

How Do the Top Ten Languages in North America Fare on Their Wikipedias?

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For Wikiconference North America

October 2021

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Complete table with footnotes: Read at your leisure!

NA Rank	Language Name ¹	Approx. # of Speakers in NA ^{1, a}	Language Dialect or Version	Spoken Rank World-wide ²	Approx. Total # of Speakers ²	% in NA ^b	1st Language Rank	Approx. # of 1st Language Speakers ³	Wiki Rank ⁴	Wiki ⁴	Articles ⁴	Total ⁴	Edits ⁴
1	English	334,000,000	English	1	1,348,000,000	24.78%	3	379,000,000	1	en	6,381,614	54,240,709	1,041,379,139
2	Spanish	125,000,000	Spanish	4	543,000,000	23.02%	2	460,000,000	9	es	1,716,412	7,499,637	138,083,176
3	French	18,000,000	French	7	267,000,000	6.74%	16	77,200,000	5	fr	2,362,091	11,537,588	186,107,261
4	Chinese (all dialects)	4,631,000	Mandarin	2	1,120,000,000	0.41%	1	918,000,000	15	zh	1,230,885	6,745,671	67,556,881
			Cantonese	18	85,000,000			73,100,000	65	zh-yue	119,604	264,029	1,697,840
			Wu	19	82,000,000			81,400,000	101	wuu	42,660	55,404	288,470
5	Tagalog	2,031,000	Tagalog	–	–	8.61%	51	23,600,000	100	tl	44,600	230,376	1,891,214
6	Vietnamese	1,500,000	Vietnamese	21	77,000,000	1.95%	18	76,000,000	13	vi	1,269,480	19,307,251	66,117,959
7	German	1,300,000	German	12	135,000,000	0.96%	17	76,100,000	4	de	2,617,010	7,248,016	214,404,014
8	Arabic	1,300,000	Egyptian Arabic	24	70,000,000	1.86%	5	64,600,000	11	arz	1,339,115	1,587,706	5,731,737
			Arabic	5	274,000,000			254,400,000	16	ar	1,137,438	7,446,708	55,286,687
9	Korean	1,200,000	Korean	20	82,000,000	1.46%	15	77,300,000	24	ko	552,621	2,550,000	30,268,553
10	Italian	1,085,000	Italian	27	68,000,000	1.60%	22	64,800,000	8	it	1,717,877	7,205,373	122,837,485

¹Lyons, Dylan, "The 10 Most Spoken Languages In North America", Babel Magazine, <https://www.babel.com/en/magazine/languages-in-north-america>, 2021-08-24

²What are the top 200 most spoken languages?, Ethnologue, <https://www.ethnologue.com/guides/ethnologue200>, retrieved 2021-02-26. Via [[List of languages by total number of speakers#Ethnologue (2021, 24th edition)]]

³Summary by language size, Ethnologue, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20190312060544/https://www.ethnologue.com/statistics/size> archived on 2019-03-12 (dead URL). Via [[List of languages by number of native speakers#Ethnologue (2019, 22nd edition)]]

⁴List of Wikipedias, Meta.wikimedia.org, accessed 2021-09-22

^a The Babble article defines North America as the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

^b Because there is no figures accessible for Talalog, here the number of 1st Language Speakers is the divisor.

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Focused table (larger font)

NA Rank	Language Name	Approx. # of Speakers in NA	Language Dialect or Version	Spoken Rank World-wide	Approx. Total # of Speakers	% in NA	1st Language Rank	Approx. # of 1st Language Speakers	Wiki Rank	Wiki
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3	French	18,000,000	French	7	267,000,000	6.74%	16	77,200,000	5	fr
4	Chinese (all dialects)	4,631,000	Mandarin	2	1,120,000,000	0.41%	1	918,000,000	15	zh
			Cantonese	18	85,000,000			73,100,000	65	zh-yue
			Wu	19	82,000,000			81,400,000	101	wuu
5	Tagalog	2,031,000	Tagalog	–	–	8.61%	51	23,600,000	100	tl
6	Vietnamese	1,500,000	Vietnamese	21	77,000,000	1.95%	18	76,000,000	13	vi
7	German	1,300,000	German	12	135,000,000	0.96%	17	76,100,000	4	de
8	Arabic	1,300,000	Egyptian Arabic	24	70,000,000	1.86%	5	64,600,000	11	arz
			Arabic	5	274,000,000			254,400,000	16	ar
9	Korean	1,200,000	Korean	20	82,000,000	1.46%	15	77,300,000	24	ko
10	Italian	1,085,000	Italian	27	68,000,000	1.60%	22	64,800,000	8	it

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Underrepresented Language Wikipedias¹

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10	Italian	1,085,000	Italian	27	68,000,000	1.60%	22	64,800,000	8	it

¹ Defined here as Wiki Rank being five or more less than the Spoken Rank Worldwide OR 1st Language Rank

How Do the Top Ten Languages in North America Fare on Their Wikipedias?

August 2021 Page Views by Country from <https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-projects>

English Wikipedia	Spanish Wikipedia	French Wikipedia																								
<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table> <tr> <td>3B</td> <td>United States of A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>829M</td> <td>United Kingdom</td> </tr> <tr> <td>827M</td> <td>India</td> </tr> <tr> <td>335M</td> <td>Canada</td> </tr> </table>	3B	United States of A	829M	United Kingdom	827M	India	335M	Canada	<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table> <tr> <td>216M</td> <td>Spain</td> </tr> <tr> <td>161M</td> <td>Mexico</td> </tr> <tr> <td>108M</td> <td>Argentina</td> </tr> <tr> <td>83M</td> <td>Colombia</td> </tr> </table>	216M	Spain	161M	Mexico	108M	Argentina	83M	Colombia	<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table> <tr> <td>466M</td> <td>France</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32M</td> <td>Belgium</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27M</td> <td>Canada</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19M</td> <td>United States of A</td> </tr> </table>	466M	France	32M	Belgium	27M	Canada	19M	United States of A
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Chinese (Mandarin) Wikipedia	Cantonese Wikipedia	Wu Wikipedia																								
<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table><tr><td>306M</td><td>Taiwan, Republic of</td></tr><tr><td>123M</td><td>Hong Kong, SAR of China</td></tr><tr><td>50M</td><td>United States of America</td></tr><tr><td>27M</td><td>Malaysia</td></tr></table>	306M	Taiwan, Republic of	123M	Hong Kong, SAR of China	50M	United States of America	27M	Malaysia	<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for September</p> <table><tr><td>2M</td><td>Hong Kong, SAR of China</td></tr><tr><td>988K</td><td>Taiwan, Republic of</td></tr><tr><td>349K</td><td>United States of America</td></tr><tr><td>172K</td><td>Canada</td></tr></table>	2M	Hong Kong, SAR of China	988K	Taiwan, Republic of	349K	United States of America	172K	Canada	<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table><tr><td>83K</td><td>Taiwan, Republic of</td></tr><tr><td>69K</td><td>United States of America</td></tr><tr><td>44K</td><td>India</td></tr><tr><td>35K</td><td>Germany</td></tr></table>	83K	Taiwan, Republic of	69K	United States of America	44K	India	35K	Germany
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Tagalog Wikipedia	Vietnamese Wikipedia	German Wikipedia																								
<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table> <tr> <td>2M</td> <td>Philippines</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90K</td> <td>United States of A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>56K</td> <td>India</td> </tr> <tr> <td>46K</td> <td>Canada</td> </tr> </table>	2M	Philippines	90K	United States of A	56K	India	46K	Canada	<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table> <tr> <td>75M</td> <td>Viet Nam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2M</td> <td>United States of A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>754K</td> <td>Hong Kong, SAR C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>585K</td> <td>Japan</td> </tr> </table>	75M	Viet Nam	2M	United States of A	754K	Hong Kong, SAR C	585K	Japan	<p>Page views by country</p> <p>Countries with the most views for August</p> <table> <tr> <td>677M</td> <td>Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70M</td> <td>Austria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>47M</td> <td>Switzerland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14M</td> <td>United States of A</td> </tr> </table>	677M	Germany	70M	Austria	47M	Switzerland	14M	United States of A
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Korean Wikipedia

Page views by country

Countries with the most views for August

74M	Korea (South)
2M	United States of A
812K	Japan
521K	Canada

Italian Wikipedia

Page views by country

Countries with the most views for August

472M	Italy
12M	United States of A
5M	Switzerland
4M	Germany

How Do the Top Ten Languages in North America Fare on Their Wikipedias?

The Special Case of Arabic / Egyptian Arabic

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The Special Case of Arabic / Egyptian Arabic

August 2021 Page Views by Country from <https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-projects>

Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia

Page views by country

Countries with the most views for August

923K	Egypt
390K	Saudi Arabia
183K	United States of A
145K	Iraq

Arabic Wikipedia

Page views by country

Countries with the most views for August

50M	Saudi Arabia
37M	Egypt
17M	Iraq
12M	Algeria

How Do the Top Ten Languages in North America Fare on Their Wikipedias?

The Special Case of Arabic / Egyptian Arabic

Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia ²		Arabic Wikipedia ³	
Page views	Country name	Page views	Country name
923,000	Egypt	37,000,000	Egypt
390,000	Saudi Arabia	17,000,000	Iraq
183,000	United States of America	12,000,000	Algeria
145,000	Iraq	11,000,000	Morocco
96,000	Germany	9,000,000	Jordan
89,000	Morocco	7,000,000	Kuwait
77,000	Jordan	6,000,000	United States of America

 Note that although the Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia has more articles than the Arabic Wikipedia, users access Arabic Wikipedia far more. For example, 287,735,863 worldwide page views of Arabic Wikipedia in August 2021 versus 14,388,515 for Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia. In the United States, the access of the Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia is about 3% of that for Arabic Wikipedia.

² [https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/arz.wikipedia.org/reading/page-views-by-country/normal|table|last-month|\(access\)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly](https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/arz.wikipedia.org/reading/page-views-by-country/normal|table|last-month|(access)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly)

³ [https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/ar.wikipedia.org/reading/page-views-by-country/normal|table|last-month|\(access\)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly](https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/ar.wikipedia.org/reading/page-views-by-country/normal|table|last-month|(access)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly)

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Suggestion

Of the top ten languages spoken in North America, if you wish to benefit underrepresented languages in an edit-a-thon or similar activity, consider:

- Spanish
- Chinese (any of Chinese [Mandarin], Cantonese, or Wu)
- Tagalog
- Arabic (but not Egyptian Arabic, which is overrepresented)