

THE DIVERSITY OF VISIBLE MINORITIES AND ETHNIC ORIGINS IN BC

VISIBLE MINORITY GROUPS AND ETHNIC ORIGINS IN CANADA

Canada's visible minority population is now over 5 million. According to the 2006 Census, visible minorities made up 16.2% of the total population. This was an increase from 13.4% in 2001 and 11.2% in 1996.

Population growth among Canada's visible minority population was five times the rate of growth of the total population (27.2% vs. 5.4%) between 2001 and 2006.

The visible minority population is highly concentrated in large cities: 95.9% lived in Canada's metropolitan areas, in contrast to 68.1% of Canada's total population.

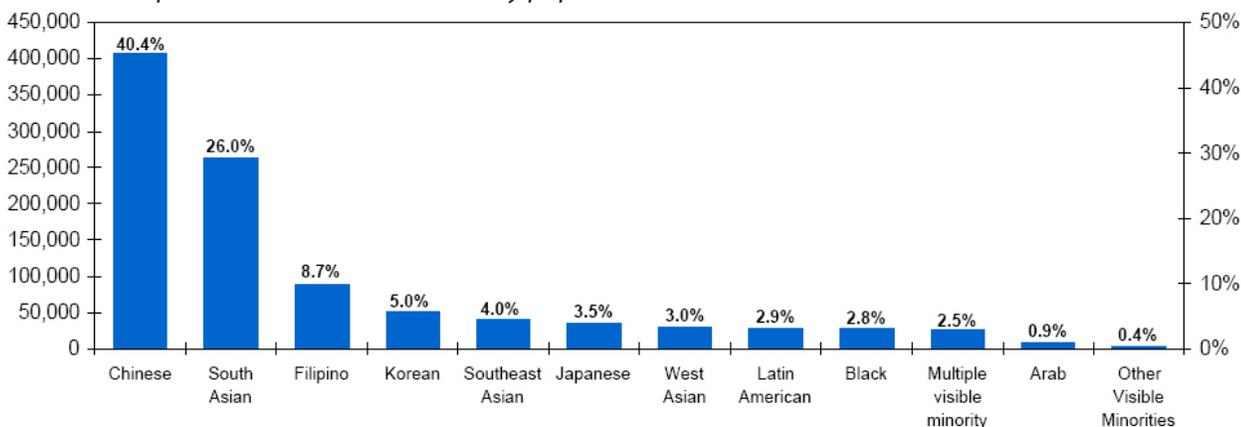
A full 71.8% of Canada's visible minorities lived in just three metropolitan areas, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal (compared with 34.4% of Canada's total population).

In 2006, Canada was home to 1,172,785 Aboriginal people, who made up 3.8% of the national population. Aboriginal *ancestry* was reported by 1,678,235 Canadians.

The most commonly reported ethnic origins in Canada were, in descending order, Canadian, English, French, Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, North American Indian, and Ukrainian.

Among immigrants to Canada, the most commonly reported ethnic origins were Chinese, East Indian, English, Italian, German, and Filipino.

Chart 1: Composition of B.C.'s Visible Minority population



DIVERSITY OF VISIBLE MINORITY GROUPS IN BC

Visible minorities made up 24.8% percent of B.C.'s population, the highest among all provinces and territories. B.C.'s visibility minority population surpassed 1 million (1,008,900) in 2006.

The visible minority population in B.C. grew by 20.6% between 2001 and 2006, which is largely attributable to high rates of immigration from non-European countries. 80.2% of immigrants living in B.C. who arrived between 2001 and 2006 belonged to a visible minority group.

B.C.'s largest visible minority groups were:

- Chinese (407,225; 40.4% of visible minority population, 10.0% of total population)
- South Asian (262,290; 26.0% of visible minority population, 6.4% of total population)
- Filipino (88,075; 8.7% of visible minority population, 2.2% total population)
- Korean (50,490; 5.0% of visible minority population, 1.2% total population)
- Southeast Asian (40,685; 4.0% of visible minority population, 1.0% of total population)

Census Fact Sheet: The Diversity of Visible Minorities and Ethnic Origins in BC

The number of British Columbians identifying with multiple visible minority groups increased by 75.7% between 2001 and 2006, from 14,465 to 25,420.

B.C.'s visible minority population is heavily concentrated in Metropolitan Vancouver, with 86.8% living there in 2006. This compares to 51.5% of the total population, and 39.9% of the non-visible minority population.

Visible minorities made up 22.8% of Abbotsford's population. This was the third highest percentage among all census metropolitan areas in the country, behind only Toronto (42.9%) and Vancouver (41.7%).

In three Greater Vancouver municipalities, visible minorities made up a majority of the population: Richmond at 65.1%, Burnaby at 55.4% and the City of Vancouver at 51.0%.

DIVERSITY OF ETHNIC ORIGINS IN BC

More than 200 ethnic origins were reported by British Columbians in the 2006 Census.

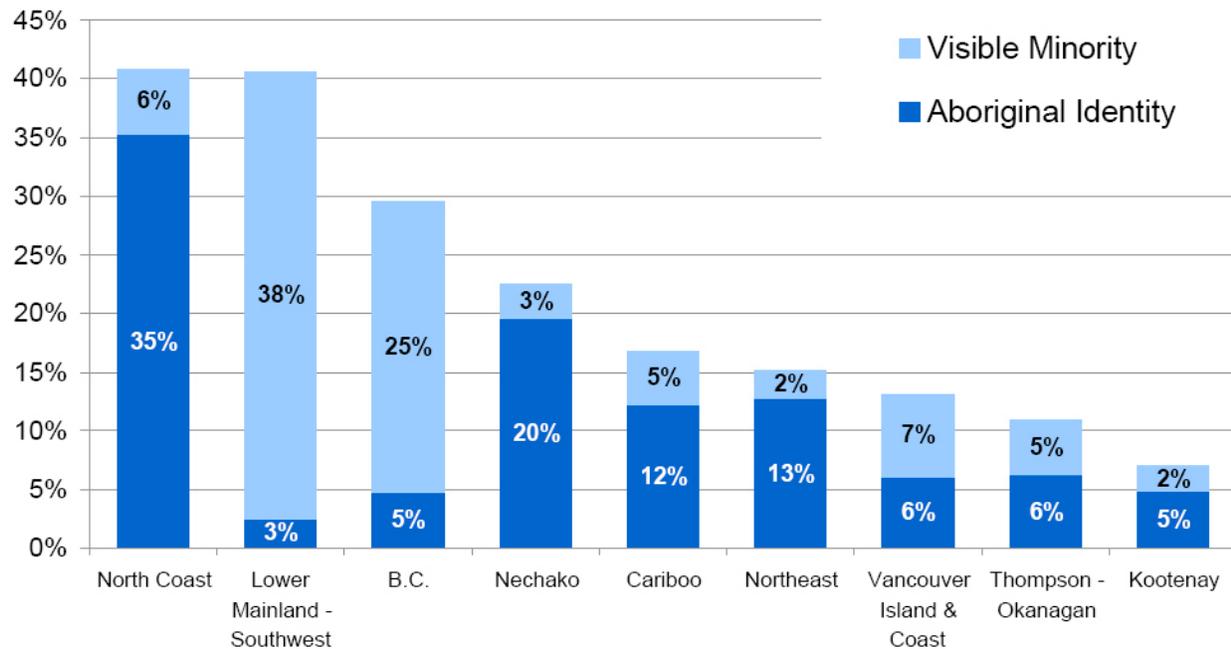
The most commonly reported ethnic origins among British Columbians were, in descending order, English, Scottish, Canadian, Irish, German, Chinese, French, East Indian, Ukrainian and Dutch.

In 2006, British Columbia was home to nearly 200,000 people of Aboriginal identity, and a total of 250,905 British Columbians reported Aboriginal ethnic ancestry.

While people of Aboriginal identity made up 4.8% of B.C.'s total population, in some regions the percentage was much higher. In the North Coast Development Region, Aboriginal people made up 35.3% of the population, and in the Nechako Region 19.5% reported Aboriginal identity.

The vast majority of people with European origins (81.6%) and British Isles origins (89.3%) were Canadian-born. Those with Chinese and East Indian origins were mostly foreign-born (71.5% and 61.2%, respectively), reflecting B.C.'s historical and current patterns of immigration.

Chart 2: Proportion of population made up of Visible Minorities and Aboriginal People in B.C. Development Regions



Data Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada

Note: The term 'Visible Minority' is a concept defined in the federal Employment Equity Act. The federal government collects this information for programs which promote equal opportunity for everyone. Aboriginal People are not included in the Visible Minority population, however, they are identified in the Employment Equity Act.