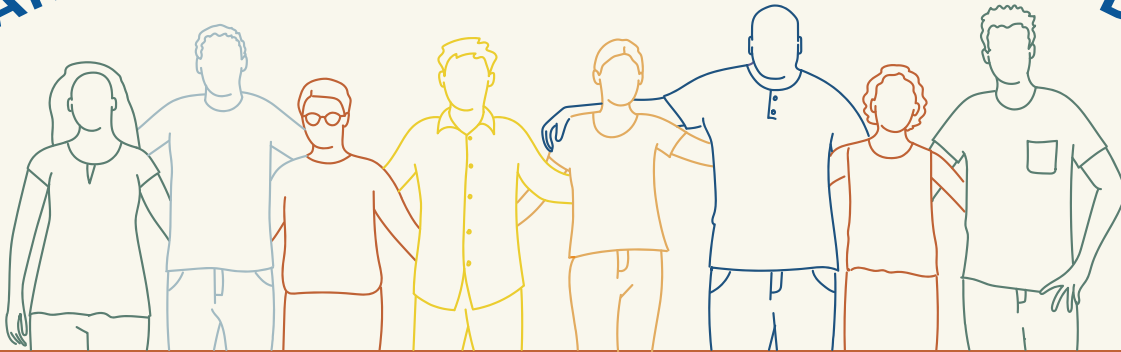


# ATLANTIC IMMIGRATION SPOTLIGHT ON DATA



## NEWCOMER RETENTION IN ATLANTIC CANADA

**In comparison to the rest of Canada, immigrant retention is low across the Atlantic region. However, retention rates vary for newcomer populations.**

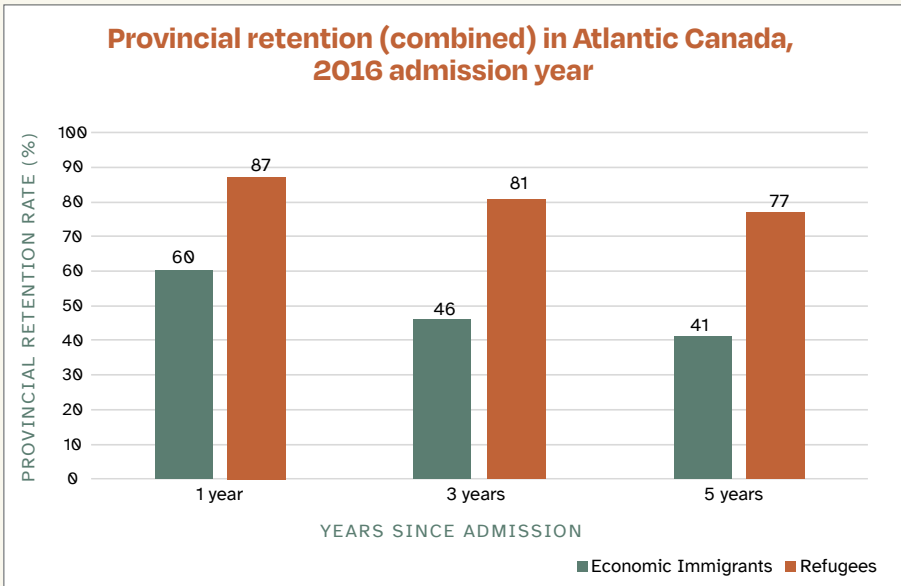
**While the five-year regional retention rate is less than half (44%) for economic immigrants, it is much higher (79%) for refugees.**

Investing in programs to support the integration of those who arrive as refugees may have long-term benefits for growth in the Atlantic region. Moreover, the fact that most out-migrants leave Atlantic Canada suggests that retention is a regional rather than provincial issue.

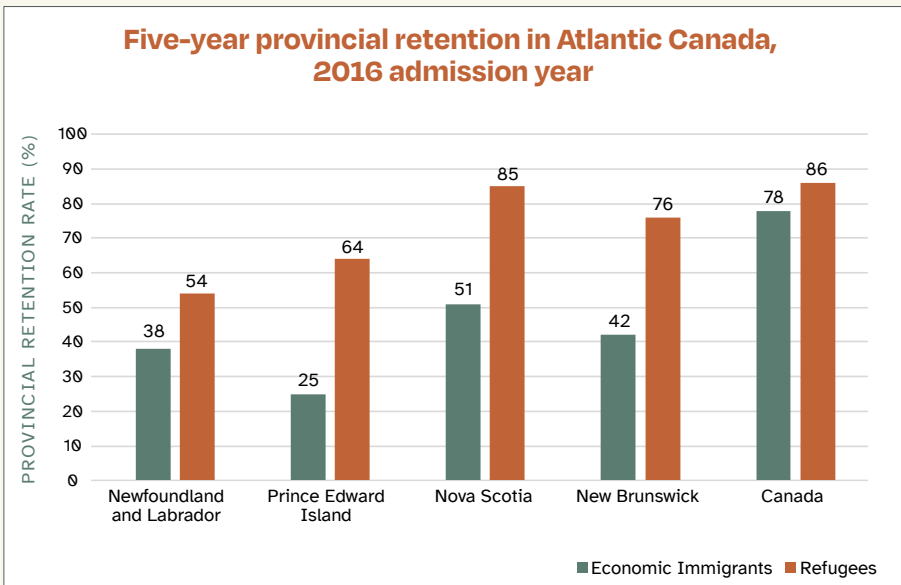
## WHAT IS THE DATA?

The following graphs compare retention rates for newcomers in Atlantic Canada. They present combined data for the Atlantic provinces based on:

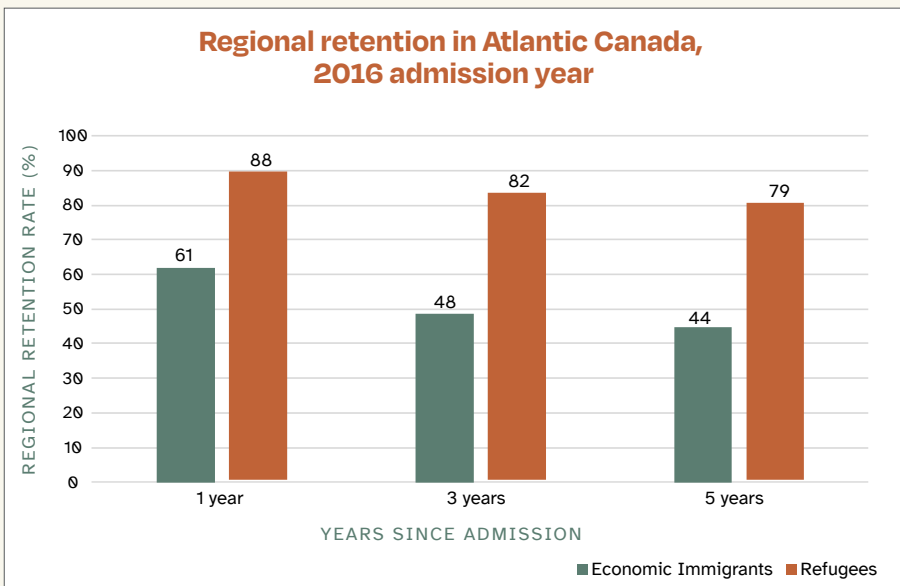
- **Admission category.** Each graph compares retention rates for two immigrant admission categories: **economic immigrants** and **refugees**.
- **Provincial and regional retention.** The graphs show two types of retention. Figures 1 and 2 show **provincial retention rates** for Atlantic Canada. Figure 1 shows the combined average retention rate for the Atlantic provinces. Figure 2 shows the five-year retention rate for each province. Provincial retention is the percentage of newcomers who stay in their intended province (for example, those admitted to New Brunswick who continue to live in New Brunswick). Figure 3 shows the **regional retention rate**. This includes newcomers who stay in their intended province as well as those who move from one Atlantic province to another. For example, it includes newcomers who intended to live in Prince Edward Island but later moved to Nova Scotia.
- **2016 admission year.** This is the most recent cohort for which a five-year retention rate is available. It was selected to provide recent data while also showing how retention changes over time. It was also selected because Atlantic Canada admitted a large number of refugees in comparison to other years (notably, Canada admitted many Syrian refugees during this period).



*Figure 1: Provincial retention (combined) in Atlantic Canada. Provincial retention is the number of newcomers who stay in their intended province.*



*Figure 2: Five-year provincial retention in the Atlantic provinces and Canada. Provincial retention is the number of newcomers who stay in their intended province.*



*Figure 3: Regional retention in Atlantic Canada. Regional retention includes newcomers who move from one Atlantic province to another Atlantic province.*

## WHAT DOES THE DATA SAY?

- In comparison to the rest of the country, **Atlantic Canada has a low retention rate. The five-year retention rate for all immigrants admitted to Canada in 2016 is 84%**. This rate is considerably lower in Nova Scotia (63%), New Brunswick (56%), Newfoundland and Labrador (46%), and Prince Edward Island (31%). Ontario (93%), British Columbia (87%), Alberta (85%), and Quebec (81%) have the highest retention rates in the country. Retention in Manitoba (64%) and Saskatchewan (58%) is similar to the Atlantic provinces.
- Newcomers are especially likely to leave the Atlantic region for Ontario. For all immigrants admitted to Atlantic Canada in 2016, **nearly a third (30%) moved to Ontario after five years**.
- For the given time period, **refugees are more likely than economic immigrants to stay in Atlantic Canada**. After five years, nearly 4 out of 5 refugees (79%) stayed in the Atlantic region; for economic immigrants, fewer than half (44%) remained. While specific retention rates vary, this trend applies to other time periods.
- There is marginal difference between provincial and regional retention rates. Only about 2% of newcomers who leave their intended province move to another Atlantic province. In other words, **when newcomers leave an Atlantic province, they tend to leave the region entirely**.

## WHAT DOES THE DATA MEAN FOR SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION?

- **Investing in services and programs for refugees can have long-term benefits for population and economic growth in the Atlantic region**. Because refugees are more likely to remain in their intended province, the region stands to benefit from their knowledge, experience, and skills. Relevant initiatives (or programs, etc.) include the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot, which helps skilled refugees immigrate through economic programs, and the Resettlement Assistance Program, which provides financial support and essential services to refugees. Other services that impact refugee populations include mental health support and crisis prevention, basic language classes, and programs for marginalized communities.
- Retention is a regional issue, not just provincial. Newcomers rarely move between Atlantic provinces; they tend to move to other parts of Canada and especially to Ontario. This signals the **need for increased regional coordination of service providers across the Atlantic provinces**. Coordination can involve partnerships and collaboration among industries, employers, governments, and other interest holders. Initiatives can include service or employer mapping; regional knowledge- or practice-sharing; and coordinated knowledge-creation across the Atlantic provinces.

**SOURCES:** Original data is from Statistics Canada's Longitudinal Immigration Database. Data has been combined for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

Statistics Canada. Table 43-10-0017-01 Interprovincial migration of immigrant taxfilers, by admission year and tax year, for Canada and provinces  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/4310001701-eng>

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