugee class immigrants. **Refugee class** immigration reflects Canada's commitment to humanitarian principles, while **family class** is intended to foster family re-unification, bringing individuals to Canada if they have close relatives who are already permanent residents

or citizens. **Economic immigrants**, on the other hand, are chosen for their expected direct, positive economic contribution to Canada through the skills, expertise, entrepreneurship or capital they bring with them. The economic class category comprises skilled workers, business immigrants, provincial and territorial nominees and live-in caregivers.

Chart 5 plots the numbers of inflows of all immigrants (principal applicants and dependents) in Nova Scotia by class for the period 2005-2017. Economic immigrants dominated all other classes throughout the period, followed by family class. There has been a slow rise of immigrants coming as refugees, but with a spike in 2016 when Canada admitted almost 47,000 refugees, mostly from war-torn Syria, but also from Eritrea, Iraq, Congo and Afghanistan. The consistent rise in economic and family classes is attributable to deliberate policy attempts to attract immigrants to the province.

Chart 5: Immigrants Destined for Nova Scotia by Entry Class, 2005-2017.



Source: IRCC.

Source country composition of immigrants

Between 2011 and 2015, Nova Scotia was the declared destination of 13,077 immigrants. The top five source countries accounted for about 45 percent of this number with most from the Philippines, followed by the United Kingdom and its

overseas territories, India, China and the United States. The 2016 census indicates that the province retained 85 percent of UK immigrants, 81 percent of Chinese immigrants, 79 percent of Filipinos, 73 percent of US immigrants and 61 percent of Indian immigrants.

Table 2 also provides arrival data for the year 2016-17 which indicate India as being the largest source country followed by Syrians whose arrivals rose sharply due to arrival of refugees and may be viewed as anomaly. The Philippines and China tied as the third largest sources. United States and United Kingdom also remain on the list. Our survey in the third part of this study will enable us to understand why retention rates vary by countries of origin of immigrants.

Table 2: Top five source countries of recent immigrants in Nova Scotia.

Rank	2011-2015 arrivals			2016-2017 arrivals		
	Country	Destined	Resident in 2016	Rank	Country	Destined
1	Philippines	1,667	1,325	1	India	2,010
2	China	1,037	840	2	Syria	1,471
3	India	1,183	725	3	Philippines	979
4	UK	1,217	1,040	3	China	979
5	USA	762	560	4	US	357
				5	UK	294
TOTAL TOP FIVE		5,866	3,450			6,097
TOTAL ALL ARRIVALS		13,077	9,790			9,997

Source: IRCC and Statistics Canada Census 2016 (Target Group Profile). UK data exclude overseas British nationals and citizens.

RETENTION OF IMMIGRANTS

Box 4 Immigrant Retention in Nova Scotia

- Based on Census 2016 and IMDB 2015 data, Nova Scotia retained 73 to 75 percent of its recent immigrants (those arriving during 2011-2015).
- Although the retention rates are the highest among Atlantic provinces, they are below those in rest of Canadian provinces.

Retention of immigrants destined for Nova Scotia during 2011-2016 is calculated in Table 3. For comparison, retention rates are also calculated for the other Atlantic Provinces.

Nova Scotia attracted the highest number of immigrants among all Atlantic Provinces, about 37 percent, followed by New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. The province also retained 75 percent of all destined immigrants which was the highest rate among the four provinces, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador. Prince Edward Island retained the lowest percentage, at 39 percent. Refugees are most likely to stay in Nova Scotia followed closely by family class immigrants, who also have the highest retention in all other provinces.

The five-year retention rates are also calculated for immigrants who were destined for other (non-Atlantic) provinces and are reported in Appendix Table A1. Note that the rate in Nova Scotia is below all of the provinces outside Atlantic Canada. Retention of immigrants is important for the province in order to address the decline in natural growth of its population. The province can be currently viewed as “immigrant scarce” as immigrants comprise only six percent of its population, well below the national average of 21 percent. Only 1.2 percent of immigrants to Canada were destined towards Nova Scotia over the 2011-2016 period while it was home to 2.6 percent of Canadian population.

The five year retention rates calculated on the basis of census and landing data are corroborated, in the Appendix Table A2, by the rates based on tax filers’ data available in the Longitudinal International Migration Database (IMDB), produced by Statistics Canada. The IMDB combines linked administrative immigration and tax data files. This allows researchers to explore immigrant tax filers destined for a province in a given year and their province of residence at the time they file their income tax. Hence, using this database, it is possible to determine what percentage of immigrants destined for a particular province in a given year were living in another province at the time of filing a tax return. Separate data are provided for refugees, economic immigrants, family class

immigrants, and others. The rates are also calculated for immigrants destined for Nova Scotia over the period 2001-2015 in addition to recent immigrants (destined for Nova Scotia during 2011-2015). There were 37 percent out-migrants in the 15-year cohort and 27 percent in the 5-year cohort. This means the retention rates in these cohorts were 63 percent and 73 percent, respectively. Family and refugee classes had comparable rates in the IMDB (84 and 83 percent respectively among recent entry cohorts), which are lower than the economic class immigrants.

The above data are for immigrants who were destined for the province directly from other countries. Also reported in Table A2 are data on in-migration of immigrants from other provinces and their out-migration to other provinces. The net-outmigration rate (last column) allows one to calculate a modified retention rate taking into account interprovincial mobility of immigrants which is higher for each entry cohort and for each class. The overall rates are 84 percent and 87 percent for 2001-2015 and 2011-2015 cohorts, respectively. Family class has the highest rate (more than 90 percent) for both entry cohorts, followed by refugees among recent immigrants. However, the rate for refugees falls from 90 percent in recent cohort to only 73 percent in the 2011-2015 cohort. The rates for economic class remain comparable at 82 and 83 percent in both entry cohorts.

One reason for higher retention rates in case of immigrants moving from other provinces could be that they move into the province with either a job offer in hand or with higher job prospects.

The rates discussed in this section are for destined immigrants only who may or may not have arrived in the province. However, their retention rate is important information for all stakeholders (policy makers, settlement organizations and communities) engaged in immigrant attraction initiatives because the numbers of destined immigrants are largely the outcomes of these initiatives. We expect our survey results in the third part of this study to help us understand the reasons for why those immigrants who declared Nova Scotia as their intended destination did not go there, why those who arrived in the province left and where the policy should focus to increase retention of immigrants. We will also be able to analyze migration decision of those who moved to the province from other Canadian provinces.

	NL			PE			NS			NB		
	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained
Total	4,274	3,035	71%	6,666	2,620	39%	13,077	9,790	75%	11,625	7,015	60%
Entry class												
Economic	2,745	1,985	72%	5,915	2,035	34%	9,157	6,390	70%	9,218	5,260	57%
Family	679	620	91%	406	335	83%	2,610	2,245	86%	1,379	1,080	78%
Refugees	841	415	49%	334	240	72%	1,221	1,080	88%	1,006	655	65%

Source: Destined immigrant data are obtained from IRCC. Immigrant resident data are based on 2016 Census (Statistics Canada, Target Group Profile, special tabulations).

WHERE DO IMMIGRANTS RESIDE IN NOVA SCOTIA?

While most immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia still go to Halifax, in recent years larger numbers have also declared places outside of Halifax as their intended destinations. As Table 4 shows, one in five of 2011-16 arrivals in Nova Scotia declared their destinations to be outside Halifax. The 2016 census also revealed the same to be true for 2011-16 resident arrivals.

Box 4:

Impacts of Declining Rural Population

- A decline of natural resource industries such as agriculture and mining
- A decline in public and private services in rural regions
- Increased pressures on the provision of services in urban areas as rural population moves there

Recent Immigrant Destinations in Nova Scotia

While most immigrants arriving in Nova Scotia go to Halifax, in recent years, greater percentages of them have also been declaring places outside Halifax as their intended destinations. As a result, during 2001-06, about 82 percent of new arrivals were destined to Halifax, but this percentage dropped to 79 percent during 2011-16.

The 2006 census had revealed that about 16 percent of immigrants who arrived during 2001-2006 lived in Metro-adjacent and non-Metro-adjacent areas, viewed as rural areas, of Nova Scotia. The 2016 census revealed this percentage to be just over 20 percent. This finding is important for population planners interested in developing new immigrant destinations that are smaller and predominantly rural as a means of reversing the declining trend of rural populations. Research should investigate factors that determine immigrants' choice of location.

The urban-rural distribution of recent immigrants resident in Nova Scotia matches their intended distribution at the time of arrival.

Annapolis, Cape Breton, Colchester, Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Pictou counties were home to more than 1,000 immigrants, each, at the time of 2016 census.

The increasing shift of recent immigrants in the 2016 census towards destinations outside Halifax may be the result of promotion by community organizations which actively participated in the Community Identified Stream of the Nova Scotia PNP and a Rural Newcomer Navigation Initiative in collaboration with IRCC. These two schemes are now closed and greater emphasis is now put on employer driven programs across the province which involve employers in immigrant settlement in collaboration with settlement service providers (SPOs). The Atlantic Immigration Pilot, which was mentioned earlier in this report, is also instrumental for rural employers to fulfill their demand for workers. SPOs, such as the Immigration Settlement Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) and Cape Breton Island Centre for Immigration (CBCI) receive support from the provincial government. The YMCA also receives provincial funding to provide welcoming services to immigrants moving to rural Nova Scotia. At community level, one example is Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership which is a collaborative

community initiative sponsored by IRCC designed to improve the integration experience of newcomers in Cape Breton.

Table 4 shows the geographic distributions of both immigrant and non-immigrant residents of Nova Scotia in 2016. A Census Division (CD) breakdown is used as a geographic unit. For comparison, the number of immigrants who declared a CD as their destination during 2011-2016 is also provided in the same table. Note that the census data are as of May 10, 2016 while the destined immigrant data are for the arrivals to the end of 2016.

Immigrants accounted for six percent of Nova Scotia's population in 2016, and, as in the case of native-born Canadians, most gravitated toward Halifax. Other locations – Annapolis, Cape Breton, Colchester, Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Pictou -- each were home to more than 1,000 immigrant residents in 2016. Each of these CDs was also home to more than 100 of the 11,790 immigrants who had arrived in the province during 2011-16 and were still living there at the time of 2016 census. In Table 4, the difference in destined immigrants and those resident at the time of census may be because some have left the country, have moved to other provinces, or have simply relocated within the province.

At the time of the 2016 census, about 67 percent of immigrants who had arrived over the previous five years were still living in Nova Scotia (some may have moved in from other provinces). The loss of one-third of destined immigrants was distributed across the province, although non-metro adjacent areas (viewed as strongly rural by Statistics Canada) lost 32 percent as opposed to about 38 percent loss incurred by metro-adjacent areas (viewed as weak to moderately rural). Halifax and Cape Breton, the two top population centres, together lost about 37 percent of destined immigrants. Among non-metro adjacent areas, Annapolis retained all of the destined immigrants during 2011-2016. Note, once again, that the actual percentages are higher than the ones noted above since the data for destined immigrants are for the entire 2011-2016 period while census data are only until May 10, 2016.

It will be interesting to further investigate the characteristics of immigrants who choose Metro or Metro Adjacent areas of Nova Scotia as their destinations. For example, the finding that Halifax and Cape Breton lost a large percentage of destined immigrants could be because these are destinations for the most educated or skilled immigrants who are the most mobile. An investigation of the type of jobs held by immigrants in rural areas will also be important for future retention policies

In summary, while on the whole immigrants to Nova Scotia show the same tendencies (albeit on a smaller scale) as immigrants to Canada, that is, they tend to move to a major population centre characterized by ethnic clusters, new immigrants in Nova Scotia are also settling in rural areas and smaller towns. This change in the geographic distribution of immigrants may be attributed to the new initiatives adopted at community levels in smaller areas to attract and retain immigrant labour to meet shortages of

professionals, for example of medical professionals.⁹ The survey part of this research will enable us to investigate which immigrants choose smaller areas and rural towns as their destination, why they decide to go there and their likelihood of staying there.

⁹ Global News (<https://globalnews.ca/news/3915419/by-the-numbers-nova-scotias-family-doctor-shortage/>) reported there were 42,198 Nova Scotia families on the waiting list for a family doctor. Access to doctor varies by urban-rural areas. According to a survey commissioned by Communications Nova Scotia and conducted by MQO Research, 86 per cent of Nova Scotians have a family doctor, compared to 80 per cent in the capital (<https://globalnews.ca/news/3270444/nova-scotia-doctor-calls-family-doctor-shortage-a-crisis/>).

Table 4: Geographic Distribution of Population in Nova Scotia, 2016.

Census Metropolitan Area ¹	Population In 2016	Non-immigrants In 2016	Immigrant residents in 2016		Destined arrivals 2011-16
			All	2011-16 arrivals	
Nova Scotia	923,598	842,760	55,675	11,790	18,560
Halifax	403,390	352,630	37,205	9,420	14,717
Cape Breton	98,722	94,540	1,740	275	619
Metro Adjacent**					
Colchester	50,585	47,475	1,970	370	583
Lunenburg	47,126	43,625	2,560	310	439
Hants	42,558	40,445	1,470	140	209
Richmond	8,964	8,540	250	45	40
Victoria	7,089	6,600	325	0	42
Non-Metro Adjacent**					
Shelburne	13,966	13,300	435	50	84
Yarmouth	24,419	22,960	910	80	167
Digby	17,323	16,425	585	85	105
Queens	10,351	9,790	375	30	34
Annapolis	20,591	18,940	1,180	100	100
Kings	60,600	56,270	2,800	330	445
Cumberland	30,005	28,340	840	85	123
Pictou	43,748	41,505	1,275	180	282
Guysborough	7,625	7,285	220	20	48
Antigonish	19,301	17,980	915	170	270
Inverness	17,235	16,105	620	85	119

**Based on Statistics Canada classifications.¹Outside Halifax County is viewed as predominantly rural.

Sources and notes: Residents' data are from 2016 census (Statistics Canada. 2017. Census 2016 Community Profiles). Destined arrivals data are based on special tabulations obtained from IRCC. In the last column, the difference of 134 in the total is due to "Not found" in the IRCC data. The 2011-2016 resident data are up to May-10 2016 only, while the destined arrival data are up to the end of 2016 which were affected by the sudden rise in admission of refugees at the end of 2016.

Box 5: Two Settlement Service Providers in Nova Scotia

ISANS: Supporting Immigrants and Refugees in Nova Scotia

Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) is a community organization that has been serving immigrants and refugees in Nova Scotia since 1980. It provides programs and services to immigrants who come to Nova Scotia, including those who haven't arrived yet and those who have recently arrived or who have been here longer. ISANS's work began to help to settle Vietnamese refugees. It now has over 200 staff members, and an annual budget of \$17 million.

ISANS offers programs for regulated professions such as engineering, pharmacy, health, and Pathways to Licensure programs developed in partnership and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders: regulatory bodies, professionals, education, internationally educated professionals, employers.

There is also professional mentoring, career pathways loans, work placements, practice interviews, and many more. ISANS served 4,972 immigrants in 2016. ISANS provides guidance for everyday activities such as shopping and using a bank.

ISANS promotes Nova Scotia as a destination, emphasizing its educational opportunities in particular. There are parallel organizations in other parts of Atlantic Canada.

Source: <https://www.wes.org/advisor-blog/isans-supporting-immigrants-refugees-nova-scotia-2/>

YMCA: Expanding program to help immigrants across the province

Y Reach, an immigrant settlement program run by YMCA, has offices across the province from Sydney to Yarmouth, and has offered assistance to immigrants since 1991. Working in partnership with other community groups and sponsors, Y Reach has a wide-ranging mandate, helping immigrants to settle and integrate into their new communities. There is special emphasis on helping to integrate immigrant children into the school system and direct them into extracurricular programs where they can meet people.

English-language training for all age groups is another area where the Y is heavily involved with community partners.

One example in Sydney involved an immigrant lab technician from China. He did not have a car and was concerned to find the transit system did not run at all hours as it did back home. Y Reach found him a bicycle as a stopgap means of transportation, until he could find a car with the assistance of community.

The Y Reach program has been able to help about 800 Syrian refugees.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ymca-program-immigrant-settlement-1.3557129>

HUMAN CAPITAL CHARACTERISTICS OF IMMIGRANTS

Economic growth and living standards are governed by more than increases in the quantity of human capital. The quality of that capital also matters. How do immigrants contribute to the growth in that quality? This is difficult to assess because data on the quality of human capital are difficult to obtain. Typically, economists look at various schooling and labour market experience measures. This section compares the human capital characteristics of immigrants to Nova Scotia to those of non-immigrants by looking at schooling levels of the two groups. In a previous report for the province of Nova Scotia, data were presented to show that immigrants have been arriving in Nova Scotia with higher levels of education than resident non-immigrants.¹⁰ More recent data presented in Table 5 show that a larger percentage of immigrant residents in Nova Scotia who arrived during 2011-2016 period had attained post-secondary education than the resident non-immigrant population. While 20 of every 100 non-immigrants had a university certificate, diploma or degree at Bachelor level or above, 44 of every 100 recently arrived immigrants had attained this level of education.

Table 5: Educational Attainment of Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Residents of Nova Scotia, 2016.

Education level	All immigrants (%)	Recent immigrants (%)	Non-immigrants (%)
High School or Less	31.69	32.60	46.19
Post Secondary Non University	23.94	17.65	32.54
Some University	3.94	4.60	2.23
University Certificate, Diploma or Degree at Bachelor or Above	40.43	45.16	19.04

Source: Statistics Canada (2016 census, Target Group Profile).

The findings of this section point to increasing skill levels all around among immigrants. Immigrant selection under PNP could be the cause of this outcome. However, while human capital characteristics represent a potentially higher economic contribution, that potential may not be fully realized if the quality of human capital that immigrants bring with them is not recognized and used. In the absence of data available in the census Target Group Profile it is impossible to assess the extent to which this is happening. In the survey part of this study, we expect to investigate this issue in some detail to see

¹⁰ Akbari, A.H. 2012. Socio-economic and Demographic Profiles of Immigrants in Nova Scotia This report is accessible at: www.community.smu.ca/atlantic/documents/NS_Report_Final_Nov_29.pdf · PDF file

what role this factor may play in an immigrant’s decision to stay in, or leave, the province.

LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES

Table 6 presents some labour market characteristics of immigrant and non-immigrant residents of Nova Scotia as revealed in 2016 census. Labour force participation rate is higher among recent immigrants, as compared to all immigrants and non-immigrants. This could be because they are younger than the other two groups and also the result of PNP targeting economic immigrants. It could also be a reflection of their desire to integrate into Canadian labour market soon upon arrival. Their unemployment rate is the highest and employment income the lowest. Overall, immigrants earn higher employment incomes than do non-immigrants in Nova Scotia. Census data, not shown here, also show that nationally, immigrants earn lower employment income than do non-immigrants. They also receive lower transfer payments than non-immigrants do. Finally, immigrants, in particular recent immigrants, are more likely to work in part-time jobs than non-immigrants.

The labour market outcomes of recent immigrants reported above can be attributed to their lack of experience in local labour markets or the difficulty of finding that first job, language barriers, credential recognition, age distribution, etc. In the survey part of this study we will be able to relate labour market outcomes to an immigrant’s decision to stay or leave the province while also accounting for their other characteristics. This will allow us to identify any barriers to immigrants’ integration in labour market.

Table 6: Some Labour Market Characteristics of Immigrants and Non-Immigrants, Nova Scotia, 2016.

Variable	All Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Non-immigrants
Participation rate (%)	58.6	70.6	61.6
Unemployment rate (%)	8.1	11.3	10.1
Average employment income (\$)	43,715	31,047	39,430
Average Government Transfers (\$)	7,881	4,069	8,631
Average weeks worked	42	39.5	41.7
Worked Full time (%)*	47.9	38.7	50.9
Worked part time (%)*	52.1	61.3	49.1

Source: Statistics Canada (2016 census, Target Group Profile).

*Percentage of population which worked during the census reference week.

MIGRATION PATTERNS AMONG IMMIGRANTS AND NONIMMIGRANTS

A major challenge faced by immigration and population planners in Atlantic Canada is the retention of immigrants. As discussed earlier, although more new immigrants to Canada have been declaring Nova Scotia as their destination province, their retention remains a challenge. The retention rate among new arrivals is higher than in the past but remains among the lowest in the country. At the same time, non-immigrants also move in and out of Nova Scotia, from and to other provinces. A comparison of the patterns of mobility of immigrants and non-immigrants can point to any differences in the factors that determine mobility and also their impact on mobility.

Major factors that may cause an individual to move out of the province include, among others, the provincial economy and job opportunities. In case of immigrants, societal reception and presence of an immigrant community from the same culture or religion also play important roles in their decision to stay or leave the province. In the survey part of this research project, we expect to analyze the roles of these, and some other factors in an immigrant's mobility decision. In the present section, we investigate the mobility patterns based on 2016 census data.

The 2016 census asked the respondents about their place of residence five years prior to census. This question on the census allows us to track the movement of people in and out of Nova Scotia during 2011-2016. Hence, in this section, we analyze data on in- and out-migration of immigrants for Nova Scotia between 2011 and 2016. To place the analysis in context, and for the purpose of comparison, we first analyze the movement of all residents, followed by the movement of Canadian-born and then of immigrants.

The 2016 census revealed that 50,225 residents of Nova Scotia left the province during 2011-2016 to live in other provinces (Table 7). About 59 percent of former Nova Scotians were living in Alberta and Ontario, with Ontario being the most popular destination. New Brunswick was the third destination province of former Nova Scotians. In fact, more than one-fifth of former Nova Scotians had made their home within Atlantic Canada.

Census data also show that there were 54,605 in-migrants in Nova Scotia (inter-provincial as well as international) over the five year period, of whom 42,845 (78.5 percent) moved in from other provinces and 11,760 (21.5 percent) came from outside the country. Hence, the net migration during this period was 4,380. About 42 percent of in-migrants came from Alberta and Ontario. New Brunswick was the third source province of in-migrants. In all, about 20 percent of in-migrants came from other Atlantic provinces.

The net balance of migration in Nova Scotia with rest of Canada was negative as 7,380 fewer migrants came in from other provinces than those who left for them. The largest migration deficit was with Alberta which received more than twice as much migrants from Nova Scotia than it sent. This deficit with Ontario was minimal. Overall, net

migration was positive for the province due to migration from outside Canada (of both non-immigrants and immigrants) which was over 27 percent of all in-migrants.

Table 7: Total In-Migrants, Out-Migrants and Net Migrants for Nova Scotia, 15 and Over, Interprovincial and International, 2011-2016.¹¹

Source/Destination	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migrants
Interprovincial			
NL	2,765	3,275	-510
PE	1,635	1,615	20
NB	6,540	5,540	1,000
QC	2,535	2,165	370
ON	16,040	16,060	-20
MB	1,120	1,005	115
SK	885	1,195	-310
AB	6,790	13,745	-6,955
BC	3,760	4,815	-1,055
YU	115	190	-75
NWT	445	355	90
NU	215	265	-50
Total all provinces	42,845	50,225	-7,380
International	11,760*	NA	NA
Grand Total	54,605	NA	NA

Source: Statistics Canada (Census 2016, Special tabulations).

* In-migrants from other countries. No data are available on out-migrants to other countries.

Table 8 provides mobility data for non-immigrants (Canadian-born). Overall, 5,875 fewer non-immigrants moved to Nova Scotia from other provinces than those who left. Out-migrants exceeded in-migrants by about 15 percent. Most Nova Scotian leavers moved to Ontario, which also sent the most migrants to the province, exceeding the leavers by 760. A slightly lower number went to Alberta, but only about half of that number was made up of in-migrants from that province. In-migrants from New Brunswick were next to Alberta in terms of their numbers, and the net migrants from New Brunswick were the highest, followed by Ontario. About a quarter of in-migrants came from other Atlantic provinces and 22 percent of out-migrants stayed within Atlantic Canada. Out of those

¹¹ Additional postal code abbreviations used in this and the following Table are: YU-Yukon, NWT-North Western Territories, NU-Nunavut.

non-immigrants who came in Nova Scotia over the 2011-2016 period, nine percent came from outside Canada.

Table 8: Non-Immigrant In-Migrants, Out-Migrants and Net Migrants for Nova Scotia, Interprovincial and International, 2011-2016.

Source/Destination	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migrants
Interprovincial			
NL	2,625	3,155	-530
PE	1,510	1,540	-30
NB	6,190	5,365	825
QC	2,210	1,875	335
ON	14,120	13,360	760
MB	1,010	870	140
SK	820	1,100	-280
AB	6,420	12,610	-6,190
BC	3,340	4,205	-865
YU	85	165	-80
NWT	435	345	90
NU	195	245	-50
Total all provinces	38,960	44,835	-5,875
International	3,440	NA	NA
Grand Total	42,400	NA	NA

Source: Statistics Canada (Census 2016, Special tabulations).

* In-migrants from other countries. No data are available on out-migrants to other countries.

Mobility patterns of immigrants are shown in Table 9 for Nova Scotia. As in case of non-immigrants, more immigrants left for other provinces than those who came from there. The number of out-migrants was higher than in-migrants by about 39 percent. Most immigrants leaving Nova Scotia went to Ontario, followed by Alberta. British Columbia was their third destination choice and was the second largest source of in-migrants. All of these provinces received more immigrants from Nova Scotia than they sent. In the remaining provinces, the numbers of out-migrants were either only slightly higher than in-migrants or lower. The province had a positive balance of movers with each Atlantic province. Only seven percent of immigrant leavers remained within Atlantic Canada, while 16 percent of those coming in from other Canadian provinces came in from Atlantic provinces.

In summary, Alberta and Ontario were the two top destinations of immigrants and non-immigrants who left Nova Scotia during 2011-2016. While New Brunswick was the third choice of non-immigrants, British Columbia was the third choice of immigrant leavers from Nova Scotia. British Columbia was also the third source province of immigrants to Nova Scotia. Out of all those immigrant residents who came to Nova Scotia over the 2011-2016 period, 73 percent had come directly from outside of Canada.

Data on interprovincial immigrant movers are broken down, for those 15 and above, into economic, family sponsored and refugee class immigrants in Appendix Tables A2, A3, and A4. Of the total 3,870 immigrant in-migrants to Nova Scotia, half were economic immigrants, followed by family sponsored (19 percent) and refugees (6 percent). The total outmigration of 5,260 immigrants from the province to rest of Canada comprised 60 percent economic, 18 percent family sponsored, and 7.2 percent refugees.

The survey part of this study will help uncover the reasons for why immigrants leave Nova Scotia and why do they choose a particular province outside Nova Scotia to go to.

Table 9: Immigrant In-Migrants, Out-Migrants and Net Migrants for Nova Scotia, Interprovincial and International, 2011-2016.

Source/Destination	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migrants
Interprovincial			
NL	140	120	20
PE	125	75	50
NB	350	175	175
QC	325	290	35
ON	1,920	2,700	-780
MB	110	135	-25
SK	65	95	-30
AB	370	1,135	-765
BC	420	610	-190
YU	30	25	5
NWT	10	10	0
NU	20	20	0
Total all provinces	3,885	5,390	-1,505
International	8,320	NA	NA
Grand Total	12,205	NA	NA

Source: Statistics Canada (Census 2016, Special tabulations).

* In-migrants from other countries. No data are available on out-migrants to other countries. Adjustment made for the discrepancy with later report.

CONCLUSIONS

Nova Scotia is improving its record of attracting and retaining international immigrants to counter a declining rate of natural population increase and an aging population, both of which threaten economic growth by eroding labour markets and business investment. Losses in population due to an excess of deaths over births have been offset by attracting new foreign-born immigrants, contributing to modest increases in population in recent years. But much remains to be done to build on recent success. It has become increasingly obvious that international immigration is necessary if the province is to maintain and sustain overall population growth and to provide conditions for economic growth.

This is the first report from a three-part study to explore the motivations of foreign-born immigrants to Nova Scotia, how they decide to come to the province in the first place, whether they stay there, and how the province can improve its immigrant attraction and retention performance. Subsequent parts of the study will focus on an examination of the literature which sets out aspects of these topics, and an extensive survey of about 3000 immigrants to investigate how they chose to come to Nova Scotia in the first place, and their decisions to stay or leave.

This part of the study has examined the background and context of recent immigration trends to Nova Scotia, concentrating largely on the period between 2011 and 2016. It has looked at trends in natural rates of population increase, and population aging and their impacts on economic growth. More immigrants have arrived in Nova Scotia during the period under consideration, and more have settled away from the largest urban area of Halifax. Government initiatives and cooperation, and community and non-governmental efforts, have all contributed to the recent improvement. Nova Scotia, as with other smaller provinces, has gained experience in attracting and retaining immigrants and in settling them across a range of metropolitan and non-metropolitan locations. However, much needs to be done to raise retention of immigrants which remains low when compared to provinces outside Atlantic Canada.

The study has relied on published information and data, and some obtained by special request. The third part of this project will build on the findings of the first two by conducting a survey of immigrants in Nova Scotia to explore their specific motivations in coming to and staying in the province. Only in this way, looking at the many decisions on the part of individuals and families, can the province obtain the information to help design and implement forward-looking policies and programs to attract and retain immigrants.

APPENDIX

	QC			ON			MB			SK		
	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained
Total	257,905	197,100	76%	501,550	431,515	86%	73,500	58,230	79%	55,140	42,550	77%
Entry class												
Economic	173,870	123,540	71%	256,240	224,230	88%	57,190	46,735	82%	46,135	34,850	76%
Family	52,585	48,855	93%	161,710	139,030	86%	8,855	7,820	88%	5,595	4,915	88%
Refugees	26,300	21,635	82%	68,170	59,715	88%	7,170	3,550	50%	3,230	2,680	83%

	AB			BC			Other (NWT, YU, NU)		
	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained	Destined	Resident	Retained
Total	193,360	187,495	97%	178,140	160,115	90%	2,290	1,895	83%
Entry class									
Economic	131,010	128,620	98%	107,540	99,980	93%	1,700	1,455	86%
Family	45,325	41,520	92%	59,485	51,180	86%	515	350	68%
Refugees	13,940	15,715	113%	8,900	8,075	91%	20	75	375%

Source: IRCC and Statistics Canada (2016 Census, Target Group Profile).

Table A2: Migration of Immigrants Destined For Nova Scotia, 2001-2015 and 2011-15
 (Tax Filers' Data)

IMMIGRANTS DESTINED FOR NOVA SCOTIA, 2001-2015							
	Number of immigrants				As percentage of number destined		
	Destined at landing	Out-migration	In-migration	Net out-migration	Out-migration	In-migration	Net out-migration
By Category							
Refugee	2,305	940	315	625	41	14	27
Economic – Total	14,285	5,930	3,405	2,525	42	24	18
Family	5,295	1,365	925	440	26	17	8
Other	485	95	50	45	20	10	9
Overall	22,370	8,330	4,695	3,635	37	21	16
IMMIGRANTS DESTINED FOR NOVA SCOTIA, 2011-2015							
	Number of immigrants				As percentage of number destined		
	Destined at landing	Out-migration	In-migration	Net out-migration	Out-migration	In-migration	Net out-migration
By Category							
Refugee	795	125	45	80	16	6	10
Economic	6,000	1,965	965	1,000	33	16	17
Family	1,965	335	240	95	17	12	5
Other	135	20	5	15	15	4	11
Overall	8,895	2,445	1,255	1,190	27	14	13

Note: Numbers based on data for the 2015 tax year.

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Data Base (IMDB, 2015), Statistics Canada.

Table A3: Economic Immigrant In-Migrants, Out-Migrants and Net Migrants for Nova Scotia, 15 and Over, Interprovincial and International, 2011-2016.

Source/Destination	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migrants
Interprovincial			
NL	60	70	-10
PE	75	45	30
NB	225	65	160
QC	200	145	55
ON	925	1,630	-705
MB	50	75	-25
SK	40	70	-30
AB	185	675	-490
BC	175	390	-215
YU	15	20	-5
NWT	0	0	0
NU	0	10	-10
Total all provinces	1,950	3,195	-1,245
International	4,110*	NA	NA
Grand Total	6,060	NA	NA

Source: Statistics Canada (Census 2016, Special tabulations).

* In-migrants from other countries. No data are available on out-migrants to other countries.

Table A4: Family Immigrant In-Migrants, Out-Migrants and Net Migrants for Nova Scotia, 15 and Over, Interprovincial and International, 2011-2016.

Source/Destination	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migrants
Interprovincial			
NL	30	25	5
PE	20	15	5
NB	40	35	5
QC	60	50	10
ON	375	485	-110
MB	30	30	0
SK	0	10	-10
AB	65	220	-155
BC	85	65	20
YU	10	0	10
NWT	0	0	0
NU	15	10	5
Total all provinces	730	945	-215
International	1,580*	NA	NA
Grand Total	2,310	NA	NA

Source: Statistics Canada (Census 2016, Special tabulations).

* In-migrants from other countries. No data are available on out-migrants to other countries.

Table A5: Refugee In-Migrants, Out-Migrants and Net Migrants for Nova Scotia, 15 and Over, Interprovincial and International, 2011-2016.

Source/Destination	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net-Migrants
Interprovincial			
NL	30	10	20
PE	0	10	-10
NB	30	0	30
QC	25	50	-25
ON	90	175	-85
MB	10	15	-5
SK	10	10	0
AB	20	85	-65
BC	10	15	-5
YU	0	0	0
NWT	0	10	-10
NU	0	0	0
Total all provinces	225	380	-155
International	1,085*	NA	NA
Grand Total	1,310	NA	NA

Source: Statistics Canada (Census 2016, Special tabulations).

* In-migrants from other countries. No data are available on out-migrants to other countries.