

What languages should be taught in Maine?

There are a lot of answers to this question. It depends on what your school district values.

What are the most commonly spoken languages in the World?

Based on sheer number of first language speakers, excluding English, the three most commonly spoken languages are Mandarin (909 million), Spanish (437 million), and Arabic (295 million).

Source of data <https://www.ethnologue.com/statistics/size> - first language speakers

What economies are growing the fastest?

If the goal is to improve business prospects, one could look at the countries with the fastest growing emerging economies. A recent report in The Economist lists the top three countries as Dominica, India, Bhutan. This would mean that the top three languages to learn are French Creole, Hindi, and Dzongkha.

Source: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2018/01/05/the-fastest-growing-and-shrinking-economies-in-2018>

Who are the top trade partners with the United States?

If you consider who the United States currently does the most business with, excluding Canada where English is the predominate language, the top three trade partners are China (\$636 billion), Mexico (\$557 billion), and Japan (\$204 billion). This means the top three languages to learn would be Mandarin, Spanish, and Japanese.

Source: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/highlights/top/top1712yr.html>

Which countries employ the most US Citizens?

Excluding the United Kingdom, which is predominately English speaking, the top three countries are Japan (850 thousand employees), France (675 thousand employees), and Germany (670 thousand employees). Making the top three languages to learn Japanese, French, and German.

Source: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/12/14/number-of-u-s-workers-employed-by-foreign-owned-companies-is-on-the-rise/>

Which countries invest in Maine?

Foreign-owned Maine businesses are owned by businesses in Switzerland (9 businesses), Germany (8 businesses), and Japan (7 businesses). This list excludes the United Kingdom because it is predominately English speaking. This means that the top four languages to learn are German, French, Italian, and Japanese.

Source: Maine International Trade Council, 2018

Where do people travel?

Through the lens of travel and tourism, the top three destinations in 2017, excluding the United States, were France (86.9 million visitors), Spain (81.8 million visitors), and China (60.7 million visitors). Making French, Spanish, and Mandarin the top three languages.

Source: <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284419876> page 8 UN World Tourism Organization

What are the most commonly spoken languages in the US other than English?

According to the most recent census, the top languages spoken at home are Spanish (40 million), Chinese (3 million), and Tagalog (1.7 million)

Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/183483/ranking-of-languages-spoken-at-home-in-the-us-in-2008/>

Also consider, what are the most commonly spoken languages in your community? What is your community's cultural heritage? How would Career and Technical Education or a Program of Focus (ex: STEM, Arts, etc.) be enhanced by studying a particular language?

The Department of Education is here to support you. If you have any questions or concerns please contact:
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