

**Demographic Characteristics of Japanese Canadians in 2016  
From 2016 Census of Population**

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November 15, 2017  
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## 1. How many Japanese Canadians are there in Canada?

- There are about 121,000 Japanese Canadians in Canada.
- Japanese Canadians take up 0.35 percent of the total Canadian population.

How big is the population of Japanese Canadians in Canada? The best source of information for this question is the Census of Population by Statistics Canada. The Census has been taken every five years and the latest Census was taken in 2016. In the Census, there has been a question regarding the ethnic origin of a respondent. The response to this question can be used to obtain statistics on the size of Japanese Canadians in Canada.

A respondent was asked to select a single or multiple origins of his/her ancestors. Here, an ancestor was used to mean someone more distant than a grandparent and meant his/her ethnic or cultural root but did not mean the citizenship, language or place of birth of his/her ancestors. The choice of ethnic origin reflected a respondent's perception of his/her ethnic ancestry. Thus, a person's ethnic origin was not absolute or permanent. It could change as his or her social environment changed. Therefore, an ethnic origin in the Census was not an anthropological definition. Rather, it was a cultural definition. In this report, we call Canadians with a single Japanese ethnic origin and a Japanese ethnic origin as of one of multiple ethnic origins Japanese Canadians.

Table 1 shows all Canadians by ethnic origin. There were more than 200 ethnic origins in the Census but the table shows just a few of them.

In 2016, there were 121,485 Japanese Canadians in Canada. This was 0.35 percent of the population of Canada. About 53 percent of Japanese Canadians had multiple ethnic origins, that is, Japanese and other ethnic origins. Either on their fathers' or mothers' side, someone had married a non-Japanese Canadian in the past. In spite of the relatively short history of Japanese immigration to Canada in comparison with other Canadians, Japanese Canadians had a high rate of inter-ethnic marriages; the multiethnic origin rate of 53 percent for Japanese Canadians was higher than 41 percent for Canadians as a whole and much higher than those for other Asian Canadians.

There is caution about ethnic origins reported in the Census.

About 11.6 million Canadians, or 34 percent of all Canadians, said that they had Canadian ethnic origins other than North American aboriginal origins. Out of them, 6.4 million Canadians simply said that they had a single Canadian ethnic origin. They could be descendants of people who came to Canada a long time ago and they wanted to be called just Canadians instead of identifying them with their ancient ancestors. Some of them could be new immigrants who just wanted to be called Canadians.

Those who called themselves simply Canadians might include descendants of Japanese immigrants. But they seemed to be small in number because Table 1 in Appendix shows that the largest number of Canadians with Canadian ethnic origins were in Quebec (42 percent of them) where the population of Japanese Canadians was small. Therefore, it seems that the number of Japanese immigrants and their descendants who identified themselves as Canadians with Canadian ethnic origin was small. We can conveniently say that there were about 121,000 Japanese Canadians in Canada in 2016.

Table 1  
**Canadians by Ethnic Origin in 2016**

Ethnic origin	Total - Single and multiple ethnic origin responses	Percent of Total	Single ethnic origin responses	Multiple ethnic origin responses	Percent of multiple ethnic responses
Total - Ethnic origin [6]	34,460,065	100.00	20,297,890	14,162,175	41.1
North American Aboriginal origins	2,130,520	6.18	662,585	1,467,935	68.9
Other North American origins	11,628,535	33.74	6,617,290	5,011,245	43.1
Acadian	119,670	0.35	22,985	96,690	80.8
American	377,405	1.10	29,595	347,815	92.2
Canadian	11,135,965	32.32	6,436,935	4,699,030	42.2
New Brunswicker	1,485	0.00	505	985	66.3
Newfoundlander	22,215	0.06	4,895	17,325	78.0
Nova Scotian	3,700	0.01	635	3,060	82.7
Ontarian	3,925	0.01	1,110	2,815	71.7
Quebecois	194,555	0.56	119,985	74,575	38.3
Other North American origins	1,895	0.01	660	1,240	65.4
European origins	19,683,320	57.12	6,675,760	13,007,560	66.1
Caribbean origins	749,155	2.17	405,265	343,890	45.9
Latin, Central and South American origins	674,640	1.96	330,155	344,485	51.1
African origins	1,067,925	3.10	682,570	385,355	36.1
Asian origins	6,095,235	17.69	4,909,190	1,186,045	19.5
East Indian	1,374,715	3.99	1,096,850	277,865	20.2
Chinese	1,769,195	5.13	1,439,980	329,215	18.6
Filipino	837,135	2.43	651,390	185,740	22.2
<b>Japanese</b>	<b>121,485</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>56,725</b>	<b>64,760</b>	<b>53.3</b>
Korean	198,210	0.58	177,925	20,290	10.2
Vietnamese	240,615	0.70	165,390	75,225	31.3
Oceania origins	85,465	0.25	15,070	70,400	82.4

Source: Statistics Canada - 2016 Census. Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016187.

## 2. Are Japanese Canadians young or old?

- Japanese Canadians are younger than Canadians as a whole.
- There are relatively more people younger than 24 years old.

Table 2 shows the distribution of Japanese Canadians by age group and ethnic origin. Japanese Canadians were younger than Canadians as a whole. About 38 percent of them were younger than 24 in 2016 while about 29 percent of Canadians as a whole were younger than 24. Only 12 percent of Japanese Canadians were older than 65 in 2016 while 16 percent of Canadians as a whole were older than 65.

## 3. Whom are Japanese Canadians married to?

- Japanese Canadians marry non-Japanese Canadians at a much higher rate than other Canadians.
- In 2011, about 80 percent of Japanese Canadian couples had non-Japanese Canadian partners.
- The inter-ethnic marriage rate of Japanese Canadians has been increasing.

Table 2 also shows a percentage distribution of Japanese Canadians with multiple ethnic origins by age group. They were children, grandchildren or descendants of a Japanese Canadian who had married a non-Japanese Canadian spouse. As you see in the table, the percentage of people with mixed ethnic origins increased as the age group got younger. The percentage reached 78 percent for those who were 15 to 24 years old in 2016 and 89 percent

for those who were under 15 years old in 2016.

The Government of Canada prohibited Japanese Canadians from going back to the west coast of British Columbia in 1947 when the forced internment was over, Japanese Canadians dispersed all over Canada and lost all sizable local Japanese Canadian communities. This made it difficult for young Japanese Canadians to find Japanese Canadian spouses in their local communities. More and more Japanese Canadians got married to non-Japanese Canadian spouses as time passed.

Very few statistical sources are available for inter-ethnic marriages of Japanese Canadians. One of those few statistical sources is Statistics Canada's *Mixed Unions in Canada* (Catalogue Number 99-010-X2011003). This is a report based on the 2011 National Household Survey. The survey compiled statistics on visible minorities in Canada. Visible minorities were defined in the Employment Equity Act to include South Asians, Chinese, Blacks, Filipinos, Latin Americans, Arabs, Southeastern Asians, West Asians, Koreans and Japanese. The survey reported statistics on the number of mixed unions for visible minorities. Here, mixed unions included couples in which one spouse or partner belonged to a visible minority group and the other did not or the two spouses or partners belonged to different visible minority groups.

It should be remarked here that statistics on mixed unions were available only for those who belonged to visible minorities and not for other Canadians. For example, mixed unions did not include couples of Norwegian Canadians and Italian Canadians.

Table 3 shows the percentage of mixed unions of Japanese Canadians who identified themselves as members to the visible minority group. According to this table, about 79 percent of Japanese Canadian in the visible minority group was those of mixed unions in 2011.

Japanese Canadians (Canadians with Japanese ethnic origin) did not necessarily identify themselves as those belonging to the visible minority group. There were 109,740 Japanese Canadians but there were only 876,265 Japanese Canadians in the visible minority group. It seemed that the latter was a sub-group of the former. Therefore, the percentage of mixed unions of the latter group seemed to reasonably represent the percentage of the former group, that is, Japanese Canadians. As you see in Table 3, the percentage of mixed unions of Japanese Canadians was much higher than those of other Canadians in the visible minority group.

Table 2  
**Canadians with Japanese Ethnic Origin by Age Group in 2016**

	All	Single Ethnic Origin	Multiple Ethnic Origins
By Age Group	121,485	56,725	64,760
Under 15	29,530	3,280	26,250
15 to 24 years	17,045	3,750	13,300
25 to 34 years	16,365	6,755	9,610
35 to 44 years	18,325	11,290	7,040
45 to 54 years	15,335	10,550	4,785
55 to 64 years	9,980	7,530	2,450
65 years and over	14,905	13,570	1,335

Table 2 continued  
 Percentage Distribution by Age Group and  
 Percentage Distribution between Single and Multiple Ethnic Origins

	Age Distribution	Single Ethnic Origin	Multiple Ethnic Origins	Age Distribution Canada
By Age Group	100	47	53	100
Under 15	24	11	89	17
15 to 24 years	14	22	78	12
25 to 34 years	13	41	59	13
35 to 44 years	15	62	38	13
45 to 54 years	13	69	31	14
55 to 64 years	8	75	25	14
65 years and over	12	91	9	16

Source: Statistics Canada - 2016 Census Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016187

Table 3  
**Couples by visible minority group, Canada, 2011**

	All couples	Mixed unions	Non-mixed unions
Visible minority groups	Number	Percentage	
Japanese	32,820	79	21
Latin American	112,265	48	52
Black	167,950	40	60
Filipino	155,700	30	70
Arab	94,315	25	75
Korean	41,370	23	78
Southeast Asian	74,560	22	78
West Asian	51,300	20	81
Chinese	351,640	19	81
South Asian	407,510	13	87
Multiple visible minorities	40,415	65	35
Visible minorities, others	227,215	52	48

Source: Statistics Canada, Mixed Unions in Canada, Catalogue Number 99-010-X2011003

#### 4. Where are Japanese Canadians living?

- Japanese Canadians tend to concentrate in two provinces of British Columbia (42%) and Ontario (34%).
- Japanese Canadians live in major cities, particularly in Vancouver (31%) and Toronto (23%).

Table 4 shows the distribution of Japanese Canadians by province in 2016. British Columbia (42%) and Ontario (34%) were two provinces where a majority of Japanese Canadians lived

in 2016. They were followed by Alberta (14%) and Quebec (5%).

Appendix Table 2 shows in which cities Japanese Canadians were living in 2011. Vancouver (31%) and Toronto (23%) were two major concentrations of Japanese Canadians in Canada. Out of top 15 cities in terms of the number of Japanese Canadians, 11 of them have local Japanese Canadian organizations that are members of the National Association of Japanese Canadians in 2017. Here, those cities are Census Metropolitan Areas in the Census definition and include a core city and surrounding cities and town. Please see examples in Appendix.

Table 4  
**Canadians with Japanese Ethnic Origin by Province in 2016**

Province	Total - Single and multiple ethnic origin	Percentage Distribution	Single ethnic origin	Multiple ethnic origins
Newfoundland and Labrador	105	0.1	35	65
Prince Edward Island	110	0.1	55	60
Nova Scotia	305	0.3	125	185
New Brunswick	305	0.3	125	185
Quebec	6,495	5.3	2,640	3,855
Ontario	41,620	34.3	18,835	22,785
Manitoba	2,670	2.2	945	1,725
Saskatchewan	1,225	1.0	460	760
Alberta	16,595	13.7	6,695	9,900
British Columbia	51,150	42.1	26,400	24,750
Yukon	95	0.1	60	35
Northwest Territories	200	0.2	75	130
Canada	121,485	100.0	56,725	64,760

Source: Statistics Canada - 2016 Census Catalog No. 98-400-X2016187

### 5. How many Japanese are immigrating to Canada?

- Since Canada changed its immigration policy in 1967, a total of about 42,000 Japanese immigrated to Canada.
- For the last ten years, 1,000 to 1,200 Japanese immigrated to Canada every year.

Table 5 shows the annual number of Japanese immigrants to Canada. Between 1946 and 1966, a total of 2,364 Japanese immigrated to Canada. It seemed that they were mostly people who had been deported to Japan after the Second World War. In 1967, the Government of Canada changed its immigration regulations and introduced a point system. This change encouraged Japanese people with technical skills and professional qualifications to immigrate to Canada. By 1998 the number of Japanese immigrants to Canada increased to about 1,000 a year and reached a peak of 1,442 in 2008. Since then, the annual Japanese immigrants decreased to between 1,000 and 1,200 a year. For the period from 1967 to 2015, a total of 42,461 Japanese immigrated to Canada. They were often called “new immigrants” in the Japanese Canadian community.

## 6. How many Japanese new immigrants are there?

- There are about 45,000 Japanese new immigrants and their 15,000 young children (younger than 15 years old).
- New immigrant families (60,000 people in total) take up about half of Japanese Canadians.

The 2016 Census asked questions about the place of birth of a respondent, his/her mother and father and derived the number of people in the first generation, second generation and third and more generation.

The generation status is defined as follows:

- First generation includes persons who were born outside Canada. For the most part, these are people 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 both parents born in Canada.

Table 5  
Japanese Immigrants to Canada in the Post Second War Period

Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
1946	1	1971	883	1996	1,056
1947	0	1972	718	1997	971
1948	5	1973	1,105	1998	1,021
1949	11	1974	859	1999	1,356
1950	11	1975	635	2000	1,302
1951	3	1976	498	2001	1,645
1952	6	1977	412	2002	1,080
1953	46	1978	359	2003	1,008
1954	71	1979	666	2004	1,264
1955	97	1980	737	2005	1,346
1956	120	1981	770	2006	1,367
1957	178	1982	630	2007	1,388
1958	188	1983	330	2008	1,442
1959	191	1984	250	2009	1,323
1960	159	1985	205	2010	1,319
1961	116	1986	273	2011	1,265
1962	137	1987	446	2012	1,210
1963	168	1988	346	2013	983
1964	138	1989	541	2014	1,127
1965	209	1990	365	2015	995
1966	509	1991	492		
1967	930	1992	586		
1968	693	1993	910		
1969	766	1994	956		
1970	797	1995	835		

Sources:

From 1946 to 2000, The Greater Vancouver Japanese Immigrants' Association, "The 25th Anniversary, 1977 to 2002 Report," Original sources for data from 1956 to 1994 are from Japan International Co-operation Agency; data from 1946 to 1955 and from 1995 to 2000 are from the Canadian Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Data from 2001 to 2015 are from Statistics Canada.

Table 6 shows the number of Japanese Canadians by generation status in 2016. In 2016, there were 45,060 first generation Japanese Canadians (Japanese immigrants) ; 37,615 second generation (children of Japanese immigrants) and 38,810 third generation and more Japanese Canadians.

The first generation Japanese Canadians included those who came back to Canada after they had been forced to go back to Japan after the Second World War. By 2016, they were 80 years old and over and their number seems to be small. Therefore, almost all of the first generation Japanese Canadians in 2016 were so called "Japanese new immigrants." Thus, in 2016, the Japanese new immigrants took up 37 percent of all Japanese Canadians. When young second generation Japanese Canadians (under 15 years old) were added to the first generation Japanese Canadians as their dependent children, then the "Japanese new immigrant families" took up 49 percent of all Japanese Canadians in 2016.

Table 6  
**Canadians with Japanese Ethnic Origin by Age Group and Generation Status in 2016**

	All Generations	First Generation	Second Generation	Third and More Generations
By Age Group	121,485	45,060	37,615	38,810
% distribution	100	37	31	32
Under 15	29,530	3,700	15,015	10,815
15 to 24 years	17,045	4,865	5,415	6,765
25 to 34 years	16,365	7,370	3,765	5,235
35 to 44 years	18,325	10,950	3,605	3,775
45 to 54 years	15,335	8,140	2,125	5,075
55 to 64 years	9,980	3,795	1,340	4,850
65 years and over	14,905	6,250	6,355	2,300

Percentage Distribution of Age Group for Each Generation Status

	All Generations	First Generation	Second Generation	Third and Higher Generations
By Age Group	100	100	100	100
Under 15	24	8	40	28
15 to 24 years	14	11	14	17
25 to 34 years	13	16	10	13
35 to 44 years	15	24	10	10
45 to 54 years	13	18	6	13
55 to 64 years	8	8	4	12
65 years and over	12	14	17	6

Source: Statistics Canada - 2016 Census Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016187

## 7. When did Japanese immigrants become Canadian citizens?

- About 60 percent of Japanese immigrants hold Canadian citizenship.
- The longer they live in Canada, the more take Canadian citizenship.

The 2016 Census asked respondents their places of birth and immigration status. In the Census 27, a total of 240 people answered that they were born in Japan and were either Canadian landed immigrants or citizens in 2017. This number was smaller than who answered that they were born in Japan (the first generation Japanese Canadians). Apparently, some of them did not answer immigration status questions even though they answered that they were born in Japan. But from the statistics of those who answered the immigration status questions, we can tell when they became Canadian citizens. In 2016, landed immigrants could apply for Canadian citizenship if they had lived more than three years in the four consecutive years before applying for citizenship.

Table 7 shows that in 2016, a total of 62 percent of Japanese immigrants held Canadian citizenship and 38 percent landed immigrant status. The percentage of Canadian citizenship increased as Japanese immigrants lived longer in Canada. Among those immigrated before 1981, close to 80 percent of them held Canadian citizenship in 2016. Male immigrants (50.5%) were more likely to hold Canadian citizenship than female immigrants (33.0%).

Table 7  
Total Number of Japanese Immigrants in Canada by their Citizenship in 2016

Period of Immigration	Canadian citizens + non citizens	Percentage of female immigrants	Canadian citizens	Canadian citizens only	Citizens of Canada and at least one other country	Not Canadian citizens	% of Canadian citizens
Total immigrants	27,240		10,380	9,085	1,300	16,865	38.1
Males	7,955		4,020	3,555	470	3,930	50.5
Females	19,285	71	6,355	5,525	835	12,930	33.0
Immigrants before 1981	5,750		4,585	4,210	375	1,165	79.7
Males	2,490		1,975	1,820	160	510	79.3
Females	3,260	57	2,605	2,390	215	655	79.9
Immigrants from 1981 to 1990	2,195		1,330	1,205	125	860	60.6
Males	780		505	470	40	275	64.7
Females	1,415	64	825	740	90	590	58.3
Immigrants from 1991 to 2000	5,620		2,315	2,030	285	3,305	41.2
Males	1,510		765	670	95	745	50.7
Females	4,105	73	1,550	1,365	185	2,555	37.8
Immigrants from 2001 to 2010	8,780		1,955	1,485	470	6,820	22.3
Males	1,930		695	530	160	1,235	36.0
Females	6,850	78	1,265	950	310	5,590	18.5
Immigrants from 2011 to 2016	4,900		195	155	40	4,710	4.0
Males	1,250		80	65	10	1,165	6.4
Females	3,655	75	115	90	30	3,540	3.1
15 to 24 years old	95	3	0	0	0	95	0.0
25 to 34 years old	1,390	38	30	25	0	1,360	2.2
35 to 44 years old	1,495	41	40	30	10	1,455	2.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census - Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016184

## 8. How are Japanese immigrating to Canada?

- Over the last 35 years, about half of Japanese immigrants were economic immigrants and the other half immigrants sponsored by family.

In the 2016 Census, the immigration information of a respondent was linked to his or her immigration information at Refugees and Citizenship Canada and produced cross tabulation statistics between the period of immigration, immigration program and age group and sex of immigrants from a specific country in the world including Japan.

Table 8 is such a cross-tabulation table for people who were born in Japan and immigrated to Canada between 1980 and 2016. The immigration period corresponds to that for “Japanese new immigrants.” There are several definitions used for Table 8.

- Economic immigrants includes immigrants who have been selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy through their ability to meet labour market needs, to own and manage or to build a business, to make a substantial investment, to create their own employment or to meet specific provincial or territorial labour market needs.
- Immigrants sponsored by family includes immigrants who were sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and were granted permanent resident status on the basis of their relationship either as the spouse, partner, parent, grand-parent, child or other relative of this sponsor.
- Principal applicants include immigrants who were identified as the principal applicant on the application for permanent residence. Secondary applicants include immigrants who were identified as the married spouse, the common-law or conjugal partner or the dependant of the principal applicant on the application for permanent residence.

Table 8  
Immigrants Born in Japan by Type of Immigration and Immigration Period in 2016

	All periods	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016
All types of Immigrants	21,930	2,630	5,620	8,780	3,580	5,195	4,900
Economic immigrants	10,205	1,515	2,745	3,595	1,340	2,255	2,350
Principal applicants	5,565	765	1,615	1,770	655	1,115	1,420
Secondary applicants	4,635	755	1,125	1,825	685	1,140	930
Immigrants sponsored by family	11,325	1,020	2,805	5,045	2,210	2,830	2,460
Refugees	175	60	25	45	10	35	40
Other immigrants	225	40	45	90	20	70	55

### Percentage Distribution

	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
All types of Immigrants	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Economic immigrants	47	58	49	41	37	43	48
Immigrants sponsored by family	52	39	50	57	62	54	50
Refugees and others	2	4	1	2	1	2	2

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016202.

There were 21,930 Japanese immigrants in Canada in 2016 who were born in Japan. This was much smaller than 45,060, the number of first generation Japanese Canadians (those with Japanese ethnic origin) in Table 6. The major reason is that Table 8 includes only principal and secondary applicants and excludes the children of those principal and

secondary applicants who come to Canada with them. Some immigrants on the census could be matched with at Refugees and Citizenship Canada and did not show up in Table 8. Still, Table 8 shows important characteristics of Japanese immigrants.

Roughly half of them (47%) came to Canada as economic immigrants and the other half as immigrants sponsored by family. Those who came to Canada as immigrants sponsored by family increased from 39 percent in the 1980s to 50 percent in the 1990s and 57 percent in the 2000s. In the first half of 2010s, it decreased to 50 percent.

### 9. Why are there more female than male Japanese immigrants?

- Females dominate Japanese immigrants. Over the last three decades, three out of four Japanese immigrants were females.
- This was because a relatively large number of female immigrants sponsored by family among Japanese immigrants.
- It is likely that about 80 percent of female family immigrants are partners of Canadian husbands.

Table 9 shows the number of Japanese Canadians by sex and by generation status. There were more females (56%) than males (44%) in 2016. This was because the first generation Japanese Canadians had much more females (67%) than males (33%). In the second and third and more generations, females and males were distributed according to the biological norm of 50-50.

Why were there much more females than males in the first generation Japanese Canadians? The first generation Japanese Canadians were immigrants. So, we look at their categories of immigration to find out any clue.

Table 10 shows the number of female Japanese immigrants by category of immigration application and by period of immigration. Among Japanese who immigrated to Canada between 1980 to 2016, females took up 74 percent. This was compatible with 67 percent of the females in the first generation Japanese Canadians.

Table 9  
Canadians with Japanese Ethnic Origin by Sex and Generational Status in 2016

	Single and Multiple Origins	Single Ethnic Origin	Multiple Ethnic Origins
All Generations	121,485	56,725	64,760
Male	53,415	21,725	31,695
Female	68,070	35,000	33,070
First Generation	45,060	32,370	12,690
Male	15,015	9,480	5,535
Female	30,045	22,895	7,155
Second Generation	37,615	13,300	24,315
Male	19,000	6,660	12,340
Female	18,615	6,640	11,975
Third and Higher Generations	38,810	11,060	27,750
Male	19,400	5,585	13,815
Female	19,405	5,470	13,940

Percentage Distribution

	Single and Multiple Origins	Single Ethnic Origin	Multiple Ethnic Origins
All Generations	100	100	100
Male	44	38	49
Female	56	62	51
First Generation	100	100	100
Male	33	29	44
Female	67	71	56
Second Generation	100	100	100
Male	51	50	51
Female	49	50	49
Third and Higher Generations	100	100	100
Male	50	50	50
Female	50	49	50

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016187.

About 37 percent of female immigrants came to Canada as economic immigrants and 62 percent as immigrants sponsored by family in the period from 1980 to 2016. However, when we look at each period of immigration, then we find that the percentage of female immigrants sponsored by family increased from 48 percent in the 1980s to 61 percent in the 1990s and to 66 percent in the 2000s and decreased to 59 percent in the first half of 2010s. Thus, female immigrants sponsored by family have been an important factor for the relatively large number of female immigrants among Japanese immigrants after 1980 (Japanese new immigrants).

Table 10  
Female Immigrants Born in Japan by Type of Immigration and Immigration Period in 2016

	All periods	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016
Total	16,230	1,620	4,105	6,850	2,820	4,035	3,655
Economic immigrants	5,960	775	1,565	2,205	805	1,405	1,415
Principal applicants	2,775	220	760	1,000	380	620	795
with secondary applicants	1,455	195	325	620	265	355	310
without secondary applicants	1,320	25	435	380	115	265	485
Secondary applicants	3,185	560	805	1,205	420	785	615
Immigrants sponsored by family	9,990	775	2,505	4,555	1,990	2,565	2,160
Refugees and others	275	70	40	90	15	65	85
Estimate of single female applicants	11,310	800	2,940	4,935	2,105	2,830	2,645

Percentage Distribution

	All periods	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016
% of female immigrants	74	62	73	78	79	78	75
% distribution for each period							
Total female immigrants	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Economic immigrants	37	48	38	32	29	35	39
Principal applicants	17	14	19	15	13	15	22
with secondary applicants	9	12	8	9	9	9	8
without secondary applicants	8	2	11	6	4	7	13
Secondary applicants	20	35	20	18	15	19	17
Immigrants sponsored by family	62	48	61	66	71	64	59
Refugees and others	2	4	1	1	1	2	2
Estimate of single female applicants	70	49	72	72	75	70	72
Estimate of married female applicants	30	51	28	28	25	30	28

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016202.

Some of female Japanese economic immigrants were secondary applicants (spouses of male Japanese economic immigrants who were primary applicants). But 9 percent of female economic applicants came to Canada as primary applicant with their spouses and about 8 percent of female economic immigrants came to Canada alone on their own merits.

Some female Japanese immigrants were sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and came to Canada as their spouses, partners, parents, grand-parents, children or other relatives. Table 10 does not show who were female Japanese immigrants sponsored by family but gives us some clues. Immigration category data (the base for Table 10) also gives the distribution of female immigrants sponsored by family by age group in 2016 and by immigration period. From this table, we can estimate the age range to which these female immigrants belonged in each immigration period. For example, a female immigrant who was 45 years old in 2016 and came to Canada in the 1991 to 2000 period was between 21 and 30 years old in the 1991 and 2000 period. For each age group of female family sponsored immigrants in 2016, we estimated their age range in the immigration period when they came to Canada and assumed that those who were between 20 to 44 years old when they came to Canada were sponsored by Canadians as their spouses.

Table 11 shows this process and the estimates of the percentage of female immigrants who were sponsored by their Canadian spouses. About 62 percent of female family sponsored immigrants were sponsored as spouses in the 1990s, 84 percent in the 2000s and 81 percent in the period from 2011 to 2016. The percentage in the 1990s was smaller than others because the age ranges of 10 to 28 and 30 to 48 were excluded to be consistent with those of other immigration period but these age ranges included females in the age ranges of 20 to 28 and 30 to 44. If we include these age ranges, then the percentage for the 1990s would be 91 percent. Therefore, we can say that roughly 80 percent of female family sponsored immigrants were sponsored as spouses of Canadian husbands.

Table 11  
Female Immigrants Sponsored by Family by Age Group and by Immigration Period

Age group in 2010		1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016
0 to 14 years	130	0	0	40	10	30	85
15 to 24 years	140	0	40	55	30	20	45
25 to 34 years	1,470	30	25	460	55	<b>405</b>	<b>955</b>
35 to 44 years	4,165	25	455	<b>2,890</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>795</b>
45 to 54 years	2,800	155	<b>1,565</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>600</b>	315	160
55 to 64 years	770	340	270	105	60	40	55
65 to 74 years	385	175	105	65	30	40	30
75 years and over	140	50	40	30	10	20	20
Estimates of spouses			1,565	3,805	1,800	2,090	1750
% of spouses			62	84	90	81	81

Table 11 continued

Estimates of age ranges by immigration period

Age group in 2010 and years of birth	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016
0 to 14 years; 2002 to 2016	0	0 to 6	0 to 8	0 to 3	4 to 8	9 to 14
15 to 24 years; 2001 to 1992	0 to 2	0 to 8	0 to 8	0 to 13	5 to 18	10 to 24
25 to 34 years; 1991 to 1982	0 to 8	0 to 18	10 to 28	10 to 23	15 to 28	<b>20 to 34</b>
35 to 44 years; 1981 to 1972	0 to 18	10 to 28	<b>20 to 38</b>	<b>20 to 33</b>	<b>25 to 38</b>	<b>30 to 44</b>
45 to 54 years; 1971 to 1962	9 to 28	<b>20 to 38</b>	<b>30 to 48</b>	<b>30 to 43</b>	35 to 48	40 to 54
55 to 64 years; 1961 to 1952	19 to 38	30 to 48	40 to 58	40 to 53	45 to 58	50 to 64
65 to 74 years; 1951 to 1942	29 to 48	40 to 58	50 to 68	50 to 63	55 to 68	60 to 74
75 years and over; 1941 and before (1931)	39 to 59	50 to 68	60 to 78	60 to 73	65 to 78	70 to 84

Note: Bold letters indicate Japanese female immigrants who were assumed to be sponsored by Canadian spouses.

Source: Based on Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016202.

## 10. Are Japanese Canadians maintaining the language of Japanese?

- About 90 percent of Japanese immigrants can speak both Japanese and English.
- It is difficult to pass Japanese as a mother tongue from the first to second to third generation of Japanese Canadians. In the third generation, very few Japanese Canadians can speak Japanese as their mother tongue.

The 2016 Census asked respondents about their mother tongues and their knowledge of two Canadian official languages of English and French and non-official languages. In the Census, mother tongue referred to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the respondent at the time the data was collected. If the respondent no longer understood the first language learned, the mother tongue was the second language learned. A person was said to have knowledge of a language when this person conducted a conversation in that language.

Table 12 shows that in 2016, there were 43,240 persons who said their mother tongue was Japanese. In the second generation, Japanese Canadians with Japanese mother tongue decreased to 9,520. In the third generation, this number decreased further to 870. It seemed that it was hard for the younger generations of Japanese Canadians to maintain Japanese as their mother tongue.

A high percentage (88%) of the first generation Japanese Canadian could speak both Japanese and English but a very few of them (0.4%) could speak Japanese and French. The number of Japanese Canadians who leaned Japanese as their mother tongue decreased drastically from the first generation to second and third generation.

Table 12  
**People with Japanese Mother Tongue by Generation Status in Canada in 2016**

	Total - Generation status	First generation	Second generation	Third generation or more
Mother tongue: Japanese	43,240	32,855	9,520	870
Knowledge of languages				
English only	1,500	290	940	260
French only	0	0	10	0
English and French and Japanese	2,710	1,645	1,015	50
Japanese only	2,515	1,770	710	35
English and French only	70	30	35	15
English and Japanese	36,200	28,945	6,750	505
French and Japanese	170	115	55	0
Japanese and other non-official languages	70	55	15	0

Table 12 continued: Percentage Distribution

	Total - Generation status	First generation	Second generation	Third generation or more
Mother tongue: Japanese	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Knowledge of languages				
English only	3.5	0.9	9.9	29.9
French only	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
English and French and Japanese	6.3	5.0	10.7	5.7
Japanese only	5.8	5.4	7.5	4.0
English and French only	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.7
English and Japanese	83.7	88.1	70.9	58.0
French and Japanese	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.0
Japanese and other non-official languages	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016195.

Appendix

Appendix Table1  
**People with Other Canadian Ethnic Origins by Province in Canada in 2016**  
**% Distributions**

	Total - Single and multiple ethnic origin responses	Single ethnic origin responses	Multiple ethnic origin responses
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.4	3.0	1.6
Prince Edward Island	0.5	0.5	0.6
Nova Scotia	3.5	3.2	3.9
New Brunswick	3.2	3.1	3.3
Quebec	41.7	54.9	24.3
Ontario	27.7	20.3	37.4
Manitoba	2.1	1.4	3.1
Saskatchewan	2.0	1.5	2.7
Alberta	8.2	6.3	10.8
British Columbia	7.9	4.8	12.0
Yukon	0.1	0.0	0.1
Northwest Territories	0.1	0.1	0.1
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016187.

Appendix Table 2  
By a descending order of population

City	Total	Percentage Distribution of Total	Single Ethnic Origin	Multiple Ethnic Origins
Vancouver*	37,630	31.0	20,265	17,365
Toronto*	28,045	23.1	13,725	14,315
Calgary*	7,705	6.3	3,125	4,575
Montreal	5,320	4.4	2,220	3,100
Edmonton*	3,635	3.0	1,230	2,400
Ottawa-Gatineau*	3,370	2.8	1,180	2,190
Victoria*	2,980	2.5	1,435	1,545
Winnipeg*	2,290	1.9	850	1,440
Hamilton*	2,180	1.8	865	1,315
Kelowna	1,900	1.6	835	1,070
Lethbridge*	1,805	1.5	900	905
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	1,025	0.8	420	605
Kamloops*	1,015	0.8	500	510
Abbotsford-Mission	730	0.6	330	400
Nanaimo*	670	0.6	340	335
Saskatoon	565	0.5	215	355
Quebec City	475	0.4	170	300
Vernon*	455	0.4	230	225
Regina	390	0.3	170	220
Thunder Bay*	380	0.3	90	290
Coutenay	255	0.2	100	145
Duncan	190	0.2	75	115
Campbell River	140	0.1	85	60
Parksville	125	0.1	55	65
Total Above	103,275	85.0	49,410	53,845
Total Japanese Canadians	121,485	100.0	56,725	64,760

Source: Statistics Canada - 2016 Census. Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016187.

Note: \* Cities where local Japanese Canadian organizations are members of the National Association of Japanese Canadians in 2017.

Appendix Table 3  
Male Immigrants Born in Japan by Type of Immigration and Immigration Period in 2016

	All periods	1980 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016
Total	5,700	1,015	1,510	1,930	765	1,165	1,250
Economic immigrants	4,240	745	1,175	1,395	540	855	930
Principal applicants	2,795	550	855	770	275	500	620
Secondary applicants	1,455	195	325	620	265	355	310
Immigrants sponsored by family	1,340	240	305	490	220	270	305
Refugees	55	15	15	20	0	15	0
Other immigrants	65	20	15	25	10	25	10

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016202.

Appendix Table 4  
**Japanese Visible Minority by Sex and by Immigration Status in 2016**

	Total - Immigrant status and period of immigration	Non- immigrants	Immigrants	Before 1981	1981 to 1990	1991 to 2000
Total	92,920	58,950	26,515	5,705	2,180	5,360
Male	40,105	29,940	7,450	2,400	740	1,405
Female	52,815	29,015	19,070	3,300	1,445	3,960
% of Female	57	49	72	58	66	74

	2001 to 2011 [4]	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2010	2011 to 2016	Non- permanent residents
Total	8,320	3,295	5,020	4,955	7,450
Male	1,720	645	1,070	1,195	2,715
Female	6,600	2,650	3,950	3,765	4,735
% of Female	79	80	79	76	64

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016191.

### Census Metropolitan Areas



## **How to get statistics used in this report from the 2016 Census of Population by Statistics Canada**

To get statistics from the 2016 Census, go to “Data products, 2016 Census”  
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm>

From this page, go to “Data tables.”

Then, you will see several categories of data such as Age and Sex, Education, etc.

Go to “Immigration and ethno-cultural diversity.”

Go to Catalogue Number on this page to go to specific statistics. The catalogue numbers for the tables used in this report are listed at the bottom of each table.

At each statistical table, click “View/download this product”

Choose a combination of variables available for this statistics and “Submit”

Then, you will see the statistics you want to see or download.

As of November 3, 2017 the following statistics from the 2016 Census are not made released to the public yet:

Education

Journey to work

Labour

Language of work

Mobility and migration