



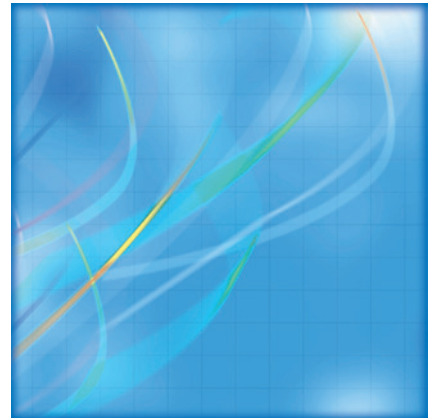
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## **2001 Census: analysis series**

### **Use of english and french at work**

This document provides detailed analysis of the 2001 Census of Population data released February 11, 2003.

To access the complete report, including colour maps, charts and tables, please consult Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). On the home page, choose Census.





Statistics Canada  
Census Operations Division

# 2001 Census: analysis series

## Use of english and french at work

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### Note of appreciation

*Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.*

# Use of English and French at work

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# Canada

## Nearly one out of seven workers uses more than one language at work

About 2.5 million Canadians reported using more than one language at work in 2001, according to the census, which collected data on languages used on the job for the first time. This represents nearly 15% of people aged 15 and over who worked between January 1, 2000, and May 15, 2001.

Francophones and allophones were more likely than anglophones to use more than one language at work. Francophones are people whose mother tongue is French; Anglophones, people whose mother tongue is English; and allophones, those whose mother tongue is a language other than English or French. The language can be used to speak, read or write on the job.

In Canada, 33% of francophone workers and 26% of allophone workers reported using more than one language at work, while only 4% of anglophone workers did so.

The use of more than one language at work is closely related to the knowledge of languages among these groups. In Canada, 54% of francophone workers are English-French bilingual, compared with 10% of anglophones and 14% of allophones.

For allophones, the rate of bilingualism involving either English and a non-official language, or French and a non-official language, further increases their propensity to use more than one language at work.

## Provinces and territories

### Nearly seven out of 10 francophone workers use French at work outside Quebec

According to census data, 67% of the 566,000 francophone workers outside Quebec used French at work in 2001. About 40% of these francophone workers used French most often at work, 27% used it regularly.

The use of French was highest among the 135,000 francophone workers in New Brunswick, 92% of whom used it. Almost 76% of francophone workers used it most often at work, while 16% used it regularly. In Ontario, the use of French was less common among the 289,000 francophone workers, with 69% using it. About 35% used it most often, while 34% used it regularly.

The use of French was lower in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, where about 30% of francophone workers used it. Less than 15% of the francophone workers in these three provinces used it most often.

Statistics on languages used at work provide an extended measure of the use of French among francophones. On the one hand, they confirm the relation between the use of French at home and at work among francophones. On the other hand, they show that the use of French is not limited to the home.

Data showed that francophone workers outside Quebec who spoke French at home had a greater tendency to use French at work. Specifically, of the 57% of francophone workers who used French most often at home in 2001, 79% also used French at work (61% most often and 18% regularly). Among the 18% of those who spoke French regularly at home, 62% also used it at work (18% most often and 44% regularly).

One-quarter of francophones outside Quebec reported that they did not speak French at home. Nevertheless, of these, 29% said they used French at work – 8% most often and 21% regularly.

The use of French at work by francophones outside Quebec varies with the industry in which they work. For example, in education, which employs nearly 9% of francophone workers outside Quebec, the use of French was higher (81%). Similarly, about 79% of francophone workers in government services used French as did 70% in health and social services. French is also used a large percentage of the time (91%) in the fishing and trapping sector, industries heavily concentrated in the Atlantic provinces.

## **French the predominant language of work for immigrants living in Quebec**

About 63% of 407,000 immigrant workers in Quebec used French most often, while 15% used it regularly. Nearly 47% used English most often, 22% regularly. The percentages for the use of English and French most often at work add to more than 100% because nearly 13% reported using both languages equally often.

Among those who used either French or English as the predominant language of work, 50% used mostly French. That is, they did not use English on more than a regular basis at work. Almost 34% of immigrant workers used mostly English. In other words, they did not use French on more than a regular basis at work.

However, among Quebec immigrant workers in 2001, the predominant use of French or English at work varies depending on when they immigrated.

English clearly predominated among workers who arrived before 1951: about 59% used mostly English, while 29% used mostly French. In contrast, among those who immigrated in the 1960s and 1970s, the predominant language was French. The predominance of French as language of work peaked at 56% among those who immigrated between 1976 and 1980, compared with 29% who used mostly English.

However, among immigrants who arrived after the early 1980s, the predominance of French over English declined, despite an increase between 1996 and 2001 in the proportion of immigrants who had French as mother tongue. The proportion who used mostly French at work fell steadily, reaching 49% among immigrants who arrived between 1996 and 2001.

Conversely, the proportion of immigrants who used mostly English rose from a low of 28% among those who entered the country between 1981 and 1985, to 37% among the most recent arrivals.

## **Allophone immigrant workers in Quebec: use of French prevalent on the job**

French was also the predominant language of work among allophones in Quebec, who made up 70% of the province's immigrant workers.

About 60% of allophone immigrant workers used it most often, while 16% used it regularly. In comparison, 48% used English most often, while 22% used it regularly. Of all these workers, 14% reported using both languages most often at work.

For allophone immigrant workers, the historical pattern in the predominant use of French at work was similar to the pattern for all immigrant workers, except that the downward trend among those who arrived after 1980 was more pronounced. The proportion who used mostly French at work fell steadily, reaching 43% among allophone immigrants who arrived between 1996 and 2001.

Conversely, the proportion of allophone immigrants who used mostly English rose from a low of 28% for those who came to Canada between 1981 and 1985, to 42% for the most recent arrivals. Furthermore, in the latter group, the proportion who used mostly English at work was roughly the same as the proportion who used mostly French.

The use of French or English at work by allophone immigrant workers is strongly related to their knowledge of these languages. The downward trend of the predominant use of French at work is due mainly to the fact that a higher proportion of allophone immigrant workers who arrived after 1986 do not know French.

The linguistic composition of immigrants to Quebec has changed during the last 15 years. As a result, the relative share of some groups that are more likely to know only English has increased. Of those groups, those whose mother tongue was Russian, Persian, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Chinese and Tagalog posted the largest increases. Overall, they went from 14% of all allophone immigrant workers who arrived between 1976 and 1985, to 33% among those who arrived between 1996 and 2001.

However, in the case of allophone immigrant workers who knew only English when they arrived, the longer they stay in Quebec, the higher the proportion who learn French. The 1991 Census showed that 27% of the allophone immigrant workers who arrived between 1986 and 1990 knew English only. Ten years later, the 2001 Census showed that 17% of the allophone workers who arrived between 1986 and 1990 reported knowing English only.

Furthermore, among allophone immigrant workers who know both English and French, the proportion of those who used mostly French at work is much higher than the proportion who used mostly English. Among all allophone immigrant workers who arrived between 1996 and 2001, 43% used mostly French at work in 2001, compared with 42% who used mostly English. Among those who knew both English and French, 49% used mostly French, and 30% mostly English.

The use of French at work among allophone workers is also related to one's age at immigration. Indeed, those who were aged 14 or under when they arrived and, therefore, may have been educated in French in Quebec used French predominantly at work. Between 1976 and 1996, the proportion of allophone workers who used mostly French at work remained steady at about 55%, no matter when they immigrated during this 20-year period. In addition, the proportion of those who used both French and English rose from 16% to 20%.

On the other hand, those who were aged 15 years and over when they immigrated mainly learned French outside the education system. The proportion of those immigrants who used mostly English increased from one immigration period to another.

## **Seven out of 10 anglophone workers use French at work in Quebec**

In Quebec, almost 66% of anglophone workers used French at work in 2001 (31% most often and 35% regularly), compared with 2% outside Quebec. In Quebec, they represented four out of five bilingual anglophone workers while outside Quebec, they accounted for one out of five.

In some cities outside Quebec, the situation was slightly different. More anglophones used French at work because of the high proportion of francophones, the presence of the federal public service or the proximity of the province of Quebec.

In the city of Ottawa, for example, francophones made up 16% of the population in 2001, and almost 17% of anglophone workers used French at work. In Moncton, whose population is nearly one-third francophone, 16% of anglophone workers used French at work in 2001.

In Quebec, 78% of anglophone workers used their mother tongue most often at work, much lower than the proportion of 100% in other provinces.

## **Three out of 10 francophones use English at work in Quebec**

In Quebec, 30% of the 3.2 million francophone workers reported using English at work in the 2001 Census. Nearly 8% reported using English most often, and 22% used it regularly.

The use of English is much more common in certain parts of the province. For example, 52% of the 533,000 francophone workers in the Montréal Urban Community (MUC) reported in the 2001 Census that they used English at work. Nearly 16% reported using it most often, and 36% used it regularly.

In the Outaouais Urban Community (OUC), now known as the new city of Gatineau, nearly 68% of the 110,000 francophone workers used English at work. About 33% reported using it most often, and 35% used it regularly. In this area, the use of English at work varies depending on whether the work site is in Quebec or Ontario: 62% of OUC francophones who worked in Ontario reported using English most often on the job, compared with 15% of those whose workplace was in Quebec.

## **Nearly nine out of 10 people who work in the Montréal Urban Community use French at work**

French was used at work in 2001 by almost 90% of all workers whose workplace was in the Montréal Urban Community. About 74% used French most often, and 15% regularly.

The predominance of French at work in the MUC is enhanced by the influx of workers primarily from its northern and southern suburbs. French was used most often at work by 69% of workers who lived in the MUC and by 74% of those who worked there. For workers who lived in the MUC, however, French was more predominant at work (69%) than at home (60%).

Language of work data combined with place of work data showed that the largest differences in the predominance of French at work between workers employed in a municipality and workers who lived there occurred in the municipalities of the western part of the MUC. The greatest differences were in Baie d'Urfé (36 percentage points), Dorval (17), Pointe-Claire (16), Ste-Geneviève (15), and LaSalle (14), which are now part of the new city of Montréal.

## Three out of 10 allophone workers in British Columbia use languages other than English or French at work

In Canada, 23% of allophone workers reported using languages other than English or French at work (11% most often and 12% regularly). Among the provinces, other languages were used in a higher proportion among allophone workers in British Columbia (16% most often and 14% regularly).

Since most allophone immigrants settle in the metropolitan areas of Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal, a significant proportion of the allophones who live there use their mother tongue at work.

Of the three areas, Vancouver had the highest proportion of non-official language use by allophone workers, at 33%. About 18% used a language other than English or French most often in 2001, and 15% regularly.

In Toronto, about 23% of allophone workers used a language other than English or French, 13% most often and 10% regularly. In Montréal, 20% of allophone workers used a language other than English or French, 11% most often and 9% regularly.

Of all the allophone workers in the three largest metropolitan areas, those having Chinese as their mother tongue used this language in the largest proportion.

In Vancouver, where they made up the largest group, 37% of allophone workers, about 145,000, had Chinese as their mother tongue. Of this group, 53% used Chinese at work: 33% most often and 20% regularly.

In Toronto, the Chinese group is also the largest, accounting for 18% of allophone workers, or 195,000 people. Of this group, 40% used Chinese on the job: 24% most often and 16% regularly.

In Montréal, workers whose mother tongue is Chinese represented 6% of allophone workers, or 21,000 people, the fifth largest group in the census metropolitan area. Of this group, 39% used Chinese on the job: 27% most often and 12% regularly.

Among the other largest language groups who had a strong propensity to use their mother tongue at work, at least regularly, the Punjabi and Spanish groups formed the largest proportions in Vancouver. About 36% of the Punjabi group and 26% of the Spanish group used their mother tongue at work in 2001 in Vancouver.

Among the other language groups in Toronto, 32% of Portuguese workers and 28% of Spanish workers used their mother tongue on the job. In Montréal, 29% of Greek workers and 27% of Spanish workers used their mother tongue at work.

The use of languages other than English or French by allophone workers tends to be more prevalent in certain industries, such as accommodation and food service, manufacturing and retail trade. In Vancouver, for example, 41% of allophones working in food service and accommodation used their mother tongue at work.



## **Allophone immigrants in Vancouver use their mother tongue at work longer than allophone immigrants elsewhere**

The less time allophone immigrant workers have spent in Canada, the greater the persistence of languages other than English or French at work. It is noteworthy, however, that in the three largest metropolitan areas, even allophone immigrants who came to Canada 20 or 25 years ago still used a language other than English or French at work a high percentage of the time.

Again, the case in Vancouver differed from Toronto and Montréal. About 32% of allophone workers who immigrated between 1981 and 1985 used a non-official language at work in 2001 in Vancouver (15% most often and 17% regularly). Among those who arrived between 1996 and 2001, 47% used a non-official language at work (31% most often and 16% regularly).

The pattern was similar in Toronto and Montréal, but the percentages were smaller. In Toronto, 23% of allophone workers who immigrated in the 1981-1985 period used a non-official language at work (10% most often and 13% regularly) in 2001. This was the case for 29% of those who arrived between 1996 and 2001 (16% most often and 13% regularly).

In Montréal, a language other than English or French was used by 19% of those who indicated that they arrived in the 1981-1985 period (9% most often and 10% regularly) compared with 23% of those who arrived between 1996 and 2001 (12% most often and 11% regularly).

**Proportion of workers who use more than one language at work, by language groups, Canada, provinces, territories and Canada less Quebec, 2001**

	All workers <sup>1</sup>	Anglophones <sup>2</sup>	Francophones <sup>3</sup>	Allophones <sup>4</sup>
	%			
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>25.6</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.5	1.0	36.4	30.7
Prince Edward Island	5.0	2.6	49.6	20.4
Nova Scotia	5.1	2.1	55.3	25.2
New Brunswick	25.4	8.4	57.0	31.8
Quebec	35.2	59.1	29.3	63.0
Ontario	9.8	3.4	59.7	18.7
Manitoba	8.7	2.2	43.2	25.7
Saskatchewan	3.8	1.0	27.8	22.5
Alberta	4.4	1.2	30.9	17.0
British Columbia	7.0	1.7	28.7	22.6
Yukon Territory	5.8	2.3	43.1	20.2
Northwest Territories	10.2	2.9	38.4	34.9
Nunavut	56.4	20.2	54.5	73.0
Canada less Quebec	8.4	2.6	53.3	20.0

<sup>1</sup> People aged 15 years and over who worked between January 1, 2000 and May 15, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Workers with English as mother tongue.

<sup>3</sup> Workers with French as mother tongue.

<sup>4</sup> Workers with a language other than English or French as mother tongue.

**Proportion of workers<sup>1</sup> who use French or English most often or regularly at work, by language groups, Canada, provinces, territories and Canada less Quebec, 2001**

	Use French at work								
	Francophone <sup>2</sup>			Anglophone <sup>3</sup>			Allophone <sup>4</sup>		
	Total	Most often	Regularly	Total	Most often	Regularly	Total	Most often	Regularly
	%			%			%		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	47.6	24.2	23.4	0.9	0.2	0.7	2.9	0.5	2.4
Prince Edward Island	57.2	29.9	27.4	2.5	0.4	2.1	4.4	1.6	2.8
Nova Scotia	64.5	35.6	28.9	1.9	0.4	1.5	3.6	1.0	2.5
New Brunswick	92.3	75.8	16.5	8.7	2.5	6.1	12.5	7.1	5.4
Quebec	99.0	95.7	3.3	65.3	30.7	34.6	75.7	56.5	19.2
Ontario	68.9	34.6	34.3	2.9	0.5	2.4	2.4	0.7	1.7
Manitoba	49.0	22.0	27.0	1.4	0.3	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.8
Saskatchewan	32.0	13.7	18.4	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.4
Alberta	33.5	11.3	22.1	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.6
British Columbia	30.0	9.7	20.3	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.6
Yukon Territory	45.1	19.4	25.7	1.4	0.1	1.3	2.2	0.0	2.2
Northwest Territories	41.1	16.4	24.7	1.2	0.1	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.6
Nunavut	50.0	9.1	40.9	2.3	0.0	2.3	0.5	0.1	0.4
Canada less Quebec	67.4	40.1	27.4	2.1	0.4	1.7	1.8	0.5	1.3
	Use English at work								
	Francophone <sup>2</sup>			Anglophone <sup>3</sup>			Allophone <sup>4</sup>		
	Total	Most often	Regularly	Total	Most often	Regularly	Total	Most often	Regularly
	%			%			%		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	88.3	77.1	11.3	100.0	99.8	0.1	92.6	85.6	7.0
Prince Edward Island	92.0	73.8	18.3	99.9	99.7	0.3	98.8	95.6	3.2
Nova Scotia	90.6	70.4	20.2	99.9	99.7	0.2	97.0	89.7	7.3
New Brunswick	64.7	33.5	31.2	99.5	98.6	1.0	93.7	84.8	9.0
Quebec	30.2	7.9	22.3	93.1	77.9	15.3	72.5	49.8	22.7
Ontario	90.5	74.8	15.8	99.9	99.7	0.2	96.2	93.3	2.9
Manitoba	93.8	81.5	12.3	99.9	99.7	0.2	97.0	92.1	4.9
Saskatchewan	95.2	88.1	7.0	100.0	99.9	0.1	97.1	92.2	4.9
Alberta	97.2	91.7	5.5	99.9	99.9	0.1	96.7	93.6	3.1
British Columbia	97.9	92.9	5.0	99.9	99.8	0.1	92.2	87.0	5.2
Yukon Territory	96.5	86.1	10.4	99.9	99.7	0.2	98.4	96.5	1.9
Northwest Territories	95.9	85.6	10.3	99.9	99.8	0.1	95.9	89.0	6.9
Nunavut	98.5	89.4	9.1	99.7	98.2	1.6	84.6	50.3	34.3
Canada less Quebec	85.6	67.8	17.8	99.9	99.7	0.2	95.4	91.8	3.7

<sup>1</sup> People aged 15 years and over who worked between January 1, 2000 and May 15, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Workers with French as mother tongue.

<sup>3</sup> Workers with English as mother tongue.

<sup>4</sup> Workers with a language other than English or French as mother tongue.

**Note:** The total of percentages of workers from a same language group using French or English most often at work may be greater than 100 because some of them reported using both languages "most often" and so are included twice.

**Proportion of allophone workers<sup>1</sup> who use a language other than English or French most often or regularly at work, Canada, provinces, territories and Canada less Quebec, 2001**

	Total	Most often	Regularly
<b>Canada</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	36.0	23.3	12.7
Prince Edward Island	19.2	6.0	13.2
Nova Scotia	25.5	12.6	12.9
New Brunswick	26.7	12.8	13.9
Quebec	22.1	11.1	11.0
Ontario	20.6	8.9	11.7
Manitoba	27.8	10.4	17.5
Saskatchewan	25.1	10.8	14.2
Alberta	19.6	8.4	11.3
British Columbia	29.8	16.2	13.6
Yukon Territory	20.4	6.5	14.0
Northwest Territories	38.4	13.4	25.0
Nunavut	88.1	51.7	36.4
Canada less Quebec	23.1	10.6	12.5

<sup>1</sup> People aged 15 years and over who worked between January 1, 2000 and May 15, 2001 whose mother tongue is a language other than English or French.

**Proportion of allophone immigrant workers<sup>1</sup> who use a language other than English or French most often or regularly at work, by period of immigration, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver, 2001**

	Total	Most often	Regularly
<b>Before 1971</b>			
Montréal	17.9	7.5	10.4
Toronto	15.0	4.7	10.3
Vancouver	15.1	6.1	9.0
<b>1971-1975</b>			
Montréal	19.5	9.5	9.9
Toronto	20.2	7.3	12.8
Vancouver	23.2	8.3	14.9
<b>1976-1980</b>			
Montréal	20.0	9.3	10.7
Toronto	20.9	7.7	13.2
Vancouver	29.4	12.9	16.5
<b>1981-1985</b>			
Montréal	18.4	8.5	10.0
Toronto	22.5	9.5	13.0
Vancouver	31.7	14.5	17.2
<b>1986-1990</b>			
Montréal	20.1	9.2	10.8
Toronto	25.9	11.5	14.4
Vancouver	37.1	18.9	18.2
<b>1991-1995</b>			
Montréal	21.4	10.5	10.9
Toronto	27.8	14.1	13.7
Vancouver	45.6	28.5	17.1
<b>1996-2001</b>			
Montréal	22.8	11.9	10.9
Toronto	28.4	15.5	12.9
Vancouver	46.6	30.8	15.8

<sup>1</sup> People aged 15 years and over born outside Canada who worked between January 1, 2000 and May 15, 2001 having a mother tongue other than English or French.