



Germany



Basic Data in a nutshell

Area	357,021 sq km
Coastline	2,389 km
Administrative division	16 states (Bundesländer), Bayern, Sachsen, and Thüringen refer to themselves as free states (Freistaaten)
Capital	Berlin
Population / habitat density	82,400,996 = 231 habitants / sq km
Population growth rate	-0.033%
Official Language	German
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> potatoes, wheat, barley, sugar beets, fruit, cabbages; cattle, pigs, poultry <u>Industries:</u> among the world's largest and most technologically advanced producers of iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, food and beverages, shipbuilding, textiles
Terrain	lowlands in north, uplands in center, Bavarian Alps in south
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maritime climate caused by warm westerly winds from the North Sea in the northwestern and coastal areas → warm summers and mild, cloudy winters - More continental climate farther inland → warmer summers and colder winters - Mountain climate in the alpine regions and in some areas of the Central Uplands → lower temperatures, higher precipitation
Natural Resources	coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, construction materials, timber, arable land



(Source: CIA World Factbook)

No Biodiversity hotspots (according to Conservation International)

Read more:

- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Library of Congress; Washington/USA)



Selected indicators of development status	
HDI *)	0.437 (rank 22 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	<i>male</i> : 75.96 years <i>female</i> : 82.11 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	29,461 US\$/year
GDP composition by sector	<p>0,90% 29,60% 69,50%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p>
Infant mortality	4.08 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	99%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	100% / 100%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	No up-to-date information available
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	No up-to-date information available
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.283
Official Development Assistance (ODA) expended	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	10,082,000,000 US\$ / 122 US\$
% of ODA in GNI 1990/2005	0.42% / 0.36%
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org	
- UNDP Statistics for Germany: http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_DEU.html	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

***) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



Biological Diversity in Germany is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Geographic Regions of Germany:

- Sea and Coastal Areas along North Sea and Baltic Sea
- North German Lowland: flat terrain crossed by northward-flowing watercourses (in parts below sea-level), glacier-formed lakes, wetlands
- Central German Uplands ("Mittelgebirge"): extensive forests, rifts and valleys; moderate in height
- Southern Germany: various linear hill and mountain ranges
- Alpine Foreland and the Alps

→ forest area (2005): 110,800 sq km (31.03% of the national area)

→ 93% of the total land area was naturally forested

...the diversity between and within species:

- Approx. 48,000 animal species; 703 species of vertebrates, 91 species of mammals, 254 species of breeding birds, approx. 28,000 species of plants and fungi, including 66 species of trees
- some 1,400 species are used in agriculture, forestry and horticulture

→ as a consequence of the ice ages and the resulting reduction in the diversity of flora species the number of species occurring exclusively in Germany is small

→ The habitats in Germany have been intensively used and shaped by man for millennia

→ Indeed, by transforming the Central European forest landscapes into a cultivated landscape, humans and their grazing livestock created numerous habitats of a new type, so that biological diversity in Central Europe initially increased until the middle of the last century

Efforts to protect German biodiversity:

- 7,607 protected areas (2003) which cover 31,7% of the total land area
- 0.54% of total land area (1,943 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II)
- 33 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Ammersee, Hamburgisches Wattenmeer), 12 biosphere reserves (i.a. Rhön, Berchtesgaden Alps) and 32 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (i.a. Würzburg Residence, Upper Middle Rhine Valley)
- It is aimed to turn 2% of Germany's territory into wilderness area until 2020

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Read more:

- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
- German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear safety: <http://www.bmu.de/english/nature/current/aktuell/3836.php>
- German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation: <http://www.bfn.de>
- National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM): <http://www.biodiv-chm.de/>
- WWF Germany: <http://www.wwf.de/>
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>

(Sources: Biodiversity Hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; Germany’s Third National Report to the CBD)

Germany’s current environmental challenges are:

emissions from coal-burning utilities and industries contribute to air pollution

acid rain, resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions, is damaging forests

pollution in the Baltic Sea from raw sewage and industrial effluents from rivers in eastern Germany

hazardous waste disposal

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Cultural diversity in Germany is based on...

...different ethnic groups:

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

...different religions:

- Protestant 34%
- Roman Catholic 34%
- Muslim 3.7%
- unaffiliated or other 28.3%

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

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Ecological Footprint	4.5 global ha/person
Biocapacity	1.7 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Germany ranges on place no. 15 - see bar chart:
http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=DE&indicatorid=13

(Source: www.footprintnetwork.org)