



The Economic Contribution of Francophones in Canada

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Key Figures

- In 2006, 5.9 million Quebec residents, or 79.5 per cent of the province's population, had French as their first language. For Canada as a whole, these figures were 6.9 million and 22 per cent, respectively. This means that in 2006, French was the first language of approximately 1 million people outside Quebec (952,000 to be exact).



Key Figures

- The provinces with the most mother-tongue francophones (hereafter referred to as “francophones”) outside Quebec were Ontario (497,000) and New Brunswick (233,000).
- Alberta had the highest percentage increase, at 4.7 per cent, in francophones in the 10 Canadian provinces between 2001 and 2006.



Key Figures

- From 2001 to 2006, Canada's francophone population outside Quebec shrank very slightly by 0.1 per cent, or just over 1,000 people. As a result, the proportion of francophones outside Quebec dropped from 4.2 to 4 per cent during this period.



Key Figures

- In 2006, Quebec, at 16.7 per cent, had the highest percentage of young francophones (aged 0–14). At the other extreme, the province with the highest percentage of francophone seniors (aged 65 or over) was Saskatchewan, at 31.4 per cent.



Key Figures

- Quebec had the largest number of francophone workers in Canada: 3.2 million, or 80 per cent of the province's workers.
- The number of francophone workers in the rest of Canada was around 540,000, or 4.1 per cent of the total employment figure outside Quebec. About 400,000 of these workers lived in Ontario and New Brunswick.



Key Figures

- From 2001 to 2006, employment for francophones in Canada rose by 5 per cent (i.e., less than the 8.2 per cent increase in employment for Canadians as a whole) from all language backgrounds combined.
- In total, 170,000 new jobs for francophones were created in Quebec and 10,000 in the rest of Canada.



Key Figures

- In 2006, the unemployment rate for francophones in Canada was lower than that of the general population in every province except New Brunswick. This rate was also much lower in Canada's three territories.



Key Figures

- In 2006, francophone workers enjoyed higher average incomes than non-francophones in every province except New Brunswick. This was especially true in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia.



Key Figures

- In 2006, the proportion of government workers who were francophone was relatively high, particularly outside Quebec. This francophone proportion was 11.1 per cent, compared with 5.7 per cent for all of Canada's workers (i.e., roughly half less).



Key Figures

- The gross francophone production in Canada was \$230.5 billion in 2006, or 19.4 per cent of the country's total GDP. From 2001 to 2006, francophones' GDP growth (at 1.5 per cent on average per year) was lower than the increase in national GDP (an average of 2.7 per cent per year).



Key Figures

- In 2006, per capita GDP of francophones was higher in every Canadian province or territory (except Nunavut) than the overall per capita GDP in each of these provinces and territories. However, in Canada as a whole, the per capita GDP of francophones was lower than that for the total population (from all language backgrounds combined).



Key Figures

- From 2001 to 2006, the per capita GDP of francophones grew much faster than the increase for Canada as a whole (for people from all languages combined), thereby reducing the income gap between francophones and non-francophones in Canada during this period.



Key Figures

- According to Statistics Canada, the multiplier effect of francophone gross production in Canada is 1.52. In other words, each dollar of GDP generated by francophones in Canada contributes \$1.52 to the country's GDP (i.e., an extra \$0.52).



Key Figures

- Francophone gross production helps to create 1.6 million jobs elsewhere in Canada, for a multiplier effect of 1.48. These jobs, which are naturally remunerated, are estimated to produce \$233.2 billion in total income.



Summary

- A generally lower unemployment rate
- Higher average income
- Heavily represented in government
- An aging population, particularly in some provinces.





The Conference Board of Canada