Ethnic Origin

During the 1990s, members of visible minority groups made their first major contributions to the GTA workforce.  In 2001, the GTA had a population of 4.7 million, of which 1 million were members of visible minority groups. This compares to 0.1 million in 1971, or a rate of 1.1 million in 2001. Visible minority people are defined as persons whose origins can be traced to any of the non-Western countries that were formerly part of the British Empire. In the GTA, the population of visible minorities increased by 57% between 1991 and 2001, and within the GTA, visible minorities increased by 64% and the number of visible minority residents in the GTA increased by 306% between 1996 and 2001. These groups include Arabs, Filipinos, Chinese, Blacks, South Asians, and Southeast Asians. Visible minorities made up 44% of the population in 1996, and 49% of the population in 2001. Visible minorities are concentrated in the GTA, with 94% of the GTA population living in the GTA. Visible minorities are concentrated in the GTA, with 94% of the GTA population living in the GTA. Visible minorities are concentrated in the GTA, with 94% of the GTA population living in the GTA.
Regardless of where people were born, or when they came to Canada, everyone reports on their ethnic origins. If appropriate and this is happening more frequently. People more likely to report multiple origins include those from European backgrounds whose ancestors have lived in Canada for several generations. In general, groups with a more recent history in Canada were more likely to report single responses. Looking only at single ethnic origins, the most prevalent backgrounds in the City of Toronto other than the British Isles are:

- Chinese at 242,920 - a 16 per cent increase over 1996
- East Indian at 133,670 - a decline of 13 per cent
- Portuguese at 75,800 - a 5 per cent decline