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# Language projections for Canada. 2011 to 2036

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Telling Canada's  
story in numbers

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Statistics Canada

Ottawa. Wednesday February 1, 2017

Canada 



## Outline of the presentation

- Factors that had an influence on the evolution of language characteristics of Canadians over the last 25 years and that are likely to influence it by 2036;
- Presentation of hypotheses and scenarios for the language projections;
- Projections of mother tongue and first official language spoken for Canada and its regions. 2011 to 2036;
- Projections of the knowledge of Official Languages and of English-French bilingualism. 2011 to 2036;
- Limits of the language projections presented in the report.



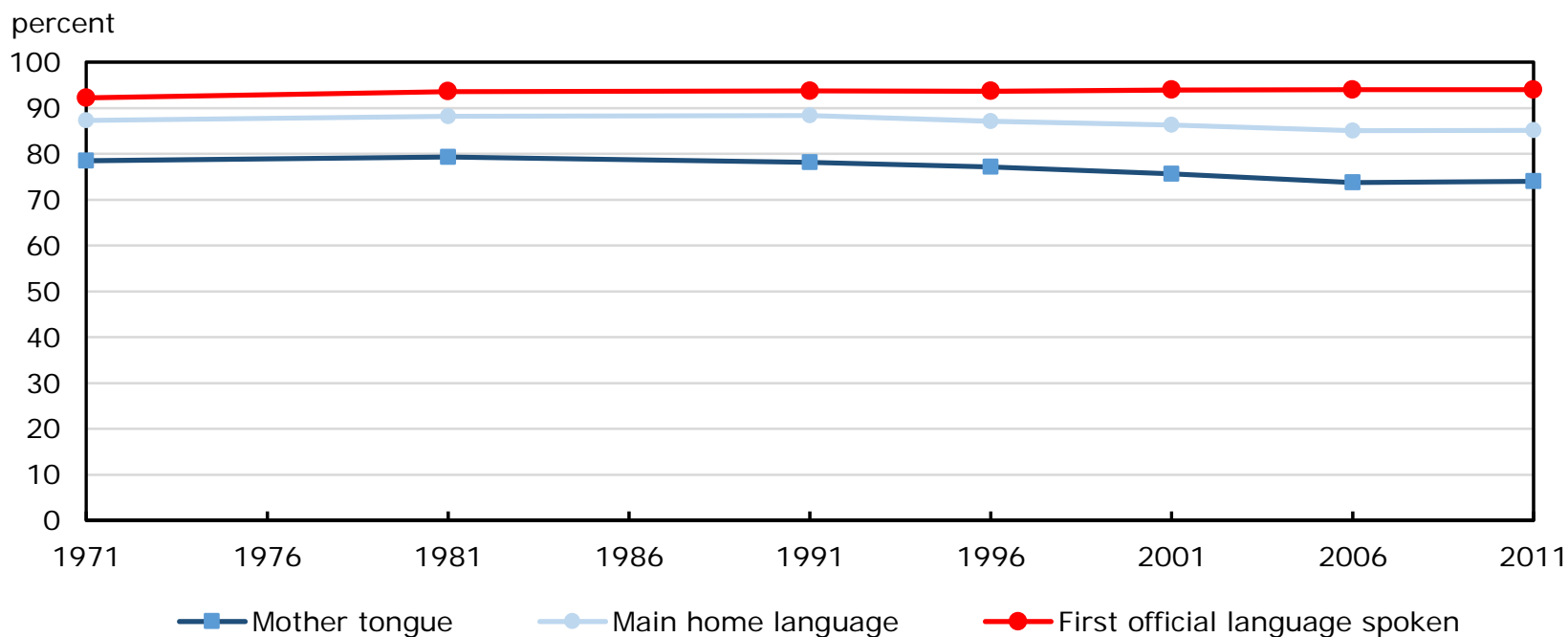
## Main factors influencing the evolution of language characteristics of the population

- Natural growth (births minus deaths)
- Intergenerational language transmission (continuity)
- International migration
- Interprovincial migration
- Intragenerational language mobility (language transfers)
- Knowledge (acquisition) of official languages and English-French bilingualism.



Past evolution of language groups defined by mother tongue, language spoken most often at home and first official language spoken.

**Chart 3.1a**  
**English official language majority populations, by three linguistic characteristics, Canada outside Quebec, 1971 to 2011**

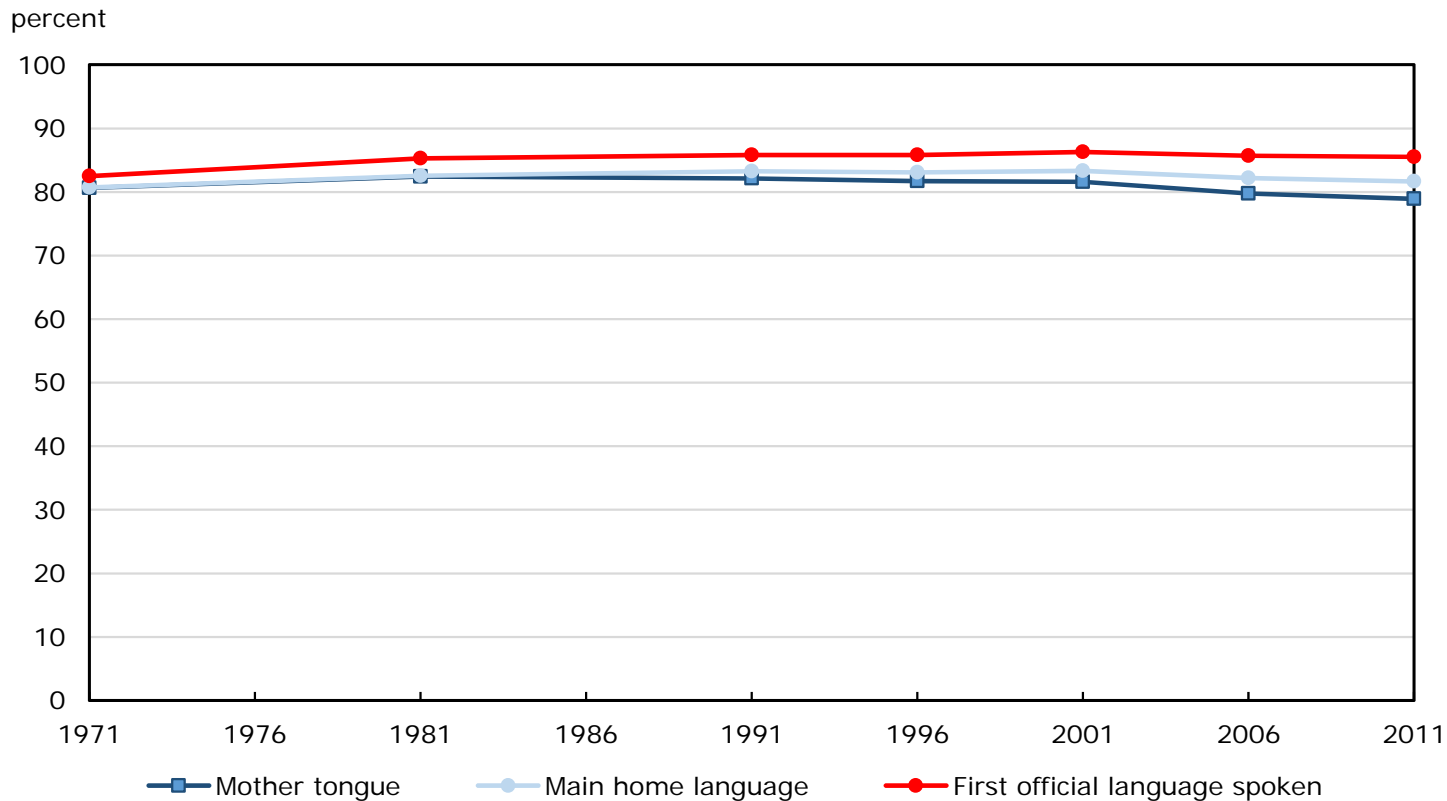


**Note:** The percentages for 1996 to 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006 and 2011 National Household Survey.



**Chart 3.1b**  
**French official language majority populations, by three linguistic characteristics, Quebec, 1971 to 2011**

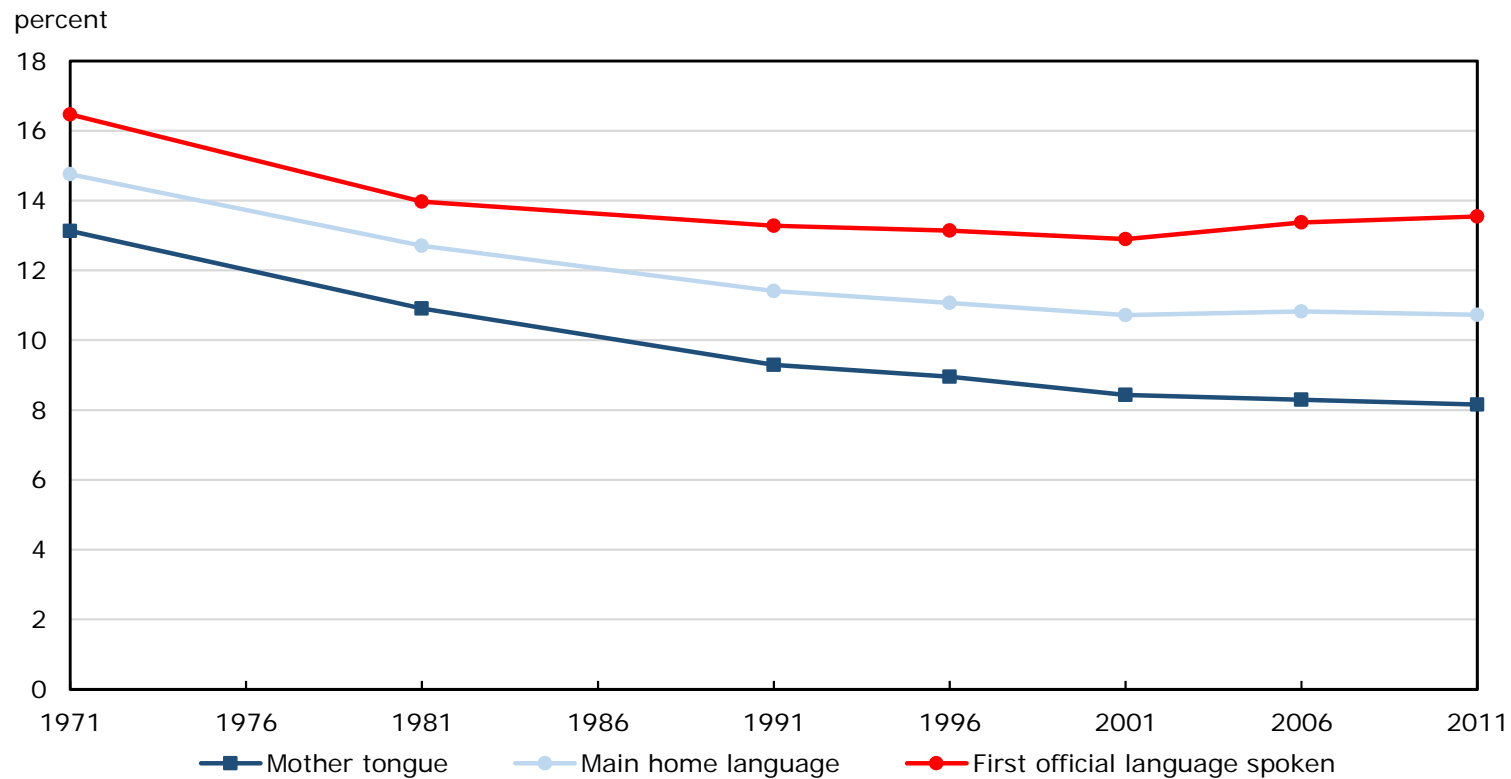


**Note:** The percentages for 1996 to 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006 and 2011 National Household Survey.



**Chart 3.2a**  
**English official language minority populations, by three linguistic characteristics, Quebec, 1971 to 2011**

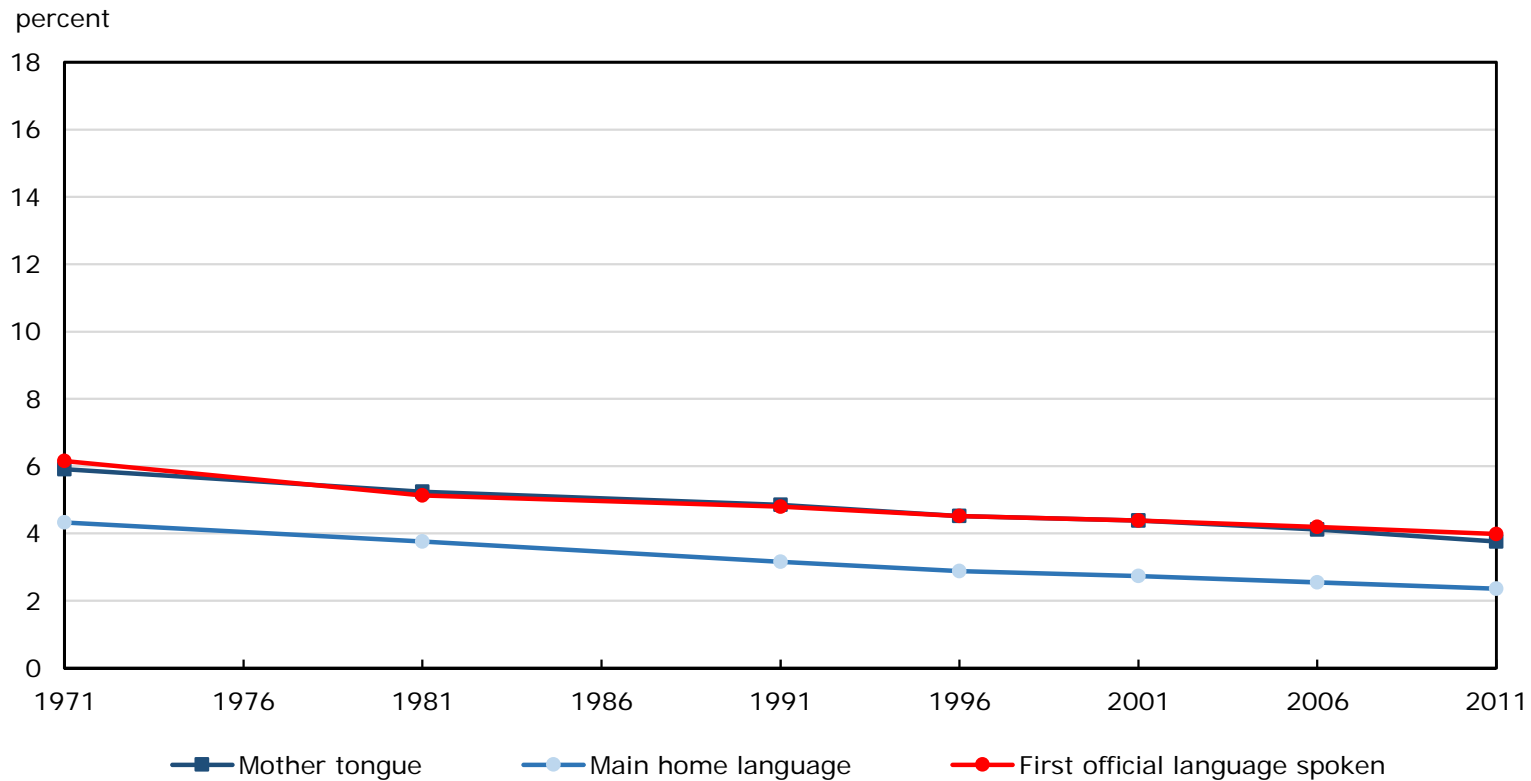


**Note:** The percentages for 1996 to 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006 and 2011 National Household Survey.



**Chart 3.2b**  
**French official language minority populations, by three linguistic characteristics, Canada outside Quebec, 1971 to 2011**



**Note:** The percentages for 1996 to 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1971 to 2006 and 2011 National Household Survey.



## Summary of hypotheses and scenarios used in the language projections

- Reference scenario
  - Composition by country of birth: 2010/11- 2014/15;
  - Geographic distribution of immigrants upon arrival: 2010/11-2014/15;
  - Rate of 8.3/1.000;
  - Fertility : TFR of 1.67 and constant differential fertility;
  - Medium growth of life expectancy and constant differential mortality;
  - Internal migration: Average rates estimated between 2001-2006 and 2006-2011.
  
- Low immigration scenario (idem except for a rate of 5.0/1000)
- High immigration scenario (idem except for a rate of 10.0/1000)
- Zero immigration (idem except for no immigration during 2017 to 2036)

## Summary of hypotheses and scenarios used in the language projections (cont'd)

- Doubling the probabilities of becoming English-French bilingual among the 5 to 14 year old population in Canada outside Quebec;
- Retention of bilingualism among youths aged 17 years and beyond;
- Doubling the probabilities of becoming bilingual and retention of bilingualism;
- Simulating the number of immigrants with French as first official language spoken (FOLS) required to maintain the demographic weight of the French FOLS population in Canada outside Quebec.
- Quasi-complete transmission rate applied to the French-speaking population in Canada outside Quebec.
- 1996 to 2001 internal migration patterns.



# Plausible evolution of the language characteristics of the Canadian population. 2011 to 2036.

## Evolution of language groups defined by mother tongue. 2011 to 2036

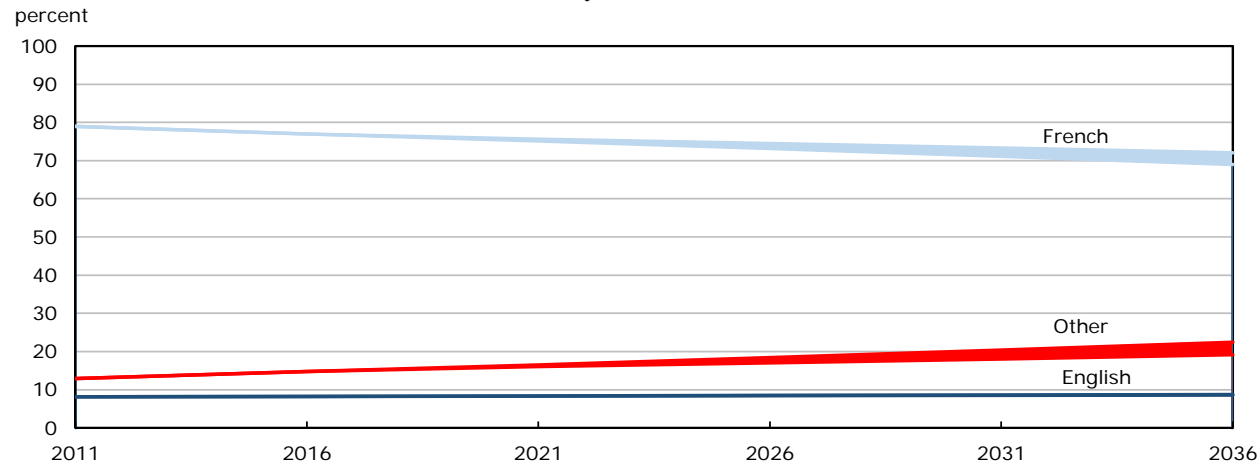
**Table 3.2**  
**Population by mother tongue, by three projection scenarios, Canada, Quebec and Canada outside Quebec, 2011 and 2036**

Mother tongue	2011 (adjusted)	2036 (projected)			2011 (adjusted)	2036 (projected)		
		Reference	Low immigration	High immigration		Reference	Low immigration	High immigration
population (thousands)					percent			
<b>Canada</b>								
English	20,110	23,387	22,821	23,685	58.7	53.4	55.6	52.3
French	7,297	7,679	7,513	7,777	21.3	17.5	18.3	17.2
Other	6,866	12,759	10,734	13,842	20.0	29.1	26.1	30.6
<b>Quebec</b>								
English	652	836	808	853	8.2	8.7	8.8	8.6
French	6,308	6,756	6,627	6,836	78.9	70.1	72.1	69.0
Other	1,034	2,046	1,762	2,223	12.9	21.2	19.2	22.4
<b>Canada outside Qu</b>								
English	19,458	22,551	22,013	22,833	74.0	66.0	69.1	64.5
French	989	922	886	942	3.8	2.7	2.8	2.7
Other	5,833	10,713	8,972	11,618	22.2	31.3	28.2	32.8

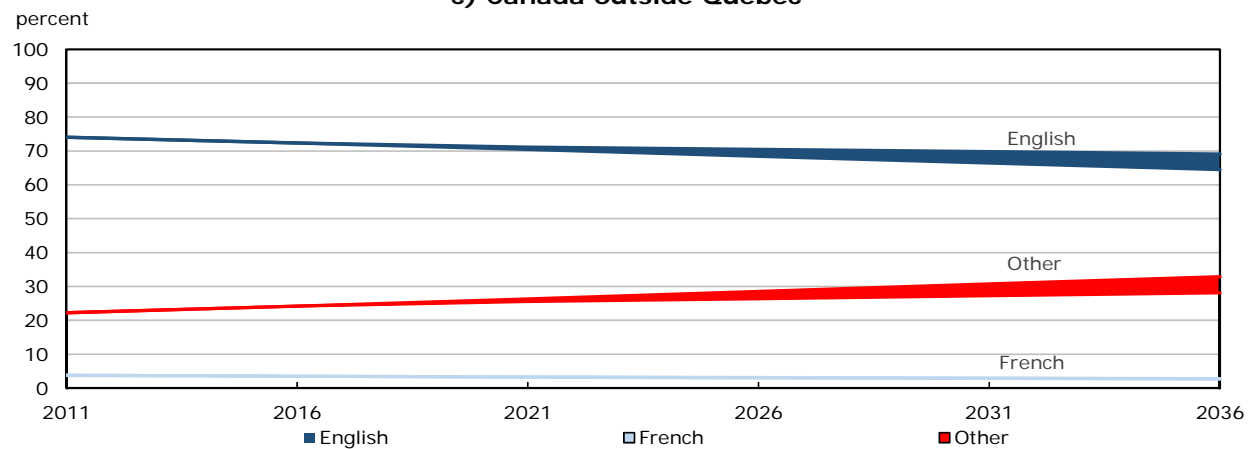
**Note:** The population counts for 2011 have been adjusted for net undercoverage.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.

## Population by mother tongue based on three projections scenarios. 2011 to 2036. Quebec and Canada outside Quebec

b) Quebec



c) Canada outside Quebec



**Notes:** The shaded area indicates the interval between the minimum and maximum projections for all scenarios combined. The percentages for 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



## Evolution of language groups defined by first official language spoken. 2011 to 2036

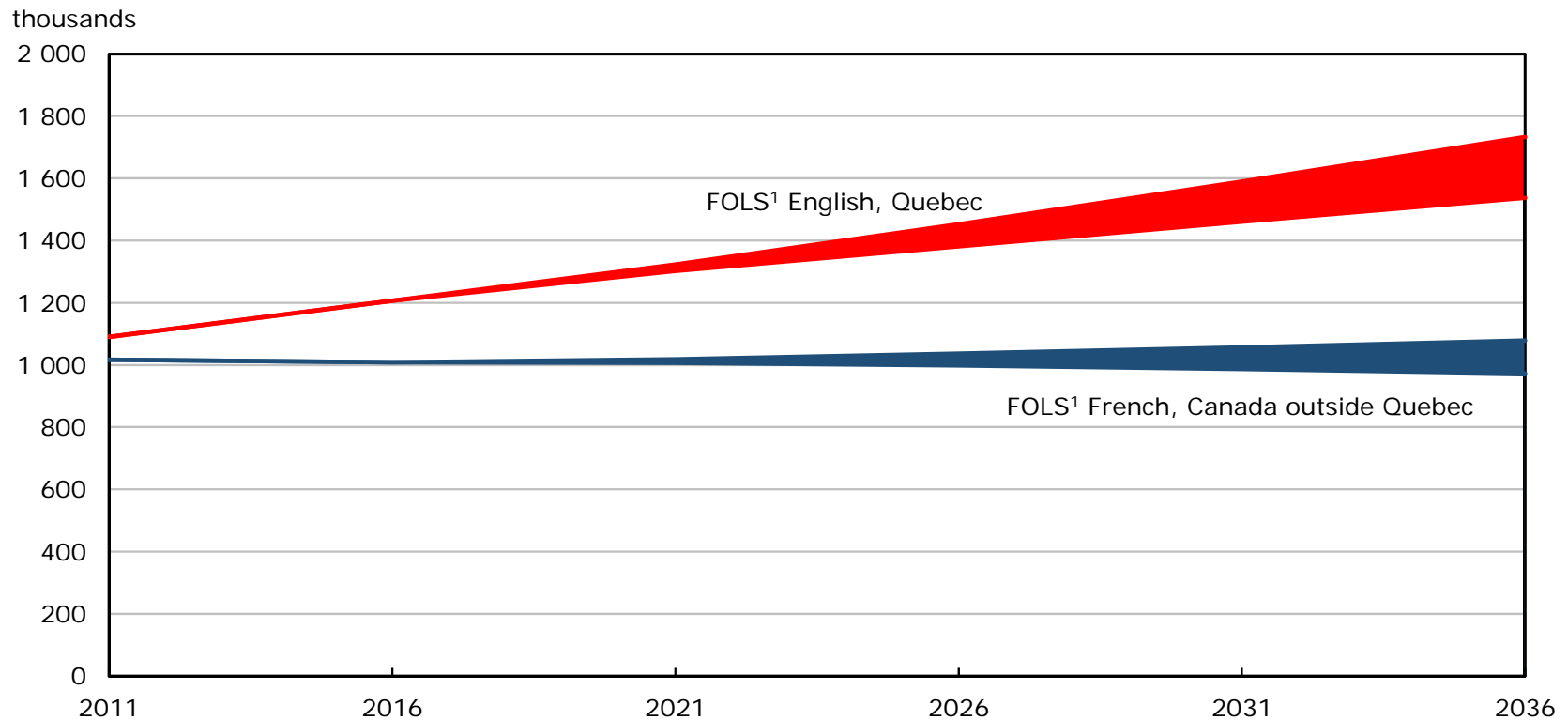
**Tableau 3.4**  
**Population by first official language spoken, by three projection scenarios, Canada, Quebec and Canada outside Quebec, 2011 and 2036**

First official language spoken	2011 (adjusted)	2036 (projected)			2011 (adjusted)	2036 (projected)		
		Reference	Low immigration	High immigration		Reference	Low immigration	High immigration
	population (thousands)				percent			
<b>Canada</b>								
English	25,857	34,098	31,899	35,254	75.4	77.8	77.7	77.8
French	7,847	8,954	8,577	9,182	22.9	20.4	20.9	20.3
<b>Quebec</b>								
English	1,090	1,658	1,538	1,733	13.6	17.2	16.7	17.5
French	6,830	7,912	7,604	8,103	85.4	82.1	82.7	81.8
<b>Canada outside Qu</b>								
English	24,767	32,440	30,361	33,521	94.2	94.9	95.3	94.7
French	1,017	1,042	973	1,079	3.9	3.0	3.1	3.0

**Note:** The population counts for 2011 have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.

**Chart 3.5**  
**Size of official language minority population, by three projection scenarios, Quebec and Canada outside Quebec, 2011 to 2036**



1. "FOLS" is the acronym for "first official language spoken".

**Notes:** The shaded area indicates the interval between the minimum and maximum projections for all scenarios combined. The percentages for 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.

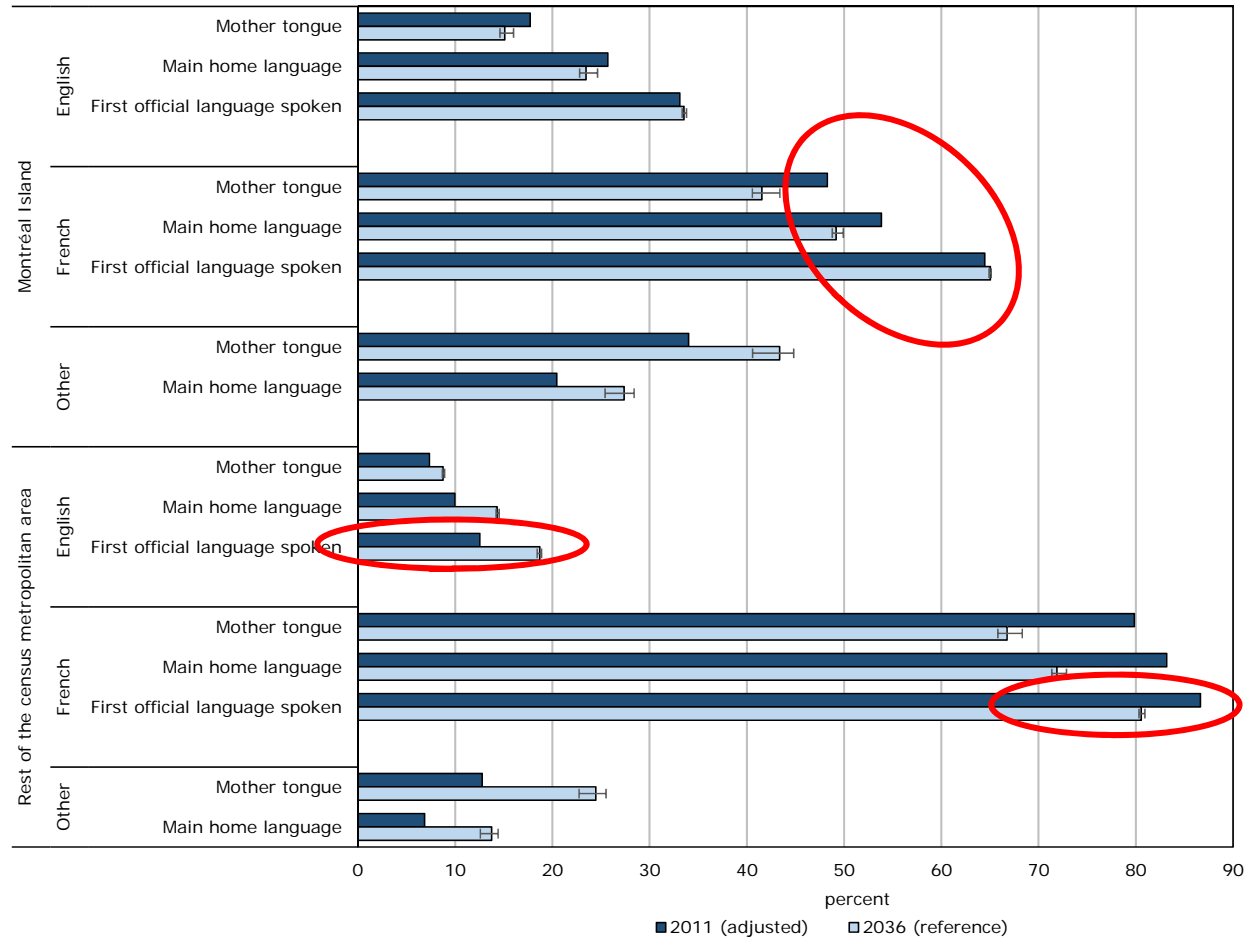


# Evolution in the Montreal Census metropolitan area (CMA)

Island of Montreal

Rest of Montreal CMA

**Chart 3.9a**  
English, French and other language populations, by three linguistic characteristics and three projection scenarios, Montréal Island and rest of the Montréal census metropolitan area, 2011 and 2036



**Notes:** The symbol |---| indicates the interval between the minimum and maximum projections for all scenarios combined. The population counts for 2011 have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.





## Francophone regions of Ontario. 2011 to 2036

**Table 3.8**  
**English, French and other languages, by three linguistic characteristics and three projection scenarios, francophone regions of Ontario, 2011 and 2036**

		Characteristic	2011 (adjusted)	2036 (projected)		
				Reference	Low immigration	High immigration
				percent		
Francophone Ontario	English	Mother tongue	64.4	69.6	69.8	69.5
		Main home language	76.2	79.5	79.6	79.4
		First official language spoken	69.4	74.0	73.9	74.1
	French	Mother tongue	30.8	26.2	26.3	26.1
		Main home language	22.1	18.9	19.0	18.9
		First official language spoken	30.4	25.9	26.0	25.8
	Other	Mother tongue	4.9	4.2	3.9	4.4
		Main home language	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.7
	Greater Sudbury	English	Mother tongue	68.0	72.9	73.2
Main home language			82.6	83.9	84.1	83.8
First official language spoken			74.6	78.3	78.2	78.3
French		Mother tongue	25.6	22.0	22.2	21.9
		Main home language	15.2	14.2	14.3	14.2
		First official language spoken	25.2	21.6	21.7	21.5
Other		Mother tongue	6.4	5.1	4.6	5.4
		Main home language	2.2	1.9	1.7	2.1
Rest of francophone Ontario		English	Mother tongue	62.8	68.2	68.3
	Main home language		73.6	77.6	77.7	77.5
	First official language spoken		67.2	72.2	72.1	72.3
	French	Mother tongue	33.0	27.9	28.1	27.8
		Main home language	25.0	20.9	21.0	20.9
		First official language spoken	32.6	27.7	27.8	27.6
	Other	Mother tongue	4.2	3.8	3.6	4.0
		Main home language	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.6

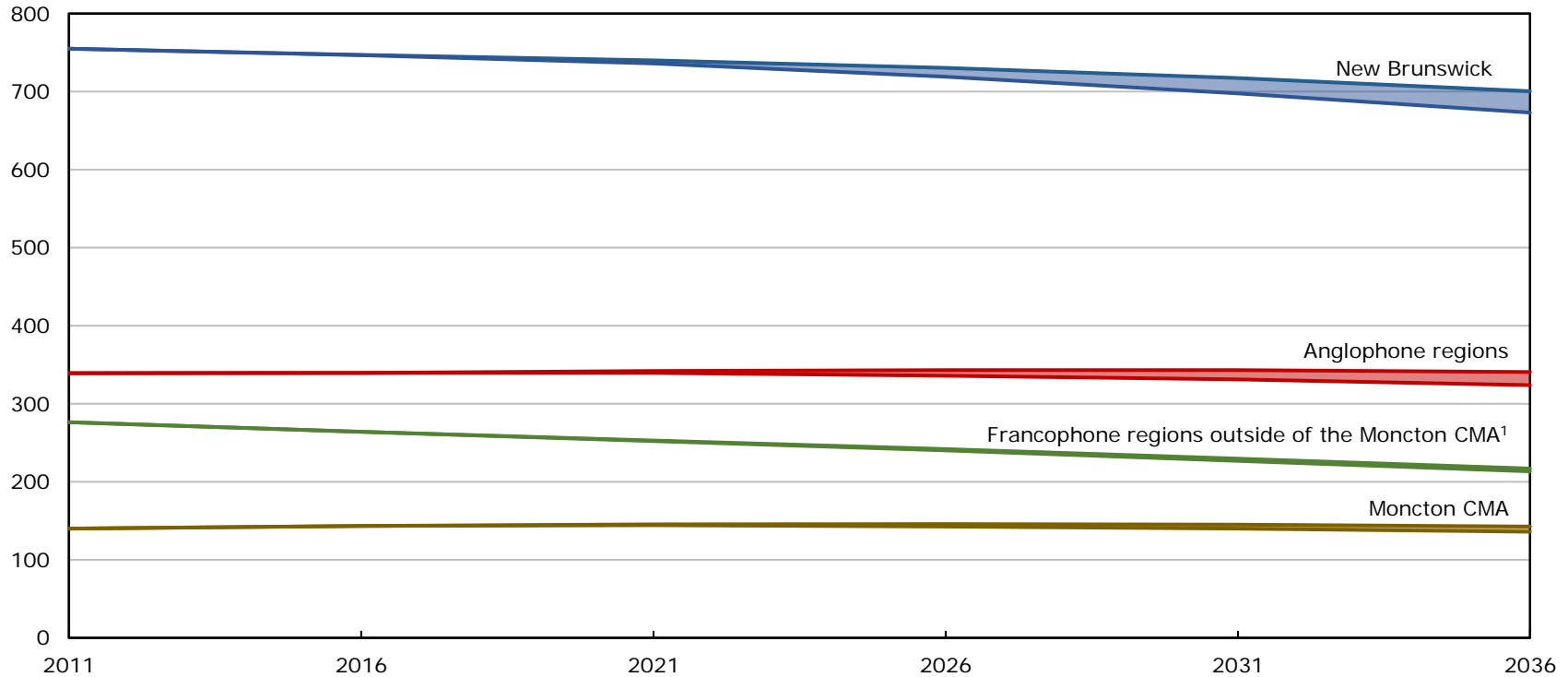
**Note:** The population counts for 2011 have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



Chart 3.11  
Total population of New Brunswick and its three regions, by three scenarios, 2011 to 2036

population (thousands)



1. "CMA" is the acronym for "census metropolitan area".

**Notes:** The shaded area indicates the interval between the minimum and maximum projections for all scenarios combined. The population counts for 2011 have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



## **Which scenarios (theoretical or concrete) could have an impact on the evolution of the overall population with French as first official language spoken in Canada outside Quebec?**

### Increase in number

- Immigration reference scenario
- High immigration
- High growth
- Internal migration scenario - 1996 to 2001 (or average of 1996 to 2011)
- Distribution of immigration (2000 to 2005 and 2005 to 2010)
- Composition of immigration (2005 to 2010)
- Quasi-complete transmission of French

### Decrease in number :

- Low immigration or zero immigration
- Low growth

The demographic weight of the overall French FOLS population in Canada outside Quebec should decrease according to all scenarios (by about 0.8 percentage point). This decrease should be smaller based on the 1996-2001 internal migration scenario and the theoretical quasi-complete transmission of French scenario (by about 0.3 percentage point).

## Population with French as first official language spoken in Canada outside Quebec. Evolution in numbers and percentages. 2011 to 2036 (reference scenario)

Evolution in numbers and proportions of the population with French as first official language spoken by province and the territories, 2011 to 2036, Reference scenario

	Number	Proportion
Newfoundland and Labrador	↓	=
Prince Edward Island	↓	↓
Nova Scotia	↓	↓
New Brunswick	↓	↓
Quebec	↑	↓
Ontario	↑	↓
Manitoba	↓	↓
Saskatchewan	↑	↓
Alberta	↑	↓
British Columbia	↑	↓
Territories	↑	↑
Canada	↑	↓

Given the major impact of immigration on French minorities in Canada outside Quebec, what is the number and share of immigrants that would be required to maintain the demographic weight of this population by 2036?

**Table 3.11**  
**Simulation of the number and percentage of French-speaking immigrants (FOLS<sup>1</sup>) required to maintain the 2016 weight of the French-speaking population (according to the FOLS), for each year, provinces (excluding Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec), and Canada outside Quebec, 2017 to 2036**

Province	Population with French as their first official language spoken in 2016	Projected immigrants with French as their first official language spoken		Required number of immigrants with French as their first official language spoken			
	percent	number (thousands)	share of total immigration (%)	number (thousands)	share of total immigration (%)	required ratio/projected	distribution (%)
Prince Edward Island	3.1	1	0.5	3	7.3	13.9	1.1
Nova Scotia	3.1	2	3.7	7	10.2	2.9	2.4
New Brunswick	30.9	7	11.4	22	35.2	3.3	7.9
Ontario	3.9	107	4.1	156	6.0	1.5	56.7
Manitoba	3.0	7	1.8	29	7.3	4.2	10.6
Saskatchewan	1.2	4	1.3	8	2.7	2.1	2.8
Alberta	1.8	21	2.2	25	2.7	1.2	9.2
British Columbia	1.3	17	1.8	26	2.7	1.5	9.4
<b>Total Canada outside Quebec</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. "FOLS" is the acronym for "first official language spoken".

Source: Statistics Canada, Demosim, 2016.



**Table 4.3**  
**Total population and total growth of first official language groups, by generation status, three projection scenarios, Canada, Quebec and Canada outside Quebec, 2011 and 2036**

	2011 (adjusted)	2036 (projected)			Projected growth, 2011 to 2036		
		Reference	Low immigration	High immigration	Reference	Low immigration	High immigration
		population (thousands)			rate (percent)		
<b>First official language spoken - English</b>							
<b>Canada</b>							
Immigrant	5,902	10,090	8,239	11,063	52.4	33.0	60.8
Second generation	5,468	7,550	7,113	7,750	32.0	26.1	34.5
Third generation or higher	14,176	15,959	16,046	15,941	11.8	12.4	11.7
<b>Quebec</b>							
Immigrant	366	632	527	697	53.3	36.1	62.2
Second generation	296	478	454	489	46.9	42.2	49.2
Third generation or higher	401	510	517	509	24.0	25.4	23.7
<b>Canada outside Quebec</b>							
Immigrant	5,536	9,458	7,712	10,366	52.3	32.8	60.7
Second generation	5,172	7,072	6,659	7,261	31.0	25.1	33.6
Third generation or higher	13,775	15,449	15,529	15,432	11.5	12.0	11.3
<b>First official language spoken - French</b>							
<b>Canada</b>							
Immigrant	721	1,629	1,321	1,814	77.3	58.8	86.2
Second generation	469	1,011	926	1,056	73.2	65.5	77.0
Third generation or higher	6,608	6,245	6,259	6,242	-5.7	-5.4	-5.7
<b>Quebec</b>							
Immigrant	601	1,342	1,095	1,495	76.2	58.2	85.3
Second generation	396	888	813	929	76.6	69.0	80.5
Third generation or higher	5,793	5,626	5,640	5,623	-2.9	-2.7	-3.0
<b>Canada outside Quebec</b>							
Immigrant	120	287	227	319	82.2	61.8	91.0
Second generation	73	123	113	127	50.4	42.8	53.7
Third generation or higher	815	619	619	618	-27.5	-27.3	-27.5

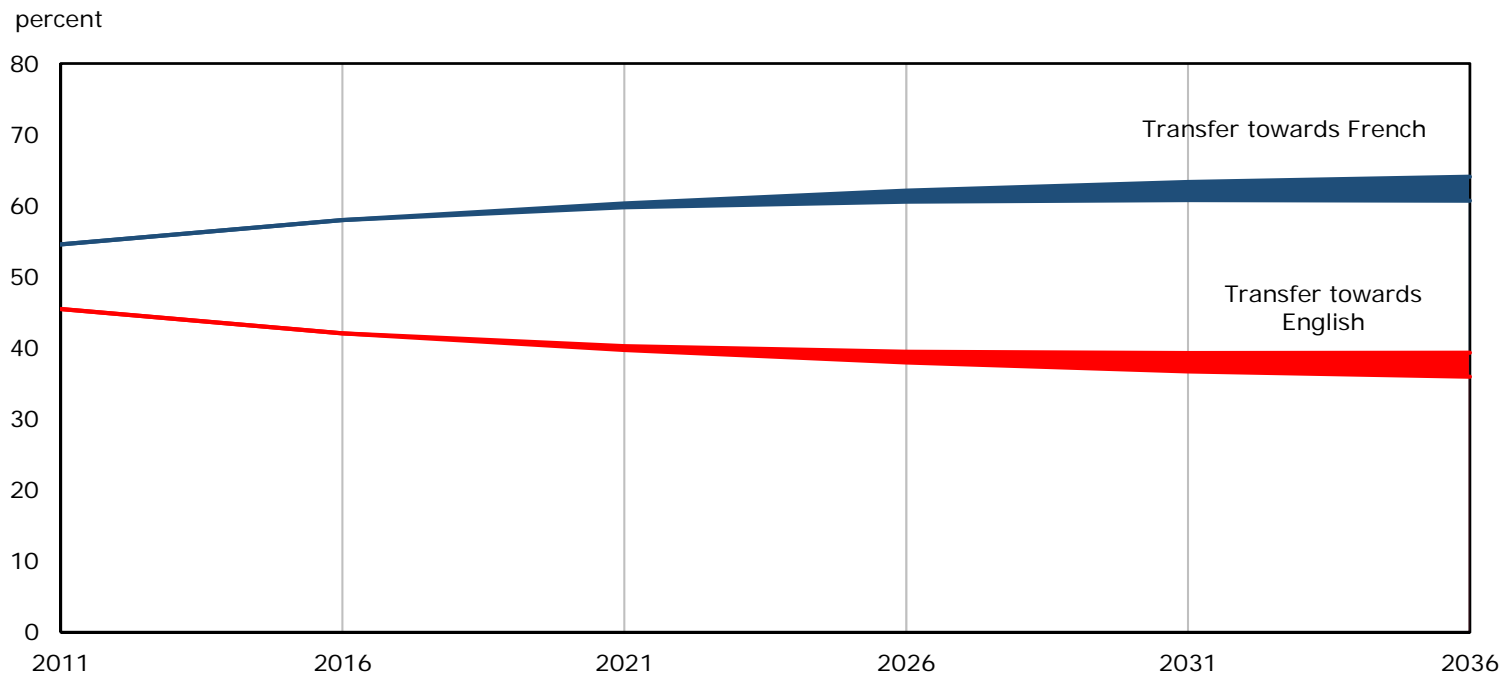
**Notes:** Permanent residents have been excluded from this table.  
The population for 2011 has been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



In Quebec, despite a distribution of language transfers by the population with a non-official language as mother tongue increasingly favorable to French, the English-speaking population should continue to benefit more from language transfers than the French-speaking population.

**Chart 4.10**  
**Distribution of language transfer towards English and French, population with a mother tongue other than English and French, three projection scenarios, Quebec, 2011 and 2036**



**Notes:** The shaded area indicates the interval between the minimum and maximum projections for all scenarios combined. The percentages for 2011 are based on population counts that have been adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



## Plausible evolution of the knowledge of Official languages and of English-French bilingualism. 2011 to 2036.



## Plausible evolution of the knowledge of French by 2036 (Reference scenario)

### ■ Canada

- From 10.2 millions in 2011 to 12.2 millions
- In percentage: from 29.8% in 2011 to 27.9%

### ■ Quebec

- From 7.5 millions in 2011 to 9 millions
- In percentage: from 94.4% in 2011 to 93.5%

### ■ Canada outside Quebec

- From 2.7 millions in 2011 to 3.2 millions
- In percentage : from 10.2% to 9.3%.

## Plausible evolution of the knowledge of English in Quebec

- From 3.8 millions in 2011 to 5.6 millions
- In percentage : from 47.6% in 2011 to 57.8%



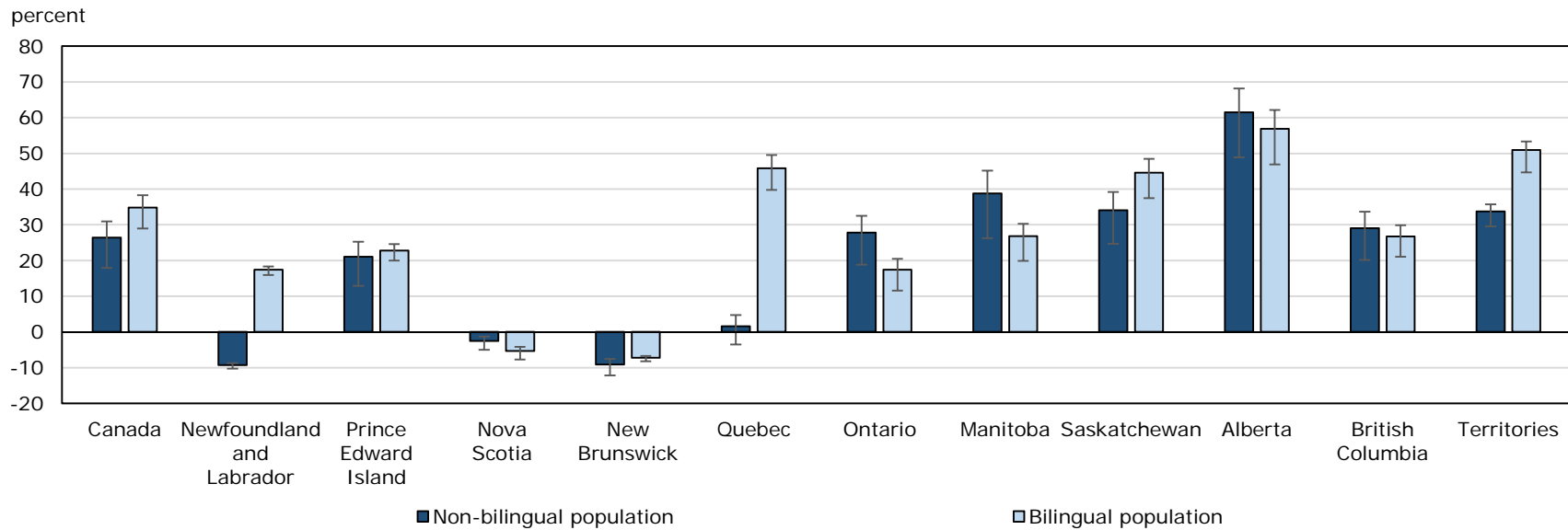
## Evolution of English-French bilingualism, 2011 to 2036

**Table 5.2**  
**Projection of the English-French bilingualism rate, by province and territories, three projection scenarios, 2011 and 2036**

	2011 (adjusted)	2036		
		Reference scenario	Low immigration scenario	High immigration scenario
<b>Provinces and territories</b>	percentage			
<b>Total - Canada</b>	17.5	18.5	18.8	18.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.5	5.8	5.8	5.8
Prince Edward Island	12.5	12.6	13.2	12.4
Nova Scotia	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.1
New Brunswick	33.4	33.9	34.4	33.6
Quebec	43.0	52.0	52.2	51.8
Ontario	11.0	10.2	10.4	10.1
Manitoba	8.6	7.9	8.2	7.8
Saskatchewan	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.8
Alberta	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.4
British Columbia	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.7
Territories	8.7	9.8	9.7	9.8
<b>Note:</b> The population has been adjusted for net undercoverage.				
<b>Sources:</b> Statistique Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.				



**Chart 5.2**  
**Growth rate of the English-French bilingual and non-bilingual populations in Canada, by province and territories, 2011 and 2036**



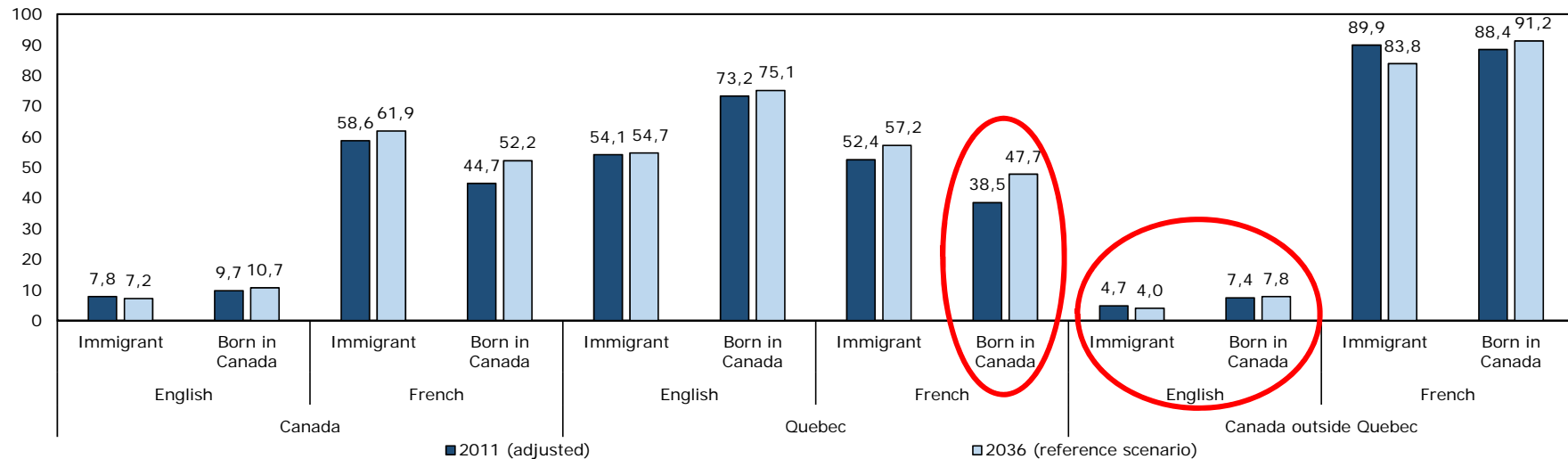
**Note:** The population has been adjusted for net undercoverage.  
**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.

## Evolution in the rate of English-French bilingualism by immigrant status, 2011-2036

**Chart 5.7**

**English-French bilingualism rate, by immigrant status and first official language spoken, Canada, Quebec, Canada outside Quebec, 2011 and 2036**

percent



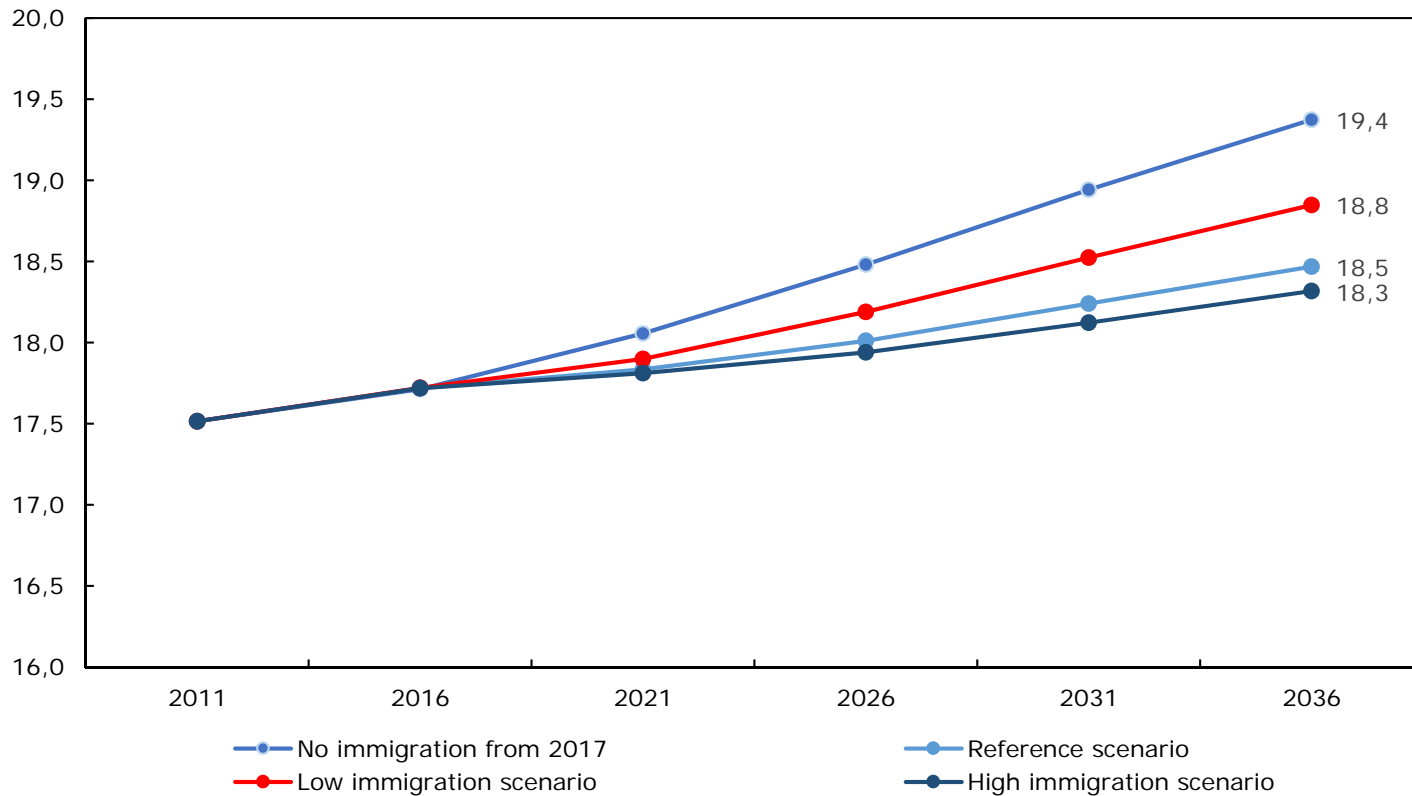
**Notes:** The 2011 proportions are calculated with the population adjusted for net undercoverage. The 2036 bilingualism rates presented in this chart do not vary significantly by immigration scenario.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



**Chart 5.8**  
**Evolution of English-French bilingualism rate in Canada, by immigration scenario, Canada, 2011 to 2036**

percent

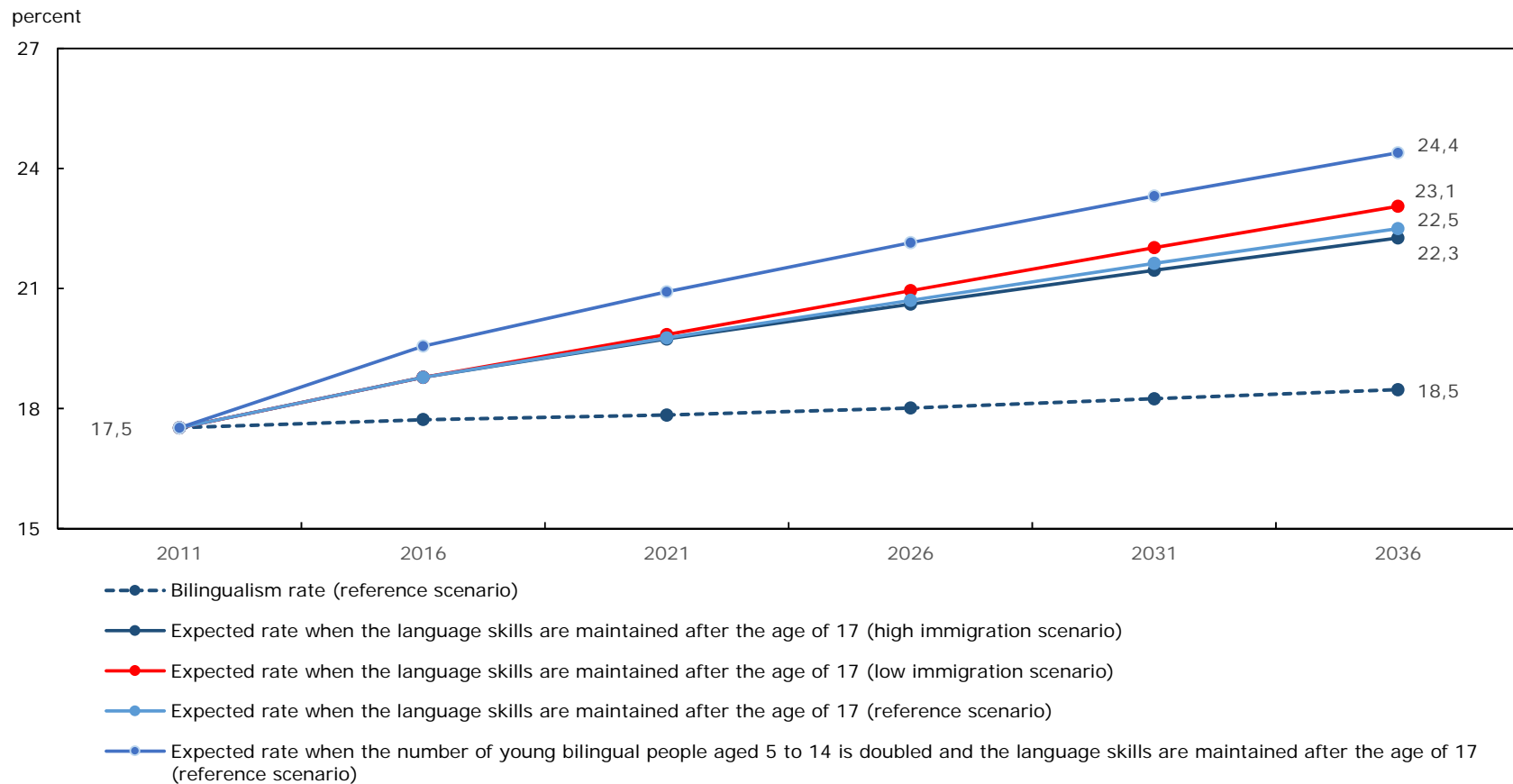


**Note:** The 2011 proportions are calculated with the population adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.



**Chart 5.10**  
**Evolution of English-French bilingualism rate by second-language skills maintenance scenario among the population with English as first official language spoken, by various immigration scenarios, Canada outside Quebec, 2011 to 2036**



**Note:** The 2011 proportions are calculated with the population adjusted for net undercoverage.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and Demosim, 2016.

## Conclusion

- Many scenarios have been used to project the language characteristics of the Canadian population between 2011 to 2036.
- Immigration should remain the main driver of population growth. It should continue to have a strong impact on the demolinguistic balance between English and French in Canada.
- Language transfers should continue to be favourable to English-speaking populations in Quebec and Canada outside Quebec.
- Despite an increase in the transmission of French over the last 25 years in Canada outside Quebec, English should remain the language most transmitted to children of exogamous couples.
- English-French bilingualism should continue to grow significantly in Quebec and could decrease (in %) in Canada outside Quebec.



## Limitations of the projections

- Four language characteristics have been projected using Demosim for this project.
- The language spoken on a regular basis at home as secondary language and languages used at work have not been projected in Demosim.
- Beside language of work, it was not possible to measure the use of languages in the public domain using the Census and the 2011 NHS.
- Other factors than those of a strictly demolinguistic nature could have an impact on the evolution of language characteristics of Canadians, particularly on English-French bilingualism.