

# 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 2016 and 2021 Census Results – Mother Tongue

Mother Tongue	2021 Census		2016 Census		% Change Between 2016 & 2021 Census Count
	Census Count	% of Total Population	Census Count	% of Total Population	
English	65,440	31.3%	65,350	33.1%	0.1%
Yue (Cantonese)	44,985	21.5%	43,295	21.9%	3.9%
Mandarin	44,060	21.1%	39,450	20.0%	11.7%
Tagalog (Pilipino; Filipino)	7,735	3.7%	7,780	3.9%	-0.6%
Punjabi (Panjabi)	4,990	2.4%	5,250	2.7%	-5.0%
Min Nan (Chaochow, Teochow, Fukien, Taiwanese)	2,360	1.1%	2,505	1.3%	-5.8%
Japanese	2,170	1.0%	2,155	1.1%	0.7%
Spanish	2,055	1.0%	1,805	0.9%	13.9%
Russian	1,920	0.9%	2,030	1.0%	-5.4%
Arabic	1,555	0.7%	1,205	0.6%	29.0%
Korean	1,485	0.7%	1,115	0.6%	33.2%
Hindi	1,115	0.5%	1,100	0.6%	1.4%
Vietnamese	1,080	0.5%	795	0.4%	35.8%
Urdu	975	0.5%	850	0.4%	14.7%
French	965	0.5%	1,015	0.5%	-4.9%
German	950	0.5%	1,305	0.7%	-27.2%
Wu (Shanghainese)	830	0.4%	1,220	0.6%	-32.0%
Iranian Persian	820	0.4%	1,020	0.5%	-19.6%
Portuguese	715	0.3%	390	0.2%	83.3%
Gujarati	450	0.2%	560	0.3%	-19.6%
Serbo-Croatian	435	0.2%	45	0.0%	866.7%
Other Languages	21,950	10.5%	17,015	8.6%	29.0%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>209,040</b>		<b>197,255</b>		<b>6.0%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and 2021 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-three percent of Richmond residents identified one language as their mother tongue while 7% of the population indicated that they spoke more than one language as their mother tongue.



In Richmond, 44.5% indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 31.3% indicated English, 3.7% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) and 2.4% indicated Punjabi (Panjabi).

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

### Comparing 2016 and 2021 Census Results – Language Spoken Most Often at Home

Home Language	2021 Census		2016 Census		% Change Between 2016 & 2021 Census Count
	Census Count	% of Total Population	Census Count	% of Total Population	
English	96,275	46.1%	90,050	45.7%	6.9%
Mandarin	37,000	17.7%	32,660	16.6%	13.3%
Yue (Cantonese)	36,515	17.5%	34,790	17.6%	5.0%
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	4,575	2.2%	3,665	1.9%	24.8%
Punjabi (Panjabi)	3,250	1.6%	2,900	1.5%	12.1%
Min Nan (Chaochow, Teochow, Fukien, Taiwanese)	1,360	0.7%	1,130	0.6%	20.4%
Russian	1,330	0.6%	1,380	0.7%	-3.6%
Spanish	1,155	0.6%	1,005	0.5%	14.9%
Japanese	1,110	0.5%	1,095	0.6%	1.4%
Korean	1,000	0.5%	660	0.3%	51.5%
Arabic	905	0.4%	715	0.4%	26.6%
Urdu	680	0.3%	455	0.2%	49.5%
Hindi	575	0.3%	385	0.2%	49.4%
Vietnamese	520	0.2%	400	0.2%	30.0%
Iranian Persian	515	0.2%	595	0.3%	-13.4%
Wu (Shanghaiese)	510	0.2%	695	0.4%	-26.6%
Portuguese	445	0.2%	175	0.1%	154.3%
French	345	0.2%	340	0.2%	1.5%
Turkish	265	0.1%	175	0.1%	51.4%
Ilocano	215	0.1%	80	0.0%	168.8%
Gujarati	205	0.1%	250	0.1%	-18.0%
Chinese, n.o.s.	200	0.1%	965	0.5%	-79.3%
Other Languages	20,090	9.6%	22,690	11.5%	-11.5%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>209,040</b>		<b>197,255</b>		<b>6.0%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 and 2021 Census.

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

Ninety-two percent of residents reported speaking only one language at home and 8% of the population reported speaking more than one language at home.

## Home Language by Planning Area, 2021

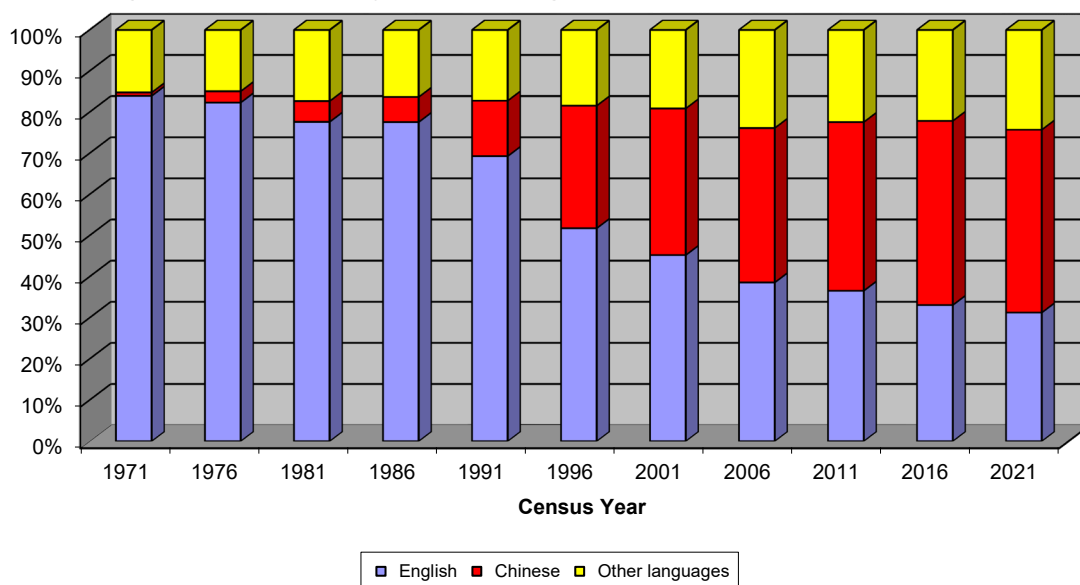
Planning Area	Home Language						
	English	Mandarin	Yue (Cantonese)	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	Punjabi (Panjabi)	Min Nan (Chaochow, Teochow, Fukien, Taiwanese)	Other Languages
Blundell	40.2%	23.2%	20.1%	1.2%	0.7%	1.4%	13.2%
Bridgeport	49.6%	7.4%	17.5%	4.4%	3.3%	0.6%	17.3%
Broadmoor	43.9%	21.6%	15.7%	2.2%	1.3%	1.2%	14.1%
City Centre	36.1%	23.7%	20.5%	2.7%	0.2%	0.6%	16.2%
East Cambie	44.9%	5.8%	19.4%	3.7%	7.4%	0.3%	18.6%
East Richmond	52.9%	12.3%	9.1%	1.3%	10.8%	0.6%	13.0%
Fraser Lands	73.8%	3.8%	8.8%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Gilmore	71.1%	15.6%	4.4%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	5.6%
Hamilton	58.9%	5.1%	13.7%	3.8%	2.1%	0.1%	16.3%
Sea Island	85.4%	3.0%	3.0%	0.6%	1.2%	0.0%	6.7%
Seafair	52.3%	17.4%	14.0%	2.1%	1.0%	0.5%	12.8%
Shellmont	53.4%	8.9%	12.8%	2.7%	6.6%	0.4%	15.3%
Steveston	69.0%	9.0%	10.1%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	10.3%
Thompson	44.0%	21.1%	18.3%	1.8%	0.8%	0.5%	13.5%
West Cambie	37.2%	16.7%	29.2%	1.8%	0.6%	0.7%	13.9%
<b>Richmond CY</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>14.4%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census.

## How has Richmond changed over time?

The percentage of residents who claimed English only as their mother tongue has declined from 33.1% in 2016 to 31.3% in 2021.

### Percentage of Population by Mother Tongue (2021 Census)



In 2021, the Total Chinese Group (44.5%) is the most common mother tongue followed by English (31.3%) and Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) (3.7%).

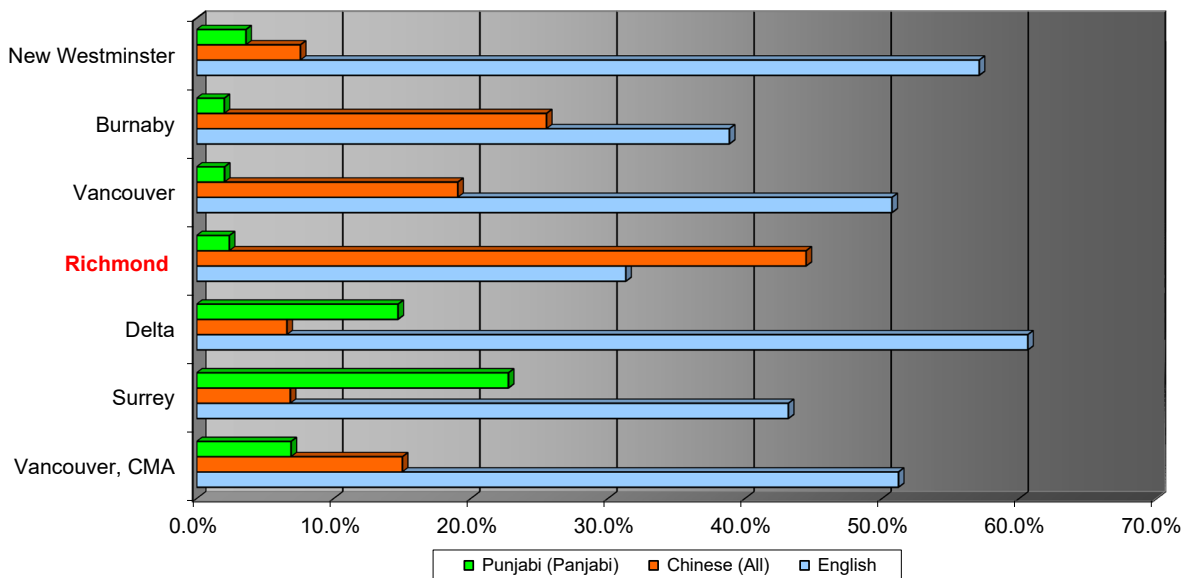
The percentage of Richmond residents who speak English at home has increased since the 2016 Census. In 2016, 45.7% used English at home, 35.7% used Chinese and 1.5% used Punjabi (Panjabi). In 2021, 46.1% used English at home, 36.2% used Chinese and 1.6% used Punjabi (Panjabi).

*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 (2021 Census)



## Summary

44.5% of Richmond residents indicated Chinese as their mother tongue, 31.3% indicated English, 3.7% indicated Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino) and 2.4% indicated Punjabi (Panjabi).

In the 2021 Census, 46.1% of Richmond residents speak English at home, 36.2% speak Chinese and 1.6% speak Punjabi (Panjabi).

Richmond has the largest percentage of residents who claim Chinese as their mother tongue (44.5%) 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 (31.3%) 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 51.2%.

## For Further Information:

Please contact the Policy Planning Department at 604-276-4116 or [communityplanning@richmond.ca](mailto:communityplanning@richmond.ca).

## City of Richmond

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