[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Luxembourg** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) ([Template:Lang-lb](/wiki/Template:Lang-lb); [Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de)), officially the **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**,[Template:Refn](/wiki/Template:Refn) is a [landlocked](/wiki/Landlocked) country in western [Europe](/wiki/Europe). It is bordered by [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium) to the west and north, [Germany](/wiki/Germany) to the east, and [France](/wiki/France) to the south. Its capital [Luxembourg City](/wiki/Luxembourg_City) is together with [Brussels](/wiki/Brussels) and [Strasbourg](/wiki/Strasbourg) one of the three official capitals of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) and seat of the [European Court of Justice](/wiki/European_Court_of_Justice), highest juridical instance in the EU. Its culture, people and languages are highly intertwined with its neighbors, making it essentially a mixture of [French](/wiki/French_culture) and [Germanic](/wiki/German_culture) cultures. The repeated invasions by its neighbor countries, especially in World War II, resulted in the country's strong will for mediation between France and Germany and led to the foundation of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union).[[1]](#cite_note-1) It comprises two principal regions: the [Oesling](/wiki/Oesling) in the north as part of the [Ardennes](/wiki/Ardennes) [massif](/wiki/Massif), and the [Gutland](/wiki/Gutland_(Luxembourg)) ("Good Land") in the south.[[2]](#cite_note-2) With an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it is one of the [smallest sovereign states in Europe](/wiki/List_of_European_countries_by_area) (about the same size as the state of [Rhode Island](/wiki/Rhode_Island) or the English county of [Northamptonshire](/wiki/Northamptonshire)).[[3]](#cite_note-3) Luxembourg had a population of 524,853 in October 2012, ranking it the [8th least-populous country in Europe](/wiki/List_of_European_countries_by_population).[[4]](#cite_note-4) As a [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy) with a [constitutional monarch](/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), it is headed by a [grand duke](/wiki/Grand_duke), [Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg](/wiki/Henri,_Grand_Duke_of_Luxembourg), and is the world's only remaining [grand duchy](/wiki/Grand_duchy). Luxembourg is a [developed country](/wiki/Developed_country), with an advanced economy and the world's highest [GDP (PPP) per capita](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_capita), according to the United Nations in 2014. Its central location has historically made it of great strategic importance to numerous powers, dating back to its founding as a [Roman](/wiki/Roman_Empire) [fortress](/wiki/Fortification), its hosting of a vital [Frankish](/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Franks) [castle](/wiki/Castle) during the [Early Middle Ages](/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages), and its role as a bastion for the [Spanish Road](/wiki/Spanish_Road) between the 16th and 17th centuries.

Luxembourg is a founding member of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development), [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations), [NATO](/wiki/NATO), and [Benelux](/wiki/Benelux), reflecting its political consensus in favour of [economic](/wiki/Economic_integration), political, and military integration. The [city of Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg_(city)), which is the country's [capital](/wiki/Capital_city) and largest city, is the seat of several institutions and agencies of the EU. Luxembourg served on the [United Nations Security Council](/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council) for the years 2013 and 2014, which was a first in the country's history.[[5]](#cite_note-5) In 2016, Luxembourgish citizens had visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 172 countries and territories, ranking the Luxembourgian passport 6th in the world, tied with countries such as Canada and Switzerland.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

## Contents

* 1 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
  + 1.1 County[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 1.2 Duchy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 1.3 Nineteenth century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 1.4 Twentieth century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
* 2 Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 2.1 Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 2.2 Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 2.3 Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
* 3 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 3.1 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
* 4 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 4.1 Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 4.2 Communications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
  + 4.3 Data centres[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
* 5 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 5.1 Ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
  + 5.2 Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 5.3 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 5.4 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
  + 5.5 Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
* 6 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
  + 6.1 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 6.2 Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 6.3 Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
* 7 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
* 8 Footnotes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
* 9 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
* 10 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
* 11 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) <gallery class="center"> File:Karl IV. (HRR).jpg|[Charles IV](/wiki/Charles_IV,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), the 14th century Holy Roman Emperor and king of [Bohemia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Bohemia) from the [House of Luxembourg](/wiki/House_of_Luxembourg).[[7]](#cite_note-7)File:Festungsplan.von.Luxemburg.jpg|Historic map (undated) of Luxembourg city's fortifications File:Luxembourg fortress before demolition.jpg|Photograph of the fortress of Luxembourg prior to demolition in 1867 </gallery>

### County[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The recorded history of Luxembourg begins with the acquisition of Lucilinburhuc[[8]](#cite_note-8) (today [Luxembourg Castle](/wiki/Luxembourg_Castle)) situated on the [Bock](/wiki/Bock_(Luxembourg)) rock by [Siegfried, Count of Ardennes](/wiki/Siegfried_of_Luxembourg), in 963 through an exchange act with [St. Maximin's Abbey, Trier](/wiki/St._Maximin's_Abbey,_Trier).[[9]](#cite_note-9) Around this [fort](/wiki/Fortifications), a [town](/wiki/Town) gradually developed, which became the centre of a state of great strategic value.

### Duchy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

In the 14th and early 15th centuries, three members of the [House of Luxembourg](/wiki/House_of_Luxembourg) reigned as [Holy Roman Emperors](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Emperor). In 1437, the House of Luxembourg suffered a succession crisis, precipitated by the lack of a male heir to assume the throne, which led to the territories being sold by Duchess [Elisabeth](/wiki/Elisabeth,_Duchess_of_Luxembourg) to [Philip the Good](/wiki/Philip_the_Good) of [Burgundy](/wiki/Duchy_of_Burgundy).[[10]](#cite_note-10) In the following centuries, Luxembourg's fortress was steadily enlarged and strengthened by its successive occupants, the [Bourbons](/wiki/Bourbons), [Habsburgs](/wiki/Habsburg), [Hohenzollerns](/wiki/Hohenzollern) and the [French](/wiki/France).

### Nineteenth century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

After the [defeat](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1815)) of [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) in 1815, Luxembourg was disputed between [Prussia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia) and the [Netherlands](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_the_Netherlands). The [Congress of Vienna](/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna) formed Luxembourg as a [Grand Duchy](/wiki/Grand_Duchy) within the German Confederation in personal union with the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands), being at the same time a part of the Netherlands and ruled as one of its provinces, with the [Fortress of Luxembourg](/wiki/Fortress_of_Luxembourg) manned by Prussian troops.[[11]](#cite_note-11) This arrangement was revised by the 1839 [First Treaty of London](/wiki/Treaty_of_London,_1839), from which date Luxembourg's full independence is reckoned.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15) [thumb|Luxembourg City: The Passerelle, also known as the viaduct or old bridge, over the](/wiki/File:Luxemburg-Petrussetal-Viaduc.jpg) [Pétrusse](/wiki/Pétrusse) river valley, opened 1861 At the time of the [Belgian Revolution](/wiki/Belgian_Revolution) of 1830–1839, and by the 1839 Treaty establishing full independence, Luxembourg's territory was reduced by more than half, as the predominantly [francophone](/wiki/Francophone) [western part of the country](/wiki/Luxembourg_(Belgium)) was transferred to [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium). In 1842, Luxembourg joined the German Customs Union ([Zollverein](/wiki/Zollverein)).[[16]](#cite_note-16) This resulted in the opening of the German market, the development of [Luxembourg's steel industry](/wiki/Steel_industry_in_Luxembourg), and expansion of [Luxembourg's railway network](/wiki/Société_Nationale_des_Chemins_de_Fer_Luxembourgeois) from 1855 to 1875, particularly the construction of the Luxembourg-[Thionville](/wiki/Thionville) railway line, with connections from there to the European industrial regions.[[17]](#cite_note-17) While Prussian troops still manned the fortress, in 1861 the [Passerelle](/wiki/Passerelle_(Luxembourg)) was opened, the first road bridge spanning the [Pétrusse](/wiki/Pétrusse) river valley, connecting the [Ville Haute](/wiki/Ville_Haute) and the main fortification on the Bock with [Luxembourg railway station](/wiki/Luxembourg_railway_station), opened in 1859, on the then fortified Bourbon plateau to the south.

After the [Luxembourg Crisis](/wiki/Luxembourg_Crisis) of 1866 nearly led to war between Prussia and France, the Grand Duchy's independence and neutrality were again affirmed by the 1867 [Second Treaty of London](/wiki/Treaty_of_London,_1867), Prussia's troops were withdrawn from the Fortress of Luxembourg and its Bock and surrounding fortifications were dismantled.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The [King of the Netherlands](/wiki/King_of_the_Netherlands) remained [Head of State](/wiki/Head_of_State) as [Grand Duke of Luxembourg](/wiki/Grand_Duke_of_Luxembourg), maintaining [personal union](/wiki/Personal_union) between the two countries until 1890. At the death of [William III](/wiki/William_III_of_the_Netherlands), the Netherlands throne passed to his daughter [Wilhelmina](/wiki/Wilhelmina_of_the_Netherlands), while Luxembourg (then restricted to male heirs by the [Nassau Family Pact](/wiki/Nassau_Family_Pact)) passed to [Adolph of Nassau-Weilburg](/wiki/Adolphe,_Grand_Duke_of_Luxembourg).[[19]](#cite_note-19) At the time of the [Franco-Prussian war](/wiki/Franco-Prussian_war) in 1870, despite allegations about French use of the Luxembourg railways for passing soldiers from [Metz](/wiki/Metz) (then part of France) through the Duchy, and for forwarding provisions to Thionville, Luxembourg's neutrality was respected by [Germany](/wiki/North_German_Confederation), and neither France nor Germany invaded the country.[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21) But in 1871, as a result of Germany's victory over France, Luxembourg's boundary with [Lorraine](/wiki/Lorraine_(duchy)), containing Metz and Thionville, changed from being a frontier with a part of France to a frontier with territory annexed to the [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire) as [Alsace-Lorraine](/wiki/Alsace-Lorraine) under the [Treaty of Frankfurt](/wiki/Treaty_of_Frankfurt_(1871)). This allowed Germany the military advantage of controlling and expanding the [railways there](/wiki/Imperial_Railways_in_Alsace-Lorraine). [thumb|View to Place de la Constitution and](/wiki/File:Luxembourg_(city)_-_view_from_Metz_square.jpg) [Gëlle Fra](/wiki/Gëlle_Fra) monument, from [the capital's Metz square](/wiki/Luxembourg_(city)) at the [Adolphe Bridge](/wiki/Adolphe_Bridge) end of [Avenue de la Liberté](/wiki/Avenue_de_la_Liberté), connecting with the railway station

### Twentieth century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|left|Frontier with German Empire's Alsace-Lorraine, from 1871 to 1918](/wiki/File:Alsace-lorraine.JPG)

In August 1914, [Imperial Germany](/wiki/Imperial_Germany) violated Luxembourg's neutrality by invading it in its war against France. This allowed Germany to use the railway lines, while at the same time denying them to France. Nevertheless, despite the [German occupation](/wiki/German_occupation_of_Luxembourg_during_World_War_I), Luxembourg was allowed to maintain much of its independence and political mechanisms. [thumb|left|Current cross-border railway network, connecting Luxembourg City with Luxembourg's neighbouring countries, north (Belgium) – south (France) and east (Germany) – west (France)](/wiki/File:Cfl.png)[[22]](#cite_note-22)

In 1940, after the outbreak of [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Luxembourg's neutrality was again violated when the [Wehrmacht](/wiki/Wehrmacht) of [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany) entered the country, "entirely without justification".[[23]](#cite_note-23) In contrast to the First World War, under the [German occupation of Luxembourg during World War II](/wiki/German_occupation_of_Luxembourg_during_World_War_II), the country was treated as German territory and informally annexed to the adjacent province of the [Third Reich](/wiki/Third_Reich). A [government in exile](/wiki/Government_in_exile) based in [London](/wiki/London) supported the [Allies](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II), sending a small group of volunteers who participated in the [Normandy invasion](/wiki/Invasion_of_Normandy). Luxembourg was liberated in September 1944, and became a founding member of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) in 1945. Luxembourg's neutral status under the [constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_Luxembourg) formally ended in 1948, and in 1949 it became a founding member of [NATO](/wiki/NATO).

In 1951, Luxembourg became one of the six founding countries of the [European Coal and Steel Community](/wiki/European_Coal_and_Steel_Community), which in 1957 would become the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) and in 1993 the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), and in 1999 Luxembourg joined the [euro](/wiki/Euro) currency area. In 2005, a [referendum on the EU treaty establishing a constitution for Europe](/wiki/Referendum_on_EU_treaty_in_Luxembourg) was held in Luxembourg.[[24]](#cite_note-24)

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Luxembourg is a parliamentary democracy headed by a constitutional monarch. Under the constitution of 1868, executive power is exercised by the [Grand Duke](/wiki/Grand_Duke_of_Luxembourg) and the [cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_(government)), which consists of several other ministers.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The Grand Duke has the power to dissolve the [legislature](/wiki/Legislature), in which case new elections must be held within three months. However, since 1919, sovereignty has resided with the [Nation](/wiki/Nation), exercised by the Grand Duke in accordance with the Constitution and the law.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Legislative power is vested in the [Chamber of Deputies](/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_of_Luxembourg), a [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral) legislature of sixty members, who are directly elected to five-year terms from four [constituencies](/wiki/Legislative_circonscriptions_(Luxembourg)). A second body, the [Council of State](/wiki/Council_of_State_of_Luxembourg) (*Conseil d'État*), composed of twenty-one ordinary citizens appointed by the Grand Duke, advises the Chamber of Deputies in the drafting of legislation.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The Grand Duchy has three lower tribunals (*justices de paix*; in [Esch-sur-Alzette](/wiki/Esch-sur-Alzette), the city of [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg_(city)), and [Diekirch](/wiki/Diekirch)), two district tribunals (Luxembourg and Diekirch) and a Superior Court of Justice (Luxembourg), which includes the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation. There is also an Administrative Tribunal and an Administrative Court, as well as a Constitutional Court, all of which are located in the capital.

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Luxembourg is divided into 3 [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Luxembourg), which are further divided into 12 [cantons](/wiki/Cantons_of_Luxembourg) and then 105 [communes](/wiki/Communes_of_Luxembourg).[[28]](#cite_note-28) Twelve of the communes have [city status](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Luxembourg), of which the city of [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg_(city)) is the largest.

The districts are [Diekirch](/wiki/Diekirch_District), [Grevenmacher](/wiki/Grevenmacher_District), and [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg_District).

<gallery class="center"> File:LuxembourgPartitionsMap english.png|The three [Partitions of Luxembourg](/wiki/Partitions_of_Luxembourg) have greatly reduced Luxembourg's territory. File:Luxemburg districts.svg|Districts of Luxembourg </gallery>

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Luxembourg has long been a prominent supporter of European political and [economic integration](/wiki/Economic_integration). In efforts foreshadowing European integration, Luxembourg and [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium) in 1921 formed the [Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union](/wiki/Belgium-Luxembourg_Economic_Union) (BLEU) to create an inter-exchangeable [currency](/wiki/Currency) and a common [customs](/wiki/Customs_(tax)) regime. Luxembourg is a member of the [Benelux Economic Union](/wiki/Benelux_Economic_Union) and was one of the founding members of the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (now the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union)). It also participates in the [Schengen Group](/wiki/Schengen_Agreement) (named after [the Luxembourg village of Schengen](/wiki/Schengen,_Luxembourg) where the agreements were signed), whose goal is the free movement of citizens among member states. At the same time, the majority of Luxembourgers have consistently believed that European unity makes sense only in the context of a dynamic transatlantic relationship, and thus have traditionally pursued a pro-[NATO](/wiki/NATO), pro-US foreign policy. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Luxembourg is the site of the [European Court of Justice](/wiki/European_Court_of_Justice), the [European Court of Auditors](/wiki/European_Court_of_Auditors), the Statistical Office of the European Communities ("[Eurostat](/wiki/Eurostat)") and other vital EU organs. The [Secretariat of the European Parliament](/wiki/Secretariat_of_the_European_Parliament) is located in Luxembourg, but the Parliament usually meets in [Brussels](/wiki/Brussels) and sometimes in [Strasbourg](/wiki/Strasbourg).

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|A](/wiki/File:Nato_awacs.jpg) [NATO](/wiki/NATO) owned [AWACS](/wiki/Boeing_E-3_Sentry) aircraft. Luxembourg contributes an army of about 800 soldiers and 100 civil servants to its defense and to NATO. As a landlocked country, it has no [navy](/wiki/Navy).

Luxembourg also lacks an [air force](/wiki/Air_force), though the 17 NATO [AWACS](/wiki/Airborne_Warning_And_Control_System) aeroplanes are, for convenience, registered as aircraft of Luxembourg.[[29]](#cite_note-29) In accordance with a joint agreement with [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium), both countries have put forth funding for one [A400M](/wiki/Airbus_A400M) military cargo plane.[[30]](#cite_note-30)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The largest towns are](/wiki/File:Luxembourg-CIA_WFB_Map.png) [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg_(city)), [Esch-sur-Alzette](/wiki/Esch-sur-Alzette), [Dudelange](/wiki/Dudelange), and [Differdange](/wiki/Differdange). Luxembourg is one of the smallest countries in Europe, and ranked [179th](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_area) in size of all the [194 independent countries of the world](/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states); the country is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in size, and measures [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) wide. It lies between latitudes [49°](/wiki/49th_parallel_north) and [51° N](/wiki/51st_parallel_north), and longitudes [5°](/wiki/5th_meridian_east) and [7° E](/wiki/7th_meridian_east).

To the east, Luxembourg borders the [German](/wiki/Germany) [*Bundesland*](/wiki/States_of_Germany) of [Rhineland-Palatinate](/wiki/Rhineland-Palatinate) and [Saarland](/wiki/Saarland), and, to the south, it borders the [French](/wiki/France) [*région*](/wiki/Région_in_France) of [Lorraine](/wiki/Lorraine_(region)). The Grand Duchy borders the [Belgian](/wiki/Belgium) [Walloon Region](/wiki/Wallonia), in particular the latter's [provinces](/wiki/Provinces_of_regions_in_Belgium) of [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxembourg_(Belgium)) and [Liège](/wiki/Liège_(province)), part of which comprises the [German-speaking Community of Belgium](/wiki/German-speaking_Community_of_Belgium), to the west and to the north respectively.

The northern third of the country is known as the '[Oesling'](/wiki/Oesling), and forms part of the [Ardennes](/wiki/Ardennes). It is dominated by hills and low mountains, including the [Kneiff](/wiki/Kneiff) near Wilwerdange,[[31]](#cite_note-31) which is the highest point, at 560 metres (1,837 ft). Other mountains are the 'Buurgplaaz' at 559 metres near Huldange and the 'Napoléonsgaard' at 554 metres near Rambrouch. The region is sparsely populated, with only one [town](/wiki/Town) ([Wiltz](/wiki/Wiltz)) with a population of more than four thousand people.

[thumb|left|Countryside of](/wiki/File:Clerve_Alscheid.jpg) [Alscheid](/wiki/Alscheid).

The southern two-thirds of the country is called the "[Gutland](/wiki/Gutland_(Luxembourg))", and is more densely populated than the Oesling. It is also more diverse, and can be divided into five geographic sub-regions. The [Luxembourg plateau](/wiki/Luxembourg_plateau), in south-central Luxembourg, is a large, flat, [sandstone](/wiki/Sandstone) formation, and the site of the city of Luxembourg. [Little Switzerland](/wiki/Little_Switzerland_(Luxembourg)), in the east of Luxembourg, has craggy terrain and thick forests. The [Moselle](/wiki/Moselle_(river)) valley is the lowest-lying region, running along the southeastern border. The [Red Lands](/wiki/Red_Lands), in the far south and southwest, are Luxembourg's industrial heartland and home to many of Luxembourg's largest towns.

The border between Luxembourg and Germany is formed by three [rivers](/wiki/River): the Moselle, the [Sauer](/wiki/Sauer), and the [Our](/wiki/Our_River). Other major rivers are the [Alzette](/wiki/Alzette), the [Attert](/wiki/Attert_River), the [Clerve](/wiki/Clerve), and the [Wiltz](/wiki/Wiltz_River). The [valleys](/wiki/Valley) of the mid-Sauer and Attert form the border between the Gutland and the Oesling.

According to the 2012 Environmental Performance Index, Luxembourg is one of the world's best performers in environmental protection, ranking 4th out of 132 assessed countries[[32]](#cite_note-32) Luxembourg also ranks 6th among the top ten most livable cities in the world by Mercer's.[[33]](#cite_note-33)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Luxembourg has an [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) ([Köppen](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): Cfb), marked by high [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)), particularly in late summer. The summers are cool and winters mild.[[34]](#cite_note-34)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Graphical depiction of Luxembourg's product exports in 28 colour-coded categories.](/wiki/File:Luxembourg_treemap.png)

Luxembourg's stable and high-income [market economy](/wiki/Economic_system) features moderate [growth](/wiki/Economic_growth), low [inflation](/wiki/Inflation), and a high level of innovation.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Unemployment is traditionally low, although it had risen to 6.1% by May 2012, due largely to the effect of the [2008 global financial crisis](/wiki/2008_global_financial_crisis).[[36]](#cite_note-36) Consequently, Luxembourg's economy was forecast to have negligible growth in 2012.[[37]](#cite_note-37) In 2011, according to the [IMF](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_capita), Luxembourg was the second richest country in the world, with a per capita GDP on a purchasing-power parity (PPP) basis of $80,119.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Luxembourg is ranked 13th in the [Heritage Foundation's](/wiki/Heritage_Foundation) [Index of Economic Freedom](/wiki/Index_of_Economic_Freedom),[[39]](#cite_note-39) 26th in the United Nations [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index), and 4th in the Economist Intelligence Unit's [quality of life index](/wiki/Quality-of-life_index).[[40]](#cite_note-40) External debt of Luxembourg is extremely high when external debt per capita or [debt-to-GDP ratio](/wiki/Debt-to-GDP_ratio) is taken into consideration. External debt per capita (2014) is $3,696,467 and as a percentage of GDP it is 3443%, the world's highest by both measurements.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[Template:Better source](/wiki/Template:Better_source)

The industrial sector, which was dominated by [steel](/wiki/Steel) until the 1960s, has since diversified to include chemicals, rubber, and other products. During the past decades, growth in the [financial](/wiki/Financial) sector has more than compensated for the decline in [steel production](/wiki/Steel_industry_in_Luxembourg). Services, especially [banking](/wiki/Banking) and [finance](/wiki/Financial_export), account for the majority of economic output. Luxembourg is the world's second largest investment fund centre (after the United States), the most important private banking centre in the [eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone) and Europe's leading centre for reinsurance companies. Moreover, the Luxembourg government has aimed to attract internet start-ups, with [Skype](/wiki/Skype) and [Amazon](/wiki/Amazon.com) being two of the many internet companies that have shifted their regional headquarters to Luxembourg.

In April 2009, concern about Luxembourg's banking secrecy laws, as well as its reputation as a [tax haven](/wiki/Tax_haven), led to its being added to a "grey list" of nations with questionable banking arrangements by the [G20](/wiki/G20). In response, the country soon after adopted OECD standards on exchange of information and was subsequently added into the category of "jurisdictions that have substantially implemented the internationally agreed tax standard".[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43) In March 2010, the *Sunday Telegraph* reported that most of Kim Jong-Il's $4 billion in secret accounts is in Luxembourg banks.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Amazon.co.uk also benefits from Luxembourg tax loopholes by channeling substantial UK revenues as reported by *The Guardian* in April 2012.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Luxembourg ranked third on the [Tax Justice Network's](/wiki/Tax_Justice_Network) 2011 [Financial Secrecy Index](/wiki/Financial_Secrecy_Index) of the world's major tax havens, scoring only slightly behind the [Cayman Islands](/wiki/Cayman_Islands).[[46]](#cite_note-46) In 2013, Luxembourg is ranked as the 2nd safest tax haven in the world, behind [Switzerland](/wiki/Switzerland).

[Agriculture](/wiki/Agriculture) is based on small, family-owned farms.

Luxembourg has especially close trade and financial ties to [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium) and the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) (see [*Benelux*](/wiki/Benelux)), and as a member of the [EU](/wiki/European_Union) it enjoys the advantages of the open European [market](/wiki/Market_(economics)).

With $171 billion in May 2015, the country ranks eleventh in the world in holdings of [U.S. Treasury securities](/wiki/U.S._Treasury_security).[[47]](#cite_note-47) The ranking is however imperfect as some foreign owners entrust the safekeeping of their securities to institutions that are neither in the United States nor in the owner's country of residence.[[48]](#cite_note-48)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|Luxembourg's international airline](/wiki/File:LUX_Check-In_Schalter.jpg) [Luxair](/wiki/Luxair) is based at [Luxembourg Airport](/wiki/Luxembourg_Airport), the country's only international airport.

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Luxembourg has efficient road, rail and air transport facilities and services. The road network has been significantly modernised in recent years with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of motorways connecting the capital to adjacent countries. The advent of the high-speed [TGV](/wiki/TGV) link to [Paris](/wiki/Paris) has led to renovation of the city's [railway station](/wiki/Luxembourg_railway_station) and a new passenger terminal at [Luxembourg Airport](/wiki/Luxembourg-Findel_International_Airport) was opened some years ago. There are plans to introduce [trams](/wiki/Tram) in the capital and [light-rail](/wiki/Light-rail) lines in adjacent areas within the next few years.

The number of cars per 1000 persons amount to 680.1 in Luxembourg — lower than just two [states](/wiki/State_(polity)), namely the [Principality of Monaco](/wiki/Monaco) and the [British overseas territory of Gibraltar](/wiki/Gibraltar).[[49]](#cite_note-49)

### Communications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

The telecommunications industry in Luxembourg is liberalised and the electronic communications networks are significantly developed. Competition between the different operators is guaranteed by the legislative framework Paquet Telecom[[50]](#cite_note-50) of the Government of 2011 which transposes the European Telecom Directives into Luxembourgean law. This encourages the investment in networks and services. The regulator ILR – Institut Luxembourgeois de Régulation[[51]](#cite_note-51) ensures the compliance to these legal rules.

Luxembourg has modern and widely deployed optical fiber and cable networks throughout the country. In 2010, the Luxembourg Government launched its National strategy for very high-speed networks with the aim to become a global leader in terms of very high-speed broadband by achieving full 1 Gbit/s coverage of the country by 2020.[[52]](#cite_note-52) In 2011, Luxembourg had an [NGA](/wiki/Next-generation_access) coverage of 75%.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In April 2013, Luxembourg featured the 6th highest download speed worldwide and the 2nd highest in Europe: 32,46 Mbit/s.[[54]](#cite_note-54) The country's location in Central Europe, stable economy and low taxes favour the telecommunication industry.[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) It ranks 2nd in the world in the development of the Information and Communication Technologies in the ITU ICT Development Index and 8th in the Global Broadband Quality Study 2009 by the [University of Oxford](/wiki/University_of_Oxford) and the [University of Oviedo](/wiki/University_of_Oviedo).[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59)[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61) [thumb|Signs in front of the](/wiki/File:Centre_Drosbach_Luxembourg_Signs_-_June_2012.jpg) [Centre Drosbach](/wiki/Centre_Drosbach) on the Cloche d'or, in the city of [Luxembourg](/wiki/Luxemburg_(city)). Luxembourg is connected to all major European Internet Exchanges (AMS-IX Amsterdam,[[62]](#cite_note-62) DE-CIX Frankfurt,[[63]](#cite_note-63) LINX London),[[64]](#cite_note-64) datacenters and POPs through redundant optical networks.[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67)[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69) In addition, the country is connected to the virtual meetme room services (vmmr)[[70]](#cite_note-70) of the international data hub operator Ancotel.[[71]](#cite_note-71) This enables Luxembourg to interconnect with all major telecommunication operators[[72]](#cite_note-72) and data carriers worldwide. The interconnection points are in Frankfurt, London, New York and Hong Kong.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Several providers interconnect Luxembourg to the major European data hubs:

* Teralink[[74]](#cite_note-74) ([P&TLuxembourg](/wiki/P&TLuxembourg), also called EPT Luxembourg: incumbent operator)[[75]](#cite_note-75)\* [LuxConnect](/wiki/LuxConnect)[[76]](#cite_note-76) (shareholder : Government) LuxConnect tested the 100G coherent transmission of data signals between Luxembourg and Amsterdam in June 2011.[[77]](#cite_note-77)\* Artelis/Cegecom[[78]](#cite_note-78) (alternative telecommunications provider in Luxembourg and Saarland)
* Satellite connectivity – Teleports ([SES](/wiki/SES_S.A.)),[[79]](#cite_note-79) Broadcasting Center Europe[[80]](#cite_note-80) and P&T Luxembourg Teleport.[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82)[[83]](#cite_note-83)

Luxembourg is connected through an optical [DWDM](/wiki/DWDM) network, called Teralink[[84]](#cite_note-84) to several Tier 1 upstream providers like Level3 and Global Crossing. Teralink offers connectivities up to 100 Gbit/s. P&TLuxembourg established a coherent 100Gbit/s IP connection between Frankfurt and Luxembourg with live traffic in 2011.[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87)[[88]](#cite_note-88) The Internet IPV6 protocol has been introduced to the country by Restena and P&T Luxembourg.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Luxembourg has one [Internet exchange point](/wiki/Internet_exchange_point) and one Carrier [Ethernet Exchange](/wiki/Ethernet_Exchange) point.

* [LU-CIX](/wiki/Luxembourg_Commercial_Internet_Exchange) is Luxembourg's neutral and commercial Internet Exchange Point which was founded in 2009 by Cegecom, Datacentre Luxembourg, Global Media Systems, INEXIO, LuxConnect, P&T Luxembourg and Root eSolutions. It offers a short, fast and efficient route to the major European Internet networks.[[90]](#cite_note-90)[[91]](#cite_note-91) In 2012, LIX, the neutral Internet exchange operated by the RESTENA Foundation, merged with LU-CIX.[[92]](#cite_note-92) In March 2013, LU-CIX launched the 'Central European Peering Hub' in order to provide the opportunity to its members to connect to other IXs' reseller programs, AMS-IX (Amsterdam), LINX (London), DE-CIX (Frankfurt) and France-IX (Paris), etc.[[93]](#cite_note-93)\* [LIX](/wiki/Luxembourg_Ethernet_Exchange) is the Luxembourg Ethernet Exchange located in the Tier IV certified eBRC datacentre.[[94]](#cite_note-94)The online portal De Guichet[[95]](#cite_note-95) of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a single one-stop online shop for citizens and companies to undertake various administrative operations (procedures, online forms, downloadable forms and advice) by Internet.[[96]](#cite_note-96)

[PSA Peugeot Citroën](/wiki/PSA_Peugeot_Citroën), with [P&TLuxembourg](/wiki/P&TLuxembourg) as its partner, has introduced an integrated mobile telecommunication solution for the development of its telematic services in Europe.[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98)

### Data centres[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Some 20 data centres[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100)[[101]](#cite_note-101) are operating in Luxembourg. Six data centers are Tier IV Design certified: three of ebrc,[[102]](#cite_note-102) two of LuxConnect [[103]](#cite_note-103)[[104]](#cite_note-104) and one of European Data Hub.[[105]](#cite_note-105) In a survey on nine international data centers carried out in December 2012 and January 2013 and measuring availability (up-time) and performance (delay by which the data from the requested website was received), the top three positions were held by Luxembourg data centers.[[106]](#cite_note-106)[[107]](#cite_note-107)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

The people of Luxembourg are called [Luxembourgers](/wiki/Luxembourger).[[108]](#cite_note-108) The [immigrant](/wiki/Immigrant) population increased in the 20th century due to the arrival of immigrants from [Belgium](/wiki/Belgium), [France](/wiki/France), [Italy](/wiki/Italy), [Germany](/wiki/Germany), and [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal), with the majority coming from the latter: in 2013 there were about 88,000 inhabitants with [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_Luxembourger) nationality.[[109]](#cite_note-109) There is also a very small [Romani (Gypsy)](/wiki/Romani_people) and [Jewish](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Luxembourg) population. Both of the two groups living in Luxembourg were affected by the Holocaust in the past and were expelled from Luxembourg.[[110]](#cite_note-110)[[111]](#cite_note-111) Since the beginning of the [Yugoslav wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_wars), Luxembourg has seen many immigrants from [Bosnia and Herzegovina](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina), [Montenegro](/wiki/Montenegro), and [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia). Annually, over 10,000 new immigrants arrive in Luxembourg, mostly from the [EU](/wiki/European_Union) states, as well as Eastern Europe. In 2000, there were 162,000 [immigrants](/wiki/Immigrant) in Luxembourg, accounting for 37% of the total population. There were an estimated 5,000 [Illegal immigrants](/wiki/Illegal_immigrant) in Luxembourg in 1999.[[112]](#cite_note-112)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|Coin of the former](/wiki/File:LUX-5f2.jpg) [Luxembourg franc](/wiki/Luxembourgish_franc) in two of the country's three languages: French (obverse, left) and Luxembourgish (reverse, right). [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Three languages are recognised as official in Luxembourg: [French](/wiki/French_language), [German](/wiki/German_language), and [Luxembourgish](/wiki/Luxembourgish_language), a [Franconian](/wiki/Franconian_languages) language of the [Moselle](/wiki/Moselle_(river)) region that is also spoken in neighbouring parts of Belgium, France and Germany. Though Luxembourgish is part of the West Central German group of High German languages, more than 5,000 words in the language are of French origin.[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) The first printed sentences in Luxembourgish appeared in a weekly journal, the 'Luxemburger Wochenblatt', in the second edition on 14 April 1821.

Apart from being one of the three official languages, Luxembourgish is also considered the [national language](/wiki/National_language) of the Grand Duchy; it is the mother tongue or "language of the heart" for nearly all Luxembourgers.[[115]](#cite_note-115) Each of the three languages is used as the primary language in certain spheres. Luxembourgish is the language that Luxembourgers generally use to speak to each other, but it is not often used as the written language. Since the 1980s, an increasing number of novels have however been written in Luxembourgish. Most official (written) business is carried out in French. German is usually the first language taught in school and is the language of much of the [media](/wiki/Mass_media) and of the [church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church).[[116]](#cite_note-116) Luxembourg's education system is trilingual: the first years of primary school are in Luxembourgish, before changing to German; while in secondary school, the language of instruction changes to French.[[117]](#cite_note-117) Proficiency in all three languages is required for graduation from secondary school, but half the students leave school without a certified qualification, with the children of immigrants being particularly disadvantaged.[[118]](#cite_note-118) In addition to the three official languages, [English](/wiki/English_language) is taught in the compulsory schooling and much of the population of Luxembourg can speak English, especially in Luxembourg City. [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language), the language of the largest [immigrant](/wiki/Immigrant) community, is also spoken by large parts of the population, but by relatively few from outside their community.[[119]](#cite_note-119) French is the preferred language of the government. Official legislation must be conducted in French.

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Luxembourg_City_from_Adolphe_Bridge_01.jpg)[Notre-Dame Cathedral](/wiki/Notre-Dame_Cathedral,_Luxembourg), Luxembourg City [Template:Pie chart](/wiki/Template:Pie_chart) [thumb|Notre-Dame Cathedral at night](/wiki/File:Notre-Dame_Cathedral_at_night,_September_2013.jpg)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Luxembourg is a [secular state](/wiki/Secular_state), but the state recognises certain religions as officially mandated religions. This gives the state a hand in religious administration and appointment of clergy, in exchange for which the state pays certain running costs and wages. Currently, religions covered by such arrangements are [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism), [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism), [Greek Orthodoxy](/wiki/Greek_Orthodoxy), [Anglicanism](/wiki/Anglicanism), [Russian Orthodoxy](/wiki/Russian_Orthodox_Church), [Lutheranism](/wiki/Lutheranism), [Mennonitism](/wiki/Mennonitism) and [Islam](/wiki/Islam).[[120]](#cite_note-120) Since 1980 it has been illegal for the government to collect statistics on religious beliefs or practices.[[121]](#cite_note-121) An estimation by the [CIA Factbook](/wiki/The_World_Factbook) for the year 2000 is that 87% of Luxembourgers are [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic_Church), including the royal family, the remaining 13% being made up of [Muslims](/wiki/Islam), [Protestants](/wiki/Protestantism), [Orthodox Christians](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church), [Jews](/wiki/Jews), and those of other or [no religion](/wiki/Irreligion).[[122]](#cite_note-122) According to a 2010 [Pew Research Center](/wiki/Pew_Research_Center) study 70.4% are Christian, 2.3% Muslim, 26.8% unaffiliated and 0.5% other religions.[[123]](#cite_note-123) According to a 2005 [Eurobarometer poll](/wiki/Eurobarometer),<ref name=EUROBAROMETER>[Eurobarometer on Social Values, Science and technology 2005](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_225_report_en.pdf) – page 11</ref> 44% of Luxembourg citizens responded that "they believe there is a [God](/wiki/God)", whereas 28% answered that "they believe there is some sort of spirit or life force" and 22% that "they do not believe there is any sort of spirit, god, or life force".

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:University_luxemburg_lmp_main.jpg) [University of Luxembourg](/wiki/University_of_Luxembourg) is the only university in the country. [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The [University of Luxembourg](/wiki/University_of_Luxembourg) is the only university in the country.

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Luxembourg sells the most alcohol in Europe per capita.[[124]](#cite_note-124) However, the large proportion of alcohol purchased by customers from neighbouring countries contributes to the statistically high level of alcohol sales per capita; this level of alcohol sales is thus not representative of the actual alcohol consumption of the Luxembourg population.[[125]](#cite_note-125)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Edward_Steichen.jpg)[Edward Steichen](/wiki/Edward_Steichen), Luxembourgish photographer and painter

Luxembourg has been overshadowed by the culture of its neighbours. It retains a number of folk traditions, having been for much of its history a profoundly rural country. There are several notable museums, located mostly in the capital. These include the [National Museum of History and Art](/wiki/National_Museum_of_History_and_Art) (NMHA), the [Luxembourg City History Museum](/wiki/Luxembourg_City_History_Museum), and the new [Grand Duke Jean Museum of Modern Art](/wiki/Grand_Duke_Jean_Museum_of_Modern_Art) (Mudam). The [National Museum of Military History (MNHM)](/wiki/National_Museum_of_Military_History_(Luxembourg)) in Diekirch is especially known for its representations of the [Battle of the Bulge](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Bulge). The city of Luxembourg itself is on the [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage List](/wiki/World_Heritage_List), on account of the historical importance of its fortifications.[[126]](#cite_note-126) The country has produced some internationally-known artists, including the painters [Théo Kerg](/wiki/Théo_Kerg), [Joseph Kutter](/wiki/Joseph_Kutter) and [Michel Majerus](/wiki/Michel_Majerus), and photographer [Edward Steichen](/wiki/Edward_Steichen), whose [*The Family of Man*](/wiki/The_Family_of_Man) exhibition has been placed on UNESCO's [Memory of the World](/wiki/Memory_of_the_World_Programme) register, and is now permanently housed in [Clervaux](/wiki/Clervaux). Movie star [Loretta Young](/wiki/Loretta_Young) was of Luxembourgish descent.

Luxembourg was the first city to be named [European Capital of Culture](/wiki/European_Capital_of_Culture) twice. The first time was in 1995. In 2007, the European Capital of Culture[[127]](#cite_note-127) was to be a cross-border area consisting of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Rheinland-Pfalz and Saarland in Germany, the Walloon Region and the German-speaking part of Belgium, and the [Lorraine](/wiki/Lorraine_(region)) area in [France](/wiki/France). The event was an attempt to promote mobility and the exchange of ideas, crossing borders physically, psychologically, artistically and emotionally.

Luxembourg was represented at the World [Expo 2010](/wiki/Expo_2010) in Shanghai, China, from 1 May to 31 October 2010 with its own pavilion.[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129) The pavilion was based on the transliteration of the word Luxembourg into Chinese, "Lu Sen Bao", which means "Forest and Fortress". It represented Luxembourg as the "Green Heart in Europe".[[130]](#cite_note-130)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|180px|In his cycling career, Charly Gaul won three](/wiki/File:Charly_Gaul_1959_(cropped).jpg) [Grand Tours](/wiki/Grand_Tour_(cycling)). [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Unlike most countries in Europe, sport in Luxembourg is not concentrated upon a particular [national sport](/wiki/National_sport), but encompasses a number of sports, both [team](/wiki/Team_sport) and [individual](/wiki/Individual_sport). Despite the lack of a central sporting focus, over 100,000 people in Luxembourg, out of a total population of only 512,353, are licensed members of one sports federation or another.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The largest sports venue in the country is [d'Coque](/wiki/D'Coque), an [indoor arena](/wiki/Indoor_arena) and Olympic swimming pool in [Kirchberg](/wiki/Kirchberg,_Luxembourg), north-eastern [Luxembourg City](/wiki/Luxembourg_City), which has a capacity of 8,300. The arena is used for basketball, handball, gymnastics, and volleyball, including the final of the [2007 Women's European Volleyball Championship](/wiki/2007_Women's_European_Volleyball_Championship). The [national](/wiki/National_stadium) stadium (also the country's largest) is the [Stade Josy Barthel](/wiki/Stade_Josy_Barthel), in western Luxembourg City; named after the country's only official Olympic gold medallist, the stadium has a capacity of 8,054.

Notable sportspeople include (see also [*List of Luxembourgish Sportspeople of the Year*](/wiki/List_of_Luxembourgish_Sportspeople_of_the_Year)):

* Alpine skier [Marc Girardelli](/wiki/Marc_Girardelli), [World Cup](/wiki/FIS_Alpine_Ski_World_Cup) overall champion five times between 1985 and 1993
* Cyclists [Nicolas Frantz](/wiki/Nicolas_Frantz), winner of the 1927 and 1928 [Tours de France](/wiki/Tours_de_France); [Charly Gaul](/wiki/Charly_Gaul), winner of the 1956 and 1959 [Giro d'Italia](/wiki/Giro_d'Italia) and of the 1958 [Tour de France](/wiki/Tour_de_France); [Elsy Jacobs](/wiki/Elsy_Jacobs), first ever [women's Road World Champion](/wiki/UCI_Road_World_Championships_–_Women's_road_race) in 1958; and [Andy Schleck](/wiki/Andy_Schleck), winner of the 2010 [Tour de France](/wiki/Tour_de_France)
* [Middle-distance runner](/wiki/Middle-distance_runner) [Josy Barthel](/wiki/Josy_Barthel), winner of the [men's 1500 metres at the 1952 Summer Olympics](/wiki/Athletics_at_the_1952_Summer_Olympics_–_Men's_1500_metres)
* 1961 [world water skiing champion](/wiki/World_water_skiing_champion) [Sylvie Hülsemann](/wiki/Sylvie_Hülsemann)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Luxembourg cuisine reflects its position on the border between the Latin and [Germanic](/wiki/Germanic_peoples) worlds, being heavily influenced by the cuisines of neighboring [France](/wiki/France) and Germany. More recently, it has been enriched by its many [Italian](/wiki/Italy) and [Portuguese](/wiki/Portugal) immigrants.

Most native Luxembourg dishes, consumed as the traditional daily fare, share roots in the country's folk dishes the same as in neighboring [Germany](/wiki/German_cuisine).

<gallery class="center"> File:JuddMatGaardebounen Beer.JPG|[*Judd mat Gaardebounen*](/wiki/Judd_mat_Gaardebounen) served with boiled potatoes and [Diekirch](/wiki/Diekirch) beer File:Bouneschlupp16.jpg|[*Bouneschlupp*](/wiki/Bouneschlupp) is considered to be a Luxemburgish national dish File:Träipen.jpg|[*Träipen*](/wiki/Träipen), sometimes *treipen*, is the Luxembourg variant of [black pudding](/wiki/Black_pudding) </gallery>

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

The main languages of media in Luxembourg are French and German. The newspaper with the largest circulation is the German-language daily [Luxemburger Wort](/wiki/Luxemburger_Wort).[[132]](#cite_note-132)In addition there are both English and Portuguese radio and national print publications but accurate audience figures are difficult to gauge since the national media survey by ILRES [[133]](#cite_note-133) is conducted in French.

Luxembourg is known in Europe for its radio and television stations ([Radio Luxembourg](/wiki/Radio_Luxembourg_(French)) and [RTL Group](/wiki/RTL_Group)). It is also the uplink home of [SES](/wiki/SES_S.A.), carrier of major European satellite services for Germany and Britain.

Due to a 1988 law that established a special tax scheme for audiovisual investment, the film and co-production in Luxembourg has grown steadily.[[134]](#cite_note-134) There are some 30 registered production companies in Luxembourg.[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[136]](#cite_note-136) Luxembourg won an [Oscar](/wiki/Academy_Awards) in 2014 in the [Animated Short Films](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Animated_Short_Film) category with [*Mr Hublot*](/wiki/Mr_Hublot).

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

* [Outline of Luxembourg](/wiki/Outline_of_Luxembourg)
* [Architecture of Luxembourg](/wiki/Architecture_of_Luxembourg)
* [List of castles in Luxembourg](/wiki/List_of_castles_in_Luxembourg)
* [Luxembourg leaks](/wiki/Luxembourg_leaks)
* [List of countries by external debt](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_external_debt)

## Footnotes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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* [CEE- Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report –Volume 2: i2010 –ICT Country Profiles- page 40-41](http://www.mediacom.public.lu/comm_elec/plan_action_TIC-mars2009/Plan_d_action_TIC_-_LU2009.pdf)
* [Inauguration of LU-CIX](http://www.luxembourgforict.lu/en/news/2009/10/Lu-Cix/Lucix_EN.pdf)
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