

# About Portugal

## Country overview

**Country name:** Portuguese Republic  
**Location:** South-western Europe, bordering Spain and the Atlantic Ocean  
**Capital city:** Lisbon  
**Main Cities:** Lisbon, Porto, Aveiro, Coimbra, Faro and Setúbal  
**Government type:** Parliamentary Democracy  
**Language:** Portuguese  
**Currency:** Euro  
**Total Area:** 91,985 sq. km  
**Population:** 10.53 million (2012)  
**GDP:** 153.61 billion Euros (2012)  
**GDP per capita:** 20,182.40 Euros (2012)  
**GDP real growth rate:** 0.5% (2014)



Portugal, one of the world's most ancient nations, is experiencing extensive and dynamic changes. From the fifteenth to the seventeenth century, Portuguese discoveries were responsible for important advances in technology, nautical sciences, cartography, astronomy and ship building.

## Industry overview

- Traditionally a country with economy based on agriculture, textiles, footwear and others, Portugal is today a field of innovation, talented people and leading companies, emanating high technology and high quality products.
- The major industries include: automotive, moulds, renewable energy, cork, aeronautical, eco-innovation, pulp and paper, mining, naval, petrochemical & chemical.
- Some of the districts with the highest concentration of industrial establishments are Porto, Lisbon, Aveiro, Coimbra, Leiria, Braga and Setúbal.
- The industrial sector in Portugal represents 22.6% of the national GDP and employs 27.7% of the population (2010).
- Portugal has some of the most advanced communication systems in the world; there are 3 international airports in the mainland and 7 in the Azores and Madeira Islands with regular daily flights to all major world cities and regular daily cargo flights from Portugal to the major hubs in Europe and Asia; international traffic is received in 9 main sea ports in the mainland and there are 2 main container terminals, one in Lisbon and the other in Porto.
- The automotive industry, one of the leading branches in Portugal, hosts 5 car manufacturers, namely, Volkswagen AutoEuropa, PSA, Mitsubishi, ISUZU and Salvador Caetano and about 200 automotive supplier companies. Volkswagen AutoEuropa is one of the Top 5 best Volkswagen plants around the world. Manufacturing approximately 100.000 cars per year, overseas customers – namely from Germany and the US – account for 98% of total production.
- Portugal is among the world's largest mould makers, particularly when it comes to moulds for plastics.
- According to [DBK](#) the renewable energy production market generated, in Portugal, total revenue of 680 million euro in 2008 representing a growth of almost 33%, when compared to 2007, and the high potential still ahead.
- Some major aircraft manufacturers rely on Portuguese expertise in aviation business security and supplies of cork to thanks to its outstanding thermal and acoustic isolation capacity.
- A large number of Portuguese companies embrace eco-innovation as a driving force in their R&D activities and in their product and service portfolios.

## [Read more about Portugal](#)

Sources: [aicep Portugal Global](#), [Statistics Portugal](#)