



SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROFILE OF

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES OF
THE REGIONS OF QUÉBEC

NOVEMBER 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS



- Introduction.....1
- Member Organizations.....2
- Key Statistics.....3
- Population Characteristics
 - FOLS.....4
 - Mother Tongue.....5
 - Employment.....6
 - Income.....7
 - Poverty.....9
 - Age Breakdown.....10
 - Educational Attainment.....11
 - Visible Minority.....12
 - Mobility.....13
 - Indigenous and Immigrant Identity.....14

INTRODUCTION

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.

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

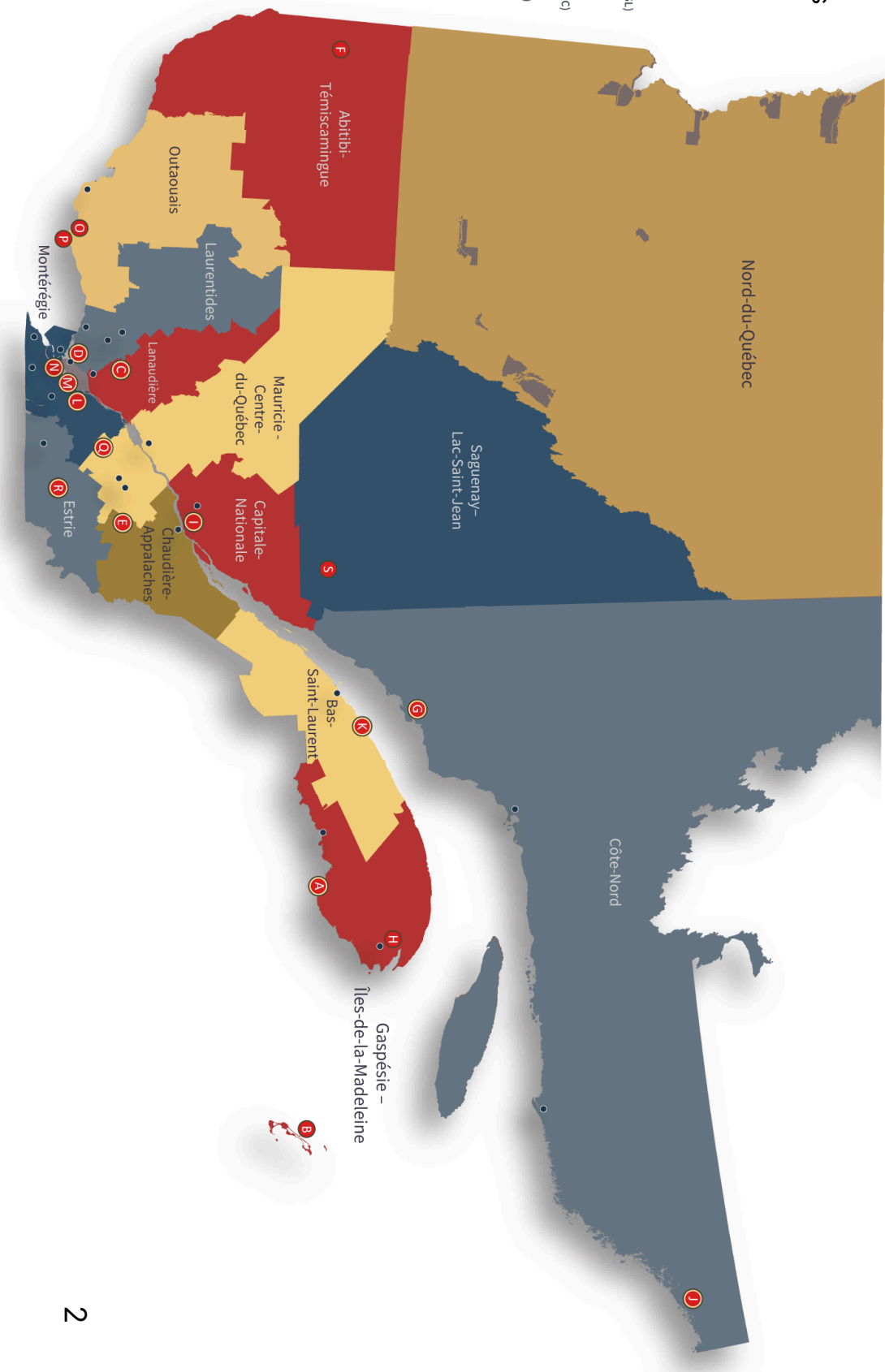
This document provides an overview of the English-speaking communities across Québec excluding Montreal, Laval, and Nord-du-Québec. Its purpose is to provide information that can be used to create awareness of the English-speaking communities to local stakeholders and partners.



MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

A	Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) Gaspésie	K	Heritage Lower Saint Lawrence (HLSL) Bas Saint-Laurent
B	Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) Îles-de-la-Madeleine	L	Montérégie East Partnership for the English-speaking Community (MEPEC) Montérégie-Est
C	English Community Organization of Lanaudière (ECOL) Lanaudière	M	Assistance and Referral Centre (ARC) Montérégie-Centre
D	4Korners Laurentides	N	Montérégie West Community Network (MWCN) Montérégie-Ouest
E	Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation (MCDC) Chaudière-Appalaches	O	Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) Outaouais
F	Neighbours Regional Association of Rouyn-Noranda Nord-du-Témiscamingue	P	Connexions Resource Centre Outaouais
G	North Shore Community Association (NSCA) Côte-Nord	Q	Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE) Mauricie / Centre-du-Québec
H	Vision Gaspé-Perce Now Gaspésie	R	Townshippers' Association Estrie
I	Voice of English-speaking Québec (VÉO) Capitale-Nationale	S	English Community Organization Saguenay-lac-Saint-Jean (ECO-02) Saguenay-lac-Saint-Jean
J	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)).¹
- 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**.



¹The 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).

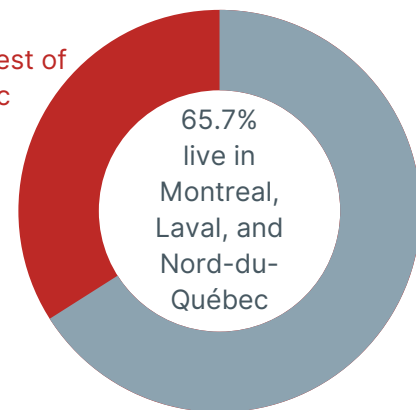


FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SPOKEN

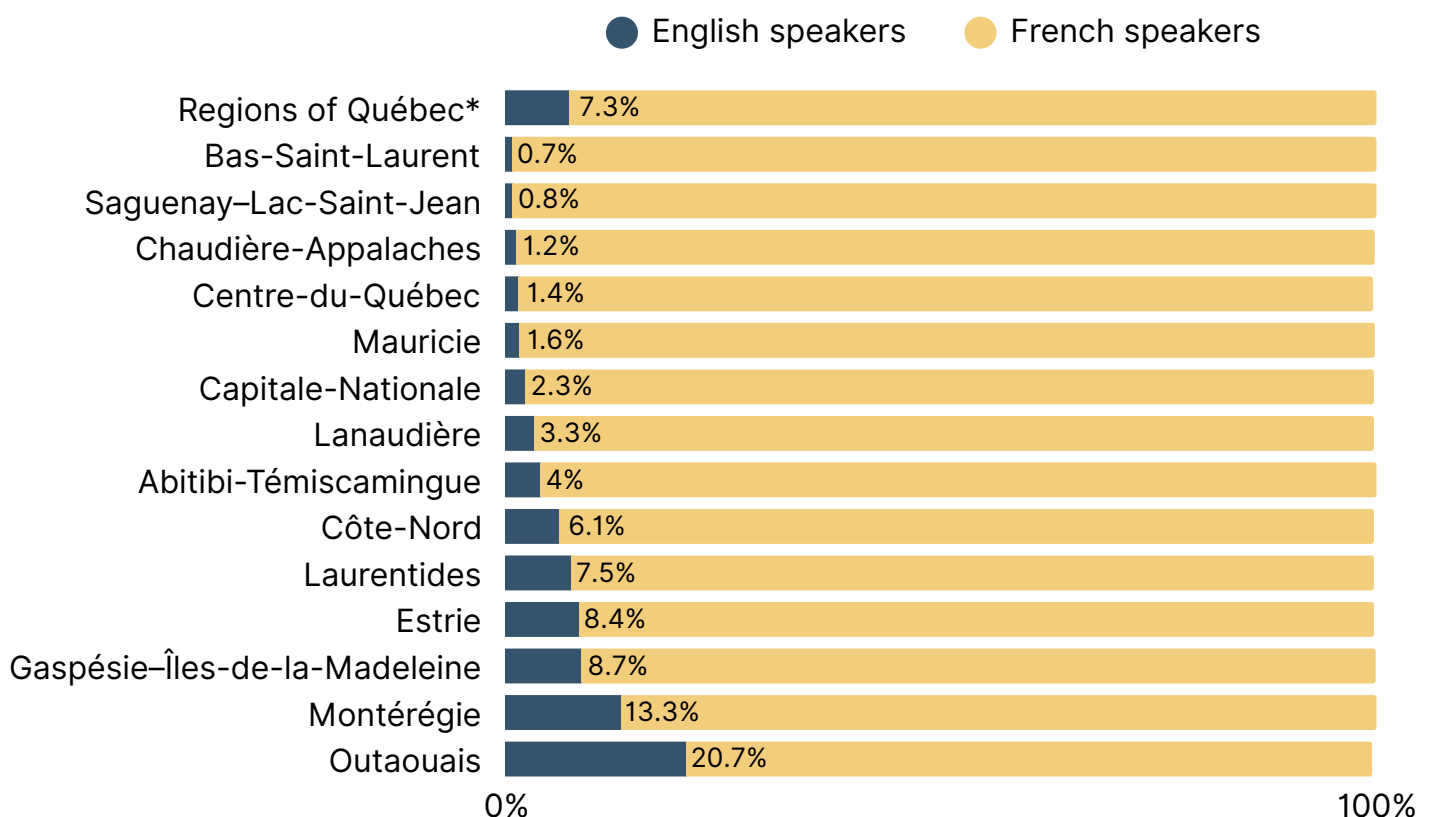
There are over one million (1,253,580) individuals living in Québec whose first official language is English, and a little over one third of these English speakers (429,880) are living in regions outside of Montreal, Laval, and Nord-du-Québec.

FOLS English speakers in Québec

34.3%
live in the rest of
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.



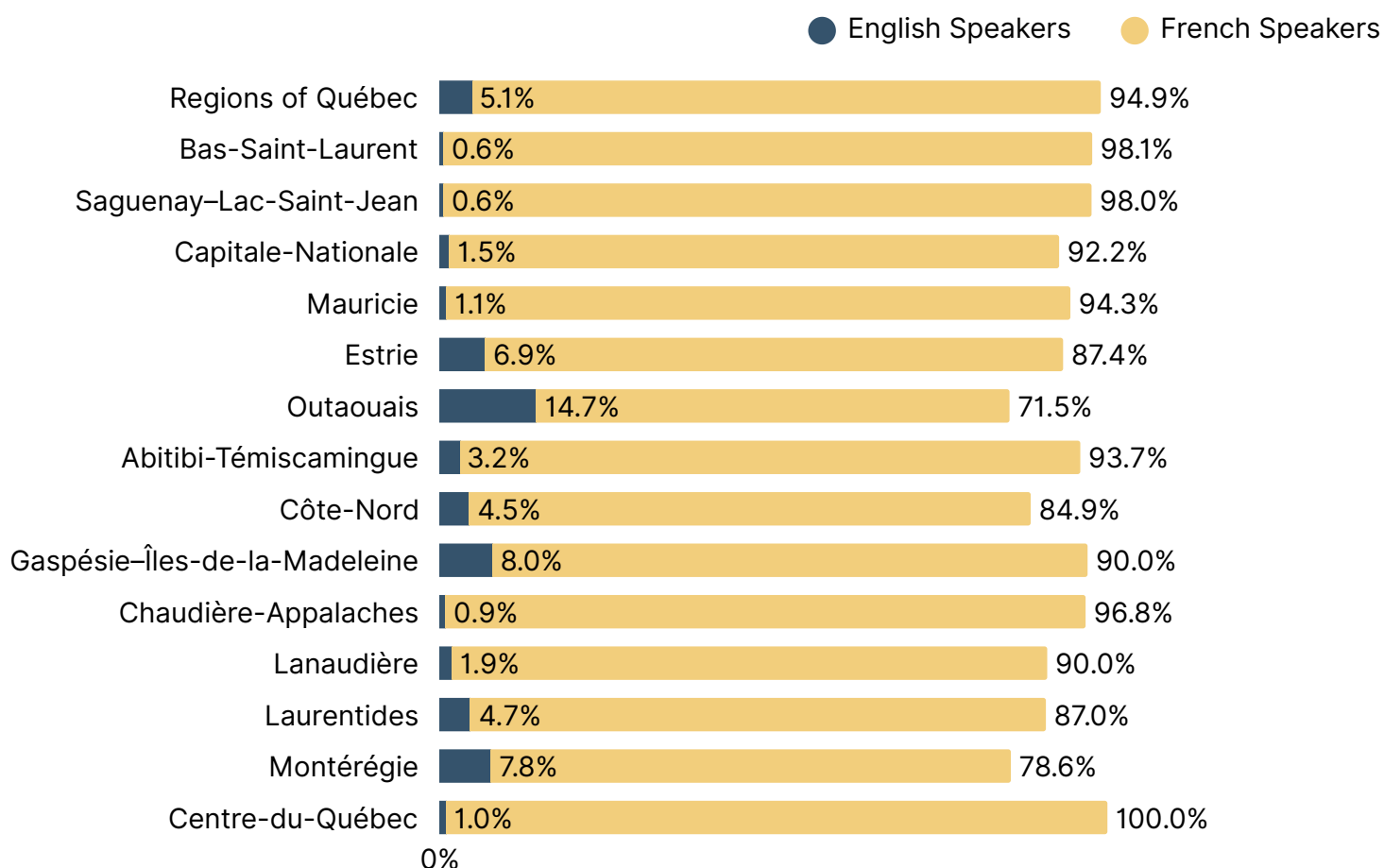
*Province of Québec, excluding the cities of Montreal, Laval and the administrative region of Nord-du-Québec



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.

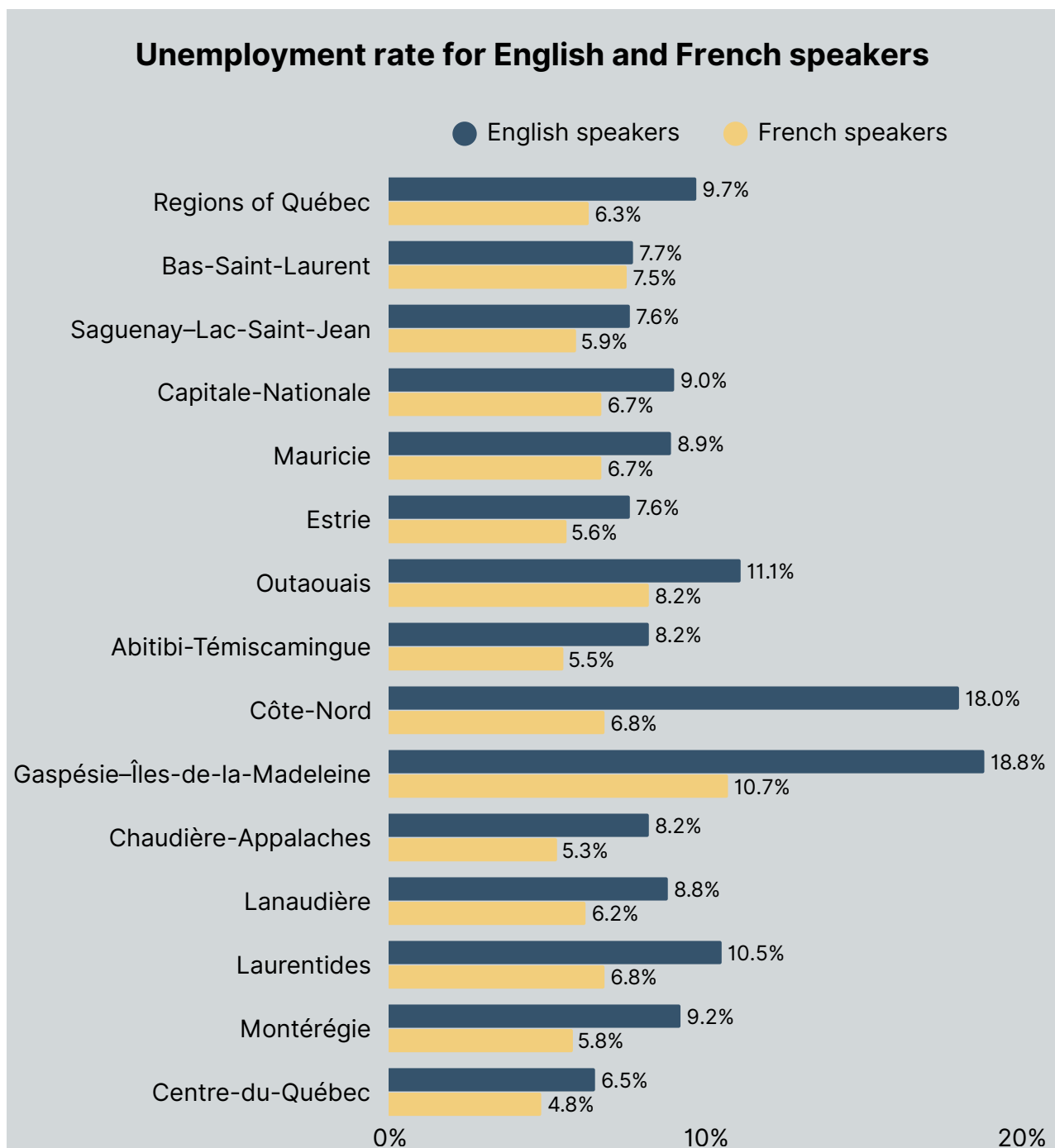
English and French speakers by administrative region (2021) (mother tongue)



EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment

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

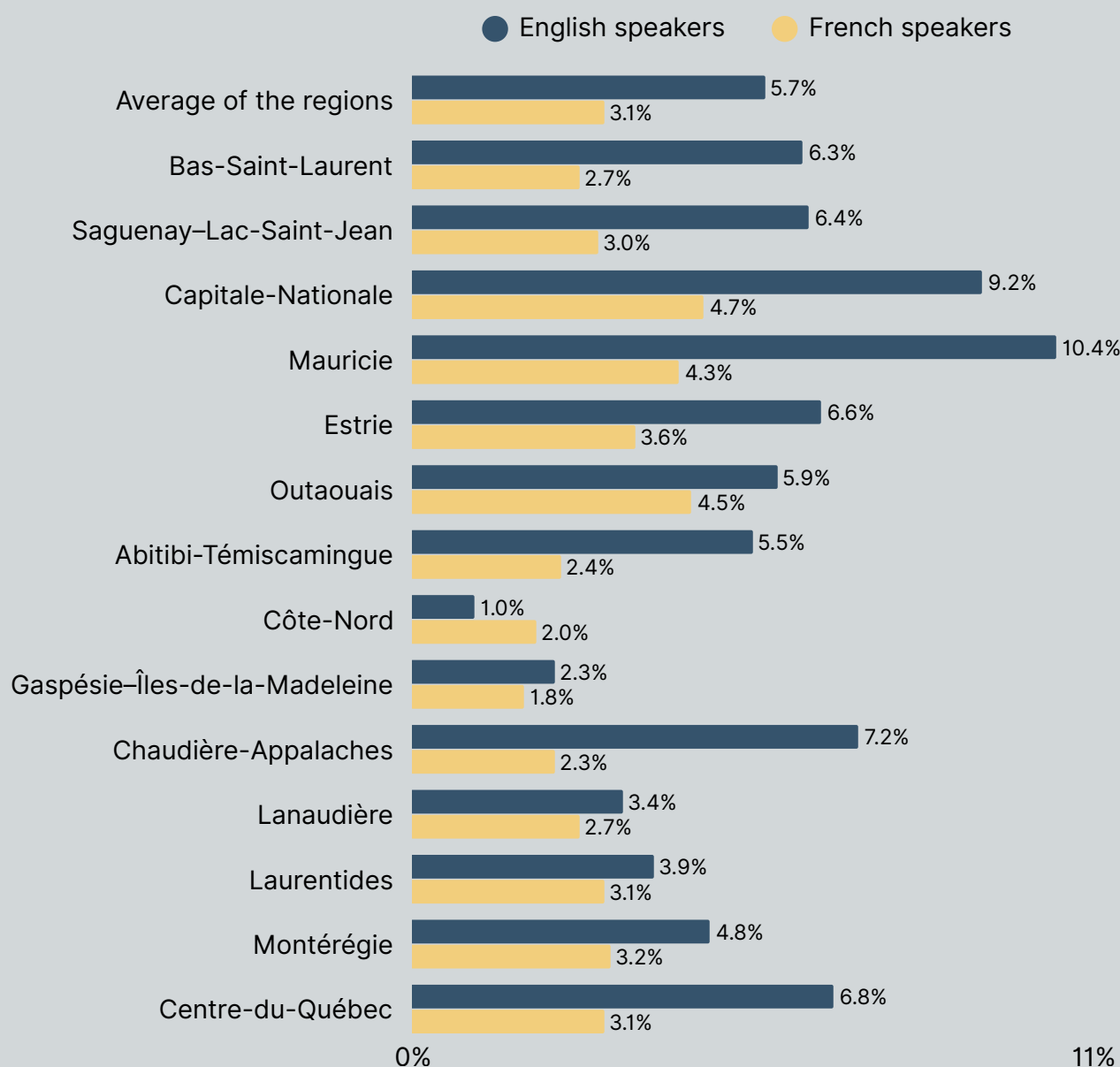


(Pocock, 2023)

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)

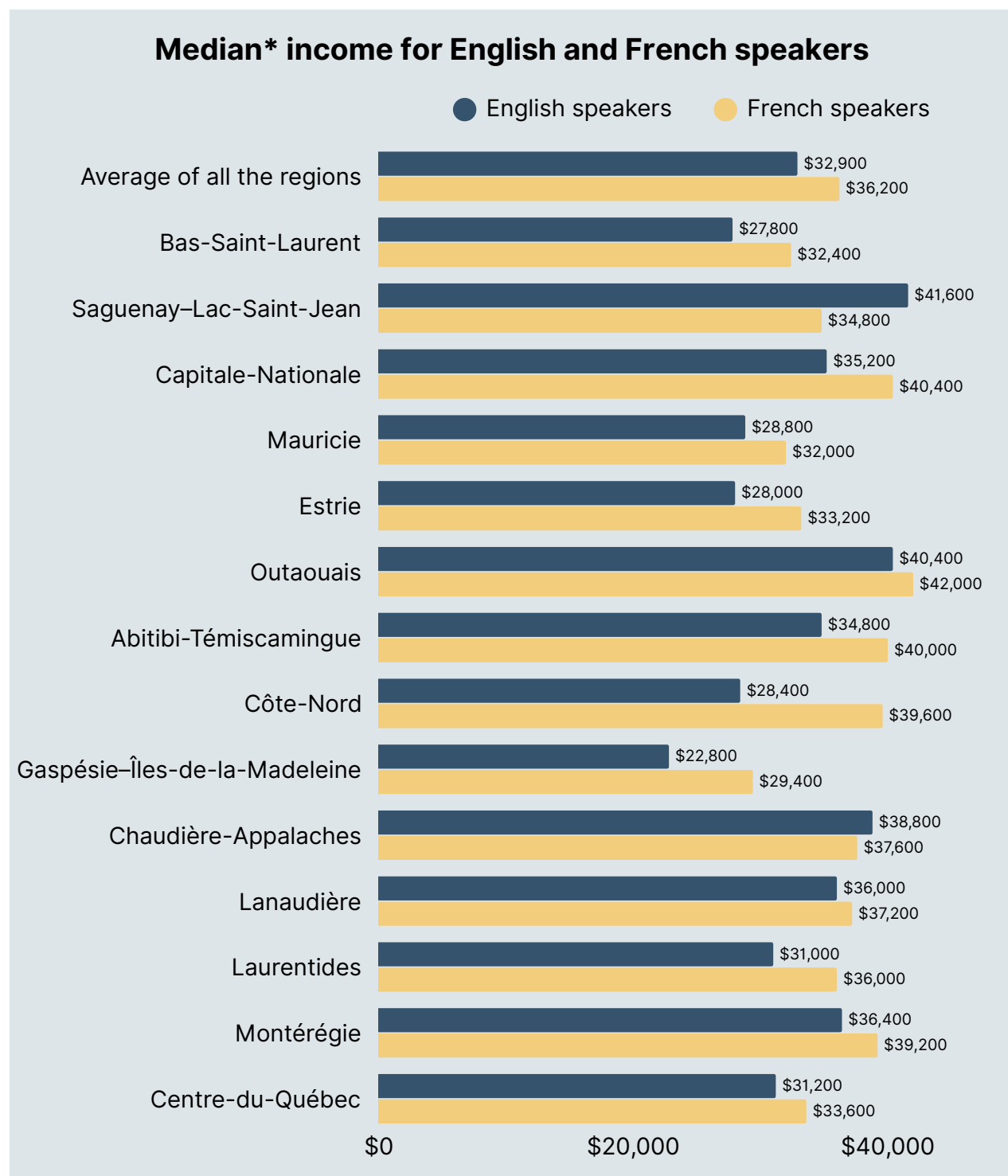


(PERT, 2023)

*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.

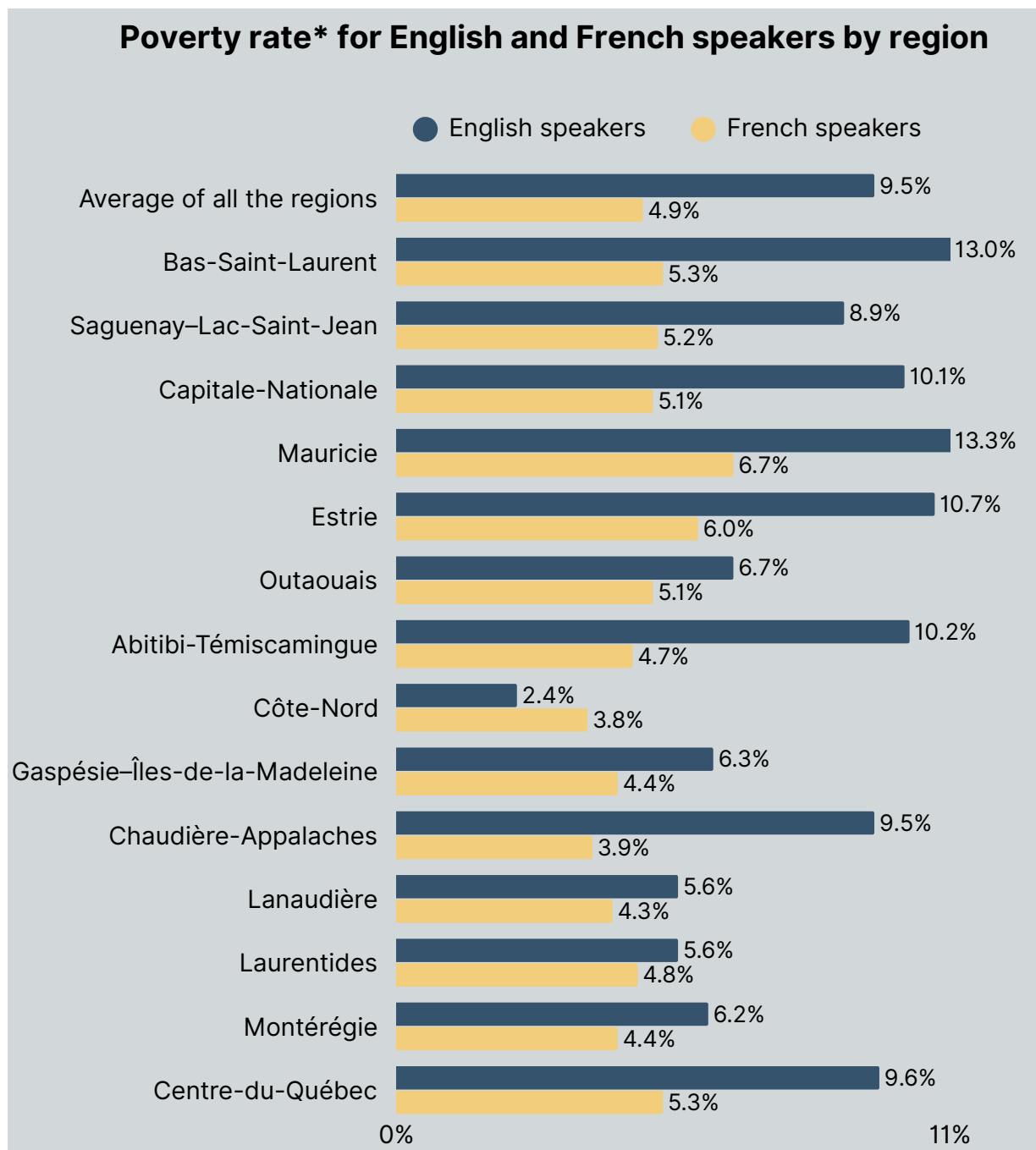


(PERT, 2023)

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)

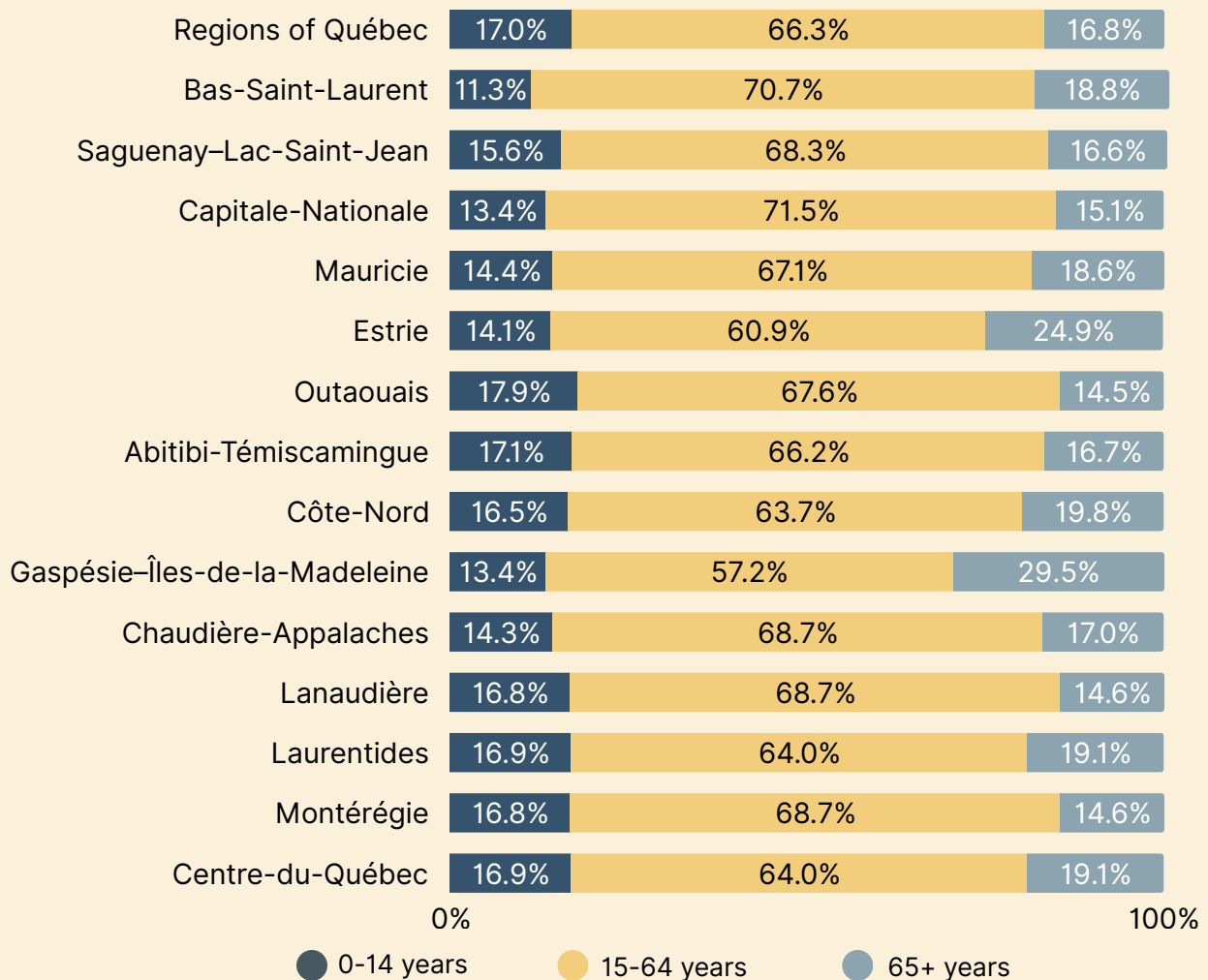
***Poverty Rate:** refers to the percentage of the population whose income falls below the poverty line, which is determined by the Market Basket Measure (MBM) threshold. In 2020, the MBM threshold for Québec was \$19,601 in large urban areas (population 500,000 or more) and \$19,520 in rural areas

***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.

Age breakdown for English speakers by administrative region

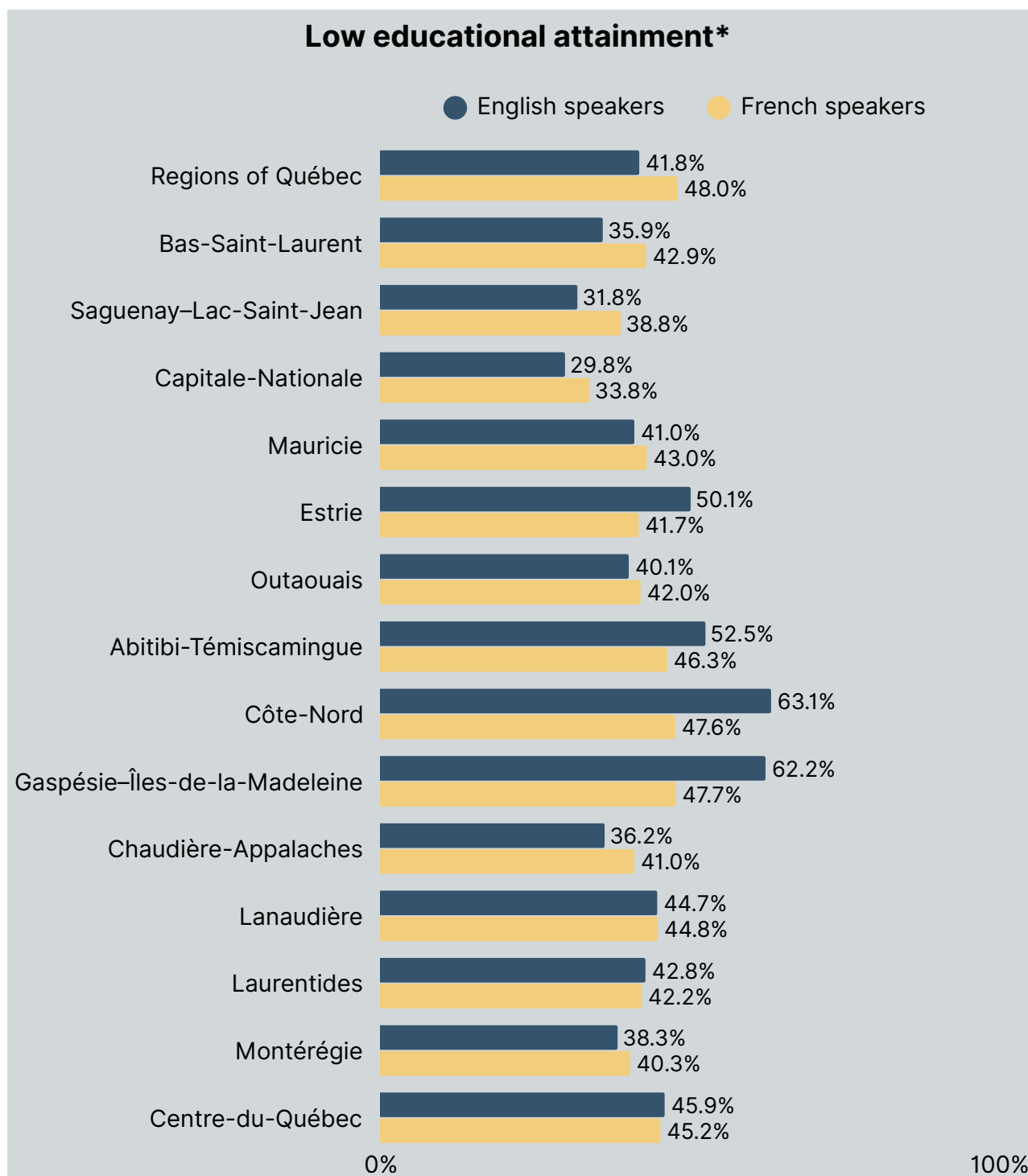


(Pocock, 2023)



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.

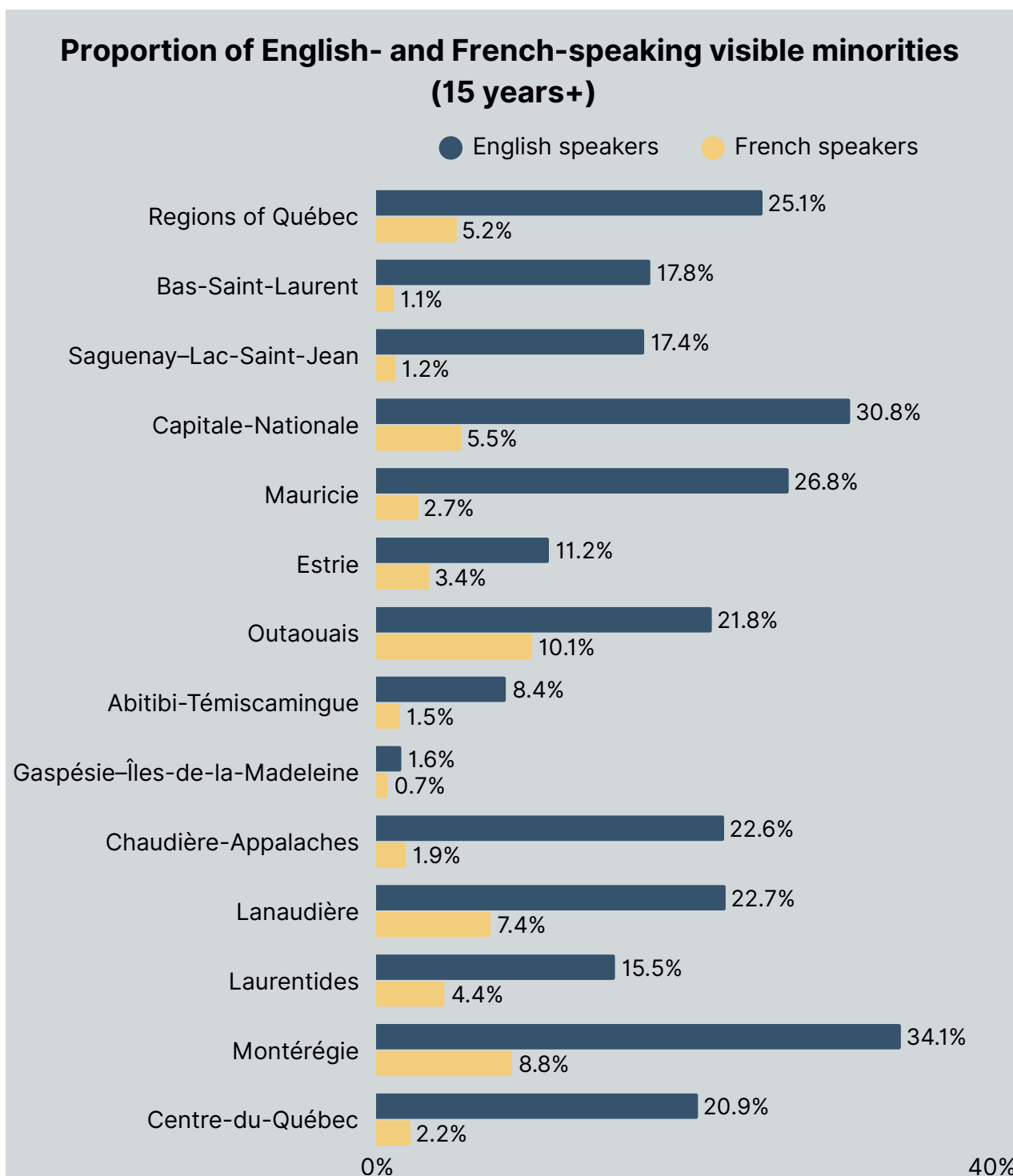


(Pocock, 2023)

*Low educational attainment: High school diploma or less

VISIBLE MINORITIES

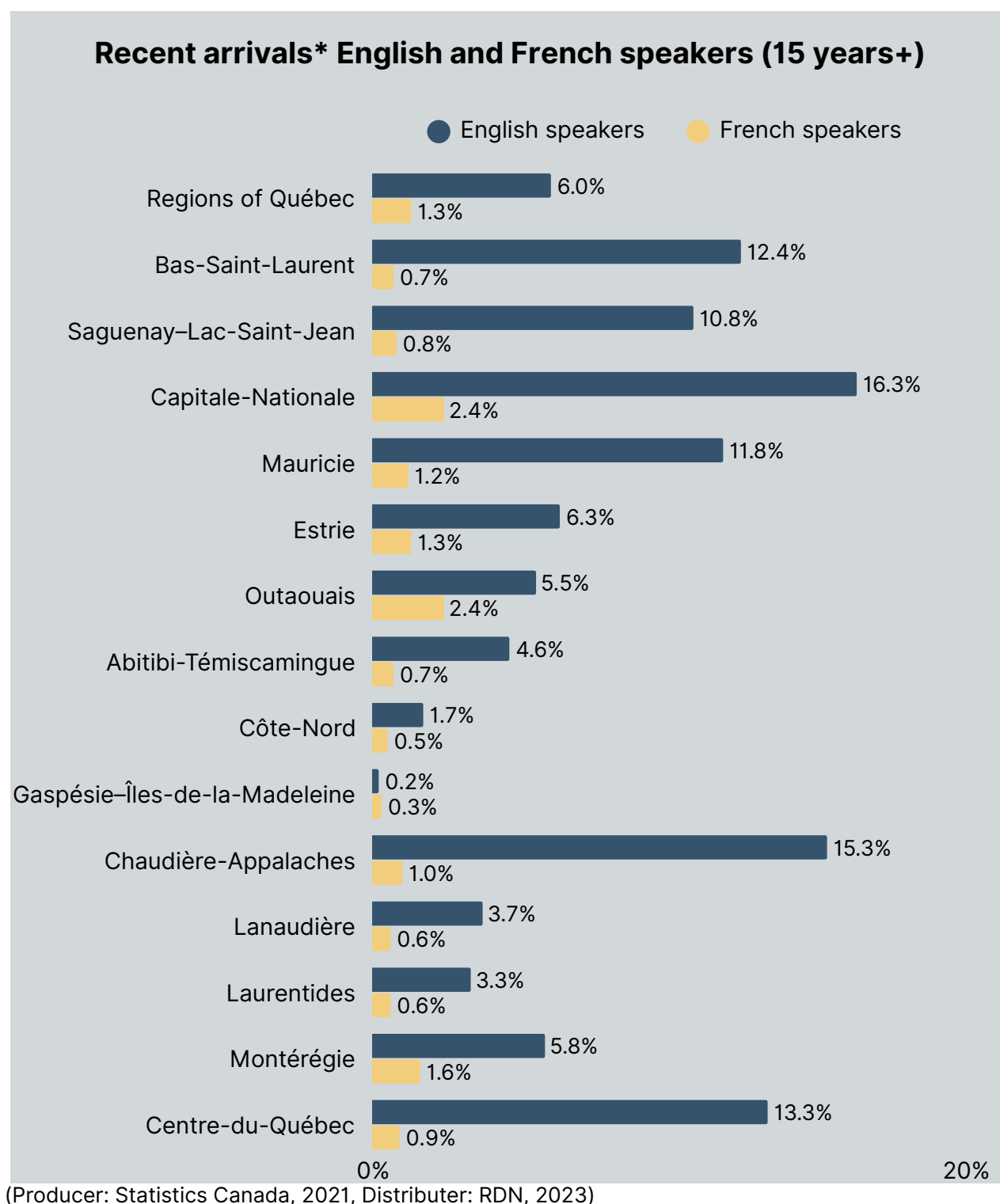
The proportion of English speakers that are a visible minority (15 years+) is significantly higher than that of French speakers across the regions of Québec.



(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.

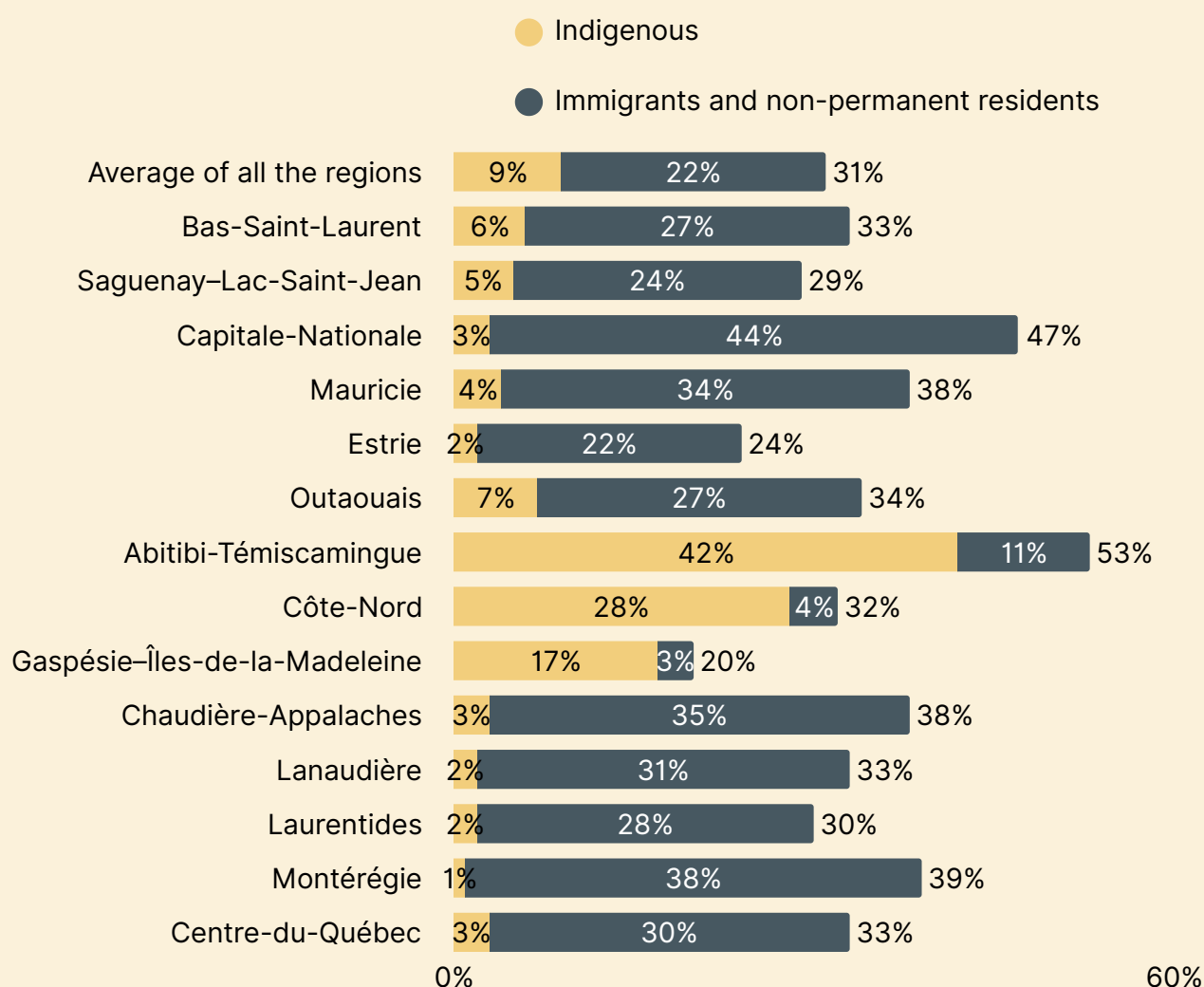


*Recent Arrivals: English speakers who moved into Canada between 2016 and 2021 (Statistics Canada, 2025).

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%).

Percent of the English-speaking population (15 years+) that are of Indigenous or immigrant identity



(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).

REFERENCES

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Chaudière-Appalaches and MRC Lotbinière. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network.

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and les Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Côte-Nord and MRC of Sept-Rivières. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Centre-du-Québec and MRC L'Érable. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Montérégie and MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Lanaudière and MRC Montcalm. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Laurentides and MRC Les Pays-d'en-Haut. Québec: Community Health and Social Service Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and MRC Rouyn-Noranda. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Outaouais and MRC Pontiac. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

REFERENCES

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Estrie and MRC Brome-Missisquoi. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and MRC Saguenay. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Capitale-Nationale and Ville de Québec. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Mauricie and MRC Shawinigan. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Pocock, J. (2023). Demographic profiles of Québec's English-speaking communities region of Bas-Saint-Laurent and MRC Rimouski-Neigette. Québec: Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN).

Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT) (2023). CENSUS 2021 Update: A brief review of the latest data on employment among Québec's English speakers. Montréal: Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT).

Denis, J.-C. and McDonald-Guimond, J. (2023). Portrait des Québécoises et Québécois d'expression anglaise. Montréal: Comité consultatif des Québécois.es d'expression anglaise (CCQEA).

Regional Development Network(2023). Producer: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census Canada. Distributer: RDN Data dashboards: Visible minorities. Regional Development Network (RDN). <https://regdevnet.ca/data-maps/>



With the financial support of:

***Secrétariat aux relations
avec les Québécois
d'expression anglaise***

Québec



RDN
Regional Development Network
Réseau de Développement Régional