

Ethnologue: Languages of Lithuania

Twenty-sixth edition data

David M. Eberhard, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig, Editors

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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
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
<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
EUD	European Union of the Deaf
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
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
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 Lithuania 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 15 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Lithuania. 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. *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.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 17) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 19) 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 County” (page 22) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Lithuania and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 23) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 24) 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 25) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 52 unique names are associated with the 15

languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 27). 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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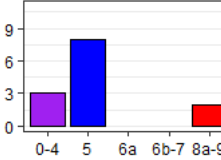
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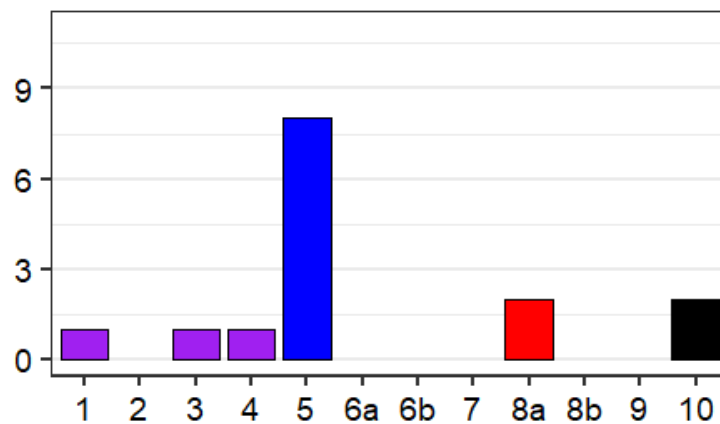
Country Overview

Name of country	Lithuania												
Other names	Republic of Lithuania												
Population	2,684,000 (2022 World Factbook)												
Principal language	Lithuanian												
Literacy rate	100% (2015 World Factbook)												
International conventions	CPPDCE (2006), CSICH (2005), FCPNM (2000), ICCPR (1991), UNCRPD (2010), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Campbell and King 2011												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Lithuania is 15. Of these, 13 are living and 2 are extinct. Of the living languages, 4 are indigenous and 9 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 8 are developing, and 2 are dying.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Lithuania</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>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	3	5	8	6a	0	6b-7	0	8a-9	2
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	3												
5	8												
6a	0												
6b-7	0												
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 Lithuania 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 19) 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 Lithuania. 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 Lithuania 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 Lithuania 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 17) 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	7.7	7.7%	2,400,000	73.68348	73.68348%
100,000 to 999,999	3	23.1	30.8%	835,000	25.63571	99.31920%
1,000 to 9,999	4	30.8	61.5%	21,520	0.66070	99.97989%
100 to 999	2	15.4	76.9%	580	0.01781	99.99770%
10 to 99	1	7.7	84.6%	75	0.00230	100.00000%
Unknown	2	15.4	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	13	100.0		3,257,175	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Lithuania 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 19) 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 Lithuania. 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	7.7	7.7%	2,400,000	73.6835	73.6835%	2,400,000	2,400,000
3	1	7.7	15.4%	191,000	5.8640	79.5475%	191,000	191,000
4	1	7.7	23.1%	290	0.0089	79.5564%	290	290
5	8	61.5	84.6%	665,810	20.4413	99.9977%	83,226	6,710
8a	2	15.4	100.0%	75	0.0023	100.0000%	38	75
<i>Totals</i>	13	100.0		3,257,175	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 3 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			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Indo-European	11	84.6	3,249,100	99.8	295,373	6,710
Sign language	1	7.7	8,000	0.2	8,000	8,000

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>
Turkic	1	7.7	75	0.0	75	75
<i>Totals</i>	13	100.0	3,257,175	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Belarusian [bel] (Belarusan). *Users*: 6,710 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 28,200 (2019 census). *Location*: Vilniaus county: primarily Vilnius city; possibly scattered in Alytaus, Panevezio, and Utenos counties. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject (in past tense); passives; tense and aspect; 37 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1973–2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, developed in the 16th century. Braille script, no longer in use. Cyrillic script, official usage. Latin script, official usage 1941–1944, modern occasional usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,766,550 (as L1: 1,376,550; as L2: 2,390,000). Indigenous in: Belarus. Also established in: Poland, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United States, Uzbekistan.

English [eng] (Angly). Autonym: English. *Users*: 1,100,290 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 290 in Lithuania (2014 UNSD). L2 users: 1,100,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in most primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 62,500 in Lithuania (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oil, 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.

German, Standard [deu] (Deutsch). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 386,290 in Lithuania, all users.

L1 users: 290 in Lithuania (2019 census). L2 users: 386,000 (2019). Ethnic population: 2,000 (2019 census). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Karaim [kdr] (Lashon kedar, Turkic Karaites). Autonym: Karaj Tili. *Users*: 75 in Lithuania (2014 UNSD). Ethnic population: 190 (2019 census). *Location*: Vilnius county: Trakai district municipality; scattered in a few other places. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Turkic, Western, Ponto-Caspian. *Dialect*: Trakay (Trakai). Reportedly similar to Karachay [krc] and Kumyk [kum]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. OT: 1842. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Crimea. Latin script, used in Lithuania. *Other*: No remaining speakers in Israel. Jewish. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 126. Also indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Ukraine.

Lithuanian [lit] (Lietuvių, Litauische, Litewski, Litovskiy). Autonym: Lietuviškai, Lietuvių kalba. *Users*: 2,400,000 in Lithuania (2021 census). Ethnic population: 2,380,000 (2021 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1992, Constitution, Article 14). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Eastern. *Dialects*: Aukštaitičių (Aukštaitiai, Aukštaitiškai, Highland Lithuanian), Dzūkų (Dzūkai), Suvalkiečių (Suvalkietiška). Aukštaitiai easily understand Suvalkiečių, Dzūkų with some difficulty, and vice versa. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Most also use Russian [rus] (European Commission 2006). Some also use English [eng] (European Commission 2006). Some also use Polish [pol] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 99%. Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools. Fully developed. *Bible*: 1735–1998. *DLS*: Vital (0.82). *Writing*: Latin script. Latin script, Fraktur variant, no longer in use. *Other*: Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,772,870 (as L1: 2,771,830; as L2: 1,040). Also established in: Poland. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Lithuanian Sign Language [lls] (LGK, Lietuvių gestų kalba, Lietuvių gestų kalba, LtSL). *Users*: 8,000 (2021 EUD). Approximately 0.3% of total population. Another estimate: 14,500 (2014 IMB). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2011, Law on Education, No. XI-1281, Article 30(6), as amended). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Some lexical variation, with attempts at standardization (Kupcinskas 1999). Influence from Russian Sign Language [rsl] from 1945 until 1990. Some

degree of mutual intelligibility with sign languages in other former Soviet countries, with ongoing tendency to diverge from Russian Sign Language [rsl] (2016 S. Parkhurst). *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: TV. Theater. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2018. Agency: Lithuanian Deaf Association (Lietuvos kurčiųjų draugija, LKD). *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Deaf schools. Deaf associations. Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl]. Video remote interpreting service launched in 2012. 111 working sign language interpreters (2021 EUD). Christian.

Polish [pol] (Lenku). *Users*: 598,000 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 144,000 in Lithuania (2019 census). L2 users: 454,000 (European Commission 2006). Ethnic population: 183,000 (2019 census). *Location*: Alytaus, Kauno, Marijampoles, and Vilniaus counties. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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 Use*: Used as L2 by Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1561–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 16. *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, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Romani, Baltic [rml] (Balt Romani, Balt Slavic Romani, Baltic Slavic Romani, Romani). Autonym: Romani. *Users*: 1,970 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 2,250 (2019 census). *Location*: Siauliu, Utenos, and Vilniaus counties. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Northern. *Dialects*: Lithuanian Romani, Polish Romani (Polska Roma). *Lg Use*: Also use Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Printed or pre-recorded Romani language materials may not be understandable outside the country (or context of surrounding languages) in which they were produced. Bible: 2015. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Belarus, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. Latin script, used in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,570. Also established in: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russian Federation.

Russian [rus] (Rusijos). *Users*: 2,511,000 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 191,000 in Lithuania (2019 census). L2 users: 2,320,000 (European Commission 2012). Ethnic population: 141,000 (2019 census). *Location*: Kauno county: Jonava municipality; Klaipėdos county: Klaipėda City municipality; Utenos county: Ingalina, Visaginas, and Zarasai municipalities; Vilniaus county: Elektrenai, Švenčionys, Trakai, Vilnius, and Vilnius City municipalities, Naujamiestis and Senamiestis neighborhoods. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *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*: Used as L2 by Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *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.

Samogitian [sgs] (Lowland Lithuanian, Žemaitish, Žemaičiai, Žemaičių, Žemaitiškaï, Žemaitis). Autonym: Žemaitiu. *Users*: 500,000 (2009 A. Udovice). *Location*: Taurages, Telsiu and Klaipėdos counties. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Eastern. *Dialects*: None known. Closely related to Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Use*: Also use Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 1816–1904. *DLS*: Ascending (0.18). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 16.

Sudovian [xsv] (Jatvingian, Yatvingian, Yotvingian). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Lithuania. Last speaker died by the 1600s. *Location*: Alytaus county. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Western. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Belarus, Poland.

Ukrainian [ukr]. *Users*: 4,840 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 14,200 (2019 census). *Location*: Klaipėdos county: Klaipėda City municipality; Utenos county: Visaginas municipality; Vilniaus county: Elektrenai, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys, and Vilnius City municipalities. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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, Moldova, Poland. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd]. *Users*: A few hundred speakers. Ethnic population: 2,260 (2019 census). *Location*: Kauno, Klaipėdos, Siauliai, and Vilniaus counties. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish. *Dialect*: Northeastern Yiddish (Lithuanian Yiddish, Litvish). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine, feminine, neuter); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; 20 consonant, 6 vowels and 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Use*: Shifted to

Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1821–1936. In 2007, Lithuanian Jews were making efforts to bring back Yiddish in nursery school and hoping to add it to secondary schools as well (2007 BBC). *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Ukraine. Also established in 19 other countries and unestablished in 3 more.

Zemgalian [xzm] (Semigallian). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Lithuania. Last speaker likely died by the 16th century. *Location*: Panevezio and Siauliu counties. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Eastern. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Latvia.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Lithuania 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

Lithuanian [[lit](#)] *Users:* 2,400,000 in Lithuania (2021 census). Ethnic population: 2,380,000 (2021 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1992, Constitution, Article 14). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,772,870 (as L1: 2,771,830; as L2: 1,040).

100,000 to 999,999

Samogitian [[sgs](#)] *Users:* 500,000 (2009 A. Udovice). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users:* 191,000 in Lithuania (2019 census). 2,511,000 in Lithuania, all users. L2 users: 2,320,000 (European Commission 2012). Ethnic population: 141,000 (2019 census). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

Polish [[pol](#)] *Users:* 144,000 in Lithuania (2019 census). 598,000 in Lithuania, all users. L2 users: 454,000 (European Commission 2006). Ethnic population: 183,000 (2019 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,589,930 (as L1: 39,896,930; as L2: 693,000).

1,000 to 9,999

Lithuanian Sign Language [[lls](#)] *Users:* 8,000 (2021 EUD). Approximately 0.3% of total population. Another estimate: 14,500 (2014 IMB). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2011, Law on Education, No. XI-1281, Article 30(6), as amended).

Belarusian [[bel](#)] *Users:* 6,710 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 28,200 (2019 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,766,550 (as L1: 1,376,550; as L2: 2,390,000).

Ukrainian [[ukr](#)] *Users:* 4,840 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 14,200 (2019 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Romani, Baltic [[rml](#)] *Users:* 1,970 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 2,250 (2019 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,570.

100 to 999

English [eng] *Users:* 290 in Lithuania (2014 UNSD). 1,100,290 in Lithuania, all users. L2 users: 1,100,000 (European Commission 2012). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

German, Standard [deu] *Users:* 290 in Lithuania (2019 census). 386,290 in Lithuania, all users. L2 users: 386,000 (2019). Ethnic population: 2,000 (2019 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

10 to 99

Karaim [kdr] *Users:* 75 in Lithuania (2014 UNSD). Ethnic population: 190 (2019 census). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 126.

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Sudovian [xsv] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Lithuania. Last speaker died by the 1600s. *Status:* 10 (Extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Zemgalian [xzm] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Lithuania. Last speaker likely died by the 16th century. *Status:* 10 (Extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Unknown

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd] *Users:* A few hundred speakers. Ethnic population: 2,260 (2019 census). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

French [fra] *Users:* L2 users: 62,500 in Lithuania (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 Lithuania 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)

Lithuanian [[lit](#)] *Users:* 2,400,000 in Lithuania (2021 census). Ethnic population: 2,380,000 (2021 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (1992, Constitution, Article 14). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Most also use Russian [[rus](#)] (European Commission 2006). Some also use English [[eng](#)] (European Commission 2006). Some also use Polish [[pol](#)] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1735–1998. *Writing:* Latin script. Latin script, Fraktur variant, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,772,870 (as L1: 2,771,830; as L2: 1,040).

3 (Wider communication)

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users:* 2,511,000 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 191,000 in Lithuania (2019 census). L2 users: 2,320,000 (European Commission 2012). Ethnic population: 141,000 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Lithuanian [[lit](#)]. *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).

4 (Educational)

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 1,100,290 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 290 in Lithuania (2014 UNSD). L2 users: 1,100,000 (European Commission 2012). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Lithuanian [[lit](#)]. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

5 (Developing)

Belarusian [[bel](#)] *Users:* 6,710 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 28,200 (2019 census). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, developed in the 16th century. Braille script, no longer in use. Cyrillic script, official usage. Latin script, official usage 1941–1944, modern occasional usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,766,550 (as L1: 1,376,550; as L2: 2,390,000).

Lithuanian Sign Language [lls] *Users:* 8,000 (2021 EUD). Approximately 0.3% of total population. Another estimate: 14,500 (2014 IMB). *Status:* Recognized language (2011, Law on Education, No. XI-1281, Article 30(6), as amended). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev:* TV. Theater. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2018.

Romani, Baltic [rml] *Users:* 1,970 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 2,250 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Also use Lithuanian [lit]. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used in Belarus, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. Latin script, used in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,570.

Samogitian [sgs] *Users:* 500,000 (2009 A. Udovice). *Lg Use:* Also use Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 1816–1904. *Writing:* Latin script.

5 (Dispersed)

French [fra] *Users:* 62,500 in Lithuania (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).

German, Standard [deu] *Users:* 386,290 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 290 in Lithuania (2019 census). L2 users: 386,000 (2019). Ethnic population: 2,000 (2019 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

Polish [pol] *Users:* 598,000 in Lithuania, all users. L1 users: 144,000 in Lithuania (2019 census). L2 users: 454,000 (European Commission 2006). Ethnic population: 183,000 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Lithuanian [lit]. *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).

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users:* 4,840 in Lithuania (2019 census). Ethnic population: 14,200 (2019 census). *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).

8a (Moribund)

Karaim [kdr] *Users:* 75 in Lithuania (2014 UNSD). Ethnic population: 190 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Lithuanian [lit]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. OT: 1842. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used in Crimea. Latin script, used in Lithuania. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 126.

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd] *Users:* A few hundred speakers. Ethnic population: 2,260 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Lithuanian [lit]. *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

10 (Extinct)

Sudovian [xsv] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Lithuania. Last speaker died by the 1600s.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: none known.

Zemgalian [xzm] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Lithuania. Last speaker likely died by the 16th century. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Languages by County

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

Alytaus

- Belarusian [bel], 11
- Polish [pol], 13
- Sudovian [xsv], 14

Kauno

- Polish [pol], 13
- Russian [rus], 13
- Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14

Klaipėdos

- Russian [rus], 13
- Samogitian [sgs], 14
- Ukrainian [ukr], 14
- Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14

Marijampolės

- Polish [pol], 13

Panevezio

- Belarusian [bel], 11
- Zemgalian [xzm], 15

Siauliai

- Romani, Baltic [rml], 13

- Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14
- Zemgalian [xzm], 15

Tauragės

- Samogitian [sgs], 14

Telsiū

- Samogitian [sgs], 14

Utenos

- Belarusian [bel], 11
- Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Russian [rus], 13
- Ukrainian [ukr], 14

Vilniaus

- Belarusian [bel], 11
- Karaim [kdr], 12
- Polish [pol], 13
- Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Russian [rus], 13
- Ukrainian [ukr], 14
- Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14

Languages by Family

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

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Eastern

- Lithuanian [lit], [12](#)
- Samogitian [sgs], [14](#)
- Zemgalian [xzm], [15](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Baltic, Western

- Sudovian [xsv], [14](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East

- Belarusian [bel], [11](#)
- Russian [rus], [13](#)
- Ukrainian [ukr], [14](#)

Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, West, Lechitic

- Polish [pol], [13](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

- English [eng], [11](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German

- German, Standard [deu], [12](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish

- Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], [14](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Northern

- Romani, Baltic [rml], [13](#)

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

- French [fra], [11](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

- Lithuanian Sign Language [lls], [12](#)

Turkic, Western, Ponto-Caspian

- Karaim [kdr], [12](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 15 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/>.

bel	Belarusian, 11	rml	Romani, Baltic, 13
deu	German, Standard, 12	rus	Russian, 13
eng	English, 11	sgs	Samogitian, 14
fra	French, 11	ukr	Ukrainian, 14
kdr	Karaim, 12	xsv	Sudovian, 14
lit	Lithuanian, 12	xzm	Zemgalian, 15
lls	Lithuanian Sign Language, 12	ydd	Yiddish, Eastern, 14
pol	Polish, 13		

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.

- Anglų**, *alt.* English [eng], 11
- Aukshtaičiai**, *alt. dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Aukshtaičių**, *dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Aukštaitiškai**, *alt. dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Balt Romani**, *alt.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Balt Slavic Romani**, *alt.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Baltic Slavic Romani**, *alt.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Belarusan**, *alt.* Belarusian [bel], 11
- Belarusian** [bel], 11
- Deutsch**, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 12
- Dzukiškai**, *alt. dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Dzūkų**, *dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- English** [eng], 11
- French** [fra], 11
- German, Standard** [deu], 12
see German, Standard [deu], 12
- Highland Lithuanian**, *alt. dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Jatvingian**, *alt.* Sudovian [xsv], 14
- Karaim** [kdr], 12, 16
- Karaj Tili**, *alt.* Karaim [kdr], 12
- Lashon kedar**, *alt.* Karaim [kdr], 12
- Lenku**, *alt.* Polish [pol], 13
- LGK**, *alt.* Lithuanian Sign Language [lls], 12
- Lietuviškai**, *alt.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Lietuviu**, *alt.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Lietuviu gestu kalba**, *alt.* Lithuanian Sign Language [lls], 12
- Lietuvių gestų kalba**, *alt.* Lithuanian Sign Language [lls], 12
- Lietuvių kalba**, *alt.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Litauische**, *alt.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Litewski**, *alt.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Lithuanian** [lit], 12, 16
- Lithuanian Romani**, *dial.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Lithuanian Sign Language** [lls], 12, 0
- Lithuanian Yiddish**, *alt. dial.* Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14
- Litovskiy**, *alt.* Lithuanian [lit], 12
- Litvish**, *alt. dial.* Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14
- Lowland Lithuanian**, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14
- LtSL**, *alt.* Lithuanian Sign Language [lls], 12
- Northeastern Yiddish**, *dial.* Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14
- Polish** [pol], 13, 16
- Polish Romani**, *dial.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Polska Roma**, *alt. dial.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13
- Romani**, *alt.* Romani, Baltic [rml], 13

Romani, Baltic [rml], 13

see Romani, Baltic [rml], 13

Rusijos, *alt.* Russian [rus], 13

Russian [rus], 13

Samogitian [sgs], 14, 16

Semigallian, *alt.* Zemgalian [xzm], 15

Sudovian [xsv], 14

Suvalkiečių, *dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12

Suvalkietiška, *alt. dial.* Lithuanian [lit], 12

Trakai, *alt. dial.* Karaim [kdr], 12

Trakay, *dial.* Karaim [kdr], 12

Turkic Karaite, *alt.* Karaim [kdr], 12

Ukrainian [ukr], 14

Yatvingian, *alt.* Sudovian [xsv], 14

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14

see Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], 14

Yotvingian, *alt.* Sudovian [xsv], 14

Žemaičiai, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14

Žemaičių, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14

Žemaitis, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14

Žemaitiška, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14

Žemaitiu, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14

Zemgalian [xzm], 15

Zhemaitish, *alt.* Samogitian [sgs], 14

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