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# **1996 Census Update** Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities

On January 13, 1998 and February 17, 1998, Statistics Canada released data on ethnic origin, visible minorities and Aboriginals from the 1996 Census. Data from these releases with an emphasis on the City of Mississauga is contained in this newsletter.

The sources of information used to prepare this newsletter are "The Daily, Tuesday, January 13, 1998," and "The Daily, Tuesday, February 17, 1998" and special data requests from Statistics Canada. Please contact Statistics Canada at (416) 973-6586 for further information regarding the Census of Canada.

# **ETHNIC ORIGIN**

Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which an individual's ancestors belonged and the ancestral roots or origins of the population, and is not the same as place of birth, citizenship or nationality. Modifications to the format of the 1996 Census ethnic origin question resulted in a major change in the way ethnic origins were reported. Respondents were asked to list their ancestry as compared to choosing from a predetermined list of countries as in previous Census surveys. This allowed respondents to make their own choices for the first time as noted below in Ouestion 17 from the Census survey.

Question 17:

To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong? For example, French, English, German, Scottish, Canadian, Italian, Irish, Chinese, Cree, Micmac, Metis, Inuit (Eskimo), Ukrainian, Dutch, East Indian, Polish, Portuguese, Jewish, Haitian, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali, etc. Canada In 1996, 30.9% of respondents reported their ethnic origin as Canadian. 12% reported Canadian and other origins. 17% reported British-Isles only ancestry, and 9% reported French only ancestry. The regions of Canada which were settled the earliest tended to have the highest proportion of people reporting their origins as Canadian as they had experienced little recent immigration. 28% of respondents reported origins other than the British Isles, French or Canadian. The most frequent ethnic origins after Canadian, English and French were Scottish (14.9%) and Irish (13.2%). The next highest of the European origins were German (9.7%), Italian (4.2%), Ukrainian (3.6%), Dutch (3.2%), Polish (2.8%), Jewish (1.2%) and Norwegian (1.2%).

3.2% of the population reported Chinese origin which was ranked 9th and was the only non-European origin reported in the top ten. North American Indian (3.0%) and East Indian (1.9%) were also among the top 15 ethnic origins. Unlike European origins, where multiple reporting was very high, there were relatively few multiple responses among persons with Asian origins, many of whom were recent arrivals to Canada. *(see Table 1 on page 2)* 

## **Toronto CMA<sup>1</sup>**

The ethnic origin of people within the Toronto CMA is quite diverse and different from the Provincial and National breakdowns. The percentage of respondents who identified their ethnic origins as Canadian was considerably lower which is reflective of Toronto being a destination area for recent immigrants. Significant differences are for those of Chinese and East Indian origin whose populations are considerably higher in the Toronto CMA and those of French and German ancestry which is considerably less than the national percentage.

### Mississauga

The ethnic origin of people living in Mississauga is similar to that of the Toronto CMA with the exception that Mississauga has a relatively high percentage of people of East Indian ancestry (9.1%) compared to the Toronto CMA (6.0%) and people of Polish ancestry (6.4%) compared to the Toronto CMA (3.8%). German ancestry was knocked out of the top 10 while Polish ancestry was within the top 10 responses.

<sup>1</sup>The boundaries of the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes all of Toronto and the Regions of Peel and York and portions of the Regions of Halton and Durham and the County of Simcoe.

# **VISIBLE MINORITIES**

One of the objectives of the 1996 Census was to provide information on the numbers and characteristics of persons who are members of a visible minority in Canada, as defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are

non-Caucasian in race or non-white in (Continued on page 3)

	TABLE 1 Demulation by Ethnic Origin (Total Personance)								
	Population by Ethnic Origin (Total Responses) Mississauga Toronto CMA							Canada	
Rank Total	#	%	Rank Total	#	%	Rank Total	#	%	
	542,450	100.0%		4,232,905	100.0%		28,528,125	100.0%	
Single responses	381,885	70.4%	Single responses	2,947,375	69.6%	Single responses	18,303,630	64.2%	
Multiple responses	160,565	29.6%	Multiple responses	1,285,530	30.4%	Multiple responses	10,224,495	35.8%	
1 English	103,115	19.0%	1 English	891,730	21.1%	1 Canadian	8,806,275	30.9%	
2 Canadian	88,040	16.2%	2 Canadian	710,760	16.8%	2 English	6,832,095	23.9%	
3 Scottish	63,390	11.7%	3 Scottish	534,595	12.6%	3 French	5,597,845	19.6%	
4 Irish	57,445	10.6%	4 Irish	480,985	11.4%	4 Scottish	4,260,840	14.9%	
5 East Indian	49,450	9.1%	5 Italian	414,310	9.8%	5 Irish	3,767,615	13.2%	
6 Italian	47,365	8.7%	6 Chinese	359,450	8.5%	6 German	2,757,140	9.7%	
7 Polish	34,905	6.4%	7 East Indian	255,685	6.0%	7 Italian	1,207,475	4.2%	
8 Chinese	33,755	6.2%	8 French	236,315	5.6%	8 Ukrainian	1,026,475	3.6%	
9 French	30,970	5.7%	9 German	224,525	5.3%	9 Chinese	921,585	3.2%	
10 Portuguese	28,175	5.2%	10 Portuguese	161,685	3.8%	10 Dutch (Netherlands)	916,215	3.2%	
11 German	28,010	5.2%	11 Polish	161,000	3.8%	11 North American Indian	867,225	3.0%	
12 Jamaican	19,110	3.5%	12 Jewish	156,300	3.7%	12 Polish	786,735	2.8%	
13 Filipino	18,880	3.5%	13 Jamaican	133,690	3.2%	13 East Indian	548,085	1.9%	
14 Ukrainian	15,420	2.8%	14 Filipino	102,525	2.4%	14 Jewish	351,710	1.2%	
15 Dutch (Netherlands)	9,415	1.7%	15 Ukrainian	95,500	2.3%	15 Norwegian	346,305	1.2%	
16 Croatian	9,150	1.7%	16 Dutch (Netherlands)	85,250	2.0%	16 Welsh	338,910	1.2%	
17 Spanish	8,800	1.6%	17 Greek	80,330	1.9%	17 Portuguese	335,110	1.2%	
18 Vietnamese	6,655	1.2%	18 Spanish	62,520	1.5%	18 Swedish	278,975	1.0%	
19 Greek	6,555	1.2%	19 Hungarian (Magyar)	44,155	1.0%	19 Russian	272,335	1.0%	
20 West Indian	5,335	1.0%	20 Welsh	44,015	1.0%	20 Hungarian (Magyar)	250,525	0.9%	
21 Punjabi	5,220	1.0%	21 Vietnamese	41,735	1.0%	21 Filipino	242,880	0.9%	
22 Welsh	4,930	0.9%	22 Russian	40,630	1.0%	22 Métis	220,735	0.8%	
23 Hungarian (Magyar)	4,560	0.8%	23 Sri Lankan	35,690	0.8%	23 American	211,785	0.7%	
24 Pakistani	4,520	0.8%	24 West Indian	35,595	0.8%	24 Spanish	204,365	0.7%	
25 Trinidadian/Tobagonian	4,245	0.8%	25 North American Indian	34,465	0.8%	25 Greek	203,345	0.7%	
26 Maltese	4,135	0.8%	26 British, n.i.e.	29,735	0.7%	26 Jamaican	188,770	0.7%	
27 Guyanese	4,110	0.8%	27 Guyanese	29,715	0.7%	27 Danish	163,130	0.6%	
28 North American Indian	3,925	0.7%	28 African (Black), n.i.e.	29,460	0.7%	28 British, n.i.e.	150,230	0.5%	
29 British, n.i.e.	3,815	0.7%	29 Korean	29,360	0.7%	29 Austrian	140,520	0.5%	
30 Sri Lankan	3,605	0.7%	30 Iranian	28,855	0.7%	30 Vietnamese	136,810	0.5%	
Other	81,845	15.1%	Other	666,010	15.7%	Other	2,710,955	9.5%	

#### (Continued from page 1)

colour". Under this definition, the regulations of the Act specify the following groups as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asians, Blacks, Arabs/ West Asians, Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans and Pacific Islanders.

#### Canada

3.2 million persons (11.2% of the population), identified themselves as members of a visible minority in 1996. This was up from 9.4% in 1991 and 6.3% in 1986. The Census showed that about three persons out of every 10 in the visible minority population were born in Canada. While Ontario and British Columbia contained half of Canada's total population, they accounted for almost three-quarters of the visible minority population. The proportion of visible minorities varied considerably from less than 1% of the population in Newfoundland to highs of 18% in British Columbia, and 16% in Ontario. The proportion was below the national average of 11% in all of the other provinces and territories.

Since the 1970's, sources of immigration to Canada have changed greatly, with more immigrants coming from non-European countries. Over half the immigrant population who arrived since the 1970's, and threequarters of those who came in the 1990's, are members of a visible minority group. About 94% of visible minorities lived in CMA's compared with 62% of the total population. Seven of every ten visible minority persons in Canada lived in one of three CMA's, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. 42% of visible minorities lived in the Toronto CMA, 18% in the Vancouver CMA and 13% in the Montreal CMA.

higher share of the total population of Toronto (32%) and Vancouver (31%) than they did in Montreal (12%). Four other urban areas also had a relatively high share: Calgary (16%), Edmonton (14%), Ottawa-Hull (12%) and Winnipeg (11%).

The largest visible minority was Chinese at 3% of the total visible minority population. The next largest group was South Asians (2.4%) and Blacks (2%). Together, Chinese, South Asians and Blacks represented 66% of the visible minority population in Canada. The remaining 33% of the visible minority population, about 1.1 million people, included Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans, and Arabs/West Asians.

Over 2/3 (68%) of Canada's visible minority population were immigrants in 1996, while 29% were born in Canada. The remainder were non-permanent residents which includes people from another country who live in Canada and have work, student or minister's permits, or persons claiming refugee status.

#### **Toronto CMA**

There were 1.3 million members of a visible minority population in the Toronto CMA which represented 42% of visible minorities in Canada. In comparison, 15% of Canada's total population resided in the Toronto CMA. Four of five members of a visible minority in Ontario lived in Toronto. This was twice Toronto's share of the province's total population.

About 25% of visible minorities in Toronto were Chinese, a further 25% were South Asian and 20% were Black. the visible minority groups lived in Toronto. Almost half the South Asian and Black population of Canada lived in Toronto, along with about 40% of Canada's Chinese, Koreans and Filipinos.

#### Mississauga

The visible minority population in Mississauga is three times the national rate and slightly higher than the Toronto CMA. The breakdown of the visible minority population in Mississauga is similar to that of the Toronto CMA with the exception of the Chinese population which is higher in the Toronto CMA (7.9%) than in Mississauga (5.4%) and the South Asian population which is higher in Mississauga (11.3%) than in the Toronto CMA (7.8%).

# ABORIGINAL POPULATION

About 1.1 million persons (3.8% of the total population), reported Aboriginal ancestry in 1996. This was an increase from the one million reported in 1991. About 867,000 persons (3.0%) reported North American Indian ancestry.

33% of the Aboriginal population lived on rural reserves, 33% in CMA's, 25% in other urban areas other than CMA's and 10% in rural areas other than reserves.

Ontario had the highest percentage of North American Indians while Alberta had the largest Metis population and the Northwest Territories had the largest Inuit population.

#### **Toronto CMA**

Except for Arab/West Asians and Japanese, the largest number of each of

(Continued on page 4)

		TABLE 2 Visibile Minority Population Mississauga Toronto CMA							Canada	
Rank		#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank	#	%	
	Total Population	542,450	100.0%	Total Population	4,232,905	100.0%	Total Population	28,528,120	100.0%	
	Total visible minority population	183,925	33.9%	Total visible minority population	1,338,095	31.6%	Total visible minority population	3,197,480	11.2%	
1	South Asian	61,520	11.3%	1 Chinese	335,185	7.9%	1 Chinese	860,150	3.0%	
2	Black	33,805	6.2%	2 South Asian	329,840	7.8%	2 South Asian	670,585	2.4%	
3	Chinese	29,435	5.4%	3 Black	274,935	6.5%	3 Black	573,860	2.0%	
4	Filipino	18,425	3.4%	4 Filipino	99,110	2.3%	4 Arab/West Asian	244,660	0.9%	
5	Arab/West Asian	10,050	1.9%	5 Arab/West Asian	72,155	1.7%	5 Filipino	234,195	0.8%	
6	Latin American	7,715	1.4%	6 Latin American	61,655	1.5%	6 Latin American	176,970	0.6%	
7	Southeast Asian	7,505	1.4%	7 Southeast Asian	46,510	1.1%	7 Southeast Asian	172,760	0.6%	
8	Korean	2,695	0.5%	8 Korean	28,555	0.7%	8 Japanese	68,130	0.2%	
9	Japanese	2,115	0.4%	9 Japanese	17,055	0.4%	9 Korean	64,835	0.2%	
	Visible minority, n.i.e.	6,790	1.3%	Visible minority, n.i.e.	45,655	1.1%	Visible minority, n.i.e.	69,745	0.2%	
	Multiple visible	3,865	0.7%	Multiple visible	27,435	0.6%	Multiple visible	61,570	0.2%	
	minority All others	358,530	66.1%	minority All others	2,894,810	68.4%	minority All others	25,330,640	88.8%	

(Continued from page 3) Toronto CMA

Approximately 34,465 persons reported North American Indian ancestry in the Toronto CMA. This represented 0.8% of the total population and was the 25th ranked response by ethnic origin.

#### Mississauga

Approximately 3,925 persons reported North American Indian ancestry in Mississauga. This represented 0.7% of the total population and was the 28th ranked response by ethnic origin.



Scene from 1998 Canada Day Celebrations at Mississauga Civic Centre