

110/2017 - 10 July 2017

First population estimates

EU population up to almost 512 million at 1 January 2017

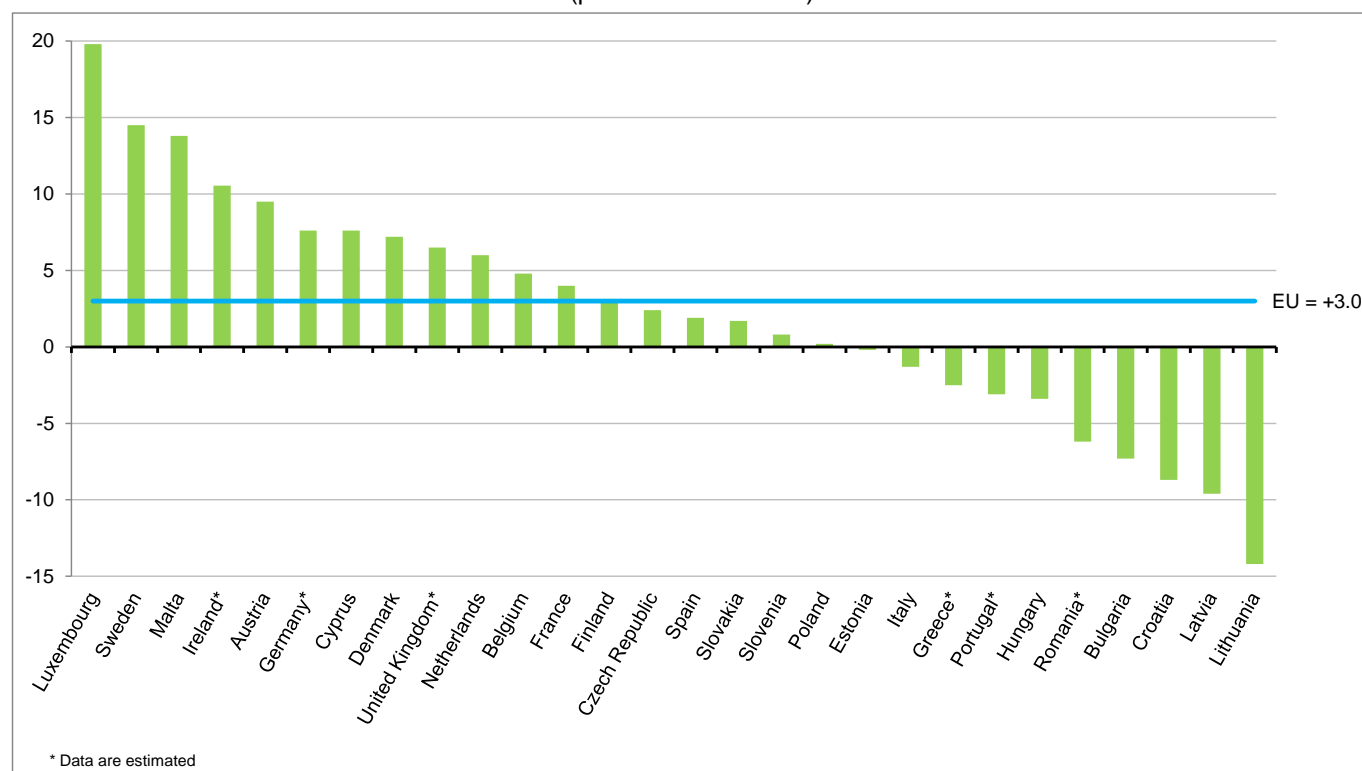
Increase driven by migration

On 1 January 2017, the population of the **European Union (EU)** was estimated at 511.8 million, compared with 510.3 million on 1 January 2016. During the year 2016, as many births as deaths were recorded in the **EU** (5.1 million), meaning that the natural change of the EU population was neutral. The population change (positive, with 1.5 million more inhabitants) was therefore due to net migration.

With 82.8 million residents (or 16.2% of the total EU population at 1 January 2017), **Germany** is the most populated EU Member State, ahead of **France** (67.0 million, or 13.1%), the **United Kingdom** (65.8 million, or 12.9%), **Italy** (60.6 million, or 11.8%), **Spain** (46.5 million, or 9.1%) and **Poland** (38.0 million, or 7.4%). For the remaining Member States, nine have a share of between 4% and 1.5% of the EU population and thirteen a share below 1.5%.

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

Total population change in the EU Member States, 2016
(per 1 000 residents)



Population increase in eighteen Member States

During 2016, the population increased in eighteen EU Member States and decreased in ten.

The largest relative increase was observed in **Luxembourg** (+19.8 per 1 000 residents), ahead of **Sweden** (+14.5‰), **Malta** (+13.8‰), **Ireland** (+10.6‰), **Austria** (+9.5‰), **Germany** and **Cyprus** (both +7.6‰), **Denmark** (+7.2‰), the **United Kingdom** (+6.5‰) and the **Netherlands** (+6.0‰),

In contrast, the largest decrease was recorded in **Lithuania** (-14.2‰), followed by **Latvia** (-9.6‰), **Croatia** (-8.7‰), **Bulgaria** (-7.3‰) and **Romania** (-6.2‰).

In total, the population of the **EU** increased by 1.5 million people (+3.0‰) during the year 2016.

Total population

	Population 1.1.2016 (in 1 000)	Population 1.1.2017 (in 1 000)	Change 2017/2016 (per 1 000)*	Share in EU population, 2017
EU	510 278.7	511 805.1	+3.0	100%
Belgium	11 311.1	11 365.8	+4.8	2.2%
Bulgaria	7 153.8	7 101.9	-7.3	1.4%
Czech Republic	10 553.8	10 578.8	+2.4	2.1%
Denmark	5 707.3	5 748.8	+7.2	1.1%
Germany**	82 175.7	82 800.0	+7.6	16.2%
Estonia	1 315.9	1 315.6	-0.2	0.3%
Ireland**	4 724.7	4 774.8	+10.6	0.9%
Greece**	10 783.7	10 757.3	-2.5	2.1%
Spain	46 440.1	46 529.0	+1.9	9.1%
France	66 750.0	67 024.5	+4.0	13.1%
Croatia	4 190.7	4 154.2	-8.7	0.8%
Italy	60 665.6	60 589.4	-1.3	11.8%
Cyprus	848.3	854.8	+7.6	0.2%
Latvia	1 969.0	1 950.1	-9.6	0.4%
Lithuania	2 888.6	2 847.9	-14.2	0.6%
Luxembourg	576.2	590.7	+19.8	0.1%
Hungary	9 830.5	9 797.6	-3.4	1.9%
Malta	434.4	440.4	+13.8	0.1%
Netherlands	16 979.1	17 081.5	+6.0	3.3%
Austria	8 690.1	8 772.9	+9.5	1.7%
Poland	37 967.2	37 973.0	+0.2	7.4%
Portugal**	10 341.3	10 309.6	-3.1	2.0%
Romania**	19 760.3	19 638.3	-6.2	3.8%
Slovenia	2 064.2	2 065.9	+0.8	0.4%
Slovakia	5 426.3	5 435.3	+1.7	1.1%
Finland	5 487.3	5 503.3	+2.9	1.1%
Sweden	9 851.0	9 995.2	+14.5	2.0%
United Kingdom**	65 382.6	65 808.6	+6.5	12.9%
Iceland	332.5	338.3	+17.4	-
Norway	5 214.0	5 258.3	+8.5	-
Switzerland	8 327.1	8 417.7	+10.8	-
Montenegro	622.2	622.4	+0.3	-
FYR of Macedonia	2 071.3	2 073.7	+1.2	-
Serbia	7 076.4	7 040.3	-5.1	-
Turkey	78 741.1	79 814.9	+13.5	-

All data are provisional

- Not applicable

* Crude rate of population change represents the ratio, expressed per 1 000 residents, between the increase of population during 2016 (difference between the population on 1 January 2017 and the population on 1 January 2016) and the average population in 2016.

** Data are estimated

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

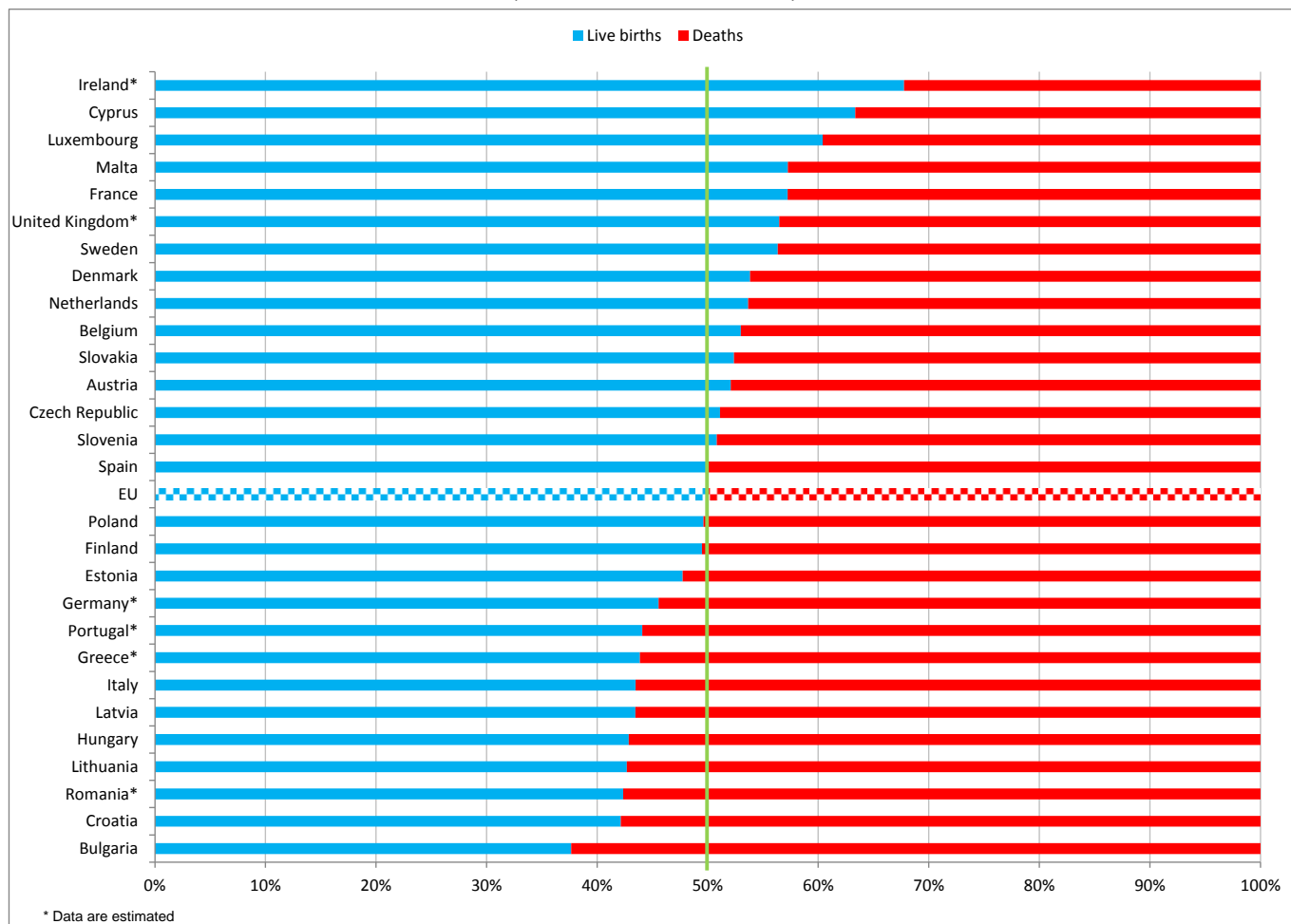
Highest birth rate in Ireland, lowest in Italy

During the year 2016, 5.1 million babies were born in the EU, 11 000 more than the previous year. Across Member States, the highest crude birth rates in 2016 were recorded in **Ireland** (13.5 per 1 000 residents), **Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** (both 11.8‰) and **France** (11.7‰), while the lowest were registered in Southern Member States: **Italy** (7.8‰), **Portugal** (8.4‰), **Greece** (8.6‰), **Spain** (8.7‰), **Croatia** (9.0‰) and **Bulgaria** (9.1‰). At EU level, the crude birth rate was 10.0 per 1 000 residents.

In the meantime, 5.1 million deaths were registered in the EU in 2016, almost 91 000 fewer than the previous year. **Ireland** and **Cyprus** (both 6.4 per 1 000 residents) as well as **Luxembourg** (6.8‰) had in 2016 the lowest crude death rate, followed by **Malta** (7.6‰), the **Netherlands** (8.7‰), **Spain** and **France** (both 8.8‰). At the opposite end of the scale, **Bulgaria** (15.1‰), **Latvia** (14.6‰), **Lithuania** (14.3‰), **Romania** and **Hungary** (both 13.0‰) recorded the highest. The crude death rate was 10.0 per 1 000 residents in the EU.

Consequently, **Ireland** (with a natural change of its population of +7.1‰) remained in 2016 the Member State where births most outnumbered deaths, ahead of **Cyprus** (+4.7‰), **Luxembourg** (+3.6‰), **France** (+3.0‰), **Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** (both +2.7‰) and **Malta** (+2.6‰). In contrast, among the thirteen EU Member States which registered a negative natural change in 2016, deaths outnumbered births the most in **Bulgaria** (-6.0‰), followed by **Lithuania** (-3.7‰), **Romania** (-3.5‰), **Croatia** and **Latvia** (both -3.4‰) and **Hungary** (-3.2‰).

Live births and deaths in EU Member States, 2016
(as % of total vital events)



Natural change of population in 2016

	Absolute number in 1 000			Crude rate*		
	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Live births	Deaths	Natural change
EU	5 114.1	5 130.0	-15.9	10.0	10.0	0.0
Belgium	121.9	108.1	13.8	10.8	9.5	1.2
Bulgaria	65.0	107.6	-42.6	9.1	15.1	-6.0
Czech Republic	112.7	107.8	4.9	10.7	10.2	0.5
Denmark	61.6	52.8	8.8	10.8	9.2	1.5
Germany**	770.0	920.0	-150.0	9.3	11.2	-1.8
Estonia	14.1	15.4	-1.3	10.7	11.7	-1.0
Ireland**	63.9	30.4	33.5	13.5	6.4	7.1
Greece**	92.8	118.8	-26.0	8.6	11.0	-2.4
Spain	406.6	406.8	-0.3	8.7	8.8	0.0
France	785.7	587.1	198.6	11.7	8.8	3.0
Croatia	37.5	51.5	-14.0	9.0	12.4	-3.4
Italy	473.4	615.3	-141.8	7.8	10.1	-2.3
Cyprus	9.5	5.5	4.0	11.1	6.4	4.7
Latvia	22.0	28.6	-6.6	11.2	14.6	-3.4
Lithuania	30.6	41.1	-10.5	10.7	14.3	-3.7
Luxembourg	6.1	4.0	2.1	10.4	6.8	3.6
Hungary	95.4	127.1	-31.7	9.7	13.0	-3.2
Malta	4.5	3.3	1.1	10.2	7.6	2.6
Netherlands	172.5	149.0	23.5	10.1	8.7	1.4
Austria	87.7	80.7	7.0	10.0	9.2	0.8
Poland	382.3	388.0	-5.8	10.1	10.2	-0.2
Portugal**	87.1	110.5	-23.4	8.4	10.7	-2.3
Romania**	188.4	256.5	-68.1	9.6	13.0	-3.5
Slovenia	20.3	19.7	0.7	9.9	9.5	0.3
Slovakia	57.6	52.4	5.2	10.6	9.6	1.0
Finland	52.8	53.9	-1.1	9.6	9.8	-0.2
Sweden	117.4	91.0	26.4	11.8	9.2	2.7
United Kingdom**	774.8	597.2	177.6	11.8	9.1	2.7
Iceland	4.0	2.3	1.7	12.0	6.9	5.1
Norway	58.9	40.7	18.2	11.2	7.8	3.5
Switzerland	87.9	65.0	22.9	10.5	7.8	2.7
Montenegro	7.6	6.5	1.1	12.2	10.4	1.8
FYR of Macedonia	23.0	20.4	2.6	11.1	9.9	1.2
Serbia	64.7	100.8	-36.1	9.2	14.3	-5.1
Turkey	1 309.8	422.1	887.6	16.5	5.3	11.2

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.

** Data are estimated

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.

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.

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