A Demographic Profile of Immigrants in Hamilton

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March 2010

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
Foreword and Acknowledgments

From its origins, Hamilton’s growth has depended on immigration. The economic, social, and cultural contributions of immigrants have been invaluable to this city. In turn, Hamilton provided a safe and affordable community for newcomers to bring and grow their families, and to integrate into Canadian society.

Today, Hamilton finds itself at a crossroads in many respects. It is no longer attracting the immigrants it needs to grow its population and economy, and indeed it is losing many native citizens to other parts of the province and country. While neighbouring municipalities in southern Ontario continue to grow through immigration, Hamilton is attracting less than its “fair share” of newcomers, and especially of skilled immigrants.

Hamilton’s immigrant or foreign-born population is an aging one, with almost 40% having arrived in Canada prior to 1971. Reflecting migration patterns of the time, this population is predominantly European in origin, coming especially from the British Isles, Italy and Portugal.

Yet Hamilton continues to receive more than 3,000 immigrants each year, plus another 3,000 temporary migrants who arrive as foreign students or temporary foreign workers (mostly agricultural workers). Recent immigrants (including refugees) are among the most vulnerable in our population, and it is to their needs that we must especially attend. For the most part, they have high levels of education and competence in English or French. Yet they are struggling. Data presented in this report indicates that many newcomers need assistance improving their language skills and finding employment that suits their many skills and abilities.

Recent immigrants to Hamilton (arriving since 2000) are likely to live in poverty: 42% experience low income after tax, compared to 14% of the city’s total population. Most alarming, fully half of the children of recent immigrants are living below the poverty line. In a related finding, immigrant women are particularly vulnerable. They earn considerably less income than men and are at risk of social isolation due to language and other barriers related to being the primary caregiver for children. Households led by immigrant women earn only 56 cents for every dollar earned by immigrant households with two parents. This level of hardship is unacceptable.

Findings in this report also point to great opportunities. For example, recent immigrants are a younger population than Hamilton as a whole. Immigrant children and children born here to immigrant parents will participate in our own early childhood programs and educational system, not to mention be able to access various social, cultural and recreational programs. If properly resourced and inclusive in their design and implementation, they can help ensure the
creation of a new generation of confident and active citizens. Many of them may
elect to stay in Hamilton, pursuing higher education at one of our own colleges or
universities and participating in our local labour market.

This report is meant to serve as a background paper to inform the development
of an immigration strategy for Hamilton. Any strategy that impacts newcomer
settlement and integration must be part of a bigger picture of revitalizing
Hamilton. As such, it must be undertaken in partnership with other organizations
working towards a common vision.

I hope that this demographic profile of immigrants in Hamilton provides the solid
foundation we need to move forward on improving the situation for immigrants
and refugees in Hamilton, and for allowing them to contribute to our wonderful
city. We all deserve better.

I am very grateful for the comments of various reviewers, and especially for the
guidance and patience of Tim Rees from the City of Hamilton. Gerald Bierling
was instrumental to the data collection and presentation. Some of the figures
and text in this report are reprinted from the Diversity Scan that he and I
completed for the Hamilton Community Foundation in 2008. They are reprinted
with permission.

Sarah V. Wayland, PhD
Executive Summary

This report presents data on immigrants in Hamilton, including recent immigrants as well as the more established foreign-born population. Its objective is to increase our understanding of Hamilton’s immigration populations, including how the characteristics of immigrants have changed over time as well as how Hamilton measures up when compared to other cities in Ontario as well as to the province as a whole.

The report is divided into eleven sections, listed below with key findings from each:

Population growth in Hamilton
Hamilton’s population growth rate slowed in the early 2000s but rose again in the second half of the past decade. Although Hamilton’s actual growth rebounded from 2007 to 2009, it still falls short of the models for population growth that are relied upon by our city planners and other decision makers. Immigration numbers from overseas were somewhat offset by people moving out of the province and to other parts of Ontario.

Immigration flows to Hamilton
Immigration flows to Hamilton have for the most part been rising over the past decade, peaking in 2005 but maintaining annual levels of above 3500 arrival per year since that time.

Hamilton is home to 4.1% of Ontario’s total population, but Hamilton received 2.6% of the new landings (official arrivals of permanent residents) to Ontario for the period 2003-2008. As such, Hamilton attracts under its “fair share” of immigrants to the province.

Compared to other cities of its size such as Waterloo, London and Windsor, Hamilton received average or above average levels of immigration in 2006. Halton, which has a smaller population base, is not far behind Hamilton in terms of absolute numbers.

Each year Hamilton receives about as many temporary migrants as permanent residents. These are mostly comprised of foreign students, with Hamilton receiving below par of its share of foreign workers, humanitarian cases, and refugee claimants.

Hamilton’s immigrant population is for the most part not a recent one: almost 40% of Hamilton’s immigrant population settled prior to 1971. From the 1970s to the 1990s, the share of immigrants to Hamilton continually decreased in comparison to the province. Hamilton’s share of provincial migration increased somewhat in the 2001-2005 period.
Reflecting the fact that most immigrants have lived here for decades, Hamilton’s immigrant population is remarkably aged compared to the overall population in this city. A large proportion of elderly immigrants are of European descent. In contrast, recent immigrants in Hamilton (arriving between 2001 and 2005) are on the whole younger than Hamilton’s Canadian-born population.

**Places of origin**
To a much greater extent than Ontario as a whole, immigrants living in Hamilton come from Europe. However, the proportion of immigrants from European countries has declined in recent years. Eighty percent of immigrants to Hamilton in 2006 came from somewhere other than Europe or the United States. Most of Hamilton’s recent immigrants (arriving 2001-2005) were born in only three different countries: China, Pakistan, and India.

**Immigration class**
For the period 2003 to 2008, 41% of immigrants to Hamilton were in the Economic Class, a proportion that is below par in comparison to Ontario and Canada. Hamilton’s figure of 27% Family Class immigrants was more comparable to the province and country. The remaining 31% of arrivals were refugees and all other immigration classes and categories. Hamilton received about double the national proportion of refugees and other immigration classes.

**Education levels**
For the period 2003-2008, close to half of arriving immigrants in the 18-64 age group had a university degree or a non-university diploma (including from a college). Immigrants to Hamilton had slightly lower levels of formal education compared to their cohorts elsewhere in Canada, but they had higher levels of education than Hamilton’s total working age population (including immigrants and Canadian-born).

**Where immigrants live in Hamilton**
Recent immigrants in Hamilton are concentrated in several geographic areas, especially in the downtown core, McMaster University, and one census tract in East Hamilton/Stoney Creek. In addition, there are pockets of high concentrations of recent immigrants in certain neighbourhoods and apartment buildings outside the downtown core, and on Hamilton mountain in particular.

**Income and Poverty**
Immigrants, especially recent immigrants, on the whole earn less than their Canadian-born counterparts and are more likely to live in poverty. The median income of immigrants aged 25-54 – the prime working years – is significantly lower than the median income of people born in Canada, especially if the person immigrated within the past five years. Differences in income between immigrants and the Canadian-born increase with skill level and education. The economic impact of discounting and not recognizing foreign credentials is not only real, but it is very significant.
In the Hamilton urban area, 24.5% of immigrant families had annual incomes less than $40,000, compared to 18.3% of non-immigrant families. Incidences of low income among immigrants tend to decrease with length of time in Canada. However, it appears to be taking longer for newcomers to reach parity with their Canadian-born counterparts.

Fully half of children age 0 to 5 whose parents are recent immigrants in Hamilton live below the poverty line, compared to 21% of children in Hamilton’s overall population. For persons aged 65 and over, 16% of recent immigrants live below the poverty line compared to 9% of seniors in Hamilton’s overall population. In total, 42% of recent immigrants to Hamilton experience low income after tax, compared to 14% of the city’s total population. On average, female lone parent immigrant households earn only 56 cents for every dollar earned by immigrant households with two parents.

**Linguistic knowledge and linguistic groups**

English is by far the most common language among both Canadian-born and immigrant populations. Just over one percent of residents of Hamilton identified having French as a mother tongue in the 2006 Census. Among recent immigrants to the City of Hamilton (arriving between 2001 and 2005), 92% of them have knowledge of English or French but fewer than one-third speak English or French most often in the home.

**Citizenship**

The vast majority of immigrants living in Hamilton have Canadian citizenship: 80% of immigrants have Canadian citizenship, including 10% who also have citizenship in one or more other countries. Compared to other immigrant-receiving countries, Canada has very high rates of citizenship acquisition.

**Racialized groups (“Visible minorities”)**

Members of racialized communities are growing as a proportion of Hamilton’s population: more than 13% of Hamiltonians identified themselves as a visible minority in the 2006 Census, representing an increase of 20% in this population from 2001. The visible minority proportion of the city’s population is significantly lower than the provincial average, but the gap is narrowing. Hamilton is home to a great diversity of racialized communities, with no one group comprising even a quarter of the racialized population.

Visible minorities are likely to be immigrants. In Hamilton, only 6.1% of the non-immigrant population is made up of visible minorities, compared to 33.5% of the city’s immigrant population. Members of racialized groups are on the whole a young population.

In general, visible minority status does make a difference in terms of employment. Unemployment rates are generally higher for visible minority immigrants than for immigrants who are not visible minorities.
Ethnic origin
The top ethnic origins reported in Hamilton were British Isles, Canadian, Italian, German, and French. Excluding the “Canadian” category, four times as many Hamiltonians claimed to have origin in the British Isles as any other ethnic origin.
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Introduction

This report describes immigrants living in Hamilton – including recent immigrants as well as the more established foreign-born population – with respect to such factors as age, ethnicity and region of origin, immigration class, education levels, language knowledge, employment, income, and racialization.¹

It is often noted that, proportionally, Hamilton has the third largest immigrant population in the country. The purpose of this paper is to provide a more nuanced understanding of facts such as this one, an understanding that includes how the characteristics of immigrants have changed over time as well as how Hamilton compares to other cities in Ontario as well as to the province as a whole. For example, though thousands of immigrants arrive in Hamilton each year, our immigrant population is for the most part not a recent one: about two-thirds of Hamilton’s immigrants settled here twenty years ago or more. Also, one reason that Hamilton’s foreign-born proportion has remained so high is that our overall population in this city is not growing. Facts such as these provide information upon which informed decisions can be made, decisions that could be integral to ensuring that Hamilton attracts and retains the immigrants it needs to grow its population as well as its economy.

Data sources

Information presented in this paper is based on census data as well as data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada on official landings (arrivals) and temporary migration. Wherever possible, data for the City of Hamilton is presented. When city-level data was not available, data from the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was utilized which includes Burlington and Grimsby. When CMA as opposed to city data is used, this is noted explicitly.

For the most part, our data omits those who are not permanent residents (previously known as “landed immigrants”). Most data does not include persons who have applied for and are awaiting their status, refugee claimants, and those who are in Canada without status. Examples of persons without status are foreign students, temporary workers, and failed refugee claimants who were expected to leave Canada but did not.

The Census is not a perfect tool, and it is estimated that about 2.8% of those who should have been enumerated for the Census were missed.² Net census undercoverage varies across regions as well as age groups. Areas typically likely to experience undercounting are those with large numbers of rental apartment buildings. There is a shared concern that this produces under-reporting of the numbers of immigrants, visible minorities and lower income populations.

¹Racialization refers to the process by which individuals and groups of people are differentiated or categorized according to skin colour and other characteristics.
households in the 2006 Census. According to this same source, “It may also be that people whose mother tongue is neither English nor French had a lower response rate in the 2006 Census, perhaps related to the mailing of the questionnaire in 2006, rather than a direct contact as was the practice in previous Censuses.” As such, the figures presented here are the best we have available, but they may undercount the very populations that interest us.

**Terms and definitions**

*Immigrants* are persons who are, or have ever been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who 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 are more recent arrivals.

Legally, *foreign-born population* is synonymous with immigrant population. For the purposes of this profile, the term “foreign-born” describes immigrants who have been in Canada for more than two decades. They are for the most part well established here, even if some lack fluency in English or French, and the barriers they encounter in their lives differ from those of more recently arrived immigrants. Many of these immigrants have lived in Canada most of their lives and no longer think of themselves as immigrants.

*Recent immigrants* refers to landed immigrants who came to Canada up to five years prior to a given census year. For the 2006 Census, recent immigrants are landed immigrants who arrived in Canada between January 1, 2001 and Census Day, May 16, 2006. Recent immigrants face the greatest settlement-related challenges, including finding employment, learning a new language, and establishing social networks.

A more detailed glossary of terms is included at the end of this document.

### 1.0 Hamilton’s overall population growth rates

Hamilton’s population growth rate slowed in the early 2000s but rose again in the second half of the past decade. From 1996 to 2001, Hamilton’s growth rate was 4.8%. According to the 2006 census, Hamilton’s population increased by only 2.9% from 2001 to 2005, compared to a 6.6% population growth rate for Ontario as a whole. According to post-censal data released by Statistics Canada, growth rates in the City of Hamilton have increased since then, peaking at 5% from mid-2007 to mid-2008 and declining slightly to 4.4% the following year (Figure 1.1).

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With the exception of a slight growth increase in 2007/08, the trend in population growth rates has been negative at the provincial level. Populations may be growing, but at a declining rate, with wide variation experienced across regions and municipalities. For example, neighbouring Halton has also experienced declining growth rates. However, its growth rate per thousand considerably exceeds the provincial average (Figure 1.1).

Statistics Canada arrived at these figures by totalling net natural increase (births minus deaths), net international migration (in-migration from other countries minus out-migration), net interprovincial migration (in-migration from other provinces minus out-migration), and net intraprovincial migration (in-migration from within Ontario minus out-migration).

If we examine the various factors that affect population growth, we can see that Hamilton’s positive natural increase and net immigration are offset by negative interprovincial and intraprovincial migration. These out-migration figures capture the many Hamiltonians who have moved elsewhere in search of employment as well as those who have moved out of the city but who may continue to work in Hamilton. In other words, Canadian-born locals as well as immigrants are seeking to live elsewhere. Many of these people are of prime working age. Halton’s growth, by contrast, is mainly attributed to people moving there from other parts of Ontario. Population losses to other provinces were experienced in Ontario as a whole as well as in the City of Hamilton and the Region of Halton (Figure 1.2).

Although Hamilton’s actual growth rebounded from 2007 to 2009, it still falls short of the models for population growth that are relied upon by city planners and other decision makers. In Ontario’s Places to Grow: Proposed Growth Plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe, released in 2006, the authors made projections or predictions based on an extension of current data trends. For the period 2001 to 2010, their projections suggested an average annual growth rate of over 5% per year increasing to more than 8% in the period 2011 to 2020. To ensure sustained economic growth we need population growth to contribute to the tax base as well as to supply workforce needs in the future.
Figure 1.1: Population Growth Rate, 2004/05 to 2008/09 (Rate per Thousand)


Data for 2008/2009 is considered preliminary and may updated in the future.
Figure 1.2: Population Growth Factors, 2008/09 (Rate per Thousand)


Data for 2008/2009 is considered preliminary and will be updated in the future.
2.0 Immigration flows to Hamilton

Permanent Residents
Permanent residents are people who have been granted the right to live permanently in Canada but who have not acquired Canadian citizenship. Data on immigrants arriving in Hamilton generally refers to the number of landings, that is, the number of people who became permanent residents during a period of time. These same persons may have already been living here but their status in Canada became permanent.

Immigration flows to Hamilton have for the most part been rising over the past decade, peaking in 2005 but maintaining annual levels of above 3500 arrival per year since that time. \(^4\) Approximately 16,560 new immigrants settled in Hamilton from 2001 to 2006, 2,760 more people than in the previous five-year period (1996 to 2001). \(^5\)

Figure 2.1 Average Number of Immigrants per Year by Time Period, Hamilton CMA, 1996-2008


\(^5\) Ontario Trillium Foundation, Hamilton Community Profile, p. 7.
Immigration in comparative context

Hamilton has traditionally attracted more than its equal share of immigrants in proportion to its population. Historically, for a city of its size, Hamilton received large numbers of immigrants, many of whom found work in the manufacturing sector.

One way of thinking of immigration levels is by “fair share.” In this measurement, we consider how many immigrants are attracted compared to the city’s proportion of the overall population. Hamilton is home to 4.1% of Ontario’s total population. But Hamilton received 2.6% of the new landings (official arrivals) to Ontario for the period 2003-2008. As such, Hamilton attracts under its “fair share” of immigrants to the province. In part, this is due to the fact that the Greater Toronto Area attracts considerably more than its “fair share” of immigrants to the province. Despite the pull of Toronto, Kitchener and Waterloo have each been attracting more than their “fair share” of immigrants.6

In terms of overall numbers, the Greater Toronto Area remains the primary destination in Ontario, followed by Ottawa, and then Hamilton, closely followed by Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Windsor.7 Figure 2.2 situates Hamilton within other municipalities and regions in terms of landings (acquisition of permanent residency), showing that Hamilton falls right in the middle.8 Compared to other cities of its size such as Waterloo, London and Windsor, Hamilton received average or above average levels of immigration in 2006. Halton, which has a smaller population base, is not far behind Hamilton in terms of absolute numbers.

6 HTAB Workforce Focus (Hamilton Training Advisory Board), December 2007.
8 Cities listed here are the ones included in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities QOLRS study.
Data source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities: Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities, Theme Report #5 (Ottawa, 2009), p. 1.


Roughly one-quarter of Hamilton’s population is comprised of immigrants, which is slightly lower than that of Ontario. It is higher than the overall Canadian figure of 19.6% foreign-born.

Figure 2.3 shows where Ontario’s largest urban areas rank in terms of percentage of foreign-born. Again, Hamilton is somewhere in the middle but above average. As was true for most cities, the percentage of foreign-born in Hamilton crept up slightly from 2001 to 2006.
Figure 2.3: Foreign-born population as a percentage of total population, Ontario communities, 2001 and 2006

Data Source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities: Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities, Theme Report #5 (Ottawa, 2009) p11

Temporary residents

Temporary residents are foreign nationals who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a valid document – usually a work permit, study permit, temporary resident permit, or a visitor record – issued for the purpose of entering Canada. This category also includes individuals who seek asylum upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim. In brief, temporary residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents.

Though the focus of immigration research and analysis tends to be on permanent arrivals, each year Hamilton receives about as many temporary migrants as permanent residents. Over the period 1999-2008, an average of 3,641 temporary migrants arrived in Hamilton urban area (CMA) each year. This actually exceeded the average for permanent landings over the same period (3,543). In 2008, Hamilton received 3,537 temporary migrants compared to 3,757 permanent residents.
The growth in temporary migration is part of a larger nationwide trend: for the first time in its history, Canada received more temporary than permanent residents in 2007 and 2008.\textsuperscript{9} The number of permanent residents entering the country has actually been declining, and the number of temporary migrants has been increasing. Between 2004 and 2008, the number of temporary workers entering Canada increased more than 70%, and most of these are low skilled workers.\textsuperscript{10} By comparison, the province of Ontario as a whole received 151,700 temporary migrants and 110,900 permanent residents in 2008.

With temporary migration levels remaining below those of permanent migration, Hamilton has not been part of provincial and national trends that are seeing a growth in temporary migration. For the period 1999 to 2008, Hamilton CMA received 5.9% of foreign students, 3.6% of foreign workers, 2.9% of humanitarian, and 2.6% of refugee claimants coming to the province of Ontario.\textsuperscript{11} The Hamilton CMA has 5.7% of Ontario’s population, so it is receiving very close to its “fair share” of foreign students, but less than its “fair share” of foreign workers, humanitarian cases, and refugee claimants.

\textbf{Figure 2.4 Foreign students in Hamilton CMA, 2006}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure24.png}
\caption{Foreign students in Hamilton CMA, 2006}
\end{figure}


\textsuperscript{10} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{11} Citizenship and Immigration Canada, \textit{Facts and Figures 2008}. 
In Hamilton, foreign students make up the largest category of temporary residents. Figure 2.4 plots the number of incoming foreign students by year, along with the total number of foreign students present, in the Hamilton CMA. As shown here, the number of foreign student entries has remained fairly constant over the past decade. The overall population of foreign students has declined somewhat over past five years, though numbers are still considerably higher than a decade ago. The slight decline may indicate that more students are leaving the area prior to ending their studies. More detailed research is needed in this area to better understand the patterns of foreign students.

**Time of arrival**

Hamilton’s immigrant population is for the most part not a recent one. As shown in Figure 2.5, almost 40% of Hamilton’s immigrant population settled prior to 1971. In Ontario as a whole, by contrast, 24.9% of the immigrant population settled before 1971. Recent immigrants accounted for only 13.1% of Hamilton’s foreign-born population, compared to 17.1% of Ontario’s overall foreign-born population. A larger proportion of immigrants to Ontario arrived in the 1990s than to Hamilton specifically.

In general, this data shows that prior to the 1970s, Hamilton received more than its “fair share” of immigration to Ontario. From the 1970s to the 1990s, the share of immigrants to Hamilton continually decreased in comparison to the province. From 2001 to 2006, the difference between Hamilton and the province was not as great as during the previous decade.

**Figure 2.5: Period of Immigration, Hamilton and Ontario**

![Figure 2.5](image)

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2006
Source: Ontario Trillium Foundation, *Hamilton Community Profile*, p.26

**Age distribution**

The age distribution of immigrants in Hamilton reflects the fact that most immigrants have lived here for decades. As shown in Figure 2.6, it is a remarkably aged population compared to the overall population in this city.
In contrast, the age distribution of recent immigrants in Hamilton (Figure 2.7) depicts a much younger population. It contains a much higher proportion of persons of prime working age than does the overall population of Hamilton. From ages 15 to 44, recent immigrants exceed the Canadian-born as percent share of the population group.

There are many implications of this finding. An aging immigrant population will have a significant impact on service needs and service delivery in Hamilton. Aging persons tend to need more health-related services, and they may face language barriers. In Hamilton, almost six in ten persons who have a language other than English or French as a mother tongue are over the age of 55. They are for the most part not recent immigrants, so their overall composition is more European in background.

Figure 2.6: Age Distribution of Immigrant (black outline) and Canadian-born (shaded) Population, Hamilton, 2006

Note: this figure includes all immigrants, including recent immigrants. If recent immigrants were removed, the remaining immigrant population would be ever more aged.
On the other hand, recent immigrants are young. This is highly desirable in terms of having a subset of our population that can fill labour force needs and contribute to the tax base.

**Gender distribution**

Foreign-born women outnumber foreign-born men in Hamilton, just as they do among the Canadian-born. This holds true across various times of arrival.

However, among non-permanent residents (mainly comprised of foreign students and temporary foreign workers), there are more males in Hamilton. In the 2006 Census, 2,920 men were enumerated compared to 2,470 women.
3.0 Places of origin

To a greater extent than Ontario as a whole, immigrants living in Hamilton come from Europe. Fully 6 in 10 immigrants living in Hamilton are of European origin, compared to 38.5% of immigrants to Ontario being from Europe (Figure 3.2). Proportionally, compared to Ontario as a whole, Hamilton is home to only half the provincial-level of immigrants from South Asia (namely India and Pakistan), just over one-third the proportion of immigrants from Eastern Asia (namely China), and just under half of those from South America (Figure 3.2).

However, the proportion of immigrants from European countries has declined in recent years, while the proportion from African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries has increased (Figure 3.1). A total of 80% of immigrants to Hamilton in 2006 came from somewhere other than Europe or the United States.

In brief, we have a foreign-born population in Hamilton that is largely of European origin. Over time, however, European predominance is being eroded by immigration from other regions of the world. Europe remains the largest source region to Hamilton among recent immigrants only when the enormous category of “Asia” is broken down into Asian subregions. More than 50% of the immigrants who settled in Hamilton between 2001 and 2006 were born in Asia and the Middle East.

When broken down by country of origin rather than region, we see that most of Hamilton’s recent immigrants (arriving 2001-2005) were born in only three different countries: China, Pakistan, and India. Once our city’s largest source of immigration, the United Kingdom, now ranks twelfth on the list, producing only 280 recent immigrants to Hamilton (Figure 3.3).

A comparison of source countries from the 1996 and 2006 Censuses reveals that the proportion of recent immigrants in the City of Hamilton whose country of birth is People’s Republic of China, Pakistan and India increased over the decade (Figure 3.4). As noted above, Hamilton receives proportionally fewer immigrants from these countries compared to the province as a whole, but the increases noted here reflect a narrowing of the gap.
Figure 3.1 Immigrants to Hamilton over Time, by Source Region

Source: 2006 Census, Census 20/20 Tables: 97-557-XCB2006024.IVT; 97-557-XCB2006020.IVT

Figure 3.2: Source of Foreign-born Population, Hamilton & Ontario, 2006

Source: 2006 Census, Census 20/20 Tables: 97-557-XCB2006024.IVT; 97-557-XCB2006020.IVT
Figure 3.3 Top 20 Places of Birth of Recent Immigrants, City of Hamilton, 2006

Adapted from City of Hamilton, Target Profile_Recent Immigrants_2006.pdf.

Figure 3.4  Top 10 Countries of Birth for Recent Immigrant Populations, 1996 and 2006, City of Hamilton

Adapted from City of Hamilton Draft Demographic Profile, Sept 2009

4.0 Immigration class

Immigrants arrive in Canada under various categories or classes of immigration. Economic class immigrants are skilled workers, business immigrants, or live-in caregivers and their family members. They are assessed according to a selection grid (point system) that emphasizes education, language ability and skilled work experience, and they are selected for their ability to become successfully established in Canada.\(^{13}\)

Members of the family class are sponsored to come to Canada by a family member who is either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. These family members may be spouses, common-law partners, dependent children, parents or grandparents of someone already in Canada.

Refugees are accepted into Canada as Convention refugees or persons needing protection selected at a visa office abroad or as persons whose claims are heard and accepted by the Immigration and Refugee Board after arrival in Canada.

Figure 4.1 Permanent Residents by Immigration Class, 2003 to 2008 average

Data source: CIC Facts and Figures 2008

\(^{13}\) When an economic class migrant comes to Canada with their family members, all family members are counted as members of the economic class as well. If they sponsored by the migrant and arrive at a later date, they are deemed to be family class.
For the period 2003 to 2008, Hamilton received an average of 3,127 landings per year. As shown in Figure 4.1, of these,

- 41.1% (7,710) were in the Economic Class.
- 27.3% (5,127) were Family Class immigrants.
- 31.5% (5,916) were refugees and all other immigration classes and categories.

Compared to Canada as a whole, Hamilton was on par in terms of percentage of Family Class immigrants but received proportionally fewer immigrants in the Economic Class.

Hamilton received about double the national proportion of refugees and other immigration classes, though these numbers form a tiny share (just over 1%) of Hamilton’s overall population. Higher numbers of refugees stem in part from Hamilton’s designation as one of six communities in Ontario that receive government-assisted refugees (GARs). (The others are Toronto, London, Ottawa, Kitchener, and Windsor.) Each year 420-450 persons arrive in Hamilton as part of the federal government’s commitment to resettle refugees from around the world.  

More than half of all permanent immigrants to Ontario and Canada arrive in the Economic Class, yet only 40% of immigrants to Hamilton are in the Economic Class (shown in Figure 4.1). Figure 4.2 shows how Hamilton compares to other communities in Ontario in terms of the Economic Class. It has one of the lowest figures in the province in this regard.

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14 Among the communities that receive GARs, Hamilton receives an above average number of family groups, most of which are large families. That Hamilton receives so many large families can be viewed as an opportunity for long term investment: many of the children will receive Canadian education and contribute to our local economy and society. However, settling refugee families entails many challenges as well.

The main source countries for GARs from Africa are Somalia (mostly Mateban tribe), Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia, Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda. From Asia, GARs come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar (Karen), and Bhutan. Liberian, Karen, Mateban, and Bhutanese refugees are new ethnic groups in Hamilton; there is no existing population base from these communities here.
Figure 4.2  Economic Class Immigrants, as a percentage of all immigrant landings, Ontario communities, 2006

Data source: Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Quality of Life in Canadian Communities: Immigration and Diversity in Canadian Cities and Communities, Theme Report #5 (Ottawa, 2009), p. 1
5.0 Education levels

For the time period 2003-2008, immigrants arriving to Hamilton in the 18-64 age group had the following levels of education:

- 38.4% (5,113) had a university degree, including:
  - 25.1% (3,350) had a Bachelor’s Degree
  - 10.7% (1,425) had a Master’s Degree
  - 2.5% (338) had a Doctorate Degree.
- 10.7% (1,422) had a non-university diploma (including from a college)
- 5.0% (662) had a trade certificate
- 35.5% (4,727) had secondary schooling or less
- 4.4% (586) had no formal education.

These figures are generally on par with the average educational levels of immigrants to Canada overall for this period, with a few exceptions. Hamilton received proportionally fewer immigrants with university degrees, especially Bachelor’s degrees. However, it received a slightly higher proportion of immigrants with doctorate degrees, most likely related to the presence of McMaster University.\(^\text{15}\)

Immigrants to Hamilton may have lower levels of formal education compared to their cohorts elsewhere in Canada, but they still have higher levels of education than Hamilton’s total working age population (including immigrants and Canadian-born). Among Hamiltonians aged 15-64, 18.8% had a university degree, 19.5% had a non-university diploma, 9.4% had a trade certificate, and 27.3% had secondary schooling.\(^\text{16}\) In other words, working age Hamiltonians were only half as likely to have a university degree as were immigrants living in Hamilton.

Based on 2006 Census data, Hamilton’s foreign-born men are somewhat more likely to have university level education and twice as likely to have earned an apprenticeship or trade certificate or diploma compared to foreign-born women in Hamilton (Figure 5.1). Slightly more foreign-born women than men have earned a college or non-university certificate diploma. At the other end of the education continuum, 27% of foreign-born women lack any certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 21.9% of foreign-born men.

\(^{16}\) Calculated from 2006 Census, with data obtained from HamiltonTraining Advisory Board.
Figure 5.1  Educational Attainment by Gender, Foreign-born population Age 15+, Hamilton CMA, 2006

Data source: 2006 Canadian Census, 97-563-XCB2006021
6.0 Where immigrants live in Hamilton

According to 2006 Census data, recent immigrants in Hamilton are concentrated in several geographic areas, especially in the downtown core, McMaster University, and one census tract in East Hamilton/Stoney Creek (Figure 6.1). (This does not include temporary residents such as international students who are also concentrated around McMaster University and downtown.)

In addition, there are pockets of high concentrations of recent immigrants in certain neighbourhoods and apartment buildings that are not visible in graphic depiction by census tract. Immigrants are settling outside the downtown core, and on Hamilton mountain in particular. High rise apartment buildings, which are often the first place of residence for newcomers to Canada, and social housing are dispersed throughout the city. This poses challenges for service delivery as well as for schools that have no history of receiving students who lack capacity in English or French.

The suburbanization of immigration in Hamilton reflects trends in other parts of Ontario as well. It reflects the desire for newer housing stock as well as the perception that the suburbs are safer and provide better educational opportunities. Much of what we know is anecdotal, but some families are able to achieve their dreams of home ownership and living in suburban neighbourhoods by sharing mortgages across extended families. Large suburban homes may house more multigenerational immigrant families than has been the norm in recent Canadian society. Again, this has implications for service delivery, especially for seniors living in the suburbs who lack fluency in English, lack accessible transportation, and may experience social isolation.
Figure 6.1 Recent immigrants as a percentage of total population, Hamilton CMA by census tract, 2006
7.0 Income and Poverty

Data on employment provides information about how many people are participating in the labour force, actually working, and unemployed. The most commonly used measures do not indicate to what degree people are working, e.g., part time versus full time, seasonal employment, compensation levels, and whether people are working multiple jobs to make ends meet.17 Yet these factors are very important to labour market experiences. As such, this report emphasizes data on income and poverty. This data provides a better indication of economic well being for immigrants in Hamilton when compared to employment rate and labour force participation.

Immigrants, especially recent immigrants, on the whole earn less than their Canadian-born counterparts. As shown in Figures 7.1 and 7.2, the median income of immigrants aged 25-54 – the prime working years – is significantly lower than the median income of people born in Canada, especially if the person immigrated within the past five years.18 This holds true in both Hamilton and Ontario. These differences exist regardless of a person’s level of education, although those people with less education have lower income levels across all comparison groups regardless of whether or not they are an immigrant.

In Figures 7.1 and 7.2, the ‘immigrant population’ category includes recent immigrants, and recent immigrants are dragging down the average. Immigrants who have been in Canada more than five years tend to earn more. There is a trend towards increased earnings that parallels time in Canada.

These figures reveal that differences in income increase as skill level and education increases. Whereas the differential between the immigrant and Canadian-born populations without university degrees in Hamilton is just under $6,000 annually, it is more than $15,000 for persons with university degrees. In other words, the economic impact of discounting and not recognizing foreign credentials is not only real, but it is very significant, with immigrants earning only 72% of what their Canadian-born counterparts in Hamilton earn. Hamilton figures are very similar to the provincial figures.

Figure 7.3 compares male and female immigrant earnings by time of arrival in Canada. This figure shows that, among those reporting income in 2005, male

17 A recent Statistics Canada study of the found that employment quality differed for immigrant and Canadian-born workers in several respects. Immigrants enjoyed a lower share of workplace injuries, but they also had a lower share of union coverage, higher shares of involuntary part-time work, higher shares of temporary jobs, and lower shares of employer-sponsored pension plans and life insurance coverage compared with the Canadian born. See Jason Gilmore, The 2008 Canadian Immigrant Labour Market: Analysis of Quality of Employment. The Immigrant Labour Force Analysis Series, Labour Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 71-606-X, no. 5 (Minister of Industry, 2009).

18 Median income is defined as the numeric value that separates the higher half of the population from the lower half. In this instance, it is a better measurement than mean or average which can be distorted by several very high or very low numbers.
immigrants arriving in the three time periods shown earned more than their female counterparts. The earnings of immigrant women compared to immigrant men improve slightly with time in Canada, but they remain far below the earnings of men. Female immigrants arriving in Canada between 2001 and 2004 earned only 57 cents for every dollar earned by immigrant men, increasing to 60 cents for every dollar among those who immigrated between 1996 and 2000, and 64 cents for every dollar among those who arrived between 1991 and 1995.

Statistics Canada uses the term “economic family” for groups of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. Data on economic families provides us with insight into how immigrant families are faring in the Hamilton urban area. Not surprisingly, immigrant economic families comprised of couples have the highest family incomes. At $49,437, female lone-parent immigrant households have the lowest average family incomes, receiving only 73% of the income of male lone-parent immigrant households (Figure 7.4).

Another means of comparing economic wealth is to look at the incidence of low income families. In the Hamilton CMA, 24.5% of immigrant families had annual incomes less than $40,000, compared to 18.3% of non-immigrant families. In Ontario as a whole, 26.2% of immigrant families had annual incomes of less than $40,000, compared to 18.9% of non-immigrant families (Figure 7.5).

Incidences of low income among immigrants tend to decrease with length of time in Canada (Figure 7.6). Among those immigrant families with incomes less than $40,000 in the Hamilton CMA in 2005, close to half of them (46.5%) have been in Canada since 2001. The chances of living in this lower income bracket decreased with length of time in the country, with the exception of those arriving before 1961. This exception may be explained by considering that persons arriving in Canada before 1961 are likely to be seniors, are more likely to live in smaller family units (e.g., their children have already left home), and may be living on fixed incomes. The 23% of immigrant families arriving before 1961 that have incomes of less than $40,000 may be a vulnerable population in Hamilton that merits further attention.
Figure 7.1: Median Income by Immigrant Status, Population Aged 25-54 with University Degree, Hamilton (CMA) and Ontario, 2005

Note: Recent immigrants for 2005 is defined as immigrants who immigrated between 2000 and 2004. The median is the value at which half the cases fall above and half the cases are below.

Figure 7.2: Median Income by Immigrant Status, Population Aged 25-54 without University Degree, Hamilton (CMA) and Ontario, 2005
Figure 7.3  Average Income by Sex and Time of Arrival, All Immigrants aged 15+, Hamilton CMA, 2005

Note: Values in all income figures are calculated only for those reporting income. (Across all categories, at least 95% of persons reported income.)
Figure 7.4 Family Income by Type of Economic Family, All Immigrants aged 15+, Hamilton CMA, 2005

- **All**: $82,790
- **Couple**: $87,832
- **Male lone-parent**: $68,111
- **Female lone-parent**: $49,437
Figure 7.5: Families with Income Less than $40,000 by Immigrant Status, Hamilton (CMA) & Ontario, 2005

Figure 7.6: Immigrant Families with Income Less than $40,000 by Period of Immigration, Hamilton (CMA), 2005

Source: 2006 Census.  Note: Families refers to ‘economic families’ which are defined by Statistics Canada as “a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.”
Recent immigrants

Figure 7.6 shows that Hamilton’s recent immigrant families are more likely to be low income earners than are immigrants who arrived earlier. This is not a new phenomenon, and it is expected that immigrants will earn more as they live in Canada longer. However, it appears to be taking longer for newcomers to reach parity with their Canadian-born counterparts.  

In Hamilton in 2005, recent immigrants with employment income had the median income of $13,358. (This figure excludes nearly 20% of recent immigrants who had no employment income in 2005.) This is significantly lower than the median income of $26,353 for Canadian-born persons who are 15 years and over and residing in the City of Hamilton. 

Living below the poverty line differently affects various age groups. As shown in Figure 7.7, children of recent immigrants are at great risk of living in poverty. According to census data, fully half of children age 0 to 5 whose parents are recent immigrants in Hamilton live below the poverty line, compared to 21% of children in Hamilton’s overall population. For persons aged 65 and over, 16% of recent immigrants live below the poverty line compared to 9% of seniors in Hamilton’s overall population. In total, 42% of recent immigrants to Hamilton experience low income after tax, compared to 14% of the city’s total population.

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19 A study recently released by Statistics Canada found that immigrant employees from most periods of landing and occupational groups had hourly wage rates which were below those of their Canadian-born counterparts. Immigrants who had landed ten years earlier had smaller wage gaps than did recent immigrants. See Jason Gilmore, *The 2008 Canadian Immigrant Labour Market: Analysis of Quality of Employment*. The Immigrant Labour Force Analysis Series, Labour Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 71-606-X, no. 5 (Minister of Industry, 2009).

Figure 7.7: Prevalence of Low Income After Tax (i.e., LICO AT) of Recent Immigrants, City Of Hamilton, 2005


Note: These figures may differ from more widely used poverty figures for Hamilton which are not based on after tax income.
8.0 Linguistic knowledge and linguistic groups

In Hamilton, English is by far the most common language among both Canadian-born and immigrant populations. The population of Hamilton is slightly more likely to have English as a mother tongue than is the population of Ontario as a whole (Figure 8.1). The incidences of non-official mother tongues in Hamilton are slightly different in Hamilton than in Ontario. Of the total population that report speaking a single non-official language as their mother tongue, the most common mother tongues in Hamilton in 2006 aside from English were Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Arabic (Figure 8.2).

As shown in Figure 8.3, the prevalence of having a non-official language as a mother tongue is highest for the oldest age groups, but there is a significant percentage for the very youngest age group (<5 years old) as well. Knowledge of French only is noticeably higher in Ontario than Hamilton, but the vast majority of residents know at least English (Figure 8.4). Knowledge of a non-official language increases with age, and the home use (i.e. the language spoken regularly at home) of a non-official language drops significantly from first generation residents to second and subsequent generations.

Among recent immigrants to the City of Hamilton (arriving between 2001 and 2005), 92% of them have knowledge of English or French (Figure 8.5). Far fewer speak it as a native language. In the Census, measuring ‘knowledge of language’ is based on the answer to this question: Can this person speak English or French well enough to conduct a conversation? The question is quite general and leaves much to the discretion of the respondent. A follow-up question asks if the respondent can conduct a conversation in a language other than French or English.

Just under 30% of recent immigrants speak English or French most often at home, while 62% speak a non-official language such as Arabic, Chinese, Urdu or Spanish (Figure 8.6). The rest speak a combination of official and non-official languages in the home.\footnote{Statistics Canada. 2006. Target Group Profile of Recent Immigrants of Selected Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions. 2006 Census; Statistics Canada Catalogue No. EO1213_2006_TGP_5A_CD_CSD. (Accessed 2009.07.20)}

Not surprisingly, immigrants are much more likely to use non-official languages in the home than are their descendants. According to 2006 Census data, in Hamilton, 93.6% of persons using non-official languages in the home were immigrants, 5% were second generation immigrants, and the remaining 1.3% were members of families that had been in Canada for three generations or more. This reveals that the vast majority of immigrant households shift to speaking English or French at home within a single generation.
Francophone Population

In Hamilton, 1.3% of all residents identified as having French as a mother tongue in the 2006 Census, compared to 4.1% in the province of Ontario (Figure 8.1). Six percent of persons in Hamilton identified as being able to speak both French and English. Only one-tenth of one percent reported that they could speak French only, in contrast to more than 90% of all persons in Hamilton reporting English as their only language (Figure 8.4).

Hamilton’s French language population declined by 1% between 2001 and 2006. This population is fairly dispersed throughout the city, with some concentration in the Parkview neighbourhood, around Woodward Avenue school, and east of Locke Street. Members of the Francophone community have no other hard data on their community other than Census data. However, as is the case for many small populations, they believe that their numbers may be under-reported in the Canadian Census.

According to L’Association canadienne-française de l’Ontario, Francophones in Hamilton come from more than twenty-five countries of origin as well as from other regions of Canada. Most population growth is the result of immigration from overseas. In view of the fact that Canada and Ontario are officially bilingual, many of the new immigrants and refugees are surprised at how difficult it is to be Francophone in Hamilton.

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22 City of Hamilton. Snippets: Where are Hamilton’s Aboriginal and French-speaking populations? No 3 (May 8, 2008).
Figure 8.1: Mother Tongue, Hamilton & Ontario, 2006 (%)
**Figure 8.2: Top 20 Non-Official Mother Tongues of Total Population that Report Speaking a Single Non-Official Language, Hamilton & Ontario, 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother Tongue</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>% Share of Non-Official Languages</th>
<th>Mother Tongue</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>% Share of Non-Official Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>18,325</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>282,750</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>9,060</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Chinese*</td>
<td>215,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>8,205</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>Cantonese</td>
<td>181,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>6,720</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>6,065</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>158,000</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>5,855</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>155,310</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbian</td>
<td>5,475</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Panjabi (Punjabi)</td>
<td>152,650</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>5,335</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>140,890</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese*</td>
<td>4,820</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)</td>
<td>117,370</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panjabi (Punjabi)</td>
<td>4,425</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>114,820</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<td>Dutch</td>
<td>3,655</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>114,725</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungarian</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td>Tamil</td>
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<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>3,335</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Persian (Farsi)</td>
<td>79,740</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>2,810</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>78,760</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>Urdu</td>
<td>2,775</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>75,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)</td>
<td>2,440</td>
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<td>68,180</td>
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<td>Romanian</td>
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<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>67,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persian (Farsi)</td>
<td>1,855</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>61,330</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Gujarati</td>
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<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
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<td>Korean</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Chinese includes responses of ‘Chinese’ as well as all Chinese languages other than Cantonese, Mandarin, Taiwanese, Chaochow (Teochow), Fukien, Hakka and Shanghainese.
Figure 8.3: Non-Official Language as Mother Tongue by Age Group, Hamilton & Ontario, 2006

![Bar chart showing the percent share of non-official language as mother tongue by age group in Hamilton and Ontario, 2006.](chart)

Figure 8.4: Knowledge of Languages, Hamilton & Ontario, 2006

![Bar chart showing the percent share of knowledge of languages in Hamilton and Ontario, 2006.](chart)

Note: Knowledge of language refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in the listed language.
Figure 8.5: Recent Immigrants by Knowledge of Official Language, City of Hamilton, 2006


Figure 8.6: Top 20 Non-Official Languages Spoken at Home by Recent Immigrants, City of Hamilton, 2006

9.0 Citizenship

The vast majority of immigrants living in Hamilton have Canadian citizenship (Figure 9.1). A total of 80% of immigrants have Canadian citizenship, including 10% who also have citizenship in one or more other countries.

Compared to other immigrant-receiving countries, Canada has very high rates of citizenship acquisition. This stems from the relative ease with which persons can acquire citizenship – in most cases, after only three years of residency and ability to pass the citizenship exam – and the fact that Canada regards access to citizenship as a right for those who meet the qualifications. But it also speaks to strength of Canadian pluralism and even the ethos of multiculturalism: people from all over the world can become Canadian – indeed they have a right to do so – and citizenship is a concrete means of expressing their commitment to this country.

Figure 9.1 Citizenship Status of Immigrant Population, Hamilton & Ontario, 2006
10.0 Racialized groups (“Visible minorities”)

Racialized communities have longed lived in Hamilton, though their numbers have increased in recent decades with the diversification of source countries for immigration. About three-fourths of immigrants to Canada are from racialized groups, and growth in this population is largely due to ongoing immigration trends.

Members of racialized communities are growing as a proportion of Hamilton’s population. More than 13% of Hamiltonians identified themselves as a visible minority in the 2006 Census, up from 10.9% in 2001. This represents an increase of 20% in this population.

The visible minority proportion of the city’s population is significantly lower than the provincial average, but the gap is narrowing (Figure 10.1). Due to a slowing trend in the provincial visible minority population, the visible minority proportion of Hamilton’s population grew from just under 50% of the provincial average in 2001 to 60% of the provincial average in 2006. In 2006, 22.8% of Ontario’s population was comprised of visible minorities, up from 22.3% in 2001.

Visible minorities are likely to be immigrants. In Ontario as a whole, visible minorities make up 9.4% of the non-immigrant population, but they are 54.7% of the province’s immigrant population (Figure 10.2). In other words, 1 in 10 Canadian-born Ontarians are visible minorities whereas more than half of the immigrants living in Ontario are visible minorities. In Hamilton, only 6.1% of the non-immigrant population is made up of visible minorities, compared to 33.5% of the city’s immigrant population.

Hamilton is home to a great diversity of racialized communities, with no one group comprising even a quarter of the racialized population. In the 2006 Census, South Asians for the first time surpassed Chinese as the largest visible minority group in the country. Hamilton’s largest visible minority groups are South Asian (22%), followed by Black (21%), and Chinese (14%). These are also the three largest groups province-wide, though there are more Chinese than Blacks in Ontario (Figure 10.3).

The composition of Hamilton’s racialized groups changed between 1996 and 2006, but not dramatically. The percentage of persons of Chinese, Filipino, Southeast Asian, and Japanese backgrounds declined between 1996 and 2006. Blacks also declined 0.4%. These declines were offset by gains in the South Asian and especially Arab/West Asian groups (Figure 10.4).
Figure 10.1: Visible Minority Population, Hamilton and Ontario, 2001 & 2006

![Chart showing the percent share of population for Visible Minorities in Ontario and Hamilton for 2001 and 2006.](chart1)

2001: Ontario - 22.3%, Hamilton - 10.9%
2006: Ontario - 22.8%, Hamilton - 13.6%

Figure 10.2: Visible Minority Population by Immigrant Status, Hamilton and Ontario, 2006

![Chart showing the percent share of immigrant and non-immigrant Visible Minorities in Ontario and Hamilton.](chart2)

Visible Minorities as a Percent Share of Immigrant Group:
- Ontario: Non-immigrants - 9.4%, Immigrants - 54.7%
- Hamilton: Non-immigrants - 6.1%, Immigrants - 33.5%
### Figure 10.3: Top 10 Visible Minority Groups of Total Visible Minority Population, Hamilton and Ontario, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th></th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asian</td>
<td>14,765</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>794,170</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13,900</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>473,760</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>9,300</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>576,980</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asian</td>
<td>5,995</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>110,045</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American</td>
<td>5,585</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>147,135</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>5,390</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>111,405</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>4,040</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>203,220</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Asian</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>96,620</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>77,405</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>1,540</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>69,540</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,045</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>56,845</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>28,080</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67,830</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2,745,205</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The proportion of the foreign-born population in Hamilton (CMA) for 2006 is 24% and is predicted to rise to 27% by 2031. However, the proportion of the visible minority population for Hamilton was 12% in 2006 and is expected to more than double to 25% by 2031.

Age Characteristics
Visible minorities are on the whole a young population (Figure 10.5). Compared to non-visible minorities, they form a higher proportion of the population for all age categories below the age of 45. They are particularly overrepresented among those under the age of 15. More than 25% of visible minorities in Hamilton are under the age of 15, whereas 17% of non-visible minorities are under the age of 15. At the other end of the age spectrum, there are proportionally more seniors who are not visible minorities compared to those who identify as visible minorities.

Within the visible minority population in Hamilton who are not immigrants, close to 60% are under the age of 15 (Figure 10.6). This figure likely reflects the recent growth of visible minorities due to immigration: visible minority immigrants have started families in Canada, but their offspring are for the most part still young.
Within the immigrant visible minority population, the highest concentration can be found in the age 35 to 44 category (Figure 10.6). Among visible minority immigrants in Hamilton, those arriving between 2001 and 2006 were a considerably younger population overall than were visible minority immigrants who arrived before 2001 (Figure 10.7). Visible minority immigrants under the age of 35 were much more likely to be recent immigrants than pre-2001 immigrants. This data shows that people who immigrate tend to be younger as a whole than people already here. The same would probably hold true if we charted all immigrants (i.e., not just visible minority immigrants.)

According to Figure 10.6, more than half of visible minorities who are not immigrants are under the age of 15. In this case, the reason why so many are children is that they are likely the children of immigrants.

**Figure 10.5: Age Profile by Visible Minority Status, Hamilton, 2006**

![Age Profile by Visible Minority Status](image)
Figure 10.6: Age Profile of Visible Minorities by Immigrant Status, Hamilton, 2006

Figure 10.7: Age Profile of Visible Minority Immigrants by Immigration Period, Hamilton, 2006
Employment
There are differences in the unemployment rate when comparing visible to non-visible minority immigrants by period of immigration. The unemployment rate is typically highest for visible minority immigrants in all periods of immigration, except for those who immigrated during the 1996-2000 period, when the unemployment rates falls just below those for all immigrants (Figure 10.8). Being a member of a racialized group does matter in terms of employment rates, and it is a compounding factor for immigrant status.

Figure 10.8: Unemployment Rate by Visible Minority Status and Period of Immigration, Hamilton (CMA), 2006

As shown here, Immigrants who arrived before 1991 had lower unemployment rates than did the population overall. This even held true for visible minorities, though their unemployment rates were higher than those for other immigrants.

With the exception of immigrants who were not visible minorities and arrived between 1991 and 1995, the unemployment rates across all categories beside immigrants since 1991 exceeded the 6% unemployment rate found for the general population. In general, visible minority status does make a difference in terms of employment.
11.0 Ethnic Origins

Regarding ethnic origin, the top groups in Hamilton reported were British Isles, Canadian, Italian, German, and French (Figure 11.1). Excluding the “Canadian” category, four times as many Hamiltonians claimed to have origin in the British Isles as any other ethnic origin. Of the 184,000 persons reporting origin in the British Isles, almost 90% were not first generation Canadians. Of the 80,560 identifying as “Canadian,” 98% were not first generation. In other words, members of Hamilton’s largest ethnic groups are by and large not immigrants. Portuguese is the largest ethnic group that has a majority being first generation residents of Canada (in this case 65%) and is the ninth largest group overall.

Figure 11.1: Top 25 Ethnic Origins, Hamilton, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th>1st Generation</th>
<th>2+ Generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Isles</td>
<td>184,265</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>80,560</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>45,560</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>38,130</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>32,545</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>22,240</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>19,265</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>14,905</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>10,575</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>9,735</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>8,960</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>8,670</td>
<td>82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Indian</td>
<td>8,355</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>7,855</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbian</td>
<td>5,745</td>
<td>74.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>3,945</td>
<td>33.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>3,850</td>
<td>66.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaican</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>64.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanian</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>54.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>3,590</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>3,475</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>3,465</td>
<td>84.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech and Slovak</td>
<td>3,430</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>3,175</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>3,065</td>
<td>84.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent’s ancestors. People can report more than one ethnic origin in the census.
Glossary

Economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption. A couple may be of opposite or same sex. Foster children are included. By definition, all persons who are members of a census family are also members of an economic family.

Ethnic origin refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors. People can report more than one ethnic origin in the census.

First generation refers to persons who were born outside Canada.

Immigrants are persons who are, or have ever been, landed immigrants in Canada. A landed immigrant is a person who 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 are more recent arrivals. Most immigrants are born outside Canada, but a small number were born in Canada.

Knowledge of language refers to the ability to conduct a conversation in the listed language.

Mother tongue refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census. The presence of various mother tongues contributes to linguistic diversity.

Non-immigrants are persons who are Canadian citizens by birth.

Non-permanent residents are persons from another country who, at the time of the census, held a Work or Study Permit, or who were refugee claimants, as well as family members living with them in Canada. They represent just under 1% of the total population for both Hamilton and Ontario and as such are excluded from this analysis.

Permanent residents are people who have been granted permanent resident status in Canada. Permanent residents must live in Canada for at least 730 days (two years) within a five year period or risk losing their status. Permanent residents have all the rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms such as equality rights, legal rights, and mobility rights, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association. They do not, however, have the right to vote in elections.

Racialized refers to persons and groups who are differentiated or categorized as non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. Use of this term acknowledges that "race" is socially and culturally constructed rather than based on any scientific reality.
Second generation persons are born inside Canada with at least one parent born outside Canada.

Temporary residents are foreign nationals who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a valid document (i.e., a work permit, study permit, temporary resident permit, or a visitor record) issued for the purpose of entering Canada and individuals who seek asylum upon or after their arrival in Canada and remain in the country pending the outcome of processes relative to their claim. Temporary residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The other category of temporary residents is not profiled in this publication.

Third generation persons are born inside Canada with both parents born inside Canada.

Visible minority is a term used by Statistics Canada to refer to persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour.