Profile of European Union
Chapter-III

PROFILE OF EUROPEAN UNION

A European Union member state is any one of the twenty-seven countries that have joined the European Union (EU) since its inception in 1958 as the European Economic Community (EEC). From an original membership of six states, there have been five successive enlargements, the largest occurring on May 1, 2004, when ten member states joined.

With the addition of Romania and Bulgaria in 2007, the EU's membership is now twenty-seven. Negotiations are also underway with other states. The process of enlargement is sometimes referred to as European integration. However, this term is also used to refer to the intensification of cooperation between EU member states as national governments allow for the gradual centralising of power within European institutions. In order to join the European Union, a state needs to fulfill the economic and political conditions generally know as the Copenhagen criteria. The basically requires a secular, democratic government, rule of law and corresponding freedoms and institutions. According to the EU Treaty, each current member state and also the European Parliament have to agree to any enlargement.

Bulgaria and Romania comprise the second part of the EU's fifth enlargement and joined the EU on January 1, 2007. This date was firmly set at the Thessaloniki Summit in 2003 and confirmed at Brussels on June 18, 2004. The country reports of October 2004, and in the final report on September 26, 2006 also affirmed the January 1,
2007 date of accession for both Bulgaria and Romania. Bulgaria and Romania signed their Treaty of Accession on April 25, 2005 at Luxembourg's Neumunster Abbey.

**Table 3.1 : Member States of the European Union**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Official Name</th>
<th>Accession</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Largest City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Republic of Austria</td>
<td>01 January 1995</td>
<td>8,169,929</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Kingdom of Belgium</td>
<td>25 March 1957</td>
<td>10,274,595</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Republic of Bulgaria</td>
<td>01 January 2007</td>
<td>7,621,337</td>
<td>Sofia</td>
<td>Sofia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Republic of Cyprus</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>835,00</td>
<td>Nicosia</td>
<td>Nicosia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>10,256,760</td>
<td>Prague</td>
<td>Prague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Kingdom of Denmark</td>
<td>01 January 1973</td>
<td>5,368,854</td>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Republic of Estonia</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>1,415,681</td>
<td>Tallinn</td>
<td>Tallinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Republic of Finland</td>
<td>01 January 1995</td>
<td>5,157,537</td>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>Helsinki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Republic of Germany</td>
<td>25 March 1957</td>
<td>83,251,851</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Hellenic Republic</td>
<td>01 January 1981</td>
<td>10,645,343</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>Athens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Republic of Hungary</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>10,075,034</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>01 January 1973</td>
<td>4,234,925</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Italian Republic</td>
<td>25 March 1957</td>
<td>58,751,711</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Republic of Latvia</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>2,366,515</td>
<td>Riga</td>
<td>Riga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Republic of Lithuania</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>3,601,138</td>
<td>Vilnius</td>
<td>Vilnius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Duchy of Luxembourg</td>
<td>25 March 1957</td>
<td>448,569</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Republic of Malta</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>397,499</td>
<td>Valletta</td>
<td>Valletta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>25 March 1957</td>
<td>16,318,199</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Republic of Poland</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>38,625,478</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Portuguese Republic</td>
<td>01 January 1986</td>
<td>10,084,245</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Lisbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>01 January 2007</td>
<td>21,698,181</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Slovak Republic</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>5,422,366</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
<td>Bratislava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Republic of Slovenia</td>
<td>01 May 2004</td>
<td>1,932,917</td>
<td>Ljubljana</td>
<td>Ljubljana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Kingdom of Spain</td>
<td>01 January 1986</td>
<td>44,708,964</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Kingdom of Sweden</td>
<td>01 January 1995</td>
<td>9,090,113</td>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>Stockholm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
<td>01 January 1973</td>
<td>60,201,000</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. AUSTRIA

Capital
(and largest city) Vienna
48°12'N, 16°21'E

Official languages
German
Slovene, Croatian
Hungarian

Recognised regional languages

Government
Parliamentary republic

• President
Heinz Fischer

• Chancellor
Alfred Gusenbauer

Independence

• Austrian State Treaty in force
July 27, 1955

• Declaration of Neutrality
October 26, 1955

Accession to the European Union
January 1, 1995

Area

• Total 83,871 km² (115th)
32,378 sq mi

• Water (%) 1.3

Population

• 2006 estimate 8,292,322 (92nd)

• 2001 census 8,032,926
- Density 99/km² (99th)  
  256/sq mi

**GDP (PPP)**
- Total $275.02 billion (34th)
- Per capita $33,615 (8th)

**GDP (nominal)**
- Total $307.07 billion (23rd)
- Per capita $37,117 (12th)

**Currency**
Euro (€) (EUR)

**Time Zone**
CET (UTC+1)
- Summer (DST) CEST (UTC+2)

Austria (German: Österreich (Osterreich), see also other languages), officially the Republic of Austria (German: Republik Österreich (Republic Austrian Latin: Austria), IPA is a landlocked country in Central Europe. It borders Germany and the Czech Republic to the north, Slovakia and Hungary to the east, Slovenia and Italy to the south, and Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the west. Its capital city is Vienna.

The origins of modern Austria date back to the ninth century, when the countryside of upper and lower Austria became increasingly populated. The name "Ostarrich" is first documented in an official document from 996. Since then this word has developed into the German word Österreich. Austria is a parliamentary representative democracy consisting of nine federal states and is one of six European
countries that have declared permanent neutrality and one of the few countries that includes the concept of everlasting neutrality in their constitution. Austria has been a member of the United Nations since 1955 and joined the European Union in 1995.

**Origin and history of the name “Austria”**

The German name Österreich can be translated into English as the “eastern empire” or “eastern realm”, which is derived from the Old German Ostarrichi. The name was Latinized as “Austria”, although it has no etymological connection with the name of Australia (which derives from Latin *Australis* meaning The South). Reich can also mean “empire”, and this connection is the one that is understood in the context of the Austrian/Austro-Hungarian Empire, Holy Roman Empire, although not in the context of the modern Republic of Österreich.

The current official designation is the Republic of Austria (*Republik Österreich*). It was originally known after the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1918 as the Republic of German Austria (*Republik Deutschösterreich*), but the state was forced to change its name to “Republic of Austria” in 1919 peace Treaty of Saint-Germain. The name was changed again during the Austro-fascist regime (1934-1938), into Federal State of Austria (*Bundesstaat Österreich*), but restored after regaining independence and the birth of the Second Austrian Republic (1955-present).

During the monarcy, Austria was known as the **Austrian Empire** (*Kaisertum Österreich*), however no official designation existed since the empire was strongly multiethnic. After the *Ausgleich* with Hungary in 1867, the empire became known as **Austria-Hungary** in reflection of the dual monarchy character.
## 2. BELGIUM

**Capital**
(And largest city) Brussels

**Largest metropolitan area**
Brussels Capital Region

**Official languages**
Dutch, French, German

**Government**
Federal constitutional monarchy and bicameral parliamentary democracy

- **King**
  - Albert II
- **Prime Minister**
  - Guy Verhofstadt

**Independence**
- Declared October 4, 1830
- Recognised April 19, 1839

**Accession to the European Union**
March 25, 1957

**Area**
- Total 11,787 sq. mi
  - Water (%) 6.4

**Population**
- 2006 estimate 76th 2005
- 2001 census 10,296,350
- Density 344.32/km² (2006)
  - 892/sq. mi (29th 2005)
### GDP (PPP)

- **Total**: $316.2 billion (30th)
- **Per capita**: $31,400 (12th)

### Currency

- **Euro (€) (EUR)**

### Time Zone

- **CET (UTC+1)**
- **CEST (UTC+2)**

---

The Kingdom of Belgium is a country in northwest Europe bordered by the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and France, and is one of the founding and core members of the European Union, hosting its headquarters, as well as those of many other major international organizations, such as NATO. Belgium has a population of over ten-and-a-half million people, in an area of around 30,000 square kilometers (11,700 square miles).

Straddling the cultural boundary between Germanic and Latin Europe, Belgium is linguistically divided. The Dutch speaking northern region, Flanders, houses 58% of the population. Another 10% inhabits the officially bilingual Brussels-Capital Region, for approximately 85% using French. In this enclave within the Flemish Region however, neither language is the primary one for roughly half of the residents. French is the language in the southern region Wallonia apart from most of the 73,000 inhabitants of its German Speaking Community. This linguistic diversity often leads to political and cultural conflict and is reflected in Belgium's complex system of government and political history.
Belgium derives its name from the Latin name of the northernmost part of Gaul, *Gallia Belgica*, named after a group of mostly Celtic tribes, *Belgae*. Historically, Belgium has been a part of the Low Countries, which included the Netherlands and Luxembourg and used to cover a somewhat larger region than the current Benelux group of states. From the end of the Middle Ages until the seventeenth century, it was a prosperous centre of commerce and culture. From the sixteenth century until the Belgian revolution in 1830, the area at that time called the Southern Netherlands, was the site of many battles between the European powers, and has been dubbed “the battlefield of Europe” and “the cockpit of Europe”. Upon its independence Belgium eagerly participated at the Industrial Revolution, bringing relative wealth which further increased during the era of its African colonies.
3. BULGARIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Sofia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
<td>40°41'N, 23°19'E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official languages</td>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Parliamentary republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Georgi Parvanov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>Surgery Stanishev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founded</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last previously</td>
<td>1422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>independent state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence from</td>
<td>1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottoman Empire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognized</td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession to the European Union</td>
<td>January 1, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>112,912 km² (104th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water (%)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 estimate</td>
<td>8,990,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989 census</td>
<td>7,679,290 (93rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Density</strong></td>
<td>68/km² (124th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP (PPP)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>$82,533 billion (63th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per capita</td>
<td>$10,844 (65th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP (nominal)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>$26,719 billion (75th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per capita</td>
<td>$4,086 (80th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Currency</strong></td>
<td>Lev (BGN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time zone</strong></td>
<td>EET (UTC+2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summer (DST)</td>
<td>EEST (UTC+3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It borders five countries: Romania to the north mostly along the Danube, Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia to the west, and Greece and Turkey to the south, as well as Black Sea, which comprises its entire eastern border.

Bulgaria is situated in a region once inhabited by the ancient Thracians and later by Greeks and Romans, and is a successor of a powerful European medieval empire which at times covered most of the Balkans and spread its culture and literature among the Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe.

After almost five centuries of Ottoman rule, Bulgaria was reestablished as a constitutional monarchy in 1878. Part of the Easter Bloc after World War II, today Bulgaria is a democratic, unitary, constitutional republic, a member of the European Union and NATO.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>4. CYPRUS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official languages</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independence</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accession to the European Union</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2006 estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2005 census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP (PPP)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per capita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer (DST)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cyprus** the **Republic of Cyprus** is a Eurasian island country in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, South of Turkey (Anatolia).

Cyprus is the third-largest island in the Mediterranean and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Mediterranean, attracting over 2.4 million tourists per year. A former British colony, it gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1960 and became a Commonwealth republic in 1961. The Republic of Cyprus is a developed country and has been a member of the European Union since 1 May 2004.

In 1974, following a period of violence between Greek and Turkish Cypriots and an attempted Greek Cypriot coup sponsored by the Greek military junta of that period, Turkey invaded and occupied one-third of the island. This led to the displacement of thousands of Cypriots and the establishment of a separate Turkish Cypriot political entity in the north. This event and its resulting political situation is a matter of ongoing dispute.

The Republic of Cyprus, the internationally recognized state, has *de jure* sovereignty over the island of Cyprus and surrounding waters. However, the island is *de facto* partitioned into four main parts south of the island;
• the area in the north, styling itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus;

• the United Nations-controlled Green Line, separating the two; and

• two Sovereign Base Areas (Akrotiri and Dhekelia), over which the United Kingdom retained jurisdiction after Cypriot independence.

The major cities in the Republic of Cyprus are the capital Nicosia (Lefkosia in Greek), Limassol (Lemesos in Greek), Larnaca and Pafos.
5. CZECH REPUBLIC

Capital (and largest city) Prague

Official languages Czech (de facto)

Government Republic
  • President Vaclav Klaus
  • Prime Minister Mirek Topolaneč

Independence (formed 9th century)
  • From Austria Hungary October 28, 1918
  • Czechoslovakia dissolved January 1, 1993

Accession to the European Union May 1, 2004

Area
  • Total 78,866 km² (117th)
  • Water (%) 2.0

30,450 sq. mi

Population
  • 2006 estimate 10,287,189 (77th)
  • 2001 census 10,230,060
  • Density 130/km² (77th)

337/sq. mi
The **Czech Republic** (officially Czech: *Ceska republika*), short form in Czech: *Cesko*, IPA: is a landlocked country in Central Europe and a member state of the European Union. The country has borders with Poland to the north, Germany to the northwest and west, Austria to the south, and Slovakia to the east. The capital and largest city is Prague (Czech: *Praha*), a major tourist destination. The country is composed of two entire historic regions, Bohemia and Moravia, and parts of Silesia.

The Czech lands were under Habsburg rule from 1526, later becoming part of the Austrian Empire and Austria Hungary. The independent republic of Czechoslovakia was created in 1918, following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire after World War I. After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, disillusion with the Western response and occupation by the Red Army, the Communist
party got a majority in 1946 elections. Czechoslovakia was a Communist state from 1948 until the 1989 Velvet Revolution. On 1 January 1993, the country peacefully split into the Czech and Slovak republics.

The Czech Republic is a pluralist multi-party parliamentary representative democracy. President Vaclav Klaus is the current head of state. The Prime Minister is the head of government (currently Mirek Topolanek). The Parliament has two chambers – the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. It is also a member of the OECD, the Visegrad group and the Council of Europe.
### 6. DENMARK

**Capital**
(Capital and largest city) Copenhagen

**Official languages**
Danish

**Government**
Constitutional monarchy

- **Monarch**
  - Margrethe II

- **Prime Minister**
  - Anders Fogh Rasmussen

**Consolidation**
(prehistoric)

**Accession to the European Union**
1 January 1973

**Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>43,094 km² (134th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16,639 sq. mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water (%)</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007 estimate</td>
<td>5,447,084 (109th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>128.48/km² (78th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>332.78/sq. mi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP (PPP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$198.5 billion (45th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>$37,000 (6th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GDP (nominal) 2006 estimate

- Total $256.3 billion (27th)
- Per capita $46,600 (6th)
- Summer (DST) CEST (UTC+2)

Denmark, officially the Kingdom of Denmark (Danish: Kongeriget Denmark), IPA : literally meaning “the land of Danes” is the smallest and southernmost of the five Nordic countries if its offshore territories are excluded, and the largest if they are included. Denmark is one of the three Scandinavian countries. The mainland is located north of its only land neighbour, Germany, southwest of Sweden, and south of Norway. Denmark also encompasses two off-shore territories, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, both of which enjoy wide-ranging home rule. The national capital is Copenhagen.

Denmark borders both the Baltic and the North Sea. The country consists of a large peninsula, Jutland, which borders northern Germany, plus a large number of islands, most notably Zealand, Funen, Vendsyssel-Thy, Lolland and Bornholm as well as hundreds of minor islands often referred to as the Danish Archipelago. Denmark has historically controlled the approach to the Baltic Sea, and these waters are also known as the Danish straits.

Denmark became a constitutional monarchy in 1849 after having been an absolutist state since 1660 and has been a parliamentary democracy since 1901. Having existed for more than 1,000 years, the Danish monarchy is the second oldest in the world, right after the Japanese. Denmark joined the European Economic
Community in 1973, at which time the Faroe Island chose to remain outside of the EEC. Greenland left the EEC in 1985, and the two provinces remain outside of the European Union and the EU customs zone.

Originally a nation relying on farming, fishing and seafaring without any major natural resources, Denmark has experienced a rapid industrialization and urbanization. Both developments started in the 19th century but accelerated in the first half of the 20th century. These trends enabled the establishment of a Scandinavian Model "welfare state" of public services, starting with the 1933 social reforms known as the Kanslergade Agreement. Denmark was occupied by Germany during World War II, and became one of the founding members of NATO in 1949, ending the traditional policy of neutrality. Economic growth and the modernization of society accelerated in the post World War II era. According to a study published by UNESCO and the CIA, Denmark ranks as the "happiest" nation on earth.
7. ESTONIA

**Capital**
Tallinn
(and largest city)

59°26'N, 24°45'E

**Official languages**
Estonian

**Government**
Parliamentary democracy

- President
Toomas Hendrik Ilves

- Prime Minister
Andrus Ansip

**Independence**
From Russia and Germany

- Declared
24 February 1918

- Recognised
2 February 1920

- Occupied by USSR
16 June 1940

- Re-declared
20 August 1991

**Accession to the European Union**
May 1, 2004

**Area**
45,226 km² (132nd)

17,413 sq. mi

- Water (%)
4.56%

**Population**
1,324,333 (151st)

1,376,743

- 2006 estimate

- 2000 census
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Density</strong></th>
<th>29/km² (173rd)</th>
<th>75/sq. mi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**GDP (PPP)**
- Total: $23.93 billion (106th)
- Per capita: $18,216 (42nd)

**Currency**
- Estonian kroon (EEK)

**Time zone**
- Summer (DST): EEST (UTC+3)

---

**Estonia**, (older English spelling *Esthonia*), officially the **Republic of Estonia** (Estonian: *Eesti or Eesti Vabariik*), is a country in Northern Europe. Estonia has land borders to the south with Latvia and to the east with Russia. It is separated from Finland in the north by the Gulf of Finland and from Sweden in the west by the Baltic Sea.

Estonia has been a member of the European Union since 1 May 2004 and of NATO since 29 March 2004.

The Estonian people are ethnically related to the Finns. The Estonian language is one of the Finno-Ugric languages and as such, along with its close relative Finnish as well as Hungarian, is one of the few official languages of the European Union that is not of Indo-European origin.
8. FINLAND

Capital
(and largest city)
Helsinki
60°10'N, 24°56'E

Official languages
Finnish, Swedish

Government
Parliamentary democracy
• President
Tarja Halonen
• Prime Minister
Matti Vanhanen

Independence
From Bolshevist Russia
• Autonomy
March 29, 1809
• Declared
December 6, 1917
• Recognised
January 3, 1918

Accession to the European Union
January 1, 1995

Area
• Total
338,145 km² (65th)
130,558 sq. mi
• Water (%)
9.4

Population
• 2007 estimate
5,238,460 (112th)
• 2000 census
5,181,115
• Density
16/km² (190th)
40/sq. mi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP (PPP)</th>
<th>2005 estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$163 billion (52nd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>$31,208 (12th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (nominal)</td>
<td>2005 estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$193.491 billion (31st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>$37,504 (11th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Currency**

Euro (€) (EUR)

**Time zone**

EET (UTC+2)

EEST (UTC+3)

---

**Finland**, officially the Republic of Finland (Finnish: Suomi, Suomen tasavalta, Swedish: Republiken Finland), is a Nordic country situated in Northern Europe. It shares land borders with Sweden to the west, Russia to the east, and Norway to the north while Estonia lies to its south. Finland is bounded by the Baltic Sea, with the Gulf of Finland to the south and the Gulf of Bothnia to the west. The Aland Islands, off the southwestern coast, are an autonomous, demilitarised administrative province of Finland.

Finland has a population of 5,282,583 people spread over 338,145 square kilometers (130,558.5 sq. mi) making it the most sparsely populated country in the European Union. Finland is a democratic republic with a semi presidential system and parliamentarism. Finland was previously part of the Swedish kingdom and later an autonomous Grand Duchy in the Russian Empire, until it
declared its independence on December 6, 1917. Finland is eleventh on the 2006 United Nations Human Development Index and ranked as the sixth happiest nation in the world by a subjective independent scientific study.

The Republic of Finland is a member state of the United Nations and the European Union. Along with Estonian, Hungarian and Maltese, Finnish is one of the few official languages of the European Union that is not of Indo-European origin. Finland’s second official language is Swedish.
9. FRANCE

Capital (and largest city)  Paris

Official languages  French

Government  Semi-presidential

• President  Nicolas Sarkozy
• Prime Minister  Francois Fillon

Formation

• French State  843 (Treaty of Verdun)
• Current constitution  1958 (5th Republic)

Accession to the European Union  March 25, 1957

Area

• Total  674,843 km² (40th)
  260,558 sq. mi

• Metropolitan France

• IGN  551,695 km² (47th)
• Cadastre  543,965 km² (47th)
  210,026 sq. mi
**Population**

(January 1, 2007 estimate)

- Total 64,102,140 (20th)
- Metropolitan France 61,538,322 (20th)
- Density 113/km² (89th)
  
293/sq. mi

**GDP (PPP)**

2006 estimate

- Total $1.871 trillion (7th)
- Per capita $30,100 (20th)

**Currency**

Euro, CFP France

(EUR, XPF)

**Time zone**

CET (UTC+1)

- Summer (DST) CEST (UTC+2)

**France** (French: IPA : officially the **French Republic** (French: *Republique francaise*, IPA: is a country whose metropolitan territory is located in Western Europe and that also comprises various overseas islands and territories located in other continents. Metropolitan France extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea, and from the Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean. French people often refer to Metropolitan France as L’Hexagone (The “Hexagon”) because of the geometric shape of its territory. France is bordered by Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Andorra and Spain. Due to its overseas departments, France
also shares land borders with Brazil and Suriname (bordering French Guiana), and Netherlands Antilles (bordering Saint-Martin). France is also linked to the United Kingdom by the Channel Tunnel, which passes underneath the English Channel.

The French Republic is a democracy that is organised as a unitary semi-presidential republic. It is a developed country with the sixth-largest economy in the world. Its main ideals are expressed in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. France is one of the founding members of the European Union, and has the largest land area of all members. France is also a founding member of the United Nations, and a member of the Francophonie, the G8 and the Latin Union. It is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council wielding veto power, and it is also an acknowledged nuclear power. France is the most popular international tourist destination in the world, receiving over 75 million foreign tourists annually.

The name France originates from the Franks, a Germanic tribe that occupied northern Europe after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. More precisely, the region around Paris, called Ile-de-France, was the original French royal demesne.

**Origin and history of the name**

The name “France” comes from Latin *Francia*, which literally means “land of the Franks or Frankland”. There are various theories as to the origin of the name of the Franks. One is that it is derived from the Proto-Germanic word *frankon* which translates as *javelin* or *lance* as the throwing axe of the Franks was known as a francisca.
Similarly, the Saxons are named after a variety of single-edged knives called the seax.

Another proposed etymology is that in an ancient Germanic language, Frank means free. However, rather than the ethnic name of the Franks coming from the word frank, it is more probable that the word is derived from the ethnic name of the Franks, the connection being that only the Franks, as the conquering class, had the status of freemen. The Merovingian kings claimed descent of their dynasty from the Sicambri, a Scythian or Cimmerian tribe, asserting that this tribe had changed their name to “Franks” in 11 BC, following their defeat and relocation by Drusus, under the leadership of a certain chieftain called Franko, although they had actually come from present day Netherlands, Lower Saxony, and possibly, ultimately Scandinavia. In German, France is still called Frankreich, which literally means “Realm of the Franks”. In order to distinguish from the Frankish Empire of Charlemagne, Modern France is called Frankreich, while the Frankish Realm is called Frankenreich.

The word “Frank” had been loosely used from the fall of Rome to the Middle Ages, yet from Hugh Capet’s coronation as “King of the Franks” (“Rex Francorum”) it became used to strictly refer to the Kingdom of Francia, which would become France. The Capetian Kings were descended from the Robertines, who had produced two Frankish kings, and previously held the title of “Duke of the Franks” (“dux francorum”). This Frankish duchy encompassed most of modern northern France but because the royal power was sapped by regional princes the term was then applied to the royal demesne as shorthand. It was finally the name adopted for all of the Kingdom as central power was affirmed over the entire kingdom.
10. GERMANY

Capital: Berlin (and largest city)

Official languages: German

Government: Parliamentary Federal Republic
- President: Horst Kohler
- Prime Minister: Angela Merkel (CDU)

Formation:
- Eastern Francia: 843
- Holy Roman Empire: 962
- German Confederation: 8 June 1815
- German Empire: 18 January 1871
- Federal Republic: 23 May 1949
- Reunification: 3 October 1990

Accession to the European Union: 25 March 1957

Area:
- Total: 357,021 km² (63rd)
- 137,858 sq. mi
- Water (%): 2.416
Population

- 2007 estimate 82,400,996 (14th)
- 2000 census 82,797,408 (July 2000 est.)
- Density 230.9/km² (50th)
  598.5/sq. mi

GDP (PPP) 2006 estimate

- Total $2.585 trillion (5th)
- Per capita $31,400 (17th)

GDP (nominal) 2006 estimate

- Total $2.89 trillion (3rd)
- Per capita $35,072 (19th)
- Summer (DST) CEST (UTC+2)

Currency Euro (€) (EUR)

Time zone

- Summer (DST) CEST (UTC+2)

Germany, officially the Federal Republic of Germany (German: Bundesrepublik Deutschland, IPA: ) is a country in West-central Europe. It is bordered on the north by the North Sea, Denmark, and the Baltic Seal; on the east by Poland and the Czech Republic; on the south by Austria and Switzerland; and on the west by France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. Germany is a parliamentary federal republic of sixteen states (Bundeslander). The
capital city and seat of government is Berlin. As a nation-state, the country was unified amidst the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. After World War II Germany was divided, and it became reunified in 1990. It is a founding member of the European Union, and with over 82 million people it has the largest population among the EU member states.

The Federal Republic of Germany is a modern great power, a member state of the United Nations, NATO, the G8, the G4 nations and ranks fourth worldwide in defence spending. Germany is the world's third largest economy by nominal GDP, the world's largest exporter of goods, and the world's second largest importer of goods. In 2007 it holds the rotating presidencies of both the European Council and the G8 summits.
### 11. GREECE

**Capital**
- Athens
- (and largest city) 38°00'N, 23°43'E

**Official languages**
- Greek

**Government**
- Parliamentary republic
  - President: Karolos Papoulias
  - Prime Minister: Kostas Karamanlis
  - President of Parliament: Anna Benaki-Psarouda

**Formation**
- First known Greek civilizations: 3000 BC
- Last previously independent state: 1461
- Independence from the Ottoman Empire: 25 March 1821
- Recognized: 1829

**Accession to the European Union**
- January 1, 1981

**Area**
- Total: 131,990 km² (96th)
- 50,944 sq. mi
- Water (%): 0.8669
### Population

- 2007 estimate: 11,125,179 (74th)
- 2001 census: 10,964,020
- Density: 84/km² (108th)  
  
- 218/sq. mi

### GDP (PPP)

- Total: $305.595 billion (37th)
- Per capita: $27,360 (27th)

### GDP (nominal)

- Total: $341.826 billion (27th)
- Per capita: $30,603 (24th)

### Currency

- Euro (€) (EUR)

### Time zone

- EET (UTC+2)
- Summer (DST): EEST (UTC+3)

---

**Greece**, (Greek:), officially the **Hellenic Republic**, is a country in southeastern Europe, situated on the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula. It is bordered by Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north and by Turkey to the east. The Aegean Sea lies to the east and south of mainland Greece, while the Ionian Sea lies to the west. Both, parts of the eastern Mediterranean basin, feature a vast number of islands.
Greece lies at the juncture of Europe, Asia, and Africa. It is heir to the heritages of classical Greece, the Byzantine Empire, and nearly four centuries of Ottoman rule. Regarded as the cradle of western civilization and being the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, western literature, political science, major scientific principles and drama (including both tragedy and comedy), Greece has a particularly long and eventful history and a cultural heritage which has been considerably influential in Northern Africa and the Middle East and fundamentally formative for the culture of Europe and what is now called the West.

Today, Greece is a developed country, a member of the European Union since 1981, a member of the Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union since 2001, NATO since 1951, the OECD since 1960, the WEU since 1995, and the ESA since 2005. Athens is the capital; Thessaloniki, Piraeus and Patras are some of the country's other major cities.
12. HUNGARY

Capital
(and largest city) Budapest

Official languages
Hungarian (Magyar)

Government
Parliamentary republic
- President Laszlo Solyom
- Prime Minister Ferenc Gyorcsany

Formation
- Kingdom of Hungary December 1000

Accession to the European Union
May 1, 2004

Area
- Total 93,030 km² (109th)
  35,919 sq. mi
- Water (%) 0.74%

Population
- 2007 estimate 10,064,000 (79th)
- 2001 census 10,198,315
- Density 109/km² (92nd)
  282/sq. mi
GDP (PPP) 2006 estimate
- Total $169.875 billion (48th)
- Per capita $19,559 (39th)

Currency Forint (HUF)

Time zone CET (UTC+1)
- Summer (DST) EEST (UTC+2)

Hungary, (Hungarian: Magyarország; IPA:), officially in English the Republic of Hungary, (Magyar Koztarsaság listen), literally Magyar (Hungarian) Republic, is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordered by Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Its capital is Budapest. Hungary has been a member state of the European Union since May 1, 2004.
### 13. Ireland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Dublin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
<td>53°26′N, 6°15′E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official languages</td>
<td>Irish, English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Republic and Parliamentary democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• President Mary McAleese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, TD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>From the United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Declared 24 April 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ratified 21 January 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Recognised 6 December 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Current constitution 29 December 1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession to the European Union</td>
<td>January 1, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>70,273 km² (120th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21,133 sq. mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>4,239,848 (121st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2006 estimate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Density 60.3/km² (139th) 147.6/sq. mi

GDP (PPP) 2006 estimate
• Total $177.2 billion (49th)
• Per capita $43,600 (2nd)

GDP (nominal) 2006 estimate
• Total $202.9 billion (30th)
• Per capita $50,150 (5th)

Currency Euro (€) (EUR)
• Time zone WET (UTC+0)
• Summer (DST) IST (WEST) (UTC+1)

Ireland (Irish: Eire) (IPA) is a country in north-western Europe. The modern sovereign state occupies five-sixths of the island of Ireland, which was partitioned in 1921. The term Republic of Ireland is “the description of the State”. It is bordered by Northern Ireland (part of the United Kingdom) to the north, by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and by the Irish Sea to the east. It is a member of the European Union, has a developed economy and a population of 4.2 million.

Bunreacht na hÉireann, the constitution of Ireland, provides that “the name of the state is Eire, or, in the English languages, “Ireland”. The state is also described as the “Republic of Ireland” in order to distinguish it from the island of Ireland and from Northern Ireland. The Republic of Ireland Act defined Republic of Ireland as the description of the state in 1949 (the purpose of the act being to
declare that the state was a republic rather than a form of constitutional monarchy). However, because this was a statutory provision, the constitutional name of "Ireland" remains the official name of the state, whilst "Republic of Ireland" is a description of the state. Therefore it is the name Ireland that is used for official purposes such as treaties, government and legal documents, and membership of international organisations. However with Irish being named the European Union’s twenty-first official language in 2007; the state will be referred to in both constitutional official languages, the Irish and English languages, similarly to other countries such as Finland and Belgium using more than one language at EU level. This means the label ‘Eire Ireland’ will be used on various signage and nameplates referring to the state.

The state is also known by other names in English, such as Eire, The Free State and the Twenty six Countries. The use of Eire when speaking English in Ireland has become increasingly rare. Sometimes in the United Kingdom the state is referred to as Southern Ireland, though this term is used informally and was only used officially for a brief period in Irish history. Irish people sometimes refer to the state as “The South” – it is not uncommon to hear Northern Irish people talking about going “down south”.

The state has had more than one official title. The revolutionary state, declared in 1919 by the large majority of Irish Members of (the United Kingdom) Parliament elected in 1918, was known as the “Irish Republic”; when the state achieved de jure independence in 1922, it became known as the “Irish Free State” (in the Irish language Saorstat Eireann), a name that was retained until 1937.
### 14. ITALY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Rome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
<td>41°54′N, 12°29′E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official languages</td>
<td>Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Parliamentary republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• President</td>
<td>Giorgio Napolitano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prime Minister</td>
<td>Romano Prodi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unification</td>
<td>17 March 1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Republic</td>
<td>2 June 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession to the European Union (founding member)</td>
<td>March 25, 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>301,318 km² (71st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>116,346 sq. mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water (%)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2006 estimate</td>
<td>58,883,958 (23rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2001 census</td>
<td>57,110,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Density</td>
<td>195/km² (54th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>499.4/sq. mi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Italy, (Italian: officially the Italian Republic; Italian: *Republica Italiana*), is a country located in Southern Europe, that comprises the Po River valley, the Italian Peninsula and the two largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, Sicily and Sardinia. Italians also refer to it as *lo Stivale* ("the Boot", due to its boot-like shape), *il Bel Peese* ("the Beautiful Country") or *la Penisola* ("the Peninsula" as an antonomasia). Italy shares its northern alpine boundary with France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia. The independent states of San Marino and the Vatican City are enclaves within Italian territory, while Campione d'Italia is an Italian exclave in Switzerland. Italy was home to many well-known and influential European cultures, including the Etruscans, Greeks, and the Romans. Its capital Rome has laid the foundations for Western Society, and is an historically important world city, especially as the core of ancient Rome and the Roman Catholic Church. For more than 3,000 years Italy experienced
migrations and invasions from Germanic, Celtic, Frankish, Lombard, Byzantine Greek, Saracen and Norman peoples during the Middle Ages, followed by the Italian Renaissance period, in which the Italian Wars took place and various city states were noted for their cultural achievements. Italy was divided into many independent states and often experienced foreign domination before the Italian unification, that created Italy as an independent nation-state for the first time in its history, took place. During the period under the Italian monarchy and during the world wars Italy experienced much conflict, but stability was restored after the creation of the Italian Republic.

Today, Italy is a developed country with the 7th highest GDP and the seventeenth-highest Human Development Index rating in the world. It is a member of the G8 and a founding member of what is now the European Union (having signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957), of the Council of Europe and of the Western European Union and of the Central European Initiative. Starting from January 1, 2007, Italy is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is considered by some a great power. Inhabitants of Italy are referred to as Italians (Italiani, or poetically Italici).
15. Latvia

**Capital**
Riga
(and largest city)
56°57'N, 24°6'E

**Official languages**
Latvian
59.0% Latvians
28.5% Russians

**Ethnic groups**
3.8% Belarussians
2.4% Poles
6.3% others

**Government**
Parliamentary democracy
- President
  Vaira Vike-Freiberga
- Prime Minister
  Aigars Kalvitis

**Independence**
From Russia and Germany
- Declared
  November 18, 1918
- Recognized
  January 26, 1921
- Proclaimed
  May 4, 1990
- Completed
  September 6, 1991

**Accession to the European Union**
May 1, 2004

**Area**
- Total
  64,589 km² (124th)
  24,937 sq. mi
- Water (%)
  1.5
Latvia (historically Lattonia, Lettonia, or Lettland), officially the Republic of Latvia (Latvian: Latvija or Latvijas Republika, Livonian:), is a country in Northern Europe. Latvia shares land borders with Estonia to the north and Lithuania to the south-and both Russia and Belarus to the east. It is separated from Sweden in the west by the Baltic Sea. The capital of Latvia is Riga (Latvian: Rīga). Latvia has been a member state of the European Union since May 1, 2004.
16. LITHUANIA

**Capital**
Vilnius
(and largest city)  54°41'N, 25°19'E

**Official languages**
Lithuanian

**Government**
Parliamentary democracy
- President
  Valdas Adamkus
- Prime Minister
  Gediminas Kirkilas

**Independence**
From the Soviet Union
- Declared
  March 11, 1990
- Recognized
  6 September 1991

**Accession to the European Union**
1 May 2004

**Area**
- Total
  65,200 km² (123rd)
  25,173 sq. mi
- Water (%)
  1.35%

**Population**
- 2007 estimate
  3,575,439 (127th)
- Density
  55/km² (113th)
  142/sq. mi

**GDP (PPP)**
2006 estimate
Lithuania, (Lithuanian: Lietuva), officially the Republic of Lithuania (Lithuanian: Lietuvos Respublka), is a country in northern Europe. Situated along the south-eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, it shares borders with Latvia to the north, Belarus to the southeast, Poland, and the Russian exclave of the Kaliningrad Oblast to the southwest. Lithuania has been a member state of the European Union since 1 May 2004.
## 17. LUXEMBOURG

### Capital
Luxembourg (and largest city)  
49°36'N, 6°7'E

### Official languages
French, German, Luxembourgish  
*(de jure since 1984)*

### Government
Grand duchy  
- Grand Duke: Grand Duke Henri (List)  
- Prime Minister: Jean-Claude Juncker (List)

### Independence
- Declared: 1815  
- Confirmed: 1839, 1867

### Accession to the European Union
March 25, 1957

### Area
- Total: 2,586.4 km² (176th)  
  999 sq. mi  
- Water (%): negligible

### Population
- 2007 estimate: 480,222 (171st)  
- 2001 census: 439,539
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Density</strong></th>
<th>171/km² (59th)</th>
<th>469/sq. mi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP (PPP)</strong></td>
<td>2005 estimate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$29.37 billion (92nd)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per capita</strong></td>
<td>$69,800 (2005) (1st)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GDP (nominal)</strong></td>
<td>2005 estimate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$34.18 billion (64th)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per capita</strong></td>
<td>$80,288 (1st)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Currency</strong></td>
<td>Euro (€) (EUR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time zone</strong></td>
<td>CET (UTC+1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer (DST)</strong></td>
<td>CEST (UTC+2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg** (Luxembourgish: Groussherzogtum Letzebuerg, French: Grand-Duche de Luxembourg, German: Grobherzogtum Luxemburg), archaically spelled Luxembourg, is a small landlocked country in western Europe, bordered by Belgium, France, and Germany. Luxembourg has a population of under half a million people in an area of approximately 2,585 square kilometers (998 sq. mi).

Luxembourg is a parliamentary representative democracy with a constitutional monarchy, ruled by a Grand Duke. It is the world’s only sovereign Grand Duchy. The country has a highly developed economy, with the highest Gross Domestic Product per capita in the world. Luxembourg is a founding member of the European Union, NATO, the
United Nations, Benelux, and the Western European Union, reflecting the political consensus in favour of economic, political, and military integration. The city of Luxembourg, the capital and largest city, is the seat of several institutions and agencies of the European Union.

Luxembourg lies on the cultural divide between Romance Europe and Germanic Europe, borrowing customs from each of the distinct traditions. Luxembourg is a trilingual country; French, German, and Luxembourgish are official languages. Although a secular state, Luxembourg is predominantly Roman Catholic.

For many people in other parts of Europe, Luxembourg is best known for its radio and television stations, Radio Luxembourg and RTL.
18. MALTA

Capital
Valletta
(and largest city)
35°53′N, 14°30′E
Birkirkara

Official languages
Maltese, English

Government
Parliamentary republic

• President
Edward Fenech Adami

• Prime Minister
Lawrence Gonzi

Independence
• From the United Kingdom
September 21, 1964

• Republic
December 13, 1974

Accession to the European Union
May 1, 2004

Area
• Total
316 km² (185th)
121 sq. mi

• Water (%)
0.001

Population
• 2006 estimate
402,000 (174th)

• 2009 census
404,500

• Density
1,282/km² (7th)
3,339/sq. mi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GDP (PPP)</strong></th>
<th>2006 estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>$8.122 billion (144&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per capita</td>
<td>$20,300 (37&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GDP (nominal)</strong></th>
<th>2006 estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>$5.39 billion (120&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per capita</td>
<td>$13,408 (35&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Currency</strong></th>
<th>Maltese lira (Lm), (MTL) (Euro as from 01/01/2008)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Time zone</strong></th>
<th>CET (UTC+1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Summer (DST)</td>
<td>CEST (UTC+2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Malta**, officially the **Republic of Malta**, is a small and densely populated island nation comprising an archipelago of seven islands in the Mediterranean Sea. A country of Southern Europe, Malta lies south of Sicily, east of Tunisia, and north of Libya. The country's official languages are Maltese and English. Roman Catholicism is the most practiced religion. The islands constituting the Maltese nation have been ruled by various powers and fought over for centuries. Malta has been a member state of the European Union (EU) since 2004 and it is currently the smallest EU country both in population and in area.
19. NETHERLANDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Capital</strong></th>
<th>Amsterdam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
<td>52°21'N, 4°52'E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Official languages**

- Dutch

**Recognized regional languages**

- Low Saxon, Limburgish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ethnic groups</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80.9% Dutch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4% Germans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4% Indonesians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0% Surinamese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3% others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Government**

- Parliamentary democracy
- Constitutional monarchy

- Monarch: Queen Beatrix
- Prime Minister: Jan Peter Balkenende

**Independence**

- (Eighty Years's War)

- Declared: July 26, 1581
- Recognised: January 30, 1648

**Accession to the European Union**

- March 25, 1957

**Area**

- Total: 41,526 km² (134th)
- 16,033 sq. mi

- Water (%): 18.41
### Population
- 2007 estimate: 16,570,613 (59th)
- 2001 census: 16,105,285
- Density: 395/km² (23rd)
  1,023/sq. mi

### GDP (PPP)
- 2006 estimate:
  - Total: $541.513 billion (23rd)
  - Per capita: $35,078 (10th)

### GDP (nominal)
- 2005 estimate:
  - Total: $625.271 billion (16th)
  - Per capita: $38,618 (10th)

### Currency
- Euro (€) (EUR)

### Time zone
- CET (UTC+1)
  - Summer (DST): CEST (UTC+2)

---

The **Netherlands** (Dutch: *Nederland*, IPA:) is the European part of the **Kingdom of the Netherlands** (Dutch: *Koninkrijk der Nederlanden*), which consists of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles (Dutch: *Nederlandse Antillen*), and Aruba. The Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy, located in northwestern Europe. It is bordered by the North Sea to the north and west, Belgium to the south, and Germany to the east.
The Netherlands is often called Holland. This is incorrect as the provinces of North and South Holland in the western Netherlands are only two of the country's twelve provinces (for more on this and other naming issues see Netherlands terminology).

The Netherlands is a densely populated and geographically low-lying country and is popularly known for its windmills, cheese, clogs (wooden shoes), delftware and gouda pottery, dikes, tulips, bicycles, and social tolerance. Also well-known are its tolerant attitudes towards drugs, prostitution, gay rights, abortion and euthanasia.

The Netherlands has an international outlook, and among other affirmations is a member of the European Union, NATO, the OECD and has signed the Kyoto protocol. The country is host to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Court or Justice, the International Criminal Court and the European Union's criminal intelligence agency (Europol) at the Hague. It is also one of the Benelux nations along with Belgium and Luxembourg.
20. POLAND

Capital
Warsaw
(and largest city)
52°13'N, 21°02'E

Official languages
Polish

Government
Parliamentary republic
• President
  Lech Kaczyński
• Prime Minister
  Jaroslaw Kaczyński

Formation
• Christianisation 966
• Redeclared November 11, 1918

Accession to the European Union
May 1, 2004

Area
• Total 312,683 km² (69th)
  120,728 sq. mi
• Water (%) 3.07

Population
• 2007 estimate 38,518,241 (31st)
• 2002 census 38,530,080
• Density 122/km² (83rd)
  319.9/sq. mi
**GDP (PPP)**  
- Total: $566.886 billion (23\textsuperscript{rd})  
- Per capita: $14,880 (52\textsuperscript{nd})  

**Currency**: Zloty (PLN)  
**Time zone**: CET (UTC+1)  
- Summer (DST): CEST (UTC+2)  

**Poland** (Polish: *Polska*), officially the **Republic of Poland** (Polish: *Rzeczpospolita Polska*), is a country in Central Europe bordered by Germany to the west; the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south; Ukraine and Belarus to the east; and the Baltic Sea, Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast, a Russian exclave, to the north. It also shares a maritime border with Denmark and Sweden. The total area of Poland is 312,683 sq. km (120,728 sq. mi), making it the 69\textsuperscript{th} largest country in the world. Poland's population is over 38.5 million people, concentrated mainly in large cities such as the historical capital Krakow and the present capital Warsaw.

The first Polish state was created in 966, within territory very similar to the present boundaries of Poland. Poland became a kingdom in 1025, and in 1569 it cemented a long association with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by uniting to form the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Commonwealth collapsed in 1795. Poland regained its independence in 1918 after World War I but lost it again in World War II, occupied by Nazi Germany and Soviet Union, emerging several years later as a communist country within the
Eastern Bloc under control of the former Soviet Union. In 1989, communist rule was overthrown and Poland became what is informally known as the “Third Polish Republic”. Today, as the 6th most populated member state of the European Union, Poland is a liberal democracy made up of sixteen voivodeships (Polish: wojewodztwo). Poland is also a member of European Union, NATO, the United Nations, OECD and the World Trade Organization.
## 21. PORTUGAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Capital</strong></th>
<th>Lisbon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official languages</strong></td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>Parliamentary democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• President</td>
<td>Anibal Cavaco Silva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prime Minister</td>
<td>Jose Socrates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formation</strong></td>
<td>868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The First Country of Portugal is formed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kingdom</td>
<td>25 July 1139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Recognized</td>
<td>5 October 1143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Republic</td>
<td>5 October 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accession to the European Union</strong></td>
<td>1 January 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>92,152 km² (110th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>35,580 sq. mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water (%)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>10,642,836 (75th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• July 2007 estimate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Portugal, officially the Portuguese Republic (Portuguese: República Portuguesa; IPA:), is located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula, is the westernmost country of mainland Europe. Portugal is bordered by Spain to the north and east and by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south. The Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira are also part of Portugal.

The territory which forms the modern Portuguese Republic has witnessed a constant flow of civilizations during the past 3,100 years, since the earlier pre-Roman Iberian and Celtic inhabitants, to the Roman, Germanic, and Moorish peoples who made an imprint on the country’s culture, history, language, and ethnic composition. During the 15th and 16th centuries, with its global empire, Portugal was one of the world’s major economic, political, and cultural powers. A developed country, Portugal is a member of the European Union (since 1986), the United Nations (since 1955), and a founding member of the Eurozone, OECD, NATO and CPLP (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa – Community of Portuguese Language Countries).
22. ROMANIA

Capital (and largest city) Bucharest (Bucuresti)

Official languages Romanian

Government Republic
- President Traian Basescu
- Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu

Independence
- Declared 9 May 1877 (O.S.)
- Recognised 13 July 1878
- Current constitution 29 December 1937

Accession to the European Union January 1, 2007

Area
- Total 238,391 km² (82nd)
  92,043 sq. mi
- Water (%) 3

Population
- July 2007 estimate 22,276,056 (50th)
- 2002 census 21,680,974
- Density 91/km² (104th)
  236/sq. mi
**GDP (PPP)**

- Total $229.9 billion (43rd)
- Per capita $10,661 (67th)

**Currency**

- Leu (RON)
- Time zone EET (UTC+2)
- Summer (DST) EEST (UTC+3)

**Romania** (Romanian: Romania, IPA:) is a country in Southeastern Europe. Romania borders Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and Moldova to the northeast, and Bulgaria to the south. Romania has a stretch of sea coast along the Black Sea, and the eastern and southern Carpathian Mountains run through its center.

The modern state of Romania was formed by the merging of the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859. The state united with Transylvania in 1918. Its capital and largest city is Bucharest (Romanian: București), the sixth largest city in the EU. Romania joined NATO on March 29, 2004, and the European Union (EU) on January 1, 2007. Romania has the seventh largest population and the ninth largest territory in the EU.

The name of *Romania* (Romania) comes from Roman (Romanian) which is a derivative of the word *Romanus* ("Roman") from Latin. The fact of Romanians calling themselves with a derivative of *Romanus* (Rom : Roman/Ruman) is scholarly mentioned as late as the 16th century by many authors among whom Italian Humanists traveling in
Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia. The oldest surviving document written in the Romanian language is a 1521 letter (known as “Neacsu’s Letter from Campuiung”) which notifies the mayor of Brasov about the imminent attack of the Ottoman Turks. This document is also notable for having the first occurrence of “Rumanian” in a Romanian written text, Wallachia being here named the Rumanian Land – Tera Rumaneasca (Tera < Latin Terra = land). In the following centuries, Romanian documents use interchangeably two spelling forms: Roman and Ruman. Socio-linguistic evolutions in the late 17th century lead to a process of semantic differentiation: the form “ruman”, presumably usual among lower classes, got the meaning of “bondsman”, while the form “roman” kept an ethno-linguistic meaning. After the abolition of the serf age in 1746, the form “ruman” gradually disappears and the spelling definitively stabilises to the form “roman”, “romanesc”. The name “Romania” as common homeland of all Romanians is documented in the early 19th century. Many Romanians take pride in being the most eastern Romance people, completely surrounded by non-Latin peoples (“a Latin island in a Slavic sea”).
### 23. SLOVAKIA

**Capital**  
(And largest city)  
Bratislava  
48°09'N, 17°07'E

**Official languages**  
Slovak

**Government**  
Parliamentary republic  
- President  
  Ivan Gasparovic  
- Prime Minister  
  Robert Fico

**Independence**  
Due to dissolution of Czechoslovakia  
- Date  
  January 1, 1993

**Accession to the European Union**  
May 1, 2004

**Area**  
- Total  
  49,037 km² (130th)  
  18,933 sq. mi  
- Water (%)  
  negligible

**Population**  
- 2007 estimate  
  5,447,502 (110th)  
- 2001 census  
  5,379,455  
- Density  
  111/km² (88th)  
  287/sq. mi
Slovakia (long form: Slovak Republic; Slovak: Slovensko, long from Slovenska republika) is a landlocked country in Central Europe with a population of over five million and an area of about 49,000 square kilometers (almost 19,000 square miles). The Slovak Republic borders the Czech Republic and Austria to the west, Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east and Hungary to the south. The largest city is its capital, Bratislava. Slovakia is a member state of the European Union, NATO, OECD, WTO, and other international organisations. The Slavic people arrived in the territory of present day Slovakia between the 5th and 6th century AD during the Migration Period (Migration of Nations). Various parts of Slovakia belonged to Samo’s Empire, the first known political unit of Slavs, Great Moravia, the Kingdom of Hungary, Habsburg (Austrian) monarchy, Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia throughout history. Slovakia became independent on 1 January 1993, after the Velvet Divorce.
24. SLOVENIA

**Capital**
Ljubljana
(and largest city)
46°03'N, 14°30'E

**Official languages**
Slovenian, Italian, Hungarian

**Government**
Parliamentary republic

- President
  Janez Drnovsek

- Prime Minister
  Janez Jansa

**Independence**
From Yugoslavia
- Declared
  June 25, 1991
- Recognized
  1992

**Accession to the European Union**
May 1, 2004

**Area**
- Total
  20,273 km² (153rd)
  7,827 sq. mi

- Water (%)
  0.6

**Population**
- 2007 estimate
  2,009,245 (143rd)

- 2002 census
  1,964,036

- Density
  99/km² (99th)
  251/sq. mi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GDP (PPP)</strong></th>
<th>2005 estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>$43.690 billion (81st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Per capita</td>
<td>$25,266 (2007 estimate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Currency</strong></th>
<th>IMF (31st)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Time zone</td>
<td>Euro (€) (EUR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summer (DST)</td>
<td>CET (UTC+1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CEST (UTC+2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Slovenia, officially the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenian: Republika Slovenija, listen), is a coastal Alpine country in southern Central Europe bordering Italy on the west, the Adriatic Sea on the southwest, Croatia on the south and east, Hungary on the northeast, and Austria on the north. The capital of Slovenia is Ljubljana.

At various points in Slovenia’s history, the country has been part of the Roman Empire, the Duchy of Carantania (only modern Slovenia’s northern part), the Holy Roman Empire, Austria-Hungary, the State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929) between the World Wars, and the SFT of Yugoslavia from 1945 until gaining independence in 1991. Slovenia is a member of the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO, and has observer status in La Francophonie.
25. SPAIN

Capital
(and largest city)
Madrid
40°26'N, 3°42'W

Official languages
Spanish

Demonym
Spanish

Government
Constitutional monarchy

• Head of State
  King Juan Carlos I

• President of the
  Government
  Jose L. Rodriguez Zapatero

Formation
15th century

• Dynastic union
  1516

• Unification
  1469

• de facto
  1716

• de jure
  1812

Accession to the European Union
January 1, 1986

Area

• Total
  506,030 km² (51st)
  195,364 sq. mi

• Water (%)
  1.04
### Population
- 2007 estimate: 40,448,191 (28th)
- Density: 88.39/km² (106th)
- 220/sq. mi

### GDP (PPP)
- 2005 estimate
  - Total: $1.141 trillion (11th)
  - Per capita: $27,522 (2005) (27th)

### GDP (nominal)
- 2005 estimate
  - Total: $1.127 trillion (9th)
  - Summer (DST): CEST (UTC+2)

### Currency
- Euro (€) (EUR)

### Time zone
- Summer (DST): CEST (UTC+2)

---

**Spain**, officially the **Kingdom of Spain** (Spanish: Espana, Reino de Espaha), is a country located in Southern Europe, with two small exclaves in North Africa (both bordering Morocco). The mainland of Spain is bounded on the south and east by Mediterranean Sea (containing the Balearic Islands), on the north by the Bay of Biscay and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean (containing the Canary Islands off the African coast). Spain shares land borders with Portugal, France, Andorra, Gibraltar, and Morocco. It is the largest of three
sovereign states that make up the Iberian Peninsula the others being Portugal and Andorra.

There are a number of hypotheses as the origin of the Roman name "Hispania", the root of the Spanish name *España* and the English name Spain.

Spain is a democracy which is organized as a parliamentary monarchy. It is a developed country with the ninth-largest economy in the world.
26. SWEDEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Capital</strong></th>
<th>Stockholm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and largest city)</td>
<td>59°21'N, 18°4'E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official languages</strong></td>
<td>Swedish <em>(de facto)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>Representative parliamentary democracy (under constitutional monarchy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• King</td>
<td>Carl XVI Gustaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prime Minister</td>
<td>Fredrik Reinfeldt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker of the Riksdag</td>
<td>Per Westerberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidation</strong></td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accession to the European Union</strong></td>
<td>January 1, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>449,964 km² <em>(55th)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total</td>
<td>173,732 sq. mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water (%)</td>
<td>8.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>9,127,058 <em>(85th)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2007 estimate</td>
<td>8,587,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1990 census</td>
<td>20/km² <em>(185th)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Density</td>
<td>52/sq. mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (PPP)</td>
<td>2006 estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$285.1 billion (35th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>$31,600 (19th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (nominal)</td>
<td>2006 estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$371.5 billion (20th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita</td>
<td>$40,764 (9th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Swedish krona (SEK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time zone</td>
<td>CET (UTC+1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer (DST)</td>
<td>CEST (UTC+2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sweden**, officially the **Kingdom of Sweden** (Swedish: *Konungariket Sverige*), is a Nordic country on the Scandinavian Peninsula in Northern Europe. Its capital city is Stockholm. It is surrounded by Norway (west), Finland (northeast), the Skagerrak, Kattegat and Oresund straits (southwest) and the Baltic Sea (east). It has maritime borders with Denmark, Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and it is also linked to Denmark (southwest) by the Oresund Bridge. It has been a member of the European Union since 1995.

At 449,964 km² (173,720 square miles), Sweden is the third largest country in Western Europe. Sweden has a low population density except in its metropolitan areas; 84 percent of the population lives in urban areas, which take up only 1.3 percent of the total land area. The citizens enjoy a high standard of living and the country is
generally perceived as modern and liberal, with an organizational and corporate culture that is non-hierarchical and collectivistic compared to its Anglo-Saxon counterparts. Nature conservation, environmental protection and energy efficiency are generally prioritized in policy making and embraced by the general public in Sweden.

Sweden has a long tradition as a major exporter of copper and timber. Improved transportation and communication allowed more remote natural asset to be utilized on a larger scale, most notably timber and iron ore. In the 1890's, universal schooling and industrialization enabled the country to develop a successful manufacturing industry and by the twentieth century, Sweden emerged as a welfare state, consistently achieving a high position among the top-ranking countries in the UN Human Development Index (HDI). Sweden has a rich supply of water power, but lacks significant oil and coal deposit.
### 27. UNITED KINGDOM

**Capital**

(London) 51°30'N, 0°7'W

**Official languages**

English *(de facto)*

**Government**

Constitutional monarchy and Representative democracy

- Monarch: Elizabeth II
- Prime Minister: Tony Blair

**Formation**

- Acts of Union: 1 May 1707
- Act of Union: 1 January 1801
- Anglo-Irish Treaty: 12 April 1922

**Accession to the European Union**

1 January 1973

**Area**

- Total: 244,820 km² (79th)
- Water (%): 1.34

**Population**

- 2007 estimate: 60,776,238 (22nd)
- 2001 census: 58,789,194
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Density</strong></th>
<th>243/km² (48th)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>629/sq. mi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GDP (PPP)**  
- Total: $1.903 trillion (6th)  
- Per capita: $31,400 (18th)

**GDP (nominal)**  
- Total: $2.341 trillion (5th)  
- Per capita: $38,624 (13th)

**Currency**  
British Pound (£) (GBP)

**Time zone**  
- GMT (UTC+0)  
- Summer (DST): BST (UTC+1)

The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, (usually shortened to the **United Kingdom**, the **U.K.** or **Britain**) is a country and sovereign state that lies to the northwest of mainland Europe, with its only land border with the Republic of Ireland. It extends over all of the island of Great Britain and the north-east part of the island of Ireland.

The United Kingdom is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, and its ancillary bodies of water, including the North Sea, the English Channel, the Celtic Sea, St. George’s Channel, and the Irish Sea. The United Kingdom is linked to France and Continental Europe by the Channel Tunnel.
The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy composed of four constituent countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The current monarch is Queen Elizabeth II, who is also the Queen and Head of State of fifteen other Commonwealth Realms, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Jamaica. The Crown Dependencies of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, formally possessions of the Crown, form a federacy with the United Kingdom collectively known as the British Islands. The UK also has fourteen overseas territories, all remnants of the British Empire which at its height encompassed more than a quarter of the world’s surface and population.

Although, Britain was the foremost great power during the 19th century, the economic cost of two world wars and the granting of independence to many of its empire states (including India, much of Africa, and Hong Kong) during the later half of the 20th century diminished Britain’s status in global affairs. However, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, a nuclear power, a member of the G8, the world’s fifth largest economy, and having the second highest defense spending, Britain remains an important political, economic and military world power. It is a member of the European Union and the Commonwealth of Nations.