

Today, the ancestral roots of the population of Canada come from around the world. The 2006 Census identified more than 200 ethnic origins in Canada. One in three—10.1 million people—reported ‘Canadian’ as their origin either alone or in conjunction with other origins. After Canadian, the origins that they most often reported were English, French, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, North American Indian, Ukrainian and Dutch.

Visible minorities growing

Canada’s visible minority population is growing at a much faster rate than its total population: 27% growth from 2001 and 2006 versus 5% in the general population. This is largely due to more immigration from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the Middle East. In 2006, about 70% of the visible minority population was born outside Canada.

In 2008, Canada accepted 247,200 immigrants, representing a rate of 8 newcomers per 1,000 people. This rate has been relatively constant since the 1990s.

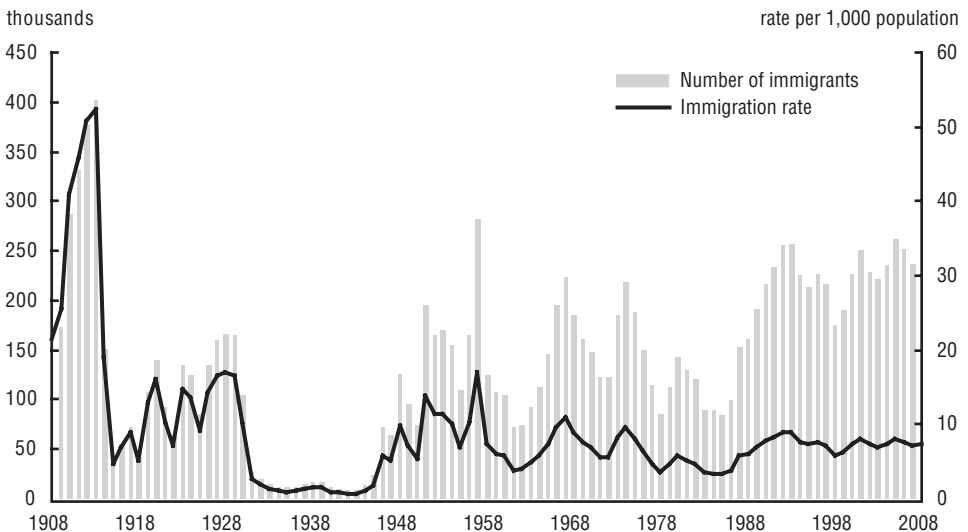
From 2001 to 2006, almost 60% of newcomers to Canada came from Asia (including the Middle East). This contrasts with 35 years earlier, when Asians accounted for 12% of newcomers. Following the Second World War, most immigrants came from European countries.

The proportion of immigrants from African countries more than tripled from 3% in the late 1960s to 11% in the early 2000s. The proportion of immigrants from the United States followed an opposite trend, dropping from 11% to 3%.

Most immigrants settle in Toronto, Montréal or Vancouver. Social networks and links with family and friends influence immigrants to choose a particular location.

Wherever they settle, immigrants are about as likely as Canadian-born citizens

Chart 13.1
Immigrants to Canada



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-209-X and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

to feel safe. In 2004, 93% of foreign-born or immigrant populations reported that they were satisfied with their personal safety, compared with 95% of the Canadian-born population.

Recently-arrived immigrants also may be more likely to move about within Canada to respond to job opportunities. For example, immigrants in Canada for five years or less have noticeably higher migration rates to booming Alberta than non-immigrants. Immigrants who have been in Canada for 10 to 15 years are less likely to move to Alberta.

As immigrants integrate into the labour market here, many initially face difficulties finding jobs. For example, university-educated immigrants aged 25 to 54 who arrived in Canada within the previous five years were less likely to be employed in 2007 than their Canadian-born counterparts. This was true regardless of the country where they obtained their degree.

Table 13.a
Immigrant distribution, selected census metropolitan areas, 2006

	Total population	Total immigrant population ¹	Recent immigrants ²
	%		
Montréal	11.5	12.0	14.9
Toronto	16.2	37.5	40.4
Vancouver	6.7	13.4	13.7
Other CMAs	65.6	37.1	31.0

1. Defined in the 2006 Census as people who are, or have been, landed immigrants in Canada.

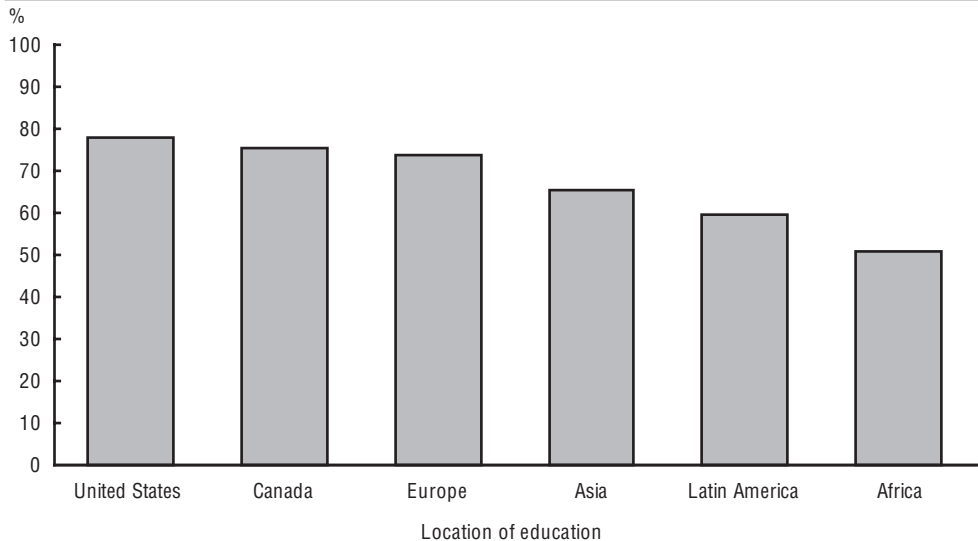
2. Immigrants who came to Canada from January 1, 2001 to May 16, 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Those educated in Western countries generally had higher employment rates than those educated elsewhere.

However, the gap in rates between degree-holding immigrants and their Canadian born counterparts narrows the longer an immigrant have been in Canada.

Chart 13.2
Employment rate for university-educated immigrants, 2007



Note: Immigrants aged 25 to 54 who landed in Canada from 2002 to 2007.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 71-606-X.

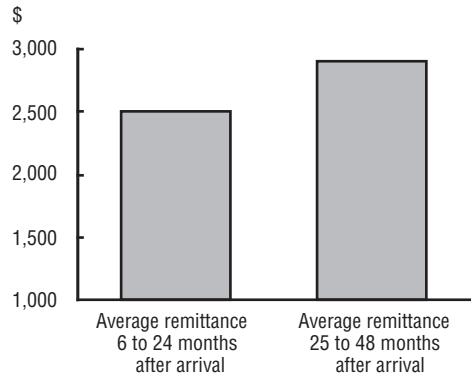
Sending money back home

Canadians send as much as \$2 billion out of the country each year to friends and family in foreign lands.

The contribution can be important. In some developing countries, including Haiti, Lesotho and Jordan, worldwide remittances account for up to 30% of their GDP. In Jamaica, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic, these money transfers account for as much as 20% of their economies.

Roughly 4 in 10 immigrants who arrived in Canada during 2000/2001 sent money to support family and friends abroad at least once during their first four years here. New arrivals from Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and Guyana are more likely than those from any other group to send money back home. The proportion is highest among immigrants from the

Chart 13.3
Remittances by recent immigrants



Note: Immigrants from the 2000/2001 landing cohort.
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 75-001-X.

Philippines and Haiti; it is lowest among those from France, the United Kingdom and South Korea.

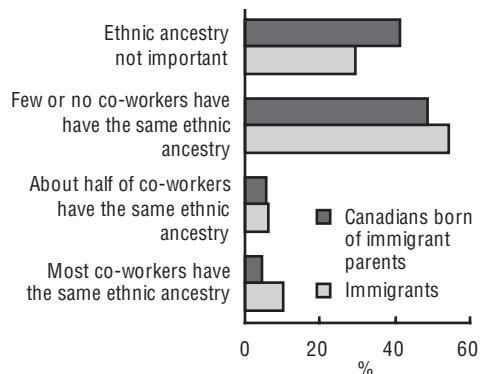
Familiar faces in the workplace

For a small proportion of immigrants, a job in Canada involves working alongside fellow immigrants from their homeland.

In Canada's eight largest cities, 10% of non-British and non-French immigrants work where most co-workers share their ethnic origin. The level rises to 20% among Chinese immigrants and to 18% among Portuguese immigrants. Immigrant men who work in ethnically homogeneous settings earn on average 33% less than those in more diverse workplaces. About two-thirds of this earnings gap is associated with differences in workers' education and official language proficiency as well as occupation and industry.

Immigrant workers in ethnically homogeneous settings are less likely than other immigrant workers to report low satisfaction with life. Among Canadian-

Chart 13.4
Co-ethnic concentration in the workplace, by immigration status



Note: Workers aged 25 to 64 in Canada's eight largest metropolitan areas.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 11F0019M.

born workers, sharing ethnic origins is not consistently associated with earnings or life satisfaction.

Table 13.1 Immigrant population, by province and territory, 1991 to 2006

	1991	1996	2001	2006
	% of total population			
Canada	16.1	17.4	18.4	19.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
Prince Edward Island	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.6
Nova Scotia	4.4	4.7	4.6	5.0
New Brunswick	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.7
Quebec	8.7	9.4	9.9	11.5
Ontario	23.7	25.6	26.8	28.3
Manitoba	12.8	12.4	12.1	13.3
Saskatchewan	5.9	5.4	5.0	5.0
Alberta	15.1	15.2	14.9	16.2
British Columbia	22.3	24.5	26.1	27.5
Yukon	10.7	10.4	10.6	10.0
Northwest Territories	4.9	4.8	6.4	6.9
Nunavut ¹	1.7	1.6

1. Nunavut became a territory in 1999.

Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1991 to 2006.

Table 13.2 Immigrant population, by place of birth, 1991 to 2006

	1991	1996	2001	2006
	number			
Immigrant population	4,342,890	4,971,070	5,448,480	6,186,950
United States	249,075	244,695	237,920	250,535
Central and South America	219,385	273,820	304,650	381,165
Caribbean and Bermuda	232,520	279,405	294,050	317,765
Europe	2,360,425	2,332,060	2,287,550	2,278,345
United Kingdom	717,750	655,540	605,995	579,625
Other Northern and Western Europe	514,925	514,310	494,820	489,540
Eastern Europe	420,460	447,830	471,365	511,095
Southern Europe	707,285	714,380	715,370	698,080
Africa	166,175	229,300	282,600	374,565
Asia	1,069,050	1,562,770	1,989,180	2,525,160
West Central Asia and the Middle East	151,075	210,850	285,580	370,515
Eastern Asia	377,215	589,420	730,600	874,370
Southeast Asia	311,970	408,985	469,110	560,995
Southern Asia	228,795	353,515	503,890	719,275
Oceania and other ¹	46,265	49,025	52,525	59,410

1. 'Other' includes Greenland, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the category 'Other country,' as well as immigrants born in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1991 to 2006.

Table 13.3 Immigrant population, by census metropolitan area, 1996 to 2006

	1996	2001	2006
	%		
Canada	17.4	18.4	19.8
St. John's	2.9	2.9	2.9
Halifax	7.0	6.9	7.4
Moncton ¹	3.2	2.9	3.4
Saint John	4.0	3.8	4.2
Saguenay (formerly Chicoutimi–Jonquière)	0.7	0.9	1.2
Québec	2.6	2.9	3.7
Sherbrooke	4.0	4.3	5.6
Trois-Rivières	1.6	1.5	2.2
Montréal	17.7	18.3	20.6
Ottawa–Gatineau (formerly Ottawa–Hull)	16.2	17.5	18.1
Kingston ²	12.8	12.4	12.5
Peterborough ¹	9.3	8.8	9.4
Oshawa	16.5	15.7	16.4
Toronto	41.9	43.7	45.7
Hamilton	23.6	23.6	24.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	18.3	17.8	18.3
Kitchener	21.8	22.1	23.1
Brantford ¹	14.1	13.1	13.0
Guelph ¹	20.4	19.7	20.4
London	19.2	18.8	19.3
Windsor	20.4	22.3	23.3
Barrie ¹	11.5	11.6	12.8
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	7.5	7.0	6.7
Thunder Bay	12.2	11.1	10.4
Winnipeg	16.8	16.5	17.7
Regina	8.0	7.4	7.7
Saskatoon	7.6	7.6	7.7
Calgary	20.9	20.9	23.6
Edmonton	18.5	17.8	18.5
Kelowna ¹	13.8	13.9	14.8
Abbotsford–Mission ²	20.3	21.8	23.7
Vancouver	34.9	37.5	39.6
Victoria	19.3	18.8	19.1

Note: Census metropolitan areas are based on the 2006 Census geography.

1. Became a census metropolitan area in 2006.

2. Became a census metropolitan area in 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1996 to 2006.

Table 13.4 Immigrant population, by place of birth and period of immigration, 2006

	Total immigrant population	Period of immigration		
		Before 1991	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2006
		number		
Immigrant population	6,186,950	3,408,415	1,668,550	1,109,980
United States	250,535	168,840	42,925	38,770
Central America	130,460	62,100	45,080	23,275
Caribbean and Bermuda	317,765	200,735	82,045	34,985
South America	250,710	127,730	61,645	61,330
Europe	2,278,345	1,777,195	322,630	178,525
Western Europe	424,640	346,275	45,945	32,425
Eastern Europe	511,095	270,650	147,875	92,565
Southern Europe	698,085	586,540	85,950	25,590
Italy	296,850	289,815	4,760	2,270
Other Southern Europe	401,235	296,725	81,190	23,315
Northern Europe	644,530	573,720	42,865	27,940
United Kingdom	579,625	515,135	38,830	25,660
Other Northern Europe	64,900	58,585	4,030	2,285
Africa	374,565	136,235	121,115	117,215
Western Africa	48,640	10,070	18,645	19,930
Eastern Africa	129,925	59,150	39,960	30,810
Northern Africa	134,505	43,875	41,785	48,845
Central Africa	22,410	3,640	7,935	10,830
Southern Africa	39,090	19,500	12,790	6,795
Asia and the Middle East	2,525,160	898,750	979,185	647,225
West Central Asia and the Middle East	370,520	119,050	144,595	106,870
Eastern Asia	874,365	293,560	365,520	215,280
China, People's Republic of	466,945	133,905	177,925	155,105
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	215,430	107,925	100,075	7,430
Other Eastern Asia	191,995	51,725	87,520	52,750
Southeast Asia	560,995	280,415	180,355	100,230
Philippines	303,190	107,760	117,550	77,880
Other Southeast Asia	257,800	172,650	62,805	22,345
Southern Asia	719,280	205,720	288,715	224,845
India	443,690	156,830	157,715	129,140
Other Southern Asia	275,590	48,895	131,000	95,700
Oceania and other ¹	59,410	36,825	13,925	8,655

1. 'Other' includes Greenland, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the category 'Other country,' as well as immigrants born in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 13.5 Population, by selected ethnic origins, 2006

	Total responses	Single responses ¹	Multiple responses ²
		number	
Total population	31,241,030	18,319,580	12,921,445
Canadian	10,066,290	5,748,725	4,317,570
English	6,570,015	1,367,125	5,202,890
French	4,941,210	1,230,535	3,710,675
Scottish	4,719,850	568,515	4,151,340
Irish	4,354,155	491,030	3,863,125
German	3,179,425	670,640	2,508,785
Italian	1,445,335	741,045	704,285
Chinese	1,346,510	1,135,365	211,145
North American Indian	1,253,615	512,150	741,470
Ukrainian	1,209,085	300,590	908,495
Dutch (Netherlands)	1,035,965	303,400	732,560
Polish	984,565	269,375	715,190
East Indian	962,665	780,175	182,495
Russian	500,600	98,245	402,355
Welsh	440,965	27,115	413,855
Filipino	436,190	321,390	114,800
Norwegian	432,515	44,790	387,725
Portuguese	410,850	262,230	148,625
Métis	409,065	77,295	331,770
British Isles, not included elsewhere	403,915	94,145	309,770
Swedish	334,765	28,445	306,325
Spanish	325,730	67,475	258,255
American	316,350	28,785	287,565
Hungarian (Magyar)	315,510	88,685	226,820
Jewish	315,120	134,045	181,070
Greek	242,685	145,250	97,435
Jamaican	231,110	134,320	96,785
Danish	200,035	33,770	166,265
Austrian	194,255	27,060	167,195

1. The respondent reported having only one ethnic origin.

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

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 13.6 Visible minority population, by province and territory, 2006

	Total visible minority population	South Asian	Chinese	Black	Filipino
	number				
Canada	5,068,095	1,262,865	1,216,565	783,795	410,700
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,720	1,590	1,325	900	305
Prince Edward Island	1,825	135	255	645	30
Nova Scotia	37,685	3,810	4,300	19,225	700
New Brunswick	13,345	1,960	2,445	4,455	530
Quebec	654,350	72,850	79,825	188,070	24,200
Ontario	2,745,205	794,170	576,980	473,765	203,220
Manitoba	109,100	16,565	13,705	15,660	37,785
Saskatchewan	33,895	5,130	9,505	5,090	3,770
Alberta	454,200	103,885	120,270	47,075	51,090
British Columbia	1,008,855	262,290	407,225	28,315	88,075
Yukon	1,220	195	320	125	210
Northwest Territories	2,265	210	315	375	690
Nunavut	420	85	75	100	80

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Latin American	Arab	Southeast Asian	West Asian	Korean	Japanese	Visible minority, not included elsewhere	Multiple visible minority
number							
304,245	265,550	239,935	156,695	141,890	81,300	71,420	133,120
485	545	120	115	60	140	75	60
215	265	30	30	70	65	65	25
950	4,505	815	780	800	505	255	1,030
715	840	440	550	620	165	155	460
89,510	109,020	50,460	16,115	5,310	3,540	4,155	11,310
147,135	111,405	110,045	96,615	69,540	28,080	56,845	77,405
6,275	2,320	5,670	1,960	2,190	2,010	1,690	3,265
2,520	1,710	2,555	1,020	735	645	405	810
27,265	26,180	28,605	9,655	12,045	11,030	3,850	13,250
28,960	8,635	40,690	29,810	50,490	35,060	3,880	25,415
100	20	145	0	10	40	10	35
85	90	355	40	15	15	30	40
20	15	10	0	10	10	10	15

Table 13.7 Visible minority population, by census metropolitan area, 2006

	Total population	Visible minority population	South Asian	Chinese	Black	Filipino
	number					
St. John's	179,270	3,460	890	990	620	155
Halifax	369,455	27,645	2,900	3,100	13,270	530
Moncton	124,055	2,425	350	295	1,035	100
Saint John	120,875	3,805	485	975	1,250	205
Saguenay	149,600	1,280	45	295	330	50
Québec	704,185	16,355	535	1,855	5,080	120
Sherbrooke	183,635	7,000	340	590	1,830	35
Trois-Rivières	138,555	2,270	50	210	625	15
Montréal	3,588,520	590,375	70,620	72,015	169,060	23,510
Ottawa-Gatineau	1,117,120	179,295	27,130	32,445	45,060	7,330
Kingston	148,475	8,600	1,785	2,470	1,165	485
Peterborough	115,140	3,095	665	730	575	110
Oshawa	328,070	33,700	6,195	3,690	12,605	2,155
Toronto	5,072,075	2,174,065	684,070	486,325	352,220	171,985
Hamilton	683,450	84,295	19,970	11,660	16,480	4,880
St. Catharines-Niagara	385,035	25,470	3,595	3,600	5,030	2,130
Kitchener	446,495	61,455	16,240	9,150	9,450	1,850
Brantford	122,830	6,715	1,785	695	1,700	655
Guelph	126,085	16,025	3,875	3,110	1,600	1,965
London	452,575	50,300	6,415	6,545	8,255	1,990
Windsor	320,730	51,200	10,265	7,825	9,490	3,145
Barrie	175,335	10,130	1,900	1,180	2,310	875
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	156,400	3,280	580	620	1,100	150
Thunder Bay	121,050	3,275	390	925	450	250
Winnipeg	686,040	102,940	15,290	12,810	14,470	36,935
Regina	192,435	12,605	1,975	3,335	2,170	1,230
Saskatoon	230,850	14,870	2,230	4,245	1,900	1,920
Calgary	1,070,295	237,890	57,700	66,375	21,060	25,565
Edmonton	1,024,825	175,295	40,200	47,195	20,380	19,630
Kelowna	160,560	8,320	2,345	1,470	660	410
Abbotsford-Mission	156,640	35,715	25,580	2,245	930	730
Vancouver	2,097,965	875,295	207,160	381,535	20,670	78,890
Victoria	325,060	33,870	7,210	12,330	2,360	2,760

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Latin American	Arab	Southeast Asian	West Asian	Korean	Japanese	Visible minority, not included elsewhere	Multiple visible minority
number							
320	190	55	65	45	65	40	25
690	3,840	655	670	620	410	180	780
95	165	65	70	65	10	10	175
210	125	60	270	120	10	30	60
280	195	55	0	15	0	10	10
3,150	2,800	1,615	405	165	170	225	235
2,060	940	410	505	60	30	20	165
540	535	225	0	10	0	15	35
75,400	98,885	44,970	14,520	4,665	2,990	3,505	10,245
10,630	28,195	11,670	6,490	2,280	1,800	1,720	4,540
745	370	330	280	325	255	170	215
255	80	180	105	260	70	40	35
1,665	1,135	670	1,195	540	795	1,330	1,705
99,290	53,430	70,215	75,470	55,270	19,010	46,705	60,070
6,760	6,500	6,805	3,910	2,255	1,415	1,345	2,315
4,205	1,480	2,090	615	930	735	235	820
6,805	3,175	6,150	2,720	1,700	625	1,825	1,755
390	240	580	30	250	95	75	210
1,070	510	1,600	1,065	190	170	230	635
7,920	7,800	4,050	2,235	2,125	565	790	1,600
2,905	9,975	2,945	1,830	605	150	995	1,060
1,165	300	530	310	410	350	310	490
180	115	145	55	70	65	60	145
170	50	370	30	30	380	30	190
5,480	2,125	5,340	1,895	2,080	1,840	1,595	3,080
955	475	1,260	220	330	180	120	335
1,050	940	1,010	665	110	335	115	345
13,410	11,660	15,750	6,010	6,835	4,680	1,985	6,860
9,210	11,940	11,025	2,925	3,770	2,270	1,475	5,275
525	60	720	190	265	1,230	135	305
1,275	150	1,665	210	1,615	830	35	450
22,695	7,430	33,470	28,160	44,825	25,425	2,920	22,115
1,845	500	1,585	575	1,235	2,280	260	930

Table 13.8 Visible minority population, by age group, 2006

	All age groups	0 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 and older
	number						
Total population	31,241,030	5,576,805	4,207,815	8,781,165	8,600,935	2,255,640	1,818,655
Visible minority population	5,068,095	1,145,395	785,355	1,674,175	1,094,055	233,060	136,055
South Asian	1,216,565	210,930	186,925	385,525	303,440	76,060	53,680
Chinese	1,262,865	305,220	181,410	424,850	260,975	61,550	28,865
Black	783,795	221,660	130,010	244,805	142,485	29,805	15,030
Filipino	410,700	89,780	53,885	141,225	99,690	16,680	9,435
Latin American	304,245	59,915	51,885	114,620	65,015	8,360	4,450
Arab	239,935	55,355	38,270	80,410	51,755	8,445	5,700
Southeast Asian	265,550	69,650	40,985	96,010	46,560	8,125	4,210
West Asian	156,695	30,840	29,190	54,015	34,560	5,360	2,725
Korean	141,890	27,275	28,945	44,405	32,820	5,745	2,700
Japanese	81,300	14,900	10,290	26,860	17,600	6,005	5,630
Visible minority not included elsewhere	71,420	14,305	11,375	24,925	16,175	2,960	1,680
Multiple visible minority	133,120	45,550	22,180	36,515	22,975	3,955	1,950
Not a visible minority	26,172,940	4,431,410	3,422,455	7,107,000	7,506,885	2,022,585	1,682,600

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 13.9 Population aged 15 and older, by visible minority group and generational status, 2006

	Total generational status	First generation	Second generation	Third generation or more
	number			
Total visible minority population	3,922,700	3,273,070	551,740	97,890
South Asian	957,645	820,180	132,190	5,275
Chinese	1,005,635	850,335	138,520	16,775
Black	562,135	403,955	115,090	43,095
Filipino	320,915	283,560	35,760	1,595
Latin American	244,330	219,440	22,870	2,015
Arab	195,900	173,015	20,300	2,585
Southeast Asian	184,575	159,285	23,450	1,845
West Asian	125,855	120,710	4,580	565
Korean	114,615	104,640	9,190	790
Japanese	66,400	28,715	18,510	19,170
Visible minority not included elsewhere	57,115	44,965	11,005	1,150
Multiple visible minority	87,565	64,260	20,270	3,035

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.