



## Population

The EU will, in the coming decades, face a number of challenges associated with an ageing society. There are three main factors that explain this trend: persistently low fertility rates, increasing life expectancy, and a baby-boom generation that will soon start to reach retirement age. This has led to a debate on how European countries will cope with population ageing and the impact it will have on, among others, labour markets, pensions and provisions for health-care, housing, or social services.

In order to address these challenges, the European Commission released a Green Paper in March 2005 (COM(2005) 94) titled 'Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations' <sup>(1)</sup>, which recognised that there will be increasing demands to support a growing number of dependent elderly people (many living alone), while a rising proportion of young adults will likely continue living with their parents well into their twenties. The Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities released a Communication titled 'Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU (2009 Ageing Report)' <sup>(2)</sup>. This drew on work conducted by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs analysing the impact of ageing populations on public expenditures, through a set of projections (for categories such as pensions, healthcare or long-term care), in order to assess the long-term sustainability of public finances based on a 'no-policy change' scenario. The Communication re-iterated five key areas for policy responses to demographic change:

- promoting demographic renewal;
- promoting employment (more jobs and longer working lives of better quality);

(1) For more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0094en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0094en01.pdf).

(2) COM(2009) 180 final; for more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0180:FIN:EN:PDF>.



- a more productive and dynamic Europe;
- receiving and integrating migrants;
- sustainable public finances to guarantee adequate social protection and equity between the generations.

## 2.1 European population compared with other regions of the world

### Introduction

Europe's ageing society and its relatively static number of inhabitants may be contrasted against a rapid expansion in the world's population, driven largely by population growth in developing countries. United Nations' population projections show that the situation in Europe is by no means unique, and that most developed, and indeed some emerging economies, will undergo changes in their demographic composition in the next half century, with shrinking working-age populations, a higher proportion of elderly persons, and increasing dependency rates.

The projected ageing of populations could lead to labour shortages in some countries, which may provide opportunities for economic development in developing economies. Much will depend upon whether the increasing pool of labour in developing countries attracts inward investment or whether labour shortages in other global regions result in migratory flows that may have repercussions for both destination and departure countries.

### Definitions and data availability

All of the data in this subchapter is provided by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN) Secretariat <sup>(3)</sup>. Note that the geographical coverage relates to the whole of Europe, as opposed to the political and economic union of the 27 Member States (see the next subchapter for information relating to the EU-27 and its Member States). For this subchapter, Europe is defined as an aggregate composed of the 27 Member States, together with Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Since the 1970s, the UN has been involved in several multi-national survey programmes whose results provide key information about fertility, mortality, maternal and child health. The UN data reflects demographic information produced by other UN agencies or bodies, such as, the Economic and Social Commissions, the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Data from other organisations, such as Eurostat, is also consulted and used when elaborating population projections. Note the data collection made by the UN is only revised every five years, and as such the UN data reported in this edition of the Eurostat Yearbook is the same as that found in the last edition.

<sup>(3)</sup> For more information: <http://esa.un.org/unpp>.

**UN population data** is often based on registers or estimates of population on a date close to 1 July (mid-year population); this may be contrasted with Eurostat's data that generally reflect the situation as of 1 January in each reference year.

The preparation of **population estimates and projections** by the UN involves two distinct processes: the incorporation of new and relevant information regarding past demographic dynamics; and the formulation of assumptions about the future paths of fertility, mortality and international migration. The population projections are 'what-if' scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and structure of the population for a specific set of assumptions; for the purpose of this publication, the medium variant has been selected. Under this variant, total fertility in all countries is assumed to converge towards 1.85 children per woman, although not all countries reach this level during the projection period. Mortality is projected on the basis of models concerning changes in life expectancy; these produce smaller gains the higher the life expectancy that has already been reached and are based on recent trends in life expectancy by gender.

### Main findings

The world's population more than doubled between 1960 and 2005, rising from 3 023 million to 6 512 million inhabitants. In its entirety, Europe had 729 million inhabitants in 2005, equivalent to 11.2 % of the global population. Asia had by far the largest share of the world's population

in 2005, with 3 937 million inhabitants, equivalent to around three fifths (60.4 %) of the total. Africa accounted for the second highest share (14.1 %), while Latin America and the Caribbean (8.5 %), Northern America (5.1 %) and Oceania (0.5 %) each reported shares that were below that recorded for Europe.

Europe's share of the world's population fell considerably, from one fifth (20.0 %) of the total in 1960 to 11.2 % by 2005; the North American share also fell, although to a lesser extent (down 1.6 percentage points). The increase in global population between 1960 and 2005 can be largely attributed to Africa and Asia, their relative contributions to the world's population rose by 4.7 and 4.1 percentage points respectively.

Despite Europe's relative share of the world's population falling, the number of inhabitants continued to grow between 1960 and 2005, albeit very slowly from 1995 onwards. The fastest population expansion over the period 1960 to 2005 was reported in Africa (an overall increase of 223.1 %), while the populations of Latin America and the Caribbean (153.4 %), Asia (132.4 %) and Oceania (111.3 %) more than doubled.

The United Nations (UN) forecasts that the rate of population growth will slow considerably in the period through to 2050, by which time the global population is projected to reach 9 150 million inhabitants; this would, nevertheless, mark an overall increase of 41.1 % between 2005 and 2050, with the largest contribution to population growth (some 95 % of





the total) likely to come from developing countries (in particular those in Africa). According to the same set of UN forecasts, India is likely to become the most populous nation on the planet by 2030, and its population is projected to continue growing through to 2050 when it will reach 1 614 million. These projections are in contrast to those made for China, where the population is expected to peak by 2030, after which a gradual decline in the number of inhabitants is foreseen.

One of the main reasons behind Europe's ageing population is the decline experienced in the average number of births per year, which fell from a high of 11.9 million during the period 1960 to 1965 to 7.4 million for the period 2000 to 2005. In contrast, the overall number of births in every other continent continued to rise, except in North America (where there was growth from 1980 onwards). Crude birth rates express the number of births in relation to the whole population: the European crude birth rate (10.2 births per 1 000 (‰) inhabitants) was the lowest across the continents and approximately half the world average of 21.2 ‰ during the period 2000 to 2005. By far the highest crude birth rate was reported for Africa, at 37.2 ‰, nearly twice the rate of any other continent.

The fertility rate of women in Europe fell at a relatively fast pace between the early 1960s and late 1990s, from an average of 2.6 children per woman to 1.4, and stabilised at this rate during the period 2000 to 2005. This downward trend was reflected across most of the continents, with fertility rates for the whole world falling from

an average of 4.9 children per woman to 2.7. One of the main drivers of the reduction in fertility rates was China: indeed, crude birth rates and average fertility rates were reduced considerably in China, as the former fell from 38.0 ‰ between 1960 and 1965 to 14.0 ‰ by 2000 to 2005 and the latter from an average of 5.6 children per woman between 1960 and 1965 to 1.8 children by 2000 to 2005. Average fertility rates remained relatively high in Africa, at close to five children (4.9) per woman during the period 2000 to 2005.

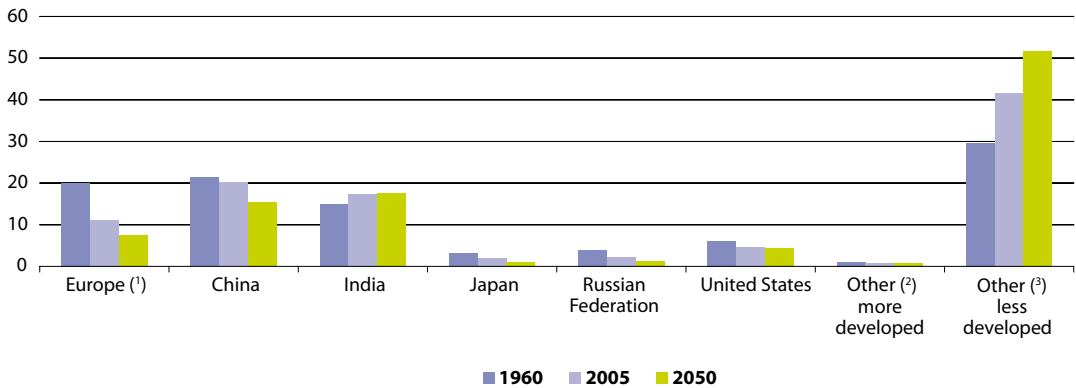
The relative importance of the young and the elderly in the total population varies considerably between continents. Children aged less than 15 years old accounted for 15.9 % of Europe's population in 2005, which was, coincidentally, the same share as that recorded for people aged 65 and over. The young accounted for at least 20 % of the population in the remaining continents, a share that peaked at 41.2 % in Africa. At the other end of the age spectrum, persons aged 65 years or more accounted for just 3.4 % of the total population in Africa in 2005, approximately half the value recorded for Asia and for Latin America and the Caribbean, while the elderly made up more than 10 % of the population in Northern America and Oceania.

A set of dependency ratios can be calculated to help analyse the relationship between the working-age population (generally considered to be those aged 15 to 64 years old) and dependents either under the age of 15 or aged 65 and over. As a result of declining birth and fertility rates, young-age dependency ratios in Europe were almost halved from 41 %

in 1960 to 23 % by 2005. This trend was, in part, counterbalanced by the increasing numbers of elderly persons within the European population and it is likely that elder generations will continue to account for a growing share of the European population in the coming decades. The European old-age dependency ratio rose from 14 % in 1960 to 23 % by 2005. As such, some 46 % of the European population was not of a working age in 2005.

This total dependency ratio (young-age and old-age dependency) was generally between 50 % and 57 % in the remaining continents, although in contrast to the European figures, the relative importance of young persons was consistently higher than that of the older generations. The situation in Africa was quite different, as the total dependency ratio rose as high as 80 % in 2005, almost entirely as a result of the high proportion of young persons.

**Figure 2.1:** World population  
(% of total)



(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

(2) Excluding Europe, Japan and the United States.

(3) Excluding China, India and the Russian Federation.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs



**Table 2.1:** World population  
(million)

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
World	3 023	3 332	3 686	4 061	4 438	4 846	5 290	5 713	6 115	6 512
Europe (¹)	604	634	656	676	693	707	721	727	727	729
Africa	285	322	367	419	482	556	639	726	819	921
Asia	1 694	1 886	2 125	2 379	2 623	2 890	3 179	3 448	3 698	3 937
Latin America and the Caribbean	220	252	286	323	363	402	442	482	521	557
Northern America	204	219	231	242	254	267	283	300	319	335
Oceania	16	18	20	21	23	25	27	29	31	34
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
China	646	716	816	911	981	1 053	1 142	1 211	1 267	1 312
India	448	497	553	617	693	775	862	953	1 043	1 131
Japan	93	98	104	112	117	121	123	125	127	127
Russian Federation	120	127	130	134	139	144	148	148	147	143
United States	186	199	209	219	229	241	255	271	288	303

(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

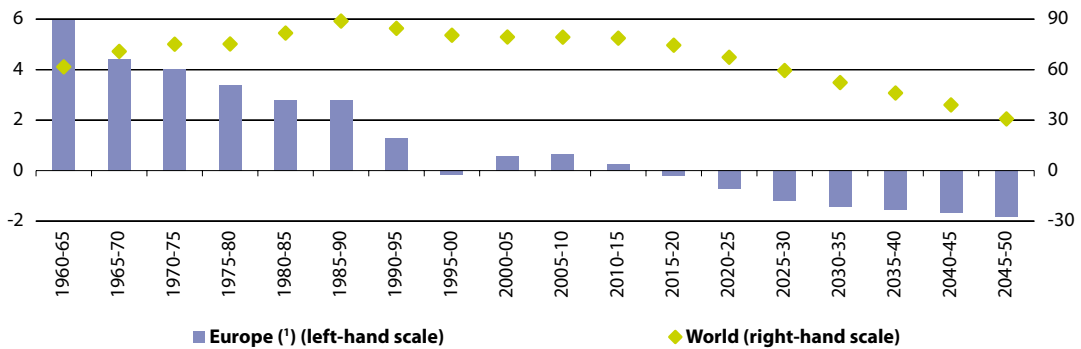
**Table 2.2:** World population  
(% of total)

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Europe (¹)	20.0	19.0	17.8	16.6	15.6	14.6	13.6	12.7	11.9	11.2
Africa	9.4	9.7	10.0	10.3	10.9	11.5	12.1	12.7	13.4	14.1
Asia	56.0	56.6	57.7	58.6	59.1	59.6	60.1	60.4	60.5	60.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.3	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5
Northern America	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1
Oceania	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
China	21.4	21.5	22.1	22.4	22.1	21.7	21.6	21.2	20.7	20.2
India	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.3	16.7	17.0	17.4
Japan	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0
Russian Federation	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.2
United States	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6

(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 2.2:** Population change  
(average annual change, million)



(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Table 2.3:** Population and population projections  
(million)

	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
World	6 512	6 909	7 302	7 675	8 012	8 309	8 571	8 801	8 996	9 150
Europe (1)	729	733	734	733	729	723	716	708	700	691
Africa	921	1 033	1 153	1 276	1 400	1 524	1 648	1 770	1 887	1 998
Asia	3 937	4 167	4 391	4 596	4 773	4 917	5 032	5 125	5 193	5 231
Latin America and the Caribbean	557	589	618	646	670	690	706	718	726	729
Northern America	335	352	368	383	398	410	421	431	440	448
Oceania	34	36	38	40	43	45	46	48	50	51
	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
China	1 312	1 354	1 396	1 431	1 453	1 462	1 462	1 455	1 440	1 417
India	1 131	1 214	1 294	1 367	1 431	1 485	1 528	1 565	1 594	1 614
Japan	127	127	126	124	121	117	114	110	106	102
Russian Federation	143	140	138	135	132	129	125	122	119	116
United States	303	318	332	346	359	370	380	389	397	404

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs





**Table 2.4:** Average number of live births per year (million)

	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
World	111.0	117.3	119.4	120.8	129.3	138.2	136.0	133.2	133.9
Europe (¹)	11.9	10.8	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.8	8.3	7.4	7.4
Africa	14.4	16.1	18.2	20.6	23.2	25.8	27.7	29.8	32.4
Asia	69.9	75.7	75.8	74.5	79.8	86.0	83.2	79.4	77.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	9.7	10.2	10.7	11.3	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.4
Northern America	4.7	4.0	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5
Oceania	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
China	25.8	28.3	24.7	20.4	21.9	26.0	22.3	19.7	18.0
India	19.1	20.4	21.8	23.7	25.3	26.6	27.8	27.7	27.6
Japan	1.6	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1
Russian Federation	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.6	1.3	1.4
United States	4.2	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.2

(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Table 2.5:** Crude birth rate (per 1 000 population)

	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
World	34.9	33.4	30.8	28.4	27.9	27.3	24.7	22.5	21.2
Europe (¹)	19.1	16.8	15.7	14.8	14.4	13.7	11.5	10.2	10.2
Africa	47.6	46.8	46.2	45.8	44.8	43.1	40.6	38.5	37.2
Asia	39.0	37.7	33.7	29.8	28.9	28.4	25.1	22.2	20.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.0	37.8	35.2	33.0	30.7	27.8	25.3	23.2	21.2
Northern America	22.0	17.7	15.7	15.1	15.5	15.7	15.5	14.2	13.8
Oceania	26.7	24.5	24.0	21.0	20.2	20.0	19.8	18.8	17.8
	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
China	38.0	36.9	28.6	21.5	21.5	23.7	18.9	15.9	14.0
India	40.5	38.8	37.3	36.2	34.4	32.5	30.7	27.7	25.4
Japan	17.1	17.8	19.0	15.2	12.8	11.2	9.9	9.4	8.9
Russian Federation	21.0	14.4	15.3	15.9	16.8	16.1	10.9	8.9	9.9
United States	21.8	17.7	15.7	15.1	15.5	15.9	15.7	14.5	14.2

(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

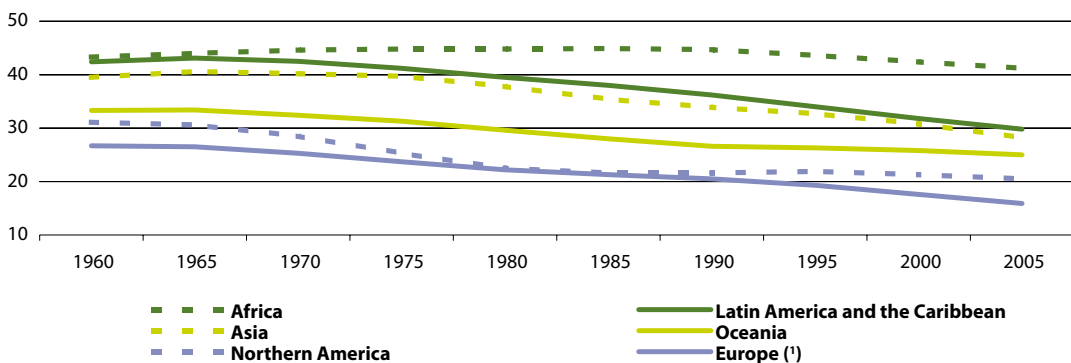
**Table 2.6:** Average fertility rates  
(average number of children per woman)

	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
World	4.9	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.7
Europe (¹)	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.4
Africa	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.7	5.2	4.9
Asia	5.6	5.5	4.8	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.5
Northern America	3.4	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Oceania	4.0	3.6	3.3	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4
	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
China	5.6	5.9	4.8	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8
India	5.8	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.1
Japan	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3
Russian Federation	2.6	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.3
United States	3.3	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0

(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 2.3:** Proportion of the population aged under 15  
(% of total population)

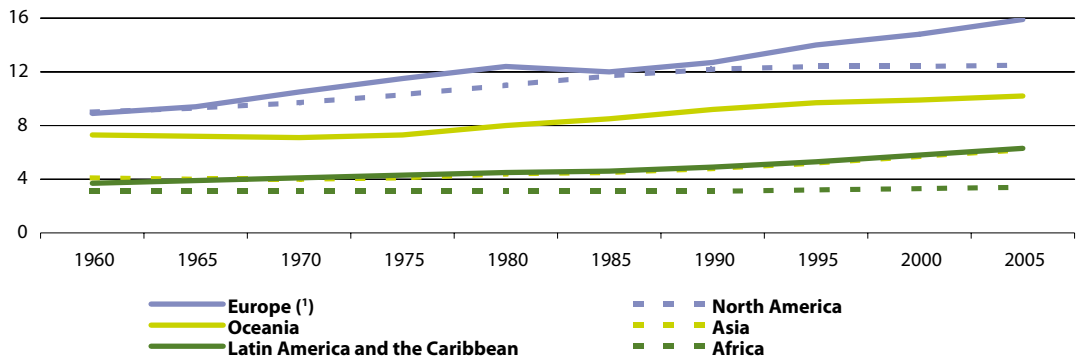


(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs



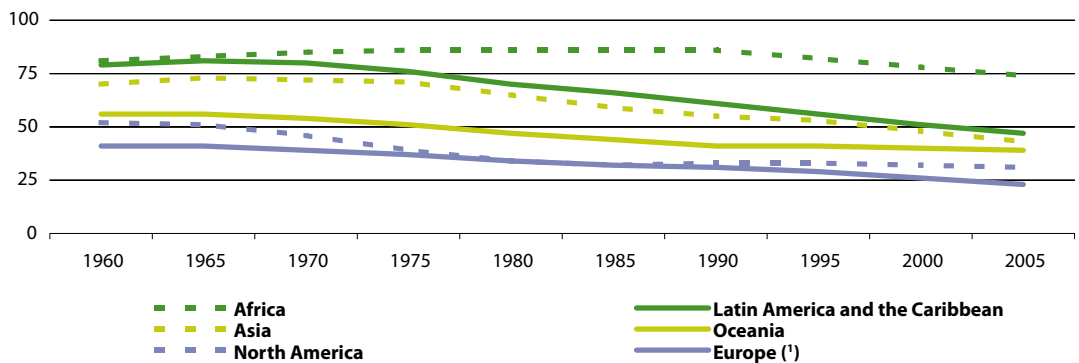
**Figure 2.4:** Proportion of the population aged 65 and over (% of total population)



(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

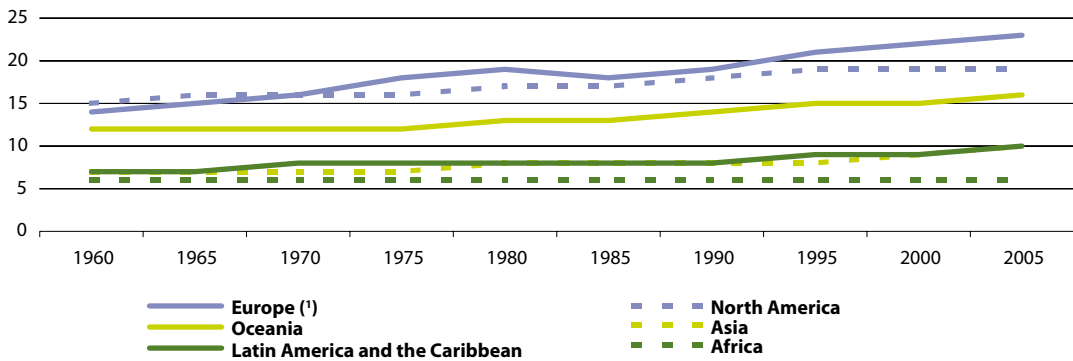
**Figure 2.5:** Young-age dependency ratio (%)



(¹) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 2.6:** Old-age dependency ratio (%)



(\*) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

## 2.2 EU-27 population

### Introduction

The impact of demographic ageing within the EU is likely to be of major significance in the coming decades. Consistently low birth rates and higher life expectancy will transform the shape of the EU-27's age pyramid; probably the most important change will be the marked transition towards a much older population and this trend is already becoming apparent in several Member States. As a result, the proportion of people of a working age in the EU-27 is shrinking at the same time as those who are considering retirement expands. The share of older persons in the total population will increase significantly from 2010 onwards, as the post-war baby-boom generation starts to reach retirement.

Policies that are designed to increase labour force participation may play a role in reconciling demographic developments and the social expenditure burden, while pension reforms are also on-going across many Member States. In addition, policy-makers have considered ways of creating more flexible working opportunities that may encourage elderly persons to remain within the labour market, while increased longevity and healthy life years have led some administrations to consider raising statutory retirement ages.

Furthermore, the gradual break-up of the traditional family unit within the EU means that an increasing proportion of elderly people are likely to live on their own in the future; this change will likely result in a considerable increase in the



need for professional care, especially as population projections suggest that the fastest growing age group in the EU-27 will be those aged over 80 years. As a result, major challenges will include providing social services and healthcare, as well as adapted housing, transport/mobility facilities and other public infrastructure for this population age group.

### Definitions and data availability

Eurostat produces a large range of demographic data, including statistics on national and regional levels of population (population estimates based on annual data collections from Member States and other European countries, census data and population projections). These are supplemented by information on a range of demographic events (births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and emigration) that influence the size, structure and characteristics of population groups. A number of important European Commission policies, notably in social and economic fields, use demographic data – for example, fertility rates and life expectancy figures are used when planning social policies for retirement schemes, or regional population data are used for calculating GDP per inhabitant, which is part of the decision-making criteria for the allocation of structural funds to economically less advantaged regions.

**Total population** figures published by Eurostat, as well as those broken down by age or by gender, refer to the population as of 1 January. The population concept used refers to the usual residence. Countries may provide the legal or registered population instead of the usually resident population. Data are usually based on the

most recent census information, adjusted by the components of population change, or are alternatively based on population registers. Note that there is a break in series in 1998 for the EU-27, euro area and France, as prior to this date information for France was collected on the basis of metropolitan France (in other words, excluding the French overseas departments), while from 1998 onwards these regions are included.

**Population density** is the ratio of average population, defined as the number of inhabitants, relative to the size of the territory in square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>); the land area concept (excluding inland waters like lakes or rivers) is used wherever available.

**Age dependency ratios** are important demographic indicators that relate the young and old-age populations (those generally inactive) to the population of working age. In this publication the following terminology is used:

- **young-age dependency ratio:** the population aged up to and including 14 years related to the population aged between 15 and 64 years;
- **old-age dependency ratio:** the population aged 65 years or older related to the population aged between 15 and 64 years;
- **total dependency ratio:** the population aged up to and including 14 years and aged 65 years or older related to the population aged between 15 and 64 years.

Every three to four years, Eurostat produces **population projections**, which are ‘what-if’ scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and

structure of the population. Eurostat's latest population projections scenario (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario) is one of several possible population change scenarios based on the population as of 1 January 2008 and assumptions developed in a conceptual framework whereby socio-economic and cultural differences between Member States would fade away in the long-run.

### Main findings

The number of inhabitants in the EU-27 grew from 402.6 million in 1960 to 497.4 million by 2008. Population growth was strongest at the beginning of this period in the 1960s, when average annual increases were generally over 3 million persons per year. The rate of population change slowed significantly in the 1970s, and by the 1980s the average increase was around one and a quarter million persons per annum. This level of population growth continued during much of the next 20 years, with a modest upturn in population growth from 2003 onwards, as the number of inhabitants in the EU-27 rose by approximately 2 million persons a year through to 2008.

Germany had the largest population among the Member States in 2008, accounting for 16.5 % of the EU-27 total. Together with France, the United Kingdom and Italy, who had similar sized populations, these four countries comprised almost 54 % of the total population of the EU-27 in 2008. The twelve Member States that joined the EU since 2004 had a combined population of 103.3 million persons, representing just over a fifth (almost 21 %) of the EU-27's population.

In a majority of EU-27 Member States, populations continued to grow during the period 2000 to 2008, fuelled in particular by increased net migration in Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom; in relative terms, Ireland, Cyprus, Spain and Luxembourg recorded the highest population growth rates (overall growth in excess of 10 % between 2000 and 2008). Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Lithuania and Latvia were the only Member States to record a contraction in their respective number of inhabitants between 2000 and 2008, with the largest overall decline in Romania (-4.1 %).

Eurostat projects that, under the EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario, the EU-27's population will grow gradually through to 2035, after which the number of inhabitants will start to fall. The latest projections foresee an EU-27 population of 505.7 million inhabitants by 2060, some 1.7 % higher than in 2008.

The projections for a relatively unchanged level of population in the EU-27 between 2008 and 2060 hide considerable differences across Member States. Population levels are projected to increase for most of the EU-15 Member States, whereas among most of those Member States that joined the EU since 2004 the number of inhabitants is projected to fall. In absolute terms, the largest expansions between 2008 and 2060 are projected for the United Kingdom (14.7 million additional inhabitants), metropolitan France (9.7 million) and Spain (5.2 million), while the highest growth rates are projected for Cyprus, Ireland and Luxembourg, where the population is likely to increase by more than 50 % during the period under





consideration. In contrast, the number of inhabitants in Germany is projected to fall by 11.5 million persons between 2008 and 2060, with considerable population reductions also projected for Poland (7.0 million), Romania (4.6 million) and Bulgaria (2.2 million).

Aside from country differences, the projections also highlight what is likely to be a considerable shift in the age structure of the EU-27's population. Low birth rates and rising life expectancy will likely result in a much older population structure, such that the ratio of the number of working-age people to those aged over 65 will be reduced from 4:1 in 2008 to less than 2:1 by 2060. The high number of ageing baby-boomers will swell the number of elderly persons across the EU-27, as shown by a set of

population pyramids for the EU-27, with the baby-boomer bulge moving through to older generations, while the middle parts of the age distribution and the base of the pyramids become progressively narrower.

Age dependency ratios show the relationship between the working-age population and dependents at either end of the age spectrum; they are expressed in terms of the relative size of the young or the old-age population to the working age population. These ratios suggest that persons aged 65 or over will account for 30.0 % of the EU-27's population by 2060, compared with a 17.0 % share in 2008. The importance of the very old (80 years or more) will be considerable by 2060, when this age group is likely to account for 12.0 % of the EU-27's population.



**Table 2.7:** Total population and population projections <sup>(1)</sup>  
(at 1 January, million)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
<b>EU-27 <sup>(2)</sup></b>	402.6	435.5	457.1	470.4	482.8	497.4	499.4	513.8	519.9	520.1	515.3	505.7
<b>Euro area <sup>(2)</sup></b>	257.1	278.7	292.5	300.9	312.7	326.9	328.3	339.5	344.4	345.5	342.2	335.1
Belgium	9.1	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.2	10.7	10.8	11.3	11.7	12.0	12.2	12.3
Bulgaria	7.8	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.2	7.6	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.5
Czech Republic	9.6	9.9	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.2	9.9	9.5
Denmark	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9
Germany	72.5	78.3	78.2	79.1	82.2	82.2	82.1	81.5	80.2	77.8	74.5	70.8
Estonia	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
Ireland	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.6	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.8
Greece	8.3	8.8	9.6	10.1	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.1
Spain	30.3	33.6	37.2	38.8	40.0	45.3	46.7	51.1	52.7	53.3	53.2	51.9
France <sup>(2)</sup>	45.5	50.5	53.7	56.6	60.5	63.8	62.6	65.6	68.0	69.9	71.0	71.8
Italy	50.0	53.7	56.4	56.7	56.9	59.6	60.0	61.4	61.9	62.0	61.2	59.4
Cyprus	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
Latvia	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7
Lithuania	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5
Luxembourg	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Hungary	10.0	10.3	10.7	10.4	10.2	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.4	9.1	8.7
Malta	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Netherlands	11.4	13.0	14.1	14.9	15.9	16.4	16.5	16.9	17.2	17.2	16.9	16.6
Austria	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.0
Poland	29.5	32.7	35.4	38.0	38.7	38.1	38.1	38.0	37.0	35.2	33.3	31.1
Portugal	8.8	8.7	9.7	10.0	10.2	10.6	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.4	11.3
Romania	18.3	20.1	22.1	23.2	22.5	21.5	21.3	20.8	20.0	19.2	18.1	16.9
Slovenia	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
Slovakia	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.5
Finland	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4
Sweden	7.5	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.9	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.9
United Kingdom	52.2	55.5	56.3	57.2	58.8	61.2	62.0	65.7	69.2	72.0	74.5	76.7
Croatia	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	27.1	34.9	44.0	55.5	66.9	70.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
Iceland	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
Liechtenstein <sup>(3)</sup>	16.8	20.9	25.8	28.4	32.4	35.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.0
Switzerland	5.3	6.2	6.3	6.7	7.2	7.6	7.7	8.2	8.6	8.9	9.1	9.2

<sup>(1)</sup> From 2010 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

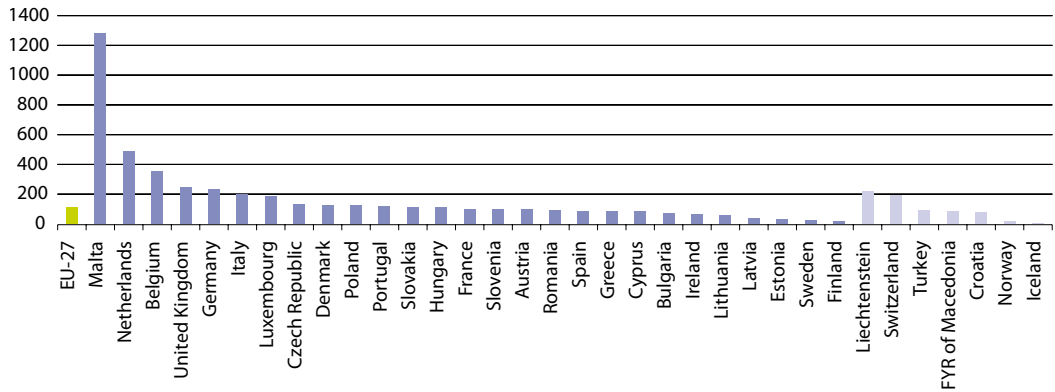
<sup>(2)</sup> Excluding the four French overseas departments (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion) for 1960 to 1990 and from 2010 onwards.

<sup>(3)</sup> Thousand instead of million.

Source: Eurostat ([demo\\_pjan](#) and [proj\\_08c2150p](#))



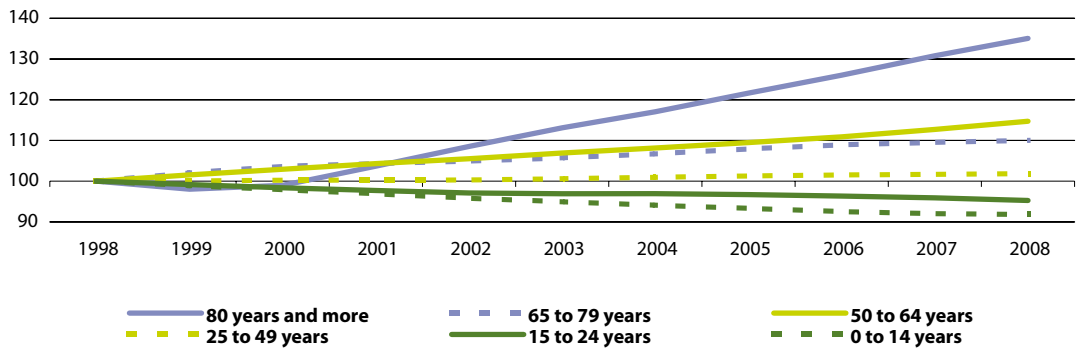
**Figure 2.7:** Population density, 2007 <sup>(1)</sup>  
(inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>)



<sup>(1)</sup> Spain, France, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Turkey, Liechtenstein and Norway, 2006; EU-27 and the United Kingdom, 2005.

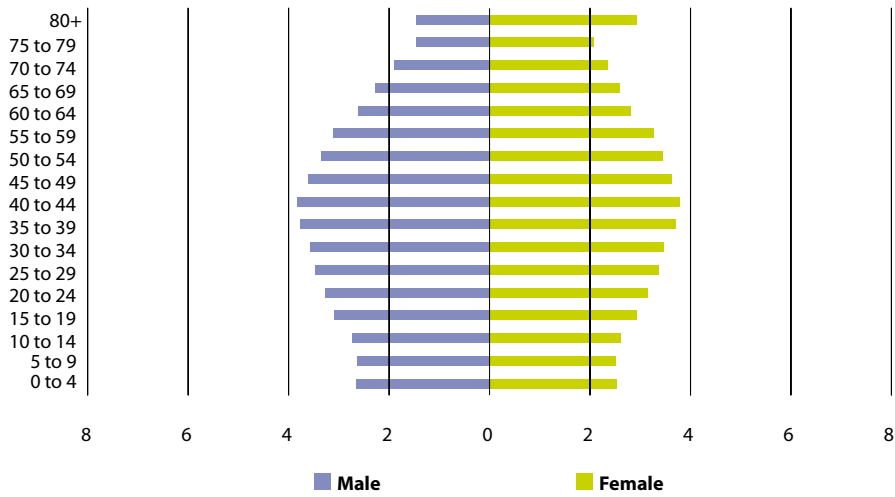
Source: Eurostat ([tps00003](#))

**Figure 2.8:** Population by age class, EU-27  
(1998=100)



Source: Eurostat ([demo\\_pjan](#))

**Figure 2.9:** Age pyramid, EU-27, 2008  
(% of total population)



Source: Eurostat ([demo\\_pjan](#))

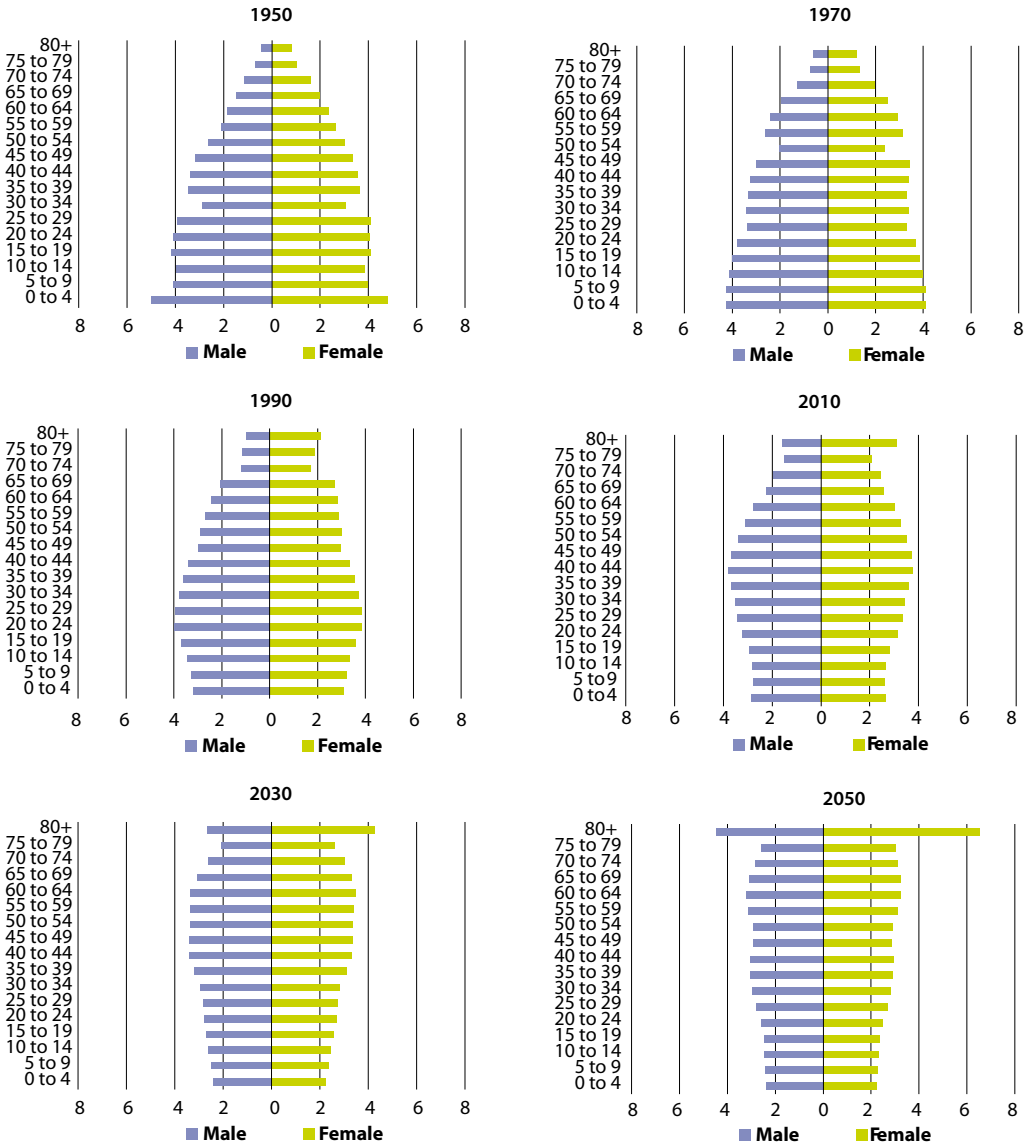


**Table 2.8:** Population by age class, 2008  
(% of total population)

	<b>0 to 14 years</b>	<b>15 to 24 years</b>	<b>25 to 49 years</b>	<b>50 to 64 years</b>	<b>65 to 79 years</b>	<b>80 years and more</b>
<b>EU-27</b>	15.7	12.5	36.2	18.6	12.7	4.3
<b>Euro area</b>	15.5	11.7	36.5	18.4	13.2	4.6
Belgium	16.9	12.1	35.1	18.8	12.4	4.7
Bulgaria	13.4	13.1	35.7	20.5	13.7	3.6
Czech Republic	14.2	13.0	37.0	21.2	11.2	3.4
Denmark	18.4	11.7	34.4	19.9	11.5	4.1
Germany	13.7	11.6	36.0	18.6	15.3	4.6
Estonia	14.8	15.2	34.8	18.0	13.5	3.7
Ireland	20.6	14.1	38.9	15.5	8.2	2.7
Greece	14.3	11.2	37.6	18.3	14.6	4.1
Spain	14.6	11.2	40.6	16.9	12.0	4.6
France	18.5	12.8	33.7	18.6	11.5	4.9
Italy	14.0	10.2	37.2	18.6	14.6	5.5
Cyprus	17.4	15.4	37.4	17.3	9.7	2.8
Latvia	13.8	15.6	35.7	17.8	13.7	3.5
Lithuania	15.4	15.9	36.1	16.8	12.6	3.3
Luxembourg	18.2	11.8	38.7	17.3	10.6	3.4
Hungary	15.0	12.7	35.7	20.4	12.5	3.7
Malta	16.2	14.1	34.5	21.3	10.7	2.8
Netherlands	17.9	12.1	35.6	19.7	11.0	3.8
Austria	15.4	12.3	37.4	17.8	12.6	4.6
Poland	15.5	15.5	36.0	19.6	10.5	3.0
Portugal	15.3	11.6	37.4	18.2	13.2	2.5
Romania	15.2	14.6	37.0	18.2	12.1	2.8
Slovenia	13.9	12.2	37.6	19.9	12.7	3.6
Slovakia	15.8	15.3	38.1	18.8	9.4	2.6
Finland	16.9	12.4	32.7	21.5	12.2	4.3
Sweden	16.8	13.0	33.0	19.6	12.2	5.3
United Kingdom	17.6	13.4	34.9	18.0	11.6	4.5
Croatia	15.4	12.6	35.0	19.4	13.9	3.2
FYR of Macedonia	18.5	15.9	37.0	17.3	9.7	1.7
Turkey	26.4	17.6	37.0	11.9	5.9	1.1
Iceland	20.9	14.7	36.4	16.5	8.4	3.2
Liechtenstein	16.8	12.2	38.6	20.1	9.3	3.1
Norway	19.2	12.7	34.9	18.6	10.0	4.6
Switzerland	15.5	11.9	37.2	19.0	11.7	4.7

Source: Eurostat (tps00010)

**Figure 2.10: Moving age pyramids, EU-27 (!)**  
(% of total population)



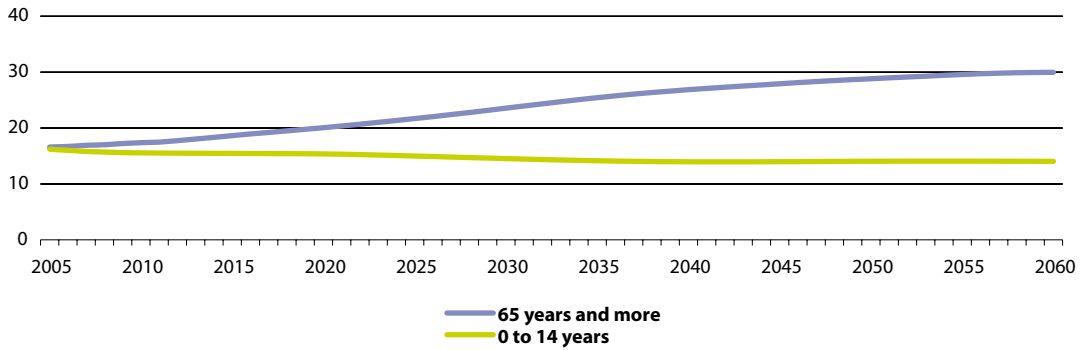
(!) Limited data availability for 1950 and 1970, based on those Member States for which data are available; from 2010 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan and proj\_08c2150p)





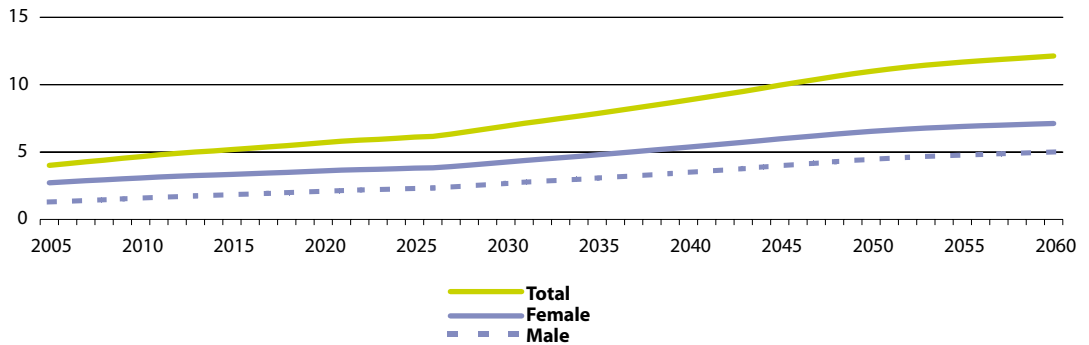
**Figure 2.11:** Proportion of the population aged 0-14 and 65 years and more, EU-27 <sup>(1)</sup>  
(% of total population)



<sup>(1)</sup> From 2008 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat ([tps00010](#) and [proj\\_08c2150p](#))

**Figure 2.12:** Proportion of the population aged 80 years and more, EU-27 <sup>(1)</sup>  
(% of total population)



<sup>(1)</sup> From 2008 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat ([demo\\_pjan](#) and [proj\\_08c2150p](#))

**Table 2.9: Age-related dependency ratios**  
(%)

	Young-age dependency ratio						Old-age dependency ratio					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	:	:	:	29.2	25.7	23.3	:	:	:	20.6	23.2	25.3
<b>Euro area</b>	:	:	:	27.2	24.5	23.2	:	:	:	20.9	24.1	26.9
Belgium	36.2	37.5	31.0	27.0	26.9	25.6	18.5	21.2	21.9	22.1	25.5	25.8
Bulgaria	39.4	33.9	33.5	30.9	23.4	19.3	11.2	14.0	17.8	19.5	23.8	25.0
Czech Republic	39.5	32.0	37.0	33.0	23.9	20.0	14.6	17.9	21.6	19.0	19.8	20.5
Denmark	39.8	36.4	32.7	25.5	27.6	28.0	16.4	18.9	22.2	23.2	22.2	23.6
Germany	31.1	36.8	28.6	23.1	23.1	20.7	17.0	21.4	23.9	21.6	23.9	30.4
Estonia	:	33.3	32.8	33.7	27.3	21.8	:	17.7	19.0	17.5	22.4	25.3
Ireland	53.2	54.2	51.8	44.7	32.8	30.0	19.2	19.3	18.2	18.6	16.8	15.9
Greece	37.6	37.5	36.2	29.3	22.9	21.3	14.2	17.2	20.6	20.4	24.2	27.8
Spain	42.6	44.2	41.2	30.5	21.8	21.3	12.7	15.2	17.1	20.2	24.5	24.1
France (¹)	42.2	40.0	35.4	30.5	29.3	28.4	18.7	20.6	22.1	21.1	24.3	25.0
Italy	37.4	38.1	35.1	24.5	21.2	21.3	14.0	16.7	20.3	21.5	26.8	30.4
Cyprus	:	:	:	41.2	34.5	24.9	:	:	:	17.2	17.0	17.8
Latvia	:	32.8	30.7	32.1	26.7	19.9	:	18.0	19.6	17.7	22.1	24.9
Lithuania	:	43.2	36.2	33.9	30.6	22.3	:	15.9	17.4	16.2	20.8	23.0
Luxembourg	31.5	33.8	28.1	24.9	28.3	26.8	15.9	19.1	20.3	19.3	21.4	20.6
Hungary	38.7	31.3	33.8	31.0	24.8	21.8	13.6	17.0	20.9	20.0	22.0	23.5
Malta	:	:	36.1	35.8	30.2	23.2	:	:	12.5	15.7	17.9	19.8
Netherlands	49.1	43.8	34.3	26.4	27.4	26.6	14.6	16.2	17.4	18.6	20.0	21.8
Austria	33.0	39.5	32.4	26.0	25.4	22.7	18.4	22.7	24.3	22.1	22.9	25.4
Poland	54.5	42.0	36.8	39.0	28.6	21.8	9.5	12.6	15.5	15.4	17.6	18.9
Portugal	46.8	46.8	41.6	31.6	24.0	22.8	12.4	14.9	17.8	20.0	23.7	25.9
Romania	:	39.8	42.1	36.0	27.7	21.8	:	13.0	16.3	15.6	19.7	21.3
Slovenia	:	37.7	34.6	30.6	23.0	19.8	:	14.8	16.4	15.5	19.8	23.1
Slovakia	51.1	43.4	41.2	39.6	28.8	21.8	11.1	14.4	16.7	16.0	16.6	16.6
Finland	49.4	37.7	30.2	28.7	27.2	25.3	11.6	13.6	17.6	19.8	22.2	24.8
Sweden	34.5	31.8	30.9	27.7	28.8	25.6	17.8	20.7	25.3	27.7	26.9	26.7
United Kingdom	35.9	38.2	33.2	29.0	29.4	26.5	18.0	20.5	23.3	24.1	24.3	24.3
Croatia	:	:	:	29.0	24.4	23.0	:	:	:	17.0	24.4	25.6
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	:	:	33.3	26.3	:	:	:	:	14.6	16.2
Turkey	74.7	77.7	69.7	57.6	46.6	39.7	6.4	8.2	8.4	7.1	8.3	10.7
Iceland	60.9	56.4	44.3	38.8	35.8	31.0	14.0	15.0	15.7	16.4	17.8	17.1
Liechtenstein	44.7	43.5	33.1	27.4	26.3	23.7	12.3	12.3	12.9	14.2	14.8	17.5
Norway	41.3	39.1	35.5	29.2	30.8	28.9	17.3	20.4	23.3	25.2	23.5	22.1
Switzerland	36.8	36.5	30.2	24.9	25.9	22.8	15.5	17.3	20.9	21.3	22.7	24.1

(¹) Excluding the four French overseas departments (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion) for 1960 to 1990.

Source: Eurostat ([demo\\_pjanind](#))



## 2.3 Components of population change

### Introduction

There are two components of population change:

- **natural population change:** the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths (births are covered in more detail within the next subchapter, while life expectancy and deaths are treated in Subchapter 2.5.);
- **net migration:** the difference between immigration and emigration (immigration, emigration and citizenship are covered in more detail in Subchapter 2.6).

Political, economic and sociological interest in demographic changes has risen considerably in recent years, particularly in relation to population ageing and migration. As many EU-27 Member States are currently at a point in the demographic cycle where natural population change is close to being balanced, the relative importance of migration in terms of explaining the overall changes in population has increased. This pattern could be reversed to some degree in the coming years, as the EU's population ages, such that natural population change will become increasingly negative.

Most Member States have agreed to develop a common immigration policy <sup>(4)</sup> in order to better manage migratory flows through a coordinated approach which takes into account the economic and demographic situation in the EU. The relative economic prosperity of the EU exerts a considerable pull effect on im-

migrants and while immigration in itself is not a solution to demographic ageing, more sustained flows could increasingly be required to meet the needs of the EU's labour market in the coming decades. These changes highlight the importance attached to ensuring that economic migrants entering the EU have already secured a job, based upon which they will be granted a legal status and a guaranteed set of rights to assist their integration.

### Definitions and data availability

**Population change** is the difference in population between two reference dates and is equal to the sum of natural population change and net migration.

**Natural population change** is defined as the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths. The natural increase is negative (in other words, a natural decrease) when the number of deaths exceeds the number of live births.

**Net migration** is defined as the difference between immigration and emigration (net migration is therefore negative when the number of emigrants exceeds the number of immigrants). Eurostat produces corrected net migration figures by taking the difference between total and natural population increases; this concept is referred to as net migration (including corrections). Net migration gives no indication of the relative scale of the separate immigration and emigration flows to and from a country; a country may report low net migration but experience very high immigration and emigration flows.

<sup>(4)</sup> The legislative provisions relating to the development of a common immigration policy do not fully apply throughout the EU: Denmark has an opt-out regarding Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community, while Ireland and the United Kingdom both decide upon their involvement on a case-by-case basis.

## Main findings

Population growth in the EU-27 amounted to 2.1 million persons in 2008, comprising a 1.5 million net increase from migration and a 0.6 million increase from natural change. These latest figures are in keeping with recent developments, as net migration has been the main driver of population change in the EU-27 during the past decade, in particular since 2002.

Natural change to the EU-27's population remained relatively modest and stable from 1998 to 2003, rising by as much as 296 000 persons in 2000, while the lowest natural increase was 104 000 persons registered at the end of the period. There was subsequently a gradual increase in natural change through to 2008, largely attributable to an increase in the number of births in the Czech Republic, Spain, France, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom; the highest natural increases in 2008 were recorded in France (291 000 persons), the United Kingdom (215 000 persons) and Spain (131 000 persons). There were eight Member States that reported more deaths than births in 2008. Among these, by far the largest natural decrease was recorded in Germany (161 000 persons), followed by Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary, where deaths outnumbered births by just over 30 000 persons (in each country).

The relative importance of migration in explaining population changes within the EU-27 has in recent years increased, due to natural change being almost balanced. Aggregating migratory flows between 1998 and 2008, the EU-27's population rose overall by 15.5 million persons as a result of net migration (including corrections). The evolution of net migration displays a far more volatile pattern from one year to the next when compared with the relatively smooth

development of natural change. EU-27 net migration rose more than threefold between 2001 and 2002, to reach 1.85 million persons. Thereafter, net migration lay within the range of 1.64 million to 2.10 million persons through to 2007, while in 2008 the biggest single reduction in net migration flows during the past decade was reported (607 000 persons). Net migration stood at 1.49 million persons in the EU-27 in 2008; when expressed in relation to the total population this equated to a 0.30 % share.

The highest levels of net migration (including corrections) were generally recorded in the largest EU-27 Member States during the period 1998 to 2008; this was particularly the case in Spain and Italy, where the population rose by 5.5 million and 3.3 million persons as a direct result of migratory flows. In 2008, the same two countries, Spain and Italy, recorded the highest increases in net migration, 414 000 persons and 438 000 persons, while the United Kingdom was the only other Member State to record a figure in excess of 100 000 persons. Only five of the Member States reported a negative net migration (including corrections) in 2008; net migration (including corrections) was negative in Germany (-53 600 persons), Poland (-14 900 persons), Lithuania (-7 700 persons), Latvia (-2 500 persons) and Bulgaria (-900 persons).

Patterns of population change vary considerably between the Member States: in some cases, natural changes are compensated for by changes in net migration, whereas in others, the two components of population change move in the same direction, increasing the momentum with which population levels change. In the period 2003 to 2008 this was the particularly the case in Ireland, Spain, Cyprus and Luxembourg, where the population was growing by more than 2 % per annum on average.



**Table 2.10:** Natural population change  
(1 000)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	168.8	162.3	296.4	231.8	152.1	104.0	391.9	292.0	475.9	483.5	592.8
<b>Euro area</b>	231.4	255.3	350.2	318.8	274.5	204.8	403.2	291.9	406.0	376.1	411.5
Belgium	9.7	9.3	10.0	10.7	5.6	5.1	13.7	14.7	19.8	20.0	23.4
Bulgaria	-52.8	-39.5	-41.4	-44.2	-46.1	-44.6	-40.2	-42.3	-39.5	-37.7	-32.8
Czech Republic	-19.0	-20.3	-18.1	-17.0	-15.5	-17.6	-9.5	-5.7	1.4	10.0	14.6
Denmark	7.7	7.1	9.1	7.1	5.5	7.1	8.8	9.3	9.5	8.5	10.4
Germany	-67.3	-75.6	-71.8	-94.1	-122.4	-147.2	-112.6	-144.4	-148.9	-142.3	-161.9
Estonia	-7.3	-6.0	-5.3	-5.9	-5.4	-5.1	-3.7	-3.0	-2.4	-1.6	-0.6
Ireland	22.4	21.3	23.4	27.6	31.1	32.7	33.8	33.6	36.8	42.6	46.3
Greece	-1.8	-2.7	-2.0	-0.3	-0.3	-1.1	0.7	2.5	6.6	2.0	8.5
Spain	4.7	9.0	37.2	46.2	50.2	57.1	82.7	79.0	111.5	108.6	131.1
France	225.1	229.2	267.5	262.9	248.3	231.3	280.7	269.6	303.3	288.3	291.0
Italy	-51.0	-20.5	-12.4	-16.8	-17.5	-44.8	17.5	-34.9	2.1	-9.1	-3.7
Cyprus	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.6	3.2	4.1
Latvia	-15.8	-13.4	-12.0	-13.3	-12.5	-11.4	-11.7	-11.3	-10.8	-9.8	-7.1
Lithuania	-3.7	-3.6	-4.8	-8.9	-11.1	-10.4	-10.9	-13.3	-13.5	-13.3	-8.8
Luxembourg	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.0
Hungary	-43.6	-48.6	-38.0	-35.1	-36.0	-41.2	-37.4	-38.2	-31.7	-35.3	-30.8
Malta	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Netherlands	61.9	60.0	66.1	62.2	59.7	58.4	57.5	51.5	49.7	48.3	49.7
Austria	2.9	-0.1	1.5	0.7	2.3	-0.3	4.7	3.0	3.6	1.6	2.7
Poland	20.3	0.6	10.3	5.0	-5.7	-14.2	-7.4	-3.9	4.6	10.6	35.1
Portugal	7.3	8.1	14.6	7.7	8.1	3.7	7.3	1.9	3.5	-1.0	0.3
Romania	-31.9	-30.6	-21.3	-39.2	-59.1	-54.1	-42.6	-41.1	-38.6	-37.2	-31.3
Slovenia	-1.2	-1.4	-0.4	-1.0	-1.2	-2.1	-0.6	-0.7	0.8	1.2	2.6
Slovakia	4.4	3.8	2.4	-0.8	-0.7	-0.5	1.9	1.0	0.6	0.6	4.2
Finland	7.8	8.2	7.4	7.6	6.1	7.6	10.2	9.8	10.8	9.7	10.4
Sweden	-4.2	-6.6	-3.0	-2.3	0.8	6.2	10.4	9.6	14.7	15.7	17.9
United Kingdom	87.7	67.9	70.7	66.9	62.6	84.4	132.9	139.9	176.3	197.6	214.7
Croatia	-5.2	-6.8	-6.5	-8.6	-10.5	-12.9	-9.4	-9.3	-8.9	-10.5	-8.4
FYR of Macedonia	12.4	10.5	12.1	10.1	9.8	9.0	5.4	4.1	4.0	3.1	4.0
Turkey	1 046.0	1 024.0	948.0	940.0	933.0	925.0	917.0	911.0	906.0	897.0	818.0
Iceland	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8
Liechtenstein	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Norway	14.2	14.1	15.2	12.7	11.0	14.0	15.8	15.5	17.3	16.5	18.8
Switzerland	16.4	15.9	15.9	11.1	10.6	8.8	12.9	11.8	13.1	13.4	15.2

Source: Eurostat (tps00007)

**Table 2.11: Net migration (including corrections)**  
(1 000)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	528.8	980.4	715.7	600.1	1 851.8	2 035.3	1 875.0	1 659.7	1 639.2	2 101.6	1 494.6
<b>Euro area</b>	436.1	843.7	961.9	1 245.7	1 667.4	1 819.3	1 698.0	1 475.1	1 320.4	1 564.9	1 105.7
Belgium	11.8	16.1	14.3	35.6	40.5	35.5	35.8	50.8	53.4	62.3	64.3
Bulgaria <sup>(1)</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-214.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.4	-0.9
Czech Republic	9.5	8.8	6.5	-43.1	12.3	25.8	18.6	36.2	34.7	83.9	71.8
Denmark	11.0	9.4	10.1	12.0	9.6	7.0	5.0	6.7	10.1	16.5	28.9
Germany	47.0	202.1	167.9	274.8	218.8	142.2	81.8	81.6	25.8	45.2	-53.6
Estonia	-6.6	-1.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Ireland	16.2	24.2	31.8	39.3	32.7	31.4	47.6	66.2	66.7	46.2	17.9
Greece	54.8	45.0	29.4	37.8	38.0	35.4	41.4	40.0	40.0	40.0	35.0
Spain	158.8	237.9	389.8	441.3	649.2	624.6	610.0	641.2	604.9	700.0	413.8
France	-1.4	150.3	158.3	172.7	184.2	188.7	105.1	91.6	90.1	302.5	77.0
Italy	55.8	34.9	49.5	49.9	344.8	612.0	556.6	324.2	377.5	497.1	437.9
Cyprus	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.7	6.9	12.3	15.7	14.4	8.7	7.4	0.6
Latvia	-5.8	-4.1	-5.5	-5.2	-1.8	-0.8	-1.1	-0.6	-2.5	-0.6	-2.5
Lithuania	-22.1	-20.7	-20.3	-2.6	-2.0	-6.3	-9.6	-8.8	-4.9	-5.2	-7.7
Luxembourg	3.8	4.5	3.4	3.3	2.6	5.4	4.4	6.1	5.4	6.0	7.7
Hungary	17.3	16.8	16.7	9.7	3.5	15.6	18.2	17.3	21.3	14.6	16.6
Malta	0.4	0.4	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.7	2.5
Netherlands	44.1	43.8	57.0	56.0	27.6	7.1	-10.0	-22.8	-25.9	-0.9	31.5
Austria	8.5	19.8	17.3	43.5	34.8	38.2	61.7	56.4	29.4	18.0	34.0
Poland	-13.3	-14.0	-409.9	-16.7	-17.9	-13.8	-9.4	-12.9	-36.1	-20.5	-14.9
Portugal	31.9	38.0	47.0	65.0	70.0	63.5	47.3	38.4	26.0	19.5	9.4
Romania	-5.6	-2.5	-3.7	-557.7	-1.6	-7.4	-10.1	-7.2	-6.5	0.7	1.3
Slovenia <sup>(2)</sup>	-5.4	10.8	2.7	5.0	2.2	3.5	1.7	6.4	6.3	14.3	19.5
Slovakia	1.3	1.5	-22.3	1.0	0.9	1.4	2.9	3.4	3.9	6.8	7.1
Finland	4.5	3.4	2.4	6.1	5.3	5.8	6.7	9.2	10.6	13.9	15.4
Sweden	10.9	13.7	24.4	28.6	30.9	28.7	25.3	26.7	50.8	54.0	55.6
United Kingdom	97.4	137.6	143.9	151.0	157.6	177.7	227.2	193.3	247.3	179.3	226.4
Croatia	-4.1	-23.0	-52.4	14.3	8.6	11.9	11.6	8.3	7.3	5.6	7.1
FYR of Macedonia	-2.0	-1.6	-2.5	-2.6	-24.8	-2.8	-0.1	-0.8	-0.5	0.1	-0.5
Turkey <sup>(1)</sup>	98.9	78.9	58.2	2.5	-1.0	-3.0	1.0	-1.0	-3.0	0.0	112.8
Iceland	1.0	1.1	1.8	0.8	-0.3	-0.2	0.6	3.9	5.3	5.2	1.1
Liechtenstein	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Norway	13.5	19.0	9.7	7.9	17.2	11.2	13.2	18.3	23.6	39.5	43.3
Switzerland	10.7	25.0	23.7	40.5	47.6	41.5	38.1	32.2	36.5	71.4	91.5

<sup>(1)</sup> Due to lack of data on migration, the population figures for Bulgaria for 1998-2006 and for Turkey for 2007 are based exclusively on the natural change; data on net migration including corrections are therefore zero, or just the necessary correction of the demographic balance.

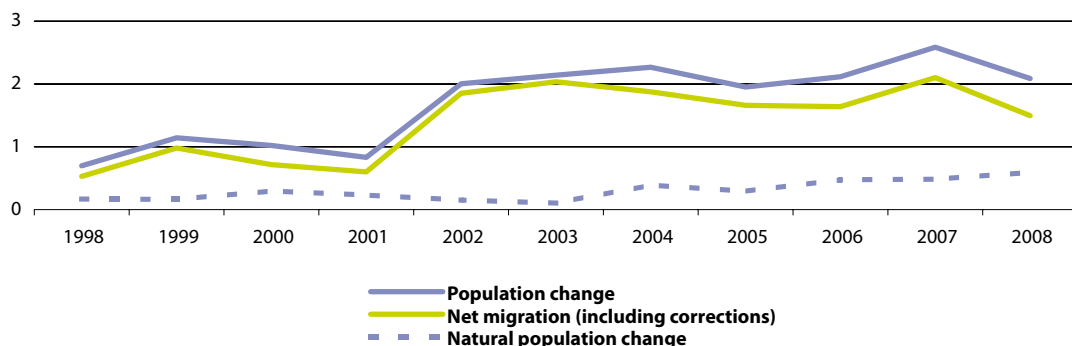
<sup>(2)</sup> Break in series, 2008.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde230)





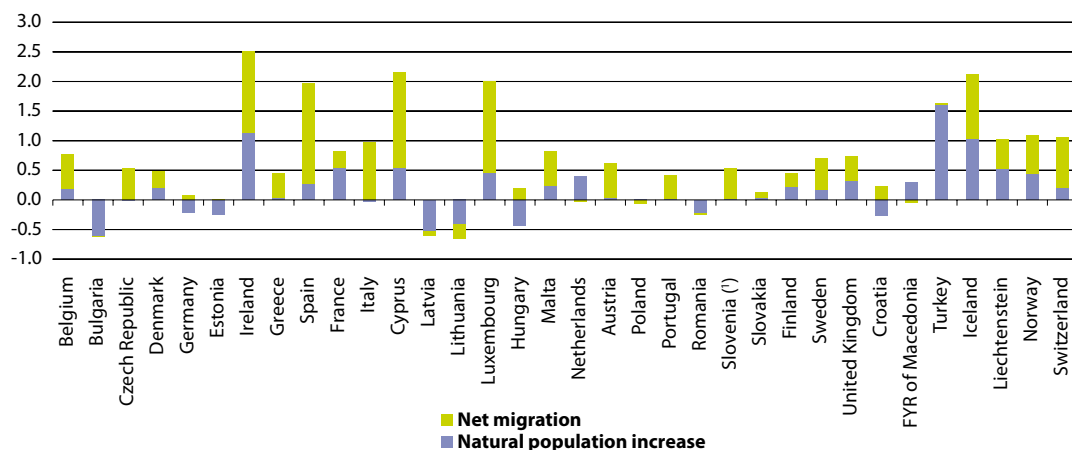
**Figure 2.13:** Population change, net migration (including corrections) and natural population change, EU-27 (¹)  
(million)



(¹) Provisional data for 2008.

Source: Eurostat (tps00006, tsdde230 and tps00007)

**Figure 2.14:** Net migration (including corrections) and natural population change, 2003-2008  
(average annual change, %)



(¹) Break in series, 2008.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_gind)

## 2.4 Families and births

### Introduction

The EU's social policy does not include a specific strand for family issues. Rather, policy in this area remains the exclusive responsibility of Member States, reflecting different family structures, historical developments, social attitudes and traditions from one Member State to another.

There are, however, a number of common demographic themes apparent across the whole of the EU, including: a reduction in the number of births; a reduction in the number of marriages; an increase in the average age at which people marry; and an increase in the number of divorces. These trends have resulted in a greater number of households and in households of a smaller average size, as a higher proportion of people live alone.

There is a significant gender gap in terms of labour market participation and earnings which underlines the difficulties faced by women when trying to combine family life with a working career. At the spring European Council held in Brussels on 8 and 9 March 2007, European leaders decided to establish an alliance for families, with the aim of encouraging family-friendly policies and fostering cooperation across the EU. On 10 May 2007, the European Commission adopted a Communication titled, 'Promoting solidarity between the generations' <sup>(5)</sup>. This highlighted three areas where Member States, social partners and civil

society, as well as the EU, could play an important role:

- financial support to cope with the costs of raising a family;
- quality care services, both for children and for the dependent elderly;
- flexible working times, with appropriate schedules and holiday arrangements.

Relatively high fertility rates across the EU tend to be recorded in those Member States which have implemented a range of family-friendly policies, including the introduction of accessible and affordable childcare and/or more flexible working patterns (France, the Nordic countries, or the Netherlands). Some experts consider that fertility will increase if there are stimuli, such as higher economic growth, more childcare facilities, fiscal measures that support families, family benefit income, a stock of suitable housing, or a range of policies designed to reconcile work and family life (such as part-time or telework opportunities). While a conventional analysis of declining fertility rates might suggest that the decline in fertility rates could be related to increased female participation in the labour market, there is clear evidence of a positive relationship in many countries, for example, in the Nordic Member States or Spain, where tertiary-educated women in employment tend to have more children.

<sup>(5)</sup> COM (2007) 244 final; for more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0244:FIN:EN:PDF>.



### Definitions and data availability

Eurostat collects a wide range of demographic data covering fertility, marriage and divorce, on an annual basis, including information at a regional level.

**Live births** are defined as the total number of births excluding still births. **Stillbirths** are defined as the expulsion or extraction from the mother of a dead foetus after the time at which it would normally be presumed capable of independent extra-uterine existence (commonly taken to be after 24 or 28 weeks of gestation). The **crude birth rate** is the ratio of the number of births to the average population in a particular reference year (the result is generally expressed per 1 000 inhabitants). **Live births outside of marriage** are those where the mother's marital status at the time of birth is other than married.

The **total fertility rate** is the mean number of children that would be born to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year. The **mean age of women at childbearing** can be calculated using fertility rates broken down by age (in general, the reproductive period is considered to be between 15 and 49 years of age).

A **marriage** is the act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. The relationship between a civil marriage and a religious marriage is not the same in all countries: the legality of a union may be established by civil, religious or other means as recognised by the laws of each country.

Divorce is defined as the final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, a separation

of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarry under civil, religious and/or other provisions, according to the laws of each country. Divorce is possible in all of the Member States, except Malta; in almost all countries divorces are registered at a court.

**Crude marriage and divorce rates** measure the number of marriages/divorces in relation to the average population; these rates are expressed per 1 000 inhabitants.

### Main findings

From the 1960s up to the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the number of births in the EU-27 declined sharply, to reach a relative low of just under 5 million by 2002. Since this date, there has been a steady rebound, such that the total number of live births in the EU-27 had reached 5.4 million by 2008.

This overall trend was reflected in the developments for many of the Member States. However, the number of births continued to decline in Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal, while the number of births remained relatively unchanged in Denmark and Austria. At the other end of the range, the largest increase in live births between 2002 and 2008 was recorded in the United Kingdom (125 600 additional births), while Spain was the only other Member State to record growth in excess of 100 000 births. In absolute terms, the highest number of live births in 2008 was recorded in France (835 000 live births), followed by the United Kingdom (794 400 live births); among those Member States that joined the EU since 2004, Poland recorded the highest number of births (414 500 live

births). There were 1.27 million live births in Turkey in 2008, equivalent to almost a quarter of the total number of live births in the EU-27 in the same year.

The upturn in the number of live births since 2002 was reflected in the crude birth rate for the EU-27, which rose from a relative low of 10.3 ‰ in 2002 to 10.9 ‰ by 2008. Across the Member States, Ireland had the highest crude birth rate (16.9 ‰), followed by France and the United Kingdom (both close to 13.0 ‰). There were four Member States (Italy, Hungary, Austria and Portugal) where the crude birth rate was between 9.0 ‰ and 10.0 ‰, while the lowest overall rate (8.3 ‰) was registered in Germany.

In developed countries, a fertility rate of about 2.1 children per woman is considered necessary to maintain a stable population in the long-run, under a hypothetical situation with zero net migration. Fertility rates have been below this natural replacement level in each of the Member States for more than a decade.

The slowdown in the EU-27's population growth can be partly attributed to people having fewer children. The total fertility rate of the EU-27 declined from almost 2.6 children per woman in the first half of the 1960s to around 1.5 children per woman during the last decade. Fertility rates in the majority of the Member States continued to decline, with only Ireland and France reporting rates anywhere near natural replacement levels (both averaging around 2.0 children per woman in recent years). In contrast, the lowest fertility rates in the EU-27 tended to be registered in southern and eastern Member States, with the minimum value

recorded in Slovakia (1.25 children per woman in 2007).

While fertility rates of women aged less than 30 have declined since the 1970s, fertility rates of those aged 30 or more have risen. As such, part of the decline in fertility within the EU-27 is likely to have resulted from the postponement of childbearing. The mean age of women giving birth in 2006 was over 30 in five of the Member States (Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark) as well as in Italy in 2005, and was between 29 and 30 years in ten other Member States.

Besides low birth and fertility rates and the postponement of childbearing, another factor characterising fertility trends in the EU-27 is the growing percentage of live births outside marriage. This phenomenon has been rising quite rapidly in some Member States, and the majority of live births in Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Slovenia and Sweden in 2007 were outside marriage; at the other end of the range, the number of births outside marriage in Greece and Cyprus was less than one in ten.

The number of marriages across the EU-27 has generally followed a downward trend since the early 1970s. Nevertheless, marriages per 1 000 persons reached a relative peak of 5.2 ‰ at the turn of the millennium, after which the marriage rate fell to 4.9 ‰, where it remained through to 2007. The highest marriage rates in 2008 were recorded in Cyprus (2007), Lithuania, Romania, Poland and Denmark – at least 6.8 ‰. The marriage rate fell in 16 of the Member States (over the period 1998 to 2007/2008). Among the ten Member States reporting an upward trend, the number of marriages per 1 000 persons



rose at a relatively rapid pace in Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden.

Although marriage is a form of commitment of union between partners, irreparable differences can lead to divorce. The number of divorces in the EU-27 has grown steadily and reached 2.0 ‰ by 2005. In 2008 the divorce rate peaked

at 3.1 ‰ in Lithuania, while the Czech Republic was the only other country to record at least 3 divorces per 1 000 persons. The most substantial increases in divorce rates between 1998 and 2008 were registered in Spain, Portugal and Cyprus (to 2007), while the biggest reduction was posted in Estonia.

**Table 2.12:** Number of live births  
(1 000)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	5 074.8	5 073.4	5 121.6	5 022.1	4 993.3	5 040.8	5 117.0	5 134.6	5 223.1	5 281.6	5 428.2
<b>Euro area</b>	3 249.0	3 277.8	3 342.5	3 287.7	3 281.1	3 297.5	3 335.7	3 323.9	3 361.9	3 376.3	3 451.6
Belgium	114.2	114.2	114.9	114.2	111.2	112.1	115.6	118.0	121.4	120.7	125.0
Bulgaria	65.4	72.3	73.7	68.2	66.5	67.4	69.9	71.1	74.0	75.3	77.7
Czech Republic	90.5	89.5	90.9	90.7	92.8	93.7	97.7	102.2	105.8	114.6	119.6
Denmark	66.2	66.2	67.1	65.5	64.1	64.7	64.6	64.3	65.0	64.1	65.0
Germany	785.0	770.7	767.0	734.5	719.3	706.7	705.6	685.8	672.7	684.9	682.5
Estonia	12.2	12.4	13.1	12.6	13.0	13.0	14.0	14.4	14.9	15.8	16.0
Ireland	54.0	53.9	54.8	57.9	60.5	61.5	62.0	61.0	64.2	70.6	74.8
Greece	100.9	100.6	103.3	102.3	103.6	104.4	105.7	107.5	112.0	111.9	115.5
Spain	365.2	380.1	397.6	406.4	418.8	441.9	454.6	466.4	483.0	493.7	518.9
France	768.6	776.5	808.2	804.1	793.6	793.9	800.2	807.8	830.3	819.6	835.0
Italy	515.4	537.2	543.1	535.3	538.2	544.1	562.6	554.0	560.0	563.9	575.8
Cyprus	8.9	8.5	8.4	8.2	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.7	8.6	9.2
Latvia	18.4	19.4	20.2	19.7	20.0	21.0	20.3	21.5	22.3	23.3	23.9
Lithuania	37.0	36.4	34.1	31.5	30.0	30.6	30.4	30.5	31.3	32.3	35.1
Luxembourg	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6
Hungary	97.3	94.6	97.6	97.0	96.8	94.6	95.1	97.5	99.9	97.6	99.2
Malta	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1
Netherlands	199.4	200.4	206.6	202.6	202.1	200.3	194.0	187.9	185.1	181.3	184.7
Austria	81.2	78.1	78.3	75.5	78.4	76.9	79.0	78.2	77.9	76.3	77.8
Poland	395.6	382.0	378.3	368.2	353.8	351.1	356.1	364.4	374.2	387.9	414.5
Portugal	113.5	116.0	120.0	112.8	114.4	112.5	109.3	109.4	105.4	102.5	104.6
Romania	237.3	234.6	234.5	220.4	210.5	212.5	216.3	221.0	219.5	214.7	221.9

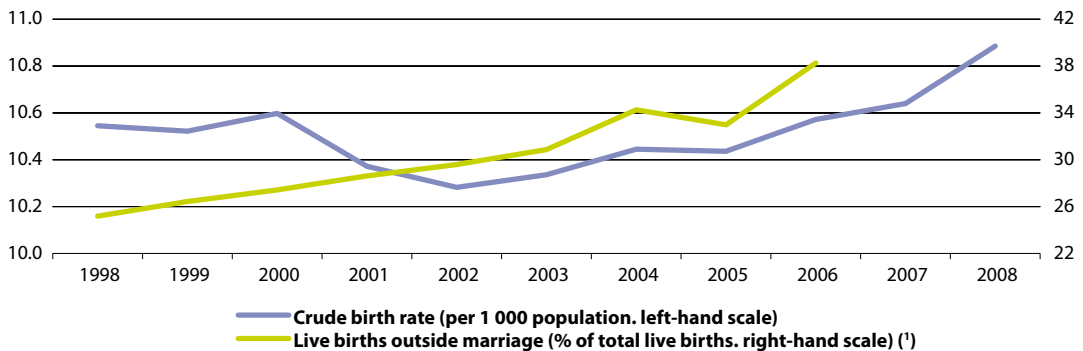
**Table 2.12:** Number of live births (continued)  
(1 000)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Slovenia (¹)	17.9	17.5	18.2	17.5	17.5	17.3	18.0	18.2	18.9	19.8	21.2
Slovakia	57.6	56.2	55.2	51.1	50.8	51.7	53.7	54.4	53.9	54.4	57.4
Finland	57.1	57.6	56.7	56.2	55.6	56.6	57.8	57.7	58.8	58.7	59.5
Sweden	89.0	88.2	90.4	91.5	95.8	99.2	100.9	101.3	105.9	107.4	109.3
United Kingdom	716.9	700.0	679.0	669.1	668.8	695.5	716.0	722.5	748.6	772.2	794.4
Croatia	47.1	45.2	43.7	41.0	40.1	39.7	40.3	42.5	41.4	41.9	43.8
FYR of Macedonia	29.2	27.3	29.3	27.0	27.8	27.0	23.4	22.5	22.6	22.7	22.9
Turkey	1 472.0	1 451.0	1 363.0	1 362.0	1 362.0	1 361.0	1 360.0	1 361.0	1 362.0	1 361.0	1 272.0
Iceland	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.8
Liechtenstein	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Norway	58.4	59.3	59.2	56.7	55.4	56.5	57.0	56.8	58.5	58.5	60.5
Switzerland	78.9	78.4	78.5	72.3	72.4	71.8	73.1	72.9	73.4	74.5	76.9

(¹) Break in series, 2008.

Source: Eurostat (tps00111)

**Figure 2.15:** Live births outside marriage and crude birth rate, EU-27



(¹) 2007 and 2008, not available; excluding Belgium; excluding Italy for 2004.

Source: Eurostat (tps00112 and demo\_fagec)



**Table 2.13:** Crude birth rate  
(per 1 000 population)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.6	10.9
<b>Euro area</b>	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.5
Belgium	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.1	10.8	10.8	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.4	11.7
Bulgaria	7.9	8.8	9.0	8.5	8.5	8.6	9.0	9.2	9.6	9.8	10.2
Czech Republic	8.8	8.7	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.3	11.1	11.5
Denmark	12.5	12.4	12.6	12.2	11.9	12.0	12.0	11.9	12.0	11.7	11.8
Germany	9.6	9.4	9.3	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.3
Estonia	8.8	9.0	9.5	9.3	9.6	9.6	10.4	10.7	11.1	11.8	12.0
Ireland	14.5	14.4	14.4	15.0	15.4	15.4	15.2	14.7	15.1	16.2	16.9
Greece	9.3	9.2	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.7	10.1	10.0	10.3
Spain	9.2	9.5	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.4
France	12.8	12.9	13.3	13.1	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.9	13.1	12.9	13.0
Italy	9.1	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.7	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.6
Cyprus	13.1	12.4	12.2	11.6	11.1	11.2	11.2	10.9	11.3	10.9	11.6
Latvia	7.6	8.1	8.5	8.4	8.6	9.0	8.8	9.3	9.7	10.2	10.6
Lithuania	10.4	10.3	9.8	9.1	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.2	9.6	10.4
Luxembourg	12.7	13.0	13.1	12.4	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.5	11.7	11.4	11.5
Hungary	9.5	9.2	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.4	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.9
Malta	12.4	11.6	11.6	10.1	9.9	10.2	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.5	10.0
Netherlands	12.7	12.7	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.3	11.9	11.5	11.3	11.1	11.2
Austria	10.2	9.8	9.8	9.4	9.7	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.2	9.3
Poland	10.2	9.9	9.8	9.6	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.5	9.8	10.2	10.9
Portugal	11.2	11.4	11.7	11.0	11.0	10.8	10.4	10.4	10.0	9.7	9.8
Romania	10.5	10.4	10.5	10.0	9.7	9.8	10.0	10.2	10.2	10.0	10.3
Slovenia (¹)	9.0	8.8	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.4	9.8	10.5
Slovakia	10.7	10.4	10.2	9.5	9.5	9.6	10.0	10.1	10.0	10.1	10.6
Finland	11.1	11.1	11.0	10.8	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.2	11.1	11.2
Sweden	10.1	10.0	10.2	10.3	10.7	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.7	11.7	11.9
United Kingdom	12.3	11.9	11.5	11.3	11.3	11.7	12.0	12.0	12.4	12.7	12.9
Croatia	10.4	10.0	9.8	9.2	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.6	9.3	9.4	9.9
FYR of Macedonia	14.6	13.5	14.5	13.3	13.7	13.3	11.5	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.2
Turkey	22.6	21.9	20.2	19.9	19.7	19.4	19.1	18.9	18.7	19.4	17.9
Iceland	15.2	14.8	15.3	14.4	14.1	14.3	14.5	14.4	14.5	14.6	15.2
Liechtenstein	12.6	12.4	12.9	12.1	11.7	10.2	10.8	11.0	10.3	10.0	9.9
Norway	13.2	13.3	13.2	12.6	12.2	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.6	12.4	12.7
Switzerland	11.1	11.0	10.9	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.1

(¹) Break in series, 2008.

Source: Eurostat ([tps00112](#))

**Table 2.14:** Total fertility rate  
(average number of children per woman)

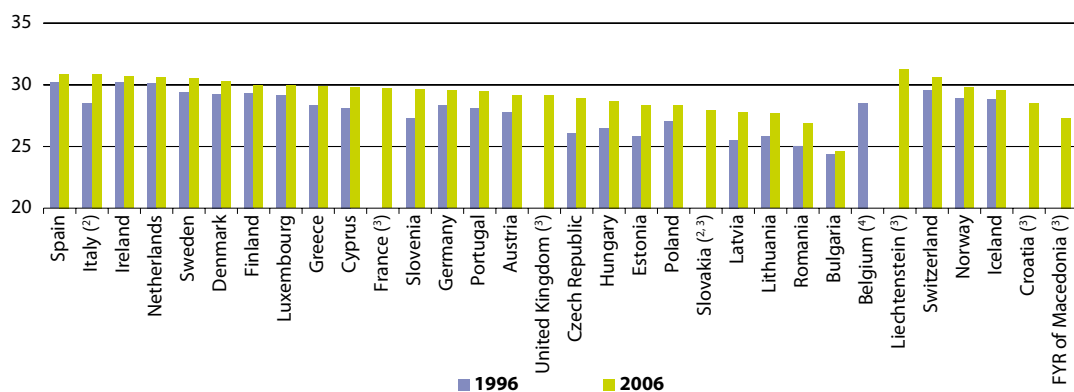
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	:	:	:	:	:	1.45	1.47	1.49	1.50	1.53	1.55
Belgium	1.60	1.60	1.62	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	1.09	1.11	1.23	1.26	1.21	1.21	1.23	1.29	1.32	1.38	1.42
Czech Republic	1.17	1.16	1.13	1.14	1.14	1.17	1.18	1.23	1.28	1.33	1.44
Denmark	1.76	1.73	1.74	1.78	1.76	1.72	1.76	1.78	1.80	1.85	1.84
Germany	:	:	:	1.38	1.35	1.34	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.33	1.37
Estonia	1.32	1.28	1.32	1.38	1.34	1.37	1.37	1.47	1.50	1.55	1.63
Ireland	1.93	1.94	1.90	1.89	1.94	1.97	1.96	1.94	1.86	1.89	2.01
Greece	1.28	1.26	1.24	1.26	1.25	1.27	1.28	1.30	1.33	1.40	1.41
Spain	1.18	1.16	1.19	1.23	1.24	1.26	1.31	1.33	1.35	1.38	1.40
France	:	1.78	1.81	1.89	1.89	1.88	1.89	1.92	1.94	2.00	1.98
Italy	1.21	1.21	1.23	1.26	1.25	1.27	1.29	1.33	1.32	1.35	1.37
Cyprus	1.86	1.76	1.67	1.64	1.57	1.49	1.50	1.49	1.42	1.45	1.39
Latvia	:	:	:	:	:	1.23	1.29	1.24	1.31	1.35	1.41
Lithuania	1.47	1.46	1.46	1.39	1.30	1.24	1.26	1.26	1.27	1.31	1.35
Luxembourg	1.71	1.68	1.74	1.76	1.66	1.63	1.62	1.66	1.63	1.65	1.61
Hungary	1.37	1.32	1.28	1.32	1.31	1.30	1.27	1.28	1.31	1.34	1.32
Malta	1.98	1.88	1.77	1.70	1.48	1.45	1.48	1.40	1.38	1.39	1.37
Netherlands	1.56	1.63	1.65	1.72	1.71	1.73	1.75	1.72	1.71	1.72	1.72
Austria	1.39	1.37	1.34	1.36	1.33	1.39	1.38	1.42	1.40	1.40	1.38
Poland	1.51	1.44	1.37	1.35	1.31	1.25	1.22	1.23	1.24	1.27	1.31
Portugal	1.47	1.48	1.50	1.55	1.45	1.47	1.44	1.40	1.40	1.36	1.33
Romania	1.32	1.32	1.30	1.31	1.27	1.25	1.27	1.29	1.32	1.32	1.30
Slovenia	1.25	1.23	1.21	1.26	1.21	1.21	1.20	1.25	1.26	1.31	1.38
Slovakia	1.43	1.37	1.33	1.30	1.20	1.19	1.20	1.24	1.25	1.24	1.25
Finland	1.75	1.70	1.73	1.73	1.73	1.72	1.77	1.80	1.80	1.84	1.83
Sweden	1.52	1.50	1.50	1.54	1.57	1.65	1.71	1.75	1.77	1.85	1.88
United Kingdom	1.72	1.71	1.68	1.64	1.63	1.64	1.71	1.76	1.78	1.84	1.90
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	1.34	1.32	1.34	1.41	1.38	1.40
FYR of Macedonia	1.93	1.90	1.76	1.88	1.73	1.80	1.77	1.52	1.46	1.46	1.46
Iceland	2.04	2.05	1.99	2.08	1.95	1.93	1.99	2.04	2.05	2.08	2.09
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	1.57	1.52	1.47	1.36	1.44	1.49	1.43	1.42
Norway	1.86	1.81	1.85	1.85	1.78	1.75	1.80	1.83	1.84	1.90	1.90
Switzerland	1.48	1.47	1.48	1.50	1.38	1.39	1.39	1.42	1.42	1.44	1.46

Source: Eurostat (tsdde220)





**Figure 2.16:** Mean age of women at childbearing (<sup>(1)</sup>) (years)



(<sup>1</sup>) Malta, not available.

(<sup>2</sup>) 2005 instead of 2006.

(<sup>3</sup>) 1996, not available.

(<sup>4</sup>) 2006, not available.

Source: Eurostat (tps00017)

**Table 2.15: Marriages**  
(per 1 000 population)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	:	4.9	:
<b>Euro area</b>	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	:
Belgium	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.4
Bulgaria	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.6
Czech Republic	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.0
Denmark	6.6	6.7	7.2	6.8	6.9	6.5	7.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8
Germany	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6
Estonia	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.6	5.2	5.2	4.6
Ireland	4.5	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	:
Greece	5.1	5.6	4.5	5.2	5.3	5.5	4.6	5.5	5.2	5.5	4.6
Spain	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	:
France	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3
Italy	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.1
Cyprus (¹)	11.4	13.2	14.1	15.1	14.5	7.7	7.2	7.8	6.8	7.5	:
Latvia	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.5	5.5	6.4	6.8	5.7
Lithuania	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.6	5.8	6.3	6.8	7.2
Luxembourg	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9
Hungary	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.0
Malta	6.5	6.4	6.6	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.1	6.0
Netherlands	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6
Austria	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.2
Poland	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.4	5.9	6.5	6.8
Portugal	6.6	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.1
Romania	6.5	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.6	6.6	6.8	8.8	7.0
Slovenia	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.1
Slovakia	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.2
Finland	4.7	4.7	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.8
Sweden	3.6	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.5
United Kingdom	5.2	5.1	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.2	:	4.4	:
Croatia	5.4	5.3	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.3
FYR of Macedonia	7.0	7.0	7.0	:	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.3	7.6	7.2
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	6.8	8.8	9.1	8.9	9.1	9.0
Iceland	5.6	5.6	6.3	5.2	5.8	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.1
Liechtenstein	:	:	7.2	6.0	5.2	4.4	4.8	5.4	4.3	5.2	5.8
Norway	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.3	4.9	4.1	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.3
Switzerland	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.4

(¹) Break in series, 2003.

Source: Eurostat (tps00012)



**Table 2.16:** Divorces  
(per 1 000 population)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>EU-27</b>	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	:	:	:
<b>Euro area</b>	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.0	:	:	:
Belgium	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8
Bulgaria	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.9
Czech Republic	3.1	2.3	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0
Denmark	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7
Germany	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Estonia	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.6
Ireland	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	:
Greece	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	:
Spain	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.7	:	2.8	:
France	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.2	:	:
Italy	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Cyprus	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.1	:
Latvia	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.3	2.7
Lithuania	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.1
Luxembourg	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.0
Hungary	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Malta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0
Austria	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	:
Poland	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.7
Portugal	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	:
Romania	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7
Slovenia	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1
Slovakia	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.3
Finland	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5
Sweden	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
United Kingdom	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.4	:
Croatia	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
FYR of Macedonia	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Iceland	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7
Liechtenstein	:	:	3.9	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.8	2.8
Norway	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1
Switzerland	2.5	2.9	1.5	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6

Source: Eurostat (tps00013)

## 2.5 Life expectancy

### Introduction

One of the contributing factors to the ageing of the EU's population is the gradual increase in life expectancy. This may, at least in part, be attributed to higher standards of living, advances in medicine, better healthcare, as well as more general awareness of health issues.

Gender differences in life expectancy were, in the 1960s, associated with much higher mortality rates for men than for women. In the 1980s the gender gap closed in north western Europe, followed by southern Europe in the 1990s. The difference between life expectancies of men and women has further narrowed in recent years, as the speed at which female life expectancy rises has slowed. The convergence may also be a consequence of men and women leading more similar lifestyles – as considerably fewer men work in areas where high degrees of physical effort are required throughout the working day (such as agriculture, mining, or the manufacture of iron and steel).

Policymakers are increasingly considering the personal and social benefits that the increased longevity of the European population may bring. So-called health expectancy indicators extend the concept of life expectancy through the use of morbidity and disability statistics, in order to assess the quality of life. These composite indicators measure the number of remaining years that a person of a specific age is expected to live in a healthy condition – for more information, see the start of Chapter 3. From a policy perspective,

if people live longer free from disability and disease, then they could potentially continue to be active, as part of the workforce or contributing in some other way to social or community projects. On the other hand, an elderly population that is characterised by disability and disease is likely to require additional healthcare and social services.

### Definitions and data availability

Statistics on life expectancy at birth refer to the mean number of years that a newborn child can expect to live if subjected throughout his/her life to current mortality conditions. A similar indicator can be analysed for persons aged 65, reflecting the mean number of years still to be lived by these persons (following current mortality conditions).

Life expectancy increases as people age, as a result of surviving and/or avoiding potential causes of death (for example, infectious diseases when young, smoking-related illness, car or occupational accidents).

### Main findings

EU-27 life expectancy of a boy at birth was 75.8 years in 2006, while the life expectancy of a newborn girl was just over six years higher at 82.0 years. Although many Europeans enjoy a longer and healthier life than previous generations, major inequalities still exist between countries and regions; for example, life expectancy at birth for men varied by 14.2 years between Member States in 2007, while the

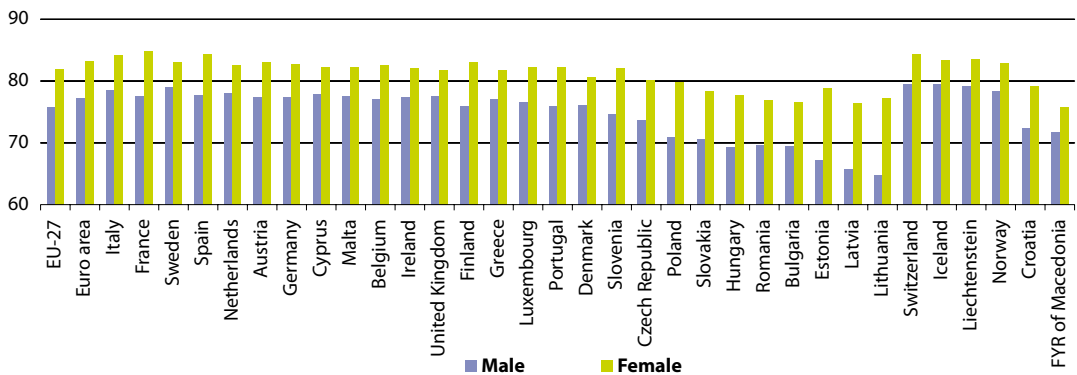


corresponding figure among women was 8.3 years. The lowest male life expectancy was recorded in Lithuania (64.9 years) and the highest in Sweden (79.0 years), while for women, the range varied between a low of 76.5 years in Latvia and a high of 84.8 years in France.

As people live longer there has been a growing interest in the older generations: firstly, in terms of their potential for filling shortages in labour markets, and secondly, from the perspective of a growing consumer segment (as it is likely that a range of new goods and services will be required

to cater, in particular, for the very old); as such, a relatively healthy ageing population could provide a stimulus for economic growth. The life expectancy of persons aged 65 in the EU-27 shows that the average man could expect to live an additional 16.8 years in 2006, while the corresponding figure for women was 20.4 years. Life expectancy among men aged 65 varied by 5.6 years across Member States in 2007, from a high of 18.4 years in France to a low of 12.8 years in Latvia. The range for women was slightly greater at 6.6 years, from 23.0 years in France to 16.4 years in Bulgaria.

**Figure 2.17:** Life expectancy at birth, 2007 <sup>(1)</sup>  
(years)



<sup>(1)</sup> EU-27, euro area and Italy, 2006; the figure is ranked on the average of male and female.

Source: Eurostat ([tps00025](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table))

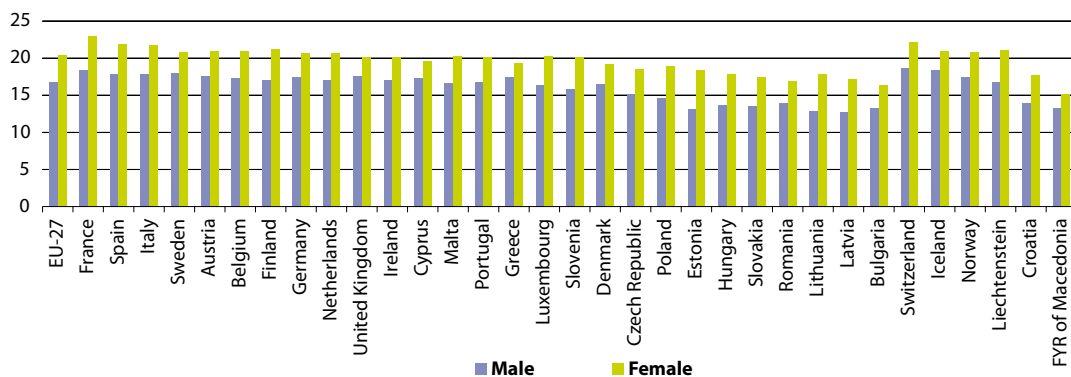
**Table 2.17:** Life expectancy at birth (years)

	Male						Female					
	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	:	:	:	74.6	75.4	:	:	:	:	80.8	81.5	:
<b>Euro area</b>	74.6	75.0	75.7	75.9	76.8	:	81.3	81.6	82.1	82.0	82.7	:
Belgium	74.2	74.4	75.0	75.3	76.2	77.1	80.7	81.0	81.2	81.1	81.9	82.6
Bulgaria	67.0	68.3	68.6	68.9	69.0	69.5	73.8	75.0	75.4	75.9	76.2	76.7
Czech Republic	70.5	71.5	72.1	72.0	72.9	73.8	77.6	78.3	78.6	78.6	79.3	80.2
Denmark	73.6	74.2	74.7	75.0	76.0	76.2	78.6	79.0	79.3	79.8	80.5	80.6
Germany	74.1	74.8	75.6	75.8	76.7	77.4	80.5	81.0	81.5	81.3	82.0	82.7
Estonia	64.2	64.7	64.8	66.1	67.3	67.2	75.9	76.0	76.4	77.1	78.1	78.8
Ireland	73.4	73.4	74.5	75.9	77.3	77.4	78.7	78.9	79.9	80.8	81.8	82.1
Greece	75.4	75.5	76.0	76.5	76.8	77.1	80.4	80.5	81.0	81.2	81.6	81.8
Spain	75.2	75.3	76.2	76.3	77.0	77.8	82.3	82.4	83.2	83.0	83.7	84.3
France	:	75.0	75.5	75.8	76.8	77.6	:	82.7	83.0	82.7	83.7	84.8
Italy	75.8	76.5	77.1	77.1	78.0	:	82.0	82.6	83.1	82.8	83.6	:
Cyprus	74.9	76.0	76.6	76.9	76.8	77.8	80.0	79.9	81.4	81.3	80.9	82.2
Latvia	:	:	:	65.6	65.4	65.8	:	:	:	75.9	76.5	76.5
Lithuania	65.5	66.3	65.9	66.4	65.3	64.9	76.6	77.0	77.6	77.8	77.3	77.2
Luxembourg	74.0	74.4	75.1	74.8	76.7	76.7	80.0	81.4	80.7	80.9	82.3	82.2
Hungary	66.7	66.7	68.2	68.4	68.7	69.4	75.5	75.6	76.7	76.7	77.2	77.8
Malta	75.2	75.3	76.6	76.4	77.3	77.5	80.1	79.4	81.2	80.8	81.4	82.2
Netherlands	75.2	75.4	75.8	76.3	77.3	78.1	80.7	80.5	80.8	81.0	81.7	82.5
Austria	74.1	74.9	75.7	75.9	76.7	77.5	80.7	81.0	81.7	81.5	82.3	83.1
Poland	68.5	68.8	70.0	70.5	70.8	71.0	77.0	77.5	78.4	78.8	79.3	79.8
Portugal	72.2	72.6	73.5	74.2	74.9	75.9	79.3	79.7	80.5	80.6	81.3	82.2
Romania	65.2	67.1	67.5	67.7	68.7	69.7	73.3	74.2	74.9	75.0	75.7	76.9
Slovenia	71.1	71.8	72.3	72.5	73.9	74.7	79.1	79.5	80.4	80.3	80.9	82.0
Slovakia	68.9	69.0	69.5	69.8	70.2	70.6	76.9	77.4	77.7	77.7	78.1	78.4
Finland	73.5	73.8	74.6	75.2	75.6	76.0	80.7	81.2	81.7	81.9	82.5	83.1
Sweden	76.8	77.1	77.6	78.0	78.5	79.0	82.0	82.0	82.2	82.5	82.9	83.1
United Kingdom	74.7	75.0	75.8	76.2	77.1	77.6	79.7	79.9	80.5	80.5	81.2	81.8
Croatia	:	:	:	71.1	71.8	72.3	:	:	:	78.2	78.8	79.3
FYR of Macedonia	70.3	70.4	70.9	70.9	71.6	71.8	74.7	75.3	76.1	75.7	75.9	75.9
Iceland	76.3	77.4	78.3	79.5	79.6	79.6	81.6	81.4	83.2	82.5	83.5	83.4
Liechtenstein	71.9	75.5	76.3	78.4	77.4	79.1	80.4	82.9	82.5	81.6	84.1	83.6
Norway	75.5	75.6	76.2	77.1	77.8	78.3	81.1	81.2	81.7	82.1	82.7	82.9
Switzerland	76.3	76.9	77.5	78.0	78.7	79.5	82.2	82.7	83.2	83.2	84.0	84.4

Source: Eurostat (tps00025)



**Figure 2.18:** Life expectancy at age 65, 2007<sup>(1)</sup>  
(years)



<sup>(1)</sup> EU-27 and Italy, 2006; the figure is ranked on the average of male and female.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde210)

## 2.6 Citizenship and migration

### Introduction

EU citizens can decide freely upon where in the European Union they live, work or retire. The Maastricht Treaty states, *'every person holding the nationality of a Member State of the European Union is, as a result, a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union supplements national citizenship without replacing it. It is made up of a set of fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in the EC Treaty among which it is worth underlining the right not to be discriminated on the basis of the nationality'*.

Member States differ with regard to policies on the migration and residence of third-country nationals (persons who

are not EU citizens). Similarly, national policies differ concerning the granting of citizenship to resident foreign nationals. A European Commission Communication <sup>(6)</sup> in 2007 laid the foundations for a common policy on immigration.

Some of the most important legal texts adopted in this area include:

- Council Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification <sup>(7)</sup>;
- Council Directive 2003/109/EC on a long-term resident status for third-country nationals <sup>(8)</sup>;
- Council Directive 2004/114/EC on the admission of students <sup>(9)</sup>;

<sup>(6)</sup> 'Towards a common immigration policy'; COM(2007) 780; for more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0780:FIN:EN:PDF>. Note this does not fully apply throughout the EU: Denmark has an opt-out regarding Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community, while Ireland and the United Kingdom both decide upon their involvement on a case-by-case basis (possibility to opt-out or opt-in).

<sup>(7)</sup> For more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l\\_251/l\\_25120031003en00120018.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l_251/l_25120031003en00120018.pdf).

<sup>(8)</sup> For more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l\\_016/l\\_01620040123en00440053.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l_016/l_01620040123en00440053.pdf).

<sup>(9)</sup> For more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l\\_375/l\\_37520041223en00120018.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l_375/l_37520041223en00120018.pdf).

- Council Directive 2005/71/EC for the facilitation of the admission of researchers into the EU <sup>(10)</sup>, and;
- Council Directive 2009/50/EC on the conditions of entry and residence for the purposes of highly qualified employment <sup>(11)</sup>.

The 'Stockholm programme', adopted by Member State governments at the December 2009 European Council, sets a framework and series of principles for the on-going development of European policies on justice and home affairs for the period 2010-2014. Migration-related issues are a central part of this programme, which can be seen as a continuation of the efforts that have been made since the Amsterdam Treaty came into force in 1999. European policies on migration and asylum have evolved through the implementation of the Tampere programme (1999-2004) and the Hague programme (2004-2009).

The European Commission re-launched in 2005 a debate on the need for a common set of rules for the admission of economic migrants with a Green Paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration <sup>(12)</sup>, which led to the adoption of a 'policy plan on legal migration' at the end of 2005 <sup>(13)</sup>. In July 2006 the European Commission adopted a Communication on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals <sup>(14)</sup> which aims to strike a balance between security and basic rights of individuals during all stages of the illegal immigration process. In June 2007, Council

conclusions on the strengthening of integration policies in the EU by promoting unity in diversity were adopted, while in September 2007, the European Commission presented its third annual report on migration and integration <sup>(15)</sup>.

The EU-27's population grew by 2.1 million inhabitants in 2008, with the majority of this increase – more than seven out of ten persons (72 %) – composed of migrants; the remaining population growth resulted from natural increase as births exceeded deaths (see Subchapter 2.3 for more details relating to population change). These net migration figures include flows between Member States (an increasing phenomenon, as the freedom of movement for workers is secured across the Single Market), as well as migrants from non-member countries.

Migratory flows can result from a range of economic, social or political factors, such as the search for work, family reunification, or flight from persecution (see Subchapter 2.7 for more details relating to asylum). These factors may occur in a migrant's country of origin (push factors) or in the country of destination (pull factors). Some 21 Member States reported a net inflow of migrants in 2008; this may be due to the relative economic prosperity and political stability of most Member States (thought to exert a considerable pull effect). From the perspective of the destination country, migrant flows can be seen as an instrument to resolve labour market shortages; however, most commentators agree that it is unlikely that

<sup>(10)</sup> For more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l\\_289/l\\_28920051103en00150022.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_289/l_28920051103en00150022.pdf).

<sup>(11)</sup> For more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:155:0017:0029:EN:PDF>.

<sup>(12)</sup> COM(2004) 811; for more information: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/immigration/work/doc/com\\_2004\\_811\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/work/doc/com_2004_811_en.pdf).

<sup>(13)</sup> COM(2005) 669; for more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0669en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0669en01.pdf).

<sup>(14)</sup> COM(2006) 402; for more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0402en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0402en01.pdf).

<sup>(15)</sup> COM(2007) 512; for more information: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/immigration/docs/com\\_2007\\_512\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/docs/com_2007_512_en.pdf).





migration alone will be enough to reverse the on-going trend of population ageing within Europe.

There are a range of economic benefits that may potentially occur as a result of the inflow of immigrant workers. Within the context of the labour market, these include alleviating labour shortages or broadening the skills base. More generally, immigrants in work are likely to contribute to overall economic development, for example, through paying taxes, financing pension schemes, consuming local goods and services, or establishing themselves as entrepreneurs. Policies relating to legal immigration of non-EU citizens increasingly underline the need to match immigrant profiles with labour market opportunities. Immigration policies relating to non-EU citizens may be based on a range of criteria: for example, language proficiency, work experience, education, age, or alternatively the selection task may be carried out directly by employers (ensuring that immigrants have a job upon their arrival in the EU). Policymakers are increasingly addressing the issue of 'brain waste', whereby immigrants are employed in jobs for which they are over-qualified.

Another way that governments assess the impact of their immigration policies is with respect to the economic development of third countries. Immigration can potentially result in a 'brain drain' from the country of origin, where a loss of talent could slow the potential for economic development. One way of addressing this issue is to encourage what has become known as 'circular migration', systems that help migrants move more easily back-

wards and forwards between their country of origin and foreign place of work. By doing so, it is hoped that the temporary or permanent return of migrant workers can result in a 'brain gain', as migrants transfer the skills they have acquired abroad back to their local communities.

Besides policies to encourage labour recruitment, immigration policy is often focused on two other areas:

- preventing unauthorised migration <sup>(16)</sup> and the illegal employment of migrants who are not permitted to work;
- promoting the integration of immigrants into society.

Significant resources have been mobilised in relation to the prevention and reduction of illegal immigration (people smuggling, trafficking networks, as well as illegal employment). At the end of 2010 a new set of rules will come into force concerning migrant removal and return, covering areas such as expulsion measures, detention, appeal procedures and the treatment of vulnerable people. As such, the EU aims to 'promote a dynamic and fair immigration policy, with a flexible admission system', such that the positive effects of legal immigration can be shared between host countries, employers, migrants and countries of origin alike.

When migrants fail to integrate into society there may well be socio-economic costs, as witnessed through lower employment rates (especially for women), higher exposure to undeclared work, or higher youth unemployment rates and lower educational attainment for the children of migrants.

<sup>(16)</sup> Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals. For more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:348:0098:0107:EN:PDF>.

## Definitions and data availability

Eurostat produces statistics on a range of issues related to international migration and citizenship, including the flows of immigrants and emigrants, population stocks broken down by country of citizenship or country of birth, and information relating to the acquisition of citizenship.

Data are supplied on an annual basis by national statistical institutes. Whereas some Member States base their migration flow and migrant population stock statistics on population registers or registers of resident foreign citizens, others may use sample surveys or data extracted from administrative systems such as the issuing of residence permits.

A **national citizen** is defined as a person who is a citizen of the country in which they are usually resident. **Non-nationals (foreigners)** are persons who are not citizens of the country in which they are usually resident. The statistics collected by Eurostat allow the population of foreigners to be broken down into those who are citizens of other Member States and those who are citizens of non-member countries.

The **acquisition of citizenship** is sometimes viewed as an indicator for the formal integration of migrants into their host country. The granting of citizenship usually requires a period of legal residence, together with other factors (for example, language proficiency). Citizenship may be granted to persons who have previously been citizens of another country, or to persons who have been stateless.

**Immigrants** are those persons arriving or returning from abroad to take-up residence in a country for a certain

period, having previously been resident elsewhere. **Emigrants** are people leaving their country of usual residence and effectively taking-up residence in another country. As with the statistics on citizenship, it is possible to break down the information on migrant flows into those concerning nationals, those from other Member States, and those from non-member countries.

In the summer of 2007, a Regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council <sup>(17)</sup>; the Regulation also repealed a previous Council Regulation ((EEC) No 311/76) relating to the compilation of statistics on foreign workers. The focus of the Regulation is to provide harmonised statistical definitions based on existing international standards (in particular, UN recommendations for migration statistics) and European legislation relating to immigration, asylum and border control issues. Although these definitions must be applied, Member States remain free to use any appropriate data sources, according to national availability and practice. The Regulation specifies the collection of statistics relating to international migration flows, foreign population stocks, the acquisition of citizenship, asylum applications and decisions, measures taken against illegal entry and stay, returns of unauthorised migrants, and residence permits issued to third-country citizens.

A further aspect of the Regulation is that most of the statistics to be collected will include a disaggregation by age and gender. This is of particular interest when trying to monitor policies aimed at preventing the trafficking of women and/or children.

<sup>(17)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007; for more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l\\_199/l\\_19920070731en00230029.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_199/l_19920070731en00230029.pdf).



The first data collected under this Regulation on international migration flows, foreign population stocks, the acquisition of citizenship, measures against illegal entry and stay, returns of unauthorised migrants, and residence permits issued to third-country citizens will be published in 2010. The asylum applications and decisions data covered by the Regulation are already published.

### Main findings

The population of the EU-27 was 497.4 million persons in 2008; of these, the vast majority (93.8 %) were national citizens. The 30.8 million foreigners living in the EU accounted for 6.2 % of the total population: almost two thirds (63.3 % or 19.5 million) of these were citizens from a non-member country, while just over one third (36.7 % or 11.3 million) were citizens of another Member State. In addition, a European Commission Communication (COM(2009) 262 final) cites an estimate of about eight million illegal immigrants living in the EU.

When compounded over a number of years, trends in immigration can have a considerable influence on the citizenship structure of populations. For example, in those Member States that are characterised by a long-standing period of net migration (more immigrants than emigrants), the foreign population can be considerable. However, migrants that integrate into local communities often have the possibility to acquire the citizenship of their host country (although rules differ between the Member States); if this occurs then the relative importance of national citizens can

increase. Available data suggest that more than 700 000 persons acquired the citizenship of one of the Member States in 2007, with new citizens in the United Kingdom, France and Germany totalling 410 000.

In absolute terms, the largest numbers of foreign citizens in 2008 resided in Germany (7.3 million), Spain (5.3 million), the United Kingdom (4.0 million), France (3.7 million) and Italy (3.4 million) – together these five countries accounted for more than three quarters of all foreign citizens in the EU, and they were the only Member States where the number of foreign citizens stood above one million.

In relative terms, the foreign populations of the Member States varied from less than 1 % of the total population in Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and Slovakia to 42.6 % in Luxembourg in 2008. The proportion of non-nationals in the total population was also higher than one in ten in Austria (10.3 %), Spain (11.6 %), Ireland (12.6 %), Cyprus (15.9 %), Estonia (17.1 %) and Latvia (18.3 %). Note that for the latter two countries, the figures include persons who have been resident in the country since before the break-up of the Soviet Union but have not acquired host country citizenship.

The most significant numbers of third-country nationals residing in the EU are citizens of Turkey, Morocco, Albania and China. Citizenship structures of foreign populations vary considerably across Member States; reflecting – among others – geographical proximity, recent political developments, historical ties, or a common language.

In most of the Member States, non-EU citizens formed the majority of the foreign population in 2008. In the Baltic Member States and in Slovenia, upwards of nine out of every ten foreigners were citizens from non-member countries. In contrast, the number of citizens from other Member States exceeded the number of non-EU citizens in Belgium, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta and Slovakia. This trend peaked in Luxembourg, where 86 % of the foreign population was a citizen of another Member State.

Net migration for the EU-27 peaked at 2.1 million in 2007. Although data coverage is only partial (with notably some information missing for France and Greece), more than 1.8 million persons emigrated from the EU Member States in 2007. By far the highest number of emigrants left Germany (637 000), which alone accounted for more emigrants than Spain and the United Kingdom together. Based on information that is available for 21 of the Member States, 36 % of the emigrants leaving a Member State in 2007 were citizens of a non-member country, while the same proportion were nationals leaving their own Member State, such that citizens from other EU Member States made up the remaining 28 %.

More than 3 million immigrants arrived in the Member States in 2007, with more than 2 million arriving in Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom

combined. Among the 22 Member States for which data are available, some 48 % of immigrants were citizens of a non-member country, while 40 % were citizens of another EU Member State, and 12 % were nationals returning to their Member State of citizenship. Note this does not imply that all immigrants with non-EU citizenship were new arrivals in the EU, as the figures include non-EU citizens moving between Member States. Returning nationals accounted for the highest proportion of immigrants in Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland (permanent stays only) in 2007. In Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria and Slovakia, the highest proportion of immigrants were citizens from other EU Member States, while in the remaining Member States, non-EU citizens accounted for the largest share of immigrants.

In most of the Member States for which data are available for 2007, the majority of immigrants were relatively young (within the working age range of 15 to 39 years). Indeed, this age group accounted for more than seven out of ten immigrants in Denmark and the Czech Republic. Bulgaria, Latvia and Greece were the only Member States where the 15-39 year old age group did not account for at least 50 % of all immigrants.



**Table 2.18:** Population by group of citizenship, 1 January 2008; acquisition of citizenship, 2007 (persons)

	Nationals (¹)	Foreigners (¹)	of which:		Acquisition of citizenship (²)
			Other EU-27 countries	Non EU-27 countries	
<b>EU-27</b>	466 652 667	30 778 489	11 302 401	19 476 088	:
Belgium	9 695 418	971 448	659 423	312 025	36 063
Bulgaria	7 615 836	24 402	3 608	20 794	5 966
Czech Republic	10 033 481	347 649	131 516	216 133	2 371
Denmark	5 177 301	298 450	93 166	205 284	3 648
Germany	74 962 442	7 255 395	2 515 508	4 739 887	113 030
Estonia	1 111 600	229 300	8 300	221 000	4 242
Ireland	3 847 645	553 690	392 068	161 622	4 649
Greece	10 307 400	906 400	158 300	748 100	3 921
Spain	40 021 164	5 262 095	2 112 623	3 149 472	71 936
France	60 079 000	3 674 000	1 283 000	2 391 000	132 002
Italy	56 186 639	3 432 651	934 435	2 498 216	35 266
Cyprus	664 000	125 300	81 300	44 000	2 780
Latvia	1 855 401	415 493	7 933	407 560	8 322
Lithuania	3 323 423	42 934	2 669	40 265	371
Luxembourg	277 910	205 889	177 018	28 871	1 236
Hungary	9 868 821	176 580	100 806	75 774	8 442
Malta	394 830	15 460	8 188	7 272	553
Netherlands	15 717 024	688 375	262 964	425 411	30 653
Austria	7 483 410	835 182	289 742	545 440	14 010
Poland	38 057 799	57 842	25 032	32 810	1 542
Portugal	10 171 242	446 333	115 832	330 501	3 627
Romania	21 502 527	26 100	5 971	20 129	31
Slovenia	1 957 245	68 621	4 112	64 509	1 551
Slovakia	5 360 094	40 904	25 909	14 995	1 478
Finland	5 167 776	132 708	47 193	85 515	4 824
Sweden	8 658 439	524 488	240 985	283 503	33 629
United Kingdom	57 154 800	4 020 800	1 614 800	2 406 000	164 540
Croatia	4 399 300	37 100	7 800	29 300	13 240
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	:	:	1 713
Turkey	72 228 000	292 000	:	:	4 807
Iceland	286 113	13 778	8 061	5 717	647
Norway	4 470 911	266 260	137 891	128 369	14 877
Switzerland	5 991 401	1 602 093	968 270	633 823	43 889

(¹) Turkey and Iceland, 2006.

(²) Italy and Portugal, 2006.

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_st\\_popctz](#) and [tps00024](#))

**Table 2.19:** Emigration by group of citizenship, 2007  
(persons)

	Nationals	Foreigners (¹)	of which:	
			Other EU-27 countries	Non EU-27 countries
Belgium	45 615	45 437	19 849	25 588
Bulgaria	2 923	35	6	29
Czech Republic	2 076	18 424	2 221	16 203
Denmark	23 771	17 795	8 708	9 087
Germany	161 105	475 749	278 428	197 321
Estonia	3 940	444	123	321
Ireland	:	:	:	:
Greece	:	:	:	:
Spain	28 091	198 974	23 383	175 591
France	:	:	:	:
Italy	:	11 940	:	:
Cyprus	816	10 573	1 594	8 979
Latvia	1 881	2 302	165	2 137
Lithuania	11 422	2 431	476	1 955
Luxembourg	2 033	8 641	7 506	1 135
Hungary	367	4 133	3 037	1 096
Malta	1 350	3 679	3 129	550
Netherlands	62 250	29 037	15 199	13 838
Austria	19 324	52 604	26 623	25 981
Poland	35 301	179	90	89
Portugal	:	:	:	:
Romania	8 830	0	:	:
Slovenia	3 178	11 765	1 516	10 249
Slovakia	1 574	1 996	956	1 040
Finland	9 330	3 113	1 866	1 247
Sweden	24 990	20 428	10 607	9 821
United Kingdom	159 339	158 247	64 958	93 289
Croatia	8 084	273	33	240
FYR of Macedonia	224	16	7	9
Norway	8 798	13 324	8 466	4 858
Switzerland	29 487	60 688	40 986	19 702

(¹) Italy, 2005.

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_emictz](#))



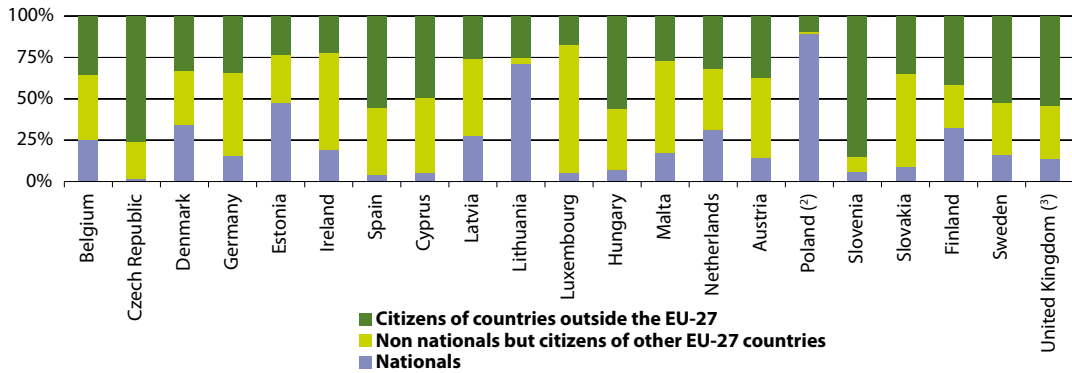
**Table 2.20:** Immigration by group of citizenship, 2007  
(persons)

	Nationals	Foreigners (¹)	of which:	
			Other EU-27 countries	Non EU-27 countries
Belgium	36 483	109 926	58 025	51 901
Bulgaria	1 498	60	6	54
Czech Republic	1 934	102 511	23 026	79 485
Denmark	22 033	42 623	21 381	21 242
Germany	106 014	574 752	343 851	230 901
Estonia	1 789	1 952	1 089	863
Ireland	17 136	71 643	52 259	19 384
Greece	:	133 185	:	:
Spain	37 732	920 534	389 203	531 331
France	:	182 390	:	:
Italy	:	267 634	:	:
Cyprus	953	18 064	8 680	9 384
Latvia	986	2 555	1 642	913
Lithuania	6 141	2 468	315	2 153
Luxembourg	909	15 766	12 859	2 907
Hungary	1 754	22 607	9 059	13 548
Malta	1 171	5 559	3 767	1 792
Netherlands	36 561	80 258	43 228	37 030
Austria	14 911	91 748	52 251	39 497
Poland	13 384	1 611	196	1 415
Portugal	:	27 703	:	:
Romania	:	9 575	:	:
Slovenia	1 689	27 504	2 646	24 858
Slovakia	1 417	14 848	9 183	5 665
Finland	8 525	17 504	6 803	10 701
Sweden	15 949	83 536	31 352	52 184
United Kingdom	71 424	455 290	171 863	283 427
Croatia	13 704	915	251	664
FYR of Macedonia	366	954	147	807
Turkey	:	178 964	:	:
Iceland	3 130	7 304	6 224	1 080
Norway	8 276	53 498	33 426	20 072
Switzerland	21 779	143 855	99 054	44 801

(¹) France and Portugal, 2006; Italy and Turkey, 2005.

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_immictz](#))

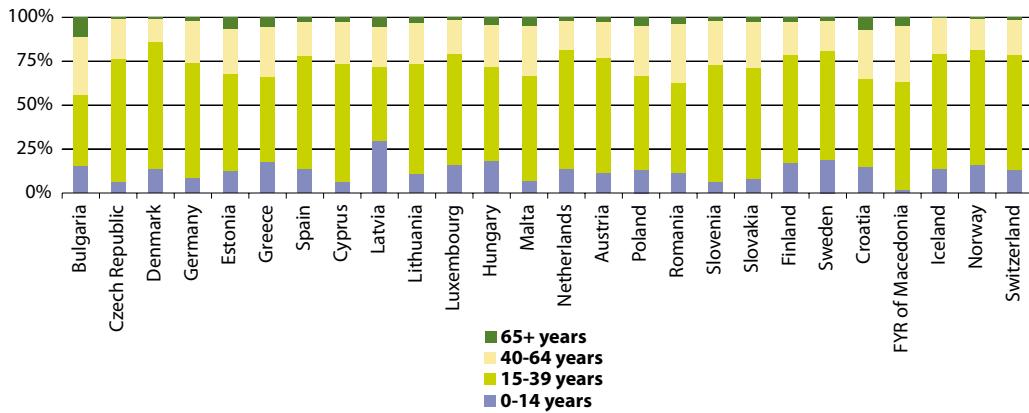
**Figure 2.19: Immigration by broad group of citizenship, 2007 <sup>(1)</sup>**  
(% of total immigrants)



<sup>(1)</sup> Bulgaria, Greece, France, Italy, Portugal and Romania, not available.  
<sup>(2)</sup> Immigrants for permanent stay only.  
<sup>(3)</sup> Excluding immigrants from Ireland, whatever their citizenship.

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_immictz](#))

**Figure 2.20: Immigration by age, 2007 <sup>(1)</sup>**  
(%)



<sup>(1)</sup> Belgium, Ireland, France, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom, not available.

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_immictz](#))





## 2.7 Asylum

### Introduction

The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees (as amended by the 1967 New York Protocol) has for almost 60 years defined who is a refugee, and laid down a common approach towards refugees that has been one of the cornerstones for the development of a common asylum system within the EU.

Asylum is a form of protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and/or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Since 1999, the EU has worked towards creating a common European asylum system (CEAS) in accordance with the Geneva Convention and other applicable international instruments. A number of Directives in this area were developed during the first phase of the CAES, the four main legal instruments on asylum including:

- the Reception Conditions Directive <sup>(18)</sup>;
- the Asylum Procedures Directive <sup>(19)</sup>;
- the Qualification Directive <sup>(20)</sup>, and;
- the Dublin Regulation <sup>(21)</sup>.

The Hague programme, adopted by heads of state and government in November 2004, took forward the idea of further developing the CAES by calling for a second phase, which would lead, among others, to common procedures and a uniform status for those granted asylum or subsidiary protection. The European Commission presented its ideas on how the second phase of the CEAS should be developed in a policy plan on asylum <sup>(22)</sup> adopted in 2008, proposing to move forward through further harmonisation of legislation, increasing practical cooperation, and fostering solidarity (both within the EU and between the EU and third countries).

The ideas presented by the European Commission in the policy plan on asylum led to a number of concrete proposals, presented between November 2008 and October 2009, namely:

- amendments to the Reception Conditions, Asylum Procedures and Qualification Directives;
- amendments to the Dublin Regulation;
- the establishment of a European asylum support office to support practical cooperation, and;
- the establishment of a joint European resettlement scheme to support third countries hosting large refugee populations.

<sup>(18)</sup> Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003; for more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l\\_031/l\\_03120030206en00180025.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l_031/l_03120030206en00180025.pdf).

<sup>(19)</sup> Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005; for more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l\\_326/l32620051213en00130034.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_326/l32620051213en00130034.pdf).

<sup>(20)</sup> Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted; for more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004L0083:EN:HTML>.

<sup>(21)</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national; for more information: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l050/l\\_05020030225en00010010.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l050/l_05020030225en00010010.pdf).

<sup>(22)</sup> COM(2008) 360; for more information: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0360:FIN:EN:PDF>.

### Definitions and data availability

The Hague programme called for an improvement in practical cooperation and the exchange of information on migration and asylum issues. On 11 July 2007, a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection was adopted. As a result, statistics on asylum applications and the subsequent decisions to grant or refuse refugee status or other types of international protection have recently been adapted. For example, asylum applications statistics are now available with a monthly frequency, in order to allow a continuous monitoring of short-term variations in the origin and numbers of asylum-seekers.

**Asylum applications** refer to all persons who apply on an individual basis for asylum or similar protection, irrespective of whether they lodge their application on arrival or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether they entered the country legally or illegally. **An asylum applicant** is a person who has requested protection under: either Article 1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967; or within the remit of the United Nations convention against torture and other forms of cruel or inhuman treatment (UNCAT); or the European convention on human rights; or other relevant instruments of protection. **An asylum-seeker** is an asylum applicant awaiting a decision on an application for refugee status or another form of international protection. A **refugee** is a person with a well-founded

fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion (according to Article 1 of the 1951 Convention). It should be noted that some asylum applicants may remain in a country on a temporary or permanent basis even if they are not deemed to be refugees under the 1951 Convention definition – for example, asylum applicants may be granted subsidiary protection or humanitarian protection statuses.

### Main findings

There are two different categories of person which should be taken into account when analysing asylum statistics. The first includes asylum-seekers who have lodged a claim and whose claim is under consideration by a relevant authority ('asylum applications'); those who have made an application may generally remain within the territory of the Member State concerned during consideration of their claim. The second is composed of persons who have been recognised, after consideration, as refugees or have been granted another kind of international protection ('positive decisions').

In recent years there has been a sharp decrease in the number of asylum-seekers. Having peaked in 1992 (670 000 applications in the EU-15) and again in 2001 (424 500 applications in the EU-27), there were an estimated 222 600 asylum applications received in the EU-27 in 2007. This figure did, nevertheless, constitute an increase of 25 000 when compared with the year before, in part due to an increased number of applications from Iraq.



Numbers of asylum applications and their relative importance (for example, as a percentage of the total population) vary considerably between Member States. The highest number of applications for asylum in 2007 was lodged in Sweden, with France, the United Kingdom, Greece and Germany being the other main recipients of applications. The rapid increase in applications made to Greece in recent years results from its geographical location in the south east of Europe: hence, it is frequently seen as a gateway to Europe for persons fleeing conflict in Iraq or Afghanistan. The high number of applications in Sweden was also closely linked to the Iraq conflict, as Iraqis made up the second largest group of non-nationals in Sweden – 7.6 % of the population of foreigners in 2008 – which was higher than the share recorded for either Norway or Denmark, and only less than that for Finland.

In 2006, almost a quarter (23.2 %) of EU-27 asylum decisions resulted in the granting of refugee status or subsidiary protection, while more than half (57.8 %) of all decisions resulted in a rejection. In absolute numbers, just over 55 000 persons were granted refugee status or subsidiary protection in the EU-27 in 2006; equivalent to 0.01 % of the total population.

There remains a wide diversity in the handling of asylum applications between Member States, as more than half of the

decisions made in 2007 in Latvia, Luxembourg, Denmark, Italy (2006) and Malta were positive, while Sweden (48.2 %) also recorded a relatively high proportion of positive decisions. In contrast, less than one in ten decisions were positive in Ireland, Hungary, Spain, Slovakia, Cyprus, Slovenia and Greece – where the lowest positive acceptance rate was recorded (0.8 %).

In absolute terms, the highest number of positive asylum decisions in 2007 was recorded in Sweden (15 640), which was almost double the number for Germany (7 870). The United Kingdom (6 805), Italy (5 215 in 2006) and Austria (5 195) recorded the next highest number of positive decisions, while the Netherlands (2006), France, Poland and Belgium (2006) were the only other countries where more than a thousand positive decisions were made during the course of 2007.

Positive asylum applications in 2007 in Sweden represented 0.17 % of the total population in 2007, with Malta (0.15 %) and Luxembourg (0.11 %) the only other Member States to report shares above 0.1 %. Positive asylum decisions accounted for less than 0.001 % of the population in Romania, Spain, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia and Portugal in 2007; note this could be a reflection of a low number of applications, rather than a relatively low positive acceptance rate.

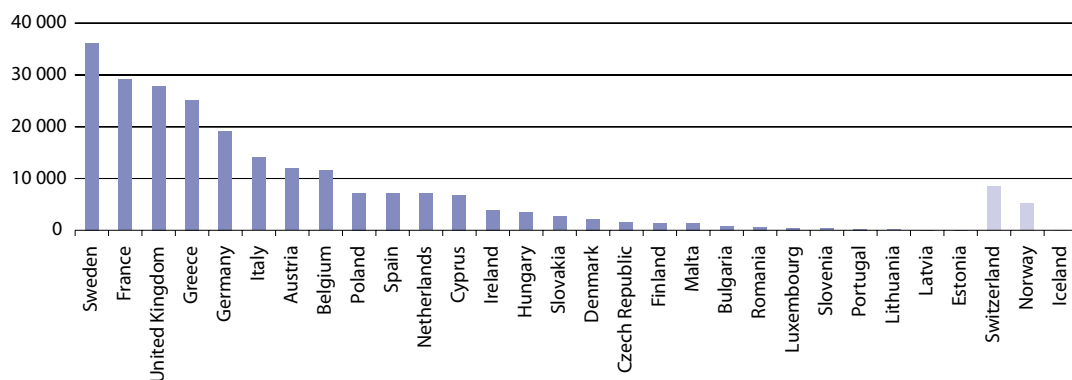
**Table 2.21:** Asylum applications  
(persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	:	313 645	380 450	406 585	424 180	421 470	344 800	276 675	234 675	197 410	222 635
Belgium	11 790	21 965	35 780	42 690	24 505	18 800	13 585	12 400	12 575	8 870	11 575
Bulgaria	370	835	1 350	1 755	2 430	2 890	1 320	985	700	500	815
Czech Republic	2 110	4 085	7 355	8 790	18 095	8 485	11 400	5 300	3 590	2 730	1 585
Denmark	5 100	5 700	6 530	10 345	12 510	5 945	4 390	3 235	2 280	1 960	2 225
Germany	104 355	98 645	94 775	78 565	88 285	71 125	50 565	35 605	28 915	21 030	19 165
Estonia	0	25	25	5	10	10	15	10	10	5	15
Ireland	3 880	4 625	7 725	10 940	10 325	11 635	7 485	4 265	4 305	4 240	3 935
Greece	4 375	2 950	1 530	3 085	5 500	5 665	8 180	4 470	9 050	12 265	25 115
Spain	4 975	4 935	8 405	7 925	9 490	6 310	5 765	5 365	5 050	5 295	7 195
France	21 415	22 375	30 905	38 745	47 290	51 085	59 770	58 545	49 735	30 750	29 160
Italy	1 890	13 100	18 450	15 195	17 400	16 015	13 705	9 630	9 345	10 350	14 055
Cyprus	:	225	790	650	1 620	950	4 405	9 675	7 715	4 540	6 780
Latvia	:	35	20	5	15	25	5	5	20	10	35
Lithuania	240	160	145	305	425	365	395	165	100	145	125
Luxembourg	435	1 710	2 930	625	685	1 040	1 550	1 575	800	525	425
Hungary	:	7 120	11 500	7 800	9 555	6 410	2 400	1 600	1 610	2 115	3 420
Malta	70	160	255	160	155	350	455	995	1 165	1 270	1 380
Netherlands	34 445	45 215	39 275	43 895	32 580	18 665	13 400	9 780	12 345	14 465	7 100
Austria	6 720	13 805	20 130	18 285	30 125	39 355	32 360	24 635	22 460	13 350	11 920
Poland	3 580	3 425	3 060	4 660	4 480	5 170	6 810	7 925	5 240	4 225	7 205
Portugal	250	355	305	225	235	245	115	115	115	130	225
Romania	1 425	1 235	1 665	1 365	2 280	1 000	885	545	485	380	660
Slovenia	70	335	745	9 245	1 510	650	1 050	1 090	1 550	500	370
Slovakia	645	505	1 320	1 555	8 150	9 745	10 300	11 395	3 550	2 850	2 640
Finland	970	1 270	3 105	3 170	1 650	3 445	3 090	3 575	3 595	2 275	1 405
Sweden	9 680	12 840	11 220	16 285	23 500	33 015	31 355	23 160	17 530	24 320	36 205
United Kingdom	32 500	46 015	71 160	80 315	71 365	103 080	60 045	40 625	30 840	28 320	27 905
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	85	40	:
Norway	2 270	8 375	10 160	10 845	14 770	17 480	16 020	7 950	5 400	5 320	:
Switzerland	23 185	39 735	43 935	15 780	18 720	24 255	18 920	12 730	8 650	8 580	:

Source: Eurostat (tps00021)



**Figure 2.21:** Asylum applications, 2007 <sup>(1)</sup>  
(persons)



<sup>(1)</sup> Provisional figures; EU-27, 222 635 asylum applications in 2007; Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, 2006.

Source: Eurostat ([tps00021](#))

**Table 2.22:** Asylum decisions

	Number of decisions (persons)		of which, positive (%)		of which, rejections (%)	
	2002	2007	2002	2007	2002	2007
<b>EU-27 (¹)</b>	:	237 970	:	23.2	:	57.8
Belgium (¹)	:	8 345	:	29.2	:	70.8
Bulgaria	2 235	770	32.2	43.5	33.8	31.8
Czech Republic	12 065	2 280	1.0	17.1	42.6	68.9
Denmark	:	850	:	55.9	:	44.1
Germany	130 130	28 570	6.2	27.5	60.6	44.6
Estonia	:	15	:	33.3	:	66.7
Ireland	:	3 810	:	9.8	:	90.0
Greece	:	20 990	:	0.8	:	98.5
Spain	6 235	5 400	4.4	4.5	95.6	95.5
France	49 960	29 150	12.5	11.5	87.5	88.5
Italy (¹)	16 875	9 260	7.4	56.3	92.6	39.7
Cyprus	:	7 170	:	2.9	:	32.3
Latvia	25	20	0.0	50.0	100.0	50.0
Lithuania	385	145	74.0	41.4	11.7	34.5
Luxembourg	1 050	1 035	7.6	52.2	92.4	41.5
Hungary	9 200	2 805	17.2	8.9	27.9	49.0
Malta	:	955	:	65.4	:	34.6
Netherlands (¹)	34 255	14 180	10.4	30.6	77.3	53.0
Austria	29 880	16 045	3.6	32.4	14.3	41.4
Poland	5 415	6 185	4.7	49.1	86.2	29.7
Portugal	230	110	13.0	22.7	71.7	77.3
Romania	1 160	590	11.2	22.9	81.9	57.6
Slovenia	740	540	0.7	1.9	16.2	50.0
Slovakia	:	2 970	:	3.2	:	39.7
Finland	3 035	2 020	19.6	41.6	74.6	51.7
Sweden	27 115	32 470	20.3	48.2	68.2	37.5
United Kingdom	103 450	27 630	32.3	24.6	67.7	70.5
Iceland (¹)	:	30	:	0.0	:	66.7
Norway (¹)	:	4 215	:	40.0	:	48.0

(¹) 2006 instead of 2007.

Source: Eurostat ([tps00163](#), [migr\\_asydctzy](#) and [tps00164](#))