

- Title:** Exploring Linkages Between the Country of Post-secondary Education Completion and Labour Market Activity of Immigrants in Canada
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- Research Question:** Using 2006 Census data pertaining about 7.6 million workers of core working ages (25-54), the paper poses the question about the extent to which the completion of post-secondary training in Canada or abroad may have facilitate workers' level and pace of economic activity. It also indirectly addresses issues related to labour market participation and employment/unemployment chances by completing of post-secondary education in Canada or in countries of similar/dissimilar educational structure (e.g. OECD vs. Non OECD countries)
- Importance:** This research is relevant because the place of post-secondary training of immigrants is a good proxy for the quality of education brought from abroad and its capacity to be transferred to the Canadian market. It has also implications for those who are Canadian-born who have decided to complete their post-secondary education elsewhere and return to work back in Canada.
- Research Findings:** The likelihood of obtaining Canadian training increased with the length of immigrants' stay in Canada. Individuals with Canadian training had better labour market activity outcomes than those with foreign post-secondary training. However, there were also noticeable differences in activity levels between those trained in Western educational systems such as France and Germany compared to those trained in non-Western ones such as Pakistan, China PR and South Korea. Participation and employment rates where found to be consistently higher in the former group compared to the latter. A multivariate analysis of cross-classifications suggests that, although important variation in activity levels is attributable to age, gender, recency of immigration and region of residence, the completion of post-secondary training cannot be discarded as an explanatory factor in its own right.
- Implications:** The study highlights again the issue of the utilization of post-secondary education credentials in the labour market and of the possible policy routes opened for the various stakeholders such as individuals, governments, licensing bodies and employers. Problems related to the portability and transparency of credentials cut across different segments of the workforce which include immigrants of different lengths of stay in Canada and the Canadian-born trained elsewhere.