

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF OTTAWA

Immigrants in Ottawa:

Socio-cultural composition and
socio-economic conditions

December 2004

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Introduction:

Over the decades, a large number of peoples have come from many different regions of the world to settle, work, and form families in Ottawa; and to generally contribute to our current quality of life. These individuals and their families (some born in Canada) go through a long process of adaptation to local customs and cultures, institutions, laws and regulations, climate, and general way of life - aiming to achieve a full integration into their new society.

The objective of this report is to begin examining some elements of immigrants' economic and social integration into the larger Ottawa community. To do so, the report will first examine the socio-cultural composition and demographic structure of immigrants residing in Ottawa. The understanding provided by this first section will be used as a backdrop of the report's analysis on the socio-economic conditions of immigrants in Ottawa. In addition, given the importance of time as a factor in immigrants' integration process, a distinction will be made between immigrants arriving during the 1991-2001 decade (referred to as 'recent immigrants') and earlier immigrants throughout the report and such distinction will be more or less detailed, depending on data availability.

The report is organized into two sections. Section One will look into the socio-cultural composition of Ottawa's immigrants in general and recent immigrants in particular. The section will report on immigrants' period of immigration, circumstances of arrival, countries of origin, visible minority status, and languages. Section Two will analyze the economic conditions of recent immigrants by looking into their participation in Ottawa's labour force; their employment and earning situation; and their income sources and status. GIS Maps will be presented throughout the report to depict the geographic distribution of recent immigrant individuals and households across the city.

To support its analysis, the report will use Statistics Canada's 2001 census data, some Citizenship and Immigration Canada data, and will draw from existing Canadian literature in the field of diversity and immigration. Geographically, the scope of most of the data used in this report is limited to the City of Ottawa. Occasionally, however, publicly available data referring to the Ontario part of Ottawa-Gatineau are used to bring more detail to the analysis.

Definitions and Data Issues

Although this report seeks to provide an understanding of the socio-cultural and socio-economic conditions of successive cohorts of immigrants, its focus is mainly on recent immigrants.

The term 'recent immigrants' refers to foreign-born individuals, who came to Canada during the 1991-2001 decade; who were living in Ottawa on the census taking day (May 15, 2001); and who are now, or have once been, landed immigrants¹. This definition includes individuals who came to Canada as refugees or refugee claimants, but have since their arrival acquired permanent residency status in Canada.

¹ "Landed immigrant is a person who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities" (Census Questionnaire. Question number 11)

Analytically, it would be useful to compare the socio-economic conditions of immigrants who came as refugees and that of other classes of newcomers. Unfortunately, however the census data does not distinguish immigrants by their categories of admission.

It is also useful to clarify that the term ‘immigrant’ does not preclude a Canadian citizenship status for individuals denoted with this term. Regardless of their class of immigration and period of arrival, a large majority of immigrants in Ottawa are Canadian citizens. Of the 168,125 immigrants living in the Ottawa region², 75 percent have over the years acquired the Canadian citizenship. The remaining 41,695 of Ottawa’s immigrants are permanent residents of Canada.

Non-permanent residents such as foreign workers, foreign students, refugees and refugee claimants, are excluded from the analysis of this report.

Finally, this report’s geographic focus on Ottawa is warranted by the City’s significant absence in the Canadian literature on immigration and diversity. While Canada is a pioneer in social and policy research in the field of immigration and diversity, there is a gaping lacuna in our knowledge of immigrants’ social and economic experiences in Ottawa, our nation’s capital. Most of Canada’s existing literature in the field of immigration and diversity adopts a national or, at best regional scope that is often limited to larger, historically more diverse Canadian cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and, on a few occasions, Ottawa-Gatineau. However, while Ottawa forms an economic region with Gatineau, people residing in the two cities composing the region (including immigrants) fall within the jurisdiction of two very distinct provincial socio-political systems, which may preclude the usefulness of such studies for local program planning purposes. Thus there is a need for an Ottawa-based research that provides an understanding on the experiences of new immigrants residing in the City.

² These data refer to the Ontario part of Ottawa-Gatineau

Preface: Factors Influencing Immigrants' Integration Process

The dynamic and outcome of immigrants' integration process is a function of time, as human beings are generally adaptive to their environments. For any given length of time, however, three categories of factors influence the degree of difficulty inherent in the adaptation and integration process of new immigrants: characteristics of the immigrant, characteristics of the local communities that share the new immigrant's cultural background, and the characteristics of the larger host society.

New immigrants' cultural background has a large bearing on the outcome of the integration process. Immigrants from countries that share relevant cultural attributes (such as language(s), religion, social values and norms, etc) with Canada's dominant cultures typically experience less difficulty in the integration process. The reason for such relative facility is twofold: on the one hand the immigrant has less of a cultural gap to cross. And on the other hand, local institutions such as schools, institutions of higher learning, labour market institutions, the social service sector, the media, and government bodies are informed by cultures similar to that of the new immigrant³. In contrast, immigrants from countries with cultures different from Canada's dominant cultures usually face a considerable relative disadvantage resulting not only from the requirement of adapting to local language(s), values, and norms, but also because they have to contend with local institutions that are essentially unaware of their cultural perspectives.

While all immigrants require orientation and settlement services upon arrival, the latter groups of immigrants tend to rely more heavily on settlement agencies and local co-ethnic, co-culture communities for support in their initial stages of settlement. The capability and viability of local settlement agencies coupled with the size and socio-economic status of local co-ethnic and co-culture communities is therefore a major determinant of the success of these groups of immigrants. Thus new immigrants, who find in Ottawa longtime settled, economically strong co-national, co-cultural community (ies) within their new society would generally face less stress in their integration process.

In addition to immigrants' ethnic and cultural background, the personal characteristics of individual immigrants such as the gender and life stage of the immigrant, coupled with his/her marital status, family size, number and age of dependents would have an important impact on the outcome of the integration process. For example, child immigrants generally adapt more quickly to local customs than do older immigrants and thus often face less economic marginalization in their adulthood since they would have had access to more opportunities for Canadian socialization through schools and peer networks (Kalbach and Kalbach, 2000).

Conversely, lone-parent immigrants with large-sized families and/or young dependents would have extreme difficulty in coping with the difficulties and stresses inherent in the multiple dimensions of the integration process: i.e. finding suitable housing, finding an adequate employment, dealing with the schooling of her children, interacting with social service providers, and building social networks.

³ Carl James: Perspectives on racism

The circumstances surrounding the arrival of the immigrant, a proxy of which is Canada's immigration admission classes (refugee class, business class and family class) and the socio-economic background of the immigrant such as his/her educational background and financial status upon arrival would also generally have an influence on the speed and outcome of the integration process.

The characteristics of the local society including the structure of the local economy; the length and depth of economic cycles; and social policy regimes, would all impact on the success of new immigrants' integration process.

Finally, the existing, historically derived, stratification of the Canadian society along racial lines and economic power would determine the social and economic position that is accessible to new immigrants, depending on their race, gender, linguistic proficiency, and economic class.

Summary of Findings

SECTION I: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO CULTURAL COMPOSITION

The Diversity within the Ottawa Immigrants

1. There are 166,745 foreign-born residents in Ottawa, representing 21.8 percent of the Ottawa population. In addition 104,415 Ottawa residents are born to either one or two foreign-born parents. Thus, more than one-third of the Ottawa population (265,350 individuals) are either foreign-born or children of one or two foreign-born parents.
2. Recent immigrants represent the largest share of Ottawa's foreign-born population. In fact, among all immigrants:
 - 38 percent are recent immigrants who came to Canada during the decade between 1991 and 2001;
 - 21 percent came between 1981-1990;
 - 15 percent came between 1971-1980
 - 12 percent came between 1961-1970;
 - 14 percent came before 1961.
3. Compared to other large immigrant receiving cities in Canada, Ottawa features by far the largest share of refugees among its newcomers. Looking at data collected by Citizenship and Immigration Canada at Canada's ports of entry, the average annual share of refugees among those intending to settle in Ottawa over the last six years is 29 percent, compared to 9 percent in Vancouver, 10 percent in Toronto and 19 percent in Montreal.
4. In addition to immigrants coming from abroad, Ottawa also attracts secondary immigrants from other Canadian cities. The 2001 mobility data for recent immigrants reveal that 11 percent of recent immigrants currently residing in Ottawa (7,065) moved from other Canadian cities during the 5 years preceding the Census. Of these, 42 percent moved from other Ontario cities, while the remainder moved from cities outside of the Ontario province.
5. A majority of Ottawa's recent immigrants (51 percent) came from China, Somalia, Lebanon, Caribbean and Bermuda, and from the former Yugoslavia; whereas in the previous decade the top five source counties (which accounted for 38 percent of the new immigrants) were Lebanon, China, Vietnam, Caribbean and Bermuda, and the United Kingdom. In the 1971-1980 decade, the United Kingdom was the most frequently reported country of origin.
6. The 2001 data show that the source countries of immigrants living in Ottawa are extremely diverse in terms of history, culture, ethnicity, and language, and that immigrants are spread into many very small cultural groups. To the exception of immigrants coming from the United Kingdom and China, the share of immigrants coming from any individual source country does not exceed the 5.9 percent share of immigrants (9,865 individuals) born in Lebanon.

7. Looking at the share of recent immigrants in specific immigrant communities in Ottawa, one can somewhat gauge the settlement history of the same communities, with high proportions indicating a fairly recent arrival and “shallow roots in Canada” (Biles, 1998). The Somali community in Ottawa features the highest proportion (84 percent) of recent arrivals among its members, followed by Ottawa’s former Yugoslavian Community (74 percent), the Filipino Community (63 percent), the Chinese Community (61 percent), the Iranian Community (60 percent), and Haitian Community (46 percent).
8. Although visible minority groups have a centuries-long history in Canada, the number of visible minority Canadians has been increasing rapidly and steadily through immigration over the last few decades (Chantra, 2001). In Ottawa, members of visible minority groups are largely (by 66 percent) immigrants and a significant share (35 percent) are recent immigrants who came to Canada between 1991-2001.
9. It is important to note that approximately one-third (31 percent) of the members of Ottawa’s visible minority groups is born in Canada. The share of Canadian-born individuals in specific visible minority groups varies greatly across communities. Table 3 shows that 60 percent of the members of Ottawa’s Japanese Community are born in Canada. The local Black community follows suite, with 38 percent of its members being born in Canada. The West Asian Community in Ottawa counts the lowest share of Canadian-born residents among its members.

Languages: One of the Most Shared Cultural Languages

1. Almost all recent immigrants (93 percent) reported to be proficient in one or both official languages. Despite such widespread reported knowledge of Canada’s official languages, language remains one of the main hurdles in immigrants’ access to employment and services and thus affects their social and economic integration into the larger society (Statistics Canada, 2004).
2. Among recent immigrants, approximately 16 percent (10,435 individuals) have reported to have either English or French as mother tongue. These groups of immigrants would generally not face language problems and are thus likely to experience fewer stresses in their integration process. Immigrants with French as a mother tongue, who have no knowledge of the English language, may however face restricted opportunities in Ottawa, given the prevalence of the English language in the City’s labour market.
3. There are 10,635 individuals in Ottawa that speak neither English nor French, less than one-half (42 percent or 4,459 individuals) are recent immigrants; 22 percent are Canadian-born, and 31 are immigrants arriving before 1991. The fact that almost a quarter of those without any knowledge of the English language are Canadian-born residents is indicative of a certain separation between Ottawa’s linguistic communities.
4. Among recent immigrants, individuals aged 45 and over are least likely to have knowledge of Canada’s official languages. More than one-half of recent immigrant seniors (1,465 individuals) speaks neither English nor French; whereas only 2 percent of recent of immigrants aged-15-44 have no knowledge of Canada’s official languages.

5. The top non-official mother tongues in Ottawa include Chinese, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, German, and Somali. The Arabic and Spanish languages, and to a certain extent the Chinese language, are shared by residents originally from many different countries of the world. For example, the Arabic language is mother tongue to 20,860 Ottawa residents who are originally from over 15 countries⁴. This makes language one of the most shared cultural traits among Ottawa's immigrant population.

Immigrants by Age Groups

1. The age composition of immigrants upon arrival has been rather stable over time. However, given the passage of time since the arrival of immigrants coming to Canada in previous decades, and the comparatively larger size of the 1991-2001 cohort, recent immigrants comprise most of the child and youth immigrants in Ottawa.
2. Overall, there are 12,375 immigrant children aged 0-14 in Ottawa. Almost all immigrant children (91 percent) came to Canada between the 1991-2001 period. Recent immigrant children are mostly concentrated in a neighborhood between River, Alta Vista, and Gloucester Southgate, as well as in neighborhoods in the Bay ward.
3. Approximately 18 percent of Ottawa's youth aged 15-24 (18,160 individuals) are immigrants. Of these, almost two-thirds (60 percent or 10,890 individuals) are recent immigrants. Recent immigrant youth mainly reside in BellSouth Nepean, Baseline, Knoxdale-Merivale, Capital, and Alta Vista.
4. Currently there are 112,900 immigrants in their working ages (25-64) in Ottawa. Of these, more than one-third (35 percent or 39,840 individuals) are recent immigrants who came to Canada during the 1991-2001 decade.
5. Immigrants aged 65 and over represent about one-third of Ottawa's senior population. Most of Ottawa's current immigrant seniors came to Canada during earlier decades in their youth and working ages.
6. Among the recent immigrants, only 5 percent (2,885 individuals) are currently aged 65 years and over. About 51 percent of recent immigrant seniors speak neither English nor French. Recent immigrant seniors are concentrated in Ottawa's Bay and Somerset wards.

⁴ The source countries of recent immigrants speaking the Arabic language include: Lebanon, Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Libya, Palestine, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.

SECTION II: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Labour Market Integration: Participation in the Labour Force

1. Recent immigrants of all age groups and of both genders show substantially lower participation rates than both the Canadian-born residents and earlier immigrants. However, the participation rate differentials between these and recent immigrants are largest for recent immigrant youth and women.
2. While 73 percent of Canadian-born youth aged 15-24 years participate in the labour force, only 54 percent of recent immigrant male youth in the same age group and 49 percent of the female youth partake in the City's labour force.
3. The participation rate of older (than 24) recent immigrant women is also very low, but is relatively highest for the 45-54 year-old women, 70 percent of which are in the City's labour force.
4. Generally, the labour force participation rate of youth and women are limited by these groups' school attendance and childbearing and raising activities, respectively; and recent immigrants are no exceptions in this regard.
5. The very low labour force participation of recent immigrant youth is partly explained by a higher incidence of school attendance within the group. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of recent immigrant youth aged 15-24 years are attending school full time, compared to 63 percent of all youth (including immigrants⁵) in the same age group.
6. For recent immigrant women, only 49 percent of those with both very young and older children participate in the labour force compared to 57 percent of those without any children and 64 percent of women with children older than 6 years of age.
7. Older recent immigrant men (aged 45-64 years) also show a fairly low participation rate relative to earlier immigrants. A possible explanation is the high incidence of lack of knowledge of official languages among recent immigrants aged 45-64. Another possible explanation is that typically recent immigrants in their late working ages have largely already acquired their education and professional experience before coming to Canada. And thus are likely to be more affected by difficulties in the assessment and recognition of international education and experience by local employers⁶.
8. Immigrant men who have been in Canada longer show higher participation rates than the Canadian-born residents for all age groups, except for those aged 35-44. This is not the case for immigrant women arriving in the same decades, who show substantially lower participation rates than the Canadian-born women.

⁵ It would have been more useful to compare the school attendance rate of immigrant age groups with that of non-immigrant in the same age groups. However we do not have detailed school attendance data for Ottawa's non-immigrant population.

⁶ For an analysis of the issues surrounding the recognition of the internationally trained workers, please refer to the "Interim Report for the Integration of Internationally-Trained Workers Project" by the Canadian Labour and Business Centre, (September 15, 2003), in collaboration with United Way/Centraide of Ottawa and LASI/World Skills

9. Recent immigrants in the labour force are mainly residing in Orléans, Innes, Gloucester-Southgate, Rideau-Rockliffe, Beacon Hill Cyrville, Bay, and Baseline.

Unemployment

1. Among those who participated in the labour force, the proportion that is unemployed (the unemployment rate) varies largely with age, immigration status, period of immigration, visible minority status, and by gender. Recent immigrant women who are also members of Ottawa's visible minority communities fared the worst.
2. In a period of almost full employment in Ottawa, 18 percent of recent, visible minority immigrant women who were available to work were unemployed. This compares to 11 percent of white recent immigrant women and 8 percent of white recent immigrant men in the labour force.
3. With more time in Canada, the incidence of unemployment among immigrants in the labour force generally diminishes, but it remains high for visible minority immigrant women. Only 3 percent of white immigrant men and 4 percent of white immigrant women arriving before 1991, who were available to work, were unemployed in 2001⁷. In comparison, among the visible minority immigrants in the labour force arriving before 1991, 6 percent of the men and 9 percent of the women were unemployed in 2001.
4. It is noteworthy that Canadian-born visible minority men display higher unemployment rate at 11 percent than recent immigrant men who are not members of visible minority groups, at 8 percent.

Occupational Distribution and Sectors of Employment

1. Recent immigrant employment is concentrated in occupations where the demand for labor has been the highest. In 2001, almost two thirds of employed recent immigrants (62 percent) held jobs in Ottawa's three fastest growing occupational categories: Manufacturing, Natural and Applied Sciences, and Social science, education, and government service jobs. In comparison, 28.3 percent of Ottawa workers in general were employed in these classes of jobs.
2. The relatively very high concentration of recent immigrants in jobs that were in highest demand signals that recent immigrants provided a large and ready pool of workers in Ottawa, lent a considerable flexibility to the economy and helped Ottawa meet its labour demand and economic growth.
3. To the exception of recent immigrants working in the Natural and Applied Sciences category of jobs, recent immigrants were mainly occupied in the lower ranks of most occupational categories. In addition, there is significant gender segregation in recent immigrants' occupations. For example, the analysis of the 2001 data uncovered that:

⁷ Data on labour force activity refers to the week prior to the Census day.

- Of the 7,590 recent immigrants working in Sales and Services occupations, 29 percent worked in retail sales, cashiers and in food and beverage occupations. Of these, 65 percent were women. Also within this category, 800 recent immigrants worked as childcare and home support workers; 730 were women.
- Almost three-quarters (71 percent) of recent immigrants with Business, Finance, and Administration related jobs were women. Moreover, recent immigrant women in this category of jobs were more likely than men to have professional positions within this category.
- Among the various industries that make up the Ottawa economy, the Public Administration sector was the largest employer during the year 2001⁸. This sector employed 18 percent of the Ottawa workforce (76,395 individuals) during the year 2001. In comparison, only 7.3 percent (2,395 workers) of working recent immigrants were employed in the “Public Administration” sector.

Self-employment

1. In Ottawa, immigrants are more likely to be self-employed than the Canadian-born workers. Overall there were 13,150 immigrants that were self-employed during the year 2001.
2. Among immigrants, those arriving in earlier decades have a higher propensity to work in own businesses than the more recent immigrants, suggesting that time spent in Canada is an important factor in facilitating the creation of business ventures by immigrants.
3. One-in-five immigrants arriving before 1980 (7,880 individuals) were self-employed during 2001. In comparison 11 percent of the 1981-1990 immigrants (2,775 individuals) and 7 percent of recent immigrants (2,495 individuals) worked in his/her own business ventures.
4. Almost one half (41 percent) of individual immigrants reporting to be self-employed said that they had paid staff working for them. This suggests that there is a considerable job creation capacity and potential within immigrant businesses in Ottawa.

Employment Earnings

1. Recent immigrants are much more likely than the Canadian-born workers in Ottawa to receive low earnings. Almost one-half of recent immigrants working for pay earned less \$20,000. This compares to 33 percent of non-immigrants and 29 percent of earlier immigrants.

⁸ “Public Administration” occupations include employment in agencies of all levels of government.

2. About 12 percent earned \$40,000-59,999 and 16 percent earned more than \$60,000. In comparison, 18 percent of earlier immigrants and 20 percent of non-immigrant workers earned employment incomes in the range of \$40,000-59,999. Similarly, 25 percent of earlier immigrants and 22 percent of non-immigrant workers received employment incomes above \$60,000.
3. Recent immigrants were as likely as earlier immigrants to be earning \$20,000-39,999. About 27 percent of both recent immigrant and earlier immigrants earned this range of employment income, while 25 percent of non-immigrant earners received this levels of employment income.
4. Earlier immigrants are more likely to receive higher employment incomes than are the Canadian-born workers in Ottawa. They are also less concentrated among the low earners than the Canadian-born workers in Ottawa. Hence the tendency to consider immigrants as one homogeneous group would miss the important economic gap between recent and earlier immigrants.
5. Looking with a gender lens, it results that recent immigrant women are much more likely than their male counterpart to be among Ottawa's low-earners. More than one-half of recent immigrant women working for pay (53 percent) earned less than \$20,000. This compares to 39 percent of recent immigrant men. Similarly, only 8 percent of recent immigrant women earned \$60,000 or more during the year 2000, while 22 percent of the men enjoyed these high levels of income.

Sources of Income

1. Compared to the composition of the sources of Canadian-born residents' total income Proportionally more of recent immigrants' total income comes from employment source.
2. During the year 2000, 84 percent of recent immigrants' combined total income came from employment, including self-employment; 10 percent came from governments as transfer payments (such as employment insurance, Canada Child Tax Benefits, Canada Pension Plans etc). Only 6 percent came from other sources such as investment incomes and private pensions.
3. In comparison, 70 percent of Canadian-born Ottawa residents' combined total income was employment earnings; 6.8 percent came from governments, and 14 percent from other private sources, including investments.
4. The relatively more heavy reliance of recent immigrants on employment incomes when they face higher unemployment rates for all age groups and lower employment earnings on average may be explained by the higher proportion of individuals in their working ages among recent immigrants. Almost 70 percent of recent immigrants (69.6 percent) were aged between 20-64 in the year 2001 compared to 61 percent of Ottawa's non-immigrant residents.
5. Moreover, it is noteworthy that a relatively very small share of recent immigrants' total income (6 percent compared to 14 percent for the Canadian-born Ottawa residents) is from sources other than employment and government transfer payments, indicating generally a higher vulnerability to economic fluctuations and labour market instabilities.

Low Income among Recent Immigrants

1. Considering the difficulties recent immigrants face in accessing appropriate employment even in periods of economic boom, and their over-reliance on employment as a source of income, it is not surprising to find a high incidence of low-income among them.
2. Almost one-half of unattached recent immigrants lived in poverty during the year 2000. In comparison, 37 percent of all unattached immigrants and 30 percent of unattached Canadian-born residents were poor.
3. The incidence of low income among economic families was much lower than that registered for unattached individuals for both immigrant and non-immigrant economic families. Recent immigrant economic families were almost twice as likely as non-immigrant economic families to live with low income (19 and 12 percent, respectively).

SECTION I - DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL COMPOSITION

There are 166,745 foreign-born residents in Ottawa, representing 21.8 percent of the Ottawa population. In addition, 104,415 Ottawa residents are born to at least one foreign-born parent. Meaning that more than one in three Ottawa residents (35 percent) are either immigrants or children of one or two immigrant parents. Recent immigrants represent the largest share of immigrants in Ottawa. In fact, among all immigrants:

- 38 percent are recent immigrants who came to Canada during the decade between 1991 and 2001;
- 21 percent came between 1981-1990;
- 15 percent came between 1971-1980
- 12 percent came between 1961-1970;
- 14 percent came before 1961.

Given the growing importance of immigration as a source of population growth, and thus for the City's economy, culture, and vitality, understanding the socio-cultural and socio-economic characteristics of immigrants becomes very important from the viewpoint of multicultural service planning and program design.

The Diversity within the Ottawa Immigrants

Often in popular discourses and perceptions, immigrants are considered as a homogeneous group, which is also not dissimilar from visible minority groups. This is an erroneous perception that may lead to not only potentially ineffective policy prescriptions and program design, but also to socially harmful racist attitudes that tend to define Canadian residents on the basis of their not being white.

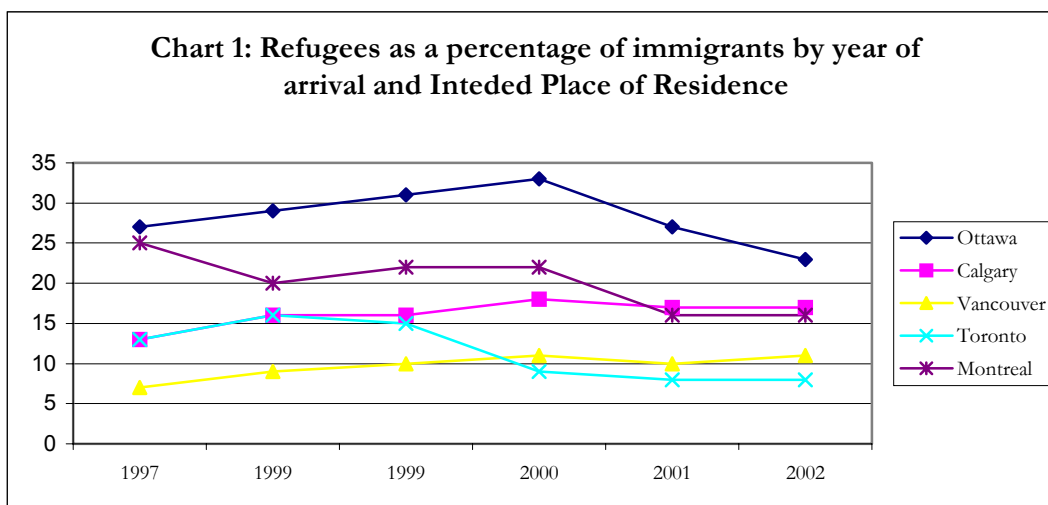
As will be seen from the analysis of the following subsections, there is a significant diversity among Ottawa's immigrant population; diversity with respect to their circumstances of arrival, cultural background, race, language, and time spent in Canada.

Circumstances of Arrival

Compared to other large immigrant receiving cities in Canada, Ottawa features by far the largest share of refugees among its newcomers. The average annual share of refugees among those intending to settle in Ottawa has been 29 percent over the 1997-2002 period, compared to 11 percent in Toronto, 10 percent in Vancouver, and 19 percent in Montreal⁹. It is also of particular note, that in its immigration plans, the government of Canada targets to admit 12 percent of all newcomers under the refugee class, including the privately sponsored, and in-land processed refugees¹⁰. Thus, compared to other cities and to Canada as whole, Ottawa received disproportionate share refugees among its newcomers.

⁹ Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Facts and Figures, 2002 and 1999.

¹⁰ See the glossary of terms for a definition refugee sub-categories.



Source: Our Graphic representation of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Data.
Data adopted from the 1999 and 2002 issues of CIC's Facts and Figures

The large proportion of refugees among Ottawa's recent newcomers has profound implications from the viewpoint of newcomers' settlement and integration process. Refugees encounter more hurdles in their settlement and integration process than the other class of newcomers due mainly to the unplanned nature of their emigration from their home countries (Tonks and Paranjpe, 1999). Moreover, once in Canada, refugee claimants have a different legal status than do other classes of newcomers, which may preclude them from accessing some of the existing social equity programs. For example, refugee claimant families do not have access to the National Child Tax Benefit (Kwan, 1998); and until recently (August 2003) convention refugees wishing to get higher education were not eligible for federal student loans (Slobodian and Kits, 2003)¹¹. Also, refugees are required to seek work permit to work in Canada: a fact that may add to the labor market barriers experienced by newcomers in general. Ottawa-based research is needed to investigate the social and economic conditions of Ottawa residents who came to Canada as refugees and their integration process into the local mainstream society.

In addition to recent immigrants coming from abroad, Ottawa also attracts immigrants from other Canadian cities. The 2001 mobility data for recent immigrants reveal that 11 percent of recent immigrants currently residing in Ottawa (7,065) moved from other Canadian cities during the 5 years preceding the Census. Of these, 42 percent moved from other Ontario cities, while the remainder moved from cities outside of the Ontario province. The economic boom that the city experienced during the latter part of the 1990s partly explains the attraction Ottawa held for recent immigrants residing in other Canadian cities. Research based on the first interviews of a longitudinal survey of immigrants to Canada (LSIC) jointly conducted by Statistics Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada has shown that, after family and social networks, the perceived prospect of good employment motivates immigrants' choice of settlement location.

¹¹ Louise Slobodian and Harry J. Kits. 2003. Access to Student Loans for Refugees: A Success Story in Policy Change, published by the Caledon Institute

Countries of Origin and Period of Immigration

Generally, the composition of immigrants' source countries and the number and proportions of immigrants admitted under the various immigration classes vary with Canada's immigration policy and with international geopolitical and economic-triggered events. The liberalization of Canada's immigration policy and widespread political and economic unrest in the southern and eastern hemisphere of the globe have led to an increase in the share of immigrants coming from Asian, African and South-American countries.

The socio-cultural composition of immigrants in Ottawa is a reflection of such national and global changes. Table 1 reports on changes in the countries of origin most frequently reported by immigrants settling in Ottawa over the last few decades. More than half of those arriving to Canada during the 1991-2001 period came from China, Somalia, Lebanon, the Caribbean countries and Bermuda, and from the former Yugoslavia. Data in Table 1 also show that while China, Lebanon and Caribbean and Bermuda countries have been constant source of new immigrants to Ottawa over the last three to four decades, Somalia and former Yugoslavia are reported as source countries by immigrants living in Ottawa only during the 1991-2001 decade. Emigration from the latter two countries is the consequence of recent domestic civil and political unrest. Consequently, newcomers from these two countries came to Ottawa largely through Canada's refugee class and may account for the large proportion of refugees among Ottawa's recent immigrants.

Table 1: The Top 5 Countries of Origin of Recent Immigrants by Period of Immigration

1991-2001	1981-1990	1971-1980	1961-1970	Before 1961
China	Lebanon	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Somalia	China	Caribbean and Bermuda	Italy	Italy
Lebanon	Vietnam	China	United States	Germany
Caribbean and Bermuda	Caribbean and Bermuda	Lebanon	Caribbean and Bermuda	Netherlands
Former Yugoslavia	United Kingdom	United States	China	Poland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 32,355 individuals ▪ 51 percent of individuals arriving during 1991-2001 decade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 13,600 individuals ▪ 39 percent of immigrants arriving during 1981-1990 decade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 11,890 individuals ▪ 47 percent of arriving during 1971-1980 decade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12,150 individuals ▪ 58 percent of immigrants arriving during 1961-1970 decade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 15,650 individuals ▪ 67 percent of immigrants arriving before 1961

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census. Data refers to the Ontario part of Ottawa-Gatineau

Table 2 provides a more detailed look at data on the top twenty countries of origin of all immigrants residing in Ottawa and of recent immigrants. United Kingdom and China are the most frequently reported countries of origin by immigrants in Ottawa. Data in the table also show that the source countries of immigrants living in Ottawa are extremely diverse in terms of history, culture, ethnicity, and language, and that immigrants are spread into many very small cultural groups. To the exception of immigrants coming from the United Kingdom and China, the share of immigrants coming from any individual source country does not exceed the 5.9 percent share of immigrants (9,865 individuals) born in Lebanon.

Table 2: The Top 20 countries of birth of immigrants living in Ottawa, 2001

	Total Immigrants		Recent Immigrants	
	Number	Percentage of total immigrants	Number	Percent of immigrants that are recent immigrants
Total - Place of birth of respondents	168,125	100.0	63,945	38.0
United Kingdom	20,245	12.0	1,550	7.7
China and Special Administrative Regions ¹²	16,390	9.7	10,045	61.3
Lebanon	9,865	5.9	3,110	31.5
United States	9,445	5.6	3,150	33.4
India	7,275	4.3	1,850	25.4
Italy	6,840	4.1	2,720	39.8
Viet Nam	6,695	4.0	145	2.2
Germany	5,520	3.3	1,480	26.8
Poland	4,945	2.8	510	10.3
Somalia	4,575	2.6	3,830	83.7
Yugoslavia, Former	4,885	2.8	985	20.2
Philippines	4,180	2.4	3,095	74.0
Hong Kong	3,660	2.1	2,320	63.4
Jamaica	3,450	2.0	885	25.7
Iran	3,160	1.8	1,895	60.0
Haiti	3,175	1.8	2,400	75.6
Netherlands	3,180	1.8	620	19.5
Portugal	2,970	1.7	1,365	46.0
Sri Lanka	2,500	1.4	95	3.8
Pakistan	2,230	1.3	135	6.1
France	1,965	1.1	545	27.7

Data in the last column of Table 2 show the proportion of immigrants from a given country that has arrived during the 1991-2001 decade. This statistic can be used as an indicator of the settlement history of immigrant communities in Canada, with high proportions indicating a fairly recent arrival and “shallow roots in Canada” (Biles, 1998). In other words, a high proportion of recent arrivals within a given immigrant community indicates an early stage in the same community’s collective integration process. Chart 2 shows that the Somali community in Ottawa features the highest proportion (84 percent) of recent arrivals among its members, followed by Ottawa’s former Yugoslavian Community (74 percent), the Filipino Community (63 percent), the Chinese Community (61 percent), the Iranian Community (60 percent), and Haitian Community (46 percent).

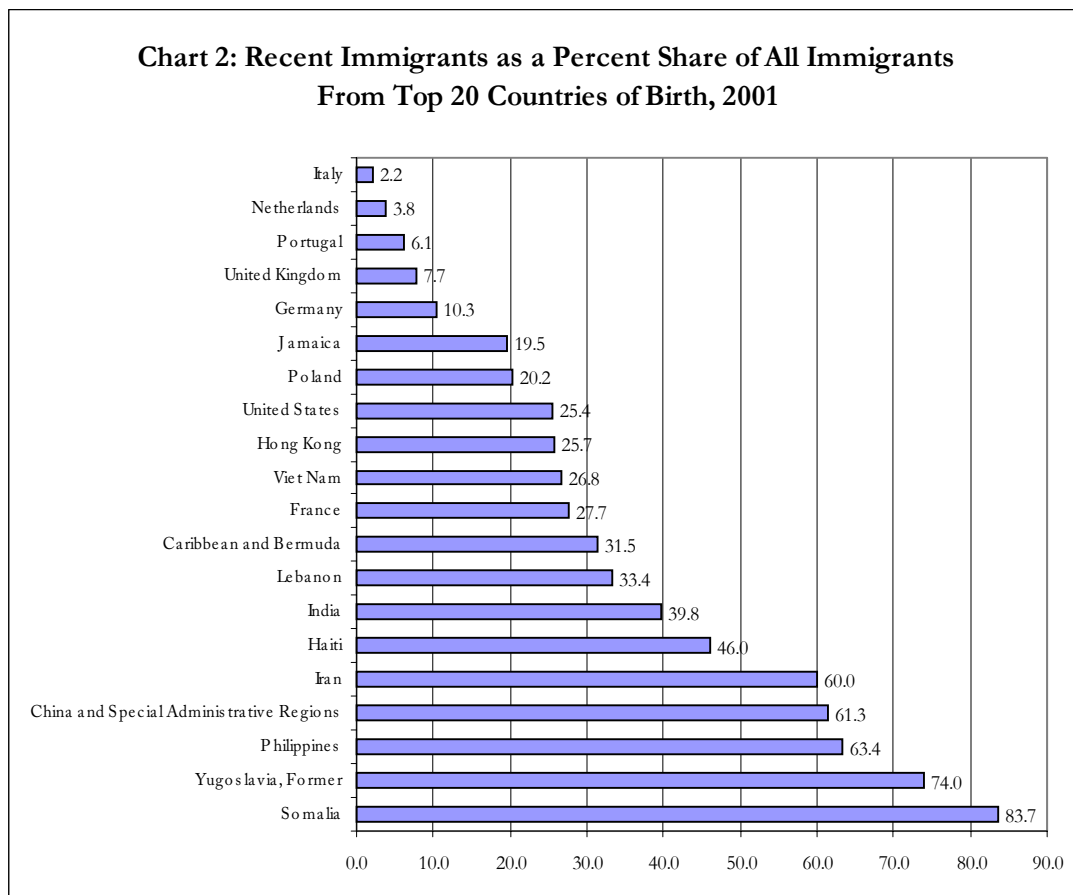
¹² China and Special Administrative Regions include People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Macau.

This indicator has profound implications for the success of individual immigrants’ integration process since immigrants start their integration process from within their local co-national, co-culture, immigrant community (ies). As Dr. Weinfeld has put it, “integration is usually a **nested** process. Immigrants often integrate into a family, then neighborhood, ethnic sub-community, ethnic community, and then lastly -- if at all -- into an amorphous Canadian society” (Weinfeld, Metropolis Website, **emphasis is original**). Evidence from the first interviews of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants in Canada confirmed Dr. Weinfeld’s observation.

“What is clear from the LSIC survey results is that family and friends not only decidedly influence where immigrants settle, but are also critical sources of support in other areas of the integration process, such as finding a place to live, accessing health services, strengthening skills and finding a job”. (CIC: 2004c).

In other words, the social and economic assets of local immigrant communities are an important leverage for new immigrants’ efforts to integrate into the mainstream society. Thus, newcomers joining immigrant communities that are largely composed of recent immigrants can be expected to face more challenge in their integration process since both the Canadian experience and the socio-economic conditions of these communities are generally precarious (Beiser, 1988).

**Chart 2: Recent Immigrants as a Percent Share of All Immigrants
From Top 20 Countries of Birth, 2001**



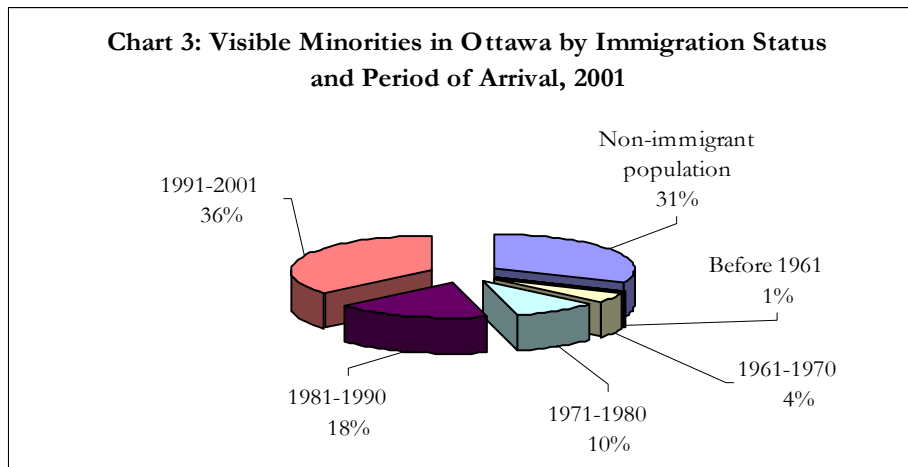
From the viewpoint of service planning and program design, the 2001 data and the Canadian literature indicate that an undistinguished regrouping of Ottawa’s foreign-born population into one homogenous group would indeed fail to address the needs and concerns of individual immigrant communities. The current distribution of immigrants into many very small cultural groups, the different settlement history of each group, and the varying nature and depth of specific communities’ social ties to the mainstream society preclude any usefulness from city level ‘one-size-fits-all’ measures.

To the extent in which there is a neighborhood concentration of individual cultural groups, however, there is a room for the integration of the needs of specific groups into mainstream neighborhood social service planning in the area of parks and recreation, childcare, transportation, family health, employment support, and youth services, among others. Such multicultural service planning needs to be based on a comprehensive neighborhood-level research within the City; research that sheds light on the cultural composition of specific neighborhood residents and on their diverse concerns and strengths. Also since the geographic distribution of specific cultural groups may change over time, it is necessary to constantly scan the demographic and cultural composition of residents by neighborhood so as to tailor service provision to residents’ needs.

Visible Minority Groups and Immigration Status

Although visible minority groups have a centuries-long history in Canada, the number of visible minority Canadians has been increasing rapidly and steadily through immigration over the last few decades (Chantra, 2001). Consequently, as is the case for many other groups, there is some overlap between Canada’s immigrant and visible minority populations. The degree to which there is an overlap between these segments of the Canadian population varies largely through time and across Canadian cities, depending on an individual city’s history.

In Ottawa, members of visible minority groups are largely (by 66 percent) immigrants. A significant share of visible minority immigrants (35 percent) came to Canada between 1991-2001. Looking from the perspective of immigrants, more than one-half of all immigrants living in Ottawa (54 percent) are members of Ottawa’s visible minority communities.



On the other hand, it is important to note that approximately one-third (31 percent) of the members of Ottawa’s visible minority groups is born in Canada. The share of Canadian-born individuals in specific visible minority groups varies greatly across communities. Table 3 shows that 60 percent of the members of Ottawa’s Japanese Community are born in Canada. The local Black community follows suite, with 38 percent of its members being born in Canada. The West Asian Community in Ottawa counts the lowest share of Canadian-born residents among its members (15 percent).

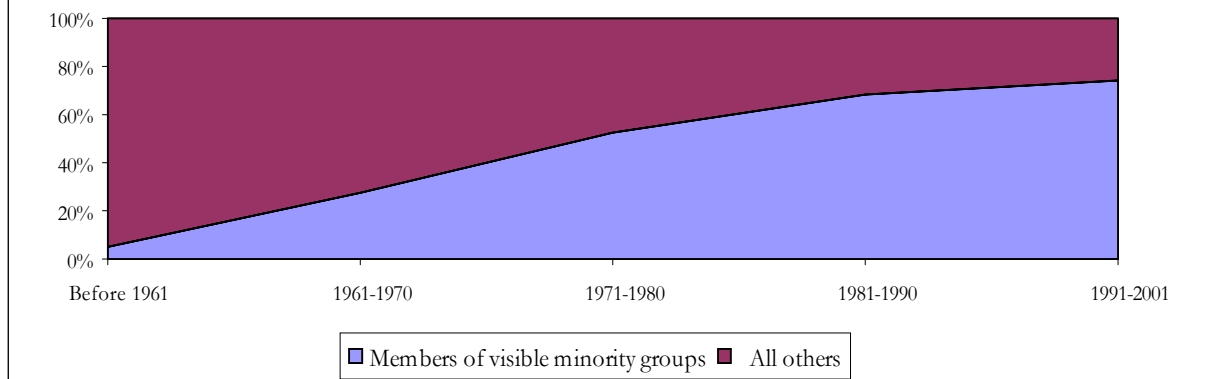
Table 3 shows that a different ranking is found when looking at the proportion of recent immigrants comprised in different visible minority groups. The highest proportion of recent immigrants is found amongst the West Asian and Filipino Communities (51 and 47 percent, respectively); followed by the Chinese, Arab, South Asian, and Black Communities at 40, 36, 34 and 33 percent respectively.

Table 3: Visible Minority Groups in Ottawa by Immigration Status, 2001

Visible Minority Groups	Total Population	Non-Immigrant Population		Immigrant Population		Recent Immigrant Population	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Chinese	27685	7290	26.3	19475	70.3	10945	39.5
South Asian	21705	6020	27.7	15065	69.4	7340	33.8
Black	34645	13235	38.2	19915	57.5	11425	33.0
Filipino	4855	1140	23.5	3565	73.5	2270	46.8
Latin American	6455	1165	18.1	4975	77.0	2040	31.7
Southeast Asian	8670	2450	28.3	6045	69.7	1735	20.0
Arab	20370	57 00	28.0	13685	67.2	7330	36.0
West Asian	5040	750	14.9	4005	79.4	2560	50.8
Korean	1445	280	19.2	940	65.1	590	40.4
Japanese	1495	890	59.7	435	28.9	205	13.8
Visible minority, not included above	2380	745	31.2	1600	67.2	550	23.0
Multiple visible minorities	2490	1190	47.7	1225	49.3	470	18.8
Non-VM	626550	548165	87.5	75820	12.1	16245	2.6
Total Visible Minorities	137245	40845	29.7	90925	66.3	47460	34.6
Total Population	763790	589010	77.1	166745	21.8	63705	8.3

These data somewhat point to the City’s fairly recent exposure to issues arising from cultural and racial diversity. That is, the diversity of the Ottawa population is mainly fuelled by recent immigration. The data displayed through Chart 4 show that the share of visible minorities in successive immigration cohorts has been increasing progressively over the decades and that the 1991-2001 arrival cohort comprises the largest share of Ottawa’s visible minority residents (74 percent).

Chart 4: 2001 Distribution of Ottawa's Immigrants by Visible Minority Status and Period of Arrival



It must be noted that the current overlap between Ottawa's visible minority and immigrant population may change in the future depending on the racial composition of future immigrants, and the childbearing behavior of visible minority immigrants. While individuals' immigration status changes with the second generation, the visible minority status is transmitted to successive generations. Thus despite current significant overlap between Ottawa's visible minority and immigrant populations, it is inappropriate to consider the two groups as one. Such perception would lead to an exclusionary social behavior that relates Canadian identity to one's skin colour.

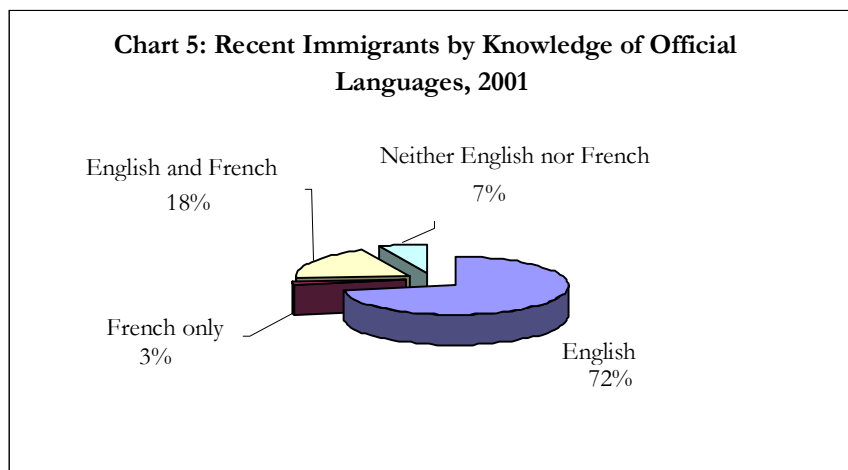
To the extent that immigrants' integration process is a function of time, it is largely to be expected that the socioeconomic conditions of individual visible minority groups would vary with the generation and immigration status of its membership, and with the collective history of specific groups. Communities that are mainly composed of Canadian-born individuals would generally fare better than would those largely composed of recent immigrants.

Language - Both a uniting and a distancing cultural identity

The challenges posed by the distribution of Ottawa's immigrant population into small-sized cultural groups is somewhat mitigated by the fact that immigrants coming from different countries of the world may share one or more cultural features. Of course some cultural traits do not lend themselves to statistical measurement, but among those measurable attributes, the 2001 census data show that language and religion are two of the most shared cultural identities among recent immigrants and between these and local communities. This sub section will address the problematic around language in immigrants' integration process.

One of the main determinants of the success of immigrants' integration into the Canadian mainstream society is knowledge of Canada's official languages. It is this understanding which informs Canada's selection system of immigrants, where an important weight is attached to prospective immigrants' knowledge of official languages. The 2001 census data on recent immigrants' knowledge of the official languages shows that such focus has largely paid-off: almost all recent immigrants (93 percent) reported to

be proficient in either or both official languages. Only 7 percent (4,459 individuals) said that they knew neither English nor French¹³.



Despite such widespread reported knowledge of Canada's official languages, language remains one of the main hurdles in immigrants' access to employment and services and thus affects their social and economic integration into the large society (Kwan, 1999; Schellenberg, 2004; Lockhead, 2003; Conference Board of Canada, 2004; Besner, 2003).

The problems posed by language in immigrants' integration process stems from the large cultural distance between most recent immigrants and local populations. As is well known, culture informs language in peculiar, largely not understood ways. Therefore, as individuals foreign to Canada's dominant cultures go through the formal learning of local official languages either in Canada or abroad, they tend to do so through the understanding of reality provided by their respective cultures. Thus, despite a widespread knowledge of local official languages, it is only after a long stay in Canada that immigrants come to learn the culture-based nuances, categorizations, and understandings that are embedded into the English and French languages and that have been developed through centuries of local peoples' collective experiences. Given this cultural distance, problems of communication between most recent immigrants and local populations are to be expected and dealt with, without penalizing the former group. Similarly, any expectation that immigrants ought to 'sound', 'express' themselves and 'behave' as the local populations is not only misplaced but also violates the legally sanctioned right of foreign-born Canadian residents to cultural distinctiveness.

These culture-based communication problems affect immigrants' access to employment. In a recent study based on a Canadian Business and Labour Centre (CBLC) survey of public and private employers and labor leaders across Canada, Lockhead (2004) has reported that two-thirds of respondents expecting to hire new employees would not hire foreign-trained individuals due largely to perceived language problems. A local research

¹³ It is necessary to point out that these data do not indicate how or where recent immigrants acquired their current knowledge of official languages. That is, it is possible that the current widespread knowledge of official languages among recent immigrants is the result of their participation in language training programs in Ottawa or elsewhere in Canada since their arrival.

on immigrants' employment needs, recently conducted by the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation and the Talent Works Program (2004), has somewhat confirmed CBLC's finding and conveyed the following view of local employers participating in the study (p. 12):

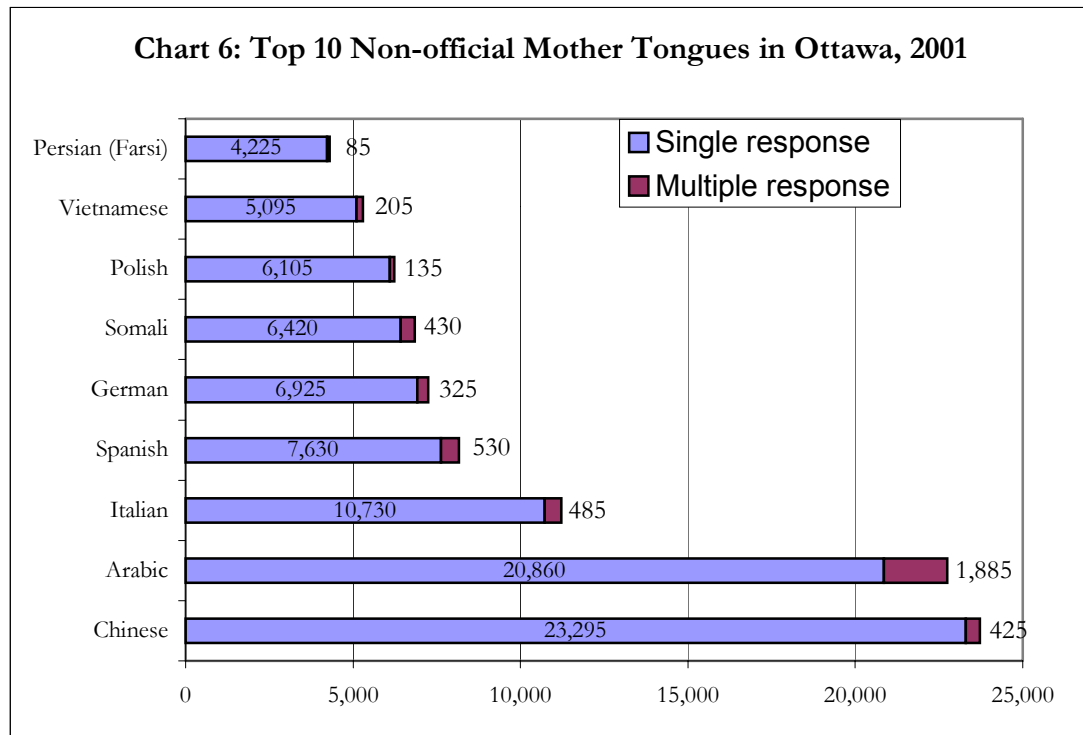
“In many cases, the general communication skills of immigrants are inadequate. Lack of industry-specific terminology is also a concern. [...]. Employers are reluctant to hire immigrants or participate in work placements because of risks associated with health and safety standards for employees or interns whose lack of language skills could result in workplace injuries and subsequent claims for disability insurance or Workplace Safety and Insurance Board benefits. Employers are interested in getting financial compensation to hire immigrants to offset additional expenses that can be incurred as a result.”

While paying employers to benefit from the work of qualified immigrants may seem largely unjustified, the point is very clear. Employers perceive that they would risk a financial loss if they hire immigrants. Such perception ought to be dealt with through an incentive system that induces employers to hire qualified immigrants, by linking business advantages (such as access to public contracts) to the number of qualified immigrants hired. In addition, public education campaigns and training in Ottawa's workplaces might sensitize employers to the complexities and advantages of a diverse workforce. These and other solutions are pressing since both the size of the immigrant population and the cultural diversity of the Ottawa population are expected to increase in the coming years.

Among recent immigrants, approximately 16 percent (10,435 individuals) have reported to have either English or French as mother tongue. These groups of immigrants would generally not face the above described language issues and are thus likely to experience less stresses in their integration process. Immigrants with French as a mother tongue, who have no knowledge of the English language, may however face restricted opportunities in Ottawa, given the prevalence of the English language in the City's labour market¹⁴.

Finally, there are 10,635 individuals in Ottawa that speak neither English nor French. Less than one-half of these (42 percent) are recent immigrants; 22 percent are Canadian-born, and 31 are immigrants arriving before 1991. The fact that almost a quarter of those without any knowledge of the official languages are Canadian-born residents is indicative of a certain separation between Ottawa's linguistic communities.

¹⁴ For a detailed profile of Francophone immigrants within Ottawa's Francophone Community, please refer to SPC's report "Les Francophones d'Ottawa: Profil statistique de la communauté francophone basé sur le recensement 2001 de Statistique Canada et recensement des atouts de la communauté



Among recent immigrants, individuals aged 45 and over are least likely to have knowledge of Canada's official languages. More than half of recent immigrant seniors (1,465 individuals) speaks neither English nor French; whereas only 2 percent of recent immigrants aged-15-44 have no knowledge of Canada's official languages.

Table 4: 2001 Age-Group Distribution of Recent Immigrants with no Knowledge of official languages

Age Groups	All Recent Immigrants	Number without any Knowledge of English or French	Percent of recent immigrants without any knowledge of official languages
Less than 14 years	11,455	685	6
15-24	9,650	185	2
25-44	32,130	790	2
45-64	7,825	1,290	16
65 and over	2,895	1,465	51
Total	63,955	4,415	7

Source: Statistics Canada: 2001 Census of Canadian Population. 97F0009XCB01040. Data refers to the Ontario part of Ottawa-Gatineau

From the viewpoint of service planning and program design, it is important to offer essential local services, such as family health, emergency services including shelters, and social housing in Ottawa's main non-official languages. Meeting this need is facilitated by the fact that, despite the distribution of Ottawa's immigrants into many small cultural groups, immigrants coming from many otherwise different countries may speak the same language. Chart 6 shows that the most frequently reported non-official mother tongues in Ottawa. The Arabic and Spanish languages, and to a certain extent the Chinese language, are shared by residents originally from many different countries of the world. For example, the Arabic language is mother tongue to 22,745 Ottawa residents who are originally from over 15 countries¹⁵.

For not shared languages like the German, Somali, Polish, Vietnamese, Persian, Portuguese, and other languages spoken by a small number of Ottawa residents, resource can be saved by utilizing cultural and language interpretation to serve communities where knowledge of official languages is not prevalent.

¹⁵ The source countries of recent immigrants speaking the Arabic language include: Lebanon, Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Libya, Palestine, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.

Cross Cutting Issues: Age Composition

Immigrants' demographic characteristics such as an individual's age, gender, marital status, and family status have important impact on the speed and success of an immigrant's integration process. The following paragraphs will regroup immigrants into age groups and period of arrival so as to help identify some of the cross cutting issues faced by immigrants in their integration process.

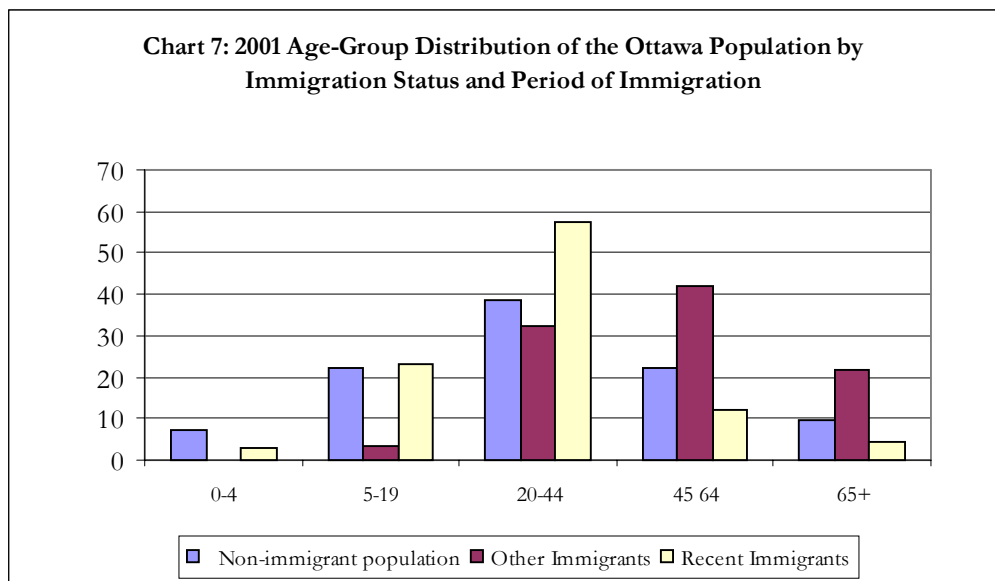
Immigrant Children

The age composition of immigrants upon arrival has been rather stable over time. However, given the passage of time since the arrival of immigrants coming to Canada in previous decades, and the comparatively larger size of the 1991-2001 cohort, recent immigrants comprise most of the child and youth immigrants in Ottawa.

Overall, there are 12,375 immigrant children aged 0-14 in Ottawa. Almost all immigrant children (91 percent) came to Canada between the 1991-2001 period.

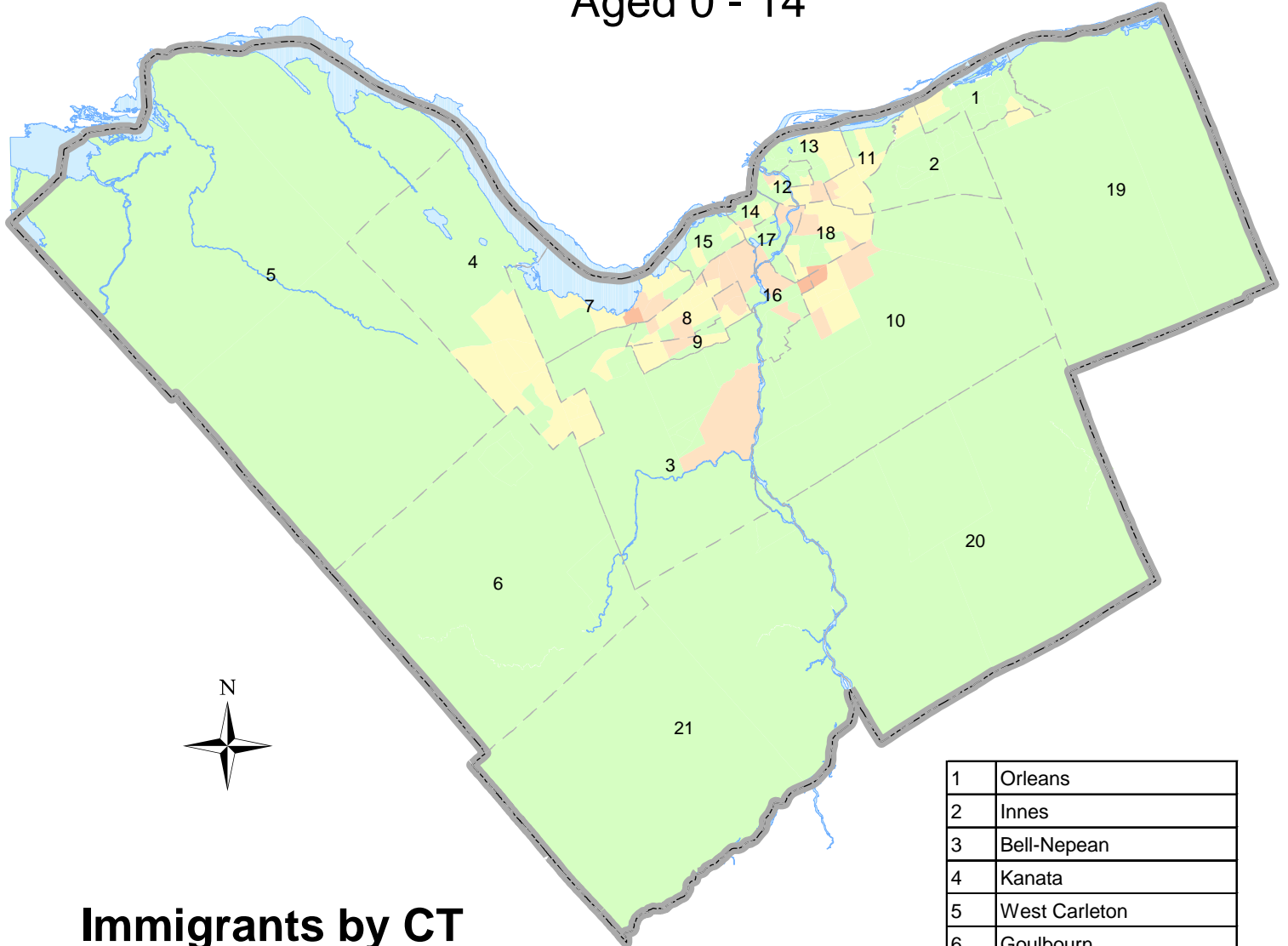
The large number of recent immigrant children in Ottawa coupled with their cultural and racial diversity point to the need for culturally appropriate childcare, grade school education, and recreation services in Ottawa. The provision of culturally appropriate child welfare services would ensure that immigrant children be appropriately engaged so as to develop a positive sense of self (United Way, 2003). Such services are essential for these children's future wellbeing and general ability to effectively participate in the City's economy and culture in their adulthood.

As shown in Map 1, recent immigrant children are mostly concentrated in a neighborhood between River, Alta Vista, and Gloucester Southgate, as well as some neighborhoods in the Bay ward.

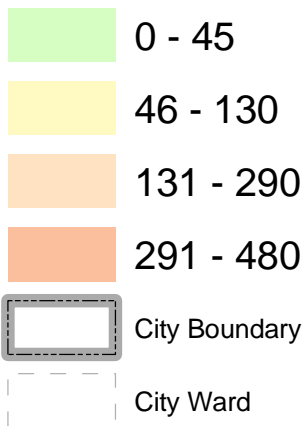


Map 1: Number of Recent Immigrants

Aged 0 - 14



Immigrants by CT



1	Orleans
2	Innes
3	Bell-Nepean
4	Kanata
5	West Carleton
6	Goulbourn
7	Bay
8	Baseline
9	Knoxdale - Merivale
10	Gloucester - Southgate
11	Beacon Hill - Cyrville
12	Rideau - Vanier
13	Rideau - Rockcliffe
14	Somerset
15	Kitchissippi
16	River
17	Capital
18	Alta Vista
19	Cumberland
20	Osgoode
21	Rideau



Immigrant Youth

Approximately 18 percent of Ottawa's youth aged 15-24 are immigrants (18,160 individuals). Of these, almost two-thirds (60 percent or 10,890 individuals) are recent immigrants. This demographic group is in a delicate human developmental stage, characterized by transition and growth. For immigrant youth, and particularly recent immigrant youth, the stresses involved in the transition to adulthood is coupled with that stemming from the process of adaptation to new socio-cultural environment. These stresses are often also exacerbated by lack of economic and financial resources within in their families. It is therefore crucial that social services planners in Ottawa be conscious of the delicate challenges that recent immigrant youth face.

Recent immigrant youth (15-24 year-olds) mainly reside in BellSouth Nepean, Baseline, Knoxdale-Merivale, Capital, and Alta Vista (see Map 2).

Table 5: Immigrants in Ottawa by Age Groups and Period of Immigration, 2001

	Before 1980		1981-1990		1991-2001		Total Immigrants	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percent that is Recent immigrants
Children (0-14)	0	0.0	1015	2.9	11360	17.8	12,375	91
Youth (15-24)	450	0.7	5995	17.4	9615	15.1	16,060	59.9
Working Age (25-64)	48100	70.1	24960	72.5	39840	62.5	112,900	35.3
Seniors (65 and over)	20065	29.2	2450	7.1	2885	4.5	25,400	11.4
Total	68615	100.0	34420	100.0	63700	100.0	166,735	38.2

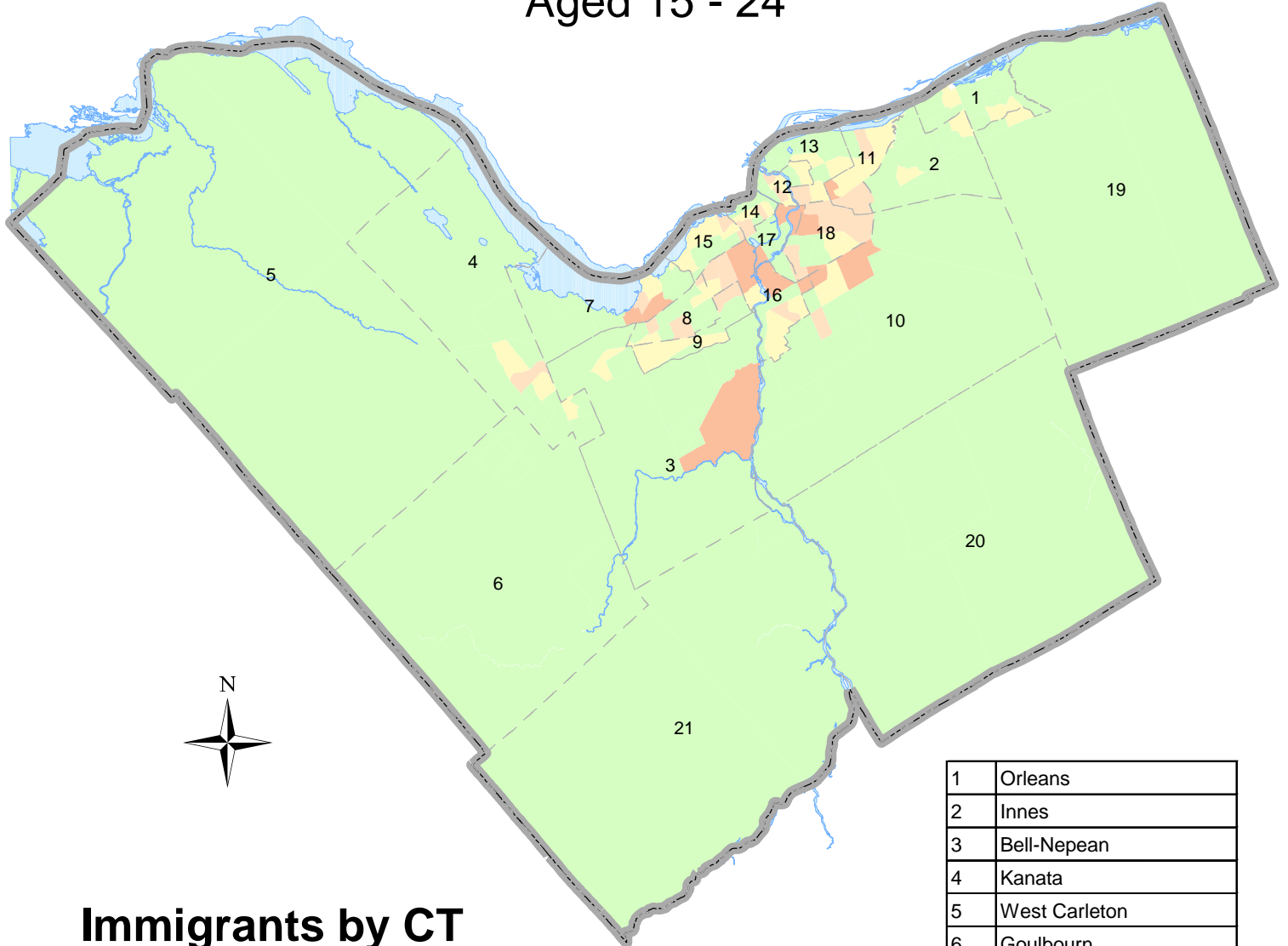
Immigrants in Working Ages

Individuals in their working age represent the largest age group among Ottawa's immigrants (68 percent of all immigrants). Currently there are 112,900 immigrants in their working ages in Ottawa. Of these, more than one-third (35 percent or 39,840 individuals) are recent immigrants who came to Canada during the 1991-2001 decade. Almost a quarter (22 percent) came during the 1981-1990 period and 43 percent came before 1981.

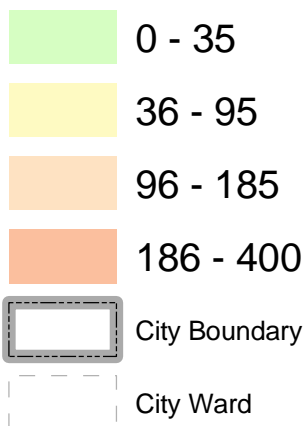
Generally immigrants currently in their working ages who came to Canada during previous decades in their childhood or youth would have had more time to adjust to Canada's dominant cultures, labour markets and workplaces. Conversely, recent immigrants who come to Canada during their working ages would typically face more difficulties in their economic integration.

Map 2: Number of Recent Immigrants

Aged 15 - 24



Immigrants by CT



1	Orleans
2	Innes
3	Bell-Nepean
4	Kanata
5	West Carleton
6	Goulbourn
7	Bay
8	Baseline
9	Knoxdale - Merivale
10	Gloucester - Southgate
11	Beacon Hill - Cyrville
12	Rideau - Vanier
13	Rideau - Rockcliffe
14	Somerset
15	Kitchissippi
16	River
17	Capital
18	Alta Vista
19	Cumberland
20	Osgoode
21	Rideau

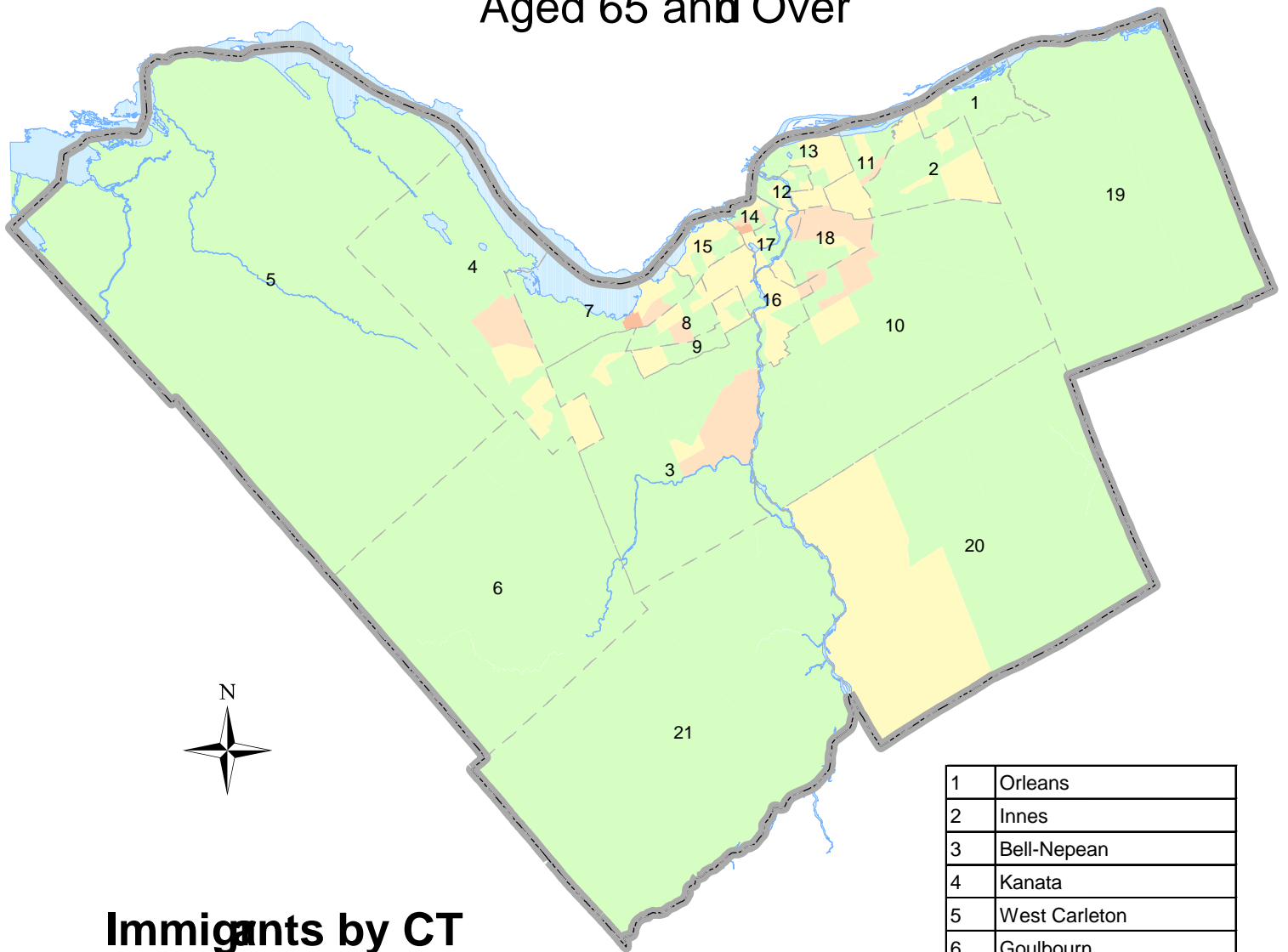


Immigrant Seniors

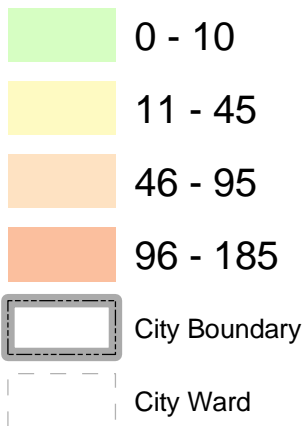
Immigrants aged 65 and over represent about one-third of Ottawa's senior population. Most of Ottawa's current immigrant seniors came to Canada during earlier decades in their youth and working ages. Only 5 percent of recent immigrants (2,885 individuals) are currently aged 65 years and over. Recent immigrant seniors are likely to live with low income due to the fact that they have little or no work history in Canada and thus do not have access to work-related pensions.

Moreover, as reported above, about 51 percent of recent immigrant seniors speak neither English nor French. Map 3 shows that recent immigrant seniors are concentrated in Ottawa's Bay and Somerset wards.

Map 3: Number of Recent Immigrants Aged 65 and Over



Immigrants by CT



1	Orleans
2	Innes
3	Bell-Nepean
4	Kanata
5	West Carleton
6	Goulbourn
7	Bay
8	Baseline
9	Knoxdale - Merivale
10	Gloucester - Southgate
11	Beacon Hill - Cyrville
12	Rideau - Vanier
13	Rideau - Rockcliffe
14	Somerset
15	Kitchissippi
16	River
17	Capital
18	Alta Vista
19	Cumberland
20	Osgoode
21	Rideau



SECTION II - SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The following subsections will examine the degree to which recent immigrants participate in the Ottawa economy. Several indicators will be used to do such assessment. First the 2001, age- and gender-specific labor force participation rates and unemployment rates will be reported for recent immigrants, earlier immigrants, and non-immigrant groups. Second, recent immigrants' occupations, class of work (i.e. whether salaried or earning income from self-employment), and earnings will be analyzed. Third, the sources and adequacy of recent immigrants' total incomes will be reported.

Labour Market Integration

Participation Rates

The 2001 data indicate that the labour force participation of immigrants generally increases with length of time spent in Canada. This is true for both genders and for each age group, suggesting a gradual adaptation process to the local labour market over time.

Table 6 provides data on the 2001 participation rates of the Ottawa residents aged 15-64 years, by age group, immigration status, and period of immigration. The data reveal that recent immigrants of all age groups and of both genders show substantially lower participation rates than both the Canadian-born residents and earlier immigrants.

However, the participation rate differential between recent immigrants and both the Canadian-born population and earlier immigrants varies greatly with age and by gender. Recent immigrant youth and recent immigrant women compare least favorably to the Canadian-born residents. While 73 percent of Canadian-born youth aged 15-24 years participate in the labour force, only 54 percent of recent immigrant male youth in the same age group and 49 percent of the female youth partake in the City's labour force. The participation rate of older (than 24) recent immigrant women is also very low, but is relatively highest for the 45-54 years old women, 70 percent of which are in the City's labour force.

Table 6: 2001 Labour Force Participation Rates, by Gender, Age Group, and Immigration Status

		15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	54-64
Male	Total Working-age Population	70	93	93	90	66
	Non-immigrant population	73	94	94	90	62
	Immigrant population	59	90	91	91	73
	1991-2001	54	87	88	82	60
	1981-1990	65	89	91	88	69
	Before 1981	79	94	93	91	79
Female	Total Working-age Population	69	81	65	81	47
	Non-immigrant population	73	87	67	82	46
	Immigrant population	56	68	57	79	49
	1991-2001	49	62	57	70	35
	1981-1990	58	70	63	75	38
	Before 1981	67	78	69	79	50

Generally, the labour force participation rate of youth and women are limited by these groups' school attendance and childbearing and raising activities, respectively; and recent immigrants are no exceptions in this regard. Thus the very low labour force participation of recent immigrant youth is partly explained by a higher incidence of school attendance within the group. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of recent immigrant youth aged 15-24 years are attending school full time, compared to 63 percent of all youth (including immigrants¹⁶) in the same age group. For recent immigrant women, only 49 percent of those with both very young and older children participate in the labour force compared to 57 percent of those without any children and 64 percent of women with children older than 6 years of age.

**Table 7: 2001 Labour Force Participation Rates of Recent Immigrant Women
By Presence of Children**

Recent immigrant women:	Participation Rates
with no children	57
with children under 6 only	53
With Children under 6 as well as older children	49
with children older than 6	64

Conversely, the participation rate of recent immigrant men aged 25-45 is relatively high and, although lower, is very close to that of Canadian-born Ottawa residents and earlier immigrants in similar age groups. Older recent immigrant men (aged 45-64 years), however, show a fairly low participation rate relative to earlier immigrants. A possible explanation is the high incidence of lack of knowledge of official languages among recent immigrants aged 45-64. Table 4 in the previous section shows that 16 percent of recent immigrants in this age group do not have any knowledge of Canada's official languages. Another possible explanation is that typically, recent immigrants in their late working ages have already acquired their education and professional experience in their countries of origin. And thus are more likely to be affected by the unusual difficulties in the assessment and recognition of international education and experience by local employers¹⁷.

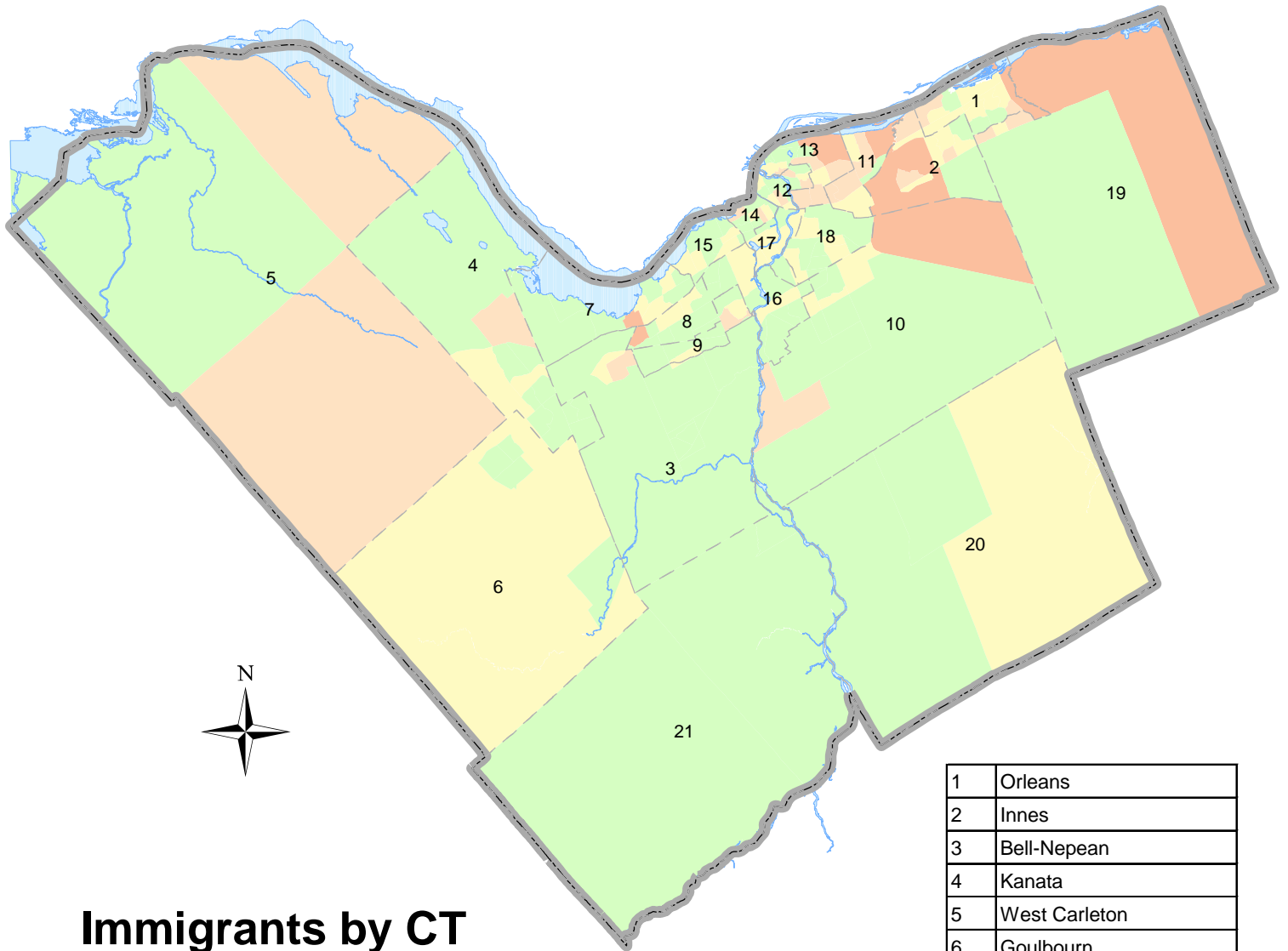
Immigrant men who have been in Canada longer, on the other hand, show higher participation rates than the Canadian-born residents for all age groups, except for those aged 35-44. This is not the case for immigrant women arriving in the same decades, who show substantially lower participation rates than the Canadian-born women.

Map 4 shows that recent immigrants in the labour force are mainly residing in Orléans, Innes, Gloucester-Southgate, Rideau-Rockcliffe, Beacon Hill Cyrville, Bay, and Baseline.

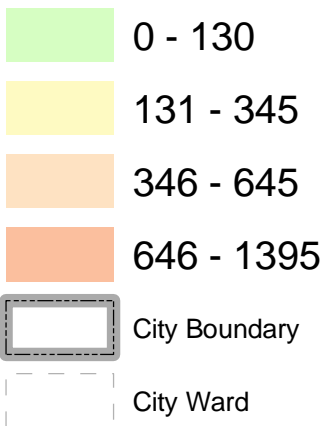
¹⁶ It would have been more useful to compare the school attendance rate of immigrant age groups with that of non-immigrant in the same age groups. However we do not have detailed school attendance data for Ottawa's non-immigrant population.

¹⁷ For an analysis of the issues surrounding the recognition of the internationally trained workers, please refer to the "Interim Report for the Integration of Internationally-Trained Workers Project" by the Canadian Labour and Business Centre, (September 15, 2003), in collaboration with United Way/Centraide of Ottawa and LASI/World Skills

Map 4: Number of Recent Immigrants in the Labour Force



Immigrants by CT



1	Orleans
2	Innes
3	Bell-Nepean
4	Kanata
5	West Carleton
6	Goulbourn
7	Bay
8	Baseline
9	Knoxdale - Merivale
10	Gloucester - Southgate
11	Beacon Hill - Cyrville
12	Rideau - Vanier
13	Rideau - Rockcliffe
14	Somerset
15	Kitchissippi
16	River
17	Capital
18	Alta Vista
19	Cumberland
20	Osgoode
21	Rideau



Unemployment Rates

Among those who participated in the labour force, the proportion who is unemployed (the unemployment rate) varies largely with immigration status, period of immigration, visible minority status, and by gender.

Table 8: 2001 Unemployment rates for the Ottawa population aged 15 years and over by Visible Minority Status, Immigration Status, and Period of Immigration and Gender

Visible Minority Status Groups	Unemployment Rate - Percent Share of those in the labour force who is unemployed					
	Non Immigrant		Recent Immigrant 1991-2001		Other Immigrant Before 1991	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Visible minority	11	9	13	18	6	9
Non Visible Minority	5	5	8	11	3	4
Total Population	5	5	11	16	5	6

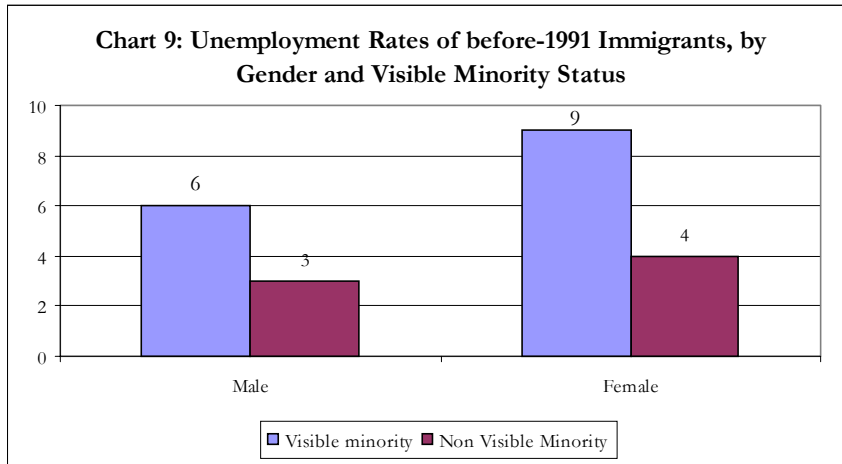
Table 7 indicates that recent immigrant women who are members of visible minority groups fare the worst, with an unemployment rate reaching up to 18 percent, followed by visible minority recent immigrant men at 13 percent. This compares to 8 percent of unemployment rate for white recent immigrant men and 11 percent of the white female immigrants in the labour force.



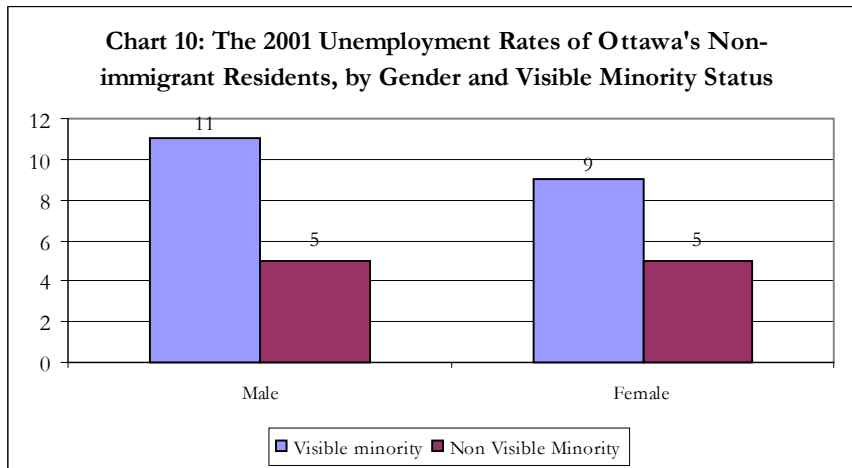
These high levels of unemployment among recent immigrants occur in a period of almost full employment in Ottawa, when the unemployment rate in the city was only 5 percent.

With more time in Canada, the incidence of unemployment among immigrants available to work generally diminishes, but it remains high for visible minority immigrant women. Only 3 percent of white immigrant men and 4 percent of white immigrant women arriving before 1991, who were available to work, were unemployed in 2001¹⁸. Among the visible minority immigrants arriving before 1991, 6 percent of the men and 9 percent of the women were unemployed in 2001.

¹⁸ Data on labour force activity refers to the week prior to the Census day.



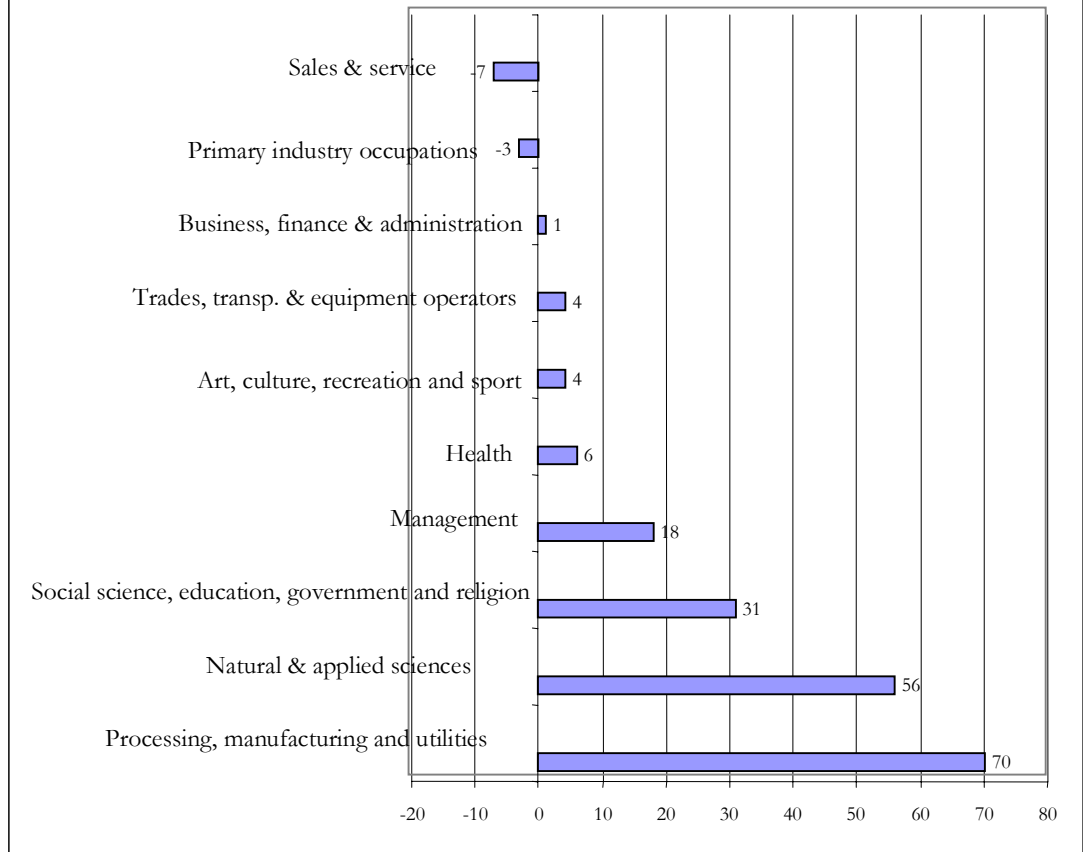
It is noteworthy that Canadian-born visible minority men display higher unemployment rate at 11 percent than recent immigrant men who are not members of visible minority groups, at 8 percent. Moreover, although generally men are less likely to be unemployed than women for all groups, Canadian-born visible minority men display a higher unemployment rate than Canadian-born visible minority women but also higher rate than the before-1991 immigrants, regardless of gender and visible minority status.



Occupational Distribution and Sectors of Employment

A total of 28,940 recent immigrants were employed during the year 2001, a peak year in Ottawa's economy. The industrial and occupational distributions of employed recent immigrants are important elements of their economic integration and are indicative of the degree and modality of their participation in the economy. The analysis of the 2001 census data on the employment of recent immigrants by industries and by occupation resulted in the following findings:

Chart 11: 1996-2001 Growth Rates of Employment in Ottawa by Occupations



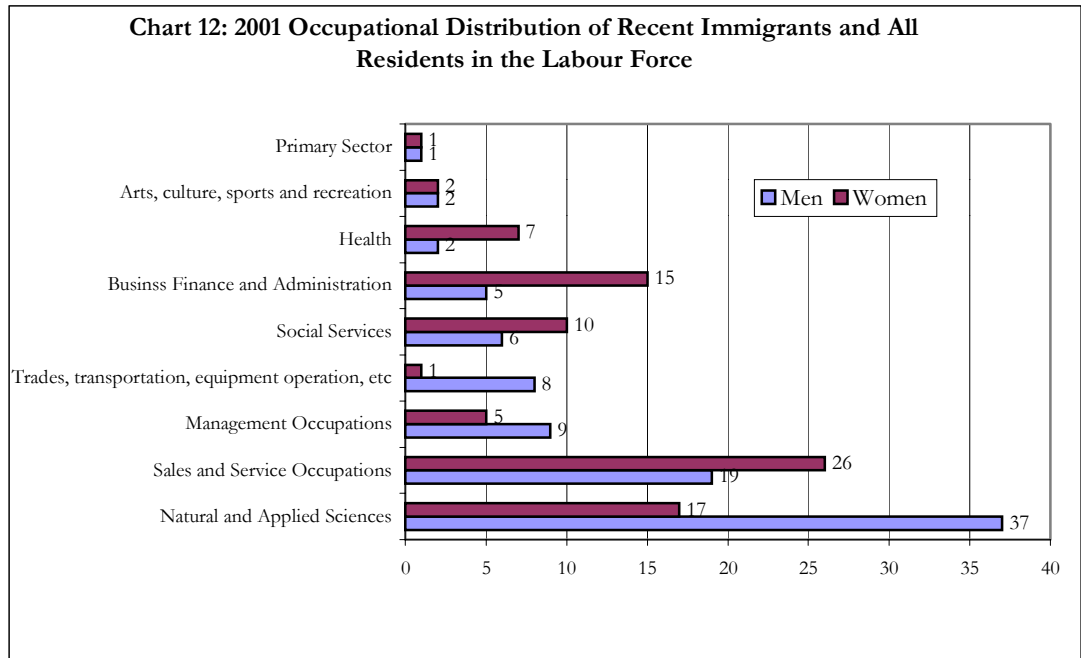
1. Recent immigrant employment is concentrated in occupations where the demand for labor has been highest over the 1996-2001 period.

During the 1996-2001 period, the fastest growing jobs in Ottawa were in the processing and manufacturing occupational category¹⁹, including information technology production, with a staggering growth rate of 70 percent. The TalentWorks program has referred to the growth of this occupational category as a ‘manufacturing renaissance’ in Ottawa²⁰. The Natural and Applied Science related jobs, including computer programmers, computer systems analysts, engineers, chemists, physicists, architects and technicians among others, followed suit with 56 percent more of these types of jobs created over the 1996-2001 period. Social science, education, and government service jobs were the third fastest growing type of employment and they increased by 31 percent over the 1996-2001 period.

¹⁹ The National Occupational Classification for Statistics (NOC-S 2001) are used by Statistics Canada to regroup the types of employment held by the Canadian residents.

²⁰ TalentWorks. 2004. “Trends Opportunities and Priorities”.

In 2001, almost two thirds of employed recent immigrants (62 percent) held jobs in these three occupational categories. In comparison, 28.3 percent of Ottawa workers in general were employed in these classes of jobs. The relatively very high concentration of recent immigrants in jobs that were in high demand signals that recent immigrants provided a large and ready pool of workers in Ottawa, lent a considerable flexibility to the economy and helped Ottawa meet its labour demand and economic growth.



2. A closer look at the subcategories of occupations where recent immigrants were most employed reveals two things. First, recent immigrants were mainly occupied in the lower ranks of most occupational categories. A prominent exception to this are recent immigrants employed in the Natural and Applied Sciences category of jobs. And second, there was considerable gender segregation in some occupations. For example, the analysis of the 2001 data uncovered that:

- A large majority of the 9,450 recent immigrants employed in Natural and Applied Science occupations (83 percent) were in professional jobs and most of these (72 percent) were men.
- Among the 3,340 recent immigrants employed in manufacturing related jobs, 73 percent were occupied as assemblers. There is an almost equal gender distribution in assembling occupations.
- Of the 7,590 recent immigrants working in Sales and Services occupations, 29 percent worked in retail sales, cashiers and in food and beverage occupations. Of these, 65 percent were women. Also within this category, 800 recent immigrants worked as childcare and home support workers; 730 were women.
- Recent immigrant women were by far more likely to work in Business, Finance, and Administration related jobs than men. Almost three-quarters (71 percent) of recent immigrants with jobs in this category were women. Moreover, recent immigrant women were more likely than men to have professional positions within this category.

Table 9: 2001 Occupational Distribution of Recent Immigrants in Ottawa by Gender

Occupational Category ²¹	Women		Men		Total Sex	
	Number of Women	Percent of Women	Number of Men	Percent of Men	Number of Total Recent Immigrants	Percent of Total Recent Immigrants
Natural and Applied Sciences	2630	18	6820	38	9450	29
Sales and Service Occupations	3995	27	3595	20	7590	23
Business, Finance and Administration	2420	16	965	5	3385	10
Processing, Manufacturing, etc	1650	11	1690	9	3340	10
Social services, education and government services	1530	10	1100	6	2630	8
Management Occupations	715	5	1605	9	2320	7
Trades, Transport, Equipment operators etc.	155	1	1450	8	1605	5
Health	1140	8	300	2	1440	4
Arts & Culture, Sports and Recreation	345	2	285	2	630	2
Primary Sector Occupations	105	1	150	1	255	1
Total*	14685	100	17960	100	32645	100

Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population, Recent Immigrants Target Group Profile

*The total number of recent immigrants in this table includes also individuals who did not have a job during the reference week, but who reported the type of work they did in the job they had the longest since January 2000.

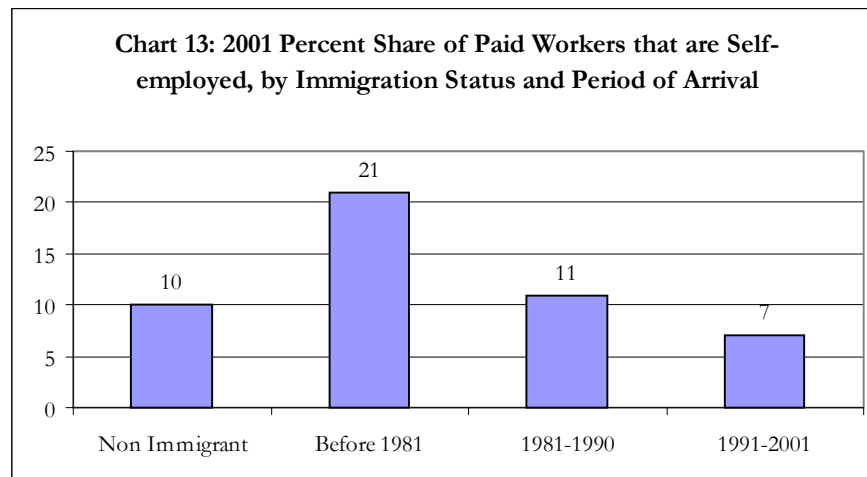
3. Among the various industries that make up the Ottawa economy, the “Public Administration” was the largest employer during the year 2001. “Public Administration” occupations include employment in agencies of all levels of government. This sector employed 18 percent of the Ottawa workforce (76,395 individuals) during the year 2001. In comparison, only 7.3 percent (2,395 workers) of working recent immigrants were employed in the “Public Administration”. The limited opportunities for recent immigrants in the most prominent employment industry in Ottawa, may be due to many factors including (but not limited to) the following:
 - The Canadian citizenship requirement for federal government employment may exclude the large number of recent immigrants who have not acquired Canadian citizenship yet. Almost half of all adult recent immigrants in Ottawa (49 percent) have not acquired Canadian citizenship status in 2001.
 - Requirement for bilingualism, whereas only 18 percent of all recent immigrants reported to be proficient in both official languages. The proportion of recent immigrants in the labour force who are bilingual may be even smaller.

²¹ For a definition of the occupational categories, please refer to the glossary of terms, at the end of this report.

Self Employment

In Ottawa, immigrants are more likely to be self-employed than the Canadian-born workers. Overall there were 13,150 immigrants that were self-employed during the year 2001. Among immigrants, those arriving in earlier decades have a higher propensity to work in own businesses than the more recent immigrants, suggesting that time spent in Canada is an important factor in facilitating the creation of business ventures by immigrants.

Chart 13 shows that more than one-in-five immigrants arriving before 1980 (7,880 individuals) were self-employed during 2001. In comparison 11 percent of the 1981-1990 immigrants (2,775 individuals) and 7 percent of recent immigrants (2,495 individuals) worked in his/her own business ventures.



Almost one half (41 percent) of individual immigrants reporting to be self-employed said that they had paid staff working for them. This suggests that there is a considerable job creation capacity and potential within immigrant businesses in Ottawa.

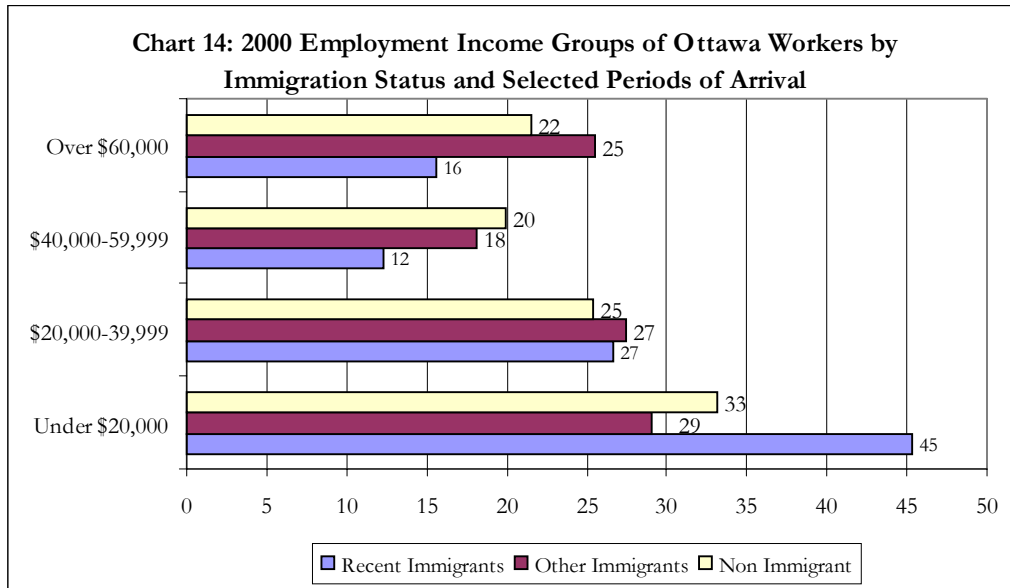
Employment Earnings

During the year 2000²², 31.2 percent of recent immigrants aged 15 years and over were without any employment income²³. Among those working for pay, a dismaying 45 percent earned less than \$20,000. This compares to 33 percent of non-immigrants and 29 percent of earlier immigrants.

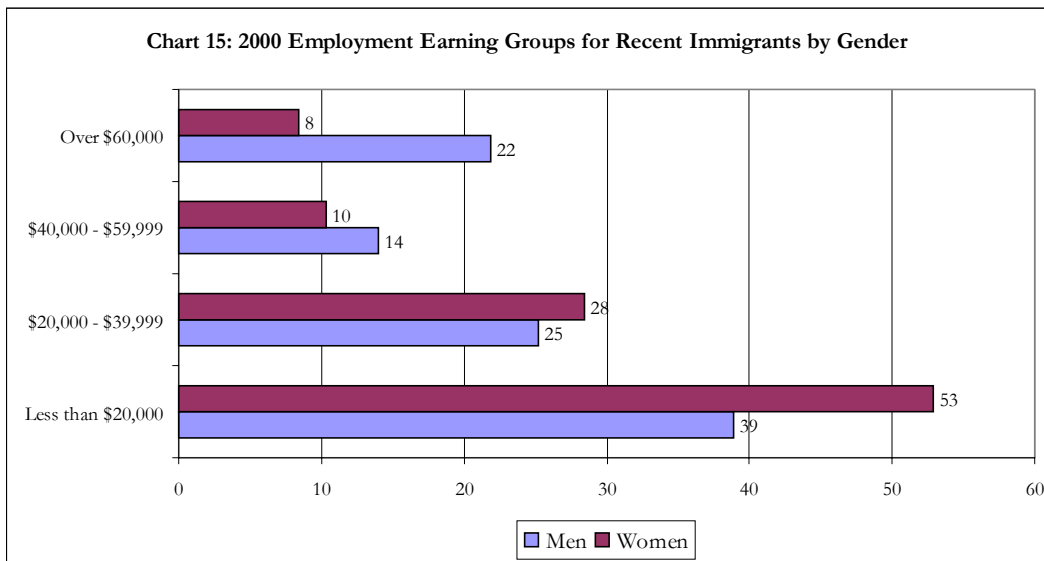
About 12 percent earned \$40,000-59,999 and 16 percent earned more than \$60,000. In comparison, 18 percent of earlier immigrants and 20 percent of non-immigrant workers earned employment incomes in the range of \$40,000-59,999. Similarly, 25 percent of earlier immigrants and 22 percent of non-immigrant workers received employment incomes above \$60,000.

²² Data in this section refers to residents' 2000 incomes.

²³ See the Glossary of terms for a definition of what constitutes employment earnings.



Recent immigrants were as likely as earlier immigrants to be earning \$20,000-39,999. About 27 percent of both recent immigrant and earlier immigrants earned this range of employment income, while 25 percent of non-immigrant earners received these levels of employment income.



The data also show that earlier immigrants are more likely to receive higher employment incomes than are the Canadian-born workers in Ottawa. They are also less concentrated among the low earners than the Canadian-born workers in Ottawa. Hence, the tendency to consider immigrants as one homogeneous group would miss the important economic gap between recent and earlier immigrants.

Looking with a gender lens, it results that recent immigrant women are much more likely than their male counterpart to be among Ottawa's low-earners. Chart 15 shows that more than one-half of recent immigrant women working for pay (53 percent) earned less than \$20,000. This compares to 39 percent of recent immigrant men. Similarly, only 8 percent of recent immigrant women earned \$60,000 or more during the year 2000, while 22 percent of the men enjoyed these high levels of income.

Total Incomes: Sources and Sufficiency

Sources of Income

Compared to Canadian-born Ottawa residents, recent immigrants tend to rely more on employment as a source of income²⁴. Data in Table 8 indicates that in the year 2000, 84 percent of recent immigrants' combined total income

came from employment, including self-employment income; 10 percent came from governments as a transfer payments (such as employment insurance, Canada Child Tax Benefits, Canada Pension Plans etc). Only 6 percent came from other sources such as investment incomes and private pensions. In comparison, 70 percent of Canadian-born Ottawa residents' combined total income was employment earnings; 6.8 percent came from governments, and 14 percent from other private sources, including investments.

The relatively more heavy reliance of recent immigrants on employment income when they face higher unemployment rates for all age groups and lower employment earnings on average may be explained by the higher proportion of individuals in their working ages among recent immigrants. Almost 70 percent of recent immigrants (69.6 percent) were aged between 20-64 in the year 2001 compared to 61 percent of Ottawa's non-immigrant residents.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that a relatively very small share of recent immigrants' total income (6 percent compared to 14 percent for the Canadian-born Ottawa residents) is from sources other than employment and government transfer payments, indicating generally a higher vulnerability to economic fluctuations and labour market instabilities. Further research is required to provide an understanding of the extent of such vulnerability for individual recent immigrants rather than an analysis of their collective over-reliance on employment income.

Low Income among Recent Immigrants

Considering the difficulties recent immigrants face in accessing appropriate employment even in periods of economic boom, and their over-reliance on employment as a source of income, it is not surprising to find a high incidence of low-income among them. Chart 16 reports that almost one-half of unattached recent immigrants lived in poverty during the year 2000. In comparison, 37 percent of all unattached immigrants and 30 percent of unattached Canadian-born residents were poor.

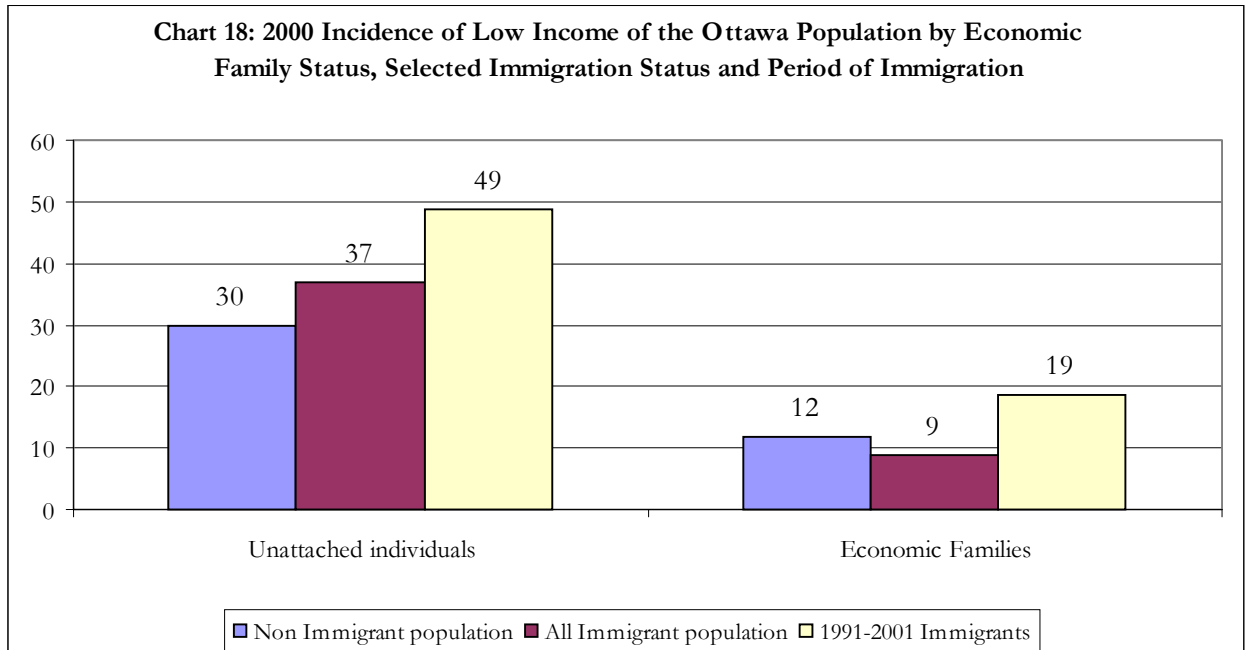
Table 10: 2000 Percent Composition of Total Incomes for Ottawa's Non-immigrant and Recent Immigrant Population

	Employment	Government Transfers	Other
Non Immigrant population	79.2	6.8	14.1
Immigrant population	76.1	9.8	14.1
1991-2001	83.8	10	6.2

Source: Statistics Canada: 97F0009XCB01043 - Publicly available Topic-based Tabulations for the ON part of Ottawa-Gatineau

²⁴ See the Glossary of terms for an understanding of the composition of an individual's total income.

The incidence of low income among economic families was much lower for both immigrant and non-immigrant economic families. Recent immigrant economic families were almost twice as likely as non-immigrant economic families to live with low income (19 and 12 percent, respectively). On the other hand, only 9 percent of all immigrant economic families live in poverty, compared to 12 percent compared of non-immigrant resident families in Ottawa.



Conclusion

This report sought to examine some elements of the integration process of immigrants into the larger Ottawa society. To do so, the report looked into the socio-cultural composition and socio-economic conditions of immigrants living in Ottawa, particularly those arriving in Canada during the 1991-2001 decade and now residing in Ottawa.

We found that there is a great diversity within the Ottawa immigrants: diversity in terms of circumstances of arrival, time spent in Canada both by the individual immigrant and by his/her co-national, co-culture community, race, culture, age, gender, and stage in life upon arrival. The current socio-economic conditions of individual immigrants and immigrant communities reflect such diversity.

Hence social planners, social program designers, and funders in Ottawa would be more effective in their objectives of enabling immigrants to be successful in their integration process if they:

1. Avoid proposing a 'one-size-fits-all' measures by taking into consideration the cultural, demographic, and socioeconomic diversity of the Ottawa immigrants;
2. Base neighborhood social service planning in the area of parks and recreation, childcare, transportation, family health, employment support, and youth services on a comprehensive knowledge of the cultural and demographic composition of residents and of the various needs, concerns and strengths of specific cultural groups;
3. Adopt, to the largest extent possible, a racial and gender lens when designing social programs;
4. Urge decision-makers to provide essential social services such as family health, emergency services including shelters and social housing in Ottawa's main non-official languages and in the languages of communities where knowledge of official languages is not prevalent, regardless of their size.

The findings of this report also urge some reflections on social policies that lay with senior levels of government. In particular, the large proportions of refugees among newcomers intending to settle in Ottawa and the inflow of immigrants from cities in other provinces pose the need to assess the viability of local settlement agencies in front of the particular needs of local immigrants.

Finally, the increasing cultural and racial diversity of local immigrants coupled with the recentness of the arrival of most immigrants pose challenges for the City's collective adjustments to differences amid its population. It is necessary that these challenges be acknowledged and addressed.

Glossary of Terms

Immigrants: Individuals born outside of Canada to non-Canadian parents, who are now or have once been landed immigrants in Canada.

Landed immigrants: “Individuals who have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities” (2001 Census Dictionary, p: 370)

Recent immigrants: Refers to immigrants who came to Canada during 1991-2001 period.

Refugees: Citizenship and Immigration Canada defined refugees as follows: “Persons needing protection, who fear returning to their country of nationality or habitual residence”. As a result of its signature on the United Nations’ 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, Canada offers safe haven to persons with a well-founded fear of persecution, as well as those at risk of torture or cruel and unusual treatment or punishment. Canada’s refugee protection system consists of two main components:

- The Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program, for people seeking protection from outside Canada; and
- The In-Canada Refugee Protection Process, for persons making refugee protection claims from within Canada.

(CIC: 2004d)

Visible minority: “The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour". The Census Questionnaire (Q.19) specifies the following groups as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asians, Blacks, Arabs, West Asians, Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans and provides a write-in space for an “Other” category. (Statistics Canada: Census Dictionary, p374)

Mother Tongue: “Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census” (Statistics Canada: Census Dictionary, p80)

Labour Force: The total number of people who are available to work. It includes both individuals who are currently working and those looking for a job.

Participation rate: The percent share of a given population or group that is economically active either as employees, self-employed, or are unemployed. Many factors determine the degree to which an age or social group participates in the labour force. People not participating in the labour force may:

- Be attending school full time;
- Be impeded to work for health reasons -- say for example due to forbidding physical or psychiatric disability;
- Be looking after small children or after a senior family member or an ailing relative;
- Have retired early;
- Have been discouraged from seeking employment due to failed attempts in the past.
- Not have the necessary legal documents to work in Canada; or
- Simply not wish or need to work for whatever reason.

Unemployment rate: The percent share of a population or a group in the labour force that are unable to find work.

Income: All monetary flow to individuals from a variety of sources that can be regrouped into the following three categories. Of note, all income data in this report refer to before-tax incomes.

Employment Income: gross wages and salaries and net self-employment (farm and non-farm) income.

Government Transfers: Monies received by individuals from all levels of government. Government transfers include:

- Old Age Security Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplements
- Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan benefits;
- Employment Insurance Benefits;
- Canada Child Tax Benefits;
- Social Welfare Assistance; and
- Other income received from federal, provincial or municipal government sources.

Other: Private pensions, investment incomes, alimonies, sporadic monetary support from friends and family, and other incomes.

Low Income: Income that is deemed to be barely sufficient to cover the necessities of life. The low-income status of individuals, households and families are defined by using Statistics Canada's "LICOs".

LICOs: Income thresholds below which households will likely devote a larger share of income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family would." Statistics Canada determines the LICOs, after periodically analyzing family and expenditure data. LICOs are calculated for different geographic regions with population sizes and varying cost of living; and for households of different sizes.

Self-employed: Individuals working in their own business ventures, either alone or in partnership with others and with or without paid employees.

Economic Families: Two or more individuals, who are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, or adoption (Census Dictionary, page141)

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