

Saskatchewan Language

2011 Census of Canada

LANGUAGE

In 2011 the vast majority of Saskatchewan residents, 84.5 percent, reported English as their mother tongue (the first language learned as a child and still understood), down from 85.1 percent in the 2006. French as a mother tongue was reported at 1.6 percent of Saskatchewan residents, down from 1.7 percent in 2006. Non-official languages made up 12.7 percent of reported mother tongues, up from 12.4 percent in 2006. Multiple mother tongues were responsible for the other 1.2 percent of responses, up from 0.8 percent in 2006.

Table 1: Top 25 Saskatchewan Mother Tongues

	2011
English	872,250
German	26,965
Cree	24,045
French	18,935
Ukranian	14,395
Tagalog	10,990
Dene	8,375
Chinese n.o.s	5,540
Urdu	3,610
Spanish	3,490
Russian	2,485
Arabic	2,240
Punjabi	2,210
Polish	2,035
Vietnamese	1,850
Cantonese	1,835
Hungarian	1,815
Dutch	1,625
Mandarin	1,460
Bengali	1,400
Korean	1,275
Persian	1,040
Ojibway	1,025
Hindi	980
Other	19,145

Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census of Population

Note: numbers may not add to population total due to multiple mother tongues.

CHANGE IN MOTHER TONGUE COMPOSITION

Rapid population growth, principally driven by immigration, has resulted in the rapid growth of many languages relatively new to the province. 70 different languages increased in prevalence, 16 of which are completely new to the province, having not been reported in the 2006 census. 36 languages saw declines.

Table 2: Top 10 Fastest Growing Mother Tongues Between 2006 and 2011

	Increase from 2006
English	53,170
Tagalog	8,560
Urdu	3,240
Hungarian	1,805
French	1,360
Panjabi	1,340
Benjali	1,200
Russian	1,020
Dene	985
Greek	880

Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census of Population

Table 3: Top 5 Fastest Declining Mother Tongues Between 2006 and 2011.

	Decrease from 2006
Ukranian	-2,900
German	-2,810
Estonian	-2,355
Cree	-2,110
Finnish	-880

Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census of Population

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BILINGUALISM

12,325 Saskatchewan residents report having multiple mother tongues. These are divided into three categories:

- English and non-official language, of which there are 9,845 people.
- English and French, of which there are 1,730 people.
- French and non-official language, of which there are 750 people.

KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The 2011 census added the question “can this person speak English or French well enough to carry on a conversation?”.

965,925 people in Saskatchewan report being able to only speak English, while only 430 people report being able to only speak French.

There are 46,570 people who report being able to carry on a conversation in both official languages.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Of the 34,055 people whom reported having an aboriginal language mother tongue in Saskatchewan over 95 percent are either Cree or Dene.

Of the 24,045 people with a mother tongue of Cree only 13,130 report it as being the language spoken most of the time at home.

Of the 8,375 people with a mother tongue of Dene only 6,415 report it as being the language spoken most of the time at home.

All data in this report are based on the 2011 Census of Canada. The Census population counts are not comparable to quarterly population estimates from the Statistics Canada Demography Division. Census population does not include net undercount (number of persons missed by the Census less the number of persons counted twice) and other adjustments made by Demography Division to the Census data. All data in this report are preliminary and subject to revision. For more details, contact the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics at (306) 787-6327 or visit www.stats.gov.sk.ca.