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.)
as of October 2021