

Muslims in Canada: current statistical portrait and some history

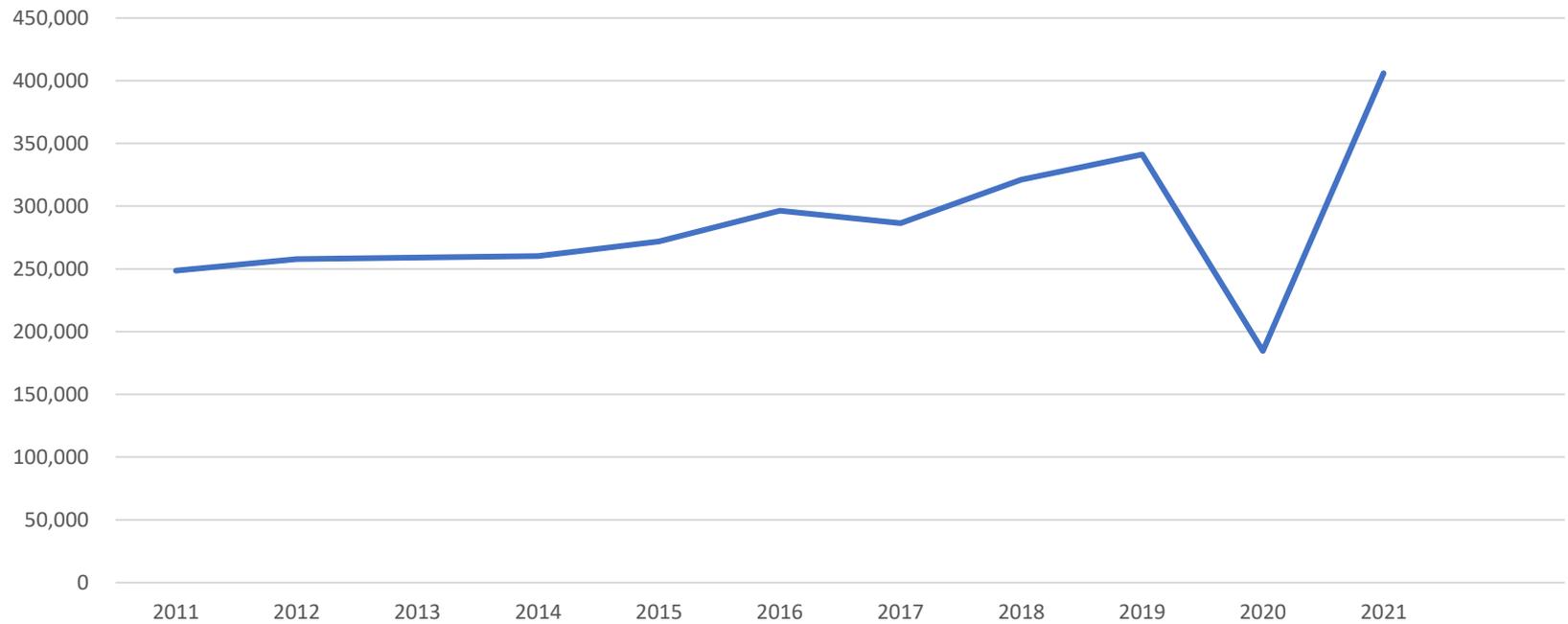
Ather H. Akbari

A community presentation prepared
for Al-Rasoul Islamic Society of Halifax,
December 15, 2022

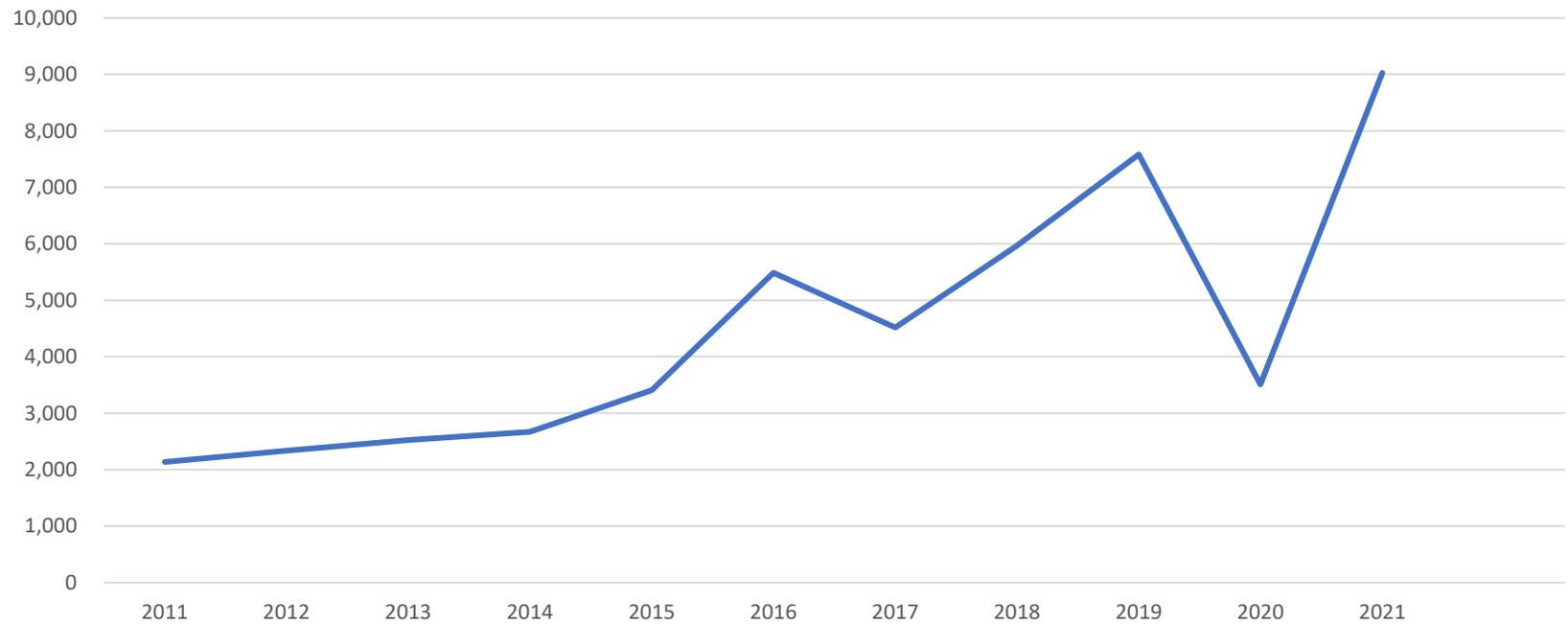
Outline

- Recent immigration trends in Canada and in Nova Scotia
- Canadians and Nova Scotians by their religious affiliations
- Muslims in Canada and Nova Scotia – some statistical profile
- Some history of Muslims in Canada

Admissions of permanent residents in Canada



Admissions of permanent residents in Nova Scotia



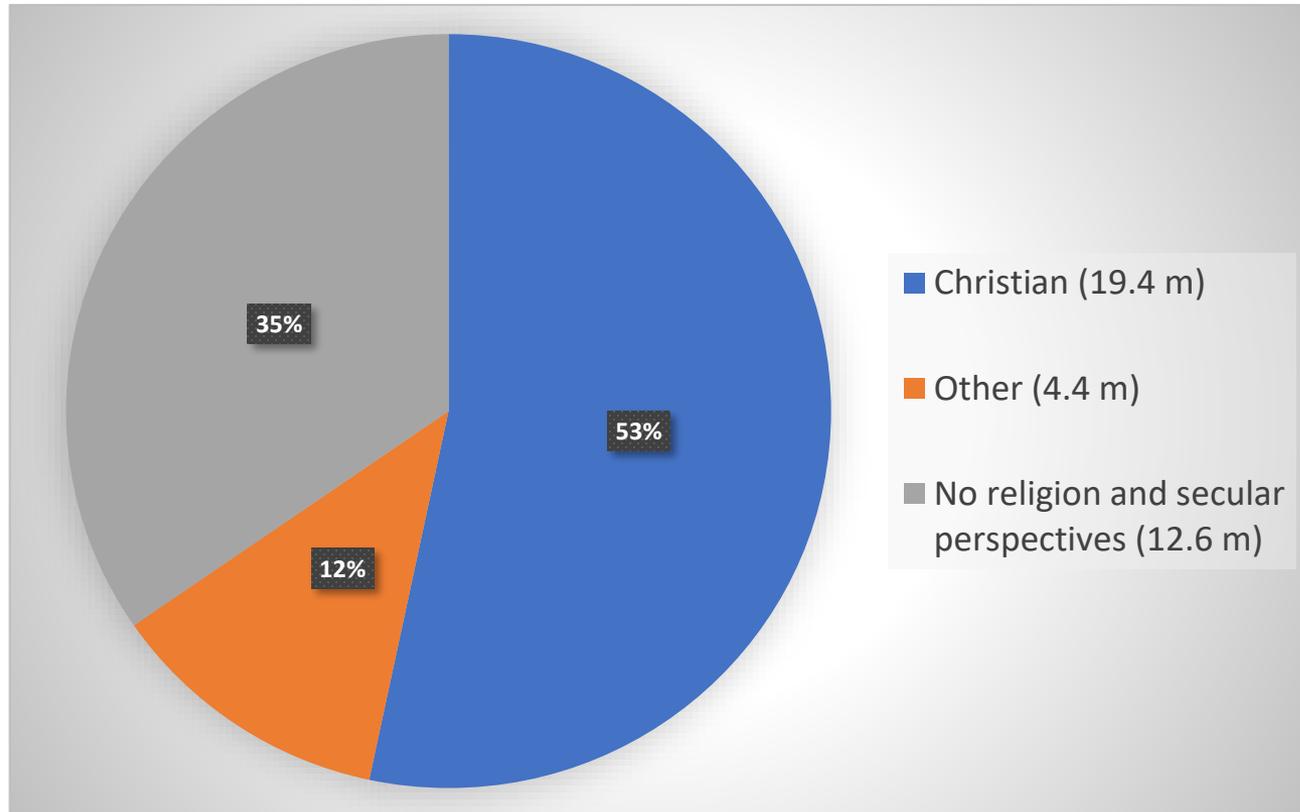
Top five source countries of permanent residents, Canada

Country	Year Of Arrival		
	2011	2021	2022 (1 st quarter)
Philippines	35,775	12,470	6,490
China, People's Republic of	28,925	30,665	7,425
India	26,500	126,495	34,565
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	3,180	..	..
Nigeria	..	..	3,835
france	..	..	2,185
Iran	..	6,135	..
United States of America	1,210	8,865	..
Total Five Countries	95,590	184,630	54,500
Other	153,285	238,475	77,455
Total Arrivals	248,705	406,000	113,535

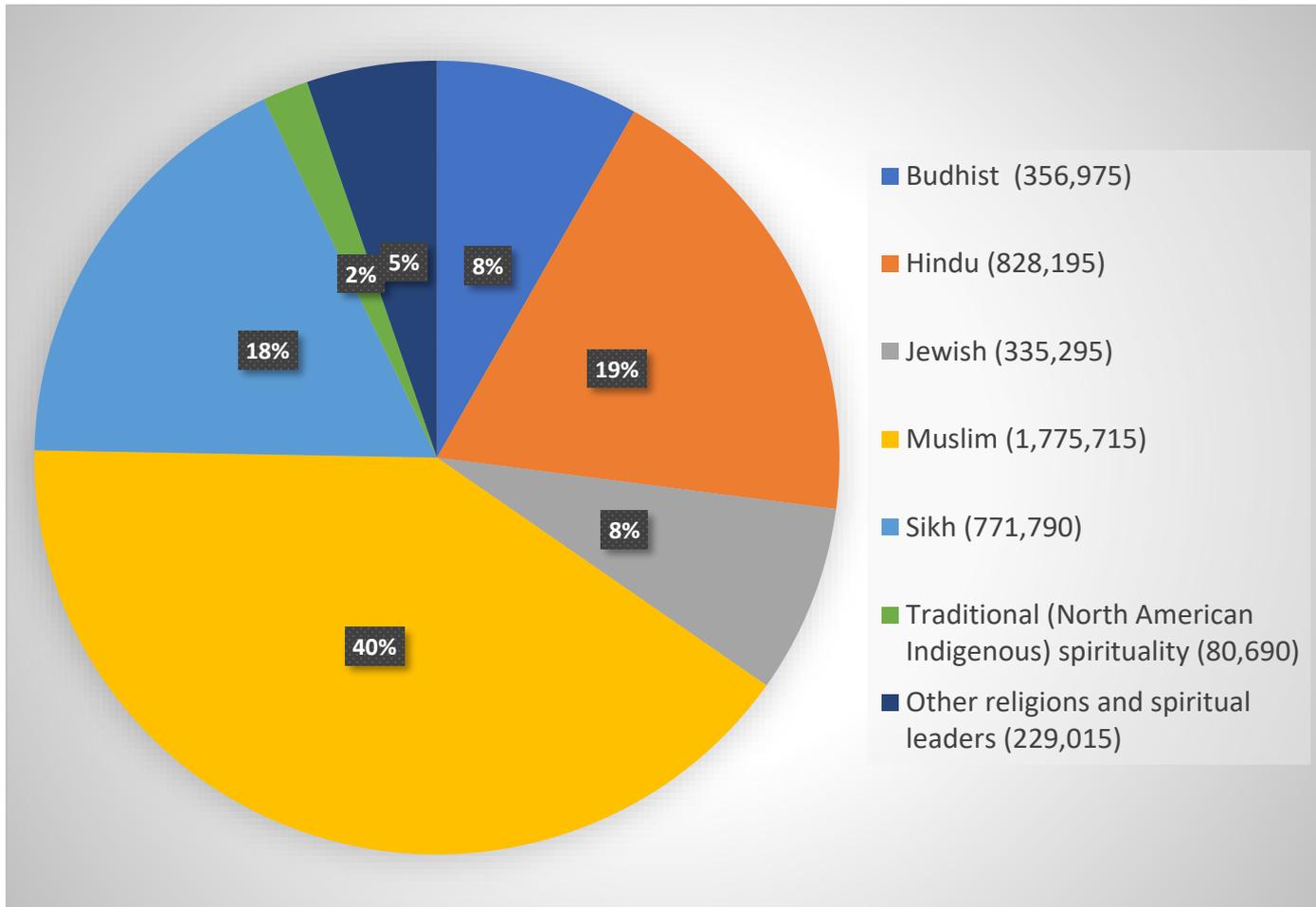
Top five source countries of permanent residents, Nova Scotia

Country	Year Of Arrival		
	2011	2021	2022 (1 st quarter)
China, People's Republic of	170	870	300
Philippines	210	680	220
India		3,500	1,410
Bhutan	170	..	..
United Kingdom and USA		..	150
Nigeria	..	335	100
United Kingdom and Overseas Territories	305	..	..
United States	130	..	..
Brazil and United States	..	510	..
Total Five Countries	985	5,895	2,180
Other	1,150	3,130	1,020
Total Arrivals	2,135	9,025	3,200

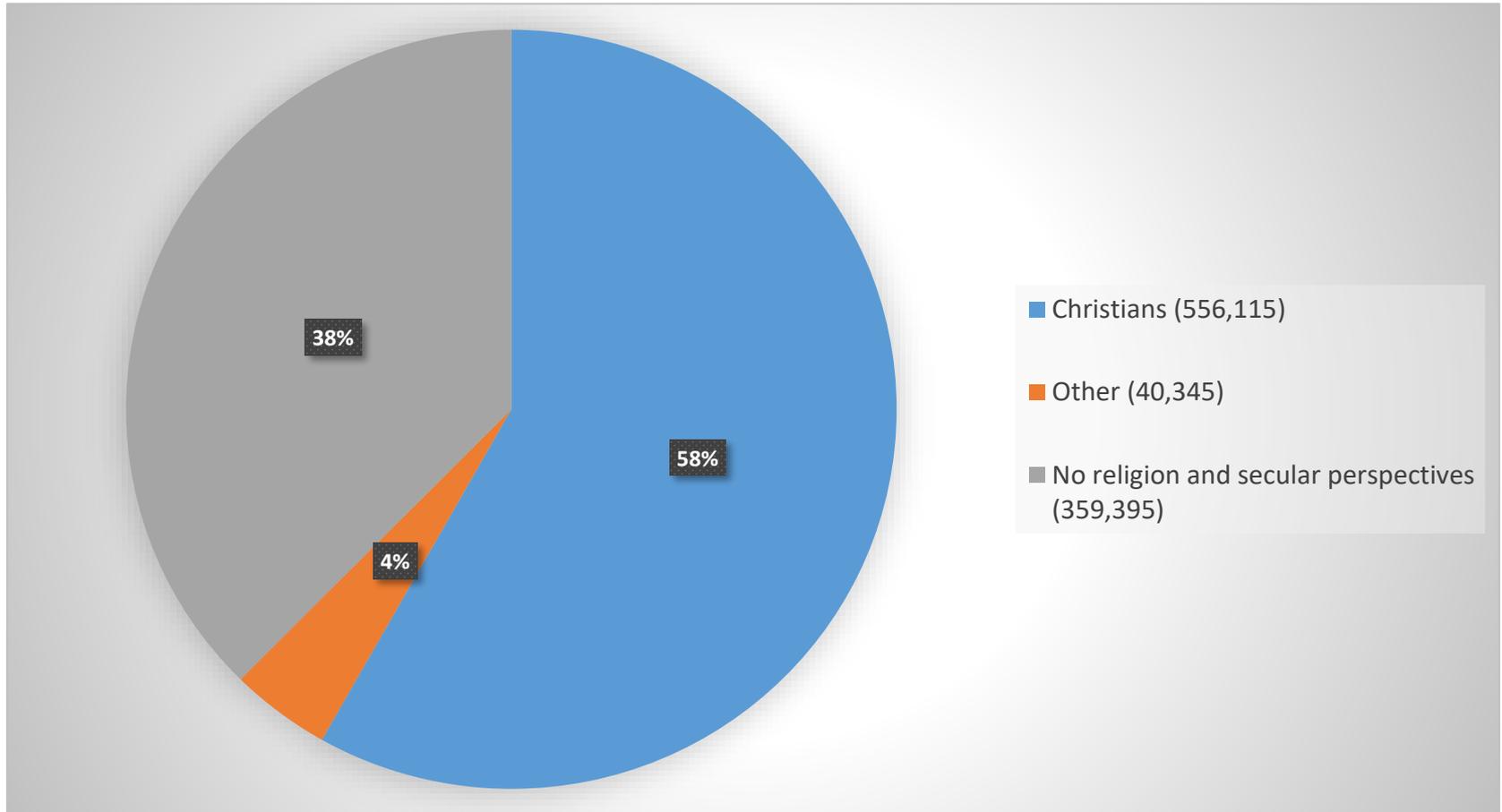
Major Religions in Canada, 2021



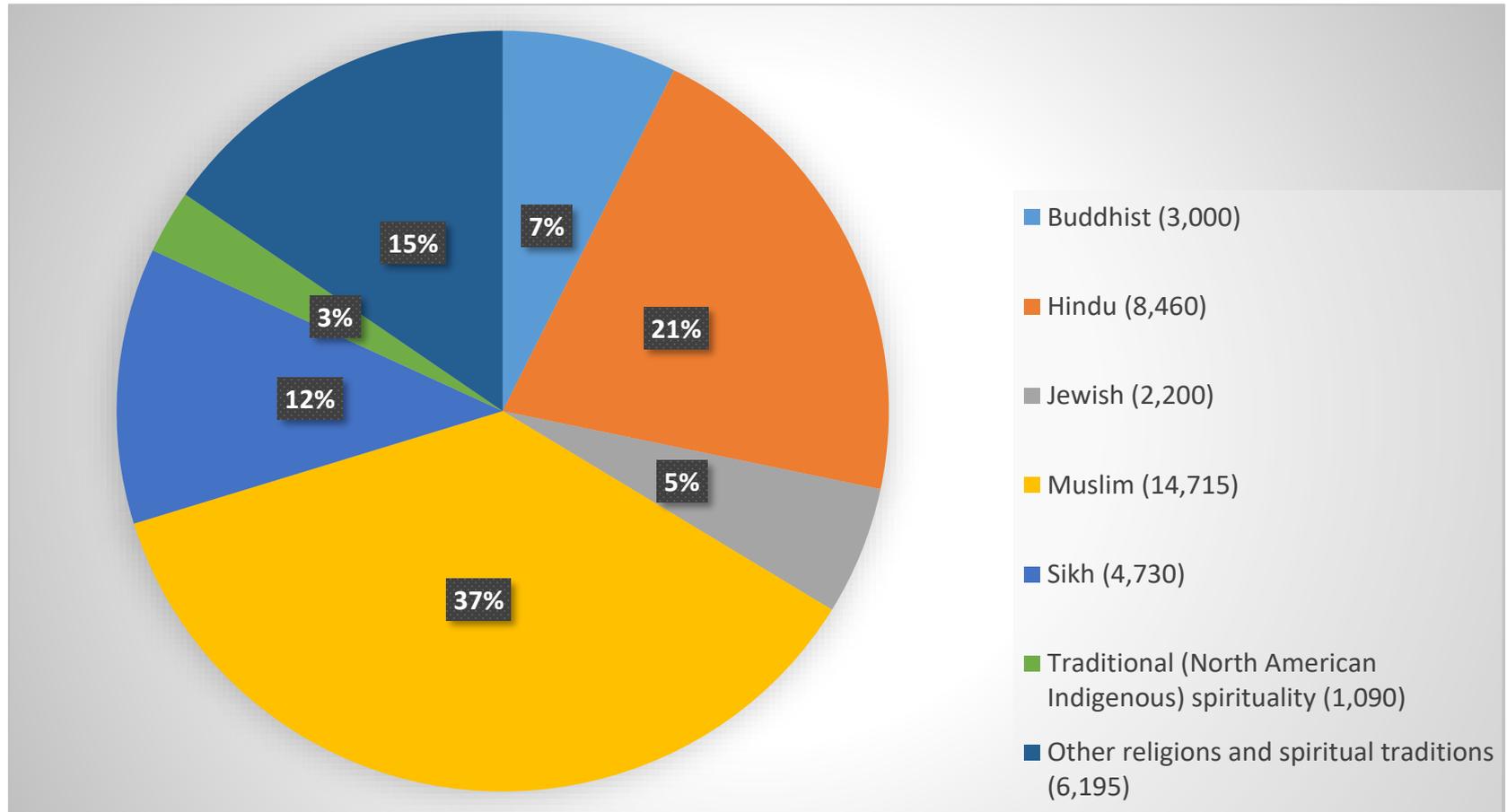
The “other” religions in Canada, 2021



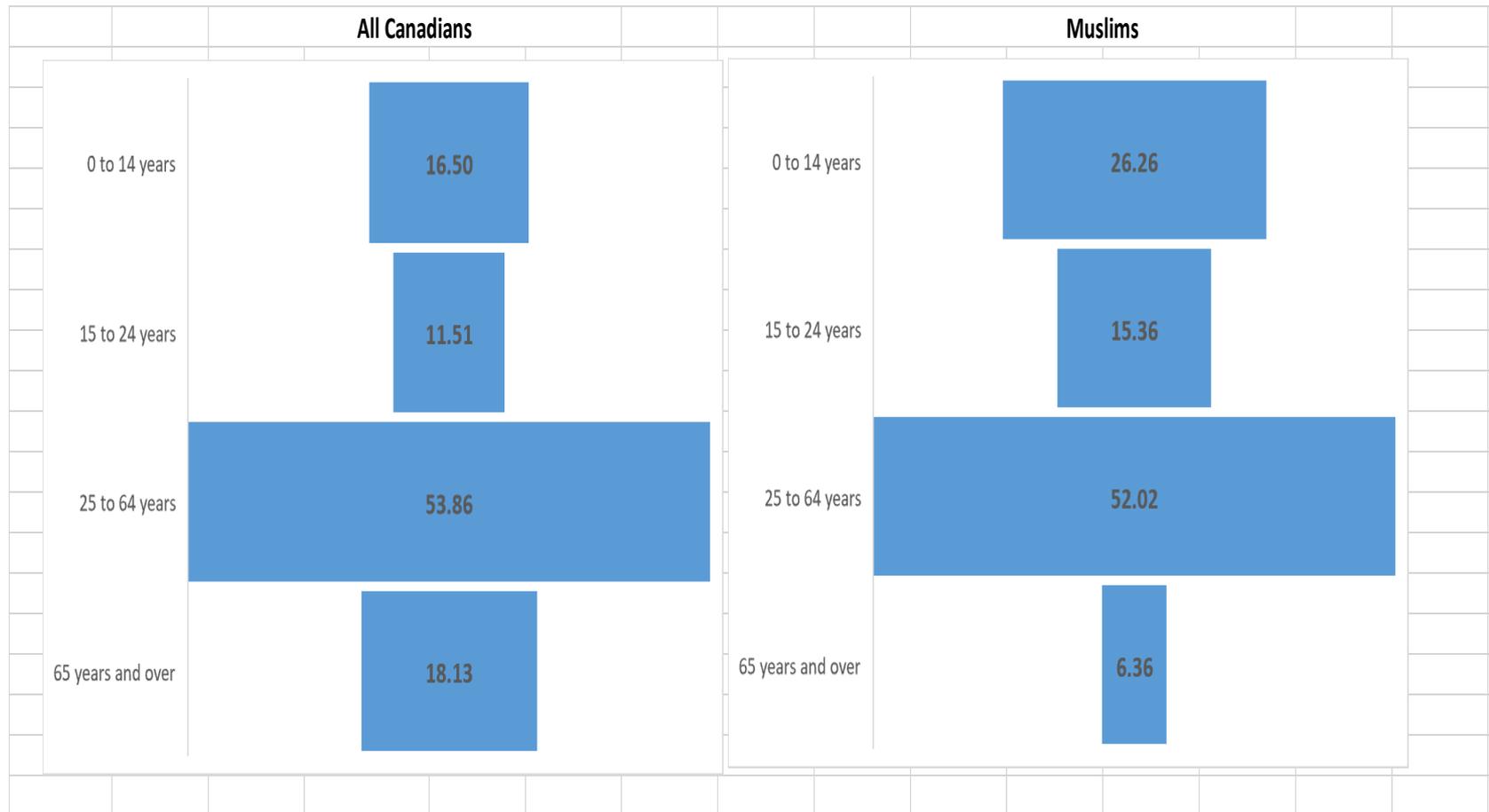
Major religions in Nova Scotia



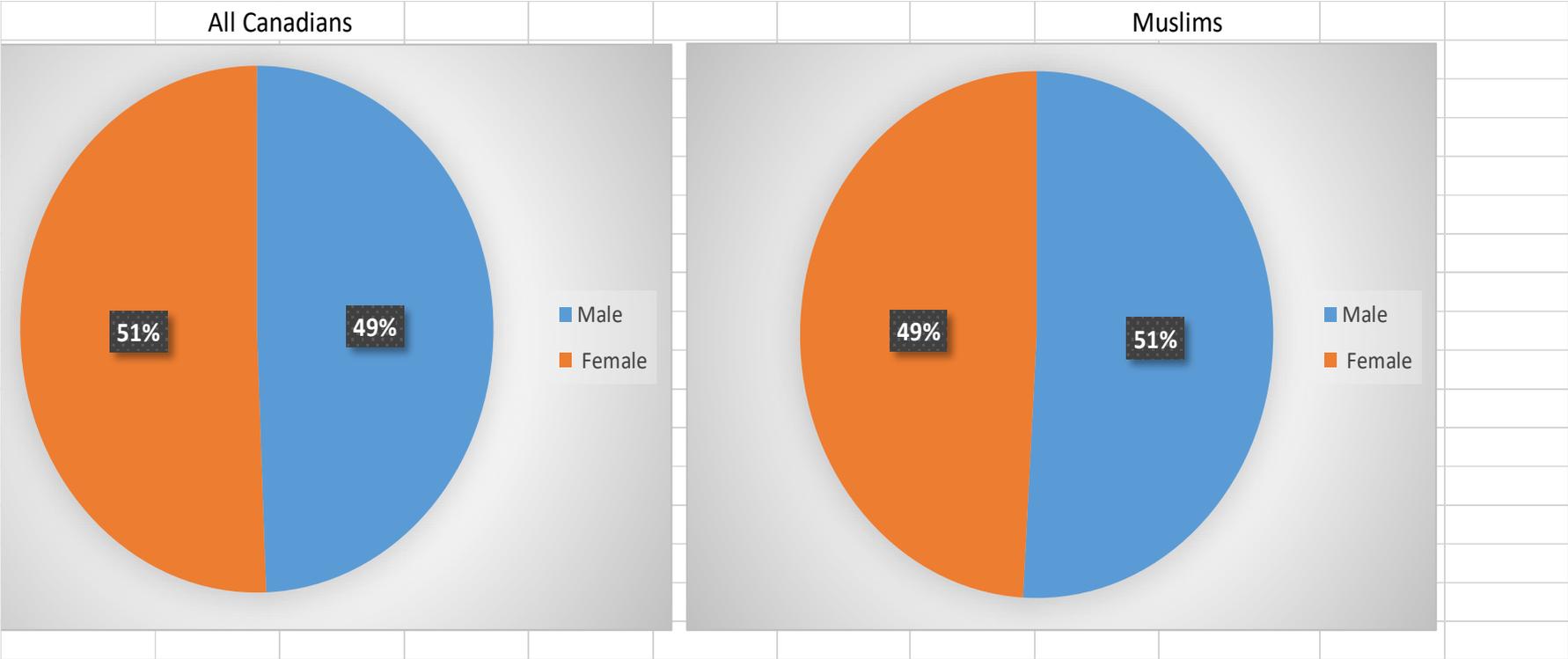
The “Other” religions in Nova Scotia



Age distribution of all Canadians and Muslims (%)



Gender breakdown, 2021



Top ten source countries of Muslim residents in Canada, 2021

Rank	Country	All immigrants		Arrived 2011-2021	
		Muslims	All religions	Muslims	All Religion
1	Pakistan	215,385	234,105	72,305	76,390
2	Iran	87,410	182,935	39,860	70,395
3	Algeria	67,880	79,665	28,285	32,580
4	Morocco	67,350	81,775	24,835	27,120
5	Syria	59,990	97,590	51,990	76,480
6	Bangladesh	58,710	70,090	21,540	25,365
7	Afghanistan	58,480	62,455	20,465	21,340
8	India	46,720	898,050	17,625	390,965
9	Lebanon	38,065	95,725	10,435	18,655
10	Iraq	35,700	84,130	17,175	37,945
	Total	1,120,765	8,361,505	463,735	2,454,570

Top ten source countries of Muslim residents in Nova Scotia, 2021

Rank	Country	All Immigrants		Arrived 2011-2021	
		Muslims	All religions	Muslims	All Religions
1	Syria	2,265	2,420	2,130	2,230
2	Pakistan	825	905	430	450
3	Egypt	715	965	440	545
4	Iran	595	1,040	250	430
5	Kuwait	465	540	65	80
6	Bangladesh	430	540	350	405
7	Saudi Arabia	385	500	240	330
8	Iraq	370	440	185	235
9	Jordan	360	385	215	215
10	Lebanon	255	1,570	135	245
	Total	9,660	71,570	6,315	30,260

Some history: Muslims in Canadian Census

- First census to record Muslims was 1851: James and Agnes Love who had arrived from Scotland
 - First known Canadian born Muslim was the son of this couple.
- The 1861 census recorded 5 Muslims.
- The 1871 census recorded 13 Muslims.
- The 1901 census recorded 47 Muslims.

Dawood H. Hamdani, “Muslims in the Canadian Mosaic”, *Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs Journal* 5, no. 1 (1984): 7-16.

- The 1991 census recorded 250,000 Muslims.
- The 2021 census recorded 1.77 million Muslims.

Some history: A mosque is built in Canada



On December 12, 1938, the official opening of Al Rashid was held, with attendance by the Mayor of Edmonton and the Mayor of Hanna, Alberta. The dedication was performed by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, a prominent Muslim scholar and translator of the Qur'an, the Muslim holy book.

City's Mosque Will Be Opened Sunday Night

Indian Statesman Will
Conduct Special
Ceremony

250 TO PARTICIPATE

Edmonton's mosque—the only one in Canada—will be opened formally and officially Sunday by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Moslem scholar and Indian statesman, with an address, at 7:30 p.m., it was announced Friday.

Also participating in the inaugural service will be F. A. Shaker, mayor of Hanna.

Many of the 250 members of the Moslem community in the Edmonton district—most of them are Syrians—are expected to attend the service, and because it is anticipated that the capacity of the mosque will be taxed, invitations to only a few non-Moslems are being issued. The mosque is located at 108 ave. and 102 st.

Some history: Muslims after Eid prayers at the United Church in Montreal: 1962



**Source: Iqbal in Montreal: Legacy of the Poet of the East in
Canada**

Some history: First Muslim elected in Canada



In 1964, Peter Baker was elected as the representative of the mostly Indigenous riding of Mackenzie North in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. He was the first known Muslim elected to office in Canada, and served in this role for the next three years.

Some history: The story of first mosque

- [The story of Canada's first mosque - Bing video](#)