Employment Profile of English Speakers in Centre-du-Québec

Provincial Employment Roundtable (PERT)
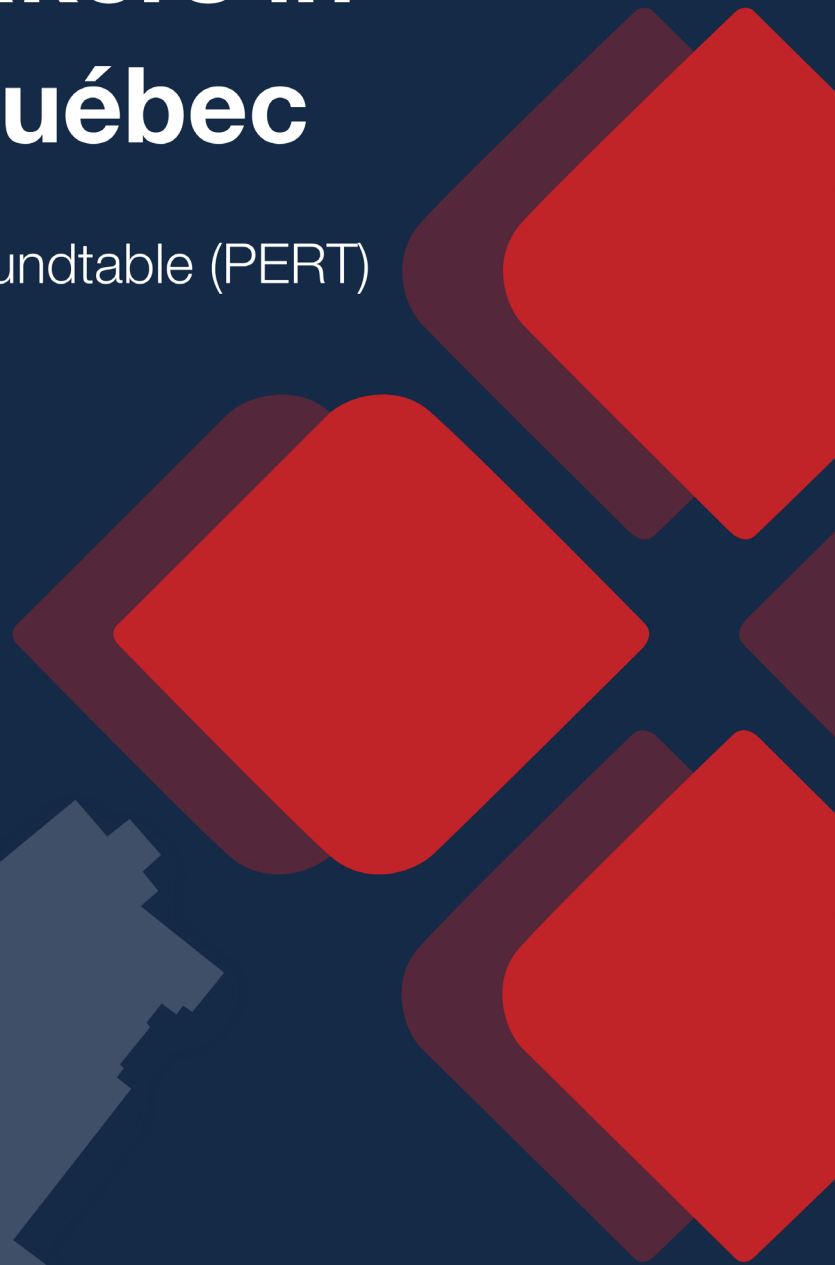
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This profile aims to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the employment issues faced by Centre-du-Québec's English-speaking communities by surveying the most comprehensive information on the demographic and labour force conditions of English speakers in Centre-du-Québec. 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 Centre-du-Québec'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:

- Centre-du-Québec has a population of 234,500 individuals; 2,575 (1.1%) are English speakers.

- The top industries in which Centre-du-Québec 's English speakers are employed are manufacturing, retail, and accommodation and food services. Compared to the total population, English speakers have higher engagement in the accommodation and food services industry and lower engagement in the healthcare industry.

- Individuals aged 45-64 make up the largest portion of both the labour force and population in Centre-du-Québec, across both linguistic communities.

- English-speaking men represent 0.6% of the labour force in Centre-du-Québec, while English-speaking women represent 0.5%.

- English speakers in Centre-du-Québec experience a higher unemployment rate than French speakers (8.4% compared to 6.1%).

- Youth in Centre-du-Québec experience the highest unemployment rates of any age group. English-speaking youth experience a higher unemployment rate than French-speaking youth (13.5% compared to 9%).

- English-speaking women have the highest unemployment rate (9.1%) in the region, followed by English-speaking men (7.3%), French-speaking men (7%), and French-

speaking women (5.2%).

- The majority of both English and French speakers in Centre-du-Québec work part-time. However, a larger portion of English speakers (55.1%) as compared to French speakers (51.5%) work part-time.

- English speakers in Centre-du-Québec earn a significantly lower median after-tax income than French speakers, ($23,425 compared to $27,519).

- 48.7% of English speakers in Centre-du-Québec have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 53.4% of French speakers.

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 administrative region and regional county municipality/municipalité régionale comté (RCM/MRC). Administrative regions 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

---

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

income taxes, provincial and territorial income taxes, less abatement where applicable.

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

1.1%

Centre-du-Québec

The population of Centre-du-Québec is approximately 234,500. The English-speaking community comprises 2,575 individuals, or 1.1% of the region's total population.

The MRC of Drummond has the largest population of English speakers (1,455), followed by Arthabaska (625).

Graph 1: Total Population of Centre-du-Québec by MRC
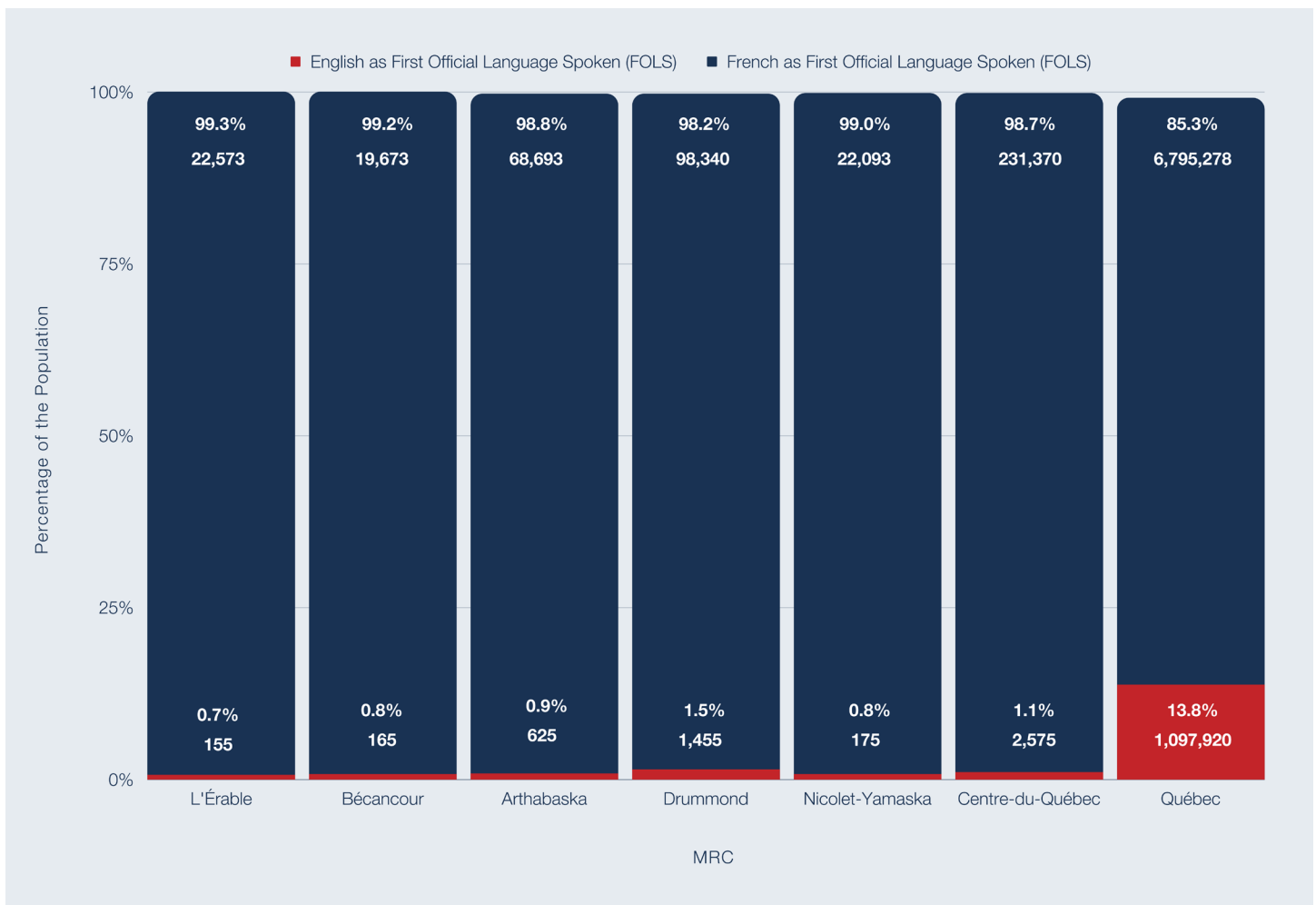
■ English as First Official Language Spoken (FOLS)　■ French as First Official Language Spoken (FOLS)

MRC	English FOLS	French FOLS
L'Érable	0.7% / 155	99.3% / 22,573
Bécancour	0.8% / 165	99.2% / 19,673
Arthabaska	0.9% / 625	98.8% / 68,693
Drummond	1.5% / 1,455	98.2% / 98,340
Nicolet-Yamaska	0.8% / 175	99.0% / 22,093
Centre-du-Québec	1.1% / 2,575	98.7% / 231,370
Québec	13.8% / 1,097,920	85.3% / 6,795,278

Percentage of the Population

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

POPULATION

Age Structure of Population

Among both French and English speakers, individuals aged 45-64 represent the largest portion of the population in Centre-du-Québec.

In l'Érable, Arthabaska, and Nicolet-Yamaska, English speakers aged 25-44 and 45-64 represent equal portions of the population.

Graph 2a: Age Structure of Centre-du-Québec's Population by MRC

English Speakers

Legend: ■ 15-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64

MRC	15-24	25-44	45-64
L'Érable	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Bécancour	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
Arthabaska	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Drummond	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
Nicolet-Yamaska	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Centre-du-Québec	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Québec	1.8%	4.0%	3.8%

Y-axis: Percentage of the Population

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

POPULATION

Graph 2b: Age Structure of Centre-du-Québec's Population by MRC

French Speakers

Legend: ■ 15-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64

Y-axis: Percentage of the Population

MRC	15-24	25-44	45-64
L'Érable	10.8%	21.2%	30.2%
Bécancour	9.9%	22.4%	30.9%
Arthabaska	10.9%	23.1%	29.3%
Drummond	11.1%	24.6%	28.5%
Nicolet-Yamaska	9.9%	22.7%	30.9%
Centre-du-Québec	10.8%	23.5%	29.3%
Québec	9.7%	21.7%	25.1%

X-axis: MRC

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

POPULATION

Sex Structure of Population

Among both French and English speakers in Centre-du-Québec, there are more men than women in the population.

English-speaking men make up 0.6% of the region's population, while English-speaking women make up 0.5%.

French-speaking men make up 49.7% of the population, while women make up 49%.

In the MRCs of l'Érable, Bécancour, and Arthabaska, there are more English-speaking women than men.

Graph 3: Sex Structure of Centre-du-Québec's Population by MRC

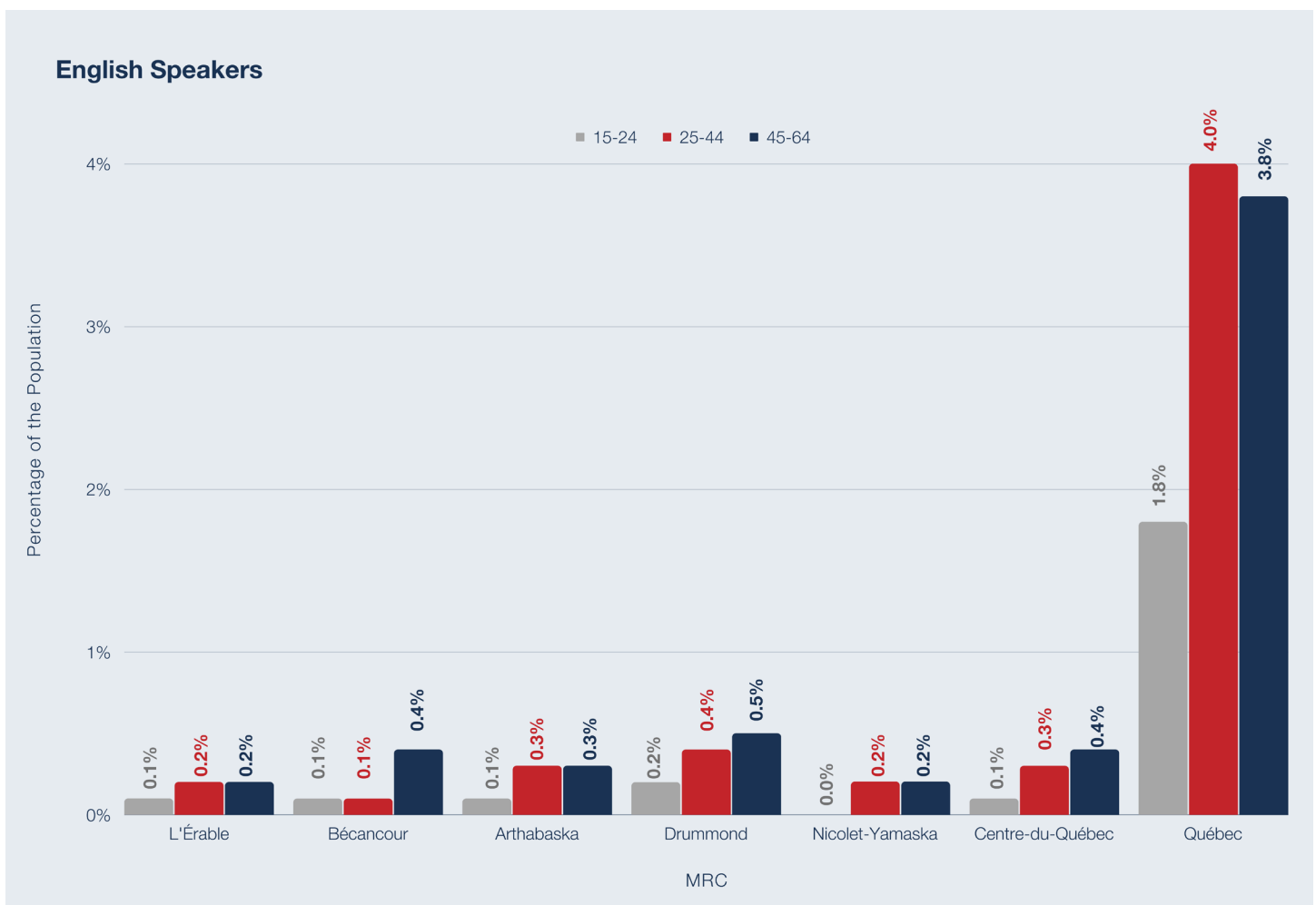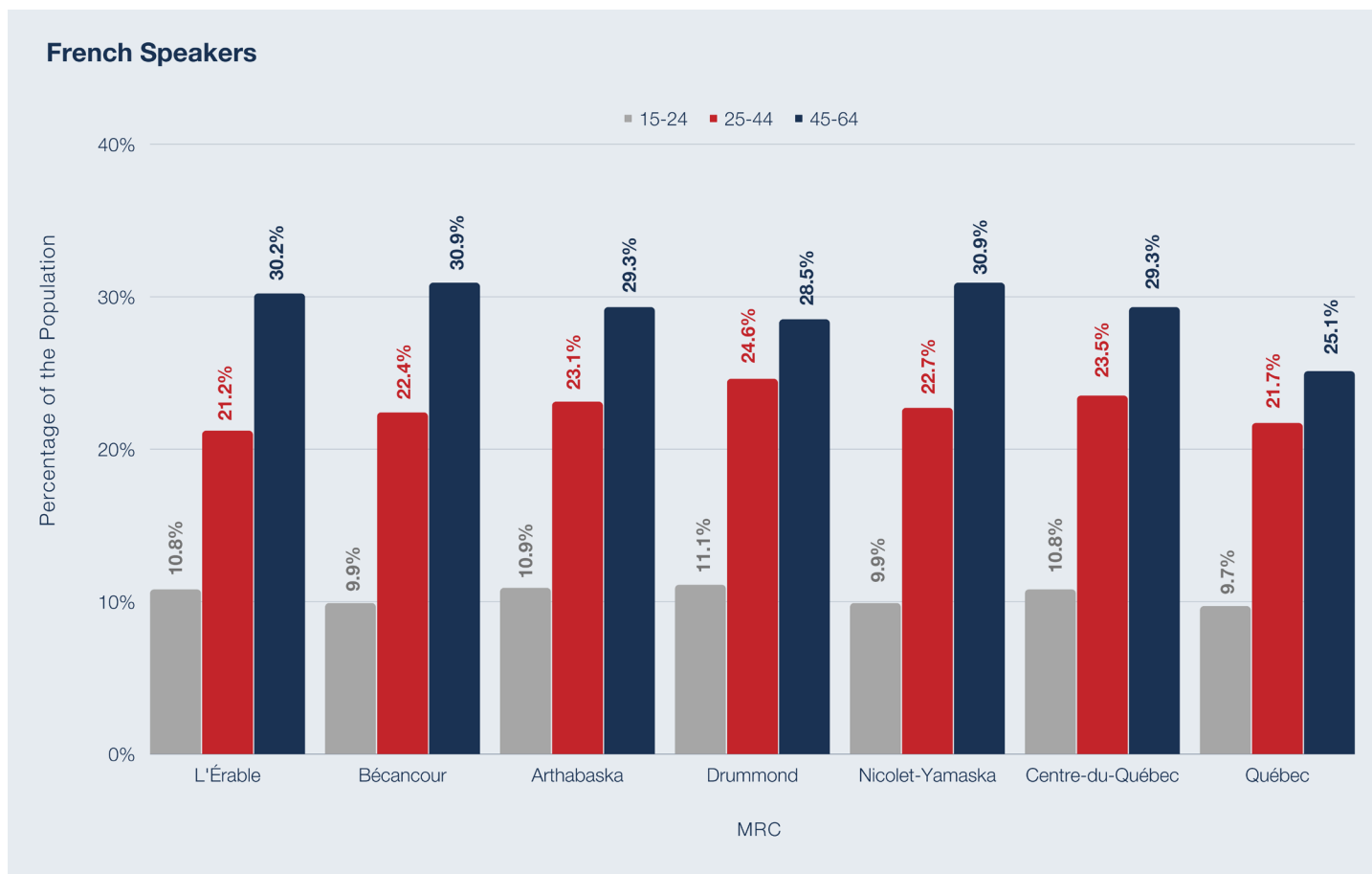Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).
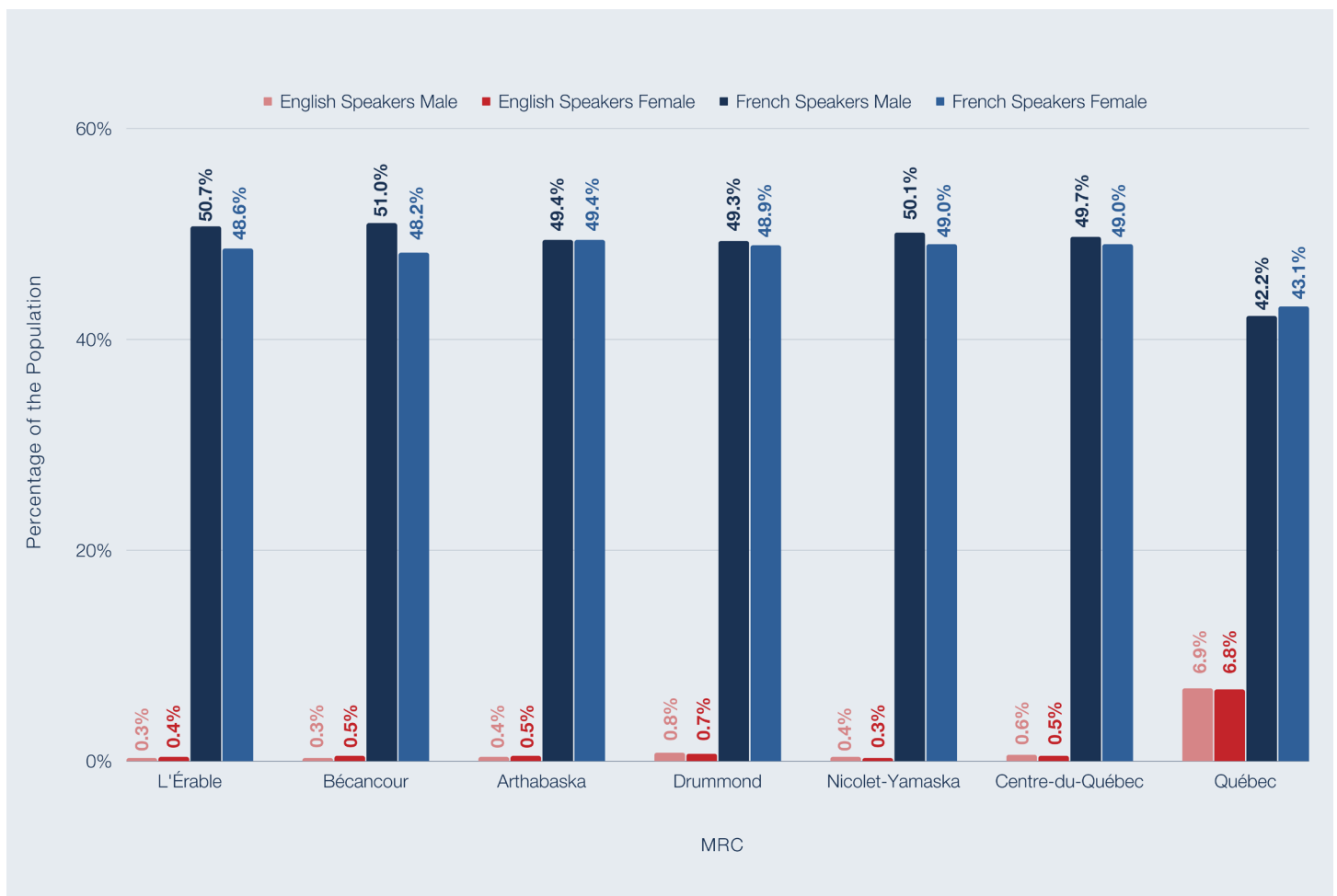
Economic Structure

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Centre-du-Québec is designated as a manufacturing-oriented region according to Quebec's Economic Development Index.[3] As of 2018, Centre-du-Québec has a score of 89.3 (below average), a decrease of 5.1 index points from its 2013 score.[4] This is consistent with the decrease in score experienced by several neighbouring manufacturing-oriented regions, including Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Lanaudière. These three regions have observed significant decreases in their scores, indicating poor economic performance from 2013 to 2018.

Employment in Centre-du-Québec is centered on the production of goods; the region has the highest proportion of manufacturing jobs of any region in the province. Major subsets of the manufacturing industry include the production of machinery, wood, and food products. In relation to this, there are significant agricultural industries in the region, which produce the raw products and materials that are then processed by manufacturers. Certain areas have been recognized by the provincial government as creneaux d'excellences, or specialized areas of excellence in the region, including textile and furniture production, production of clean technologies, and ground transportation.[5]

From 2013-2017 sales of manufactured goods produced in the region increased by an average of 8.6% per year, compared to a provincial yearly growth rate of 3%. Around the same period (2016-2020) private investment in Centre-du-Québec increased by an annual average of 2.2%, compared to a provincial growth in private investment of 1.7% annually.[6] Upcoming projects include Premier Tech and Virentia's creation of a $250 million alfalfa-processing plant in Bécancour between 2023-2025, and Nouveau Monde Graphite's development of a $350-400 million commercial scale processing plant to create graphite products. Meanwhile, the provincial government is expected to invest $155.4 million in roadway maintenance and development between 2021-2023. Additionally, the Hôtel-Dieu d'Arthabaska is currently being expanded, a project worth $202 million and expected to be completed in late 2024.[7]

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. Chantal Routhier. "Études régionales: Région administrative du Centre-du-Québec," (2021). Desjardins. Retrieved from: https://www.desjardins.com/ressources/pdf/21Centre-du-Quebec-f.pdf?resVer=1620746518000, page 5.

6. Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec. "Région Centre-du-Québec: Secteur des entreprises," (2021). Retrieved from: https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/pages-regionales/centre-du-quebec/portrait-regional/secteur-des-entreprises/

7. Routhier. "Études régionales: Région administrative du Centre-du-Québec," 10.

Industries

INDUSTRIES

Top Industries for Total Population

In 2020, the primary sector in Centre-du-Québec accounted for 3.9% of jobs within the region, compared to 2.3% provincially.

Centre-du-Québec's manufacturing sector accounts for a whopping 21.6% percent of jobs within the region, compared to 11.6% within the province as a whole.

The main source of employment within the region is the service sector, accounting for 67.6% of jobs, compared to 79.9% of jobs provincially. The services sector encompasses a vast array of occupations and industries ranging from health care and finance to retail and education.

The weight of the service sector is the lowest in Centre-du-Québec, compared to all other regions in the province.[8]

Primary Sector

3.9%

Manufacturing

18.1%

Services

67.6%

Graph 4: Top 10 Industries in Centre-du-Québec for Total Population
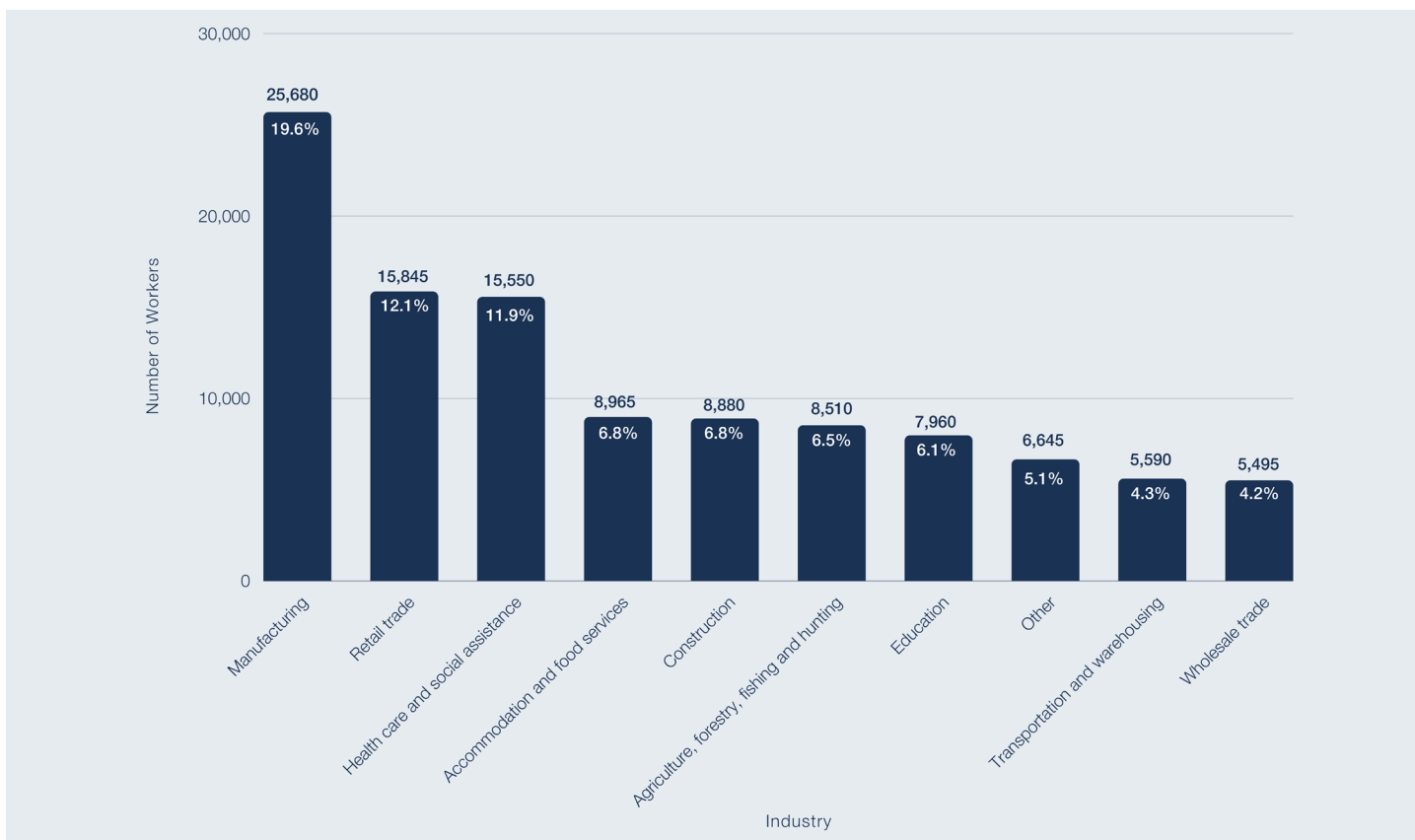
Industry	Number of Workers	Percentage
Manufacturing	25,680	19.6%
Retail trade	15,845	12.1%
Health care and social assistance	15,550	11.9%
Accommodation and food services	8,965	6.8%
Construction	8,880	6.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	8,510	6.5%
Education	7,960	6.1%
Other	6,645	5.1%
Transportation and warehousing	5,590	4.3%
Wholesale trade	5,495	4.2%

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

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

INDUSTRIES

Top Industries for English Speakers

The main industries in which English speakers are employed are similar to those of the total population.

English speakers have higher engagement in the accommodation and food services industry and lower engagement in the healthcare industry compared to the region's total population.

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

Typical occupations in accommodation and food services include waitstaff, cooks, bartenders, and motel and hotel staff.

Graph 5: Top 10 Industries in Centre-du-Québec for English Speakers by Number of Worker
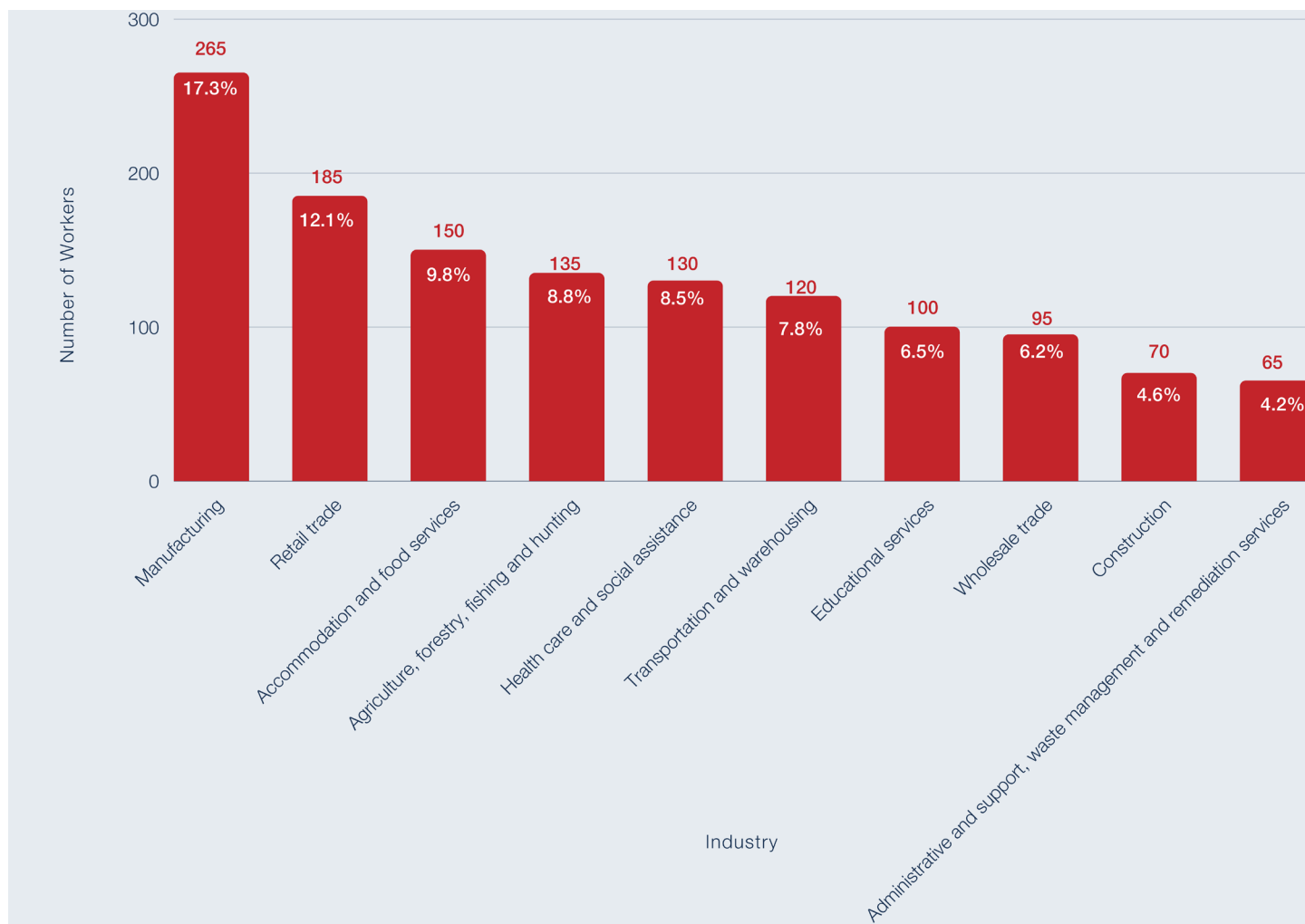
Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

INDUSTRIES

Map 1: Top Industries in Centre-du-Québec for English Speakers

Industry (Percentage of English speakers working in industry)

Transportation and warehousing (15%)

Construction (10%)

Retail trade (10%)

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (9.5%)

Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (9.5%)

Construction (9.5%)

Bécancour

L'Érable

Nicolet-Yamaska

Arthabaska

Drummond

Accommodation and food services (17.6%)

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (11.8%)

Construction (11.8%)

Manufacturing (17.5%)

Retail trade (13.8%)

Health care and social assistance (10%)

Manufacturing (20.4%)

Retail trade (12.6%)

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (9.6%)

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

There are 123,220 individuals in the labour force in Centre-du-Québec, including 1,375 English speakers.

English speakers represent 1.1% of both the labour force and the total population in the region.

In Bécancour and Arthabaska, English speakers have a higher representation in the labour force than they do in the total population.

In Drummond, English speakers have a lower representation in the labour force than they do in the total population.

Graph 6a: Labour Force of Centre-du-Québec by MRC
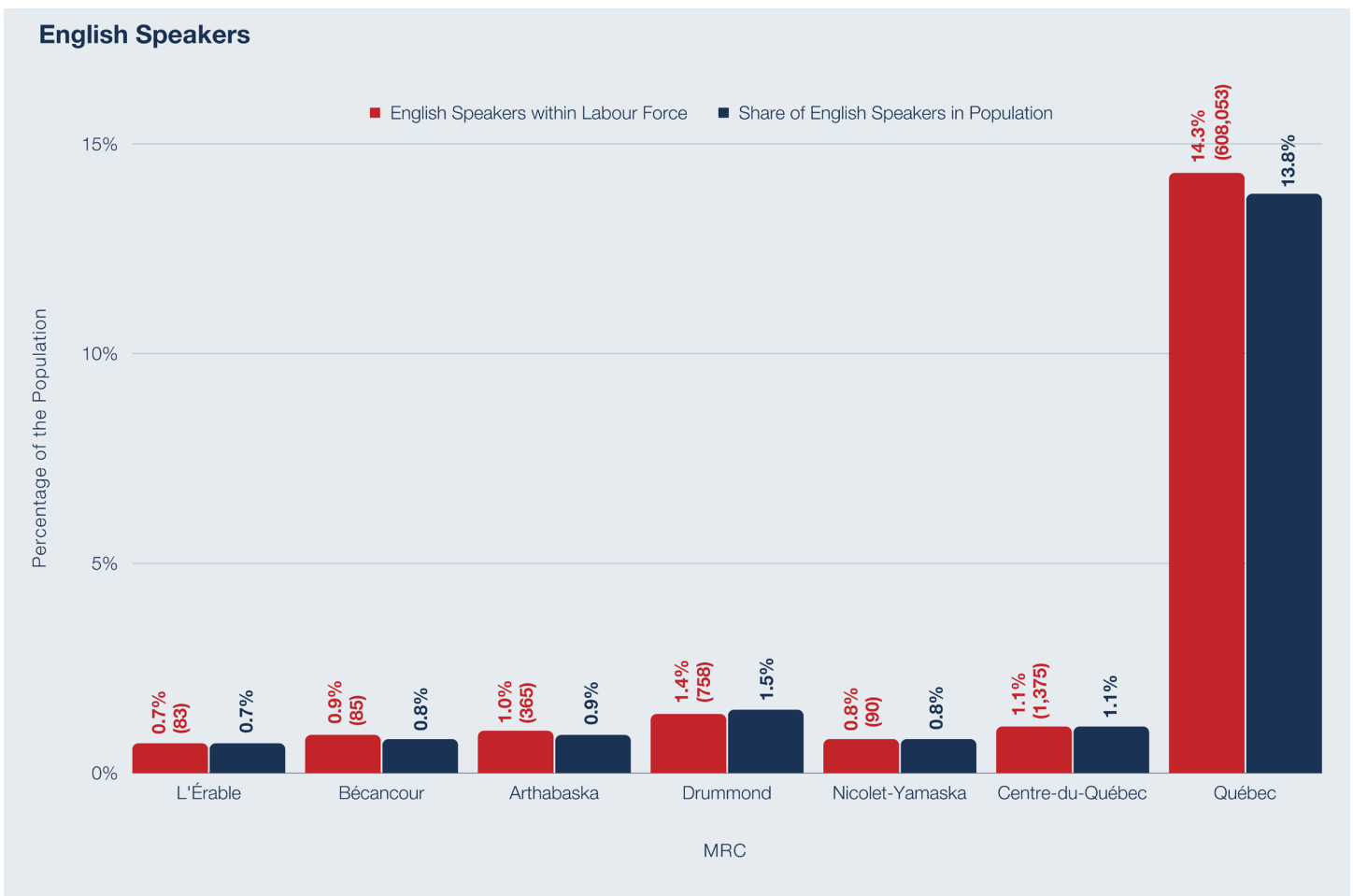
English Speakers

■ English Speakers within Labour Force ■ Share of English Speakers in Population

Percentage of the Population

MRC	English Speakers within Labour Force	Share of English Speakers in Population
L'Érable	0.7% (83)	0.7%
Bécancour	0.9% (85)	0.8%
Arthabaska	1.0% (365)	0.9%
Drummond	1.4% (758)	1.5%
Nicolet-Yamaska	0.8% (90)	0.8%
Centre-du-Québec	1.1% (1,375)	1.1%
Québec	14.3% (608,053)	13.8%

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

LABOUR FORCE

Graph 6b: Labour Force of Centre-du-Québec by MRC
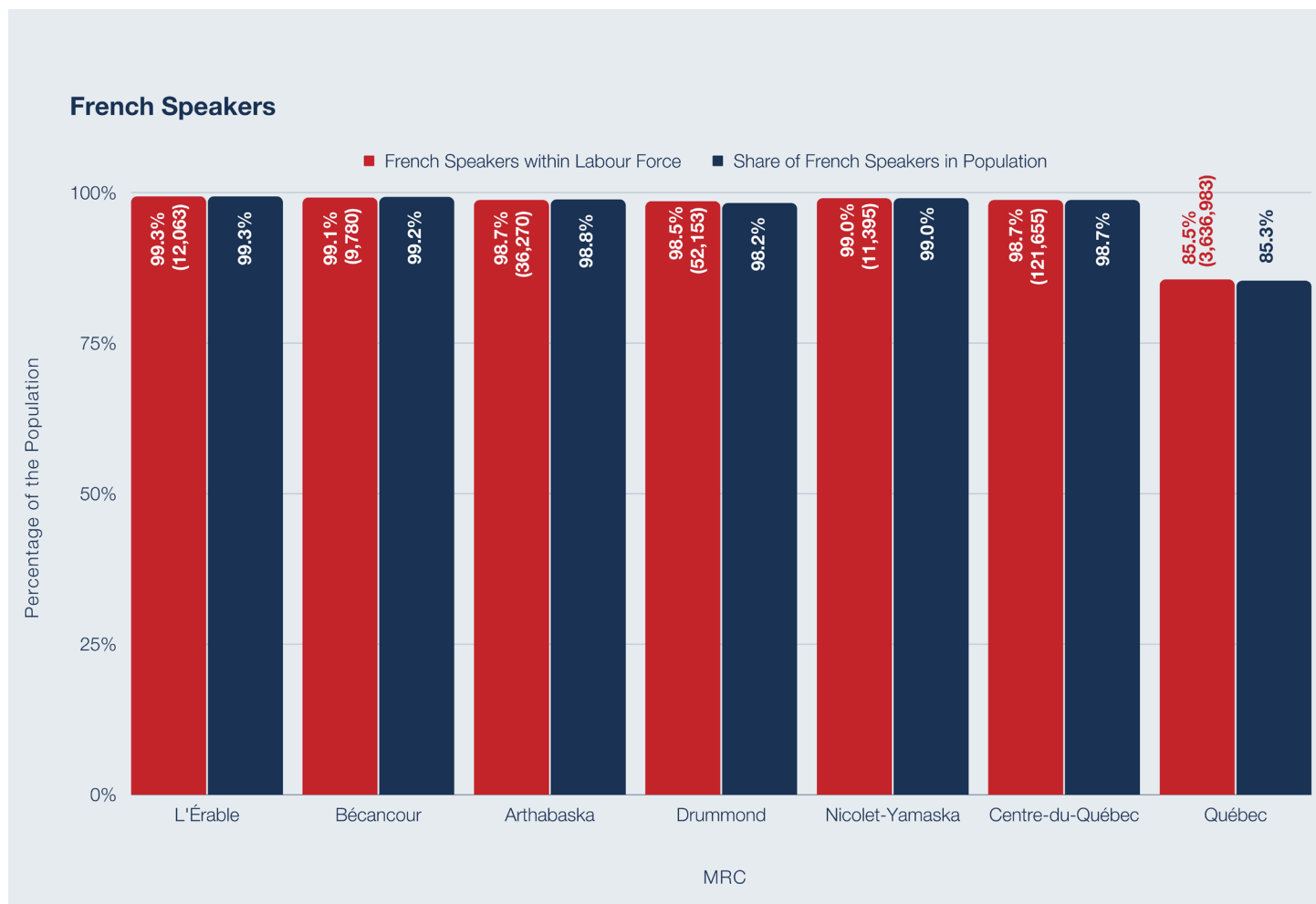
French Speakers

■ French Speakers within Labour Force   ■ Share of French Speakers in Population

MRC	French Speakers within Labour Force	Share of French Speakers in Population
L'Érable	99.3% (12,063)	99.3%
Bécancour	99.1% (9,780)	99.2%
Arthabaska	98.7% (36,270)	98.8%
Drummond	98.5% (52,153)	98.2%
Nicolet-Yamaska	99.0% (11,395)	99.0%
Centre-du-Québec	98.7% (121,655)	98.7%
Québec	85.5% (3,636,983)	85.3%

Percentage of the Population — y-axis: 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%

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

LABOUR FORCE

Age Structure of Labour Force

Among both English and French speakers, individuals aged 45-64 make up the largest portion of the labour force. This is the case in the majority of regions, but in the province as a whole, individuals aged 25-44 make up the largest portion of the labour force owing to their high representation in a few key regions.

In Bécancour, there are seven times the number of English speakers aged 45-64 in the labour force compared to both English speakers aged 25-44 and English-speaking youth.

In Nicolet-Yamaska, there are more English speakers aged 25-44 in the labour force than 45-64. They make up 0.5% and 0.3% of the labour force, respectively.

Graph 7a: Age Structure of the Centre-du-Québec's Labour Force by MRC
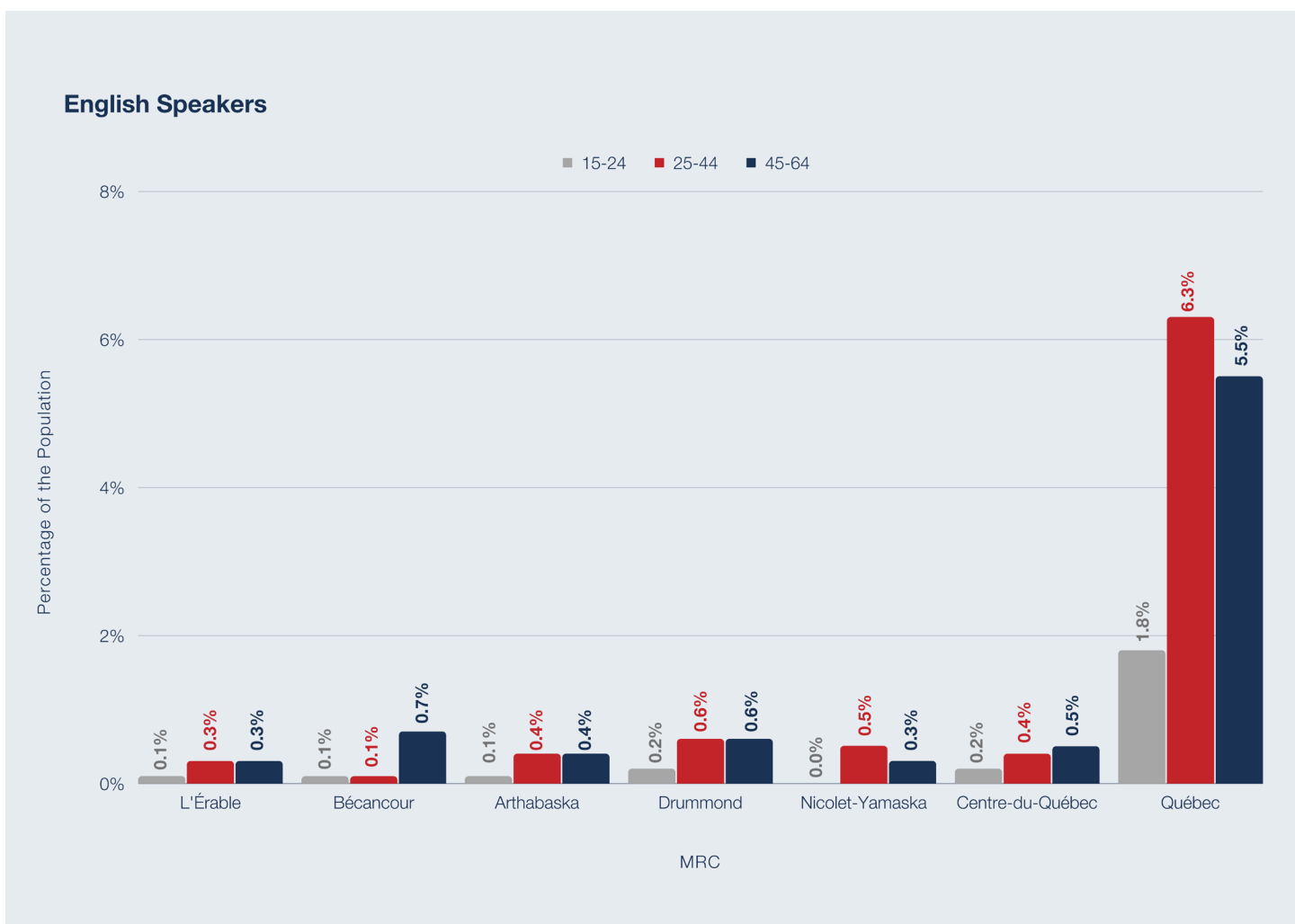
English Speakers

Legend: ■ 15-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64

MRC	15-24	25-44	45-64
L'Érable	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Bécancour	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%
Arthabaska	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%
Drummond	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%
Nicolet-Yamaska	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%
Centre-du-Québec	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
Québec	1.8%	6.3%	5.5%

Y-axis: Percentage of the Population

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

LABOUR FORCE

Graph 7b: Age Structure of Centre-du-Québec's Labour Force by MRC
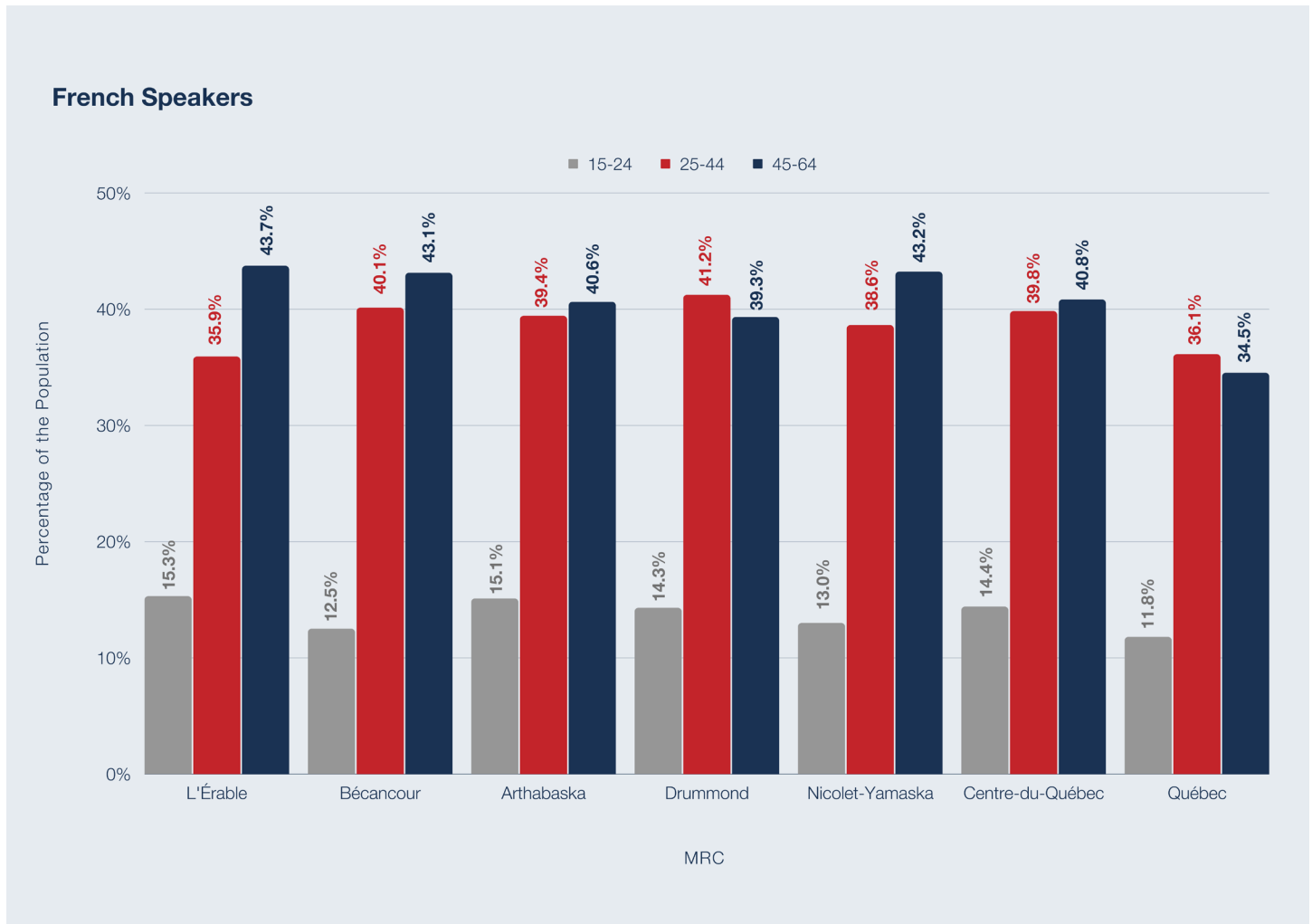
French Speakers

Legend: ■ 15-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64

Y-axis: Percentage of the Population (0% to 50%)

X-axis: MRC

MRC	15-24	25-44	45-64
L'Érable	15.3%	35.9%	43.7%
Bécancour	12.5%	40.1%	43.1%
Arthabaska	15.1%	39.4%	40.6%
Drummond	14.3%	41.2%	39.3%
Nicolet-Yamaska	13.0%	38.6%	43.2%
Centre-du-Québec	14.4%	39.8%	40.8%
Québec	11.8%	36.1%	34.5%

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

LABOUR FORCE

French-speaking men make up the majority of the labour force in Centre-du-Québec (52.4%). French-speaking women make up 46.3% of the labour force in the region.

Among English speakers, men represent 0.6% of the labour force, while women represent 0.5%.

In Bécancour, there are more English-speaking women in the labour force than men (0.5% versus 0.3%).

Graph 8a: Sex Structure of Centre-du-Québec's Labour Force by MRC
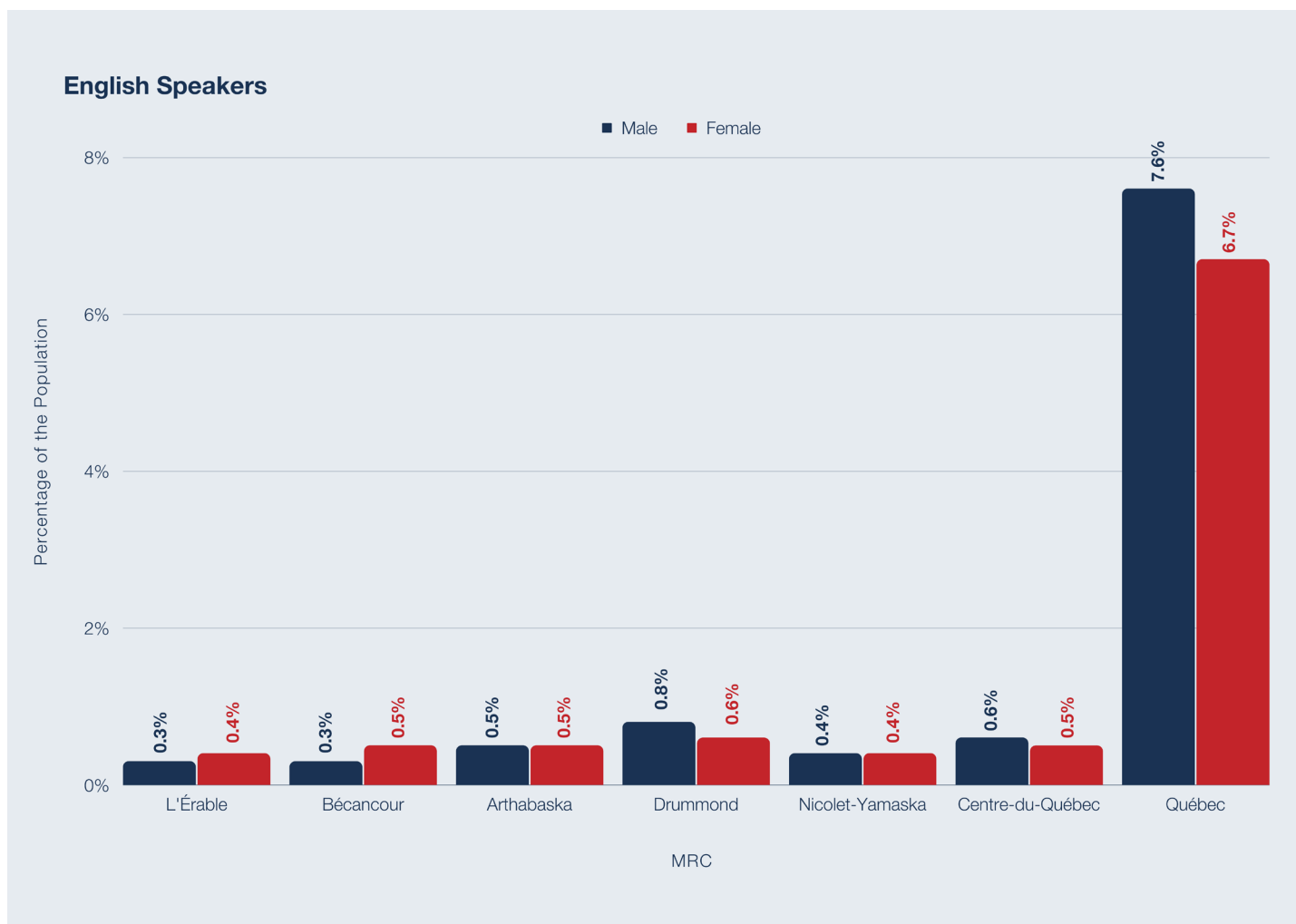
English Speakers

■ Male ■ Female

Percentage of the Population

MRC	Male	Female
L'Érable	0.3%	0.4%
Bécancour	0.3%	0.5%
Arthabaska	0.5%	0.5%
Drummond	0.8%	0.6%
Nicolet-Yamaska	0.4%	0.4%
Centre-du-Québec	0.6%	0.5%
Québec	7.6%	6.7%

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

LABOUR FORCE

Graph 8b: Sex Structure of Centre-du-Québec's Labour Force by MRC
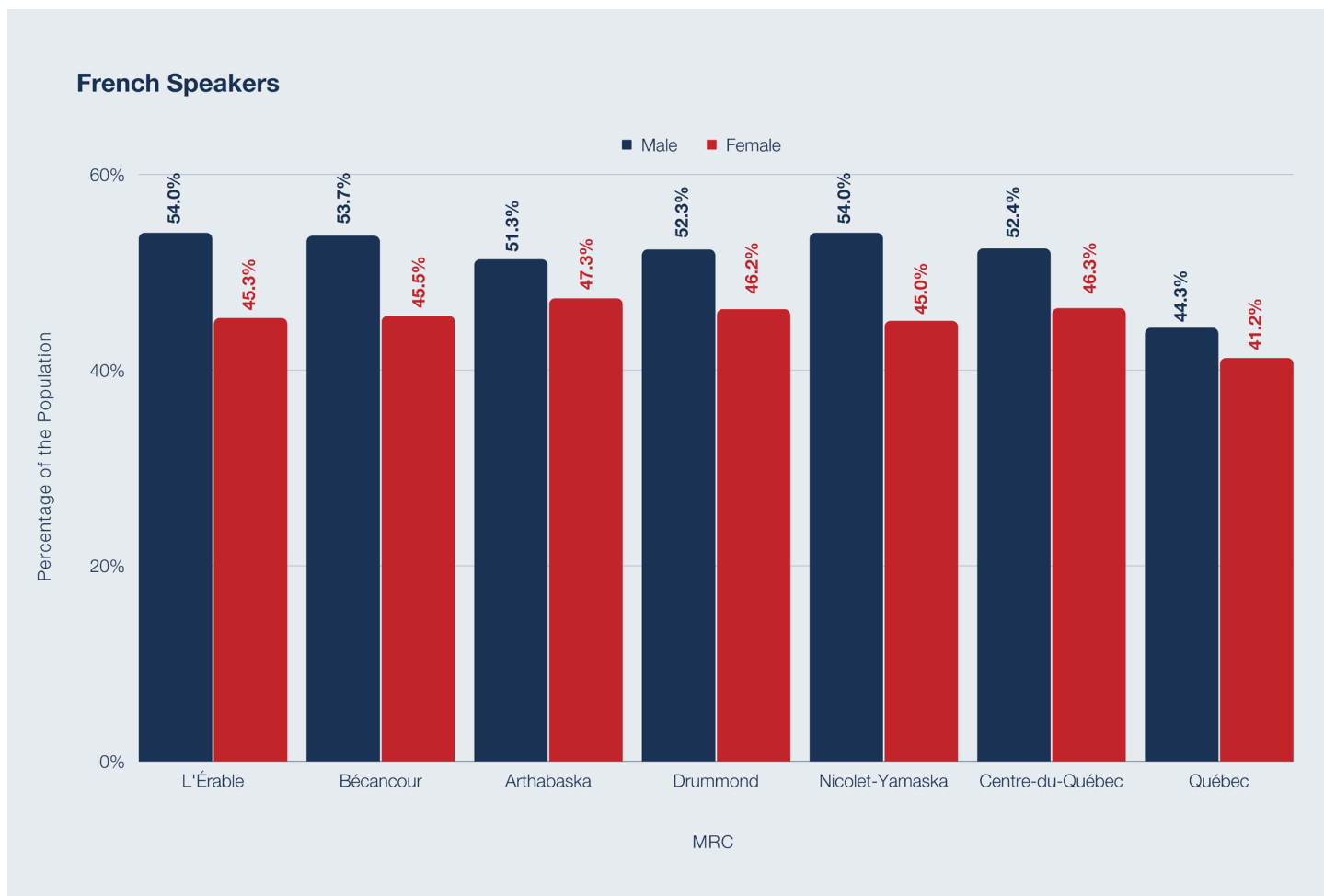
French Speakers

■ Male   ■ Female

MRC	Male	Female
L'Érable	54.0%	45.3%
Bécancour	53.7%	45.5%
Arthabaska	51.3%	47.3%
Drummond	52.3%	46.2%
Nicolet-Yamaska	54.0%	45.0%
Centre-du-Québec	52.4%	46.3%
Québec	44.3%	41.2%

Percentage of the Population

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

English speakers in Centre-du-Québec experience an unemployment rate of 8.4%, which is higher than that of French speakers in the region (6.1%), as well as the provincial average (7.2%).

English speakers in L'Érable experience the highest unemployment rate in the region, at 12.1%. This is more than double the unemployment rate of French speakers in the MRC (6%).

Graph 9: Unemployment Rate in Centre-du-Québec by MRC
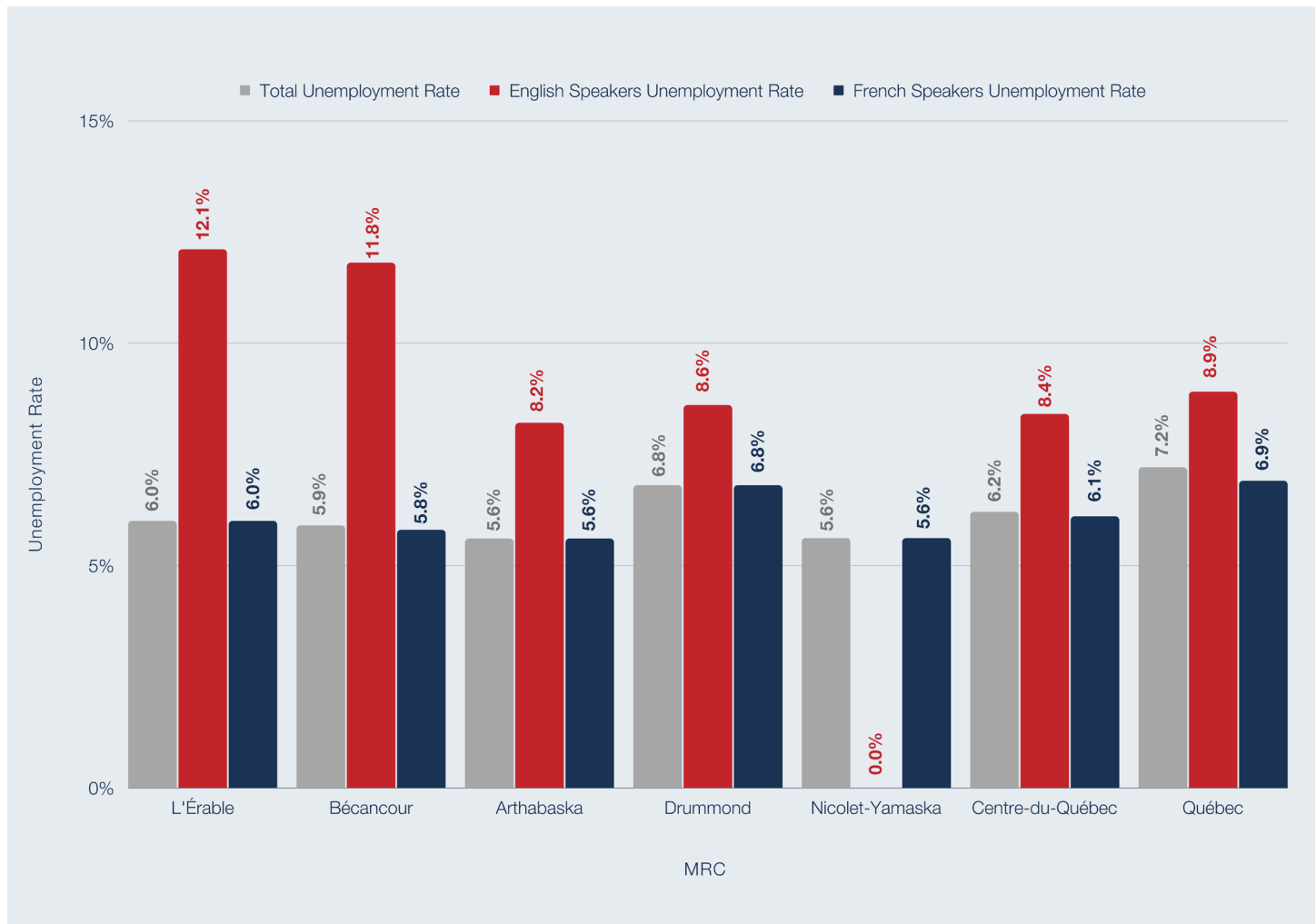
Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Age Structure of Unemployment Rate

Among English speakers in Centre-du-Québec, the unemployment rate decreases as the age range increases. English speakers aged 45-64 experience the lowest unemployment rate (6.6%), while English-speaking youth experience the highest unemployment rate (13.5%).

Among French speakers, individuals aged 25-44 experience the lowest unemployment rate (4.7%), while youth experience the highest unemployment rate (9%).

The unemployment rate of French-speaking youth is 4.5% lower than that of English-speaking youth.

Graph 10a: Age Structure of Unemployment Rate in Centre-du-Québec by MRC

English Speakers

Legend: ■ Total Unemployment Rate ■ 15-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64

MRC	Total Unemployment Rate	15-24	25-44	45-64
L'Érable	6.0%	0.0%	28.6%	25.0%
Bécancour	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%
Arthabaska	5.6%	22.2%	0.0%	3.2%
Drummond	6.8%	6.5%	16.1%	3.2%
Nicolet-Yamaska	5.6%	*	0.0%	0.0%
Centre-du-Québec	6.2%	13.5%	9.9%	6.6%
Québec	7.2%	16.3%	8.5%	7.2%

*Incalculable

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 Centre-du-Québec by MRC
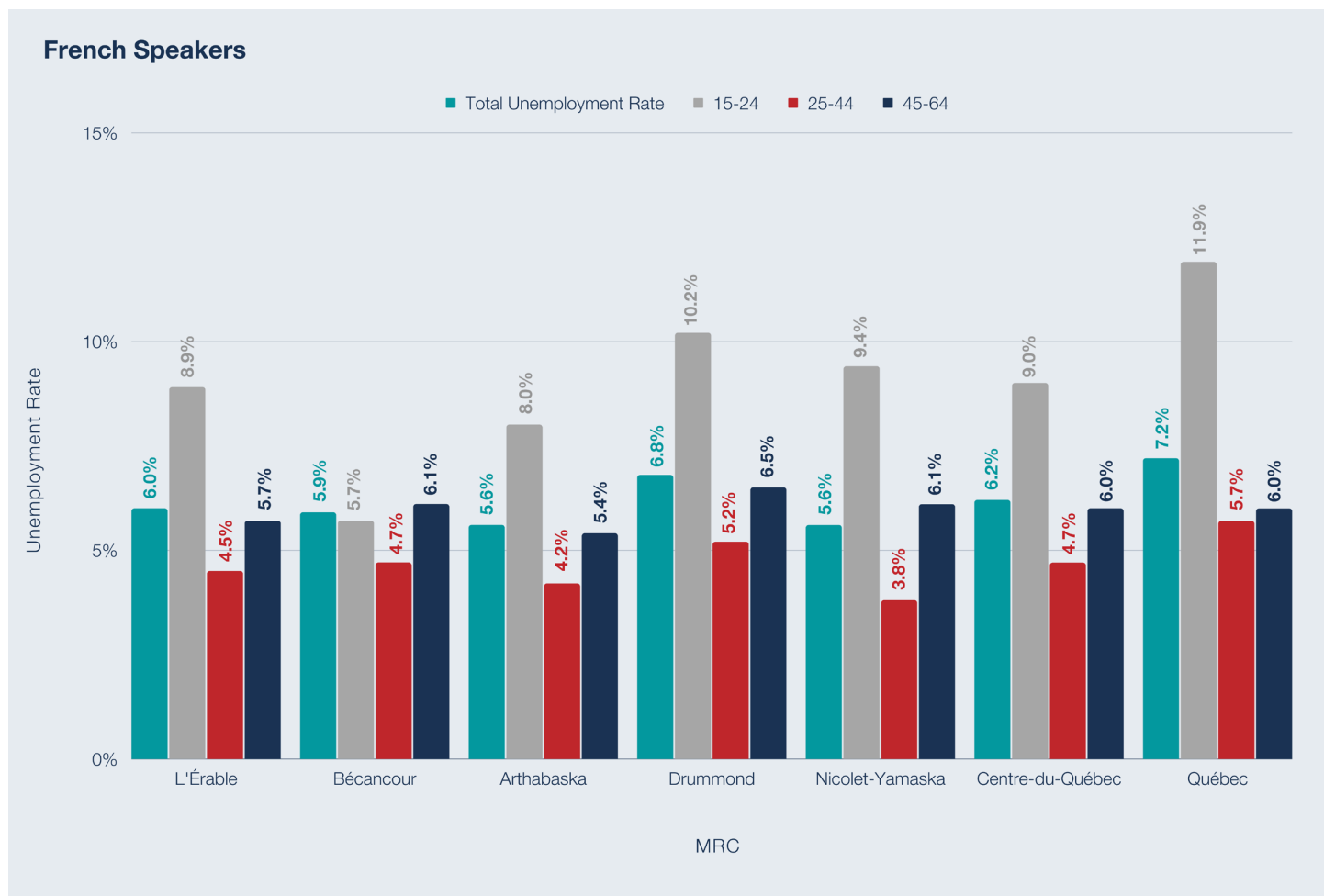
French Speakers

Legend: ■ Total Unemployment Rate ■ 15-24 ■ 25-44 ■ 45-64

Y-axis: Unemployment Rate (0%, 5%, 10%, 15%)

X-axis: MRC

MRC	Total Unemployment Rate	15-24	25-44	45-64
L'Érable	6.0%	8.9%	4.5%	5.7%
Bécancour	5.9%	5.7%	4.7%	6.1%
Arthabaska	5.6%	8.0%	4.2%	5.4%
Drummond	6.8%	10.2%	5.2%	6.5%
Nicolet-Yamaska	5.6%	9.4%	3.8%	6.1%
Centre-du-Québec	6.2%	9.0%	4.7%	6.0%
Québec	7.2%	11.9%	5.7%	6.0%

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Sex Structure of Unemployment
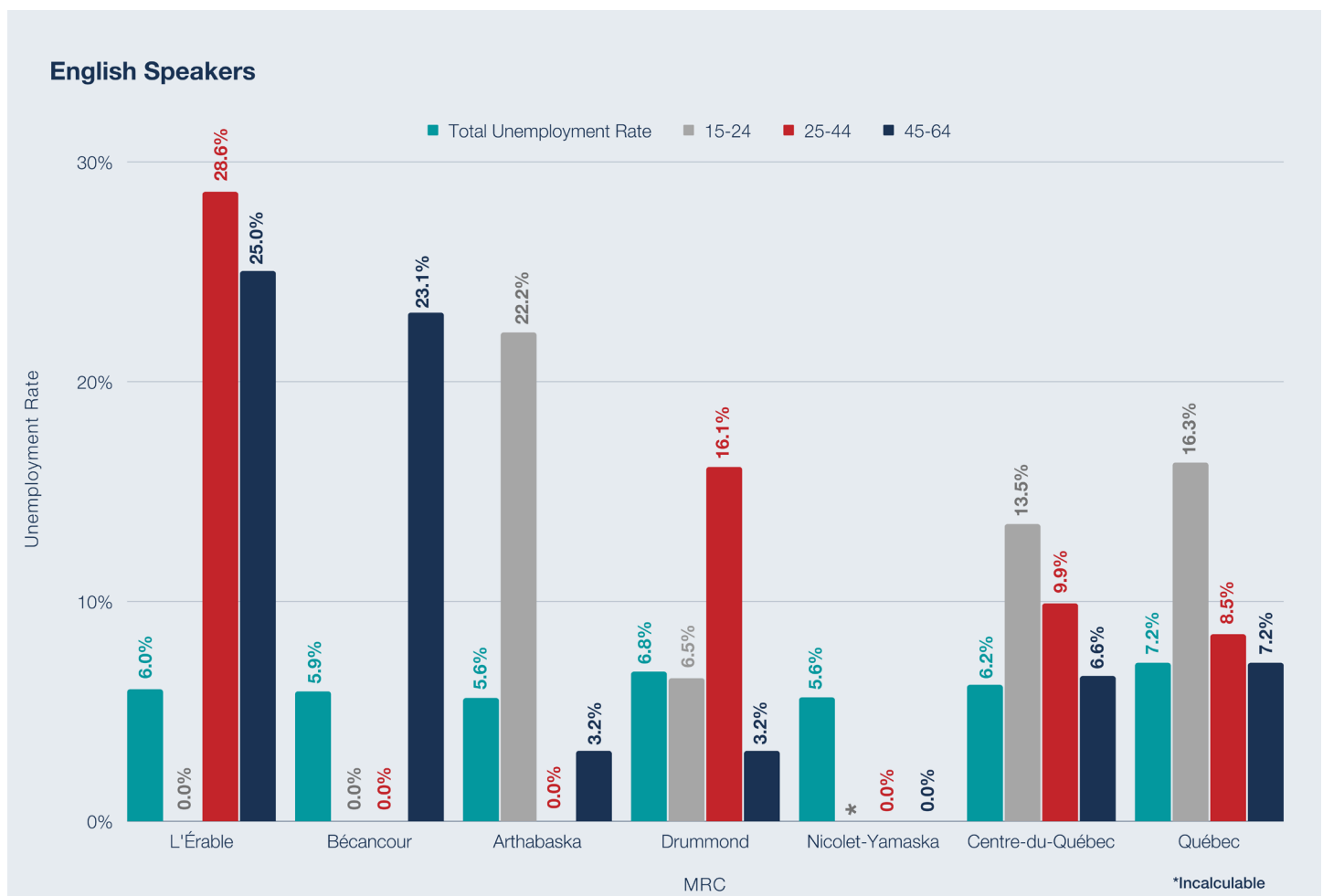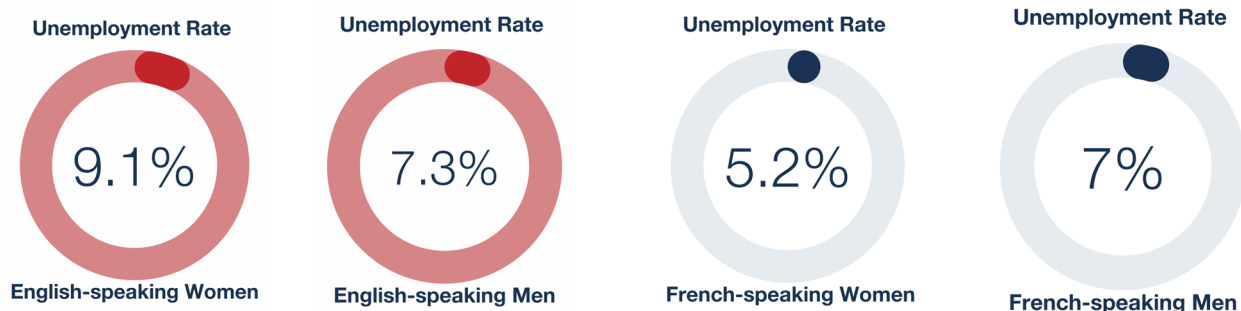
Among English speakers, women experience a higher unemployment rate than men (9.1% compared to 7.3%). Among French speakers, men have a higher unemployment rate than women (7% compared to 5.2%).

Unemployment Rate
9.1%
English-speaking Women

Unemployment Rate
7.3%
English-speaking Men

Unemployment Rate
5.2%
French-speaking Women

Unemployment Rate
7%
French-speaking Men

Graph 11a: Sex Structure of Unemployment Rate in Centre-du-Québec by MRC
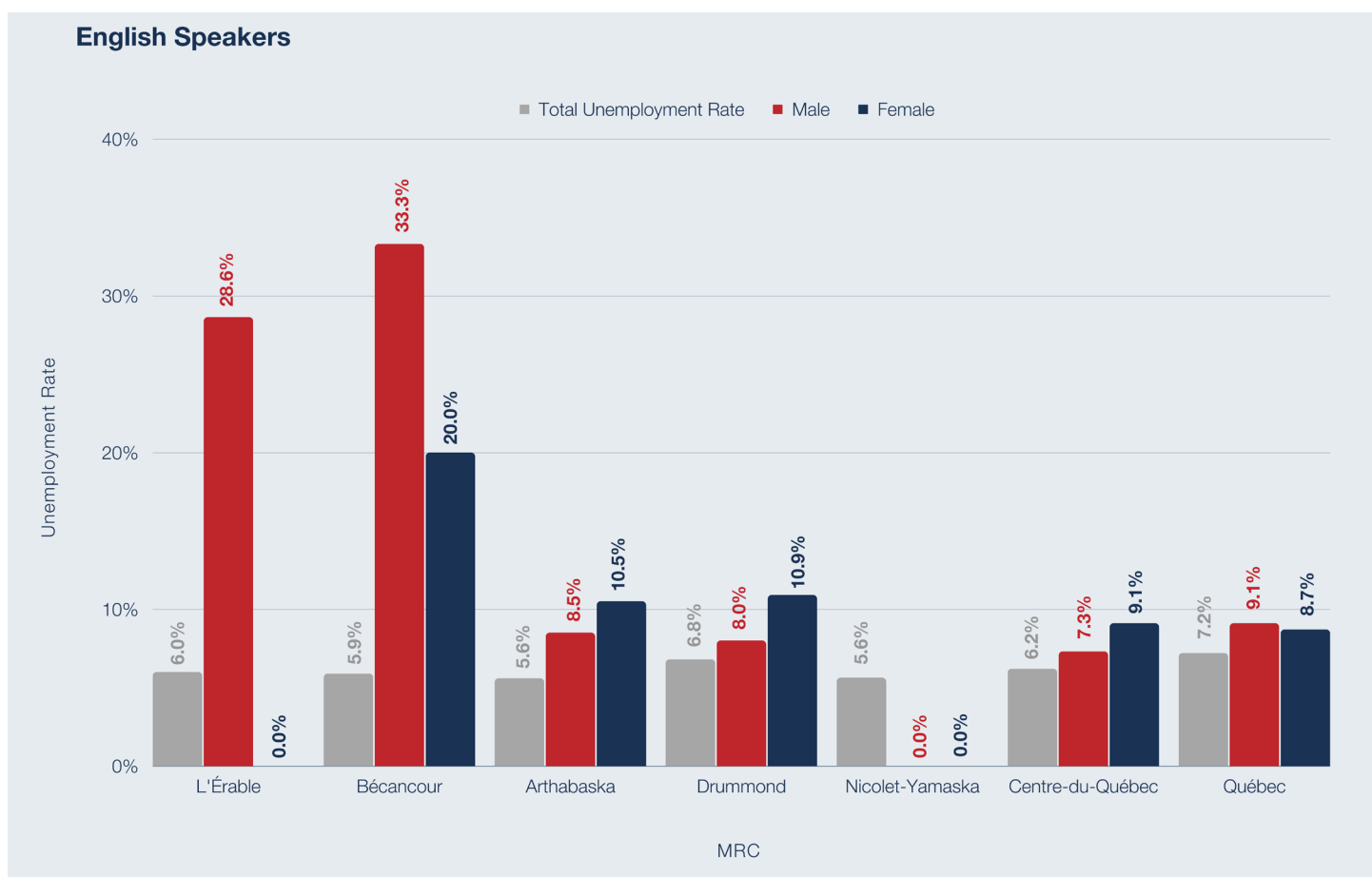
English Speakers

◼ Total Unemployment Rate ◼ Male ◼ Female

MRC	Total Unemployment Rate	Male	Female
L'Érable	6.0%	28.6%	0.0%
Bécancour	5.9%	33.3%	20.0%
Arthabaska	5.6%	8.5%	10.5%
Drummond	6.8%	8.0%	10.9%
Nicolet-Yamaska	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Centre-du-Québec	6.2%	7.3%	9.1%
Québec	7.2%	9.1%	8.7%

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

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Graph 11b: Sex Structure of Unemployment Rate in Centre-du-Québec by MRC
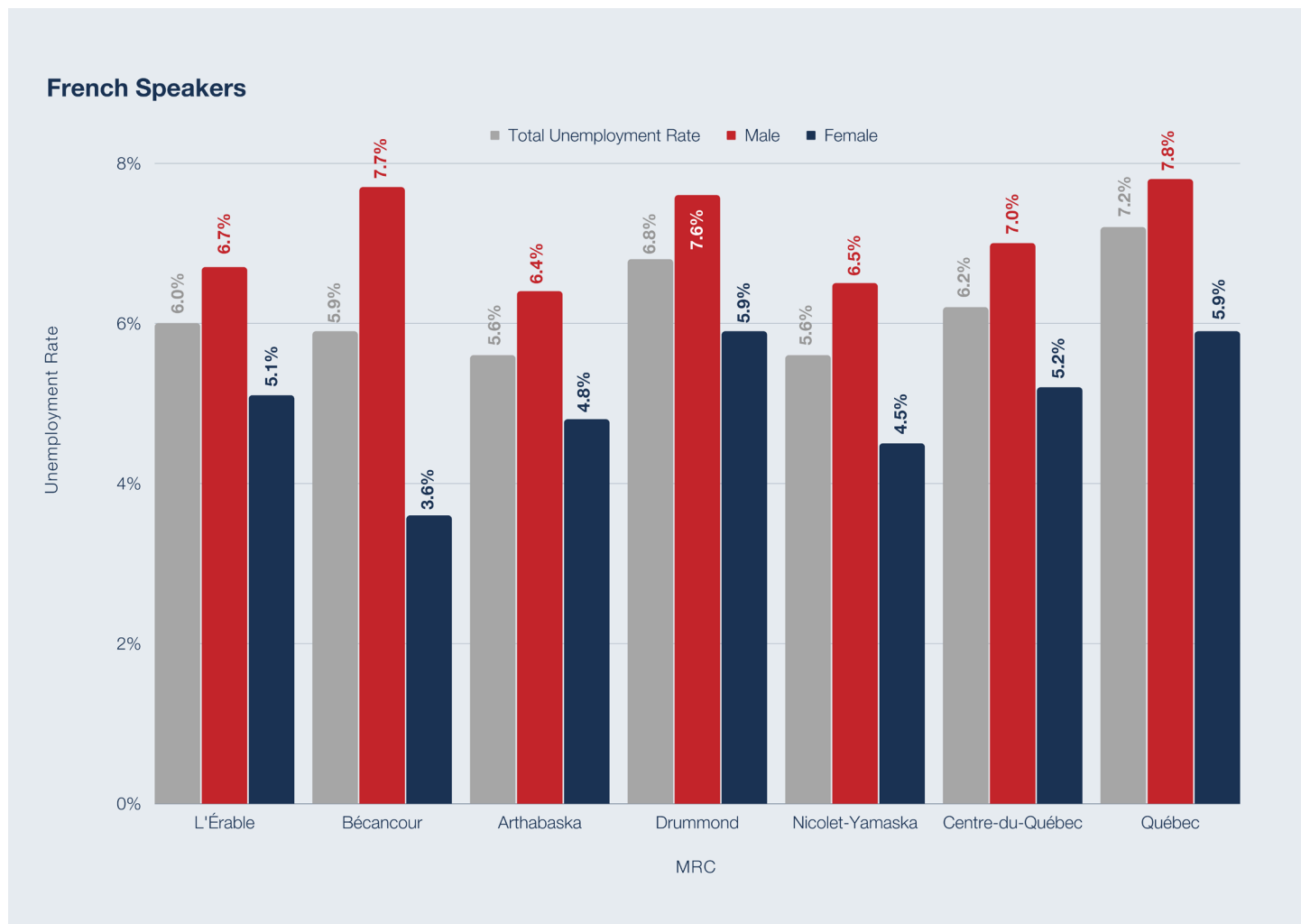
French Speakers

■ Total Unemployment Rate ■ Male ■ Female

MRC	Total	Male	Female
L'Érable	6.0%	6.7%	5.1%
Bécancour	5.9%	7.7%	3.6%
Arthabaska	5.6%	6.4%	4.8%
Drummond	6.8%	7.6%	5.9%
Nicolet-Yamaska	5.6%	6.5%	4.5%
Centre-du-Québec	6.2%	7.0%	5.2%
Québec	7.2%	7.8%	5.9%

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 in Centre-du-Québec work part-time. A larger portion of English speakers (55.1%) as compared to French speakers (51.5%) work part-time.

Nicolet-Yamaska is the only MRC where a majority of French speakers (50.3%) work full-time. The majority of English speakers in every MRC work part-time.

English speakers in Arthabaska have the highest engagement in part-time work: 59% of English speakers in Arthabaska work part-time.

English Speakers

55.1%

Part-time / Part-year

French Speakers

51.5%

Part-time / Part-year

Graph 12a: Work Activity in Centre-du-Québec by MRC

English Speakers

■ Worked Full-time and/or Full-year   ■ Worked Part-time and/or Part-year

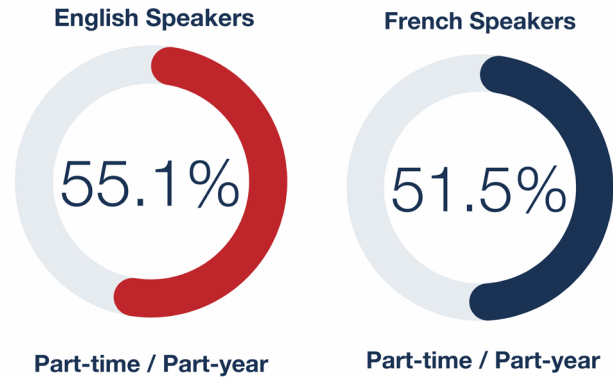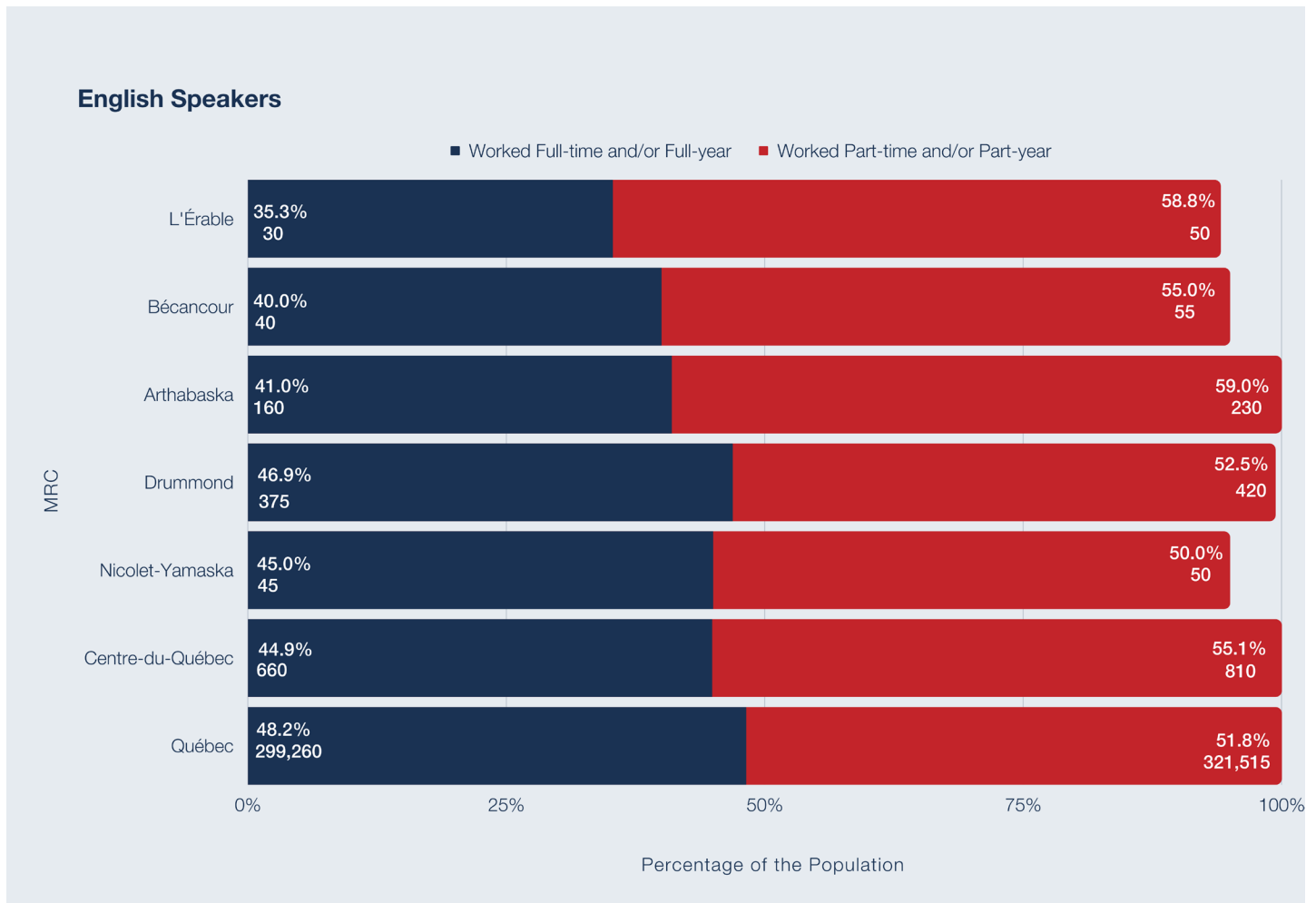| MRC	Worked Full-time and/or Full-year	Worked Part-time and/or Part-year
L'Érable	35.3% / 30	58.8% / 50
Bécancour	40.0% / 40	55.0% / 55
Arthabaska	41.0% / 160	59.0% / 230
Drummond	46.9% / 375	52.5% / 420
Nicolet-Yamaska	45.0% / 45	50.0% / 50
Centre-du-Québec	44.9% / 660	55.1% / 810
Québec	48.2% / 299,260	51.8% / 321,515

Percentage of the Population

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

WORK ACTIVITY

Graph 12b: Work Activity in Centre-du-Québec by MRC
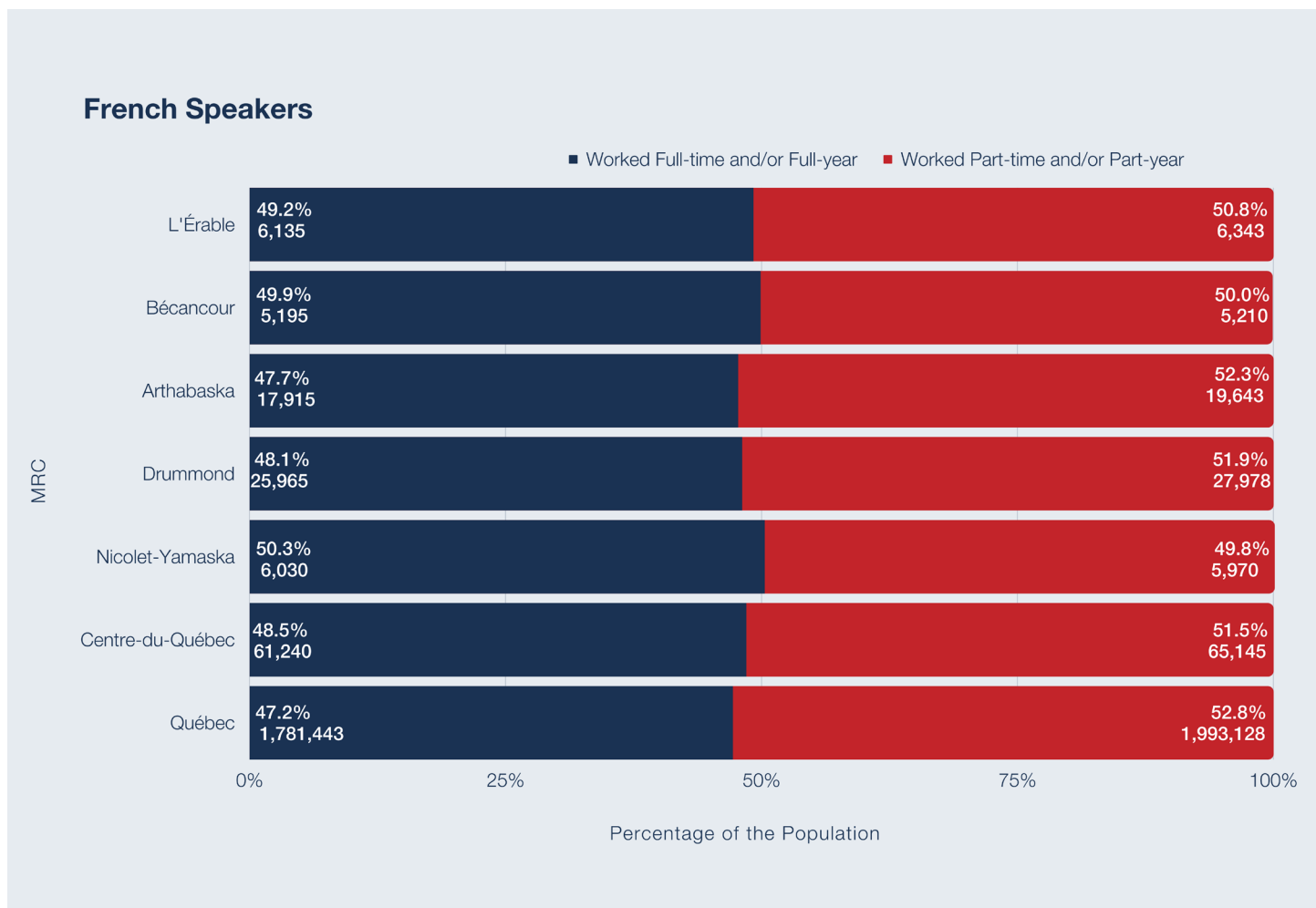
French Speakers

■ Worked Full-time and/or Full-year　■ Worked Part-time and/or Part-year

MRC	Worked Full-time and/or Full-year	Worked Part-time and/or Part-year
L'Érable	49.2% 6,135	50.8% 6,343
Bécancour	49.9% 5,195	50.0% 5,210
Arthabaska	47.7% 17,915	52.3% 19,643
Drummond	48.1% 25,965	51.9% 27,978
Nicolet-Yamaska	50.3% 6,030	49.8% 5,970
Centre-du-Québec	48.5% 61,240	51.5% 65,145
Québec	47.2% 1,781,443	52.8% 1,993,128

Percentage of the Population

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

WORK ACTIVITY

Average Weeks Worked

English speakers in Centre-du-Québec work for a lesser average number of weeks per year than French speakers (41.6 versus 43.1).[9] English speakers in l'Érable work for the fewest average weeks per year (37.7), which corresponds to English speakers' relatively high engagement in part-time work in that MRC.

English speakers in Arthabaska work for the highest average number of weeks per year (42.9) compared to English speakers in other MRCs, even though English speakers in Arthabaska have the highest engagement in part-time/part-year work.

Weeks Worked

41.6

English Speakers

Weeks Worked

43.1

French Speakers

Graph 13: Average Weeks Worked in Centre-du-Québec by MRC
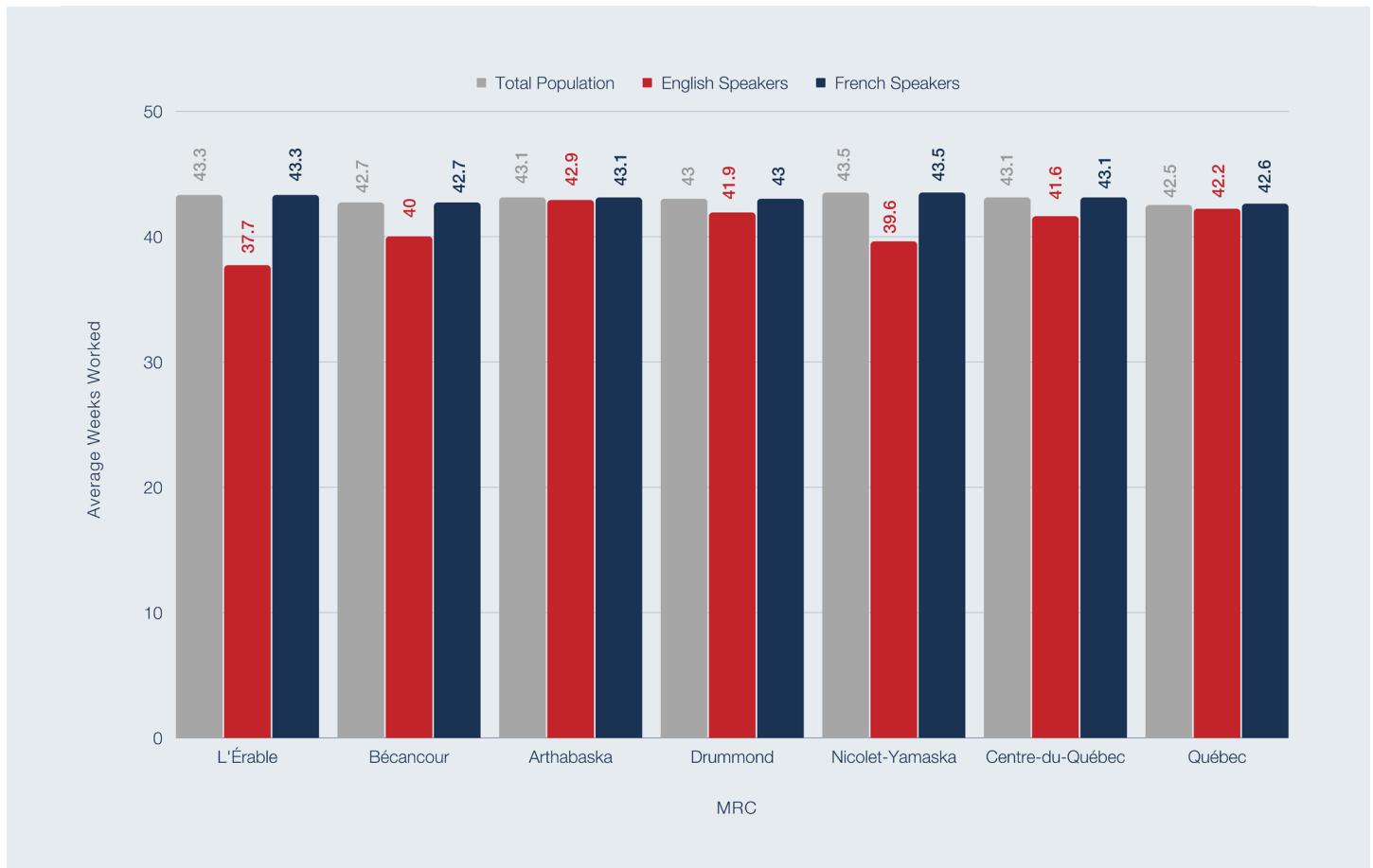
Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

9. 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

English speakers tend to earn a lower median after-tax income than French speakers. This could be explained in part by the higher unemployment rates that English speakers experience.[10]

Low incomes can also be explained by the type of work that English speakers have, such as seasonal, part-time, and lower-wage work. This work can have fluctuations in income throughout the year and a lack of career advancement.

English speakers in Centre-du-Québec earn a significantly lower median after-tax income than French speakers in the region ($23,425 versus $27,519).

English speakers in Nicolet-Yamaska earn the lowest median after tax income ($20,885).

Bécancour is the only MRC where English speakers earn a higher median after-tax income than French speakers ($31,041 versus $28,024).

Graph 14: Median After-tax Income in Centre-du-Québec by MRC
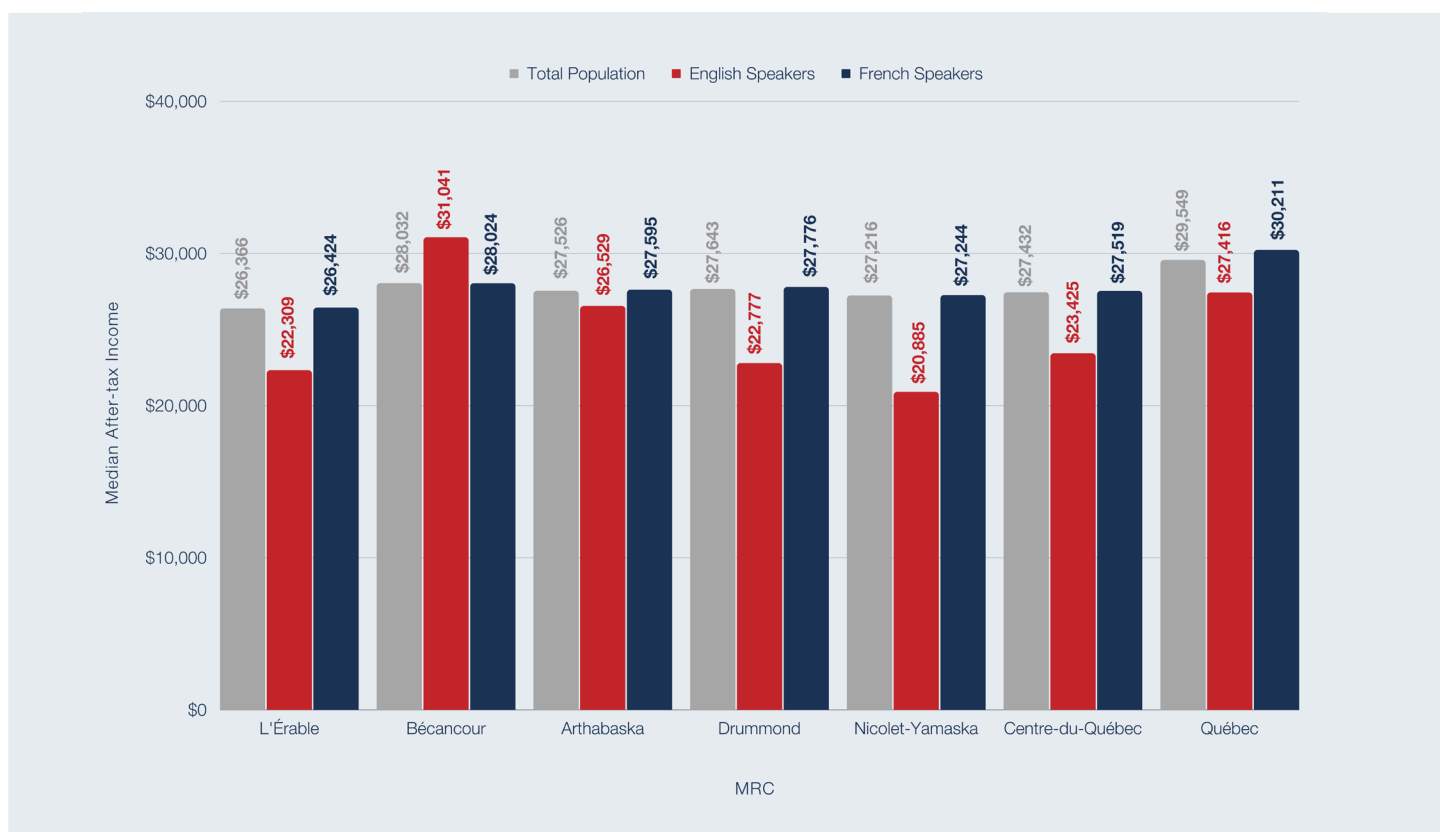
Source: Provincial Employment Roundtable calculations based on data from Statistics Canada (2016).

---

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.

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.

Both English speakers and French speakers in Centre-du-Québec have relatively low levels of postsecondary attainment, although they are lower among English speakers.

48.7% of English speakers in Centre-du-Québec have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared to 53.4% of French speakers.

Postsecondary educational attainment levels are highest among English speakers in Bécancour, where 63.3% of English speakers have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

Postsecondary attainment levels are lowest among English speakers in L'Érable, where 30% of English speakers have a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

EDUCATION

Graph 15a: Educational Attainment in Centre-du-Québec by MRC

English Speakers

■ Without certificate, diploma or degree   ■ With Secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate
■ With Postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree

Percentage of the Population

MRC	Without certificate, diploma or degree	With Secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate	With Postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree
L'Érable	36.7%	30.0%	30.0%
Bécancour	10.0%	23.3%	63.3%
Arthabaska	18.6%	29.2%	51.3%
Drummond	24.0%	28.5%	47.5%
Nicolet-Yamaska	27.3%	18.2%	51.5%
Centre-du-Québec	22.9%	28.2%	48.7%
Québec	16.1%	24.6%	59.3%

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

EDUCATION

Graph 15b: Educational Attainment in Centre-du-Québec by MRC

French Speakers

■ Without certificate, diploma or degree   ■ With Secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate
■ With Postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree

Percentage of the Population

MRC	Without certificate, diploma or degree	With Secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate	With Postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree
L'Érable	29.1%	20.8%	50.1%
Bécancour	23.2%	20.1%	56.7%
Arthabaska	25.8%	20.5%	53.7%
Drummond	24.3%	22.4%	53.2%
Nicolet-Yamaska	25.9%	20.7%	53.4%
Centre-du-Québec	25.3%	21.3%	53.4%
Québec	20.2%	21.0%	58.8%

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

REFERENCES

Adapted from Statistics Canada. (2016). Population in Private Households by Selected Demographic, Cultural, Educational, Labour Force and Income Characteristics (984), First Official Language Spoken (6), Age (8B) and Sex (3), for the Province of Quebec, the MRCs of the Province of Quebec and the administraive Regions of the Province of Quebec, 2016 Census - 25% Sample Data, [custom table].

Hamelin, F. (2020). Portrait économique des régions du Québec. 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

Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec. (2021, September 07). Région Centre-du-Québec: Secteur des entreprises. Retrieved from: https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/pages-regionales/centre-du-quebec/portrait-regional/secteur-des-entreprises/

Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec. (2021, September 07). Région Centre-du-Québec: Structure économique. Retrieved from: https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/pages-regionales/centre-du-quebec/portrait-regional/structure-economique/

Routhier, C. (2021, May 11). Études régionales: Région administrative du Centre-du-Québec. Desjardins. Retrieved from: https://www.desjardins.com/ressources/pdf/21Centre-du-Quebec-f.pdf?resVer=1620746518000

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