

New Canadians and the resource sector

Canadian Energy Centre

Immigrants and employment in oil, gas and mining

In this Fact Sheet, we examine landed immigrant employment trends and incomes in the Canadian quarrying, mining and oil and gas extraction sector between 2006 and 2019.

The number of landed immigrants employed in the resource sector ranged from a low of 22,000 in 2006 to a high of 33,600 in 2014, and in 2019 stood at 28,800. Critically, immigrants to Canada employed in the resource sector earned nine per cent more than those employed in utilities, 31 per cent more than those in construction and nearly twice as much those employed in agriculture. Also, increases in immigrant wages between 2006 and 2019 were highest in the resource sector when compared with other major industries.

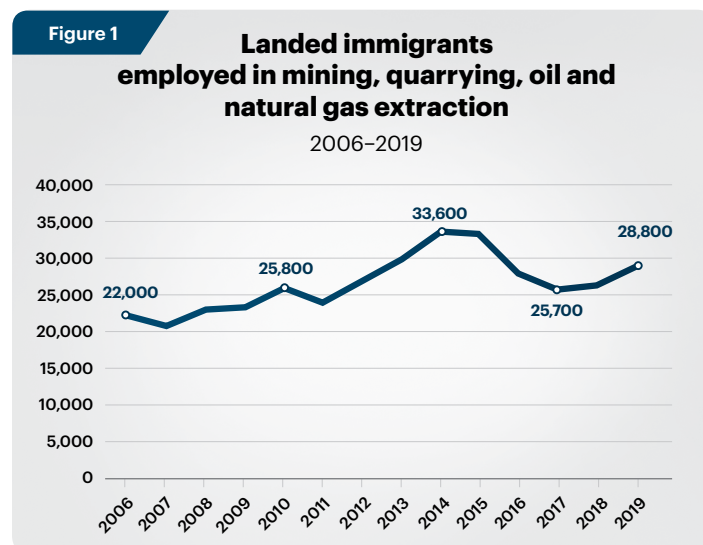
Background: Three types of immigrants

For the purposes of tracking economic progress, Statistics Canada divides landed immigrants into three groups:¹

- Very Recent Immigrants, also referred to as 'newcomers': Landed immigrants who have been in Canada for 5 years or less;
- Recent Immigrants: Landed immigrants who have been in Canada for more than 5 to 10 years; and
- Established Immigrants: Landed immigrants who have been in Canada for more than 10 years.

Figure 1: immigrant employment and income trends in the resource sector 2006-2019

The Statistics Canada data show that landed immigrant participation in the Canadian mining, quarrying and oil and natural gas extraction sector has for the most part increased since 2006. In 2019, 28,800 landed immigrants were employed in the sector; lower than the high of 33,600 in 2014 but 31 per cent higher than the 22,000 immigrants employed in the sector in 2006.

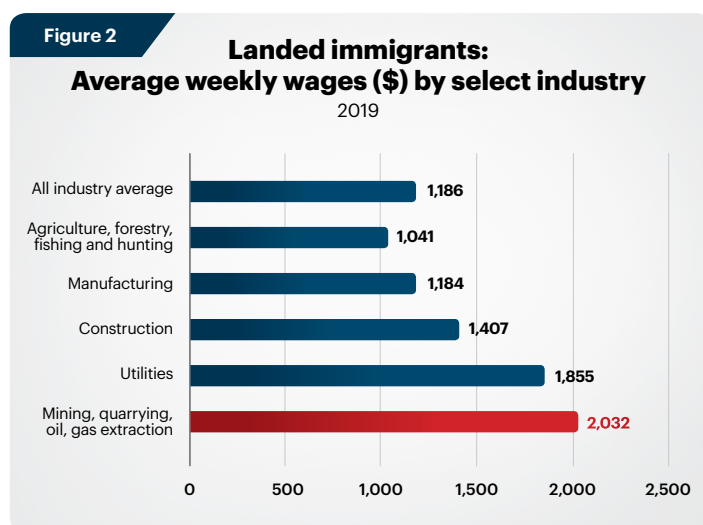


Source: Derived from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Custom Tabulation.

¹ This Brief uses data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), a monthly household survey. The LFS data series on immigrants began in January 2006, when five questions were added to the questionnaire in order to identify immigrants and provide timely information on their labour market situation. The findings in this report are based on annual averages of estimates for the years 2006 to 2019. Three groups of immigrants are identified based on how long they have been in Canada as landed immigrants prior to being interviewed for the LFS.

Figure 2: Average weekly wages by industry for landed immigrants

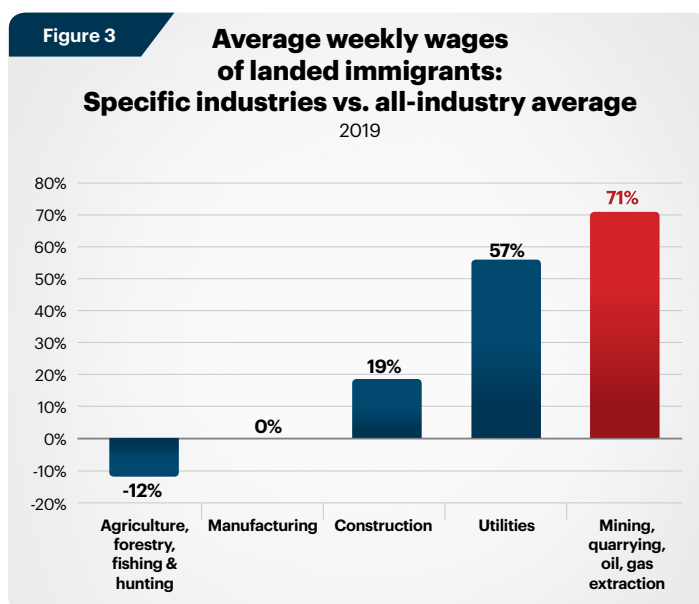
Landed immigrants employed in the mining, quarrying and oil and natural gas extraction sector are paid higher than other goods-producing industries, and higher than the average for all industries. In 2019, the average weekly wage was \$1,041 for landed immigrants employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; \$1,184 for landed immigrants in the manufacturing sector; \$1,407 in the construction sector; \$1,855 in the utilities sector; and \$2,032 in the mining, quarrying and oil and natural gas extraction sector. That all-industry average for landed immigrants was \$1,186.



Source: Derived from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Custom Tabulation.

Figure 3: Immigrant wages in the broad resource sector 71% higher than all-industry average

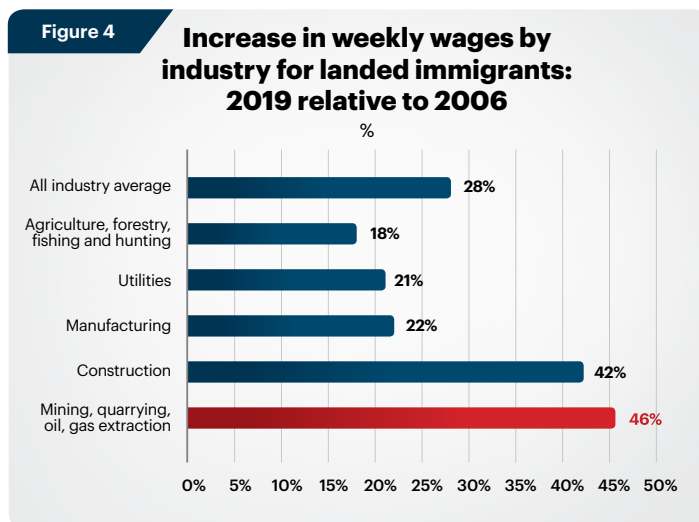
Expressed as percentages, in 2019 immigrants employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing earned 14 per cent less than the all-industry average and those in manufacturing earned virtually same as the average, while those in construction earned 19 per cent more than the all-industries average, immigrants in utilities earned 57 per cent more, and those mining, quarrying, oil and gas earned 71 per cent more than the all-industries average.



Source: Derived from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Custom Tabulation.

Figures 4 and 5: Highest immigrant wage increases in resource sector

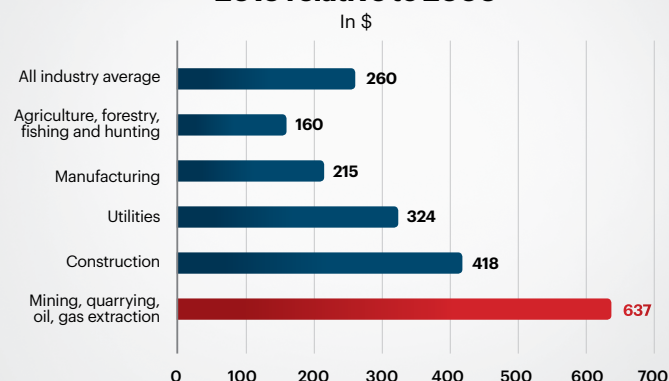
Between 2006 and 2019, average weekly wages for landed immigrants employed in mining, quarrying and oil and natural gas extraction sector grew from \$1,395 to \$2,032, an increase of nearly 46 per cent (Figure 4). This compares to an 18 per cent increase for agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; a 21 per cent increase for utilities; a 22 per cent increase for construction; and a 28 per cent increase for manufacturing. The all-industry average weekly wage increased by 28 per cent in 2019 relative to 2006. Expressed in dollar terms (Figure 5), the highest increase in weekly wages between 2006 and 2019 was \$637 for mining, quarrying and oil and natural gas extraction compared to an all-industry average increase of \$260.



Source: Derived from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Custom Tabulation.

Figure 5

Increase in weekly wages by industry for landed immigrants: 2019 relative to 2006



Source: Derived from Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, Custom Tabulation.

Takeaway: Resources and opportunities for landed immigrants

The Statistics Canada labour data shows that landed immigrants to Canada have benefitted from participation in the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction sector. The number of landed immigrants employed has mostly grown over the past 15 years, while average weekly earnings for landed immigrants working in sector are higher than for other goods-producing industries, and the average of all other-industries for landed immigrants.

Notes

Terms and definitions used in this report related to employment and incomes can be accessed through [Statistics Canada](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/92-62-001-x/2019001/article/00001-eng.htm). This CEC Fact Sheet was compiled by Ven Venkatachalam, Lennie Kaplan, and Mark Milke, at the Canadian Energy Centre: www.canadianenergycentre.ca. The authors and the Canadian Energy Centre would like to thank and acknowledge the assistance of an anonymous reviewer in reviewing the data and research for this Fact Sheet. Image credits: "Petroleum Workers Positioning a Drill" by Keith Wood.

Sources (Links live as of May 20, 2020)

Statistics Canada (2017). The Daily, September 13. <<https://bit.ly/357Lr4z>>; Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0083-01; <<https://bit.ly/3eQmwak>>; Statistics Canada Table 17-10-0005-01. <<https://bit.ly/3eOd1Z9>>. Statistics Canada Table: 17-10-0014-01 <<https://bit.ly/3510OMj>>; Statistics Canada. Table 43-10-0021-01 <<https://bit.ly/2zswcr9>>; Statistics Canada Table: 17-10-0021-01 <<https://bit.ly/35eKPKK>>; Statistics Canada, Custom tabulation, Labour Force Survey, 0320_03 Table1.ivt.

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