

FACTS & STATS

Our Community by the Numbers

Last revised: August 2014

Cultural Diversity

Immigration

“Cultural Diversity in West Vancouver” is one in a series of Facts and Stats reports on demographics and trends in West Vancouver. This publication looks at immigration, ethnicity, language and religion. The primary data source for this report is the **2011 Census**. In some instances, a discussion of historical trends and regional context is included.

In 2011, 41% of West Vancouver’s total population were immigrants (not born in Canada) compared to 40% of Metro Vancouver’s total population.

24% of West Vancouver’s population emigrated to Canada prior to 1971 compared to 13% of Metro Vancouver’s total population. More recently (between 2001-2011) Metro Vancouver and West Vancouver have seen the same percentage of immigration at 32%.

Chart #1—Immigrant Population by Period of Immigration to Canada, West Van & Metro Van, 2011

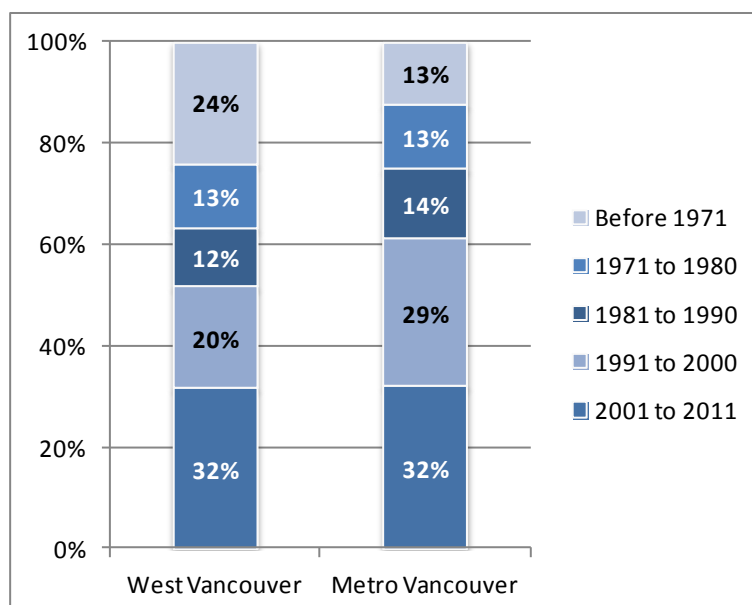


Table # 1—Immigrant Population as Percentage of Total Population, West Vancouver & Metro Vancouver, 2011

2011	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Total Population in Private Households	42,040	100%	2,280,695	100%
Non-Immigrant Population (born in Canada)	23,975	57%	1,315,695	58%
Immigrant Population (not born in Canada)	17,125	41%	913,310	40%
Non-Permanent Residents	940	2%	51,690	2%

Table # 2—Immigrant Population by Period of Immigration to Canada West Vancouver & Metro Vancouver, 2011

	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Total 2011 Immigrant Population	17,125	100%	913,310	100%
2001 to 2011	5,425	32%	292,870	32%
1991 to 2000	3,435	20%	264,910	29%
1981 to 1990	1,975	12%	126,010	14%
1971 to 1980	2,170	13%	114,900	13%
Before 1971	4,120	24%	114,620	13%

* Immigrant population includes Canadian Citizens by naturalization and landed immigrants who have not yet obtained Canadian Citizenship by naturalization (some will have lived in Canada for many years while others will have arrived recently). Non-immigrant population refers to people who are Canadian citizens by birth. Although most were born in Canada, a small number of them were born outside Canada to Canadian parents.



Immigration - Historical Trends

West Vancouver’s immigrant population, as a percentage of total population, has shown growth over the past three decades, growing from 32% in 1991 to 41% in 2011 (See Table #3).

Table #3—Immigrant Population as Percentage of Total Population, West Vancouver, 1991-2011

	1991	2001	2011
% Immigrant Population	32%	36%	41%
Immigrant Population	12,295	14,775	17,130
Total Population in Private Households*	38,125	40,855	42,045

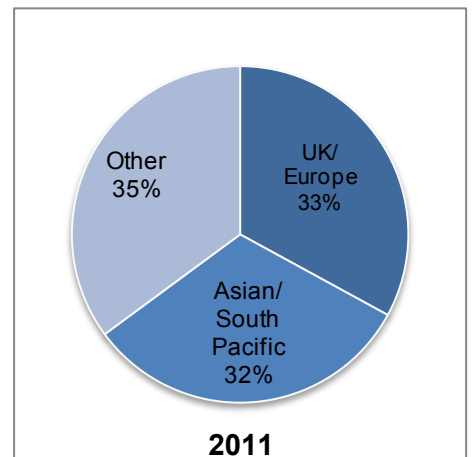
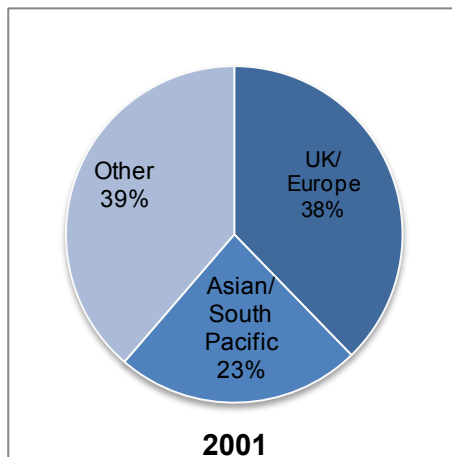
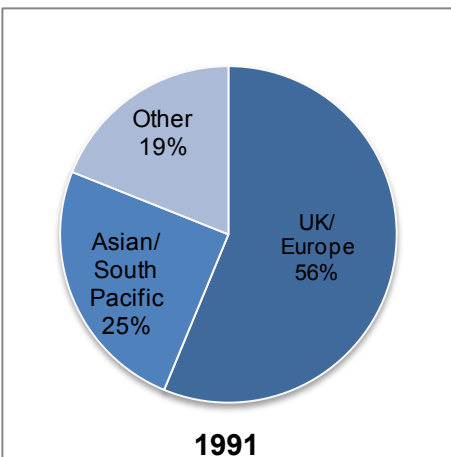
Place of birth data indicates that the origins of West Vancouver’s immigrant population have shifted over the decades from predominantly European in 1991 to a higher proportion from Asia and other continents in more recent years - see Table #4 and Charts #3, #4 and #5. Note: Prior to 1991, very broad categories were used to track place of birth. More detailed information on place of birth by country and continent is available for 2001 and 2011 on the following page.

Table #4—Immigrant Population by Place of Birth, West Vancouver, 1991-2011

	1991		2001		2011	
Immigrant Population	12,295	100%	14,775	100%	17,125	100%
UK/Europe	6,915	56%	5,575	38%	5,645	33%
Asian/South Pacific	3,050	25%	3,485	24%	5,470	32%
Other*	2,330	19%	5,715	39%	6,015	35%

* The ‘Other’ category includes (in order of prevalence in 2011) the Middle East, USA, Africa, Central and South America and other.

Charts #3, #4, #5—Immigrant Population by Place of Birth, West Vancouver, 1991, 2001, 2011





Immigrant Population by Place of Birth

The most common places of birth for West Vancouver's immigrant population are Europe (33%) Asia and the South Pacific (32%) and the Middle East (19%) - see Chart #6. Changes in West Vancouver's immigrant population between 2001 and 2011 include a decrease in the proportion of immigrants born in Europe (from 38% to 33%) and 'Other' (13% to 2%) ('other' includes Oceania and responses not included elsewhere), and an increase in the proportion born in the Middle East (from 9% to 19%).

Compared to the region, West Vancouver has a higher proportion of immigrants born in Europe (33% in West Van compared to 19% in Metro Van) and the Middle East (19% in West Van compared to 4% in Metro Van) and a lower proportion of immigrants born in Asia and the South Pacific (32% in West Van compared to 65% in Metro Van). The largest group of *recent* immigrants in West Vancouver were born in China (34.1%), which was also the largest group in Metro Vancouver (23.8%).

Chart #6—All Immigrants by Place of Birth, West Van & Metro Van, 2011

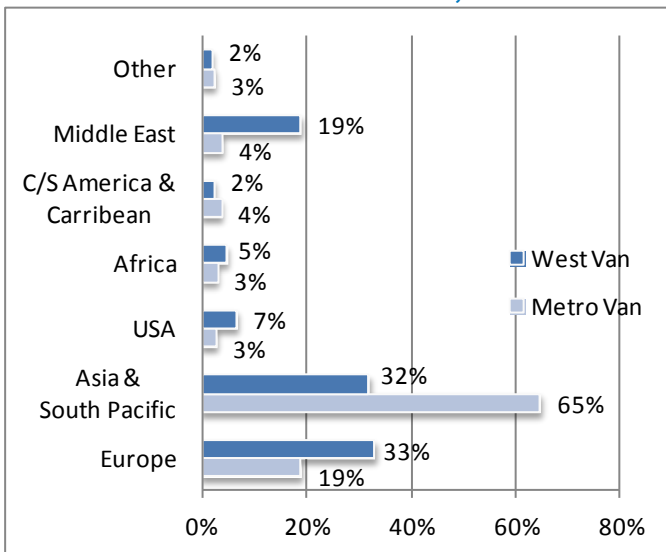


Chart #7—All Immigrants by Place of Birth, West Vancouver, 2011 and 2001

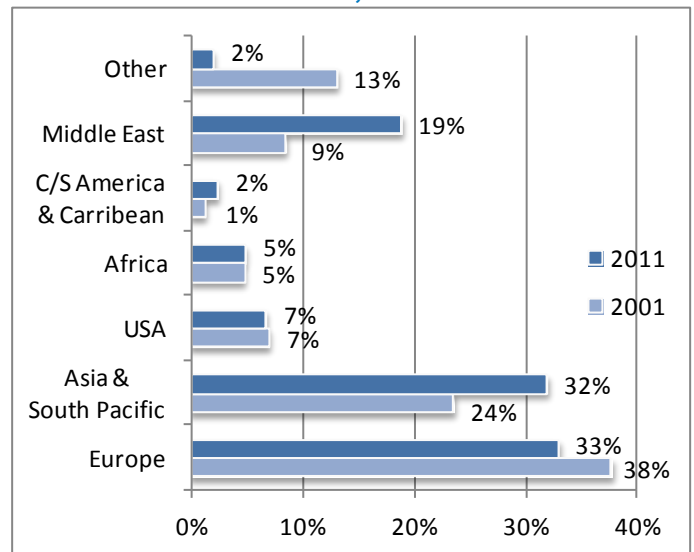


Table #5—All Immigrants* by Country of Birth, West Vancouver & Metro Vancouver, 2011

	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Total Population	42,045	100%	2,280,700	100%
Immigrant Population	17,130	41%	913,305	40%
Immigrant Population	17,130	100%	913,305	100%
Iran	3,185	18.6%	28,470	3.1%
United Kingdom	2,935	17.1%	61,260	6.7%
China	2,095	12.2%	159,200	17.4%
United States	1,160	6.8%	26,235	2.9%
Germany	720	4.2%	14,210	1.6%
South Korea	695	4.1%	34,370	3.8%
Hong Kong	610	3.6%	72,235	7.9%
Taiwan	485	2.8%	40,725	4.5%
South Africa	400	2.3%	8,035	0.9%
India	275	1.6%	111,270	12.2%
Other	2,880	16.8%	380,725	41.7%

* 'Immigrants' includes immigrants who landed in Canada before May 10, 2011

Table #6—Recent Immigrants* by Country of Birth, West Vancouver, 2011

	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Immigrant Population	17,130	100%	913,305	100%
Recent Imm. Pop.	2,995	17%	155,125	17%
Recent Imm. Pop.	2,995	100%	155,125	100%
China	1,020	34.1%	36,945	23.8%
Iran	660	22.0%	6,510	4.2%
South Korea	325	10.9%	8,765	5.7%
United States	175	5.8%	5,235	3.4%
United Kingdom	145	4.8%	4,810	3.1%
Taiwan	145	4.8%	5,290	3.4%
Philippines	70	2.3%	25,005	16.1%
Japan	30	1.0%	2,125	1.4%
Germany	25	0.8%	1,045	0.7%
Hong Kong	20	0.7%	1,615	1.0%
Other	20	0.7%	43,125	27.8%

* Recent immigrants are immigrants who landed in Canada between January 1, 2006 and May 10, 2011



Ethnicity

The most commonly reported ethnic origins in West Vancouver are English, Scottish, Irish, Canadian and Chinese. In Metro Vancouver, the most commonly reported ethnic origins are English, Chinese, Scottish, Canadian and Irish.

Table #7—Ethnic Origins (20 most common), West Vancouver & Metro Vancouver, 2011

West Vancouver				Metro Vancouver			
Total Population by Ethnic Origin		42,045	100%	Total Population by Ethnic Origin		2,280,695	100%
1	English	13,940	33.2%	1	English	474,030	20.8%
2	Scottish	9,005	21.4%	2	Chinese	432,680	19.0%
3	Irish	7,120	16.9%	3	Scottish	332,830	14.6%
4	Canadian	6,165	14.7%	4	Canadian	327,910	14.4%
5	Chinese	4,770	11.3%	5	Irish	258,870	11.4%
6	German	4,260	10.1%	6	East Indian	217,820	9.6%
7	Iranian	3,705	8.8%	7	German	211,410	9.3%
8	French	2,915	6.9%	8	French	140,160	6.1%
9	Ukrainian	1,840	4.4%	9	Filipino	120,645	5.3%
10	Italian	1,775	4.2%	10	Ukrainian	84,640	3.7%
11	Dutch	1,310	3.1%	11	Italian	82,440	3.6%
12	Polish	1,245	3.0%	12	Dutch	73,535	3.2%
13	Welsh	1,050	2.5%	13	Polish	63,645	2.8%
14	Swedish	1,040	2.5%	14	Russian	51,510	2.3%
15	Norwegian	1,030	2.4%	15	Korean	49,880	2.2%
16	East Indian	1,015	2.4%	16	Norwegian	46,875	2.1%
17	Russian	1,010	2.4%	17	Welsh	42,795	1.9%
18	American	970	2.3%	18	Spanish	41,530	1.8%
19	Korean	900	2.1%	19	Swedish	38,780	1.7%
20	Jewish	705	1.7%	20	Iranian	36,125	1.6%
	All Other	9,710	23.1%		All Other	573,915	25.2%
Total Responses*		75,480		Total Responses*		3,702,025	

***Note:** Total responses exceed total population because people can report multiple ethnic origins. Multiple responses are more common for people of European ethnic origins. Due to this type of reporting, percentages are of total responses, not total population (e.g. you cannot indicate that 33.2% of West Vancouver's total population is of English ethnic origin, but rather that of all multiple and single responses to the ethnic origin question, 33.2% of responses indicated English as one of several possible ethnic origins. Statistically, countries with a high proportion of multiple responses would be over-represented by this reporting structure.

As illustrated in Table #8, 0.6% of the population in West Vancouver identify Aboriginal ancestry compared to 2.3% in Metro Vancouver. Note: these figures do not include the Capilano 5 Reserve population (the District of West Vancouver's municipal boundary includes most of the Capilano 5 First Nations Reserve lands). The total population of Capilano 5 is 2,665 people of whom 840 people (31.5%) identify aboriginal ancestry.

Table #8—Aboriginal Population, West Vancouver & Metro Vancouver, 2011

	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Total Population by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ancestry	42,045	100.0%	2,280,695	100.0%
Total Aboriginal ancestry population	265	0.6%	52,375	2.3%
Non-Aboriginal ancestry population	41,775	99.4%	2,228,320	97.7%

Note: Refers to those persons who reported at least one Aboriginal ancestry (North American Indian, Métis or Inuit) to the ethnic origin question. 'Ethnic origin' refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the respondent's ancestors. 'Aboriginal ancestry' was referred to as 'Aboriginal origin' prior to the 2006 Census.



Visible Minorities - Religion

Table #9 shows that 28% of the population in West Vancouver identify themselves as a visible minority (up 5% since 2006) compared to 45% in Metro Vancouver (up 3%). The predominant visible minority groups identified in West Vancouver are Chinese (38%) and West Asian (28%) and in Metro Vancouver they are Chinese (40%) and South Asian (24%).

In 2011, the populations in West Vancouver (59.3%) and Metro Vancouver (58.5%) evenly identified with a religion. West Vancouver has less religious diversity than Metro Vancouver with a greater prevalence of Christians.

* The abbreviation 'n.i.e.' means not included elsewhere. Includes respondents who reported a write-in-response such as 'Guyanese,' 'West Indian,' 'Tibetan,' 'Polynesian,' etc.

Table #9 & Chart #8—Visible Minority Groups, West Vancouver & Metro Vancouver, 2011

	West Vancouver		Metro Vancouver	
Total Population	42,045	100%	2,280,695	100%
Total Visible Minority Population	11,865	28%	1,030,335	45%
Total Not a Visible Minority Population	30,175	72%	1,250,360	55%

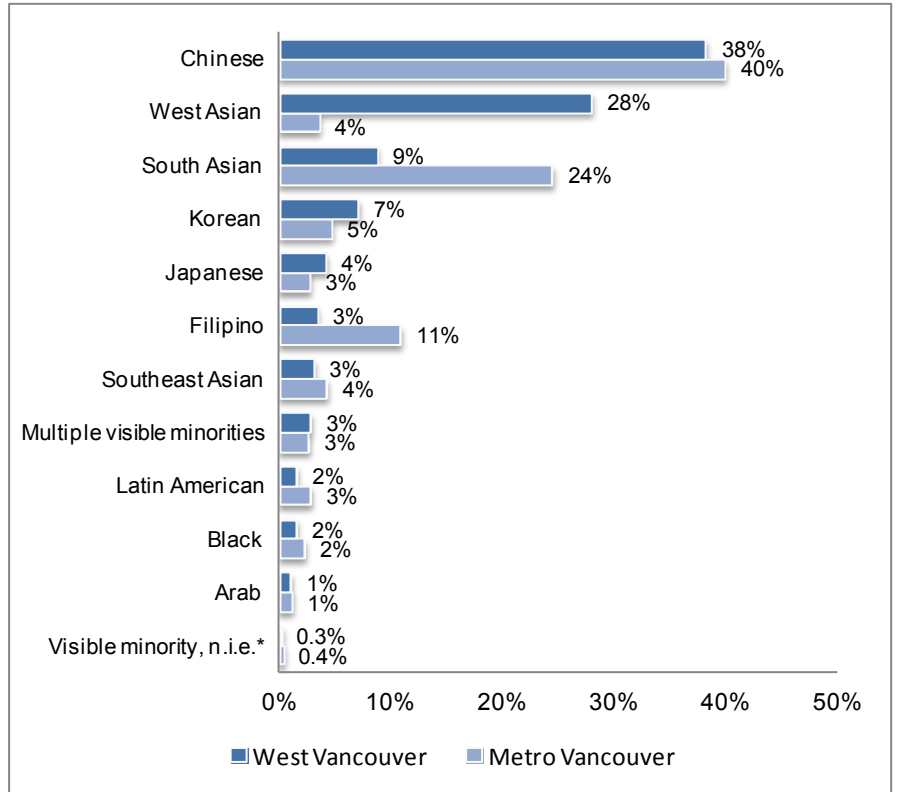


Chart #9—Religion, West Vancouver, 2011

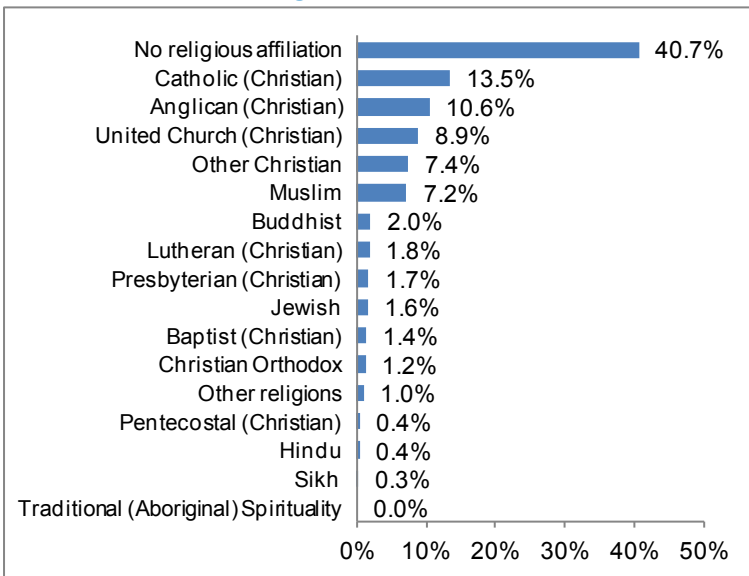
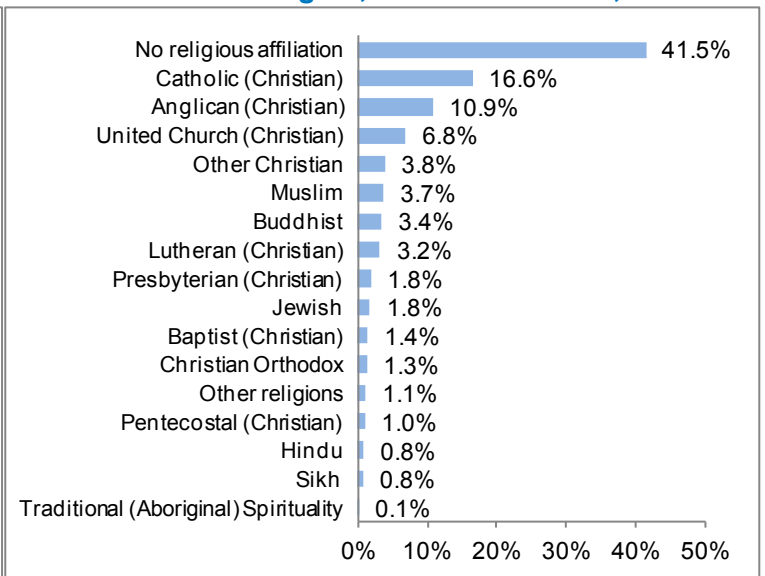


Chart #10—Religion, Metro Vancouver, 2011





Languages - Mother Tongue

Mother tongue is the first language learned in childhood and still understood (first language). 68% of people in West Vancouver have English as their mother tongue, compared to 57% in the region as a whole.

In West Vancouver, the next most common mother tongue is Farsi (Persian) (8%), followed by Chinese (n.o.s.) (3%), and Mandarin (3%). In Metro Vancouver, the second most common Mother Tongue is Panjabi (Punjabi) (6%), followed by Cantonese (6%) and Chinese (n.o.s.) (5%).

Table #10—Mother Tongue, West Van & Metro Van, 2011

West Vancouver			Metro Vancouver		
Mother Tongue	42,130		Mother Tongue	2,292,120	
Multiple Responses	600	1%	Multiple Responses	61,010	3%
Single responses	41,530	99%	Single responses	2,231,105	97%
English	28,280	68%	English	1,282,500	57%
Persian (Farsi)	3,315	8%	Panjabi (Punjabi)	139,230	6%
Chinese, n.o.s.	1,390	3%	Cantonese	128,115	6%
Mandarin	1,320	3%	Chinese, n.o.s.	111,495	5%
German	960	2%	Mandarin	90,185	4%
Korean	880	2%	Tagalog (Pilipino)	58,500	3%
Cantonese	635	2%	Korean	43,845	2%
French	540	1%	Persian (Farsi)	34,420	2%
Spanish	410	1%	Spanish	32,305	1%
Tagalog (Pilipino)	330	1%	German	26,935	1%
Polish	255	1%	French	24,780	1%
Italian	250	1%	Hindi	22,955	1%
Japanese	250	1%	Vietnamese	21,690	1%
Dutch	225	1%	Italian	16,215	1%
Russian	200	0.5%	Japanese	15,840	1%
Arabic	150	0.4%	Russian	15,420	1%
Czech	140	0.3%	Polish	12,650	1%
Danish	115	0.3%	Arabic	10,830	0.5%
Turkish	110	0.3%	Portuguese	9,210	0.4%
All other	1,795	4%	All other	134,315	6%

Table #11—Mother Tongue, West Vancouver, 2001 & 2011

West Vancouver 2001			West Vancouver 2011		
Population by Mother Tongue	40,855		Population by Mother Tongue	42,130	
Multiple Responses	385	1%	Multiple Responses	600	1%
Single Responses	40,475	99%	Single responses	41,530	99%
English	30,445	75%	English	28,280	68%
Chinese*	2,875	7%	Chinese*	3,345	8%
Persian (Farsi)	1,930	5%	Persian (Farsi)	3,315	8%
German	1,160	3%	German	960	2%
Korean	490	1%	Korean	880	2%
French	355	1%	French	540	1%
Spanish	335	1%	Spanish	410	1%
East Indian**	325	1%	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	330	1%
Japanese	270	1%	East Indian**	325	1%
Italian	265	1%	Polish	255	1%
All other single responses	2,045	5%	All other single responses	2,910	7%

* Chinese includes Cantonese, Mandarin & other Chinese languages not otherwise specified.

** East Indian languages include Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Tamil.