

Immigrants: Where are They Living Now?

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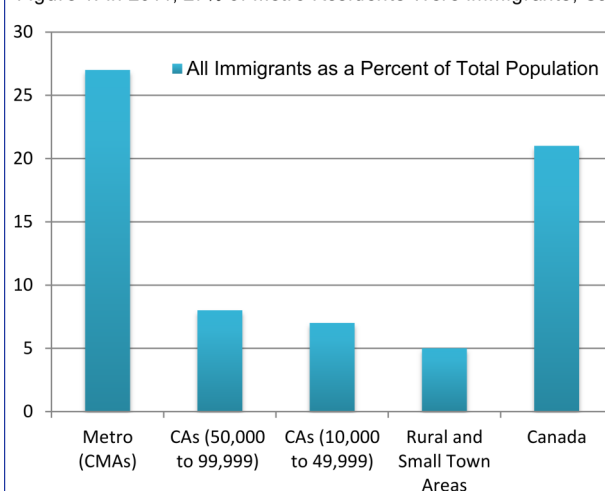
Highlights

- ◆ In 2011, the vast majority (91%) of immigrants residing in Canada were living in a metro area.
- ◆ The share of the metro population made up by immigrants was 27%, compared to 6% for non-metro areas.
- ◆ The number of immigrants who listed 2001 to 2011 as their arrival period was 40% higher than those listing the previous decade (1991 to 2000).
- ◆ The increase in non-metro areas was 97% while the increase in metro areas was only 37%.
- ◆ In the non-metro areas of each province, other than Ontario and British Columbia, 2001 to 2011 arrivals were double the number of 1991 to 2000 arrivals.
- ◆ While big places continue to attract large absolute numbers of immigrants, they are being outperformed on a per capita basis by many smaller places that have been attracting relatively higher numbers of immigrants.

Where do immigrants live?

The answer depends on when they came to Canada. In 2011, 91% of all immigrants were living in metro (CMA)¹ areas. For immigrants who arrived before 1971, however, that percentage stood at 82%, reflecting both their initial destination and their subsequent moves into and out of metro regions. In contrast, immigrants who arrived between 1991 and 2000 exhibited a far greater tendency to live in metro areas (95%), while the most recent arrivals – from the 2006 and 2011 period – exhibited a marginally lower tendency (92%) to live in metro areas.

Figure 1: In 2011, 27% of Metro Residents Were Immigrants, Canada



Given the number of immigrants residing in metro areas, it is not surprising to see that 27% of all metro residents were immigrants in 2011 (Figure 1). Within smaller cities, the share drops to 7% or 8% on average and in rural and small town areas it drops even further to 5%. Even with the dramatic growth reported below, these shares have not changed much over time².

The number of immigrants who arrived in the most recent inter-censal decade (2001 to 2011) and were still residing in Canada in 2011 numbered 2.2 million (Appendix Table 1). This figure is 40% larger than 1.5 million immigrants who arrived in the previous decade (1991 to 2000) and are still residing in Canada.

1. A CMA (Census Metropolitan Area) has a population of 100,000 or more and includes the population of all neighbouring towns and municipalities where 50% or more of the resident employed workforce commutes to the CMA.

2. For a review of earlier census data, see Beshiri *et al.* (2002), Beshiri (2004), Bernard (2008) and Beshiri *et al.* (2009).

Table 1: Top 20 Census Metropolitan Areas or Census Agglomerations: Immigrants as Percent of Total Population, 2011

Name of Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA) of Residence, 2011	Total Population	Total Immigrants	Immigrants as Percent of Population
Toronto	5,521,235	2,537,410	46
Vancouver	2,280,700	913,310	40
Calgary	1,199,125	313,880	26
Hamilton	708,175	166,755	24
Abbotsford - Mission	166,680	39,035	23
Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo	469,935	108,720	23
Montréal	3,752,470	846,645	23
Windsor	315,455	70,285	22
Leamington	46,565	9,820	21
Winnipeg	714,640	147,295	21
Edmonton	1,139,580	232,195	20
Parksville	26,715	5,440	20
Guelph	139,670	27,515	20
Steinbach	13,185	2,580	20
Ottawa - Gatineau	1,215,730	235,335	19
London	467,260	87,655	19
Victoria	336,185	60,075	18
Squamish	17,225	2,905	17
St. Catharines - Niagara	383,970	64,390	17
Canmore	11,990	2,000	17

Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Cat. No. 99-101-X2011026, <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/dt-td/index-eng.cfm>.

Table 2: Top 20 Census Metropolitan Areas: Number of Recent Immigrants (Who Arrived 2006 to 2011)

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) of Residence in 2011	Total Population, 2011	Total Immigrants, 2011	Immigrants Who Arrived 2006 to 2011	
			Number	As Percent of Total Population
Toronto	5,521,235	2,537,410	381,745	7
Montréal	3,752,470	846,645	189,730	5
Vancouver	2,280,700	913,310	155,120	7
Calgary	1,199,125	313,880	70,705	6
Edmonton	1,139,580	232,195	49,930	4
Winnipeg	714,640	147,295	45,270	6
Ottawa - Gatineau	1,215,730	235,335	40,420	3
Hamilton	708,175	166,755	18,775	3
Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo	469,935	108,720	15,245	3
London	467,260	87,655	11,905	3
Saskatoon	256,430	27,355	11,470	4
Québec City	746,685	32,880	10,665	1
Windsor	315,455	70,285	9,225	3
Halifax	384,540	31,260	8,305	2
Regina	207,215	21,735	8,150	4
Victoria	336,185	60,075	6,440	2
Abbotsford - Mission	166,680	39,035	5,935	4
St. Catharines - Niagara	383,970	64,390	5,650	1
Oshawa	351,690	56,175	4,075	1
Sherbrooke	196,680	12,115	4,045	2

Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Cat. No. 99-101-X2011026, <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/dt-td/index-eng.cfm>.

Overall, the vast majority of recent immigrants (2.0 million of the 2.2 million) currently reside in a metro area. However, the growth in immigrant arrivals in metro areas (37%) has not matched the overall growth of immigrant arrivals (40%).

Outside Ontario and British Columbia, the growth in immigrants in both metro and non-metro areas was up by 100% or more. The non-metro changes have been especially dramatic, though the absolute numbers are quite small. For non-metro areas at the Canada level, the number of immigrants who arrived in the 2001 to 2011 decade was 146 thousand, up 72 thousand from the 74 thousand immigrants who reported arriving in the 1991 to 2000 period.

As noted in Figure 1, 27% of metro residents are immigrants. There are only two CMAs with a share greater than 27%: Toronto at 46% and Vancouver at 40% (Table 1). The third ranking CMA is Calgary with 26% of residents being immigrants.

In Canada as a whole, there are only 20 CMAs and CAs with 17% or more of their population being immigrants. Some are relatively small³: Canmore with a 2011 population of 12 thousand; Steinbach with a population of 13 thousand; and Squamish with a population of 17 thousand.

Obviously, the bigger places have the largest number of immigrants.

3. To be included in this list, a "place" had to be a CMA or CA (i.e. with a population of 10,000 or more). Thus, places like Winkler, Manitoba are not included in this ranking. In 2011, the population of the Town of Winkler was 10,490 and 2,600 were immigrants (25%) which would rank #4 in Table 1. The point is that not only big places are able to attract a high(er) share of immigrants.

Table 3: Top 20 Census Metropolitan Areas or Census Agglomerations: Number of Immigrants Who Arrived in 2006 to 2011 as Percent of Total Population, 2011

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA) of Residence in 2011	Total Population, 2011	Total Immigrants, 2011	Immigrant Arrivals in 2006 to 2011	Total Immigrants, 2011	Immigrant Arrivals in 2006 to 2011
	Number of Individuals			As Percent of Total Population	
Steinbach	13,185	2,580	1,060	20	8
Toronto	5,521,235	2,537,410	381,745	46	7
Vancouver	2,280,700	913,310	155,120	40	7
Brooks	22,550	3,420	1,520	15	7
Brandon	51,980	6,295	3,495	12	7
Winnipeg	714,640	147,295	45,270	21	6
Calgary	1,199,125	313,880	70,705	26	6
Wood Buffalo	66,990	10,330	3,640	15	5
Montréal	3,752,470	846,645	189,730	23	5
Saskatoon	256,430	27,355	11,470	11	4
Edmonton	1,139,580	232,195	49,930	20	4
Canmore	11,990	2,000	475	17	4
Regina	207,215	21,735	8,150	10	4
Okotoks	24,425	2,665	930	11	4
Swift Current	17,045	1,355	630	8	4
Squamish	17,225	2,905	635	17	4
Charlottetown	63,015	5,000	2,300	8	4
Abbotsford - Mission	166,680	39,035	5,935	23	4
North Battleford	18,720	1,145	660	6	4
Yellowknife	18,830	2,215	650	12	3

Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, Cat. No. 99-101-X2011026, <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/dt-td/index-eng.cfm>.

In 2011, the Toronto CMA had 2.5 million immigrants, a figure that is larger than the population of six of the Canadian provinces (Table 2). Vancouver and Montreal each have about 0.9 million immigrants.

Another 6 CMAs have 0.1 to 0.3 million immigrants. The London CMA makes it into the top 10 list with 87 thousand immigrants. The top 10 CMAs, between them, have 5.6 million immigrants, 82% of all the immigrants in Canada.

The most recent immigrants

If we look at the current residence of the most recent immigrants for whom data is available, those who arrived from 2006 to 2011, the largest numbers reside in the largest metropolitan areas.

In Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, there are 0.7 million immigrants who arrived from 2006 to 2011 (Table 2). This is 62% of the 1.2 million individuals who arrived in this period.

Looked at in terms of the number of recent immigrants per capita – a measure of the ability to attract immigrants – the top CMA or CA in Canada is Steinbach, Manitoba with 8% of its population in 2011 being immigrants who arrived in the 2006 to 2011 period (Table 3). Among the top 20 CMAs or CAs, only three are from Ontario or further east. Fully 17 of the top 20 CMAs or CAs, when ranked in terms of their number of recent immigrants per capita, are located in Western Canada or the Northwest Territories.

Summary

The key points are:

- ◆ Big places continue to attract big numbers of immigrants; but
- ◆ Many smaller places have been attracting relatively higher per capita numbers of immigrants, compared to the bigger places.
- ◆ Nearly all the places that attract the highest number of immigrants, on a per capita basis, are located west and north of Ontario.

FACTSHEET

Appendix 1: Number of Immigrant Arrivals in the 2001 to 2011 period, Compared to Arrivals in the 1991 to 2001 period, by Location of Residence in 2011

Place of Residence in 2011	Number of Immigrants, Canada		Percent Change in Number of Immigrants, Comparing Arrivals in 2001-2011 to Arrivals in 1991-2001													
	Arrived 1991 to 2000	Arrived 2001 to 2011	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
Metro (CMAs)	1,464,820	2,008,610	37	141		139	364	93	18	214	289	101	12			
Non-metro (Non-CMA) (subtotal)	74,235	146,380	97	120	342	161	172	126	16	286	310	149	36	124	114	95
CAs	37,895	83,450	120	94	421	267	217	212	24	560	439	184	44	180	120	
... CAs (50,000 to 99,999)	13,450	26,485	97				214	180	86			138	33			
... CAs (10,000 to 49,999)	24,445	56,960	133	94	421	267	229	238	10	560	439	224	55	180	120	
Rural & small town areas (subtotal)	36,335	62,935	73	131	79	124	128	64	8	213	237	101	25	-22	78	95
... Strong MIZ	11,555	16,290	41	80	250	37	43	42	-1	417	38	37	31			
... Moderate MIZ	12,690	19,445	53	183	24	136	84	84	13	60	102	95	17			
... Weak MIZ	11,125	25,075	125	119		129	277	73	46	209	341	134	33			
... No MIZ	575	1,570	173	200			21	-20	-25	155	718	288	-46			
... RST Territories	390	545	40											-22	78	95
Total	1,539,055	2,154,990	40	134	342	145	240	94	18	227	294	107	13	124	114	95

Source: Statistics Canada. 2011 National Household Survey, special tabulation.

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