

Language Use of the Population of Catalonia

Key results of the Survey
on Language Use
of the Population
2013



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia

Ministry of Culture
Directorate General for Language Policy

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Presentation

The Survey on Language Use of the Population 2013 (EULP-2013) is part of the Annual Statistical Action Programme established by the Law on the Statistical Plan for Catalonia 2011–2014. The organisations in charge of this Survey are the Ministry of Culture, through the Directorate General for Language Policy, and the Statistical Institute of Catalonia (Idescat).

The main objective of the Survey is to identify the language use of Catalan citizens of 15 years and over, particularly in terms of their use of Catalan, and also with regard to the language or languages with which they identify the most. The Survey also aims to obtain information on knowledge of languages (Catalan, Spanish, English and French in particular), to measure uses and knowledge of Aranese Occitan, and to find out about the population's language attitudes and their opinions on the use of Catalan.

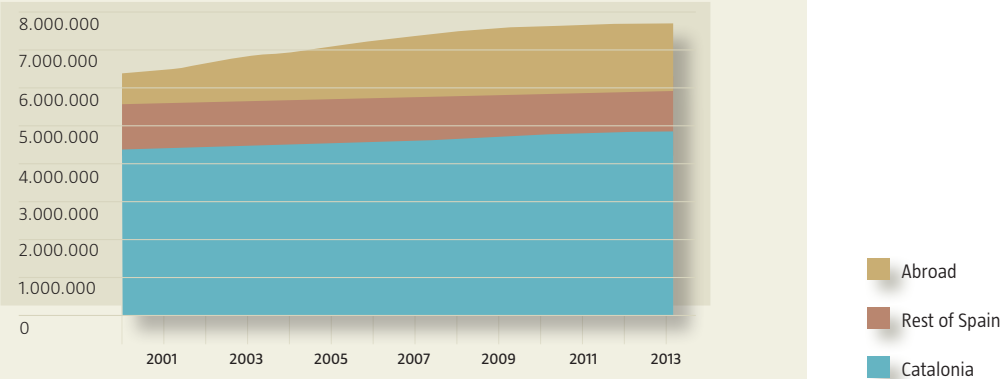
The EULP-2013 is the third edition of the Survey on Language Use in Catalonia, which was previously carried out in 2003 and 2008. It is worth noting that in the 2013 edition the Internet was used for the first time to collect data. The theoretical sample is 7,500 individuals with an error of 1.16% for the whole of Catalonia. The Survey covers the whole of Catalonia, with a representative sample of the eight territorial areas established at the time of the field study, as well as the city of Barcelona and the Val d'Aran.

The pamphlet presents the main results of the EULP-2013 and any changes in relation to the 2003 and 2008 surveys. An in-depth analysis of the results of the Survey is to be carried out throughout 2015 to provide an overall picture of the linguistic situation in Catalonia and to observe changes in this situation which will help to plan linguistic policies.

Demographic context

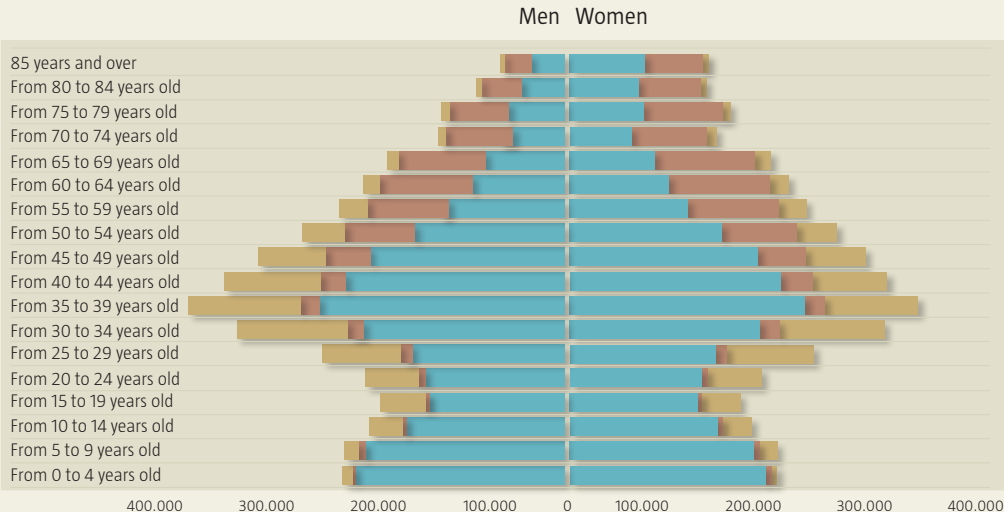
The period between 2003 and 2013 saw an increase of over 701,000 people of foreign origin, representing an annual increase of over 70,000 people.
The total population of Catalonia is 7,553,650 people.

Population according to place of birth. 2000-2013



Most of the foreign population are within the most productive age groups; between 25 and 49, and particularly between 35 and 44. The population born in other parts of Spain are mainly between 55 and 65 years old. The native population in Catalonia is proportionally higher in the following two age brackets: 0 to 9 years old and 30 to 49 years old.

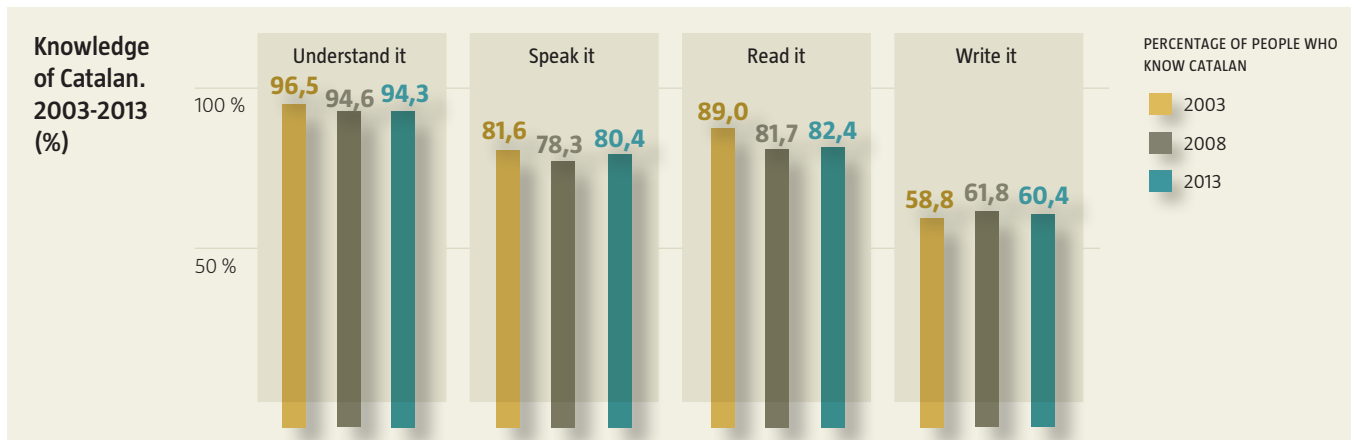
Population according to birth place by sex and age. Catalonia. 2013



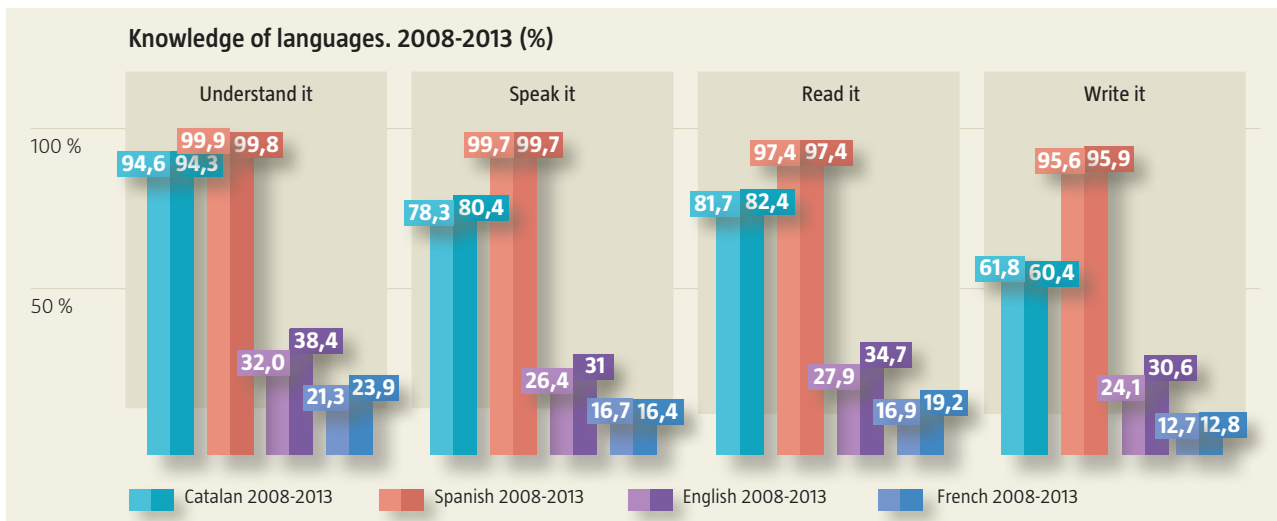
1 Knowledge of languages is growing

The ability to speak and read in Catalan is growing.

In Catalonia, there are almost 5,900,000 people over 15 in absolute numbers who understand Catalan, 5,027,200 who know how to speak it, 5,152,400 who can read it, and 3,776,300 who know how to write it.



More than a third of the population understand and can read English, while 30% know how to speak and write it. A quarter of the population understand French and 16.4% can speak it.

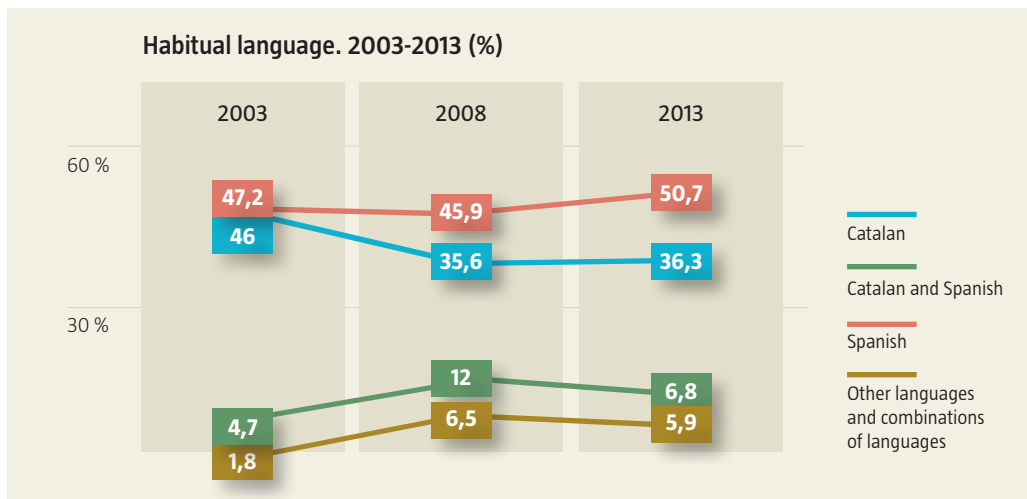
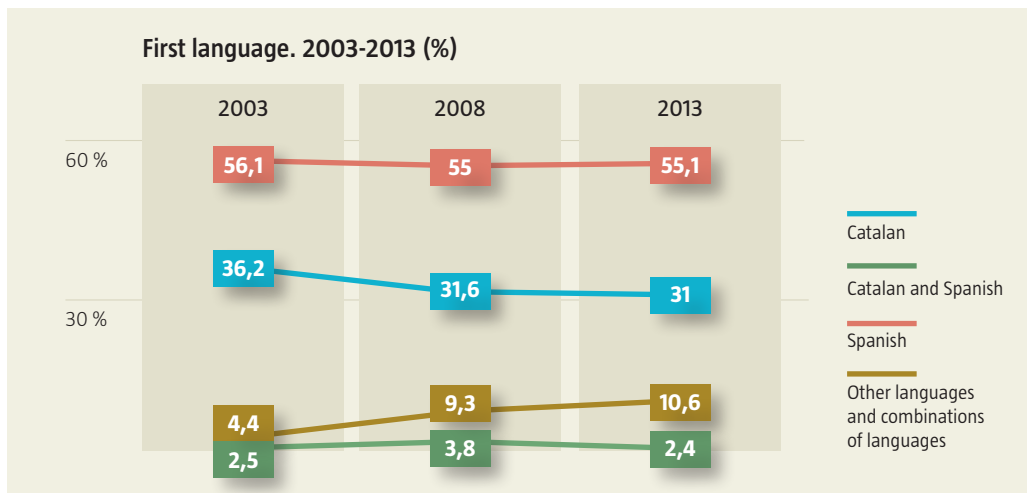


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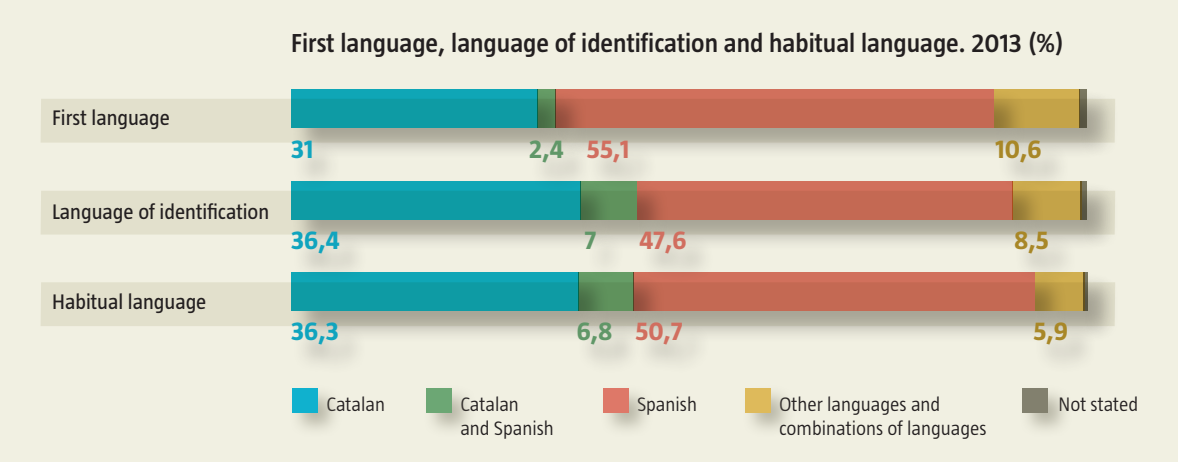
The evolution of Catalan use remains stable

The Survey shows that the evolution of Catalan (2008-2013) remains stable in terms of habitual language use despite the demographic changes seen in the first decade of the 21st century and the crisis which began in 2008.

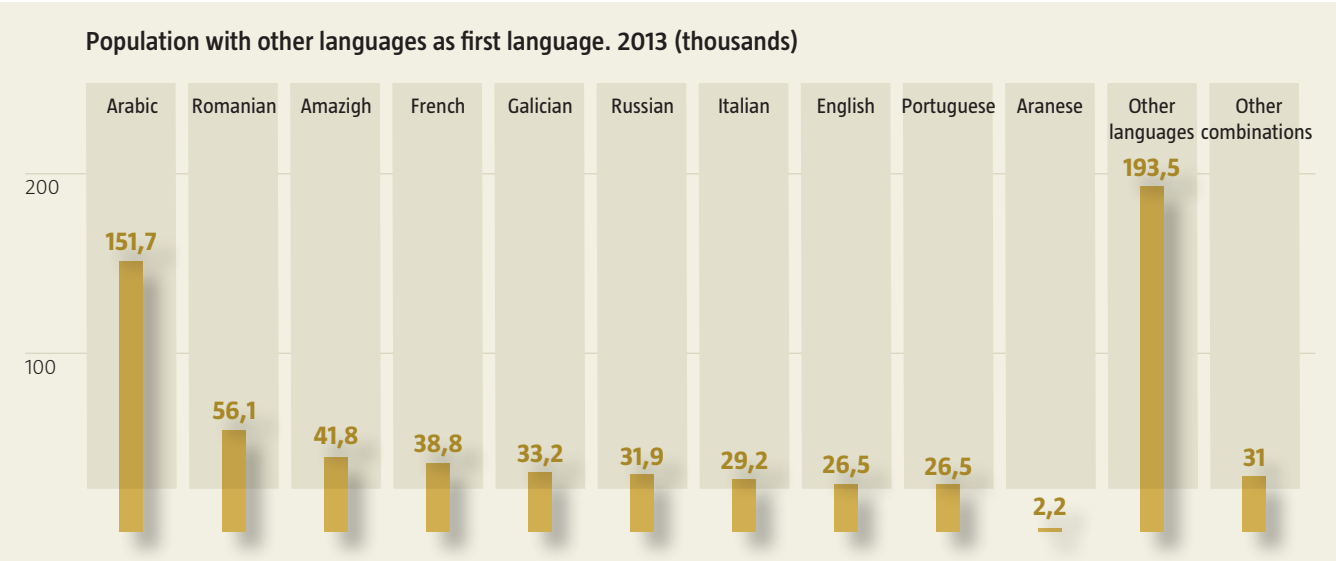
Almost 3 million people for whom Catalan is not a first language know how to speak it today. This data emerges from the difference between those who know how to speak it and those who have it as a first language (on its own or alongside Spanish).



Over 600,000 people use Catalan as their habitual language, even though it is not their first language or the first language they learned.



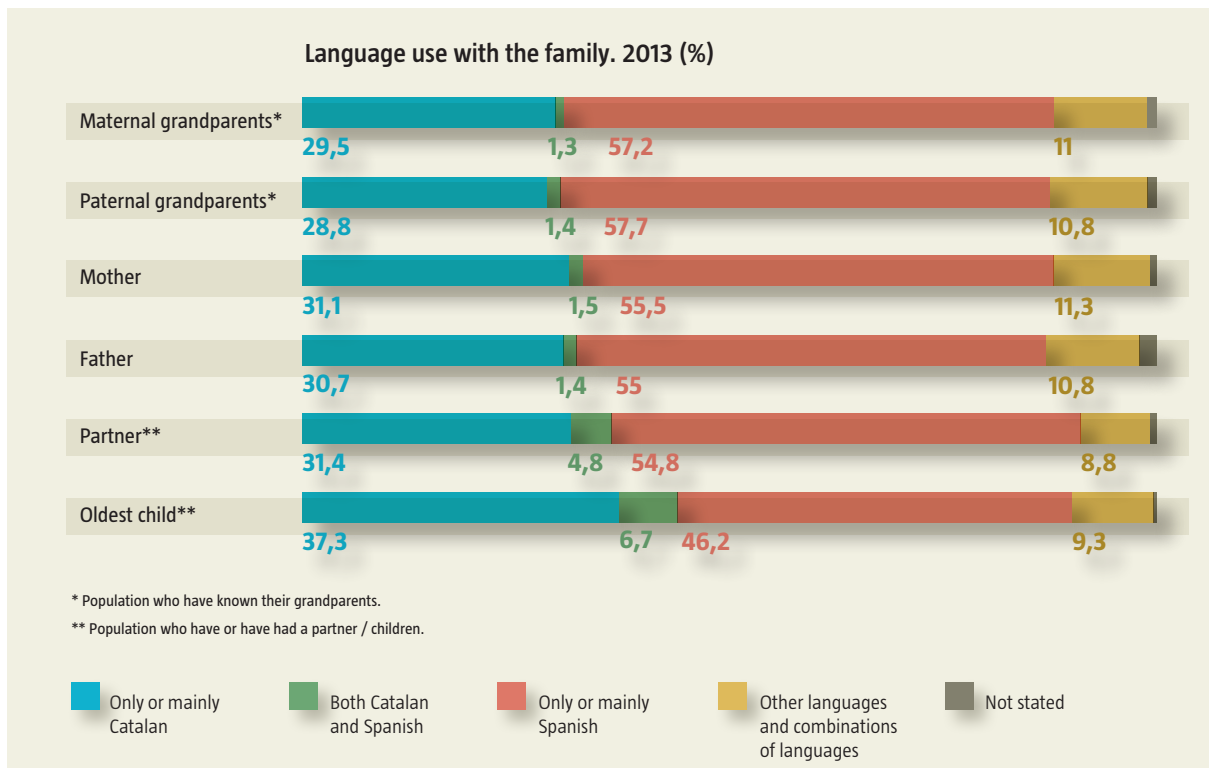
Furthermore, in Catalonia, 600,000 people have a language other than Catalan or Spanish as their first language.



3

Intergenerational language transmission is favourable to Catalan

In Catalonia, the process of intergenerational language transmission, measured as the difference between the percentage of the population who speak Catalan with their mother and those who use it with their first child, is favourable to Catalan by 6.2 points.

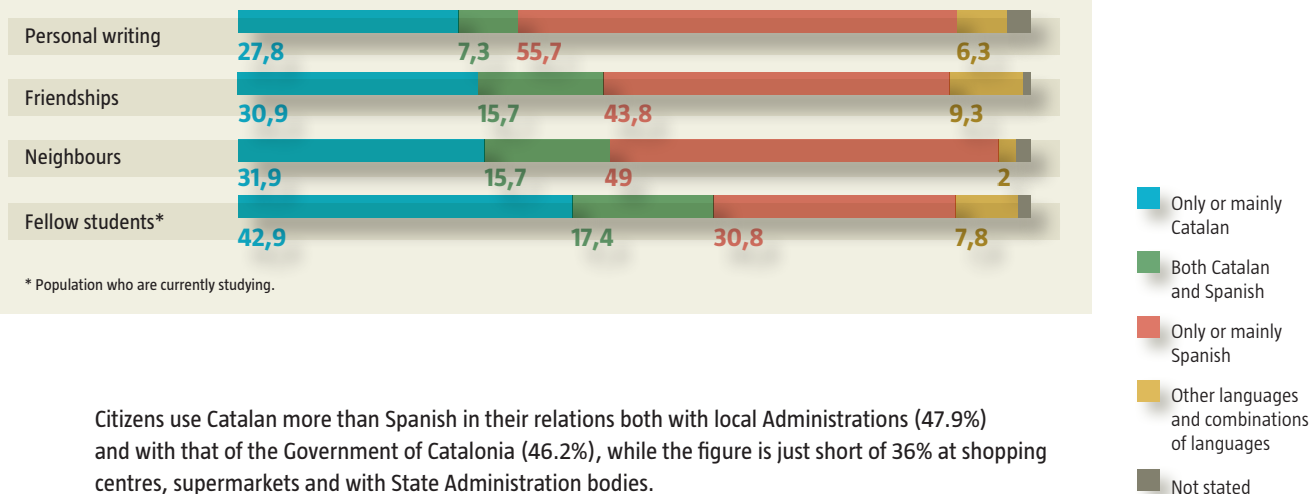


4

Catalan is used more with fellow students

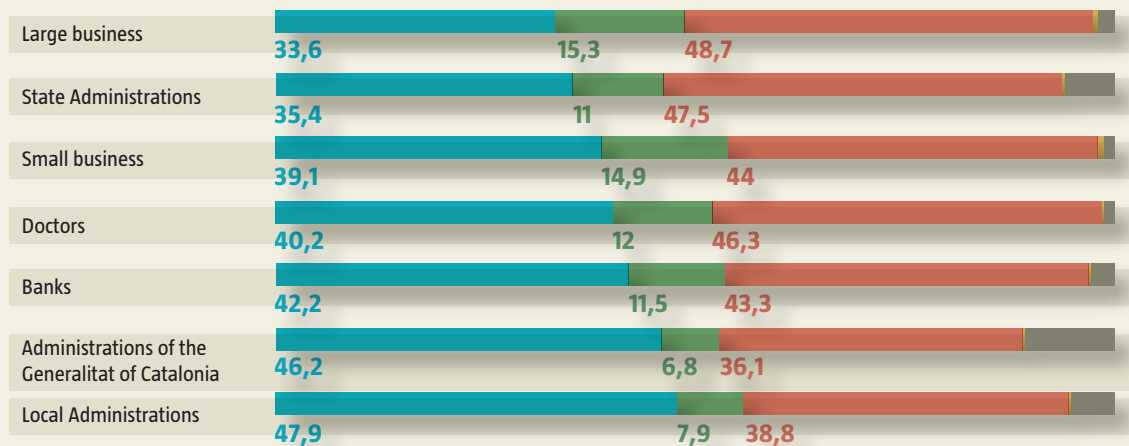
In interpersonal contexts, Catalan is used the most with fellow students (42.9%).

Language use in interpersonal contexts. 2013 (%)



Citizens use Catalan more than Spanish in their relations both with local Administrations (47.9%) and with that of the Government of Catalonia (46.2%), while the figure is just short of 36% at shopping centres, supermarkets and with State Administration bodies.

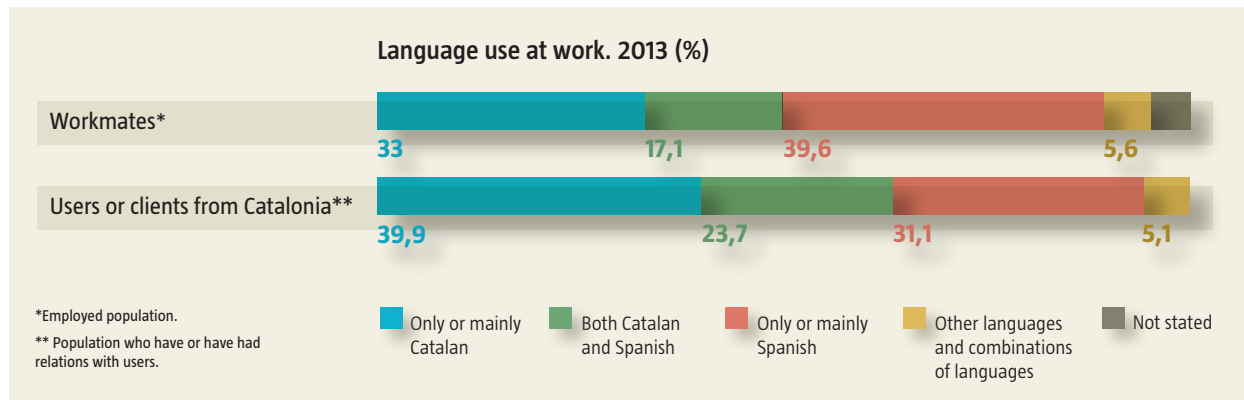
Language use in the context of consumption and service provision. 2013 (%)



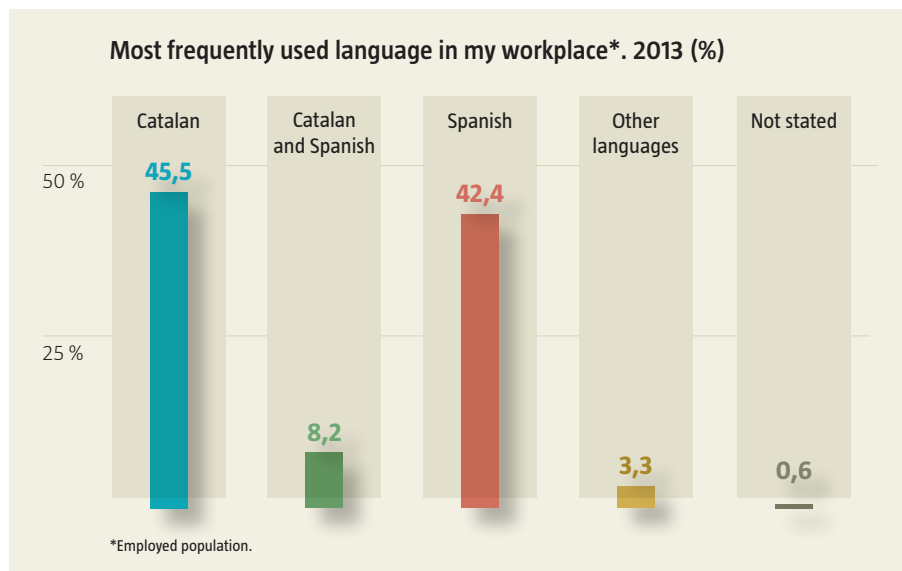
5

Catalan is the most frequent language used in the workplace

The use of Catalan is more frequent in public uses at work: almost 40% of workers use Catalan to attend to the public.



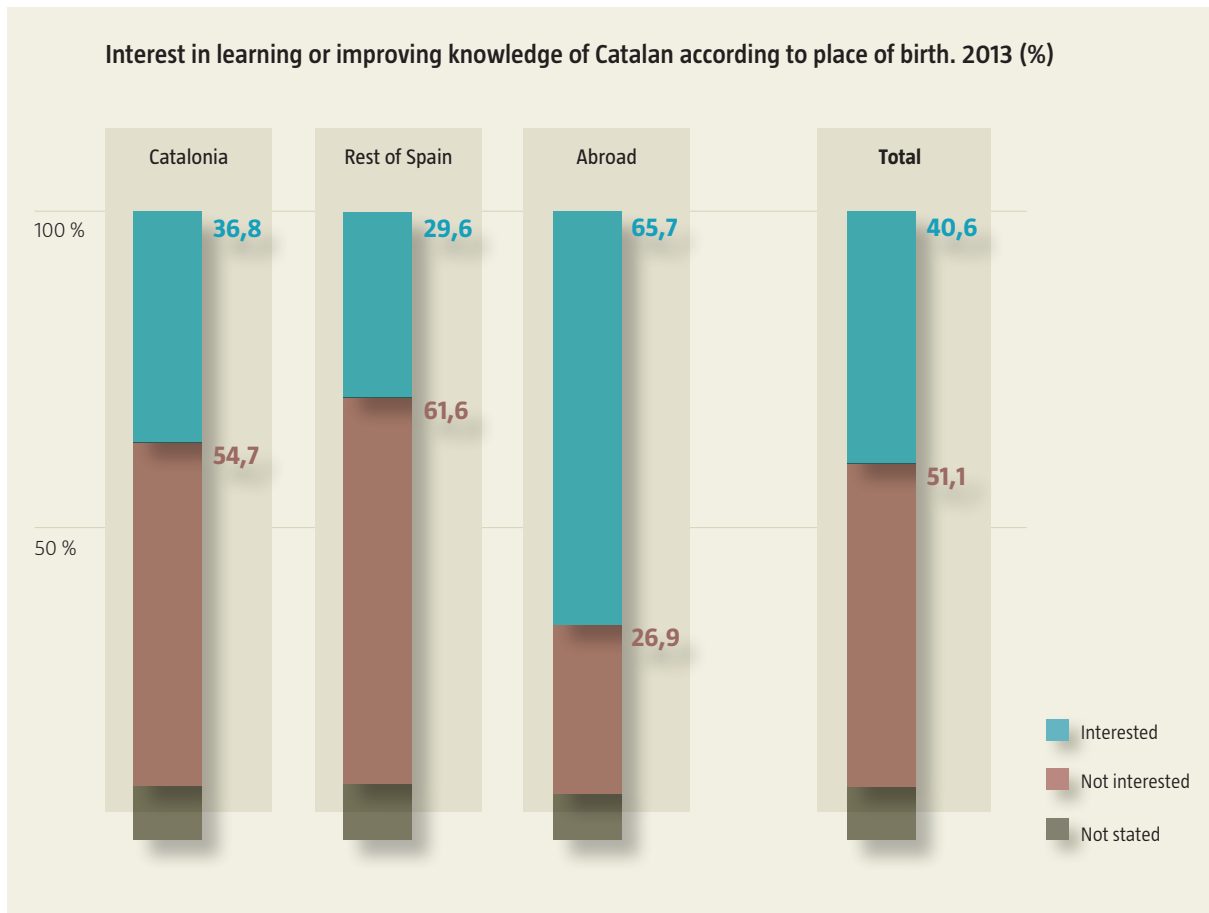
In the workplace, the language most frequently used is Catalan (45.5%) and 42.4% of the employed population work in centres where Spanish is the most commonly used language.



6

Over 40% of the population are interested in learning Catalan

Over 2,530,000 people have stated that they are interested in learning or improving their knowledge of Catalan; this represents 40.6% of the population.

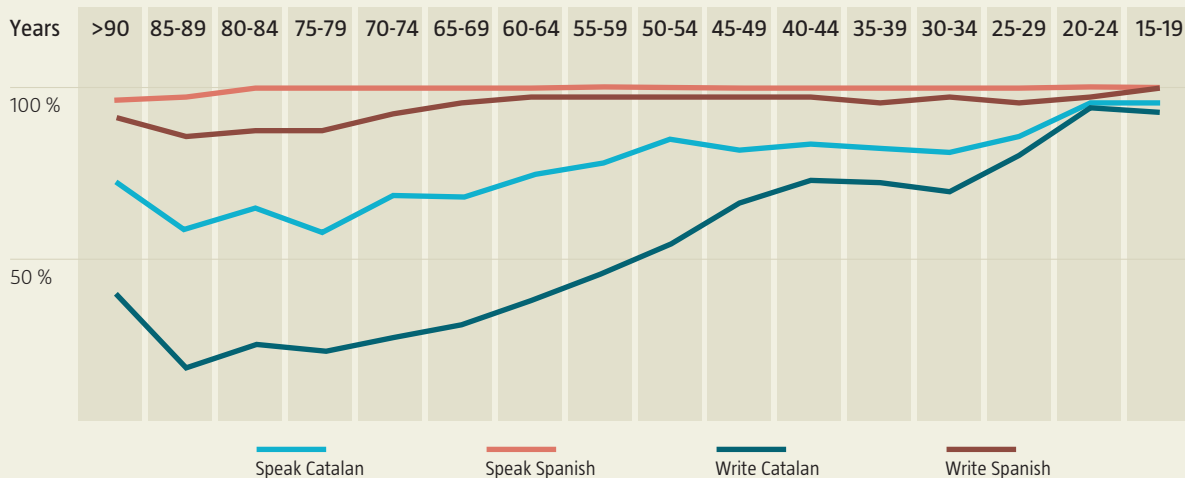


School, age, place of birth, employment situation and place of residence influence knowledge and social use of languages

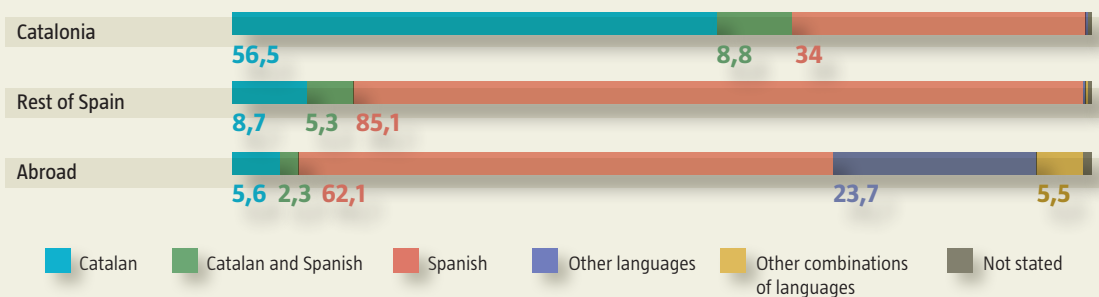
Among people between 15 and 29 years old, knowledge of Catalan stands at over 80% in all language skills and at 95% in the case of Spanish. The oldest segment of the population, or the population who were not schooled in Catalan, show the lowest levels of writing skills in Catalan.

As well as ensuring knowledge of the Catalan language, the Catalan education system also guarantees advanced knowledge of Spanish.

Knowledge of Catalan and Spanish according to age group. 2013 (%)



Habitual language according to place of birth. 2013 (%)

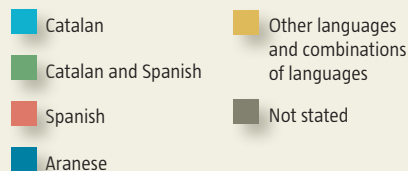
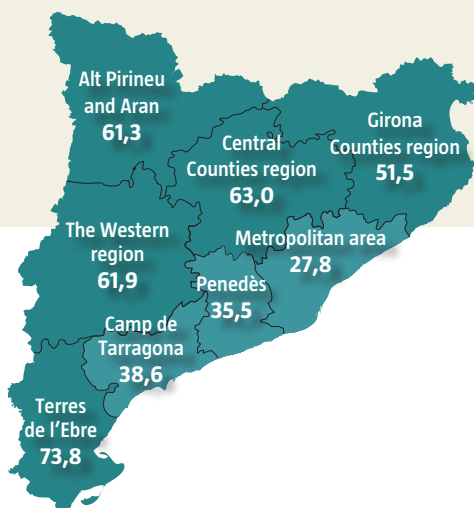
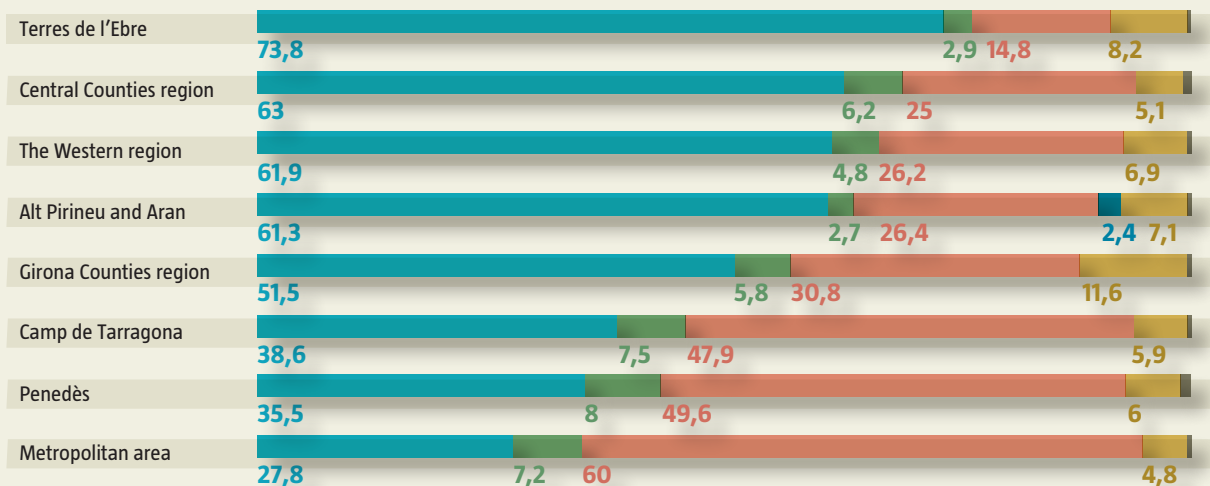


8

Catalan is the majority habitual language in five of the eight territorial areas of Catalonia

Catalan is the majority habitual language in five of the eight territorial areas of Catalonia and stands at below 40% in Camp de Tarragona, Penedès, and in the Metropolitan area of Barcelona.

Habitual language according to territorial area. 2013 (%)

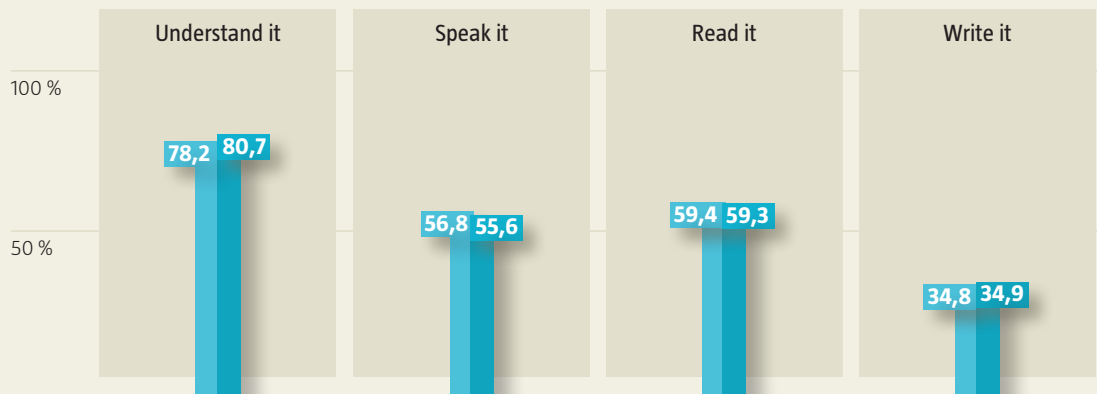


9

80.7% of the population of Aran understand Aranese Occitan and 55.6% can speak it

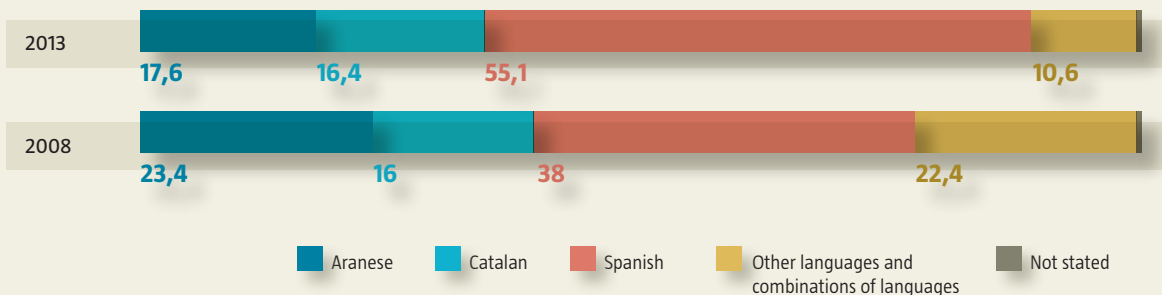
In Aran, the percentage of the population who understand Aranese Occitan has increased slightly, while other skills have remained stable. In 2013, the population of the Val d'Aran was 10,090 people, of whom 85.4% were 15 and over (8,617 people).

Knowledge of Aranese Occitan in Aran. 2008-2013 (%)



Aranese Occitan is the habitual language of 17.6% of the population, while this figure stands at 16.4% for Catalan, 55.1% for Spanish, and 10.6% for other habitual languages or combinations of languages.

Habitual language of Aran. 2008-2013 (%)



Data sheet from the Survey on Language Use of the Population 2013

Description: Official statistical action integrated within the Annual Statistical Action Programme 2013.

Organisation in charge: The Ministry of Culture, through the Directorate General for Language Policy, and the Statistical Institute of Catalonia.

Population: Population of 15 years and over resident in Catalonia, with a representative sample of the eight territorial areas, the city of Barcelona and the Val d'Aran (10 areas in total).

Method of data collection: Multichannel approach. Survey that citizens are asked to answer on the Internet (CAWI), through computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI).

Language of the questionnaire: The same questionnaire was used for all channels and was available in Catalan, Spanish and Occitan for the Aranese population.

Sample size: The theoretical sample included 7,500 surveys with an error of 1.16% and a confidence interval of 95.5%. The final sample was of 7,492 questionnaires. The results of the sample have been rounded up as appropriate. As a result of this, the totals may not always add up to 100 exactly.

Sample design: Varied fixing in which each of the 10 territorial areas has a minimum of 450 units, guaranteeing a maximum error of 5.0%, with a confidence interval of 95.5% for each territorial area. A stratified two-stage sampling design has been used with first stage selection of municipalities (in the case of municipalities under 50,000 inhabitants) or sections (in the case of municipalities of over 50,000 inhabitants) within each territorial stratum. In the second stage, individuals are selected within each municipality or section. The selection of the municipalities and sections was carried out through systematic sampling, with random extraction being carried out once the municipalities had been stratified according to size within each territorial stratum, with the exception of the Val d'Aran where the sample was obtained by simple random sampling.

Field study: From June to November 2013.

Source: The same source has been used for all the charts except the first two with data on demographic context: Directorate General for Language Policy and Idescat. Survey on Language Use of the Population 2013. Population of 15 years and over.



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