

# Tracking the Interregional Mobility of Recently Arrived Refugees in Canada: Data Snapshots from the IMDB

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**What is history? An  
echo of the past in the  
future; a reflex from  
the future on the past.**

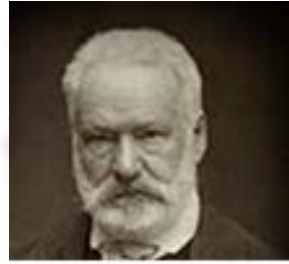


**Victor Hugo**

*French Poet* (1802-1885)



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## Motivating Questions

- Will newly arrived refugees leave their regions or provinces of entry as their predecessors did?
- Will the same “push” and “pull” forces be at work?
- What can the period 2000-2013 teach us?

# Interregional Mobility of Recently Arrived Refugees



- Refugee migration has several impacts on both sending and receiving regions in Canada
- Interregional mobility is interesting to study because it usually involves:
  - “long distance” moves
  - the crossing of social, administrative and linguistic contexts
  - significant investments for individuals and their families.
  - integration and settlement related responses in regions



# Previous Studies



- Previous studies of interregional migration of immigrants which included refugees found significant gains made by the Prairies at the expense of other regions (examples: Finnie 1999, Orrenius and Zavodny, 2009; Okono-Myers, 2010; vanHuystee and St. Jean, 2014, Bonikowska et al. 2015)
- Different drivers have been identified: refugees' vulnerable positions in the labour force, "push" and "pull" factors, regional "booms" and "busts", desire to be close to "co-ethnics", etc.
- Interregional migration also linked to the selectivity of refugees (age, gender, education, language proficiency etc.)



# Research Questions

- What was the general picture of refugees' interregional migration during 2000-2013 in Canada?
- Their origins and destinations?
- Who were the movers and nonmovers?
- Where patterns similar to subgroups (GARs, PSRs and LICs)?
- Their socio-demographic backgrounds?
- Can typical refugee flows be identified during this period?



## The IMDB database

- The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) combines linked administrative immigration and tax data files.
- The IMDB combines an administrative Immigrant Landing File (ILF) and a Non-Permanent Resident File (NRF) with the T1 Family File (T1FF) through exact matching record linkage techniques.
- The overall linkage rate for the ILF-T1FF is at present approximately 89%.
- The IMDB is an ideal set to study interregional mobility in Canada





## 2016 IMDB Data Table (1)

- A 2016 IMDB table containing a record for refugee tax-filers entering Canada between 2000 and 2013 aged 25-64 by :
  - Landing years: 2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013, three arrival cohorts
  - Tax observation years: 2004, 2009 and 2013
  - Geographical regions of landing and tax reporting: Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C.
  - Refugee classes of entry: Government Assisted (GARs), Privately Sponsored (PSRs), Landed in Canada (LICs) and refugee dependants
  - Socio-demographic backgrounds: gender, age groups, schooling and world regions of birth







## 2016 IMDB Data Table (2)

- The observed counts for the refugee arrival cohorts in the 2016 IMDB table were as follows: 67,000 for the 2000-2004 arrival cohort, 66,660 for the 2005-2009 arrival cohort and 47,265 for the 2010-2013 one.
- These produced a combined total of about 181,000 refugees.
- The combined counts of refugee sub-groups in the three arrival cohorts were the following: 39,895 GARs (22%), 25,179 PSRs (14%), 98,705 LICs (55%) and 17,155 dependants (9%).





# IMDB Table Data Limitations

- No yearly data in table, data aggregation by cohorts
- IMDB data variables as “proxies” for the measurement of mobility
- No information on family migration behaviour
- Intra-regional mobility (e.g. inter-city) correlated with inter-regional mobility
- Motivational aspects underlying processes

# Measurement of Interregional Mobility



- Any discrepancies between the reporting of the intended region/province of landing at arrival and the current region/province of residence at the time of tax reporting.
- Multiple landing-residence (L-R) matrices were calculated for different arrival cohorts, refugee categories and tax years of reporting.
- Each matrix consisted of migration flows present in 49 cells (7 x 7 origin-destination regions).

# Analytical Approach: Data Snapshots



- Selecting key pieces of data were “frozen” at specific points in time (e.g. tax observation years) to summarize ongoing trends.
- These key pieces referred to three major domains:
  - Origins and destinations
  - Movers and Nonmovers
  - Composition of Refugee Flows



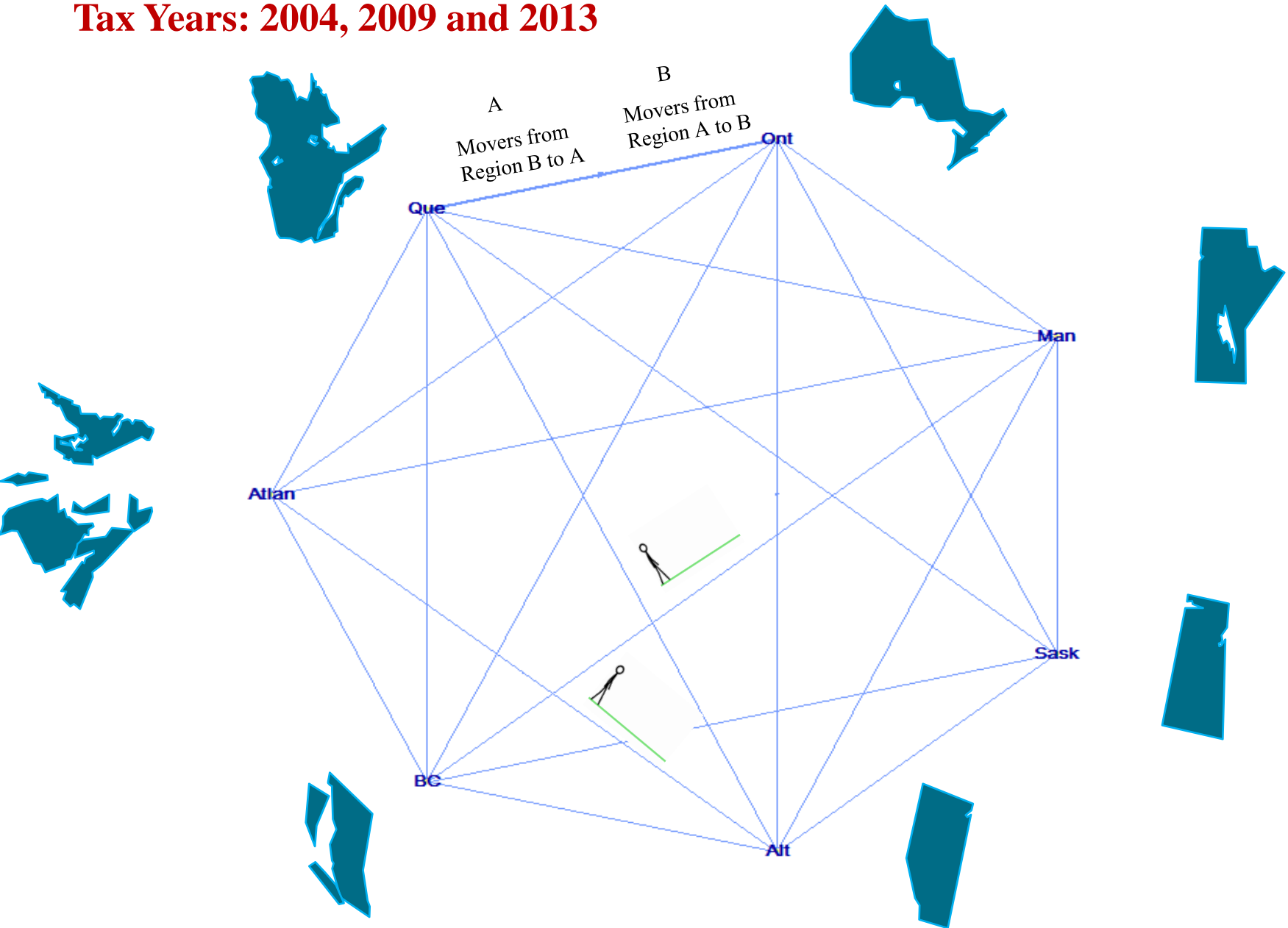


# Origins and Destinations

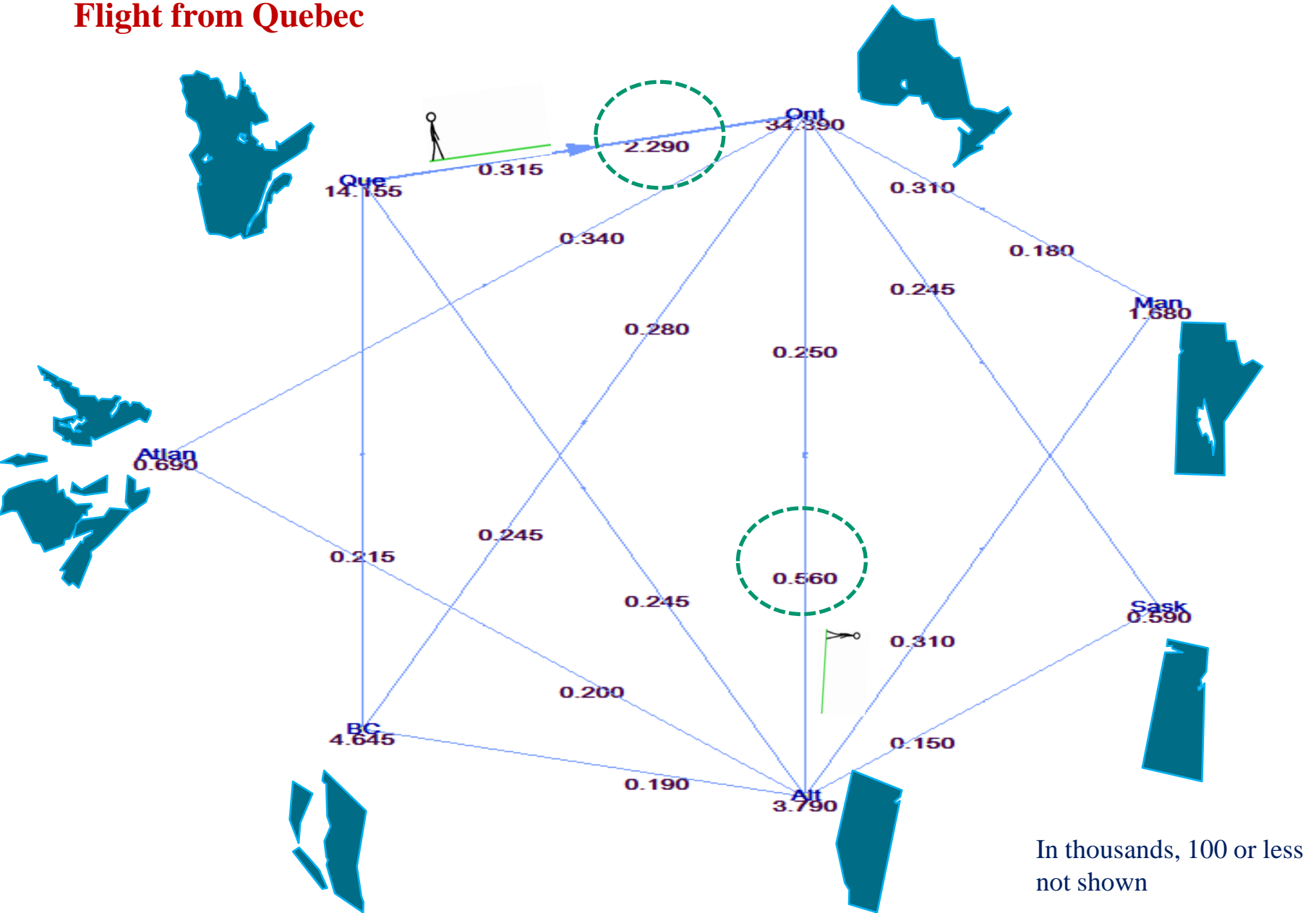


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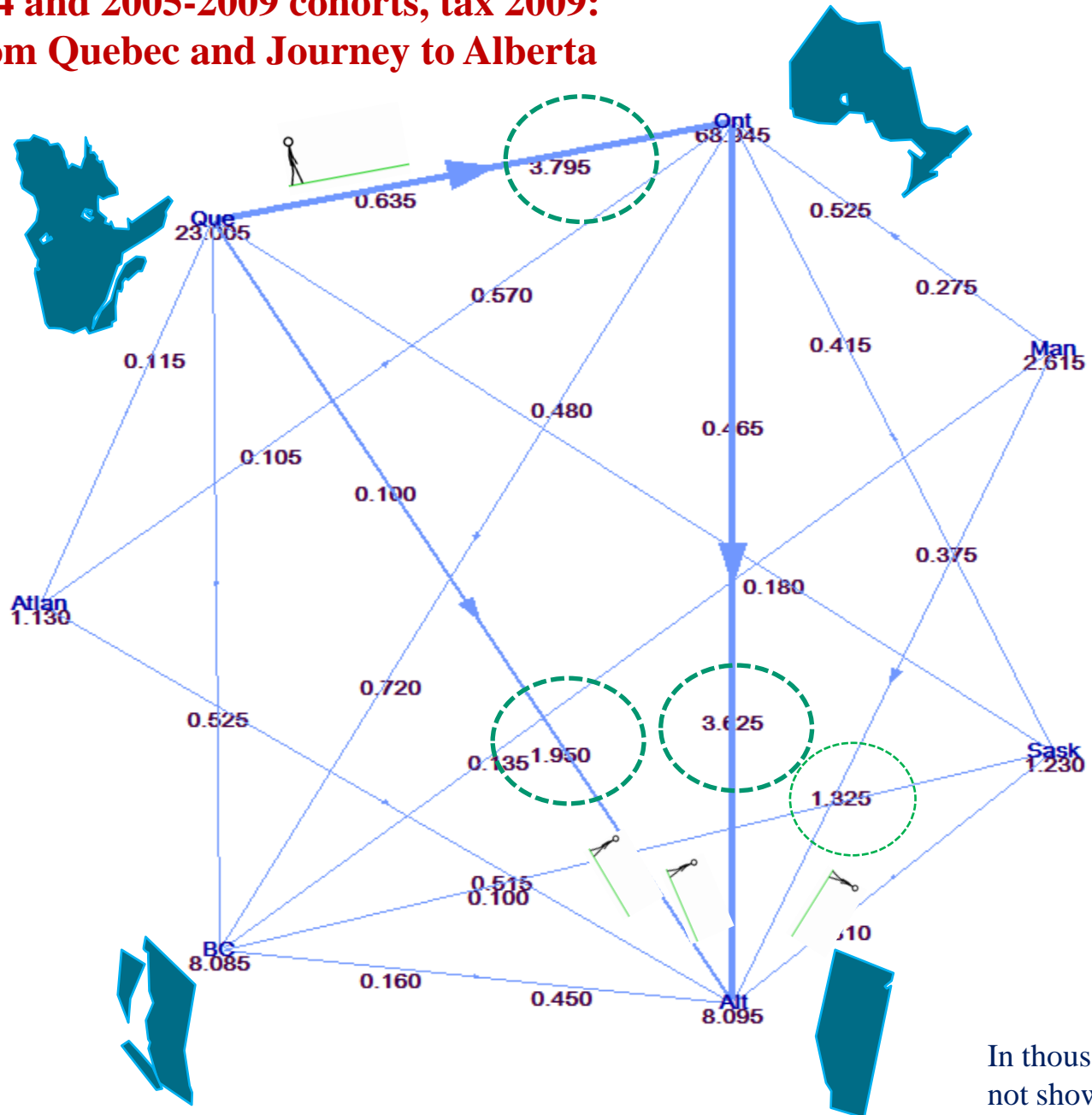
# Social Networks' Snapshots: Tax Years: 2004, 2009 and 2013



**2000-2004 cohort, 2004 tax:  
Flight from Quebec**



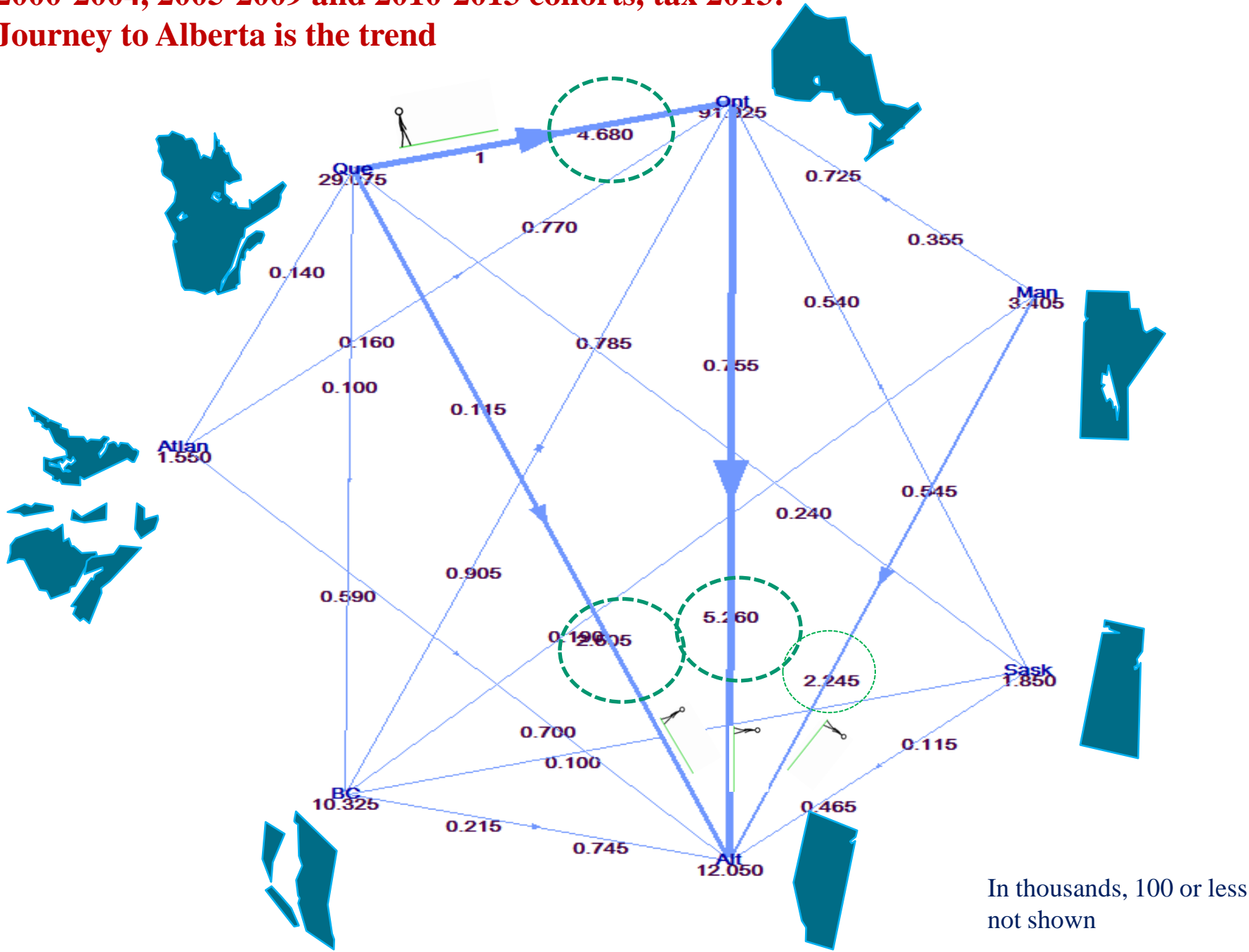
# 2000-2004 and 2005-2009 cohorts, tax 2009: Flight from Quebec and Journey to Alberta



In thousands, 100 or less not shown

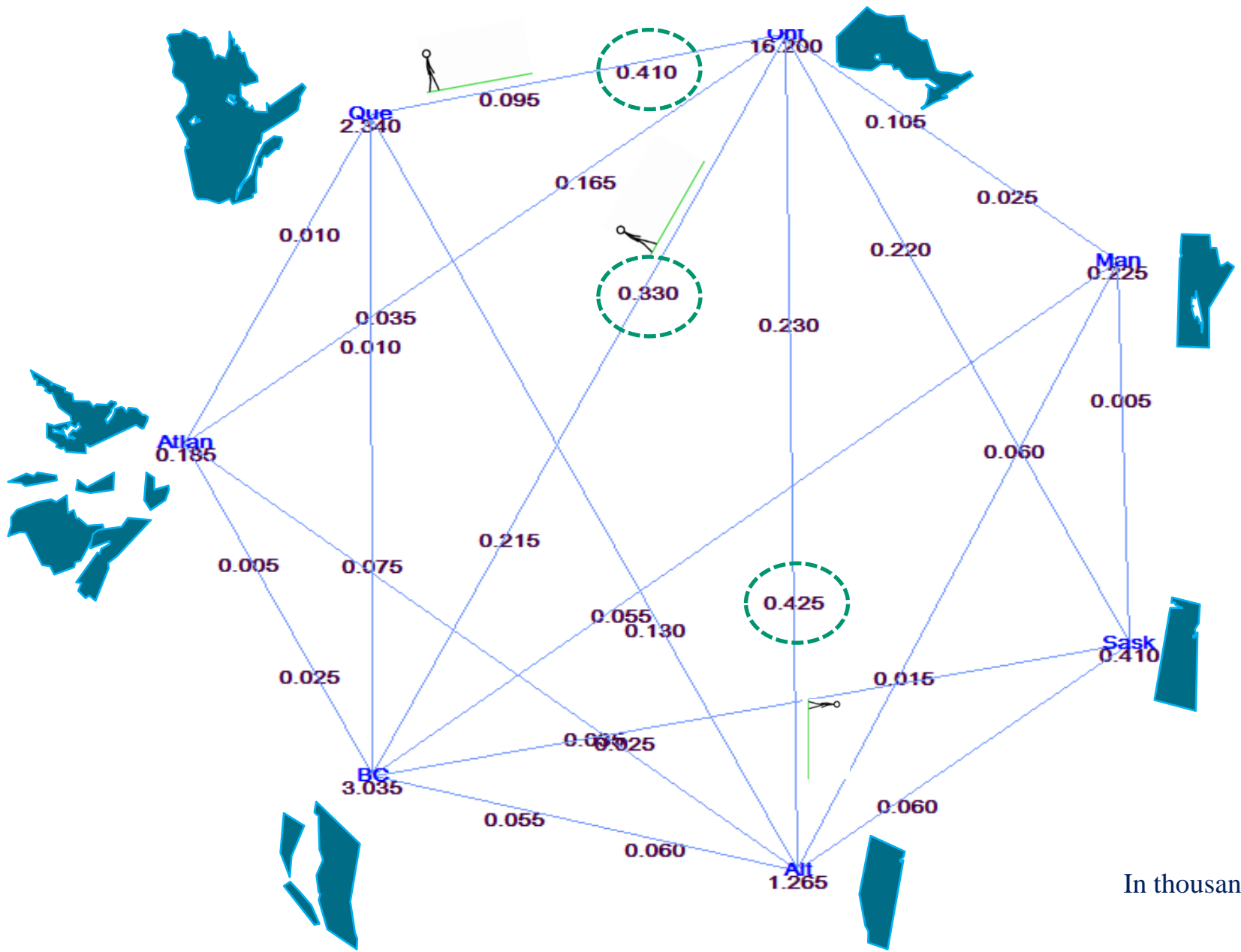


**2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013 cohorts, tax 2013:  
Journey to Alberta is the trend**



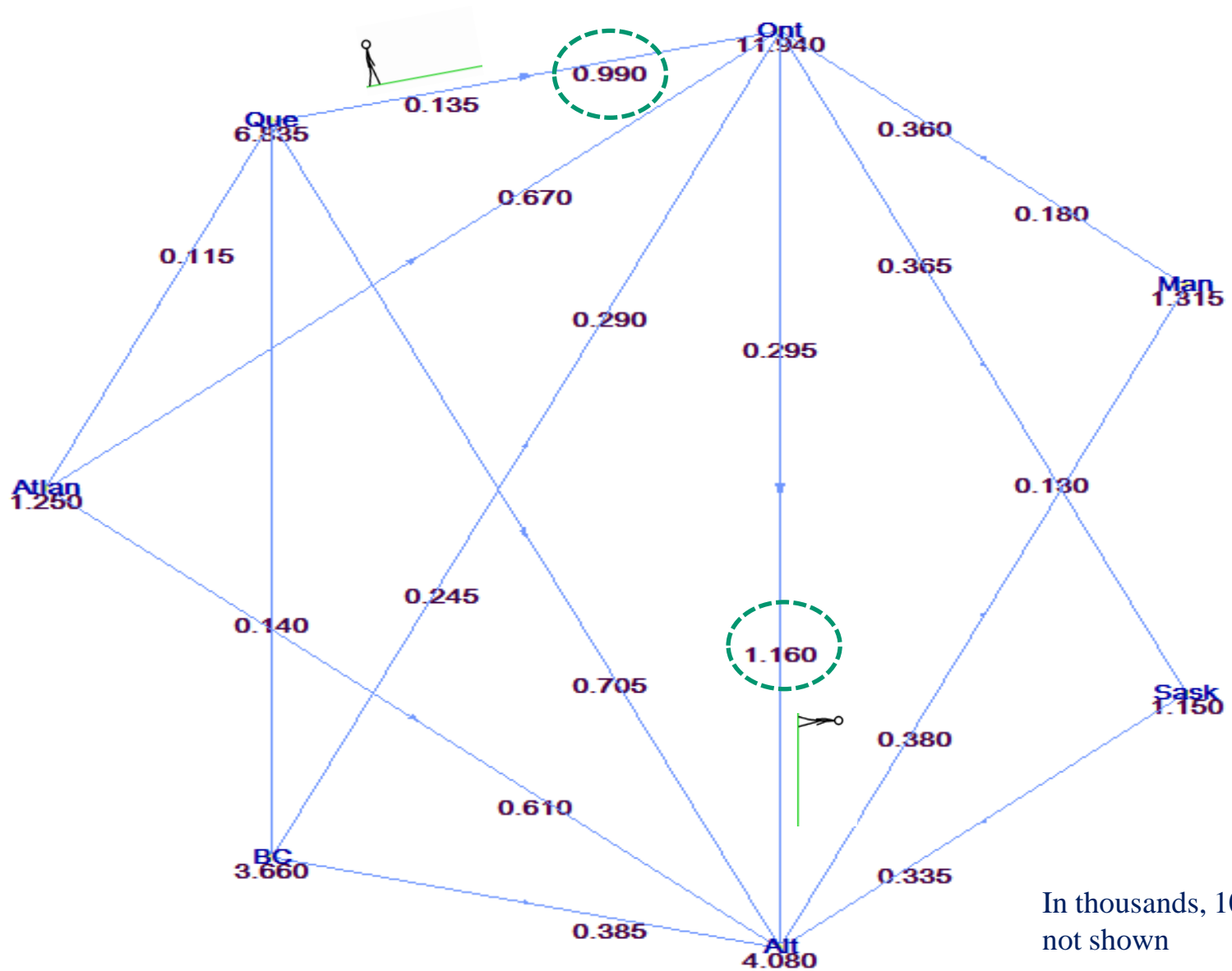
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# Middle East Born, 2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013 Cohorts, tax 2013: Journeys to Ontario, Alberta and B.C.



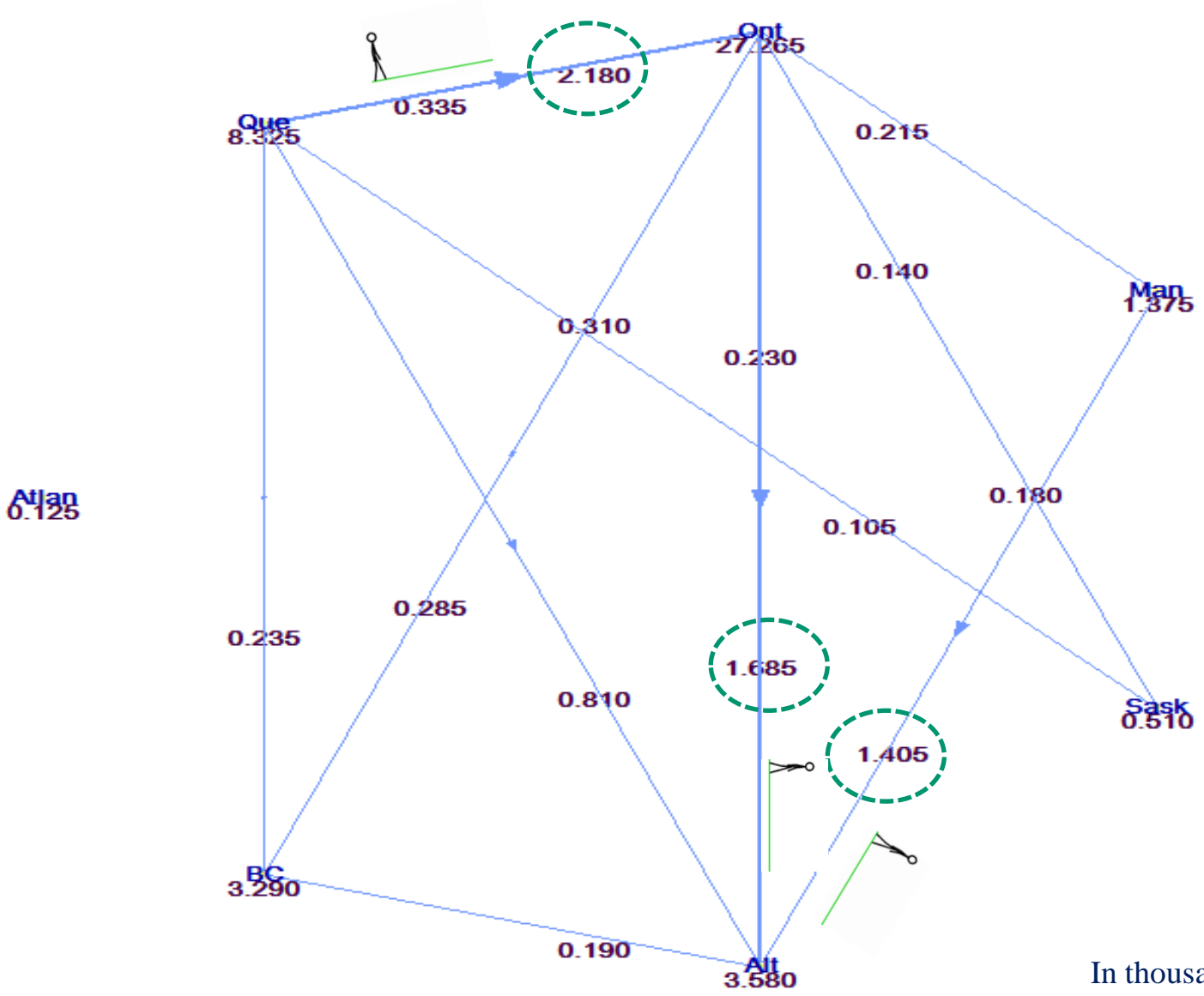
In thousands

# GARs, 2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013 cohorts, tax 2013: Flights from Quebec and Ontario



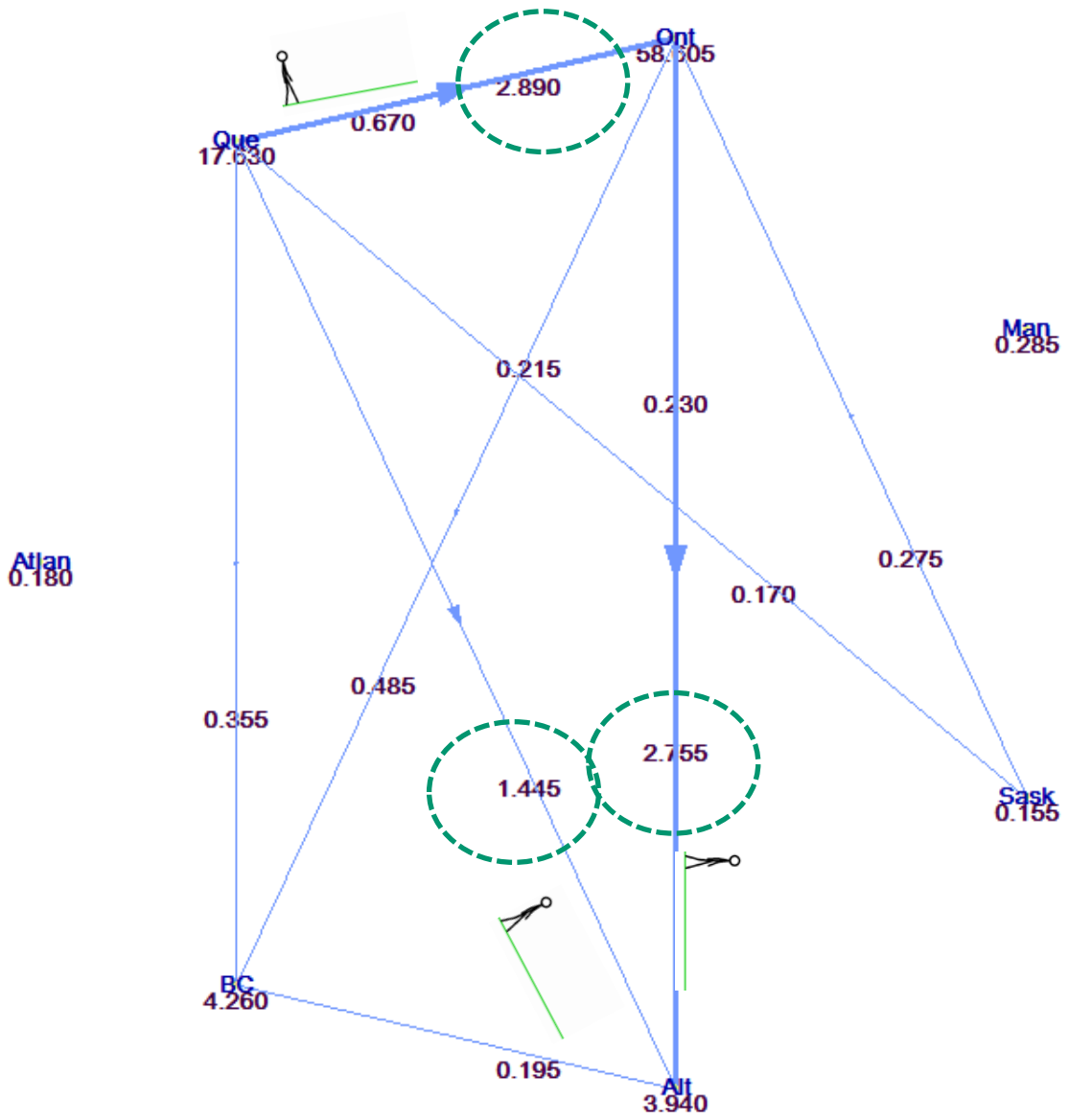
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# PSRs, 2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013 cohorts, tax 2013: Flights from Quebec and Ontario



In thousands, 100 or less not shown

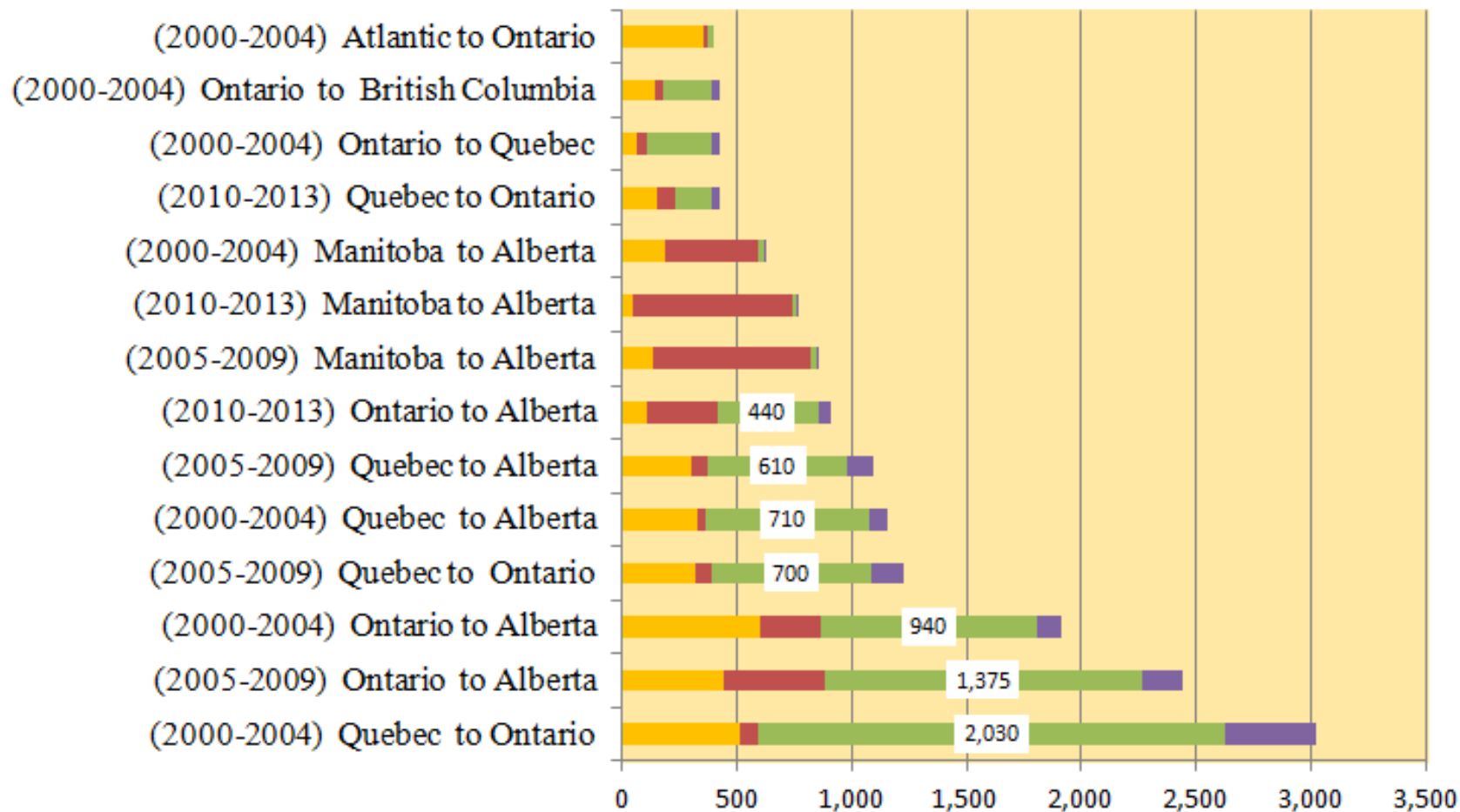
# LICs, 2000-2004, 2005-2009 and 2010-2013 cohorts, tax 2013: Flights from Quebec and Ontario



In thousands, 100 or less not shown

# Historical Waves

■ GARs  
 ■ PSRs  
 ■ LICs  
 ■ Dependants



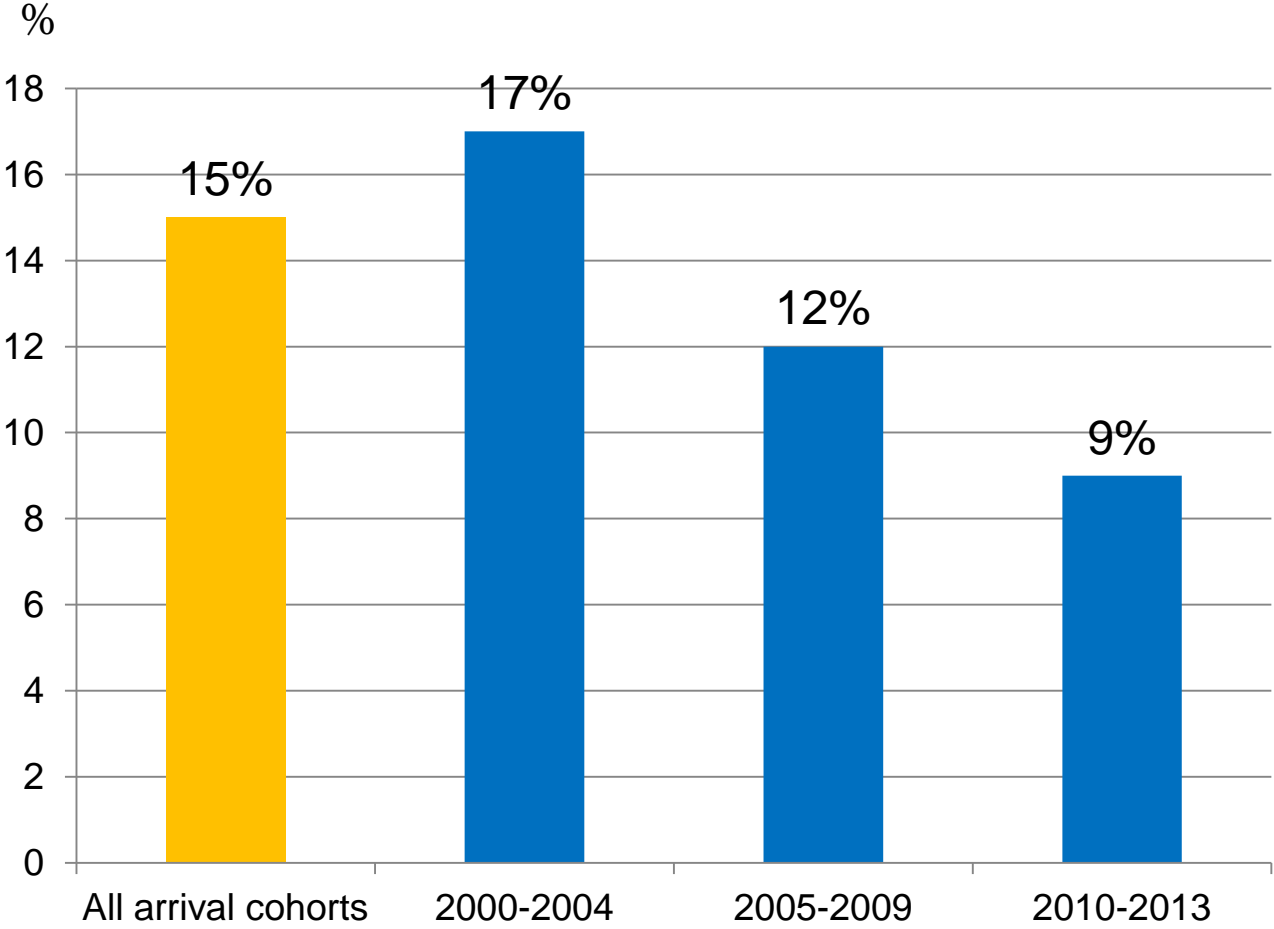


# Movers and Nonmovers



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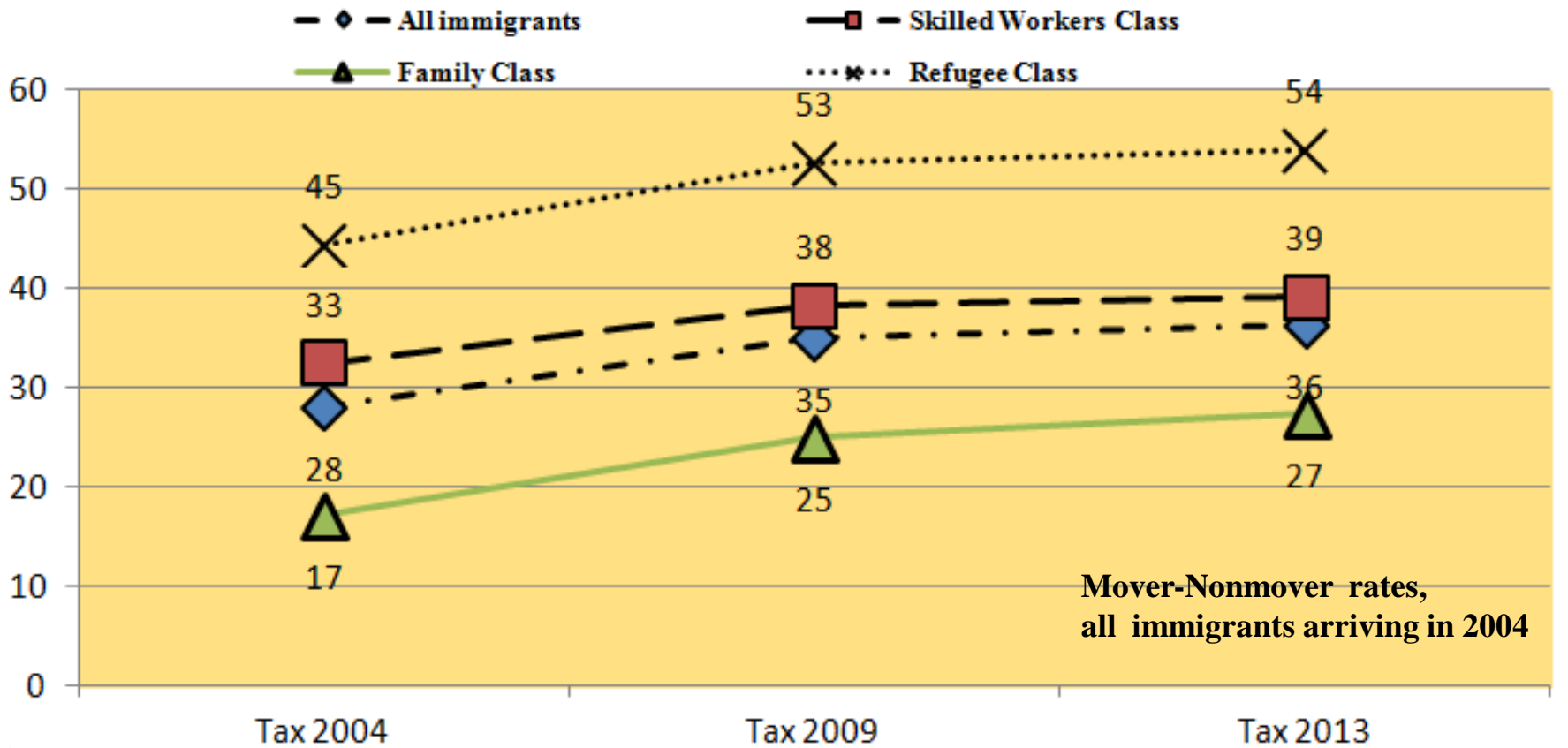
# The longer the residence, the higher the likelihood of refugees' interregional mobility



Tax Year of Observation:  
2013



# Refugees more mobile than skilled worker class



## Gars more mobile during 2000-2004, PSRs in latter periods

Mover-Nonmover Interregional Rates,  
Refugee Subgroups by Cohorts and  
Landing Region, Tax Year 2013

Cohorts/Regions	All Refugees	Government Assisted	Privately Sponsored	Landed in Canada	Dependents
<b>2000-2004 cohort</b>					
L:All Regions	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>
L:Atlantic	230	256	125	91	10
L:Quebec	41	33	29	44	47
L:Ontario	10	20	13	8	6
L:Manitoba	107	101	120	74	10
L:Saskatchewan	157	191	91	67	50
L:Alberta	16	19	10	14	11
L:British Columbia	19	27	28	13	11
<b>2005-2009 cohort</b>					
L:All Regions	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>
L:Atlantic	112	115	200	71	33
L:Quebec	26	27	25	25	29
L:Ontario	10	20	16	8	7
L:Manitoba	99	58	143	45	5
L:Saskatchewan	47	47	48	17	10
L:Alberta	11	11	7	12	7
L:British Columbia	17	20	29	12	7
<b>2010-2013 cohort</b>					
L:All Regions	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>
L:Atlantic	44	49	20	18	2
L:Quebec	10	18	18	7	7
L:Ontario	5	6	10	5	3
L:Manitoba	89	33	123	22	5
L:Saskatchewan	27	20	37	38	10
L:Alberta	6	4	8	5	4
L:British Columbia	13	12	19	7	3



# Composition of Refugee Flows

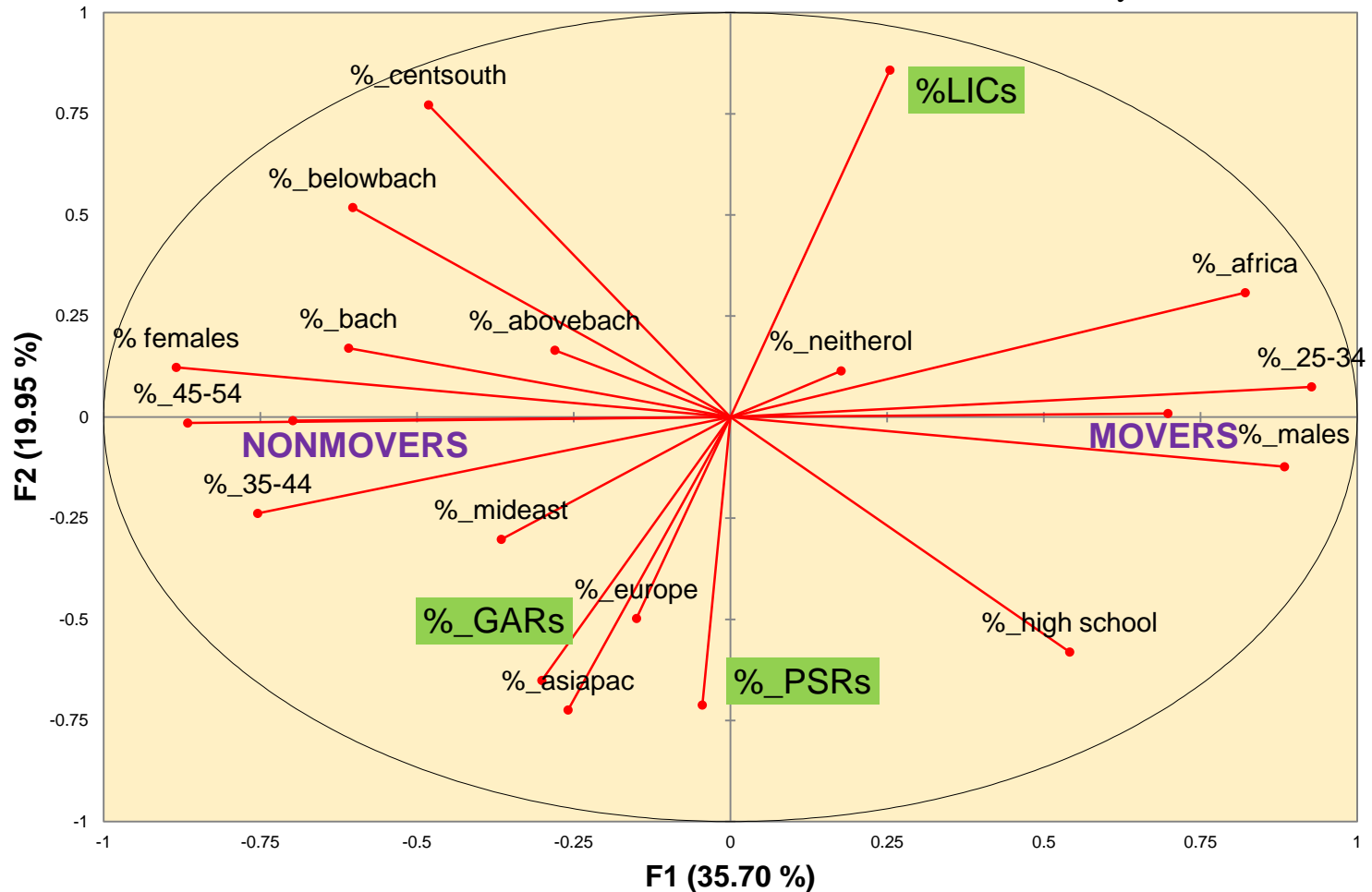


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# Age, Gender, Birthplace and Education correlated to mover status of a refugee flow



Variables (axes F1 and F2: 55.64 %) PCA Analysis of 92 Mover and Nonmover flows, tax year 2013



# Types of Interregional Movers

Cluster analysis (k-means) of 92 selected refugee flows observed at tax year 2013 produced five clusters which were as follows:

- Cluster 1 (n=15): **Lowly Educated, LICs**. Typical flow: Alberta to Quebec (2005-2009)
  - Cluster 2 (n=14): **Highly Educated, Asia Pacific birthplaces**. Typical flow: B.C. to Quebec (2000-2004)
  - Cluster 3 (n=19): **Young Males, African birthplaces, PSRs**. Typical Flow: B.C. to Alberta (2005-2009)
  - Cluster 4 (n=23): **Other Mover Flows, European birthplaces, GARs**. Typical flow: Atlantic to Ontario (2005-2009)
  - Cluster 5 (n=21): **Non Movers**. Typical flow: B.C. to B.C. (2000-2004)
- 
- Clustering patterns suggest that there is selectivity of refugee migration and human/social capital mix

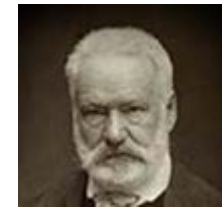
# Conclusions



- The likelihood of interregional mobility increases with the time in the country
- Refugee mobility often higher than independent class members
- Alberta and B.C. benefited from exchanges with other regions of the country during 2000-2013
- Latter pattern observed for refugees from the Middle East
- Some typical moves: LICs from Quebec to Ontario, GARs out from the Atlantic, PSRs from Manitoba to Alberta, etc.
- Younger males with high school education at arrival more involved in interregional migration



# Looking at the Future



- “Push” and “pull” factors have changed in their strength and direction
- Composition of refugee flows different from previous years (e.g. Syrian refugees)
- Not all Canadian regions will have the same capacity to retain present refugees
- It may be necessary for government and settlement agencies take into the account interregional mobility experiences of refugees in their short and long term strategies