



Switzerland.

WE SPEAK SWISS

24.3%

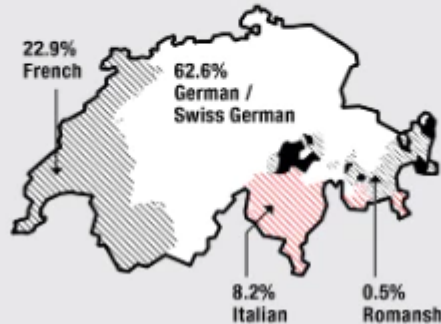
of the population do not have one of the four national languages as main language.

DIALECTS

"Swiss German" is a term that covers a large variety of Alemannic dialects.

4 LANGUAGES

Switzerland has 4 national languages.



English and Portuguese are the most commonly spoken foreign languages in Switzerland.

Romansh is a language from the Rhaeto-Romance family, derived from Latin.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Source: Federal Statistical Office (FSO) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org

Switzerland is a multilingual nation, which is home to various linguistic communities. There are four language regions: German, French, Italian and Romansh. The number of French speakers is on the rise, while the speakers of all the other three languages is decreasing. Non-national languages like English and Portuguese are also becoming popular. Other popular languages are Spanish, Serbian, Croatian and Albanian. An interesting fact is that English is spoken by 20% of people in the workplace. Switzerland's identity is greatly shaped by multilingualism. Over 40% of 15 year olds tend to speak more than one language.

German is the main language for over 60% of the Swiss population. They speak Swiss German, which is an umbrella term that covers many Alemannic dialects. They are divided into five categories: German (Appenzell), German (Bern), German (Ostschweiz), German (Thurgau) and German (Zurich). They are used in different cantons. Appenzell, Ostschweiz and Thurgau are spoken in the east of the country. German Bern in Bern, which is the capital city of Switzerland and it is located in the west. Zürich German is the High Alemannic dialect spoken in the Canton of Zürich in the northeastern area of Switzerland. Swiss German is the language that is most commonly used in the workplace. Standard German is also quite popular because over 30% of people speak it.

Romandie is the part of Switzerland where French is the main language. French is spoken by nearly 30% of people in the workplace. The percentage of French speakers in Switzerland makes up 22.9% of the population.

In the area of Ticino and in some parts of Graubünden Italian is the main language. It is spoken in 10% of workplaces. There are around 8.2% Italian speaking people. Swiss Italian also has some dialects, such as Ticinese and other Lombard-influenced dialects.

Another language spoken in Switzerland is Romansh. It is a Rhaeto-Romance language, which has its roots in Latin and it is spoken widely in the canton of Graubünden. Only 0.5%

of the population speaks Romansh. There are different kinds of Romansh, such as: Romansch (Surmeiran), Romansch (Scharans) and Romansch (Sursilvan).

In Switzerland there are four cantons and two cities, which are officially multilingual. Multilingual cantons are Bern, Fribourg, Valais and Graubünden, while multilingual cities are Biel and Fribourg.

Governing politics in Switzerland promote multilingualism. Switzerland provides an opportunity to explore an abundance of languages.

References:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/aboutswitzerland/en/home/gesellschaft/sprachen/die-sprachen---fakten-und-zahlen.html?fbclid=IwAR1Vsi7HYmORGWW9NOECg1Y22CGo5of5W7E3D5AlqnHBDypX5h2HI7VUoI8>

<https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/languages-spoken-in-switzerland>

<https://wals.info/country/CH#8/47.313/7.984>

