This bulletin examines immigration data from the 2001 Census for Peel and its area municipalities. It focuses on the size of Peel's immigrant population and on immigrants' place of birth. Both of these indicators reveal the diversity of Peel's population.

The 2001 Census showed that Peel Region was home to 424,820 immigrants, a 60.8% increase since 1991. This represents 43.1% of Peel's total population, up from 36.1% in 1991. Compared to the rest of the GTA, Peel was second in terms of percentage of immigrant population behind Toronto (49.4%). York was third with 39.1% (see map).

The Census demonstrates that the immigrant population is becoming more dominated by newer immigrants. In 2001, 37.4% of Peel's immigrant population had arrived in the previous ten years. By comparison, in 1991, only 32.1% had arrived in the previous ten years.

Similar to National and GTA trends, recent immigrants to Peel are most likely to be from Asian countries. In the past, immigration from European countries was more predominant.

This is evident when comparing the country of origin of all immigrants with that of recent immigrants. For example, 32,980 immigrants are from the United Kingdom in Peel, of whom 1,035 (3.1%) arrived in the last five years. Whereas of the 64,460 immigrants from India, 21,795 (33.8%) arrived in the last five years.

More recent immigrants in Peel, based on their place of birth, have been from India (21,795), Pakistan (10,445) and the Philippines (4,565). China, the leading country of birth for immigrants in the GTA, was fourth in Peel (3,140).

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The top three places of birth for all immigrants currently living in Peel were India (64,460), the United Kingdom (32,980), and Poland (28,115). While not in the top places of birth amongst immigrants in recent years, persons born in Portugal and Italy also account for a large proportion of the total immigrant population in Peel, with 22,245 and 21,120 persons respectively.

Area Municipal Distinctions:
Among the area municipalities in 2001, 46.8% of the population in Mississauga were immigrants. The figure was 43.3% in 1996 and 38.4% in 1991.

Based on place of birth, the largest groups of recent immigrants in Mississauga have been born in India (12,365), Pakistan (8,605) and the Philippines (3,710). This order is the same as Peel overall.

The total immigrant population in Mississauga shows a similar pattern to recent immigrants, with India (33,420) and the Philippines (28,115) in first and third. While not in the top two recent sources of immigration, as the United Kingdom (40) and the United States (35), with the largest groups coming from places of birth such as Germany, with 6.0% of the total from all years.

The ordering of recent immigrants differs from Mississauga, in that India (9,425) and Pakistan (1,840) are followed by Jamaica (1,120).

Caledon had the lowest immigrant population, at 19.6%, of the three area municipalities. Persons born in the United Kingdom account for 23.7% of the total immigrant population in Caledon, while the next closest single place of birth is Germany, with 6.0% of the total from all years.

There are relatively few recent immigrants in Caledon, with the largest groups coming from places of birth such as the United Kingdom (40) and the United States (35), two more traditional sources of immigration.

Overall Trends:
- In the GTA in 2001, only Toronto had a greater number of recent immigrants than Mississauga or Brampton.
- Immigration to Peel from European countries of birth has been generally declining in recent years while immigration from Asian countries of birth has been on the rise.

Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

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