

The impact of COVID-19 on migration globally and in Canada

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OCASI

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Agenda

- Covid as a triple-crisis
 - Canada's / IRCC's response to Covid
 - Data update ... what's happening?
 - And...what next? ... the 2021-23 levels plan
 - Consequences?
-
- Note that nearly everything today will be about Canada but I'm happy to deal with global issues in the discussion

The Covid triple crisis

- Health
- Economic
- Equity / Humanitarian
 - Groups already suffering marginalization, suffer more during a pandemic, while groups already privileged, suffer less

Covid as a health crisis



Total cases

310K

+4,276

Recovered

247K

Deaths

11,165

+59



Total cases

55.6M

Recovered

35.8M

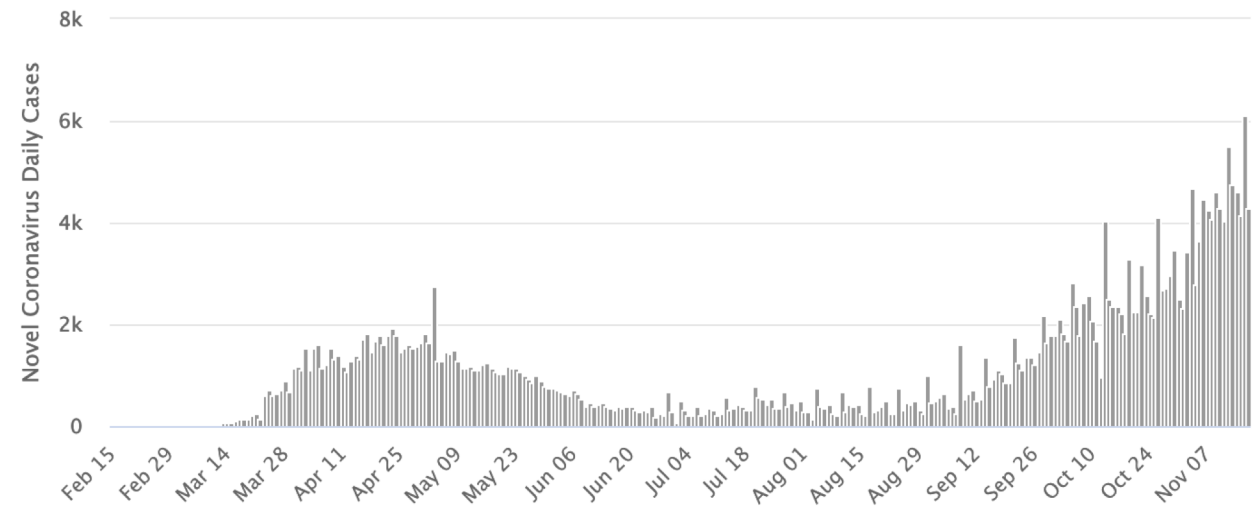
Deaths

1.34M

Daily New Cases in Canada

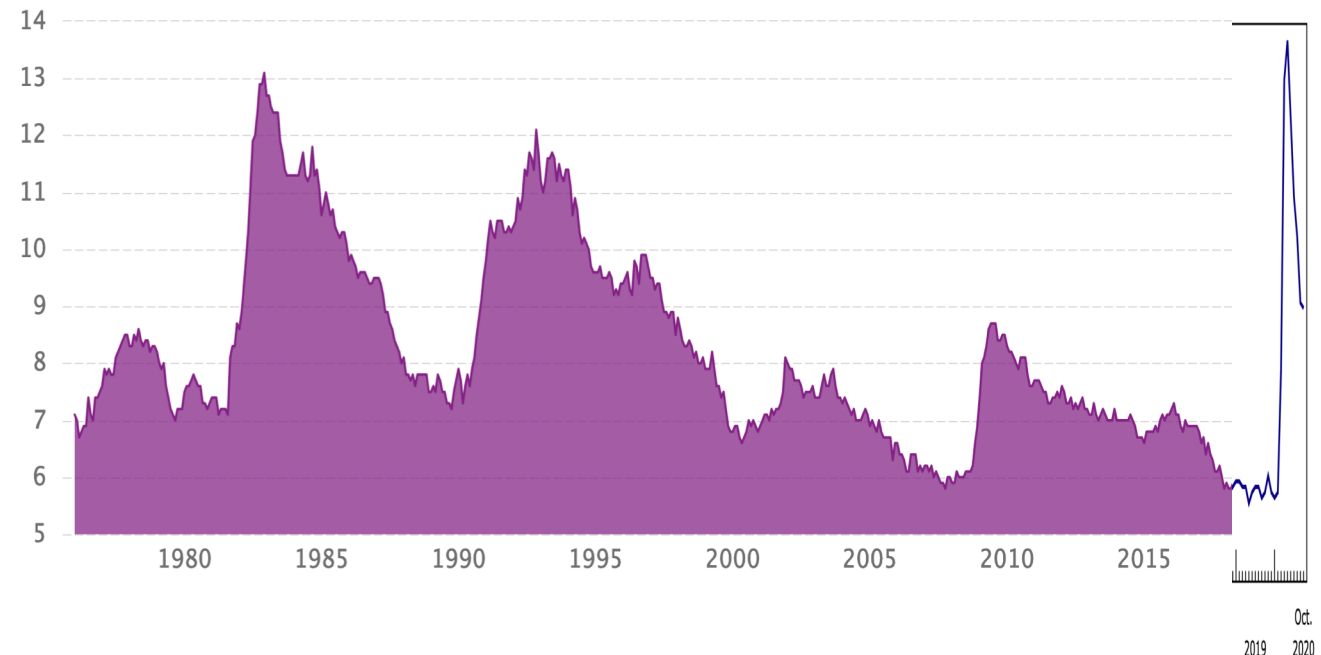
Daily New Cases

Cases per Day
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0



COVID as an economic crisis

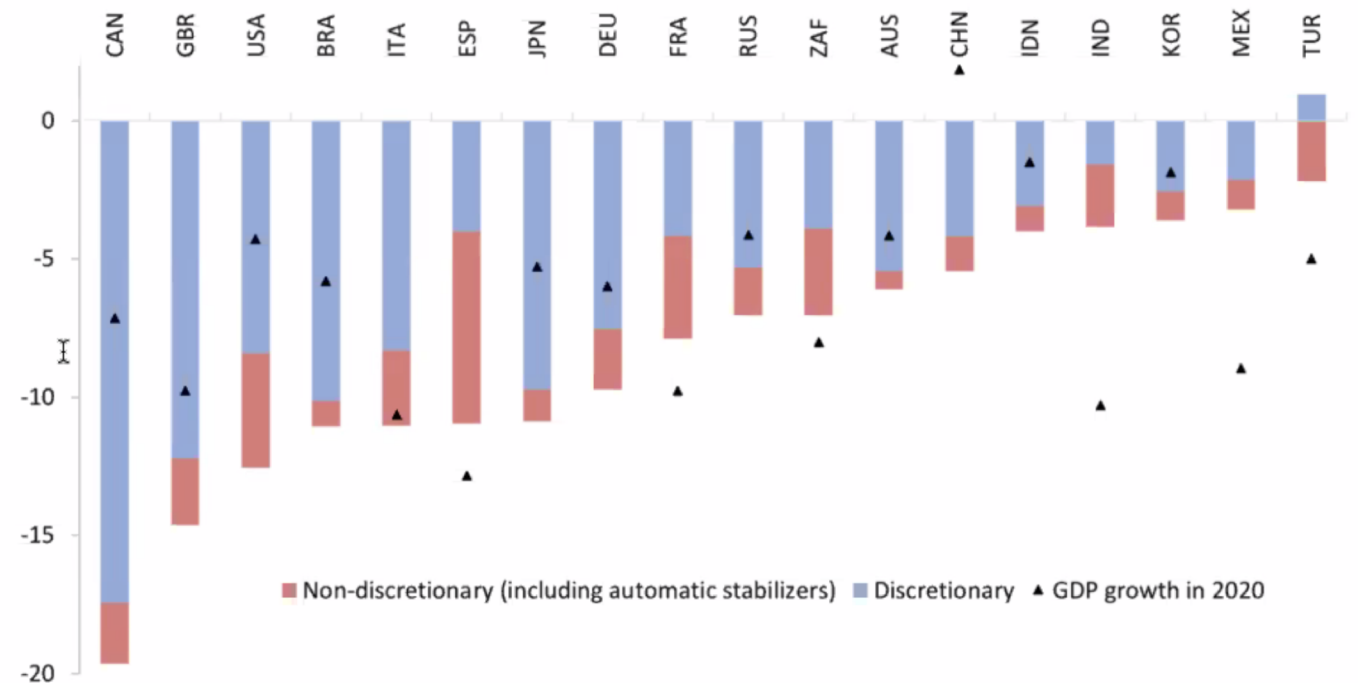
- Previous recessions (1980s, 1990s, 2000s)
 - Peaks of monthly unemployment rate:
1983 (13.1%); 1994 (12.1%); 2010 (8.7%)
 - Time to recover to pre-recession unemployment rate: 6, 6 and 8 years
 - Of all 'temporary' lay-offs, 45% were permanent job losses
- 2020 COVID situation
 - Peak unemployment rate:
13.7% in May
(Oct: 8.9%)



Note

- Canada has provided more economic stimulus than most other countries
- Therefore, the Canadian economy will be more exposed to shocks when fiscal stimulus ends

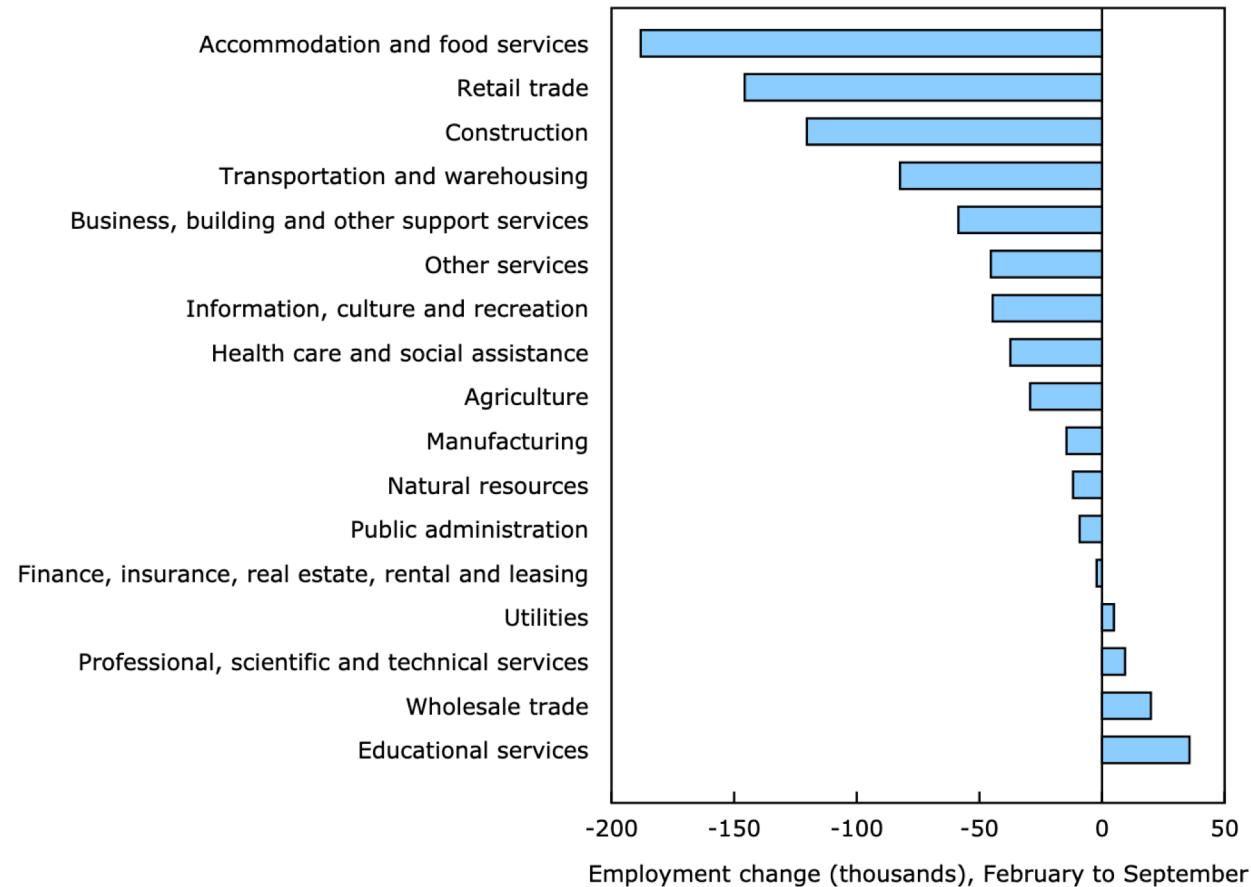
Change in cyclically adjusted primary fiscal balance



COVID as an economic crisis

Chart 4

Employment in accommodation and food services, retail trade and construction furthest from pre-shutdown levels



Labour Force Survey, September 2020

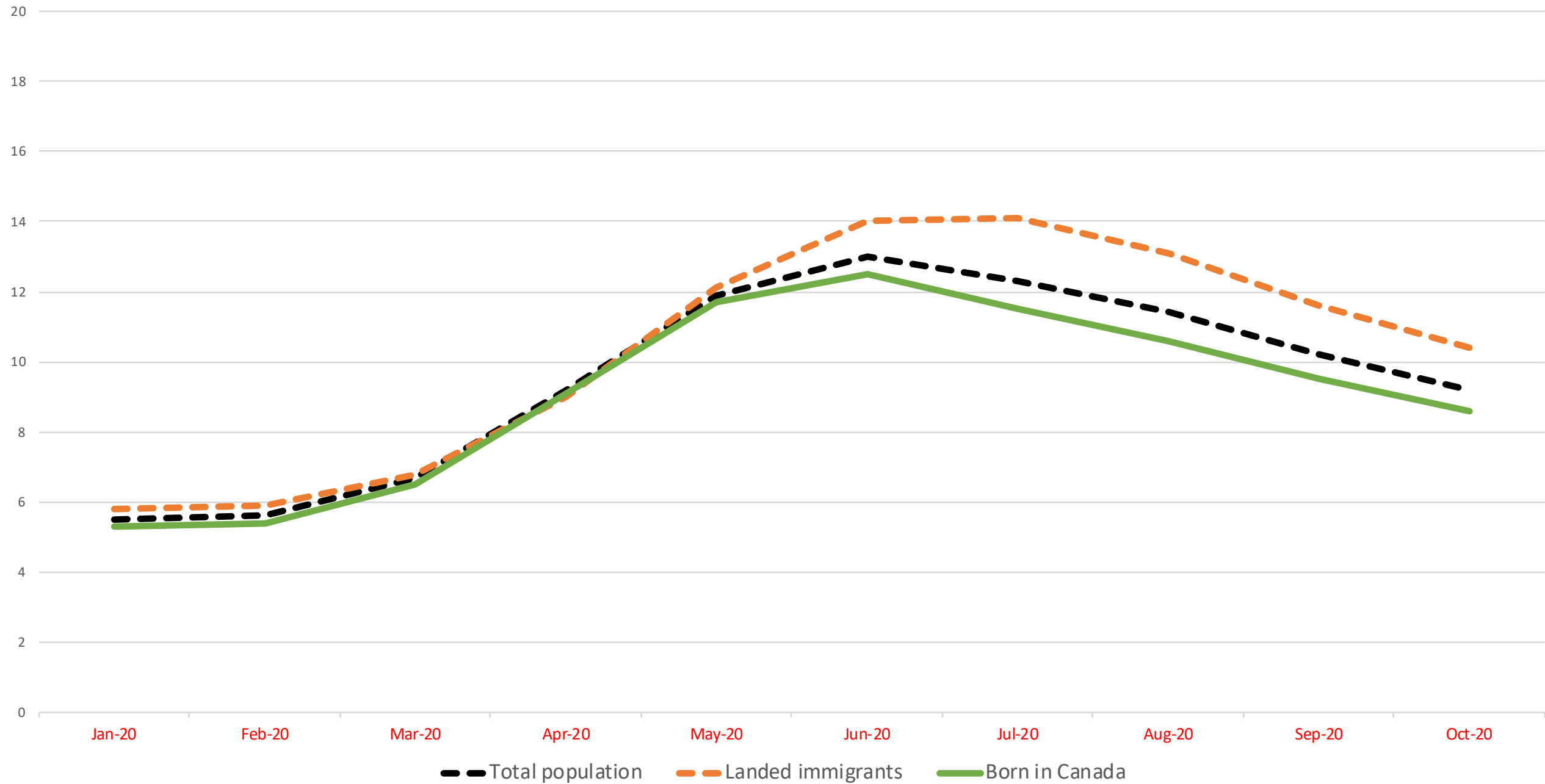
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in The Daily, Friday, October 9, 2020



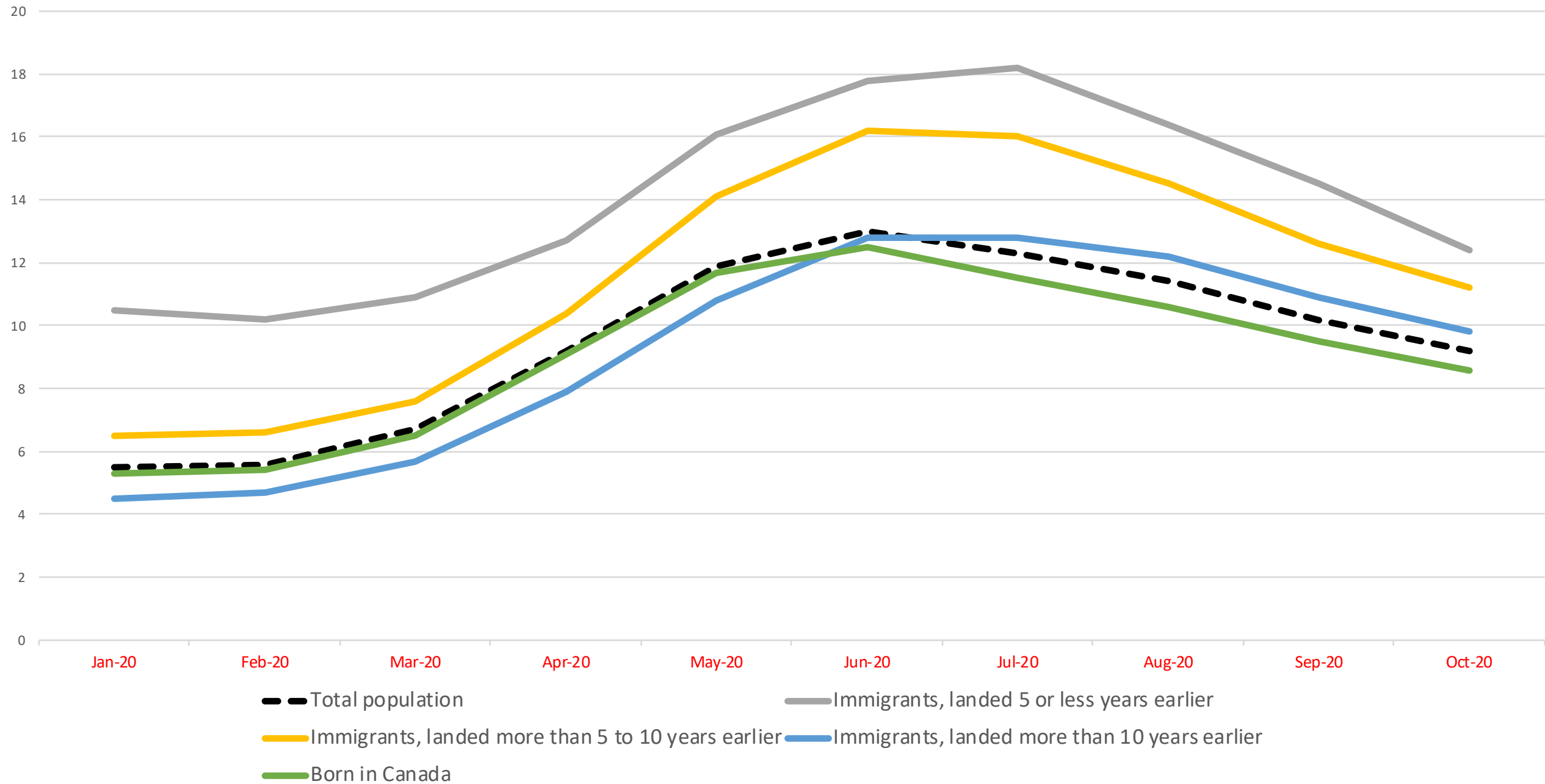
Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

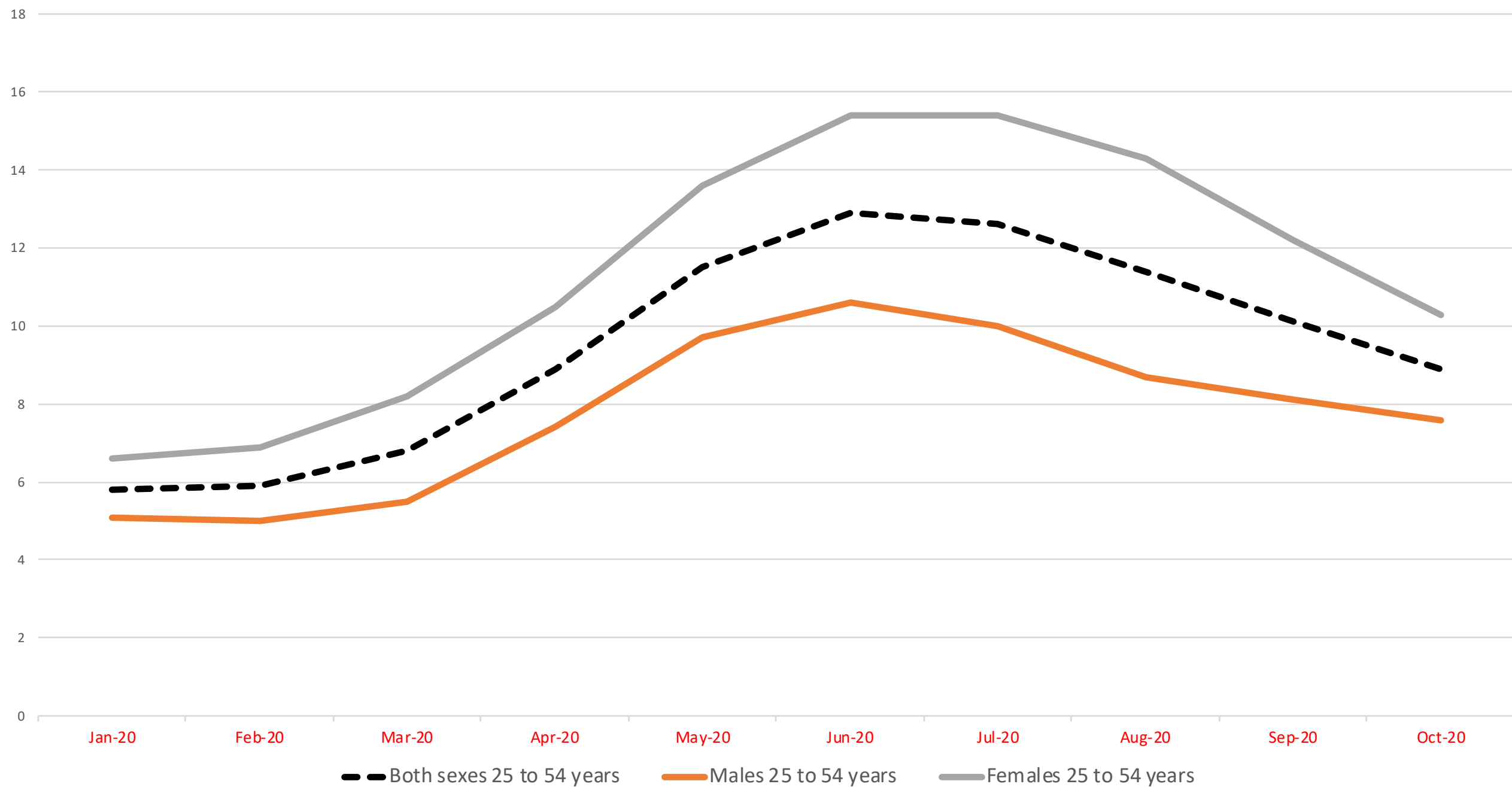
Unemployment rate by immigration status, Canada, monthly, 2020



Unemployment rate by immigration status, Canada, monthly, 2020



Unemployment among landed immigrants, 25-54 years old, by sex, Canada, monthly, 2020



Unemployment among landed immigrants by region of origin, Canada, monthly, 2020

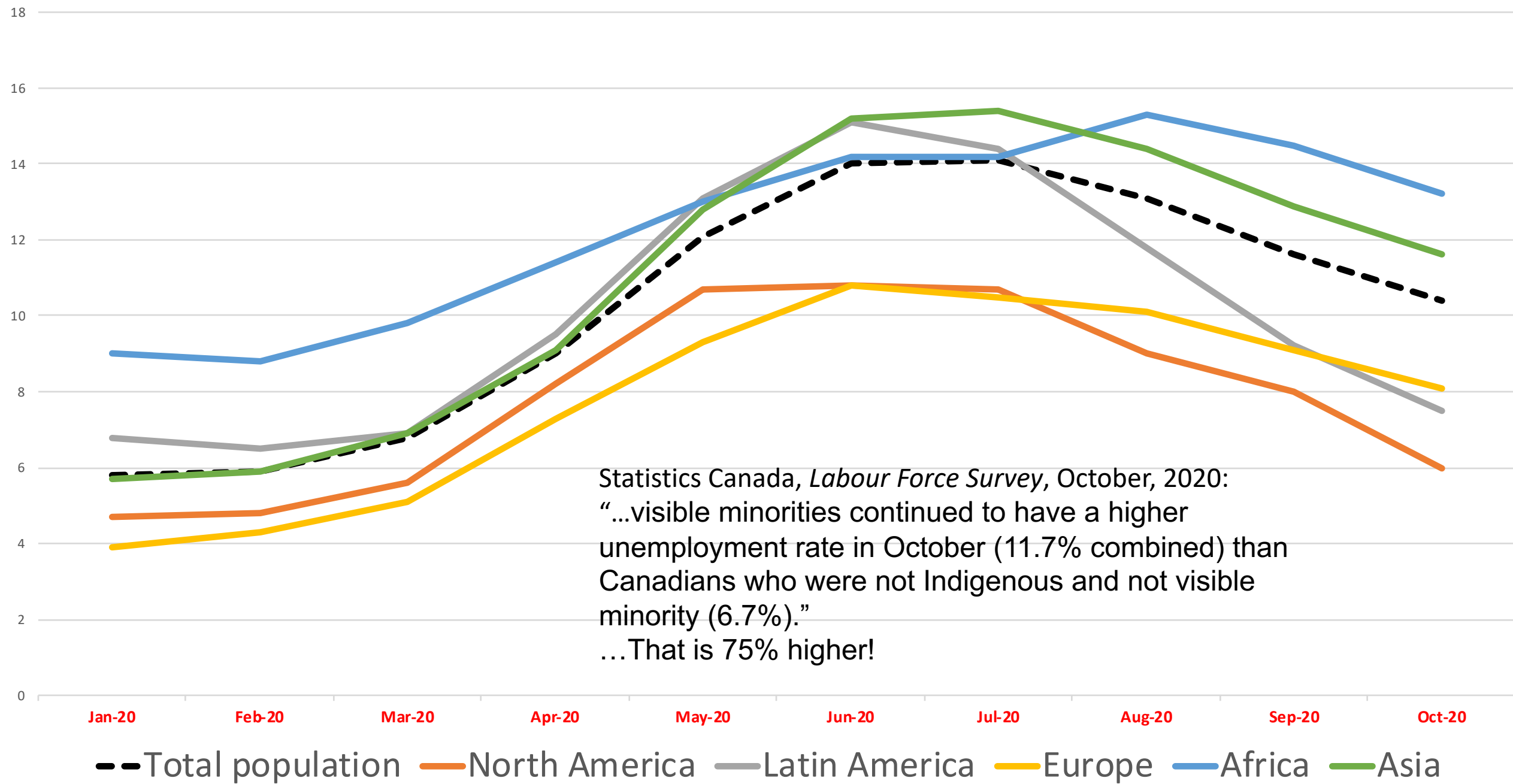
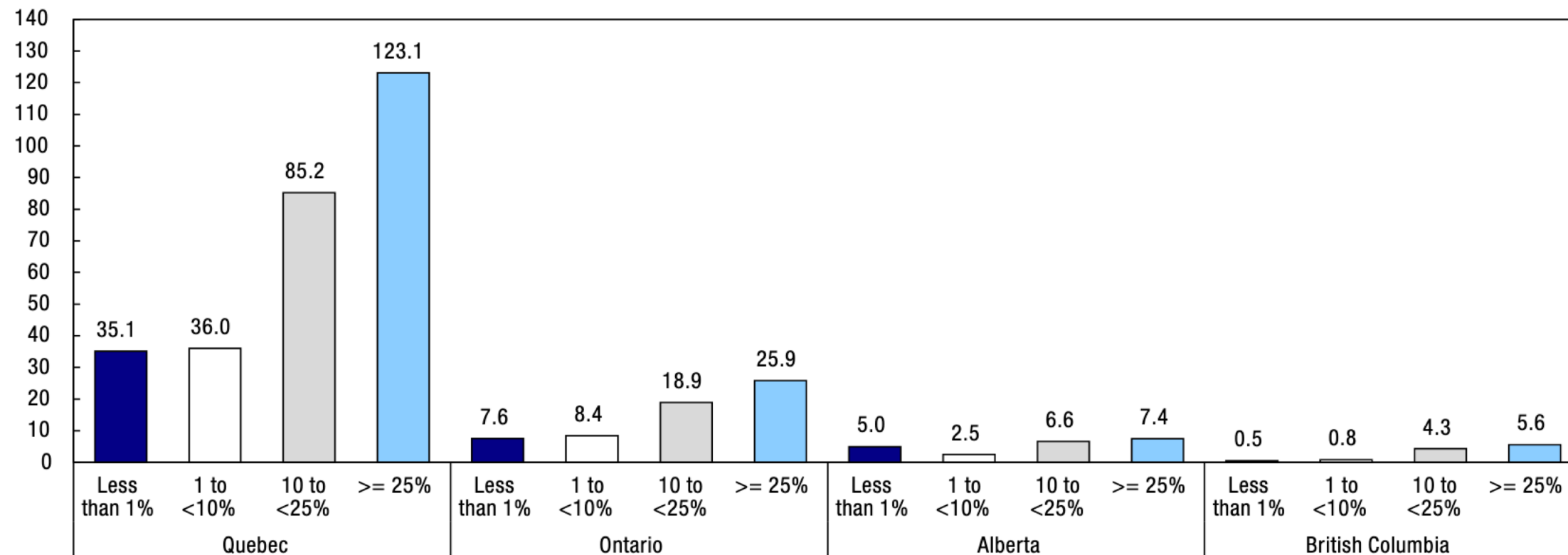


Chart 2

Age-standardized COVID-19 mortality rates, by proportion of the neighbourhood population belonging to population groups designated as visible minorities, selected provinces

age-standardized mortality rate (per 100,000)



Sources: Data derived from provisional Canadian Vital Mortality – Death Database (2020) and the Census of Population 2016.



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods

by Rajendra Subedi, Lawson Greenberg and Martin Turcotte

Release date: October 28, 2020

Covid as an equity and humanitarian crisis

- Humanitarian side
 - Vast numbers of stranded labour migrants
 - Food security issues among refugees
 - Forcing returns in some cases (e.g., Venezuela)
 - Global asylum system
 - Crisis of *immobility*
 - 168 countries have closed borders
 - 70 countries have suspended asylum determination systems
 - Many examples of refoulement

**Stranded irregular migrant workers
during the COVID-19 crisis:
The question of repatriation**

Ahmet İçduygu¹



**Greece's Moria Tragedy: The Crash Test for the EU Pact
on Migration and Asylum**

By [Hanne Beirens](#)

The Covid triple crisis

- Things to worry about...
 - The disease itself, plus medical complications (e.g., mental health)
 - The economic 'hangover' of unemployment and colossal debt
 - Increased inequality and lingering humanitarian issues

What happens to Canadian migration and immigration during a crisis?

- Recent history
- What we know so far about the Covid era

Canadian responses to crisis

- Permanent immigration
 - 1980s recession
 - Significant drop in immigration targets ($< 100,000$ / year)
 - 1990s recession
 - Smaller drop in immigration targets ($\sim 200,000$ / year)
 - 2000s recession
 - No drop in targets
- Temporary migration
 - Largely unaffected by these recessions

Consequences for immigrants arriving in previous recessions

- Immigrants and members of racialized groups face the most severe challenges in the labour market
 - Sectors with high immigrant participation tend to be the hardest hit
- Arriving newcomers face a double challenge (newcomer, racialized)
 - Triple challenge for women
- These disadvantages produced 'scarring effects' that endured for years
- The larger the incoming cohort, the larger these impacts
 - Why? Because immigrants mainly compete against other immigrants for jobs
- **HOWEVER ... the demographic situation has changed and these impacts might not be as bad in the 2020s...**
 - And the recovery could be quicker

IRCC and levels during Covid

- Context: unique situation
 - Recession plus severe limits to processing, plus border closure
 - 'Covid productivity tax' ... majority of staff still working from home
 - Problems with in-person and paper elements of applications (e.g., medical tests)
 - Partial fixes through mass-digitization of records and digital meetings
 - New practice: 'virtual landings'
- Planned level of immigration for 2020: 341,000
 - Given shortfalls since March, the latest expectation is approx. 180,000
 - I.e., close to half, with ~ 150,000 missing
 - Given the state of the labour market, this might be a good thing
 - This is not due to a conscious choice, but to circumstances IRCC could not control (i.e., not like the 1980s)

IRCC and levels during Covid

- Who is being admitted?
 - People already in Canada ('inland immigration')
 - TR->PR transitions are relatively straightforward as they don't involve a border crossing
 - PNP, CEC, and some through family reunification and other categories
 - IRB has resumed in-person hearings
 - People who received a Letter of Invitation prior to March 18
 - They have been granted the right to land
 - Many face deadlines and lapsed permission
 - Temporary residents
 - Priority is on individuals deemed essential
- Few landings outside these categories
 - But the admission process is up and running again
 - Delays between admission and landing

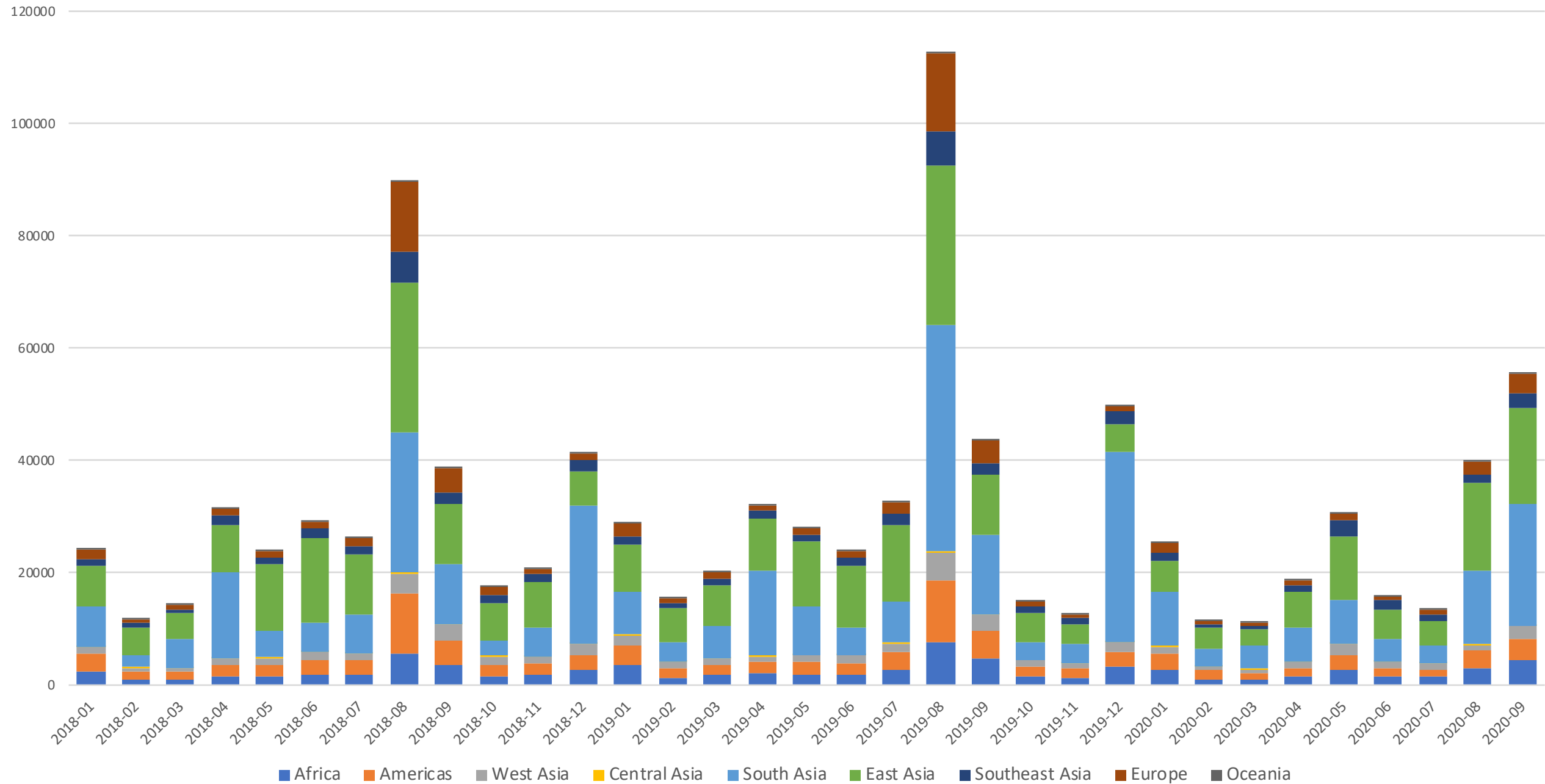
Summary of admissions and administrative data

- Temporary residents
- Permanent residents
- TR-PR transitions
- Provincial scale

Temporary resident admissions

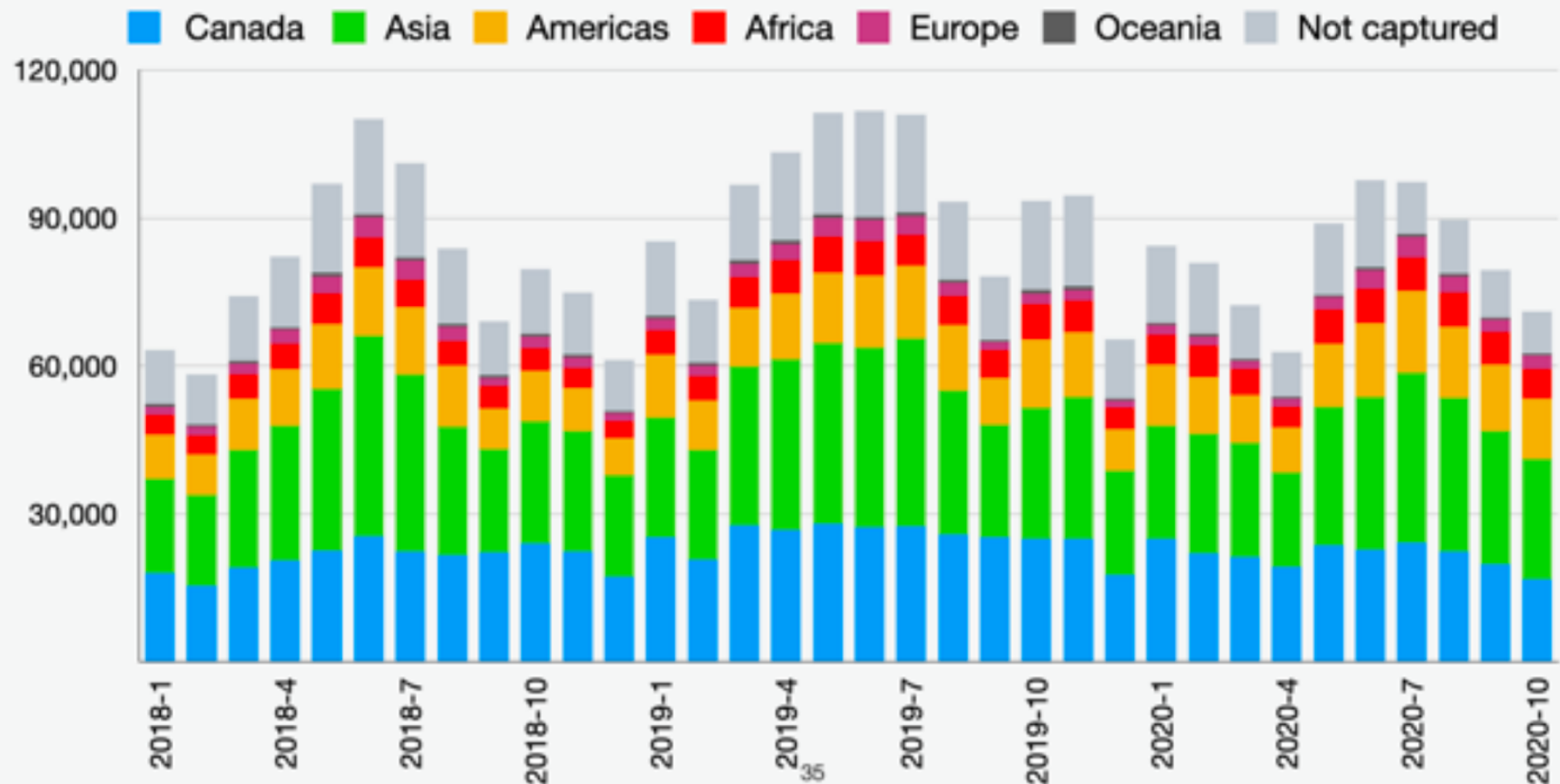
- Study
 - Work
 - Asylum
-
- Also note website data

Canada, Study permits, by world region, monthly, 2018-2020

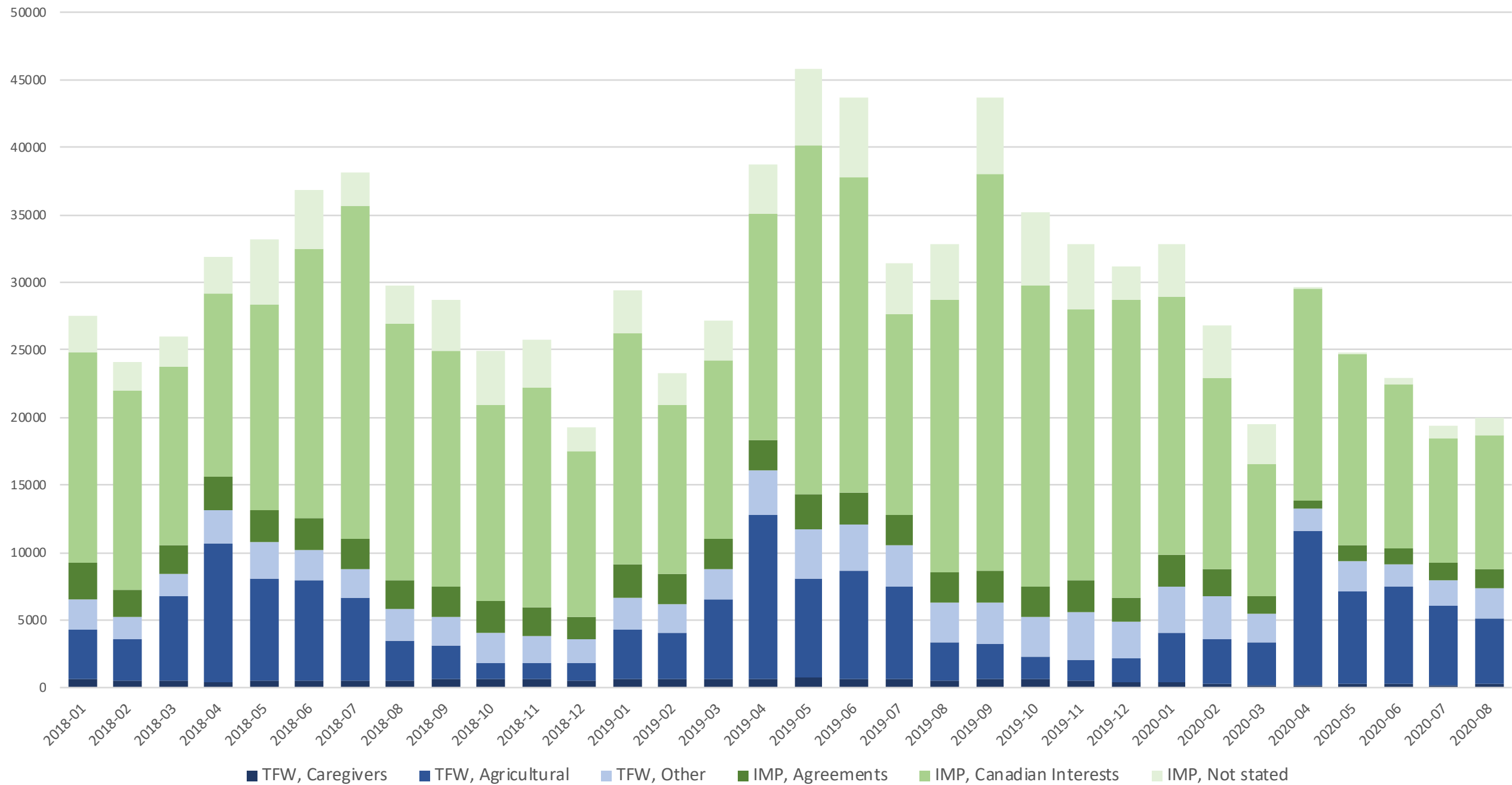


Study visa admissions, April – September, 2019 vs 2020			
2019		2020	
Total	272,130	Total	172,100
India	85,940	India	52,500
PR China	63,865	PR China	47,405
France	11,570	Vietnam	7,135
S Korea	10,970	S Korea	6,890
Vietnam	8,120	France	4,590
Iran	6,345	Iran	4,460
Brazil	6,250	Nigeria	4,080
USA	5,445	Brazil	3,435
Nigeria	5,120	USA	2,855
Japan	4,615	Philippines	2,355
Mexico	4,465	Bangladesh	2,165
Philippines	3,710	Mexico	2,060
Bangladesh	3,235	Japan	1,930
Colombia	2,600	Hong Kong	1,615
Taiwan	2,560	Colombia	1,455

Study Permits—Web Interest

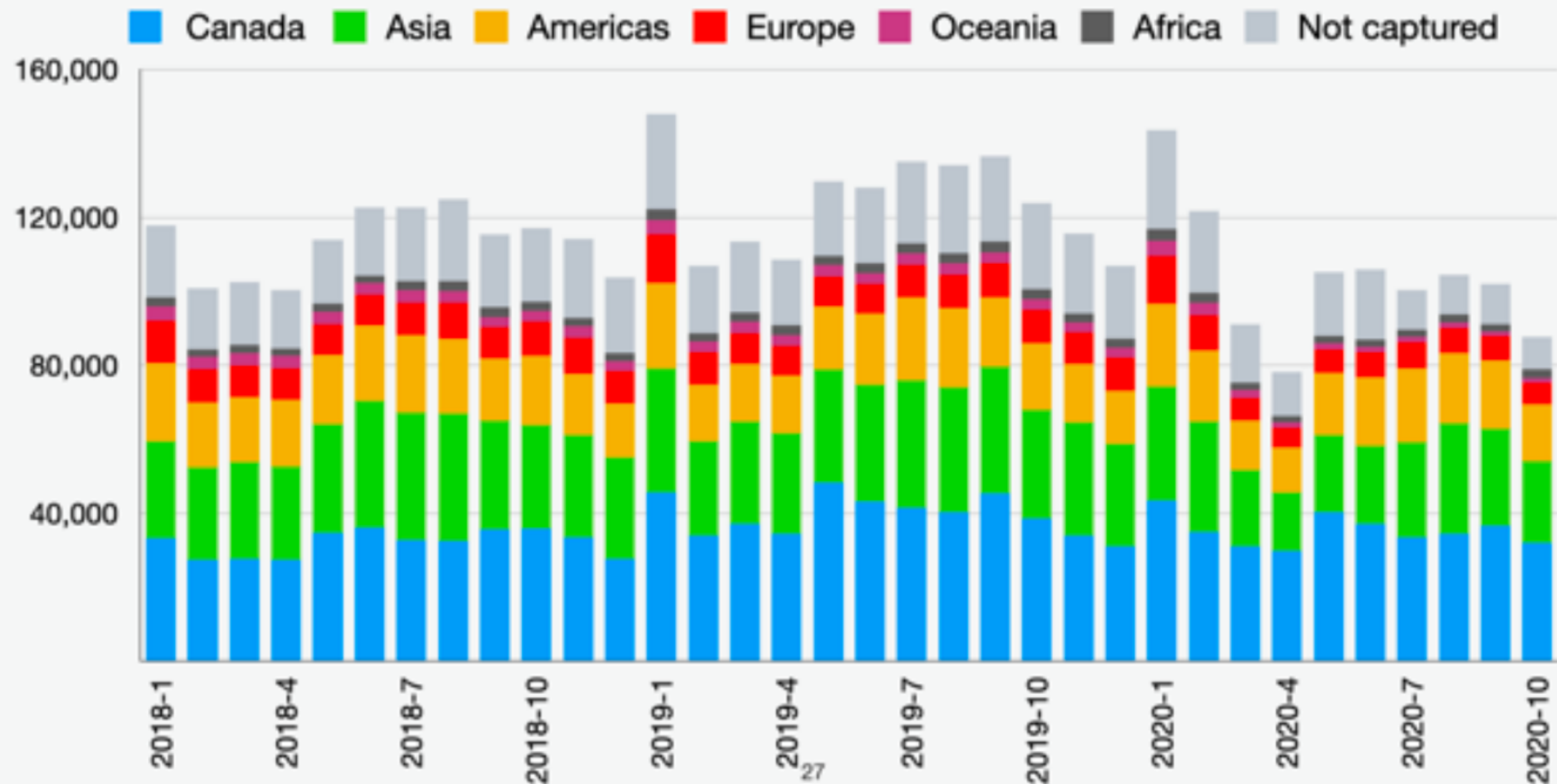


Canada, Temporary Labour Migrants, Monthly Admissions, 2018-2020

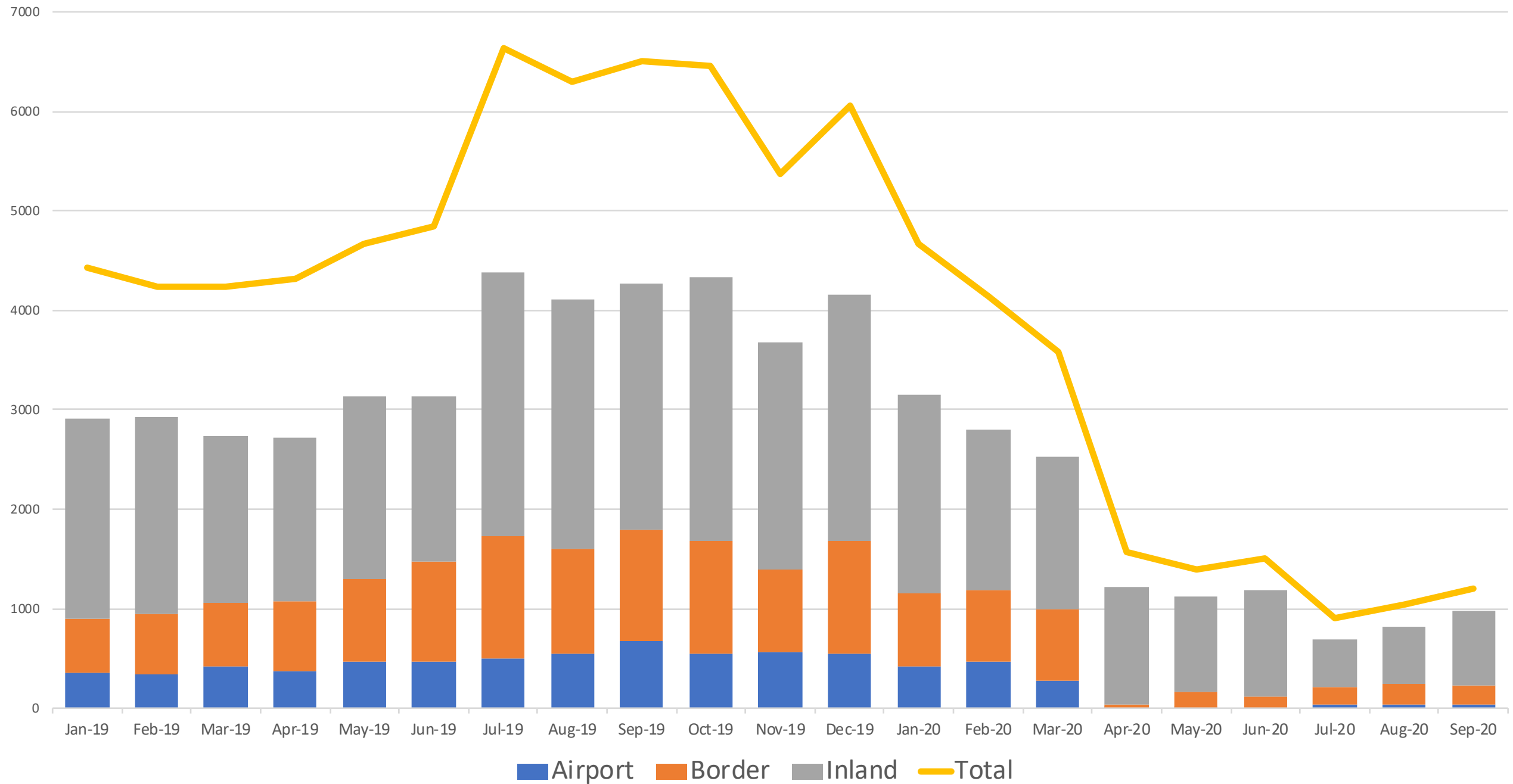


Labour and Study Temporary Migration Before and During Covid			
	2019 Apr-Aug	2020 Apr-Aug	Index 2020
TFW, Caregivers	3,218	1,031	32.0
TFW, Agricultural	36,989	36,405	98.4
TFW, Other	16,443	9,573	58.2
IMP, Agreements	11,845	5,635	47.6
IMP, Canadian Interests	100,855	61,035	60.5
IMP, Not stated	23,070	3,100	13.4
Study permits	228,430	118,240	51.8

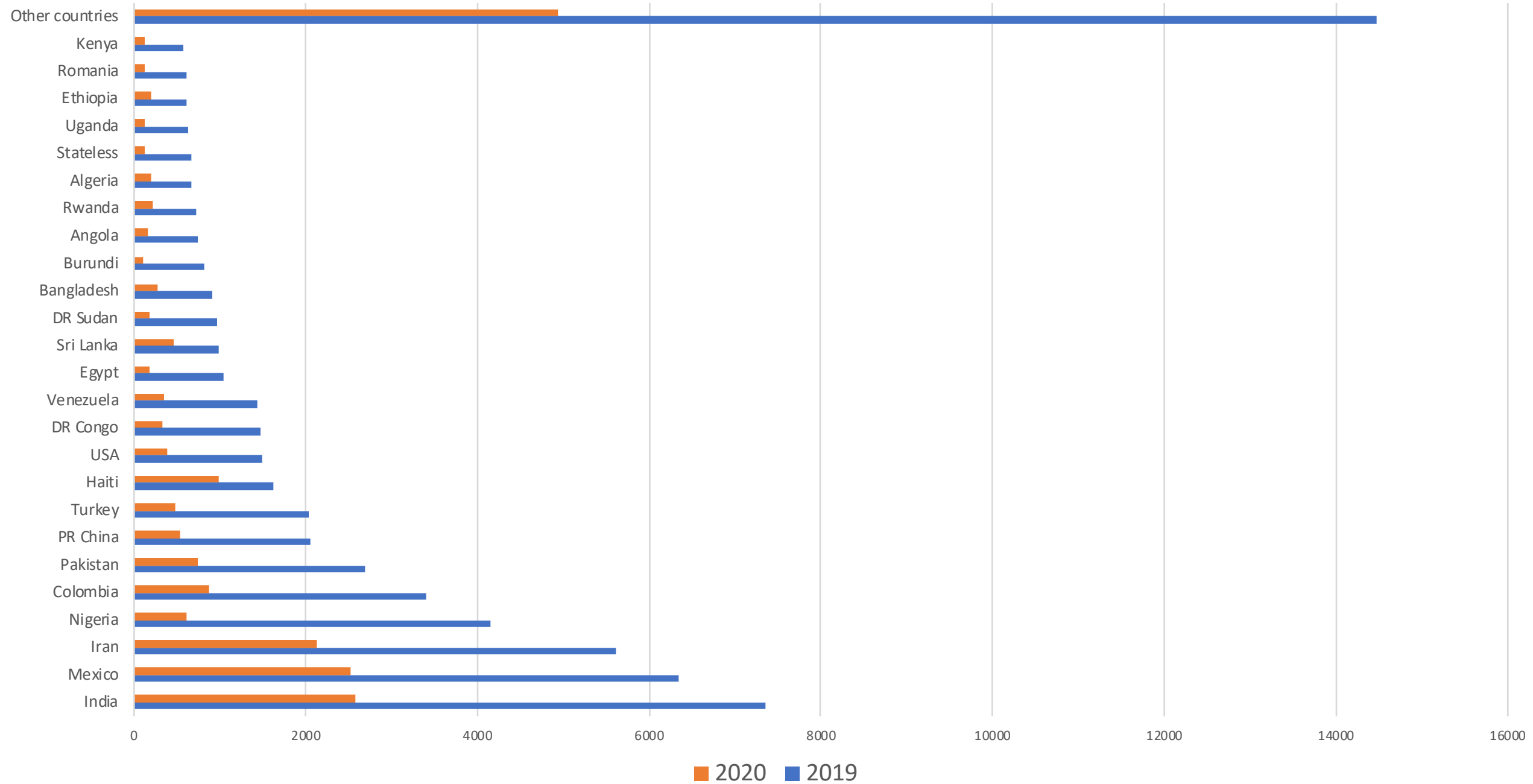
Work Permits—Web Interest



Canada asylum claims, total, and, for the 25 top source countries, by claim type, monthly, 2019-20



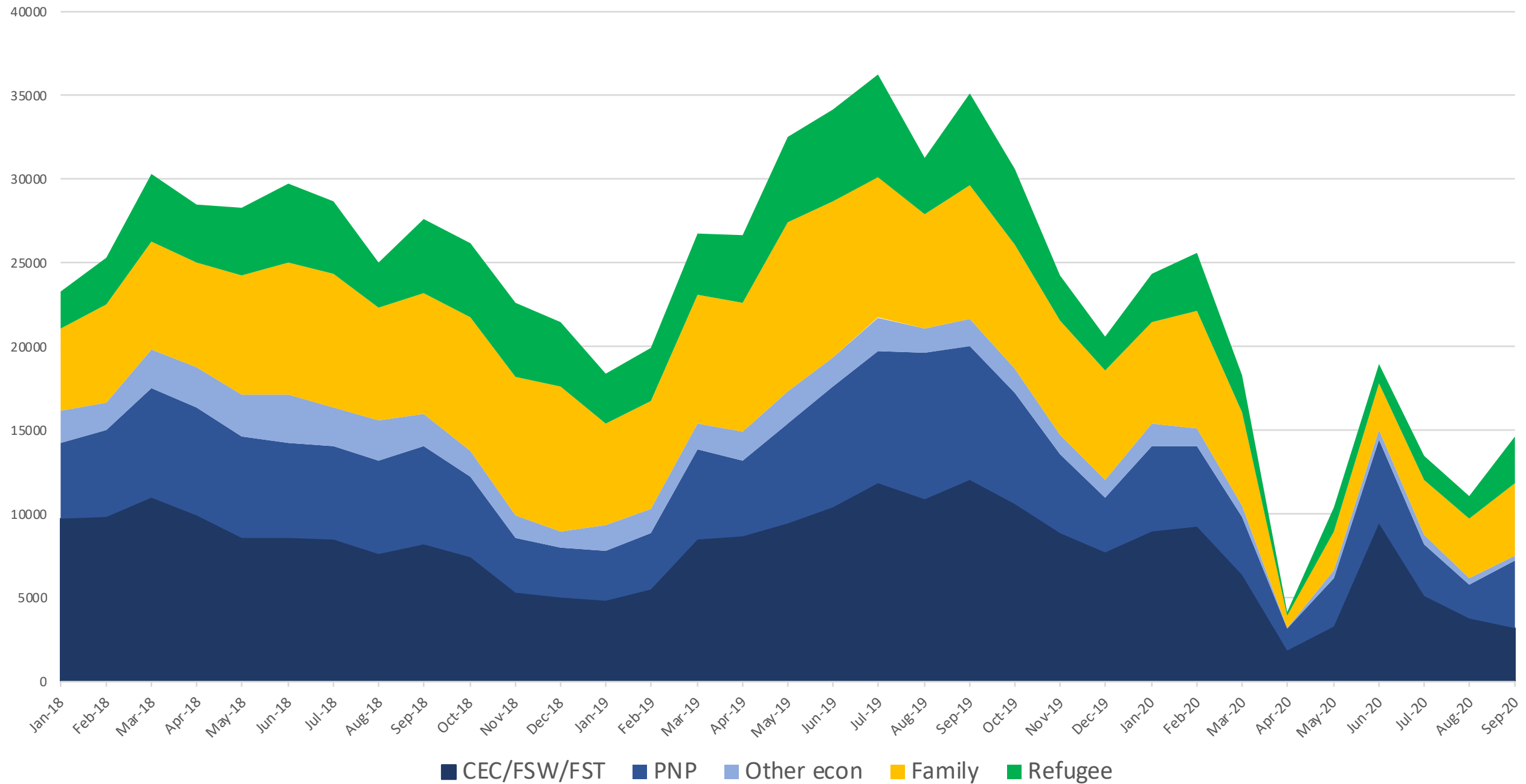
Total asylum claims, top 25 countries, 2019 vs 2020 (to September)



Permanent residents

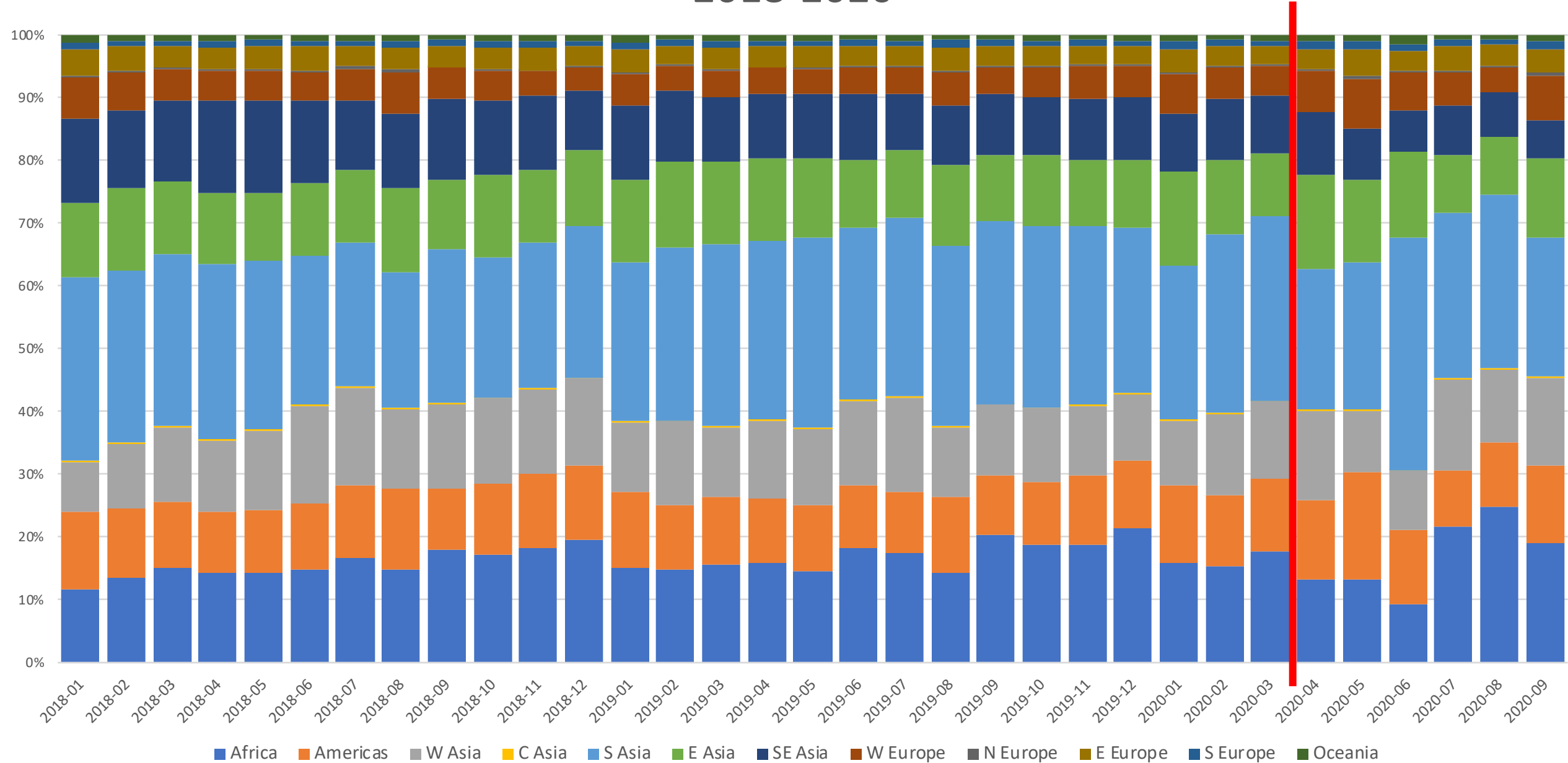
- Admissions by category
- Source countries
- TR->PR transitions

Immigrant Admissions, by Major Category, Canada, Monthly, 2018-2020



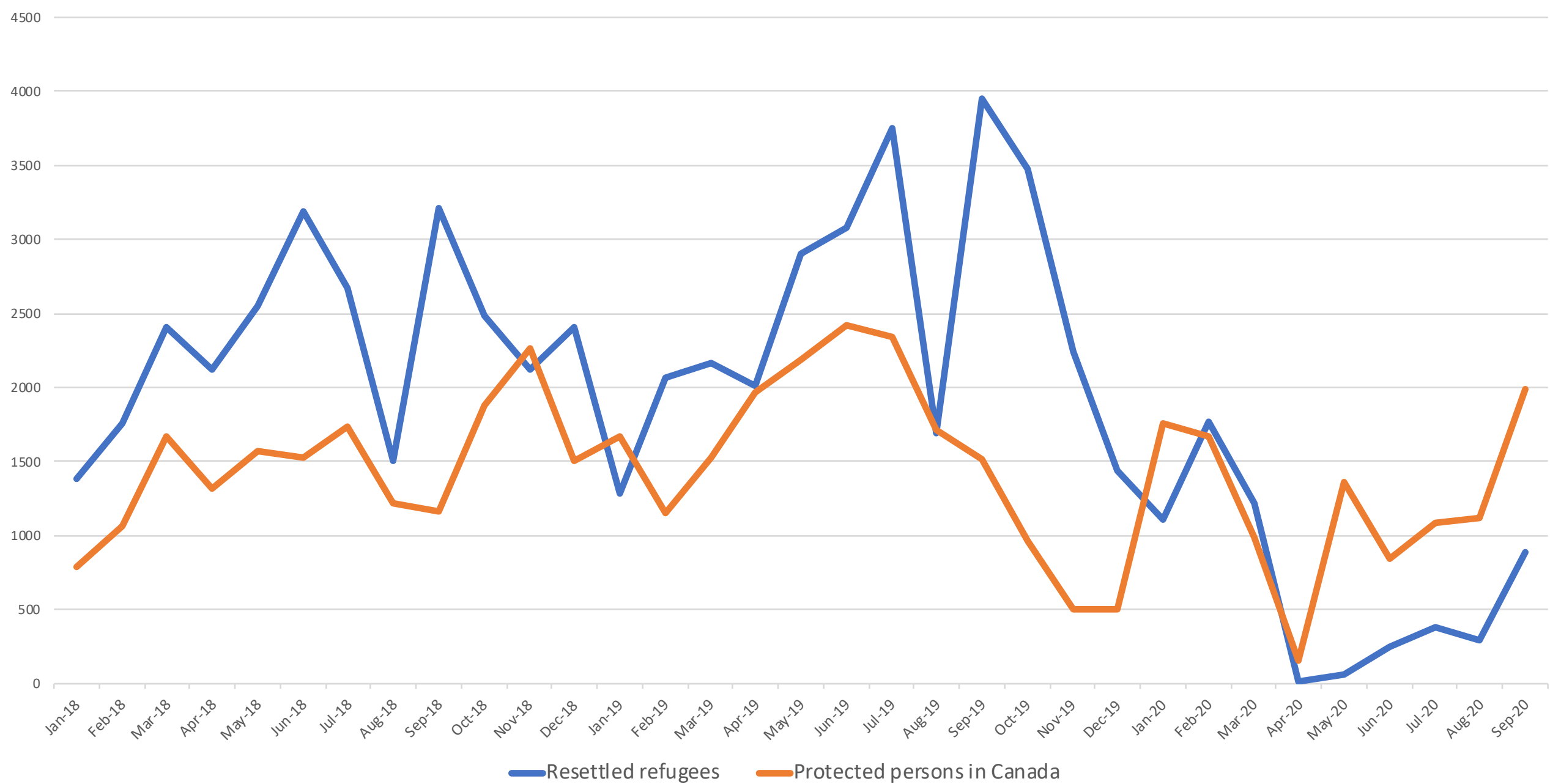
Immigration by Major Category, Canada, Pre-Covid vs, During Covid									
	Average	Index values (to Average before Covid)							
	Jan 18 - Feb 20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Apr-Sep
CEC/FSW/FST	8,746	73.0	21.2	37.2	108.4	58.4	43.3	36.9	50.9
PNP	5,420	63.6	24.0	54.9	91.6	56.5	36.3	74.1	56.2
Other econ	1,739	37.5	2.4	22.3	30.6	32.7	24.4	17.7	21.7
Family	7,293	77.4	10.2	32.5	39.4	45.1	48.3	58.5	39.0
Refugee	3,859	57.2	4.4	37.1	28.3	37.9	36.4	74.3	36.4
Total	27,057	67.8	15.2	38.5	70.0	49.9	41.1	54.3	44.8

Canada, Permanent Resident Admissions, by Origin (%), Monthly, 2018-2020



Permanent resident arrivals, top 20 source countries, April-September, 2019 vs 2020			
2019		2020	
India	50,855	India	18,795
PR China	17,185	PR China	6,490
Philippines	16,030	Philippines	3,895
Nigeria	7,670	United States of America	2,740
Syria	6,265	Pakistan	2,570
United States of America	6,225	Nigeria	2,395
Pakistan	6,130	Iran	1,795
Eritrea	3,690	France	1,725
Iran	3,630	United Kingdom	1,625
Korea, Republic of	3,540	Brazil	1,570
United Kingdom	3,235	Morocco	1,380
Brazil	3,210	Korea, Republic of	1,375
Iraq	2,645	Algeria	1,340
France	2,560	Syria	1,275
Vietnam	2,385	Mexico	1,100
Egypt	2,220	Vietnam	920
Jamaica	2,150	Egypt	910
Afghanistan	2,035	Turkey	800
Bangladesh	1,990	Jamaica	790
Algeria	1,945	Ukraine	730
Top 20	145,595		54,220
Total	197,408		74,107

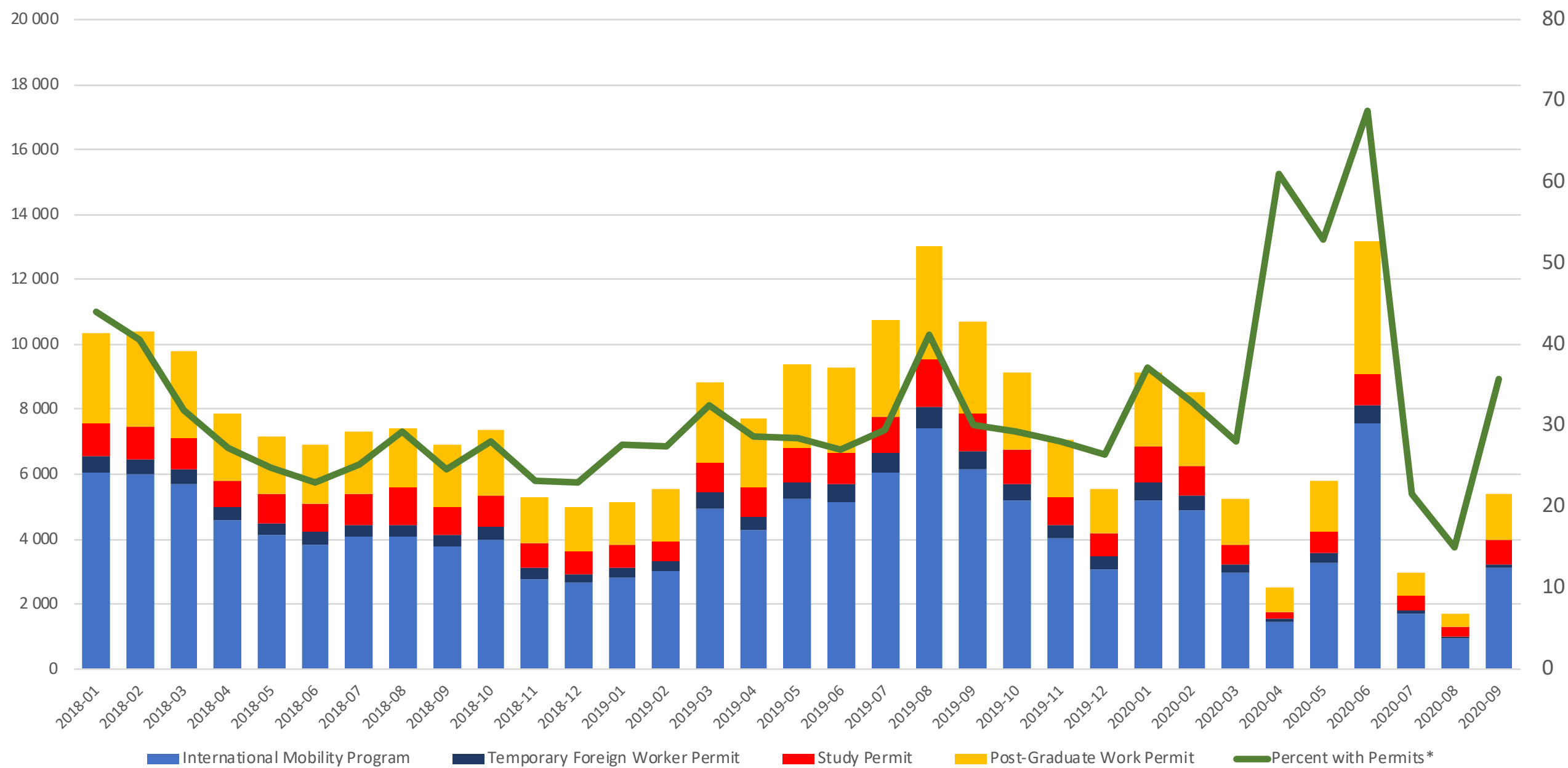
Refugee Admissions, by Major Type, Canada, 2018-2020



TR to PR transitions

- Immigration based on previous TR visa decisions
- ...i.e., 'inland immigration'

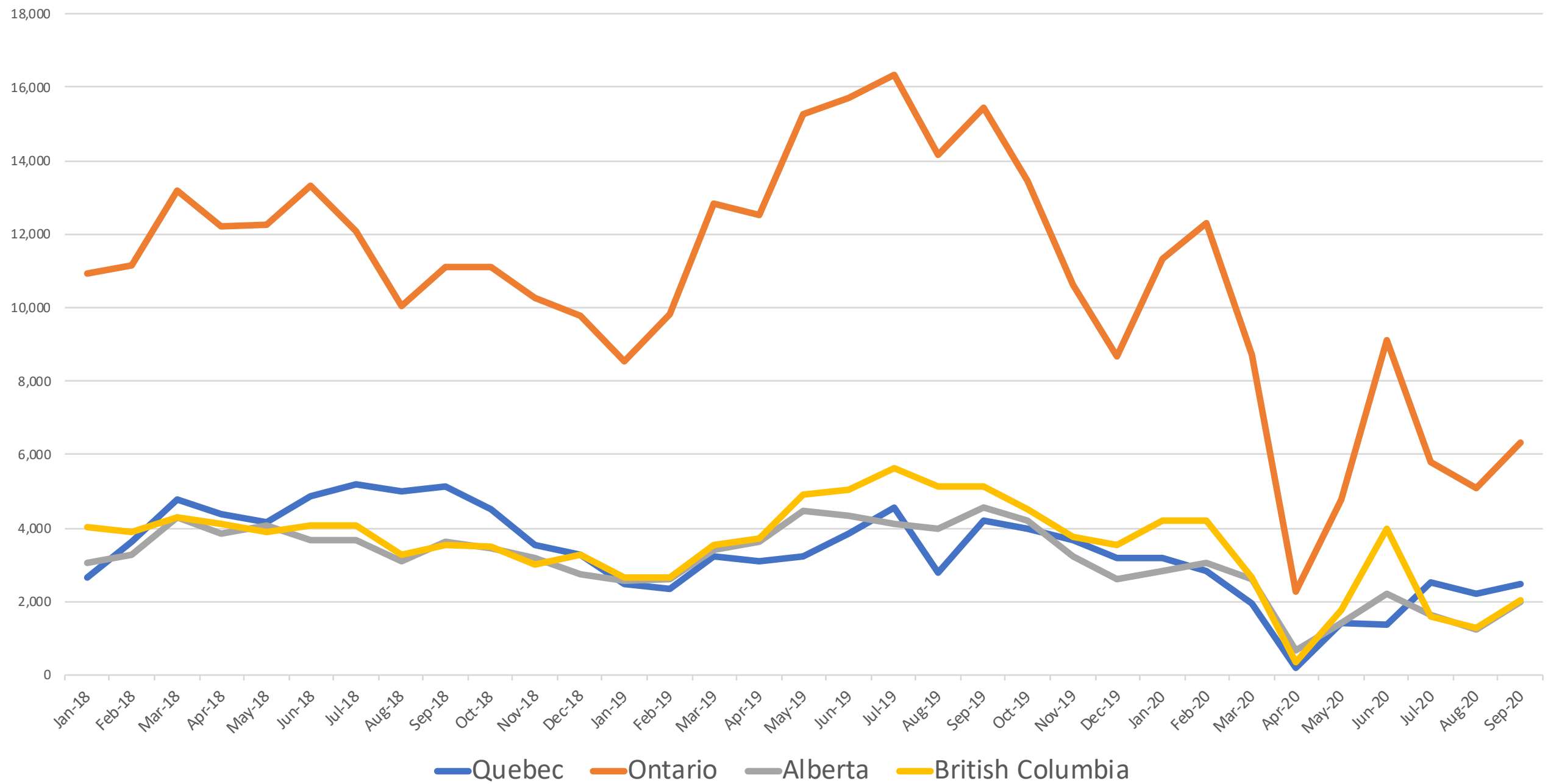
Temporary Resident -> Permanent Resident Transitions, Monthly, 2018-2020



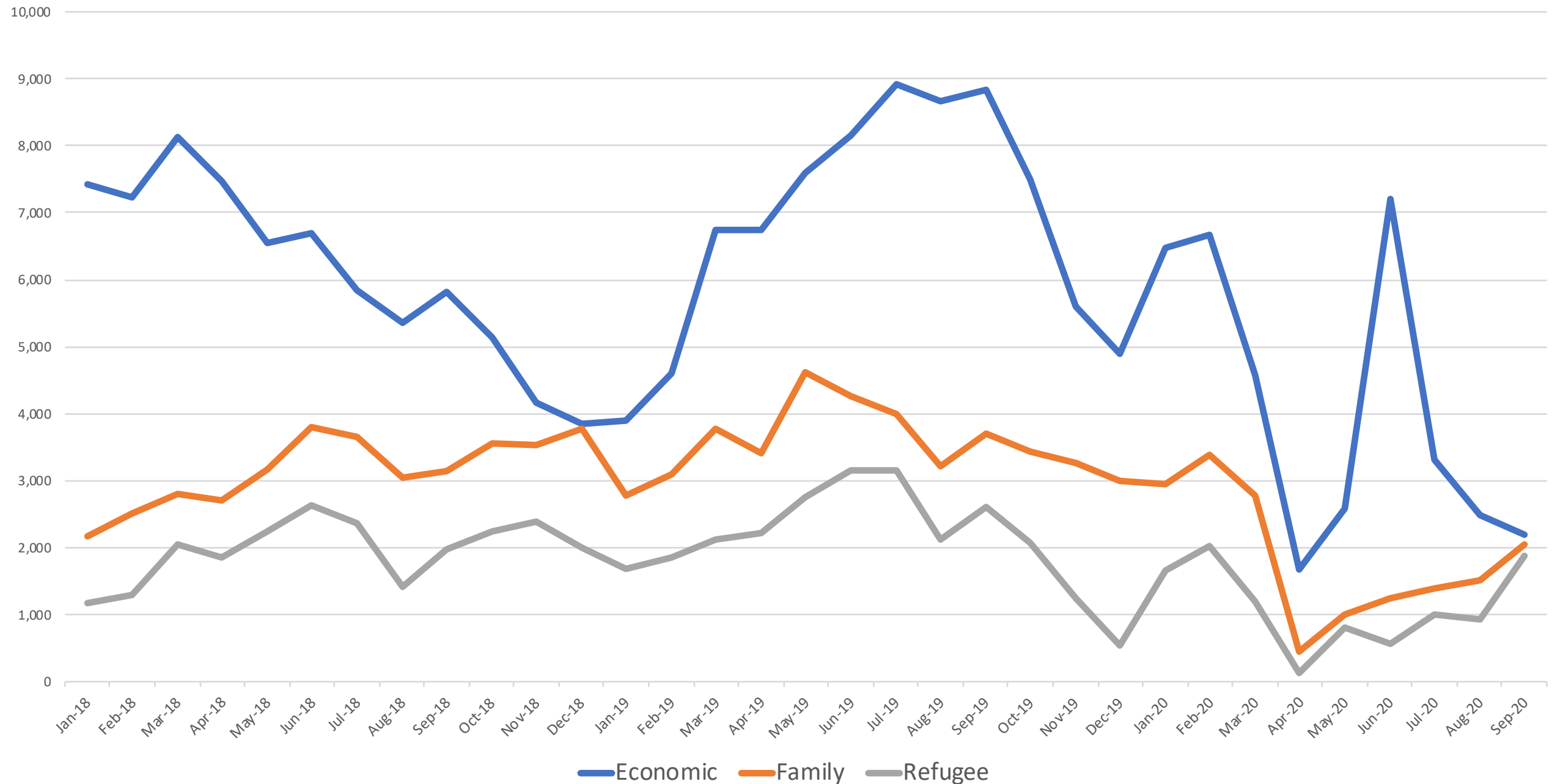
The provincial scale

- Ontario in context
- Permanent residents admitted to Ontario
- Refugees admitted to Ontario

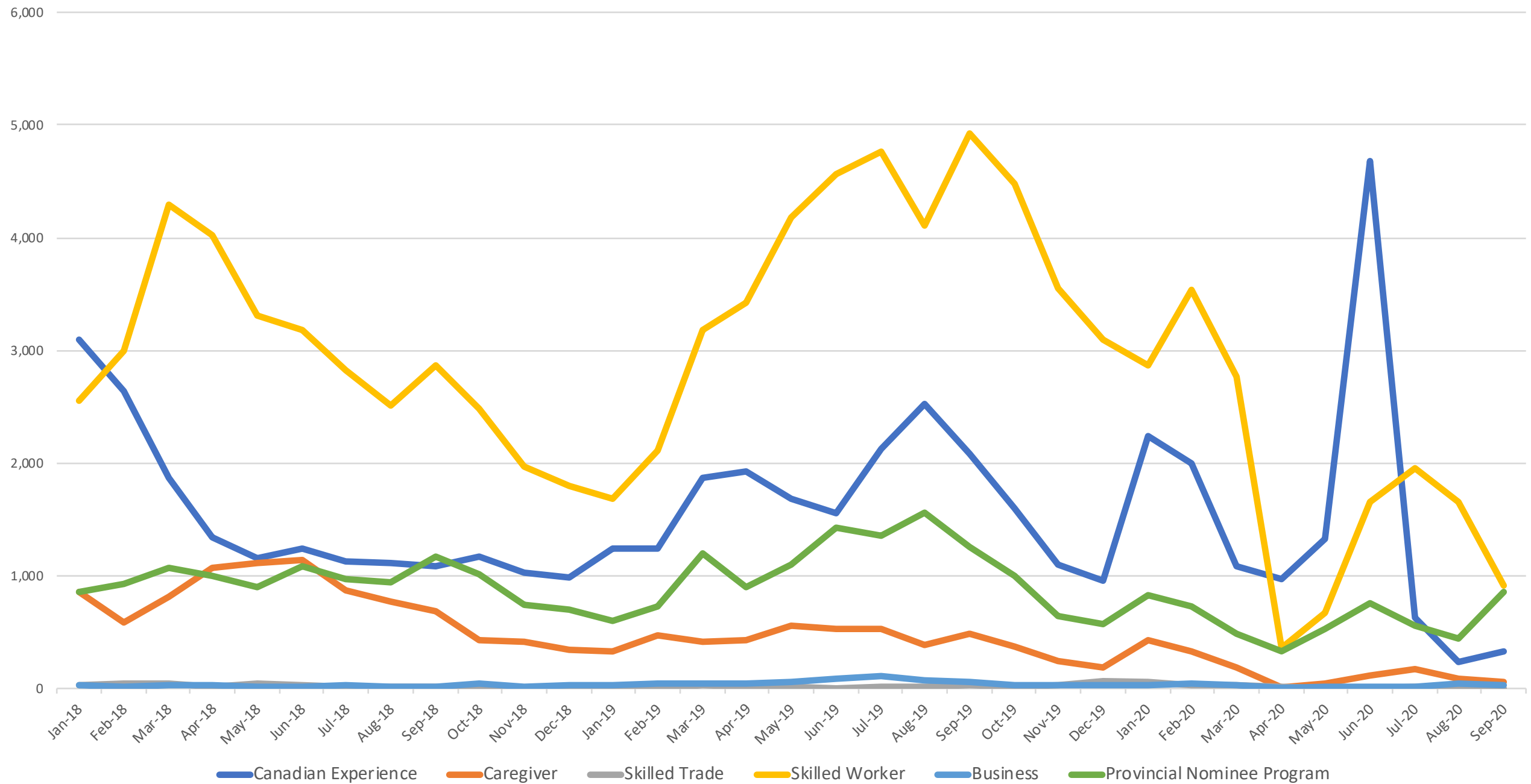
Permanent Resident Admissions, by Province, monthly, 2015-2020



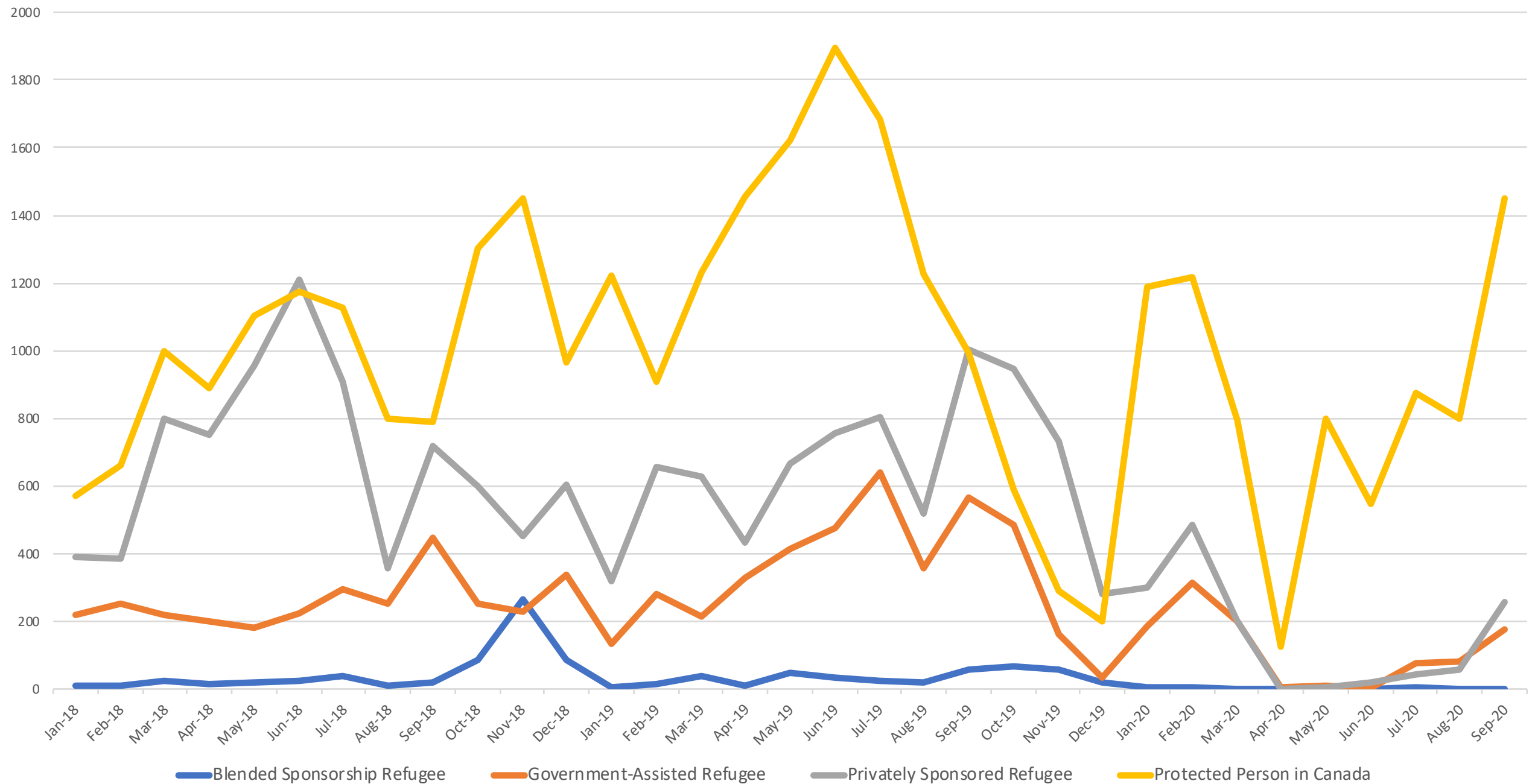
PR admissions by major category, Ontario, monthly, 2018-2020



PR Economic admissions, by sub-category, Ontario, monthly, 2018-2020



PR Refugee admissions, by sub-category, Ontario, monthly, 2018-2020



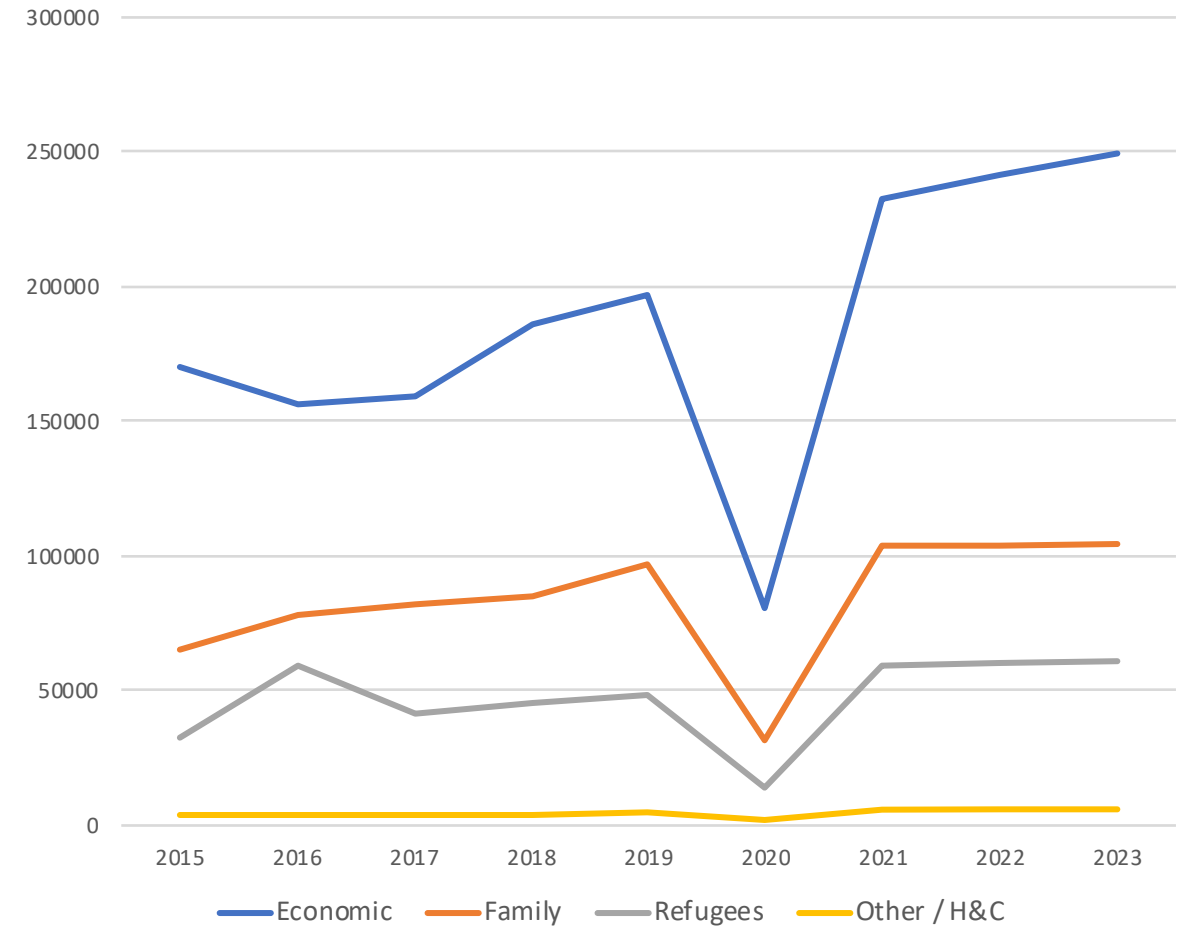
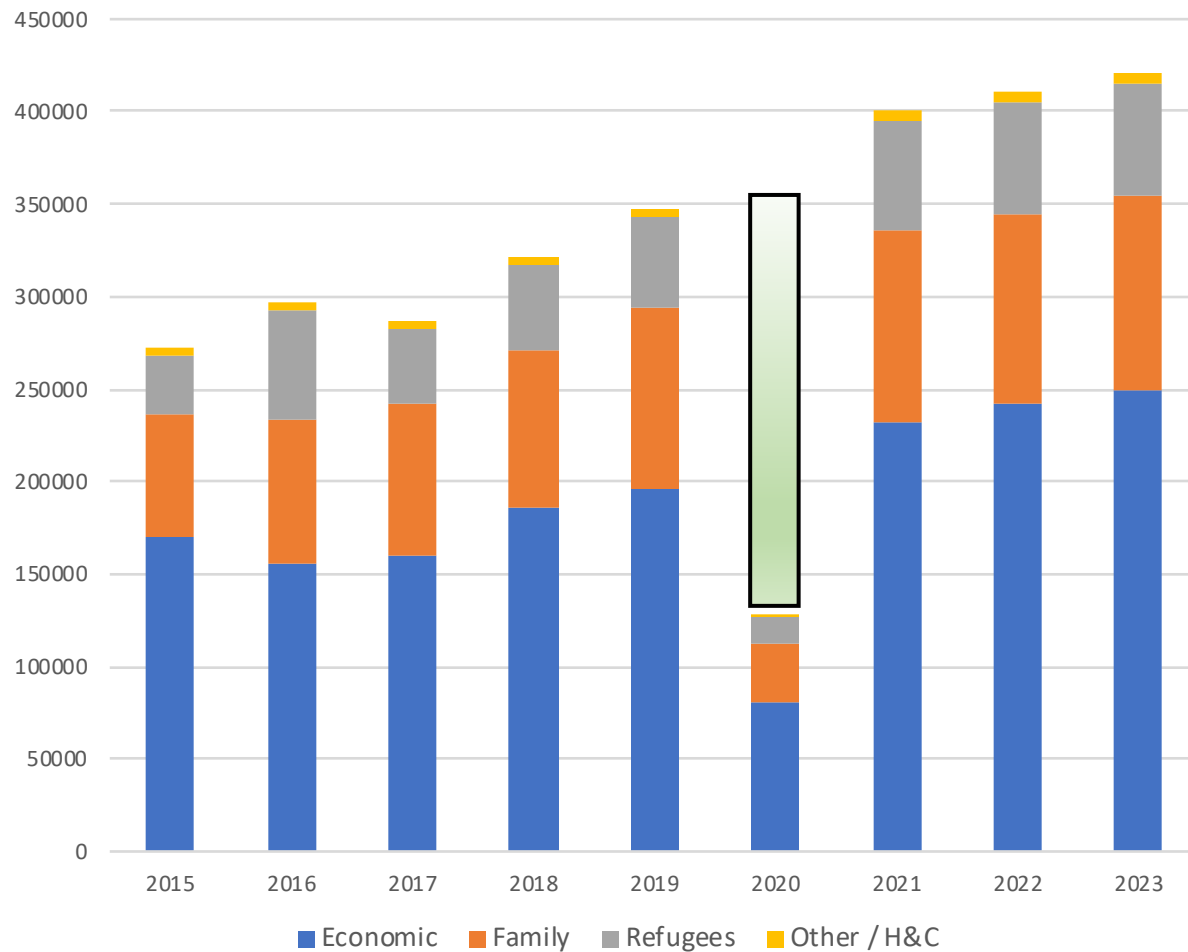
New levels plan

- Background realities
 - Humanitarian needs for global migration are higher than ever
 - Global 'immobility crisis'
 - Canada's demographic situation is not changing (low fertility)
 - Therefore, Canada will return to high immigration of both economic and humanitarian types ... not 'if' but 'when'...
- New levels plan
 - This will happen immediately (401,000 in 2021 and then more)
 - How can this be achieved?
 - Consequences?

Canadian permanent immigration, 2015-2023

2015-20: actual (2020: January-August only)

2021-23: projected



Achieving Canada's targets

- Positive factors
 - IRCC is efficient and normally meets targets
 - Global interest in Canada is very high
 - General public views and employers are favourable (though mixed)
 - Already, many approval letters dispatched
- But ... in the short term ...
 - Many borders will still be closed for much (most?) of 2021
 - Fragility of global transportation system (many airlines will fail)
 - Potential feedback if newcomers fail to find work

Achieving Canada's targets

- Potential tools
 - Reach out to potential 'inland immigrants' (especially in 2021)
 - Students, TFW/IMPs, asylum seekers, amnesty for irregular migrants?
 - Ease border restrictions
 - Huge efforts under way, globally, in 'health proofing' borders
 - New term... 'hygiene theatre'
 - After borders reopen
 - May need to lower CRS score for the Express Entry system, temporarily
 - In the long run, numbers will rise as the economy rebounds

Consequences

- Sometime in 2021, fiscal stimulus is likely to end and we will see the real rate of unemployment (estimate... 1.5 million)
- 2021 plan would add >250,000 working-age adults to the labour force
 - But some would already be in Canada and have a job
- Integration issues will become critical
 - Labour market access
 - Credentialization
 - Entrepreneurship
- Major challenge for the support sector
 - Important question about the possibility of fiscal restraint

Possible agenda for positive change

- Expand eligibility for settlement services in light of increased TR->PR transitions
- Expand 'guardian angels' program to include more types of asylum seekers
 - E.g., anyone who has work
- Regularization of undocumented residents