

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile

June 2024



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
PARAMEDIC SERVICES



IMMIGRATION
PARTNERSHIP
WATERLOO REGION

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile



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Overview

Immigrants in Waterloo Region play an important role in increasing population, growing the economy and contributing to a diverse and multicultural society. According to the 2021 census, there were 147,190 immigrants in Waterloo Region, making up a quarter (25.4 per cent) of the region's total population. There were 27,835 people in Waterloo Region who immigrated between 2016 and 2021. Compared to other regional municipalities in Ontario, Waterloo Region had the 8th highest proportion of immigrants; third outside the Greater Toronto Area.

This report provides a profile of immigration in Waterloo Region by presenting data on both recent and established immigrants as well as temporary residents. The purpose of the report is to increase the understanding of immigrant populations in Waterloo Region to ensure that appropriate services and strategies are planned to address the broader needs of this population.

This report is a collaborative effort between the Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership and Region of Waterloo Public Health. The Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership consists of community members, community organizations, post-secondary and business partners from multiple sectors working together to create the conditions for immigrants to succeed and help build a welcoming, dynamic community.

Definitions for key terms used throughout the document can be found in the Data Notes section at the end of the report.

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile

Executive Summary

Permanent and Temporary Resident Arrivals

Permanent Residents

- Between 2013 and 2022, a total of 42,945 permanent residents landed in Waterloo Region. In 2022, 7,790 new permanent residents landed in Waterloo Region.
- Immigration levels in Waterloo Region experienced a significant increase in 2021, with a 190 percent increase from 2020. This trend continued into 2022, which can be attributed to Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introducing several programs aimed at attracting more immigrants to Canada in 2021.
- Between 2018 and 2022, Waterloo Region experienced an almost doubling (96 per cent increase) in the number of permanent resident arrivals across four immigration categories: economic, family, refugee, and others.
- In 2022, the majority of permanent residents arriving in Waterloo Region (49 per cent of all permanent residents) were in the economic category.
- Between 2018 and 2022, the number of permanent resident arrivals in Cambridge, Kitchener and the Townships increased by over 100 per cent while arrivals in the City of Waterloo saw more moderate growth of around 60 per cent.

Temporary Residents

- The number of temporary permits issued each year in Waterloo Region nearly doubled over the last 5 years from 17,630 in 2018 to 36,840 in 2022.
- International students made up the majority of temporary residents in Waterloo Region. Between 2018 and 2022, most study permit holders came for post-secondary education, followed by other types of studies and secondary or lower education.
- The unique count of work permit holders also steadily increased from 8,890 in 2018 to 21,395 in 2022. During this period, the majority of work permit holders arrived in Waterloo Region through the International Mobility Program.
- From 2018-2022, the majority of temporary residents in Waterloo Region came from India, accounting for 71 per cent of study permit and 68 per cent of work permit holders under the International Mobility Program holders.

Secondary Migration

- Secondary migration also contributed to the growth of the immigrant population in Waterloo Region. Among immigrants who obtained permanent resident status in 2015, 540 had left Waterloo Region five years after landing, but an additional 1,980 moved to Waterloo Region, resulting in a net gain of 1,440 permanent residents five years after their landing in Canada.

Population and Family Composition

- In Waterloo Region, recent immigrants tended to be younger compared to both established immigrants and the Canadian-born population. The majority (87 per cent) of recent immigrants who arrived in Waterloo Region between 2016 to 2021 were under the age of 44 with a median age of 31 years compared with 34 years for the Canadian-born population.
- Recent immigrants in Waterloo Region were equally distributed between the men+ and women+ genders.
- In 2021, nearly half of the population in Waterloo Region belonged to the third generation or more category.
- The proportion of racialized population among recent immigrants in Waterloo Region was 1.5 times higher compared to established immigrants and seven times higher than among the Canadian-born population.
- In 2021, the largest racialized groups among recent immigrants in Waterloo Region were South Asian (30 per cent), Black (21 per cent), and Arab (12 per cent).
- Comparing to the 2016 census, the Black and Filipino recent immigrant populations saw an increase in ranking whereas the Arab, Chinese and West Asian populations ranked lower.

Language

- Among recent immigrants in Waterloo Region in 2021, English was the most common mother tongue language, accounting for 15 per cent, followed by Arabic at 12 per cent, and Punjabi at 6 per cent.
- English and Punjabi saw an increase in ranking compared to the 2016 census while Arabic saw a decline in ranking.
- In 2021, 87 per cent recent immigrants in Waterloo Region reported speaking English at home.
- Among those speaking a language other than English or French at home, Portuguese was the most frequently reported mother tongue at 11 per cent, closely followed by Arabic at 10 per cent, and Mandarin at 9 per cent.

Employment, Education, Income, and Housing

Employment

- Recent immigrants in Waterloo Region had slightly higher unemployment rates at 13 per cent, compared to 11 per cent for established immigrants and 10 per cent for Canadian-born individuals.
- Both racialized established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals showed higher unemployment rates compared to their non-racialized counterparts, with rates at 13 per cent and 8 per cent, and 17 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.
- Natural and applied sciences and related occupations were the most common among recent immigrants while sales and service roles were the most common among established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals.

Education

- Recent immigrants in the Waterloo Region had a higher level of educational attainment, with 65 per cent holding a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 58 per cent among established immigrants and 53 per cent among Canadian-born individuals.
- Immigrants, both recent and established, were more likely to pursue studies in architecture, engineering, and related technologies, with rates at 24 per cent and 27 per cent, respectively, compared to 19 per cent for Canadian-born individuals.

Income

- In 2020, recent immigrants in the Waterloo Region had a median employment income approximately 17 per cent lower than the overall median income in the region. In comparison, established immigrants who arrived between 2001 and 2010 experienced a narrower income gap with a median income about 6 per cent lower than the regional median.
- On average, immigrants require approximately 20 years of residence in Canada before their employment income reaches median levels in the Waterloo Region.
- A larger proportion of recent immigrants, at 17 per cent, live below the Market Basket Measure low-income threshold, compared to 6 per cent for established immigrants and the Canadian-born population, respectively.

Housing

- Recent immigrants in the Waterloo Region are more likely to be renters compared to established immigrants and the Canadian-born population.
- The percentage of recent immigrants living in unsuitable housing was significantly higher at 34 per cent, compared to 12 per cent for established immigrants and 7 per cent for the Canadian-born population.

Health Status

- Immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years reported a slightly higher level of life satisfaction at 94 per cent, compared to 92 per cent for those who arrived more than 10 years ago and 91 per cent for the Canadian-born population.
- In Waterloo Region, a higher proportion of immigrants who had arrived in the last 10 years, at 26 per cent, reported experiencing regular discrimination based on their ethnicity, culture, race, or skin color, compared to 12 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago and 6 per cent of the Canadian-born population.
- Immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago exhibited a higher prevalence of one or more selected chronic diseases or conditions, at 52 per cent, compared to 49 per cent among the Canadian-born population.
- The proportion of current smokers was lower among immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago, at 11 per cent, compared to 18 per cent of the Canadian-born population.
- Among immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago, 34 per cent reported excessive drinking, compared to 48 per cent among the Canadian-born population.
- Immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years reported slightly lower access to a regular healthcare provider, at 91 per cent, compared to 95 per cent of the Canadian-born population.

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile



Permanent and Temporary Resident Arrivals

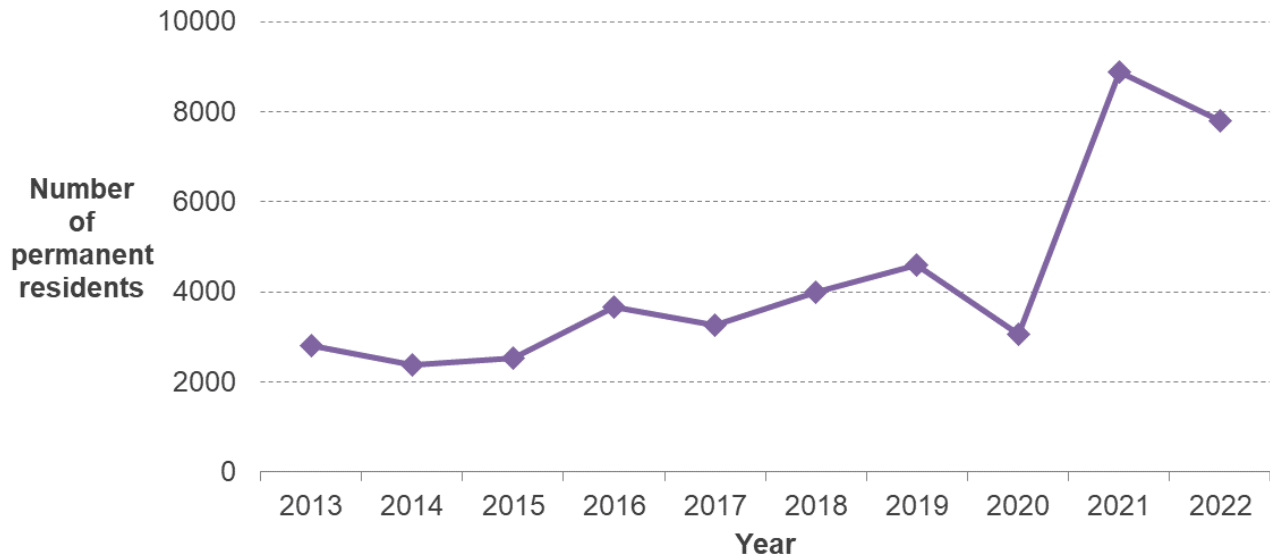
A permanent resident is a person who has acquired permanent resident status and has not subsequently lost that status. Permanent residents are entitled to live and work in Canada indefinitely but have not yet obtained Canadian citizenship.

The term 'immigrant' generally includes both permanent residents and immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship.

A temporary resident is a person from another country who has a study or work permit or who is a refugee claimant, and any non-Canadian-born family member living in Canada with them. Temporary residents are not generally referred to as immigrants and they are not included in census data related to immigrants that is presented later in this report.

Permanent Residents

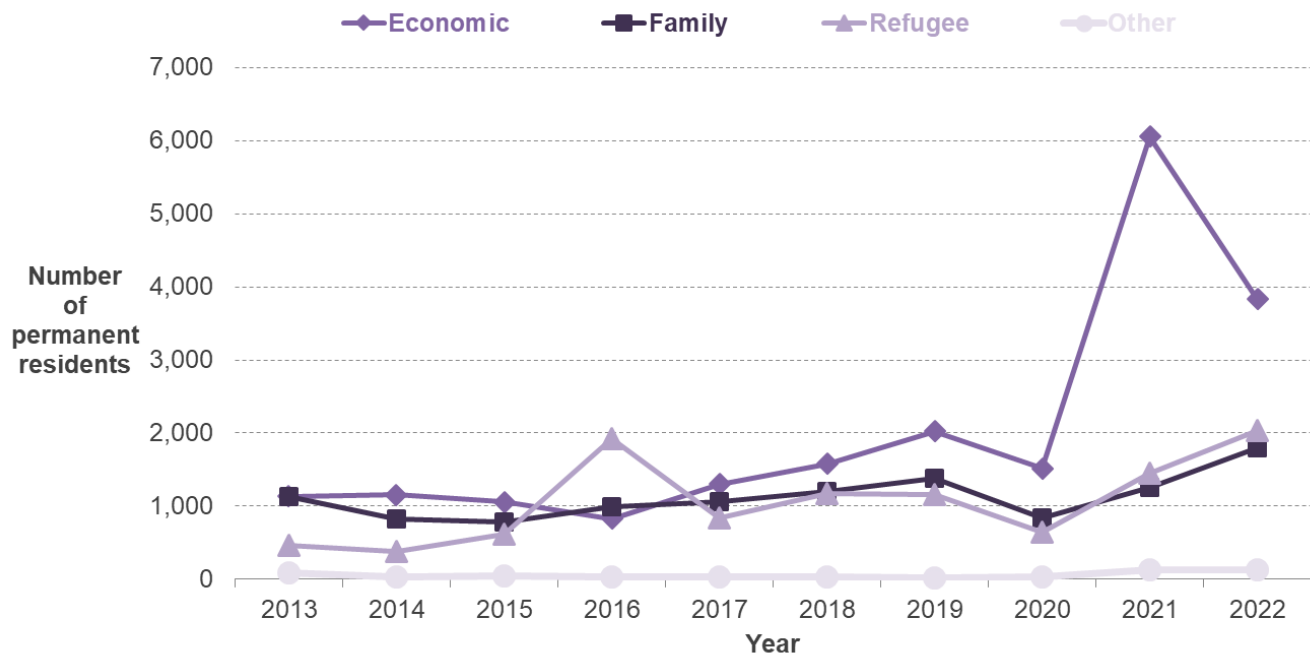
Figure 1. Number of permanent residents landing in Waterloo Region, 2013-2022



Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Permanent Residents, 2013-2022

- In 2022, 7,790 new permanent residents landed in Waterloo Region.
- Between 2013 and 2022, a total of 42,945 permanent residents landed in Waterloo Region. During this period, the number of permanent residents landed in Waterloo Region ranged between a low of 2,390 in 2014 and a high of 8,875 in 2021.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on the number of new permanent residents landing in Waterloo Region in 2020. In that year, there was a decrease of 33 per cent in the number of new permanent residents compared to 2019.
- Since 2015, the federal government has been increasing annual permanent resident numbers and in 2021, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introduced several programs aimed at attracting more immigrants to Canada. As a result, immigration levels in Waterloo Region jumped dramatically in 2021 with an increase of 190 per cent from 2020 and were maintained in 2022.

Figure 2. Number of residents granted permanent residency in Waterloo Region, by admission category, 2013-2022



Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Permanent Residents, 2013-2022

- Admission category refers to the specific immigration stream through which an immigrant is initially granted permanent residency in Canada. There are four main categories of permanent residents: economic, family, refugee, and others ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)):
- Economic Category
 - In 2022, the majority of permanent residents arriving in Waterloo Region (3,840 individuals or 49 per cent of all permanent residents) were in the economic category, which selects individuals based on their expected economic contribution to Canada.
 - Since 2017, the economic category has been the predominant stream for new permanent residents in Waterloo Region, reaching a peak of 6,055 arrivals in 2021.
- Family Category
 - In 2022, 1,790 individuals (23 per cent) arrived in Waterloo Region through the family category and were sponsored by family members already living in Canada.
 - Between 2013 and 2021, the number of permanent residents landing through the family category was relatively equal to those in the refugee category.

- Refugee Category
 - In 2022, 2,030 people (26 per cent) were granted permanent residency in Waterloo Region through the refugee category.
 - In 2016, the number of refugees (1,920) exceeded that of any other permanent resident category. Kitchener, as one of the nine designated resettlement communities for government-assisted refugees in Ontario, experienced a significant increase in refugee arrivals during the federal government's Syrian refugee resettlement initiative that year.
 - Between 2013 and 2021, the refugee and family categories saw relatively equal numbers of new permanent residents.
- Other Category
 - In 2022, 125 people (2 per cent) were granted permanent residency in Waterloo Region through the other category, which includes individuals selected on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, for reasons of public policy, and in the permit holder class.
- General Trends Across Categories
 - In 2020, there was a decline in the number of permanent residents across all four categories in Waterloo Region compared to the previous year, primarily due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions.
 - In 2021, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introduced several programs aimed at attracting more immigrants to Canada, leading to an increase in the number of permanent residents across all categories in Waterloo Region.

Figure 3. Number and per cent change of permanent residents landing in Waterloo Region, by admission category and municipality, 2018-2022

Admission Category	Number obtaining permanent resident status			5 year per cent change
	2018	to	2022	
Waterloo Region				
Economic	1,575		3,840	144%
Family	1,200		1,790	49%
Refugee	1,170		2,030	74%
Other	20		125	525%
Total Permanent Residents	3,965		7,785	96%
Cambridge				
Economic	145		595	310%
Family	210		300	43%
Refugee	50		50	0%
Other	-		20	-
Total Permanent Residents	405		965	138%
Kitchener				
Economic	715		1,960	174%
Family	635		1,040	6%
Refugee	945		1,750	85%
Other	20		50	150%
Total Permanent Residents	2,315		4,800	107%
Waterloo				
Economic	710		1,240	75%
Family	310		380	23%
Refugee	150		215	43%
Other	-		35	-
Total Permanent Residents	1,170		1,870	60%
Townships				
Economic	-		25	-
Family	30		45	50%
Refugee	10		15	50%
Other	-		-	-
Total Permanent Residents	40		85	113%

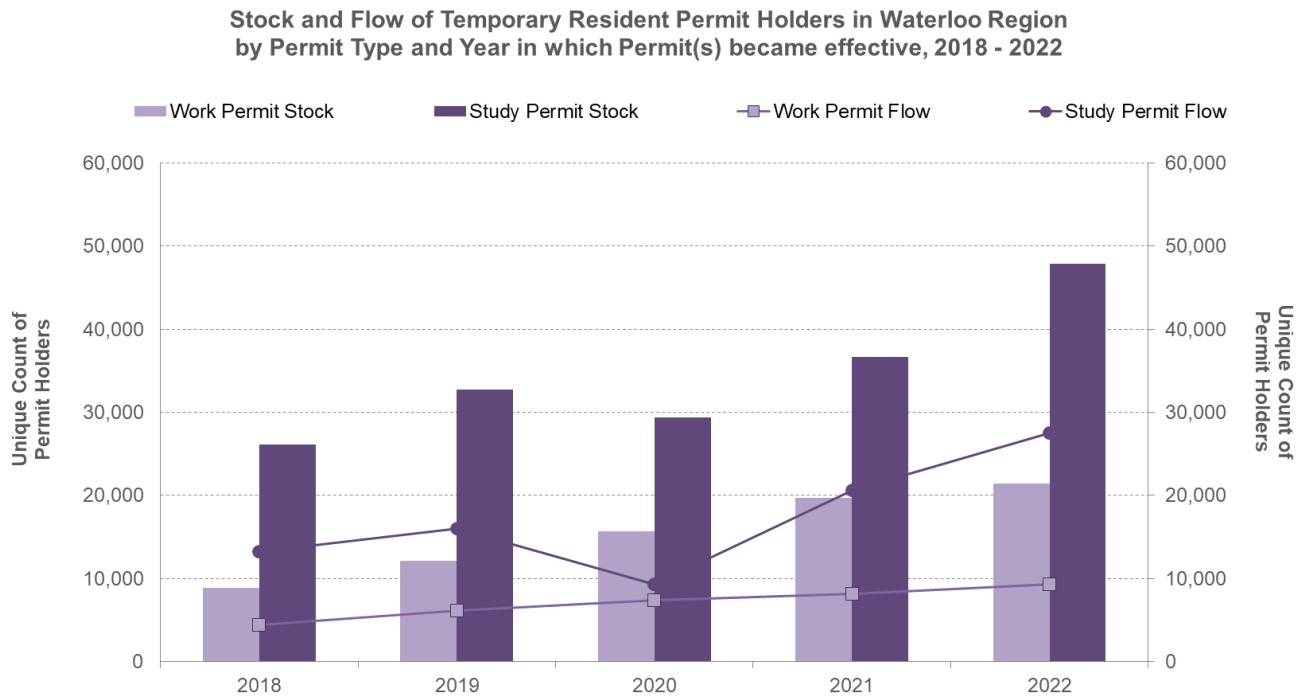
Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Permanent Resident Arrivals, 2018-2022

- Between 2018 and 2022, Waterloo Region experienced an almost doubling (96 per cent increase) in the number of permanent resident arrivals across all immigration categories.
- Between 2018 and 2022, the number of permanent resident arrivals in Cambridge, Kitchener and Townships increased by over 100 per cent while arrivals in the City of Waterloo saw more moderate growth of around 60 per cent.
- In Waterloo Region, the “other” category increased by the greatest per cent between 2018 and 2022 (525 per cent); followed by the economic category (144 per cent) and

the refugee category (74 per cent). Refugees were most likely to arrive in Kitchener where the Reception House Waterloo Region is located.

Temporary (non-permanent) Residents

Figure 4. Stock and Flow of Temporary Resident Permit Holders in Waterloo Region by Program and Year, 2018-2022



Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Temporary Residents, 2018-2022

Notes: This data on temporary residents does not include refugee claimants as this information is not available at the municipal level. The total unique count may not equal to the sum of permit holders in each destination and program as an individual may hold more than one type of permit over a given period. Stock (represented as a column) is the total number of temporary residents that exist in Waterloo Region within a calendar year whereas flow (represented as a line) represents the number of new temporary residents being issued permits, in the year the permit(s) became effective.

- The number of temporary permits issued each year in Waterloo Region (flow) nearly doubled during the last 5 years from 17,630 in 2018 to 36,840 in 2022.
- A total of 122,145 temporary resident permits were issued from 2018 to 2022.
- International students made up the majority of temporary residents in Waterloo Region. In 2018, there were 26,125 unique permit holders with study permits. This increased to 47,860 in 2022.

- International students were impacted by COVID-19. In 2020, the unique count of study permit holders dropped 9,290 due to pandemic travel restrictions. However, the number of study permit holders recovered quickly in 2021 doubling in one year to 20,650.
- The unique count of work permit holders steadily increased from 8,890 in 2018 to 21,395 in 2022.

Figure 5. Number of Permanent Resident and Permit Holder Under CUAET from January 1, 2021 to May 2023

	2021	2022	2023
			Jan - May
Admissions of Permanent Residents under CUAET	0	50	35
Permit Holders under CUAET by Year in which Permit(s) became effective	--	870	275

Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), RDB Permanent Residents, May 31, 2023 Data & RDB Temporary Residents, May 31, 2023 Data

- Starting on March 17, 2022, Ukrainian nationals and their family members could apply to travel to Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. A total of 1,145 temporary resident permit holders arrived in Waterloo Region under the CUAET program from March 2022 to May 2023.

Figure 6. Number of unique study permits, by study level and year in which permit became effective, Waterloo Region, 2018-2022

Study Level	Number Permits Effective			Average unique permits count by study level and year in which permits became effective, 2018-2022
	2018	to	2022	
Secondary or less Total				
Primary	270		715	423
Secondary	520		545	514
Total Unique Count	790		1,255	
Post Secondary Total				
CEGEP	10		10	9
College Education	6,240		19,100	10,393
University Education	4,525		4,480	4,272
Total Unique Count	10,770		23,580	
Other Studies Total				
Language Training	775		335	461
Others Studies	930		2,445	1,341
Total Unique Count	1,705		2,780	

Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Temporary Residents, 2018-2022

- Between 2018 and 2022, most study permit holders came to Waterloo Region for post-secondary education, followed by other types of studies and secondary or lower education.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on post-secondary education. The number of study permits for college education that became effective in 2020 was only 4,980, much lower than the 8,830 in 2019. A similar trend was observed in CEGEP (also known as General and Vocational/ Professional College) and university education. However, with the removal of COVID-19 travel restrictions, the number of study permits for college education surged to 12,815 in 2021 and further increased to 19,100 in 2022.
- For primary education, the number of study permits fluctuated between 2018 to 2020 but has steadily increased since 2021. The number of study permits for secondary education also fluctuated and experienced slow growth from 2021.
- Other study programs also experienced rapid growth from 2021 onward.

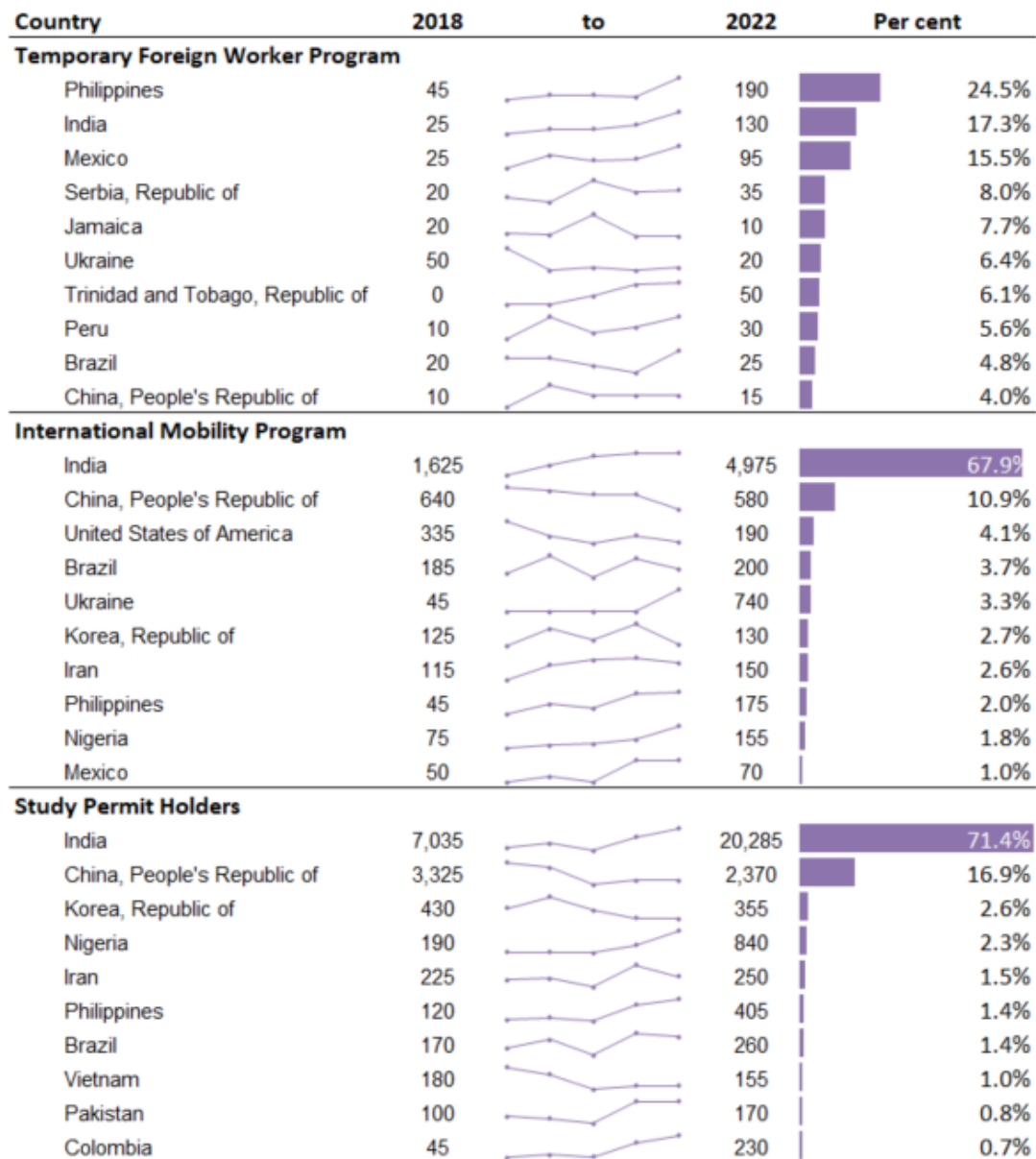
Figure 7. Number of unique work permits, by program and year in which permit became effective, Waterloo Region, 2018-2022

Work Permit Program	Number Permits Effective		Average unique permits count by work permit program and year in which permits became effective, 2018-2022	
	2018	to 2022	2018	2022
International Mobility Program (IMP)				
Agreements	295	170	211	
Canadian Interests	3,765	7,400	6,077	
Vulnerable Workers	0	15	8	
Other IMP Participants	--	955	487	
Total Unique Count	4,060	8,530	6,580	
Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)				
Live-In Caregivers	15	15	17	
Caregivers	20	--	20	
Agricultural Workers	30	185	128	
Other Temporary Foreign Workers with LMIA	275	620	364	
Total Unique Count	340	820	519	

Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Temporary Residents, 2018-2022

- Between 2018 and 2022, the majority of work permit holders arrived in Waterloo Region through the International Mobility Program (IMP; [See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- An average of 6,580 unique work permits from the IMP became effective annually in Waterloo Region from 2018 to 2022. The number of unique work permits steadily increased from 4,060 in 2018 to 8,530 in 2022. Within IMP, the Canadian Interests stream accounted for the majority of the effective permits, with an average of 6,077 unique work permits becoming effective 2018-2022, followed by the Other IMP participants stream, with an average of 487 unique work permits becoming effective during the same period.
- In the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP), an average of 519 unique work permits became effective annually in Waterloo Region between 2018 and 2022. The number of unique work permits was stable from 2018 to 2021 but increased to 820 in 2022. Within TFWP, the majority of unique work permits fell under the Other Temporary Foreign Workers with LMIA stream, with an average of 364 unique work permits becoming effective from 2018 to 2022, followed by the agricultural worker stream.

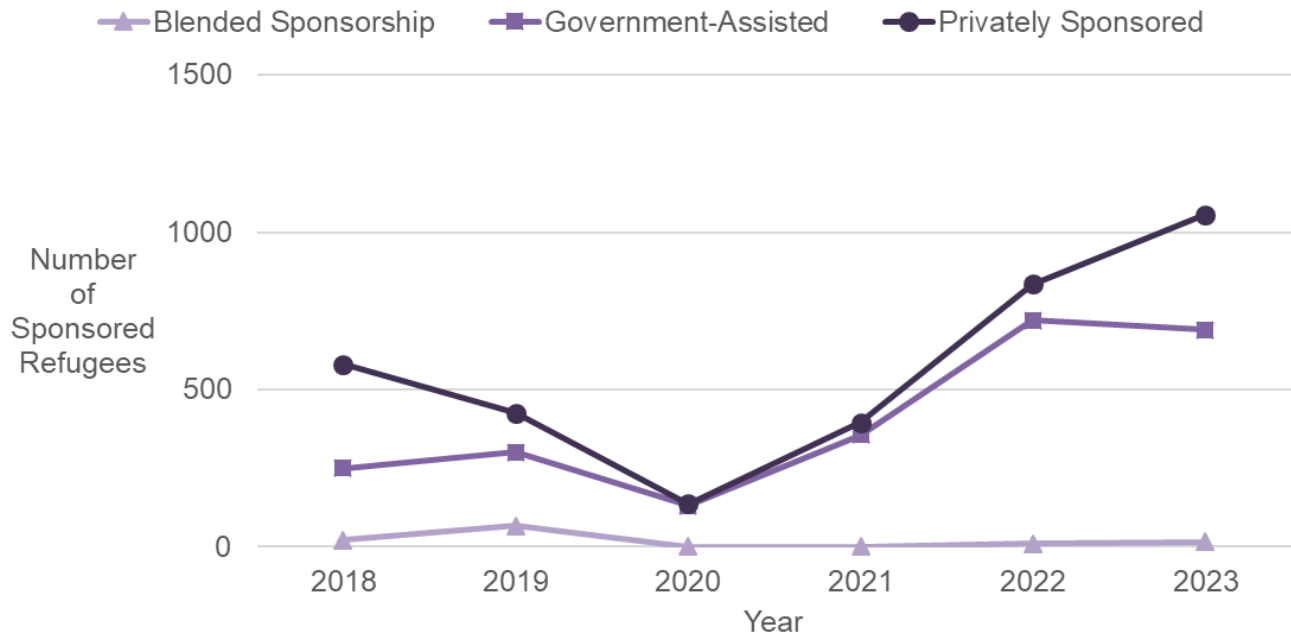
Figure 8. Permit Holders' Top 10 Countries of Citizenship when Permits became effective, Waterloo Region, 2018-2022



Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Temporary Residents, 2018-2022

- From 2018-2022, in Waterloo Region the majority of temporary residents came from India, accounting for 71 per cent of study permit and 68 per cent of work permit (International Mobility Program) holders.
- In the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, 25 per cent of temporary residents were from the Philippines (25 per cent) while 17 per cent were from India and 16 per cent were from Mexico.

Figure 9. Number of Resettled Refugees, by Stream and Year, Waterloo Region 2018-2023



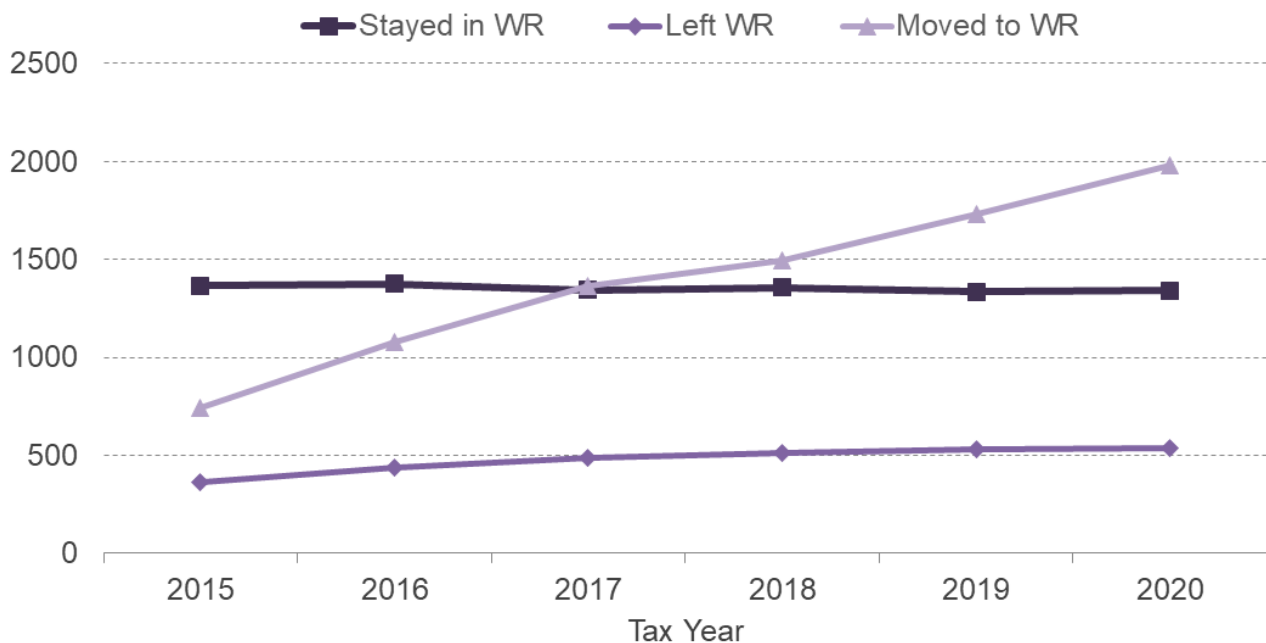
Source: Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Permanent Resident Arrivals, 2018-2023

- The number of resettled refugees in Waterloo Region has seen an increase since 2020 from 270 in that year to 1,760 by 2023.
- In 2023, the majority of these resettled refugees entered through the privately sponsored program, accounting for 1,055 individuals, followed by the government-assisted program with 690 individuals.
- Of all resettled refugees in Waterloo Region, 92 per cent initially settled in Kitchener.

Secondary Migration

Secondary migration refers to the relocation patterns of permanent residents in Canada from their first community of landing. The Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) can track secondary migration patterns by linking immigrant landing records with tax returns. The following figures illustrate the number of new permanent residents who arrived in 2015 and who have stayed in and moved away from Waterloo Region, as well as those who initially landed elsewhere but later moved to Waterloo Region.

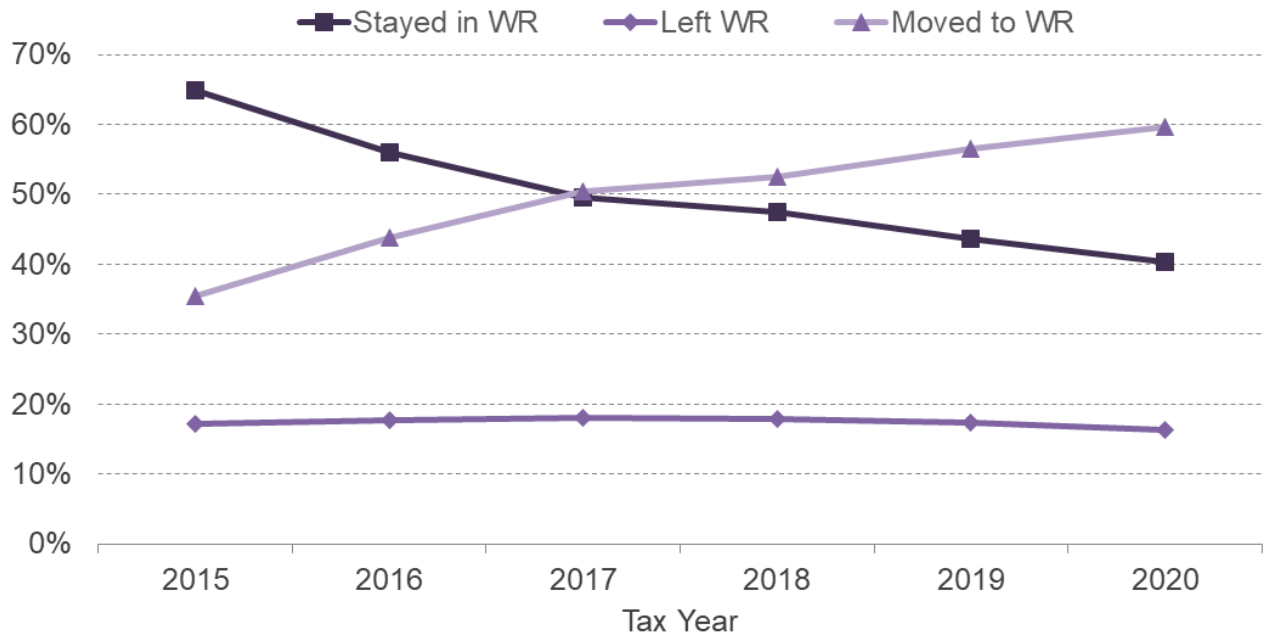
Figure 10. Number of immigrants who stayed in, left and moved to Waterloo Region after Obtaining Permanent Resident Status in 2015, by tax year, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)

- Secondary migration increases the immigrant population in Waterloo Region.
- Among immigrants who obtained permanent resident status in Waterloo Region in 2015, 435 had left Waterloo Region one year after landing, but an additional 1,075 had moved to Waterloo Region, resulting in a net gain of 640 permanent residents after one year.
- Among immigrants who obtained permanent resident status in 2015, 540 had left Waterloo Region five years after landing, but an additional 1,980 moved to Waterloo Region, resulting in a net gain of 1,440 permanent residents after five years after their landing in Canada. Furthermore, the number of people staying in Waterloo Region fluctuated over the five years.

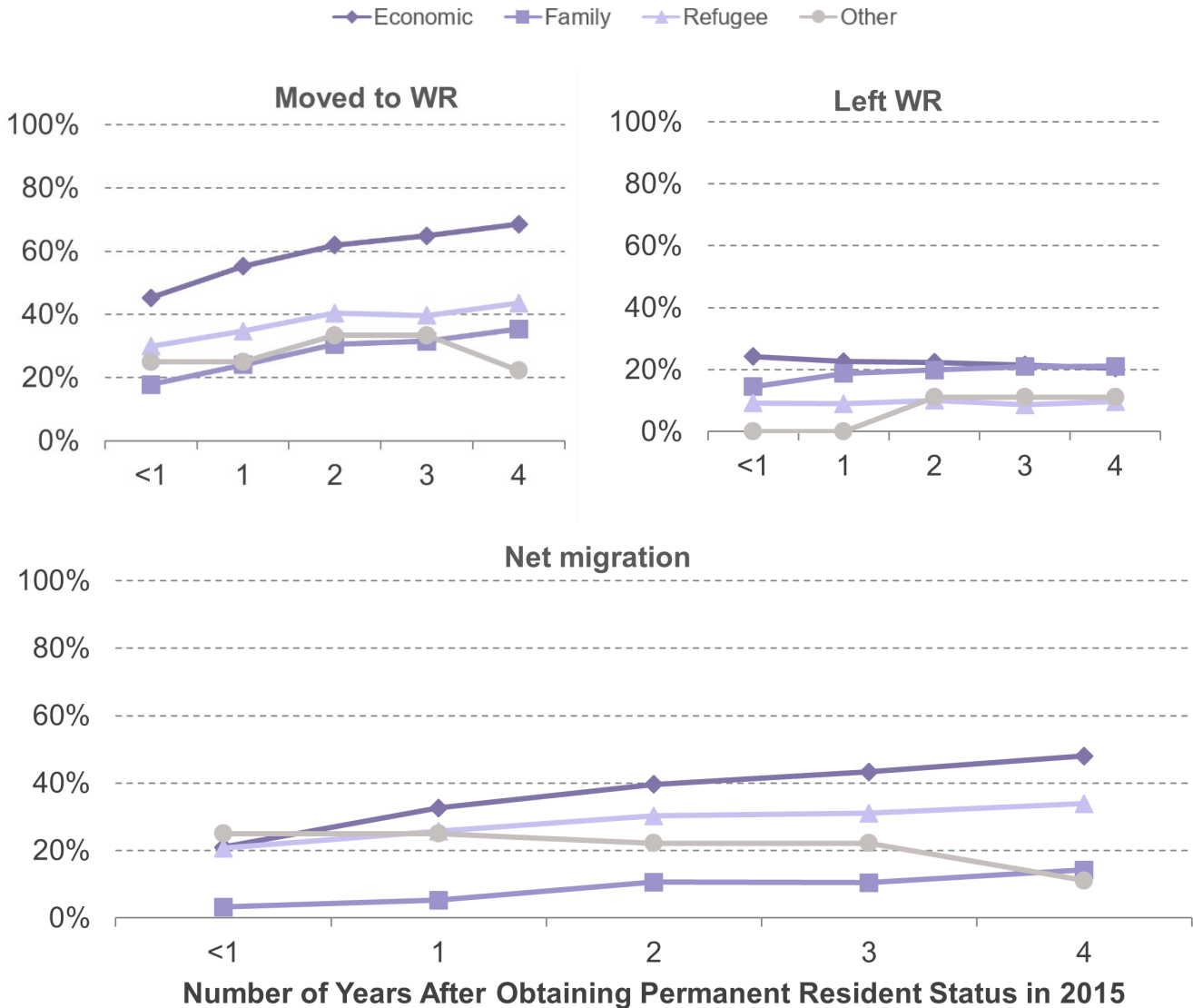
Figure 11. Proportion of immigrants who stayed in, left and moved to Waterloo Region after Obtaining Permanent Resident Status in 2015, by tax year, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)

- Net migration increase represents the difference between the number of permanent residents who moved to Waterloo Region and the number who left.
- Among permanent residents who arrived in Waterloo Region in 2015, approximately one year later, 56 per cent stayed in Waterloo Region, 18 per cent left Waterloo Region, and an additional 44 per cent who initially lived in another municipality had relocated to Waterloo Region. This resulted in a one-year net migration increase of 26 per cent.
- After five years in Canada, 40 per cent of permanent residents stayed in Waterloo Region, 16 per cent left Waterloo Region, and an additional 60 per cent who previously lived elsewhere had moved to Waterloo Region. This led to a net migration increase of 43 per cent in year five.

Figure 12. Proportion of permanent residents who obtained permanent resident status in 2015 and left, moved to and net migration increase to Waterloo Region, by number of years after obtaining permanent resident status and immigration category



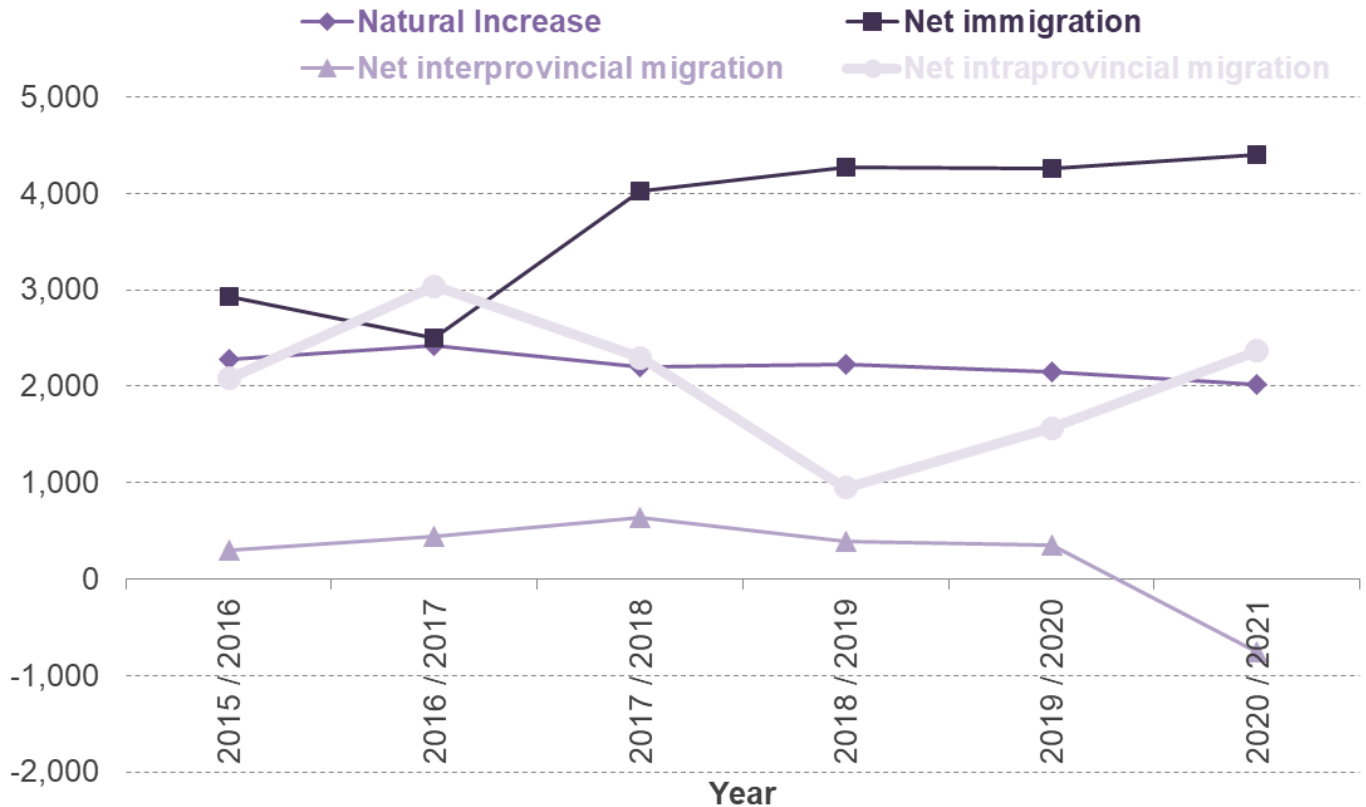
Source: Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB)

- In all immigration categories and time periods after obtaining permanent resident status, the number of immigrants moving to Waterloo Region was greater than the number moving out.
- Across all three main categories, only 18.2 per cent left in 2016 after the first year after they obtained the permanent resident status in 2015. People who obtained permanent resident status under the economic category are more likely to leave Waterloo Region within the first year (24 per cent) compared to immigrants under other categories such as family (15 per cent) and refugee (9 per cent).

- Economic immigrants who became permanent in Waterloo Region in 2015 tended to be more mobile compared to other immigration categories. Within one year, 45 per cent had moved to Waterloo Region and 24 per cent had left, resulting in a net migration increase of 33 per cent. In 2019, 20 per cent had left Waterloo Region, but 69 per cent had moved to Waterloo Region, resulting in a net migration increase of 48 per cent.
- Family category immigrants who became permanent residents in 2015 had a 3 per cent net migration increase after one year (with 18 per cent moving to Waterloo Region and 15 per cent leaving). In 2019, the net migration increase grew to 14 per cent (with 35 per cent moving to Waterloo Region and 21 per cent leaving).
- Refugees: Only 9 per cent of refugees had left Waterloo Region after one year, but an additional 35 per cent had moved to the Region, resulting in a net migration increase of 26 per cent. In 2019, still only 10 per cent of refugees had left Waterloo Region, but an additional 44 per cent had relocated to Waterloo Region, resulting in net migration increase of 34 per cent.

Population Growth

Figure 13. Sources of population growth in Waterloo Region, 2015/2016 to 2020/2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division and Health Statistics Division, 2021

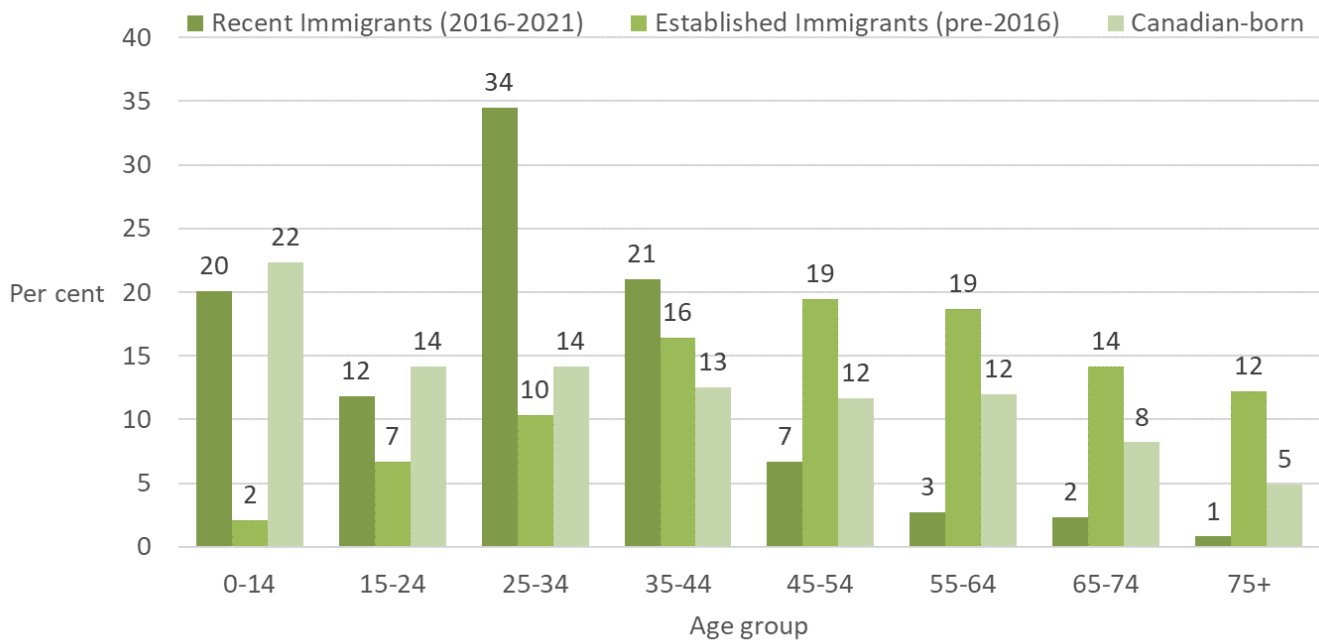
- Net immigration is a significant contributor to population growth in Waterloo Region. In 2020/2021, 55 per cent of population growth was due to immigration (immigrants minus emigrants). This was the highest population growth source in Waterloo Region ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- Other sources contributing to population growth in recent years include intra-provincial migration, closely followed by natural increases.
- Since 2017/2018, immigration has surpassed all other sources of population growth.
- From 2018/2019 to 2020/2021, intraprovincial migration increased by 150 per cent Net interprovincial migration experienced a decline of 313 per cent from 2019/2020 to 2020/2021.

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile

Population and Family Composition

Age Distribution

Figure 14. Age of recent immigrants, established immigrants, and Canadian-born, Waterloo Region, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

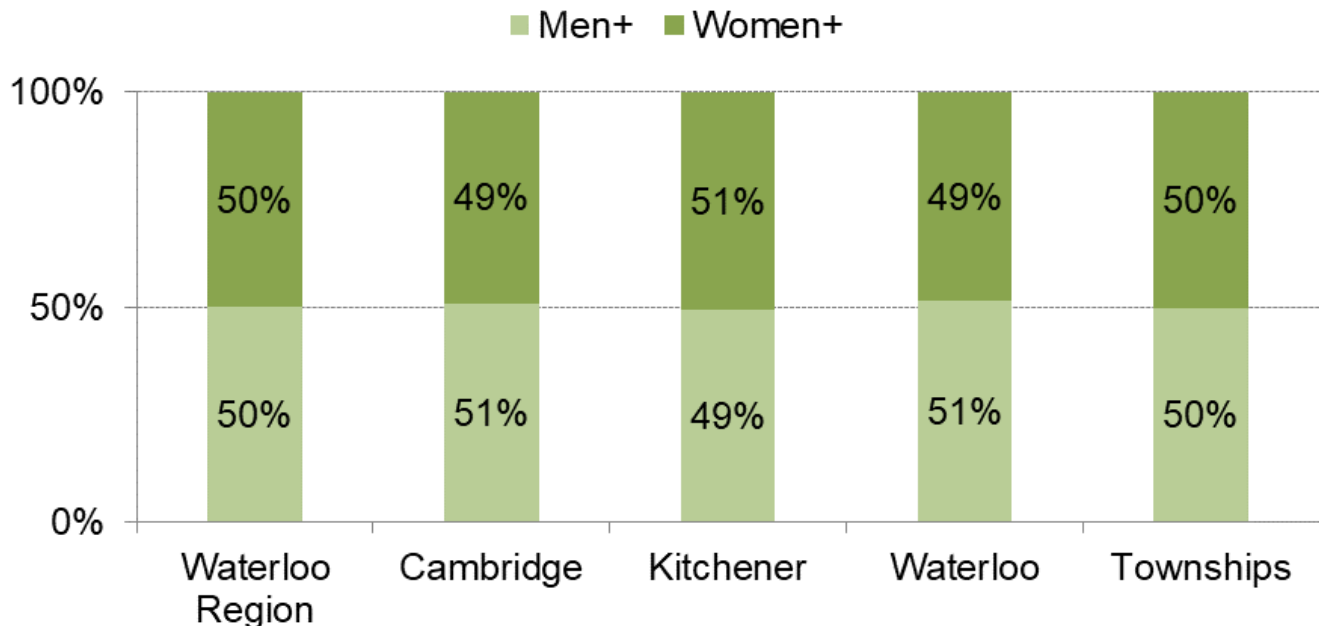
- In Waterloo Region, recent immigrants were generally younger than both established immigrants and the Canadian-born population. The vast majority (87 per cent) of recent immigrants who arrived in Waterloo Region between 2016 to 2021 were under the age of 44. The median age of recent immigrants was 30.8 years compared to 34.4 years for the Canadian-born population.
- In 2021, the largest age category among recent immigrants consisted of young adults aged 25 to 34 years; 34 per cent of all recent immigrants fell into this category

compared to 10 per cent for established immigrants and 14 per cent for the Canadian-born population in Waterloo Region.

- Among youths aged 15 to 24 years, only 12 per cent of recent immigrants, 7 per cent of established immigrants, and 14 per cent of the Canadian-born population in Waterloo Region belonged to this age group.
- Only 3 per cent of recent immigrants were 65 years of age or older while 45 per cent of established immigrants and 25 per cent of the Canadian-born population in Waterloo Region belonged to this age group.

Gender

Figure 15. Gender of recent immigrants (2016-2021) by municipality, Waterloo Region, 2021

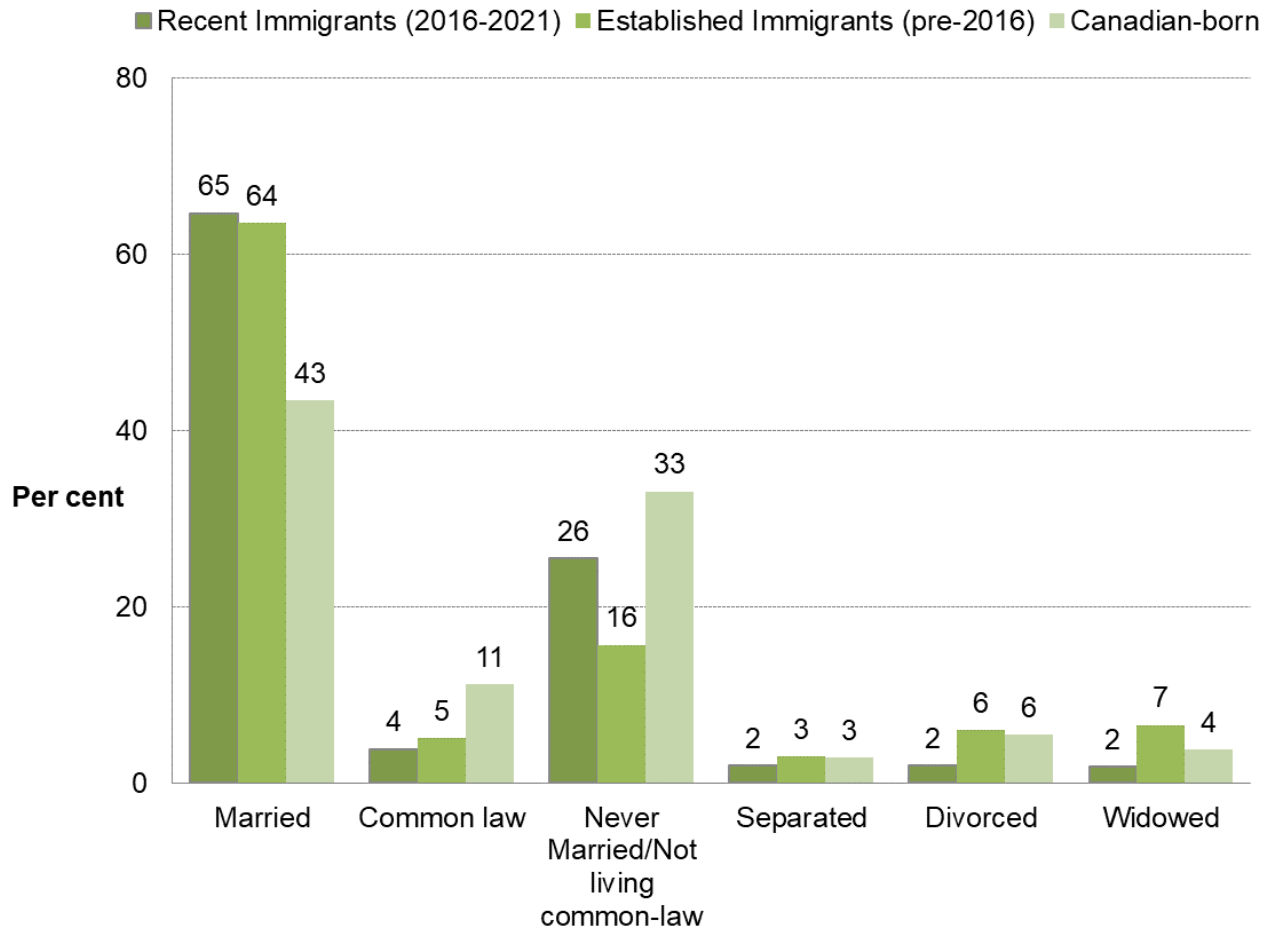


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- Recent immigrants in Waterloo Region were equally distributed between the men+ (50 per cent) and women+ (50 per cent) genders ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- Similarly, recent immigrants were equally distributed between these two groups in Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo. However, in the townships, there was a higher proportion of women+ (56 per cent) among recent immigrants compared to men+ (44 per cent).

Marital Status

Figure 16. Marital status of recent immigrants, established immigrants, and Canadian-born, Waterloo Region, 2021



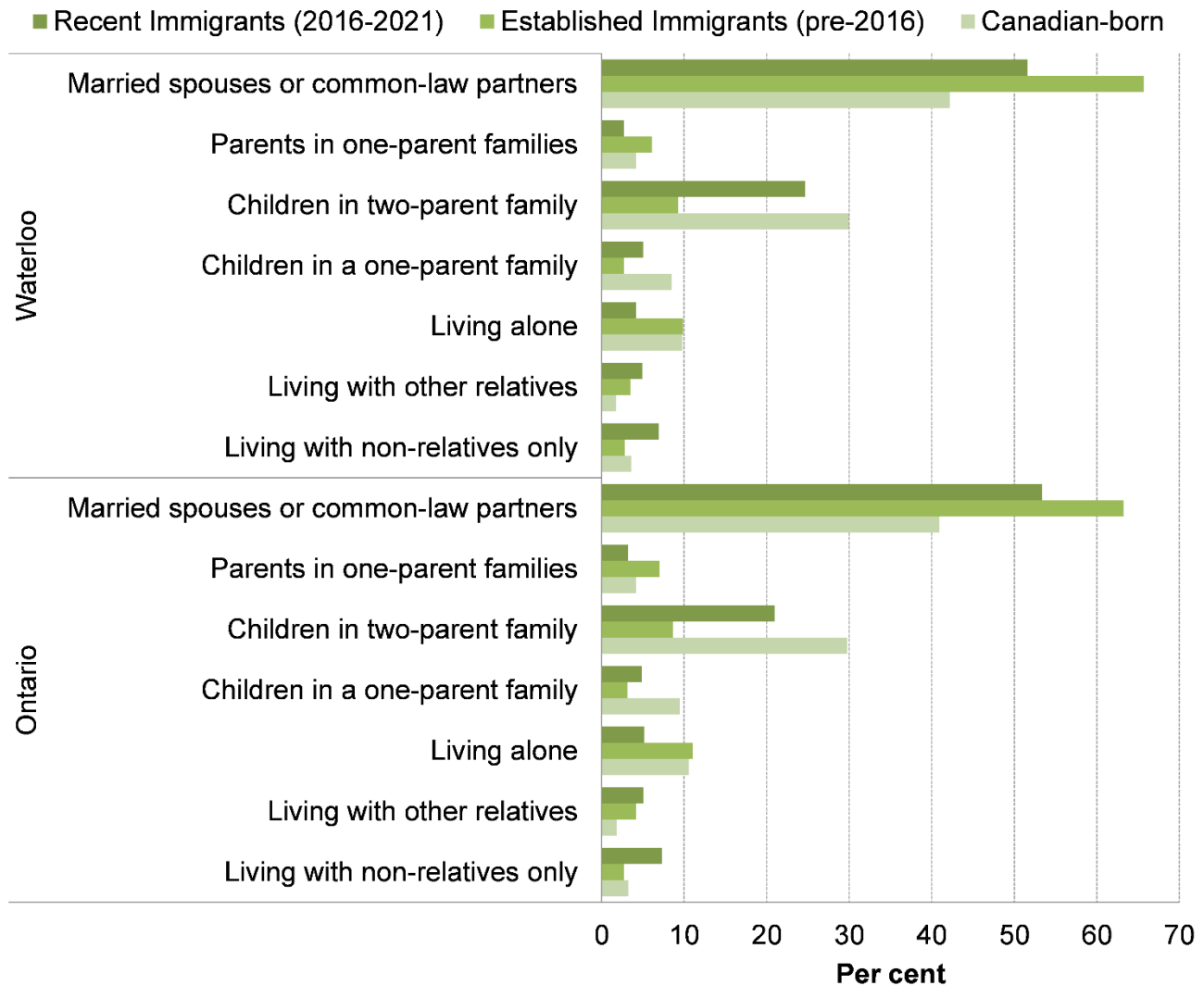
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- The marital status varied across different demographic groups in Waterloo Region. Recent immigrants are typically at an age where they are more likely to be married while Canadian-born are more likely to be youths aged 15 and older (15+).
- In 2021, the majority of recent immigrants (65 per cent) and established immigrants (64 per cent) were legally married in contrast to only 43 per cent of the Canadian-born population in Waterloo Region.
- In the same year, the proportion of the population that had divorced was higher among the Canadian-born and established immigrant populations (6 per cent respectively) compared to recent immigrants (2 per cent).

- In 2021, 26 per cent of recent immigrants in Waterloo Region and 33 per cent of the Canadian-born population had never married or entered into a common-law relationship, compared to only 16 per cent of established immigrants.

Living Arrangements

Figure 17. Living arrangements of recent immigrants, established immigrants and Canadian-born, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021



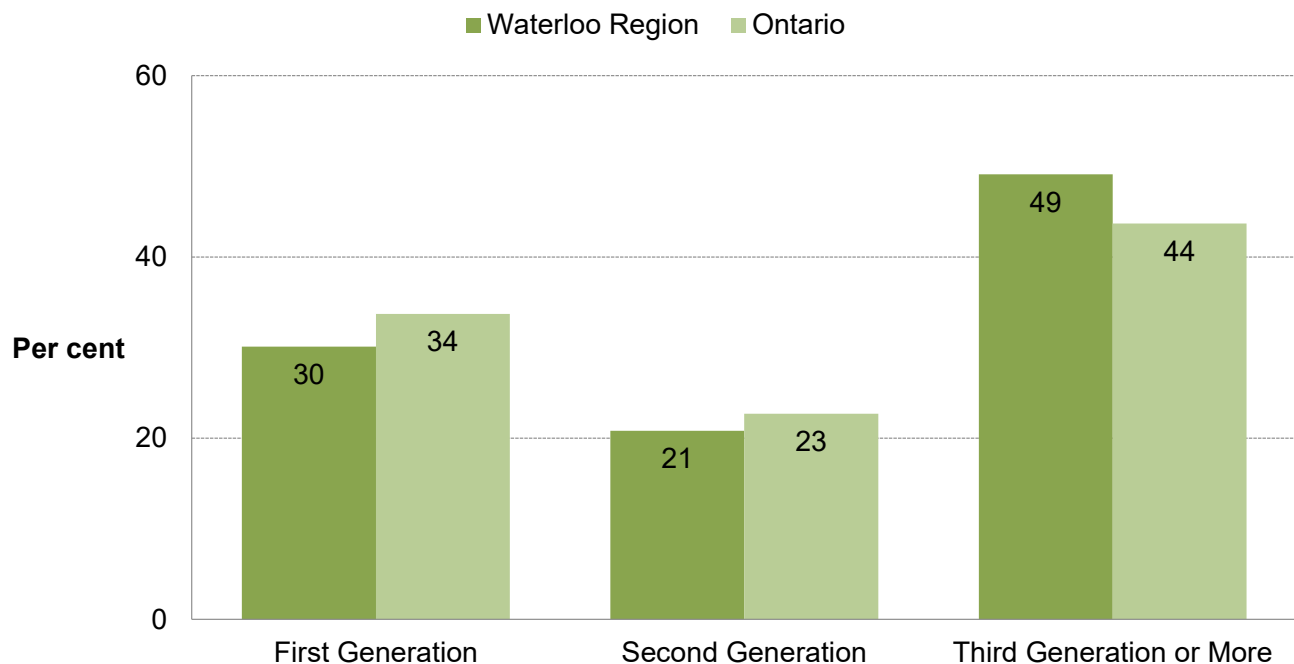
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In Waterloo Region, the proportion of recent immigrants who are married or in common-law partnerships (52 per cent) is lower than that among established immigrants (66 per cent), but higher than among Canadian-born population (42 per cent). A similar trend is observed for Ontario.
- In Waterloo Region, recent immigrants are less likely to live alone (4 per cent) compared to both established immigrants and Canadian-born residents (10 per cent, respectively). This trend is consistent across Ontario.

- Recent immigrants in Waterloo Region are more likely to live with other relatives (5 per cent) or non-relatives (7 per cent) when compared to established immigrants (4 per cent for other relatives and 3 per cent for non-relatives) and Canadian-born residents (2 per cent for other relatives and 4 per cent for non-relatives). A similar trend is observed for Ontario.

Generational status

Figure 18. Generational status of the total population, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021

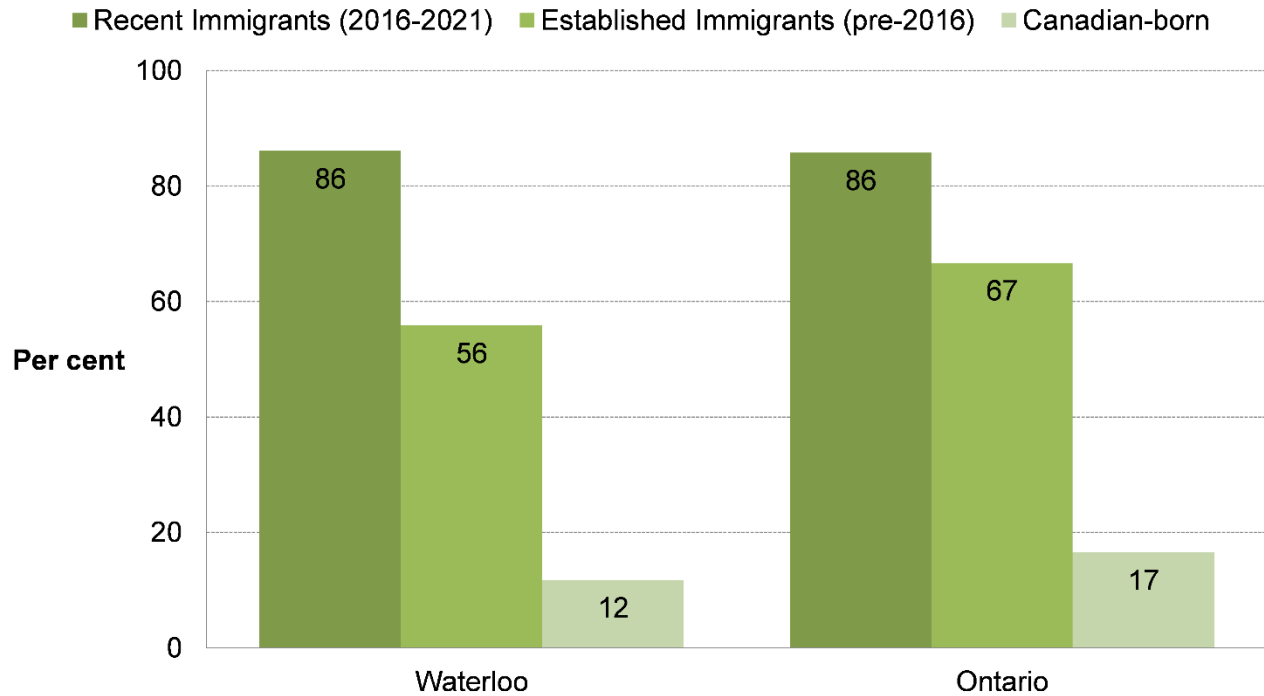


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- First generation refers to individuals who were born outside of Canada. The second generation includes those who were born in Canada and have at least one parent born outside of Canada. The third generation or more includes people born in Canada with both parents also born in Canada.
- In 2021, nearly half of the population in Waterloo Region (49 per cent) belonged to the third generation or more category.
- The proportion of first-generation immigrants was slightly lower in Waterloo Region (30 per cent) compared to Ontario (34 per cent).

Racial Identify

Figure 19. Racialized proportion of recent immigrants, established immigrants and Canadian-born, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In Waterloo Region, the proportion of racialized population among recent immigrants was 1.5 times greater than among established immigrants and seven times greater than among the Canadian-born population, with percentages of 86 per cent, 56 per cent, and 12 per cent, respectively. Similar patterns were evident for Ontario.

Figure 20. Racial identity of recent immigrants, Waterloo Region, 2021

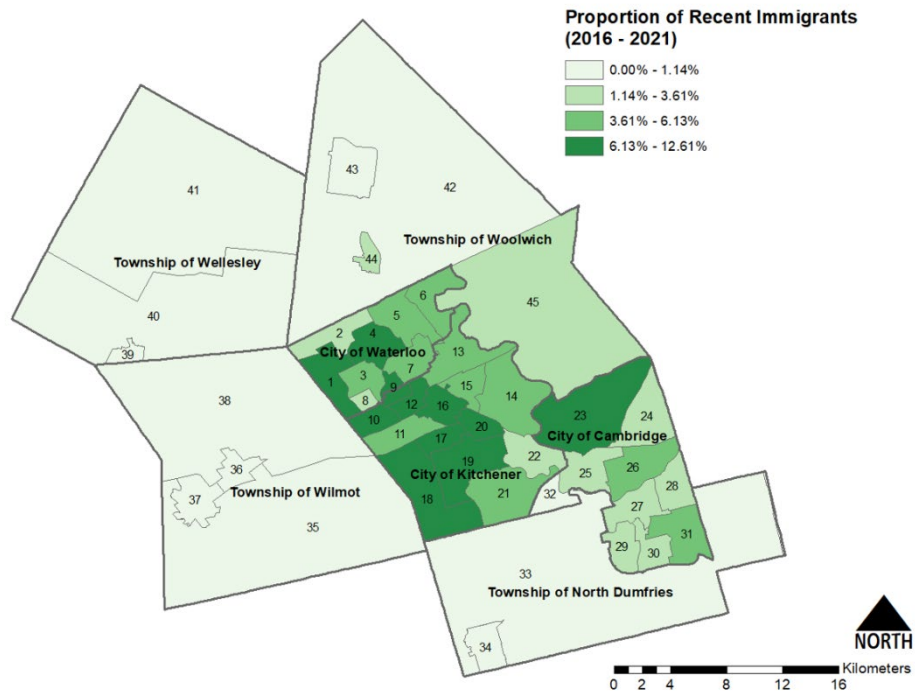
Recent Immigrant (2016-2021)	Number	Per Cent	Rank Change from 2016 Census
South Asian	8,410	30%	▬
Black	5,745	21%	▲
Arab	3,415	12%	▼
Chinese	1,555	6%	▼
Latin American	1,200	4%	▬
Filipino	935	3%	▲
West Asian	925	3%	▼
Southeast Asian	560	2%	▬
Korean	285	1%	▬
Japanese	90	0%	▬
Multiple visible minorities	445	2%	▲
Visible minority, n.i.e.	410	1%	▼
Not a visible minority	3,865	14%	

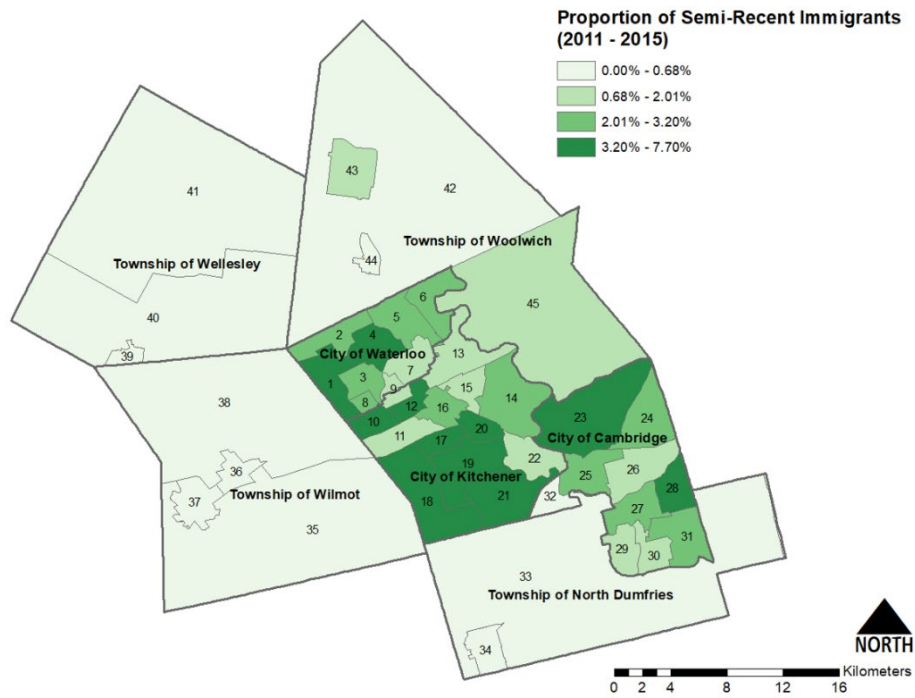
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2021, the largest racialized groups among recent immigrants in Waterloo Region were South Asian (30 per cent), Black (21 per cent), and Arab (12 per cent).
- The Black and Filipino recent immigrant populations saw an increase in ranking compared to the 2016 census, while the Arab, Chinese and West Asian populations ranked lower than in the 2016 census.

Residential Patterns

Figure 21. Recent immigrants (2016-2021) and semi-recent immigrants (2011-2015), by neighbourhood, Waterloo Region, 2021





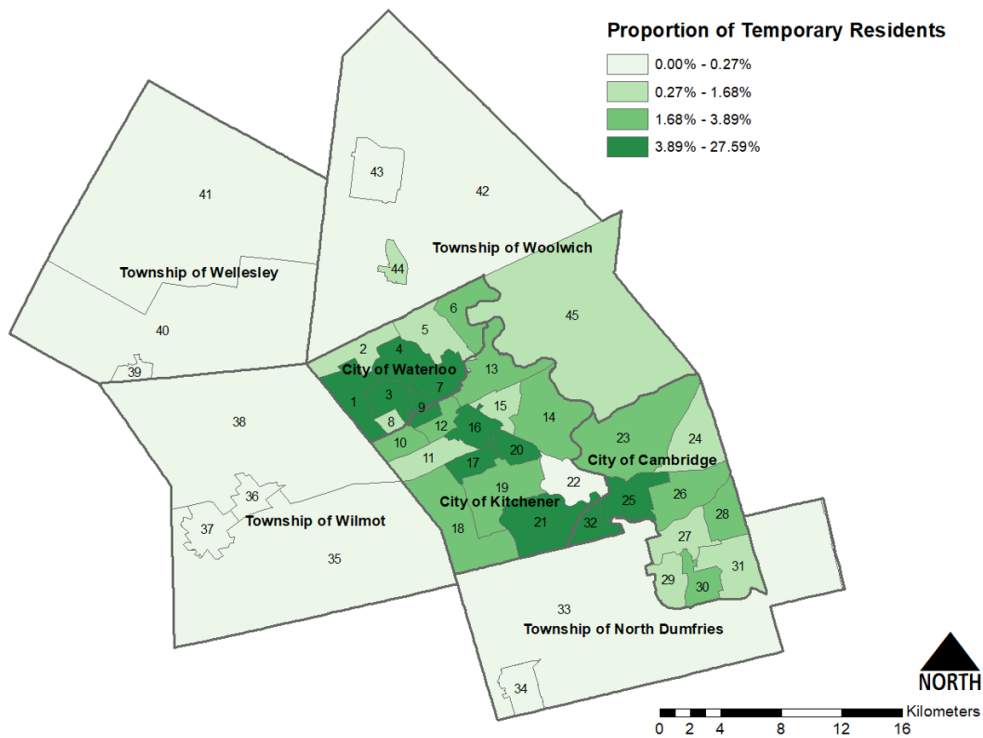
- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 West Waterloo | 23 North Cambridge |
| 2 Lakeshore North/Conservation | 24 Hespeler |
| 3 Beechwood | 25 Central Preston |
| 4 Columbia/Lakeshore | 26 Lang's Farm/Industrial |
| 5 Lincoln/Dearborn | 27 North Galt/Elgin Park |
| 6 Eastbridge/Lexington | 28 Shades Mills |
| 7 Central Waterloo | 29 Southwood/South West Galt |
| 8 Westvale | 30 Galt City Centre/South Galt |
| 9 Westmount | 31 South East Galt |
| 10 Highland West | 32 Blair |
| 11 Forest Heights/Forest Hill/Lakeside | 33 North Dumfries/Beverly |
| 12 Victoria Hills/Cherry Hill | 34 Ayr |
| 13 Bridgeport/Breithaupt/Mt Hope | 35 New Dundee/Mannheim |
| 14 Grand River/Stanely Park/Chicopee | 36 Baden |
| 15 Frederick/Rosemount/Auditorium | 37 New Hamburg |
| 16 Downtown Kitchener and Area | 38 North Wilmot |
| 17 Alpine/Laurentian | 39 Wellesley Village |
| 18 Southwest Kitchener | 40 Wellesley Rural South |
| 19 Country Hills | 41 Wellesley Rural North |
| 20 Vanier/Rockway | 42 Woolwich Rural North |
| 21 Doon/Pioneer Park | 43 Elmira |
| 22 Hidden Valley/Pioneer Tower | 44 St. Jacobs |
| | 45 Woolwich Rural East |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- The neighbourhoods with the highest proportion of recent immigrants were the downtown Kitchener neighbourhoods of Victoria Hills/Cherry Hill/KW Hospital and Vanier/Rockway.

- The neighbourhoods with the second highest proportions of recent immigrants were the City of Waterloo neighbourhoods of West Waterloo and Columbia/Lakeshore.
- The neighbourhoods with the highest proportions of semi-recent immigrants were West Waterloo and Southwest Kitchener.
- These maps illustrate the difference in residential patterns of immigrants depending on when they arrived in Canada. Among the recent and semi-recent immigrant population, certain concentrations were likely influenced by refugee housing patterns.

Figure 22. Temporary residents by neighbourhood, Waterloo Region, 2021



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 West Waterloo | 23 North Cambridge |
| 2 Lakeshore North/Conservation | 24 Hespeler |
| 3 Beechwood | 25 Central Preston |
| 4 Columbia/Lakeshore | 26 Lang's Farm/Industrial |
| 5 Lincoln/Dearborn | 27 North Galt/Elgin Park |
| 6 Eastbridge/Lexington | 28 Shades Mills |
| 7 Central Waterloo | 29 Southwood/South West Galt |
| 8 Westvale | 30 Galt City Centre/South Galt |
| 9 Westmount | 31 South East Galt |
| 10 Highland West | 32 Blair |
| 11 Forest Heights/Forest Hill/Lakeside | 33 North Dumfries/Beverly |
| 12 Victoria Hills/Cherry Hill | 34 Ayr |
| 13 Bridgeport/Breithaupt/Mt Hope | 35 New Dundee/Mannheim |
| 14 Grand River/Stanely Park/Chicopee | 36 Baden |
| 15 Frederick/Rosemount/Auditorium | 37 New Hamburg |
| 16 Downtown Kitchener and Area | 38 North Wilmot |
| 17 Alpine/Laurentian | 39 Wellesley Village |
| 18 Southwest Kitchener | 40 Wellesley Rural South |
| 19 Country Hills | 41 Wellesley Rural North |
| 20 Vanier/Rockway | 42 Woolwich Rural North |
| 21 Doon/Pioneer Park | 43 Elmira |
| 22 Hidden Valley/Pioneer Tower | 44 St. Jacobs |
| | 45 Woolwich Rural East |

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2021, the neighbourhoods with the highest proportion of temporary residents were the downtown Kitchener neighbourhoods of Victoria Hills/Cherry Hill/KW Hospital and Vanier/Rockway

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile

Language

Mother Tongue

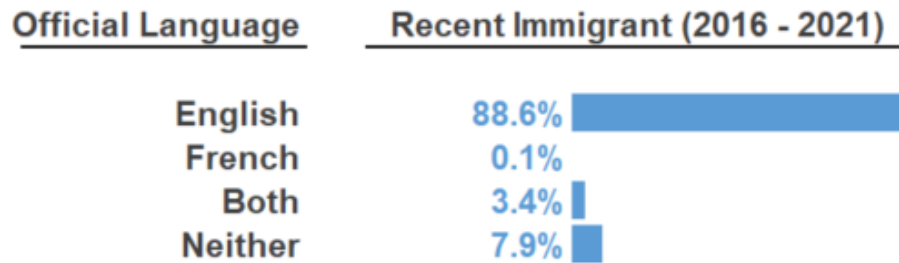
Table 1. Top 20 mother tongue languages of recent immigrants, Waterloo Region, 2021

Rank	Language	Number	Per cent	Rank change from 2016 Census
1	English	4,255	15%	▲
2	Arabic	3,425	12%	▼
3	Punjabi (Panjabi)	1,620	6%	▲
4	Tigrigna	1,540	6%	▲
5	Mandarin	1,345	5%	▼
6	Spanish	965	3%	▼
7	Hindi	930	3%	▲
8	Gujarati	865	3%	■
9	Portuguese	760	3%	▲
10	Urdu	755	3%	▼
11	Turkish	735	3%	▲
12	Malayalam	670	2%	▲
13	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	555	2%	▼
14	Bilen	435	2%	▲
15	Russian	405	1%	▲
16	Iranian Persian	335	1%	▼
17	Somali	310	1%	▼
18	Bengali	310	1%	▼
19	Telugu	305	1%	▲
20	Tamil	290	1%	▲

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- Among recent immigrants in Waterloo Region in 2021, English was the most common mother tongue language (15 per cent), followed by Arabic (12 per cent) and Punjabi (6 per cent).
- English and Punjabi saw an increase in ranking compared to the 2016 census, whereas Arabic ranked lower than in the 2016 census.

Figure 23. Recent immigrants speaking English or French at home, Waterloo Region, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2021, the majority (87 per cent) of recent immigrants in Waterloo Region spoke English at home and only 0.1 per cent spoke French. 8 per cent spoke a language other than English or French at home.

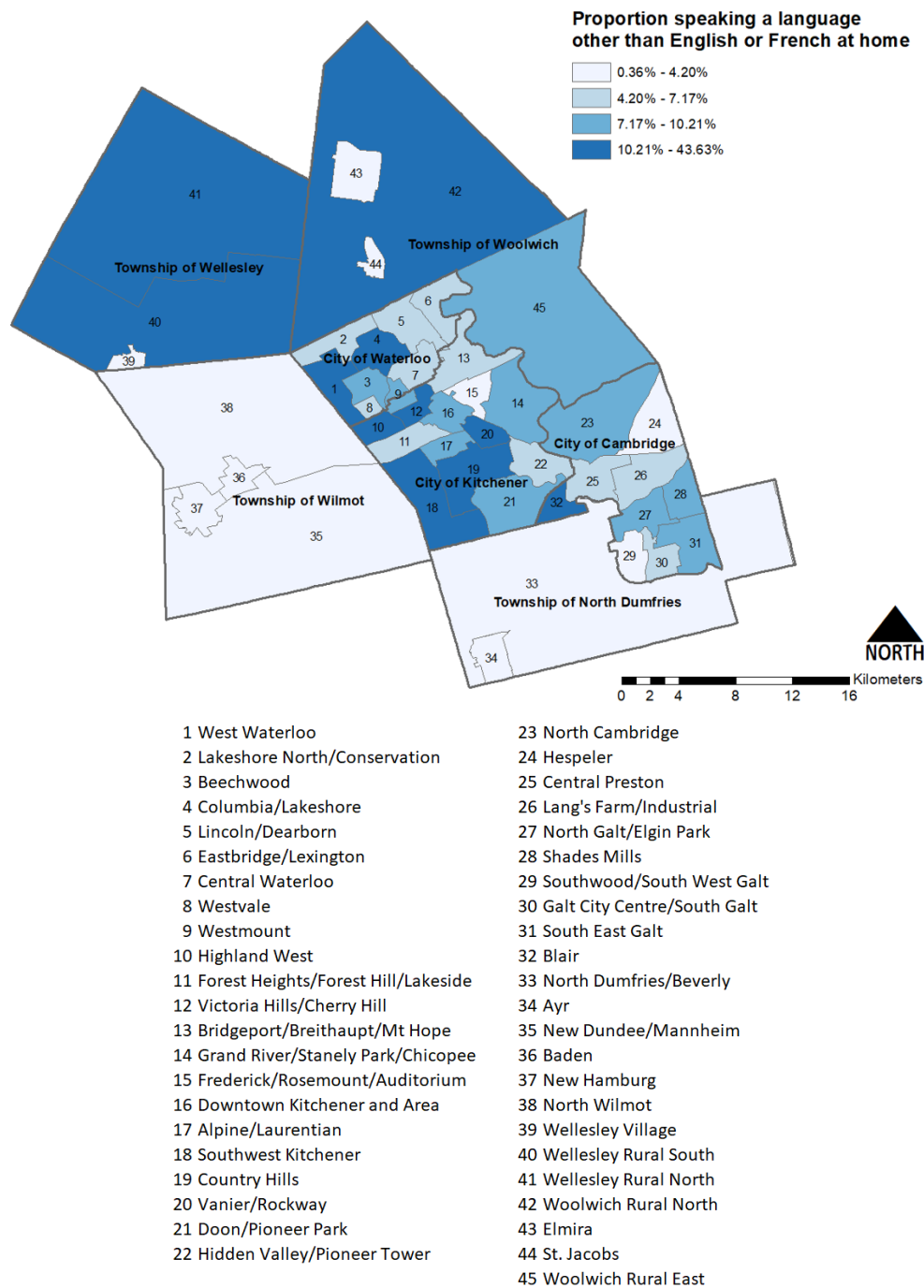
Table 2. Mother tongue of individuals speaking a language other than English or French at home, Waterloo Region, 2021

Rank	Language	Number	Per cent	Rank change from 2016 Census
1	Portuguese	1210	11%	—
2	Arabic	1120	10%	—
3	Mandarin	930	9%	—
4	Punjabi (Panjabi)	640	6%	▲
5	Spanish	540	5%	▲
6	Vietnamese	520	5%	—
7	Gujarati	465	4%	▲
8	Serbian	320	3%	—
9	Pennsylvania German	315	3%	N/A
10	Tigrigna	280	3%	▲
11	Romanian	270	2%	▼
12	Cantonese	225	2%	—
13	German	165	2%	▼
14	Korean	160	1%	—
15	Urdu	135	1%	—
16	Dari	115	1%	N/A
17	Nepali	110	1%	▲
18	Polish	100	1%	▼
19	Iranian Persian	85	1%	▼
20	Russian	85	1%	▼

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2021, there were approximately 10,825 people living in Waterloo Region who spoke a language other than English or French as their primary language at home. This accounts for less than 2 per cent of the total population.
- In that year, the most frequently reported mother tongue among those speaking a language other than English or French at home was Portuguese (11 per cent), followed closely by Arabic (10 per cent) and Mandarin (9 per cent). Portuguese was also the most frequently reported mother tongue in the 2016 census.
- Note. Pennsylvania German and Dari were not available options in the 2016 census.

Figure 24. Population speaking a language other than English or French at home by neighbourhood, Waterloo Region 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- The neighbourhoods of Wellesley Rural North (44 per cent), Woolwich Rural North (24 per cent), and Wellesley Rural South (21 per cent) have the highest proportion of residents that speak a language other than English or French at home. This is primarily due to the large number of low German Mennonite residents in these areas.

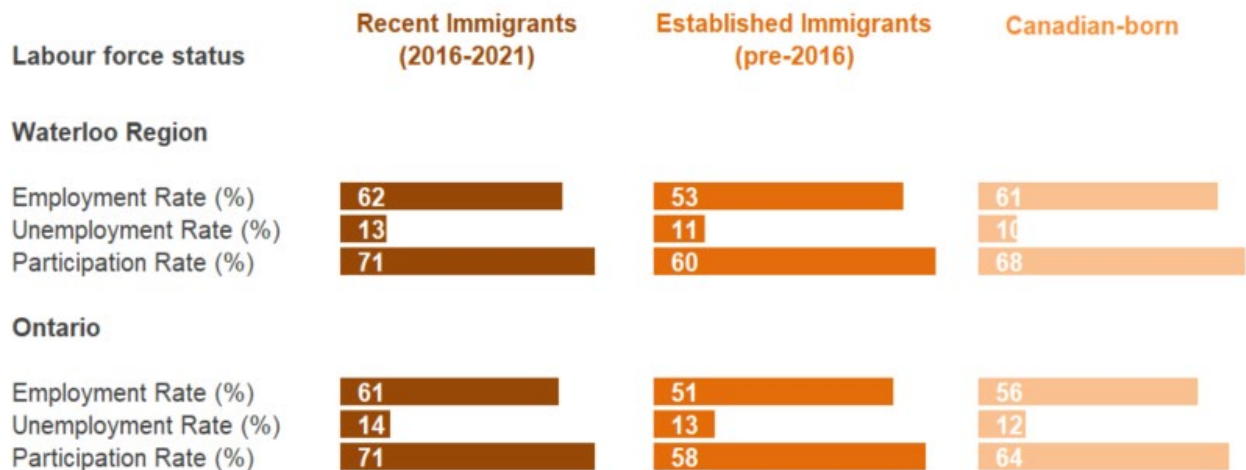
- Other neighbourhoods with higher proportions of residents with a home language other than English or French are West Waterloo, and Columbia/Lakeshore in Waterloo; Highland West, Victoria Hills/Cherry Hill/ KW Hospital, Vanier/Rockway, Country Hills and Southwest Kitchener in Kitchener; and Blair in Cambridge.

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile

Employment, Education, Income, and Housing

Employment

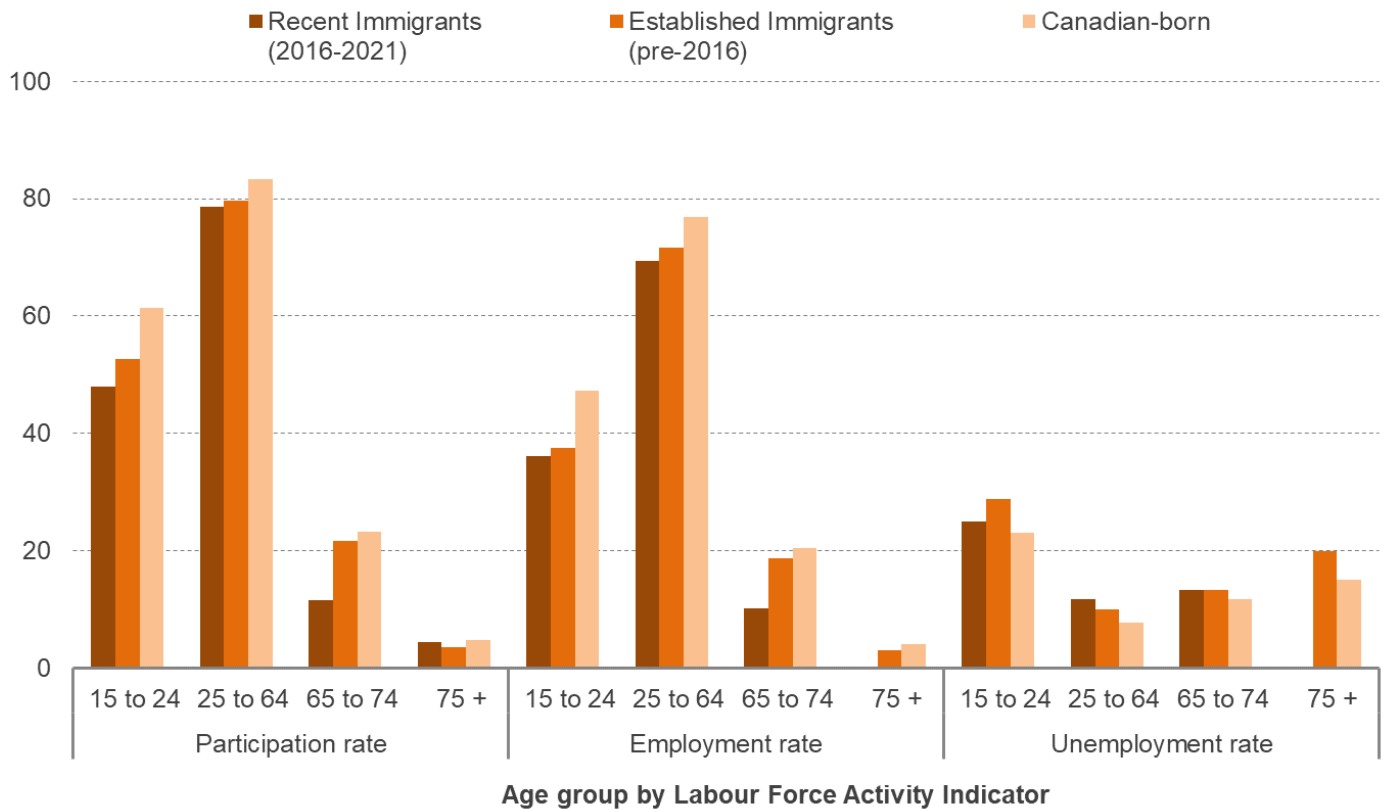
Figure 25. Labour force activity by immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2021, the employment and unemployment rates for recent immigrants in Waterloo Region were similar to provincial rates ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- In both Waterloo Region and Ontario, the unemployment rates were slightly higher among recent immigrants compared to established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals. Specifically, in Waterloo Region, recent immigrants had an unemployment rate of 13 per cent, while established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals had rates of 11 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.
- In Waterloo Region, 71 per cent of recent immigrants participated in the labour force. This was higher than the participation rate for established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals (60 and 68 per cent, respectively).

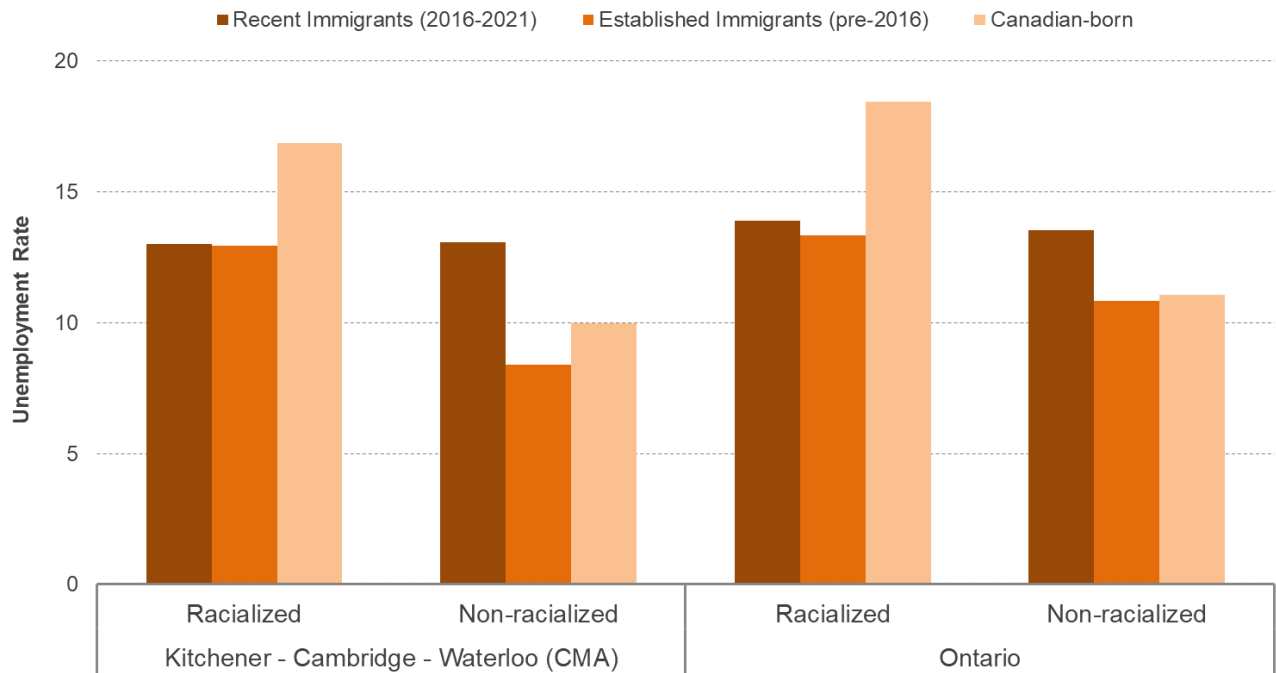
Figure 26. Participation in the labour force by immigration status and age, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- The participation, employment and unemployment rates of recent immigrants, established immigrants and Canadian-born varied greatly by age group.
- Unemployment rates were highest among the 15 to 24 age group for recent immigrants, established immigrants and Canadian-born residents.
- Across all age groups, Canadian-born individuals were more likely to participate in the labour force and to be employed compared to recent and established immigrants.

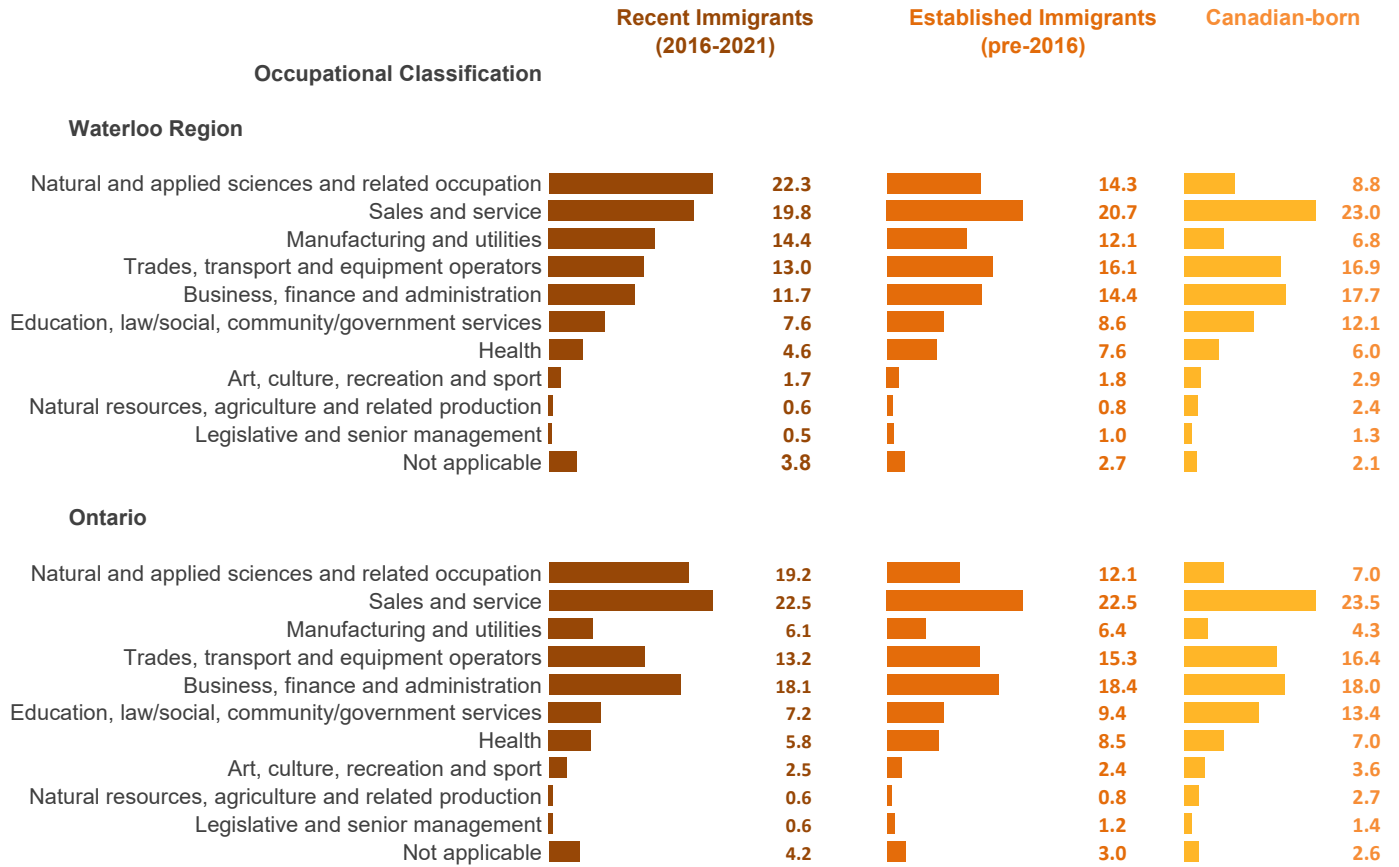
Figure 27. Rates of unemployment by racial and immigration status, Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- Race has a negative impact on employment status in Waterloo Region and Ontario. Racialized recent immigrants experience unemployment rates equal to those of non-racialized recent immigrants (13 per cent, respectively). However, racialized established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals have a higher unemployment rate compared to their non-racialized counterparts (13 per cent and 8 per cent and 17 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively). This trend is consistent for Ontario.
- In Waterloo Region, racialized recent immigrants and established immigrants (13 per cent each) have a lower unemployment rates compared to racialized Canadian-born population (17 per cent).

Figure 28. Occupation classification by immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021

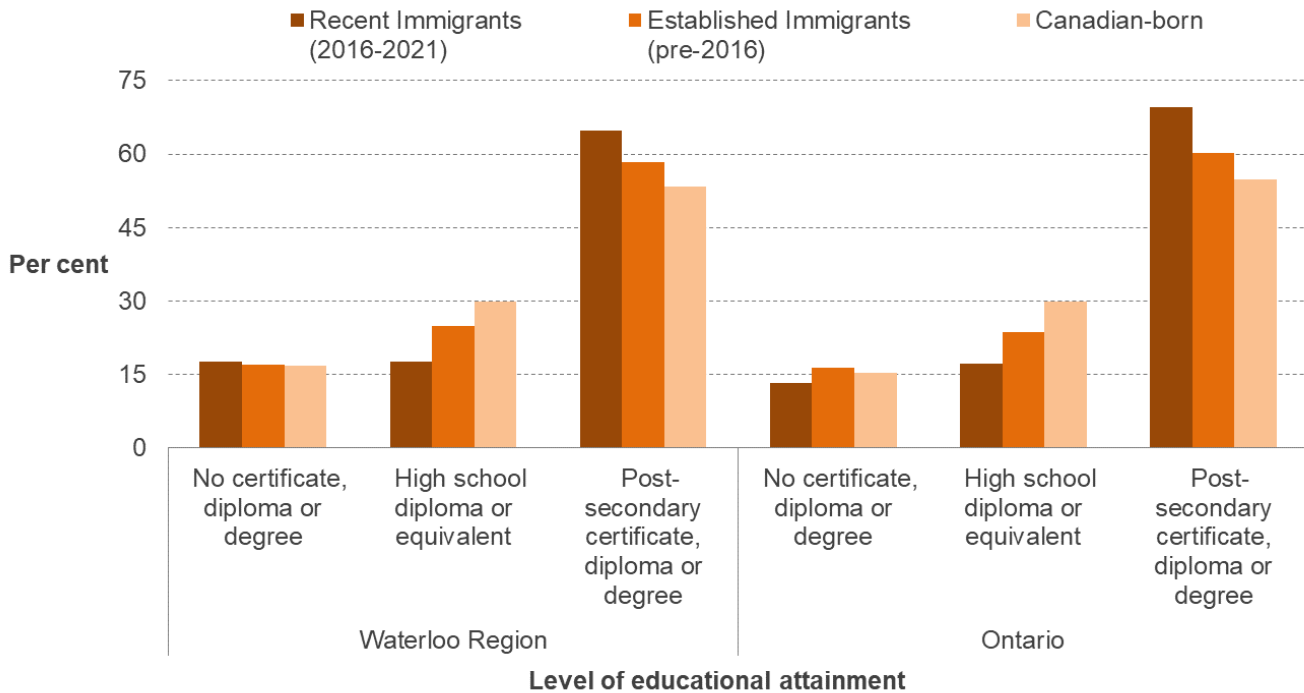


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- The most common occupation for recent immigrants was in natural and applied sciences and related occupations whereas the most common occupation for established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals was sales and service roles.
- In Waterloo Region, there was a higher proportion of recent immigrants working in the field of natural and applied sciences (22 per cent) compared to Ontario (19 per cent).
- Both recent and established immigrants (14 and 12 per cent respectively) were more likely to work in manufacturing and utilities occupations than Canadian-born individuals (7 per cent) in Waterloo Region.

Education

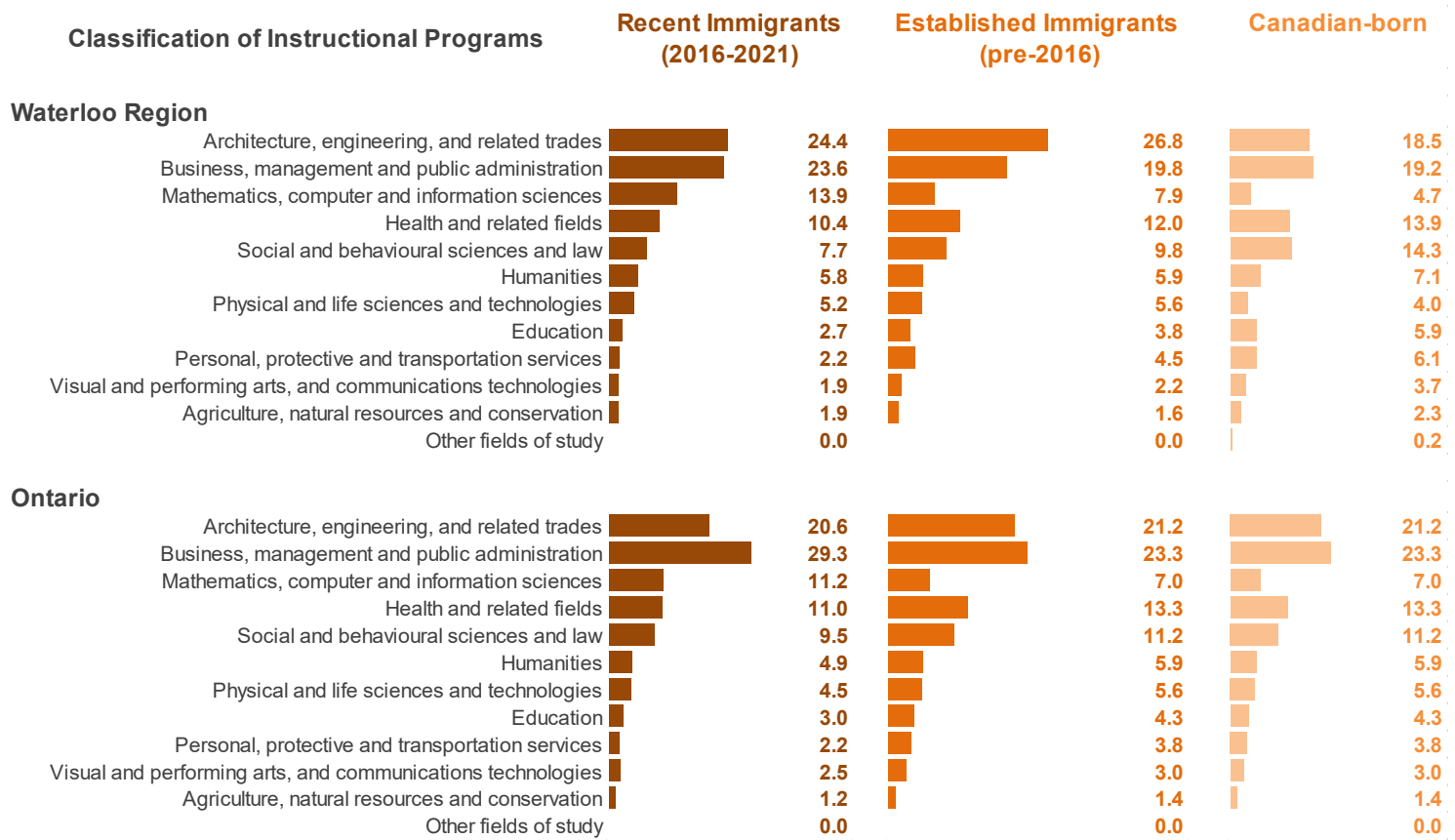
Figure 29. Level of educational attainment by immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- Recent immigrants in Waterloo Region have a higher level of educational attainment than established immigrants and Canadian-born individuals. Specifically, 65 per cent of recent immigrants hold a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 58 per cent among established immigrants and 53 per cent among Canadian-born individuals.

Figure 30. Classification of instructional program by immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021

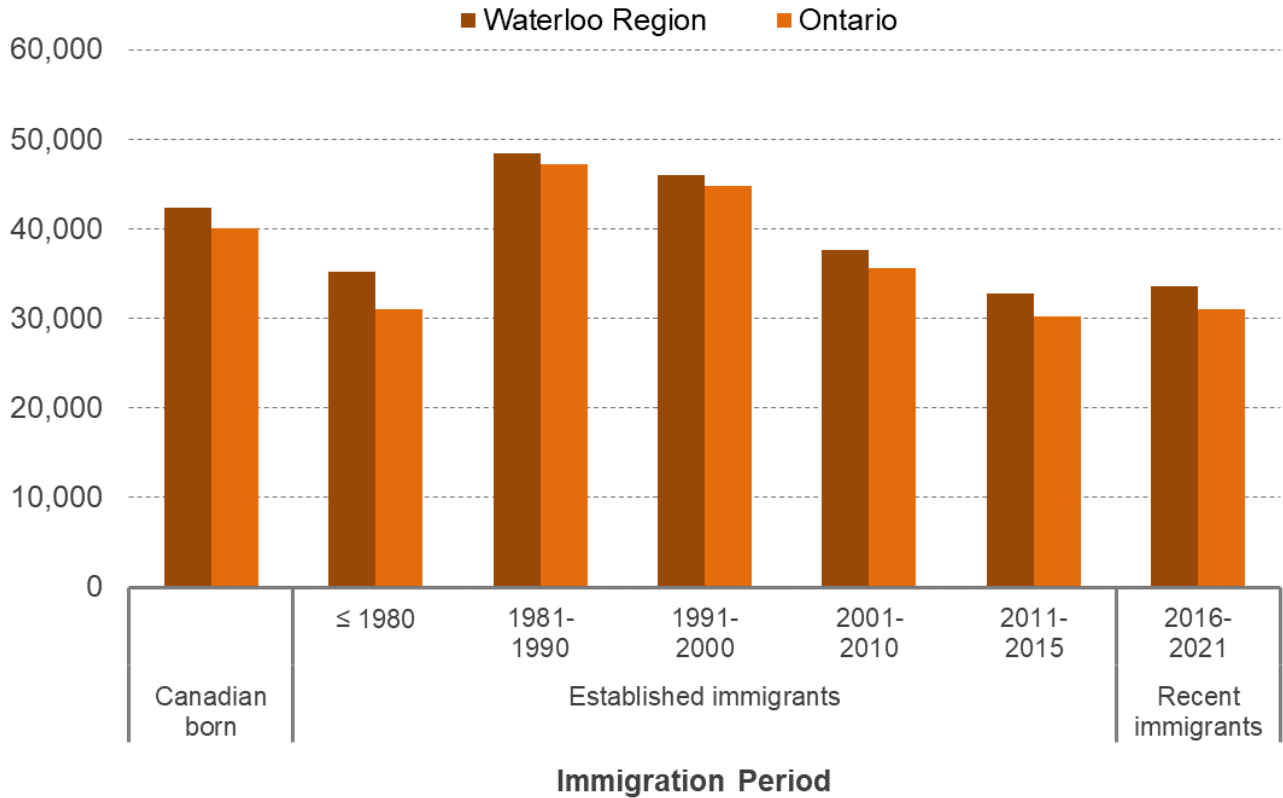


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- Recent immigrants (24 per cent) and established immigrants (27 per cent) were more likely to have pursued studies in architecture, engineering, and related technologies compared to Canadian-born individuals (19 per cent). This difference was more pronounced in Waterloo Region than in Ontario.
- Recent immigrants (24 per cent) were also more likely to have studied business, management and public administration than the established immigrants (20 per cent) and Canadian-born (19 per cent).
- Moreover, recent immigrants (14 per cent) were nearly three times more likely to have studied mathematics, computer, and information sciences compared to the Canadian-born population (5 per cent). This difference was more pronounced in Waterloo Region than in Ontario.

Income

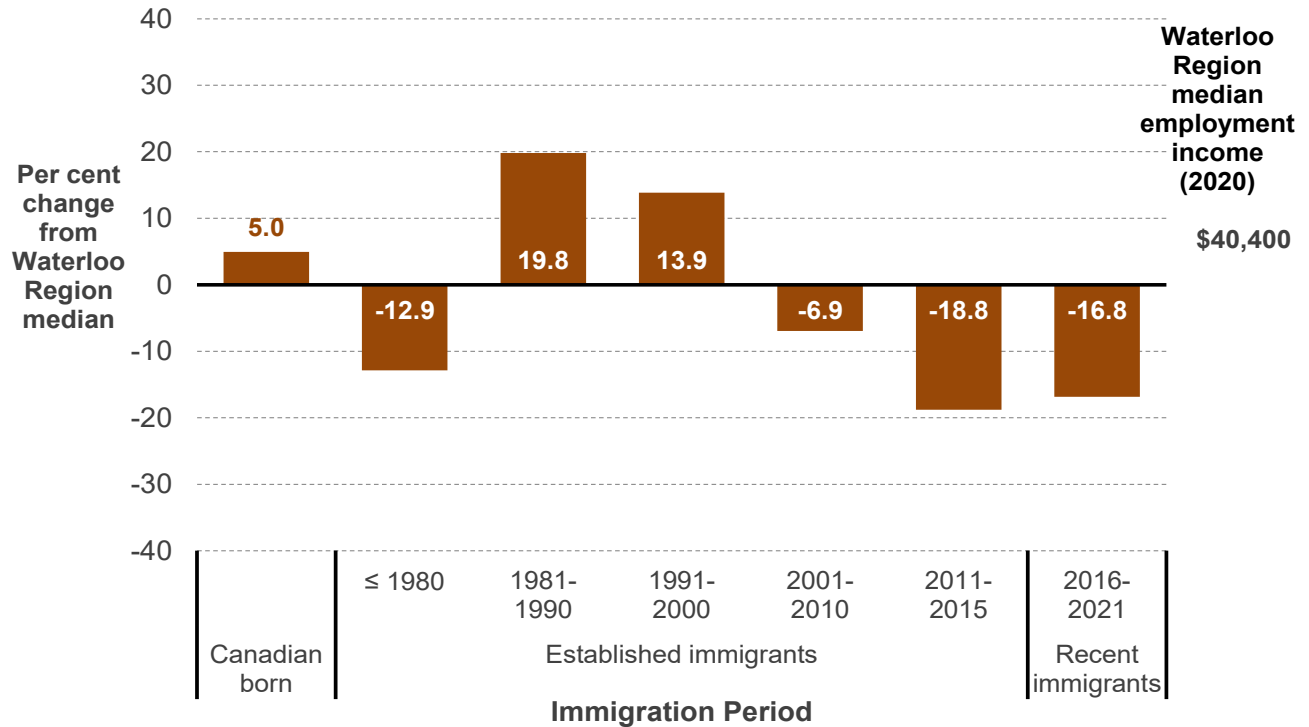
Figure 31. Median employment income for employed individuals in private households by immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2020, recent immigrants in Waterloo Region had a median employment income of \$33,600 which was lower than that of Canadian-born residents (\$42,400). A similar trend was observed at the provincial level.
- In general, established immigrants who arrived in Waterloo Region between 1981 to 2010 have a higher median employment income than recent immigrants.
- Employment income data from 2020 indicates that, on average, an immigrant’s median income increases by \$4,000 after ten years living in Canada. The median employment income of immigrants that immigrated to Canada in or before 2000 exceeds that of Canadian-born residents.

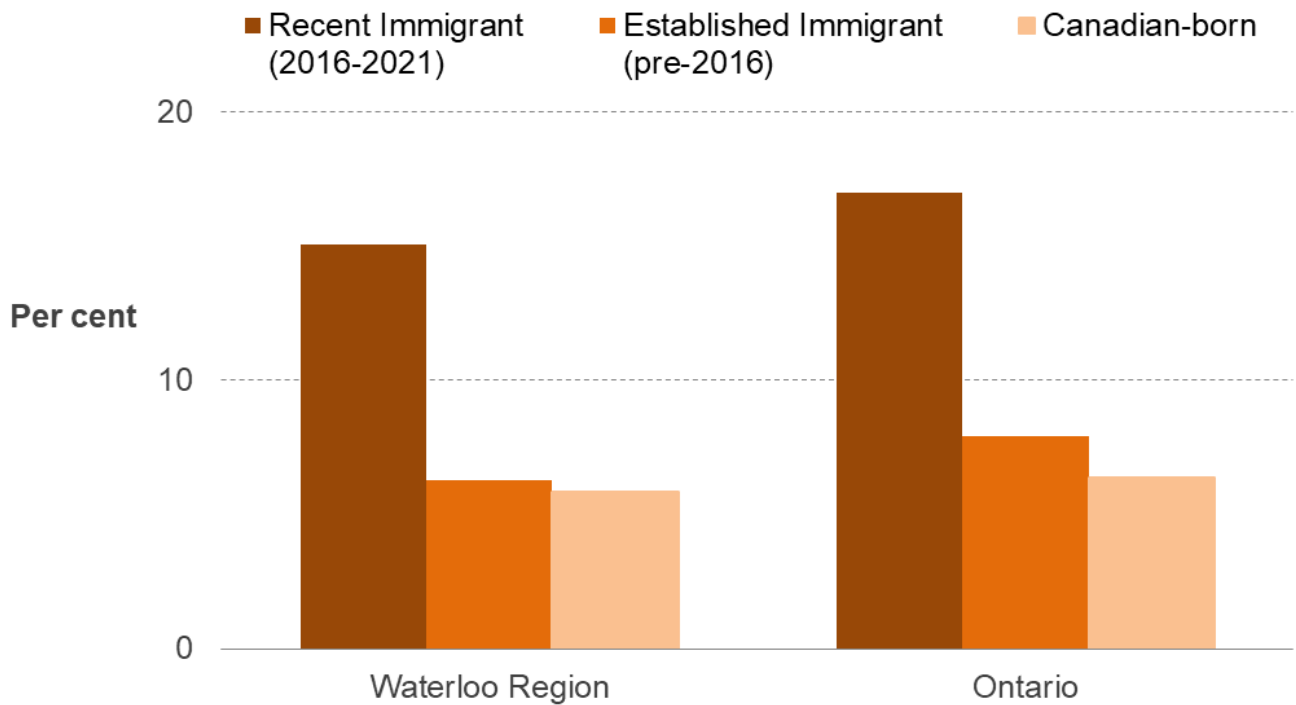
Figure 32. Deviation of median employment income from regional median by immigration status, Waterloo Region, 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2020, recent immigrants in Waterloo Region had a median employment income approximately 17 per cent lower than the overall median income in the region. In comparison, established immigrants who arrived between 2001 and 2010 experienced a narrow income gap with a median income about 6 per cent lower than the regional median. However, Canadian-born individuals in the region had a median income about 5 per cent higher than the regional median.
- In actual figures, recent immigrants earned approximately \$6,800 less on average per year compared to the overall income in Waterloo Region in 2020. This difference has decreased since 2015 when the gap was \$11,330 per year.
- On average, immigrants require approximately 20 years of residence in Canada before their employment income equals median income levels in Waterloo Region. This pattern is consistent with that from the previous census.

Figure 33. Population living below the Market Basket Measure (MBM) low-income threshold by immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2020

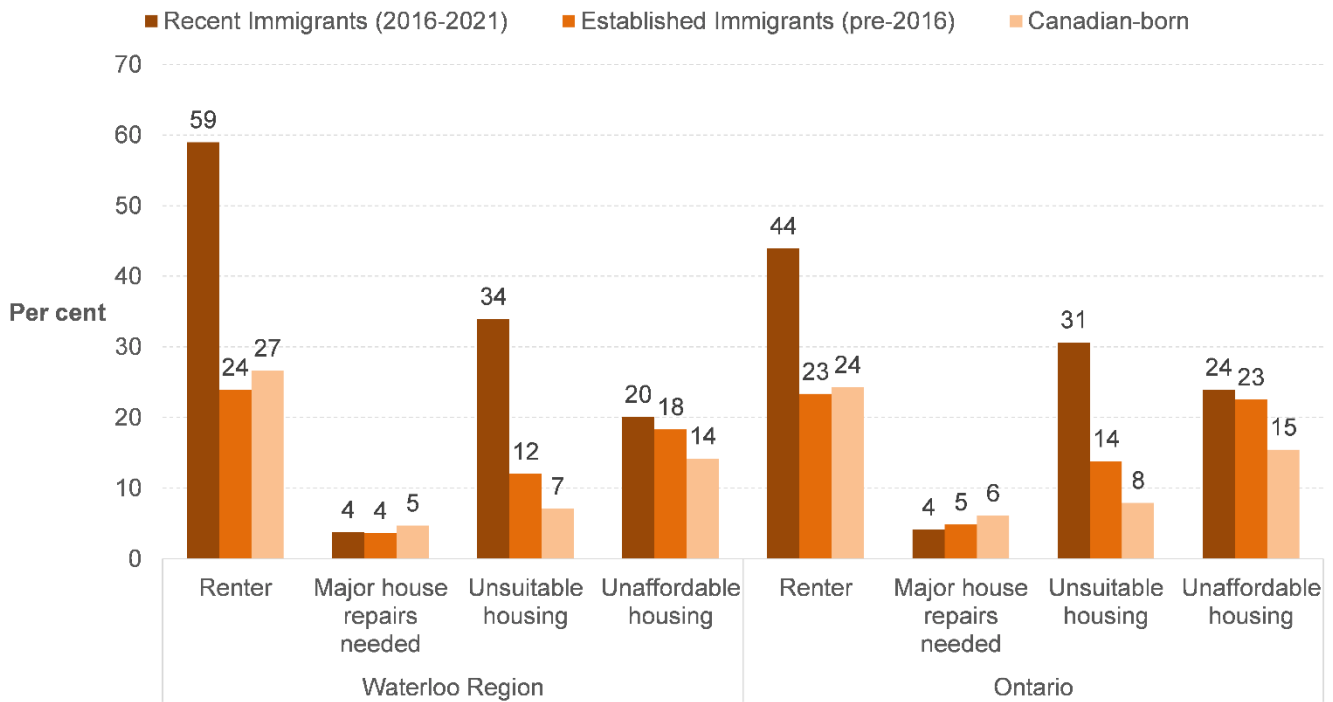


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- In 2020, the proportion of recent immigrants living below the Market Basket Measure low-income threshold in Waterloo Region (15 per cent) was similar to that of recent immigrants across Ontario (17 per cent; [See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- In Waterloo Region, the proportion of recent immigrants living below the Market Basket Measure low-income threshold (17 per cent) was higher compared to established immigrants and the Canadian-born population (6 per cent respectively).
- Both Waterloo Region and Ontario experienced a substantial decrease in the proportion of recent immigrants, established immigrants, and Canadian-born individuals living below the Market Basket Measure low-income threshold in 2020 compared to 2015.

Housing

Figure 34. Selected housing characteristics and immigration status, Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2021



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2021

- Recent immigrants are considerably more likely to be renters (59 per cent) compared to established immigrants (24 per cent) and the Canadian-born population (27 per cent) in Waterloo Region ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- Recent immigrants were more likely to be renters in Waterloo Region (59 per cent) than in Ontario (44 per cent).
- The proportion of individuals living in housing that require major repairs was similar among recent immigrants (4 per cent) and Canadian-born residents (5 per cent) in both Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (KCW CMA) and Ontario (4 and 6 per cent, respectively).
- The proportion of recent immigrants living in unsuitable housing (34 per cent) was also higher compared to established immigrants (12 per cent), and Canadian-born population (7 per cent). Similar trends were seen in Ontario.
- The proportion of recent immigrants living in unaffordable housing (20 per cent) was similar to established immigrants (18 per cent), but it was slightly higher than Canadian-born individuals (14 per cent). Similar trends were observed in Ontario.

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile



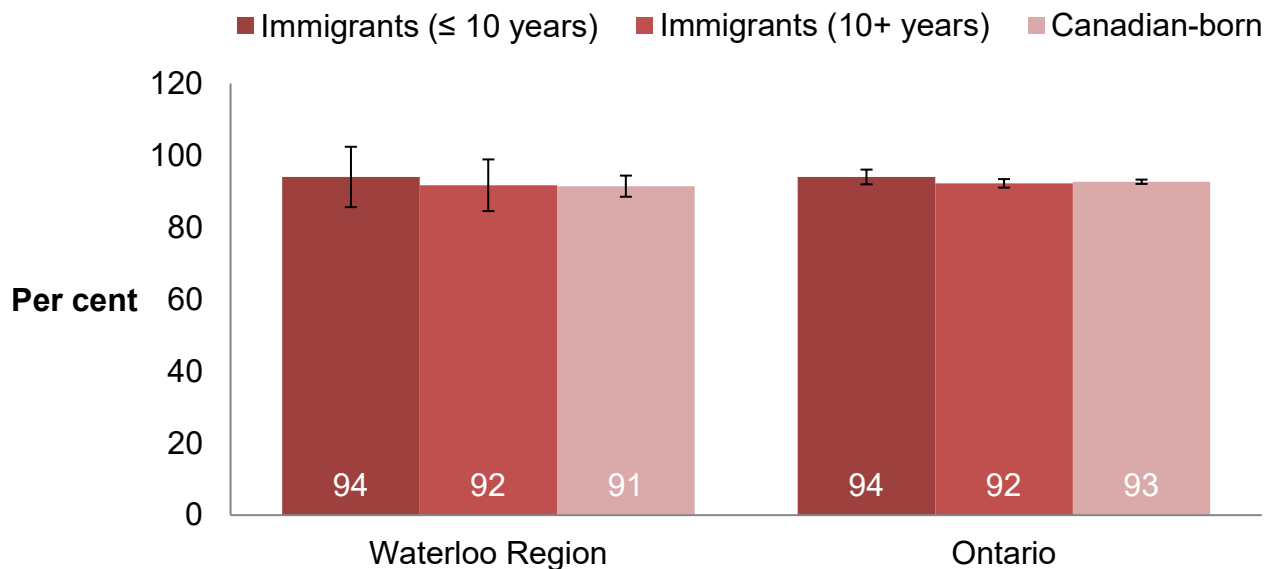
Health Status

Research on the physical health of immigrants in Canada demonstrates that immigrants tend to be healthier than non-immigrants when they first arrive in Canada. However, their health tends to decline the longer they live in the country across all immigration categories. Certain immigration categories, like refugees, are more affected by this decline, and there may be more significant changes in certain chronic conditions and disabilities over time.

The phenomenon of arriving with a health advantage and losing it over time has been called the “healthy immigrant effect”. In part, immigrants arrive in better health than the average Canadian because the immigration process involves rigorous health screening. Recent research has identified several factors contributing to declining health outcomes among immigrants, including income levels, proficiency in English or French, circumstances of arrival, their original location, experiences of unfair treatment or discrimination, health literacy, and their ability to integrate.

Overall Wellbeing

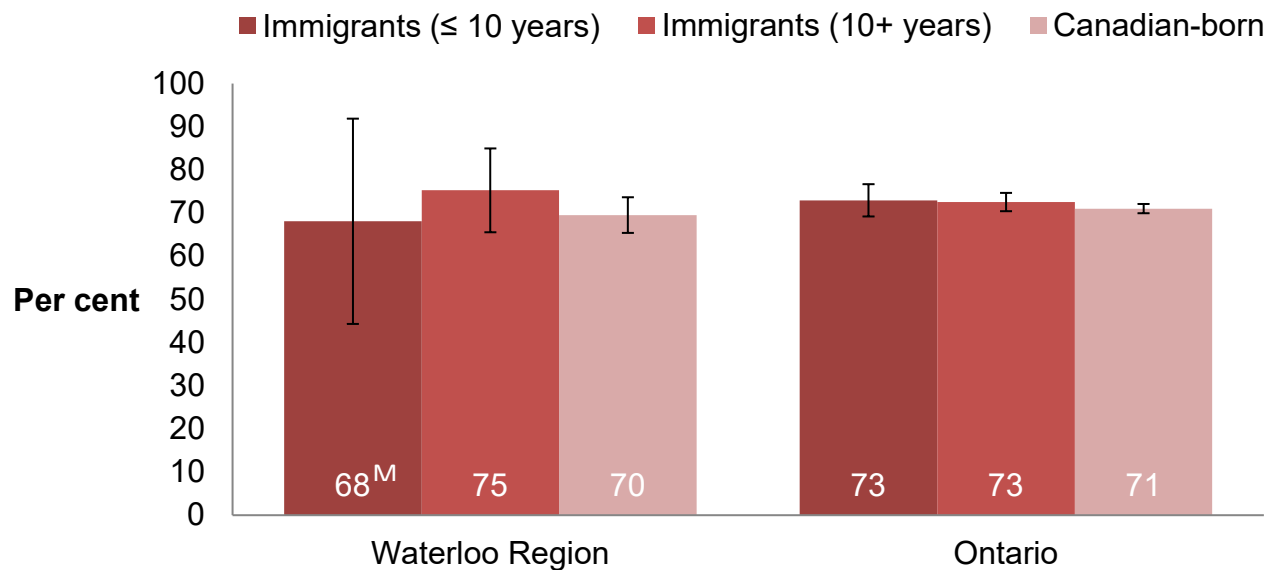
Figure 35. Life satisfaction by immigration status (12 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

- In Waterloo Region, immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years reported a slightly higher level of life satisfaction at 94 per cent compared to 92 per cent for those who arrived more than 10 years ago and 91 per cent for the Canadian-born population. A similar trend was observed in Ontario. ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).

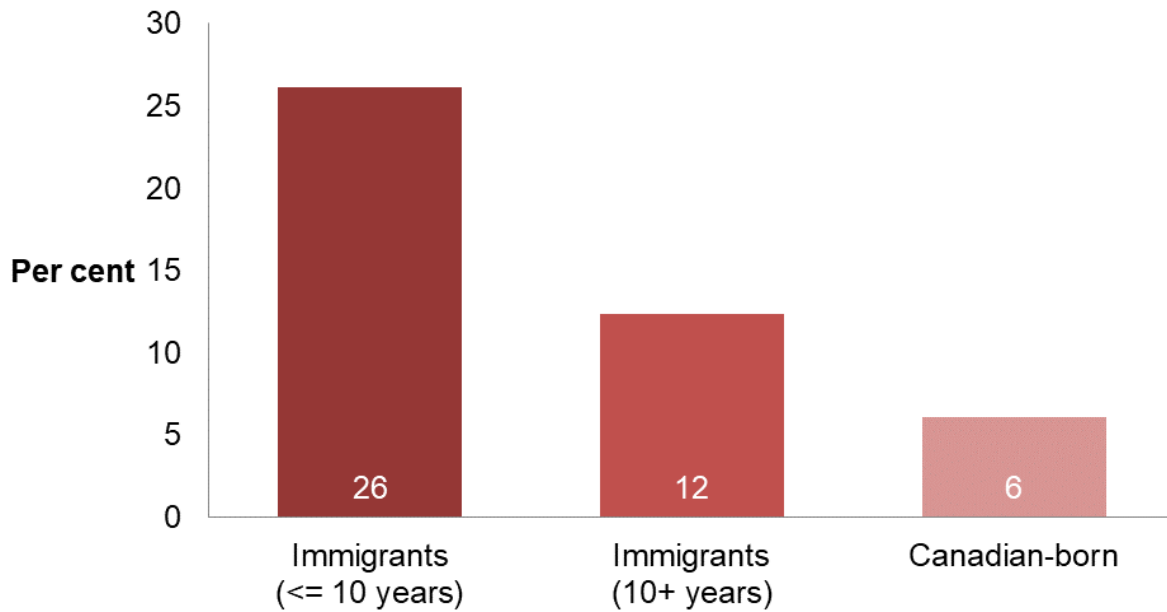
Figure 36. Strong sense of belonging by immigrant status (12 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

- In Waterloo Region, 75 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago reported a strong sense of belonging to their local community while 68 per cent of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years and 70 per cent of the Canadian-born population ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- In Ontario, 73 per cent of immigrants, regardless of whether they arrived within the 10 years or more than 10 years ago, reported a strong sense of belonging to their local community, compared to 71 per cent of the Canadian-born population.

Figure 37. Experiences of discrimination by immigrant status, Waterloo Region, 2022

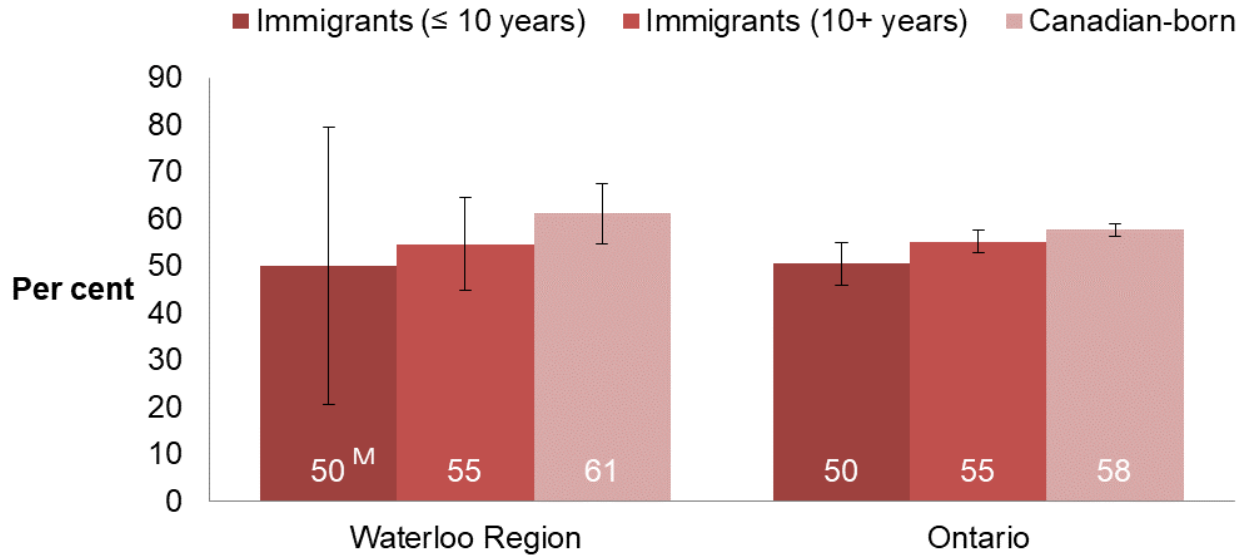


Source: Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), Wellbeing Waterloo Region Community Survey, 2022

- In 2022, 26 per cent of immigrants in Waterloo Region who had immigrated in the last 10 years reported experiencing discrimination on a regular basis in this community based on their ethnicity, culture, race, or skin colour.
- This was higher than the proportion of immigrants who had lived in the Waterloo Region for more than 10 years (12 per cent) and the Canadian-born population (6 per cent) who reported experiencing discrimination.

Health Status

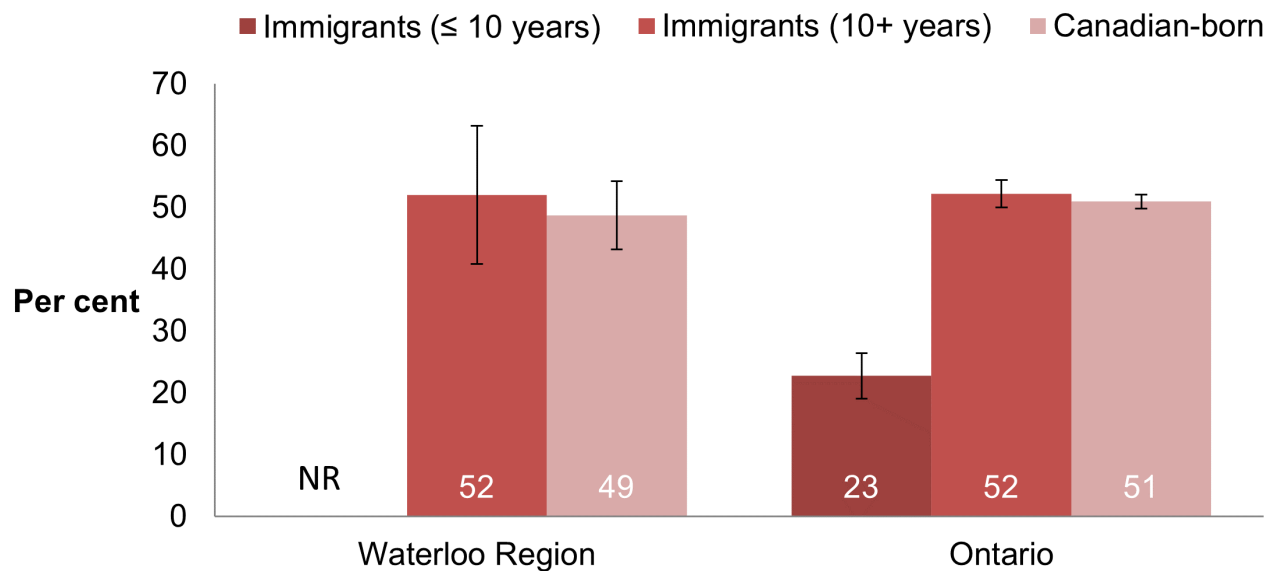
Figure 38. Overweight/obese body mass index (BMI) by immigrant status (18 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

- In Waterloo Region, 50 per cent of immigrants aged 18 and older who arrived in the last 10 years reported a body mass index (BMI) in the overweight or obese category compared to 55 per cent of immigrants who had arrived more than 10 years and 61 per cent of the Canadian-born population. A similar trend was observed in Ontario.

Figure 39. Chronic diseases or conditions by immigrant status (12 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020

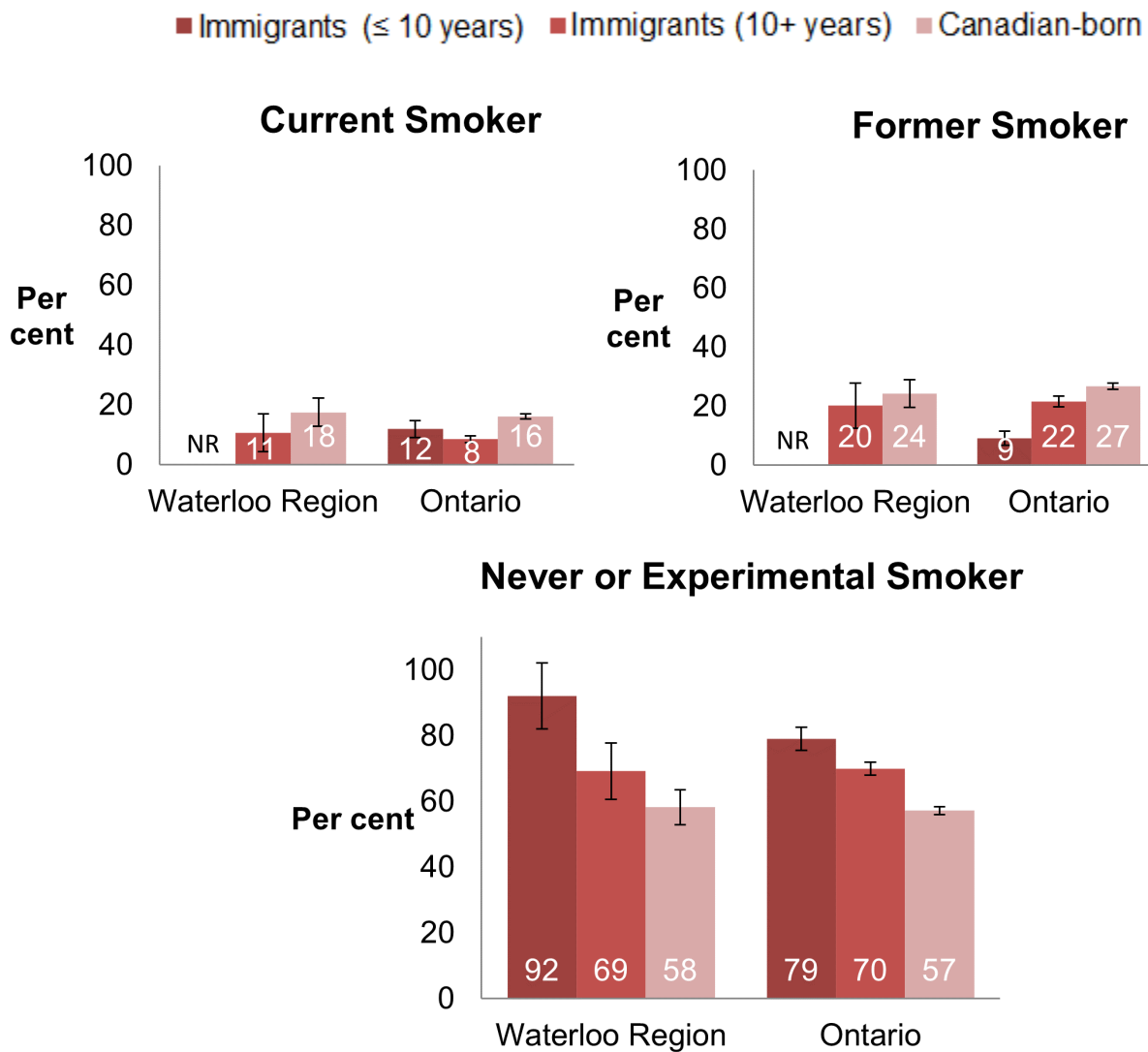


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

Estimates for immigrants in Waterloo Region arriving within 10 years were not reportable for this indicator due to small numbers and unacceptably high sampling variability.

- In Waterloo Region, 52 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago reported having one or more selected chronic diseases or conditions compared to 49 per cent of Canadian-born population.
- In Ontario, 23 per cent of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years reported having one or more selected chronic diseases or conditions compared to 52 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago and 51 per cent of the Canadian-born population.
- The prevalence of chronic conditions among immigrants in Waterloo Region who arrived more than 10 years ago was similar to that of established immigrants in Ontario.

Figure 40. Smoking status by immigrant status (19 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020

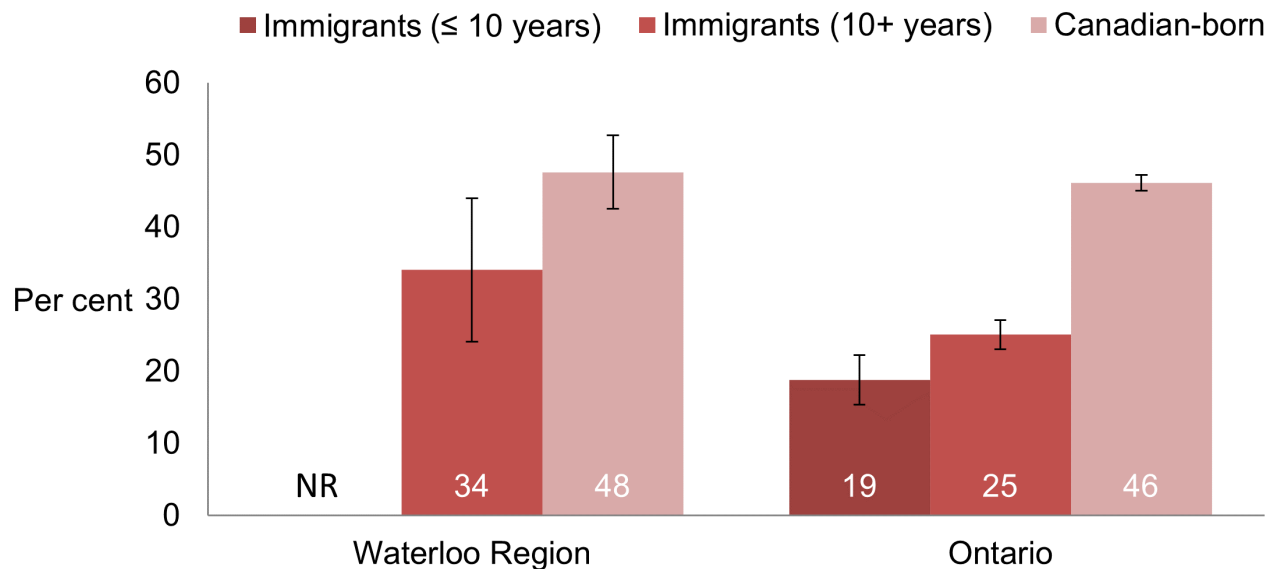


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020
 Estimates of current and former smoking among Waterloo Region immigrants who arrived within 10 years were not reportable due to small numbers and unacceptably high sampling variability.

- The proportion of current smokers is lower among immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago in comparison to Canadian-born population ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- In Waterloo Region, 11 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago reported being a current smoker compared to 19 per cent of the Canadian-born population. A similar trend is observed in Ontario.

- The proportion of the population that never smoked or only experimentally smoked was higher among immigrants who had arrived in the last 10 years (92 per cent) compared to immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago (69 per cent) and the Canadian-born population (58 per cent) in Waterloo Region. The same trend was seen in Ontario, but the difference was smaller.

Figure 41. Drinking in excess of Canada’s Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines by immigrant status (19 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020

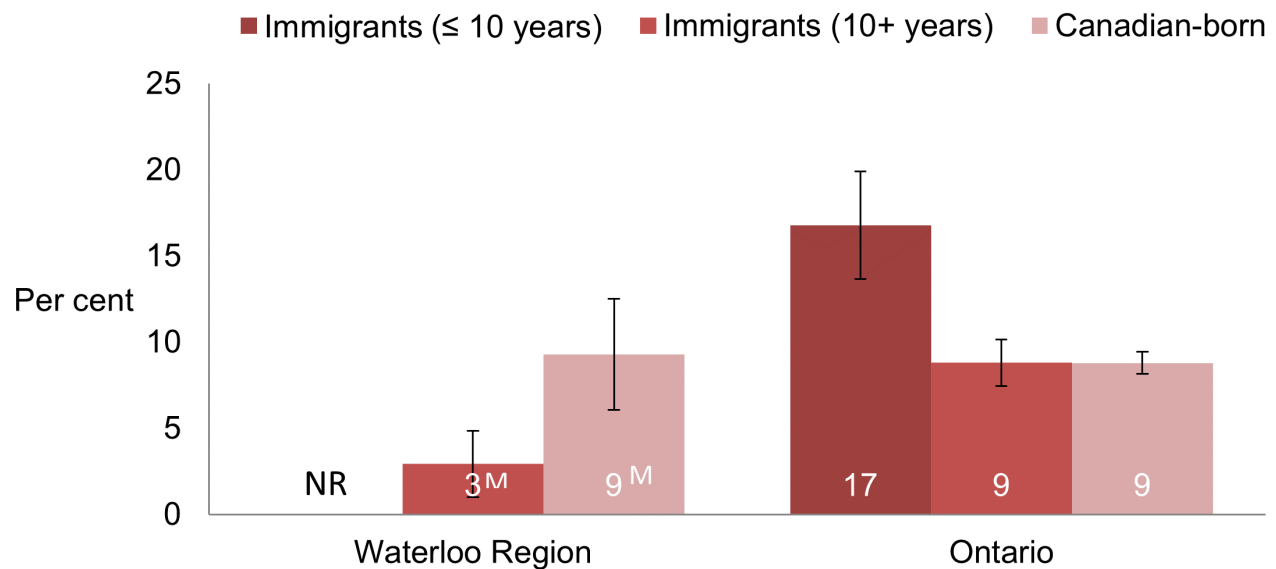


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

Estimates for Waterloo Region immigrants arriving within 10 years were not reportable for this indicator due to small numbers and unacceptably high sampling variability.

- In Waterloo Region, 34 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years reported excessive drinking compared to 48 per cent of the Canadian-born population. This proportion is also higher than immigrants who have been in Ontario for more than 10 years
- In Ontario, a lower proportion of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years (19 per cent) reported drinking in excess of Canada’s Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines in comparison to immigrants who has been in Ontario for more than 10 years (25 per cent) and the Canadian-born population (46 per cent).

Figure 42. Food insecurity by immigrant status (18 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



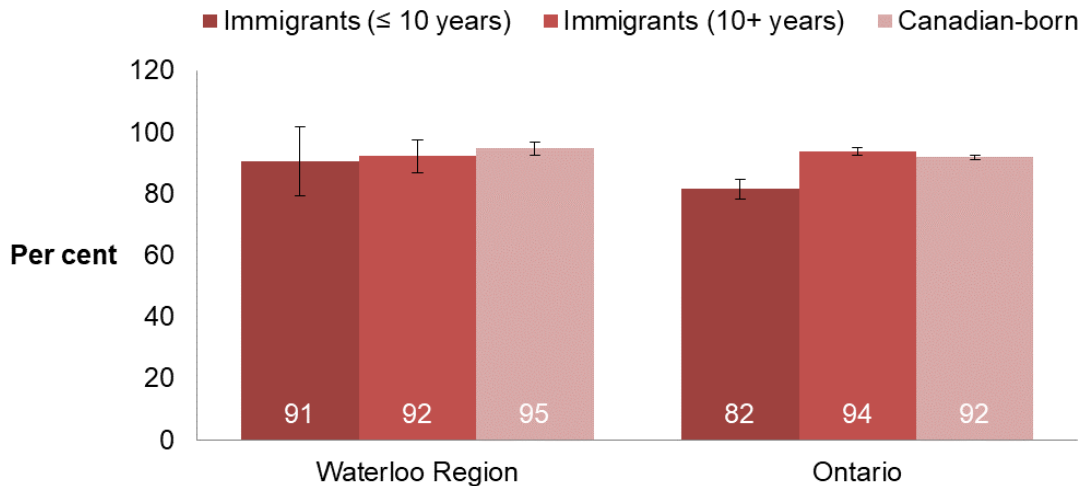
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

Estimates for Waterloo Region immigrants arriving in the last 10 years were not reportable for this indicator due to small numbers and unacceptably high sampling variability.

- In 2019/2020, a lower proportion of immigrants who had arrived in Waterloo Region more than 10 years ago experienced marginal, moderate, or severe food insecurity compared to the Canadian-born population ([See the Data Notes for definitions](#)).
- In Ontario, a greater proportion of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years experienced marginal, moderate, or severe food insecurity (17 per cent) compared to those who arrived more than 10 years ago and Canadian-born population (9 per cent).

Access to Health Care

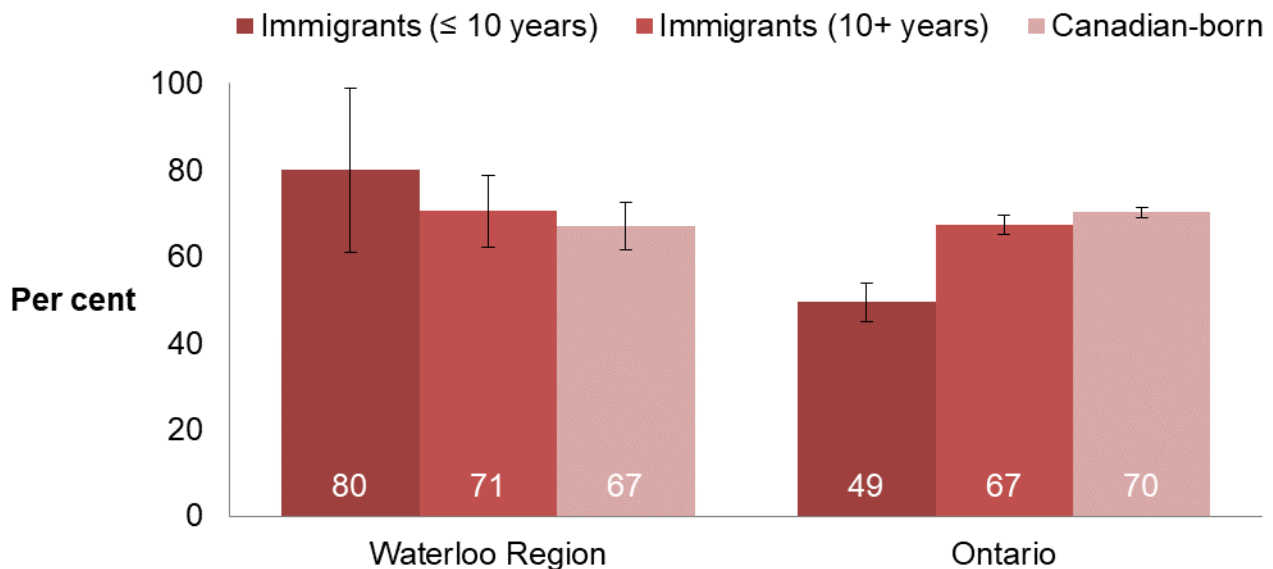
Figure 43. Access to regular health care provider by immigrant status (12 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

- In Waterloo Region, 91 per cent of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years reported having access to a regular health care provider compared to 95 per cent of the Canadian-born population.
- Immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years were more likely to have access to a regular health care provider in Waterloo Region (91 per cent) than across Ontario (82 per cent).

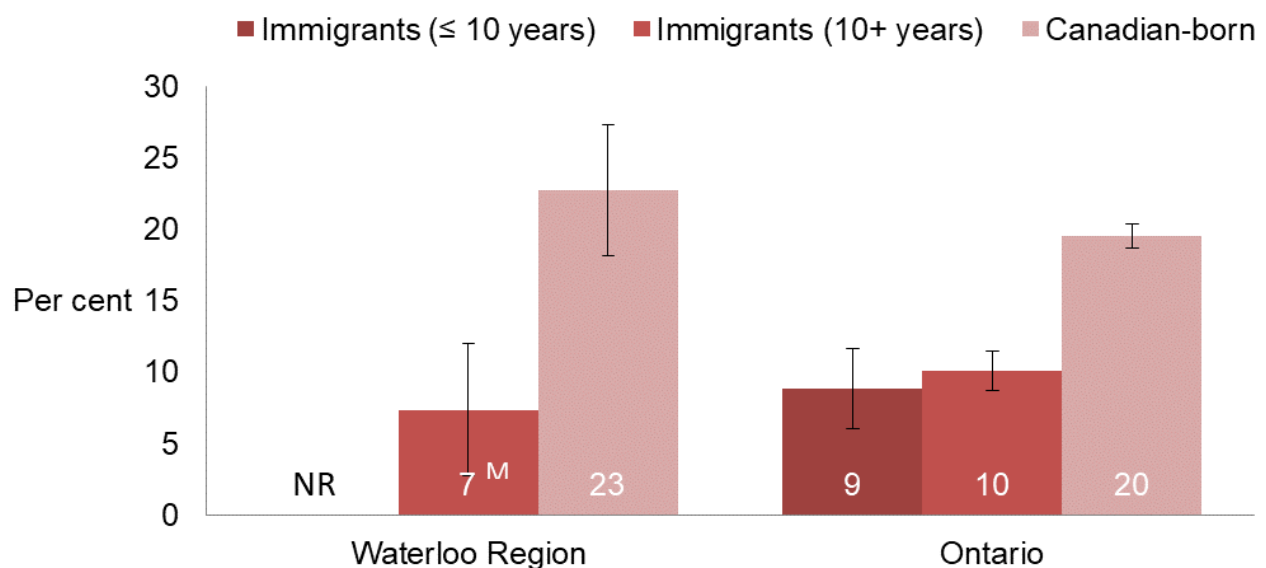
Figure 44. Seasonal flu shots in lifetime by immigrant status (12 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

- In Waterloo Region, 80 per cent of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years received seasonal flu shots in their lifetime (excluding H1N1) compared to 71 per cent of immigrants who arrived more than 10 years ago and 67 per cent of the Canadian-born population.
- The proportion of immigrants who had arrived in the last 10 years and had received seasonal flu shots in their lifetime (excluding H1N1) was higher in Waterloo Region compared to Ontario (80 and 49 per cent, respectively).

Figure 45. Consulted about mental health in last 12 months by immigrant status (12 years and older), Waterloo Region and Ontario, 2019/2020



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), 2019/2020

Estimates for Waterloo Region immigrants arriving in the last 10 years were not reportable for this indicator due to small numbers and unacceptably high sampling variability.

- In Waterloo Region, the proportion of immigrants who had arrived more than 10 years ago and had consulted about their mental health in the last 12 months (7 per cent) was lower than the Canadian-born population (23 per cent).
- In Ontario, 20 per cent of the Canadian-born population consulted about their mental health in the last 12 months in comparison to 9 per cent of immigrants who arrived in the last 10 years and 10 per cent of immigrants who had been in Ontario for more than 10 years.
- There are many factors that might contribute to the differences in proportions between immigrants and Canadian-born, including stigma, cultural differences, language barriers, lack of culturally or linguistically appropriate services, and complicated pathways to mental health supports.

Waterloo Region Immigration Profile



Data Notes

Data Sources

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). *Permanent Residents – Monthly IRCC Updates - Canada - Permanent Residents by Province/Territory, Census Division and Census Subdivision*. https://www.ircc.canada.ca/opendata-donneesouvertes/data/EN_ODP-PR-CSD.xlsx (Accessed April 2023)

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). *Permanent Residents 2018-2022. Custom Data Request* (Received June 2023 and July 2023)

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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) *Permanent Resident Admission Tables, CD and CSD, Landing Years 1999-2022*. Community Data Program (Accessed by May 2023)

Statistics Canada. *Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) - ICARE Table T2 - Immigrant taxfiler mobility by age-sex, admission category and world area of birth, admission and tax year, settlement services - CD, CSD and Local Immigration Partnership geographies, tax years 2012-2020*. Community Data Program (Accessed February 2023)

Statistics Canada, *EO3658_CD-CSD - 2021 Target Group Profile cross-tabulated with Immigration and Citizenship - 25% Sample Data, Census 2021*, Community Data Program (Accessed April 2023)

Statistics Canada, *EO3722 - Waterloo - Semi-custom Profile from the 2021 Census for Custom Geographies, 25% Sample data, Census 2021*, Community Data Program (Accessed August 2023)

Statistics Canada, *Labour force status by visible minority, immigrant status and period of immigration, highest level of education, age and gender: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts, Census 2021*, Community Data Program (Accessed November 2023)

Statistics Canada, *EO3658_CD CSD - 2021 Census Target Group Profile of the Low Income Population Based On Low-income status based on 2018-base MBM, - 25% Sample Data, Census 2021*, Community Data Program (Accessed May 2023)

Statistics Canada, *Housing suitability by visible minority and immigrant status and period of immigration: Canada, provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with parts, Census 2021*, Community Data Program (Accessed October 2022)

Statistics Canada. *Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) 2019/2020*. Ontario MOHLTC Share file (Accessed January, 2023)

Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), *Wellbeing Waterloo Region Community Survey, 2022* (Accessed July 2023)

Data Notes and Limitations

General Notes

- Statistics Canada and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada round numbers to the nearest multiple of five to ensure confidentiality. Caution must be taken when interpreting the data in this fact sheet, especially in situations where data counts are low. As such, the numbers in table may vary slightly due to rounding and other methodological reasons which result in minor differences.
- **Immigrant** refers to a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship are included in this group.
- **Recent immigrant** refers to any immigrant who first obtained their landed immigrant or permanent resident status in the five years prior to a given census. In the 2021 Census, the period is between January 1, 2016 and May 11, 2021.
- **Established immigrant** refers to those who were not born in Canada but came to Canada before January 1, 2016.
- Townships described in this report refer to the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich.
- A **Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)** is defined as an area consisting of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a core. It must have a total of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the core.
- The **Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA** includes the three cities of Kitchener, Cambridge, Waterloo and three townships (North Dumfries, Wilmot and Woolwich). The Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo CMA does not currently include the township of Wellesley.
- Immigration data obtained from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) represents the intended destination of the individual at the time of obtaining the permanent or temporary resident permit. This differs from immigration data obtained from Census or Canadian Community Health Survey which represents the geographic region in which the individual resided at the time the census or survey was administered.

Permanent and Temporary Resident Arrivals

- **Permanent resident** refers to a person who has acquired permanent resident status and has not subsequently lost that status. They are entitled to live and work in Canada indefinitely but have not yet obtained Canadian citizenship.
- **Admission category** is a term which describes the immigration class via which an immigrant has been granted for the first time the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. There are four main groups of permanent residents:
 - **Economic immigrants** are granted permanent resident status because of their ability to contribute to Canada's economy and may be accepted as skilled workers that can meet labour market needs, self-employed, entrepreneurs or investors.
 - **Family immigrants** are immigrants sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident on the basis of their relationships either as the spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child or other relative of this sponsor.
 - **Refugees** include immigrants who are granted permanent resident status on the basis of a well-founded fear of returning to their home country. This group includes both protected persons and resettled refugees.

- **Other immigrants** includes immigrants who were granted permanent resident status under a program not classified in any other category and may include, among others, individuals accepted on humanitarian and compassionate grounds or for public policy reasons.
- **Temporary (non-permanent) residents** includes persons from another country who has a work or study permit or who is a refugee claimant, and any non-Canadian-born family member living in Canada with them. Note that although refugee claimants are considered temporary residents until they obtain permanent resident status, they are not included in temporary resident totals in this report because data on refugee claimants in Waterloo Region was not available from the IRCC.
- The data on temporary residents used in this report represents permit holders or permits that became effective in a given year and does not represent all temporary residents in Waterloo Region each year. Some permits do not last the full year, some last more than a full year, and some temporary residents may have multiple types of permits in a single year.
- The **Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)** is one type of work permit for non-permanent residents. It is a program of the Government of Canada to allow employers in Canada to hire foreign nationals to fill temporary labour and skill shortages. Employers must obtain a Labour Market Impact Assessment to verify that there is a need for a temporary worker and that no Canadians are available to do the job.
- The **International Mobility Program (IMP)** is another type of work permit for non-permanent residents, which allows employers to hire foreign workers on a temporary work permit without needing to obtain a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). Exemptions for the LMIA are based on the broader economic, cultural or other competitive advantages for Canada and/or the reciprocal benefits enjoyed by Canadians and permanent residents.
- Secondary migration data comes from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) which links immigrant landing files containing demographic data with subsequent T1 Tax Returns to obtain longitudinal information on mobility and earnings. Numbers should not be taken as official immigrant counts as some immigrants do not state an intended destination, place of residence cannot be determined, or their landing files could not be linked to subsequent tax returns. The IMDB linkage rate is approximately 80 per cent.
- **Natural increase** is the variation in the population size over a given period as a result of the difference between the numbers of births and deaths.
- **Net migration** is the difference between the number of in-migrants and the number of out-migrants.
- **Net interprovincial migration** represents the difference between in-migrants and out-migrants for a given province or territory involving a change in the usual place of residence.
- **Net intraprovincial migration** represents the difference between in-migrants and out-migrants in a given region. A region can be defined as a census division.

Population and Family Composition

- **Gender** refers to an individual's personal and social identity as a man, woman or non-binary person (a person who is not exclusively a man or a woman). A person's gender may differ from their sex at birth, and from what is indicated on their current identification or legal documents such as their birth certificate, passport or driver's licence. A person's gender may change over time. Some people may not identify with a specific gender.
- Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol.
 - **"Men+"** includes men (and/or boys), as well as some non-binary persons.
 - **"Women+"** includes women (and/or girls), as well as some non-binary persons.

- **Marital status** refers to whether or not a person is living in a common-law union as well as the legal marital status of those who are not living in a common-law union. Data on marital status was obtained from the population aged 15 years and older.
- **Living arrangements** refers to whether or not the person lives with another person or persons and, if so, whether or not he or she is related to that person or persons.
- **Generation status** refers to whether or not the person or the person's parents were born in Canada. Statistics Canada categorizes generation status into three main categories defined as follows:
 - **First generation** includes persons who were born outside Canada. For the most part, these are persons who are now, or once were, immigrants to Canada.
 - **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.
 - **Third generation or more** includes persons who were born in Canada with all parents born in Canada.
- **Racialized population** refers to people, other than Indigenous peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. In Statistics Canada's 2021 Census of Population, it is referred to as "visible minority".

Language

- **Mother tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual.
- **Knowledge of official languages** refers to whether the individual can conduct a conversation in English or French.

Employment, Education, and Income

- **Labour force** refers to the population aged 15 years and over actively pursuing or engaged in employment; excludes those who were not looking for work, students, stay-at-home parents, and retirees.
- **Participation rate** refers to the per cent of the total population aged 15 years and over in the labour force including those who are unemployed, but looking for work. It excludes those who were not looking for work, students, stay-at-home parents, and retirees.
- **Employment rate** refers to the per cent of total non-institutional population 15 years and over employed in paid work (holding a paid job with an employer, being self-employed) or doing unpaid work for a family business.
- **Unemployment rate** refers to the per cent of unemployed persons aged 15 and over in the labour force who were without paid work or without self-employment work and were available for work and either: a) had actively looked for paid work in the past four weeks; or (b) were on temporary lay-off and expected to return to their job; or (c) had definite arrangements to start a new job in four weeks or less.
- **Earnings or employment income** refers to the total income received by persons aged 15 years and over as wages and salaries, net income from a non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice, and/or net farm self-employment income.
- Data for employment is based on the place of residence of the respondent. Those employed may not actually work in Waterloo Region, but still reside there.
- The **Market Basket Measure** is a measure of low income based on the cost of a specified basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It takes into consideration the costs of specified qualities and quantities of food, clothing, footwear, transportation, a shelter

and other expenses for a reference family of two adults aged 25 to 49 and two children aged 9 and 13; the measure is adjusted for different geographic regions as well as families of different sizes.

- **Major repairs needed** refers to whether the dwelling is in need of major repairs (does not include desirable remodelling or additions).
- **Housing suitability** refers to whether a private household is living in suitable accommodations according to the National Occupancy Standard (NOS), in particular, whether the dwelling has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household.
- **Unsuitable housing** refers to whether a household has enough bedrooms for the size and composition of the household.
- **Unaffordable housing** is defined as spending 30 per cent or more of household income on shelter costs (with household total income greater than zero in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings).
- The renter category is reported at the Census Division (CD) level, while the other three categories (e.g., major house repairs needed, unsuitable housing, and unaffordable housing) are reported at the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (KCW CMA) level.

Health Status

- The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is based on self-reported data collected in telephone and in-person interviews. Self-reported measures are subject to bias including social desirability bias (when asked questions of a sensitive nature, respondents may give an answer they believe to be viewed more favorably by others) and recall bias (being unable to recall the information regarding events or experiences from the past accurately or completely).
- The CCHS excludes individuals living on Indian reserve communities, institutions, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and residents of remote regions of the country.
- The error bars represent 95 per cent confidence limits and show the range of variability for a population estimate. There is a 95 per cent probability that the true estimate is within that range. The superscript "M" denotes high sampling variability and estimates must be interpreted with caution.
- Data from the 2019-2020 CCHS cycle is not comparable to previous years due to substantial changes in sampling methodology and content.
- The Canadian Index of Wellbeing Community Wellbeing Survey was conducted in Waterloo Region in 2022. Multipronged strategies were taken to target certain groups including lower income families, newcomers and older adults. The estimated response rate was between 10 and 12 per cent resulting in over 5,000 viable respondents. Weighting of data by municipality, age and sex helps to balance representation for these variables. Note that because this was not random sample, some data may not be representative of the general population of Waterloo Region.
- **Satisfaction with life** represents a value of six or more on a 10-point Likert scale.
- **Strong sense of belonging** includes respondents who answered somewhat strong or very strong.
- Experience of discrimination of individuals in this community due to ethnicity, culture, race or skin colour was assessed on a 7-point scale from 1 = never to 7 = all the time. Responses equal to or greater than 5 are classified as experiencing discrimination on a regular basis.
- Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated as weight (kg) divided by height (m) squared. Underweight: BMI < 18.5 kg/m²; healthy weight: BMI of 18.5-24.9 kg/m²; **Overweight**: BMI of 25.0-29.9 kg/m²; **Obese**: BMI ≥ 30kg/m². Categories exclude respondents under 18 years of age as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women.

- Selected **chronic diseases or conditions** include asthma; arthritis; back problems (excluding scoliosis, fibromyalgia, and arthritis); cancer; chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD [aged 35 years and older]); diabetes; heart disease; high blood pressure; migraine headaches; suffer from the effects of a stroke.
- **Current and former smoker** categories include those that smoke(d) daily and occasionally. The **never smoked** category includes those that have never smoked a whole cigarette. The smoking proportions presented exclude experimental smokers (those who have smoked at least one whole cigarette but less than 100 in their lifetime) due to small numbers that were not reportable.
- Canada's Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines recommend no more than two drinks a day, 10 per week for women, and three drinks a day, 15 per week for men, with an extra drink allowed on special occasions. In addition, respondents would have to indicate at least some non-drinking days per week. The denominator for the proportions includes respondents who have never had a standard drink. Respondents under 19 years of age, as well as pregnant or breastfeeding women were excluded from the analysis.
- **Food insecurity** is the inability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so. Household food insecurity is often linked with the household's financial ability to access adequate food.
- **Regular health care provider** includes any health professional that respondents regularly see or talk to (general practitioner, specialist, nurse practitioner, etc.).
- **Health care professional** includes family doctor/general practitioner; eye specialist; other medical specialist (surgeon, allergist, orthopaedist, urologist/gynecologist, psychiatrist, etc.); nurse; dental professional (dentist, dental hygienist, denturologist, etc.).