

Figure 7.2.2. (a) Organizations: language use
Principal languages spoken by leading people in international organizations: 1996 and 2000

This table indicates the languages spoken by leading people in international organizations using data collected for the *Who's Who in International Organizations* (UIA, 1996 and 2000 respectively). Only those languages with more than one speaker in the samples have been listed.

1996						2000					
Language	People	Percent-age	People	Percent-age	Change 1996 to 2000 *	Language	People	Percent-age	People	Percent-age	Change 1996 to 2000 *
English	2494	96.8%	1507	97.6%	0.9%	Croatian	6	0.2%	3	0.2%	-16.5%
French	1729	67.1%	1069	69.2%	3.2%	Ukrainian	6	0.2%	3	0.2%	-16.5%
German	1007	39.1%	623	40.3%	3.3%	Sanskrit	5	0.2%	3	0.2%	0.1%
Spanish	639	24.8%	427	27.7%	11.5%	Slovenian	5	0.2%	3	0.2%	0.1%
Italian	407	15.8%	267	17.3%	9.5%	Luxemburgisch	4	0.2%	3	0.2%	25.2%
Dutch	345	13.4%	255	16.5%	23.4%	Sesotho	3	0.1%	3	0.2%	66.9%
Portuguese	142	5.5%	94	6.1%	10.5%	Welsh	3	0.1%	3	0.2%	66.9%
Russian	132	5.1%	87	5.6%	10.0%	Maltese	2	0.1%	3	0.2%	150.4%
Swedish	124	4.8%	74	4.8%	-0.4%	Hausa	5	0.2%	2	0.1%	-33.2%
Arabic	100	3.9%	72	4.7%	20.2%	Marathi	5	0.2%	2	0.1%	-33.2%
Danish	74	2.9%	52	3.4%	17.3%	Castilian	4	0.2%	2	0.1%	-16.5%
Norwegian	57	2.2%	37	2.4%	8.3%	Icelandic	4	0.2%	2	0.1%	-16.5%
Greek	49	1.9%	35	2.3%	19.2%	Bambara	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Latin	47	1.8%	35	2.3%	24.3%	Nyanja (Cinyanja, Chinyanja)	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Hebrew	37	1.4%	27	1.7%	21.8%	Shona	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Hindi	47	1.8%	25	1.6%	-11.2%	Zulu	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	11.3%
Japanese	48	1.9%	24	1.6%	-16.5%	Braille	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Polish	36	1.4%	22	1.4%	2.0%	Malagasy	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Chinese (Mandarin Chinese)	48	1.9%	19	1.2%	-33.9%	Ndebele	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Hungarian	32	1.2%	18	1.2%	-6.1%	Nepalese	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Finnish	36	1.4%	17	1.1%	-21.2%	Telugu	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Esperanto	22	0.9%	17	1.1%	29.0%	Tibetan	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.9%
Tagalog (Filipino)	25	1.0%	15	1.0%	0.1%	Pulaar	1	0.0%	2	0.1%	233.8%
Swahili	22	0.9%	13	0.8%	-1.4%	Slovakian	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	100.0%
Tamil	15	0.6%	13	0.8%	44.7%	Krio (Creole)	6	0.2%	1	0.1%	-72.2%
Kiswahili	15	0.6%	11	0.7%	22.4%	Irish	5	0.2%	1	0.1%	-66.6%
Bahasa Malaysia (Malay)	17	0.7%	10	0.6%	-1.8%	Malayalam	5	0.2%	1	0.1%	-66.6%
Yoruba	13	0.5%	10	0.6%	28.4%	Cantonese	4	0.2%	1	0.1%	-58.3%
Punjabi	12	0.5%	10	0.6%	39.1%	Estonian	4	0.2%	1	0.1%	-58.3%
Urdu	21	0.8%	9	0.6%	-28.5%	Akan	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Catalan	13	0.5%	9	0.6%	15.5%	Bangla	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Romanian	15	0.6%	8	0.5%	-11.0%	Ewe	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Czech	14	0.5%	8	0.5%	-4.6%	Kikongo	3	0.1%	1	0.1%	-44.4%
Sinhalese	9	0.3%	8	0.5%	48.4%	Chichewa	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Turkish	16	0.6%	7	0.5%	-27.0%	Flemish	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Persian	12	0.5%	7	0.5%	-2.6%	Ganda	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Serbo-Croatian	10	0.4%	7	0.5%	16.8%	Hokkien	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Ancient Greek	7	0.3%	7	0.5%	66.9%	Kannada	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Bengali	7	0.3%	7	0.5%	66.9%	Kikuyu	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Afrikaans	12	0.5%	6	0.4%	-16.5%	Lithuanian	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Bulgarian	9	0.3%	5	0.3%	-7.3%	Sindhi	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Igbo (Ibo)	4	0.2%	5	0.3%	108.6%	Sotho	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Thai	15	0.6%	4	0.3%	-55.5%	Taiwanese	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Korean	10	0.4%	4	0.3%	-33.2%	Tongan	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	-16.5%
Yiddish	9	0.3%	4	0.3%	-25.8%						
Amharic	8	0.3%	4	0.3%	-16.5%						
Gujarati	7	0.3%	4	0.3%	-4.6%						
Wolof (Ouolof)	5	0.2%	4	0.3%	33.5%						
Lingala	8	0.3%	3	0.2%	-37.4%						

* adjusted according to sample size