

Subsection 3.—Languages and Racial Origins of Immigrants

Languages of Immigrants.—At the Census of 1941, only 115,414 persons or 1 p.c. of the total population were unable to speak either English or French, but the percentages, by racial origins, of those speaking neither official language varied greatly.

The Immigration Branch does not record the ability of immigrants to speak the official tongues of the Dominion; the statistics appearing in Table 5 relate only to the mother tongue of the immigrant. The great majority of those coming from the United States naturally give English as their mother tongue, regardless of their racial origin. In the calendar year 1945, 405 persons (10 years of age or over) coming from the United States, many of whom were undoubtedly of French-Canadian origin, gave French as their mother tongue. In that year, persons from all countries giving English as their mother tongue constituted 92.9 p.c. of the total and those giving French 2.7 p.c.

5.—Mother Tongues of Immigrants, 10 Years of Age or Over, 1936-45

NOTE.—Dashes in this table indicate that no immigrants were reported for the corresponding stub item.

Language	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Albanian.....	3	7	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armenian (Aramaic).....	5	3	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgarian.....	13	27	20	13	2	2	-	-	-	-
Chinese.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croatian (Serbian).....	305	438	460	185	43	3	1	5	12	13
Czech (Bohemian).....	490	989	1,389	673	100	20	14	13	14	36
Danish.....	19	38	36	73	23	7	3	12	4	9
East Indian.....	10	8	8	16	6	1	3	-	-	-
English.....	5,397	6,643	7,142	7,431	8,206	7,497	6,023	6,518	9,054	15,853
Estonian.....	3	-	8	5	-	-	1	2	1	6
Finnish.....	36	65	56	60	10	7	6	7	4	10
Flemish.....	43	62	131	90	8	7	1	5	3	1
French.....	485	478	623	559	501	356	256	295	332	458
German.....	282	511	571	1,044	208	50	40	21	28	214
Greek.....	56	76	106	103	45	12	3	6	5	19
Hungarian (Magyar).....	265	436	507	383	94	21	2	14	7	17
Icelandic.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
Italian.....	245	367	337	183	105	8	4	10	4	12
Japanese.....	96	130	52	40	38	5	-	-	-	-
Lettish.....	3	7	4	3	5	2	-	1	-	1
Lithuanian.....	38	43	40	50	15	4	2	2	-	2
Netherlands.....	53	58	95	190	56	30	8	7	4	11
Norwegian.....	36	25	20	43	27	16	26	6	3	46
Polish.....	793	1,215	1,440	1,198	62	47	19	20	37	260
Portuguese.....	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	3
Roumanian.....	65	103	142	90	12	12	4	6	2	3
Russian.....	36	42	29	88	16	23	7	6	19	9
Russniak ¹	266	401	728	665	5	2	1	7	3	4
Slovenian.....	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Spanish.....	9	11	7	8	21	11	7	8	11	20
Swedish.....	15	41	28	14	12	4	7	6	8	10
Syrian (Arabic).....	15	16	18	13	2	4	-	1	5	1
Turkish.....	4	1	1	1	-	4	-	-	1	1
Yiddish and Hebrew.....	197	110	93	197	36	41	12	17	20	46
Not given.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.....	9,286	12,354	14,099	14,326	9,660	8,195	6,452	6,998	9,592	17,068

¹ Includes Ruthenian and Ukrainian.

Racial Origins of Immigrants.—The great bulk of Canadian immigration of the past generation has been drawn from the English-speaking countries and from those Continental European countries where the population is ethnically closely related to the British, though for some years there was an increasing immigration of Slavs. Since the outbreak of war in 1939, the predominant racial origins of immigrants have been British, French and Jewish.