

Facts about Germany

Geography

The North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts in the north and the Alps in the south form the only natural boundaries of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its territory covers about 250,000 square kilometers or approximately 1/40 of Canada's area. Situated in the centre of Europe, the Federal Republic of Germany shares a common border with nine neighbours, more than any other state in Europe. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Europe with an average population density of 245 persons per square kilometer and with a total population of 61 million, of which about 4.7 million are foreigners (1.6 million so-called guest workers).

Despite heavy industrialization, 55 % of Germany's area is used for agricultural purposes; yet another 30 % is forest.

Government

The Federal Republic of Germany is a democratic state consisting of a federation of ten provinces (Länder) and of Greater Berlin. It was formed in 1949 from the three Western occupation zones, with Bonn as its new capital. At the same time, the German Democratic Republic was created in the Soviet-occupied zone.