



[Amateur Radio Operators by Country 2026](#)

This page is part of the project "[Understanding HF Propagation](#)"
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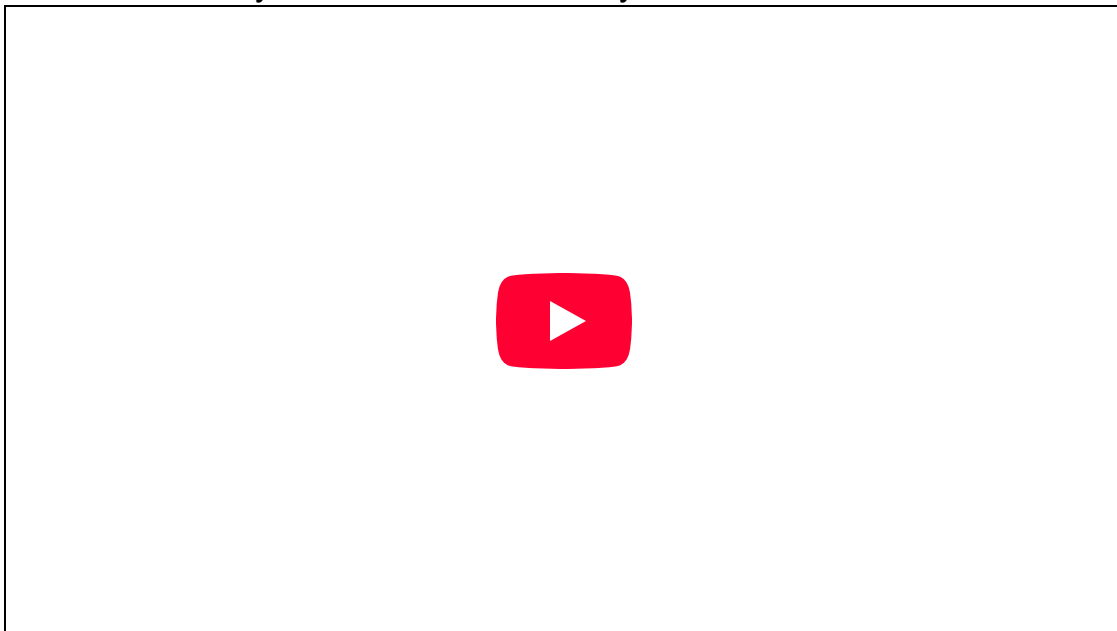
How many hams are there around the world?

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 licensed 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 (Japan) and growth (China and the U.S.).

The embedded 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.
 Singapore	~190	0.003%	2026	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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 14. [The Storied History of the Ham Radio Callsign](#) —5 Spetember 2021, Mike Ritz, W7VO
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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?

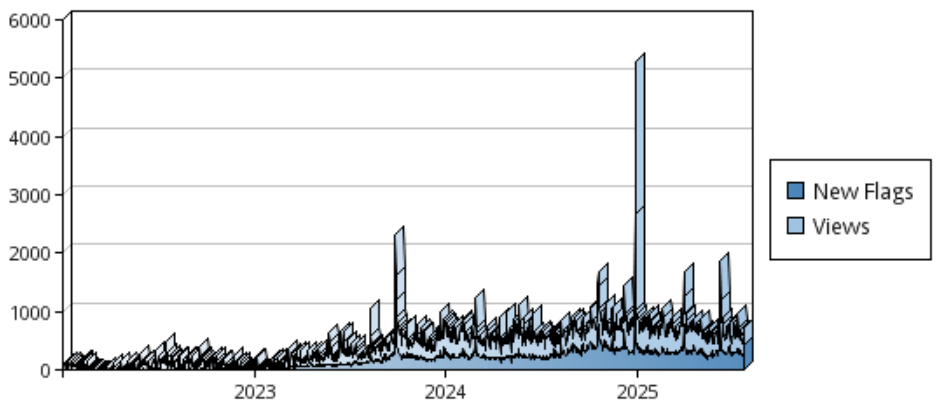
Total visits since 17 August 2022.

Count a repeat visit as new again after 24 hours.

Visitors

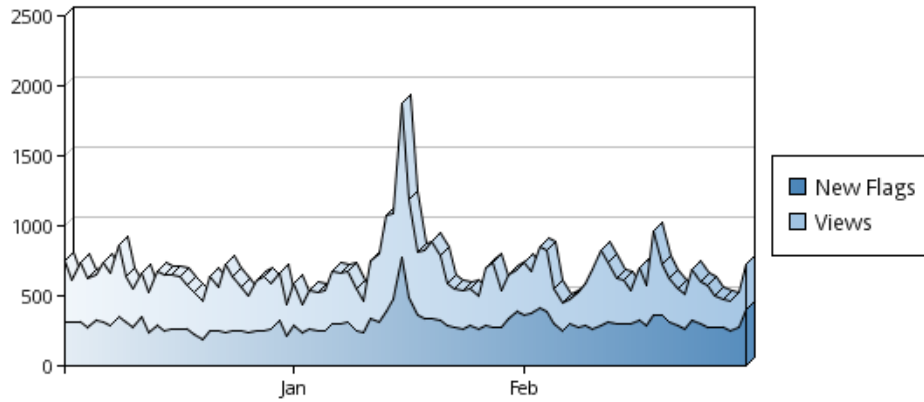
US 130,892	HR 346	MW 43	PG 13	TO 4
GB 16,532	RS 346	GE 43	BW 12	ME 4
CA 10,298	UA 289	JM 42	SY 12	TC 4
DE 5,913	BD 285	UG 41	VI 12	MH 3
NL 4,568	LU 285	AL 39	FJ 12	BQ 3
AU 4,358	LT 249	OM 37	SV 11	MG 3
SG 3,257	PK 221	TN 36	SR 11	SZ 3
IT 3,233	SK 215	GU 36	AM 11	LR 3
IL 2,856	CO 212	MM 35	NE 11	MC 3
IN 2,412	TW 206	BH 35	VG 11	TG 3
FR 2,369	EG 171	LY 33	MN 10	CG 3
SE 2,174	AE 171	NI 33	CW 10	AX 3
PL 2,157	VN 154	NA 32	XK 9	BI 2
ES 1,995	IR 152	KZ 31	SO 9	KN 2
JP 1,578	UY 139	BY 31	CI 9	PW 2
BR 1,461	EE 138	KW 31	PF 9	MP 2
BE 1,350	IQ 136	JO 31	GP 8	DJ 2
CN 1,262	NG 123	RE 31	LA 8	FM 2
NO 1,193	LV 120	LB 29	MV 8	GF 2
IE 1,166	SA 118	PY 28	SM 7	GL 2
CH 1,156	LK 107	AW 27	GD 7	TJ 2
ZA 1,110	VE 107	TZ 27	SN 7	NF 2
ID 1,083	HN 99	AZ 26	SD 7	TL 2
DK 1,061	PE 95	DO 26	MO 6	KM 2
NZ 1,061	ET 87	GT 24	GI 6	GA 2
FI 1,008	IS 86	KH 24	AI 6	AS 2
AT 919	BA 84	BB 23	FK 6	AG 2
PH 868	MT 82	GH 22	MQ 6	GY 2
RO 768	KE 81	MU 22	PS 5	SX 1
TR 725	CR 77	BS 20	NC 5	MR 1
GR 705	TT 74	FO 19	LC 5	LS 1
PT 695	MZ 72	GG 19	KG 5	PN 1
MX 688	CY 71	CD 18	BT 5	PM 1
CZ 667	MA 71	UZ 17	CV 5	IO 1
AR 620	DZ 70	AO 17	BF 5	GN 1
MY 604	QA 61	JE 17	DM 5	ST 1
HU 596	MD 58	YE 16	VU 5	YT 1
RU 584	NP 57	BN 16	BJ 5	GM 1
CL 478	PA 54	ZM 15	SS 5	TD 1
SI 429	CU 50	AF 15	SL 4	WS 1
KR 414	MK 49	BM 15	CK 4	CF 1
BG 389	SC 48	BO 14	BZ 4	ER 1
PR 384	IM 47	VC 14	LI 4	
HK 383	KY 47	ZW 13	CM 4	
TH 381	EC 43	RW 13	AD 4	

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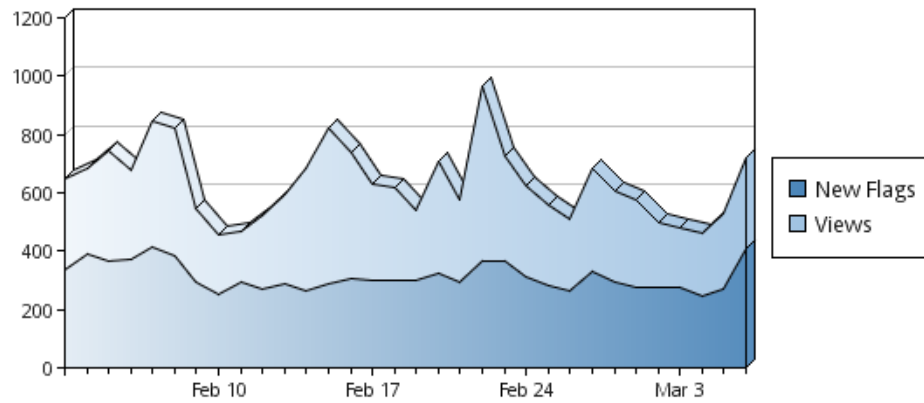


Visits per day since 2022

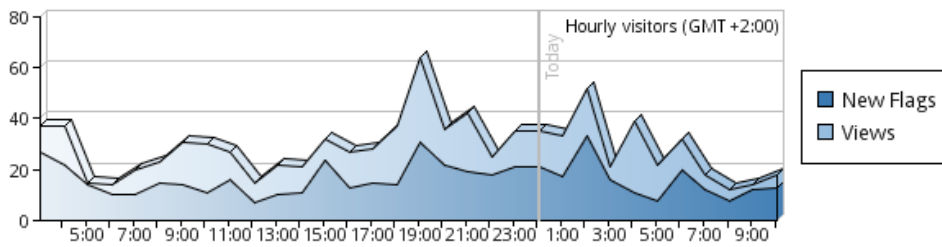
The number of site visits increased during ionospheric events that disrupt HF radio propagation.



Visits (per day) during the last 90 days



Visits (per day) during the last 30 days



Hourly visits today