

Ethnologue: Languages of Georgia

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
DOBES	Documentation of Endangered Languages (Dokumentation bedrohter Sprachen)
FPCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1998)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
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)
NCRP	North Caucasus Regional Partnership
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
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCPRD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Georgia 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 30 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Georgia. 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 19) 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 20) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 23) 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

Region” (page 27) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Georgia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 28) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 30) 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 31) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 83 unique names are associated with the 30 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 34). 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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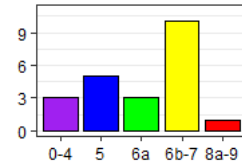
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Country Overview

Name of country	Georgia
Other names	Georgia
Population	3,729,000 (2020 census)
Comments	Census does not include results from Abkhazia.
Principal languages	Georgian, Russian
Literacy rate	99% (2017 UNESCO)
International conventions	CDE (1992), CPPDCE (2008), CSICH (2008), FCPNM (2005), ICCPR (1994), UNCRPD (2014)
General references	Campbell and King 2011, Naby 1975, Kibrik 1991, Sebeok 1963

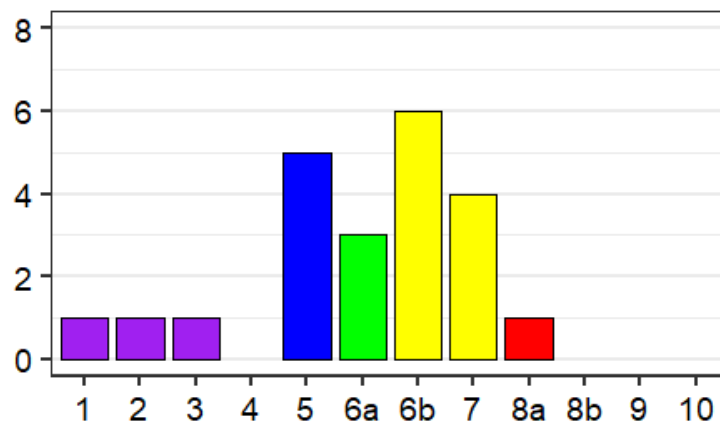
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Georgia is 22. All are living languages. Of these, 16 are indigenous and 6 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 5 are developing, 3 are vigorous, 10 are in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 8 unestablished languages.</p>
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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 Georgia 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 23) 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 Georgia. 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 Georgia 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 Georgia 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 20) 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	4.5	4.5%	3,270,000	77.11700	77.11700%
100,000 to 999,999	4	18.2	22.7%	771,000	18.18263	95.29964%
10,000 to 99,999	5	22.7	45.5%	180,700	4.26148	99.56112%
1,000 to 9,999	4	18.2	63.6%	15,360	0.36224	99.92335%
100 to 999	5	22.7	86.4%	3,170	0.07476	99.99811%
10 to 99	1	4.5	90.9%	80	0.00189	100.00000%
Unknown	2	9.1	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	22	100.0		4,240,310	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Georgia 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 23) 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 Georgia. 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	4.5	4.5%	3,270,000	77.1170	77.1170%	3,270,000	3,270,000
2	1	4.5	9.1%	109,000	2.5706	79.6876%	109,000	109,000
3	1	4.5	13.6%	44,700	1.0542	80.7417%	44,700	44,700
5	5	22.7	36.4%	420,000	9.9049	90.6467%	84,000	89,000
6a	3	13.6	50.0%	300,760	7.0929	97.7396%	100,253	8,400
6b	6	27.3	77.3%	90,710	2.1392	99.8788%	15,118	1,700
7	4	18.2	95.5%	2,240	0.0528	99.9316%	560	680
8a	1	4.5	100.0%	2,900	0.0684	100.0000%	2,900	2,900
<i>Totals</i>	22	100.0		4,240,310	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>
Abkhaz-Adyghe	1	4.5	109,000	2.6	109,000	109,000
Afro-Asiatic	2	9.1	3,660	0.1	1,830	1,830
Indo-European	5	22.7	237,700	5.6	47,540	38,850
Kartvelian	5	22.7	3,575,160	84.3	715,032	12,000
Nakh-Daghestanian	7	31.8	11,790	0.3	1,684	600
Turkic	2	9.1	303,000	7.1	151,500	151,500
<i>Totals</i>	22	100.0	4,240,310	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Abkhaz [abk] (Abkhazian, Abxazo). *Users*: 109,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Abkhazia region: Black Sea coast, separate areas near Gudaut'a and Och'amch're. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in Abkhazia, co-official with Georgian (1995, Constitution, Article 8). *Class*: Abkhaz-Adyghe, Abkhaz-Abazin. *Dialects*: Bzyb, Abzhywa (Abzhui), Samurzakan, Sadz, Ahchypsy, Tsabal. Closely related to Abaza [abq]. *Lg Use*: 94% speak it as L1. Used as L2 by Mingrelian [xmf]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary and secondary schools in Abkhazia region. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2015. *DLS*: Ascending (0.26). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1860s. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1984, used in Turkey. *Other*: Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 19:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 172,180. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Russian Federation, Syria, Ukraine.

Armenian, Western [hyw]. *Users*: 145,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Samtskhe-Javakheti region: Akhalkalaki and Akhaltsikhe; Kvemo Kartli region: Tsalka. Abkhazia region (Hamshen dialect). *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Dialects*: Karin (Erzurum), Artvin (Artwin), Hamshen. *Lg Use*: Many also use Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Map*: 19:18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800). Also indigenous in: Armenia, Turkey. Also established in 21 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] (Aisorski, Assyriski). *Users*: 2,900 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 14,000. *Location*: Transcaucasia area: scattered. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Many shifted to Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1852–1919. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. 'Aisor' is the Russian name for the people. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700). Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Iraq. Also established in: Armenia, Iran, Syria. Unestablished in: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Avar [ava]. *Users*: 1,700 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Kakheti region: Qvareli district, Tivi village. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Avar-Andic, Avar. *Dialect*: Antsukh. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; 3 genders (human masculine, human feminine and neuter); agglutinative; case-marking (4 core cases and 20 spatial cases); 45 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1938. *Map*: 19:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 704,000. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Kazakhstan, Turkey.

Azerbaijani, North [azj] (Azərbaycan dili, Azərbaycanca). Autonym: Azərbaycan dili, Azərbaycanca. *Users*: 227,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani. *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*: Some also use Georgian [kat]. *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. *Map*: 19:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,110,020. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan. Also established in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Bats [bbl] (Bac, Batsaw, Batsba, Batsbi, Batsbiitsy, Batsi, Tsova-Tush, Tush). *Users*: 600 (Hauk and Rentz 2019). Ethnic population: 1,600 (Gippert et al 2006). *Location*: Kakheti region: Akhmeta district, Zemo-Alvani (Upper Alvani). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Nakh, Batsi. *Lg Use*: Modern Bats heavily influenced by Georgian [kat]. Traditional Bats perhaps known by a few elders (Salminen 2007). Few domains. Adults only. Neutral attitudes. All shifting to Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Georgian [kat] is literary language. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script. *Other*: Traditional territory and way of life. Christian. *Map*: 19:3.

Bezhta [kap] (Bezht'alas mits). *Users*: 600 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 1,000 (2014 NCRP). *Location*: Kakheti region: Qvareli district, Chatliskure and Saruso villages. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Tsezic, East Tsezic. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1999–2005. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Map*: 19:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,100. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Russian Federation.

Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn]. *Users*: 760 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Kvemo Kartli region: mainly Garbadani village. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Use*: Adults only. Most shifting to Georgian [kat]. Many shifting to Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 19:5. *Worldwide*: Also established in: Russian Federation.

Chechen [che]. *Users*: 8,400 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Kakheti region: Ahmeta municipality, Duisi village and several nearby villages. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Nakh, Chechen-Ingush. *Dialect*: Kisti. *Type*: Ergative case system; many consonants and vowels; extensive inflectional morphology, many nominal cases, several gender classes; complex sentences by chaining participial clauses; verbs have gender agreement with the direct object or intransitive subject, but no person agreement (Nichols 1995). *Lg Use*: All also use Georgian [kat]. Many also use Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used between 1925–1938. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all

countries: 1,687,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Jordan. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Dido [ddo]. *Location*: Kakheti region: Qvareli district, Ibtsoxhi village. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Tsezic, West Tsezic. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Map*: 19:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,200. Also indigenous in: Russian Federation.

Estonian, Standard [ekk]. Autonym: Eesti Keel. *Users*: 1,500 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Uralic, Finnic. *Type*: SVO; 14 cases: affixes indicate case of noun phrases; verb affixes mark person, number of subject, and agreement (obligatory); genitives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes given and new information; active and passive voice; 4 moods in both voices: indicative, imperative, conditional, oblique; 2 infinitives for all verbs; 4 tenses in both voices and all moods: present, past, perfect, pluperfect; 3 degrees of comparison: positive, comparative, superlative; stress on first syllable; possible secondary stress on third syllable; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1739–1995. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,149,010 (as L1: 1,148,690; as L2: 320). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Estonia. Also established in: Australia, Finland. Unestablished in: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 16,600 in Georgia (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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*: 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.

Georgian [kat] (Common Kartvelian, Grunzinski yazyk). *Users*: 3,424,000 in Georgia, all users. L1 users: 3,270,000 in Georgia (2020). L2 users: 154,000 (2014 census). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1995, Constitution, Article 8). *Class*: Kartvelian, Georgian. *Dialects*: Imeretian, Racha-Lexchxum (Lechkhum), Adzhar (Acharian), Imerxev Kartlian, Kaxetian (Kakhetian), Ingilo, Tush, Xevsur (Kheysur), Moxev (Mokhev), Pshav, Mtiul, Ferejdan, Meskhur-Javakhuri. Imerxev is in Turkey, Ferejdan may no longer be spoken in Iran. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, object; ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; 27 consonants, 5 vowels, no diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; long consonant clusters. *Lg Use*: Meskhi are

ethnically Georgian, speak Georgian, are Eastern Orthodox, and live in southwest Georgia. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1743–2021. *DLS*: Vital (0.79). *Writing*: Braille script. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, primary usage. Khutsuri (Asomtavruli and Nuskhuri) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Adzhai Muslims are in Armenia. South Caucasian also called Kartvelian; Gruzinski is the Russian name. Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 19:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,878,780 (as L1: 3,724,240; as L2: 154,540). Also indigenous in: Turkey. Also established in: Azerbaijan, Iran. Unestablished in: Armenia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Hunzib [huz] (Hontl'os myts). *Users*: 410 in Georgia (Koryakov 2006). *Location*: Kakheti region: Lagodekhi municipality, Tkhilistsqaro, Qvareli district, Chatliskure village. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Tsezic, East Tsezic. *Type*: 27 consonants, 16 vowels, word stress generally linked to prefinal vowel; 5 noun classes; agreement between nouns and coreferent adjectives, pronouns, verbs, and adverbs marked by prefixes; nominative-ergative system; demonstratives. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 19:8. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,460. Also indigenous in: Russian Federation.

Judeo-Georgian [jge]. *Users*: 2,360 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions; T'bilisi. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Kartvelian, Georgian. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Oriental and Ashkenazic Jews in Georgia live separately. Judeo-Georgians live separately from non-Jewish Georgians. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 60,360. Indigenous in: Israel.

Kazakh [kaz]. *Users*: 1,850 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 18 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1820–2011. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China and Iran. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan. Also established in: Iran, Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States.

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] (Ezdiki, Kurdî, Kurmancî, Kurmanji). Autonym: Kurdî-Kurmancî, Kurmancî. *Users*: 15,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Kvemo Kartli and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions; T'bilisi area. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Lg Dev*: 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*: Non-indigenous. Yezidi. *Map*: 19:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: 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.

Laz [lzz] (Chan, Chanuri, Chanzan, Laze, Lazuri, Zan). Autonym: Lazuri. *Users*: 800 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Adjara region: a few villages. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Kartvelian, Zan. *Dialects*: Xopa (Hopa), Chxala (Ckhala), Vice-Arxava (Vital-Arkhava), Atina, Samurzakan-Zugdidi, Senaki. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Georgian [kat], rapidly (Salminen 2007). *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2020. *Writing*: Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, used in Georgia. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 19:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 21,800. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Also indigenous in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany.

Lezgi [lez]. *Users*: 2,500 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Lezgi, Nuclear Lezgi, East Lezgi. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2018. *Writing*: Caucasian Albanian script, no longer in use. Cyrillic script, used since 1938 to present. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 516,010. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Azerbaijan, Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Mingrelian [xmf] (Iverian, Margalepi, Margali, Margaluri, Margaluri nina, Megrel, Megrelian, Megruli). *Users*: 290,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Abkhazia region: Gali, Ochamchira, and T'q'varčeli districts; Samegrelo-Zemo Svateni, all districts; T'bilisi. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Kartvelian, Zan. *Dialects*: Samurzaq'ano-Zugdidian, Senak'ian. Officially considered a single language with Laz [lzz] called Zan, but linguists recognize they are not inherently mutually intelligible. Some mutual intelligibility of northern varieties of Laz spoken in Sarpi (Georgia), and to a lesser extent, Hopa, a bordering territory in Turkey (2020 A. Rostovtsev-Popiel). *Type*: Postpositions; case-marking (9 cases); agglutinative morphology; 30 consonants and 5 vowels. *Lg Use*: Younger generation uses the language less (Salminen 2007). All also use Georgian [kat]. Some also use Russian [rus], in Abkhazia. Also use Abkhaz [abk]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Ascending (0.24). *Writing*: Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 19:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 290,580. Unestablished in: Russian Federation.

Ossetic [oss] (Osetin, Ossete, Ossetian). *Users*: 33,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Imereti region: Sachkhere municipality; Kvemo Kartli region: small border areas near Tbilisi; Mtskheta-Mtianeti region: Akhalagori and Mtskheta municipalities; Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti region: Oni municipality; Shida Kartli region: Gori and Tskhinvali municipalities. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Northeastern. *Dialects*: Digor (Digorian, Digoron, Dogor), Iron, Kudar (South Osetin). Digor and Iron (the major dialect) are mutually unintelligible; may be separate languages. *Lg Use*: Most also use

Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2022. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Russia since 1844 and in Georgia since 1954. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, used in Georgia until 1954. Latin script, used in Russia during the 1920s–1930s. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 19:13. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 487,050. Also indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Syria, Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Polish [pol]. *Users*: 1,300 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West, Lechitic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; aspect; comparatives; 30 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1561–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Czechia, Poland, Ukraine. Also established in: Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Pontic [pnt] (Rumka). *Users*: 12,600 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, rarely used. Greek script, primary usage, used in Greece. Latin script, sporadic use on social media, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 775,600. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Greece, Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation.

Russian [rus]. *Users*: 2,374,700 in Georgia, all users. L1 users: 44,700 in Georgia (2020). L2 users: 2,330,000 (Arefyev 2012). *Location*: Adjara, Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, and T'bilisi regions. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *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*: Many also use Georgian [kat]. Used as L2 by Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aai], Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn], Chechen [che], Mingrelian [xmf]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Map*: 19:14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Also indigenous in: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 30 more.

Svan [sva] (Svanuri, Šwan-är). *Users*: 12,000 in Georgia (2020), decreasing. Ethnic population: 15,000 (2000 A. Kibrik). *Location*: Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti region: Lentekhi

municipality; Samegrelo-Zemo Svateni region: Mestia municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Kartvelian, Svan. *Dialects*: Upper Bal, Lower Bal, Lashkh (Lashx), Lentekh (Lentekhian, Lentex), Cholur (Cholurian). Svan is mutually unintelligible with Georgian [kat], even though the Svan community has long considered itself to be part of the Georgian nation (2019 K. Tuite). *Type*: 30 consonants and 18 vowels in 3 dialects (Cholur, Lashkh, Upper Bal) with long and short vowel phonemes, 9 vowels in 2 dialects (Lentekh and Lower Bal). *Lg Use*: All domains. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. All also use Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Many Georgian [kat] speakers still claim Svan ethnicity (Salminen 2007). Christian. *Map*: 19:15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,032. Also indigenous in: Russian Federation.

Tatar [tat]. *Users*: 2,800 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Western, Uralian. *Type*: SOV; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; 21 consonant and 12 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2016. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used prior to 1928. Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,127,970 (as L1: 4,317,970; as L2: 810,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: China, Kazakhstan, Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan.

Turkish [tur]. Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 2,700 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Udi [udi] (Udin, Udin muz). *Users*: 80 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 500 (1990 A. Kibrik). *Location*: Kakheti region: Oktomberi village. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Lezgi, Udi. *Dialect*: Oktomberi. *Lg Use*: Adults only. All shifting to Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Bible portions: 1902–2018. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 19:16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,200.

Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Azerbaijan. Unestablished in: Russian Federation.

Ukrainian [ukr]. *Users*: 5,700 in Georgia (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1903–2020. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine. Also established in: Brazil, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Urum [uum]. *Users*: 76,000 in Georgia (2020). *Location*: Shida Kartli region: Gori area. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Turkic. *Dialects*: A number of inherently intelligible dialects. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults, few child speakers (Salminen 2007). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Greek script, limited usage. *Other*: Ethnic Greek speakers. *Map*: 19:17. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 171,000. Also established in: Ukraine.

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Georgia 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

Georgian [kat] *Users:* 3,270,000 in Georgia (2020). 3,424,000 in Georgia, all users. L2 users: 154,000 (2014 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1995, Constitution, Article 8). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,878,780 (as L1: 3,724,240; as L2: 154,540).

100,000 to 999,999

Mingrelian [xmf] *Users:* 290,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 290,580.

Azerbaijani, North [azj] *Users:* 227,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Users:* 145,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Abkhaz [abk] *Users:* 109,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in Abkhazia, co-official with Georgian (1995, Constitution, Article 8). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 172,180.

10,000 to 99,999

Urum [uum] *Users:* 76,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 171,000.

Russian [rus] *Users:* 44,700 in Georgia (2020). 2,374,700 in Georgia, all users. L2 users: 2,330,000 (Arefyev 2012). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

Ossetic [oss] *Users:* 33,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 487,050.

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] *Users:* 15,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Pontic [pnt] *Users:* 12,600 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 775,600.

Svan [sva] *Users:* 12,000 in Georgia (2020), decreasing. Ethnic population: 15,000 (2000 A. Kibrik). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,032.

1,000 to 9,999

Chechen [che] *Users:* 8,400 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,687,700.

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users:* 5,700 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] *Users:* 2,900 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 14,000. *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

Tatar [tat] *Users:* 2,800 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,127,970 (as L1: 4,317,970; as L2: 810,000).

Turkish [tur] *Users:* 2,700 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Lezgi [lez] *Users:* 2,500 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 516,010.

Judeo-Georgian [jge] *Users:* 2,360 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 60,360.

Kazakh [kaz] *Users:* 1,850 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000).

Avar [ava] *Users:* 1,700 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 704,000.

Estonian, Standard [ekk] *Users:* 1,500 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,149,010 (as L1: 1,148,690; as L2: 320).

Polish [pol] *Users:* 1,300 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000).

100 to 999

Laz [lzz] *Users:* 800 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,800.

Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn] *Users:* 760 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

Bats [bbl] *Users:* 600 (Hauk and Rentz 2019). Ethnic population: 1,600 (Gippert et al 2006). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

Bezhta [kap] *Users:* 600 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 1,000 (2014 NCRP). *Status:* 6b*

(Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,100.

Hunzib [huz] *Users*: 410 in Georgia (Koryakov 2006). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,460.

10 to 99

Udi [udi] *Users*: 80 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 500 (1990 A. Kibrik). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,200.

Unknown

Dido [ddo] *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,200.

French [fra] *Users*: L2 users: 16,600 in Georgia (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Georgia 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)

Georgian [kat] *Users:* 3,424,000 in Georgia, all users. L1 users: 3,270,000 in Georgia (2020). L2 users: 154,000 (2014 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (1995, Constitution, Article 8). *Lg Use:* Meskhi are ethnically Georgian, speak Georgian, are Eastern Orthodox, and live in southwest Georgia. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1743–2021. *Writing:* Braille script. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, primary usage. Khutsuri (Asomtavruli and Nuskhuri) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,878,780 (as L1: 3,724,240; as L2: 154,540).

2 (Provincial)

Abkhaz [abk] *Users:* 109,000 in Georgia (2020). *Status:* Statutory provincial language in Abkhazia, co-official with Georgian (1995, Constitution, Article 8). *Lg Use:* 94% speak it as L1. Used as L2 by Mingrelian [xmf]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2015. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used since 1860s. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1984, used in Turkey. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 172,180.

3 (Wider communication)

Russian [rus] *Users:* 2,374,700 in Georgia, all users. L1 users: 44,700 in Georgia (2020). L2 users: 2,330,000 (Arefyev 2012). *Status:* De facto national working language. *Lg Use:* Many also use Georgian [kat]. Used as L2 by Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn], Chechen [che], Mingrelian [xmf]. *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).

5 (Developing)

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Users:* 145,000 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use:* Many also use Georgian [kat]. *Writing:* Armenian script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Ossetic [oss] *Users:* 33,000 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use:* Most also use Georgian [kat]. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used in Russia since 1844 and in Georgia since 1954. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, used in Georgia until 1954. Latin script, used in Russia during the

1920s–1930s. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 487,050.

5 (Dispersed)

Azerbaijani, North [azj] *Users*: 227,000 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: Some also use Georgian [kat]. *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.

French [fra] *Users*: 16,600 in Georgia (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*: 15,000 in Georgia (2020). *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).

6a (Vigorous)

Chechen [che] *Users*: 8,400 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: All also use Georgian [kat]. Many also use Russian [rus]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used between 1925–1938. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,687,700.

Judeo-Georgian [jge] *Users*: 2,360 in Georgia (2020). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 60,360.

Mingrelian [xmf] *Users*: 290,000 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: Younger generation uses the language less (Salminen 2007). All also use Georgian [kat]. Some also use Russian [rus], in Abkhazia. Also use Abkhaz [abk]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 290,580.

6b (Threatened)

Avar [ava] *Users*: 1,700 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1938. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 704,000.

Bezhta [kap] *Users*: 600 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 1,000 (2014 NCRP). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,100.

Dido [ddo] *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,200.

Hunzib [huz] *Users*: 410 in Georgia (Koryakov 2006). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,460.

Svan [sva] *Users*: 12,000 in Georgia (2020), decreasing. Ethnic population: 15,000 (2000 A.

Kibrik). *Lg Use*: All domains. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. All also use Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,032.

Urum [uum] *Users*: 76,000 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults, few child speakers (Salminen 2007). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Greek script, limited usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 171,000.

7 (Shifting)

Bats [bbi] *Users*: 600 (Hauk and Rentz 2019). Ethnic population: 1,600 (Gippert et al 2006). *Lg Use*: Modern Bats heavily influenced by Georgian [kat]. Traditional Bats perhaps known by a few elders (Salminen 2007). Few domains. Adults only. Neutral attitudes. All shifting to Georgian [kat]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script.

Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn] *Users*: 760 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: Adults only. Most shifting to Georgian [kat]. Many shifting to Russian [rus]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar.

Laz [lzz] *Users*: 800 in Georgia (2020). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Georgian [kat], rapidly (Salminen 2007). *Writing*: Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, used in Georgia. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 21,800.

Udi [udi] *Users*: 80 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 500 (1990 A. Kibrik). *Lg Use*: Adults only. All shifting to Georgian [kat]. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,200.

8a (Moribund)

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] *Users*: 2,900 in Georgia (2020). Ethnic population: 14,000. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Many shifted to 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).

Unestablished

Estonian, Standard [ekk] *Users*: 1,500 in Georgia (2020). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,149,010 (as L1: 1,148,690; as L2: 320).

Kazakh [kaz] *Users*: 1,850 in Georgia (2020). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China and Iran. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,517,990 (as L1: 16,382,990; as L2: 135,000).

Lezgi [lez] *Users*: 2,500 in Georgia (2020). *Writing*: Caucasian Albanian script, no longer in use. Cyrillic script, used since 1938 to present. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 516,010.

Polish [pol] *Users*: 1,300 in Georgia (2020). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000).

Pontic [pnt] *Users:* 12,600 in Georgia (2020). *Writing:* Cyrillic script, rarely used. Greek script, primary usage, used in Greece. Latin script, sporadic use on social media, used in Turkey.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 775,600.

Tatar [tat] *Users:* 2,800 in Georgia (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used prior to 1928. Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,127,970 (as L1: 4,317,970; as L2: 810,000).

Turkish [tur] *Users:* 2,700 in Georgia (2020). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users:* 5,700 in Georgia (2020). *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in the 19th century, limited usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Languages by Region

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

Abkhazia

- Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Mingrelian [xmf], 15

Adjara

- Laz [lzz], 15
- Russian [rus], 16

Guria

- Russian [rus], 16

Imereti

- Ossetic [oss], 15
- Russian [rus], 16

Kakheti

- Avar [ava], 11
- Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Bats [bbl], 12
- Bezhta [kap], 12
- Chechen [che], 12
- Dido [ddo], 13
- Hunzib [huz], 14
- Russian [rus], 16
- Udi [udi], 17

Kvemo Kartli

- Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn], 12
- Judeo-Georgian [jge], 14

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14

Ossetic [oss], 15

Russian [rus], 16

Mtskheta-Mtianeti

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14

Ossetic [oss], 15

Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti

Ossetic [oss], 15

Svan [sva], 16

Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti

Mingrelian [xmf], 15

Svan [sva], 16

Samtskhe-Javakheti

Armenian, Western [hyw], 11

Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12

Judeo-Georgian [jge], 14

Russian [rus], 16

Shida Kartli

Ossetic [oss], 15

Urum [uum], 18

Tbilisi

Judeo-Georgian [jge], 14

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14

Mingrelian [xmf], 15

Russian [rus], 16

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Georgia. 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.

Abkhaz-Adyghe, Abkhaz-Abazin

Abkhaz [abk], [11](#)

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

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [11](#)

Bohtan Neo-Aramaic [bhn], [12](#)

Indo-European, Armenian

Armenian, Western [hyw], [11](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East

Russian [rus], [16](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Northeastern

Ossetic [oss], [15](#)

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

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [14](#)

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

French [fra], [13](#)

Kartvelian, Georgian

Georgian [kat], [13](#)

Judeo-Georgian [jge], [14](#)

Kartvelian, Svan

Svan [sva], [16](#)

Kartvelian, Zan

Laz [lzz], [15](#)

Mingrelian [xmf], [15](#)

Nakh-Daghestanian, Avar-Andic, Avar

Avar [ava], [11](#)

Nakh-Daghestanian, Lezgic, Udi

Udi [udi], [17](#)

Nakh-Daghestanian, Nakh, Batsi

Bats [bbl], [12](#)

Nakh-Daghestanian, Nakh, Chechen-Ingush

Chechen [che], [12](#)

Nakh-Daghestanian, Tsezic, East Tsezic

Bezhta [kap], [12](#)

Hunzib [huz], [14](#)

Nakh-Daghestanian, Tsezic, West Tsezic

Dido [ddo], [13](#)

Turkic

Urum [uum], [18](#)

Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani

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

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 30 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/>.

abk	Abkhaz, 11	kaz	Kazakh, 14
aii	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, 11	kmr	Kurdish, Northern, 14
ava	Avar, 11	lez	Lezgi, 15
azj	Azerbaijani, North, 12	lzz	Laz, 15
bbl	Bats, 12	oss	Ossetic, 15
bhn	Bohtan Neo-Aramaic, 12	pnt	Pontic, 16
che	Chechen, 12	pol	Polish, 16
ddo	Dido, 13	rus	Russian, 16
ekk	Estonian, Standard, 13	sva	Svan, 16
fra	French, 13	tat	Tatar, 17
huz	Hunzib, 14	tur	Turkish, 17
hyw	Armenian, Western, 11	udi	Udi, 17
jge	Judeo-Georgian, 14	ukr	Ukrainian, 18
kap	Bezhta, 12	uum	Urum, 18
kat	Georgian, 13	xmf	Mingrelian, 15

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.

- Abkhaz** [abk], 11, 19
- Abkhazian**, *alt.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Abxazo**, *alt.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Abzhui**, *alt. dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Abzhywa**, *dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Acharian**, *alt. dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Adzhar**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Ahchypsy**, *dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Aisorski**, *alt.* Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 11
- Antsukh**, *dial.* Avar [ava], 11
- Armenian, Western** [hyw], 11, 19
see Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Artvin**, *dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Artwin**, *alt. dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii], 11
- Assyriski**, *alt.* Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 11
- Atina**, *dial.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Avar** [ava], 11, 19
- Azerbaijani, North** [azj], 12, 19
see Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Azərbaycan dili**, *alt.* Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Azərbaycanca**, *alt.* Azerbaijani, North [azj], 12
- Bac**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Bats** [bbl], 12, 19
- Batsaw**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Batsba**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Batsbi**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Batsbiitsy**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Batsi**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Bezhta** [kap], 12, 19
- Bezht’alas mits**, *alt.* Bezhta [kap], 12
- Bohtan Neo-Aramaic** [bhn], 12, 19
- Bzyb**, *dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Chan**, *alt.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Chanuri**, *alt.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Chanzan**, *alt.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Chechen** [che], 12
- Cholur**, *dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Cholurian**, *alt. dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Chxala**, *dial.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Ckhala**, *alt. dial.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Common Kartvelian**, *alt.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Dido** [ddo], 13, 19
- Digor**, *dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Digorian**, *alt. dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Digoron**, *alt. dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Dogor**, *alt. dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Erzurum**, *alt. dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Standard Estonian**, *see* Estonian, Standard [ekk], 13

- Ezdiki**, *alt.* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14
- Ferejdan**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- French** [fra], 13
- Georgian** [kat], 13, 19
- Grunzinski yazyk**, *alt.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Hamshen**, *dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Honti'os myts**, *alt.* Hunzib [huz], 14
- Hopa**, *alt. dial.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Hunzib** [huz], 14, 19
- Imeretian**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Imerxev Kartlian**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Ingilo**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Iron**, *dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Iverian**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Judeo-Georgian** [jge], 14
- Kakhetian**, *alt. dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Karin**, *dial.* Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Kaxetian**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Kheysur**, *alt. dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Kisti**, *dial.* Chechen [che], 12
- Kudar**, *dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Kurdî**, *alt.* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14
- Kurdish, Northern** [kmr], 14, 19
see Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14
- Kurmancî**, *alt.* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14
- Kurmanji**, *alt.* Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 14
- Lashkh**, *dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Lashx**, *alt. dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Laz** [lzz], 15, 19
- Laze**, *alt.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Lazuri**, *alt.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Lechkhum**, *alt. dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Lentekh**, *dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Lentekhian**, *alt. dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Lentex**, *alt. dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Lower Bal**, *dial.* Svan [sva], 16
- Margalepi**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Margali**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Margaluri**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Margaluri nina**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Megrel**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Megrelian**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Megruli**, *alt.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Meskhur-Javakhuri**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Mingrelian** [xmf], 15, 19
- Mokhev**, *alt. dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Moxev**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Mtiul**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Oktomberi**, *dial.* Udi [udi], 17
- Osetin**, *alt.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Ossete**, *alt.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Ossetian**, *alt.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Ossetic** [oss], 15, 19
- Pshav**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Racha-Lexchxum**, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13
- Russian** [rus], 16, 19
- Sadz**, *dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Samurzakan**, *dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Samurzakan-Zugdidi**, *dial.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Samurzaq'ano-Zugdidian**, *dial.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- Senaki**, *dial.* Laz [lzz], 15
- Senak'ian**, *dial.* Mingrelian [xmf], 15
- South Osetin**, *alt. dial.* Ossetic [oss], 15
- Svan** [sva], 16, 19
- Svanuri**, *alt.* Svan [sva], 16
- Šwan-är**, *alt.* Svan [sva], 16
- Tsabal**, *dial.* Abkhaz [abk], 11
- Tsova-Tush**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
- Tush**, *alt.* Bats [bbl], 12
dial. Georgian [kat], 13
- Udi** [udi], 17, 19
- Udin**, *alt.* Udi [udi], 17
- Udin muz**, *alt.* Udi [udi], 17

Upper Bal, *dial.* Svan [sva], 16

Urum [uum], 18, 19

Vice-Arxava, *dial.* Laz [lzz], 15

Vital-Arkhava, *alt. dial.* Laz [lzz], 15

Xevsur, *dial.* Georgian [kat], 13

Xopa, *dial.* Laz [lzz], 15

Zan, *alt.* Laz [lzz], 15

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