

Employment Profile of English Speakers in Mauricie

Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT)



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The views expressed herein are those of the Provincial Employment Roundtable. They do not purport to reflect the views of the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise.

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

Québec 

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This profile aims to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the employment issues faced by Mauricie's English-speaking communities by surveying the most comprehensive information on the demographic and labour force conditions of English speakers in the region. The profile compiles the available data on English speakers' employment status with respect to their position as linguistic minorities in majority French-speaking communities. For this reason, most of the information presented in this profile is organized by the two linguistic categories of English speakers and French speakers.

In addition to examining the demographics and labour force of the English-speaking population, this profile also surveys Mauricie's economic structure, as well as the work activity, income, and educational attainment of workers with the goal of providing a more holistic picture of employment and employability.

Key findings:

- The English-speaking community comprises 3,230 individuals (1.3%) of the region's 256,865-person population.
- Mauricie is a manufacturing-oriented region. It is the seat of two industrial hubs, both of which have historically produced paper products, but are transitioning to produce other materials owing to the decline in the paper industries.
- Individuals aged 45-64 make up the largest portion of Mauricie's population. Among French speakers, this age group also makes up the largest portion of the labour force, while English speakers aged 45-64 and 25-44 both make up 0.5% of the labour force in Mauricie.
- English-speaking men make up 0.7% of both Mauricie's total population and labour force, while English-speaking women make up 0.6% of the region's population and labour force. Among French speakers, there are more women in the population than men, but significantly more men in the labour force than women.
- The main industries in which English speakers are engaged are education and manufacturing. English speakers are noticeably less well-represented in the healthcare industry as compared to French speakers and the total population of Mauricie.
- The unemployment rate in Mauricie is 8%, but English speakers experience an unemployment rate more than 2% higher, at 10.2%.
- Youth consistently experience the highest unemployment rates of any age group in the region, although English-speaking youth experience a much higher unemployment rate (20.8%) than French-speaking youth (12.8%).
- Women in Mauricie have a lower unemployment rate than men. French-speaking women experience the lowest unemployment rate (6.1%), followed by English-speaking women (7.9%), French-speaking men (9.8%), and lastly English-speaking men (11.9%).
- English speakers earn a higher median after-tax income than French speakers in Mauricie (\$27,270 compared to \$26,700). This is one of only three regions where this is the case (the other two are Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Chaudière-Appalaches).
- English speakers have a higher rate of postsecondary educational attainment compared to French speakers (58.7% compared to 56.2%).

METHODOLOGY & DEFINITIONS

Methodology

This profile relies primarily on data from two sources: the 2016 Census of Canada and the Institut de la statistique du Québec.¹

The profile uses 25% sample data from the 2016 Census. The 25% sample data is drawn from the approximately 25% of Canadian private households who received a long form questionnaire.

The data in this profile is organized by MRC and regional county municipality/municipalité régionale comté (RCM/MRC). MRCs and regional county municipalities serve to organize the allocation and delivery of government services in Québec.

Language

English speakers and French speakers in this profile are classified according to Statistics Canada's definition of First Official Language Spoken (FOLS).² Individuals who speak both English and French as their first official language are evenly divided among English and French speakers. FOLS designation is a derived concept, taking into account a person's knowledge of Canada's two official languages, their mother tongue, and their home language (i.e. the language they speak most often at home).

Sex

Sex in this profile refers to sex assigned at birth, as indicated in the 2016 Census. Sex is typically assigned based on a person's reproductive system and other physical characteristics. The 2016 Census data exclusively utilizes the concept of sex, and particularly the categories of male and female. Data regarding the distinct concept of gender was collected for the first time in the 2021 Census, and will be made available in those datasets.

Labour Force Activity

Labour force refers to all individuals aged 15 and over who were either employed or unemployed during the week of May 1st to May 7th, in 2016. The labour force excludes individuals who are institutional residents, those who are unable to work, and those who are unwilling to work. For example, retirees, stay-at-home parents, students, and discouraged workers who have stopped job-searching are not typically counted as part of the labour force. Generally, Statistics Canada

does not consider those engaged in unpaid services such as community and volunteer services, or unpaid domestic services, to be part of the labour force.

Employed/Unemployed Person

An employed person is an individual who, during the week of May 1st to May 7th, 2016, did paid work in the context of an employer-employee relationship, or who was self-employed. The term also refers to individuals who did unpaid family work, which is defined as work directly contributing to the operation of a farm, business, or professional practice owned by a relative in the same household (this does not include unpaid domestic services like childcare and household maintenance). The definition also includes individuals who had employment but were temporarily absent from work during the reference period due to events such as illness, disability, vacation, or labour dispute.

An unemployed person is an individual who did not have paid work during the week of May 1st to 7th, 2016, but had either been actively looking for paid work in the last four weeks, had been temporarily laid-off, or had definite plans to start a new job within four weeks.

Unemployment Rate

This refers to unemployment expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the week of May 1 to 7, 2016. The unemployment rate for a particular demographic (i.e. age, sex) is the number of unemployed in that group, expressed as a percentage of the labour force for that group.

Work Activity

Work activity refers to whether or not a person 15 years or over worked in 2015. For those who worked, this refers to the number of weeks they worked for pay or in self-employment during the reference year, even if they only worked for a couple hours. It provides a wider portrait of an individual's engagement in work over the period of a year.

After-tax Income

After-tax income refers to the total income of a person less income taxes. Income taxes refers to the sum of federal income taxes, provincial and territorial income taxes, less abatement where applicable.

¹ Census data is the primary and most comprehensive source of linguistic-based information on Québec's English-speaking labour force. The fact that this data is only available every 5 years is a considerable limitation for those who rely on linguistic-based data to make important decisions. There is a need for more frequent data collection and publication on the socio-economic status of linguistic minorities by Statistics Canada, the Institut de la statistique du Québec and relevant research networks.

² Statistics Canada. "First official language spoken of person," (2021, November 02). Government of Canada. Retrieved from: <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&id=34004>

METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

Educational Attainment

Refers to the highest level of education that a person has successfully completed.

Industry

Industry refers to the specific economic activity engaged in by a given group. An activity, in turn, is the combination of labour, capital, and goods in order to produce new goods and/or services. The industry data are produced according to the North American Industry Classification System 2012.

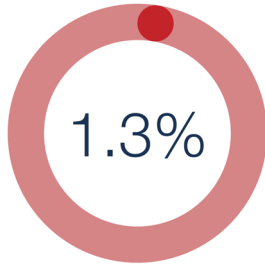
Population



POPULATION

Total Population

English-speaking Population



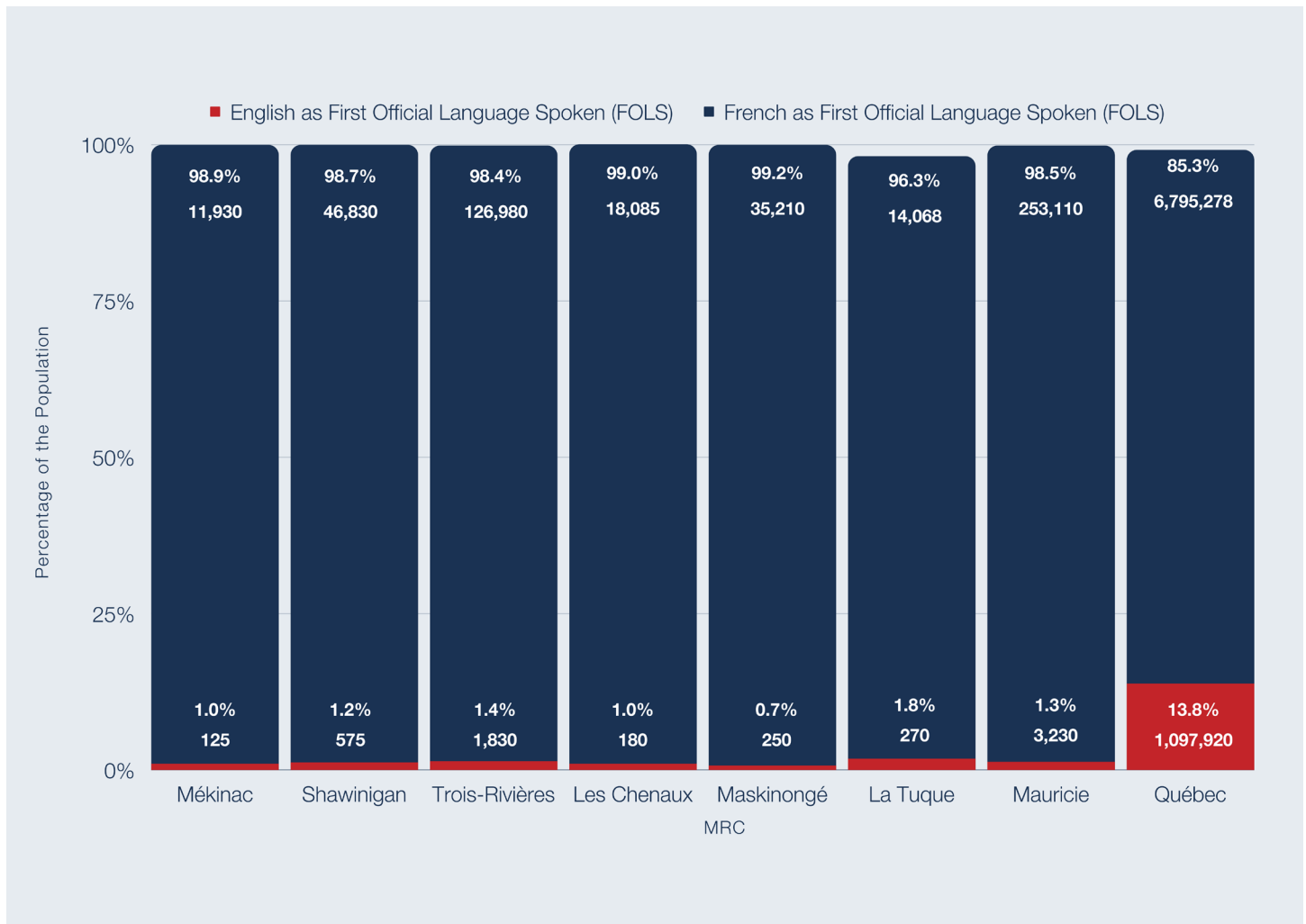
1.3%

Mauricie

The population of Mauricie is approximately 256,865. The English-speaking community in the region comprises 3,230 individuals, or 1.3% of the total population.

The majority of English speakers in the region (1,830) live in Trois-Rivières. There is also a sizable English-speaking community in Shawinigan (575). The remaining MRCs have significantly fewer English speakers.

Graph 1: Total Population of Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

POPULATION

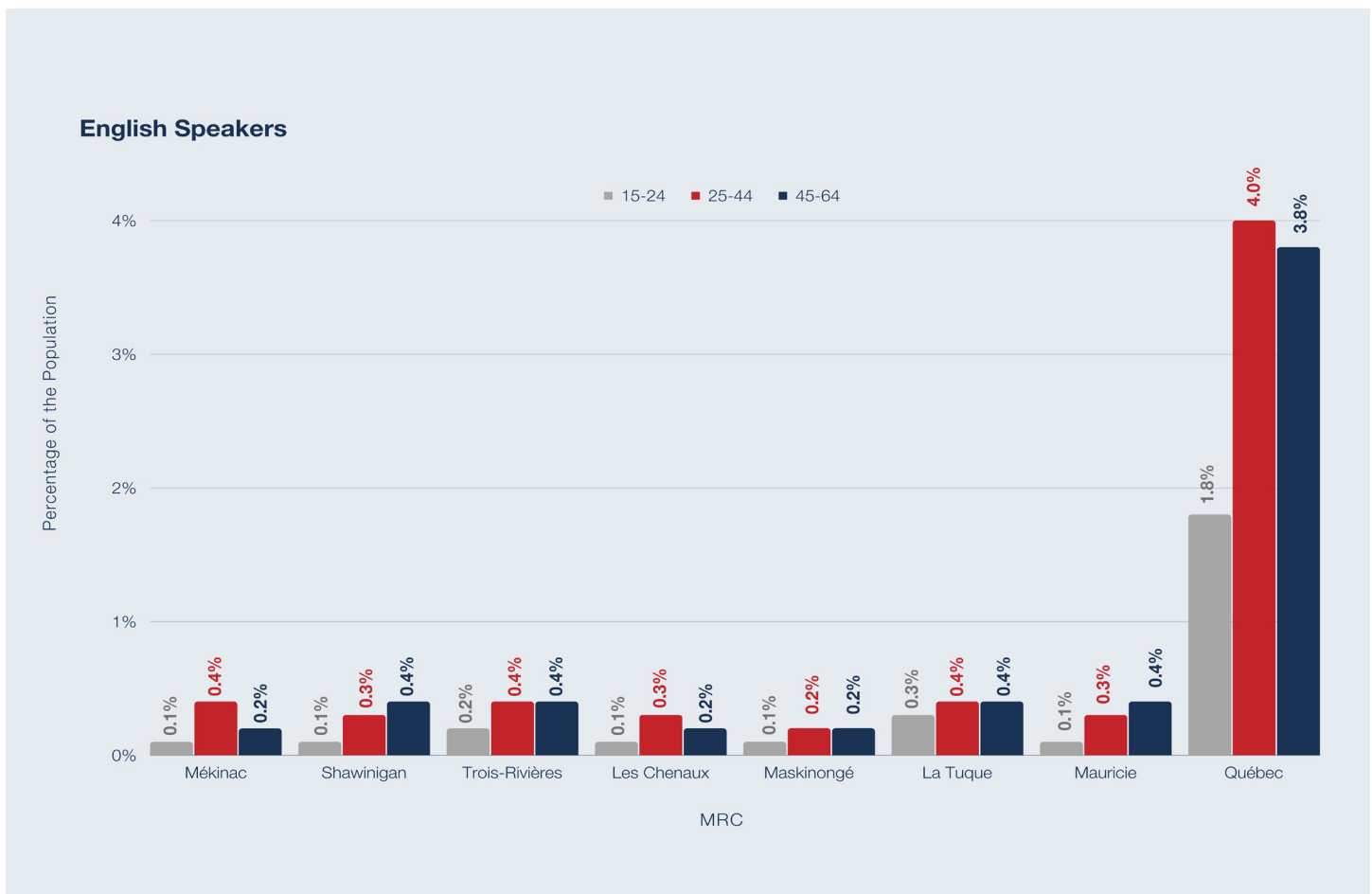
Age Structure of Population

Among English speakers, there are marginally more individuals aged 45-64 than 25-44 in the region (representing 0.4% and 0.3% of the population, respectively). In Québec as a whole, however, there are more English speakers aged 25-44.

Among French speakers, there are significantly more individuals aged 45-64 than 25-44 (31.3% compared to 21.5%). This is consistent with provincial trends.

Among both linguistic groups, youth make up a smaller percentage of the population.

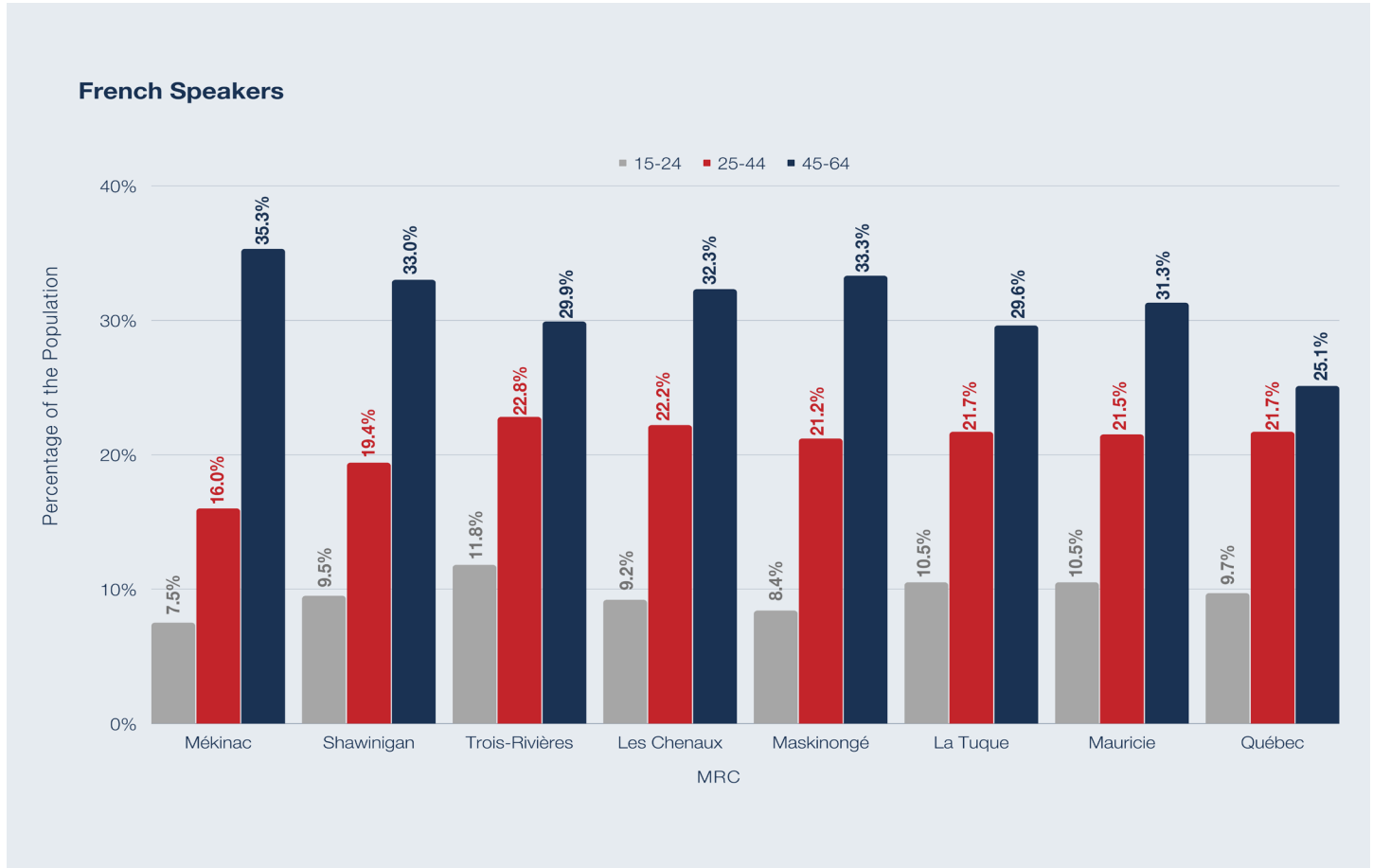
Graph 2a: Age Structure of Mauricie's Population by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

POPULATION

Graph 2b: Age Structure of Mauricie's Population by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

POPULATION

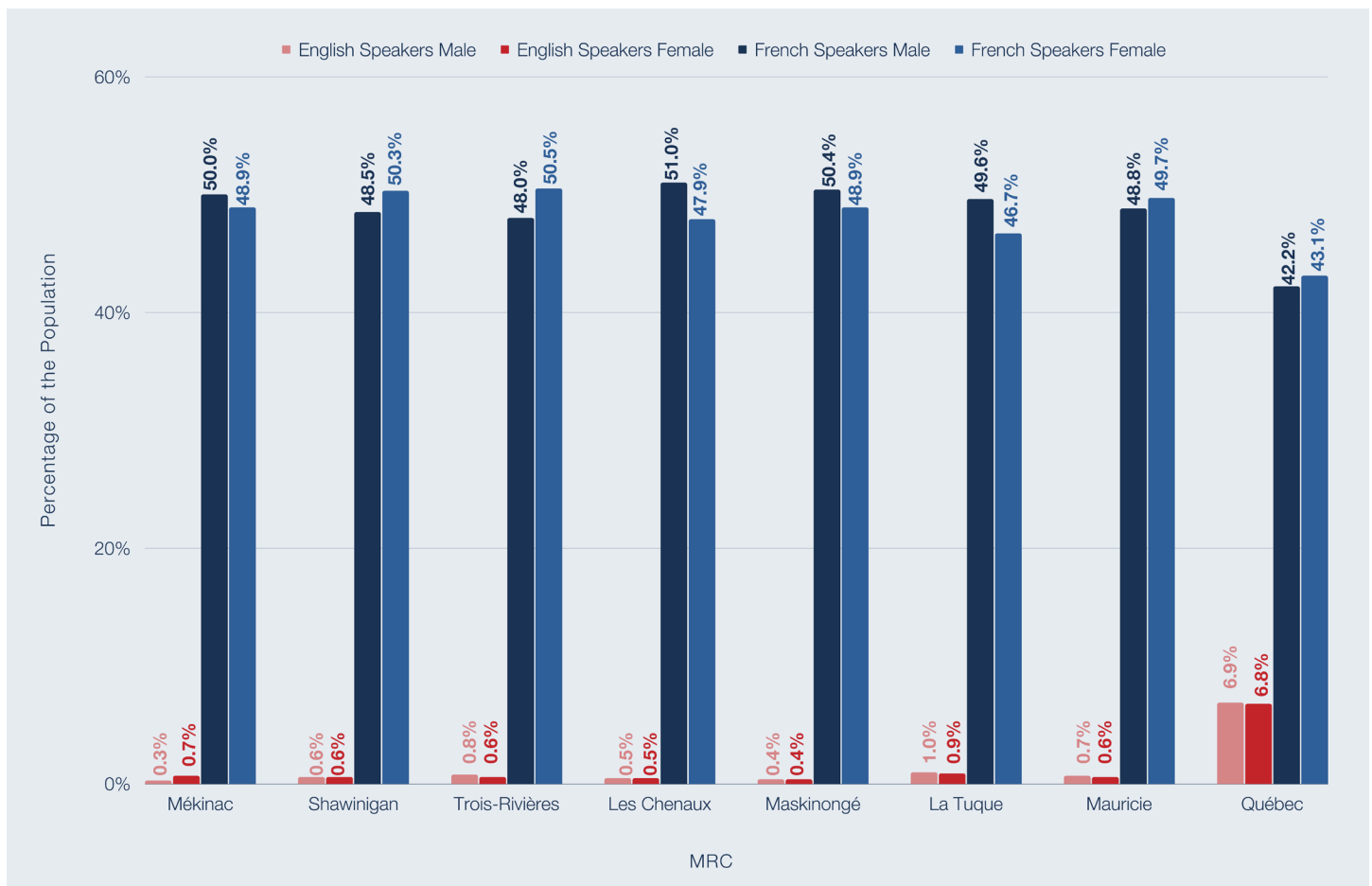
Sex Structure of Population

Across most MRCs, there is approximate sex parity among English speakers: differences are largely observed at the levels of one tenth of a percent. The exceptions are Mékinac, where there are 0.4% more women than men, and Trois-Rivières, where there are 0.2% more men than women.

At the provincial level as well, there is approximate parity between English-speaking men and women: men represent 6.9% of the population and women represent 6.8%.

There are 0.9% more French-speaking women than men in the region as a whole, but there is some variation within the MRCs. In Mékinac, les Chenaux, Maskinongé and la Tuque there are more French-speaking men than women. The largest disparity is observed in les Chenaux, where there are 3.1% more French-speaking men than women.

Graph 3: Sex Structure of Mauricie's Population by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

Economic Structure



ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Mauricie is designated as a manufacturing-oriented region according to Quebec's Economic Development Index.³ As of 2018, Mauricie has a score of 89.2 (below average), a decrease of 2.4 index points from its 2013 score.⁴ This is consistent with the decrease in score experienced by several other neighbouring, manufacturing-oriented regions, including Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Centre-du-Québec, and Lanaudière.

Mauricie is the seat of two industrial hubs, Trois-Rivières and Shawnigan. Traditionally, both cities produced paper products, but decline in demand has forced several companies to close, and generally led to an unfavourable economic situation. Several other companies in the region, however, have pivoted to specialize in innovative sectors, including biomass, cellulosic fibre, and cardboard products.⁵ Similarly, the furniture design and manufacturing industry, as well as machine manufacturing and metal production, have been recognized by the provincial government as creneaux d'excellences, or specialized areas of excellence in the region.⁶

Yet the leading industry across Mauricie is the services sector, which is consistent throughout Quebec as a whole. Major subsets of this sector include health care and social assistance and, to a lesser extent, education.

From 2013-2017 sales of manufactured goods produced in the region decreased by an average of 5.4% per year, compared to a provincial annual growth rate of 3%. Around the same period (2016-2020) private investment in Mauricie declined by an annual average of 6.6%, compared to a provincial growth in private investment of 1.7% annually.⁷ This decline is linked to the completion of several construction projects in the region.⁸

³ This index analyzes the economic reality of the region according to four components: demographics, labour market, income, and education. A score of more than 100 indicates that a region is above average, while the increase of a score over time indicates better performance in comparison with other regions.

⁴ Frédéric Hamelin. "Portrait économique des régions du Québec," (2020). Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation. Retrieved from: https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/contenu/documents_soutien/regions/portraits_regionaux/20200322-PERQ-2020.pdf, page 18.

⁵ François Dupuis, Mathieu D'Anjou, and Chantal Routhier. "Études régionales: Région administrative de la Mauricie," (2019). Desjardins. Retrieved from: <https://www.desjardins.com/ressources/pdf/19Mauricie-f.pdf?resVer=1571323665000>, page 4.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec. "Région Mauricie: Secteur des entreprises," (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/pages-regionales/mauricie/portrait-regional/secteur-des-entreprises/>

⁸ Dupuis, D'Anjou, and Routhier. "Études régionales: Région administrative de la Mauricie," 9.

Industries



INDUSTRIES

Top Industries for Total Population

As of 2020, the region's primary sector accounted for 2.8% of jobs, compared to 2.3% at the provincial level. Many of these jobs are within the forestry industry, which supports the region's paper and pulp production, as well as its recent transition to biomass, cellulosic fibre, and cardboard production.⁸

Mauricie's manufacturing sector accounted for 10.8% of jobs in the region, slightly lower than the provincial share, at 11.6%. This is unusual given Mauricie's designation as a manufacturing-oriented region, but may be explained by the recent decline in its major manufacturing industries, and may indicate a shift towards other industries in the region.

The service sector is the region's main source of employment, accounting for 79.7% of jobs, compared to 79.9% provincially.

The services sector encompasses a vast array of occupations and industries ranging from health care to retail and education.

Typical health care and social assistance occupations include doctors, nurses, dentists, orderlies, early childhood educators, and social workers.

Typical retail occupations include sales associates, cashiers, and customer service.

Primary sector



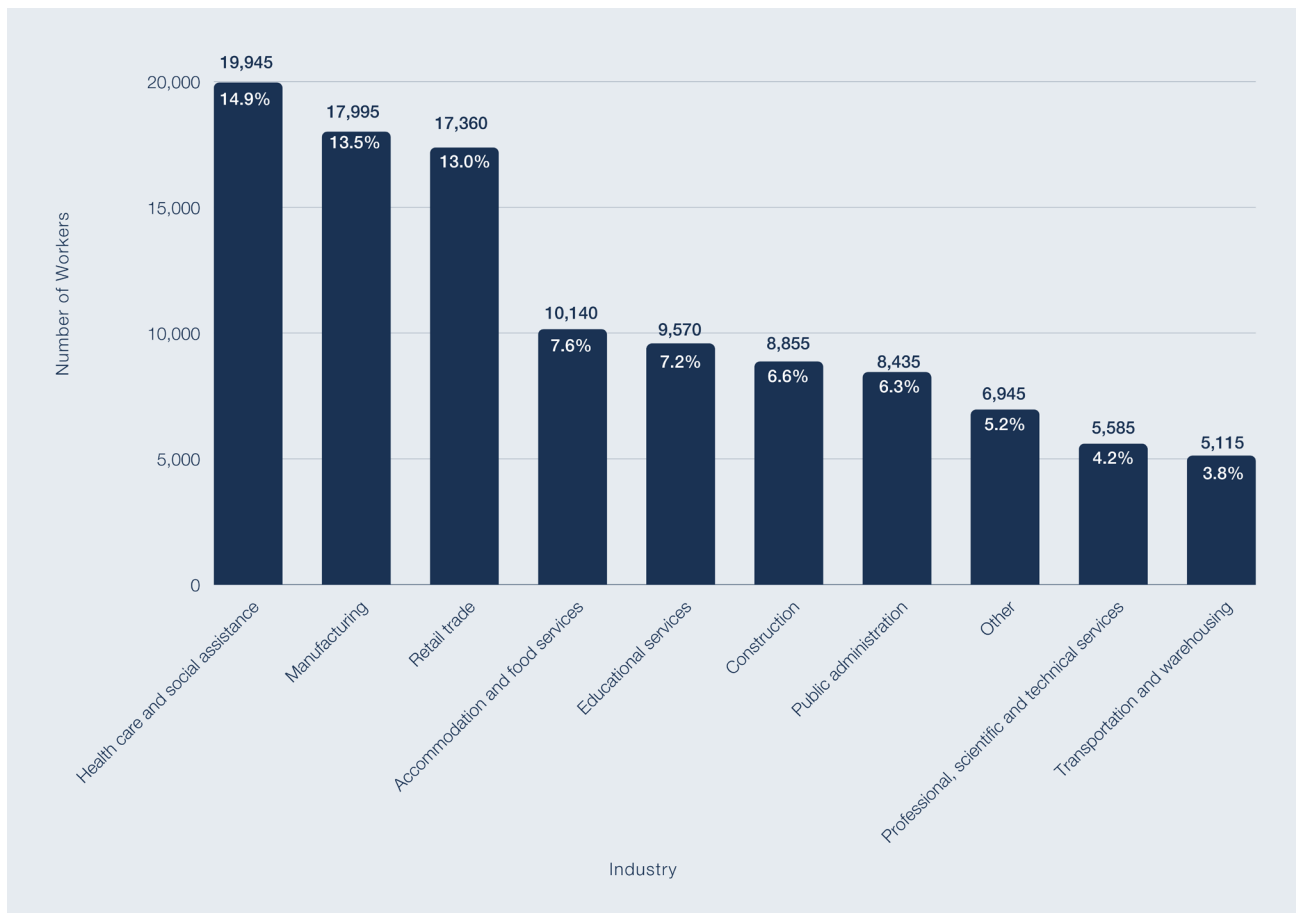
Services



Manufacturing



Graph 4: Top 10 Industries in Mauricie for Total Population



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

8. Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec. "Région Mauricie: Structure économique," (2021). Retrieved from: <https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/pages-regionales/mauricie/portrait-regional/structure-economique/>

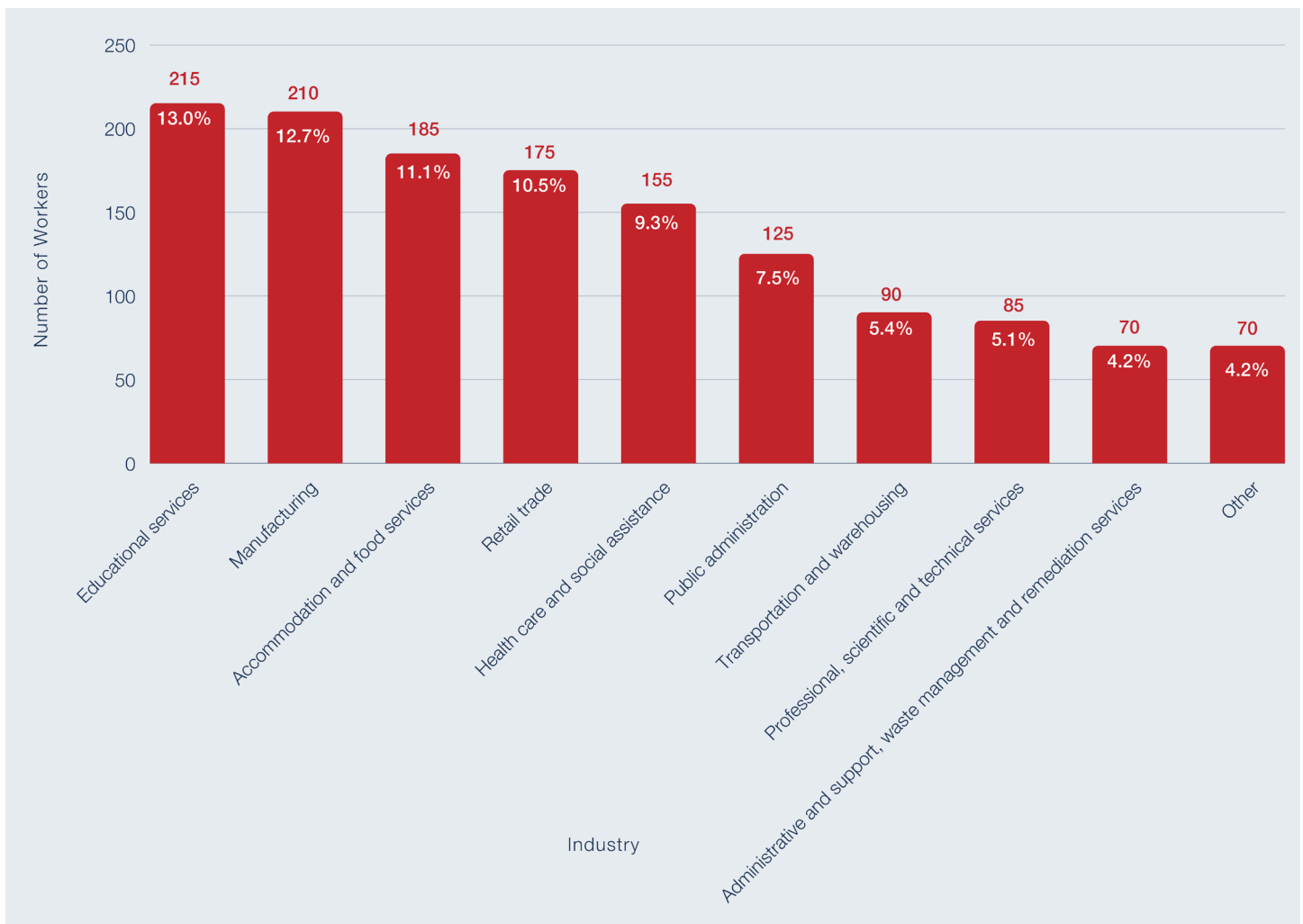
INDUSTRIES

Top Industries for English Speakers

The main industries in which English speakers work are similar to those of the total population, although English speakers have proportionally higher engagement in the education occupations, and lower engagement in healthcare occupations.

Typical occupations in education include elementary, secondary school, CEGEP, and university teachers, as well as educational support and administrative staff.

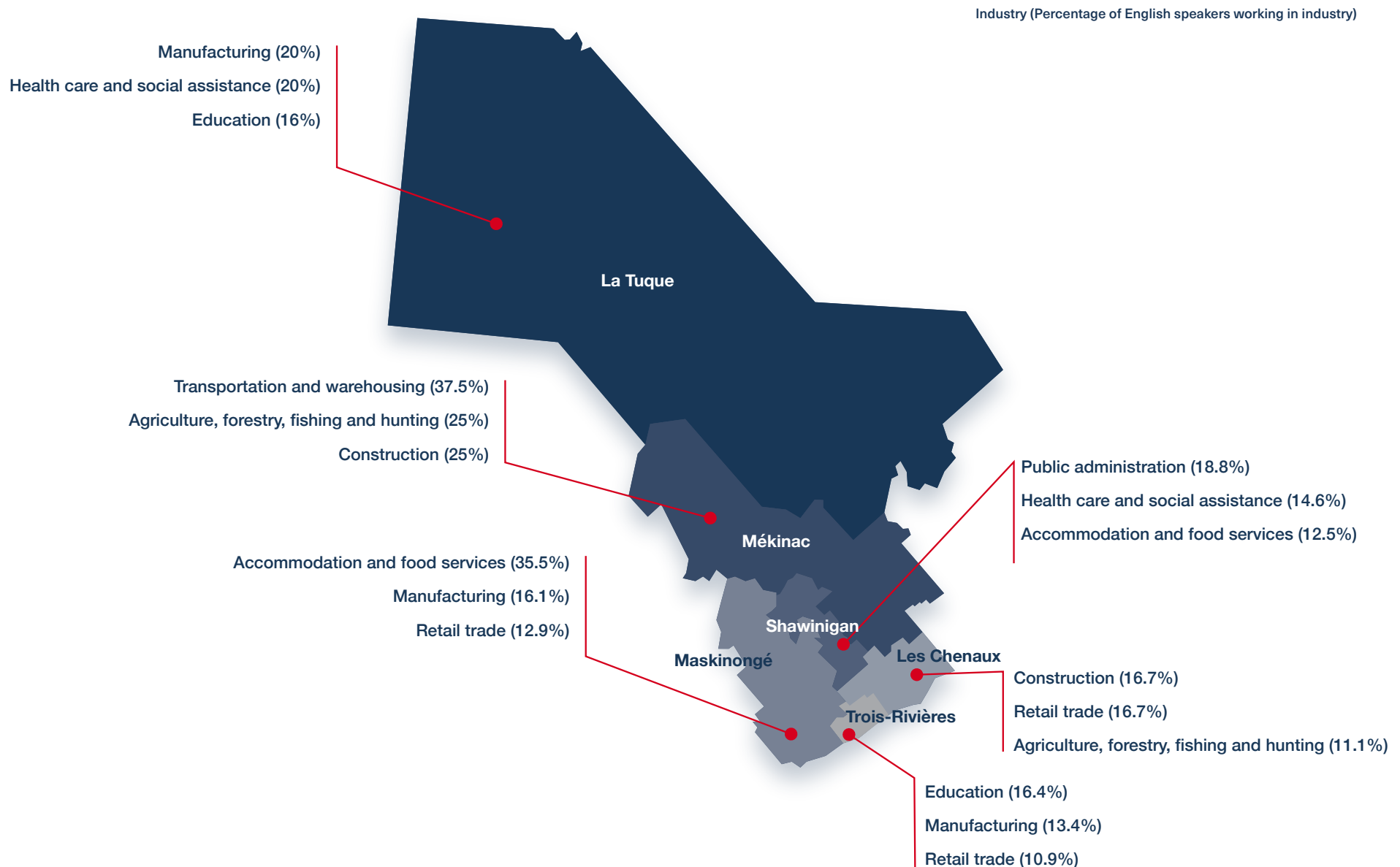
Graph 5: Top 10 Industries in Mauricie for English Speakers by Number of Workers



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

INDUSTRIES

Map 1: Top Industries in Mauricie for English Speakers



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

Labour Force



LABOUR FORCE

Total Labour Force

The labour force includes individuals who are employed and those who are unemployed, but actively seeking employment and available for work. Labour force participation is an important metric for understanding the employment and economic status of communities because it indicates the levels of activity in the labour market.

However, several factors must be considered when looking at labour force figures including:

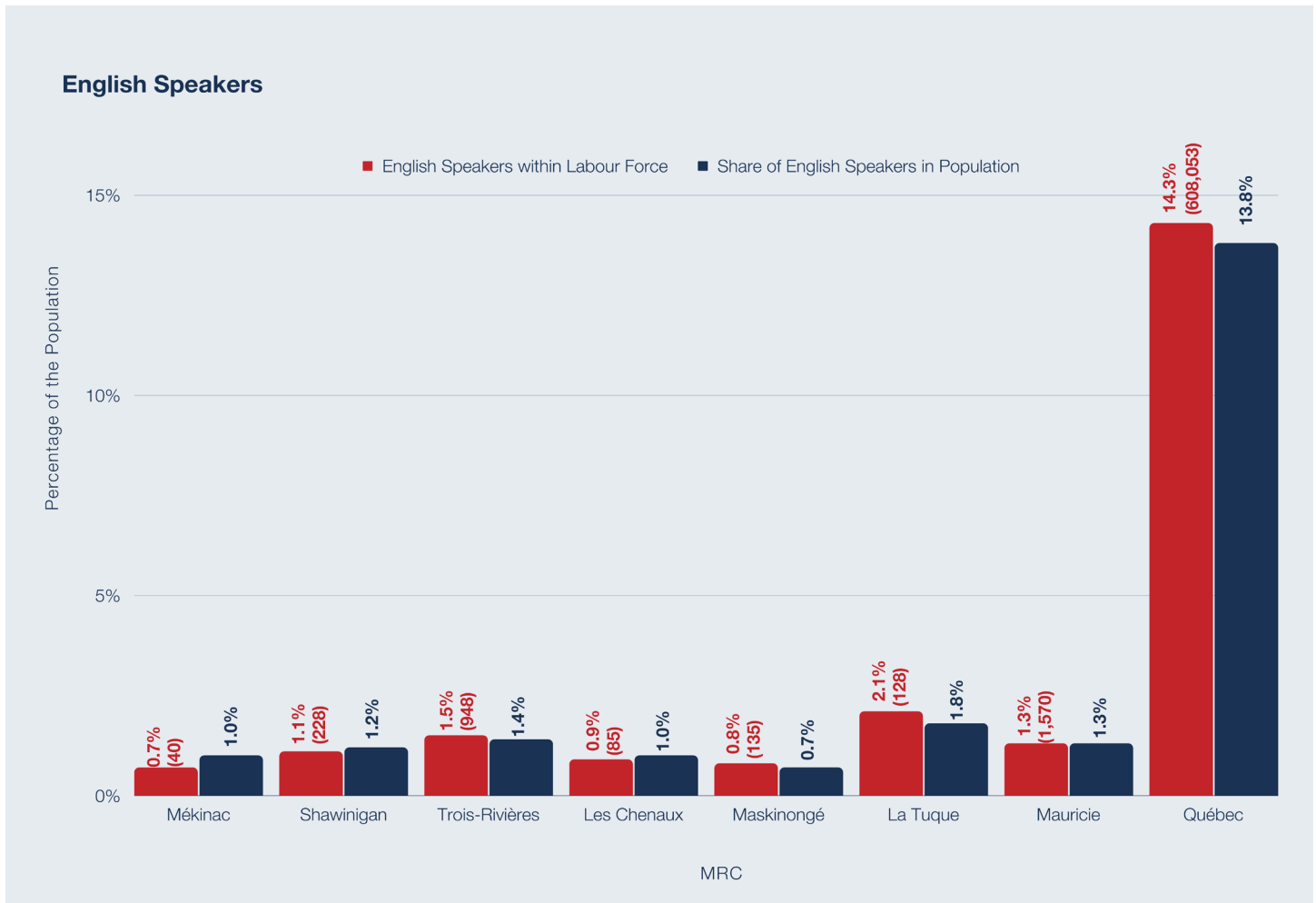
- The proportion of individuals in the labour force who are unemployed
- Cyclical conditions and the time of year when labour force data is collected
- The types of occupations that employed individuals have

- The income that individuals are earning

The English-speaking community accounts for approximately 1.3% of both the population and the labour force in Mauricie. 1,570 people within the 124,730-person labour force are English speakers.

English speakers in La Tuque represent 2.1% of the labour force, although they represent 1.8% of the MRC's population.

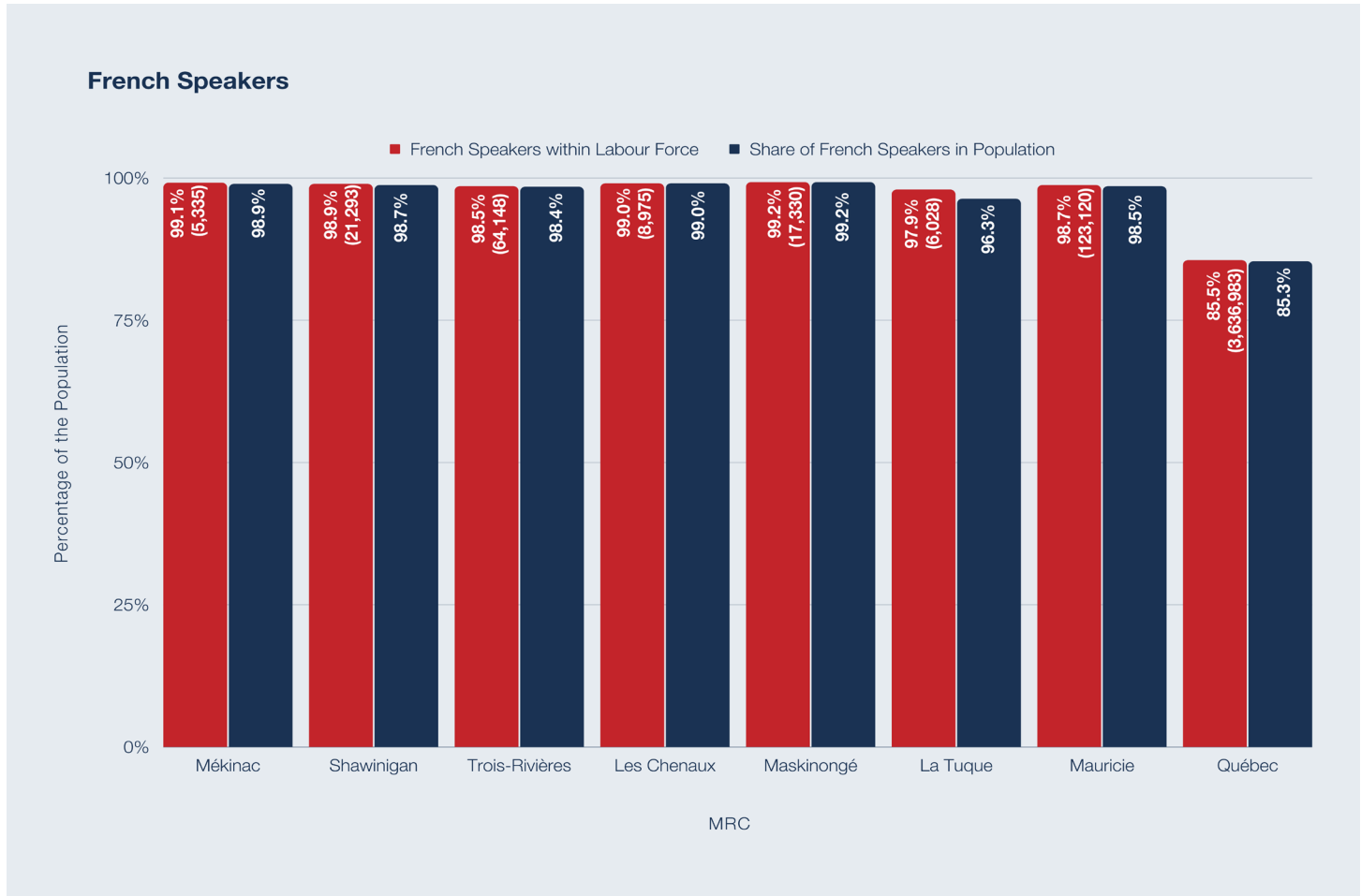
Graph 6a: Labour Force of Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

LABOUR FORCE

Graph 6b: Labour Force of Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

LABOUR FORCE

Age Structure of Labour Force

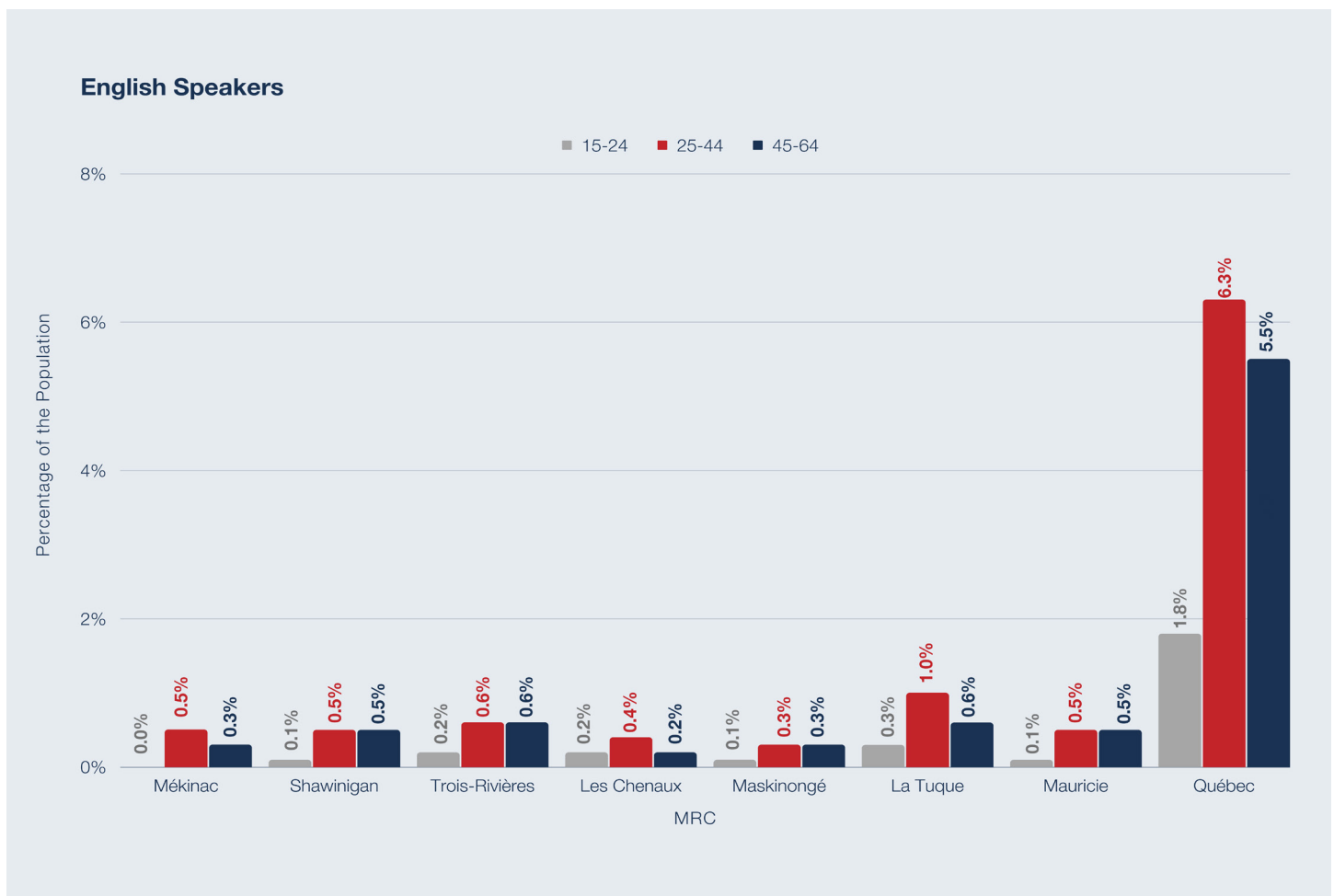
English speakers aged 25-44 and 45-64 both account for 0.5% of the labour force in Mauricie.

In Mékinac, les Chenaux, and la Tuque there are more English speakers aged 25-44 than 45-64 in the labour force.

French speakers aged 45-64 form the largest portion of the labour force (43.1%) in the region. French speakers aged 25-44 make up the second largest portion (38.1%).

In Québec as a whole, French speakers aged 25-44 make up the largest share of the labour force owing to high representation in a few key regions.

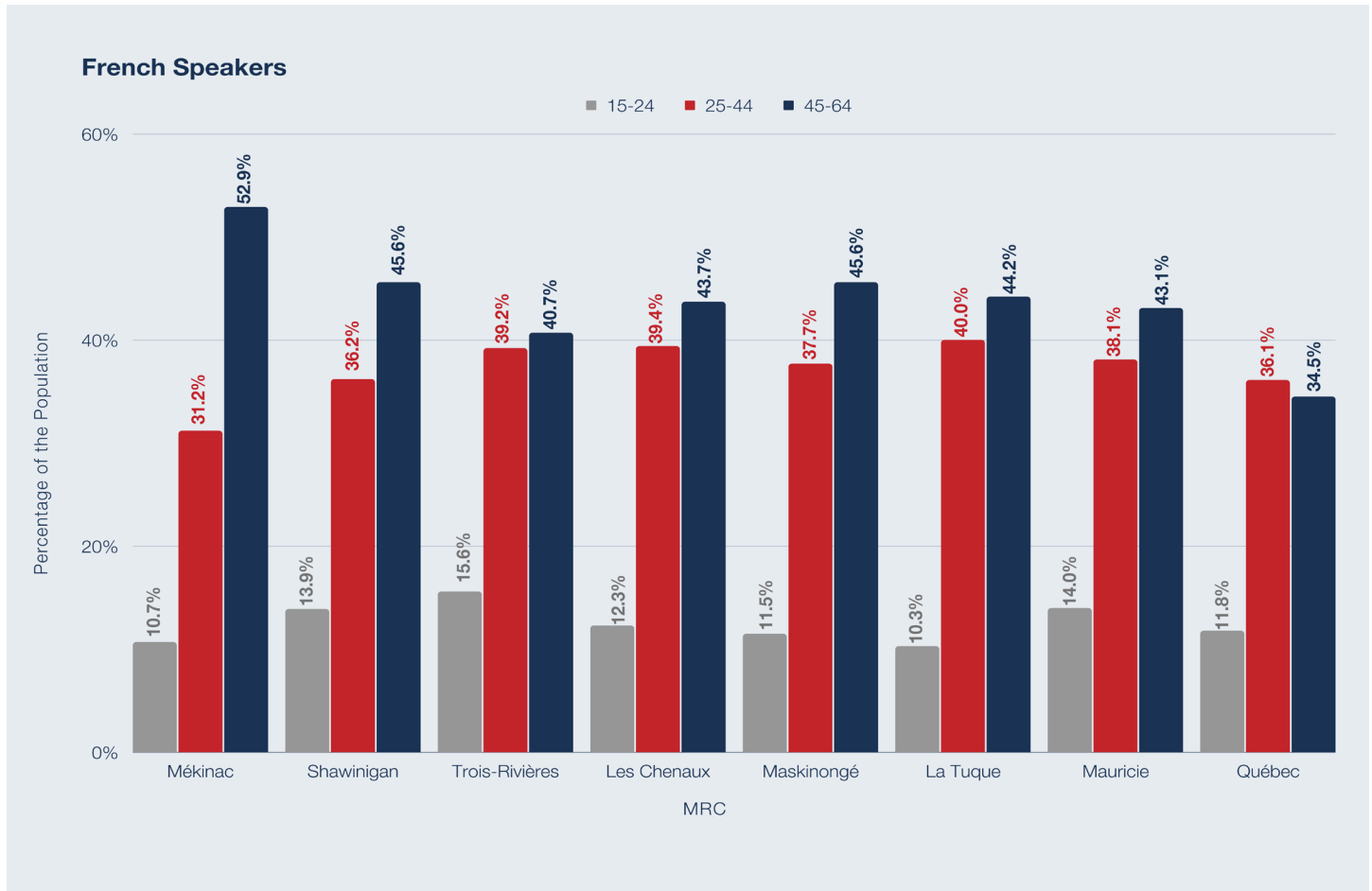
Graph 7a: Age Structure of Mauricie's Labour Force by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

LABOUR FORCE

Graph 7b: Age Structure of Mauricie's Labour Force by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

LABOUR FORCE

Sex Structure of Labour Force

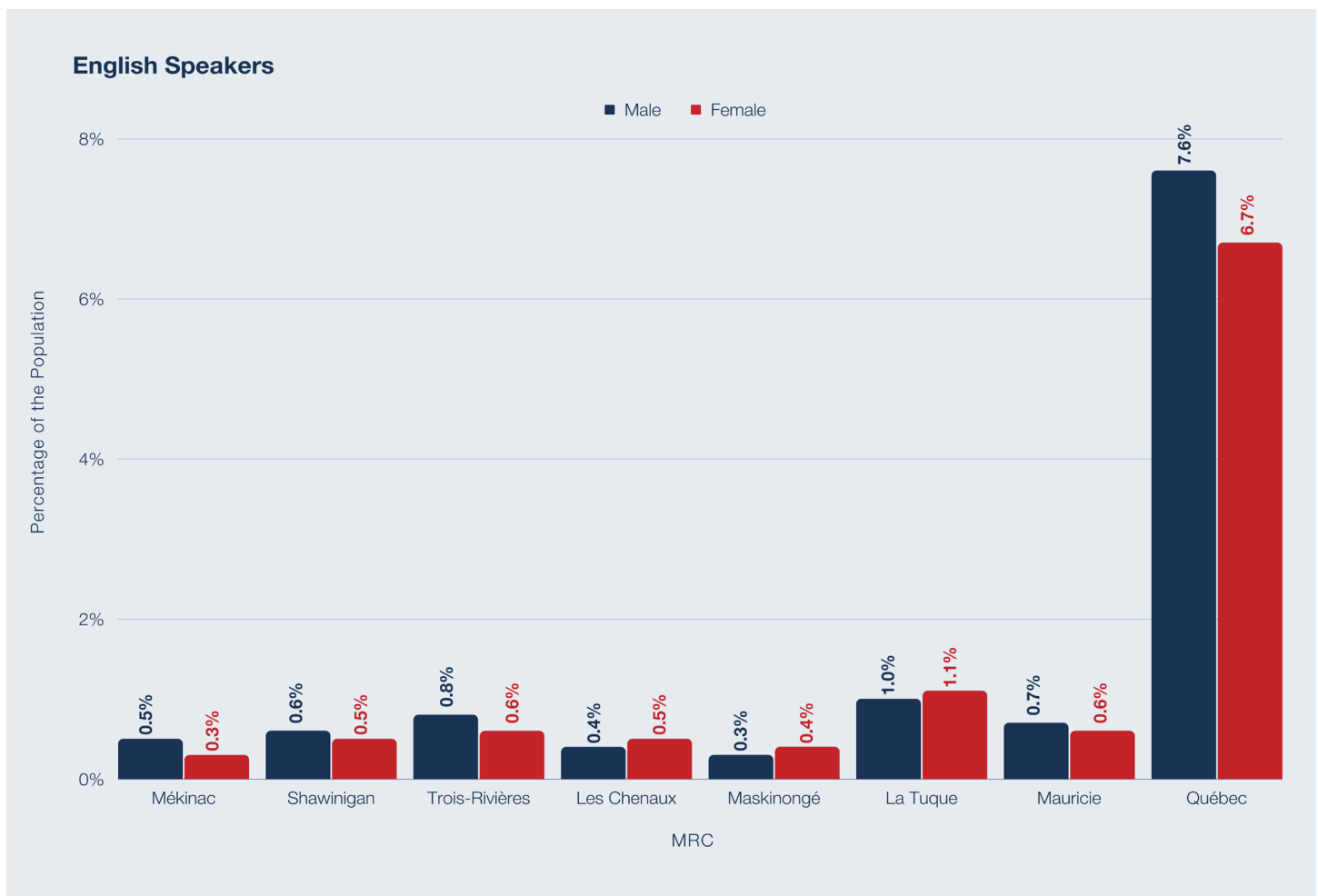
Although there are more French-speaking women than men in the population of Mauricie, there are more French-speaking men than women in the region's labour force (51.3% compared to 47.4%).

In every MRC, French-speaking men represent more than half of the labour force. This is most evident in les Chenaux, where French-speaking men represent 53.4% of the labour force.

English-speaking men make up 0.7% of both the region's total population and labour force, while English-speaking women make up 0.6% of the region's population and labour force.

In les Chenaux, Maskinongé, and la Tuque, there are more English-speaking women than men in the labour force.

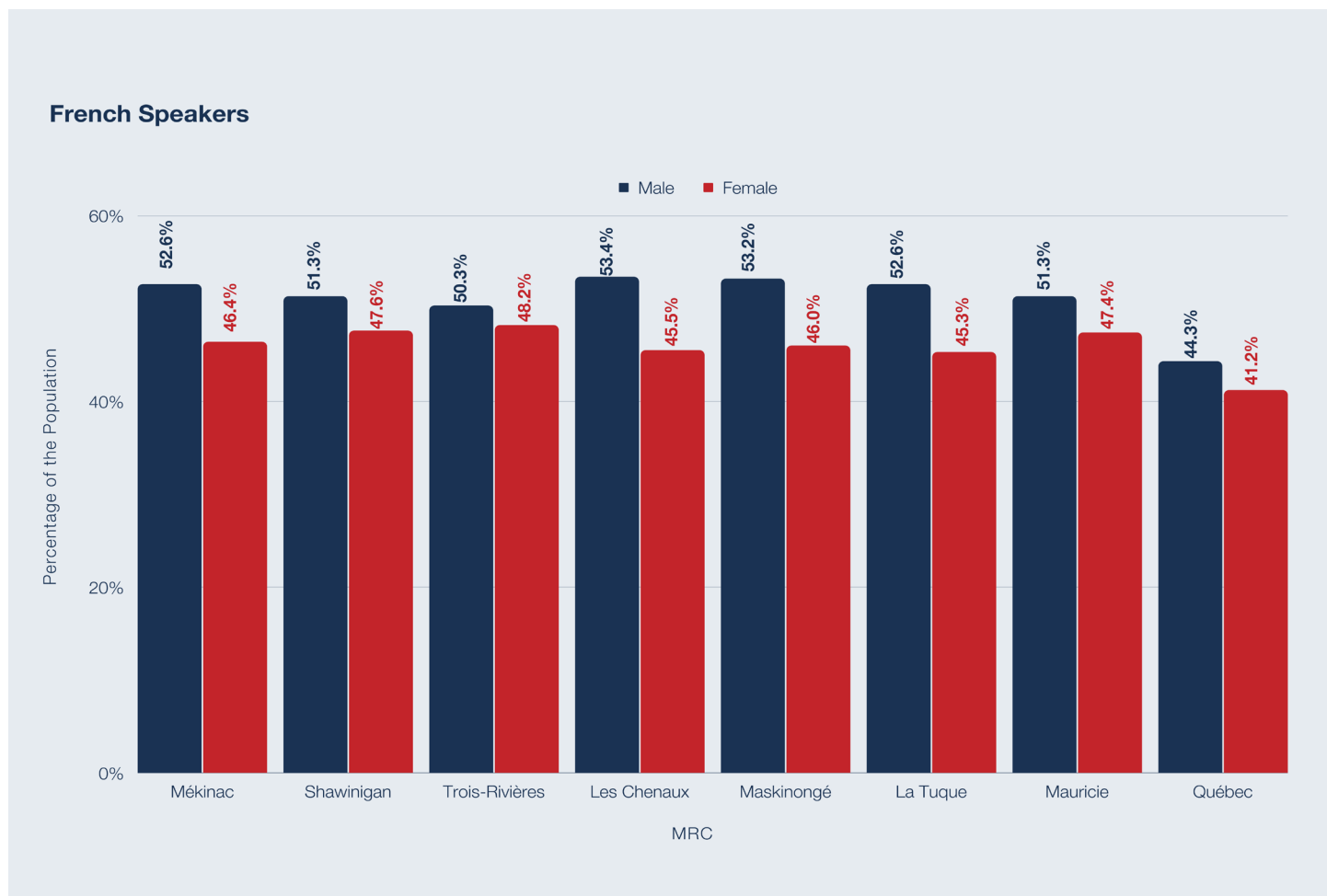
Graph 8a: Sex Structure of Mauricie's Labour Force by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

LABOUR FORCE

Graph 8b: Sex Structure of Mauricie's Labour Force by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

Unemployment Rate



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Total Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate represents the percentage of individuals in the labour force who do not have paid work and are looking for work. Unemployment rate serves as an official measure of performance of the labour market and can shed light on the income, purchasing power, and socio-economic well-being of communities.

The unemployment rate, however, has its limitations. The unemployment rates in this section capture the work status of individuals at the time Census data was collected in May 2016.

The unemployment rate may not account for:

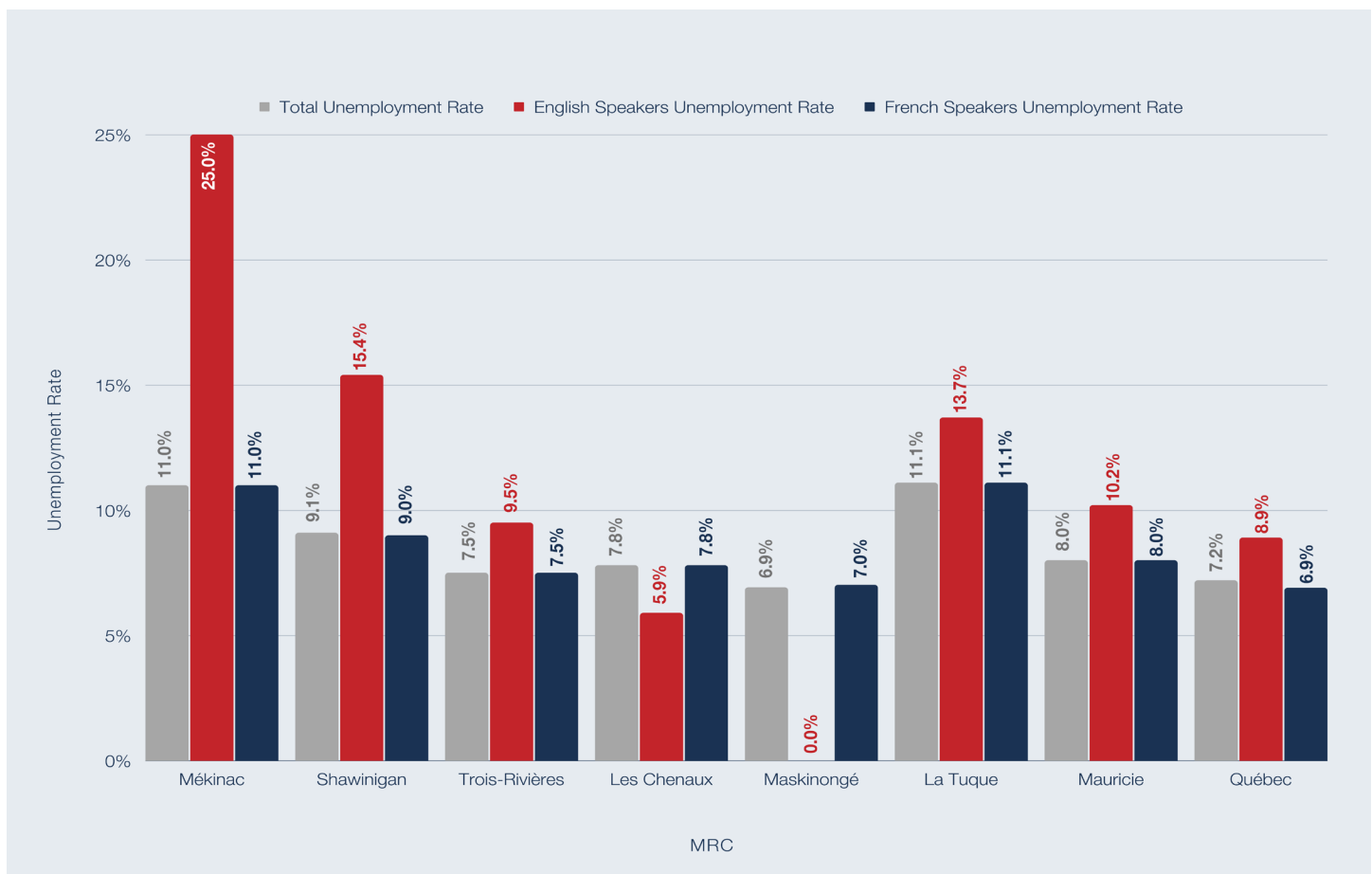
- Those who work seasonal occupations and have less work or no work during the winter months
- Those who have been out of work for a long time and have stopped actively looking for work
- The quality of work that individuals have.

While the unemployment rate may not capture the precariousness of part-time, temporary, and low-wage work, it remains an important official measure that indicates the lost wages, reduced economic growth, and difficulties that communities face due to joblessness.

Due to a small population sample size in some MRCs, the unemployment rates for English speakers may appear as either 0%, a very high figure (e.g. 100%), or incalculable. These figures may not be representative of communities, suggesting the need for further research.

The unemployment rate in Mauricie is 8%, but English speakers experience an unemployment rate more than 2% higher, at 10.2%.

Graph 9: Unemployment Rate in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Age Structure of Unemployment Rate

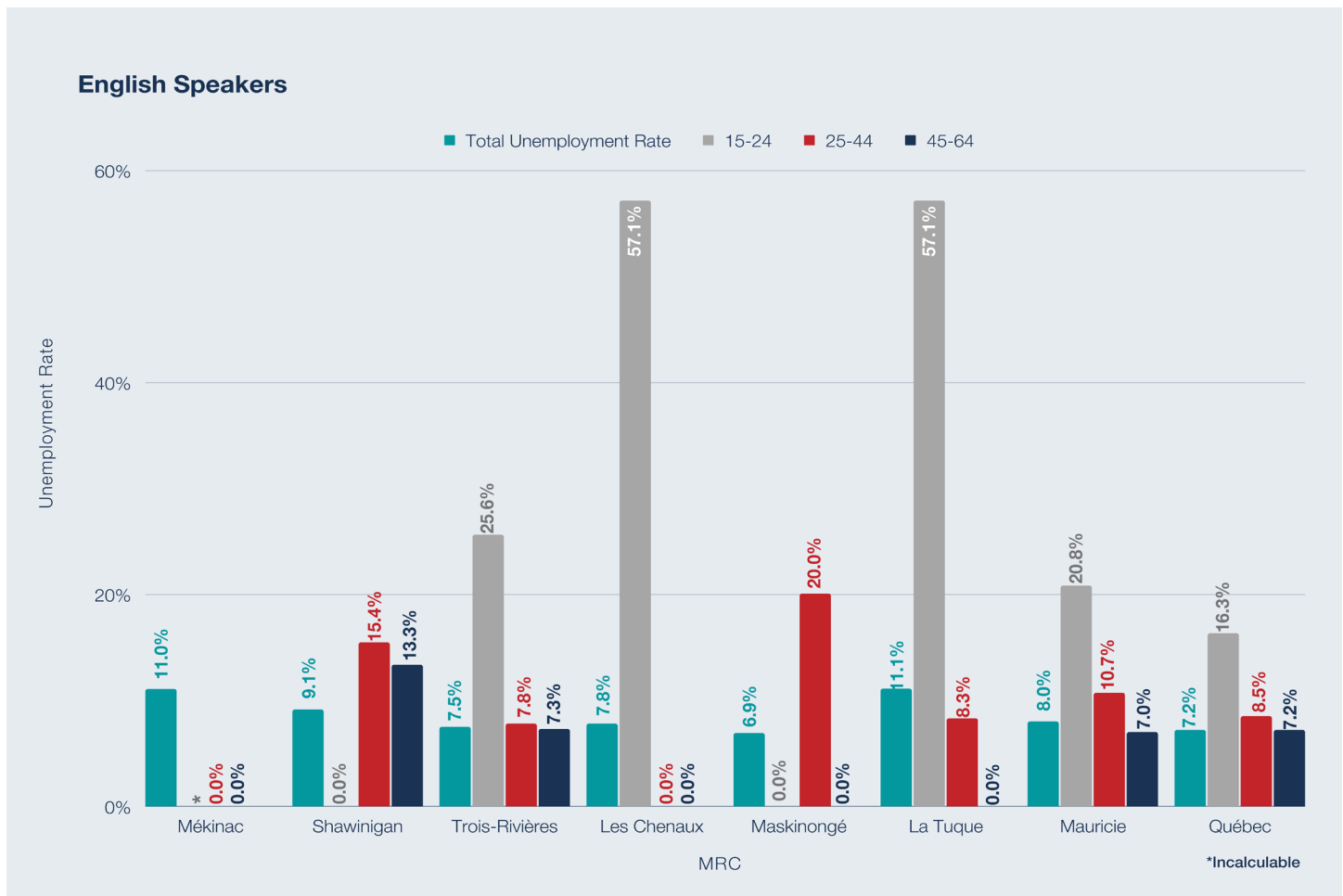
Among English speakers, the unemployment rate decreases with age, such that individuals aged 45-64 have the lowest unemployment rate (7%) of any English-speaking age group.

Among French speakers, individuals aged 25-44 have the lowest unemployment rate (6.6%).

Youth consistently experience the highest unemployment rates of any age group in the region, although English-speaking youth experience a much higher unemployment rate (20.8%) than French-speaking youth (12.8%).

English speakers aged 45-64 have a lower unemployment rate than French speakers aged 45-64 (7% compared to 7.1%).

Graph 10a: Age Structure of Unemployment Rate in Mauricie by MRC

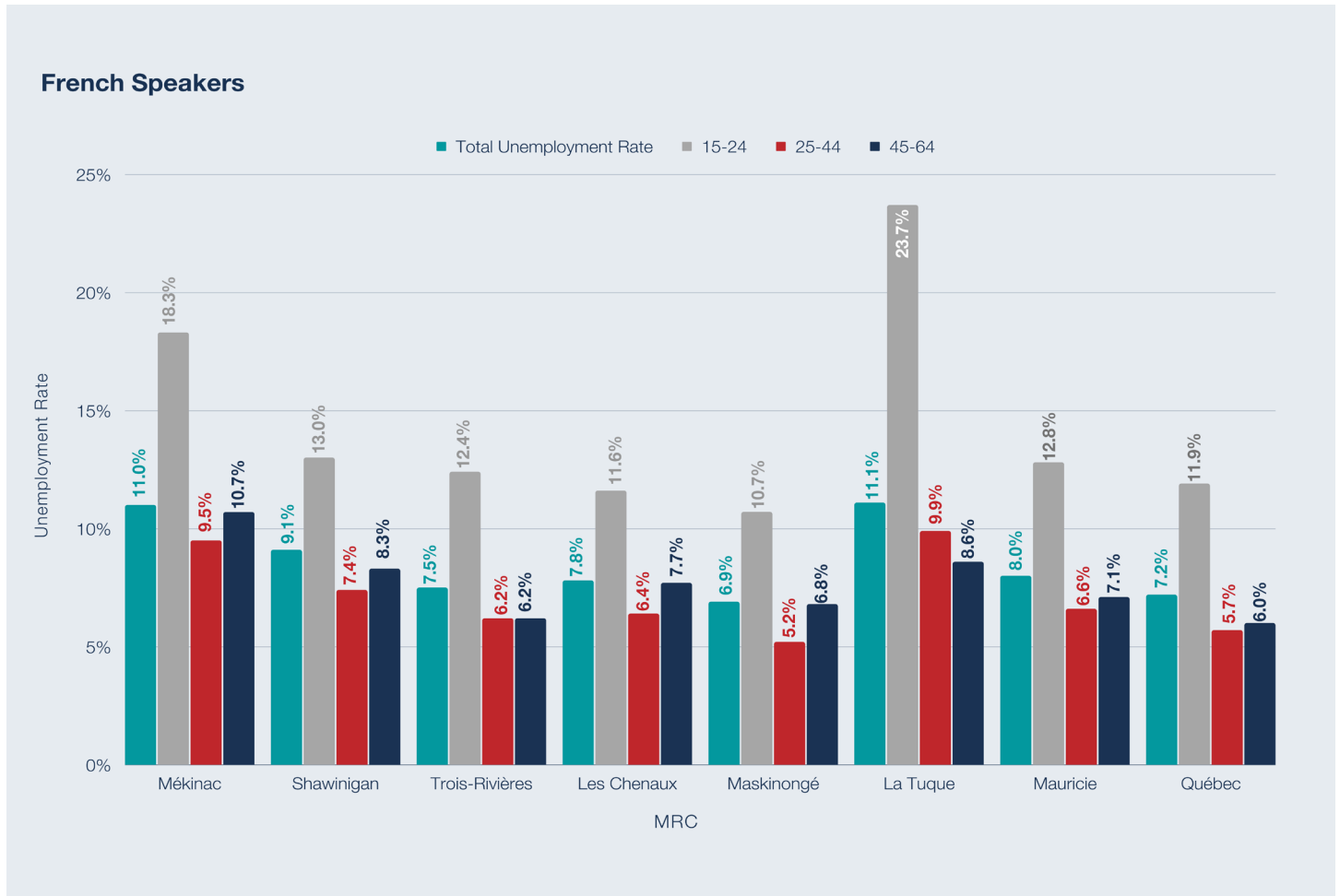


Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

*This figure is incalculable. According to the 25% sample data available through the 2016 Census, there are zero English speakers within this demographic in the labour force in this area.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Graph 10b: Age Structure of Unemployment Rate in Mauricie by MRC



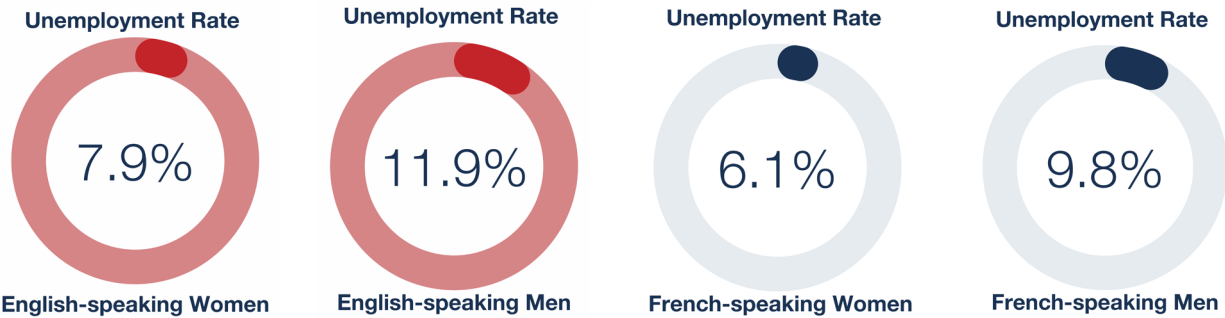
Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

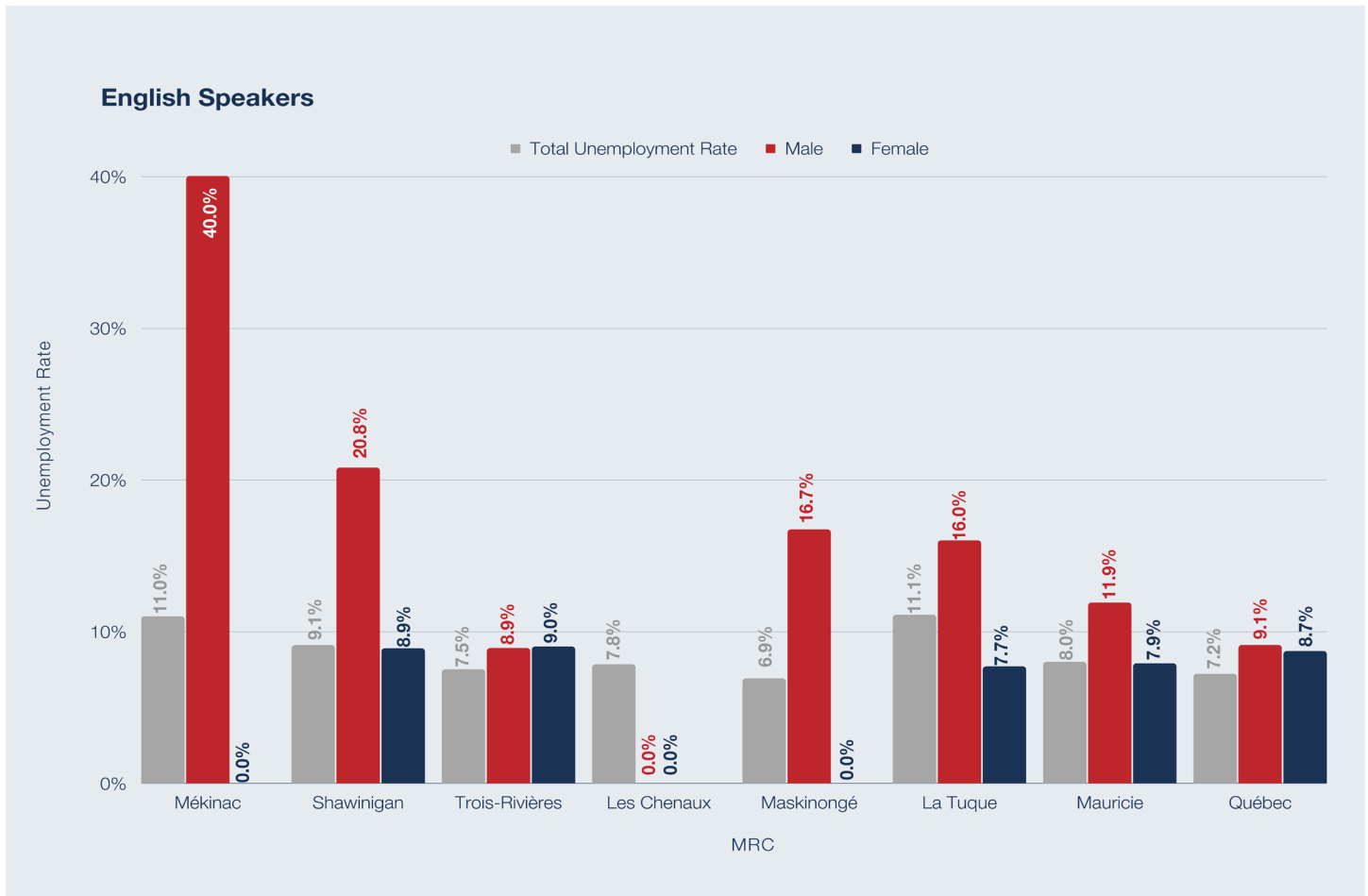
Sex Structure of Unemployment Rate

Within the region as a whole, women have a lower unemployment rate than men. French-speaking women experience the lowest unemployment rate (6.1%), followed by English-speaking women (7.9%), French-speaking men (9.8%), and lastly English-speaking men (11.9%).

French-speaking women experience a lower unemployment rate than French-speaking men in every MRC.



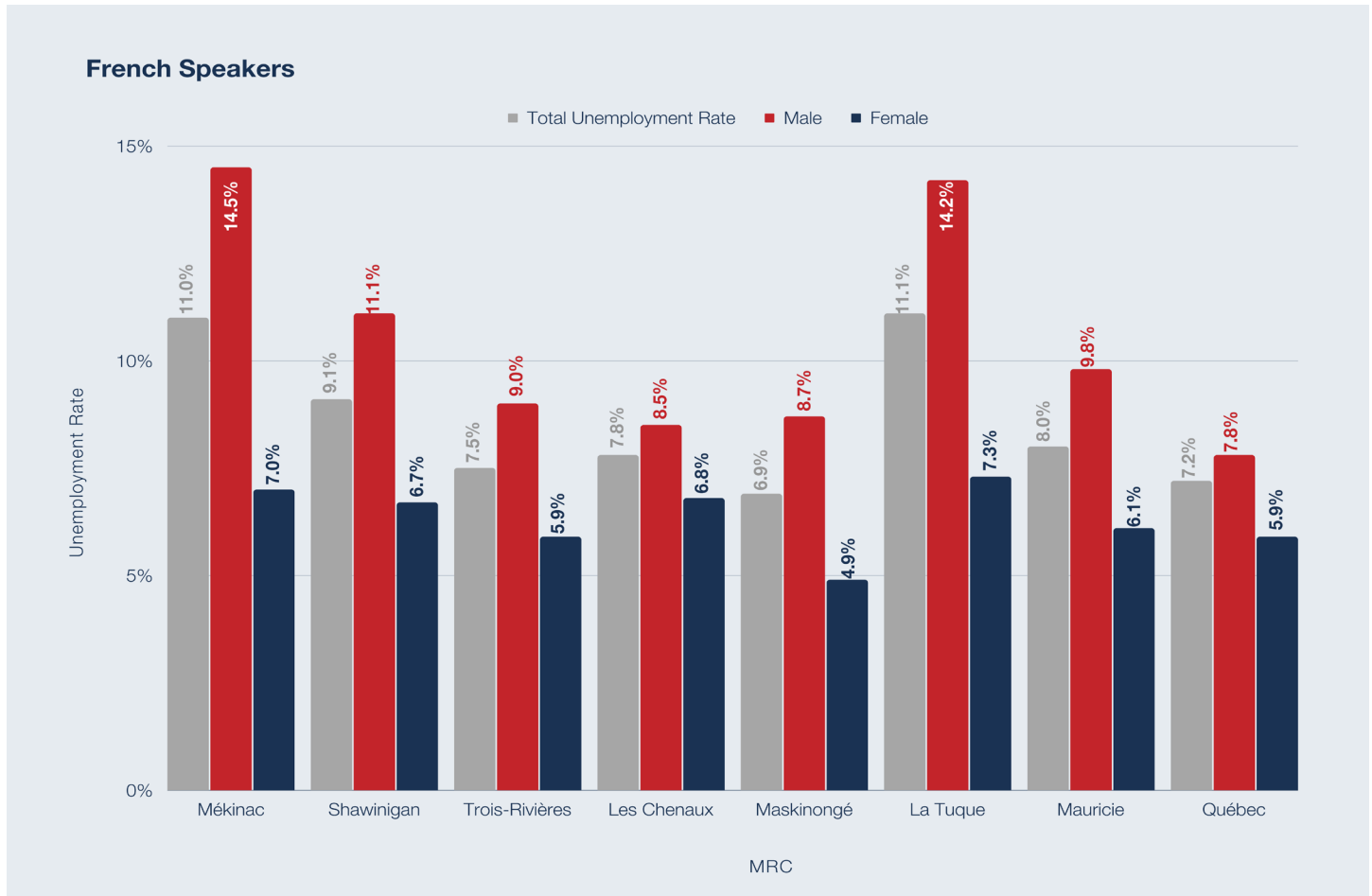
Graph 11a: Sex Structure of Unemployment Rate in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Graph 11b: Sex Structure of Unemployment Rate in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

Work Activity



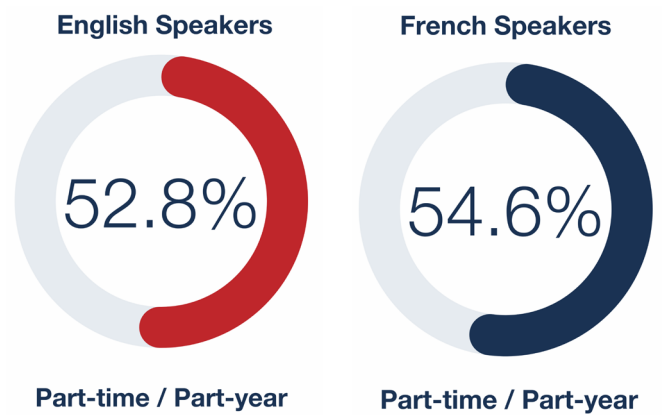
WORK ACTIVITY

Engagement in Part- and Full-time Work

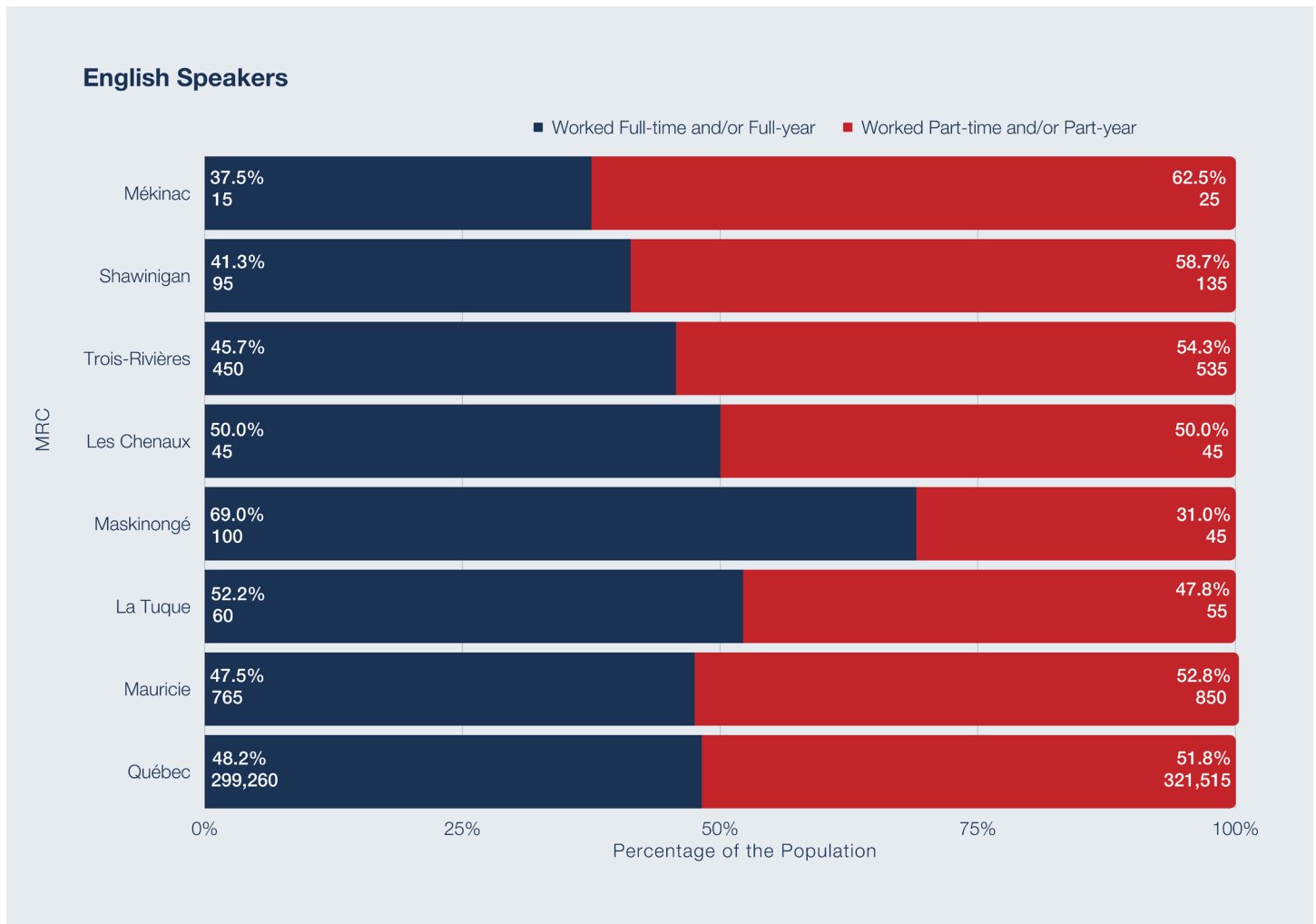
The majority of both English and French speakers are engaged in part-time, as opposed to full-time, work. However, French speakers are engaged in part time work at a higher rate than English speakers. 54.6% of French speakers work part time, compared to 52.8% of English speakers.

English speakers in Mékinac have the highest rate of engagement in part time work, at 62.5%.

English speakers in Maskinongé have the highest rate of engagement in full-time work, at 69%.



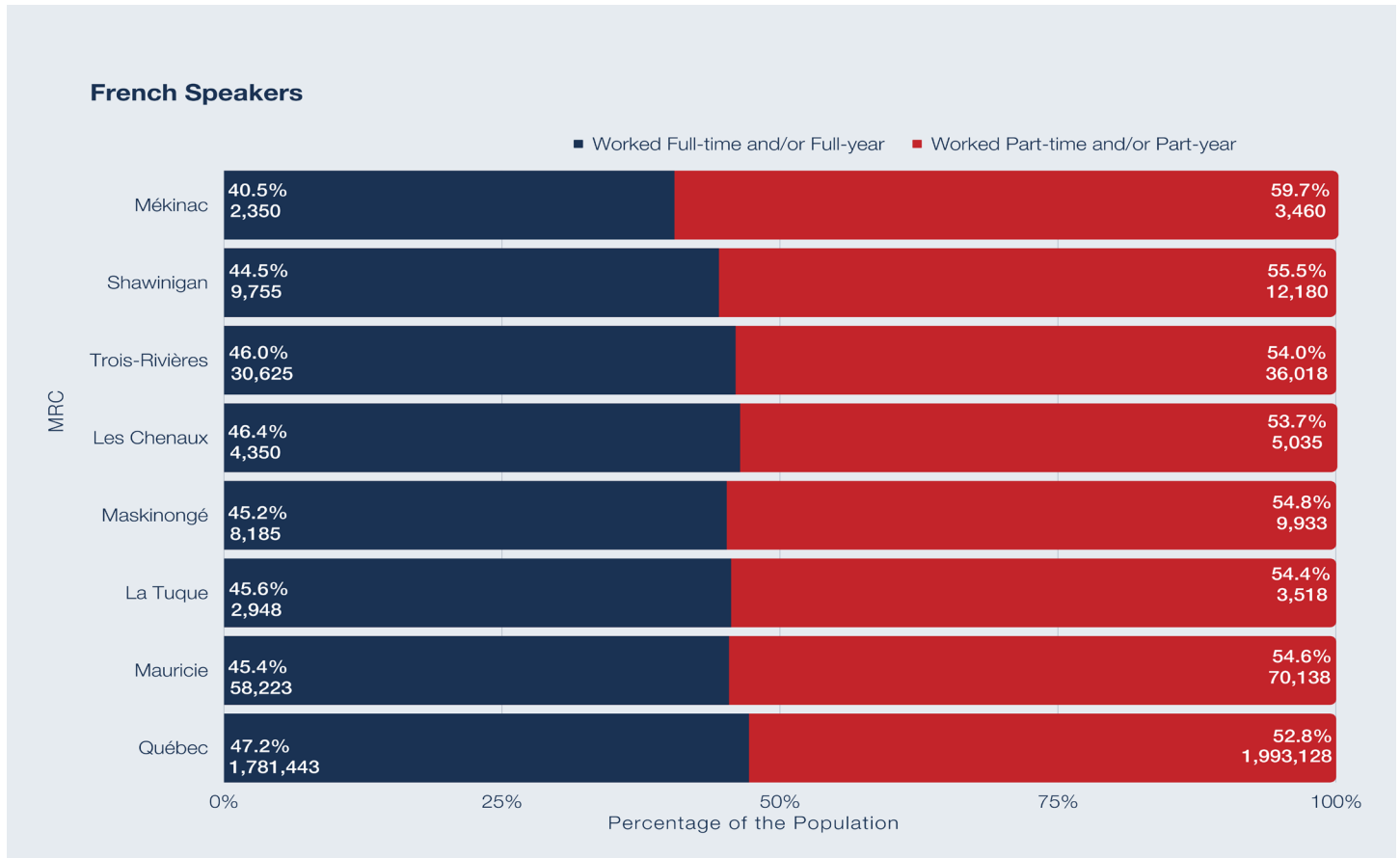
Graph 12a: Work Activity in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

WORK ACTIVITY

Graph 12b: Work Activity in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

WORK ACTIVITY

Average Weeks Worked

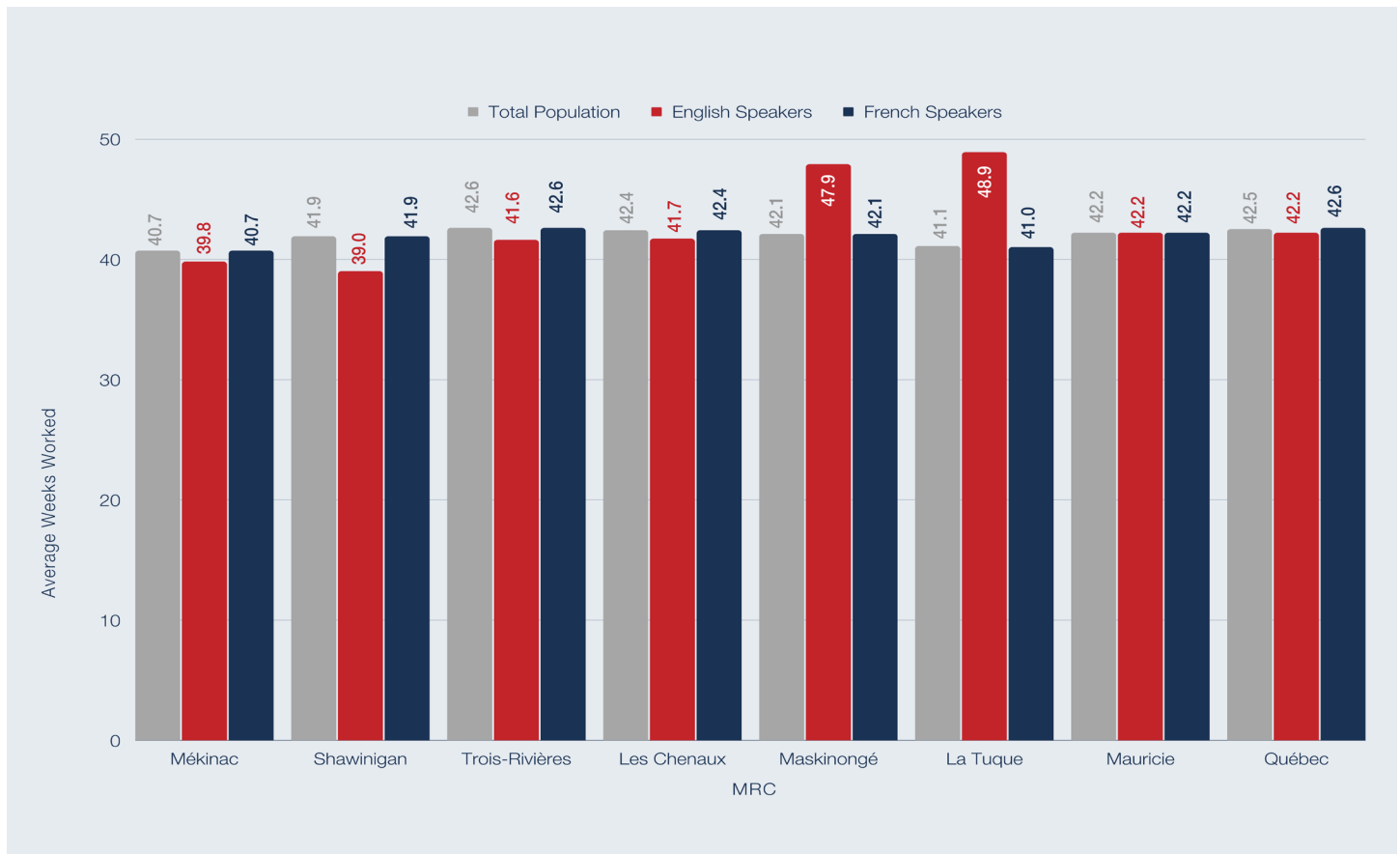
English speakers and French speakers in Mauricie work the same average number of weeks per year (42.2).¹⁰

In Maskinongé and la Tuque, English speakers work for considerably more weeks per year (47.9 and 48.9, respectively).

English speakers in Mékinac and Shawinigan work the fewest weeks per year (39.8 and 39, respectively).



Graph 13: Average Weeks Worked in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

10. The data in this section pertains to individuals who speak only English or only French as their first official language. Individuals who speak both official languages were not distributed among English and French speakers in the graph below. This is due to limitations on the data available.

Income



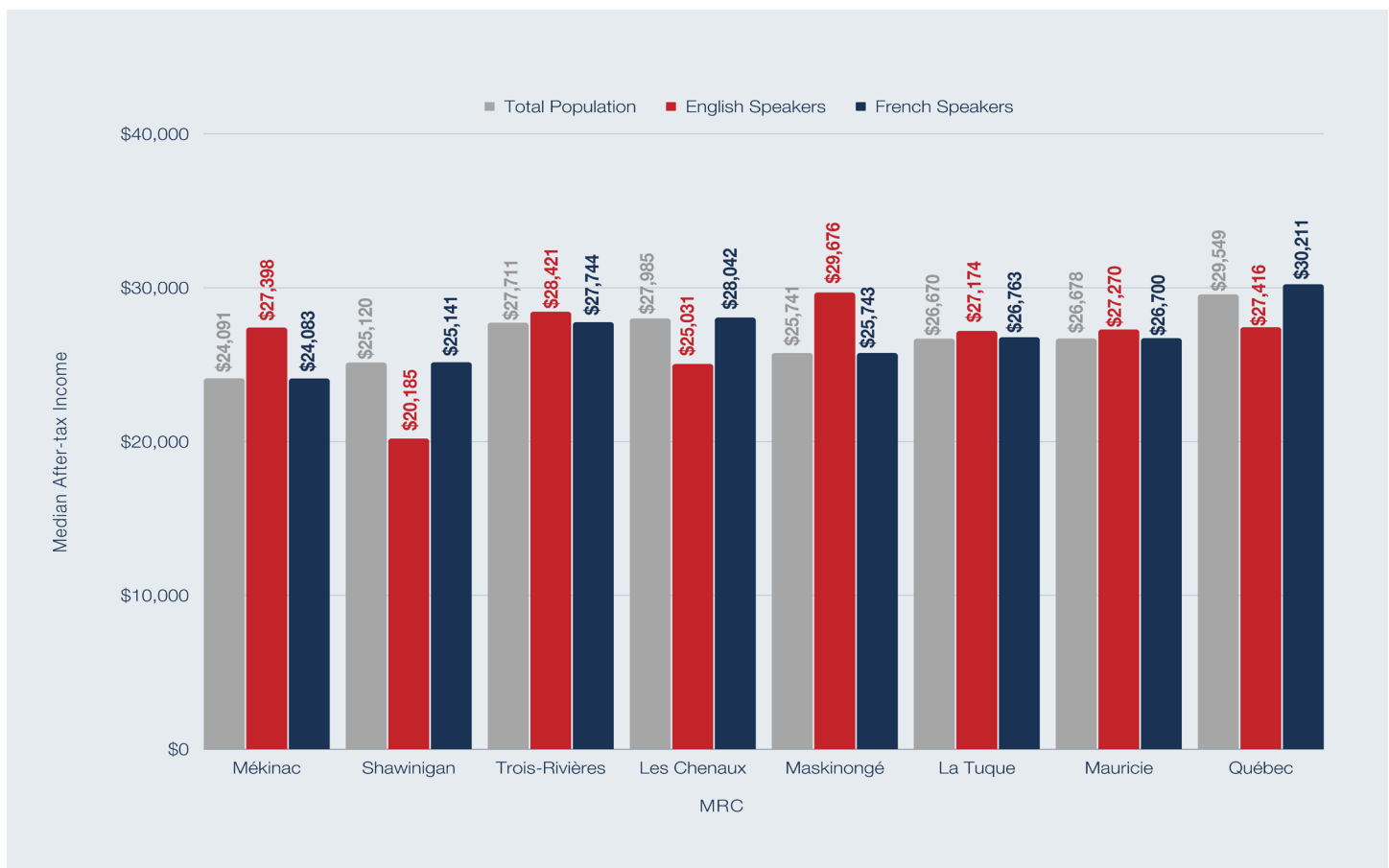
INCOME

Median After-tax Income

On the whole, English speakers earn a higher median after-tax income than French speakers in Mauricie (\$27,270 compared to \$26,700). This is one of only three regions where this is the case (the other two are Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Chaudière-Appalaches).¹¹

In Shawinigan and les Chenaux English speakers earn a noticeably lower median after-tax income compared to French speakers.

Graph 14: Median After-tax Income in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

11. The data in this section pertains to individuals who speak only English or only French as their first official language. Individuals who speak both official languages were not distributed among English and French speakers in the graph below. This is due to limitations on the data available.

Education



EDUCATION

Educational Attainment

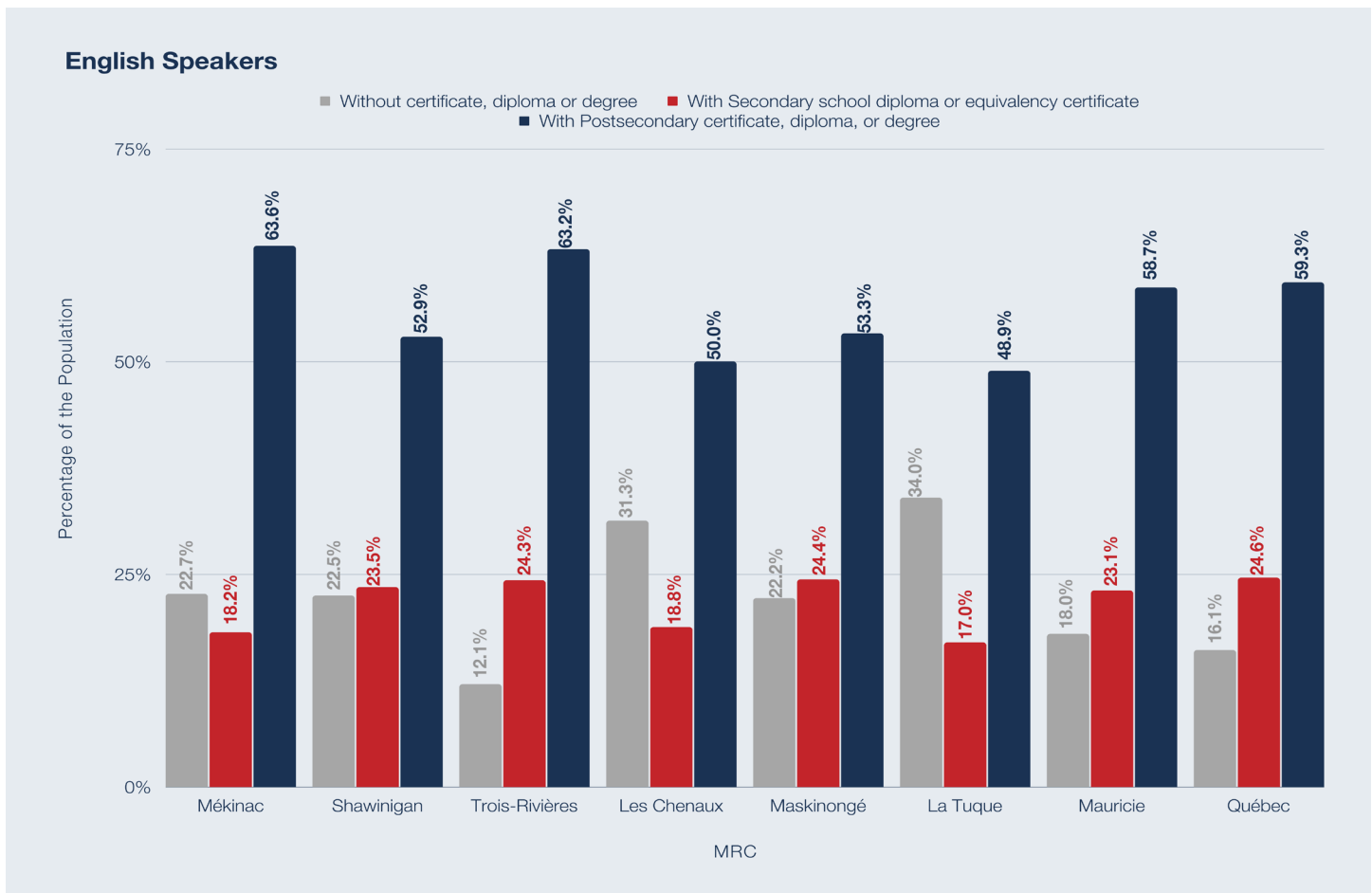
In most developed countries, employment, earnings, and labour productivity rise with educational attainment. Education provides the skills and training that are useful for labour market entry and advancement. In Québec, French is taught within the primary and secondary education systems, providing the opportunity for English-speaking Quebecers to learn French. However, like many skills taught within the standard education system, additional or supplementary training might be needed in order to prepare learners for the labour market. For English speakers with lower levels of French-language proficiency as well as those who did not receive French-language training in Québec, French-language training for the workforce can bridge the language gap and reduce the obstacles they face in obtaining and retaining employment.

Educational attainment remains a key determinant in individuals' employability and employment prospects, although the relationship between education and employment differs for English speakers across Québec.

English speakers have a higher rate of postsecondary educational attainment compared to French speakers (58.7% compared to 56.2%).

English speakers in Mékinac and Trois-Rivières have particularly high rates of postsecondary attainment (63.6% and 63.2%, respectively), while English speakers in La Tuque have especially low rates of postsecondary attainment (48.9%).

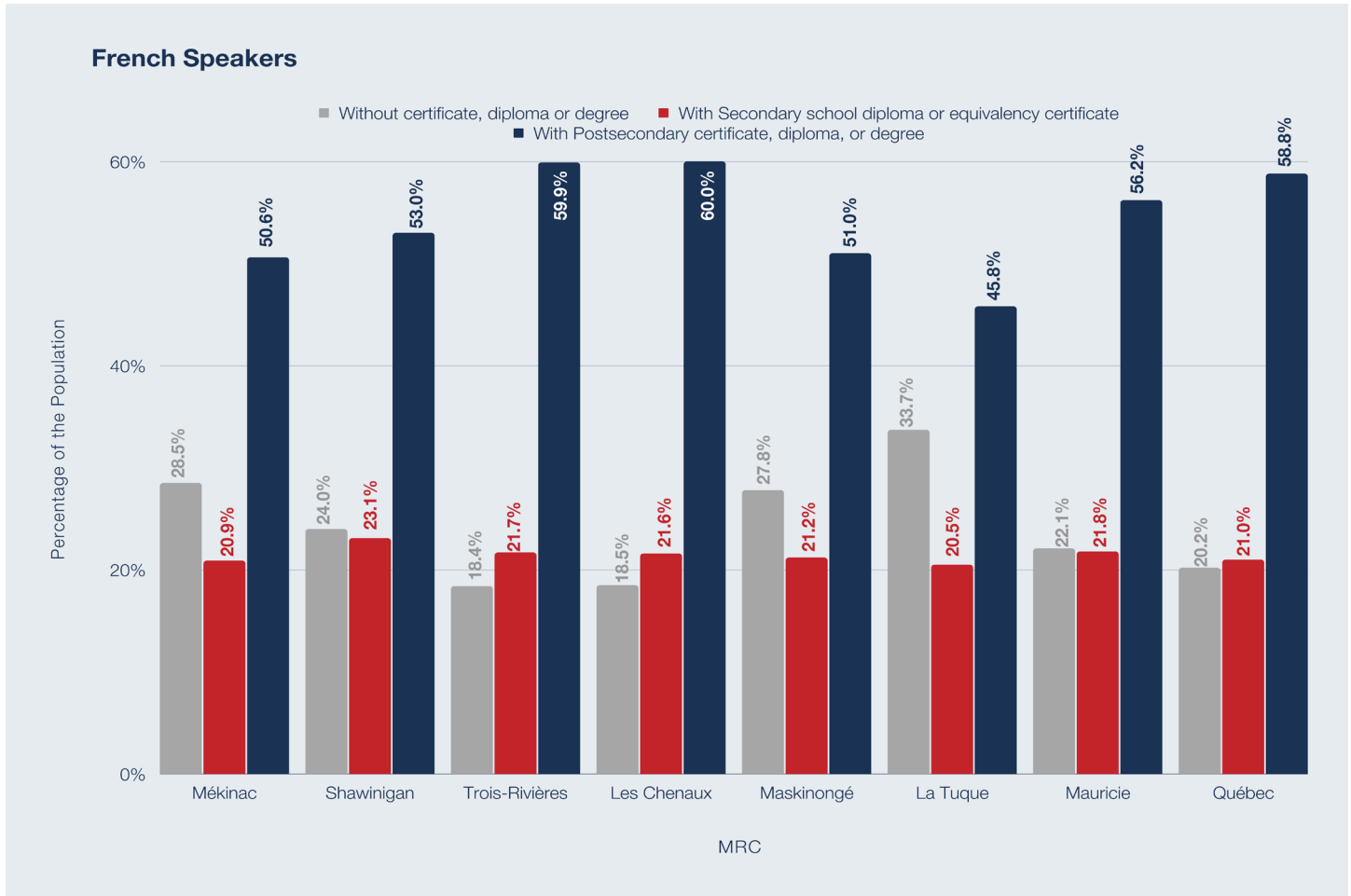
Graph 15a: Educational Attainment in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

EDUCATION

Graph 15b: Educational Attainment in Mauricie by MRC



Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

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