

Immigrants to Quebec are the major contributor to our growing rate of persons with higher education

Jack Jedwab

President Association for Canadian Studies

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Introduction

In Quebec there is an important gap in the extent to which immigrants and the domestic born population hold a university degree (bachelor's degree or higher). That gap has been widening as the immigrants which Quebec and the rest of Canada have been selecting tend to be university degree holders to a very significant extent. This is illustrated in the tables that follow which reveal yet other interesting facets in the changing demographic composition of university degree holders as regards evolving gender distribution, generational differences and the considerable variation across visible minorities. The shifts observed here risk having impact with respect to expectations around the value of higher education for the labor market as well as for social divides between the most and lesser educated segments of the population.

The data was collected from custom tabulations from the 2021 census of Canada and to ensure better comparisons the Quebec data was filtered for age and our focus was on persons between the ages of 35 and 44.

Quebec Immigrants are far more likely than non-immigrants to possess a bachelors degree or better

Quebec 35-44 2021	Total -	Bachelor's degree or higher	Bachelor's degree or higher
Total	1116870	386905	34.6
Non-immigrants	823705	235325	28.5
Immigrants	255515	131590	51.5
Non-permanent residents	37655	19990	53

Since 2000 there has been a substantial and steady increase in the percentage of immigrants in Quebec holding bachelor's degree of higher

Quebec 35-44 2021	Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree	Bachelor's degree or higher	Percentage Bachelor's degree or higher
Total - Immigrant status and period of immigration	1116870	386905	34.6
Non-immigrants	823705	235325	28.6
Immigrants	255515	131585	51.5
Before 1980	990	390	39.4
1980 to 1990	18515	6865	37
1991 to 2000	30815	9350	30.3
2001 to 2010	80145	41035	51.2
2011 to 2021	125040	73945	59.1
Non-permanent residents	37650	19990	53.1

Quebec immigrants are much more likely than non-immigrants to hold graduate degrees as well degrees in key health domains

Quebec 35-44 2021	Total -	Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	Master's degree	Earned doctorate	Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	Master's degree	Earned doctorate
Total - Immigrant status	1116870	8585	96530	17020	0.7	8.6	1.5
Non- immigrants	823705	5265	49815	8155	0.6	6.0	1.0
Immigrants	255515	2880	40165	7310	1.1	15.7	2.8
Non- permanent residents	37655	440	6550	1560	1.1	17.3	4.1

Consistent increase in share of Quebecers holding bachelors degree or better with majority of first generation (immigrant) Quebecers holding a Bachelors degree or better

Bachelor's degree or higher 35-44	2021	2016	2011
Total –Quebec 2021	34.6	31.1	28.7
First generation	51.5	46.1	43.3
Second generation	40.2	38.0	35.4
Third generation or more	27.1	25.2	23.5

Quebec's vizmin population are increasingly more likely to hold a bachelor's than those not identifying as vizmin; Immigrants more likely than their children to hold a bachelor's degree

Quebec 35-44	Visible Minorities			Not Visible Minorities		
	2021	2016	2011	2021	2016	2011
Bachelor's degree or higher						
2021						
Total -	46.8	41.5	39.8	31.4	28.9	26.7
First generation	47.8	41.9	39.8	59.9	54.3	49.7
Second generation	40.7	39.6	42.9	40.0	37.5	34.3
Third generation or more	23.5	19.7	29.7	27.1	25.2	23.5

Second generation and third generation plus women are increasingly widening the gap with men when it comes to holding a university degree

Quebec Bachelor's degree or higher 2021 35-44	2021	2016	2011
Total - Gender	34.6	31.1	28.7
Men+	29.3	26.7	26.0
Women+	39.9	35.5	31.2
Total First generation	51.5	46.1	43.3
Men+	50.8	46.7	45.1
Women+	52.2	45.6	41.5
Total - Second generation	40.2	38.0	35.4
Men+	33.0	31.8	30.8
Women+	47.5	44.4	40.1
Total - Third generation or more	27.1	25.2	23.5
Men+	20.4	19.4	19.7
Women+	33.8	30.9	27.3

For the most part the children of immigrants drop below immigrant generation when it comes to obtaining a bachelor's degree or higher

Quebec 35 to 44 years 2021 Bachelor's degree of higher	First generation	Second generation
Total - Visible minority	51.5	40.2
Total visible minority population	47.8	40.7
South Asian	41.1	59.5
Chinese	67.7	64.0
Black	40.1	30.2
Filipino	42.5	45.5
Arab	52.8	48.7
Not a visible minority	59.9	40.0

Women in Quebec are more likely men to have bachelor's degrees or better amongst those not identifying as a visible minority as well as amongst Latin American, Filipino and Korean identifiers...males not identifying as visible minorities are far less likely than others to hold bachelors degrees or better

Bachelor's degree or higher 2021 35 to 44 years Quebec	Total - Gender	Men+	Women+
Total -	34.6	29.3	39.9
Total visible minority population	46.8	46.4	47.2
South Asian	42.9	43.0	42.9
Chinese	66.9	67.1	66.9
Black	38.1	40.4	35.9
Filipino	42.9	34.0	49.2
Arab	52.7	53.6	51.8
Latin American	45.3	40.9	49.4
Korean	67.3	62.1	71.6
Japanese	59.2	65.8	56.2
Not a visible minority	31.4	25.0	37.9

Ontario and British Columbia have the highest share of persons holding bachelor's degrees of higher as well persons holding degrees in medicine, dentistry or optometry

2021	Bachelor's degree or higher	Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry
Canada	26.7	0.7
Ontario	29.9	0.8
British Columbia	28.6	0.8
Yukon	27.4	0.5
Alberta	25.6	0.7
Nova Scotia	24.3	0.6
Quebec	23.5	0.6
Manitoba	22.9	0.6
Northwest Territories	22.1	0.4
Prince Edward Island	22.0	0.6
Saskatchewan	20.5	0.6
New Brunswick	19.0	0.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	16.6	0.5
Nunavut	10.6	0.1

Montreal ranks 9th in Canada amongst 20 CMA's in terms of share of percentage holding bachelors degree or higher

2021	Bachelor's degree or higher	Master's degree	Earned doctorate
Canada	26.7	5.7	0.9
Ottawa	39.3	10.3	2.0
Toronto	38.0	8.9	1.1
Vancouver	35.2	7.8	1.2
Calgary	34.4	7.0	1.0
Victoria	33.6	8.2	1.9
Guelph	32.9	7.4	2.1
Halifax	32.6	7.4	1.2
Fredericton	31.9	7.1	1.6
Montréal	29.3	6.8	1.2
Kitchener - Cambridge – Waterloo	28.9	6.4	1.3
Saskatoon	28.8	5.6	1.4
Winnipeg	28.5	4.8	0.8
Kingston	28.0	6.8	2.4
Regina	27.8	5.4	0.8
Hamilton	27.7	5.7	1.0
Québec CMA	27.6	6.4	1.3
Gatineau	27.1	6.9	1.0
London	26.6	5.5	1.3
St. John's N.L.	26.5	6.5	1.2
Edmonton	26.5	5.0	1.0