

Saskatchewan Ethnic Origins and Visible Minorities

2006 Census of Canada

ETHNIC ORIGINS

The 2006 Census of Canada indicates that Saskatchewan continues to be populated by persons of European ancestry. Eight out of the top ten ethnic origins were of European descent.

Ethnic origin refers to the respondent's ancestors and is usually more distant than a grandparent. People can be of single or multiple ethnicities. At the provincial total, 44.8 percent of the population reported single ethnicity while 55.2 percent reported multiple ethnic origins.

Table 1 provides ethnic origin information for the top ten ethnic origins in Saskatchewan from the 2006 Census.

**Table 1: Census Ethnic Origins, Total responses¹
Saskatchewan, 2006**

Ethnic Origin	Total Responses	% of Total
German	286,040	30.0%
English	253,110	26.5%
Scottish	182,790	19.2%
Canadian	172,365	18.1%
Irish	145,480	15.3%
Ukrainian	129,265	13.6%
French	118,200	12.4%
North American Indian ²	115,365	12.1%
Norwegian	68,650	7.2%
Polish	56,860	6.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada

1. "Total responses" is the total of single and multiple responses. Therefore, individuals who reported multiple ethnic origins are counted more than once in this table. For example, if someone were to report multiple origins of German and English, their response would appear in both line items.

2. North American Indian ethnic origin is not comparable with North American Indian identity population counts. This also holds for Metis and other all other aboriginal population data. Identity is related to self-identification as Aboriginal while ethnic origin relates to the respondent's ancestry.

In terms of single ethnicity, North American Indian made up the largest part of this subset of the population (77,335 persons or 18.1 percent of all single ethnic backgrounds). English and German provided the highest counts for multiple ethnic origins.

VISIBLE MINORITIES

The proportion of Saskatchewan residents who report to be visible minorities continues to climb. In 2006, 3.6 percent of Saskatchewan population was a visible minority compared with 2.9 percent in 2001. The Census defines visible minorities as persons, other than Aboriginals, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in color.

The most populous visible minorities in Saskatchewan were Chinese, South Asian, Black and Filipino.

The majority of Saskatchewan visible minorities reside in the two provincial Census Metropolitan Areas. Saskatoon is home to 43.9 percent of Saskatchewan's visible minority population with Regina being home to 37.2 percent. The growth rates for visible minorities in both Saskatoon and Regina (19.8 percent and 27.6 percent, respectively) exceeded overall population growth rates in these cities (3.7 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively).

All data in this report are based on the 2006 Census of Canada. All data in this report are preliminary and subject to revision. For more details, contact the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics at (306) 787-6327 or visit www.stats.gov.sk.ca.