

Canada's Demographic Revolution and What it Means for our Identities

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Canada: One of the Top 20 Fastest Growing Countries in the World

According to Statistics Canada, Canada continued to lead G7 countries for population growth and was likely among the [top 20 fastest growing countries in the world](#). The population growth on July 1, 2023, marks the highest population growth rate recorded for a 12-month period since 1957 (+3.3%), during the Hungarian refugee crisis and at the height of the baby boom. In absolute numbers, the increase observed last year is more than twice the increase observed in 1957 (+555,000).

[Statistics Canada](#) demonstrates that if the rate of population growth seen this past year remained constant in the future, it would lead to the Canadian population doubling in 25 years.

Statscan Current and Future Projection of the Canadian Population

CURRENT: CANADA HITS 40 MILLION (JULY 2023)

This is a historic milestone for the country, and it occurs after a record-setting year of growth. **In 2022, Canada's population grew by an unprecedented 1.1 million people, most of them permanent and temporary immigrants.** Thanks to this influx, the 40-million mark was reached even faster than expected.

FUTURE PROJECTION

According to the [reference scenario](#) issued by Statistics Canada, the Canadian population would reach 47.7 million in 2041, and **25.0 million of them would be immigrants or children of immigrants born in Canada, accounting for 52.4% of the total population.** In 2016, this population was 14.4 million and accounted for 40.0% of the total Canadian population.

Analysis of Future Projection of the Canadian Population

Based on a projected population estimate for 2026, Canada will more likely reach Statscan's 2041 reference scenario by the year 2031.

Canada	Total	1 st Generation	2 nd Generation	3 rd Generation+	% 1st & 2nd generation
2026	42,500,000*	13,800,000*	7,400,000*	21,300,000*	49.5%*
2023	40,530,000 (Q3)	12,500,000*	7,000,000*	21,000,000*	47.8%*
2021	37 000 000**	9,606,595	6,393,310	20,328,565	44.0%
2016	34,460,060	8,219,555	6,100,725	20,139,785	41.5%
2011	32,852,320	7,217,300	5,702,725	19,932,300	39.5%

North America's Largest Immigrant Receiving Metropolitan Areas

Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
United States	1,096,611	1,031,765	707,362	740,002	1,018,004
Canada	321,055	341,175	184,595	406,045	437,590
Toronto CMA	106,485	117,745	61,090	142,780	128,215
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	168,933	155,187	99,746	101,708	148,559
Vancouver	35,255	39,945	22,735	53,925	48 405
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	74,032	75,859	51,429	50,960	63,584
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	80,341	73,040	39,318	49,288	62,475
Montreal	43,805	34,630	20,980	40,360	52,925
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA	31,918	32,787	27,376	24,670	38,186
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	36,263	40,137	26,861	26,146	44,577
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	35,045	34,881	25,043	23,988	30,466
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	17,702	30,521	22,371	26,151	32,842
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	37,796	33,964	24,693	27,636	37,444

In 2021, Toronto emerged as North America's largest immigrant receiving metropolitan area which only dropped back to 2nd place behind the US in 2022 – despite the latter being 9x the population size of Canada. The US takes 2.5x immigrants annually, by comparison.

Source: IRCC Open Data & Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security

Toronto & Vancouver: Lowest 3 Generation+ Population

2021	Total	1 st generation	2 nd generation	3 rd generation +	Combined % (Gen 1 & Gen 2)
Canada	37,000,000 *	9,606,595	6,393,310	20,328,565	46%
Toronto (CMA), Ont.	6,142,880	3,172,330	1,721,285	1,249,270	80%
Vancouver (CMA), B.C.	2,607,010	1,256,395	632,460	718,160	72.50%
Brooks (CA), Alta.	14,640	5,890	2,645	6,110	58%
Calgary (CMA), Alta.	1,465,175	504,270	313,300	647,610	56%
Abbotsford - Mission (CMA), B.C.	192,110	57,685	46,070	88,355	54%
Hamilton (CMA), Ont.	773,440	218,870	193,765	360,810	53%
Winkler (CA), Man.	32,215	9,420	7,505	15,295	53%
Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo (CMA), Ont.	568,065	173,740	119,150	275,170	52%
Edmonton (CMA), Alta.	1,397,750	401,115	278,005	718,625	49%
Windsor (CMA), Ont.	415,505	111,385	88,560	215,560	48%
Oshawa (CMA), Ont.	411,405	98,605	99,150	213,650	48%
Ottawa	1,116,795	312,745	223,370	580,680	48%
Winnipeg (CMA), Man.	819,715	244,185	144,605	430,925	47%
Guelph (CMA), Ont.	163,485	41,365	35,955	86,165	47%
Squamish (CA), B.C.	23,960	5,900	5,225	12,835	46%
Montréal (CMA), Que.	4,206,450	1,221,425	721,360	2,263,675	46%
London (CMA), Ont.	535,775	140,255	106,535	288,990	46%

**Rounded*

Source: IRCC Open Data & Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security

Identities: Language, Ethnicity and Religion

Visible Minority/Racialized in Canada vs. Metro Toronto

One in three Canadians under 15 identify as vismin/racialized, while in Metro Toronto it's closer to 2 in 3.

Canada, 2021	Total - Visible minority	Total visible minority population	Percentage	Toronto, 2021	Total - Visible minority	Total visible minority population	Percentage
Total - Age	36,328,475	9,639,200	27%	Total - Age	6 142 885	3,501,270	57%
0 to 14 years	5,992,560	1,917,285	32%	0 to 14 years	963,745	618,670	64.2%
15 years +	30,335,920	7,721,915	26%	15 years +	5,179,140	2,882,600	55.5%
65 years +	6,586,600	956,345	15%	65 years +	965,755	411,305	42.5%

Source: 2021 Census Data

With the Current Rate of Population Growth Continuing...

If the rate of population growth seen this past year remained constant in the future, it would lead to the Canadian population doubling in 25 years, and nearly half of Canadians might be visible minority/racialized.

In the 2021 Census, three groups represented 16.1% of Canada's total population: South Asians (2.6 million people; 7.1%), Chinese (1.7 million; 4.7%) and Black people (1.5 million; 4.3%), with each population topping 1 million. In the 2016 Census, these groups represented 13.6% of Canada's total population.

According to Statscan's [most recent population projections](#), in 2041, the South Asian group could top 5 million people, the Chinese and Black populations could each exceed 3 million, and the Filipino population could go over 2 million.

Christian Identifiers Verging on Minority Status, if not Already the Case

In the 2021 Census, over 19.3 million people reported a Christian religion, representing just over half of the Canadian population (53.3%). However, this proportion is down from 67.3% in 2011 and 77.1% in 2001.

Approximately 12.6 million people, or more than one-third of Canada's population, reported having no religious affiliation. The proportion of this population has more than doubled in 20 years, going from 16.5% in 2001 to 34.6% in 2021 (Census Data).

'Ethnic Canadians' Decline by 50% in 5 years with 2021 Census Questionnaire Modification

Canadians' Response to Ethnicity	Total - Single & Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses	Single Ethnic Origin Responses	Multiple Ethnic Origin Responses
1996	8,806,275	5,326,995	3,479,285
2001	11,682,680	6,748,135	4,934,550
2006	10,066,290	5,748,720	4,317,570
2011	10,563,805	5,834,535	4,729,265
2016	11,135,965	6,436,935	4,699,030
2021	5,677,205	4,186,840	1,490,370

Source: Canadian Census Data

Some One Third of Canadians did Declared Multiple Ethnic Origins

Ethnic or Cultural Origin	Total - Single & Multiple Ethnic or Cultural Origin Responses	Single Ethnic or Cultural Origin Responses	Multiple Ethnic or Cultural Origin Responses
2021	36,328,475	23,426,005	12,902,470
2016	34,460,065	20,297,890	14,162,175

Source: Canadian Census Data

Language Mix Up: Considerable Shift in Multiple Responses

	2006	2011	2016	2021
Total - Mother Tongue	31,241,030	33,121,175	34,767,250	36,620,955
Single Responses	30,848,270	32,481,635	33,948,615	35,145,260
Multiple Responses	392,760	639,540	818,635	1,475,690
English & French	98,625	144,685	165,320	291,325
English & Non-official Language(s)	240,005	396,330	533,260	921,480
French & Non-official Language(s)	43,335	74,430	86,145	117,910
English, French & Non-official Language(s)	10,790	24,095	33,900	52,880
Multiple Non-official Languages	NA	NA	NA	92,095

Source: Canadian Census Data

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