INTRODUCTION
Popes in their secular role ruled portions of the Italian peninsula for more than a thousand years until the mid-19th century, when many of the Papal States were seized by the newly United Kingdom of Italy. In 1870, the pope’s holdings were further circumscribed when Rome itself was annexed.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Pope FRANCIS
Head of Government
Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro PAROLIN
Government Type
ecclesiastical elective monarchy; self-described as an "absolute monarchy"
Capital
Vatican City
Legislature
unicameral Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State or Pontificia Commissione per lo Stato della Citta del Vaticano (7 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
limited, tourism-based economy; euro user but issues commemorative stamps and coins; solar energy producer; some printing industry to support museums and religious needs
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
NA
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
NA
Industries
printing; production of coins, medals, postage stamps; mosaics, staff uniforms; worldwide banking and financial activities
Agricultural products
NA
Exports
NA
Imports
NA

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
1,000 (July 2019 est.)
Population Growth
0% (2014 est.)
Ethnicity
Italian, Swiss, Argentinian, and other nationalities from around the world (2017)
Language
Italian, Latin, French, various other languages
Religion
Roman Catholic
Urbanization
urban population: 100% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 0% annual rate of change (2020-2025 est.)

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