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INSTITUTE | INSTITUT  
CANADO-ARABE

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**VISIBLE MINORITY  
POPULATIONS IN CANADA  
2016 CENSUS DATA**

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## Purpose and Methodology

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Arab visible minority population in Canada in comparison to other visible minority populations in Canada. The data presented in this report has been collected from the [Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population Program data](#), specifically, the [immigration and ethnocultural diversity data tables](#). This report compares the Arab visible minority population in Canada to other visible minority populations in Canada through various variables, including immigrant status, generation status, labour force, employment income, income groups, and education.

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 well<sup>1</sup>. The exclusion of some Arabs from the Arab visible minority population count 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.

## Summary of Key Findings

- There are variations in the immigrant status of visible minority populations; more of the Arab visible minority population is made up of immigrants than most other visible minority populations.
- The very large majority of the Arab visible minority population is first generation, similar to most other visible minority populations. Less

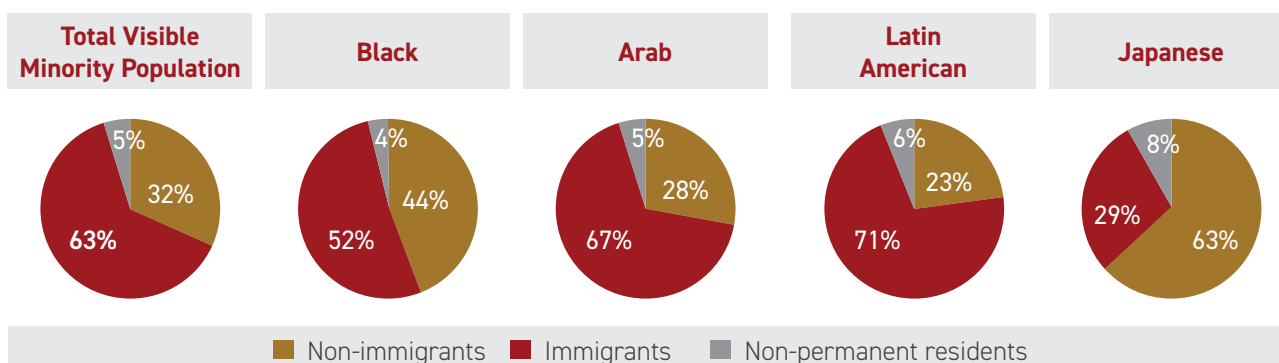
than 1% of the Arab visible minority population is third generation, which is lower than almost all other visible minority populations.

- Of the visible minority populations, the Arab visible minority population has the highest unemployment rate at 13.5; the unemployment rate of the total visible minority population in Canada is more than 30% lower than the Arab visible minority population.
- Of the visible minority populations, the Arab visible minority population has the third lowest median employment income; the average employment income of the Arab visible minority population is among the bottom half of the visible minority populations.
- Almost 25% of the Arab visible minority population is in the under \$10,000 (including loss) income group; this is a higher portion of the population than most other visible minority population groups.
- 61% of the Arab visible minority population has a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree; this is higher than most other visible minority populations.

## Immigrant Status

The table below shows the immigrant status of the visible minority populations in Canada as well as the immigrant status of those that are not considered to be a visible minority. Almost 68% of the Arab visible minority population is made up of immigrants; this is slightly higher than the total visible minority population and most other visible minority groups in Canada. In contrast, only 10% of those who are not considered a visible minority are immigrants. In terms of the non-permanent resident status, approximately 5% of the Arab visible minority population is in this category; this is similar to the non-permanent resident status of the total visible minority population in Canada. There are variations in the immigrant status of specific visible minority populations as highlighted in the graphs below.

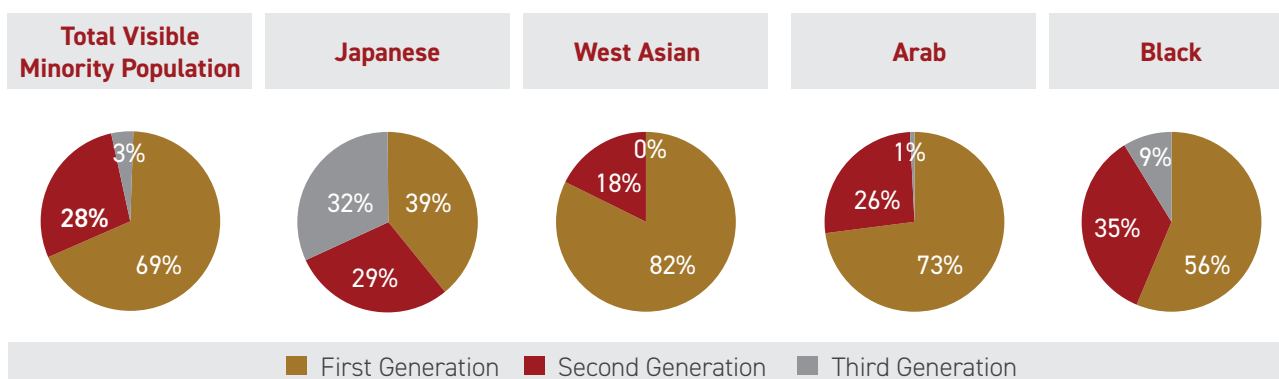
Visible minority	Total - Immigrant Status <sup>2</sup>	Non-immigrants <sup>3</sup>	Immigrants <sup>4</sup>	Non-permanent residents <sup>5</sup>
Total visible minority population	7674580	31.8%	63.4%	4.8%
• South Asian	1924635	31.2%	64.9%	3.8%
• Chinese	1577060	27.8%	65.3%	6.9%
• Black	1198545	44.3%	52.0%	3.7%
• Filipino	780130	23.5%	72.1%	4.4%
• Latin American	447320	22.8%	71.4%	5.8%
• Arab	523235	27.7%	67.4%	4.9%
• Southeast Asian	313265	35.0%	61.7%	3.3%
• West Asian	264305	17.9%	79.1%	3.0%
• Korean	188710	19.8%	67.0%	13.2%
• Japanese	92920	63.4%	28.5%	8.0%
• Visible minority, n.i.e.	132085	41.5%	56.1%	2.4%
• Multiple visible minorities	232375	55.5%	42.4%	2.2%
• Not a visible minority	26785480	89.5%	10.0%	0.5%



## Generation Status

The table below shows the generation status of the visible minority populations in Canada as well as the generation status of those that are not considered to be a visible minority. For the Arab visible minority population, the very large majority (73%) of the population is first generation and slightly more than a quarter of the population is second generation. Less than 1% of the Arab visible minority population in Canada is third generation or more; this is lower than almost all other visible minority groups in Canada. There are variations in the generation status of specific visible minority populations as highlighted in the graphs below.

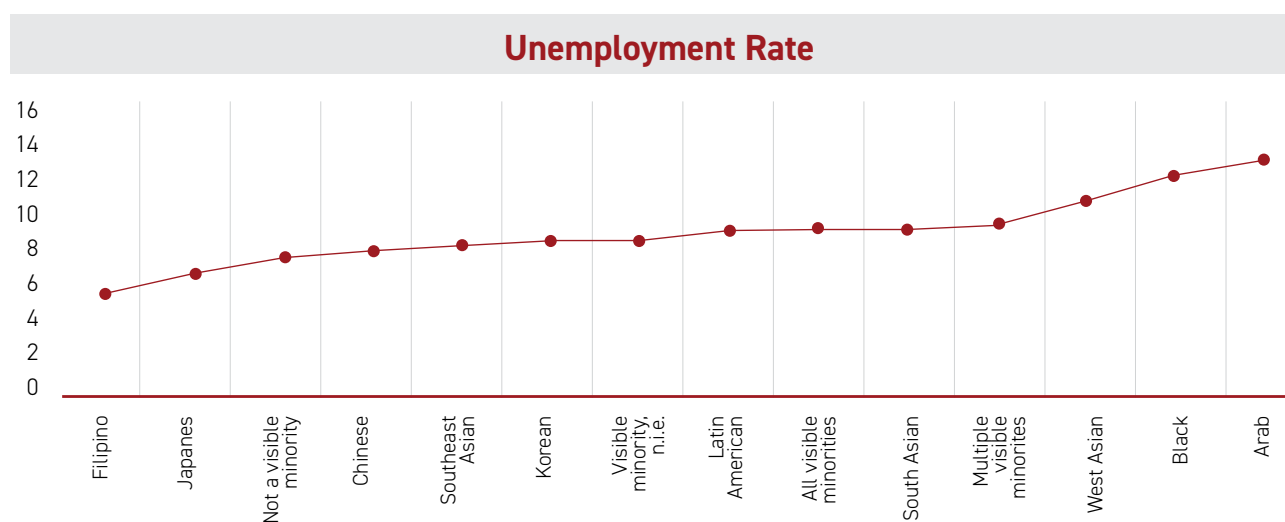
Visible minority	Total - Generation status	First generation <sup>9</sup>	Second generation <sup>10</sup>	Third generation or more <sup>11</sup>
Total visible minority population	7674580	68.8%	27.7%	3.5%
• South Asian	1924635	69.1%	29.1%	1.8%
• Chinese	1577065	72.8%	24.2%	3.0%
• Black	1198545	56.4%	35.0%	8.6%
• Filipino	780125	76.8%	21.5%	1.7%
• Latin American	447325	77.9%	21.3%	0.9%
• Arab	523235	73.0%	26.3%	0.7%
• Southeast Asian	313260	65.9%	32.3%	1.8%
• West Asian	264305	82.4%	17.4%	0.2%
• Korean	188710	81.3%	17.2%	1.5%
• Japanese	92920	39.3%	28.8%	31.9%
• Visible minority, n.i.e.	132090	59.0%	35.4%	5.6%
• Multiple visible minorities	232375	45.5%	46.6%	7.9%
Not a visible minority	26785485	11.0%	14.8%	74.2%



## Labour Force

The table and graph below show the labour force statistics of the visible minority populations in Canada as well as the labour force statistics of those that are not considered to be a visible minority. For the visible minority populations, the unemployment rate ranges between 5.2 to 13.5, with the unemployment rate of the total visible minority population being 9.2. In comparison, the unemployment rate for those that are not considered to be a visible minority is 7.3. Of the visible minority populations in Canada, the Arab visible minority population has the highest unemployment rate at 13.5, followed by the Black visible minority population.

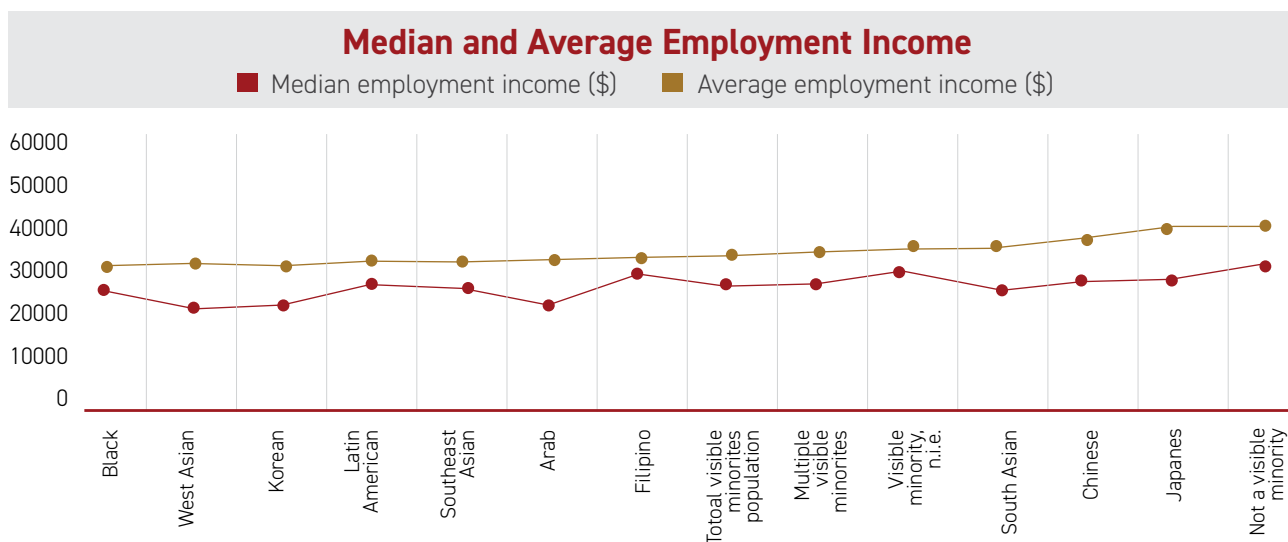
Visible Minority	Total - Labour Force Status <sup>15</sup>	In the labour force	Not in the labour force	Participation rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Total visible minority population	6073870	4038855	2035015	66.5	60.4	9.2
• South Asian	1511125	1014480	496645	67.1	61	9.2
• Chinese	1335285	793010	542280	59.4	54.7	7.9
• Black	880105	607135	272965	69	60.4	12.5
• Filipino	627615	486485	141130	77.5	73.5	5.2
• Latin American	376450	273600	102855	72.7	66	9.1
• Arab	379630	231980	147650	61.1	52.9	13.5
• Southeast Asian	254485	173485	81000	68.2	62.6	8.2
• West Asian	218770	137975	80795	63.1	56.1	11
• Korean	156700	95465	61230	60.9	55.8	8.4
• Japanese	75245	46945	28295	62.4	58.4	6.4
• Visible minority, n.i.e. <sup>16</sup>	106305	73150	33150	68.8	62.9	8.6
• Multiple visible minorities <sup>17</sup>	152165	105140	47020	69.1	62.5	9.5
Not a visible minority <sup>18</sup>	22569145	14633615	7935530	64.8	60.1	7.3



## Employment Income

The table and graph below show the employment income statistics of the visible minority populations in Canada as well as the employment income statistics of those that are not considered to be a visible minority. Both the average and median employment income of the total visible minority population are almost 20% (18.8% and 19.25%, respectively) less than the average and median employment income of those that are not considered to be a visible minority. Of the visible minority populations in Canada, the Arab visible minority population has the third lowest median employment income.

Visible minority	Total - Employment income statistics <sup>19</sup>	With employment income	Median employment income (\$)	Average employment income (\$)
Total visible minority population	6073875	4261010	28504	38920
• South Asian	1511125	1064690	28062	40377
• Chinese	1335285	862845	29999	43491
• Black	880105	638400	26807	34813
• Filipino	627620	514745	32603	37239
• Latin American	376450	281350	28638	36430
• Arab	379630	234380	23253	36735
• Southeast Asian	254485	182730	27944	36452
• West Asian	218775	139525	21516	35272
• Korean	156700	102945	22913	35362
• Japanese	75245	52590	31484	47063
• Visible minority, n.i.e. <sup>20</sup>	106300	76905	32860	39838
• Multiple visible minorities <sup>21</sup>	152160	109910	29194	39197
Not a visible minority <sup>22</sup>	22569140	16167655	35299	47938



## Income Groups

The table below shows the income groups of visible minority populations in Canada as well as the income groups of those who are not considered to be a visible minority. Almost a quarter of the Arab visible minority population in Canada is in the under \$10,000 (including loss) income group, which is a higher portion of the population than most other visible minority population groups. Of those with total income, more than 70% of the Arab visible minority population is in income groups of under \$50,000; this is in similar range to most other visible minority groups. Further, almost 5% of the Arab visible minority population are in the \$100,000 and over income group, which is a larger portion than most other visible minority population groups.

Income Groups	South Asian	Chinese	Black	Filipino	Latin American	Arab	South-east Asian	West Asian	Korean	Japanese	Not a visible minority <sup>23</sup>
Total - Total income <sup>24</sup>	1511125	1335285	880100	627620	376450	379630	254485	218770	156695	75240	22569140
Percentage with total income	93.3	94.6	92.6	93.7	93.8	91	93.9	93	92.3	94.8	96.7
Under \$10,000 (including loss)	20.0%	24.2%	18.5%	13.6%	17.8%	24.4%	18.8%	25.8%	27.4%	18.2%	11.6%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	19.3%	19.3%	17.7%	14.2%	19.0%	19.8%	20.9%	22.4%	20.8%	14.5%	15.7%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	12.8%	11.2%	13.5%	15.3%	14.1%	13.0%	13.6%	13.2%	12.1%	12.5%	13.4%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	10.1%	8.3%	11.3%	14.8%	11.9%	8.8%	11.3%	8.3%	8.8%	9.7%	11.4%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	7.8%	6.8%	9.7%	12.6%	9.7%	6.7%	8.8%	5.8%	5.9%	8.7%	10.3%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	5.7%	5.3%	6.9%	8.3%	6.6%	4.4%	6.2%	4.1%	3.9%	6.5%	8.1%
\$60,000 to \$69,999	4.1%	4.2%	4.5%	5.0%	4.4%	3.3%	4.0%	3.1%	3.3%	5.5%	6.2%
\$70,000 to \$79,999	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%	2.5%	2.7%	2.4%	2.3%	4.5%	4.8%
\$80,000 to \$89,999	2.4%	2.8%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	3.5%	3.6%
\$90,000 to \$99,999	1.9%	2.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	2.3%	2.8%
\$100,000 and over	5.9%	7.1%	3.4%	3.1%	3.8%	4.9%	3.9%	4.6%	4.6%	9.0%	8.7%
Median total income (\$)	25280	22973	27263	32508	26843	20803	25048	19107	18795	32200	36538
Average total income (\$)	38423	38573	35310	37408	35383	33542	34658	32058	31861	47430	50225



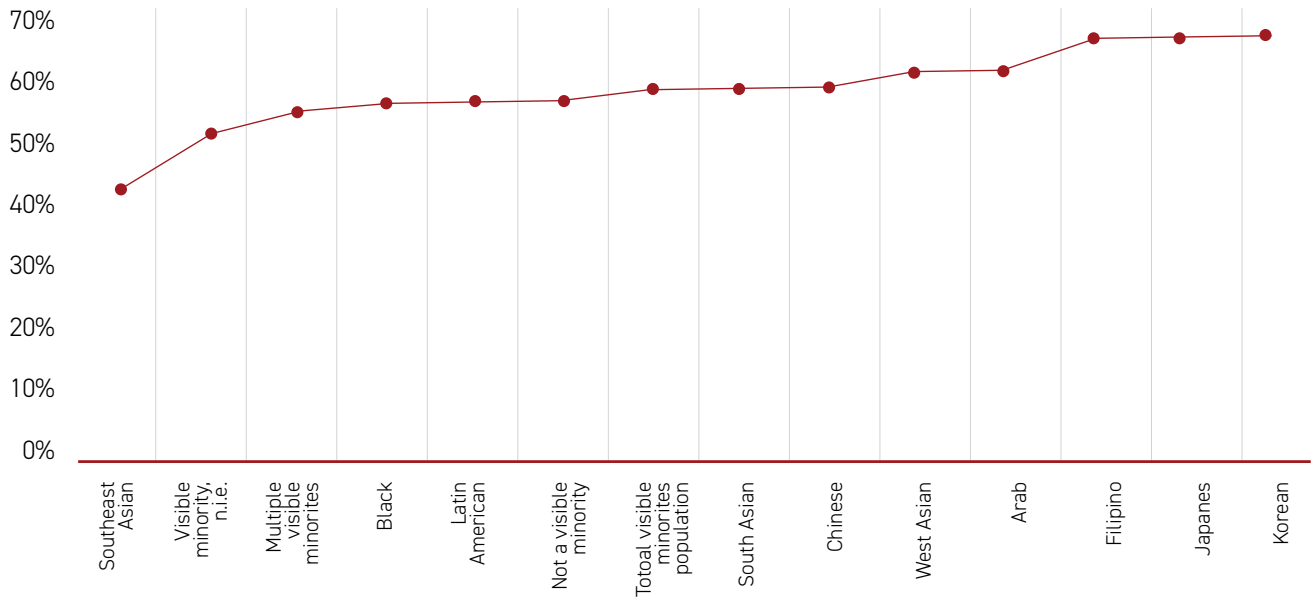
## Education

The tables and graph below show the educational characteristics of the visible minority populations in Canada as well as the educational characteristics of those that are not considered to be a visible minority. For the total visible minority population in Canada, 57% have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, whereas 55% of those not considered to be a visible minority have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree. In comparison, 61% of the Arab visible minority population has a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, which is higher than most other visible minority population groups in Canada.

<b>Educational Characteristics</b>	<b>Total visible minority population</b>	<b>South Asian</b>	<b>Chinese</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Filipino</b>	<b>Latin American</b>	<b>Arab</b>
<b>Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree<sup>25</sup></b>	6073870	1511125	1335285	880105	627620	376450	379630
No certificate, diploma or degree	1021865	263815	217825	162470	61060	69075	65990
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	1568180	391690	344940	236940	156585	100085	81145
<b>Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree</b>	3483830 (57%)	855615 (57%)	772520 (58%)	480685 (55%)	409970 (65%)	207290 (55%)	232500 (61%)
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	286170	44540	30905	80855	31650	32440	22170
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	902755	185535	166825	183500	110305	66300	49075
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	230910	46235	46850	32490	41755	13800	16655
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	2063985	579300	527940	183840	226260	94745	144600
Bachelor's degree	1358535	344775	353370	114355	195585	57450	88090
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	125070	32060	22875	14000	14515	12970	11330
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	73595	24600	15100	4305	4935	3105	8885
Master's degree	436220	162425	114200	44270	10220	18335	28305
Earned doctorate	70565	15445	22400	6910	1000	2890	7990

<b>Educational Characteristics</b>	<b>Southeast Asian</b>	<b>West Asian</b>	<b>Korean</b>	<b>Japanese</b>	<b>Visible minority, n.i.e.<sup>26</sup></b>	<b>Multiple visible minorities<sup>27</sup></b>	<b>Not a visible minority<sup>28</sup></b>
<b>Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree<sup>29</sup></b>	254485	218770	156700	75245	106300	152160	22569140
No certificate, diploma or degree	74620	35450	13260	6930	21965	29395	4217710
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	72695	52400	40450	19225	31395	40620	6008220
<b>Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree</b>	107160 (42%)	130920 (60%)	102980 (66%)	49085 (65%)	52945 (50%)	82150 (54%)	12343210 (55%)
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma	13970	8740	3185	3830	6725	7170	2514095
College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma	35550	24785	18255	14860	22990	24765	4451065
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level	5830	7295	9230	2820	3050	4900	582425
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	51815	90100	72310	27585	20185	45315	4595625
Bachelor's degree	37150	49320	52135	20145	13880	32285	3085305
University certificate or diploma above bachelor level	2830	3860	4680	1470	1440	3050	337230
Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry	2465	6115	1490	645	495	1445	117330
Master's degree	7845	23510	11840	4230	3760	7290	894820
Earned doctorate	1525	7295	2170	1090	615	1245	160945

## Postsecondary Certificate, Diploma or Degree



## 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. Immigrant status refers to whether the person is a non-immigrant, an immigrant or a non-permanent resident.

3. 'Non-immigrants' includes persons who are Canadian citizens by birth.

4. 'Immigrants' includes persons who are, or who have ever been, landed immigrants or permanent residents. Such persons have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship by naturalization are included in this category. In the 2016 Census of Population, 'Immigrants' includes immigrants who landed in Canada on or prior to May 10, 2016.

5. 'Non-permanent residents' includes persons from another country who have a work or study permit or who are refugee claimants, and their family members sharing the same permit and living in Canada with them.

6. The abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means 'not included elsewhere.' Includes persons with a write-in response such as 'Guyanese,' 'West Indian,' 'Tibetan,' 'Polynesian,' 'Pacific Islander,' etc.

7. Includes persons who gave more than one visible minority group by checking two or more mark-in responses, e.g., 'Black' and 'South Asian.'

8. Includes persons who reported 'Yes' to the Aboriginal group question (Question 18), as well as persons who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

9. 'First generation' includes persons who were born outside Canada. For the most part, these are people who are now, or once were, immigrants to Canada.

10. 'Second generation' includes persons who were born in Canada and had at least one parent born outside Canada. For the most part, these are the children of immigrants.

11. 'Third generation or more' includes persons who were born in Canada with both parents born in Canada.

12. The abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means 'not included elsewhere.' Includes persons with a write-in response such as 'Guyanese,' 'West Indian,' 'Tibetan,' 'Polynesian,' 'Pacific Islander,' etc.

13. Includes persons who gave more than one visible minority group by checking two or more mark-in responses, e.g., 'Black' and 'South Asian.'

14. Includes persons who reported 'Yes' to the Aboriginal group question (Question 18), as well as persons who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

15. Refers to whether a person aged 15 years and over was employed, unemployed or not in the labour force during the week of Sunday, May 1 to Saturday, May 7, 2016.

16. The abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means 'not included elsewhere.' Includes persons with a write-in response such as 'Guyanese,' 'West Indian,' 'Tibetan,' 'Polynesian,' 'Pacific Islander,' etc.

17. Includes persons who gave more than one visible minority group by checking two or more mark-in responses, e.g., 'Black' and 'South Asian.'

18. Includes persons who reported 'Yes' to the Aboriginal group question (Question 18), as well as persons who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

19. All income received as wages, salaries and commissions

from paid employment and net self-employment income from farm or non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice during the reference period. For the 2016 Census, the reference period is the calendar year 2015 for all income variables.

20. The abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means 'not included elsewhere.' Includes persons with a write-in response such as 'Guyanese,' 'West Indian,' 'Tibetan,' 'Polynesian,' 'Pacific Islander,' etc.

21. Includes persons who gave more than one visible minority group by checking two or more mark-in responses, e.g., 'Black' and 'South Asian.'

22. Includes persons who reported 'Yes' to the Aboriginal group question (Question 18), as well as persons who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

23. Includes persons who reported 'Yes' to the Aboriginal group question (Question 18), as well as persons who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

24. 'Total income' refers to the sum of certain incomes (in cash and, in some circumstances, in kind) of the statistical unit during a specified reference period. In the context of households (as displayed here), total income refers to receipts from certain sources of all household members, before income taxes and deductions, during a specified reference period.

25. This variable refers to the highest level of education that a person has successfully completed and is derived from the educational qualification questions, which asked for all certificates, diplomas and degrees to be reported. This variable is reported for persons aged 15 years and over in private households.

26. The abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means 'not included elsewhere.' Includes persons with a write-in response such as 'Guyanese,' 'West Indian,' 'Tibetan,' 'Polynesian,' 'Pacific Islander,' etc.

27. Includes persons who gave more than one visible minority group by checking two or more mark-in responses, e.g., 'Black' and 'South Asian.'

28. Includes persons who reported 'Yes' to the Aboriginal group question (Question 18), as well as persons who were not considered to be members of a visible minority group.

29. This variable refers to the highest level of education that a person has successfully completed and is derived from the educational qualification questions, which asked for all certificates, diplomas and degrees to be reported. This variable is reported for persons aged 15 years and over in private households.