

2.17 Population by mother tongue and home language

Language ¹	Mother tongue				Home language	
	1976		1981		1981 ²	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
English	14,122,770	61.42	14,918,460	61.28	16,425,905	68.20
French	5,887,205	25.60	6,249,095	25.67	5,923,010	24.59
Non-official languages	2,537,610	11.04	3,175,625	13.05	1,734,580	7.20
European languages	2,101,150	9.14	2,444,450	10.04	1,170,335	4.86
Croatian, Serbian, etc.	77,575	0.34	87,870	0.36	53,460	2.22
Czech and Slovak	34,955	0.15	42,825	0.18	18,970	0.08
Finnish	28,470	0.12	33,380	0.14	13,010	0.05
German	476,715	2.07	522,855	2.15	163,555	0.68
Greek	91,530	0.40	122,960	0.51	94,940	0.39
Italian	484,050	2.11	528,775	2.17	364,575	1.51
Magyar (Hungarian)	69,300	0.30	83,720	0.34	34,235	0.14
Netherlandic languages	122,555	0.53	156,640	0.64	26,850	0.11
Dutch and Frisian	114,760	0.50	146,830	0.60	24,690	0.10
Polish	99,845	0.43	127,960	0.53	55,715	0.23
Portuguese	126,535	0.55	165,510	0.68	130,895	0.54
Russian	23,485	0.10	31,490	0.13	13,790	0.06
Scandinavian languages	59,410	0.26	67,725	0.28	7,730	0.03
Spanish	44,135	0.19	70,160	0.29	51,440	0.21
Ukrainian	282,060	1.23	292,265	1.20	94,565	0.39
Yiddish	23,435	0.10	32,760	0.14	10,635	0.04
Asian languages	255,380	1.11	555,145	2.28	435,555	1.81
Armenian	10,335	0.04	17,140	0.07	15,865	0.07
Chinese	132,560	0.58	224,030	0.92	187,240	0.78
Indo-Chinese languages	..	..	41,615	0.17	39,210	0.16
Vietnamese	..	..	30,105	0.12	28,890	0.12
Indo-Pakistani languages	58,415	0.25	116,990	0.48	95,075	0.40
Punjabi	..	..	53,680	0.22	47,655	0.20
Japanese	15,525	0.07	20,130	0.08	10,845	0.04
Korean	..	..	17,100	0.07	14,440	0.06
Filipino and Tagalog	..	..	44,865	0.18	32,285	0.13
Semitic languages	37,100	0.16	58,900	0.24	32,120	0.13
Arabic	..	..	50,115	0.21	27,905	0.12
African Languages	..	..	3,270	0.01	1,465	0.01
North American languages	133,005	0.58	146,290	0.60	107,220	0.45
Native Indian languages	117,105	0.51	127,450	0.52	92,200	0.38
Algonkian languages	..	..	102,905	0.42	77,995	0.32
Cree	..	..	67,495	0.28	51,555	0.21
Ojibway	..	..	19,770	0.08	13,940	0.06
Athapaskan languages	..	..	11,665	0.05	8,620	0.04
Inuktituk	15,900	0.07	18,840	0.08	17,020	0.07
Indian, not otherwise specified	..	..	20,285	0.08	10,730	0.04
Other	48,065	0.21	6,185	0.03	7,725	0.03
Not stated	445,020	1.94	..	..	..	..
Total ¹	22,992,605	100.00	24,343,180	100.00	24,083,495	100.00

¹Some smaller language groups are not shown in this table, because of this and random rounding, totals may not equal the sum of components.

²Mother tongue figures are based on 100% data while those for home language are based on a 20% sample and exclude inmates in institutions.

2.18 Distribution of the population¹ by mother tongue

Province or territory	1976				1981		
	English	French	Other	Not stated	English	French	Other
Newfoundland	545,340	2,760	3,965	5,665	560,460	2,655	4,560
Prince Edward Island	109,745	6,545	935	1,005	115,045	6,080	1,380
Nova Scotia	768,070	36,870	13,625	10,010	793,165	36,030	18,250
New Brunswick	435,975	223,780	6,925	10,565	453,310	234,030	9,060
Quebec	800,680	4,989,245	334,055	110,470	706,115	5,307,010	425,280
Ontario	6,457,645	462,070	1,178,670	166,080	6,678,770	475,605	1,470,735
Manitoba	727,240	54,745	218,875	20,645	735,920	52,560	237,760
Saskatchewan	715,685	26,710	163,935	14,995	770,815	25,535	171,955
Alberta	1,482,725	44,440	272,395	38,480	1,810,545	62,145	365,035
British Columbia	2,037,645	38,430	325,610	64,930	2,249,310	45,615	449,540
Yukon	18,940	525	1,630	745	20,245	580	2,325
Northwest Territories	23,085	1,095	16,995	1,435	24,755	1,240	19,745
Canada	14,122,770	5,887,205	2,337,615	445,020	14,918,460	6,249,095	3,175,625

¹Based on 100% data.