



# ITALY



## INTRODUCTION

Italy became a nation-state in 1861 when the regional states of the peninsula, along with Sardinia and Sicily, were united. Italy is a charter member of NATO and the European Economic Community (EEC) and its subsequent successors the EC and the EU. At the forefront of European economic and political unification, Italy joined the Economic and Monetary Union in 1999.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

President Sergio MATTARELLA

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Mario DRAGHI

### Government Type

parliamentary republic

### Capital

Rome

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament or Parlamento consists of the Senate or Senato della Repubblica (320 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camera dei Deputati (630 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 301,340 sq km

Land: 294,140 sq km

Water: 7,200 sq km

### Climate

predominantly Mediterranean; alpine in far north; hot, dry in south

### Natural Resources

coal, antimony, mercury, zinc, potash, marble, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluorspar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, arable land

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

core EU economy; strong services, manufacturing, and tourism sectors; hard hit by COVID-19 disruptions but starting to recover; large EU exporter but data skews due to inflated port entry valuation; corruption somewhat stymies foreign direct investment

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$2.322 trillion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$39,000 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - tourism, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, food processing, textiles, motor vehicles, clothing, footwear, ceramics

**Agricultural products** - milk, grapes, wheat, maize, tomatoes, apples, olives, sugar beets, oranges, rice

**Exports** \$558.3 billion (2020 est.)

packaged medicines, cars/vehicle parts, refined petroleum, valves, trunks/cases, wine (2019)

**partners:** Germany 12%, France 11%, US 10%, UK 5%, Spain 5%, Switzerland 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$486.4 billion (2020 est.)

crude petroleum, cars, packaged medicines, natural gas, refined petroleum (2019)

**partners:** Germany 16%, France 9%, China 7%, Spain 5%, Netherlands 5%, Belgium 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

62.4 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.09% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Italian (small clusters of German-, French-, and Slovene-Italians in the north and Albanian-Italians and Greek-Italians in the south)

### Language

Italian (official), German, French, Slovene

### Religion

Christian 80.8% (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic with very small groups of Jehovah's Witnesses and Protestants), Muslim 4.9%, unaffiliated 13.4%, other 0.9% (2020 est.)

