The **United States of America** (**USA** or **U.S.A.**), commonly referred to as the **United States** (**US** or **U.S.**), **America**, or simply **the States**, is a [federal republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) consisting of 50 [states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) and a [federal district](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_district_(United_States)). The [48 contiguous states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contiguous_United_States) and the federal district of [Washington, D.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.) are in central [North America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_America) between [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada) and [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico). The state of [Alaska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska) is the northwestern part of North America, west of Canada and east of Russia which is across the [Bering Strait](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bering_Strait) in [Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia), and the state of [Hawaii](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii) is an [archipelago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archipelago) in the mid-North [Pacific](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean). The country also has five populated and nine unpopulated [territories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territories_of_the_United_States) in the Pacific and the [Caribbean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean).

At 3.79 million square miles (9.83 million km2) in total and with around 315 million people, the United States is the [fourth-largest in total area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area), the fifth largest in the contiguous area and third in [population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population). It is one of the world's most [ethnically diverse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiethnic_society) and [multicultural](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multicultural) nations, the product of large-scale [immigration from many countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_the_United_States). The [geography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_the_United_States) and [climate of the U.S.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_the_United_States) is also extremely diverse, with deserts, plains, forests, and mountains that are home to a wide variety of wildlife.

The United States is a [developed country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country) and has the world's largest national economy, with an estimated 2013 [GDP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GDP) of $16.2 trillion –22% of global GDP at [purchasing-power parity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)), as of 2011. The per capita GDP of the U.S. was the world's [sixth-highest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_capita) as of 2010. The US has the fourth most [unequal income distribution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Income_inequality_in_the_United_States) among [OECD](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development) nations, behind [Chile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile), [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico) and [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey). The economy is fueled by an abundance of natural resources, a well-developed infrastructure and high productivity and while its economy is considered [post-industrial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-industrial) it continues to be one of the world's largest manufacturers The country accounts for 39% of [global military spending](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_military_expenditures) being the foremost economic and military power, a prominent political and cultural force in the world, and a leader in scientific research and technological innovation.

The first documentary evidence of the phrase "United States of America" is from a letter dated January 2, 1776, written by [Stephen Moylan, Esq.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Moylan), [George Washingon's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington) aide-de-camp and Muster-Master General of the [Continental Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Army). Addressed to [Lt. Col. Joseph Reed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Reed_(jurist)), Moylan expressed his wish to carry the "full and ample powers of the United States of America" to Spain to assist in the revolutionary war effort.In non-English languages, the name is frequently translated as the translation of either the "United States" or "United States of America", and colloquially as "America".

People from Asia [migrated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Models_of_migration_to_the_New_World) to the North American continent approximately 12,000 or more years ago. Some, such as the [pre-Columbian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Columbian) [Mississippian culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippian_culture), developed advanced agriculture, grand architecture, and state-level societies. After European explorers and traders made the first contacts, it is estimated that [their population declined](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_history_of_indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas) due to various reasons, including diseases such as [smallpox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smallpox) and [measles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Measles) to which indigenous Americans had no natural immunities. In the early days of colonization many settlers were subject to shortages of food, disease and attacks from native Indians. Indians were also often at war with neighboring tribes and would often enslave their defeated enemy, a practice that was also soon used by various colonists who captured Indians in battle. During the various colonial wars, many colonists were also captured by Indians as slaves and taken north to Canada and sold to the French.

At the same time however many natives and settlers got along and came to depend on each other, especially settlers during the winter months. Natives also came to depend on settlers for guns, ammunition, powder and other modern devices. Because many tribes were frequently at war with one another it became imperative to establish and secure good relationships with at least one group of colonists. As colonists began to spread out into the interior their contact with native Indians increased, sometimes resulting in good relations, oftentimes resulting in conflict. In the process "Native American influenced colonist, and colonist influenced Native American".

Natives taught many settlers where, when and how to hunt and fish in the vast frontier that lay before them whose elements were generally unknown to the Europeans. In order to survive settlers often depended on native Indians who taught them how to adopt to the Indian's "hunting culture" and learned the use of animal skins as camouflage, decoys along with various whistles and calls used to attract prey. European ministries and others felt it was important to "civilize" the Indians and urged them to concentrate on farming and ranching and not depend primarily on hunting and gathering. At the same time Indians offered the benefit of their experience in growing corn, an unknown crop in Europe, and in the use of dead fish and other methods as fertilizer. It was not long before many Indians began to grow new crops and raise livestock and poultry in their communities and made use of the various living utilities settlers had to offer.

After Columbus' discovery of the [New World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_World) in 1492 other explorers followed. The first Spanish explorers landed in "La Florida" in 1513. Conquistadors explored much of the continent’s interior and Spain later set up some settlements in parts of Florida and the American southwest that were eventually merged into the United States. There were also some French attempts to colonize the [east coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_colonization_of_the_Americas), and later more successful settlements along the [Mississippi River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River). Many early European colonies failed due to starvation, disease, harsh weather, Indian attacks, or warfare with European rivals. The fate of the "lost" English colony of [Roanoke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roanoke_colony" \o "Roanoke colony)in the 1580s is an enduring mystery.

Most settlers in every colony were small farmers, but other industries developed. Tobacco was popular in Europe and became a major early cash crop. Furs, fishing, lumber, rum, rice, indigo, construction, wheat, ranching, and eventually shipbuilding contributed to economic growth. By the late colonial period Americans were producing one-seventh of the world's iron supply. Cities eventually dotted the coast to support local economies and serve as trade hubs. English colonists were supplemented by waves of [Scotch-Irish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotch-Irish_American) and other groups. As coastal land grew more expensive people pushed west into the hills and backwoods, seeking to carve an existence out of virgin wilderness

The first African slaves were brought to the Americas by [Spanish conquistadors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_conquistadors) in the 1500s shortly after Columbus' voyages. Most slaves were shipped to sugar colonies in the [Caribbean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean) and to [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), where life expectancy was about seven years. Life expectancy was much higher in North America because of less disease and better food and treatment, so the numbers of slaves grew rapidly into the millions by excesses of births over deaths.

The [American Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolution) was the first successful colonial war of independence against a European power. Americans had developed a democratic system of local government and [an ideology of "republicanism"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republicanism_in_the_United_States) that held government rested on the will of the people (not the king), which strongly opposed corruption and demanded civic virtue. They demanded their rights as Englishmen and rejected British efforts to impose taxes without the approval of colonial legislatures. The British insisted and the conflict escalated to full-scale war in 1775, the [American Revolutionary War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War). On June 14, 1775, the [Continental Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Continental_Congress), convening in [Philadelphia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia), established a [Continental Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Army) under the command of [George Washington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington). Proclaiming that "[all men are created equal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_men_are_created_equal)" and endowed with "certain [unalienable Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_and_legal_rights)", the Congress adopted the [Declaration of Independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence), drafted largely by [Thomas Jefferson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson), on July 4, 1776. That date is now celebrated annually as America's [Independence Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States)). In 1777, the [Articles of Confederation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Articles_of_Confederation) established a weak government that operated until 1789.

After a [naval victory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Chesapeake) followed by the [British defeat at Yorktown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Yorktown) by American forces [assisted by the French](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_in_the_American_Revolutionary_War), the United States was independent. In the [peace treaty of 1783](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1783)) Britain recognized American sovereignty over most territory east of the [Mississippi River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River). Nationalists calling for a much stronger federal government with powers of taxation led the [constitutional convention](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_Convention) in 1787. After intense debate in state conventions the [United States Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution) was ratified in 1788. The [first Senate, House of Representatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_United_States_Congress), and [president](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_(United_States))—George Washington—took office in 1789. The [Bill of Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_of_Rights_(United_States)), forbidding federal restriction of [personal freedoms and guaranteeing a range of legal protections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_rights), was adopted in 1791.

The land area of the [contiguous United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contiguous_United_States) is 2,959,064 square miles (7,663,941 km2). Alaska, separated from the contiguous United States by Canada, is the largest state at 663,268 square miles (1,717,856 km2). Hawaii, occupying an archipelago in the central [Pacific](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean), southwest of North America, is 10,931 square miles (28,311 km2) in area. The United States, with its large size and geographic variety, includes most climate types. To the east of the [100th meridian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100th_meridian_west), the climate ranges from [humid continental](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humid_continental) in the north to [humid subtropical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate) in the south. The southern tip of [Florida](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida) is tropical, as is Hawaii. The Great Plains west of the 100th meridian are semi-arid. Much of the Western mountains are [alpine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpine_climate). The climate is arid in the Great Basin, desert in the Southwest, [Mediterranean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) in [coastal California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coastal_California), and [oceanic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanic_climate) in coastal [Oregon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon) and [Washington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(state)) and southern Alaska. Most of Alaska is subarctic or polar. Extreme weather is not uncommon—the states bordering the [Gulf of Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico) are prone to [hurricanes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_cyclone), and most of the world's [tornadoes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado) occur within the country, mainly in the Midwest's [Tornado Alley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado_Alley). The U.S. ecology is considered "[megadiverse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megadiverse_countries" \o "Megadiverse countries)": about 17,000 species of [vascular plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vascular_plants) occur in the contiguous United States and Alaska, and over 1,800 species of [flowering plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flowering_plant) are found in Hawaii, few of which occur on the mainland. The United States is home to more than 400 mammal, 750 bird, and 500 reptile and amphibian species. About 91,000 insect species have been described. There are 58 [national parks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_areas_in_the_United_States_National_Park_System) and hundreds of other federally managed parks, forests, and [wilderness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilderness) areas. Altogether, the government owns 28.8% of the country's land area.] Most of this is [protected](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_area), though some is leased for oil and gas drilling, mining, logging, or cattle ranching; 2.4% is used for military purposes

POPULATION

The [U.S. Census Bureau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Census_Bureau) estimates the country's population now to be 316,617,000, including an approximate 11.2 million [illegal aliens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States). The U.S. population almost quadrupled during the 20th century, from about 76 million in 1900. The third most populous nation in the world, after China and [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), the United States is the only major industrialized nation in which large population increases are projected.

  The United States has a very [diverse population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiethnic_society)—31 [ancestry groups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maps_of_American_ancestries) have more than one million members. [White Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_American) are the largest [racial group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(classification_of_humans)); [German Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_American), [Irish Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_American), and [English Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_American) constitute three of the country's four largest ancestry groups. [Black Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) are the nation's largest [racial minority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_group) and third largest ancestry group. [Asian Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_American) are the country's second largest racial minority; the three largest Asian American ethnic groups are [Chinese Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_American), [Filipino Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipino_American), and [Indian Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_American).

In 2010, the U.S. population included an estimated 5.2 million people with some [American Indian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) or [Alaska Native](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Natives) ancestry (2.9 million exclusively of such ancestry) and 1.2 million with some [native Hawaiian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Hawaiians) or [Pacific island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islander) ancestry (0.5 million exclusively). The census counted more than 19 million people of "Some Other Race" who were "unable to identify with any" of its five official race categories in 2010.

The population growth of [Hispanic and Latino Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (the terms are officially interchangeable) is a major [demographic trend](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographic_transition). The 50.5 million Americans of Hispanic descent are identified as sharing a distinct "[ethnicity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census)" by the Census Bureau; 64% of Hispanic Americans are of [Mexican descent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_American). Between 2000 and 2010, the country's Hispanic population increased 43% while the non-Hispanic population rose just 4.9%. Much of this growth is from immigration; as of 2007, 12.6% of the U.S. population was foreign-born, with 54% of that figure born in [Latin America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_America).

About 82% of Americans live in [urban areas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_urban_area) (including suburbs); about half of those reside in cities with populations over 50,000. In 2008, 273 [incorporated places](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_cities_by_population) had populations over 100,000, nine cities had more than one million residents, and four [global cities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_city) had over two million ([New York City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), [Los Angeles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles), [Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago), and [Houston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston)).

The United States is a [federal union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation) of 50 states. The original 13 states were the successors of the [13 colonies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Colonies) that rebelled against British rule. Early in the country's history, three new states were organized on territory separated from the claims of the existing states: [Kentucky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kentucky) from [Virginia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia); [Tennessee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee) from [North Carolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Carolina); and [Maine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine) from [Massachusetts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts). Most of the other states have been carved from territories obtained through war or purchase by the U.S. government. One set of exceptions includes [Vermont](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont), [Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas), and [Hawaii](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii): each was an independent republic before joining the union. During the [American Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War), [West Virginia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Virginia) broke away from Virginia. The most recent state—Hawaii—achieved statehood on August 21, 1959. The states [do not have the right](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_v._White) to unilaterally [secede](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secession) from the union.The states compose the vast bulk of the U.S. land mass; the two other areas considered integral parts of the country are the District of Columbia, the [federal district](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_district) where the capital, Washington, is located; and [Palmyra Atoll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palmyra_Atoll), an uninhabited but [incorporated territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territories_of_the_United_States) in the Pacific Ocean. The United States also possesses five major overseas territories: [Puerto Rico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Rico) and the [United States Virgin Islands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Virgin_Islands) in the Caribbean; and [American Samoa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Samoa), [Guam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guam), and the [Northern Mariana Islands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Mariana_Islands) in the Pacific Those born in the major territories are [birthright U.S. citizens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthright_citizenship_in_the_United_States) except Samoans. Samoans born in American Samoa are born [U.S. nationals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_nationality_law#Nationals), and may become naturalized citizens. American citizens residing in the territories have fundamental constitutional protections and elective self-government, with a territorial [Member of Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delegate_(United_States_Congress)), but they do not vote for president as states. Territories have personal and business tax regimes different from that of states.

The United States has a [capitalist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalism) [mixed economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed_economy), which is fueled by abundant [natural resources](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_resource), a well-developed infrastructure, and high productivity. According to the [International Monetary Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund), the U.S. GDP of $15.1 trillion constitutes 22% of the [gross world product](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_world_product) at market exchange rates and over 19% of the gross world product at [purchasing power parity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity) (PPP). Though larger than any other nations, its national GDP was about 5% smaller at PPP in 2011 than the [European Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union)'s, whose population is around 62% higher. The country ranks ninth in the world in [nominal GDP per capita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita) and sixth in [GDP per capita at PPP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(PPP)_per_capita). The [U.S. dollar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_dollar) is the world's primary [reserve currency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reserve_currency).

The United States is the [largest importer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_imports) of goods and [second largest exporter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_exports), though [exports per capita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_exports_per_capita) are relatively low. In 2010, the total [U.S. trade deficit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._trade_deficit) was $635 billion. Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, and Germany are its top trading partners. In 2010, oil was the largest import commodity, while transportation equipment was the country's largest export. China is the largest foreign holder of U.S. public debt.

In 2009, the private sector was estimated to constitute 86.4% of the economy, with federal government activity accounting for 4.3% and state and local government activity (including federal transfers) the remaining 9.3%. While its economy has reached a [postindustrial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-industrial_society) level of development and its [service sector](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertiary_sector_of_economic_activity) constitutes 67.8% of GDP, the United States remains an industrial power. The leading business field by gross business receipts is wholesale and retail trade; by net income it is manufacturing.

Chemical products are the leading manufacturing field. The United States is the third largest producer of oil in the world, as well as its largest importer. It is the world's number one producer of electrical and nuclear energy, as well as liquid natural gas, sulfur, phosphates, and salt. While [agriculture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_the_United_States) accounts for just under 1% of GDP, the United States is the world's top producer of corn and soybeans. [Coca-Cola](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coca-Cola) and [McDonald's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McDonald%27s) are the two most recognized brands in the world.

[Consumer spending](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumer_spending) comprises 71% of the US economy in 2013. In August 2010, the American labor force consisted of 154.1 million people. With 21.2 million people, government is the leading field of employment. The largest private employment sector is health care and social assistance, with 16.4 million people. About 12% of workers are [unionized](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_unions_in_the_United_States), compared to 30% in Western Europe. The World Bank ranks the United States first in the ease of hiring and firing workers. In 2009, the United States had the third highest [labor productivity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_productivity) per person in the world, behind [Luxembourg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg) and [Norway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway). It was fourth in productivity per hour, behind those two countries and the [Netherlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands).