

Moving In, Moving On & Moving Up:

Examining Population Movements to and from Rural Canada

Immigration Statistics

Authors:

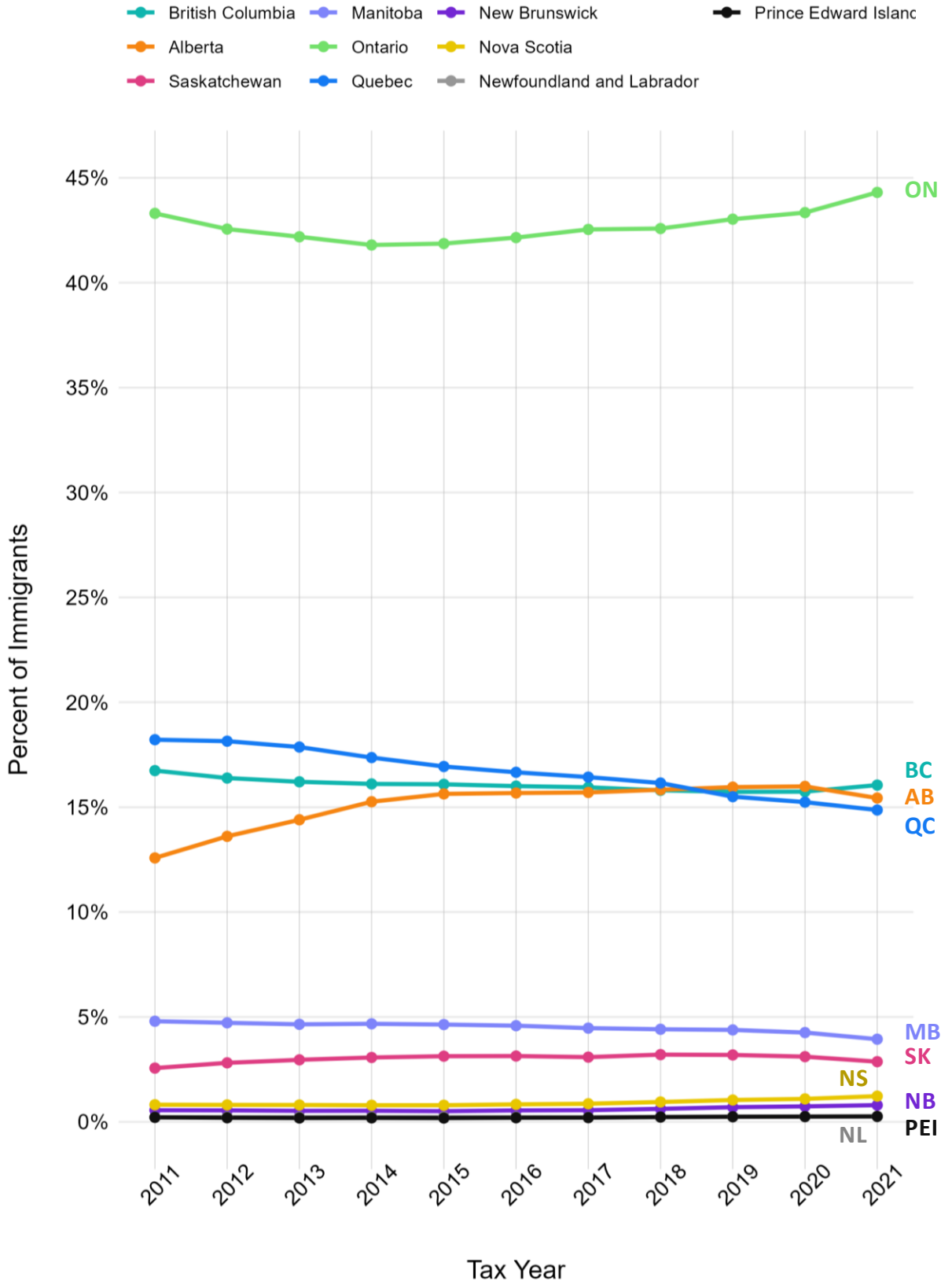
Lars K. Hallstrom, Stacey Haugen,
Rachel McNally, Sydney Whiting, and Nicholas Yarmey

This project is supported in part by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).



Distribution of immigrants in Canada by province of residence, 2011-2021

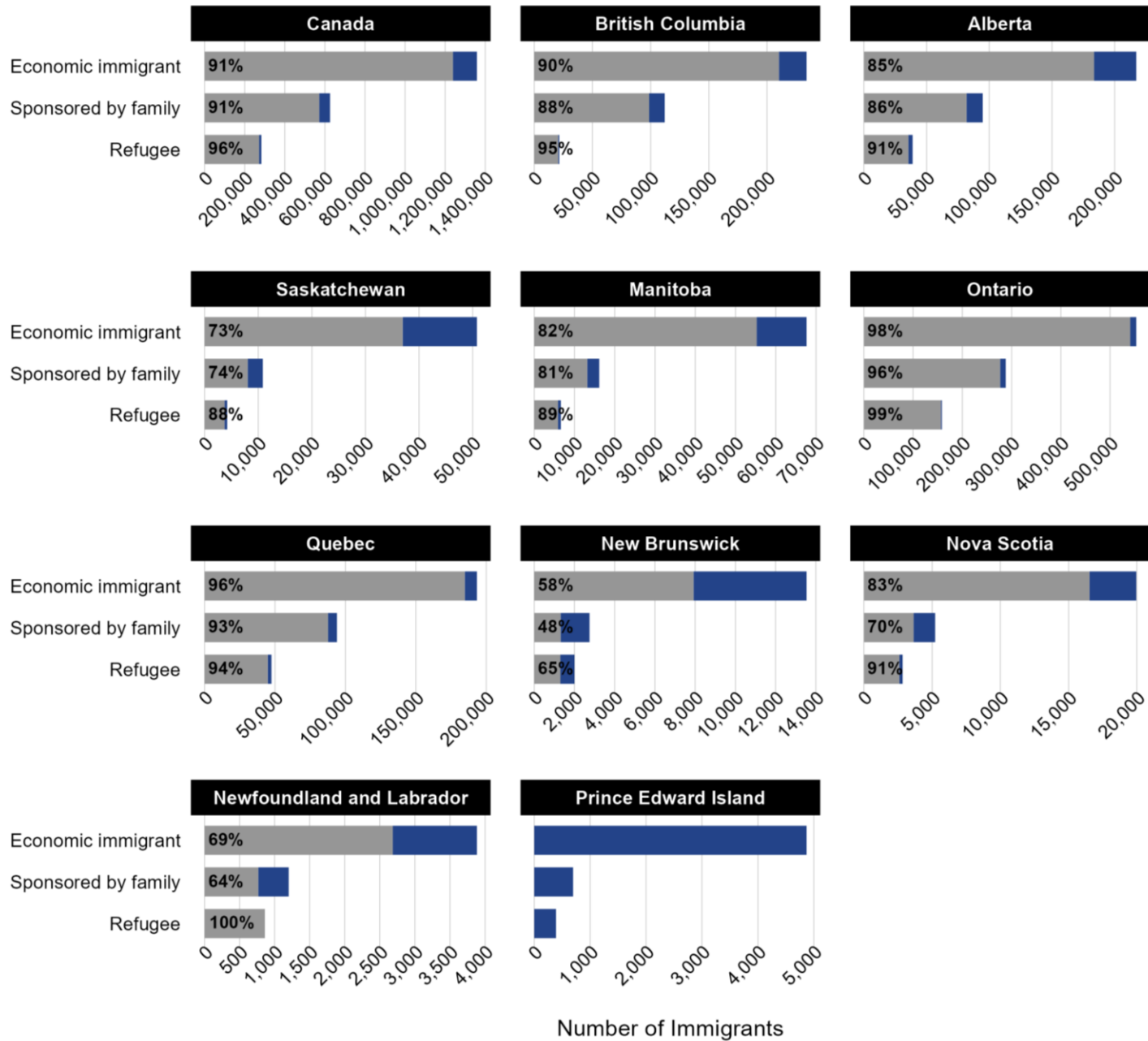
Of all immigrants in Canada, the percentage that live in each province.



Total number of immigrants by admission category and urban/rural, 2021

Percentages show the proportion of immigrants of that category living in urban areas. Urban/rural are defined in Appendix A. **Note:** X-axis ranges vary.

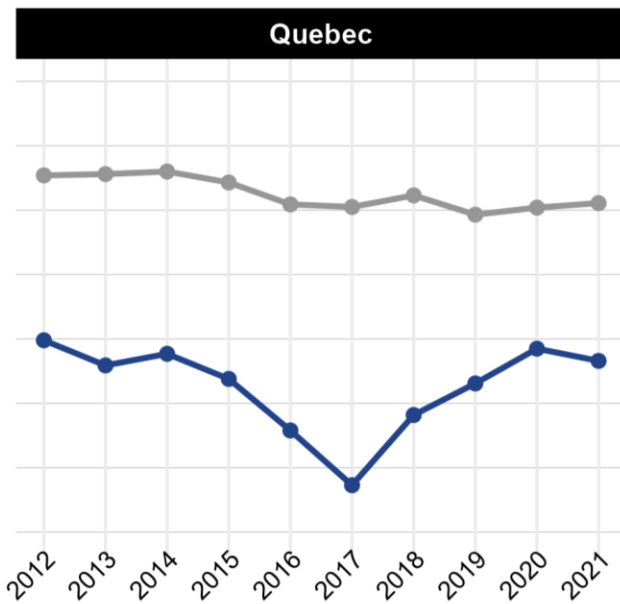
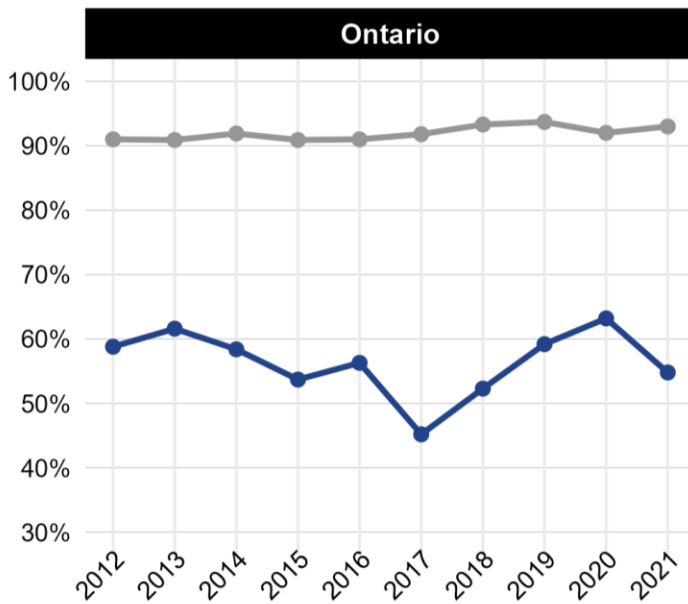
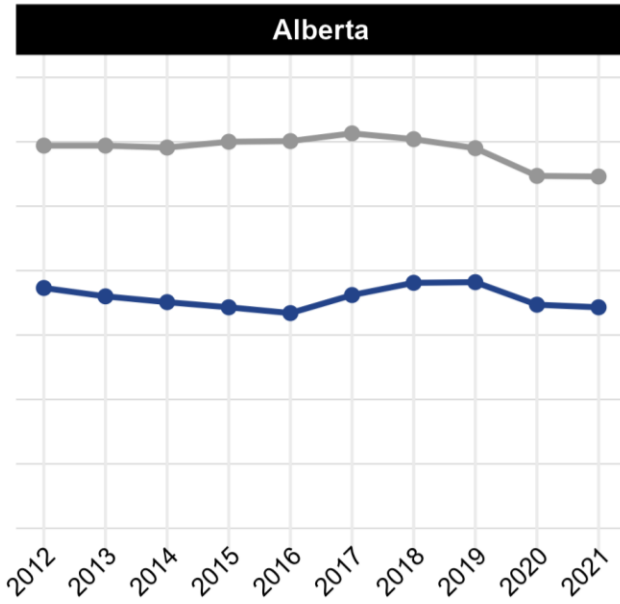
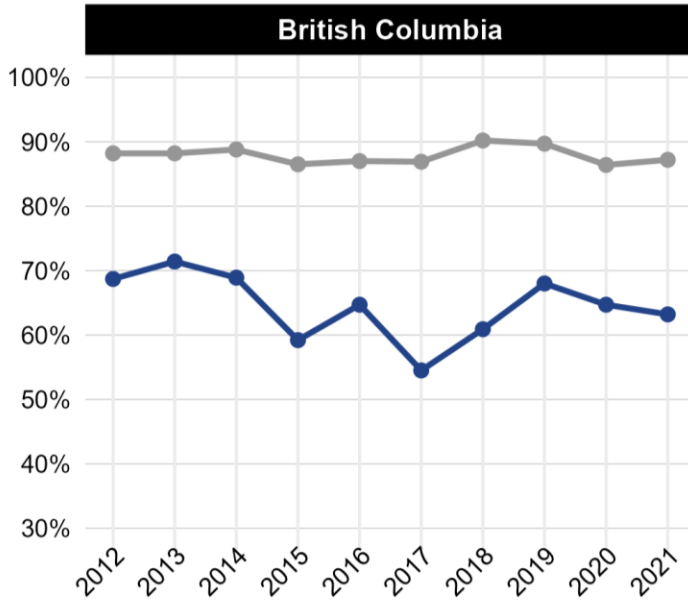
■ Rural ■ Urban



Five-year retention rate for immigrants, 2012-2021

Retention rates for rural areas and the entire province. *Note: Total includes rural areas.*

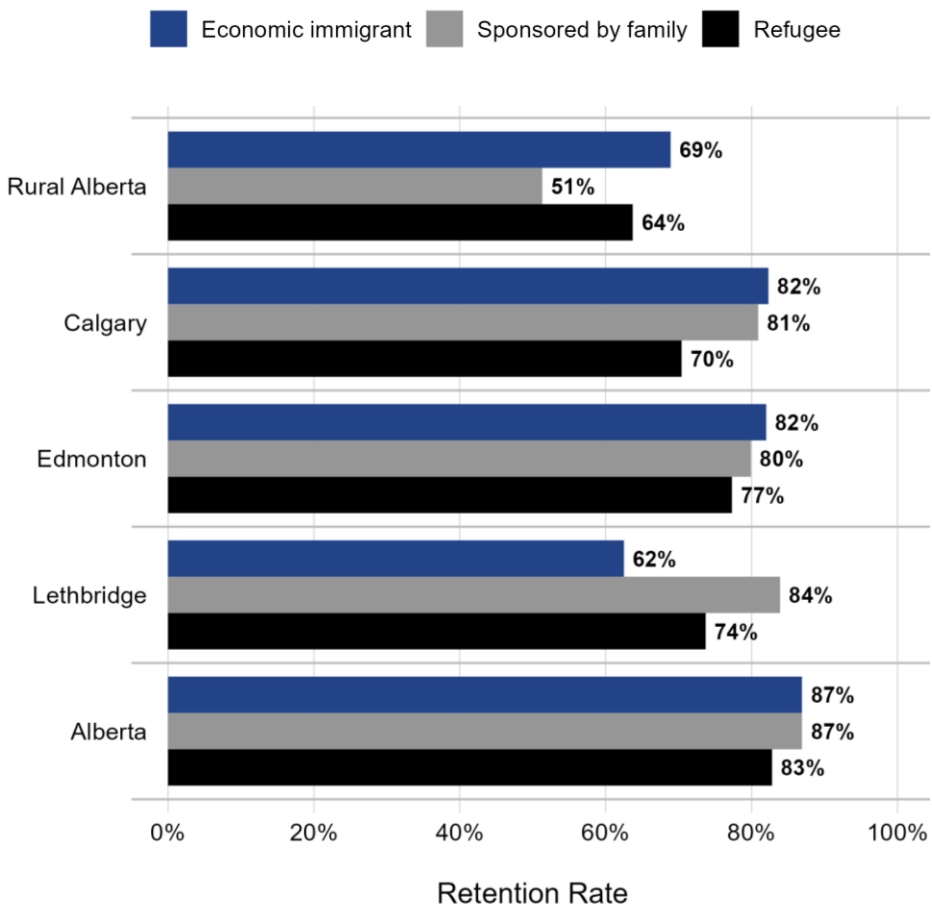
● Rural ● Total



Tax Year

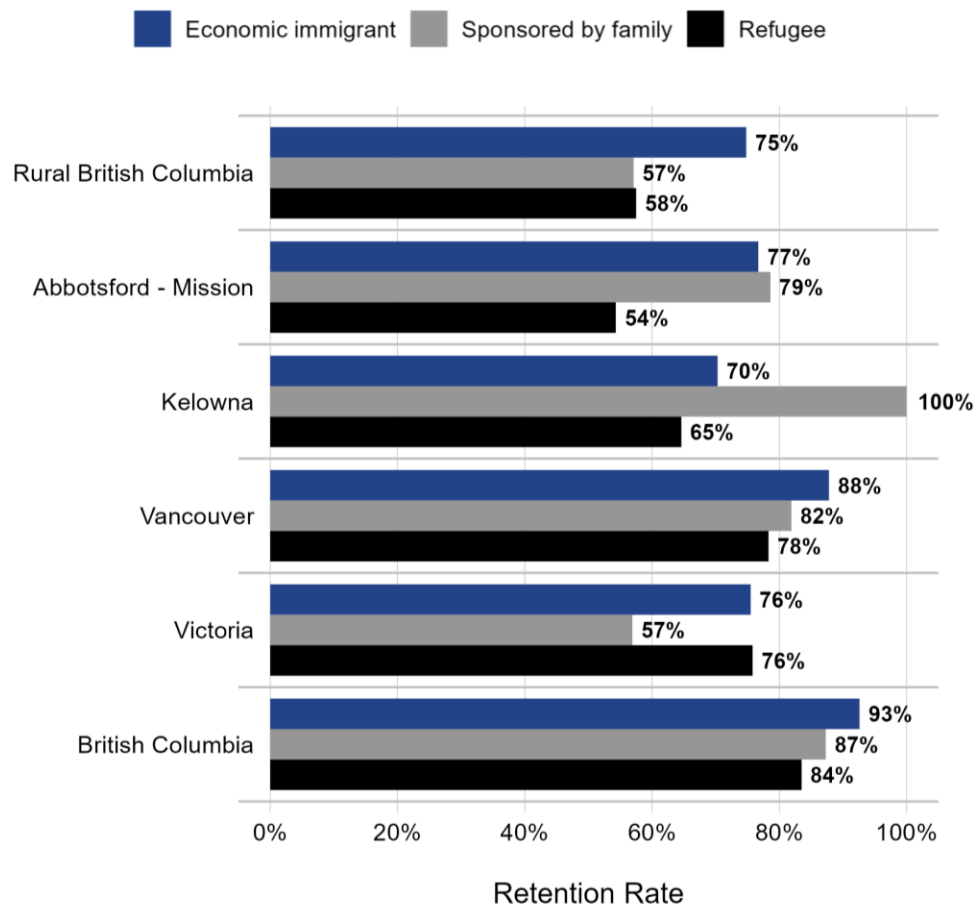
Five-year retention rate for immigrants by admission category in Alberta, 2021

The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission.



Five-year retention rate for immigrants by admission category in British Columbia, 2021

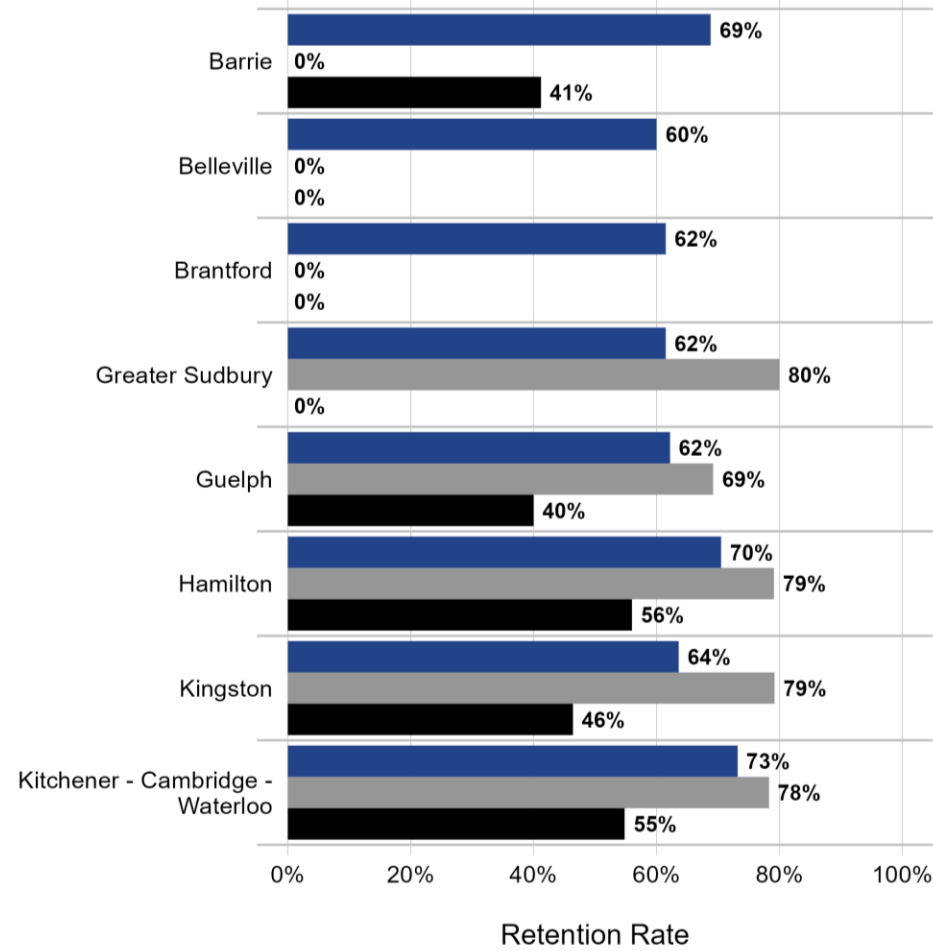
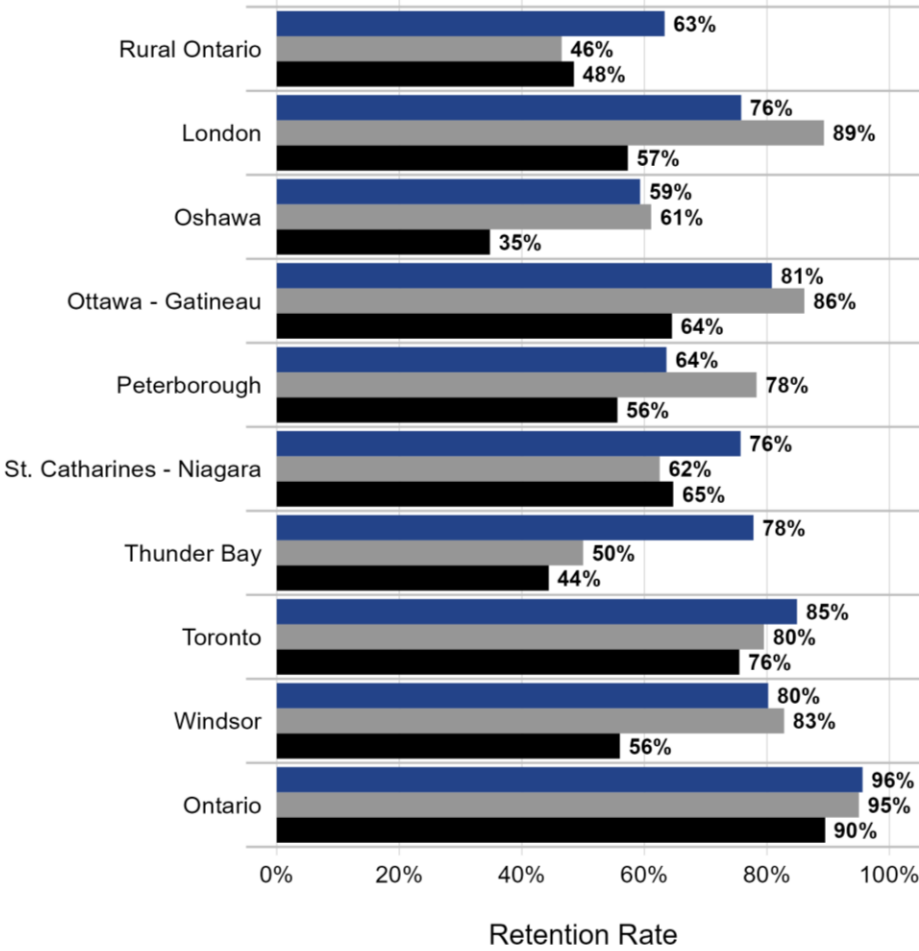
The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission.



Five-year retention rate for immigrants by admission category in Ontario, 2021

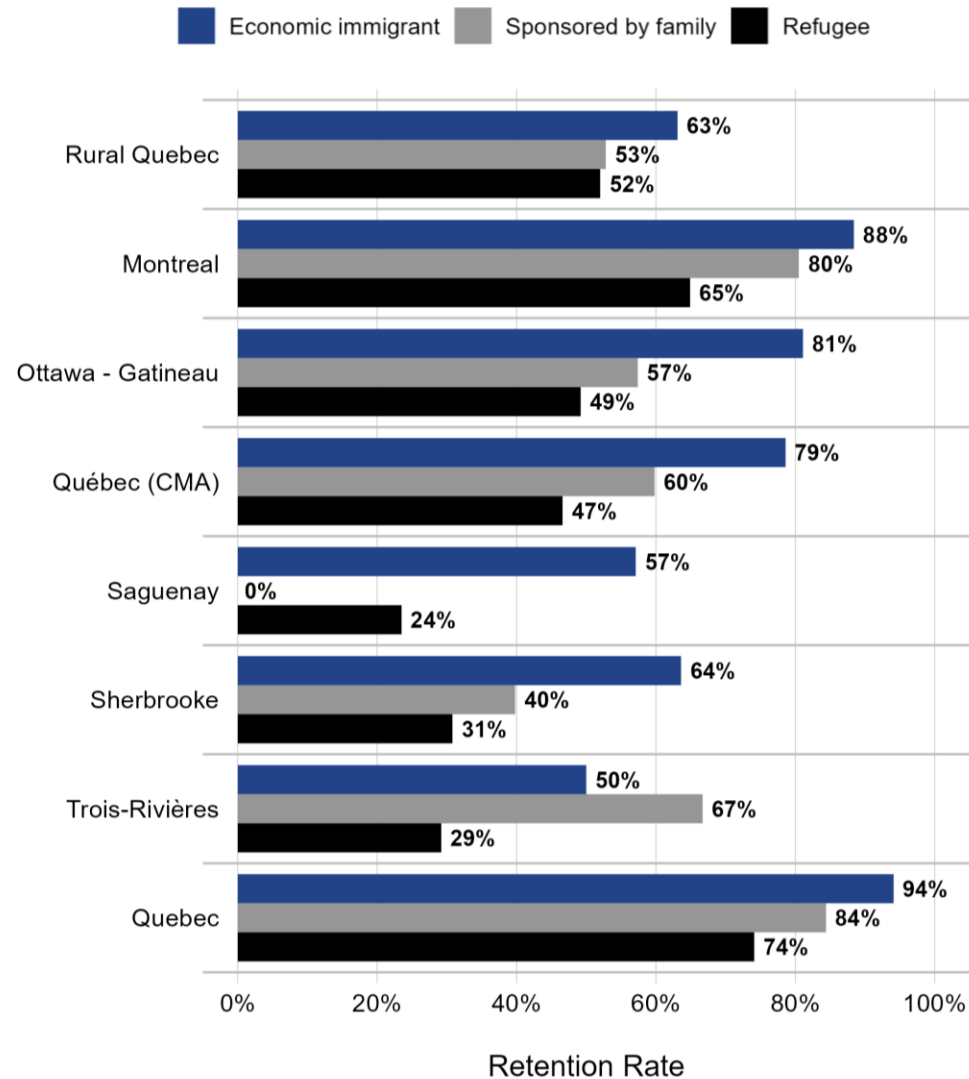
The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission.

■ Economic immigrant
 ■ Sponsored by family
 ■ Refugee



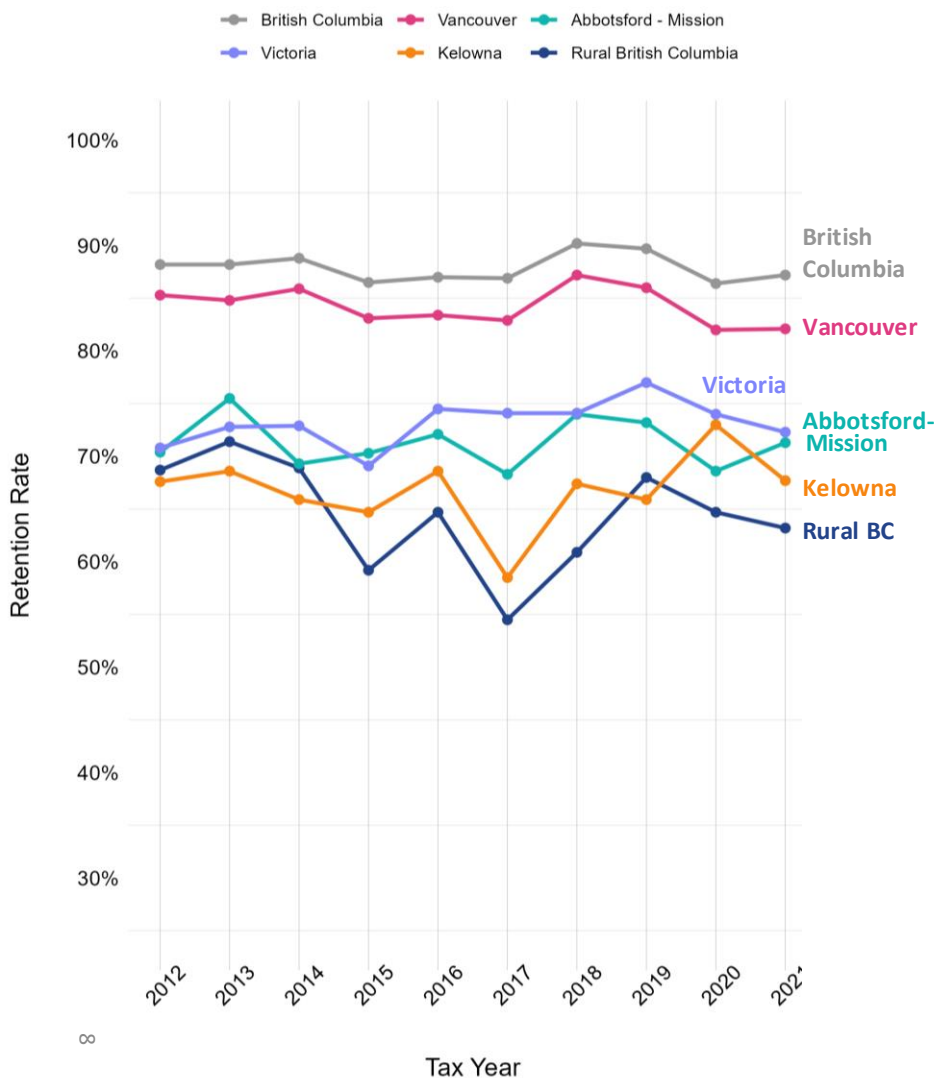
Five-year retention rate for immigrants by admission category in Quebec, 2021

The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission.



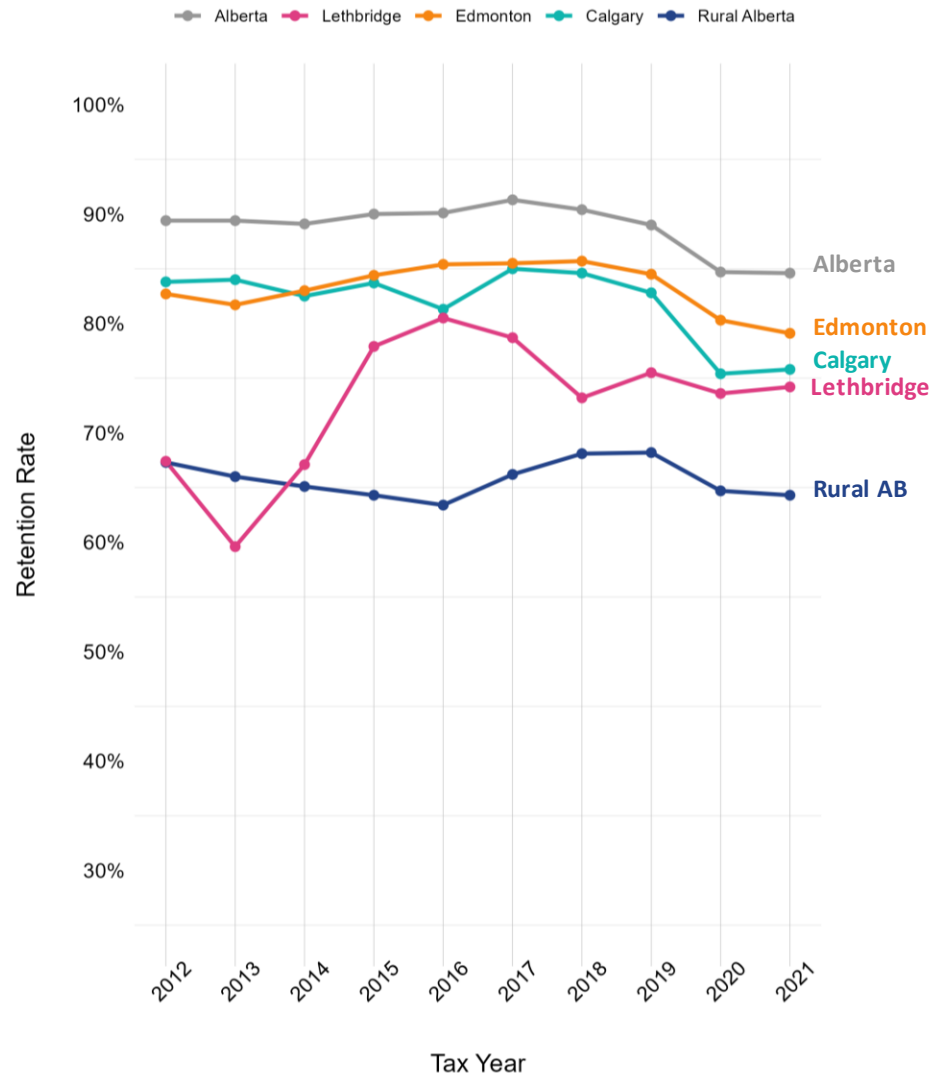
Five-year retention rate for immigrants in British Columbia by CMA, 2012-2021

The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission by census metropolitan area (CMA).



Five-year retention rate for immigrants in Alberta by CMA, 2012-2021

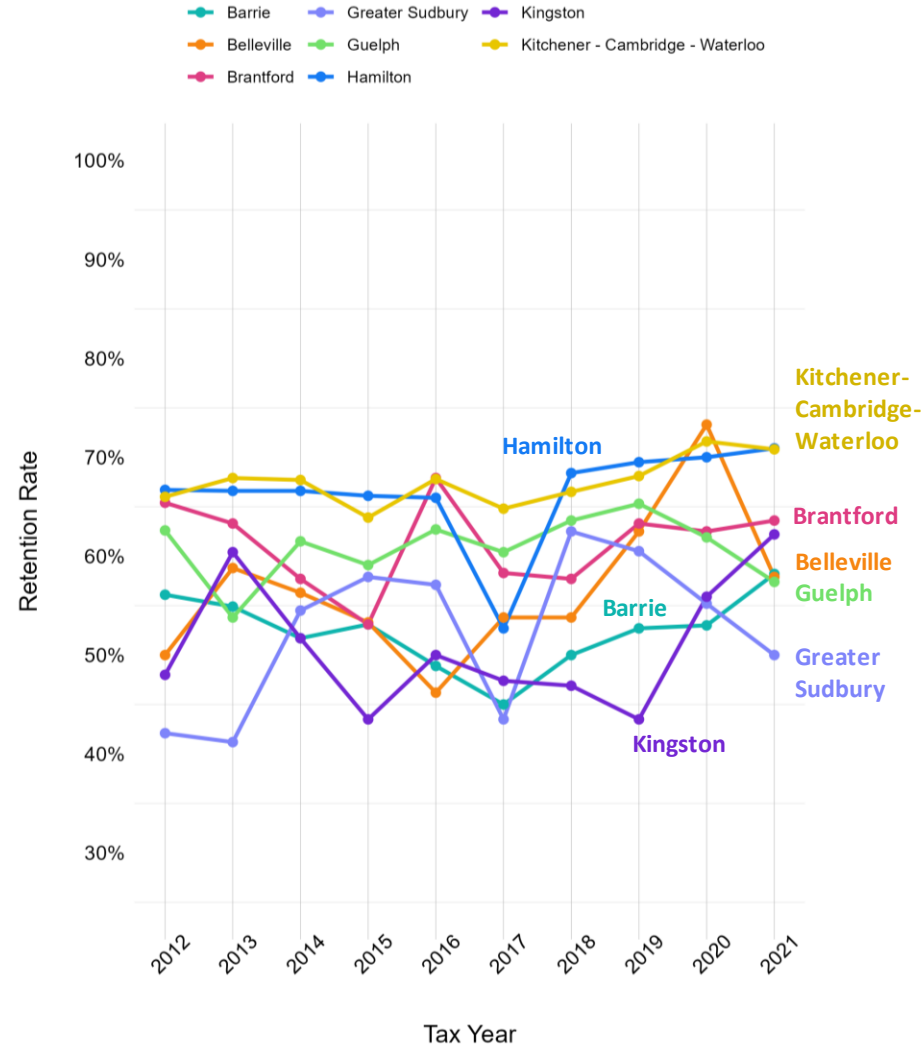
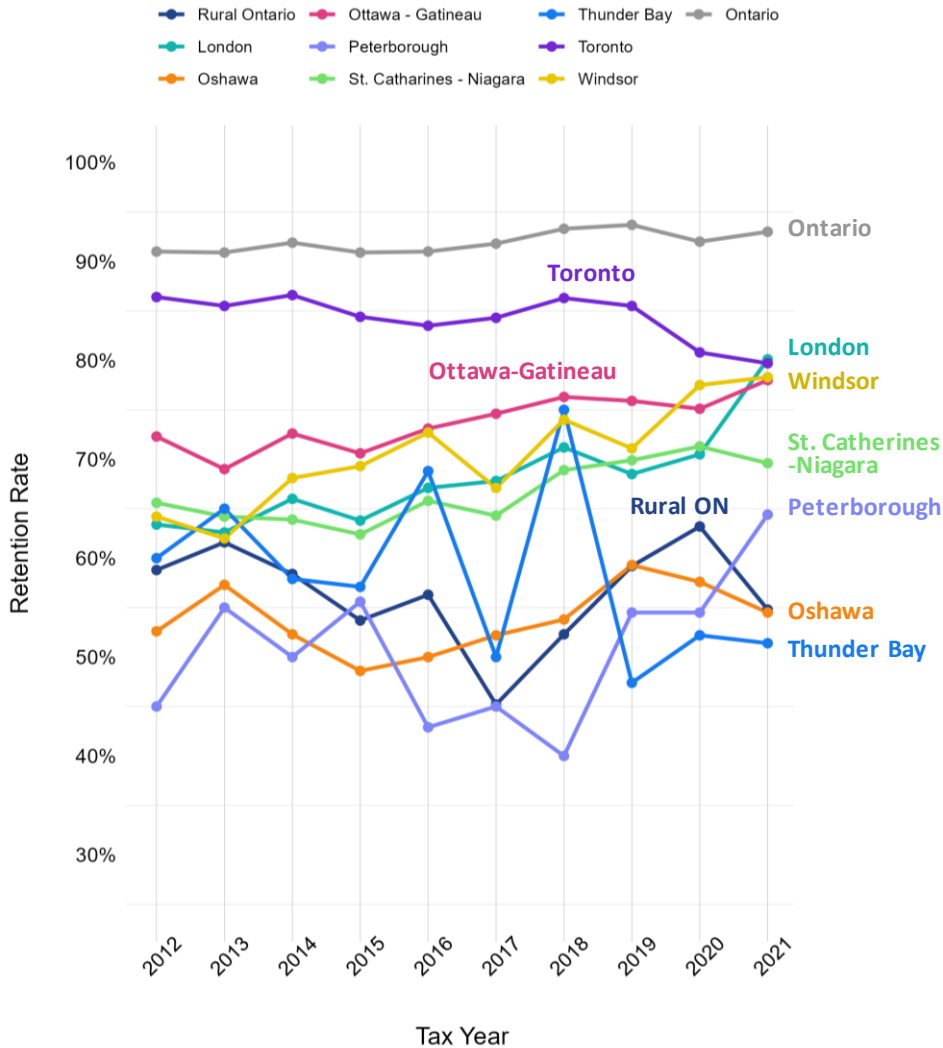
The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission by census metropolitan area (CMA).



Data source: Statistics Canada. Table 43-10-0022-01. Mobility of immigrant taxfilers by census metropolitan areas and tax year. Visualization by N. Yarmey, Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy, 2024. Do not reproduce without attribution.

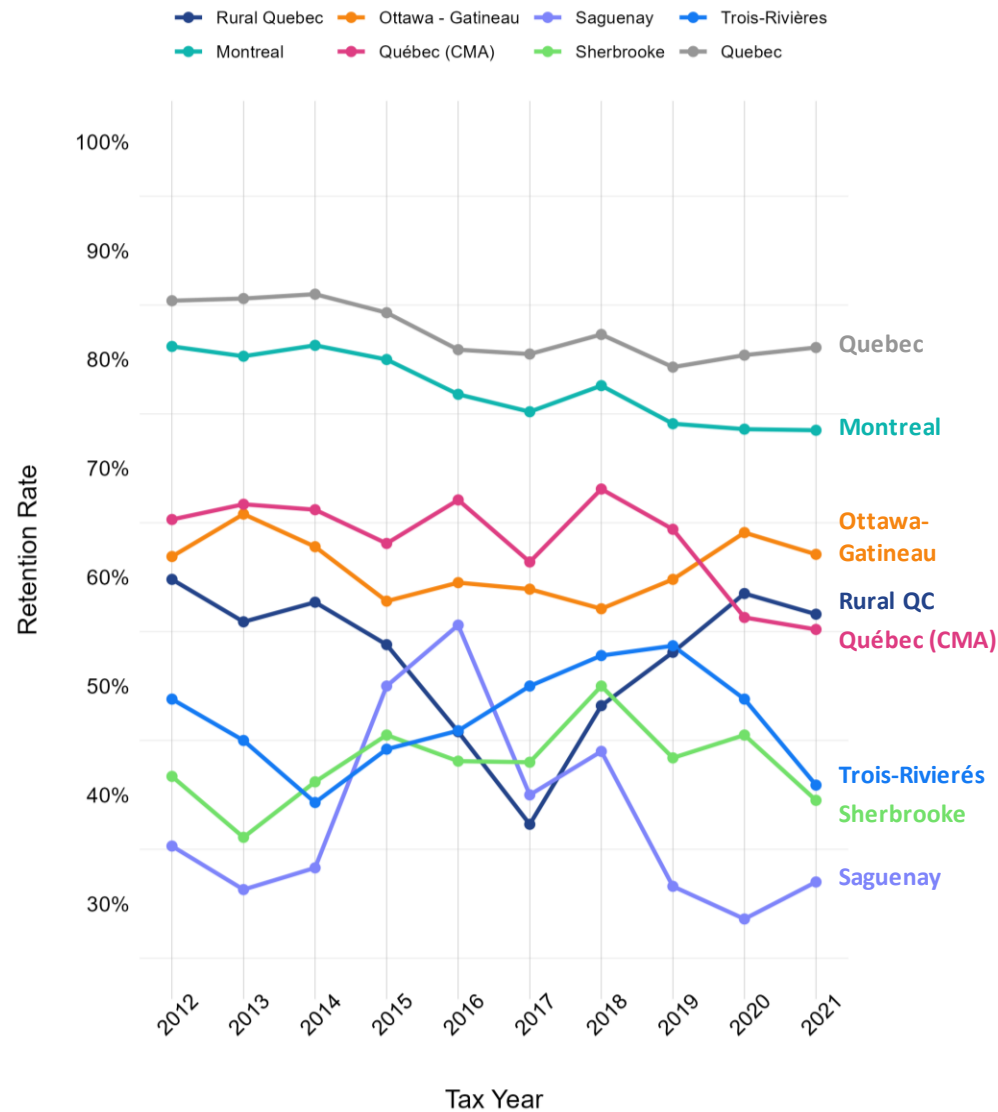
Five-year retention rate for immigrants in Ontario by CMA, 2012-2021

The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission by census metropolitan area (CMA).



Five-year retention rate for immigrants in Quebec by CMA, 2012-2021

The proportion of immigrants who have remained in their intended destination for 5 years since admission by census metropolitan area (CMA).



Data source

Statistics Canada. Table 43-10-0022-01 Mobility of immigrant taxfilers by census metropolitan areas and tax year. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/4310002201-eng>

Inclusion/Exclusion

Data includes immigrant taxfilers 15 years of age and older. Immigrant taxfilers residing out of Canada are excluded.

Immigrant admission categories

- **Economic immigrant** includes Worker programs, Business programs, and Provincial and territorial nominees.
- **Immigrant sponsored by family** includes Sponsored by spouse or partner/parent or grandparent/child, Sponsored intercountry adopted child, Public policy or humanitarian compassionate case sponsored family, and Immigrant sponsored by family, not included elsewhere.
- **Refugee** includes Protected person in Canada or dependent abroad and Resettled refugee.

Retention rate (five-year)

The retention rate represents the percentage of immigrant taxfilers continuing their residence in the geographical area (province or census metropolitan area as designated) of the intended destination for five years after their admission year (*e.g.*, for the 2021 tax year, retention rate is based on the cohort admitted in 2016).

Definition of rural/urban

In this dataset, rural is defined as any part of a province outside the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) listed below.

- **British Columbia:** Kelowna, Abbotsford-Mission, Vancouver, Victoria.
- **Alberta:** Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton.
- **Saskatchewan:** Regina, Saskatoon.
- **Manitoba:** Winnipeg.
- **Ontario:** Ottawa-Gatineau (ON part), Kingston, Peterborough, Belleville, Oshawa, Toronto, Guelph, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo, London, Barrie, Brantford, Hamilton, St. Catherines-Niagara, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Greater Sudbury.
- **Quebec:** Saguenay, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Sherbrooke, Montreal, Ottawa-Gatineau (QC part).
- **Prince Edward Island:** All areas are classified as rural.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** St. John's.
- **Nova Scotia:** Halifax.
- **New Brunswick:** Moncton, Saint John.