

# Holy See (Vatican City)

## Geography

Location: Southern Europe, an enclave of Rome (Italy)

Area:

total area: 0.44 sq km

land area: 0.44 sq km

Land boundaries: total 3.2 km, Italy 3.2 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: temperate; mild, rainy winters (September to mid-May)  
with hot, dry summers (May to September)

Terrain: low hill

Natural resources: none

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 0%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 100%

Irrigated land: 0 sq km

Note: urban; landlocked; enclave of Rome, Italy; world's smallest state; outside the Vatican City, 13 buildings in Rome and Castel Gandolfo (the pope's summer residence) enjoy extraterritorial rights

## People

Population: 830 (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.15% (1995 est.)

Ethnic divisions: Italians, Swiss

Religions: Roman Catholic

Languages: Italian, Latin, various other languages

Labor force:

by occupation: dignitaries, priests, nuns, guards, and 3,000 lay workers who live outside the Vatican

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: The Holy See (State of the Vatican City)

conventional short form: Holy See (Vatican City)

local long form: Santa Sede (Stato della Citta del Vaticano)

local short form: Santa Sede (Citta del Vaticano)

Type: monarchical-sacerdotal state

Capital: Vatican City

Independence: 11 February 1929 (from Italy)

National holiday: Installation Day of the Pope, 22 October (1978)  
(John Paul II)

note: Pope John Paul II was elected on 16 October 1978

Constitution: Apostolic Constitution of 1967 (effective 1 March 1968)

Suffrage: limited to cardinals less than 80 years old

Flag: two vertical bands of yellow (hoist side) and white with the crossed keys of Saint Peter and the papal miter centered in the white band

## Economy

Overview: This unique, noncommercial economy is supported financially by contributions (known as Peter's Pence) from Roman Catholics throughout the world, the sale of postage stamps and

tourist mementos, fees for admission to museums, and the sale of publications. The incomes and living standards of lay workers are comparable to, or somewhat better than, those of counterparts who work in the city of Rome.

Industries: printing and production of a small amount of mosaics and staff uniforms; worldwide banking and financial activities

## Transportation

### Railroads:

total: 862 meters; note - connects to Italy's network at Rome's Saint Peter's station

Highways: none; all city streets

Ports: none

Airports: none

## Defence Forces

Note: defence is the responsibility of Italy; Swiss Papal Guards are posted at entrances to the Vatican City