

Bilingualism rate increases

[Knowledge of official languages](#) refers to the ability of an individual to conduct a conversation in English only, in French only, in both English and French, or in neither English nor French at the time of the census. English-French bilingualism is defined using this variable.

- In 2016, 249,950 people in New Brunswick reported being able to conduct a conversation in both official languages, an increase of more than 4,000 from 2011. These bilingual individuals represented 33.9% of the total population, up from 33.2% in 2011.
- The bilingualism rate increased in most provinces and territories in 2016, though several of the increases were very small.
- In Canada, the English-French bilingualism rate increased to 17.9% in 2016—the highest proportion ever—from 17.5% in 2011.
- Outside of Quebec (44.5%), New Brunswick’s bilingualism rate of 33.9% in 2016 was the highest in the country.
- Bilingual people in the province were largely concentrated in the north. Bathurst CA posted the highest bilingualism rate (65.0%), followed by Edmundston CA (58.5%) and Campbellton CA (55.0%).

Knowledge of official languages for the total population excluding institutional residents, N.B., 2011 and 2016				
	2016		2011	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	736,280	100.0	739,900	100.0
English only	420,820	57.2	426,675	57.7
French only	63,140	8.6	66,375	9.0
Both English and French	249,950	33.9	245,890	33.2
Neither English nor French	2,370	0.3	960	0.1

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 and 2016 Census Profiles