



Muslims Insights

State of Muslims in Canada

November, 2023

1 Vision

At Muslims Insights, we have a clear and unwavering vision: **a Canada where Muslims are understood, where diversity is celebrated, and where every individual is empowered to build a more inclusive society.** As a Canadian-based social enterprise, we are passionately committed to transforming this vision into a tangible reality **through rigorous and relevant research.** We believe that research is the key to dismantling misconceptions, fostering tolerance, and promoting inclusivity.

2 Mission

Our mission is simple yet profound – **to be the go-to source for individuals and businesses seeking accurate, unbiased, and comprehensive information about Muslims in Canada.** We firmly believe that knowledge is the key to fostering understanding, inclusivity, and a more informed society.

3 Approach

Discover - We dive deep into the multifaceted aspects of Muslim cultures, history, and contemporary issues

Analyze - We critically examine the information we uncover, using academic standards to scrutinize our findings

Educate - We transform our research and analyses into easily accessible educational materials, reports, articles, and workshops

4 Values

Responsiveness

Rigor

Action

Those values lie at the very core of everything we do.

Muslims

Insights

For more insights, visit our
website:

www.muslimsinsights.ca



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State of Muslims in Canada

The religious and demographic landscape of Canada is undergoing a transformative shift. This report explores the presence and growth of Muslim communities across the country, showcasing their increasing influence and contribution to Canada's evolving cultural, religious, and economic tapestry.

Religious Landscape: Christianity, historically dominant, has declined, while the Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh populations have seen remarkable growth, reflecting global trends of changing religious affiliations.

Immigration Dynamics: The Muslim community constitutes approximately 13.4% of Canada's immigrant population, with a 738% growth between 1980 and 2021, making significant contributions to Canada's multicultural fabric.

Geographic Distribution: Around 77% of Canada's Muslim population resides in Ontario and Quebec, while Western provinces also exhibit Muslim communities.

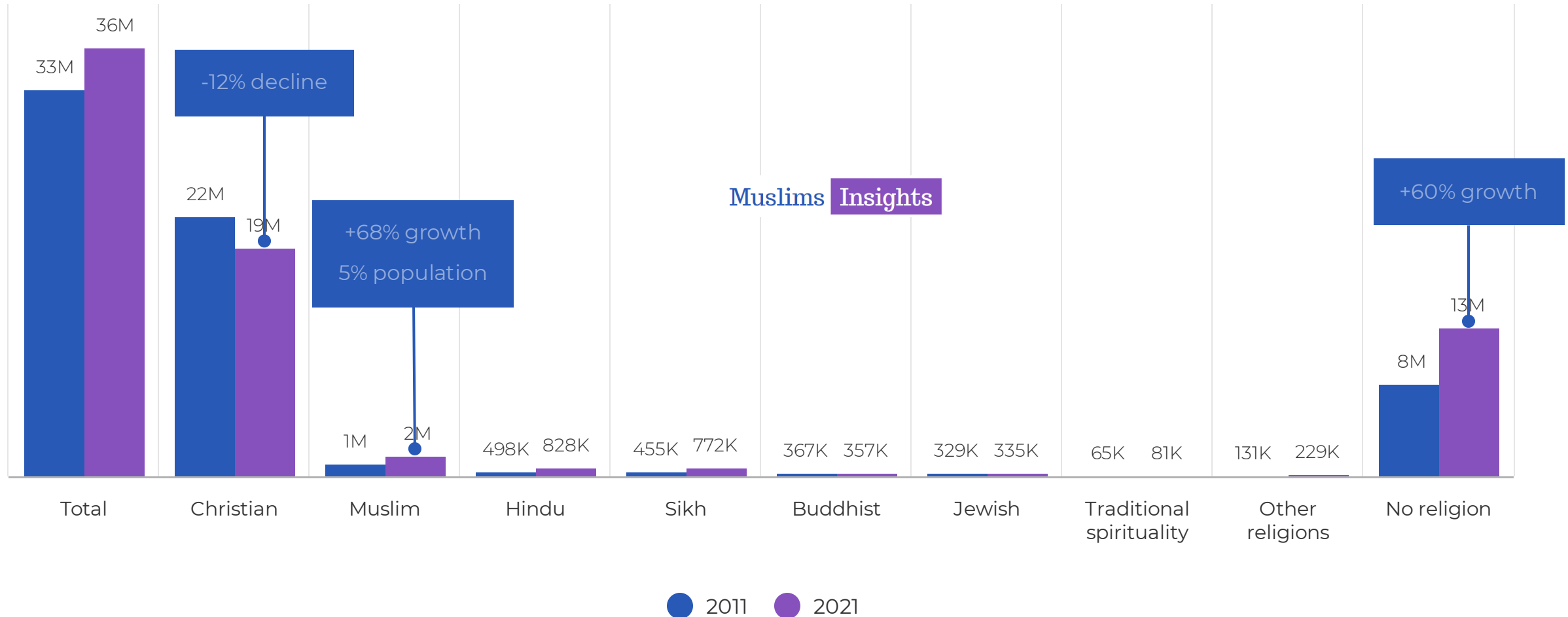
Demographics: The Muslim community in Canada displays balanced gender representation and a diverse age range, with a significant working-age population.

Halal Market: The Canadian halal market is valued at around \$1 billion, with diversification beyond food, driven by population growth and globalization.

This report aims to provide comprehensive insights into the multifaceted aspects of Muslim communities in Canada, showcasing their growth and contributions in the realms of faith, culture, and commerce within the country.

1 Evolution of Muslims in Canada: **A decade of change (2011-2021)**

Population distribution by religion in Canada





Evolution of Muslims in Canada

In the span of a decade, Canada has witnessed significant shifts in its religious landscape, reflecting the country's ongoing cultural and demographic evolution. The 2021 Census data reveals a nuanced portrayal of religious diversity in the nation, with both continuity and transformation.

Christianity's Decline: Christianity, which has historically been the dominant religion in Canada, has seen a notable decline in its adherents. In 2011, the Christian population stood at 22,102,745, but by 2021, it decreased to **19,373,330**. This trend is indicative of a broader global shift away from traditional religious affiliations.

Rise of the Muslim Population: The Muslim population has grown significantly, reaching **1,775,715** in 2021, up from 1,053,945 in 2011, indicating a substantial **68.6%** increase. This growth reflects a dynamic and diverse Muslim community in Canada representing now approx. **5%** of Canada's population.

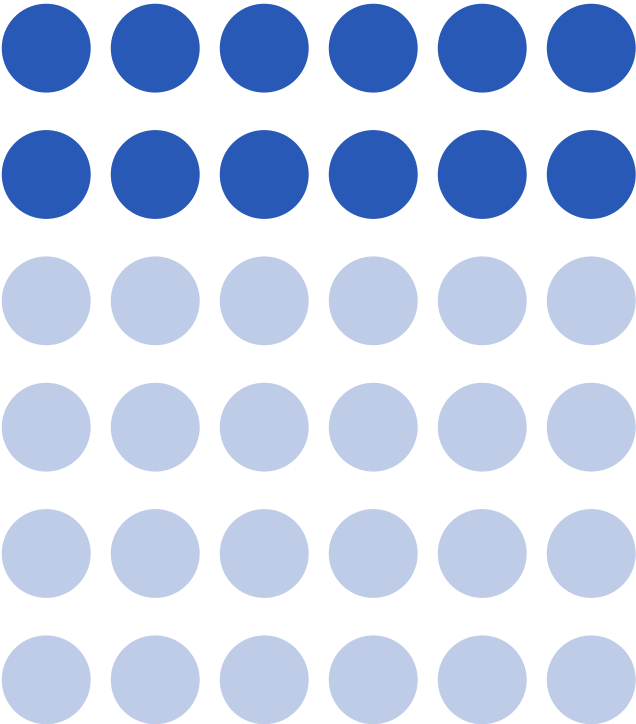
Growth in Hindu and Sikh Populations: The Hindu and Sikh communities have experienced remarkable growth over the decade. The Hindu population surged from 497,965 in 2011 to **828,195** in 2021, demonstrating a **66.3%** increase. Similarly, the Sikh community expanded from 454,960 in 2011 to **771,790** in 2021, marking a **69.5%** growth. This growth can be attributed to immigration patterns and natural population increase.

No religion: One of the most significant changes in religious demographics is the rise of the "No religion" category. In 2011, this group counted 7,850,610 members, but by 2021, it swelled to **12,577,475**, demonstrating a **60.5%** increase. This shift reflects a growing segment of the population identifying as non-religious.

2 Muslims & Immigration

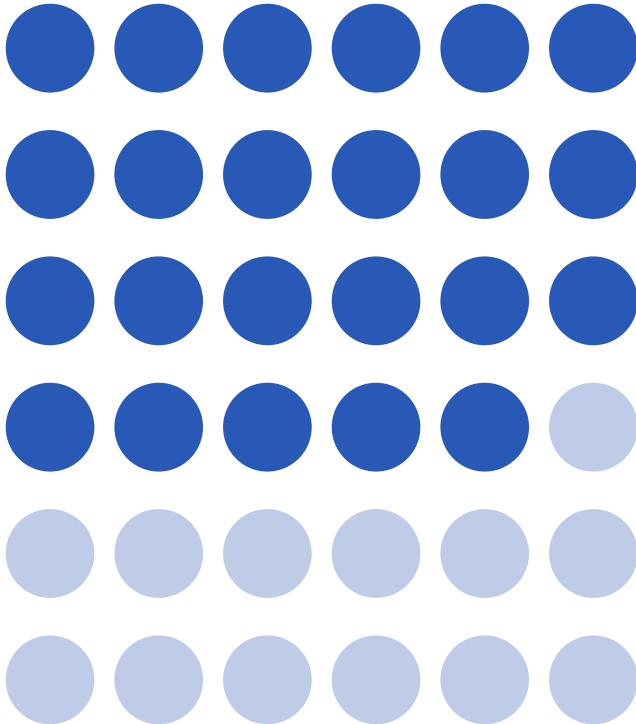
Muslims distribution per immigration status

31%



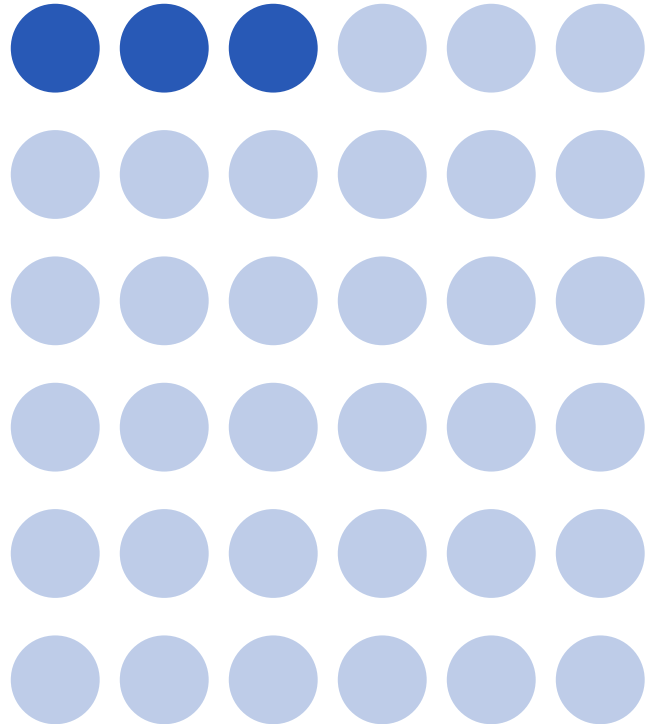
Non Immigrants

63%



Immigrants

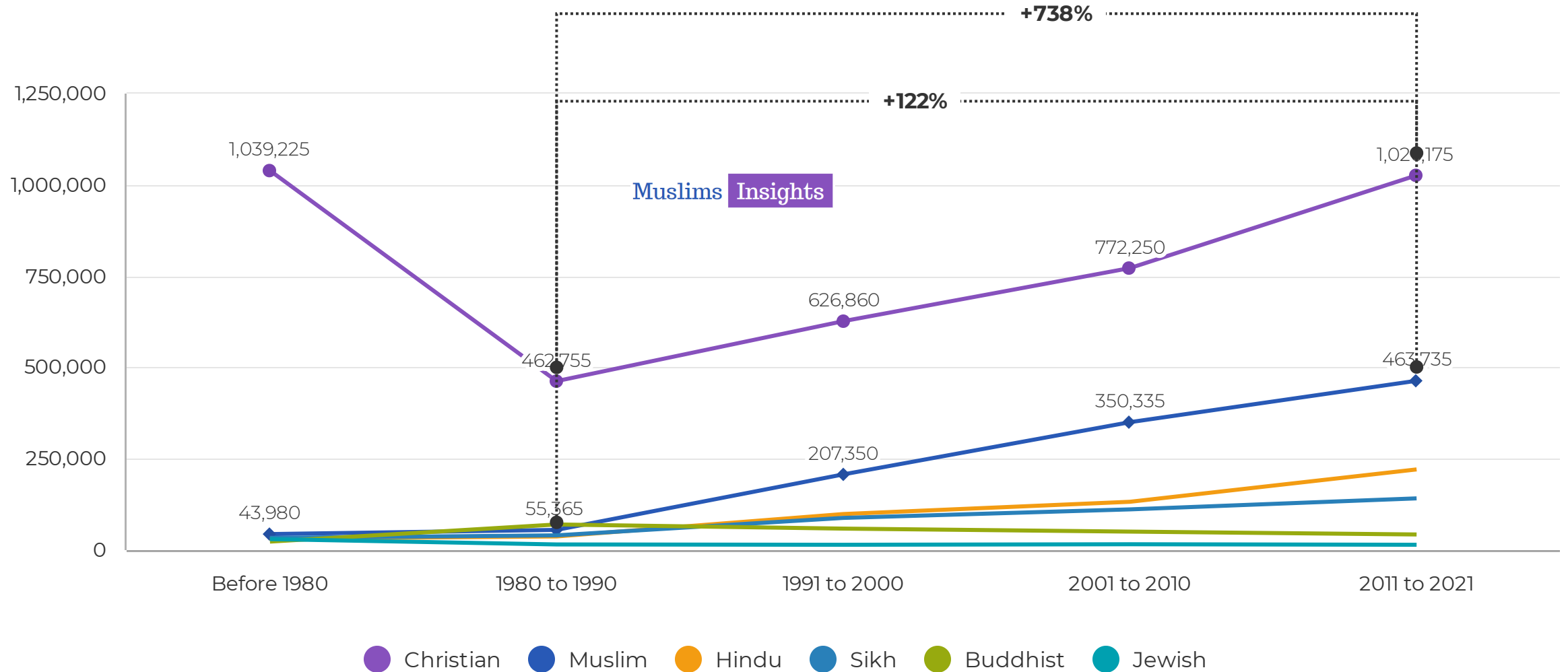
6%



Non-permanent residents

Source: StatCan; 2021 Census

Count of Immigrants evolution



Source: StatCan; 2021 Census



Muslims and Immigration

The Muslim population in Canada is predominantly fueled by immigration, with a substantial **70%** of Canadian Muslims being immigrants.

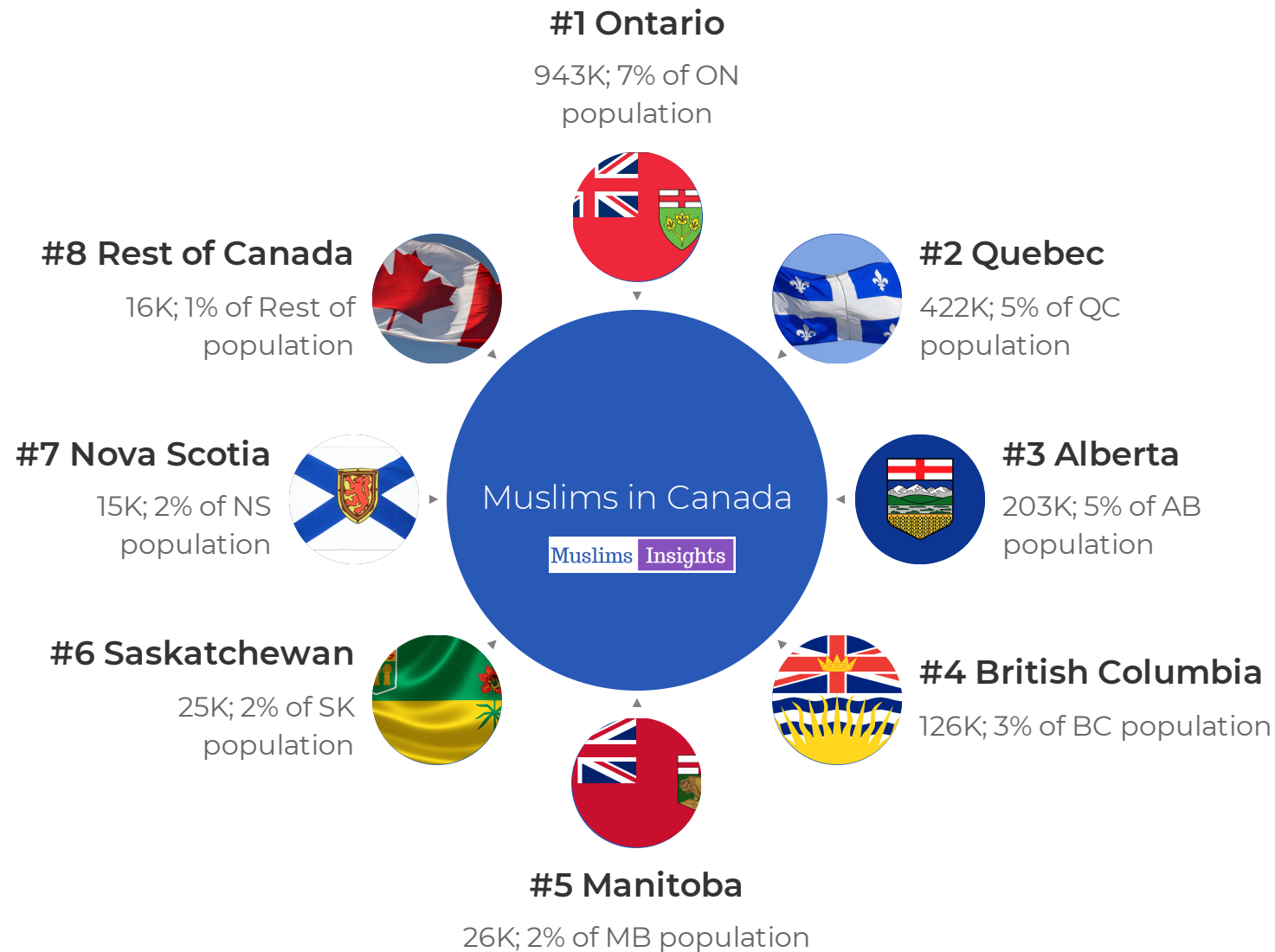
Out of the total 8,361,505 immigrants in Canada, the Muslim community accounts for **1,120,765** individuals, reflecting a substantial representation of approximately **13.4%** among immigrants.

An impressive **61%** of Muslims immigrants arrived in the country between 1980 and 2021. This period marks a significant era in the growth of the Muslim community in Canada, showcasing the nation's appeal as a welcoming and inclusive destination for individuals from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

Between 1980 and 2021, the Muslim immigrant community in Canada achieved remarkable growth, with their numbers increasing by a staggering **738%**. This growth rate surpasses that of other immigrant groups, underscoring the dynamic evolution of the Muslim population and their significant contribution to the multicultural fabric of Canada.

3 Repartition of Muslims across **Provinces in Canada**

77% of Canada Muslims are in Ontario and Quebec



Source: StatCan; 2021 Census

Geographic distribution of the Muslim Population in Canada

The data shows a diverse distribution of Muslims across various provinces / Territories, with the largest communities being in Ontario and Quebec.



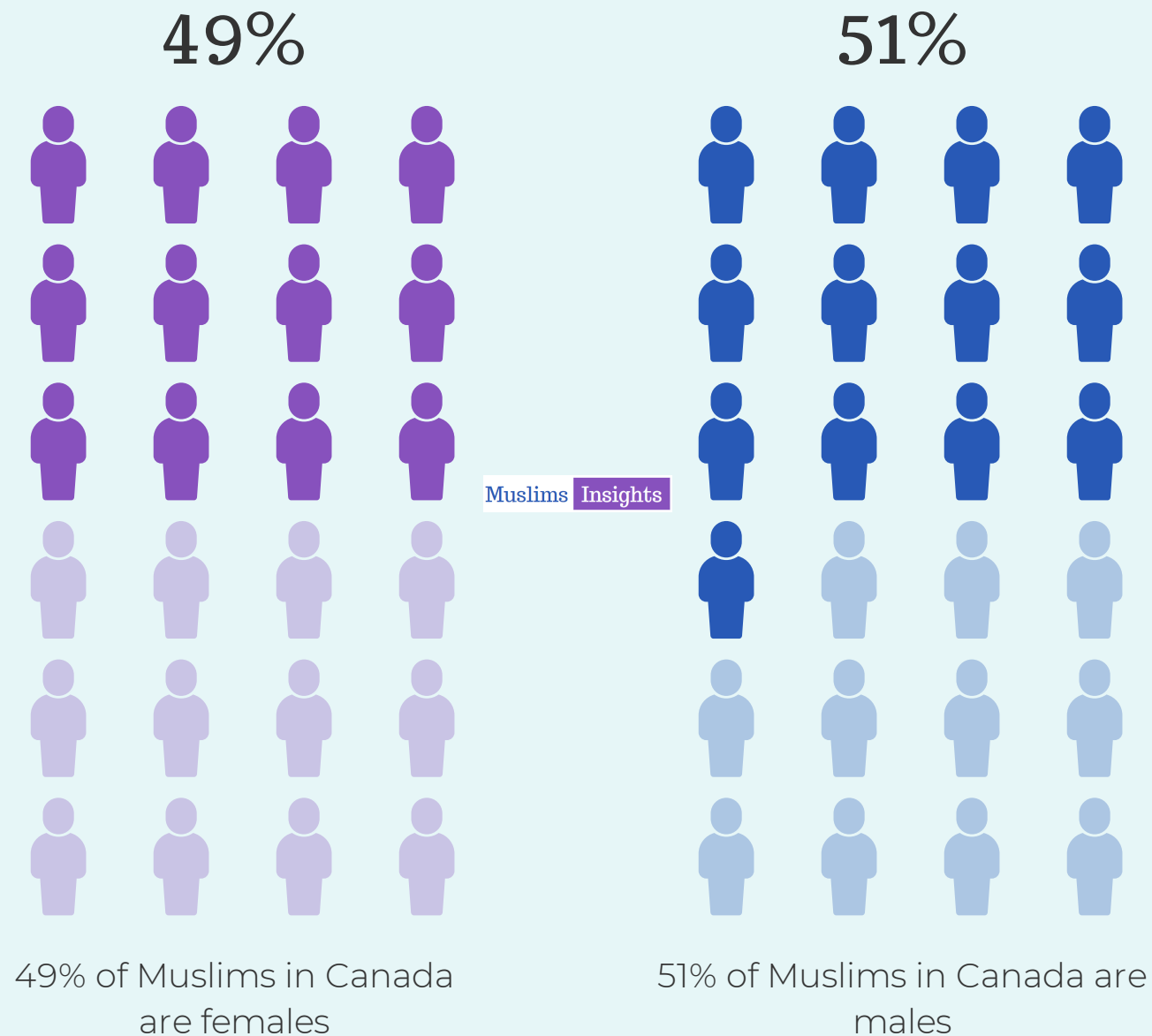
The province with the highest percentage of Muslims is **Ontario**, with a Muslim population representing approximately **7%** of its total population. **Quebec** is the next highest, with Muslims making up about **5%**.

Provinces in Western Canada, including **Manitoba**, **Saskatchewan**, **British Columbia** and **Alberta**, have Muslim populations of approximately 3%, with **Alberta** being the largest in terms of the number of Muslims.

The northern territories, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, have very small Muslim populations, each with less than 1% of their total population being Muslim.

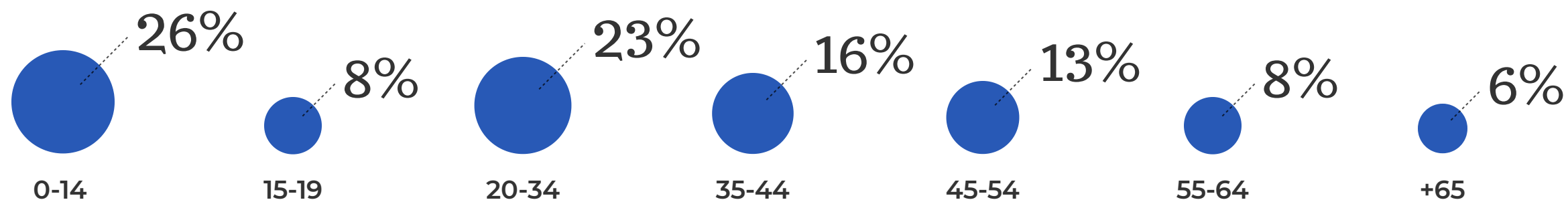
4 Demographics of Muslims in Canada

Balanced gender representation among Muslims, with **nearly equal percentages of men and women**



Source: StatCan; 2021 Census

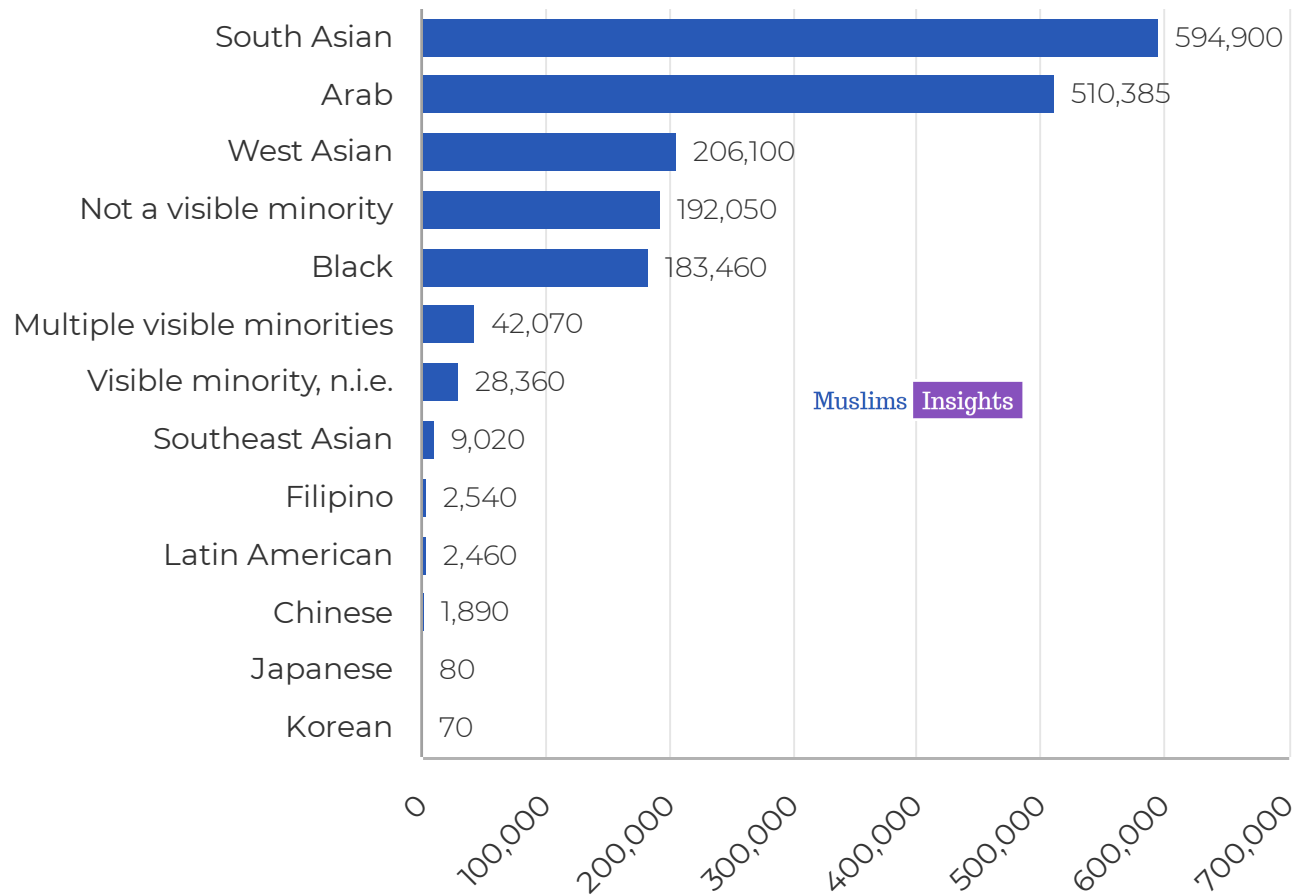
Muslims distribution per age



68% of the Muslims population are in the working age category. The community spans a wide range of age groups, with significant numbers of youth, working-age adults, and seniors

Source: StatCan; 2021 Census

Visible Minority Composition



62%

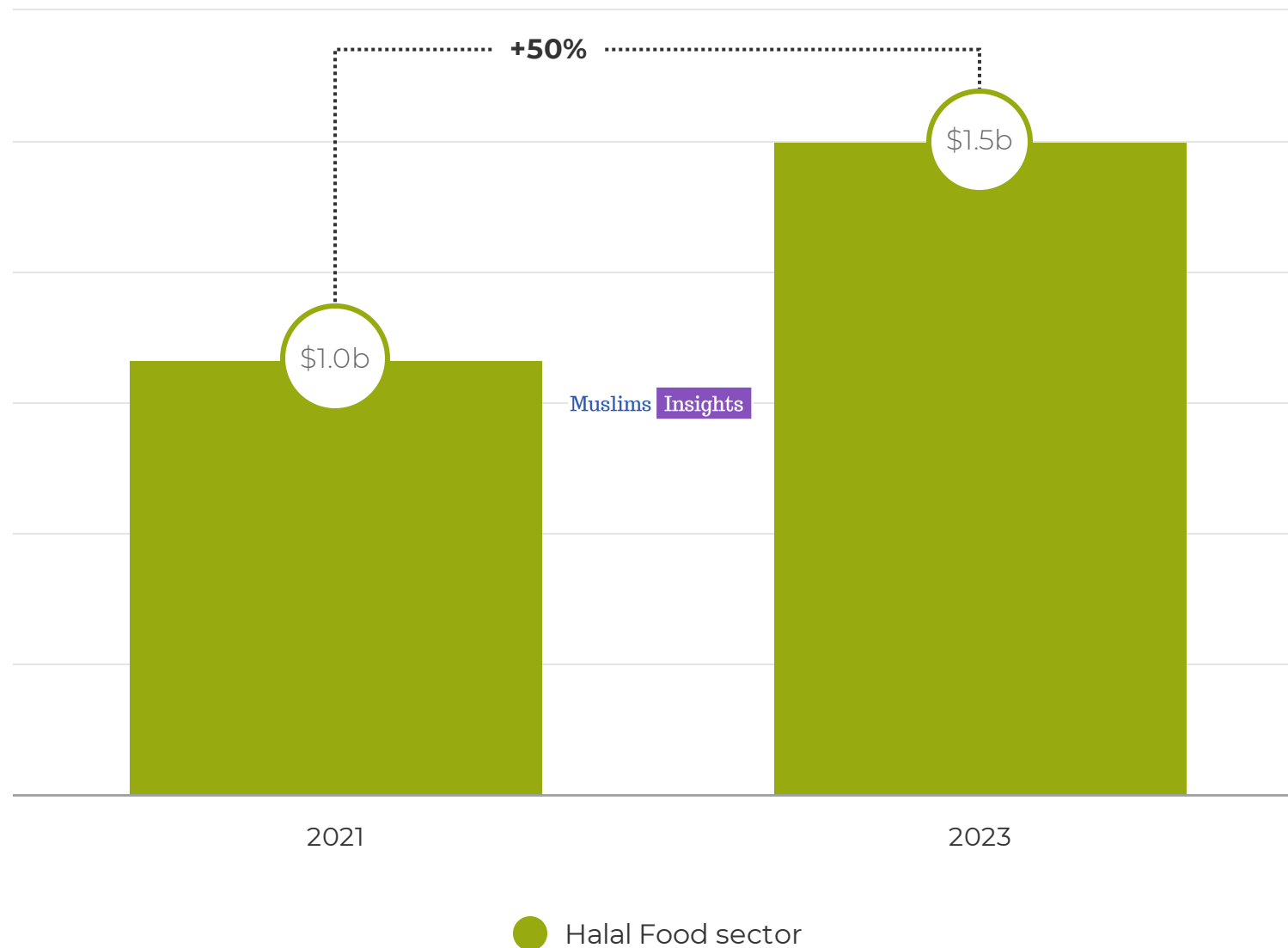
South Asian & Arab

The two major visible minority groups within the Muslim population are South Asian and Arab, with significant increases in both categories

Source: StatCan; 2021 Census

5 Halal Industry in Canada

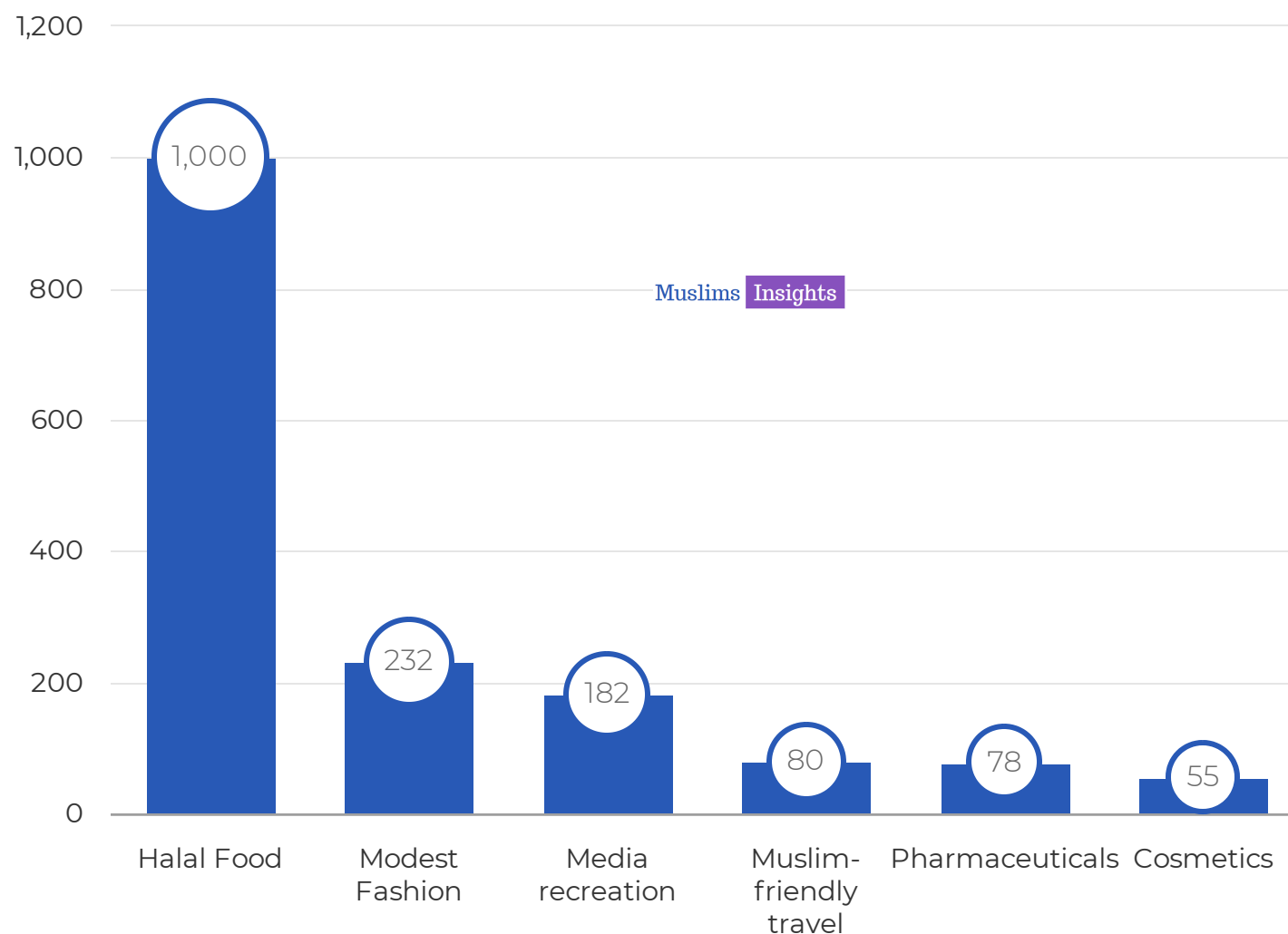
The Canadian halal market is valued at around **\$1 billion** and is expected to reach **\$1.5 billion** by 2023, driven by factors such as population growth, rising disposable incomes, and increasing globalization.



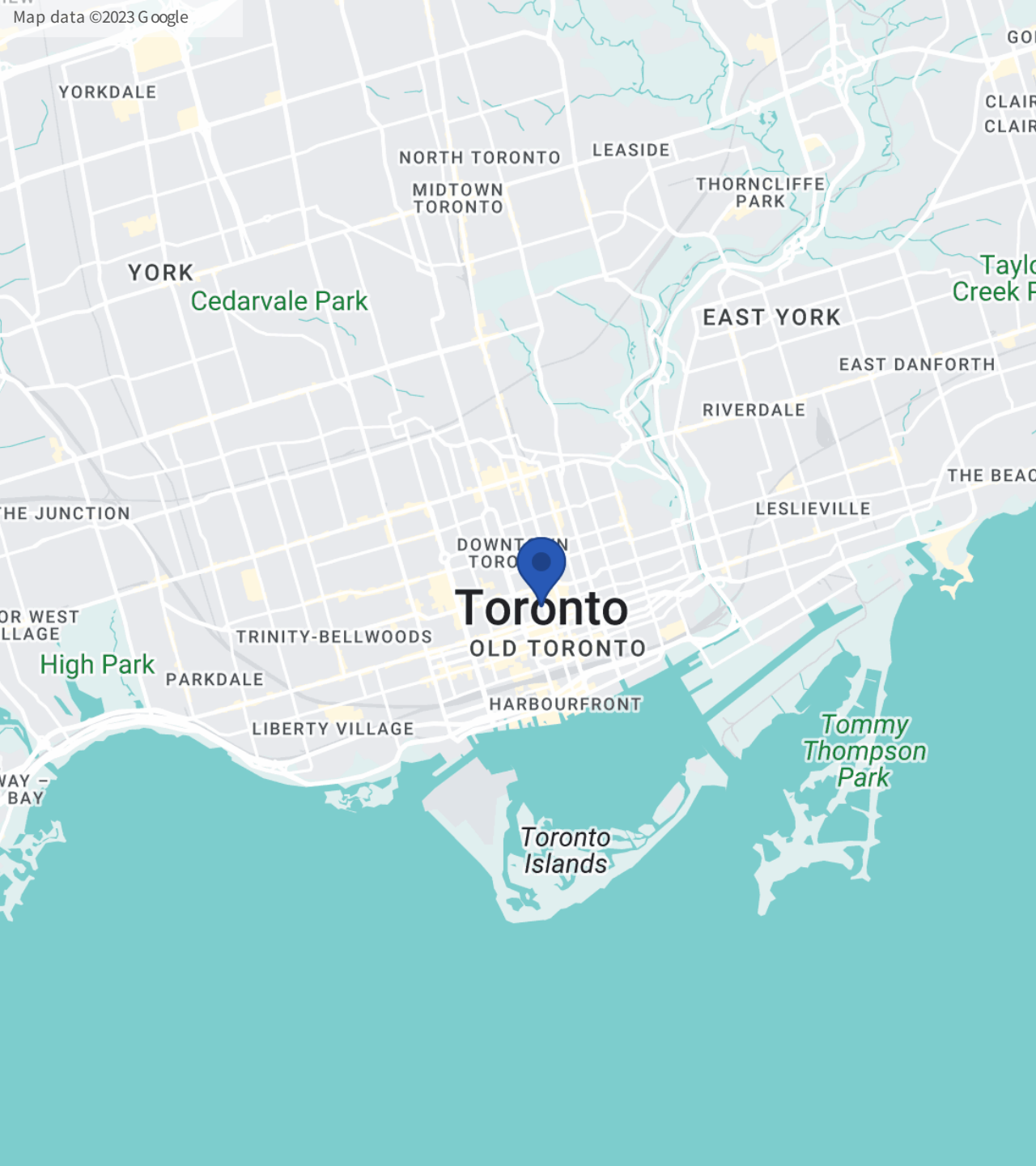
Source: HMA

While halal food remains the largest segment of the Muslim consumer market, it's essential to recognize the growing diversity of sectors and opportunities.

Estimated value of Halal consumers spending in Canada in 2021
(millions dollars)



Source: Estimates based on Worldwide numbers from SalaamGateway.com



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