

Labour market for French-speaking Torontonians

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Overview



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Key Highlights

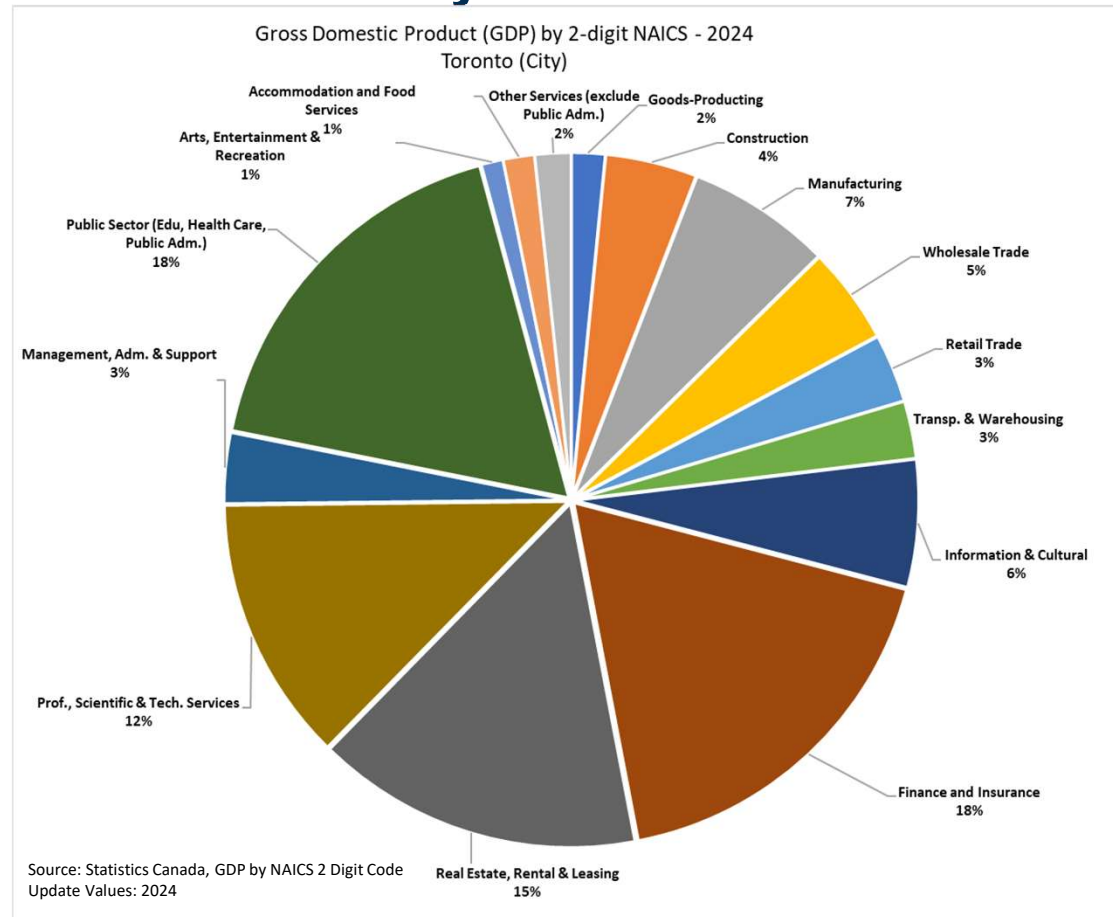


- **Definition & Scale:** Based on the 2021 Census, 38,695 Toronto residents reported French as their first official language, and 44,900 individuals indicated using French at work.
- **Meaningful Scale Used in Analysis:** French-speaking workers are defined using Statistics Canada's First Official Language Spoken (French) — the only language variable reliably cross-tabulated by industry representing ~1.6% of the total labour force (over 20,000 workers).
- **Concentrated in High-Value Sectors:** Strong presence in professional services, finance, public administration, health care, education, retail, and information industries.
- **Aligned with Long-Term Employment Growth:** Core French-employing sectors drove robust employment gains, led by professional services and public administration (2019–2024).
- **Recent Sector Employment Acceleration:** Rapid 2025 growth in information and cultural industries, accommodation and food services, transportation, and construction.
- **Strategic Economic Role:** French-speaking workers embedded in resilient, growing, and bilingual-advantage sectors, amplifying impact beyond their workforce size.

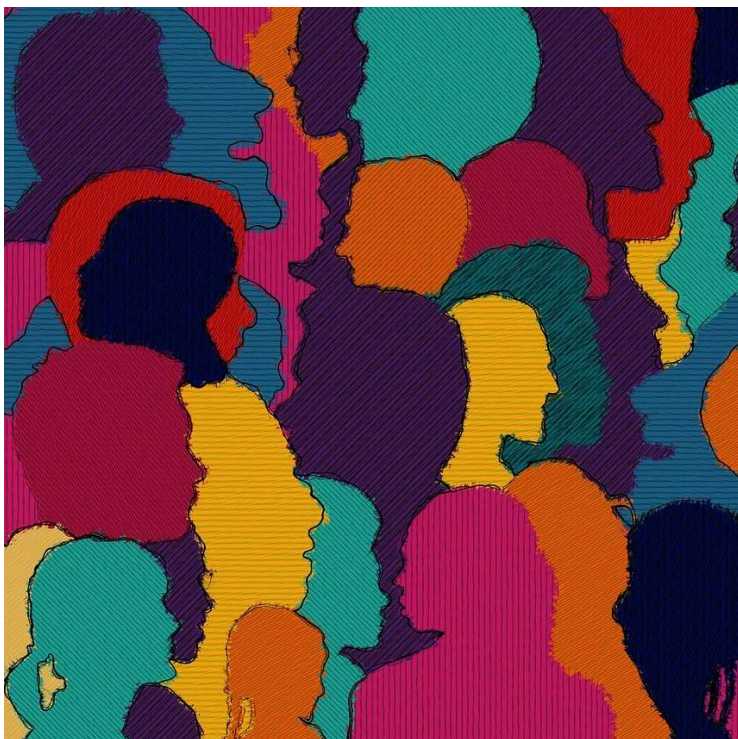
PART 1

Overview of Diversity in Toronto's Economy and Labour Market

1.1 Toronto's Diversified Economy



1.2 Toronto's Diverse Economy and Labour Market



Canada's largest urban labour market

- Toronto's economy is one of the most diverse in Canada, with employment distributed across a wide spectrum of industries, ensuring resilience and creating opportunities for multilingual talent.

French Speaking Torontonians

- French-speaking Torontonians participate across nearly all industries. Key concentrations in knowledge-based services, public-facing sectors, and retail.

Toronto's Diversity Drives Growth

- Toronto's diversity spans in linguistic, cultural, and sectoral areas, it drives innovation, economic resilience, and opportunities for multilingual workers.

PART 2

Top Sectors Employing French Speakers (2021 Census)

2.1 Language in Toronto Labour Market - 2021 Census Data

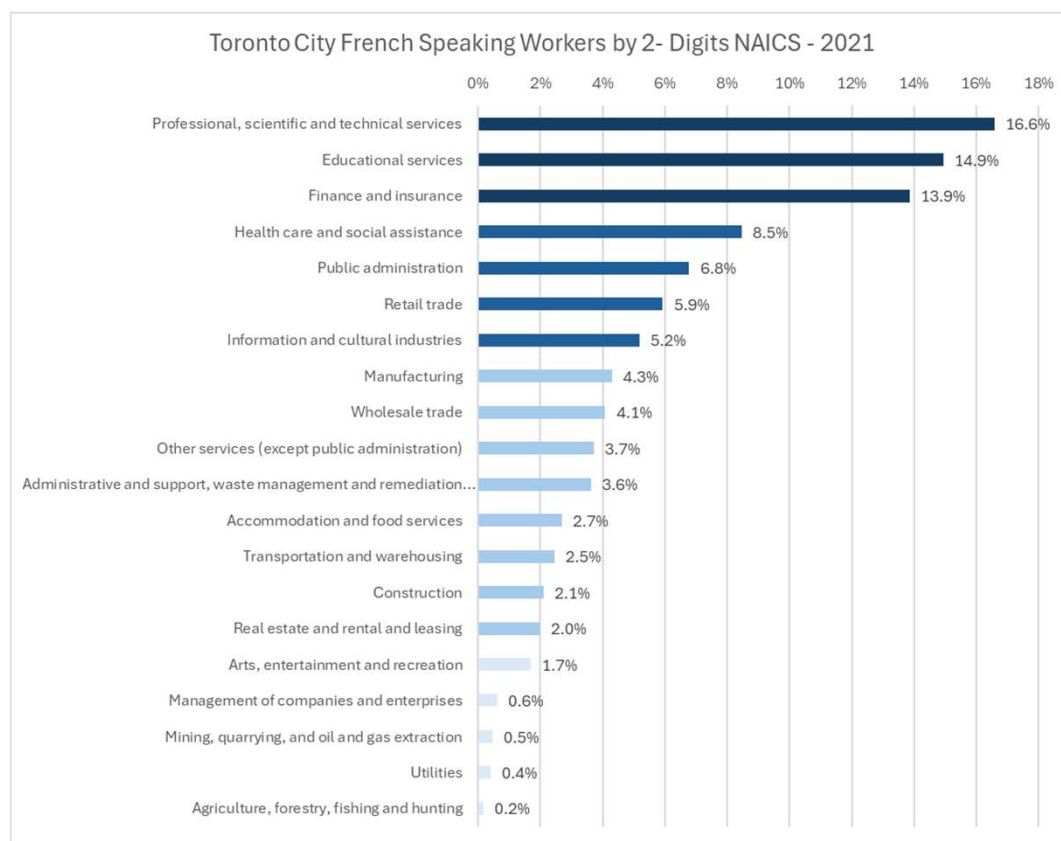
- Based on the 2021 Census, 38,695 Toronto residents reported French as their first official language, and 44,900 individuals indicated using French at work.
- The following analysis focuses specifically on French speakers **within** Toronto's labour force by industry, using the official definition:

"First official language spoken refers to the first official language (English or French) spoken by the person."
- French-speaking workers represent 1.6% of Toronto's total labour force (over 20,000 workers).
- This variable was the only available data point that could be reliably cross-tabulated by industry for the purpose of the analysis.

Total French-speaking workers (2021)



2.2 Where French speakers work (2021 Census)



CDP, Statistics Canada

**High-Concentration
Knowledge and
Institutional Services**
>10%+

**Mid-Concentration Public
and Health Anchors**
6%-10%

**Mid-Concentration
Cultural, Information, and
Consumer-Facing Services**
5%-6%

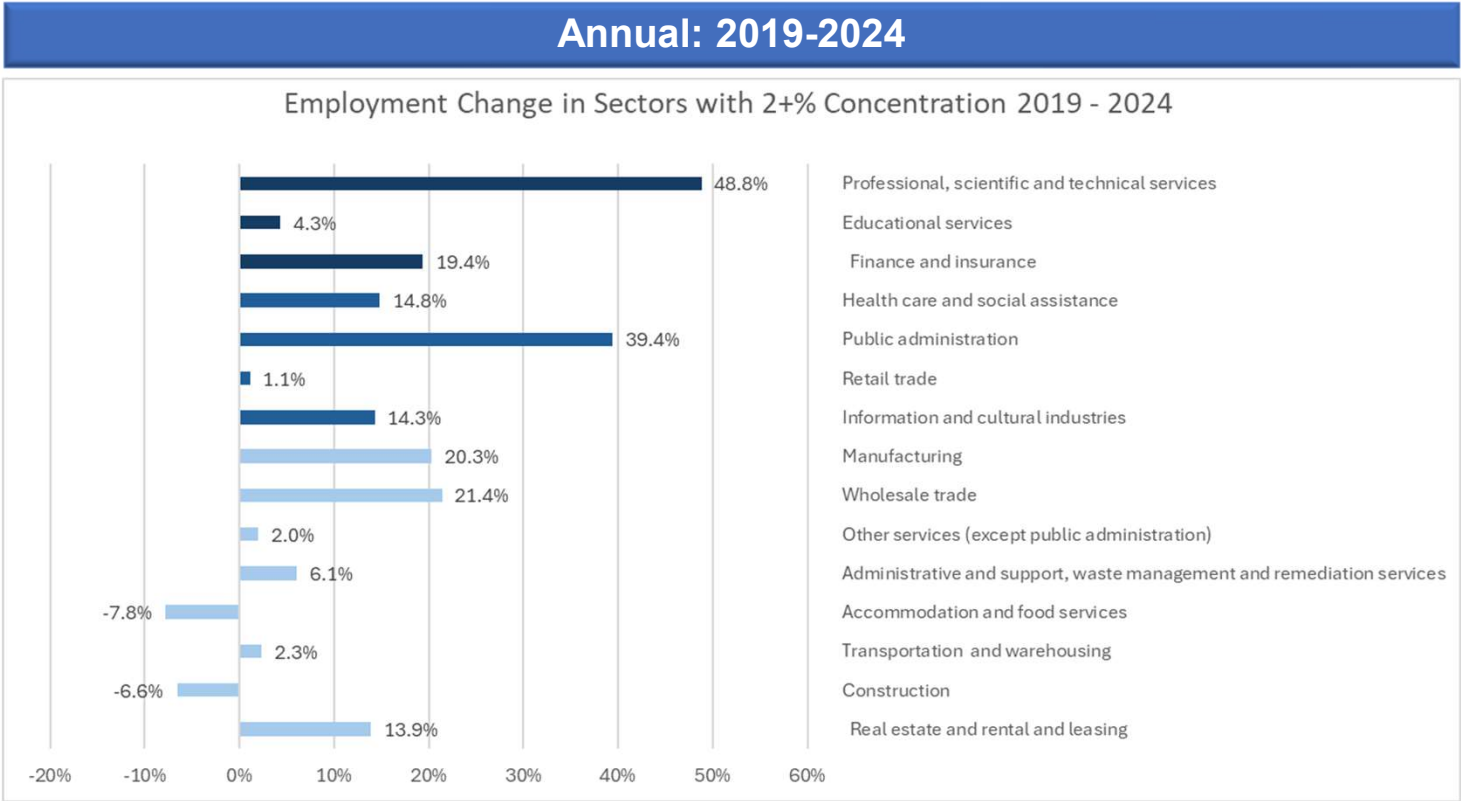
**Moderate-to-Lower
Concentration Operational
and Logistics-Oriented
Sector**
2%-5%

**Low-Concentration,
Niche-Demand Sectors**
<2%

PART 3

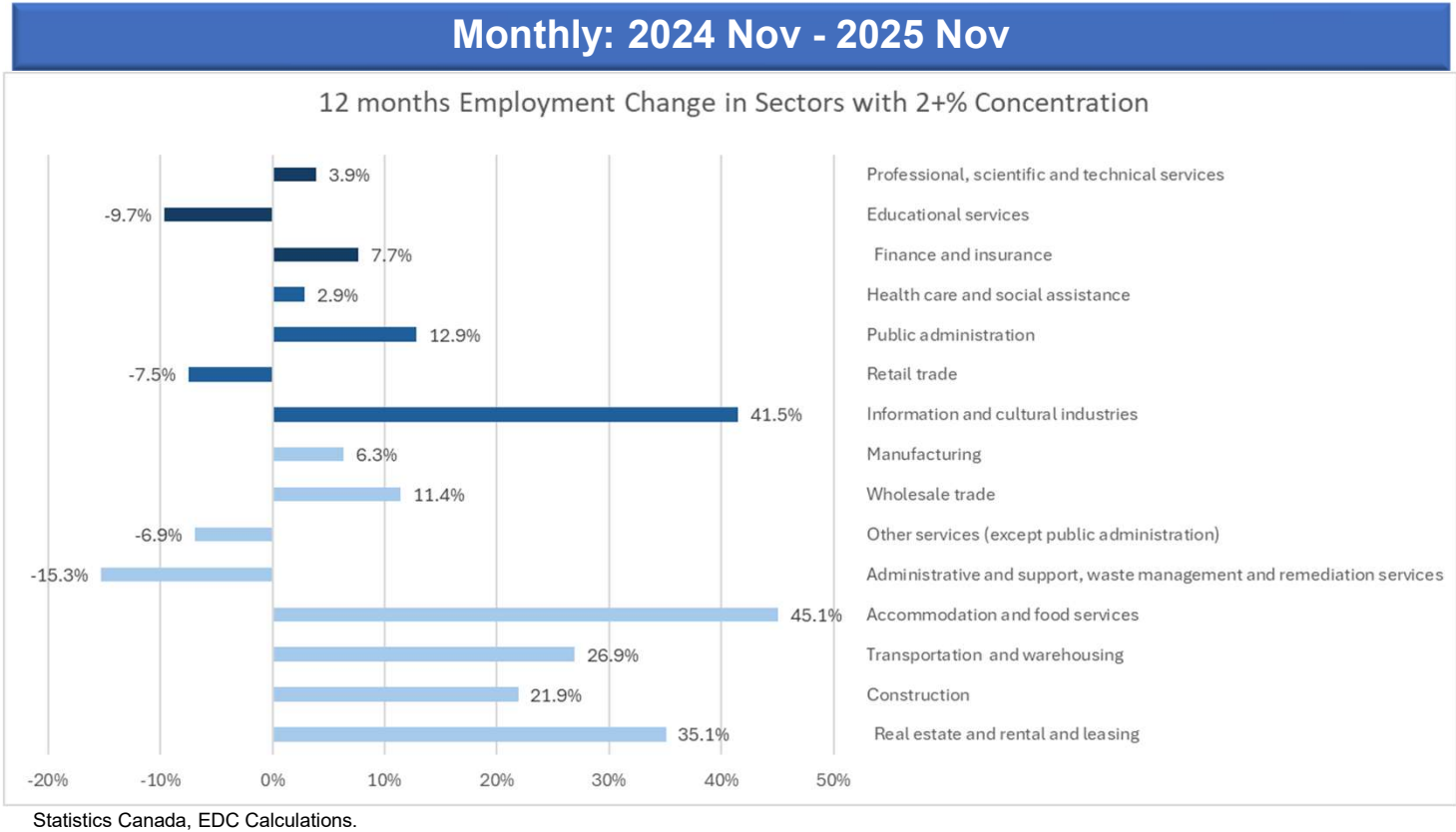
Labour Market Performance 5 Years (2019–2024) vs Recent (2025)

3.1 Sector Employment Trends 5-year (Toronto city)



Statistics Canada, EDC Calculations.

3.2 Sector Employment Trends 12 months (Toronto city)



3.3 Sector Employment Trends 5-year vs 12 months (Toronto city)

Sectors	2019 – 2024 Change	2025 YoY Change (Nov)
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	48.8%	3.9%
Educational Services	4.3%	-9.7%
Finance and Insurance	19.4%	7.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	14.8%	2.9%
Public Administration	39.4%	12.9%
Retail Trade	1.1%	-7.5%
Information and Cultural Industries	14.3%	41.5%
Manufacturing	20.3%	6.3%
Wholesale Trade	21.4%	11.4%
Other Services (except public administration)	2.0%	-6.9%
Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	6.1%	-15.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	-7.8%	45.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	2.3%	26.9%
Construction	-6.6%	21.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	13.9%	35.1%

Strong recent momentum

- Transportation and Warehousing, and Information and Cultural Industries were showing strong recent momentum, building on steady long-term gains.
- Accommodation and food services and construction were recovering from decline with strong recent growth.

Slower but sustained growth

- Finance and insurance, Health Care and Social Assistance and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Public Administration and Wholesale Trade maintained growth, though at a slower pace.
- Manufacturing also continued to its positive momentum with steady growth in Toronto city. (Note: Manufacturing employment at the Toronto Region level has posted a decline).

Recent softening

- Administrative and Support, Education Services and Other Services were on a recent declining trend after a stronger 5-year growth.
- Retail trade was also experiencing a decline recently with a minor growth from 2019-2024.

Statistics Canada, EDC Calculations.

Thank you!