

Languages Hot Facts

Languages in Richmond

Comparing 2001 and 2006 Census Results - Mother Tongue¹

Mother Tongue	2001 Census	2006 Census	% Change
English	72,510	67,040	-7.5%
Cantonese	25,935	28,545	10.1%
Chinese, n.o.s.	21,675	23,230	7.2%
Mandarin	9,460	13,400	41.6%
Panjabi (Punjabi)	4,485	6,775	51.1%
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	4,600	6,010	30.7%
German	2,010	2,015	0.2%
Spanish	1,640	1,840	12.2%
Japanese	1,870	1,810	-3.2%
Russian	1,350	1,705	26.3%
Hindi	1,145	1,170	2.2%
Persian (Farsi)	910	1,105	21.4%
Korean	765	1,105	42.5%
Taiwanese	n/a	880	n/a
Arabic	795	855	7.5%
Urdu	500	685	37.0%
Gujarati	480	680	41.7%
Vietnamese	700	675	-3.6%
Dutch	730	525	-28.1%
Polish	535	520	-2.8%
Italian	410	425	3.7%
Other Languages	10,890	12,590	15.6%
Total Population	163,395	173,570	6.2%

Mother tongue is defined as the first language learned by the individual and still understood at the time of the Census (if two languages were spoken equally then this figure was captured also).

Ninety-eight percent of Richmond residents identified one language as their mother tongue while 2% of the population indicated that they spoke more than one language as their mother tongue.

In Richmond, 38.6% of residents indicated English as their mother tongue, 37.5% indicated Chinese, 3.9% indicated Punjabi and 3.5% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino).

***Note: The 2001 category 'Chinese*' separates 'Mandarin', 'Cantonese' and 'Hakka'.*

¹ Source: Statistics Canada, 2006, Semi-custom Profile for the Planning Areas, CR00102326, July 16, 2008. The data are unadjusted and do not include undercounts for either Census. The undercount estimates for each Census year are 3.86% in 2001 and 4.7% in 2006. Percentage change estimates provided by the City of Richmond.

Comparing 2001 and 2006 Census Results - Language Spoken Most Often at Home²

Mother Tongue	2001 Census	2006 Census	% Change
English	79,220	92,130	16.3%
Cantonese	16,580	26,235	58.2%
Chinese, n.o.s.	9,770	18,455	88.9%
Mandarin	5,435	11,975	120.3%
Panjabi (Punjabi)	1,615	3,925	143.0%
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	535	3,065	472.9%
Russian	565	1,415	150.4%
Spanish	360	1,035	187.5%
Japanese	655	1,010	54.2%
Korean	400	820	105.0%
Persian (Farsi)	545	800	46.8%
Arabic	245	495	102.0%
Hindi	335	490	46.3%
Urdu	210	380	81.0%
Vietnamese	325	340	4.6%
Taiwanese	--	305	--
Gujarati	80	290	262.5%
Bisayan Languages	--	280	--
German	--	230	--
Turkish	--	225	--
Croatian	45	210	366.7%
Other Languages	46,475	9,455	-79.7%
Total Population	163,395	173,570	6.2%

Home Language represents the language spoken most often at home.

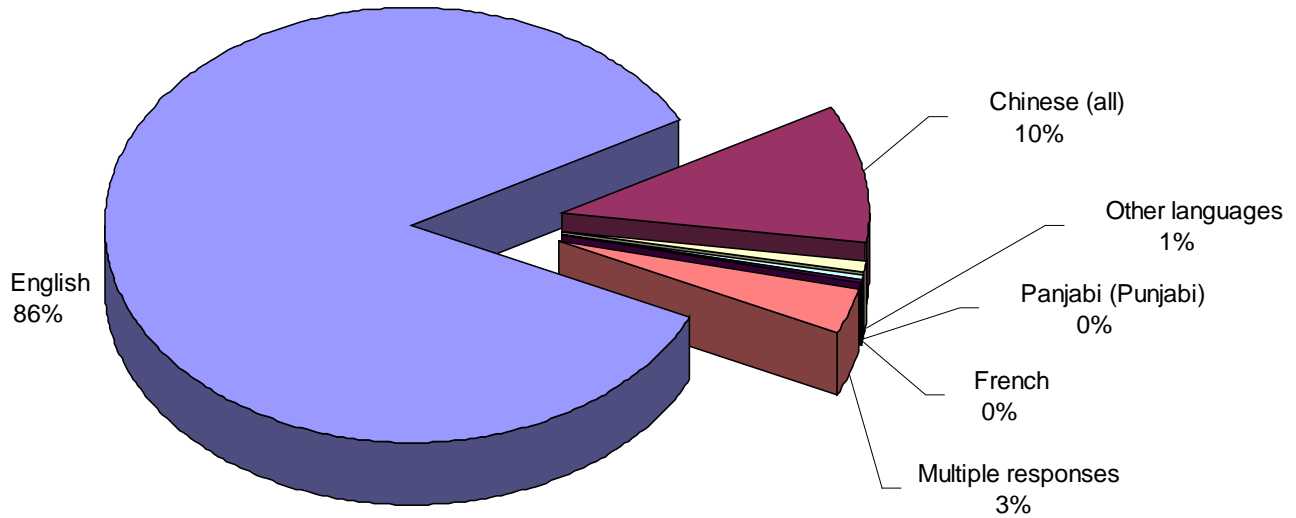
Just under ninety-seven percent of residents reported speaking only one language at home and 3.4% of the population reported speaking more than one language at home.

Language at Work

Ninety-seven percent of Richmond residents speak only one language at work and 3% of the population speak more than one language at work.

² Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Semi-custom Profile for the Planning Areas, CR00102326, July 16, 2008. The data are unadjusted and do not include undercounts from either Census. The undercount estimates for each Census year are 3.86% in 2001 and 4.7% in 2006. Percentage change estimates provided by City of Richmond.

Language Used Most Often at Work (2006 Census)



Eighty-five percent of Richmond residents speak English at work. The remaining 15% speak other languages or more than one language including English at the work place.

Note: Chinese (All) includes 'Mandarin', 'Cantonese' and 'Hakka'. The percentages shown in the above chart have been rounded to the nearest percentage.

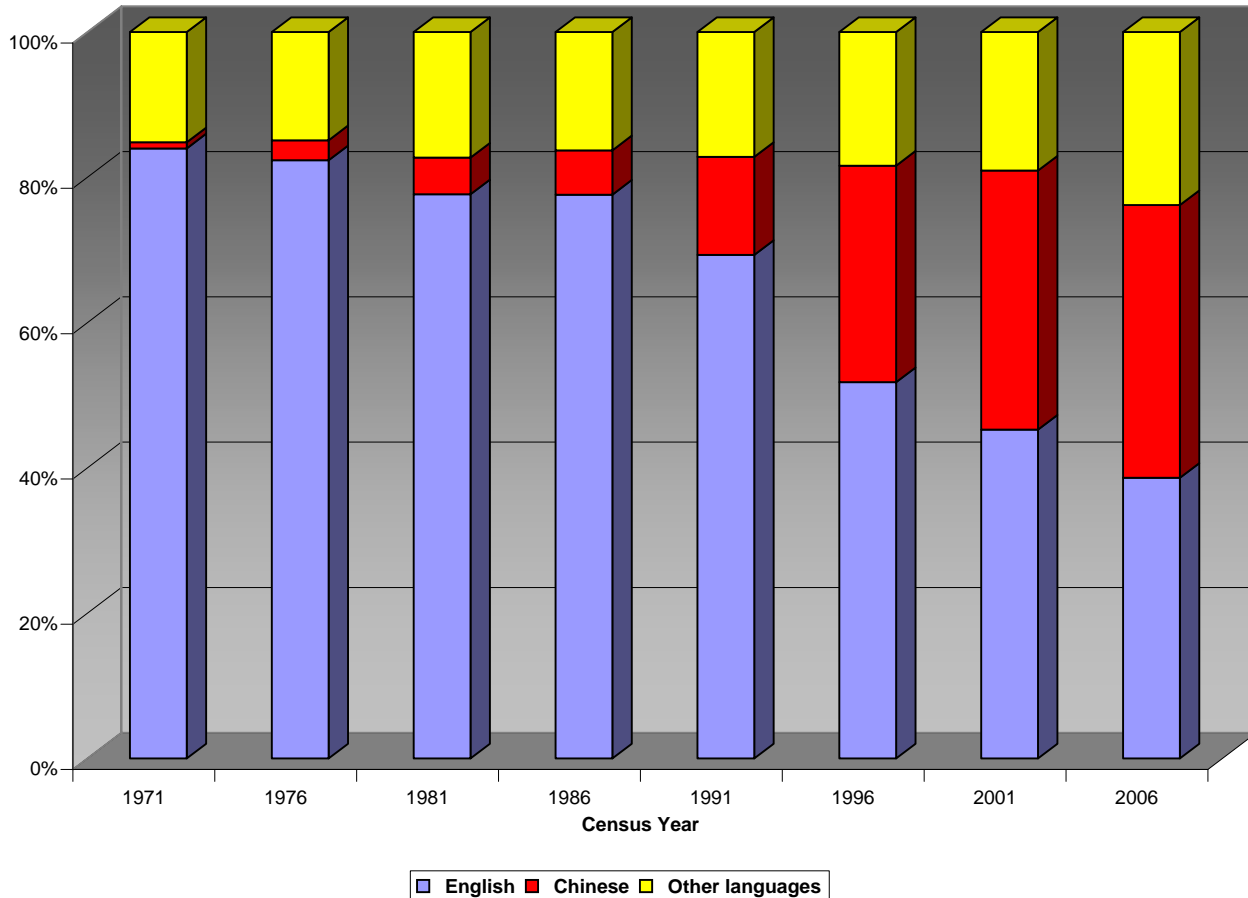
Home Language by Planning Area

Planning Area	Home Language						
	English	Cantonese	Chinese, n.o.s.	Mandarin	Panjabi (Punjabi)	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	Other Languages
Blundell	49.9%	18.1%	12.6%	9.0%	1.1%	1.3%	8.8%
Bridgeport	41.6%	18.2%	4.8%	0.8%	9.7%	3.0%	21.9%
Broadmoor	50.4%	13.4%	11.3%	11.3%	1.7%	1.3%	10.6%
City Centre	38.6%	20.3%	17.0%	11.1%	0.4%	1.7%	10.9%
East Cambie	42.4%	18.9%	9.1%	1.6%	11.3%	4.5%	12.1%
East Richmond/Fraser Lands	72.3%	2.2%	3.8%	3.5%	11.3%	1.2%	5.7%
Gilmore	91.0%	4.5%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Hamilton	66.3%	10.5%	7.3%	2.4%	1.5%	0.7%	11.2%
Sea Island	92.2%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Seafair	66.6%	9.6%	8.1%	3.6%	0.9%	1.2%	10.0%
Shellmont	65.7%	5.1%	5.8%	1.3%	7.5%	3.2%	11.3%
Steveston	73.4%	10.3%	4.1%	2.6%	0.2%	1.4%	8.0%
Thompson	50.2%	18.1%	11.4%	7.9%	0.8%	0.9%	10.6%
West Cambie	33.7%	27.0%	14.3%	8.3%	3.0%	3.3%	10.4%
Richmond CY	53.1%	15.1%	10.6%	6.9%	2.3%	1.8%	10.2%

How has Richmond changed over time?

The percentage of residents who claimed English as their mother tongue has declined from 44.4% in 2001 to 38.6% in 2006.

Percentage of Population by Mother Tongue (2006 Census)



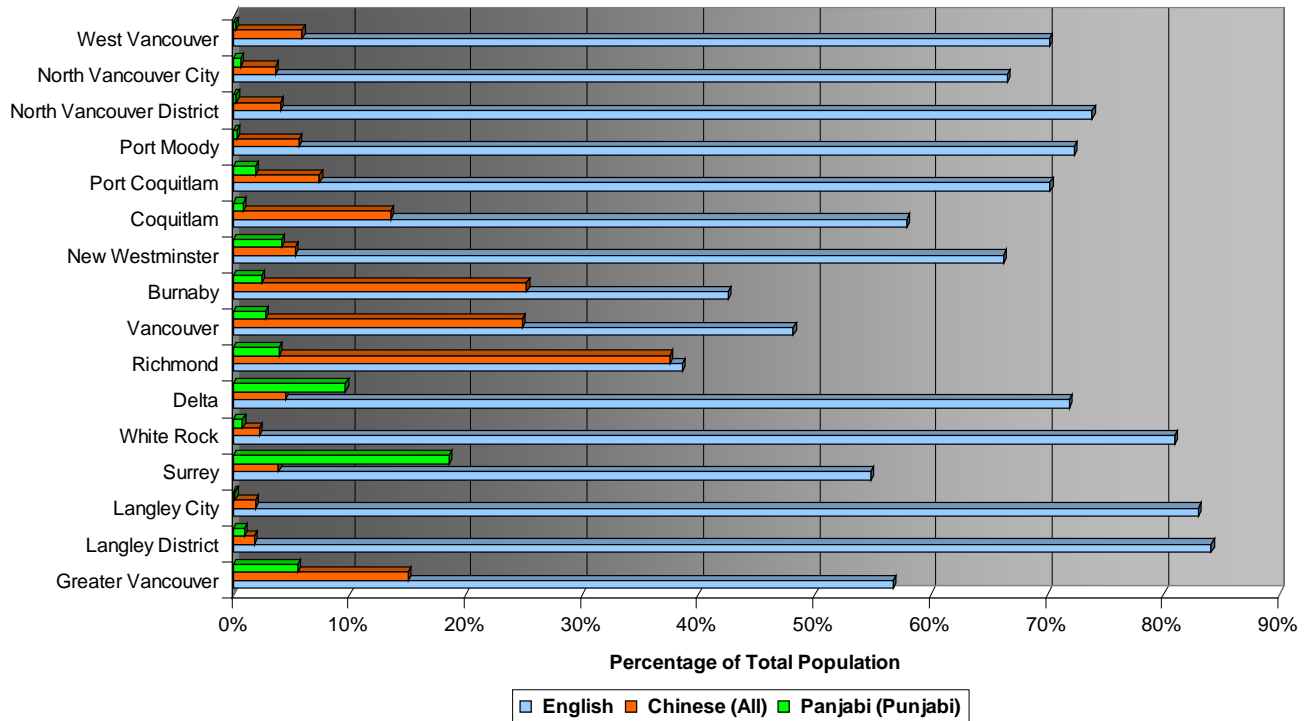
In 2006, English (38.6%) is the most common mother tongue followed by Total Chinese Group* (37.5%) and Punjabi (3.9%).

The percentage of Richmond residents who speak English at home has apparently risen since the 2001 Census. In 2001, 48.5% used English at home, 19.5% used Chinese and 1% used Punjabi. In 2006, 53.1% used English at home, 32.6% used Chinese and 2.3% used Punjabi.

How does Richmond Compare?

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue and home language and likewise, the smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue and home language compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. This is an indication that Richmond residents are the most diverse in their mother tongue and home language in the Lower Mainland.

Regional Comparison: Mother Tongue - Percentage of Total Population



Summary

Almost 39% of Richmond residents indicated English as their mother tongue, nearly 38% indicated Chinese, just under 4% indicated Punjabi and 3% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino).

In the 2006 Census, over 53% of Richmond residents speak English at home, just under 33% speak Chinese and just over 2% speak Punjabi.

Eighty-five percent of Richmond residents speak English at work, 10% Chinese and 3.4% speak more than one language.

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue (37.6%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In Greater Vancouver, the percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue is 15%. Likewise, Richmond residents have smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue (38.6%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In the Greater Vancouver area, the percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue is 56.7%.

For Further Information:

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