

Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language in the world. About one in six people worldwide are fluent in the language. Chinese is also the second-most used written language on the internet, representing about one in five online users.

A Thriving Language and Market

1.4 billion

The current population of China

The number of people worldwide who speak Chinese as their first language

About the Language

Over 200: The number of spoken Chinese dialects

The oldest forms of written Chinese appear

The oldest forms of written English appear

That's about

of the world's population

Written Chinese appears in two forms: Traditional and Simplified

China's government promoted Simplified Chinese in the 1950s and '60s to promote literacy. Simplified Chinese characters are easier to memorize and write. But not all countries use Simplified written characters:

REGION	SPOKEN	WRITTEN
Mainland China	Mandarin	Simplified
Taiwan	Mandarin	Traditional
Hong Kong	Cantonese	Traditional
Singapore	Mandarin	Simplified

4,000 to 6,000

The number of unique characters a well-educated Chinese reader can recognize

About 10,000

The number of unique characters in common use

Online, Mobile and E-Commerce Growth

804 million Number of Chinese internet users

2,400% The growth of

Chinese internet users since 2000

650% The growth of

English internet users since 2000 95%: Chinese users who use mobile

devices to go online

60%: Number of those users who own smartphones

40%: China's slice of global retail

e-commerce

11x: How much larger China's mobile

payment market is to the U.S.

10x: Growth in shipping, due in large part

to e-commerce, from 2006 to 2014

1 billion: Packages delivered in 2006 10 billion: Packages delivered in 2014

China's Middle Class

770.4 million

China's working population

146 million United States' working population

that is middle class 146 million: Size of

11%: Chinese population

China's Urban Middle class 236 million: Size of

China's Urban Mass class

Future Growth: Much of China's growth will occur in

the white-collar Urban Middle

class, and the blue-collar

Urban Mass class

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Film and Television (China); Nielsen; China Mobile; Fortune; eMarketer; Statista