

2006 Census Bulletin #6 Immigration and Cultural Diversity

Introduction

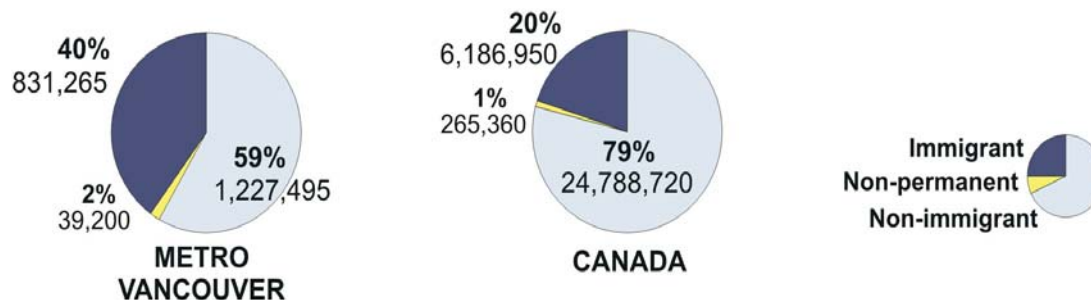
This bulletin provides an overview of changes in the population profile of Metro Vancouver based on data captured in the 2006 Census. Included in this bulletin is information on:

- ◆ The immigrant profile and cultural diversity of Metro Vancouver;
- ◆ Changes in the number of foreign born residents between 1996 and 2006;
- ◆ The location choice of new immigrants to Metro Vancouver;
- ◆ The place of birth among new immigrants; and,
- ◆ Comparisons with other large metropolitan centres.

The Immigrant Profile of Metro Vancouver

In 2006, the Census enumerated 831,265 foreign born residents which represents an increase of 92,715 between 2001 and 2006. As shown in Figure 1, Metro Vancouver has a culturally diverse population with foreign born residents representing approximately 40% of the total population in 2006 compared to 20% nationally.

Figure 1. 2006 Census Population by Immigrant Status, Metro Vancouver and Canada.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Changes in the Number of Foreign Born Residents Over The Past 20 Years

Table 1 shows the change in the number of foreign born residents in Metro Vancouver over the period from 1986 to 2006. As shown in Table 1, the number of foreign born residents across Metro Vancouver increased from 29% in 1986 to 35% in 1996 and 40% in 2006.

Table 1: Immigrant Population in Metro Vancouver, 1986 – 2006

	2006	1996	1986
Total Population	2,097,960	1,813,935	1,362,025
Immigrant Population	831,265	633,745	391,515
Immigrants as Proportion of Total Population	40%	35%	29%

Source: Statistics Canada, 1986, 1996, 2006 Census



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The Cultural Diversity of Metro Vancouver Compared to Other CMAs

Data published by Statistics Canada shows that almost 9 out of 10 foreign born residents chose to live in one of three provinces - Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia and that 7 out of 10 foreign born residents choose to live in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver.

Table 2: Immigrant Population by Period of Immigration for Select Metropolitan Areas, 2006

Geographic Area	Immigrated between 1991 and 1995		Immigrated between 1996 and 2000		Immigrated between 2001 and 2006 *	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Canada	823,925	100%	844,625	100%	1,109,980	100%
Vancouver CMA	142,130	17%	148,700	18%	151,690	14%
Toronto CMA	357,865	43%	362,320	43%	447,930	40%
Montreal CMA	97,515	12%	93,055	11%	165,345	15%
Calgary CMA	30,915	4%	36,450	4%	57,940	5%
Edmonton CMA	23,870	3%	20,165	2%	31,910	3%
Victoria CMA	5,410	1%	4,660	1%	5,975	1%

* Includes immigrants who landed in Canada prior to Census Day, May 16, 2006.

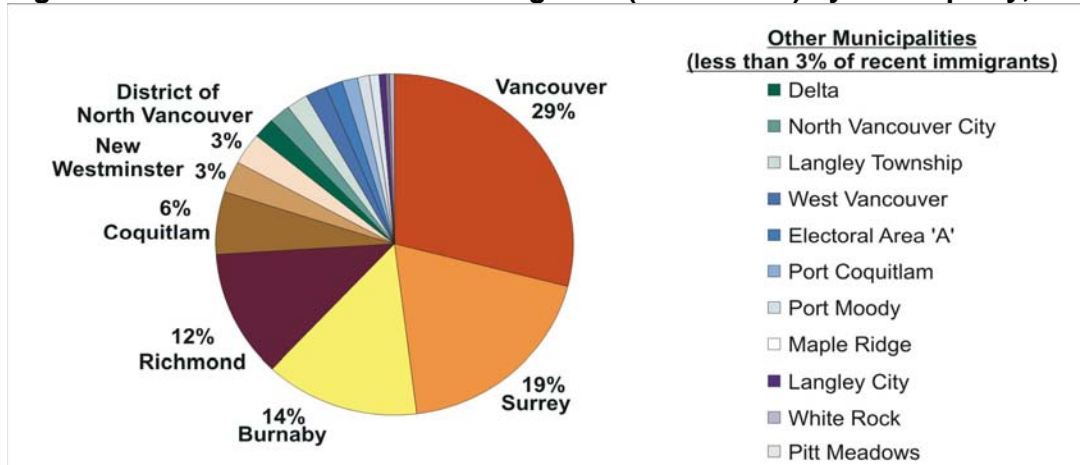
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Table 2 shows the general settlement patterns across foreign born residents for the period from 1991 to 2006. As shown in Table 2, the Metropolitan Toronto area has consistently attracted the largest percentage of newcomers to Canada. Based on the data reported in Table 2, it appears that between 1991 and 2006 between 40% and 43% of all newcomers to Canada settled in the Metro Toronto area while between 14% and 18% of all new immigrants chose Metro Vancouver. Montreal was the third largest centre of immigrant growth, capturing between 11% and 15% of all newcomers to Canada. It is also interesting to note that while Metro Vancouver has generally ranked second after Metro Toronto in terms of new immigrant growth, in the period from 2001 to 2006, Montreal attracted a slightly larger percentage of the new immigrant growth when compared to Metro Vancouver. As set out in Table 2, Montreal attracted 15% of the new immigrant growth for the period from 2001 to 2006 while Metro Vancouver attracted 14% of the new immigrants.

Where New Immigrants Are Choosing to Locate in Metro Vancouver

Figure 2 shows the choices made by recent immigrants (151,690 persons) in Metro Vancouver between 1996 and 2006. As shown in Figure 2, between 1996 and 2006, Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond and Coquitlam tended to attract the largest percentage of newcomers to the region with 74% of all newcomers settling in these municipalities.

Figure 2. Distribution of Recent Immigrants (1996 - 2006) by Municipality, Metro Vancouver



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Number and Proportion of Foreign Born Residents in Metro Vancouver Municipalities

Table 3 shows the distribution of foreign born residents across Metro Vancouver. As shown in Table 3, foreign born residents represent a significant percentage of all residents living in Richmond (57%), Burnaby (51%) and the City of Vancouver (46%). They also represent a large percentage of the population in Electoral Area "A" as well as a growing percentage of the population in Coquitlam (39%), Surrey (38%), West Vancouver (37%), North Vancouver City and District (37% and 32% respectively) as well as New Westminster (32%).

Table 3 – Foreign Born Residents as a Proportion of Municipal Population, 2006

Municipality	Total population dwellings	Immigrant Population		Recent Immigrant Population	
		Population	%	Population	%
Anmore	1,785	280	16%	10	1%
Belcarra	675	150	22%	15	2%
Bowen Island	3,360	840	25%	80	2%
Burnaby	200,855	102,030	51%	21,790	11%
Coquitlam	113,560	44,755	39%	8,930	8%
Delta	96,075	27,020	28%	3,690	4%
Electoral Area 'A'	10,935	5,135	47%	2,120	19%
Langley City	23,335	4,170	18%	695	3%
Langley Township	93,040	15,885	17%	2,350	3%
Lions Bay	1,330	365	27%	35	3%
Maple Ridge	68,160	11,745	17%	1,415	2%
New Westminster	57,850	18,360	32%	4,250	7%
North Vancouver City	44,860	16,390	37%	3,470	8%
North Vancouver District	81,910	25,995	32%	4,075	5%
Pitt Meadows	15,610	3,240	21%	445	3%
Port Coquitlam	52,230	14,750	28%	2,045	4%
Port Moody	27,435	8,055	29%	1,535	6%
Richmond	173,565	99,660	57%	18,780	11%
Surrey	392,450	150,230	38%	29,235	7%
Vancouver	571,600	260,760	46%	43,470	8%
West Vancouver	41,630	15,455	37%	2,300	6%
White Rock	18,170	4,430	24%	530	3%
Metro Vancouver	2,097,960	831,265	40%	151,690	7%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Where Foreign Born Residents Come From

Table 4 shows the place of birth for foreign born residents living in Metro Vancouver. As shown in Table 4 approximately 2 out of 3 foreign born residents living in Metro Vancouver were from Asia (including the Middle East). In addition, approximately 1 in 5 foreign born residents were from European countries. The remaining 13% of foreign born residents were from elsewhere in the world including the U.S., South America, Central America, Africa and other countries.

In terms of those choosing to live in Metro Vancouver over the period from 1996 to 2006, the data suggests that almost 8 out of 10 newcomers to the Metro Vancouver region were from Asia (including the Middle East) while approximately 1 in 10 were from Europe. The remaining 12% were from a broad range of backgrounds and cultures including Africa, the United States, Oceania and Central and South America.

Table 4: Place of Birth of Immigrants to Metro Vancouver, 2006

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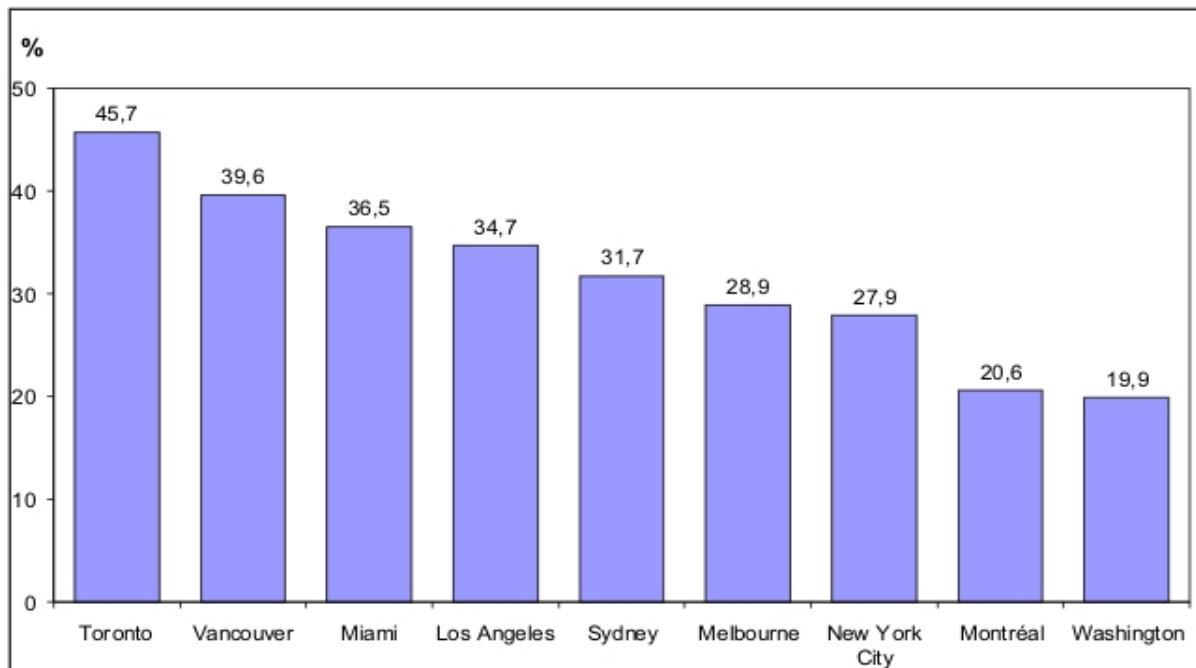
Country of Origin	Total Immigrants		Recent Immigrants	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total Immigrants	831,265	100%	151,690	100%
Asia (includes Middle East)	543,255	65%	118,545	78%
China	137,245	17%	39,790	26%
Hong Kong	75,780	9%	2,875	2%
Philippines	62,960	8%	16,460	11%
India	90,095	11%	18,770	12%
Europe	182,150	22%	14,985	10%
Northern Europe (U.K.)	73,435	9%	4,085	3%
Western Europe	31,740	4%	1,655	1%
Eastern Europe	40,420	5%	7,525	5%
Southern Europe	36,550	4%	1,725	1%
Africa	27,260	3%	4,795	3%
United States	24,780	3%	4,610	3%
Oceania and other	24,090	3%	2,990	2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

Comparison with Other Metropolitan Centres

In their publication entitled “Immigration in Canada: A Portrait of the Foreign-born Population, 2006 Census”, Statistics Canada included comparative information on the profile of other large, culturally diverse urban centres such as Miami, Los Angeles, Sydney, Melbourne, New York, and Washington. As shown in Figure 3, Toronto and Metro Vancouver rank very high in terms of the cultural diversity of its population.

Figure 3: Foreign Born Residents as a % of the Total Population – A Comparison of Selected Metropolitan Centres (2006)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006, Catalogue no.: 97-557-XWE2006001

Conclusions and Observations

Immigration plays an important role in supporting economic growth within the region. Immigration will also play a key role in providing the labour needed to replace an aging workforce.

The data captured in this bulletin reflects the rich cultural diversity of Metro Vancouver. This bulletin also shows that Metro Vancouver continues to be an important choice for newcomers to Canada along with other large urban centres including Toronto and Montreal. Between 1996 and 2006, the population of Metro Vancouver increased by 284,025 persons. The recent immigrant population of 151,520 accounts for over half of that increase.

An interesting and important pattern which emerged in the most recent Census data (2001 to 2006) is the fact that Metro Vancouver dropped from being the second most popular choice among newcomers to Canada to being third. However, it is interesting to note that other western cities such as Calgary and Edmonton reported an increase in the number of immigrants as compared to the slight increase Metro Vancouver experienced in the same period. Future Census bulletins on mobility and migration will expand and elaborate on the changing flow of people in and out of Metro Vancouver.

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