

Croatia

Geography

Location: Southeastern Europe, bordering the Adriatic Sea, between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia

Map references: Ethnic Groups in Eastern Europe, Europe

Area:

total area: 56,538 sq km

land area: 56,410 sq km

comparative area: slightly smaller than West Virginia

Land boundaries: total 2,028 km, Bosnia and Herzegovina 932 km, Hungary 329 km, Serbia and Montenegro 266 km (241 km with Serbia; 25 km with Montenegro), Slovenia 501 km

Coastline: 5,790 km (mainland 1,778 km, islands 4,012 km)

Maritime claims:

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

Climate: Mediterranean and continental; continental climate predominant with hot summers and cold winters; mild winters, dry summers along coast

Terrain: geographically diverse; flat plains along Hungarian border, low mountains and highlands near Adriatic coast, coastline, and islands

Natural resources: oil, some coal, bauxite, low-grade iron ore, calcium, natural asphalt, silica, mica, clays, salt

Land use:

arable land: 32%

permanent crops: 20%

meadows and pastures: 18%

forest and woodland: 15%

other: 15%

Environment:

current issues: air pollution (from metallurgical plants) and resulting acid rain is damaging the forests; coastal pollution from industrial and domestic waste; widespread casualties and destruction of infrastructure in border areas affected by civil strife
natural hazards: frequent and destructive earthquakes

People

Population: 4,665,821 (July 1 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 19% (female 418,272; male 442,064)

15-64 years: 68% (female 1,592,187; male 1,588,455)

65 years and over: 13% (female 394,650; male 230,193) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.13% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 11.02 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.55 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0.77 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 8.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 74.02 years

male: 70.59 years

female: 77.65 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.62 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Croat(s)

adjective: Croatian

Ethnic divisions: Croat 78%, Serb 12%, Muslim 0.9%, Hungarian 0.5%, Slovenian 0.5%, others 8.1% (1991)

Religions: Catholic 76.5%, Orthodox 11.1%, Slavic Muslim 1.2%, Protestant 0.4%, others and unknown 10.8%

Languages: Serbo-Croatian 96%, other 4%

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1991)

total population: 97%

male: 99%

female: 95%

Labor force: 1,509,489

by occupation: industry and mining 37%, agriculture 16% (1981 est.), government NA%, other

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Croatia

conventional short form: Croatia

local long form: Republika Hrvatska

local short form: Hrvatska

Capital: Zagreb

Administrative divisions: 21 counties (zupanijas, zupanija - singular): Bjelovar-Bilogora, City of Zagreb, Dubrovnik-Neretva, Istra, Karlovac, Koprivnica-Krizevci, Krapina-Zagorje, Lika-Senj, Medimurje, Osijek-Baranja, Pozega-Slavonija, Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Sibenik, Sisak-Moslavina, Slavonski Brod-Posavina, Split-Dalmatia, Varazdin, Virovitica-Podravina, Vukovar-Srijem, Zadar-Knin, Zagreb

Independence: 25 June 1991 (from Yugoslavia)

National holiday: Statehood Day, 30 May (1990)

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal (16 years of age, if employed)

Flag: red, white, and blue horizontal bands with Croatian coat of arms (red and white checkered)

Economy

Industries: chemicals and plastics, machine tools, fabricated metal, electronics, pig iron and rolled steel products, aluminum reduction, paper, wood products (including furniture), building materials (including cement), textiles, shipbuilding, petroleum and petroleum refining, food processing and beverages

Agriculture: Croatia normally produces a food surplus; most agricultural land in private hands and concentrated in Croat-majority districts in Slavonia and Istria; much of Slavonia's land has been put out of production by fighting; wheat, corn, sugar beets, sunflowers, alfalfa, and clover are main crops in Slavonia; central Croatian highlands are less fertile but support cereal production, orchards, vineyards, livestock breeding, and dairy farming; coastal areas and offshore islands grow olives, citrus fruits, and vegetables

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 2,699 km

Highways:

total: 27,368 km

Inland waterways: 785 km perennially navigable

Ports: Dubrovnik, Omis, Ploce, Pula, Rijeka, Sibenik, Split, Zadar

Airports:

total: 76

Defence Forces

Branches: Ground Forces, Naval Forces, Air and Air Defense Forces, Frontier Guard, Home Guard