

[Amateur Radio Operators by Country 2026](#)

This page is part of the project "[Understanding HF Propagation](#)"
by [Doron Tal, 4X4XM](#)

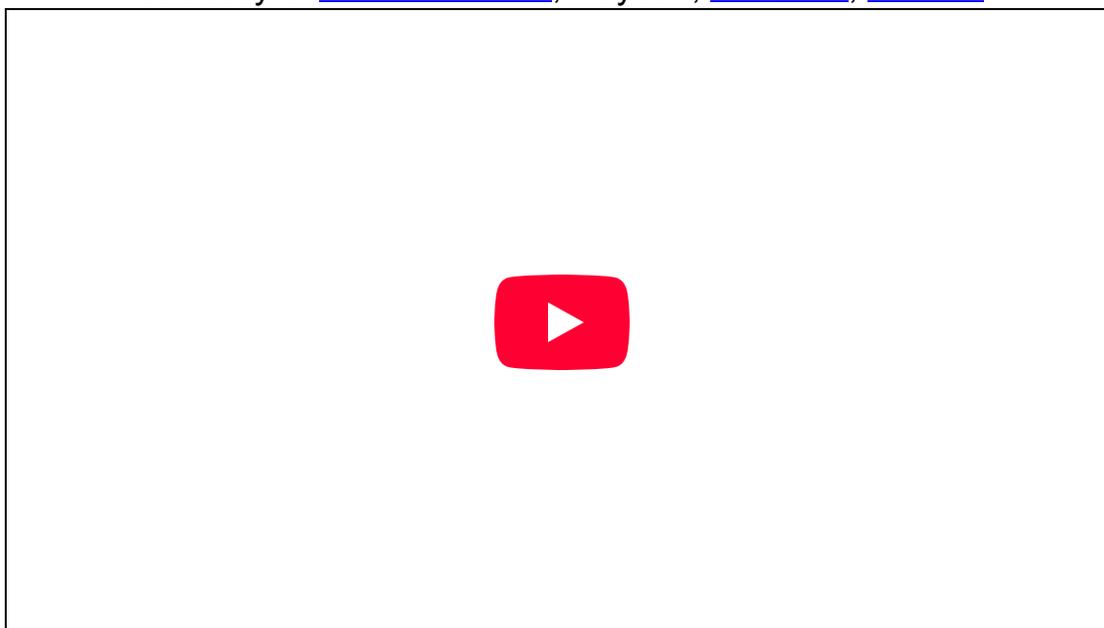
How many hams are there around the world?

Amateur radio operators, known as "hams," must obtain licenses by passing exams on regulations, electronics, and operation. Over three million licensed operators exist globally, primarily in the United States, Japan, and parts of Europe and Asia. High percentages of licensed operators are in Slovenia, Denmark, and Canada, while Yemen and North Korea prohibit amateur radio. The number of operators fluctuates, with about 750,000 in the U.S., and tracking active operators remains complex. Global counts (by [IARU](#)) ceased in 2000, making recent figures based on national data, showing both regional declines and growth, notably in China and the U.S.

The embeded video below shows the changes between 2000 and 2022:

[Amateur Radio Operator numbers \(2000—2022\)](#)

courtesy of [Ham Radio DX](#), Hayden, [KD9SSB](#), [VK7HH](#)



This data has been collected from multiple data sources.

Table 1: **Licensed operators per country**, originally based on [Wikipedia](#).

The numbers listed below were improved by [independent research](#).

Country	Licensed amateur radio operators	% of country's population	Year of Report	Source
 United States	738,668	0.222%	2025	[ARRL]
 Japan	381,899 !	0.304%	2021	[5]
 China	~240,000	0.017%	2024	[7]
 United Kingdom	<86,000	0.122%	2025	UK
 Canada	70,198	0.187%	2018 	[9]
 Taiwan	~70,000	0.291%	2025	Ost.
 Germany	63,070	0.073%	2019 	[8]
 Spain	~58,700	0.127%	1999   	N/A
 Thailand	~54,000	0.081%	2025	E25
 South Korea	42,632	0.082%	2012	[11]
 Russia	~38,000	0.026%	2025	Rus.
 Brazil	32,053	0.016%	1997   	N/A

 Turkey	~32,000	0.037%	2023	[12]
 Italy	~30,000	0.049%	1993   	N/A
 Indonesia	27,815	0.011%	1997   	N/A
 Ukraine	17,265	0.037%	2000  	N/A
 Argentina	16,889	0.042%	1999  	N/A
 Poland	15,805	0.041%	2024	[14]
 India	>22,000	0.001%	2025	Wiki
 Australia	15,448	0.060%	2023	[15]
 France	~13,500	0.019%	2022	[13]
 Sweden	12,790	0.113%	2023	[16]
 Netherlands	12,582	0.070%	2018  	[17]
 Malaysia	11,273	0.030%	2023	[6]
 Denmark	9,079	0.152%	2022	[18]
 Austria	6,930	0.077%	2022	[19]
 Norway	6,818	0.125%	2022	[20]
 Slovenia	~6,500	0.317%	2000  	N/A
 South Africa	~6,000	0.012%	1994   	N/A

 New Zealand	~6,000	0.120%	1994   	N/A
 Czech Republic	5,332	0.050%	2023	[21]
 Portugal	5,116	0.051%	2023	Ost.
 Finland	~5,000	0.090%	2016  	[22]
 Serbia	3,962	0.056%	2020 	[23]
 Romania	3,527	0.018%	2017 	[24]
 Hungary	3,234	0.033%	2023	[25]
 Ireland	1,945	0.039%	2020 	[26] , [27]
 Israel	~1,800	0.018%	2025	Ost.
 Slovakia	1,745	0.032%	2023	[28]
 Estonia	~700	0.052%	2020 	Ost.

Many websites display out-of-date information about valid license holders, some dating back more than 25 years. For example, in Japan, licenses are awarded for life, resulting in a total of over 1.3 million, but this number does not include "[active](#)" amateurs. Licenses in the United States are valid for ten years and may not be renewed, resulting in the reallocation of call signs. Furthermore, some countries do not share their recorded data.

What does an "active amateur" mean? Is an active amateur someone who operates once a week, once a month, once a year, or at special events? Is an active amateur only someone who has a license and is allowed to operate? These are all simple questions that do not have clear answers. [Table 1](#) shows licensed ham radio operators regardless of their activity habits.

Factors Influencing Numbers:

- * Hobby Popularity: Ham radio remains popular due to modern tech and personal communication.
- * Data Collection: Counting active users is challenging due to license renewal policies and varied participation.

References

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 4. [Amateur radio in India](#)—December 2025, Wikipedia
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 12. Ongoing independent research since 2020—Doron, [4X4XM](#)
 13. [Worldwide Ham Radio Operators \(2000-2022\)](#) —24 March 2022, [Ham Radio DX](#), Hayden, [KD9SSB](#), [VK7HH](#)
 14. [The Storied History of the Ham Radio Callsign](#) —5 September 2021, Mike Ritz, W7VO
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[Ham radio population](#)

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[Ham radio country map](#)

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[How many ham radio operators are worldwide?](#)

[How many radio hams are there in the world today?](#)

Licensed Amateur Radio Operators by Country in 2025

The growing global community of amateur radio operators

How many amateur radio operators are there in the world?

כמה חובבי רדיו יש בעולם?

כמה חובבי רדיו מורשים יש בעולם?

كم عدد هواة الراديو المرخصين في العالم؟

विश्व स्तर पर कितने हैम रेडियो ऑपरेटर हैं?

有多少名持有执照的业余无线电爱好者？

มีผู้ที่ขึ้นขอบวิทยุสมัครเล่นที่ได้รับใบอนุญาตจำนวนเท่าใด?

免許を持ったアマチュア無線愛好家は何人いますか？

면허를 소지한 아마추어 무선 애호가는 몇 명이나 될까요?

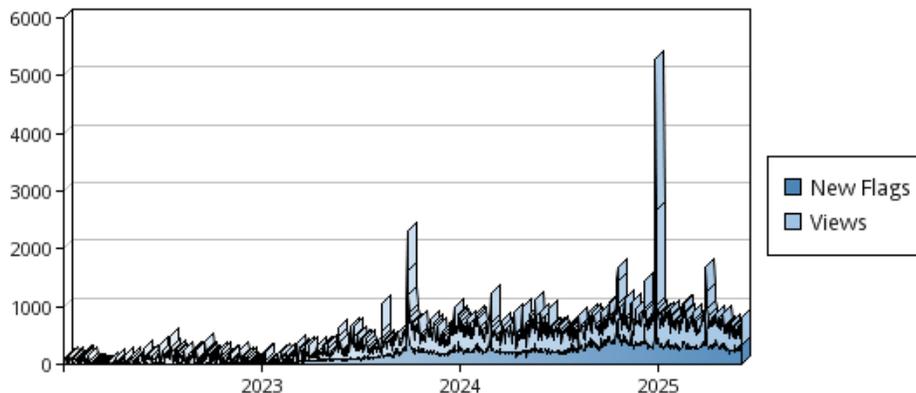
Total visits since 17 August 2022.

Count a repeat visit as new again after 24 hours.

4X4XM

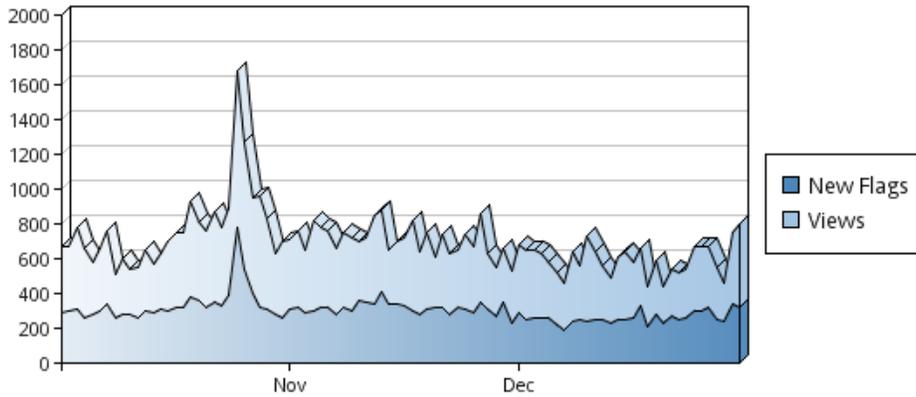
US 122,090	PR 338	SC 44	PG 13	LC 4
GB 15,501	RS 333	EC 41	SY 12	TO 4
CA 9,692	HR 319	UG 40	BO 12	ME 4
DE 5,477	LU 267	JM 40	VI 12	TC 4
NL 4,236	UA 259	GE 39	RW 12	PS 4
AU 4,029	BD 257	MW 36	FJ 12	MH 3
IT 2,920	LT 226	AL 35	SR 11	BQ 3
IL 2,790	PK 212	GU 35	AM 11	SL 3
SG 2,613	SK 206	OM 34	NE 11	MG 3
IN 2,297	CO 199	BH 34	ZW 11	SZ 3
FR 2,230	TW 188	MM 33	VG 11	LR 3
SE 1,980	EG 165	TN 33	SV 10	MC 3
PL 1,970	AE 151	NI 32	CW 10	CK 3
ES 1,874	IR 139	LY 32	BW 10	TG 3
JP 1,395	VN 132	NA 31	SO 9	CG 3
BR 1,322	IQ 131	JO 31	MN 9	AX 3
BE 1,291	UY 130	RE 31	CI 9	PW 2
CN 1,191	EE 124	KW 30	PF 9	MP 2
NO 1,116	NG 117	LB 29	GP 8	DJ 2
CH 1,082	SA 117	KZ 29	LA 8	FM 2
IE 1,071	LV 115	BY 28	MV 8	GF 2
ZA 1,051	VE 100	PY 27	GD 7	GL 2
NZ 1,005	HN 98	TZ 25	SN 7	TJ 2
DK 982	PE 90	KH 24	SD 7	NF 2
ID 976	LK 87	DO 24	XK 6	TL 2
FI 935	ET 84	AW 23	GI 6	KM 2
AT 841	IS 79	GT 23	AI 6	GA 2
PH 819	KE 79	AZ 23	FK 6	AS 2
RO 727	BA 77	BB 23	MQ 6	AG 2
TR 681	MT 77	MU 22	SM 6	GY 2
PT 651	CR 73	GH 21	KG 5	LS 1
GR 651	CY 70	FO 18	MO 5	PN 1
CZ 616	TT 69	GG 18	BT 5	PM 1
MX 592	MA 67	CD 17	CV 5	IO 1
AR 580	MZ 67	AO 17	BF 5	GN 1
MY 572	DZ 63	JE 17	DM 5	ST 1
RU 564	QA 59	UZ 16	VU 5	BI 1
HU 560	MD 57	BN 16	BJ 5	YT 1
CL 450	NP 55	YE 15	SS 5	GM 1
SI 403	CU 50	BS 15	BZ 4	TD 1
KR 390	PA 49	AF 15	LI 4	WS 1
TH 369	MK 48	BM 15	CM 4	CF 1
HK 364	KY 46	VC 14	AD 4	ER 1
BG 363	IM 44	ZM 14	NC 4	

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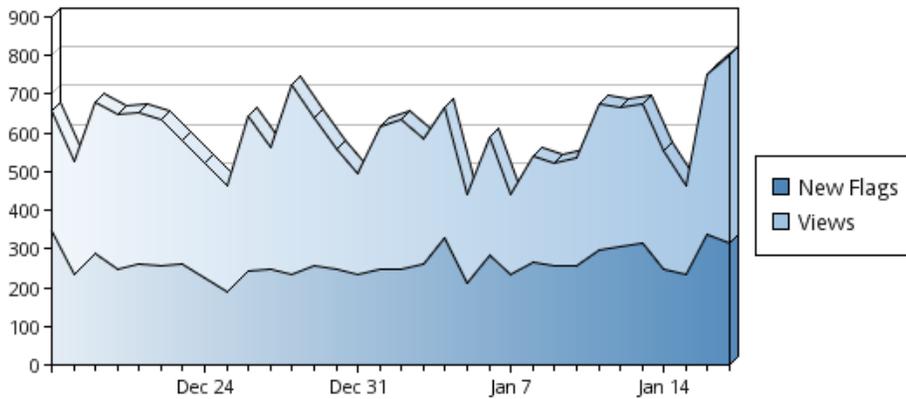


Visits per day since 2022

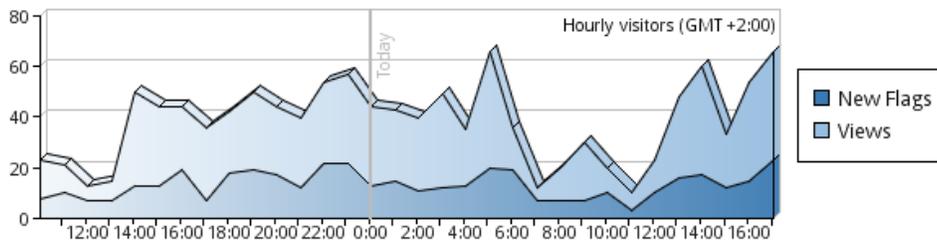
The number of site visits increased during ionospheric events that disrupt HF radio propagation.



Visits (per day) during the last 90 days



Visits (per day) during the last 30 days



Hourly visits today