

As immigration increases from different parts of the world, the linguistic makeup of Canada changes. In 2006, the allophone population—individuals whose mother tongue is neither English nor French—totalled 6.3 million, an increase of 958,000 people from 2001.

This 18% growth expanded the allophone share of the population to one out of every five Canadians. Consequently, the anglophone share of the population declined from 59% in 2001 to 58% in 2006, while the francophone share declined from 23% to 22%.

Chinese, Urdu and Spanish grow

Individuals with Chinese languages as their mother tongue—including Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow (Teochow), Fukien and Shanghainese—represented Canada's largest non-official language group in 2006. The Chinese mother tongue population increased from

3% of non-official mother tongues in 1971 to 16% in 2006 and, at 1,034,000 people, represented over 3% of the total population.

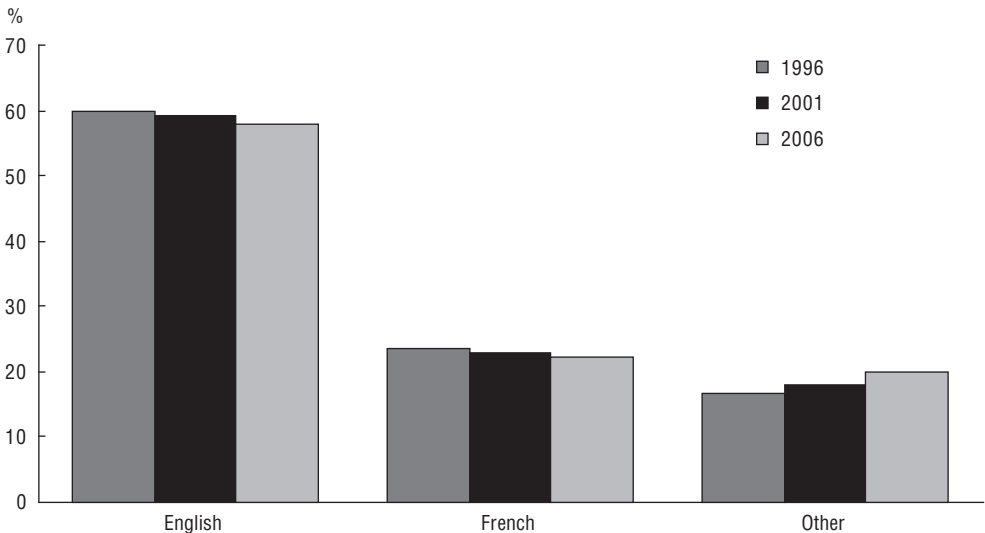
Of the 10 largest allophone groups in the country, Urdu showed the highest growth rate from 2001 to 2006, up 80% from 87,000 speakers to 156,000. (Urdu is a language widely spoken in both India and Pakistan.) The Urdu mother tongue population represented 3% of non-official mother tongues and 0.5% of Canada's population in 2006.

The Spanish mother tongue population has also grown, rising from 1% of non-official mother tongues spoken in Canada in 1971 to 6% in 2006.

Declines in some languages

Language groups that have traditionally been strong in Canada—such as Italian and Ukrainian—showed declines in the 2006 Census.

Chart 22.1
Population by mother tongue



Source: Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1996 to 2006.

The proportion of Canadians with Italian as their mother tongue has been declining for decades, from 19% of all non-official languages in 1971 to 8% in 2006. Still, Italian remains the country's second largest non-official language group.

The decline in the Ukrainian mother tongue population has been comparable. Ukrainian dropped from 11% of all non-official languages in 1971 to 2% in 2006.

German, which had been declining since 1961, saw a sudden increase from 2001 to 2006, gaining 11,000 speakers. However, German's share of the allophone population has been steadily shrinking, from 19% in 1971 to 7% in 2006.

French immersion rising

In publicly funded elementary and secondary schools, enrolments in French second-language immersion programs have been rising steadily. This contrasts with national declines in overall school enrolments, which fell 3% from 2000/2001

Table 22.a
Mother tongue, by selected census metropolitan areas, 2006

	English	French	Non-official languages
	number		
Montréal	425,635	2,328,400	760,445
Ottawa-Gatineau	550,260	360,175	185,875
Toronto	2,746,480	58,590	2,160,335
Calgary	797,555	16,310	242,895
Vancouver	1,190,560	24,130	845,660

Note: Single response.

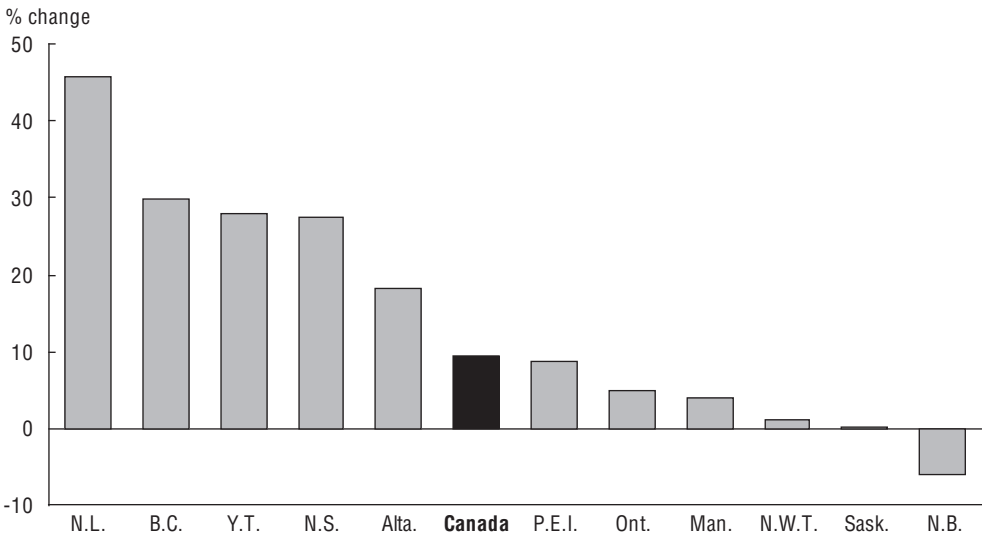
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

to 2006/2007. In the 2006/2007 academic year, 300,000 youths were enrolled in a French immersion program—6% of all students. Enrolment in these programs is up 10% since 2000/2001.

From 2000/2001 to 2006/2007, the number of students enrolled climbed 46% in Newfoundland and Labrador, 30% in British Columbia and 18% in Alberta. Enrolment in these programs increased in all provinces except New Brunswick, which has seen a 6% decrease since 2000/2001.

Chart 22.2

Second language immersion enrolments in publicly funded elementary and secondary schools, 2000/2001 to 2006/2007



Notes: Quebec and Nunavut do not have second language immersion programs.

Ontario data include French immersion and extended French programs.

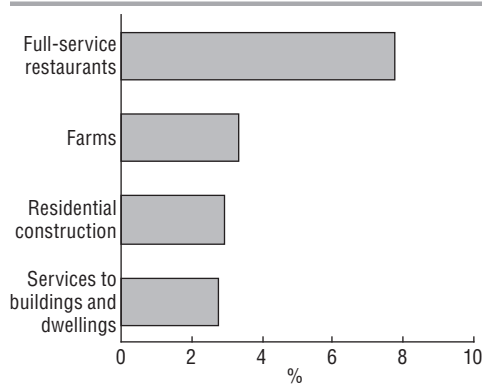
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 81-595-M.

Languages at work

Immigrants who use non-official languages on the job are concentrated in certain industries. Food services, building services, residential construction, farming, clothing manufacturing and grocery stores make up some of the 20 industries employing 40% of these immigrants. Full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places together employ 10% of these workers.

Though many of the jobs are unskilled, some—such as teaching, sales, and real estate agency work—require excellent communication skills. Allophone immigrants may hold jobs in these industries precisely because they speak a non-official language and can reach growing immigrant markets. However, few immigrants employed in sales or real estate speak a non-official language to the exclusion of English or French.

Chart 22.3
Top 4 industries for non-official language users at work



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 11-008-X.

With time in Canada, immigrants become less concentrated in the industries typical of recently arrived immigrants working in non-official languages.

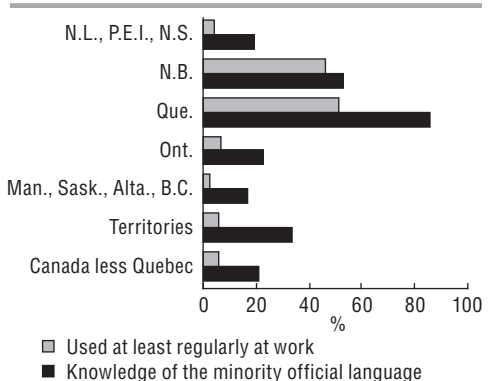
Doctors and official-language minorities

Quality health care depends largely on communication between doctors and their patients. This is particularly important for official-language minority groups. In 2006, 4% of Canada's population outside Quebec spoke French as their first official language. In Quebec, 13% spoke English as their first official language.

Of the 30,600 doctors working outside Quebec in 2006, 4% were francophone and 21% reported being able to conduct a conversation in French. Quebec had 10,500 doctors in 2006 and 15% were anglophone. That year, 15% of Quebec's doctors used English most often at work. Moreover, 86% of Quebec's doctors know English well enough to conduct a conversation.

In Ontario, 23% of the 15,200 doctors reported being able to conduct a conversation in French in 2006, while 7%

Chart 22.4
Minority official language use by doctors at work, by region, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 91-550-X.

said they used French at least regularly in their work. At 39%, New Brunswick had the highest proportion of francophone doctors outside of Quebec. In 2006, nearly 46% of New Brunswick's doctors reported using French at work at least regularly.

Table 22.1 Mother tongue, by province and territory, 2006

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick
	number				
Population	31,241,030	500,610	134,205	903,090	719,650
Mother tongue, single response ¹	30,848,270	499,830	133,570	899,270	714,490
English	17,882,775	488,405	125,260	832,105	463,190
French	6,817,655	1,885	5,345	32,540	232,975
Non-official languages	6,147,840	9,540	2,960	34,620	18,320
Chinese	1,012,065	1,080	190	3,370	2,160
Cantonese	361,450	185	15	505	295
Mandarin	170,950	120	45	595	505
Hakka	4,415	0	0	0	10
Chinese (not otherwise specified)	456,705	760	115	2,240	1,270
Italian	455,040	195	55	905	590
German	450,570	655	275	4,045	1,935
Polish	211,175	115	70	1,570	220
Spanish	345,345	670	220	1,305	1,040
Portuguese	219,275	150	10	560	210
Punjabi	367,505	120	0	420	55
Ukrainian	134,500	60	20	440	140
Arabic	261,640	540	150	4,425	970
Dutch	128,900	300	865	2,440	1,290
Tagalog (Pilipino)	235,615	180	15	415	330
Greek	117,285	70	30	1,035	275
Vietnamese	141,630	15	10	500	205
Cree	78,855	20	0	15	0
Inuktitut (Inuit)	32,380	595	15	15	0
Other non-official languages	1,956,060	4,775	1,035	13,160	8,900
Mother tongue, multiple responses ²	392,760	780	635	3,820	5,160
English and French	98,625	295	495	2,100	4,450
English and non-official languages	240,005	435	105	1,440	560
French and non-official languages	43,335	30	25	140	120
English, French and non-official languages	10,790	10	10	145	30

1. The respondent reported only one language as a mother tongue.

2. The respondent reported more than one language as a mother tongue.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
number								
7,435,905	12,028,895	1,133,510	953,850	3,256,355	4,074,385	30,195	41,055	29,325
7,339,495	11,853,565	1,118,690	946,250	3,221,420	4,022,045	29,940	40,680	29,025
575,555	8,230,705	838,415	811,725	2,576,670	2,875,770	25,655	31,545	7,765
5,877,660	488,815	43,955	16,060	61,225	54,745	1,105	975	370
886,280	3,134,045	236,320	118,465	583,530	1,091,530	3,180	8,165	20,885
63,415	482,570	11,045	7,475	97,275	342,920	260	260	40
9,850	181,820	3,105	1,720	32,485	131,245	85	120	10
7,770	75,335	1,470	715	12,135	72,155	70	15	10
85	2,805	10	15	425	1,075	0	0	0
44,740	215,345	6,345	4,970	51,145	129,560	90	110	20
124,820	282,750	4,775	735	13,095	27,020	25	55	10
17,855	158,000	67,030	28,555	84,505	86,690	775	190	40
17,305	140,890	8,870	2,510	21,990	17,565	20	30	15
108,790	160,275	6,850	2,735	29,125	34,075	130	90	30
34,710	155,310	6,295	380	7,205	14,385	15	25	10
11,905	152,645	6,340	850	36,320	158,750	80	10	10
5,395	48,310	21,950	16,350	29,455	12,285	40	40	10
108,105	114,730	2,125	1,525	20,495	8,440	15	105	10
3,620	68,180	3,835	1,785	19,980	26,355	140	95	15
11,785	117,365	22,490	2,170	29,740	50,425	145	505	45
41,845	61,330	1,635	1,060	3,305	6,670	10	0	0
25,370	67,150	2,740	1,305	19,350	24,560	105	305	0
13,340	3,495	19,105	24,255	17,215	1,145	50	190	20
9,615	390	140	35	155	110	60	750	20,480
288,405	1,120,655	51,095	26,740	154,320	280,135	1,310	5,515	150
96,405	175,330	14,825	7,600	34,930	52,335	250	380	305
43,335	32,690	2,630	1,130	5,405	5,920	110	45	20
16,200	131,290	11,675	6,080	27,725	43,785	130	320	260
31,350	7,790	435	245	1,325	1,840	10	15	20
5,520	3,565	85	140	480	790	0	0	0

Table 22.2 Mother tongue, by census metropolitan area, 2006

	Total Population	Single responses			
		Total	English	French	Non-official languages
		number			
St. John's	179,270	178,880	174,480	535	3,860
Halifax	369,455	367,520	337,715	10,085	19,725
Moncton	124,055	122,830	77,345	42,925	2,555
Saint John	120,875	120,300	111,215	5,510	3,570
Saguenay	149,600	149,230	1,100	146,435	1,700
Québec	704,185	700,810	10,250	671,140	19,410
Sherbrooke	183,635	182,345	8,850	165,115	8,385
Trois-Rivières	138,560	138,055	1,300	134,255	2,495
Montréal	3,588,520	3,514,485	425,635	2,328,400	760,445
Ottawa–Gatineau	1,117,120	1,096,315	550,260	360,175	185,875
Kingston	148,475	147,440	129,770	4,305	13,360
Peterborough	115,140	114,630	106,510	1,295	6,825
Oshawa	328,070	325,510	283,475	6,820	35,215
Toronto	5,072,075	4,965,405	2,746,480	58,590	2,160,335
Hamilton	683,450	675,780	516,360	9,725	149,695
St. Catharines–Niagara	385,035	381,310	307,350	13,490	60,475
Kitchener	446,495	441,780	334,620	5,975	101,180
Brantford	122,825	122,115	107,720	1,310	13,085
Guelph	126,080	124,875	100,365	1,755	22,755
London	452,580	448,750	363,885	6,055	78,805
Windsor	320,730	315,780	230,920	11,105	73,755
Barrie	175,335	174,055	154,535	3,720	15,800
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	156,395	154,170	99,445	42,950	11,775
Thunder Bay	121,050	120,185	101,305	3,100	15,780
Winnipeg	686,040	676,315	507,530	29,020	139,765
Regina	192,440	190,890	169,720	2,675	18,495
Saskatoon	230,850	228,865	197,260	3,490	28,120
Calgary	1,070,295	1,056,760	797,555	16,310	242,895
Edmonton	1,024,820	1,011,725	785,755	21,980	203,990
Kelowna	160,560	159,490	136,025	2,530	20,935
Abbotsford–Mission	156,640	154,770	110,265	1,625	42,885
Vancouver	2,097,960	2,060,350	1,190,560	24,130	845,660
Victoria	325,065	322,655	274,950	5,580	42,120

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Total	English and French	Multiple responses		
		English and non-official languages	French and non-official languages	English, French and non-official languages
number				
390	110	235	30	15
1,935	1,015	710	85	125
1,225	1,085	70	60	15
575	495	80	0	0
365	270	0	80	0
3,375	2,120	85	1,015	155
1,295	830	25	400	40
505	320	25	120	30
74,035	26,855	15,225	27,005	4,950
20,810	10,495	6,785	2,890	635
1,035	365	630	20	15
505	220	265	15	0
2,555	540	1,875	100	45
106,670	7,955	92,670	3,865	2,180
7,670	1,135	6,020	380	140
3,725	1,020	2,505	155	45
4,715	695	3,690	255	75
710	105	570	20	15
1,205	180	975	40	15
3,830	730	2,860	170	65
4,955	1,115	3,420	330	80
1,280	415	815	10	35
2,225	1,675	490	40	15
870	190	590	70	15
9,720	1,830	7,525	310	50
1,545	225	1,220	70	30
1,990	265	1,630	50	45
13,535	1,845	10,920	600	165
13,100	1,830	10,600	485	185
1,075	175	805	90	0
1,870	135	1,680	40	10
37,615	2,855	32,880	1,285	595
2,405	700	1,530	115	60

Table 22.3 Language spoken most often at home, by province and territory, 2006

	Total	English	French	Non-official languages
	number			
Canada	31,241,030	20,584,770	6,608,125	3,472,130
Ontario	12,028,895	9,655,830	289,035	1,811,620
Quebec	7,435,905	744,430	6,027,730	518,320
British Columbia	4,074,385	3,341,285	15,325	639,380
Alberta	3,256,355	2,893,240	19,315	297,955
Manitoba	1,133,515	989,215	19,515	107,875
Saskatchewan	953,845	897,130	3,860	46,605
Nova Scotia	903,090	866,685	17,165	15,700
New Brunswick	719,650	494,215	211,665	8,350
Newfoundland and Labrador	500,610	494,345	650	4,905
Prince Edward Island	134,205	130,115	2,680	1,095
Northwest Territories	41,060	36,795	445	3,570
Yukon	30,195	28,540	540	935
Nunavut	29,325	12,955	205	15,810

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

English and French	English and non-official languages	French and non-official languages	English, French and non-official languages
number			
94,055	406,455	58,885	16,600
26,050	239,890	3,065	3,405
52,330	26,560	54,490	12,035
3,610	73,730	465	580
3,340	41,645	460	395
1,825	14,870	110	105
860	5,335	50	10
1,310	2,120	80	25
4,295	965	130	30
180	525	0	0
150	165	0	0
30	210	0	0
65	110	0	0
15	320	20	0

Table 22.4 Language spoken most often at home, by census metropolitan area, 2006

	Total	English	French	Non-official languages
Canada	31,241,030	20,584,770	6,608,125	3,472,130
St. John's	179,270	176,965	195	1,835
Halifax	369,455	354,325	3,700	9,345
Moncton	124,060	85,895	36,030	925
Saint John	120,875	116,405	2,010	1,960
Saguenay	149,600	770	147,740	635
Québec	704,180	7,415	683,135	9,520
Sherbrooke	183,635	8,240	168,720	4,715
Trois-Rivières	138,555	725	135,955	1,195
Montréal	3,588,520	592,130	2,435,650	442,080
Ottawa-Gatineau	1,117,120	664,170	325,295	100,330
Kingston	148,475	139,775	2,110	5,390
Peterborough	115,140	112,095	340	2,320
Oshawa	328,070	309,275	2,755	13,085
Toronto	5,072,075	3,494,705	25,325	1,363,690
Hamilton	683,450	595,465	2,955	73,185
St. Catharines-Niagara	385,035	351,355	4,860	24,390
Kitchener	446,495	384,100	1,725	53,370
Brantford	122,825	116,360	360	5,205
Guelph	126,085	112,015	715	11,395
London	452,575	406,640	1,805	38,680
Windsor	320,730	271,870	2,950	39,050
Barrie	175,335	167,285	1,210	5,560
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	156,395	125,295	25,495	3,565
Thunder Bay	121,050	114,780	1,135	4,370
Winnipeg	686,035	599,320	12,735	61,435
Regina	192,435	183,820	1,005	6,305
Saskatoon	230,850	219,610	760	9,015
Calgary	1,070,295	906,280	4,805	138,335
Edmonton	1,024,825	902,975	7,395	96,495
Kelowna	160,560	152,435	585	6,000
Abbotsford-Mission	156,640	127,910	460	25,705
Vancouver	2,097,960	1,478,110	8,070	547,660
Victoria	325,060	304,220	1,490	16,680

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

English and French	English and non-official languages	French and non-official languages	English, French and non-official languages
number			
94,055	406,455	58,885	16,600
30	240	0	0
620	1,380	70	20
1,035	60	105	10
310	190	0	0
255	10	200	0
2,000	110	1,830	160
950	35	930	45
275	70	325	10
35,205	25,005	47,340	11,115
10,790	12,845	2,335	1,345
270	890	25	10
60	315	0	0
405	2,515	0	35
6,430	178,665	1,565	1,695
730	10,885	95	140
660	3,665	55	55
430	6,760	40	60
60	840	0	0
95	1,845	0	20
495	4,860	40	50
705	5,880	70	210
190	1,060	30	10
1,405	595	15	20
105	665	0	0
1,240	11,135	85	85
205	1,080	10	0
195	1,250	15	0
995	19,480	250	145
1,250	16,415	120	175
90	1,430	10	15
80	2,475	15	0
2,050	61,175	400	500
310	2,285	25	60

Table 22.5 Knowledge of an official language, by province and territory, 2006

	Total	English only	French only	Both English and French	Neither English nor French
Canada	31,241,030	21,129,945	4,141,850	5,448,850	520,380
Newfoundland and Labrador	500,610	475,985	90	23,675	850
Prince Edward Island	134,205	116,990	60	17,100	55
Nova Scotia	903,090	805,690	1,000	95,010	1,385
New Brunswick	719,650	405,045	73,750	240,085	765
Quebec	7,435,905	336,785	4,010,880	3,017,860	70,375
Ontario	12,028,895	10,335,705	49,210	1,377,325	266,660
Manitoba	1,133,510	1,017,560	1,930	103,520	10,500
Saskatchewan	953,850	902,655	485	47,450	3,260
Alberta	3,256,355	2,990,805	2,200	222,885	40,470
British Columbia	4,074,385	3,653,365	2,070	295,645	123,305
Yukon	30,195	26,515	105	3,440	130
Northwest Territories	41,055	37,010	50	3,665	325
Nunavut	29,325	25,830	20	1,170	2,305

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.

Table 22.6 Workers who use an official language most often or regularly at work, by province and territory, 2006

	English			French		
	Total	Most often	Regularly	Total	Most often	Regularly
	%					
Canada	85.0	78.3	6.7	25.7	21.7	4.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	99.8	99.5	0.3	1.5	0.4	1.0
Prince Edward Island	99.6	98.7	0.9	5.5	1.8	3.7
Nova Scotia	99.5	98.4	1.2	4.6	1.8	2.8
New Brunswick	88.1	76.0	12.1	37.5	26.8	10.7
Quebec	40.4	17.1	23.2	94.3	86.7	7.6
Ontario	98.6	97.0	1.6	5.8	2.0	3.8
Manitoba	98.8	97.2	1.7	3.6	1.4	2.3
Saskatchewan	99.4	98.6	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.8
Alberta	99.3	98.6	0.7	1.5	0.4	1.1
British Columbia	98.0	96.5	1.5	1.5	0.4	1.1
Yukon	99.3	98.5	0.8	4.0	1.1	2.9
Northwest Territories	99.2	97.5	1.8	2.7	0.8	1.8
Nunavut	91.2	70.7	20.5	2.4	0.6	1.9
Canada except Quebec	98.4	96.7	1.7	5.0	2.1	2.9

Notes: All mother tongues (multiple responses included).

Population 15 years and older who had worked during the period from January 1, 2005 to May 16, 2006, regardless of whether or not they were in the labour force in the reference week of May 16, 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Population.