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



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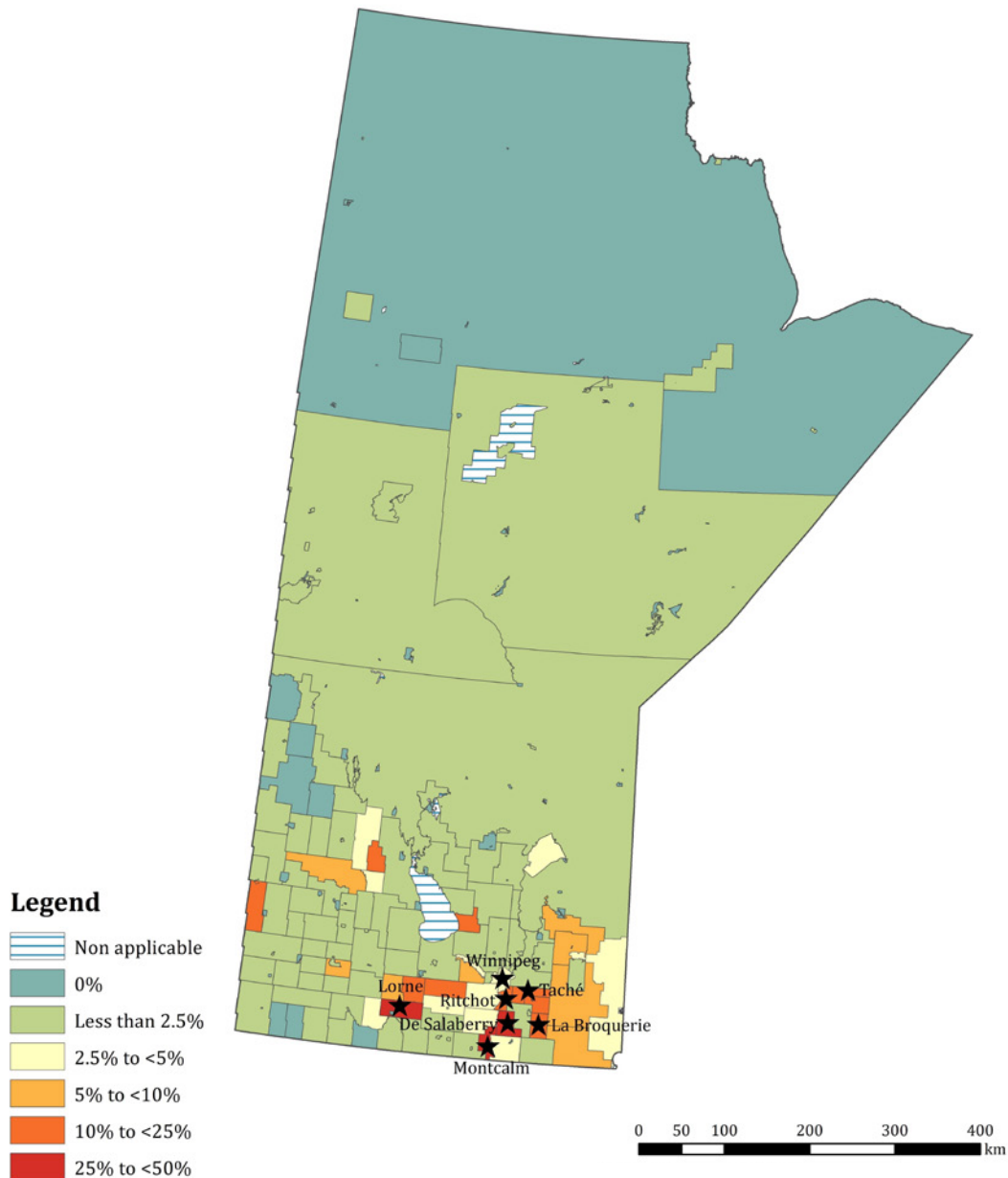
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The French Language in Manitoba, 2001 to 2016: Facts and Figures

The purpose of this document is to present an overview of the prevailing trends observed between 2001 and 2016¹ for the French language in Manitoba. To this end, the document provides census-based information on the population² who have 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

Proportion of the population with French as a first official language spoken, census subdivisions, Manitoba, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

1. See the *Languages Reference Guide, Census of Population, 2016* (Catalogue no. 98-500-X2016003) or the *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 40,975 persons who had French as a first official language spoken representing 3.2% of Manitoba's total population.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons with French as a first official language spoken decreased by 2,410 persons, down 5.6%. Similarly, the proportion of those with French as a first official language spoken decreased by 0.7 percentage points.

Table 1
Selected French language indicators, Manitoba, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016 growth
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Total population¹	1,103,695	100.0	1,133,515	100.0	1,193,100	100.0	1,261,620	100.0	14.3
French as first official language spoken ²	43,385	3.9	43,125	3.8	41,370	3.5	40,975	3.2	-5.6
Knowledge of French ³	104,090	9.4	105,450	9.3	104,635	8.8	109,940	8.7	5.6
Knowledge of French only	1,250	0.1	1,925	0.2	1,490	0.1	1,480	0.1	18.4
Knowledge of English and French	102,840	9.3	103,525	9.1	103,145	8.6	108,460	8.6	5.5
French as mother tongue ³	47,555	4.3	47,100	4.2	47,670	4.0	46,060	3.7	-3.1
French spoken at home ⁴	39,795	3.6	39,475	3.5	42,565	3.6	42,555	3.4	6.9
French spoken most often at home ⁵	22,135	2.0	21,555	1.9	21,555	1.8	21,255	1.7	-4.0
Only French spoken at home ⁶	8,965	0.8	9,280	0.8	8,050	0.7	6,825	0.5	-23.9
Mostly French spoken at home ⁷	10,725	1.0	10,230	0.9	9,900	0.8	10,040	0.8	-6.4
French spoken equally often with another language at home ⁸	2,445	0.2	2,045	0.2	3,605	0.3	4,390	0.3	79.6
French spoken regularly at home (in addition to the main language)	17,660	1.6	17,920	1.6	21,010	1.8	21,300	1.7	20.6

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).

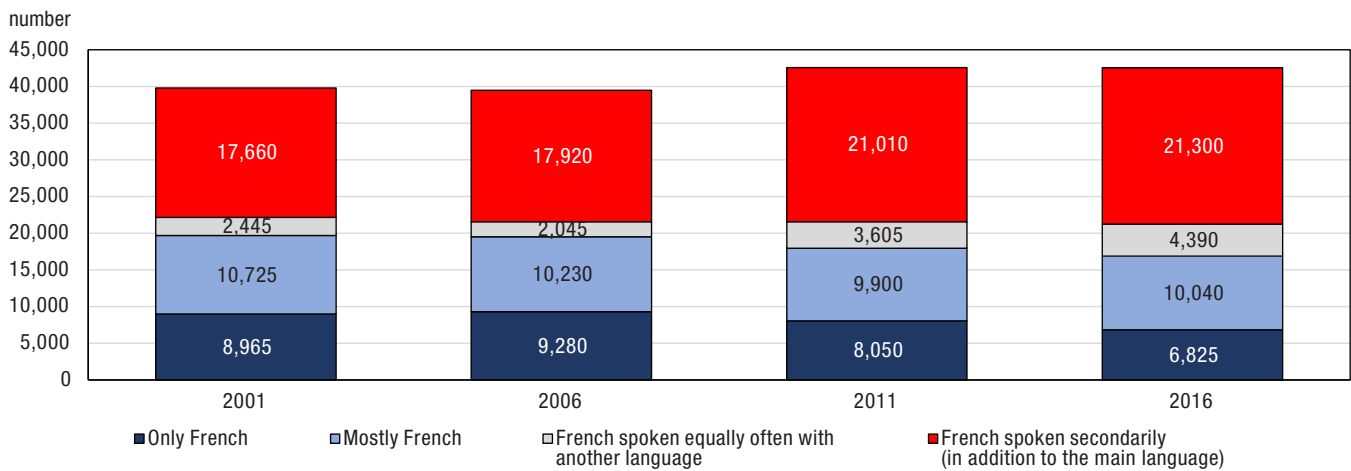
8. Includes persons who reported French and another language to Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often).

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

- As of 2016, 109,940 persons were able to sustain a conversation in French, either exclusively or along with another language. As a whole, they accounted for 8.7% of Manitoba's population.
 - ▶ The number of persons able to hold a conversation in French, either exclusively or along with another language, has increased by 5.6% (+5,850 persons) in the 15 years since 2001. However, as a proportion of Manitoba's total population they have decreased by 0.7 percentage points.
- As of 2016, 108,460 persons reported being able to hold a conversation in both English and French, a figure which represents an English-French bilingualism rate of 8.6% in the province.
 - ▶ In the 15 years since 2001, English-French bilingualism has increased in absolute terms by 5.5% (+5,620 persons) while decreasing as proportion of the population from 9.3% in 2001 to 8.6% in 2016.
- In 2016, 46,060 persons reported having French as their mother tongue³, either exclusively or with other languages. They represented 3.7% of Manitoba's population that year, down 0.7 percentage points compared to 2001.
 - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons with French as a mother tongue decreased by 3.1% which translates to 1,495 fewer persons over that period.

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, Manitoba, 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, 42,555 persons in Manitoba reported speaking French at least regularly at home. Collectively, they represented 3.4% of the province's total population, down by 0.2 percentage points from 2001.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons who reported speaking French at least regularly at home has increased by 2,760 persons, that is, a 6.9% increase over that period.
- Among those who reported speaking French at least regularly at home in 2016, 21,255 reported speaking French most often⁴ while 21,300 reported speaking French as their secondary language in addition to their main language. In relative terms, both populations represented 1.7% of Manitoba's population respectively.
 - ▶ Over the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons who reported speaking French most often at home⁴ decreased by 4.0% (-880 persons). By contrast, those who reported speaking French as a secondary language at home (in addition to the main language) increased by 20.6% (+3,640 persons).
 - ▶ Among those who reported speaking French most often at home⁴, only those who reported speaking French equally often with another language experienced an increase (+1,945 persons). By comparison, the number of persons who reported speaking only French decreased by 23.9% (-2,140 persons) and those who reported speaking French most often along with another language regularly decreased by 6.4% (-685 persons).

4. Includes French spoken equally often with another language at home.

Table 2
French used at work, Manitoba, 2001 to 2016

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
Working population¹	631,810	100.0	658,885	100.0	681,805	100.0	710,830	100.0	12.5
French used at work ²	21,895	3.5	23,990	3.6	21,520	3.2	22,815	3.2	4.2
French used most often at work ³	8,140	1.3	9,000	1.4	8,130	1.2	9,150	1.3	12.4
Only French used at work ⁴	2,110	0.3	2,650	0.4	1,965	0.3	2,035	0.3	-3.6
Mostly French used at work ⁵	4,235	0.7	4,630	0.7	3,970	0.6	4,415	0.6	4.3
French used equally often with another language at work ⁶	1,795	0.3	1,720	0.3	2,195	0.3	2,700	0.4	50.4
French used regularly at work (in addition to the main language)	13,755	2.2	14,990	2.3	13,390	2.0	13,665	1.9	-0.7

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 and 2016; 2011 National Household Survey.

- In 2016, 22,815 of Manitoba's workers reported using French at work at least regularly while representing 3.2% of the province's working population.
 - ▶ The number of workers who use French at work at least regularly has increased by an additional 920 workers or 4.2% in the 15 years since 2001, whereas the total working population increased by 12.5%.
- Among those workers who reported using French at least regularly at work in 2016, 9,150 used French most often⁵ while 13,665 used French as their secondary language in addition to the main language. Respectively, these workers represented 1.3% and 1.9% of Manitoba's working population in 2016.
 - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of workers that reported using French most often at work⁵ rose by 12.4% or by an additional 1,010 workers. By contrast, the number of workers who reported using French as a secondary language in addition to the main language at work decreased by 0.7% (-90 workers).
 - ▶ Among workers who reported using French most often at work between 2001 and 2016, those who reported using exclusively French decreased by 3.6% (-75 workers). By contrast, the number of workers who reported using French most often along with another language regularly increased by 4.3% whereas workers who reported using French along with another language equally often increased by 50.4%.

5. Includes French used equally often with another language at work.