

## First population estimates

# EU population up to nearly 513 million on 1 January 2018

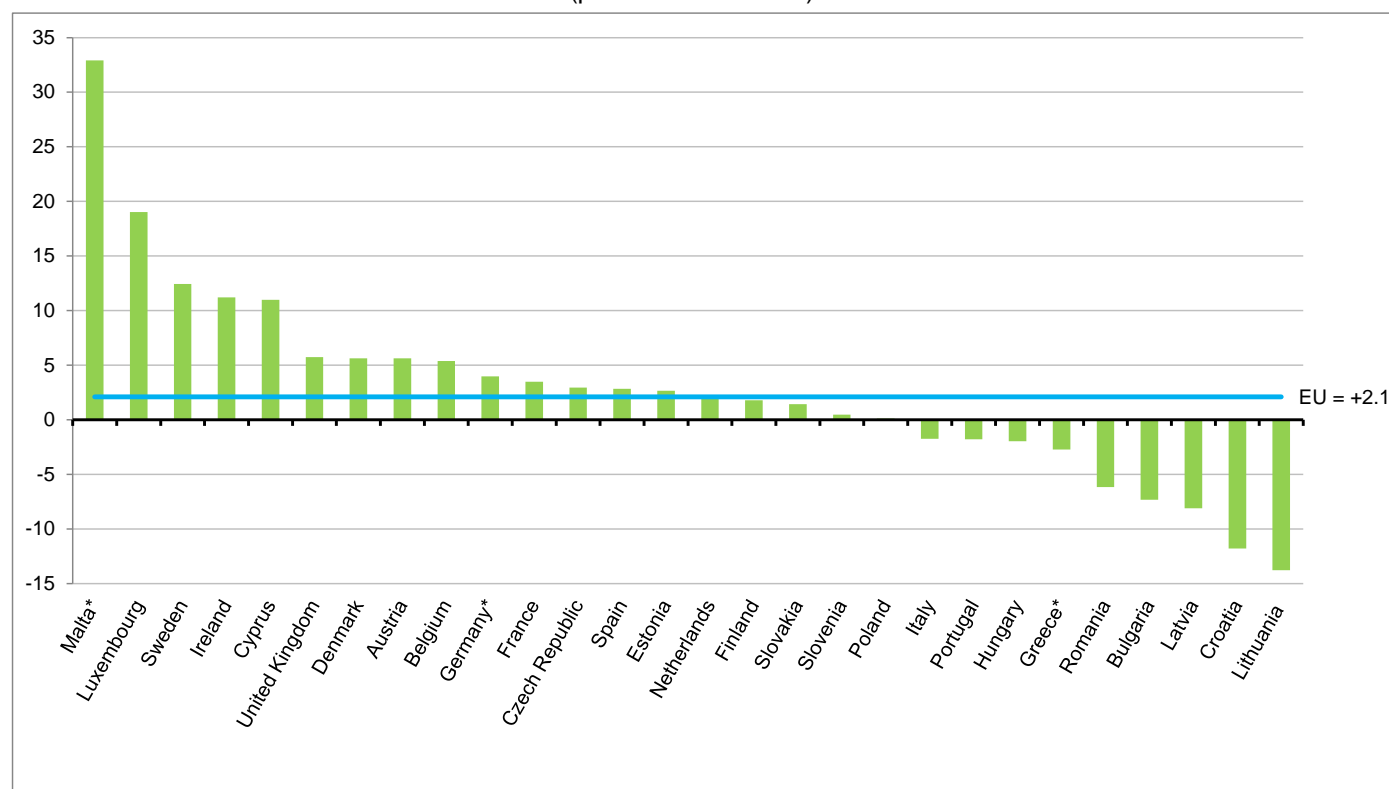
### Increase driven by migration

On 1 January 2018, the population of the **European Union (EU)** was estimated at 512.6 million, compared with 511.5 million on 1 January 2017. During the year 2017, more deaths than births were recorded in the **EU** (5.3 million deaths and 5.1 million births), meaning that the natural change of the EU population was negative. The population change (positive, with 1.1 million more inhabitants) was therefore due to net migration.

With 82.9 million residents (or 16.2% of the total EU population on 1 January 2018), **Germany** is the most populated EU Member State, ahead of **France** (67.2 million, or 13.1%), the **United Kingdom** (66.2 million, or 12.9%), **Italy** (60.5 million, or 11.8%), **Spain** (46.7 million, or 9.1%) and **Poland** (38.0 million, or 7.4%). For the remaining Member States, nine have a share of between 1.5% and 4% 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, 2017**  
(per 1 000 residents)



\* Data are estimated

## Population increase in nineteen Member States

During 2017, the population increased in nineteen EU Member States and decreased in nine. The largest relative increase was observed in **Malta** (+32.9 per 1 000 residents), ahead of **Luxembourg** (+19.0‰), **Sweden** (+12.4‰), **Ireland** (+11.2‰) and **Cyprus** (+11.0‰). In contrast, the largest decrease was recorded in **Lithuania** (-13.8‰), followed by **Croatia** (-11.8‰), **Latvia** (-8.1‰), **Bulgaria** (-7.3‰) and **Romania** (-6.2‰). In total, the population of the **EU** increased by 1.1 million people (+2.1 per 1000 residents) during the year 2017.

### Total population

	Population 1.1.2017 (in 1 000)	Population 1.1.2018 (in 1 000)	Change 2018/2017 (per 1 000)*	Share in EU population, 2018
<b>EU</b>	<b>511 521.7</b>	<b>512 596.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	11 351.7	11 413.1	5.4	2.2%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	7 101.9	7 050.0	-7.3	1.4%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	10 578.8	10 610.1	2.9	2.1%
<b>Denmark</b>	5 748.8	5 781.2	5.6	1.1%
<b>Germany**</b>	82 521.7	82 850.0	4.0	16.2%
<b>Estonia</b>	1 315.6	1 319.1	2.7	0.3%
<b>Ireland</b>	4 784.4	4 838.3	11.2	0.9%
<b>Greece**</b>	10 768.2	10 738.9	-2.7	2.1%
<b>Spain</b>	46 527.0	46 659.3	2.8	9.1%
<b>France</b>	66 989.1	67 221.9	3.5	13.1%
<b>Croatia</b>	4 154.2	4 105.5	-11.8	0.8%
<b>Italy</b>	60 589.4	60 484.0	-1.7	11.8%
<b>Cyprus</b>	854.8	864.2	11.0	0.2%
<b>Latvia</b>	1 950.1	1 934.4	-8.1	0.4%
<b>Lithuania</b>	2 847.9	2 808.9	-13.8	0.5%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	590.7	602.0	19.0	0.1%
<b>Hungary</b>	9 797.6	9 778.4	-2.0	1.9%
<b>Malta**</b>	460.3	475.7	32.9	0.1%
<b>Netherlands</b>	17 081.5	17 118.1	2.1	3.3%
<b>Austria</b>	8 772.9	8 822.3	5.6	1.7%
<b>Poland</b>	37 973.0	37 976.7	0.1	7.4%
<b>Portugal</b>	10 309.6	10 291.0	-1.8	2.0%
<b>Romania</b>	19 644.4	19 523.6	-6.2	3.8%
<b>Slovenia</b>	2 065.9	2 066.9	0.5	0.4%
<b>Slovakia</b>	5 435.3	5 443.1	1.4	1.1%
<b>Finland</b>	5 503.3	5 513.1	1.8	1.1%
<b>Sweden</b>	9 995.2	10 120.2	12.4	2.0%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	65 808.6	66 186.4	5.7	12.9%
<b>Iceland</b>	338.3	348.5	29.4	-
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	37.8	38.1	8.0	-
<b>Norway</b>	5 258.3	5 295.6	7.1	-
<b>Switzerland</b>	8 419.6	8 482.2	7.4	-
<b>Montenegro</b>	622.4	622.4	0.0	-
<b>The former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia</b>	2 073.7	2 075.3	0.8	-
<b>Albania</b>	2 876.6	2 870.3	-2.2	-
<b>Serbia</b>	7 040.3	7 001.4	-5.5	-
<b>Turkey</b>	79 814.9	80 810.5	12.4	-

All data are provisional

- Not applicable

\* Crude rate of population change represents the ratio, expressed per 1 000 residents, of the increase of population during 2017 (difference between the population on 1 January 2018 and the population on 1 January 2017) to the average population in 2017.

\*\* Data are estimated

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

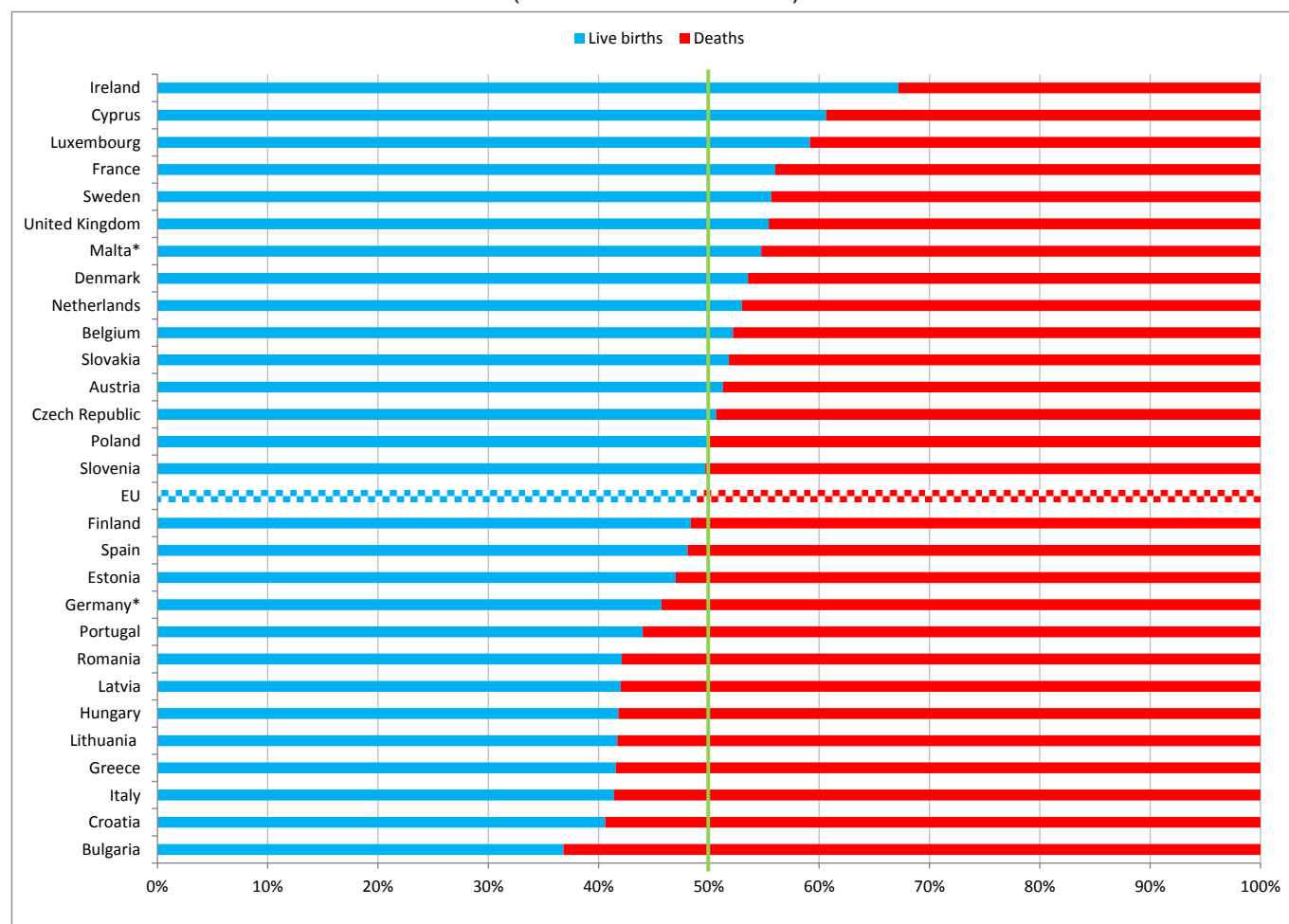
## Highest birth rate in Ireland, lowest in Italy

During the year 2017, 5.1 million babies were born in the **EU**, almost 90 000 less than the previous year. Across Member States, the highest crude birth rates in 2017 were recorded in **Ireland** (12.9 per 1 000 residents), **Sweden** (11.5‰), the **United Kingdom** and **France** (both 11.4‰), while the lowest were registered in Southern Member States: **Italy** (7.6‰), **Greece** (8.2‰), **Portugal** and **Spain** (both 8.4‰), **Croatia** (8.9‰) and **Bulgaria** (9.0‰). At **EU** level, the crude birth rate was 9.9 per 1 000 residents.

In the meantime, 5.3 million deaths were registered in the **EU** in 2017, 134 200 fewer than the previous year. **Ireland** (6.3 per 1 000 residents) and **Cyprus** (7.0‰) as well as **Luxembourg** (7.1‰) had in 2017 the lowest crude death rate, followed by **Malta** (7.6‰), the **Netherlands** (8.8‰), **Spain** and **France** (both 9.0‰). At the opposite end of the scale, **Bulgaria** (15.5‰), **Latvia** (14.8‰), **Lithuania** (14.2‰), **Hungary** (13.5‰), **Romania** (13.3‰) and **Croatia** (12.9‰) recorded the highest. The crude death rate was 10.3 per 1 000 residents in the **EU**.

Consequently, **Ireland** (with a natural change of its population of +6.6‰) remained in 2017 the Member State where births most outnumbered deaths, ahead of **Cyprus** (+3.8‰), **Luxembourg** (+3.2‰), **France** (+2.5‰), **Sweden** (+2.3‰) and the **United Kingdom** (+2.2‰). In contrast, among the fourteen EU Member States which registered a negative natural change in 2017, deaths outnumbered births the most in **Bulgaria** (-6.5‰), followed by **Croatia** and **Latvia** (both -4.1‰), **Lithuania** (-4.0‰), **Hungary** (-3.8‰), **Romania** (-3.6‰), **Greece** (-3.3‰) and **Italy** (-3.2‰).

**Live births and deaths in EU Member States, 2017**  
(as % of total vital events)



\*Data are estimated

## Natural change of population in 2017

	Absolute number in 1 000			Crude rate*		
	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Live births	Deaths	Natural change
<b>EU</b>	<b>5 058.6</b>	<b>5 262.7</b>	<b>-204.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Belgium	119.7	109.7	10.0	10.5	9.6	0.9
Bulgaria	64.0	109.8	-45.8	9.0	15.5	- 6.5
Czech Republic	114.4	111.4	3.0	10.8	10.5	0.3
Denmark	61.4	53.3	8.1	10.6	9.2	1.4
Germany**	785.0	933.0	-148.0	9.5	11.3	- 1.8
Estonia	13.8	15.5	-1.8	10.5	11.8	- 1.3
Ireland	62.1	30.3	31.8	12.9	6.3	6.6
Greece	88.5	124.5	-36.0	8.2	11.6	- 3.3
Spain	390.0	421.3	-31.2	8.4	9.0	- 0.7
France	767.7	603.1	164.6	11.4	9.0	2.5
Croatia	36.6	53.5	-16.9	8.9	12.9	- 4.1
Italy	458.2	649.1	-190.9	7.6	10.7	-3.2
Cyprus	9.2	6.0	3.2	10.7	7.0	3.8
Latvia	20.8	28.8	-7.9	10.7	14.8	- 4.1
Lithuania	28.7	40.1	-11.4	10.1	14.2	- 4.0
Luxembourg	6.2	4.3	1.9	10.4	7.1	3.2
Hungary	94.6	131.9	-37.2	9.7	13.5	- 3.8
Malta**	4.3	3.6	0.7	9.2	7.6	1.6
Netherlands	169.2	150.0	19.2	9.9	8.8	1.1
Austria	87.6	83.3	4.4	10.0	9.5	0.5
Poland	402.0	402.9	-0.9	10.6	10.6	0.0
Portugal	86.2	109.6	-23.4	8.4	10.6	- 2.3
Romania	189.5	260.6	-71.1	9.7	13.3	-3.6
Slovenia	20.2	20.5	-0.3	9.8	9.9	- 0.1
Slovakia	58.0	53.9	4.1	10.7	9.9	0.7
Finland	50.3	53.7	-3.4	9.1	9.8	- 0.6
Sweden	115.4	92.0	23.4	11.5	9.1	2.3
United Kingdom	755.0	607.2	147.9	11.4	9.2	2.2
Iceland	4.1	2.2	1.8	11.9	6.5	5.3
Liechtenstein	0.3	0.2	0.1	8.9	6.6	2.3
Norway	56.6	40.8	15.9	10.7	7.7	3.0
Switzerland	87.4	67.0	20.4	10.3	7.9	2.4
Montenegro	7.4	6.5	0.9	11.9	10.5	1.5
The former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	21.8	20.3	1.4	10.5	9.8	0.7
Albania	30.9	22.2	8.6	10.7	7.7	3.0
Serbia	64.9	103.7	-38.8	9.2	14.8	- 5.5
Turkey	1 291.1	425.8	865.3	16.1	5.3	10.8

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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