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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2022-INFO-102
Date: December 16, 2022

Subject:

2021 Census of Population – Citizenship and Immigration, Ethnocultural and Religious Composition, Mobility and Migration (Release 6), File: D01-03

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents an overview of Statistics Canada's sixth release of the 2021 Census of Population data, highlighting Durham Region's statistics on citizenship and immigration, ethnocultural and religious composition, as well as mobility and migration. Attachment 1 summarizes key statistics in Durham Region, the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Ontario, and Canada. The Census is conducted in Canada every five years.

2. Background

- 2.1 On October 26th, 2022, Statistics Canada released the sixth dataset in a series of 2021 Census of Population statistics for municipalities across Canada. This release focused on three specific topic areas:
- Citizenship and immigration, including citizenship and immigrant status, period of immigration, age at immigration, place of birth, generation status; and admission category;

- Ethnocultural and religious composition, including visible minority, ethnic or cultural origin, and religion; and
- Mobility and migration, including internal, intraprovincial, interprovincial, and external migration.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

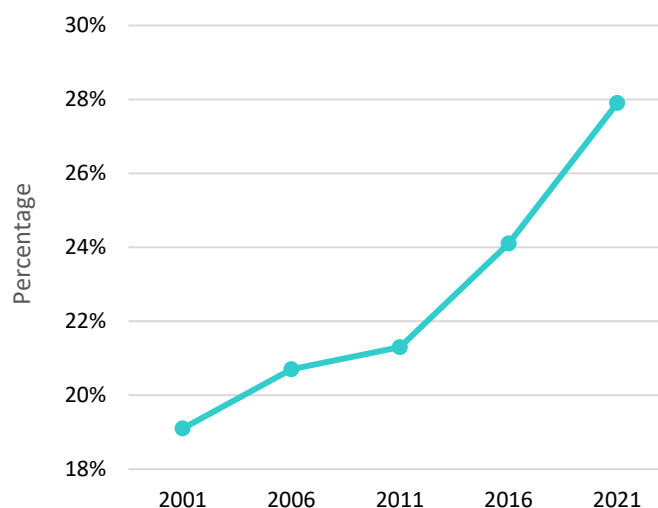
- 3.1 [2022-INFO-98](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Indigenous Peoples and Housing Portrait (Release 5)
- 3.2 [2022-INFO-80](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Language (Release 4)
- 3.3 [2022-INFO-79](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Families, Households, Marital Status, and Income (Release 3)
- 3.4 [2022-INFO-77](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Age, Gender, and Dwelling Type (Release 2)
- 3.5 [2022-INFO-31](#) – 2021 Census of Population – Population and Dwelling Counts (Release 1)

4. Citizenship and Immigration

- 4.1 The data on citizenship and immigration include: citizenship status, immigrant status, period of immigration, age at immigration, selected places of birth for the immigrant population, generation status, admission category and applicant type, and pre-admission experience.

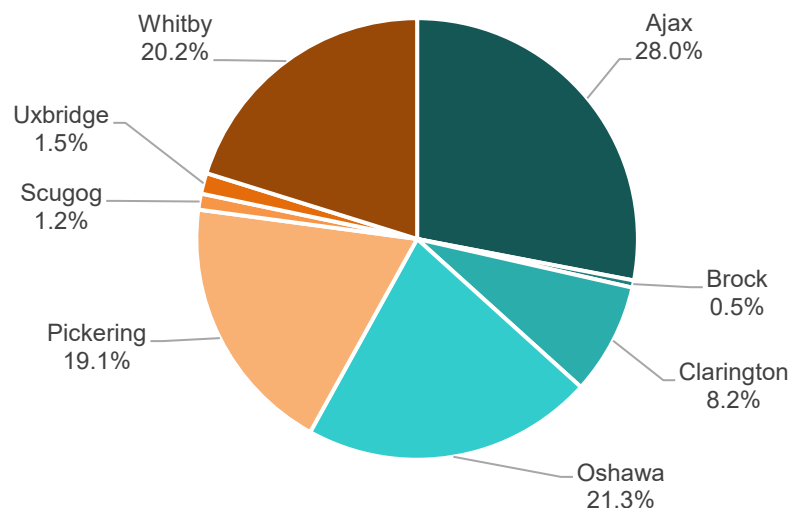
- 4.2 In 2021, approximately 94% of Durham's population were Canadian Citizens. The remaining 6% included individuals with a usual place of residence in Canada, but did not hold a Canadian citizenship, such as permanent and non-permanent residents, individuals with work or student permits, those claiming refugee status, or had obtained a special temporary residents' permit.

Figure 1 | Immigrant population in Durham as a percentage of the total population, 2001-2021



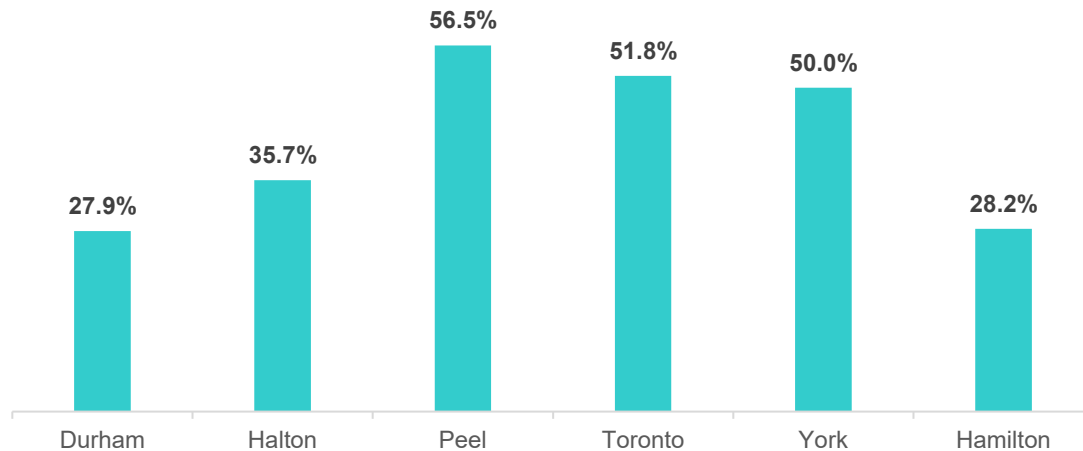
- 4.3 Immigrants (including non-permanent residents¹) comprised approximately 28% of Durham's population in 2021 (192,600 people). The 2021 figure represented a further increase from the figures reported in 2016 (24%), 2011 (21%), 2006 (21%), and 2001 (19%). Figure 1 highlights the percentage growth in the immigrant population in Durham since 2001.
- 4.4 The 2021 Census reveals that Ajax was the municipality most chosen for immigrants to settle, accommodating 28% of Durham's total immigrants (or 53,955 people), followed by 21.3% (41,115 people) in Oshawa, and 20.2% (38,865 people) settling in Whitby, (see Figure 2). Approximately 96.8% of Durham's total immigrant population lives in the southern area municipalities.

Figure 2 | Breakdown of immigrant population in Durham

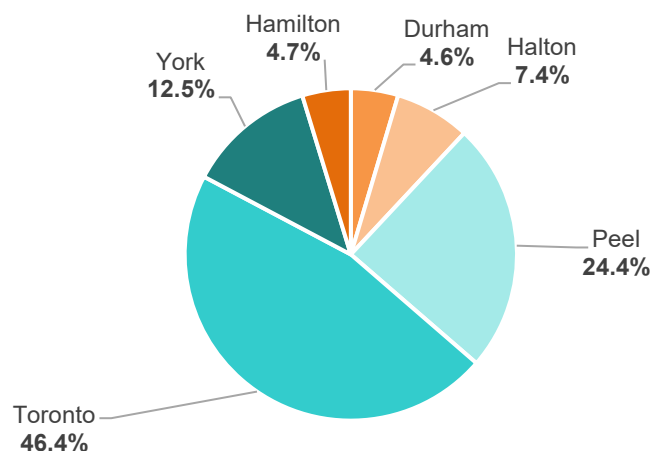


- 4.5 When comparing the individual population of each area municipality in Durham, Ajax had the highest percentage of immigrants (42.7%), followed by Pickering (37.3%), and Whitby (28.4%), while Brock had the lowest (8.2%).
- 4.6 In comparison to other GTHA Regions, Durham had the lowest percentage of immigrants in the GTHA, while Peel had the highest (56.5%), followed by Toronto (51.8%), York (50%), Halton (35.7%), and Hamilton (28.2%), as illustrated in Figure 3.

¹ For the purposes of this report, references to the term "immigrant" refer to Census data on immigrants, as well as non-permanent residents. According to Statistics Canada, an "immigrant" refers to a person who is or has been a landed immigrant or permanent resident; and a non-permanent resident refers to a person from another country with a usual place of residence in Canada and who has a work or study permit or who has claimed refugee status (asylum claimant).

Figure 3 | Percentage of immigrants by Region

- 4.7 Approximately 47% of Durham's immigrants arrived in Canada under the "economic" admission category, which applies to those with potential to meet labour market needs, or create economic opportunities by owning, operating, or investing in a business. This includes immigrants coming in through various federal and/or provincial programs². Another 35% were sponsored by family, 16% were refugees, and 1.5% identified as having other admission categories.
- 4.8 A total of 19,675 recent immigrants settled in Durham between 2016 and 2021, representing 2.8% of the Region's total population. The majority of recent immigrants moved from countries within Asia (70.1%), followed by: the Americas (15.2%); Africa (9.1%); Europe (5.2%); and Oceania (0.4%). Notably, a majority of Durham's recent immigrants were from India (33.9%). The breakdown of recent immigrants in the GTHA are illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4 | Breakdown of the recent immigrant population in the GTHA

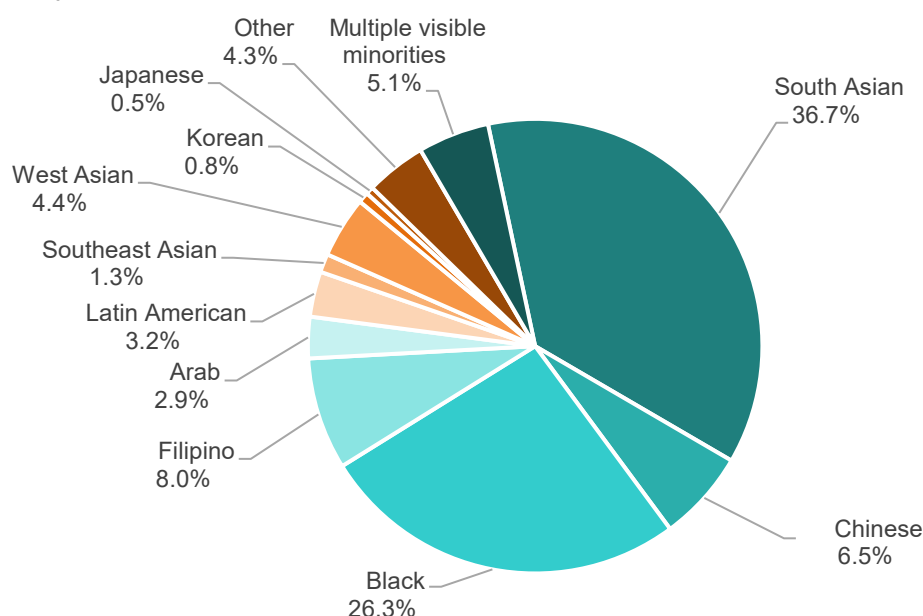
² [Permanent resident program: Economic classes \(Statistics Canada\)](#)

5. Ethnocultural and Religious Composition

5.1 The data on ethnocultural and religious composition includes information on visible minorities³, ethnic or cultural origin, and religion.

In 2021, visible minorities comprised 36.3% of Durham's population, representing an increase from 2016 (27.1%), 2011 (20.7%), 2006 (16.8%) and 2001 (12.4%). The largest groups of visible minorities include: South Asian (13.4%), Black (9.6%), Filipino (2.9%) and Chinese (2.4%). The breakdown of visible minorities is illustrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5 | Census breakdown of visible minorities in Durham



5.2 In Durham, visible minorities represent a higher percentage of its respective populations than Ontario (34.3%) and Canada (26.5%), but lower than the GTHA (52.3%). Within the GTHA, the majority of Peel's population (68.8%) identified being a visible minority, followed by Toronto (55.7%), York (55%), Halton (35.5%), and Hamilton (25.1%).

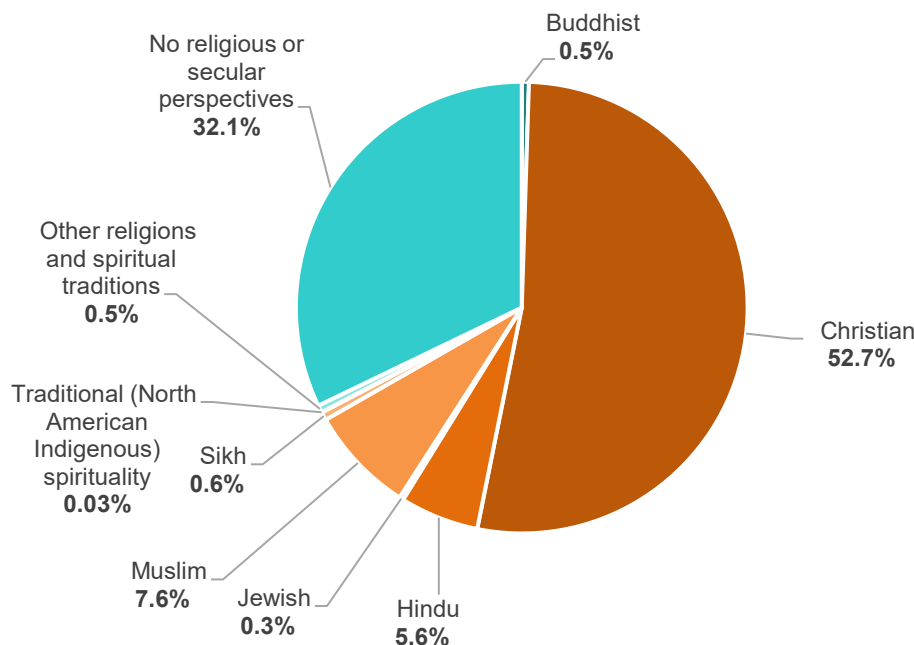
5.3 In 2021, the majority of Durham's population reported having ethnic origins of European (96.4%) and North American (27.7%) descents. Other notable ethnic origin groups in the Region included Asian (29.2%) and South American (7.6%).⁴

³ Statistics Canada refers to "visible minorities" as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour", as defined by the Employment Equity Act.

⁴ Census respondents have the ability to select multiple ethnic origins. As such, the cumulative total percentages will exceed a value of 100%.

- 5.4 Durham has a larger share of its population reporting European (96.4%) and Northern American (27.7%) ethnic origins, compared with the GTHA (67.5% and 16% respectively). The share of Asian ethnic origins was the most notable difference between the GTHA (49.1%) and Durham (27.7%).
- 5.5 In Durham, the majority of the population (52.7%) identify with the Christian faith, followed by Muslim (7.6%), Hindu (5.6%), Sikh (0.6%), Buddhist (0.5%), and Jewish (0.3%). Approximately 0.5% identify with a different religion or spiritual tradition not listed, and 32.1% don't identify with any religious or secular perspectives, (see Figure 6).

Figure 6 | Breakdown of religious backgrounds in Durham



6. Mobility and Migration

- 6.1 The data on mobility status and migration includes mobility within one and five-year periods. In 2021, nearly 90% of Durham residents did not move within the past year, 4% of residents moved within Durham, while over 6% of Durham residents were migrants (either from other parts of Ontario, from other Provinces or Territories within Canada, or from outside of Canada). Durham had a higher percentage of non-movers than both Ontario (88.4%) and the GTHA (88.5%).

- 6.2 Within the last 5 years comparatively, approximately 63.6% of residents did not move, with 9.9% of residents moving within Durham and 26.6% of residents migrating from outside Durham.

7. Potential Impacts of global events

- 7.1 Global events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have significantly impacted population and demographic growth trends across the globe. They have also influenced growth and immigration patterns in Durham and the GTHA as indicated in previous data releases noted in section 3. Canada experienced a record number of immigrants between 2016 and 2021 and has the largest proportion of immigrants among the G7 countries (23%)⁵. If the current trend continues, it is expected that more than half of the Canadian population will be made up of immigrants by 2041⁶. This trend is evident in Durham, where immigrants accounted for 27.9% of the population in 2021, representing a 15.7% increase in the rate of immigrant population growth overall compared to 2016. Immigration will continue to play a key role in shaping future forecasts and housing needs in Durham. Future data releases of the 2021 Census and beyond will provide further insight into the shifts, the longevity of their impacts, and whether they represent long-term trends.

8. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 8.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 5.3 – Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The Census is an essential source of data on the demographic characteristics over time. On November 30, 2022, a data set specific to education, labour, language of work, commuting and instruction in the minority official language was released and will be the subject of further report in early 2023.

⁵ [Immigrants make up the largest share of the population in over 150 years and continue to shape who we are as Canadians](#) (Statistics Canada, October 2022).

⁶ [Canada in 2041: A larger, more diverse population with greater differences between regions](#) (Statistics Canada, September 2022).

- 9.2 Following the completion of the seven major releases, there will be further releases (dates to be determined) that will highlight additional themes and key findings in the data, data tables, updates to data products, and further analyses.
- 9.3 The 2021 Census information will be used as input to various Regional projects, including the update to the Regional Official Plan through the Municipal Comprehensive Review (Envision Durham), infrastructure master planning, annual infrastructure capital budgets and forecasts, the annual Business Plan and Budgeting process, Development Charges Studies, and the Durham Region Profile.
- 9.4 A copy of this report will be forwarded to the area municipalities and be made available on the Region's website.

10. Attachments

Attachment #1: Statistics Canada 2021 Census of Population, Sixth Release (Citizenship, Immigration, Ethnoculture, Religion, Mobility, Migration)

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Table 1
Immigration in Durham

Immigration	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
Immigrants	52,750	985	15,305	38,520	35,780	2,240	2,890	37,985	186,460
Before 1980	9,135	445	5,185	9,655	8,955	1,160	1,485	9,300	45,325
1981 to 1990	6,940	180	1,925	4,125	4,805	275	385	4,580	23,210
1991 to 2000	13,560	135	2,595	6,705	8,480	300	430	7,120	39,320
2001 to 2010	13,245	140	2,815	8,350	7,830	290	375	8,305	41,365
2011 to 2015	4,850	40	1,365	4,230	2,895	75	105	4,010	17,565
2016 to 2021	5,010	45	1,430	5,455	2,815	140	115	4,665	19,675
Americas	13,695	150	3,050	8,590	8,855	250	375	8,595	43,565
Europe	6,255	565	6,180	10,470	6,430	1,450	1,665	9,170	42,190
Africa	3,130	10	970	2,620	1,955	65	155	2,310	11,215
Asia	29,540	245	5,050	16,720	18,460	455	670	17,765	88,905
Oceania	130	15	55	125	85	20	15	150	595

Table 2
Immigration in the GTHA

Immigration	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton	GTHA	Ontario
Immigrants	186,460	201,665	745,330	1,286,140	557,025	145,550	3,122,170	4,206,585
Before 1980	45,325	38,580	103,230	222,935	95,400	40,080	545,550	860,305
1981 to 1990	23,210	19,810	87,590	156,460	74,120	17,010	378,200	506,195
1991 to 2000	39,320	34,375	162,450	273,985	143,595	25,760	679,485	852,765
2001 to 2010	41,365	49,875	199,145	290,400	132,280	28,030	741,095	941,630
2011 to 2015	17,565	27,635	88,785	144,320	58,135	14,520	350,960	461,010
2016 to 2021	19,675	31,385	104,125	198,040	53,490	20,145	426,860	584,680
Americas	43,565	25,545	108,950	210,980	44,005	19,750	452,795	629,550
Europe	42,190	57,085	114,805	266,210	108,480	56,750	645,520	1,049,725
Africa	11,215	15,980	43,975	88,020	22,175	11,325	192,690	287,920
Asia	88,905	102,270	475,830	716,885	381,345	57,220	1,822,455	2,225,590
Oceania	595	780	1,765	4,045	1,020	505	8,710	13,810

Table 3
Visible Minorities in Durham

Visible Minorities	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
South Asian	33055	170	4,970	16,240	20,890	21,210	335	16,365	92,315
Chinese	3760	40	895	3,125	2,935	4,020	395	4,910	16,270
Black	21210	100	5,255	15,425	11,275	20,680	220	12,395	66,035
Filipino	6670	20	1,165	4,325	4,085	5,490	190	3,570	20,070
Latin American	2505	10	570	1,250	1,640	1,820	25	1,350	7,405
Arab	1695	80	740	2,280	1,500	3,020	75	1,655	8,105
Southeast Asian	825	25	380	770	570	1,150	25	660	3,295
West Asian	3745	55	690	2,125	2,060	2,815	85	2,155	10,960
Korean	235	25	140	465	420	605	50	520	1,900
Japanese	245	0	180	135	335	315	110	325	1,375
Other	3570	0	800	1,865	2,580	2,665	60	1,870	10,800
Multiple	4045	40	825	2,275	2,825	3,100	155	2,550	12,780
Total population	81,560	575	16,615	50,280	51,125	1,115	1,715	48,325	251,305

Table 4
Visible Minorities in the GTHA

Visible Minorities	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton	GTHA	Ontario
South Asian	92,315	81,245	537,930	385,440	127,960	34,790	1,259,680	1,515,295
Chinese	16,270	31,835	59,985	296,225	287,320	10,945	702,580	820,245
Black	66,035	20,430	137,295	265,005	32,845	28,415	550,025	768,740
Filipino	20,070	13,135	60,125	170,355	27,730	11,730	303,145	363,650
Latin American	7,405	21,935	49,970	42,040	14,010	15,490	150,850	284,215
Arab	8,105	11,495	32,120	92,455	17,285	11,145	172,605	249,190
Southeast Asian	3,295	4,160	26,635	53,905	15,390	8,445	111,830	167,845
West Asian	10,960	5,850	16,110	69,320	62,310	7,365	171,915	212,185
Korean	1,900	5,820	6,435	42,190	19,965	2,365	78,675	99,425
Japanese	1,375	1,675	2,585	13,210	2,390	1,160	22,395	31,420
Other	10,800	3,590	32,320	42,435	10,640	3,270	103,055	124,120
Multiple	12,780	8,350	28,840	64,700	23,345	5,825	143,840	181,025
Total population	251,305	209,505	990,345	1,537,285	641,195	140,950	3,770,585	4,817,360

Table 5
Ethnic Origin in Durham

Ethnic Origin	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
North America	29,435	3,860	33,115	55,205	21,950	6,090	5,675	35,690	191,475
African	8,360	200	2,400	6,390	4,845	105	395	5,730	27,470
South America	16,155	105	3,975	10,410	10,900	205	330	10,450	52,825
European	71,565	18,050	125,315	179,055	72,495	30,160	30,565	139,470	666,495
Asian	63,990	540	12,765	37,835	43,405	1,015	1,950	39,880	201,705
Oceania	155	45	275	210	125	20	30	300	1,165

Table 6
Ethnic Origin in the GTHA

Ethnic Origin	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton	GTHA	Ontario
North America	191,475	106,805	198,905	395,210	128,880	129,315	1,150,590	3,277,295
African	27,470	25,430	81,285	168,775	34,335	27,785	365,080	521,180
South America	52,825	28,630	109,140	214,995	47,135	20,445	473,170	640,825
European	666,495	584,900	613,770	1,740,070	635,480	626,535	4,867,250	13,183,815
Asian	201,705	213,410	917,475	1,378,885	698,320	126,305	3,536,100	4,497,850
Oceania	1,165	1,420	1,625	5,260	1,230	990	11,690	21,985

Table 7
Religion in Durham

Religion	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
Buddhist	815	15	335	820	510	75	60	900	3,530
Christian	64,165	5,685	54,345	89,390	52,975	11,325	11,855	74,270	364,015
Hindu	14,675	100	2,025	6,465	8,210	60	80	7,390	39,015
Jewish	280	30	195	470	375	50	220	455	2,075
Muslim	17,770	55	2,885	10,135	12,380	135	215	9,145	52,715
Sikh	1,640	30	235	645	750	20	15	670	4,000
Traditional (North American Indigenous)	20	0	60	60	25	15	10	0	225
Other religions and spiritual traditions	660	50	410	1,145	470	120	80	615	3,545
No religion and secular perspectives	26,225	6,345	40,235	64,890	22,885	9,595	8,865	43,205	222,245

Table 6
Religion in the GTHA

Religion	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton	GTHA	Ontario
Buddhist	3,530	4,535	21,765	62,475	30,430	4,765	127,500	164,215
Christian	364,015	320,535	632,455	1,274,450	528,150	309,780	3,429,385	7,315,810
Hindu	39,015	22,610	183,460	171,980	58,140	10,200	485,405	573,700
Jewish	2,075	2,560	2,190	99,390	60,795	3,045	170,055	196,100
Muslim	52,715	61,560	181,995	264,155	91,465	37,980	689,870	942,990
Sikh	4,000	10,615	198,630	21,545	11,400	7,270	253,460	300,435
Traditional (North American Indigenous) spirituality	225	35	30	935	235	375	1,835	15,985
Other religions and spiritual traditions	3,545	2,785	7,685	20,730	6,775	3,535	45,055	88,845
No religion and secular perspectives	222,245	164,530	210,865	845,615	378,220	183,965	2,005,440	4,433,675

Table 7
Mobility and Migration in Durham

Mobility Status	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
Moved within 1 year	124,980	12,155	99,615	172,065	97,630	21,295	21,255	135,415	684,410
Non-migrants	4,435	245	3,650	9,845	3,265	565	580	4,830	27,420
Migrants	7,335	1,010	6,350	11,640	5,175	1,310	1,210	9,035	43,065
Internal migrants	6,665	1,005	6,110	10,695	4,720	1,290	1,155	8,415	40,055
Intraprovincial migrants	6,440	995	6,005	10,405	4,600	1,250	1,130	8,220	39,040
Interprovincial migrants	225	10	110	295	125	40	20	195	1,015
External migrants	670	0	240	945	445	20	60	620	3,010
Moved within 5 years	119,035	11,570	94,540	164,055	93,395	20,460	20,480	129,320	652,855
Non-migrants	9,065	695	10,595	23,210	6,735	1,345	1,840	10,855	64,340
Migrants	29,960	3,365	25,195	47,095	24,250	4,940	4,845	33,855	173,510
Internal migrants	25,510	3,305	24,060	41,575	21,565	4,740	4,700	29,855	155,310
Intraprovincial migrants	24,440	3,225	23,155	39,520	20,900	4,660	4,500	28,815	149,215
Interprovincial migrants	1,070	80	910	2,050	665	75	205	1,040	6,090
External migrants	4,455	60	1,135	5,520	2,685	200	145	4,005	18,205

Table 8
Mobility and Migration in the GTHA

Mobility Status	Durham	Halton	Peel	Toronto	York	Hamilton	GTHA	Ontario
Moved within 1 year	684,410	584,730	1,425,7	2,736,9	1,156,6	555,450	7,143,8	13,904,805
Non-migrants	27,420	26,300	94,260	261,975	52,725	35,395	498,075	914,170
Migrants	43,065	38,620	63,395	92,845	59,925	24,685	322,535	694,950
Internal migrants	40,055	32,885	41,620	52,170	47,890	21,580	236,200	570,275
Intraprovincial migrants	39,040	31,015	37,330	42,095	45,325	20,000	214,805	516,425
Interprovincial migrants	1,015	1,875	4,295	10,070	2,570	1,580	21,405	53,850
External migrants	3,010	5,735	21,770	40,675	12,035	3,105	86,330	124,670
Moved within 5 year	652,855	560,180	1,368,0	2,637,9	1,113,5	531,870	6,864,4	13,349,180
Non-migrants	64,340	67,240	212,195	530,780	110,54	96,295	1,081,3	2,087,055
Migrants	173,510	145,495	282,915	442,910	258,41	93,820	1,397,0	2,900,355
Internal migrants	155,310	111,255	151,995	200,725	200,36	69,700	889,345	2,167,365
Intraprovincial migrants	149,215	102,690	136,180	157,040	188,79	62,530	796,450	1,938,720
Interprovincial migrants	6,090	8,560	15,815	43,685	11,560	7,165	92,875	228,640
External migrants	18,205	34,245	130,915	242,185	58,055	24,125	507,730	732,990