



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 8, 1992

1991 CENSUS OF CANADA

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada's immigrants: their population share remains stable
- Ontario continues to attract the majority of immigrants
- The majority of immigrants were born in Europe, but the picture is changing
- More immigrants choose to obtain citizenship
- Non-permanent residents were counted for the first time

Immigration and Citizenship The Nation series

Immigration and Citizenship is now available. This publication provides data, from the 1991 Census, on citizenship, period of immigration, age at immigration, and the immigrant and non-immigrant populations by place of birth. Data on non-permanent residents are also included.

The data are shown for Canada, provinces and territories; three of the nine tables also present data for census metropolitan areas. All data are cross-classified by sex. One table provides a comparison of the 1986 and 1991 place of birth data for the immigrant population.

To obtain a copy of **Immigration and Citizenship** (93-316, \$40), see "How to Order Publications." For more information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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Statistics Canada conducted the 17th Census of Population since Confederation on June 4, 1991. Information from more than 27 million people in over 10 million households provides a new portrait of Canada and Canadians. Today's Daily describes where people were born – both inside and outside Canada. As well, information is included on other characteristics of Canada's immigrant population, such as when they arrived in Canada, where they lived, their age, citizenship status and place of birth.

In addition to information on the total immigrant population, Statistics Canada compiled data for the first time in 1991 on non-permanent residents of Canada. These are persons who held student or employment authorizations, Minister's permits or who were refugee claimants. Information on this segment of the population is also part of today's release.

Definitions

Immigrant Population: refers to persons who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who is not a Canadian citizen by birth, but who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by Canadian Immigration authorities.

Non-immigrant Population: refers to persons who are Canadian citizens by birth.

Non-permanent Residents: refers to persons who hold a student authorization, employment authorization, Minister's permit or who are refugee claimants.

Those born in Canada stay close to home

According to the 1991 Census, 85 per cent of persons born in Canada and still living here resided in their province or territory of birth. This level has remained virtually unchanged since the 1971 Census.

In 1991, about 90 per cent of Canadian residents born in Quebec or Ontario were still living in their province of birth. The Yukon Territory (46 per cent) and Saskatchewan (59 per cent) had the lowest proportions of persons born in a province or territory in which they still live.

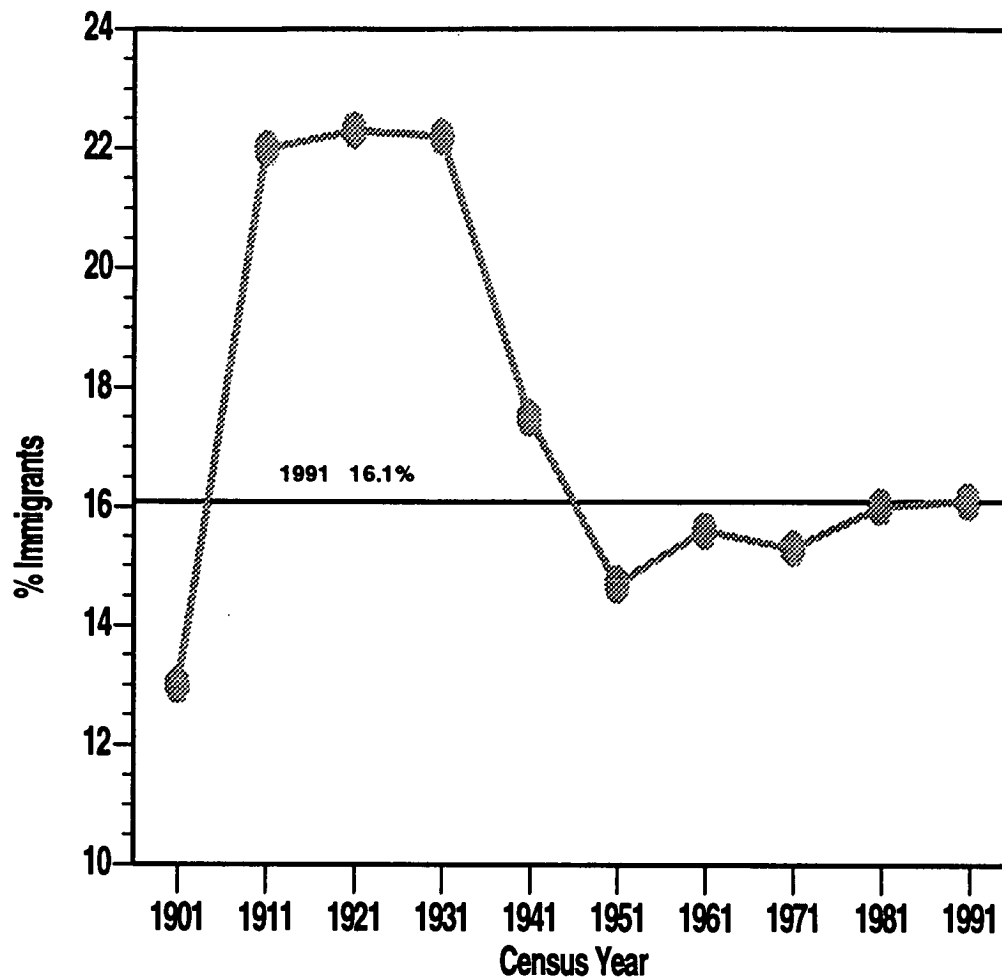
The proportion of Newfoundland-born still living in the province was 74 per cent in 1991. This is the same percentage as in 1986, but marks a sharp decline from 80 per cent in 1981 to 84 per cent in 1971.

Canada's Immigrants: their population share remains stable

According to the Census, the share of the population made up of immigrants has remained relatively stable during the past several decades. There has been, however, a substantial change over the years from where immigrants have come. Because immigrants tend to settle in certain regions, their influence is felt unevenly across the country. Overall, in 1991, 4.3 million immigrants were living in Canada. They represented 16.1 per cent of the total population, a slight increase from the 15.6 per cent recorded in the 1986 Census. Since the 1951 Census, immigrants have represented about the same proportion – 16 per cent – of the population.

The proportion of immigrants in the total population was highest in the first half of the century. In 1901, for example, 13 per cent of the population were immigrants. As a result of a large influx of people into the country in the early 1900s, the immigrant share of the population jumped to 22 per cent in 1911 and stayed at that level through 1931. During World War II, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics recorded a drop in the proportion of immigrants in the total population, to 17 per cent. The proportion of immigrants in the population has remained stable since then.

Immigrants as a Percentage of Total Population, Canada, 1901-1991



Ontario continues to attract the majority of immigrants

Over the years, immigrants have tended to settle in some regions of the country more than in others. The 1991 Census found that 94 per cent of all immigrants lived in just four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. Over half of all immigrants to Canada (55 per cent) had settled in Ontario.

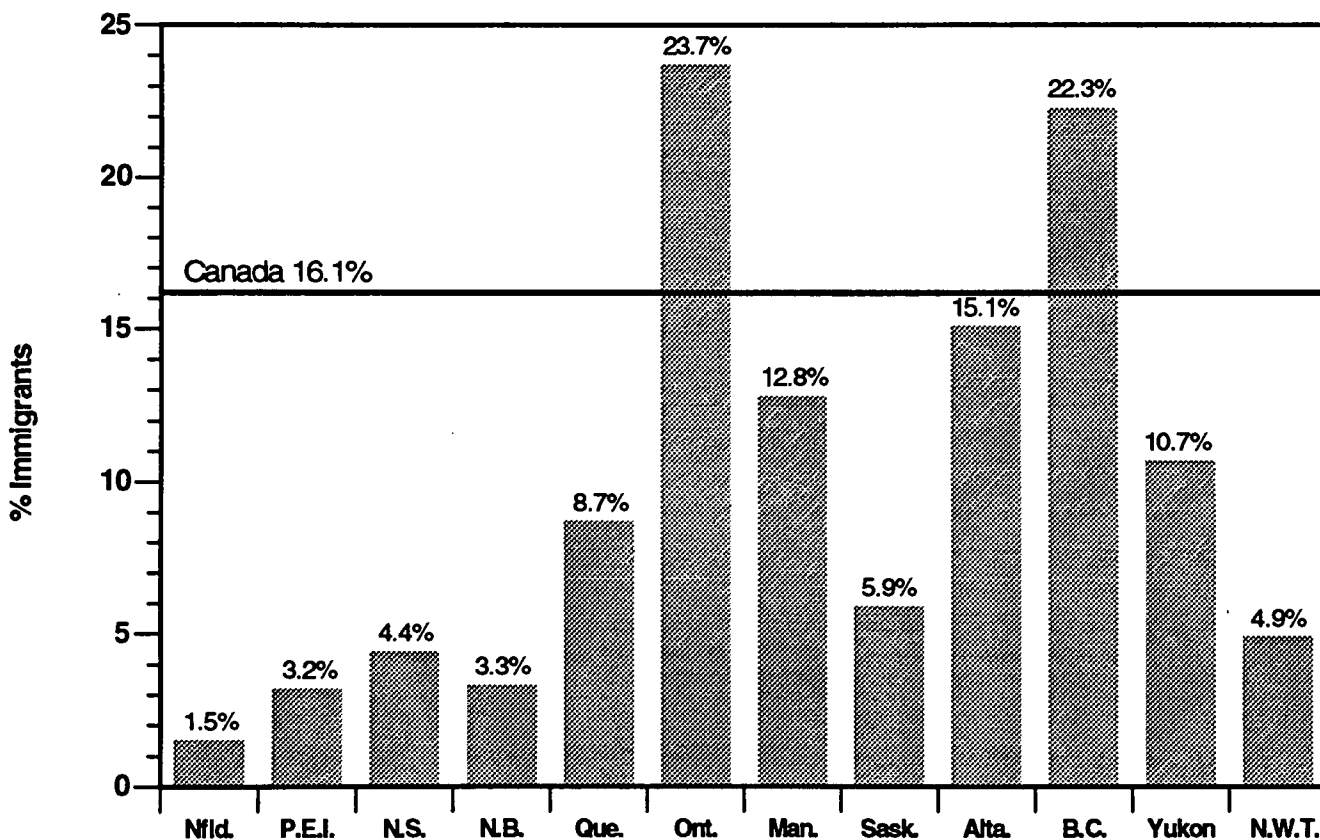
Immigrants represented almost 25 per cent of the provincial populations of Ontario and British Columbia, followed by 15 per cent in Alberta, 13 per cent in Manitoba and 11 per cent in the Yukon Territory. On the other hand, immigrants represented 9 per cent of the population in Quebec, 6 per cent in Saskatchewan and less than 5 per cent in the Northwest Territories and in each of the four Atlantic provinces.

Immigrants choose to settle in urban areas

Immigrants are more likely than the Canadian-born population to live in large urban centres. While fewer than one-third of the total population of Canada lived in the census metropolitan areas of Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver in 1991, more than half of Canada's immigrants lived in one of these three areas. In fact, 38 per cent or 1.5 million of the residents of the metropolitan area of Toronto were immigrants. In Vancouver, the proportion was 30 per cent while in Montreal, 17 per cent were immigrants.

The attraction of major urban centres for immigrants was most pronounced in Quebec: although 45 per cent of the total provincial population lived in Montreal, 88 per cent of the province's immigrant population lived there.

Immigrants as a Percentage of Provincial and Territorial Populations, 1991



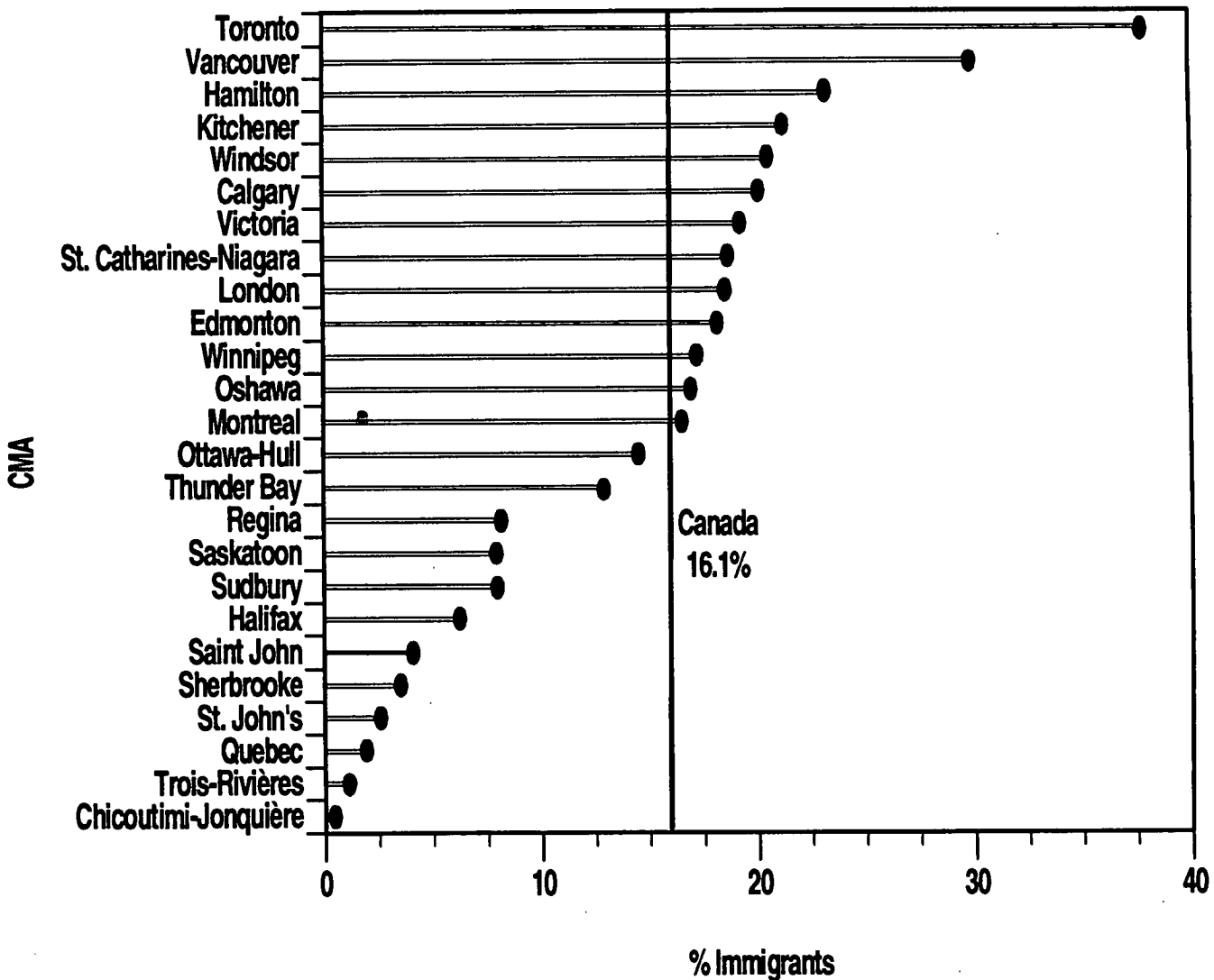
In British Columbia, 66 per cent of the immigrant population resided in Vancouver, compared with 49 per cent of the total provincial population. A similar pattern existed in Ontario, with 62 per cent of the immigrant population of that province living in the Toronto census metropolitan area compared with 39 per cent of the province's total population.

Over the years, major urban centres in southern Ontario and the Western provinces have also attracted large numbers of immigrants. In Ontario, immigrants constituted 24 per cent of the population in Hamilton, 22 per cent in Kitchener, 21 per cent in Windsor and 19 per cent in both London and

St. Catharines-Niagara. In western Canada (other than Vancouver), Calgary and Victoria had the highest proportion of immigrants at 20 per cent each, followed by Edmonton and Winnipeg (both at 18 per cent) and Regina and Saskatoon (both at 8 per cent).

On the other hand, immigrants generally made up smaller proportions of the populations of large urban areas in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. East of Montreal, only Halifax (at 7 per cent) had an immigrant population greater than 5 per cent. The next largest concentration occurred in Saint John and Sherbrooke (both with 4 per cent) and St. John's (3 per cent).

Immigrants as a Percentage of Census Metropolitan Areas, 1991



The 1970s mark halfway point in time of arrival

Nearly half of Canada's immigrant population have lived here for more than 20 years. The proportion of immigrants is split almost evenly between those who arrived before and after the 1970s. In 1991, 48 per cent arrived before 1971 while 24 per cent came between 1971 and 1980 and 28 per cent between 1981 and 1991.

The majority of immigrants were born in Europe...

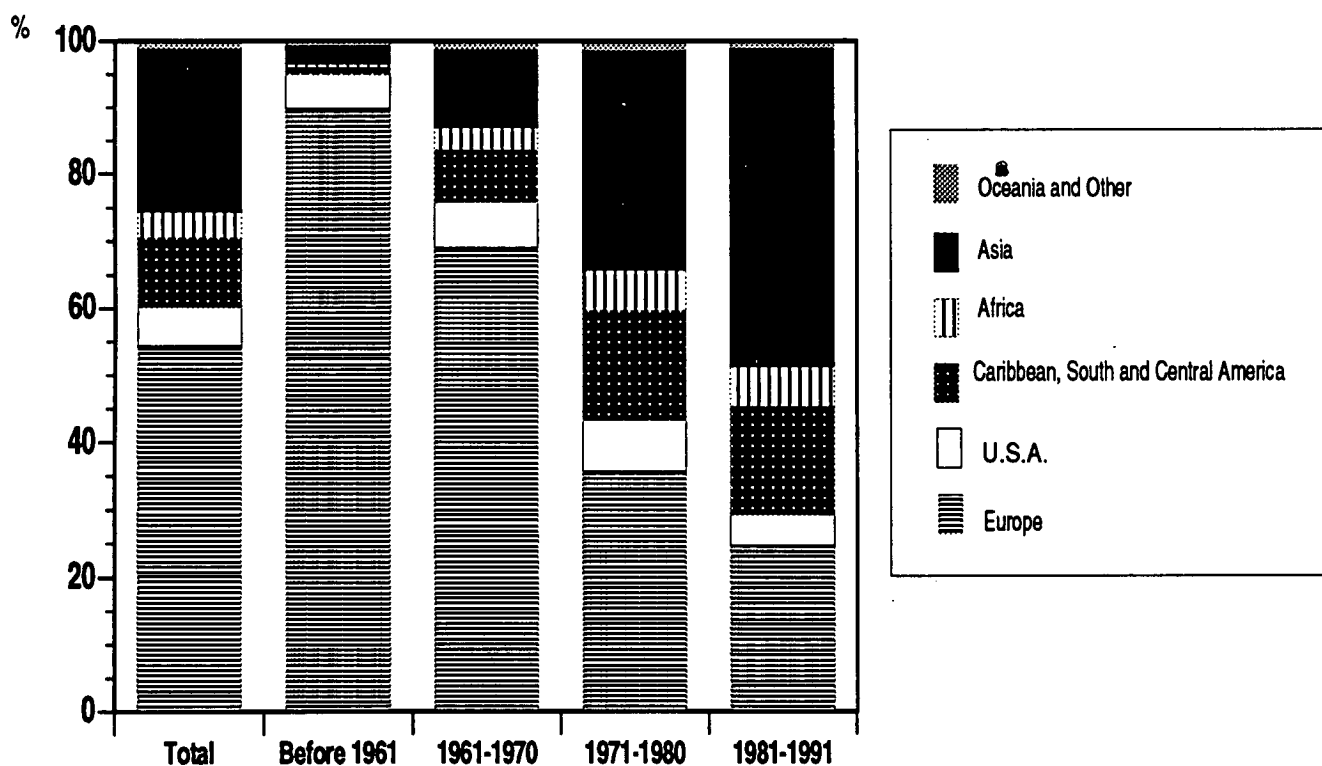
Europeans still made up the largest share of immigrants living in Canada in 1991, accounting for 54 per cent of all immigrants. This proportion declined from 62 per cent recorded in the 1986 Census and 67 per cent in the 1981 Census. Conversely, the percentage of the immigrant population born in Asia increased from 14 per cent in

1981 to 18 per cent in 1986 and to 25 per cent in 1991. Also in 1991, 6 per cent of all immigrants were born in the United States, 5 per cent in the Caribbean, 5 per cent in Central and South America, 4 per cent in Africa and 1 per cent in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands).

...but the picture is changing

While the European-born were still predominant in the total 1991 immigrant population, the proportion among immigrants who had arrived since 1961 has declined steadily. Immigrants born in Europe represented 90 per cent of those immigrants who arrived before 1961. However, this proportion fell to 69 per cent for the groups who immigrated to Canada between 1961 and 1970; to 36 per cent for those who came during the 1971 to 1980 period; and to one-quarter for those who arrived between 1981 and 1991.

Immigrant Population by Place of Birth and Period of Immigration, Canada, 1991



While the proportion of European-born has declined, the share accounted for by those born in Asia and other non-European areas has increased. Asian-born persons represented almost half of immigrants who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991. The European-born were the second largest group, accounting for 25 per cent of immigrants who arrived during the same period. An additional 10 per cent of recent immigrants were born in Central and South America, 6 per cent in the Caribbean, 6 per cent in Africa, 4 per cent in the United States and 1 per cent in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands).

Although the proportion of Asian immigrants has increased considerably among recent arrivals, Asian countries represented only three of the 10 most frequently reported places of birth for the total immigrant population. The five countries of birth for immigrants to Canada reported most often are still the United Kingdom, Italy, the United States, Poland and Germany. India is the sixth most frequently reported place of origin and is the birthplace of the greatest number of Asian immigrants. Portugal, People's Democratic Republic of China, Hong Kong and the Netherlands round out the top ten.

A higher proportion of older population among immigrants

The age composition of the immigrant population differs markedly from that of non-immigrants. The

immigrant population is an older one because the majority of people who immigrate to Canada do so when they are young adults. Of the total immigrant population, 62 per cent of immigrants were 20 years-or-older when they came to Canada compared with 11 per cent aged 4-and-under and 27 per cent aged 5-to-19. The immigrant population is also older because children born to immigrant parents after their arrival in Canada are not counted as part of the immigrant population.

The immigrant population had both a higher proportion of older persons and a lower proportion of children than non-immigrants. In 1991, 5 per cent of immigrants, compared with 24 per cent of non-immigrants, were younger than 15. The situation was reversed at the other end of the scale with 18 per cent of immigrants aged 65-or-over, and only 10 per cent of non-immigrants in this age group. In fact, one out of every four persons aged 65-or-over in 1991 was an immigrant. The proportion of immigrants among seniors has decreased slightly since the 1981 Census, when three out of every 10 persons aged 65-and-over were immigrants.

In contrast, immigrants represented a smaller proportion of all persons younger than 15. In Canada, 4 per cent of the population younger than 15 were immigrants. Immigrant children younger than 15 represented 6 per cent of Ontario children and 5 per cent of children in British Columbia.

Distribution of Non-immigrants and Immigrants by Age Groups, Canada, 1991

Age Group	Non-immigrants		Immigrants	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	22,427,745	100.0	4,342,885	100.0
0-14	5,427,645	24.2	230,825	5.3
15-24	3,380,580	15.1	402,780	9.3
25-44	7,489,570	33.4	1,590,545	36.6
45-64	3,973,650	17.7	1,352,035	31.1
65-and-over	2,156,295	9.6	766,705	17.7

94 per cent of people living in Canada are Canadian citizens

In 1991, 94 per cent of the total population were Canadian citizens. The majority obtained their citizenship by birth while 12 per cent were naturalized citizens. Those without Canadian citizenship represented 6 per cent of the population in 1991. These persons were landed immigrants who were either not eligible to apply for citizenship, had chosen not to do so, or were non-permanent residents.

The Atlantic provinces had the highest proportion of Canadian citizens at 99 per cent. The lowest proportions of people with Canadian citizenship were recorded in Ontario (91 per cent) and British Columbia (93 per cent).

About 2 per cent of the total population had dual or multiple citizenship. The majority of these (57 per cent) were Canadian citizens by naturalization who retained citizenship of the country of their birth.

More immigrants choose to obtain citizenship

Among the immigrant population, 81 per cent of immigrants who were eligible to become Canadian citizens had done so by 1991. This proportion had increased from 79 per cent in 1986 and 75 per cent in 1981. Immigrants must reside in Canada for a minimum of three years before they are eligible to apply for Canadian citizenship.

Non-permanent residents counted for the first time

In addition to the total number of immigrants, the 1991 Census counted 223,410 non-permanent residents – that is, persons who held student or

employment authorizations, Minister's permits or who were refugee claimants. This number represented less than 1 per cent of the total population enumerated in the census. (For more detail on the enumeration of the non-permanent resident population, refer to the box on page 10 of today's Daily.)

Non-permanent residents choose Ontario

Over half (56 per cent) of all non-permanent residents enumerated in the Census lived in Ontario. Quebec had the next largest proportion (20 per cent), followed by British Columbia (13 per cent) and Alberta (6 per cent). The remaining 5 per cent lived in the other provinces and territories.

Nearly 72 per cent of non-permanent residents lived in the three largest census metropolitan areas (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver). Toronto had the largest concentration of non-permanent residents of any metropolitan area. In 1991, 44 per cent of all non-permanent residents in Canada lived in Toronto, 18 per cent in Montreal and 10 per cent in Vancouver.

As a result, non-permanent residents represented a notable proportion of the population of these cities. Although they accounted for .8 per cent of Canada's total population, the 1991 Census showed that the proportion of non-permanent residents was 2.5 per cent in Toronto, 1.3 per cent in Montreal and 1.4 per cent in Vancouver.

Outside Canada's three largest cities, the distribution of non-permanent residents was diffuse. In 1991, 3 per cent of all non-permanent residents lived in each of Ottawa-Hull and Edmonton, 2 per cent in each of Calgary and Hamilton and about 1 per cent in each of Kitchener, Winnipeg, London, Windsor and St. Catharines-Niagara.

Non-permanent Residents, Canada, Census Metropolitan Areas, 1991

Census Metropolitan Area	Total Population	Non-permanent Residents	% of Total Population
Canada	26,994,045	223,410	0.8
Toronto	3,863,110	98,105	2.5
Vancouver	1,584,120	22,345	1.4
Montreal	3,091,115	40,050	1.3
Windsor	259,290	2,220	0.9
Hamilton	593,805	4,500	0.8
Kitchener	353,110	2,680	0.8
Ottawa-Hull	912,095	7,285	0.8
Calgary	748,215	5,380	0.7
Edmonton	832,155	5,895	0.7
London	376,725	2,215	0.6
Saskatoon	207,825	1,200	0.6
Winnipeg	645,610	3,230	0.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	359,990	1,700	0.5
Victoria	283,630	1,350	0.5
Oshawa	238,030	875	0.4
Sherbrooke	136,710	475	0.3
St. John's	169,810	580	0.3
Halifax	317,630	1,060	0.3
Regina	189,445	615	0.3
Quebec	637,755	1,200	0.2
Thunder Bay	122,860	240	0.2
Sudbury	156,125	210	0.1
Saint John	123,605	160	0.1
Trois-Rivières	134,890	135	0.1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	159,600	105	0.1

The Asian-born make up largest group of non-permanent residents

Forty-four per cent of enumerated non-permanent residents were born in Asia, followed by 19 per cent born in Europe, 11 per cent in Central and South America, 9 per cent in Africa, 8 per cent in the United States, 7 per cent in the Caribbean, and 2 per cent in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands).

The major countries of birth of non-permanent residents differed from those of recent immigrants. For non-permanent residents, the most frequently reported birthplace was the United States, followed by the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong and the People's Democratic Republic of China. In contrast, Hong Kong was the major country of birth of landed immigrants who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991, followed by Poland, the People's Democratic Republic of China, India and the United Kingdom. About 30 per cent of all non-permanent residents and recent immigrants came from the top five countries.

Data Comparability

Users of census data should take into account factors which could affect the comparability of 1991 Census data with data from previous censuses:

Changes in the Completeness of Enumeration: No national census can obtain a complete enumeration of the population. Variations in the completeness of enumeration can occur from one census to the next. Estimates of the completeness of the 1991 Census were available in November 1992.

Non-permanent Residents: Because the 1991 Census counted both permanent and non-permanent residents of Canada, the inclusion of this population may affect the comparability of data from previous Censuses. This is particularly true for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, where there is a concentration of non-permanent residents. Although every attempt was made to enumerate non-permanent residents, the

completeness of enumeration of this population was below that achieved for permanent residents. Factors such as language difficulty and a reluctance to complete a government form or failure to understand the need to participate may have affected the enumeration of non-permanent residents and resulted in undercounting. Non-permanent residents' actual share of the total population was probably just over 1%.

Incompletely Enumerated Indian Reserves: Some Indian reserves and Indian settlements (a total of 78) were incompletely enumerated during the 1991 Census. Data for 1991 are therefore not available for those incompletely enumerated reserves and settlements. Because of the missing data, users are cautioned that for the affected geographic areas, comparisons (e.g. percentage change) between 1986 and 1991 are not exact. For larger geographic areas (Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas) the impact of the missing data is quite small.

Upcoming Release Dates

Information on

January 12, 1993	Language data, including home language, knowledge of official and non-official languages
February 2, 1993	Ethnic origin and dwellings
March 2, 1993	Labour force activity, occupation, industry, educational attainment and school attendance
March 23, 1993	Fertility, mobility and migration
April 13, 1993	Income
April 27, 1993	Religion, education (major fields of study), place of work, characteristics of Canadian households, and social and economic characteristics of families
To be announced	Aboriginal data by age and sex

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Statistics Canada has started consultations on 1996 Census content and post-censal topics. For information write: 1996 Census Content Determination Project, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

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