

Immigration to Ontario

Proportion of Foreign-born Highest in Ontario

- Data from the 2001 Census show that Ontario has the highest proportion of people born outside Canada, followed closely by British Columbia.
- In 2001, 3 million people or 26.8% of the population of Ontario were foreign-born, up from 23.7% ten years earlier. In 2001, British Columbia had one million people who were foreign-born, representing 26.1% of its total population.
- About one million of Ontario's foreign-born population arrived in the past 10 years, between 1991 and 2001. These individuals accounted for 9% of the Ontario population.

Immigrants to Ontario Increasingly from Asia

- Immigrants from Asia represented 58% of all immigrants to Ontario in the 1990s, and 45% in the 1980s. Before 1961, just 2.3% of immigrants who came to Ontario were Asian-born.
- In comparison, European immigrants accounted for the vast majority (92.7%) of the immigrants who came to Ontario before 1961. Since then, the proportion of European immigrants has declined steadily, falling to 20% in the 1990s.
- In the first 6 decades of the last century (prior to 1961), European nations, in particular the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands, were the primary sources of immigrants to Ontario. Combined, these 4 European nations accounted for 64% of all immigrants to Ontario before 1961. However, in the 1990s, they accounted for just 3.1% of immigrants.
- Of the one million immigrants to Ontario who arrived between 1991 and 2001, 14.6% came from the Americas, up from 4.4% before 1961. In the 1990s, more than 80% of these came from Central America, the Caribbean or South America.
- Immigration from Africa also increased significantly in recent decades. People born in Africa made up 6.8% of immigrants to Ontario in the 1990s, up from 0.4% of immigrants who arrived prior to 1961.

Proportion of Foreign-born

	1991	1996	2001
	Per Cent		
Newfoundland	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	10.7	10.4	10.6
Northwest Territories	6.6	6.6	6.4
Nunavut	1.9	1.9	1.7
Canada	16.1	17.4	18.4

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

Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada, 2001*.

Place of Birth, Immigrants to Ontario

	Before 1961	1991-2001	Before 1961	1991-2001
	#		%	
Asia	11,365	593,740	2.3	58.1
W. Cent. Asia / M. East	2,395	98,795	0.5	9.7
Eastern Asia	6,415	197,795	1.3	19.3
South-East Asia	950	92,875	0.2	9.1
Southern Asia	1,605	204,275	0.3	20.0
Europe	465,995	206,565	92.7	20.2
Western Europe	114,385	13,305	22.8	1.3
Eastern Europe	72,775	108,340	14.5	10.6
Northern Europe	140,815	22,525	28.0	2.2
Southern Europe	138,020	62,395	27.5	6.1
Americas	22,165	149,720	4.4	14.6
North America	14,930	23,765	3.0	2.3
Central America	475	22,830	0.1	2.2
Caribbean and Bermuda	4,365	57,845	0.9	5.7
South America	2,395	45,280	0.5	4.4
Africa	1,795	69,035	0.4	6.8
Western Africa	40	14,475	0.0	1.4
Eastern Africa	195	30,315	0.0	3.0
Northern Africa	835	15,025	0.2	1.5
Central Africa	30	3,120	0.0	0.3
Southern Africa	695	6,100	0.1	0.6
Oceania	1,015	2,930	0.2	0.3
Other	400	375	0.1	0.0
Total	502,740	1,022,370	100.0	100.0

Note: Includes data up to May 15, 2001.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada, 2001*.

China Leading Country of Birth for 1990s Immigrants

- China (and its Special Administrative Regions - Hong Kong and Macau) was the leading country of birth among people who immigrated to Ontario in the 1990s. It accounted for 16% of all immigrants who came to Ontario in the past decade.
- India was the next leading country of birth of immigrants to Ontario. Between 1991 and 2001, Indian immigrants accounted for 9% of total immigrants to Ontario. The third leading country of birth of immigrants was the Philippines (6%), followed by Sri Lanka (5.2%) and Pakistan (4.5%).
- Among European immigrants who arrived in Ontario during the 1990s, the most frequent countries of origin were Poland (3.1%), Yugoslavia (2.1%) and Russia (2.1%).
- Of immigrants to Ontario from the Americas, Jamaica was the leading country of birth among those who arrived in the 1990s with 2.7% of all immigrants to Ontario, followed by the United States (2.3%), and Guyana (2.2%).
- Among African immigrants, Somalia was the leading birth country of immigrants to Ontario.

Toronto: One of Highest Proportion of Immigrants

- The Toronto Census Metropolitan Area* (CMA) had one of the highest proportions of foreign-born of all major urban centres in the world.
- About 44% of Toronto's population in 2001 was born outside Canada, higher than Miami (40%), Los Angeles (31%), and New York City (24%).
- Toronto CMA was home to 77.5% of Ontario's immigrants in the 1990s, compared to its 41% share of Ontario's population. Toronto CMA was home to 69% of the immigrants who came to Ontario in the 1970s.
- Vancouver was an even greater magnet for immigrants to British Columbia. About 325,000 or 87.6% of the 1990s immigrants to British Columbia settled in Vancouver compared to the CMA's 51% of the province's population in 2001.

*The Toronto CMA includes all of Toronto, Peel and York Census Divisions and parts of Durham and Halton.

Proportion of Foreign-born, Ontario CMAs

	Total Population	Foreign-born	
		#	%
Greater Sudbury	153,895	10,775	7.0
Hamilton	655,055	154,660	23.6
Kingston	142,765	17,675	12.4
Kitchener	409,765	90,570	22.1
London	427,215	80,410	18.8
Oshawa	293,545	46,150	15.7
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. Part)	795,255	168,125	21.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	371,400	66,045	17.8
Thunder Bay	120,370	13,320	11.1
Toronto	4,647,955	2,032,960	43.7
Windsor	304,955	67,880	22.3
Ontario	11,285,550	3,030,075	26.8

Note: Excludes non-permanent residents.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada, 2001*.

Share of 1990s Foreign-born, Ontario CMAs

	Total Foreign-born	1990s Foreign-born	
		#	% of Ontario
Greater Sudbury	10,775	1,040	0.1
Hamilton	154,660	35,545	3.5
Kingston	17,675	3,425	0.3
Kitchener	90,570	26,120	2.6
London	80,410	19,475	1.9
Oshawa	46,150	6,900	0.7
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. Part)	168,125	63,950	6.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	66,045	9,925	1.0
Thunder Bay	13,320	1,325	0.1
Toronto	2,032,960	792,035	77.5
Windsor	67,880	24,310	2.4
Ontario	3,030,075	1,022,370	100.0

Note: Excludes non-permanent residents.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada, 2001*.

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