

**HARNESSING WIND**

**Europe depends on wind power.**

Estonia, with a growth rate of 32%, tops the wind-power charts. Croatia was up 28%, Poland 22%, and Romania, 10%.

**PILGRIMAGE 2,5 million:** The number of pilgrims who journeyed to Mecca in 2011, including 1.8 million from abroad, **700-to-800, 000 from Saudi Arabia alone.** Masjid al-Haram, the world's most important Arab mosque (and the world's largest religious building) takes in 1,000 pilgrims per one million inhabitants for every Muslim country. The largest share is from Indonesia: 20,000 pilgrims per million. In 201, 63,000 policemen provide security around the mosque, 3,500 of which were anti-riot troops. There were also and 450 armored vehicles. Civil protection teams numbered 22,000 men with 6,000 vehicles.

*Source The Telegraph*

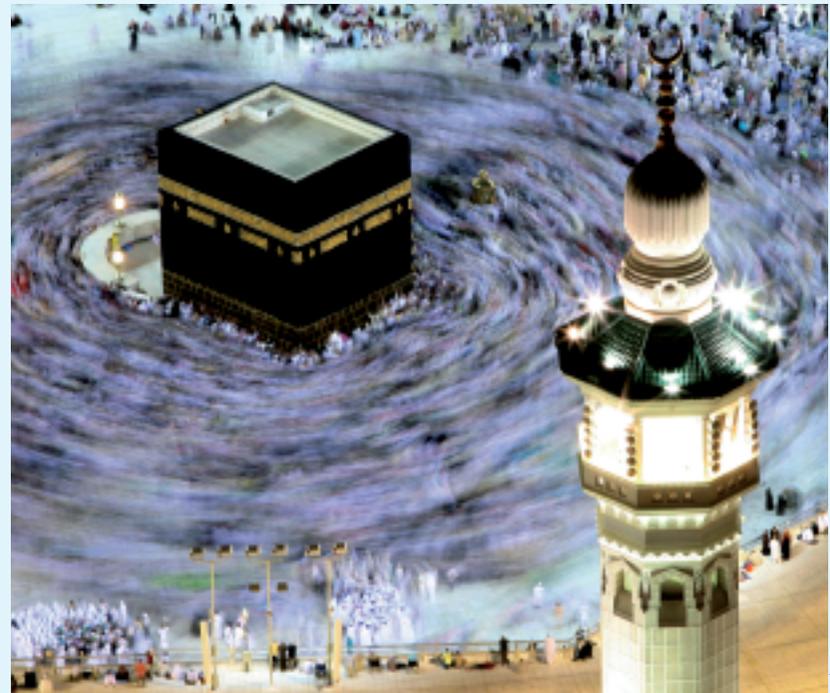
**RECORD 24 hours:** Length of longest ever radio interview ever broadcast. Talk show host Richard Glover, who works in Sydney, earned Guinness honors for an Australian Broadcasting Corporation interview of the author and journalist Peter FitzSimons that lasted a full day.

*Source World Guinness Records*

**OLYMPIC NUMBERS 8 million:** The number of tickets set to go on sale for the 2012 London Olympics. There will be 17,320 available beds at the Olympic Village. These will be made into 3,600 low cost flats after the games.

**ITALY'S BUBBLES 200 million:** The number of bottles of Italian sparkling wine (spumante) uncorked abroad in 2011, of a total production of 400 million bottles. **24%:** The increase in sales of Italian bubbly, which has beaten out French champagne in international exports. Spumante has become Europe's favorite toasting wine.

*Source Coldiretti*



**BBC TOPS 241 million:** BBC viewers. The BBC continues to be the most watched international media channel. 130 million: Followers of Japan's NHK and Al Jazeera television. 125 million: U.S. Voice of America. 86 million: Deutsche Welle.

*Source Monocle*

**MONEY TRANSFER €31 billion:** Money sent home by European immigrants to their country of origin in 2010 (up 3% over 2009). €7.2 billion (23%) was sent home by immigrants in Spain, €6.6 billion by those in Italy, with €3 billion from Germany and €2.9 billion from France.

*Source Eurostat*

**GOLDEN 18,000:** The tons of gold accumulated by Indian women as part of marriages dowries. The amount is equal to 50% of India's national income, and represents 11% of world gold stock, worth \$950 billion.

*Source Macquarie University*

**DIVORCES... 260,000:** The number of couples that divorce annually in Japan (a divorce every two minutes). In China, meanwhile, divorces in 2010 officially stood at 800,000. In the Europe of 27, there were one million legal separations, an average of two per 1,000 inhabitants, half the U.S. rate of 4.5. The European countries where marriages are mostly successful are Catholic Ireland (0.7 divorces per 1,000 inhabitants) and **Italy (0.9)**. The least successful were Belgium (3.0 divorces per 1,000 inhabitants) and the Czech Republic (2.9).

*Source Eurostat*

**AND DIVIDENDS \$1.5 million dollars:** annual salary of divorce lawyer Daniel Jaffe, who has represented the wives of Rupert Murdoch and director James Cameron. The average divorce lawyer salary is \$96,000.

*Source degreedirectory.com*

**I DIDN'T HEAR IT 116:** Accidents caused by listening to music with headphones, according to U.S. research. 30%: Percent of victims under age 18.

*Source Junjury Prevention*

**ZZZZZ...**  
**\$ 150 billion:** Dollar losses through insomnia, according to U.S. research. **\$ 15 billion:** Annual government costs in treating insomnia-related conditions. **30%:** Percentage of insomniacs worldwide. **10 million:** American who annually buy drugs or follow treatment to combat insomnia. The U.S. has the largest number of insomniacs, followed by Germany and the UK. Compared to 100 a century ago, people sleep 20% less.

*Source InsomniaSymptoms.org*

**JAILTIME** The European countries with the highest number of prison inmates are England and Wales, with 148 people per 100,000 inhabitants in prison. The female population is 5%, also tops. Germany has 94 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants, 5.3% are women. Spain 144 per 100,000 inhabitants, and 8% are women.

Here are other European breakdowns:

Italy	104	4.8%
France	85	3.6%
Netherlands	28	8.7%
Portugal	120	7%
Belgium	91	4.2%
Austria	105	5.3%
Sweden	83	5.2%
Scotland	134	4.4%
Switzerland	83	5.4%
Finland	74	6.3%
Norway	66	4.8%
Ireland	79	2.2%

**Ireland** has the longest legal backlog, with 37.4% of inmates awaiting trial, followed by **Belgium (37.2%)**, **Italy (35.9%)** and **France (31.5%)**. **England and Wales** had the lowest percentage: 16%.

*Source International Centre of Prison Studies*

**STRIKE!** Strikers of the world unite! — in Denmark if possible. Since 2008, Denmark has led the world in strikes (some 100,000 public sector workers walked out in 2008, the largest strike in history). But the rest of the world is also doing its part. Here are the 2011 stats from NationMaster.com, based on average number of strikes per year.

Denmark	296
Iceland	244
Canada	217
Spain	189
Norway	135
Ireland	90
Italy	76
France	67
U.S.	60
Greece	29
Turkey	28
Hungary	25
UK	22
Sweden	9
Austria	2
Germany	2
Switzerland	2
Japan	1

*Source NationMaster - Oecd*

