

# Governance of Germany

## Country Name:

conventional long form: Federal Republic of Germany

conventional short form: Germany

local long form: Bundesrepublik Deutschland

local short form: Deutschland

**Government:** Federal Republic

**Capital:** Berlin

**Administrative Divisions:** 16 Federal States

**Independence:** 18 January 1871

1871 - unification of the German Empire

1945 - divided into 4 occupation zones after WWII

23 May 1949 - Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) proclaimed

7 October 1949 - German Democratic Republic (East Germany) proclaimed

3 October 1990 - Reunification of East and West Germany into the Federal Republic of Germany

## National Holiday:

**3 October** - German Unity Day

## Executive Branch:

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Chief of State)

Chancellor Friedrich Merz (Head of Government)

**Cabinet:** *Bundesminister* (Federal Ministers) are appointed by the President based on the recommendations of the Chancellor

## Elections:

President elected for five-year term (eligible for second term) by Federal Convention, including all members of Federal Assembly and an equal number of delegates elected by state parliaments

Chancellor elected by majority of Federal Assembly (four-year term)

## Legislative Branch: Bicameral Parliament

**Federal Assembly (Bundestag)** - 631 seats; elected by popular vote under a system combining direct and proportional representation to four-year terms

**Federal Council (Bundesrat)** - 69 votes; state governments are directly represented by three to six votes depending on population and must vote as a block



# Income, Basic Expenses, and Taxes

**Average Monthly Take-Home Wage: 3,950 EUR**

6,640 AUD | 6,140 CAD | 3,340 GBP | 4,480 USD

**Minimum Monthly Take-Home Wage: 1,650 EUR**

2,775 AUD | 2,565 CAD | 1,395 GBP | 1,870 USD

**Average Rent in Cities (85 m<sup>2</sup>/900 ft<sup>2</sup>): 1,450 EUR**

2,440 AUD | 2,255 CAD | 1,225 GBP | 1,645 USD

**Monthly Rent outside Cities (85 m<sup>2</sup>/900 ft<sup>2</sup>): 1,050 EUR**

1,765 AUD | 1,635 CAD | 890 GBP | 1,190 USD

**Average Monthly Utilities: 320 EUR**

540 AUD | 500 CAD | 270 GBP | 365 USD

**Average Monthly Groceries and Food: 550 EUR**

925 AUD | 855 CAD | 465 GBP | 625 USD

**Note:** by and large, Germany's cost of living is quite moderate compared to Western European countries; a national minimum wage was introduced in 2015, replacing sector-based wage agreements.

**0.00%** - annual tax rate for income up to 12,348 EUR

19,755 AUD | 19,160 CAD | 10,480 GBP | 14,020 USD

**14.00-42.00%** - annual tax rate, 12,349 - 69,878 EUR

...111,800 AUD | ...108,300 CAD | ...59,300 GBP | ...79,350 USD

**42.00%** - annual tax rate, 69,879 - 277,825 EUR

...444,520 AUD | ...431,250 CAD | ...235,800 GBP | ...315,270 USD

**45.00%** - annual tax rate, 277,826+ EUR

...444,521+ AUD | ...431,251+ CAD | ...235,801+ GBP | ...315,217+ USD

**Note:** Germany employs a progressive income tax system, meaning tax rates rise as taxable income increases. As a result, higher earnings always produce higher net income after tax, since only income above each threshold is taxed at the higher marginal rate. The top marginal rate begins at approximately €69,879, while the 45% Reichensteuer ("rich tax") applies only to income exceeding €277,825.

**Standard VAT Rate:** 19%

**Reduced VAT Rate:** 7%

(many food items, books, newspapers, and selected cultural goods and services)



# German Geography

**Area total:** 357,022 km<sup>2</sup> | 137,847 sq mi  
**land:** 348,672 km<sup>2</sup> | 134,623 sq mi  
**water:** 8,350 km<sup>2</sup> | 3,224 sq mi

**Comparative:** slightly smaller than Montana

**Land Boundaries:** 3,790 km | 2,355 mi

**Coastline:** 2,389 km | 1,485 mi

**Land Use:** arable land: 34.2%  
 permanent crops: 0.6%  
 permanent pastures: 13.3%  
 forests: 31.8%  
 other: 20.2%



**Geographic Note:** Germany is strategically located on the North European Plain and along the entrance to the Baltic Sea

**Climate:** temperate and marine; cool, cloudy, wet winters and summers; warm mountain wind in southern Germany called the *Föhn*.

**Terrain:** lowlands in North, uplands in center, Bavarian Alps in South.

# German Population

**Population:** 84,100,000

**Nationality:** noun: German(s)  
 adjective: German

**Median Age/** total: 46.9 / 81.2 years  
**Life Expectancy:** male: 45.5 / 78.6 years  
 female: 48.3 / 83.4 years

**Population Growth:** -0.13%

**Birth Rate:** 8.9 births / 1,000 population

**Death Rate:** 12.0 deaths / 1,000 population

**Net Migration:** 1.8 migrants / 1,000 population

**Population** 13% are under 15

**Breakdown:** 10% are 15 to 24  
 38% are 25 to 54  
 14% are 55 to 64  
 25% are over 65

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

**Literacy:** (def - age 15 and over can read and write)  
 99% total population  
 99% male  
 99% female

**Religious Groups:** 24-25% Roman Catholic  
 22-23% Protestant  
 06-07% Muslim  
 02-03% Orthodox Christians  
 04-05% Other  
 40-42% None

**Ethnic Groups:** 73.0% German  
 4.0% Turkish  
 23.0% Other (made up largely of Poles, Italians, Romanians, Syrians, and Greeks)



# German Economy

**Gross Domestic Product:**

purchasing power parity: \$6.1 trillion  
 official exchange rate: \$4.7 trillion  
 country ranking: 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 229 countries  
 growth rate: +0.2%

**Gross National Saving:**

percentage of GDP: 30.0%  
 country ranking: 40<sup>th</sup> out of 181 countries

**Public Debt:** 63.0% of GDP

**Inflation Rate:** 2.2%

**Key Industries:** iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, electronics, ship building

**Power Generation:** 0.0% nuclear  
 59.0% renewables  
 41.0% fossil fuels

**Labor Force / Sector:** 1.2% agriculture  
 27.0% industry  
 71.8% service industry

# German Currency



**1, 2, 5 EURO CENTS**  
 Oak Leaf



**10, 20, 50 EURO CENTS**  
 Brandenburg Gate



**1, 2 EURO COINS**  
 German Eagle



**5 EURO NOTE**  
 Classical Period



**10 EURO NOTE**  
 Romanesque Period



**Unemployment Rate:** 3.6%

**Pop. Below Poverty Line:** approx. 16.5%

**Imports:**

total: \$1.6 trillion  
 commodities: machinery; data equipment; chemicals; fuels; pharmaceuticals; agricultural products  
 partners: 11.0% China 5.0% France  
 8.0% Netherlands 5.0% Italy  
 7.0% USA 4.0% Czechia  
 6.0% Poland 4.0% Belgium

**Exports:**

total: \$1.9 trillion  
 commodities: machinery/transport equipment; chemicals; pharmaceuticals; foodstuffs; electronics; textiles  
 partners: 10.0% USA 6.0% Poland  
 7.0% France 5.0% Italy  
 7.0% Netherlands 5.0% Austria  
 6.0% China 5.0% UK



**20 EURO NOTE**  
 Gothic Period



**50 EURO NOTE**  
 Renaissance Period



**100 EURO NOTE**  
 Baroque and Rococo Period



**200 EURO NOTE**  
 Age of Iron and Glass