

What Language Do We Speak at Home?

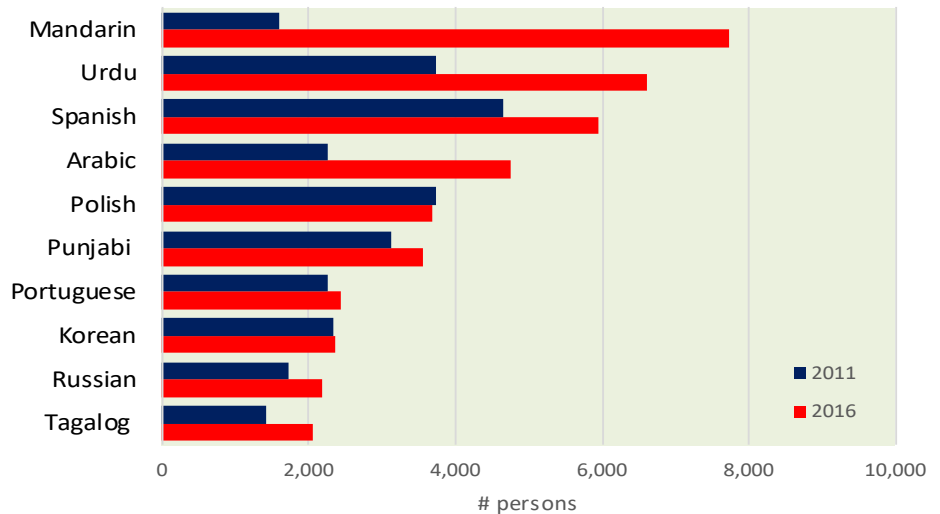
Home language refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home. In 2016, while more than 80% of Halton residents spoke English at home, there were over 90,000 individuals who spoke a home language other than English or French. Among those, about one-third were bilingual, which means that they also spoke English at home. Together this group represents about 16.5% of the total population, which is one in six residents.

Research has established the importance of home language in non-English or French speaking newcomer families. Their children’s knowledge of their home language will help them to learn English or French. Knowing and using a home language will develop children’s security and pride in identity and understanding of their roots.

In 2016, the top four immigrant home languages that also experienced the greatest increase since 2011 are Mandarin, Urdu, Spanish and Arabic. The most spoken immigrant home language¹ in Halton is Mandarin. About three quarters of these residents live in Oakville.

It is important to note that according to Statistics Canada, the increase of Mandarin and Cantonese between 2011 and 2016 is due to changes in data collection. New instructions in the 2016 Census electronic questionnaire asked respondents to indicate the Chinese language spoken at home or first learned as a child (mother tongue). This resulted in a sharp increase in certain Chinese languages, particularly Mandarin and Cantonese.

**Top 10 Immigrant Home Languages
Halton Region, 2011 and 2016**

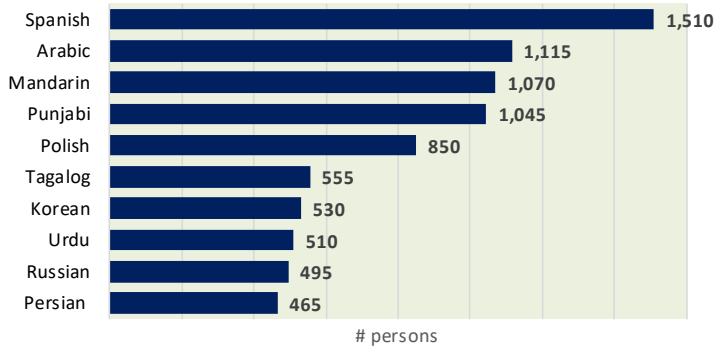


Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2011/2016 Censuses

The following bar charts show the top ten immigrant home languages for each of the municipalities in Halton. Urdu is the next popular immigrant language spoken at home. About 70% of this population group live in Milton. Oakville is also home to almost half of the population speaking Spanish and Arabic as the home languages. Spanish is the most spoken immigrant language at home in Burlington.

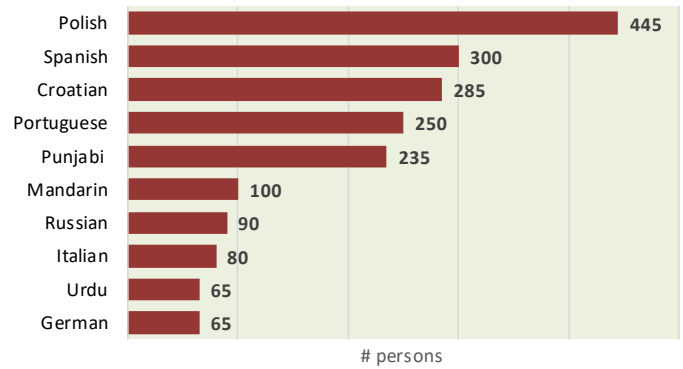
¹ Immigrant languages refer to languages (other than English, French and Aboriginal languages) whose presence in Canada is due to immigration

Top 10 Immigrant Home Languages City of Burlington, 2016



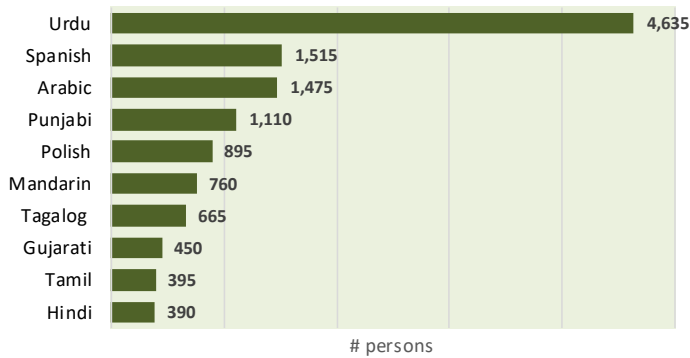
Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Top 10 Immigrant Home Languages Town of Halton Hills, 2016



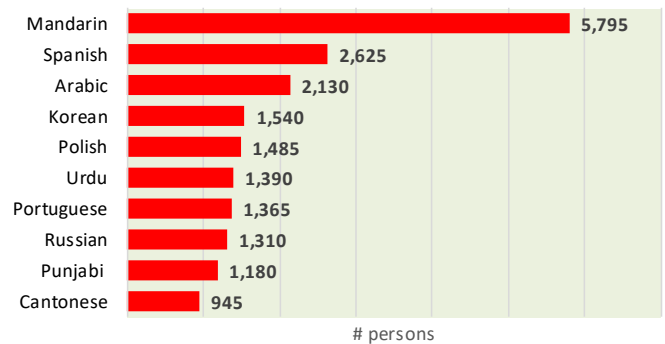
Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Top 10 Immigrant Home Languages Milton, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Top 10 Immigrant Home Languages Oakville, 2016



Community Development Halton/Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census



Community Development Halton would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of the Regional Municipality of Halton.



Community Development Halton
3350 South Service Road
Burlington, ON L7N 3M6
905-632-1975

www.cdhalton.ca