

Greece

Geography

Location: Southern Europe, bordering the Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea, between Albania and Turkey

Area:

total area: 131,940 sq km

land area: 130,800 sq km

Land boundaries: total 1,210 km, Albania 282 km, Bulgaria 494 km, Turkey 206 km, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 228 km

Coastline: 13,676 km

Maritime claims:

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

territorial sea: 6 nm

Climate: temperate; mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers

Terrain: mostly mountains with ranges extending into sea as peninsulas or chains of islands

Natural resources: bauxite, lignite, magnesite, petroleum, marble

Land use:

arable land: 23%

permanent crops: 8%

meadows and pastures: 40%

forest and woodland: 20%

other: 9%

Irrigated land: 11,900 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: air pollution; water pollution

natural hazards: severe earthquakes

Note: strategic location dominating the Aegean Sea and southern approach to Turkish Straits; a peninsular country, possessing an archipelago of about 2,000 islands

People

Population: 10,647,511 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 18% (female 904,374; male 947,494)

15-64 years: 67% (female 3,601,029; male 3,565,931)

65 years and over: 15% (female 919,044; male 709,639) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.72% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 10.56 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 9.31 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 5.99 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 8.3 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 77.92 years
male: 75.39 years
female: 80.59 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.46 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Greek(s)

adjective: Greek

Ethnic divisions: Greek 98%, other 2%

note: the Greek Government states there are no ethnic divisions in Greece

Religions: Greek Orthodox 98%, Muslim 1.3%, other 0.7%

Languages: Greek (official), English, French

Literacy:

total population: 95%

male: 98%

female: 93%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Hellenic Republic

conventional short form: Greece

local long form: Elliniki Dhimokratia

local short form: Ellas

former: Kingdom of Greece

Capital: Athens

Independence: 1829 (from the Ottoman Empire)

National holiday: Independence Day, 25 March (1821)
(proclamation of the war of independence)

Constitution: 11 June 1975

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Flag: nine equal horizontal stripes of blue alternating with white; there is a blue square in the upper hoist-side corner bearing a white cross; the cross symbolizes Greek Orthodoxy, the established religion of the country

Economy

Industries: tourism, food and tobacco processing, textiles, chemicals, metal products, mining, petroleum

Agriculture: including fishing and forestry, accounts for 12% of GDP; principal products - wheat, corn, barley, sugar beets, olives, tomatoes, wine, tobacco, potatoes; self-sufficient in food except meat, dairy products, and animal feedstuffs

Illicit drugs: illicit producer of cannabis and limited opium; mostly for domestic production; serves as a gateway to Europe for traffickers smuggling cannabis and heroin from the Middle East and Southwest Asia to the West and precursor chemicals to the East; transshipment point for Southwest Asian heroin transiting the Balkan route

Transportation

Railroads:
total: 2,503 km

Highways:
total: 130,000 km

Inland waterways: 80 km

Pipelines: crude oil 26 km; petroleum products 547 km

Ports: Alexandroupolis, Elefsis, Iraklion (Crete), Kavala, Kerkira, Khalkis, Igoumenitsa, Lavrion, Patrai, Piraievs (Piraeus), Thessaloniki, Volos

Airports:
total: 79

Defence Forces

Branches: Hellenic Army, Hellenic Navy, Hellenic Air Force, National Guard, Police

