

## Profiles

IMMIGRATION  
RESEARCH  
SERIES

## GERMANY

## GERMAN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA

## HIGHLIGHTS

At the time of the 1991 Census, there were 180,525 people born in Germany living in Canada, representing 4% of all immigrants.

However, relatively few people have immigrated to Canada from Germany in recent years. In fact, an average of just 1,500 people born in Germany immigrated to Canada each year between 1990 and 1994, representing less than 1% of all immigrants in this period. In comparison, German immigrants made up over 15% of all immigrants to Canada in the mid-1950s.

Most German immigrants living in Canada reside in Ontario, British Columbia or Alberta. In 1991, 49% lived in Ontario, 22% resided in British Columbia and 13% lived in Alberta.

Immigrants from Germany are older, on average, than the Canadian-born population. In 1991, 19% of all German immigrants were aged 65 or over, almost double the figure for the population born in Canada (10%). In contrast, only 6% of German immigrants, compared with 39% of people born in Canada, were under age 25.

Almost all German immigrants in Canada can speak at least one official language. In fact, in 1991, 99% could conduct a conversation in one or both official languages. As well, for 81%, English was the language spoken most often in their homes.

German immigrant men are more likely than other immigrant men or those born in Canada to be employed. In 1991, 81% of German immigrant men aged 15-64 were employed, compared with 78% of all immigrant men and 76% of Canadian-born men in this age range. At the same time, almost the same percentage of German-born women aged 15-64 (63%) as all immigrant women (62%) and those born in Canada (63%) were employed in 1991. German immigrants are also more likely than those in these other groups to be self-employed; they are also more likely to have full-time, full-year jobs.

German immigrants have a relatively low unemployment rate. In 1991, 7.0% of all German immigrant labour force participants were unemployed, compared with just over 10% of both all immigrants and the Canadian-born in the labour force.

The incomes of German immigrants living in Canada are considerably higher than those of people in other groups. In 1990, German immigrants had an average income from all sources of \$28,300, compared with \$25,300 for all immigrants and \$23,700 for the population born in Canada. Some of these differences are accounted for by differences in age, however, even when age differences are taken into consideration, the average incomes of German immigrants remain well above those of people in these other groups.

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## About this series

This report was prepared by Statistics Canada, in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The co-publication of this series of reports is intended to support public education and research into the population characteristics of Canada.





## INTRODUCTION

Immigrants have historically made up a substantial proportion of the Canadian population. In 1991, for example, 16% of the population were immigrants. The immigrant population, however, is very diverse; immigrants come from a wide variety of countries and, as a result, have different histories, cultures and economic backgrounds.

This report describing the immigrant community from Germany is one in a series of profiles of immigrants to Canada. It describes the settlement patterns, family status, education, labour force characteristics, incomes and other aspects of German immigrants living in Canada.

In most cases, indicators describing the German immigrant population are compared with those of the overall immigrant and Canadian-born populations. These comparisons

provide a sense of how German immigrants have integrated into Canadian society.

The information used in this report is from either the 1991 Census of Canada or Citizenship and Immigration Canada administrative files. The census data describe the various populations living in Canada at the time of the 1991 Census. The data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada provide the number of immigrants arriving in Canada each year.

## COUNTRY PROFILES: TITLES IN THIS SERIES

- Germany
- Hong Kong
- India
- Italy

- Lebanon
- Netherlands
- People's Republic of China
- Philippines
- Poland

- Portugal
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Vietnam
- Total Immigrant Population
- Canadian Population

## AGE STANDARDIZATION

Direct comparisons between immigrant groups and the population born in Canada can be affected by differences in the age structures of these groups and age can have a substantial effect on many socio-economic variables. As a result, for the purposes of this report, the data for several key variables have been age-standardized and these figures have been presented along with the actual data to provide some assessment of the effect of age on these particular variables. The variables that have been age-standardized are fertility levels, levels of educational attainment, employment levels, unemployment rates, average incomes and the percentage of the population with low incomes. For more information on age standardization, see Endnote 3.

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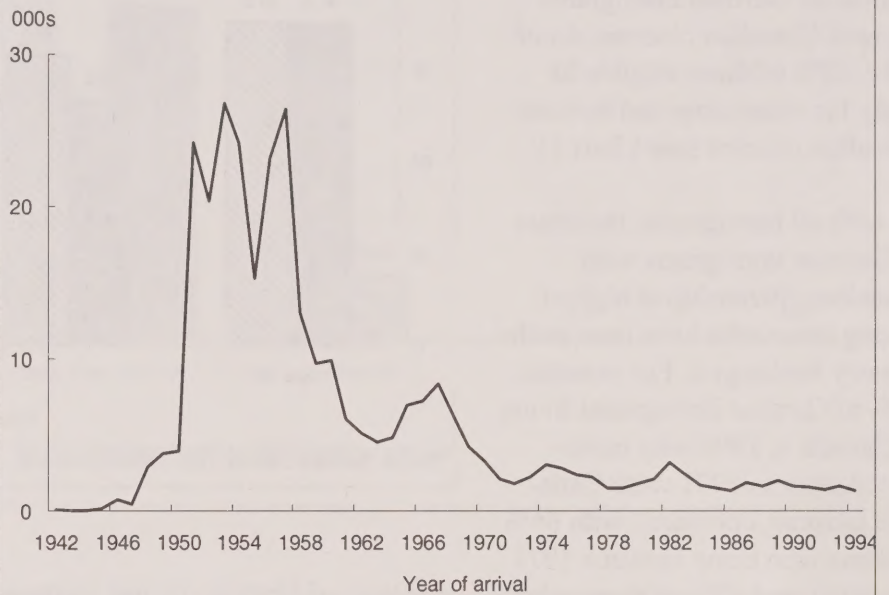
## Profile of German Immigrants in Canada

German immigrants<sup>1</sup> make up a significant proportion of the immigrant population living in Canada. At the time of the 1991 Census, there were 180,525 people born in Germany living in Canada, representing 4% of all immigrants. Immigrants born in Germany made up 0.7% of the total Canadian population that year.

However, relatively few people have immigrated to Canada from Germany in recent years. In fact, an average of just 1,500 people born in Germany immigrated to Canada each year between 1990 and 1994, representing less than 1% of all immigrants in this period. In comparison, German immigrants made up over 15% of all immigrants to Canada in the mid-1950s. In fact, an average of almost 23,000 German immigrants arrived in Canada each year between 1951 and 1957. Immigration from Germany, however, began to decline in the late 1950s, with the result that by the early 1970s, the number of German immigrants had fallen to only about 2,500 per year, about 1% to 2% of all immigrants (see Charts 1 and 2).

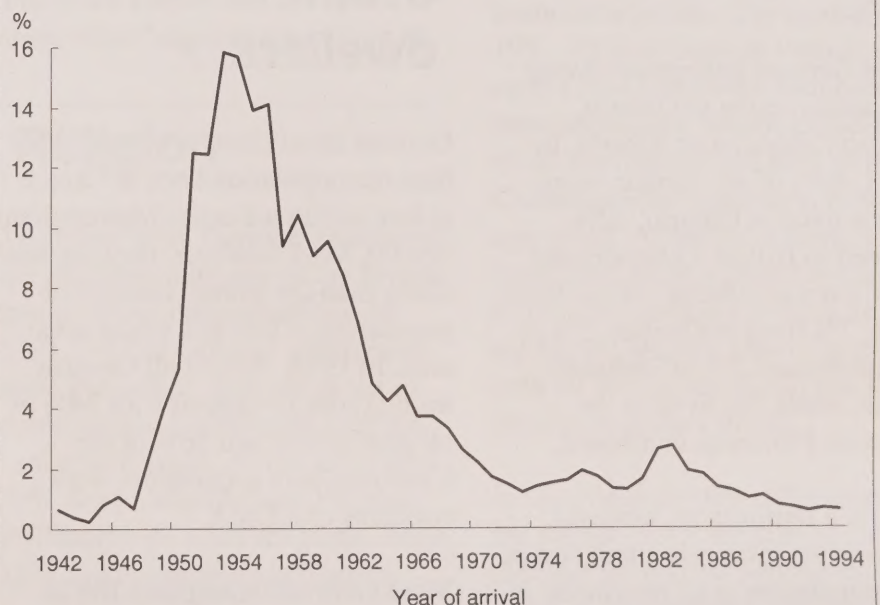
As a result of this pattern, most German immigrants living in Canada today have been here for relatively long periods. In fact, 63% of those living in Canada at the time of the 1991 Census arrived before 1961, while 19% came between 1961 and 1970. In contrast, just 9% arrived in both the 1970s and in the 1980s.

Chart 1  
Annual number of immigrants from Germany arriving in Canada, 1942 to 1994



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Immigration Statistics*.

Chart 2  
Annual number of immigrants from Germany arriving in Canada, as a percentage of all immigrants, 1942 to 1994



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Immigration Statistics*.



## Canadian citizenship

Almost all German immigrants are now Canadian citizens. As of 1991, 83% of those eligible to apply for citizenship had become Canadian citizens (see Chart 3).

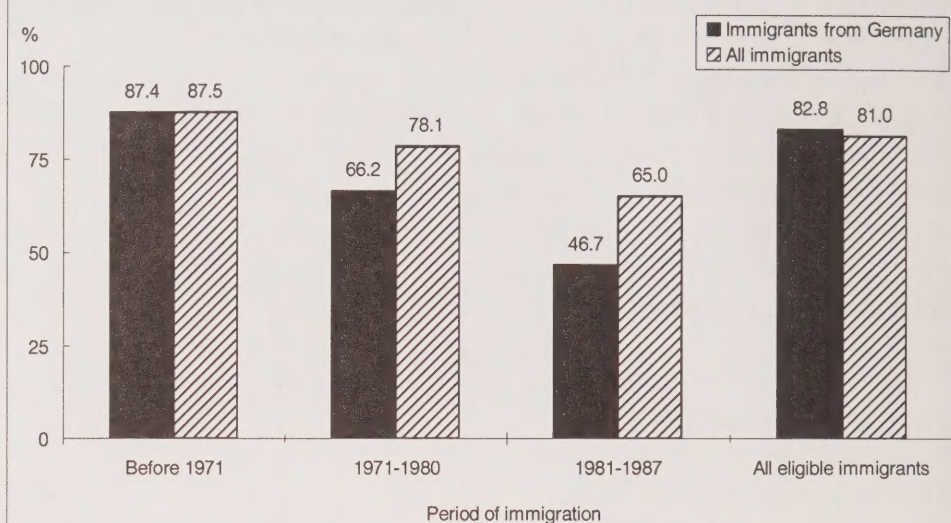
As with all immigrants, the share of German immigrants with Canadian citizenship is highest among those who have been in the country the longest. For example, 87% of German immigrants living in Canada in 1991 who immigrated prior to 1971 were Canadian citizens, compared with 66% of those who came between 1971 and 1980, and 47% of those who arrived in the 1981-1987 period.

## Provincial distribution

Most German immigrants living in Canada reside in Ontario, British Columbia or Alberta. In 1991, 49% of all German immigrants lived in Ontario, 22% resided in British Columbia and 13% lived in Alberta. At the same time, 7% lived in Quebec, 5% in Manitoba and 2% in Saskatchewan, while 2% lived in the Atlantic Provinces combined.

German immigrants, however, represent a relatively small part of the population in all provinces. In 1991, immigrants born in Germany made up around 1% of all

Chart 3  
Percentage of immigrants with Canadian citizenship, by period of immigration, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

residents of Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba, while they made up less than 0.5% of those in the other provinces.

## Urban dwellers

German immigrants are more likely than the population born in Canada to live within a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), however, they are less likely than the overall immigrant population to live in a major urban area. In 1991, 70% of all German immigrants, compared with 84% of all immigrants and 56% of the Canadian-born population, were residents of a CMA.

More German immigrants live in Toronto than in any other CMA. In 1991, 21% of all German immi-

grants living in Canada resided in Toronto. This, however, is below the figure for all immigrants, 34% of whom lived in Toronto that year. At the same time, 11% of German immigrants lived in Vancouver, while around 5% lived in each of Montreal and Edmonton and 4%, in Calgary and Kitchener.

German immigrants in Kitchener make up the largest share of the population of any major urban area. In 1991, 2% of Kitchener residents were immigrants from Germany, while they represented 1% or less of the population in all other CMAs.



## Age distribution

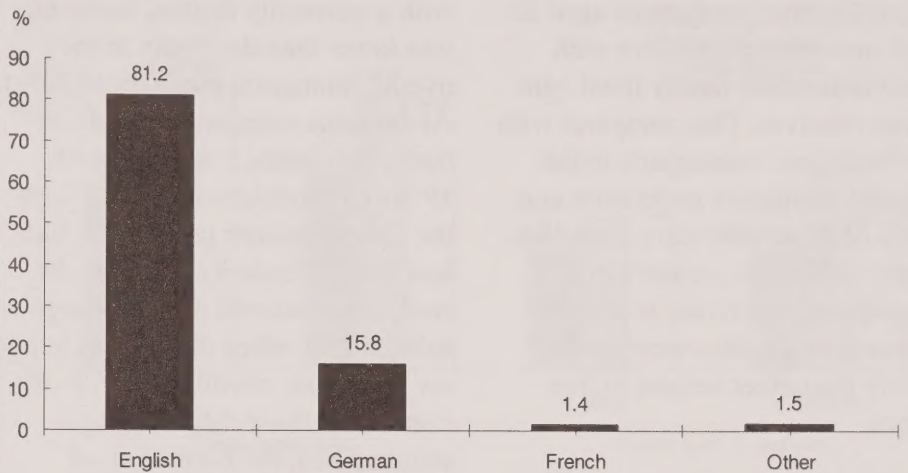
Immigrants from Germany are older, on average, than the Canadian-born population<sup>1</sup>. In 1991, 19% of all German immigrants were aged 65 or over, about the same figure for all immigrants (18%), but almost double that for the population born in Canada (10%). At the same time, almost half (47%) of German immigrants, compared with 31% of all immigrants and 18% of Canadian-born people, were aged 45-64. In contrast, only 6% of German immigrants, compared with 15% of all immigrants and 39% of people born in Canada, were under age 25.

As with the rest of the population, women make up the majority of elderly German immigrants. In 1991, 57% of German immigrants aged 65 and over were female, as were 56% of the total immigrant senior population and 57% of seniors born in Canada.

## Language

Almost all German immigrants in Canada can speak at least one official language. In fact, in 1991, 99% could conduct a conversation in one or both official languages: 10% spoke English and French, 89% could carry on a conversation in English, and less than 1% could speak French.

Chart 4  
Language most often spoken in the home by immigrants from Germany, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

As well, the majority of German immigrants living in Canada speak English in their homes. In 1991, 81% reported that English was the language they most often spoke at home, while 16% spoke German, 1% spoke French and 2% spoke some other language (see Chart 4).

## Religion

The majority of German immigrants are affiliated with one of the Protestant religious denominations. In 1991, 54% of German immigrants were Protestant, with six in ten of these reporting affiliation with the Lutheran Church. At the same time, 29% were Catholics and 3% were affiliated with other religions, while 15% had no religious affiliation.

## Family status

German immigrants are about as likely as other immigrants and the Canadian-born to live with their immediate family.<sup>2</sup> For example, in 1991, 85% of German immigrants aged 15-64 lived with members of their immediate family, as did 86% of all immigrants and 84% of the Canadian-born population in that age group. At the same time, 65% of immigrant seniors from Germany lived with members of their immediate family, slightly above figures for both all immigrant (62%) and Canadian-born seniors (61%).

In fact, there are few differences in the family characteristics of the German immigrant population and those in other groups, although relatively few German immigrant



seniors who do not live with their family live with members of their extended family. In 1991, just 14% of all German immigrants aged 65 and over who did not live with their immediate family lived with other relatives. This compares with 29% of their counterparts in the overall immigrant population and 18% of those who were Canadian-born. In contrast, senior German immigrants not living with their immediate families were more likely than other seniors to live alone.

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## Fertility levels

German immigrant women living in Canada have had about the same number of children as women born in Canada. For example, German immigrant women aged 15-44 who had ever been married had an average of 1.6 children as of 1991, the same figure for those born in Canada, but below that for all immigrant women in this category (1.8). As well, when differences in age are taken into consideration<sup>3</sup>, the fertility level of these immigrant women from Germany drops to 1.5, slightly below the figure for women born in Canada.

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## Education

German immigrants living in Canada are about as likely as people born in Canada to have a university degree. In 1991, 11% of all German immigrants aged 15 and over had a university degree,

the same figure as in the comparable population born in Canada. The proportion of German immigrants with a university degree, however, was lower than the figure in the overall immigrant population (14%). At the same time, only 9% of German immigrants, compared with 19% of all immigrants and 13% of the Canadian-born population, had less than a Grade 9 education. As well, these patterns do not change substantially when differences in age are taken into consideration<sup>3</sup>. However, when these data were age-standardized, the proportion of German immigrants with less than Grade 9 was even lower at 6%.

On the other hand, young German immigrant adults are less likely than other young adults to be attending school. In 1991, 58% of German immigrants aged 15-24 were in school either full-time or part-time, compared with 64% of all immigrants and 61% of the Canadian-born in this age group.

There are also some differences in the types of training acquired by German immigrants and those in other groups. For example, over half (52%) of all German immigrant men with postsecondary qualifications in 1991 were graduates of programs in engineering and applied science technologies and trades, compared with 38% of all immigrant men and 43% of Canadian-born men. At the same time, German immigrant men with postsecondary training were less likely than either their counterparts among all immigrants or the Canadian-born to be graduates of all other types of programs.

As with other women, the largest share of German immigrant women with postsecondary qualifications were graduates of business, management and commerce programs. In 1991, 35% of German immigrant women with postsecondary qualifications were trained in these fields, as were 29% of all immigrant women and 30% of women born in Canada.

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## Employment characteristics

German immigrant men are more likely than other immigrant men or those born in Canada to be employed. In 1991, 81% of German immigrant men aged 15-64 were employed, compared with 78% of all immigrant men and 76% of the Canadian-born in the same age group. As well, the percentage of immigrant men from Germany with jobs changes only slightly when differences in age are taken into consideration.<sup>3</sup>

At the same time, 63% of German-born women aged 15-64 were employed in 1991, about the same figure as both all immigrant women (62%) and Canadian-born women (63%) in that age range. However, when differences in age are taken into consideration<sup>3</sup>, the proportion of German-born women with jobs rises to 67%, well above figures for women in these other groups.

German immigrants are more likely to be self-employed than other immigrants or people born in

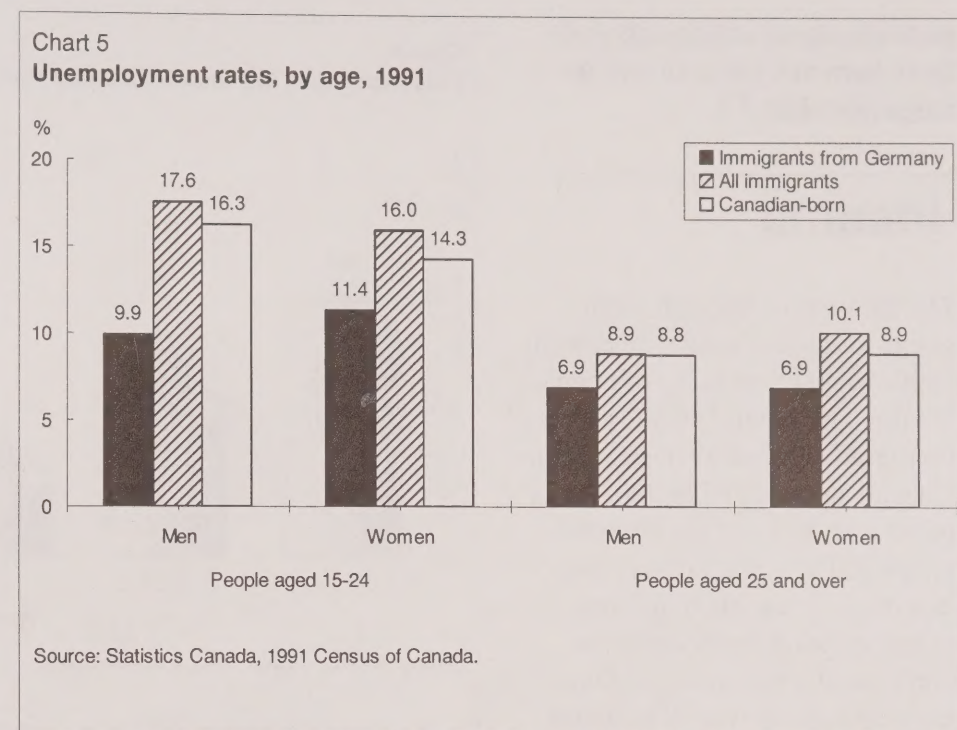


Canada. For example, in 1991, 21% of employed German immigrant men were self-employed, compared with 16% of all immigrant men with jobs and 12% of Canadian-born male workers. Similarly, 12% of immigrant German women with jobs in 1991 owned their own businesses, versus 8% of all employed immigrant women and 6% of those born in Canada.

German immigrants are also more likely than persons in other groups to have full-time, full-year jobs. In 1991, 69% of employed immigrant men from Germany worked full-time, full-year, compared with 63% of all immigrant men and 59% of Canadian-born men. Similarly, among women, 52% of employed women born in Germany worked at full-time, full-year jobs in 1991, compared with 50% of all immigrant women and 45% of Canadian-born women. As with other groups, however, immigrant women from Germany with jobs are still less likely than their male counterparts to work full-time.

## Occupational distribution

German immigrant men are slightly more likely than their counterparts among both all immigrants and those born in Canada to work in professional or management occupations. In 1991, 34% of employed male immigrants from Germany



worked in these fields, compared with 32% of all immigrant men and 27% of those born in Canada. Immigrant men from Germany were also somewhat more likely than men in these other groups to be employed in jobs in either construction or manufacturing, while they were less likely to work in clerical, sales or service jobs.

As with other women, the majority of employed German immigrant women, 57% in 1991, had clerical, sales or service jobs. At the same time, 32% of German immigrant women held professional or management jobs, about the same figure for both all immigrant women (30%) and those born in Canada (33%). The proportion of employed German immigrant women with jobs in these fields was also only slightly below the figure for German immigrant men (34%).

## Unemployment

German immigrants have a relatively low unemployment rate. In 1991, 7.0% of all German immigrant labour force participants were unemployed, compared with just over 10% of both all immigrants and the Canadian-born in the labour force. As well, this pattern holds when differences in age are taken into consideration.<sup>3</sup>

As with the overall population, unemployment rates among German immigrant labour force participants are highest among young adults. In 1991, 11.4% of female German immigrant labour force participants aged 15-24 and 9.9% of their male counterparts were unemployed. Both these figures, though, were well below those for their respective counter-



parts among all immigrants and those born in Canada in this age range (see chart 5).

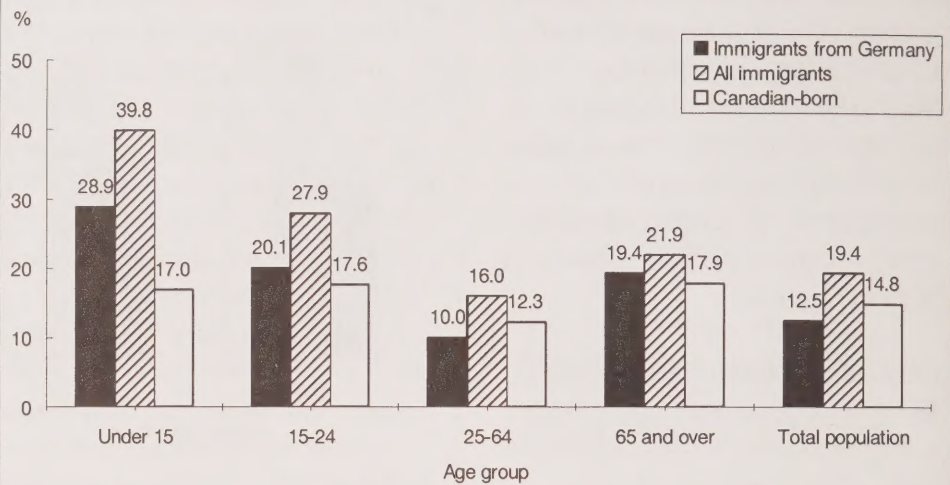
## Income

The incomes of German immigrants living in Canada are considerably higher than those of people in other groups. In 1990, German immigrants had an average income from all sources of \$28,300, compared with \$25,300 for all immigrants and \$23,700 for the Canadian-born. Even when differences in age are taken into consideration<sup>3</sup>, the average income of German immigrants was still around \$2,500 more than the comparable figure for both all immigrants and the Canadian-born population.

As with the overall immigrant and Canadian-born populations, German immigrant men have higher average incomes than their female counterparts. In fact, the average income of German immigrant men in 1990, at \$36,700, was almost twice that of German immigrant women (\$19,500).

There is also variation in the incomes of German immigrants in different age groups. In 1990, immigrants aged 15-64 who were born in Germany had an average income from all sources of \$30,500, compared with \$19,200 for those aged 65 and over. Indeed, the average income of German immigrants aged 15-64 was higher than that of all immigrants and the

Chart 6  
Percentage with low income, by age, 1990



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

Canadian-born in this age range, whereas the average income of German immigrant seniors (\$19,200) was about the same as that of their counterparts among both all immigrants (\$18,600) and the Canadian-born (\$19,500).

## Income from transfer payments

German immigrants receive a somewhat smaller share of their income from government transfer payments than people in other groups. In 1990, 10% of all income of German immigrants came from these sources, versus 12% of that of all immigrants and 11% of that of the Canadian-born population.

As in other groups, German immigrant seniors receive a much larger share of their income from government transfer payments than their counterparts under age 65. In 1990, 44% of all income of German immigrants aged 65 and over came from these programs, compared with just 5% of that of those aged 15-64. For both groups, however, the share of the income coming from transfer payments was lower than that for all immigrants and Canadian-born population in the same age range.

## Population with low income

In 1990, 13% of immigrants from Germany had incomes below Statistics Canada's Low-income Cut-offs, compared with 15% of the



Canadian-born population and 19% of all immigrants. However, when differences in age are taken into consideration<sup>3</sup>, the rate of low income among immigrants from Germany was 17%, a couple of percentage points above that for the Canadian-born population, while it remained substantially below that for all immigrants.

Among German immigrants, young adults and seniors are more likely to live in a low income situation than those aged 25-64. In 1990, 20% of German immigrants aged 15-24 and 19% of those aged 65 and over lived in a low-income situation; this compared with 10% of those aged 25-64. As well, the proportions of German immigrants aged 15-24 and 65 and over living in a low-income situation were higher than those of their Canadian-born counterparts, but lower than among all immigrants in these age ranges. In contrast, German immigrants between the ages of 25 and 64 were less likely than their counterparts in these other groups to have low incomes (see Chart 6).

<sup>1</sup> The German immigrant population refers to those with landed-immigrant status (whether or not they are currently Canadian citizens) born in Germany. It is important to note that children born in Canada to German immigrants are not included in the immigrant population from Germany but rather are included in the Canadian-born population. As well, the data in this report include only the non-institutionalized population in the various groups. Persons in institutions include those in hospitals and related institutions, special care facilities for the elderly or chronically ill, children's group homes and orphanages, and correctional and penal institutions.

<sup>2</sup> Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

<sup>3</sup> Socio-economic indicators, such as fertility levels, educational attainment levels, employment levels, unemployment rates, average income, and the incidence of low income may be affected by the age distribution of a population. Therefore, in order to compare two or more populations, it is useful to eliminate the effects of differences in age structures. This is done using a procedure known as age standardization. For selected socio-economic data in this profile, both the immigrant population from Germany and the total immigrant population have been standardized or adjusted so that they have the same age structure as the Canadian-born population. Age-standardized figures may differ from actual figures, but they make comparisons between immigrants from Germany, all immigrants and the Canadian-born population more meaningful.



**Table 1 Selected characteristics of immigrants from Germany<sup>1</sup>, all immigrants, people born in Canada, and the total Canadian population, 1991<sup>2</sup>. Selected data standardized for age are also presented.**

	German immigrants <sup>1</sup>	Total immigrant population	Canadian-born population	Total Canadian population <sup>3</sup>
Total population	180,525	4,342,890	22,427,740	26,994,040
As % of total immigrant population	4.2	100.0	—	—
As % of total Canadian population	0.7	16.1	83.1	100.0
% aged				
Less than 25	5.9	14.6	39.3	35.3
25-44	28.5	36.6	33.4	34.1
45-64	46.8	31.1	17.7	19.8
65 and over	18.8	17.7	9.6	10.9
Period of immigration (%)				
1981-1991	8.7	28.5	—	—
1971-1980	9.4	23.9	—	—
1961-1970	18.5	19.1	—	—
Before 1961	63.4	28.5	—	—
Knowledge of official languages (%)				
English only	88.5	78.6	64.8	67.1
French only	0.4	3.6	17.6	15.2
Both	10.3	11.5	17.3	16.3
Neither	0.8	6.3	0.4	1.4
% living with families				
Aged 15-64	84.7	86.0	83.9	84.0
65 and over	65.2	62.1	61.1	61.3
% aged 65 and over not in family living with other relatives	13.7	29.2	18.3	21.3
% of women aged 15-44 who are lone parents	8.0	7.2	7.4	7.4
Number of children ever born to ever-married women aged 15-44	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	1.5	1.7	—	—
% with university degree	10.8	14.4	10.5	11.4
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	12.4	14.5	—	—
% with less than grade 9	9.1	18.9	12.7	13.9
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	5.7	15.1	—	—
% of population aged 15-24 attending school	57.9	63.8	61.4	61.7
% aged 15-64 employed				
Men	81.3	77.8	76.0	76.2
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	81.0	75.5	—	—
Women	62.8	62.0	62.9	62.6
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	67.0	62.1	—	—
% self-employed				
Men	20.6	15.6	12.4	12.9
Women	11.9	7.7	5.8	6.1
% employed full-time, full-year				
Men	69.0	62.9	58.7	59.4
Women	51.7	49.6	45.2	46.0
% unemployed	7.0	10.2	10.1	10.2
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	7.4	10.8	—	—



	German immigrants <sup>1</sup>	Total immigrant population	Canadian-born population	Total Canadian population <sup>3</sup>
Average income (\$)				
Both sexes	28,258	25,318	23,749	24,001
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	26,309	23,904	—	—
Men	36,748	32,089	29,837	30,205
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	33,785	29,837	—	—
Women	19,471	18,266	17,457	17,577
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	18,678	17,647	—	—
People aged 15-64	30,543	27,010	24,435	24,841
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	27,441	24,753	—	—
People aged 65 and over	19,248	18,608	19,476	19,236
% income from government transfer payments	10.3	11.6	11.4	11.4
% with low income	12.5	19.4	14.8	15.8
Standardized <sup>4</sup>	17.0	24.4	—	—

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

<sup>1</sup> Includes people born in Germany who are, or have been, landed immigrants to Canada.

<sup>2</sup> All data are shown for the non-institutionalized population.

<sup>3</sup> Includes non-permanent residents.

<sup>4</sup> Figures for the immigrant populations are age-standardized to the Canadian-born population.