

New Eurostat flagship publication

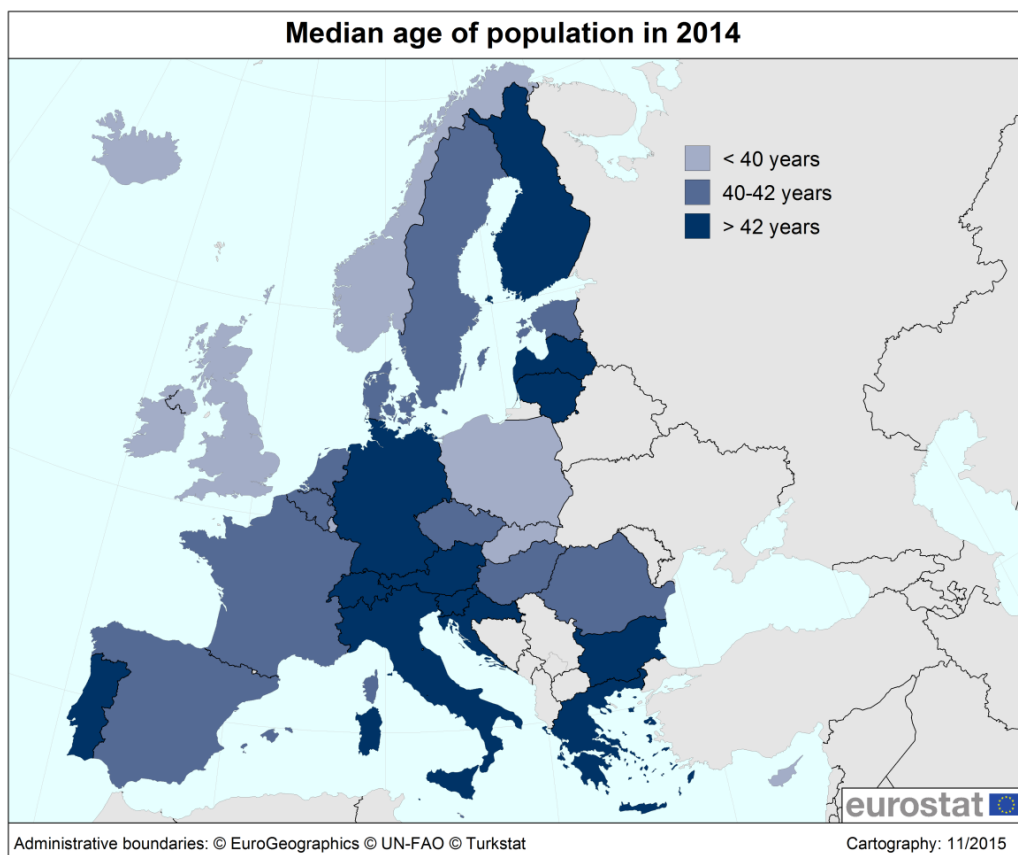
People in the EU

A uniquely rich snapshot of the EU population

Demographic change, together with migration, globalisation and climate change, is recognised as one of the most significant challenges the **European Union (EU)** is currently facing. In recent decades, the profile of the **EU** population has changed, due in part to ageing society, changes in patterns of family formation and structure and shifts in the roles of men and women.

Today, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes the flagship publication "People in the EU: who are we and how do we live?". Its seven chapters provide a detailed picture of the population, families, households and housing, which helps understand the demographic, social and economic situation of those living in the EU. As Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner responsible for employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility, states in the foreword of the publication: "*Providing a better understanding of the different aspects of the lives of individuals and families will help the European Commission and the Member State governments in their joint efforts to create prosperity for everybody in Europe. This data will help us translate the 10 Juncker Commission priorities into targeted policies and concrete actions*".

The flagship publication draws on data from several distinct sources: the latest population and housing census conducted across all households in the EU Member States and the EFTA countries in 2011 and whose results are accessible through a single interface, the Eurostat Census Hub, as well as a range of statistical surveys that collect data on population-related indicators which are available in the Eurostat database. This News Release contains only a small selection of the wide range of indicators that can be found in the publication. An infographic and interactive thematic maps are also available on the Eurostat website.



Significant population ageing in the last 20 years

In 2014, the median age of the **EU** population was 42.2 years, meaning that half of the population was younger and half was older than 42.2 years. At Member State level, the youngest population was found in **Ireland** (median age 36.0 years), **Cyprus** (36.8 years), **Slovakia** (38.6 years), **Luxembourg** and **Poland** (both 39.2 years) and the **United Kingdom** (39.9 years). In contrast, the oldest population was recorded in **Germany** (45.6 years), **Italy** (44.7 years), **Bulgaria** (43.2 years), **Portugal** (43.1 years) and **Greece** (43.0 years).

Over the last twenty years, the median age of the **EU** population rose by six years, from 36.2 years in 1994. This trend was noticeable in all Member States, in particular in **Lithuania**, where it rose by almost 9 years (8.9 years) since 1994. Increases of 7 years or more were observed in **Germany** and **Portugal** (7.6 years each) as well as in **Austria** and **Romania** (7.0 years each).

Median age of the population, 1994 and 2014

	1994	2014	Evolution 1994/2014 (in years)
EU*	36.2	42.2	6.0
Belgium	37.0	41.2	4.2
Bulgaria	37.8	43.2	5.4
Czech Republic	36.0	40.8	4.8
Denmark	37.6	41.3	3.7
Germany	38.0	45.6	7.6
Estonia	35.8	41.3	5.5
Ireland	30.4	36.0	5.6
Greece	36.9	43.0	6.1
Spain	34.9	41.8	6.9
France	35.6	40.8	5.2
Croatia	:	42.6	:
Italy	38.2	44.7	6.5
Cyprus	31.8	36.8	5.0
Latvia	35.8	42.4	6.6
Lithuania	33.5	42.4	8.9
Luxembourg	36.6	39.2	2.6
Hungary	37.4	41.3	3.9
Malta	34.1	40.7	6.6
Netherlands	35.4	42.0	6.6
Austria	35.9	42.9	7.0
Poland	33.4	39.2	5.8
Portugal	35.5	43.1	7.6
Romania	33.8	40.8	7.0
Slovenia	35.6	42.5	6.9
Slovakia	32.1	38.6	6.5
Finland	37.4	42.4	5.0
Sweden	38.4	40.9	2.5
United Kingdom	36.2	39.9	3.7
Iceland	30.9	35.6	4.7
Liechtenstein	33.9	42.5	8.6
Norway	35.8	39.0	3.2
Switzerland	37.0	42.1	5.1

* 1994 data excluding Croatia.

: Data not available

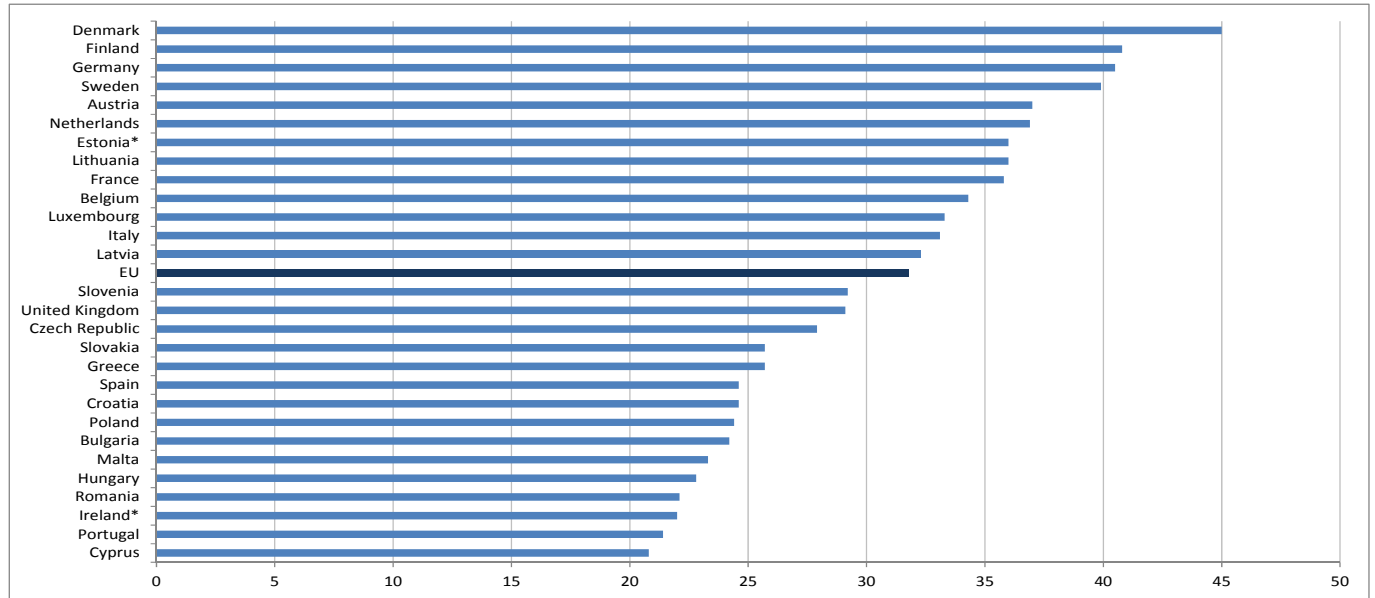
Estonia, France, United Kingdom: provisional data for 2014. Portugal and Romania: data for 2014 are estimated.

The source dataset is available [here](#).

One third of EU households composed of one person

Single-person households accounted for almost one third (31.8%) of all households in the **EU** in 2014. The highest shares of single-person households were registered in the three Nordic Member States - **Denmark** (45.0%), **Finland** (40.8%) and **Sweden** (39.9%) - as well as in **Germany** (40.5%). In contrast, single-person households accounted for around one in five households in **Cyprus** (20.8%), **Portugal** (21.4%), **Ireland** (22.0% in 2013), **Romania** (22.1%) and **Hungary** (22.8%).

Share of single-person households in the EU Member States, 2014
(in % of all households)



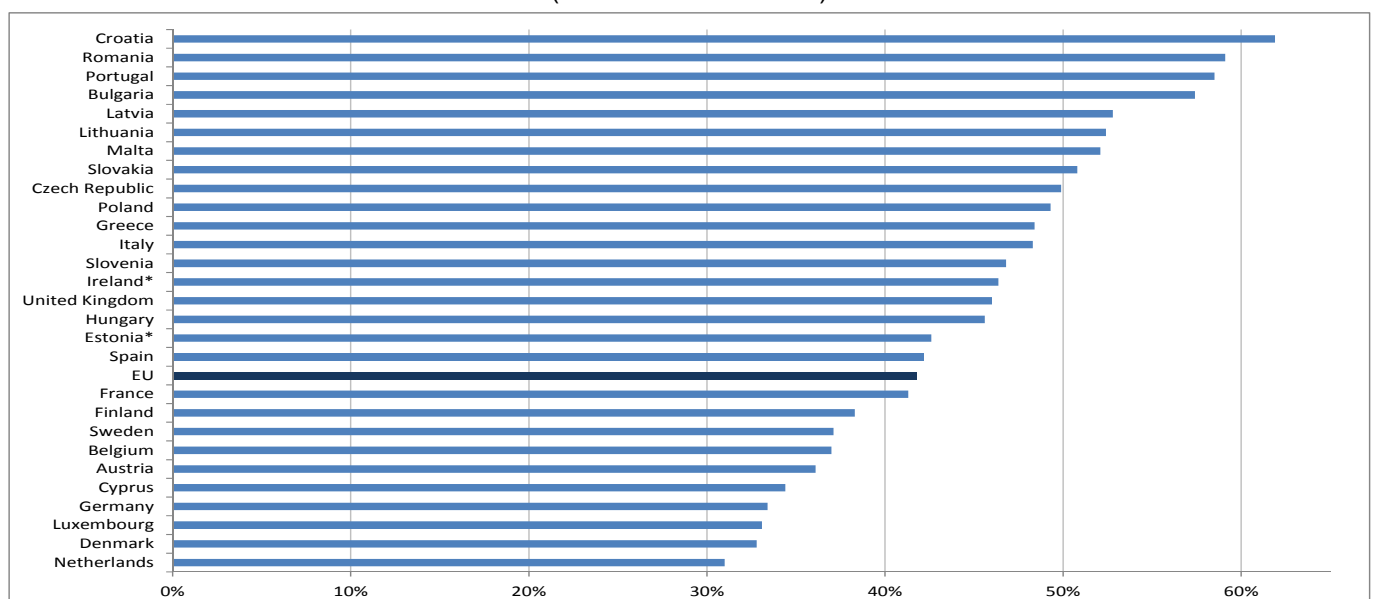
* Estonia and Ireland: 2013 data instead of 2014

More than 40% of those living alone in the EU aged 65 or over

41.8% of single-person households were composed of persons aged 65 years or over in the **EU** in 2014. In eight Member States those aged 65 or over were even in the majority: **Croatia** (61.9%), **Romania** (59.1%), **Portugal** (58.5%), **Bulgaria** (57.4%), **Latvia** (52.8%), **Lithuania** (52.4%), **Malta** (52.1%) and **Slovakia** (50.8%).

In 2014, single-person households in the **EU** were predominantly composed of women, who accounted for 56.6% of all such households. This was the case in all EU Member States, albeit in different proportions. The share of women in single-person households was particularly high in **Latvia** (68.7%), **Hungary** (68.3%), **Slovakia** (66.8%) and **Poland** (66.4%).

Share of people aged 65 or over among single-person households in the EU Member States, 2014
(in % of all households)



* Estonia and Ireland: 2013 data instead of 2014

Single-person households by age and sex, 2014

	Share of single-person households in total households (%)	Share of females in single-person households (%)	Share of persons aged 65 or over in single-person households (%)
EU*	31.8	56.6	41.8
Belgium	34.3	51.3	37.0
Bulgaria	24.2	59.6	57.4
Czech Republic	27.9	58.9	49.9
Denmark	45.0	50.7	32.8
Germany	40.5	54.3	33.4
Estonia**	36.0	63.7	42.6
Ireland**	22.0	54.4	46.4
Greece	25.7	60.0	48.4
Spain	24.6	52.8	42.2
France	35.8	58.0	41.3
Croatia	24.6	65.6	61.9
Italy***	33.1	58.4	48.3
Cyprus	20.8	60.3	34.4
Latvia	32.3	68.7	52.8
Lithuania	36.0	65.2	52.4
Luxembourg	33.3	51.7	33.1
Hungary	22.8	68.3	45.6
Malta	23.3	53.3	52.1
Netherlands	36.9	52.1	31.0
Austria	37.0	55.0	36.1
Poland	24.4	66.4	49.3
Portugal	21.4	64.9	58.5
Romania	22.1	65.3	59.1
Slovenia	29.2	55.5	46.8
Slovakia	25.7	66.8	50.8
Finland	40.8	54.7	38.3
Sweden	39.9	52.7	37.1
United Kingdom	29.1	54.1	46.0
Iceland**	29.3	49.3	39.7
Norway	40.6	52.3	30.4
Switzerland**	31.7	56.3	39.4

* EU data are estimated

** 2013 data instead of 2014

*** Data are provisional

The source dataset is available [here](#).

Almost three quarters of all families in the EU were married couples

"Family" or "family nucleus" means two persons (of either sex) living together as a married couple (including registered partnership) or in a consensual union, with or without children. It also includes single parents with children. Based on the 2011 census data, more than 7 out of 10 families (71.4%) in the EU were composed of married couples, with or without children. Across Member States, the highest proportions of families consisting of married couples were recorded in **Cyprus** (83.9%), **Greece** (82.2%), **Romania** (80.2%) and **Malta** (80.1%). In contrast, only just above half of families were composed of married couples in **Estonia** (52.5%) and **Latvia** (53.6%).

All EU capital city regions counted a lower share of married couples than the national average: in most of them, there were proportionally more consensual unions.

Family nuclei in the EU Member States and capital city regions, 2011

COUNTRY	CAPITAL CITY REGION	Married couples (inc. registered partnerships)		Consensual unions		Lone parent families	
		National average	Capital city region	National average	Capital city region	National average	Capital city region
EU	-	71.4	-	12.6	-	16.0	-
Belgium	Bruxelles-Cap. / Brussel-Hoofdstad	72.1	65.5	11.8	10.2	16.1	24.4
Bulgaria	Sofia (stolitsa)	71.6	66.2	13.7	15.3	14.7	18.5
Czech Republic	Hlavní město Praha	69.7	63.5	8.9	11.0	21.4	25.5
Denmark	Byen København	68.2	52.2	19.6	30.6	12.2	17.2
Germany	Berlin	75.2	63.5	12.1	17.9	12.7	18.6
Estonia	Põhja-Eesti	52.5	51.6	23.7	23.6	23.8	24.9
Ireland	Dublin	69.7	64.6	12.2	14.7	18.1	20.7
Greece	Attiki	82.2	79.2	2.4	3.1	15.3	17.7
Spain	Madrid	71.6	68.8	12.2	14.4	16.2	16.8
France	Paris	64.7	56.8	20.8	25.2	14.4	18.0
Croatia	Grad Zagreb	78.9	74.7	4.0	5.6	17.1	19.6
Italy	Roma	76.6	70.1	7.5	7.7	15.9	22.2
Cyprus*	:	83.9	:	6.2	:	9.9	:
Latvia	Rīga	53.6	51.4	13.1	10.7	33.4	38.0
Lithuania	Vilniaus apskritis	67.0	65.8	8.6	7.8	24.4	26.4
Luxembourg*	:	77.1	:	7.8	:	15.1	:
Hungary	Budapest	65.3	59.6	14.9	16.2	19.8	24.2
Malta	Malta	80.1	79.6	3.5	3.6	16.5	16.8
Netherlands	Groot-Amsterdam	71.0	58.3	18.5	25.1	10.6	16.6
Austria	Wien	70.0	63.6	13.9	15.6	16.1	20.8
Poland	Miasto Warszawa	74.9	68.5	2.9	5.6	22.2	25.9
Portugal	Grande Lisboa	73.8	64.8	11.3	16.4	14.9	18.8
Romania	București	80.2	77.0	5.8	7.3	14.0	15.7
Slovenia	Osrednjeslovenska	64.0	63.1	10.8	10.1	25.2	26.8
Slovakia	Bratislavský kraj	72.0	70.8	6.6	5.9	21.4	23.3
Finland	Helsinki-Uusimaa	66.1	62.9	21.5	23.1	12.4	14.0
Sweden	Stockholms län	60.1	57.8	26.8	25.8	13.1	16.3
United Kingdom	Inner London**	64.9	49.8	16.6	22.2	18.4	28.0
Iceland	Höfuðborgarsvæði	63.4	62.1	17.0	16.3	19.6	21.6
Liechtenstein*	:	77.4	:	9.8	:	12.8	:
Norway	Oslo	63.9	58.6	20.8	25.0	15.3	16.3
Switzerland	Bern	76.8	71.1	14.1	14.7	9.2	8.1

* Cyprus, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein: at this level of the NUTS nomenclature, countries considered as a single region.

** Average of Inner London - West (NUTS UKI11) and Inner London - East (UKI12).

: Data not available

Source: [Census Hub](#)

An overwhelming majority of lone parent families were lone mothers

In 2011 in the **EU**, 16% of families were lone parents. Among them, 83.7% were lone mothers and 16.3% lone fathers. There were significantly more lone mothers than lone fathers in all Member States, in particular in **Estonia** (90.8%), **Cyprus** (88.3%), **Poland** (87.2%) and **Latvia** (87.1%). The only Member States where lone fathers accounted for more than 20% of lone parent families were **Sweden** (23.7%), **Romania** (21.5%) and **Spain** (20.9%).

Lone parent families, 2011 Census data

	Total share of lone parent families (%)	Share of lone mother families in all lone parent families (%)	Share of lone father families in all lone parent families (%)
EU	16.0	83.7	16.3
Belgium	16.1	81.6	18.4
Bulgaria	14.7	80.4	19.6
Czech Republic	21.4	81.2	18.8
Denmark	12.2	82.2	17.8
Germany	12.7	84.5	15.5
Estonia	23.8	90.8	9.2
Ireland	18.1	86.6	13.4
Greece	15.3	83.9	16.1
Spain	16.2	79.1	20.9
France	14.4	83.8	16.2
Croatia	17.1	84.0	16.0
Italy	15.9	82.6	17.4
Cyprus	9.9	88.3	11.7
Latvia	33.4	87.1	12.9
Lithuania	24.4	86.2	13.8
Luxembourg	15.1	82.9	17.1
Hungary	19.8	86.6	13.4
Malta	16.5	84.8	15.2
Netherlands	10.6	82.7	17.3
Austria	16.1	85.2	14.8
Poland	22.2	87.2	12.8
Portugal	14.9	86.7	13.3
Romania	14.0	78.5	21.5
Slovenia	25.2	83.6	16.4
Slovakia	21.4	83.0	17.0
Finland	12.4	83.2	16.8
Sweden	13.1	76.3	23.7
United Kingdom	18.4	85.7	14.3
Iceland	19.6	86.4	13.6
Liechtenstein	12.8	84.7	15.3
Norway	15.3	77.6	22.4
Switzerland	9.2	85.0	15.0

Source: [Census Hub](#)

Methods and definitions

Data on median age of the population come from demography and migration statistics. More information can be found [here](#).

Data on single-person households come from EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). More information can be found [here](#).

Data on families come from the 2011 population and housing census. Population and housing census data represent an essential source of vital statistical information ranging from the lowest small-area geographical divisions to national and international levels. A population and housing census is generally conducted once every 10 years in Europe. The latest census for all of the EU Member States and EFTA countries was conducted in 2011. More information can be found [here](#).

The **median age** is the age that divides a population in half, such that there are as many persons who are older than the median age as there are persons that are younger. This indicator provides one measure for analysing ageing populations.

Single-person households include those where a person lives alone in an individual, separate housing unit. They also include units where a single person lives independently, as a lodger, in a separate room (or rooms) in the same housing unit as other occupant(s) - for example, a self-contained flat within a residence that is occupied by other people.

A **family 'nucleus'** is constituted when two persons (of either sex) choose to live together as a married couple, in a registered partnership, or in a consensual union, whether or not they have children; single parents with children also constitute a family unit, while people living alone do not, nor do groups of unrelated people who choose to share a house together (for example, students).

A **consensual union** refers to the situation when two persons belong to the same household, and have a 'marriage-like' relationship with each other, and are not in legal union (married to or in a registered partnership) with each other.

Revisions and time table

Data in this News Release may differ from those presented in the flagship publication, due to updates made after the extractions used for the publication.

For more information

Eurostat publication "**People in the EU: who are we and how do we live?**". [PDF-version](#) available on the Eurostat website. Also available in [Statistics Explained](#).

Eurostat [interactive infographic](#) on people's life in the EU.

Eurostat set of [interactive thematic maps](#) on the 2011 census of population and housing.

Eurostat [website section](#) and [database](#) dedicated to population demography.

Eurostat [website section](#) and [database](#) dedicated to income and living conditions.

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to the population and housing census and [Census Hub](#).

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