

# **EUROSTAT YEARBOOK 2003**

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**Data 1991–2001**



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One way of better understanding our neighbours is simply by comparing them with us. Adding to this understanding is what international statistics are all about: they are a direct and down-to-earth way of comparing how we live and work.

That is why Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, produces this yearbook on Europe and Europeans. It compares significant features of each country of the European Union and of other European countries, as well as of Canada, Japan and the United States of America. As Europe evolves, the yearbook evolves too: we have made a special effort to present data on candidate countries.

Moreover, the yearbook presents the relevant statistics on the situation of the national economies, thus giving a unique means of analysis of economic capacities of the countries that make up the European Union.

For ease of comparison, all statistics in this publication are compiled in the same way, or harmonised by Eurostat, or accepted by Eurostat as offering sensible comparisons.

We invite you to read the Eurostat yearbook, to compare for yourself, and to get to know your European neighbours better.

Eurostat



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On the CD-ROM, the references for further reading are linked electronically to the Internet presentation of the respective publication, or, if the publication can be downloaded free of charge, to the publication itself. The  for the structural indicators is linked to the Internet pages presenting these indicators (see section 'Eurostat's structural indicators').

### The Eurostat yearbook is easy to use

- Introductory texts for each section explain the main features and the relevance of the information presented and give an idea of what other data on the subject Eurostat has on offer.
- A glossary clarifies the statistical terms and concepts used.
- References indicate how to get more Eurostat data and analysis on the subject.

- The abbreviations used are spelled out on the bookmark to the yearbook.

### Data extraction

The statistical data presented in this yearbook were extracted at the end of 2002 and represent the data availability at that time.

### Symbols

- Nil
  - 0 Less than half the final digit shown
  - . Not applicable
  - .. Confidential data. Data not conclusive or withheld owing to non-disclosure practice
  - : Data not available
  - \* Provisional or estimated figures
  - # Rebased, adjusted or recalculated by Eurostat
  - | Break in series, because data on each side of the bar are not fully comparable
- € zone Euro zone. '€ zone', which is not an official symbol, is being used for practical reasons.