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



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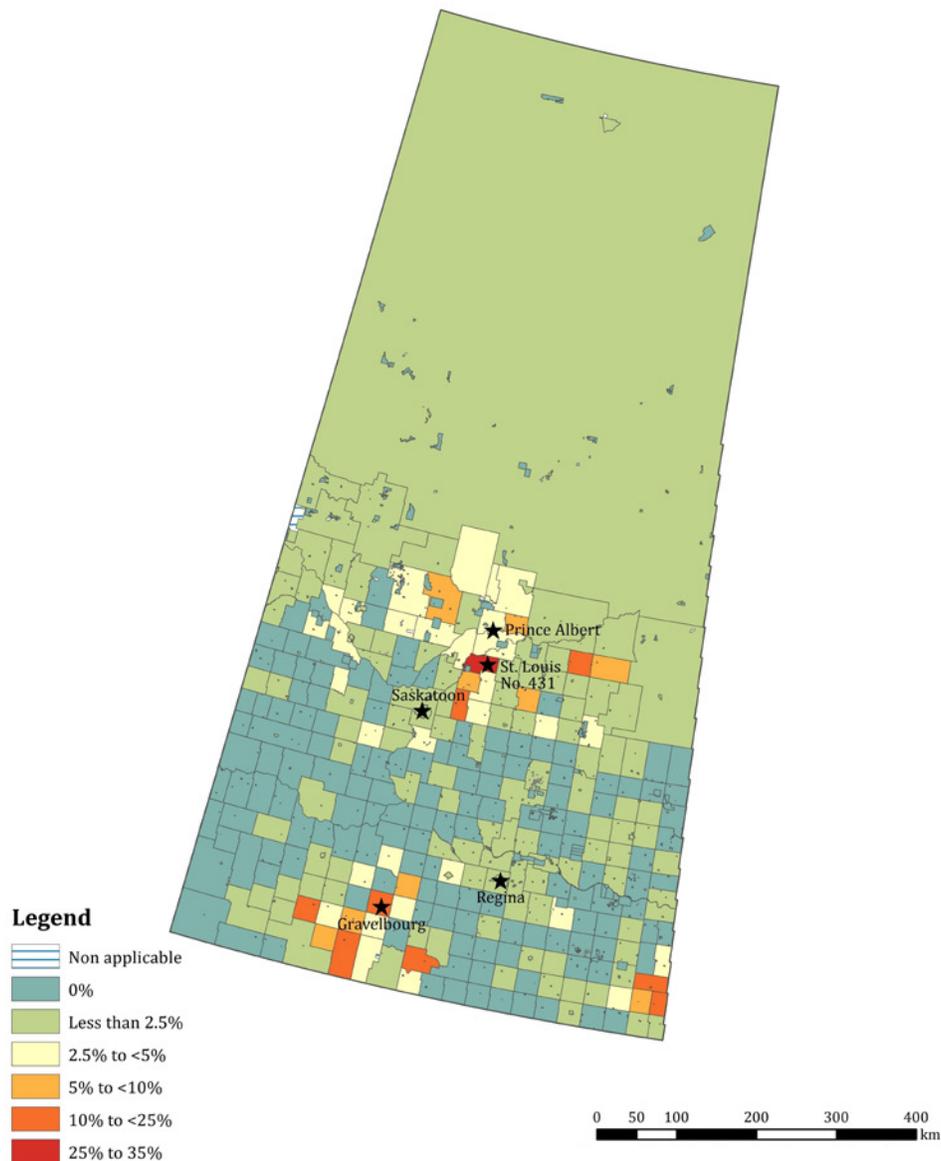
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# The French Language in Saskatchewan, 2001 to 2016: Facts and Figures

The purpose of this document is to present an overview of the prevailing trends observed between 2001 and 2016<sup>1</sup> for the French language in Saskatchewan. To this end, the document provides census-based information on the population<sup>2</sup> 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, Saskatchewan, 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 14,440 persons who had French as a first official language spoken. Collectively, they represented 1.3% of Saskatchewan's total population.
  - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons who had French as a first official language spoken decreased by 12.7% (-2,110 persons) while also decreasing in relative terms from 1.7% in 2001 down to 1.3% in 2016.

**Table 1**  
**Selected French language indicators, Saskatchewan, 2001 to 2016**

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
<b>Total population<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>963,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>953,845</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,018,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,083,235</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.5</b>
French as first official language spoken <sup>2</sup>	16,550	1.7	14,855	1.6	14,295	1.4	14,440	1.3	-12.7
Knowledge of French <sup>3</sup>	49,360	5.1	47,930	5.0	47,000	4.6	51,890	4.8	5.1
Knowledge of French only	360	0.0	480	0.1	430	0.0	530	0.0	47.2
Knowledge of English and French	49,000	5.1	47,450	5.0	46,570	4.6	51,360	4.7	4.8
French as mother tongue <sup>3</sup>	19,525	2.0	17,575	1.8	18,935	1.9	17,730	1.6	-9.2
French spoken at home <sup>4</sup>	13,490	1.4	12,740	1.3	14,905	1.5	15,870	1.5	17.6
French spoken most often at home <sup>5</sup>	5,220	0.5	4,790	0.5	5,540	0.5	5,840	0.5	11.9
Only French spoken at home <sup>6</sup>	1,850	0.2	1,740	0.2	2,090	0.2	1,695	0.2	-8.4
Mostly French spoken at home <sup>7</sup>	2,560	0.3	2,120	0.2	2,205	0.2	2,285	0.2	-10.7
French spoken equally often with another language at home <sup>8</sup>	810	0.1	930	0.1	1,245	0.1	1,860	0.2	129.6
French spoken regularly at home (in addition to the main language)	8,270	0.9	7,950	0.8	9,365	0.9	10,030	0.9	21.3

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 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).

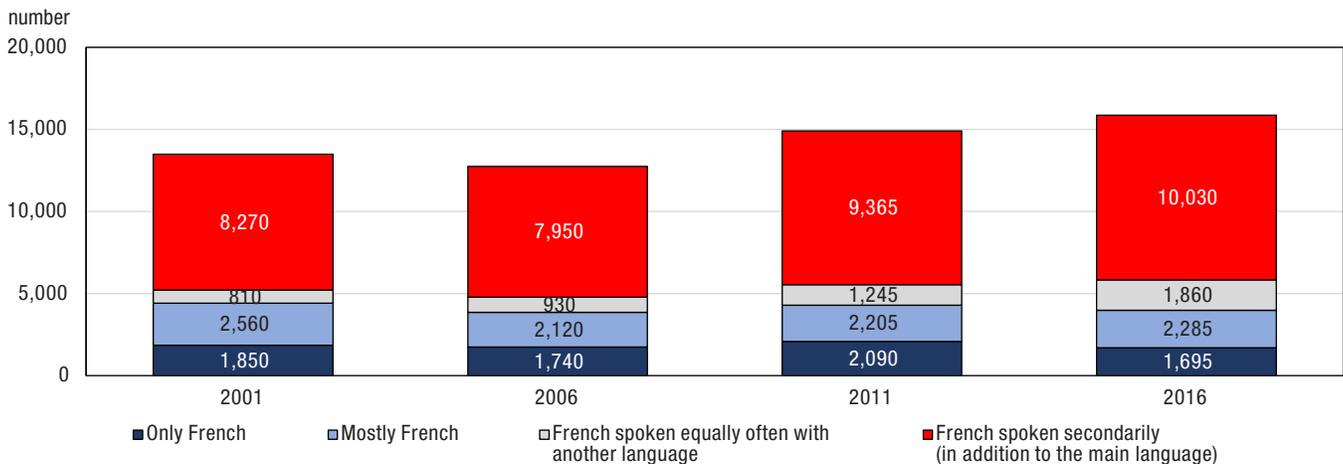
8. Includes persons who reported French and another language to Part A of the language spoken at home question (spoken most often).

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

- As of 2016, 51,890 persons reported being able to conduct a conversation in French, either exclusively or with another language. They represented 4.8% of Saskatchewan's total population.
  - ▶ In the 15 years since 2001, the number of persons who report being able to conduct a conversation in French has increased by 5.1%, that is, by an additional 2,530 persons.
- English-French bilingualism in Saskatchewan reached new heights as of 2016. In fact, that year, 51,360 persons reported being able to hold a conversation in both English and French, a figure which represents an English-French bilingualism rate of 4.7%.
  - ▶ In the 15 years since 2001, English-French bilingualism in the province increased by an additional 2,360 persons, up 4.8%. However, in relative terms, it decreased by 0.3 percentage points over the same period.
- In 2016, the number of persons in Saskatchewan who reported having French as their mother tongue<sup>3</sup>, whether exclusively or in combination with other languages, stood at 17,730 and represented 1.6% of Saskatchewan's population.
  - ▶ In the 15 years since 2001, the number of persons who report having French as their mother tongue, either exclusively or along with other languages, has decreased by 9.2% which translates to 1,795 fewer persons.

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, Saskatchewan, 2001 to 2016<sup>1</sup>**



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.

- In 2016, there were 15,870 persons who reported speaking French at home at least regularly. They represented 1.5% of Saskatchewan's population.
  - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of persons who reported speaking French at least regularly at home grew by 17.6% (+2,380 persons) while remaining nearly constant as a proportion of Saskatchewan's total population (+0.1 percentage points).
- Among those who reported speaking French at least regularly at home in 2016, 5,840 reported speaking French most often<sup>4</sup> while 10,030 reported speaking French as their secondary language (in addition to their main language). Respectively, these populations represented 0.5% and 0.9% of Saskatchewan's total population that year.
  - ▶ In the 2001 to 2016 period, the number of persons who reported speaking French most often at home<sup>4</sup> increased by 11.9% (+620 persons) solely due to the increase in the number of persons who reported speaking French equally often with another language (+1,050 persons).
  - ▶ Conversely, during the 15 year period, those who reported speaking exclusively French at home decreased by 8.4% (-155 persons) while those who reported speaking French most often with another language regularly decreased by 10.7% (-275 persons).
  - ▶ By contrast, the number of persons who reported speaking French at home as a secondary language (in addition to their main language) increased by 21.3% (+1,760 persons) between 2001 and 2016.

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

**Table 2**  
**French used at work, Saskatchewan, 2001 to 2016**

	2001		2006		2011		2016		2001 to 2016
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	percent
<b>Working population<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>550,605</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>565,595</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>603,915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>633,320</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>
French used at work <sup>2</sup>	6,530	1.2	6,980	1.2	6,175	1.0	6,630	1.0	1.5
French used most often at work <sup>3</sup>	2,140	0.4	2,530	0.4	2,280	0.4	2,665	0.4	24.5
Only French used at work <sup>4</sup>	615	0.1	705	0.1	630	0.1	605	0.1	-1.6
Mostly French used at work <sup>5</sup>	1,135	0.2	1,225	0.2	1,275	0.2	1,390	0.2	22.5
French used equally often with another language at work <sup>6</sup>	390	0.1	600	0.1	375	0.1	670	0.1	71.8
French used regularly at work (in addition to the main language)	4,390	0.8	4,450	0.8	3,895	0.6	3,965	0.6	-9.7

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, there were 6,630 workers who reported using French at work at least regularly and they represented 1.0% of the working population that year.
- Over the 15 year period, the number of workers who reported using French at work at least regularly increased from 6,530 in 2001 to 6,630 in 2016, that is, a 1.5% increase. By contrast, the working population increased by 15.0%.
  - ▶ Among those who used French at least regularly at work in 2016, 2,665 reported using French most often<sup>5</sup> whereas 3,965 reported using French as a secondary language in addition to their main language. In relative terms, they represented respectively 0.4% and 0.6% of Saskatchewan's working population.
  - ▶ Between 2001 and 2016, the number of workers who reported using French most often at work<sup>5</sup> increased by 24.5%, that is, by an additional 525 workers. By contrast, those who reported using French as a secondary language in addition to their main language decreased by 9.7% (-425 workers).

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