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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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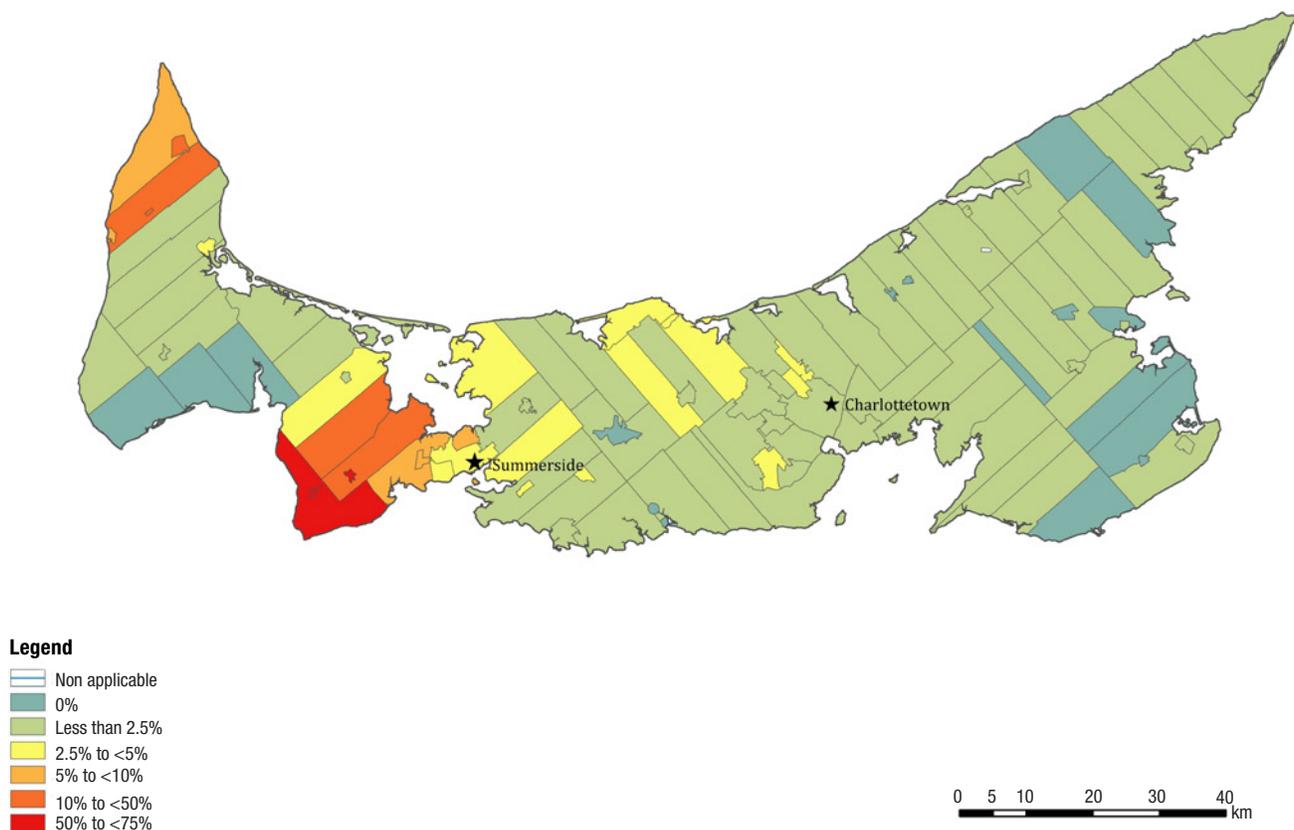
The French Language in Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2016: Facts and Figures

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 Prince Edward Island. 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, Prince Edward Island, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

- In 2016, there were 4,665 persons for whom French was their first official language spoken. Collectively, they represented 3.3% of Prince Edward Island's total population.
 - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons for whom French is their first official language spoken decreased both in absolute terms, by 11.6%, and relative terms by 0.6 percentage points. As a number, this decrease represents 610 fewer persons.

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, Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Total Population¹	133,385	100.0	134,205	100.0	138,435	100.0	141,015	100.0	5.7
French as First Official Language Spoken ²	5,275	4.0	5,135	3.8	4,815	3.5	4,665	3.3	-11.6
Knowledge of French ³	16,090	12.1	17,160	12.8	17,135	12.4	17,955	12.7	11.6
Knowledge of Only French	100	0.1	60	0.0	130	0.1	120	0.1	20.0
Knowledge of English and French	15,990	12.0	17,100	12.7	17,005	12.3	17,835	12.6	11.5
French as Mother Tongue ³	6,110	4.6	5,885	4.4	5,685	4.1	5,395	3.8	-11.7
French Spoken at Home ⁴	5,220	3.9	5,240	3.9	5,545	4.0	5,540	3.9	6.1
French Spoken Most Often at Home ⁵	2,935	2.2	2,820	2.1	2,765	2.0	2,635	1.9	-10.2
Only French Spoken at Home ⁶	1,595	1.2	1,515	1.1	1,330	1.0	1,165	0.8	-27.0
Mostly French Spoken at Home ⁷	1,125	0.8	1,160	0.9	1,130	0.8	1,100	0.8	-2.2
French Spoken Equally Often With Another Language at Home ⁸	215	0.2	145	0.1	305	0.2	370	0.3	72.1
French Spoken Regularly at Home (In addition to the main language)	2,285	1.7	2,420	1.8	2,780	2.0	2,905	2.1	27.1

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).

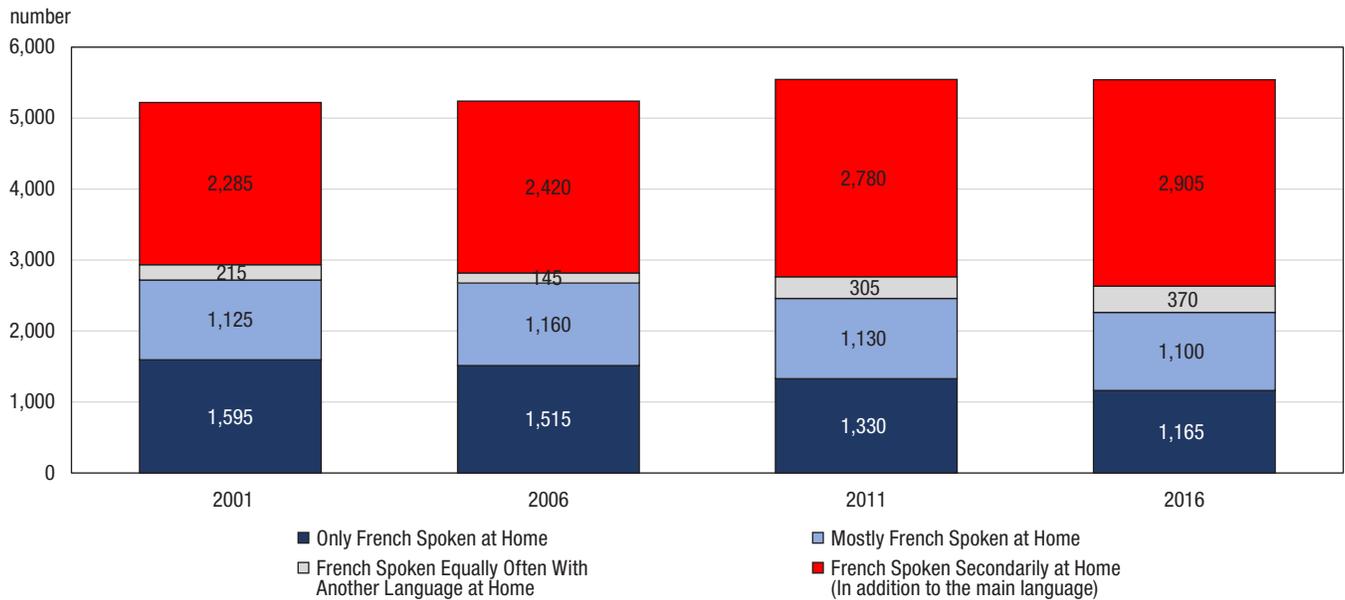
8. Includes persons who reported French and another language to Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often).

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

- As of 2016, 17,955 persons reported being able to conduct a conversation in French, either exclusively or with another language. They represented 12.7% of the province's total population that year.
 - ▶ In the 15 years since 2001, the number of persons who report being able to conduct a conversation in French has increased by 1,865 persons which represents an 11.6% increase.
- English-French bilingualism is on the rise in Prince Edward Island. In fact, in 2016, 17,835 persons reported being able to conduct a conversation in English and French representing a bilingualism rate of 12.6%.
 - ▶ Compared to 2001, English-French bilingualism has increased by 11.5% (+1,845 persons). Similarly, in relative terms, English-French bilingualism has increased by 0.7 percentage points over the same period.
- In 2016, there were 5,395 persons who reported having French as a mother tongue³, either exclusively or in combination with other languages. Collectively, they represented 3.8% of the province's total population.
 - ▶ Compared to 2001, there has been a decrease in the size and proportion of the population with French as their mother tongue. Specifically, 715 fewer persons reported having French as their mother tongue in 2016 than in 2001, down 11.7%. Similarly, their size as a proportion of the total population has decreased from 4.6% in 2001 to 3.8% in 2016.

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, Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2016



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

- As of 2016, 5,540 persons reported speaking French at home at least regularly, up 6.1% in 15 years. As a whole, they represented 3.9% of Prince Edward Island's total population that year, remaining unchanged as a proportion since 2001.
 - Among those who reported speaking French at least regularly at home, 2,635 persons reported speaking French most often while 2,905 reported speaking French as their secondary language at home (in addition to the main language). In relative terms, these populations represented 1.9% and 2.1% of the total population of the province that year.
 - In the 15 years leading to 2016, the number of persons who reported speaking French most often decreased by 300 persons or 10.2%. By comparison, over the same period, the number of persons who reported speaking French as a secondary language at home increased by 620 persons or 27.1%.
 - Although there has been a net reduction in the size of the population who report speaking French most often at home, the number of persons who report speaking French equally often with another language at home has, in fact, increased by 155 persons, a figure which translates to a 72.1% increase.

Table 2
French Used at Work, Prince Edward Island, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Working Population¹	79,980	100.0	82,405	100.0	85,310	100.0	85,275	100.0	6.6
French Used at Work ²	4,005	5.0	4,550	5.5	3,860	4.5	3,900	4.6	-2.6
French Used Most Often at Work ³	1,395	1.7	1,495	1.8	1,545	1.8	1,440	1.7	3.2
Only French Used at Work ⁴	310	0.4	340	0.4	365	0.4	375	0.4	21.0
Mostly French Used at Work ⁵	795	1.0	720	0.9	825	1.0	690	0.8	-13.2
French Used Equally Often With Another Language at Work ⁶	290	0.4	435	0.5	355	0.4	375	0.4	29.3
French Used Regularly at Work (In addition to the main language)	2,610	3.3	3,055	3.7	2,315	2.7	2,460	2.9	-5.7

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, 3,900 workers reported using French at work at least regularly. Collectively, they represented 4.6% of the province's total working population.
 - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons who reported using French at work at least regularly slightly decreased by 105 workers or 2.6%.
- Among those who used French at work in 2016, 1,440 workers reported using French most often at work whereas 2,460 workers reported using French as a secondary language at work. Respectively, these two populations represented 1.7% and 2.9% of Prince Edward Island's total working population.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons who reported using French most often at work slightly increased by 45 workers which represents a 3.2% increase. By contrast, the number of persons who reported using French as a secondary language at work (in addition to the main language) decreased by 150 workers or 5.7%.