

POPULATION NB

Immigrant Mobility



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At first glance

OVERVIEW

Purpose

This report aims to address which group of immigrants has a higher tendency to stay in New Brunswick (NB) after obtaining permanent resident status, which could help inform decisions regarding public policies to attract and retain immigrants in the province. This paper primarily focuses on differences in retention rates between Economic Immigrants and All Immigrants who received landed immigrant/permanent resident status in 2010 and examines retention rates by pre-admission experience and sex. Pre-admission experience categories include work permits only, study permits only, both work and study permits, and individuals without any pre-admission permits.

Major Points

- Five years after admission, Nova Scotia has the highest retention rate for All Immigrants and Economic Immigrants admitted in 2010, at 65.5% and 64.2% respectively, compared to New Brunswick's retention rates of 48.5% and 48.1% respectively.
- In New Brunswick, Economic Immigrants have the lowest retention rate by their fifth year after admission, which is 24.1 percentage points lower than the category of immigrants sponsored by family, which has the highest retention rate.
- The retention rate for All Immigrants 5 years after admission is marginally higher for females compared to males by 0.7 percentage points, but female Economic Immigrants have lower retention rates than male Economic Immigrants by 1.2 percentage points.
- All Immigrants and Economic Immigrants with work permits have the highest retention rates among the pre-admission experience permit types, which holds true for each Atlantic province.
- Both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia immigrants with work and study permits have the lowest retention rates by pre-admission experience.
- For All Immigrants, those with work and study permits have the lowest retention rate for New Brunswick (at 38.1%), but for Economic Immigrants the lowest retention rate is among those without pre-admission permits (at 38.2%).
- Work permit holders in New Brunswick make up the only pre-admission experience type for All Immigrants in which males have higher retention rates than females. However, for Economic Immigrants, males have higher retention rates for all pre-admission experience types, except for those without any pre-admission permits.



Immigrant Income & Employment

INTRODUCTION

Immigrant retention is an important issue for New Brunswick (NB) and the other Atlantic provinces, as immigration contributes significantly to economic and population growth. Understanding how the retention rates of immigrants vary by immigrant admission category, pre-admission experience, and sex is important from a policy standpoint as this information can be used to inform public policies with the intent of attracting and retaining immigrants in NB. To this end, this report examines the retention rates of immigrants in NB one, three, and five years after their admission. This report primarily identifies the differences in retention rates between Economic Immigrants and All Immigrants by pre-admission experience and sex. Pre-admission experience categories include work permits only, study permits only, both work and study permits, and individuals without any pre-admission permits. In addition to Economic Immigrants, other immigrant admission categories include immigrants sponsored by family and refugees, but these have been omitted from analysis by pre-admission experience and sex due to a lack of available data.

International migration has been identified as a key solution to New Brunswick's slow growing and aging population. Consequently, the province has increased its immigration targets to 7,500 newcomers by 2024. It is important to note that for the programs and resources spent on attracting individuals to NB to be effective, the immigrants who arrive in the province must stay and contribute to the local economy. A recent NB-IRDT report found that 50% of immigrants (landed through the Provincial Nominee Program) leave NB after five years. In the province's population growth strategy for 2019-2024, NB recognizes that any future immigration strategies are only viable if efforts are refocused towards retention. The province's target for 2024 is to reach the national average of 85% retention.

Previous work experience in Canada is a valuable asset to NB employers, considering the barrier of failure to recognize non-Canadian credentials. The pre-admission experience types involved in this report include those with work permits, study permits, and both or neither. Additionally, the total immigrant population was primarily compared to the Economic Immigrant admission category. Economic Immigrants are accepted based on their ability to contribute to Canada's economy. Given the intent of increased immigration in NB as a tool to boost the local economy and grow the workforce, the province is likely to be interested in retaining immigrants with previous Canadian education or work experience and Economic Immigrants.

This report compares the retention rates of 2010 immigrants in NB by pre-admission experience, admission category, and sex. Retention rates are observed after one, three, and five years since admission using open source tax-filer data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database available through Statistics Canada. Retention rates are compared across the Atlantic provinces to determine NB's performance relative to its neighbours.



Key findings

RESULTS

Figure 1: Retention Rates of All 2010 Immigrants across the Atlantic Provinces over time

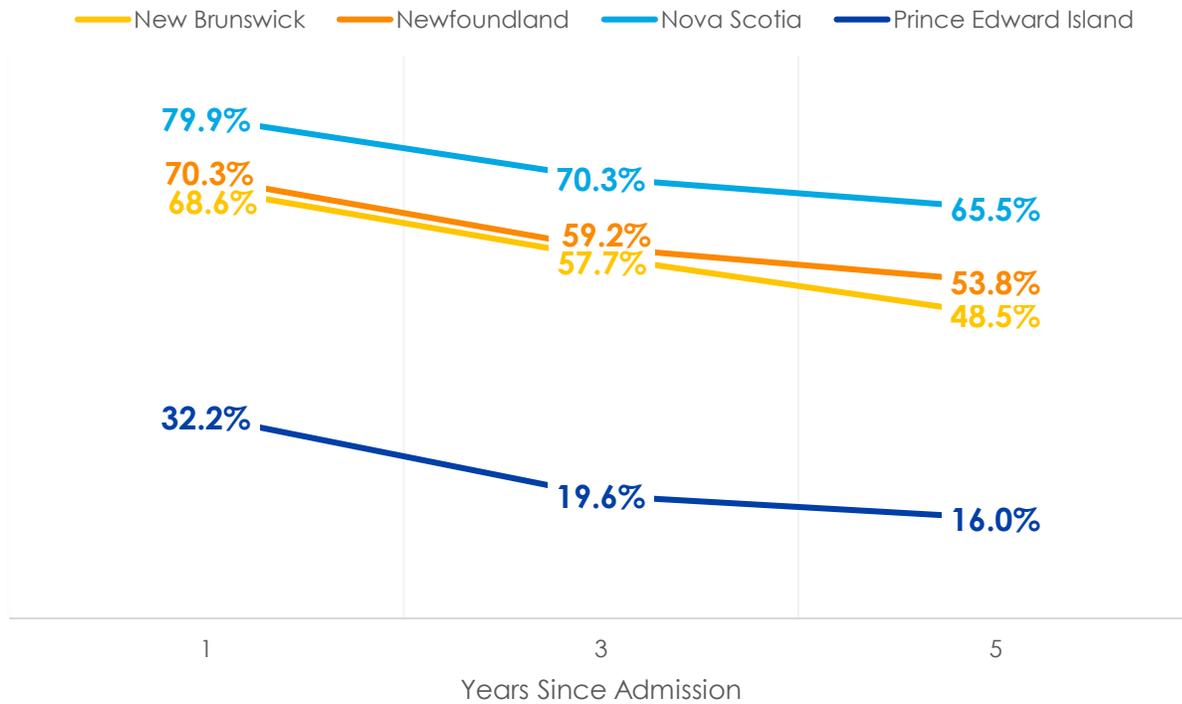
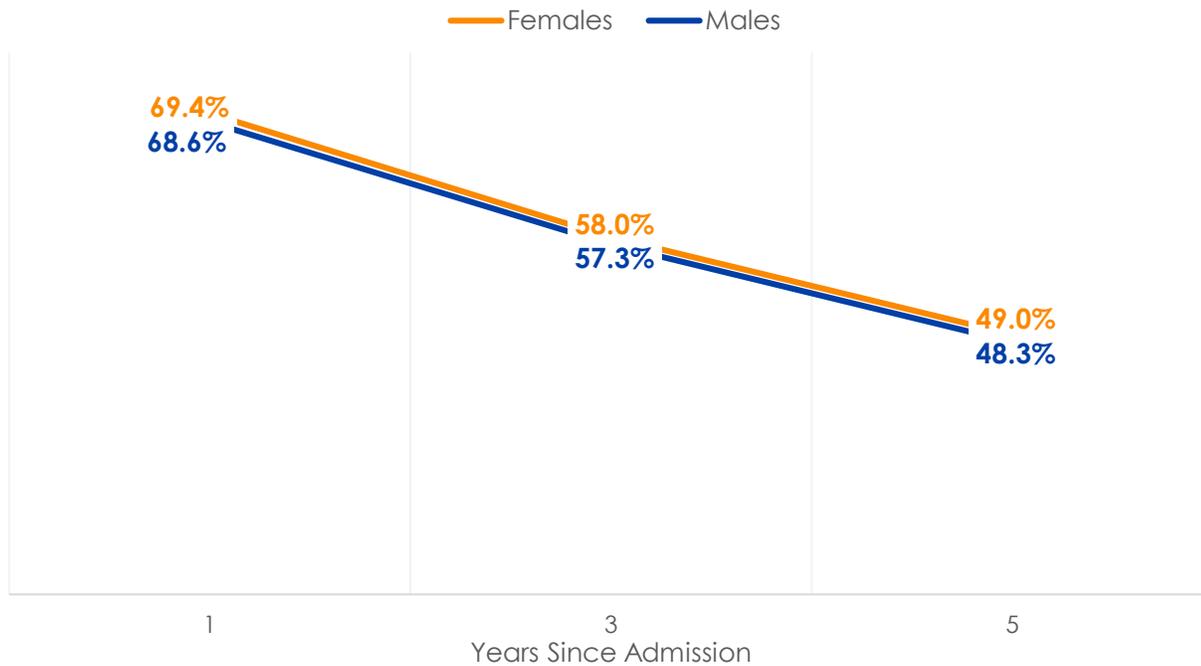


Figure 1 shows the 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year retention rates of immigrants in the Atlantic provinces who were admitted in 2010. Nova Scotia has the highest retention rate of the Atlantic provinces across all years considered, while New Brunswick's retention rate is only higher than that of Prince Edward Island.

Figure 2: Retention Rates of All 2010 Immigrants in NB over time, by Sex



In Figure 2, we can see that female immigrants in NB have a higher retention rate than males after one, three, and five years since admission. The rate of decline for retention is uniform and nearly identical for both sexes in NB, never differing by more than a percentage point.

Figure 3: 5-year Retention Rates of All 2010 Immigrants across the Atlantic Provinces, by Sex

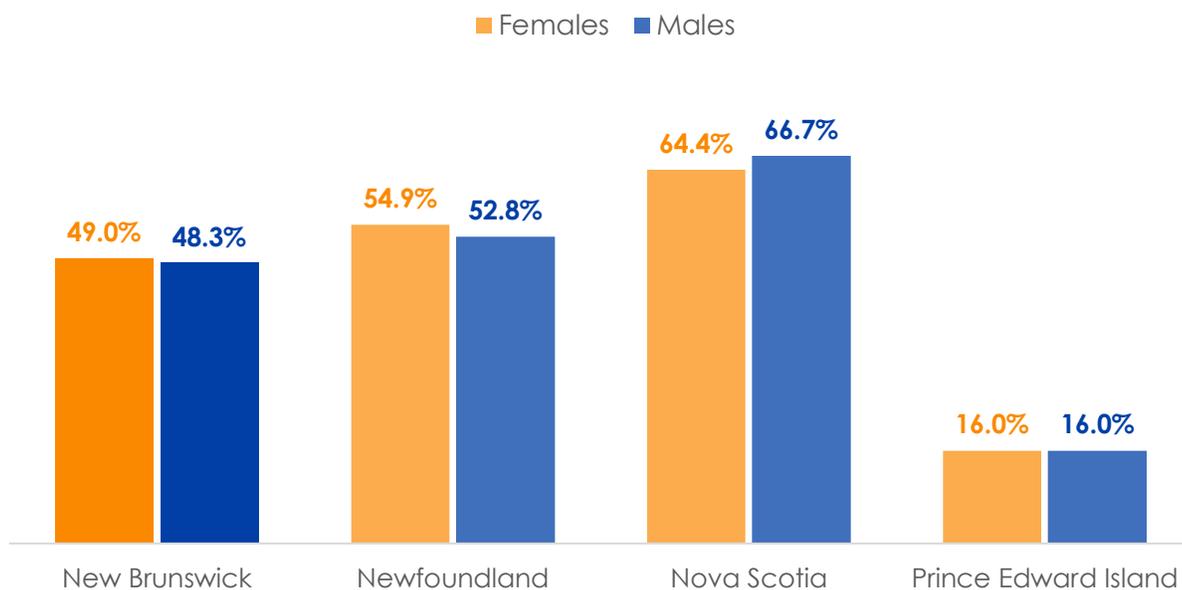


Figure 3 compares 5-year immigrant retention rates for each of the Atlantic provinces, according to sex. Five years after admission, a higher proportion of females than males stays in both New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. Nova Scotia is the only Atlantic province where more males remain than females. Nova Scotia also has the highest retention rate for both sexes.

Figure 4: Retention Rates of All 2010 Immigrants in NB over time, by Pre-admission Experience

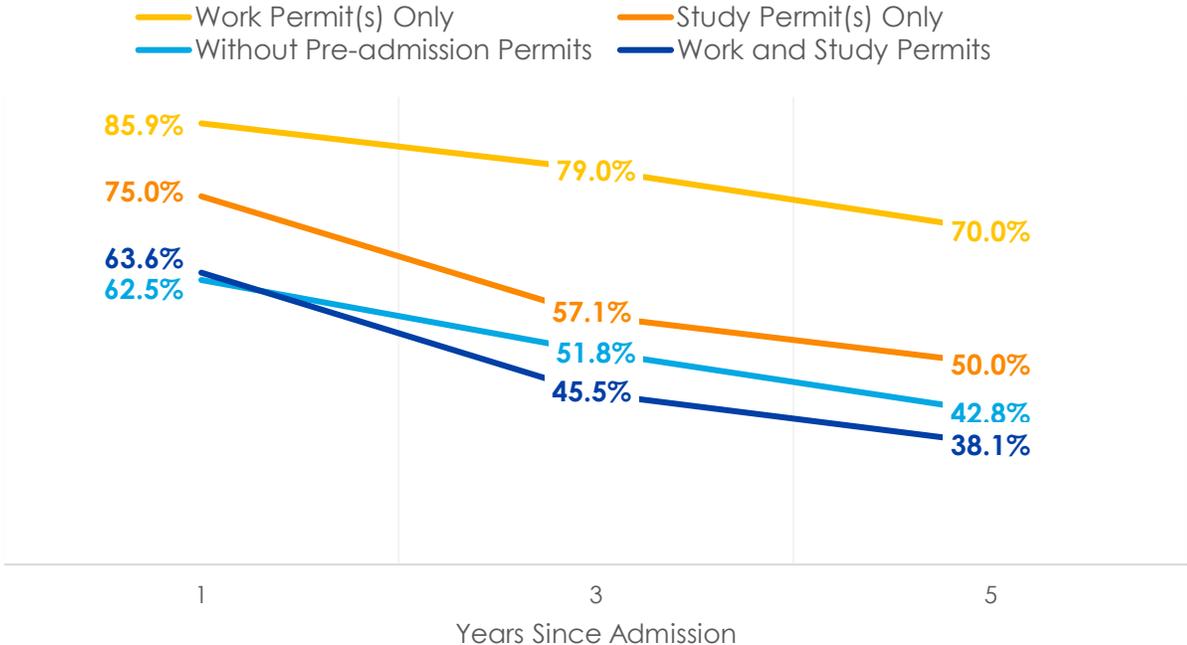


Figure 4 shows the 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year retention rates of immigrants in NB, according to type of pre-admission experience. The overall highest retention rate is among those with work permits only. The five-year retention rate is lowest for those with work and study permits and remains highest for those with only work permits.

Figure 5: 5-year Retention Rates of All 2010 Immigrants across the Atlantic Provinces, by Pre-admission Experience

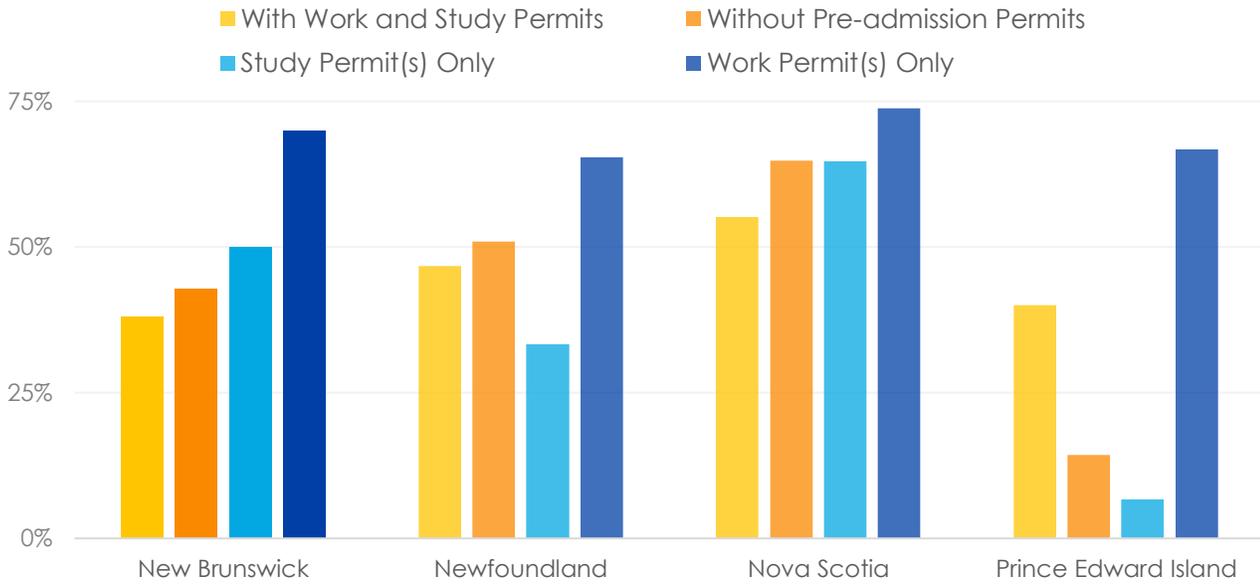


Figure 5 demonstrates that those with work permits have the highest retention rates for each of the Atlantic provinces, with the highest of all belonging to those in Nova Scotia (73.8% retention rate), and New Brunswick trailing behind by only a 3.8 percentage point difference. The lowest retention rate for NB is among those with work and study permits (at 38.1%), which is the lowest of this pre-admission experience category across all the Atlantic provinces.

Figure 6: 5-year Retention Rates of All 2010 Immigrants in NB, by Pre-admission Category and Sex

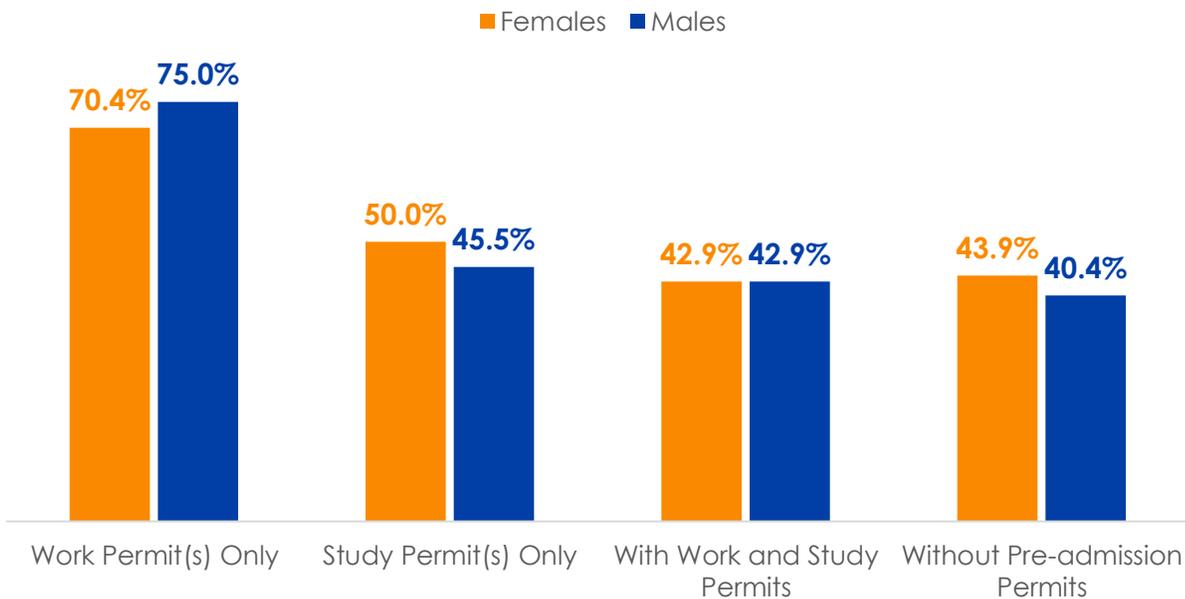
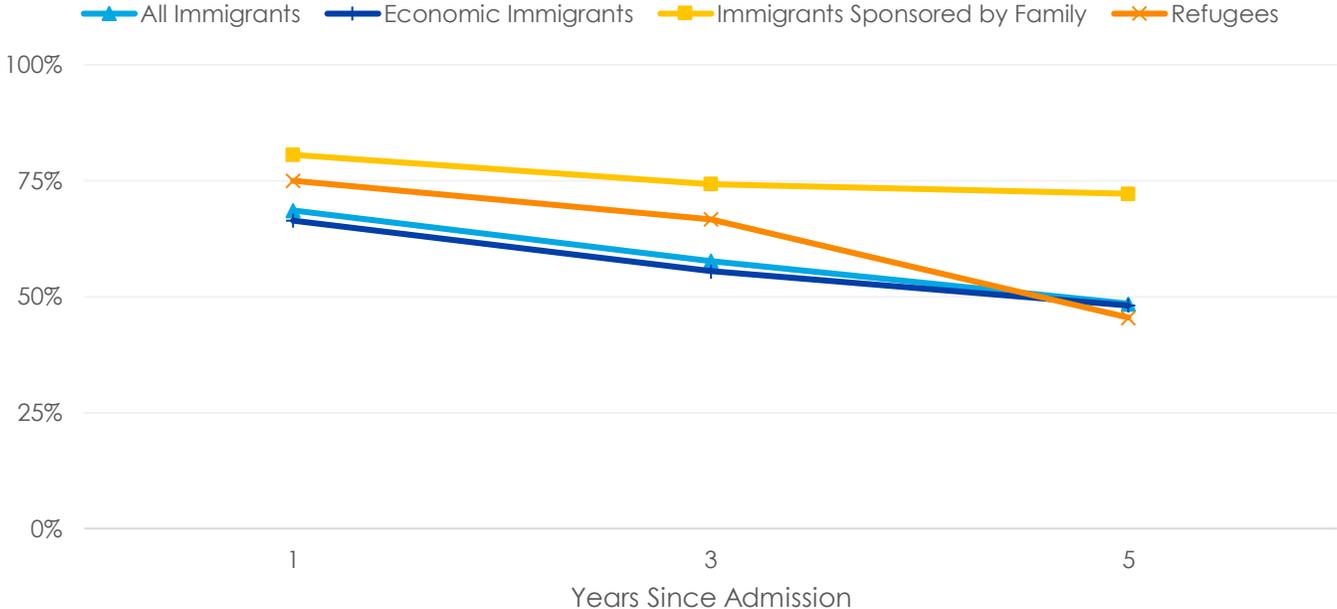


Figure 6 compares 5-year retention rates in NB according to pre-admission experience type. As previously observed, the highest retention rate is for those with work permits, which is shown here to be true for both sexes. The order of retention rates, from highest to lowest, is consistent among both sexes. The only pre-admission experience category in which males have a higher retention rate than females is the work permit category, which also has the highest retention rate for the province.

Figure 7: Retention Rates of 2010 Immigrants in NB over time, by Admission Category



As shown in Figure 7, immigrants sponsored by family have the highest 5-year retention rates in New Brunswick, at 72.2%. All Immigrants and Economic Immigrants in particular have similar retention rates. By their fifth year in NB, refugees have the lowest retention rate of the admission categories, at 45.5%.

Figure 8: Retention Rates of 2010 Economic Immigrants in the Atlantic Provinces

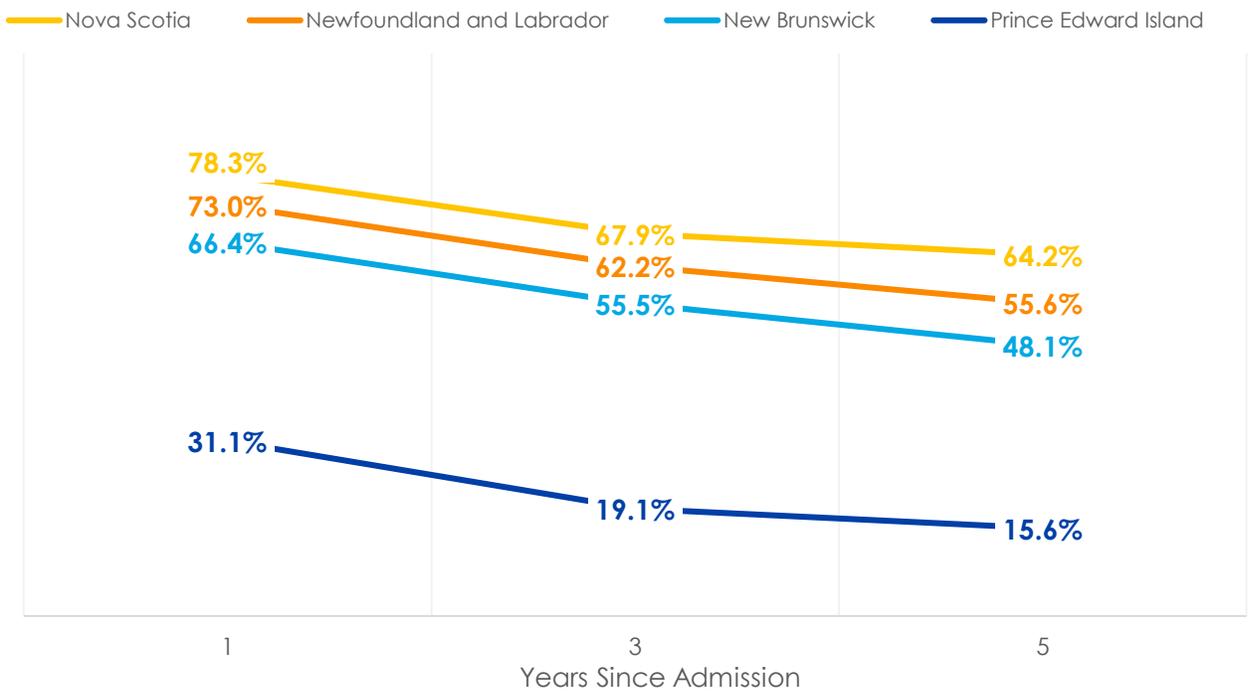
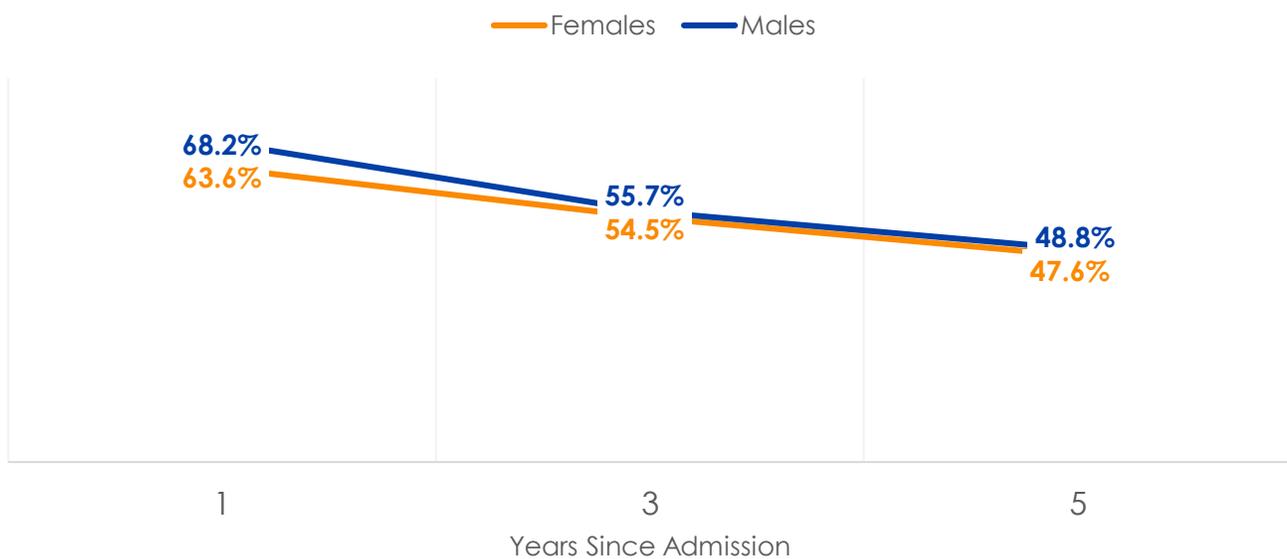


Figure 8 compares the retention rates of all Economic Immigrants across the Atlantic Provinces. The retention rates for each Atlantic province decrease at a similar proportion over time. The lowest retention rates are in Prince Edward Island, and the highest are in Nova Scotia. Five years after admission, Economic Immigrants in NB have a retention rate 16.1 percentage points lower than those in Nova Scotia.

Figure 9: Retention Rates of 2010 Economic Immigrants in NB over time, by Sex



In Figure 9, we can see that male Economic Immigrants have higher retention rates than females over time. However, for All Immigrants, females have higher retention rates. The retention rate gap between the sexes converges over time, with males only 1.2 percentage points higher in retention than females five years after admission. This is similar to the 0.7 percentage point difference in 5-year retention rates between the sexes for All Immigrants, as presented in Figure 2.

Figure 10: 5-year Retention Rates of 2010 Economic Immigrants in the Atlantic Provinces, by Sex

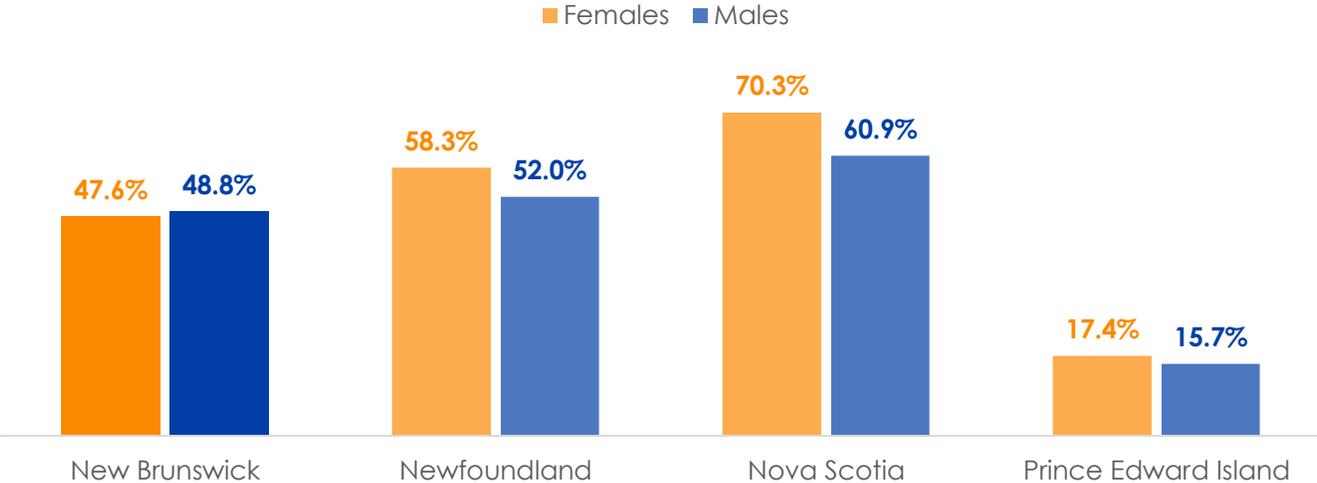


Figure 10 shows that NB Economic Immigrants have lower retention rates for both sexes than Economic Immigrants in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. New Brunswick is the only Atlantic province where male economic immigrants have higher retention rates than females. New Brunswick also has the smallest gap between the sexes for retention rates, at a previously stated 1.2% difference (see Figure 9).

Figure 11: Retention Rates of 2010 Economic Immigrants in NB, by Pre-admission Experience

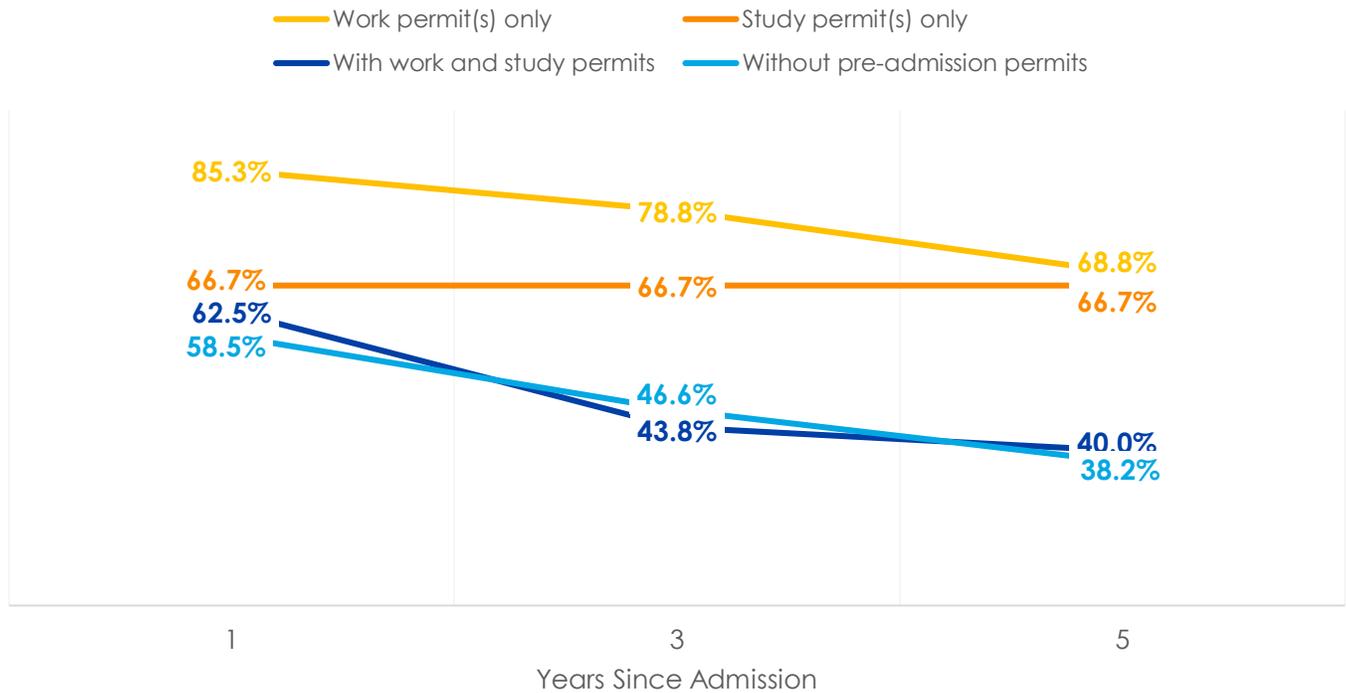
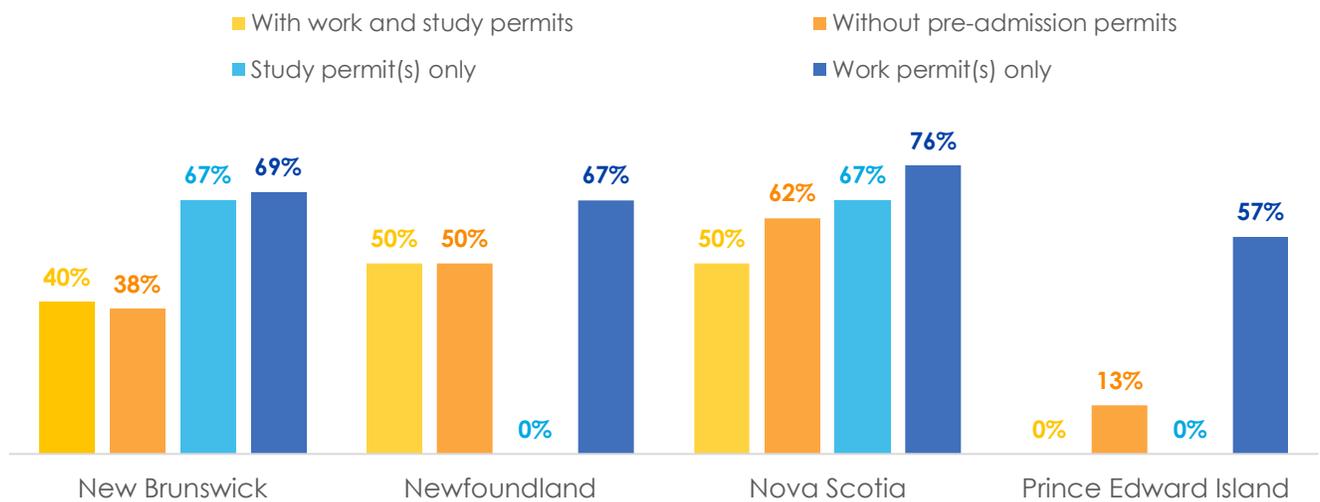


Figure 11 shows the retention rates of NB Economic Immigrants by pre-admission experience over time. Economic Immigrants with work permits have the highest retention rates, which is consistent with the total immigrant population. The lowest retention rates are for those without pre-admission permits, whereas the lowest retention rates for the total immigrant population are for those with work and study permits.

Figure 12: 5-year Retention Rates of 2010 Economic Immigrants in the Atlantic Provinces, by Pre-admission Experience



As shown in Figure 12, New Brunswick is the only Atlantic province where Economic Immigrants without pre-admission permits have lower retention rates than those with work and study permits, as in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. Disregarding PEI, New Brunswick has the lowest retention rates for both those without pre-admission permits and those with both work and study permits. The retention rate for Economic Immigrants with work permits in NB is only 7.0 percentage points lower than the highest rate, which is for Nova Scotia.

Figure 13: 5-year Retention Rates of 2010 Economic Immigrants in NB, by Pre-admission Experience and Sex

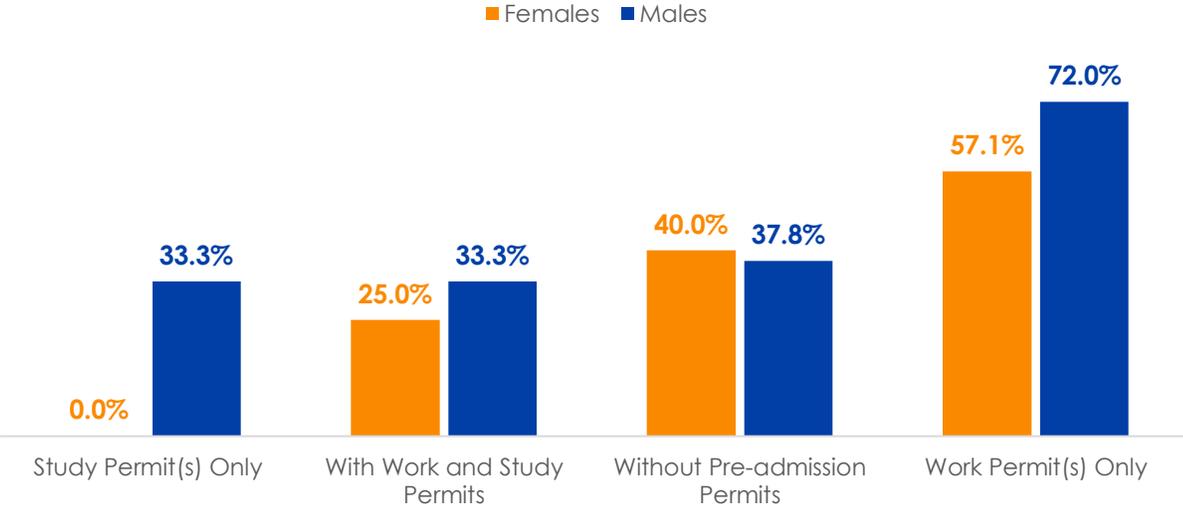


Figure 13 compares the retention rates of Economic Immigrants in New Brunswick by pre-admission experience and sex. Those without pre-admission experience make up the only category in which females have higher retention rates than males.

In Figure 5, the retention rates of the total immigrant population were compared, and females had higher retention rates for all pre-admission types except for those with work permits. For All Immigrants, male work permit holders had higher retention rates by 4.6 percentage points; but for Economic Immigrants in Figure 12, we can see that it is a 14.9 percentage points difference.



The bottom line

CONCLUSION

The goal of this report was to identify which types of pre-admission permits and admission categories best contribute to the retention of immigrants in New Brunswick. This report largely identified the differences in retention rates between Economic Immigrants and All Immigrants by pre-admission experience and sex. Data on other immigrant categories was not readily available for analysis.

Compared to the other Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick has lower retention rates than both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, which can be seen in Figure 1 for All Immigrants and in Figure 8 for Economic Immigrants. New Brunswick's low retention rates relative to the other Atlantic provinces has previously been identified by the province as a key issue to rectify in order to grow the population.

When comparing retention rates of All Immigrants by sex, we find that females have higher retention rates in both NB and Newfoundland and Labrador. Female immigrants also have marginally higher retention rates compared to males in all pre-admission experience types except for those with work permits, which is the category with the highest retention rates among both sexes for the province (with males having a marginally higher retention rate). Regarding Economic Immigrants in NB, males have higher retention rates than females. When these results are broken down by pre-admission experience, it can be seen that those without pre-admission permits are the only category of Economic Immigrants in which females have higher retention rates than males.

As previously stated, work permit holders have the highest retention rates, and this is the case for all the Atlantic provinces. Concerningly, both New Brunswick's and Nova Scotia's immigrants with work and study permits have the lowest retention rates when comparing the pre-admission experience of All Immigrants. Of those with both work and study permit pre-admission experience, NB has the lowest retention rate, at 38.1%. However, for Economic Immigrants in NB, those without any permits have the lowest retention rates, at 38.2%, but Economic Immigrants with both work and study permits still have the lowest retention rates in both Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

When observing retention rates from one year to five years since admission for the total immigrant population, we find those with work permits see the smallest decline in NB, at 15.9 percentage points. However, compared to those with work and study permits, they have the lowest retention rate and the largest drop, from 63.6% to 38.1% over the same time period. For Economic Immigrants, those with work permits still have the highest retention rate, but by the fifth year since admission it is 1.2 percentage points lower than that of their All Immigrant counterparts, despite being only 0.6 percentage points lower after the first year. The retention rates for immigrants sponsored by family as a whole are the highest when comparing admission categories within the province, and second highest to Newfoundland and Labrador when comparing across the Atlantic provinces.

Additional analysis may be required to explain why those with both work and study permits have the lowest retention rate among All Immigrants and the second lowest among Economic Immigrants. This could indicate that the primary factor for those leaving NB may not necessarily be the inability to find work, given those with both work and study experience in Canada would likely be the highest qualified pre-admission experience category. Regardless of the reasoning, it may be of interest to New Brunswick to focus retention strategies towards highly skilled individuals with previous work experience in Canada who are likely capable of making positive contributions to the local economy.

REFERENCES

All figures

Statistics Canada. Table 43-0010-12-01 Mobility of Immigrant Taxfilers, Canada and Provinces