

# Study: French-speaking workers in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industries in 2006 and 2016

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In 2016, 41.7% of Ontario farms managed by a French-speaking operator generated gross farm receipts below \$25,000, compared with 36.1% of all farms across the province.

This is a highlight from the study "[Portrait of French-speaking workers in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industries, 2006 and 2016](#)" that Statistics Canada is releasing today. This study aims to provide more information on issues related to official language minority communities in the agriculture and agri-food industries. Workers in agriculture work on a farm, for example: in crop farming or animal production; in greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production; or in aquaculture. The agri-food industry includes the provision of services or input in support of agricultural activities; food and beverage processing; and retail and wholesale food businesses, and food services.

Based on integrated data from the 2016 Census of Population and the 2016 Census of Agriculture, this report presents the characteristics of Ontario farms, based on the first official language spoken by the main operator. Of the 49,600 farm operations located in Ontario, 3.6% had a French-speaking main operator in 2016.

Based on data from the 2006 and 2016 censuses of population, the report presents the evolution of the characteristics in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food workers, according to their first official language spoken. In 2016, French-speaking workers represented 3,500 (3.4%) of all workers in Ontario's agriculture sector (up from 3.2% in 2006), and 24,100 (2.9%) of all workers in the province's agri-food sector (down from 3.3% in 2006).

## Aging of agricultural workers is more prevalent among French speakers than among English-speakers

The proportion of French-speaking agricultural workers aged 55 and older increased from 32.1% in 2006 to 41.5% in 2016. This increase was smaller for English-speaking agricultural workers (from 31.3% to 38.2%).

## The proportion of French-speaking workers with a university credential is lower for English-speaking workers

The proportion of Ontario's agricultural workers with a university credential was 9.6% among French speakers and 13.2% among English speakers in 2016. In the agri-food industry, nearly one in eight French-speaking workers had a university credential, versus close to one in six English-speaking workers.

### Note to readers

*This project was carried out as part of a collaboration between Statistics Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. It follows up on the "[Portrait of French-language workers in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industries, 2011](#)."*

*This report is the first in a series of four, with upcoming reports on English-speaking workers in the agriculture and agri-food industries in Quebec, and on French-speaking workers in the agriculture and agri-food industries in the Atlantic provinces, Western Canada and the territories.*



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**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [3438](#) and [3901](#).**

The report titled "[Portrait of French-speaking workers in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industries, 2006 and 2016](#)," which is part of the *Ethnicity, Language and Immigration Thematic Series* ([89-657-X](#)), is now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).