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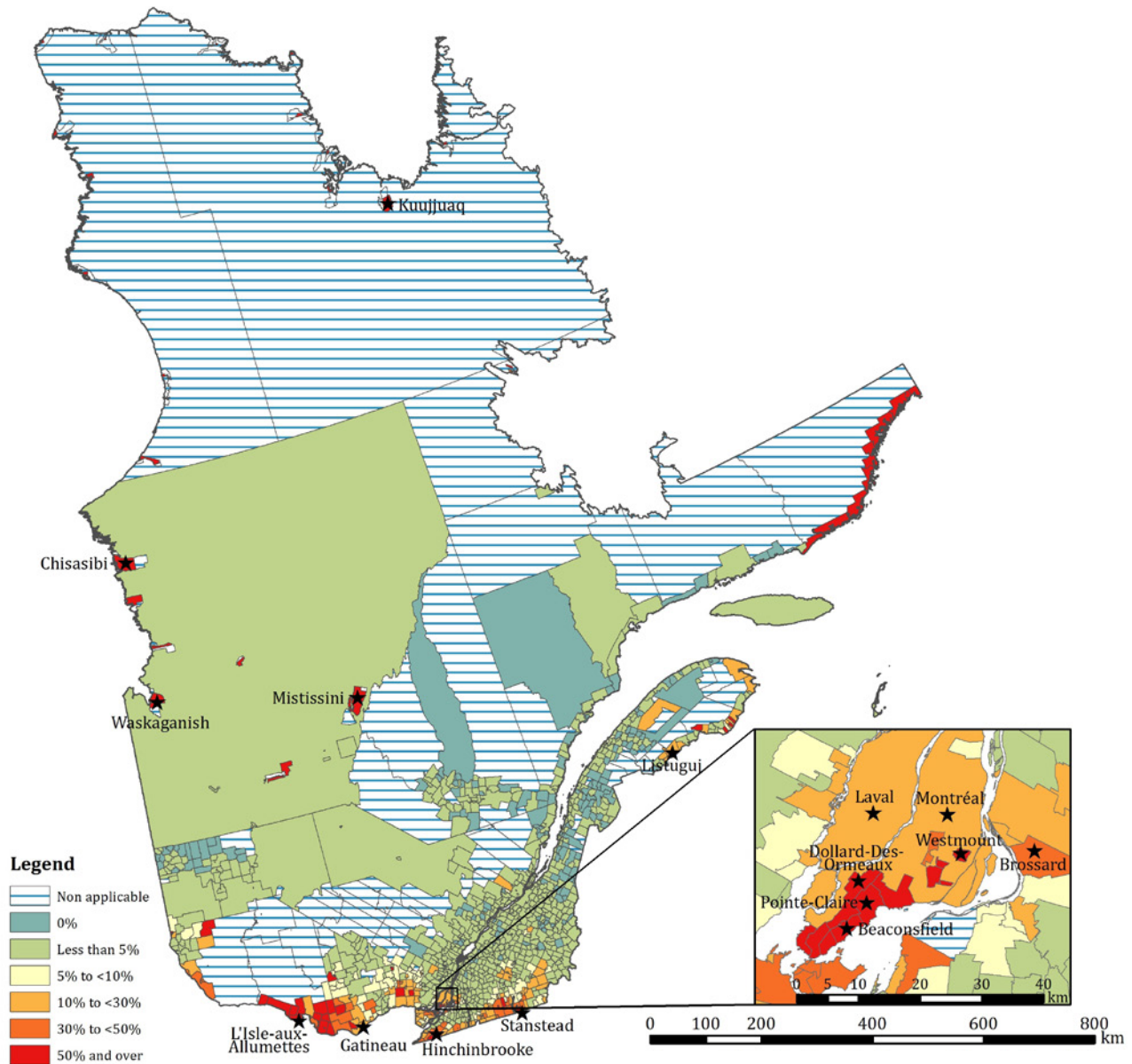
The English Language in Quebec, 2001 to 2016: Facts and Figures

by Alejandro A. Páez Silva

The purpose of this document is to present an overview of the prevailing language trends observed between 2001 and 2016¹ for the English language in Quebec. To this end, the document provides census-based information on the population² who have English as a first official language spoken, mother tongue, language spoken at home or language used at work as well as on the population who reported speaking English well enough to conduct a conversation.

Map 1

Proportion of the population with English as a first official language spoken, census subdivisions, Quebec, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

1. See the document entitled *Methodological Document on the 2011 Census Language Data* (Catalogue no. 98-314-X2011051) for notes on the comparability of the 2011 Census language data to that of prior census years.
2. Refers to all persons excluding institutional residents. Users should note that in the 2001 and 2006 censuses, institutional residents did not receive the long form questionnaire from which most language data were collected.

- In 2016, there were 1,103,475 persons with English as a first official language spoken in Quebec and they represented 13.7% of the province's total population. In both relative and absolute terms these are the highest figures the province has seen since at least 2001.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons with English as a first official language spoken grew by 20.1%, a growth rate that represents an additional 184,515 persons over that period.

Table 1
Selected English language indicators, Quebec, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016 growth	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent	
Total population¹	7,125,580	100.0	7,435,905	100.0	7,815,955	100.0	8,066,555	100.0	13.2	
English as first official language spoken ²	918,960	12.9	994,725	13.4	1,058,250	13.5	1,103,475	13.7	20.1	
Knowledge of English ³	3,234,745	45.4	3,354,650	45.1	3,692,585	47.2	3,958,860	49.1	22.4	
Knowledge of English only	327,045	4.6	336,785	4.5	363,860	4.7	372,450	4.6	13.9	
Knowledge of English and French	2,907,700	40.8	3,017,865	40.6	3,328,725	42.6	3,586,410	44.5	23.3	
English as mother tongue ³	627,505	8.8	640,610	8.6	700,405	9.0	718,985	8.9	14.6	
English spoken at home ⁴	1,190,430	16.7	1,274,620	17.1	1,427,850	18.3	1,545,315	19.2	29.8	
English spoken most often at home ⁵	796,860	11.2	835,365	11.2	912,365	11.7	965,615	12.0	21.2	
Only English spoken at home ⁶	480,040	6.7	490,835	6.6	481,675	6.2	483,295	6.0	0.7	
Mostly English spoken at home ⁷	220,845	3.1	253,600	3.4	285,745	3.7	298,895	3.7	35.3	
English spoken equally often with another language at home ⁸	95,975	1.3	90,930	1.2	144,945	1.9	183,425	2.3	91.1	
English spoken regularly at home (in addition to the main language)	393,570	5.5	439,255	5.9	515,485	6.6	579,700	7.2	47.3	

1. Refers to all persons excluding institutional residents.

2. Following method I in part IV of the *Official Languages Act*, the 'English-French' multiple response is equally redistributed among the 'English' and 'French' single responses.

3. Includes both single and multiple responses.

4. Includes both single and multiple responses to both part A and part B of the question.

5. Refers to English spoken most often at home with or without additional languages spoken regularly.

6. Includes persons who reported only English in Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often) and did not report a language to Part B (spoken regularly).

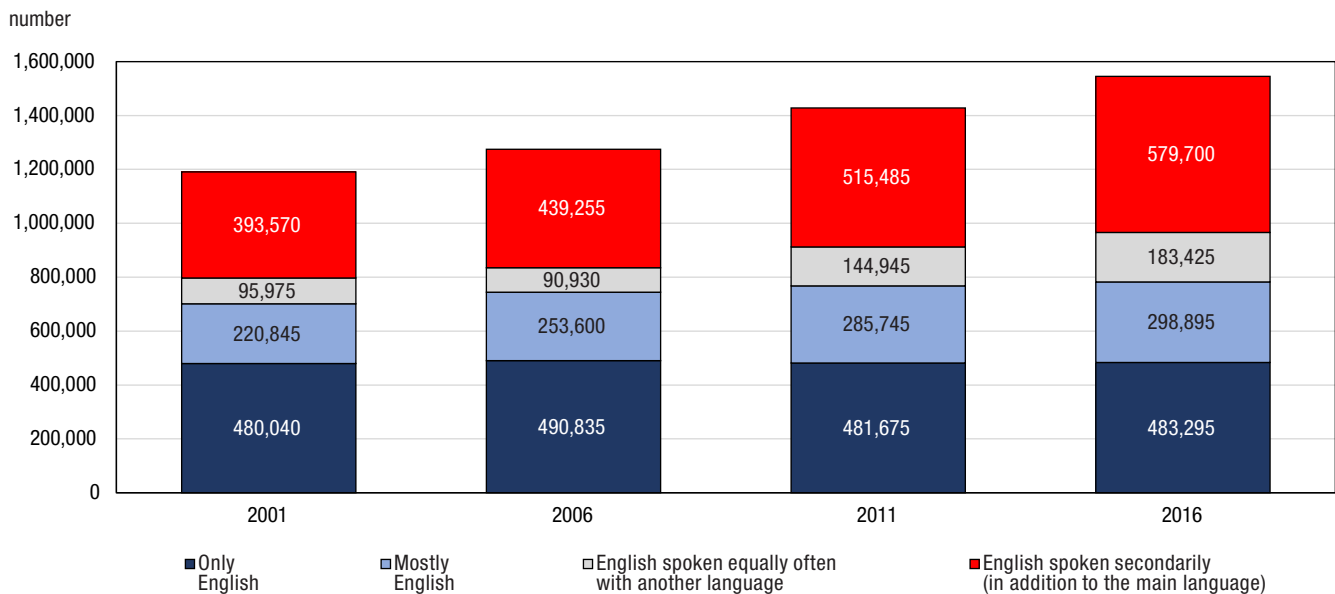
7. Includes persons who reported English to Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often) and reported at least one other language to Part B (spoken regularly).

8. Includes persons who reported English and another language to Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often).

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

- In 2016, 3,958,860 persons reported being able to sustain a conversation in English, either exclusively or in combination with French. As a whole, they represented 49.1% of Quebec's total population that year.
 - ▶ Since 2001, the number of persons who reported being able to conduct a conversation in English increased by 22.4% which translates to an additional 724,115 persons. In relative terms, this population has increased by 3.7 percentage points since 2001.
- As of 2016, English-French bilingualism stood at 3,586,410 persons in number who collectively represented a 44.5% bilingualism rate in Quebec that year.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons able to conduct a conversation in both English and French increased by 678,710 additional persons, that is, by 23.3%. In relative terms, there has been an increase of 3.7 percentage points in the English-French bilingualism rate since 2001.
 - ▶ Compared to all other provinces and territories, Quebec continues to have the single largest proportion and number of English-French bilingual people.
- In 2016, 718,985 persons or 8.9% of Quebec's population reported having English as their mother tongue, either exclusively or along with other languages.
 - ▶ The number of persons who report having English as their mother tongue has increased by 14.6% since 2001, an increase which translates to an additional 91,480 persons in 15 years.

Chart 1
English spoken at home, Quebec, 2001 to 2016¹



1. See the document entitled *Methodological Document on the 2011 Census Language Data* Catalogue no. 98-314-X2011051 for notes on the comparability of the 2011 Census language data to that of prior census years.

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

- As of 2016, 1,545,315 persons reported speaking English at least regularly at home representing 19.2% of Quebec's total population.
 - ▶ Among them, 965,615 reported speaking English most often at home³ and 579,700 reported speaking English as their secondary language. As a proportion, they represented 12.0% and 7.2% of Quebec's total population respectively.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons who reported speaking English at least regularly at home increased by 29.8%, a figure which translates to an additional 354,885 persons over that period.
 - Among those who reported speaking English at home at least regularly, the number of persons who reported speaking English most often³ increased by 21.2% (+168,755 persons) whereas the number of persons who reported speaking English as a secondary language increased by 47.3% (+186,130 persons).
 - Over the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons who reported speaking English equally often with another language at home increased by 91.1%.
 - Similarly, those who reported speaking English most often in combination with another language regularly increased by 35.3% and the number of persons who reported speaking exclusively English at home increased by 0.7%.
 - Consequently, almost all the growth (98.1%) of English spoken most often at home³ can be attributed to increases among those who speak English equally often with another language (+87,450 persons) and those who speak English most often in combination with another language regularly (+78,050 persons).

3. Includes English spoken equally often with another language at home.

Table 2
English used at work, Quebec, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016 growth
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Working population¹	3,938,500	100.0	4,266,970	100.0	4,426,990	100.0	4,529,780	100.0	15.0
English used at work ²	1,556,595	39.5	1,722,845	40.4	1,734,900	39.2	1,924,645	42.5	23.6
English used most often at work ³	699,175	17.8	731,410	17.1	776,180	17.5	876,105	19.3	25.3
Only English used at work ⁴	193,315	4.9	198,365	4.6	227,465	5.1	207,825	4.6	7.5
Mostly English used at work ⁵	293,320	7.4	333,580	7.8	299,325	6.8	333,895	7.4	13.8
English used equally often with another language at work ⁶	212,540	5.4	199,465	4.7	249,390	5.6	334,385	7.4	57.3
English used regularly at work (in addition to the main language)	857,420	21.8	991,435	23.2	958,720	21.7	1,048,540	23.1	22.3

1. Refers to persons aged 15 years and over who worked at least once in the reference period.

2. Includes both single and multiple responses to both part A and part B of the question.

3. Refers to English used most often at work with or without additional languages used regularly.

4. Includes persons who reported only English to Part A of the language used at work question (used most often) and did not report a language to Part B (used regularly).

5. Includes persons who reported English to Part A of the language used at work question (used most often) and reported at least one other language to Part B (used regularly).

6. Includes persons who reported English and another language to Part A of the language used at work question (used most often).

Sources: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 2001, 2006 and 2016; 2011 National Household Survey.

- In 2016, 1,924,645 workers reported using English at work at least regularly. In relative terms, they represented 42.5% of Quebec's working population.
 - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of workers who reported using English at work at least regularly grew by an additional 368,050 workers, up 23.6% in that period, compared with a growth of 15.0% for the working population.
- Among those who reported using English at least regularly at work in 2016, 876,105 persons used English most often⁴ while 1,048,540 used it as a secondary language. In relative terms, they represented 19.3% and 23.1% of Quebec's working population respectively.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of workers who reported using English most often at work⁴ increased by 176,930 workers, a 25.3% increase. Similarly, the number of workers who reported using English as a secondary language at work increased by 191,120 workers or by 22.3%.
 - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the exclusive use of English at work grew by 7.5% (+14,510 workers), the use of English most often in combination with another language regularly grew by 13.8% (+40,575 workers), while the use of English equally often with another language increased by 57.3% (+121,845 workers).
 - ▶ Slightly more than half (51.9%) of the growth in the population using English at work at least regularly can be attributed to increases among those that use English as a secondary language (+191,120 persons) in addition to the main language at work.

4. Includes English used equally often with another language at work.