

Finding a job is a priority for most immigrants to Canada, but many experience difficulty doing so, which leads to a widening of the employment and earnings gap between immigrants and Canadian-born workers.

In 1980, recent-immigrant men (those who arrived within the previous five years) who had some employment income earned 85 cents for each dollar that Canadian-born men earned. By 2005, the ratio had dropped to 63 cents. The corresponding numbers for recent-immigrant women were 85 cents and 56 cents, respectively. These gaps widened even though the educational attainment of recent-immigrant earners rose much faster than that of their Canadian-born counterparts.

During this 25-year period, the proportion of long-term immigrants with university degrees in jobs with low education requirements—such as clerks,

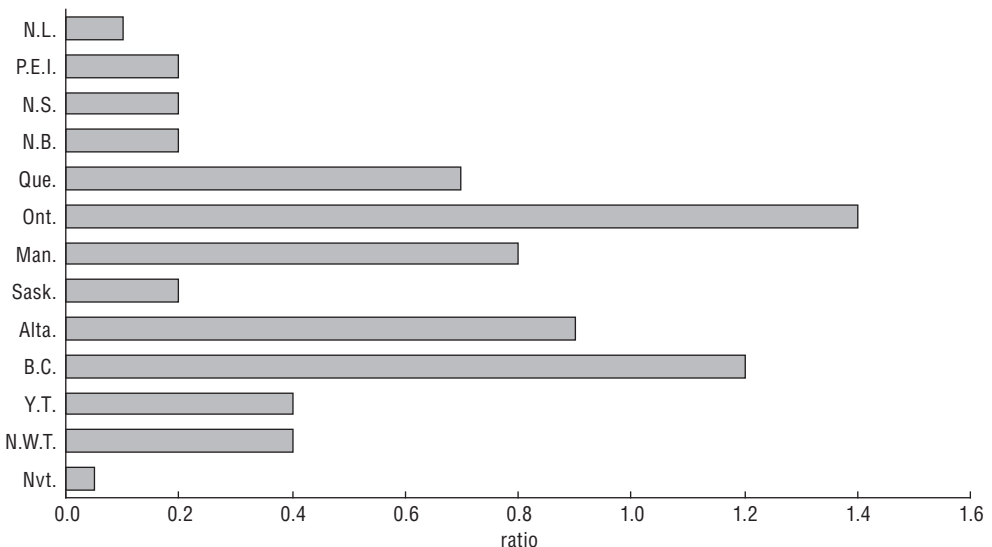
truck drivers, salespeople, cashiers and taxi drivers—rose steadily.

Some of the gaps are related to skill levels and proficiency in French or English. Recent immigrants are much less likely to have English or French as their mother tongue than previous generations of immigrants. Also, large numbers have completed their schooling in their home countries, often in a language other than English or French.

Recognizing credentials

Other factors—the non-recognition of credentials, schooling or foreign work experience, and the quality of education among nationals from some countries—also have an impact. Moreover, immigrants arriving from 1990 to 1994 entered the labour market during a particularly harsh recession and a recovery characterized by slow employment growth. Launching

Chart 13.1
Ratio of recent immigrants to total population, 2006



Note: This ratio shows whether the share of recent immigrants in a given location is higher or lower than the share of the total population in that location. For example, if 5% of recent immigrants live in a location and the same share (5%) of the total population lives there, then the ratio is 1.0.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

a career when jobless rates are high can have longer-term effects on earnings.

Labour market performance

In 2006, immigrants born in Southeast Asia, particularly those from the Philippines, had the strongest labour market performance (i.e., high rates of participation and employment, a low rate of unemployment) of all immigrants, regardless of when they landed.

Among immigrants who landed in Canada from 2001 to 2006, those born in Southeast Asia had unemployment rates, employment rates and participation rates that were more or less on par with the Canadian-born population.

Those born elsewhere in Asia (including the Middle East), as well as those born in Latin America, Europe and Africa, all had higher unemployment rates and lower employment rates in 2006 than their Canadian-born counterparts.

Working-age immigrants born in Europe who arrived before 2001 had similar

Table 13.a
Labour market outcomes of immigrants aged 25 to 54, by period of landing, 2006

	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment rate
	%		
Canadian-born	4.9	87.4	83.1
Landed immigrants			
2001 to 2006	11.5 ¹	73.9 ¹	65.4 ¹
1996 to 2001	7.3 ¹	81.6 ¹	75.7 ¹
Before 1996	5	86.4	82.1

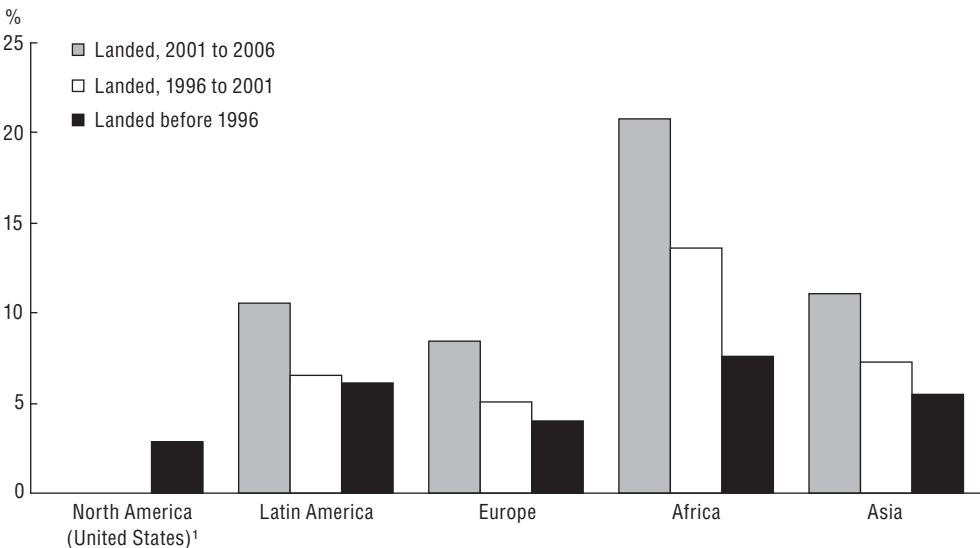
1. Significantly different from the respective Canadian-born value (p<0.05).

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

labour market outcomes as the Canadian born. However, more recent immigrants had higher employment rates than their Canadian-born peers.

Immigrants born in Africa experienced difficulties in the labour market regardless of when they landed in Canada. In 2006, the 70,000 African-born immigrants who landed from 2001 to 2006 had a jobless rate of nearly 21%, more than four times that of the Canadian-born population.

Chart 13.2
Unemployment rate for immigrants, by region of birth and landing period, 2006



Note: Immigrants aged 25 to 54.

1. Data for immigrants landed in 1996 to 2001 and 2001 to 2006 are suppressed.

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

Immigration and growth

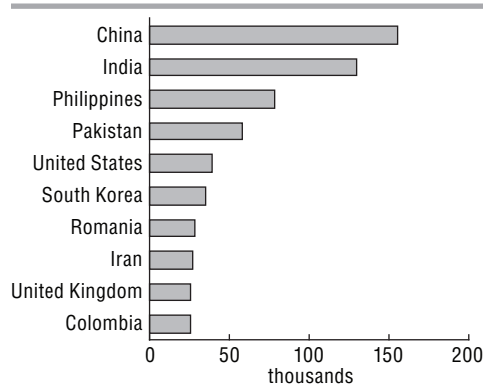
In 2006, international migration accounted for two-thirds of Canada's population growth. The remaining third was from natural increase (the growth that results from births minus deaths).

Until the early 1990s, natural increase was almost always the main engine of population growth. However, in the mid-1990s, a reversal occurred: international migration became the main engine of growth, particularly because of lower fertility rates and an aging population.

Deaths are expected to start outnumbering births around 2030. From that point, immigration would be the only growth factor for the Canadian population.

Growth of many developed countries is expected to fall into the negatives in the coming decades. In Canada, no long-term decline is projected. Nevertheless, Canada

Chart 13.3
Top 10 birthplaces of immigrants who landed from 2001 to 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

is slowly heading toward zero growth, while the United States is projecting a relatively stable growth. The population of some industrialized countries, such as Japan, is already declining.

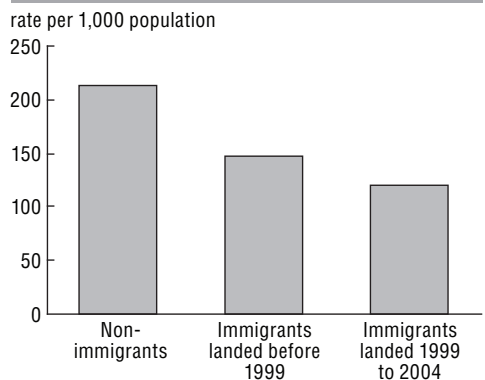
Immigrants at less risk of violent crime

Violent crimes (sexual assault, robbery and assault) are committed against immigrants at a much lower rate than against the Canadian-born population. In 2004, immigrants reported 68 violent incidents per 1,000 population aged 15 or older, compared with 116 incidents per 1,000 for non-immigrants.

Even when controlling for the major risk factors—age, sex, marital status, number of evening activities and proximity of crime—immigrants are 30% less likely to be victims of violent crime compared with non-immigrants.

Second-generation Canadians—individuals born in Canada with at least one foreign-born parent—have a victimization rate comparable to third- or higher generation Canadians: 125 incidents per 1,000 population

Chart 13.4
Crime victimization rates, immigrants and non-immigrants, 2004



Notes: The rate of victimization was calculated for total crimes against the person, which also includes theft of personal property.

The number of immigrants who landed from 1999 to 2004 who were victims of violent crime was too small in 2004 to produce reliable estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 85F0033M.

in 2004, compared with 114 incidents per 1,000 population.

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	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	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 responses¹	Multiple responses²
		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
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	1,262,865	305,220	181,410	424,850	260,975	61,550	28,865
Chinese	1,216,565	210,930	186,925	385,525	303,440	76,060	53,680
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 Visible minority group, by generational status, 2006

	Total generation status	First generation	Second generation	Third generation or more
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

Note: Population aged 15 and older.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.