



# Moldova

## Country Profile

August 2019

## BACKGROUND

A large portion of present day Moldovan territory became a province of the Russian Empire in 1812 and then unified with Romania in 1918 in the aftermath of World War I. This territory was then incorporated into the Soviet Union at the close of World War II. Although Moldova has been independent from the Soviet Union since 1991, Russian forces have remained on Moldovan territory east of the Nistru River supporting the breakaway region of Transnistria, whose population is roughly equally composed of ethnic Ukrainians, Russians, and Moldovans. Moldova remains Europe's poorest economy, but has made steps toward expanding its market access by signing and ratifying an Association Agreement with the EU in 2014, which fully entered into force in July 2016 after ratification by all EU member states. Igor DODON won Moldova's first direct presidential election in over 20 years in November 2016.

**Geography:** Eastern Europe, northeast of Romania. Total area 33 851 sq km.

**People:** Total population is 3 474 121 and median age is 36.7 years.

**Economy and Infrastructure:** Despite recent progress, Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe. With a moderate climate and productive farmland, Moldova's economy relies heavily on its agriculture sector, featuring fruits, vegetables, wine, wheat, and tobacco. Moldova also depends on annual remittances of about \$1.2 billion - almost 15% of GDP - from the roughly one million Moldovans working in Europe, Israel, Russia, and elsewhere. Over the longer term, Moldova's economy remains vulnerable to corruption, political uncertainty, weak administrative capacity, vested bureaucratic interests, energy import dependence, Russian political and economic pressure, heavy dependence on agricultural exports, and unresolved separatism in Moldova's Transnistria region.

**Agriculture:** Vegetables, fruits, grapes, grain, sugar beets, sunflower seeds, tobacco; beef, milk; wine.

**Industries:** Sugar processing, vegetable oil, food processing, agricultural machinery; foundry equipment, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines; hosiery, shoes, textiles.

**Environment:** Heavy use of agricultural chemicals, including banned pesticides such as DDT, has contaminated soil and groundwater; extensive soil erosion from poor farming methods.

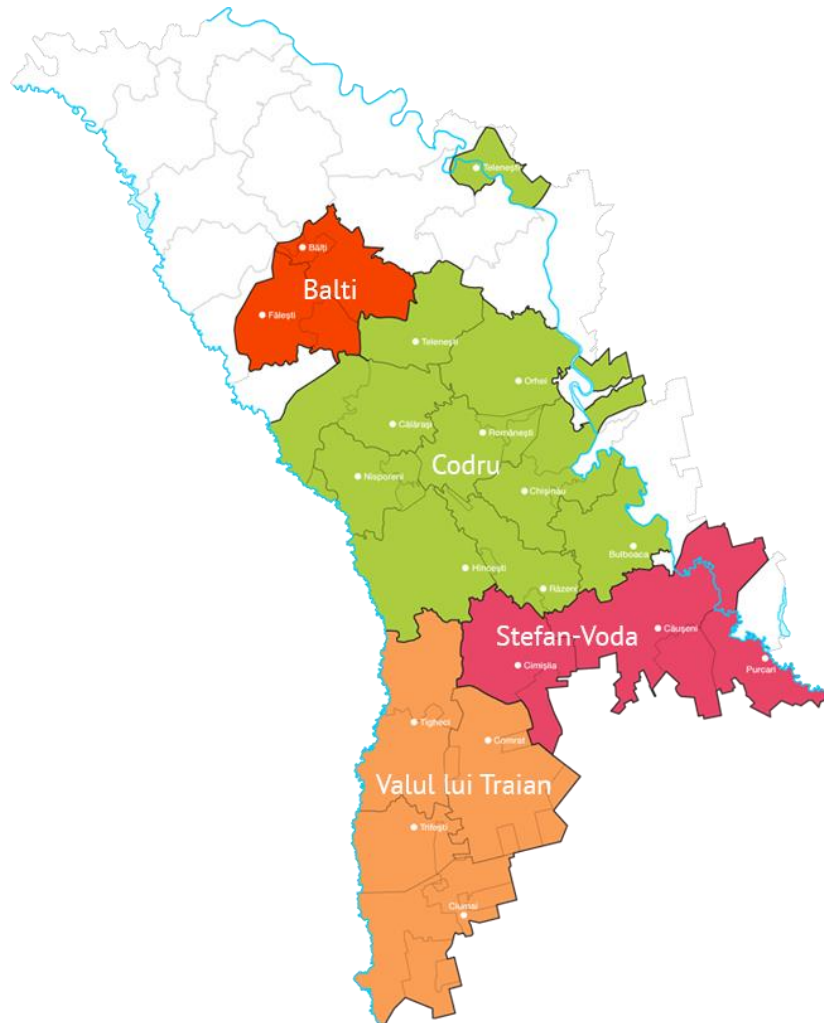
Source: *World Factbook*



## THE WINE INDUSTRY

### 1. WINE REGIONS

There are 4 historical wine regions: Valul lui Traian (23 300 ha south west), Stefan Voda (15 000 ha south east), Codru (52 500 ha center, the famous underground wine cellars Cricova and Milestii Mici wineries are located in this region), and Balti (North); first three are destined for the production of wines with protected geographic indication.



Source: winesofmoldova

### 2. AREA UNDER VINES

112 000 ha wine-grape vines.

YEAR	HECTARES
2017	140 000
2018*	147 000

\*Provisional

Source: OIV

### 3. CULTIVARS

White 70%, Red 24% and Table 6%.

Local varieties (10%): white - Fetească albă, Fetească regală, Plavai, Busuioacă albă; red - Rară Neagră, Fetească neagră.

Other: white - Chardonnay, Sauvignon blanc, Aligoté, Pinot gris, Pinot blanc, Riesling, Traminer, Muscat, Silvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Rkatsiteli; red - Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot noir, Malbec, Saperavi, Gamay.

Recently Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Carignan, Montepulciano, Sémillon, Ugni blanc, and Tempranillo were conditionally registered for trial.

### 4. PRODUCTION

#### Domestic Wine Production

YEAR	'000 litres
2013	260 000
2014	160 000
2015	160 000
2016	150 000
2017	180 000
2018*	190 000

\*Provisional

Source: OIV

### 5. CONSUMPTION

YEAR	LITRES
2018	n/a

#### Per capita consumption

YEAR	LITRES PER CAPITA
2017	18

Source: moldova.org

## 6. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### Total exports

Exports represent 74% of total wine production. Main exports countries are Kazakhstan (21%), Russia (19%), the USA (10%) Romania (9%) and Ukraine (8%).

YEAR	'000 LITRES
2011	121 200
2012	122 000
2013	123 500
2014	102 500
2015	113 700
2016	133 300
2017	141 000
2018	141 200

Source: Comtrade

### Total imports

Imports mainly from Italy (54%), France and Austria.

YEAR	'000 LITRES
2011	2 700
2012	387
2013	605
2014	352
2015	1 000
2016	1 000
2017	750
2018	750

Source: Comtrade

## 7. INTERNATIONAL POSITION

13th in global vineyard area.

21st in global wine production.