

Europe in figures

Eurostat yearbook 2008

>> with CD-ROM <<



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ABSTRACT

Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook 2008 — presents a comprehensive selection of statistical data on Europe. The yearbook may be viewed as an introduction to European statistics and provides guidance to the vast range of data freely available from the Eurostat website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.

Most data cover the period 1996-2006 and some indicators are provided for other countries such as candidate countries to the European Union, members of EFTA, Japan or the USA (subject to availability). With just over 500 statistical tables, graphs and maps, the yearbook treats the following areas: the economy, education, health, living conditions and welfare, the labour market, industry and services, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, international trade, transport, the environment, energy, science and technology and European regions. This edition's spotlight chapter covers Europe's ageing society and associated demographic challenges.

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PREFACE

Official statistics play a fundamental role in today's society. Public administrations, policy makers, economic operators, markets, researchers and citizens rely on high quality statistics to describe developments in the economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres as accurately as possible. Statistical authorities respond to the needs of these users who require easy and timely access to such high quality information.

Impartial and objective statistical information is essential in order to enable well informed decisions based on an accurate and relevant picture of society. Statistical information underpins transparency and openness of policy decisions; official statistics therefore are a public good and a basis for the smooth functioning of democracy.



At European level, statistics are increasingly important for the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies. Europe needs a plethora of statistical data which meet the highest possible standards in terms of quality. For example, reliable statistics are needed to assess macro-economic developments such as inflation, employment, government finances, economic growth and the business cycle in general: in order to facilitate economic policy coordination among Member States; to keep Europe on the path to long-term prosperity, notably through the revised Lisbon strategy and the integrated guidelines on growth and employment; and finally, to reinforce a commitment to solidarity and social justice. European statistics thus constitute an essential information tool that may help monitor European Union strategic objectives, as well as sustaining underlying policies and supporting instruments.

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, ensures the collection, production and dissemination of harmonised statistics at European level. Eurostat gets most of its data from the national statistical authorities in the Member States. It then processes, analyses and publishes that data at a European level, following common statistical concepts, methods and standards. Eurostat also supports and encourages the development of similar statistical systems within countries neighbouring the European Union, driving thereby a process of statistical harmonisation.

I hope this publication will encourage you to use Eurostat's data for your information needs and daily work. Please consult our website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> which offers you free access to nearly all Eurostat data and publications.

Hervé Carré
Director-General, Eurostat

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Carré', positioned below the printed name and title.

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THE EUROSTAT YEARBOOK

Europe in figures – Eurostat yearbook 2008 provides users of official statistics with an overview of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat's website and within its online databases. It belongs to a set of general compendium publications and, of these, it provides the most extensive set of analyses and detailed data. Europe in figures has been conceived as a publication that provides a balanced set of indicators, with a broad cross-section of information.

STRUCTURE OF THE PUBLICATION

Europe in figures is divided into an introduction, 15 main chapters and a set of annexes. The main chapters contain data and/or background information relating to particular topics, starting with a spotlight chapter on demographic change – challenge or opportunity.

Each subchapter starts with an introduction containing background information and policy relevance, followed by some details regarding definitions and data availability and then a commentary on the main findings. The main focus of each subchapter is a set of tables and graphs that have been selected to show the wide variety of data available for that particular topic; often these include information on how important benchmark indicators have developed during recent years within the EU, its Member States and the euro area. Users will find a great deal more information when consulting the Eurostat website, which contains subject-specific publications and online databases – details of this are presented at the end of each section. The annexes at the end of the publication contain a glossary of statistical terms, a list of statistical symbols, abbreviations and acronyms, and a subject index.

CD-ROM AND DEDICATED SECTION ON THE EUROSTAT WEBSITE

The paper version of the yearbook is accompanied by a CD-ROM which contains the full yearbook content in PDF format, as well as all tables and graphs in Excel spreadsheet format. In addition, the Eurostat website offers a specific dedicated section, in relation to the yearbook, which contains the PDF version of the publication as well as PDF files of other compendium publications (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_DS_YEARBOOK/PGE_DS_YEARBOOK_01).

DATA EXTRACTION AND COVERAGE

The statistical data presented in the yearbook were extracted during August 2007 and represent data availability at that time. The accompanying text was drafted during September and October 2007.

Note that, when presenting a time-series, the data are generally presented for the latest 11 years for which information is available. Longer time-series will usually be available when consulting Eurostat's online databases.

The tables and graphs generally show all of the country information that has been collected for each particular indicator. This publication generally presents information for the 27 Member States of the EU (EU-27), the euro area (based on 13

members), as well as the individual Member States. The EU-27 and euro area aggregates are only provided when information for all of the countries is available, or if an estimate has been made for missing information. Any partial totals that are created are systematically footnoted with respect to the missing components of the geographical aggregate in question.

Time-series for geographical aggregates are based on a consistent set of countries for the whole of the time period shown (unless otherwise indicated). In other words, although the EU has only had 25 Member States since the start of 2004 and 27 Member States since the start of 2007, the time-series for EU-27 refer to a sum or an average for all 27 countries for the whole of the period presented, as if all 27 Member States had been part of the EU in earlier periods. In a similar vein, the data for the euro area are consistently presented for all 13 members, despite the later accessions of Greece and Slovenia to the euro area. As such, unless otherwise stated, the data for the euro area covers the 13 Member States that share the euro as a common currency (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Finland) for each reference year. The order of the EU Member States used in the Eurostat yearbook generally follows their order of protocol; in other words, the alphabetical order of the countries' names in their respective native languages; in some graphs the data are ranked according to the values of a particular indicator.

This edition of the yearbook does not take into account the accession of Cyprus or Malta to the euro area at the start of 2008, as data was extracted and analysed in 2007.

When available, information is also presented for the (at time of writing) candidate countries of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, for EFTA countries, as well as for Japan and the United States. In the event that non-member countries did not provide data, then these have been excluded from the tables and graphs in an attempt to save space; however, the full set of 27 Member States is maintained in tables and graphs even when data are not available, with footnotes for those countries for which information is missing. In the event that a reference year is not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to fill tables and graphs with previous reference years (again these exceptions are footnoted).

Eurostat online databases contain a large amount of meta-data that provides information on the status of particular values or series. In order to improve readability, the majority of this meta-data has been omitted when constructing the tables and graphs. Nevertheless, individual data cells that are forecasts, provisional or estimates are shown in an italic font – note that these values are likely to change in the future. Equally, when important breaks in series are present, these have been footnoted appropriately. A colon (:) is used to represent data that is not available, either because the value was not provided by the statistical authority or because the value is confidential. In graphs, missing information is footnoted as being not available. The dash (-) is used to indicate values that are not relevant or not applicable in tables.

THE EUROSTAT DATA CODE

A code (such as 'tps00001') has been inserted as part of the source whenever Eurostat data is presented in this publication. This code allows the reader to easily access the most recent data on the Eurostat website (note that the data on the website is frequently updated and may also be more detailed or be available in a variety of different measurement units). For more details, consult the link entitled 'The Eurostat data code' on the Eurostat homepage.

CHAPTER GUIDES TO WEBSITE DATA

At the end of the introduction to each main chapter of this publication, a coloured box headed 'data in this domain' provides information on the main access points to the relevant website data by detailing the statistical theme of Eurostat as well as relevant subthemes (if applicable). The subchapters of the publication give more detailed listings in additional coloured boxes under the heading 'website data'. Note that these listings only start at the level of subthemes (given in a bold font), as identified in the introductory section to each main chapter. Hence, to find the full path to access the data it is necessary to combine these two sets of information ('data in this domain' and 'website data').

INFORMATION ON EU POLICIES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Eurostat yearbook aims at providing statistical information on the European Union, its Member States and some other countries. It also provides information on related EU policies and activities. Such information does not necessarily reflect the official views of Eurostat or the European Commission. Further information about such policies and activities may be found on the website of the European Commission at <http://ec.europa.eu>.

STATISTICAL SYMBOLS

Statistical data are often accompanied by additional information in form of statistical symbols (also called 'flags') to indicate missing information or some other meta-data. In this yearbook, the use of statistical symbols has been restricted to a minimum. The following symbols are included where necessary:

Italic	Value is a forecast, provisional or an estimate and is therefore likely to change
:	Not available, confidential or unreliable value
–	Not applicable or zero by default
0	Less than half the final digit shown and greater than real zero

Breaks in series are indicated in the footnotes provided with each table and graph.

In the case of the EU Member States, even when data are not available, these countries have been included in tables and graphs systematically (with appropriate footnotes for graphs indicating that data are not available, while in tables use has been made of the colon (:)) to indicate that data are not available). For non-member countries outside of the EU, when data are not available for a particular indicator the country has been removed from the table or graph in question.

EUROSTAT – THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Eurostat is the Statistical Office of the European Communities, situated in Luxembourg. Its task is to provide the European Union (EU) with statistics at a European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions. Eurostat's mission is 'to provide the European Union with a high-quality statistical information service'. To meet this challenge, Eurostat aims:

- to implement a set of standards, methods and organisational structures which allow comparable, reliable and relevant statistics to be produced throughout the Community, in line with the principles of the European statistics code of practice;
- to provide the European institutions and the governments of the Member States with the information needed to implement, monitor and evaluate Community policies;
- to disseminate statistics to the European public and enterprises and to all economic and social agents involved in decision-making, and;
- to facilitate the improvement of the statistical systems of the Member States and support developing countries, as well as the countries moving towards a market economy.

As one of the Directorate-Generals of the European Commission, Eurostat is headed by a Director-General. Under him are seven Directors responsible for different areas of activity (Directorates as of November 2007):

- A. Resources;
- B. Statistical methods and tools; dissemination;
- C. National and European accounts;
- D. Economic and regional statistics;
- E. Agriculture and environment statistics; statistical cooperation;
- F. Social statistics and information society;
- G. Business statistics.

In 2007, Eurostat had around 870 posts; of these some 73 % were civil servants, 8 % were seconded national experts, and 19 % had other types of contract. Eurostat's budget was around EUR 62 million in 2007 (excluding costs of statutory staff) of which EUR 47 million were budgeted for the implementation of the statistical programme. In addition, a budget of EUR 47 million was sub-delegated to Eurostat by other Directorates-General.

Since the early days of the European Communities, there was a realisation that the planning and implementation of Community policies must be based on reliable and comparable statistics. As a result, the European statistical system (ESS) was built-up gradually to provide comparable statistics at an EU level. For this purpose, Eurostat does not work alone. The ESS comprises Eurostat and the statistical offices, ministries, agencies and central banks that collect official statistics in the EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland (you can find the contact details and Internet addresses of all members of the ESS by choosing the link to the 'European Statistical System (ESS)' from the list of activities presented on the right-hand menu of the Eurostat homepage and then selecting the link to 'National Statistical Institutes').

The ESS functions as a network in which Eurostat's role is to lead the way in the harmonisation of statistics in close cooperation with the national statistical authorities. At the heart of the ESS is the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), which brings together the heads of Member States' national statistical offices and is chaired by Eurostat. The SPC discusses joint actions and programmes to be carried out to meet EU information requirements. It agrees a five-year programme, which is implemented by the national authorities and monitored by Eurostat.

INFORMATION FOR A MODERN SOCIETY — IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY

To actively participate in a democratic Europe, public administrations, researchers, trade unions, businesses and political parties, among others, need high-quality, impartial, reliable and comparable statistical data. These actors need to be able to access data without exclusion: in other words, no key information should be withheld from particular citizens, enterprises or public bodies. Rather, each of these should have equal access to the data available. Eurostat and its partners in the ESS provide equal opportunities to access a wide range of comprehensive information on social, economic and environmental developments in Europe, through providing free access to data on the Eurostat website.

Today's information society is characterised by the rapid transfer and sheer scale of data flows. While access to and the transfer of information has grown exponentially, the reliability of information cannot always be guaranteed. Access to reliable and high-quality statistics and Eurostat's obligation for trustworthiness is enshrined in law, as Article 285(2) of the EC Treaty says: 'The production of Community statistics shall conform to impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality; it shall not entail excessive burdens on economic operators'. These are principles upon which Eurostat's day-to-day work is based.

It is easier for people to understand each other if they know about each other's conditions of life and work, and they have information on trends that are developing within society as a whole. Comparisons, however, require comparable statistics that, in turn, demand the use of a common 'statistical language'. This common language has to embrace concepts, methods and definitions, as well as technical standards and infrastructures, often referred to by statisticians as harmonisation. This is Eurostat's *raison d'être* – and sums up what the ESS is all about.

The data that are collected, harmonised and reported upon by Eurostat have been agreed through a well-defined political process at the European level in which the Member States are deeply involved. Most surveys and data collection exercises are based on European regulations or directives that are legally binding.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ACCESSING EUROPEAN STATISTICS

The simplest way of accessing Eurostat's broad range of statistical information is through the Eurostat website (<http://ec.europa.eu>).

Since 1 October 2004 Eurostat has provided users with free access to its Internet databases and all of its publications in PDF format. The website is updated daily and provides direct access to the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU and the Member States. The information published on the website is available in German, English and French. Eurostat is currently working on improvements to the website in terms of functionality and design. Therefore, some information given below might be outdated during the course of the next year.

For full access to all of the services available through the website, it is recommended that users should take a few moments to register from the homepage. Registration is free of charge and allows access to:



- tailor-made e-mail alerts informing you of new publications as soon as they are online;
- access enhanced functionalities of the databases (save queries and make bulk downloads).

The information on the website is structured according to a set of 'themes', which may be accessed from the left-hand menu bar of the homepage, providing access to:

- general and regional statistics;
- economy and finance;
- population and social conditions;
- industry, trade and services;
- agriculture and fisheries;
- external trade;
- transport;
- environment and energy;
- science and technology.


Within each of these themes the user is initially presented with the possibility of accessing information relating to (pre-defined) tables, data(bases), methodology or publications, by means of a series of tabbed pages. Those users who are not able to limit their search by statistical theme can enter the website through a series of tabs in the middle of the homepage which provide access to the full range of tables, data, methodology and publications.

TABLES, GRAPHS AND MAPS

The most important indicators may be found in the form of pre-defined tables, graphs and maps. They can be accessed through the Eurostat data tree or from the homepage for each of the nine statistical themes detailed above. Pre-defined tables are generally presented for a single indicator, with European aggregates and data for the Member States on the y-axis and time on the x-axis (they can be accessed by clicking on ). The data are selected from key EU policy indicators, including short-term economic data, long-term indicators, structural indicators, and sustainable development indicators. The new tables, graphs and maps interface (TGM) allows, in addition to tables, for customisable graphs and maps of the same indicators (the interface can be accessed by clicking on .

Some of the most important indicators that are produced in this format are listed below. Chapter 14 'Linking statistics to European policies' gives more information on these sets of indicators.

Euro-Indicators – this is a collection of the freshest, monthly and quarterly data, used to evaluate the economic situation within the euro area and the EU. Euro-Indicators are updated daily and the publication of key figures is announced as part of Eurostat's release calendar that is available on the Eurostat website (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_RELEASE/PGE_DS_RELEASE).

Structural indicators () – these are used to assess the longer-term progress being made within the EU in the domains of employment, innovation and research, economic reform, social cohesion, and the environment, as well as the general economic background; they are most relevant for political debate with respect to the Lisbon objectives.


Sustainable development indicators — a sustainable development strategy was adopted by the European Council in Gothenburg in June 2001, and renewed in June 2006; it aims to reconcile economic development, social cohesion and protection of the environment. Monitoring progress towards this goal is an essential part of the strategy, while a parallel objective is to inform the general public about progress in attaining the commonly agreed objectives of sustainable development.

DATA

More detailed statistics and larger volumes of data can be downloaded from the Internet databases (also called 'open tables') which allow the user to select the information he/she is interested in through a number of selection screens for each dimension of the data set; the data can be extracted in a variety of formats (text files, HTML, Excel, etc.). Open tables can be accessed through the Eurostat data tree or from the homepage for each of the nine statistical themes detailed above, under the 'Data' heading.

METHODOLOGY

The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) format, established by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1996 to guide members in the provision of their economic data to the public, is a standard already adopted by 57 countries (including almost all of the Member States). The use of the SDDS format within Eurostat was implemented after a decision of the Eurostat Board on 7 January 2004.

Meta-data may be accessed either from the heading 'Methodology' or directly from the data tree, when browsing the database, as an icon () is used to alert users to the availability of additional information.

PUBLICATIONS

Eurostat produces a variety of publications, both for non-experts and specialists. All of these are available on the Eurostat website in PDF format, free of charge. As with the data, the publications are organised under Eurostat's nine statistical themes. There are a variety of different types of publication, ranging from news releases to more in-depth analyses in the form of the statistical books collection. Among the most interesting collections are:

News releases – rapid updates providing information about the release of new key data on the EU;

Statistics in focus and Data in focus – these are relatively short publications which present up-to-date summaries of the main results of statistical surveys, studies and analyses;

Pocketbooks – these handy, pocket-sized publications present main indicators for a particular theme in a concise format;

Statistical books – a collection of comprehensive studies; these publications are usually quite lengthy and provide analyses, tables and graphs for one or more statistical domains;

Methodologies and working papers – intended for specialists who want to consult methodologies, nomenclatures, or specific studies for a particular data set.

All PDF versions of these products are available for consultation and download via the Eurostat website. Alternatively, some Eurostat publications are also printed or made available on CD-ROM or DVD; these can be ordered from the website of the EU bookshop (see <http://bookshop.europa.eu>) or through sales agents in the Member States. The bookshop is managed by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see <http://publications.europa.eu>).

SUPPORT FOR INTERNET USERS

Eurostat and the other members of the European statistical system, have set-up a system of user support centres for Internet users. These exist in nearly all of the Member States, as well as some EFTA countries. In order to offer the best possible and personalised support, requests should always be addressed to the relevant national support centre. The mission of each centre is to provide additional help and guidance to users who are having difficulty in finding the statistical data they require. More information is available on the Eurostat website (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_DS_SUPPORT).

EUROSTAT'S SERVICE FOR JOURNALISTS

Statistics make news and they are essential to many stories, features and in-depth analyses. Printed media, as well as radio and TV, use Eurostat data intensively. Eurostat's press office puts out user-friendly news releases on a key selection of data covering the EU, the euro area, the Member States and their partners. All Eurostat news releases are available free of charge on the Eurostat website at 11 a.m. on the day they are released. Some 182 press releases have been published in the last year, of which the majority were based on monthly or quarterly Euro-Indicators. The press office also coordinates press briefings on important statistical results and events.

Eurostat's media support centre helps professional journalists find data on all kinds of topics. Journalists can contact media support for further information on news releases and other data (tel. (352) 4301-33408; fax (352) 4301-35349; e-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu).