

# Greece



## FACTS

- **Population:** 11 million (UN, 2005)
- **Capital:** Athens
- **Area:** 131,957 sq km (50,949 sq miles)
- **Major language:** Greek
- **Major religion:** Christianity
- **Life expectancy:** 76 years (men), 81 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 euro = 100 cents
- **Main exports:** Textiles and clothing, food, oil products
- **GNI per capita:** US \$19,670 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Internet domain:** .gr
- **International dialling code:** +30

## LEADERS

**President:** Karolos Papoulias



**Prime minister:** Costas Karamanlis

The Greek conservative New Democracy Party led by Costas Karamanlis took over the reins of government from the Pan Hellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) following a convincing win in elections in early March 2004.

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## **MEDIA**

### **The press**

- [Eleftherotypia](#) - evening daily
- [Ta Nea](#) - evening daily
- [Kathimerini](#) - morning daily, English-language pages
- [Athens News](#) - English-language weekly

### **Television**

- [ERT](#) - public, operates entertainment-based ET1, NET, regional and cultural channel ET3
- [Mega TV](#) - major commercial station
- [Antenna TV](#) - major commercial station
- [Alpha TV](#) - major commercial station

### **Radio**

- [ERA](#) - public, operates main network ERA1, entertainment station ERA2, cultural station ERA3, sport and music station ERA4, regional services, external service Voice of Greece
- [Antenna FM](#) - commercial network
- [Athena 98,4](#) - municipal Athens station, one of the first non-state radios
- [Skai 100.3](#) - commercial network
- [Sfera 102.2](#) - commercial network

### **News agencies**

- [Athens News Agency](#)
- [Netnews](#)

# Poland



## FACTS

- **Full name:** Republic of Poland
- **Population:** 38.5 million (UN, 2005)
- **Capital:** Warsaw
- **Area:** 312,685 sq km (120,728 sq miles)
- **Major language:** Polish
- **Major religion:** Christianity
- **Life expectancy:** 70 years (men), 78 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 zloty = 100 groszy
- **Main exports:** Machinery and transport equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals
- **GNI per capita:** US \$7,100 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Internet domain:** .pl
- **International dialling code:** +48

## LEADERS

**President:** Lech Kaczynski



Lech Kaczynski, from the conservative Law and Justice party, won a run-off vote in October 2005. He enjoyed strong support from traditionalist and rural voters.

**Prime minister:** Jaroslaw Kaczynski



Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the identical twin of the president, became prime minister in July 2006 after his predecessor, Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, resigned.

## **MEDIA**

### **The press**

- [Gazeta Wyborcza](#) - mass-circulation daily
- [Rzeczpospolita](#) - influential daily
- [Dziennik](#) - daily, launched in 2006
- [Super Express](#) - mass-circulation tabloid
- [Gazeta Polska](#) - weekly
- [Polityka](#) - weekly
- [Wprost](#) - weekly
- [Newsweek Polska](#) - weekly
- [The Warsaw Voice](#) - English-language weekly
- [Warsaw Business Journal](#) - English-language weekly

### **Television**

- [Telewizja Polska \(TVP\)](#) - public, operates two national networks, regional services and international satellite channel TV Polonia
- [TVN](#) - commercial, also operates news channel TVN 24
- [Polsat](#) - commercial channel and pay-TV operator
- [Cyfra+](#) - pay-TV operator

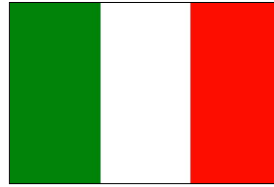
### **Radio**

- [Polish Radio](#) - public, operates five national networks and many regional stations
- [Radio Polonia](#) - public, external service
- [RMF FM](#) - commercial
- [Radio Zet](#) - commercial
- [Radio Maryja](#) - controversial Catholic station, run by Redemptorist Order

### **News agency**

- [Polish News Agency \(PAP\)](#)

# Italy



## FACTS

- **Full name:** Italian Republic
- **Population:** 57.2 million (UN, 2005)
- **Capital:** Rome
- **Area:** 301,338 sq km (116,346 sq miles)
- **Major language:** Italian
- **Major religion:** Christianity
- **Life expectancy:** 77 years (men), 83 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 euro = 100 cents
- **Main exports:** Machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, clothes, wine
- **GNI per capita:** US \$30,010 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Internet domain:** .it
- **International dialling code:** +39

## LEADERS

**President:** Giorgio Napolitano

Giorgio Napolitano, a former Communist Party member, was sworn in as Italy's 11th post-war president in May 2006.

The Italian president heads the armed forces and has powers to veto legislation, disband parliament and call elections.

**Prime minister:** Romano Prodi

Opposition leader and former prime minister Romano Prodi won closely-fought general elections in April 2006.



## **MEDIA**

### **The press**

- [Corriere della Sera](#) - major daily
- [La Repubblica](#) - daily, owned by L'Espresso group
- [Il Messaggero](#) - Rome-based daily
- [La Stampa](#) - daily, owned by Fiat group
- [Il Sole 24 Ore](#) - financial daily

### **Television**

- [Rai](#) - public broadcaster, stations include Rai Uno, Rai Due, Rai Tre, rolling news channel Rai News 24 and a number of cable/satellite services
- [Mediaset](#) - Italy's foremost private TV broadcaster, operates Italia 1, Rete 4 and Canale 5

### **Radio**

- [Rai](#) - public broadcaster, stations include flagship national network Radio 1, entertainment-based Radio 2, cultural station Radio 3 and parliamentary station GR Parlamento
- [Radio 24](#) - commercial network, news and business
- [R101](#) - commercial network, pop music
- [Radio Italia](#) - commercial network, Italian pop music

### **News agency**

- [Ansa](#)

## Spain



### FACTS

- **Population:** 44.1 million (official figure, 2005)
- **Capital:** Madrid
- **Area:** 505,988 sq km (195,363 sq miles)
- **Major languages:** Spanish (Castilian), Catalan, Gallego (Galician), Euskera (Basque)
- **Major religion:** Christianity
- **Life expectancy:** 76 years (men), 83 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 euro = 100 cents
- **Main exports:** Transport equipment, agricultural products
- **GNI per capita:** US \$25,360 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Internet domain:** .es
- **International dialling code:** +34

## LEADERS

**Head of state:** King Juan Carlos I

Spaniards honour King Carlos for ensuring the country's transition to democracy after the death of the former dictator, General Franco, and for saving Spain from a coup attempt in 1981.



**Prime Minister:** Jose Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

**Vice-president:** María Teresa Fernández de la Vega

## **MEDIA**

### **The press**

- [El Mundo](#) - Madrid-based daily
- [El Pais](#) - Madrid-based daily
- [ABC](#) - Madrid-based daily
- [La Razon](#) - Madrid-based daily
- [La Vanguardia](#) - Barcelona-based daily
- [El Periodico de Catalunya](#) - Barcelona-based daily

### **Television**

- [TVE](#) - public, services include national networks La Primera and La 2, satellite-delivered TVE Internacional, rolling news channel 24 Horas
- [Tele Cinco](#) - national, commercial
- [Antena 3](#) - national, commercial
- [Cuatro](#) - national, commercial, formerly Canal+ Espana

### **Radio**

- [RNE](#) - public, services include speech network Radio 1, cultural network Radio Clasica, youth-oriented Radio 3, news station Radio 5 Todo Noticias
- [Cadena SER](#) - commercial
- [Onda Cero](#) - commercial
- [Cadena COPE](#) - church-controlled

### **News agencies**

- [EFE](#) - state-run
- [Europa Press](#) - private

