

Ethnologue: Languages of Portugal

Twenty-sixth edition data

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Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	11
Language Map	19
Languages by Population	20
Languages by Status	23
Languages by District	27
Languages by Family	28
Language Code Index	29
Language Name Index	30
Bibliography	32

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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)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
EUD	European Union of the Deaf
FCPNM	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
SIL	SIL International
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<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)
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 Portugal 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 26 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Portugal. 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 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 District” (page 27) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Portugal and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 28) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 29) 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 30) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 39 unique names are associated with the 26

languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 32). 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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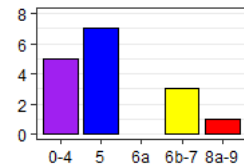
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Country Overview

Name of country	Portugal
Other names	Portuguese Republic
Population	10,242,000 (2022 World Factbook)
Principal language	Portuguese
Literacy rate	96% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	150,000 audilogically deaf people (Federação Portuguesa das Associações de Surdos)
International conventions	CDE (1981), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2008), FCPNM (2002), ICCPR (1978), UNCRPD (2009), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Agard 1984, Campbell and King 2011, Comrie 1987

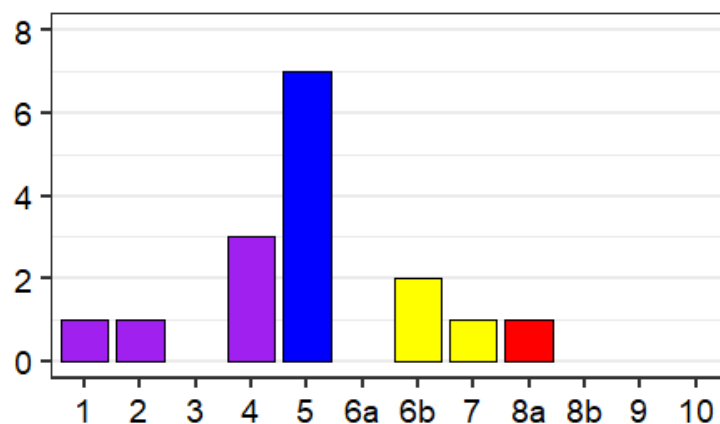
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Portugal is 16. All are living languages. Of these, 6 are indigenous and 10 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 5 are institutional, 7 are developing, 3 are in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 10 unestablished languages.



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 Portugal 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 Portugal. 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 Portugal 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 Portugal 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	6.2	6.2%	9,900,000	97.74351	97.74351%
10,000 to 99,999	10	62.5	68.8%	211,700	2.09013	99.83364%
1,000 to 9,999	3	18.8	87.5%	15,850	0.15649	99.99013%
100 to 999	2	12.5	100.0%	1,000	0.00987	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	16	100.0		10,128,550	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Portugal 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 Portugal. 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				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	1	6.2	6.2%	9,900,000	97.7435	97.7435%	9,900,000	9,900,000
2	1	6.2	12.5%	15,000	0.1481	97.8916%	15,000	15,000
4	3	18.8	31.2%	63,500	0.6269	98.5185%	21,167	20,000
5	7	43.8	75.0%	127,450	1.2583	99.7769%	18,207	10,000
6b	2	12.5	87.5%	20,600	0.2034	99.9803%	10,300	10,300
7	1	6.2	93.8%	1,500	0.0148	99.9951%	1,500	1,500
8a	1	6.2	100.0%	500	0.0049	100.0000%	500	500
<i>Totals</i>	16	100.0		10,128,550	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 4 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>
Creole	3	18.8	98,200	1.0	32,733	23,700
Indo-European	11	68.8	10,015,350	98.9	910,486	15,000
Mixed language	1	6.2	5,000	0.0	5,000	5,000

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>
Sign language	1	6.2	10,000	0.1	10,000	10,000
<i>Totals</i>	16	100.0	10,128,550	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 20,000 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity.

Total Arabic speakers in Portugal: 28,500 (2021 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Arabic, Moroccan Spoken [ary]. *Users*: 5,800 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Total Arabic speakers in Portugal: 25,800 (2021 Joshua Project). *Status*:

Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, adjectives, relatives after noun heads; articles and numerals before noun heads; question word initial; prefixes 3. suffixes 4; word order distinguishes subjects, objects, indirect objects, topic and comment; affixes do not indicate case of noun phrase; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject, object-obligatory; CCVCC; nontonal. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1932–2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 39,160,180 (as L1: 29,540,180; as L2: 9,620,000).

Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Morocco, Western Sahara. Also established in: Egypt, Spain. Unestablished in: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Italy, Libya, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Asturian [ast] (Asturian-Leonese, Asturianu). Autonym: Asturianu, Bable. *Users*: 10,000 in

Portugal (Salminen 2007). *Location*: Bragança district: Miranda do Douro and Vimioso municipalities, 2 towns. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Asturo-Leonese.

Dialects: West Asturian, Central Asturian (Bable). *Lg Use*: Folklore group promoting the language and culture which has been introduced into schools. Sometimes used in court. All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. Also use Spanish [spa], in formal situations and with outsiders. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1997. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Literature since 17th century: poetry, traditional ballads, and chivalric novels of oral tradition. Although Academy of the Asturian

Language formed in 1981, use in decline due to lack of government support due to overwhelming immigration into the region. Western Asturian may need orthography adaptation. *Map: 19. Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 709,000 (as L1: 261,000; as L2: 448,000). Also indigenous in: Spain.

Barranquian [ext] (Barranquenho, Barranquênhu, Cahtúo, Cahtúö, Ehtremeñu, Extremaduran, Extremeño). Autonym: Barranquênhu, Ehtremeñu. *Users:* 1,500 in Portugal. *Location:* Beja district: Barrancos municipality. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type:* SVO. *Lg Use:* All domains. Shifting to Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Map: 19. Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 201,500. Indigenous in: Spain (Extremaduran).

Bulgarian [bul]. *Users:* 5,030 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Eastern. *Type:* SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); vestiges of dual number; definite article affix; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; comparatives; 35 consonants, 6 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1864–1923. *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 19th century, experimental usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,745,340 (as L1: 6,541,540; as L2: 1,203,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Turkey. Also established in: Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Kazakhstan, Libya, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

Caló [rmq] (Calão, Gitano, Iberian Romani). Autonym: Caló. *Users:* 5,000 in Portugal. *Location:* Scattered. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Class:* Mixed language, Iberian-Romani. *Dialect:* Portuguese Calão. *Lg Use:* All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *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. Grammar. Bible portions: 1837–1872. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Christian. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 460,000. Indigenous in: Spain. Also established in: Brazil, Colombia, France.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users:* 10,400 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type:* SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0

(International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 60 more.

Dutch [nld]. Autonym: Nederlands. *Users*: 6,590 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*:

Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, Low Saxon-Low Franconian, Low Franconian. *Type*: SVO (SOV in subordinate clauses); prepositions; noun head final; gender (common/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; passives (middle, active, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 21 consonants, 13 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1526–2004. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1951. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,487,090 (as L1: 22,862,590; as L2: 1,624,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Belgium, Netherlands. Also established in: Aruba, Caribbean Netherlands, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Suriname, United States. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

English [eng] (Inglês). Autonym: English. *Users*: 2,778,500 in Portugal, all users. L1 users:

18,500 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 2,760,000 (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 Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in all 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] (Inglês). Autonym: français. *Users*: 2,545,000 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 25,000

in Portugal (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 2,520,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Galician [glg] (Galego, Gallego). Autonym: Galego. *Users*: 15,000 in Portugal (1994 SIL).

Location: Bragança and Vila Real districts: northern portions. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician. *Dialects*: Rionorese (Rionorês), Guadramilese (Guadramilês). *Lg Use*: Tension between those in Tras-os-Montes Portugal and Spain over dialect differences and identity. All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Lg Dev*: There is an Academy of the Galician Language. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *Bible*: 1989–1992. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,127,900. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Also indigenous in: Spain. Also established in: Argentina. Unestablished in: Uruguay.

German, Standard [deu] (Deutsch). Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 124,000 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 20,000 in Portugal (2019 Eurostat). L2 users: 104,000 (2019 Eurostat). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *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*: Taught as subject in secondary schools. 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.

Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Autonym: Kiriol. *Users*: 23,700 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Creole, Portuguese based. *Lg Use*: Most also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *Bible*: 1999. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau. Also established in: Senegal (Casamance Creole). Unestablished in: Gambia, Netherlands.

Hindi [hin]. *Users*: 4,100 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (direct, oblique), postpositions, and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 30 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; stress linked to syllable weight. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1835–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900). Global EGIDS

level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Kuwait, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sint Maarten, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Italian [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 5,990 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 34 more.

Kabuverdianu [kea]. Autonym: Kabuverdianu, Kriol. *Users*: 63,900 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc), increasing. *Location*: Lisboa: Primarily in the neighborhoods on the outskirts of Lisbon. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Creole, Portuguese based. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All home, all community, some religion, some work, and some education. Used by all, in predominantly Cape Verdean School districts. Mixed attitudes. The Portuguese tend to view Kabuverdianu as a perversion of the Portuguese language, which has a negative impact on the self image of L1 speakers. Most also use Portuguese [por]. Used as L2 by Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Bible* portions: 2004–2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Kabuverdianu is the second most commonly spoken language in Portugal. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,195,500 (as L1: 1,181,500; as L2: 14,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Cape Verde Islands. Also established in: São Tomé e Príncipe, United States. Unestablished in: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Gabon, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Netherlands, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

Minderico [drc] (Calão de Minde). Autonym: Minderico, Piaçã dos Charales do Ninhou. *Users*: 500 (2010 V. Ferreira). *Location*: Leiria district: Porto de Mós municipality, Mira de Aire; Santarém district: Alacana municipality, Minde. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Older adults only. Shifted to Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. TV. Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 19.

Mirandese [mwl] (Mirandês). Autonym: Mirandês. *Users*: 15,000 (2000). 10,000 use it regularly, 5,000 when they return to the area. 2,000 Sendinese in Sendim Vila. *Location*: Bragança district: Miranda do Douro and Vimioso municipalities, Miranda city; Spain border. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory language of provincial identity in 4 municipalities, northeast Portugal

(1999, Law No. 7-99 of 29 January). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Asturo-Leonese. *Dialects*: Mirandese Central (Mirandese Normal), Mirandés Setentrional (Mirandés Raiano), Mirandés Meridional (Mirandés Sendinês, Sendinês). *Lg Use*: Officially recognized since 1999, has gained some presence in education, media and public life since then (2007). All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in a few primary schools. Bible portions: 2011. *DLS*: Ascending (0.18). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Have different dress style from their neighbors (black, handwoven cloth). *Map*: 19.

Portuguese [por]. Autonym: Português. *Users*: 9,900,000 in Portugal (European Commission 2012). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2005, Constitution, Article 11(3)). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician. *Dialects*: Beiran (Beirão), Alentejan (Alentejano), Algarvian (Algarvio), Minhotan (Minhoto), Transmontan (Transmontano), Madeirese (Madeirense), Azorean (Açoriano), Estremenho, Brazilian Portuguese. Standard Portuguese of Portugal based on Estremenho dialect (Lisbon and Coimbra). Lexical similarity: 89% with Spanish [spa], 85% with Catalan [cat], 78% with Logudorese Sardinian [src], 75% with French [fra], 74% with Romansh [roh], 72% with Romanian [ron], 20% with English [eng]. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 21 consonants, 13 vowels, 11 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Use*: Some also use English [eng] (European Commission 2006). Some also use French [fra] (European Commission 2006). A few also use Kabuverdianu [kea], with some Portuguese children learning Kabuverdianu in the schools with predominant Cape Verdean populations. A few also use Spanish [spa] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 83%–84%. Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in all tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1751–2017. *DLS*: Thriving (0.96). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200). Also indigenous in: Spain. Also established in 14 other countries and unestablished in 39 more.

Portuguese Sign Language [psr] (LGP, Língua Gestual Portuguesa). *Users*: 10,000 in Portugal (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). About 0.1% of total population. Other estimates: 52,000 (2014 IMB); 60,000 (2021 EUD). Used by many of 8,000 deaf persons (Van Cleve 1986). *Location*: Scattered, including Azores and Madeira islands. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (1997, Constitution, Article 74(2h)). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: Lisbon, Oporto. Historical influence from Swedish Sign Language [swl]. Older signers attended separate schools for boys and girls in Lisbon and Oporto, resulting in some variation by gender and region. (Van Cleve 1986) These differences have largely disappeared in younger signers. No apparent relationship to Spanish sign language, based on a lexical comparison of non-iconic signs. (Eberle and Eberle 2012). *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Portuguese [por], with widely varying degrees of bilingualism

(spoken and written), and it is valued as a written language for access to mainstream society and employment. *Lg Dev*: Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Agency: Portuguese Federation of Associations of the Deaf (FPAR). *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Other*: Fingerspelling system shows many differences from other European countries. 100 working sign language interpreters (2019 EUD). Taught as L2 at the university level. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,550. Unestablished in: Cape Verde Islands.

Romani, Vlax [rmy]. Autonym: Romani. *Users*: 500 in Portugal. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Vlax. *Dialect*: Kalderash. *Lg Use*: All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *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. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used by Kalderash dialect. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 551,000. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Romania. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 10 more.

Romanian [ron]. *Users*: 33,200 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/ambigeneric); indefinite article and definite article suffix; case-marking (2 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 22 consonants, 7 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1688–1989. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Moldova, Romania, Ukraine. Also established in: Hungary, Israel, Serbia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

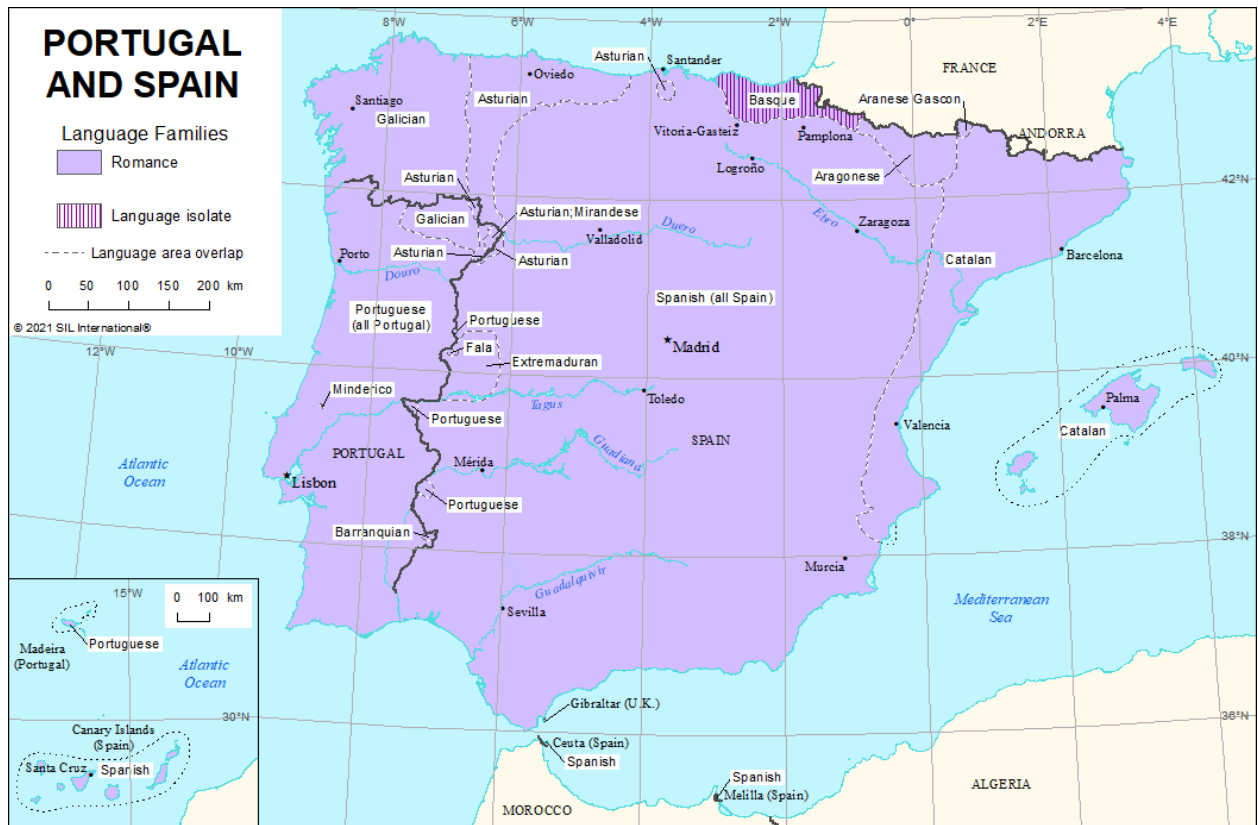
Russian [rus]. *Users*: 5,110 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; 1 prefix on a word; recursive addition of suffixes 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 Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *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 17 other countries and unestablished in 29 more.

Sãotomense [cri]. Autonym: Sãotomense. *Users*: 10,600 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Creole, Portuguese based. *Lg Use*: All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Latin script, unified alphabet (ALUSTP) for Sãotomense and all native languages of São Tomé recognized by government in 2010 (2020 M. Bouchard). Incipient use of Sãotomense writing in advertisements and unpublished church music. No published literature. Emerging use in private messaging (2019 D. Eberhard). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 55,600. Indigenous in: São Tomé e Príncipe.

Spanish [spa]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 707,350 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 9,350 in Portugal (2022). L2 users: 698,000 (2022). *Location*: Faro district, eastern area near border with Spain. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Asturian [ast], Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in 39 other countries and unestablished in 33 more.

Ukrainian [ukr]. *Users*: 39,500 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *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, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Portugal 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

Portuguese [[por](#)] *Users:* 9,900,000 in Portugal (European Commission 2012). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2005, Constitution, Article 11(3)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

10,000 to 99,999

Kabuverdianu [[kea](#)] *Users:* 63,900 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc), increasing. *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,195,500 (as L1: 1,181,500; as L2: 14,000).

Ukrainian [[ukr](#)] *Users:* 39,500 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,026,920 (as L1: 26,862,920; as L2: 6,164,000).

Romanian [[ron](#)] *Users:* 33,200 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 25,000 in Portugal (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. 2,545,000 in Portugal, all users. L2 users: 2,520,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Guinea-Bissau Creole [[pov](#)] *Users:* 23,700 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000).

Arabic, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users:* 20,000 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Total Arabic speakers in Portugal: 28,500 (2021 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

German, Standard [[deu](#)] *Users:* 20,000 in Portugal (2019 Eurostat). 124,000 in Portugal, all users. L2 users: 104,000 (2019 Eurostat). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 18,500 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. 2,778,500 in Portugal, all users. L2 users: 2,760,000 (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).

Galician [[glg](#)] *Users:* 15,000 in Portugal (1994 SIL). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,127,900.

Mirandese [[mwl](#)] *Users:* 15,000 (2000). 10,000 use it regularly, 5,000 when they return to the area. 2,000 Sendinese in Sendim Vila. *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory language of provincial identity in 4 municipalities, northeast Portugal (1999, Law No. 7-99 of 29 January).

Sãotomense [[cri](#)] *Users:* 10,600 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 55,600.

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users:* 10,400 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Asturian [[ast](#)] *Users:* 10,000 in Portugal (Salminen 2007). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 709,000 (as L1: 261,000; as L2: 448,000).

Portuguese Sign Language [[psr](#)] *Users:* 10,000 in Portugal (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). About 0.1% of total population. Other estimates: 52,000 (2014 IMB); 60,000 (2021 EUD). Used by many of 8,000 deaf persons (Van Cleve 1986). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (1997, Constitution, Article 74(2h)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,550.

1,000 to 9,999

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users:* 9,350 in Portugal (2022). 707,350 in Portugal, all users. L2 users: 698,000 (2022). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Dutch [[nld](#)] *Users:* 6,590 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,487,090 (as L1: 22,862,590; as L2: 1,624,500).

Italian [[ita](#)] *Users:* 5,990 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Arabic, Moroccan Spoken [[ary](#)] *Users:* 5,800 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Total Arabic speakers in Portugal: 25,800 (2021 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 39,160,180 (as L1: 29,540,180; as L2: 9,620,000).

Russian [[rus](#)] *Users:* 5,110 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

Bulgarian [[bul](#)] *Users:* 5,030 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,745,340 (as L1: 6,541,540; as L2: 1,203,800).

Caló [[rmq](#)] *Users:* 5,000 in Portugal. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 460,000.

Hindi [[hin](#)] *Users:* 4,100 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Barranquian [[ext](#)] *Users:* 1,500 in Portugal. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all

countries: 201,500.

100 to 999

Minderico [[drc](#)] *Users:* 500 (2010 V. Ferreira). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

Romani, Vlax [[rmy](#)] *Users:* 500 in Portugal. *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 551,000.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Portugal 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)

Portuguese [[por](#)] *Users:* 9,900,000 in Portugal (European Commission 2012). *Status:* Statutory national language (2005, Constitution, Article 11(3)). *Lg Use:* Some also use English [[eng](#)] (European Commission 2006). Some also use French [[fra](#)] (European Commission 2006). A few also use Kabuverdianu [[kea](#)], with some Portuguese children learning Kabuverdianu in the schools with predominant Cape Verdean populations. A few also use Spanish [[spa](#)] (European Commission 2006). *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. *Bible:* 1751–2017. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

2 (Provincial)

Mirandese [[mwl](#)] *Users:* 15,000 (2000). 10,000 use it regularly, 5,000 when they return to the area. 2,000 Sendinese in Sendim Vila. *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in 4 municipalities, northeast Portugal (1999, Law No. 7-99 of 29 January). *Lg Use:* Officially recognized since 1999, has gained some presence in education, media and public life since then (2007). All also use Portuguese [[por](#)], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 2011. *Writing:* Latin script.

4 (Educational)

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 2,778,500 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 18,500 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 2,760,000 (European Commission 2012). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Portuguese [[por](#)]. *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).

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 2,545,000 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 25,000 in Portugal (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 2,520,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Portuguese [[por](#)]. *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:* 124,000 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 20,000 in Portugal (2019 Eurostat). L2 users: 104,000 (2019 Eurostat). *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).

5 (Developing)

Caló [rmq] *Users:* 5,000 in Portugal. *Lg Use:* All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 460,000.

Portuguese Sign Language [psr] *Users:* 10,000 in Portugal (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). About 0.1% of total population. Other estimates: 52,000 (2014 IMB); 60,000 (2021 EUD). Used by many of 8,000 deaf persons (Van Cleve 1986). *Status:* Recognized language (1997, Constitution, Article 74(2h)). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Portuguese [por], with widely varying degrees of bilingualism (spoken and written), and it is valued as a written language for access to mainstream society and employment. *Lg Dev:* Videos. Dictionary. Grammar.
Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 10,550.

5 (Dispersed)

Galician [glg] *Users:* 15,000 in Portugal (1994 SIL). *Lg Use:* Tension between those in Tras-os-Montes Portugal and Spain over dialect differences and identity. All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,127,900.

Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov] *Users:* 23,700 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Most also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000).

Kabuverdianu [kea] *Users:* 63,900 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc), increasing. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. All home, all community, some religion, some work, and some education. Used by all, in predominantly Cape Verdean School districts. Mixed attitudes. The Portuguese tend to view Kabuverdianu as a perversion of the Portuguese language, which has a negative impact on the self image of L1 speakers. Most also use Portuguese [por]. Used as L2 by Portuguese [por]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,195,500 (as L1: 1,181,500; as L2: 14,000).

Romani, Vlax [rmy] *Users:* 500 in Portugal. *Lg Use:* All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used by Kalderash dialect. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 551,000.

Spanish [spa] *Users:* 707,350 in Portugal, all users. L1 users: 9,350 in Portugal (2022). L2 users: 698,000 (2022). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Asturian [ast], Portuguese [por]. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

6b (Threatened)

Asturian [ast] *Users:* 10,000 in Portugal (Salminen 2007). *Lg Use:* Folklore group promoting the language and culture which has been introduced into schools. Sometimes used in court. All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. Also use Spanish [spa], in formal situations and with outsiders. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 709,000 (as L1: 261,000; as L2: 448,000).

Sãotomense [cri] *Users:* 10,600 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* All also use Portuguese [por], as the language of education, government, business, and upward mobility. *Writing:* Latin script, unified alphabet (ALUSTP) for Sãotomense and all native languages of São Tomé recognized by government in 2010 (2020 M. Bouchard). Incipient use of Sãotomense writing in advertisements and unpublished church music. No published literature. Emerging use in private messaging (2019 D. Eberhard). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 55,600.

7 (Shifting)

Barranquian [ext] *Users:* 1,500 in Portugal. *Lg Use:* All domains. Shifting to Portuguese [por]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 201,500.

8a (Moribund)

Minderico [drc] *Users:* 500 (2010 V. Ferreira). *Lg Use:* Home, friends. Older adults only. Shifted to Portuguese [por]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. TV. Dictionary. *Writing:* Latin script.

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 20,000 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Total Arabic speakers in Portugal: 28,500 (2021 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Arabic, Moroccan Spoken [ary] *Users:* 5,800 in Portugal (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Total Arabic speakers in Portugal: 25,800 (2021 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 39,160,180 (as L1: 29,540,180; as L2: 9,620,000).

Bulgarian [bul] *Users:* 5,030 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 19th century, experimental usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,745,340 (as L1: 6,541,540; as L2: 1,203,800).

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn] *Users:* 10,400 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in

Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Dutch [nld] *Users*: 6,590 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1951. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,487,090 (as L1: 22,862,590; as L2: 1,624,500).

Hindi [hin] *Users*: 4,100 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Italian [ita] *Users*: 5,990 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Romanian [ron] *Users*: 33,200 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Moldova until 1991. Cyrillic script, Old Church Slavonic variant, 1688, experimental usage. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,478,820 (as L1: 24,461,820; as L2: 17,000).

Russian [rus] *Users*: 5,110 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *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).

Ukrainian [ukr] *Users*: 39,500 in Portugal (2007 J. Leclerc). *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 District

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

Beja

Barranquian [ext], [12](#)

Bragança

Asturian [ast], [11](#)

Galician [glg], [14](#)

Mirandese [mwl], [15](#)

Faro

Spanish [spa], [18](#)

Leiria

Minderico [drc], [15](#)

Lisboa

Kabuverdianu [kea], [15](#)

Santarém

Minderico [drc], [15](#)

Vila Real

Galician [glg], [14](#)

Languages by Family

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

Creole, Portuguese based

Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov], [14](#)

Kabuverdianu [kea], [15](#)

Sãotomense [cri], [18](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [13](#)

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

German, Standard [deu], [14](#)

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

Romani, Vlax [rmy], [17](#)

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

French [fra], [13](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Asturo-Leonese

Asturian [ast], [11](#)

Mirandese [mwl], [15](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian

Extremaduran [ext], [12](#)

Spanish [spa], [18](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician

Galician [glg], [14](#)

Minderico [drc], [15](#)

Portuguese [por], [16](#)

Mixed language, Iberian-Romani

Caló [rmq], [12](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Portuguese Sign Language [psr], [16](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 26 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/>.

apc	Arabic, Levantine, 11	ita	Italian, 15
ary	Arabic, Moroccan Spoken, 11	kea	Kabuverdianu, 15
ast	Asturian, 11	mwI	Mirandese, 15
bul	Bulgarian, 12	nld	Dutch, 13
cmn	Chinese, Mandarin, 12	por	Portuguese, 16
cri	Sãotomense, 18	pov	Guinea-Bissau Creole, 14
deu	German, Standard, 14	psr	Portuguese Sign Language, 16
drc	Minderico, 15	rmq	Caló, 12
eng	English, 13	rmy	Romani, Vlax, 17
ext	Extremaduran, 12	ron	Romanian, 17
fra	French, 13	rus	Russian, 17
glg	Galician, 14	spa	Spanish, 18
hin	Hindi, 14	ukr	Ukrainian, 18

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.

- Açoriano**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Alentejan**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Alentejano**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Algarvian**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Algarvio**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Levantine Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11
- Moroccan Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Moroccan Spoken [ary], 11
- Asturian** [ast], 11, 19
- Asturian-Leonese**, *alt.* Asturian [ast], 11
- Asturiano**, *alt.* Asturian [ast], 11
- Azorean**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Bable**, *alt. dial.* Asturian [ast], 11
- Barranquenho**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- Barranquênhu**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- Barranquian** [ext], 12, 19
- Beiran**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Beirão**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Brazilian Portuguese**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Cahtúo**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- Cahtúö**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- Calão**, *alt.* Caló [rmq], 12
- Calão de Minde**, *alt.* Minderico [drc], 15
- Caló** [rmq], 12
- Central Asturian**, *dial.* Asturian [ast], 11
- Mandarin Chinese**, *see* Chinese, Mandarin [cmn], 12
- Deutsch**, *alt.* German, Standard [deu], 14
- Ehtremeñu**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- English** [eng], 13
- Estremenho**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Extremaduran**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- Extremeño**, *alt.* Extremaduran [ext], 12
- French** [fra], 13
- Galego**, *alt.* Galician [glg], 14
- Galician** [glg], 14, 19
- Gallego**, *alt.* Galician [glg], 14
- German, Standard** [deu], 14
see German, Standard [deu], 14
- Gitano**, *alt.* Caló [rmq], 12
- Guadramilês**, *alt. dial.* Galician [glg], 14
- Guadramilese**, *dial.* Galician [glg], 14
- Guinea-Bissau Creole** [pov], 14
- Iberian Romani**, *alt.* Caló [rmq], 12
- Inglês**, *alt.* English [eng], 13
alt. French [fra], 13
- Kabuverdianu** [kea], 15
- Kalderash**, *dial.* Romani, Vlax [rmy], 17
- LGP**, *alt.* Portuguese Sign Language [psr], 16
- Língua Gestual Portuguesa**, *alt.* Portuguese

- Sign Language [psr], 16
- Lisbon**, *dial.* Portuguese Sign Language [psr], 16
- Madeirense**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Madeirese**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Minderico** [drc], 15, 19
- Minhotan**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Minhoto**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Miranadese Normal**, *alt. dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandés**, *alt.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandês**, *alt.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandés Meridional**, *dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandés Raiano**, *alt. dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandés Sendinês**, *alt. dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandés Setentrional**, *dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Mirandese** [mwl], 15, 19
- Mirandese Central**, *dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Oporto**, *dial.* Portuguese Sign Language [psr], 16
- Piação dos Charales do Ninhou**, *alt.* Minderico [drc], 15
- Português**, *alt.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Portuguese** [por], 16, 19
- Portuguese Calão**, *dial.* Caló [rmq], 12
- Portuguese Sign Language** [psr], 16, 0
- Rionorês**, *alt. dial.* Galician [glg], 14
- Rionorese**, *dial.* Galician [glg], 14
- Romani, Vlax** [rmy], 17
see Romani, Vlax [rmy], 17
- Sãotomense** [cri], 18
- Sendinês**, *alt. dial.* Mirandese [mwl], 15
- Spanish** [spa], 18
- Transmontan**, *dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- Transmontano**, *alt. dial.* Portuguese [por], 16
- West Asturian**, *dial.* Asturian [ast], 11

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