

First population estimates

EU population up to 508.2 million at 1 January 2015

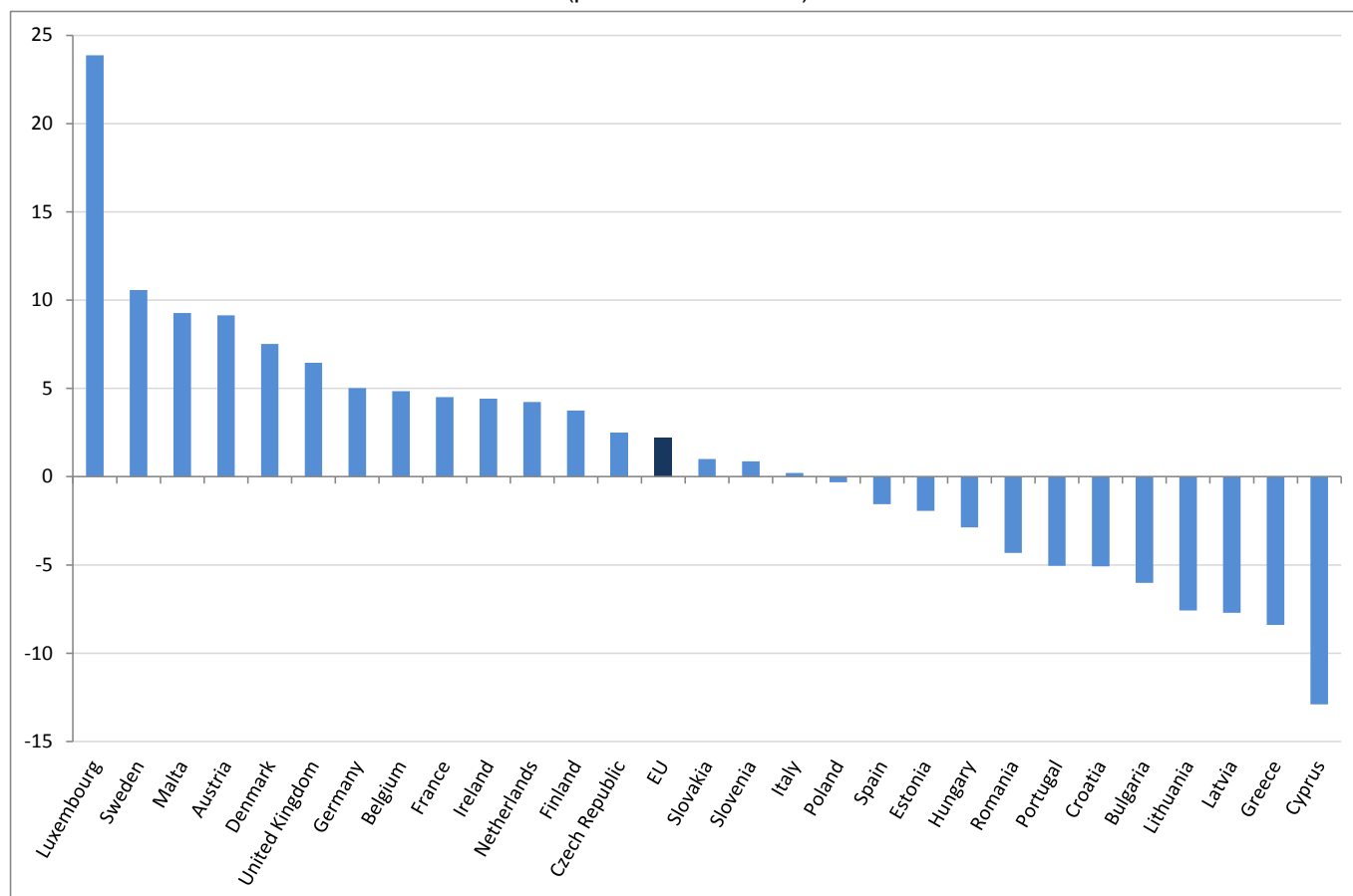
Over 1 million more people living in the EU than in 2014

On 1 January 2015, the population of the **European Union** was estimated at 508.2 million, compared with 506.9 million on 1 January 2014. During the year 2014, 5.1 million babies were born in the **EU**, while 4.9 million persons died, meaning that the EU recorded a positive natural change of its population of 0.2 million, double that of 2013. The remainder of the change is driven mainly by net migration.

Germany (81.2 million residents), France (66.4 million), the United Kingdom (64.8 million) and Italy (60.8 million) are the most populated EU Member States. Together, they are home to more than half of the EU population.

These figures come from an [article](#)¹ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. Some other interesting facts and an [infographic](#)² about EU population are also published on the Eurostat website.

Total population change in the EU Member States, 2014
(per 1 000 residents)



Population increase in sixteen Member States

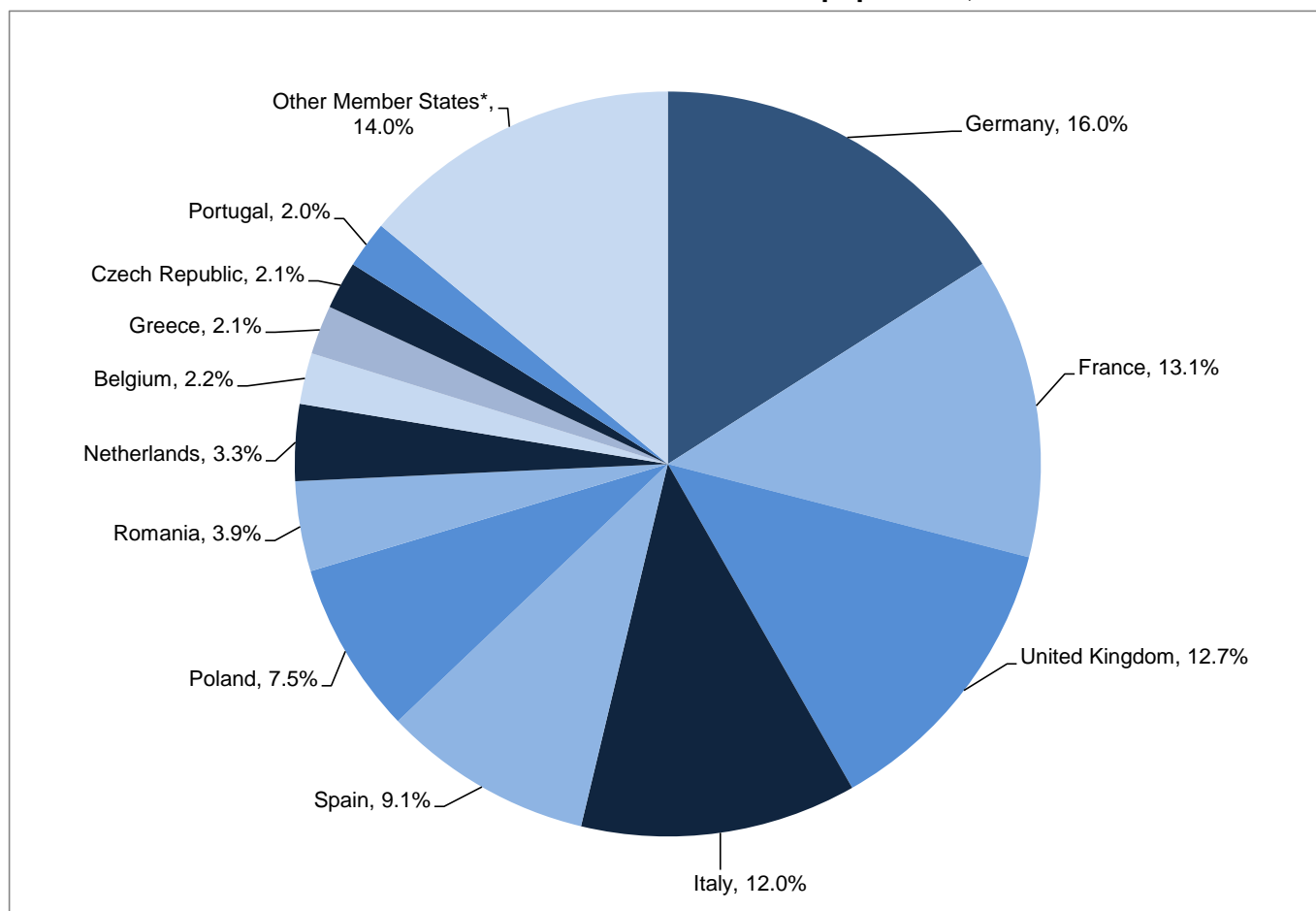
During 2014, the population increased in sixteen EU Member States and decreased in twelve. The largest increase was observed in **Luxembourg** (+23.9 per 1 000 residents), well ahead of **Sweden** (+10.6‰), **Malta** (+9.3‰), **Austria** (+9.1‰) and **Denmark** (+7.5‰). In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in **Cyprus** (-12.9‰), **Greece** (-8.4‰), **Latvia** (-7.7‰) and **Lithuania** (-7.6‰). In total, the population of the **EU** increased by slightly more than 1 million people (+2.2‰) during the year 2014.

Share in the EU population up most for Spain, down most for Germany

Accounting for 16.0% of total EU population, **Germany** continues to be the most populated Member State, ahead of **France** (13.1%), the **United Kingdom** (12.9%), **Italy** (12.0%), **Spain** (9.1%) and **Poland** (7.5%).

Compared with 1995, **Spain** (from 8.2% of total EU population in 1995 to 9.1% in 2015, or +0.9 percentage points), **France** (+0.8 pp) and the **United Kingdom** (+0.7 pp) were the Member States having increased the most their weight in total EU population, while **Germany** (-0.9 pp), **Romania** (-0.8 pp) and **Poland** (-0.5 pp) registered the largest relative falls.

Share of the Member States in EU total population, 2015



* Less than 2% each: Hungary, Sweden, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Slovakia, Ireland, Croatia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta.

Total population

	Population 1.1.2014 (in 1 000)	Population 1.1.2015 (in 1 000)	Change 2015/2014 (per 1 000)**	Share in EU population, 1995	Share in EU population, 2015
EU*	506 857.5	508 191.1	2.2	100%	100%
Belgium	11 204.0	11 258.4	4.8	2.1%	2.2%
Bulgaria	7 245.7	7 202.2	-6.0	1.7%	1.4%
Czech Republic	10 512.4	10 538.3	2.5	2.1%	2.1%
Denmark	5 617.3	5 659.7	7.5	1.1%	1.1%
Germany	80 767.5	81 174.0	5.0	16.9%	16.0%
Estonia	1 315.8	1 313.3	-1.9	0.3%	0.3%
Ireland	4 605.5	4 625.9	4.4	0.7%	0.9%
Greece	10 903.7	10 812.5	-8.4	2.2%	2.1%
Spain	46 512.2	46 439.9	-1.6	8.2%	9.1%
France*	65 835.6	66 352.5	4.5	12.3%	13.1%
Croatia	4 246.8	4 225.3	-5.1	1.0%	0.8%
Italy	60 782.7	60 795.6	0.2	11.8%	12.0%
Cyprus	858.0	847.0	-12.9	0.1%	0.2%
Latvia	2 001.5	1 986.1	-7.7	0.5%	0.4%
Lithuania	2 943.5	2 921.3	-7.6	0.8%	0.6%
Luxembourg	549.7	563.0	23.9	0.1%	0.1%
Hungary	9 877.4	9 849.0	-2.9	2.1%	1.9%
Malta	425.4	429.3	9.3	0.1%	0.1%
Netherlands	16 829.3	16 900.7	4.2	3.2%	3.3%
Austria	8 506.9	8 584.9	9.1	1.6%	1.7%
Poland	38 017.9	38 005.6	-0.3	8.0%	7.5%
Portugal	10 427.3	10 374.8	-5.0	2.1%	2.0%
Romania	19 947.3	19 861.4	-4.3	4.7%	3.9%
Slovenia	2 061.1	2 062.9	0.9	0.4%	0.4%
Slovakia	5 415.9	5 421.3	1.0	1.1%	1.1%
Finland	5 451.3	5 471.8	3.8	1.1%	1.1%
Sweden	9 644.9	9 747.4	10.6	1.8%	1.9%
United Kingdom	64 351.2	64 767.1	6.4	12.0%	12.7%
Iceland	325.7	329.1	10.5	-	-
Liechtenstein	37.1	37.4	6.4	-	-
Norway	5 108.0	5 165.8	11.3	-	-
Switzerland	8 139.6	8 236.6	11.8	-	-
Montenegro	621.5	622.1	0.9	-	-
FYR of Macedonia	2 065.8	2 069.2	1.6	-	-
Albania	2 895.9	2 893.0	-1.0	-	-
Serbia	7 146.8	7 112.0	-4.9	-	-
Turkey	76 667.9	77 695.9	13.3	-	-

Data are provisional

- Not applicable

* The population of Mayotte (220 300 persons) is included in the 2015 data for France and the EU, but not in the 2014 data. This should be taken into account when calculating the total change of population for both France and the EU.

** Crude rate of population change represents the ratio, expressed per 1 000 residents, between the increase of population during 2014 (difference between the population on 1 January 2015 and the population on 1 January 2014) and the average population in 2014. The increase due to the addition of Mayotte was not taken into account for the calculation of this rate.

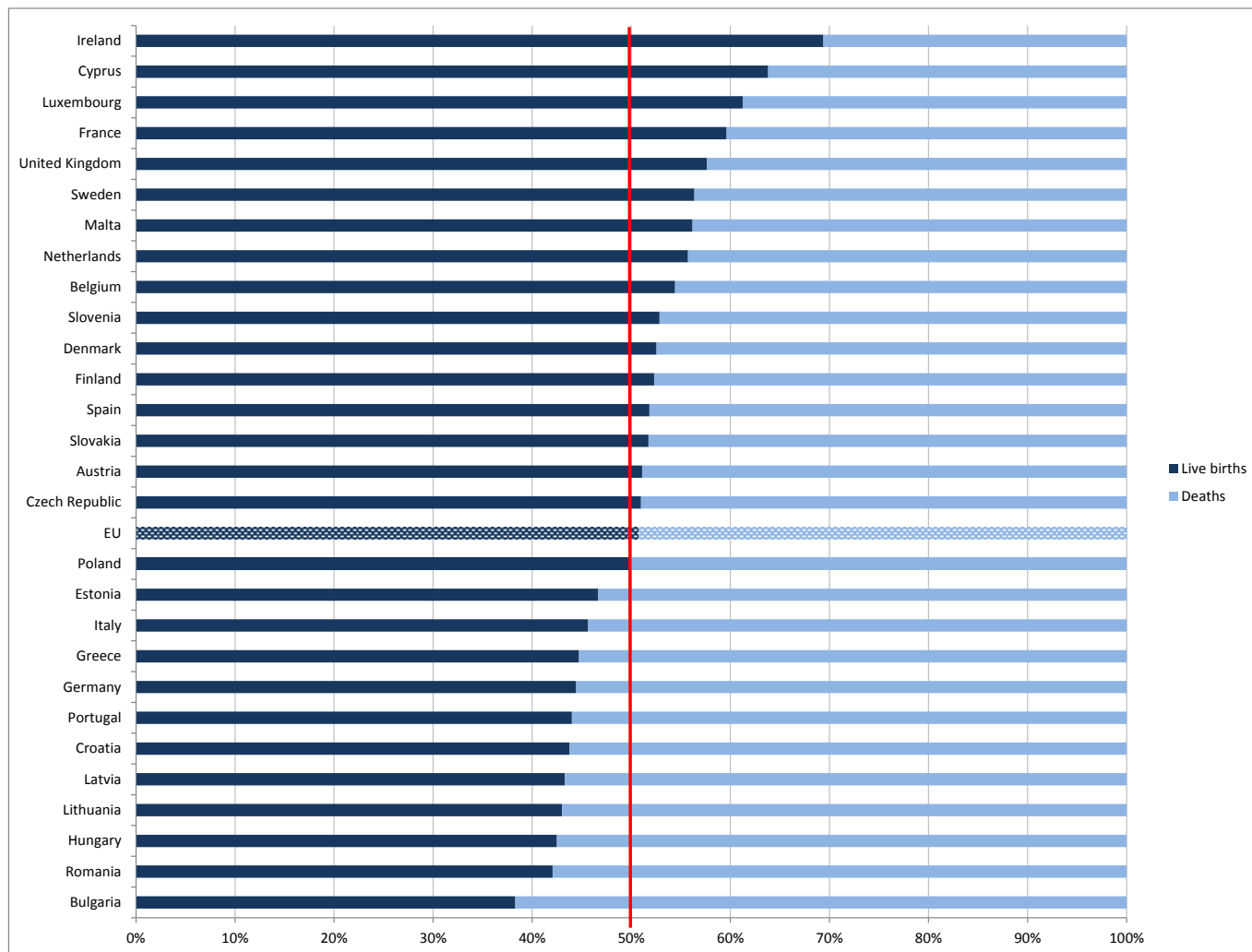
Highest birth rates in Ireland and France, lowest in Portugal and Italy

During the year 2014, 5.1 million babies were born in the EU, 33 000 more than the previous year. Across Member States, the highest crude birth rates in 2014 were recorded in **Ireland** (14.4 per 1 000 residents), **France** (12.4‰), the **United Kingdom** (12.0‰) and **Sweden** (11.9‰), while the lowest were registered in **Portugal** (7.9‰), **Italy** (8.3‰), **Greece** (8.5‰) and **Germany** (8.6‰). At EU level, the crude birth rate was 10.1 per 1 000 residents.

There were 4.9 million deaths registered in the EU in 2014, 46 600 less than the previous year. **Bulgaria** (15.1 per 1 000 residents) had in 2014 the highest crude death rate, followed by **Latvia** (14.3‰), **Lithuania** (13.7‰), **Hungary** (12.8‰) **Romania** (12.7‰) and **Croatia** (12.0‰). At the opposite end of the scale, **Cyprus** (6.2‰), **Ireland** (6.4‰) and **Luxembourg** (6.9‰) recorded the lowest. The crude death rate was 9.7 per 1 000 residents in the EU.

Consequently, the highest positive natural change of the population (the difference between live births and deaths expressed per 1 000 residents) was registered by far in **Ireland** (+8.1‰). **Cyprus** (+4.7‰), **France** and **Luxembourg** (both +4.0‰) and the **United Kingdom** (+3.2‰) had also notable positive natural change of their population in 2014. Among the eleven EU Member States which registered a negative natural change in 2014, the largest were to be found in **Bulgaria** (-5.7‰), **Romania** (-3.5‰), **Latvia** and **Lithuania** (both -3.4‰) and **Hungary** (-3.3‰). It should also be noted that though total population increased in 2015 in **Germany** and **Italy**, the natural change was negative in both Member States, meaning that the population growth recorded in 2014 was driven by net migration.

Live births and deaths in EU Member States, 2014
(as % of total vital events)



Natural change of population in 2014

	Absolute number in 1 000			Crude rate*		
	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Live births	Deaths	Natural change
EU	5 108.4	4 947.0	161.4	10.1	9.7	0.3
Belgium	125.0	104.8	20.3	11.1	9.3	1.8
Bulgaria	67.6	109.0	-41.4	9.4	15.1	-5.7
Czech Republic	109.9	105.7	4.2	10.4	10.0	0.4
Denmark	56.9	51.3	5.5	10.1	9.1	1.0
Germany	700.0	875.0	-175.0	8.6	10.8	-2.2
Estonia	13.6	15.5	-1.9	10.3	11.8	-1.5
Ireland	66.5	29.3	37.2	14.4	6.4	8.1
Greece	92.1	113.9	-21.8	8.5	10.5	-2.0
Spain	426.0	396.1	30.0	9.2	8.5	0.6
France	820.8	556.1	264.7	12.4	8.4	4.0
Croatia	39.6	50.8	-11.3	9.3	12.0	-2.7
Italy	502.6	598.4	-95.8	8.3	9.8	-1.6
Cyprus	9.3	5.3	4.0	10.9	6.2	4.7
Latvia	21.7	28.5	-6.7	10.9	14.3	-3.4
Lithuania	30.4	40.3	-9.9	10.4	13.7	-3.4
Luxembourg	6.1	3.8	2.2	10.9	6.9	4.0
Hungary	93.3	126.3	-33.0	9.5	12.8	-3.3
Malta	4.2	3.3	0.9	9.8	7.7	2.2
Netherlands	175.2	139.2	36.0	10.4	8.3	2.1
Austria	81.7	78.3	3.5	9.6	9.2	0.4
Poland	375.2	376.5	-1.3	9.9	9.9	0.0
Portugal	82.4	104.8	-22.4	7.9	10.1	-2.2
Romania	183.8	253.3	-69.5	9.2	12.7	-3.5
Slovenia	21.2	18.9	2.3	10.3	9.2	1.1
Slovakia	55.0	51.3	3.7	10.2	9.5	0.7
Finland	57.2	52.2	5.0	10.5	9.6	0.9
Sweden	114.9	89.0	25.9	11.9	9.2	2.7
United Kingdom	776.4	570.3	206.0	12.0	8.8	3.2
Iceland	4.4	2.0	2.3	13.4	6.3	7.1
Liechtenstein	0.4	0.3	0.1	9.9	7.2	2.7
Norway	59.1	40.4	18.7	11.5	7.9	3.6
Switzerland	83.8	63.6	20.2	10.2	7.8	2.5
Montenegro	7.5	6.0	1.5	12.1	9.7	2.4
FYR of Macedonia	23.6	19.7	3.9	11.4	9.5	1.9
Albania	35.8	20.7	15.1	12.4	7.1	5.2
Serbia	66.5	101.2	-34.8	9.3	14.2	-4.9
Turkey	1 337.5	390.1	947.4	17.3	5.1	12.3

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.

1. Eurostat, Statistics Explained article "**Population and population change statistics**", available on the Eurostat website: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Population and population change statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Population_and_population_change_statistics)
2. An interactive infographic as well as a selection of facts and figures about EU population are available on the Eurostat website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/news/themes-in-the-spotlight/population-day>

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