

Languages Hot Facts

Introduction

This Hot Facts issue examines:

- mother tongue of Richmond residents;
- Richmond's languages spoken most often at home;
- Richmond's most common mother tongue languages compared to all other Metro Vancouver municipalities.

Languages in Richmond

Comparing 2011 and 2016 Census Results – Mother Tongue

Mother Tongue	2011 Census	% of Total	2016 Census	% of Total	% Change
English	69,460	36.6%	65,350	33.1%	-5.9%
Cantonese	30,170	15.9%	43,295	21.9%	43.5%
Mandarin	20,680	10.9%	39,450	20.0%	90.8%
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	7,305	3.9%	7,780	3.9%	6.5%
Punjabi (Panjabi)	5,795	3.1%	5,250	2.7%	-9.4%
Min Nan (Chaochow; Teochow; Fukien; Taiwanese)	1,745	0.9%	2,505	1.3%	43.6%
Japanese	2,075	1.1%	2,155	1.1%	3.9%
Russian	2,140	1.1%	2,030	1.0%	-5.1%
Spanish	1,875	1.0%	1,805	0.9%	-3.7%
Chinese languages; n.o.s.	24,670	13.0%	1,440	0.7%	-94.2%
German	1,595	0.8%	1,305	0.7%	-18.2%
Wu (Shanghainese)	350	0.2%	1,220	0.6%	248.6%
Arabic	965	0.5%	1,205	0.6%	24.9%
Korean	890	0.5%	1,115	0.6%	25.3%
Hindi	1,095	0.6%	1,100	0.6%	0.5%
Persian (Farsi)	1,175	0.6%	1,020	0.5%	-13.2%
French	1,115	0.6%	1,015	0.5%	-9.0%
Urdu	870	0.5%	850	0.4%	n/a
Vietnamese	775	0.4%	795	0.4%	2.6%
Gujarati	615	0.3%	560	0.3%	-8.9%
Portuguese	330	0.2%	390	0.2%	18.2%
Other Languages	14,050	7.4%	15,620	7.9%	11.2%
Total Population	189,740		197,255		4.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census.

Mother tongue is defined as the first language learned at home 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-six percent of Richmond residents identified one language as their mother tongue while 4% of the population indicated that they spoke more than one language as their mother tongue.

In Richmond, 44.8% indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 33.1% indicated English, 3.9% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino) and 2.7% indicated Panjabi (Punjabi).

Note: Chinese languages include Cantonese, Hakka, Mandarin, Min Dong, Min Nan, Wu, Chinese, not otherwise specified, and Chinese not included elsewhere.

Comparing 2011 and 2016 Census Results – Language Spoken Most Often at Home

Mother Tongue	2011 Census	% of Total	2016 Census	% of Total	% Change
English	93,715	49.4%	90,050	45.7%	-3.9%
Cantonese	26,550	14.0%	34,790	17.6%	31.0%
Mandarin	17,920	9.4%	32,660	16.6%	82.3%
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	3,305	1.7%	3,665	1.9%	10.9%
Panjabi (Punjabi)	3,630	1.9%	2,900	1.5%	-20.1%
Russian	1,495	0.8%	1,380	0.7%	-7.7%
Min Nan (Chaochow; Teochow; Fukien; Taiwanese)	865	0.5%	1,130	0.6%	30.6%
Japanese	1,140	0.6%	1,095	0.6%	-3.9%
Spanish	970	0.5%	1,005	0.5%	3.6%
Chinese languages; n.o.s.	17,685	9.3%	965	0.5%	-94.5%
Arabic	640	0.3%	715	0.4%	11.7%
Wu (Shanghainese)	140	0.1%	695	0.4%	396.4%
Korean	600	0.3%	660	0.3%	10.0%
Persian (Farsi)	745	0.4%	595	0.3%	-20.1%
Urdu	480	0.3%	455	0.2%	-5.2%
Vietnamese	405	0.2%	400	0.2%	-1.2%
Hindi	455	0.2%	385	0.2%	n/a
French	370	0.2%	340	0.2%	-8.1%
Gujarati	295	0.2%	250	0.1%	-15.3%
Portuguese	130	0.1%	175	0.1%	34.6%
Turkish	245	0.1%	175	0.1%	-28.6%
German	185	0.1%	160	0.1%	-13.5%
Other Languages	17,775	9.4%	22,610	11.5%	27.2%
Total Population	189,740		197,255		4.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census.

Home Language represents the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home.

Ninety percent of residents reported speaking only one language at home and 10% of the population reported speaking more than one language at home.

Home Language by Planning Area, 2016

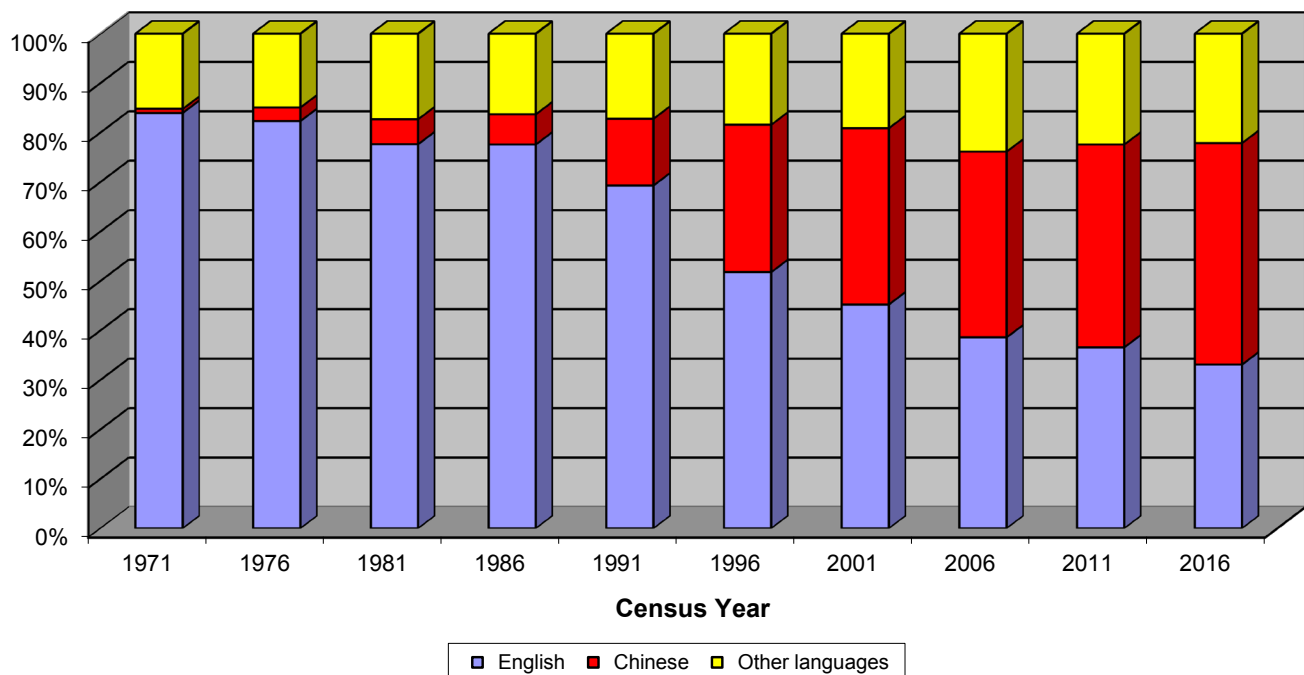
Planning Area	Home Language						
	English	Cantonese	Mandarin	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	Punjabi (Panjabi)	Russian	Other Languages
Blundell	40.0%	20.9%	20.8%	1.5%	0.7%	0.7%	15.5%
Bridgeport	46.0%	18.6%	7.1%	3.5%	3.6%	0.0%	21.1%
Broadmoor	43.9%	15.9%	20.4%	1.7%	1.5%	0.8%	15.9%
City Centre	33.1%	20.9%	24.5%	2.4%	0.2%	1.1%	17.8%
East Cambie	41.9%	18.9%	5.2%	3.4%	7.4%	0.3%	22.9%
East Richmond	56.8%	7.1%	9.6%	0.3%	8.6%	0.2%	17.4%
Fraser Lands	74.0%	7.8%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%
Gilmore	78.8%	2.9%	10.6%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	5.8%
Hamilton	57.9%	13.7%	4.3%	3.9%	2.3%	0.2%	17.7%
Sea Island	93.2%	0.6%	1.2%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
Seafair	53.5%	14.4%	15.2%	1.6%	0.8%	0.5%	14.0%
Shellmont	55.4%	12.0%	7.2%	1.9%	6.0%	0.4%	17.0%
Steveston	71.2%	9.7%	6.9%	0.8%	0.1%	0.8%	10.4%
Thompson	41.9%	19.3%	21.2%	1.2%	0.7%	0.5%	15.2%
West Cambie	33.1%	33.3%	13.7%	1.6%	0.6%	0.2%	17.5%
Richmond CY	45.6%	17.6%	16.6%	1.9%	1.5%	0.7%	16.1%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census.

How has Richmond changed over time?

The percentage of residents who claimed English only as their mother tongue has declined from 36.6% in 2011 to 33.1% in 2016.

Percentage of Population by Mother Tongue (2016 Census)



In 2016, the Total Chinese Group (44.8%) is the most common mother tongue followed by English (33.1%) and Tagalog (Pilipino) (3.9%).

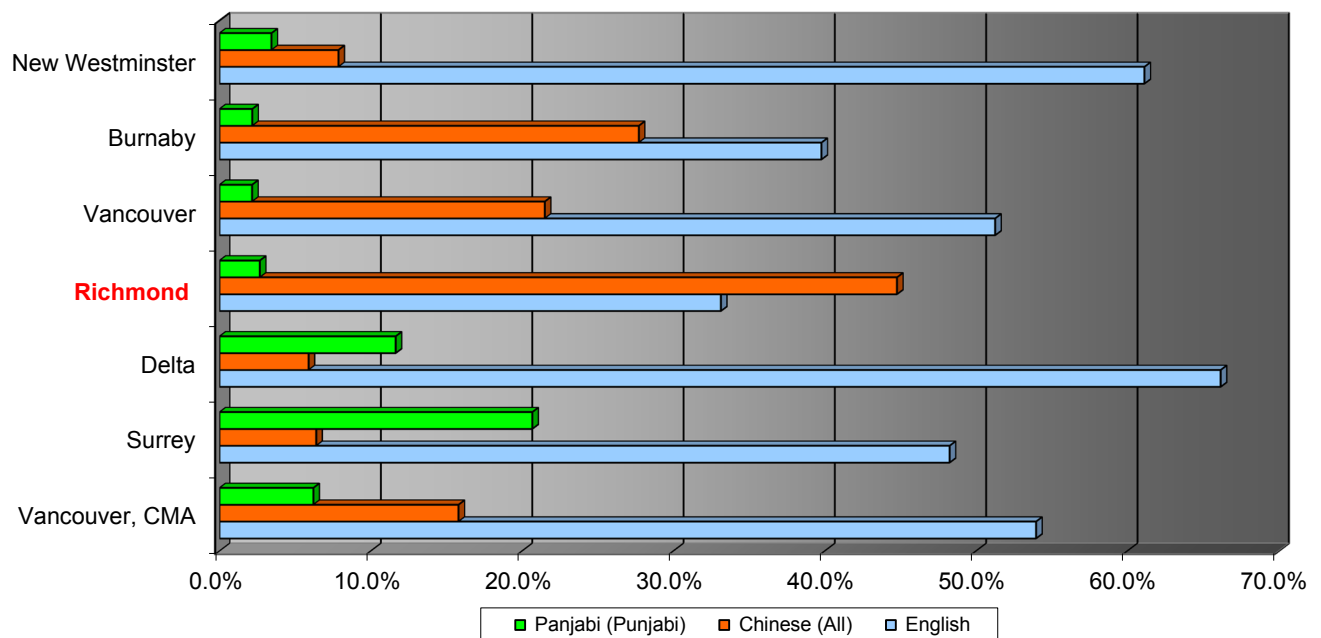
The percentage of Richmond residents who speak English at home has decreased since the 2011 Census. In 2011, 49.3% used English at home, 33.3% used Chinese and 2% used (Panjabi) Punjabi. In 2016, 45.7% used English at home, 35.7% used Chinese and 1.5% used (Panjabi) Punjabi.

Note: Chinese languages include Cantonese, Hakka, Mandarin, Min Dong, Min Nan, Wu, Chinese, not otherwise specified, and Chinese not included elsewhere.

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 (2016 Census)



Summary

Almost 45% of Richmond residents indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 33% indicated English, just under 4% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino) and 3% indicated Panjabi (Punjabi).

In the 2016 Census, 46% of Richmond residents speak English at home, 36% speak Chinese and nearly 2% speak Panjabi (Punjabi).

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue (45%) compared to other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. In Greater Vancouver, the percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue is 16%. Likewise, Richmond residents have smallest percentage of residents who claim English as their mother tongue (33.1%) 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 54.0%.

For Further Information:

Please contact the Policy Planning Department at 604-276-4116 or communityplanning@richmond.ca.

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