



Region of Waterloo

Census

BULLETIN | 2016

Ethnic origins, visible minorities and aboriginal peoples

Ethnic origins

Waterloo Region residents reported over 220 different ethnic origins in the 2016 Census. In the region, approximately one in four residents had Canadian ancestry, more than any other ethnic origin (Table 1). European ethnic origins were also reported frequently, with English and German ancestries

coming in second and third amongst residents. German and Portuguese ancestries were more common in Waterloo Region compared to Ontario in general, whereas Italian and Chinese ancestries were reported less in Waterloo Region than in the province. Common non-European ancestries reported included East Indian, Chinese and First Nations.

Between 2006 and 2016, the most growth was amongst those who reported a Canadian ethnic origin, while the highest percentage growth was for those who reported East Indian ancestry. Over this 10 year period, the number of people reporting Canadian ethnic origins increased by a total of 16,300 people. Of the ten most common ethnic origins, the fastest growth rate was in the number of people reporting East Indian ancestry, which increased by 43.8 per cent to 19,325 individuals in 2016.

? Ethnic origin, unlike nationality or birth place, refers to the ethnic or cultural background of an individual's ancestors. In the 2016 Census, individuals could report up to six origins on their maternal and paternal sides. In total, 48 per cent of Waterloo Region residents recorded more than one ethnic origin.

Canadian, English, and German were the **3 most commonly reported ethnic origins** of **Waterloo Region** residents in 2016,

Table 1: Ten most commonly reported ethnic origins in Waterloo Region (total responses), 2006 and 2016

2016 Rank	Ethnic origin	2006		2016		2006-2016	
		Total responses	Per cent of total responses	Total responses	Per cent of total responses	Absolute change	Per cent change
1	Canadian	119,860	25.3%	136,160	25.8%	16,300	13.6%
2	English	121,475	25.7%	122,175	23.2%	700	0.6%
3	German	116,795	24.7%	116,880	22.2%	85	0.1%
4	Scottish	88,515	18.7%	94,345	17.9%	5,830	6.6%
5	Irish	81,285	17.2%	90,825	17.2%	9,540	11.7%
6	French	44,865	9.5%	47,200	9.0%	2,335	5.2%
7	Dutch	22,325	4.7%	26,125	5.0%	3,800	17.0%
8	Polish	23,195	4.9%	25,375	4.8%	2,180	9.4%
9	Portuguese	19,720	4.2%	21,300	4.0%	1,580	8.0%
10	East Indian	13,435	2.8%	19,325	3.7%	5,890	43.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 to 2016 by Census Division

Visible minorities

In 2016, there were 100,025 individuals in Waterloo Region who identified themselves as a visible minority. Visible minorities made up 19.0 per cent of the total population in 2016 compared to 13.1 per cent in 2006. This represents an increase of over 60 per cent or 38,045 individuals during this decade. Comparatively, the rest of the population increased 3.9 per cent or by 16,040 individuals over the same period.

1 in 5 people in **Waterloo Region** self-identified as a **visible minority** in 2016.



Table 2: Visible minority population in Waterloo Region, 2006 and 2016

Geography	2006		2016		2006-2016	
	Count	Per cent of the total population	Count	Per cent of the total population	Absolute growth	Per cent change
Waterloo Region	61,980	13.1%	100,025	19.0%	38,045	61.4%
Cambridge	13,345	11.2%	19,895	15.6%	6,550	49.1%
Kitchener	31,230	15.4%	50,200	21.8%	18,970	60.7%
Waterloo	16,400	16.9%	27,265	26.4%	10,865	66.3%
North Dumfries	135	1.5%	320	3.2%	185	137.0%
Wellesley	90	0.9%	290	2.6%	200	222.2%
Wilmot	435	2.6%	695	3.4%	260	59.8%
Woolwich	340	1.8%	1,360	5.6%	1,020	300.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 and 2016 by Census Subdivision

Within Waterloo Region, the cities had a much higher proportion of visible minorities compared to the townships. In the region's three cities combined, visible minorities made up just over 20 per cent of the overall population, whereas in the townships, they represented four per cent of the total. Overall, the largest per cent growth of the visible minority population was in the townships. Between 2006 and 2016, the visible minority population in Woolwich increased four fold or by 1,020 individuals (from 340 in 2006 to 1,020 in 2016).

In Ontario, the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities had the largest proportions of people who identified as a visible minority (Figure 1). In Peel Region in particular, 62.3 per cent of the population self-identified as a visible minority. Waterloo Region had the seventh largest

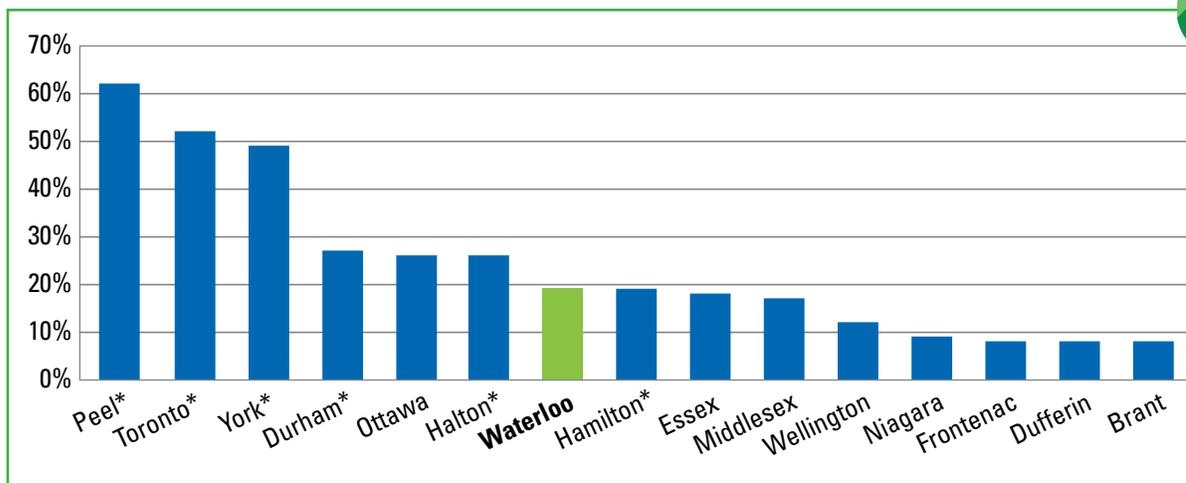
proportion of visible minorities in Ontario, and the second largest outside of the GTHA.

In Waterloo Region, more individuals identified as South Asian than any other visible minority, with over a quarter of the visible minority population identifying this way. People who identified as South Asian may have been born in or had their ancestors born in a country such as India or Pakistan. Following South Asian, the second and third most commonly reported visible minority groups



Waterloo Region had the **7th largest proportion** of **visible minorities** in Ontario

Figure 1: Ontario visible minority population as a proportion of the total population, 2016

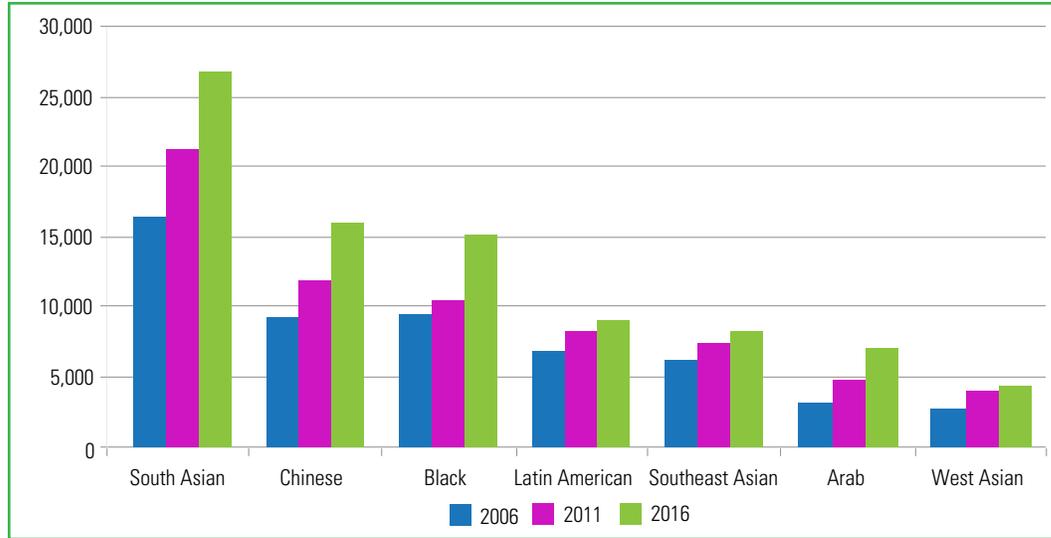


*Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) Municipalities Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

‘Visible minority’ refers to whether a person report themselves as part of a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act*. This information is used by governments, businesses, community groups, researchers and other organizations to promote equal opportunity for everyone.

were Chinese (16 per cent) and Black (15.1 per cent). Between 2006 and 2016, the number of people identifying as members of these groups increased substantially (Figure 2). Compared to 2006, there was an increase of 10,305 people who identified as South Asian, 6,770 more who identified as Chinese, and 5,625 more individuals who identified as Black in 2016.

Figure 2: Visible minority groups in Waterloo Region, 2006-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2011, and 2016 by Census Division



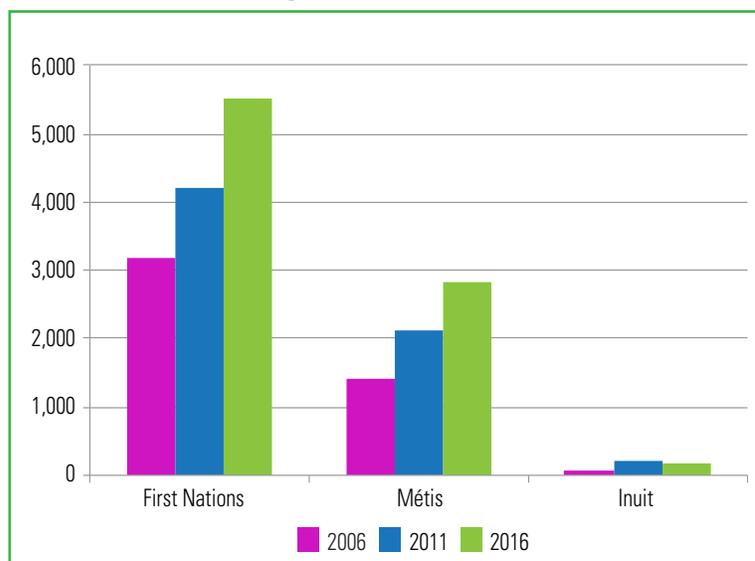
The **South Asian** visible minority category includes, for example, East Indian and Pakistani identities. The **Southeast Asian** category includes identities such as Thai and Vietnamese. The **West Asian** category includes Afghani and Iranian identities. Other visible minority categories such as **Chinese** and **Japanese** refer to specific countries rather than broad geographic areas.

Aboriginal peoples

Between 2006 and 2016, the number of Aboriginal Peoples reported in Waterloo Region increased by 87 per cent. The population went from 4,810 in 2006 to 8,980 a decade later.

This represents an average growth of 417 people per year (Figure 3). According to Statistics Canada, this high growth rate was partially the result of natural growth, including both longer life expectancies, as well as high fertility rates. Another contributing factor was the increase of people who self-

Figure 3: First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations in Waterloo Region, 2006-2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2011 and 2016 by Census Division

In six out of seven of the region's area municipalities, South Asian was the most commonly reported visible minority group. The exception was the City of Waterloo where Chinese was the most commonly reported visible minority. Almost ten per cent of the city's total population identified as Chinese.

identified as Aboriginal on the 2016 Census. In total, Aboriginal Peoples represented 1.7 per cent of Waterloo Region's total population in 2016.

In Waterloo Region, the majority of Aboriginal Peoples identified as First Nations (61.5 per cent), followed by Métis (31.5 per cent). The remaining proportion identified as Inuk, as having multiple Aboriginal identities, or with an Aboriginal identity not included in the Census (Figure 4).

As in the rest of Canada, there was a higher proportion of Aboriginal Peoples under 20 years old in Waterloo Region compared to the total population. Amongst Aboriginal Peoples, almost a third were under 20 compared to a quarter of the overall population (Figure 5). Conversely, the proportion of seniors (over 65 years) in the Aboriginal population was small compared to the total population. Whereas individuals over 65 made up almost 15 per cent of the overall population, they made up six per cent of the Aboriginal population.

Forty people in Waterloo Region reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue. Specific languages reported



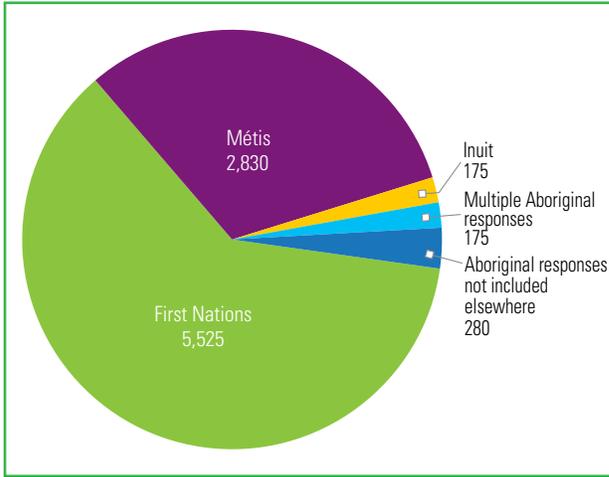
Statistics Canada uses the term "**Aboriginal Peoples,**" a term frequently used by government agencies that collectively refers to "Indians, Inuit and Métis." However, local communities in Waterloo Region typically prefer to be referred to as "**First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples**" or "**First Peoples**".

included Ojibway, Swampy Cree and Mohawk languages, which belong to the Algonquian and Iroquoian language families. The number of people who reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue represented 0.3 per cent of the overall Aboriginal population. This percentage is significantly lower than in Ontario and Canada as a whole where 6.1 per cent and 11.7 per cent of the Aboriginal population respectively reported an Aboriginal language as their mother tongue. An additional 100 individuals had knowledge of an Aboriginal language.



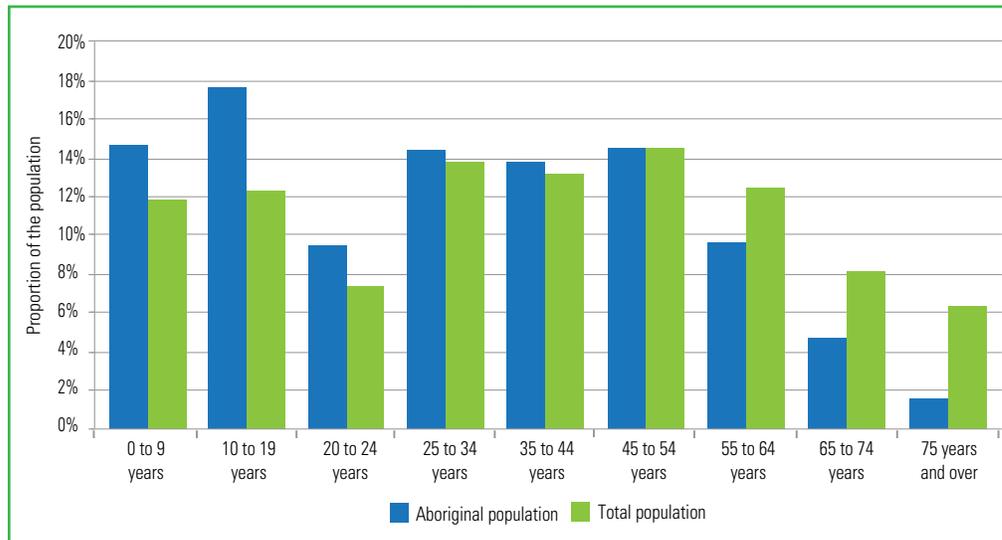
Approximately one in three Aboriginal individuals in Waterloo Region was registered under Canada's *Indian Act* or was a "Treaty Indian," which refers to a person who belongs to a First Nation or Indian band that signed a treaty with the Crown.

Figure 4: Aboriginal identities in Waterloo Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

Figure 5: Age distribution of the Aboriginal population compared to the total population in Waterloo Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

For further information please contact:



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Census facts

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Canada conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. The most recent Census was conducted on May 10, 2016.
- Ethnic origins, Aboriginal Peoples, and visible minority data presented in this bulletin are based on the long-form Census and are from a sample of one in four households. Aboriginal languages data is from the short-form Census and represents a complete sample of the population.
- The Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) includes the three cities and the townships of North Dumfries, Wilmot, and Woolwich. Wilmot Township was added to the Kitchener-Cambridge Waterloo CMA in 2016.
- For the 2011 Census cycle, the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS) replaced the long-form Census. The method used in the 2011 NHS differed from that used in the 2016 long-form Census and in previous long-form Censuses. For comparability, 2016 long-form Census data is shown relative to 2006 long-form Census data.

