

French, the 5th World Language

Number of French speakers in the world

- 300 million, A very large majority of whom are under 30 years old
- 5th global language after Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish and Arabic
- French, alongside English, is the only language spoken on all continents
- French is the official language of 32 States and Governments
- From 2014 to 2018, the number of French speakers increased by 9.6%
- It is in Africa that the number of French speakers is growing the most (+17%)
- 59% of individuals who speak French daily live in Africa

Teaching

- 2nd most taught foreign language after English
- Across the five continents, in nearly all countries
- 132 million French language learners in 2018:
- More than 80 million people study in French
- More than 50 million people learn French as a foreign language

Thematic areas

French is the

- 2nd most used language in diplomacy
- 3rd most used language in business
- 4th most used language on the Internet

Source:

Report of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (2019 Edition)

<http://observatoire.francophonie.org/qui-parle-francais-dans-le-monde/>

March 2019