

## CENSUS 2016 – HIGHLIGHTS

### Families, Households and Marital Status

### Languages



Unless otherwise noted (see COEDC commentary boxes), all headings, comments, tables and data have been directly sourced from [Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2016 Census](#).

#### ***The percentage of one-person households now at a high in Canada's 150-year history***

One-person households accounted for 28.2% of all households in 2016—the highest share since Confederation in 1867.

One-person households became the most common type of household for the first time in 2016, surpassing couples with children, which were down from 31.5% of all households in 2001 to 26.5% in 2016. In comparison, the percentage of one-person households was 25.7% in 2001.

#### ***Common-law unions still increasing***

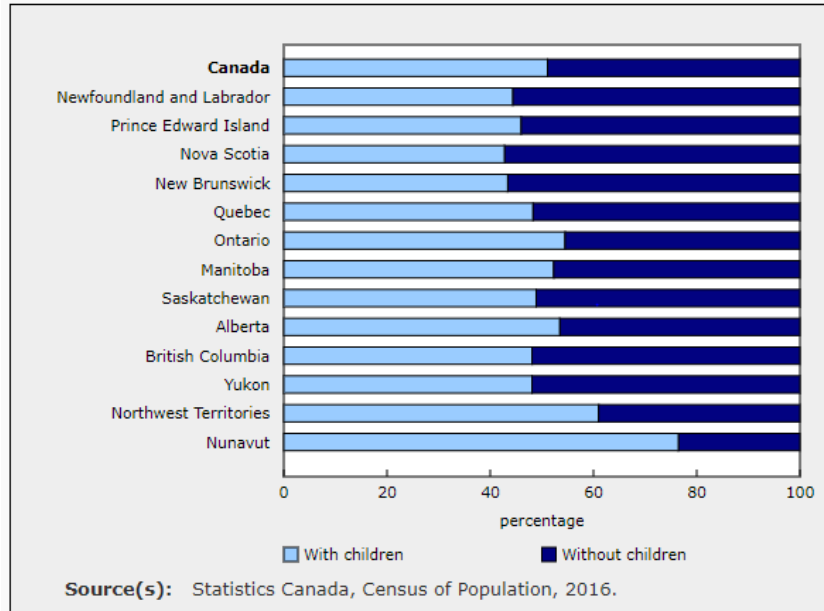
Married couples represented the majority of couples in 2016, although common-law unions are becoming more frequent in every province and territory. In 2016, over one-fifth of all couples (21.3%) were living common law, more than three times the share in 1981 (6.3%).

The proportion of couples living common law was higher in Canada than in the United States, where 5.9% of couples were in non-marital cohabiting unions (in 2010). The proportion in Canada was also slightly higher than in the United Kingdom (20.0% in 2015), but lower than in France (22.6% in 2011), Norway (23.9% in 2011) and Sweden (29.0% in 2010).

**Number of couples without children growing faster than those with children**

Trends in the share of couples living with or without children also reflect the growing diversity of households and families in Canada.

From 2011 to 2016, the number of couples living without children rose faster (+7.2%) than the number of couples with children (+2.3%). As a result, the share of couples living with at least one child fell from 56.7% in 2001 to 51.1% in 2016—the lowest level on record.



The proportion of couples living with children has been decreasing for some time. This is mostly due to population aging. As the large baby-boom generation—people born from 1946 to 1965—grows older, more and more couples are becoming empty nesters due to their children leaving home.

**Marital Status – Kelowna CMA**

Marital Status	Census 2011	Census 2016	% Change
Married	77,305	82,660	7%
Living common law	14,105	17,350	23%
Not married and not living common law	62,085	67,285	8%

**COEDC Commentary**

*More couples living common-law*

- The number of couples living in common-law relationships increased by 23% from 2011 to 2016. While this increase reflects a nationwide trend towards common-law relationships, the increase in the Kelowna CMA outpaced the BC increase of 16%.

## Family Characteristics

Family Characteristics	Census 2011	Census 2016	% Change
Families in private household	52,405	56,765	8%
Couples without children	26,070	29,010	11%
Couples with children	18,865	19,870	5%
1 child	7,515	8,030	7%
2 children	8,230	8,655	5%
3 or more children	3,125	3,180	2%
Lone-parent families	7,475	7,885	5%
1 child	4,695	5,095	9%
2 children	2,150	2,165	1%
3 or more children	635	630	-1%

### COEDC Commentary

#### *Increase in couples without children*

- The number of couples without children in the Kelowna CMA increased by 11%, slightly more than the overall increase in all types of families (8%) and the province wide increase in couples without children (9%).

#### *Decrease in lone-parent families with 3 or more children*

- The only family grouping that experienced a decrease from 2011 to 2016 is lone-parent families with 3 or more children, which fell by 1%. Lone-parent families with 2 children and couples with 3 or more children rose by just 1% and 2% respectively, indicating a trend towards smaller families.

## Languages

### ***Linguistic diversity is growing***

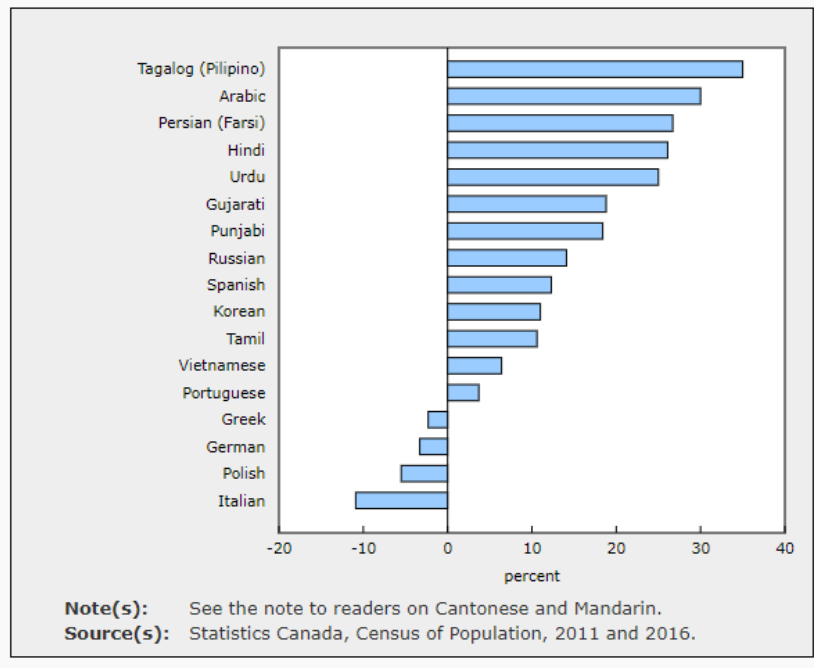
Languages other than English and French are becoming more common in Canada. The proportion of the population who reported an "other" mother tongue (alone or with other languages) rose from 21.3% in 2011 to 22.9% in 2016. Similarly, 21.8% of Canadians reported speaking an "other" language at home in 2016, compared with 20.0% in 2011. There was also an increase in the number of people who reported more than one language between 2011 and 2016, both for the question on mother tongue and the question on the language spoken at home.

### ***Immigrant languages show strong growth***

"Immigrant languages" refer to languages (other than English and French - the national official languages) whose existence in Canada is originally due to immigration after English and French colonization. This expression excludes Aboriginal languages and sign languages, in addition to English and French.

The first results from the 2016 Census, released on February 8, 2017, showed once more that international migration is the key driver of population

growth in Canada. As such, Canada's linguistic landscape is constantly changing. In the 2016 Census, over 7.7 million people reported an immigrant mother tongue (alone or with other languages). This corresponds to 22.3% of the Canadian population.



*Note to readers: New instructions in the electronic questionnaire, asking respondents to indicate the Chinese language spoken at home or first learned as a child (mother tongue), as applicable, resulted in a sharp increase in certain Chinese languages, particularly Mandarin (+364,000 people, or an increase of 131.6%) and Cantonese (+180,000 people, or an increase of 43.5%). Overall, the number of people who reported speaking a Chinese language at home at least on a regular basis rose by 16.8%.*

### ***The population with an immigrant mother tongue is increasing across Canada***

The population with an immigrant mother tongue rose in every region of Canada. In absolute numbers, Ontario (+352,745 people) and Western Canada (+414,260 people) saw the largest growth from 2011 to 2016.

### Language – Official vs. Non-Official – Kelowna CMA

Language	Census 2011	Census 2016	% Change
Official – English/French	155,605	168,565	8%
Non-Official	20,220	22,290	10%

### Language – Non-Official Mother Tongue – Kelowna CMA

Language	Census 2011	Census 2016	% Change
Mandarin	205	750	166%
Cantonese	235	515	119%
Spanish	745	1,035	39%
Punjabi	1,760	2,070	18%
Japanese	350	410	17%
German	6,160	5,495	-11%
Dutch	1,070	1,065	-0.5%

#### COEDC Commentary

The Kelowna CMA has seen an increase in ethnocultural diversity within its population, reflected by the change in mother tongue languages spoken in the region, in particular Mandarin and Cantonese.

#### ***Useful Census Tables:***

[The Daily – Families, Households and Marital Status: Key Results from the 2016 Census](#)

[The Daily – An Increasingly Diverse Linguistic Landscape: Highlights from the 2016 Census](#)

[Census Profile, 2016 Census](#)

[Census Profile, 2011 Census](#)

[Data Tables, 2016 Census – Family, Households and Marital Status](#)