

October 2022, update November 2024

NB: Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, the below information may change rapidly and is highly time-sensitive.

Country – capital	Ukraine - Kyiv (Kiev) ¹
Population	Ukrainian 77.8%, Russian 17.3%, Belarusian 0.6%, Moldovan 0.5%, Crimean Tatar 0.5%, and other small groups (2001 est.) ² Total population 35.6 million (2024 est.). ³
Geography	Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea, between Poland, Romania, and Moldova in the west and Russia in the east. ⁴
Languages	Ukrainian (official) 67.5%, Russian (regional language) 29.6%, other 2.9% (2001 est.) ⁵
Writing system	Cyrillic ⁶
Education and literacy	100 % is literate – women and men alike (2021). ⁷ In 2021, net enrolment rate in primary education was 84.1% for both sexes. ⁸ Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 15. The first 4 years are at primary (elementary) school. Lower secondary middle school (<i>osnovna serednia shkola</i>) is for students aged 10 to 15, following which they may qualify for their lower secondary school leaving certificates. The curriculum includes the Ukrainian language and literature, a foreign language, algebra, biology, chemistry, geography, geometry, history, physics, music, art and physical education. Thereafter 3 years upper secondary school or vocational secondary school. ⁹ In areas occupied by Russia, the Russian curriculum and language is imposed, in violation of international law. ¹⁰
Religions	Overwhelmingly Christian; about two thirds are Orthodox, but many do not specify a particular branch; Muslim and Jewish < 1% of total population. ¹¹
Conflict history and overview	Ukraine became last independent from Russia on 24 August 1991. ¹² In 2014 Russia annexed the autonomous region of Crimea, and non-state armed groups seized parts of the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, declaring independence. This prompted a military response from Ukraine, and the ensuing fighting triggered a high number of internal displacements between 2014 and 2021. On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Shelling and airstrikes hit major towns and cities, including the capital Kyiv. The situation escalated quickly, and millions of people were displaced or left the country. The number of IDPs within the country fell from 5.9 million in 2022 to 3.7 million as of the end of 2023; some people returning to their place of origin and others leaving the country. ¹³ The invasion and continuing war has unleashed the gravest human rights and refugee crisis in Europe since WWII. ¹⁴
Humanitarian situation	Life expectancy at birth: 70.5 yrs (male 65, female 76- est.2024). Population below poverty line: 1.6 % (2020 est). ¹⁵
Human rights situation	Since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, its war against Ukraine has had a disastrous impact on civilian life, killing thousands of civilians, injuring many thousands more, and destroying civilian property and infrastructure. Russian forces committed a litany of violations of international humanitarian law, including indiscriminate and disproportionate bombing and shelling of civilian areas that hit homes and healthcare and educational facilities. Some attacks considered war crimes. In occupied areas, Russian forces committed apparent war crimes (torture, summary executions, sexual violence, enforced disappearances, and looting of cultural property). ¹⁶ Between 24 February 2022 and 31 August 2024, conflict-related violence had killed 11,743 civilians and injured 24,614 in Ukraine. ¹⁷
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	Maternal mortality rate: 17 per 100,000 live births (est. 2020). ¹⁸ Marriage before 18 is rare (girls 9%, boys 4%). ¹⁹ Child marriage seems to occur more among Roma. ²⁰
Situation of LGBTI	Same-sex activities decriminalised in 1991 ²¹ In March 2023, draft legislation on registration of civil partnerships was published, including for same-sex couples. ²² Many incidents of violence and hate crimes against LGBT people reported (2021). ²³
Asylum / migration / internally displaced persons (IDPs)	In 2021 were 1.5 million IDPs (Crimea and eastern Ukraine); in 2023 3.67 million, since Russian invasion in February 2022. ²⁴ As of 15 October 2024, 6.2 million Ukrainians have been registered as refugees across Europe, 1.6 million less than in 2022. ²⁵ Between Feb 2022- Aug 2024, Malta received 6,340 Ukrainian refugees. ²⁶

- 1 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 2 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 3 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine> <https://countrymeters.info/en/Ukraine>
- 4 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
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- 7 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 8 <http://data.uis.unesco.org/index.aspx?queryid=3813>
- 9 <https://www.scholaro.com/db/Countries/Ukraine/Education-System>
- 10 <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/06/20/education-under-occupation/forced-russification-school-system-occupied-ukrainian>
- 11 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 12 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 13 <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/ukraine>
- 14 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/eastern-europe-and-central-asia/ukraine/report-ukraine/>
- 15 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 16 <https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/ukraine>
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- 18 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 19 <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/ukraine/>
- 20 <https://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa%20ukraine%20summary.pdf>
- 21 <https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report>
- 22 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/eastern-europe-and-central-asia/ukraine/report-ukraine/>
- 23 <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/ukraine>
- 24 <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine>
- 25 <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
- 26 https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download?data_finder%5BdataGroup%5D=displacement&data_finder%5Bdataset%5D=population&data_finder%5BdisplayType%5D=totals&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=REF&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=ASY&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=IDP&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=OIP&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=STA&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=HST&data_finder%5BpopulationType%5D%5B%5D=OOC&data_finder%5Byear_filterType%5D=range&data_finder%5Byear_rangeFrom%5D=2018&data_finder%5Byear_rangeTo%5D=2024&data_finder%5Bcoo_displayType%5D=custom&data_finder%5Bcoo_country%5D%5B%5D=200&data_finder%5Bcoo_country%5D%5B%5D=200&data_finder=on&data_finder%5Bcoa_displayType%5D=custom&data_finder%5Bcoa_country%5D%5B%5D=132&data_finder%5Bcoa_country%5D%5B%5D=132&data_finder%5Byear_%5D=&data_finder%5Bcoo_%5D=&data_finder%5Bcoa_%5D=&data_finder%5Badvanced_%5D=&data_finder%5Bsubmit%5D=

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This factsheet was compiled by Adri van den Berg for BDE. Adri worked for many years as a Country of Origin Information (COI) researcher, her final post before retiring being with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Malta.