

Yukon Bureau of Statistics

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Census 2021 Language

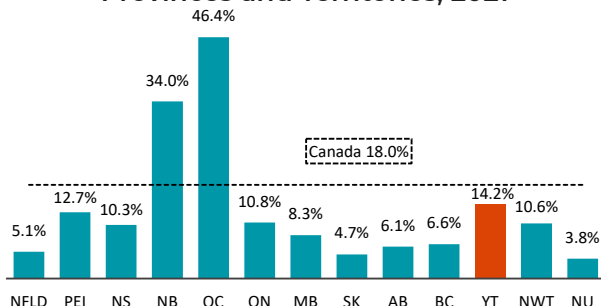
Highlights

- In the 2021 Census, 99.6% of Yukoners (excluding institutional residents) reported knowledge of at least one official language: 85.2% knew English only; 14.2% knew both English and French; 0.2% knew French only; and 0.4% knew neither English or French.
- The number of Yukoners who reported Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) as their mother tongue in the 2021 Census increased by 180 people, or 22.3%, compared to the 2016 Census, while those who reported Punjabi as mother tongue increased by 320 people, or 376.5%, during the same time period.
- In 2021, 330 Yukoners, or 0.8% of the Yukon population reported having an indigenous language as their only mother tongue.

Knowledge of Official Languages

According to the 2021 Census, 99.6% of Yukoners (excluding institutional residents) reported knowledge of at least one official language: 85.2% knew English only; 14.2% knew both English and French; 0.2% knew French only; and 0.4% knew neither English or French.

Knowledge of Official Languages, Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2021

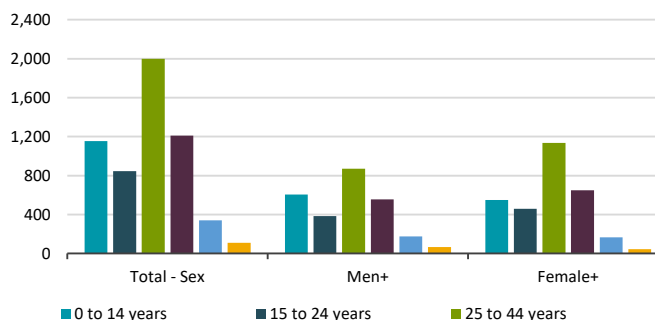


In every province and territory, more than 97.0% of the population reported having knowledge of at least one of Canada's official languages, with the exceptions of Nunavut (94.3%) and British Columbia (96.7%). Overall, 98.1% of Canadians reported knowledge of at least one official language.

In Yukon, 14.2% of people reported being bilingual in both official languages. Yukon had the third-highest rate of English-French bilingualism in Canada; following Quebec (46.4%) and New Brunswick (34.0%). Nationally, the English-French bilingualism rate was 18.0% in 2021.

Comparing 2021 to 2016, the percentage of Yukon's population who had knowledge of both English and French increased 0.4 percentage points (from 13.8% in 2016 to 14.2% in 2021). Nationally, the rate of bilingualism increased 0.1 percentage point over the same period (from 17.9% in 2016 to 18.0% in 2021).

Knowledge of English and French, by Age Group and Sex, Yukon, 2022



The bilingualism rate was the highest among those Yukoners aged 15-24 years (20.4%), followed by those aged 25-44 years (16.2%).

Of the 145 Yukoners who had no knowledge of an official language (English or French), 37.9%, or 55 people, had a mother tongue of Yue (Cantonese) and 10.3%, or 15 people, had Spanish as a mother tongue.

Other Census Information

- [2021 Census Topic: Languages](#)
- [Statistics Canada's Census Profile of Yukon, including Whitehorse and other census subdivisions](#)
- [GeoSearch - an interactive tool which helps locate and relate census data to geographic areas](#)
- [Focus on Geography Series, 2021](#)

Knowledge of Official Languages, by Census Subdivisions

	Total	English Only	French Only	English & French	Neither English or French	English Only	English & French
Beaver Creek	80	70	0	10	0	87.5%	12.5%
Burwash Landing	65	55	0	5	0	84.6%	7.7%
Carcross	315	295	0	20	0	93.7%	6.3%
Carmacks	590	570	0	20	0	96.6%	3.4%
Dawson	1,575	1,365	0	200	5	86.7%	12.7%
Destruction Bay	40	35	0	5	0	87.5%	12.5%
Faro	440	390	5	45	0	88.6%	10.2%
Haines Junction	690	630	0	55	5	91.3%	8.0%
Ibex Valley	520	445	5	80	0	85.6%	15.4%
Macpherson-Grizzly Valley	1,540	1,300	5	235	0	84.4%	15.3%
Marsh Lake	750	650	0	90	0	86.7%	12.0%
Mayo	190	165	0	20	0	86.8%	10.5%
Mt. Lorne	470	340	0	125	0	72.3%	26.6%
Old Crow	235	230	0	5	0	97.9%	2.1%
Pelly Crossing	315	310	0	5	0	98.4%	1.6%
Ross River	355	345	0	15	0	97.2%	4.2%
Tagish	310	290	0	20	0	93.5%	6.5%
Teslin	240	220	0	15	0	91.7%	6.3%
Upper Liard	130	130	0	0	0	100.0%	0.0%
Watson Lake	1,135	1,095	0	35	0	96.5%	3.1%
Whitehorse	27,815	23,255	65	4,365	125	83.6%	15.7%
Whitehorse, Unorganized	410	310	0	100	0	75.6%	24.4%
Yukon, Unorganized	1,500	1,310	0	180	5	87.3%	12.0%
Other ¹	x	x	x	x	x
Yukon	39,840	33,955	85	5,660	145	85.2%	14.2%

¹ Other includes Carcross 4, Champagne Landing 10, Johnson's Crossing, Keno Hill, Klloo Lake, Lake Laberge 1, Mooshide Creek 2, North Slope, Stewart Crossing, Swift River, Teslin Land, Teslin Post 13

A total of 5,745 Yukoners (excluding institutional residents) reported having knowledge of French, either as their only official language or in addition to English.

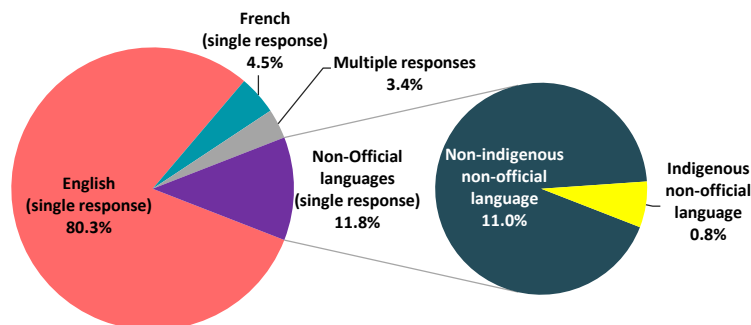
The census subdivision with the highest percentage of the population reporting knowledge of English and French was Mt. Lorne with 26.6% (125 people); followed by Whitehorse, Unorganized (24.4%, or 100 people) and Whitehorse (15.7%, or 4,365 people).

Haines Junction had the highest percentage of population that did not have knowledge of English or French (0.7%, or 5 people).

In the Whitehorse census subdivision, 125 people, or 0.4% of the population reported having knowledge of neither English or French, while 65 people, or 0.2% reported having knowledge of French only.

Mother Tongue

Mother Tongue, Yukon, 2021



Of the 4,710 Yukoners reporting a non-official language as their mother tongue (single response), the most commonly reported languages were:

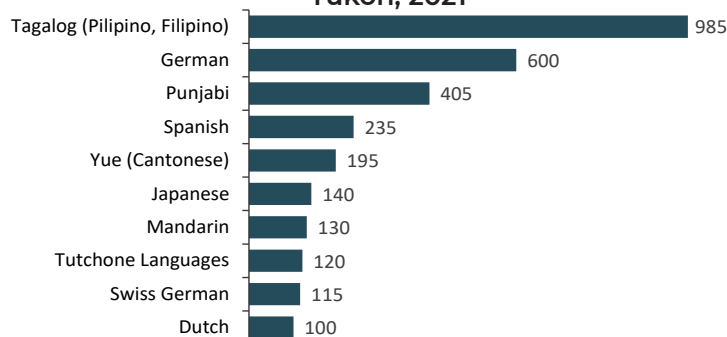
- Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) at 20.9%;
- German at 12.7%;
- Punjabi at 8.6%;
- Spanish at 5.0%; and
- Yue (Cantonese) at 4.1%.

In 2021, Yukon's population made up 0.1% of Canada's population, yet it had 1.5% of all residents in Canada with a Swiss German mother tongue, 0.3% of all residents in Canada with a Japanese mother tongue and 0.2% of all residents in Canada with a Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) mother tongue.

In 2021, 31,995 Yukoners reported English was their sole mother tongue, representing 80.3% of the Yukon population (excluding institutional residents), a drop from 81.8% in the 2016 Census. There were 1,355 Yukoners who reported having more than one mother tongue (3.4% of the Yukon population).

In 2021, 11.8% of Yukoners, or 4,710 people, reported having a non-official language for a mother tongue. Of those, 4,380 Yukoners, or 11.0% of the Yukon population reported having a non-indigenous language as their mother tongue, while 330 Yukoners, or 0.8% of the Yukon population reported having an indigenous language as their only mother tongue.

Most Common Non-Official Mother Tongues, Yukon, 2021



Mother Tongue, by Census Subdivisions

	Total	English (single response)	French (single response)	Non-Official Language (single response)	Non-official Indigenous language	Non-official Non- Indigenous language	Multiple Responses	English (single response)	French (single response)	Non-Official Indigenous Language (single response)	Non-Official Non- Indigenous Language (single response)
Beaver Creek	80	60	5	10	5	5	0	75.0%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%
Burwash Landing	65	50	5	5	0	0	5	76.9%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Carcross	315	275	20	15	5	15	10	87.3%	6.3%	1.6%	4.8%
Carmacks	590	505	10	55	30	25	15	85.6%	1.7%	5.1%	4.2%
Dawson	1,575	1,305	80	145	10	140	45	82.9%	5.1%	0.6%	8.9%
Destruction Bay	40	35	5	0	0	0	0	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Faro	440	360	30	40	10	35	10	81.8%	6.8%	2.3%	8.0%
Haines Junction	690	605	20	45	5	40	20	87.7%	2.9%	0.7%	5.8%
Ibex Valley	520	410	40	45	5	35	30	78.8%	7.7%	1.0%	6.7%
MacPherson-Grizzly Valley	1,540	1,265	85	150	0	150	45	82.1%	5.5%	0.0%	9.7%
Marsh Lake	750	615	45	70	0	70	5	82.0%	6.0%	0.0%	9.3%
Mayo	190	160	15	15	5	5	5	84.2%	7.9%	2.6%	2.6%
Mt. Lorne	470	355	50	50	0	50	15	75.5%	10.6%	0.0%	10.6%
Old Crow	235	195	0	35	35	0	0	83.0%	0.0%	14.9%	0.0%
Pelly Crossing	315	280	10	30	20	5	0	88.9%	3.2%	6.3%	1.6%
Ross River	355	300	5	20	15	0	30	84.5%	1.4%	4.2%	0.0%
Tagish	310	270	5	30	0	25	5	87.1%	1.6%	0.0%	8.1%
Teslin	240	195	5	35	20	20	5	81.3%	2.1%	8.3%	8.3%
Upper Liard	130	120	0	5	5	0	5	92.3%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%
Watson Lake	1,135	1,010	15	80	25	50	20	89.0%	1.3%	2.2%	4.4%
Whitehorse	27,815	21,950	1,215	3,640	105	3,535	1,010	78.9%	4.4%	0.4%	12.7%
Whitehorse, Unorganized	410	305	45	45	0	45	15	74.4%	11.0%	0.0%	11.0%
Yukon, Unorganized	1,500	1,240	80	145	15	130	35	82.7%	5.3%	1.0%	8.7%
Other ¹	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yukon	39,840	31,995	1,785	4,705	325	4,380	1,350	78.5%	7.7%	0.0%	11.0%

¹ Other includes Carcross 4, Champagne Landing 10, Johnsons Crossing, Keno Hill, Kloo Lake, Lake Laberge 1, Moosehide Creek 2, North Slope, Stewart Crossing, Teslin Land, Teslin Post 13

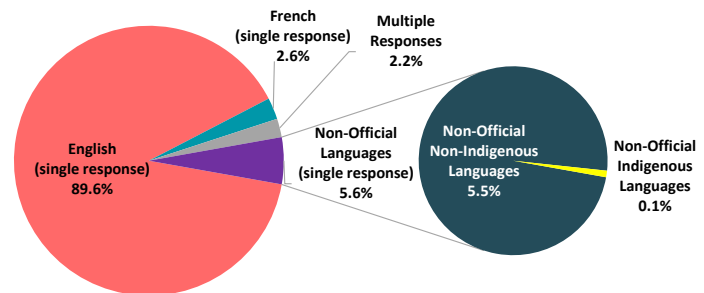
Language Spoken Most Often at Home

In 2021, almost all (97.8%) Yukoners (excluding institutional residents) reported speaking only one language at home: English (89.6%); French (2.6%); and non-official languages (5.6%), while 2.2% of Yukoners reported speaking multiple languages.

Nationally (single response), 63.8% of respondents reported speaking English most often at home; 19.2% reported French; and 12.7% reported a non-official language. An additional 4.3% of Canadians reported speaking more than one language at home.

Of the 885 Yukoners who reported speaking more than one language at home (multiple responses), 68.4% spoke English and a non-official language; 27.7% spoke both English and French; 2.3% spoke multiple non-official languages; and 1.1% spoke English, French and non-official languages.

Language Spoken Most Often at Home, Yukon, 2021

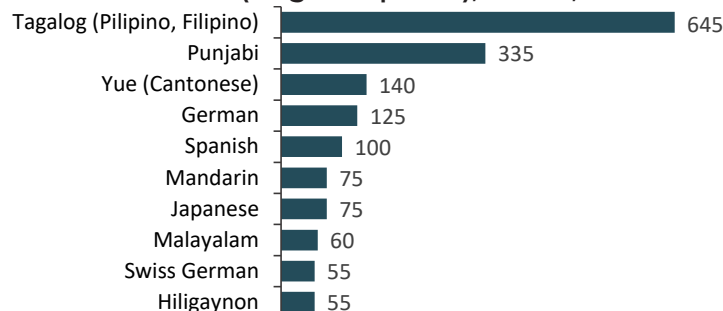


Compared to the 2016 census, the number of Yukoners who report speaking Punjabi most often at home increased 290 people, or 644.4%, while respondents who spoke Tagalog increased by 170 people, or 35.8%.

Of the 2,235 Yukoners who reported speaking only a non-official language at home (single response), the most commonly reported languages were:

- Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) at 28.9%;
- Punjabi at 15.0%;
- Yue (Cantonese) at 6.3%;
- German at 5.6%; and
- Spanish at 4.5%.

Most Common Non-Official Languages Spoken at Home (single response), Yukon, 2021



Census Information

About the Census

The census collects a wealth of information on the languages of people living in Canada. Census data on languages are used to measure the size, evolution and composition of language groups. These data are used most notably in implementing and administering a number of federal and provincial statutes, including the:

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982) - Canada
- Official Languages Act (1988) - Canada
- Official Languages Act - New Brunswick
- Charter of the French Language - Quebec.

In addition, census data on languages serve to study linguistic practices and the knowledge and use of official and non-official languages in Canada. Language data are also used by researchers, community groups, health-care providers, businesses and other organizations throughout the country to ensure equal opportunities for everyone. Data on language knowledge and use are important to consider when dealing with issues related to human resources policies, local education and training, the social and economic integration of newcomers, health promotion, and community programs and services.

In Canada, “official languages” refers to English and French. “Non-official languages” refers to all other languages.

Statistics Canada disseminates a wealth of data on languages. In addition to disseminating data on languages from the Census of Population, Statistics Canada publishes language data collected by the Indigenous Peoples Survey, the General Social Survey and other household surveys.

Many factors affect comparisons of language data across these sources. Among other factors, comparability is affected by differences in survey target populations, reference periods, sampling and collection methods, question wording, questionnaire format, examples and instructions, approaches to data processing, and the social and political climate at the time of data collection.

Concept and Definitions

Knowledge of official languages: refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in English only, French only, in both or in neither language. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home.

Language spoken most often at home: refers to the language the person speaks most often at home at the time of data collection. A person can report more than one language as “spoken most often at home” if the languages are spoken equally often.

For a person who lives alone, the language spoken most often at home is the language in which they feel most comfortable. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this is the language spoken most often to the child at home. Where more than one language is spoken to the child, the language spoken most often at home is the language spoken most often. If more than one language is spoken equally often to the child, then these languages are included here.

Mother tongue: refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data was collected. If the person no longer understands the first language learned, the mother tongue is the second language learned. For a person who learned more than one language at the same time in early childhood, the mother tongue is the language this person spoke most often at home before starting school. The person has more than one mother tongue only if they learned these languages at the same time, and still understands them. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, the mother tongue is the language spoken most often to this child at home. A child who has not yet learned to speak has more than one mother tongue only if these languages are spoken to them equally often so that the child learns these languages at the same time.

Knowledge of non-official languages: refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in a language other than English or French. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home. The number of languages that can be reported may vary between surveys, depending on the objectives of the survey.

October 2022