
Aboriginal identity population

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Highlights

- **The Aboriginal identity population in Ontario was 301,450 in 2011.**
- **Ontario has the largest Aboriginal population of any province or territory in Canada and more than one-half live in non-metro census divisions.**
- **Three non-metro census divisions (Manitoulin, Kenora and Rainy River) have more than 20% of their population with an Aboriginal identity and 10 census divisions have more than 6%.**

Why look at the Aboriginal identity population?

The Aboriginal population is growing faster than the rest of the Canadian population due to higher birth rates. An increasing share of new entrants to Canada's workforce will be Aboriginal in the future.

Findings

In 2011, 1.4 million Canadians had an Aboriginal identity¹. Ontario is the province or territory with the most Aboriginals in Canada with 301,450 (Table 1). British Columbia was the next largest jurisdiction with 232,400 individuals with an Aboriginal identity.

Over one-half of Ontario's Aboriginals (117,680 individuals) reside in non-metro census divisions (CDs). Within non-metro CDs, Aboriginals represent 6% of the population. However, there are non-metro CDs, predominantly in the north, where more 10% of the population is Aboriginal (Manitoulin with 41%, Kenora with 36%, Rainy

River with 22%, Sudbury with 16%, Cochrane with 13%, Algoma with 12% and Nipissing with 11%). One partially-non-metro CD has 12% of its population being Aboriginal (Thunder Bay).

In most CDs, about 2/3 of Aboriginals have a First Nations (North American Indian) single identity and another 1/3 have a Métis single identity.

Summary

The intensity of the Aboriginal population in northern non-metro census divisions combined with their higher birth rate indicates that an increasing share of workforce entrants over the next few years will have an Aboriginal identity.

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 The Aboriginal identity is derived from data collected in three questions on the 2011 National Household Survey: Aboriginal group (Question 18); Registered or Treaty Indian status (Question 20) and Membership in a First Nation or Indian band (Question 21). In Question 18, respondents could respond 'Yes, First Nations (North American Indian),' 'Yes, Métis,' 'Yes, Inuk (Inuit)' or 'No, not an Aboriginal person' by checking off the appropriate mark-in circle. In Question 20, respondents could respond 'No' or 'Yes, Status Indian (Registered or Treaty).' In Question 21, respondents could respond 'No' or 'Yes, member of a First Nation/Indian band'. (Source: Statistics Canada. (2013) **2011 National Household Survey Data Dictionary** (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 99-000) <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/ref/dict/index-eng.cfm>)

Table 1

Population with an Aboriginal Identity by Census Division, Ontario, 2011									
Census Division ID	Census Division	Total population (in private households)	Population with an Aboriginal identity	Percent with Aboriginal identity	Number reporting each Aboriginal identity:				
					First Nations (North American Indian) single identity	Métis single identity	Inuk (Inuit) single identity	Multiple Aboriginal identities	Aboriginal identities not included elsewhere
Metro census divisions (sorted by percent reporting an Aboriginal identity)									
3529	Brant	133,785	11,625	9	10,790	570	-	90	155
3553	Greater Sudbury	157,865	13,045	8	6,130	6,455	40	90	330
3506	Ottawa	867,085	18,180	2	10,310	6,400	705	175	580
3525	Hamilton	509,640	10,315	2	7,960	1,775	45	230	310
3524	Halton	495,445	4,010	1	2,490	1,315	65	30	115
3520	Toronto	2,576,025	19,270	1	12,985	4,875	305	180	920
3521	Peel	1,289,015	7,085	1	4,090	2,265	130	145	450
3519	York	1,024,225	4,560	0	2,860	1,215	85	90	310
Metro (subtotal)		7,053,085	88,090	1	57,615	24,870	1,375	1,030	3,170
Partially-non-metro census divisions (sorted by percent reporting an Aboriginal identity)									
3558	Thunder Bay	143,390	17,135	12	13,670	3,180	25	115	140
3543	Simcoe	438,285	17,540	4	8,895	8,160	100	160	225
3511	Lennox & Addington	40,085	1,505	4	950	405	55	60	35
3515	Peterborough	131,930	4,810	4	3,330	1,195	80	45	160
3510	Frontenac	145,120	4,800	3	3,055	1,405	80	15	240
3502	Prescott and Russell	83,485	2,295	3	1,210	920	35	15	110
3539	Middlesex	432,375	9,860	2	7,750	1,710	35	100	255
3526	Niagara	422,810	9,055	2	5,600	2,870	190	70	325
3537	Essex	381,345	7,495	2	4,080	2,945	45	195	240
3534	Elgin	85,870	1,560	2	1,130	315	35	20	65
3523	Wellington	205,885	3,200	2	1,875	1,155	60	-	105
3518	Durham	601,610	8,905	1	5,395	2,895	165	75	370
3530	Waterloo	499,615	6,825	1	4,230	2,120	220	60	185
3522	Dufferin	56,085	695	1	460	105	35	45	40
Partially-non-metro (subtotal)		3,667,890	95,680	3	61,630	29,380	1,160	975	2,495
Non-metro census divisions (sorted by percent reporting an Aboriginal identity)									
3551	Manitoulin	12,900	5,295	41	5,065	210	-	-	15
3560	Kenora	54,915	19,985	36	16,835	2,935	55	80	85
3559	Rainy River	20,045	4,480	22	3,625	800	-	40	10
3552	Sudbury	20,985	3,345	16	1,860	1,345	-	40	85
3556	Cochrane	78,645	9,855	13	6,120	3,600	20	35	90
3557	Algoma	113,875	13,145	12	8,210	4,555	10	95	270
3548	Nipissing	82,825	8,975	11	4,995	3,690	40	90	155
3547	Renfrew	98,565	7,420	8	4,190	2,770	75	205	185
3512	Hastings	132,425	7,920	6	5,710	1,865	-	-	325
3549	Parry Sound	41,405	2,415	6	1,680	660	-	-	50
3554	Timiskaming	32,030	1,640	5	905	685	-	-	35
3528	Haldimand-Norfolk	106,655	4,450	4	3,550	755	-	-	95
3541	Bruce	64,780	2,600	4	1,920	630	20	-	35
3509	Lanark	64,325	2,385	4	1,500	665	35	20	160
3538	Lambton	123,995	4,425	4	3,620	725	-	-	65
3536	Chatham-Kent	102,070	3,285	3	2,130	955	-	90	95
3544	Muskoka	55,835	1,700	3	1,160	470	35	-	35
3501	Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry	108,655	3,130	3	2,050	790	50	60	180
3513	Prince Edward	24,605	625	3	555	60	-	-	-
3507	Leeds & Grenville	97,605	2,470	3	1,230	1,055	95	20	70
3514	Northumberland	79,635	1,885	2	1,210	440	155	-	70
3542	Grey	90,285	1,955	2	1,065	815	-	10	60
3516	Kawartha Lakes	71,450	1,380	2	655	600	75	-	40
3546	Haliburton	16,830	305	2	185	105	-	10	-
3532	Oxford	104,110	1,350	1	990	265	-	-	80
3540	Huron	57,890	615	1	395	160	20	-	40
3531	Perth	73,485	645	1	440	165	-	10	30
Non-metro (subtotal)		1,930,825	117,680	6	81,850	31,770	685	805	2,360
Ontario		12,651,800	301,450	2	201,095	86,020	3,220	2,810	8,025

Source: Statistics Canada. National Household Survey, 2011