

## First population estimates EU population up to slightly over 510 million at 1 January 2016...

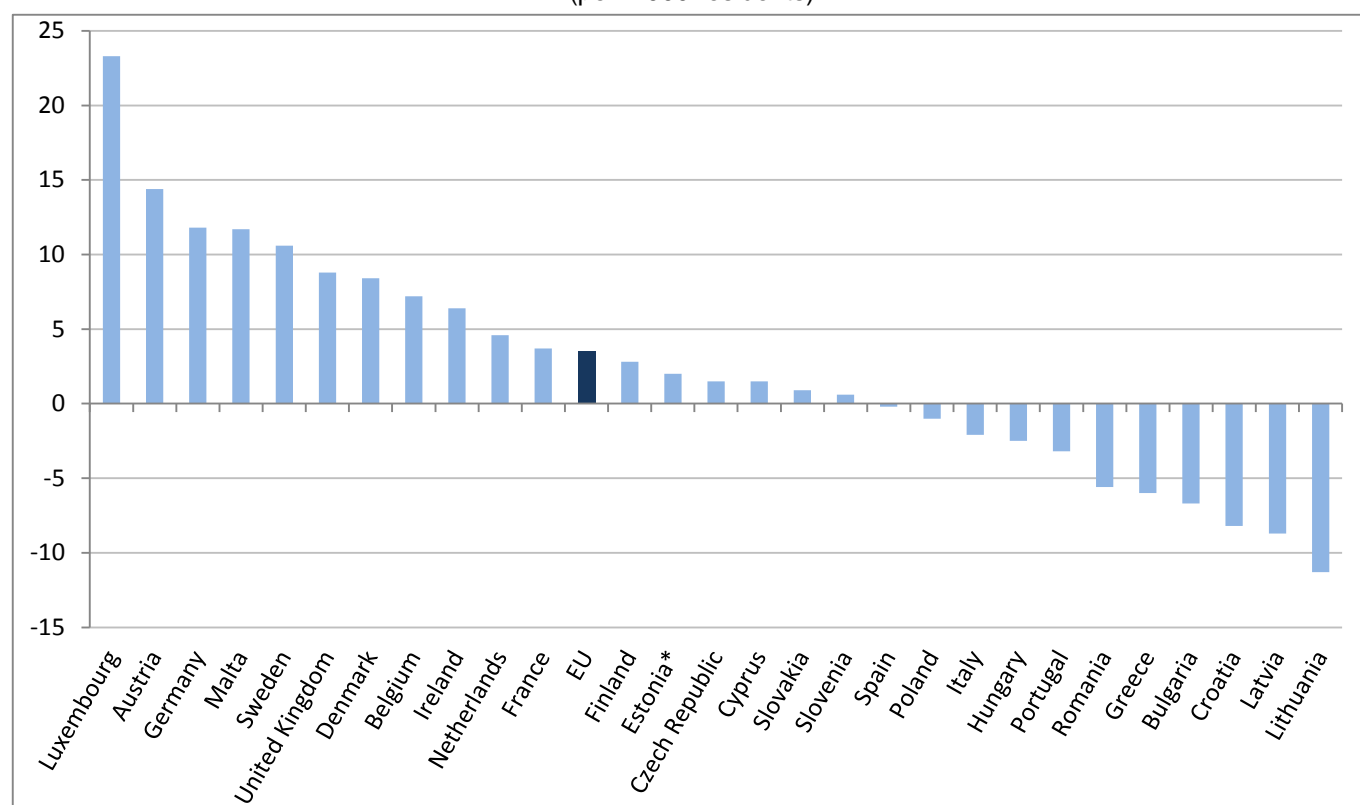
... despite a first ever negative natural change

On 1 January 2016, the population of the **European Union (EU)** was estimated at 510.1 million, compared with 508.3 million on 1 January 2015. During the year 2015, almost 5.1 million babies were born in the **EU**, while more than 5.2 million persons died, meaning that the EU recorded for the first time ever a negative natural change of its population. The remainder of the change (positive) is driven mainly by net migration.

The most populated EU Member States continue to be **Germany** (82.2 million residents), **France** (66.7 million), the **United Kingdom** (65.3 million) and **Italy** (60.7 million). Together, they are home to more than half of the EU population.

These figures are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, just before the World Population Day (11 July). Some other interesting facts and an [infographic](#) about the EU population are also published on the Eurostat website.

**Total population change in the EU Member States, 2015**  
(per 1 000 residents)



\* Estonia: due to a modification in the methodology, the change 2016/2015 should be interpreted with caution.

## Population increase in seventeen Member States

During 2015, the population increased in seventeen EU Member States and decreased in eleven.

The largest increase was observed in **Luxembourg** (+23.3 per 1 000 residents), ahead of **Austria** (+14.4‰), **Germany** (+11.8‰), **Malta** (+11.7‰), **Sweden** (+10.6‰), **Denmark** (+8.4‰) and **Belgium** (+7.2‰).

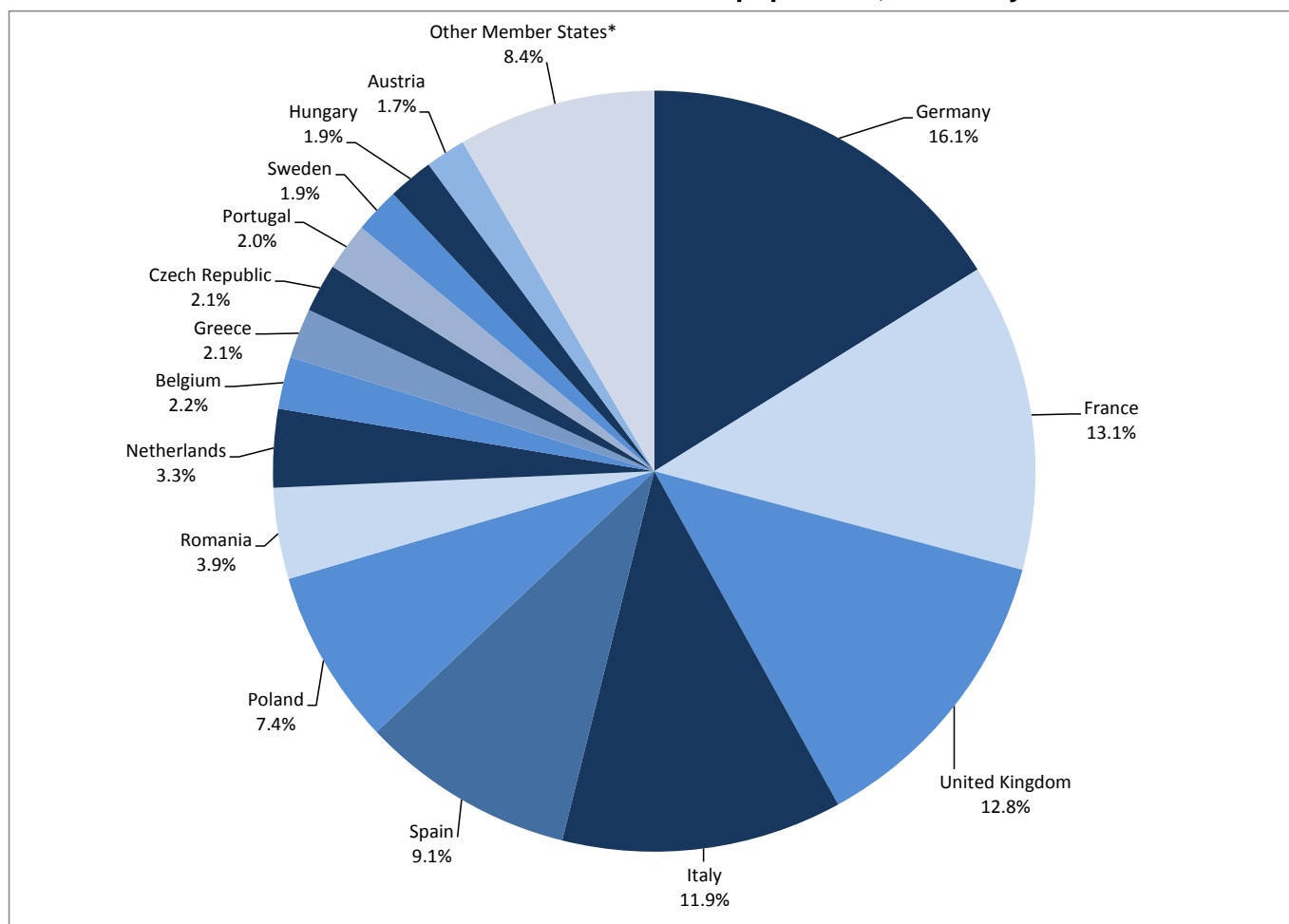
In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in **Lithuania** (-11.3‰), **Latvia** (-8.7‰) and **Croatia** (-8.2‰), followed by **Bulgaria** (-6.7‰), **Greece** (-6.0‰), and **Romania** (-5.6‰).

In total, the population of the **EU** increased by almost 2 million people (+3.5‰) during the year 2015.

## Germany, France and the United Kingdom with highest demographic weight

Accounting for 16.1% of the total EU population at 1 January 2016, **Germany** continues to be the most populated Member State, ahead of **France** (13.1%), the **United Kingdom** (12.8%), **Italy** (11.9%), **Spain** (9.1%) and **Poland** (7.4%). For the remaining Member States, nine have a share of between 4% and 1.5% of the EU population and eleven a share below 1.5%.

Share of the Member States in EU total population, 1 January 2016



\* Less than 1.5% each: Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Slovakia, Ireland, Croatia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta.

## Total population

	Population 1.1.2015 (in 1 000)	Population 1.1.2016 (in 1 000)	Change 2016/2015 (per 1 000)**	Share in EU population, 2016
<b>EU</b>	<b>508 293.4</b>	<b>510 056.0</b>	<b>+3.5</b>	<b>100%</b>
Belgium	11 209.0	11 289.9	+7.2	2.2%
Bulgaria	7 202.2	7 153.8	-6.7	1.4%
Czech Republic	10 538.3	10 553.8	+1.5	2.1%
Denmark	5 659.7	5 707.3	+8.4	1.1%
Germany	81 197.5	82 162.0	+11.8	16.1%
Estonia*	1 313.3	1 315.9	+2.0	0.3%
Ireland	4 628.9	4 658.5	+6.4	0.9%
Greece	10 858.0	10 793.5	-6.0	2.1%
Spain	46 449.6	46 438.4	-0.2	9.1%
France	66 415.2	66 661.6	+3.7	13.1%
Croatia	4 225.3	4 190.7	-8.2	0.8%
Italy	60 795.6	60 665.6	-2.1	11.9%
Cyprus	847.0	848.3	+1.5	0.2%
Latvia	1 986.1	1 969.0	-8.7	0.4%
Lithuania	2 921.3	2 888.6	-11.3	0.6%
Luxembourg	563.0	576.2	+23.3	0.1%
Hungary	9 855.6	9 830.5	-2.5	1.9%
Malta	429.3	434.4	+11.7	0.1%
Netherlands	16 900.7	16 979.1	+4.6	3.3%
Austria	8 576.3	8 700.5	+14.4	1.7%
Poland	38 005.6	37 967.2	-1.0	7.4%
Portugal	10 374.8	10 341.3	-3.2	2.0%
Romania	19 870.6	19 760.0	-5.6	3.9%
Slovenia	2 062.9	2 064.2	+0.6	0.4%
Slovakia	5 421.3	5 426.3	+0.9	1.1%
Finland	5 471.8	5 487.3	+2.8	1.1%
Sweden	9 747.4	9 851.0	+10.6	1.9%
United Kingdom	64 767.1	65 341.2	+8.8	12.8%
Iceland	329.1	332.5	+10.4	-
Liechtenstein	37.4	37.6	+6.8	-
Norway	5 166.5	52 14.0	+9.2	-
Switzerland	8 237.7	83 25.2	+10.6	-
Montenegro	622.1	6 22.2	+0.2	-
FYR of Macedonia	2 069.2	20 71.3	+1.0	-
Albania	2 892.3	28 86.0	-2.2	-
Serbia	7 114.4	70 76.4	-5.4	-
Turkey	77 695.9	787 41.1	+13.4	-

Data are provisional

- Not applicable

\* Estonia: due to a modification in the methodology, the change 2016/2015 should be interpreted with caution.

\*\* Crude rate of population change represents the ratio, expressed per 1 000 residents, between the increase of population during 2015 (difference between the population on 1 January 2016 and the population on 1 January 2015) and the average population in 2015.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

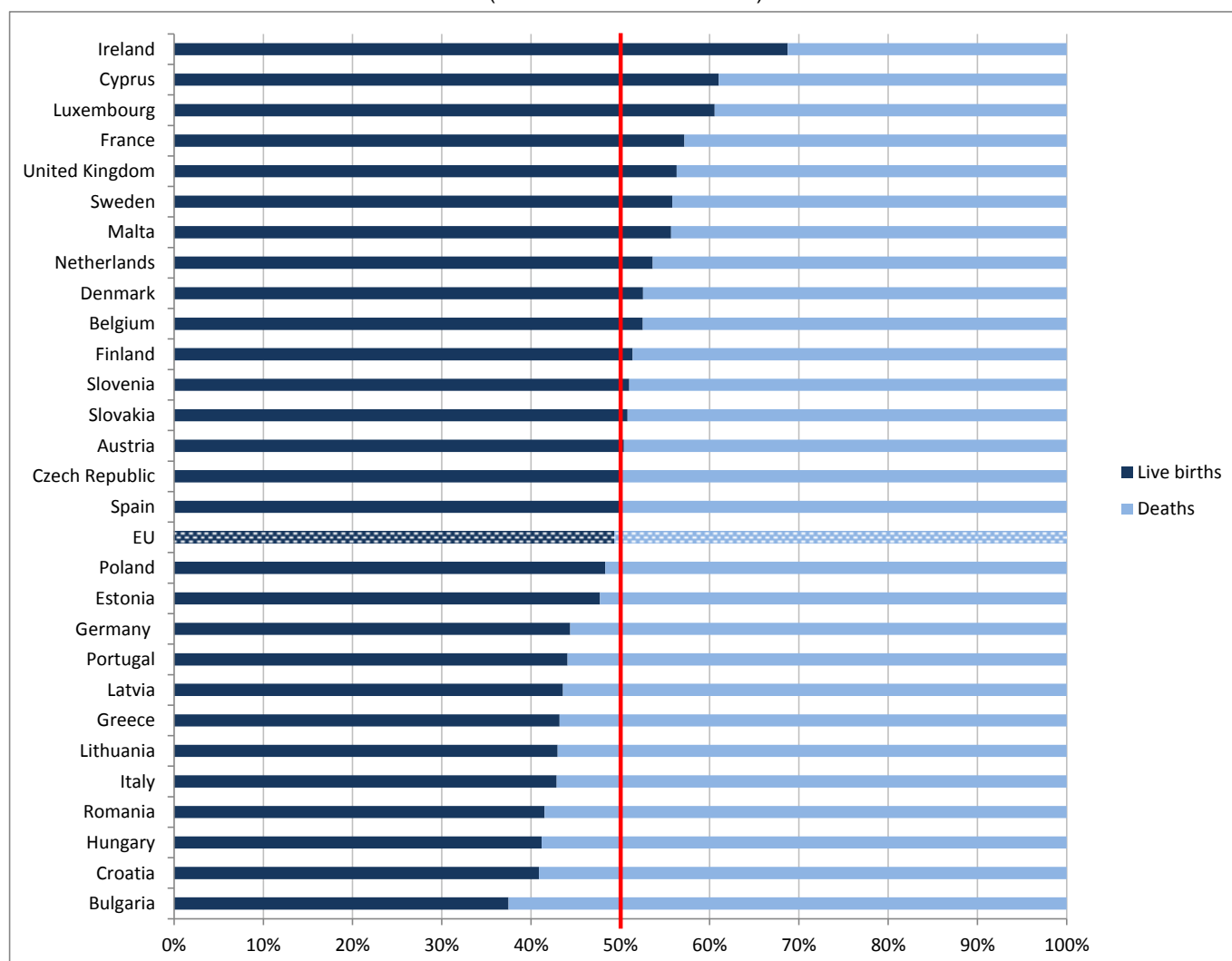
## Highest birth rates in Ireland, France and the United Kingdom, lowest in Italy, Portugal and Greece

During the year 2015, nearly 5.1 million babies were born in the **EU**, 40 000 fewer than the previous year. Across Member States, the highest crude birth rates in 2015 were recorded in **Ireland** (14.2 per 1 000 residents), **France** (12.0‰), the **United Kingdom** (11.9‰) and **Sweden** (11.7‰), while the lowest were registered in **Italy** (8.0‰), **Portugal** (8.3‰) and **Greece** (8.5‰). At **EU** level, the crude birth rate was 10.0 per 1 000 residents.

There were slightly over 5.2 million deaths registered in the **EU** in 2015, 286 000 more than the previous year. **Bulgaria** (15.3 per 1 000 residents) had in 2015 the highest crude death rate, followed by **Latvia** and **Lithuania** (both 14.4‰), **Hungary** (13.4‰) **Romania** (13.2‰) and **Croatia** (12.9‰). At the opposite end of the scale, **Ireland** (6.4‰), **Cyprus** (6.9‰) and **Luxembourg** (7.0‰) recorded the lowest. The crude death rate was 10.3 per 1 000 residents in the **EU**.

Consequently, **Ireland** (with a natural change of its population of +7.7‰) was in 2015 the Member State where births most outnumbered deaths, ahead of **Cyprus** (+3.9‰), **Luxembourg** (+3.7‰), **France** (+3.0‰), the **United Kingdom** (+2.7‰) and **Sweden** (+2.4‰). In contrast, among the thirteen EU Member States which registered a negative natural change in 2015, deaths outnumbered births the most in **Bulgaria** (-6.2‰), **Croatia** and **Hungary** (both -4.0‰), **Romania** (-3.8‰), **Lithuania** (-3.5‰) and **Latvia** (-3.3‰).

**Live births and deaths in EU Member States, 2015**  
(as % of total vital events)



## Natural change of population in 2015

	Absolute number in 1 000			Crude rate*		
	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Live births	Deaths	Natural change
<b>EU</b>	<b>5 091.3</b>	<b>5 226.5</b>	<b>-135.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	122.3	110.5	11.7	10.9	9.8	1.0
<b>Bulgaria</b>	66.0	110.1	-44.2	9.2	15.3	-6.2
<b>Czech Republic</b>	110.8	111.2	-0.4	10.5	10.5	0.0
<b>Denmark</b>	58.2	52.6	5.7	10.2	9.2	1.0
<b>Germany</b>	738.0	925.0	-187.0	9.0	11.3	-2.3
<b>Estonia</b>	13.9	15.2	-1.3	10.6	11.6	-1.0
<b>Ireland</b>	65.9	30.0	36.0	14.2	6.4	7.7
<b>Greece</b>	91.9	120.8	-29.0	8.5	11.2	-2.7
<b>Spain</b>	417.3	420.0	-2.8	9.0	9.0	-0.1
<b>France</b>	800.8	600.1	200.6	12.0	9.0	3.0
<b>Croatia</b>	37.5	54.2	-16.7	8.9	12.9	-4.0
<b>Italy</b>	485.8	647.6	-161.8	8.0	10.7	-2.7
<b>Cyprus</b>	9.2	5.9	3.3	10.8	6.9	3.9
<b>Latvia</b>	22.0	28.5	-6.5	11.1	14.4	-3.3
<b>Lithuania</b>	31.5	41.8	-10.3	10.8	14.4	-3.5
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.1	4.0	2.1	10.7	7.0	3.7
<b>Hungary</b>	92.1	131.6	-39.4	9.4	13.4	-4.0
<b>Malta</b>	4.3	3.4	0.9	10.0	8.0	2.0
<b>Netherlands</b>	170.0	147.0	23.0	10.0	8.7	1.4
<b>Austria</b>	84.4	83.1	1.3	9.8	9.6	0.2
<b>Poland</b>	369.3	394.9	-25.6	9.7	10.4	-0.7
<b>Portugal</b>	85.5	108.5	-23.0	8.3	10.5	-2.2
<b>Romania</b>	185.0	260.7	-75.7	9.3	13.2	-3.8
<b>Slovenia</b>	20.6	19.8	0.8	10.0	9.6	0.4
<b>Slovakia</b>	55.6	53.8	1.8	10.3	9.9	0.3
<b>Finland</b>	55.5	52.5	3.0	10.1	9.6	0.5
<b>Sweden</b>	114.9	90.9	24.0	11.7	9.3	2.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	777.2	602.8	174.4	11.9	9.3	2.7
<b>Iceland</b>	4.1	2.2	2.0	12.5	6.6	5.9
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0.3	0.3	0.1	8.7	6.7	1.9
<b>Norway</b>	59.1	40.7	18.3	11.4	7.8	3.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	84.8	67.3	17.6	10.2	8.1	2.1
<b>Montenegro</b>	7.4	6.3	1.1	11.9	10.2	1.7
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	23.1	20.5	2.6	11.1	9.9	1.3
<b>Albania</b>	33.2	22.4	10.8	11.5	7.8	3.7
<b>Serbia</b>	65.7	103.7	-38.0	9.3	14.6	-5.4
<b>Turkey</b>	1325.8	405.2	920.6	16.9	5.2	11.8

Data are provisional

\* The crude rate is calculated as the ratio of the number of events to the average population in a given year. For easier presentation, it is multiplied by 1 000; the result is therefore expressed per 1 000 residents.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

## Methods and definitions

**Population change** refers to the difference between the size of the population at the end and the beginning of the period. Specifically, it is the difference in population size on 1 January of two consecutive years. A positive population change is also referred to as population growth. A negative population change is also referred to as population decline. The population change consists of two components: natural change and net migration.

The **natural change of population** represents the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths during the year. A positive natural change, also known as natural increase, occurs when live births outnumber deaths. A negative natural change, also named as natural decrease, occurs when live births are less numerous than deaths.

A **crude rate** is calculated as the ratio of the number of events to the average population of the respective area in a given year. For easier presentation, it is multiplied by 1 000: the result is therefore expressed per 1 000 persons (of the average population).

## For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to population data.

Eurostat [database](#) on population.

Eurostat [metadata](#) on population change.

Eurostat [interactive infographic and facts & figures](#) about EU population

**Issued by:** Eurostat Press Office


**Vincent BOURGEAIS**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

 [ec.europa.eu/eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

**Production of data:**

**Andrea GEREÖFFY**  
Tel: +352-4301-37 061  
[andrea.gereoffy@ec.europa.eu](mailto:andrea.gereoffy@ec.europa.eu)

 [@EU Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu)