

RESEARCH at a Glance

RECHERCHE en un coup d'oeil



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Are refugees good for Canada?

A look at Canadian refugee integration

UNHCR Canada | HCR Canada

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UNHCR is grateful for the assistance of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Research and Evaluation Branch and to Statistics Canada for providing the source data on which much of this study is based.

Overview | Aperçu

"The following study surveys the most recent data and research available to provide a glimpse into the lives and achievements of the one million refugees who arrived in Canada since 1980.¹ Much of the information is based on an analysis of the 2016 Census. It provides facts in an accessible format concerning the Canadian refugee integration experience. It should serve as a useful source for those interested in explaining to various audiences how refugees integrate and contribute to Canadian society and the economy. Most refugees came to Canada with few, if any, financial resources, and often had to learn a new language and adapt to a new culture. Despite these challenges, the results show that refugees do not simply benefit from the safety Canada gives them. In fact, they embrace the opportunity that Canada provides to build a better life and become important contributors to the country's economy and cultural diversity."

Canada has a strong tradition of welcoming refugees: Canada has welcomed 1,088,015 refugees since 1980. This number includes those who were recognized as refugees in Canada or who were resettled from overseas.

Unemployment rate: Refugees have almost the same unemployment rate as Canadians.

Income: Refugees prosper and join Canada's middle-class within five years of their arrival. One in four earned between \$40,000 and \$79,999 annually, similar to statistics for Canadians.

Paying taxes: Canada's investment in refugees pays off. After 20 years in Canada, refugees contribute more to Canada in income tax – not counting all of the other taxes they pay – than they receive in public benefits and services.

Skill levels: Refugees work in skilled professions, including management and trades.

Entrepreneurship: Refugees create jobs for both themselves and other Canadians. 14.4% are self-employed or business owners.

Aging population: Canada has an aging population and needs more young people. Refugees often come to Canada early in their lives, with many years to contribute.

Settling across Canada: Many refugees choose to settle in smaller Canadian cities and towns, not just in major urban areas.

Home ownership: Two out of three refugees in Canada become home owners after ten years.

Sense of belonging: Refugees report a strong sense of belonging to Canada.

Citizenship: Refugees have the highest citizenship uptake rate of all immigration categories.

Education: Refugee children perform as well in school as Canadian-born children, and their knowledge and skills contribute greatly to Canada's workforce.

Download the full report | Télécharger le rapport complet (en anglais) :

<https://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Are-Refugees-Good-for-Canada-A-Look-at-Canadian-Refugee-Integration-November-2019.pdf>

Related resources | Ressources connexes :

[Refugees are good for Canada](#) | [Les réfugiés contribuent à la réussite économique du Canada](#)

- [Are Refugees Good For Canada? \(Economic Integration Explainer\)](#) | [Les Réfugiés un Bon Pari Pour Le Canada?](#)
- [Video](#) | [Vidéo](#)

Other recent publications from UNHCR Canada | Autres publications récentes du HCR Canada :

[Refugee Resettlement & UNHCR](#) (infographic) | [La réinstallation des réfugiés & le HCR](#) (infographie)

[Irregular arrivals at the border: Background information Jan - July 2019](#) |
[Les arrivées irrégulières à la frontière : informations générales janvier-juillet 2019](#)

[What to know about irregular border crossings](#) | [Ce qu'il faut savoir des passages irréguliers à la frontière](#)

[Canadian cities join 175 others in global campaign to welcome refugees](#) |
[Des villes Canadiennes se joignent à 175 autres villes dans la campagne mondiale d'accueil des personnes réfugiées](#)

[Latin American countries agree \[on\] road map for integration of Venezuelans](#) |
[Les pays d'Amérique latine adoptent une feuille de route pour l'intégration des Vénézuéliens](#)

[The Economic Mobility Pathways Project – Policy Principles and Lessons Learned : A Canadian Perspective on Complementary Pathways for Admission](#) (IRCC-UNHCR)

Additional information

Research at a Glance is designed to inform the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) community and other interested parties about recently published, policy-relevant research from government, academic and NGO sources. The views expressed in the documents described do not necessarily reflect those of IRCC.

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Recherche en un coup d'œil vise à informer la communauté d'Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada (IRCC) et autres parties intéressées à des recherches pertinentes pour les politiques récemment publiées par des sources gouvernementales, universitaires et d'ONG. Les opinions exprimées dans les documents décrits ne reflètent pas nécessairement celles d'IRCC.

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