

The relationship between migration status and income: a comparison of permanent residents and temporary workers in Canada

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Since the early 2000s, changes in Canada's immigration policy resulted in the increase in foreign workers with temporary resident status. This increase is part of a trend observed in countries of the Global North where the mobility of workers is facilitated in the context of a globalized labour market. Most research to date emphasizes the precarious working conditions of temporary workers, particularly workers in care work and agriculture. Little is known, however, about temporary workers in general, their incomes and how they compare to recent immigrants with a permanent residence status. The purpose of this article is to analyse the effect of residency status (temporary vs. permanent) on employment income. Based on the 2016 Canadian Census, the analysis reveals that, overall, temporary workers enjoy better employment income than recent immigrants and that this can be explained, to a large extent, by their socio-demographic and occupational characteristics. It shows, however, that, over time, temporary residence status can become a factor that puts the worker at a disadvantage and that it may become a barrier to better income. Analyses on working conditions, however, remain necessary to shed light on dynamics beyond earnings to fully grasp the impact of residency status on employment.