

CENSUS 2001 BULLETIN

Home Language Composition

This bulletin examines home language and knowledge of official language data from the 2001 Census for Peel and its area municipalities. The Census provides information on both mother tongue¹ and home language². Home language was selected for this bulletin because of its more direct implications for the delivery of services to residents of Peel.

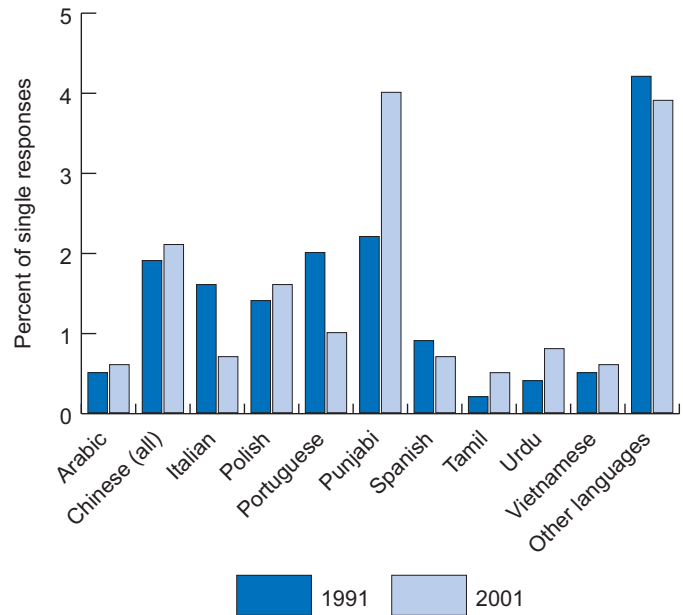
In 2001, 226,965 Peel respondents reported speaking multiple languages at home, representing 23.0% of the total population. In 1991, the number of multiple responses was only 24,445, or 3.3% of the total population. This large increase in multiple responses can be attributed, in part, to a change in 2001 to the Census questionnaire in regards to home language³.

Of the 758,600 home language single responses in 2001, 83.3% of the people listed English as their home language. French as a home language was identified by only 0.3% of the population.

The number of people in Peel that reported non-official home languages rose to 16.4% from 15.9% in 1991. In 2001, the second largest home language was Punjabi, accounting for 30,445 people. The third largest home language spoken in Peel in 2001 was Chinese, representing 15,560 Peel residents, followed by Polish (12,000) and Portuguese (7,300).

This trend in Peel over the last decade is consistent with what has occurred across the entire GTA as language groups from Asia and the Middle East have recorded some of the largest gains in reported home language in the GTA.

Top Non-Official Home Languages in Peel
Single Responses, 1991 & 2001



- 1 Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
- 2 The language spoken most often at home.
- 3 A more comprehensive question was introduced in 2001 enabling respondents to identify more than one language spoken at home to better reflect home language behaviour. This has implications for comparing the single response data from 1991 and 2001, as some of the change will be the result of movement of people from single response categories into multiple response categories. These shifts likely do not affect all languages equally.

Home Languages in Peel, 1991 & 2001

	1991			2001		
	#	Single Responses %	Rank	#	Single Responses %	Rank
Total population by home language	732,798			985,565		
Multiple responses	24,445			226,965		
Single responses	705,205			758,600		
English	589,310	83.6%	1	632,155	83.3%	1
French	3,735	0.5%	8	2,300	0.3%	12
Non-official languages	112,160	15.9%		124,145	16.4%	
Arabic	3,680	0.5%	9	4,430	0.6%	10
Chinese*	13,435	1.9%	4	15,560	2.1%	3
Italian	11,290	1.6%	5	4,985	0.7%	8
Polish	9,930	1.4%	6	12,000	1.6%	4
Portuguese	14,270	2.0%	3	7,300	1.0%	5
Punjabi	15,475	2.2%	2	30,445	4.0%	2
Spanish	6,195	0.9%	7	5,000	0.7%	7
Tamil	1,645	0.2%	12	4,105	0.5%	11
Urdu	2,625	0.4%	11	6,080	0.8%	6
Vietnamese	3,555	0.5%	10	4,665	0.6%	9
Other languages	29,925	4.2%		29,585	3.9%	

* includes Chinese, Mandarin, Cantonese and Hakka

CENSUS 2001 BULLETIN: Home Language Composition

January, 2003

Area Municipal Distinctions:

Among the area municipalities, Mississauga had the largest share of people speaking a language other than English at home (19.0%). The top four reported home languages in 2001 in Mississauga were English, Chinese, Punjabi and Polish - an order that has not changed in the last decade.

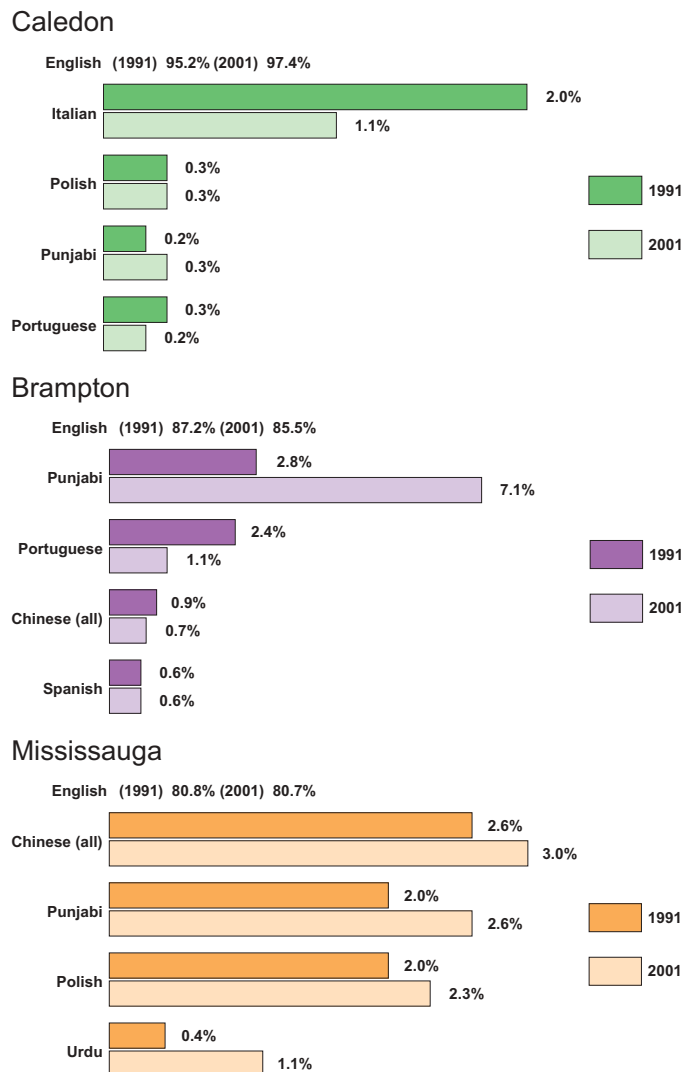
In Brampton, 37,145 people, or 14.2% of the population, spoke a non-official language at home in 2001, up from 12.3% in 1991. Punjabi was the second most common home language after English in 1991 and it was substantially more prominent in 2001, accounting for almost half of the non-English speaking population. Portuguese remained in third place, although the number of people speaking Portuguese declined.

Caledon experienced a decline in the number of people speaking non-official home languages in the last decade. Between 1991 and 2001, the percentage of non-official languages spoken at home fell from 4.7% to 2.6% of the responses. English was spoken at home in Caledon in 2001 by 97.4% of the population. Italian remained in second place (1.1%), followed by Polish in third (0.3%).

Overall Trends Between 1991 and 2001:

- The percent of the population speaking a language other than English at home has grown in all parts of the Region except Caledon.
- Growth among non-official home languages in Peel has been greatest in language groups from Asia, with Punjabi leading the way.

Top 5 Home Languages in Area Municipalities 1991 & 2001



Home Languages in Area Municipalities, 2001

	Caledon			Brampton			Mississauga		
	#	Single Responses %	Rank	#	Single Responses %	Rank	#	Single Responses %	Rank
Total population by home language	50,360			324,390			610,815		
Multiple responses	5,060			63,135			158,765		
Single responses	45,300			261,255			452,050		
English	44,105	97.4%	1	223,375	85.5%	1	364,675	80.7%	1
French	10	0.0%	14	735	0.3%	14	1,560	0.3%	15
Non-official languages	1,185	2.6%		37,145	14.2%		85,820	19.0%	
Arabic	10	0.0%	14	400	0.2%	15	4,015	0.9%	7
Chinese*	50	0.1%	7	1,730	0.7%	4	13,785	3.0%	2
Italian	485	1.1%	2	1,300	0.5%	7	3,200	0.7%	11
Polish	145	0.3%	3	1,305	0.5%	6	10,545	2.3%	4
Portuguese	110	0.2%	5	2,915	1.1%	3	4,275	0.9%	6
Punjabi	135	0.3%	4	18,435	7.1%	2	11,875	2.6%	3
Spanish	35	0.1%	8	1,505	0.6%	5	3,460	0.8%	9
Tamil	0	0.0%		805	0.3%	12	3,300	0.7%	10
Urdu	0	0.0%		1,280	0.5%	8	4,795	1.1%	5
Vietnamese	0	0.0%		850	0.3%	11	3,815	0.8%	8
Other languages	215	0.5%		6,595	2.5%		22,710	5.0%	

* includes Chinese, Mandarin, Cantonese and Hakka

Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

Produced by The Region of Peel Planning Department

Visit us at: www.region.peel.on.ca/planning