

Region of Waterloo

CENSUS BULLETIN

FAST FACTS

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Population conducted by Statistics Canada. The most recent Census was conducted on May 10, 2011. The Census is designed to provide information about people and housing units in Canada.
- All Canadians are required to complete a Census form. All 2011 data for Language are based on this 100 per cent sample of the population. In the 2006 Census and earlier, mother tongue was the only Language question that was posed to the entire population; other language data was based on a 20 per cent sample of the population. Due to the change in collection methodology, there may be some inconsistencies in data between 2006 and 2011.
- In the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, 'Chinese Languages' were broken down into seven separate languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, Taiwanese, Chaochow (Teochow), Fukien and Shanghainese, as well as a residual category Chinese languages not otherwise specified (n.o.s). In this Bulletin, the term Chinese refers to the sum of all those languages listed above.

For more information on Census statistics please refer to Statistics Canada's website: www.statcan.gc.ca/census

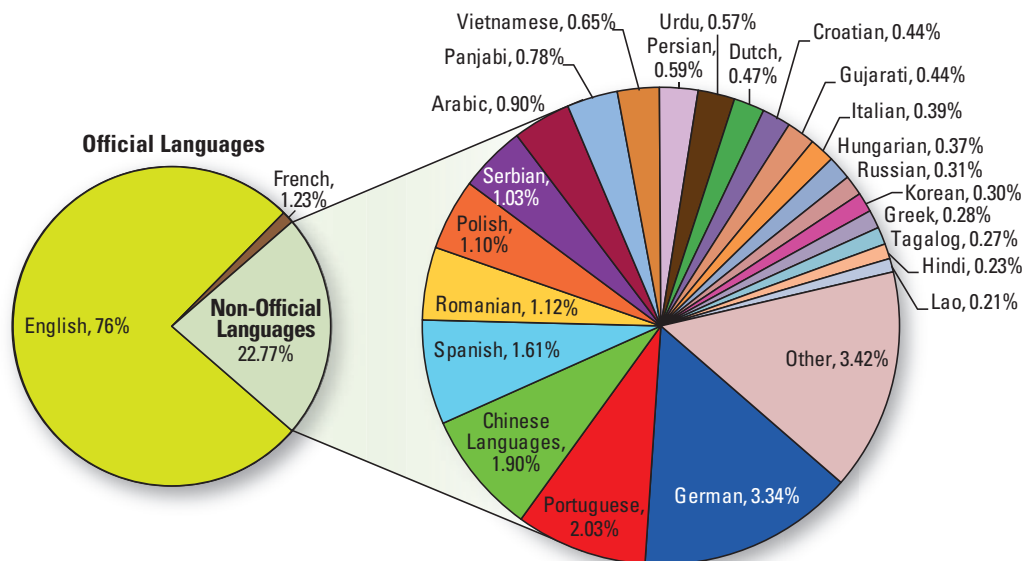
Language

Statistics from the 2011 Census for Waterloo Region

Mother tongue

English was the most prevalent mother tongue spoken in 2011, spoken by over three quarters of the Region's population. However, there were 112,495 people whose mother tongue was a non-official language, an increase of 5 per cent from 106,855 people in 2006. Non-official languages are languages other than Canada's two official languages, English and French. Figure 1 shows the 2011 proportion of official languages to non-official languages.

Figure 1: Waterloo Region's single responses to mother tongue, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Division

The percent increase for non-official language mother tongues was about the same as the 5.7 per cent increase for English mother tongues. However, the number of people with a French mother tongue decreased by 1 per cent, which is in contrast to a 5 per cent increase between 2001 and 2006. The percentage of the population in Waterloo Region whose mother tongue was neither English nor French was higher than the percentage across Canada, but lower than the percentage in Ontario as indicated in Table 1.



Table 1: Waterloo Region population distribution by mother tongue, 2011

Language	Waterloo Region Count	Waterloo Region per cent distribution	Ontario per cent distribution	Canada per cent distribution
Single responses	494,100	98.5		
English	375,515	74.8	68.2	56.9
French	6,090	1.2	3.9	21.3
Non-official languages	112,495	22.4	25.7	19.8
Multiple responses	7,700	1.5		
English and French	1,025	0.2	0.4	0.4
English and non-official language	6,280	1.3	1.7	1.2
French and non-official language	230	0.0	0.1	0.2
English, French and non-official language	160	0.0	0.1	0.1



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Division

Listed in Table 2 are the top 25 mother tongue languages in Waterloo Region as of 2011. English remains the predominant mother tongue. German has a strong historical presence in the Region and despite dropping by 12 per cent from 2006, remains the second most common mother tongue while Portuguese remains third. Chinese languages, comprised mostly of Mandarin and Cantonese, remained fourth. From 2001 to 2006, Arabic saw the greatest increase, growing by 38 per cent, while Greek saw the largest decrease, shrinking by 19 per cent.

Languages spoken at home

Waterloo Region's diversity can be seen through the number of people who speak a language other than English or French at home. The largest increases in home language were in non-official languages. From 2006 to 2011, there was a reported 5 per cent increase in this category as compared to a 4 per cent increase in English. This was a moderate increase compared to the 20 per cent increase in non-official languages from 2001 to 2006.

As of 2011, almost one in every eight residents in Waterloo Region spoke neither English nor French at home as indicated in Table 3. The three cities were comparable to the Regional average and had similar proportions of their populations speaking a non-official language. North Dumfries and Wilmot had very small percentages of non-English speaking citizens, while as a result of the large Mennonite and Amish population, there were higher percentages of residents who speak a non-official language in Wellesley and Woolwich.

Table 2: Waterloo Region's top 25 single mother tongue languages, 2011

2011 rank	Language	Waterloo Region population	Per cent growth 2006 - 2011	2006 rank
1	English	375,515	6	1
2	German	16,515	-12	2
3	Portuguese	10,020	-11	3
4	Chinese Languages	9,380	23	4
5	Spanish	7,975	15	5
6	French	6,090	-1	6
7	Romanian	5,555	13	8
8	Polish	5,445	-12	7
9	Serbian	5,080	12	9
10	Arabic	4,425	38	11
11	Punjabi	3,870	22	12
12	Vietnamese	3,190	-1	10
13	Persian	2,930	11	14
14	Urdu	2,800	27	17
15	Dutch	2,345	-17	13
16	Croatian	2,195	-10	15
17	Gujarati	2,165	36	20
18	Italian	1,930	-16	16
19	Hungarian	1,825	-5	18
20	Russian	1,545	25	22
21	Korean	1,495	14	21
22	Greek	1,400	-19	19
23	Tagalog	1,330	19	23
24	Hindi	1,150	7	24
25	Lao	1,030	4	25

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Division



Table 3: Languages most often spoken at home by municipality, 2011

Name	English		French		Non-Official Language		English and Non-Official Language	
	Count	per cent of total	Count	per cent of total	Count	per cent of total	Count	per cent of total
Waterloo Region	423,620	84.4	1,725	0.3	59,620	11.9	15,880	3.2
Cambridge	110,780	88.2	435	0.3	10,540	8.4	3,640	2.9
Kitchener	175,985	81.3	795	0.4	30,570	14.1	8,565	4.0
North Dumfries	9,000	96.6	25	0.3	190	2.0	95	1.0
Waterloo	82,100	83.8	365	0.4	12,325	12.6	2,985	3.0
Wellesley	7,525	70.2	15	0.1	3,035	28.3	135	1.3
Wilmot	18,320	96.4	35	0.2	420	2.2	205	1.1
Woolwich	19,915	87.4	50	0.2	2,545	11.2	255	1.1

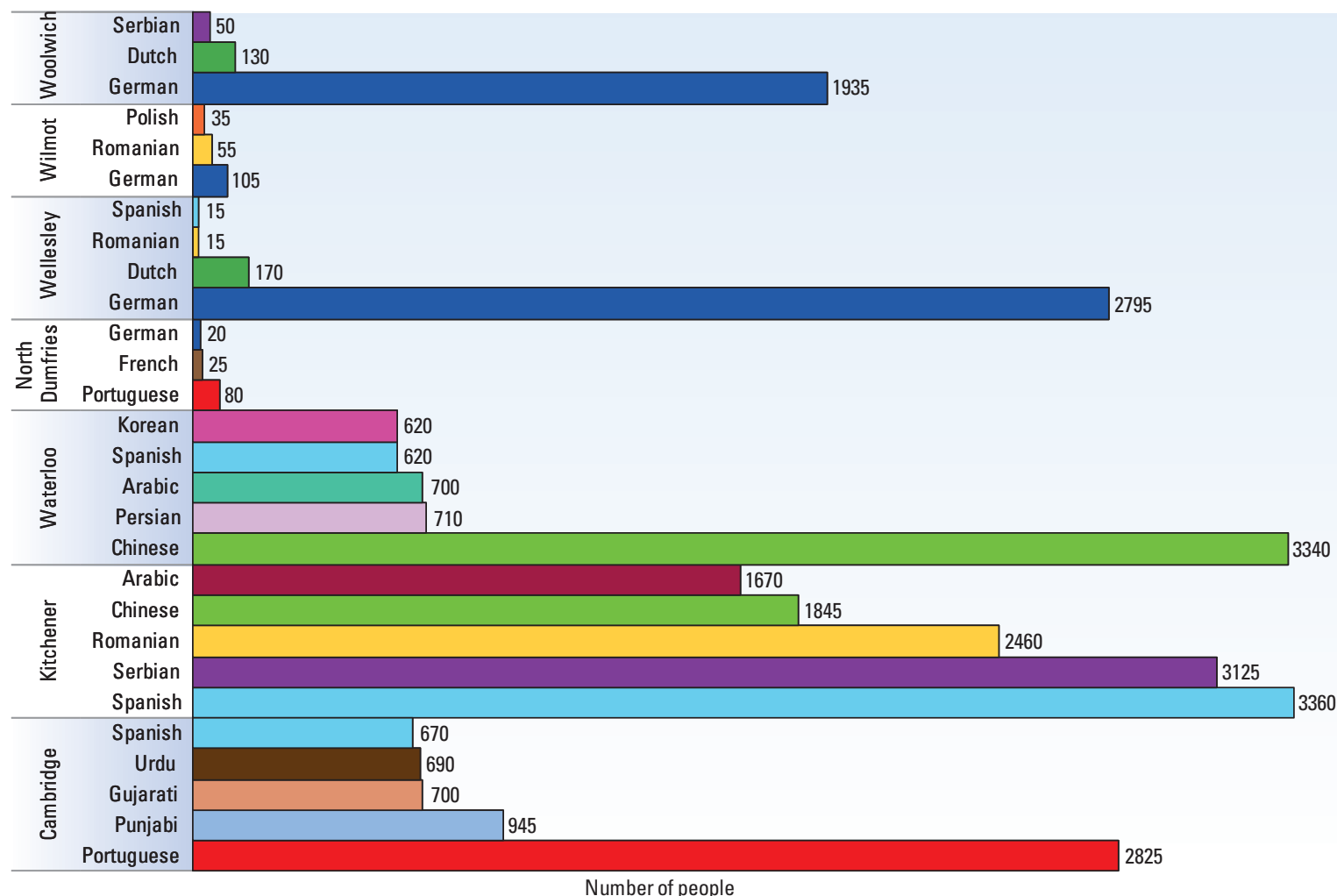


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Subdivision

Languages most often spoken at home rank differently than the most commonly spoken mother tongues in the Region. Listed in Figure 2 are the top languages in each municipality most often spoken at home (other than

English). German dominates across the townships, while in the cities, a variety of languages were present. With 14 different languages being shown (including English), the diversity of Waterloo Region is apparent.

Figure 2: Waterloo Region's top languages most often spoken at home (other than English) by municipality, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2011 by Census Subdivision

Knowledge of official languages

Waterloo Region's knowledge of English and French remained high. In total, 98.4 per cent of the Region's population had knowledge of at least one of Canada's two official languages. Among those, 92.1 per cent knew English only. Knowledge of these languages has remained consistent since 2001. While French was the mother tongue of 1.2 per cent of the population, the Census showed that 6.3 per cent of the Region's population had some knowledge of the French language.



Mother tongue – “Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.”

Home language – “Refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.”

Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary, 2011

How to source:

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo. *Languages Census Bulletin*. 2011 Census Bulletin Series. Kitchener, Ontario. Fall 2012.



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www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/doingbusiness/census.asp

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