

Ethnologue: Languages of Armenia

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ECRML	European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992)
FPCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1998)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
IMB	International Mission Board
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCPRD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Armenia that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 12 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Armenia. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 15) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 16) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 18) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

Province” (page 20) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Armenia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 21) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 22) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 23) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 42 unique names are associated with the 12 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 25). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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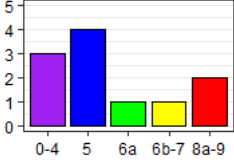
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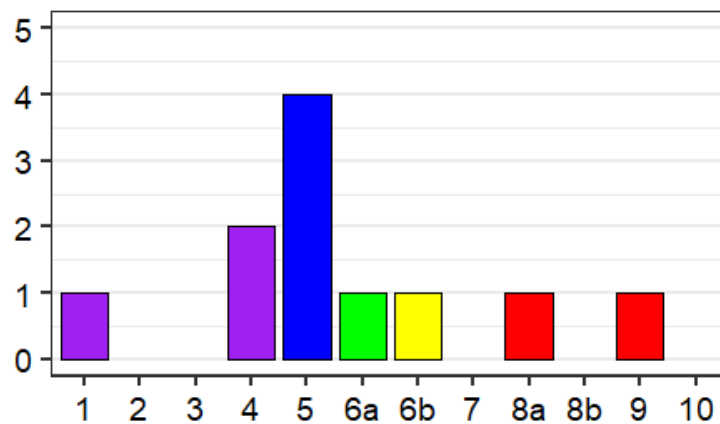
Country Overview

Name of country	Armenia												
Other names	Republic of Armenia												
Population	2,964,000 (2021 census)												
Comments	The Armenian province Gegharkunik claims the Artsvashen enclave with Bashkend town, founded by Armenians but lost in the Nagorno-Karabakh War (1984), still surrounded by Azerbaijan.												
Principal language	Armenian												
Literacy rate	100% (2017 UNESCO)												
Deaf population	3,500												
International conventions	CDE (1993), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2006), ECRML (2002), FCPNM (1998), ICCPR (1993), UNCRPD (2010), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Campbell and King 2011												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Armenia is 11. All are living languages. Of these, 6 are indigenous and 5 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 4 are developing, 1 is vigorous, 1 is in trouble, and 2 are dying. Also listed is 1 unestablished language.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Armenia</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	3	5	4	6a	1	6b-7	1	8a-9	2
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	3												
5	4												
6a	1												
6b-7	1												
8a-9	2												

See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Armenia with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 18) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Armenia. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Armenia and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Armenia by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 16) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established 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 L1 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 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	9.1	9.1%	2,960,000	97.99832	97.99832%
10,000 to 99,999	2	18.2	27.3%	54,500	1.80436	99.80268%
1,000 to 9,999	2	18.2	45.5%	5,410	0.17911	99.98179%
100 to 999	1	9.1	54.5%	500	0.01655	99.99834%
10 to 99	1	9.1	63.6%	50	0.00166	100.00000%
0	1	9.1	72.7%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	3	27.3	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	11	100.0		3,020,460	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Armenia by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 18) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Armenia. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	9.1	9.1%	2,960,000	97.9983	97.9983%	2,960,000	2,960,000
4	2	18.2	27.3%	31,000	1.0263	99.0247%	15,500	31,000
5	4	36.4	63.6%	24,000	0.7946	99.8192%	6,000	12,000
6a	1	9.1	72.7%	3,150	0.1043	99.9235%	3,150	3,150
6b	1	9.1	81.8%	2,260	0.0748	99.9983%	2,260	2,260
8a	1	9.1	90.9%	50	0.0017	100.0000%	50	50
9	1	9.1	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	11	100.0		3,020,460	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	1	9.1	2,260	0.1	2,260	2,260
Indo-European	5	45.5	3,014,500	99.8	602,900	31,000
Mixed language	1	9.1	50	0.0	50	50
Sign language	2	18.2	3,150	0.1	1,575	3,150
Turkic	1	9.1		0.0		
Uralic	1	9.1	500	0.0	500	500
<i>Totals</i>	11	100.0	3,020,460	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Armenian [hye] (Armjanski Yazyk, Eastern Armenian, Ermeni Dili, Ermenice, Haieren, Somkhuri ena). *Users:* 2,960,000 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1995, Constitution, Article 12). *Class:* Indo-European, Armenian. *Dialects:* Erevan (Eriwan), Khvoy-Salmst (Choi-Salmst), North Komedia, Ashkharik. Eastern Armenian (4,341,000) in Armenia and its Turkish and Iranian borderlands; Western Armenian (879,612) used elsewhere and only understood by some in Iran. In Syria, people in Kessaberen (northeastern mountain village of Kessab) and Musa Dagħ village (now relocated to Lebanon) speak related varieties which other Western Armenian speakers do not understand. Most Kessaberen users now learn Western Armenian. Western Armenian (Turkey) and Ararat (Russian Federation) are easily intelligible. *Type:* SVO; both prepositions and postpositions; noun head final; indefinite article affix; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 30 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev:* Taught in all primary and secondary schools, becoming the primary language of instruction in 1990. Fully developed. Bible: 1666–2017. *DLS:* Vital (0.79). *Writing:* Armenian script, primary usage. Braille script. *Other:* Christian. *Map:* 15:1. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,699,000. Also indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Iran. Also established in: Russian Federation.

Armenian Sign Language [aen] (ArSL, Hayeren žesteri lezow, HŽL). *Users:* 3,150 (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.1% of total population. Another estimate: 16,000 (2021 IMB). *Location:* Scattered. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects:* None known. Similar to Russian Sign Language (RSL) [rsl], and sometimes even called ‘Russian Sign Language’. However, only about 50% of respondents in a survey understood videos from Russia in RSL well, and signers from Russia did not understand conversations among Armenian deaf. However, children in one deaf school appear to be bilingual in both languages, because they study RSL in school (2020 N. Andrianova). There are substantial lexical differences between Armenian SL and Russian SL [rsl] as used in Russia. Older people tend to use more Russian signs, since they studied in Russia (2020 N. Andrianova). *Type:* One-handed fingerspelling system (for Armenian script). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, Community; Mixed use: Education, Work. Used by all. Some also use Armenian [hye], primarily written. Some also use Russian [rus], primarily written. Some also use Russian Sign Language [rsl]. RSL taught in at least one school. Used as L2 by Russian Sign Language [rsl]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Agency: Hayastani Khuleri Miavorman (Armenian Deaf Association): committees for sign language research, interpreting, and education (2008 WFD). *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Other:* Both Armenian SL and Russian SL [rsl] are present in Armenia, and usually not clearly distinguished, but there are substantial differences between them. Three deaf schools (2020 N. Andrianova). Younger deaf people fingerspell Armenian rather than Russian. Five sign language interpreters, employed by the Armenian Deaf Association. Interpreted news and children’s programming on television. No government support (2008 WFD). Christian.

Armenian, Western [hyw] (West Armenian). *Location*: Aragatsotn province: Aparan and Talin; Gegharkunik province: Gavar (Muş dialect). Shirak province: Aghin, Akhuryan, Artik, Gyumri (Karin dialect). *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Dialects*: Karin, Homshetsi, Muş (Mush). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Map*: 15:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800). Also indigenous in: Georgia, Turkey. Also established in 21 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] (Aisorski, Asoreren, Assyriski, Sooreth). *Users*: 2,260 in Armenia (2011 census). Ethnic population: 2,770 (2011 census). *Location*: Ararat province: Verin Dvin and Dimitrov villages; Armavir province: Nor Artagers village; Kotayk province: Arzni village. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1852–1919. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. The Assyrian and Chaldean separated denominationally during the 16th century. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700). Indigenous in: Iraq. Also established in: Georgia, Iran, Syria. Unestablished in: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Azerbaijani, North [azj] (Azerbaydzhani, Azeri Turk, Turkler). Autonym: Azərbaycan dili, Azərbaycanca. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Armenia. Ethnic population: 30 (2001 census). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani. *Dialect*: Erevan (Yerevan). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 24 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Armenian [hye]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1891–2009. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1920s. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Dagestan. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan since 1992. *Other*: Prior to the conflict with Azerbaijan, Armenia's largest minority had been Azeris, accounting for some 186,000 people. This population was displaced to Azerbaijan virtually in its entirety as a result of the conflict. Similarly Armenia received an influx of ethnic Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan (2021 World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples). Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,110,020. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Georgia. Also established in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Erzya [myv]. *Users*: 500 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Uralic, Mordvin. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 245,780. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 10,000 in Armenia (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users.

Location: Scattered. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. *Bible*: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] (Ezdiki, Kurmanji). Autonym: Kurdî-Kurmancî, Kurmancî. *Users*: 31,000 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). *Location*: Aragatsotn province: Talin town; Ararat Province: Artashat and Masis towns; Armavir province: Echmiadzin; Gegharkunik province: southeastern coast, Lake Sevan; Kotayk province: Abovian area; Shirak and Lori provinces; other main towns and cities. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Well-developed literary standard and much literature. Taught as subject in some primary schools, where Kurdish speakers are the majority. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. *Bible*: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Other*: Majority are Yezidi. *Map*: 15:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Georgia, Lebanon, Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Lomavren [rmi] (Armenian Bosa, Armenian Bosh, Boša, Bosh, Lom, Posha). *Users*: 50 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Location*: Ararat, Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor provinces. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Mixed language, Armenian-Romani. *Dialects*: None known. Grammatically restructured like Armenian [hye] with phonology and lexicon also influenced by Armenian. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Armenian [hye]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Global EGIDS level: 7 (Shifting). Also established in: Turkey (Posha).

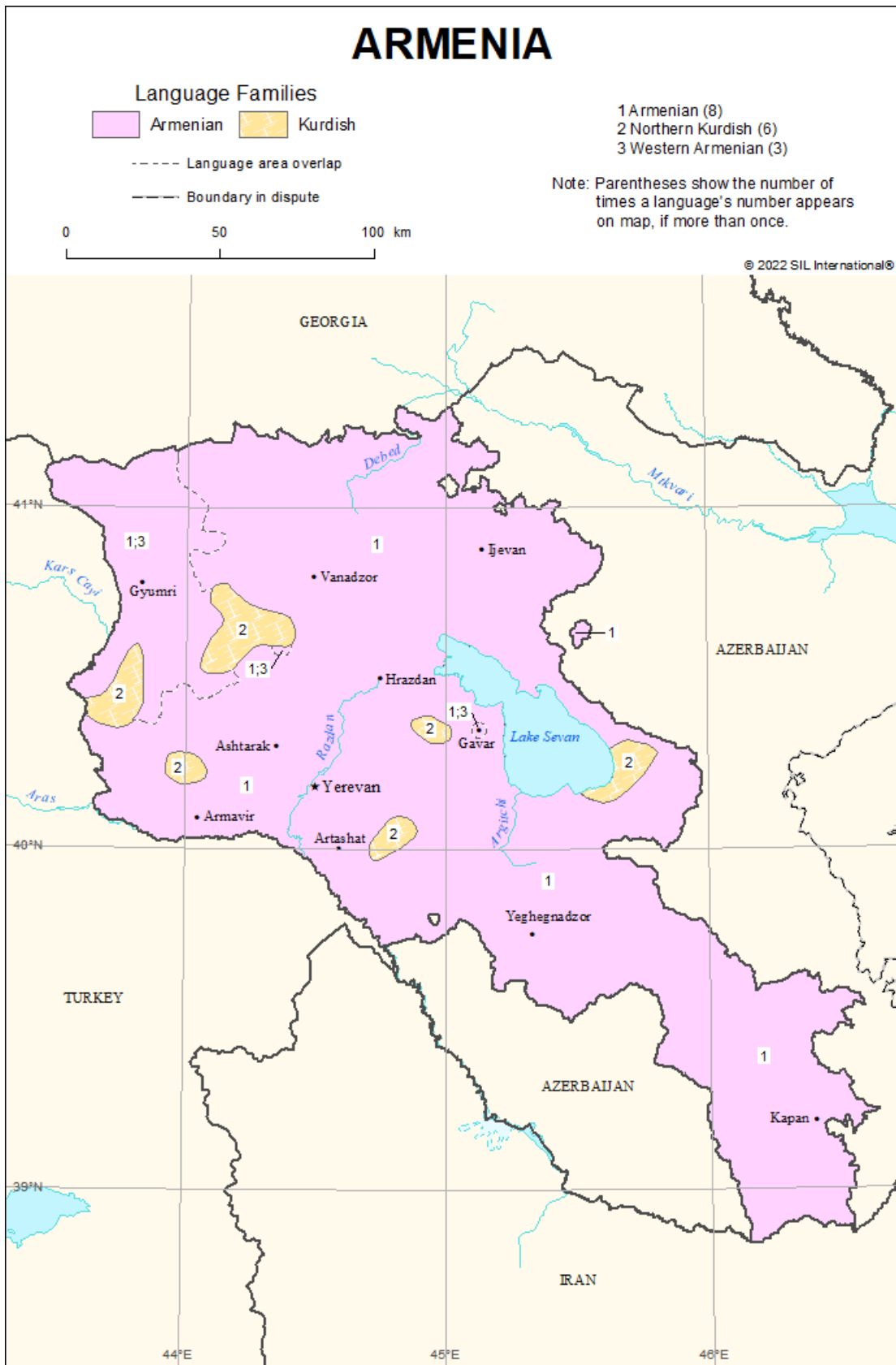
Romanian [ron]. *Users*: 1,200 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/ambigeneric); indefinite article and definite article suffix; case-marking (2 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 22 consonants, 7 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1688–1989. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church

Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Moldova, Romania, Ukraine. Also established in: Hungary, Israel, Serbia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Russian [rus]. *Users*: 1,613,500 in Armenia, all users. L1 users: 23,500 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). L2 users: 1,590,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; 1 prefix on a word; recursive addition of suffixes allowed; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Use*: Education, media. Used as L2 by Armenian [h_{ye}], Armenian Sign Language [a_{en}], Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [a_{ii}]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. For historical and political reasons, Russian is by far the most widely spoken language in Armenia after Armenian [h_{ye}]. In the 1990s, Russian lost its status as the second mother-tongue and was classified as a foreign language. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Also established in 16 other countries and unestablished in 30 more.

Russian Sign Language [rsl]. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling (Cyrillic script). *Lg Use*: Some also use Armenian Sign Language [a_{en}]. Used as L2 by Armenian Sign Language [a_{en}]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in at least one deaf school (2020 N. Andrianova). TV. Videos. Dictionary. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Both Armenian SL [a_{en}] and Russian SL are present in Armenia, and usually not clearly distinguished, but there are substantial differences between them; see entry on Armenian SL (2020 N. Andrianova). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 909,000. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Belarus, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Israel.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Armenia are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Armenian [[hye](#)] *Users:* 2,960,000 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1995, Constitution, Article 12). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,699,000.

10,000 to 99,999

Kurdish, Northern [[kmr](#)] *Users:* 31,000 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users:* 23,500 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). 1,613,500 in Armenia, all users. L2 users: 1,590,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

1,000 to 9,999

Armenian Sign Language [[aen](#)] *Users:* 3,150 (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.1% of total population. Another estimate: 16,000 (2021 IMB). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [[aii](#)] *Users:* 2,260 in Armenia (2011 census). Ethnic population: 2,770 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

Romanian [[ron](#)] *Users:* 1,200 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

100 to 999

Erzya [[myv](#)] *Users:* 500 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 245,780.

10 to 99

Lomavren [[rmi](#)] *Users:* 50 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

0

Azerbaijani, North [azj] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Armenia. Ethnic population: 30 (2001 census). *Status:* 9 (Dormant). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

Unknown

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

French [fra] *Users:* L2 users: 10,000 in Armenia (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Russian Sign Language [rsl] *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 909,000.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Armenia are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Armenian [[hye](#)] *Users*: 2,960,000 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). *Status*: Statutory national language (1995, Constitution, Article 12). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Russian [[rus](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1666–2017. *Writing*: Armenian script, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,699,000.

4 (Educational)

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 10,000 in Armenia (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Kurdish, Northern [[kmr](#)] *Users*: 31,000 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

5 (Developing)

Armenian, Western [[hyw](#)] *Writing*: Armenian script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Erzya [[myv](#)] *Users*: 500 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 245,780.

Russian Sign Language [[rsl](#)] *Lg Use*: Some also use Armenian Sign Language [[aen](#)]. Used as L2 by Armenian Sign Language [[aen](#)]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 909,000.

5 (Dispersed)

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users*: 1,613,500 in Armenia, all users. L1 users: 23,500 in Armenia (2013 UNSD). L2 users: 1,590,000 (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Education, media. Used as L2 by Armenian [[hye](#)], Armenian Sign Language [[aen](#)], Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [[aii](#)]. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

6a (Vigorous)

Armenian Sign Language [aen] *Users:* 3,150 (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.1% of total population. Another estimate: 16,000 (2021 IMB). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, Community; Mixed use: Education, Work. Used by all. Some also use Armenian [hye], primarily written. Some also use Russian [rus], primarily written. Some also use Russian Sign Language [rsl]. RSL taught in at least one school. Used as L2 by Russian Sign Language [rsl]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary.

6b (Threatened)

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] *Users:* 2,260 in Armenia (2011 census). Ethnic population: 2,770 (2011 census). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Russian [rus]. *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

8a (Moribund)

Lomavren [rmi] *Users:* 50 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Armenian [hye]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

9 (Dormant)

Azerbaijani, North [azj] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Armenia. Ethnic population: 30 (2001 census). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Armenian [hye]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1920s. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Dagestan. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan since 1992. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

Unestablished

Romanian [ron] *Users:* 1,200 in Armenia (Leclerc 2017a). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

Languages by Province

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Armenia. Under the name of each province is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Aragatsotn

Armenian, Western [hyw], [12](#)

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Ararat

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [12](#)

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Lomavren [rmi], [13](#)

Armavir

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [12](#)

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Gegharkunik

Armenian, Western [hyw], [12](#)

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Lomavren [rmi], [13](#)

Kotayk

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [12](#)

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Lori

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Shirak

Armenian, Western [hyw], [12](#)

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Syunik

Lomavren [rmi], [13](#)

Vayots Dzor

Lomavren [rmi], [13](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Armenia. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [12](#)

Indo-European, Armenian

Armenian [hye], [11](#)

Armenian, Western [hyw], [12](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East

Russian [rus], [14](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oil, French

French [fra], [13](#)

Mixed language, Armenian-Romani

Lomavren [rmi], [13](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Armenian Sign Language [aen], [11](#)

Russian Sign Language [rsl], [14](#)

Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani

Azerbaijani, North [azj], [12](#)

Uralic, Mordvin

Erzya [myv], [12](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 12 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

aen	Armenian Sign Language, 11	kmr	Kurdish, Northern, 13
aii	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, 12	myv	Erzya, 12
azj	Azerbaijani, North, 12	rmi	Lomavren, 13
fra	French, 13	ron	Romanian, 13
hye	Armenian, 11	rsl	Russian Sign Language, 14
hyw	Armenian, Western, 12	rus	Russian, 14

Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Aisorski**, *alt.* Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 12
- Armenian** [hye], 11, 15
- Armenian Bosa**, *alt.* Lomavren [rmi], 13
- Armenian Bosh**a, *alt.* Lomavren [rmi], 13
- Armenian Sign Language** [aen], 11, 0
- Armenian, Western** [hyw], 12, 15
see Armenian, Western [hyw], 12
- Armjanski Yazyk**, *alt.* Armenian [hye], 11
- ArSL**, *alt.* Armenian Sign Language [aen], 11
- Ashkharik**, *dial.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Asoreren**, *alt.* Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 12
- Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii], 12
- Assyriski**, *alt.* Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 12
- Azerbaijani, North** [azj], 12
see Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Azerbaydzhani**, *alt.* Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Azeri Turk**, *alt.* Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Boša**, *alt.* Lomavren [rmi], 13
- Bosha**, *alt.* Lomavren [rmi], 13
- Choi-Salmst**, *alt. dial.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Eastern Armenian**, *alt.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Erevan**, *dial.* Armenian [hye], 11
dial. Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Eriwan**, *alt. dial.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Ermeni Dili**, *alt.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Ermenice**, *alt.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Erzya** [myv], 12
- Ezdiki**, *alt.* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 13
- French** [fra], 13
- Haieren**, *alt.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Hayeren žesteri lezow**, *alt.* Armenian Sign Language [aen], 11
- Homshetsi**, *dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 12
- HŽL**, *alt.* Armenian Sign Language [aen], 11
- Karin**, *dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 12
- Khvoy-Salmst**, *dial.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Kurdish, Northern** [kmr], 13, 15
see Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 13
- Kurmanji**, *alt.* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 13
- Lom**, *alt.* Lomavren [rmi], 13
- Lomavren** [rmi], 13
- Muş**, *dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 12
- Mush**, *alt. dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 12
- North Komedia**, *dial.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Posha**, *alt.* Lomavren [rmi], 13
- Russian** [rus], 14
- Russian Sign Language** [rsl], 14, 0
- Somkhuri ena**, *alt.* Armenian [hye], 11
- Sooreth**, *alt.* Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 12
- Turkler**, *alt.* Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- West Armenian**, *alt.* Armenian, Western

[hyw], [12](#)

Yerevan, *alt. dial.* Azerbaijani, North [azj], [12](#)

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