

## Country Profile



**Ukraine** is a state in East-Central Europe, bounded on the north by Belarus (952 km), on the northeast by the Russian Federation (2,484 km), on the west by Poland (542 km) and Slovakia (98 km), and on the southwest by Hungary (135 km), Romania (608 km), and Moldova (1,194 km). The state border extends for a total of **7,698 km**, and the length of Ukraine`s sea coast is **1,758 km**.

**Total area: 603,700 sq.km.**

Ukraine is the biggest country in Europe. It is divided into **24 regions** (oblasts) and an Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The country has an access to the Black Sea and the Azov Sea and two mountainsides: the Ukrainian Carpathians in the West and the Crimean Mountains in the South.

As of 1 May 2009, **Ukraine`s population** amounted to **46,06 mn** people.

The capital (and the country`s biggest) city is Kyiv (4.1 mn people). Ukraine`s **GDP** is USD 120 bn (2009 expert estimate), PPP is USD 6,460.

In the new 2009 Human Development Report, Ukraine`s human development index (**HDI**) value based on 2008 data is 0.796 — in the medium human development range — positioning the country at **85** out of 182 countries and territories.

In 2007 relative to 2006, Ukraine`s ranking went one place down and 7 places down between 2006 and 2005 (in 2005 – Ukraine`s HDI rank was 78 out of 177 countries) -

with its **HDI** comparable to Azerbaijan (86), Thailand (87), Iran (88) and Armenia (84) within the same medium human development range of countries.

Having celebrated the eighteenth anniversary of independence in 2009, Ukraine appeared as a country with a greater sense of freedom and a stronger feeling of national identity. Among the countries of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine firmly stands out in its commitment to European values, pluralism, freedom of speech and vigour of various non-governmental actors. However, this progress remains delicate and needs to be consolidated.

Ukraine pursues numerous democratic governance reforms and changes. The country reaffirmed its European Choice, and embarked on a course towards further international economic integration.

We are very grateful to our national counterparts and donors for their commitment and joint effort in advancing the human development agenda in Ukraine.

Ukraine is member to numerous world and regional international bodies, including UN, OSCE, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The country is currently taking steps to accede to EU and NATO, and has special partnership with both organizations.

Ukraine obtained a market economy status from both the USA and the EU and has also joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Foreign direct investment (FDI) has continued to flow in, although in a relatively low volume.

Energy remained a significant challenge for Ukraine. Reforms of the energy sector have not advanced much since 2004. In addition, ever-growing prices of gas imported from Russia in early create negative effect on Ukraine's economy, but expose greater urgency for energy efficiency across Ukraine.

The country's capacities to withstand external and domestic challenges will depend on Ukrainian leaders' abilities to strengthen stability, bolster decentralization and reform the justice system, as well as take steps that will attract higher FDI, reform technologically outdated industries, unleash robust, stable long-term growth and distribute its fruits more equitably.

*For more information on Ukraine please visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine <http://www.mfa.gov.ua/mfa/en/publication/content/42.htm>.*

*The map is provided by [www.ukraine.com](http://www.ukraine.com).*

URL: <http://www.un.org.ua/en/un-country-team-in-ukraine/country-profile>

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