

Germany

Geography

Location: Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark

Area:

total area: 356,910 sq km

land area: 349,520 sq km

Land boundaries: total 3,621 km, Austria 784 km, Belgium 167 km, Czech Republic 646 km, Denmark 68 km, France 451 km, Luxembourg 138 km, Netherlands 577 km, Poland 456 km, Switzerland 334 km

Coastline: 2,389 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf: 200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: temperate and marine; cool, cloudy, wet winters and summers; occasional warm, tropical foehn wind; high relative humidity

Terrain: lowlands in north, uplands in center, Bavarian Alps in south

Natural resources: iron ore, coal, potash, timber, lignite, uranium, copper, natural gas, salt, nickel

Land use:

arable land: 34%

permanent crops: 1%

meadows and pastures: 16%

forest and woodland: 30%

other: 19%

Irrigated land: 4,800 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: emissions from coal-burning utilities and industries and lead emissions from vehicle exhausts (the result of continued use of leaded fuels) contribute to air pollution; acid rain, resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions, is damaging forests; heavy pollution

in the Baltic Sea from raw sewage and industrial effluents from rivers in eastern Germany

Note: strategic location on North European Plain and along the entrance to the Baltic Sea

People

Population: 81,337,541 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 16% (female 6,518,108; male 6,857,577)

15-64 years: 68% (female 27,167,824; male 28,130,083)

65 years and over: 16% (female 8,127,938; male 4,536,011) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.26% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 10.98 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.83 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 2.46 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 6.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 76.62 years
male: 73.5 years
female: 79.92 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.5 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:
noun: German(s)
adjective: German

Ethnic divisions: German 95.1%, Turkish 2.3%, Italians 0.7%,
Greeks 0.4%, Poles 0.4%, other 1.1%

Religions: Protestant 45%, Roman Catholic 37%, unaffiliated or
other 18%

Languages: German

Literacy:

total population: 99%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Federal Republic of Germany

conventional short form: Germany

local long form: Bundesrepublik Deutschland

local short form: Deutschland

Capital: Berlin

note: the shift from Bonn to Berlin will take place over a period of years with Bonn retaining many administrative functions and several ministries

Independence: 18 January 1871 (German Empire unification); divided into four zones of occupation (UK, US, USSR, and later, France) in 1945 following World War II; Federal Republic of Germany (FRG or West Germany) proclaimed 23 May 1949 and included the former UK, US, and French zones; German Democratic Republic (GDR or East Germany) proclaimed 7 October 1949 and included the former USSR zone; unification of

West Germany and East Germany took place 3 October 1990; all four power rights formally relinquished 15 March 1991

National holiday: German Unity Day (Day of Unity), 3 October (1990)

Constitution: 23 May 1949, known as Basic Law; became constitution of the united German people 3 October 1990

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of black (top), red, and yellow

Industries:

western: among world's largest and technologically advanced producers of iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics; food and beverages
eastern: metal fabrication, chemicals, brown coal, shipbuilding, machine building, food and beverages, textiles, petroleum refining

Agriculture:

western: accounts for about 1% of GDP (including fishing and forestry); diversified crop and livestock farming; principal crops and

livestock include potatoes, wheat, barley, sugar beets, fruit, cabbage, cattle, pigs, poultry; net importer of food
eastern: accounts for about 10% of GDP (including fishing and forestry); principal crops - wheat, rye, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, fruit; livestock products include pork, beef, chicken, milk, hides and skins; net importer of food

Illicit drugs: source of precursor chemicals for South American cocaine processors; transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin and Latin American cocaine for West European markets

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 43,457 km

Highways:

total: 636,282 km

Inland waterways:

western: 5,222 km, of which almost 70% are usable by craft of 1,000-metric-ton capacity or larger; major rivers include the Rhine

and Elbe; Kiel Canal is an important connection between the Baltic Sea and North Sea
eastern: 2,319 km (1988)

Pipelines: crude oil 3,644 km; petroleum products 3,946 km; natural gas 97,564 km (1988)

Ports: Berlin, Bonn, Brake, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Cologne, Dresden, Duisburg, Emden, Hamburg, Karlsruhe, Kiel, Lubeck, Magdeburg, Mannheim, Rostock, Stuttgart

Airports:
total: 660

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy (includes Naval Air Arm), Air Force, Border Police, Coast Guard