



## FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

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, which became 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 unification 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.

### Physical Geography

**Region:** Center Europe

**Size in Square Kilometers:** 357,022 sq km

**Bordering Countries:** Bordering the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, between the Netherlands and Poland, south of Denmark

**Physical Features:** Lowlands in north, uplands in center, Bavarian Alps in south

**Climate:** Temperate and marine; cool, cloudy, wet winters and summers; occasional warm mountain (foehn) wind

### Cultural Geography

**Population:** 80,854,408 (July 2015 est.)

**Ethnic Groups:** German 91.5%, Turkish 2.4%, other 6.1% (made up largely of Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish)

**Official language:** German

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

**Capital:** Berlin

**Major cities:** Hamburg - 1.770.162, Munich - 1.429.584, Cologne - 1.046.680

**Average quality of life:** Above Average

### Political Geography

**Founded:** The Federal Republic of Germany was founded on May 23, 1949

**Type of government:** Germany is a democratic, federal parliamentary republic. Federal legislative power is vested in the Bundestag (the parliament of Germany) and the Bundesrat (the representative body of the Länder, Germany's regional states).

**Country's leaders?**

**Chancellor:** Angela Merkel

**President:** Joachim Gauck

**Active Military Personnel?** 186,450 Active Military Personnel

**Allies:** NATO member states (Example: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.)

**Enemies:** North Korea, Russia, China

### Economic Geography

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$3.841 trillion (2015 est.)

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

**Currency:** Euro

**Major Exports and Imports:**

**Exports:** motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, metals, transport equipment, foodstuffs, textiles, rubber and plastic products

**Imports:** machinery, data processing equipment, vehicles, chemicals, oil and gas, metals, electric equipment, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, agricultural products

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**Biggest Trading Partners:**

**Exports:** US 9.6%, France 8.6%, UK 7.5%, Netherlands 6.6%, China 6%, Italy 4.9%, Austria 4.8%, Poland 4.4%, Switzerland 4.2% (2015)

**Imports:** Netherlands 13.7%, France 7.6%, China 7.3%, Belgium 6%, Italy 5.2%, Poland 5%, US 4.7%, Czech Republic 4.5%, UK 4.2%, Austria 4.2%, Switzerland 4.2% (2015)

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