

Saskatchewan Language

2016 Census of Canada

LANGUAGE

In 2016 the vast majority of Saskatchewan residents, 82.4 percent, reported English as their mother tongue (the first language learned as a child and still understood), down from 82.5 percent in 2011. French as a mother tongue was reported by 1.4 percent of Saskatchewan residents, down from 1.6 percent in 2011. Non-official languages made up 14.5 percent of reported mother tongues, up from 12.7 percent in 2011. Multiple mother tongues were responsible for the other 1.7 percent of responses, up from 1.2 percent in 2011.

Table 1: Top 25 Saskatchewan Mother Tongues

Mother Tongue	2016
English	892,650
German	21,320
Tagalog	20,045
Cree	19,020
French	15,060
Ukrainian	11,265
Dene	7,855
Mandarin	7,230
Urdu	6,520
Punjabi	5,250
Spanish	4,290
Arabic	4,045
Cantonese	3,780
Russian	3,040
Bengali	2,800
Gujarati	2,510
Vietnamese	2,420
Polish	1,865
Korean	1,665
Cebuano	1,545
Hindi	1,545
Dutch	1,385
Persian	1,375
Hungarian	1,330
Other	43,430

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population

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

CHANGE IN MOTHER TONGUE COMPOSITION

Recent immigration from Asia has resulted in the rapid growth of many languages, while native languages and those primarily spoken by immigrants of past generations are in decline.

Table 2: Top 10 Fastest Growing Mother Tongues between 2011 and 2016

Mother Tongue	Increase from 2011
English	24,285
Tagalog	9,055
Punjabi	3,040
Urdu	2,910
Cantonese	1,945
Arabic	1,805
Hindi	1,530
Bengali	1,400
Spanish	800
Vietnamese	570

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population

Table 3: Top 5 Fastest Declining Mother Tongues between 2011 and 2016.

Mother Tongue	Decrease from 2011
German	-5,645
Cree	-5,025
French	-3,875
Ukrainian	-3,130
Dene	-520

Source: Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population

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BILINGUALISM

18,560 Saskatchewan residents report having multiple mother tongues. These are divided into four categories:

- English and non-official language, of which there are 15,925 people.
- English and French, of which there are 2,040 people.
- French and non-official language, of which there are 315 people.
- English, French and non-official language, of which there are 280 people.

All data in this report are based on the 2016 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.

KNOWLEDGE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The 2016 census added the question “can this person speak English or French well enough to carry on a conversation?” In Saskatchewan 1,023,400 people report being able to only speak English, while 525 people report being able to only speak French.

There are 51,365 people who report being able to carry on a conversation in both official languages.

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Of the 28,345 people whom reported having an aboriginal language mother tongue in Saskatchewan about 95 percent are either Cree or Dene.

Of the 19,020 people with a mother tongue of Cree only 6,890 report it as being the language spoken most of the time at home.

Of the 7,855 people with a mother tongue of Dene only 2,175 report it as being the language spoken most of the time at home.