

Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Quebec

The National Household Survey (NHS) Regional analysis

January 2014

Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada was part of the first release of data from the National Household Survey (NHS). About 4.5 million households across Canada were selected for the NHS, representing about one-third of all households.

This analytical document contains the results from the NHS on immigration, place of birth, visible minorities, language and religion for the Québec population and its six Metropolitan Census Areas (Montréal, Québec, Saguenay, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Gatineau). **Some of these data are also available upon request, for your region. Please do not hesitate to [communicate with us](#) to receive a free sample.**

Box 1: The National Household Survey reference guides

Further information on the National Household Survey can be found in the National Household Survey user Guide, Catalogue no. 99-001-X. Specific information on the quality and comparability of NHS data on immigration and ethnocultural diversity can be found in the series of reference guides for these topics.

Immigration

One in 8 people in Quebec's population was foreign born

According to the 2011 NHS, Quebec had a total of about 974,900 foreign-born¹ individuals who arrived as immigrants. They represented 12.6% of the province's total population. The other 86.5% (6,690,535) of Quebec's population were Canadian-born (non-immigrants), while 0.9% (67,095) were non-permanent residents. In comparison, the proportion of the population of Canada who were immigrants was 20.6%.

Nearly 40% of Quebec's foreign-born were relatively newcomers to the province: around 380,825 individuals immigrated between 2001 and 2011. Among those, 22.9% (223,400) immigrated within the last five years of that decade.

¹ In this analysis, the foreign-born population is also referred to as the immigrant population. Immigrant is a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant/permanent resident. This person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Some immigrants have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others have arrived recently. Some immigrants are Canadian citizens, while others are not. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number are born in Canada. In the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), 'immigrants' include immigrants who landed in Canada prior to May 10, 2011.

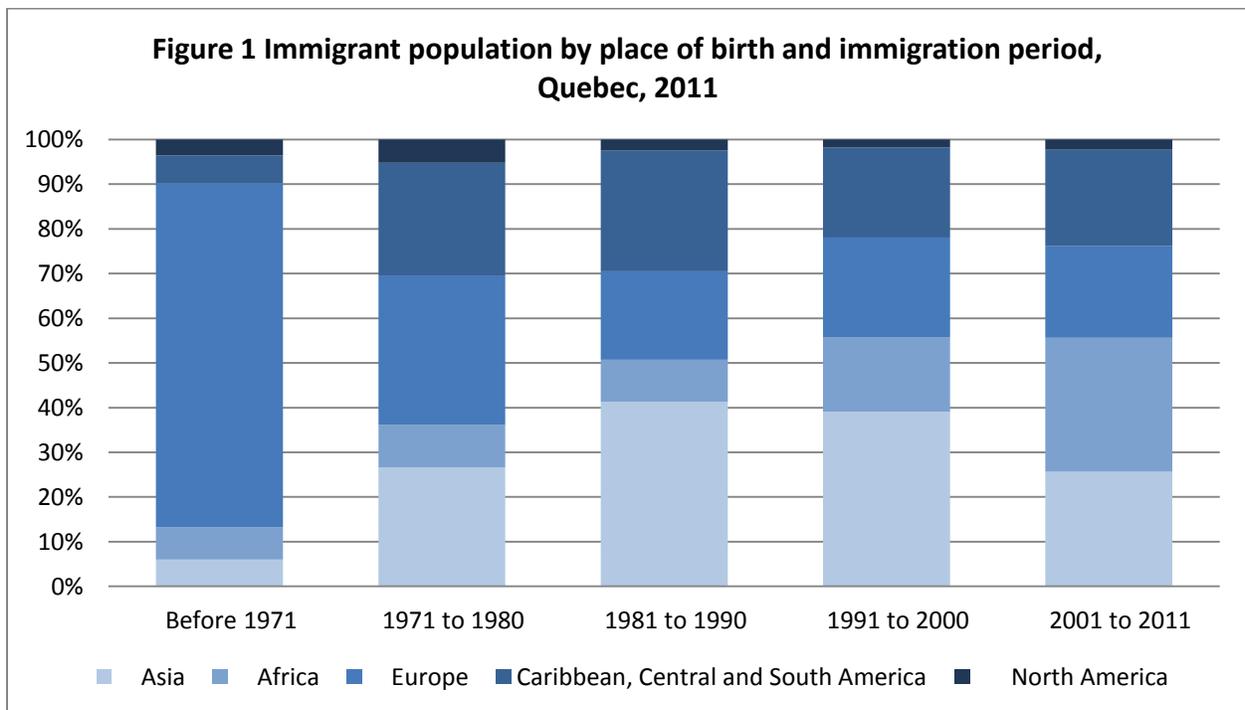
Box 2: Non-permanent residents

The following groups are referred to as non-permanent residents: (1) persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who are claiming refugee status and the family members living with them; (2) persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who hold study permits and the family members living with them; (3) persons with a usual place of residence in Canada who hold work permits and the family members living with them.

Africa the largest source of immigrants

Canada's foreign-born population reported close to 200 countries as a place of birth in the 2011 NHS. In Quebec, Africa was the largest source of immigrants between 2006 and 2011, followed by the Americas, Asia (including the Middle East) and Europe. Among recent immigrants, roughly 31.8%, or 71,040 came from Africa, where as 25.4% came from the Americas (Caribbean, Central and South America and North America), 24.3% came from Asia (including the Middle East) and 18.5% came from Europe.

The recent increase of African born immigrants making Quebec their home shows a new trend in immigration patterns for the province. For example, between 1971 and 2005, the majority of immigrants coming to Quebec were primarily born in Asia (including the Middle East) (30.8%), the Americas (24.7%), Europe (22.7%) and Africa (21.8%) (Figure 1).



Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011.

Algeria and Morocco were the leading source countries for recent immigrants in Quebec

The NHS results showed that Algeria and Morocco were the leading countries of birth among people who immigrated to Quebec between 2006 and 2011. Combined, these two countries accounted for 54.0 % of those coming from Africa. In Quebec, between 2006 and 2011, about 20,200 or 9% of all newcomers were born in Algeria, and 8.1% or 18,200 were born in Morocco.

Those two countries were followed by France, from which 16,930 newcomers or 7.6% arrived, and Haiti, from which about 14,710 or 6.6% originated. Completing the top 10 countries of birth were China, Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, Lebanon and Romania.

Vast majority of newcomers settled in Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA)

Immigrants, especially recent arrivals, were much more likely to live in the Canada's largest urban centres than people born in Canada. Among the approximately 1,162,900 foreign-born citizens that immigrated to Canada between 2006 and 2011, a vast majority lived in one of Canada's 33 CMAs.

A similar pattern was found in Quebec, where 92,5 % of recent immigrants settled in the province's large urban centres. Of those, 91,9 % chose to live in the CMA of Montréal. These newcomers accounted for 5.1% of Montréal's total population.

Visible Minority population

Box 3: Visible Minority

The people who identify themselves as a visible minority comprises 1 of 4 groups designated under the *Employment Equity Act*.

The *Employment Equity Act* defines as visible minorities 'persons, other than Aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.' The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean and Japanese.

The other three designated groups under the *Employment Equity Act* are women, Aboriginal people and people with disabilities.

In Quebec, slightly more than 1 out of every 10 people identified themselves as a member of the visible minority

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, 850,240 people identified themselves as a member of the visible minority population in Quebec. They represented more than 1 out of every 10 people (11.0%) in Quebec's total population. Of these visible minorities, 30.6% were born in Canada, while 64.7% were born outside the country and came to live in Quebec as immigrants. A small proportion (4.7%) of the visible minority population were non-permanent residents.

The share of visible minorities has increased among immigrants who came in the most recent decades. The 2011 NHS data showed that visible minorities accounted for 69.8% of the immigrants who arrived between 2006 and 2011, and 65.3% of those who arrived in the previous five-year period.

In contrast, visible minorities made up 10.5% of immigrants who arrived before 1971. During the 1970's, this proportion more than quadrupled to 49.6% and further increased to 66.2% of those who arrived in the 1980's.

Blacks largest visible minority group

Combined, the three largest visible minority groups in 2011 – Blacks (28.7%), Arabs (19.6%) and Latin Americans (13.7%) accounted for 61.9% of the visible minority population.

Most visible minorities lived in urban centres

The vast majority of visible minorities (97.2%) lived in one of Quebec's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), compared with 68.6 % of the total population. As was the case with the immigrant population, most visible minorities (92 %) who lived in large urban centres lived in the CMA of Montréal. This represented a total of 762 330 people or 20 % of the CMAs total population (Table 1).

Table 1 Visible minority population and top three visible minority groups (Blacks, Arabs, Latin Americans), Census Metropolitan Area of Quebec, 2011

	Total Population	Visible minority population		Blacks, Arabs, Latin Americans	
	number	number	percentage	number	percentage
Province of Quebec	7,732,525	850,235	11	526,265	61.9
Montréal	3,752,475	762,330	20.3	464,830	61
Ottawa - Gatineau (QC part)	310,825	27,640	8.9	20,765	75.1
Québec	746,690	23,365	3.1	16,230	69.5
Sherbrooke	196,680	8,690	4.4	6,250	71.9
Saguenay	154,235	1,290	0.8	835	64.7
Trois-Rivières	146,930	3,525	2.4	2,830	80.3

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011

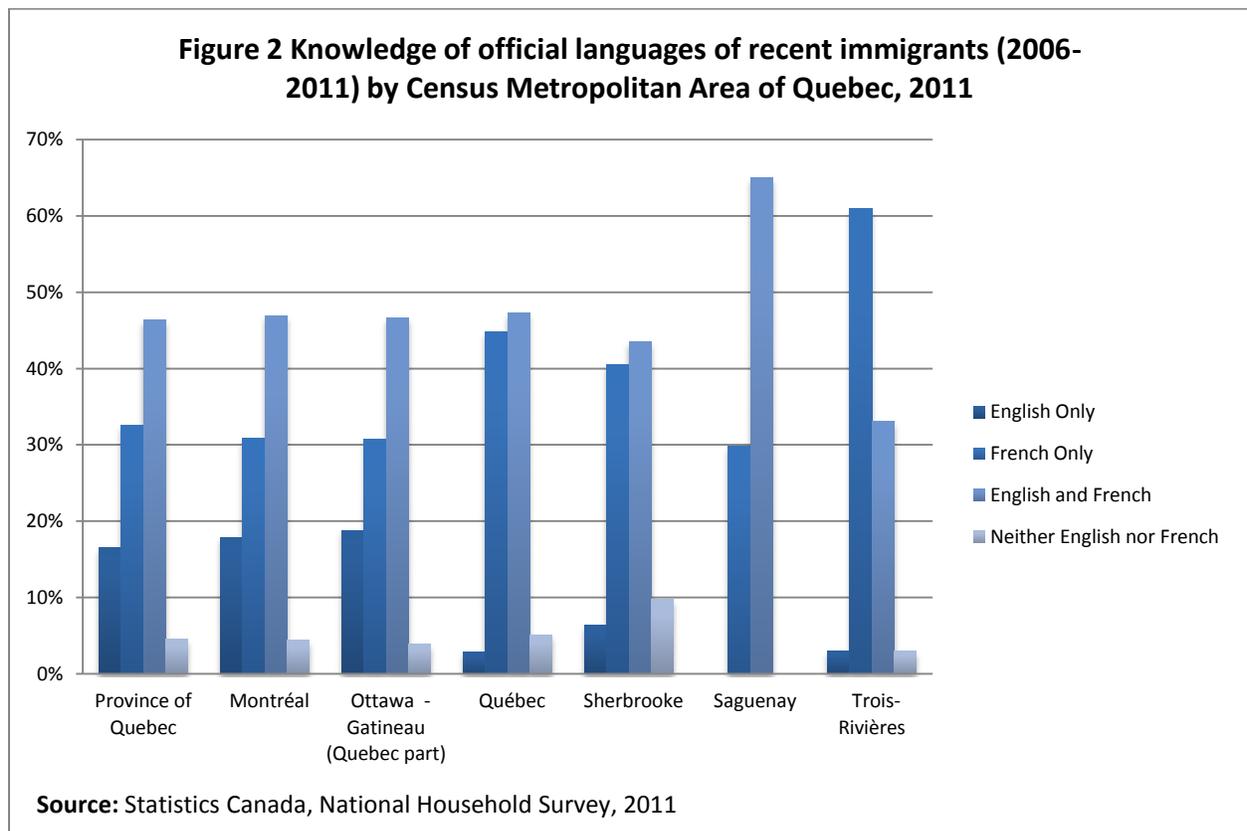
Languages

Knowledge of official languages

In terms of the knowledge of the nation's two official languages, the 2011 NHS data showed that 52.3% of Quebec's foreign-born population was able to converse in English and French, while 25.9% only knew French, and 17.4% only knew English. Overall, the proportion of the foreign-born population who knew English and French declined with time in Quebec. Among recent immigrants (those who arrived to Quebec between 2006 and 2011), 46.4% knew English and French, while a higher proportion (32.6%) knew French only, 16.5% knew English only, while 4.5% knew neither English nor French.

Overall, similar proportions of non-English non-French speaking immigrants remained relatively stable overtime at 4.4% for all immigrants and 4.5% among recent immigrants in Quebec. However, among Quebec's CMAs, an increase of recent immigrants in Sherbrooke (9.7% vs 4.2% for all immigrants over time) reported knowing neither English nor French.

Additionally, the majority of recent immigrants in Quebec's CMAs were more likely to report knowing either English and French or French only, rather than English only. In Trois-Rivières for example, a higher proportion of immigrants reported knowing French only (60.9%) rather than English and French (33%) or English only (3%) (Chart 2).



Religions in the province of Quebec

Box 4: Religion

The 2011 NHS collected information on religious affiliation only, regardless of whether respondents practiced their religion, such as attendance at religious activities.

More than three-quarters of the population affiliated with Christian faith

According to the 2011 NHS, the largest religion in the province of Quebec was Christianity. Of the roughly 7,732,520 people in Quebec represented in the NHS, about 6,356,880, or over three-quarters (82.2%), reported that they were affiliated with a Christian religion. In comparison, the national average saw just over two-thirds (67.3%) reporting as such. Amongst Quebec's CMAs, Saguenay saw the highest proportion of those reporting an affiliation with the Christian religion (93.7%), followed by Trois-Rivières (90.3%) and Québec (86.7%).

Consistent with changing immigration patterns, the proportion of the population who reported religious affiliations other than Christian was also on the rise. These religions included Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Traditional (Aboriginal) Spirituality and Other religions in Quebec. Approximately 438,100 people, or 5.7% of the province of Quebec, reported an affiliation with one of these religions. People who reported an affiliation with these religions were even more predominant in the CMA of Montréal, where 400,900 individuals or more than one-tenth (10.7%) of the CMAs population reported as such.

No religious affiliation on the rise

On average, about 937,545 people, or 12.1% of the province of Quebec's total population, had no religious affiliation. The 2011 NHS data showed that a higher proportion of those with no religious affiliation were found in the CMA of Montréal (14.9%) (Table 2).

Table 2 Count and percentage distribution of total population, non-immigrant population, immigrant population, and recent immigrants, in Quebec, 2011

	Total population		Non-immigrants		Immigrants		2006 to 2011	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total - Religion	7,732,520	100	6,690,535	100	974,895	100	223,395	100
Buddhist	52,385	0.7	16,770	0.3	34,655	3.6	3,490	1.6
Christian	6,356,880	82.2	5,749,565	85.9	574,050	58.9	110,025	49.3
Hindu	33,540	0.4	10,750	0.2	21,380	2.2	4,660	2.1
Jewish	85,105	1.1	58,200	0.9	25,615	2.6	2,465	1.1
Muslim	243,430	3.2	65,975	1.0	166,590	17.1	63,670	28.5
Sikh	9,275	0.1	2,435	0.0	6,050	0.6	1,625	0.7
Traditional (Aboriginal) Spirituality	2,025	0.3	1,870	0.0	90	0.0	35	0.0
Other religions	12,340	0.2	8,895	0.1	3,260	0.3	775	0.4
No religious affiliation	937,545	12.1	776,080	11.6	143,205	14.7	36,655	16.4

Source: Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2011

Additional information

Additional information on immigration and ethnocultural diversity can be found in the NHS Data Tables, Catalogue nos. 99-010-X2011026 through 99-010-X2011034, The NHS Profile, Catalogue no. 99-010-X, as well as the NHS Focus on Geography Series, Catalogue no. 99-010-X2011005.

For details on the concepts, definitions, universes, variables and geographic terms used in the 2011 National Household Survey, please consult the National Household Survey Dictionary, Catalogue no. 99-000-X. For detailed explanations on concepts and information on data quality, Final response rates, Geographic areas not released and coefficients of variation (CVs), please refer to the reference guides on the 2011 National Household Survey website.

Note to readers

When comparing estimates from the 2006 Census long form and estimates from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS) users should take into account the fact that the two sources represent different populations. The target population for the 2006 Census long form include usual residents in collective dwellings and persons living abroad whereas the target population for the NHS excludes them. Moreover, the NHS estimates are derived from a voluntary survey and are therefore subject to potentially higher non-response error than those derived from the 2006 Census long form. Use caution.