



# Working with administrative data for the purpose of estimating migration flows at Statistics Canada

UNECE, Work Sessions on Migration Statistics

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# Statistics Canada

- Under the [Statistics Act](#), SC is required to collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the commercial, industrial, financial, social, economic and general activities and condition of the people of Canada. Two main objectives:
- To provide statistical information and analysis about Canada's economic and social structure
- To promote sound statistical standards and practices by:
  - using [common concepts and classifications](#) to provide better quality data.
  - working with the provinces and territories to achieve greater efficiency in data collection and less duplication.
  - reducing the burden on respondents through greater use of data sharing agreements
  - improving statistical methods and systems through joint research studies and projects.

# Population Estimates

- Produced by the Demographic Estimates Program (DEP)
- Cohort-Component Method
- Components of international migration
  - Immigration (+)
  - Emigration (-)
  - Returning emigrants (+)
  - Net temporary emigrants (+/-)
  - Net non-permanent residents (Net NPRs) (+/-)

## Sources of information

- Emigration, Returning emigrants, Net temporary emigrants
  - No legal requirements in Canada
  - Modelling with partial information
  - Census, Post-censal information (Reverse Record Check), Personal Income Tax information, US information
- Immigration & Net NPRs
  - Administrative data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)
  - Excellent coverage & timeliness



## Estimates of immigration & Net NPRs

- Produced internally on a monthly basis for the Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Released publicly on a quarterly basis
- Entirely based on administrative data from IRCC
- Cumulative files are received on a monthly basis
  - Very timely data: received less than 3 weeks after end of reference period
  - Contains revisions for previous periods



# Immigration

- Totalisations by age, sex and intended province/territory of residence calculated from the monthly landing files
- Information released by both IRCC and SC

## Net change in the number of NPRs

- Derived from files of events
  - Working permits
  - Study permits
  - Ministry permits
  - Deportations
  - Applications for landing
  - Refugee status claims
- All records have a unique identifier and linkages between files can be easily made

## Net change in the number of NPRs

- A biography of each individual is created
- Stocks of NPRs are calculated by age, sex and province/territory of residence
- Net change for a specific period is obtained by subtracting the end-of-period stock from the one at the beginning
- Such information is not released by IRCC



# Challenges

- Concepts might differ between IRCC and SC
  - Working towards harmonization
- Different terminology
  - Permanent residents vs Landing Immigrants
  - Temporary residents vs Non-permanent residents
  - SC must react/adapt to each IRCC change
- Different reference dates and periods for population estimates
  - IRCC: calendar year
  - SC: July to June year



## Challenges (2)

- SC must know well in advance about any legislative or operational changes made by IRCC to avoid unexplained breaks in historical series

## A necessary partnership

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Interdepartmental Committee (IDC)
- Communication through focal points
  - One per organization
- Before each SC data release
  - Information is sent to IRCC to prepare briefing notes to management
  - Regular working-level meetings
  - Metadata for users to understand differences in numbers