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Compact guides

Enlargement countries

Demographic statistics

2015 edition

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The enlargement process in the EU

The Treaty on European Union (Article 49) states that any European country may apply for membership of the European Union (EU) if it respects a range of democratic values — human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights — and is committed to promoting them.

Enlargement policy has proven to be a powerful tool for transformation: countries on the road to joining the EU have undergone far-reaching changes driven by democratic, societal and economic reforms. New members are only admitted once they have demonstrated they will be able to play a full role in the EU, complying with all of the EU's laws, standards and rules. The accession of a new Member State to the EU also requires the consent of the EU institutions, all of the EU Member States and the citizens of the new Member State (expressed through their national parliament or a referendum). The process of ensuring compliance with the EU's standards and rules (the EU *acquis* or the body of EU law) is divided into 35 different policy fields (Chapter 18 covers statistics); these rules are non-negotiable. Those countries wishing to join the EU have to agree on how and when to adopt and implement each of the rules, while the EU seeks guarantees on the date and effectiveness of measures to do this.

As of September 2014, the EU had granted the perspective of membership to seven enlargement countries, five of which have candidate country status: Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Turkey. The two remaining countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (*), are potential candidates. Note that on 12 March 2015 Iceland requested to no longer be regarded as a candidate country.

(* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The role of Eurostat

Eurostat monitors the progress of enlargement countries in complying with the EU *acquis* in the field of statistics, collecting a wide range of data from each country. The majority of this data from enlargement countries is collected on an annual basis through a questionnaire which is sent to a network of contacts in the enlargement countries. These statistics are considered essential for measuring the progress of reforms in each country, while they are also used to gauge the effectiveness of enlargement policies and assistance programmes.

Enlargement countries are expected to increase progressively the quantity and quality of their data and to transmit these to Eurostat in the context of the EU accession process. The data collected are made available free-of-charge on Eurostat's website. In return, Eurostat provides technical assistance and support to each national statistical authority. The ultimate goal is the provision of harmonised, high-quality data that conforms to European and international standards.

The data presented in this compact guide were extracted from Eurostat's database for enlargement countries on 24 September 2015.

The EU's policy on population developments

Eurostat compiles, monitors and analyses a wide range of demographic data, including statistics on national and regional populations, and demographic factors (births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and emigration, asylum and citizenship).

In the coming decades, the EU will likely face a number of challenges associated with an ageing society which will impact on a range of areas, including labour markets, pensions and provisions for healthcare, housing and social services. As such, population change and the structure of populations are increasingly the focus of political, economic, social and cultural analyses for planning, programme monitoring and evaluation. For example, in 2006, the European Commission released a Communication on 'The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity' (COM(2006) 571 final), followed in 2009 by a Communication titled 'Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU' (COM(2009) 180 final).

More recently, several hundred thousand migrants have put their lives in peril to cross the Mediterranean or move through the Balkans towards the EU, often as a result of wars and crises (for example, in the Middle East, Asia or North Africa). In May 2015, the European Commission adopted a 'European agenda on migration' (COM(2015) 240 final), which outlined a response to these crises and set out longer-term steps to manage migration: reducing the incentives for irregular migration; saving lives and securing external borders; developing a strong common EU asylum policy; and preparing for the introduction of a new policy on legal migration.

Main statistical findings

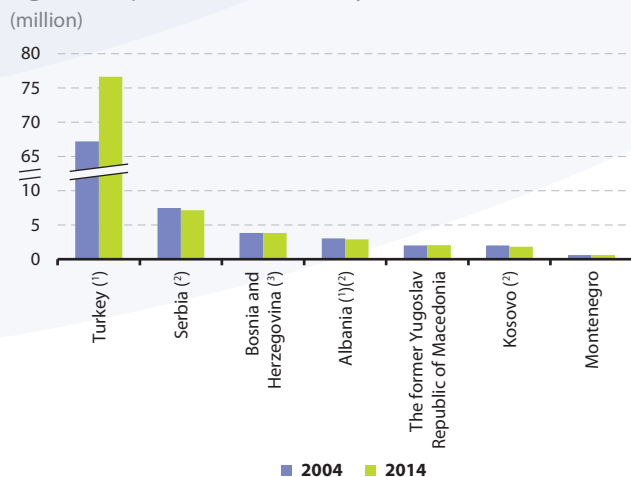
There were 506.8 million inhabitants in the EU-28 in 2014, with the population growing overall by 2.9 % during the period from 2004–14. These figures may be contrasted with the 95.0 million inhabitants who were living in the seven enlargement countries in 2014; equivalent to 18.7 % of the EU-28 total.

The pace of population growth in the enlargement countries was faster than in the EU-28, as the total number of inhabitants rose by 10.3 % during the last decade; however, this was almost exclusively due to an increase in the population of Turkey. Indeed, aside from a modest rise in the number of inhabitants in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the remaining enlargement countries each registered declines in their respective populations; the largest of which was recorded in Kosovo (–10.5 %).

In terms of actual numbers of inhabitants, Turkey was, by far, the largest of the enlargement countries in 2014 (76.7 million); this was just less than the population of Germany (80.8 million), the most populous EU Member State. Turkey accounted for 80.7 % of the total number of inhabitants in the enlargement countries in 2014. Montenegro was the smallest enlargement country with a population of 622 thousand.

Within the EU-28, there was an average of 116.4 inhabitants per km² in 2013. Kosovo was the only enlargement country to record a higher ratio, as its population density was 165.5 inhabitants per km² in 2014. The least densely populated enlargement country was Montenegro, with an average of 45.0 inhabitants per km² in 2013.

Figure 1: Population, as of 1 January 2004 and 2014



(1) 2004: estimate.
 (2) 2014: estimate.
 (3) Mid-year population. Estimates.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [cpc_psdemo](#))

Women accounted for a slightly higher share of the EU-28 population than men: in 2011, their share stood at 51.2 %. A similar pattern could be observed in 2014 in Serbia (51.3 %) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (51.0 %), as well as Montenegro (50.6 %). In contrast, just over half of the total population was composed of men in the remaining four enlargement countries.

Population ageing affects the entire EU, with increased life expectancy and low levels of fertility driving this development. Across most of the EU, one of the consequences of increased longevity has been a reduction in the proportion of people of working age. The share of older persons in the total population is expected to continue to rise in the coming decades, as a greater proportion of the post-war baby-boom generation reaches retirement. This will lead to an increased burden on those of working age to provide for the social expenditure required by the ageing population for a range of related services.

Table 1: Population and population density, 2004 and 2014

	Population, as of 1 January (million)		Population density (inhabitants per km ²)	
	2004	2014	2004	2014
EU-28 (1)(2)	492.7	506.8	113.3	116.4
Montenegro (2)	0.6	0.6	45.0	45.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2)	2.0	2.1	78.9	82.8
Albania	3.0	2.9	105.5	100.7
Serbia	7.5	7.1	96.4	92.3
Turkey	67.2	76.7	85.7	97.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina (3)	3.8	3.8	75.0	74.7
Kosovo	2.0	1.8	185.2	165.5

(1) Population: break in series.

(2) Population density: 2013 instead of 2014.

(3) Mid-year population.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_gind](#), [tps00003](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Table 2: Population, by sex, as of 1 January 2004 and 2014

	Male		Female		Ratio of male/female population (% of female population)	
	(% share of total population)					
	2004	2014	2004	2014	2004	2014
EU-28 (1)	48.7	48.8	51.3	51.2	95.0	95.3
Montenegro	49.3	49.4	50.7	50.6	97.1	97.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	50.2	50.1	49.8	49.9	100.7	100.4
Albania	49.9	50.4	50.1	49.6	99.6	101.7
Serbia	48.6	48.7	51.4	51.3	94.7	94.9
Turkey	50.1	50.2	49.9	49.8	100.3	100.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2)	49.0	49.0	51.0	51.0	96.1	95.9
Kosovo (2)	50.5	50.3	49.5	49.7	102.0	101.2

(1) Population: break in series.

(2) Population density: 2013 instead of 2014.

(3) Mid-year population.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_gind](#), [tps00003](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Such demographic patterns are expected to continue and become more accentuated in the coming decades, and the total number of inhabitants is projected to fall in several EU Member States. In 2014, there were more persons aged 65 years and more living in the EU-28 (18.5 % of the total population) compared with the share of young persons aged less than 15 years (15.6 %). Over the period 2004–14, the share of the EU-28 population who were aged 65 years and more rose by 2.2 percentage points. Within the enlargement countries, the elderly accounted for a smaller proportion of the total population. Their share ranged, in 2014, from highs of 18.0 % in Serbia and 15.8 % in Bosnia and Herzegovina, down to 7.7 % in Turkey and 6.8 % in Kosovo. Serbia was the only enlargement country where the proportion

Table 3: Population structure, 2004 and 2014

(% of total population)

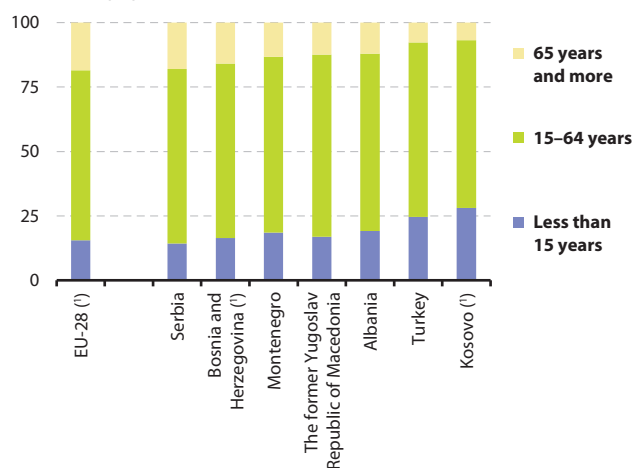
	Less than 15 years		15–64 years		65 years and more	
	2004	2014	2004	2014	2004	2014
EU-28 (1)	16.4	15.6	67.2	65.9	16.4	18.5
Montenegro	20.8	18.6	66.8	68.1	12.1	13.3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	20.5	16.9	68.8	70.8	10.7	12.4
Albania	27.7	19.2	63.9	68.8	8.4	12.0
Serbia	15.9	14.3	67.1	67.6	17.0	18.0
Turkey	27.9	24.6	65.4	67.7	6.7	7.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17.3	16.4	68.7	67.8	14.0	15.8
Kosovo	:	28.1	:	65.1	:	6.8

(1) Break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_pjanbroad](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Figure 2: Population structure, 2014

(% of total population)



(1) Estimates.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_pjanbroad](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

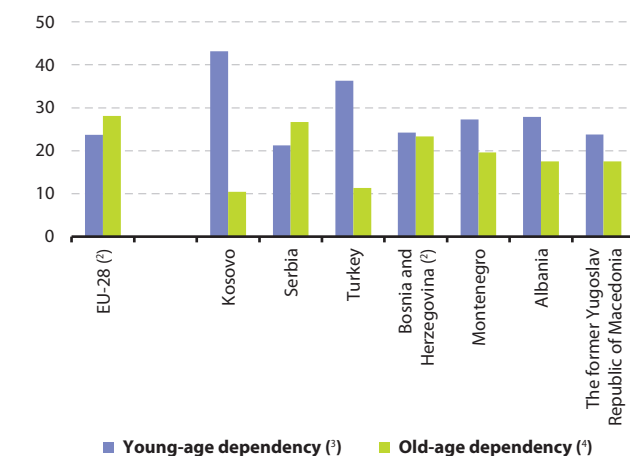
of young people in the total population was less than in the EU-28, as those aged less than 15 accounted for a 14.3 % share of its total population. By contrast, young people accounted for around one quarter of the total population in Turkey and Kosovo (24.6 % and 28.1 % respectively).

Dependency ratios provide an alternative measure for analysing the impact of population ageing: the old-age dependency ratio is calculated as the number of inhabitants aged 65 and more relative to the population aged 15–64 years old. The EU-28 old-age dependency ratio was 28.1 % in 2014; in other words, there were fewer than four persons of working age in the EU to ‘support’ each elderly person. Young people are also dependents and the proportion of those aged less than 15 relative to the population aged 15–64 years was 23.7 % in the EU-28 in 2014. Adding these two shares together, the total dependency ratio for the EU-28 was 51.8 %; in other words, there were fewer than two persons of working age to ‘support’ those at either end of the age spectrum.

Kosovo was the only enlargement country to record a total dependency ratio that was higher than in the EU-28, some 53.6 % in 2014. However, the vast majority of dependents in Kosovo were young persons, as the young-age dependency ratio was 43.2 %; these young persons will gradually move into the working age population. The young-age dependency ratio in Kosovo was 32.8 percentage points higher than the old-age dependency ratio, while there was also a relatively large gap between these two ratios in Turkey (25.0 points). In contrast, the structure of the population in Serbia closely resembled that of the

Figure 3: Age-dependency ratios, 2014 (1)

(%)



(1) Ranked on the sum of young and old-age dependency ratios.

(2) Estimates.

(3) Population aged 65 and over relative to population aged 15–64.

(4) Population aged 0–14 relative to population aged 15–64.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_pjanind](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

EU-28. Indeed, Serbia was the only enlargement country to record an old-age dependency ratio that was higher than its young-age dependency ratio, a difference of 5.4 percentage points (which was slightly larger than the 4.4 point difference recorded for the EU-28).

Life expectancy at birth in the EU-28 is generally higher than in most other parts of the world: it reached 83.3 years for women and 77.8 years for men in 2013. During the period covering 2004–13, life expectancy at birth in the EU-28 rose by 1.8 years for women and 2.6 years for men; as a result, the gender gap was reduced from 6.3 years in 2004 to 5.5 years by 2013.

Among the enlargement countries, life expectancy at birth was also consistently higher for women than for men. In 2014, male life expectancy ranged from 76.4 years in Albania down to 72.6 years in Serbia, while female life expectancy ranged from a high of 80.3 years in Albania down to 77.2 years in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2013 data). The gender gap for life expectancy was slightly lower in the enlargement countries than in the EU-28, ranging from 5.3 years (in favour of women) in Kosovo down to 3.9 years in Albania.

Changes in population are composed of two distinct components: the crude rate of natural population change (the difference between births and deaths) and the crude rate of net migration (the balance between the flows of people coming into and leaving a country). There was almost no difference in the crude birth and death rates of the EU-28 in 2014, as they stood at 10.1 births and 9.7 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. With a natural rate of population change that is almost balanced, the relative impact of migration in total population change becomes greater. In the EU-28, the crude rate of net migration was 1.8 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2014.

Table 4: Life expectancy at birth, by sex, 2004 and 2014 (years)

	Male		Female	
	2004	2014	2004	2014
EU-28 (1)	75.2	77.8	81.5	83.3
Montenegro (2)	71.3	73.9	76.8	78.9
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1)	71.5	73.2	75.8	77.2
Albania	71.6	76.4	77.2	80.3
Serbia	70.0	72.6	75.5	77.7
Turkey	71.7	74.8	76.0	79.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	71.3	73.7	76.7	78.8
Kosovo	:	74.2	:	79.5

(1) 2013 instead of 2014.

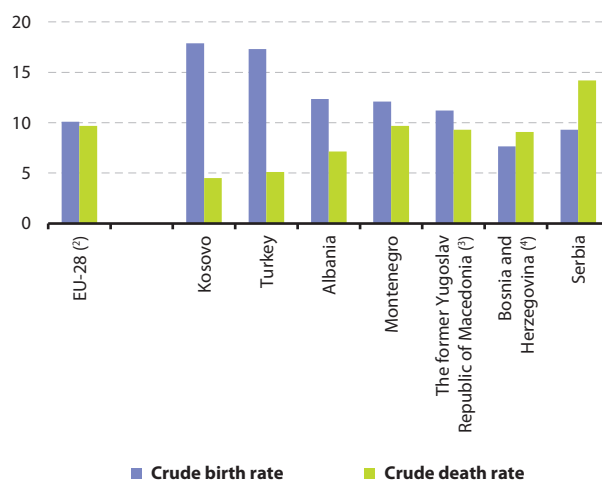
(2) 2005 instead of 2004.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_mlexpec](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Crude birth rates in Kosovo and Turkey were considerably higher than crude death rates, resulting in double-digit rates of natural population growth throughout the last decade, and growth rates of 13.3 and 12.2 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2014. In contrast, there were more deaths than births in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia; in the latter the rate of natural population change fell to –4.9 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2014.

Figure 4: Crude birth rate and crude death rate, 2014 (1)

(per 1 000 inhabitants)



(1) Ranked on the crude rate of natural change (birth rate – death rate).

(2) Estimates.

(3) 2013.

(4) Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_gind](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Table 5: Fertility rate and infant mortality rate, 2004 and 2014

	Total fertility rate (mean number of children per woman)		Infant mortality rate (1) (per 1 000 live births)	
	2004	2014	2004	2014
EU-28 (2)	1.50	1.55	5.1	3.7
Montenegro (3)	1.69	1.75	7.8	4.9
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (4)	1.52	1.48	13.2	10.2
Albania	1.86	1.78	15.1	7.9
Serbia	1.57	1.50	8.1	5.7
Turkey	2.11	2.17	20.5	11.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina (5)	1.22	1.35	7.2	4.8
Kosovo	:	2.20	11.8	6.6

(1) Number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1 000 live births.

(2) Fertility rate: 2013 instead of 2014; break in series.

(3) Fertility rate: 2005 instead of 2004.

(4) 2013 instead of 2014.

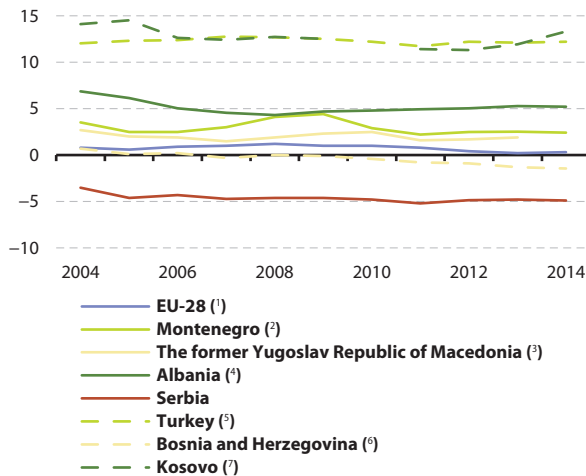
(5) 2012 instead of 2014.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_find](#), [demo_minfind](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Most of the enlargement countries (no data are available for Serbia or Turkey) reported negative rates of net migration (in other words, a higher number of emigrants than immigrants). This pattern was particularly pronounced in Albania and in Kosovo, where the crude rate of net migration was -6.2 and -21.9 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2014.

Fertility steadily declined in the EU from the mid-1960s to the turn of the century and despite a modest increase in recent years, the total fertility rate — the mean number of children that would be born alive 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 — remained at a low level in 2013, when an average of 1.55 children were born to each woman. A total fertility rate of around 2.1 live births per woman is considered to be the replacement level for industrialised countries: in other words, the average number of live births required to keep the population size constant in the absence of inward or outward migration. The total fertility rate in most of the enlargement countries was considerably lower than this replacement level, and fell below the EU-28 average in Serbia (1.50; 2014 data), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1.48; 2013 data) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (1.35; 2012 data). In contrast, the total fertility rates of Turkey (2.17) and Kosovo (2.20) were slightly higher than the natural replacement level in 2014.

Figure 5: Crude rate of natural population change, 2004–14 (per 1 000 inhabitants)

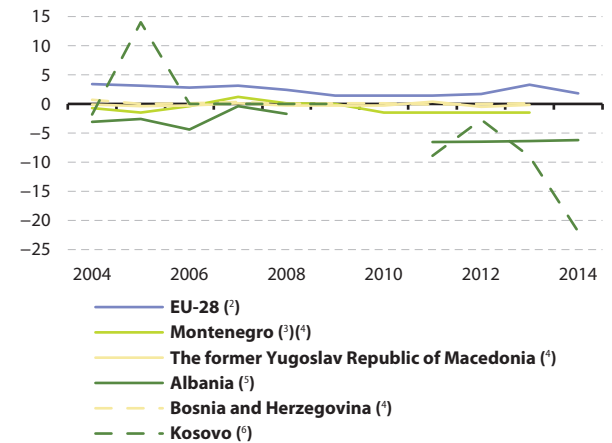


(¹) Breaks in series. 2013 and 2014: estimates.
 (²) 2010: break in series.
 (³) 2014: not available.
 (⁴) 2004–11: estimates.
 (⁵) 2004–08: estimates. 2009: break in series.
 (⁶) 2014: provisional.
 (⁷) 2010: not available. 2011: provisional and break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_gind](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

The infant mortality rate — the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1 000 live births — has fallen consistently over recent decades as improved healthcare facilities and techniques have reduced the risks associated with childbirth. In the EU-28, this rate stood at 3.7 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2014. Infant mortality rates were somewhat higher in the enlargement countries, rising to 10.2 deaths and 11.1 deaths per 1 000 live births in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2013) and Turkey; note that the infant mortality rate almost halved in Turkey over the last decade.

Figure 6: Crude rate of net migration, 2004–14 (¹) (per 1 000 inhabitants)



(¹) Serbia and Turkey: not available.
 (²) Breaks in series. 2013 and 2014: estimates.
 (³) 2010: break in series.
 (⁴) 2014: not available.
 (⁵) 2009 and 2010: not available.
 (⁶) 2010: not available. 2011: break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_gind](#) and [cpc_psdemo](#))

Eurostat's mission is to be *the leading provider of high quality statistics on Europe*. This short guide presents the latest data available for the European Union (EU) and the enlargement countries in relation to demographic developments.

Direct access to statistics on enlargement countries:

The Eurostat online data code, which is given in the source under each table or figure, provides users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/enlargement-countries/data/database>

Statistical articles on enlargement countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement_countries_-_statistical_overview

Background information on statistical cooperation with enlargement countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/International_statistical_cooperation

More information on international statistical cooperation with the enlargement countries:

estat-statistical-cooperation@ec.europa.eu

National statistical offices of the enlargement countries:

Montenegro: <http://monstat.org/eng/index.php>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

http://www.stat.gov.mk/Default_en.aspx

Albania: <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/Home.aspx>

Serbia: <http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite>

Turkey: <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr>

Bosnia and Herzegovina: <http://bhas.ba/index.php?lang=en>

Kosovo: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/eng>

Symbols

: Not available

Billion 1 000 million

Italics Value is either an estimate or provisional.