

# Luxembourg

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Groussherzogtom Lëtzebuerg, Grossherzogtum Luxemburg, Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)

**Head of State:** Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg (accessed Oct 2000)

**Head of government:** Prime Minister Xavier Bettel (DP) (named by Grand Duke Henri on 25 Oct 2013)

**Ruling party:** Coalition led by Demokratesch Partei (DP) (Democratic Party) and the Lëtzebuergesch Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei (LSAP) (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) with Die Grünen (the Greens) (elected 20 Oct 2013).

**Area:** 2,586 square km

**Population:** 529,000 (2012)\*

**Capital:** Luxembourg-Ville

**Official language:** Lëtzebuergesch (Luxembourgish); French and German are the administrative languages.

**Currency:** Euro (€) = 100 cents (from 1 Jan 2002; previous currency Luxembourg franc, locked at Lf40.34 per euro)

**Exchange rate:** €0.75 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

**GDP per capita:** US\$107,206 (2012)\*

**GDP real growth:** 0.11% (2012)\*

**GDP:** US\$5.67 billion (2012)\*

**Labour force:** 370,500 (2011)\*

**Unemployment:** 5.96% (2012)\*

**Inflation:** 2.89% (2012)\*

**Balance of trade:** -US\$7.84 billion (2012)

\* estimated figure



**P**rim Minister Jean-Claude Juncker resigned as prime minister on 11 July 2013, after 18 years in office. He was accused of failing to curb illegal security agency activity such as phone-taps and corruption. Grand Duke Henri accepted his resignation. Mr Juncker denied committing anything wrong, and an official report concluded that he had limited control over the agency, but had not reported its questionable operations.

Elections were called for 20 October and Mr Juncker again led his party, the Chrëschtlich Sozial

Vollekspartei (CSV) (Christian Social People's Party), at the polls. According to the *euronews* website, Philippe Poirier, a political science professor at the University of Luxembourg noted that a survey published at the end of September showed 65 per cent of the inhabitants of Luxembourg would continue to support Mr Juncker in the election. Mr Juncker himself said, after voting, that 'The results according to my hope should be in line with the results we had last time, and the time before, so we'll see tonight in what way electors are distributing their cards.'

In the event, the results were still a win for the CSV with 23 seats (down from 26 seats

in 2009) out of 60. Joint second were the CSV's former coalition partner, the Lëtzebuurger Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei (LSAP) (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) and the Demokratesch Partei (DP) (Democratic Party) with 13 seats each. As it was the withdrawal of LSAP which had precipitated the fall of the previous government, it would seem more likely that Mr Juncker would look to the DP to try and form a coalition this time. However, on 25 October, Xavier Bettel, leader of the DP, was named *formateur* by Grand Duke Henri. He will take office in November as head of a coalition of the DP, LSAP and Die Grünen (the Greens).

Luxembourg is the European Union's (EU) second smallest country and has been one of Europe's most politically stable. But in 2013 unemployment was rising, as was personal debt. However, the country is still one of the world's richest countries with a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of over US\$107,000, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Luxembourg continues to rely on its strong banking and finance sector, together with the steel industry.

### Risk assessment

Politics	Good
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good

### COUNTRY PROFILE

#### Historical profile

Modern-day Luxembourg was occupied by the Burgundians, Prussians, Spanish and French until the nineteenth century, when it came under German and Dutch control.

1867 Luxembourg was granted independence.

1914–18 Luxembourg was occupied by the Germans.

1921 The Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was formed.

1940–45 Nazi Germany occupied Luxembourg.

1948 The Benelux Economic Union (Benelux) was inaugurated between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and became effective in 1960, establishing the three countries as a single customs area in 1970.

1949 Luxembourg became a founding member of NATO.

1957 Luxembourg became one of the founder members of the forerunner to the EU, the European Economic Community (EEC).

1964 Grand Duchess Charlotte abdicated after a reign of 45 years and was succeeded by her son, Prince Jean.

1974 After being in power since 1918, the Chrëschtlich Sozial Vollekspartei (CSV) (Christian Social People's Party) was defeated by the Demokratesch Partei (DP) (Democratic Party) in general elections.

1979 The CSV regained power.

1990 Luxembourg was an original signatory of the Schengen Agreement to remove all border controls.

1994 Jean-Claude Juncker became prime minister.

1999 A CSV/DP coalition government was formed after the CSV failed to win enough seats in the parliamentary elections to have an outright majority. Juncker remained as prime minister.

2000 Grand Duke Jean abdicated and was succeeded by his son, Prince Henri.

2002 Euro currency replaced the Luxembourg franc. Luxembourg was named by a French parliamentary committee as a haven for tax evasion and money laundering.

2003 After EU talks on new rules for the taxation of savings invested abroad, Luxembourg won the right to decide when they would drop the withholding tax and begin exchanging information.

2004 The CSV was re-elected.

2005 Voters approved the European Union constitution by 57 per cent to 43 per cent.

2006 Arcelor, Luxembourg's premier steel manufacture was sold to the Indian-owned Mittal Steel, for US\$34 billion, which created one of the world's largest steel manufacturers.

2008 President Chavez of Venezuela announced that the Luxembourg-based and Argentine-owned steel maker, Ternium, would be nationalised to bring a key industry under state ownership and drive its

socialist economy. Executive power to veto legislation was removed from the Grand Duke Henri, due to his conscientious objection to a parliamentary bill to legalise euthanasia. The Grand Duke promulgates laws with his signature; his role became ceremonial with minimal executive powers.

2009 In parliamentary elections, the ruling CSV won 26 seats (out of 60), and formed a coalition with Lëtzebuurger Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei (LSAP) (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party). Prime Minister Juncker remained in office.

2012 Hereditary Grand Duke Guillaume (heir apparent) of Luxembourg and Countess Stéphanie de Lannoy were married on 19 October.

2013 Jean-Claude Juncker resigned as prime minister on 11 July. He was accused as allowing illegal security agency activity such as phone-taps and corruption. Grand Duke Henri called elections for 20 October. The results were CSV 23 seats (out of 60), LSAP and DP 13 seats each, Die Grünen (the Greens) 6, Alternativ Demokratesch Reformpartei (ADR) (Alternative Democratic Reform Party) (3), Déi Lénk (Lénk) (The Left) (1); turnout was 91.15 per cent. The DP, LSAP and the Greens formed a coalition. Xavier Bettel of the DP was named as prime minister by the Grand Duke Henri on 25 October, to take up his position in November.

### Political structure

#### Constitution

The constitution was adopted in 1868 and has been amended on four occasions (1919, 1994, 1996 and 1998). It can be amended when at least two thirds, of a minimum 75 per cent of parliamentary

### KEY INDICATORS

### Luxembourg

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	0.49	0.50	0.51	0.51	*0.53
Gross domestic minus gold	US\$bn	57.90	51.70	55.00	58.40	*5.67
GDP per capita	US\$	119,534	104,512	105,509	113,533	*107,206
GDP real growth	%	0.8	-5.3	2.7	1.0	*0.1
Inflation	%	3.4	0.8	2.3	3.4	*2.9
Unemployment	%	4.4	5.7	6.0	5.8	*6.0
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	21,431.0	15,501.0	16,798.0	18,807.0	15,934.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	27,729.0	19,760.0	22,084.0	26,269.0	23,776.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-6,298.0	-4,259.0	-5,286.0	-7,462.0	-7,842.0
Current account	US\$m	3,104.0	2,985.0	4,385.0	4,199.0	*3,402.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	334.6	730.5	747.1	957.8	871.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	258.4	267.5	270.6	272.4	151.1
Exchange rate	per US\$	0.68	0.72	0.76	0.75	0.77
* estimated figure						

members, vote in agreement. A plebiscite must ratify the amendment.

The constitution sets out the role of the hereditary crown as Head of State, and the rights of citizens before the law. Universal direct suffrage for all those registered and over the age of 18.

### **Independence date**

1814

### **Form of state**

Constitutional monarchy, unitary state.

### **The executive**

Executive power is vested in prime minister and the council of ministers, which must have the support of the chamber of deputies.

The Grand Duke promulgates laws with his signature; his role is ceremonial with minimal executive powers.

### **National legislature**

Legislative power is exercised by a unicameral 60-member *Chambre vun Députéierten / Chambre des Députés* (Chamber of Deputies), which is elected for a five-year term by proportional representation in four multi-seat constituencies. A 21-member Council of State, chosen by the Grand Duke, acts as an advisory body and has some legislative functions.

### **Legal system**

Loosely based on Napoleonic code, of inquisitorial justice. The highest court is the Superior Court of Justice. Justices of the peace, district court judges and members of the Superior Court are appointed for life by the Grand Duke. Special laws regulate military tribunals. Administrative courts have jurisdiction over tax and administrative matters. There is a Constitutional Court that decides on the conformity of laws within the constitution. The Grand Duke has the authority to revoke or reduce penalties awarded by judges.

### **Last elections**

20 October 2013 (Parliamentary)

**Results:** Parliamentary: *Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei* (CSV) (Christian Social People's Party) (23 seats, out of 60), *Lëtzebuergesch Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei* (LSAP) (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) (13), *Demokratesch Partei* (DP) (Democratic Party) (13), *Déi Gréng* (Gréng) (The Greens) (6), *Alternativ Demokratesch Reformpartei* (ADR) (Alternative Democratic Reform Party) (3), *Déi Lénk* (Lénk) (The Left) (1); turnout was 91.15 per cent.

### **Next elections**

2019 (parliamentary).

### **Political parties**

#### **Ruling party**

Coalition led by *Demokratesch Partei* (DP) (Democratic Party) and the *Lëtzebuergesch Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei* (LSAP) (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) with

*Die Grünen* (the Greens) (elected 20 Oct 2013).

#### **Main opposition party**

*Lëtzebuergesch Sozialistesche Arbechterpartei* or *Parti Ouvrier Socialiste Luxembourgais* (LSAP/POSL) (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party)

### **Population**

529,000 (2012)\*

In 2011, the total number of immigrants was 220,522; over 130,000 workers commute to work daily from the neighbouring countries of France, Germany and Belgium.

**Last census:** February 2001: 439,539

**Population density:** 202.9 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 85 per cent (2010 Unicef).

**Annual growth rate:** 1.4 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

### **Ethnic make-up**

The inhabitants of Luxembourg are mostly of German and French origin, but have a distinct national consciousness. From just under 20 per cent in 1970, the percentage of foreign residents has risen to over 30 per cent. The Portuguese, who account for over 10 per cent of the total population, form the largest foreign community. The second largest immigrant community comes from Italy (5 per cent).

### **Religions**

Approximately 97 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic.

### **Education**

Primary education lasts for six years, until the age of 12. Instruction is initially given in German, and French is added in the second year. Secondary education can be obtained through either a *lycée*, or *Lycée Technique*. The first offers general and technical schooling, for up to seven years with an initial period of three years then an advanced (and non-compulsory) programme of four years. The *Lycée Technique* offers complete seven-year courses. French replaces German in the classroom at secondary schooling.

Higher education in the Grand Duchy is limited in scope. Approximately 4,000 students attend foreign universities, predominantly in Belgium and France.

**Compulsory years:** Six to 15.

**Enrolment rate:** 85 per cent net primary enrolment (Unicef).

### **Health**

#### **HIV/Aids**

**HIV prevalence:** 0.2 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

**Life expectancy:** 79 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:**

1.6 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef)

**Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000):** 2 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

**Head of population per physician:** 2.66 physicians per 1,000 people, 2003 (WHO 2006)

### **Welfare**

The social security system was built in several stages. It has been extended to include both the socio-professional categories and at risk groups. The minimum wage, which functions as a mechanism to guarantee resources, consists of a supplementary benefit paid up to a threshold determined according to the composition of the household. The benefit is awarded irrespective of the causes of the situation of need. Sickness benefits, in which patients pay only a small part of medical costs, as well as birth, family and unemployment payments, are included in the plans. Housing conditions are generally comparable to those found in other Western European countries. There has been some difficulty in assimilating the many thousands of foreign workers and their families.

Luxembourg conforms to the EU provisions dealing with social security based on the principle of free movement of workers within the EU that enables its workers to accept a job in another member state without suffering any inequality with regard to social security. The EU social security arrangements aim to co-ordinate the national social security schemes in all the member states of the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA).

The social security system covers benefits for sickness and maternity, pensions, insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases, unemployment benefits and family allowances. The scheme is compulsory and covers all persons in paid employment as well as self-employed workers in the country. Half of the contribution due is payable by the worker and half by the employer. There is no contribution towards industrial accident insurance, family benefits or unemployment benefit. Contributions are payable for sickness and maternity insurance, disability insurance, old-age and survivor's pension, amounting to a certain percentage of his/her remuneration.

### **Main cities**

Luxembourg-Ville (capital, estimated population 74,738 in 2012), Esch-sur-Alzette (29,616), Dudelange (18,898), Schifflange (8,556).

### **Languages spoken**

#### **Official language/s**

Lëtzebuergesch (Luxembourgish); French and German are the administrative languages.

## Media

### Press

The high level of newspapers per readership is based on subsidies provided by public money and political affiliates. The market is dominated by the Imprimerie Saint Paul ([www.isp.lu](http://www.isp.lu)) media group which controls around 90 per cent of the daily newspaper market.

Newspapers are published in the predominant language (either French or German) of the region in which they sold with an edition in the alternative language.

**Dailies:** The most popular newspaper the *Luxemburger Wort* ([www.wort.lu](http://www.wort.lu)) is owned by the Roman Catholic Church and has close ties to the Christian socialist political party. The newspaper with the second highest circulation is *Tageblatt* (<http://news.tageblatt.lu>), published by the trade unions and is closely linked to the socialist political party. Other publications include *Lëtzebuurger Journal* ([www.journal.lu](http://www.journal.lu)), *Zeitung vum Letzebuurger Vollek* ([www.zlv.lu](http://www.zlv.lu)) and *La Voix du Luxembourg* ([www.lavoix.lu](http://www.lavoix.lu)). The French newspaper *Le Républicain-Lorrain* ([www.republicain-lorrain.fr](http://www.republicain-lorrain.fr)), which has an extensive Luxembourg section, is also widely read.

**Weeklies:** Those featuring general interest, news and current affairs include *Revue* ([www.revue.lu](http://www.revue.lu)), *d'Letzebuurger Land* ([www.land.lu](http://www.land.lu)), and *Letzebuurger Gemengen* ([www.gemengen.lu](http://www.gemengen.lu)) and, in English, *352* ([www.352.lu](http://www.352.lu)) provides general news for the expatriate community. *Den Neie Feierkrop* ([www.feierkrop.lu](http://www.feierkrop.lu)) is a satirical magazine.

**Business:** In French with an online German edition *l'Echo de l'Industrie* ([www.fedil.lu/Echo](http://www.fedil.lu/Echo)) is published by the Federation of Luxembourg Industrialists (Fedil) and *Le Jeudi* (<http://hebdo.le-jeudi.lu>) is a weekly publication of financial and business news.

### Broadcasting

Luxembourg has a long tradition of broadcasting to huge audiences in Europe including France, Germany and the UK. The RTL Group ([www.rtlgroup.com](http://www.rtlgroup.com)) is Europe's largest media organisation with over 40 television and 30 radio stations throughout Europe plus production companies in the US and elsewhere, producing gameshows and long-running domestic dramas. While RTL is a private entity it has a government agreement whereby RTL keeps certain operations located in Luxembourg plus provide television and radio programmes for local audiences in exchange for freeing RTL from franchise fees and no third party being granted a licence by the government to broadcast if it competed with RTL

international activities. The agreement runs until 2010.

**Radio:** There are a range of radio stations dedicated to the various official languages. Domestic radio is dominated by Radio Lëtzebuerg RTL (<http://rtl.lu>) with around 50 per cent of the audience share. Radio Ara ([www.ara.lu](http://www.ara.lu)) broadcasts alternative programming for marginal groups and foreign residents.

**Television:** Luxembourg was the first European country to switch completely from analogue signals to digital terrestrial television (DTT) signals, in 2006. Télé Lëtzebuerg RTL (<http://rtl.lu>) dominates with around 40 per cent of the audience in the local market and operates TV channels in each of the local languages. Other, commercial stations include Nordlicht TV ([www.nordlicht.lu](http://www.nordlicht.lu)) and Satmode for interactive TV.

## Economy

Luxembourg's financial sector is large by international standards and contributes substantially to GDP growth and trade. However, since the onset of the global economic recession GDP growth has contracted severely from 6.6 per cent in 2007 to 0.8 per cent in 2008, falling again, to -5.3 per cent, in 2009. In 2010, the economy recovered with growth 2.7 per cent, which did not last long as GDP was an estimated 1 per cent in 2011.

As a member of the European Union euro-zone Luxembourg undertook recapitalisation of its banks in 2008, while the European Central Bank (ECB) reduced interest rates and initiated 'supportive fiscal' policies that included unlimited term funding at fixed rates. The euro-zone moved out of recession by mid-2009.

The other mainstay of Luxembourg's economy is steel production and as global trade fell, European crude steel production dropped by 39.9 per cent in 2009. However, following the merger of Luxembourg's largest steelmaker Acelor with India's Mittal Steel in 2006, becoming the world's largest steelmaker, production of steel in Luxembourg in 2009 rose 7.6 per cent.

The service sector (dominated by banking) typically contributes 80 per cent of GDP with industry providing around 20 per cent, of which manufacturing is about 12 per cent; agriculture provides less than 1 per cent.

Employment in Luxembourg is dynamic with cross-border workers living in neighbouring countries and returning each day, many employed in the financial sector. Of the 363,000 total workforce in 2010, 6 per cent were unemployed and over 100,000 were cross-border workers.

## External trade

As a member of the European Union, Luxembourg operates within a community-wide free trade union, with tariffs set as a whole. Internationally, the EU has free trade agreements with a number of nations and trading blocs worldwide.

The traditional steel industry provides around 10 per cent of GDP, despite depleted domestic iron ore reserves. Hi-tech industries have grown in importance; nevertheless, the financial services sector is a major provider of external revenue, which provides around 80 per cent of GDP.

### Imports

Imports include petroleum, gas, vehicles, iron ore, minerals, metals, foodstuffs and quality consumer goods.

**Main sources:** Belgium (29.4 per cent of total in 2012), Germany (21.8 per cent), France (10.3 per cent).

### Exports

Commodities include iron and steel, electrical and electronic equipment, machinery, glass, ceramics and plastics. Intermediate manufactured products account for around 80 per cent of total exports.

**Main destinations:** Germany (20.9 per cent of total in 2012), France (15.4 per cent), Belgium (14.5 per cent)

## Agriculture

The country has gradually adapted and delegated much of its farm policy to the EU, through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The EU's Fundamental reform to the CAP was introduced in Luxembourg in 2005. The subsidies paid on farm output, which tended to benefit large farms and encourage overproduction, were replaced by single farm payments not conditional on production.

Farming is concentrated on barley, oats and potatoes in the north, and fruit and grapes in the east.

Although agricultural output has tripled since the 1980s, its contribution to GDP has in the same period declined from 4 per cent in mid-1970s to around 1 per cent in late 1990s. The number of farms declined from 5,173 in 1980 to 2,950 in 1998 as high agricultural production costs and high employment in Luxembourg caused more people to leave the farming industry and farmland has subsequently been converted to other uses. This trend slowed in 2003–04 as the economy slowed and jobs were not so readily available. Three-quarters of the land is cultivated. Pasture accounts for 55 per cent of all cultivated farmland.

Food and wine account for about 1.9 per cent of exports.

Luxembourg does not have any significant freshwater fishing industry.

Largely driven back to the least productive soil and escarpments where viable development is precluded, woods cover some 89,000 hectares or around a third of the country. Extending over 4,500 hectares, the forest of Gruenwald is the largest continuous wooded area in the Grand Duchy. Forestry only plays a very modest role in the overall economy, the commercial exploitation of private forests and those subject to the system of forest tenure only represent on average between 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent of GDP.

### Industry and manufacturing

As with the agricultural sector, Luxembourg's industrial base has declined in proportion to the dominant services sector and accounts for only 30 per cent of GDP. The country's principal industries include steel, chemicals, rubber, plastics, processing, glass, aluminium, metalworking and vehicle spares manufacture.

### Tourism

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a small land-locked country that is a major crossroads between France, Germany and Belgium which surround it and from which it draws many of its influences. The old quarters and fortification of the capital of Luxembourg-ville are included on the UN list of World Heritage Sites. Luxembourg is home to a large community of wealthy residents and has one of the world's highest per capita incomes. Although the travel and tourism sector is an important component of GDP, its contribution is only around 5 per cent of the total, generating annually over US\$2.26 billion since 2007. Total employment in the industry has been over 6 per cent since 2008, although most workers employed are from outside Luxembourg. A new terminal was completed at Findel International Airport in 2008 to encourage more passengers to take direct flights to Luxembourg rather than to Frankfurt (Germany) or the other smaller, surrounding airports in Belgium and France.

### Mining

Iron ore, discovered around 1850, made the fortune of modern Luxembourg's economy. The steel industry still serves as one of the most important sectors of the economy, although its share of GDP fallen has since the early 2000s.

### Hydrocarbons

Luxembourg does not have any oil, natural gas or coal reserves. The country imports all its hydrocarbons, totalling 60,000 barrels per day (bpd) of refined oil products, 1.3 billion cubic metres of natural gas and 153,000 tonnes of coal. These imports come primarily from within the EU.

### Energy

Domestic production of electricity supplies 54.9 per cent of consumer needs; 45.1 per cent of supplies are imported from Germany, via a connection to its network. Installed generating capacity is over 1.16 gigawatts (GW); consumption in 2007 was 6,777 gigawatt hours (GWh). The hydroelectric dam at Vianden is one of the largest hydro-power plants in Europe, producing 1.1GW. The biggest power company is Cegedel, supplying 69 per cent of all electricity consumed.

### Financial markets

#### Stock exchange

Bourse de Luxembourg (Luxembourg Stock Exchange)

#### Banking and insurance

Luxembourg has a large banking sector. Activity is oriented towards wholesale banking services, with a large concentration of German and Scandinavian banks serving corporate customers in Europe. Private banking has rapidly increased. Banking accounts for around 16 per cent of GDP and employs 10 per cent of the workforce. Luxembourg's banking secrecy laws have been a source of complaint abroad; however rules allow authorities to investigate as necessary. There were concerns that EU requirements for the deduction of a withholding tax from all foreign accounts would adversely affect the sector.

In an effort to avoid joining the global list of non-co-operative tax havens, held by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Luxembourg eased its banking laws to allow the sharing of bank data that cracks down on offshore tax evasion.

In April 2013 Luxembourg announced that the secrecy surrounding its banks would be eased and rules on the automatic exchange of bank account information with its EU partners would be automatic from 2015. The reforms will bring Luxembourg in line with the EU Savings Directive rules, which are aimed at creating greater transparency and minimising tax evasion.

#### Central bank

The European Central Bank (ECB) acts as the central bank, issuing notes and coins and determining interest rates.

#### Time

GMT plus one hour (daylight saving, late March to late October, GMT plus two hours)

#### Geography

Luxembourg is a landlocked country in Western Europe, bounded by Belgium on the north and west, Germany to the east and France to the south. Luxembourg consists mainly of the upper basins of the

Sauer (Sûre) and Alzette rivers. The highest point is Buurgplaat (559 metres), in the Ardennes Plateau in the north. The southern two-thirds of the country is a rolling plateau, the Bon Pays.

#### Hemisphere

Northern

#### Climate

Luxembourg's climate is temperate, without extremes. Sea winds (south-west and north-west) shed a great part of their moisture before reaching the Luxembourg frontiers. May to mid-October is suitable for vacations; July and August are the warmest; May and June are the sunniest months; in September and October there is often an 'Indian summer'.

#### Dress codes

Medium-weight clothing is required throughout the year. A raincoat is useful.

#### Entry requirements

##### Passports

Passports are required by nationals of most countries. Exceptions include holders of national identity cards issued to nationals of some European countries.

##### Visa

Required by all, except nationals of Europe, North America, Australasia, or Japan. For a full list of visa-free citizens visit [www.luxembourg-usa.org/consindex.html](http://www.luxembourg-usa.org/consindex.html). Schengen visas cover all entry needs; for those requiring a business visa, a letter of business references and proof of sufficient funds to cover the cost of your intended stay should accompany the application. A Schengen visa application (offered in several languages) can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu/abc/travel/> see 'documents you will need'.

##### Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the movement of local or foreign currencies.

##### Customs

Personal items are duty-free. There are no duties levied on alcohol and tobacco between EU member states, providing amounts imported are for personal consumption.

Passengers carrying weapons and transiting Luxembourg must hold an *Autorisation de Transit d'Armes* certificate issued by the Luxembourg Ministry of Justice.

#### Health (for visitors)

Nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland can access reduced cost and sometimes free medical treatment using a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) while visiting the EEA. Exceptions include nationals of the 10 countries, which joined the EU in 2004, whose EHIC is not valid in Switzerland. Applications for the EHIC should be made before travelling.

**Mandatory precautions**

None

**Advisable precautions**

It is recommended that travellers have up-to-date tetanus and polio immunisations.

**Hotels**

A one-to five-star rating system is partially in operation. Bills include the service charge. Tipping is optional.

**Credit cards**

All main credit cards are accepted.

**Public holidays (national)****Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 1 May (May Day), 23 Jun (National Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25-26 Dec (Christmas).

If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the Monday following is usually a holiday as well (maximum two per annum).

**Variable dates**

Carnival (Feb), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, Luxembourg City Fair Day (Luxembourg City only, Sep).

**Working hours****Banking**

Mon–Fri: 0900–1630.

**Business**

Mon–Fri: 0800–1800, lunch 1200–1400.

**Government**

Mon–Fri: 0800–1800, lunch 1200–1400.

**Shops**

There are large variations in shop hours, but they are generally open 0900–2000, closed Mon morning.

**Electricity supply**

220V AC

**Weights and measures**

Metric system

**Social customs/useful tips**

Punctuality is appreciated. Business people are expected to wear suits. It is advisable to make prior appointments and business cards are widely used.

**Security**

Luxembourg has a low crime rate. However, during the tourist season pickpocketing and theft from vehicles do occur.

**Getting there****Air**

**National airline:** Luxair

**International airport/s:** Luxembourg-Findel (LUX), 5km east of city; restaurants, post office shops, car hire.

**Airport tax:** None

**Surface**

**Road:** There are good road links with Brussels, Trier, Paris, Frankfurt and Saarbrücken. Luxembourg has open borders with all its immediate neighbours, namely Germany, France and Belgium.

**Rail:** There are rail connections with Brussels, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Basle and Paris.

**Getting about****National transport**

Network tickets (*billets réseaux*), which allow unlimited travel for one day on all forms of transport throughout Luxembourg, are also available.

**Road:** Luxembourg has an extensive network of roads and motorways, all of which are paved.

**Buses:** Bus services link most towns and villages.

**Rail:** There are 280km of railway track. State-run railway services link the capital with most main towns.

**City transport**

**Taxis:** There is a metered taxi service with a minimum charge. Tipping is usually 10 per cent.

**Buses, trams & metro:** Regular flat-fare bus service operates in Luxembourg city. Tickets are valid for one hour or 10km and also allow connections with out-of-city connections.

**Car hire**

Car hire is available from the airport and hotels.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

**Telephone area codes**

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Luxembourg is +352, followed by subscriber's number.

**Chambers of Commerce**

American Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg, 6 Rue Antoine de Saint Exupéry, PO Box 542, L-1432 Luxembourg (tel/fax: 431-756; e-mail: info@amcham.lu).

British Chamber of Commerce for Luxembourg, 6 Rue Antoine de Saint Exupéry, L-1432 Luxembourg (tel: 465-466; fax: 220-384; e-mail: info@bcc.lu).

Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, 7 Rue Alcide de Gaspari, L-2981 Luxembourg (tel: 423-939; fax: 438-326; e-mail: chamcom@cc.lu).

**Banking**

Association des Banques et Banquiers, 59 Boulevard Royal, PO Box 13, L-2010 Luxembourg (tel: 29-501, 463-6601; fax: 460-921).

Banque Continentale du Luxembourg SA, 2 Boulevard Emmanuel Servais, L-2535 Luxembourg (tel: 474-491; fax: 477-688-333).

Banque de Luxembourg SA, 80 Place de la Gare, BP 2221, L-1022 Luxembourg (tel: 499-241; fax: 494-820).

Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État, 1 Place de Metz, PO Box 2105, L-2954 Luxembourg (tel: 4015-1; fax: 4015-2099; e-mail: info@bcee.lu).

Banque Générale du Luxembourg, Boulevard JF Kennedy, L-2951 Luxembourg (tel: 47-991, 42-421; fax: 4799-2579).

Banque Internationale à Luxembourg SA (BIL), 2 Boulevard Royal, L-2953 Luxembourg (tel: 45-901; fax: 4791-2010).

Banque Nationale de Paris SA, 22-24 Boulevard Royal, L-2952 Luxembourg-Ville (tel: 47-641; fax: 26-480).

Caisse Centrale Raiffeisen SC, 28 Boulevard Royal, BP 111, L-2011 Luxembourg (tel: 462-151).

Fortuna, Société Co-opérative de Credit et d'Épargne, 128-132 Boulevard de la Pétrusse, BP 1203, L-1012 Luxembourg (tel: 488-888).

Kredietbank SA Luxembourgeoise, 43 Boulevard Royal, L-2953 Luxembourg (tel: 47-971; fax: 472-667).

Société Générale Bank and Trust, 11 Avenue Emile Reuter, PO Box 1271, L-2420 Luxembourg (tel: 479-3111; fax: 228-859; e-mail: sgbt.lu@socgen.com).

Société Nationale de Credit et d'Investissement, 7 Rue du St Esprit, BP 1207, L-1012 Luxembourg (tel: 461-9711).

**Central bank**

Banque Centrale du Luxembourg, 2 Boulevard Royal, L-2983 Luxembourg (tel: 4774-1; fax: 4774-4910; email: info@bcl.lu).

European Central Bank (ECB), Kaiserstrasse 29, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany (tel: (+49-69) 13-440; fax: (+49-69) 1344-6000; email: info@ecb.int).

**Stock exchange**

Bourse de Luxembourg (Luxembourg Stock Exchange), www.bourse.lu

**Travel information**

Luxair, Luxembourg Airport, 2987 Luxembourg (tel: 798-2311; fax: 443-2482, e-mail: information@luxair.lu).

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Luxembourg Airport, PO Box 635, L-2016 Luxembourg (tel: 2464-1; fax: 2464-2464; e-mail: mail@lux-airport.lu).

Luxembourg City Tourist Office, Place d'Armes, L-1136 Luxembourg (tel: 222-809; fax: 474-818; e-mail: touristinfo@luxembourg-city.lu).

### **Ministry of tourism**

Department of Tourism, 6 Avenue Emile Reuter, L-2937 Luxembourg (tel: 478-4751; fax: 474-011; e-mail: info@mdt.public.lu).

### **National tourist organisation offices**

Office National du Tourisme, Gare Centrale, Box 1001, L-1010 Luxembourg (tel: 4282-821; fax: 4282-8238; e-mail: info@visitluxembourg.lu).

### **Ministries**

Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, du Commerce Extérieur et de la Coopération, 5 Rue Notre-Dame, L-2913 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 461-720).

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement Rural, 1 Rue de la Congrégation, L-2913 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 464-027).

Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, 18 Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2946 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 408-970).

Ministère de la Culture, 20 Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2912 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 402-427).

Ministère de l'Économie, 19-21 Boulevard Royal, L-2914 Luxembourg (tel: 478-4100; fax: 460-448).

Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle, 29 rue Aldringen, L-2926 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 478-5113).

Ministère de l'Éducation Physique et des Sports, 66 route de Treves, L-2916 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 434-599).

Ministère de l'Énergie, 19 Boulevard Royal, L-2449 Luxembourg (tel: 4781).

Ministère de l'Environnement, 18 Montée de la Pétrusse, L-2918 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 400-410).

Ministère de la Famille, 14 Avenue de la Gare, L-2919 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 478-6570).

Ministère des Finances, 3 rue de la Congrégation, L-2931 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 475-241).

Ministère de la Fonction Publique et de la Réforme Administrative, Plateau du St Esprit, L-2011 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 478-3122).

Ministère de la Force Publique, Plateau du St Esprit, Bâtiment Vauban, L-2915 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 462-682).

Ministère de l'Intérieur, 19 Rue Beaumont, L-2933 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 418-46).

Ministère de la Jeunesse, 26 Rue Zithe, L-2943 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 467-454).

Ministère de la Justice, 16 Boulevard Royal, L-2934 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 227-661).

Ministère du Logement, 6 Avenue Emile Reuter, L-2942 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 478-4840).

Ministère de la Promotion Féminine, 33 Boulevard Prince Henri, L-2919 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 41-886).

Ministère de la Santé, 57 et 90 Boulevard de la Pétrusse, L-2320 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 484-903).

Ministère de la Sécurité Sociale, 26 Rue Zithe, L-2936 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 478-6328).

Ministère des Transports, 19-21 Boulevard Royal, L-2938 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 464-315).

Ministère des Travail et de l'Emploi, 26 rue Zithe, L-2939 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 478-6325).

Ministère des Travaux Publics, 4 Boulevard FD Roosevelt, L-2940 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 462-709).

### **Other useful addresses**

Bourse de Luxembourg SA (stock exchange), 11 Avenue de la Porte-Neuve, L-2227 Luxembourg (tel: 477-9361; fax: 22-050; internet site: <http://www.bourse.lu/>).

Board of Economic Development, 19-21 Boulevard Royal, L-2914 Luxembourg (tel: 478-4135/4141; fax: 460-448).

Confédération du Commerce Luxembourgeois, 23 Allée Scheffer, L-2520 Luxembourg (tel: 473-125).

Fédération des Industriels Luxembourgeois, 7 Rue Alcide de Gasperi, L-1615 Luxembourg (tel: 435-366; fax: 438-326).

Foires Internationales de Luxembourg, L-2088 Luxembourg (tel: 043-991; fax: 0439-9315).

Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques Luxembourgeoises (Federation of Iron and Steel Industries in Luxembourg), 3 Rue Goethe, PO Box 1704, L-1637 Luxembourg (tel: 480-001).

Luxembourg Embassy (USA), 2200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202)-265-4171; fax: (+1-202)-328-8270; e-mail: info@luxembourg-usa.org).

Offshore Company Registration Agents (Luxembourg) SA, PO Box 878, 19 Rue Aldringen, L-1118 Luxembourg (tel: 224-286; fax: 224-287).

Press and Information Service of the Government, 43 Boulevard Roosevelt, L-2450 Luxembourg (tel: 478-224, 478-321; fax: 470-285, 20-090).

Radio Télé-Luxembourg (RTL), Villa Louvigny, L-2850 Luxembourg (tel: 476-6242; fax: 4766-2737).

Service Central de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (STATEC), 6 Boulevard Royal, L-2013 Luxembourg (tel: 4781; fax: 464-289; internet site: <http://statec.lu/>).

Société Européenne des Satellites (SES), Château de Betzdorf, L-6815 Luxembourg (tel: 710-725/1; fax: 725-227; internet site: <http://www.astra.lu/>).

### **Internet sites**

Complete list of banks in Luxembourg: <http://www.bank.lu>

Government statistics: <http://statec.gouvernement.lu>

Luxembourg weekly publication (in English): <http://www.352.lu>

Luxembourg government: <http://gouvernement.lu>

The Station Network, online information (in English): <http://www.station.lu>

Web directory: <http://Luxembourg.lu/>