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Key Industries for Bilinguals and Polyglots

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Some careers use second language skills more than others. Here are four industries for bilinguals and polyglots:

1. \*\*Trade.\*\* For even local businessmen, mastering a new language means new client base, more [successful negotiations] (https://thelanguageflagship.org/media/docs/reports/what\_business\_wants\_report\_final\_7\_09.pdf) , and improved cooperation. But the export and import industry particularly requires foreign language knowledge. The US is the largest importer]( http://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/usa/) in the world, and the second largest exporter. Its main trading partners are China, Japan and Germany. The average salary for an import/export analyst is [over $55,000(http://www.payscale.com/research/US/Job=Import%2FExport\_Analyst/Salary), and speaking a foreign language increases your [salary and opportunities]( http://time.com/money/137042/foreign-language-fluency-pay-salary/).

2. \*\*Hospitality\*\* – In 2014 over [75 million tourists](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ST.INT.ARVL/countries?display=default) arrived in the US, and only two English-speaking nations make it into the [top 5 countries of origin](https://www.dhs.gov/yearbook-immigration-statistics-2014-nonimmigrant-admissions). The remaining three nations with the most tourists to the US are Mexico, Japan and Germany. Hoteliers, flight attendants, and tour guides may benefit from picking up a second language.

3. \*\*Translator and Interpreter\*\* - These positions requires that you at least be bilingual. According to the US government, there is an expected [job growth of 29%](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm#tab-1) until 2024. As translation is an interdisciplinary career, you can specialize in an industry you already know, such as engineering, business, or medicine. Due to the nature of this career, you can work in-house at a translation agency or from home.

4. \*\*Government\*\* – Interested in International relations, working in an embassy or even just becoming a local mayor? For the last ten years, the US government has initiated programs like [STARTALK and NSLI-y](https://www.wm.edu/offices/revescenter/internationalization/papers%20and%20presentations/mcginnfull.pdf) because they need more bilingual employees at home and abroad. More than [350 languages]( http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-185.html) are spoken across the US. [Several government sectors]( https://cllc.osu.edu/undergraduate/careers/broad-spectrum/government) find a second language desirable, including: the CIA, FBI, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Foreign Service Institute.

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