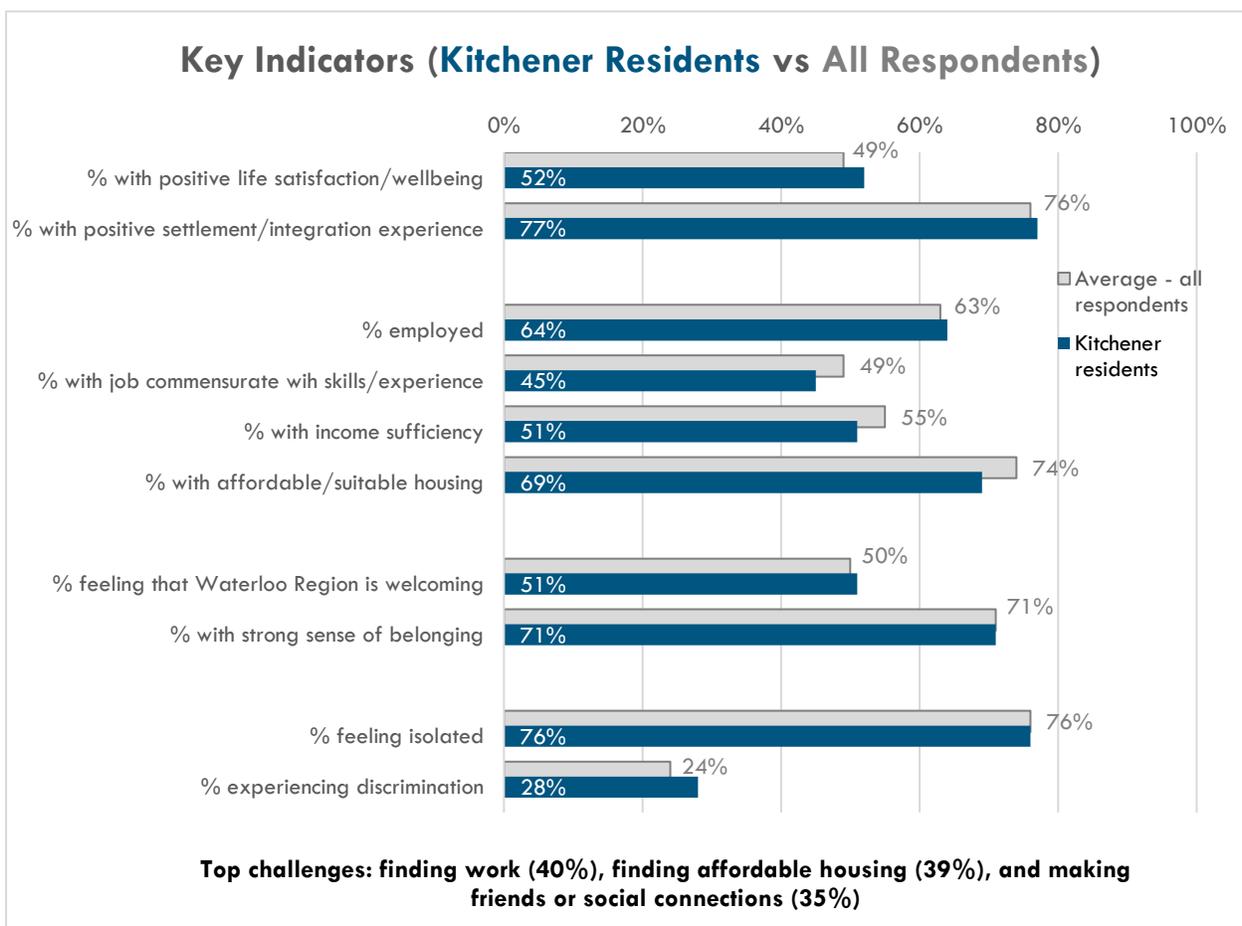


# Immigrants Living in Kitchener

## 2021 Immigrant Survey Profile

This profile highlights the experiences of 547 immigrants living in Kitchener reported in the Immigration Partnership's 2021 Immigrant Survey. It is a subset of a regional survey of 1,507 immigrants focused on their experiences of living in Waterloo Region. Full analysis of survey findings and details about the methodology are available in the 2021 Immigrant Survey Summary Report at [www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/ImmigrantSurvey](http://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/ImmigrantSurvey).



### Key Insights

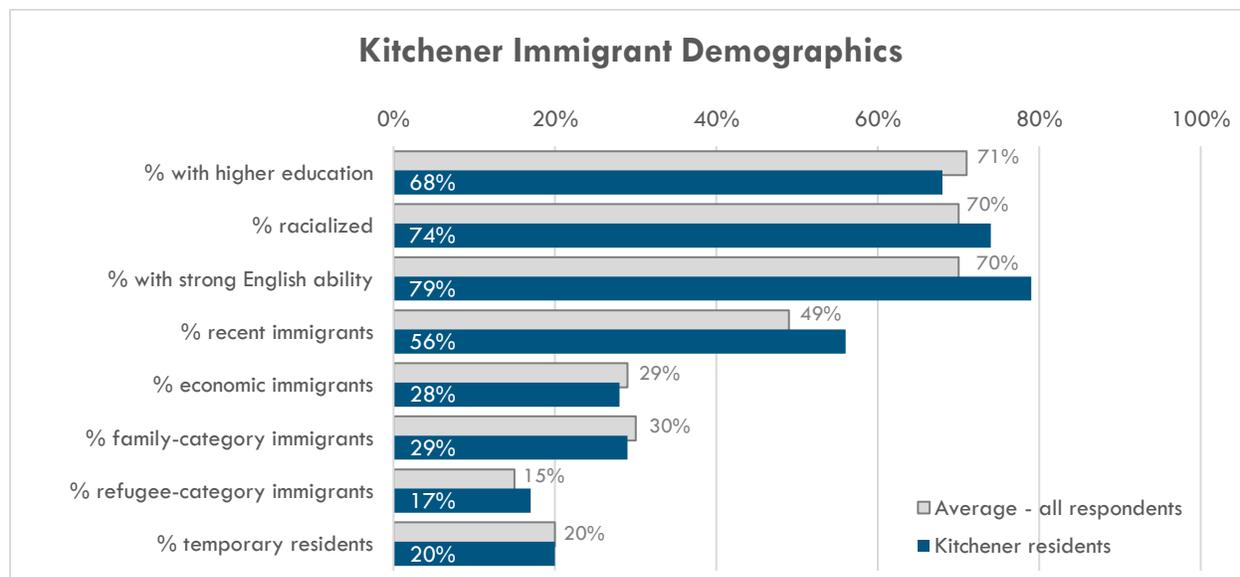
- There were not many distinct differences between the responses of immigrants living in Kitchener compared with all immigrant survey respondents, with the exception that they were somewhat more likely to have immigrated to Canada recently (in the past 5 years).
- Kitchener residents noted their top challenges were finding work, finding affordable housing and making friends or social connections.

- Kitchener residents rated services that they had used in the past year as follows:

	Accessed Service	Rated Positively	Rated Negatively
Education	71%	90%	10%
Employment and/or skills training	64%	77%	23%
English language learning	46%	83%	10%
Health	91%	82%	18%
Housing	68%	61%	39%
Interpretation/translation	44%	78%	22%
Legal	44%	81%	19%
Local government/bylaw	63%	81%	19%
Mental health	50%	73%	27%
Police	57%	81%	19%
Settlement/immigrant services	54%	83%	17%
Small business/entrepreneurial supports	37%	71%	29%
Other community services	30%	49%	51%

- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, Kitchener residents were more likely to positively rate the following: education (90% vs 85%), employment/skills training (77% vs 72%), English language learning (90% vs 82%), health (82% vs 76%), and less likely to positively rate “other community services” (49% vs 54%)
- Among respondents who had used English learning services in the past year, Kitchener residents were more likely to say that language learning services they used in the past year were useful in helping them learn English (95% vs 89%)
- For respondents who had not used services:
  - 23% said they didn’t use those services because they weren’t aware of them (but would have if they had known)
  - 7% weren’t aware but wouldn’t have used them anyway
  - 67% didn’t need the services
  - 5% didn’t qualify for the services
- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, they were similarly likely to say that language interpretation was provided for them when they visited a hospital, clinic or health professional in the past year (6% vs 7%) and that they brought a family member or friend to communicate in English (9% vs 12%).
- Compared to all temporary resident respondents, Kitchener temporary residents were more likely to want to stay permanently in Waterloo Region (66% vs. 58%)
- The most frequently mentioned helpful supports were: having family support (46%), making friends (34%) and finding work (23%)
- When asked what changes would help immigrants reach their full potential, the most frequent suggestions were: more affordable housing options (52%), more opportunities to help improve English skills (34%), and more or better programs for immigrants to find work (32%)

## Demographic Profile of Kitchener Respondents



- Kitchener respondents were more likely to be recent immigrants (i.e. immigrated in the past 5 years) (56% vs 49): 5% of Kitchener residents had been in Canada less than a year, 51% 1 to 5 years, 15% 6 to 10 years, and 29% immigrated more than 10 years ago
- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, Kitchener residents they were similarly likely to have English as a first language (17% vs 16%). Other top first languages were Arabic (12%), Tigrinya (8%) and Spanish (8%)
  - For those with a non-English first language, they were more likely to speak English well or very well (79% vs. 70%)
  - 4% of non-English first language speakers spoke English poorly or not at all
- 7% were youth (age 15-24y), 88% were adults (25-64y), 5% were older adults age 65 years and older
- Immigrants in Kitchener were similarly likely to be racialized (74% vs 70%)
- Kitchener residents were similarly likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher (68% vs 71%)
- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, Kitchener residents were similar in terms of gender (65% women & 35% men)
- 4% self-identified as a member of the LGBTQ+ community
- 8% were living with a disability or chronic disease
- Compared to all Immigrant Survey respondents, Kitchener residents were more likely to be Christian (45% vs 38%) and similarly likely to be Muslim (23% vs 25%), Hindu (5% vs 6%), and less likely to not be a member of a faith community (20% vs 27%)
- 64% of Kitchener immigrant respondents were employed (either full time, 48%, or part time, 16%) with 5% self-employed, 14% unemployed and seeking work, and 16% not in the workforce

*This profile only highlights larger differences between this population and all immigrant survey respondents across Waterloo Region. In the charts, "Key differences" are variables with more than 10% difference between this population and all survey respondents. Because of small sample sizes for some subpopulations, the findings should be interpreted with caution. In the Key Indicators chart: "employed" includes respondents that were employed full time or part time; "feeling that Waterloo Region is welcoming" refers to respondents that rated how welcoming Waterloo Region is to immigrants as 8-10 on a ten-point scale. "Higher education" refers to respondents that have completed a Bachelor's degree or higher; "strong English ability" refers to respondents with a non-English first language that speak English well or very well.*

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