

Ukraine

Geography

Location: Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Poland and Russia

Area:

total area: 603,700 sq km

land area: 603,700 sq km

Land boundaries: total 4,558 km, Belarus 891 km, Hungary 103 km, Moldova 939 km, Poland 428 km, Romania (southwest) 169 km, Romania (west) 362 km, Russia 1,576 km, Slovakia 90 km

Coastline: 2,782 km

Maritime claims:

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

exclusive economic zone: undefined

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: temperate continental; Mediterranean only on the southern Crimean coast; precipitation disproportionately distributed, highest in west and north, lesser in east and southeast; winters vary from cool along the Black Sea to cold farther inland; summers are warm across the greater part of the country, hot in the south

Terrain: most of Ukraine consists of fertile plains (steppes) and plateaux, mountains being found only in the west (the Carpathians), and in the Crimean Peninsula in the extreme south

Natural resources: iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, oil, salt, sulphur, graphite, titanium, magnesium, kaolin, nickel, mercury, timber

Land use:

arable land: 56%

permanent crops: 2%

meadows and pastures: 12%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 30%

Irrigated land: 26,000 sq km (1990)

Environment:

current issues: inadequate supplies of potable water; air and water pollution; deforestation; radiation contamination in the northeast from 1986 accident at Chernobyl' Nuclear Power Plant

Note: strategic position at the crossroads between Europe and Asia; second largest country in Europe

People

Population: 51,867,828 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 21% (female 5,217,850; male 5,407,450)

15-64 years: 65% (female 17,563,924; male 16,334,299)

65 years and over: 14% (female 4,976,893; male 2,367,412) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.04% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 12.31 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 12.67 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0.71 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 20.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 70.11 years

male: 65.59 years

female: 74.87 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.81 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Ukrainian(s)

adjective: Ukrainian

Ethnic divisions: Ukrainian 73%, Russian 22%, Jewish 1%, other 4%

Religions: Ukrainian Orthodox - Moscow Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox - Kiev Patriarchate, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox, Ukrainian Catholic (Uniate), Protestant, Jewish

Languages: Ukranian, Russian, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian

Literacy:

total population: 98%

male: 100%

female: 97%

Government

Names:

conventional short form: Ukraine

local short form: Ukrayina

former: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Type: republic

Capital: Kiev (Kyyiv)

Independence: 1 December 1991 (from Soviet Union)

National holiday: Independence Day, 24 August (1991)

Constitution: using 1978 pre-independence constitution; new constitution currently being drafted

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

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of azure (top) and golden yellow represent grainfields under a blue sky

Economy

Industries: coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food-processing (especially sugar)

Agriculture: accounts for about 25% of GDP; grain, vegetables, meat, milk, sugar beets

Illicit drugs: illicit cultivator of cannabis and opium poppy; mostly for CIS consumption; limited government eradication program; used as transshipment point for illicit drugs to Western Europe

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 23,350 km

Highways:

total: 273,700 km

Inland waterways: 1,672 km perennially navigable (Pryp'yat' and Dnipro Rivers)

Pipelines: crude oil 2,010 km; petroleum products 1,920 km; natural gas 7,800 km (1992)

Ports: Berdyans'k, Illichivs'k, Izmayil, Kerch, Kherson, Kiev (Kyyiv), Mariupol', Mykolayiv, Odesa, Pivdenne, Reni

Airports:

total: 706

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air and Air Defense Forces, Republic Security Forces (internal and border troops), National Guard