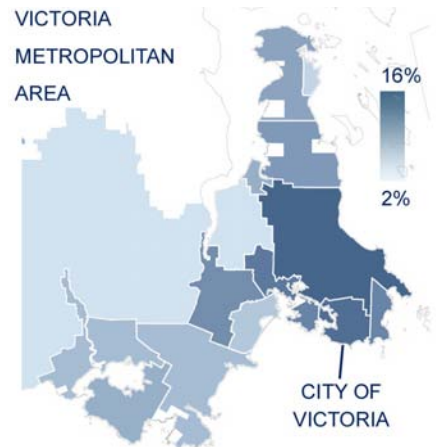


# 1.5 Ethnicity and Visible Minorities

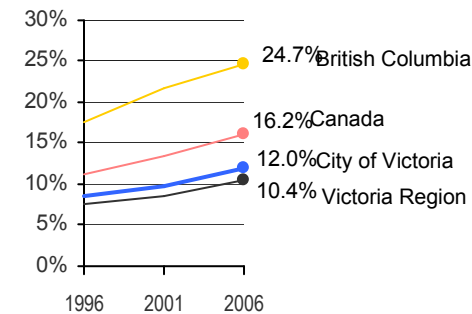


The City of Victoria is becoming more culturally diverse, as evidenced by a 40% increase in both visible minorities and aboriginal individuals between 1996 and 2006.

The City of Victoria has the second highest proportion of visible minorities in the region (12.1% of its population), next to Saanich. Both of these municipalities exceed the regional average of 10.4% of population as visible minorities.

## Visible Minorities 1996-2006

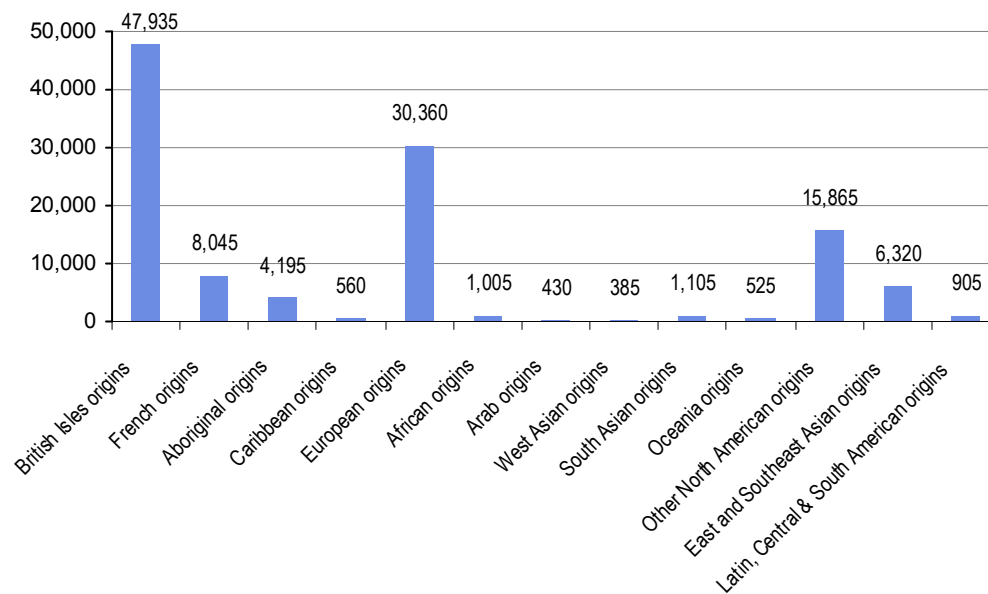
	1996	2001	2006
Total reporting Population	71,205	71,585	75,390
Total visible minority population	6,035	6,985	9,130
Percent visible minority population	8.5%	9.8%	12.1%



The City of Victoria has seen a steady increase in its visible minority population from 1996-2006. The percentage of the population of visible minority status (12.1%) is still less than half of the BC average (24.7%), however it is above average for the Victoria region. With respect to country of origin, the vast majority of Victoria residents are of European heritage.

DATA SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

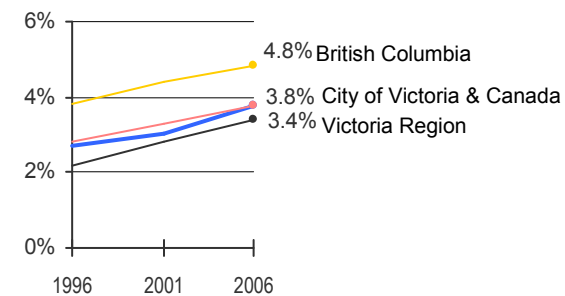
## 2006 Ethnic Origins\*, City of Victoria



\*See Reverse for explanation of Ethnic Origin  
DATA SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA 2006 CENSUS

## Aboriginal Identity 1996-2006

	1996	2001	2006
Total reporting Population	71,210	71,585	75,390
Total Aboriginal population	1,925	2,180	2,835
Percent Aboriginal Population	2.7%	3.0%	3.8%



The aboriginal population in the City of Victoria has increased steadily from 2.7% in 1996 to 3.8% in 2006. The percentage of the population of aboriginal identity in Victoria is consistent with the Canadian average, but below the BC average.

DATA SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

RELATED SHEETS  
[1.1 POPULATION GROWTH](#)  
[1.7 MOBILITY AND IMMIGRATION](#)

# 1.5 Ethnicity– definitions

## Ethnic Origin

**Ethnic origin:** Refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belong. An ancestor is someone from whom a person is descended, and is usually more distant than a grandparent. Ethnic origin pertains to the ancestral "roots" or background of the population, and should not be confused with citizenship or nationality.

The count for "Total Population" represents the sum of *single* and *multiple* responses for each ethnic origin. Total population counts indicate the number of persons who reported a specified ethnic origin, either as their only origin or in addition to one or more other ethnic groups. For example, 1,270,400 persons reported at least some Italian ancestry in 2006.

**Single ethnic response:** Occurs when a respondent provides one ethnic origin only. For example, in 2006, 726,300 people stated that their only ethnic origin was Italian. Since 1981, when respondents were first permitted to report more than one ethnic origin in the census, a distinction has been made between single and multiple responses.

**Multiple ethnic response:** Occurs when a respondent provides two or more ethnic origins. For example, 544,100 people in 2006 gave a response which included Italian and one or more other ethnic origins. As a result of increasing intermarriage between persons of different ethnic backgrounds, an increasing proportion of the population of Canada report two or more ethnic origins.

## Visible Minorities

**Visible minorities:** The 2006 Census provides information on the characteristics of people in Canada who are members of a visible minority, as defined by the Employment Equity Act. The Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour". Under this definition, regulations specify the following groups as visible minorities: Chinese, South Asians, Blacks, Arabs, West Asians, Filipinos, Southeast Asians, Latin Americans, Japanese, Koreans and other visible minority groups, such as Pacific Islanders

## Aboriginal Identity

**Population reporting an Aboriginal identity:** Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo), and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the *Indian Act* of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

