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Correction notice

August 8, 2019

Corrections have been made to this product.

Please take note of the following changes:

All data and analysis found in this product are now based on the universe “Population excluding institutional residents”, except when pertaining to language of work. Furthermore, all references to the “official language minority” population have been removed so that the analysis now focuses on language characteristics.

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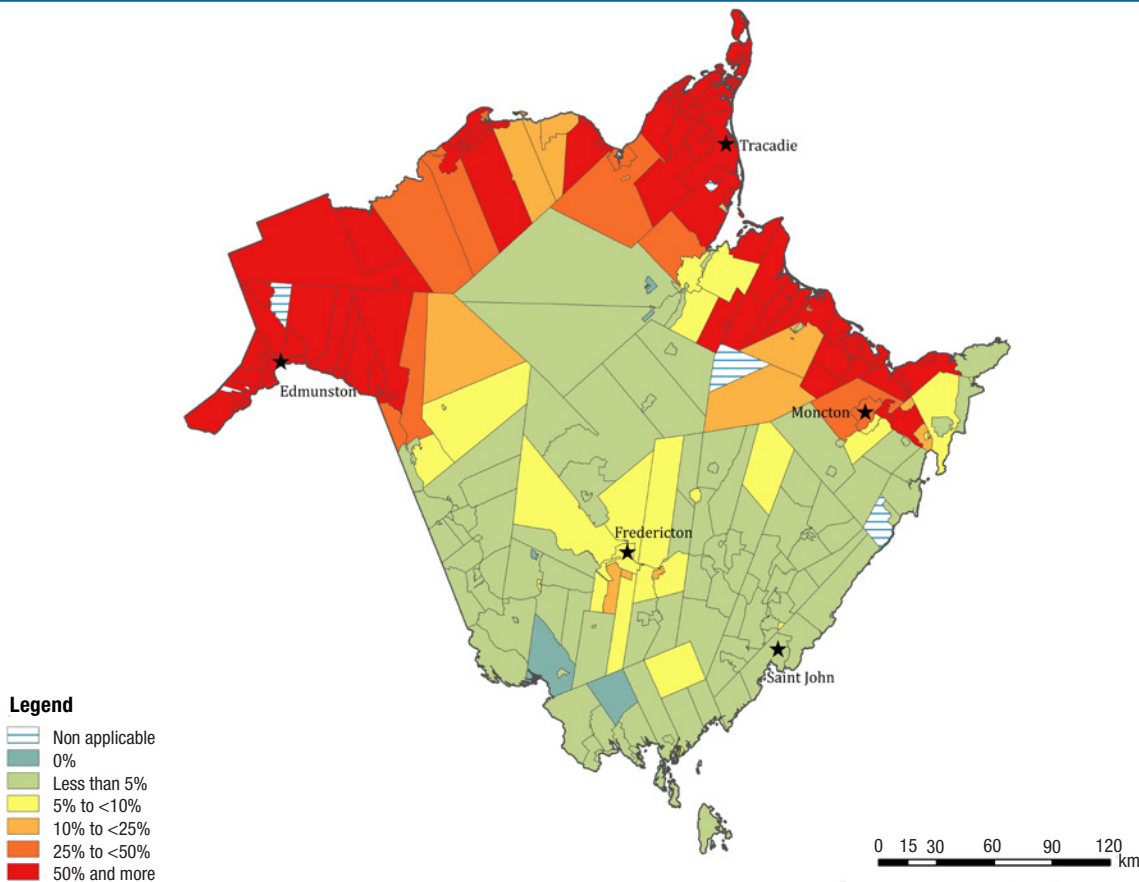
The French Language in New Brunswick, 2001 to 2016: Facts and Figures

by Alejandro A. Páez Silva and Émilie Lavoie

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

Map 1

Population with French as their first official language spoken, census subdivisions, New Brunswick, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

- In 2016, there were 234,060 persons for whom French was their first official language spoken. Collectively they represented 31.8% of New Brunswick's total population.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, those with French as their first official language decreased in number by 4,385 persons, that is, by 1.8%.

1. Please 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. The "population" 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 language data were collected.

Table 1
Selected French-Language Indicators, New Brunswick, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Total Population¹	719,715	100.0	719,650	100.0	739,895	100.0	736,280	100.0	2.3
French as First Official Language Spoken ²	238,445	33.1	235,130	32.7	235,700	31.9	234,060	31.8	-1.8
Knowledge of French ³	312,280	43.4	313,845	43.6	312,270	42.2	313,100	42.5	0.3
Knowledge of Only French	66,415	9.2	73,755	10.2	66,380	9.0	63,145	8.6	-4.9
Knowledge of English and French	245,865	34.2	240,090	33.4	245,890	33.2	249,955	33.9	1.7
French as Mother Tongue ³	242,060	33.6	237,570	33.0	240,460	32.5	238,870	32.4	-1.3
French Spoken at Home ⁴	245,670	34.1	244,115	33.9	245,395	33.2	244,770	33.2	-0.4
French Spoken Most Often at Home ⁵	220,505	30.6	216,130	30.0	216,445	29.3	214,210	29.1	-2.9
Only French Spoken at Home ⁶	175,065	24.3	170,270	23.7	165,340	22.3	160,380	21.8	-8.4
Mostly French Spoken at Home ⁷	39,995	5.6	41,400	5.8	44,540	6.0	45,930	6.2	14.8
French Spoken Equally Often With Another Language at Home ⁸	5,445	0.8	4,460	0.6	6,565	0.9	7,900	1.1	45.1
French Spoken Regularly at Home (In addition to the main language)	25,165	3.5	27,985	3.9	28,950	3.9	30,560	4.2	21.4

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 French spoken most often at home with or without additional languages spoken regularly.

6. Includes persons who reported only French 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 French 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).

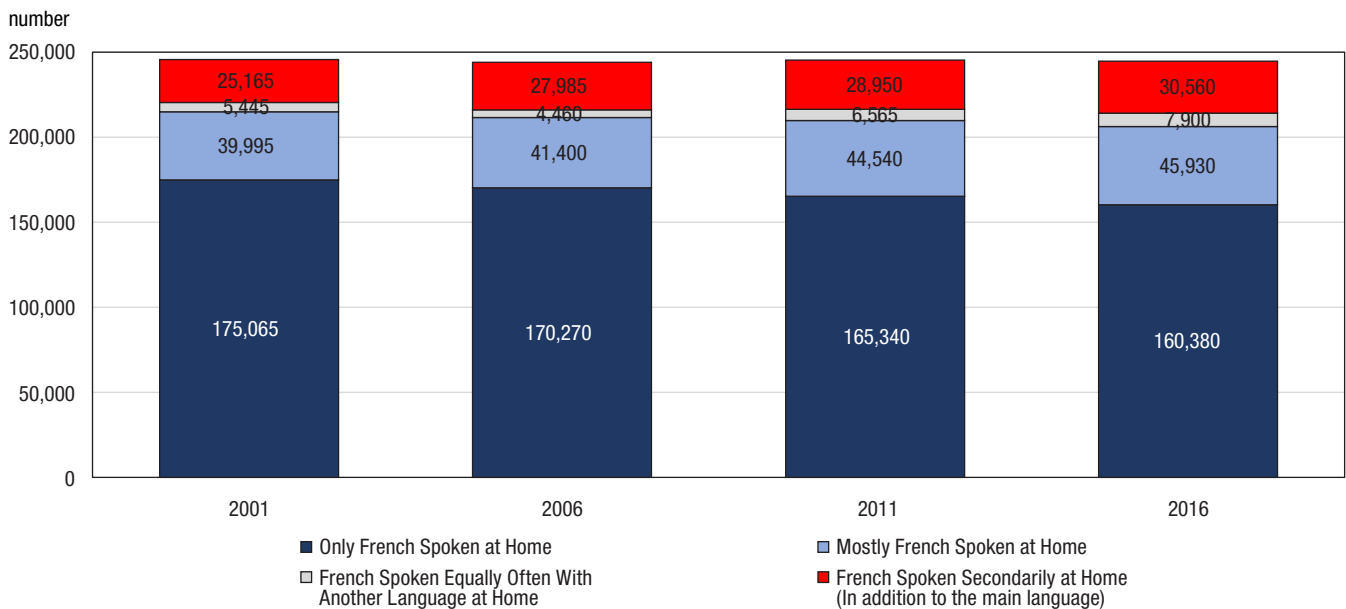
8. Includes persons who reported French and another language to Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often).

Sources: Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

- There were 313,100 persons, in 2016, who reported being able to conduct a conversation in French, either exclusively or along with another language. As a whole, they represented 42.5% of New Brunswick's population that year.
 - ▶ Compared to 2001, the population able to conduct a conversation in French has increased in size by an additional 820 persons representing a 0.3% increase while simultaneously decreasing in relative terms by 0.9 percentage points.
- In absolute terms, English-French bilingualism continues to rise in the province. In fact, as of 2016, the number of persons able to conduct a conversation in both English and French stood at 249,955, up 1.7% when compared to 2001.
 - ▶ In relative terms, however, the English-French bilingualism rate has slightly decreased from 34.2% in 2001 to 33.9% in 2016.
 - ▶ As of 2016, the rate of English-French bilingualism in New Brunswick is the 2nd highest, from among all provinces and territories, following Quebec.
- In 2016, the number of persons who reported having French as their mother tongue³ either exclusively or in combination with other languages, stood at 238,870 and represented 32.4% of the total population of New Brunswick.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, those who reported having French as their mother tongue decreased by 3,190 persons, that is, by 1.3%.

3. In some cases, the number of respondents whose mother tongue is French is higher than the number given for the population with French as their first official language spoken. As part of the logic used to derive the population with French as their first official language spoken, those who have French as their mother tongue but can no longer speak it well enough to hold a conversation are not included. Similarly, those who can hold a conversation in both English and French and have these languages as their mother tongues but speak English most often at home are likewise excluded from the population with French as their first official language spoken.

Chart 1
French spoken at home, New Brunswick, 2001 to 2016



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

- As of 2016, there were 244,770 persons who reported speaking French at home at least regularly. Collectively, they represented 33.2% of New Brunswick's total population.
 - Compared to 2001, the number of persons who speak French at least regularly has decreased by 900 persons representing a 0.4% decrease.
- Among those who reported speaking French at home at least regularly, 214,210 reported speaking French most often at home whereas 30,560 reported speaking French as a secondary language at home. Respectively, these populations represented 29.1% and 4.2% of the province's total population.
 - In the 2001 to 2016 period, the size of the population who reported speaking French most often at home decreased by 6,295 persons, representing a 2.9% decrease. By contrast, those who reported speaking French as a secondary language increased in number by 21.4%, that is, by an additional 5,395 persons.
 - Among those who reported speaking French most often at home, only those who reported speaking exclusively French have seen decreases of as much as 8.4% or 14,685 fewer persons. By contrast, those who reported speaking mostly French or French equally often with another language increased by 5,935 and 2,455 additional persons, respectively.

Table 2
French Used at Work, New Brunswick, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Working Population¹	404,255	100.0	417,320	100.0	428,785	100.0	413,695	100.0	2.3
French Used at Work ²	149,800	37.1	156,370	37.5	153,790	35.9	151,900	36.7	1.4
French Used Most Often at Work ³	110,675	27.4	111,825	26.8	110,430	25.8	107,335	25.9	-3.0
Only French Used at Work ⁴	49,135	12.2	49,240	11.8	48,660	11.3	44,715	10.8	-9.0
Mostly French Used at Work ⁵	45,060	11.1	49,845	11.9	45,305	10.6	44,525	10.8	-1.2
French Used Equally Often With Another Language at Work ⁶	16,480	4.1	12,740	3.1	16,465	3.8	18,095	4.4	9.8
French Used Regularly at Work (In addition to the main language)	39,125	9.7	44,545	10.7	43,360	10.1	44,565	10.8	13.9

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 French used most often at work with or without additional languages used regularly.

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

Sources: Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 2001, 2006, 2016 and National Household Survey (NHS) of 2011.

- In 2016, 151,900 workers reported using French at least regularly at work. Collectively, they represented 36.7% of New Brunswick's working population that year.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of workers who reported using French at least regularly at work increased by 2,100 persons which represents a 1.4% increase over that period.
- Among those who reported using French at least regularly at work in 2016, 107,335 workers reported using French most often whereas 44,565 reported using French as a secondary language at work. Respectively, they represented 25.9% and 10.8% of New Brunswick's working population.
 - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of workers using French most often decreased by 3,340 workers which represents a 3.0% decrease. By contrast, the number of workers using French as a secondary language increased by 5,440 workers, a figure which represents a 13.9% increase over the same period.
- Among those who reported using French most often at work in the 2001 to 2016 period, only those who reported using French equally often with another language experienced an increase (+1,615 workers). By contrast, those who reported using exclusively or mostly French at work decreased by 9.0% and 1.2%, respectively.