



Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Immigration



This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. Understanding the makeup of our community is important for planning programs and services. The data is from the 2006 Census by Statistics Canada except where otherwise noted.^{1,2}

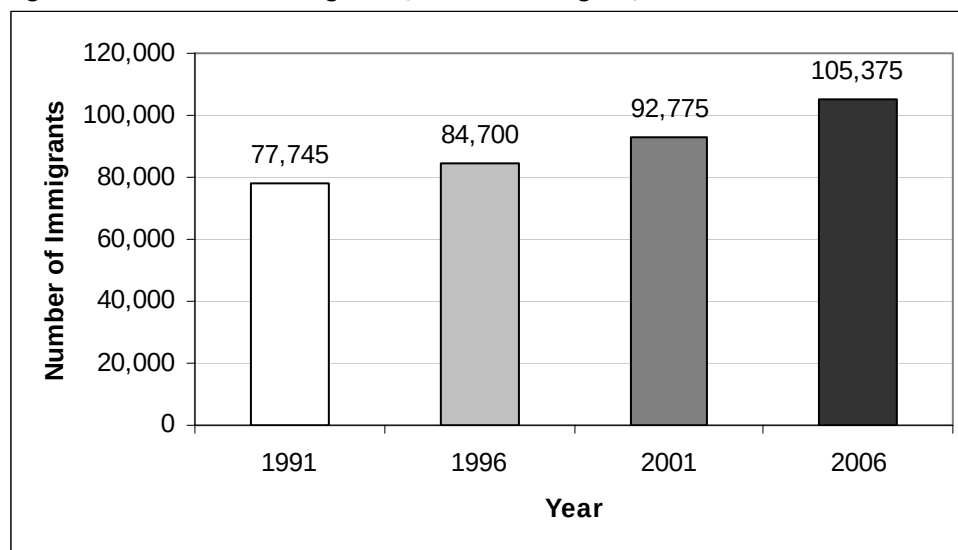
Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

Number of Immigrants

According to the 2006 Census, Waterloo Region was home to 105,375 immigrants. Immigrants make up more than one-fifth of the population of Waterloo Region.

The proportion of Waterloo Region residents who were immigrants increased from 20.8% (77,745 individuals) in 1991 to 22.3% of the total population (105,375 individuals) in 2006. In 1996 the proportion of immigrants was 21.1% (84,700 individuals) and in 2001 it was 21.4% (92,775 individuals) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 1991-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Non-permanent residents are persons from another country who, at the time of the census, held a Work or Study Permit or who were refugee claimants, as well as family members living with them in Canada. As of the 2006 Census, there were 4,090 non-permanent residents living in the Waterloo Region, representing 0.9% of the total population. Refugees who are granted permanent resident status are included as immigrants and are not considered non-permanent residents.

The Kitchener Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which encompasses all of Waterloo Region except for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships, has the seventh highest proportion of immigrants in Canada, behind Toronto, Vancouver, Hamilton, Abbotsford, Calgary, and Windsor (Table 1).

Table 1: Urban Areas (CMAs) with the Largest Proportion of Immigrants, Canada, 2006

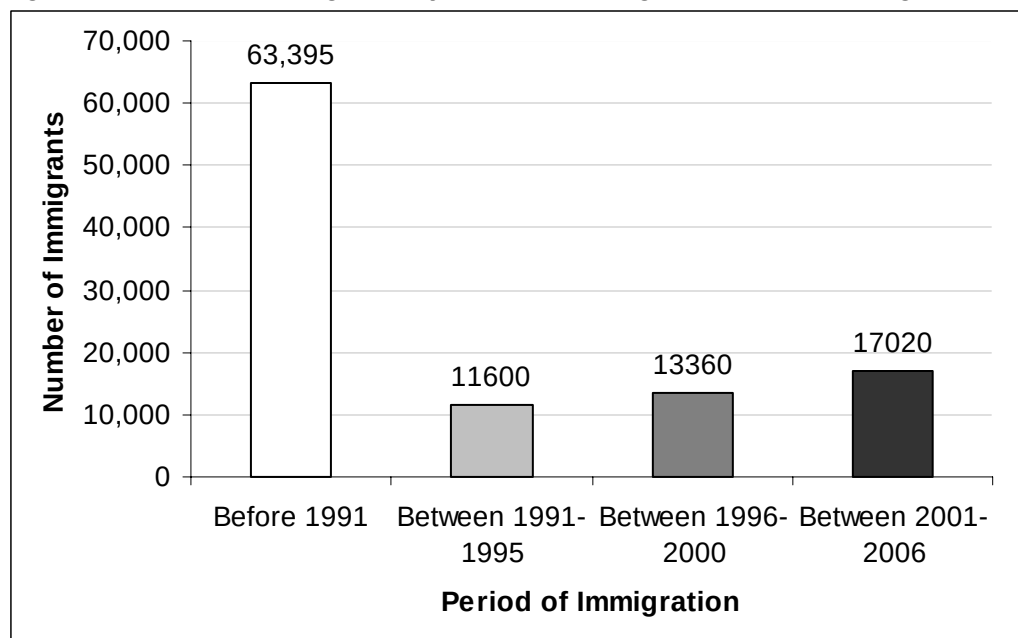
Rank	City	Per cent Immigrants
1	Toronto, ON	45.7%
2	Vancouver, BC	39.6%
3	Hamilton, ON	24.4%
4	Abbotsford, BC	23.7%
5	Calgary, AB	23.6%
6	Windsor, ON	23.3%
7	Kitchener, ON	23.1%
8	Montreal, QC	20.6%
9	Guelph, ON	20.4%
10	London, ON	19.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Period of Immigration

Some of Waterloo Region's immigrants have been living in Canada for many decades and some have arrived more recently. As of 2006, 16.1% of immigrants in Waterloo Region (or 17,020 individuals) had immigrated in the last five years and an additional 12.7% had immigrated five to ten years before (Figure 2). A large proportion of immigrants have lived here for more than 15 years.

Figure 2: Number of Immigrants by Period of Immigration, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Generational Status

The people living in Waterloo Region represent many generations of immigrants who have come to Canada. In Waterloo Region, among people aged 15 years and older, 103,680 individuals (27.2% of the population) are first generation Canadians. First generation individuals are immigrants - people who were born outside of Canada.

Second generation individuals (68,830 individuals making up 18.1% of the Waterloo Region population) were born in Canada but at least one of their parents was an immigrant. Third or later generation individuals were born in Canada and both of their parents were also born in Canada. In Waterloo Region, 208,475 individuals (54.7% of the population) are at least third generation Canadians.

Secondary Immigration

Secondary immigration often refers to immigrants who initially start to settle in one area of Canada but shortly afterwards move to another city or area to settle.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada gathers arrivals data from immigrants when they first come to Canada. A rough estimate of secondary immigration can be calculated based on this arrivals information about what urban area immigrants are initially intending to settle in, and comparing it to the census count of how many recent immigrants live in the Waterloo Region area. Recent immigrants often refers to individuals who immigrated in the 5 years before the last census.

There are approximately 20% more recent immigrants who live in the Waterloo Region area than the number that initially directly immigrated here. This provides a rough estimate of secondary immigration within the first few years after people immigrate to Canada.

For more information:

- For [more information about immigrants in Waterloo Region](#), including other fact sheets, reports, census bulletins and links, see the Region of Waterloo website (www.region.waterloo.on.ca) and use the search function for “immigrants in Waterloo Region”.
- For more information on census statistics, please refer to the Statistics Canada’s website (www.statcan.gc.ca)
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 - To see a table giving an extensive profile of immigrants and recent immigrants please refer to Statistics Canada’s website (www.statcan.gc.ca) and select “Census”. In the search box enter the catalog number 97-564-X2006008 (Immigrant Status by Selected Variables). To see a table with more information on languages in Waterloo Region, search for catalog number 97-555-XCB2006016.
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- For data maps with 2001 and 2006 Census data see the [Canadian Social Data Strategy Regional Data Atlas](#) at www.csd-sacass.ca/data

Notes:

1. All data is 2006 Census data by Statistics Canada, unless otherwise indicated. Reference: Statistics Canada. *Census 2006* [Data files]. Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>. Reference for maps: Statistics Canada. *Census 2006: Regional Atlas*. Retrieved from http://www.csd-sacass.ca/data/regional_06.htm
2. Wherever possible, data on the entire Waterloo Region have been presented. In some cases however, data was only available for the Kitchener CMA which includes all of Waterloo Region except for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships.
3. Take care when interpreting the data presented in this fact sheet. Statistics Canada randomly rounds numbers to multiples of five to increase confidentiality, having a larger impact on smaller data numbers.
4. Secondary immigration was calculated by comparing Citizenship and Immigration Canada arrivals data with Census data. The number of arrivals from 2001 through 2005 was taken as well as half of the arrivals for 2006, attempting to get as close as possible to the census period of measurement. The census data for recent immigrants arriving between 2001-2006 was used. Reference: Citizenship and Immigration Canada. *Annual arrivals data* [Data file]. Retrieved through a custom data request.

These fact sheets were published by the Health Determinants Planning and Evaluation Division at [Region of Waterloo Public Health](#). These fact sheets were created for the Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership – a collaboration between many community organizations and citizens. The fact sheets were funded by [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) and developed by the [Region of Waterloo](#), incorporating information from the [2006 Census Bulletins](#) by the Region of Waterloo Planning Housing and Community Services Department.

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Distribution



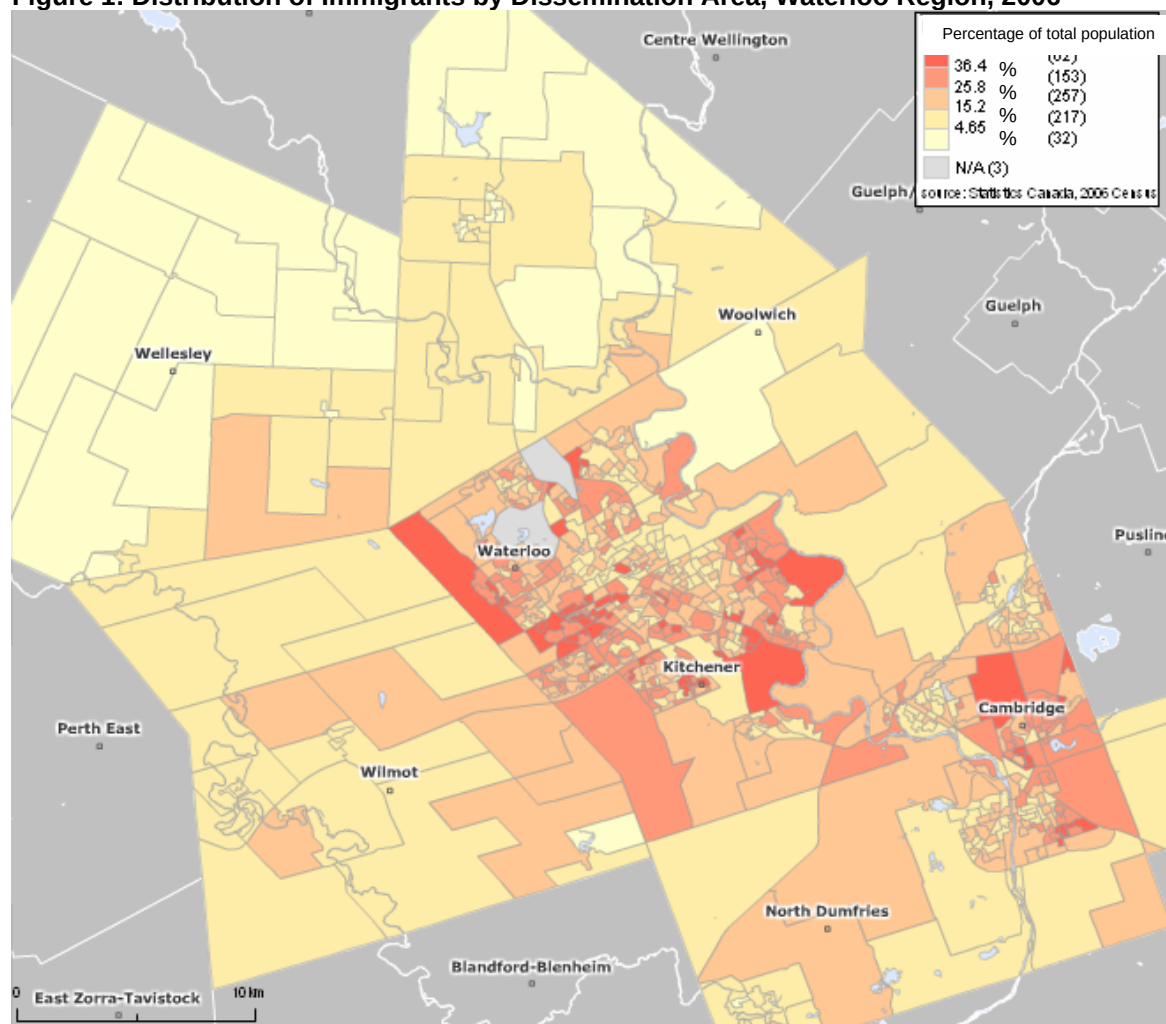
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Distribution of Immigrants

Figure 1 represents how immigrants are distributed across Waterloo Region using Dissemination Areas. Statistics Canada uses Dissemination Areas as one of the smallest data areas, generally covering 400-700 individuals.

Figure 1: Distribution of Immigrants by Dissemination Area, Waterloo Region, 2006

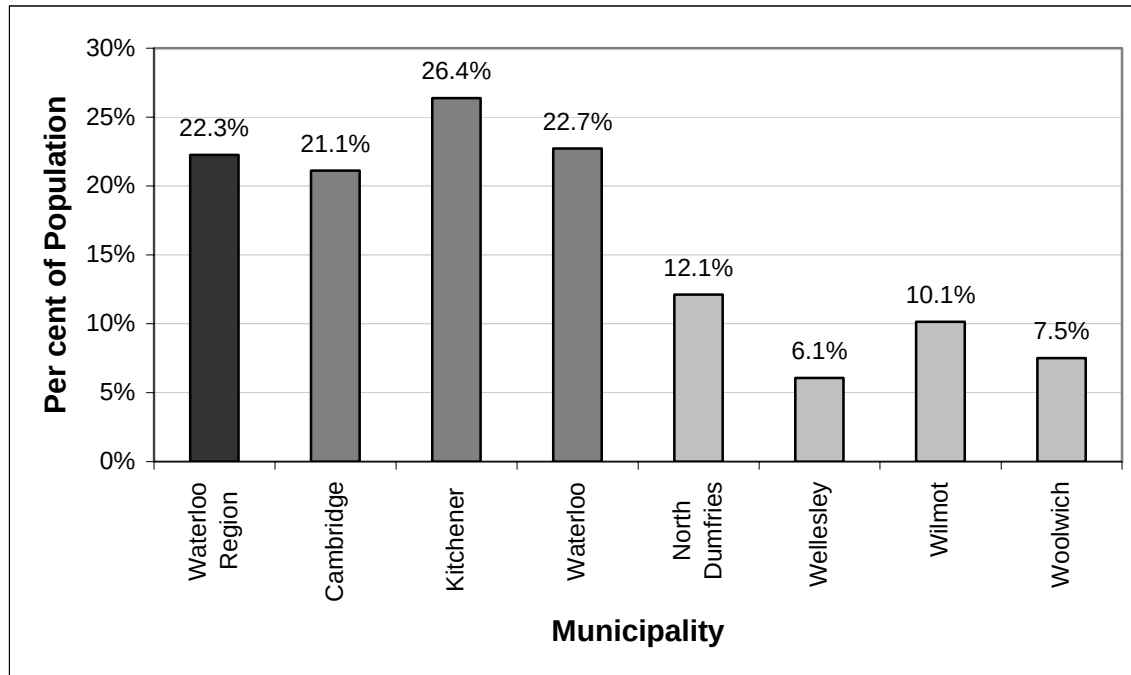


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Distribution of Immigrants by Municipality

Within Waterloo Region, the proportion of immigrants varies, ranging from 21.1% to 26.4% in urban municipalities and from 6.1% to 12.1% in rural areas. (See Figure 2).

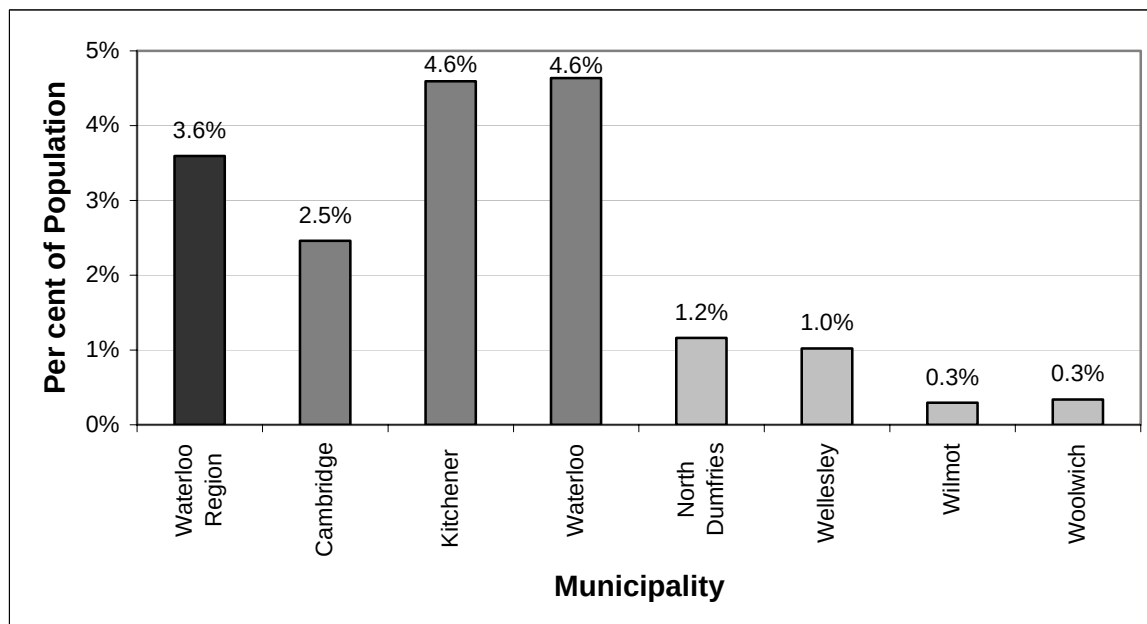
Figure 2: Proportion of Immigrants by Municipality and Townships, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Recent immigrants (individuals arriving in the last five years before the census, 2001-2006) also vary by municipality. Recent immigrants made up about 4.6% of the total population of Kitchener, 4.6% of Waterloo, 2.5% of the population of Cambridge, and about 1% or less of the population of each of the rural municipalities. (See Figure 3)

Figure 3. Proportion of Recent Immigrants by Municipality and Townships, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Distribution of Immigrants by Period of Immigration

In general, the rural townships in Waterloo Region had the highest proportion of individuals that immigrated before 1961, whereas Cambridge tended to have higher proportions of those that immigrated in the 1970s and 1980s. Kitchener and Waterloo both had higher proportions of those that immigrated after 1990, when compared to other municipalities in Waterloo Region. From 2001-2006, the areas with the highest immigration rates were Waterloo, Kitchener, and Wellesley.

Table 1: Immigrant Distribution in Municipalities by Period of Immigration and Proportion of Immigrants by Period of Immigration, Waterloo Region, 2006

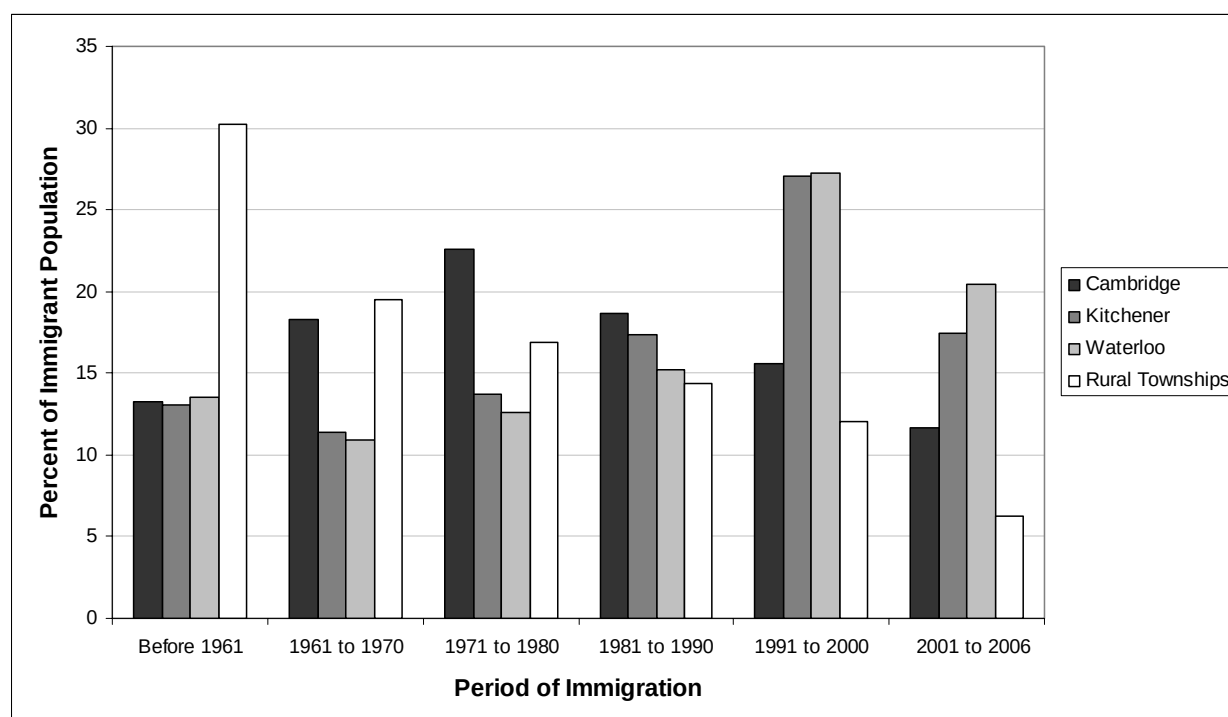
Geographic Area	Period of Immigration						Total Immigrants
	Before 1961	1961 to 1970	1971 to 1980	1981 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2006	
Waterloo Region	14775 (14.0%)	14020 (13.3%)	16600 (15.8%)	18000 (17.1%)	24955 (23.7%)	17020 (16.2%)	105375
Cambridge	3350 (13.3%)	4605 (18.3%)	5690 (22.6%)	4705 (18.7%)	3935 (15.6%)	2935 (11.6%)	25225
Kitchener	6975 (13.1%)	6055 (11.4%)	7300 (13.7%)	9255 (17.4%)	14445 (27.1%)	9285 (17.4%)	53320
Waterloo	2975 (13.5%)	2410 (11.0%)	2775 (12.6%)	3335 (15.2%)	5990 (27.2%)	4490 (20.4%)	21985
North Dumfries	295 (26.9%)	290 (26.5%)	145 (13.2%)	160 (14.6%)	90 (8.2%)	100 (9.1%)	1095
Wellesley	190 (31.9%)	50 (8.4%)	45 (7.6%)	60 (10.1%)	145 (24.4%)	100 (16.8%)	595
Wilmot	555 (32.3%)	310 (18.0%)	310 (18.0%)	275 (16.0%)	220 (12.8%)	45 (2.6%)	1720
Woolwich	425 (29.6%)	295 (20.6%)	320 (22.3%)	200 (13.9%)	130 (9.1%)	60 (4.2%)	1435

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Note that this chart includes information in decades with the exception of the 2001-2006 category, which presents the numbers from the most recent 5-year period rather than a full 10-year period.

The most common geographic areas within Waterloo Region that immigrants settle in have changed over time. Figure 4 depicts the proportion of immigrants settling in different regions, by period of immigration.

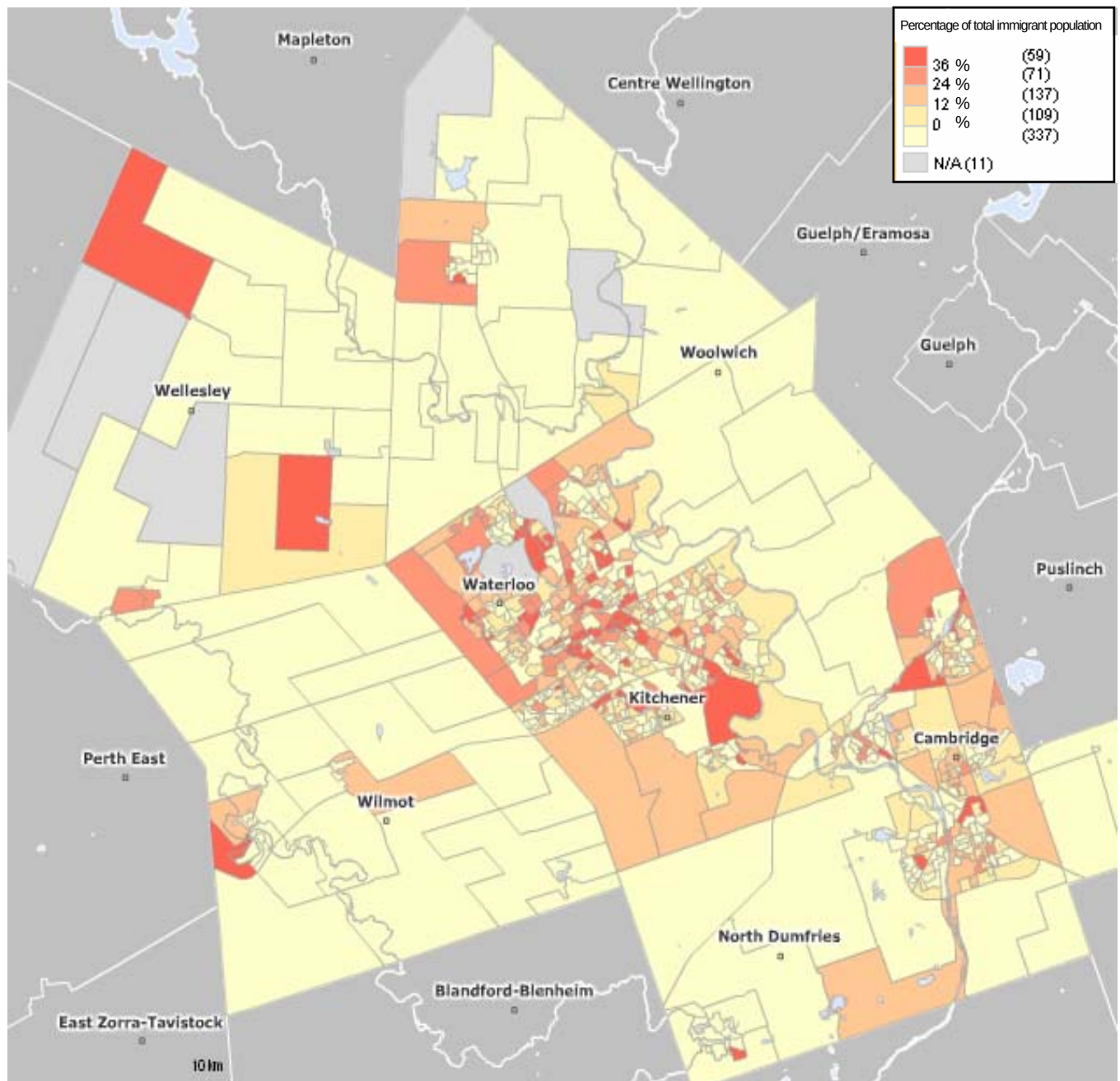
Figure 4: Proportion of Immigrants by Immigration Period and Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

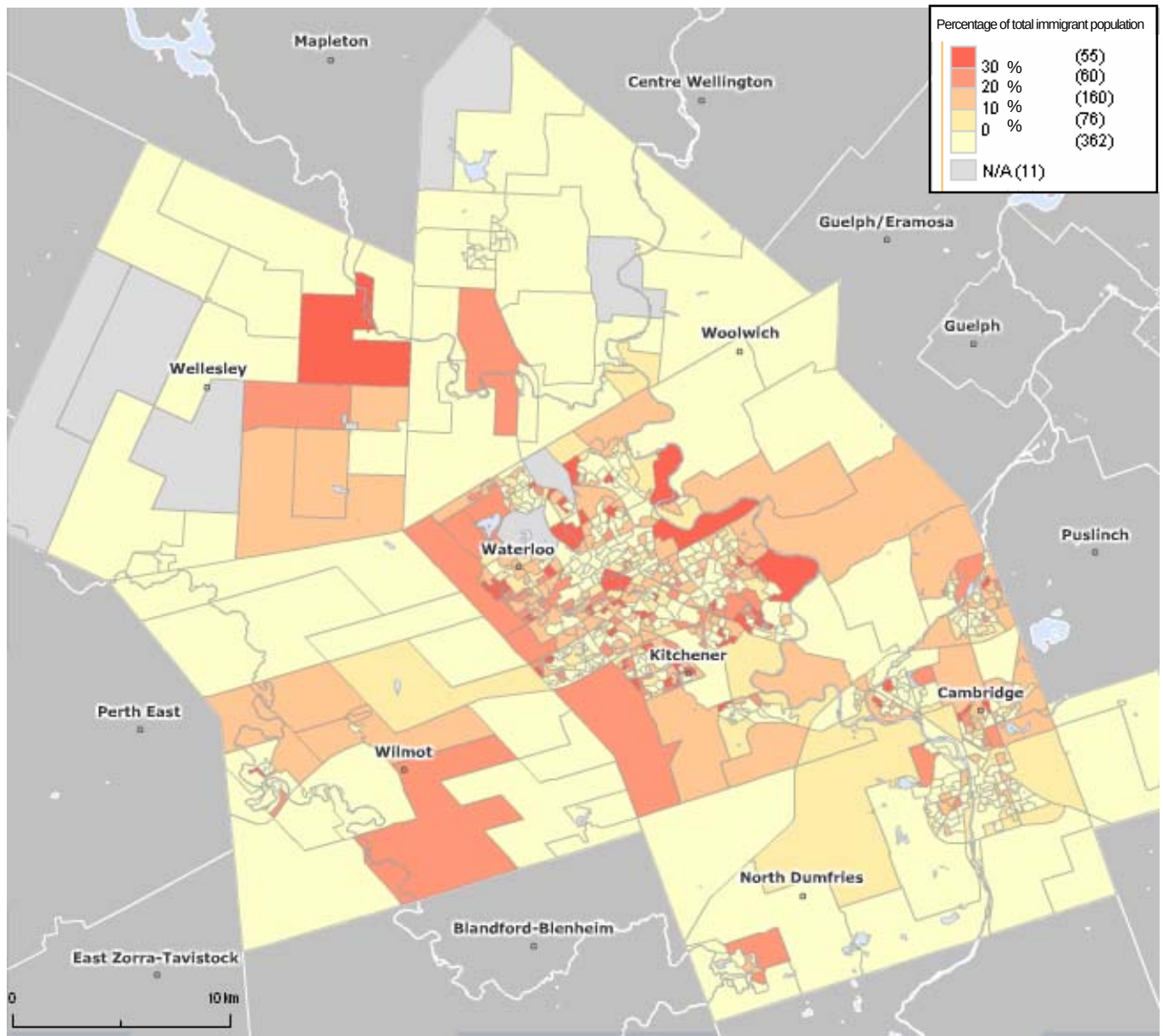
The maps below depict the distribution of immigrants in Waterloo Region by the time period in which they immigrated to Canada.

Figure 5. Distribution of Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 2001-2006



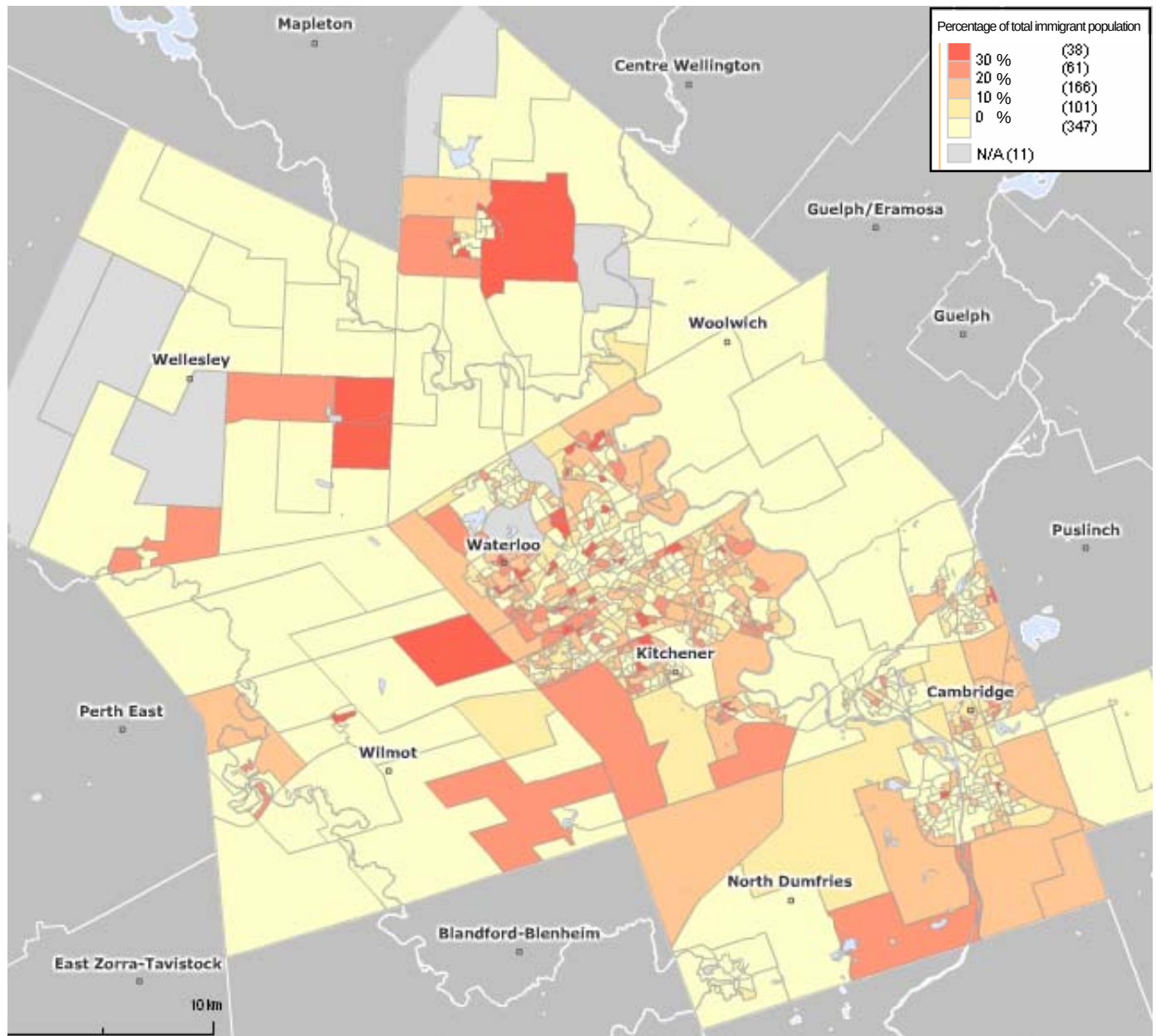
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 6. Distribution of Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 1996-2000



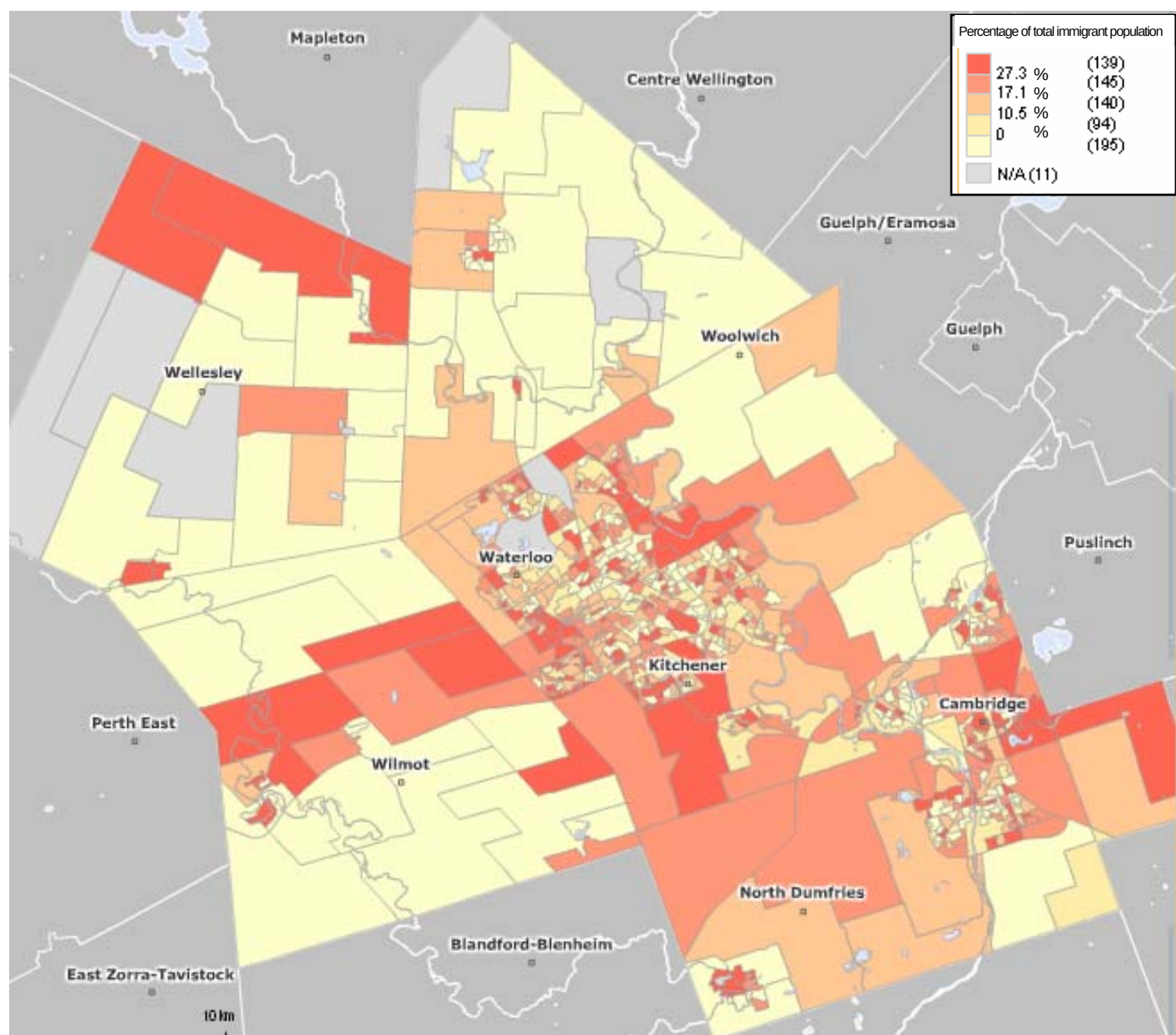
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 7. Distribution of Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 1991-1995



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 8. Distribution of Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 1981-1990



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

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Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Language



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Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

Immigrants, and non-immigrants, in Waterloo Region speak many different languages. While most people in Waterloo Region can speak English, the number of people who can also speak languages other than English or French is increasing.

Mother Tongue Language

A person's mother tongue is the first language they learned and still understand. In 2006, there were 106,855 people whose mother tongue was a non-official language (non-official languages are languages other than English or French). Currently, 23.5% of the population has a non-official mother tongue.

The number of people whose mother tongue was a non-official language increased by 21% from 2001. In comparison, English and French mother tongues only increased 6% and 5% respectively. The following table shows the mother tongue distribution for Waterloo Region.

Table 1: Mother Tongue Distribution, Waterloo Region, 2006

Language	Waterloo Region		Ontario
	Count	Per cent Distribution	Per cent Distribution
English	355,340	75.1%	68.4%
French	6,155	1.3%	4.1%
English and French	725	0.2%	0.3%
Non-Official Languages	106,855	22.6%	26.1%
English and/or French and a Non-Official Language	4,185	0.9%	1.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Waterloo Region ranks seventh among all Ontario regions (census divisions) in terms of the percentage of people whose mother tongue is a non-official language. The percentage of the population in Waterloo Region whose mother tongue is a non-official language is lower than the percentage across Ontario (Table 1). Notably, the City of Toronto has the highest percentage of non-English mother tongues (46.9%), more than double the proportion in Waterloo Region.

Table 2 shows the top 20 mother tongue languages for Waterloo Region. English remains the predominant mother tongue. German has a strong historical presence in the Region and despite dropping by 3% from 2001, remains the second most common mother tongue. Similar to 2001, Portuguese remains as the third most common mother tongue in Waterloo Region. Among those who spoke a Chinese language, two thirds did not indicate a specific dialect, and the remaining one third was split almost equally between Mandarin and Cantonese. Farsi (commonly known as Persian), Arabic, and Urdu were the fastest growing mother tongue in Waterloo Region between 2001 and 2006 and each grew by around 90% since 2001.

Table 2: Top 20 Mother Tongue Languages, Waterloo Region, 2006

2006 Rank	Language	Population Count	Per cent Distribution	Per cent Growth 2001-2006	2001 Rank
1	English	355,340	75.9%	6%	1
2	German	18,765	4.0%	-3%	2
3	Portuguese	11,200	2.4%	3%	3
4	Chinese Languages	7,630	1.6%	61%	6
5	Spanish	6,915	1.5%	47%	7
6	French	6,155	1.3%	5%	4
7	Polish	6,000	1.3%	8%	5
8	Romanian	4,775	1.0%	45%	10
9	Serbian	4,530	1.0%	32%	8
10	Vietnamese	3,215	0.7%	9%	11
11	Arabic	3,200	0.7%	88%	17
12	Punjabi	3,170	0.7%	26%	12
13	Dutch	2,755	0.6%	18%	13
14	Persian	2,640	0.6%	90%	20
15	Croatian	2,410	0.5%	11%	15
16	Italian	2,235	0.5%	-1%	14
17	Urdu	2,075	0.4%	84%	21
18	Hungarian	1,900	0.4%	-2%	16
19	Greek	1,625	0.3%	2%	18
20	Gujarati	1,410	0.3%	29%	22

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Recent immigrants speak many different languages. Below are the top 20 mother tongue languages for those who immigrated between 2001-2006.

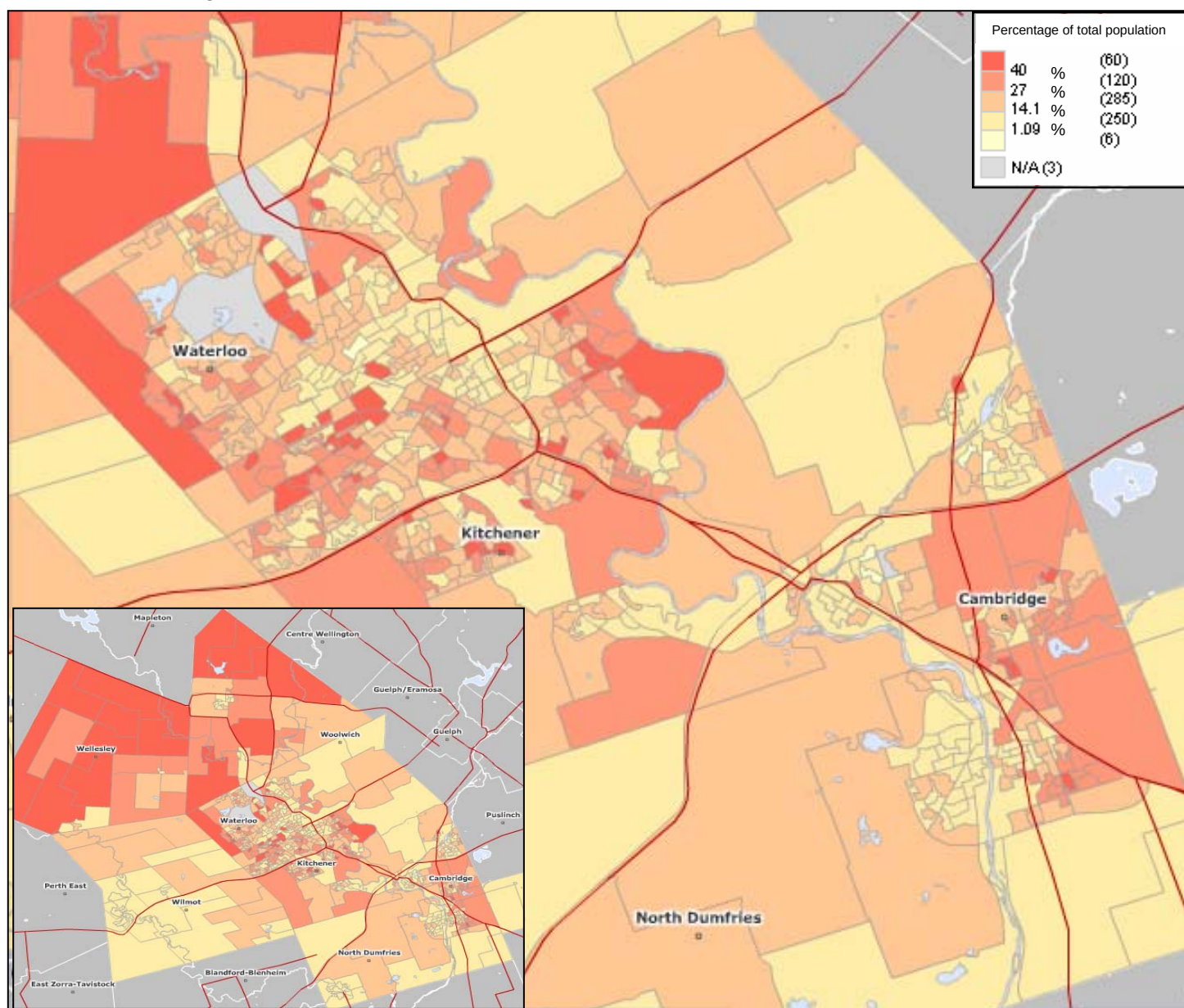
Table 3: Top 20 Mother Tongue Languages of Recent Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 2006

Top 20 Languages of Recent Immigrants	Population Count	Per cent of Recent Immigrants
English	2,645	15.5
Chinese Languages	1,315	7.7
Spanish	1,140	6.7
Arabic	1,125	6.6
Romanian	1,115	6.6
Persian (Farsi)	1,010	5.9
Urdu	1,005	5.9
Panjabi (Punjabi)	635	3.7
Hindi	480	2.8
Korean	465	2.7
Mandarin	460	2.7
Pashto	365	2.1
Serbian	320	1.9
Russian	315	1.9
Tagalog (Filipino)	295	1.7
Gujarati	270	1.6
Portuguese	265	1.6
Polish	205	1.2
Macedonian	195	1.1
Vietnamese	185	1.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Mother tongue varies considerably across Waterloo Region. Figure 2 maps the proportion of people across the Region who have a mother tongue other than English or French. The darker the area of the map, the higher the proportion of people in that area who have a non-official mother tongue.

Figure 1: Proportion of Residents in Waterloo Region who have a Non-official Mother Tongue, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Home Language

Waterloo Region's diversity can be seen through the number of people who speak a language other than English or French at home. Similar to the growth seen in mother tongue languages, the largest increases in home language were in non-official languages. From 2001 to 2006, there was a reported 20% increase in this category. As of 2006, almost one in every eight residents in Waterloo Region spoke a non-official language at home as indicated in Table 4.

The three cities (Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge) are comparable to the regional average and have similar proportions of their populations speaking a non-official language at home. On the other hand, the

townships including North Dumfries and Wilmot, have very small percentages of non-English speaking citizens, whereas, as a result of the larger Mennonite population, there are higher percentages of residents who speak a non-official language in Wellesley and Woolwich.

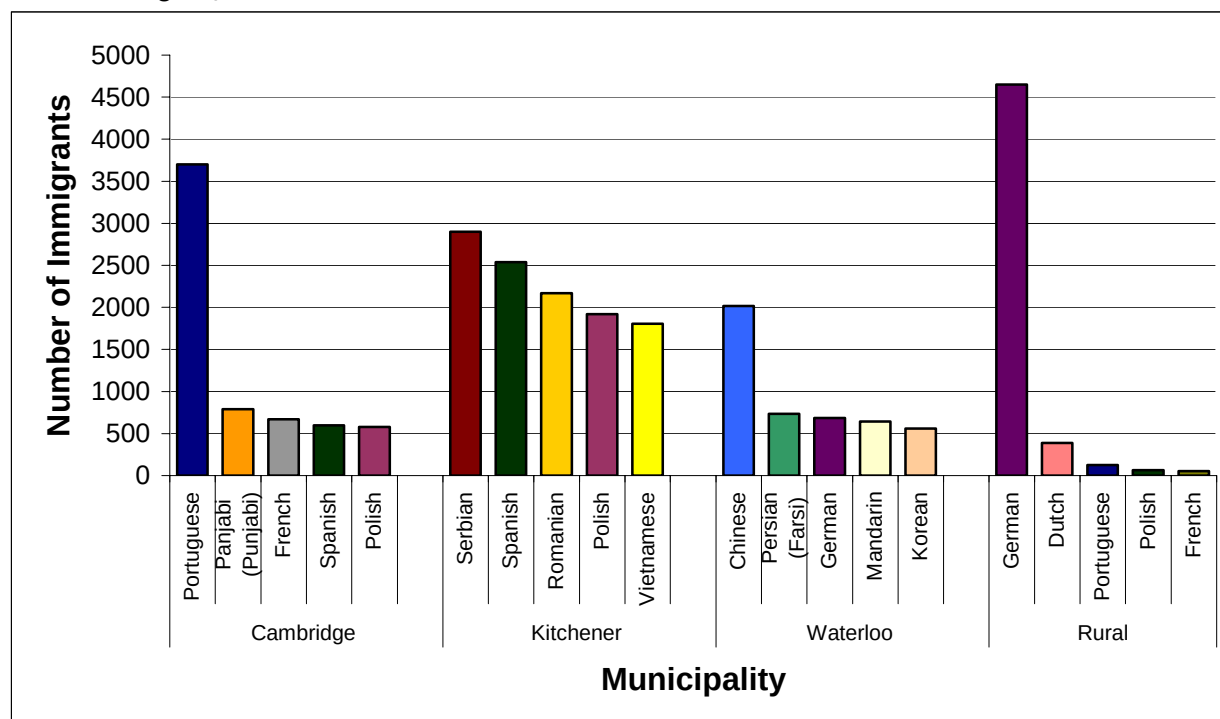
Table 4: Languages Most Often Spoken at Home by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006

Municipality	English		French		Non-Official Language		English and French		English and/or French & Non-Official Language	
	Count	Per cent	Count	Per cent	Count	Per cent	Count	Per cent	Count	Per cent
Waterloo Region	407,300	86.1%	1,755	0.4%	56,775	12.0%	445	0.1%	6,895	1.5%
Cambridge	105,480	88.3%	670	0.6%	11,335	9.5%	145	0.1%	1,790	1.5%
Kitchener	169,030	83.6%	650	0.3%	28,465	14.1%	220	0.1%	3,795	1.8%
Waterloo	83,920	86.7%	375	0.4%	11,180	11.6%	70	0.1%	1,225	1.3%
North Dumfries	8,805	97.3%	30	0.3%	210	2.3%	0	0%	0	0%
Wellesley	6,775	69.2%	0	0%	2,975	30.4%	0	0%	35	0.4%
Wilmot	16,425	96.8%	25	0.1%	425	2.5%	0	0%	95	0.6%
Woolwich	16,860	88.3%	0	0%	2,185	11.4%	10	0.1%	55	0.3%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Languages most often spoken at home are very different in the cities and townships of Waterloo Region. Figure 2 indicates the top five home languages (other than English) in each municipality. Both German and Dutch were prominent in the townships of Wellesley and Woolwich.

Figure 2: Top Languages Most Often Spoken at Home (Other than English) by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

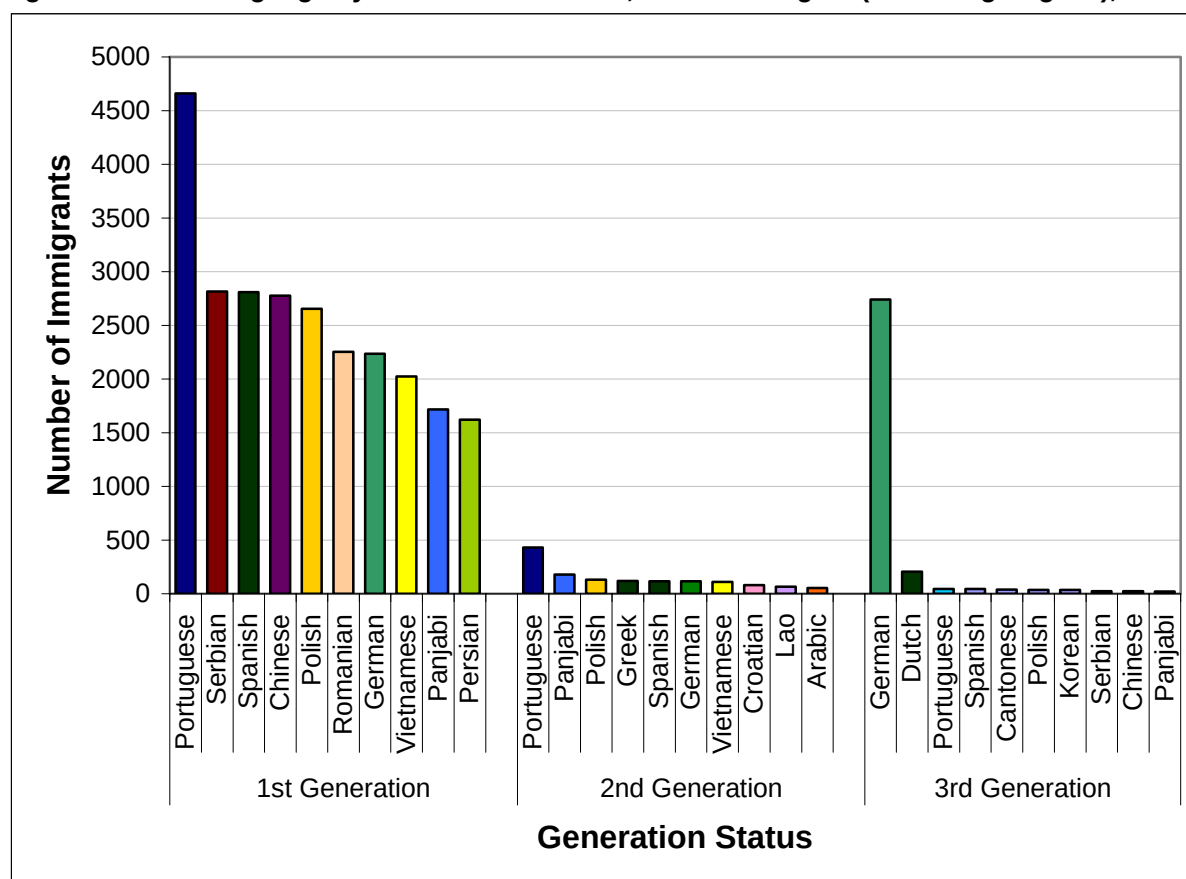
The most common languages spoken at home are changing with subsequent periods of immigration. Immigrants who have come more recently are less likely to have English as their home language and more likely to speak a non-official language in their home than those who immigrated earlier. It is possible that immigrants who came to Canada in earlier periods are now more likely to speak English at home as they've become more comfortable with English.

Table 5. Language Spoken at Home by Period of Immigration, Waterloo Region, 2006

Home Language	Period of Immigration			
	Before 1991	1991 to 1995	1996 to 2000	2001 to 2006
English	67.7 %	45.3 %	31.8 %	30.1 %
French	0.2 %	0.1 %	0.3 %	0.3 %
English and French	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.0 %	0.1 %
Non-official language	28.1 %	49.1 %	61.6 %	63.4 %
Non-official language and English and/or French	3.8 %	5.3 %	6.3 %	6.2 %

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

The top languages spoken at home vary by generational status. First generation individuals are generally immigrants - people who were born outside of Canada. Second generation individuals were born in Canada but at least one of their parents was born outside of Canada. Third generation individuals were born in Canada and both of their parents were also born in Canada. The graph below shows the top ten languages spoken by each generation in the Waterloo Region (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Home Language by Generational Status, Waterloo Region (Excluding English), 2006

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Language Used at Work

In terms of languages spoken at work, 271,610 people (98% of the population) reported speaking English at work, 645 people (0.2% of the population) reported speaking French at work and 510 people (0.2% of the population) spoke English and French at work. A total of 2,560 people (0.9% of the population) spoke a non-official language at work, while 885 people spoke English and/or French and a non-official language at work.

Knowledge of English

Despite the increased frequency in use of non-official languages, Waterloo Region's knowledge of English and French remains high. Knowledge of official languages refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, or in both English and French. In total, 98.4% had knowledge of the English language. Similarly, 98.5% of the Region's population has knowledge of either of Canada's official languages (English or French). Knowledge of the official languages has remained consistent since 2001. Although French is not as well known, the 2006 census showed that 6.7% of the Region's population had knowledge of the French language.

Immigrants tend to learn English quickly when they arrive in Canada. According to 2008 arrivals data by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, one in four immigrants to Waterloo Region over the age of 18 did not know English when they received their permanent resident status – for most people this is when they arrived in Canada.³ However, within the first few years of living in Canada that increases quickly. Of the immigrants who arrived within the five years before the last census (2001-2006), 91.0% could speak English, and of the immigrants who had been here more than five years and arrived between 1996 and 2001, 95.6% could speak English.

The following table shows the top 20 mother tongue languages of those individuals who don't know either English or French (Table 6). Knowledge of an official language refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in that language.

Table 6. Mother Tongue of People who do not Speak English or French, Waterloo Region, 2006

Rank	Mother Tongue Language	Number
1	Portuguese	1,470
2	German	580
3	Chinese	495
4	Spanish	415
5	Vietnamese	375
6	Serbian	325
7	Arabic	325
8	Panjabi (Punjabi)	305
9	Romanian	295
10	Persian (Farsi)	290
11	Polish	185
12	Cantonese	175
13	Urdu	155
14	Gujarati	120
15	Pashto	95
16	Croatian	85
17	Mandarin	85
18	Dutch	80
19	Turkish	70
20	Greek	65

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

In addition to the official languages of English and French, people in Waterloo Region know many other languages. In 2006, 116,795 people reported knowing a non-official language. This represents 26.2% of the population. Of these people, 101,345 (22.7% of the population) know only one non-official language, 14,700 (3.3% of the population) know two non-official languages, and 670 (0.15% of the population) know three or more non-official languages.

For more information:

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Notes and References:

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2. Wherever possible, data on the entire Waterloo Region have been presented. In some cases however, data was only available for the Kitchener CMA which includes all of Waterloo Region except for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships.
3. Take care when interpreting the data presented in this fact sheet. Statistics Canada randomly rounds numbers to multiples of five to increase confidentiality, having a larger impact on smaller data numbers.
4. This fact sheet presents data on the language composition of Canada, by mother tongue and other variables, as well as on languages spoken at home, language used most often at work and knowledge of English, French and non-official languages. These data were collected for a 20% sample of the Canadian population. Only the data for mother tongue were collected for the entire population.
5. For the 2006 census, the category “Chinese, n.o.s.” (n.o.s. indicates “not otherwise stated”) and includes responses of ‘Chinese’ as well as all Chinese languages *other than* Cantonese, Mandarin, Taiwanese, Chaochow (Teochow), Fukien, Hakka and Shanghainese – which are indicated separately. Data for the ‘Chinese, n.o.s.’ category in 2001 and 2006 are not directly comparable. The 2001 category ‘Chinese, n.o.s.’ is equivalent to the sum of the 2006 categories ‘Chinese, n.o.s.’ and ‘Chaochow (Teochow),’ ‘Fukien,’ ‘Shanghainese’ and Taiwanese.’

These fact sheets were published by the Health Determinants Planning and Evaluation Division at [Region of Waterloo Public Health](#). These fact sheets were created for the Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership – a collaboration between many community organizations and citizens. The fact sheets were funded by [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) and developed by the [Region of Waterloo](#), incorporating information from the [2006 Census Bulletins](#) by the Region of Waterloo Planning Housing and Community Services Department.

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Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Place of Birth & Ethnic Origin



This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. Understanding the makeup of our community is important for planning programs and services. The data is from the 2006 Census by Statistics Canada except where otherwise noted.^{1,2}

Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

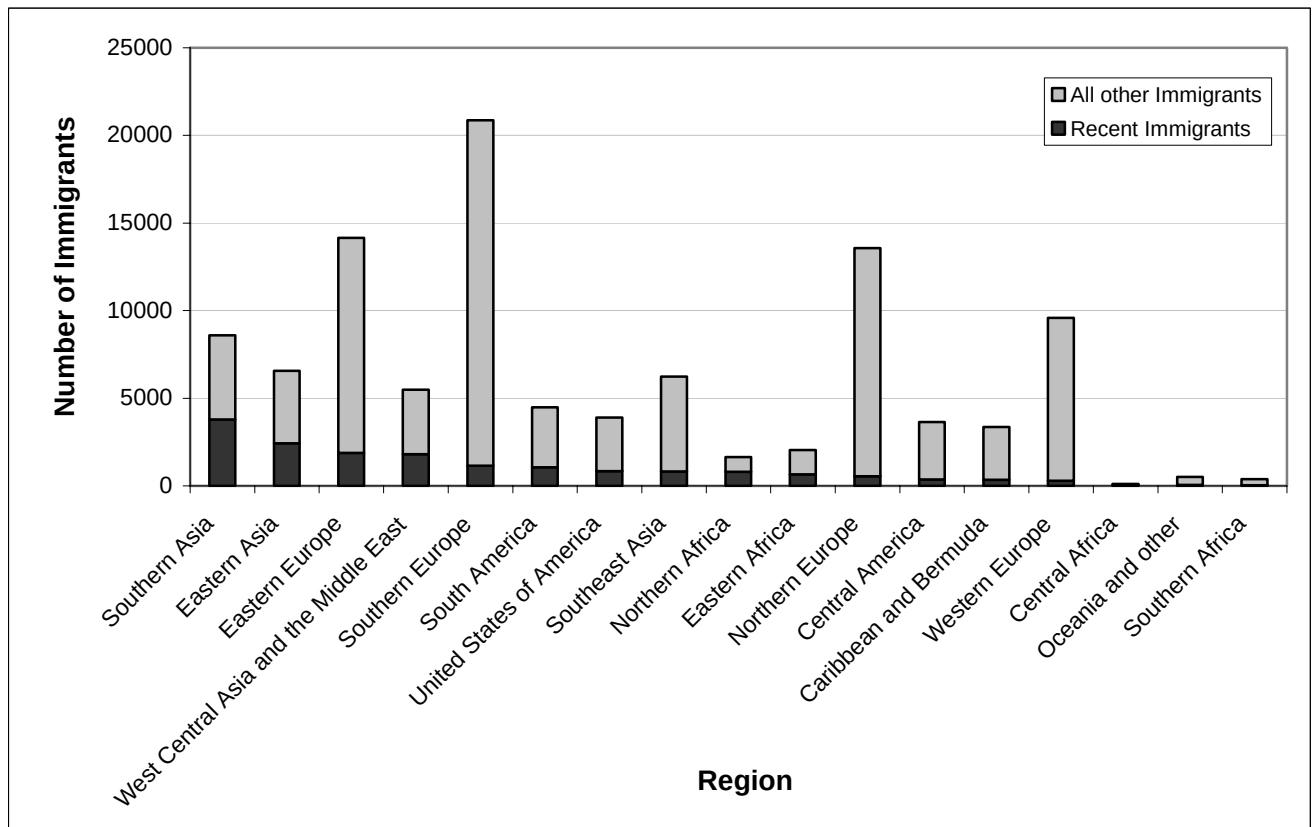
Place of birth refers to the country or region (depending on the level of analysis) where the respondent was born, for respondents born outside Canada, while ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors.

Place of Birth

Immigrants come to Canada from all over the world. Among all immigrants living in Waterloo Region, the top places of birth are Europe (Southern Europe - 19.8% of all immigrants, Eastern Europe - 13.4% of all immigrants, Northern Europe - 12.9% of all immigrants, Western Europe - 9.1% of all immigrants) and Asia (Southern Asia - 8.2% and Eastern Asia - 6.2% of all immigrants).

In 2006, among recent immigrants (individuals arriving in the last five years before the census, 2001-2006) who came to Canada in the previous five years, the top places of birth by region are: Southern Asia - 22.2%, Eastern Asia - 14.3%, Eastern Europe - 11.1%, and West Central Asia and the Middle East - 10.6%.

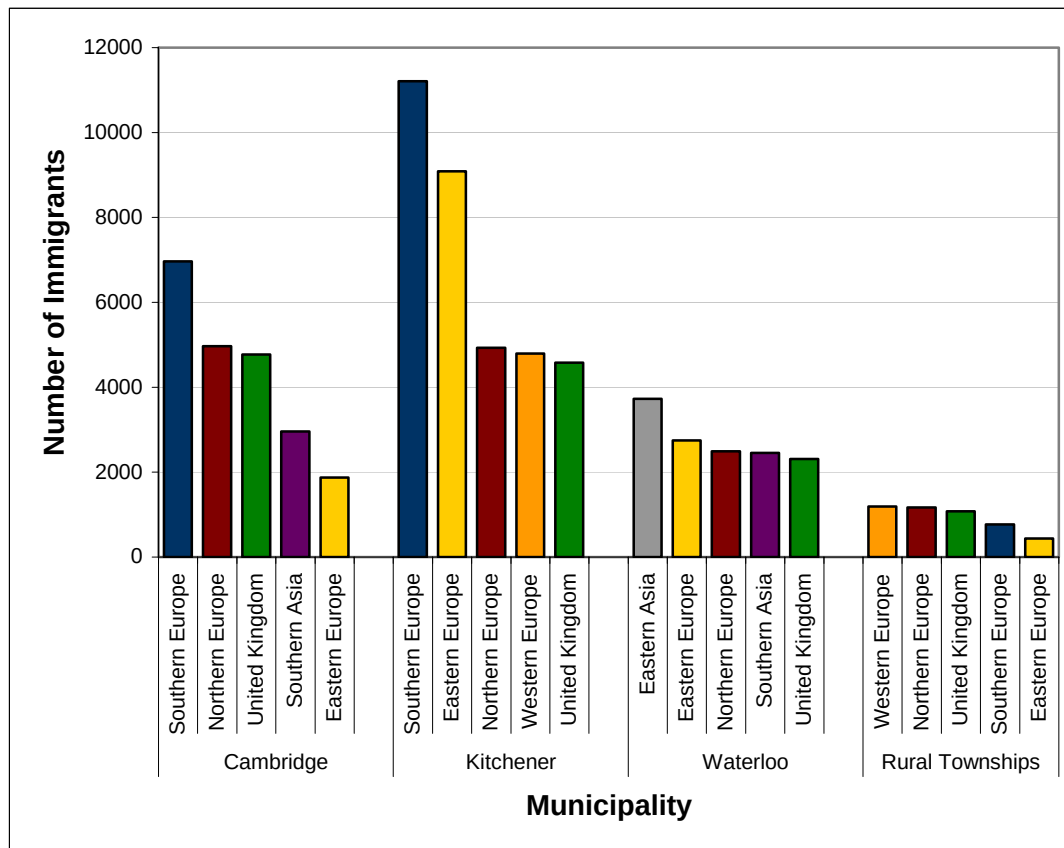
Figure 1. Place of Birth by Region of Recent and All Other Immigrants to Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Immigrants living in different municipalities within Waterloo Region have come from different places around the world.

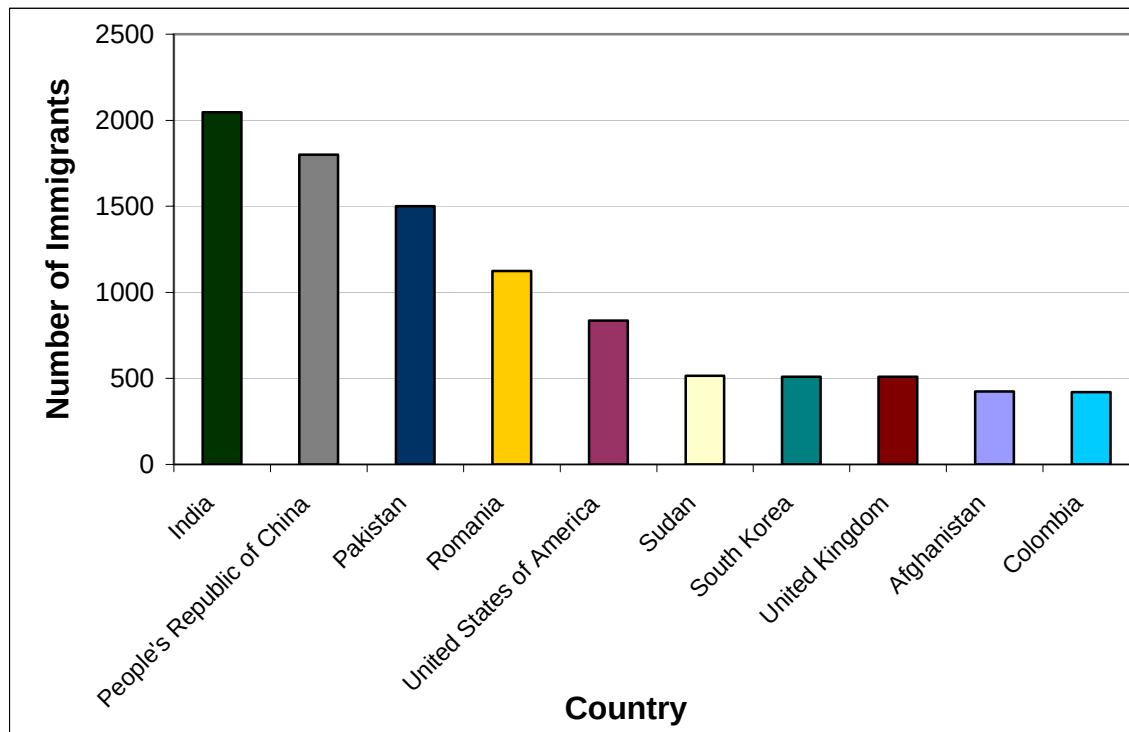
Figure 2. Place of Birth by Region of Immigrants by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

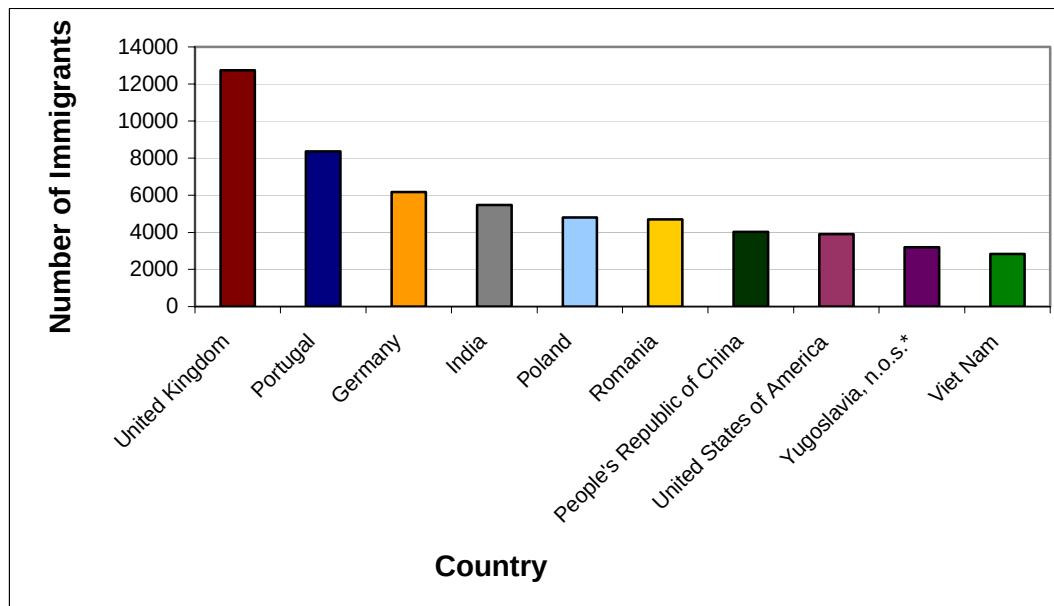
There is a shift in the country of origin for recent immigrants compared to immigrants who came to Waterloo Region more than five years ago. For example, of those who immigrated during the previous five years, the top countries of birth were India (12.0%), China (10.6%), Pakistan (8.8%), Romania (6.6%), and the United States of America (4.9%). In contrast, the top five countries of birth for those who immigrated more than five years ago are: UK (12.1%), Portugal (7.9%), Germany (5.9%), India (5.2%), and Poland (4.6%).

Figure 3. Top 10 Places of Birth of Recent immigrants in Waterloo Region, by Country, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 4. Top 10 Places of Birth of All Immigrants to Waterloo Region, by Country, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

* See footnote #5

Ethnic Origins

People living in the Waterloo Region reflect many different ethnicities. Table 1 describes the top 20 ethnic origins of all the people living in the Waterloo Region. Table 2 provides the top 20 ethnic origins of recent immigrants to Waterloo Region.

Table 1. Top 20 Ethnic Origins in Waterloo Region, 2006

Rank	Ethnic Origin	Number of Individuals	Proportion of all Individuals
1	English	96,270	25.3 %
2	German	92,485	24.3 %
3	Canadian	87,450	23.0 %
4	Scottish	68,785	18.1 %
5	Irish	62,860	16.5 %
6	French	34,030	8.9 %
7	Polish	18,075	4.7 %
8	Dutch (Netherlands)	16,310	4.3 %
9	Portuguese	15,055	4.0 %
10	East Indian	10,440	2.7 %
11	Italian	10,145	2.7 %
12	Chinese	8,560	2.2 %
13	Ukrainian	8,395	2.2 %
14	Romanian	6,215	1.6 %
15	Hungarian (Magyar)	6,165	1.6 %
16	Swiss	5,690	1.5 %
17	Russian	4,210	1.1 %
18	Serbian	3,925	1.0 %
19	Spanish	3,385	0.9 %
20	American	3,375	0.9 %

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

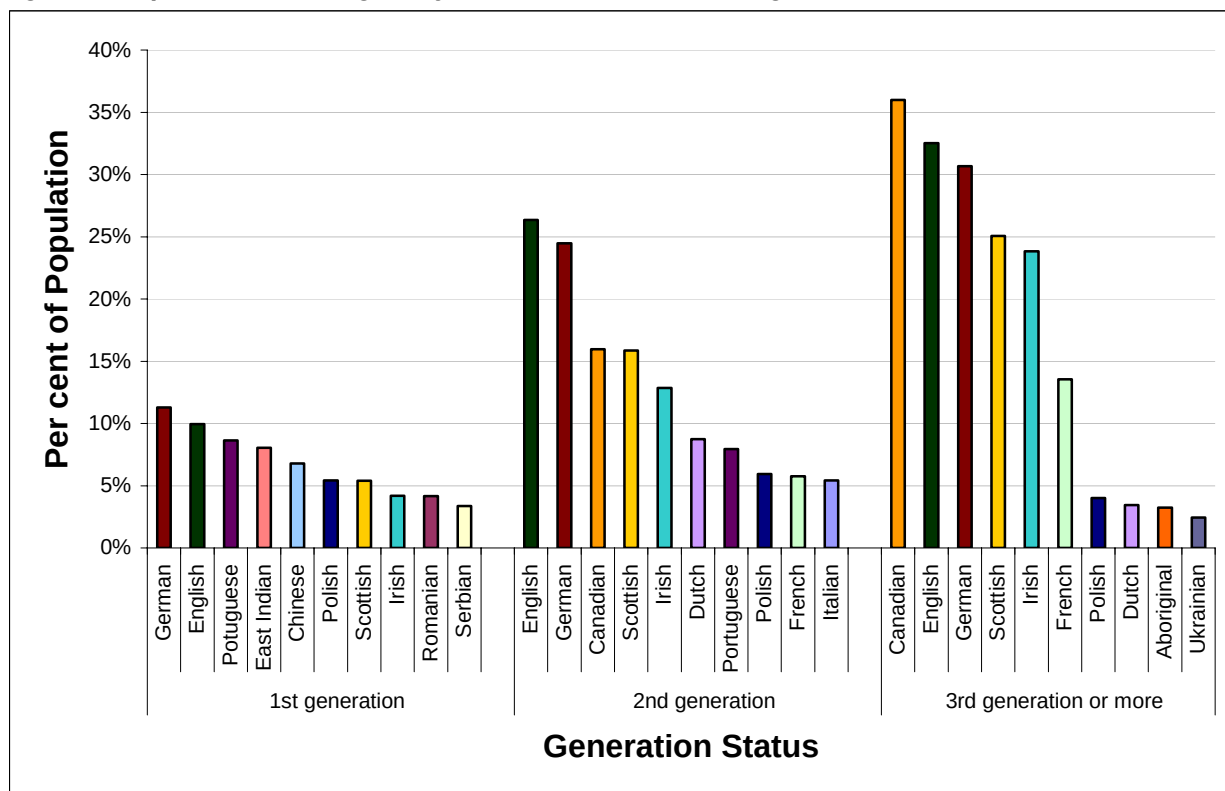
Table 2. Top 20 Ethnic Origins of Recent Immigrants to Waterloo Region⁴, 2006

Rank	Ethnic Origin	Number of Recent Immigrants	Proportion of Recent Immigrants
1	East Indian	2,710	15.9%
2	Chinese	2,060	12.1%
3	Romanian	1,150	6.8%
4	Pakistani	820	4.8%
5	English	685	4.0%
6	Spanish	535	3.1%
7	Korean	510	3.0%
8	German	465	2.7%
9	Filipino	405	2.4%
10	Iranian	365	2.1%
11	Russian	335	2.0%
12	South Asian, n.i.e. ⁵	330	1.9%
13	African, n.i.e. ⁵	325	1.9%
14	Polish	320	1.9%
15	Serbian	320	1.9%
16	Ukrainian	305	1.8%
17	Egyptian	300	1.8%
18	Arab, n.i.e. ³	295	1.7%
19	Scottish	265	1.6%
20	Irish	255	1.5%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Ethnic origin also varies by generation status. First generation individuals are generally immigrants - people who were born outside of Canada. Second generation individuals were born in Canada but at least one of their parents was born outside of Canada. Third generation individuals were born in Canada and both of their parents were also born in Canada.

Figure 5. Top Ten Ethnic Origins by Generation, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

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2. Wherever possible, data on the entire Waterloo Region have been presented. In some cases however, data was only available for the Kitchener CMA which includes all of Waterloo Region except for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships.
3. Take care when interpreting the data presented in this fact sheet. Statistics Canada randomly rounds numbers to multiples of five to increase confidentiality, having a larger impact on smaller data numbers.
4. ‘Total Responses’ refers to the combined total of both single and multiple responses for this question as respondents were allowed to pick more than one answer.
5. The abbreviation ‘n.o.s.’ means ‘not otherwise specified’ and the abbreviation ‘n.i.e.’ means ‘not included elsewhere’.

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Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Citizenship



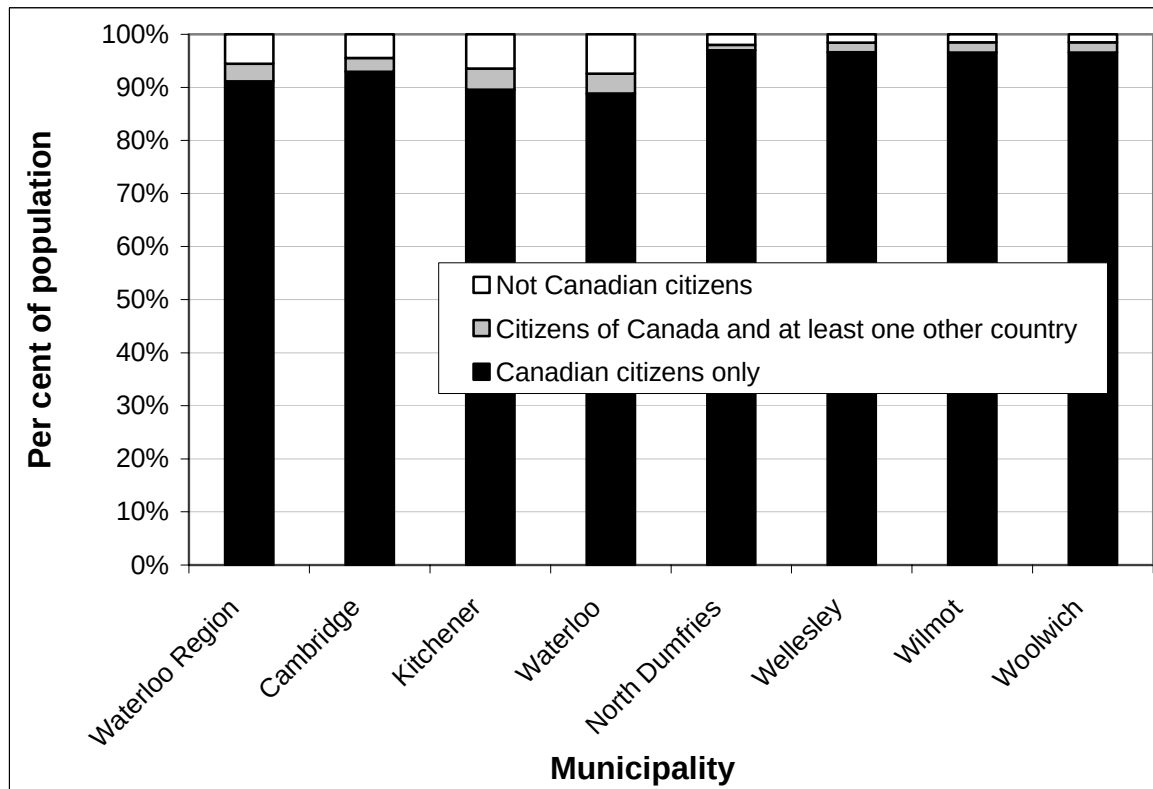
This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. Understanding the makeup of our community is important for planning programs and services. The data is from the 2006 Census by Statistics Canada except where otherwise noted.^{1,2}

Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

Citizenship

Most of the people living in Waterloo Region are Canadian citizens (94.4% or 446,920 individuals). The proportion of people who are not Canadian citizens is higher in the urban areas, which have more individuals who have just recently immigrated to Canada.⁴ Note that all individuals who are born in Canada are automatically granted Canadian citizenship.

Figure 1. Citizenship by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

In 2006, 94.4% of all residents of Waterloo Region (or 446,920 individuals) were Canadian citizens. The majority of immigrants are also Canadian citizens (78.9%, or 83,130 individuals). Among immigrants who are Canadian citizens, 15.9% (13,240 individuals) are also citizens of at least one other country.

Individuals must have permanent resident status and must live in Canada for at least 3 years before they can apply for citizenship. Among immigrants who have lived in Canada between 3 and 5 years, 57.8% have already become Canadian citizens. Almost 90% of immigrants who have lived in Canada for more than 5 years are Canadian citizens.

Table 1. Citizenship by Period of Immigration, Waterloo Region, 2006

	Canadian citizens	Canadian citizens only	Citizens of Canada and at least one other country	Not Canadian citizens	Total
Non-immigrants	363,795	361,420	2370	0	363,795
Immigrants	83,130	69,885	13,240	22,250	105,375
Before 1961	13,920	13,335	585	855	14,775
1961 to 1970	12,615	10,965	1,645	1,410	14,020
1971 to 1980	14,495	12,580	1,920	2,100	16,600
1981 to 1990	15,850	12,670	3,180	2,150	18,000
1991 to 2000	22,020	17,205	4,815	2,935	24,955
2001 to 2002	4,220	3,125	1,095	3,075	7,300
2003 to 2006	0	0	0	9,720	9,720
Non-permanent residents	0	0	0	4,090	4,090
Total - Immigrant status and period of immigration	446,920	431,310	15,610	26,340	473,260

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Citizenship varies depending on region of birth. European-born immigrants are the highest proportion of people who are Canadian citizens only, while those born in the United States of America are the highest proportion of immigrants who are not Canadian citizens. This group includes those who are recent immigrants who are not yet eligible to have Canadian citizenship. Among other possible reasons, those regions where higher proportions of Canada's recent immigrants were born are therefore less likely to have immigrants who are Canadian citizens. The following chart describes citizenship by region of birth.

Table 2. Citizenship of Immigrants by Place of Birth, Waterloo Region, 2006

	Canadian citizens only	Citizens of Canada and at least one other country	Not Canadian citizens
Western Europe	81.5%	4.6%	13.9%
Southern Africa	81.3%	4.0%	16.0%
Southeast Asia	80.8%	3.6%	15.5%
Southern Europe	75.2%	13.7%	11.1%
Central America	70.3%	14.0%	15.7%
South America	67.0%	9.8%	23.1%
Northern Europe	65.6%	14.5%	19.9%
Caribbean and Bermuda	65.2%	14.9%	19.6%
Eastern Africa	63.1%	5.4%	31.3%
Eastern Europe	61.9%	23.8%	14.2%
Eastern Asia	60.6%	6.4%	33.0%
Southern Asia	54.1%	7.5%	38.4%
Northern Africa	53.2%	10.0%	36.8%
West Central Asia and the Middle East	52.9%	17.1%	29.8%
Central Africa	47.8%	8.7%	43.5%
United States of America	38.8%	12.8%	48.3%
Western Africa	36.0%	16.0%	50.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

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4. Non-permanent residents are included in the “not Canadian citizens” category.

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Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Visible Minorities



This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. Understanding the makeup of our community is important for planning programs and services. The data is from the 2006 Census by Statistics Canada except where otherwise noted.^{1,2}

Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

Visible Minority

While visible minority status can be a component of understanding immigration issues, it is important to remember that not all immigrants are visible minorities (i.e., some immigrants come from countries that are not primarily composed of visible minorities such as the US, or European countries). Furthermore, not all visible minorities are immigrants (i.e. someone can be a visible minority and their family may have lived in Canada for several generations).

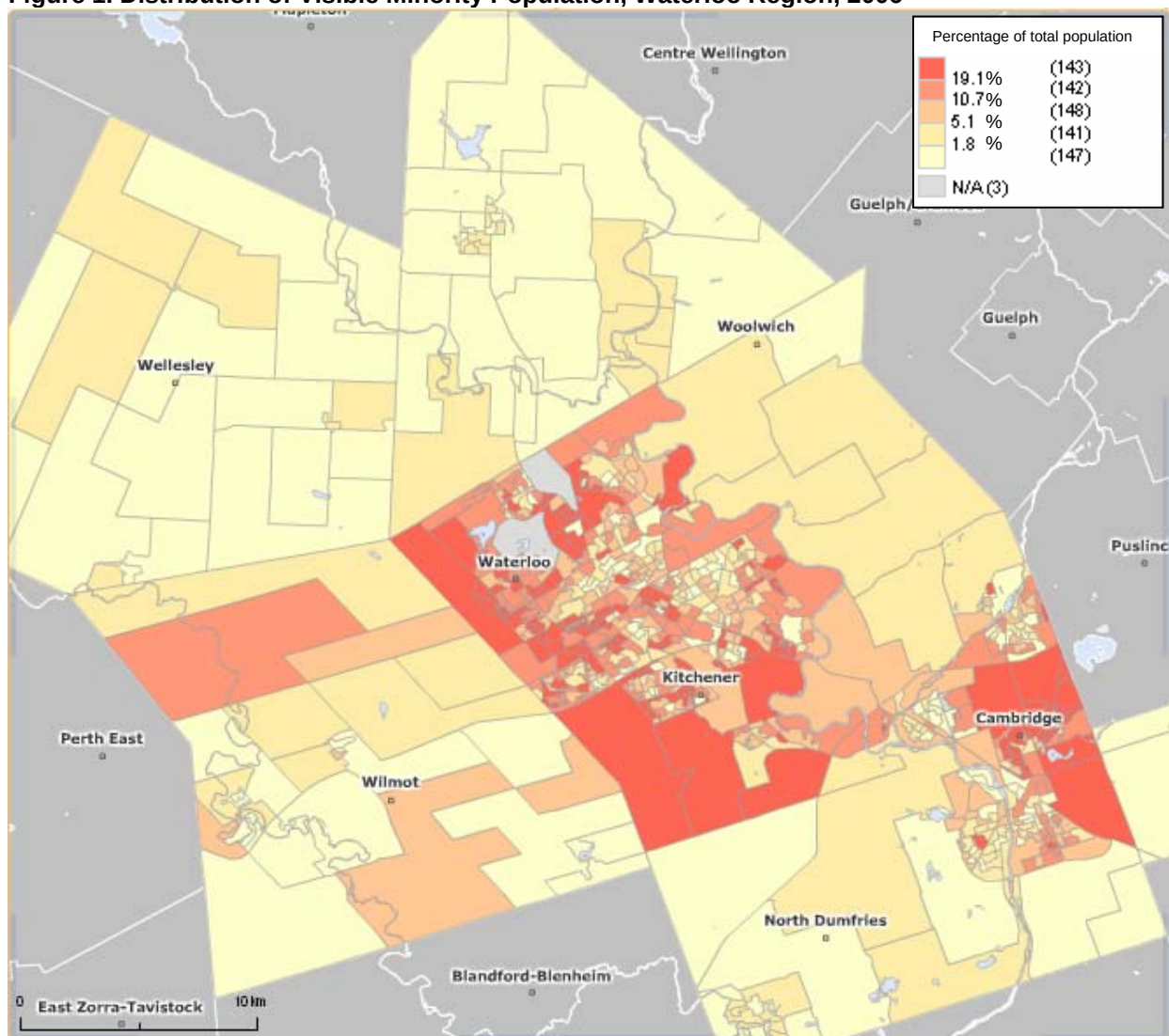
The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as “persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour”. Possible categories include Chinese, South Asian, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arab, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, Visible minority n.i.e. (n.i.e. means 'not included elsewhere'), Multiple visible minority, Not a visible minority.

Table 1. Visible Minority by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006

	Visible minority population	Per cent visible minority
Waterloo Region	61,980	13.1%
Cambridge	13,350	11.2%
Kitchener	31,230	15.4%
Waterloo	16,400	16.9%
North Dumfries	135	1.5%
Wellesley	90	0.9%
Wilmot	435	2.6%
Woolwich	345	1.8%

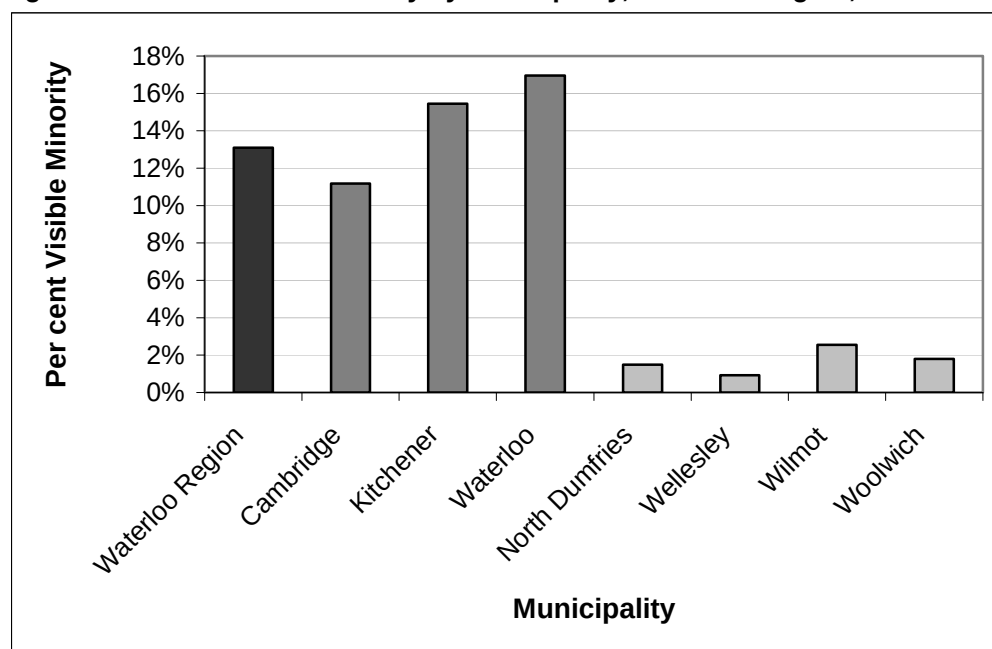
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 1. Distribution of Visible Minority Population, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

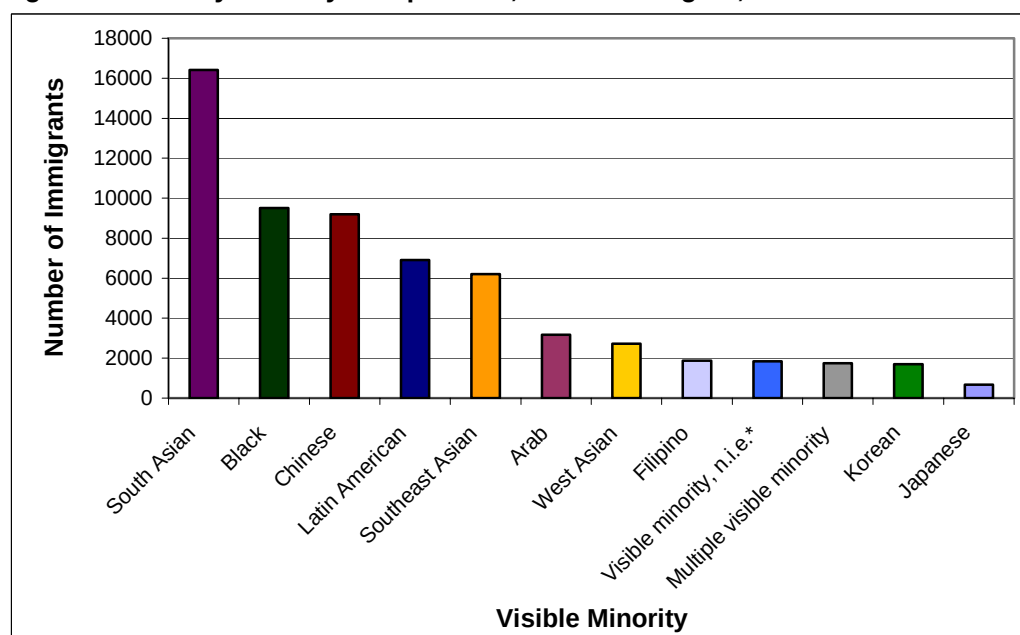
Figure 2. Percent Visible Minority by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

South Asian, Black, Chinese, Latin American, and Southeast Asian are the most common visible minorities in Waterloo Region.

Figure 3. Visibility Minority Composition, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

*See footnote #5

In relation to other Census Metropolitan Areas across Canada, the Kitchener CMA (which includes most of Waterloo Region) has the 9th highest proportion of visible minorities.

Table 2. Top 10 Census CMAs for Per Cent Visible Minority, Canada, 2006

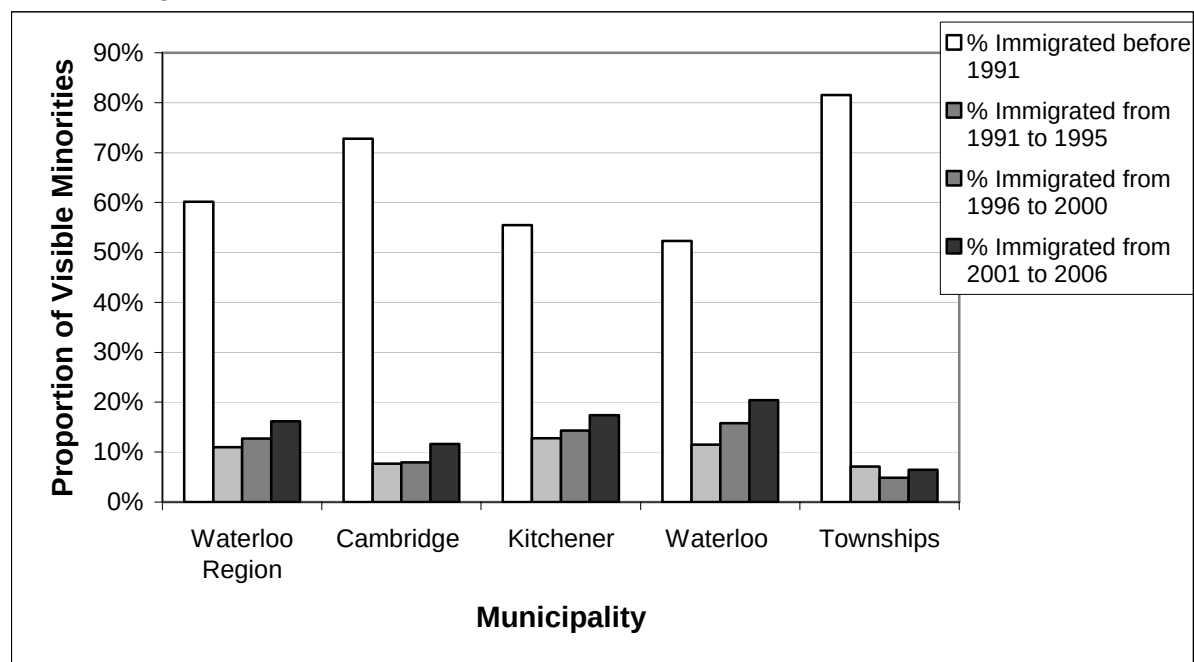
Rank	Geographic Area	Total Population	Total Visible Minority Population	Percent Visible Minority
1	Toronto	4,122,820	1,689,960	41.0%
2	Vancouver	1,752,385	706,870	40.3%
3	Calgary	871,405	182,960	21.0%
4	Edmonton	837,710	135,960	16.2%
5	Montréal	2,967,715	448,285	15.1%
6	Ottawa - Gatineau	914,605	133,810	14.6%
7	Windsor	259,210	37,865	14.6%
8	Winnipeg	562,635	79,145	14.1%
9	Kitchener	360,335	46,030	12.8%
10	Guelph	102,480	11,980	11.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

It is estimated that the proportion of individuals in Waterloo Region that are visible minorities (some of whom may have been born in Canada) will continue to increase - from 10.5% of the population in 2001 to between 18.9% and 23.0% in 2031.⁴

The majority of immigrants who are visible minorities immigrated to Canada at least 15 years before the 2006 census. In Waterloo Region, 60.2% of the visible minority population immigrated before 1991, 11.0% immigrated between 1991 and 1995, 12.7% immigrated between 1996 and 2000, and 11.2% immigrated between 2001 and 2006.

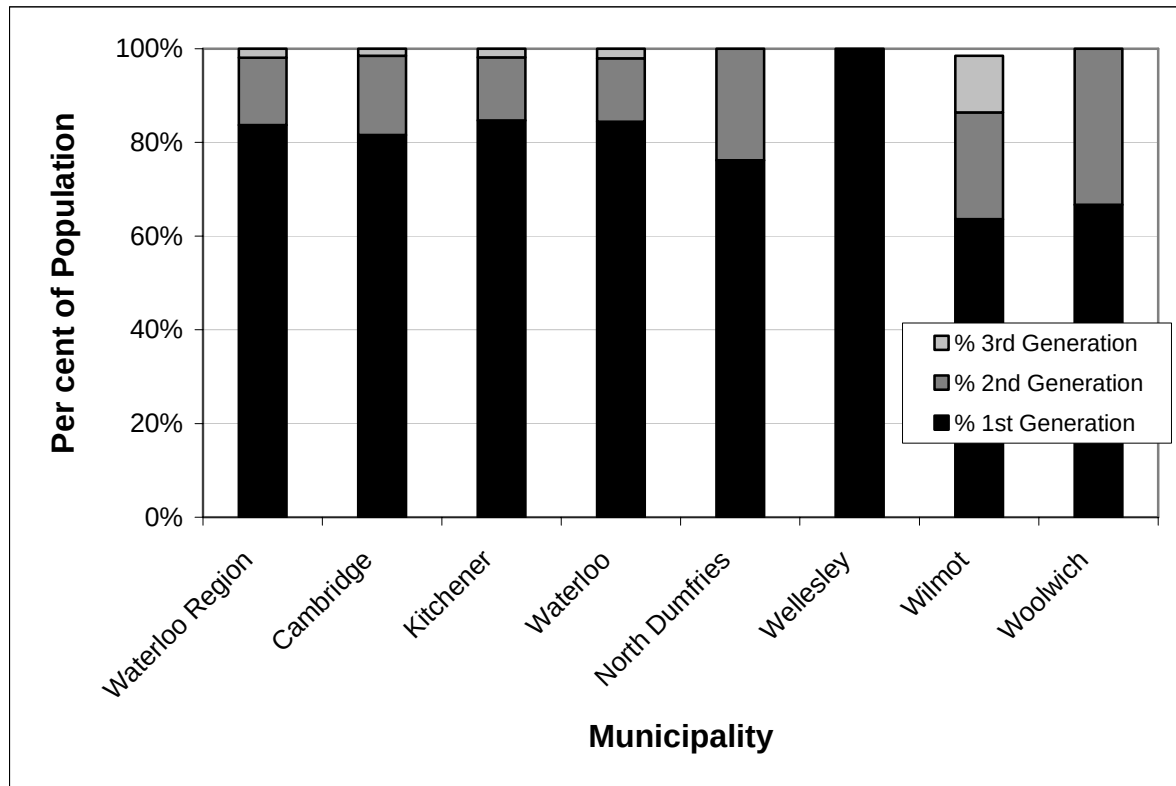
Figure 4. Visible Minority Immigrant Population by Period of Immigration and Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

In Waterloo Region, the majority of people who belong to a visible minority, are 1st generation Canadians (83.7%), 14.4% are second generation Canadians and a further 1.9% are third generation Canadians. First generation individuals are generally immigrants - people who were born outside of Canada. Second generation individuals were born in Canada but at least one of their parents was born outside of Canada. Third generation individuals were born in Canada and both of their parents were also born in Canada.

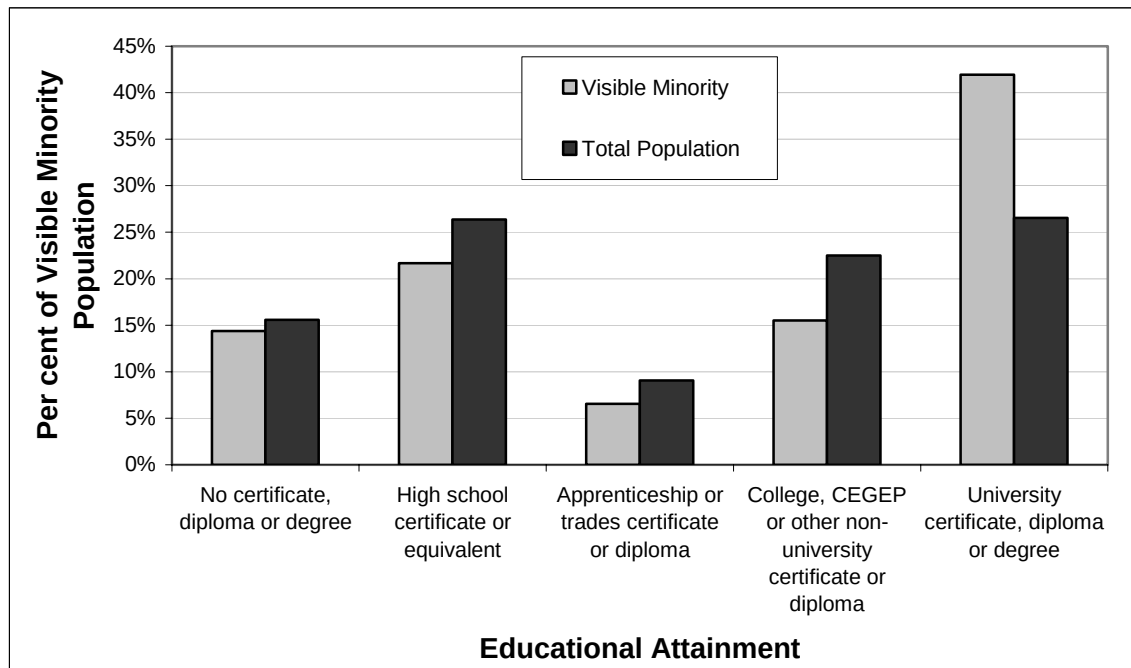
Figure 5. Generation Status for Visible Minority Population, by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Visible minorities are more likely than the general population to have a university certificate, diploma or degree.

Figure 6. Highest Education Attained for Visible Minority Population Ages 25-64 and Total Population Ages 25-64, Waterloo Region, 2006

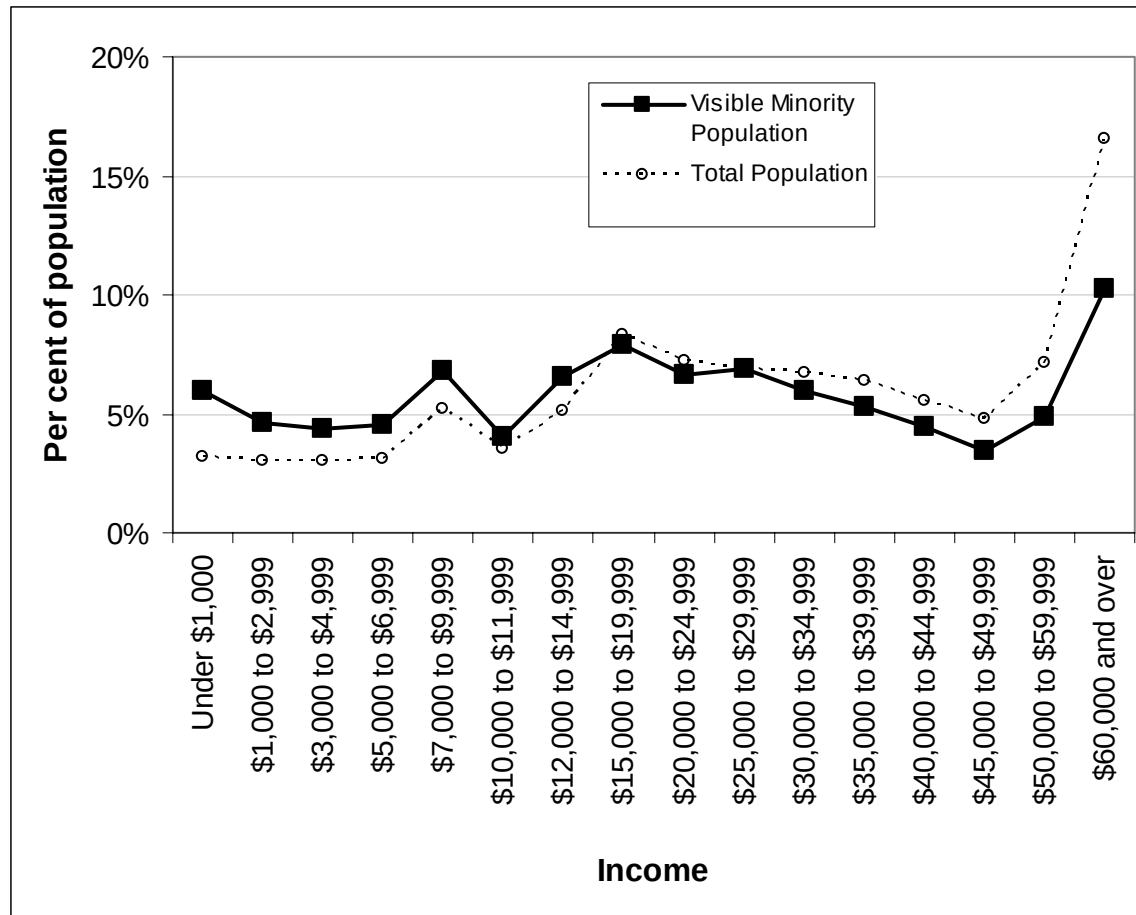


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Although a higher proportion of visible minorities have a university degree than the general population, this does not always mean better employment outcomes. As of the 2006 census, the unemployment rate for visible minorities was 9.0% in the Waterloo Region while, for the general population it was 5.5%.

Visible minorities are more likely to have lower incomes than the general population in Waterloo Region.

Figure 7. Income for Visible Minority Population and Total Population, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

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 - To see a table giving an extensive profile of immigrants and recent immigrants please refer to Statistics Canada’s website (www.statcan.gc.ca) and select “Census”. In the search box enter the catalog number 97-564-X2006008 (Immigrant Status by Selected Variables). To see a table with more information on languages in Waterloo Region, search for catalog number 97-555-XCB2006016.
 - Statistics Canada has more detailed data tables under “Topic-Based Tabulations”. Please refer to www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Index.cfm or go to the Statistics Canada website and select “Census”, then “Data Products”, and then “Topic-based Tabulations”.
 - Other census data can be found on the Statistics Canada Highlight tables. To access this data refer to: www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/index-eng.cfm or go to the Statistics Canada website and select “Census” then “Data Products”, and then “Highlight Tables”
- For data maps with 2001 and 2006 Census data see the [Canadian Social Data Strategy Regional Data Atlas](#) at www.csd-sacass.ca/data

Notes:

1. All data is 2006 Census data by Statistics Canada, unless otherwise indicated. Reference: Statistics Canada. *Census 2006* [Data files]. Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>. Reference for maps: Statistics Canada. *Census 2006: Regional Atlas*. Retrieved from http://www.csd-sacass.ca/data/regional_06.htm
2. Wherever possible, data on the entire Waterloo Region have been presented. In some cases however, data was only available for the Kitchener CMA which includes all of Waterloo Region except for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships.
3. Take care when interpreting the data presented in this fact sheet. Statistics Canada randomly rounds numbers to multiples of five to increase confidentiality, having a larger impact on smaller data numbers.
4. Population projections are based on the Kitchener CMA. Statistics Canada provided data for five growth scenarios, each with different assumptions. This resulted in a range of possible population figures by 2031. Source: Statistics Canada. (2006, May). *Population projections by visible minority groups and immigration status, 2031*. Custom data.
5. The abbreviation 'n.o.s.' means 'not otherwise specified' and the abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means 'not included elsewhere'.

These fact sheets were published by the Health Determinants Planning and Evaluation Division at [Region of Waterloo Public Health](#). These fact sheets were created for the Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership – a collaboration between many community organizations and citizens. The fact sheets were funded by [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) and developed by the [Region of Waterloo](#), incorporating information from the [2006 Census Bulletins](#) by the Region of Waterloo Planning Housing and Community Services Department.

To see [additional fact sheets in this series about immigrants in Waterloo Region](#), visit the Region of Waterloo website (www.region.waterloo.on.ca) and use the search function for “immigrants in Waterloo Region”, or call the Region of Waterloo at 519-575-4400



Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Family Composition & Age



This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. Understanding the makeup of our community is important for planning programs and services. The data is from the 2006 Census by Statistics Canada except where otherwise noted.^{1,2}

Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

Family Composition

Most immigrants who are 15 years and older in the Kitchener CMA are legally married (65.5%), compared to 52.0% of the general population. The Kitchener CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) encompasses all of Waterloo Region except for Wilmot and Wellesley Townships.

Table 1. Marital Status of Immigrants 15 Years and Older Compared to Total Population, Kitchener CMA, 2006

Marital Status	Number of Immigrants	Per cent of Immigrants	Per cent of Total Population
Never legally married (single)	17,540	18.1%	32.2%
Legally married (and not separated)	63,530	65.5%	52.0%
Separated, but still legally married	3,425	3.5%	3.5%
Divorced	5,895	6.1%	6.8%
Widowed	6,670	6.9%	5.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

The majority of recent immigrants (individuals arriving in the five years before the census, 2001-2006) are legally married (67.1% or 8,865 individuals), while 24.9% are single (3,290 individuals), 3.0% are separated (390 individuals), 2.4% are divorced (315 individuals), and 2.6% are widowed (350 individuals).

Among immigrants in the Kitchener CMA, 86.1% (88,345 individuals) are in census family units of husbands or wives, common law partners, lone parents, or children in families. The remaining 13.9% (14,235 individuals) live with relatives other than their immediate family, non-relatives only, or lived alone.

The tables below show the family composition of immigrants who are in census families and immigrants who are not in census families. The figures for the total population are also included for comparison.

Table 2. Family Composition of Immigrants in Census Families, Kitchener CMA, 2006

Family Composition	Number of Immigrants	Percentage of all Immigrants	Percentage of Total Kitchener CMA Population
Husbands or wives	62,410	60.8%	42.0%
Common-law partners	4,165	4.1%	6.4%
Lone parents	5,155	5.0%	4.2%
Children in census families	16,615	16.2%	33.4%

Table 3. Family Composition of Immigrants Not in Census Families, Kitchener CMA, 2006

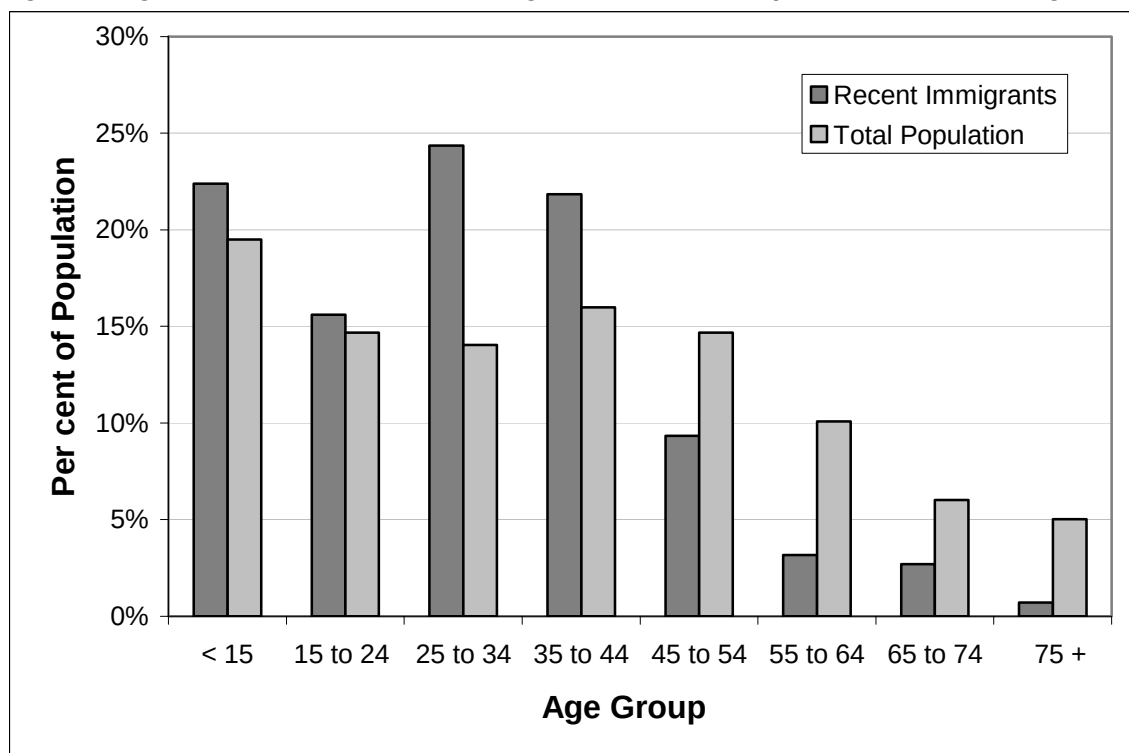
Family Composition	Number of Immigrants	Percentage of all Immigrants	Percentage of Total Kitchener CMA Population
Living with relatives	2,770	2.7%	0.7%
Living with non-relatives only	2,510	2.4%	2.7%
Living alone	8,955	8.7%	8.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Age Distribution

The recent immigrant population is younger than the Waterloo Region population as a whole, as shown in Figure 1 below.

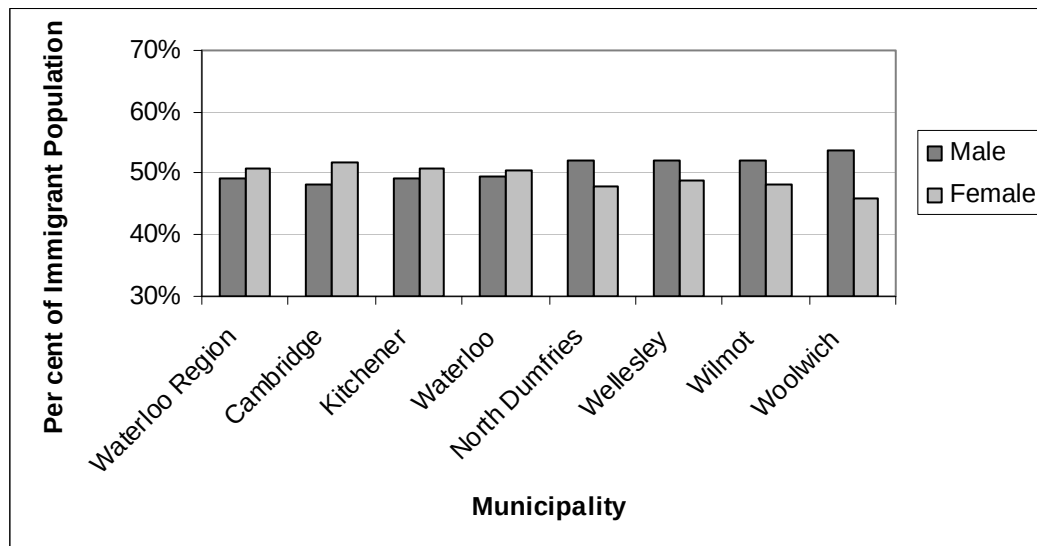
Figure 1. Age Distribution of Recent Immigrants and Total Population, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 2 shows the gender of all immigrants by municipality in Waterloo Region.

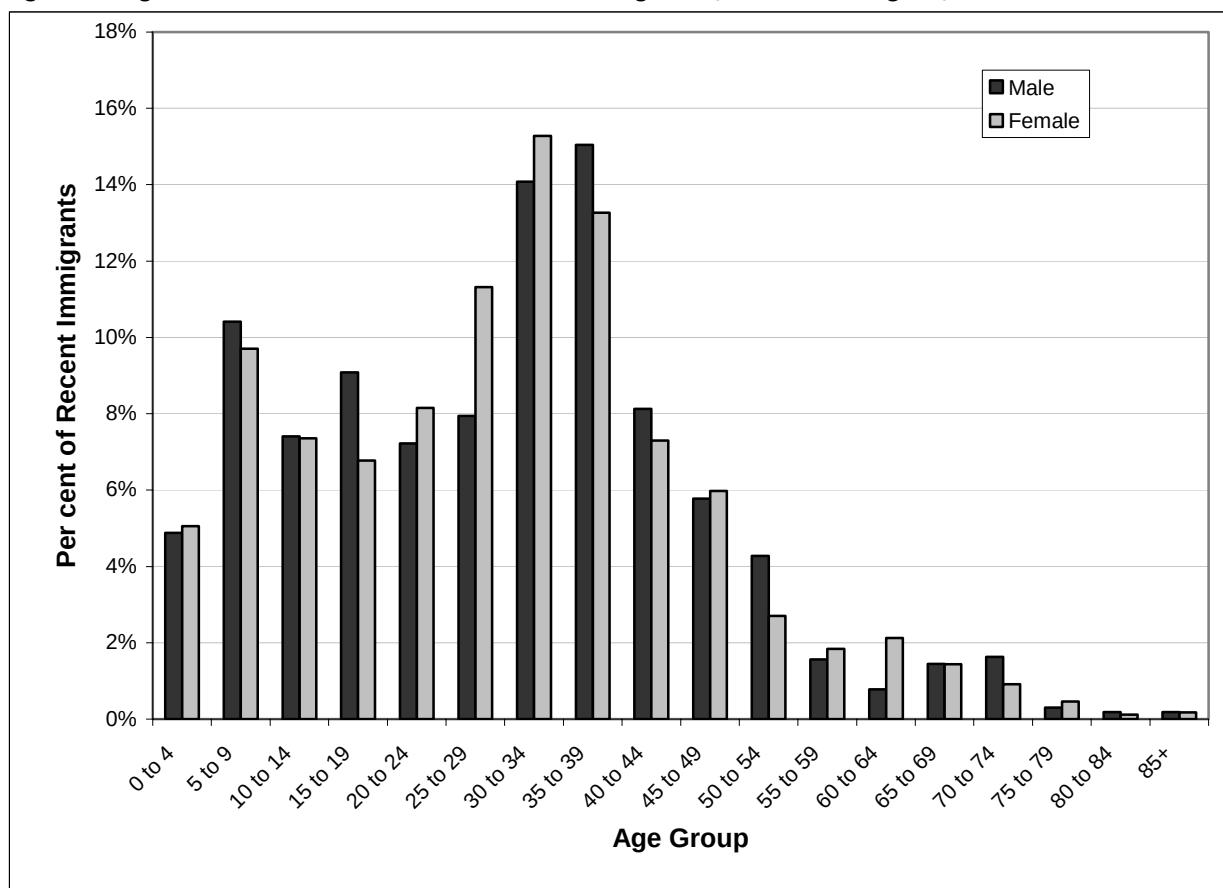
Figure 2. Sex of Immigrants by Municipality, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

Figure 3 below shows both the sex and age distribution of recent immigrants.

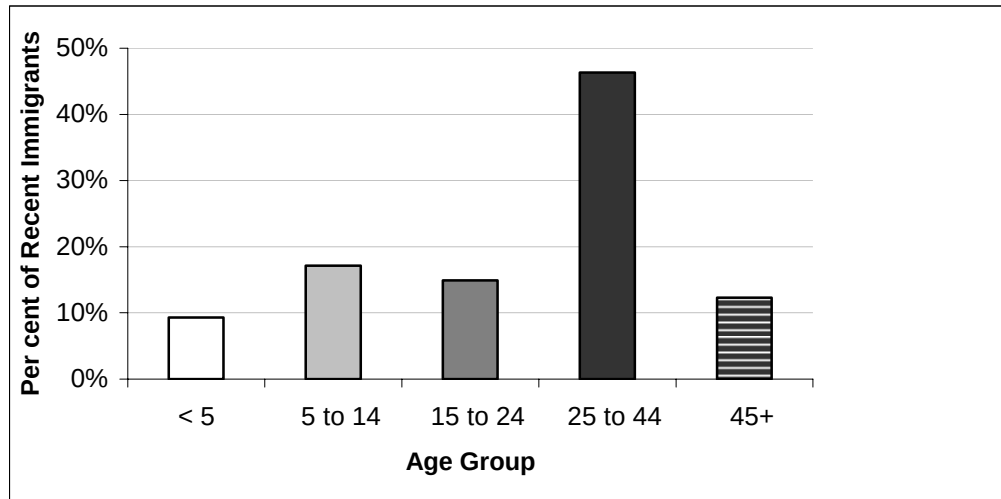
Figure 3. Age and Sex Distribution of Recent Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

The following figure shows age at immigration for recent immigrants (individuals arriving in the five years before the census, 2001-2006). Most immigrants in Waterloo Region are younger than 45 years of age when they immigrate.

Figure 4. Age at Immigration of Recent Immigrants, Waterloo Region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006

For more information:

- For [more information about immigrants in Waterloo Region](#), including other fact sheets, reports, census bulletins and links, see the Region of Waterloo website (www.region.waterloo.on.ca) and use the search function for “immigrants in Waterloo Region”.
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Notes:

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Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Immigration Arrivals



This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. Understanding the makeup of our community is important for planning programs and services.

Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada. Immigrants make up 22.3% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada collects information about people immigrating to Canada when they receive their permanent resident status, which is usually when they first arrive in Canada. At that time, individuals indicate their destination city. This is the arrivals data that has been summarized in this fact sheet (2009 custom data request), except where otherwise noted.^{1,2}

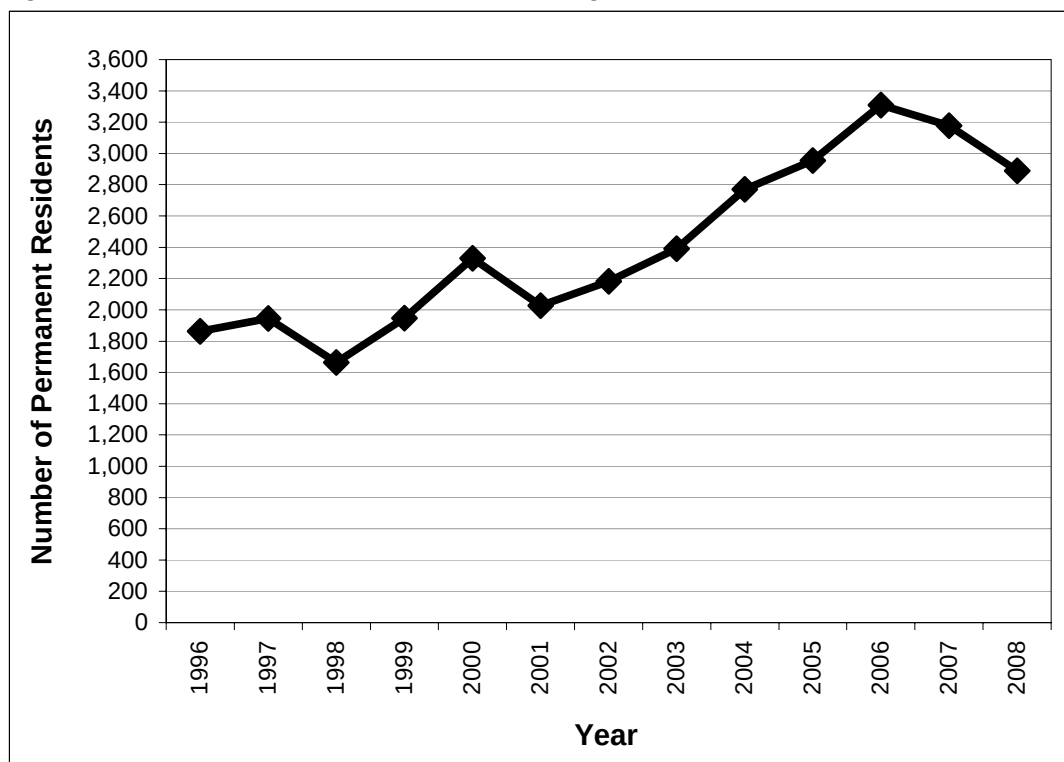
Immigration Category

Immigrants are accepted as permanent residents to Canada in several categories. These are often grouped into Economic, Family, and Refugee categories.

Economic category immigrants may be accepted as skilled workers, self-employed, entrepreneurs, or investors. Refugee category immigrants are fleeing persecution in their home country and are either sponsored by the government or a group in Canada. Family category immigrants are joining a partner, parent, child or other close relative who is already a permanent resident in Canada. Immigrants in any category may immigrate to Canada and then sponsor other members of their family to come to Canada in the family category. The last category ("Other") includes a number of remaining groups such as retirees, humanitarian and compassionate cases, and several other types.³

Over the last 13 years (1996-2008), the number of permanent residents destined to cities in Waterloo Region has increased by 55.2% from 1,862 individuals in 1996 to 2,890 individuals in 2008.

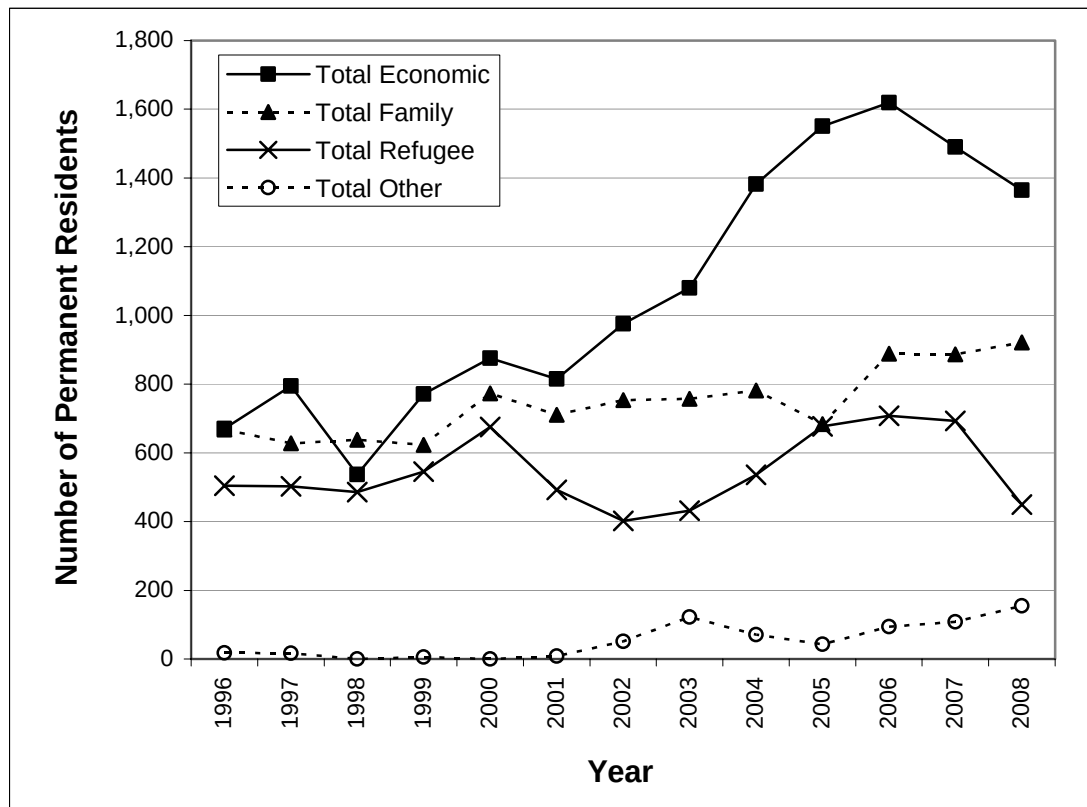
Figure 1. Permanent Residents to Waterloo Region, 1996-2008



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

The 55.2% increase in the total number of permanent residents is primarily due to an increase in the number of economic immigrants (more than doubling from 671 to 1,364 individuals between 1996 and 2008). Much of this increase in economic immigrants was due to economic immigrants destined to the city of Waterloo (increasing from 118 to 651). During the same period, family category permanent residents increased somewhat from 668 to 921 individuals, while refugee category permanent residents decreased from 505 to 450 individuals (Figure 2 below)

Figure 2. Permanent Residents to Waterloo Region by Immigration Category, 1996-2008



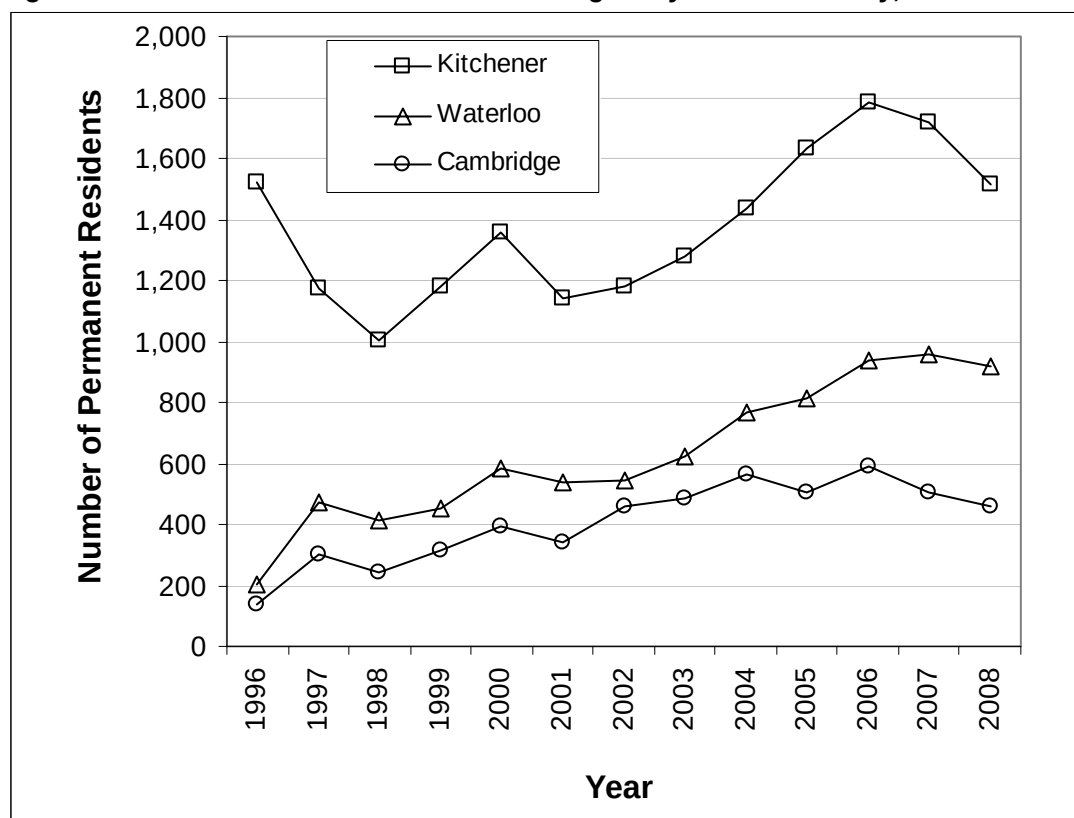
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

Over the last 13 years, economic immigrants have made up an average of 44.3% of all permanent residents destined to Waterloo Region. Family category immigrants have made up 30.9% and refugee category immigrants have made up 22.6%.

Immigration Destination City

The majority of permanent residents to Waterloo Region intended to settle in Kitchener. The number of individuals destined to Kitchener has fluctuated over the years but in 2008 was at the same level as in 1996. While the cities of Waterloo and Cambridge had smaller numbers compared to Kitchener, increasing numbers of permanent residents have been destined to Waterloo and Cambridge over the last 13 years.

Figure 3. Permanent Residents to Waterloo Region by Destination City, 1996-2008



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

Table 1 highlights the four immigration categories further broken down by destination city (Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge). Kitchener has the highest percentage of immigrants in each of the three main immigration categories (19.8% in the economic category, 16.8% in the family category, and 19.0% in the refugee category). Economic category permanent residents coming to the City of Waterloo also made up 17.6% of all permanent residents to Waterloo Region between 1996 and 2008.

Table 1. Permanent Residents by Category as a Proportion of All Permanent Residents Destined to Waterloo Region, 1996-2008

	Waterloo Region	Kitchener	Waterloo	Cambridge
Economic Category	44.3%	19.8%	17.6%	6.9%
Family Category	30.9%	16.8%	6.8%	7.3%
Refugee Category	22.6%	19.0%	1.4%	2.2%
Other Category	2.2%	1.4%	0.4%	0.5%
Total Permanent Residents by Destination City	100.0%	57.0%	26.2%	16.8%

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

Between 1996 and 2008, over 30,000 permanent residents came directly to Waterloo Region. In addition to this, some individuals immigrated to other cities such as Toronto and then later moved to Kitchener, Waterloo or Cambridge. The following table highlights the number of permanent residents that have been destined directly to Waterloo Region between 1996 and 2008.

Table 2. Permanent Residents by Category Destined to Waterloo Region, 1996-2008

	Waterloo Region	Kitchener	Waterloo	Cambridge
Economic Category	13,927	6,240	5,522	2,165
Family Category	9,715	5,277	2,142	2,296
Refugee Category	7,105	5,977	449	679
Other Category	698 - 718*	428 - 436*	114	156 - 168*

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

*For some of the years between 1996 and 2008, some categories had low numbers of permanent residents. All numbers under five were suppressed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to maintain confidentiality. Since this affects the accuracy of the 1996-2008 total for that category a range has been provided rather than a specific number in the table above.

While there are sometimes significant year-to-year fluctuations over the last 13 years, the following table provides a snapshot of the differences in category and destination city between 1996 and 2008.

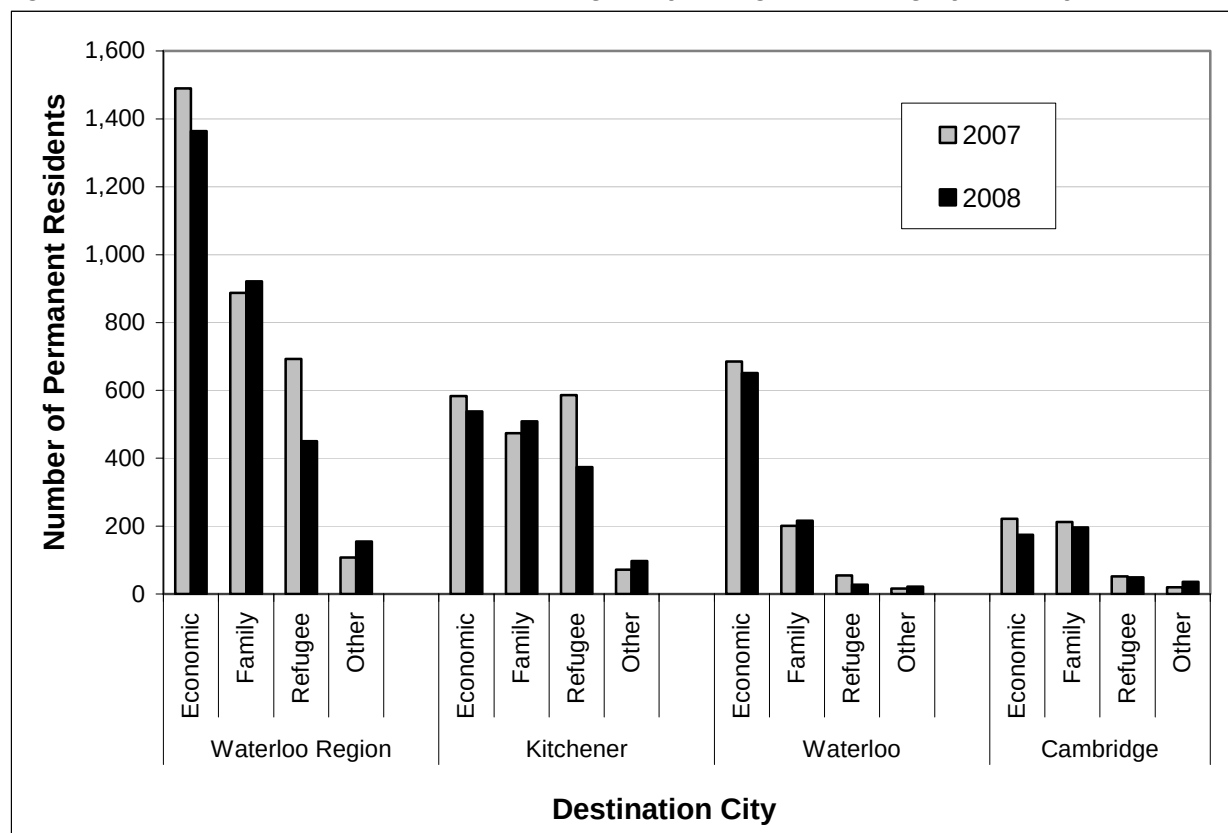
Table 3. Permanent Residents by Category and Destination City, 1996 and 2008

	Permanent Residents arriving in 1996	Permanent Residents arriving in 2008	Difference between 1996 and 2008
KITCHENER			
Economic	520	538	18
Family	503	509	6
Refugee	489	374	-115
Other	11	97	86
Total All Categories (Kitchener)	1,523	1,518	-5
WATERLOO			
Economic	118	651	533
Family	77	216	139
Refugee	9	27	18
Other	0	22	22
Total All Categories (Waterloo)	204	916	712
CAMBRIDGE			
Economic	33	175	142
Family	88	196	108
Refugee	7	49	42
Other	7	36	29
Total All Categories (Cambridge)	135	456	321
WATERLOO REGION			
Economic	671	1,364	693
Family	668	921	253
Refugee	505	450	-55
Other	18	155	137
Total All Categories (Waterloo Region)	1,862	2,890	1,028

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

The total number of permanent residents destined to Waterloo Region peaked in 2006 at 3,310 and has decreased slightly in each of the last two years (2007 and 2008). There has been a corresponding decrease over the last two years in the number of economic and refugee category immigrants.

Figure 4. Permanent Residents to Waterloo Region by Immigration Category and City, 2007 & 2008



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

Country of Last Permanent Residence

Between 1996 and 2008, the 30,000 permanent residents who came directly to Waterloo Region came from more than 175 countries around the world.

The following table highlights the annual average number of permanent residents (between 1996 and 2008) for the top countries of last permanent residence, by immigration category and destination city. The averages only include primary immigration and don't include secondary migration of immigrants who initially settle in other cities such as Toronto and then move to Kitchener, Waterloo or Cambridge.

Table 4. Top Countries of Last Permanent Residence for Immigrants to Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge by Immigration Category, 1996-2008 Averages

Kitchener		Waterloo		Cambridge	
Country	Average Number of Permanent Residents Per Year	Country	Average Number of Permanent Residents Per Year	Country	Average Number of Permanent Residents Per Year
ECONOMIC CATEGORY		ECONOMIC CATEGORY		ECONOMIC CATEGORY	
Romania	102.8	China, People's Republic	110.9	Pakistan	32.0
India	44.0	India	35.5	United Kingdom and Colonies	22.2
China, People's Republic	31.1	Iran	29.1	India	21.7
Pakistan	28.8	United Kingdom and Colonies	23.2	China, People's Republic	9.2
Iran	17.8	United States of America	18.9	Philippines	8.4
United Kingdom and Colonies	16.5	Korea, Republic	15.1	United States of America	6.7
Syria	16.3	Pakistan	14.9	Saudi Arabia	5.1
United States of America	14.8	Egypt	12.4	United Arab Emirates	5.0
United Arab Emirates	12.1	Romania	11.9	Romania	4.7
Korea, Republic	10.6	United Arab Emirates	11.9	South Africa, Republic	4.0
Average Economic Total / year*	480.0	Average Economic Total / year*	424.8	Average Economic Total / year*	166.5
FAMILY CATEGORY		FAMILY CATEGORY		FAMILY CATEGORY	
India	48.4	China, People's Republic	29.3	India	43.8
Romania	33.0	India	25.3	Pakistan	19.1
Vietnam, Socialist Republic	30.6	United States of America	13.2	United States of America	15.5
United States of America	28.0	Pakistan	6.4	Vietnam, Socialist Republic	9.9
China, People's Republic	19.1	Iran	6.0	Guyana	8.9
Pakistan	14.7	United Kingdom and Colonies	5.8	United Kingdom and Colonies	7.6
Guyana	14.2	Vietnam, Socialist Republic	4.8	China, People's Republic	7.4
Jamaica	13.2	Guyana	4.4	Portugal	5.7
Yugoslavia	13.0	Romania	3.6	Jamaica	3.4
Poland	11.2	Egypt	3.2	Romania	3.0
Average Family Total / Year*	405.9	Average Family Total / Year*	164.8	Average Family Total / Year*	176.6
REFUGEE CATEGORY		REFUGEE CATEGORY		REFUGEE CATEGORY	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	67.5	Afghanistan	5.0	Ethiopia	23.1
Afghanistan	48.2	Columbia	3.5	Pakistan	2.3
Colombia	39.0	Somalia, Democratic Republic	3.3	Sudan, Democratic Republic	2.3
Yugoslavia	34.6	Yugoslavia	2.5	Yugoslavia	2.1
Croatia	28.4	Iran	2.5	South Africa, Republic	2.0
Sudan, Democratic Republic	24.2	Turkey	**	Eritrea	**
Somalia, Democratic Republic	23.8	Bosnia-Herzegovina	**	Iraq	**
Iran	19.2	Ethiopia	**	Kenya	**
Iraq	18.9	Cuba	**	Columbia	**
Ethiopia	16.4	Iraq	**	Egypt	**
Average Refugee Total / Year*	459.8	Average Refugee Total / Year*	34.5	Average Refugee Total / Year*	52.2
OTHER CATEGORY		OTHER CATEGORY		OTHER CATEGORY	
Average Other Total / Year	33.2	Average Other Total / Year	8.8	Average Other Total / Year	12.3
OVERALL AVERAGE	1,378.8	OVERALL AVERAGE	632.8	OVERALL AVERAGE	407.5

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

*The category averages are more than the sum of the individual country averages shown, since not all countries are listed here.

**For some of the years between 1996 and 2008, some countries and categories had low numbers of permanent residents. All numbers under five were suppressed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to maintain confidentiality. Because of this data suppression, average values are approximated for some countries, and the order of the top countries may differ somewhat from the order shown here. Since this data suppression by Citizenship and Immigration Canada affects the accuracy of the 1996-2008 average for some countries, all averages less than 2.0 have been suppressed in the table above.

These 13-year averages can mask year-to-year fluctuations however. The 2008 figures in Table 5 provide a snapshot of the most current top countries of last permanent residence.

Table 5. Top Countries of Last Permanent Residence for Immigrants to Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge by Immigration Category, 2008

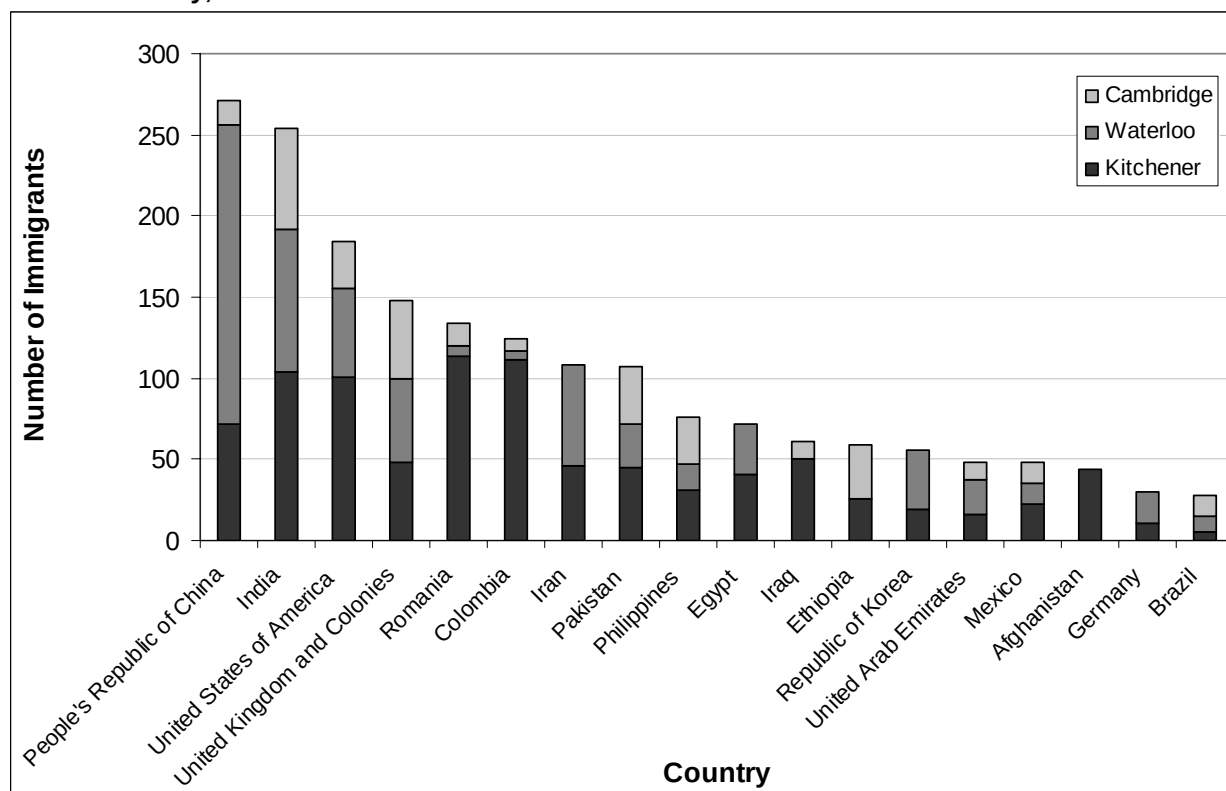
Kitchener	Permanent Residents arriving in 2008	Waterloo	Permanent Residents arriving in 2008	Cambridge	Permanent Residents arriving in 2008
ECONOMIC CATEGORY		ECONOMIC CATEGORY		ECONOMIC CATEGORY	
Romania	66	China, People's Republic	143	United Kingdom & Colonies	41
India	44	India	65	Philippines	26
China, People's Republic	41	Iran	49	India	13
Egypt	38	United Kingdom & Colonies	46	Pakistan	11
United Kingdom & Colonies	34	Korea, Republic	31	Romania	10
Economic Category Total	538	Economic immigrants Total	651	Economic immigrants Total	175
FAMILY CATEGORY		FAMILY CATEGORY		FAMILY CATEGORY	
India	57	China, People's Republic	36	India	47
Romania	42	India	23	Pakistan	21
United States of America	35	United States of America	17	United States of America	14
Pakistan	27	Pakistan	18	China, People's Republic	9
Vietnam, Socialist Republic	24	Iran	13	Brazil	9
Family Category Total	509	Family class Total	216	Family class Total	196
REFUGEE CATEGORY		REFUGEE CATEGORY		REFUGEE CATEGORY	
Colombia	93	Colombia	6	Ethiopia	25
Iraq	44	Guatemala	5	Iraq	10
Afghanistan	35			Colombia	5
Myanmar (Burma)	26				
United States of America	22				
Refugee Category Total	374	Refugees Total	27	Refugees Total	49
OTHER CATEGORY		OTHER CATEGORY		OTHER CATEGORY	
Other Category Total	97	Other Immigrants Total	22	Other Immigrants Total	36
GRAND TOTAL	1,518	GRAND TOTAL	916	GRAND TOTAL	456

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

All numbers under five were suppressed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to maintain confidentiality.

Across all categories, the top countries of last permanent residence for permanent residents destined to Waterloo Region in 2008 were: China, India, United States, United Kingdom (and colonies), and Romania.

Figure 5. Top Countries of Last Permanent Residence for Immigrants to Waterloo Region by Destination City, 2008



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

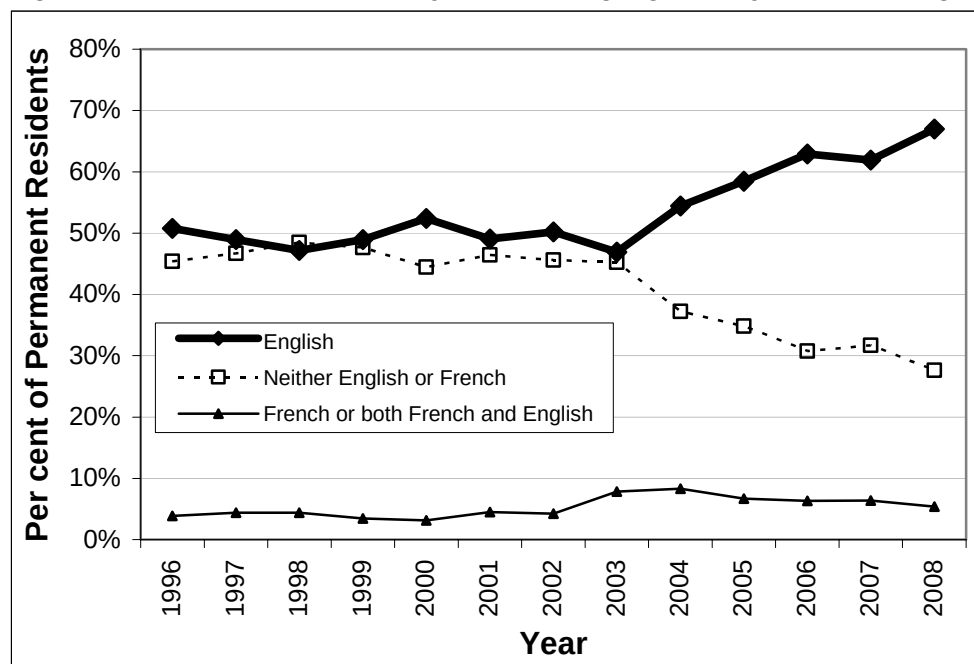
Note: Some countries may include very small numbers of additional immigrants. These numbers were suppressed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada to maintain confidentiality.

Official Language Ability

While the majority of immigrants to Canada know English (or French) after the first few years living in Canada, in 2008, 67.0% already knew English when they received their permanent resident status (for most this was when they first arrived in Canada). The proportion of immigrants that knew English when they received their permanent resident status was relatively steady around 50% until 2003 and then increased between 2004 and 2008.

While 27.6% (798 individuals) of permanent residents arriving in 2008 knew neither English nor French, this percentage has been steadily decreasing over the previous five years.

Figure 6. Permanent Residents by Official Language Ability, Waterloo Region, 1996-2008



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, 2009

Among arrivals between 1996 and 2008, the proportion of permanent residents that spoke neither English nor French was 44.6% in Kitchener, 37.4% in Cambridge, and 29.8% in Waterloo.

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Notes:

1. All data in this fact sheet was obtained through a Citizenship and Immigration Canada custom data request, July 2009, unless otherwise indicated. Reference: Citizenship and Immigration Canada. RDM. *Facts and Figures 2008* [Data file].
2. All the data presented here is for the geographic areas of Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge. Notably, this excludes residents of Wellesley, Woolwich, North Dumfries, and Wilmot.
3. For more detailed description of the immigration categories mentioned in this fact sheet see the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Facts and Figures glossary at www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2008/glossary.asp

These fact sheets were published by the Health Determinants Planning and Evaluation Division at [Region of Waterloo Public Health](#). These fact sheets were created for the Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership – a collaboration between many community organizations and citizens. The fact sheets were funded by [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) and developed by the [Region of Waterloo](#), incorporating information from the [2006 Census Bulletins](#) by the Region of Waterloo Planning Housing and Community Services Department.

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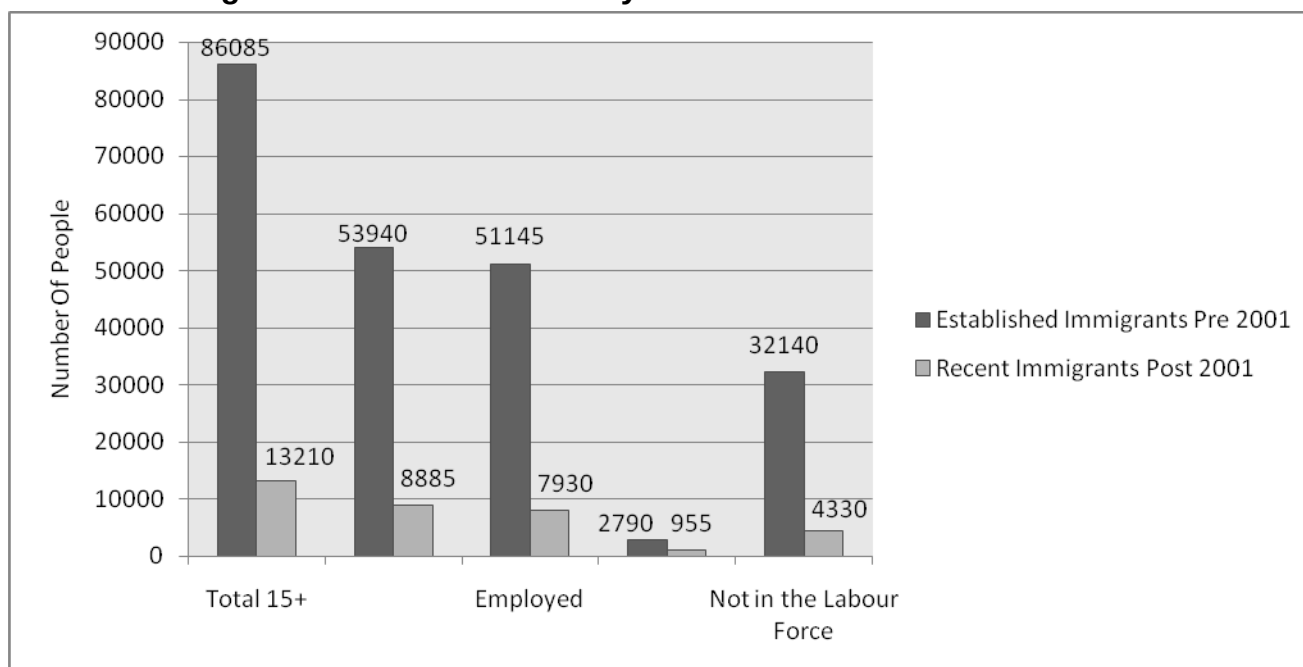
Workforce Planning Board
of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin

Employment & Income of Immigrants in Waterloo Region

Waterloo Region has a total population of over 500,000 people, and immigrants are an important part of the Region's workforce. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of working age immigrants in the Region increased by over 13,000 people (13%). As of 2006, immigrants represent 26% of the area's total Labour Force or approximately 70,000 people. Their share of the Canadian Labour Force is expected to grow as Statistics Canada estimates that any net growth will be dependent upon immigrants. It is anticipated that Waterloo Region's share of immigrants in the Labour Force will also continue to increase.

Employment and Incomes of Immigrants in Waterloo Region

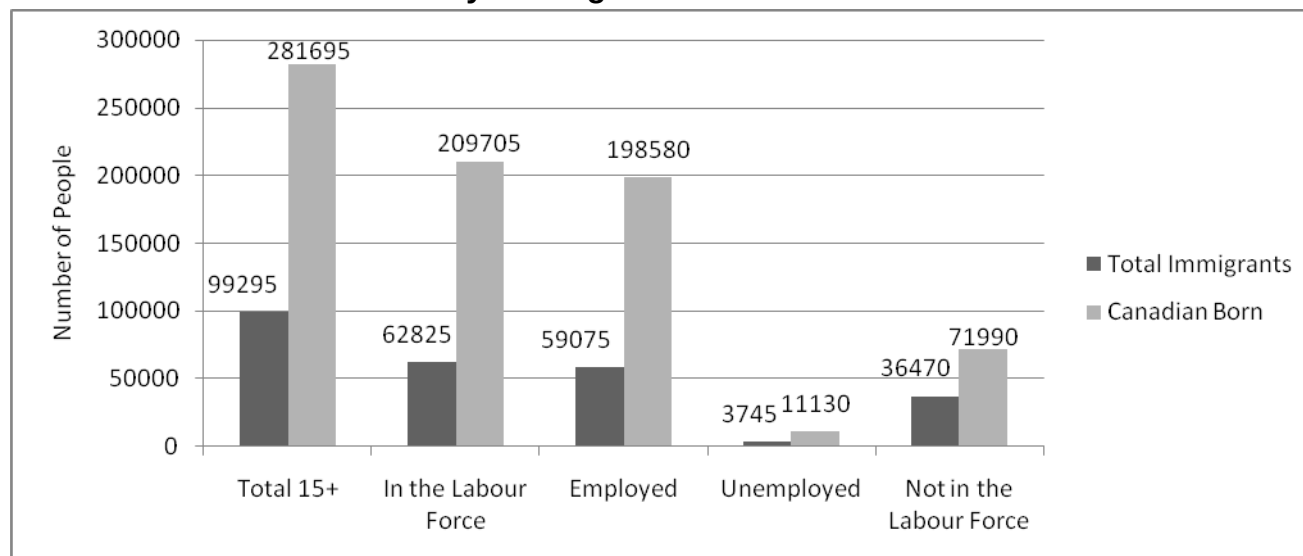
Chart 1 - Immigrant Labour Force Activity



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

Among established immigrants, 53,940 (63%) are in the Labour Force and of those 51,145 (95%) are employed. Among recent immigrants 8,885 (67%) are in the Labour Force and of those 7,930 (89%) are employed.

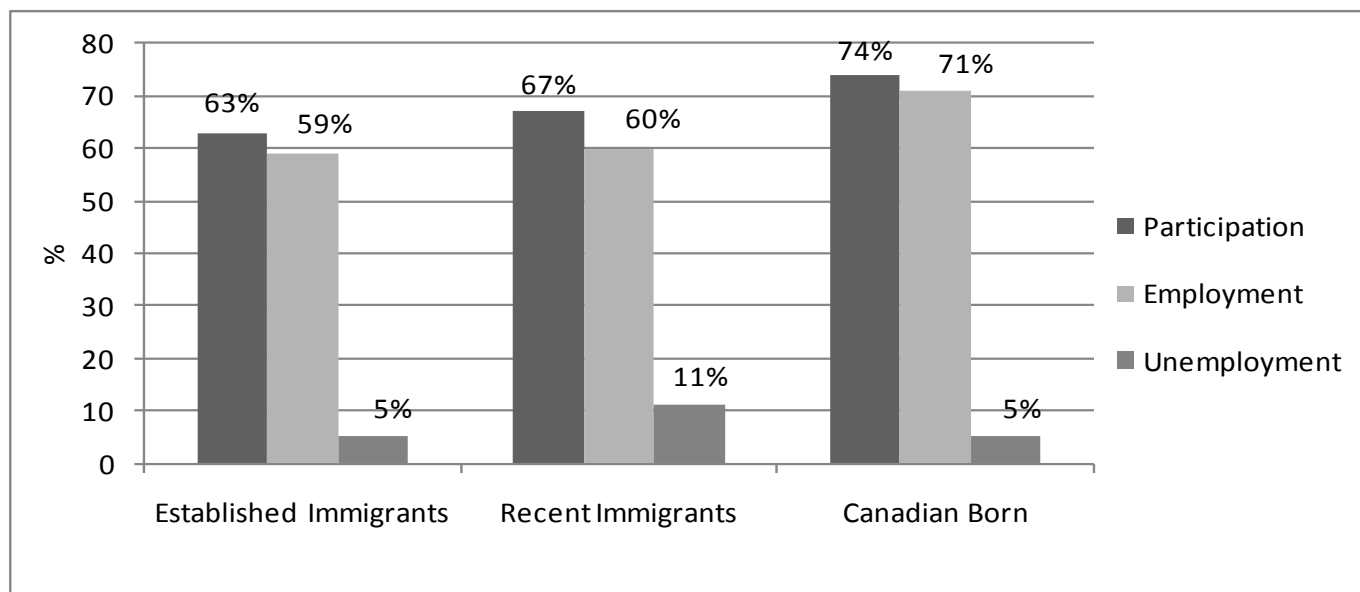
Chart 2 – Labour Force Activity - Immigrants and Canadian Born



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

62,825 (63%) of all immigrants aged 15+ are in the Labour Force and 59,075 (94%) are employed. 209,705 (74%) of Canadian born aged 15+ are in the Labour Force and 198,580 (95%) are employed.

Chart 3 –Participation, Employment and Unemployment Rates



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

The Participation Rate and Employment Rate is much higher for Canadian born than for either category of immigrant. The Unemployment Rate for recent immigrants is more than double that of either established immigrants or Canadian born.

This fact sheet looks at the income and employment issues faced by immigrants to Waterloo Region. The information and statistics in this report come from special tabulations compiled from 2006 Census data for the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington and Dufferin.

Education of Immigrants

Recent immigrants to Canada have higher educational levels than established immigrants and Canadian born. In 2006, 70% of recent immigrants had attained education levels of a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, only 40% of established immigrants and 27% of non-immigrants had bachelor's degrees or higher levels of education. Both established immigrants and non-immigrants had 60% of people within their respective groups with education levels below a bachelor's degree.

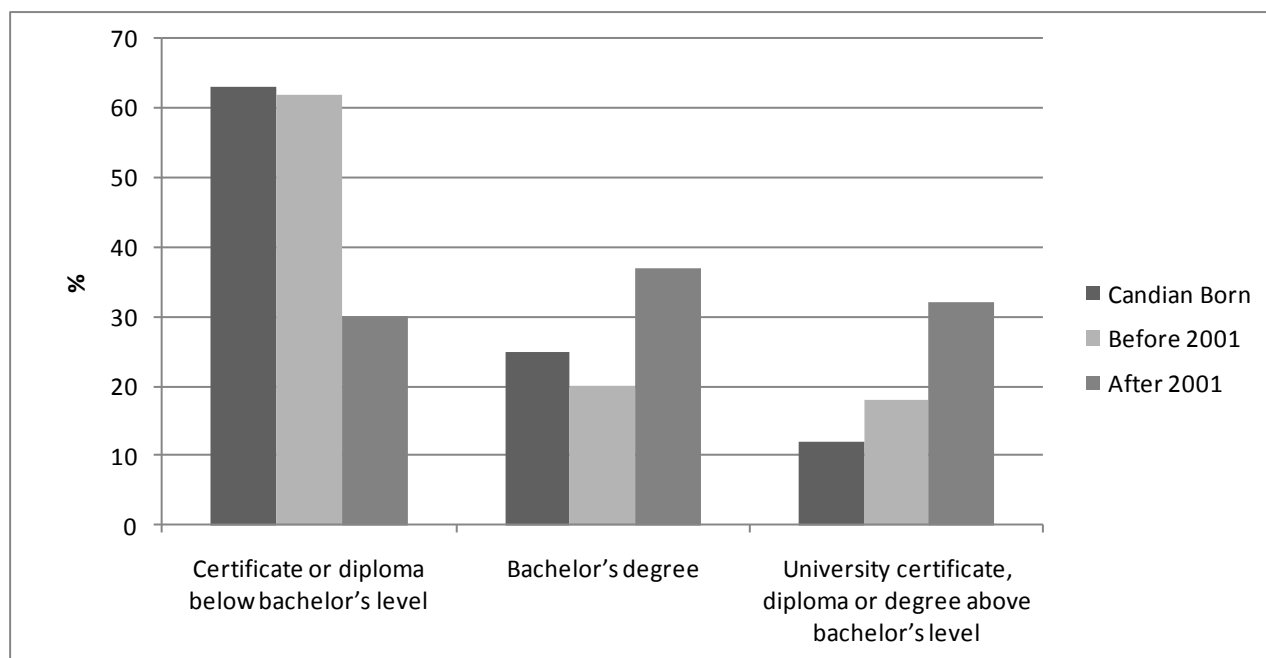


Chart 4 - Educational Attainment Among Immigrants and Non-Immigrants

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

Top Fields of Study Coming to Waterloo Region

The information in this section is taken from the "[Immigrant Employment by Field of Study in Waterloo Region](#)" report which was released by the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin in October 2009.

Looking at the education levels of immigrants coming to the area, it is obvious that many immigrants bring with them valuable skills and experience.

To identify which fields of study were most prevalent among immigrants choosing to live in Waterloo Region, a comparison was done of the fields of study for recent immigrants. Table 1 indicates that the top four fields of study among recent immigrants are as follows:

- Architecture, engineering and related technologies (35%)
- Business, management and public administration (19%)
- Mathematics, computer and information technologies (9%)
- Social and behavioural science and law (9%)

Table 1 - Fields of Study in Waterloo Region

Fields of Study	Canadian Born	Established Immigrants Before 2001	Recent Immigrants After 2001
Education	6%	4%	3%
Visual and performing arts and communications technologies	3%	3%	2%
Humanities	6%	5%	6%
Social and behavioural sciences and law	12%	9%	9%
Business, management and public administration	21%	18%	19%
Physical and life sciences and technologies	3%	4%	5%
Mathematics, computer and information sciences	5%	6%	9%
Architecture, engineering and related technologies	22%	34%	35%
Agriculture, natural resource and conservation	2%	2%	2%
Health, parks, recreation and fitness	12%	11%	6%
Personal, protective and transportation services	6%	5%	2%

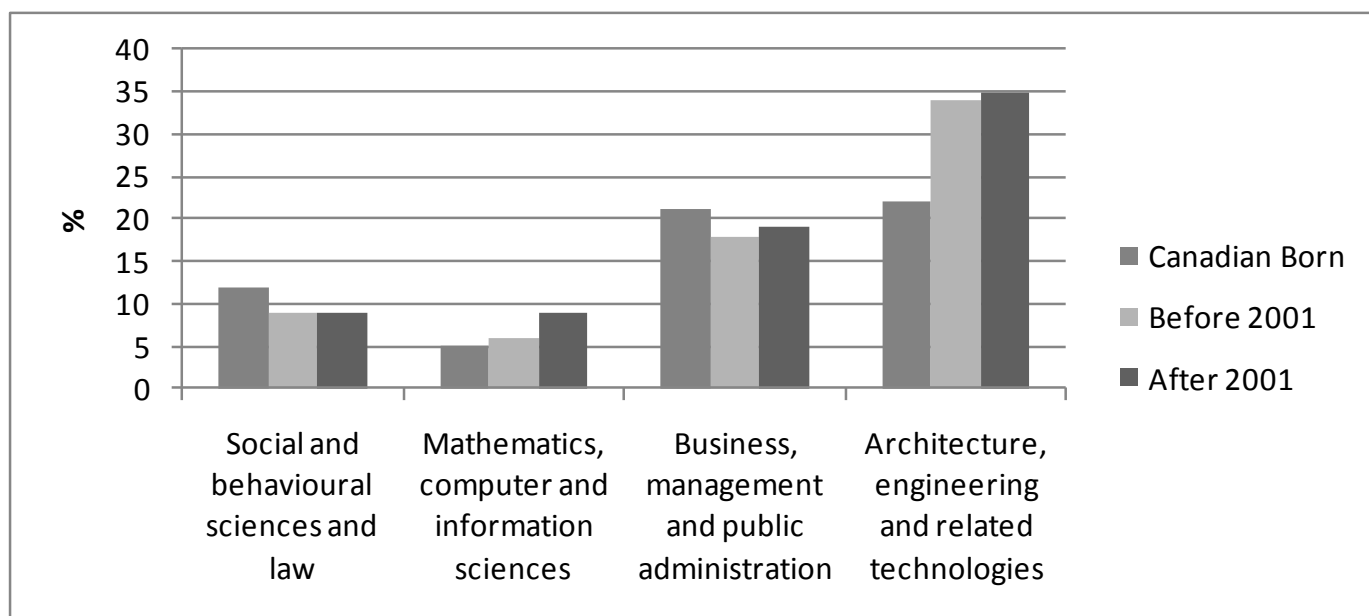
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

Both established and recent immigrants are more highly concentrated in the Architecture, engineering and related technologies category than their Canadian born counterparts. Over one third of all immigrants to Waterloo Region have this educational background.

Business, management and public administration is also a popular field of study with recent immigrants, but the percentage of recent immigrants with this field of study is similar to the other two groups.

The concentration of recent immigrants with a background in Mathematics, computer and information sciences is also much higher with almost 10% of recent immigrants reporting this field of study. Very few immigrants who have studied in the field of Personal, protective and transportation services (2%) are locating to the area. This number is substantially less than the non-immigrants and established immigrants who report this field of study.

Chart 5 - Top Four Fields of Study



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

Average Salaries of Immigrants based on Educational Attainment

Immigrants to Waterloo Region are at an income disadvantage compared to Canadian born, despite their higher educational attainments. To determine if time has an impact on the earning potential of immigrants, the average salaries of immigrants at each of the educational attainment levels was compared to the salaries of non-immigrants at each of those levels. The immigrants were further divided into established immigrants (those who arrived before 2001) and recent immigrants (those who arrived after 2001).

Table 2 shows that recent immigrants without less than a bachelor's degree had an income 41% lower than their Canadian counterparts with the same educational levels in 2006. In monetary terms, recent immigrants are earning 59 cents for every dollar that a non-immigrant earns. This gap narrows for established immigrants who receive 6% less income than Canadian Born with the same education levels.

Table 2 – Average Salaries of immigrants and non-immigrants in Waterloo Region

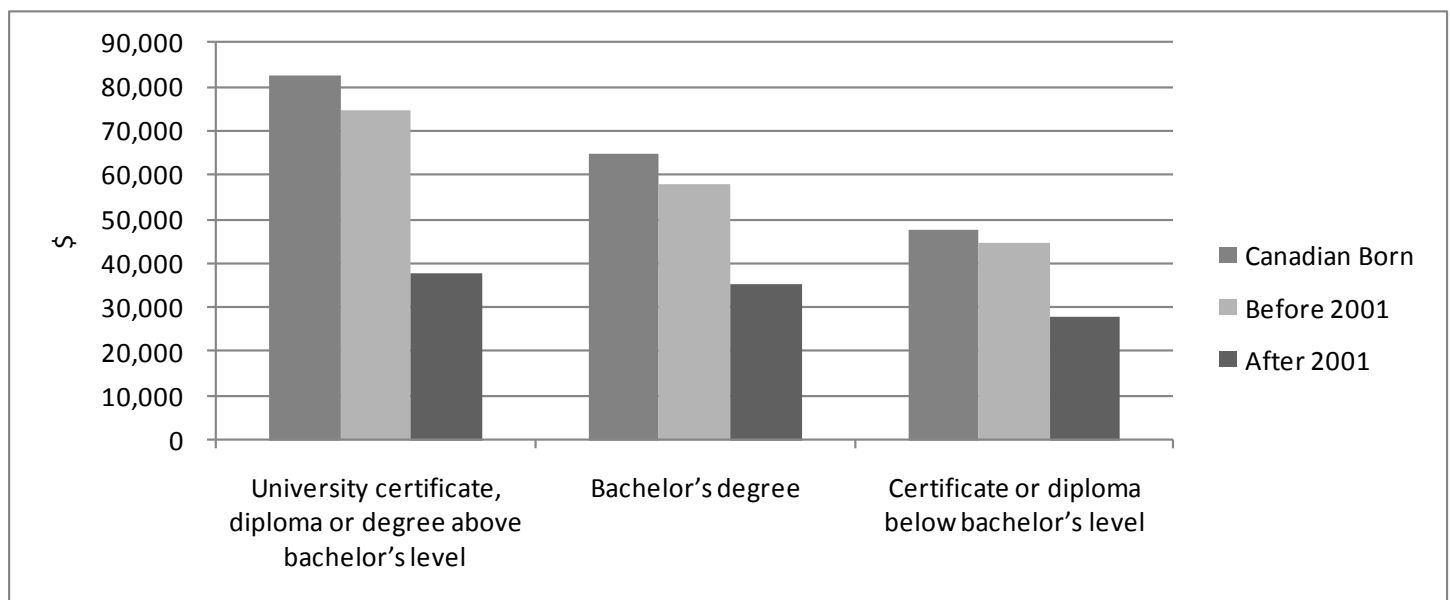
Educational Attainments	Canadian Born	Established Immigrants before 2001	Recent Immigrants after 2001	% change between non- and established immigrants	% change between non- and recent immigrants
Certificate or diploma below bachelor's level	\$47,495	\$44,433	\$28,041	-6%	-41%
Bachelor's degree	\$64,583	\$57,942	\$35,388	-10%	-45%
University certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor's level	\$82,710	\$74,797	\$37,685	-10%	-54%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

This gap widens with increased educational attainment. Recent immigrants with bachelor's degrees earn 45% less than Canadian Born counterparts. In comparison, this income difference is 10% for established immigrants. The largest difference in income is among recent immigrants with educational attainment levels higher than a bachelor's degree. These immigrants are receiving 54% less income than non-immigrants which translates into 46 cents for every dollar that a non-immigrant earns.

It appears that this income differential becomes greater the more recent an immigrant is and affects immigrants who have higher educational levels. Many recent immigrants who are also highly educated are likely working in low paying jobs, "survival jobs", which are not a fit for their skills and educational qualifications.

Chart 6 – Average salaries of immigrants and Canadian born in Waterloo Region



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

Average Salaries of Recent Immigrants in Waterloo Region

To determine what type of impact time has on the salaries of recent immigrants to the Region, a comparison of recent immigrants was done based upon year of arrival and educational attainment levels. These results are presented in table and chart form.

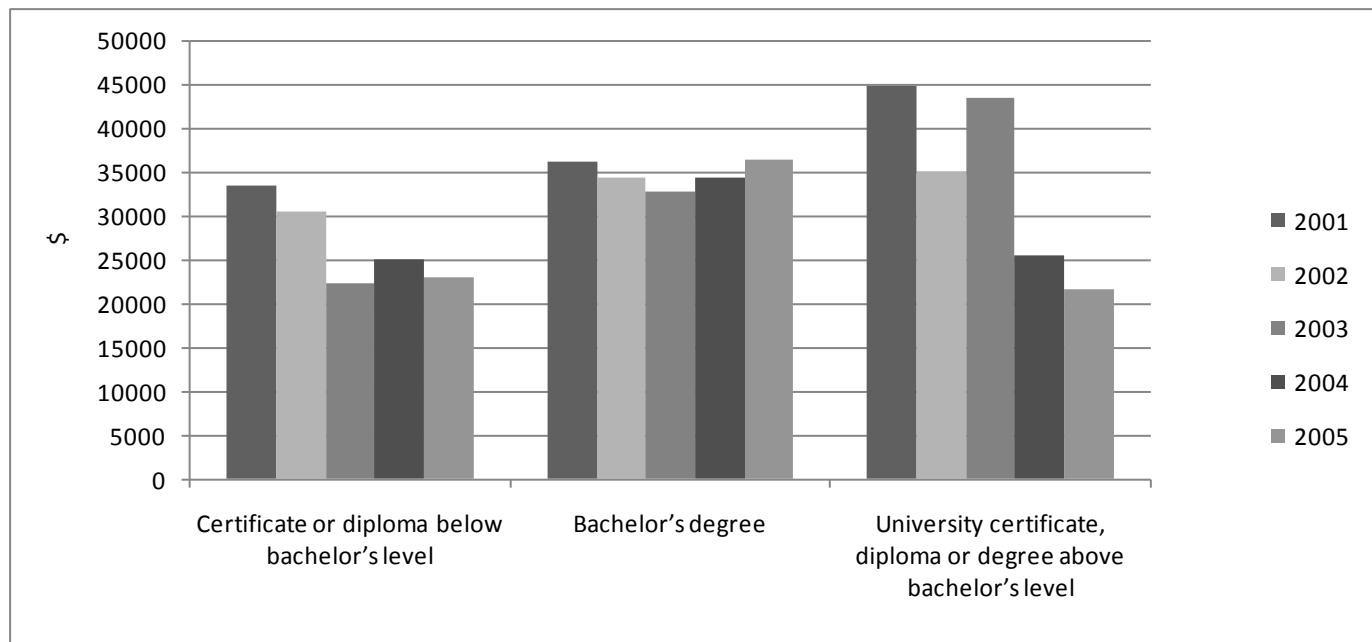
Table 3 – Average Salaries of Recent Immigrants in Waterloo Region (Arriving between 2001 and 2005)

Educational Attainments	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Certificate or diploma below bachelor's level	\$33,437	\$30,645	\$22,303	\$25,140	\$23,176
Bachelor's degree	\$36,203	\$34,329	\$32,800	\$34,331	\$36,406
University certificate, diploma or degree above bachelor's level	\$44,797	\$35,146	\$43,468	\$25,558	\$21,812

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

As can be seen in Table 3 above, fluctuations are obvious among average salaries. Field of study may have an impact on salary levels. More research is required in this area.

Chart 7 – Average Salaries of Recent Immigrants in Waterloo Region (Arriving between 2001 and 2005)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 Special Tabulations, Workforce Planning Board

As depicted in Table 3 and Chart 7, the average salaries of recent immigrants tend to rise with time for those who have education levels less than a bachelor's degree and those whose education was higher than a bachelor's degree. For example, recent immigrants who arrived in 2005 with education levels less than a bachelor's degree earned just over \$22,000 in 2005. Those immigrants who had worked in the Region for a year (arrived in 2004) saw their income rise to \$25,000 while those who had been in the Region for 4 years (2001 numbers) saw their salaries rise to \$33,000. A similar trend was noted for immigrants with educational attainments higher than a bachelor's degree. A first year immigrant saw an average salary of \$22,000 that rose to around \$45,000 by the fourth year of settlement.

However, for recent immigrants with a bachelor's degree, the story is different. Immigrants who were new to the Region in 2001 averaged \$36,000 in 2005. This salary remained pretty stable throughout each of the immigrant arrival groups with people who had arrived in 2001 making approximately the same amount as new arrivals. More research is required to examine the reasons for this.

For more information:

- For [more information about immigrants in Waterloo Region](#), including other fact sheets, reports, census bulletins and links, see the Region of Waterloo website (www.region.waterloo.on.ca) and use the search function for “immigrants in Waterloo Region”.
- For more information about employment and income of immigrants see the full report (“[Immigrant Employment by Field of Study in Waterloo Region](#)”, October 2009) by the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin (www.workforceplanningboard.com), in partnership with the Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network.
- For more information on census statistics, please refer to the Statistics Canada’s website (www.statscan.gc.ca)
 - The Census provides reliable data on a wide variety of topics and is conducted every five years. The most recent census was conducted in May 2006.
 - To see a table giving an extensive profile of immigrants and recent immigrants please refer to Statistics Canada’s website (www.statscan.gc.ca) and select “Census”. In the search box enter the catalog number 97-564-X2006008 (Immigrant Status by Selected Variables).
 - Statistics Canada has more detailed data tables under “Topic-Based Tabulations”. Please refer to www12.statcan.gc.ca/english/census06/data/topics/Index.cfm or go to the Statistics Canada website and select “Census”, then “Data Products”, and then “Topic-based Tabulations”.
 - Other census data can be found on the Statistics Canada Highlight tables. To access this data refer to: www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/index-eng.cfm or go to the Statistics Canada website and select “Census” then “Data Products”, and then “Highlight Tables”
- For data maps with 2001 and 2006 Census data see the [Canadian Social Data Strategy Regional Data Atlas](http://www.cds-sacass.ca/data) at www.cds-sacass.ca/data

Definitions:

Labour Force – Population aged 15+ actively pursuing employment

Employed – Involved in paid work

Unemployed – Not currently in paid work and actively pursuing employment

Not in the Labour Force – Population aged 15+ not actively pursuing employment

Canadian Born – Non Immigrants born in Canada

Established Immigrants Pre 2001 – Those immigrants who arrived in Canada before 2001

Recent Immigrants Post 2001 – Those immigrants who arrived in Canada after 2001

Participation Rate – Percentage of population aged 15+ in the Labour Force

Employment Rate – Percentage of Labour Force involved in paid work

Unemployment Rate – Percentage of Labour Force not currently in paid work and actively pursuing employment

Notes:

1. All data is 2006 Census data by Statistics Canada, unless otherwise indicated. Reference: Statistics Canada. *Census 2006* [Special Tabulations].
2. Take care when interpreting the data presented in this fact sheet. Statistics Canada randomly rounds numbers to multiples of five to increase confidentiality, having a larger impact on smaller data numbers.

This fact sheet was researched and written by the [Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin](#). These fact sheets were created for the Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership – a collaboration between many community organizations and citizens. The fact sheets were funded by [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#).

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Immigrants in Waterloo Region – Fact sheets

Health of Immigrants



This is part of a series of fact sheets that provide a profile of immigrants in Waterloo Region. This report is an update to the *Health of Immigrants in Waterloo Region* report released in 2004 which was largely based on 2001 data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) by Statistics Canada. This report uses data from CCHS for 2007-2008, unless otherwise noted.

Understanding the makeup of our community and the health of individuals in it is important for planning programs and services. Exploring the health of immigrants in particular is important since immigrants make up 22.0% of the population of Waterloo Region. Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, 17,020 individuals immigrated to this region. Immigrants are people who were born outside of Canada and have been accepted as permanent residents in Canada.

Health Status

National research on the physical health of immigrants in Canada in 1994-95ⁱ demonstrated that immigrants tend to be healthier than non-immigrants upon arrival in Canada. They tend to have lower rates of chronic conditions, levels of disability, and certain harmful health-related behaviours than non-immigrants. Once immigrants have lived here for more than ten years, the rates at which they experience some chronic conditions and disabilities become the same as the Canadian-born population. The phenomenon of coming with this health advantage and losing it over time has been called the “healthy immigrant effect”.

A review of national research done in 2006ⁱⁱ found that there continues to be some evidence for the healthy immigrant effect - but only when looking at certain chronic conditions and certain immigrant subgroups. Newboldⁱⁱⁱ suggested, based on longitudinal data from 1994-2001 which looked at self reported health, that the healthy immigrant effect might be more perceived than real – and may be more associated with how immigrants transition to life in Canada. The following data illustrate the finding that the healthy immigrant effect is not consistently seen in all health status indicators for all immigrants either locally or across Ontario.

Local data suggest that immigrants to Waterloo Region are more likely to have high blood pressure than non-immigrants but experience similar rates of heart disease. This differs from the Ontario data which finds that immigrants are more likely to experience heart disease and high blood pressure. This illustrates the need to look more closely at

immigrant subgroups to understand the influences on heart disease in different immigrant subgroups.

In Waterloo Region, immigrants are just as likely to be either overweight or obese as non-immigrants (using the Canadian Body Mass Index). The small sample size of recent immigrants in Waterloo Region did not allow us to see if this continues to be true when looking only at recent immigrants. Both the 2001 data^{iv} for Waterloo Region and data^v for all of Ontario show a higher prevalence of obesity in the Canadian-born population. National data from 1994 show that the longer immigrants have been in Canada, the more likely they are to be overweight^{vi}.

While Ontario data suggests that immigrants are more likely than non-immigrants to report their general and mental health as poor, in Waterloo Region, there is no significant difference in how immigrants and non-immigrants rate their general or mental health. It is not possible to tell from the data whether those who have been in Canada longer rate their health differently than those who have just arrived. Further exploration of data around the context from which immigrants come may shed light onto this issue as well.

Access to Health Services

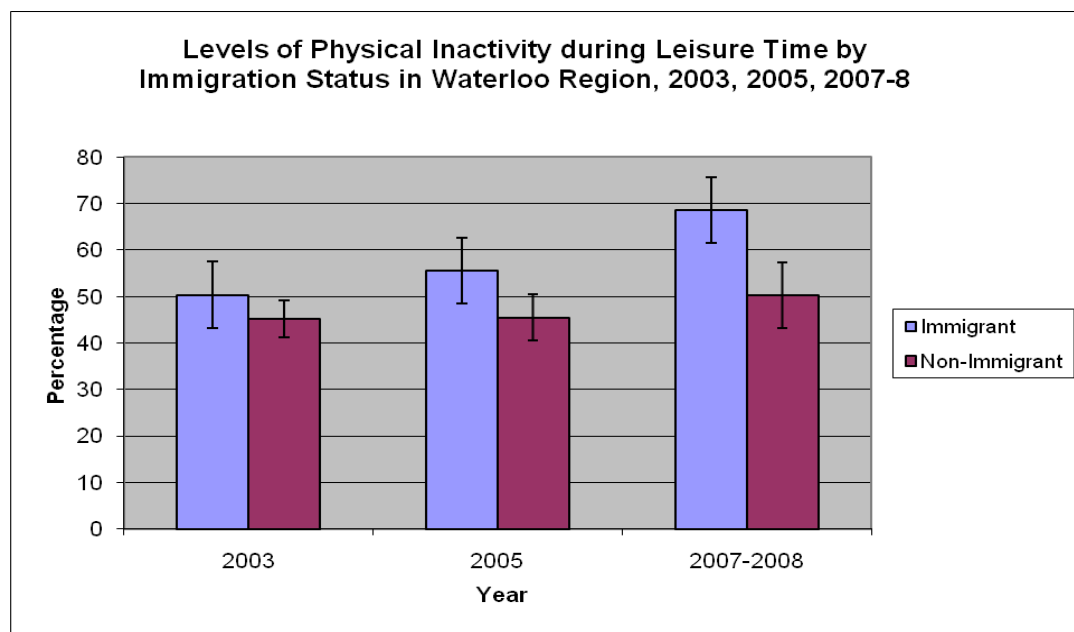
In Waterloo Region, immigrants who have been in Canada for less than 10 years are less likely to have a regular doctor than those who were born in Canada. The percent of the immigrant population that has a regular doctor becomes similar to that of the Canadian-born population once immigrants become more established (> 10 years in this study). Recent immigrants and Canadian-born are both equally likely to see a health care professional. So while recent immigrants may not have a regular doctor, they are accessing health professionals. These data do not give any indication of the quality, sufficiency, or continuity of care recent immigrants feel they receive or barriers they may experience.

Health Behaviours

The latest data for Waterloo Region shows that there is no difference between immigrants and non-immigrants in terms of the percentage that currently smoke. This differs from the data for Ontario which shows that immigrants are less likely to smoke than non-immigrants. Looking at the smoking behaviour of different immigrant subgroups might be more informative for program planning than looking at immigrants as a whole.

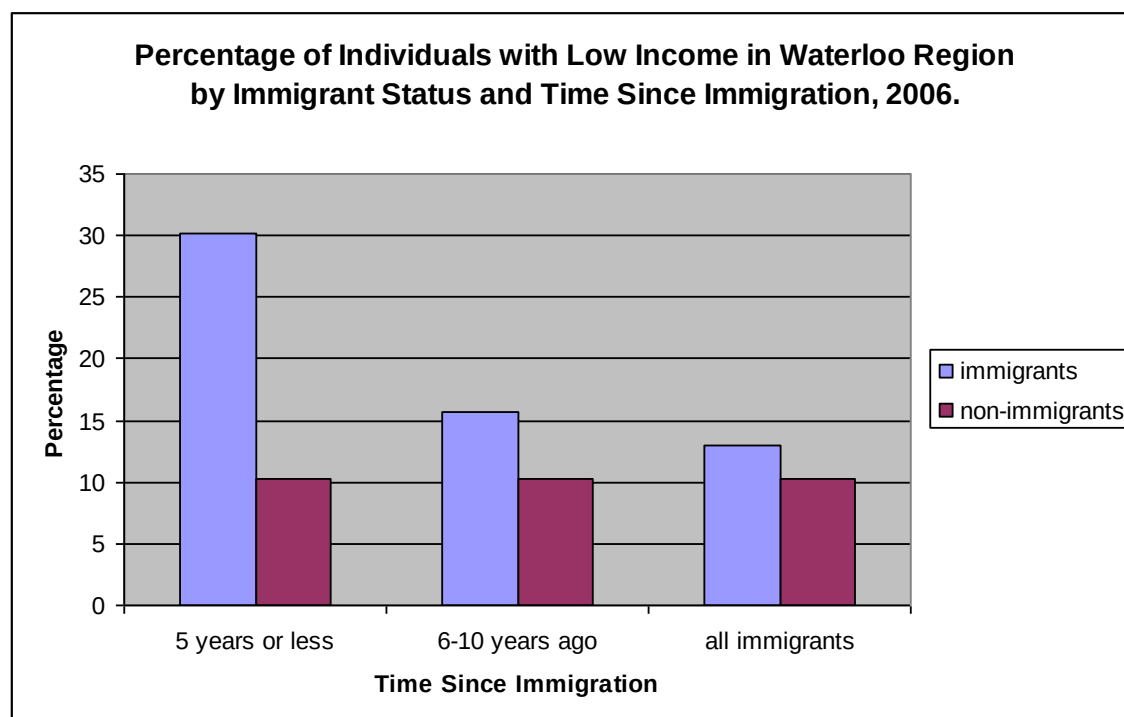
In Waterloo Region, as well as in Ontario as a whole, the percentage of immigrants (13.4%) who exceed the low-risk drinking guidelines is significantly lower than for those born in Canada (28.5%). This is similar to what was found in 2001.

The following graph shows that immigrants in Waterloo Region are less physically active than non-immigrants during leisure time – and that the gap is increasing over time.



Conditions that Affect Health

Poverty is the single most important determinant of health^{vii} and having a low income is one contributing factor to poverty. In 2006^{viii}, 30.2% of recent immigrants (<5 years) had low incomes compared to 10.2% for the Canadian-born population based on the Low Income Cut Off determined by Statistics Canada. This gap decreases the longer the immigrants have been in Canada but remains relatively higher than for those who were born in Canada.



Access to affordable and quality housing is another key determinant of health. To have an affordable housing situation, a household should spend no more than 30% of its income on housing costs^{ix}. In Waterloo Region^x 29% of Canadian-born households who rent a place to live spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs. For households where at least one member has immigrated within the last five years, 37% spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs. This number decreases to 32% for immigrants households who have immigrated within the last 10 years^{xi}.

Food security refers to whether or not households are able to afford the food they need. The combined data for 2005 and 2007-2008 show no difference in food security between immigrants and non-immigrants, regardless of how long the immigrants have lived in Canada. This contrasts with the 2001 data which showed that immigrants were more likely than Canadian-born to experience food insecurity. However, the questions that are used to determine food insecurity changed between 2003 and 2005 and this makes comparisons with 2001 data less reliable.

About a quarter of immigrants who have lived in Waterloo Region for 10 years or less say that their sense of community belonging is very weak (24.1%). This contrasts with 7% of Canadian born residents who say their connection to their community is very weak. Data from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (from immigrants who landed between 2000 and 2001) found that when immigrants have positive ties with their neighbours, contact with friends, and participation in religious services, they are more likely to assess their situation in Canada positively^{xii}. Clearly helping new immigrants connect to the community and develop a sense of belonging is critical to their overall health.

What we don't know

The data seem to suggest that the healthy immigrant effect varies across different sub-groups of immigrants. More research is needed to determine which sub-groups are experiencing higher risks of becoming unhealthier as they continue to live in Canada. Not only is it important to consider sub-groups, but also how different sub-groups intersect with each other (e.g. immigrant seniors with low-income). This allows us to understand the ways in which multiple factors (e.g. senior and low income and immigrant) work together to influence good health or poor health.

More research is needed to determine why new immigrants now are significantly less active than the Canadian born population. Why is this happening? Which sub-groups are most affected? What might be the best approach to reverse this trend? These are three important questions to consider to effectively target programs and supports.

It is puzzling that recent immigrants are more food secure than recent immigrants were in 2001 given the high percentage that experience low income – a major determinant of food insecurity. Food habits and cultures of various sub-groups of immigrants and how these intersect with food security might be helpful in better understanding the perceived food security of recent immigrants.

This report has been based on census data. In some cases, small sample sizes limit the information that can be gleaned from the census. Perhaps more qualitative data collection (focus groups, interviews) would be helpful in giving some depth to the information reported here.

ⁱ Chen, J. Ng, E. & R. Wilkins. (1996). The health of Canada's immigrants in 1994-95. Health Reports 7(4): 33-35.

ⁱⁱ Hyman, I. 2007. Immigration and Health: Reviewing evidence of the healthy immigrant effect in Canada. CERIS Working Paper No. 55

ⁱⁱⁱ Newbold, K.B. 2005a Health status and health care of immigrants in Canada: A longitudinal analysis. Journal of Health Services Research Policy 10(2), 77-83a as cited in Hyman, I. 2007. Immigration and Health: Reviewing evidence of the healthy immigrant effect in Canada. CERIS Working Paper No. 55

^{iv} CCHS 2001 data reported in the first series of fact sheets

^v Dall, Kristin, and Mary Ward. 2010. A Health Profile of Immigrants in Ontario. Health Analytics Branch, Health System Information Management and Investment Division. This report is based on CCHS data which combines the years 2005, 2007, and 2008

^{vi} Cariney, J. and Ostbye, T. 1999. Time since immigration and excess body weight. Canadian Journal of Public Health 90(2), 120-124.

^{vii} Raphael, D. 2007. Poverty and Policy in Canada: Implications for Health and Quality of Life. Canadian Scholar's Press, Toronto

^{viii} 2006 Census Urban Poverty Custom Tables, Statistics Canada. Extracted 17 February 2010

^{ix} Region of Waterloo. 2008. Region of Waterloo Affordable Housing Strategy

^x 2006 Census Urban poverty data tables UPP06_Table9UI_CSD and UPP06_TableEF_CSD, Statistics Canada. Extracted 1 December 2010

^{xi} Statistics Canada uses random rounding to 5 on all Census data, for confidentiality purposes; hence, stated figures are subject to a small margin of imprecision. Figures for non-immigrant families were calculated by subtracting the number of immigrant families from the total number of families, and as such may be subject to a slightly larger margin of imprecision.

^{xii} Houle, R. and G. Shellenberg. 2010. New Immigrants Assessments of Their Life in Canada. Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 11F0019M – No. 322

IMMIGRATION AND DIVERSITY IN CANADIAN CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Recent immigrants living in Canada's largest cities face serious challenges during their first five years and, while their situations may improve, they are unlikely to catch up to those born in Canada.

This is one of the principal findings of the fifth theme report in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Quality of Life series, Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities. The report compares social and economic conditions for immigrants and non-immigrants between 2001 and 2006 in the urban communities making up the Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS).

Municipal governments deal directly with the social and economic consequences when newcomers fail to settle successfully, but they are not consulted on immigration policies or programs. By documenting the struggle of recent immigrants, the report supports FCM's call for federal support for municipalities and agencies that are helping immigrants become established.

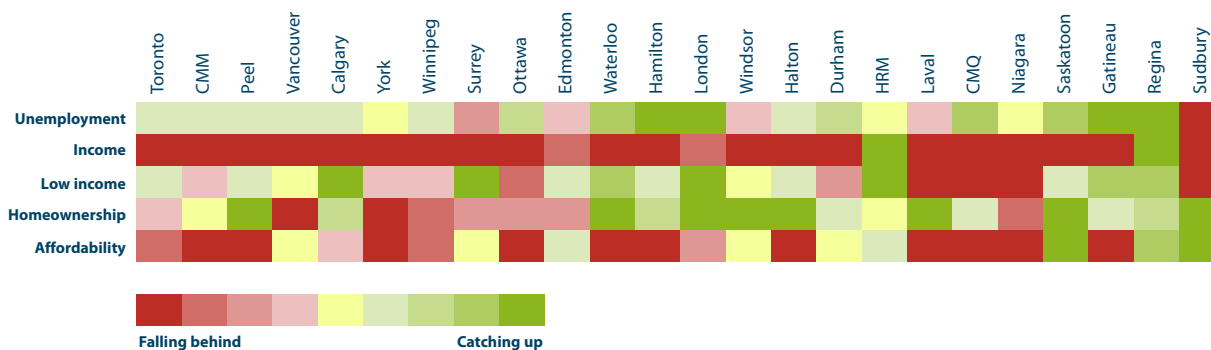
The report in brief

The report focuses on trends and issues related to immigration and diversity in Canada's largest municipalities, regional municipalities and metropolitan communities from 2001 to 2006. For the purposes of the report, the population of the communities studied¹ has been divided into three categories:

- non-immigrants/non-immigrant households—individuals/households with a primary maintainer whose citizenship was granted on the basis of having been born in Canada;
- established immigrants/established immigrant households—individuals/households with a primary maintainer granted permanent resident status and living in Canada for over five years; and
- recent immigrants/recent immigrant households—individuals/households with a primary maintainer granted permanent resident status and living in Canada for five years or less. ➤

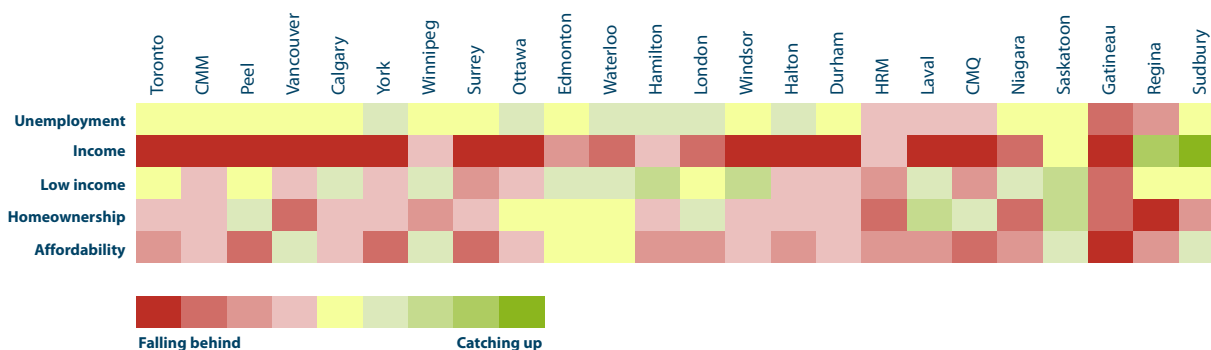
¹These communities include the 23 communities that are members of the Quality of Life Reporting System, plus Windsor, Ontario.

Performance of recent immigrants relative to non-immigrants on five key indicators, all communities, 2001-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Division, Custom Tables

Performance of established immigrants relative to non-immigrants on five key indicators, all communities, 2001-2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Division, Custom Tables

Part I | Immigration Settlement Patterns

While QOLRS communities continue to account for approximately 85 per cent of all immigration to Canada, and more than 90 per cent of all refugees, QOLRS communities are losing their share of the most qualified, well-educated and highly skilled immigrants.

In addition to experiencing a net inflow of secondary migration of recent immigrants between 2001 and 2006, the rest of Canada's share of economic immigrants more than doubled during this time.

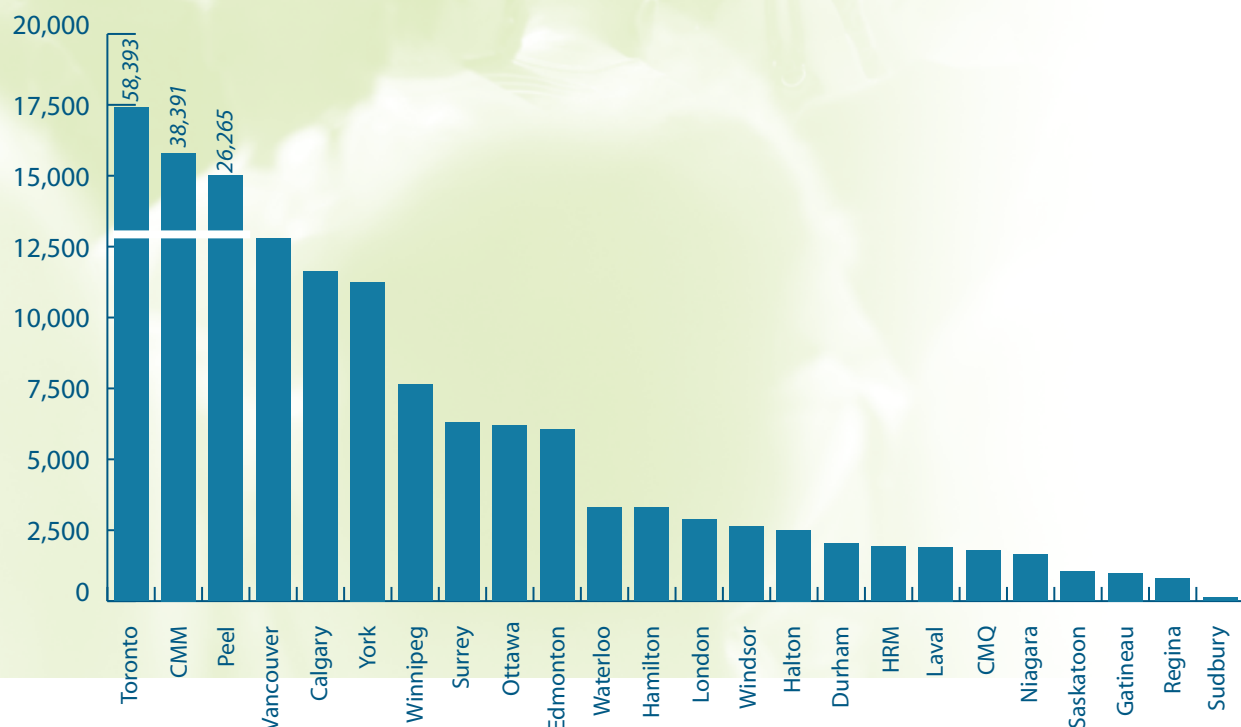
Within QOLRS communities, Canada's biggest cities and traditional immigrant-receiving centres are experiencing measurable erosion of their share of immigration. While the cities of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver continue to receive the majority of immigrants, both recent immigrants and established immigrants appear to be shifting to suburban areas and smaller communities.

Recent immigrants living in QOLRS communities face significantly greater socio-economic challenges than those living in the rest of Canada.

These differences represent part of the challenge facing Canada's largest municipal governments as they compete for the global pool of highly skilled and educated immigrants.

- Over twice the proportion of recent immigrants living in the 24 QOLRS communities relied on social assistance compared to recent immigrants living in the rest of Canada.
- The unemployment rate gap between recent immigrants and non-immigrants in the rest of Canada, where unemployment among recent immigrants was 1.4 times higher than among non-immigrants in 2006, was significantly smaller than the gap of 2.3 times in QOLRS communities.
- Within QOLRS communities, recent immigrant households with low incomes accounted for 43 per cent of all persons living in recent immigrant households in 2006, nearly three times the rate of non-immigrant households.
- A higher proportion of recent immigrants living in QOLRS communities earned low incomes compared to their recent immigrant counterparts in the rest of Canada.
- Recent immigrants in the rest of Canada were far more likely to be homeowners than were recent immigrants living in QOLRS communities.
- In stark contrast to their QOLRS community counterparts, recent immigrant homeowner households in the rest of Canada experienced a net improvement in housing affordability.

Total immigrant landings, all communities, 2006

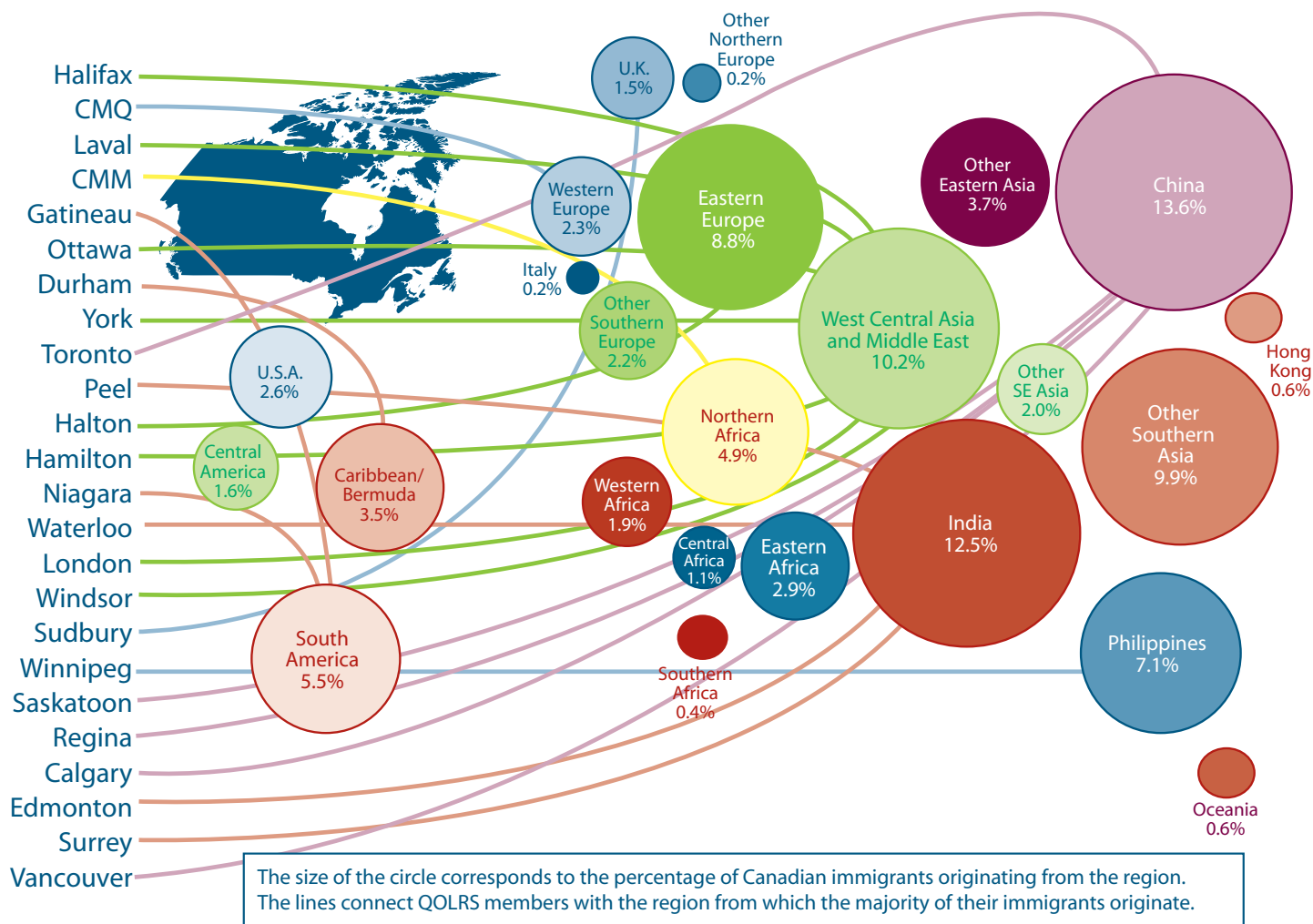


Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Immigration Statistics Division

Part 2 | Diverse and Welcoming Communities

In contrast to the rest of Canada, QOLRS communities are centres of significant and growing cultural and linguistic diversity, measured in terms of multiple places of origin and languages spoken at home. QOLRS communities were five times more culturally and ethnically diverse than communities in the rest of Canada in 2006. One measure of this diversity is that the United States, United Kingdom and Western/Northern Europe accounted for approximately 20 per cent of all recent immigrants in the rest of Canada but less than seven per cent in QOLRS communities. ➤

Place of origin of recent immigrants, all communities, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census Division, Custom Tables

Part 3 | Employment and Labour Force Integration

Immigration is an integral part of the solution to local labour force shortages. All QOLRS communities face the threat of such shortages, measured as a ratio of those exiting the labour force over the next 15 years to those entering the labour force during that time.

Several factors should be considered.

- The large number of immigrants to QOLRS communities provides an influx of working-age individuals into communities facing either stagnant growth in their labour force or shortages of specific types of skills.
- Recent immigrants enter QOLRS communities with post-secondary education levels considerably higher than those of non-immigrants. In effect, immigration can offer a readily available, highly qualified labour force.
- An above-average proportion of recent and established immigrant families living in QOLRS communities have young children, suggesting a longer-term contribution to the local labour force.
- A significant proportion of recent and established immigrants in QOLRS communities have knowledge of both official languages, serving as a further indicator of proficiency and capability.

Nevertheless, unemployment among well-educated recent immigrants remains consistently high. While the proportion of recent immigrants with university degrees was twice as high as that of non-immigrants, the unemployment rate among university-educated recent immigrants was four times greater than that of similar non-immigrants. Similarly, recent immigrants were overrepresented in low-paying service industry occupations and under-represented in better-paying management positions, suggesting a relatively high level of underemployment.

Part 4 | Basic Needs of Recent Immigrants

During their first five years in Canada, immigrants are characterized by relatively low incomes, reliance on scarce rental housing, housing affordability challenges and a higher risk of homelessness.

These characteristics all indicate a need for social intervention, but recent immigrants do not appear to be using such services as much as non-immigrants do. Reliance on social assistance among recent immigrants is very low, there is limited evidence of shelter use among recent immigrants, and their health suggests this group is less of a burden on the health care system than non-immigrants are.

Part 5 | Catching Up and Closing the Gap

Recent immigrants in the majority of QOLRS communities fell further behind non-immigrants with respect to average incomes and housing affordability.

Compared to recent immigrants, established immigrants fell even further behind the non-immigrant population. As with recent immigrants, established immigrants clearly lost ground relative to non-immigrants in the areas of income and housing affordability. However, established immigrants also fell further behind non-immigrants with respect to levels of homeownership. Established immigrants made only negligible gains in the areas of unemployment and the incidence of low incomes.

The Quality of Life Reporting System

Led by FCM, the QOLRS measures, monitors and reports on social, economic and environmental trends in Canada's largest cities and communities. The QOLRS is a member-based initiative. Starting with 16 municipalities in 1996, the QOLRS has grown to 23 communities in seven provinces. QOLRS reports and statistics correspond to the municipal boundaries of member communities.

An online version of this report is available at www.fcm.ca/QOLRS

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