

## Appendix 1: The Changing Face of Canadian Immigrants, using 2001 Census<sup>1</sup> data

Throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Europe and the United States were the primarily sources of new immigrants to Canada. Immigrants today are more likely to come from Asian countries, including the Middle East (58% of immigrants arriving between 1991 and 2001), and from Europe (20%), the Caribbean, Central and South America (11%), Africa (8%), and the United States (3%).

Among immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001, the largest group came from the People's Republic of China. The next largest groups came from India, the Philippines, the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Taiwan. Among immigrants coming from Europe, the most frequent countries of origin were Poland, the United Kingdom, and Romania. Jamaica was the leading country of birth for immigrants coming from Central and South America. Immigration from Africa has also grown, particularly from Somalia, Algeria, and the Republic of South Africa.

**Top 10 countries of birth for recent immigrants, 2001**

	Immigrated 1991 to 2001*	
	Number	%
People's Republic of China	197,360	10.8
India	156,120	8.5
Philippines	122,010	6.7
Hong Kong (SAR)	118,385	6.5
Sri Lanka	62,590	3.4
Pakistan	57,990	3.2
Taiwan	53,755	2.9
United States	51,440	2.8
Iran	47,080	2.9
Poland	43,370	2.4
<b>Total immigrants</b>	<b>1,830,680</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census.

<sup>1</sup> The data in Appendix 1 are based on: "Immigrant Status and Place of Birth of Respondents, Sex and Age Groups for Populations, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, CMAs and CAs, 2001 Census – 20% Sample. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, April 23, 2003. 2001 Census of Canada. Cat. No. 95F0357XCB2001004. "Place of Birth of Respondents, Sex and Period of Immigration for Immigrant Population, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, CMAs and CAs, 2001 Census – 20% Sample. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, April 23, 2003. 2001 Census of Canada. Cat. No. 95F0358XCB2001004. See also: Statistics Canada, "Canada's Ethnocultural Portrait: The Changing Mosaic," April 2003. [www.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/etoimm/canada.cfm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/etoimm/canada.cfm)

While immigrants of European descent continue to make up the largest single group of immigrants in Canada, they now account for less than half (43%) of the total immigrant population. In fact, in 2001, the largest group of immigrants (13%) came from Eastern Asia (Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan), followed closely by immigrants from Southern Europe (13%) such as Italy, Greece, and Portugal. Immigrants from the United Kingdom now make up 11% of all immigrants, while those from Southern Asia, from other Northern and Western European countries, from Eastern Europe, and those from South-East Asia make up roughly 9% of all immigrants to Canada.

**Ethnic origins of Canadian immigrants, 2001**

Place of Birth	%	Number
United States	4.4	237,920
Central and South America	5.6	304,650
Caribbean and Bermuda	5.4	294,050
Europe (total)	42.0	2,287,550
United Kingdom	11.1	605,995
Other Northern and Western Europe	9.1	494,820
Eastern Europe	8.7	471,365
Southern Europe	13.1	715,370
Africa	5.2	282,600
Asia (total)	36.5	1,989,180
West Central Asia and the Middle East	5.2	285,580
Eastern Asia	13.4	730,600
South-East Asia	8.6	469,110
Southern Asia	9.2	503,890
Oceania and other	1.0	52,525
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,448,480</b>

Source: Statistics Canada. 2001 Census. Cat. No. 95F0357XCB2001004.

With these changes in the composition of source countries for recent immigrants, Canada's visible minority population has grown. Visible minorities – defined in the Census as “persons other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour” – made up 13% of Canada's total population in 2001, up from 9% in 1991, and 5% in 1981. Chinese people constituted the largest visible minority group in Canada in 2001, surpassing one million. The South Asian population has grown even faster over the 1990s, reaching 917,000 in 2001. Blacks constitute the third largest visible minority group, numbering 662,200 in 2001.

While three of 10 visible minority individuals are born in Canada – notably people of Japanese and Black ancestry – immigration has contributed most to the growth of Canada’s visible minority population.

**Canada's visible minority population, 2001**

	Number	% of Visible minority population	% of Canadian population
Total Canadian population	29,639,035		
Total visible minority population	3,983,845		13.4
Black	662,210	16.6	2.2
South Asian	917,075	23.0	3.1
Chinese	1,029,395	25.8	3.5
Korean	100,660	2.5	0.3
Japanese	73,315	1.8	0.2
Southeast Asian	198,880	5.0	0.7
Filipino	308,575	7.7	1.0
Arab/ West Asian	303,965	7.6	1.0
Latin American	216,975	5.4	0.7
Visible minority, not included elsewhere	98,920	2.5	0.3
Multiple visible minority	73,875	1.9	0.2

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census.

### **Immigrants settle in Canada’s largest cities**

Most immigrants elect to live in Canadian cities. Over the last decade, nearly three-quarters of immigrants (73%) have settled in Canada’s largest metropolitan areas: Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal. Clearly, immigration is changing the face and pulse of urban Canada.

Between 1991 and 2001, 792,000 immigrants settled in the Toronto metropolitan area. Overall, immigrants made up 44% of Toronto’s population in 2001, up from 38% in 1991.

The Vancouver metropolitan area attracted 18% of all newcomers over the 1990s (324,000 people). By 2001, immigrants made up 38% of Vancouver’s total population. Montreal was the destination of choice for 215,000 immigrants over the 1990s; together with established immigrants, the immigrant population represented 18% of Montreal’s total population in 2001.

**Proportion of immigrants\* in total population,  
select CMAs, 1991 & 2001**

<b>CMA</b>	<b>1991 (%)</b>	<b>2001 (%)</b>
Halifax	6.4	6.9
Montreal	16.4	18.4
Ottawa**	14.7	17.6
Toronto	38.0	43.7
Winnipeg	17.4	16.5
Calgary	20.3	20.9
Edmonton	18.3	17.8
Vancouver	30.1	37.5
Canada	16.1	18.4

\* Immigrant = foreign-born population who are or have ever been landed immigrants in Canada.

\*\* Ottawa is now know as Ottawa-Gatineau

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census.

**Proportion of visible minorities in total population,  
select CMAs, 1991 & 2001**

<b>CMA</b>	<b>1991 (%)</b>	<b>2001 (%)</b>
Halifax	6.2	7.0
Montreal	11.0	13.6
Ottawa*	10.2	14.1
Toronto	25.8	36.8
Winnipeg	10.5	12.5
Calgary	13.7	17.5
Edmonton	12.7	14.6
Vancouver	24.0	36.9
Canada	9.4	13.4

\* Ottawa is now known as Ottawa-Gatineau

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census.

The impact of immigration on Canadian cities varies as different groups elect to settle in different communities.<sup>2</sup> For example, the source countries of recent immigrants in Toronto are very similar to those of Canadian immigrants generally. In Vancouver, however, half of recent immigrants there have come from East Asia, while Montreal predominantly attracts immigrants from Africa and the Middle East. These differences

---

<sup>2</sup> Please note that these estimates are based on the 2001 Census. The NSGVP estimated the relative size of the immigrant population in Canada's major cities as much smaller: 32.1% in Toronto and 24.0% in Vancouver. Estimates for other urban centres varied significantly, with the exception of Winnipeg. Differences between the two surveys were even more pronounced when looking at immigrants as a proportion of the population aged 15+ by city: 51.1% in Toronto; 42.6% in Vancouver, according to the NSGVP.

are important to consider when looking at the ways in which immigrants reach out to family, friends and the broader community.

Halifax has a relatively small population of immigrants, roughly 24,000, estimated at 7% of the population. Europeans made up the largest group of immigrants (46%) in Halifax in 2001, and within that group, people from the United Kingdom predominated. As well, Halifax has a large population of American immigrants (14%), three times the national average. Among Asian immigrants in Halifax, people from Western Asia and the Middle East constitute the largest group.

In Montreal, with a total immigrant population of 622,000, the largest groups have come from Africa (12%), the Caribbean and Bermuda (11%), and South and Central America (8%). While Europeans (39%) and Asians (29%) still constitute the two largest immigrant groups, their numbers are smaller in Montreal than in other major Canadian cities. The largest group of European immigrants in Montreal are from Southern Europe and the largest group of Asians came from West Central Asia and the Middle East. As a result of Montreal's unique pattern of immigration, the two largest visible minority groups are Blacks and Arabs/ West Asians.

Ottawa has roughly equal numbers of immigrants from Asia and Europe, for a total of 185,000. Immigrants from West Central Asia and the Middle East comprise the largest Asian group in the city. There is also a sizeable community of immigrants from Africa (10%). Throughout the 1990s, a significant number of immigrants came to Ottawa from the People's Republic of China, Lebanon, and Somalia.

Toronto has one of the largest immigrant communities in the world – 44% of the city's population, just over two million people, were born outside of Canada. And throughout the 1990s, Toronto attracted 43% of all the new immigrants to Canada – a total of 792,000 – the majority of whom came from Asia. As a result, the Asian community in Toronto is now larger than the European community. They make up nearly one-quarter of Toronto's total population, with the largest group coming from Eastern Asia. Toronto also has a significant community of immigrants from the Caribbean and Bermuda (8%) and from Central and South America (7%). The two largest visible minority groups are Chinese and South Asians.

The immigrant community in Winnipeg shrank throughout the 1990s. By 2001, nearly 103,000 immigrants resided in Winnipeg. Europeans constituted the largest group (46%), with most coming from Eastern Europe, followed by those from Southern Europe. Two-thirds of Asian immigrants in Winnipeg came from South East Asia, particularly the Philippines. Winnipeg also has the second largest Ukrainian community in Canada, after Edmonton.

The ethnic composition of immigrant communities in Calgary (197,000 immigrants) and Edmonton (165,000 immigrants) are fairly similar. Like other Canadian cities, they once drew immigrants largely from the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States; now, most new immigrants come from Asia. In fact, the Asian communities in Edmonton (40%) and Calgary (44%) are larger than the national average (37%). The European community in Edmonton is slightly larger than in Calgary (41% compared to 37%). In both cities, there are sizable groups of immigrants from South-East Asia and from Northern and Eastern Europe.

Like Toronto, Vancouver has a very large immigrant community – 739,000 people. Nearly four of 10 Vancouver residents are foreign-born, with 17% of the total immigrant population having arrived in the 1990s. Asia was by far the most common area of origin. The People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, and the Philippines accounted for 61.6% of immigrants to Vancouver. Those coming from Europe make up one-quarter of the immigrant population, with the largest group from the United Kingdom. The Chinese community constitutes 17% of Vancouver’s population – the largest visible minority group – while South Asians make up 8% of the population.

Ethnic origins of all immigrants, Canada and select CMAs, 2001

Place of Birth	Canada %	Halifax %	Montreal %	Ottawa %	Toronto %	Winnipeg %	Calgary %	Edmonton %	Vancouver %
United States	4.4	13.7	2.4	4.4	1.9	4.0	5.2	4.4	3.1
Central and South America	5.6	2.1	7.6	4.7	6.7	6.5	4.5	4.7	2.8
Caribbean and Bermuda	5.4	2.3	10.6	5.8	8.2	3.9	2.2	2.4	0.8
Europe									
United Kingdom	11.1	23.5	2.3	11.3	7.0	9.7	12.9	11.7	9.4
Other Northern and Western Europe	9.1	10.2	9.2	8.5	3.7	9.8	8.7	11.3	6.1
Eastern Europe	8.7	5.4	8.0	8.1	9.0	14.5	8.7	11.1	4.9
Southern Europe	13.1	7.1	19.1	9.8	15.5	11.8	6.4	7.4	4.9
Africa	5.2	4.5	11.8	10.2	4.9	3.6	6.3	5.1	3.3
Asia									
West Central Asia and the Middle East	5.2	14.1	10.1	12.3	5.5	1.5	4.6	4.1	3.8
Eastern Asia	13.4	6.7	5.3	10.2	14.7	5.3	15.6	12.7	35.6
South-East Asia	8.6	4.2	7.6	7.2	8.8	23.2	14.4	15.3	12.0
Southern Asia	9.2	5.2	5.7	6.9	13.7	5.6	8.9	7.9	10.3
Oceania and other	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.6	1.9	3.0

Source: Calculations by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census.