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## Facts and figures

Germany has many strong suits: The country is renowned for the quality of its products with the trademark "made in Germany" - and it is also a country with a great lifestyle, highly diverse countryside and open-minded inhabitants. An increasing number of foreign students enjoy the academic climate at Germany's universities. International investors appreciate the know-how and superior training of the workforce. The art and cultural scene is brimming over with a zest for experimentation and surprises. This is true of all 16 federal states and in particular of Berlin, as the capital - the country's political and creative heart.



## 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 of August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben's "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: 613 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, Danube 647 km (in Germany)
<b>Largest cities</b>	Berlin 3.4 million inhabitants, Hamburg (1.8m), Munich (1.3m), Cologne (1.0m), Frankfurt/Main (662,000)



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

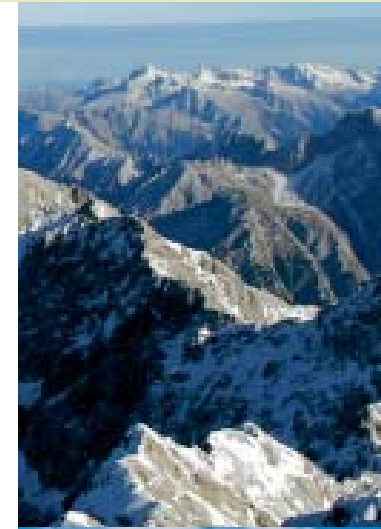
<b>Landscape</b>	From the North Sea to the Baltic Sea in the North to the Alps in the South, Germany is structured geographically as follows: the North German lowlands, the Mittelgebirge ridge, the Southwest German subdued mountains and terraced landscape, the South German piedmont and the Bavarian Alps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

## Population

<b>Inhabitants</b>	With 82.3 million inhabitants (of which 42.0 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 1.7 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 1.3 children per woman
<b>Population growth</b>	-0.1%
<b>Age structure</b>	14% less than 15, 20% over 65
<b>Life expectancy</b>	With an average life expectancy of 77 years for men and 82 for women (born in 2006) Germany is above the OECD mean
<b>Urbanization</b>	88% of the population live in cities and conurbations. In Germany, there are 82 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





- Parties represented in the Bundestag** Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), German Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU), Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (The Greens), Free Democratic Party (FDP), Die Linke (The Left)
- Legal system** Germany is a social constitutional state. It is based on the principle of a division of powers and the lawful administration. All organs of state are subject to the constitutional order. The Basic Law guarantees every individual citizen basic and human rights. The Federal Constitutional Court watches over adherence to the Basic Law. All the other organs of state are bound to uphold its rulings

## Germany in the world

- International cooperation** Germany joins its European and transatlantic partners in championing peace, democracy and human rights the world over. Germany is a member in key European and other international organizations
- European Union** The Federal Republic of Germany is a founding member of the European Union (EU). Germany contributes around EUR 22 billion or some 20% of the EU budget and is thus the single largest contributor.
- United Nations** Germany has been a full member of the United Nations (UN) since 1973. Germany contributes just under 9 percent of the regular UN budget and is third largest contributor. Germany is a state with a UN seat: Since 1996 Bonn has had the title of "UN City"; 16 UN organizations are based there
- Other organizations and alliances** Germany is a member of the NATO defense alliance (since 1955), the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Federal Foreign Office** The Federal Foreign Office, which is headquartered in Berlin and its network of 226 foreign representative offices represents Germany in the world. Germany currently maintains diplomatic relations with 191 countries
- Out-of-area operations** The German Armed Forces are committed to nine peace-keeping and humanitarian operations outside the country, all of which are under UN mandates and are carried out in the framework of NATO and the EU. It is one of the countries providing the largest number of troops for international crisis prevention and conflict management missions

## Economy

- Economic prowess** Germany is the largest economy in the European Union and the third largest in the world. With the highest GDP and the largest number of inhabitants in the EU, Germany is Europe's most important market. Gross Domestic Product comes to EUR 2,423 billion (2007), GNP per capita is EUR 29,455
- Export** Germany is the world's leading exporter: the volume of goods exported came to EUR 969 billion in 2007. Key trading partners: France (9.5%), USA (8.7%), Great Britain (7.2%), Italy (6.6%)

- Structure** Alongside internationally active corporations, SMEs form the backbone of the German economy. Around 70% of all employees work in small and medium sized enterprises
- Key sectors** Car-making; mechanical, electrical and precision engineering; chemicals; environmental technology; optics; medical technology; biotech and genetic engineering; nanotechnology; aerospace; logistics
- Investment magnet** Germany strongly attracts foreign investors. The world's 500 largest corporations are present here, a total of 22,000 foreign companies with a total staff of 2.7 million. Foreign direct investments amounted to US\$ 503 billion in 2005.
- Infrastructure** Germany has a highly developed infrastructure that is growing dynamically. Its rail network covers 36,000 km, and the road network 230,000 km. The country boasts one of the world's most modern phone and communication networks
- Trade fairs** About two thirds of all the world's keynote trade fairs take place in Germany (about 160 international trade fairs)

## Research and Development

- Patent registrations** Germany is Europe's no. 1 in terms of patent registrations. Together with Japan and the United States, Germany, with its 11,188 triad patent registrations, is among the world's three most innovative countries.
- Leading Research institutes** Since 1948, 17 Nobel prizes have been won by Max Planck Society scientists. Likewise internationally renowned: the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft for applied research, the Leibniz Gesellschaft and the Helmholtz Association with 15 internationally leading large research institutions

## Communications

- Freedom of opinion** The Basic Law guarantees the freedom of the press and freedom of opinion
- Press** Around 350 daily newspapers with a total circulation of 24 million copies and coverage of 73% of the population. Largest nationwide subscription newspapers: Süddeutsche Zeitung, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Die Welt. With a circulation of 3.6 million, "Bild"-Zeitung has the largest print run in Europe. Deutsche Presse-Agentur (dpa) is the world's fourth largest news agency
- Magazines** Der Spiegel, Stern, Focus
- Internet** 95% of companies and 61% of private households have access to the Internet
- Radio, TV** Two-prong system: alongside the public (license-based) radio and TV stations (ARD, ZDF) there are private (ad-financed) channels. ZDF is the largest broadcasting station in Europe. Germany's foreign radio station is Deutsche Welle (DW-TV, DW-Radio, DW-world.de and DW-Akademie)





## Social system

- Social security** Germany has an elaborate network of social security systems (pension, health, healthcare and unemployment insurance), financed in equal measure by employees and employers alike
- Health** Almost all Germany's inhabitants have health insurance (88 % on statutory and just under 12 % in private insurance schemes). Given total outlays on health of 10.7 % of GDP, Germany is well above the OECD average of 9.0 %

## Higher education

- Higher education** There are 383 institutes of higher education in Germany, 103 of them universities, and 176 universities of the applied sciences. 947,000 or 48 % of the total of some two million students are women. Whether tuition fees are charged and the scale difference from one state to the next. In seven states, fees of about EUR 500 per semester are charged for new students, and fees are levied almost everywhere for students who have exceeded ten terms or are studying for the second time.
- Foreign students** 246,000 foreign students are enrolled at German institutes of higher education. After the United States and Great Britain, Germany is thus third most attractive country world-wide for foreign students
- Degrees** Bachelor's, Master's, Ph.D., State Examination, Diploma, Magister, Promotion

## Culture

- Tradition** German writers, composers and philosophers such as Goethe, Schiller, Bach, Beethoven, Kant and Hegel have strongly influenced cultural epochs and are acclaimed figures the world over
- Culture federalism** Germany's federal structure and the cultural sovereignty of each federal state ensure that the country boasts a wealth of different cultural institutions and a vibrant cultural scene. Berlin, as the capital city, is a spectacular case in point, with three opera houses, 120 museums, more than 50 theaters and a lively art community that also attracts many young foreign artists
- Cultural institutions** 5,000 museums (of them 500 art museums), 300 theaters, over 100 musical theaters and opera houses, 130 professional orchestras, 7,500 libraries
- Festivals** Richard Wagner Festival Bayreuth, Bachfest Leipzig, Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), Theatertreffen Berlin, Rock am Ring
- Books** 95,000 new publications or new editions each year
- UNESCO World Heritage** Germany features 32 natural and cultural heritage sites protected under the UNESCO World Heritage program



## Germany in the Internet

### [www.deutschland.de](http://www.deutschland.de)

Official portal of the Federal Republic of Germany. It provides access in Arabic, English, French, German, Russian, and Spanish to link lists for all areas of society

### [www.bundesregierung.de](http://www.bundesregierung.de)

The comprehensive German federal government Web site, including topical news on government policies (English, French and German)

### [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

Information on aspects of German foreign policy and addresses of the German missions abroad (Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish)

### [www.invest-in-germany.de](http://www.invest-in-germany.de)

The Web site of the federal agency Invest in Germany GmbH provides information on Germany as a business hub (in six languages)

### [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)

The Goethe-Institut Web site provides information on language courses and events at the 142 institutes as well as on German culture and society (English and German)

### [www.ifa.de](http://www.ifa.de)

The Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa) offers an overview of topics relating to international cultural exchange (English, German, Portuguese and Spanish)

### [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provides information on funding and exchange programs for students, graduates and scientists (in 22 languages)

### [www.dw-world.de](http://www.dw-world.de)

German foreign broadcasting station Deutsche Welle (DW) provides a wealth of topical editorial information (in 30 languages)

### [www.deutschland-tourismus.de](http://www.deutschland-tourismus.de)

The German National Tourist Board Web site offers a wide range of details on Germany as a holiday destination (English and German)

### [www.land-der-ideen.de](http://www.land-der-ideen.de)

The "Germany. Land of Ideas" initiative champions Germany as a center and, among other things, runs a special media service (English and German)

### [www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de)

Web site of the German Federal Statistical Office (English and German)

### [www.magazine-deutschland.de](http://www.magazine-deutschland.de)

Web site of "Deutschland" magazine, with articles on current topics, a service section and a media corner for journalists (in ten languages)

