

# The world fact book

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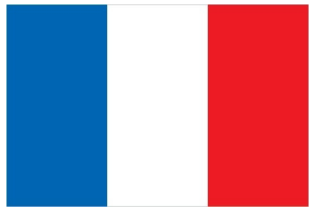
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# France



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations. It plays an influential global role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, NATO, the G-7, the G-20, the EU, and other multilateral organizations. France rejoined NATO's integrated military command structure in 2009, reversing DE GAULLE's 1966 decision to withdraw French forces from NATO. Since 1958, it has constructed a hybrid presidential-parliamentary governing system resistant to the instabilities experienced in earlier, more purely parliamentary administrations. In recent decades, its reconciliation and cooperation with Germany have proved central to the economic integration of Europe, including the introduction of a common currency, the euro, in January 1999. In the early 21st century, five French overseas entities - French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion - became French regions and were made part of France proper.

# 2. Geography

## 2.1 Location

### **metropolitan France:**

Western Europe, bordering the Bay of Biscay and English Channel, between Belgium and Spain, southeast of the UK; bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Italy and Spain;

### **French Guiana:**

Northern South America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Brazil and Suriname;

### **Guadeloupe:**

Caribbean, islands between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Puerto Rico;

### **Martinique:**

Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean, north of Trinidad and Tobago;

### **Mayotte:**

Southern Indian Ocean, island in the Mozambique Channel, about halfway between northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique;

### **Reunion:**

Southern Africa, island in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar

## 2.2 Geographic coordinates

**metropolitan France:**

46 00 N, 2 00 E;

**French Guiana:**

4 00 N, 53 00 W;

**Guadeloupe:**

16 15 N, 61 35 W;

**Martinique:**

14 40 N, 61 00 W;

**Mayotte:**

12 50 S, 45 10 E;

**Reunion:**

21 06 S, 55 36 E

## 2.3 Map references

**metropolitan France:**

Europe;

**French Guiana:**

South America;

**Guadeloupe:**

Central America and the Caribbean;

**Martinique:**

Central America and the Caribbean;

**Mayotte:**

Africa;

**Reunion:**

World

## 2.4 Area

**total:**

643,801 sq km ; 551,500 sq km (metropolitan France)

**land:**

640,427 sq km ; 549,970 sq km (metropolitan France)

**water:**

3,374 sq km ; 1,530 sq km (metropolitan France)

**note:**

the first numbers include the overseas regions of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Reunion

## 2.5 Area - comparative

slightly more than four times the size of Georgia; slightly less than the size of Texas

## 2.6 Land boundaries

### **border countries (8):**

Andorra 55 km, Belgium 556 km, Germany 418 km, Italy 476 km, Luxembourg 69 km, Monaco 6 km, Spain 646 km, Switzerland 525 km

### **metropolitan France - total:**

2751

### **French Guiana - total:**

1205

## 2.7 Coastline

4,853 km metropolitan France: 3,427 km

## 2.8 Maritime claims

### **territorial sea:**

12 nm

### **contiguous zone:**

24 nm

### **exclusive economic zone:**

200 nm (does not apply to the Mediterranean Sea)

### **continental shelf:**

200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

## 2.9 Climate

### **metropolitan France:**

generally cool winters and mild summers, but mild winters and hot summers along the Mediterranean; occasional strong, cold, dry, north-to-northwesterly wind known as the mistral;

### **French Guiana:**

tropical; hot, humid; little seasonal temperature variation;

### **Guadeloupe and Martinique:**

subtropical tempered by trade winds; moderately high humidity; rainy season (June to October); vulnerable to devastating cyclones (hurricanes) every eight years on average;

### **Mayotte:**

tropical; marine; hot, humid, rainy season during northeastern monsoon (November to May); dry season is cooler (May to November);

**Reunion:**

tropical, but temperature moderates with elevation; cool and dry (May to November), hot and rainy (November to April)

## 2.10 Terrain

**metropolitan France:**

mostly flat plains or gently rolling hills in north and west; remainder is mountainous, especially Pyrenees in south, Alps in east;

**French Guiana:**

low-lying coastal plains rising to hills and small mountains;

**Guadeloupe:**

Basse-Terre is volcanic in origin with interior mountains; Grande-Terre is low limestone formation; most of the seven other islands are volcanic in origin;

**Martinique:**

mountainous with indented coastline; dormant volcano;

**Mayotte:**

generally undulating, with deep ravines and ancient volcanic peaks;

**Reunion:**

mostly rugged and mountainous; fertile lowlands along coast

## 2.11 Elevation

**mean elevation:**

375 m

**lowest point:**

Rhone River delta -2 m

**highest point:**

Mont Blanc 4,810

**note:**

to assess the possible effects of climate change on the ice and snow cap of Mont Blanc, its surface and peak have been extensively measured in recent years; these new peak measurements have exceeded the traditional height of 4,807 m and have varied between 4,808 m and 4,811 m; the actual rock summit is 4,792 m and is 40 m away from the ice-covered summit

## 2.12 Natural resources

metropolitan France: coal, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, uranium, antimony, arsenic, potash, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum, timber, arable land, fish, French Guiana, gold deposits, petroleum, kaolin, niobium, tantalum, clay

## 2.13 Land use

### **agricultural land:**

52.7% (2018 est.) arable land: 33.4% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 1.8% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 17.5% (2018 est.)

### **forest:**

29.2% (2018 est.)

### **other:**

18.1% (2018 est.)

## 2.14 Irrigated land

26,420 sq km 26,950 sq km (2012) metropolitan France: 26,000 sq km (2012)

## 2.15 Population distribution

much of the population is concentrated in the north and southeast; although there are many urban agglomerations throughout the country, Paris is by far the largest city, with Lyon ranked a distant second

## 2.16 Natural hazards

### **metropolitan France:**

flooding; avalanches; midwinter windstorms; drought; forest fires in south near the Mediterranean;

### **overseas departments:**

hurricanes (cyclones); flooding;

### **volcanism:**

Montagne Pelee (1,394 m) on the island of Martinique in the Caribbean is the most active volcano of the Lesser Antilles arc, it last erupted in 1932; a catastrophic eruption in May 1902 destroyed the city of St. Pierre, killing an estimated 30,000 people;; La Soufriere (1,467 m) on the island of Guadeloupe in the Caribbean last erupted from July 1976 to March 1977;; these volcanoes are part of the volcanic island arc of the Lesser Antilles that extends from Saba in the north to Grenada in the south

## 2.17 Geography - note

largest West European nation; most major French rivers - the Meuse, Seine, Loire, Charente, Dordogne, and Garonne - flow northward or westward into the Atlantic Ocean, only the Rhone flows southward into the Mediterranean Sea

# 3. People And Society

## 3.1 Population

68,084,217 (July 2021 est.)

**note:**

the above figure is for metropolitan France and five overseas regions; the metropolitan France population is 62,814,233

## 3.2 Nationality

**noun:**

Frenchman(men), Frenchwoman(women)

**adjective:**

French

## 3.3 Ethnic groups

Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African, Indochinese, Basque minorities

**note:**

overseas departments: Black, White, Mulatto, East Indian, Chinese, Amerindian

## 3.4 Languages

French (official) 100%, declining regional dialects and languages (Provençal, Breton, Alsatian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish, Occitan, Picard)

**note:**

overseas departments: French, Creole patois, Mahorian (a Swahili dialect)

## 3.5 Religions

Christian (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic) 63-66%, Muslim 7-9%, Buddhist 0.5-0.75%, Jewish 0.5-0.75%, other 0.5-1.0%, none 23-28% (2015 est.)

**note:**

France maintains a tradition of secularism and has not officially collected data on religious affiliation since the 1872 national census, which complicates assessments of France's religious composition; an 1872 law prohibiting state authorities from collecting data on individuals' ethnicity or religious beliefs was reaffirmed by a 1978 law emphasizing the prohibition of the collection or exploitation of personal data revealing an individual's race, ethnicity, or political, philosophical, or religious opinions; a 1905 law codified France's separation of church and state

## 3.6 Age structure

**0-14 years:**

18.36% (male 6,368,767/female 6,085,318)

**15-24 years:**

11.88% (male 4,122,981/female 3,938,938)

**25-54 years:**



36.83% (male 12,619,649/female 12,366,120)

**55-64 years:**

12.47% (male 4,085,564/female 4,376,272)

**65 years and over:**

20.46% (male 6,029,303/female 7,855,244) (2020 est.)

## 3.7 Dependency ratios

**total dependency ratio:**

62.4

**youth dependency ratio:**

28.7

**elderly dependency ratio:**

33.7

**potential support ratio:**

3 (2020 est.)

## 3.8 Median age

**total:**

41.7 years

**male:**

40 years

**female:**

43.4 years (2020 est.)

## 3.9 Population growth rate

0.33% (2021 est.)

## 3.10 Birth rate

11.77 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.11 Death rate

9.58 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.12 Net migration rate

1.06 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.13 Population distribution

much of the population is concentrated in the north and southeast; although there are many urban agglomerations throughout the country, Paris is by far the largest city, with Lyon ranked a distant second

## 3.14 Urbanization

**urban population:**

81% of total population (2020)

**rate of urbanization:**

0.72% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

## 3.15 Major urban areas - population

11.079 million PARIS (capital), 1.734 million Lyon, 1.614 million Marseille-Aix-en-Provence, 1.068 million Lille, 1.037 million Toulouse, 980,000 Bordeaux (2021)

## 3.16 Sex ratio

**at birth:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**0-14 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**15-24 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**25-54 years:**

1.02 male(s)/female

**55-64 years:**

0.93 male(s)/female

**65 years and over:**

0.77 male(s)/female

**total population:**

0.96 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

## 3.17 Mother's mean age at first birth

28.7 years (2018 est.)

## 3.18 Maternal mortality rate

8 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

## 3.19 Infant mortality rate

**total:**

3.19 deaths/1,000 live births

**male:**

3.57 deaths/1,000 live births

**female:**

2.79 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

### 3.20 Life expectancy at birth

**total population:**

82.39 years

**male:**

79.31 years

**female:**

85.61 years (2021 est.)

### 3.21 Total fertility rate

2.04 children born/woman (2021 est.)

### 3.22 Contraceptive prevalence rate

78.4% (2010/11)

### 3.23 Drinking water source

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.24 Current Health Expenditure

11.3% (2018)

### 3.25 Physicians density

3.27 physicians/1,000 population (2018)

### 3.26 Hospital bed density

6 beds/1,000 population (2017)

### 3.27 Sanitation facility access

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.28 HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.3% (2019 est.)

### 3.29 HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

190,000 (2019 est.)

### 3.30 HIV/AIDS - deaths

<500 (2019 est.)

### 3.31 Major infectious diseases

**note:**

widespread ongoing transmission of a respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is occurring throughout France; as of 24 January 2021, France has reported a total of 2,985,259 cases of COVID-19 or 4,573.5 cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population with 111.0 cumulative deaths per 100,000 population

### 3.32 Obesity - adult prevalence rate

21.6% (2016)

### 3.33 Education expenditures

5.5% of GDP (2017)

### 3.34 School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

**total:**

16 years

**male:**

16 years

**female:**

16 years (2018)

### 3.35 Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

**total:**

20.8%

**male:**

21.4%

**female:**

20% (2018 est.)

## 4. Government

### 4.1 Country name

**conventional long form:**

French Republic

**conventional short form:**

France

**local long form:**

Republique francaise

**local short form:**

France

**etymology:**

name derives from the Latin "Francia" meaning "Land of the Franks"; the Franks were a group of Germanic tribes located along the middle and lower Rhine River in the 3rd century A.D. who merged with Gallic-Roman populations in succeeding centuries and to whom they passed on their name

## 4.2 Government type

semi-presidential republic

## 4.3 Capital

**name:**

Paris

**geographic coordinates:**

48 52 N, 2 20 E

**time difference:**

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:**

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

note: applies to metropolitan France only; for its overseas regions the time difference is UTC-4 for Guadeloupe and Martinique, UTC-3 for French Guiana, UTC+3 for Mayotte, and UTC+4 for Reunion  
etymology: name derives from the Parisii, a Celtic tribe that inhabited the area from the 3rd century B.C., but who were conquered by the Romans in the 1st century B.C.; the Celtic settlement became the Roman town of Lutetia Parisiorum (Lutetia of the Parisii); over subsequent centuries it became Parisium and then just Paris

## 4.4 Administrative divisions

18 regions (regions, singular - region); Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comte (Burgundy-Free County), Bretagne (Brittany), Centre-Val de Loire (Center-Loire Valley), Corse (Corsica), Grand Est (Grand East), Guadeloupe, Guyane (French Guiana), Hauts-de-France (Upper France), Ile-de-France, Martinique, Mayotte, Normandie (Normandy), Nouvelle-Aquitaine (New Aquitaine), Occitanie (Occitania), Pays de la Loire (Lands of the Loire), Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, Reunion

**note:**

France is divided into 13 metropolitan regions (including the "collectivity" of Corse or Corsica) and 5 overseas regions (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and

Reunion) and is subdivided into 96 metropolitan departments and 5 overseas departments (which are the same as the overseas regions)

## 4.5 Dependent areas

Clipperton Island, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, New Caledonia, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna

**note:**

the US Government does not recognize claims to Antarctica; New Caledonia has been considered a "sui generis" collectivity of France since 1998, a unique status falling between that of an independent country and a French overseas department

## 4.6 Independence

no official date of independence: 486 (Frankish tribes unified under Merovingian kingship); 10 August 843 (Western Francia established from the division of the Carolingian Empire); 14 July 1789 (French monarchy overthrown); 22 September 1792 (First French Republic founded); 4 October 1958 (Fifth French Republic established)

## 4.7 National holiday

Fete de la Federation, 14 July (1790); note - although often incorrectly referred to as Bastille Day, the celebration actually commemorates the holiday held on the first anniversary of the storming of the Bastille (on 14 July 1789) and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy; other names for the holiday are Fete Nationale (National Holiday) and quatorze juillet (14th of July)

## 4.8 Constitution

**history:**

many previous; latest effective 4 October 1958

**amendments:**

proposed by the president of the republic (upon recommendation of the prime minister and Parliament) or by Parliament; proposals submitted by Parliament members require passage by both houses followed by approval in a referendum; passage of proposals submitted by the government can bypass a referendum if submitted by the president to Parliament and passed by at least three-fifths majority vote by Parliaments National Assembly; amended many times, last in 2008; note - in May 2018, the prime minister submitted a bill to the National Assembly to amend several provisions of the constitution

## 4.9 Legal system

civil law; review of administrative but not legislative acts

## 4.10 International law organization participation

has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

## 4.11 Citizenship

**citizenship by birth:**

no

**citizenship by descent only:**

at least one parent must be a citizen of France

**dual citizenship recognized:**

yes

**residency requirement for naturalization:**

5 years

## 4.12 Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

## 4.13 Executive branch

**chief of state:**

President Emmanuel MACRON (since 14 May 2017)

**head of government:**

Prime Minister Jean CASTEX (since 3 July 2020)

**cabinet:**

Council of Ministers appointed by the president at the suggestion of the prime minister

**elections/appointments:**

president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 23 April with a runoff on 7 May 2017 (next to be held in April 2022); prime minister appointed by the president

**election results:**

Emmanuel MACRON elected president in second round; percent of vote in first round - Emmanuel MACRON (EM) 24.%, Marine LE PEN (FN) 21.3%, Francois FILLON (LR) 20.%, Jean-Luc MELENCHON (FI) 19.6%, Benoit HAMON (PS) 6.4%, other 8.7%; percent of vote in second round - MACRON 66.1%, LE PEN 33.9%

## 4.14 Legislative branch

**description:**

bicameral Parliament or Parlement consists of: Senate or Senat (348 seats - 328 for metropolitan France and overseas departments and regions of Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion, and Mayotte, 2 for New Caledonia, 2 for French Polynesia, 1 for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, 1 for Saint-Barthelemy, 1 for Saint-Martin, 1 for Wallis and Futuna, and 12 for French nationals abroad; members indirectly elected by departmental electoral colleges using absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed for departments with 1-3 members and proportional representation vote in departments with 4 or more members; members serve 6-year terms with one-half of the membership renewed every 3 years) National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (577 seats - 556 for metropolitan

France, 10 for overseas departments, and 11 for citizens abroad; members directly elected by absolute majority vote in 2 rounds if needed to serve 5-year terms)

**elections:**

Senate - last held on 24 September 2017 (next to be held on 24 September 2020) National Assembly - last held on 11 and 18 June 2017 (next to be held in June 2022)

**election results:**

Senate - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by political caucus (party or group of parties) - LR 144, PS 73, UC 51. LREM 23, RDSE 22, CRCE 16, RTLI 13, other 6; composition - men 246, women 102, percent of women 29.3% National Assembly - percent of vote by party first round - LREM 28.2%, LR 15.8%, FN 13.2%, FI 11%, PS 7.4%, other 24.4%; percent of vote by party second round - LREM 43.1%, LR 22.2%, FN 8.8%, MoDEM 6.1%, PS 5.7%, FI 4.9%, other 9.2%; seats by political caucus (party or group of parties) - LREM 306, LR 104, MoDEM 46, UDI/Agir 29, PS 29, UDI 18, FI 17, Liberties and Territories 16, PCF 16, other 14; composition - men 349, women 228, percent of women 39.5%; note - total Parliament percent of women 35.7%

## 4.15 Judicial branch

**highest courts:**

Court of Cassation or Cour de Cassation (consists of the court president, 6 divisional presiding judges, 120 trial judges, and 70 deputy judges organized into 6 divisions - 3 civil, 1 commercial, 1 labor, and 1 criminal); Constitutional Council (consists of 9 members)

**judge selection and term of office:**

Court of Cassation judges appointed by the president of the republic from nominations from the High Council of the Judiciary, presided over by the Court of Cassation and 15 appointed members; judges appointed for life; Constitutional Council members - 3 appointed by the president of the republic and 3 each by the National Assembly and Senate presidents; members serve 9-year, non-renewable terms with one-third of the membership renewed every 3 years

**subordinate courts:**

appellate courts or Cour d'Appel; regional courts or Tribunal de Grande Instance; first instance courts or Tribunal d'instance; administrative courts

**note:**

in April 2018, the French Government announced its intention to reform the country's judicial system

## 4.16 Political parties and leaders

Presidential majority Parties [Edouard PHILIPPE] Democratic Movement or MoDem [Francois BAYROU] La Republique en Marche! or LREM [Richard FERRAND] Movement of Progressives or MDP Robert HUE] Parliamentary right Parties [Francois BAROIN] Hunting, Fishing, Nature and Tradition or CPNT [Eddie PUYJAION] The Republicans or LR [Annie GENEVARD] Union of Democrats and Independents or UDI [Jean-Christophe CAMBADELIS] Parliamentary left Parties [Bernard CAZENEUVE] Socialist Party or PS [Jean-Christophe CAMBADEMAND] Radical Party of the Left or PRG [Sylvia



PINEL] Citizen and Republican Movement or MRC [Jean-Luc LAURENT] Martinican Progressive Party or PPM [Aiem CESAIRE]Debout la France or DLF [Nicolas DUPONT-AIGNAN]Ecology Democracy Solidarity or EDS [Paula FORTEZA, Matthieu ORPHELIN (splinter party formed in May 2020 by defectors of LREM)Europe Ecologists - the Greens or EELV [David CORMAND]French Communist Party or PCF [Pierre LAURENT]La France Insoumise or FI [Jean-Luc MELENCHONLIS]National Front or FN [Marine LE PEN]

## 4.17 International organization participation

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BDEAC, BIS, BSEC (observer), CBSS (observer), CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EITI (implementing country), EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, FZ, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, G-20, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, InOC, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OIF, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), Schengen Convention, SELEC (observer), SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, Union Latina, UNMIL, UNOCI, UNRWA, UN Security Council (permanent), UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

## 4.18 Diplomatic representation in the US

### **chief of mission:**

Ambassador Philippe ETIENNE (since 8 July 2019)

### **chancery:**

4101 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20007

### **telephone:**

[1] (202) 944-6000

### **FAX:**

[1] (202) 944-6166

### **consulate(s) general:**

Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, Washington, DC

## 4.19 Diplomatic representation from the US

### **chief of mission:**

Ambassador Jamie D. McCOURT (since 18 December 2017); note - also accredited to Monaco

### **telephone:**

[33] (1) 43-12-22-22

### **embassy:**

2 Avenue Gabriel, 75008 Paris

### **mailing address:**

PSC 116, APO AE 09777

**FAX:**

[33] (1) 42 66 97 83

**consulate(s) general:**

Marseille, Strasbourg

**consulate(s):**

Bordeaux, Lyon, Rennes

## 4.20 Flag description

three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), white, and red; known as the "Le drapeau tricolore" (French Tricolor), the origin of the flag dates to 1790 and the French Revolution when the "ancient French color" of white was combined with the blue and red colors of the Parisian militia; the official flag for all French dependent areas

**note:**

the design and/or colors are similar to a number of other flags, including those of Belgium, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Netherlands

## 4.21 National symbol(s)

Gallic rooster, fleur-de-lis, Marianne (female personification); national colors: blue, white, red

## 4.22 National anthem

**name:**

"La Marseillaise" (The Song of Marseille)

**lyrics/music:**

Claude-Joseph ROUGET de Lisle

**note:**

adopted 1795, restored 1870; originally known as "Chant de Guerre pour l'Armee du Rhin" (War Song for the Army of the Rhine), the National Guard of Marseille made the song famous by singing it while marching into Paris in 1792 during the French Revolutionary Wars

# 5. Economy

## 5.1 Economic overview

The French economy is diversified across all sectors. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies, including Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales. However, the government maintains a strong presence in some sectors, particularly power, public transport, and defense industries. France is the most visited country in the world with 89 million foreign tourists in 2017. France's leaders remain

committed to a capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending that mitigate economic inequality.

France's real GDP grew by 1.9% in 2017, up from 1.2% the year before. The unemployment rate (including overseas territories) increased from 7.8% in 2008 to 10.2% in 2015, before falling to 9.0% in 2017. Youth unemployment in metropolitan France decreased from 24.6% in the fourth quarter of 2014 to 20.6% in the fourth quarter of 2017.

France's public finances have historically been strained by high spending and low growth. In 2017, the budget deficit improved to 2.7% of GDP, bringing it in compliance with the EU-mandated 3% deficit target. Meanwhile, France's public debt rose from 89.5% of GDP in 2012 to 97% in 2017.

Since entering office in May 2017, President Emmanuel MACRON launched a series of economic reforms to improve competitiveness and boost economic growth. President MACRON campaigned on reforming France's labor code and in late 2017 implemented a range of reforms to increase flexibility in the labor market by making it easier for firms to hire and fire and simplifying negotiations between employers and employees. In addition to labor reforms, President MACRON's 2018 budget cuts public spending, taxes, and social security contributions to spur private investment and increase purchasing power. The government plans to gradually reduce corporate tax rate for businesses from 33.3% to 25% by 2022.

## 5.2 Real GDP growth rate

1.49% (2019 est.) 1.81% (2018 est.) 2.42% (2017 est.)

## 5.3 Inflation rate (consumer prices)

1.1% (2019 est.) 1.8% (2018 est.) 1% (2017 est.)

## 5.4 Credit ratings

### **Fitch rating:**

AA (2014)

### **Moody's rating:**

Aa2 (2015)

### **StandardPoors rating:**

AA (2013)

## 5.5 Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$3,097,061,000,000 (2019 est.) \$3,051,034,000,000 (2018 est.) \$2,997,296,000,000 (2017 est.)

### **note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.6 GDP (official exchange rate)

\$2,715,574,000,000 (2019 est.)

## 5.7 Real GDP per capita

\$46,184 (2019 est.)\$45,561 (2018 est.)\$44,827 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.8 Gross national saving

23.4% of GDP (2019 est.)23.1% of GDP (2018 est.)22.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

## 5.9 GDP - composition, by sector of origin

**agriculture:**

1.7% (2017 est.)

**industry:**

19.5% (2017 est.)

**services:**

78.8% (2017 est.)

## 5.10 GDP - composition, by end use

**household consumption:**

54.1% (2017 est.)

**government consumption:**

23.6% (2017 est.)

**investment in fixed capital:**

22.5% (2017 est.)

**investment in inventories:**

0.9% (2017 est.)

**exports of goods and services:**

30.9% (2017 est.)

**imports of goods and services:**

-32% (2017 est.)

## 5.11 Ease of Doing Business Index scores

76.8 (2020)

## 5.12 Agricultural products

wheat, sugar beet, milk, barley, maize, potatoes, grapes, rapeseed, pork, apples

## 5.13 Industries

machinery, chemicals, automobiles, metallurgy, aircraft, electronics; textiles, food processing; tourism

## 5.14 Industrial production growth rate

2% (2017 est.)

## 5.15 Labor force

27.742 million (2020 est.)

## 5.16 Labor force - by occupation

### **agriculture:**

2.8% (2016 est.)

### **industry:**

20% (2016 est.)

### **services:**

77.2% (2016 est.)

## 5.17 Unemployment rate

8.12% (2019 est.)8.69% (2018 est.)

### **note:**

includes overseas territories

## 5.18 Population below poverty line

14.2% (2015 est.)

## 5.19 Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

31.6 (2017 est.)29.2 (2015)

## 5.20 Household income or consumption by percentage share

### **lowest 10%:**

3.6%

### **highest 10%:**

25.4% (2013)

## 5.21 Budget

### **revenues:**

1.392 trillion (2017 est.)

**expenditures:**

1.459 trillion (2017 est.)

## 5.22 Taxes and other revenues

53.8% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.23 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-2.6% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.24 Public debt

96.8% of GDP (2017 est.) 96.6% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: data cover general government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions

## 5.25 Fiscal year

calendar year

## 5.26 Current account balance

-\$18.102 billion (2019 est.) -\$16.02 billion (2018 est.)

## 5.27 Exports

\$969.077 billion (2019 est.) \$952.316 billion (2018 est.) \$910.613 billion (2017 est.)

## 5.28 Exports - partners

Germany 14%, United States 8%, Italy 7%, Spain 7%, Belgium 7%, United Kingdom 7% (2019)

## 5.29 Exports - commodities

aircraft, packaged medicines, cars and vehicle parts, gas turbines, wine (2019)

## 5.30 Imports

\$1,021,633,000,000 (2019 est.) \$995.937 billion (2018 est.) \$965.949 billion (2017 est.)

## 5.31 Imports - partners

Germany 18%, Belgium 9%, Italy 9%, Spain 7%, China 7%, Netherlands 6%, United Kingdom 5% (2019)

## 5.32 Imports - commodities

cars, crude petroleum, refined petroleum, packaged medicines, aircraft machinery (2019)

## 5.33 Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$156.4 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$138.2 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

## 5.34 Debt - external

\$6,356,459,000,000 (2019 est.)\$6,058,438,000,000 (2018 est.)

## 5.35 Exchange rates

euros (EUR) per US dollar -0.82771 (2020 est.)0.90338 (2019 est.)0.87789 (2018 est.)0.885 (2014 est.)0.7634 (2013 est.)

# 6. Energy

## 6.1 Electricity access

**electrification - total population:**  
100% (2020)

## 6.2 Electricity - production

529.1 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.3 Electricity - consumption

450.8 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.4 Electricity - exports

61.41 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.5 Electricity - imports

19.9 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.6 Electricity - installed generating capacity

130.8 million kW (2016 est.)

## 6.7 Electricity - from fossil fuels

17% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

## 6.8 Electricity - from nuclear fuels

50% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.9 Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

15% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.10 Electricity - from other renewable sources

19% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.11 Crude oil - production

16,000 bbl/day (2018 est.)

## 6.12 Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

## 6.13 Crude oil - imports

1.147 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.14 Crude oil - proved reserves

65.97 million bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.15 Refined petroleum products - production

1.311 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.16 Refined petroleum products - consumption

1.705 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.17 Refined petroleum products - exports

440,600 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.18 Refined petroleum products - imports

886,800 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.19 Natural gas - production

16.99 million cu m (2017 est.)



## 6.20 Natural gas - consumption

41.88 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.21 Natural gas - exports

6.031 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.22 Natural gas - imports

48.59 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.23 Natural gas - proved reserves

8.41 billion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.24 Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

341.2 million Mt (2017 est.)

# 7. Communications

## 7.1 Telephones - fixed lines

**total subscriptions:**

39,234,941

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

58.03 (2019 est.)

## 7.2 Telephones - mobile cellular

**total subscriptions:**

74,791,818

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

110.62 (2019 est.)

## 7.3 Telecommunication systems

**general assessment:**

one of the largest mobile phone markets in Europe, worth 13 billion annually; LTE has universal coverage with extensive 5G launching any day, one of the largest broadband subscriber bases in Europe; regional govt. and telecom companies have invested in higher bandwidth w/ fiber infrastructure improvements, an investment more than 20 billion euros (2020)

**domestic:**

58 per 100 persons for fixed-line and 111 per 100 for mobile-cellular subscriptions (2019)

**international:**

country code - 33; landing points for Circe South, TAT-14, INGRID, FLAG Atlantic-1, Apollo, HUGO, IFC-1, ACE, SeaMeWe-3 & 4, Dunant, Africa-1, AAE-1, Atlas Offshore, Hawk, IMEWE, Med Cable, PEACE Cable, and TENorth/TGN-Eurasia/SEACOM/Alexandros/Medex submarine cables providing links throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa and US; satellite earth stations - more than 3 (2 Intelsat (with total of 5 antennas - 2 for Indian Ocean and 3 for Atlantic Ocean), NA Eutelsat, 1 Inmarsat - Atlantic Ocean region); HF radiotelephone communications with more than 20 countries (2019)

**overseas departments:**

country codes: French Guiana - 594; landing points for Ella Link, Kanawa, Americas II to South America, Europe, Caribbean and US; Guadeloupe - 590; landing points for GCN, Southern Caribbean Fiber, and ECFS around the Caribbean and US; Martinique - 596; landing points for Americas II, ECFS, and Southern Caribbean Fiber to South America, US and around the Caribbean; Mayotte - 262; landing points for FLY-LION3 and LION2 to East Africa and East African Islands in Indian Ocean; Reunion - 262; landing points for SAFE, METISS, and LION submarine cables to Asia, South and East Africa, Southeast Asia and nearby Indian Ocean Island countries of Mauritius, and Madagascar (2019)

**note:**

the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

## 7.4 Broadcast media

a mix of both publicly operated and privately owned TV stations; state-owned France television stations operate 4 networks, one of which is a network of regional stations, and has part-interest in several thematic cable/satellite channels and international channels; a large number of privately owned regional and local TV stations; multi-channel satellite and cable services provide a large number of channels; public broadcaster Radio France operates 7 national networks, a series of regional networks, and operates services for overseas territories and foreign audiences; Radio France Internationale, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a leading international broadcaster; a large number of commercial FM stations, with many of them consolidating into commercial networks

## 7.5 Internet country code

metropolitan France - .fr; French Guiana - .gf; Guadeloupe - .gp; Martinique - .mq; Mayotte - .yt; Reunion - .re

## 7.6 Internet users

**total:**

55,265,718

**percent of population:**

82.04% (July 2018 est.)

## 7.7 Broadband - fixed subscriptions

**total:**

29.1 million

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

43 (2018 est.)

## 8. Transportation

### 8.1 National air transport system

**number of registered air carriers:**

19 (2020)

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers:**

553

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers:**

70,188,028 (2018)

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers:**

4,443,790,000 mt-km (2018)

### 8.2 Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

F (2016)

### 8.3 Airports

**total:**

464 (2013)

### 8.4 Airports - with paved runways

**total:**

294 (2017)

**over 3,047 m:**

14 (2017)

**2,438 to 3,047 m:**

25 (2017)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

97 (2017)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

83 (2017)

**under 914 m:**

75 (2017)

## 8.5 Airports - with unpaved runways

**total:**

170 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

1 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

64 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

105 (2013)

## 8.6 Heliports

1 (2013)

## 8.7 Pipelines

15322 km gas, 2939 km oil, 5084 km refined products (2013)

## 8.8 Railways

**total:**

29,640 km (2014)

**standard gauge:**

29,473 km 1.435-m gauge (15,561 km electrified) (2014)

**narrow gauge:**

167 km 1.000-m gauge (63 km electrified) (2014)

## 8.9 Roadways

**total:**

1,053,215 km (2011)

**urban:**

654,201 km (2011)

**non-urban:**

399,014 km (2011)

## 8.10 Waterways

**metropolitan France:**

8,501 km (1,621 km navigable by craft up to 3,000 metric tons) (2010)

## 8.11 Merchant marine

**total:**

545

**by type:**

container ship 30, general cargo 50, oil tanker 28, other 437 (2020)

note: includes Monaco

## 8.12 Ports and terminals

### **major seaport(s):**

Brest, Calais, Dunkerque, Le Havre, Marseille, Nantes,

### **container port(s) (TEUs):**

Le Havre (2,870,000) (2017)

### **LNG terminal(s) (import):**

Fos Cavaou, Fos Tonkin, Montoir de Bretagne

### **river port(s):**

Paris, Rouen (Seine)

### **cruise/ferry port(s):**

Calais, Cherbourg, Le HavreStrasbourg (Rhine) Bordeaux (Garonne)

## 8.13 Transportation - note

begun in 1988 and completed in 1994, the Channel Tunnel (nicknamed the Chunnel) is a 50.5-km (31.4-mi) rail tunnelbeneath the English Channel at the Strait of Dover that runs from Folkestone, Kent, England to Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais in northern France; it is the only fixed link between the island of Great Britain and mainland Europe

# 9. Military And Security

## 9.1 Military and security forces

Army (Armee de Terre; includes Foreign Legion), Navy (Marine Nationale), Air Force (Armee de l'Air (AdIA); includes Air Defense), National Guard (Reserves), National Gendarmerie (paramilitary police force that is a branch of the Armed Forces but under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior; also has additional duties to the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Justice) (2021)

## 9.2 Military expenditures

2.11% of GDP (2020 est.)1.83% of GDP (2019)1.82% of GDP (2018)1.78% of GDP (2017)1.79% of GDP (2016)

## 9.3 Military and security service personnel strengths

the French military has approximately 205,000 active duty troops (115,000 Army; 35,000 Navy; 40,000 Air Force; 15,000 other, such as joint staffs, medical service, etc.); approximately 100,000 National Gendarmerie; approximately 75,000 National Guard (2020)

## 9.4 Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the French military's inventory consists almost entirely of domestically-produced weapons systems, including some jointly-produced with other European countries; there is a limited mix of armaments from other Western countries, particularly the US; since 2010, the US is the leading foreign supplier of military hardware to France; France has a defense industry capable of manufacturing the full spectrum of air, land, and naval military weapons systems (2020)

## 9.5 Military deployments

5,100 Burkina Faso/Chad/Mali/Niger (Operation Barkhane); 900 Cote D'Ivoire; 1,450 Djibouti; 300 Baltics (NATO); 2,000 French Guyana; 900 French Polynesia; 1,000 French West Indies; 350 Gabon; est. 500 Middle East (Iraq/Jordan/Syria); 950 Lebanon (UNIFIL); 1,400-1,500 New Caledonia; 1,700 Reunion Island; 350 Senegal; 650 United Arab Emirates; note - France has been a contributing member of the EuroCorps since 1992 (2020)

## 9.6 Military service age and obligation

18-25 years of age for male and female voluntary military service; no conscription (abolished 2001); 1-year service obligation; women serve in noncombat posts (2019)

# 10. Terrorism

## 10.1 Terrorist group(s)

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps/Qods Force; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham; al-Qa'ida (2019)note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization, areas of operation, tactics, targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in Appendix-T

# 11. Transnational Issues

## 11.1 Disputes - international

Madagascar claims the French territories of Bassas da India, Europa Island, Glorioso Islands, and Juan de Nova Island; Comoros claims Mayotte; Mauritius claims Tromelin Island; territorial dispute between Suriname and the French overseas department of French Guiana; France asserts a territorial claim in Antarctica (Adelie Land); France and Vanuatu claim Matthew and Hunter Islands, east of New Caledonia

## 11.2 Refugees and internally displaced persons

refugees (country of origin):

24,293 (Afghanistan), 23,821 (Sri Lanka), 18,473 (Sudan), 18,244 (Syria), 17,512 (Democratic Republic of the Congo), 16,412 (Russia), 14,141 (Serbia and Kosovo), 11,863 (Turkey), 11,038 (Guinea), 11,021 (Cambodia), 8,829 (Iraq), 7,735 (Vietnam), 6,918 (China), 6,464 (Laos), 6,372 (Eritrea), 6,156 (Bangladesh), 5,675 (Mauritania), 5,652 (Cote d'Ivoire), 5,169 (Mali) (2019)

**stateless persons:**

1,521 (2019)

## 11.3 Illicit drugs

**metropolitan France:**

transshipment point for South American cocaine, Southwest Asian heroin, and European synthetics;

**French Guiana:**

small amount of marijuana grown for local consumption; minor transshipment point to Europe;

**Martinique:**

transshipment point for cocaine and marijuana bound for the US and Europe

# Germany



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

As Europe's largest economy and second most populous nation (after Russia), Germany is a key member of the continent's economic, political, and defense organizations. European power struggles immersed Germany in two devastating world wars in the first half of the 20th century and left the country occupied by the victorious Allied powers of the US, UK, France, and the Soviet Union in 1945. With the advent of the Cold War, two German states were formed in 1949: the western Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the eastern German Democratic Republic (GDR). The democratic FRG embedded itself in key western economic and security organizations, the EC (now the EU) and NATO, while the communist GDR was on the front line of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. The decline of the USSR and the end of the Cold War allowed for German reunification in 1990. Since then, Germany has expended considerable funds to bring eastern productivity and wages up to western standards. In January 1999, Germany and 10 other EU countries introduced a common European exchange currency, the euro.

# 2. Geography

## 2.1 Location

Central Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark

## 2.2 Geographic coordinates

51 00 N, 9 00 E

## 2.3 Map references

Europe

## 2.4 Area

**total:**

357,022 sq km

**land:**

348,672 sq km

**water:**

8,350 sq km

## 2.5 Area - comparative

three times the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Montana

## 2.6 Land boundaries

**total:**

3,714 km

**border countries (9):**

Austria 801 km, Belgium 133 km, Czech Republic 704 km, Denmark 140 km, France 418 km, Luxembourg 128 km, Netherlands 575 km, Poland 467 km, Switzerland 348 km

## 2.7 Coastline

2,389 km

## 2.8 Maritime claims

**territorial sea:**

12 nm

**exclusive economic zone:**

200 nm

**continental shelf:**

200-m depth or to the depth of exploitation

## 2.9 Climate

temperate and marine; cool, cloudy, wet winters and summers; occasional warm mountain (foehn) wind

## 2.10 Terrain

lowlands in north, uplands in center, Bavarian Alps in south

## 2.11 Elevation

**mean elevation:**

263 m

**lowest point:**

Neuendorf bei Wilster -3.5 m

**highest point:**

Zugspitze 2,963 m

## 2.12 Natural resources

coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, construction materials, timber, arable land

## 2.13 Land use

### **agricultural land:**

48% (2018 est.) arable land: 34.1% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0.6% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 13.3% (2018 est.)

### **forest:**

31.8% (2018 est.)

### **other:**

20.2% (2018 est.)

## 2.14 Irrigated land

6,500 sq km (2012)

## 2.15 Population distribution

most populous country in Europe; a fairly even distribution throughout most of the country, with urban areas attracting larger and denser populations, particularly in the far western part of the industrial state of North Rhine-Westphalia

## 2.16 Natural hazards

flooding

## 2.17 Geography - note

strategic location on North European Plain and along the entrance to the Baltic Sea; most major rivers in Germany - the Rhine, Weser, Oder, Elbe - flow northward; the Danube, which originates in the Black Forest, flows eastward

# 3. People And Society

## 3.1 Population

79,903,481 (July 2021 est.)

## 3.2 Nationality

### **noun:**

German(s)

### **adjective:**

German

## 3.3 Ethnic groups

German 87.2%, Turkish 1.8%, Polish 1%, Syrian 1%, other 9% (2017 est.) note: data represent population by nationality

## 3.4 Languages

German (official)

**note:**

Danish, Frisian, Sorbian, and Romani are official minority languages; Low German, Danish, North Frisian, Sater Frisian, Lower Sorbian, Upper Sorbian, and Romani are recognized as regional languages under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

## 3.5 Religions

Roman Catholic 27.7%, Protestant 25.5%, Muslim 5.1%, Orthodox 1.9%, other Christian 1.1%, other .9%, none 37.8% (2018 est.)

## 3.6 Age structure

**0-14 years:**

12.89% (male 5,302,850/female 5,025,863)

**15-24 years:**

9.81% (male 4,012,412/female 3,854,471)

**25-54 years:**

38.58% (male 15,553,328/female 15,370,417)

**55-64 years:**

15.74% (male 6,297,886/female 6,316,024)

**65 years and over:**

22.99% (male 8,148,873/female 10,277,538) (2020 est.)

## 3.7 Dependency ratios

**total dependency ratio:**

55.4

**youth dependency ratio:**

21.7

**elderly dependency ratio:**

33.7

**potential support ratio:**

3 (2020 est.)

## 3.8 Median age

**total:**

47.8 years

**male:**

46.5 years

**female:**

49.1 years (2020 est.)

## 3.9 Population growth rate

-0.21% (2021 est.)

## 3.10 Birth rate

8.63 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.11 Death rate

12.22 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.12 Net migration rate

1.5 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.13 Population distribution

most populous country in Europe; a fairly even distribution throughout most of the country, with urban areas attracting larger and denser populations, particularly in the far western part of the industrial state of North Rhine-Westphalia

## 3.14 Urbanization

**urban population:**

77.5% of total population (2020)

**rate of urbanization:**

0.27% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

## 3.15 Major urban areas - population

3.567 million BERLIN (capital), 1.789 million Hamburg, 1.553 million Munich, 1.129 million Cologne, 785,000 Frankfurt (2021)

## 3.16 Sex ratio

**at birth:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**0-14 years:**

1.06 male(s)/female

**15-24 years:**

1.04 male(s)/female

**25-54 years:**

1.01 male(s)/female

**55-64 years:**

1 male(s)/female

**65 years and over:**

0.79 male(s)/female

**total population:**

0.96 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

### 3.17 Mother's mean age at first birth

29.6 years (2017 est.)

### 3.18 Maternal mortality rate

7 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

### 3.19 Infant mortality rate

**total:**

3.24 deaths/1,000 live births

**male:**

3.61 deaths/1,000 live births

**female:**

2.84 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

### 3.20 Life expectancy at birth

**total population:**

81.3 years

**male:**

78.93 years

**female:**

83.8 years (2021 est.)

### 3.21 Total fertility rate

1.48 children born/woman (2021 est.)

### 3.22 Contraceptive prevalence rate

80.3% (2011)

**note:**

percent of women aged 18-49

### 3.23 Drinking water source

**improved:**

urban: 100% of populationrural: 100% of populationtotal: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of populationrural: 0% of populationtotal: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.24 Current Health Expenditure

11.4% (2018)

### 3.25 Physicians density

4.25 physicians/1,000 population (2017)

### 3.26 Hospital bed density

8 beds/1,000 population (2017)

### 3.27 Sanitation facility access

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.28 HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.1% (2018 est.)

### 3.29 HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

87,000 (2018 est.)

### 3.30 HIV/AIDS - deaths

<500 (2018 est.)

### 3.31 Obesity - adult prevalence rate

22.3% (2016)

### 3.32 Children under the age of 5 years underweight

0.5% (2014/17)

### 3.33 Education expenditures

4.9% of GDP (2017)

### 3.34 School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

**total:**

17 years

**male:**

17 years

**female:**

17 years (2018)

## 3.35 Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

**total:**

6.2%

**male:**

7.1%

**female:**

5.1% (2018 est.)

# 4. Government

## 4.1 Country name

**conventional long form:**

Federal Republic of Germany

**conventional short form:**

Germany

**local long form:**

Bundesrepublik Deutschland

**local short form:**

Deutschland

**former:**

German Reich

**etymology:**

the Gauls (Celts) of Western Europe may have referred to the newly arriving Germanic tribes who settled in neighboring areas east of the Rhine during the first centuries B.C. as "Germani," a term the Romans adopted as "Germania"; the native designation "Deutsch" comes from the Old High German "diutisc" meaning "of the people"

## 4.2 Government type

federal parliamentary republic

## 4.3 Capital

**name:**

Berlin

**geographic coordinates:**

52 31 N, 13 24 E

**time difference:**

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:**

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

**etymology:**



the origin of the name is unclear but may be related to the old West Slavic (Polabian) word "berl" or "birl," meaning "swamp"

## 4.4 Administrative divisions

16 states (Laender, singular - Land); Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bayern (Bavaria), Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hessen (Hesse), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania), Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony), Nordrhein-Westfalen (North Rhine-Westphalia), Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland-Palatinate), Saarland, Sachsen (Saxony), Sachsen-Anhalt (Saxony-Anhalt), Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringen (Thuringia); note - Bayern, Sachsen, and Thuringen refer to themselves as free states (Freistaaten, singular - Freistaat), while Bremen calls itself a Free Hanseatic City (Freie Hansestadt) and Hamburg considers itself a Free and Hanseatic City (Freie und Hansestadt)

## 4.5 Independence

18 January 1871 (establishment of the German Empire); divided into four zones of occupation (UK, US, USSR, and France) in 1945 following World War II; Federal Republic of Germany (FRG or West Germany) proclaimed on 23 May 1949 and included the former UK, US, and French zones; German Democratic Republic (GDR or East Germany) proclaimed on 7 October 1949 and included the former USSR zone; West Germany and East Germany unified on 3 October 1990; all four powers formally relinquished rights on 15 March 1991; notable earlier dates: 10 August 843 (Eastern Francia established from the division of the Carolingian Empire); 2 February 962 (crowning of OTTO I, recognized as the first Holy Roman Emperor)

## 4.6 National holiday

German Unity Day, 3 October (1990)

## 4.7 Constitution

### **history:**

previous 1919 (Weimar Constitution); latest drafted 10-23 August 1948, approved 12 May 1949, promulgated 23 May 1949, entered into force 24 May 1949

### **amendments:**

proposed by Parliament; passage and enactment into law require two-thirds majority vote by both the Bundesrat (upper house) and the Bundestag (lower house) of Parliament; articles including those on basic human rights and freedoms cannot be amended; amended many times, last in 2020; note - in early 2021, the German federal government introduced a bill to incorporate children's rights into the constitution

## 4.8 Legal system

civil law system

## 4.9 International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

## 4.10 Citizenship

### **citizenship by birth:**

no

### **citizenship by descent only:**

at least one parent must be a German citizen or a resident alien who has lived in Germany at least 8 years

### **dual citizenship recognized:**

yes, but requires prior permission from government

### **residency requirement for naturalization:**

8 years

## 4.11 Suffrage

18 years of age; universal; age 16 for some state and municipal elections

## 4.12 Executive branch

### **chief of state:**

President Frank-Walter STEINMEIER (since 19 March 2017)

### **head of government:**

Chancellor Angela MERKEL (since 22 November 2005)

### **cabinet:**

Cabinet or Bundesminister (Federal Ministers) recommended by the chancellor, appointed by the president

### **elections/appointments:**

president indirectly elected by a Federal Convention consisting of all members of the Federal Parliament (Bundestag) and an equivalent number of delegates indirectly elected by the state parliaments; president serves a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 12 February 2017 (next to be held in February 2022); following the most recent Federal Parliament election, the party or coalition with the most representatives usually elects the chancellor (Angela MERKEL since 2005) and appointed by the president to serve a renewable 4-year term; Federal Parliament vote for chancellor last held on 14 March 2018 (next to be held after the Bundestag elections in 2021)

### **election results:**

Frank-Walter STEINMEIER elected president; Federal Convention vote count - Frank-Walter STEINMEIER (SPD) 931, Christopher BUTTERWEGGE (The Left) 128, Albrecht GLASER (Alternative for Germany AfD) 42, Alexander HOLD (BVB/FW) 25, Engelbert SONNEBORN (Pirates) 10; Angela MERKEL (CDU) reelected chancellor; Federal Parliament vote - 364 to 315

## 4.13 Legislative branch

### **description:**

bicameral Parliament or Parlament consists of: Federal Council or Bundesrat (69 seats; members appointed by each of the 16 state governments) Federal Diet or Bundestag (709 seats - total seats can vary each electoral term; approximately one-half of members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote and approximately one-half directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority vote; members serve 4-year terms)

### **elections:**

Bundesrat - none; composition is determined by the composition of the state-level governments; the composition of the Bundesrat has the potential to change any time one of the 16 states holds an election Bundestag - last held on 24 September 2017 (next to be held in 2021 at the latest); most postwar German governments have been coalitions

### **election results:**

Bundesrat - composition - men 50, women 19, percent of women 27.5% Bundestag - percent of vote by party - CDU/CSU 33%, SPD 20.5%, AfD 12.6%, FDP 10.7%, The Left 9.2%, Alliance '90/Greens 8.9%, other 5%; seats by party - CDU/CSU 246, SPD 152, AfD 91, FDP 80, The Left 69, Alliance '90/Greens 67; composition - men 490, women 219, percent of women 30.5%; note - total Parliament percent of women 30.5%

## 4.14 Judicial branch

### **highest courts:**

Federal Court of Justice (court consists of 127 judges, including the court president, vice presidents, presiding judges, other judges and organized into 25 Senates subdivided into 12 civil panels, 5 criminal panels, and 8 special panels); Federal Constitutional Court or Bundesverfassungsgericht (consists of 2 Senates each subdivided into 3 chambers, each with a chairman and 8 members)

### **judge selection and term of office:**

Federal Court of Justice judges selected by the Judges Election Committee, which consists of the Secretaries of Justice from each of the 16 federated states and 16 members appointed by the Federal Parliament; judges appointed by the president; judges serve until mandatory retirement at age 65; Federal Constitutional Court judges - one-half elected by the House of Representatives and one-half by the Senate; judges appointed for 12-year terms with mandatory retirement at age 68

### **subordinate courts:**

Federal Administrative Court; Federal Finance Court; Federal Labor Court; Federal Social Court; each of the 16 federated states or Land has its own constitutional court and a hierarchy of ordinary (civil, criminal, family) and specialized (administrative, finance, labor, social) courts; two English-speaking commercial courts opened in late 2020 in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg - Stuttgart Commercial Court and Mannheim Commercial Court

## 4.15 Political parties and leaders

Alliance '90/Greens [Annalena BAERBOCK and Robert HABECK]Alternative for Germany or AfD [Alexander GAULAND and Joerg MEUTHEN]Christian Democratic Union or CDU [Armin LASCHET]Christian Social Union or CSU [Markus SOEDER]Free Democratic Party or FDP [Christian LINDNER]The Left or Die Linke [Katja KIPPING and Bernd RIEXINGER]Social Democratic Party or SPD [Saskia ESKEN and Norbert WALTER-BORJANS]

## 4.16 International organization participation

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BIS, BSEC (observer), CBSS, CD, CDB, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EITI (implementing country), EMU, ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, G-20, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICtI, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSMA, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, Schengen Convention, SELEC (observer), SICA (observer), UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNMISS, UNRWA, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

## 4.17 Diplomatic representation in the US

### **chief of mission:**

Ambassador Emily Margarethe HABER (since 22 June 2018)

### **chancery:**

4645 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20007

### **telephone:**

[1] (202) 298-4000

### **FAX:**

[1] (202) 298-4249

### **consulate(s) general:**

Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco

## 4.18 Diplomatic representation from the US

### **chief of mission:**

Ambassador Richard GRENNELL (since 8 May 2018)

### **telephone:**

[49] (30) 8305-0

### **embassy:**

Clayallee 170, 14191 Berlin

### **mailing address:**

Clayallee 170, 14191 Berlin

### **FAX:**

[49] (30) 8305-1215

### **consulate(s) general:**

Dusseldorf, Frankfurt am Main, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich

## 4.19 Flag description

three equal horizontal bands of black (top), red, and gold; these colors have played an important role in German history and can be traced back to the medieval banner of the Holy Roman Emperor - a black eagle with red claws and beak on a gold field

## 4.20 National symbol(s)

eagle; national colors: black, red, yellow

## 4.21 National anthem

**name:**

"Das Lied der Deutschen" (Song of the Germans)

**lyrics/music:**

August Heinrich HOFFMANN VON FALLERSLEBEN/Franz Joseph HAYDN

note: adopted 1922; the anthem, also known as "Deutschlandlied" (Song of Germany), was originally adopted for its connection to the March 1848 liberal revolution; following appropriation by the Nazis of the first verse, specifically the phrase, "Deutschland, Deutschland ueber alles" (Germany, Germany above all) to promote nationalism, it was banned after 1945; in 1952, its third verse was adopted by West Germany as its national anthem; in 1990, it became the national anthem for the reunited Germany

# 5. Economy

## 5.1 Economic overview

The German economy - the fifth largest economy in the world in PPP terms and Europe's largest - is a leading exporter of machinery, vehicles, chemicals, and household equipment. Germany benefits from a highly skilled labor force, but, like its Western European neighbors, faces significant demographic challenges to sustained long-term growth. Low fertility rates and a large increase in net immigration are increasing pressure on the country's social welfare system and necessitate structural reforms.

Reforms launched by the government of Chancellor Gerhard SCHROEDER (1998-2005), deemed necessary to address chronically high unemployment and low average growth, contributed to strong economic growth and falling unemployment. These advances, as well as a government subsidized, reduced working hour scheme, help explain the relatively modest increase in unemployment during the 2008-09 recession - the deepest since World War II. The German Government introduced a minimum wage in 2015 that increased to \$9.79 (8.84 euros) in January 2017.

Stimulus and stabilization efforts initiated in 2008 and 2009 and tax cuts introduced in Chancellor Angela MERKEL's second term increased Germany's total budget deficit

- including federal, state, and municipal - to 4.1% in 2010, but slower spending and higher tax revenues reduced the deficit to 0.8% in 2011 and in 2017 Germany reached a budget surplus of 0.7%. A constitutional amendment approved in 2009 limits the federal government to structural deficits of no more than 0.35% of GDP per annum as of 2016, though the target was already reached in 2012.

Following the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, Chancellor Angela MERKEL announced in May 2011 that eight of the country's 17 nuclear reactors would be shut down immediately and the remaining plants would close by 2022. Germany plans to replace nuclear power largely with renewable energy, which accounted for 29.5% of gross electricity consumption in 2016, up from 9% in 2000. Before the shutdown of the eight reactors, Germany relied on nuclear power for 23% of its electricity generating capacity and 46% of its base-load electricity production.

The German economy suffers from low levels of investment, and a government plan to invest 15 billion euros during 2016-18, largely in infrastructure, is intended to spur needed private investment. Domestic consumption, investment, and exports are likely to drive German GDP growth in 2018, and the country's budget and trade surpluses are likely to remain high.

## 5.2 Real GDP growth rate

0.59% (2019 est.)1.3% (2018 est.)2.91% (2017 est.)

## 5.3 Inflation rate (consumer prices)

1.4% (2019 est.)1.7% (2018 est.)1.5% (2017 est.)

## 5.4 Credit ratings

### **Fitch rating:**

AAA (1994)

### **Moody's rating:**

Aaa (1986)

### **StandardPoors rating:**

AAA (1983)Credit ratings prior to 1989 refer to West Germany.

## 5.5 Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$4,482,448,000,000 (2019 est.)\$4,457,688,000,000 (2018 est.)\$4,401,873,000,000 (2017 est.)

### **note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.6 GDP (official exchange rate)

\$3,860,923,000,000 (2019 est.)

## 5.7 Real GDP per capita

\$53,919 (2019 est.)\$53,768 (2018 est.)\$53,255 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2017 dollars

## 5.8 Gross national saving

28.5% of GDP (2019 est.)28.7% of GDP (2018 est.)28.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

## 5.9 GDP - composition, by sector of origin

**agriculture:**

0.7% (2017 est.)

**industry:**

30.7% (2017 est.)

**services:**

68.6% (2017 est.)

## 5.10 GDP - composition, by end use

**household consumption:**

53.1% (2017 est.)

**government consumption:**

19.5% (2017 est.)

**investment in fixed capital:**

20.4% (2017 est.)

**investment in inventories:**

-0.5% (2017 est.)

**exports of goods and services:**

47.3% (2017 est.)

**imports of goods and services:**

-39.7% (2017 est.)

## 5.11 Ease of Doing Business Index scores

79.7 (2020)

## 5.12 Agricultural products

milk, sugar beet, wheat, barley, potatoes, pork, maize, rye, rapeseed, triticale

## 5.13 Industries

among the world's largest and most technologically advanced producers of iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, automobiles, food and beverages, shipbuilding, textiles

## 5.14 Industrial production growth rate

3.3% (2017 est.)

## 5.15 Labor force

44.585 million (2020 est.)

## 5.16 Labor force - by occupation

**agriculture:**

1.4%

**industry:**

24.2%

**services:**

74.3% (2016)

## 5.17 Unemployment rate

4.98% (2019 est.)5.19% (2018 est.)

## 5.18 Population below poverty line

16.7% (2015 est.)

## 5.19 Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

31.9 (2016 est.)30 (1994)

## 5.20 Household income or consumption by percentage share

**lowest 10%:**

3.6%

**highest 10%:**

24% (2000)

## 5.21 Budget

**revenues:**

1.665 trillion (2017 est.)

**expenditures:**

1.619 trillion (2017 est.)

## 5.22 Taxes and other revenues



45% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.23 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

1.3% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.24 Public debt

63.9% of GDP (2017 est.) 67.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: general government gross debt is defined in the Maastricht Treaty as consolidated general government gross debt at nominal value, outstanding at the end of the year in the following categories of government liabilities (as defined in ESA95): currency and deposits (AF.2), securities other than shares excluding financial derivatives (AF.3, excluding AF.34), and loans (AF.4); the general government sector comprises the sub-sectors of central government, state government, local government and social security funds; the series are presented as a percentage of GDP and in millions of euros; GDP used as a denominator is the gross domestic product at current market prices; data expressed in national currency are converted into euro using end-of-year exchange rates provided by the European Central Bank

## 5.25 Fiscal year

calendar year

## 5.26 Current account balance

\$280.238 billion (2019 est.) \$297.434 billion (2018 est.)

## 5.27 Exports

\$2,004,158,000,000 (2019 est.) \$1,984,745,000,000 (2018 est.) \$1,937,273,000,000 (2017 est.)

## 5.28 Exports - partners

United States 9%, France 8%, China 7%, Netherlands 6%, United Kingdom 6%, Italy 5%, Poland 5%, Austria 5% (2019)

## 5.29 Exports - commodities

cars and vehicle parts, packaged medicines, aircraft, medical cultures/vaccines, industrial machinery (2019)

## 5.30 Imports

\$1,804,453,000,000 (2019 est.) \$1,759,299,000,000 (2018 est.) \$1,695,300,000,000 (2017 est.)

## 5.31 Imports - partners

Netherlands 9%, China 8%, France 7%, Belgium 6%, Poland 6%, Italy 6%, Czechia 5%, United States 5% (2019)

## 5.32 Imports - commodities

cars and vehicle parts, packaged medicines, crude petroleum, refined petroleum, medical cultures/vaccines (2019)

## 5.33 Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$200.1 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$173.7 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

## 5.34 Debt - external

\$5,671,463,000,000 (2019 est.)\$5,751,408,000,000 (2018 est.)

## 5.35 Exchange rates

euros (EUR) per US dollar -0.82771 (2020 est.)0.90338 (2019 est.)0.87789 (2018 est.)0.885 (2014 est.)0.7634 (2013 est.)

# 6. Energy

## 6.1 Electricity access

**electrification - total population:**  
100% (2020)

## 6.2 Electricity - production

612.8 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.3 Electricity - consumption

536.5 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.4 Electricity - exports

78.86 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.5 Electricity - imports

28.34 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.6 Electricity - installed generating capacity

208.5 million kW (2016 est.)

## 6.7 Electricity - from fossil fuels

41% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

## 6.8 Electricity - from nuclear fuels

5% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.9 Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.10 Electricity - from other renewable sources

52% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.11 Crude oil - production

41,000 bbl/day (2018 est.)

## 6.12 Crude oil - exports

6,569 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.13 Crude oil - imports

1.836 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.14 Crude oil - proved reserves

129.6 million bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.15 Refined petroleum products - production

2.158 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.16 Refined petroleum products - consumption

2.46 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.17 Refined petroleum products - exports

494,000 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.18 Refined petroleum products - imports

883,800 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.19 Natural gas - production

7.9 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.20 Natural gas - consumption

93.36 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.21 Natural gas - exports

34.61 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.22 Natural gas - imports

119.5 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.23 Natural gas - proved reserves

39.5 billion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.24 Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

847.6 million Mt (2017 est.)

# 7. Communications

## 7.1 Telephones - fixed lines

**total subscriptions:**

38,847,530

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

48.37 (2019 est.)

## 7.2 Telephones - mobile cellular

**total subscriptions:**

103,090,116

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

128.36 (2019 est.)

## 7.3 Telecommunication systems

**general assessment:**

one of the world's most technologically advanced telecommunications systems; as a result of intensive capital expenditures since reunification, the formerly backward system of the eastern part of the country, dating back to World War II, has been modernized and

integrated with that of the western part; universal 3G infrastructure available and LTE networks; mobile market the largest in Europe 107.5 million as of 2019; available reach of 5G services in 5 cities; 98% LTE coverage; penetration in broadband and mobile sectors average for region; Hamburg develops smart city concept (2020)

**domestic:**

extensive system of automatic telephone exchanges connected by modern networks of fiber-optic cable, coaxial cable, microwave radio relay, and a domestic satellite system; cellular telephone service is widely available, expanding rapidly, and includes roaming service to many foreign countries; 48 per 100 for fixed-line and 128 per 100 for mobile-cellular (2019)

**international:**

country code - 49; landing points for SeaMeWe-3, TAT-14, AC-1, CONTACT-3, Fehmarn Balt, C-Lion1, GC1, GlobalConnect-KPN, and Germany-Denmark 2 & 3 -submarine cables to Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Southeast Asia and Australia; as well as earth stations in the Inmarsat, Intelsat, Eutelsat, and Intersputnik satellite systems (2019)

**note:**

the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

## 7.4 Broadcast media

a mixture of publicly operated and privately owned TV and radio stations; 70 national and regional public broadcasters compete with nearly 400 privately owned national and regional TV stations; more than 90% of households have cable or satellite TV; hundreds of radio stations including multiple national radio networks, regional radio networks, and a large number of local radio stations

## 7.5 Internet country code

.de

## 7.6 Internet users

**total:**

72,202,773

**percent of population:**

89.74% (July 2018 est.)

## 7.7 Broadband - fixed subscriptions

**total:**

34,174,900

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

42 (2018 est.)

## 8. Transportation

### 8.1 National air transport system

**number of registered air carriers:**

20 (2020)

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers:**

1,113

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers:**

109,796,202 (2018)

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers:**

7,969,860,000 mt-km (2018)

### 8.2 Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

D (2016)

### 8.3 Airports

**total:**

539 (2013)

### 8.4 Airports - with paved runways

**total:**

318 (2017)

**over 3,047 m:**

14 (2017)

**2,438 to 3,047 m:**

49 (2017)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

60 (2017)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

70 (2017)

**under 914 m:**

125 (2017)

### 8.5 Airports - with unpaved runways

**total:**

221 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

1 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

35 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

185 (2013)

## 8.6 Heliports

23 (2013)

## 8.7 Pipelines

37 km condensate, 26985 km gas, 2400 km oil, 4479 km refined products, 8 km water (2013)

## 8.8 Railways

**total:**

33,590 km (2017)

**standard gauge:**

33,331 km 1.435-m gauge (19,973 km electrified) (2015)

**narrow gauge:**

220 km 1.000-m gauge (79 km electrified) 15 km 0.900-m gauge, 24 km 0.750-m gauge (2015)

## 8.9 Roadways

**total:**

625,000 km (2017)

**paved:**

625,000 km (includes 12,996 km of expressways) (2017)

**note:**

includes local roads

## 8.10 Waterways

7,467 km (Rhine River carries most goods; Main-Danube Canal links North Sea and Black Sea) (2012)

## 8.11 Merchant marine

**total:**

607

**by type:**

bulk carrier 1, container ship 84, general cargo 86, oil tanker 37, other 399 (2020)

## 8.12 Ports and terminals

**major seaport(s):**

Baltic Sea - Rostock

**oil terminal(s):**

Brunsbüttel Canal terminals

**container port(s) (TEUs):**

Bremen/Bremerhaven (5,510,000), Hamburg (8,860,000) (2017)

**LNG terminal(s) (import):**

Hamburg

**river port(s):**

Bremen (Weser) North Sea - Wilhelmshaven Bremerhaven (Geeste) Duisburg, Karlsruhe, Neuss-Düsseldorf (Rhine) Brunsbüttel, Hamburg (Elbe) Lubeck (Wakenitz)

## 9. Military And Security

### 9.1 Military and security forces

Federal Armed Forces (Bundeswehr): Army (Heer), Navy (Deutsche Marine, includes naval air arm), Air Force (Luftwaffe, includes air defense), Joint Support Service (Streitkräftebasis, SKB), Central Medical Service (Zentraler Sanitätsdienst, ZSanDstBw), Cyber and Information Space Command (Kommando Cyber- und Informationsraum, Kdo CIR) (2021)

### 9.2 Military expenditures

1.57% of GDP (2020 est.) 1.36% of GDP (2019) 1.24% of GDP (2018) 1.23% of GDP (2017) 1.19% of GDP (2016)

### 9.3 Military and security service personnel strengths

the German Federal Armed Forces have approximately 180,000 active duty personnel (62,000 Army; 16,000 Navy; 28,000 Air Force; 27,000 Joint Support Service; 20,000 Medical Service, 13,000 Cyber and Information Space Command; 14,000 other) (2020) note - Germany in 2020 announced it planned to increase the size of the military to about 200,000 troops by 2024

### 9.4 Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the German Federal Armed Forces inventory is mostly comprised of weapons systems produced domestically or jointly with other European countries; since 2010, the US is the leading foreign supplier of armaments to Germany; Germany's defense industry is capable of manufacturing the full spectrum of air, land, and naval military weapons systems, and is one of the world's leading arms exporters (2020)

### 9.5 Military deployments

1,300 Afghanistan (NATO (Feb 2021)); approximately 500 Middle East (NATO/Counter-ISIS campaign); 130 Lebanon (UNIFIL); 500 Lithuania (NATO); 425 Mali (MINUSMA); 400 Mali (EUTM); note - Germany is a contributing member of the EuroCorps (2020)



## 9.6 Military service age and obligation

17-23 years of age for male and female voluntary military service; conscription ended July 2011; service obligation 8-23 months or 12 years; women have been eligible for voluntary service in all military branches and positions since 2001 (2019)

## 10. Terrorism

### 10.1 Terrorist group(s)

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps/Qods Force; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (2019)note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization, areas of operation, tactics, targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in Appendix-T

## 11. Transnational Issues

### 11.1 Disputes - international

none

### 11.2 Refugees and internally displaced persons

#### **refugees (country of origin):**

572,818 (Syria), 141,650 (Iraq), 140,366 (Afghanistan), 58,569 (Eritrea), 43,244 (Iran), 28,470 (Turkey), 26,015 (Somalia), 8,722 (Russia), 8,639 (Serbia and Kosovo), 8,125 (Pakistan), 7,828 (Nigeria) (2019)

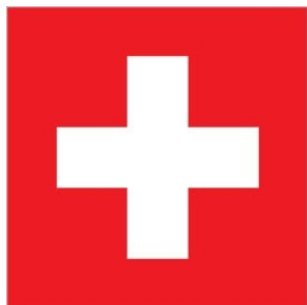
#### **stateless persons:**

14,947 (2019)

### 11.3 Illicit drugs

source of precursor chemicals for South American cocaine processors; transshipment point for and consumer of Southwest Asian heroin, Latin American cocaine, and European-produced synthetic drugs; major financial center

# Switzerland



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The Swiss Confederation was founded in 1291 as a defensive alliance among three cantons. In succeeding years, other localities joined the original three. The Swiss Confederation secured its independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1499. A constitution of 1848, subsequently modified in 1874 to allow voters to introduce referenda on proposed laws, replaced the confederation with a centralized federal government. Switzerland's sovereignty and neutrality have long been honored by the major European powers, and the country was not involved in either of the two world wars. The political and economic integration of Europe over the past half century, as well as Switzerland's role in many UN and international organizations, has strengthened Switzerland's ties with its neighbors. However, the country did not officially become a UN member until 2002. Switzerland remains active in many UN and international organizations but retains a strong commitment to neutrality.

## 2. Geography

### 2.1 Location

Central Europe, east of France, north of Italy

### 2.2 Geographic coordinates

47 00 N, 8 00 E

### 2.3 Map references

Europe

### 2.4 Area

**total:**

41,277 sq km

**land:**

39,997 sq km

**water:**

1,280 sq km

## 2.5 Area - comparative

slightly less than twice the size of New Jersey

## 2.6 Land boundaries

**total:**

1,770 km

**border countries (5):**

Austria 158 km, France 525 km, Italy 698 km, Liechtenstein 41 km, Germany 348 km

## 2.7 Coastline

0 km (landlocked)

## 2.8 Maritime claims

none (landlocked)

## 2.9 Climate

temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, rainy/snowy winters; cool to warm, cloudy, humid summers with occasional showers

## 2.10 Terrain

mostly mountains (Alps in south, Jura in northwest) with a central plateau of rolling hills, plains, and large lakes

## 2.11 Elevation

**mean elevation:**

1,350 m

**lowest point:**

Lake Maggiore 195 m

**highest point:**

Dufourspitze 4,634 m

## 2.12 Natural resources

hydropower potential, timber, salt

## 2.13 Land use

**agricultural land:**

38.7% (2018 est.) arable land: 10.2% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0.6% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 27.9% (2018 est.)

**forest:**

31.5% (2018 est.)

**other:**

29.8% (2018 est.)

## 2.14 Irrigated land

630 sq km (2012)

## 2.15 Population distribution

population distribution corresponds to elevation with the northern and western areas far more heavily populated; the higher Alps of the south limit settlement

## 2.16 Natural hazards

avalanches, landslides; flash floods

## 2.17 Geography - note

landlocked; crossroads of northern and southern Europe; along with southeastern France, northern Italy, and southwestern Austria, has the highest elevations in the Alps

# 3. People And Society

## 3.1 Population

8,453,550 (July 2021 est.)

## 3.2 Nationality

**noun:**

Swiss (singular and plural)

**adjective:**

Swiss

## 3.3 Ethnic groups

Swiss 69.5%, German 4.2%, Italian 3.2%, Portuguese 2.6%, French 2%, Kosovo 1.1%, other 17.3%, unspecified .1% (2018 est.)note: data represent permanent and non-permanent resident population by country of birth

## 3.4 Languages

German (or Swiss German) (official) 62.6%, French (official) 22.9%, Italian (official) 8.2%, English 5.4%, Portuguese 3.7%, Albanian 3.2%, Serbo-Croatian 2.5%, Spanish 2.4%, Romansh (official) 0.5%, other 7.7% (2017 est.)

**note:**

German, French, Italian, and Romansh are all national and official languages; shares sum to more than 100% because some respondents gave more than one answer

## 3.5 Religions

Roman Catholic 35.9%, Protestant 23.8%, other Christian 5.9%, Muslim 5.4%, Jewish 0.3%, other 1.4%, none 26%, unspecified 1.4% (2017 est.)

## 3.6 Age structure

**0-14 years:**

15.34% (male 664,255/female 625,252)

**15-24 years:**

10.39% (male 446,196/female 426,708)

**25-54 years:**

42.05% (male 1,768,245/female 1,765,941)

**55-64 years:**

13.48% (male 569,717/female 563,482)

**65 years and over:**

18.73% (male 699,750/female 874,448) (2020 est.)

## 3.7 Dependency ratios

**total dependency ratio:**

51.6

**youth dependency ratio:**

22.7

**elderly dependency ratio:**

29

**potential support ratio:**

3.5 (2020 est.)

## 3.8 Median age

**total:**

42.7 years

**male:**

41.7 years

**female:**

43.7 years (2020 est.)

## 3.9 Population growth rate

0.65% (2021 est.)

## 3.10 Birth rate

10.41 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

### 3.11 Death rate

8.44 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

### 3.12 Net migration rate

4.55 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

### 3.13 Population distribution

population distribution corresponds to elevation with the northern and western areas far more heavily populated; the higher Alps of the south limit settlement

### 3.14 Urbanization

**urban population:**

73.9% of total population (2020)

**rate of urbanization:**

0.88% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

### 3.15 Major urban areas - population

1.408 million Zurich, 434,000 BERN (capital) (2021)

### 3.16 Sex ratio

**at birth:**

1.06 male(s)/female

**0-14 years:**

1.06 male(s)/female

**15-24 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**25-54 years:**

1 male(s)/female

**55-64 years:**

1.01 male(s)/female

**65 years and over:**

0.8 male(s)/female

**total population:**

0.98 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

### 3.17 Mother's mean age at first birth

30.7 years (2017 est.)

### 3.18 Maternal mortality rate

5 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

### 3.19 Infant mortality rate

**total:**

3.64 deaths/1,000 live births

**male:**

4.15 deaths/1,000 live births

**female:**

3.1 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

### 3.20 Life expectancy at birth

**total population:**

83.03 years

**male:**

80.71 years

**female:**

85.49 years (2021 est.)

### 3.21 Total fertility rate

1.58 children born/woman (2021 est.)

### 3.22 Contraceptive prevalence rate

71.6% (2017)

### 3.23 Drinking water source

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.24 Current Health Expenditure

11.9% (2018)

### 3.25 Physicians density

4.3 physicians/1,000 population (2017)

### 3.26 Hospital bed density

4.7 beds/1,000 population (2017)

### 3.27 Sanitation facility access



**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.28 HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.2% (2019)

### 3.29 HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

17,000 (2019)

### 3.30 HIV/AIDS - deaths

<100 (2019)

### 3.31 Obesity - adult prevalence rate

19.5% (2016)

### 3.32 Education expenditures

5.1% of GDP (2017)

### 3.33 School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

**total:**

16 years

**male:**

17 years

**female:**

16 years (2018)

### 3.34 Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

**total:**

7.9%

**male:**

8.4%

**female:**

7.5% (2018 est.)

## 4. Government

## 4.1 Country name

**conventional long form:**

Swiss Confederation

**conventional short form:**

Switzerland

**local long form:**

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft (German); Confederation Suisse (French); Confederazione Svizzera (Italian); Confederaziun Svizra (Romansh)

**local short form:**

Schweiz (German); Suisse (French); Svizzera (Italian); Svizra (Romansh)

**abbreviation:**

CH

**etymology:**

name derives from the canton of Schwyz, one of the founding cantons of the Old Swiss Confederacy that formed in the 14th century

## 4.2 Government type

federal republic (formally a confederation)

## 4.3 Capital

**name:**

Bern

**geographic coordinates:**

46 55 N, 7 28 E

**time difference:**

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:**

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

**etymology:**

origin of the name is uncertain, but may derive from a 2nd century B.C. Celtic place name, possibly "berna" meaning "cleft," that was subsequently adopted by a Roman settlement

## 4.4 Administrative divisions

26 cantons (cantons, singular - canton in French; cantoni, singular - cantone in Italian; Kantone, singular - Kanton in German); Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Berne/Bern, Fribourg/Freiburg, Geneve (Geneva), Glarus, Graubunden/Grigioni/Grischun, Jura, Luzern, Neuchatel, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Sankt Gallen, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, Thurgau, Ticino, Uri, Valais/Wallis, Vaud, Zug, Zuerich

note: 6 of the cantons - Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Nidwalden, Obwalden - are referred to as half cantons because they elect only one member (instead of two) to the Council of States and, in popular

referendums where a majority of popular votes and a majority of cantonal votes are required, these 6 cantons only have a half vote

## 4.5 Independence

1 August 1291 (founding of the Swiss Confederation)

## 4.6 National holiday

Founding of the Swiss Confederation in 1291; note - since 1 August 1891 celebrated as Swiss National Day

## 4.7 Constitution

### **history:**

previous 1848, 1874; latest adopted by referendum 18 April 1999, effective 1 January 2000

### **amendments:**

proposed by the two houses of the Federal Assembly or by petition of at least one hundred thousand voters (called the "federal popular initiative"); passage of proposals requires majority vote in a referendum; following drafting of an amendment by the Assembly, its passage requires approval by majority vote in a referendum and approval by the majority of cantons; amended many times, last in 2018

## 4.8 Legal system

civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts, except for federal decrees of a general obligatory character

## 4.9 International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

## 4.10 Citizenship

### **citizenship by birth:**

no

### **citizenship by descent only:**

at least one parent must be a citizen of Switzerland

### **dual citizenship recognized:**

yes

### **residency requirement for naturalization:**

12 years including at least 3 of the last 5 years prior to application

## 4.11 Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

## 4.12 Executive branch

President of the Swiss Confederation Guy PARMELIN (since 1 January 2021); Vice President Ignazio CASSIS (since 1 January 2021); note - the Federal Council, which is comprised of 7 federal councillors, constitutes the federal government of Switzerland; council members rotate the 1-year term of federal president

## 4.13 Legislative branch

### **description:**

description: bicameral Federal Assembly or Bundesversammlung (in German), Assemble Fdrale (in French), Assemblea Federale (in Italian) consists of: Council of States or Stnderat (in German), Conseil des tats (in French), Consiglio degli Stati (in Italian) (46 seats; members in multi-seat constituencies representing cantons and single-seat constituencies representing half cantons directly elected by simple majority vote except Jura and Neuchatel cantons which use proportional representation vote; member term governed by cantonal law) National Council or Nationalrat (in German), Conseil National (in French), Consiglio Nazionale (in Italian) (200 seats; 195 members in cantons directly elected by proportional representation vote and 6 in half cantons directly elected by simple majority vote; members serve 4-year terms) (e.g. 2019)

### **elections:**

Council of States - last held in most cantons on 20 October 2019 (each canton determines when the next election will be held) National Council - last held on 20 October 2019 (next to be held in 2023) (e.g. 2019)

### **election results:**

Council of States - percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - CVP 13, FDP 12, SDP 9, Green Party 5, other 1; composition - NA National Council - percent of vote by party - SVP 25.6%, SP 16.8%, FDP 15.1%, Green Party 13.2%, CVP 11.4%, GLP 7.8%, other 10.1%; seats by party - SVP 53, SP 39, FDP 29, Green Party 28, CVP 25, GLP 16, other 10; composition - men 116, women 84, percent of women 42% (e.g. 2019)

## 4.14 Judicial branch

### **highest courts:**

Federal Supreme Court (consists of 38 justices and 19 deputy justices organized into 7 divisions)

### **judge selection and term of office:**

judges elected by the Federal Assembly for 6-year terms; note - judges are affiliated with political parties and are elected according to linguistic and regional criteria in approximate proportion to the level of party representation in the Federal Assembly

### **subordinate courts:**

Federal Criminal Court (established in 2004); Federal Administrative Court (established in 2007); note - each of Switzerland's 26 cantons has its own courts

## 4.15 Political parties and leaders

Free Democratic Party or FDP.The Liberals (FDP.Die Liberalen, PLR.Les Libéraux-Radicaux, PLR.I Liberali, Ils Liberals) [Petra GOESSI]Green Liberal Party (Gruenliberale Partei or GLP, Parti vert liberale or PVL, Partito Verde-Liberale or PVL, Partida Verde Liberale or PVL) [Juerg GROSSEN]Green Party (Gruene Partei der Schweiz or Gruene, Parti Ecologiste Suisse or Les Verts, Partito Ecologista Svizzero or I Verdi, Partida Ecologica Svizra or La Verda) [Regula RYTZ]Social Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei der Schweiz or SP, Parti Socialiste Suisse or PSS, Partito Socialista Svizzero or PSS, Partida Socialdemocratica de la Svizra or PSS) [Christian LEVRAT]Swiss People's Party (Schweizerische Volkspartei or SVP, Union Democratique du Centre or UDC, Unione Democratica di Centro or UDC, Uniun Democratica dal Center or UDC) [Albert ROESTI]other minor partiesThe Center (Die Mitte, Alleanza del Centro, Le Centre, Alleanza dal Center) [Gerhard PFISTER] (merger of the Christian Democratic People's Party and the Conservative Democratic Party)

## 4.16 International organization participation

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Australia Group, BIS, CD, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, EFTA, EITI (implementing country), ESA, FAO, FATF, G-10, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICt, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAIA (observer), MIGA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OIF, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PFP, Schengen Convention, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNMISS, UNMOGIP, UNRWA, UNTSO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

## 4.17 Diplomatic representation in the US

### **chief of mission:**

Ambassador Jacques PITTELOUD (since 16 September 2019)

### **chancery:**

2900 Cathedral Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

### **telephone:**

[1] (202) 745-7900

### **FAX:**

[1] (202) 387-2564

### **consulate(s) general:**

Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco

## 4.18 Diplomatic representation from the US

### **chief of mission:**

Ambassador Edward "Ed" MCMULLEN, Jr. (since 21 November 2017) note - also accredited to Liechtenstein

### **telephone:**

[41] (031) 357-70-11

### **embassy:**

Sulgeneckstrasse 19, CH-3007 Bern

**mailing address:**

use embassy street address

**FAX:**

[41] (031) 357-73-20

## 4.19 Flag description

red square with a bold, equilateral white cross in the center that does not extend to the edges of the flag; various medieval legends purport to describe the origin of the flag; a white cross used as identification for troops of the Swiss Confederation is first attested at the Battle of Laupen (1339)

## 4.20 National symbol(s)

Swiss cross (white cross on red field, arms equal length); national colors: red, white

## 4.21 National anthem

**lyrics/music:**

Leonhard WIDMER [German], Charles CHATELANAT [French], Camillo VALSANGIACOMO [Italian], and Flurin CAMATHIAS [Romansch]/Alberik ZWYSSIG the Swiss anthem has four names: "Schweizerpsalm" [German] "Cantique Suisse" [French] "Salmo svizzero," [Italian] "Psalm svizzer" [Romansch] (Swiss Psalm)

**note:**

unofficially adopted 1961, officially 1981; the anthem has been popular in a number of Swiss cantons since its composition (in German) in 1841; translated into the other three official languages of the country (French, Italian, and Romansch), it is official in each of those languages

# 5. Economy

## 5.1 Economic overview

Switzerland, a country that espouses neutrality, is a prosperous and modern market economy with low unemployment, a highly skilled labor force, and a per capita GDP among the highest in the world. Switzerland's economy benefits from a highly developed service sector, led by financial services, and a manufacturing industry that specializes in high-technology, knowledge-based production. Its economic and political stability, transparent legal system, exceptional infrastructure, efficient capital markets, and low corporate tax rates also make Switzerland one of the world's most competitive economies.

The Swiss have brought their economic practices largely into conformity with the EU's to gain access to the Union's Single Market and enhance the country's international competitiveness. Some trade protectionism remains, however, particularly for its small agricultural sector. The fate of the Swiss economy is tightly linked to that of its neighbors

in the euro zone, which purchases half of Swiss exports. The global financial crisis of 2008 and resulting economic downturn in 2009 stalled demand for Swiss exports and put Switzerland into a recession. During this period, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) implemented a zero-interest rate policy to boost the economy, as well as to prevent appreciation of the franc, and Switzerland's economy began to recover in 2010.

The sovereign debt crises unfolding in neighboring euro-zone countries, however, coupled with economic instability in Russia and other Eastern European economies drove up demand for the Swiss franc by investors seeking a safehaven currency. In January 2015, the SNB abandoned the Swiss franc's peg to the euro, roiling global currency markets and making active SNB intervention a necessary hallmark of present-day Swiss monetary policy. The independent SNB has upheld its zero interest rate policy and conducted major market interventions to prevent further appreciation of the Swiss franc, but parliamentarians have urged it to do more to weaken the currency. The franc's strength has made Swiss exports less competitive and weakened the country's growth outlook; GDP growth fell below 2% per year from 2011 through 2017.

In recent years, Switzerland has responded to increasing pressure from neighboring countries and trading partners to reform its banking secrecy laws, by agreeing to conform to OECD regulations on administrative assistance in tax matters, including tax evasion. The Swiss Government has also renegotiated its double taxation agreements with numerous countries, including the US, to incorporate OECD standards.

## 5.2 Real GDP growth rate

1.11% (2019 est.) 3.04% (2018 est.) 1.65% (2017 est.)

## 5.3 Inflation rate (consumer prices)

0.3% (2019 est.) 0.9% (2018 est.) 0.5% (2017 est.)

## 5.4 Credit ratings

**Fitch rating:**

AAA (2000)

**Moody's rating:**

Aaa (1982)

**StandardPoors rating:**

AAA (1988)

## 5.5 Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$588.472 billion (2019 est.) \$583.056 billion (2018 est.) \$567.448 billion (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.6 GDP (official exchange rate)

\$731.502 billion (2019 est.)

## 5.7 Real GDP per capita

\$68,628 (2019 est.)\$68,479 (2018 est.)\$67,139 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.8 Gross national saving

35.3% of GDP (2019 est.)33.8% of GDP (2018 est.)30.6% of GDP (2017 est.)

## 5.9 GDP - composition, by sector of origin

**agriculture:**

0.7% (2017 est.)

**industry:**

25.6% (2017 est.)

**services:**

73.7% (2017 est.)

## 5.10 GDP - composition, by end use

**household consumption:**

53.7% (2017 est.)

**government consumption:**

12% (2017 est.)

**investment in fixed capital:**

24.5% (2017 est.)

**investment in inventories:**

-1.4% (2017 est.)

**exports of goods and services:**

65.1% (2017 est.)

**imports of goods and services:**

-54% (2017 est.)

## 5.11 Ease of Doing Business Index scores

96.1 (2020)

## 5.12 Agricultural products

milk, sugar beet, wheat, potatoes, pork, barley, apples, maize, beef, grapes

## 5.13 Industries



machinery, chemicals, watches, textiles, precision instruments, tourism, banking, insurance, pharmaceuticals

## 5.14 Industrial production growth rate

3.4% (2017 est.)

## 5.15 Labor force

5.067 million (2020 est.)

## 5.16 Labor force - by occupation

**agriculture:**

3.3%

**industry:**

19.8%

**services:**

76.9% (2015)

## 5.17 Unemployment rate

2.31% (2019 est.) 2.55% (2018 est.)

## 5.18 Population below poverty line

6.6% (2014 est.)

## 5.19 Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

32.7 (2017 est.) 33.1 (1992)

## 5.20 Household income or consumption by percentage share

**lowest 10%:**

7.5%

**highest 10%:**

19% (2007)

## 5.21 Budget

**revenues:**

242.1 billion (2017 est.)

**expenditures:**

234.4 billion (2017 est.)

**note:**

includes federal, cantonal, and municipal budgets

## 5.22 Taxes and other revenues

35.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.23 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

1.1% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.24 Public debt

41.8% of GDP (2017 est.) 41.8% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: general government gross debt; gross debt consists of all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest and/or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future; includes debt liabilities in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), currency and deposits, debt securities, loans, insurance, pensions and standardized guarantee schemes, and other accounts payable; all liabilities in the GFSM (Government Financial Systems Manual) 2001 system are debt, except for equity and investment fund shares and financial derivatives and employee stock options

## 5.25 Fiscal year

calendar year

## 5.26 Current account balance

\$79.937 billion (2019 est.) \$63.273 billion (2018 est.)

## 5.27 Exports

\$443.997 billion (2019 est.) \$444.605 billion (2018 est.) \$430.129 billion (2017 est.)

**note:**

trade data exclude trade with Switzerland

## 5.28 Exports - partners

Germany 15.2%, US 12.3%, China 8.2%, India 6.7%, France 5.7%, UK 5.7%, Hong Kong 5.4%, Italy 5.3% (2017)

## 5.29 Exports - commodities

machinery, chemicals, metals, watches, agricultural products

## 5.30 Imports

\$344.477 billion (2019 est.) \$344.557 billion (2018 est.) \$343.367 billion (2017 est.)

### 5.31 Imports - partners

Germany 20.9%, US 7.9%, Italy 7.6%, UK 7.3%, France 6.8%, China 5% (2017)

### 5.32 Imports - commodities

machinery, chemicals, vehicles, metals; agricultural products, textiles

### 5.33 Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$811.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$679.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

### 5.34 Debt - external

\$1,909,446,000,000 (2019 est.)\$1,930,819,000,000 (2018 est.)

### 5.35 Exchange rates

Swiss francs (CHF) per US dollar -0.88995 (2020 est.)0.98835 (2019 est.)0.99195 (2018 est.)0.9627 (2014 est.)0.9152 (2013 est.)

## 6. Energy

### 6.1 Electricity access

**electrification - total population:**

100% (2020)

### 6.2 Electricity - production

59.01 billion kWh (2016 est.)

### 6.3 Electricity - consumption

58.46 billion kWh (2016 est.)

### 6.4 Electricity - exports

30.17 billion kWh (2016 est.)

### 6.5 Electricity - imports

34.1 billion kWh (2016 est.)

### 6.6 Electricity - installed generating capacity

20.84 million kW (2016 est.)

## 6.7 Electricity - from fossil fuels

3% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

## 6.8 Electricity - from nuclear fuels

18% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.9 Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

67% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.10 Electricity - from other renewable sources

13% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.11 Crude oil - production

0 bbl/day (2018 est.)

## 6.12 Crude oil - exports

0 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.13 Crude oil - imports

57,400 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.14 Crude oil - proved reserves

0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.15 Refined petroleum products - production

61,550 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.16 Refined petroleum products - consumption

223,900 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.17 Refined petroleum products - exports

7,345 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.18 Refined petroleum products - imports

165,100 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.19 Natural gas - production

0 cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.20 Natural gas - consumption

3.709 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.21 Natural gas - exports

0 cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.22 Natural gas - imports

3.681 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.23 Natural gas - proved reserves

NA cu m (1 January 2011 est.)

## 6.24 Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

38.95 million Mt (2017 est.)

# 7. Communications

## 7.1 Telephones - fixed lines

**total subscriptions:**

3,012,224

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

36.08 (2019 est.)

## 7.2 Telephones - mobile cellular

**total subscriptions:**

10,618,759

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

127.19 (2019 est.)

## 7.3 Telecommunication systems

**general assessment:**

highly developed telecommunications infrastructure with extensive domestic and international services; one of the highest broadband penetration rates in Europe; although not a member of the EU, Switzerland follows the EU's telecom framework, and regulations; expansive cable broadband network with effective cross-platform competition; despite the countries expansion of 5G services, and switching off 2G infrastructure, the

Environmental Agency has raised concern regarding the 2,000 5G mobile antennas and asked the govt. to halt 5G transmissions, the developers of the 5G infrastructure are allowed to continue with future checks to be studied of the health implications of the radio frequency radiation; regulator auction of 5G spectrum (2020)

**domestic:**

ranked among leading countries for fixed-line tele-density and infrastructure; fixed-line 36 per 100 and mobile-cellular subscribership 127 per 100 persons; extensive cable and microwave radio relay networks (2019)

**international:**

country code - 41; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean)

**note:**

the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

## 7.4 Broadcast media

the publicly owned radio and TV broadcaster, Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG/SSR), operates 8 national TV networks, 3 broadcasting in German, 3 in French, and 2 in Italian; private commercial TV stations broadcast regionally and locally; TV broadcasts from stations in Germany, Italy, and France are widely available via multi-channel cable and satellite TV services; SRG/SSR operates 17 radio stations that, along with private broadcasters, provide national to local coverage )

## 7.5 Internet country code

.ch

## 7.6 Internet users

**total:**

7,437,820

**percent of population:**

89.69% (July 2018 est.)

## 7.7 Broadband - fixed subscriptions

**total:**

3,957,669

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

48 (2018 est.)

# 8. Transportation

## 8.1 National air transport system

**number of registered air carriers:**

6 (2020)

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers:**

179

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers:**

28,857,994 (2018)

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers:**

1,841,310,000 mt-km (2018)

## 8.2 Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

HB (2016)

## 8.3 Airports

**total:**

63 (2013)

## 8.4 Airports - with paved runways

**total:**

40 (2013)

**over 3,047 m:**

3 (2013)

**2,438 to 3,047 m:**

2 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

12 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

6 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

17 (2013)

## 8.5 Airports - with unpaved runways

**total:**

23 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

23 (2013)

## 8.6 Heliports

2 (2013)

## 8.7 Pipelines

1,800 km gas, 94 km oil (of which 60 are inactive), 17 km refined products (2017)

## 8.8 Railways

**total:**

5,690 km (includes 19 km in neighboring countries) (2015)

**standard gauge:**

3,836 km 1.435-m gauge (3,634 km electrified) (2015)

**narrow gauge:**

1,630 km 1.200-m gauge (2 km electrified) (includes 19 km in neighboring countries) (2015) 1188 km 1.000-m gauge (1,167.3 km electrified) 36 km 0.800-m gauge (36.4 km electrified)

## 8.9 Roadways

**total:**

71,557 km (2017)

**paved:**

71,557 km (includes 1,458 of expressways) (2017)

## 8.10 Waterways

1,292 km (there are 1,227 km of waterways on lakes and rivers for public transport and 65 km on the Rhine River between Basel-Rheinfelden and Schaffhausen-Bodensee for commercial goods transport) (2010)

## 8.11 Merchant marine

**total:**

28

**by type:**

bulk carrier 21, general cargo 3, oil tanker 1, other 3 (includes Liechtenstein) (2020)

## 8.12 Ports and terminals

**river port(s):**

Basel (Rhine)

# 9. Military And Security

## 9.1 Military and security forces

Swiss Armed Forces: Land Forces, Swiss Air Force (Schweizer Luftwaffe) (2021)



## 9.2 Military expenditures

0.7% of GDP (2019)0.7% of GDP (2018)0.7% of GDP (2017)0.7% of GDP (2016)0.7% of GDP (2015)

## 9.3 Military and security service personnel strengths

the Swiss Armed Forces maintain a full-time active duty cadre of about 9,000 personnel along with approximately 18,500 conscripts brought in annually for 18-23 weeks of training (2021)

## 9.4 Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the Swiss Armed Forces inventory includes a mix of domestically-produced and imported weapons systems; the US is the leading supplier of military armaments to Switzerland since 2010; the Swiss defense industry produces a range of military land vehicles (2020)

## 9.5 Military deployments

165 Kosovo (NATO/KFOR) (2021)

## 9.6 Military service age and obligation

18-30 years of age generally for male compulsory military service; 18 years of age for voluntary male and female military service; every Swiss male has to serve at least 245 days in the armed forces; conscripts receive 18 weeks of mandatory training, followed by six 19-day intermittent recalls for training during the next 10 years (2021)

# 10. Terrorism

## 10.1 Terrorist group(s)

Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) (2020)note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization, areas of operation, tactics, targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in Appendix-T

# 11. Transnational Issues

## 11.1 Disputes - international

none

## 11.2 Refugees and internally displaced persons

**refugees (country of origin):**

36,698 (Eritrea), 18,755 (Syria), 13,455 (Afghanistan), 5,819 (Sri Lanka) (2019)

**stateless persons:**

49 (2018)

## 11.3 Illicit drugs

a major international financial center vulnerable to the layering and integration stages of money laundering; despite significant legislation and reporting requirements, secrecy rules persist and nonresidents are permitted to conduct business through offshore entities and various intermediaries; transit country for and consumer of South American cocaine, Southwest Asian heroin, and Western European synthetics; domestic cannabis cultivation and limited ecstasy production

# United-kingdom



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The United Kingdom has historically played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science. At its zenith in the 19th century, the British Empire stretched over one-fourth of the earth's surface. The first half of the 20th century saw the UK's strength seriously depleted in two world wars and the Irish Republic's withdrawal from the union. The second half witnessed the dismantling of the Empire and the UK rebuilding itself into a modern and prosperous European nation. As one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council and a founding member of NATO and the Commonwealth, the UK pursues a global approach to foreign policy. The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1998.

The UK has been an active member of the EU since its accession in 1973, although it chose to remain outside the Economic and Monetary Union. However, motivated in part by frustration at a remote bureaucracy in Brussels and massive migration into the country, UK citizens on 23 June 2016 narrowly voted to leave the EU. The UK is scheduled to depart the EU on 31 January 2020, but negotiations on the future EU-UK economic and security relationship will continue throughout 2020 and potentially beyond.

## 2. Geography

### 2.1 Location

Western Europe, islands - including the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland - between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea; northwest of France

### 2.2 Geographic coordinates

54 00 N, 2 00 W

### 2.3 Map references

Europe

### 2.4 Area

**total:**

243,610 sq km

**land:**

241,930 sq km

**water:**

1,680 sq km

note 1: the percentage area breakdown of the four UK countries is: England 53%, Scotland 32%, Wales 9%, and Northern Ireland 6%  
note 2: includes Rockall and the Shetland Islands, which are part of Scotland

## 2.5 Area - comparative

twice the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Oregon

## 2.6 Land boundaries

**total:**

499 km

**border countries (1):**

Ireland 499 km

## 2.7 Coastline

12,429 km

## 2.8 Maritime claims

**territorial sea:**

12 nm

**continental shelf:**

as defined in continental shelf orders or in accordance with agreed upon boundaries

**exclusive fishing zone:**

200 nm

## 2.9 Climate

temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; more than one-half of the days are overcast

## 2.10 Terrain

mostly rugged hills and low mountains; level to rolling plains in east and southeast

## 2.11 Elevation

**mean elevation:**

162 m

**lowest point:**

The Fens -4 m

**highest point:**

Ben Nevis 1,345 m

## 2.12 Natural resources

coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land

## 2.13 Land use

### **agricultural land:**

71% (2018 est.) arable land: 25.1% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0.2% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 45.7% (2018 est.)

### **forest:**

11.9% (2018 est.)

### **other:**

17.1% (2018 est.)

## 2.14 Irrigated land

950 sq km (2012)

## 2.15 Population distribution

the core of the population lies in and around London, with significant clusters found in central Britain around Manchester and Liverpool, in the Scottish lowlands between Edinburgh and Glasgow, southern Wales in and around Cardiff, and far eastern Northern Ireland centered on Belfast

## 2.16 Natural hazards

winter windstorms; floods

## 2.17 Geography - note

lies near vital North Atlantic sea lanes; only 35 km from France and linked by tunnel under the English Channel (the Channel Tunnel or Chunnel); because of heavily indented coastline, no location is more than 125 km from tidal waters

# 3. People And Society

## 3.1 Population

66,052,076 United Kingdom (July 2021 est.) constituent countries by percentage of total population: England 84% Scotland 8% Wales 5% Northern Ireland 3%

## 3.2 Nationality

**noun:**

Briton(s), British (collective plural)

**adjective:**

British

### 3.3 Ethnic groups

White 87.2%, Black/African/Caribbean/black British 3%, Asian/Asian British: Indian 2.3%, Asian/Asian British: Pakistani 1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 est.)

### 3.4 Languages

English

**note:**

the following are recognized regional languages: Scots (about 30% of the population of Scotland), Scottish Gaelic (about 60,000 speakers in Scotland), Welsh (about 20% of the population of Wales), Irish (about 10% of the population of Northern Ireland), Cornish (some 2,000 to 3,000 people in Cornwall) (2012 est.)

### 3.5 Religions

Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7% (2011 est.)

### 3.6 Age structure

**0-14 years:**

17.63% (male 5,943,435/female 5,651,780)

**15-24 years:**

11.49% (male 3,860,435/female 3,692,398)

**25-54 years:**

39.67% (male 13,339,965/female 12,747,598)

**55-64 years:**

12.73% (male 4,139,378/female 4,234,701)

**65 years and over:**

18.48% (male 5,470,116/female 6,681,311) (2020 est.)

### 3.7 Dependency ratios

**total dependency ratio:**

57.1

**youth dependency ratio:**

27.8

**elderly dependency ratio:**

29.3

**potential support ratio:**

3.4 (2020 est.)

## 3.8 Median age

**total:**

40.6 years

**male:**

39.6 years

**female:**

41.7 years (2020 est.)

## 3.9 Population growth rate

0.48% (2021 est.)

## 3.10 Birth rate

11.77 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.11 Death rate

9.41 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.12 Net migration rate

2.47 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.13 Population distribution

the core of the population lies in and around London, with significant clusters found in central Britain around Manchester and Liverpool, in the Scottish lowlands between Edinburgh and Glasgow, southern Wales in and around Cardiff, and far eastern Northern Ireland centered on Belfast

## 3.14 Urbanization

**urban population:**

83.9% of total population (2020)

**rate of urbanization:**

0.89% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

## 3.15 Major urban areas - population

9.426 million LONDON (capital), 2.750 million Manchester, 2.626 million Birmingham, 1.902 million West Yorkshire, 1.681 million Glasgow, 936,000 Southampton/Portsmouth (2021)

## 3.16 Sex ratio

**at birth:**



1.05 male(s)/female

**0-14 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**15-24 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**25-54 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**55-64 years:**

0.98 male(s)/female

**65 years and over:**

0.82 male(s)/female

**total population:**

0.99 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

### 3.17 Mother's mean age at first birth

28.8 years (2017 est.)

**note:**

data represent England and Wales only

### 3.18 Maternal mortality rate

7 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

### 3.19 Infant mortality rate

**total:**

4.27 deaths/1,000 live births

**male:**

4.82 deaths/1,000 live births

**female:**

3.69 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

### 3.20 Life expectancy at birth

**total population:**

81.3 years

**male:**

79.02 years

**female:**

83.7 years (2021 est.)

### 3.21 Total fertility rate

1.86 children born/woman (2021 est.)

## 3.22 Drinking water source

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

## 3.23 Current Health Expenditure

10% (2018)

## 3.24 Physicians density

2.81 physicians/1,000 population (2018)

## 3.25 Hospital bed density

2.5 beds/1,000 population (2017)

## 3.26 Sanitation facility access

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

## 3.27 HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

NA

## 3.28 HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

NA

## 3.29 HIV/AIDS - deaths

NA

## 3.30 Major infectious diseases

**respiratory diseases:**

Covid-19 (see note) (2020)

**note:**

widespread ongoing transmission of a respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is occurring throughout the UK; as of 24 January 2021, the UK has reported a total of 3,617,463 cases of COVID-19 or 5,328.7 cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population with 143.4 cumulative deaths per 100,000 population; individuals arriving in the UK must self-isolate for 14 days and may be contacted to verify compliance;

new arrivals will be required to provide UK officials with contact and travel information prior to arrival; the US Department of Homeland Security has issued instructions requiring US passengers who have been in the UK to travel through select airports where the US Government has implemented enhanced screening procedures

### 3.31 Obesity - adult prevalence rate

27.8% (2016)

### 3.32 Education expenditures

5.4% of GDP (2017)

### 3.33 School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

**total:**

17 years

**male:**

17 years

**female:**

18 years (2018)

### 3.34 Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

**total:**

11.3%

**male:**

12.2%

**female:**

10.3% (2018 est.)

## 4. Government

### 4.1 Country name

**conventional long form:**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; note - the island of Great Britain includes England, Scotland, and Wales

**conventional short form:**

United Kingdom

**abbreviation:**

UK

**etymology:**

self-descriptive country name; the designation "Great Britain," in the sense of "Larger Britain," dates back to medieval times and was used to distinguish the island from "Little

Britain," or Brittany in modern France; the name Ireland derives from the Gaelic "Eriu," the matron goddess of Ireland (goddess of the land)

## 4.2 Government type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

## 4.3 Capital

**name:**

London

**geographic coordinates:**

51 30 N, 0 05 W

**time difference:**

UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:**

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

note: the time statements apply to the United Kingdom proper, not to its crown dependencies or overseas territories  
etymology: the name derives from the Roman settlement of Londinium, established on the current site of London around A.D. 43; the original meaning of the name is uncertain

## 4.4 Administrative divisions

**England:**

26 two-tier counties, 32 London boroughs and 1 City of London or Greater London, 36 metropolitan districts, 56 unitary authorities (including 4 single-tier counties\*);

**two-tier counties:**

Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Sussex, Worcestershire

**London boroughs and City of London or Greater London:**

Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, City of London, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster

**metropolitan districts:**

Barnsley, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Bury, Calderdale, Coventry, Doncaster, Dudley, Gateshead, Kirklees, Knowlsey, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Oldham, Rochdale, Rotherham, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Sheffield, Solihull, South Tyneside, St. Helens, Stockport, Sunderland, Tameside, Trafford, Wakefield, Walsall, Wigan, Wirral, Wolverhampton

**unitary authorities:**

Bath and North East Somerset; Bedford; Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole; Bracknell Forest; Brighton and Hove; City of Bristol; Central Bedfordshire; Cheshire East; Cheshire West and Chester; Cornwall; Darlington; Derby; Dorset; Durham County\*; East Riding of Yorkshire; Halton; Hartlepool; Herefordshire\*; Isle of Wight\*; Isles of Scilly; City of Kingston upon Hull; Leicester; Luton; Medway; Middlesbrough; Milton Keynes; North East Lincolnshire; North Lincolnshire; North Somerset; Northumberland\*; Nottingham; Peterborough; Plymouth; Portsmouth; Reading; Redcar and Cleveland; Rutland; Shropshire; Slough; South Gloucestershire; Southampton; Southend-on-Sea; Stockton-on-Tees; Stoke-on-Trent; Swindon; Telford and Wrekin; Thurrock; Torbay; Warrington; West Berkshire; Wiltshire; Windsor and Maidenhead; Wokingham; York

**Northern Ireland:**

5 borough councils, 4 district councils, 2 city councils;

**borough councils:**

Antrim and Newtownabbey; Ards and North Down; Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon; Causeway Coast and Glens; Mid and East Antrim

**district councils:**

Derry City and Strabane; Fermanagh and Omagh; Mid Ulster; Newry, Murne, and Down

**city councils:**

Belfast; Lisburn and Castlereagh

**Scotland:**

32 council areas;

**council areas:**

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll and Bute, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee City, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, City of Edinburgh, Eilean Siar (Western Isles), Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow City, Highland, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth and Kinross, Renfrewshire, Shetland Islands, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, The Scottish Borders, West Dunbartonshire, West Lothian

**Wales:**

22 unitary authorities;

**unitary authorities:**

Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, The Vale of Glamorgan, Torfaen, Wrexham

## 4.5 Dependent areas

Anguilla; Bermuda; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Pitcairn Islands; Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha; South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; Turks and Caicos Islands

## 4.6 Independence

no official date of independence: 927 (minor English kingdoms unite); 3 March 1284 (enactment of the Statute of Rhuddlan uniting England and Wales); 1536 (Act of Union formally incorporates England and Wales); 1 May 1707 (Acts of Union formally unite England, Scotland, and Wales as Great Britain); 1 January 1801 (Acts of Union formally unite Great Britain and Ireland as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland); 6 December 1921 (Anglo-Irish Treaty formalizes partition of Ireland; six counties remain part of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland); 12 April 1927 (Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act establishes current name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

## 4.7 National holiday

the UK does not celebrate one particular national holiday

## 4.8 Constitution

### **history:**

unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice

### **amendments:**

proposed as a bill for an Act of Parliament by the government, by the House of Commons, or by the House of Lords; passage requires agreement by both houses and by the monarch (Royal Assent); many previous, last in 2020 - The European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 (2021)

## 4.9 Legal system

common law system; has nonbinding judicial review of Acts of Parliament under the Human Rights Act of 1998

## 4.10 International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

## 4.11 Citizenship

### **citizenship by birth:**

no

### **citizenship by descent only:**

at least one parent must be a citizen of the United Kingdom

### **dual citizenship recognized:**

yes

**residency requirement for naturalization:**

5 years

## 4.12 Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

## 4.13 Executive branch

**chief of state:**

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); Heir Apparent Prince CHARLES (son of the queen, born 14 November 1948)

**head of government:**

Prime Minister Boris JOHNSON (Conservative) (since 24 July 2019)

**cabinet:**

Cabinet appointed by the prime minister

**elections/appointments:**

the monarchy is hereditary; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or majority coalition usually becomes the prime minister; election last held on 12 December 2019 (next to be held by 2 May 2024)

**note:**

in addition to serving as the UK head of state, the British sovereign is the constitutional monarch for 15 additional Commonwealth countries (these 16 states are each referred to as a Commonwealth realm)

## 4.14 Legislative branch

**description:**

bicameral Parliament consists of: House of Lords (membership not fixed; as of December 2019, 796 lords were eligible to participate in the work of the House of Lords - 679 life peers, 91 hereditary peers, and 26 clergy; members are appointed by the monarch on the advice of the prime minister and non-party political members recommended by the House of Lords Appointments Commission); note - House of Lords total does not include ineligible members or members on leave of absence House of Commons (650 seats; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority popular vote to serve 5-year terms unless the House is dissolved earlier)

**elections:**

House of Lords - no elections; note - in 1999, as provided by the House of Lords Act, elections were held in the House of Lords to determine the 92 hereditary peers who would remain; elections held only as vacancies in the hereditary peerage arise) House of Commons - last held on 12 December 2019 (next to be held by 2 May 2024)

**election results:**

House of Lords - composition - men 579, women 217, percent of women 27.3% House of Commons - percent of vote by party - Conservative 43.6%, Labor 32.1%, Lib Dems 11.6%, SNP 3.9%, Greens 2.7%, Brexit Party 2.0%, other 4.1%; seats by party - Conservative 365, Labor 202, SNP 48, Lib Dems 11, DUP 8, Sinn Fein 7, Plaid Cymru 4, other 9;

composition - men 430, women 220, percent of women 34%; total Parliament percent of women 30.2%

## 4.15 Judicial branch

### **highest courts:**

Supreme Court (consists of 12 justices, including the court president and deputy president); note - the Supreme Court was established by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and implemented in 2009, replacing the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords as the highest court in the United Kingdom

### **judge selection and term of office:**

judge candidates selected by an independent committee of several judicial commissions, followed by their recommendations to the prime minister, and appointed by the monarch; justices serve for life

### **subordinate courts:**

England and Wales: Court of Appeal (civil and criminal divisions); High Court; Crown Court; County Courts; Magistrates' Courts; Scotland: Court of Sessions; Sheriff Courts; High Court of Justiciary; tribunals; Northern Ireland: Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland; High Court; county courts; magistrates' courts; specialized tribunals

## 4.16 Political parties and leaders

Alliance Party (Northern Ireland) [Naomi LONG]Brexit Party [Nigel FARAGE]Conservative and Unionist Party [Boris JOHNSON]Democratic Unionist Party or DUP (Northern Ireland) [Arlene FOSTER]Green Party of England and Wales or Greens [Sian BERRY and Jonathan BARTLEY]Labor (Labour) Party [Sir Keir STARMER]Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) [Ed Davey]Party of Wales (Plaid Cymru) [Adam PRICE]Scottish National Party or SNP [Nicola STURGEON]Sinn Fein (Northern Ireland) [Mary Lou MCDONALD]Social Democratic and Labor Party or SDLP (Northern Ireland) [Colum EASTWOOD]Ulster Unionist Party or UUP (Northern Ireland) [Robin SWANN]UK Independence Party or UKIP [Pat MOUNTAIN, interim leader]

## 4.17 International organization participation

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BIS, C, CBSS (observer), CD, CDB, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EITI (implementing country), ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, G-20, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCt, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), SELEC (observer), SICA (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNMISS, UNRWA, UN Security Council (permanent), UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

## 4.18 Diplomatic representation in the US

### **chief of mission:**



Ambassador Karen Elizabeth PIERCE (since 8 April 2020)

**chancery:**

3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

**telephone:**

[1] (202) 588-6500

**FAX:**

[1] (202) 588-7870

**consulate(s) general:**

Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco

**consulate(s):**

Orlando (FL), San Juan (Puerto Rico)

## 4.19 Diplomatic representation from the US

33 Nine Elms Lane, London, SW11 7US or SW8 5DB (driving/GPS postcode)

## 4.20 Flag description

blue field with the red cross of Saint George (patron saint of England) edged in white superimposed on the diagonal red cross of Saint Patrick (patron saint of Ireland), which is superimposed on the diagonal white cross of Saint Andrew (patron saint of Scotland); properly known as the Union Flag, but commonly called the Union Jack; the design and colors (especially the Blue Ensign) have been the basis for a number of other flags including other Commonwealth countries and their constituent states or provinces, and British overseas territories

## 4.21 National symbol(s)

lion (Britain in general); lion, Tudor rose, oak (England); lion, unicorn, thistle (Scotland); dragon, daffodil, leek (Wales); shamrock, flax (Northern Ireland); national colors: red, white, blue (Britain in general); red, white (England); blue, white (Scotland); red, white, green (Wales)

## 4.22 National anthem

**name:**

God Save the Queen

**lyrics/music:**

unknown

note: in use since 1745; by tradition, the song serves as both the national and royal anthem of the UK; it is known as either "God Save the Queen" or "God Save the King," depending on the gender of the reigning monarch; it also serves as the royal anthem of many Commonwealth nations

## 5. Economy

### 5.1 Economic overview

The UK, a leading trading power and financial center, is the third largest economy in Europe after Germany and France. Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and efficient by European standards, producing about 60% of food needs with less than 2% of the labor force. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil resources, but its oil and natural gas reserves are declining; the UK has been a net importer of energy since 2005. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, are key drivers of British GDP growth. Manufacturing, meanwhile, has declined in importance but still accounts for about 10% of economic output.

In 2008, the global financial crisis hit the economy particularly hard, due to the importance of its financial sector. Falling home prices, high consumer debt, and the global economic slowdown compounded the UK's economic problems, pushing the economy into recession in the latter half of 2008 and prompting the then BROWN (Labour) government to implement a number of measures to stimulate the economy and stabilize the financial markets. Facing burgeoning public deficits and debt levels, in 2010 the then CAMERON-led coalition government (between Conservatives and Liberal Democrats) initiated an austerity program, which has continued under the Conservative government. However, the deficit still remains one of the highest in the G7, standing at 3.6% of GDP as of 2017, and the UK has pledged to lower its corporation tax from 20% to 17% by 2020. The UK had a debt burden of 90.4% GDP at the end of 2017.

The UK economy has begun to slow since the referendum vote to leave the EU in June 2016. A sustained depreciation of the British pound has increased consumer and producer prices, weighing on consumer spending without spurring a meaningful increase in exports. The UK has an extensive trade relationship with other EU members through its single market membership, and economic observers have warned the exit will jeopardize its position as the central location for European financial services. The UK is slated to leave the EU at the end of January 2020.

### 5.2 Real GDP growth rate

1.26% (2019 est.) 1.25% (2018 est.) 1.74% (2017 est.)

### 5.3 Inflation rate (consumer prices)

1.7% (2019 est.) 2.4% (2018 est.) 2.6% (2017 est.)

### 5.4 Credit ratings

**Fitch rating:**

AA- (2020)

**Moody's rating:**

Aaa (2020)

**StandardPoors rating:**

AA (2016)

## 5.5 Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$3,118,396,000,000 (2019 est.)\$3,073,442,000,000 (2018 est.)\$3,032,781,000,000 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.6 GDP (official exchange rate)

\$2,827,918,000,000 (2019 est.)

## 5.7 Real GDP per capita

\$46,659 (2019 est.)\$46,245 (2018 est.)\$45,910 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.8 Gross national saving

13.3% of GDP (2019 est.)13.4% of GDP (2018 est.)13.9% of GDP (2017 est.)

## 5.9 GDP - composition, by sector of origin

**agriculture:**

0.7% (2017 est.)

**industry:**

20.2% (2017 est.)

**services:**

79.2% (2017 est.)

## 5.10 GDP - composition, by end use

**household consumption:**

65.8% (2017 est.)

**government consumption:**

18.3% (2017 est.)

**investment in fixed capital:**

17.2% (2017 est.)

**investment in inventories:**

0.2% (2017 est.)

**exports of goods and services:**

30.2% (2017 est.)

**imports of goods and services:**

-31.5% (2017 est.)

## 5.11 Ease of Doing Business Index scores

93.8 (2020)

## 5.12 Agricultural products

wheat, milk, barley, sugar beet, potatoes, rapeseed, poultry, oats, pork, beef

## 5.13 Industries

machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods

## 5.14 Industrial production growth rate

3.4% (2017 est.)

## 5.15 Labor force

35.412 million (2020 est.)

## 5.16 Labor force - by occupation

**agriculture:**

1.3%

**industry:**

15.2%

**services:**

83.5% (2014 est.)

## 5.17 Unemployment rate

3.17% (2019 est.) 2.51% (2018 est.)

## 5.18 Population below poverty line

15% (2013 est.)

## 5.19 Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

34.8 (2016 est.) 33.4 (2010)

## 5.20 Household income or consumption by percentage share

**lowest 10%:**

1.7%

**highest 10%:**

31.1% (2012)

## 5.21 Budget

**revenues:**

1.028 trillion (2017 est.)

**expenditures:**

1.079 trillion (2017 est.)

## 5.22 Taxes and other revenues

39.1% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.23 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-1.9% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.24 Public debt

87.5% of GDP (2017 est.) 87.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: data cover general government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions

## 5.25 Fiscal year

6 April - 5 April

## 5.26 Current account balance

-\$121.921 billion (2019 est.) -\$104.927 billion (2018 est.)

## 5.27 Exports

\$901.882 billion (2019 est.) \$877.501 billion (2018 est.) \$851.693 billion (2017 est.)

## 5.28 Exports - partners

US 13.2%, Germany 10.5%, France 7.4%, Netherlands 6.2%, Ireland 5.6%, China 4.8%, Switzerland 4.5% (2017)

## 5.29 Exports - commodities

manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco

## 5.30 Imports

\$987.018 billion (2019 est.)\$955.655 billion (2018 est.)\$930.354 billion (2017 est.)

## 5.31 Imports - partners

Germany 13.7%, US 9.5%, China 9.3%, Netherlands 8%, France 5.4%, Belgium 5% (2017)

## 5.32 Imports - commodities

manufactured goods, machinery, fuels; foodstuffs

## 5.33 Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$150.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$129.6 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

## 5.34 Debt - external

\$8,721,590,000,000 (2019 est.)\$8,696,559,000,000 (2018 est.)

## 5.35 Exchange rates

British pounds (GBP) per US dollar -0.7836 (2017 est.)0.738 (2016 est.)0.738 (2015 est.)0.607 (2014 est.)0.6391 (2013 est.)

# 6. Energy

## 6.1 Electricity access

**electrification - total population:**

100% (2020)

## 6.2 Electricity - production

318.2 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.3 Electricity - consumption

309.2 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.4 Electricity - exports

2.153 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.5 Electricity - imports

19.7 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.6 Electricity - installed generating capacity

97.06 million kW (2016 est.)

## 6.7 Electricity - from fossil fuels

50% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

## 6.8 Electricity - from nuclear fuels

9% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.9 Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.10 Electricity - from other renewable sources

39% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.11 Crude oil - production

1 million bbl/day (2018 est.)

## 6.12 Crude oil - exports

710,600 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.13 Crude oil - imports

907,100 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.14 Crude oil - proved reserves

2.069 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.15 Refined petroleum products - production

1.29 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.16 Refined petroleum products - consumption

1.584 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.17 Refined petroleum products - exports

613,800 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.18 Refined petroleum products - imports

907,500 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.19 Natural gas - production

42.11 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.20 Natural gas - consumption

79.17 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.21 Natural gas - exports

11.27 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.22 Natural gas - imports

47 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.23 Natural gas - proved reserves

176 billion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.24 Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

424 million Mt (2017 est.)

# 7. Communications

## 7.1 Telephones - fixed lines

**total subscriptions:**

31,160,866

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

47.62 (2019 est.)

## 7.2 Telephones - mobile cellular

**total subscriptions:**

76,920,618



**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

117.55 (2019 est.)

## 7.3 Telecommunication systems

**general assessment:**

technologically advanced domestic and international system; one of the largest mobile and telecom markets in Europe for revenue and subscribers; will complete the switch to fiber by 2033; mobile penetration above the EU average; govt. to invest in fiber infrastructure and 5G technologies; operators expanded the reach of 5G services; FttP provided to over a million customers; super-fast broadband available to about 95% of customers (2020)

**domestic:**

equal mix of buried cables, microwave radio relay, and fiber-optic systems; fixed-line 48 per 100 and mobile-cellular 118 per 100 (2019)

**international:**

country code - 44; Landing points for the GTT Atlantic, Scotland-Northern Ireland -1, & -2, Lanis 1,-2, &-3, Sirius North, BT-MT-1, SHEFA-2, BT Highlands and Islands Submarine Cable System, Northern Lights, FARICE-1, Celtic Norse, Tampnet Offshore FOC Network, England Cable, CC-2, E-LLan, Sirius South, ESAT -1 & -2, Rockabill, Geo-Eirgrid, UK-Netherlands-14, Circle North & South, Ulysses2, Conceto, Farland North, Pan European Crossing, Solas, Swansea-Bream, GTT Express, Tata TGN-Atlantic & - Western Europe, Apollo, EIG, Glo-1, TAT-14, Yellow, Celtic, FLAG Atlantic-1, FEA, Isle of Scilly Cable, UK-Channel Islands-8 and SeaMeWe-3 submarine cables providing links throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Australia, and US; satellite earth stations - 10 Intelsat (7 Atlantic Ocean and 3 Indian Ocean), 1 Inmarsat (Atlantic Ocean region), and 1 Eutelsat; at least 8 large international switching centers (2018)

**note:**

the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

## 7.4 Broadcast media

public service broadcaster, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), is the largest broadcasting corporation in the world; BBC operates multiple TV networks with regional and local TV service; a mixed system of public and commercial TV broadcasters along with satellite and cable systems provide access to hundreds of TV stations throughout the world; BBC operates multiple national, regional, and local radio networks with multiple transmission sites; a large number of commercial radio stations, as well as satellite radio services are available (2018)

## 7.5 Internet country code

.uk

## 7.6 Internet users

**total:**

61,784,878

**percent of population:**

94.9% (July 2018 est.)

## 7.7 Broadband - fixed subscriptions

**total:**

26,586,110

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

41 (2018 est.)

## 7.8 Communications - note

**note 1:**

the British Library claims to be the largest library in the world with well over 150 million items and in most known languages; it receives copies of all books produced in the UK or Ireland, as well as a significant proportion of overseas titles distributed in the UK; in addition to books (print and digital), holdings include: journals, manuscripts, newspapers, magazines, sound and music recordings, videos, maps, prints, patents, and drawings

**note 2:**

on 1 May 1840, the United Kingdom led the world with the introduction of postage stamps; the Austrian Empire had examined the idea of an "adhesive tax postmark" for the prepayment of postage in 1835; while the suggestion was reviewed in detail, it was rejected for the time being; other countries (including Austria) soon followed the UK's example with their own postage stamps; by the 1860s, most countries were issuing stamps; originally, stamps had to be cut from sheets; the UK issued the first postage stamps with perforations in 1854

# 8. Transportation

## 8.1 National air transport system

**number of registered air carriers:**

20 (2020)

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers:**

794

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers:**

165,388,610 (2018)

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers:**

6,198,370,000 mt-km (2018)

## 8.2 Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

G (2016)

## 8.3 Airports

**total:**

460 (2013)

## 8.4 Airports - with paved runways

**total:**

271 (2013)

**over 3,047 m:**

7 (2013)

**2,438 to 3,047 m:**

29 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

89 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

80 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

66 (2013)

## 8.5 Airports - with unpaved runways

**total:**

189 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

3 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

26 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

160 (2013)

## 8.6 Heliports

9 (2013)

## 8.7 Pipelines

502 km condensate, 9 km condensate/gas, 28603 km gas, 59 km liquid petroleum gas, 5256 km oil, 175 km oil/gas/water, 4919 km refined products, 255 km water (2013)

## 8.8 Railways

**total:**

16,837 km (2015)

**standard gauge:**

16,534 km 1.435-m gauge (5,357 km electrified) (2015)

**broad gauge:**

303 km 1.600-m gauge (in Northern Ireland) (2015)

## 8.9 Roadways

**total:**

394,428 km (2009)

**paved:**

394,428 km (includes 3,519 km of expressways) (2009)

## 8.10 Waterways

3,200 km (620 km used for commerce) (2009)

## 8.11 Merchant marine

**total:**

1,304

**by type:**

bulk carrier 147, container ship 59, general cargo 116, oil tanker 99, other 883 (2020)

## 8.12 Ports and terminals

**major seaport(s):**

Dover, Felixstowe, Immingham, Liverpool, London, Southampton, Teesport (England); Forth Ports (Scotland); Milford Haven (Wales)

**oil terminal(s):**

Fawley Marine terminal, Liverpool Bay terminal (England); Braefoot Bay terminal, Finnart oil terminal, Hound Point terminal (Scotland)

**container port(s) (TEUs):**

Felixstowe (3,849,700), London (2,431,000), Southampton (2,040,000) (2017)

**LNG terminal(s) (import):**

Isle of Grain, Milford Haven, Teesside

## 8.13 Transportation - note

begun in 1988 and completed in 1994, the Channel Tunnel (nicknamed the Chunnel) is a 50.5-km (31.4-mi) rail tunnel beneath the English Channel at the Strait of Dover that runs from Folkestone, Kent, England to Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais in northern France; it is the only fixed link between the island of Great Britain and mainland Europe

# 9. Military And Security

## 9.1 Military and security forces

British Army, Royal Navy (includes Royal Marines), Royal Air Force, Strategic Command (2021)note: Strategic Command develops and manages the British military's medical services, training and education, intelligence and information systems across the land, sea, air, space, and cyber domains; it also manages joint overseas operations

## 9.2 Military expenditures

2.43% of GDP (2020 est.)2.1% of GDP (2019)2.11% of GDP (2018)2.09% of GDP (2017)2.08% of GDP (2016)

## 9.3 Military and security service personnel strengths

the British military has approximately 150,000 total active duty troops (84,000 Army; 33,000 Navy, including 7,000 marines; 33,000 Air Force) (2020)

## 9.4 Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the inventory of the British military is comprised of a mix of domestically-produced and imported Western weapons systems; the US is the leading supplier of armaments to the UK since 2010; the UK defense industry is capable of producing a wide variety of air, land, and sea weapons systems (2020)

## 9.5 Military deployments

750 Afghanistan (NATO); approximately 1,000 Brunei; approximately 400 Canada (BATUS); approximately 2,200 Cyprus; 250 Cyprus (UNFICYP); 850 Estonia (NATO); approx. 1,200 Falkland Islands; est. 200 Germany (note - previously about 2,500, but the UK withdrew all but 200 troops by the end of 2020); 570 Gibraltar; approx. 1,400 Middle East (coalition against ISIS; NATO); up to 350 Kenya (BATUK); approx. 400 Mali (EUTM, MINUSMA, and Operation Barkhane); 150 Poland (NATO) (2021)

## 9.6 Military service age and obligation

slight variations by service, but generally 16-36 years of age for enlisted (with parental consent under 18) and 18-29 for officers; minimum length of service 4 years; women serve in military services including ground combat roles; conscription abolished in 1963 (2021)

# 10. Terrorism

## 10.1 Terrorist group(s)

Continuity Irish Republican Army; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham; New Irish Republican Army (2020)note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization,

areas of operation, tactics, targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in Appendix-T

## 11. Transnational Issues

### 11.1 Disputes - international

in 2002, Gibraltar residents voted overwhelmingly by referendum to reject any "shared sovereignty" arrangement between the UK and Spain; the Government of Gibraltar insisted on equal participation in talks between the two countries; Spain disapproved of UK plans to grant Gibraltar greater autonomy; Mauritius and Seychelles claim the Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territory); in 2001, the former inhabitants of the archipelago, evicted 1967 - 1973, were granted UK citizenship and the right of return, followed by Orders in Council in 2004 that banned rehabilitation, a High Court ruling reversed the ban, a Court of Appeal refusal to hear the case, and a Law Lords' decision in 2008 denied the right of return; in addition, the UK created the world's largest marine protection area around the Chagos islands prohibiting the extraction of any natural resources therein; UK rejects sovereignty talks requested by Argentina, which still claims the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; territorial claim in Antarctica (British Antarctic Territory) overlaps Argentine claim and partially overlaps Chilean claim; Iceland, the UK, and Ireland dispute Denmark's claim that the Faroe Islands' continental shelf extends beyond 200 nm

### 11.2 Refugees and internally displaced persons

**refugees (country of origin):**

19,744 (Iran), 13,755 (Eritrea), 10,575 (Sudan), 10,389 (Syria), 9,513 (Afghanistan), 8,164 (Pakistan), 5,522 (Sri Lanka) (2019)

**stateless persons:**

161 (2019)

### 11.3 Illicit drugs

producer of limited amounts of synthetic drugs and synthetic precursor chemicals; major consumer of Southwest Asian heroin, Latin American cocaine, and synthetic drugs; money-laundering center