



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

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**2006 Census: Ethnic origin, visible minorities, place of work and mode of transportation** 2

Statistics Canada today releases detailed analyses of data from the 2006 Census on ethnic origin, visible minorities, place of work and mode of transportation. These analyses are now available in two online documents: *Canada's Ethnocultural Mosaic, 2006 Census*, and *Commuting Patterns and Places of Work of Canadians, 2006 Census*.

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#### More than 200 different ethnic origins reported

Each wave of immigration to Canada has increased the ethnocultural diversity of the nation's population. In fact, more than 200 different ethnic origins were reported in the 2006 Census. In contrast, just about 25 different ethnic groups were recorded in Canada in the 1901 Census.

(Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors. An ancestor is someone from whom a person is descended and is usually more distant than a grandparent.)

In 1901, people who reported Aboriginal ancestries, and British and French origins, comprised the largest share of the population.

The list of ethnic ancestries in 2006 includes cultural groups associated with Canada's Aboriginal people (North American Indian, Métis and Inuit), the European groups that first settled in Canada, such as the English, French, Scottish and Irish. It also includes origins reflecting immigrants who came to Canada over the past century, such as German, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, East Indian and so on.

Among newer groups reported in 2006 were Montserratian from the Caribbean and Chadian, Gabonese, Gambian and Zambian from Africa.

By 2006, 11 ethnic origins had passed the 1-million population mark. The largest group enumerated by the census consisted of just over 10 million people who reported Canadian as their ethnic ancestry, either alone (5.7 million) or with other origins (4.3 million).

The other most frequently reported origins were English, French, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, North American Indian, Ukrainian and Dutch. These ancestries were either reported alone or in combination with other origins, reflecting the increasing diversity of the population.

### Visible minority population surpasses 5-million mark

In 2006, the census enumerated an estimated 5,068,100 individuals who belonged to the visible minority population. They made up 16.2% of the total population in Canada.

(The census collects information on this population to meet federal employment equity legislation requirements under the *Employment Equity Act*. According to the *Act*, visible minorities are defined as "persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.")

The visible minority population has grown steadily over the last 25 years. In 1981, when data for the employment equity-designated groups were first derived, the estimated 1.1 million visible minorities represented 4.7% of Canada's total population.

In 1991, 2.5 million people were members of the visible minority population, 9.4% of the population. The visible minority population further increased to 3.2 million in 1996, or 11.2% of the total population. By 2001, their numbers had reached an estimated 3,983,800 or 13.4% of the total population.

Between 2001 and 2006, the visible minority population increased at a much faster pace than the total population. Its rate of growth was 27.2%, five times faster than the 5.4% increase for the population as a whole.

The growth of the visible minority population was due largely to the increasing number of recent immigrants (landed immigrants who came to Canada up to five years prior to a given census year) who were from non-European countries. In 1981, 68.5% of all recent immigrants to Canada were born in regions other than Europe, and by 1991, this proportion had grown to 78.3%. The 2006 Census showed that 83.9% of the immigrants who arrived between 2001 and 2006 were born in regions other than Europe.

Consequently, the proportion of newcomers who belonged to a visible minority group also increased. In 1981, 55.5% of the newcomers who arrived in Canada in the late 1970s belonged to a visible minority group. In 1991, slightly over 7 in 10 (71.2%) recent immigrants were members of a visible minority group, and this proportion reached 72.9% in 2001.

Fully three-quarters (75.0%) of the immigrants who arrived between 2001 and 2006 belonged to a visible minority group.

If current immigration trends continue, Canada's visible minority population will continue to grow much more quickly than the non-visible minority population. According to Statistics Canada's population projections, members of visible minority groups could account for roughly one-fifth of the total population by 2017.

### **South Asians surpass Chinese as the largest visible minority group**

The South Asians became Canada's largest visible minority group in 2006, surpassing Chinese for the first time. The populations of both were well over 1 million.

The 2006 Census enumerated an estimated 1,262,900 individuals who identified themselves as South Asian, a growth rate of 37.7% from 917,100 individuals in 2001. They represented one-quarter (24.9%) of all visible minorities, or 4.0% of the total population in Canada.

In contrast, the number of individuals who identified themselves as Chinese increased 18.2% from 1,029,400 in 2001 to 1,216,600 in 2006. Chinese accounted for 24.0% of the visible minority population and 3.9% of the total Canadian population.

The number of those identifying themselves as Black, the third largest visible minority group, rose 18.4% from 662,200 individuals in 2001 to an estimated 783,800. They accounted for 15.5% of the visible minority population and 2.5% of the total population in 2006.

Other visible minority groups included Filipinos, who represented 8.1% of the visible minority population, Latin Americans (6.0%), Arabs (5.2%), Southeast Asians (4.7%), West Asians (3.1%), Koreans (2.8%) and Japanese (1.6%).

### **Getting to work: Canadian workers commuting further**

Census data showed that workers were commuting farther to work in 2006 than in 2001, and a slightly decreasing proportion were driving their car to work.

The median distance travelled by workers to their place of work in 2006 was 7.6 kilometres, up from 7.2 kilometres in 2001 and 7.0 kilometres in 1996. (The median is the point at which half are above, and half below.) Workers in Ontario had the highest median distance in 2006, 8.7 kilometres.

### **Mode of transportation: Despite an increase in number of drivers, a lower proportion were driving to work**

The census enumerated 14,714,300 people in the employed labour force who commuted to their place of work, a 9.4% increase from 2001.

The vast majority, an estimated 10,644,300 workers, drove to work in a car, truck or van. That was a 7.2% increase from 2001, the equivalent of 714,900 more drivers on the road across Canada. However, this increase was well below the gain of just under 1 million between 1996 and 2001.

Despite this growth, the proportion of workers who drove to work declined from 73.8% in 2001 to 72.3% in 2006.

### **Upward trend among workers travelling as passenger or using public transit**

The 2006 Census also enumerated 1,133,200 workers who travelled to work as a passenger in a car, up 22.6% from 2001. Between 2001 and 2006, the share that rode to work as a passenger rose from 6.9% to 7.7%.

An estimated 1,622,700 people usually travelled to work on some form of public transportation, such as bus, streetcar, subway, light rail transit, commuter train or ferry, a 15.4% increase. Over the five-year period, the proportion that took some form of public transit increased from 10.5% to 11.0%.

The rest, an estimated 939,300, walked to work, up 6.6%, and 195,500 bicycled to work, a 20.0% increase. As a result, the proportion that walked edged down slightly from 6.6% in 2001 to 6.4% in 2006, while the proportion that bicycled edged up from 1.2% to 1.3%.

### **Place of work: More Canadians go to work in suburban municipalities of big metro areas**

The census showed that workers are less concentrated in the core municipalities within Canada's largest urban areas.

During the five years prior to the 2006 Census, the percentage increase in the number of people working in a suburban municipality was higher than the increase in core municipalities of the large centres.

In 2006, the total employed population whose usual place of work was located within a census metropolitan area (including working at home) reached an estimated 10,290,300. This was an increase of 7.9%, or 757,300, from 2001.

Half of this growth in employment occurred within suburban municipalities. Several of the suburban municipalities of the census metropolitan areas of Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver showed particularly high growth rates.

An estimated 6,800,600 people worked in central municipalities in 2006, up 5.9% from 2001. The number of people who worked in suburban municipalities increased at twice that pace, 12.2%, during this five-year period, to 3,489,700.

Given this suburbanization of workplaces, more and more workers were commuting toward suburban municipalities. These people were also significantly more likely to drive their car to work.

### 2006 Census sub-module

Also released today are various products and services available from the *2006 Census* sub-module on our website. By clicking on the *Release topics and dates* link, then on *Ethnic origin and visible minorities*, or *Place of work and commuting to work*, users will find 2006 Census information on the ethnic origin and visible minorities and the place of work and commuting to work (including mode of transportation) of the Canadian population.

The information on this web page is organized into three broad categories: *Data products*, *Analysis series*, and *Geography*.

The *Data products* category presents the ethnic origin and visible minorities and place of work and commuting to work data for a wide range of standard geographic areas.

Data are available through the *Ethnocultural portrait of Canada highlight tables*, and the *Place of work highlight tables*, the *Topic-based tabulations*, the *Profile*

*release components*, the *2006 Community Profiles* and the *Census tract profiles*.

The *Analysis series* category presents the ethnic origin and visible minorities analytical perspective report *Canada's Ethnocultural Mosaic, 2006 Census*, and the place of work analytical perspective report *Commuting Patterns and Places of Work of Canadians, 2006 Census*.

The *Geography* category presents thematic maps containing place of work data for standard geographic areas in Canada.

By using *GeoSearch2006*, an interactive mapping tool, users can find any area in Canada, as well as a corresponding map of the area with its population count. A large collection of supplementary geography reference material and maps is also available.

The next release of data from the 2006 Census, scheduled for May 1, 2008, will provide information on income, earnings and shelter costs.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3901.**

For more information, please contact Media Relations (613-951-4636), Communications and Library Services Division. ■

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## New products

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**Thematic Maps**, Census year 2006 (update)  
**Catalogue number 92-173-XIE**  
(free).

**GeoSearch2006**, Census year 2006 (update)  
**Catalogue number 92-197-XWE**  
(free).

**2006 Community Profiles**, Census year 2006 (update)  
**Catalogue number 92-591-XWE**  
(free).

**Census Tract Profiles, 2006 Census**, Census  
year 2006 (update)  
**Catalogue number 92-597-XWE**  
(free).

**Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for  
Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions  
and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census**, Census  
year 2006  
**Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006001**  
(various prices).

**Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities  
for Census Metropolitan Areas and Census  
Agglomerations, 2006 Census**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006004** (\$65).

**Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities  
for Census Metropolitan Areas and Census  
Agglomerations, 2006 Census**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 94-580-XWE2006004**  
(free).

**Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities  
for Census Metropolitan Areas, Tracted Census  
Agglomerations and Census Tracts, 2006 Census**,  
Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006005**  
(various prices).

**Profile of Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities for  
Canada, Provinces, Territories and Federal Electoral  
Districts (2003 Representation Order), 2006 Census**,  
Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 94-580-XCB2006007**  
(various prices).

**Aboriginal Ancestry (10), Area of Residence (6),  
Age Groups (12) and Sex (3) for the Population of  
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2006 Census  
- 20% Sample Data**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XCB2006012** (\$65).

**Aboriginal Ancestry (10), Area of Residence (6),  
Age Groups (12) and Sex (3) for the Population of  
Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2006 Census  
- 20% Sample Data**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XWE2006012**  
(free).

**Aboriginal Ancestry (10), Sex (3) and Age Groups  
(12) for the Population of Canada, Provinces,  
Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census  
Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data**,  
Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XCB2006013** (\$65).

**Aboriginal Ancestry (10), Sex (3) and Age Groups  
(12) for the Population of Canada, Provinces,  
Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census  
Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data**,  
Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XWE2006013**  
(free).

**Selected Language Characteristics (165), Aboriginal  
Ancestry (10), Age Groups (7), Sex (3) and Area  
of Residence (6) for the Population of Canada,  
Provinces and Territories, 2006 Census - 20%  
Sample Data**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XCB2006019** (\$65).

**Selected Language Characteristics (165), Aboriginal  
Ancestry (10), Age Groups (7), Sex (3) and Area  
of Residence (6) for the Population of Canada,  
Provinces and Territories, 2006 Census - 20%  
Sample Data**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XWE2006019**  
(free).

**Selected Language Characteristics (165), Aboriginal  
Ancestry (10), Age Groups (7) and Sex (3) for the  
Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories and  
Census Metropolitan Areas, 2006 Census - 20%  
Sample Data**, Census year 2006  
**Catalogue number 97-558-XCB2006020** (\$65).

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**Selected Language Characteristics (165), Aboriginal Ancestry (10), Age Groups (7) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-558-XWE2006020  
(free).

**Commuting Patterns and Places of Work of Canadians, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-561-XIE2006001  
(free).

**Place of Work Highlight Tables, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-561-XWE2006002  
(free).

**Commuting Flow Census Subdivisions: Sex (3) for the Employed Labour Force 15 Years and over Having a Usual Place of Work of Census Subdivisions, Flows Greater than or Equal to 20, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-561-XCB2006011 (\$65).

**Commuting Flow Census Subdivisions: Sex (3) for the Employed Labour Force 15 Years and over Having a Usual Place of Work of Census Subdivisions, Flows Greater than or Equal to 20, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-561-XWE2006011  
(free).

**Canada's Ethnocultural Mosaic, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XIE2006001  
(free).

**Ethnocultural Portrait of Canada Highlight Tables, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006002  
(free).

**Visible Minority Population and Population Group Reference Guide, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-PWE2006003  
(free).

**Topic Bundle: Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006004 (\$75).

**Ethnic Origin (247), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006006 (\$65).

**Ethnic Origin (247), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006006  
(free).

**Population Groups (28) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006007 (\$65).

**Population Groups (28) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006007  
(free).

**Visible Minority Groups (15), Generation Status (4), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006010 (\$65).

**Visible Minority Groups (15), Generation Status (4), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006010  
(free).

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**Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Age Groups (10) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006011 (\$65).

**Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Age Groups (10) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006011 (free).

**Ethnic Origin (247), Generation Status (4), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006012 (\$65).

**Ethnic Origin (247), Generation Status (4), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006012 (free).

**Work Activity in 2005 (14), Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
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**Work Activity in 2005 (14), Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006014 (free).

**Ethnic Origin (247), Generation Status (4), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006015 (\$65).

**Ethnic Origin (247), Generation Status (4), Single and Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses (3) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
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Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006016 (\$65).

**Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Age Groups (10) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006016 (free).

**Labour Force Activity (8), Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
**Catalogue number 97-562-XCB2006017 (\$65).**

**Labour Force Activity (8), Visible Minority Groups (15), Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration (9), Highest Certificate, Diploma or Degree (7), Age Groups (9) and Sex (3) for the Population 15 Years and Over of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2006 Census - 20% Sample Data, Census year 2006**  
**Catalogue number 97-562-XWE2006017 (free).**

**Ethnic Origin Reference Guide, 2006 Census, Census year 2006**  
**Catalogue number 97-562-PWE2006025 (free).**

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Statistics Canada

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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and industry weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

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