

Ethnic diversity and immigration

Overview

Over the past 100 years, more than 13 million immigrants have arrived to forge a new life here, making Canada one of the world's most ethnically diverse countries. Most came from Europe during the first half of the twentieth century. Later on, non-Europeans started arriving in larger numbers as economic immigrants or refugees, or as family members of previous immigrants.

By 1970, half of all immigrants were coming from Caribbean nations, Asia and South America. In the 1980s, a growing number were arriving from Africa.

In the 1990s, 58% of Canada's immigrants were born in Asia (including the Middle East); 20% were from Europe; and 22% came from the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa and the United States. Most (73%) settled in Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver, transforming the ethno-cultural

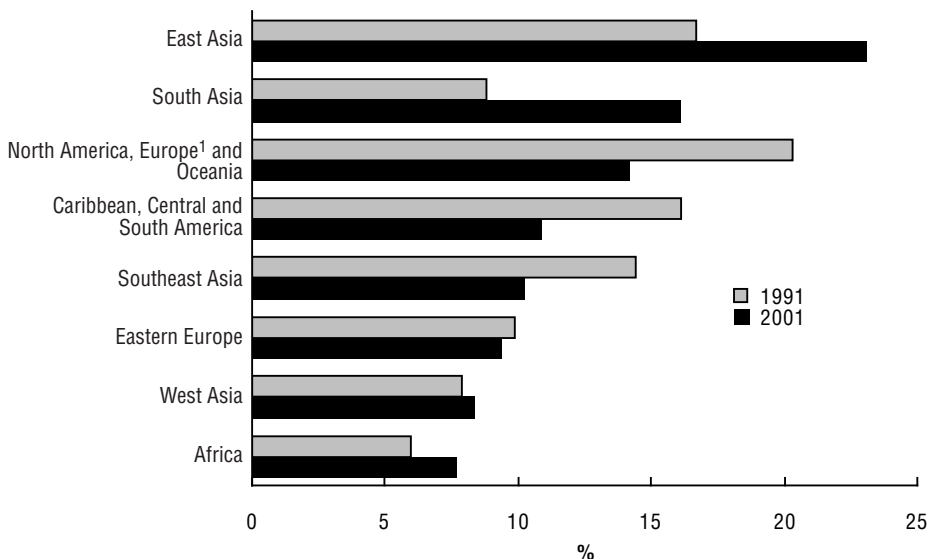
composition and socioeconomic dynamics of these cities.

In 2001, 10.3 million people—nearly half of Canada's population aged 15 and older, not including Aboriginal peoples—reported British, French or Canadian ethnic origins, or some combination of the three, reflecting the long history of British and French peoples in Canada. Meanwhile, 4.3 million Canadians reported other European origins, 2.9 million reported non-European origins, while 3.3 million reported mixed ethnicity.

Visible minority population growing fast

Canada's visible minority population is growing much faster than its total population: 25% growth from 1996 to 2001 versus 4% growth in the general population. This is due

Chart 13.1
Recent immigrants to Canada, by region of origin



Note: Recent immigrants are individuals born outside Canada who immigrated here in the decade before the 1991 or 2001 Census.
1. Northern, Western and Southern Europe.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-613-MIE.

largely to increased immigration from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the Middle East. In 2001, about 70% of the visible minority population was born outside Canada.

From 1981 to 2001, the number of visible minorities increased more than threefold from 1.1 million people, or nearly 5% of the population, to 4.0 million people, or 13% of the population. Chinese made up the largest visible minority group in 2001, followed by South Asians and Africans.

By 2017, about 20% of Canada's population could be visible minorities, or anywhere from 6.3 million to 8.5 million people. Close to half are projected to be South Asian or Chinese. The highest growth rates are projected for West Asian, Korean and Arab groups, whose populations could more than double by 2017 but remain small relative to the South Asian, Chinese and African populations. In 2017, 95% of the visible minority population will live in a census metropolitan area (CMA), virtually unchanged from 2001.

Canada's population is highly urban: 64% of Canadians lived in a CMA in 2001. The proportion of recent immigrants settling in a

Table 13.a
Recent immigrants, by region of origin and selected CMAs, 2001

	Montréal	Toronto	Vancouver
	%		
North America, Europe ¹ and Oceania	12.5	8.4	9.8
Eastern Europe	10.8	10.7	4.6
Caribbean, Central and South America	19.1	12.6	3.2
Africa	18.2	6.0	3.0
South Asia	10.9	22.9	11.1
Southeast Asia	6.8	9.7	12.0
East Asia	9.2	21.5	51.0
West Asia	12.5	8.3	5.4

Note: Includes individuals who were born abroad and immigrated to Canada during the years from 1991 to 2001.

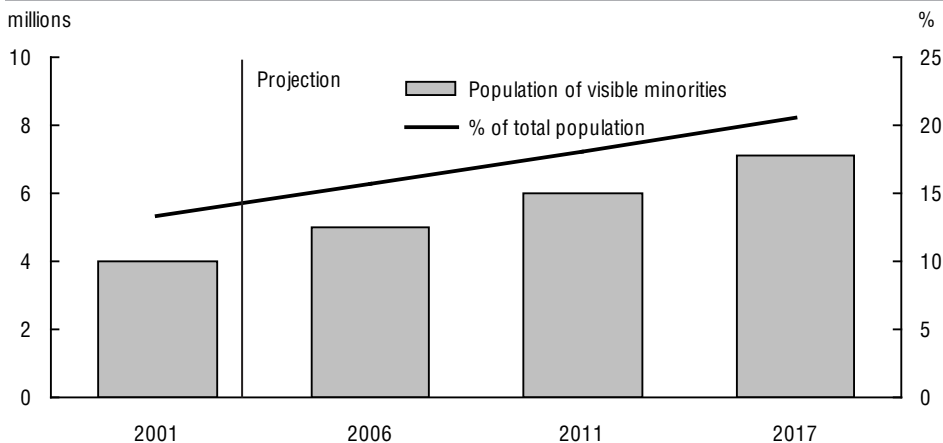
1. Includes countries in Northern, Western and Southern Europe.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 89-613-MIE.

CMA rose from 84% in 1981 to 94% in 2001. The share of Canadian-born people residing in a CMA grew from 53% to 59%.

Recent immigrants prefer CMAs for many reasons: 41% cite a spouse, partner or family in the area; 18% cite proximity to friends. Others cite job prospects, educational

Chart 13.2
Growth of visible minorities in Canada



Note: Projections are based on a scenario that uses trends observed in the 2001 Census and preceding years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-541-XIE.

opportunities, lifestyle and housing. From 1981 to 2001, Canada's five largest cities—Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, Ottawa–Gatineau and Calgary—received much smaller shares of immigrants from North America, Western Europe and Oceania, but received larger shares from West Asia, South Asia and East Asia.

In Montréal, most recent immigrants have arrived from Haiti, Algeria, France and Lebanon. In Vancouver, more than half of recent immigrants in 2001 were from East Asia, with 62% of them coming from just five countries: China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and the Philippines.

By 2017, fully 49% of Toronto's population could be immigrants, up from 44% in 2001. In Vancouver, the proportion is projected to rise from 38% to 44%.

Recent immigrants have strong ethnic ties

The strength of immigrants' attachment to an ethnic group is related to their length of time in Canada. Recent immigrants often settle close to family and friends, who are more

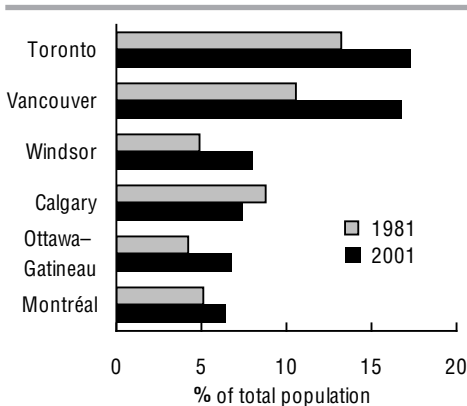
likely of similar ethnic background, which may contribute to a strong sense of belonging to their ethnic group.

Of immigrants who arrived here from 1991 to 2001, 71% rated at least one of their ancestral origins as important to their identity. This compares with 57% of second-generation Canadians (those born in Canada with at least one foreign-born parent) and with 44% of the third generation (those born in Canada to two Canadian-born parents).

Sense of belonging also varies by ethnic group. For instance, 78% with Filipino ancestry report a strong connection to their ethnic group, as do 65% of East Indians and 65% of Portuguese. But just 36% of Dutch, 33% of Germans and 33% of Ukrainians report a strong connection to their ethnic group. This likely reflects the longer time these latter groups have been in Canada.

Regardless of length of time here, immigrants are more likely than people born here to participate in ethnic or immigrant associations. Recent immigrants, however, are less likely to participate in other types of organizations in Canada.

Chart 13.3
Recent immigrants, selected census metropolitan areas



Note: Recent immigrants are individuals who were born outside of Canada and immigrated here in the decade preceding the 1981 or 2001 Census.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 and 2001.

Selected sources

Statistics Canada

- *Canadian Social Trends*. Irregular. 11-008-XWE
- *Ethnic Diversity Survey: Portrait of a Multicultural Society*. Occasional. 89-593-XIE
- *Immigrants in Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas*. Occasional. 89-613-MWE2004003
- *Population Projections of Visible Minority Groups, Canada, Provinces and Regions*. Occasional. 91-541-XIE
- *Ten Things to Know About Canadian Metropolitan Areas: A Synthesis of Statistics Canada's Trends and Conditions in Census Metropolitan Areas Series*. Occasional. 89-613-MWE2005009

More mixed couples

Marriages and common-law unions involving spouses from different population groups increased in the 1990s. In 2001, of the 14.1 million people living in a marriage or common-law union, 452,000 individuals were in a couple with a visible minority spouse and a non-visible minority spouse, or in a couple with spouses from two different visible minority groups. In 2001, such mixed unions represented 3% of individuals in couples, slightly higher than in 1991.

Japanese-Canadians are the most likely visible minority to marry or live common-law with a non-Japanese person. Next most likely are people of Latin American origin and black people. Among the least likely to marry outside their group are South Asians and Chinese.

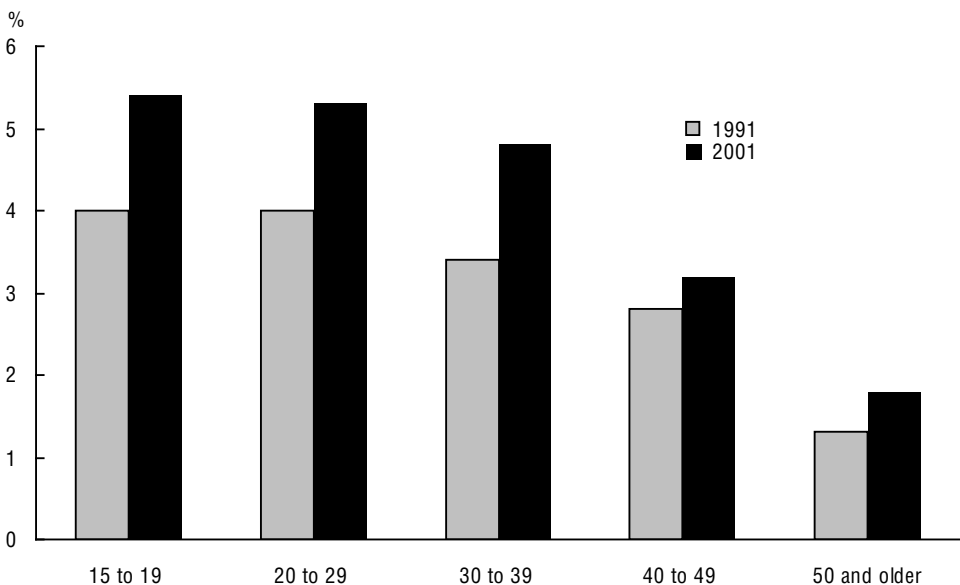
Mixed unions account for 7% of all married or common-law couples in Vancouver, 6%

in Toronto and 3% in Montréal. However, among people aged 20 to 29, the proportions are almost double: 13% in Vancouver, 11% in Toronto and 6% in Montréal.

Mixed couples are younger—5% of couples aged 20 to 29 versus 1% of couples aged 65 and over in 2001—and are more likely to be foreign-born and to live in a large city. They tend to be better educated than couples in the general population. For example, 6% of people with a university degree are in a mixed union, versus 2% of people with high school or less.

Mixed union couples are more likely to have children. In the general population in 2001, 57% of all couples had children, compared with 59% of couples with a visible minority spouse and a non-visible minority spouse, and 69% of couples with spouses from two different visible minorities.

Chart 13.4
Persons in mixed-union couples, by age group



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 and 2001.

Immigrants' home ownership slips

Home ownership declined markedly among immigrant families in some cities from 1981 to 2001, particularly among families with a main wage earner aged 25 to 54.

Some of the decline is linked to immigrants' poorer fortunes in the labour market. Length of time in Canada is also a factor: in 2001, 37% of immigrants had lived here 10 or fewer years, compared with only 30% in 1981. Age is another factor: immigrants aged 45 to 54 had higher home-ownership rates from 1981 to 2001 than the Canadian-born population in the same age group. In this period, immigrants aged 35 to 44 saw their home-ownership rates fall. By 2001, the rate for immigrants 35 to 44 had dropped below that of Canadian-born in the same age group.

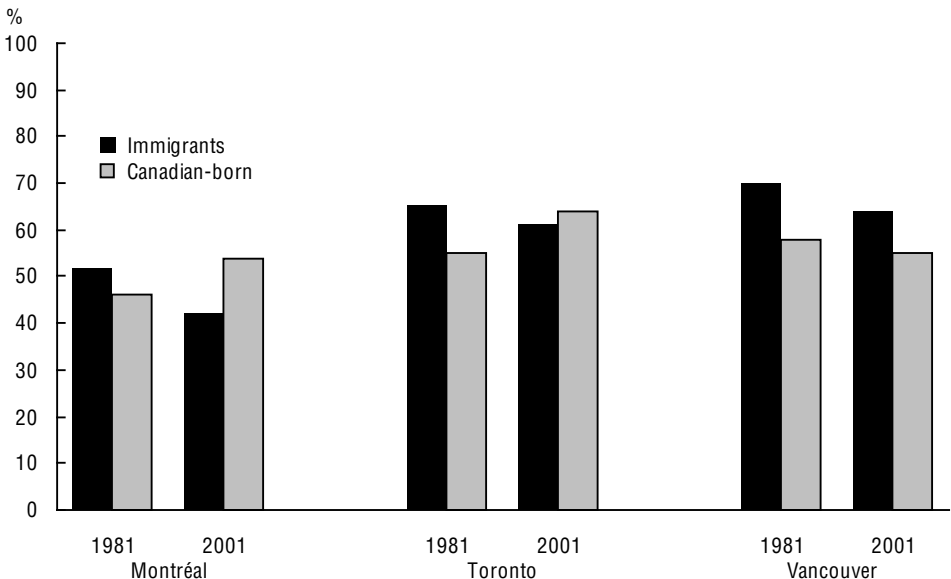
In Montréal, 52% of immigrant families owned their own home in 1981, compared with 46% of Canadian-born families. In

Toronto, 65% of immigrant families owned homes, compared with 55% of Canadian-born families. In Vancouver, 70% of immigrant families owned their homes; 58% of Canadian-born families did so.

By 2001, the situation had reversed in Montréal (42% of immigrant families owned homes versus 54% of Canadian-born families) and in Toronto (61% versus 64%). The picture in Vancouver did not change (64% versus 55%).

Housing was a particular problem for immigrants who arrived from 1996 to 2001. Some of these immigrants found quality housing to be out of their reach. They ended up in 'core housing need.' In other words, they were living in rented dwellings that needed major repairs, were overcrowded or that required them to spend 30% or more of their before-tax income on rent.

Chart 13.5
Home ownership, immigrant and Canadian-born heads of families, selected census metropolitan areas



Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981 and 2001, and Catalogue no. 11F0019MIE.

Becoming Canadian

Naturalization—acquiring citizenship—may be the final step of a newcomer's migration and a declaration of commitment to Canada. Citizenship grants people the right to vote, hold public office, be employed in the public service and carry a Canadian passport.

Most people residing in Canada are Canadian citizens—81% by birth and 14% by naturalization. The remaining 5% are not eligible, are eligible but have not taken the steps to naturalize, or are not permanent residents. According to the 2001 Census, 84% of all eligible immigrants—those who have resided in Canada for at least three years—are Canadian citizens.

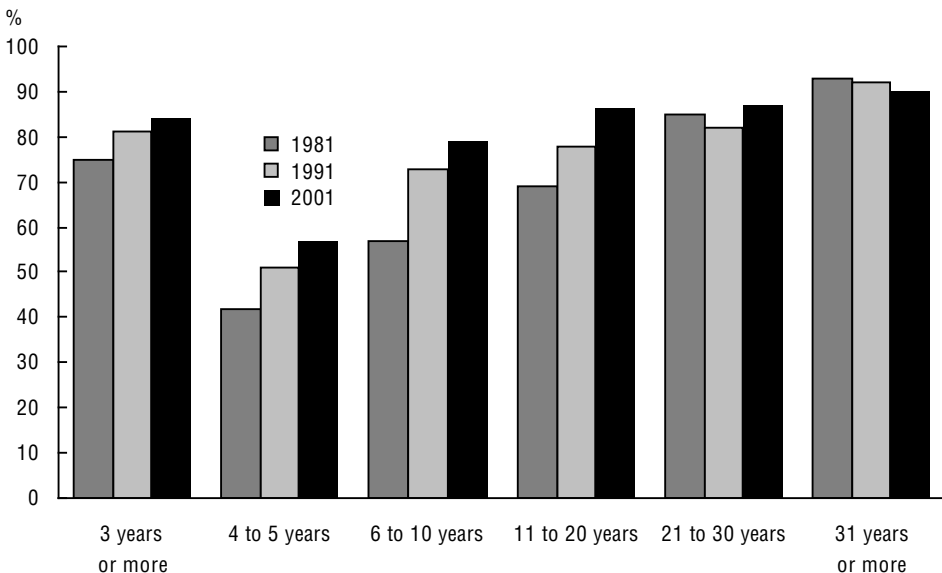
Refugees and people from developing countries or from countries with political, economic or social systems different from ours, such as some in Asia and Africa, are most likely to naturalize. In 2001, 93% of

immigrants from Vietnam and 89% from the People's Republic of China who were eligible had become Canadians. More than 80% of the newcomers from Africa, in Canada for more than five years, had done so. The longer newcomers stay, no matter where they come from, the more likely they are to become Canadian citizens.

Younger immigrants are more likely to take up citizenship than older immigrants. About 85% of those under 20 at the time of entry become citizens, versus only 72% of those aged 70 and older.

Factors influencing a newcomer's decision to naturalize include expected length of stay, dual citizenship rules, attachment to the home country and to Canada, the source country's tax laws and rules on asset transfers, as well as the time, cost and knowledge required to become a citizen.

Chart 13.6
Immigrants who are Canadian citizens, by length of residence in Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Children of immigrants doing well

Second-generation Canadians are doing well—many are doing better than third-generation Canadians—according to a study of people who were born in Canada to at least one immigrant parent. In general, second-generation Canadians are more educated and earn more on average than Canadians of a similar age whose parents were both born here.

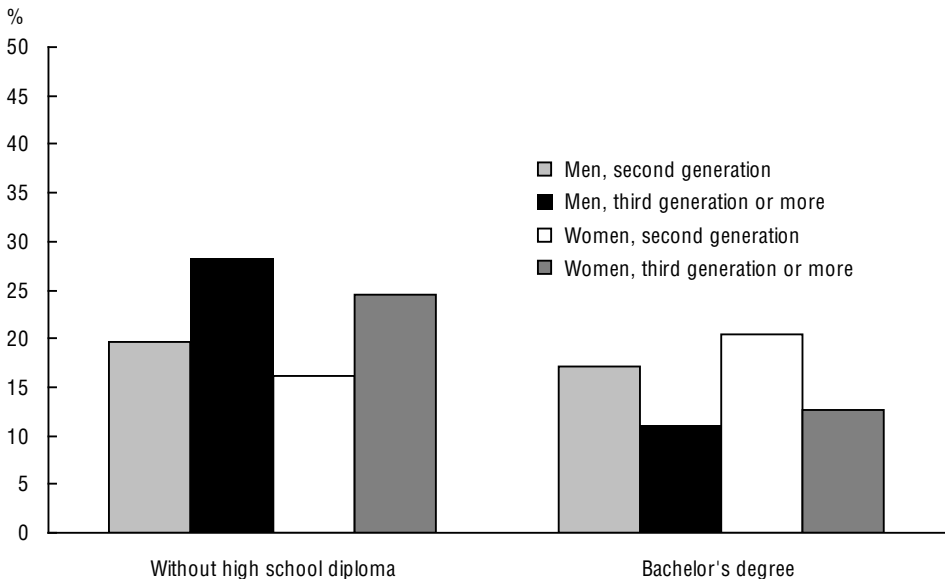
Second-generation Canadian men born from 1964 to 1976 are more likely to hold a university degree than Canadians of the same age whose parents were born in Canada. They also have an earnings advantage—about 6% higher average weekly earnings in 2000—except if their father was born in the Caribbean, Central America, South America or Oceania; those second-generation Canadian men had earnings 14% below the average. On the other hand, if his father came

from North America, Northern or Western Europe, the second-generation man's earnings were 14% above the average.

The picture is similar for second-generation Canadian women, except a father's country of birth has less impact on his daughter's education level or earnings. These women earned on average just over \$27,000 in 2000, whereas women with two Canadian-born parents made less than \$25,000. Women with Asian-born fathers earned 27% above the average, while women with African-born fathers had an earnings advantage of 26%.

In 2001, more than one-third of Canadians aged 16 to 65 were immigrants or the children of immigrants. About 7% were second-generation Canadians with both parents born in another country, while a further 7% to 8% had one parent who was born outside Canada.

Chart 13.7
Educational attainment of children of immigrants living in Canada for two generations or more, by sex, 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 11F0019MIE.

Table 13.1 Foreign-born population, by province and territory, census years 1991 to 2001

	1991	1996	2001
	% of total population		
Canada	16.2	17.5	18.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.5	1.6	1.6
Prince Edward Island	3.2	3.3	3.1
Nova Scotia	4.4	4.7	4.6
New Brunswick	3.4	3.3	3.1
Quebec	8.7	9.5	10.0
Ontario	24.1	25.8	27.1
Manitoba	12.9	12.4	12.2
Saskatchewan	5.9	5.4	5.0
Alberta	15.2	15.2	15.0
British Columbia	22.5	24.7	26.4
Yukon	10.8	10.4	10.6
Northwest Territories	4.9	4.8	6.4
Nunavut	1.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 to 2001.

Table 13.2 Foreign-born population, by census metropolitan area, census years 1991 to 2001

	1991	1996	2001
	% of total population		
St. John's	2.8	2.9	2.9
Halifax	6.4	7.0	6.9
Saint John	4.3	4.0	3.8
Saguenay (formerly Chicoutimi)	0.7	0.7	0.9
Québec	2.2	2.6	2.9
Sherbrooke ¹	3.8	4.3	4.6
Trois-Rivières	1.3	1.6	1.5
Montréal	16.4	17.8	18.4
Ottawa–Gatineau (formerly Ottawa–Hull)	14.7	16.3	17.6
Kingston ²	13.5	12.8	12.4
Oshawa	17.2	16.5	15.7
Toronto	38.0	41.9	43.7
Hamilton	23.5	23.6	23.6
St. Catharines–Niagara	18.9	18.3	17.8
Kitchener	21.5	21.8	22.1
London	18.8	19.2	18.8
Windsor	20.6	20.4	22.3
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury (formerly Sudbury)	8.1	7.5	7.0
Thunder Bay	13.1	12.2	11.1
Winnipeg	17.4	16.9	16.5
Regina	8.4	8.0	7.4
Saskatoon	8.2	7.6	7.6
Calgary	20.3	20.9	20.9
Edmonton	18.3	18.5	17.8
Abbotsford ²	19.8	20.3	21.8
Vancouver	30.1	34.9	37.5
Victoria	19.5	19.3	18.8

Note: Census metropolitan areas are based on the 2001 Census geography.

1. Sherbrooke became a census metropolitan area in 1986.

2. Kingston and Abbotsford became census metropolitan areas in 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 1991 to 2001.

Table 13.3 Selected ethnic origins, 2001

	Total responses	Single response ¹ number	Multiple responses ²
Total population	29,639,035	18,307,545	11,331,490
Canadian	11,682,680	6,748,135	4,934,545
English	5,978,875	1,479,525	4,499,355
French	4,668,410	1,060,760	3,607,655
Scottish	4,157,210	607,235	3,549,975
Irish	3,822,660	496,865	3,325,795
German	2,742,765	705,600	2,037,170
Italian	1,270,370	726,275	544,090
Chinese	1,094,700	936,210	158,490
Ukrainian	1,071,060	326,195	744,860
North American Indian	1,000,890	455,805	545,085
Dutch (Netherlands)	923,310	316,220	607,090
Polish	817,085	260,415	556,665
East Indian	713,330	581,665	131,665
Norwegian	363,760	47,230	316,530
Portuguese	357,690	252,835	104,855
Welsh	350,365	28,445	321,920
Jewish	348,605	186,475	162,130
Russian	337,960	70,895	267,070
Filipino	327,550	266,140	61,405
Métis	307,845	72,210	235,635
Swedish	282,760	30,440	252,325
Hungarian (Magyar)	267,255	91,800	175,455
American (United States)	250,005	25,205	224,805
Greek	215,105	143,785	71,325
Spanish	213,105	66,545	146,555
Jamaican	211,720	138,180	73,545
Danish	170,780	33,795	136,985
Vietnamese	151,410	119,120	32,290

1. The respondent reported having only one ethnic origin.

2. The respondent reported having more than one ethnic origin.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 13.4 Visible minority population, by province and territory, 2001

	Total population	Visible minority population	Black	South Asian	Chinese	Korean	Japanese	Southeast Asian	Filipino	Arab/West Asian	Latin American	Visible minority, not included elsewhere	Multiple visible minority
	number												
Canada	29,639,035	3,983,845	662,210	917,075	1,029,395	100,660	73,315	198,880	308,575	303,965	216,975	98,920	73,875
Newfoundland and Labrador	508,075	3,850	840	1,005	925	105	70	120	260	350	85	45	45
Prince Edward Island	133,385	1,180	370	115	205	20	80	45	40	180	75	30	20
Nova Scotia	897,570	34,525	19,670	2,890	3,290	585	420	790	655	4,000	520	1,170	535
New Brunswick	719,710	9,425	3,850	1,415	1,530	105	130	305	355	770	425	265	275
Quebec	7,125,580	497,975	152,195	59,505	56,830	4,410	2,830	44,115	18,550	85,760	59,520	7,555	6,705
Ontario	11,285,550	2,153,045	411,095	554,870	481,505	53,955	24,925	86,410	156,515	155,645	106,835	78,915	42,375
Manitoba	1,103,695	87,110	12,820	12,880	11,930	1,040	1,665	5,480	30,490	2,100	4,775	2,070	1,860
Saskatchewan	963,150	27,580	4,165	4,090	8,085	635	435	2,600	3,030	1,475	2,005	420	640
Alberta	2,941,150	329,925	31,390	69,585	99,095	7,800	9,950	23,740	33,940	24,550	18,745	4,220	6,910
British Columbia	3,868,870	836,440	25,465	210,295	365,485	31,965	32,730	34,970	64,005	28,985	23,880	4,195	14,465
Yukon	28,520	1,025	115	210	225	0	35	105	235	30	45	10	15
Northwest Territories	37,105	1,545	170	190	255	20	40	190	465	105	55	20	35
Nunavut	26,665	210	65	30	35	10	0	10	35	15	10	0	0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 13.5 Visible minority population, by census metropolitan area, 2001

	Total population	Visible minority population	Black	South Asian	Chinese	Korean	Japanese	Southeast Asian	Filipino	Arab/West Asian	Latin American	Visible minority, not included elsewhere	Multiple visible minority
	number												
St. John's	171,105	2,310	350	745	520	50	60	80	115	280	55	35	20
Halifax	355,945	25,085	13,085	2,345	2,440	475	335	715	480	3,355	410	980	465
Saint John	121,340	3,160	1,440	305	490	40	10	75	125	190	240	155	90
Saguenay	153,020	985	325	40	290	25	10	50	0	10	220	15	0
Québec	673,105	11,075	3,640	340	1,275	140	145	1,650	60	1,515	2,005	210	95
Sherbrooke	150,385	3,835	1,040	225	245	50	50	315	90	695	1,050	45	30
Trois-Rivières	134,645	1,240	515	50	90	0	15	235	10	130	175	10	10
Montréal	3,380,645	458,330	139,305	57,935	52,110	3,760	2,295	39,570	17,890	79,410	53,155	6,785	6,115
Ottawa-Gatineau	1,050,755	148,680	38,185	22,275	28,810	1,590	1,575	9,535	5,205	28,285	7,660	2,735	2,825
Kingston	142,765	6,735	850	1,525	1,605	345	165	365	445	525	630	125	135
Oshawa	293,550	20,690	7,180	4,630	2,355	610	465	560	905	985	965	1,355	680
Toronto	4,647,960	1,712,535	310,500	473,805	409,530	42,615	17,415	53,565	133,680	95,820	75,910	66,455	33,240
Hamilton	655,055	64,380	12,855	14,285	9,000	2,030	1,165	4,910	4,950	6,850	4,945	2,000	1,390
St. Catharines-Niagara	371,400	16,845	3,840	2,535	2,665	905	625	1,280	1,200	1,460	1,535	295	505
Kitchener	409,770	43,770	7,345	11,190	5,895	1,135	460	5,450	1,050	3,545	4,850	1,875	975
London	427,215	38,300	7,610	4,925	4,660	1,705	525	3,165	1,615	7,545	4,470	1,205	875
Windsor	304,955	39,330	8,125	6,530	5,710	390	145	2,805	2,955	8,920	2,235	1,225	290
Greater Sudbury / Grand Sudbury	153,890	3,125	1,075	535	715	45	75	70	115	170	220	65	40
Thunder Bay	120,365	2,690	440	330	420	30	190	275	295	230	240	70	170
Winnipeg	661,725	82,565	11,440	12,285	10,930	955	1,585	5,030	30,095	1,960	4,550	1,990	1,745
Regina	190,020	9,880	1,580	1,665	2,370	225	165	1,185	1,010	480	800	185	215
Saskatoon	222,635	12,410	1,520	1,850	3,960	185	140	1,130	1,460	825	845	175	320
Calgary	943,310	164,900	13,665	36,855	51,850	3,885	3,845	12,560	16,380	11,395	8,605	2,250	3,610
Edmonton	927,020	135,770	14,095	29,065	41,285	2,830	1,845	9,690	14,170	10,845	7,510	1,675	2,760
Abbotsford	144,990	25,755	595	18,660	1,610	760	540	1,180	640	170	995	205	390
Vancouver	1,967,480	725,655	18,405	164,360	342,665	28,850	24,025	28,465	57,025	27,330	18,715	3,320	12,495
Victoria	306,970	27,185	2,180	5,775	11,245	680	1,740	1,245	1,810	685	1,160	210	455

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Table 13.6 Visible minority population, by age group, 2001

	All age groups	0 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 and older
	number						
Total population	29,639,030	5,737,670	3,988,205	9,047,175	7,241,135	2,106,875	1,517,975
Visible minority population	3,983,845	942,195	634,685	1,351,310	794,510	171,230	89,925
Black	662,210	195,120	110,615	207,895	116,005	21,485	11,095
South Asian	917,075	228,345	139,805	310,470	182,735	39,355	16,370
Chinese	1,029,395	195,255	157,730	342,650	231,950	65,000	36,810
Korean	100,660	19,525	21,110	33,870	21,575	2,730	1,855
Japanese	73,315	12,735	10,980	23,780	15,990	5,360	4,470
Southeast Asian	198,880	50,125	32,775	74,200	32,420	6,250	3,105
Filipino	308,575	68,795	44,485	108,895	68,110	10,745	7,545
Arab/West Asian	303,965	76,580	50,840	111,055	52,780	9,055	3,650
Latin American	216,980	48,450	38,550	81,985	40,745	4,860	2,385
Visible minority, not included elsewhere	98,915	21,705	14,890	35,145	21,125	4,280	1,765
Multiple visible minority	73,875	25,570	12,895	21,355	11,070	2,105	875

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Abbreviations and symbols



Provinces and territories

Newfoundland and Labrador	N.L.
Prince Edward Island	P.E.I.
Nova Scotia	N.S.
New Brunswick	N.B.
Quebec	Que.
Ontario	Ont.
Manitoba	Man.
Saskatchewan	Sask.
Alberta	Alta.
British Columbia	B.C.
Yukon	Y.T.
Northwest Territories	N.W.T.
Nunavut	Nvt.

Measurements

centimetre	cm
metre	m
kilometre	km
gram	g
kilogram	kg
litre	L
millilitre	mL
hour	h
watt	W
kilowatt	kW
degrees Celsius	°C

The symbols described in this document apply to all data published by Statistics Canada from all origins, including surveys, censuses and administrative sources, as well as straight tabulations and all estimations.

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to zero where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

Note: In some tables, figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

When the figure is not accompanied by a data quality symbol, it means that the quality of the data was assessed to be 'acceptable or better' according to the policies and standards of Statistics Canada.

The statistics in this edition are the most up-to-date available at the time of its preparation. For more recent data, visit Canadian Statistics at www.statcan.ca