

Estonia

Geography

Location: Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland, between Latvia and Russia

Area:

total area: 45,100 sq km

land area: 43,200 sq km

note: includes 1,520 islands in the Baltic Sea

Land boundaries: total 557 km, Latvia 267 km, Russia 290 km

Coastline: 1,393 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: limits to be fixed in coordination with neighboring states

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: maritime, wet, moderate winters, cool summers

Terrain: marshy, lowlands

Natural resources: shale oil, peat, phosphorite, amber

Land use:

arable land: 22%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 11%

forest and woodland: 31%

other: 36%

Irrigated land: 110 sq km (1990)

Environment:

current issues: air heavily polluted with sulfur dioxide from oil-shale

burning power plants in northeast; contamination of soil and

groundwater with petroleum products, chemicals at military bases

natural hazards: flooding occurs frequently in the spring

People

Population: 1,625,399 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 22% (female 174,304; male 181,101)

15-64 years: 65% (female 549,473; male 515,426)

65 years and over: 13% (female 139,722; male 65,373) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.53% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 13.9 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 11.93 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 3.31 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 18.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 70.17 years

male: 65.2 years

female: 75.39 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.98 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Estonian(s)

adjective: Estonian

Ethnic divisions: Estonian 61.5%, Russian 30.3%, Ukrainian 3.17%,
Byelorussian 1.8%, Finn 1.1%, other 2.13% (1989)

Religions: Lutheran

Languages: Estonian (official), Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, other

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1989)

total population: 100%

male: 100%

female: 100%

Labor force: 750,000 (1992)

by occupation: industry and construction 42%, agriculture and
forestry 20%, other 38% (1990)

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Estonia

conventional short form: Estonia

local long form: Eesti Vabariik

local short form: Eesti

former: Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic

Capital: Tallinn

Independence: 6 September 1991 (from Soviet Union)

National holiday: Independence Day, 24 February (1918)

Constitution: adopted 28 June 1992

Legal system: based on civil law system; no judicial review of legislative acts

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: pre-1940 flag restored by Supreme Soviet in May 1990 - three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), black, and white

Economy

Overview: Bolstered by a widespread national desire to reintegrate into Western Europe, the Estonian government has pursued an ambitious program of market reforms and stabilization measures, which is rapidly transforming the economy. Economic restructuring has been dramatic. Estonia's foreign trade has shifted rapidly from East to West; the Western industrialized countries now account for two-thirds of foreign trade.

Industries: oil shale, shipbuilding, phosphates, electric motors, excavators, cement, furniture, clothing, textiles, paper, shoes, apparel

Agriculture: accounts for 10% of GDP; employs 20% of work force; very efficient by Soviet standards; net exports of meat, fish, dairy products, and potatoes; imports of feedgrains for livestock; fruits and vegetables

Illicit drugs: transshipment point for illicit drugs from Central and Southwest Asia and Latin America to Western Europe; very limited illicit opium producer; mostly for domestic consumption

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 1,030 km common carrier lines only; does not include dedicated industrial lines

Highways:

total: 30,300 km

Inland waterways: 500 km perennially navigable

Pipelines: natural gas 420 km (1992)

Ports: Haapsalu, Narva, Novotallin, Paldiski, Parnu, Tallinn

Airports:

total: 22

Defence Forces

Branches: Ground Forces, Navy, Air and Air Defence Force (not officially sanctioned), Maritime Border Guard, Volunteer Defense

League (Kaitseliit), Security Forces (internal and border troops),
Coast Guard