Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability..  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL).  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
 These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.  
 Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.