



CANADIAN ARAB
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CANADO-ARABE

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**A COMPARISON BETWEEN
THE ARAB POPULATION
IN CANADA AND THE
GENERAL POPULATION IN
CANADA BASED ON THE
2016 CENSUS DATA**

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Purpose and Methodology

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Arab population in Canada in comparison to the general population in Canada. The data presented in this report has been collected from the [Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population Program](#) data. This report compares the Arab population in Canada to the general population in Canada through various topics, including, age distribution, immigration admission categories, citizenship and generation status, education, fields of study, income levels, and labour force.

Where Arab country origin data was available, data relating to the 22 member states of the Arab League (or as many as possible) was collected and used. The 22 members of the Arab League are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

In some instances, data related to Arabs was collected from products that included "Arab" as a visible minority. According to Statistics Canada, visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as 'persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour'. As such, and in accordance with the employment equity requirements, if a person reported being 'Arab' and 'White', they would have been excluded from the Arab visible minority population. Also, if a person reported being 'Arab' and provided a European write-in response such as 'French', they would have been excluded from the Arab visible minority population as well¹. The exclusion of some Arabs from the Arab visible minority population count significantly reduces the number of individuals in the Arab visible minority population. As such, the Arab visible minority data may not actually be fully representative of the Arab population in Canada. The data presented in this report is accompanied by footnotes to clarify whether the data has been collected using Arab country origins or if it's based on the Arab visible minority population count.

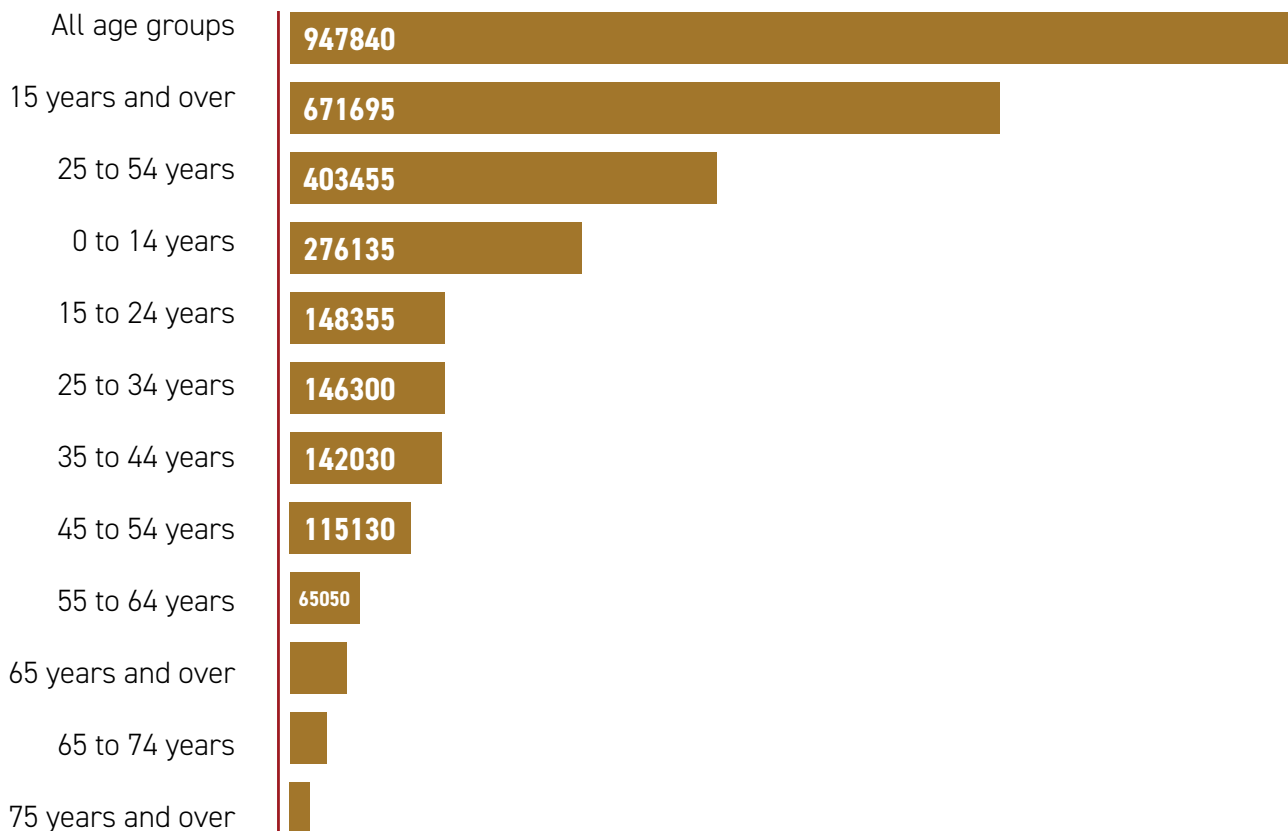
Summary of Key Findings

- The age distribution between the Arab population in Canada and the general population in Canada varies; almost 30% of the Arab population in Canada is under the age of 15 while only 17% of the total population in Canada is under the age of 15.
- Almost 25% of people living in Canada who have an Arab place of birth have been admitted into Canada as refugees; this rate is higher than the average rate of newcomers.
- On average, 63% of individuals who were born in an Arab country and living in Canada are Canadian citizens; this is slightly lower than the rate of individuals who were born outside of Canada with a Canadian citizenship.
- More than 60% of the Arab population in Canada are first generation; less than a quarter of the total population in Canada are first generation.
- The rate of Arabs with a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree is slightly higher than the rate of the Canadian population as a whole; this trend is also observed in terms of the rate of individuals that have a diploma or degree at bachelor level or above.
- The Arab population has a higher unemployment rate in comparison to the total visible minority population in Canada and to the total population in Canada.
- Both the median total income and average total income are notably higher for the population in Canada as a whole in comparison to the Arab population.

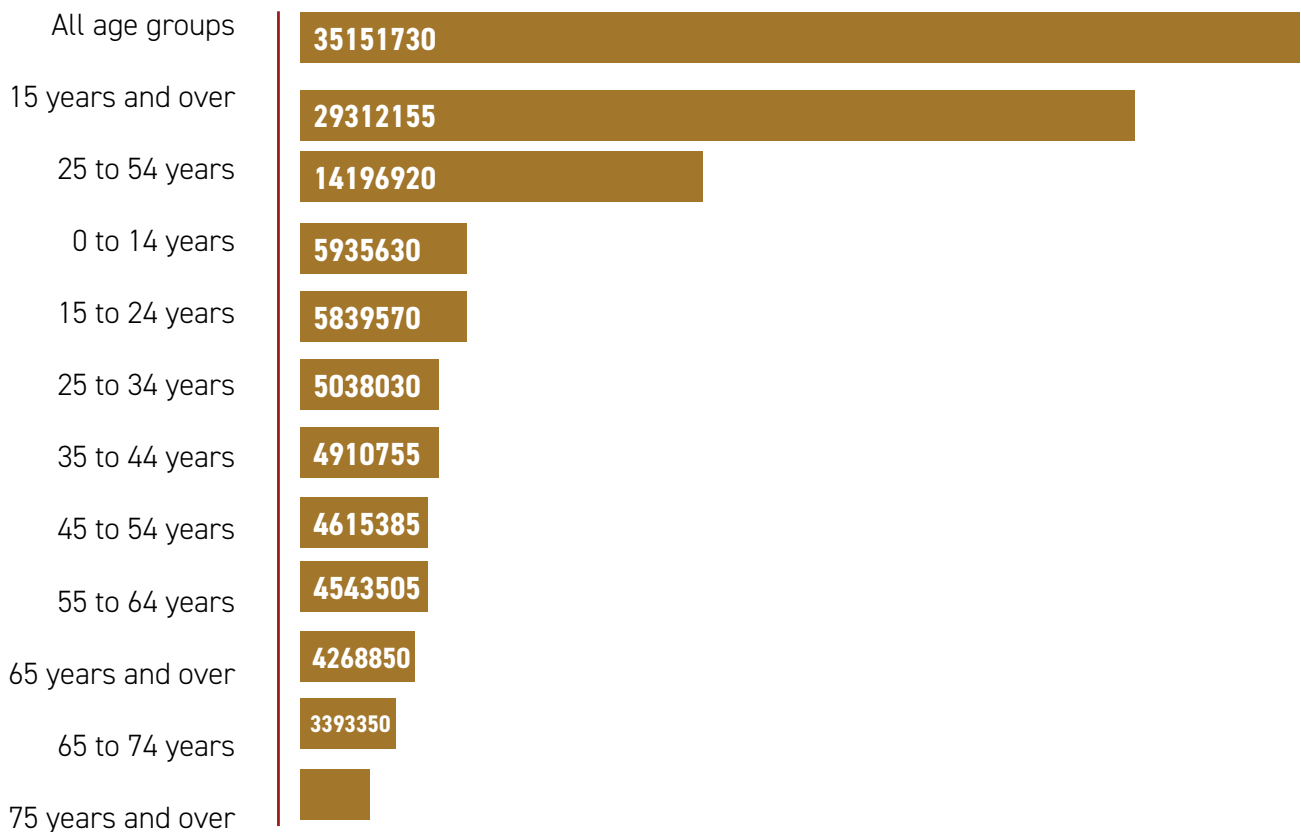
Age Group

The graphs below shows the age distribution of the Arab population² in Canada as well as the total population in Canada. Almost 30% of the Arab population in Canada is under the age of 15. In comparison to the population in Canada as a whole, only 17% of the total population in Canada is under the age of 15. In contrast, less than 6% of the total Arab population in Canada is 65 years and over while 17% of the total population in Canada is 65 years and older.

Arab population in Canada by Age Group



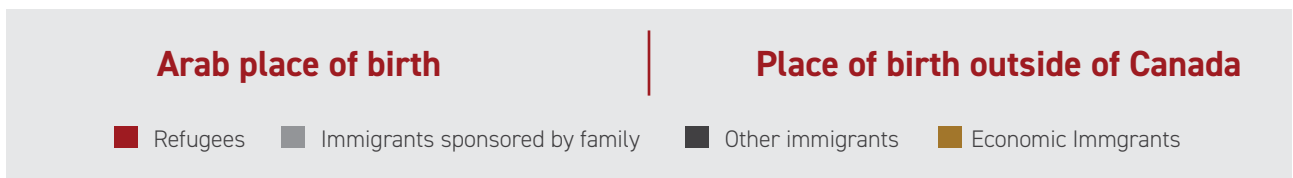
Total population in Canada by Age Group



Immigration Admission Category

The table and charts below show the immigration admission category of those living in Canada with an Arab place of birth as well as those living in Canada with a place of birth that is outside of Canada. Of the people living in Canada and born in an Arab country, more than half have been admitted into Canada as economic immigrants. This is similar to the findings related to newcomers in Canada. Further, almost 25% of people living in Canada who have an Arab place of birth have been admitted into Canada as refugees. This rate is higher than the average rate of newcomers.

Immigration Admission Category ³	# of Individuals with an Arab Place of Birth ⁴	# of Individuals with a Place of Birth Outside of Canada
Refugees ⁵	128370	858850
Other immigrants ⁶	3675	68145
Immigrants sponsored by family	96500	1782485
Economic immigrants ⁷	286270	2994130



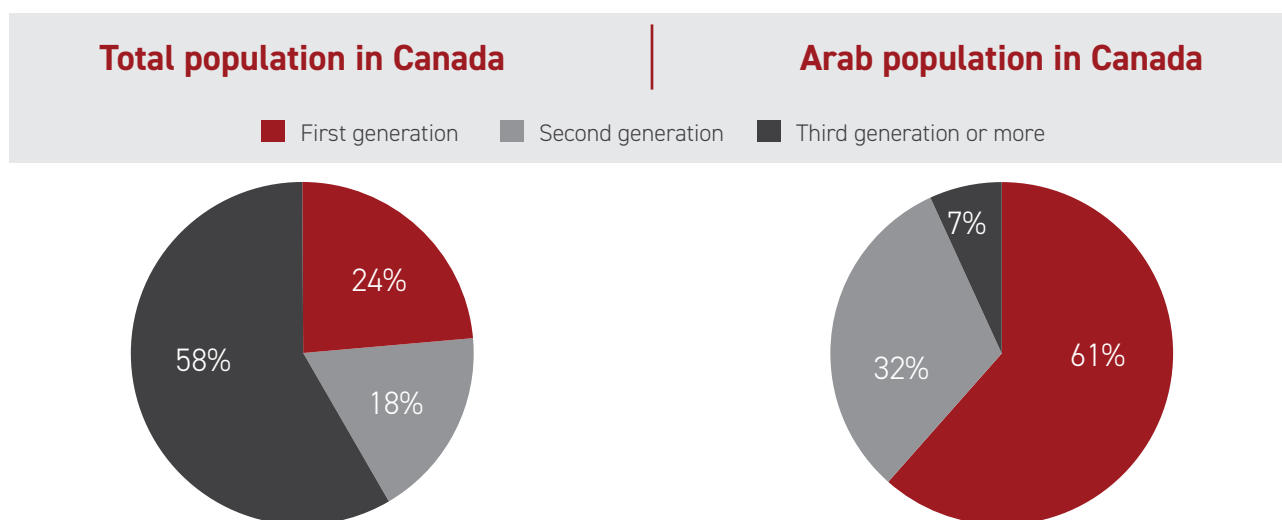
Citizenship Status

The citizenship status of individuals who were born in an Arab country and living in Canada varies depending on the Arab country⁸ origin. However, on average, 63% of individuals who were born in an Arab country and living in Canada are Canadian citizens. This is slightly lower than the rate of the total number of individuals who were born outside of Canada with a Canadian citizenship.

Place of Birth	Total # of People	Canadian Citizens	Canadian Citizens Only	Citizens of Canada and at least one other country	Not Canadian Citizens
Arab Place of Birth	588555	63%	45%	18%	37%
Place of Birth Outside of Canada	8219550	70%	57%	14%	30%

Generation Status

The graphs below show the generation status of the total population in Canada and the total Arab population in Canada⁹. More than 60% of the Arab population in Canada are first generation. In contrast, less than a quarter of the total population in Canada are first generation.



Education and Fields of Study

More than 60% of the applicable Arab population¹⁰ in Canada has a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree. This is slightly higher than the 55% of the applicable population in Canada as a whole. In terms of those with a university certificate, 38% of applicable Arab population in Canada has a diploma or degree at bachelor level or above; 23% of the applicable population in Canada has a diploma or degree at bachelor level or above. The table below provides greater details on the education levels of the Arab population and the population in Canada.

Highest certificate, diploma or degree	Arab Visible Minority Pop.	Canada Population
Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree	379630	28643015
No certificate, diploma or degree	65990	5239575
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	81145	7576400
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	232500	15827040
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	22170	2800260
Trades certificate or diploma other than Certificate of Apprenticeship or Certificate of Qualification	15305	1549880
Certificate of Apprenticeship or Certificate of Qualification	6865	1250385
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	49075	5553825
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	16655	813335
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	144600	6659615
Bachelor's degree	88090	4443835
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	11330	462295
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	8890	190925
Master's degree	28305	1331045
Earned doctorate	7990	231510

Top 10 Fields of Study

Arab Visible Minority Population¹¹	Canada Population
Business, management, marketing and related support services	Business, management, marketing and related support services
Engineering	Health professions and related programs
Health professions and related programs	Education
Computer and information sciences and support services	Engineering
Education	Mechanic and repair technologies/technicians
Social sciences	Construction trades
Engineering technologies and engineering-related fields	Social sciences
Biological and biomedical sciences	Engineering technologies and engineering-related fields
Personal and culinary services	Personal and culinary services
Legal professions and studies	Computer and information sciences and support services

Labour Force

The table below outlines the labour force findings of the population in Canada as a whole, the total visible minority population in Canada, and the Arab visible minority population in Canada. In comparison to the total visible minority population in Canada, the Arab population¹² has a lower employment rate and a higher unemployment rate. Further, the Arab visible minority group in Canada has a significantly higher unemployment rate in comparison to the total applicable population in Canada.

Visible Minority Population	Total - Labour force status	In the labour force	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Canada Population	28643020	18672475	9970545	65.2	60.2	7.7
Total visible minority population	6073870	4038855	2035015	66.5	60.4	9.2
Arab visible minority population	379630	231980	147650	61.1	52.9	13.5

Income Groups

The tables below show the income groups for the Arab visible minority population in Canada and the total population in Canada. The median total income and average total income greatly differs when comparing the Arab visible minority population against the population in Canada as a whole. For the Arab visible minority in Canada, the median total income and average total income is \$20803 and \$33542, respectively. In comparison, for the population in Canada as a whole, the median total income and average total income is \$34204 (i.e., >60% higher) and \$47487 (i.e., >40% higher), respectively.

Income Groups	# of Arabs (Visible Minority Population)	Canada Population
Total - Total income	379630	28642980
Without total income	34170	1154450
With total income	345460	27488530
Percentage with total income	91	96
Under \$10,000 (including loss)	92560	3877620
\$10,000 to \$19,999	75040	4680380
\$20,000 to \$29,999	49230	3807840
\$30,000 to \$39,999	33250	3206175
\$40,000 to \$49,999	25370	2827045
\$50,000 to \$59,999	16710	2179775
\$60,000 to \$69,999	12440	1655070
\$70,000 to \$79,999	9520	1271850
\$80,000 to \$89,999	7335	966885
\$90,000 to \$99,999	5485	749290
\$100,000 and over	18520	2266600
Median total income (\$)	20803	34204
Average total income (\$)	33542	47487

References

1. Source: *Visible Minority and Population Group Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2016* (<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/guides/006/98-500-x2016006-eng.cfm>)
2. The number of Arabs is based on country origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
3. 'Admission category' refers to the name of the immigration program or group of programs under which an immigrant has been granted for the first time the right to live in Canada permanently.
4. Based on country origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
5. 'Refugees' includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status on the basis of a well-founded fear of returning to their home country.
6. 'Other immigrants' includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status under a program that does not fall under the economic immigrants, the immigrants sponsored by family or the refugee categories.
7. 'Economic immigrants' includes immigrants who have been selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy through their ability to meet labour market needs, to own and manage or to build a business, to make a substantial investment, to create their own employment or to meet specific provincial or territorial labour market needs.
8. Based on country origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
9. Based on country origin from the Arab League's 22 member states.
10. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.
11. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.
12. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.
13. Based on the Arab population identified as a "Visible Minority" by StatsCan standards.