



OPERATION UKRAINIAN SAFE HAVEN

OPÉRATION HAVRE DE PAIX POUR LES UKRAINIENS

Post-arrival Survey Report September 2022

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Methodology	2
3	Key Findings	3
4	Results	4
5	Conclusion	9

1 Introduction

The [Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel \(CUAET\)](#) is a special measure introduced by the Government of Canada to support Ukrainian nationals and their family members during the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. This program offers free, extended temporary status and allows eligible individuals to work, study, and stay in Canada until it is safe for them to return to their home country.

This report provides insights from a post-arrival survey conducted in September 2022 among CUAET visa holders who have recently arrived in Canada. The main objective of the survey was to understand the needs, preferences, and expectations of displaced Ukrainians who had arrived in Canada since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The data collected from the survey covers several important aspects such as demographics, education, job prospects, and access to settlement services. These findings can be helpful for policymakers, service providers, and other stakeholders in improving the resettlement and integration process for displaced Ukrainians. The report thoroughly analyzes the results of each aspect of the survey and discusses the implications for stakeholders involved in supporting newcomer Ukrainians in Canada.

2 Methodology

In September 2022, Operation Ukrainians Safe Haven developed in collaboration with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) a quadrilingual [post-arrival survey](#) in the form of an online questionnaire. The survey was sent to 7,220 individuals who had answered the Pre-arrival Survey launched by the Operation in May 2022. This survey is intended to gather information from individuals who have fled the war in Ukraine and are now residing in Canada. Its purpose is to better understand how these individuals are settling in Canada and to identify any areas where services may be lacking or where policy changes may be needed. The survey was available in four languages: English, French, Ukrainian, and Russian, and consisted of 15 questions. Between March 17, 2022, and November 1, 2022, a total of 77,000 CUAET visa holders had arrived in Canada, and 1,483 family units completed the survey. With this sample size, the margin of error is 3% at a 95% confidence level. Data collection for the survey was conducted using Hosted in Canada, an online survey tool that allowed participants to complete the survey at their own pace and convenience. The data analysis of the survey was performed using descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions and means using Tableau version 2022.2. Limitations of the survey include potential biases introduced by self-selection, and limited generalizability of the findings to the rest of the CUAET visa holders.

3 Key Findings

- 99% of respondents reported that they are still residing in Canada.
- 36.7% of respondents reported having no dependents with them, while the average number of dependents per respondent was 1.4.
- Nearly half of the respondents (48.0%) stated that they arrived in Canada during the summer of 2022.
- Ontario hosts the highest percentage of respondents at 30.1%, followed by Alberta with 18.6% and Manitoba with 12.1%.
- Almost two thirds of respondents reported that they are currently renting their accommodation.
- Nearly half of the respondents are currently unemployed and looking for an opportunity, while a third of respondents are employed permanent full-time.
- The most prominent obstacle reported by respondents was language barriers, affecting 19.7% of them. Finding employment ranked second at 19.5%, while 11.1% cited the inability of their family members to join them in Canada as another significant challenge,
- The most common sources of support include the government (16.7%), social media groups (16.1%), and Ukrainian organizations (15.8%).
- The services with the highest beneficial rates include language classes (18.3%), employment support programs (12.9%), information on life in Canada (12.7%).
- The vast majority of respondents plan to apply for permanent resident status in Canada.

4 Results

We encourage readers to explore the survey results using the interactive Tableau dashboard. With the ability to filter results by province and date, the dashboard allows for a more comprehensive analysis of the settlement experiences of CUAET visa holders who are now living in Canada. Click [here](#) to access the dashboard.

Demographics: The distribution of responses according to language was as follows: Ukrainian accounted for 52.5% of total responses, followed by English at 26.9%, Russian at 19.6%, and French at 0.9%.

Out of the 1,483 valid responses collected, 99% revealed that they currently live in Canada. The remaining 1% who reported that they had left Canada cited difficulties in securing housing (5 respondents) and finding a job (4 respondents) as the primary reasons for departure. Reuniting with family was a factor for three respondents, and only a single respondent pointed to the language barrier as their reason for leaving.

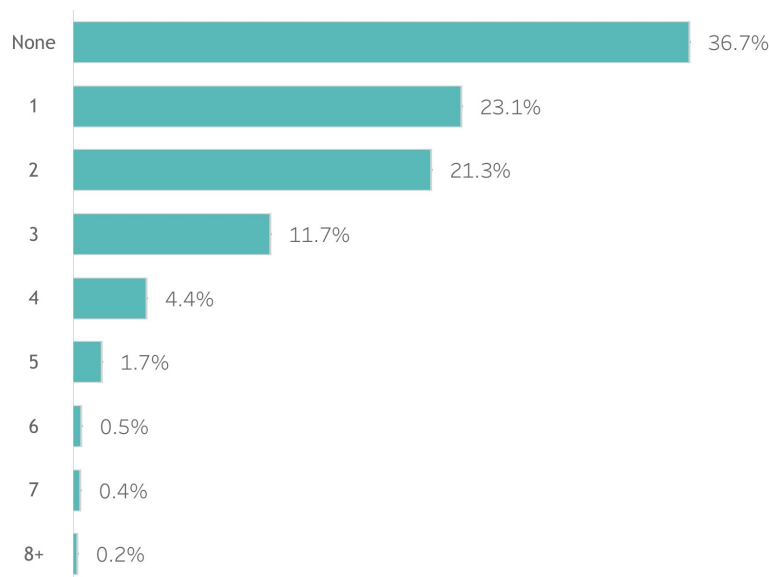


Figure 1: Proportion of respondents with dependents

Fig. 1 shows the proportion of respondents who arrived in Canada with dependents. 37% of respondents reported having no dependents with them, while 23% reported arrived with one dependent and 21% with two dependents. Smaller proportions of respondents reported having three (12%), four (4%), five (2%), six (0.5%), seven (0.4%), or eight or more (0.2%) dependents with them. On average, each respondent had 1.4 dependents.

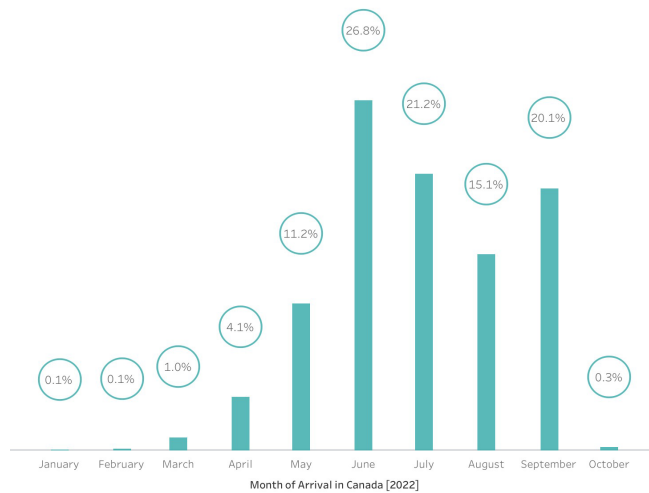


Figure 2: Proportion of arrivals by month, 2022

Arrival: The survey collected information on the month in which respondents arrived in Canada. Fig. 2 illustrates the distribution of arrivals of displaced Ukrainians in Canada in the year 2022. The largest proportion of respondents (27%) reported arriving in June 2022, followed by 21% who arrived in July 2022, and 20% in September 2022. Other months with significant numbers of arrivals included August 2022 (15%) and May 2022 (11%).

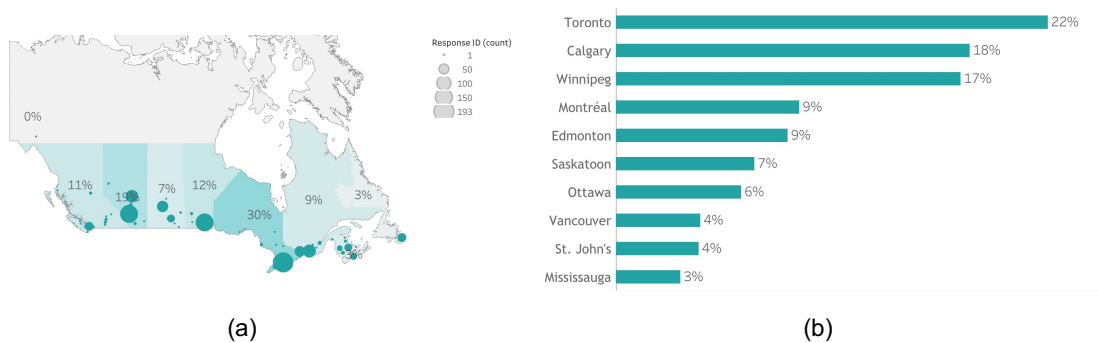


Figure 3: (a) Geographic distribution of CUAET holder Ukrainians in Canada. (b) Canadian cities with the largest Ukrainian CUAET holder population

Location: The geographic distribution of CUAET visa holders in Canada is shown in Fig. 3(a). Ontario has the highest percentage of respondents at 30%, followed by Alberta with 19% and Manitoba with 12%. Prince Edward Island has the lowest number of respondents with only 0.1%. Panel (b) of the same figure displays the top ten cities in Canada with the largest CUAET holder population. Toronto has the largest percentage with 22% of respondents living in the city, followed

by Calgary and Winnipeg with 18% and 17%, respectively. Montreal and Edmonton also have a substantial number of CUAET visa holders, with 9% and 8% of respondents residing there, respectively.

Accommodation: The survey gathered information regarding the accommodation arrangements of CUAET visa holders in Canada. Most of the respondents, constituting 60%, indicated that they currently reside in rented accommodation. The next most common living arrangement was free-temporary accommodation, reported by 18% of respondents. 10% participants stated that they are staying with friends or family, and 5% reported that they are being hosted by volunteers. Other accommodation options reported by respondents included emergency shelter (1%), hotel that they paid for themselves (0.6%), free Airbnb provided by a service provider (0.5%), and owned property (0.3%).

Planning to move to another province or territory?



If Yes, why?

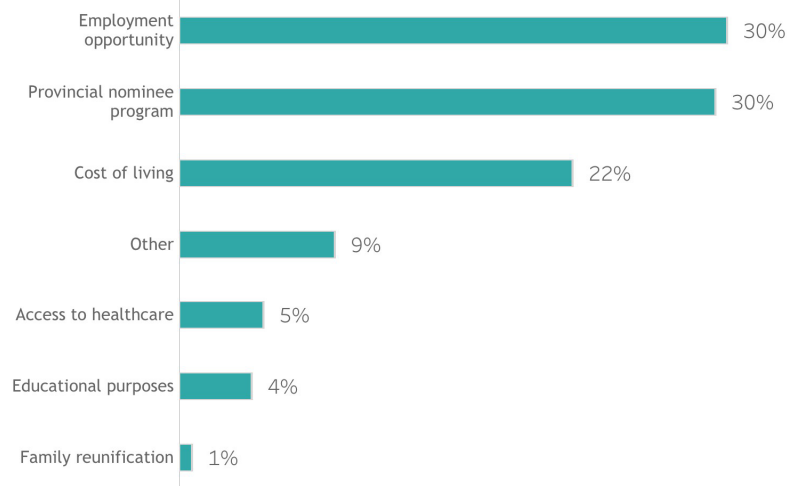


Figure 4: Intentions and reasons for inter-provincial migration of CUAET holders in Canada

Relocation plans: As shown in Fig. 4, the questionnaire asked respondents whether they plan to move to another province or territory, with only 7% indicating that they do. For those who answered yes, they were asked to provide a reason for their intended move. The most common reason cited was employment opportunity, with 31% of respondents selecting this option. The next most common reasons were the provincial nominee program (30%) and cost of living (22%). Access to healthcare and other personal reasons were also mentioned, with 5% and 9% of respondents selecting these options, respectively. Overall, the data suggests that a small proportion of respondents are considering a move to another province or territory, with employment opportunities and immigration programs being key factors in their decision-making.

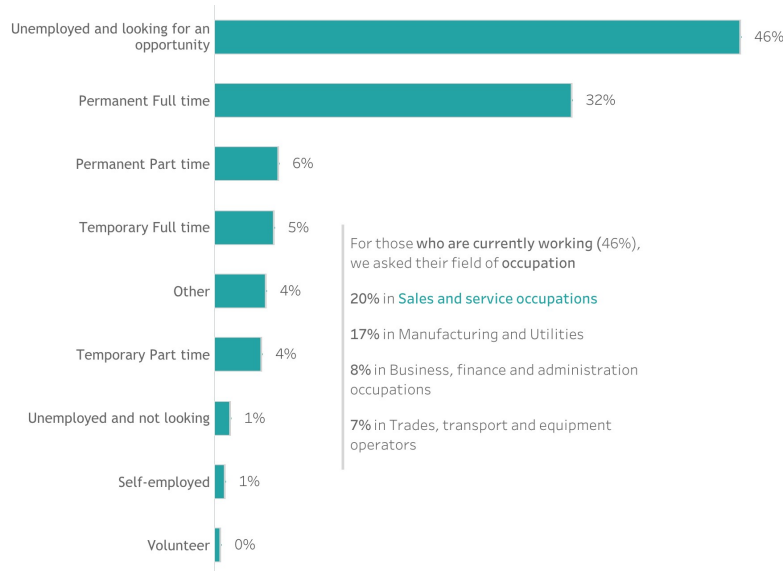


Figure 5: Employment status of CUAET holder Ukrainians in Canada

Employment: Fig. 5 shows data on the employment status of CUAET holders in Canada. A large portion of respondents are currently unemployed and looking for an opportunity, comprising 47% of the total response count. The second most prevalent employment status among the respondents is permanent full-time, as indicated by 32% of the respondents. Permanent part-time, temporary full-time, and temporary part-time employment statuses have lower percentages of respondents at 6%, 5%, and 4%, respectively. The categories of unemployed and not seeking work, self-employed, and volunteering were represented by even smaller fractions of respondents, accounting for 1%, 0.9%, and 0.5% respectively.

Regarding the distribution of employment status across different occupational groups, the majority of respondents in each group are employed in either Sales and Service occupations (20%) or Manufacturing and Utilities (17%). The other occupational groups, such as Business, Finance, and Administration occupations (8%), and Trades, Transport, and Equipment Operators and Related occupations (5%), have relatively lower percentages of respondents.

When asked if their current employment status aligns with their previous work field, out of the total respondents, 47% indicated that they are in a different field and lower position, while 23% are in the same field but in a lower position. 22% of participants indicated that they are in the same field and in the same or higher position, while 9% are in a different field but in the same or higher position.

Out of all respondents, 50% indicated that it took them one month or less to find a job, while 23% took two months. Meanwhile, 20% had a job offer before and only 5% and 1% took three months and four months, respectively. Finally, a small fraction of the respondents, 0.9%, reported that it took them five months or longer to secure employment.

Overall, the data suggests that while a significant proportion of CUAET holders in Canada are currently unemployed, the majority are actively seeking employment opportunities, and a considerable number have found jobs within a relatively short period after arriving in the country.

Challenges: The survey asked CUAET holders about the present challenges they encounter in Canada. Language barriers emerged as the most prominent issue, as reported by 20% of the respondents. Finding employment was also a significant challenge, with 19% of respondents reporting this issue. Other challenges included family members not being able to join them in Canada (11%), finding housing (10%), and affording food and other necessities (9%). In addition to these practical challenges, mental health (4%) and lack of sense of belonging (6%) were also reported as concerns. Apart from practical challenges, access to healthcare (8%) and access to post-secondary education (5%) were also noted as challenges.

The survey further reveals that CUAET holders in Canada encounter various obstacles in their job search. The most significant challenges identified were language barriers and insufficient Canadian experience, each noted by 37% of respondents. The recognition of foreign credentials was the third most common hurdle, mentioned by 10% of participants. Other substantial hurdles include gathering information (9%) and acquiring the necessary documents (5%). Notably, only a small fraction of the respondents (1%) identified discrimination as a challenge.

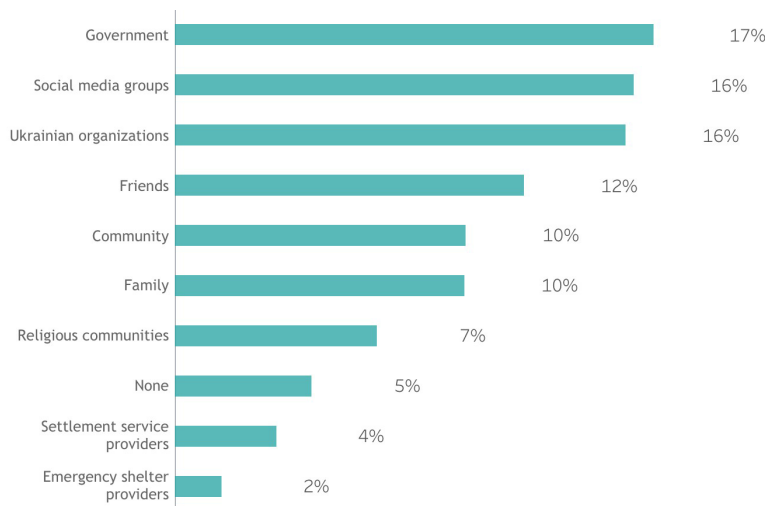


Figure 6: Sources of support for CUAET holders in Canada.

Support: According to the survey, CUAET holder Ukrainians in Canada rely on various individuals and organizations for support. The most common sources of support include the government (17%), social media groups (16%), and Ukrainian organizations (15%). Friends (12%), community members (10%), and family members (10%) were also identified as important sources of support. Religious communities (7%), settlement service providers (4%), and emergency shelter providers (2%) were less commonly relied upon. Finally, 5% of respondents reported relying on no one for

support. Overall, the data shows that CUAET holders in Canada have access to a network of support, encompassing various sectors and community resources.

Fig. 7 shows the percentage of CUAET holders who accessed various services in Canada. The services with the highest beneficial rates include language classes (18%), temporary housing (13%), and employment support programs (12%).

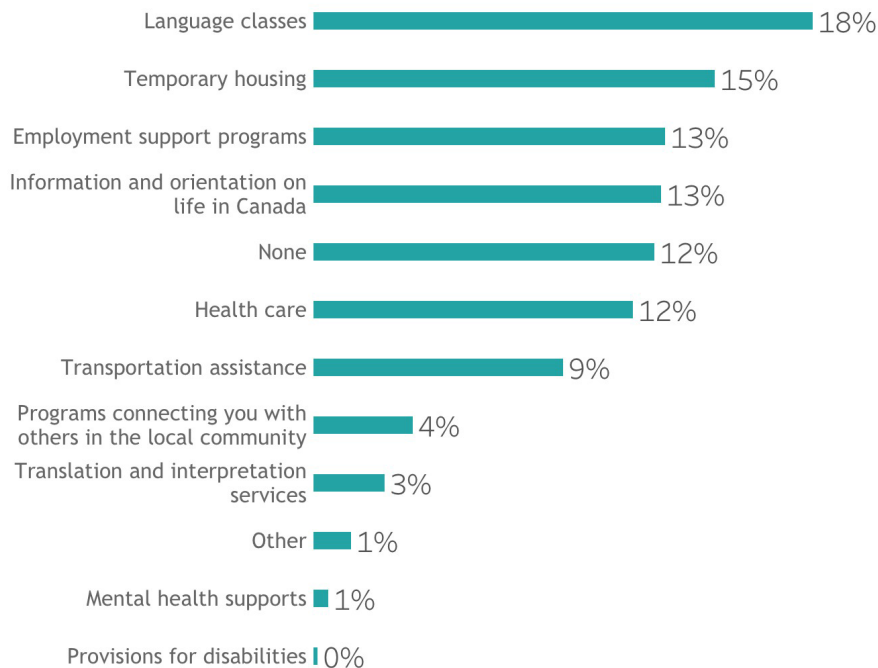


Figure 7: Access to services by CUAET holders in Canada.

Future Plans: When asked about their future plans, the majority of CUAET holders surveyed (84%) plan to apply for permanent resident status in Canada. A small proportion of respondents reported planning to leave Canada within a shorter timeframe, with 6% indicating they plan to stay until it is safe to return to Ukraine, 4% planning to stay until their visa expires, and 2% intending to stay for less than 3 years. The majority (45%) of respondents do not expect any additional immediate family members or relatives to join them in Canada. Among those who do expect family members to join them, the most common response was one family member (25%), followed by two (16%), four or more (7%), and three (6%).

5 Conclusion

The survey results shed light on various aspects of the experience of CUAET visa holders in

Canada. Despite facing various challenges, including language barriers and difficulties finding employment and housing, the vast majority of respondents (99%) are still residing in Canada, with only a small percentage having left Canada due to challenges finding housing, employment, or other reasons. The survey also revealed the geographic distribution of CUAET holders in Canada, with Ontario having the highest percentage of respondents, followed by Alberta and Manitoba. The survey highlighted the importance of language classes, information and orientation on life in Canada, and employment support programs as services that are beneficial to CUAET holders. The findings also underscored the importance of sources of support, including the government, social media groups, Ukrainian organizations, and friends and family members.

Overall, the survey results provide valuable insights into the experiences and needs of CUAET holders in Canada, which can inform the development of policies and programs that better support their stay in the country.