Population and socio-economic trends in Ontario

Presentation by Dr. Ivan P. Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada

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International migration accounts for a larger share of population growth over time

Toronto area dominates growth in Ontario

Population growth is highly concentrated in urbanized areas while rural population remains static over time.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1901 to 2001 Censuses.
The proportion of Ontarians aged 65 and over has been increasing over time: nearly 1 in 4 will be in this age group by 2031.

Most immigrants to Ontario settle in the Toronto metropolitan area

% of recent immigrants who settled in Ontario

Among which:

- Immigrants of the 1970s in 1981 Census
- Immigrants of the 1980s in 1991 Census
- Immigrants of the 1990s in 2001 Census

Similar to the national picture, immigrants to Ontario are increasingly from Asia and the Middle East.

Region of birth of immigrants residing in Ontario, 2001

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census.
By 2017, three in 10 residents of Ontario and half of Toronto could belong to a visible minority group.

Visible minority population in Ontario, 1981 to 2017 (reference scenario)

Nationally, Chinese are the largest visible minority group, but South Asian is largest in Ontario and could double by 2017.

Composition of visible minorities in Ontario

Muslims could lead the growth among the non-Christian religions

Non-Christian religious groups in Ontario, 1981 to 2017 (reference scenario)

Although knowledge of official languages increases over time for immigrants, about one in 10 immigrants still could not converse in either English or French.

Knowledge of official language for immigrants who arrived in the 1980s with a non-English / non-French mother tongue, Ontario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of official language</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English only</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French only</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and French</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither English nor French</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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More than one-quarter million in Ontario may identify themselves as Aboriginal by 2017

Note: 2001 Census counts are adjusted for census undercoverage and incompletely enumerated reserves. In 2017, the projected size of the Aboriginal identity population is based on demographic factors only. Although self reporting of Aboriginal identity could change over time, this element was not considered in these projections.
Aboriginal persons are concentrated in Ontario’s northern electoral districts

% Population in electoral district that was Aboriginal, 2001
- 15% or more
- 10 to 15%
- 5 to 10%
- Less than 5%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census.
Educational attainment has risen in recent decades in Ontario

Lowest median income districts are found in rural areas and some city centres – highest median income districts are on the CMA fringe.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census.
Inequality has risen due to an increase in income at the top and no change at the bottom

- The income gap between higher and lower income families has risen since 1994.

- In 1994, the top 10% of Ontario families earned 6.8 times that of the bottom 10% of families. By 2004 this was 9.4 times.

Low income is concentrated among recent immigrants, Aboriginal peoples, lone parents and older unattached people.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census.
Voter turnout in 2003 was higher in rural districts, districts with an older population, districts with higher income, and districts with fewer recent immigrants.
In the literature on voter turnout, several socio-economic factors are commonly associated with turnout rates.

Factors which were significantly correlated with 2003 election turnout included:

- Education
- Age
- Employment status
- Income
- Rural
Older residents had a higher proportion of provincial voting, while there was no difference between men and women.

Recent immigrants have lowest voting rates

% of eligible immigrants who reported that they voted in the provincial election prior to 2002, Ontario

| Period of immigration | % of eligible voters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Before 1981</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981 to 1990</td>
<td>66.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991 to 1998</td>
<td>44.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

75.2% of eligible Ontario voters voted in the previous provincial election

Slides in reserve
Proportions of youth are higher in northern and southwestern Ontario.
Proportion of seniors is higher in rural areas – North excepted

Proportion of population aged 65+, 2006 (per 1,000)

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{>= 164.8} & \quad (16) \\
136.0 - < 164.8 & \quad (17) \\
< 136.0 & \quad (16)
\end{align*} \]

Ontario Median Proportion = 151.8 per 1,000