

Ukraine



Capital City: Kiev.

Background: Ukraine was the centre of the first Slavic state, Kievan Rus, which during the 10th and 11th centuries was the largest and most powerful state in Europe. During the latter part of the 18th century most Ukrainian territory was absorbed by the Russian Empire. Following the collapse of czarist Russia in 1917, Ukraine had a short period of independence but was reconquered and forced to endure a brutal Soviet rule. Final independence for Ukraine was achieved in 1991 but efforts to establish economic reform, privatisation, and civil liberties have been difficult. A peaceful mass protest in late 2004, 'Orange Revolution', resulted in internationally monitored elections that swept a reformist government into power.

Geography:

- **Location:** Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Poland, Romania, and Moldova in the west and Russia in the east.
- **Area comparative:** Almost 9 times the size of Ireland.
- **Climate:** Temperate continental; Mediterranean only on the southern Crimean coast; winters vary from cool along the Black Sea to cold farther inland; summers are warm across the greater part of the country, hot in the south.
- **Natural resources:** Iron ore, coal, manganese, natural gas, oil, salt, sulfur, graphite, titanium, magnesium, kaolin, nickel, mercury, timber, arable land.
- **Natural hazards:** No information.
- **Environment issues:** Inadequate supplies of potable water; air and water pollution; deforestation; radiation contamination in the northeast from 1986 accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

People:

- **Population:** 46,710,816
- **Birth rate:** 8.82 births per 1,000 population.
- **Infant mortality:** 9.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Life expectancy:** *Total population:* 69.98 years, *male:* 64.71 years, *female:* 75.59 years.



Religion: Ukrainian Orthodox 45% approx., Ukrainian Greek Catholic 6%, Protestant, Jewish, none 38%.

Government:

- **Type of government:** Republic
- **Administrative divisions:** 24 provinces 1 autonomous republic.
- **Independence:** 24 August 1991 from the Soviet Union.
- **National holiday:** Independence Day, 24 August (1991).

Economy:

- **Unemployment:** 3.1% officially registered; large number of unregistered workers.
- **Population below the poverty line:** 29%
- **Agricultural products:** Grain, sugar beet, sunflower seeds, vegetables, beef, milk.
- **Industries:** Coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food processing.

Education:

- **Literacy:** *Definition:* age 15 and over can read and write. *Total population:* 99.7%, *male:* 99.8%, *female:* 99.6% (2003 est.).
- **Language:** Ukrainian (official) 67%, Russian 24%, small Romanian, Polish, and Hungarian-speaking minorities.

Communication:

- **Telephone lines:** Landlines: 12.142 million, Mobile lines: 13.735 million.
- **TV stations:** at least 33
- **Internet users:** 5,278,100

Asylum: According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) statistics in 2005 there was less than 100 asylum claims in Ireland by Ukrainian nationals.

Internally Displaced Persons: The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre at the end of November 2006 did not record an internally displaced population in Ukraine.

Migration: In the first ten months of 2006 the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment issued 1,476 work permits to Ukrainian nationals.

Sources:

CIA - *The World Factbook -- Ukraine*, <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/up.html>, 21/07/06.
UNHCR 2005 *Global Refugee Trends*, <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/STATISTICS/4486ceb12.pdf>, 9/6/2006.
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre - *Statistics*, <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>, 30/11/06.
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment *Statistical Tables*,
<http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/statistics.htm>, 1/11/2006.
Flag from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/flagsoftheworld.html>
Map from <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/refmaps.html>
Photo from www.cheremosh.ca/school.html