



Luxembourg at a glance

AT A GLANCE

Name

Official name:

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

National holiday:

23 June

Languages

National language:

luxembourgish (*lëtzebuergesch*)

Administrative languages:

french, german and luxembourgish

Geography

Area: 2,586 sq. km

Of which: agricultural: 49%
wooded: 34%

Neighbouring countries:

Germany, Belgium and France

Main towns:

Luxembourg and Esch-sur-Alzette

Administrative subdivisions:

3 districts (Luxembourg, Diekirch and Grevenmacher)
12 cantons, 118 town council areas (*communes*)



Climate

Temperate

From May to mid-October, the temperatures are particularly pleasant. Whereas May and June are the sunniest months, July and August are the hottest. In September and October Luxembourg often experiences his own "Indian Summer".

Population

Total population:

451,600 inhabitants, 81,800 of whom live in the City of Luxembourg. Over 174,200 (38.6%) people out of the total population are foreigners.
(Source: STATEC January 2004)

The capital

City of Luxembourg



Government

Form of government:

constitutional monarchy under a system of parliamentary democracy

Head of State:

HRH Grand Duke Henri (since October 7, 2000)

Head of government:

Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister

Parties in power in the government:

coalition between the Christian-Social Party (CSV) and the Socialist Workers' Party of Luxembourg (LSAP)

Parties represented in the Chamber of Deputies:

Christian-Social Party (CSV),
Socialist Workers' Party of Luxembourg (LSAP),
Democratic Party of Luxembourg (DP),
The Greens (Déi Gréng),
Action Committee for Democracy and Fair Pensions (ADR)

Economy

Currency:

Euro

Unemployment rate in 2003:

3.8%

Inflation rate in 2003:

2.0%

GDP (real growth rate) in 2003:

2.1%

Number of banks on 1st January 2004:

169

(Source: Statec)

Useful addresses:

Service information et presse du Gouvernement (Government Information and Press Service)

33, boulevard Roosevelt, L-2450 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 478 21 81, Fax: (+352) 47 02 85

www.gouvernement.lu

www.luxembourg.lu

info@sip.etat.lu

Service central de la statistique et des études économiques (STATEC)

(Central Statistics and Economic Studies Service)

13, rue Erasme, bâtiment Pierre Werner,

B.P. 304, L-2013 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 478 42 52, Fax: (+352) 46 42 89

www.statec.lu

info@statec.etat.lu

Ministère de l'Économie (Ministry of Economy)

6, boulevard Royal, L-2449 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 478 41 06, Fax: (+352) 46 04 48

www.eco.public.lu

Office national du Tourisme (National Tourist Office)

68-70, bd. de la Pétrusse, B.P. 1001, L-1010 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 42 82 82 10, Fax: (+352) 42 82 82 38

www.ont.lu

info@ont.lu





Education in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

EDUCATION Education

The Luxembourg constitution confers the State the right to organize and regulate education. As a result, most schools are public and non-fee-paying. There are some private schools that teach the same subjects, but they are fee-paying. Each child over six years of age on 1 September of the current year must attend school for nine years, i.e. until the age of 15.

Languages

The linguistic situation in Luxembourg is characterized by the practice and recognition of three official languages – Luxembourgish, French and German. German is taught from the very first school year, while French is taught the following years. Moreover, German is the main language for primary education, as well as for the first few years of secondary classical and secondary technical education. French, however, is used predominantly in secondary classical education. The number of hours devoted to language teaching accounts for 50% of the total of subjects taught during the entire schooling. During these years, Luxembourgish remains the main teaching language.

Religion

Religious studies and moral and social education are compulsory in primary and secondary school.

The school system

Early education is aimed at children from the age of three. It helps children to socialize and immigrant children to integrate properly. This project was introduced for the start of the new school year 2000-2001. Early education is not compulsory. Preschool education is compulsory for children over four years of age on 1 September of the current year, in accordance with the grand-ducal regulation of 2 September 1992. Primary education takes six years and is intended for children having reached the age of six by 1 September of the current year.

Post-primary education takes six or seven years depending on the orientation chosen and is split into two sections - secondary education, which concentrates on classical subjects and prepares students for university, and technical secondary education, which offers practical and vocational training.



The University of Luxembourg commenced activity at the start of the academic year 2003/2004. It is the legal successor to the various higher education establishments it replaces.

Teaching and research are organised in faculties, and interdisciplinary centres dealing with subjects that simultaneously relate to several disciplines.

A complete university cycle has three study levels, each leading to a different degree. The first level is concluded with a Bachelor's Degree, the second a Master's Degree and the third a Doctorate.

The period of study for the first two levels is five years. In principle, the period for the third level is at least three years. One of the University's vocations is to contribute to the initial and then continuing educational training of teachers for the Luxembourg school system. Another is to provide the necessary link between teaching and research activities. For that reason, it is involved in fundamental, applied and technological research.

Research activities are carried out through projects implemented by virtue of agreements reached with national and international research institutions, organisations, companies and establishments.

Useful addresses:

Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research)

20, Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2273 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 66 19, Fax: (+352) 29 21 86
www.ltam.lu/culture

Ministère de l'Education nationale, de la Formation professionnelle et des Sports (Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training and Sport)

29, rue Aldringen, L-1118 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478-51 00, Fax: (+352) 478-51 13
www.men.lu/
info@men.lu

Institut national pour le développement de la formation professionnelle continue (National Institute for the Development of Further Vocational Training)

38 rue de l'Avenir, L-1147 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 46 96 12 1, Fax: (+352) 46 96 20
www.lifelong-learning.lu
info@lifelong-learning.lu

Université du Luxembourg

162a, avenue de la Faiëncerie, L-1511 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 46 66 44-1, Fax: (+352) 46 66 44-506
www.uni.lu

Centre de psychologie et d'orientation scolaire (CPOS) (Psychology and Educational Guidance Centre)

280, route de Longwy, L-1940 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 45 64 64-1, Fax: (+352) 45 45 44
www.cpos.lu

Centre de documentation et d'information sur les études supérieures (CEDIES)

211, route d'Esch, L-1471 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 86 50, Fax: (+352) 45 56 56
cedies@mcesr.etat.lu





The geography of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Geography

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is located in the heart of Western Europe between Belgium, Germany and France. The Grand Duchy has two natural regions: Oesling in the north and Gutland (literally Good Land), which includes the Moselle valley in the east and the Minette coal basin in the south. Forests cover almost 40% of the land. The country covers an area of 2,586 sq. km, 1,758 sq. km of which is in Gutland and the remaining 828 sq. km in Oesling. Its total population in January 2004 was 451,600.

The capital

The City of Luxembourg has a population of 81.800. Visitors never fail to be surprised by the contrast between the modern upper city, perched on a rocky plateau that's a modern sheer drop, and the three lower old towns, Grund ("the Bottom"), Clausen and Pfaffenthal. The European quarter that is home to the European institutions has been spreading over the Kirchberg plateau to the north-west of the city since the 1960s. The City of Luxembourg is at an altitude of 300 m above sea level.

The regions

The variety of Luxembourg's landscapes is one of its main attractions, despite being divided into just two main regions, Oesling and Gutland.

- **The Oesling**, in the north, is part of the Ardennes massif and borders Germany's Eifel plateau. This wooded region occupies a third of the country and attracts many tourists. It is also the highest region in Luxembourg, rising to some 560 m (Wilwerdange). Oesling has a harsh climate and is an area of highland villages, lakes and rivers with oak and pine forests covering its steep slopes. Its main towns are Wiltz, Vianden and Clervaux.

- The Troisvierges plateau, to the north of the Oesling, is mainly arable land and has few forests.

It is the coldest and wettest area in Luxembourg.

- The Ardennes plateau, traversed by rivers below the Wiltz basin, is the area most typical of the Oesling. Its landscapes are rich in contrasts of form and colour, plateau and forest.

The area where the Oesling and the Gutland meet is one of the country's foremost agricultural regions thanks to its rich and varied soils.

- **The Gutland** occupies the south and centre of Luxembourg and forms the rest of the country (68%).

It is mainly open countryside and forests. It has six main regions:

- Luxembourg's Sandstone plateau is the dominating feature of Gutland. It includes some of Luxembourg's finest forests. The capital is its only town.

- Marly depressions are the most widespread and typical landscapes in Gutland. Extending to the foot of the Dogger hills and Luxembourg Sandstone, they are made up of sweeping valleys. More than two thirds of the area are given over to farming.

- The Moselle valley is the most imposing valley in Luxembourg, owing to its size and the variety of its countryside. It is one of the main magnets attracting visitors to the country, largely due to its winemaking activities.

- Petite Suisse ("Little Switzerland") or "Müllerthal" lies to the north of the Moselle valley, on the border with Germany. Its main town, Echternach, is one of the oldest in Luxembourg.

- The Terres Rouges ("Red Lands") are located to the south of the marly depressions. Here industry has moulded the landscape, iron ore having been extracted from the red land. Its main towns are Esch-sur-Alzette, the second largest in Luxembourg, Dudelange and Differdange.

- The Valley of the Seven Castles is a 24-km area that includes the châteaux of Mersch, Schoenfels and Hollenfels, the two châteaux of Ansembourg and the châteaux of Septfontaines and Koerich. These castles are set in a landscape of meadows and old villages, making them the perfect settings for many enchanting walks.



Climate

Luxembourg does not have a clearly defined climate: it varies between the oceanic climate of the Atlantic zone (small seasonal differences and mild, wet winters) and the continental climate of the eastern European plains (strong seasonal differences, harsh winters and wet summers). The oceanic influence brings rain in every season, while the continental influence brings a biting dry cold in the winter. The average temperature ranges between 0°C in January and 17°C in July. The difference in temperature between the north and south rarely exceeds 2°C.

The river system

The four largest rivers in the Grand Duchy are the Moselle, Sûre, Our and Alzette. The others are: the Mess, Mamer, Eisch, Attert and Wark in west; the Wiltz, Clerve and Bles in the north; and the White Ernz, the Black Ernz, Syr and Gander in the east. The Pétrusse is a stream that crosses the City of Luxembourg, before flowing into the Alzette. With the exception of the Chiers, which leaves the south-west of the country on its way to the Meuse basin, Luxembourg's rivers are tributaries of the Rhine basin by way of the Moselle.

Administrative division

The country is divided into three districts (Luxembourg, Diekirch and Grevenmacher), 12 cantons, 118 town council areas (*communes*) and four constituencies. The district of Luxembourg comprises the cantons of Luxembourg, Capellen, Esch-sur-Alzette and Mersch; the district of Diekirch comprises those of Diekirch, Clervaux, Redange, Vianden and Wiltz, and the district of Grevenmacher includes those of Grevenmacher, Echternach and Remich. The district commissioners have a monitoring role and act as intermediaries between the government and local authorities.

Useful addresses:

Ministère de l'Environnement (Ministry of the Environment)

18, Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2327 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 68 24, Fax: (+352) 40 04 10
www.mev.etat.lu

Office national du Tourisme (National Tourist Office)

68-70 bd. De la Pétrusse, B.P. 1001, L-1010 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 42 82 82 10, Fax: (+352) 42 82 82 38
www.ont.lu
info@ont.lu

Luxembourg City Tourist Office

Place d'Armes, L-2011 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 22 28 09, Fax: (+352) 46 70 70
www.lcto.lu
touristinfo@lcto.lu

Ministère des Classes moyennes, du Tourisme et du Logement (Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Businesses and the Self-Employed, of Tourism and of Housing)

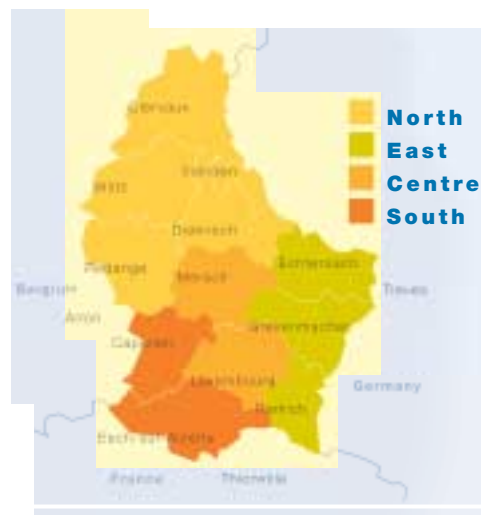
6, avenue Emile Reuter, L-2420 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 47 06, Fax: (+352) 47 40 11 (tourisme)
www.mdt.public.lu
info@mdt.public.lu

Musée national d'histoire naturelle (Museum of Natural History)

25, rue Münster, L-2160 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 46 22 331, Fax: (+352) 47 51 52
www.mnhn.lu
musee-info@mnhn.lu

Administration du cadastre et de la topographie (Land Registry & Topography Department)

54, avenue Gaston Diderich, L-1420 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 44 90 11, Fax: (+352) 449 01 333
www.act.etat.lu





The history of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

HISTORY

The foundation of Luxembourg

The name Luxembourg first appeared in 963, in a barter between Count Sigefroid and the Saint Maximin abbey in Trier. Sigefroid became the owner of a rock on which he had a fortified castle built. A city grew around this site and then a country... so that Sigefroid is considered the founder of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg remained a relatively independent principality attached to the German Empire until 1354.

The country then lost its status as earldom and was elevated to that of duchy, also and importantly acquiring the earldom of Chiny. From the 13th century, Luxembourg started to develop into a true principality.

From the dukes of Burgundy to the Netherlands

The dynasty of the counts of Luxembourg died out in 1437 and the flame passed on to the Hapsburgs of Spain. Luxembourg's acquisition by Philip the Good of Burgundy in 1443 proved decisive in its destiny. Incorporated in the Burgundian state and then in the Netherlands, Luxembourg became an intermediary between the kingdom of France and the German Empire.

The death of Charles the Bold, Philip the Good's son, put an end to the Burgundian era, and the principalities of the North passed to the Austrian Hapsburgs in 1715. They formed a confederation called the Netherlands, to which Luxembourg belonged until 1839.

Luxembourg was incorporated into the French Republic in 1795, and was given the name *Département des Forêts* (Department of the Forests). It had already been under French occupation during the reign of Louis XIV, during which time Vauban fortified the City of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg as an independent country

The Congress of Vienna elevated the Duchy of Luxembourg to the rank of Grand Duchy in 1815, theoretically making it independent, while linking it by personal union to the Netherlands. The two were recognized as separate countries but ruled by the same sovereign: William I of Orange-Nassau, King of the Netherlands, Grand Duke of Luxembourg.

The 1839 Treaty of London marked the starting point of Luxembourg's history as an independent country. It cut Luxembourg in two, giving the French-speaking half to Belgium, while the German-speaking half continued to form the Grand Duchy.

It was from that moment on that Luxembourg's national identity truly came to be forged, in particular with the appearance of its first national anthem in 1859.

But Luxembourg realized it could not be self-sufficient. So William II integrated it into a customs union with Germany, the *Zollverein* in 1842.

The progress of the Grand Duchy up to World War II

The country enjoyed strong economic growth during this period, with the discovery of mining fields and the building of railways to carry coal (Luxembourg forms a large coal basin with Lorraine). The rising demand for labour led to heavy immigration.

The personal union between Luxembourg and the Netherlands ended in 1890 with the death of the last male descendant of the Orange-Nassau line, and the crown passed to the Nassau-Weilburg branch, the only Nassavian line with a male descendant. It was then that Luxembourg finally gained its own dynasty, with Grand Duke Adolf as the country's first representative.

Germany's unsuccessful attempt to annex Luxembourg in 1914, which risked violating the neutrality the country had enjoyed since 1867, incited Luxembourg to gain its independence and to leave the *Zollverein*. The Grand Duchy thus entered into an economic union with Belgium in 1921, known as the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU). It subsequently adopted the Belgian franc as the Union's currency, while keeping the Luxembourg franc in limited issue.



The interwar years

The economic depression of the immediate postwar years was followed by a period of prosperity. But from 1929, Luxembourg was affected by the world economic crisis. In the steel sector, it looked, above all, to France as a supplier of iron ore, and to Germany as a market for its steel products.

World War II and reconstruction within the European Union

During the Second World War, Luxembourg suffered forced germanization at the hands of its German occupier. Moreover, 2% of the total population lost their lives during World War II (1.5% in France). This trauma was the source of a powerful desire for regeneration. Economic opening to the outside world became the Grand Duchy's priority. Needing to form part of a larger market, Luxembourg abandoned its neutrality, becoming a founding member of UNO in 1945 and a member of NATO in 1949. The Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU), which had come to an end under the occupation, was reinstated after the liberation.

Luxembourg became a member of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 - since the steel industry accounted for 75% of its industrial output - and of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957. The ECSC became the foundation for a new period of growth, while membership of the EEC marked the starting point of economic expansion. As the first workplace of the ECSC, the City of Luxembourg became one of the three headquarters of the European Union, alongside Strasbourg and Brussels.

The birth of a large financial centre, accompanied by the intensification of Luxembourg's integration in the European Union, made it one of Europe's most cosmopolitan cities from the 1960s onwards. Luxembourg's financial centre also enabled the country to overcome the 1974-75 steel crisis. Today, Luxembourg is strongly represented on the international stage, where it plays an active role, particularly in the field of cooperation with aid to developing countries. Foreigners account for 38.6% of Luxembourg's population. It is also considered a microcosm of Europe and a model of opening to the outside world. Moreover, thanks to its small size, Luxembourg enjoys a well-deserved image as a peaceful country on a "human scale".

Useful addresses:

Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research)

20, Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2273 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 66 19, Fax: (+352) 40 24 27
www.ltam.lu/culture

Archives nationales du Luxembourg (Luxembourg National Archives)

Plateau du Saint-Esprit, L-2010 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 66 61, Fax: (+352) 47 46 92
www.an.etat.lu
archives_nationales@an.etat.lu

Musée national d'histoire et d'art (National Museum of History and Art)

Marché-aux-Poissons, L-2345 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 47 93 30-1, Fax: (+352) 93 20 271
www.mnha.lu
musee@mnha.etat.lu

Musée d'histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg (Museum of the History of the City of Luxembourg)

14, rue du Saint-Esprit, L-2090 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 47 96 45 00, Fax: (+352) 47 17 07
www.musee-hist.lu
musee-hist@musee-hist.lu

Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg (National Library of Luxembourg)

37, boulevard F.D. Roosevelt, L-2450 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 22 97 55 1, Fax: (+352) 47 56 72
www.bnl.lu
bib.nat@bi.etat.lu





Languages in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

THE LANGUAGES The languages

The linguistic situation in Luxembourg is characterized by the recognition and use of three official languages: Luxembourgish, French and German.

History

Luxembourg's multilingualism is rooted in the historical co-existence of two ethnic groups, one Romance and the other Germanic.

Until 1984, the official use of languages was based on grand-ducal decrees of 1830, 1832 and 1834, which determined free choice between German and French.

In the administration of the country, French was already given clear preference over German, thus following a tradition at the heart of which French had been designated as the language of administration in the 14th century. During the reign of the Hapsburgs, neither the Spanish nor the Austrians called into question the privileged use of French as the official and administrative language.

German was used as a written language in the political domain to comment on laws and ordinances in order to make those texts comprehensible for everyone.

At primary school, teaching was limited to German, while French was added at secondary level.

The Treaty of London of 1839, which gave Luxembourg its autonomy, did nothing to alter linguistic practice.

The law of 26 July 1843 markedly reinforced bilingualism by introducing the teaching of French at primary-school level.

It is worth noting that for a long time Luxembourgish (*Lëtzebuergesch*), a Frankish language from the Moselle region, had a less significant status than it enjoys today. Its teaching was introduced at primary school from 1912 onwards.

The current situation

The current linguistic situation in Luxembourg follows the logical thread of the country's history. Hierarchical bilingualism still reigns, but acquired a new significance from the time of the constitutional amendment of 1948. In effect, this amendment gave the legislator the power to determine the linguistic regime by law. This new option led the Parliament to vote a law in 1984 which, at first glance, changes nothing to the traditional situation of bilingualism. However, for the first time, the

Parliament officially acknowledged the linguistic identity of Luxembourgish by determining it as a national language. The law of 1984 recognizes the three languages of Luxembourg - Luxembourgish, French and German - as official languages. This parity is slightly moderated in a provision of the above law (Article 3), which mentions that citizens must use the three languages "in as far as possible". It has to be admitted that French remains the language of legislation (Article 2), since the origins of this legislation are founded in the Napoleonic Code.

Bilingualism or trilingualism?

Bilingualism having been transformed into official trilingualism, no one would dare to suppress French and German in order to promote Luxembourgish.

The importance of French and German is not just political, but represents the national identity borne of the co-existence between the Romance and Germanic worlds. By maintaining these two languages, Luxembourg remains the symbol of a meeting place between Romance and Germanic culture, as well as many other cultures nowadays. The recognition of Luxembourgish serves to reinforce and enrich traditional bilingualism.



The socio-political dimension of trilingualism

It is mainly during pre-school education that teachers speak Luxembourgish to their pupils. Young children learn to read and write in German from the first year of primary school, and then learn to read and write in French from the second year onwards. Luxembourgish is only taught for one hour per week only during the early years of secondary school. Linguistic practice in schools also reflects the situation of the country in terms of language use, characterized by an openness towards Europe in terms of politics and higher education. Indeed, the number of hours devoted to language-learning during the whole of a student's school career and over all sectors of education represents 50% of the total for all subjects.

On the political level, this perfect command of two major European languages has enabled Luxembourg to integrate easily into the European structure and even to become a unifying and progressionist force.

At university level, trilingualism enables Luxembourg students to pursue university studies in any French-, German- or English-speaking country. Indeed, English is taught intensively in secondary school in addition to other optional languages, such as Latin, Spanish or Italian.

This linguistic situation favours adaptation among incomers from abroad to daily life in Luxembourg, since they may also express themselves in French or German.

Trilingualism thus represents both openness towards the outside and the desire to receive those from outside in Luxembourg.

Some words in "Lëtzebuergesch"

<i>Moien</i>	Hello
<i>Äddi</i>	Goodbye
<i>Wéi geet et?</i>	How are you?
<i>Mir geet et gutt/schlecht</i>	I'm feeling fine/ bad
<i>Wou ass...?</i>	Where is...?
... <i>de Bäcker?</i>	... the bakery?
... <i>de Metzler?</i>	... the butcher's?
... <i>e gudde Restaurant?</i>	... a good Restaurant?
... <i>d'Gare?</i>	... the train station?
... <i>d'Bank?</i>	... the bank?
... <i>de Kino?</i>	... the cinema/movie theater?
... <i>de Flughafen?</i>	... the airport?
<i>Wéivill kascht dat?</i>	How much does it cost?
<i>Kann ech de Menu kréien?</i>	Could you please give me the menu?
<i>Merci</i>	Thank you
<i>Jo</i>	Yes
<i>Neen</i>	No
<i>Watglift?</i>	I beg your pardon?
<i>Gär geschitt!</i>	You are welcome!
<i>Pardon</i>	Sorry
<i>Ech hun en Zëmmer reservéiert</i>	I have booked a room

Useful addresses:

Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de la Formation professionnelle et des Sports (Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training and Sports)

29, rue Aldringen, L-1118 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478-51 00, Fax: (+352) 478-51 13
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Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research)

20, Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2273 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 66 19, Fax: (+352) 40 24 27
www.ltam.lu/culture

Institut Grand-Ducal, section de linguistique, d'ethnologie et d'onomastique (Grand-Ducal Institute, Languages Section)

2a, rue Kalchesbruck, L-1852 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 27 90, Fax: (+352) 478 27 92
www.igd-leo.lu
leo.contact@igd-leo.lu

Centre national de Littérature (National Literature Centre)

2, rue Emmanuel Servais, L-7565 Mersch
Tel.: (+352) 32 69 55-1, Fax: (+352) 32 70 90
www.cnl.public.lu
info@cnl.public.lu

Conseil permanent de la langue luxembourgeoise (Permanent Council of the Luxembourgish Language)

www.cpll.lu
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Population and demography in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY

Population and demography

Luxembourg has witnessed strong population growth since the beginning of industrialization around 1870. This is largely due to continuous immigration since the end of the 19th century. In 1900, Luxembourg had a population of some 200,000. Today it stands at 451,600 (Source: Statec, 1 January 2004). In other words, it has more than doubled in the space of a century.

However, this growth has been uneven and can be divided into four main periods: a phase of decline during the first four decades, a (slight) baby boom between 1950 and 1960, a very rapid decline which became stable between 1960 and 1980, and a renewed growth phase since the 1990s due to an increase in the birthrate, which is largely the result of a rise in immigration.

A plural society

Before the First World War, much of the country's population tended to emigrate overseas, mainly for economic reasons. However, industrialization, since the end of the 19th century, has gradually turned Luxembourg from a country of emigration into a country of immigration. In the past 30 years, immigration has increased considerably.

Today, more than a third of the population is non-Luxembourgish (over 174,600, or approximately 38.6% of the population). The well-integrated foreign residents and cross-border workers account for much of the active population.

More than 150 nationalities are cohabiting in Luxembourg. The main communities present in Luxembourg are the Portuguese and Italians, followed by the French, Belgians and Germans. Today, over 50% of the population of Luxembourg City is foreign.

Structural changes in society

- Ageing population:

The decrease in the number of young people aged 15 or less goes hand in hand with an increase of the number of people aged 65 or over, while the intermediary age group has remained stable. Furthermore, the number of people aged 65 or over has quadrupled this century.

- Decrease in family size:

At the last census in 1991, more than a quarter of private households were made up of people living on their own. In 2003, the average fertility rate was 1.63 children per woman. In 2003, the total number of births decreased by 0.8% in comparison with 2002. The foreign birthrate rose by 4.9% and accounts for 52.5% of the total number of births.

- Population and employment:

Employment rose steadily during the second half of the 20th century. The European institutions settled in Luxembourg in the 1950s and, ten years later, Luxembourg became a major financial centre. The past 15 years have witnessed a sharp rise in the number of cross-border workers and an increase in female employment.



Luxembourg nationality

Normally, nationality is determined by birth. Each year, however, more than 1,000 foreign nationals obtain Luxembourg nationality through option or naturalization.

Those who already have ties with Luxembourg either by birth or blood can obtain Luxembourg nationality between the ages of 18 and 25, through a declaration of option under one of the following conditions: they must have been born in Luxembourg by foreign parents, be married to a Luxembourger, have completed their entire education in Luxembourg or have resided in Luxembourg for the past five years. They will also have to give up their original nationality.

Foreigners can also obtain Luxembourg nationality through naturalization, if they are above the age of 18 and have resided in Luxembourg for at least five years. Besides, they must have an active and passive knowledge of one of the three official languages (German, French, Luxembourgish). Thus, a foreigner who masters perfectly French will have to prove that he has a basic knowledge of Luxembourgish. On the contrary, a person who masters Luxembourgish will not be required to know French or German to be eligible to obtain Luxembourgish nationality.

Useful addresses:

Ministère de la Famille, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Jeunesse (Ministry of Family Affairs, Social Support and Youth)

12-14, avenue Emile Reuter, L-2420 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 65 06, Fax: (+352) 478 65 70

Ministère de l'Égalité des chances (Ministry for Equal Opportunities)

33, boulevard Prince-Henri, L-1724 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 58 14, Fax: (+352) 24 18 86
www.mega.public.lu
info@mega.public.lu

Ministère du Travail et de l'Emploi (Ministry of Labour and Employment)

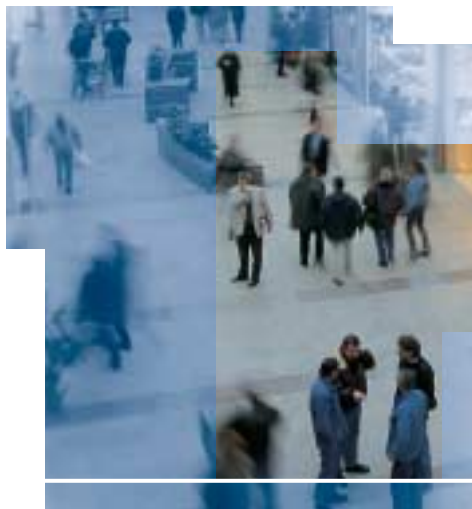
26, rue Sainte-Zithe, L-2763 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 61 06, Fax: (+352) 478 63 25
www.mt.etat.lu

Ministère de la Justice (Ministry of Justice)

13, rue Erasme, bâtiment Pierre Werner,
L-1468 Luxembourg-Kirchberg
Tel.: (+352) 478 45 06, Fax: (+352) 22 76 61
www.mj.public.lu

Service central de la statistique et des études économiques (STATEC) (Central Service for Statistics and Economic Studies)

13, rue Erasme, bâtiment Pierre Werner,
B.P. 304, L-2013 Luxembourg
Tél.: (+352) 478 42 52, Fax: (+352) 46 42 89
www.statec.lu
info@statec.etat.lu





The national symbols of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

THE NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The national symbols

The national flag

The first known flag was used by Count William of Luxembourg in 1123. It was barred, i.e. horizontally striped, probably in yellow and red.

Today, the flag of Luxembourg consists of three bands in red, white and sky-blue, arranged horizontally. Even though the flags of Luxembourg and the Netherlands are very similar, the distinctive element of the Dutch flag is the band in ultramarine.

The majority of modern tricolour flags are derived to a greater or lesser degree from the tricolour of the first French Republic. Even the ancient Dutch flag was only officially defined as being in red, white and blue in 1795, under French influence, by the Batavian Republic.

Therefore, we can only guess whether the colours of Luxembourg are really national or derived from the Dutch flag after 1815. On the other hand, it is probable that the people of Luxembourg accepted the colours of the Dutch flag because they were those of their coat of arms.

The flag of Luxembourg, as well as the state coats of arms, have enjoyed legal protection only since 1972.

The red colour corresponds to the norm Pantone 032C and the blue colour to the norm Pantone 299C.

(source: Memorial A n°73 of 09.16.1993)

The national anthem

The national anthem is made up of the first and last verses of the song "Ons Heemecht" ("Our homeland") from 1859, a text by the poet Michel Lentz, set to music by Jean-Antoine Zinnen. It was played in public for the first time at a grand ceremony in Ettelbruck in 1864. Unlike the Marseillaise, which is an invitation to combat, the national anthem of Luxembourg is an ardent call for peace. This anthem expresses all the joy of a country which had finally found independence in an atmosphere of harmony and prosperity. The "Wilhelmus", the anthem of the grand-ducal family, is played when one of the members of the family arrives at or leaves a ceremony.

National Day

Since the end of the 18th century, it has been customary in Luxembourg to celebrate the sovereign's birthday.

During the long reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte from 1919 to 1964, this celebration always took place in mid-winter, on 23 January, on the sovereign's birthday.

In 1961, in particular due to the weather at that time of year, it was decided to transfer the public celebration of the sovereign's birthday, and thus National Day, to the 23 June of each year. Festivities commence on the evening before. Since 23 December 1961, the National-Day celebrations have been laid down in a grand-ducal decree. The term "national festival" does not figure in the legal texts, the day being described instead as "day of the official celebration of the anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duke".



The coats of arms

The coats of arms of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are on three scales: small, medium and large.

The origins of the coats of arms of the State of Luxembourg date back to the Middle Ages. They were established around 1235 by Count Henry V of Luxembourg. The coats of arms are essentially composed of a barruly of silver and azure in ten parts and a lion gules, armed, langued and crowned with gold, its tail forked and looped.

From 1123, Count William of Luxembourg wore a barred banner on his equestrian seal. The majority of the descendants of the first House of Luxembourg used a barrully, while the descendants of the House of Namur bore a lion.

The coats of arms have enjoyed legal protection since 1972.

The law of 17 June 1993 amended and supplemented the law of 1972.

Useful addresses:

Commission héraldique

(Heraldry Commission)

4, rue Jules Wilhelm, L-2728 Luxembourg

Fax: (+352) 42 27 97

Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche

(Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research)

20, Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2273 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 478 66 19, Fax: (+352) 40 21 86

www.ltam.lu/culture

Archives nationales

(National Archives)

Plateau du Saint-Esprit, L-2012 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 478 66 60, Fax: (+352) 47 46 92

www.an.etat.lu

archives.nationales@an.etat.lu





The economy and finance of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Economy and finance

The economic performance of the Grand Duchy was among the best in Europe during the second half of the 20th century. Luxembourg owes its wealth to the discovery of iron ore in the southern area of the country called the "Minett". Today, the vibrant expansion of the financial centre, the emergence of new service activities and the leading-edge industrial companies characterize Luxembourg's economy. This economy is also distinguished by a calm and peaceful social climate.

Agriculture

The importance of agriculture, wine growing and forestry for the Grand Duchy's economy has steadily declined over the years. Today's official Statec figures for 2003 show Luxembourg's agriculture accounting for just 0.5% of the total value added at market prices, while it amounted to around 4% a quarter of a century ago. Nevertheless, the output of this sector has almost tripled in the past 25 years.

Moreover, this phenomenon is not peculiar to Luxembourg's agriculture, but can also be observed in the European Union as a whole. The shrinking role played by agriculture in Luxembourg's GDP is mainly due to the expansion of the service sector and, in particular, banking, telecommunications, air-transport and audio-visual services. Today's agriculture is more aware of environmental issues and contributes to protecting the natural habitat.

Industry

The early stages of Luxembourg's industrial development were dominated by the steel industry in the mid-19th century. This domination continued until the 1974-75 oil crisis, which transformed Luxembourg's industrial habits and encouraged a service economy. The emergence of the service sector was accelerated by the trend towards "outsourcing", which involves shifting certain services to specialist sector companies.

Lastly, industrial diversification seems to be establishing itself as a permanent objective of economic policy. It has encouraged the emergence of a second industrial pole that includes the chemical industry, rubber and plastics. Today, the first steel-industry in the world, stemming from the merging of Arbed, Usinor and Aceralia in February 2001, has its head-quarters in Luxembourg.

The media, communication and the audio-visual industry

As a multilingual country located at the crossroads of the French- and German-speaking cultures, Luxembourg plays a special role on the European media scene. The Grand Duchy is the home of two giants in the world of audio-visual communication, the European television and radio broadcaster RTL Group, and the satellite company Société Européenne des Satellites (SES), which operates the Astra satellites. On March 28, 2001 SES merged with GE Americom to create SES Global, the biggest satellite company in the world.

Many SMEs active in the converging fields of multimedia and telecommunications have been set up in Luxembourg around these two pillars of audio-visual communication, forming a network of skills that is driving future economic development.

Besides the SMEs, some multinational companies of the New Economy, like AOL and iTunes Music Store established their offices in Luxembourg during 2004. The Luxembourg government is pursuing an active policy of developing audio-visual and communication services under the banner of the Luxembourg Mediaport. To this end, the potential offered by the movement towards liberalizing the European telecommunications market and the progress of technology are lending support.

As part of this proactive policy, Luxembourg adopted a number of public support schemes in the early 1990s to encourage the development of audio-visual production.





**Ministère des Classes moyennes,
du Tourisme et du Logement
(Ministry of Middle classes, Tourism
and Housing)**

6, avenue Emile Reuter, L-2420 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 47 06, Fax: (+352) 478 47 40
www.mcm.public.lu

A financial centre

The establishment of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and the 1929 laws on holding companies marked the beginning of international development in the financial sector. The Eurobond market of the 1960s contributed to the emergence of real banking know-how in Luxembourg.

The country's current cash and asset management activities testify to Luxembourg's adaptable approach to its development as a financial centre. The real expansion of Luxembourg's collective investment undertakings (organismes de placement collectif - OPC) dates from 1983, with the first law regarding unit trust companies (sociétés d'investissement à capital variable - Sicav). The net assets of collective investment undertakings rose from 2 billion euro in 1970 to 1,037.3 billion euro as at April 2004 (Source: CSSF), taking Luxembourg to the first place in Europe for unit trust asset management.

Useful addresses:

STATEC

(Central Statistics and Economic Studies Service)

13, rue Erasme, bâtiment Pierre Werner,
B.P. 304, L-2013 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 42 52, Fax: (+352) 46 42 89
www.statec.lu
info@statec.etat.lu

Ministère de l'Economie (Ministry of Economy)

6, boulevard Royal, L-2449 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 67 12, Fax: (+352) 46 04 48
www.eco.public.lu

Ministère des Finances (Ministry of Finance)

3, rue de la Congrégation, L-1352 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 26 17, Fax: (+352) 47 52 41
www.fi.etat.lu

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement rural (Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development)

1, rue de la Congrégation, L-1352 Luxembourg
Tel.: (+352) 478 25 00, Fax: (+352) 46 40 27

Economic summary

Currency: euro
Area: 2,586 sq.km
Of which: 49% agricultural
34% wooded
GDP at market prices for 2003 (in billions of EUR): 23.5
GDP for 2003 (growth rate in %): 2.1
Unemployment rate for 2003 (in %): 3.8
Inflation rate for 2003 (in %): 2.0
Goods exports (in billions of EUR): 9.04 in 2003
Goods imports (in billions of EUR): 12.05 in 2003
Number of banks by 1st January 2004: 169
Standard of living:
GDP: EUR 1,063 in PPS (per inhabitant) for 2000*
Social Security benefits: EUR 229 in PPS (per inhabitant)*
for 1998
Cars: 794 (per 1000 inhabitants) for 2004
Doctors: 2.7 (per 1000 inhabitants) for 2004

* in Purchasing Power Standards (source Statec)



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www.gouvernement.lu edition@sip.etat.lu



The government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

THE GOVERNMENT The government

Since the elections of 13 June 2004, the government of Luxembourg has consisted of a coalition between the CSV (Christian Social Party) and the Socialist Workers' Party of Luxembourg (LSAP). On 31 July 2004, the formation of the new government, presented by Jean-Claude Juncker of the PCS, was approved by His Royal Highness Grand Duke Jean. The government, in the strict sense of the word, is the organ of executive power formed by the Grand Duke and the ministers in charge. In practical terms, the government means all ministers and secretaries of state who assist the Grand Duke in the exercise of his constitutional powers.

Formation of the government

The Constitution grants the Grand Duke the right to organize his government freely, i.e. to create ministries, divide up ministerial departments, and appoint their members.

The diversity and number of ministerial departments considerably exceeds the number of government members called to the departmental office, and thus the same minister may frequently hold several portfolios.

In practice, the Grand Duke chooses on the basis of the election results the mediator and/or the *formateur* of the government, who generally becomes Prime Minister. The *formateur* presents to the Grand Duke the team constituting the members of government. Generally, these are leading political figures forming part of the political groups represented in the Chamber of Deputies. On rare occasions it happened that someone who was not member of Parliament as appointed member of Government. The Grand Duke undertakes the appointment and swearing-in of the government members. The appointed government presents its political programme to the Chamber of Deputies, which expresses its confidence by voting in favour. Thus, the government has a parliamentary majority upon which it may rely.

On the basis of the Constitution, the Grand Duke is entitled to remove any member of government from office, but in practice it is more often the case that a minister, or indeed the entire government, tender their resignation to the Grand Duke.

The government's Ministerial Council (cabinet meeting)

The government is obliged to deliberate in Council on all matters which must be submitted for a decision by the Grand Duke.

Each member of government is entitled to instigate a decision by the Council on matters of his department.

The Prime Minister is entitled to refer to the Council any matter affecting the government of the Grand Duchy.

The decisions of the government's Ministerial Council are taken by a majority of votes. Where there is a parity of votes on matters to be decided by the Council, the Prime Minister has the casting vote. If a matter is considered urgent, it suffices for two members of government to be present and in agreement for a decision to be taken. However, they must report their decision to the next meeting of the Council.

Responsibility of ministers

Ministerial responsibility is inseparable from the absence of responsibility of the Grand Duke. For an act of the Grand Duke to take effect, it must be countersigned by a member of government who assumes entire responsibility for such an act. The Constitution provides, in a general manner, for the responsibility of ministers. This responsibility is general with regard to acts having a direct or indirect relationship with ministerial functions. It may be legal, i.e. criminal or civil, as well as political. The ministers are responsible for acts of which they themselves are the authors, either individually or collectively. Responsibility for any measure taken in the Council is incumbent upon all the members of government involved in adopting such measure. However, a minister who has a dissenting vote recorded in the minutes of the Council session is exempt from responsibility.



The government as a whole and the ministers individually are politically responsible for their acts before the Chamber of Deputies.

The political responsibility of ministers may be subject to sanction consisting of the obligation to cease their functions when the Chamber no longer grants them confidence (motion of censure). It is customary for ministers to resign the first time they receive a hostile vote from the Chamber.

On no account can a verbal or written order from the Grand Duke release a minister from his responsibility. Indeed, the responsibility of ministers would become illusory and deprived of all sanction if the Grand Duke could cover such responsibility by asserting his own inviolability.

On the basis of the Constitution, only the Chamber is entitled to indict ministers. Indictments admitted against ministers for acts committed in the exercise of their functions are brought before the Supreme Court of Justice sitting in plenary session. To avoid the criminal responsibility of ministers becoming purely theoretical, the Constitution establishes an exception to the Grand Duke's right of pardon, stating that a convicted minister may only be pardoned upon a request from the Chamber.

The composition of the government

Jean-Claude Juncker (CSV)

Prime Minister, Minister of State
Minister of Finance

Jean Asselborn (LSAP)

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Fernand Boden (CSV)

Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture and Rural Development
Minister for Middle Classes, Tourism and Housing

Marie-Josée Jacobs (CSV)

Minister for Family and Integration
Minister for Equal Opportunities

Mady Delvaux-Stehres (LSAP)

Minister for National Education and
Vocational Training

Luc Frieden (CSV)

Minister of Justice
Minister for the Treasury and Budget
Minister of Defence

François Biltgen (CSV)

Minister for Labour and Employment
Minister for Culture, Higher Education and Research
Minister for Religious Affairs

Jeannot Krecké (LSAP)

Minister for Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade
Minister for Sports

Mars Di Bartolomeo (LSAP)

Minister for Health and Social Security

Lucien Lux (LSAP)

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Transport

Jean-Marie Halsdorf (CSV)

Minister for the Interior and for Town and Country Planning

Claude Wiseler (CSV)

Minister for the Civil Service
and Administrative Reform
Minister for Public Works

Jean-Louis Schiltz (CSV)

Minister for Development, Cooperation and
Humanitarian Affairs
Minister Delegate for Communications

Nicolas Schmit (LSAP)

Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Octavie Modert (CSV)

State Secretary for the Relations with Parliament
State Secretary for Agriculture,
Viticulture and Rural Development
State Secretary for Culture, Higher Education and Research



PCS = Christian-Social Party
Parti chrétien-social

LSAP = Socialist Workers' Party of Luxembourg

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