

2016 Census language data

Country of birth and main languages spoken

COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND POPULATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (2016 CENSUS)	MAIN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME		
Afghanistan 5114	Dari Parsian Hazaraghi Pashto Iranic, nfd Arabic	Bhutan 1305	Other Southern Asian Languages Nepali
Albania 195	Albanian Greek Italian	Bolivia 31	Spanish
Algeria 139	French Arabic Dutch	Bosnia-Herzegovina 2670	Bosnian Serbian Croatian Serbo-Croatian/ Yugoslavian, so described
Angola 83	Portuguese	Botswana 295	Tswana Shona Afrikaans Malayalam Swahili
Argentina 768	Spanish Italian	Brazil 3494	Portuguese Spanish Italian
Armenia 32	Russian Armenian	Brunei Darussalam 960	Mandarin Cantonese Malay Hakka Min Nan
Austria 1274	German Polish Hungarian Serbian Croatian	Bulgaria 352	Bulgarian Turkish Macedonian Arabic
Azerbaijan 67	Russian Azeri Turkish	Burkina Faso 9	French French Creole, nfd
Bahrain 236	Arabic Punjabi Malayalam Hindi Sinhalese Urdu	Burma 8707	Burmese Karen Burmese and related languages, nfd Burmese and related languages, nec Mandarin Chin Haka Mon
Bangladesh 2583	Bengali Indo-Aryan, nec Burmese and related languages, nec Urdu	Burundi 354	Kirundi (Rundi) Swahili French Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)
Belarus 95	Russian Belorussian	Cambodia 1256	Khmer Cantonese Vietnamese Mandarin Min Nan
Belgium 809	French Dutch German Afrikaans Italian	Cameroon 70	French African languages, nec
Belize 12	Spanish	Cape Verde 11	Portuguese
Benin 11	French	Central African Republic 13	French
Bermuda 103	None	Chad 5	French

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Chile 1617	Spanish Italian	1853	Italian Greek French Dinka
China (including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) 27,077	Mandarin Cantonese Chinese, nfd Min Nan Wu	El Salvador 1295	Spanish Italian German Danish
Colombia 1,704	Spanish Italian Khmer	Eritrea 455	Arabic Tigrinya Tigre Italian Amharic
Congo, Democratic Republic of the 448	Swahili French African languages, nec Dutch Vietnamese	Estonia 241	Estonian German Russian
Congo, Republic of the 177	Swahili French Kirundi Kinyarwanda	Ethiopia 1152	Amharic Oromo Tigrinya Arabic Somali
Cook Islands 91	Maori (Cook Island) Maori (New Zealand)	Fiji 1034	Hindi Fijian Gujarati Fijian Hindustani Southern Asian Languages, nfd
Costa Rica 41	Spanish	Finland 526	Finnish Swedish
Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) 74	French Dan (Gio-Dan) Krahn	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2988	Macedonian Albanian Greek Italian Romany
Croatia 5148	Croatian Serbian Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described Italian Bosnian	France 2790	French Italian Spanish Portuguese Arabic
Cuba 46	Spanish	French Polynesia 17	French
Curacao 13	Dutch	Gabon 3	French
Cyprus 443	Greek Turkish Armenian Serbian Cypriot, so described	Gambia 19	African languages, nfd Mandinka Bemba
Czech Republic 648	Czech German Serbian Polish Slovak	Gaza Strip and West Bank 181	Arabic Assyrian Neo-Aramaic
Denmark 1181	Czech English German Serbian Polish	Georgia 4	Russian
Djibouti 15	Somali Arabic French	Germany 10,964	German Polish Italian Ukrainian Croatian
Dominican Republic 10	Spanish	Ghana 435	Akan Ewe
Ecuador 86	Spanish		
Egypt	Arabic		

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	Ga African languages, nec Mandarin
Greece 2652	Greek Macedonian Italian German French
Guadeloupe 3	French
Guatemala 24	Spanish
Guinea 95	French Krio Fulfulde Mandinka African languages, nec
Honduras 31	Spanish
Hungary 1177	Hungarian German Macedonian Italian French
Iceland 156	Icelandic
India 29,915	Hindi Punjabi Gujarati Malayalam Tamil
Indonesia 10,140	Indonesian Mandarin Dutch Min Nan Vietnamese
Iran 3722	Farsi Arabic Kurdish Dari Assyrian Neo-Aramaic
Iraq 2601	Arabic Kurdish Assyrian Neo-Aramaic Turkish Farsi
Israel 691	Hebrew Arabic German Italian Dutch
Italy 19,477	Italian Spanish Croatian French German
Japan 3564	Japanese Korean Mandarin German

	Bengali
Jordan 349	Arabic Assyrian Neo-Aramaic
Kazakhstan 141	Russian Turkic, nec German French
Kenya 4397	Gujarati Swahili Punjabi Dinka Somali
Kiribati 25	Gilbertese
Kosovo 49	Albanian Bosnian
Korea, Democratic Republic of (North) 6	Korean
Korea, Republic of (South) 4098	Korean Japanese Mandarin German
Kuwait 369	Arabic Malayalam Urdu Hindi Tamil
Kyrgyzstan 53	Russian German Turkic, nec
Laos 202	Lao Vietnamese Mandarin Thai Cantonese
Latvia 346	Latvian Russian
Lebanon 1031	Arabic French Armenian Italian Tigrinya
Lesotho 23	Dutch African languages, nec Yoruba
Liberia 495	Loma (Lorma) Dan (Gio-Dan) Krahn Krio Mandinka
Libya 328	Arabic Italian Hindi
Liechtenstein 5	German Polish
Lithuania 183	Lithuanian Russian

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	German Polish
Luxembourg 39	Letzeburgish French
Madagascar 24	French
Malawi 238	Nyanja (Chichewa) Swahili African languages, nec Somali French
Malaysia 24,967	Mandarin Cantonese Malay Min Nan Tamil
Maldives 107	Dhivehi
Malta 999	Maltese Italian
Mauritania 18	Fulfulde French
Mauritius 3933	French Mauritian Creole French Creole Mandarin Hindi
Mexico 250	Spanish
Moldova 31	Russian Hebrew Romanian
Mongolia 98	Mongol Mandarin
Montenegro 137	Serbian Croatian Serbo-Croatian/ Yugoslavian, so described Bosnian Macedonian
Morocco 136	French Arabic Hebrew African languages, nfd Tigrinya
Mozambique 173	Portuguese
Namibia 300	Afrikaans German Ndebele
Nepal 920	Nepali Hindi Other Southern Asian languages Urdu
Netherlands 9982	Dutch German French

	Italian Afrikaans
New Caledonia 34	French
Nicaragua 42	Spanish
Nigeria 726	Yoruba Igbo African languages, nec Italian African languages, nfd
Niue 48	Niue
Norway 10	Norwegian Swedish Dutch French Spanish
Oman 211	Arabic Dutch Malayalam Urdu Farsi
Pakistan 2420	Urdu Pashto Dari Punjabi Balochi
Panama 33	Spanish
Papua New Guinea 1763	Tok Pisin Hiri Motu Yumplatok Cantonese Dutch
Paraguay 28	Spanish
Peru 579	Spanish
Philippines 17,231	Tagalog Filipino Bisaya Cebuano Min Nan
Poland 5568	Polish German Ukrainian Russian
Portugal 2450	Portuguese Italian Spanish German French
Puerto Rico 24	Spanish
Qatar 146	Arabic Malayalam Urdu Tagalog Sinhalese
Romania 1573	Romanian Hungarian German

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	Greek Italian	Solomon Islands 84	Solomon Islands Pijin Cantonese Tok Pisin Gilbertese
Russia 1235	Russian Polish Italian Greek Latvian	Somalia 1045	Somali Arabic Italian Gujarati
Rwanda 128	Kinyarwanda Kirundi Swahili French	South Sudan 488	Dinka Arabic Bari Nuer Acholi
Samoa 364	Samoan	Spain 1161	Spanish Italian French Catalan Dutch
American Samoa 10	Samoan Niue Tongan	Sri Lanka 5339	Sinhalese Tamil Southern Asian languages, nfd Dhivehi German
São Tomé and Príncipe 4	Portuguese	Sudan 2721	Arabic Dinka Acholi Tigrinya Bari
Saudi Arabia 1142	Arabic Malayalam Urdu Tagalog Bengali	Suriname 19	Dutch
Senegal 51	Fulfulde French African languages, nec	Swaziland 79	African languages, nec
Serbia 1660	Serbian Hungarian Bosnian Croatian Macedonian	Sweden 959	Swedish Farsi Spanish Arabic Danish
Seychelles 805	Seychelles Creole French French Creole Sinhalese German	Switzerland 1872	German French Swiss, so described Italian Spanish
Sierra Leone 421	Krio Fulfulde French Mandinka Themne	Syria 289	Arabic Armenian Kurdish Assyrian Neo-Aramaic
Singapore 13,972	Mandarin Malay Cantonese Tamil Min Nan	Tajikistan 17	Farsi Russian
Slovakia 343	Slovak Hungarian German Czech Polish	Tanzania 779	Kirundi Swahili Gujarati Punjabi Konkani
Slovenia 304	Slovene Serbian Croatian Bosnian Serbo-Croatian/ Yugoslavian, so described	Thailand 5663	Thai Karen Khmer Burmese

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	Vietnamese
Timor-Leste 424	Portuguese Tetum Mandarin Timorese Hakka
Togo 43	French Ewe
Tonga 213	Tongan
Trinidad and Tobago 407	Spanish
Tunisia 42	French Italian Maltese Arabic
Turkey 1047	Turkish Kurdish Greek German Armenian
Turkmenistan 5	Russian
Tuvalu 3	Tuvaluan
Uganda 528	Acholi Madi Luganda Gujarati Swahili
Ukraine 645	Ukrainian Russian Polish Italian German
United Arab Emirates 699	Arabic Malayalam Urdu Hindi Sinhalese
Uruguay 170	Spanish Italian
Uzbekistan 92	Russian Greek Uzbek
Vanuatu 51	French Bislama
Venezuela 449	Spanish Portuguese French Italian German
Vietnam 12,715	Vietnamese Cantonese Min Nan Mandarin Khmer
Yemen 98	Arabic Somali
Zambia	Bemba

2123	Nyanja (Chichewa) Gujarati Afrikaans Shona
Zimbabwe 9818	Shona Ndebele Afrikaans Gujarati Portuguese

- Languages are listed in order of highest number of speakers and are limited to the top five languages spoken where five languages or more are spoken. For selected countries, languages with nfd and nec (see third bullet point below) are excluded from top five where other languages are listed beneath.
- List excludes main English speaking countries. These are the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, the United States and Ireland. The list also excludes countries in which English was the only language spoken at home as indicated in the 2011 Census.
- 'nec' refers to languages that are 'not elsewhere classified' and 'nfd' refers to languages that are 'not further defined' as defined by the ABS. Further details of classifications of languages and the use of supplementary codes can be found on the ABS website.

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Languages spoken at home by people who speak English not well or not at all by age

Language spoken at home (2016 Census)	0–14 Years	15–24 Years	25–44 Years	45–64 Years	65+ Years	Total
Mandarin	2256	1104	4112	2977	1058	11507
Vietnamese	771	279	1721	2458	954	6183
Cantonese	412	275	790	1522	1059	4058
Italian	197	44	191	259	2484	3175
Arabic	845	114	772	514	164	2409
Korean	452	206	1129	393	80	2260
Punjabi	594	39	232	279	101	1245
Karen	247	107	400	243	69	1066
Persian (excluding Dari)	214	22	353	245	191	1025
Burmese	138	43	352	346	127	1006
Hazaraghi	186	107	500	196	18	1007
Spanish	251	42	192	166	294	945
Thai	180	110	356	225	40	911
Japanese	337	46	342	84	92	901
Indonesian	303	32	194	228	133	890
Portuguese	163	36	160	131	336	826
Dari	181	64	299	148	56	748
Serbian	100	3	62	307	284	756
Macedonian	75	4	37	136	430	682
Hindi	308	19	165	136	43	671
Gujarati	296	16	141	135	82	670
Tamil	288	16	212	95	41	652

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Malayalam	428	4	55	115	48	650
Croatian	24	3	20	146	427	620
Tagalog	215	31	132	124	32	534
Polish	71	7	17	137	282	514
Urdu	303	18	98	50	23	492
Malay	123	11	42	117	180	473
Greek	47	15	29	48	308	447
Khmer	43	8	142	178	69	440
Chinese, nfd	37	144	125	74	29	409
French	211	26	77	43	56	413
Filipino	186	10	77	67	29	369
Chin Haka	97	46	189	39	0	371
Somali	118	18	104	84	21	345
Russian	133	3	51	60	92	339
Turkish	91	26	104	67	22	310
Min Nan	10	0	28	80	173	291
Bosnian	36	4	10	161	78	289
Dinka	159	10	59	46	7	281
German	166	7	8	16	69	266
Bengali	131	17	72	27	20	267
Sinhalese	128	0	55	35	48	266
Auslan	53	18	51	88	24	234
Afrikaans	196	4	10	13	15	238
Nepali	83	9	67	51	10	220
Telugu	106	4	37	32	12	191
Burmese and related languages, nfd	56	19	67	29	4	175

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Romanian	41	9	19	46	53	168
Swahili	71	5	45	33	4	158
Tigrinya	16	16	45	61	12	150
Kirundi (Rundi)	32	8	70	35	3	148
Burmese and related languages, nec	40	4	53	22	3	122
Pashto	39	8	48	16	6	117
Hungarian	31	6	15	20	43	115
Dutch	54			15	42	111
Amharic	16	7	40	28	4	95
Oromo	35	18	32	8	0	93
Kurdish	31	0	33	23	0	87
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	7	0	0	31	49	87
Hakka	11			13	52	76
Marathi	46	0	9	14	5	74
Maori (New Zealand)	50	6	10	0	5	71
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	15	3	27	8	10	63
Albanian	22	0	12	10	18	62
Nuer	37	0	21	0	0	58
Samoan	18	3	5	18	3	47
Shona	36	0	10	5	0	51
Czech	17		8	4	18	47
Sign Languages, nfd	21	0	18	7	0	46
Lao	0	0	16	20	10	46
Bari	13	0	11	14	4	42
Ukrainian	6	0	13	12	8	39

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Other Southern Asian Languages, nfd	22	0	9	3		34
Swedish	31	0	0	3		34
African Languages, nec	7	3	14	4	4	32
Bulgarian	9	0	4	3	16	32
Finnish	12	0	0	3	15	30
Kannada	22	3	0	4	0	29
Bisaya	10	0	10	8	0	28
Cebuano	16	0	4	8	0	28
Mauritanian Creole	9	0	0	10	8	27
African Languages, nfd	8	0	10	3	5	26
French Creole, nfd	9	0	3	5	8	25
Akan	16	0	9	0	0	25
Estonian	13	0	11	0	0	24
Tongan	13	0	4	7	0	24
Mon	0	0	14	7	3	24
Balochi	16	3	0	3	0	22
Tok Pisin (NeoMelanesian)	9	0	13	0	0	22
Acholi	5	0	12	4	0	21
Tetum	5	0	10	6	0	21
Mongolian	11	0	8	0	0	19
Fulfulde	13	3	3	0	0	19
Irish	11	0	8	0	0	19
Madi	5	0	3	10	0	18
Slovak	9	0	3	6	0	18
Danish	13	0	4	0	0	17
Iranic, nfd	3	6	0	8	0	17

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Fijian	4	0	4	4	4	16
Kinyarwanda	0	0	9	5	0	14
Konkani	9	0	0	5	0	14
Key Word Sign Australia	13	0	0	0	0	13
Rohingya	3	3	7	0	0	13
Ewe	4	0	3	5	0	12
Wu	0	0	3	4	4	11
Uzbek	5	0	5	0	0	10
Total	16988	3551	15637	14151	10983	61318

Note:

- Languages are listed in order of highest number of speakers. Those languages are listed for which at least a total of 10 or more speakers.
- Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted by the ABS to avoid the release of confidential data. The ABS advises that no reliance should be placed on small cells.
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Aboriginal languages spoken at home in Western Australia by people who speak English not well or not at all by age

Language spoken at home (2016 Census)	0–14 Years	15–24 Years	25–44 Years	45–64 Years	65+ Years	Total
Ngaanyatjarra	105	37	44	28	13	227
Kriol	134	15	28	16	6	199
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	51	7	16	17	13	104
Pitjantjarjara	25	0	9	27	18	79
Martu Wangka	29	3	4	3	6	45
Gooniyandi	13	16	8	3	0	40
Walmajarri	9	0	3	3	8	23
Manyjilyjarra	14	0	4	0	4	22
Bardi	15	0	0	5	0	20
Pintupi	9	3	0	3	0	15
Nyangumarta	6	0	0	0	4	10
Total	444	96	130	137	96	903

Note:

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