Canada has long been recognized as a nation with a welcoming and inclusive approach to immigration, contributing significantly to its cultural diversity, economic prosperity, and social fabric. The Canadian immigration system is designed to attract skilled individuals, reunite families, and provide refuge to those in need.

As we look into the below graph of number of immigrants from the year 2001 to 2022, we can see that the number of immigrants is significantly high in the year 2022 with the percentage increase of 117.8%. This is what we predominantly see in any immigration dashboard analysis of Canada. Even though this gives us the truth that there has been enormous acceptance of immigrants in the last year, this does not make the year 2022 stand out as it is shown in the below plot.
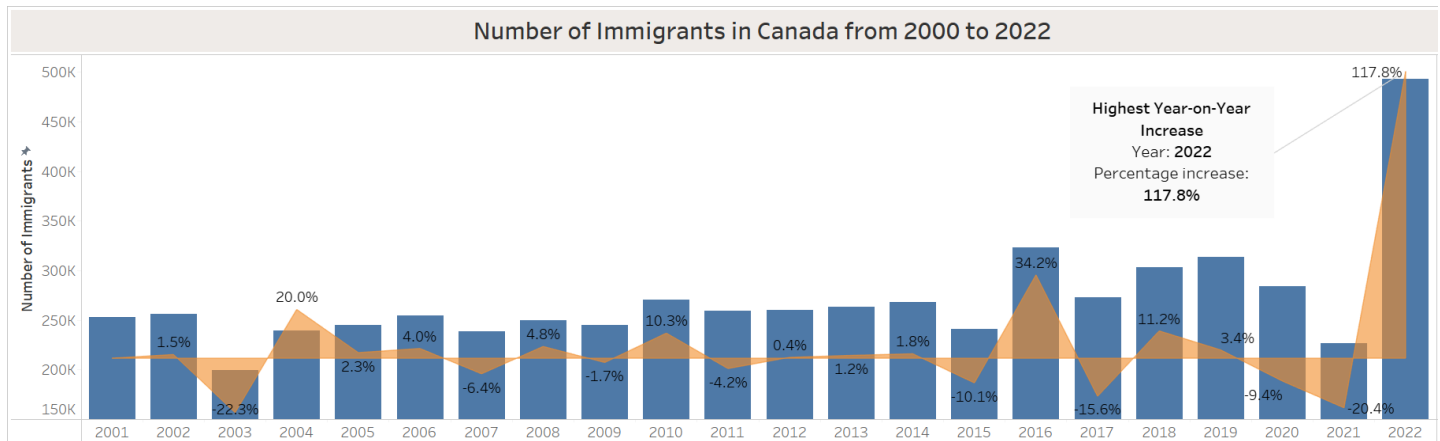

Fig 1

Immigration as mentioned above has always been the driver of economic growth in Canada. Over the years taking a running total of immigrants shows that 2001 is the year where the overall number of immigrants have drastically increased with a percentage increase of 101.54% and the year 2022 with only 9% increase with respect to its previous years.
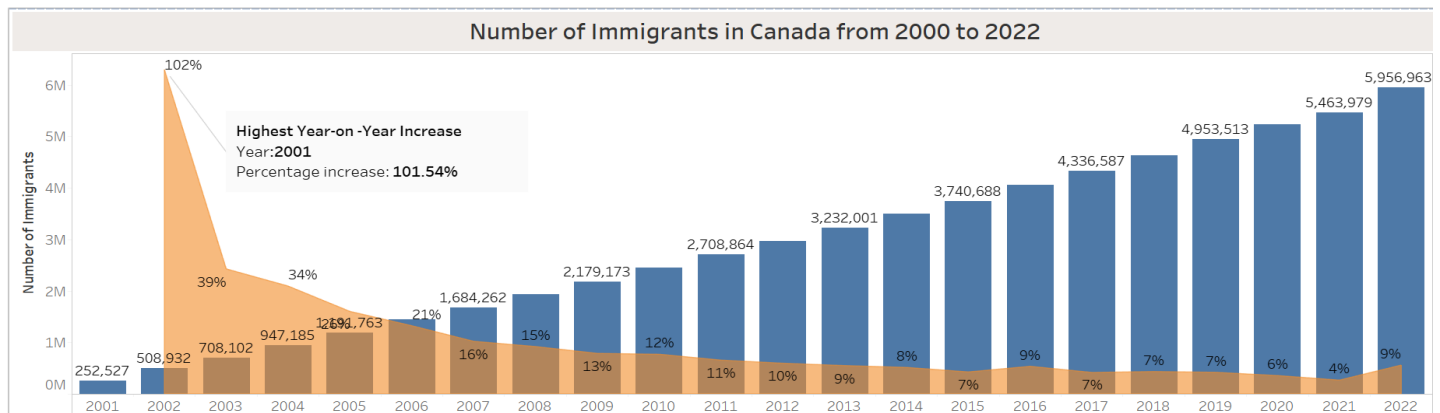

Fig 2

The deceptive nature of the conveyed information becomes apparent when examining both plots addressing the number of immigrants and their significant year over time. In Figure 1, the focus is on the annual data, singling out 2022 as a standout year with a remarkable 117.8% increase in the number of immigrants. However, Figure 2 presents a contrasting narrative by showcasing 2001 as the most significant year for immigrants when considering the cumulative total over the entire period. This discrepancy in emphasis raises questions about the overall significance attributed to individual years in immigration analysis. While the annual data for 2022 suggests an extraordinary surge, the cumulative perspective in Figure 2 challenges the idea that 2022 is uniquely distinguished in the broader context of immigration trends in Canada.

When considering the unemployment rate of immigrants, we can see that the below plot cleanly explains that there is an unemployment rate of 34.70% and looking further into their splits with respect to their level of education, immigrants with no degree, certificate and diploma has the highest unemployment rate of 28.53%, acting as the major contributor.

The below visualization is deceptive in a way as it directs the audience straightly into the unemployed immigrants, with the colour being highlighted in red and the employed being in a lighter shade. This is a classic example of getting our audience to focus on what we target to explain, which eventually leads to the discrimination of the other categories. The colour red being highlighted focusses on the adverse effects on immigrants, this approach, while emphasizing a significant issue, may inadvertently contribute to a biased perspective by directing focus solely on the challenges faced by immigrants in the job market.

It is crucial to acknowledge the positive side of the data as well. Despite the challenges, a substantial 65.30% of immigrants are gainfully employed, actively contributing to Canada's economic growth. A more balanced representation that acknowledges both the struggles and successes of immigrants in the labor market would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the situation. Utilizing a neutral color palette or employing visual elements that highlight both the employed and unemployed categories can help mitigate the potential for biased interpretation.
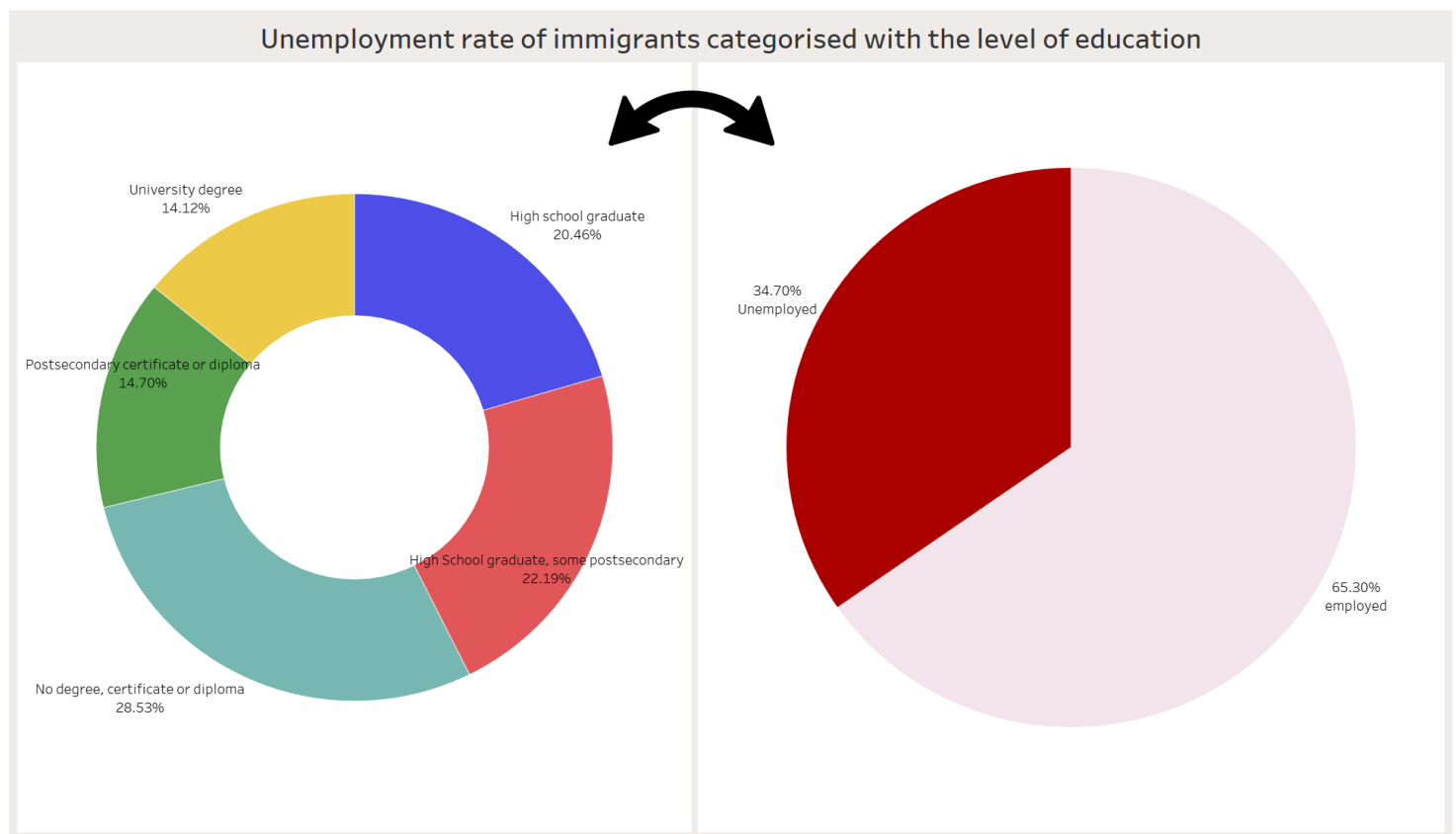

Fig 3

When we further look into couple of more analysis based on unemployment rate of immigrants in Canada, the most basic of it all is to compare with the unemployment rate of the Canadians. The analysis of unemployment rates in Canada for both individuals born in the country and immigrants is illustrated through two figures, each conveying a distinct narrative.

In Figure 4) a), a simple trend graph depicts overlapping trends in unemployment rates, suggesting a subtle message that there isn't a substantial difference between the two categories. However, this representation is influenced by a deceptive technique — the use of a different scale range for the secondary axis compared to the Y-axis. This subtle adjustment could downplay any potential disparities between the unemployment rates of Canadians and immigrants.

Contrastingly, Figure 4) b) introduces a more transparent approach by maintaining consistent scale ranges for both the Y-axis and the secondary axis. This straightforward representation highlights that immigrants consistently experience a higher unemployment rate compared to Canadians over the years from 2006 to 2022. As simple as it is, this is more so a common mistake or a way of presenting misleading graphic, when presented with hidden secondary axis altogether.
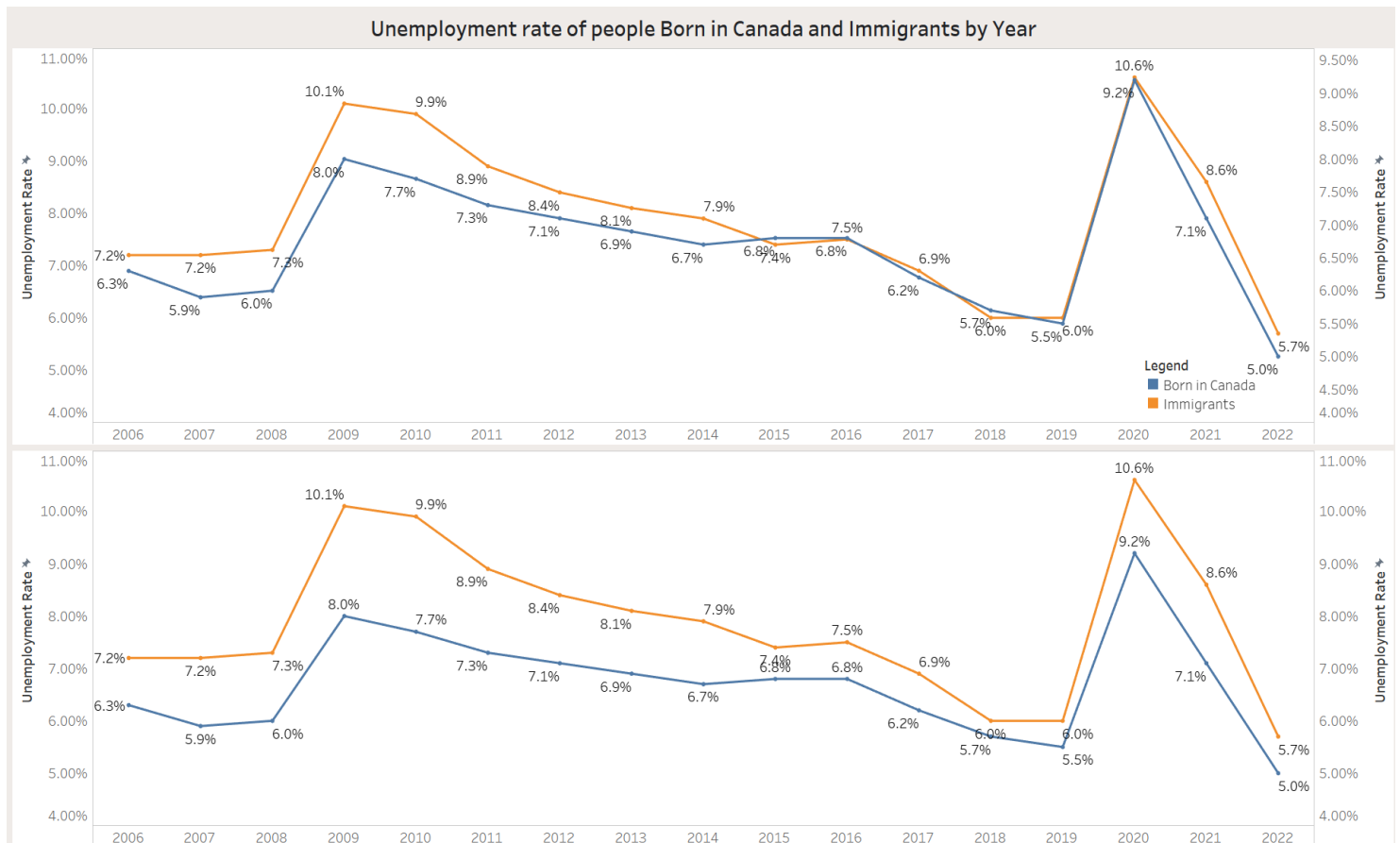

Fig 4) a), b)

As we delve into the multifaceted aspects of immigration in Canada, it is only natural to draw the comparison with emigration as well. Immigration is a central aspect of Canada's growth and development, drawing people from various parts of the world. While emigration from Canada occurs, it is often on a smaller scale compared to immigration, and the reasons for emigration are diverse and individualistic. Both immigration and emigration contribute to the global mobility of people and the interconnectedness of nations.

Even though emigration is a smaller scale compared to immigration, there has been some good years where emigration rate is greater than the immigration considering the % difference with respect to years. By highlighting the years characterized by a higher emigration rate Fig 5) b), compared to immigration, a focused inquiry into the reasons behind this anomaly can be considered. Understanding whether this trend is driven by immigrants who have acquired Canadian citizenship and subsequently chosen to leave or if it is predominantly Canadians departing in higher numbers becomes a central question.

The deceptive aspect in the representation of this data lies in the use of absolute values Fig 5) a), which may inadvertently emphasize the scale range and general trends over the years.
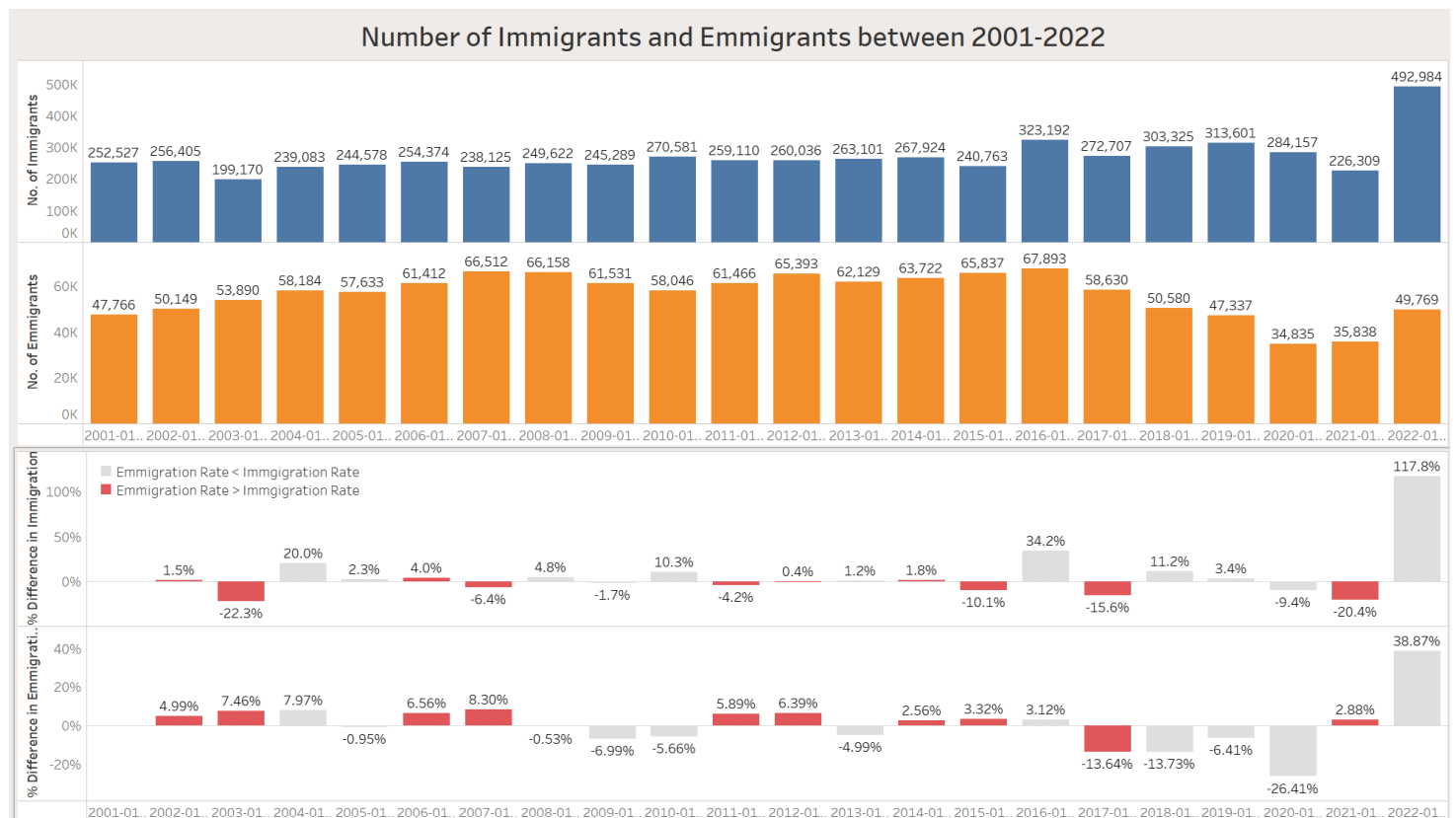

Fig 5 a), b)

Data Resources:

https://www-statista-com.uproxy.library.dc-uoit.ca/statistics/443063/number-of-immigrants-in-canada/

https://www-statista-com.uproxy.library.dc-uoit.ca/statistics/555263/unemployment-rate-of-landed-immigrants-in-canada-by-education-level/

https://www-statista-com.uproxy.library.dc-uoit.ca/statistics/557975/unemployment-rate-in-canada-by-immigrant-status/