

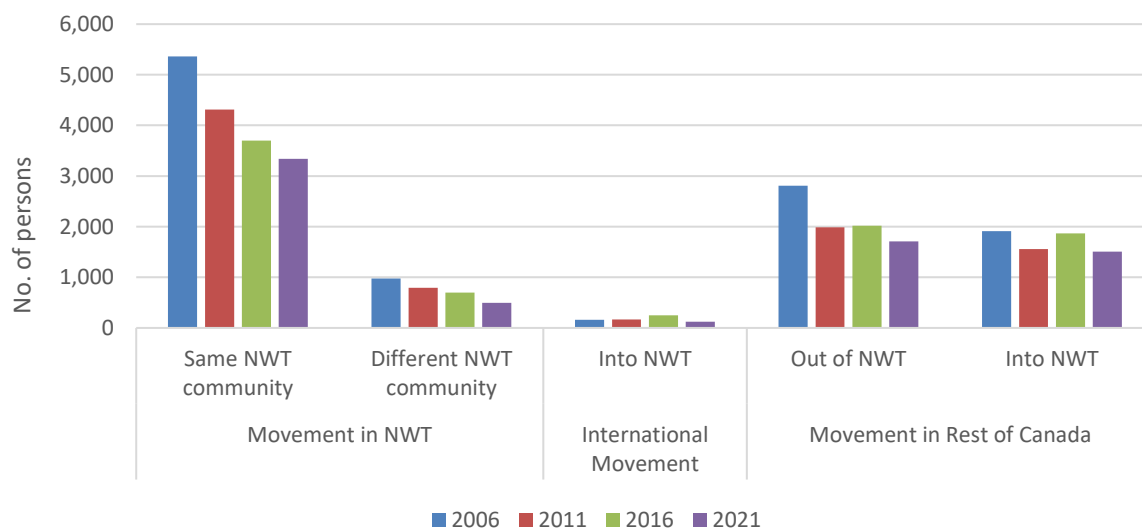
## Mobility, Immigration, Ethnocultural & Religious Diversity 2021 Census

Today, Statistics Canada released 2021 Census information on mobility, immigration, citizenship, ethnocultural & religious diversity.

### Mobility

In 2021, the Northwest Territories saw a decline in mobility and migration compared to previous Census years (Figure 1). The number of people moving into the NWT from other provinces and territories declined by 19% to 1,505, while those that left declined by 15% to 1,710. Within the NWT, there were fewer who moved to different NWT communities or within their own community compared to previous years.

**Figure 1 One-Year Movers for the Population Aged 1 Year and Over Northwest Territories, 2006, 2011, 2016 & 2021**



The Census also collects data on 5-year mobility; compared to the last Census cycle there were more movers in all categories. Only the Maritime provinces, British Columbia and Yukon had net interprovincial in-migration, meaning more people moved into their jurisdictions from other provinces and territories than left.

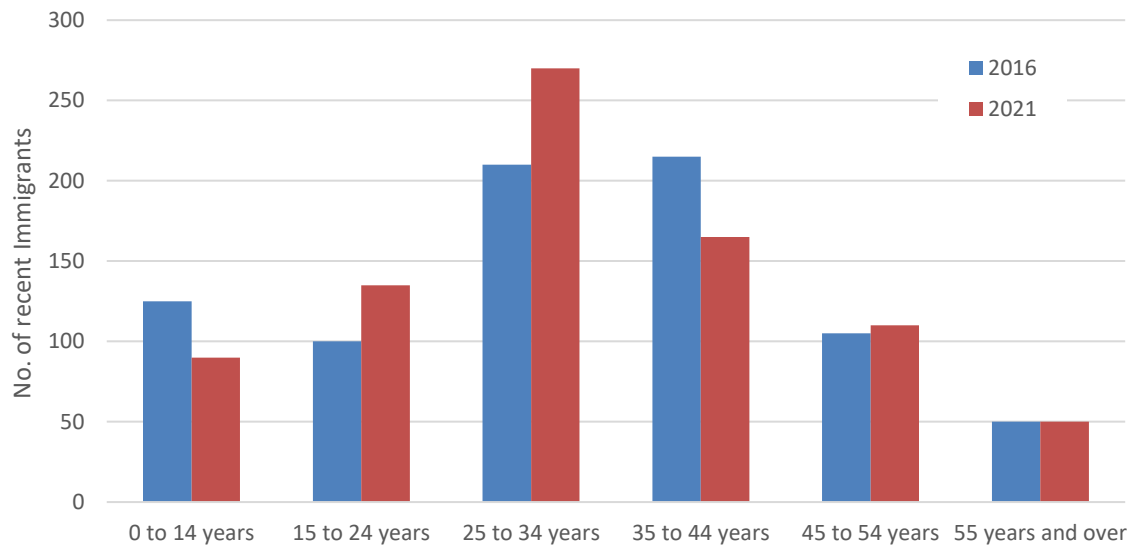
Of the 40,380 people living in the NWT, 21,555 (53%) were born in the NWT while 14,020 (35%) were born in other provinces or territories. The remaining 4,805 were born outside Canada with 4,150 of these classified as immigrants.

## Immigration

In 2021, 10% of the NWT population (4,150) were immigrants<sup>1</sup>, an increase of 465 people from 2016. Immigrants may have lived elsewhere in Canada prior to moving to the NWT; overall, 23% of the Canadian population were immigrants.

Just over 800 persons were recent immigrants, those that moved in the last 5 years, and 65% had the Northwest Territories as their intended destination. Compared to 2016, recent immigrants shifted toward the 15 to 34 years of age group.

Figure 2 Percentage of Recent Immigrants by Age  
Northwest Territories & Canada, 2016 & 2021



Of the 4,150 immigrants living in the NWT, 2,665 were citizens and 1,480 were non-citizens. While not considered immigrants, there were 410 non-permanent NWT residents<sup>2</sup> in 2021, all of which were non-Canadian citizens. The remaining population of 35,825 are all Canadian citizens.

## Ethnocultural Diversity

In the NWT, Indigenous was the largest ethnic group<sup>3</sup> with 20,095 reporting either single or multiple origins. Excluding Indigenous or Canadian, the largest ethnic group was English (5,495) followed by Scottish (5,265) and Irish (4,720). Most people (79%) with European ethnic origins were third generation<sup>4</sup> citizens. In contrast, 69% with Asian roots were first generation; born outside Canada.

<sup>1</sup> Immigrant refers to a landed immigrant or permanent resident that has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

<sup>2</sup> Non-permanent resident refers to a person from another country who has a work or study permit or who has claimed refugee status (asylum claimant).

<sup>3</sup> Ethnic origin refers the ethnic or cultural background of a person's ancestors.

<sup>4</sup> Generation status - First generation: persons who were born outside Canada; second generation: persons who were born in Canada and had at least one parent born outside Canada; third generation: persons who were born in Canada with all parents born in Canada.

In 2021, Just under 5,000 people in the NWT considered themselves to be a visible minority<sup>5</sup>, an increase of 960 people (25%) from 2016. Just over one-third of the visible minority population identified as Filipino while about 1 in 5 identified as black.

**Table 1 Visible Minority Population  
Northwest Territories, 2016 & 2021**

	2021		2016		Change
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	
Total	40,380	n.a.	41,135	n.a.	-755
All Visible Minorities	4,915	100.0	3,955	100.0	960
Filipino	1,665	33.9	1,300	32.9	365
Black	1,060	21.6	760	19.2	300
South Asian	775	15.8	615	15.5	160
Chinese	335	6.8	305	7.7	30
Southeast Asian	305	6.2	255	6.4	50
Arab	225	4.6	105	2.7	120
Latin American	125	2.5	135	3.4	-10
Japanese	105	2.1	150	3.8	-45
Others	325	6.6	490	12.4	-165

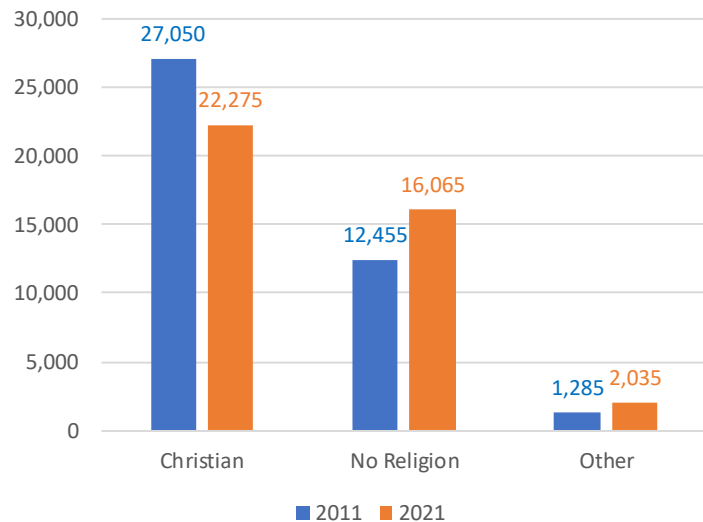
Most of the NWTs visible minority population lived in Yellowknife, consistent with the rest of Canada where most visible minority persons lived in urban areas; every other person in Toronto and Vancouver belonged to a racialized group.

### Religious Diversity

The religious landscape of the North has changed significantly over the past ten years. While the Christian religion is still in the majority, its proportion of the total population has dropped from 66.3% in 2011 to 55.2% in 2021. Approximately 5% were affiliated with another religion while nearly 40% had no religious association.

Older persons are more likely to be part of a religious group; of those 65 years and older, nearly 80% specified a religion. In the past ten years there has been a drop in religious affiliation in the younger population.

**Figure 3 Religious Diversity  
Northwest Territories, 2001 & 2021**



The last major release for 2021 Census is scheduled for November 30, 2022 and will cover education, labour, language at work, commuting and instruction in the official minority language. For more information, please visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at <http://www.statsnwt.ca> or call (867) 767-9169.

<sup>5</sup> Visible minority is as defined by the Employment Equity Act, "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." The term "visible minorities" is under review by Statistics Canada.