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**INSIGHTS INTO THE
ARAB POPULATION IN
CANADA BASED ON THE
2016 CENSUS DATA**

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Purpose and Methodology

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Arab population in Canada. The data presented in this report has been collected from the [Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population Program](#) data, with a focus on the [Immigration and Ethno-cultural Diversity](#) topic in order to understand the distribution and demographics of the Arab population in Canada. This report examines the Arab population from various perspectives, including, but not limited to, age, gender, education, fields of study, and labour force.

Where Arab ethnic origin data was available, data relating to the 22 member states of the Arab League (or as many as available) was collected and used. The 22 members of the Arab League are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. It is important to note that ethnic origin responses in the census are a reflection of each respondent's perception of their ethnic ancestry.

The total ethnic origin response counts (which are presented in this report) indicate the number of persons who reported a specified ethnic origin, either as their only ethnic origin or in addition to one or more other ethnic origins. Therefore, total ethnic origin responses are the sum of single and multiple responses for each ethnic origin. The sum of the ethnic groups in the Statistics Canada data is greater than the total population estimate because a person may report more than one ethnic origin in the census.¹

In some instances, data related to Arabs was collected from products that included "Arab" as a visible minority. According to Statistics Canada, visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the *Employment Equity Act* and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The *Employment Equity Act* defines visible minorities as 'persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour'. As such, and in accordance with the employment equity requirements, if a person

reported being 'Arab' and 'White', they would have been excluded from the Arab visible minority population. Also, if a person reported being 'Arab' and provided a European write-in response such as 'French', they would have been excluded from the Arab visible minority population as well². The exclusion of some Arabs from the Arab visible minority population count significantly reduces the number of individuals in the Arab visible minority population.

The data presented in this report is accompanied by footnotes to clarify whether the data has been collected using Arab ethnic origins or if it's based on the Arab visible minority population count.

Disclaimer: A previous version of this report incorrectly included data on "Mauritian" ethnic origin. As a result, the data that included "Mauritian" ethnic origin has been corrected and updated.

Summary of Key Findings

- There are a total of 947820 people in Canada who reported having an Arab ethnic origin based on the 2016 Census data, with slightly more males than females (51.6 % males and 48.4% females).
- The very large majority of the Arab population (>90%) in Canada resides in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.
- People of Lebanese, Moroccan, and Egyptian origin have the highest numbers among the Arab population in Canada.
- The majority of the Arab population in Canada resides in three metropolitan areas: Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa-Gatineau.
- The majority of the Arabs in these metropolitan areas are of Moroccan, Lebanese, Algerian, and Egyptian origin.
- Almost 30% of people in the Arab population in Canada are under the age of 15.
- More than half of the individuals living in Canada who were born in an Arab country were admitted into Canada as economic immigrants; almost a quarter of the individuals living in

Canada who were born in an Arab country were admitted into Canada as refugees.

- There are some citizenship status variation depending on the Arab place of birth.
- More than 60% of the Arab population in Canada are first generation.
- A total of 629055 people in Canada have knowledge of the Arabic language.
- More than 60% of the Arab population in Canada

has some type of postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree.

- Business, engineering, and health professions are among the top fields of study for the Arab population in Canada.
- Of the total number of Arabs in Canada with a labour force status, the unemployment rate is ~13.5%; this trend is observed in Canada as a whole as well as in the top 3 provinces where the Arab population in Canada resides.

The Arab Population in Canada

The table below shows the distribution and gender of the Arab population in Canada as a whole, as well as in each of the provinces and territories. Based on the 2016 Census, there is a total of 947820 persons in Canada who reported having an Arab ethnic origin³, with more than 90% of the Arab population residing in Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. The Arab population in Canada has increased by ~34% since the 2011 Census and by ~75% since the 2006 Census.

Jurisdiction	Total # of Arabs⁴	Males	Females
Canada	947820	489420	458410
Quebec	370230	192750	177470
Ontario	388440	197410	191005
Alberta	100735	52740	47985
British Columbia	39930	21025	18910
Nova Scotia	16445	8480	7960
Manitoba	11545	6025	5530
Saskatchewan	8945	4750	4180
New Brunswick	6730	3565	3175
Newfoundland and Labrador	2880	1540	1345
Prince Edward Island	1430	805	635
Northwest Territories	320	200	135
Nunavut	95	50	25
Yukon	100	70	45

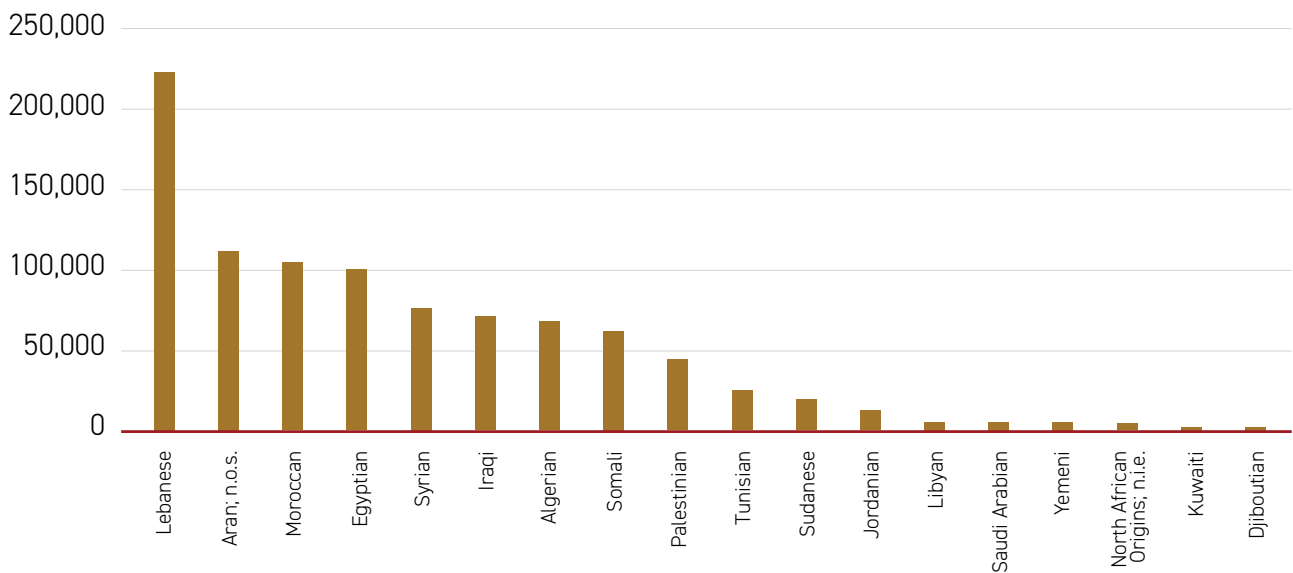
Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Canada

Arabs with a Lebanese origin make up the highest numbers of the Arab population in Canada as a whole, as well as in Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta.

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Lebanese	219555
Arab; n.o.s. ⁵	111400
Moroccan	103940
Egyptian	99140
Syrian	77045
Iraqi	70925
Algerian	67335
Somali	62550
Palestinian	44820

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Tunisian	25645
Sudanese	19960
Jordanian	14250
Libyan	7740
Saudi Arabian	6810
Yemeni	6645
North African origins; n.i.e. ⁶	6115
Kuwaiti	2235
Djiboutian	1710

Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Canada



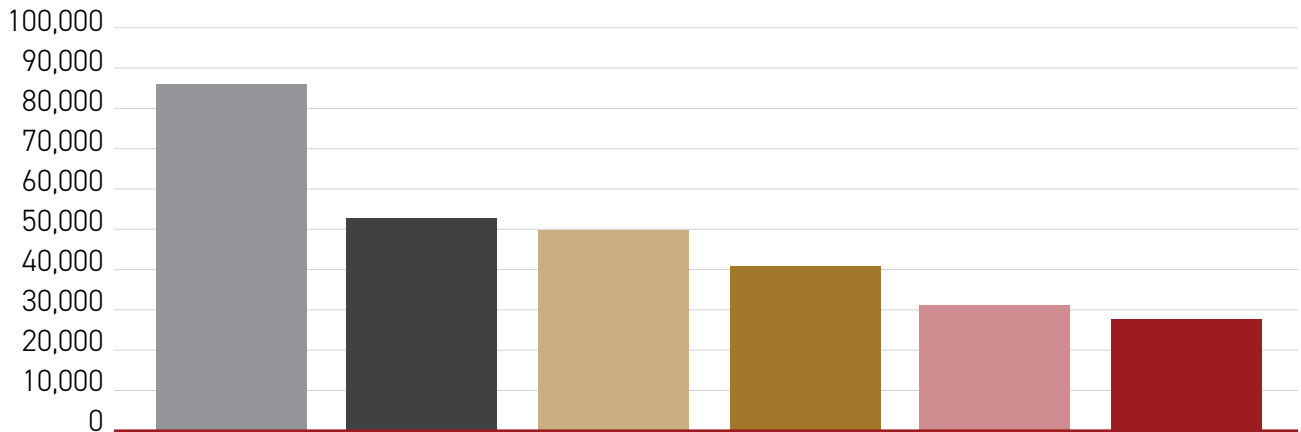
Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Ontario

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Lebanese	86245
Egyptian	52845
Iraqi	50460
Arab; n.o.s.	44705
Somali	40995
Syrian	31440
Palestinian	28480
Moroccan	12305
Jordanian	9660

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Sudanese	8975
Yemeni	4225
Algerian	4065
Libyan	3785
Saudi Arabian	3660
Tunisian	2295
North African origins; n.i.e.	1755
Kuwaiti	1510
Djiboutian	1035

Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Ontario

Lebanese
 Egyptian
 Iraqi
 Somali
 Syrian
 Palestinian



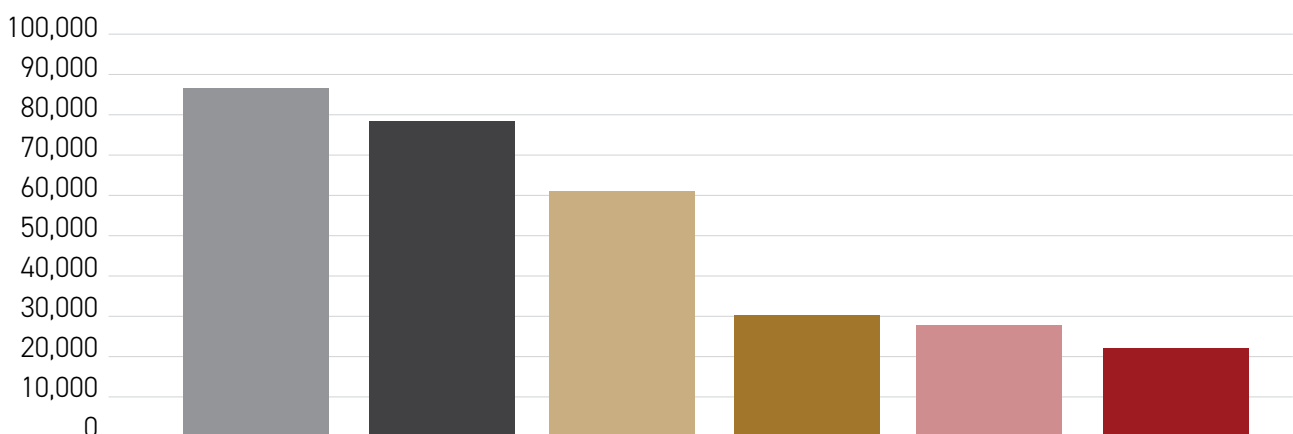
Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Quebec

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Moroccan	85940
Lebanese	78140
Algerian	60375
Arab; n.o.s.	44875
Egyptian	29400
Syrian	27465
Tunisian	21475
Palestinian	6865
Iraqi	5520

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
North African origins; n.i.e.	3340
Somali	1785
Jordanian	1610
Libyan	1075
Yemeni	805
Saudi Arabian	645
Djiboutian	450
Sudanese	370
Djiboutian	1035

Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Quebec

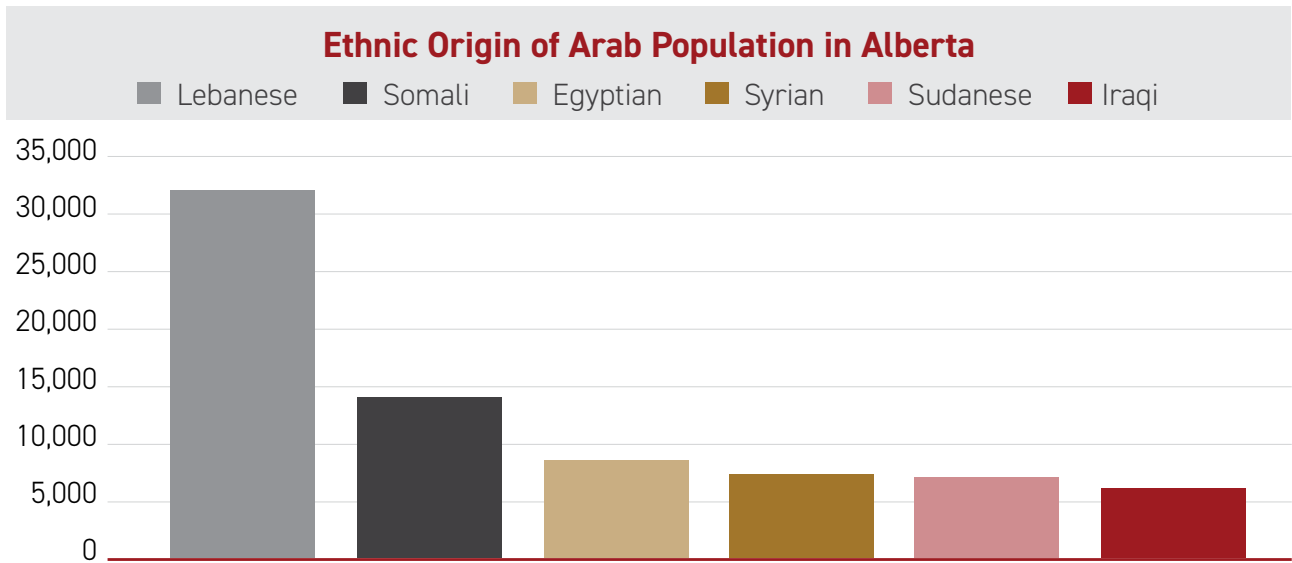
Moroccan
 Lebanese
 Algerian
 Egyptian
 Syrian
 Tunisian



Ethnic Origin of Arab Population in Alberta

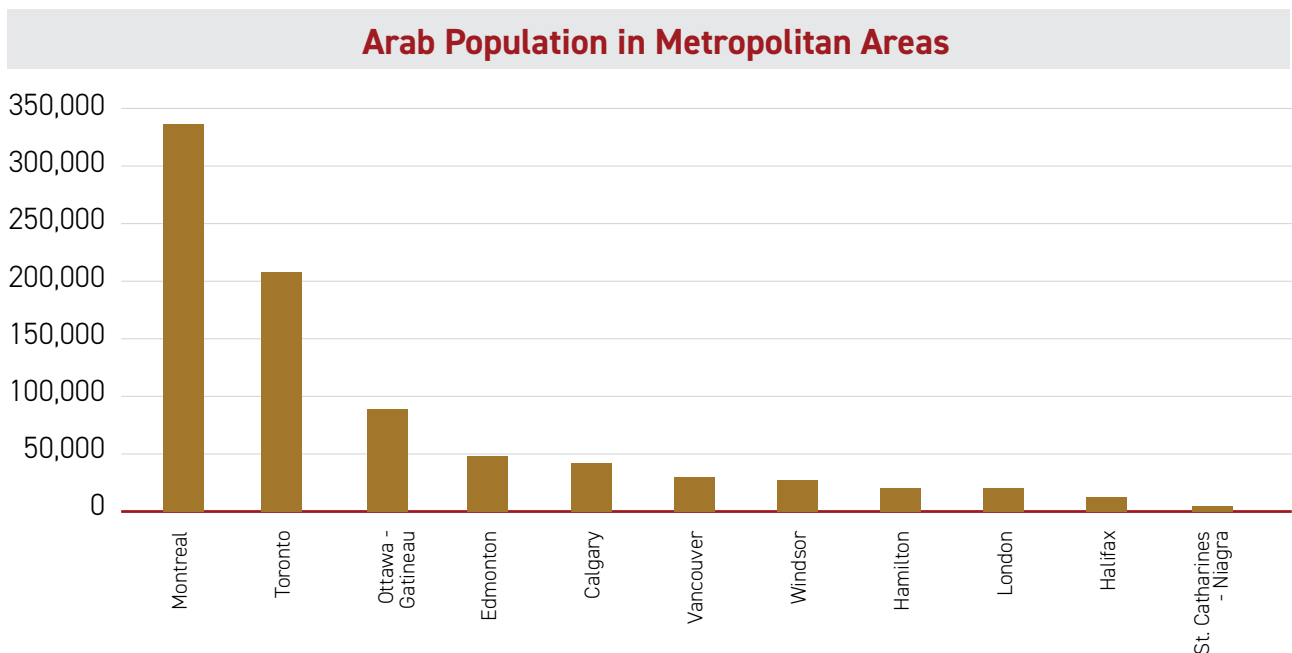
Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Lebanese	32365
Somali	14100
Arab; n.o.s.	10470
Egyptian	8525
Syrian	7215
Sudanese	7070
Iraqi	6165
Palestinian	4880
Moroccan	2510

Ethnic Origin	Total # of People
Algerian	1620
Jordanian	1325
Libyan	1300
Tunisian	940
Yemeni	930
North African origins; n.i.e.	575
Saudi Arabian	390
Kuwaiti	185
Djiboutian	170



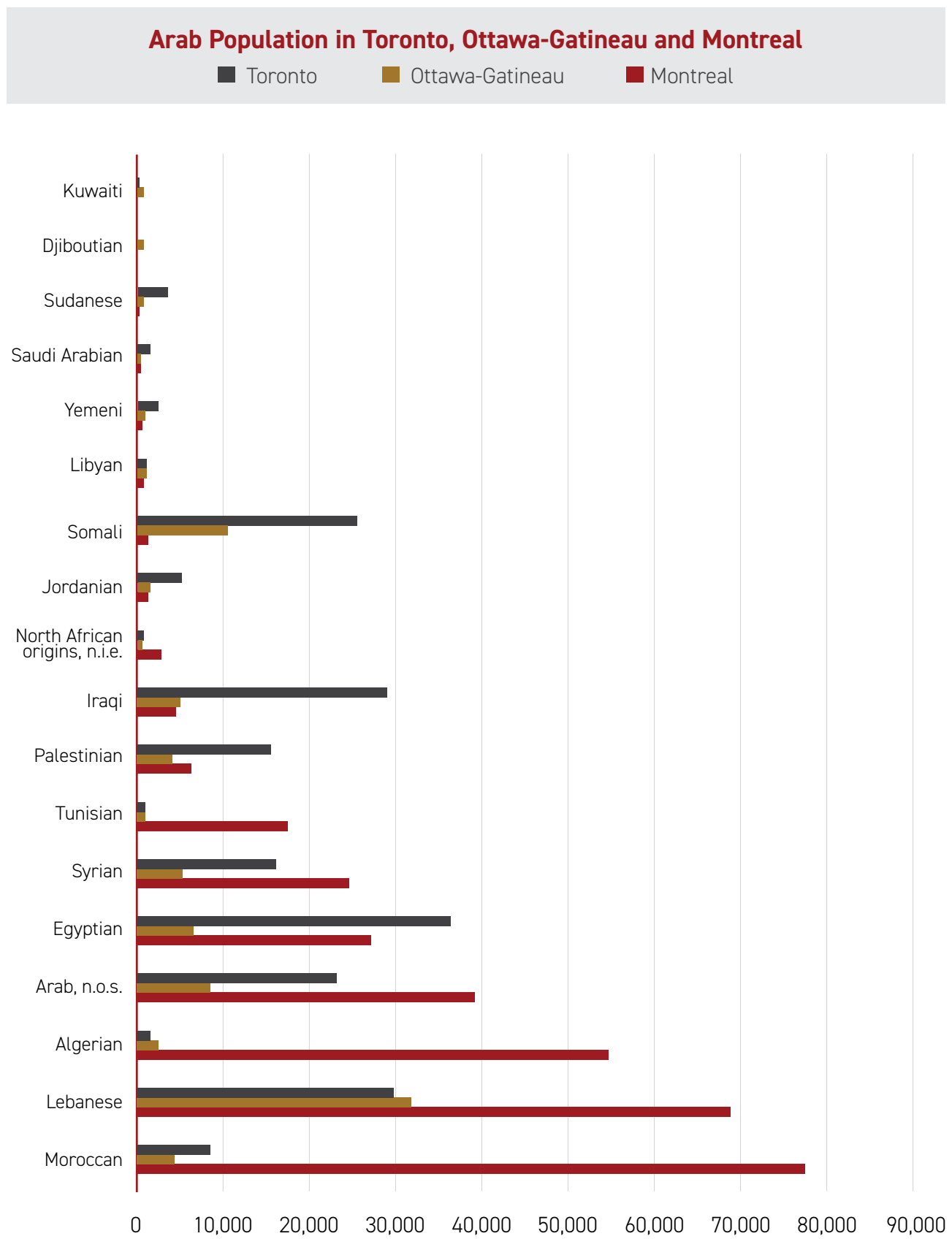
Arab Population⁷ in Metropolitan Areas

The graph below shows the top metropolitan areas where there is a high concentration of Arabs. The majority (65%) of the Arab population in Canada resides in Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa-Gatineau.



Arab Population by Ethnic Origin in Toronto, Ottawa-Gatineau, and Montreal

In the most Arab-populated metropolitan areas in Canada, the vast majority of Arabs found are of Moroccan, Lebanese, Algerian, and Egyptian origin.



Top Federal Electoral Districts⁸ with the Highest Arab Population⁹

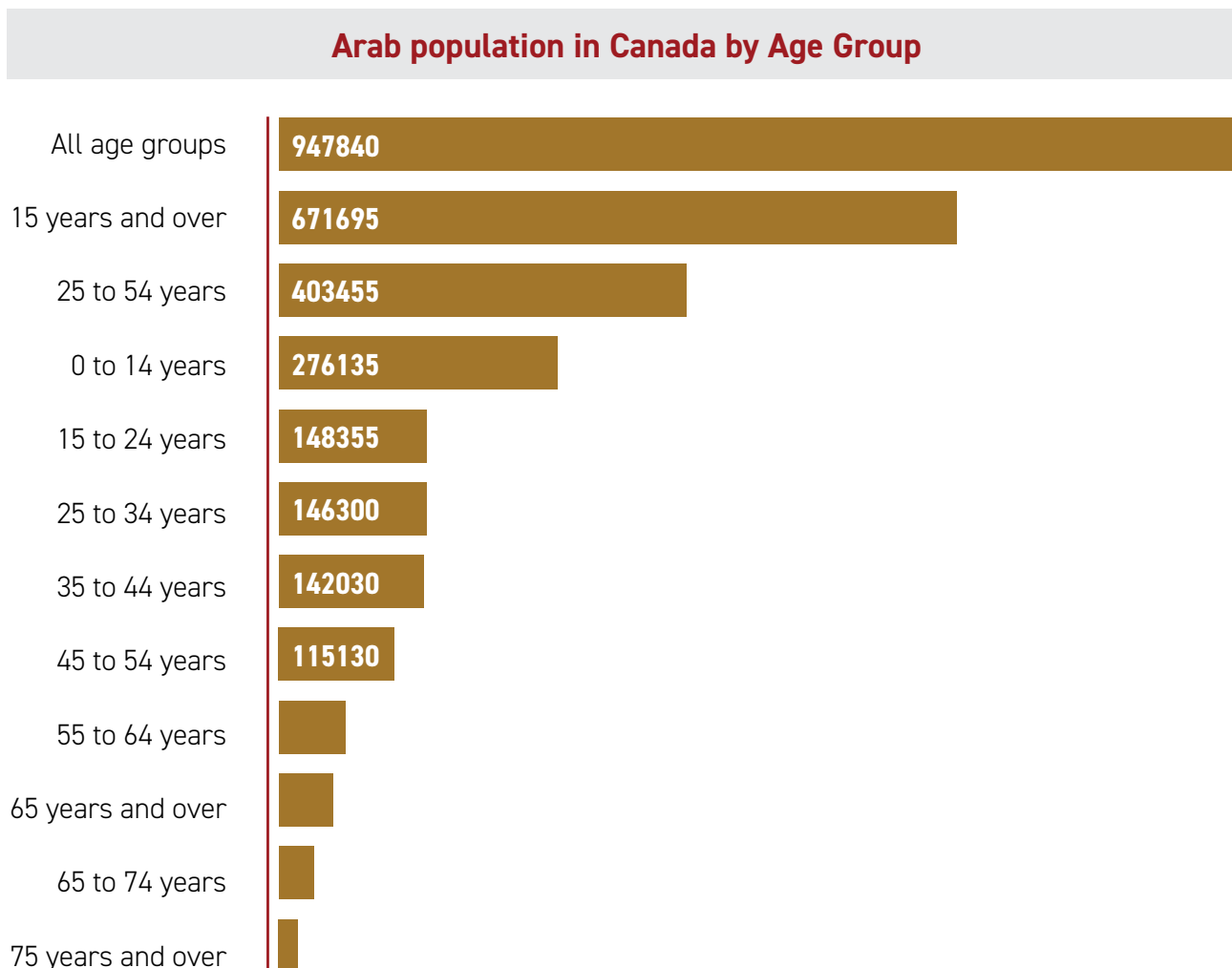
There are 338 Federal electoral districts and almost a third of the Arab population in Canada resides in 15 of those electoral districts. The table below depicts how many Arabs are in the top Federal electoral districts.

District	Total # of Arabs
Saint-Léonard--Saint-Michel	17880
Saint-Laurent	15675
Ahuntsic-Cartierville	14715
Ottawa South	13520
Vimy	12390
Windsor West	11960
Bourassa	10560
Mississauga Centre	10520

District	Total # of Arabs
Mississauga--Erin Mills	10205
Laval--Les Îles	9420
Papineau	8315
Ville-Marie--Le Sud-Ouest--Île-des-Soeurs	8290
Pierrefonds--Dollard	7495
Marc-Aurèle-Fortin	6885
Outremont	6755
Djiboutian	1035

Arab Population in Canada¹⁰ by Age Group

The graph below shows the distribution of the Arab population's age groups in Canada as a whole. Almost 30% of the Arab population in Canada is under the age of 15.

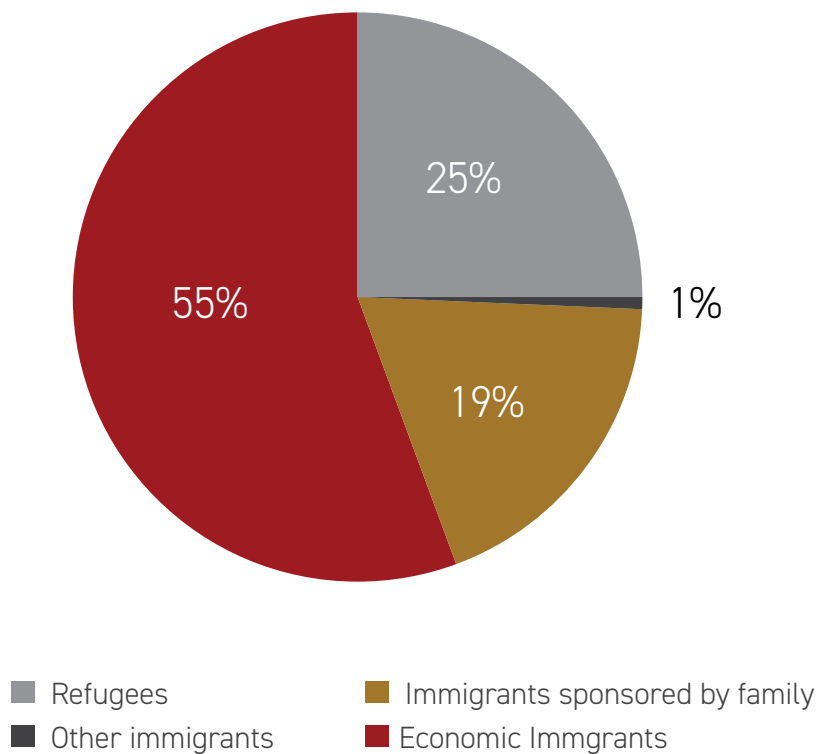


Arab Place of Birth and Immigration Admission Category

The table and chart below show the immigration admission category of those living in Canada with an Arab place of birth. Of the people living in Canada and born in an Arab country, more than half have been admitted into Canada as economic immigrants. Further, almost 25% of people living in Canada who have an Arab place of birth have been admitted into Canada as refugees.

Admission Category ¹¹	# of People with an Arab Place of Birth
Refugees ¹²	128370
Other immigrants ¹³	3675
Immigrants sponsored by family	96500
Economic immigrants ¹⁴	286270
Total - Admission category	514815

Immigration Admission Category

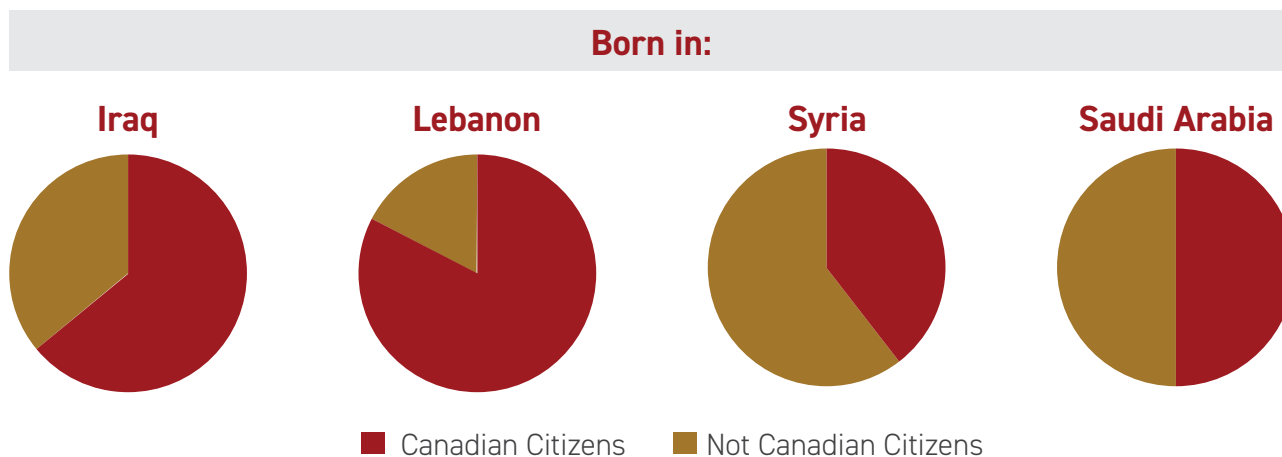


Arab Place of Birth and Citizenship Status

The table below shows the citizenship status of individuals who were born in an Arab place of birth. Of note, the very large majority of individuals born in Lebanon are Canadian citizens. In contrast, less than half of individuals born in Syria are Canadian citizens. This may be due to the recent influx of Syrian refugees.

Place of Birth	Total # of People	Canadian Citizens	Canadian Citizens Only	Citizens of Canada and at least one other country	Not Canadian Citizens
Lebanon	92000	83%	55%	28%	17%
Morocco	72905	72%	42%	30%	28%
Iraq	70515	64%	47%	17%	36%
Egypt	67195	70%	44%	26%	30%
Algeria	67045	69%	34%	35%	31%
Syria	56055	40%	26%	13%	60%
Saudi Arabia	29330	50%	38%	12%	50%
Somalia	28190	72%	64%	7%	28%
United Arab Emirates	23220	64%	52%	12%	36%
Tunisia	19720	54%	26%	28%	46%
Kuwait	16260	74%	59%	15%	26%
Jordan	14260	63%	40%	23%	37%
Sudan	11130	69%	53%	16%	31%
Libya	8955	48%	33%	16%	52%
Yemen	3490	61%	43%	18%	39%
Qatar	2905	64%	52%	12%	36%
Djibouti	2370	55%	42%	13%	45%
Oman	1800	64%	55%	9%	36%
Mauritania	1050	49%	38%	11%	51%
Comoros	160	69%	47%	22%	31%

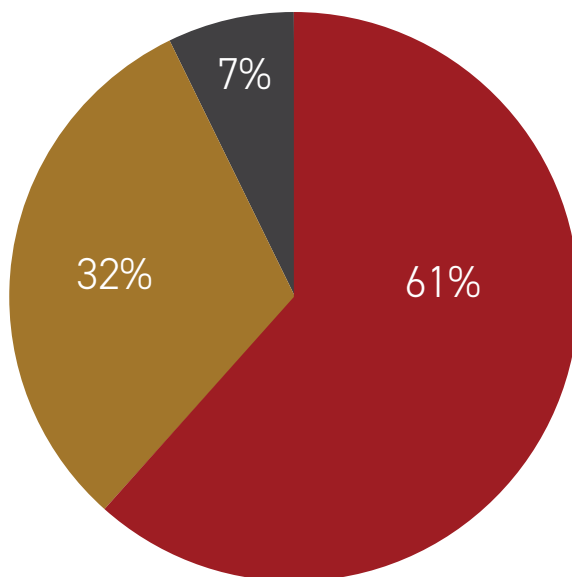
Select Places of Birth and Citizenship Status



Generation Status

The graph below shows the generation status of the Arab population in Canada¹⁵. More than 60% of the Arab population in Canada are first generation.

Generation Status Of Arab Population in Canada



■ First generation ■ Second generation ■ Third generation

Prevalence and Use of the Arabic Language in Canada

The table below shows the prevalence and use of the Arabic language in Canada.

Topic	Language	Total # of People
Mother tongue	Arabic	419890
Language spoken most often at home	Arabic	223540
Knowledge of languages	Arabic	629055
Language used most often at work	Arabic	5585

Education¹⁶ and Fields of Study

More than 60% of the applicable Arab population in Canada has a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

Highest certificate, diploma or degree	# of Arabs
Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree	379630
No certificate, diploma or degree	65990
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	81145
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	232500
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	22170
Trades certificate or diploma other than Certificate of Apprenticeship or Certificate of Qualification	15305
Certificate of Qualification	6865
Certificate of Apprenticeship or Certificate of Qualification	49075
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	16655
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	144600
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	88090
Bachelor's degree	11330
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	8890
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	28305
Master's degree	7990
Earned doctorate	

Top 10 Fields of Study for the Arab Population¹⁷ in Canada

1. Business, management, marketing and related support services
2. Engineering
3. Health professions and related programs
4. Computer and information sciences and support services
5. Education
6. Social sciences
7. Engineering technologies and engineering-related fields
8. Biological and biomedical sciences
9. Personal and culinary services
10. Legal professions and studies

Labour Force

In comparison to the other visible minority groups in Canada, the Arab population¹⁸ has a lower employment rate and a higher unemployment rate. This trend is observed in Canada as a whole, as well as in the three provinces with the highest proportion of Arabs.

Visible Minority Population	Total - Labour force status	In the labour force	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
CANADA						
Total visible minority population	6073870	4038855	2035015	66.5	60.4	9.2
Arab	379630	231980	147650	61.1	52.9	13.5
ONTARIO						
Total visible minority population	3100655	2023870	1076785	65.3	59.2	9.3
Arab	156935	88975	67960	56.7	49	13.5
QUEBEC						
Total visible minority population	782930	524420	258505	67	59.2	11.7
Arab	153460	102455	51005	66.8	57.7	13.6
ALBERTA						
Total visible minority population	713445	521390	192055	73.1	65.9	9.8
Arab	39085	25115	13975	64.3	55.6	13.5

Income Groups

Income Groups	# of Arabs (Visible Minority Pop.)
Total - Total income	379630
Without total income	34170
With total income	345460
Percentage with total income	91
Under \$10,000 (including loss)	92560
\$10,000 to \$19,999	75040
\$20,000 to \$29,999	49230
\$30,000 to \$39,999	33250
\$40,000 to \$49,999	25370
\$50,000 to \$59,999	16710
\$60,000 to \$69,999	12440
\$70,000 to \$79,999	9520
\$80,000 to \$89,999	7335
\$90,000 to \$99,999	5485
\$100,000 and over	18520
Median total income (\$)	20803
Average total income (\$)	33542

References

1. Source: *Ethnic Origin Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2016*
2. Source: [Visible Minority and Population Group Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2016](#)
3. The number of Arabs is based on ethnic origin from the Arab League's 22 member states. Note this is the total number of persons who reported an Arab ethnic origin, either as their only ethnic origin or in addition to one or more other ethnic origins.
4. The number of Arabs is based on ethnic origin from the Arab League's 22 member states. Note this is the total number of persons who reported an Arab ethnic origin, either as their only ethnic origin or in addition to one or more other ethnic origins.
5. Arab; n.o.s. includes responses of 'Arab' not otherwise specified.
6. North African Origins, n.i.e., includes general responses indicating North African origins (e.g., 'North African') as well as more specific responses indicating North African origins that have not been included elsewhere (e.g., 'Maghreb').
7. The number of Arabs is based on ethnic origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
8. Districts are based on [List of 338 electoral districts – Order of 2013](#).
9. The number of Arabs depicted is of those that have been identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.
10. The number of Arabs is based on ethnic origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
11. 'Admission category' refers to the name of the immigration program or group of programs under which an immigrant has been granted for the first time the right to live in Canada permanently.
12. 'Refugees' includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status on the basis of a well-founded fear of returning to their home country.
13. 'Other immigrants' includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status under a program that does not fall under the economic immigrants, the immigrants sponsored by family or the refugee categories.
14. 'Economic immigrants' includes immigrants who have been selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy through their ability to meet labour market needs, to own and manage or to build a business, to make a substantial investment, to create their own employment or to meet specific provincial or territorial labour market needs.
15. The number of Arabs is based on ethnic origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
16. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.
17. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards
18. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.