



CENSUS BULLETIN

FAST FACTS

- The term Census in this document refers to the Census of Canada conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. The most recent Census was conducted on May 16, 2006. "The Census is designed to provide information about people and housing units in Canada by their demographic, social and economic characteristics."
- Mother tongue is the only Language question that was posed to the entire population. Mother tongue counts are based on this 100% sample of the population.
- One in five Canadian households completes a Census long form, consisting of more detailed questions. Language (excluding mother tongue) counts are based on this 20% sample of the population.
- In the 2006 Census, '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: <http://www.statscan.ca>

Language

Statistics from the 2006 Census for Waterloo Region

Mother Tongue

Waterloo Region is a mosaic of languages and the diversity continues to grow. While English is the most prevalent *mother tongue* spoken by three quarters of the population, in 2006 there were 106,855 people whose mother tongue was a non-official language, an increase of 21% from 88,495 people in 2001. Non-official languages are languages other than Canada's two official languages, English and French. The percent increase for non-official language mother tongues was higher than the 6% and 5% increase for English and French mother tongues respectively. Waterloo Region is seventh among all Ontario census divisions in terms of the percentage of people whose mother tongue is a non-official language. The percentage of the population in Waterloo Region whose mother tongue is neither English nor French is higher than the portion across Canada, but lower than the percentage in Ontario as indicated in Table 1. The City of Toronto had the highest rate of non-English mother tongues at 46.9%.

Table 1: Waterloo Region Population Distribution by Mother Tongue, 2006

Language	Waterloo Region		Ontario	Canada
	Count	% Distribution	% Distribution	% Distribution
Single Responses	468,350			
English	355,340	75.1	68.4	57.2
French	6,155	1.3	4.1	21.8
Non Official Languages	106,855	22.6	26.1	19.7
Multiple Responses	4,910			
English & French	725	0.2	0.3	0.3
English & Non Official Language	3,855	0.8	1.1	0.8
French & Non Official Language	255	0.1	0.1	0.7
English, French & Non Official Language	75	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006





Listed in Table 2 are the top 25 mother tongue languages in Waterloo Region as of 2006. English remains the predominant mother tongue. German has a strong historical presence in the Region and despite dropping by 3% from 2001, remains the second most common mother tongue while Portuguese remains relatively stable as third. Among those who spoke a Chinese language, two thirds did not indicate a specific dialect, while the remaining one third was split almost equally between Mandarin and Cantonese. From 2001 to 2006, Tagalog (commonly known as Filipino) saw the greatest increase, growing by 152%.

Table 2: Waterloo Region's Top 25 Single Mother Tongue Languages, 2006

2006 Rank	Language	Waterloo Region Population	% Growth 2001-2006	2001 Rank
1	English	355,340	6%	1
2	German	18,765	-3%	2
3	Portuguese	11,200	3%	3
4	Chinese Languages	7,630	61%	6
5	Spanish	6,915	47%	7
6	French	6,155	5%	4
7	Polish	6,000	8%	5
8	Romanian	4,775	45%	10
9	Serbian	4,530	32%	8
10	Vietnamese	3,215	9%	11
11	Arabic	3,200	88%	17
12	Punjabi	3,170	26%	12
13	Dutch	2,755	18%	13
14	Persian	2,640	90%	20
15	Croatian	2,410	11%	15
16	Italian	2,235	-1%	14
17	Urdu	2,075	84%	21
18	Hungarian	1,900	-2%	16
19	Greek	1,625	2%	18
20	Gujarati	1,410	29%	22
21	Korean	1,315	44%	24
22	Russian	1,190	72%	27
23	Tagalog (Filipino)	1,120	152%	32
24	Hindi	1,075	89%	30
25	Lao	990	-2%	23

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2001 and 2006

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. Similar to the growth seen in mother tongue languages, the largest increases in *home language* were in non-official languages. From 2001 to 2006, there was a reported 20% increase in this category.

As of 2006 almost one in every eight residents in Waterloo Region spoke a non-official language as indicated in Table 3. The three cities are comparable to the regional average and have similar proportions of their populations speaking a non-official language, but the townships are split. North Dumfries and Wilmot have very small percentages of non-English speaking citizens, while as a result of the larger Mennonite population, there are higher percentages of residents who speak a non-official language in Wellesley and Woolwich.



Table 3: Languages Most Often Spoken at Home by Municipality, 2006

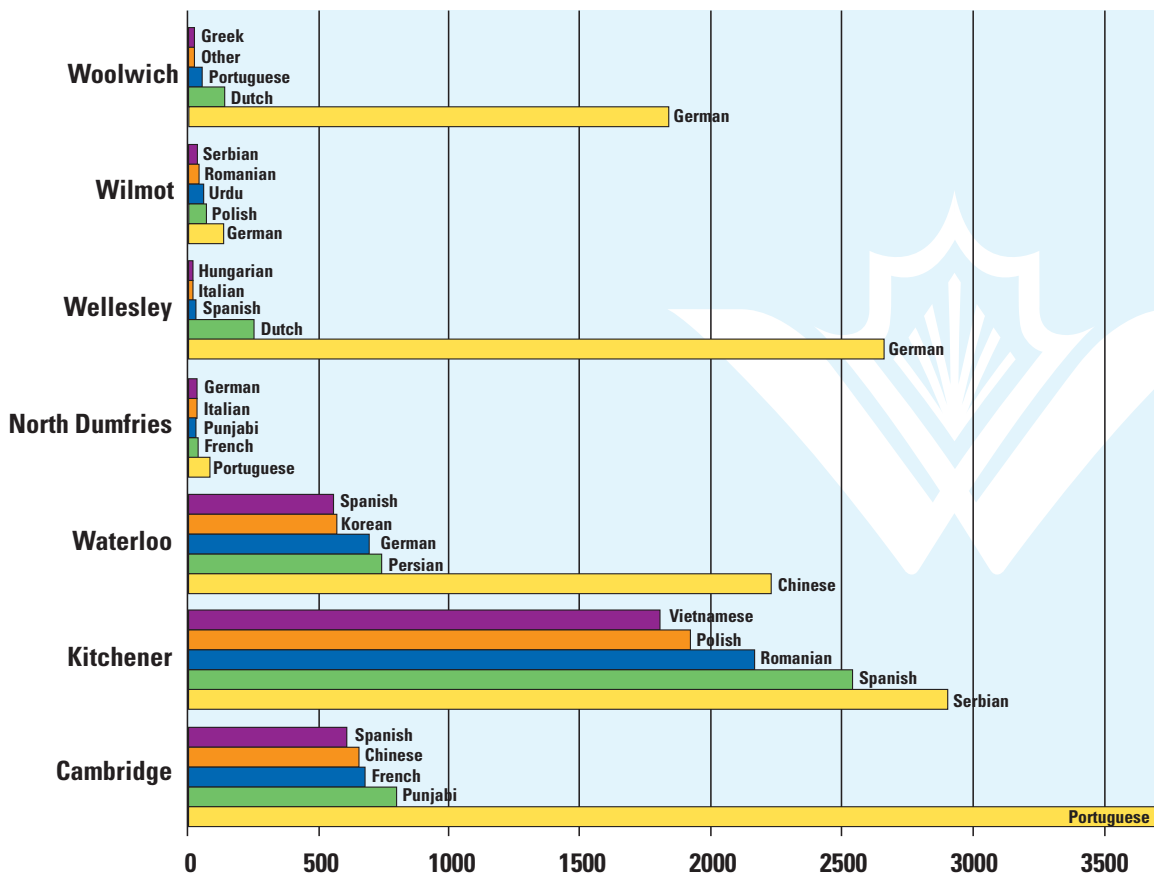
Name	English		French		Non-Official Language		English & Non-Official Language	
	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total	Count	% of total
Waterloo Region	407,300	86.1	1,755	0.4	56,775	12.0	6,895	1.5
Cambridge	105,480	88.3	670	0.6	11,335	9.5	1,780	1.5
Kitchener	169,030	83.6	650	0.3	28,465	14.1	3,715	1.8
Waterloo	83,920	86.7	375	0.4	11,180	11.6	1,215	1.3
North Dumfries	8,805	97.3	30	0.3	210	2.3	0	0
Wellesley	6,775	69.2	0	0	2,975	30.4	35	0.4
Wilmot	16,425	96.8	25	0.1	425	2.5	95	0.6
Woolwich	16,860	88.3	0	0	2,185	11.4	55	0.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 by Census Subdivision

Languages most often spoken at home rank differently than the most commonly spoken mother tongues in the Region. Listed in Figure 1 are the top five languages in each municipality most often spoken at home (other than English). The most common language is English, while each municipality has a varying set of subsequent

home languages. German dominates across the townships, while in the cities, a variety of languages are present. With 20 different languages being shown (including English), the diversity of Waterloo Region is apparent.

Figure 1: Waterloo Region's Top Languages Most Often Spoken at Home, Other than English by Municipality, 2006

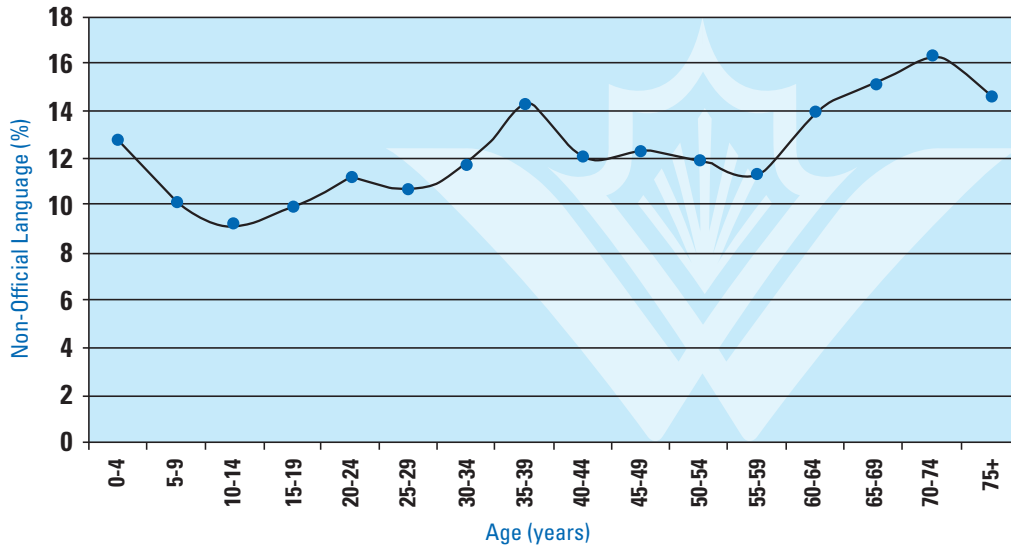


Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006 by Census Subdivision

Official Languages

Despite the increased prevalence of non-official languages, Waterloo Region's knowledge of English and French remains high. In total, 98.5% of the Region's population has knowledge of at least one of Canada's two official languages. Among those, 91.8% knew English only. Knowledge of these languages has remained consistent since 2001. Although French is not as well known, the Census showed that 6.7% of the Region's population had some knowledge of the French language.

Figure 2: Non-Official Language Most Often Spoken at Home by Age Group(s) in Waterloo Region, 2006



The percentage of the population who speak a language other than English and French at home varies by age. Across the Region, there is a difference in the percentage of people over the age of 60 who speak a non-official language. Figure 2 shows language spoken at home by age group, and reveals that a higher percentage of the Region’s seniors (65 to 75 years) speak a non-official language, as opposed to school age children (5 to 19 year olds) where a drop in the percentage is seen. A peak is also apparent in the percentage of the population who speak a non-official language between the ages of 35 and 39.

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, 2006



Region of Waterloo

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