

# Moldova

## Geography

Location: Eastern Europe, northeast of Romania

Area:

total area: 33,700 sq km

land area: 33,700 sq km

Land boundaries: total 1,389 km, Romania 450 km, Ukraine 939 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

Climate: moderate winters, warm summers

Terrain: rolling steppe, gradual slope south to Black Sea

Natural resources: lignite, phosphorites, gypsum

Land use:

arable land: 50%

permanent crops: 13%

meadows and pastures: 9%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 28%

Irrigated land: 2,920 sq km (1990)

Environment:

current issues: heavy use of agricultural chemicals, including banned pesticides such as DDT, has contaminated soil and groundwater; extensive soil erosion from poor farming methods

Note: landlocked

## People

Population: 4,489,657 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 27% (female 588,155; male 609,372)

15-64 years: 64% (female 1,487,170; male 1,386,293)

65 years and over: 9% (female 258,958; male 159,709) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.36% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 15.93 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.05 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -2.25 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 29.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 68.22 years

male: 64.81 years

female: 71.8 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.16 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Moldovan(s)

adjective: Moldovan

Ethnic divisions: Moldavian/Romanian 64.5%, Ukrainian 13.8%, Russian 13%, Gagauz 3.5%, Jewish 1.5%, Bulgarian 2%, other 1.7% (1989 figures)

note: internal disputes with ethnic Russians and Ukrainians in the Dniester region and Gagauz Turks in the south

Religions: Eastern Orthodox 98.5%, Jewish 1.5%, Baptist (only about 1,000 members) (1991)

note: the large majority of churchgoers are ethnic Moldavian

Languages: Moldovan (official; virtually the same as the Romanian language), Russian, Gagauz (a Turkish dialect)

Literacy:

total population: 96%

male: 99%

female: 94%

# Government

## Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Moldova

conventional short form: Moldova

local long form: Republica Moldova

former: Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova; Moldavia

Type: republic

Capital: Chisinau

Independence: 27 August 1991 (from Soviet Union)

National holiday: Independence Day, 27 August 1991

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: same color scheme as Romania - 3 equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), yellow, and red; emblem in center of flag is of a Roman eagle of gold outlined in black with a red beak and talons carrying a yellow cross in its beak and a green olive branch in its right talons and a yellow scepter in its left talons; on its breast is a

shield divided horizontally red over blue with a stylized ox head, star, rose, and crescent all in black-outlined yellow

## Economy

Overview: Moldova enjoys a favorable climate and good farmland but has no major mineral deposits. As a result, Moldova's economy is primarily based on agriculture, featuring fruits, vegetables, wine, and tobacco. Moldova must import all of its supplies of oil, coal, and natural gas

Industries: key products are canned food, agricultural machinery, foundry equipment, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, hosiery, refined sugar, vegetable oil, shoes, textiles

Agriculture: accounts for about 40% of GDP; Moldova's principal economic activity; products are vegetables, fruits, wine, grain, sugar beets, sunflower seed, meat, milk, tobacco

Illicit drugs: illicit cultivator of opium poppy and cannabis; mostly for CIS consumption; transshipment point for illicit drugs to Western Europe

## Transportation

### Railroads:

total: 1,150 km in common carrier service

### Highways:

total: 20,000 km

Pipelines: natural gas 310 km (1992)

Ports: none

### Airports:

total: 26

## Defence Forces

Branches: Ground Forces, Air and Air Defence Forces, Republic Security Forces (internal and border troops)