



## Federal Republic of Germany

<b>State</b>	Democratic parliamentary federal democracy since 1949
<b>Capital city</b>	Berlin, 3.4 million inhabitants
<b>National flag</b>	Three horizontal stripes in black, red, gold
<b>Emblem</b>	Stylized eagle
<b>Anthem</b>	Third verse by August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben "Das Lied der Deutschen" to a melody by Joseph Haydn "Kaiserhymne"
<b>State holiday</b>	October 3, Day of German Unity
<b>Parliament</b>	Bundestag (16 <sup>th</sup> legislative period: 614 MPs)
<b>Time zone</b>	CET/CEST
<b>Currency</b>	Germany is a member of the Eurozone, EUR 1 = 100 cents
<b>Phone dial code</b>	+49
<b>Internet TLD</b>	.de (one of the ten most frequent top-level domains)
<b>Official language</b>	German. German is the mother tongue of 100 million people. German is the mother tongue spoken most frequently in the European Union

## Geography

<b>Location</b>	Central Europe
<b>Size</b>	357,021 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Borders</b>	3,757 km
<b>Coastline</b>	2,389 km
<b>Neighboring states</b>	Germany is at the heart of Europe and has nine neighbors: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, and Switzerland
<b>Highest mountain</b>	Zugspitze 2963 m
<b>Longest rivers</b>	Rhine 865 km, Elbe 700 km
<b>Largest cities</b>	Berlin 3.4 million inhabitants, Hamburg (1.7m), Munich (1.2m), Cologne (1.0m), Frankfurt/Main (655,000)



Germany is a federation made up of 16 federal states, each of which has independent if constrained state authority



German Federal flag



German Federal emblem

**Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit für das deutsche Vaterland!  
Danach lasst uns alle streben  
brüderlich mit Herz und Hand!  
Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit  
sind des Glückes Unterpfand.  
Blüh im Glanze dieses Glückes,  
blühe, deutsches Vaterland!**

Text of the German national anthem

Facts about Germany

<b>Landscape</b>	From the North Sea to the Baltic Sea in the North to the Alps in the South, Germany is structured geographically as follows: the North German lowlands, the Mittelgebirge ridge, the Southwest German subdued mountains and terraced landscape, the South German piedmont and the Bavarian Alps
<b>Climate</b>	Moderate oceanic/continental climatic zone with frequent changes in weather and primarily westerly winds

## Population

<b>Inhabitants</b>	With 82.5 million inhabitants (of which 42.2 million are women) Germany has the largest population of any EU member state. Around 7.3 million foreigners live in Germany (8.8 percent of the total population) and of them 1.8 million are Turks
<b>Population density</b>	With 231 inhabitants per square kilometer Germany is one of the most densely populated countries in Europe
<b>Births</b>	On average 1.4 children per woman
<b>Population growth</b>	0.0%
<b>Age structure</b>	14% less than 15, 19% over 65
<b>Life expectancy</b>	With an average life expectancy of 76 years for men and 81 for women (born in 2003) Germany is above the OECD mean
<b>Urbanization</b>	88% of the population live in cities and conurbations. In Germany, there are 90 cities with a population of over 100,000
<b>Religions</b>	Just under 53 million people profess to be Christians (26m Catholics, 26m Protestants, 900,000 members of the Orthodox churches), 3.3m are Muslims, 230,000 Buddhists, 100,000 Jews, 90,000 Hindus. The Basic Law guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion. There is no state religion
<b>Immigration</b>	Since 2005, the new Immigration Act regulates immigration

## Political system

<b>Legislation</b>	Bicameral system: in addition to the Bundestag, the Bundesrat (consisting of delegates of the state governments to uphold the states' interests) participates in legislation
<b>State structure</b>	Germany is a federation consisting of 16 federal states, each with its own constitution, parliament and government. The highest state authority is exercised by the federal government. Through the agency of the Bundesrat, the states are represented at the federal level and participate in federal legislation.
<b>Suffrage</b>	Universal, equal and secret suffrage as of 18 years of age (in the case of municipal elections in part as of 16), elections to the Bundestag are held every four years.
<b>Federal President</b>	Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler (CDU) since 2004
<b>Federal Chancellor</b>	Dr. Angela Merkel (CDU) since 2005
<b>Party system</b>	Multi-party system, parties have a special constitutional status, receive state financial support, can only be prohibited by the Federal Constitutional Court

Facts about Germany

