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2001 Census: analysis series

Canada's ethnocultural portrait: The changing mosaic

This document provides detailed analysis of the 2001 Census of Population data released January 21, 2003.

To access the complete report, including colour maps, charts and tables, please consult Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). On the home page, choose Census.





Statistics Canada
Census Operations Division

2001 Census: analysis series

Canada's ethnocultural portrait: The changing mosaic

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Canada's ethnocultural portrait: The changing mosaic

An ethnocultural profile of Canada at the outset of the 21st Century shows a nation that has become increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. This portrait is diverse and varies from province to territory, city to city, and community to community.

Immigration to Canada over the past 100 years has shaped Canada, with each new wave of immigrants adding to the nation's ethnic and cultural composition. Half a century ago, most immigrants came from Europe. Now most newcomers are from Asia.

As a result, the number of visible minorities in Canada is growing. And, Canadians listed more than 200 ethnic groups in answering the 2001 Census question on ethnic ancestry, reflecting a varied, rich cultural mosaic as the nation started the new millennium.

Immigration

In 2001, proportion of foreign-born highest in 70 years

New data from the 2001 Census show that the proportion of Canada's population who were born outside the country has reached its highest level in 70 years.

As of May 15, 2001, 5.4 million people, or 18.4% of the total population, were born outside the country. This was the highest proportion since 1931, when foreign-born people made up 22.2% of the population. In 1996, the proportion was 17.4%.

The lowest proportion of foreign-born individuals was 13%, recorded at the turn of the century in the 1901 Census. This almost doubled to around 22% between 1911 and 1931, when large numbers of immigrants entered the country to settle the western provinces, to meet growing labour demands and to help build the transcontinental railroad.

Due to the low immigration during the depression and war years, the proportion of foreign-born fell to 14.7% in 1951, but since then, it has been rising. The increase during the past 50 years is in part a result of a growing number of immigrants entering Canada, particularly since the late 1980s. It is also a reflection of the increasing importance of immigration to the growth of the overall population as fertility rates decline.

Second highest proportion of foreign-born, after Australia

Only in Australia is the proportion of population born outside the country higher than it is in Canada.

According to Australia's 2001 Census, 22% of its population was foreign-born, compared with 18% for Canada. Australia has had a higher proportion of foreign-born than Canada since 1971, ranging between 20% and 22%.

In contrast, only 11% of the population of the United States was foreign-born in 2000. As in Canada, this proportion was the highest in 70 years.

100 years of immigration: highest intake in the 1990s

Canada has welcomed a total of 13.4 million immigrants since 1901. Between 1991 and 2000 alone, 2.2 million immigrants were admitted to Canada, the highest number for any decade in the past century. In contrast, 1.3 million immigrants came in the 1980s, and 1.4 million in each of the 1970s and 1960s. (This section uses administrative data collected by Citizenship and Immigration Canada on the number of immigrants admitted to Canada each year as permanent residents.)

Flows had not been this high since the beginning of the century. Between 1901 and 1910, Canada accepted 1.6 million immigrants. This rose to 1.7 million in the subsequent decade, 1911 to 1920. The lowest number arrived during the two decades of the Great Depression and the Second World War.

Historically, Canada's annual intake of immigrants has rarely been higher than 1% of its total population. The major exception occurred in the early part of the century between 1911 and 1913, when the number of immigrants entering Canada represented about 5% of the population.

More recently, Canada's annual intake of immigrants has represented less than 1% of the total population. During the 1990s, the proportion ranged between 0.6% and 0.9%.

Since the late 1980s, Canada has had a proportionally higher annual intake of immigrants than either the United States or Australia. Per capita, it receives more immigrants than these two major immigrant-receiving countries.

Immigrants to Canada increasingly from Asia

For the first 60 years of the past century, European nations such as the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands, as well as the United States, were the primary sources of immigrants to Canada. Today, immigrants are most likely to be from Asian countries.

The shift during the past 40 years has been due to a number of factors, including changes in Canada's immigration policies and international events related to the movement of migrants and refugees.

In 2001, about 1.8 million people living in Canada were immigrants who arrived during the previous 10 years, between 1991 and May 15, 2001. These individuals accounted for 6.2% of the total population in 2001.

This was a substantial increase from 1991, when 1.2 million residents were immigrants who arrived during the 1980s. They accounted for only 4.3% of the total population in 1991.

Of the 1.8 million immigrants who arrived between 1991 and 2001, 58% came from Asia, including the Middle East; 20% from Europe; 11% from the Caribbean, Central and South America; 8% from Africa; and 3% from the United States.

In comparison, individuals born in Asia represented 47% of immigrants during the 1980s, and 33% of those who arrived during the 1970s. Just 3% of immigrants who came to Canada before 1961 were Asian-born.

China leading country of birth among immigrants of the 1990s

The People's Republic of China was the leading country of birth among individuals who immigrated to Canada in the 1990s. It was followed by India, the Philippines, the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Taiwan. These seven Asian countries alone accounted for over 40% of all immigrants who came to Canada in the past decade.

Among the European immigrants who arrived during the 1990s, the most frequent countries of origin were Poland, the United Kingdom and Romania.

European immigrants accounted for the vast majority (90%) of the immigrants who came to Canada before 1961. Since then, the proportion of European-born has declined steadily with each subsequent wave of immigrants.

Of those immigrants who arrived during the 1990s, 11% were born in the Caribbean, Central or South America. This figure was down from 16.5% of those who came during the 1980s and 1970s, and were from these regions. Jamaica was the leading country of birth among those who arrived in the 1990s, followed by Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mexico.

Immigration from Africa has increased slightly since the 1980s. People born in Africa made up 8% of immigrants who came in the 1990s, up from 6% of immigrants who arrived during the previous decade. The most frequent countries of birth of those coming from Africa in the 1990s were Somalia, Algeria and the Republic of South Africa.

The United States has remained a steady source of immigrants to Canada throughout the past 100 years. In the past 40 years, the largest inflow occurred in the 1960s and 1970s during the Viet Nam War. Americans made up nearly 7% of immigrants who came to Canada during each of the decades of the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2001, the United States was the eighth most frequent country of birth (3%) of immigrants who came in the 1990s. In some provinces, particularly in Atlantic Canada, the United States remains the most frequent country of origin among immigrants.

Three largest urban centres attracted three-quarters of new immigrants

In 2001, 94% of immigrants who arrived during the 1990s were living in Canada's census metropolitan areas, compared with 64% of the total population who lived in these areas.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the immigrants who came in the 1990s lived in just three census metropolitan areas: Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal. In contrast, just over one-third of Canada's total population lived in these three areas. As a consequence, newcomers have increasingly represented a larger proportion of the population in these three census metropolitan areas.

The trend toward immigrant settlement in these three urban centres has been growing over time. Of all immigrants who arrived during the 1980s, 66% lived in Toronto, Vancouver or Montréal in 1991. This compares with 58% of immigrants who arrived in the 1970s and who were residing in these three areas in 1981.

The census metropolitan area of Toronto attracted the largest share of new immigrants, nearly 3 times greater than its share of the total population in Canada. A total of 792,000 people who arrived during the 1990s were living in Toronto in 2001, representing 43% of all newcomers during the decade. In comparison, Toronto had 40% of the immigrants who came in the 1980s.

Overall, immigrants who arrived between 1991 and 2001 made up 17% of Toronto's total population in 2001. This was an increase from 1991 when 12% of the population were immigrants arriving during the previous decade.

The census metropolitan area of Vancouver took in the second largest share of the newcomers of the 1990s to Canada. In 2001, Vancouver had 324,800, or 18% of all immigrants who arrived during the 1990s. These newcomers represented 17% of Vancouver's total population, an increase from 9% a decade ago.

The census metropolitan area of Montréal was home to 215,100, or almost 12% of immigrants who arrived during the 1990s. This was a slight decrease from 14% of those who arrived in the 1980s. Immigrants of the 1990s accounted for about 6% of Montréal's population in 2001.

In sum, there is a difference between the level of immigration attracted by these three cities: whereas Toronto and Vancouver attract a disproportionate number of newcomers, Montréal's share of immigration is in line with its population share within Canada.

Of the 1990s immigrants who settled in the other census metropolitan areas in 2001 (21%), close to 4% were living in each of Ottawa–Hull (now Ottawa–Gatineau) and Calgary in 2001. Another 2.5% resided in Edmonton, and nearly 2% resided in Hamilton.

Only 6% of the new immigrants settled in areas outside the census metropolitan areas.

Majority of newest immigrants are working age

The majority of the immigrants who arrived in Canada during the 1990s were in the working ages of 25 to 64 years. They tended to fall into younger working age brackets than the total population because most people migrate when they are young.

In 2001, 46% of the immigrants who arrived in the 1990s were aged 25 to 44, compared with 31% of the total population. Older working-age immigrants, those between 45 and 64, made up 17% of those who came in the 1990s, compared with 24% of the total population.

Together, those who arrived between 1991 and 2001 added more than 1.1 million to Canada's working-age population aged 25 to 64, accounting for 66% of its growth. They made up 7% of the population aged 25 to 64.

As in the case of all immigrants who arrived in the 1990s, those of working age settled in the three largest metropolitan areas.

The impact was heaviest on Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal where 848,300, or almost three-quarters (74%) of the new immigrants aged 25 to 64 were living in 2001. This proportion was up from the 67% of those immigrants who arrived during the 1980s.

Immigrants of the 1990s made up one-fifth of the working-age population in each of Toronto and Vancouver. In Montréal, these newest residents represented about 7% of the working-age population, on par with the national average.

School-age children: Nearly one in five in Toronto and Vancouver are new arrivals

Of the 1.8 million immigrants who arrived during the 1990s, 309,700, or 17%, were school children aged between five and 16. Most of these immigrant children (69%) lived in Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal.

In fact, nearly one in five (17%) school-age children living in Toronto and Vancouver had immigrated within the past 10 years, as did about 7% of Montréal's school-age children.

In Toronto, one-half of school-age children who came in the 1990s spoke a language other than English or French most often at home in 2001, compared with 61% in Vancouver, and only 43% in Montréal.

In the census metropolitan area of Toronto, the cities of Toronto, Markham, Richmond Hill and Mississauga had proportionally higher numbers of new immigrants in their school-age populations. About one in four of all children aged five to 16 in the city of Toronto were immigrants who arrived in the 1990s, and about one-fifth in the other three.

In the Vancouver census metropolitan area, the city of Richmond had the highest proportion of newcomers (32%) in their school-age population. Nearly three in 10 (29%) children in Burnaby in this age group were newcomers, as were 24% in Vancouver, 22% in Coquitlam and 11% in Surrey.

In the Montréal Urban Community (MUC), 28,800 or 12% of school-age children were immigrants who came in the 1990s. But within the MUC, Saint-Laurent had the highest proportion of newcomers (25%) in their school-age population.

The addition of immigrant children into the educational system is an important issue for educators. Concentrations of new immigrant children present challenges to local school boards, as many newcomers come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Hence, the need for instruction in English or French as a second language is an integral part of school programs.

A recent Statistics Canada study, based on information from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, puts some concerns at ease. Overall, children from immigrant families started school with less developed skills in reading, writing and mathematics. With the passage of years, however, children with immigrant parents caught up to, and sometimes surpassed, the academic performance of their classmates with Canadian-born parents.

Many immigrants speak a non-official language at home

A growing proportion of Canada's newest immigrants reported speaking a language other than English or French most often at home. In 2001, 61% of the immigrants who came in the 1990s used a non-official language as their primary home language. In comparison, 56% of the immigrants who arrived in the 1980s spoke a non-official language at home in 1991.

Of the 1990s immigrants who spoke a non-official language, about one-third reported Chinese as the most common language spoken at home in 2001. Punjabi, 7% was the second, and Arabic, 5% was the third most common language spoken at home.

In terms of the major source countries of the 1990s immigrants, those born in the People's Republic of China were the most likely to report speaking a non-official language at home (88%) as well as being unable to conduct a conversation in an official language (29%). Immigrants from India (15%) and Taiwan (13%) had the next highest proportions of those unable to converse in either official language.

New immigrants were more likely to speak a non-official language at home in Vancouver and Toronto than in Montréal. About 73% of 1990s immigrants reported speaking a language other than English or French at home in Vancouver, the highest proportion among metropolitan areas, as did 64% of newcomers in Toronto.

In the census metropolitan area of Montréal, however, about one-half of the new immigrants reported speaking a non-official language at home. One in three of the newest residents in Montréal used at least some French at home. This was due to the tendency of immigrants from French-speaking countries to settle in this metropolitan area.

Although the proportion of newcomers who reported speaking a non-official language at home was high, most of Canada's newest residents reported they were able to have a conversation in one of the official languages.

In 2001, three-quarters of the immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years were able to speak English. An additional 4% reported abilities in French, while 11% were able to converse in both official languages. Overall, only about one in 10 of those who came in the 1990s reported no knowledge of either official language.

The proportion of newcomers who were able to speak French was higher in Quebec than the national level. In 2001, 31% of immigrants who came in the 1990s and were living in Quebec reported they were able to converse in French and an additional 43% said they were able to converse in both official languages.

Visible minority population

Three-fold increase since 1981

Canada was home to almost 4 million individuals who identified themselves as visible minorities in 2001, accounting for 13.4% of the total population. Visible minorities are defined by the *Employment Equity Act* as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

This proportion has increased steadily over the past 20 years. In 1981, 1.1 million visible minorities accounted for 4.7% of the total population; by 1996, 3.2 million accounted for 11.2%.

The visible minority population is growing much faster than the total population. Between 1996 and 2001, the total population increased 4%, while the visible minority population rose 25%, six times faster. Between 1991 and 1996, the total population increased 6%, while the visible minority population rose 27%.

The growth in the visible minority population during the last several decades was largely a result of immigration patterns. While earlier immigrants were mainly of European descent, new arrivals were more likely to have been born in countries outside of Europe. In addition, immigration levels have been increasing since the late 1980s, contributing to the growth of the visible minority population.

In 2001, three-quarters (73%) of immigrants who came in 1990s were members of visible minority groups. This was an increase from 1991 when 68% of those who came in the 1980s were visible minorities and in 1981, 52% of those arriving in the 1970s.

Three out of every 10 individuals who were visible minorities were born in Canada. Immigration has been the biggest contributor to the rapid growth of the visible minority population, but some visible minority groups such as Japanese and Blacks have long histories in this country, and are more likely to be Canadian-born.

Proportions of Canadian-born visible minorities varied widely from group to group, in large measure a reflection of historical immigration patterns. About 65% of the Japanese were born in Canada, the highest proportion of all visible minority groups, followed by 45% of Blacks, 29% of South Asians, 25% of Chinese, 21% of Arabs and West Asians, 20% of Latin Americans and 17% of Koreans.

In fact, only one in five Blacks and one in 10 Japanese is an immigrant who came to Canada in the last 10 years. Given that immigrants tend to be relatively younger, Japanese are more likely to be older than other visible minority groups.

If recent immigration trends continue, the visible minority population will continue to grow rapidly over the next couple of decades. Projections show that by 2016, visible minorities will account for one-fifth of Canada's population.

Chinese largest visible minority group, surpassing 1 million

Combined, the three largest visible minority groups in 2001 – Chinese, South Asians and Blacks – accounted for two-thirds of the visible minority population. They were followed by Filipinos, Arabs and West Asians, Latin Americans, Southeast Asians, Koreans and Japanese.

Chinese was the largest visible minority group, surpassing one million for the first time. A total of 1,029,400 individuals identified themselves as Chinese, up from 860,100 in 1996. They accounted for 3.5% of the total national population and 26% of the visible minority population.

Chinese comprised the largest proportion of the visible minority population in British Columbia (44%), Alberta (30%) and Saskatchewan (29%). Ontario had the highest number of Chinese (481,500), but they comprised the second highest proportion (22%) of the visible minorities in that province, behind South Asians (26%).

The first major wave of Chinese immigration to Canada occurred during the late 1800s when Chinese labourers arrived in western Canada to build the Canadian Pacific Railway. For decades following its completion, Chinese immigration was discouraged. Until the 1960s, restrictions on immigration kept the Chinese population in Canada fairly small. Since then, however, waves of Chinese immigrants, largely from Hong Kong (SAR) and the People's Republic of China, have made Chinese one of Canada's fastest growing visible minority populations.

Between 1996 and 2001, the number of Chinese increased 20%. Even so, the number of South Asians, the second largest visible minority group, rose even faster (37%).

The 2001 Census enumerated 917,100 South Asians, up from 670,600 in 1996. South Asians represented 3.1% of Canada's population and 23% of the visible minority population. They accounted for at least one-quarter of the visible minority populations in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia.

The census enumerated 662,200 Blacks in 2001, up 15% from 573,900 in 1996. This third largest visible minority group represented 2.2% of the country's total population and 17% of the visible minority population.

Many Blacks have a history in Canada dating back several centuries. In 2001, they were a proportionally large component of the visible minority population in all Atlantic provinces and in Quebec: Nova Scotia (57%), New Brunswick (41%), Prince Edward Island (31%), Quebec (31%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (22%).

Canada's visible minority population was also comprised of Filipinos (8%), Arabs and West Asians (8%), Latin Americans (5%), Southeast Asians (5%), Koreans (3%), and Japanese (2%). Combined, their population of about 1.2 million represented one-third of the total visible minority population in 2001.

Intermarriage of visible minorities increasing

In Canada, most people marry or live common-law with individuals from the same ethnic or cultural group. However, with the growing cultural diversity of Canada, an increased number of relationships involve individuals from different groups.

Overall, in 2001 there were 217,500 mixed unions (marriages and common-law unions) involving a visible minority person with a non-visible minority person or a person from a different visible minority group. This was an increase of 30% from 1991 compared with an increase of 10% for all couples. In 2001, these mixed unions represented 3.1% of all unions in Canada.

The most common type of mixed marriage or common-law union in Canada was between a visible minority person and someone who was not a visible minority. There were 189,500 such couples in 2001, an increase of 26% from 1991.

Some groups are more likely to intermarry or live common-law than others. The most common union was between Blacks and non-visible minorities. There were 44,200 such couples in 2001, up 5% from 1991.

The second most common pairing was between Chinese and non-visible minorities. There were 31,200 of these unions, up 52% from 1991.

Mixed couples are more likely to occur in certain census metropolitan areas. The 2001 Census showed that the proportion of such unions was higher than the national average in Vancouver, where they accounted for 7% of all couples, and Toronto, where they accounted for 6%.

Ethnic origins

More than 200 ethnic origins

More than 200 different ethnic origins were reported in the 2001 Census question on ethnic ancestry. Ethnic origin, as defined in the census, refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which an individual's ancestors belonged.

The list of origins reported includes cultural groups associated with Canada's first peoples, North American Indian, Métis and Inuit, and groups associated with the founding of Canada, such as French, English, Scottish and Irish. It also reflects the history of immigration to Canada in the past 100 years, with groups such as German, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish and so on.

In addition, many people now report multiple ethnic ancestries as a result of increasing intermarriage among ethnic groups.

The changing sources of immigrants to Canada has resulted in emerging new ethnic origins from Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Central and South America.

This host of new groups includes: Kosovars from Yugoslavia; Azerbaijani and Georgians from Central Asia; Pashtun from Afghanistan; Yemeni and Saudi Arabians from the Middle East; Khmer from Southeast Asia; Nepali and Kashmiri from South Asia; Congolese, Yoruba and Ashanti from Africa; and Bolivians, Maya and Carib Indians from Central and South America.

Most frequent ethnic origins

One way of examining the ethnic origin or cultural composition of the population is to look at the list of most frequently reported ethnic origins, whether they were reported alone or in combination with other origins.

After Canadian (11.7 million), English (6 million) and French (4.7 million), the most frequent ethnic origins in 2001 were Scottish, with 4.2 million responses, and Irish, with 3.8 million. Next most common ancestries reported were German (2.7 million), Italian (1.3 million), Chinese (1.1 million), Ukrainian (1.1 million) and North American Indian (1 million).

This list of the top ethnicities reported in 2001 was virtually unchanged from the 1996 Census, with a few exceptions. Chinese moved up to eighth place as a result of increasing numbers of immigrants from countries in East Asia, such as the People's Republic of China. The Ukrainians fell to ninth place in 2001 and North American Indians moved into tenth, while Dutch fell to eleventh.

Rise in the reporting of “Canadian”

Changes to the ethnic origin question in the 1996 and 2001 censuses resulted in an increase in the number of people reporting Canadian or Canadien as part of their ethnic heritage in both 1996 and 2001. Specifically, “Canadian” was included as an example on the English questionnaire and “Canadien” as an example on the French questionnaire in both censuses.

In the 2001 Census, 11.7 million people, or 39% of the total population, reported Canadian as their ethnic origin, either alone or in combination with other origins. This was up from 1996 when 8.8 million, or 31% of the population, did so.

About 6.7 million people, accounting for 23% of the population, reported Canadian as their only ethnic origin in 2001. An additional 5 million (16%) reported Canadian along with other origins.

In contrast, in 1996 about 5.3 million people, or 19% of the total population, reported Canadian only, and 3.5 million or 12% reported Canadian along with other ethnic origins.

When Canadian was not listed as an example on the 1991 Census questionnaire, only 3% reported Canadian as a sole ethnic origin and just 1% reported Canadian in combination with one or more other origins.

Most individuals, who reported Canadian in 2001 had English or French as a mother tongue, were born in Canada and had both parents born inside Canada.

This suggests that many of these respondents were people whose families have been in this country for several generations. And, in fact, 55% of people with both parents born in Canada reported Canadian (alone or in combination with other origins). In contrast, only 4% of people with both parents born outside Canada reported Canadian.

Furthermore, a comparison of reporting patterns with the 1991 Census showed that much of the reporting of Canadian was done by individuals who had provided English or French origins in previous censuses. The decline in those reporting French or English in 2001 is probably a result of growing numbers of people with these ethnic backgrounds reporting Canadian in the case of English or Canadien in the case of French.

Regions of the country that were settled earliest, and that have experienced relatively little recent immigration, tended to have the highest proportion of people reporting their origins as Canadian. In Atlantic Canada, 32% of the population reported a single response of Canadian, as did 48% in Quebec. In the other provinces, the proportion ranged from 6% to 14%.

Canadian was the most frequently reported origin (alone or in combination with other origins) in almost all provinces in 2001. The two exceptions were Saskatchewan, where German was the most frequently reported origin, and British Columbia, where English was the most frequent origin.

In northern Canada, English was the most frequently reported ethnic origin in the Yukon; North American Indian in the Northwest Territories; and Inuit in Nunavut.

Gains among multiple ethnic ancestries due to intermarriage

Intermarriage has most likely led to a growing number of people reporting multiple ethnic ancestries. The reporting of multiple ethnic origins was most common among groups who tended to be among the early immigrants to Canada and therefore have had more opportunity over time for marriage with people of different ethnic backgrounds. The growing number of people reporting Canadian with other origins in 1996 and 2001 has also been a factor in the increase.

In both 1996 and 2001, roughly the same number of people (18.3 million) reported only one ethnic origin as their ancestry. They accounted for 64% of the total population in 1996 and 62% in 2001.

What changed, however, was the number of people reporting more than one ethnic ancestry. In 2001, 11.3 million people, or 38% of the population, reported multiple ethnic origins, up from 10.2 million, or 36%, in 1996. In 1991, 7.8 million people reported multiple ancestries, as did 7.0 million in 1986.

People more likely to report multiple origins include those from European backgrounds whose ancestors have lived in Canada for several generations, especially groups such as the Irish, Scottish, English, French and Scandinavian. In addition, Polynesians, Indonesians, and Paraguayans tend to report more than one ethnicity. These groups have had more recent histories in Canada, but originated from countries that are multicultural.

In general, groups with a more recent history in Canada were more likely to report single responses. These groups include, for example, Koreans, Indo-Chinese, Afghans and Eritreans.

Increasing complexity of ethnic reporting

Information on the ethnic origins of the population has been collected in the census since 1901. The reporting of ethnic origin, and subsequent interpretation of the results, has become increasingly complex due to a number of factors.

The concept of ethnicity is fluid and is probably the most complex concept measured in the census. Respondents' understanding or views about ethnicity, awareness of their family background, number of generations in Canada, and the length of time since immigration can affect the reporting of ethnicity from one census to another. Increasing intermarriage among various groups has led to an increase in the reporting of multiple origins, which has added to the complexity of the ethnic data.

Furthermore, changes in the format of the question and the examples provided on the question affect reporting patterns. Examples of ethnic origins provided on a census questionnaire depend on the frequency of origins reported in the previous census.

For the first time in the 1996 Census, Canadian was included among the examples because it was the fifth most frequently reported origin in 1991. Canadian was the first example on the 2001 Census form because it was the most frequently reported origin in 1996. Because of these modifications, there was a substantial increase in the reporting of Canadian in these two censuses.

The increase in the reporting of Canadian has had an impact as well on the counts of particular groups, especially for French, English, Irish and Scottish. These groups have declined in absolute numbers since 1991, in large part because an increasing number of people who previously reported these origins on the census now report Canadian.

A follow-up survey to the 2001 Census, called the Ethnic Diversity Survey, will provide additional information to allow a better understanding of how Canadians of different ethnic background interpret and report their ethnicity. This post-censal survey will also provide information on how people's backgrounds affect their participation in the social, economic and cultural life of Canada. Results will be available in late summer of 2003.

Provinces and territories

Proportion of foreign-born highest in Ontario and British Columbia

The two provinces with the highest proportions of people born outside the country in 2001 were Ontario and British Columbia, according to the census.

There were over 3 million individuals in Ontario born outside the country, accounting for 27% of its total population in 2001, while in British Columbia there were 1 million individuals who were foreign-born, representing 26% of its total.

Both proportions were up from 1991 when the census showed 24% of Ontario's population and 22% of British Columbia's populations were foreign-born.

About 15% of Alberta's population was foreign-born in 2001, the third highest concentration. It was followed by Manitoba (12%), the Yukon (11%) and Quebec (10%). For Quebec, this was the highest proportion of foreign-born recorded in the past 100 years.

The remaining provinces and territories had less than 7% of their populations born outside the country.

Because of the historical settlement patterns of the foreign-born population, their impact on the provincial population varied over time. In the early part of the century, the relatively high number of immigrants settling in the Prairie provinces and the small overall populations in these provinces resulted in higher proportions of foreign-born.

However, these proportions have declined over time, especially in the three Prairie provinces. In contrast, as immigrants have settled increasingly in Ontario and Quebec, the proportions of foreign-born in these provinces have steadily increased over the past 100 years.

The proportion of foreign-born in British Columbia has been relatively stable over time at over 20%, except between 1921 and 1941 when fewer immigrants entered Canada and settled in British Columbia.

Newest immigrants settled in three provinces: Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec

Almost nine in 10 immigrants who arrived in Canada during the past 10 years lived in just three provinces in 2001: Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec.

Ontario took in the largest share of these newcomers. Slightly more than 1 million immigrants, or 56% of those who arrived in the 1990s, were living in Ontario in 2001. Another 20%, or 370,600, settled in British Columbia and 13%, or 244,900, in Quebec.

In fact, the share of new immigrants living in each of Ontario and British Columbia was one and a half times greater than the share of the total population living in these two provinces.

This tendency of Canada's new immigrants to live in these three provinces has increased over time. According to previous censuses, 85% of the immigrants who arrived during the 1980s lived in these three provinces, as did 81% of those who came during the 1970s.

Among the other provinces, Alberta had 129,900 immigrants who arrived in the 1990s, or 7%, the fourth highest share. It was followed by Manitoba, which had 2% or 32,300 of the newcomers. The remaining provinces and territories each had less than 1%.

Despite recent high population growth, Alberta has experienced the largest decline in its share of immigrants. In 1981, 11% of the immigrants who arrived in the 1970s settled there. This fell to 9% of those who arrived in the 1980s, and to 7% of those who arrived in the 1990s.

The share of immigrants settling in the other two Prairie provinces has also declined. Close to 4% of immigrants arriving in the 1970s lived in Manitoba in 1981, as did about 1% in Saskatchewan.

Due to the increasing attraction of new arrivals to Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec, newcomers made up an increasing proportion of the populations of these three provinces over time.

In 2001, about one-tenth of the population of each of Ontario and British Columbia were immigrants who came in the 1990s. In comparison, immigrants of the 1980s represented 6% of their total population, while immigrants of the 1970s accounted for 7%.

In Quebec, 3.4% of its population in 2001 consisted of immigrants who came to Canada in the 1990s, up from 2.6% in 1991 for immigrants of the 1980s.

Highest proportion of visible minorities in British Columbia

The majority of the nearly 4 million visible minorities in Canada in 2001 lived in either Ontario or British Columbia, reflecting the overall settlement pattern of immigrants to Canada.

While Ontario and British Columbia contained one-half of Canada's total population, they accounted for three-quarters of the visible minority population.

In 2001, the 836,400 visible minorities in British Columbia accounted for 22% of its total population, the highest proportion of any province. This was well above the national average of 13%.

British Columbia had also ranked first in terms of the proportion of its population who belonged to a visible minority group in 1996 (18%) and in 1991 (14%).

In terms of actual numbers, however, British Columbia was second to Ontario, which had 2.2 million visible minorities in 2001, the largest number of any province. Visible minorities accounted for 19% of Ontario's population in 2001, up from 16% in 1996 and 13% in 1991.

In 1991, the largest visible minority groups in Ontario were Blacks (311,000 or 3.1% of the provincial population), Chinese (290,400 or 2.9%), and South Asians (285,600 or 2.9%). By 2001, these were still the largest groups, but their order had shifted: South Asians (554,900 or 4.9% of Ontario's population), Chinese (481,500 or 4.3%) and Blacks (411,100 or 3.6%).

In 1991, the predominant visible minority group in British Columbia was Chinese (192,300 or 5.9% of the provincial population), followed by South Asians (118,200 or 3.6%) and Filipinos (31,100 or 1.0%). In 2001, this pattern was still evident: Chinese (9.4% of the provincial population), followed by South Asians (5.4%) and Filipinos (1.7%).

Most of the visible minorities in Ontario and British Columbia lived in the census metropolitan areas of Toronto and Vancouver. There were over 1.7 million in Toronto and 725,700 in Vancouver, representing nearly 37% of the total population in each.

Quebec had 498,000 visible minorities, the third highest, but they accounted for only 7% of its total population. Blacks were the most common group (152,200 or 2.1% of the total population in Quebec), followed by Arabs and West Asians (85,800 or 1.2%), Latin Americans (59,500 or 0.8%), South Asians (59,500 or 0.8%) and Chinese (56,800 or 0.8%). More than nine in 10 visible minorities in Quebec lived in the census metropolitan area of Montréal.

Alberta had 329,900 visible minorities, but they comprised a greater share of its population (11%). The visible minority groups with the highest proportions in Alberta were Chinese (3.4% of the provincial population), South Asians (2.4%) and Filipinos (1.2%).

The vast majority (91%) of visible minorities in Alberta lived in the census metropolitan areas of Calgary and Edmonton. They accounted for 17% of Calgary's population and 15% of Edmonton's.

The proportion of visible minority groups in the remaining provinces and territories was much lower than the national average. Concentrations ranged from 0.8% in both Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut, to 7.9% in Manitoba.

Diversity varied across the nation

The ethnic composition of each province and territory varied in 2001, as shown in the most frequently reported ethnic origins, whether they were reported alone or in combination with other origins.

The ethnic profile of the provinces and territories reflects in part the waves of immigrants who have settled in different regions of the country over time, as well as the presence of Canada's aboriginal groups and those of British Isles and French ancestries.

The most frequent ethnic origins reported in the four Atlantic provinces reflect the long history of people of British Isles and French heritage living in these provinces. In addition to Canadian, which was the most frequently reported origin reported in these provinces, English, Irish, Scottish were also among the top groups reported in 2001.

French was the second most frequent ancestry reported in New Brunswick and fifth in each of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. In addition, Acadian was among the top 10 ethnic origins reported in New Brunswick and in Prince Edward Island.

In Quebec, Canadian and French were the two most frequently reported ancestries, followed by Irish, Italian, English, Scottish, North American Indian, Québécois, German and Jewish.

European groups such as German, Italian and Dutch appeared on the top 10 list for Ontario, in addition to Chinese and East Indian, reflecting more recent waves of immigration to this province. Ontario's ethnic profile was similar to the Atlantic provinces in that Canadian was the most frequent origin reported in 2001, followed by British Isles origins (English, Scottish and Irish) and French.

Because of early settlement of European groups in the West, groups such as German, Ukrainian, Polish, and Dutch were among the more frequent groups for the Prairie provinces. In the Prairies, the most frequently reported origins again included Canadian as well as English, Scottish, Irish and French.

In Saskatchewan, German was the most frequent ethnic ancestry in 2001, as it was in 1996. Aboriginal origins also appeared among the more frequent ancestries in the Prairie provinces, North American Indian and Métis in Manitoba, and North American Indian in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

English was the most frequently reported origin in British Columbia in 2001, followed by Canadian, Scottish, Irish and German. Chinese was the sixth most frequent origin, then French and East Indian.

In the Yukon, English, Canadian and North American Indian were the top three ancestries. In the Northwest Territories, North American Indian was the most frequent ancestry, while Inuit was the most frequent origin in Nunavut.

Sub-provincial

Halifax: Highest proportion of Canadian-born Blacks

The census metropolitan area of Halifax had the highest proportion of Canadian-born Blacks among major urban areas in Canada, according to the 2001 Census.

Blacks accounted for 4% of the total population in Halifax, and 52% of its visible minority population. Nationally, Blacks represented 2% of Canada's total population, and 17% of the visible minority population.

Many Blacks have a history in the Atlantic provinces dating back three centuries, especially in Nova Scotia. The 2001 Census showed that 91% of Blacks living in Halifax were born in Canada.

The 13,100 Blacks who lived in Halifax represented 66% of the total Black population in Nova Scotia, and nearly 2% of all Blacks in Canada.

Blacks accounted for over one-half of Halifax's visible minorities in 2001. Other much smaller visible minority groups included Arabs and West Asians (3,400), Chinese (2,400) and South Asians (2,300), each of which represented less than 1% of the population.

Overall, Halifax was home to 25,100 visible minorities in 2001, representing 7% of the total population of 355,900, up from 20,300, or 6%, in 1991. This proportion was higher than the average for Nova Scotia (4%), but lower than the national average (13%).

The 24,400 persons born outside Canada in Halifax in 2001 accounted for 7% of the population. This was above the average for Nova Scotia (5%), but below the national average (18%). The proportion of foreign-born in Halifax was up only marginally from 6% in 1991.

Just over 7,500 of the total population of Halifax, or 2.1%, immigrated to Canada during the 1990s. They represented nearly three-quarters (73%) of the 1990s immigrants in Nova Scotia.

The proportion of immigrants who came to Halifax from Europe has declined, while an increasing proportion has arrived from Asia, including the Middle East, reflecting a national trend.

Prior to 1961, 83% of immigrants coming to Halifax were born in Europe while 3% were from Asia. Between 1991 and 2001, this trend changed dramatically. Only about one-quarter (23%) of immigrants was born in Europe, and more than half (55%) were born in Asia.

One out of every 10 immigrants who came to Halifax in the last 10 years was born in Kuwait, 7.3% in the People's Republic of China and 6.5% in the United States.

The most prominent ethnic origins (based on total responses) in the census metropolitan area of Halifax were Canadian, followed by British Isles origins (English, Scottish, and Irish), reflecting the long history of these ethnic groups in Halifax, and in the Atlantic provinces in general.

Other common ancestries of people living in Halifax were French, German, Dutch and North American Indian.

Montréal: Third largest population of visible minorities

Montréal was home to the third largest population of visible minorities among the 27 census metropolitan areas in 2001.

The 2001 Census enumerated 458,300 visible minorities in Montréal. Of the total visible minority population living in Canada in 2001, nearly 12% lived in Montréal, 43% in Toronto, and 18% in Vancouver.

These visible minorities accounted for 14% of Montréal's population of nearly 3.4 million, almost on par with the national average (13%). This proportion was up from 12% in 1996 and 11% in 1991. Visible minorities represented nearly 37% of the population in both the census metropolitan areas of Toronto and Vancouver in 2001.

The composition of Montréal's visible minority population differed substantially from Toronto and Vancouver, reflecting different patterns of immigration to this urban area. The two largest visible minority groups in Montréal were Blacks, representing 30% of all visible minorities, and Arabs/West Asians, which represented 17%. In contrast, the two largest groups in Toronto and Vancouver were Chinese and South Asians.

The census enumerated 139,300 Blacks in Montréal, representing 4.1% of its population. This was up from about 3.7% in 1996 and 3.2% in 1991. Montréal was home to the second highest population and proportion of Blacks in Canada in 2001, after Toronto.

The 79,400 Arabs/West Asians, the second most common visible minority group, accounted for 2.3% of the total population. This was almost unchanged from 2.2% in 1996, but down slightly from 3.1% in 1991. Among census metropolitan areas, Montréal had the second largest population of Arabs/West Asians in 2001, after Toronto.

The 57,900 South Asians comprised the third largest visible minority group, representing 1.7% of Montréal's population. This was a marginal increase from 1.4% in 1996 and 1.0% in 1991. Latin Americans, the fourth largest, accounted for 1.6%, and Chinese, the fifth, 1.5%.

Ethnocultural portrait reflected settlement of immigrants

Overall, the census counted 621,900 persons born outside Canada living in Montréal, representing 18% of the population, unchanged from 1996, but up from 16% in 1991.

Like many places across Canada, the proportion of immigrants settling in Montréal from Europe has declined, while the share from Asia, including the Middle East, has grown.

Of the foreign-born population in Montréal in 2001 who arrived in Canada before 1961, nine in 10 were from Europe, while only 3% were from Asia. In comparison, one-fifth of immigrants who arrived between 1991 and 2001 came from Europe, while two-fifths came from Asia.

Asian-born immigrants in Montréal who came to Canada in the 1990s were more likely to be from the Middle East and West Asia whereas those in Toronto and Vancouver were more commonly from Eastern and Southern Asia. In addition, close to one-fifth (18%) of the 1990s immigrants in Montréal was from Africa, compared to 6% in Toronto and 3% in Vancouver.

A total of 215,100 newcomers who arrived between 1991 and 2001 were living in Montréal in 2001. Nearly seven out of 10 of these individuals were visible minorities, and four of the top five sources were French-speaking countries. About 7% came from Haiti, 6% each from the People's Republic of China, Algeria and France, and 5% from Lebanon.

Immigrants from Europe were still a presence in Montréal, although some of them arrived in Canada in earlier decades. For all immigrants in Montréal, regardless of when they arrived in Canada, Italy, France, and Greece were among the top five source nations. Haiti and Lebanon were also included in the top five.

Among the most common ethnic origins reported in the 2001 Census were: Canadian, French, Italian, Irish, English, Scottish, Jewish, Haitian, Chinese and Greek.

Newest immigrants represent small fraction of Montréal's population

The immigrants in Montréal who arrived in Canada during the 1990s accounted for 6% of its population. This was up from 1991 when 157,200 or 5% of the population were immigrants who came during the previous decade.

In contrast, these newest arrivals accounted for 17% of the population of both Toronto and Vancouver.

In the Montréal Urban Community (MUC), Saint-Laurent had the highest proportion of 1990s newcomers in its population (20%), followed by the municipalities of Montréal (12%), Saint-Léonard (11%) and Côte-Saint-Luc (11%).

From an international perspective, the proportion of foreign-born in Montréal was lower than in other large urban areas, such as Miami (40%), Sydney (31%), Los Angeles (31%) and New York City (24%).

Over one-third of Saint-Laurent's population consisted of visible minorities

The ethnocultural profile of the census metropolitan area of Montréal varied among its constituent municipalities.

The highest proportion of visible minorities on the island of Montréal was in Saint-Laurent, where 38% of the population were members of a visible minority. Visible minorities made up at least one-quarter of the population of Brossard (28%), Dollard-des-Ormeaux (26%) and Pierrefonds (26%).

Blacks represented the highest proportion in the population in Montréal North (15%), followed by LaSalle (9%) and Pierrefonds (9%).

Members of the Arab and West Asian community accounted for more than 11% of Saint-Laurent's population. South Asians were concentrated in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, where they represented 7% of the population, and in Saint-Laurent, 6%.

Hamilton: Third highest proportion of foreign-born

Nearly one-quarter of the population in the census metropolitan area of Hamilton was foreign-born, the third highest proportion among such urban areas, according to the 2001 Census. Only Toronto (44%) and Vancouver (38%) had higher proportions of foreign-born.

Of the 154,700 foreign-born population, 5.4%, or 35,500, of Hamilton residents were immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001. Four out of every 10 (42%) of these newcomers came from a nation in Asia, the most frequently reported region of birth among immigrants of the 1990s.

Europe was also a strong source of immigration. In 2001, 39% of new immigrants living in Hamilton reported European countries as their place of birth.

The top countries of birth for the newcomers living in Hamilton in 2001 were: Yugoslavia, Poland, India, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Iraq, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. About 8% of immigrants of the 1990s cited Yugoslavia as their country of birth.

Hamilton was home to 64,400 visible minorities in 2001, representing 10% of its population, up from 7% in 1991. Visible minorities comprised 19% of Ontario's population, primarily due to high proportions in Toronto.

More than one in five visible minorities living in Hamilton, about 14,300 people, was South Asian. They represented 2.2% of Hamilton's population in 2001. Hamilton's 12,900 Blacks were the second most common visible minority, accounting for 2.0% of its population.

Hamilton also had a high proportion of British origins (English, Scottish and Irish). Nearly three in 10 residents reported English as their sole ethnic origin, or as one of their ancestral origins. Nearly one in five (19%) reported Scottish ancestry either alone or in combination with another ethnic origin. Canadian was the most frequently reported origin for 2001.

Kitchener: Many new immigrants from Yugoslavia

More than one-fifth of the population of the census metropolitan area of Kitchener (including Cambridge and Waterloo) was born outside Canada, according to the 2001 Census.

In 2001, Kitchener was home to 90,600 people who were foreign-born, representing 22% of its total population of 409,800. This proportion, virtually unchanged from a decade earlier, was the fifth largest among census metropolitan areas.

A decade ago, Kitchener had almost 76,000 foreign-born in a population of 353,100.

About 26,100, or 29% of the foreign-born arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001. They comprised 6% of Kitchener's total population, on par with the national average.

The foreign-born population in Kitchener is unique because many 1990s immigrants came from Yugoslavia, including both the former Yugoslavia and the Republic of Yugoslavia.

About 20% of new immigrants living in Kitchener in 2001 were born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia or Yugoslavia. In fact, Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were the two top places of birth among immigrants who arrived in the 1990s.

Other European countries in the top 10 places of origin included Romania, Poland and the United Kingdom. A relatively high proportion of immigrants who settled in Kitchener during the 1990s also came from the People's Republic of China, India, and Viet Nam.

In terms of ethnic origin, however, Yugoslavian was not yet among the top 10 ethnicities in Kitchener. Instead, the top ancestries were Canadian and those belonging to earlier immigrant groups, such as English, German, Scottish, Irish, French, Polish, Portuguese, Dutch and Italian.

German was the third most common ethnic ancestry in Kitchener in 2001 after Canadian and English. German was reported by 93,300 residents, or 23% of the total population. Kitchener had the third highest proportion of Germans in Canada, after Regina and Saskatoon. (Prior to 1916, Kitchener was named "Berlin". Three-quarters of the population at that time had German ancestral roots.)

Like the recent immigrant population, the proportion of visible minorities in Kitchener has increased over the past decade. A total of 43,800 Kitchener residents belonged to a visible minority group in 2001, which accounted for 11% of the population in 2001, up from 9% in 1996 and 8% in 1991. This proportion was lower than the national average of 13%, and far below the proportion of 37% in the census metropolitan area of Toronto.

The two largest visible minority groups in Kitchener in 2001 were 11,200 South Asians, who made up 3% of Kitchener's total population, and 7,300 Blacks, representing almost 2%. In addition, Chinese made up 1.4% of the population and Southeast Asians 1.3%.

Both the size and the make-up of visible minority populations varied widely throughout the municipalities comprising the Kitchener census metropolitan area. In the city of Kitchener and in Cambridge, the two largest visible minority groups were South Asians and Blacks. In Waterloo, the two largest groups were South Asians and Chinese.

London: One-third of residents have English ancestry

One-third of the population of the census metropolitan area of London reported English ethnic ancestry in the 2001 Census.

London had the third highest proportion of residents with English ancestral origins of any metropolitan area in Canada, after St. John's and Victoria.

London was also home to a large number of residents with other British origins, including Scottish and Irish, reflecting a long history of British settlement.

Compared with other major urban areas in Ontario, London's foreign-born population was comprised of a relatively high proportion of immigrants who have lived in Canada for quite some time. A total of 19,700 London residents had moved to Canada before 1961, slightly more than the 19,500 immigrants who settled here between 1991 and 2001.

According to the 2001 Census, immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001 accounted for 4.6% of London's population. This was slightly lower than the national average of 6.2%.

Changes in immigration patterns mean that the ethnocultural portrait of London is becoming more diverse. Those born in the United Kingdom accounted for only 2% of immigrants living in London in 2001 who had arrived in Canada in the previous 10 years. In contrast, they accounted for 28% of London immigrants who arrived in Canada prior to 1961.

More and more of London's foreign-born are coming from countries in Eastern Europe, Asia or the Middle East. The top 10 countries of birth among 1990s immigrants in London were Poland, the People's Republic of China, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, the United States, Viet Nam, Iran, Lebanon and India.

Overall, 43% of 1990s immigrants living in London in 2001 had been born in Asia, including the Middle East, 33% in Europe, 11% in the Caribbean, and Central and South America, and 9% in Africa.

As of 2001, 38,300 London residents were members of a visible minority group. They comprised 9% of the population, up from 7% in both 1996 and 1991.

The largest visible minority groups in London were Blacks (7,600) and Arabs and West Asians (7,500), together accounting for 40% of all its visible minorities. Each of these groups made up about 2% of its population.

London's visible minority population is fairly diverse. It was also home to 4,900 South Asians, representing 1% of the total population, 4,700 Chinese, 4,500 Latin Americans and 3,200 Southeast Asians, among others.

Of all visible minorities in the census metropolitan area, 36,400 lived in the City of London, accounting for 11% of its population. A total of 1,100 lived in St. Thomas, representing 3% of its population, and 800 lived in other municipalities.

Oshawa: Europe still a major source of immigrants

Europe was still a major source of immigrants for the census metropolitan area of Oshawa between 1991 and 2001, according to the census.

About 6,900 immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001 were living in Oshawa. They accounted for 2% of Oshawa's total population, down from 3% of the 1980s immigrants who were living in Oshawa in 1991.

About 36% of these newcomers to Oshawa were born in Europe, compared with 32% of newcomers who were Asian-born. This was unlike other major urban areas in Canada, in which Asian countries have surpassed European countries as the main source of immigrants in the 1990s.

In total, Oshawa had 46,100 foreign-born individuals in 2001, compared with 40,800 in 1991. In 2001, they accounted for 16% of its total population, well below the provincial level of 27%, and just under the national level of 18%.

Of those foreign-born living in Oshawa in 2001 who arrived in Canada more than 40 years ago, 95% were born in European countries, while less than 1% were born in Asia.

Newcomers living in Oshawa were primarily from Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Jamaica and the People's Republic of China. Combined, these five accounted for 36% of the immigrants who came to Canada in the 1990s and who were living in Oshawa in 2001.

Close to 20,700 people identified themselves as visible minorities in 2001. They represented 7% of Oshawa's total population, up from 6% in 1991. This proportion was well below the average for both Ontario (19%) and Canada (13%).

Oshawa had 7,200 Blacks, the largest visible minority group, representing just over 2% of its population. Other large visible minority groups were 4,600 South Asians and 2,400 Chinese. These three visible minority groups accounted for nearly seven in 10 (68%) visible minorities in Oshawa.

Canadian, reported by 40% of the population, was the most common ethnic origin of those living in Oshawa in 2001. One-third of Oshawa residents reported English ancestry, either alone or in combination with other ethnic origins. Scottish, Irish, French, German, Dutch, Italian Polish and Ukrainian rounded out the top 10 ethnic origins.

Ottawa–Hull: Growing proportion of visible minorities

The census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Hull, now known as Ottawa–Gatineau, had a growing visible minority population in 2001, due in part to an increasing number of new immigrants.

Ottawa–Hull had 148,700 visible minorities in 2001, accounting for 14% of its total population of 1,050,800. This proportion was slightly higher than the national average of 13%, and an increase from 10% in 1991. In Ontario in 2001, visible minority groups comprised 19% of the population, primarily due to the high concentration in Toronto.

The city of Ottawa had an even higher proportion (18%) than did the surrounding municipalities. In Hull, 7% of the population was comprised of visible minorities, as was 5% in Alymer and 4% in Gatineau. The remaining municipalities each had less than 3% of visible minorities in their populations.

The three most common visible minority groups in the Ottawa–Hull census metropolitan area in 2001 were Blacks, Chinese, and Arab/West Asians. There were 38,200 Blacks, who accounted for almost 4% of Ottawa–Hull's total population. They were followed by 28,800 Chinese and 28,300 Arabs/West Asians, both of which represented just under 3%.

Ottawa–Hull had a total foreign-born population of 185,000 in 2001, up from 135,300 in 1991. Those born outside Canada accounted for 18% of the total population in 2001, up from 15% in 1991. This increase in the foreign-born population in Ottawa–Hull was a result of growing numbers of new immigrants.

Of the foreign-born population in 2001, 70,500 individuals, or 38%, immigrated to Canada between 1991 and 2001. These newcomers represented 7% of the population. About 13% of these 1990s immigrants were born in the People's Republic of China, 5% in Lebanon and 5% in Somalia.

In terms of the ethnic composition of Ottawa–Hull, the most frequent ethnic origins based on total responses in 2001 were Canadian (44% of the total population), French (26%), English (19%), Irish (17%) and Scottish (14%).

As well, German, Italian, Chinese, North American Indian and Polish were among the top 10 ethnic origins.

St. Catharines–Niagara: Newest immigrants were European

New immigrants living in the census metropolitan area of St. Catharines–Niagara were more likely to be from European nations than Asian, in contrast to the national trend.

The 2001 Census enumerated 66,000 foreign-born individuals in St. Catharines–Niagara, 18% of its total population. This was on par with the national rate of foreign-born in the population, but lower than the proportion for Ontario (27%).

Of these immigrants, 9,900 were newcomers who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001. They made up 3% of its population in 2001, below the provincial average of 9% and the national average of 6%.

About 12% of the 1990s immigrants in St. Catharines–Niagara were born in the United States, 7% in Poland, 6% in the United Kingdom, 5% each in the People's Republic of China, Yugoslavia, and the Philippines.

The census enumerated 16,800 visible minorities in St. Catharines–Niagara in 2001, 4.5% of the population, up from 3.3% in 1991. In contrast, visible minorities represented 19% of Ontario's population and 13% of the Canadian population.

Of the visible minority population in St. Catharines–Niagara, 23% were Blacks, the largest proportion. More than one-half (56%) of the Black population in St. Catharines–Niagara were Canadian-born, while 18% were immigrants who came in the 1990s.

Chinese represented 16% of St. Catharines–Niagara's visible minority population, and South Asians 15%. About one-third of each group was born in Canada.

The 10 most common ethnic origins were European, reflecting previous waves of European immigration to Canada and the area. Canadian, English, Scottish, Irish and German were the five most frequent ancestries.

Toronto: One of highest proportions of immigrants in world

The census metropolitan area of Toronto had one of the highest proportions of foreign-born of all major urban centres in the world, according to the 2001 Census.

About 44% of Toronto's population in 2001 was born outside Canada, higher than Miami (40%), Sydney (31%), Los Angeles (31%), and New York City (24%). This was over twice as high as Canada's national average (18%). The census metropolitan area had 2,033,000 foreign-born people in 2001, two-thirds (67%) of the total in Ontario alone.

Toronto was home to over 43% of the nation's newest immigrants, those who arrived between 1991 and 2001, a much higher proportion than either Vancouver (18%) or Montréal (12%). Even a decade earlier, 40% of those people who arrived in the 1980s lived in Toronto in 1991.

A total of 792,000 immigrants living in Toronto in 2001 had arrived during the 1990s. They represented 39% of all immigrants in the metropolitan area.

These newcomers also made up 17% of Toronto's population. This was up from 1991, when 12% of the population consisted of immigrants who arrived during the 1980s.

Toronto's newest immigrant population came from diverse backgrounds. About 11% of these newcomers in the 1990s came from the People's Republic of China, 10% from India, and 7% each from the Philippines and Hong Kong (SAR). Other top countries of origin included Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Jamaica, Iran, Poland and Guyana.

Fewer immigrants came to Toronto from Europe, while more came from Asia, reflecting the national trend.

As a result, nearly eight in 10 (79%) of all immigrants who arrived in Toronto during the 1990s were visible minorities, up from 73% in 1991.

Of Toronto's foreign-born population in 2001 who came to Canada prior to 1961, the vast majority (92%) was from Europe, while only 3% was from Asia. During the 1990s, this trend reversed. Only 17% of immigrants came from Europe, and 63% from Asia.

The most frequently reported ethnic origins of people in the census metropolitan area of Toronto, either alone or in combination with other responses in 2001 were Canadian (19% of the total population), English (17%), Scottish (11%), Irish (10%) and Chinese (9%). Other frequent ethnic origins were Italian, East Indian, French, German and Portuguese.

Nearly one-quarter of Toronto residents Asian

Of the 4,648,000 residents in Toronto in 2001, 1,712,500 were visible minorities. They comprised 36.8% of Toronto's total population, up from 31.6% in 1996 and 25.8% in 1991. This proportion, nearly three times the national average (13.4%), was nearly identical to Vancouver's (36.9%).

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of residents in Toronto was Asian in 2001, up from 20% in 1996 and 16% in 1991. In order of size, these Asian groups included South Asian, Chinese, Filipino, Southeast Asian, Korean, and Japanese.

The largest visible minority group, South Asian, was also the fastest growing. Between 1991 and 2001, they more than doubled from 235,500 to 473,800 accounting for 28% of all Toronto's visible minorities. They represented 10% of its population in 2001, up from 6% in 1991. Toronto was home to more than one-half (52%) of all South Asians in the country.

A total of 409,500 Chinese lived in Toronto in 2001, up from 242,300 a decade earlier. Chinese accounted for 9% of its total population, up from 6% in 1991, but still far less than 17% in Vancouver. Toronto's Chinese population represented 24% of its visible minority population, and about 40% of all Chinese in Canada.

Toronto had 310,500 Blacks, almost one-half (47%) of the nation's total in 2001, up from 241,000 in 1991. They represented 18% of the visible minority population. Blacks accounted for 7% of Toronto's population, the highest proportion among all census metropolitan areas, up marginally from 6% in 1991.

Toronto also had the nation's largest population of Filipinos, 133,700, about 43% of all Filipinos in Canada. They accounted for nearly 3% of Toronto's population, up from 2% in 1991.

Other visible minority groups in Toronto included Arabs and West Asians (95,800), Latin Americans (75,900), Southeast Asians (53,600) and Koreans (42,600). All have grown in size since 1991.

Individual municipalities: Visible minority groups now a majority in Markham

Within the census metropolitan area of Toronto, several municipalities had large proportions of visible minority groups. More than one-half (56%) of the population of Markham is comprised of visible minorities, up from 46% in 1996. It was second only behind Richmond, B.C. (59%). Three in 10 people in Markham were Chinese in 2001, and an additional 13% South Asian.

Visible minorities represented 43% of the population of the city of Toronto, 40% each in Richmond Hill, Mississauga and Brampton. In the city of Toronto, 11% of the population was Chinese, 10% South Asian and 8% Black. In Richmond Hill, Chinese represented 22%, while in Brampton, 19% of the population was South Asian.

Over one in five persons in the municipalities of Markham (22%), Toronto (21%), and Richmond Hill (20%) were immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001. Other municipalities with large proportions of immigrants who arrived during the 1990s were Mississauga (19%) and Brampton (14%).

Windsor: Fourth largest proportion of immigrants

The census metropolitan area of Windsor had Canada's fourth largest proportion of foreign-born population after Toronto, Vancouver and Hamilton, according to the 2001 Census.

The census enumerated 67,900 foreign-born persons in Windsor, representing 22% of its population. This was well above the national average of 18%, but below the average for Ontario of 27%.

Of these immigrants, 24,300, or 8% of Windsor's population, had lived in the country for 10 years or less. This was the third highest proportion after Toronto and Vancouver, both around 17%.

Nearly 10% of immigrants who came to Windsor between 1991 and 2001 were born in Iraq. Just under 9% were born in the People's Republic of China, and 7% in India.

Windsor had 39,300 visible minorities in 2001, representing 13% of its total population, the same as the national average and up from 9% in 1991. In Ontario in 2001, visible minority groups comprised 19% of the population, primarily due to the high concentration in Toronto.

The three most common visible minority groups in Windsor in 2001 were Arabs and West Asians, Blacks, and South Asians.

The census counted 8,900 Arabs and West Asians, 2.9% of Windsor's population. Its 8,100 Blacks accounted for 2.7%, and 6,500 South Asians for just over 2%.

Windsor's most prominent ethnic origins (based on total ethnic responses) in 2001 were Canadian, representing 31% of its total population, as well as French (25%), English (20%), Irish (14%), Scottish (13%) and Italian (10%).

Winnipeg: Highest proportion of Filipinos

The census metropolitan area of Winnipeg had the highest proportion of Filipinos among all 27 census metropolitan areas in Canada in 2001.

Of the 308,600 Filipinos living in Canada, 30,100, or about 10%, lived in Winnipeg. The largest visible minority group in Winnipeg, Filipinos made up almost 5% of the total population in the census metropolitan area, as well as 36% of its visible minority population.

Overall, Winnipeg was home to 82,600 visible minorities, representing 12.5% of its population, up slightly from 11% in both 1996 and 1991. This was well above the provincial level of 7.9%, but below the national level of 13.4%.

Compared with other Prairie metropolitan areas, Winnipeg's proportion of visible minorities ranked behind Calgary (17%) and Edmonton (15%), but ahead of Regina (5%) and Saskatoon (6%).

More than one-third (35%) of the visible minorities living in Winnipeg in 2001 was born in Canada, while 23% were foreign-born people who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001.

Winnipeg had 12,300 South Asians who made up 15% of its visible minority population and 2% of the total population. Blacks and Chinese were other large visible minority groups.

In total, Winnipeg had a foreign-born population of 109,400 in 2001, down from 113,800 in 1991. Of these foreign-born people, 26,400 came to Canada during the 1990s, accounting for 4% of Winnipeg's population, higher than the provincial level (3%) but lower than the national level (6%). Winnipeg attracted just 1.4% of all newcomers who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001.

The Philippines was the most common place of birth for immigrants of the 1990s living in Winnipeg in 2001, followed by India, the People's Republic of China, Viet Nam and Poland.

English was the most frequently reported ethnic origin in Winnipeg, either in combination with another ethnic origin or alone, followed closely by Canadian. Others include Scottish, German and Ukrainian.

Ukrainian was a frequently reported ancestral origin, reflecting historical immigration patterns. About 16% of Winnipeg's population reported some Ukrainian ethnicity.

A vast majority (96%) of those reporting Ukrainian origin was Canadian-born. Among major urban areas, Winnipeg was second only to Edmonton in the number of total Ukrainian responses.

Regina: Highest proportion with German ancestry in the country

People who reported German ancestry made up nearly one-third (32%) of all residents in the census metropolitan area of Regina, the highest proportion of any such urban area, according to the 2001 Census.

A total of 60,600 people reported German ancestry in Regina, either as their only ethnic origin or in combination with other ancestries. English, Canadian, Scottish, Irish and Ukrainian were among the more common ethnic origins, reflecting national patterns.

Regina had a small visible minority population. In 2001, the census enumerated 9,900 visible minorities, who comprised 5% of Regina's total population. This proportion was essentially unchanged from 1991.

Regina's share of visible minorities was much lower than the national average of 13% in 2001. On the other hand, visible minorities accounted for just 3% of Saskatchewan's total population.

Among the Prairie census metropolitan areas, Regina had a lower proportion of visible minorities than Calgary (17%), Edmonton (15%), Winnipeg (12%) and Saskatoon (6%).

The three most common visible minorities in Regina in 2001 were Chinese, South Asians and Blacks. Almost one-quarter of its visible minority population was Chinese, another 17% South Asian, and 16% Black.

The census enumerated 14,000 foreign-born individuals in Regina in 2001, down from 15,900 from 1991. Of these immigrants, 3,300 individuals came to Canada during the 1990s. They represented 2% of Regina's total population. In comparison, immigrants who came to Canada in the 1990s made up just 1% of Saskatchewan's total population.

Newcomers to Regina who arrived in Canada during the 1990s were most likely to have been born in Asia, reflecting the national pattern. Four of the top five source countries were Asian, namely, the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, Viet Nam and India.

Saskatoon: High proportion with German ancestry

German was the most frequent ethnic ancestry in the census metropolitan area of Saskatoon, according to the 2001 Census. In fact, Saskatoon was second only to Regina in terms of proportion of German ancestry in the population.

In 2001, 65,100 people in Saskatoon, 29% of its population, reported German ancestry, either alone or in combination with other origins. Nearly all (97%) of those reporting German ancestry were Canadian-born.

English, Canadian, Scottish and Irish were among the five highest reported ethnic origins in Saskatoon in 2001. Ukrainian, French, North American Indian and Norwegian were also among common ancestries in Saskatoon.

The 16,900 foreign-born individuals living in Saskatoon in 2001 made up 8% of its population of 222,600 in 2001.

Over 5,100 people, or 2% of Saskatoon's population, were newcomers who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001. This proportion was below the national average of 6%, but above the provincial average of 1%.

Compared with other Prairie census metropolitan areas, Saskatoon ranked just ahead of Regina in terms of proportion of immigrants of the 1990s living in the area. The Prairie census metropolitan area with the highest proportion of new immigrants was Calgary at 7%.

As in other urban areas, immigration from Asian countries has outnumbered immigration from European countries. One-half (49%) of the immigrants in Saskatoon who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001 came from Asian countries. In contrast, only 5% of the foreign-born population in Saskatoon who immigrated to Canada before 1961 were born in Asia.

The People's Republic of China and the Philippines were the two top countries of origin among 1990s immigrants living in Saskatoon in 2001.

The census enumerated 12,400 visible minorities living in Saskatoon in 2001, almost 6% of its total population, up from 5% in 1991. This was above the provincial average of 3%, but was lower than the national average of 13%. Saskatoon's proportion of visible minorities was below other Prairie census metropolitan areas, such as Calgary (17%), Edmonton (15%) and Winnipeg (12%).

Nearly one-third (32%) of Saskatoon's visible minorities was Chinese. South Asians made up 15% of all visible minorities, Blacks 12%, and Filipinos 12%.

Calgary: Fourth highest proportion of visible minorities

The census metropolitan area of Calgary had the fourth highest proportion of visible minorities in Canada, behind Vancouver, Toronto and Abbotsford, according to the 2001 Census.

In 2001, 17.5% or 164,900 people, were visible minorities, up from 15.6% in 1996 and 13.7% in 1991.

Nearly 52,000 people, or 5% of Calgary's population of 943,300, identified themselves as Chinese. This was up from 34,700 in 1991. Calgary was home to the fourth largest population of Chinese in Canada in 2001 after Toronto, Vancouver, and Montréal.

Almost one-third (32%) of Chinese residents in Calgary in 2001 were Canadian-born, while 29% were newcomers who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001. The remainder was comprised of immigrants who resided in the country for more than 10 years.

South Asians were the second most frequently reported visible minority group in Calgary. Their population increased from 21,100 in 1991 to 36,900 in 2001. South Asians made up 4% of Calgary's population in 2001, up from 3% in both 1996 and 1991.

In 2001, 197,400 residents of Calgary were foreign-born, accounting for almost 21% of its total population.

More than 7% of Calgary's population, about 68,900, were newcomers who arrived between 1991 and 2001. This was up from 6% of residents who came to Canada in the 1980s and who were living in Calgary at the time of the 1991 Census.

Calgary had the fourth highest proportion of new immigrants in its total population in 2001 after Toronto, Vancouver and Windsor.

A shift in immigration patterns to Canada contributed to the growing diversity in Calgary. Historically, Calgary's foreign-born population mainly came from the British Isles, the United States and Europe.

Nearly nine in 10 (87%) immigrants who had arrived before 1961 and who were living in Calgary in 2001 were from Europe. This compares with only 6% of its foreign-born population who came from Asia, including the Middle East, before 1961.

However, the 2001 Census showed that immigrants coming from Europe have been rapidly declining, while newcomers from Asia have been on the rise. In 2001, 61% of those who came in the 1990s and who had settled in Calgary were born in Asia, three times the proportion of the 20% who were from Europe.

Among Calgary residents who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001, the top five source countries were in Asia. The People's Republic of China, the Philippines and India each accounted for about 10% of these recent immigrants. In addition, those born in Hong Kong (SAR) accounted for 7% and those in Viet Nam just over 4%. The United Kingdom and Poland were the only European nations among the top 10 countries of birth.

In terms of ethnic origin, the ethnic composition of Calgary was closely related to the different waves of immigrants who came to Canada during the past 100 years and who made Calgary their home. For example, at the time of the 1911 Census, English, Irish, Scottish and German were the top four ethnic origins in Calgary.

In 2001, the picture was similar except that Canadian was the most frequently reported ethnic origin, followed closely by English, Scottish, German and Irish.

Edmonton: Fifth highest proportion of visible minorities

The visible minority population in the census metropolitan area of Edmonton has increased in the last 10 years due in large part to an inflow of immigrants, according to the 2001 Census.

Of the 44,900 immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1990s and who settled in Edmonton, 71% were visible minorities in 2001.

Visible minorities accounted for 15% of its 927,000 residents, up from 14% in 1996 and 13% in 1991. The proportion in 2001 was above the national level of 13% and the provincial level of 11%.

Edmonton had the fifth highest proportion of visible minorities among census metropolitan areas, behind Vancouver, Toronto, Abbotsford and Calgary. One in five persons in the city of Edmonton were visible minorities. About 4% or less of the populations in the other municipalities within the Edmonton metropolitan area was comprised of visible minorities.

The Edmonton census metropolitan area had about 41,300 Chinese residents, making it the fifth highest population of Chinese in the country. More than one in five Chinese living in Edmonton immigrated in the past 10 years.

Other large groups of visible minorities in Edmonton included South Asians (29,100), Filipinos (14,200), and Blacks (14,100).

New immigrants – those who arrived between 1991 and 2001 – made up 5% of Edmonton's population, about the same proportion of new immigrants living in Edmonton in 1991 who arrived in the 1980s.

Close to three-fifths (58%) of the newcomers arrived from Asia. Those from Europe accounted for 22% of 1990s immigrants living in Edmonton in 2001. This pattern was much different from the early 1900s when immigration from Asia was virtually non-existent, and immigration from Europe was predominant.

Asian nations made up the top five birthplaces of immigrants who arrived during the 1990s and who were living in Edmonton in 2001. About 12% of these newcomers were born in the Philippines, 10% each in India and the People's Republic of China. Hong Kong (SAR) accounted for 6% and Viet Nam 5%.

More than 200,000 residents reported English as their ethnic origin, either alone or in combination with another origin. They represented about 23% of Edmonton's population. Canadian was the top ethnic origin reported in 2001, while Scottish, German and Irish were also among the top five.

Abbotsford: Third highest proportion of visible minorities

The census metropolitan area of Abbotsford had the third highest proportion of visible minorities among major urban areas in Canada, after Vancouver and Toronto, according to the 2001 Census.

A total of 25,800 residents, or 18% of Abbotsford's population, were visible minorities in 2001. Five years earlier, they accounted for 13% and in 1991, just 11%.

Of the municipalities within the census metropolitan area, the city of Abbotsford had the highest proportion of visible minorities in 2001 (20%), followed by Mission (8%).

Abbotsford was home to the largest proportion of South Asians of any census metropolitan area. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the visible minority population was comprised of South Asians. In 2001, the 18,700 South Asians accounted for 13% of the census metropolitan area's total population, up from 9% in 1996 and 7% in 1991.

Abbotsford has a unique visible minority profile compared with other metropolitan centres in western Canada. Proportions of Chinese were particularly high in Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton and Calgary. But in Abbotsford, Chinese represented just 1% of its total population. Nonetheless, its population of 1,600 Chinese represented its second largest visible minority group.

All other visible minorities in Abbotsford accounted for less than 1% of the total population each.

Gains in Abbotsford's visible minority population were the result of growing numbers of new immigrants, even though 36% of South Asians and 40% of Chinese living there in 2001 were born in Canada.

About 10,200 residents, or 7% of Abbotsford's total population, arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001. In contrast, less than 5% of the population was comprised of immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1981 and 1990.

Abbotsford had the fifth highest proportion of 1990s immigrants among its population in 2001, behind Toronto, Vancouver, Windsor and Calgary. Overall, 22% of Abbotsford residents, or 31,700 people, were born outside Canada, up from 20% in 1991.

Among immigrants living in Abbotsford who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001, the vast majority (79%) was Asian-born. India was the birthplace of more than six in 10 of these newer immigrants. This indicates a long-standing pattern of South Asian settlement in the region, where immigrants from the Indian subcontinent first arrived in the early 1900s to work in the lumber industry.

In terms of ethnic origin, East Indian was the sixth most commonly reported in Abbotsford in 2001. The remainder of the top ethnic origins consisted of British Isles and European groups, reflecting an early history of European settlement. English, Canadian, German, Scottish and Irish were the five most common origins reported in Abbotsford in 2001.

Vancouver: One in three residents Asian

The census metropolitan area of Vancouver had the highest proportion of visible minorities of all such urban areas in Canada, according to the 2001 Census.

About 37%, or 725,700 people, belonged to a visible minority group, up from 31% in 1996 and 24% in 1991.

Vancouver's visible minority population was almost entirely Asian, primarily a result of immigration trends in the past 20 years. One-third of people in Vancouver was Asian in 2001, up from 28% in 1996 and 21% in 1991.

Over one-half (53%) of Vancouver's Asian population was Chinese. The remainder was South Asian (including East Indian, Punjabi and Pakistani), as well as Filipino, Korean, Southeast Asian or Japanese.

Vancouver was home to 342,700 Chinese in 2001, up from 279,000 in 1996 and 175,200 in 1991. Its Chinese population accounted for 17% of its total population, the highest proportion of any census metropolitan area. In contrast, Toronto's Chinese population of 409,500 accounted for only 9% of its population.

Vancouver's 164,400 South Asians, the second largest visible minority group, represented 8% of its population. The number of South Asians increased from 120,100 in 1996, when they represented 7% of the population, and 86,200 in 1991, when they accounted for only 5%.

Filipinos, the third largest visible minority, numbered 57,000 or 3% of the total population. Vancouver, along with Toronto, ranked second in terms of the concentration of Filipinos after Winnipeg (5%).

All other visible minority groups living in Vancouver numbered fewer than 30,000 and accounted for less than 2% of its population. However, Vancouver had the highest proportions of Koreans (1.5%), Southeast Asians (1.4%) and Japanese (1.2%) of any metropolitan area.

Four in 10 Vancouver residents born outside Canada

In 2001, nearly four in 10 residents of Vancouver, or 738,500 people, were born outside Canada. This was much higher than any other metropolitan area, except Toronto (44%).

Vancouver was home to a higher proportion of foreign-born than many major cities throughout the world, for example, Miami (40%), Sydney (31%), Los Angeles (31%), and New York (24%).

In 2001, Vancouver was home to almost two in 10 of all immigrants who arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001, as well as almost nine in 10 of all immigrants who arrived in British Columbia during the same period.

About 17% of people living in Vancouver in 2001, or 324,800, were immigrants who had arrived in Canada during the 1990s. In comparison, in 1991, 9% of Vancouver's population, or 147,900, were immigrants who had arrived between 1981 and 1990.

The People's Republic of China, Hong Kong (SAR) and Taiwan topped the list of birthplaces for 1990s immigrants living in Vancouver in 2001, followed by India and the Philippines. Combined, these countries accounted for 62% of 1990s immigrants to Vancouver.

One-quarter of Vancouver's population had some English ancestry

Although Vancouver is home to a large Asian population, the most common ethnic ancestries reported in the 2001 Census were British Isles, Canadian and other European origins.

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of residents had at least some English ancestry, the most frequent ethnic origin in Vancouver. Canadian was second (alone or in combination with other responses), followed by Chinese, Scottish, Irish, German, East Indian and French.

While many Vancouver residents of Asian descent are relatively new arrivals in Canada, others have ancestors who were among the first settlers here and, therefore, are Canadian-born. In 2001, over one-half of Vancouver's Japanese were born in Canada, as were 36% of South Asians, 26% of Southeast Asians, 23% of Filipinos and 22% of Chinese.

Visible minority groups highest in Richmond

Most municipalities comprising the census metropolitan area of Vancouver had a much higher proportion of visible minorities among their populations than the Canadian average (13%). They included: Richmond (59%), the city of Vancouver (49%), Burnaby (49%), Surrey (37%), Coquitlam (34%), New Westminster (25%), Delta (23%), the City of North Vancouver (23%), Port Coquitlam (22%), Port Moody (21%), West Vancouver (20%), and the District Municipality of North Vancouver (19%).

Richmond's proportion was the highest of any municipality in Canada. It also had the highest proportion of Chinese, the second highest of Japanese and the third highest of Filipinos. In 2001, 39% of Richmond's population was Chinese, 7% South Asian, and 4% Filipino.

Chinese made up 30% of the population in the city of Vancouver and 26% of Burnaby's. South Asians made up the second largest visible minority group in each: 6% in Vancouver and 8% in Burnaby.

In Surrey and Delta, over one-half of the visible minority population was South Asian. Visible minorities accounted for 37% of Surrey's residents and 23% of Delta's. South Asians alone accounted for 22% and 13% of these populations.

In Coquitlam, 34% of residents were visible minorities, and Chinese accounted for 18% of the total population. Chinese accounted for 10% of the population in Port Coquitlam and 7% in Port Moody.

In New Westminster, South Asians comprised 8% of the population, Chinese 5% and Filipinos 5%.

In the city of North Vancouver, the largest visible minority groups were Arabs and West Asians, Chinese and South Asians. In the district municipality of North Vancouver and in West Vancouver, the most common visible minorities were Chinese, Arabs and West Asians and South Asians.

Almost three in 10 persons in the municipality of Richmond were immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and 2001. This was the highest proportion of any municipality in Canada. Other municipalities with large proportions of immigrants who arrived during the 1990s were Burnaby (24%), Coquitlam (20%), and Vancouver (20%).

Victoria: Proportion with English ancestry double the national average

The census metropolitan area of Victoria has a long history of British settlement, which was reflected in the ethnic origins reported in the 2001 Census.

More than four in 10 people (43%) in Victoria reported English ethnic ancestry, double the national average of 20%. The proportion in Victoria was higher than in any other metropolitan area, except for St. John's (43%) in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Canadian, Scottish, Irish and German followed English in Victoria's top five ethnic origins.

Close to 19% of Victoria's population, or 57,600 people, were born outside the country. This was a higher proportion of foreign-born people than in some other larger metropolitan areas such as Montréal and Edmonton.

Nevertheless, most of the people in Victoria who were born outside Canada have lived there for many years. Three in 10 immigrants living in Victoria in 2001 arrived in Canada prior to 1961, and more than five in 10 between 1961 and 1990.

Of the 370,600 immigrants who came to Canada during the 1990s and lived in British Columbia in 2001, 2.7% resided in Victoria, compared to 88% in Vancouver and 2.8% in Abbotsford. A total of 9,900 immigrants, just 3.2% of all Victoria residents, arrived in Canada between 1991 and 2001, compared with 2.6% of immigrants who arrived in the 10 years before the 1991 Census.

The People's Republic of China accounted for almost 10% of all 1990s immigrants, followed by the United Kingdom (9%), the United States (9%), and the Philippines and India, both 7%. The remaining countries in the top 10 were: Taiwan, the Republic of South Africa, Hong Kong (SAR), Germany and Japan.

Victoria's visible minority population was relatively small, although it has grown slowly as a result of an increase in immigrants from Asia. In total, 9% of its 307,000 residents, or 27,200, identified themselves as visible minorities in 2001, up from about 8% in 1996 and 7% in 1991. The proportion in 2001 was below the national average of 13%, and far below Vancouver's 37%.

About 14,000 of the visible minorities in the census metropolitan area of Victoria, or more than one-half of the total, lived in the district municipality of Saanich. They made up 14% of its population of 102,500. The city of Victoria was home to 7,000 visible minorities who comprised almost 10% of its population.

The census metropolitan area of Victoria had 11,200 Chinese in 2001, the largest visible minority group. They accounted for 4% of its population, up from about 3% in both 1996 and 1991.

The second largest group consisted of 5,800 South Asians, who accounted for 2% of Victoria's population, up from 1.5% in 1996 and 2% in 1991. They were followed by Blacks, Filipinos, Japanese, Southeast Asians and Latin Americans.

Definitions

The **foreign-born population** (also known as the immigrant population) is defined in the 2001 Census as persons who are now, or who once were, landed immigrants in Canada. In this analysis, the foreign-born population does not include non-permanent residents, who are persons in Canada on employment or student authorizations, Minister's permits, or are refugee claimants. The foreign-born population also excludes persons born outside Canada who are Canadian citizens by birth. The latter are considered part of the Canadian-born or non-immigrant population.

Immigrants of the 1990s refer to immigrants who came to Canada between 1991 and Census day, May 15, 2001.

Visible minorities: The 2001 Census provides information on the characteristics of people in Canada who are members of a visible minority, as defined by the *Employment Equity Act*. The Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour". Under this definition, regulations specify the following groups as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asians, Blacks, Arabs, West Asians, Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans and other visible minority groups, such as Pacific Islanders.

Ethnic origin, as defined in the Census, refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong. An ancestor is someone from whom a person is descended, and is usually more distant than a grandparent. Ethnic origin pertains to the ancestral "roots" or background of the population, and should not be confused with citizenship or nationality.

A **single ethnic response** occurs when a respondent provides one ethnic origin only. For example, in 2001, 726,300 people stated that their only ethnic origin was Italian. Since 1981, when respondents were first permitted to report more than one ethnic origin in the census, a distinction has been made between single and multiple responses.

A **multiple ethnic response** occurs when a respondent provides two or more ethnic origins. For example, 544,100 people in 2001 gave a response which included Italian and one or more other ethnic origins. As a result of increasing intermarriage between persons of different ethnic backgrounds, an increasing proportion of the population of Canada report two or more ethnic origins.

Total responses are the sum of single and multiple responses for each ethnic origin. Total response counts indicate the number of persons who reported a specified ethnic origin, either as their only origin or in addition to one or more other ethnic groups. For example, 1,270,400 persons reported at least some Italian ancestry in 2001.

Most of the data that are reported in this document refers to the total response count for each ethnic group, unless otherwise indicated.

Place of birth by period of immigration, Canada, 2001

	Period of immigration									
	Before 1961		1961 - 1970		1971 - 1980		1981 - 1990		1991 - 2001 ¹	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total immigrants	894,465	100.0	745,565	100.0	936,275	100.0	1,041,495	100.0	1,830,680	100.0
United States	34,805	3.9	46,880	6.3	62,835	6.7	41,965	4.0	51,440	2.8
Europe	809,330	90.5	515,675	69.2	338,520	36.2	266,185	25.6	357,845	19.5
Asia	28,850	3.2	90,420	12.1	311,960	33.3	491,720	47.2	1,066,230	58.2
Africa	4,635	0.5	23,830	3.2	54,655	5.8	59,715	5.7	139,770	7.6
Caribbean, Central and South America	12,895	1.4	59,895	8.0	154,395	16.5	171,495	16.5	200,010	10.9
Oceania and other countries	3,950	0.4	8,865	1.2	13,910	1.5	10,415	1.0	15,385	0.8

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth, Canada, 2001

	Immigrated before 1961			Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
	Number	%		Number	%
Total immigrants	894,465	100.0	Total immigrants	1,830,680	100.0
United Kingdom	217,175	24.3	China, People's Republic of	197,360	10.8
Italy	147,320	16.5	India	156,120	8.5
Germany	96,770	10.8	Philippines	122,010	6.7
Netherlands	79,170	8.9	Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	118,385	6.5
Poland	44,340	5.0	Sri Lanka	62,590	3.4
United States	34,810	3.9	Pakistan	57,990	3.2
Hungary	27,425	3.1	Taiwan	53,755	2.9
Ukraine	21,240	2.4	United States	51,440	2.8
Greece	20,755	2.3	Iran	47,080	2.6
China, People's Republic of	15,850	1.8	Poland	43,370	2.4

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Distribution of 1990s' immigrants compared with distribution of total population, Canada and census metropolitan areas, 2001

Place of residence	1990s' immigrants	Total population	Ratio of 1990s' immigrants to total population ³
	%	%	
Canada	100.0	100.0	
Total CMAs	94.1	64.4	1.5
Total non-CMAs	5.9	35.6	0.2
Toronto	43.3	15.7	2.8
Vancouver	17.7	6.6	2.7
Windsor	1.3	1.0	1.3
Calgary	3.8	3.2	1.2
Abbotsford	0.6	0.5	1.1
Ottawa-Hull ¹	3.9	3.5	1.1
Kitchener	1.4	1.4	1.0
Montréal	11.8	11.4	1.0
Hamilton	1.9	2.2	0.9
Edmonton	2.5	3.1	0.8
London	1.1	1.4	0.7
Winnipeg	1.4	2.2	0.6
Victoria	0.5	1.0	0.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	0.5	1.3	0.4
Kingston	0.2	0.5	0.4
Oshawa	0.4	1.0	0.4
Sherbrooke	0.2	0.5	0.4
Saskatoon	0.3	0.8	0.4
Halifax	0.4	1.2	0.3
Regina	0.2	0.6	0.3
Québec	0.5	2.3	0.2
Thunder Bay	0.1	0.4	0.2
St. John's	0.1	0.6	0.1
Greater Sudbury	0.1	0.5	0.1
Saint John	0.0	0.4	0.1
Trois-Rivières	0.0	0.5	0.1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière ²	0.0	0.5	0.1

¹ Now known as Ottawa-Gatineau.

² Now known as Saguenay.

³ This ratio shows whether the proportion of 1990s' immigrants living in a given location is higher than the proportion of the total population living in the same location. For example, if 5% of 1990s' immigrants live in a place and the same proportion (5%) of the total population lives there, then the ratio will be 1.0.

Proportion of immigrants 10 years or less in Canada, for Canada and selected census metropolitan areas, 2001 and 1991

	Total population in 2001	1990s' immigrants		Total population in 1991	1980s' immigrants	
		Number	% of total population in 2001		Number	% of total population in 1991
Canada	29,639,030	1,830,680	6.2	26,994,045	1,154,085	4.3
Total CMAs	19,081,995	1,722,220	9.0	16,892,540	1,057,055	6.3
Total non-CMAs	10,557,035	108,460	1.0	10,101,505	97,030	1.0
Toronto	4,647,955	792,035	17.0	3,868,880	457,270	11.8
Vancouver	1,967,475	324,815	16.5	1,584,195	147,945	9.3
Windsor	304,955	24,305	8.0	265,940	11,480	4.3
Calgary	943,310	68,860	7.3	748,215	47,905	6.4
Ottawa-Hull ¹	1,050,755	70,515	6.7	922,525	41,535	4.5
Montréal	3,380,645	215,120	6.4	3,172,005	157,185	5.0
Kitchener	409,765	26,115	6.4	353,115	19,795	5.6
Hamilton	655,060	35,540	5.4	593,805	24,160	4.1
Edmonton	927,020	44,915	4.8	833,365	45,225	5.4
Winnipeg	661,725	26,405	4.0	653,715	31,195	4.8
Other CMAs	4,133,330	93,535	2.3	3,896,780	73,360	1.9

¹ Now known as Ottawa-Gatineau.

Immigrants 10 years or less in Canada as a proportion of working-age population (aged 25 to 64), for Canada and selected census metropolitan areas, 2001 and 1991

	2001		1991	
	Total working-age population in 2001	1990s' immigrants as percentage of working-age population	Total working-age population in 1991	1980s' immigrants as percentage of working-age population
Canada	16,288,310	7.1	14,539,590	4.8
Total CMAs	10,661,310	10.2	9,339,225	6.9
Total non-CMAs	5,627,000	1.1	5,200,365	1.0
Toronto	2,617,575	19.3	2,177,410	13.1
Vancouver	1,126,950	18.2	886,040	10.2
Windsor	165,015	8.8	139,350	4.7
Calgary	540,500	8.1	419,370	7.0
Ottawa-Hull ¹	598,740	7.3	519,690	4.7
Montréal	1,907,165	7.3	1,802,090	5.2
Kitchener	223,360	7.0	187,275	5.9
Hamilton	353,030	6.1	320,215	4.5
Edmonton	507,675	5.6	449,710	6.1
Winnipeg	356,555	4.5	344,020	5.4
Other CMAs	2,264,745	2.5	2,094,065	2.0

¹ Now known as Ottawa-Gatineau.

Proportion of 1990s' immigrant children in school-age population (5-16 years), for municipalities in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver census metropolitan areas, 2001

	Total school-aged population	1990s' immigrant children as percentage of total school-age population
Municipalities		
MONTRÉAL CMA	512,450	6.9
MONTRÉAL Urban Community	231,965	12.4
Saint-Laurent	10,550	25.2
Saint-Léonard	8,700	16.0
Côte-Saint-Luc	3,475	15.0
Montréal	119,820	14.0
Montréal-Nord	11,695	13.2
Brossard	10,175	11.0
Verdun	6,920	10.3
Pierrefonds	9,885	8.9
LaSalle	9,365	8.8
Anjou	4,555	8.7
Dollard-des-Ormeaux	8,885	8.2
Lachine	5,630	6.4
Longueuil	17,575	5.2
Laval	53,885	3.5
Other municipalities	231,325	2.0
TORONTO CMA	752,575	17.0
Toronto	347,380	23.2
Markham	35,775	19.9
Richmond Hill	23,215	19.4
Mississauga	109,010	19.0
Brampton	60,310	10.4
Vaughan	32,820	8.5
Oakville	26,755	7.2
Other municipalities	117,310	3.2
VANCOUVER CMA	292,605	17.3
Richmond	24,815	32.5
Burnaby	25,730	28.6
Vancouver	59,215	23.6
Coquitlam	19,045	22.1
North Vancouver (City)	4,860	19.7
Port Moody	4,265	16.3
West Vancouver	6,025	15.8
North Vancouver (District Municipality)	14,175	13.7
New Westminster	5,740	12.8
Port Coquitlam	9,485	11.0
Surrey	61,865	10.9
Delta	17,615	8.5
Maple Ridge	12,110	5.2
Langley	16,730	3.8
Other municipalities	10,910	10.6

Top 10 non-official home languages for 1990s' immigrants, Canada, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver census metropolitan areas, 2001

	Number	%
Canada		
Total 1990s' immigrants	1,830,680	
Total speakers of non-official languages	1,118,520	100.0
Chinese ¹	346,385	31.0
Punjabi	81,640	7.3
Arabic	57,080	5.1
Spanish	52,405	4.7
Tagalog (Pilipino)	50,485	4.5
Russian	50,070	4.5
Persian (Farsi)	46,700	4.2
Tamil	46,470	4.2
Urdu	38,035	3.4
Korean	36,890	3.3
Montréal CMA		
Total 1990s' immigrants	215,120	
Total speakers of non-official languages	113,475	100.0
Arabic	17,615	15.5
Chinese ¹	15,635	13.8
Spanish	14,470	12.8
Russian	7,345	6.5
Tamil	5,745	5.1
Romanian	5,425	4.8
Persian (Farsi)	4,880	4.3
Creoles	4,640	4.1
Punjabi	4,020	3.5
Vietnamese	3,635	3.2
Toronto CMA		
Total 1990s' immigrants	792,035	
Total speakers of non-official languages	503,850	100.0
Chinese ¹	145,590	28.9
Tamil	37,675	7.5
Punjabi	33,085	6.6
Russian	30,165	6.0
Urdu	27,010	5.4
Tagalog (Pilipino)	24,445	4.9
Persian (Farsi)	23,765	4.7
Spanish	19,200	3.8
Polish	16,525	3.3
Arabic	16,515	3.3
Vancouver CMA		
Total 1990s' immigrants	324,815	
Total speakers of non-official languages	237,340	100.0
Chinese ¹	136,920	57.7
Punjabi	23,275	9.8
Korean	13,275	5.6
Persian (Farsi)	10,535	4.4
Tagalog (Pilipino)	9,465	4.0
Spanish	5,205	2.2
Vietnamese	4,565	1.9
Russian	4,490	1.9
Hindi	3,910	1.6
Serbian	2,635	1.1

¹ Chinese includes the reporting of Chinese (not otherwise specified), Cantonese, Mandarin and Hakka.

1990s' immigrants by source country and proportion speaking a non-official language, Canada, 2001

	Number	Percentage speaking non-official language most often at home	Percentage with no knowledge of the official languages
Total 1990s' immigrants	1,830,680	61.1	9.4
Top 10 countries of birth			
China, People's Republic of	197,355	88.4	29.1
India	156,120	70.6	14.7
Philippines	122,015	46.8	1.1
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	118,385	87.9	7.7
Sri Lanka	62,590	73.4	7.3
Pakistan	57,990	67.7	6.2
Taiwan	53,750	86.8	12.7
United States	51,440	9.7	1.2
Iran	47,075	76.0	6.8
Poland	43,370	73.1	7.3
Other countries	920,590	50.9	6.4

Proportion of visible minorities, Canada, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver, 1981-2001

Census year	Total population	Visible minorities	
		Number	Percentage of total population
Canada			
1981	24,083,495	1,131,825	4.7
1986	25,021,915	1,577,715	6.3
1991	26,994,040	2,525,480	9.4
1996	28,528,125	3,197,480	11.2
2001	29,639,030	3,983,845	13.4
Montréal census metropolitan area			
1981	2,798,040	146,365	5.2
1986	2,887,855	204,740	7.1
1991	3,172,005	349,415	11.0
1996	3,287,645	401,425	12.2
2001	3,380,640	458,330	13.6
Toronto census metropolitan area			
1981	2,975,495	404,790	13.6
1986	3,399,680	586,500	17.3
1991	3,868,875	997,500	25.8
1996	4,232,905	1,338,095	31.6
2001	4,647,955	1,712,530	36.8
Vancouver census metropolitan area			
1981	1,250,610	173,300	13.9
1986	1,362,445	230,845	16.9
1991	1,584,195	379,480	24.0
1996	1,813,935	564,600	31.1
2001	1,967,480	725,655	36.9

Note: 1981 and 1986 data for the census metropolitan areas are not adjusted for 2001 Census boundaries.

Couples (married and common-law) by visible minority status, Canada, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver, 2001 and 1991

	2001		1991		Percentage change 1991-2001
	Number	Percentage of all couples	Number	Percentage of all couples	
Canada					
All couples	7,059,835	100.0	6,402,090	100.0	10.3
Total intermarried couples	217,490	3.1	167,515	2.6	29.8
Two different visible minority groups	27,950	0.4	16,995	0.3	64.5
One visible minority and one non-visible minority	189,540	2.7	150,520	2.3	25.9
Montréal census metropolitan area					
All couples	766,065	100.0	731,030	100.0	4.8
Total intermarried couples	24,565	3.2	22,080	3.0	11.3
Two different visible minority groups	2,215	0.3	1,645	0.2	34.7
One visible minority and one non-visible minority	22,350	2.9	20,435	2.8	9.4
Toronto census metropolitan area					
All couples	1,070,960	100.0	888,250	100.0	20.6
Total intermarried couples	63,205	5.9	45,395	5.1	39.2
Two different visible minority groups	13,805	1.3	8,445	1.0	63.5
One visible minority and one non-visible minority	49,400	4.6	36,950	4.2	33.7
Vancouver census metropolitan area					
All couples	453,395	100.0	366,400	100.0	23.7
Total intermarried couples	31,940	7.0	20,515	5.6	55.7
Two different visible minority groups	5,020	1.1	2,295	0.6	118.7
One visible minority and one non-visible minority	26,920	5.9	18,220	5.0	47.7

Top 10 ethnic origins¹, Canada, 2001 and 1996

	2001		1996		
	Number	%	Number	%	
Total population	29,639,030	100.0	28,528,125	100.0	
Canadian	11,682,680	39.4	8,806,275	30.9	
English	5,978,875	20.2	6,832,095	23.9	
French	4,668,410	15.8	5,597,845	19.6	
Scottish	4,157,215	14.0	4,260,840	14.9	
Irish	3,822,660	12.9	3,767,610	13.2	
German	2,742,765	9.3	2,757,140	9.7	
Italian	1,270,369	4.3	1,207,475	4.2	
Chinese	1,094,700	3.7	1,026,475	3.6	
Ukrainian	1,071,055	3.6	921,585	3.2	
North American Indian	1,000,890	3.4	Dutch (Netherlands)	916,215	3.2

¹ Table shows total responses. Because some respondents reported more than one ethnic origin, the sum is greater than the total population or 100%.

Respondents 15 years and over reporting Canadian or other ethnic origins by birthplace of parents, Canada, 2001

	Total	Both parents born inside Canada	Both parents born outside Canada	Father or mother born inside Canada
			%	
Population 15 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Percentage of people reporting Canadian	38.0	55.0	3.7	36.0
People reporting only Canadian	22.0	33.8	1.4	9.9
People reporting Canadian with other origins	15.9	21.2	2.2	26.1
Percentage of people reporting other ethnic origins	62.0	45.0	96.3	64.0
People reporting one origin (other than Canadian)	41.5	23.5	81.8	29.5
People reporting two or more origins (other than Canadian)	20.6	21.6	14.5	34.6

Proportion of foreign-born¹, Canada, provinces and territories, 1991, 1996 and 2001

	1991	1996	2001
		%	
Canada	16.1	17.4	18.4
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	3.3	3.3	3.1
Quebec	8.7	9.4	9.9
Ontario	23.7	25.6	26.8
Manitoba	12.8	12.4	12.1
Saskatchewan	5.9	5.4	5.0
Alberta	15.1	15.2	14.9
British Columbia	22.3	24.5	26.1
Yukon Territory	10.7	10.4	10.6
Northwest Territories	6.6	6.6	6.4
Nunavut	1.9	1.9	1.7

¹ Foreign-born: the population who are, or have ever been, landed immigrants to Canada.

Distribution of 1990s' immigrants compared with distribution of total population, Canada, provinces and territories, 2001

	1990s' immigrants	Total population in Canada	Ratio of 1990s' immigrants to total population ¹
	%	%	
Canada	100.0	100.0	
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.1	1.7	0.1
Prince Edward Island	0.0	0.5	0.1
Nova Scotia	0.6	3.0	0.2
New Brunswick	0.2	2.4	0.1
Quebec	13.4	24.0	0.6
Ontario	55.8	38.1	1.5
Manitoba	1.8	3.7	0.5
Saskatchewan	0.6	3.2	0.2
Alberta	7.1	9.9	0.7
British Columbia	20.2	13.1	1.5
Yukon Territory	0.0	0.1	0.4
Northwest Territories	0.0	0.1	0.3
Nunavut	0.0	0.1	0.1

¹ This ratio shows whether the proportion of 1990s' immigrants living in a given province or territory is higher than the proportion of the total population living in that province or territory. For example, if 5% of 1990s' immigrants live in a given province and the same proportion (5%) of the total population lives there, then the ratio will be 1.0.

Proportion of immigrants 10 years or less in Canada, for Canada, provinces and territories, 1991 and 2001

	1991		2001	
	Total population in 1991	1980s' immigrants	Total population in 2001	1990s' immigrants
		%		%
Canada	26,994,045	4.3	29,639,030	6.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	563,935	0.3	508,075	0.4
Prince Edward Island	128,100	0.6	133,385	0.6
Nova Scotia	890,950	0.9	897,565	1.1
New Brunswick	716,495	0.6	719,715	0.6
Quebec	6,810,300	2.6	7,125,575	3.4
Ontario	9,977,055	6.3	11,285,545	9.1
Manitoba	1,079,395	3.3	1,103,700	2.9
Saskatchewan	976,040	1.0	963,150	1.2
Alberta	2,519,180	4.2	2,941,150	4.4
British Columbia	3,247,505	5.6	3,868,870	9.6
Yukon Territory	27,655	1.8	28,520	2.7
Northwest Territories	36,240	1.7	37,100	2.1
Nunavut	21,195	0.4	26,665	0.4

Proportion of visible minorities, Canada, provinces and territories, 1991, 1996 and 2001

	1991	1996	2001
		%	
Canada	9.4	11.2	13.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.8	0.7	0.8
Prince Edward Island	1.0	1.1	0.9
Nova Scotia	3.4	3.5	3.8
New Brunswick	1.2	1.1	1.3
Quebec	5.6	6.2	7.0
Ontario	13.0	15.8	19.1
Manitoba	6.9	7.0	7.9
Saskatchewan	2.6	2.8	2.9
Alberta	9.4	10.1	11.2
British Columbia	14.2	17.9	21.6
Yukon Territory	2.7	3.3	3.6
Northwest Territories	3.5	3.8	4.2
Nunavut	0.9	0.6	0.8

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Halifax, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	7,505	100.0
Kuwait	740	9.9
China, People's Republic of	545	7.3
United States	490	6.5
United Kingdom	370	4.9
India	275	3.7
Lebanon	230	3.1
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	220	2.9
Saudi Arabia	210	2.8
Korea, South	210	2.8
United Arab Emirates	205	2.7

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Montréal, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	215,120	100.0
Haiti	14,200	6.6
China, People's Republic of	13,830	6.4
Algeria	12,570	5.8
France	12,555	5.8
Lebanon	10,495	4.9
Morocco	8,735	4.1
Romania	7,995	3.7
Philippines	7,505	3.5
India	7,395	3.4
Sri Lanka	7,005	3.3

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Hamilton, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	35,545	100.0
Yugoslavia	2,730	7.7
Poland	2,315	6.5
India	2,290	6.4
China, People's Republic of	1,910	5.4
Philippines	1,855	5.2
Iraq	1,835	5.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,580	4.4
Pakistan	1,405	4.0
United Kingdom	1,390	3.9
Croatia	1,320	3.7

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Kitchener, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	26,120	100.0
Yugoslavia	2,500	9.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,790	6.9
Romania	1,730	6.6
China, People's Republic of	1,675	6.4
India	1,665	6.4
Poland	1,110	4.2
Viet Nam	1,045	4.0
United Kingdom	920	3.5
United States	760	2.9
Croatia	745	2.9

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, London, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	19,475	100.0
Poland	1,655	8.5
China, People's Republic of	1,160	6.0
Yugoslavia	960	4.9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	955	4.9
Iraq	830	4.3
United States	760	3.9
Viet Nam	650	3.3
Iran	620	3.2
Lebanon	605	3.1
India	585	3.0

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Oshawa, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	6,905	100.0
Poland	660	9.6
United Kingdom	595	8.6
United States	445	6.4
Jamaica	400	5.8
China, People's Republic of	395	5.7
Trinidad and Tobago	370	5.4
Pakistan	335	4.9
India	315	4.6
Viet Nam	225	3.3
Romania	215	3.1

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Ottawa-Hull¹, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ²	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	70,515	100.0
China, People's Republic of	9,450	13.4
Lebanon	3,850	5.5
Somalia	3,830	5.4
India	2,780	3.9
Philippines	2,405	3.4
United States	1,995	2.8
Iran	1,955	2.8
Yugoslavia	1,925	2.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,780	2.5
Viet Nam	1,630	2.3

¹ Now known as Ottawa-Gatineau.

² Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, St. Catharines-Niagara, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	9,920	100.0
United States	1,180	11.9
Poland	690	7.0
United Kingdom	635	6.4
China, People's Republic of	495	5.0
Yugoslavia	480	4.8
Philippines	465	4.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	330	3.3
South Korea	290	2.9
Croatia	285	2.9
India	285	2.9

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Toronto, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	792,030	100.0
China, People's Republic of	85,345	10.8
India	81,845	10.3
Philippines	54,885	6.9
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	54,805	6.9
Sri Lanka	50,425	6.4
Pakistan	39,265	5.0
Jamaica	25,355	3.2
Iran	23,840	3.0
Poland	21,555	2.7
Guyana	20,800	2.6

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Windsor, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	24,305	100.0
Iraq	2,300	9.5
China, People's Republic of	2,065	8.5
India	1,800	7.4
United States	1,605	6.6
Lebanon	1,505	6.2
Romania	1,305	5.4
Yugoslavia	1,275	5.2
Pakistan	1,135	4.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	975	4.0
Poland	970	4.0

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Winnipeg, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	26,405	100.0
Philippines	7,225	27.4
India	1,980	7.5
China, People's Republic of	1,605	6.1
Viet Nam	1,000	3.8
Poland	965	3.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	855	3.2
United States	825	3.1
United Kingdom	795	3.0
Ukraine	655	2.5
El Salvador	610	2.3

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Regina, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	3,260	100.0
Philippines	340	10.4
China, People's Republic of	330	10.1
Viet Nam	320	9.8
United States	285	8.7
India	175	5.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	155	4.8
United Kingdom	140	4.3
Yugoslavia	135	4.1
South Africa, Republic of	115	3.5
El Salvador	105	3.2

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Saskatoon, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	5,115	100.0
China, People's Republic of	725	14.2
Philippines	390	7.6
United States	350	6.8
Yugoslavia	275	5.4
United Kingdom	250	4.9
Iraq	245	4.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	195	3.8
India	155	3.0
South Africa, Republic of	145	2.8
Ukraine	135	2.6

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Calgary, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	68,860	100.0
China, People's Republic of	7,190	10.4
Philippines	7,115	10.3
India	6,715	9.8
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	4,845	7.0
Viet Nam	3,015	4.4
United Kingdom	2,925	4.2
United States	2,525	3.7
Pakistan	2,445	3.6
South Korea	2,070	3.0
Poland	1,710	2.5

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Edmonton, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	44,910	100.0
Philippines	5,565	12.4
India	4,515	10.1
China, People's Republic of	4,495	10.0
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	2,720	6.1
Viet Nam	2,285	5.1
Poland	1,775	4.0
United Kingdom	1,690	3.8
United States	1,510	3.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	965	2.1
Lebanon	955	2.1

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Abbotsford, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	10,250	100.0
India	6,490	63.3
South Korea	460	4.5
United States	400	3.9
United Kingdom	285	2.8
Viet Nam	195	1.9
Philippines	175	1.7
China, People's Republic of	140	1.4
South Africa, Republic of	130	1.3
Germany	105	1.0
Poland	105	1.0
Russian Federation	105	1.0

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Vancouver, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	324,815	100.0
China, People's Republic of	58,495	18.0
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	48,915	15.1
Taiwan	38,125	11.7
India	30,445	9.4
Philippines	25,865	8.0
South Korea	14,840	4.6
Iran	12,205	3.8
Viet Nam	6,810	2.1
United States	6,225	1.9
United Kingdom	6,205	1.9

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Top 10 countries of birth of 1990s' immigrants, Victoria, 2001

	Immigrated 1991-2001 ¹	
		%
Total of all 1990s' immigrants	9,870	100.0
China, People's Republic of	940	9.5
United Kingdom	920	9.3
United States	875	8.9
Philippines	730	7.4
India	700	7.1
Taiwan	630	6.4
South Africa, Republic of	360	3.6
Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region	330	3.3
Germany	325	3.3
Japan	285	2.9

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Proportion of foreign-born¹, census metropolitan areas, 2001, 1996 and 1991

	2001	1996	1991
		%	
Canada	18.4	17.4	16.1
Toronto	43.7	41.9	38.0
Vancouver	37.5	34.9	30.1
Hamilton	23.6	23.6	23.5
Windsor	22.3	20.4	20.6
Kitchener	22.1	21.8	21.5
Abbotsford	21.8	20.3	19.8
Calgary	20.9	20.9	20.3
London	18.8	19.2	18.8
Victoria	18.8	19.3	19.5
Montréal	18.4	17.8	16.4
Edmonton	17.8	18.5	18.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	17.8	18.3	18.9
Ottawa-Hull ²	17.6	16.3	14.7
Ontario part	21.1	19.8	17.7
Quebec part	6.6	5.6	5.4
Winnipeg	16.5	16.9	17.4
Oshawa	15.7	16.5	17.2
Kingston	12.4	12.8	13.5
Thunder Bay	11.1	12.2	13.1
Saskatoon	7.6	7.6	8.2
Regina	7.4	8.0	8.4
Greater Sudbury	7.0	7.5	8.1
Halifax	6.9	7.0	6.4
Sherbrooke	4.6	4.3	3.8
Saint John	3.8	4.0	4.3
Québec	2.9	2.6	2.2
St. John's	2.9	2.9	2.8
Trois-Rivières	1.5	1.6	1.3
Chicoutimi-Jonquière ³	0.9	0.7	0.7

¹ Foreign-born: the population who are, or have ever been, landed immigrants to Canada.

² Now known as Ottawa-Gatineau.

³ Now known as Saguenay.

Proportion of visible minorities, census metropolitan areas, 2001, 1996 and 1991

	2001	1996	1991
		%	
Canada	13.4	11.2	9.4
Vancouver	36.9	31.1	24.0
Toronto	36.8	31.6	25.8
Abbotsford	17.8	12.9	10.6
Calgary	17.5	15.6	13.7
Edmonton	14.6	13.5	12.7
Ottawa-Hull ¹	14.1	11.7	10.2
Ontario part	17.3	14.5	12.3
Quebec part	4.3	3.1	3.7
Montréal	13.6	12.2	11.0
Windsor	12.9	9.8	8.9
Winnipeg	12.5	11.1	10.5
Kitchener	10.7	8.9	8.4
Hamilton	9.8	7.9	7.1
London	9.0	7.4	6.6
Victoria	8.9	7.6	7.1
Halifax	7.0	6.6	6.2
Oshawa	7.0	6.0	5.9
Saskatoon	5.6	5.2	4.7
Regina	5.2	5.4	5.1
Kingston	4.7	4.5	4.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	4.5	3.7	3.3
Saint John	2.6	2.1	2.3
Sherbrooke	2.6	2.1	2.3
Thunder Bay	2.2	2.1	2.1
Greater Sudbury	2.0	1.7	2.0
Québec	1.6	1.5	1.4
St. John's	1.4	1.4	1.4
Trois-Rivières	0.9	0.9	0.8
Chicoutimi-Jonquière ²	0.6	0.4	0.5

¹ Now known as Ottawa-Gatineau.

² Now known as Saguenay.

The 25 municipalities with 5,000+ population having the highest proportions of visible minorities, 2001

	Total population		Visible minorities	
	Number		Number	%
Municipality				
Richmond (B.C.)	163,395		96,385	59.0
Markham (Ont.)	207,940		115,480	55.5
Vancouver (B.C.)	539,630		264,495	49.0
Burnaby (B.C.)	191,385		93,065	48.6
Greater Vancouver A (B.C.)	7,810		3,400	43.5
Toronto (Ont.)	2,456,800		1,051,125	42.8
Richmond Hill (Ont.)	131,600		53,185	40.4
Mississauga (Ont.)	610,815		246,325	40.3
Brampton (Ont.)	324,390		130,275	40.2
Saint-Laurent (Que.)	76,605		29,225	38.2
Surrey (B.C.)	345,780		127,015	36.7
Coquitlam (B.C.)	111,425		38,190	34.3
Brossard (Que.)	64,655		17,880	27.7
Pickering (Ont.)	86,685		22,910	26.4
Dollard-des-Ormeaux (Que.)	47,850		12,430	26.0
Pierrefonds (Que.)	54,310		13,995	25.8
New Westminster (B.C.)	53,805		13,415	24.9
Ajax (Ont.)	73,520		17,875	24.3
Montréal-Nord (Que.)	82,260		19,325	23.5
Delta (B.C.)	96,365		22,505	23.4
Montréal (Que.)	1,019,735		231,760	22.7
North Vancouver (City) (B.C.)	43,930		9,950	22.6
Port Coquitlam (B.C.)	50,800		11,335	22.3
Saint-Léonard (Que.)	69,510		14,450	20.8
Port Moody (B.C.)	23,735		4,905	20.7

The 25 municipalities with 5,000+ population having the highest proportions of 1990s immigrants, 2001

	Total population		Immigrated between 1991 and 2001 ¹	
	Number		Number	%
Municipality				
Richmond (B.C.)	163,395		48,705	29.8
Greater Vancouver A (B.C.)	7,810		2,210	28.3
Burnaby (B.C.)	191,380		46,415	24.3
Markham (Ont.)	207,940		46,075	22.2
Toronto (Ont.)	2,456,805		516,635	21.0
Richmond Hill (Ont.)	131,595		26,325	20.0
Coquitlam (B.C.)	111,425		21,940	19.7
Vancouver (B.C.)	539,630		106,245	19.7
Saint-Laurent (Que.)	76,605		14,950	19.5
Mississauga (Ont.)	610,815		114,150	18.7
North Vancouver (City) (B.C.)	43,930		6,675	15.2
Surrey (B.C.)	345,780		47,035	13.6
Brampton (Ont.)	324,390		43,880	13.5
Port Moody (B.C.)	23,735		2,890	12.2
West Vancouver (B.C.)	40,860		4,850	11.9
Montréal (Que.)	1,019,735		118,275	11.6
New Westminster (B.C.)	53,805		6,135	11.4
North Vancouver (District Municipality) (B.C.)	81,675		9,175	11.2
Saint-Léonard (Que.)	69,510		7,670	11.0
Port Coquitlam (B.C.)	50,805		5,485	10.8
Windsor (Ont.)	205,865		22,185	10.8
Côte-Saint-Luc (Que.)	29,155		3,065	10.5
Ascot (Que.)	6,905		690	10.0
Brossard (Que.)	64,655		6,385	9.9
Bayham (Ont.)	6,375		610	9.6

¹ Includes data up to May 15, 2001.