
Where are immigrants residing now?

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Highlights

- In 2011, 7% of the residents in non-metro census divisions were immigrants, born outside Canada.
- In contrast, 40% of the residents in metro census divisions were immigrants.
- Non-metro census divisions are more likely to have immigrants who arrived before 1971.
- Non-metro census divisions have fewer immigrants to act as magnets for newcomers or to help new immigrants integrate.

Why look at where immigrants are residing now?

By 2030, Canada's population will grow only via the arrival of immigrants¹. The presence of an immigrant community provides a core of individuals who have experienced the challenge of immigrating and who could contribute to the welcoming of new immigrants. The presence of immigrants in a community is an advantage for communities wishing to attract more immigrants. An immigrant is a person born outside Canada and who is now or who has ever been a landed immigrant / permanent resident.

Findings

In 2011, 3.6 million Ontario residents were immigrants (Table 1). This represented 29% of Ontario's population at the time.

In non-metro census divisions (CDs), only 7% of the population was an immigrant in 2011. Across the non-metro CDs, this ranged from 10% in four CDs (Northumberland, Haliburton, Haldimand-Norfolk and Lambton) to 3% in Timiskaming, Cochrane and Sudbury.

This is in comparison to the three CDs where more than 40% of their population is an immigrant - Peel with 50%, Toronto with 49% and York with 45%.

In five of the eight metro CDs, more immigrants arrived in the most recent decade (2001 to 2011) than in any previous decade.

In stark contrast, we find that in each of the 27 non-metro CDs, more immigrants had arrived before 1971 than in any decade since 1971.

The present distribution of immigrants is due to: a) where they originally chose to settle; and b) where they have moved within Canada since immigrating.

Summary

Communities with fewer immigrants may have more challenges in attracting more immigrants because there is a smaller community to help new immigrants integrate and to act as a magnet for newcomers. In addition, in most non-metro CDs, many of the immigrants arrived prior to 1971 – more than 40 years ago. Their immigration experience would have been different and many would have a different ethnic background compared to the new immigrant arrivals.

Rural Ontario Institute gratefully acknowledges the work of Ray Bollman in preparing this edition of [Focus on Rural Ontario](#). Questions on data sources can be directed to RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net. Any comments or discussions can be directed to NRagetlie@RuralOntarioInstitute.ca.

¹ See Figure 1.7 in Reimer, Bill and Ray D. Bollman. (2010) "Understanding Rural Canada: Implications for Rural Development Policy and Rural Planning Policy." Chapter 1 in David J.A. Douglas (ed.) **Rural Planning and Development in Canada**. (Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.).

Table 1

Immigrant population by census division, 2011

Census Division ID	Census Division	Total population (in private households)	Immigrant ¹ population	Immigrants ¹ as a percent of the total population	Number of immigrants ¹ by period of arrival							Non-permanent residents
					Before 1971	1971 to 1980	1981 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2011			
									2001 to 2011 (subtotal)	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2011	
Metro census divisions (sorted by immigrants as a percent of total population)												
3521	Peel	1,289,010	650,530	50	71,225	78,675	101,290	178,300	221,045	120,130	100,910	13,095
3520	Toronto	2,576,025	1,252,215	49	190,000	150,585	185,675	314,475	411,480	194,955	216,520	64,945
3519	York	1,024,225	463,125	45	72,360	57,570	78,185	140,810	114,190	66,465	47,725	9,680
3524	Halton	495,445	128,740	26	31,005	19,115	18,275	26,360	33,990	19,415	14,575	4,010
3525	Hamilton	509,640	125,015	25	38,860	16,090	17,810	24,505	27,750	12,925	14,820	4,535
3506	Ottawa	867,090	202,610	23	35,145	23,345	31,895	53,015	59,205	26,720	32,485	11,345
3529	Brant	133,785	15,085	11	6,460	2,475	1,770	2,155	2,230	1,245	985	735
3553	Greater Sudbury	157,865	9,775	6	5,645	1,320	670	905	1,235	570	665	605
Metro (subtotal)		7,053,085	2,847,095	40	450,700	349,175	435,570	740,525	871,125	442,425	428,685	108,950
Partially-non-metro census divisions (sorted by immigrants as a percent of total population)												
3530	Waterloo	499,610	111,495	22	24,750	15,360	16,175	24,390	30,815	15,355	15,465	3,955
3537	Essex	381,350	81,730	21	21,260	10,745	10,570	19,145	20,015	9,870	10,145	3,640
3518	Durham	601,605	125,845	21	33,860	23,850	21,325	24,920	21,895	12,945	8,950	2,100
3539	Middlesex	432,375	83,800	19	23,890	10,160	13,500	14,335	21,915	10,100	11,810	4,730
3523	Wellington	205,885	34,375	17	11,090	4,420	4,840	6,550	7,485	4,135	3,345	930
3526	Niagara	422,810	69,715	16	31,990	10,650	7,135	8,920	11,025	5,045	5,985	2,480
3534	Elgin	85,870	10,935	13	3,880	1,855	2,010	1,410	1,775	1,020	755	195
3522	Dufferin	56,085	6,775	12	3,050	1,030	1,005	725	965	460	510	195
3510	Frontenac	145,120	17,280	12	6,925	2,485	2,245	2,180	3,445	1,715	1,730	1,165
3543	Simcoe	438,285	50,915	12	22,790	8,025	6,395	6,145	7,565	3,815	3,750	985
3558	Thunder Bay	143,385	12,280	9	7,135	1,745	930	900	1,565	700	870	290
3515	Peterborough	131,930	10,755	8	5,625	1,520	1,195	985	1,425	835	595	475
3511	Lennox & Addington	40,085	2,675	7	1,625	500	230	160	160	125	40	45
3502	Prescott and Russell	83,485	3,640	4	1,035	535	560	655	855	525	330	105
Partially-non-metro (subtotal)		3,667,880	622,215	17	198,905	92,880	88,115	111,420	130,905	66,645	64,280	21,290
Non-metro census divisions (sorted by immigrants as a percent of total population)												
3514	Northumberland	79,640	8,285	10	5,180	1,450	610	490	550	305	245	95
3546	Haliburton	16,830	1,710	10	1,095	290	185	80	65	20	40	-
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	106,650	10,810	10	5,470	1,445	1,345	1,570	980	630	350	155
3538	Lambton	123,995	12,345	10	6,370	2,260	1,040	1,035	1,630	1,060	575	490
3532	Oxford	104,105	9,810	9	4,565	1,460	1,230	1,330	1,225	630	595	210
3513	Prince Edward	24,605	2,125	9	1,145	545	160	170	105	40	60	75
3557	Algoma	113,875	9,745	9	6,315	1,505	740	310	870	410	455	350
3536	Chatham-Kent	102,075	8,695	9	3,620	1,200	1,265	1,175	1,440	905	530	305
3531	Perth	73,485	6,160	8	2,760	840	795	870	895	335	565	180
3516	Kawartha Lakes	71,450	5,590	8	3,475	815	495	335	465	270	195	45
3541	Bruce	64,785	5,000	8	2,575	605	490	495	830	490	340	200
3542	Grey	90,285	6,660	7	3,855	945	535	475	845	640	205	90
3540	Huron	57,885	4,205	7	2,275	440	470	525	500	285	215	30
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	108,655	7,825	7	3,170	1,330	830	1,240	1,260	580	680	145
3507	Leeds & Grenville	97,605	6,825	7	3,405	900	780	625	1,115	450	670	130
3544	Muskoka	55,835	3,870	7	2,055	715	385	340	375	190	180	265
3512	Hastings	132,425	8,675	7	4,695	1,320	715	825	1,115	480	635	275
3549	Parry Sound	41,405	2,710	7	1,620	410	240	245	200	95	110	125
3509	Lanark	64,325	4,095	6	1,810	1,030	400	395	465	205	255	80
3559	Rainy River	20,045	1,210	6	560	325	160	45	115	70	45	60
3547	Renfrew	98,565	5,065	5	2,250	975	595	595	650	340	315	170
3548	Nipissing	82,820	3,890	5	1,890	495	390	415	705	425	275	220
3551	Manitoulin	12,905	570	4	295	90	65	50	75	45	35	50
3560	Kenora	54,920	2,330	4	1,055	320	255	235	465	165	300	200
3554	Timiskaming	32,030	1,005	3	450	225	100	80	145	55	90	25
3556	Cochrane	78,645	2,290	3	1,155	285	250	295	305	165	140	185
3552	Sudbury	20,985	585	3	335	95	70	40	45	35	-	35
Non-metro (subtotal)		1,930,830	142,085	7	73,445	22,315	14,595	14,285	17,435	9,320	8,100	4,190
Ontario		12,651,795	3,611,395	29	723,050	464,370	538,280	866,230	1,019,465	518,390	501,065	134,430

1. An immigrant is a person who is born outside Canada and is or has ever been a landed immigrant / permanent resident.

Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey, 2011