



Portrait of the English-Speaking population of

Ahuntsic





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Québec 

REISA

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Introduction

The following profile provides insight into employment, economic development, and community vitality within Ahuntsic's English-speaking community. REISA – The East Island Network for English Services, has produced the following portrait. REISA is a community-based organization working to increase access to health and social services in English for residents of Montreal's East and North end, through collaboration with public, private and community stakeholders. Established in 2005, REISA has assisted partnership development in three main areas: expansion of local-level services, outreach to new services and community capacitybuilding. Keeping the English-speaking communities' needs in mind, REISA has identified four priority development sectors: Youth, Seniors, Special needs and Mental Health. By working towards achieving



La Promenade Fleury racontera l'histoire d'Ahuntsic-Cartierville. September 28, 2016.. https://journalmetro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/13_perspective_hiver-choix-no1.jpg?w=1536



Amuseur – public et Mascot sur La Promenade Fleury. La Promenade. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1132614149067327&set=a.581446320850782>

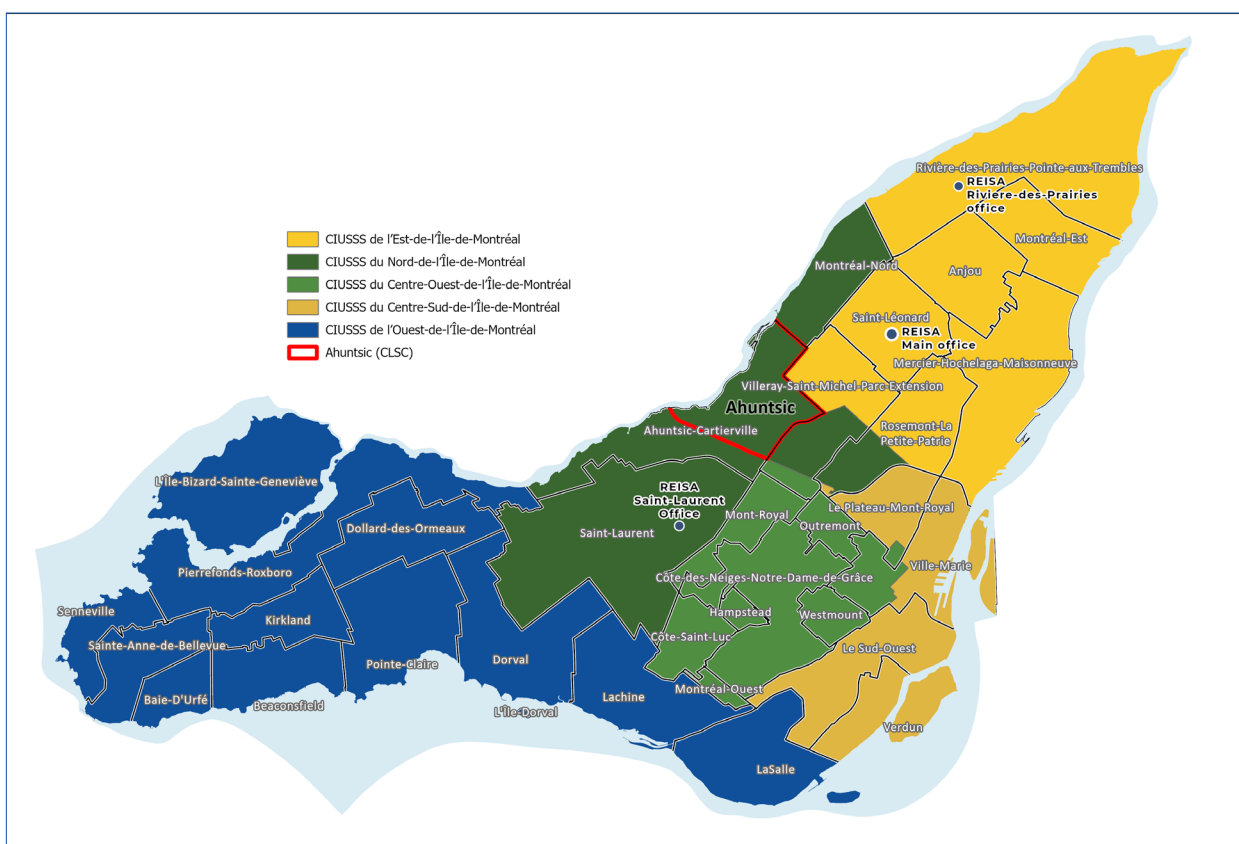
these priorities, REISA will strengthen and improve the vitality of the English-speaking minority community in the East and North ends of Montreal.

Overview of the region

This portrait presents key statistics that contextualize the English-speaking population of the Ahuntsic neighbourhood, whose territory is equivalent to the CLSC Ahuntsic. Where relevant, comparisons are made with the French-speaking population, as well as within different segments of the English-speaking community. The data is derived from the latest 2021 Statistics Canada results.

Understanding Montréal's boroughs and CIUSSS regions

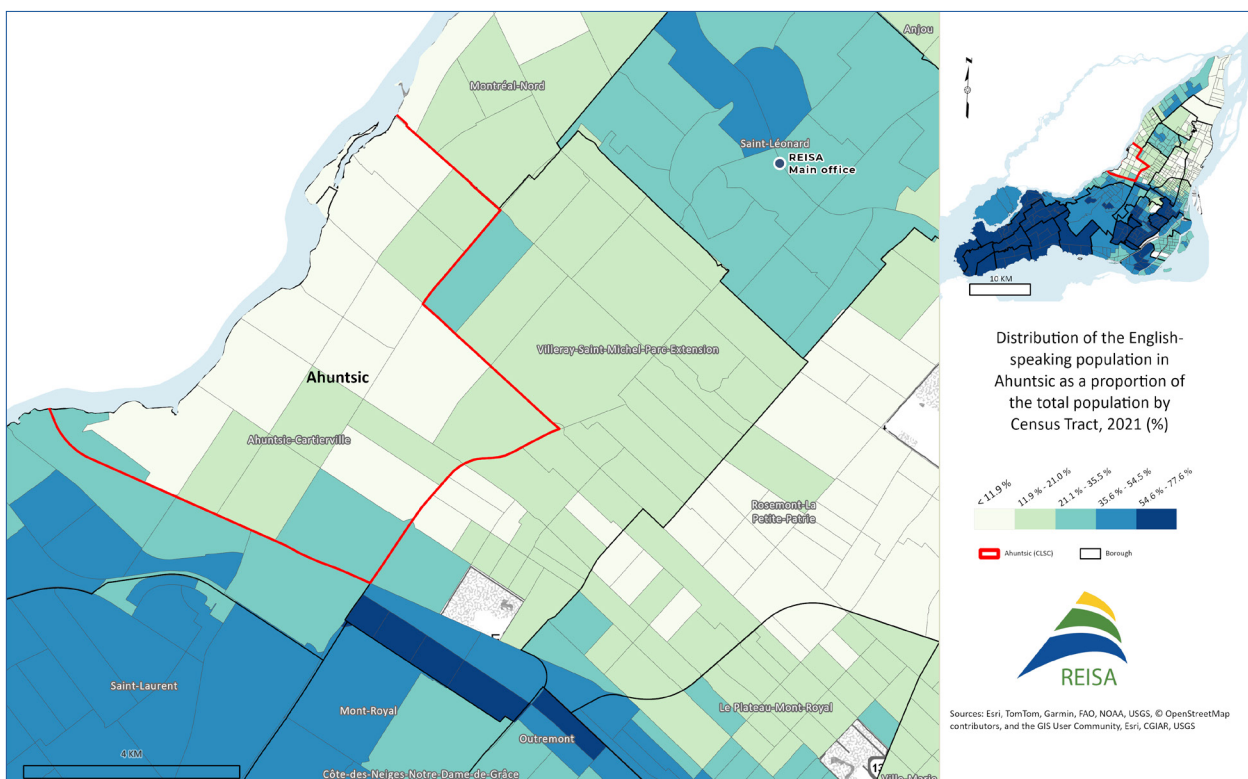
The Ahuntsic neighbourhood is a historic part of the borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville. Its territory is equivalent to the CLSC Ahuntsic and is served by the Montréal North CIUSSS (Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre). The total population of **79,630** in Ahuntsic is spread over an area of **13.7** square kilometers.

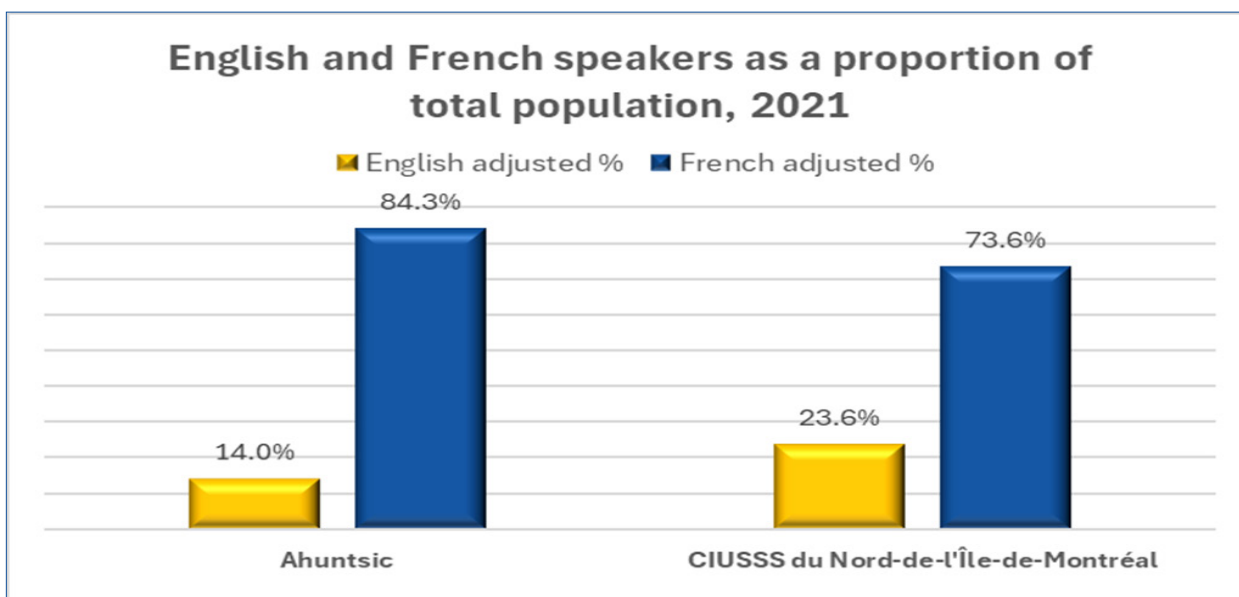


English speakers in Montréal

There are approximately one million (**1,009,700**) individuals living in metropolitan Montréal whose first official language spoken (FOLS) is English. Montréal's English-speaking communities comprise **23.8%** of the population of metro Montréal. However, these communities vary widely in size and weight across boroughs. The **10,990** English speakers in Ahuntsic, represent approximately **14.0%** of the total population and are distributed across **18** small neighbourhoods (census tracts). The proportion of English speakers in these small neighbourhoods varies considerably from **7.4%** to **35.5%** of the total population. There is also a variation of **0.5%** to **5.6%** of the total population speaking neither English nor French.

The variation in the proportion of the population and its geographic distribution across small neighbourhoods is an important factor to consider when evaluating gaps in service demand, service delivery and the optimization of the active service offer to the English-speaking population. The variation in proportions also has an important social impact on social support networks and social connectivity. All three factors: the English speaker's population numbers, their weight or proportion in the total population and the variation in geographic distribution need to be considered when designing policies and programs.

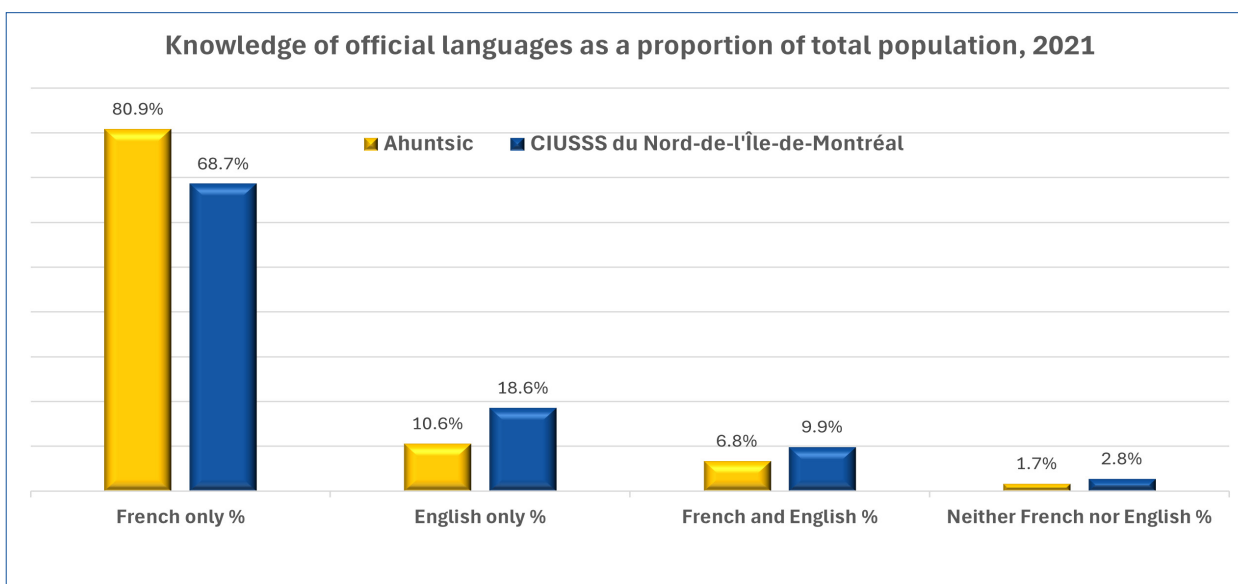




In 2021, the linguistic profile of Ahuntsic shows a large predominance of French speakers, with **84.3%** of the population reporting knowledge of French, compared to **14%** for English. When compared to the broader territory of the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, Ahuntsic presents a lower proportion of English speakers (**14% vs. 23.6%**) and a higher proportion of French speakers (**84.3% vs. 73.6%**).

This indicates that French is the dominant language in Ahuntsic, and that Ahuntsic has a relatively more significant French-speaking presence than the overall North CIUSSS health region. This linguistic diversity may reflect the borough's multicultural composition and suggests a continued need for accessible services in both official languages.

Knowledge of official languages



The distribution of knowledge of official languages in Ahuntsic highlights a predominantly French-speaking population, with **80.9%** of residents reporting knowledge of French only. This proportion is notably higher than that of the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (**68.7%**).

At the same time, a smaller proportion of residents in Ahuntsic (**10.6%**) report knowledge of English only, compared to **18.6%** in the broader CIUSSS territory. Additionally, **6.8%** of the population is bilingual in both French and English, which is lower than the **9.9%** observed in the CIUSSS.

A very small proportion of residents (**1.7%**) report speaking neither official language, slightly below the **2.8%** recorded in the broader territory.

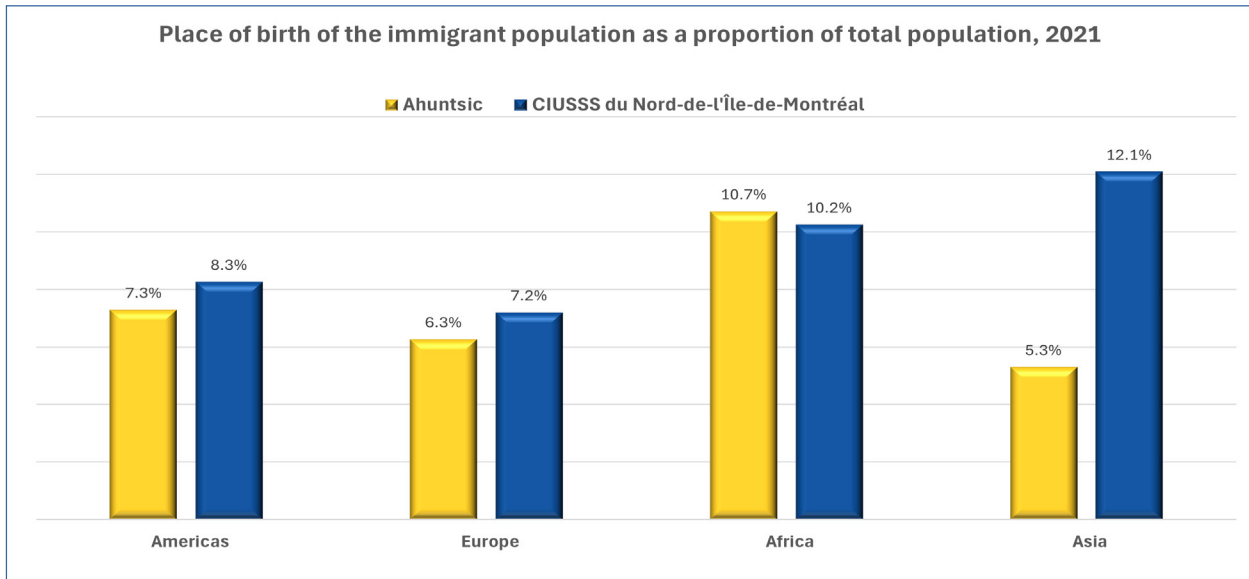
These figures point to a more linguistically homogeneous profile in Ahuntsic, with a strong predominance of French and a comparatively smaller presence of English speakers and bilingual individuals. This suggests that while French-language services remain central, there is still a need to ensure accessibility for minority language groups.

While statistical data highlights a predominantly French-speaking environment, qualitative insights suggest that English-speaking residents in Ahuntsic generally manage to navigate services, but often with additional effort. Some participants noted that while services may exist, they are not always easily accessible or visible.

“I don’t usually need English-only services, but they are not sufficient.”

This suggests that language barriers in Ahuntsic are less about complete exclusion and more about limited accessibility and reduced convenience, particularly for those who are less comfortable navigating services in French.

Origins of the immigrant population



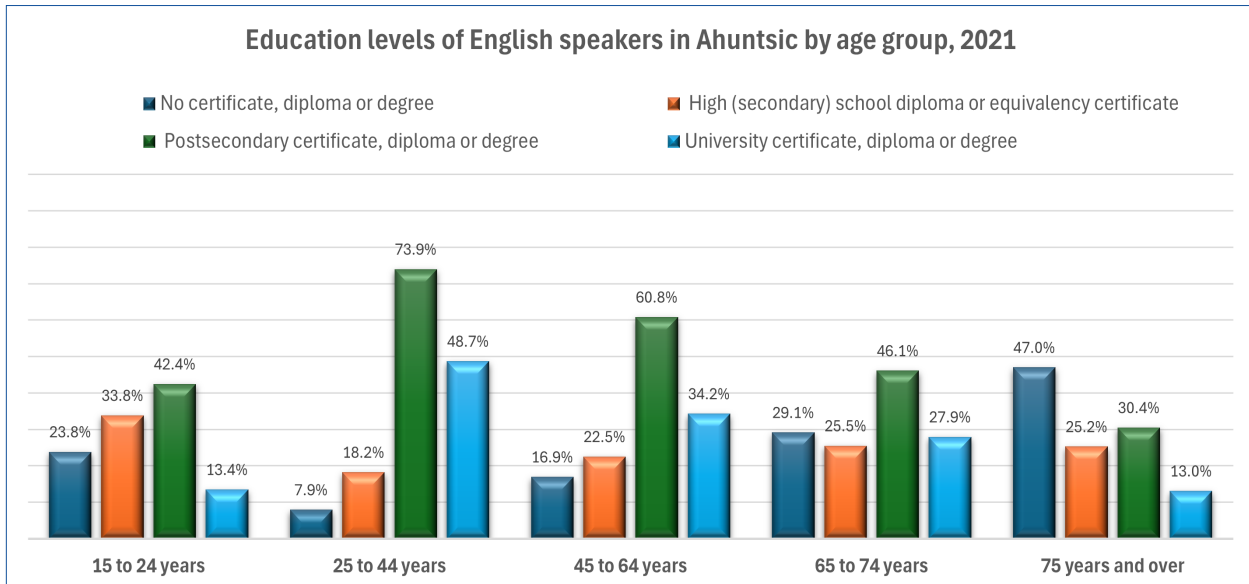
The place of birth of the immigrant population in Ahuntsic shows a relatively balanced distribution across regions, with some differences compared to the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. Immigrants from Africa represent **10.7%** of the population, closely aligned with the **10.2%** observed in the broader territory.

Slightly lower proportions of immigrants in Ahuntsic originate from the Americas (**7.3%**) and Europe (**6.3%**), compared to **8.3%** and **7.2%** in the CIUSSS, respectively. The most notable difference is observed among immigrants from Asia, who represent **5.3%** in Ahuntsic, significantly lower than the **12.1%** recorded in the broader territory.

Overall, these figures suggest that Ahuntsic has a somewhat less diverse immigrant profile compared to the CIUSSS, with a more even distribution across regions but a lower representation of Asian-origin populations. This reflects a distinct demographic composition that may influence the cultural and linguistic dynamics of the area.

Education

“ I was expected to learn French in just a couple of weeks”



Education levels among English speakers in Ahuntsic show relatively strong attainment across most age groups, with notable differences reflecting life stages. Among individuals aged **25 to 44**, a large majority (**73.9%**) have completed postsecondary education, with a significant proportion (**48.7%**) holding a university degree, indicating a high level of educational attainment within this group.

Similarly, those aged **45 to 64** also demonstrate strong educational profiles, with **60.8%** holding postsecondary credentials and **34.2%** possessing a university degree.

Older age groups present a more varied distribution. Among individuals aged **65 to 74**, **46.1%** have postsecondary education and **27.9%** hold a university degree, while those aged **75 and over** show higher proportions with no certificate, diploma, or degree (**47.0%**), and lower university attainment (**13.0%**).

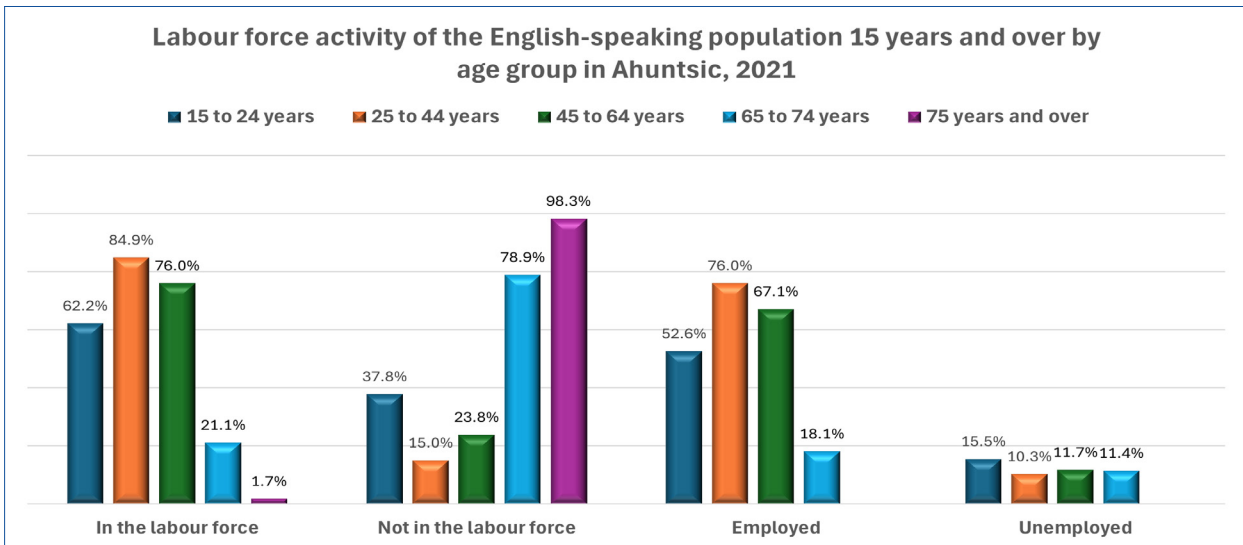
The **15 to 24** age group reflects a transitional stage, with a mix of secondary (**33.8%**) and postsecondary (**42.4%**) attainment, as well as individuals still progressing through the education system.

These patterns highlight strong educational attainment among working-age populations in Ahuntsic, alongside generational differences that point to evolving access to higher education over time.

Although educational attainment among English speakers is strong, focus group findings suggest that access to English education is not always straightforward. Some families reported having to enroll their children in schools outside their immediate area due to a lack of nearby English-language options.

Additionally, youth highlighted that while education in English is generally accessible, support services such as tutoring or academic advising can be more limited, requiring additional effort to access. This points to a gap not in access to education itself, but in the availability of support systems surrounding English education.

Employment

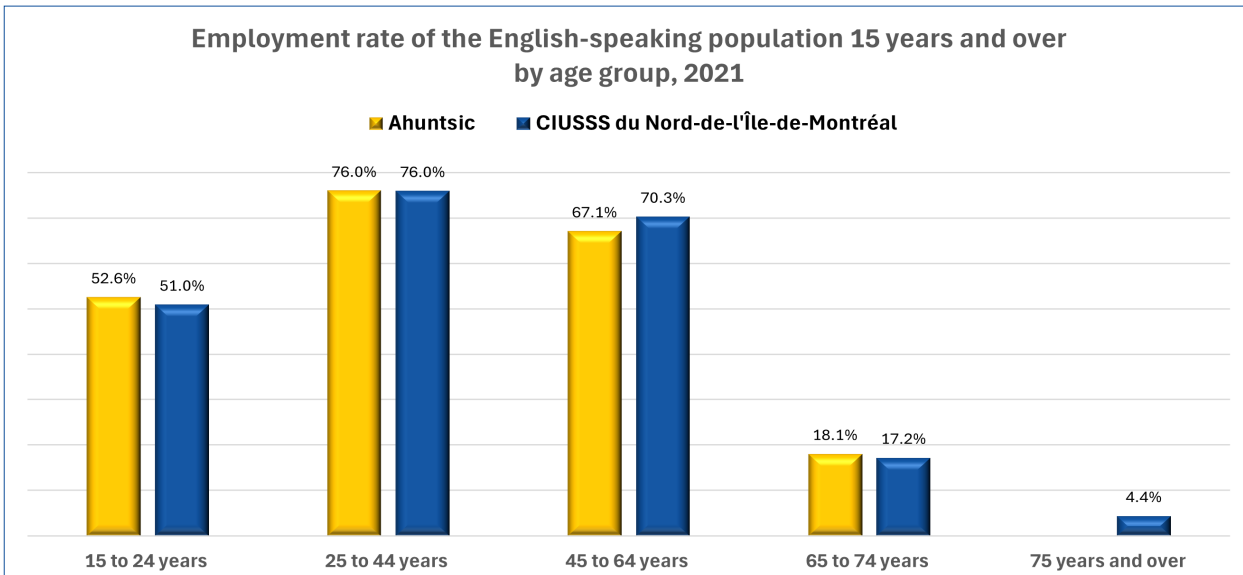


Labour force activity among English-speaking individuals in Ahuntsic shows strong participation among working-age groups, with clear variations across age categories. Individuals aged **25 to 44 (84.9%)** and **45 to 64 (76.0%)** demonstrate high levels of participation in the labour force, reflecting strong engagement during prime working years.

Younger individuals aged **15 to 24** also show notable participation (**62.2%**), likely balancing employment and education. In contrast, participation declines significantly among older adults, with only **21.1%** of those aged **65 to 74** remaining in the labour force and minimal participation among those aged **75 and over (1.7%)**.

Employment rates follow a similar pattern, with the highest levels among individuals aged **25 to 44 (76.0%)** and **45 to 64 (67.1%)**. Unemployment rates remain relatively moderate across most groups, though slightly higher among younger individuals (**15.5%**) and present among older adults as well, indicating potential challenges related to labour market entry and retention.

Overall, these trends reflect strong labour market integration among working-age populations in Ahuntsic, while also highlighting the need to support younger individuals transitioning into employment and older adults who may face barriers to continued workforce participation.



Employment rates among the English-speaking population in Ahuntsic are generally comparable to those observed across the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, with some variations across age groups. Among individuals aged **25 to 44**, the employment rate reaches **76.0%**, matching the **76.0%** observed in the broader territory.

Those aged **45 to 64** show slightly lower employment levels in Ahuntsic (**67.1%**) compared to the CIUSSS (**70.3%**), though still reflecting strong labour market participation among mid-career individuals.

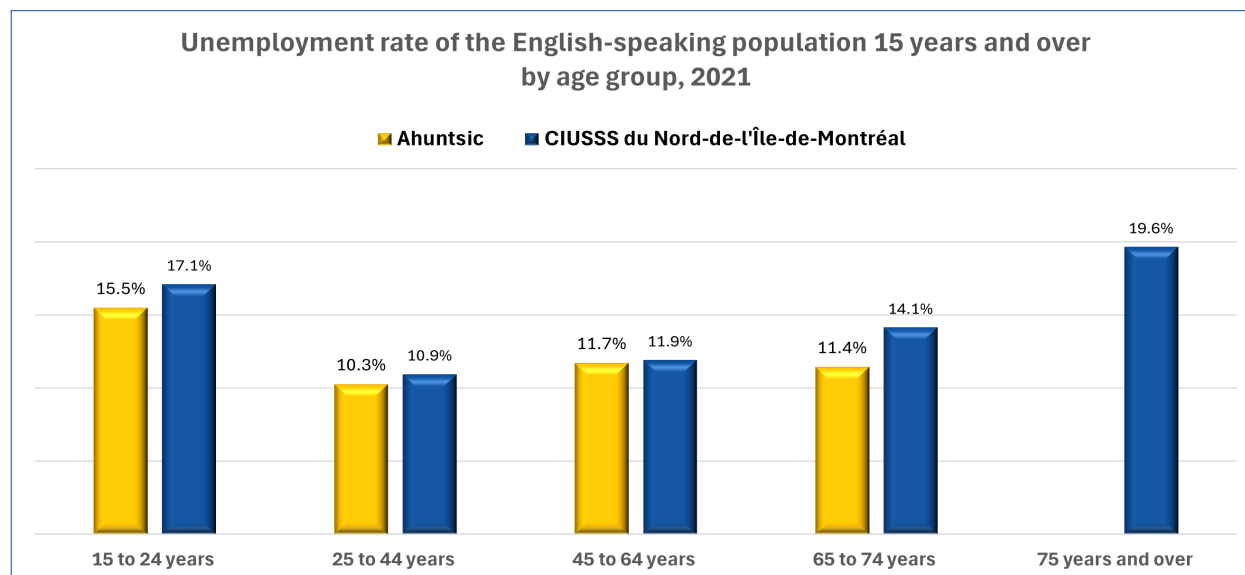
Younger individuals aged **15 to 24** present slightly higher employment levels (**52.6%**) than the broader territory (**51.0%**), suggesting similar patterns of labour market entry. Among older adults aged **65 to 74**, employment remains limited (**18.1%**), while it is minimal among those aged **75 and over**.

While employment indicators suggest strong labour market integration among English-speaking residents, qualitative findings reveal underlying challenges related to language requirements. Several youth participants indicated that access to employment is often conditioned by a high level of French proficiency, which can limit opportunities for those more comfortable in English.

***“Many positions require strong French, which can limit options for
English-speaking individuals.”***

This highlights a key distinction between employment outcomes and access to opportunities, suggesting that while individuals may ultimately integrate into the labour market, the pathways to employment may be more constrained for English-speaking populations.

Unemployment



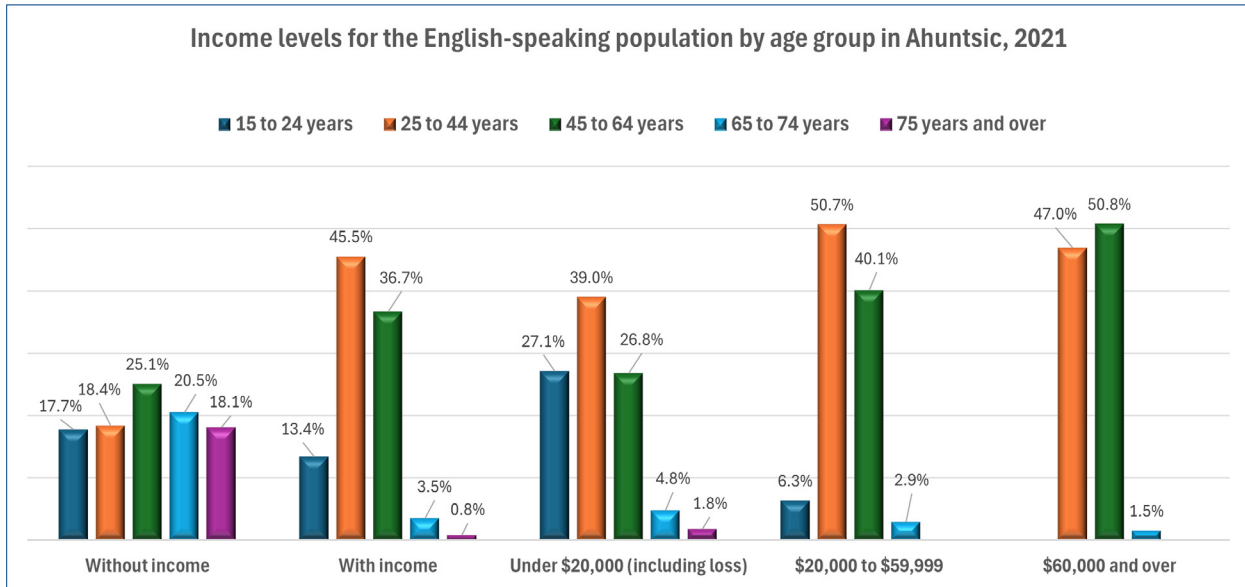
Unemployment rates among the English-speaking population in Ahuntsic are generally aligned with those observed across the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, with slight variations across age groups. Among individuals aged **25 to 44**, the unemployment rate is **10.3%**, closely comparable to the **10.9%** observed in the broader territory. A similar pattern is seen among those aged **45 to 64**, with **11.7%** in Ahuntsic and **11.9%** in the CIUSSS.

Among younger individuals aged **15 to 24**, unemployment is slightly lower in Ahuntsic (**15.5%**) compared to the CIUSSS (**17.1%**), suggesting relatively similar challenges related to labour market entry.

For older adults aged **65 to 74**, the unemployment rate is also somewhat lower in Ahuntsic (**11.4%**) compared to the broader territory (**14.1%**). Data for individuals aged **75 and over** is limited for Ahuntsic, though the CIUSSS reports a higher unemployment rate (**19.6%**) for this group.

Overall, these figures indicate that unemployment levels in Ahuntsic are broadly consistent with regional trends, with slight advantages observed in certain age groups. This suggests relatively stable labour market conditions, while still pointing to ongoing challenges related to employment access across the life course.

Income



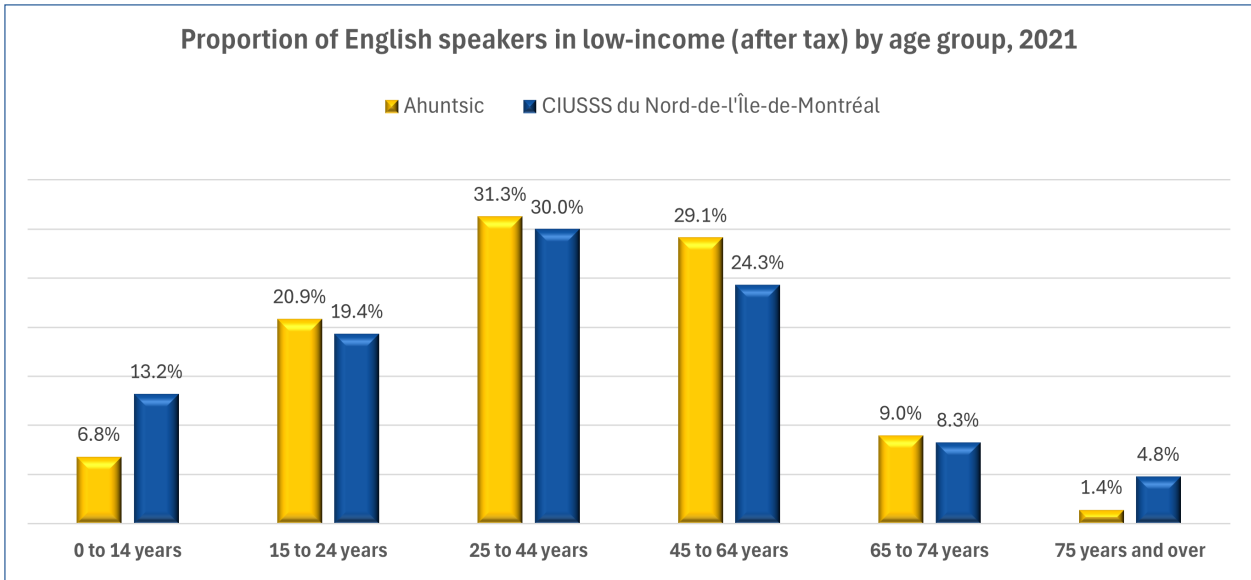
Income levels among the English-speaking population in Ahuntsic reflect generally strong economic outcomes, particularly among working-age groups, while also highlighting differences across life stages. Younger individuals aged **15 to 24** are more likely to report lower income levels, with **27.1%** earning under \$20,000 and **17.7%** reporting no income, likely reflecting ongoing education or limited labour market participation.

Among individuals aged **25 to 44**, a large proportion report having an income (**45.5%**), with many concentrated in the \$20,000 to \$59,999 (**50.7%**) and \$60,000 and over (**47.0%**) categories, indicating strong economic integration. Similarly, those aged **45 to 64** demonstrate high income levels, with **50.8%** earning \$60,000 and over, reflecting a high level of financial stability during mid-career stages.

Older adults aged **65 to 74** and **75 years and over** show more varied income profiles, with smaller proportions in higher income brackets and some individuals reporting no income, suggesting reliance on fixed or retirement-based income sources.

Overall, these patterns point to relatively strong financial outcomes among working-age populations in Ahuntsic, alongside expected variations across age groups. They also highlight the importance of supporting income stability among younger individuals and seniors who may face more limited financial resources.

Low-income measure (after tax)



The proportion of English speakers living in low income (after tax) in Ahuntsic varies across age groups, with some differences compared to the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. Among children aged **0 to 14**, **6.8%** are living in low-income households, notably lower than the **13.2%** observed in the broader territory.

Youth aged **15 to 24** show slightly higher levels of low income (**20.9%**) compared to the CIUSSS (**19.4%**), while individuals aged **25 to 44** present similar proportions (**31.3% vs. 30.0%**).

Among those aged **45 to 64**, **29.1%** are living in low-income situations, which is higher than the **24.3%** observed in the CIUSSS, indicating increased financial vulnerability among mid-career individuals.

Older adults aged **65 to 74** show comparable levels of low income (**9.0% vs. 8.3%**), while those aged **75 and over** have a lower proportion (**1.4%**) compared to **4.8%** in the broader territory.

Overall, these figures suggest that while low-income levels in Ahuntsic are generally aligned with regional trends, certain groups—particularly individuals aged **45 to 64** and youth—experience slightly higher levels of financial vulnerability. This highlights the importance of targeted measures to support income stability and reduce economic disparities.

Access to services and community inclusion

Qualitative findings suggest that English-speaking residents in Ahuntsic generally experience fewer barriers than in other boroughs but still face limitations in accessing services and participating fully in community life.

While many respondents reported being able to navigate services independently—often through online resources—this access is sometimes dependent on personal capacity, such as digital literacy or a basic knowledge of French.

Participation in community activities is also influenced by language. Although residents expressed openness to engaging in bilingual or French environments, some indicated that language differences can affect their level of comfort and ability to fully participate.

“It’s easier to express myself when we share a common language.”

These findings suggest that, in Ahuntsic, barriers are less about the absence of services and more about how accessible and inclusive they are in practice, particularly for individuals who are less bilingual.

Conclusion

Overall, the profile of the English-speaking population in Ahuntsic reflects a community characterized by relatively strong socio-economic outcomes, alongside some variations across age groups. The linguistic composition is marked by a clear predominance of French-only speakers, with a smaller proportion of English-speaking and bilingual individuals compared to the broader CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. This points to a more linguistically homogeneous environment, where French remains the dominant language of daily life.

The composition of the immigrant population shows a relatively balanced distribution across regions of origin, though with a lower representation of individuals from Asia compared to the broader territory. This suggests a distinct demographic profile that contributes to the borough's cultural landscape, while still reflecting a degree of diversity within the population.

Educational attainment among English speakers in Ahuntsic is generally high, particularly among younger and mid-career individuals, who demonstrate strong levels of postsecondary and university education. Older populations show more varied educational profiles, reflecting generational differences in access to higher education over time.

Labour market indicators point to stable and positive outcomes overall. Participation in the labour force and employment rates among working-age individuals are strong and largely aligned with regional trends, while unemployment levels remain relatively moderate. However, as in other areas, younger individuals and older adults continue to face certain challenges related to labour market entry and continued participation.

Income patterns further reinforce the relative economic stability of the area, particularly among individuals in mid-career stages, who show high levels of representation in upper income brackets. At the same time, younger individuals and seniors are more likely to experience lower or more limited incomes. While overall low-income levels are comparable to regional trends, certain groups—particularly individuals aged **45 to 64** and **youth**—show slightly higher levels of financial vulnerability.

Taken together, these findings highlight a community that is relatively well-integrated economically and educationally, with generally stable labour market outcomes. At the same time, they underscore the importance of maintaining inclusive approaches that support financial stability and equitable access to opportunities across all age groups, particularly for more vulnerable populations.

While the quantitative data presents Ahuntsic as a relatively well-integrated and socio-economically stable environment for English-speaking residents, qualitative insights provide a more nuanced perspective. They reveal that, although major barriers are less pronounced than in other boroughs, English-speaking individuals still encounter subtle but meaningful challenges related to language accessibility, particularly in employment, community participation, and access to support services.

These challenges do not necessarily prevent integration, but they can shape the ease with which individuals navigate daily life, suggesting that continued efforts toward improving visibility, accessibility, and inclusivity of English-language services remain important.

References

Ville de Montréal en statistiques: <https://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/>

Sources:

Custom table J W Comm/VEQ/Jeffery-Hale Community Partners

CO-2459 Table 1 - Total population, excluding institutional residents, by selected sociodemographic characteristics (36), first official language spoken (7) and age (16) for selected geographies, 2021 Census - 100% Data

CO-2459 Table 4 - Population in private households by selected sociodemographic characteristics (161) first official language spoken (7) and age (16) for selected geographies, 2021 Census - 25% Sample data

Resource guide

REISA'S Resource Guide: <https://reisa.ca/document-center/resources/>

Photo credits

Front cover

La rivière des Prairies et l'église de la paroisse de la Visitation du Sault-au-Récollet vues de l'île de la Visitation. November 1 2008.

By Jeangagnon - J'ai pris ce cliché aujourd'hui, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5115293>

The Rocket mural. Dodo Ose / Zek One. 2025. Images & Édifices de Montréal. <https://imtl.org/image.php?id=25991> . <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9978175>

Collège Ahuntsic panorama. By Jeangagnon - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15779505>

Twin Trees Île-de-la-Visitation. By Jiaqian AirplaneFan, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=55202316>

Les Escales Promenade Fleury – Le Comité. March 23, 2022. <https://www.lecomitemtl.com/app/uploads/2022/03/corpo-sdc-fleury-roue-fleury-et-stations-estivales-53-2-2832x1888.jpg>

Inner cover

Murale située au 9494, boulevard Saint-Laurent. Dalkhafine. Ville de Montréal. <https://ville.montreal.qc.ca/murales/detail/339>

Back cover

Amuseur – public et Mascot sur La Promenade Fleury. La Promenade. Facebook. September 10, 2025. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1132614149067327&set=a.581446320850782>

Parc Ahuntsic maénagements enfants. Ville de Montréal. 2025. <https://res.cloudinary.com/villemontreal/image/upload/v1629751671/portail/lfrzalzlgwb3daiglbfg.jpg>

Berge aux Quatre Vents. Le Comité Promenade Fleury. March 23, 2022. <https://www.lecomitemtl.com/app/uploads/2022/03/dsc-0792-2832x1888.jpg>

