

SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
PROFILE OF

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES OF  
**THE REGIONS OF QUÉBEC**

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NOVEMBER 2025

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# INTRODUCTION

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## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (RDN)

Founded in 2019, the Regional Development Network (RDN) is a provincial nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing socio-economic development for English-speaking communities across the province of Québec. Supported by a network of 19 community-based organizations serving English speakers in Québec, RDN collaborates with federal, provincial, and municipal governments as a way to represent its network's needs and challenges and to create projects and partnerships.

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## PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

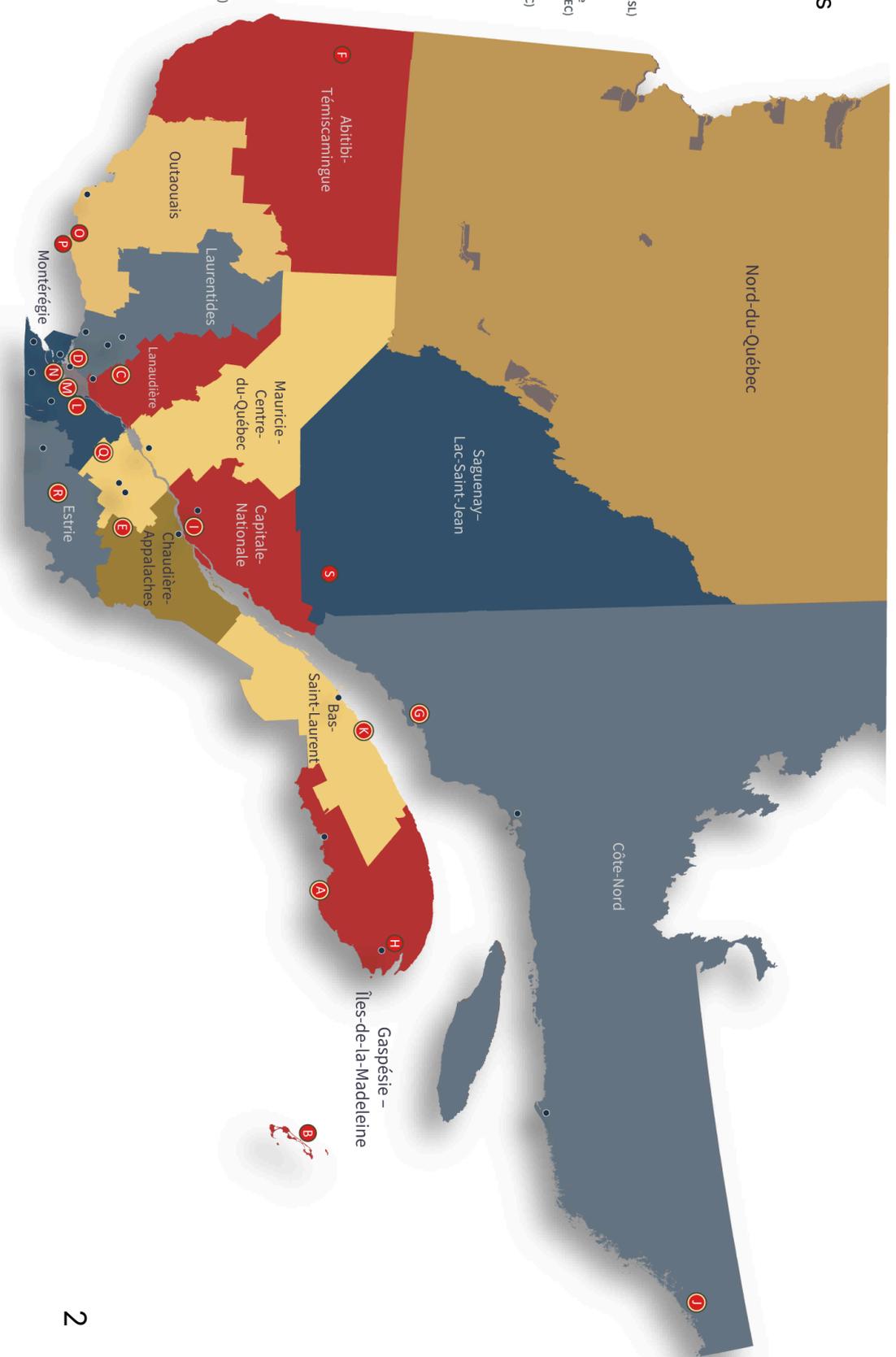
This document provides an overview of the English-speaking communities across Québec excluding Montreal, Laval, and Nord-du-Québec. Its purpose is to provide information that can be used to create awareness of the English-speaking communities to local stakeholders and partners.



# MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Regional Development Network has 19 member organizations that are embedded within 14 administrative regions across Québec.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>A</b> Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) Gaspésie                                  | <b>K</b> Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence (HLSL) Bas Saint-Laurent                                  |
| <b>B</b> Council for Anglophone Magalen Islanders (CAMI) Îles-de-la-Madeleine                    | <b>L</b> Montérégie East Partnership for the English-speaking Community (MEPEC) Montérégie-Est   |
| <b>C</b> English Community Organization of Lanaudière (ECOL) Lanaudière                          | <b>M</b> Assistance and Referral Centre (ARC) Montérégie-Centre                                  |
| <b>D</b> 4Korners Lanaudières  | <b>N</b> Montérégie West Community Network (MWCN) Montérégie-Ouest                               |
| <b>E</b> Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MGDC) Chaudière-Appalaches | <b>O</b> Regional Association of West Québécois (RAWQ) Outaouais                                 |
| <b>F</b> Neighbours Regional Association of Rouyn-Noranda Abitibi-Témiscamingue                  | <b>P</b> Connexions Resource Centre Outaouais  |
| <b>G</b> North Shore Community Association (NSCA) Côte-Nord                                      | <b>Q</b> Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE) Mauricie / Centre-du-Québec             |
| <b>H</b> Vision Gaspé-Perce Now Gaspésie   | <b>R</b> Townshippers' Association Estrie  |
| <b>I</b> Voice of English-speaking Québec (VÉQ) Capitale Nationale                               | <b>S</b> English Community Organization Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (ECO-02) Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean |
| <b>J</b> Coasters Association Côte-Nord  |  |



# KEY STATISTICS

- **7.3%** of Québec's population excluding Montreal, Laval, and Nord-du-Québec, or **429,880** people, are English speakers (First official language spoken (FOLS)).<sup>1</sup>
- The Bas-Saint-Laurent region has the lowest proportion of English speakers at **0.7%**, and the Outaouais has the largest at **20.7%**.
- The proportion of English speakers (15 years+) that are a **visible minority** is significantly higher at 25.1% than that of French speakers (5.2%) for the regions of Québec.
- **Unemployment** rates are significantly higher for English speakers (9.7%) than for French speakers (6.3%) for the regions in this profile.
- The Capitale-Nationale and Mauricie regions have the highest proportion of English speakers that are living under the **low-income cut-off (LICO)** (10.4% and 9.2% respectively).
- English speakers (ES) have a higher proportion that are living **below the poverty line** than French speakers (FS) in all regions of this profile, except for the Côte-Nord region (ES: 9.5% vs. FS: 4.9% for the average of the regions).
- The **median income** for English speakers is lower than French speakers for all regions except for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and the Chaudière-Appalaches regions.
- The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (29.5%) and Estrie (24.9%) regions have the highest proportions of English speakers that are **65 years and older**.



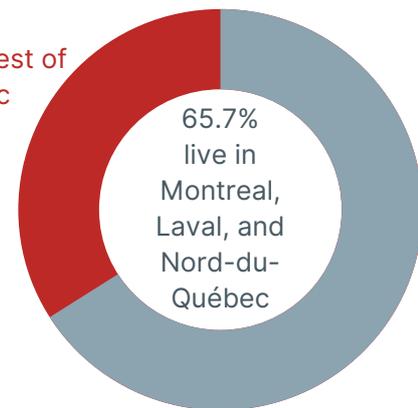
<sup>1</sup>The statistical information for this document was drawn from the 2021 Census of Canada. The definition used for English and French speakers in this profile is FOLS, which stands for First Official Language Spoken (except for page 4 which is mother tongue). **3**



# FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SPOKEN

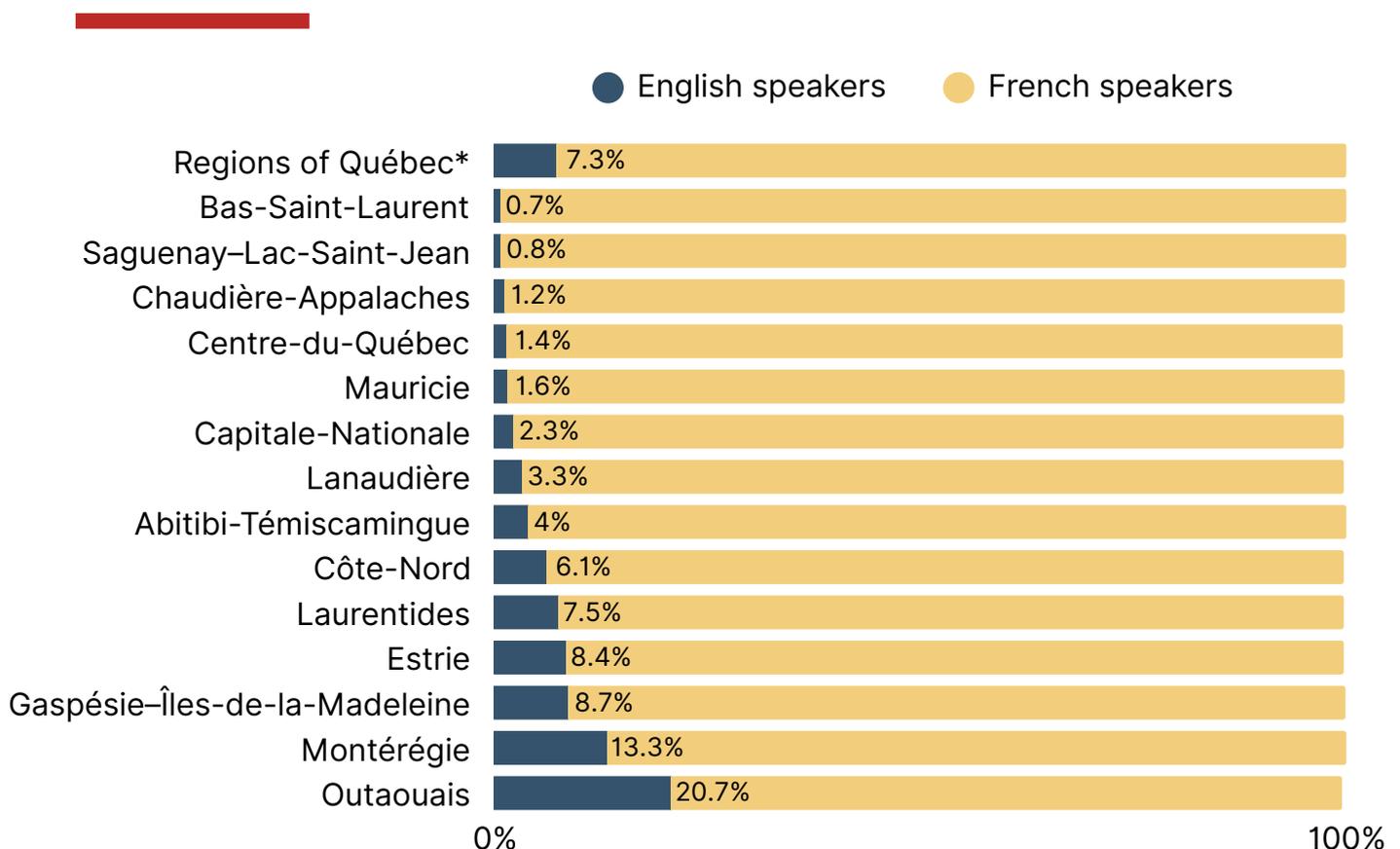
## FOLS English speakers in Québec

34.3% live in the rest of Québec



There are over one million (1,253,580) individuals living in Québec whose first official language is English, and a little over one third of these English speakers (429,880) are living in regions outside of Montreal, Laval, and Nord-du-Québec.

Regional populations vary greatly, as does the proportion of the population made up of English speakers, from 20.7% in the Outaouais region to 0.7% in the Lower Saint-Lawrence.



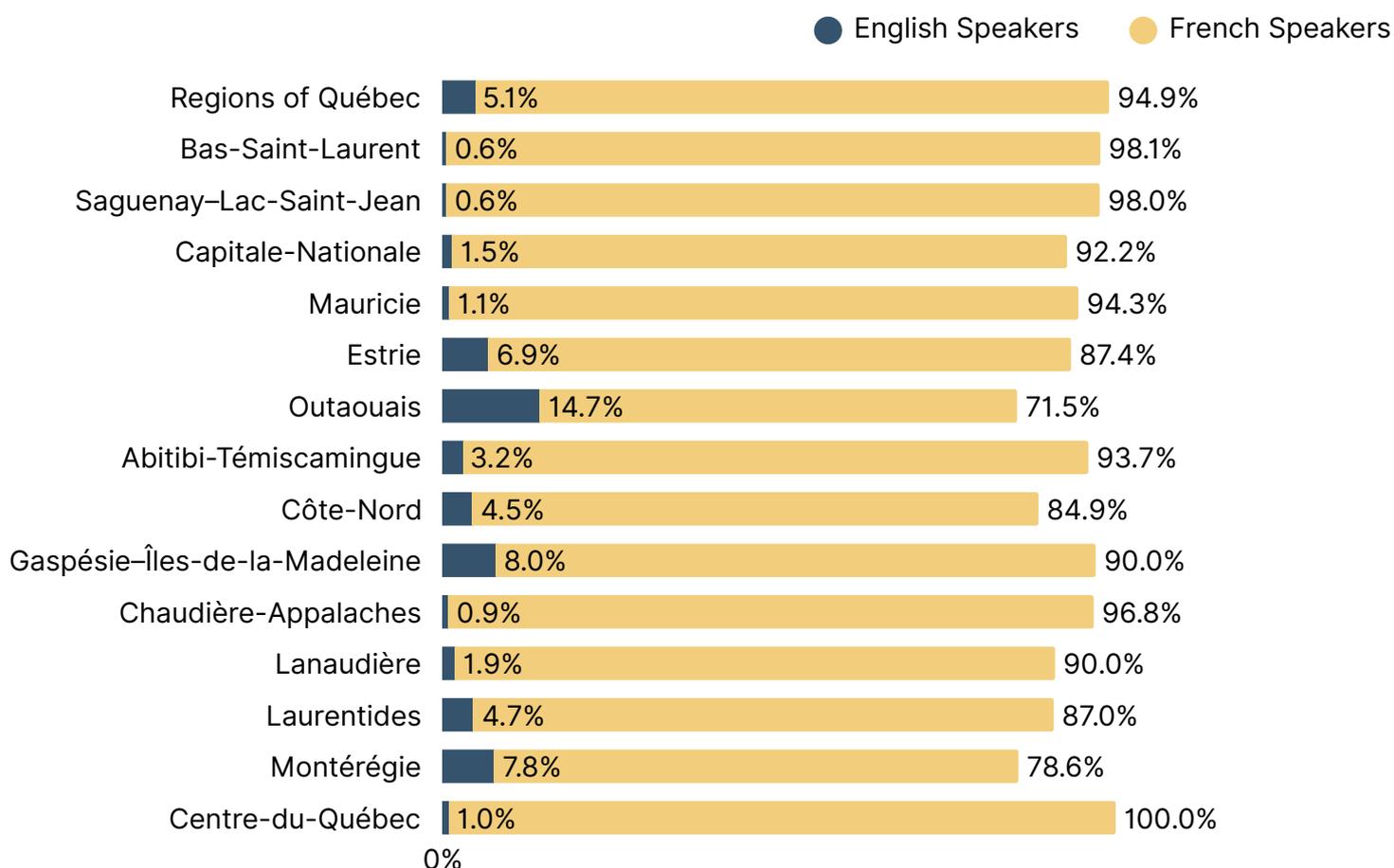
\*Province of Québec, excluding the cities of Montreal, Laval and the administrative region of Nord-du-Québec



# MOTHER TONGUE

There is a total of 279,845 English speakers in the regions of Québec. The Outaouais administrative region has the highest proportion of mother tongue English speakers. This same region has the lowest proportion of French speakers whose mother tongue is French.

## English and French speakers by administrative region (2021) (mother tongue)

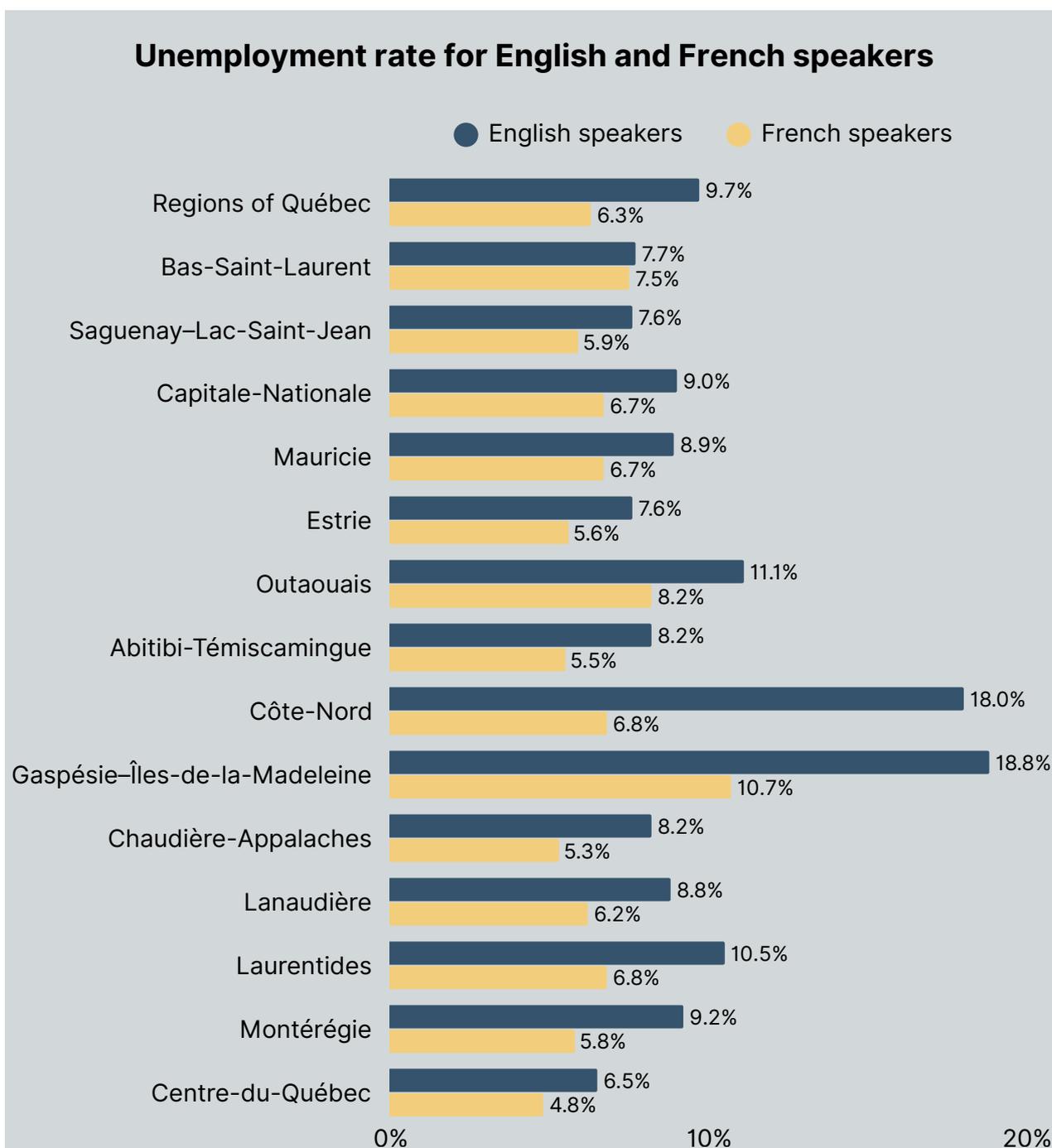


(Denis, J.-C. and McDonlad-Guimond, J.)

# EMPLOYMENT

## Unemployment

Unemployment rates are significantly higher for English speakers than for French speakers for all the administrative regions across Québec.

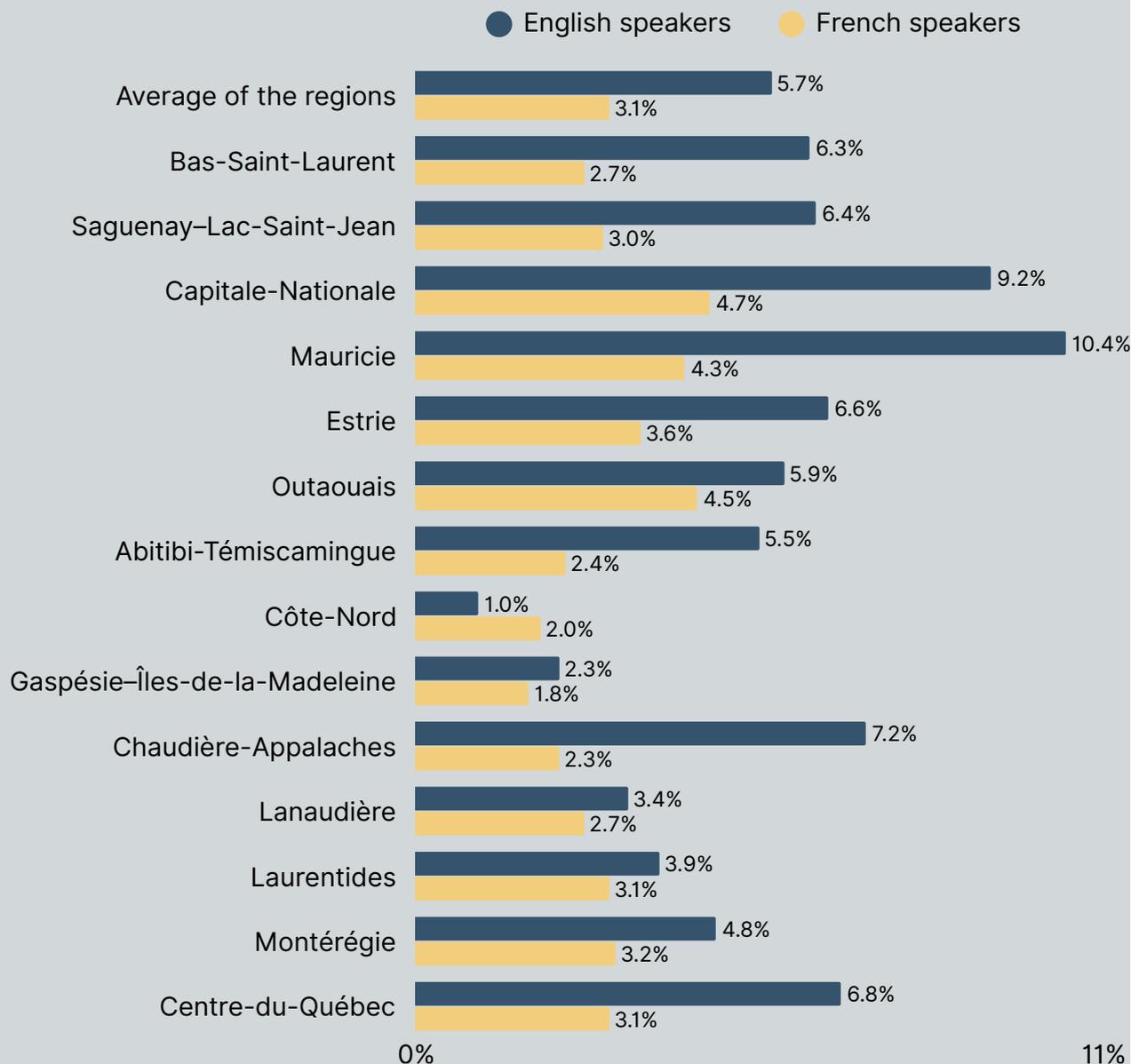


(Pocock, 2023)

# LOW INCOME

There is a significantly higher proportion of English speakers that are living under the low-income cut-off (LICO) than French speakers in many of the administrative regions. The Mauricie administrative region has the biggest difference between the proportion of English and French speakers that are living under the LICO.

## English and French speakers living under the low-income cut-off (LICO)

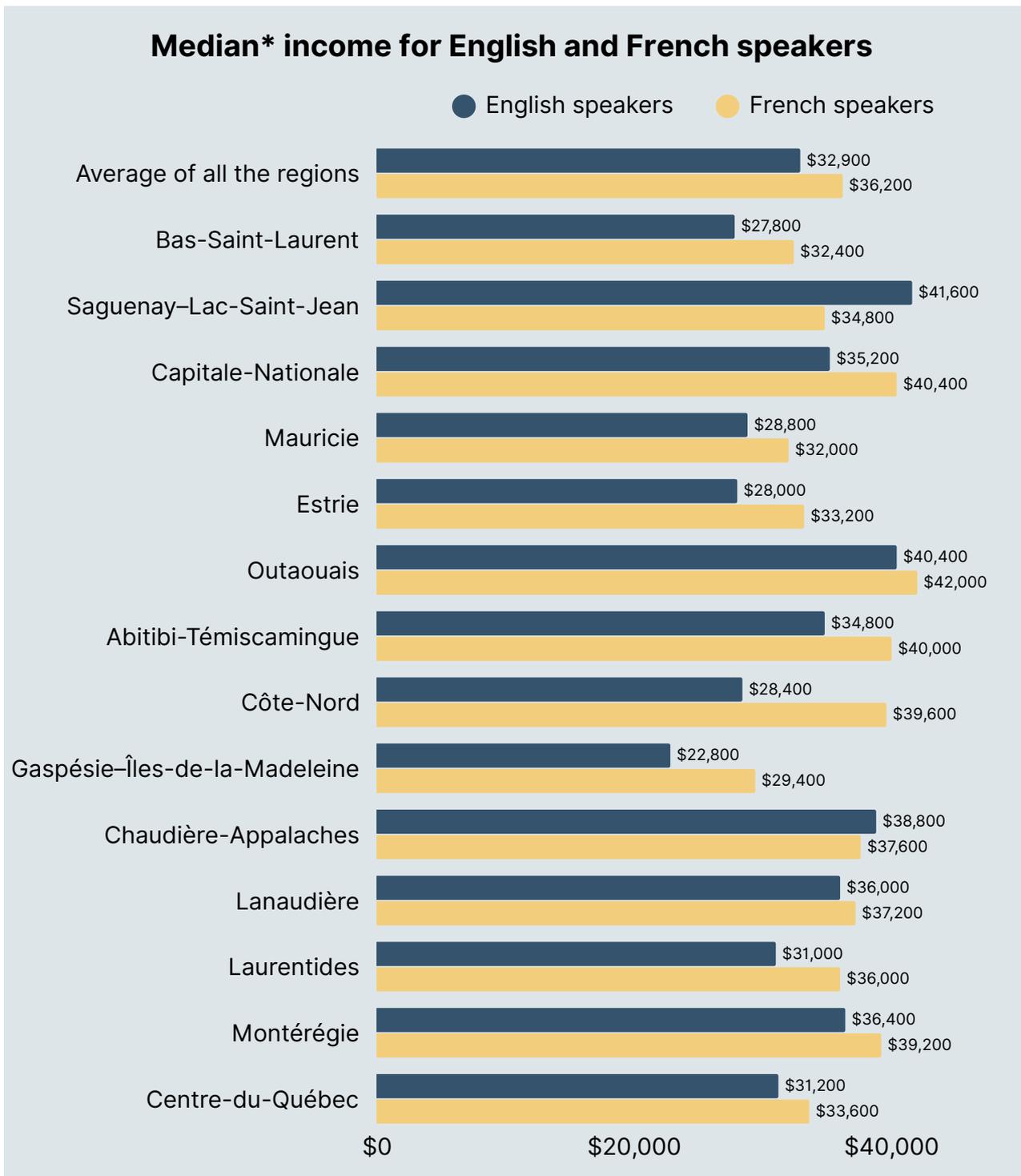


(PERT, 2023)

\*Low-Income cut-off: refers to when a household spends a larger share of its income than average on necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. (Statistics Canada, 2025)

# MEDIAN INCOME

The median income for English speakers is lower than that of French speakers for all regions except for the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and the Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

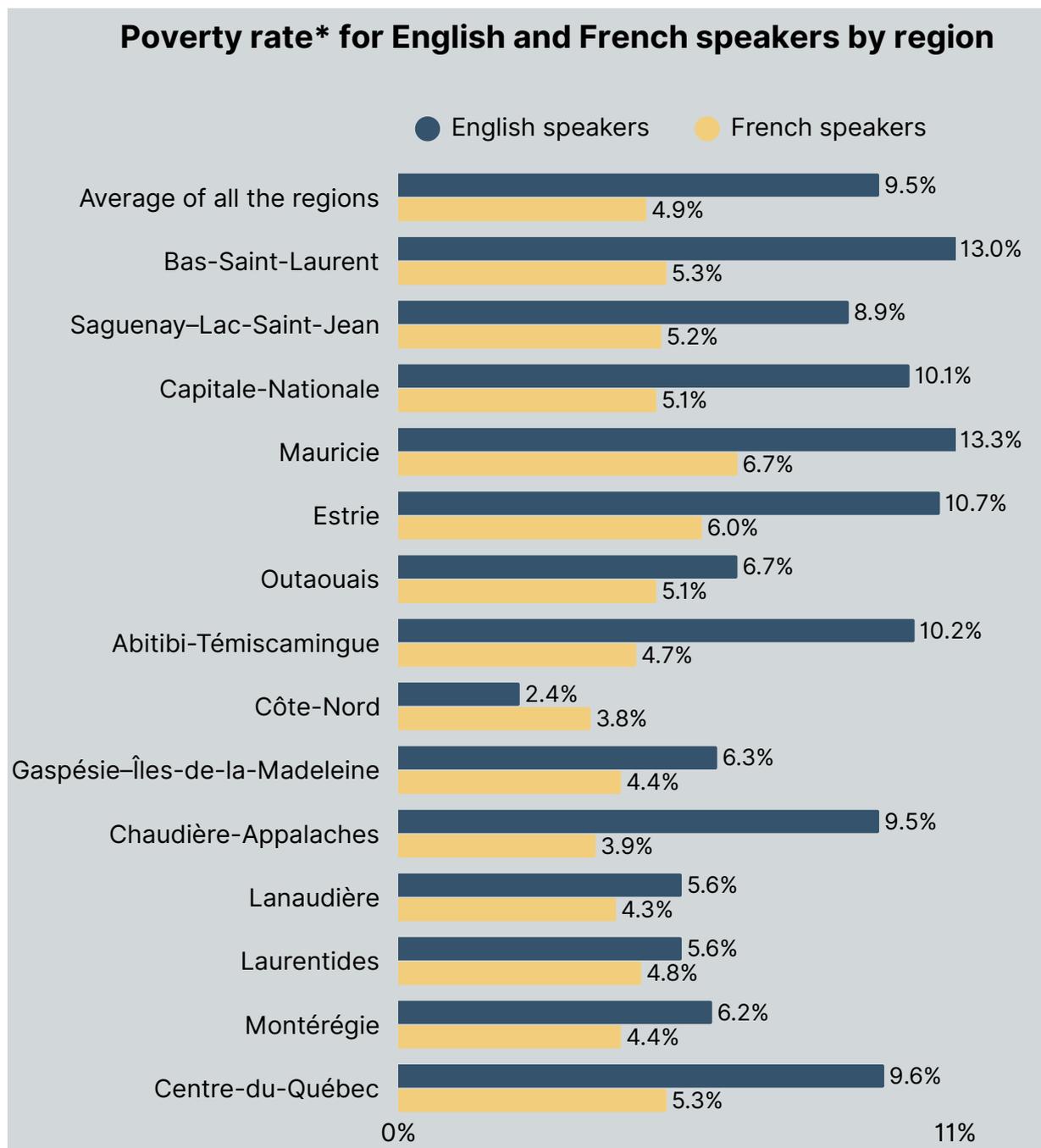


(PERT, 2023)

Median income: is the midpoint of the list of values from highest to lowest, with half the values above, and half the values below the median income. Statistics Canada (2025).

# POVERTY

There is a significantly higher proportion of English speakers that are living in poverty than French speakers in many of the administrative regions. The opposite is true for the Côte-Nord region.



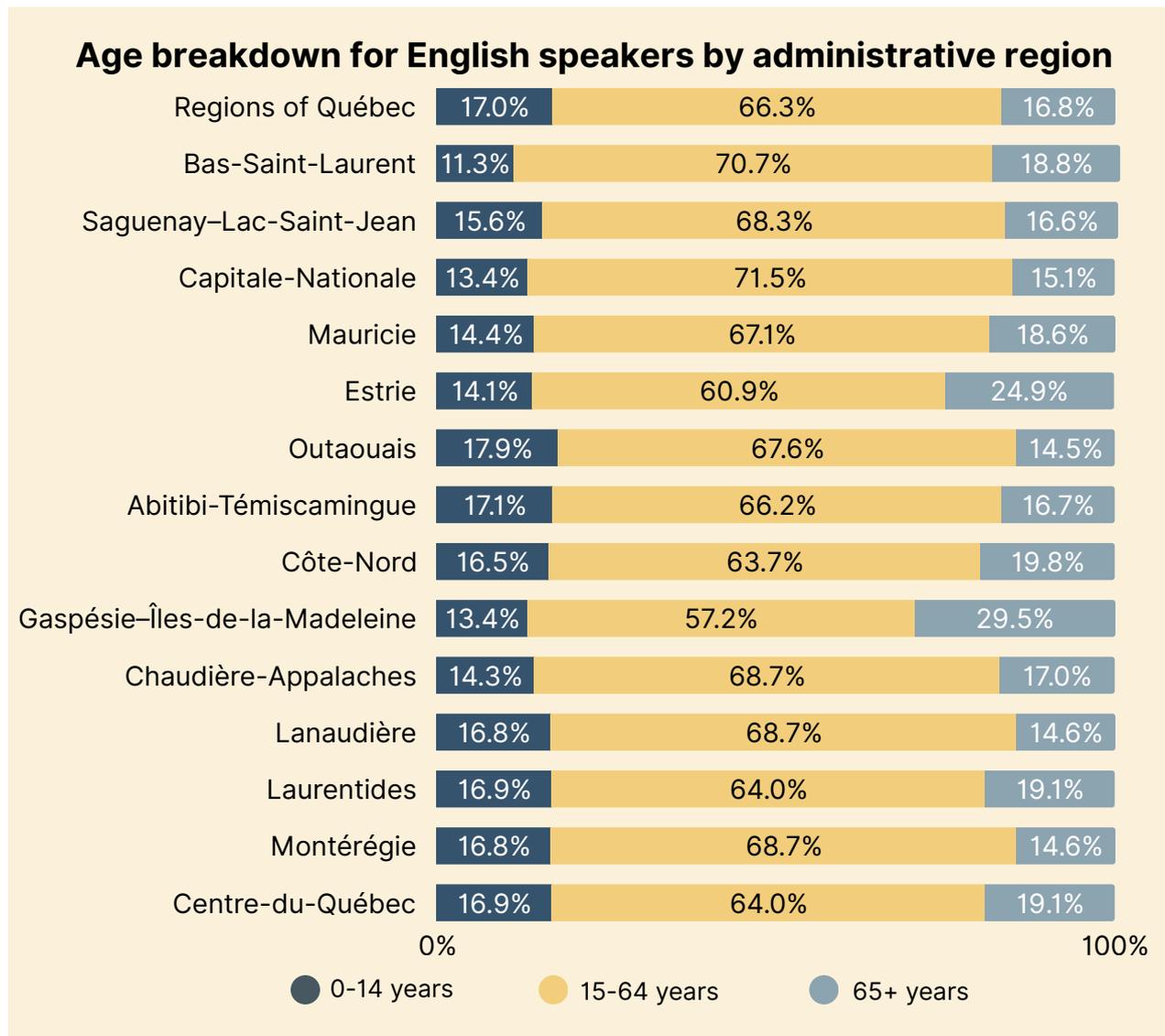
(PERT, 2023)

\***Poverty Rate:** refers to the percentage of the population whose income falls below the poverty line, which is determined by the Market Basket Measure (MBM) threshold. In 2020, the MBM threshold for Québec was \$19,601 in large urban areas (population 500,000 or more) and \$19,520 in rural areas

\***Market Basket Measure Threshold:** refers to the cost of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and other necessities for a family. This threshold takes into account and is adjusted to the size of a family, the community, and geographic location (Statistics Canada, 2025).

# AGE BREAKDOWN

The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Estrie regions have the highest proportion of English-speaking 65 year-olds and older.

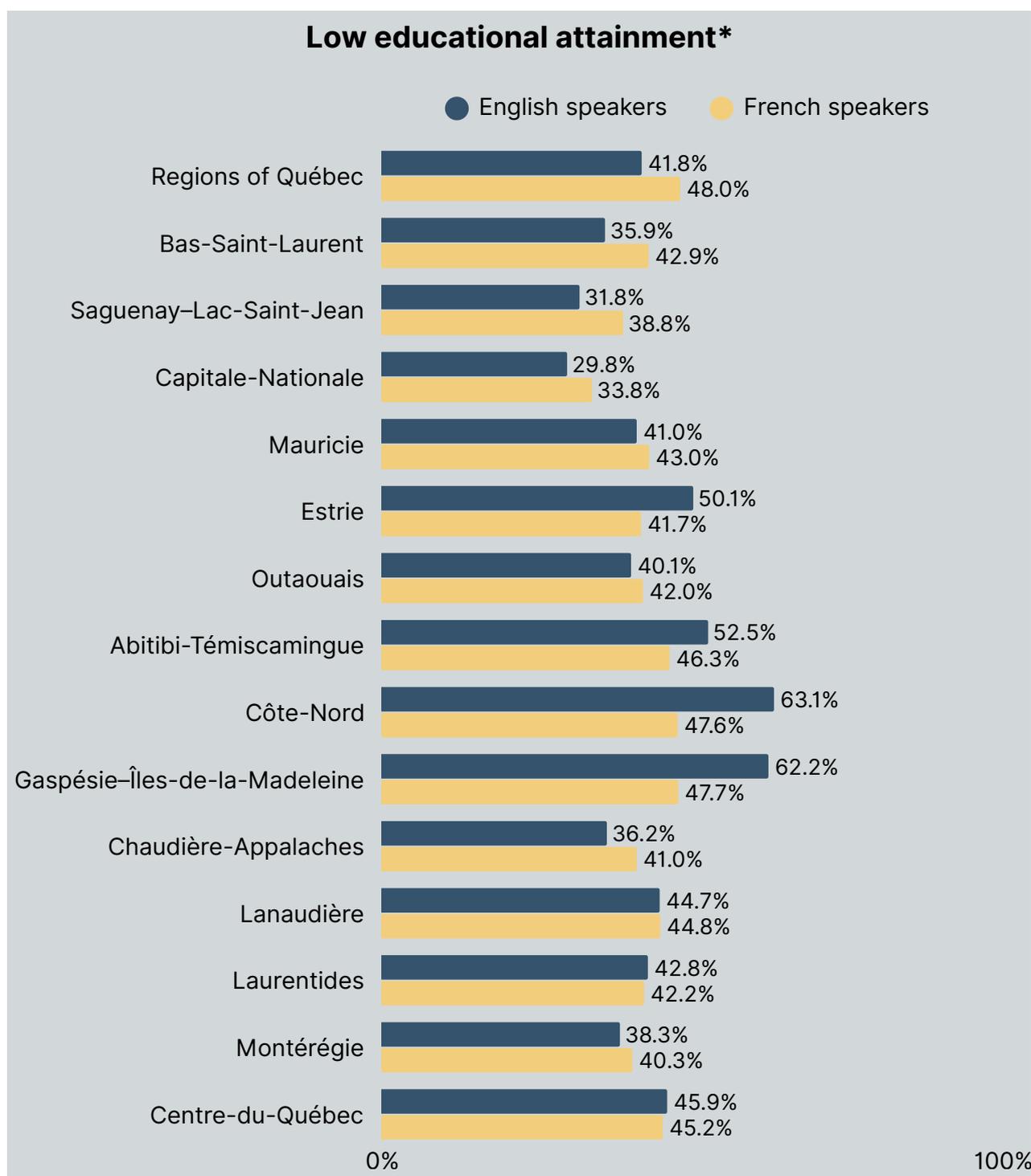


(Pocock, 2023)



# EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

English speakers in the regions of Québec have a lower proportion of their population with a high school diploma (or below) than French speakers.

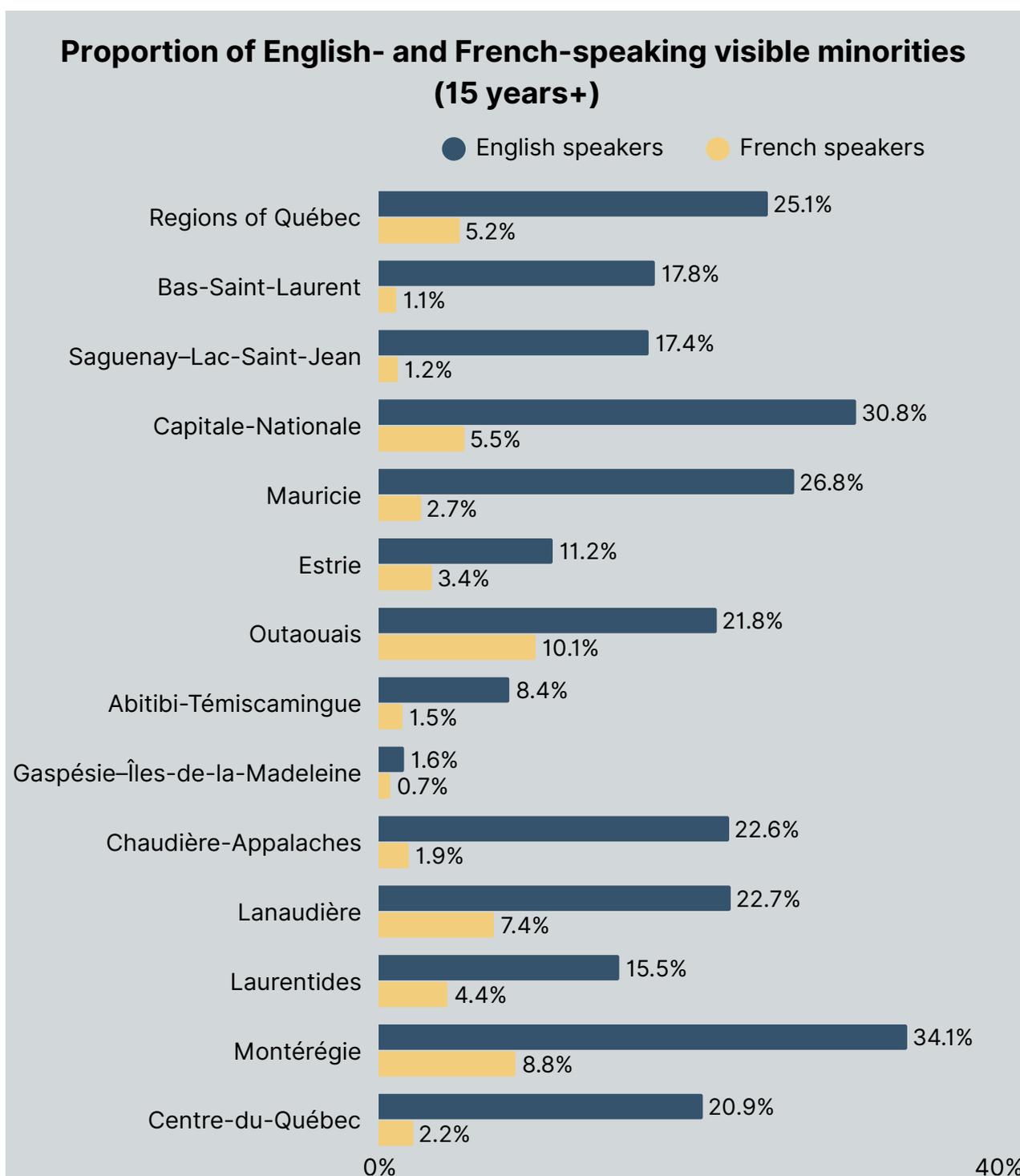


(Pocock, 2023)

\*Low educational attainment: High school diploma or less

# VISIBLE MINORITIES

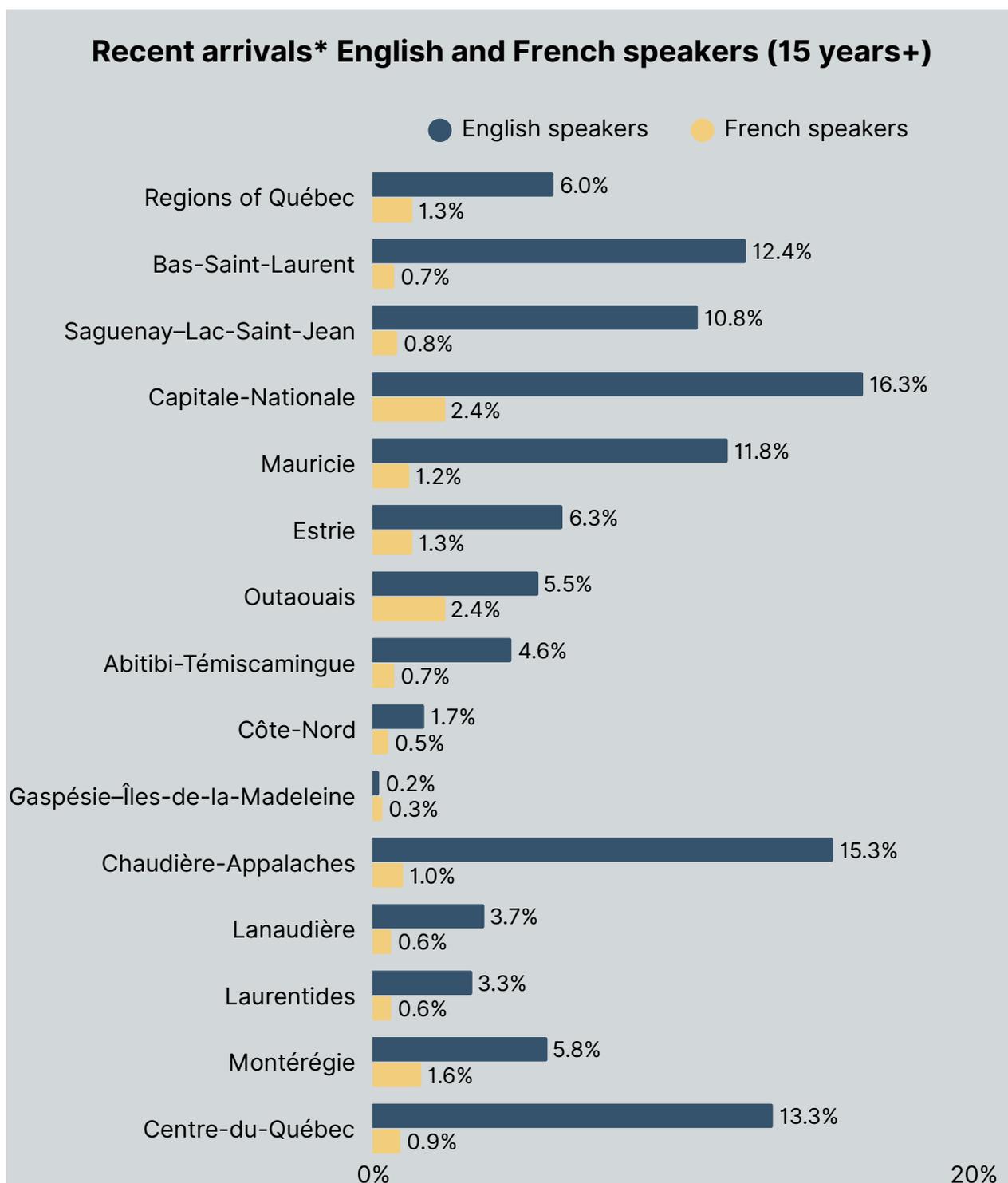
The proportion of English speakers that are a visible minority (15 years+) is significantly higher than that of French speakers across the regions of Québec.



(Producer: Statistics Canada, 2021, Distributer: RDN, 2023)

# MOBILITY

The Capitale-Nationale and the Chaudière-Appalaches regions have the highest proportions of English speakers that have moved to Canada between 2016 and 2021.

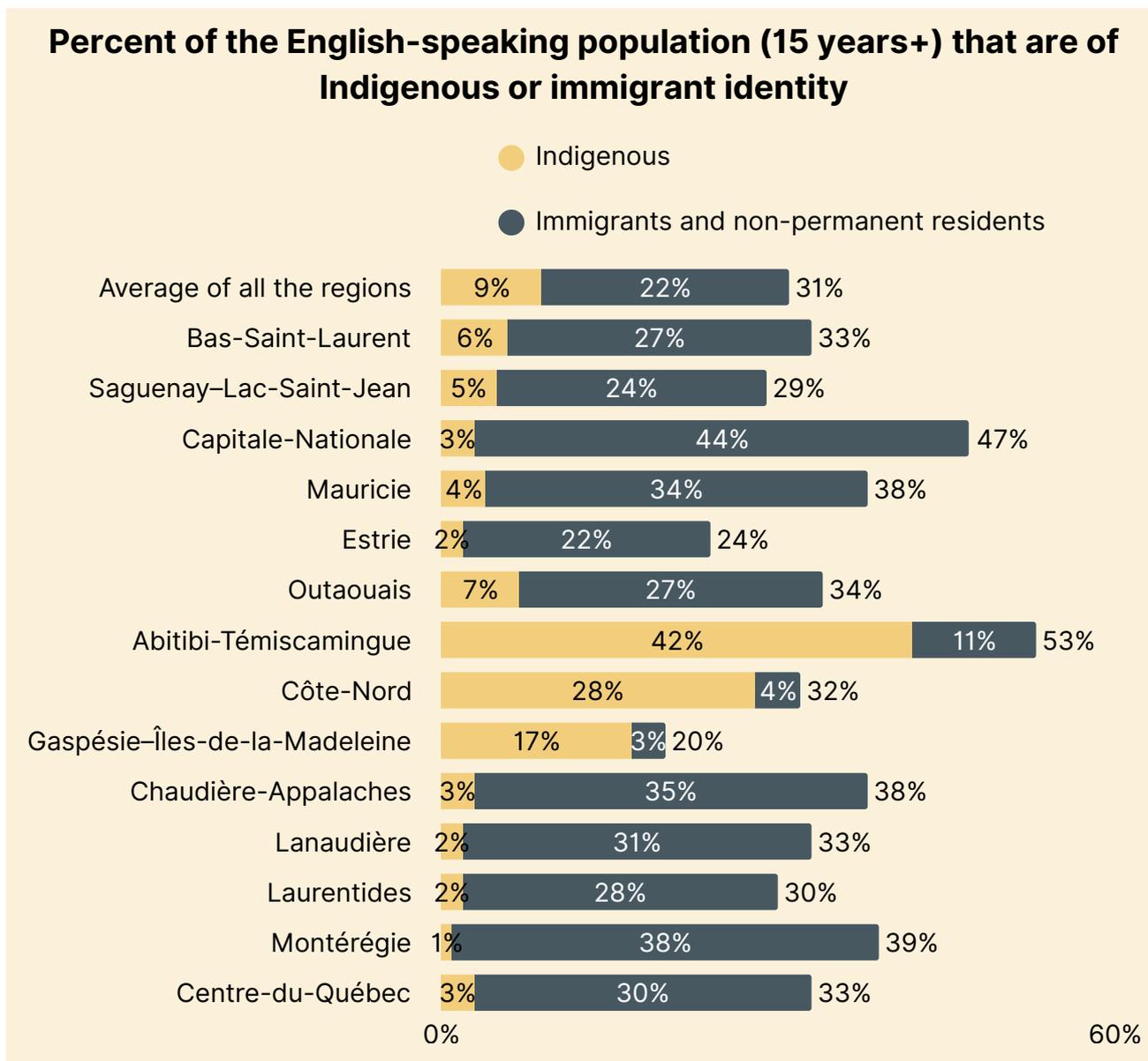


(Producer: Statistics Canada, 2021, Distributer: RDN, 2023)

\*Recent Arrivals: English speakers who moved into Canada between 2016 and 2021 (Statistics Canada, 2025).

# INDIGENOUS AND IMMIGRANT IDENTITY

The Abitibi-Témiscamingue administrative region has the highest proportion of English speakers that are of Indigenous identity. Capitale-Nationale has the highest proportion of English speakers that are immigrants and non-permanent residents (44%).



(Denis, J.-C. and McDonlad-Guimond, J. )

\*Immigrant is someone who is not a Canadian citizen by birth. Statistics Canada(2025).

\*Indigenous identity includes First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuk, Treaty Indians, and those who have a membership in a First Nation or Indian band (Statistics Canada, 2025).

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