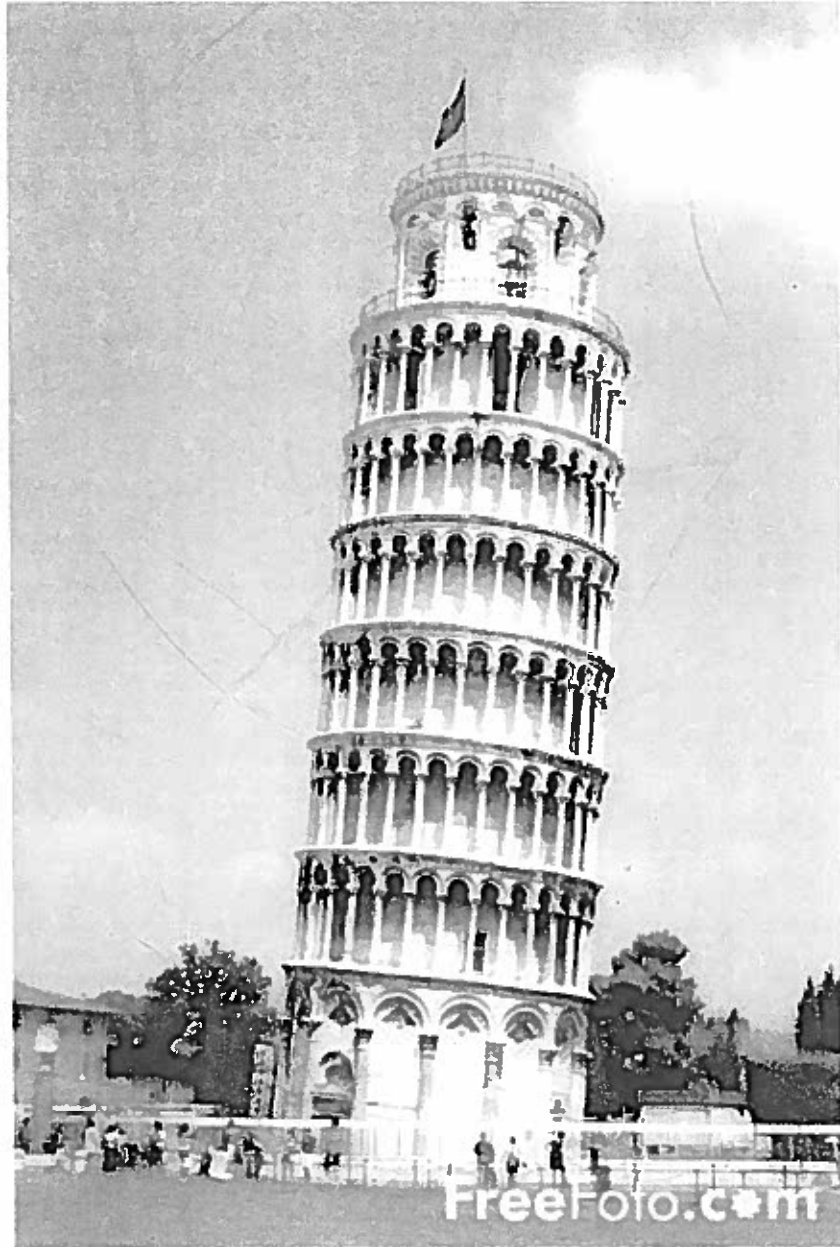


# Italy



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# Country Study Of Italy

## Location:

Italy is located in Europe. It is located between the coordinates 35 degrees North and 47 degrees in latitude and 6 degrees East and 19 degrees East in longitude. The major bodies of water that touch the coast of Italy are the Mediterranean Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea and the Ligurian Sea. The countries that touch Italy by land are France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, San Marino, and Vatican City. Italy is in the North Eastern Hemisphere. Some additional information about Italy's location is that it is ranked seventy second in the world for area per square kilometers. Italy is slightly larger than the State of Arizona

## Physical Geography:

Some information I found out on Italy's physical geography is that it is not land locked. Italy's terrain is mostly rugged, mountainous, some plains and lowlands. Italy has a very long coast line, it measures 7 600 kilometers. Three of the major rivers in Italy are the Po River, Tiber River and the Adige River. The Po River measures 682 kilometers in length and at its widest point measures 503 meters in width. The Adige River is the second largest river that runs through Italy. The third longest River in Italy is the Tiber River. It measures 406 kilometers in length, it travels through Umbria and Lazio to the Tyrrhenian Sea. The major bodies of water that are in or around Italy are the Mediterranean Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea, Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea and Ligurian Sea, and the Arno Sea. The area of

Italy is 301 251 square kilometers. The highest point of elevation in Italy is the Monte Bianco at 4 807 meters. The lowest elevation in Italy is the Mediterranean Sea at sea level. Some interesting facts about Italy's physical geography are that Italy is shaped like a cowboy boot and Italy has three active volcanos. The volcanos are Mount Etna, Stromboli and Mount Vesuvius. Another interesting fact is that Italy is made up of 294 140 kilometers of land and just 7 200 square kilometers of water.

## Political Geography:

The capital city of Italy is Rome. Italy is divided into 20 regions. Regions are divided into provinces. Italy has 110 provinces. Provinces are further divided into municipalities. The type of government Italy has is a Republic. Italy has a President and a Prime Minister. The Presidents name is Giorgio Napolitano. He has been President since May 2006. The Prime Ministers name is Mario Monti. He has been Prime Minister since November 2011. An interesting fact about Italy's political geography is that Italy has had a democratic republic government since June 2 1946.

## Climate:

Italy has four distinct seasons. Winter is in December, January and February. Spring is in March, April and May. Summer is in June, July and August. Autumn is in September, October and November. Italy has a dry season in the summer months. There is no rainy season in Italy. The average amount of precipitation in Italy varies from region to region. In the north the average precipitation per year

is 1000 mm., in central Italy it is near 750 mm., and in southern Italy the average annual precipitation is 600 mm.

## The Flag:

The Italian flag has three vertical bands, they are red, green and white. The colors come from the emblem of Milan. According to ancient and heraldic traditions each color represents something different. White represents peace and honesty. Red represents hardiness, bravery, and strength. Green represents hope, joy, and love. In many cultures these meanings have a sacred significance. An interesting fact about the Italian flag is that it was inspired by the French flag. The colors on the Italian flag also have religious interpretations. The Catholic Church interprets the color green as meaning hope, white represents faith, and red represents charity.

## Population:

The current population in Italy is approximately 61,016,804 people. Italy is ranked 23rd in the world by population per country. Italy has 7,017,000 more people than Burma, and 1,682,000 less people than The United Kingdom. Italy's population density is 197 people per square kilometer. In Italy 68% of the population live in cities, the other 32% live in smaller municipalities and country side. The most populated cities in Italy are Rome, with a population of approximately 3,357,000 people, Milan 2,962,00, Naples 2,027,000, Turin 1,662,000 and Palermo with a population of approximately 872,000. An

interesting fact about Italy's population is that it is ranked 156th in the world for population growth. The rate of population growth in Italy is 0.42%. Italy's population growth is in front of Kazakhstan by 0.2% and behind Faroe Islands growth by 0.1%.

## Food and Drinks

Italians are known for many kinds of food and drinks. Italians also take great pride in their cooking and the meals they serve. Some of the special foods and drinks of Italy are Nduja which is a very hot kind of sausage or salami with red peppers. Focaccia is a type of flat bread often seasoned with olive oil and a variety of herbs. A well known drink of Italy is Grappa. Grappa is made from pomace, which is the left over grape skin, stalks, and seeds from the wine making process. Grappa has been around since the middle ages and is often served after meals. Wine is popular in Italy as well and often served with every meal except breakfast. Some farmed foods that come out of Italy include olives, wine grapes, rice, potatoes, barley, apples, oranges, corn and tomatoes. The main fish that are caught in Italy are anchovy, rainbow trout, sardines and European Hake. Italy also has many farms that raise different breeds of cattle, poultry, sheep, goats and pigs.

A typical Italian breakfast may include coffee, panini ( fresh baked rolls), brioche ( flaky fresh baked breakfast pastries ), cornetti ( similar to croissants but, are more like a cake than a pastry ), and marmellata ( similar to jam with large chunks of fruit from the monastery's orchid).

A typical Italian lunch may consist of soup or thinly sliced meat, pasta or a lasagna dish made with more meat and vegetables than pasta, a salad is often served at the end of the meal. They eat the salad last to help the digestion system after a big lunch. Lunch is considered to be the main meal and is eaten at midday.

An Italian supper will typically include soup, broth, salad, cold meats and some sort of pasta dish. The types of pasta dishes served vary in each part of Italy. Some are served with a creamy sauce and some with a tomato sauce. Another popular meal is a risotto, risotto is very similar to rice. Risotto is often served with vegetables. The most popular meats used are veal and pork.

Some snacks that are eaten in Italy are pizza, bread served with honey or jam, or cheese. A snack is often served with a hot drink and eaten mid afternoon.

## Languages:

The languages spoken in Italy are Italian, German, French, and Slovene. Italian is the most common language spoken in Italy. Some examples of words in Italian are :

Ciao means hello  
arrivederci means good bye  
insegnante means teacher  
stupore means amazing  
impari means learn  
sorpresa means surprise  
scuola means school  
gioco means play  
puro means sheer

The Italian alphabet is quite similar to the English alphabet. The Italian alphabet does not have the letters J, K, W, X or Y. Some letters use little lines on top of them which are called diacritics. Some

examples of these letters with diacritics are à, è, é, ì, î, ò, ó, ù and ú.

## **Religion**

**In Italy there are four main religions. The main religion in Italy is Roman Catholic (90%), the other 10% consists of Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim. There are several religious holidays in Italy. Epiphany is on January 6th to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Holy Week is celebrated in March and ends on Easter Day. I also found that Italy is one of the most religious countries in the world. An interesting fact about Italy's religion is that the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, lives in Vatican City which is located within Italy.**

## **Leisure**

**Italians are very active and love sports. The top five sports in Italy are soccer, volleyball, basketball, rugby and baseball. Soccer in Italy is called football. Football in Italy is called calcio. Some popular past times in Italy are bocce ball, fishing, taking long walks, hiking and of course eating. Italians enjoy going to the beach, sitting in their gardens, reading the newspaper, having coffee at cafes with friends, going shopping and cooking. I also learned that in Italians free time they enjoy taking naps.**

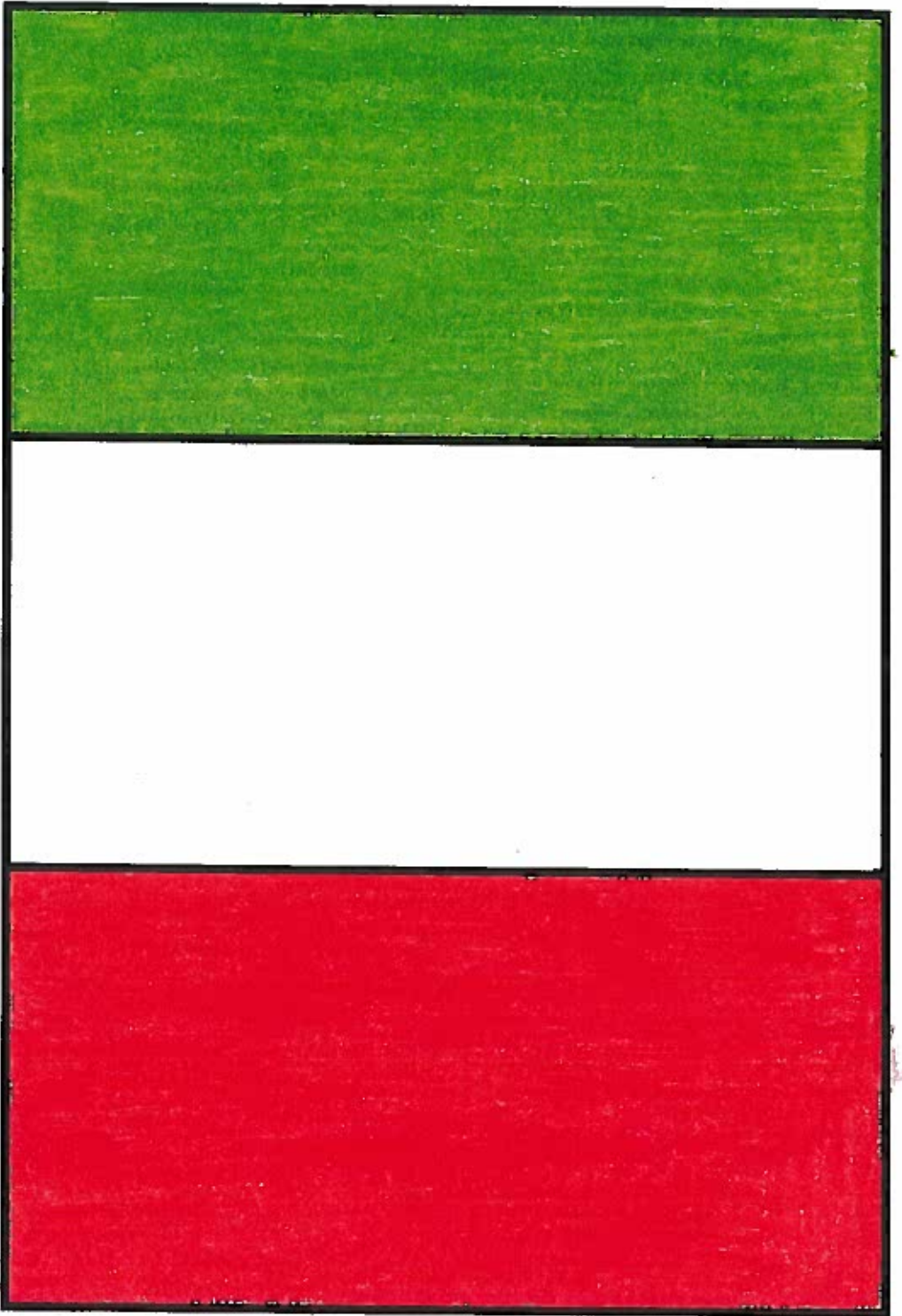


## Economy

Italy's main exports are engineering products, textiles and clothing, production machinery, motor vehicles and transportation equipment. Italy also exports chemicals, food, beverages, tobacco, minerals and nonferrous metals. Italy's main export partners are Germany, France, Spain, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland. Italy's main imports are quite similar to its exports. The main imports of Italy are engineering products, chemicals, transportation equipment, energy products and minerals. Italy also imports non ferrous metals, textiles and clothing, food, beverages, and tobacco. Germany, France, China, Netherlands, and Spain are Italy's main import partners. Italy uses a currency called Euros. Euros are a fairly new currency now used in some European countries. Some common jobs in Italy are engineering, accounting and finance, sales and marketing, cultural advice, and general business. I found three pieces of additional information about the Italian economy. Italy has an unemployment rate of 8.4%, which ranks them 97th in the world for unemployment. Italy is tied with Finland and is behind Belgium by 0.10% for unemployment. I found that Italy's labour force by occupation is broken down into three main areas. The three main areas are 4.2% agriculture, 25.3% industries, and 65.1% services. The last interesting fact I found out Italy's economy is that their main industries are tourism, iron and steel factories, chemical factories, food processing and textiles. Italy is also known for its motor vehicles, clothing, foot wear, fashion accessories, and ceramics.

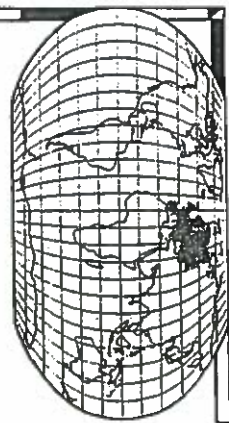
## **Additional Information:**

Italy is a very interesting country to study. I did not know much about Italy when I picked it for my country project. I learned many interesting things about Italy. The most interesting fact that I learned Italy was that it has three active volcanoes. Another interesting fact is that Italy is one of the most religious countries in the world. I was surprised to find out that Italy is surrounded by so many different bodies of water touching its very long coast line. Italy was a good country to study because I found out many things about a country I did not know much about. I hope you enjoyed reading about it.



Italy

# Europe: Political Map



Atlantic Ocean



Arctic Ocean

Russia

Caspian Sea

Black Sea

Med. Sea

Africa





ALPS

Milan

Turin

Venice

Bologna

Genoa

Rimini

Ancona

Urbino

Pisa

Florence

Genoa

Livorno

Naples

Salerno

Bari

Santo Spirito

TIRRENIAN SEA

Stromboli

Cagliari

Palermo

Messina

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