

2.14 Population by mother tongue and home language, 1986 Census¹

Language	Mother tongue		Home language ²	
	No.	%	No.	%
Single responses	24,354,390	96.2	23,862,330	95.4
English	15,334,085	60.6	16,595,535	66.3
French	6,159,740	24.3	5,798,470	23.2
Non-official languages	2,860,565	11.3	1,468,325	5.9
Aboriginal languages ³	138,060	0.5	97,275	0.4
Cree	57,650	0.2	40,685	0.2
Ojibway	16,385	0.1	9,495	--
Inuktitut	21,050	0.1	17,570	0.1
Other aboriginal languages	42,975	0.2	29,525	0.1
Italian	455,820	1.8	271,835	1.1
Romanian	12,885	0.1	6,050	--
Portuguese	153,990	0.6	105,420	0.4
Spanish	83,130	0.3	55,760	0.2
German	438,675	1.7	112,550	0.4
Yiddish	22,665	0.1	6,660	--
Dutch	123,665	0.5	14,430	0.1
Flemish	7,260	--	1,225	--
Swedish	11,970	--	1,550	--
Danish	20,525	0.1	1,840	--
Norwegian	13,185	0.1	790	--
Gaelic languages	4,645	--	410	--
Ukrainian	208,410	0.8	46,150	0.2
Russian	24,860	0.1	9,950	--
Macedonian	11,500	--	7,030	--
Croatian ⁴	29,680	0.1	19,065	0.1
Serbian ⁴	7,870	--	4,805	--
Slovenian	6,590	--	2,405	--
Czech	22,945	0.1	9,175	--
Slovak	15,460	0.1	5,155	--
Polish	123,120	0.5	55,150	0.2
Latvian (Letish)	10,250	--	4,300	--
Lithuanian	10,295	--	8,370	--
Finnish	25,765	0.1	11,365	--
Estonian	10,795	--	5,540	--
Hungarian	69,000	0.3	23,960	0.1
Greek	110,350	0.4	72,550	0.3
Armenian	17,520	0.1	13,610	0.1
Turkic languages	4,525	--	2,635	--
Arabic	40,665	0.2	22,010	0.1
Hebrew	7,545	--	2,795	--
Indo-Iranian languages	138,585	0.5	100,295	--
Persian (Farsi)	12,085	--	7,765	--
Bengali	3,320	--	5,195	--
Hindi	18,205	0.1	9,630	--
Punjabi	63,640	0.3	47,865	0.2
Urdu	12,225	--	8,295	--
Indo-Iranian languages (not incl. elsewhere)	29,120	0.1	21,545	0.1
Japanese	18,140	0.1	9,200	--
Korean	19,150	0.1	14,340	0.1
Chinese	266,560	1.1	230,480	0.9
Thai	7,180	--	7,020	--
Vietnamese	41,560	0.2	40,345	0.2
Tagalog (Pilipino)	42,420	0.2	25,290	0.1
Other languages	40,365	0.2	10,015	--
Multiple responses	954,940	3.8	1,159,675	4.6
English and French	332,610	1.3	351,905	1.4
English and non-official language(s)	525,720	2.1	712,445	2.8
French and non-official language(s)	36,310	0.1	40,055	0.2
English, French and non- official language(s)	46,590	0.2	47,755	0.2
Non-official languages	13,715	0.1	7,510	--
Canada ²	25,309,330	100.0	25,022,005	100.0

¹ For the first time in the 1986 Census, Canadians were allowed to report more than one language. Consequently, considerable care must be exercised when comparing the 1986 data with previous Censuses.

² The question on mother tongue was asked to all Canadians, but the question on language spoken most often at home was answered by a sample of one-in-five households. This sample excluded persons in institutions such as prisons and nursing homes.

³ Census enumerators were refused entry into 136 Indian reserves and Indian settlements. The population missed has been estimated at about 45,000 persons, that is approximately 8% of the total aboriginal population.

⁴ Some 3,185 persons have also reported "Serbo-Croatian" as mother tongue and 1,375 as home language.