

The EURASIA CENTER

The Eurasia Center
1800 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009

www.eurasiacenter.org

Email: Eurasiacenter1@cs.com

Germany: Environmental Overview



Path to EU Accession:

The economic powerhouse of Europe, Germany is one of the most green-friendly countries in the entire EU. About 6.5 million Germans each day go to work that involves protecting the environment. Germany which was recently unified in 1990 has been bringing to the two sides of Germany to an equal footing economically. Ever since the country was unified their economy has been bustling. They now boast the 3rd largest economy and are the world's largest exporter of goods. In 1999 Germany was one of 11 European countries to use the Euro as their currency.

Demographics:

- Germany population of 82,400,996 is one of the largest in the world. They are currently the second largest in Europe behind Russia.
- Protestants and Roman Catholics make up 34% of the population respectively. 28.3% say they are unaffiliated or belong to another religion. The third largest religion is Islam with 3.7% of the population claiming to practice it.¹
- 91.5% of the population is considered to from the German ethnicity. The rest of the population is made up mostly of Turks, Greeks, Italians, Poles, Russians, Spanish, and Serbs-Croats.²
- Life expectancy at birth is nearly 72 years for males and just above 82 years for females.³



Frankfurt shows off its beauty in the German night.

Picture Above: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Frankfurtnight.JPG>

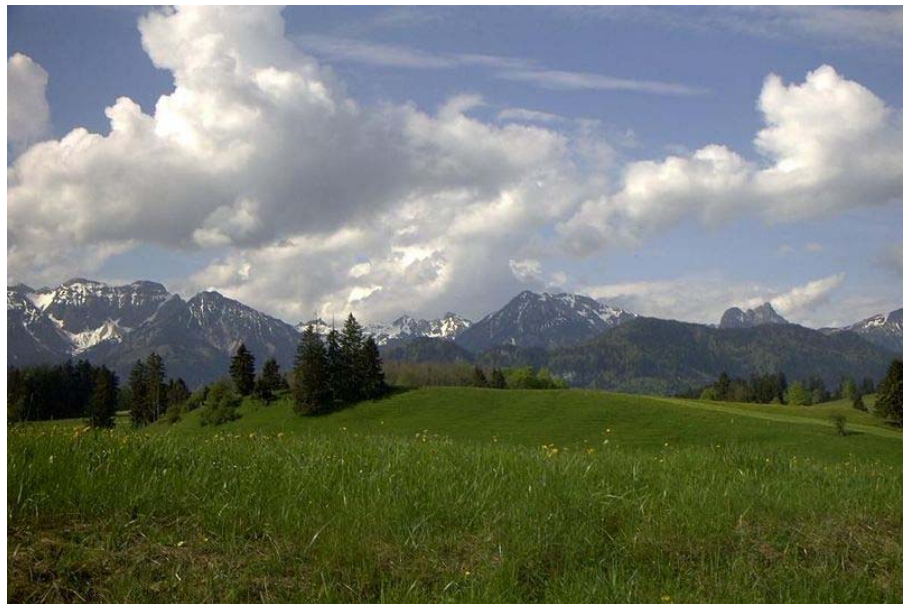
¹ "Germany" 2007 CIA World Factbook

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Education

- The literacy rate in Germany is at 99%. Literacy is officially defined as an ability of a person 15 years old or older to be able to read and write. Interest groups have also estimated that about 4 million Germans are illiterate; a good number of these people are immigrants.⁴
- The federal government does not control of the country's education. Kindergarten is open for every child from the ages of 3-6. Every child is required to remain in school for duration of 12 years once he/she turns 7. Any student who decides to leave school after spending 9 years is required to take a 3-year vocational training course which is ran by the federal government.
- For students to be accepted in to college, they must pass an exam called *das Abitur*. Once accepted into college, public university students do not pay tuition fee as long as they obtain their 1st degree on within a certain time period. The alternative to study at a university is attending a vocational training school.⁵
- Only 19.3% of all Germans hold a University degree, this is due to the fact that it is difficult to get into a university.⁶
- According to a recent ranking, 10 German universities made the list of the top 200 universities in the world.⁷



Germany a nation of many landscapes includes this beautiful view of the Bavarian valleys with the Alps in the background.

Picture Above: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Bavarian_Alps_2002.JPG

Geography/Natural Resources:

- Germany is located in the heart of Central Europe and shares its borders with Denmark (to the north). Poland and Czech Republic to the east of

⁴ "Library of Congress" <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Germany.pdf>>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Germany" [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany).

Germany. Austria and Switzerland share the southern part of Germany's borders. France, Luxembourg are to Germany's southwest with Belgium and Holland to its northwest.

- Germany maintains a total of area of 357,021 square kilometers about the same size as the state of Montana. This makes it the ninth largest country in Europe and the biggest of the 2004 EU newcomers.⁸
- The terrain is made up of low plains in the northern part of the country. The central and eastern parts are made up of hills and high plains. The south is mostly mountainous especially around the Swiss border. The German climate is much rainier and cooler than the United States' climate.⁹
- There are three main rivers in Germany, the Rhine, Elbe, and the Danube. The length of these rivers range from 687 km-865 km.¹⁰
- Germany's natural resources include: coal, lignite, iron ore, natural gas, copper, timber, and salt among many others.¹¹
- Germany's official policy promotes the usage and development of renewable energy. In 2002, 40% of the country's energy came from oil, followed by 23% of coal, 22% from natural gas, 11% from nuclear and 4% from hydro and other renewable energy sources.¹²

Agriculture

- Since the 1960s, the European Council has created Germany's agricultural policy.¹³
- Poland joined the EU in 2004, and it now occupies 13.9% of EU agricultural land. As a result, Germany participates in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The CAP is designed to give German farmers plenty of help in agricultural



The economic might of Berlin is clearly evident with the modern buildings that have been built in the city.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "Germany" U.S. State Dept. <<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3997.htm>>

¹⁰ "Germany" Wikipedia.

¹¹ 2005 CIA World Factbook

¹² "Economy of Germany" Wikipedia

¹³ <http://countrystudies.us/germany/144.htm>

subsidies.¹⁴

- About 2.8% of the labor force is in the agricultural sector, which consists of 1% of Germany's GDP. Permanent crops make up of 0.6% of the land, and arable land takes up for 33.13% of the overall land usage.¹⁵
- Key agricultural products include: potatoes, poultry, wheat, barley, sugar beets, cattle, and pigs.¹⁶
- In 2001, Germany was home to 25.767 million hogs, 14,568,000 head of cattle, 108 million chickens, and 9 million turkeys. In the year 2000 the nation churned out 28.9 million tons of cheese and 4.1 million tons of pork. This makes Germany the leading producer of meat and milk in the entire continent of Europe.¹⁷

Picture Above: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Frankfurtnight.JPG>

Relevant Environmental Laws and Regulations:

Kyoto Protocol

- An international agreement in which adherents voluntarily sign up to limit their carbon emissions in an effort to reduce global warming. Nations can buy and sell emission credits in order to fulfill their pledge.
- Between the years of 1990-2004, Germany has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 17.2%. The EU has assigned objective of -21% for 2012.¹⁸

Chemicals Act

- The government amended this law in 1998.
- The purpose of this act is to protect the environment as well as human life from dangerous chemicals.
- Includes import restrictions of certain chemicals.¹⁹

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- The then European Community enacted this directive in 1991, laying out the requirements of EU states for waste water treatment.
- The directive is an attempt to create a system of monitoring and periodically reviewing water treatment, as well as constructing water treatment facilities and urban waste water collecting systems.
- The European Commission offers financial grants to NGOs for assistance in implementing the various sections of the UWWTD.²⁰

¹⁴ http://www.farmsubsidy.org/files/Allocation_of_2004_EU_expenditure.pdf

¹⁵ 2005 CIA World Factbook

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ "Germany: Animal Husbandry <<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/germany-animal-husbandry.html>>

¹⁸ "Kyoto Protocol" [Wikipedia](#).

¹⁹ "Chemicals Act" <http://www.iuscomp.org/gla/statutes/ChemG.htm#I>

²⁰ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-urbanwaste/directiv.html>

Water Framework Directive

- EU legislation on water policy, which began in 2000 and seeks to ensure water quality across Europe.²¹

Current Funding Projects:

The Building Renovation Programme

- It is a program that renovates old buildings to make them economically friendly in response to global warming.²²

Acknowledgements:

***Research and Data Development Provided by: Ankit Sheth, Research Assistant
Under the Supervision and Coordination of: Dr. Samuel Lee Hancock, CM, Executive
Director***

²¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/waterframework/index_en.html

²² http://www.un.org/jsummit/html/prep_process/national_reports/ger_natl_assess_0107.pdf