



EUROPEAN UNION

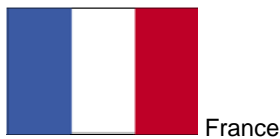
The creation of the single market and the corresponding increase in trade and general economic activity transformed the EU into a major trading power. The EU is trying to sustain economic growth by investing in transport, energy and research, while also seeking to minimize the environmental impact of further economic development.

Gross domestic product (GDP) varies from country to country within the EU, as does education policy and population growth; The EU covers over 4 million km² and has 495 million inhabitants — the world's third largest population after China and India. By surface area, France is the biggest EU country and Malta the smallest. Europe's [population](#) is increasing through a combination of natural growth (more people are born each year than die) and net migration (more people settle in the EU than leave it).At the same time, the population of Europe is aging as life expectancy increases and fewer children are born. Comparing GDP per inhabitant in PPS(Purchasing power standard) provides an overview of living standards across the EU.

Country	GDP per capita in PPS
Luxembourg	268
Ireland	131
Netherlands	130
Austria	124
Sweden	120
Denmark	117
Germany	116
Belgium	115
Finland	110
France	107
Spain	104
Italy	102
EU (27 countries)	100
Cyprus	98
Greece	95

Slovenia	86
Czech Republic	80
Malta	78
Portugal	78
Slovakia	72
Hungary	63
Estonia	62
Lithuania	53
Latvia	49

Some EU country profiles:



Total area: 550 000 km²

Population: 64.3 million

Currency: euro

Official EU language: [French](#)

France has an advanced industrial economy and an efficient farm sector. Main activities include automobile manufacture, aerospace, information technology, electronics, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and fashion. French cuisine is one of the finest in Europe; cooking and eating are part of French culture and lifestyle.

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 mistral.

Economy: With at least 75 million foreign tourists per year, France is the most visited country in the world and maintains the third largest income in the world from tourism.

France's leaders remain committed to a capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending that reduce income disparity and the impact of free markets on public health and welfare. GDP per capita is by \$33,100 (2010 EST.). **Country comparison to the world: [39](#). Agriculture: 1.7% industry: 18.6%; services: 79.7% (2010 EST.).**

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

Agriculture: wheat, cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, wine grapes; beef, dairy products; fish

Exports: machinery and transportation equipment, aircraft, plastics, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, beverages; value us dollars 517 billion; rank 6 worldwide.

Imports: machinery and equipment, vehicles, crude oil, aircraft, plastics, chemicals; value usd 588 billion (2010); ranks 6th worldwide.



Sweden:

Total area: 449 964 km²

Population: 9.2 million

Currency: krona

Official EU language: [Swedish](#)

The southern part of the country is chiefly agricultural, with forests covering an increasing percentage of the land the further north one goes. Sweden exports cars, engineering products, steel, electronic devices, communications equipment and paper products. Swedish cuisine is known for its *Smorgåsbord* (a buffet of savoury delicacies), Baltic herring, pea soup and pancakes.

Climate: temperate in south with cold, cloudy winters and cool, partly cloudy summers; subarctic in north

Economy: Timber, hydropower, and iron ore constitute the resource base of an economy heavily oriented toward foreign trade. Privately owned firms account for about 90% of industrial output, of which the engineering sector accounts for 50% of output and exports. Agriculture accounts for little more than 1% of GDP and of employment. GDP PER CAPITA IS USD 39000(2010); Agriculture 1.9%; Industry 26% and services: 72%. Ranks 23rd worldwide.

Agricultural products: barley, wheat, sugar beets; meat, milk and industrial products: iron and steel, precision equipment (bearings, radio and telephone parts, armaments), wood pulp and paper products, processed foods, motor vehicles, Exports: machinery 35%, motor vehicles, paper products, pulp and wood, iron and steel products, chemicals.(value=usd 160 billion in 2010)rank:28 worldwide.

Exports: machinery 35%, motor vehicles, paper products, pulp and wood, iron and steel products, chemicals; value:usd 160 billion (2010);ranks 28th worldwide.

Imports: machinery, petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, motor vehicles, iron and steel; foodstuffs, clothing. Value: usd 150 billion(2010) 29th worldwide.



United Kingdom

Total area: 244 820 km²

Population: 61.7 million

Currency: pound sterling

Listen to the official EU language: [English](#)

The United Kingdom (UK) consists of England, Wales, Scotland (who together make up Great Britain) and Northern Ireland. The economy - one of the largest in the EU - is increasingly services-based although it maintains industrial capacity in high-tech and other sectors. The City of London is a world centre for financial services.

Economy: Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and efficient by European standards, producing about 60% of food needs with less than 2% of the labor force. GDP per capita=USD 34000(2010) 37th worldwide. Agroculture:0.7%;Industry:22% ;Services:78%.

Exports; manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco; value usd 410 billion.(10th worldwide)

Imports: manufactured goods, machinery, fuels; foodstuffs;value:USD 563billions (2010) 7th worldwide.

Competent authorities:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

International Animal Health Core Team



Germany

Total area: 356 854 km²

Population: 82 million

Currency: euro

official EU language: [German](#)

Germany has the largest population of any EU country. German is the most widely spoken first language in the European Union. Germany is the world's third largest economy, producing automobiles, precision engineering products, electronic and communications equipment, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and much more besides. Germany is the second largest producer of hops in the world and the country is known for its quality beers. Wine is produced in the Moselle and Rhine valleys.

The German economy - the fifth largest economy in the world in PPP terms and Europe's largest.

GDP per capita: usd35700 (2010).Agricultur:0.9%; Industry: 28% services: 71%.

Exports: machinery, vehicles, chemicals, metals and manufactures, foodstuffs, textiles; value:usd 1.3 trillion(2010).3rd worldwide.

Imports: machinery, vehicles, chemicals, foodstuffs, textiles, metals; value: usd 1.1trillion (2010); 4th worldwide.



Spain

Total area: 504 782 km²

Population: 45.8 million

Currency: euro

official EU language: [Spanish](#)

Spain's service and manufacturing sectors are strong, while agriculture (especially fruit and vegetables, olive oil and wine) and tourism are also very profitable. Spanish cuisine is known for its *paella* (a rice dish with chicken, seafood and vegetables), *tortilla* (omelette with potatoes) and *sangria* (red wine served with fruit).

Economy: Spain's mixed capitalist economy is the 13th largest in the world, and its per capita income roughly matches that of Germany and France. GDP per capita usd 29000(2010); 48th worldwide.

Exports: machinery, motor vehicles; foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, medicines, other consumer goods; value: 253 billion (2010); 19th worldwide.

Imports: machinery and equipment, fuels, chemicals, semi finished goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods, measuring and medical control instruments. value: usd 315 billion (2010); 14th worldwide.