

BLOOMBERG RANKINGS

THE LANGUAGES OF BUSINESS

Which languages -- other than English -- are most useful for conducting business around the world?

LANGUAGE	SCORE*	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHERE LANGUAGE IS OFFICIAL	NUMBER OF SPEAKERS, MILLIONS	POPULATION IN COUNTRIES WHERE OFFICIAL, MILLIONS	2011 GDP, USD, BILLIONS	GDP GROWTH %, 2011-2016	EXPORTS + IMPORTS AS % GDP	SCHOOL LIFE EXPECTANCY, YEARS	WEIGHTED AVERAGE LITERACY RATE FOR ALL COUNTRIES WHERE LANGUAGE IS OFFICIAL	NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS, MILLIONS	INTERNET PENETRATION, % OF SPEAKERS	GEOGRAPHIC CONTINUITY (KM ² , MILLIONS)	TOURISM RECEIPTS AS % OF GDP
Mandarin	57.0	1.0	845.0	1,331.5	6,515.9	57.4	49.1	11.6	94.0	444.9	52.7	-	0.8
French	51.7	27.0	67.8	341.5	4,115.9	11.1	70.0	10.1	65.3	59.8	88.2	9.5	2.1
Arabic	50.1	23.0	221.0	361.7	2,662.5	25.7	91.3	10.5	71.5	65.4	29.6	13.9	2.9
Spanish	49.2	20.0	329.0	410.4	4,558.6	16.5	50.9	14.1	92.9	153.3	46.6	11.8	2.3
Russian	44.6	4.0	144.0	172.7	2,134.9	23.9	52.9	14.2	99.6	59.7	41.5	20.2	0.8
Portuguese	37.7	8.0	178.0	249.2	2,783.1	21.8	30.6	13.2	85.1	82.5	46.4	-	0.8
Japanese	34.1	1.0	122.0	127.6	5,821.9	8.0	24.8	15.1	99.0	99.1	81.3	-	0.2
German	24.0	6.0	90.3	109.3	5,079.5	9.2	89.1	15.9	98.9	75.2	83.2	0.5	1.7
Italian	19.6	4.0	61.7	68.4	2,784.6	7.6	56.9	16.2	98.8	36.7	59.5	0.3	2.1
Korean	16.0	1.0	48.8	48.7	1,126.5	22.2	95.9	16.9	97.9	39.4	80.8	-	1.1
Turkish	13.7	1.0	50.8	75.7	822.6	22.1	49.7	11.8	90.9	30.1	59.3	-	3.7

Sources: World Bank, IMF, Ethnologue, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), CIA, International Telecommunications Union, UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

As of: August 5, 2011

*Languages were awarded points from 0 to 100 based on position relative to each other. Points were summed to rank each language.

METHODOLOGY: To create this ranking, we first identified the 25 languages with the greatest number of native speakers, then narrowed the list to the 11 that are official languages of G20 countries. (Countries where English is the official language, or one of multiple official languages, were excluded.) We then compiled statistics from countries where each language is official. In countries with multiple official languages, statistics were included for each language. For example, Switzerland's data were included for its three official languages: German, French and Italian.