



Census

BULLETIN | 2016

Mobility, Migration and Immigration

Mobility and Migration

In 2016, approximately 40 per cent of Waterloo Region's population reported having moved to a new home within the last five years. This proportion included people who had moved locally within the region, as well as those who had moved from another province or country. Overall, there was a smaller proportion of movers between 2011 and 2016 than had been reported between 2001 and 2006 when close to 45 per cent of the population had reported a move.

Between 2011 and 2016, just over 20 per cent of the population had changed addresses within the same city or township, while close to 13 per cent had moved from another municipality (city or township) in the province (Table 1). Those who had moved from outside Ontario to Waterloo Region made up just over one per cent of the total population. A further four per cent had come to Canada from another country. Some had moved to Canada on a temporary basis, while others had moved to Canada permanently and are referred to as immigrants.

In 2016, approximately

4 out of **10**

Waterloo Region residents or **193,170 individuals** had **moved in the last five years**



Table 1: Five year mobility status of Waterloo Region residents, 2016

Mobility status	5-year*	
	Number	Per cent of total
Lived at the same address (non-mover)	303,830	61.1%
Changed addresses within the same municipality (non-migrant)	104,680	21.1%
Changed addresses from another municipality within Ontario (intraprovincial migrant)	63,110	12.7%
Lived in a different province or territory (interprovincial migrant)	5,680	1.1%
Lived in a different country (external migrant)	19,700	4.0%

*Place of residence five years prior to May 10, 2016 for the population aged five and over

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

Immigrant Population

In Waterloo Region, there were 119,335 residents who were born outside Canada and who have settled here permanently (Table 2). While the number of immigrants increased by almost 14,000 individuals between 2006 and 2016, the proportion of immigrants in the population has remained

stable. Immigrants living in Waterloo Region and Canada play an important role in increasing the population, growing the economy, and contributing to a diverse and multicultural society.

Almost **1** in **4** **Waterloo Region** residents were born **outside Canada**

Table 2: Immigrant population for Waterloo Region by municipality, 2006 and 2016

Name	2006		2016		2006–2016	
	Immigrant population	Per cent of total population	Immigrant population	Per cent of total population	Immigrant population	Per cent of total population
Waterloo Region	105,375	22.3%	119,335	22.6%	13,960	13.2%
Cambridge	25,225	21.1%	26,090	20.4%	865	3.4%
Kitchener	53,320	26.4%	60,425	26.3%	7,105	13.3%
Waterloo	21,980	22.7%	26,155	25.3%	4,175	19.0%
North Dumfries	1,095	12.1%	1,215	12.0%	120	11.0%
Wellesley	595	6.1%	725	6.4%	130	21.8%
Wilmot	1,725	10.2%	2,100	10.3%	375	21.7%
Woolwich	1,435	7.5%	2,625	10.7%	1,190	82.9%

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

As in past Census years, immigrants continued to make up a greater proportion of the population in the region’s three cities than in the townships. In 2016, immigrants made up just under a quarter of the population of the three cities combined. In the four townships together, immigrants made up 10 per cent of the total population. Despite the smaller proportion of immigrants in the townships, the townships’ immigrant population growth rate generally exceeded that of the cities. In particular, the immigrant

population in Woolwich increased by over 80 per cent or by 1,190 individuals.

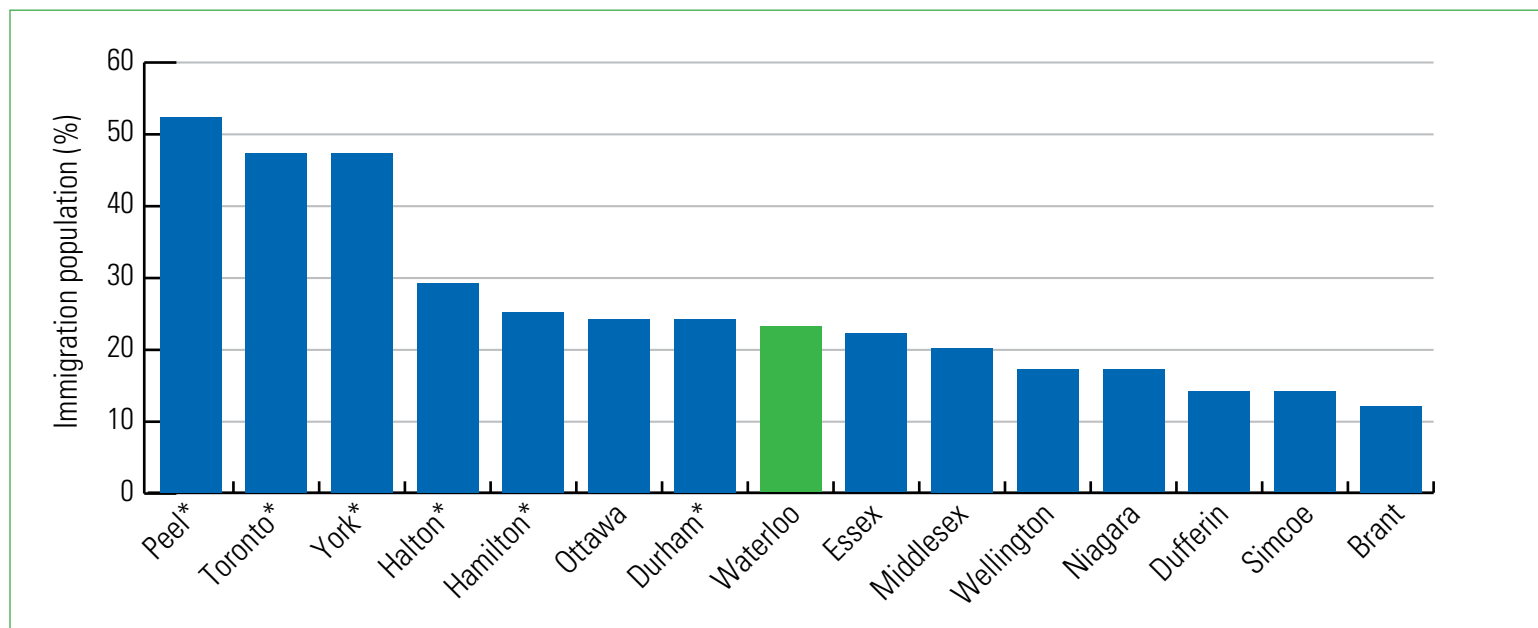
Compared to other regional municipalities in Ontario, Waterloo Region had the

eighth highest proportion of immigrants (Figure 1). In general, Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities had both the highest proportions of immigrants and the largest immigrant populations in Ontario. In Peel Region, Toronto, and York Region, immigrants made up between 47 and 52 per cent of these municipalities’ populations. Outside of the GTHA, Ottawa, and Waterloo Region had the highest proportions and numbers of immigrants.

Did you know? Immigrants are defined as people born outside Canada and who have settled in this country permanently. Some immigrants have lived in Canada for a number of years, while others have settled here more recently.

Waterloo Region had the **eighth** highest proportion of immigrants in Ontario

Figure 1: Ontario immigrant population as percentage of the total population, 2016



* Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) Municipalities

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

Immigrating to Canada

There are three primary ways for immigrants to settle permanently in Canada: as economic immigrants, as sponsored family immigrants and as refugee class immigrants. In Waterloo Region, approximately four out of ten immigrants came to Canada as economic immigrants (Table 3). The remainder were evenly divided between those sponsored by family and those who came to Canada as refugees. Compared to Waterloo Region, Ontario had a higher proportion of immigrants who were economic immigrants (48.3 per cent) and a significantly smaller proportion who were refugees (17.1 per cent).

Table 3: Admissions category for total immigrant population in Waterloo Region, 2016

Admissions category	Total immigrant population	Proportion of immigrants
Economic immigrants	35,945	42.3%
Immigrants sponsored by family	24,415	28.7%
Refugees	23,930	28.2%
Other immigrants	705	0.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division



Did you know?

2016 was the first year that the Census reported on how immigrants settle permanently in Canada

1 in 8 immigrants living in **Waterloo Region** is considered a recent immigrant, meaning they **moved to Canada between 2011 and 2016**



Recent Immigrants

Recent immigrants are defined as individuals who arrived to Canada in the five year period immediately before the Census. In 2016, there were 14,045 people who immigrated to Canada and who settled in Waterloo Region between 2011 and 2016 (Table 4). Recent immigrants made up 11.8 per cent of Waterloo

Region's overall immigrant population or 2.6 per cent of the total population. Almost all recent immigrants to Waterloo Region (97.2 per cent) lived in Kitchener, Cambridge or Waterloo. Compared to the rest of Ontario, Waterloo Region had the sixth highest number of recent immigrants in the province.

Table 4: Waterloo Region's recent immigrant population, 2006 and 2016

Name	Period of immigration: 2001–2006		Period of immigration: 2011–2016		Absolute change 2006–2016	Per cent change
	Count 2006	Per cent of total immigrant population	Count 2016	Per cent of total immigrant population		
Waterloo Region	17,020	16.2%	14,045	11.8%	-2,975	-17.5%
Cambridge	2,935	11.6%	1,900	7.3%	-1,035	-35.3%
Kitchener	9,285	17.4%	7,915	13.1%	-1,370	-14.8%
Waterloo	4,485	20.4%	3,840	14.7%	-645	-14.4%
North Dumfries	105	9.6%	15	1.2%	-90	-85.7%
Wellesley	100	16.8%	70	9.7%	-30	-30.0%
Wilmot	50	2.9%	105	5.0%	55	110.0%
Woolwich	65	4.5%	200	7.6%	135	207.7%
Ontario	580,740	17.1%	472,170	12.3%	-108,570	-18.7%
Canada	1,109,980	17.9%	1,212,075	16.1%	102,095	9.2%

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

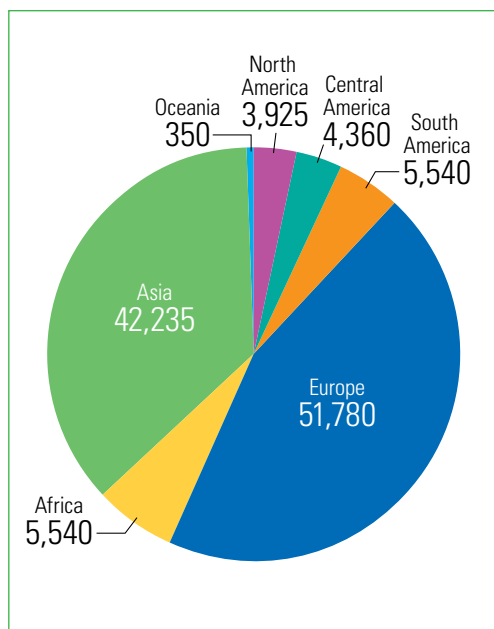
Consistent with provincial trends, Waterloo Region attracted fewer recent immigrants in 2016 compared to 2006. In 2006, there were 17,020 recent immigrants in Waterloo Region, while ten years later this number was 14,045, a decrease of close to 3,000 individuals or 17.5 per cent. At the provincial level, fewer recent immigrants to Canada chose to call Ontario home.

In 2016, Ontario attracted 472,170 immigrants, a decrease of over 100,000 immigrants or 18.7 per cent from 2006. According to Statistics Canada, more immigrants settled in the Prairie and Maritime Provinces through the Provincial and Territorial Nominee Program or were drawn to western provinces due to their economic growth and job opportunities.

Birthplace

In 2016, Europe remained the most common place of birth reported by immigrants in Waterloo Region. However, compared to past years, the proportion of European immigrants in the region has declined, making up less than half (51,780 or 43.4 per cent) of the total immigrant population in 2016 (Figure 2). On the other hand, the proportion of Waterloo Region immigrants from Asia has grown, making up over a third (42,235 or 35.4 per cent) of the total immigrant population compared to just a quarter in 2006. For recent immigrants, Asia was the most commonly reported birthplace. Almost two thirds (8,930 or 63.6 per cent) of recent

Figure 2: Place of birth for total immigrant population in Waterloo Region, 2016

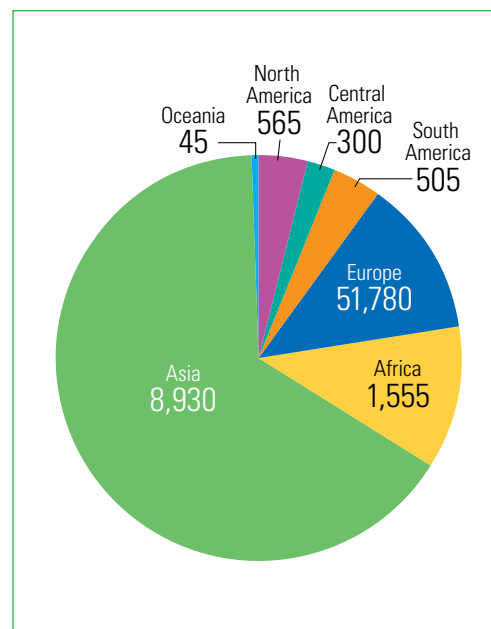


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division

immigrants to Waterloo Region were born in Asia. Europe was the second most common birthplace, accounting for 1,725 or 12.3 per cent of recent immigrants (Figure 3).

The most commonly reported countries of origin for recent immigrants in Waterloo Region were located in Asia with India (1,835) and China (1,395) as the top two countries. Individuals from these two countries accounted for approximately one in four recent immigrants. Syria (1,055) and Iraq (845) were the third and fourth most common countries of origin.

Figure 3: Place of birth for recent immigrant population in Waterloo Region, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2016 by Census Division



Immigrants from **India and China** accounted for approximately **1 in 4 recent immigrants** to the region

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.
- Mobility, migration and immigration data is from the long-form Census and is based on data from a sample of one in four households.
- 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 voluntary 2011 National Household Survey (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.

For further information please contact:



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