

HAMILTON FOR ALL

FACTSHEETS



FACTSHEET 2: IMMIGRANTS' LANGUAGES AND PLACES OF BIRTH

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The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion are launching a new public education campaign, #HamiltonForAll, that aims to stimulate dialogue and open minds by encouraging Hamiltonians to stand up against prejudice, exclusion and discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion, country of origin, disability, sexual orientation or other differences.

Recently, in response to the hate-motivated deaths of six Canadian men at a Quebec City mosque, the Hamilton and District Labour Council (HDLC) has released a Shut Down Hate pledge asking labour and community groups to band together to commit to anti-racism and anti-fascism through words and deeds. The HDLC connects the rise in precarious employment and economic insecurity to a troubling response by some to blame immigration for these trends. "If left unchallenged, racist rhetoric and actions can stir up anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-Indigenous sentiment. In times of economic downturn and diminishing opportunity, the seeds of division are fertilized by the same sections of the corporate elite who seek to divide working people. We have seen how right-wing populism can take hold, especially when people are frustrated with economic injustice. History shows us that at its extreme, such populism can be incredibly destructive. Today, challenging this situation is more important than ever for working people." (HDLC's Shut Down Hate Pledge: www.shutdownhate.ca)

The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton is publishing this series of Hamilton For All factsheets to improve understanding of Hamilton's changing racialized, immigrant and linguistic communities and to better support community dialogue around deconstructing misconceptions so that everyone in Hamilton feels welcome in our city.

INTRODUCTION

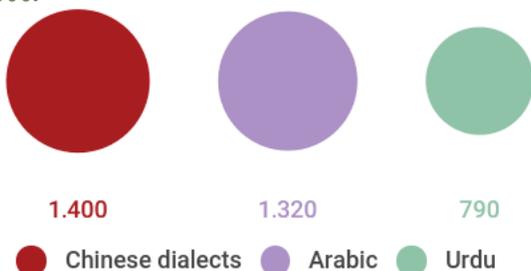
Languages and places of birth are important to understanding the changing demographics of immigrants. Global migration trends and national immigration policies shift where immigrants are coming and where they may settle. In Hamilton, service providers pay close attention to these trends and adapt their settlement services to the specific needs of newcomer residents from all countries. Newcomers who have arrived in the last five years have the greatest need for settlement services, and are called "recent immigrants" by Statistics Canada.

KEY TREND: ARABIC, TAGALOG, AND SPANISH ARE MOST COMMON NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME BY RECENT IMMIGRANTS

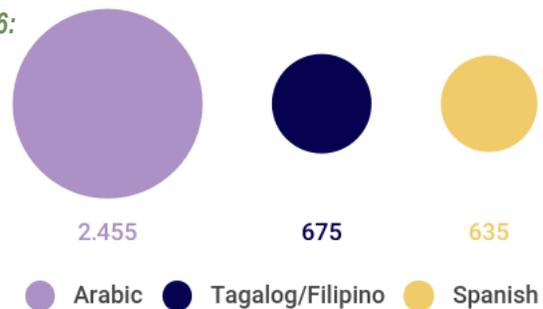
English is the most common language spoken at home by recent immigrants (reported by about 30% of recent immigrants). After English, in 2006, the top three home languages of Hamilton were Chinese dialects (combined), followed by Arabic and Urdu. By 2016, Arabic has grown to the top non-English home language among recent immigrants, followed by Tagalog and Spanish.

Chart 1. Top 3 non-English home languages spoken by recent immigrants in 2006 compared to 2016, 2006 and-2016 Censuses (Statistics Canada)

in 2006:



in 2016:

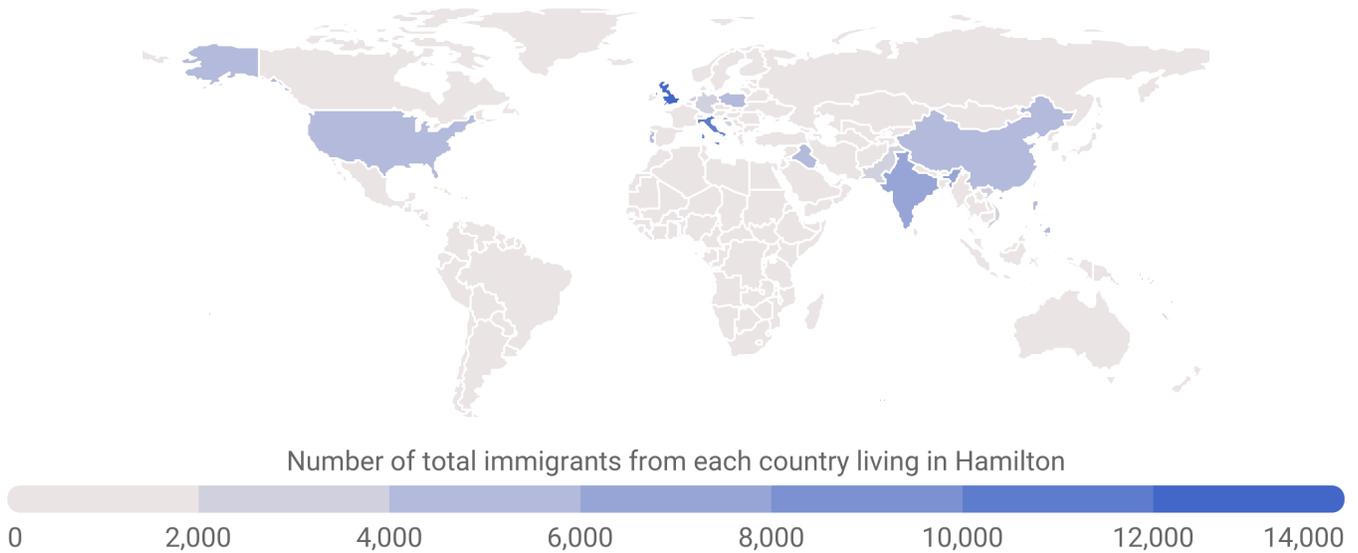


KEY TREND: PEOPLE FROM ALL REGIONS OF THE GLOBE COME TO HAMILTON TO BUILD A NEW LIFE

Map 1 below illustrates the number of immigrants over all the previous decades, from each country across the world and currently living in Hamilton. Overall, the two top source countries of Hamilton's immigrants are the United Kingdom and Italy. These are the birth countries of about 10% and 8% of Hamilton's immigrants, respectively, and combined include about 25,000 Hamilton residents. All other countries each account for about 5% of Hamilton's immigrants or fewer.

The second map illustrates the countries of birth of Hamilton's recent immigrants only (persons who arrived in Canada in the last five years). Syria, Iraq, the Philippines and India are the birth country for just over 1,000 of Hamilton's recent immigrants each. These four countries combined account for about one third of Hamilton's total recent immigrant population.

Map 1. Countries of birth of all immigrants living in the city of Hamilton, 2016 Census (Statistics Canada)



Map 2. Countries of birth of recent immigrants living in the city of Hamilton (arriving in Canada between 2011 and 2016), 2016 Census (Statistics Canada)

