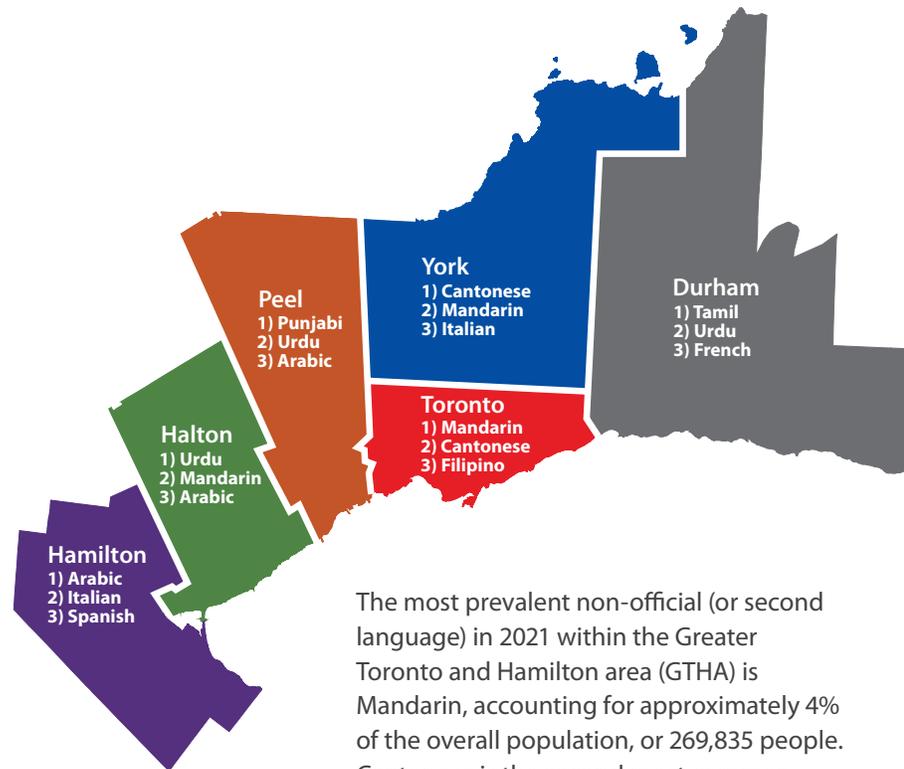


Halton Region Highlights on the 2021 Statistics Canada Census

Census release #4 – Language

Most prevalent second languages across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) in 2021



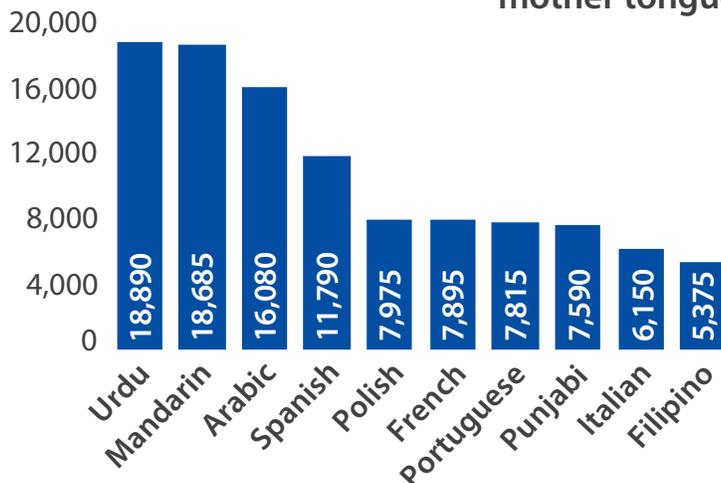
The most prevalent non-official (or second language) in 2021 within the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area (GTHA) is Mandarin, accounting for approximately 4% of the overall population, or 269,835 people. Cantonese is the second most common second language, representing 3% of the population, or 216,420 people.

Most prevalent second languages within Halton in 2021



Across the four municipalities within Halton, the most prevalent second languages are Spanish in Burlington (representing 1.7% of the population), Polish in Halton Hills (representing 1.7% of the population), Urdu in Milton (representing 10% of the population), and Mandarin in Oakville (representing 7% of the population).

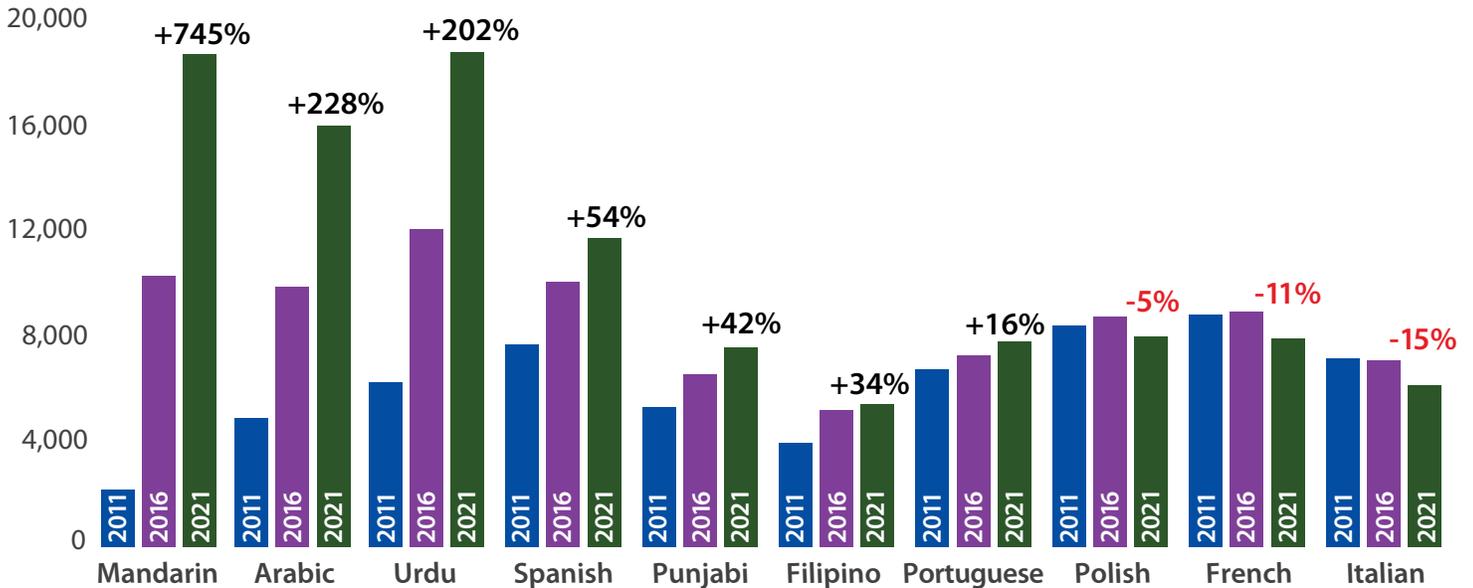
Distribution of Halton population by non-official language mother tongue in 2021



The most common non-official language mother tongue (or second language) reported within Halton is Urdu, representing 3.2% of the population, or 18,890 people, closely followed by Mandarin, spoken by 18,685 people. The third most common second language in Halton is Arabic, representing 2.7% of the population, or 16,080 people.

Census release 4 – Language (cont.)

Ten year change in Halton population by non-official language mother tongue, 2011 to 2021



Over the past ten years, Halton’s linguistic profile has changed significantly. Halton residents reporting Mandarin, Arabic, and Urdu mother tongues – currently the three most prevalent second languages in Halton – account for much of this shift, with the Urdu and Arabic speaking population more than tripling and the Mandarin speaking population growing by over eight times its 2011 population. In comparison, Halton’s population reporting English as their mother tongue grew by 3% between 2011 and 2021, and Italian, French and Polish as predominant mother tongue declined.

Knowledge of official languages within Halton in 2021

527,860 – English only
360 – French only
54,205 – English and French

In 2021, 89% of Halton’s population had knowledge of the English official language only. In large part, this stems from 65% of Halton’s population reporting English as their mother tongue. Only 1.3% of Halton’s population have French as their mother tongue.

Information presented in this infographic is based on the Statistics Canada 2021 Census and previous Census years. Statistics Canada conducts a national Census of Population every five years. Statistics Canada will be releasing Census findings throughout 2022 in a series of seven data releases.

Definitions: **Knowledge of official languages** refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in English only, French only, in both, or in neither language. For a child who has not yet learned to speak, this includes languages that the child is learning to speak at home. **Most prevalent second languages** in this infographic refers to mother tongue in the Statistics Canada 2021 Census. **Mother tongue** refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the person at the time the data was collected. If the person no longer understands the first language learned the mother tongue is the second language learned. For a person who learned more than one language at the same time in early childhood the mother tongue is the language this person spoke most often at home before starting school. **Knowledge of non-official languages** refers to whether the person can conduct a conversation in a language other than English or French.

Source: Statistics Canada. Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population.