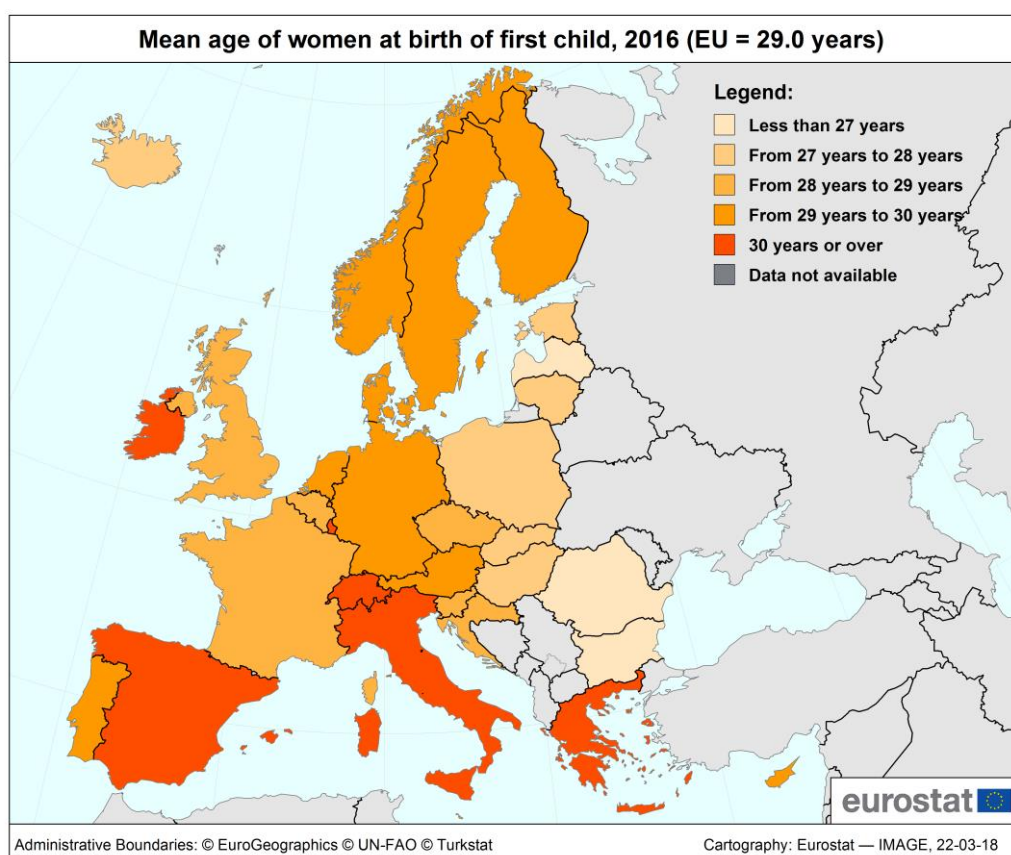Births and fertility in 2016

Women in EU have first child on average at 29

Over 5 million births in EU in 2016

- In 2016, 5.148 million babies were born in the **European Union** (EU), compared with 5.103 million in 2015.

- On average in the **EU**, women who gave birth to their first child in 2016 were 29 years old. Across Member States, first time mothers were on average the youngest in **Bulgaria** and the oldest in **Italy**.

- Around 5% of births of first children in the **EU** in 2016 were to women aged less than 20 (teenage mothers) and around 3% to women aged 40 and over.

- Among the 5.148 million births in the **EU** in 2016, nearly 1 in 5 (or almost 930 000) concerned a third or subsequent child.

- Overall, the total fertility rate in the **EU** stood at 1.60 births per woman in 2016. It varied between Member States from 1.34 in both **Spain** and **Italy** to 1.92 in **France**.
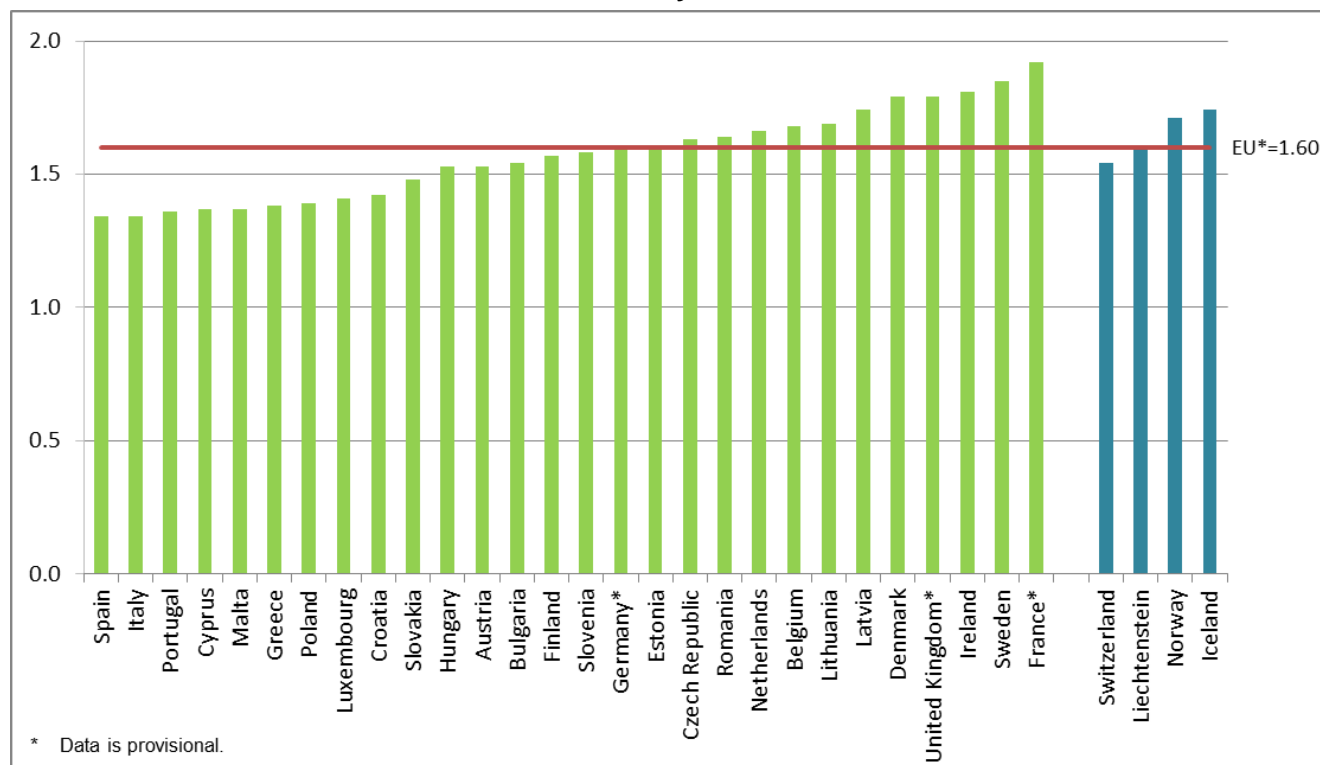
This information comes from recently published data by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The fertility indicators presented in this news release show only a small part of the large amount of data related to demography available at Eurostat.

Mean age of women at birth of first child, 2016 (EU = 29.0 years)

Legend:
- Less than 27 years
- From 27 years to 28 years
- From 28 years to 29 years
- From 29 years to 30 years
- 30 years or over
- Data not available

Administrative Boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat — IMAGE, 22-03-18

Total fertility rate highest in France and Sweden

In 2016, **France** (1.92 births per woman) and **Sweden** (1.85) were the two Member States with the highest total fertility rates in EU. They were followed by **Ireland** (1.81), **Denmark** and the **United Kingdom** (both 1.79). Conversely, the lowest fertility rates were observed in **Spain** and **Italy** (both 1.34 births per woman), **Portugal** (1.36), **Cyprus** and **Malta** (both 1.37), **Greece** (1.38) and **Poland** (1.39).

Total fertility rate, 2016

*   Data is provisional.

The source dataset can be found here.

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

In 2016, the mean age of mothers at the first childbirth varied between the EU Member States. The lowest mean age for the first childbirth was recorded in **Bulgaria** (26.0 years), followed by **Romania** (26.4), **Latvia** (26.8), **Slovaki**a (27.0), **Poland** (27.2) and **Lithuania** (27.3). In contrast, the mother's age for the first childbirth was above 30 in **Italy** (31.0 years), **Spain** (30.8), **Luxembourg** (30.5), **Greece** (30.3) and **Ireland** (30.1).

Around 14% of first children born to teenage mothers in Bulgaria and Romania

The highest shares of births of a first child to teenage mothers (less than 20 years old) were recorded in **Romania** (14.2% of total births of first child in 2016), **Bulgaria** (13.6%) and **Hungary** (10.8%), ahead of **Slovakia** (9.9%), **Lithuania** (6.3%), the **United Kingdom** (6.2%) and **Latvia** (6.1%). On the other hand, the lowest shares were observed in **Slovenia** (1.6%), **Italy** (1.7%), the **Netherlands** (1.8%), **Denmark** and **Sweden** (both 1.9%), as well as in **Luxembourg** (2.2%).

In contrast, the highest proportions of births of a first child to women aged 40 and over were registered in **Italy** (7.2% of total births of first child in 2016), **Spain** (6.6%), **Greece** (5.3%), **Luxembourg** (4.8%) and **Ireland** (4.3%).

One out of ten births in Finland was to a mother who already had at least three children

In the **EU**, more than 80% (81.9%) of births were first and second children, while births of third children accounted for 12.2% of the total and fourth or subsequent children accounted for 5.9% in 2016.

Across the EU Member States, the highest share of mothers having their fourth or subsequent children was recorded in **Finland** (10.1%), followed by **Ireland** (9.0%), the **United Kingdom** (8.5%), **Slovakia** (8.1%), **Romania** (7.7%) and **Belgium** (7.6%).

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**

Births of first child by mother's age, 2016

	Total births of first child	Proportions by age group, %				Mean age of women at birth of first child
		Under 20	20-29	30-39	40 and over	
EU*	**2 376 414**	**4.9**	**49.3**	**42.6**	**3.2**	**29.0**
Belgium	53 182	3.1	58.6	36.3	2.0	28.8
Bulgaria	32 880	13.6	57.3	26.9	2.2	26.0
Czech Republic	54 918	4.0	55.3	39.2	1.4	28.2
Denmark	28 973	1.9	59.2	36.7	2.2	29.3
Germany*	380 130	4.1	48.1	45.2	2.4	29.4
Estonia	5 736	4.9	63.7	29.6	1.8	27.5
Ireland	23 928	4.0	35.2	56.5	4.3	30.1
Greece	45 283	3.7	36.7	54.3	5.3	30.3
Spain	205 475	3.4	30.5	59.6	6.6	30.8
France*	331 400	4.3	56.9	36.1	2.6	28.5
Croatia	17 053	5.1	53.7	39.1	2.2	28.5
Italy	227 412	1.7	36.8	54.3	7.2	31.0
Cyprus	4 315	3.1	51.0	43.3	2.6	29.6
Latvia	9 034	6.1	66.7	25.9	1.3	26.8
Lithuania	14 386	6.3	67.4	25.3	1.0	27.3
Luxembourg	3 295	2.2	40.6	52.4	4.8	30.5
Hungary	43 321	10.8	48.1	38.7	2.4	27.8
Malta	2 381	5.6	48.3	44.0	2.1	29.1
Netherlands	78 092	1.8	52.2	43.9	2.2	29.8
Austria	41 442	3.3	51.0	42.9	2.7	29.2
Poland	175 888	5.8	62.5	30.7	1.0	27.2
Portugal	45 269	4.4	40.9	50.7	4.0	29.6
Romania	106 049	14.2	55.8	28.4	1.5	26.4
Slovenia	9 640	1.6	55.5	40.8	2.1	28.8
Slovakia	26 685	9.9	55.4	33.6	1.1	27.0
Finland	21 853	3.4	54.5	39.7	2.5	29.0
Sweden	49 766	1.9	57.5	38.2	2.4	29.2
United Kingdom*	338 628	6.2	49.3	41.7	2.9	28.9
Iceland	1 559	4.4	67.1	26.4	2.1	27.8
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	25 501	2.2	57.6	38.0	2.2	29.0
Switzerland	43 144	1.3	41.1	53.9	3.8	30.7
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	9 923	7.5	64.2	26.9	1.4	26.9
Albania	13 591	11.5	72.8	14.7	0.8	25.7
Serbia	31 464	6.4	55.5	35.5	2.2	27.8
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	:

:   Data not available.
*   Data is provisional.
Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
The source dataset can be found here for births of first children and here for mean age of women at birth of first child.

Births by birth order, 2016

	Total births	Proportion by birth order, %			
		First child	Second child	Third child	Fourth or subsequent child
EU*	**5 148 162**	**46.2**	**35.7**	**12.2**	**5.9**
Belgium	121 896	44.1	34.5	13.8	7.6
Bulgaria	64 984	50.8	36.7	7.8	4.7
Czech Republic	112 663	48.7	36.7	10.4	4.2
Denmark	61 614	47.0	36.1	13.1	3.8
Germany*	792 137	48.0	34.6	11.8	5.7
Estonia	14 053	40.8	37.3	15.9	6.1
Ireland	63 836	37.5	35.4	18.1	9.0
Greece	92 898	48.7	38.2	9.6	3.5
Spain	408 734	50.3	38.2	8.7	2.8
France	784 325	42.3	35.6	14.8	7.3
Croatia	37 537	46.0	34.7	13.1	6.2
Italy	473 438	48.0	37.8	10.8	3.3
Cyprus	9 455	46.0	37.7	12.4	3.9
Latvia	21 968	41.1	38.3	14.6	6.0
Lithuania	30 623	47.0	37.8	10.9	4.3
Luxembourg	6 050	54.6	32.8	9.2	3.4
Hungary	95 361	46.9	32.4	13.4	7.3
Malta	4 476	53.2	33.6	9.1	4.1
Netherlands	172 520	45.3	36.7	13.0	5.1
Austria	87 675	47.3	35.6	12.0	5.2
Poland	382 257	46.0	38.5	11.1	4.4
Portugal	87 126	52.0	36.2	8.7	3.1
Romania	200 009	53.0	30.4	8.8	7.7
Slovenia	20 345	47.4	38.3	10.8	3.5
Slovakia	57 557	46.4	34.2	11.3	8.1
Finland	52 814	41.4	34.0	14.5	10.1
Sweden	117 425	42.5	36.7	14.2	6.6
United Kingdom	774 386	44.0	33.7	13.8	8.5
Iceland	4 034	38.6	35.1	19.5	6.7
Liechtenstein	378	:	:	:	:
Norway	58 890	43.3	37.6	14.3	4.8
Switzerland	87 883	49.1	36.4	11.2	3.2
Montenegro	7 569	:	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	23 002	43.3	36.2	15.3	5.2
Albania	31 733	46.9	36.8	12.6	3.7
Serbia	64 734	48.6	35.7	11.4	4.2
Turkey	1 309 771	:	:	:	:

:   Data not available.
*   Data is provisional.
Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
The source dataset can be found here for the total number of births and here for births by order.

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**