eurostat newsrelease

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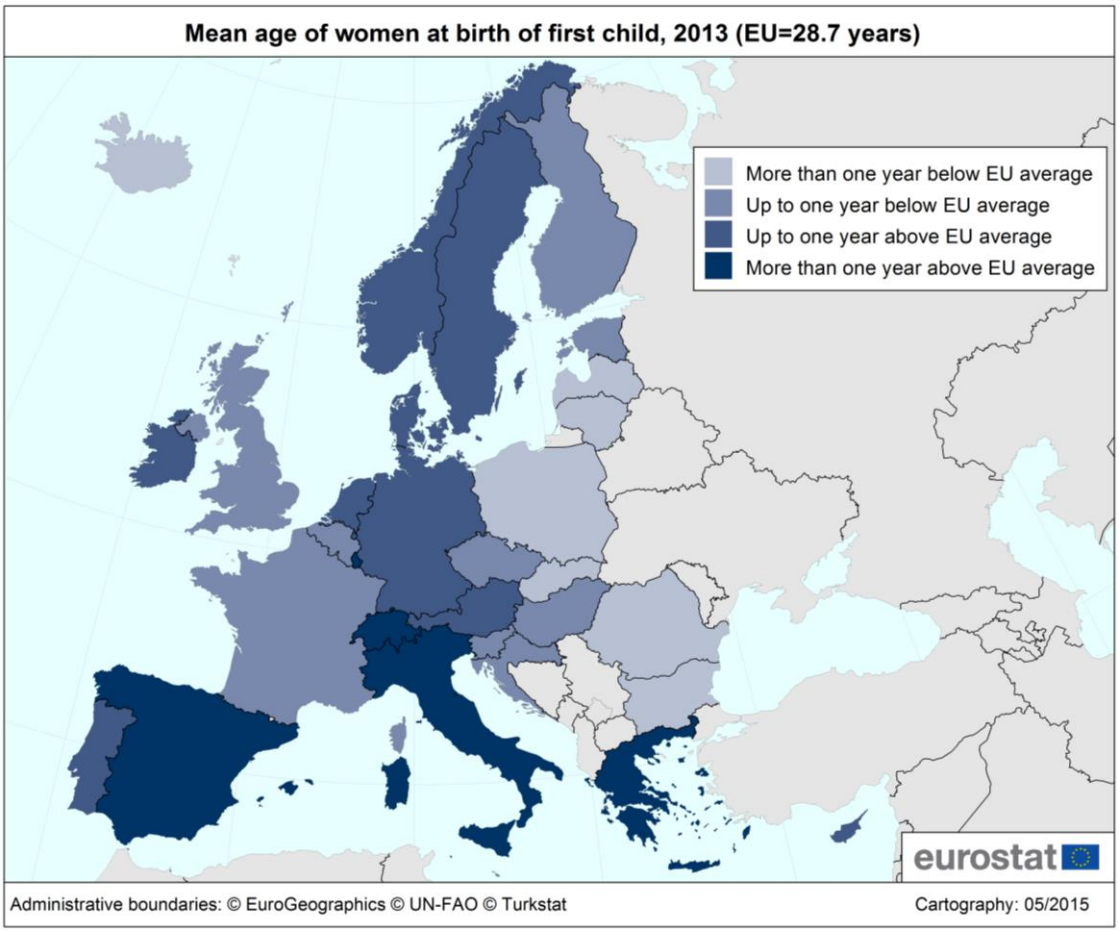
15 May 2015: International Day of Families

Women in the EU gave birth to their first child at almost 29 years of age on average

In 2013, a majority (51.2%) of women in the **European Union** (EU) gave birth[1] to their first child when aged in their 20s, while 40.6% became mothers in their 30s. In addition, more than 127 000 births of first children in the EU in 2013 were to women aged less than 20 (teenage mothers) and around 65 500 to women aged 40 and over. On average, women in the **EU** were 28.7 years old when they became mothers for the first time.

Among the 5.1 million births in the **EU** in 2013, nearly 1 in 5 (or more than 880 000) concerned a third or subsequent child.

On the occasion of the International Day of Families[2] on 15 May 2015, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes a selection of demographic data[3] related to families in the EU.



Denmark: 2012 data instead of 2013.

First time mothers youngest in Bulgaria and Romania, oldest in Italy and Spain

In 2013, the mean age of mothers at the birth of their first child varied significantly between the **EU** Member States, with a gap of almost five years between the youngest and the oldest. The youngest average ages of mothers at the birth of their first child were recorded in **Bulgaria** (25.7 years), **Romania** (25.8), **Latvia** (26.1), **Estonia** (26.5), **Poland** and **Lithuania** (both 26.7) and **Slovakia** (26.9). Conversely, women were oldest on average when giving birth to their first child in **Italy** (30.6 years), followed by **Spain** (30.4), **Luxembourg** (30.0) and **Greece** (29.9).

Around 15% of first children born to teenage mothers in Bulgaria and Romania

The highest shares of births of first children to teenage mothers were recorded in **Romania** (15.6% of total births of first children in 2013), **Bulgaria** (14.7%) and **Hungary** (11.0%), ahead of **Slovakia** (9.9%), **Latvia** (9.1%) and the **United Kingdom** (8.2%). On the other hand, the lowest shares were observed in **Italy** (1.8%), **Slovenia** (1.9%), the **Netherlands** (2.2%), **Luxembourg** and **Cyprus** (both 2.4%).

At the opposite end of the age range, the highest proportions of births of first children in 2013 to women aged 40 and over were registered in **Italy** (6.1% of total births of first children in 2013), **Spain** (5.1%), **Greece** (4.1%), **Luxembourg** (3.8%) and **Ireland** (3.4%). In contrast, shares of less than 1% were recorded in **Poland** and **Slovakia** (both 0.7%) and **Lithuania** (0.9%).

In 2013, more than half of the women giving birth for the first time were aged in their 20s in a large majority of the **EU** Member States. Notable exceptions were to be found in the following Member States where the majority of first births were to mothers aged in their 30s: **Spain** (59.4% of births of first children concerned women aged 30-39), **Italy** (54.1%), **Ireland** (52.7%) and **Greece** (51.9%).

Share of live births of first children by mother's age in the EU Member States, 2013

	Total first births	Proportions by age group				Mean age of women at birth of first child
		Under 20	20-29	30-39	40 and over	
EU*	**2 340 627**	**5.4%**	**51.2%**	**40.6%**	**2.8%**	**28.7**
Belgium	54 580	3.5%	60.2%	34.4%	1.8%	28.5
Bulgaria	34 223	14.7%	59.0%	25.0%	1.3%	25.7
Czech Republic	51 224	4.7%	55.6%	38.6%	1.0%	28.1
Denmark**	26 009	2.7%	56.5%	38.7%	2.1%	29.0
Germany	337 175	4.1%	49.8%	43.7%	2.5%	29.3
Estonia	5 626	8.0%	68.2%	22.8%	1.0%	26.5
Ireland	26 081	4.7%	39.2%	52.7%	3.4%	29.4
Greece	47 674	3.2%	40.8%	51.9%	4.1%	29.9
Spain	223 843	3.5%	32.0%	59.4%	5.1%	30.4
France	343 496	4.8%	60.3%	32.8%	2.1%	28.1
Croatia	18 420	5.7%	58.0%	34.6%	1.7%	28.0
Italy	251 450	1.8%	38.0%	54.1%	6.1%	30.6
Cyprus	4 469	2.4%	57.0%	38.7%	1.9%	29.0
Latvia	9 191	9.1%	70.2%	19.7%	1.0%	26.1
Lithuania	14 411	7.9%	71.0%	20.2%	0.9%	26.7
Luxembourg	3 251	2.4%	43.9%	49.9%	3.8%	30.0
Hungary	40 637	11.0%	48.6%	38.8%	1.6%	27.7
Malta	2 086	6.6%	52.3%	39.9%	1.2%	28.4
Netherlands	79 460	2.2%	53.5%	42.1%	2.1%	29.4
Austria	38 168	4.4%	53.3%	39.8%	2.5%	28.8
Poland	179 670	7.4%	66.8%	25.2%	0.7%	26.7
Portugal	45 787	5.7%	43.5%	48.2%	2.6%	28.9
Romania	91 156	15.6%	58.2%	25.2%	1.0%	25.8
Slovenia	10 469	1.9%	58.7%	38.0%	1.4%	28.5
Slovakia	25 113	9.9%	58.4%	31.0%	0.7%	26.9
Finland	23 558	4.5%	56.5%	37.0%	1.9%	28.5
Sweden	49 247	2.6%	56.3%	38.9%	2.3%	29.1
United Kingdom	304 153	8.2%	51.6%	37.5%	2.7%	28.3
Iceland	1 689	4.6%	68.4%	25.0%	2.0%	27.4
Norway	25 402	3.3%	59.2%	35.7%	1.8%	28.6
Switzerland	40 058	1.5%	43.2%	51.5%	3.7%	30.4

* EU aggregates are estimated.
** Denmark: 2012 data instead of 2013.

1 out of 10 births in Finland was to a mother with at least three children already

At **EU** level in 2013, more than 80% (82.6%) of births were first and second children, while births of third children accounted for 11.8% and of fourth or subsequent children for 5.6%.

Across the EU Member States, the highest share of births ranked fourth or subsequent among total births was recorded in **Finland** (10.4%), followed by the **United Kingdom** (9.5%), **Romania** (9.4%) and **Ireland** (9.0%).

Share of live births by birth order in the EU Member States, 2013

	First child	Second child	Third child	Fourth or subsequent child
EU*	**47.1%**	**35.5%**	**11.8%**	**5.6%**
Belgium	43.9%	34.9%	13.8%	7.4%
Bulgaria	51.6%	35.3%	7.8%	5.3%
Czech Republic	48.0%	37.6%	10.4%	4.1%
Denmark**	45.5%	37.0%	13.1%	4.4%
Germany	49.4%	34.4%	11.2%	5.0%
Estonia	41.6%	37.5%	15.0%	5.9%
Ireland	37.9%	35.4%	17.6%	9.0%
Greece	50.6%	36.8%	9.3%	3.3%
Spain	52.7%	36.8%	7.9%	2.6%
France	42.3%	35.6%	15.0%	7.0%
Croatia	46.5%	35.3%	12.5%	5.8%
Italy	48.9%	37.5%	10.4%	3.1%
Cyprus	48.4%	35.7%	11.9%	4.0%
Latvia	44.6%	37.2%	12.9%	5.3%
Lithuania	48.2%	36.9%	10.5%	4.4%
Luxembourg	53.8%	32.9%	9.8%	3.5%
Hungary	46.3%	32.1%	13.3%	8.3%
Malta	51.7%	34.3%	10.0%	4.0%
Netherlands	46.4%	36.7%	12.2%	4.7%
Austria	48.1%	35.6%	11.5%	4.8%
Poland	48.6%	36.4%	10.4%	4.6%
Portugal	55.3%	33.3%	8.4%	3.1%
Romania	50.0%	31.0%	9.5%	9.4%
Slovenia	49.6%	37.5%	9.8%	3.2%
Slovakia	45.8%	34.2%	11.4%	8.5%
Finland	40.5%	34.2%	15.2%	10.1%
Sweden	43.4%	37.4%	13.6%	5.6%
United Kingdom	39.2%	35.7%	15.7%	9.5%
Iceland	39.0%	34.2%	19.8%	7.0%
Norway	43.1%	37.4%	14.6%	4.8%
Switzerland	48.4%	37.2%	11.2%	3.1%

* EU aggregates are estimated.
** Denmark: 2012 data instead of 2013.

1. In this news release, births refer to live births.
2. For further information on the 2015 International Day of Families: http://www.un.org/en/events/familyday/
3. The full set of demographic indicators has been recently updated in the Eurostat database with data for 2013 on population, births, deaths, migration and marriages and divorces: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/overview

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