Visible Minorities in Saskatchewan

Presentation to the
Saskatchewan Visible Minorities Employees Association
May 20, 2004

Doug Elliott
Sask Trends Monitor
444 19th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 1H1
306-522-5515
sasktrends@sasktel.net
www.sasktrends.ca
A Statistical Profile of the Visible Minority Population in Saskatchewan

- Virtually all of the available statistical information about members of visible minority groups is from the Statistics Canada census. All of the data in this presentation are from that source.

- Included is information about:
  - Basic counts and trends over time
  - Country of Origin and Immigration Trends
  - Age distributions
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Income

- Other information is available but not included here - religion, language, family structures, e.g.
Definitions

- Statistics Canada counts a census respondent as a member of a visible minority group if they said they were:
  - Chinese
  - South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan)
  - Black (e.g., African, Haitian, Jamaican, Somali)
  - Filipino
  - Latin American
  - South East Asian (e.g., Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese)
  - Arab
  - West Asian (e.g., Afghan, Iranian
  - Japanese, and/or
  - Korean.
  Multiple responses were allowed.

- This is separate from the “ethnic origin” question. Aboriginal people are not considered as members of a visible minority group.

- This is from the “long form” so we are effectively dealing with a 20% sample of the population.
Responses in Saskatchewan, 2001

Distribution of Responses in 2001
Total Saskatchewan = 27,580

- Chinese: 30%
- North Asian: 15%
- Southeast Asian: 9%
- Filipino: 11%
- Korean: 2%
- Japanese: 2%
- Arab/West Asian: 5%
- Latin American: 7%
- Other: 2%
- Multiple responses: 2%
- Black: 15%
- South Asian: 15%
- Total Saskatchewan: 27,580

The visible minority population has increased by 4% from 26,635 in 1996.
In percentage terms, the fastest growing visible minority group in the province was the small Korean group (131%).

In absolute terms, the largest increase (535) was among Latin Americans.

The population who reported their origin as Black, Chinese, or Southeast Asian declined.
Saskatchewan has the fourth lowest proportion of visible minority group members in Canada (2.9%). Only Nfld, P.E.I., and New Brunswick have lower proportions.

The proportion did not increase significantly from 1996 to 2001.

Part of the reason is inter-provincial migration. On a net basis, the province lost 2,500 visible minority group members (10%) to other provinces over the five years.
Urban Residence, 2001

Visible Minority Groups as Percentage of Selected Urban Populations, 2001

- Saskatchewan cities tend to have a low proportion of visible minority members compared with other cities.
- Québec city is an exception.
Residence in Saskatchewan

Almost all (82%) of the province’s visible minority population lives in the Regina and Saskatoon metropolitan areas.

Visible Minority Populations in Saskatchewan
Urban Centres, 2001

- Regina: 9,880, 10%
- Saskatoon: 12,410, 10%
- Swift Current: 465, 2%
- Estevan: 140, 0%
- Yorkton: 230, 0%
- Prince Albert: 675, 2%
- North Battleford: 320, 0%
- Moose Jaw: 655, 2%
- Rest of Saskatchewan: 2,805, 10%
Immigration Status of Visible Minority Members in Saskatchewan

**1996**
- Immigrated prior to 1981: 22%
- Recent (since 1981) immigrant: 37%
- Born in Canada: 35%
- Non-permanent resident: 6%

**2001**
- Immigrated prior to 1981: 19%
- Recent (since 1981) immigrant: 38%
- Born in Canada: 36%
- Non-permanent resident: 7%
The visible minority population is relatively young compared with other Saskatchewan residents.

50% are 15 to 44 years of age compared with 42% of the provincial population; very few (6%) are 65 or older.
Within the visible minority population, there has been an increase in the past five years among those 45 or older.

A decline in persons under 15 and those who may be their parents (25 to 34) may be a consequence of out-migration.
Summary

- Compared with other provinces, the visible minority population in Saskatchewan is relatively small, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total population.

- Saskatchewan’s visible minority population is concentrated in Regina and Saskatoon.

- The visible minority population is growing only slowly.

- The visible minority population is largely Asian in origin and is a mix of recent immigrants and persons born in Canada.

- Compared with the general provincial population, the visible minority population is relatively young.
Education, Employment, and Income
Fully 80% of youth who are members of a visible minority group attended school (full-time or part-time) in 2000-01 compared with 57% of those who are not members.

The proportions are also much higher in older age groups.
Completed education levels are much higher in the visible minority population than in the general population.

- Fully one quarter, for example, have a university degree.
- The proportion with a post-secondary certificate or diploma is lower than in the general population.
Field of Study, 2001

Compared with other Saskatchewan residents, members of visible minority groups tend to have their post-secondary education in the “hard” sciences.

There are relatively few in applied science and the trades.

Field of Study for those with a Post Secondary Education

Educational, recreation and counselling
Fine and applied arts
Humanities and social sciences
Commerce, management and business admin
Agricultural, biological, nutritional, and food sciences
Engineering and applied sciences
Applied science technologies and trades
Health professions and related technologies
Mathematics, computer and physical sciences

Not a member  Members of a visible minority group
The employment rate is the percentage of the population that is employed (full-time or part-time, in paid jobs or self-employed) at the time of the census.

Members of a visible minority group were, in 2001, less likely to be employed than other Saskatchewan residents in each of the age groups.
Looking only at those 25 to 64 years of age, the employment rate differential has not changed in the past ten years.
Employment rates among members of a visible minority group are higher than in most other provinces.

In the primary labour market age group (15 to 64), 67% are employed compared with 64% in Canada as a whole and 73% in Manitoba.
Employment Growth, 1991 to 2001

In the ten years from 1991 to 2001, employment has grown more quickly among members of a visible minority group than in the general population - 12% compared with 2%.

This is especially true for women.
Employment by Industry, 2001

Employment of visible minority members tends to be concentrated in the accommodation and food services sector.

In 2001, they were much less likely than others to be working in the primary, transportation, or construction industries.
Employment by Occupation, 2001

The occupational distribution tends to reflect the industry distribution and the education in the sciences.
Relative to the province as a whole, a higher proportion of visible minority group members had no income or incomes under $10,000 in 2000.

This leads to an overall average that is 10% below the average for non-members.
Employment Income in 2000

The gap narrows significantly when only employment income is considered.

In other words, members of a visible minority group have similar employment incomes but lower overall incomes.
The $2,760 difference in average incomes is accounted for by:

- $250 less per year from employment;
- $1,490 less per year from government transfers; and
- $1,010 less per year from “other” sources.
There has been an increase in average incomes from 1995 to 2000 - fewer visible minority group members have incomes below $10,000 and more have incomes from $20,000 to $40,000.

The gap with other residents is not closing. From 1995 to 2000, average incomes in the visible minority population grew by 5.6% compared with 6.4% among those who are not members.
Summary

- A relatively high proportion of the visible minority population has a post-secondary education. University degrees are more common than other kinds of post-secondary education.

- In spite of the higher levels of education, employment rates are below the provincial average. Some but not all of this is attributable to higher levels of school attendance.

- Employment is above average in the “accommodation and food services” industry and below average in the primary industries and construction.

- Average employment income is near the provincial average but total income is below the provincial average because of lower government transfers and lower investment incomes.