



# **COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD**

## **COMPACT ENCYCLOPAEDIA**



# ESTONIA



<b>NAME OF THE STATE</b>	Estonia
<b>FORM OF GOVERNMENT</b>	parliamentary republic
<b>OFFICIAL LANGUAGE</b>	Estonian
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Tallinn (population 426,500)
<b>AREA</b>	45,227 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>POPULATION</b>	1,294,455
<b>DENSITY</b>	28.6 people per km <sup>2</sup>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS</b>	15 counties
<b>TIME ZONE</b>	+2 hours (UTC)
<b>COUNTRY CODES</b>	EE, EST
<b>INTERNET TLD</b>	.ee
<b>NATIONAL DAY</b>	24 February
<b>HIGHEST POINT</b>	Suur Munamägi (318 m)
<b>CURRENCY</b>	euro (EUR)
<b>GDP PER CAPITA</b>	21,227 \$ (according to purchasing power)
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	UN (1991), WTO (1999), OSCE (1991), NATO (2004), EU (2004), Schengen (2007)

## TRAFFIC



412

cars per 1,000 people



**ESTONIA** is situated on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea and consists of islands and mainland areas.

**Nature.** Estonia is situated in the north-western part of the East European Plain. It has 1,520 islands in the Baltic Sea, and the island Piiirisaar in Lake Peipus. The biggest islands are Saaremaa (2,673 km<sup>2</sup>), Hiiumaa (989 km<sup>2</sup>), Muhu (200 km<sup>2</sup>) and Vormsi (93 km<sup>2</sup>). Depending on the altitude Estonia can be divided into Lower Estonia and Higher Estonia. The lower and flatter part is western Estonia, the highest point being

## HEALTHCARE

Expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	6.03
Doctors per 10,000 people	32.6
Hospital places per 10,000 people	53.5

## EDUCATION

Literacy (%)	99.8
Expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	5.49

## LARGEST TOWNS

Tallinn	426,500
Tartu	98,500
Narva	63,100
Pärnu	42,000
Kohtla-Järve	39,300
Viljandi	18,900
Rakvere	16,600
Maardu	16,400
Sillamäe	15,000
Kuressaare	14,400

## PLACES TO VISIT

- Kaali lake
- Cliffs on the coast of north Estonia
- National parks
- Tallinn Old Town
- Hermann Castle in Narva; together with Ivangorod Fortress in Russia they make a unique couple of border fortresses.
- St John's Church in Tartu, which is unique for its terracotta figurines.
- Bernt Notke's painting 'Dance of Death' in Niguliste Church in Tallinn
- Kuressaare Episcopal Castle
- The church at Karja in Saaremaa
- The archaeological site of Rebala
- Varbola stronghold
- Kihnu island

Tornimägi (68 m) in Hiiumaa. The steep northern edge of the north Estonian limestone plain is bordered by an impressive cliff (the altitude of the klint is 56 m). The highest hilly areas in the landscape are the Haanja, Otepää, Sakala, Pandivere and Karula hills and Vooremaa. The main natural resources are coal, peat, phosphorite, dolomite, limestone, gravel, sand, clay, curative mud and mineral water.

Estonia is situated in the northern part of the temperate climate zone on the edge of a maritime and continental climate. Its climate is strongly influenced by the warm North Atlantic Current and the Baltic Sea. The weather is very variable. The average temperature in July is 16.4–17.7°C; in January it is -2.5°C on Vilsandi, and in Jõhvi -6.5°C. Rainfall is lowest on the coast (550 mm per year) and highest on the hills (up to 750 mm annually).

In Estonia around 6,191 internal waters have been counted; 2,044 of them are watercourses and springs. The biggest rivers are the Narva river on the border with Russia and the Emajõgi and the Pärnu rivers; the longest river is the Võhandu river (162 km). The lakes cover more than 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>; 75% of this area is taken



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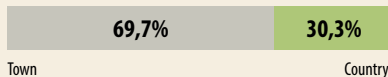
up by Lake Peipus and 13% by Lake Võrtsjärv. The deepest lake is Rõuge Suurjärv (38 m). Lake Kaali has a unique origin, situated in a meteorite crater. Tallinn gets most of its drinking water from Lake Ülemiste.

Estonia is known to have 1,450 endemic plant species. The areas richest in species are the mainland and islands of west Estonia. Estonia is situated in the mixed forest zone; 50.6% of the country's territory is covered by forest. The main trees are pine, fir, birch, aspen, gray alder (*Alnus incana*) and black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

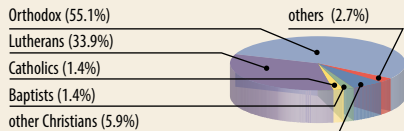
Extensive marshes can be found in west Estonia, in the Peipus lowlands, in Alutaguse and Kõrvemaa.

**Population.** According to the census the population in Estonia in 2011 was 1,294,455. Compared to the year 2000 there were 75,000 fewer people. Emigra-

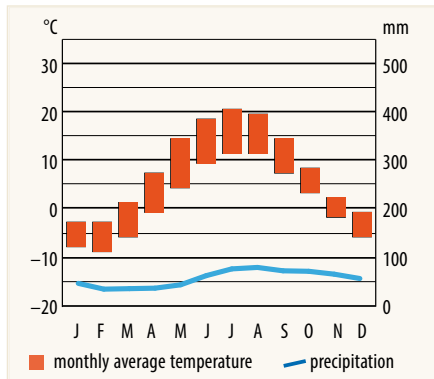
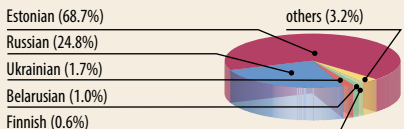
## TOWN AND COUNTRY POPULATION



## RELIGION



## ETHNIC GROUPS





## RANKINGS AMONG 196 WORLD STATES

Area	129
Population	151
Population density	149
Avg life expectancy at birth (75)	63
Literacy	8
Doctors per 10,000 people	30
Hospital places per 10,000 people	37
Human development ranking	36
GDP per capita	47

tion continues to be bigger than immigration. In the period 2000–10 the birthrate rose a little, but later it has fallen again. The average life expectancy for men in 2011 was 71.2 years and for women 81.1 years.

The rise in the numbers of people living in the bigger towns results from the sharp decline in employment opportunities in the country, the rise in the proportion of service sector jobs and the increasing number of higher education graduates. In the conurbations suburbanization has taken place. For example, in Harjumaa county the population of parishes in 2000–11 increased by more than 40%.

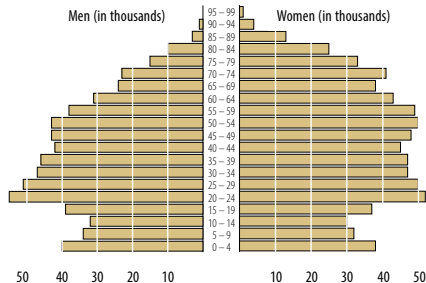
**Economy.** During the Soviet period the proportion of industry in the Estonian economy rose significantly. Since privatisation and transfer to the market economy in the middle of the 1990s the Estonian economy has grown rapidly.

The main natural resources are coal (used as a source of energy), limestone and wood.

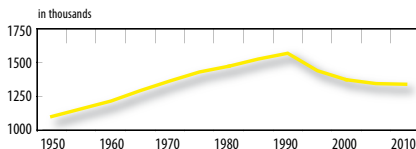
## FOR INFORMATION

- The mountain Suur Munamägi on Haanja Hill is the highest point in the Baltic countries.
- The Valaste waterfall on the north Estonian cliffs is the highest waterfall (30 m) in the Baltic countries.
- In the north-west of Estonia the land rises by 2–3 mm in a year.
- The Pärnu river has also been called the Emajõgi.
- Until the beginning of the 20th century, the traditional Estonian dwelling was a farmhouse.
- In Tsarist Russia serfdom was first abolished in 1816 in the Estonian Province and in 1819 in the Livonian Province.

## POPULATION PYRAMID

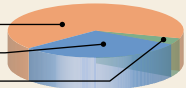


## POPULATION



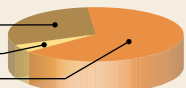
## ECONOMY (IN TERMS OF GDP)

services (66.1%)  
industry (30.2%)  
agriculture (3.7%)



## COMPOSITION OF THE WORKFORCE

industry (30.1%)  
agriculture (4.8%)  
services (65.1%)



## TOODETUD ENERGIA

thermal energy (90.8%)  
hydropower (0.2%)  
other renewable energy (9%)





## HISTORY

**1206–27** The territory of Estonia is invaded and divided between: the Tartu Bishopric; the Bishopric of Ōsel-Wiek; an order of warrior knights (until 1237 the Livonian Brothers of the Sword, afterwards the Livonian Order, part of the Teutonic Order) and Denmark.

**1343–45** St George's night uprising. In 1346 Denmark sells North Estonia to the Teutonic Order.

**1558–83** Several wars on Estonian territory (the so-called Livonian War); as a result North Estonia goes to Sweden, South Estonia to Poland and Saaremaa to Denmark.

**1629** Sweden acquires North Estonia and in 1645 also Saaremaa.

**1700–10** In the Great Northern War Russia invades Estonia; at the same time, the Baltic Germans get special class privileges. The Baltic Germans' power in Estonia lasts till the beginning of the 20th century.

**Second half of the 19th century** The national awakening takes place, laying the basis for the political and cultural activities of the Estonians.

**1905** During the 1905 Russian revolution, Estonians become significantly more active in politics.

**1917** After the February Revolution Estonia gains its autonomy, but after the October Revolution the autonomy is abolished. The Estonian Provincial Assembly asserts its sovereignty on 28 November, but the Bolsheviks close the assembly down.

The most developed industries are production of electronic and electrical equipment, also of food, furniture, metal and chemical goods; as well as engineering and light industry.

The main export articles are machines and equipment (one-fifth of total exports), mineral products (one-sixth; mainly oil in transit); timber, wood products and furniture (one-sixth), food products (one-tenth), metals and metal products (one-twelfth). The main branch of agriculture is milk cattle; cereals, potatoes and other crops are grown.

The biggest companies of Estonian origin are for example Eesti Energia, the national energy company; Tallink Group, the biggest ship company in the Baltic Sea; BLRT Group, a shipbuilding and metal processing company; Tallinn Harbour; Tallinna Kaubamaja (a retail trading company); the building companies Merko Group and Nordecon; and Viru Chemicals Group, a chemical company.

## HISTORY

**24 February 1918** The Salvation Committee of Estonia declares the country's independence; German occupation follows. In November the independence of Estonia is restored. Soviet Russia attacks Estonia and the Estonian War of Independence begins.

**2 February 1920** The War of Independence ends with the Tartu Peace Treaty; by the treaty the independence of Estonia is confirmed. Afterwards, a parliamentary constitution is adopted.

**1 December 1924** An unsuccessful coup by Bolsheviks in Estonia.

**1930–33** The global economic crisis hits Estonia, destabilizing the overall situation.

**1934** The head of state, Konstantin Päts, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Estonian Army, Johan Laidoner, carry out an authoritarian coup.

**1937–38** A new presidential constitution is adopted; Konstantin Päts is elected president, his authoritarian power continues.

**1939** At the demand of the Soviet Union, Soviet military bases are established in Estonia.

**1940** The Soviet Union occupies and annexes Estonia; repression follows. In 1941 a mass deportation (also called the June deportation) takes place. More than 10,000 people are deported.

**1941–44** German occupation in Estonia.

**1944–1991** The Soviet Union occupies the territory of Estonia; Estonia becomes one of the republics of the Soviet Union. Until the mid-1950s Stalinist repressions take place. In the 1970s and in the 1980s Russification intensifies. In the period 1940–90 around 400,000 (mainly Russian speaking) people from other republics are transferred to Estonia.

**1949** The second mass deportation (or the March deportation) is carried out. More than 20,000 people are deported.

**1987–91** Restoration of Estonian independence, which begins with public protest against the Soviet authorities' plans to create a phosphorite mine in Virumaa county (the so-called phosphorite war). In 1988 the Singing Revolution takes place; afterwards the basis for an ideal self-governing, later also politically independent, state is put into words.

**20 August 1991** Estonian independence is restored.

**1992** A new constitution is adopted. The Riigikogu (Parliament) and a president are elected. The government initiates radical economic reforms.

**2004** Estonia joins the European Union and NATO.

**2011** Estonia adopts the euro as its official currency.



# ITALY



**NAME OF THE STATE** Italy (*Italia*)

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT**  
parliamentary republic

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE** Italian

**CAPITAL** Rome (*Roma*) (population 2,643,600)

**AREA** 301,336 km<sup>2</sup>

**POPULATION** 60,626,400

**DENSITY** 201.2 people per km<sup>2</sup>

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS** 20 regions, subdivided into 110 provinces

**TIME ZONE** +1 hour (UTC)

**COUNTRY CODES** IT, ITA

**INTERNET TLD** .it

**NATIONAL DAY** 2 June

**HIGHEST POINT**  
Mont Blanc (4,810 m)

**CURRENCY** euro (EUR)

**GDP PER CAPITA** 30,116 \$ (according to purchasing power)

**MEMBERSHIP** UN (1955), WTO (1995), OSCE (1973), NATO (1949), EU (1952), Schengen (1997)



## LARGEST TOWNS

Rome ( <i>Roma</i> )	2,643,600
Milan ( <i>Milano</i> )	1,324,100
Naples ( <i>Napoli</i> )	959,600
Turin ( <i>Torino</i> )	907,600
Palermo	655,900
Genoa ( <i>Genova</i> )	607,900
Bologna	380,200
Florence ( <i>Firenze</i> )	371,300
Bari	320,500
Catania	293,500
Venice ( <i>Venezia</i> )	270,900
Verona	264,000
Messina	242,500
Padua ( <i>Padova</i> )	214,200
Trieste	205,500

## HEALTHCARE

Expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	9.53
Doctors per 10,000 people	36.8
Hospital places per 10,000 people	35.2

## EDUCATION

Literacy (%)	98.9
Expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	4.41
Expenditure on research and development (as percentage of GDP)	1.1

## TRAFFIC



cars per 1,000 people

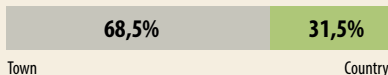
**ITALY** is situated in southern Europe, on the shores of the Mediterranean.

**Nature.** Most of the country is on the Italian Peninsula (Apennine Peninsula). The extensive and fertile Lombardy (or Po) lowlands separate the southern ranges of the Alps, towering on the northern and western border, from the Apennine mountains

▼ *Sorrento, a view over the coastal area and the Gulf of Naples.*

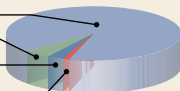


## TOWN AND COUNTRY POPULATION



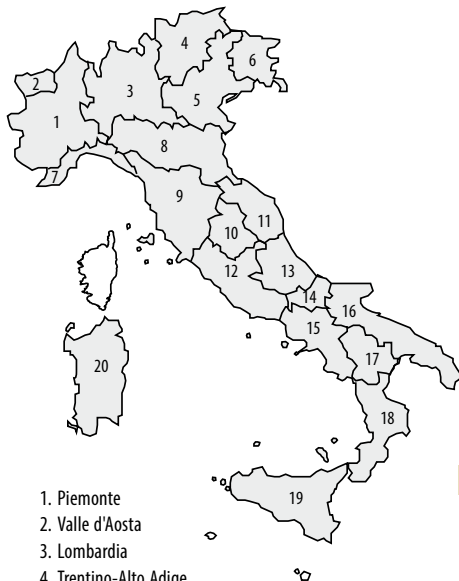
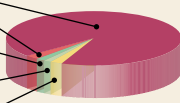
## RELIGION

Catholics (91%)  
other Christians (4.6%)  
Muslims (3.4%)  
others (1%)

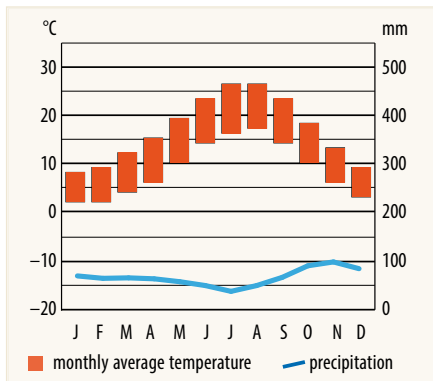


## ETHNIC GROUPS

Italian (92.4%)  
Arab (2.1%)  
Romanian (1.7%)  
Albanian (1.4%)  
others (2.4%)



1. Piemonte
2. Valle d'Aosta
3. Lombardia
4. Trentino-Alto Adige
5. Veneto
6. Friuli-Venezia Giulia
7. Liguria
8. Emilia-Romagna
9. Toscana
10. Umbria
11. Marche
12. Lazio
13. Abruzzo
14. Molise
15. Campania
16. Apulia
17. Basilicata
18. Calabria
19. Sicily (*Sicilia*)
20. Sardinia





## RANKINGS AMONG 196 WORLD STATES

Area	71
Population	23
Population density	43
Avg life expectancy at birth (82)	4
Literacy	49
Doctors per 10,000 people	20
Hospital places per 10,000 people	64
Human development ranking	27
GDP per capita	33

(highest peak Corno Grande, 2,912 m). The Apennines continue in the south on Sicily; Sardinia too is mountainous. The highest peaks are situated on the border area in the Alps. The highest mountain entirely situated on Italian territory is Monte Bianco di Courmayeur (4,784 m). The whole territory of the country is seismically active, with several active volcanoes (for example, Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli). The Tuscan islands (the biggest of which is Elba), Capri and Ischia with their natural beauty near Naples, and some smaller islands are also part of Italy. The country is relatively poor in natural resources, but building stone can be found.

A sub-tropical Mediterranean climate prevails, influenced significantly by the Alps on the northern border. Summers are hot and dry on the central and southern plains (the average temperature is



▲ A fish market in Catania

24°C), winters mild and humid (average temperature 10°C). Annual rainfall in most parts of the country is 500–1,000 mm; in the northern part of the Apennines and in the Alps 2,000–3,000 mm. The highest peaks of the Alps are covered by permanent snow and glaciers.

There are many rivers, most of them short; in summer on the Italian peninsula they run almost dry. The longest and most important river is the Po, which flows through the Lombardy lowlands. Parallel to it is the Adige, starting in the Alps. The longest rivers on the Apennine peninsula are the Tiber and the Arno. The latter has caused several big floods.

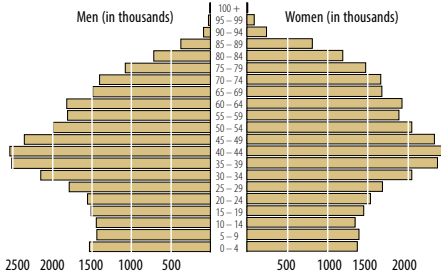
## FOR INFORMATION

- The centre of the powerful ancient Roman empire, which was founded in the city of Rome in the 6th century, was situated in Italy.
- Pliny the Younger observed and described in detail the catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79 AD.
- The Vatican, the main residence of the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, is situated in Rome.
- The Vatican and San Marino (enclaves) are surrounded by the territory of Italy.
- Among famous singers born in Italy are Enrico Caruso, Mario Lanza and Luciano Pavarotti.
- Cars produced by the company Fiat are known throughout the world.
- Italy ranks first in the world in cultivation of grapes and second in olives.

▼ The ruins at Pompeii, with Vesuvius in the background

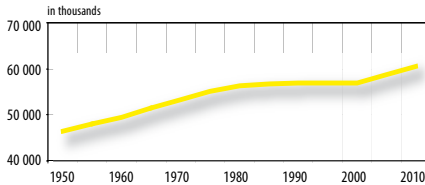


## POPULATION PYRAMID



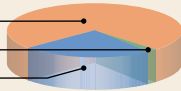
▲ Rome

## POPULATION



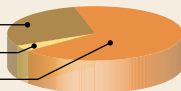
## ECONOMY (IN TERMS OF GDP)

services (74.1%)  
agriculture (2%)  
industry (23.9%)



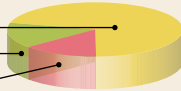
## COMPOSITION OF THE WORKFORCE

industry (28.7%)  
agriculture (3.8%)  
services (67.5%)



## ENERGY PRODUCTION

thermal energy (70.8%)  
hydropower (15.5%)  
other renewable energy (13.7%)



Most of the bigger lakes are situated in the Alps and in their foothills. The largest lakes are Garda, Lago Maggiore, Como, Iseo and Lugano.

Due to long human activity little vegetation remains on the lowlands and on the plains. Forest covers around 30% of the country, mostly in the Alps. In the lower areas of the Apennine mountains evergreen scrub (macchia, garrigue) grows, at the higher altitudes also broadleaf forest (chestnut, oak) and mixed forest. There are many olive groves and stone pines, vineyards and orchards.

**Population.** In population and religion, Italy is more unified than many other EU member states. The main group are Italians, descendants of ancient Romans who intermarried with other inhabitants of ancient Italy. Some regions and areas are bilingual: Trentino-Alto Adige (Italian and German) and Valle

▼ Florence



## HISTORY

**753 BC** According to legend, the city of Rome is being built.

**6th to 5th centuries BC** In northern Italy, Etruscan city-states are predominant.

**510 BC** A republic is established in Rome.

**3rd century BC** Roman influence spreads all over Italy. During the first and second Punic wars Rome becomes the dominant power in the western Mediterranean.

**30 BC** Augustus takes sole power; the Roman Empire is taking shape.

**1st to 2nd centuries** The Roman Empire is flourishing. It rules the whole Mediterranean coast and western Europe.

**4th to 5th centuries** The Roman Empire weakens; by the end of the 4th century it divides into the Eastern and the Western Empire.

**476** The last emperor of the Western Empire is deposed; in 493 the Ostrogoth empire is founded, led by Theoderic the Great.

**554** Most of Italy is under Byzantine rule.

**568–751** The strongest power in Italy is the Lombard empire.

**Second half of the 8th century** The Frankish empire seizes control in northern and central Italy. The Pontifical State is created, a secular possession of the Popes.

**9th century** Arabs conquer Sicily and southern Italy; from the 11th till the 12th century, the Norman Kingdom of Sicily is formed there.

**10th century** Northern and central Italy are part of the Holy Roman Empire (Germanic Roman). In the following centuries, Emperor and Pope are rivals for power.

**13th to 15th centuries** The Italian city-states become stronger. Banking, trade and culture develop. This flourishing period will be called the Renaissance.

**1494–1559** Italian wars, resulting in Spain gaining control over Italy. Some bigger city-states like Venice, the Pontifical State and Florence regain their independence.

**1796–99** France conquers northern Italy; in 1805 the Kingdom of Italy is created, dependent on Napoleon I.

**1809–14** The whole of Italy (excluding Sicily and Sardinia) is under French rule.

**1815** According to the decision of the Congress of Vienna, north Italy will be ruled by Austria and in south Italy the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies is created and the Pontifical State is restored. The kingdom of Sardinia becomes stronger.



▲ *Venice. The Campanile (1514) in the Piazza San Marco and the Doges' palace.*

d'Aosta (Italian and French) as well as Trieste-Gorizia (Italian and Slovenian).

Many Italians have emigrated since the end of the 19th century.

Population density is high in central Italy, in Lazio and in Campania, and in Lombardy in the north; and low in the mountainous areas in the south and in the north-west. The increase in illegal immigration from Africa, the Balkan peninsula and the Middle East has become a significant problem.

## PLACES TO VISIT

- The old town of Rome
- The archaeological sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata
- The Appian Way (*Via Appia*)
- Tivoli
- Florence, Milan and the Cathedral (*Duomo*) in Pisa.
- The Doges' palace in Venice
- Renaissance and Baroque style *palazzi*
- Works of the Renaissance masters: Italian-born Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo and others
- The Isle of Capri
- Vesuvius and Etna volcanoes
- Albarello dwellings
- The Etruscan necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia
- The Rhaetian railway in the Alps and Bernina landscapes (partially in Switzerland)
- Lipari and the Aeolian islands





▲ *Taormina, a town on the east coast of Sicily*

**Economy.** Italy is one of the world's biggest economies and enjoys one of the highest living standards. Its varied processing industry is mainly based on imported raw material.

Among the world's biggest companies are, for example, the partially state-owned oil and gas company Eni, the energy company Enel and the insurance company Assicurazioni Generali. Among the biggest and best known companies are: the automobile companies Fiat, as well as Ferrari and Maserati, makers of luxury and sports cars; Pirelli, which produces tires; Finmeccanica in the aviation and defence sector; Indesit, producing domestic appliances; Ferrero in the food industry; and Versace and Prada in the fashion industry.

The main natural resource is building stone; oil and natural gas are extracted in smaller quantities. A mild Mediterranean climate with dry summers and humid winters, and a rich historical and cultural heritage are the main factors explaining why Italy has become one of the world's biggest tourist destinations.

The natural conditions are especially favourable for cultivating vines, olive trees and citrusus. Italy is the world's biggest wine producer.

The contrast between the economically well developed north and less developed south (*Mezzogiorno*) is characteristic of Italy; GDP per capita in the wealthier regions is almost double that of poorer regions.

## HISTORY

**1820s to 1830s** The Young Italy movement, led by Giuseppe Mazzini, has the goal of unifying Italy.

**1848–49** At a time of revolution, a republic is declared in several towns, but the revolution is suppressed.

**1859–60** As a result of the Austro-Sardinian war, the territories of Milan are amalgamated with Sardinia, as are several other Central Italian states.

**1860** Giuseppe Garibaldi's volunteer army invades the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and defeats the monarchy; at the same time the Sardinian army occupies the greater part of the Pontifical State.

**1861** The Kingdom of Italy is declared, ruled by the king of Sardinia. Venice becomes part of it in 1866 (from Austria) and the Pontifical State (from Rome) in 1870.

**1882** Italy concludes an agreement of triple union with Germany and Austro-Hungary, which lasts till the First World War.

**1915–18** Italy participates in the First World War on the side of the Entente.

**1922** A fascist party led by Benito Mussolini takes power. In 1926 it establishes a single-party system.

**1929** The Lateran agreements are concluded between the Pope and Italy, resulting in the founding of the Vatican state.

**1940–43** Italy participates in the Second World War as an ally of Germany and is defeated in battles in Africa against the United Kingdom and the United States.

**1943** Mussolini is overthrown, but in 1943–45 Germany occupies Northern Italy; the Italian Social Republic (Salò), led by Mussolini, is declared there.

**1946** Italy becomes a republic; in the following year a constitution is adopted, establishing a parliamentary democracy. Thereafter, unstable governments rule in Italy, seldom lasting more than one or two years.

**1952** Italy is one of the founding members of the European Coal and Steel Community (a predecessor of the European Union).

**1970s** Leftist extremism spreads in Italy; several terrorist attacks are perpetrated.

**1994–95, 2001–06 and 2008–11** The Prime Minister is Silvio Berlusconi, a businessman and a rightist populist, famous for his several scandals.

**2009** The economic crisis hits Italy; subsequently, attempts are made to stabilise the economy.



# UNITED KINGDOM



**NAME OF THE STATE** United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT** constitutional monarchy

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE** English

**CAPITAL** London (population 8,173,300)

**AREA** 242,495 km<sup>2</sup>

**POPULATION** 63,181,000

**DENSITY** 260.5 people per km<sup>2</sup>

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS** four historical/geographical areas

**TIME ZONE** +0 hours (UTC)

**COUNTRY CODES** GB, GBR

**INTERNET TLD** .uk

**NATIONAL DAY** 15 June

**HIGHEST POINT** Ben Nevis (1,343 m)

**CURRENCY** pound sterling (GBP)

**GDP PER CAPITA** 36,728 \$ (according to purchasing power)

**MEMBERSHIP** UN (1945), WTO (1995), OSCE (1973), NATO (1949), EU (1973)



**The UNITED KINGDOM** is situated in western Europe. In addition to the island of Great Britain the state includes the north-eastern part of the Island of Ireland (Northern Ireland) and the Hebrides, the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands, the Isle of Wight and Anglesey. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are directly under the British crown. The UK has many overseas territories. The UK and most of the countries of the former British Empire are members of the Commonwealth of Nations, founded in 1931.

# UNITED KINGDOM

## HEALTHCARE

Expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	9.64
Doctors per 10,000 people	27.6
Hospital places per 10,000 people	29.6

## EDUCATION

Literacy (%)	99
Expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	5.05
Expenditure on research and development (as percentage of GDP)	1.7

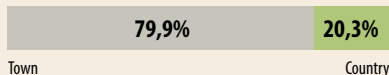
## TRAFFIC



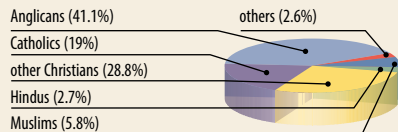
In terms of historical-geographical division, the UK can be divided into four parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. 'Great Britain' and 'England' are used as alternative names for the UK.

**Nature.** The coastline of the islands is indented. In Scotland and in Ireland coastal fjords can be found;

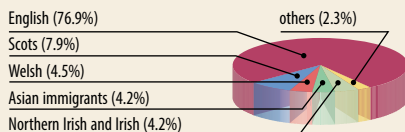
## TOWN AND COUNTRY POPULATION



## RELIGION

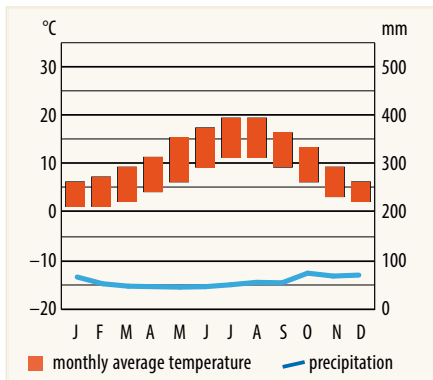


## ETHNIC GROUPS



## LARGEST TOWNS

London (conurbation)	15,010,300	Edinburgh	468,700
Birmingham	1,074,300	Liverpool	466,400
Leeds	751,500	Bristol	428,200
Glasgow	589,900	Cardiff	346,100
Sheffield	552,700	Leicester	329,800
Bradford	522,500	Coventry	317,000
Manchester	503,100	Kingston upon Hull	256,400





## RANKINGS AMONG 196 WORLD STATES

Area	78
Population	22
Population density	34
Avg life expectancy at birth (80,3)	22
Literacy	30
Doctors per 10,000 people	47
Hospital places per 10,000 people	82
Human development ranking	29
GDP per capita	25

on the shores of the English Channel there are also chalk cliffs. Eastern and south-eastern parts of the island of Great Britain are flat, elsewhere the relief is hilly. In geological terms, the Scottish Highlands (which include the highest peak of the country), the mountains on the Welsh peninsula and in the north-east of Ireland are the western continuation of the Caledonian Scandinavian mountains. The Pennines and the Cumbrian Mountains rise in the central part of the island. Eastern and south-eastern parts of the island are indented by worn limestone pavements and chalk terraces. The main natural resources are petroleum, natural gas (in the North Sea) and coal; tin, copper, zinc and tungsten ore can also be found, as well as potassium chloride and rock salt, and kaolin.



▲ *London. The Tower Bridge.*

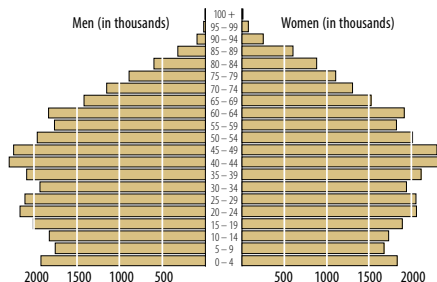
## FOR INFORMATION

- Britain takes its name from Celtic tribes speaking Brythonic languages; England's name is derived from the name of the Angles, a Germanic tribe that settled on the island in the 5th century.
- Legends about the British king Arthur have also been used by French and German poets and many current writers.
- Until the First World War the British Navy was stronger than any two other countries' navies put together.
- After the Industrial Revolution that began in England in the 1760s to 1780s, the UK became the world's most important industrial country (the so-called 'world's smithy').
- Queen Victoria was the world's longest reigning female monarch (63 years, 7 months). The period of her reign (1837–1901) is called the Victorian Era.
- Many geographical names elsewhere have been derived from the names of places in Great Britain, including New Britain, New England, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Southern Shetland Islands, and South Orkney islands.
- Wales is known for its long place names. The Welsh village Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch, is considered to be the village with the longest name in the world.
- The best known lake is Loch Ness in Scotland (because of the legendary monster 'Nessie').

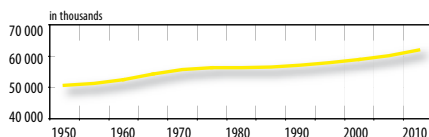
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▼ *Edinburgh Castle*

## POPULATION PYRAMID

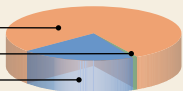


## POPULATION



## ECONOMY (IN TERMS OF GDP)

services (78.2%)  
 agriculture (0.7%)  
 industry (21.1%)



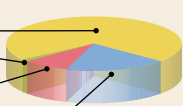
## COMPOSITION OF THE WORKFORCE

industry (19.1%)  
 agriculture (2.0%)  
 services (78.9%)



## ENERGY PRODUCTION

thermal energy (70.9%)  
 hydropower (1.6%)  
 other renewable energy (8.5%)  
 nuclear energy (19%)



▲ Saint Michael's Mount, offshore in the English Channel

A moderate maritime climate prevails; it is heavily influenced by the warm North-Atlantic Current. In London the average temperature in January is 4°C, in July 18°C. In Scotland, in Aberdeen, 3°C and 14°C respectively. Average annual rainfall is 650–750 mm, and in the Scottish Highlands up to 4,000 mm.

There are plentiful lakes and rivers. The longest rivers are the Severn, the Thames and the Clyde. Lakes are especially numerous in Scotland and in the Cumbrian Mountains (where the Lake District is situated). The largest lake is Lough Neagh (386 km<sup>2</sup>) in Northern Ireland.

Forest (11% of the territory) can be found only in the hills. Many heather heaths and moors can be found. There are many park-like groves and hedges

▼ Glasgow



## HISTORY

**1st century** The territories of England and Wales fall under the rule of the Roman Empire. In the 2nd century Hadrian's Wall is built to defend the northern border of the province of Britannia.

**5th century** Roman rule collapses in England. In the following centuries the Anglo-Saxons invade Great Britain; they establish kingdoms, the most important of which are Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex.

**9th century** The invasion of the Vikings begins. The king of Wessex, Alfred the Great (reigning from 871 to 899), who is considered the first king of England, is successful in driving the Vikings away. In the 10th century Wessex rules most of the territories in today's England.

**9th to 10th centuries** The united Scottish (Alba) Kingdom takes shape.

**10th to 11th centuries** A large area of England is under the rule of the Vikings (the so-called Danelaw territory). In 1016 to 1035 Canute the Great rules in England, and is also the king of Denmark and Norway.

**1066** The Duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror, invades England.

**1215** The Magna Carta is adopted, limiting the power of the monarchy and broadening the privileges of the bourgeoisie.

**1250–60** The British Parliament is taking shape; in the following centuries it gradually gains more power in state affairs.

**1272–1307** Edward I rules in England. In 1283 he invades Wales; from 1301 the crown prince of England is the prince of Wales. Edward I also invades Scotland but an uprising, led by William Wallace, breaks out (1297–1305). In 1314 Scotland is finally freed from British rule, under the leadership of Robert the Bruce.

**1337–1453** The Hundred Year War between England and France. The British kings are not able to win the French throne, and they lose their French territories. Scotland is the ally of France in this war.

**1509–47** Henry VIII rules in England; during his reign the Reformation begins in England; the monarchy becomes stronger.

**1530** Ireland surrenders and is under the direct power of the British king and in 1542 Wales is annexed.

**1558–1603** Elizabeth I is on the throne of England. During her reign England becomes an important colonial and sea power. In 1588 an attempted invasion by the Spanish is fought off.

**1603** A personal union is established between England and Scotland.

**1642–51** The English Civil War between the Parliament and the King. Under the leadership of Oliver Cromwell the Republic of England (the Commonwealth, 1649–60) is temporarily established.



▲ The spa town, Bath

separating fields. In places one can find artificially created landscapes and re-cultivated land.

**Population.** The native people of the country are the English, Scots and Welsh. Around 90% of the population are white; most of the immigrants have arrived from the Commonwealth countries (including India, Pakistan, and Caribbean countries). Population density is higher in the big conurbations from London to Liverpool and Leeds.

People emigrating from the British islands and their descendants have made up the main part of the population in several countries (including the USA, Canada, Australia, New-Zealand).

## PLACES TO VISIT

- Hadrian's Wall
- The Giant's Causeway on the Northern Irish coast: 37,000 basalt columns
- Stonehenge, prehistoric standing stones
- Canterbury Cathedral
- The mining world heritage site in Cornwall and West Devon
- Ironbridge Gorge industrial landscape
- The university towns, Oxford and Cambridge
- Stratford upon Avon, William Shakespeare's birthplace
- The city of Bath
- The British Museum
- Westminster Abbey





▲ Stonehenge

**Economy.** At the end of the 18th century the Industrial Revolution began in the UK and the country became one of the world's most significant industrial countries. The UK has the biggest resources of raw petroleum (mainly in the territorial waters of the North Sea) in the European Union, but two-thirds of the oil used in the country has to be imported. Coal mining had a significant role (begun during the Industrial Revolution), as does the car industry. British capital is invested mainly in the production of luxury cars (e.g. Aston Martin, Lotus, Morgan). Most of the companies are of foreign origin (Vauxhall Motors now belongs to General Motors; Rolls Royce to BMW; and Jaguar Land Rover to Tata Motors). The UK is one of the leading countries in the aviation industry. In the pharmaceutical industry the world's biggest companies include the British companies GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca.

In agriculture, cattle rearing is significant; fishing also has an important place.

Among the world's biggest companies are the British petroleum and gas concerns BP and Royal Dutch Shell; and the retail company Tesco. The British pound ranks third as the world's reserve currency after the US dollar and the euro. London is the world's second biggest financial and international business centre after New York.

## HISTORY

**1688–89** The Glorious Revolution takes place; afterwards the power of the monarchy is significantly limited.

**1707** The personal union between England and Scotland becomes a real union: the Kingdom of Great Britain is created.

**1714** The Hanover Dynasty acquires power; the significance of the king's power lessens further. During the 18th century the prime minister becomes the main force in politics.

**1756–63** The Seven Year War. Great Britain is victorious over France, then the strongest state in Europe.

**1775–83** Great Britain is defeated in the American War of Independence. As a result, the North American colonies become independent.

**1793–1815** Great Britain participates in the wars against France; Great Britain fights off attempts at invasion and strengthens its position on the high seas. After the Congress of Vienna Great Britain becomes one of Europe's and the world's leading powers.

**1801** Ireland is added to the Kingdom of Great Britain.

**1830** Parliamentary reforms begin; by the end of the century these will lead to the establishment of democratic government.

**1837–1901** Queen Victoria is on the throne. Under her reign the British Empire flourishes.

**1908** The Triple Entente alliance with Russia and France (1907) is a counterweight against Germany and its allies (the Central Powers).

**1914–18** Great Britain is victorious in the First World War.

**1919–21** Ireland becomes independent. Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom.

**1939–45** The Second World War. Great Britain evades German invasion and is victorious in the war.

**1952** Elizabeth II is on the throne. Under her reign the British Empire has collapsed and cooperation with continental Europe and with the USA has developed.

**1960s** Violent conflicts between the Catholics and the Protestants in Northern Ireland begin, and last till the 1990s.

**1973** Great Britain joins the European Communities (currently the EU).

**1979–90** Margaret Thatcher is the first female prime minister. Her rightist politics cause dissatisfaction, but strengthen the country's economy.

**1999** Scotland and Wales gain their own parliaments and [partial] autonomy.