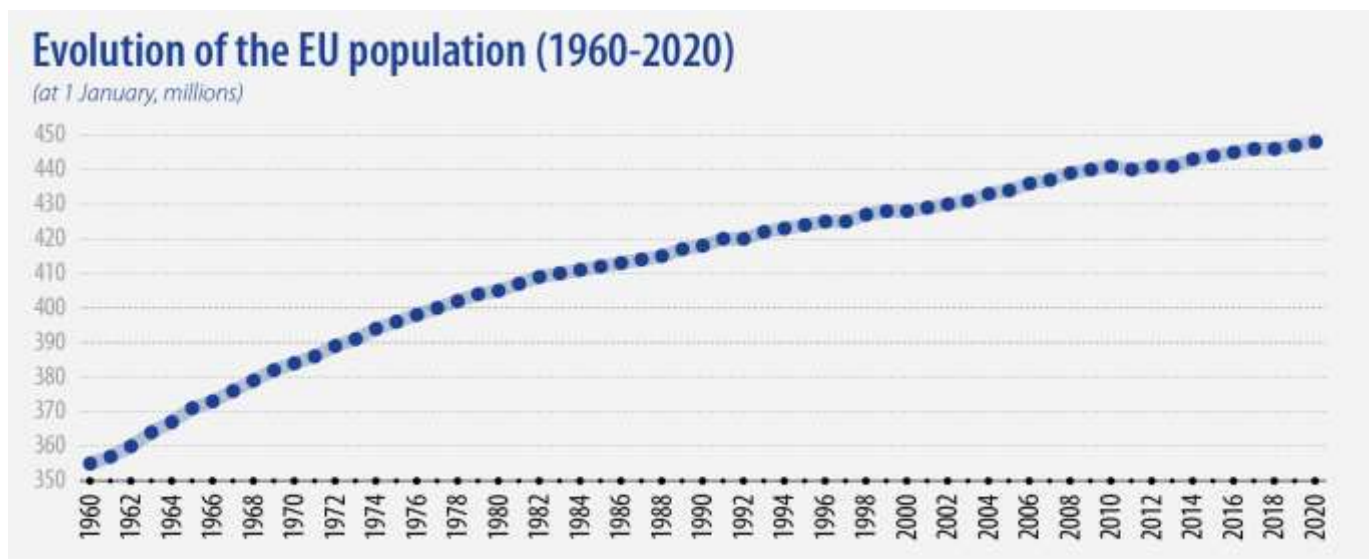First population estimates

EU population in 2020: almost 448 million

More deaths than births

On 1 January 2020, the population of the European Union (EU) with 27 Member States was estimated at 447.7 million, down by 12.8% as compared with 513.5 million in 28 Member States on 1 January 2019. This decrease is mainly due to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (on 1 February 2020), which led the population of the EU to decrease by 13%. The total EU27 population change was positive with 0.9 million more inhabitants during 2019, due to net migration.

The natural change of the **EU** population has been negative since 2012, with more deaths than births recorded in the **EU** (4.7 million deaths and 4.2 million births in 2019).

These figures are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, just before the World Population Day (11 July).
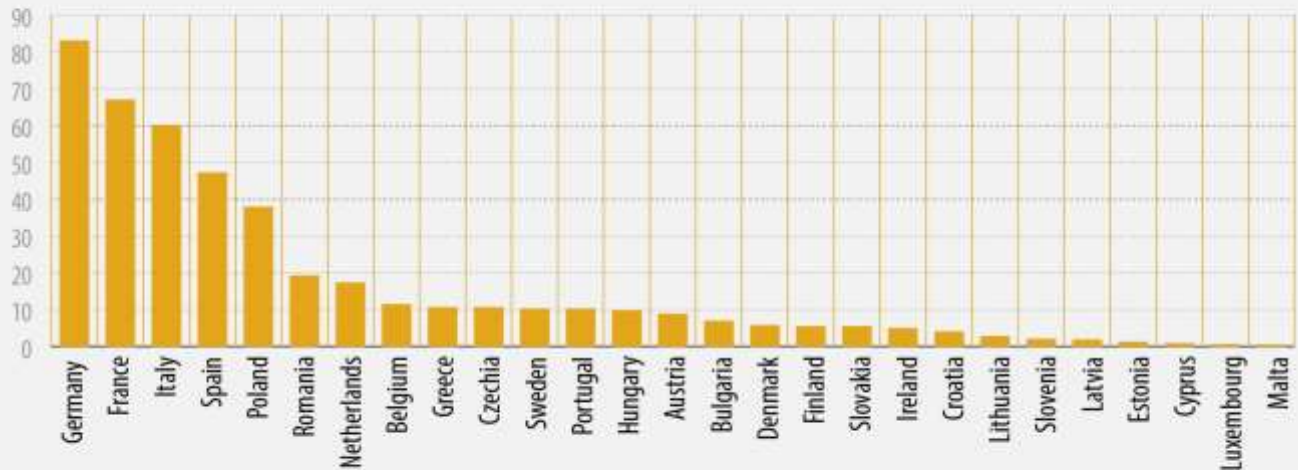

Evolution of the EU population (1960-2020)
(at 1 January, millions)

The EU refers to 27 Member States.

ec.europa.eu/**eurostat**

Largest population size in Germany, smallest in Malta

Among the EU Member States, **Germany** has the largest population (83.2 million residents) accounting for 18.6% of the total EU population at 1 January 2020, followed by **France** (67.1 million or 15.0%), **Italy** (60.2 million or 13.5%), **Spain** (47.3 million or 10.6%) and **Poland** (38.0 million or 8.5%). Fourteen Member States have a share of between 1% and 5% of the EU population, while eight have a share below 1%.

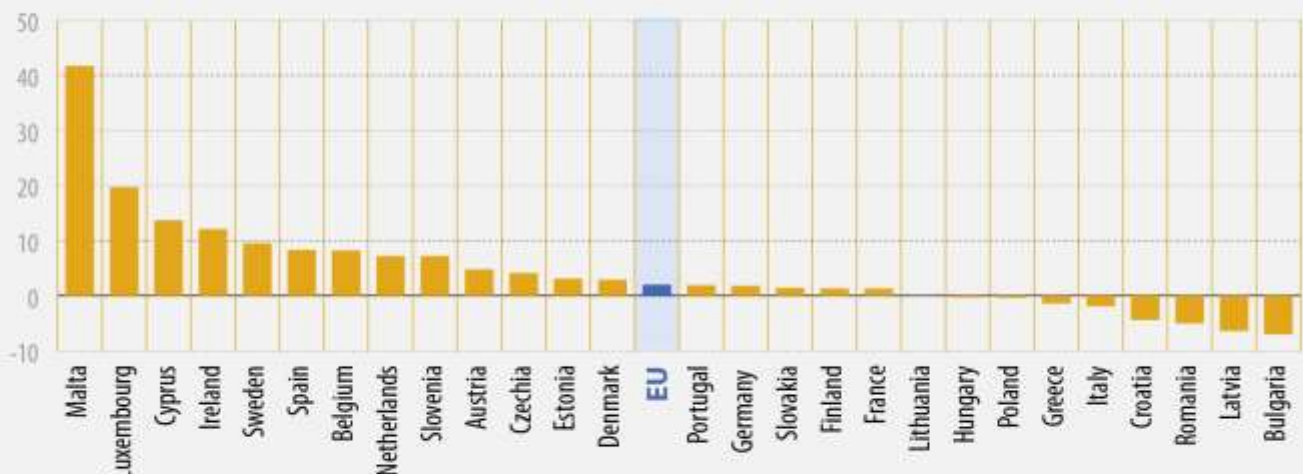## Population in the EU Member States on 1 January 2020
(in millions)

Increase in population in eighteen Member States

The population increased in eighteen EU Member States and decreased in nine. **Malta** recorded by far the highest population increase (+41.7‰), followed by **Luxembourg** (+19.7‰), **Cyprus** (+13.7‰), **Ireland** (+12.1‰), and **Sweden** (+9.5‰). The largest population decreases were recorded in **Bulgaria** (-7.0‰), **Latvia** (-6.4‰), **Romania** (-5.0‰), **Croatia** (-4.4‰), and **Italy** (-1.9‰).

Population change in the EU Member States during 2019
(per 1 000 residents)

Highest birth rate in Ireland, lowest in Italy

4.2 million babies were born in the **EU** in 2019, 2.2% fewer than in the previous year. The highest crude birth rates in 2019 were recorded in **Ireland** (12.1 per 1 000 residents), **France** (11.2‰), **Sweden** (11.1‰), **Cyprus** (10.9‰) and **Greece** (10.6‰). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest birth rates were registered in **Italy** (7.0‰), **Spain** (7.6‰), **Greece** (7.8‰), **Finland** (8.3‰) and **Portugal** (8.4‰).

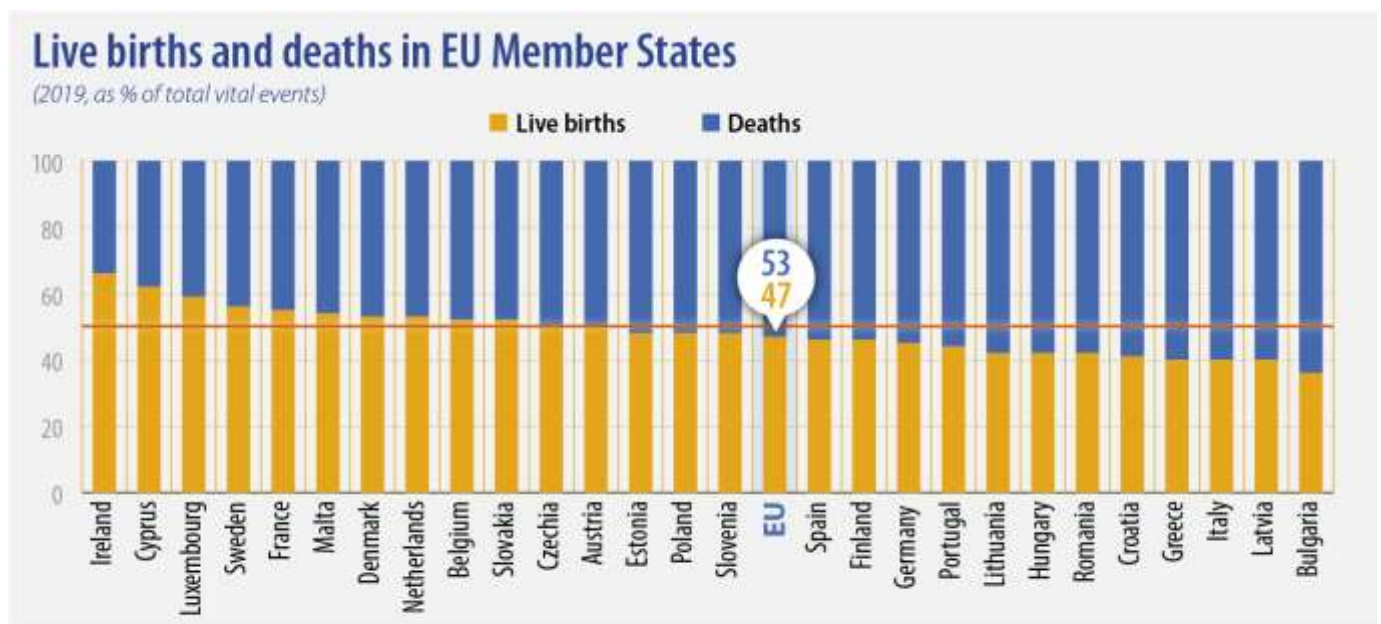At **EU** level, the crude birth rate was 9.3 per 1 000 residents.

Highest death rate in Bulgaria, lowest in Ireland

4.7 million deaths were registered in the **EU** in 2019, 0.9% fewer than the previous year. The lowest crude death rate was recorded in **Ireland** (6.3 per 1 000 residents). Low rates were also recorded in **Cyprus** (6.8‰), **Luxembourg** (6.9‰), **Malta** (7.3‰), and **Sweden** (8.6‰). In contrast, the highest death rate was recorded in **Bulgaria** (15.5‰), followed by **Latvia** (14.5‰), **Lithuania** (13.7‰), **Romania** (13.4‰) and **Hungary** (13.3‰).

At **EU** level, the crude death rate was 10.4 per 1 000 residents.

Consequently, **Ireland** (with a natural change of its population of +5.8‰) remained in 2019 the Member State where births most outnumbered deaths, followed by **Cyprus** (+4.1‰), **Luxembourg** (+3.1‰), **Sweden** (+2.5‰) and **France** (+2.1‰). Among the EU Member States which registered a negative natural change in 2019, deaths outnumbered births the most in **Bulgaria** (-6.7‰), followed by **Latvia** (-4.7‰), **Lithuania, Greece and Croatia** (each -3.9‰), **Hungary** and **Romania** (each -3.8‰) and **Italy** (-3.6 ‰).

At **EU** level, eleven Member states registered a positive natural change and sixteen Member States registered a negative natural change in 2019.

Geographical information

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

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 / increase. A negative population change is also referred to as population decline / decrease. 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.

Net migration is calculated as the difference between total population change and natural change. It therefore includes statistical adjustment corresponding to all changes in the population that cannot be classified as births, deaths, immigration or emigration.

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 Statistics Explained article on population.

European Statistics Code of Practice.

Total population

	Population 1.1.2019 (in thousand)	Population 1.1.2020 (in thousand)	Change 2020/2019 (per thousand)*	Share in EU population 2020 (%)
EU**	446 824.6	44 7706.2	2.0	**100**
Belgium	11 455.5	11 549.9	8.2	2.6
Bulgaria	7 000.0	6 951.5	-7.0	1.6
Czechia	10 649.8	10 693.9	4.1	2.4
Denmark	5 806.1	5 822.8	2.9	1.3
Germany	83 019.2	83 166.7	1.8	18.6
Estonia	1 324.8	1 329.0	3.1	0.3
Ireland	4 904.2	4 963.8	12.1	1.1
Greece	10 724.6	10 709.7	-1.4	2.4
Spain	46 937.1	47 330.0	8.3	10.6
France	67 012.9	67 098.8	1.3	15.0
Croatia	4 076.2	4 058.2	-4.4	0.9
Italy	60 359.5	60 244.6	-1.9	13.5
Cyprus	875.9	888.0	13.7	0.2
Latvia	1 920.0	1 907.7	-6.4	0.4
Lithuania	2 794.2	2 794.1	0.0	0.6
Luxembourg	613.9	626.1	19.7	0.1
Hungary	9 772.8	9 769.5	-0.3	2.2
Malta	493.6	514.6	41.7	0.1
Netherlands	17 282.2	17 407.6	7.2	3.9
Austria	8 858.8	8 901.1	4.8	2.0
Poland	37 972.8	37 958.1	-0.4	8.5
Portugal	10 276.6	10 295.9	1.9	2.3
Romania	19 414.5	19 318.0	-5.0	4.3
Slovenia	2 080.9	2 095.9	7.2	0.5
Slovakia	5 450.4	5 457.9	1.4	1.2
Finland	5 517.9	5 525.3	1.3	1.2
Sweden	10 230.2	10 327.6	9.5	2.3
United Kingdom	6 6647.1	67 025.5	5.7	-
Iceland	357.0	364.1	19.8	-
Lichtenstein	38.4	38.7	9.6	-
Norway	5 328.2	5 367.6	7.4	-
Switzerland	8 544.5	8 606.0	7.2	-
Montenegro	622.2	621.9	-0.5	-
North Macedonia	2 077.1	2 076.3	-0.4	-
Albania	2 862.4	2 846.0	-5.8	-
Serbia	6 963.8	6 926.7	-5.3	-
Turkey	82 003.9	83 155.0	13.9	-

All data are provisional

-   Not applicable

*   Crude rate of population change represents the ratio, expressed per 1 000 residents, of the increase or decrease of population during 2019 (difference between the population on 1 January 2019 and the population on 1 January 2019) to the average population in 2019.

** EU represents the European Union of 27 Member States after 1 February 2020.

Eurostat source dataset: demo_gind

Natural change of population in 2019

	Absolute number (in thousand)			Crude rate*		
	Live births	**Deaths**	**Natural change**	**Live births**	**Deaths**	**Natural change**
EU**	4 151.9	4 650.1	-498.3	9.3	10.4	-1.1
Belgium	116.1	108.8	7.3	10.1	9.5	0.6
Bulgaria	61.5	108.1	-46.5	8.8	15.5	-6.7
Czechia	112.2	112.4	-0.1	10.5	10.5	0.0
Denmark	61.2	54.0	7.2	10.5	9.3	1.2
Germany	778.1	939.5	-161.4	9.4	11.3	-1.9
Estonia	14.1	15.4	-1.3	10.6	11.6	-1.0
Ireland	59.8	31.1	28.7	12.1	6.3	5.8
Greece	83.7	125.0	-41.3	7.8	11.7	-3.9
Spain	357.9	415.1	-57.1	7.6	8.8	-1.2
France	753.6	612.1	141.5	11.2	9.1	2.1
Croatia	36.1	51.8	-15.7	8.9	12.7	-3.9
Italy	420.2	634.4	-214.3	7.0	10.5	-3.6
Cyprus	9.6	6.0	3.6	10.9	6.8	4.1
Latvia	18.8	27.7	-8.9	9.8	14.5	-4.7
Lithuania	27.4	38.3	-10.9	9.8	13.7	-3.9
Luxembourg	6.2	4.3	1.9	10.0	6.9	3.1
Hungary	93.1	129.9	-36.8	9.5	13.3	-3.8
Malta	4.4	3.7	0.7	8.6	7.3	1.3
Netherlands	169.1	151.8	17.2	9.7	8.8	1.0
Austria	85.0	83.4	1.6	9.6	9.4	0.2
Poland	375.0	409.7	-34.8	9.9	10.8	-0.9
Portugal	86.6	111.8	-25.2	8.4	10.9	-2.5
Romania	185.7	259.3	-73.6	9.6	13.4	-3.8
Slovenia	19.3	20.6	-1.3	9.3	9.9	-0.6
Slovakia	57.1	53.2	3.8	10.5	9.8	0.7
Finland	45.6	53.9	-8.3	8.3	9.8	-1.5
Sweden	114.5	88.8	25.8	11.1	8.6	2.5
United Kingdom	712.7	604.6	108.1	10.7	9.0	1.6
Iceland	4.5	2.3	2.2	12.3	6.3	6.0
Lichtenstein	0.4	0.3	0.1	9.2	6.8	2.4
Norway	54.5	40.7	13.8	10.2	7.6	2.6
Switzerland	86.2	67.8	18.4	10.0	7.9	2.1
Montenegro	7.2	6.6	0.6	11.6	10.6	1.0
North Macedonia	19.8	20.4	-0.6	9.6	9.8	-0.3
Albania	28.6	21.9	6.6	10.0	7.7	2.3
Serbia	64.4	101.5	-37.1	9.3	14.6	-5.3
Turkey	1 183.7	435.9	747.7	14.3	5.3	9.1

All 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.
** EU represents the European Union of 27 Member States after 1 February 2020.
Source dataset: demo_gind