

# Summary by language size

LANGUAGE SIZE

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of languages in the world by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the languages by the number of digits in their population of first-language speakers.

The *Count* column gives the number of living languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate; the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 3 lists the largest languages of the world in descending order of population of first-language speakers. The *Primary Country* column names the country in which the primary entry for the language is found. The *Total Countries* column gives the number of countries in the world in which the language is established and thus listed with an entry on the page for that language. The *Speakers* column gives the number of first-language speakers in millions. The table rows in italic type represent macrolanguages (see [Macrolanguages](#) in "The problem of language identification"); in these cases the *Total Countries* and *Speakers* columns are totals for all the individual languages listed in the macrolanguage entry as members of the macrolanguage. Individual languages that are members of a macrolanguage are not counted in the ranking, but are listed as indented entries below the macrolanguage. Note that the indented listing of individual languages does not include all member languages; it includes only those that have at least one million speakers.



Table 2. Distribution of world languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
100,000,000 to 999,999,999	8	0.1	0.1%	2,709,546,730	40.78777	40.78777%
10,000,000 to 99,999,999	82	1.2	1.3%	2,609,446,190	39.28092	80.06869%
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	307	4.3	5.6%	948,917,508	14.28439	94.35308%
100,000 to 999,999	956	13.5	19.1%	305,209,791	4.59443	98.94751%
10,000 to 99,999	1,811	25.5	44.6%	61,803,881	0.93036	99.87787%
1,000 to 9,999	1,980	27.9	72.5%	7,630,091	0.11486	99.99272%
100 to 999	1,064	15.0	87.4%	470,472	0.00708	99.99981%
10 to 99	329	4.6	92.1%	12,268	0.00018	99.99999%
1 to 9	144	2.0	94.1%	584	0.00001	100.00000%
0	219	3.1	97.2%	0	0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	199	2.8	100.0%			
Totals	7,099	100.0		6,643,037,515	100.00000	

Table 3. Languages with at least 50 million first-language speakers

Rank	Language	Primary Country	Total Countries	Speakers (millions)	
1	Chinese <a href="#">[zho]</a>	China	37	1,284	
	Chinese, Gan <a href="#">[gan]</a>	China		1	21.7
	Chinese, Hakka <a href="#">[hak]</a>	China		13	47.8
	Chinese, Huizhou <a href="#">[czh]</a>	China		1	4.60
	Chinese, Jinyu <a href="#">[cjy]</a>	China		1	46.1
	Chinese, Mandarin <a href="#">[cmn]</a>	China		14	898
	Chinese, Min Bei <a href="#">[mnp]</a>	China		2	10.9
	Chinese, Min Dong <a href="#">[cdo]</a>	China		6	9.11
	Chinese, Min Nan <a href="#">[nan]</a>	China		11	48.3
	Chinese, Min Zhong <a href="#">[czo]</a>	China		1	3.10
	Chinese, Pu-Xian <a href="#">[cpx]</a>	China		3	2.56
	Chinese, Wu <a href="#">[wuu]</a>	China		1	80.1
	Chinese, Xiang <a href="#">[hsn]</a>	China		1	36.6
	Chinese, Yue <a href="#">[yue]</a>	China		13	72.9
2	Spanish <a href="#">[spa]</a>	Spain	31	437	
3	English <a href="#">[eng]</a>	United Kingdom	106	372	
4	Arabic <a href="#">[ara]</a>	Saudi Arabia	57	295	
	Arabic, Algerian Spoken <a href="#">[arg]</a>	Algeria		2	29.3
	Arabic, Chadian Spoken <a href="#">[shu]</a>	Chad		4	1.56
	Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken <a href="#">[avl]</a>	Egypt		4	1.92

	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [ar <sup>z</sup> ]	Egypt	1	64.5
	Arabic, Gulf Spoken [af <sup>b</sup> ]	Kuwait	10	7.45
	Arabic, Hijazi Spoken [ac <sup>w</sup> ]	Saudi Arabia	2	14.1
	Arabic, Libyan Spoken [ay <sup>l</sup> ]	Libya	3	4.80
	Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [ac <sup>m</sup> ]	Iraq	4	15.4
	Arabic, Moroccan Spoken [ar <sup>y</sup> ]	Morocco	3	23.3
	Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ar <sup>s</sup> ]	Saudi Arabia	4	4.49
	Arabic, North Levantine Spoken [ap <sup>c</sup> ]	Syria	3	26.1
	Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ay <sup>p</sup> ]	Iraq	3	8.59
	Arabic, Omani Spoken [ac <sup>x</sup> ]	Oman	4	2.31
	Arabic, Sa'idi Spoken [ae <sup>c</sup> ]	Egypt	1	22.4
	Arabic, Sanaani Spoken [ay <sup>n</sup> ]	Yemen	2	7.85
	Arabic, South Levantine Spoken [aj <sup>p</sup> ]	Jordan	4	8.44
	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [ap <sup>d</sup> ]	Sudan	3	28.9
	Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken [ac <sup>q</sup> ]	Yemen	3	7.51
	Arabic, Tunisian Spoken [ae <sup>b</sup> ]	Tunisia	1	11.6
5	Hindi [hi <sup>n</sup> ]	India	5	260
6	Bengali [be <sup>n</sup> ]	Bangladesh	4	242
7	Portuguese [po <sup>r</sup> ]	Portugal	13	219
8	Russian [ru <sup>s</sup> ]	Russian Federation	19	154
9	Japanese [ji <sup>p</sup> n]	Japan	2	128
10	Lahnda [la <sup>h</sup> ]	Pakistan	6	119
	Hindko, Northern [hno]	Pakistan	1	1.88
	Pahari-Potwari [ph <sup>r</sup> ]	Pakistan	2	3.54
	Punjabi, Western [pn <sup>b</sup> ]	Pakistan	2	92.7
	Saraiki [sk <sup>r</sup> ]	Pakistan	2	20.1
11	Javanese [ja <sup>v</sup> ]	Indonesia	3	84.4
12	Korean [ko <sup>r</sup> ]	South Korea	7	77.2
13	German, Standard [de <sup>u</sup> ]	Germany	27	76.8
14	French [fr <sup>a</sup> ]	France	53	76.1
15	Telugu [te <sup>l</sup> ]	India	2	74.2
16	Marathi [ma <sup>r</sup> ]	India	1	71.8
17	Turkish [tu <sup>r</sup> ]	Turkey	8	71.1
18	Urdu [ur <sup>d</sup> ]	Pakistan	6	69.1
19	Vietnamese [vie]	Viet Nam	3	68.1
20	Tamil [ta <sup>m</sup> ]	India	7	68.0
21	Italian [ita]	Italy	13	63.4
22	Persian [fa <sup>s</sup> ]	Iran	30	61.9
	Dari [pr <sup>s</sup> ]	Afghanistan	3	8.99
	Persian, Iranian [pe <sup>s</sup> ]	Iran	7	52.9
23	Malay [ms <sup>a</sup> ]	Malaysia	16	60.8
	Banjar [bj <sup>n</sup> ]	Indonesia	2	3.50
	Indonesian [in <sup>d</sup> ]	Indonesia	1	23.2
	Malay [zm]	Malaysia	3	16.1
	Malay, Central [ps <sup>e</sup> ]	Indonesia	1	1.59
	Malay, Jambi [ja <sup>x</sup> ]	Indonesia	1	1.00
	Malay, Kedah [me <sup>o</sup> ]	Malaysia	2	2.60
	Malay, Pattani [mf <sup>a</sup> ]	Thailand	1	1.00
	Minangkabau [mi <sup>n</sup> ka <sup>b</sup> au]	Indonesia	1	5.53
	Minangkabau, Eastern [mi <sup>n</sup> ka <sup>b</sup> au <sup>e</sup> ]	Indonesia	1	3.1

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