



# 3

## Population

This chapter focuses on Europe's population: it starts with a presentation of the current demographic situation, comparing the population structure in the EU and the rest of the world (Subchapter 3.1), followed by a more detailed description of the picture within the EU itself (Subchapter 3.2). The analysis then moves on to look at the different components that contribute to population change (Subchapter 3.3), in particular, births (Subchapter 3.4), life expectancy and death (Subchapter 3.5), and migratory flows (Subchapter 3.6).

Three factors are at the heart of Europe's ageing society: persistently low fertility rates, high life expectancy, and baby-boom generations that reach higher ages. Together with other factors, such as unemployment and changes in the span of the average working life, the age structure of the population impacts on the numerical balance of the population aged 65 years and over and the population aged between 15 and 64 years old, the latter conventionally considered as the working age population. Future demographic trends are likely to see a continuous increase in the proportion of the EU's population that is aged above the age of 65.

It is likely that the EU will, in the coming decades, face a number of significant challenges, which will need to be taken into account within a variety of different policy areas. In order to address these challenges, the European Commission released a Green Paper in March 2005 (COM(2005) 94) entitled 'Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations'<sup>(1)</sup>, in which it was recognised that young adults are increasingly living with their parents for longer, while parents often have to support dependent elderly people. In a Communication from October 2006 on the demographic future of Europe<sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission emphasised the need for the Member States to promote demographic renewal, linking action to the renewed Lisbon strategy and gender equality policy. These ideas were elaborated in a Communication of May 2007<sup>(3)</sup> on promoting solidarity between the generations.

(1) [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/news/2005/mar/comm2005-94\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2005/mar/comm2005-94_en.pdf).

(2) The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity – COM(2006) 571.

(3) COM(2007) 244 final.



### 3.1 EU population compared with other regions of the world

#### Definitions and data availability

The data in this subchapter is provided by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN) Secretariat – for more information: <http://esa.un.org/unpp>.

Since the 1970s, the UN has been involved in several multi-national survey programmes whose results provide key information about fertility, mortality, maternal and child health. The UN data reflects demographic information produced by other UN agencies or bodies, such as, Economic and Social Commissions, the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Data from other organisations, such as Eurostat, is also consulted and used when elaborating forecasts. **UN population data** is often based on registers or estimates of population on a date close to 1 July (mid-year population), in comparison with Eurostat data that generally reflects the situation as of 1 January in each reference year. Note the data collection made by the UN is only revised every five years, and as such the UN data reported in this edition of the Eurostat yearbook is the same as that found in the last edition.

The preparation of **population estimates and projections** by the UN involves two distinct processes: the incorporation of new and relevant information regarding past demographic dynamics; and the formulation of assumptions about the future paths of fertility, mortality and international migration. In fact, population projections are what-if scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and structure of the population for a specific set of assumptions. Because of the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour and in order to take into account alternative assumptions, projection variants are produced: low; medium; high; constant-fertility; instant-replacement-fertility; constant-mortality; no change (constant-fertility and constant-mortality); and zero-migration. For the purposes of this publication, the medium variant has been selected. Under this variant, total fertility in all countries is assumed to converge towards 1.85 children per woman, although not all countries reach this level during the projection period. Mortality is projected on the basis of models concerning changes in life expectancy. These models produce smaller gains the higher the life expectancy that has already been reached. The selection of a model for each country is based on recent trends in life expectancy by gender.

For countries highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, a model incorporating a slow pace of mortality decline has generally been used to project a certain slowdown in the reduction of general mortality risks not related to HIV/AIDS. Under the normal migration assumption, the future path of international migration is set on the basis of past international migration estimates and consideration of the policy stance of each country with regard to future international migration flows. Projected levels of net migration are generally kept constant over most of the projection period.

### Main findings

In comparison to other regions, the EU's population is growing at a relatively slow pace. Between 1960 and 2005 the world's population more than doubled, rising from 3 032 million inhabitants to 6 515 million, while the corresponding rate of change in the EU-27 was an overall increase of 21.9 % to reach 491 million inhabitants. The fastest expansions in world population during the last 45 years were reported in particular for countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The relative weight of the EU-27's population fell from 13.3 % of the world total in 1960 to 7.5 % by 2005. This trend is projected (medium variant) to continue, such that by 2050, the EU-27 will account for 5.4 % of the world's population. The proportion of the world's population that are Chinese is also expected to decline to

around 15 % by 2050, almost 5 percentage points down on its share of 2005; although the total number of Chinese people is projected to increase by almost 100 million over the period considered. In contrast, population growth in India is more pronounced and the UN projects this pattern will continue, as India is likely to become the most populous nation on the planet before 2050, when its population is expected to be a little over 1 650 million persons.

The world's population growth peaked in the period 1985-1990, when the number of global inhabitants increased, on average, by 87.9 million persons per annum. By 2050, the rate of population growth is expected to have slowed considerably, such that each year will see an additional 33.1 million inhabitants on the planet. The world's population is projected (medium variant), nevertheless, to grow by 41.1 % overall between 2005 and 2050. The fastest growing population among the world's continents is projected to be that of Africa, where the UN foresees the number of inhabitants in 2050 being a little more than twice as high as in 2005. For means of comparison, the UN projects that the populations of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania will rise by between 34 % and 46 % overall between 2005 and 2050.

**Table 3.1:** World population

(million)

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
<b>World</b>	3 032	3 343	3 699	4 076	4 451	4 855	5 295	5 719	6 124	6 515
<b>Europe (1)</b>	605	635	657	676	693	707	721	729	729	731
<b>Africa</b>	282	320	364	416	480	554	637	726	821	922
<b>Asia</b>	1 704	1 899	2 139	2 394	2 636	2 896	3 181	3 452	3 705	3 938
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	220	253	288	325	364	404	444	484	523	558
<b>Northern America</b>	204	219	232	243	256	269	284	300	316	332
<b>Oceania</b>	16	18	20	21	23	25	27	29	31	33
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
<b>EU-27</b>	403	420	435	447	457	464	470	477	483	491
<b>China</b>	657	729	831	928	999	1 067	1 149	1 214	1 270	1 313
<b>India</b>	446	494	549	614	689	771	860	954	1 046	1 134
<b>Japan</b>	94	99	104	112	117	121	124	125	127	128
<b>Russian Federation</b>	120	127	130	134	139	143	149	149	147	144
<b>United States</b>	186	199	210	220	231	243	256	270	285	300

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Table 3.2:** World population

(% share of world regions and some countries in total world population)

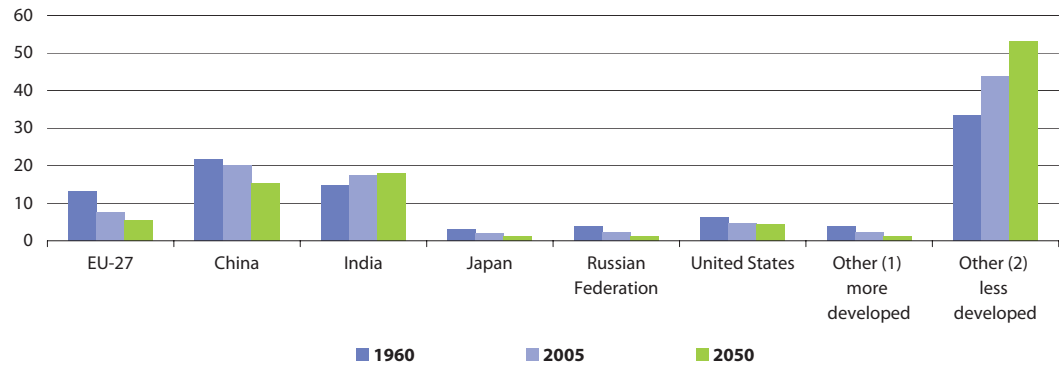
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
<b>Europe (1)</b>	20.0	19.0	17.8	16.6	15.6	14.6	13.6	12.7	11.9	11.2
<b>Africa</b>	9.3	9.6	9.8	10.2	10.8	11.4	12.0	12.7	13.4	14.2
<b>Asia</b>	56.2	56.8	57.8	58.7	59.2	59.7	60.1	60.4	60.5	60.4
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	7.3	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.6
<b>Northern America</b>	6.7	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.1
<b>Oceania</b>	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
<b>EU-27</b>	13.3	12.6	11.8	11.0	10.3	9.5	8.9	8.3	7.9	7.5
<b>China</b>	21.7	21.8	22.5	22.8	22.4	22.0	21.7	21.2	20.7	20.2
<b>India</b>	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.1	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.7	17.1	17.4
<b>Japan</b>	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0
<b>Russian Federation</b>	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.2
<b>United States</b>	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 3.1: World population**

(% of total)



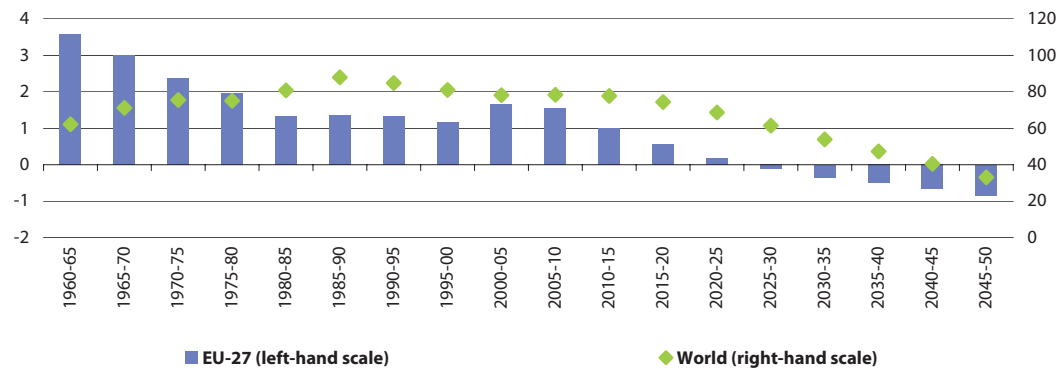
(1) Excluding EU-27, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States.

(2) Excluding China and India.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 3.2: Population change**

(average annual change, million)



Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Table 3.3:** Population and population projections

(million)

	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>World</b>	6 515	6 907	7 295	7 667	8 011	8 318	8 587	8 824	9 026	9 191
<b>Europe (1)</b>	731	730	727	722	715	707	698	687	676	664
<b>Africa</b>	922	1 032	1 149	1 271	1 394	1 518	1 643	1 765	1 884	1 998
<b>Asia</b>	3 938	4 166	4 389	4 596	4 779	4 931	5 052	5 148	5 220	5 266
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	558	594	628	660	688	713	733	750	762	769
<b>Northern America</b>	332	349	364	379	393	405	417	427	436	445
<b>Oceania</b>	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	46	48	49
	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
<b>EU-27</b>	491	498	502	505	506	506	504	501	498	494
<b>China</b>	1 313	1 352	1 389	1 421	1 446	1 458	1 458	1 448	1 431	1 409
<b>India</b>	1 134	1 220	1 303	1 379	1 447	1 506	1 554	1 597	1 632	1 658
<b>Japan</b>	128	128	127	124	122	118	115	111	107	103
<b>Russian Federation</b>	144	140	136	132	128	124	120	116	112	108
<b>United States</b>	300	315	329	343	355	366	376	386	394	402

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

## 3.2 EU-27 population

### Introduction

The data in this subchapter is provided by Eurostat, in contrast to that used in the opening subchapter from the United Nations. There are methodological differences in the projections made by Eurostat and the United Nations that explain the differences in the reported values.

The EU-27's population age structure is the result of many years of high birth rates, followed by low birth rates, accompanied by a steady, gradual increase in life expectancy and migration flows.

Over the last 40 years much of the European labour force has been made-up of members of the baby-boom generations, who have formed a high proportion of the working age population. This demographic characteristic is projected to end during the coming decades, as the baby-boom generation take their retirement. Europe's fertility rates have been in decline since the 1970s, and the number of young people entering the labour market has become progressively smaller. As a result, the proportion of people of working age in the EU-27 is shrinking at the same time as those who are taking their retirement expands.

Old age dependency is likely to result in increased burdens for the working population to provide for the social expenditure that is related to population ageing, in the form of pensions, health-care and institutional or private (health) care. Increasing labour force participation is one factor that helps to reconcile demographic developments and the social expenditure burden, while pension reforms have already been started in several Member States. In addition, policy-makers have also considered ways of

creating more flexible working opportunities that may be of interest to the elderly, or delaying the average age when this cohort exit the labour market.

The ability of the EU as a whole to increase productivity and to make full use of its human resources will play an important role in determining its ability to cope with the socio-economic transformations that are linked to demographic ageing. Much of the care required by the elderly is currently provided by their descendants. However, with an increasing share of older people likely to live away from their families, the need for professional care can be expected to increase. Moreover, the fastest growing age group in Europe will be those aged over 80. As a result, providing social and healthcare, as well as adapted housing, transport/mobility facilities and other public infrastructure for this population group will be a major challenge. The demand for services of this type will not only depend on the absolute number of elderly persons, but also on their future health.

In order to address the demographic challenge of an ageing population, the Stockholm European Council of 2001 agreed that half of the EU population in the 55-64 age group should be in employment by 2010. Employment guidelines and a report by the employment taskforce chaired by Wim Kok urged the adoption of a comprehensive active ageing policy centred on appropriate financial incentives to encourage longer working lives, lifelong learning strategies, and improved quality of work. A Commission Green Paper 'faced with demographic change, a new solidarity between the generations'<sup>(4)</sup> concluded that Europe should pursue three priorities:

(4) COM(2005) 94 final; [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/news/2005/mar/comm2005-94\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2005/mar/comm2005-94_en.pdf).





- modernisation of social protection systems, increasing the rate of female employment and the employment of older workers, innovative measures to support the birth rate and appropriate management of immigration;
- ensuring a balance between the generations, in the sharing of time throughout life, in the distribution of the benefits of growth, and in that of funding needs stemming from pensions and health-related expenditure;
- finding new bridges between the stages of life as young people find it difficult to get into employment; An increasing number of 'young retirees' want to participate in social and economic life; study time is getting longer and young working people want to spend time with their children; these changes alter the frontiers and the bridges between activity and inactivity.

### Definitions and data availability

Eurostat produces a large range of demographic data, including statistics on population, births and deaths, marriages and divorces. A number of important policies, notably in social and economic fields, use population data – such as, fertility rates and life expectancy when planning social policies for retirement schemes, or regional population data for calculating GDP per capita which is used as part of the decision-making criteria for the allocation of structural funds to economically less advantaged regions.

There has, until recently, been no comprehensive legal base for the collection of statistics on migration and international

protection, with Eurostat generally compiling statistics in this area under specific arrangements with the Member States. However, the European Parliament and the Council recently adopted a Regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection<sup>(5)</sup>. This new Regulation specifies the collection of statistics relating to international migration flows, foreign population stocks, acquisition of citizenship, asylum applications and decisions, measures taken against illegal entry and stay, returns of unauthorised migrants, and residence permits issued to third-country citizens. Its focus is to harmonise statistical outputs, based on a set of common definitions relating to immigration, border management, and asylum issues, and on established international standards (in particular, the UN recommendations for migration statistics). The Regulation provides a framework which needs to be completed through the adoption of implementing measures in the form of Commission regulations.

In July 2008, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a regulation on population and housing censuses<sup>(6)</sup>. This regulation will make data from censuses conducted in the EU Member States more comparable. During 2009, the European Commission will put forward implementing measures to complete the framework regulation.

Most European countries evaluate **population** data on the basis of gender and age breakdowns as of 1 January (although some countries adopt another date). Unless otherwise stipulated, the population data presented is based on this date.

(5) Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers (text with EEA relevance); <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:199:0023:01:EN:HTML>.

(6) Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:218:0014:0020:EN:PDF>.

Population figures are generally given in relation to data from the most recent census, adjusted by the components of population change produced since the last census, or alternatively population registers. Note that demographic statistics for the EU-27, euro area and France have a break in series in 1998, as prior to this date information for France was collected on the basis of metropolitan France (in other words excluding the French overseas departments), while from 1998 onwards these are included.

Every three to five years, Eurostat produces **demographic projections**. Those presented here relate to the EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario, national level, which is one of a set of 'what-if' scenarios. To this end, a projection is a conditional statement, whose numerical outcome is the result of explicit assumptions that are extended to the far future. The projections are made using the latest available figures for the population on 1 January, with assumptions made with respect to mortality, fertility and migration by sex and by age. In particular, for the EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario population projections, the assumptions have been developed in a conceptual framework of convergence of demographic values as a result of decreasing socio-economic and cultural differences between the Member States of the EU.

**Age dependency ratios** are important demographic indicators that relate the young and old age population (those generally inactive) to the population of working age. In this publication the following terminology is used:

- **young age dependency ratio:** the population aged up to 14 years related to the population aged between 15 and 64 years;

- **old age dependency ratio:** the population aged 65 years or older related to the population aged between 15 and 64 years;
- **total dependency ratio:** the population aged up to 14 years and aged 65 years or older related to the population aged between 15 and 64 years.

### Main findings

The population of the 27 Member States of the EU grew from 403 million in 1960 to just over 495 million in 2007. Population growth in the EU-27 was strongest at the beginning of this period in the 1960s, when average annual increases were generally over 3 million persons per year, peaking at 4.2 million in 1963. The rate of population change slowed down significantly in the 1970s, and by the 1980s the average increase in population was around one and a quarter million persons each year. This level of population growth continued during much of the next 20 years, although there appears to have been a reversal in the trend observed during the period from 2003 to 2007, as the number of EU-27 inhabitants rose by approximately 2 million a year.

Germany had the largest population among the Member States in 2007, accounting for almost 17 % of the EU-27 total. Together with France, the United Kingdom and Italy, who had similar sized populations, these four countries together comprised almost 54 % of the total population of the EU-27. The twelve Member States that have joined the EU since 2004 had a combined population of 103.3 million persons in 2007, representing a little more than one fifth (almost 21 %) of the EU-27's total population.



In a majority of European countries, populations continued to grow through to 2007, although the situation varied between Member States. Most of the overall population growth in the EU-27 in the last decade may be attributed to an increased number of inhabitants in Ireland, Spain, France, Italy and the United Kingdom; in relative terms, Ireland, Spain and Cyprus recorded the highest population growth rates.

According to the latest population projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario), Eurostat projects that the EU-27's population will rise to a high of 521 million persons in 2035, thereafter falling to about 506 million inhabitants by 2060. The changes expected in population levels within the EU-27 by 2060 will not be distributed equally across the Member States. At one end of the projections, the populations of Cyprus, Ireland and Luxembourg are projected to grow by over 50 % from 2008 to 2060, while the populations of Belgium, Spain, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom are projected to grow by between 15 % and 25 % by 2060. In contrast, the populations of Poland, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and Germany are projected to have shrunk by between 10 % and 20 % by 2060, with even stronger declines of between 20 % and 30 % in Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania.

The EU-27's population has aged in the decade through until 2007. Those aged less than 15 years accounted for 15.8 % of the EU-27's population in 2007, although this rate varied considerably among the Member States, from lows of 13.4 % in

Bulgaria and 13.9 % in Germany to a high of 20.3 % in Ireland. In contrast, the proportion of the EU-27 population aged more than 64 years grew to 16.9 % in 2007, the share rising to almost 20 % in Italy and Germany.

A little more than two thirds (67.2 %) of the EU-27's population were of working age (15 to 64 years old) in 2007. In a series of population pyramids, projections through until 2050 suggest, however, that this relatively large proportion of the population may shrink gradually to about 57 % of the total. This narrower working base will need to support a growing population of persons aged over 65 years or more (nearly 29 % of the population). The importance of the very old (80 years or more) will be considerable by 2060, when this age group is likely to account for 12.0 % of the EU-27's population, swelled by numbers from the so-called baby-boom generation.

These EU developments should also be viewed in a global context and over the longer-term.

Europe reported the lowest share of young persons (15.9 %) and the highest share of old persons (also 15.9 %) across any of the continents in 2005. For means of comparison, the overall share of young persons in the world population was 28.3 % in 2005, while older generations accounted for 7.3 % of the global population. Young age dependency ratios in Europe declined over the period 1960 to 2005 from 41.4 % to 23.3 %. Europe recorded the largest increase across the continents in relation to the old age dependency ratio during the period 1960 to 2005. The European old

age dependency ratio rose from 13.7 % to 23.3 %, which was almost three times the pace of the next highest increase which was recorded in Oceania, where old age dependency increased from 12.2 % to 15.8 %. Combining these two sets of indicators, the total dependency ratio in 2005 ranged from 46.6 % in Europe to a high of 81.2 % in Africa, where the vast majority of dependents are children. The

fall in young age dependency in Europe was largely counterbalanced by an increase in old age dependency, resulting in a relatively small net change in total dependency in comparison to the most other continents. Nevertheless, this has necessitated a switch in social expenditure to more healthcare and pensions for the elderly.

**Table 3.4:** Total population and population projections (1)

(at 1 January, million)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
<b>EU-27 (2)</b>	402.6	435.5	457.1	470.4	482.8	495.1	499.4	513.8	519.9	520.1	515.3	505.7
<b>Euro area (2)</b>	:	274.1	287.6	295.6	307.3	319.6	322.9	334.1	339.1	340.4	337.3	330.6
<b>Belgium</b>	9.1	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.2	10.6	10.8	11.3	11.7	12.0	12.2	12.3
<b>Bulgaria</b>	7.8	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.5
<b>Czech Republic</b>	9.6	9.9	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.2	9.9	9.5
<b>Denmark</b>	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9
<b>Germany</b>	72.5	78.3	78.2	79.1	82.2	82.3	82.1	81.5	80.2	77.8	74.5	70.8
<b>Estonia</b>	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
<b>Ireland</b>	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.6	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.8
<b>Greece</b>	8.3	8.8	9.6	10.1	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.1
<b>Spain</b>	30.3	33.6	37.2	38.8	40.0	44.5	46.7	51.1	52.7	53.3	53.2	51.9
<b>France (3)</b>	45.5	50.5	53.7	56.6	58.8	61.5	62.6	65.6	68.0	69.9	71.0	71.8
<b>Italy</b>	50.0	53.7	56.4	56.7	56.9	59.1	60.0	61.4	61.9	62.0	61.2	59.4
<b>Cyprus</b>	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3
<b>Latvia</b>	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7
<b>Lithuania</b>	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5
<b>Luxembourg</b>	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
<b>Hungary</b>	10.0	10.3	10.7	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.4	9.1	8.7
<b>Malta</b>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<b>Netherlands</b>	11.4	13.0	14.1	14.9	15.9	16.4	16.5	16.9	17.2	17.2	16.9	16.6
<b>Austria</b>	7.0	7.5	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.7	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.0
<b>Poland</b>	29.5	32.7	35.4	38.0	38.7	38.1	38.1	38.0	37.0	35.2	33.3	31.1
<b>Portugal</b>	8.8	8.7	9.7	10.0	10.2	10.6	10.7	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.4	11.3
<b>Romania</b>	18.3	20.1	22.1	23.2	22.5	21.6	21.3	20.8	20.0	19.2	18.1	16.9
<b>Slovenia</b>	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8
<b>Slovakia</b>	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.5
<b>Finland</b>	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4
<b>Sweden</b>	7.5	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.9	9.1	9.3	9.9	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.9
<b>United Kingdom</b>	52.2	55.5	56.3	57.2	58.8	60.9	62.0	65.7	69.2	72.0	74.5	76.7
<b>Croatia</b>	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Turkey</b>	27.1	34.9	44.0	55.5	66.9	69.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Norway</b>	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.0
<b>Switzerland</b>	5.3	6.2	6.3	6.7	7.2	7.5	7.7	8.2	8.6	8.9	9.1	9.2

(1) From 2010 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

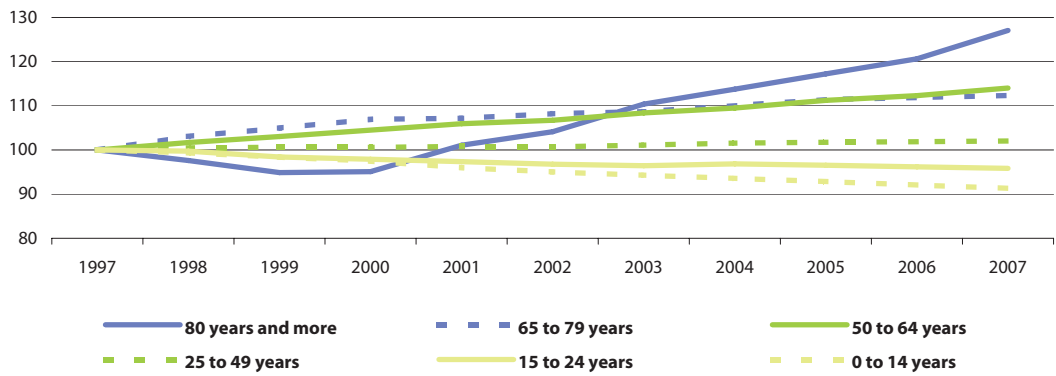
(2) Break in series, 1998.

(3) Metropolitan France, excluding the four overseas departments (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion).

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan and proj\_08c2150p)

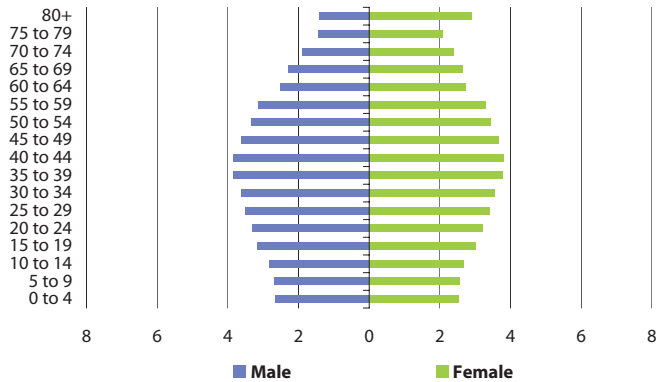


**Figure 3.3:** Population by age class, EU-27  
(1997=100)



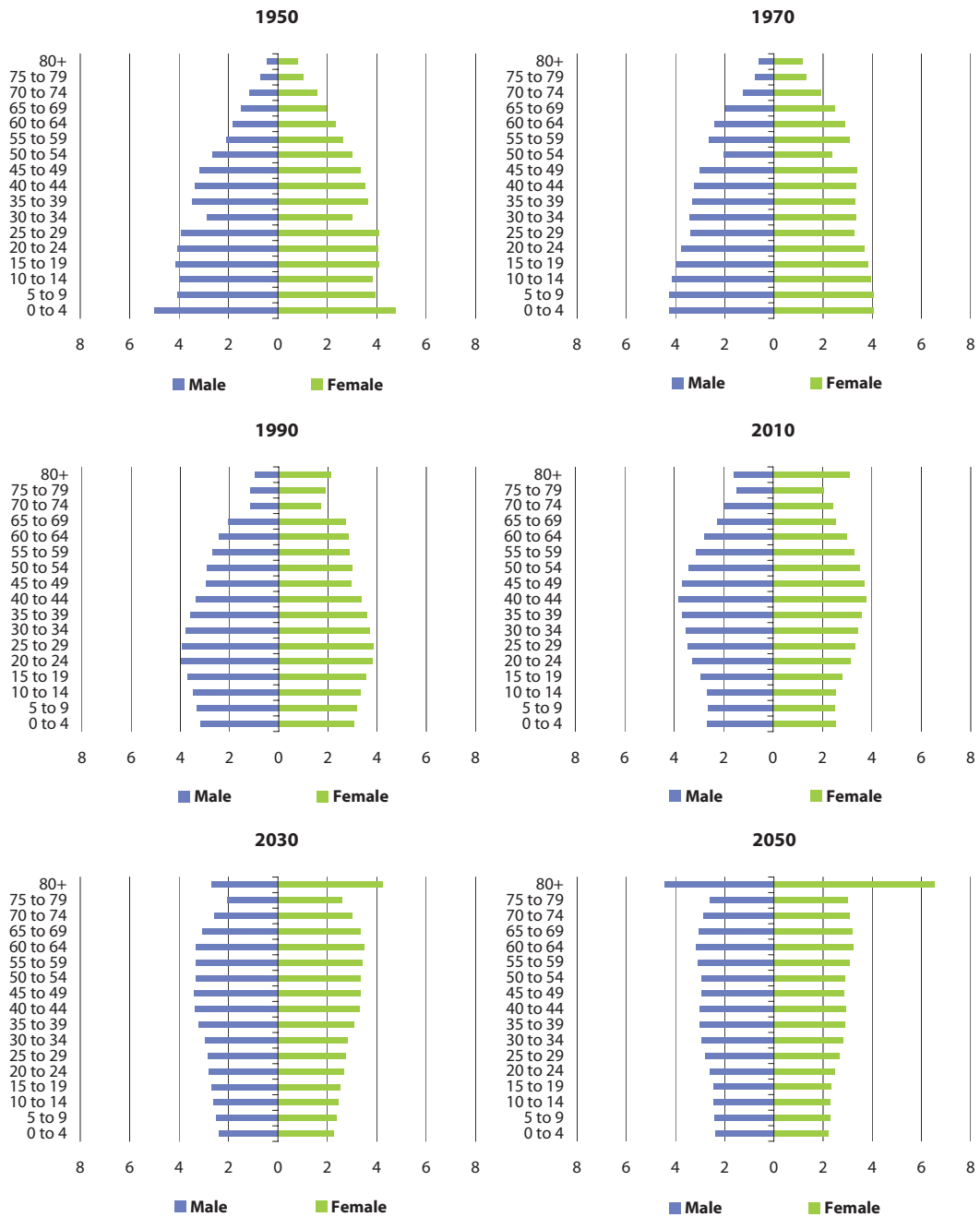
Source: Eurostat (tps00010)

**Figure 3.4:** Age pyramid, EU-27, 2007  
(% of total population)



Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan)

**Figure 3.5: Moving age pyramids, EU-27 (1)**  
(% of total population)



(1) Limited data availability for 1950 and 1970, based on those Member States for which data are available; from 2010 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan and proj\_08c2150p)

**Table 3.5:** Population by age class, 2007 (1)

(% of total population)

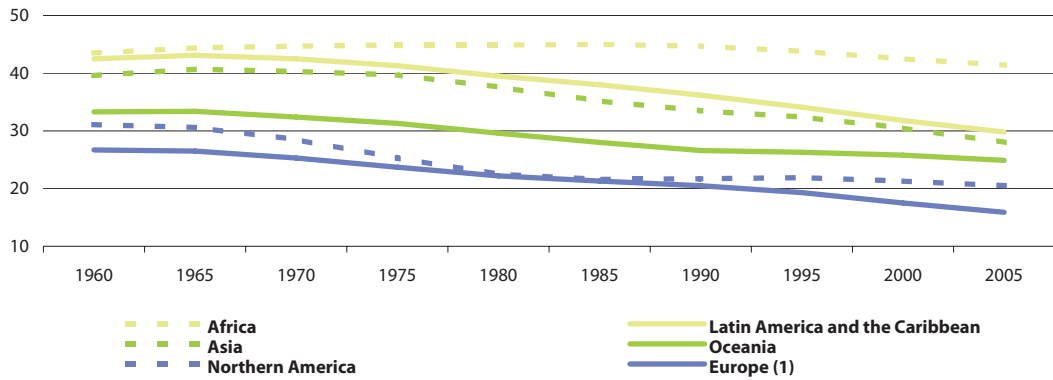
	<b>0 to 14 years</b>	<b>15 to 24 years</b>	<b>25 to 49 years</b>	<b>50 to 64 years</b>	<b>65 to 79 years</b>	<b>80 years and more</b>
<b>EU-27</b>	15.8	12.6	36.3	18.3	12.6	4.3
<b>Euro area</b>	15.6	11.9	36.8	18.0	13.2	4.5
<b>Belgium</b>	17.0	12.1	35.4	18.5	12.5	4.6
<b>Bulgaria</b>	13.4	13.3	35.6	20.4	13.8	3.5
<b>Czech Republic</b>	14.4	13.1	36.9	21.2	11.1	3.3
<b>Denmark</b>	18.6	11.4	34.7	20.0	11.2	4.1
<b>Germany</b>	13.9	11.7	36.3	18.4	15.2	4.6
<b>Estonia</b>	14.9	15.4	34.7	17.9	13.6	3.5
<b>Ireland</b>	20.3	14.8	38.3	15.5	8.4	2.7
<b>Greece</b>	14.3	11.6	37.6	18.0	14.7	3.9
<b>Spain</b>	14.5	11.5	40.5	16.8	12.1	4.5
<b>France</b>	18.6	12.8	34.2	18.2	11.4	4.8
<b>Italy</b>	14.1	10.2	37.3	18.4	14.6	5.3
<b>Cyprus</b>	17.9	15.5	37.3	16.9	9.5	2.8
<b>Latvia</b>	14.0	15.7	35.6	17.6	13.7	3.4
<b>Lithuania</b>	15.9	15.7	36.2	16.6	12.5	3.1
<b>Luxembourg</b>	18.3	11.8	38.8	17.1	10.7	3.3
<b>Hungary</b>	15.2	12.8	35.7	20.4	12.3	3.6
<b>Malta</b>	16.7	14.2	34.6	20.6	10.8	3.0
<b>Netherlands</b>	18.1	12.0	36.1	19.4	10.8	3.7
<b>Austria</b>	15.6	12.3	37.6	17.6	12.4	4.5
<b>Poland</b>	15.8	15.9	36.0	18.9	10.6	2.9
<b>Portugal</b>	15.5	11.9	37.4	18.0	13.2	4.1
<b>Romania</b>	15.4	14.9	37.0	17.8	12.2	2.7
<b>Slovenia</b>	14.0	12.7	37.8	19.6	12.5	3.4
<b>Slovakia</b>	16.1	15.6	38.0	18.4	9.3	2.5
<b>Finland</b>	17.1	12.5	32.9	21.1	12.3	4.2
<b>Sweden</b>	17.0	12.7	33.2	19.7	12.0	5.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	17.6	13.4	35.1	17.9	11.5	4.5
<b>Croatia</b>	15.6	12.9	35.2	19.2	14.0	3.1
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	18.9	16.0	36.9	17.0	9.6	1.6
<b>Turkey</b>	27.9	17.4	37.5	11.1	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	21.8	14.6	36.0	15.9	8.6	3.1
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	17.1	12.3	39.0	19.7	8.9	3.0
<b>Norway</b>	19.4	12.5	35.0	18.5	10.0	4.7
<b>Switzerland</b>	15.8	11.9	37.2	18.9	11.6	4.6

(1) Euro area and Iceland, 2006.

Source: Eurostat (tps00010)

**Figure 3.6:** Proportion of the population aged under 15

(% of total population)

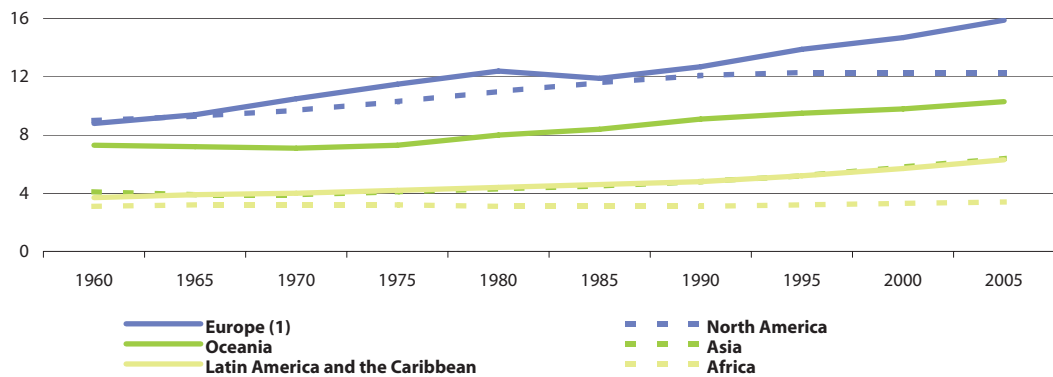


(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 3.7:** Proportion of the population aged 65 and over

(% of total population)



(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs



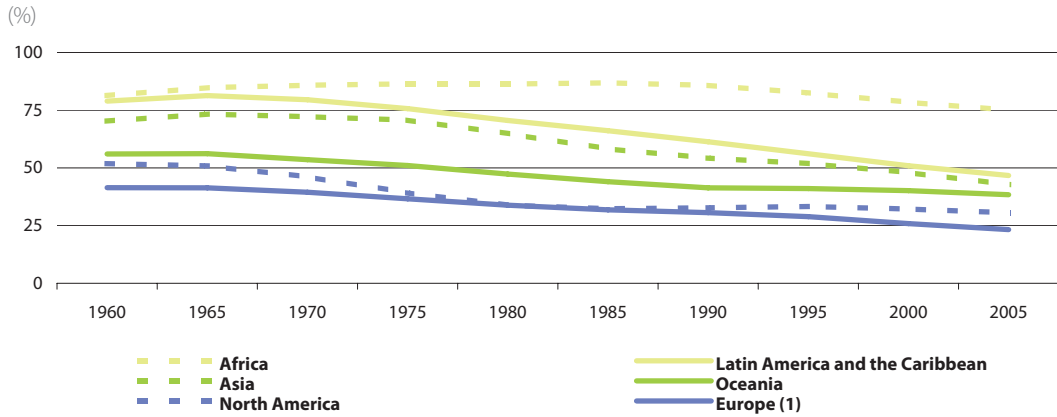
**Table 3.6:** Age related dependency ratios

(%)

	Young age dependency ratio						Old age dependency ratio					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	:	:	:	29.2	25.7	23.5	:	:	:	20.6	23.2	25.2
<b>Euro area (1)</b>	:	:	:	27.0	24.4	23.4	:	:	:	21.0	24.2	26.5
<b>Belgium</b>	36.2	37.5	31.0	27.0	26.9	25.8	18.5	21.2	21.9	22.1	25.5	25.9
<b>Bulgaria</b>	39.4	33.9	33.5	30.9	23.4	19.4	11.2	14.0	17.8	19.5	23.8	24.9
<b>Czech Republic</b>	39.5	32.0	37.0	33.0	23.9	20.2	14.6	17.9	21.6	19.0	19.8	20.2
<b>Denmark</b>	39.8	36.4	32.7	25.5	27.6	28.2	16.4	18.9	22.2	23.2	22.2	23.2
<b>Germany</b>	31.1	36.8	28.6	23.1	23.1	21.0	17.0	21.4	23.9	21.6	23.9	29.9
<b>Estonia</b>	:	33.3	32.8	33.7	27.3	21.9	:	17.7	19.0	17.5	22.4	25.1
<b>Ireland</b>	53.2	54.2	51.8	44.7	32.8	29.7	19.2	19.3	18.2	18.6	16.8	16.2
<b>Greece</b>	37.6	37.5	36.2	29.3	22.9	21.3	14.2	17.2	20.6	20.4	24.2	27.6
<b>Spain</b>	42.6	44.2	41.2	30.5	21.8	21.1	12.7	15.2	17.1	20.2	24.5	24.2
<b>France</b>	42.2	40.0	35.4	30.5	29.0	28.1	18.7	20.6	22.1	21.1	24.6	25.2
<b>Italy</b>	37.4	38.1	35.1	24.5	21.2	21.3	14.0	16.7	20.3	21.5	26.8	30.2
<b>Cyprus</b>	:	:	:	41.2	34.5	25.7	:	:	:	17.2	17.0	17.6
<b>Latvia</b>	:	32.8	30.7	32.1	26.7	20.2	:	18.0	19.6	17.7	22.1	24.8
<b>Lithuania</b>	:	43.2	36.2	33.9	30.6	23.2	:	15.9	17.4	16.2	20.8	22.7
<b>Luxembourg</b>	31.5	33.8	28.1	24.9	28.3	27.1	15.9	19.1	20.3	19.3	21.4	20.7
<b>Hungary</b>	38.7	31.3	33.8	31.0	24.8	22.1	13.6	17.0	20.9	20.0	22.0	23.2
<b>Malta</b>	:	:	36.1	35.8	30.2	24.0	:	:	12.5	15.7	17.9	19.8
<b>Netherlands</b>	49.1	43.8	34.3	26.4	27.4	26.8	14.6	16.2	17.4	18.6	20.0	21.5
<b>Austria</b>	33.0	39.5	32.4	26.0	25.4	23.1	18.4	22.7	24.3	22.1	22.9	25.0
<b>Poland</b>	54.5	42.0	36.8	39.0	28.6	22.3	9.5	12.6	15.5	15.4	17.6	19.0
<b>Portugal</b>	46.8	46.8	41.6	31.6	24.0	23.0	12.4	14.9	17.8	20.0	23.7	25.6
<b>Romania</b>	:	39.8	42.1	36.0	27.7	22.1	:	13.0	16.3	15.6	19.7	21.3
<b>Slovenia</b>	:	37.7	34.6	30.6	23.0	19.9	:	14.8	16.4	15.5	19.8	22.7
<b>Slovakia</b>	51.1	43.4	41.2	39.6	28.8	22.4	11.1	14.4	16.7	16.0	16.6	16.5
<b>Finland</b>	49.4	37.7	30.2	28.7	27.2	25.7	11.6	13.6	17.6	19.8	22.2	24.8
<b>Sweden</b>	34.5	31.8	30.9	27.7	28.8	25.9	17.8	20.7	25.3	27.7	26.9	26.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	35.9	38.2	33.2	29.0	29.4	26.5	18.0	20.5	23.3	24.1	24.3	24.1
<b>Croatia</b>	:	:	:	29.0	24.4	23.2	:	:	:	17.0	24.4	25.4
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	:	:	:	:	33.3	27.1	:	:	:	:	14.6	16.0
<b>Turkey</b>	74.7	77.7	69.7	57.6	46.6	42.2	6.4	8.2	8.4	7.1	8.3	10.1
<b>Iceland (1)</b>	60.9	56.4	44.3	38.8	35.8	32.8	14.0	15.0	15.7	16.4	17.8	17.6
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	44.7	43.5	33.1	27.4	26.3	24.0	12.3	12.3	12.9	14.2	14.8	16.8
<b>Norway</b>	41.3	39.1	35.5	29.2	30.8	29.3	17.3	20.4	23.3	25.2	23.5	22.2
<b>Switzerland</b>	36.8	36.5	30.2	24.9	25.9	23.1	15.5	17.3	20.9	21.3	22.7	23.8

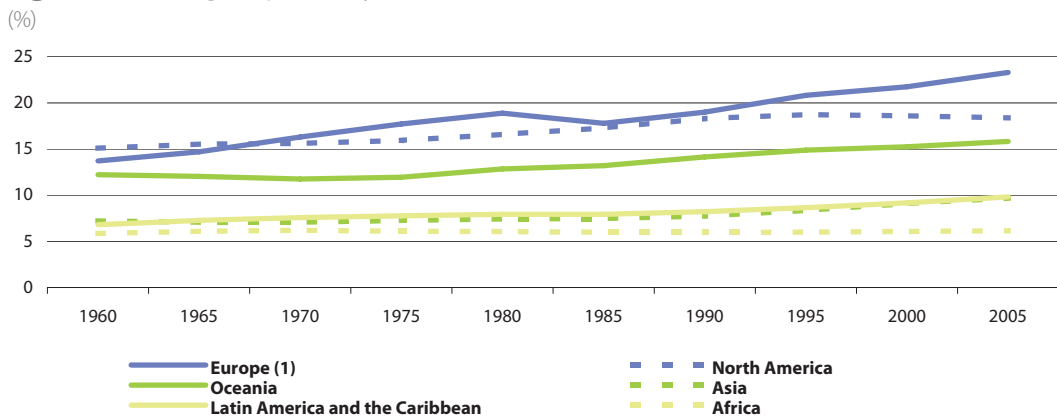
(1) 2006 instead of 2007.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjanind)

**Figure 3.8: Young age dependency ratio**

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

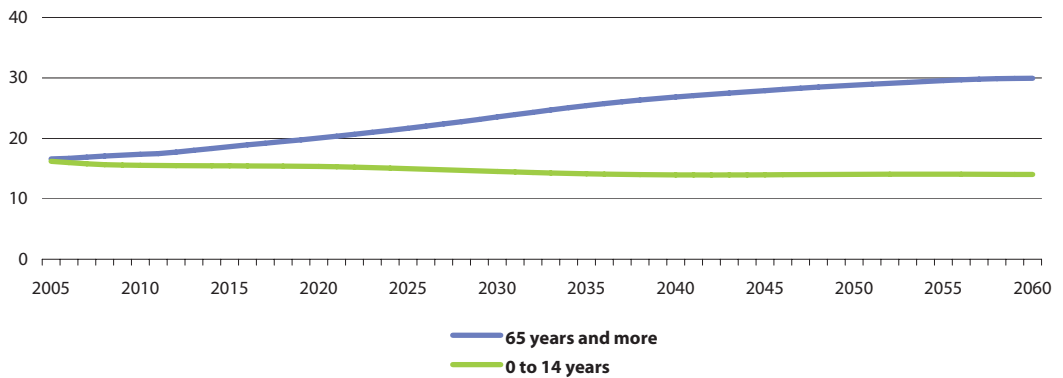
**Figure 3.9: Old age dependency ratio**

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs



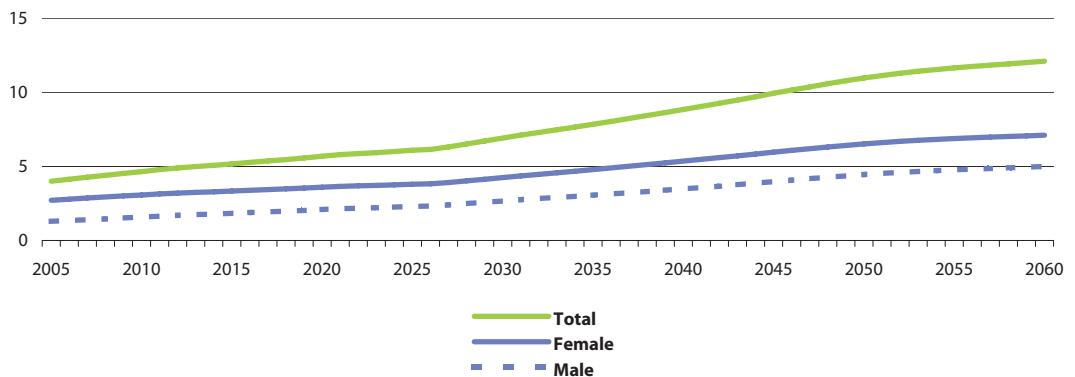
**Figure 3.10:** Proportion of the population aged 0-14 and 65 years and more, EU-27 (1)  
(% of total population)



(1) From 2008 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat (tps00010 and proj\_08c2150p)

**Figure 3.11:** Proportion of the population aged 80 years and more, EU-27 (1)  
(% of total population)



(1) From 2008 onwards the data refer to projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat (demo\_pjan and proj\_08c2150p)

### 3.3 Components of population change

#### Introduction

This subchapter focuses on population change, which is made up of two distinct aspects: namely, natural population change and net migration. Natural population change is the difference between live births and deaths, or put in general terms, fertility and mortality. Births are covered in more detail within the next subchapter, while life expectancy and deaths are treated in Subchapter 3.5, and migration in Subchapter 3.6.

There are many countries within the EU-27 that currently report a higher number of deaths than births. In some of these, the negative evolution of natural population change is (at least) partly offset by positive net migration; this is a pattern that exists in western Germany, northern Italy, Slovenia or southern Sweden. The opposite pattern is much rarer, as there are only a handful of cases in the EU where positive natural change (more births than deaths) has been compensated by negative net migration; one example is northern Poland.

When the two components of population change do not compensate, but rather add to each other, they can lead to more significant swings in overall population change. In recent years this has been the case in Ireland and Denmark, most of the Benelux and France, as well as more specific regions in southern and eastern Spain, where natural population increases have been accompanied by positive net migration. In contrast, some regions in eastern Germany, north western Spain, southern Italy, the Baltic States, as well

as the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have witnessed both components of population change moving in a negative direction; it is in these areas of the EU where the largest declines in population have been recorded in the last decade. Often, their population is expected to continue falling in the coming years. More details concerning regional population density and the evolution of population change across EU regions can be found in Chapter 15, more specifically in Maps 15.3 and 15.4.

#### Definitions and data availability

**Population change** is defined as the difference between the size of the population at the end and the beginning of a period. It is equal to the algebraic sum of natural increase and net migration including corrections (see below for more details). There is negative change when both of these components are negative or when one is negative and has a higher absolute value than the other.

**Natural population increase** is defined as the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths during the year. The natural increase is negative (in other words, a natural decrease) when the number of deaths exceeds the number of live births.

**Net migration** is defined as the difference between immigration into and emigration from the area considered during the reference year (net migration is therefore negative when the number of emigrants exceeds the number of immigrants). Since most countries either do not have



accurate figures on immigration and emigration, or have no figures at all, net migration is generally estimated on the basis of the difference between population change and natural increase between two dates (in Eurostat's database, this concept is generally referred to as corrected net migration).

### Main findings

During the ten years through until 2007, net migration was the main driver of population change in the EU-27. Population growth across the EU-27 of 2.4 million persons in 2007 comprised a positive net migration of 1.9 million persons and a natural population increase of 0.5 million persons.

The patterns of population change vary considerably across the Member States. In some Member States, there were steady declines in the natural population between 1997 and 2007 (and indeed longer in some cases); in Germany the decline was almost 1.2 million persons, and in Bulgaria, Latvia and Romania closer to 0.5 million. In contrast, there were relatively high natural increases in Ireland, Spain, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Negative net migration (including corrections) is relatively rare among the Member States. Over the period 2002 to 2007, only six countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania) reported negative net migration. High negative values of net migration in Romania, Poland and Bulgaria, as well as in the Czech Republic and Slovakia at the beginning of the decade reflect differences between populations estimated before the last population census compared with census results. The highest positive values of net migration over the period 2002 to 2007 were recorded in Spain and Italy, followed by the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

As many European countries are currently at a point in the demographic cycle where natural population change is close to being balanced or negative, the relative importance of migration increases. However, as Europe's population ages, natural population change might become once again the principal component of population change – however, it will then be negative.

**Table 3.7:** Natural population change

(1 000)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27 (1)</b>	223.7	168.8	162.3	296.4	231.8	152.1	104.0	391.9	292.0	475.9	483.8
<b>Euro area (1)</b>	267.9	227.0	251.5	347.8	319.7	275.2	205.4	401.3	291.0	405.4	378.5
<b>Belgium</b>	12.4	9.7	9.3	10.0	10.7	5.6	5.1	13.7	14.7	19.8	20.0
<b>Bulgaria</b>	-57.7	-52.8	-39.5	-41.4	-44.2	-46.1	-44.6	-40.2	-42.3	-39.5	-37.7
<b>Czech Republic</b>	-22.1	-19.0	-20.3	-18.1	-17.0	-15.5	-17.6	-9.5	-5.7	1.4	10.0
<b>Denmark</b>	7.8	7.7	7.1	9.1	7.1	5.5	7.1	8.8	9.3	9.5	8.5
<b>Germany</b>	-48.2	-67.3	-75.6	-71.8	-94.1	-122.4	-147.2	-112.6	-144.4	-148.9	-140.9
<b>Estonia</b>	-6.0	-7.3	-6.0	-5.3	-5.9	-5.4	-5.1	-3.7	-3.0	-2.4	-1.6
<b>Ireland</b>	21.2	22.4	21.3	23.4	27.6	31.1	32.7	33.8	33.6	36.8	42.9
<b>Greece</b>	2.3	-1.8	-2.7	-2.0	-0.3	-0.3	-1.1	0.7	2.5	6.6	2.3
<b>Spain</b>	19.5	4.7	9.0	37.2	46.2	50.2	57.1	82.7	79.0	111.5	106.7
<b>France</b>	:	225.1	229.2	267.5	262.9	248.3	231.3	280.7	269.6	303.3	290.0
<b>Italy</b>	-22.4	-51.0	-20.5	-12.4	-16.8	-17.5	-44.8	17.5	-34.9	2.1	-7.5
<b>Cyprus</b>	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.6	3.1
<b>Latvia</b>	-14.7	-15.8	-13.4	-12.0	-13.3	-12.5	-11.4	-11.7	-11.3	-10.8	-9.8
<b>Lithuania</b>	-3.3	-3.7	-3.6	-4.8	-8.9	-11.1	-10.4	-10.9	-13.3	-13.5	-13.3
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6
<b>Hungary</b>	-39.1	-43.6	-48.6	-38.0	-35.1	-36.0	-41.2	-37.4	-38.2	-31.7	-35.2
<b>Malta</b>	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
<b>Netherlands</b>	56.7	61.9	60.0	66.1	62.2	59.7	58.4	57.5	51.5	49.7	47.9
<b>Austria</b>	4.6	2.9	-0.1	1.5	0.7	2.3	-0.3	4.7	3.0	3.6	1.6
<b>Poland</b>	32.4	20.3	0.6	10.3	5.0	-5.7	-14.2	-7.4	-3.9	4.6	10.6
<b>Portugal</b>	8.3	7.3	8.1	14.6	7.7	8.1	3.7	7.3	1.9	3.5	-1.0
<b>Romania</b>	-42.4	-31.9	-30.6	-21.3	-39.2	-59.1	-54.1	-42.6	-41.1	-38.6	-37.2
<b>Slovenia</b>	-0.8	-1.2	-1.4	-0.4	-1.0	-1.2	-2.1	-0.6	-0.7	0.8	1.4
<b>Slovakia</b>	7.0	4.4	3.8	2.4	-0.8	-0.7	-0.5	1.9	1.0	0.6	0.6
<b>Finland</b>	10.2	7.8	8.2	7.4	7.6	6.1	7.6	10.2	9.8	10.8	9.7
<b>Sweden</b>	-2.8	-4.2	-6.6	-3.0	-2.3	0.8	6.2	10.4	9.6	14.7	15.7
<b>United Kingdom</b>	96.9	87.7	67.9	70.7	66.9	62.6	84.4	132.9	139.9	176.3	194.7
<b>Croatia</b>	3.5	-5.2	-6.8	-6.5	-8.6	-10.5	-12.9	-9.4	-9.3	-8.9	-11.7
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	12.9	12.4	10.5	12.1	10.1	9.8	9.0	5.4	4.1	4.0	3.1
<b>Turkey</b>	1 056.0	1 046.0	1 024.0	948.0	940.0	933.0	925.0	917.0	911.0	906.0	897.0
<b>Iceland</b>	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
<b>Norway</b>	15.2	14.2	14.1	15.2	12.7	11.0	14.0	15.8	15.5	17.3	16.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	17.7	16.4	15.9	15.9	11.1	10.6	8.8	12.9	11.8	13.1	13.4

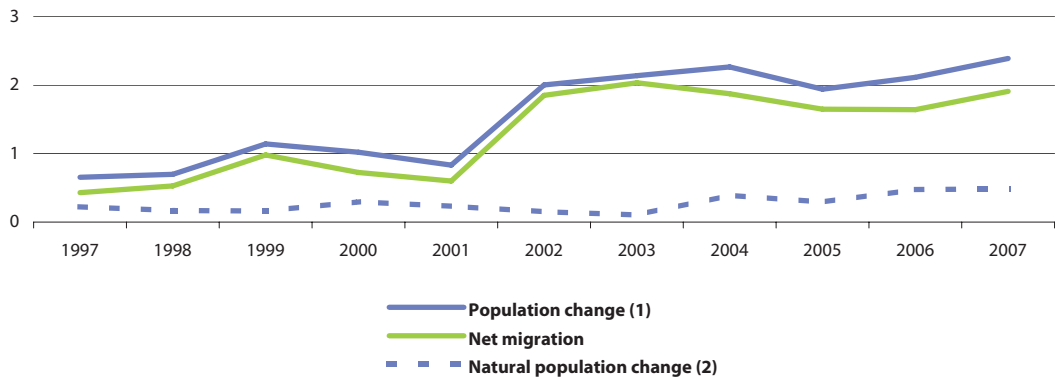
(1) Break in series, 1998.

Source: Eurostat (tps00007)



**Figure 3.12:** Population change, net migration (including corrections) and natural population change, EU-27

(million)



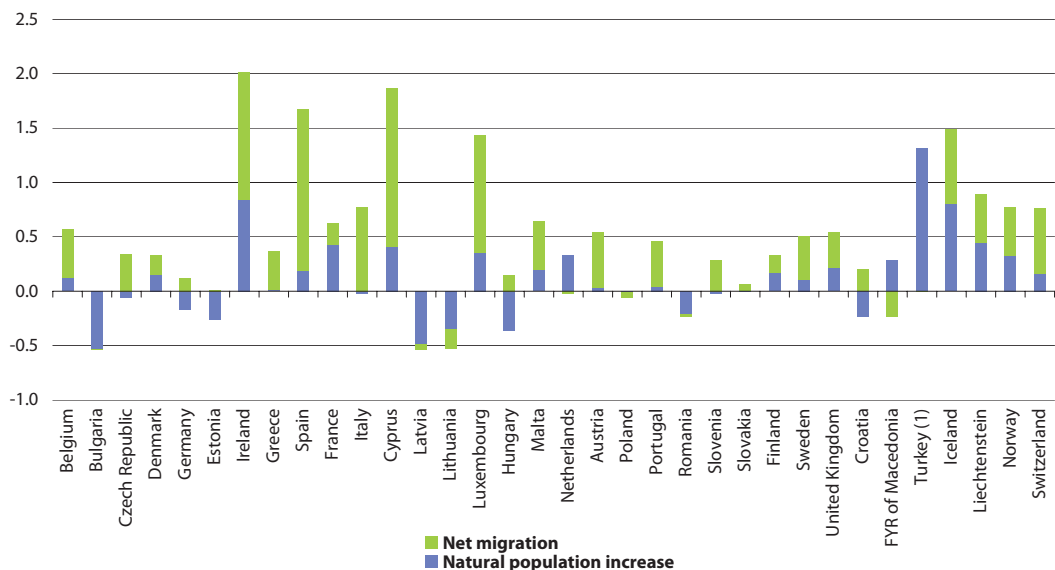
(1) Break in series, 1998; provisional data for 2007.

(2) Provisional data for 2007.

Source: Eurostat (tps00006, tsdde230 and tps00007)

**Figure 3.13:** Net migration (including corrections) and natural population change, 2002-2007

(average annual change, %)



(1) Break in series, 2007.

Source: Eurostat (demo\_gind)

## 3.4 Families and births

### Introduction

Family structures differ from one Member State to another, reflecting different historical developments, social attitudes and traditions. However, there are a number of common demographic characteristics that are apparent across the whole of the EU, including: a reduction in the number of marriages; an increase in the average age at which people marry; and an increase in the number of divorces. These trends have resulted in more households and households of a smaller average size, as a higher proportion of people live alone. The changes observed in the age structure of the EU-27's population may also explain, to some degree, the growing proportion of people living alone. Indeed, the highest proportion of people living alone is found among the elderly.

The slowdown in the EU-27's population growth can be partly attributed to the fact that people are generally having fewer children. Fertility rates have fallen in the EU in recent decades. A total fertility rate of around 2.1 children per woman is considered to be the replacement level – in other words, the average number of children per woman required to keep the natural population stable in the long-run, under the theoretical assumption of no migration. The total fertility rate of the EU-27 declined from almost 2.6 in the first half of the 1960s to about 1.4 during the period 1995 to 2005.

While fertility rates of women aged less than 30 have declined since the 1970s, fertility rates of those aged 30 or more have risen since the 1980s. As such, part of the decline in fertility within the EU is likely to be a result of postponement of childbearing.

Relatively high fertility rates tend to be recorded in those Member States which have implemented a range of family-friendly policies, such as the introduction of accessible and affordable childcare and/or more flexible working patterns (France, the Nordic countries, or the Netherlands). Most commentators agree that fertility will increase if there are stimuli, such as higher economic growth and security, more childcare facilities, fiscal measures that support families, family benefit income, a stock of suitable housing, or a range of policies designed to reconcile work and family life, such as more flexible working arrangements (part-time or telework). While a conventional analysis of declining fertility rates might suggest that the decline in fertility rates could be related to increased female participation in the labour market, there is clear evidence of a positive relationship in many countries, for example, in the Nordic countries or Spain, where tertiary-educated women in employment tend to have more children than less educated women.

### Definitions and data availability

**Live births** are defined as the birth of children that showed any sign of life; they refer to the number of births excluding stillbirths (total births include live births and stillbirths). **Stillbirths** are defined as the expulsion or extraction from the mother of a dead foetus after the time at which it would normally be presumed capable of independent extra-uterine existence (commonly taken to be after 24 or 28 weeks of gestation). **Live births outside marriage** are defined as births where the mother's marital status at the time of





birth is other than married. The **crude birth rate** is the ratio of the number of births during the year to the average population in that year; the value is expressed per 1 000 inhabitants.

**Total fertility rates** are defined as the mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the fertility rates by age of a given year. The total fertility rate is therefore the completed fertility of a hypothetical generation, computed by adding the fertility rates by age for women in a given year (the number of women at each age is assumed to be the same). The **mean age of women at childbearing** is defined as the mean age of women when their children are born. For a given calendar year, the mean age of women at childbearing can be calculated using fertility rates by age (in general, the reproductive period is between 15 and 49 years of age).

The **crude marriage rate** is the ratio of the number of marriages during the year to the average population in that year; the value is expressed per 1 000 inhabitants. In a similar vein, the **crude divorce rate** is the ratio of the number of divorces during the year to the average population in that year; the value is expressed per 1 000 inhabitants. Divorce is possible in all EU Member States, except Malta; in almost all countries divorces are registered at a court.

### Main findings

Since the 1960 and the beginning of the 21st century, the number of births in Europe declined sharply, through to a relative low of just under 5 million births in 2002. Since then, there has been a steady and moderate rebound. This broad trend was reflected in the developments for many of the Member States. However, the number of births has continued to decline relatively steadily in some countries, such as Germany and the Netherlands. In contrast, the number of births in Spain has risen strongly and steadily during the ten-year period through until 2007.

Crude birth rates express the number of births in relation to the whole population: the European crude birth rate (10.2 births per 1 000 inhabitants) was the lowest among the continents and approximately half the world average of 21.1 for the period 2000 to 2005. The EU-27 rate fluctuated during this five-year period between 10.3 and 10.6, which was slightly above the latest crude birth rates registered for Russia (9.9) or Japan (9.0), but lower than those recorded for China (13.6), the United States (14.1) or India (25.1).

The fertility rate of women in Europe fell at a relatively fast pace between the early 1960s and late 1990s, from an average of 2.58 children per woman to 1.40 children. This trend was reflected across most of the continents, with average rates for the world as a whole declining from 4.98 children to 2.65 children in the same period. Among the Member States, France had the highest fertility rate, reaching an average of two children per woman in 2006. In contrast, some of the lowest fertility rates in the EU-27 were registered in southern and eastern Europe, the lowest being in Slovakia (1.24 children per woman in 2006).

As well as having fewer children, women have tended to have their children later in life. The mean age for women giving birth rose to over 30 in seven of the Member States (Spain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Finland) by 2006, and was between 29 and 30 in a further nine of the Member States. The trend for postponing birth was, in the last decade, most prevalent in the Czech Republic, the Baltic States, Hungary and Slovenia, where the average age of women giving birth rose by at least two years in the period 1996 to 2006.

Across the EU-27 as a whole, the number of marriages per 1 000 persons decreased; the rate was about 5 % lower in the years after 2000 than during the late 1990s. In

Cyprus, there was a strong decline in the marriage rate between 2001 and 2007 (almost halving to 7.5 marriages per 1 000 persons), and a more steady and prolonged decline in the Netherlands to 4.5 marriages per 1 000 persons in 2007.

Although marriage is a form of commitment of union between partners, irreparable differences can lead to divorce. The number of divorces in the EU-27 grew steadily to pass one million a year in 2005, the equivalent of about 42 per 100 marriages, or, in terms of an annual rate, two divorces per 1 000 persons each year. When marriage ends in divorce, the mean duration of each marriage exceeds ten years in every Member State, rising to nearly 17 years in Italy.

**Table 3.8:** Average number of live births per year

(1 000)

	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
<b>World</b>	111 829	117 740	119 550	120 479	128 653	136 825	135 888	133 632	133 493
<b>Europe (1)</b>	11 873	10 838	10 453	10 128	10 080	9 806	8 366	7 431	7 419
<b>Africa</b>	14 449	16 066	18 151	20 550	23 311	25 728	27 850	30 062	32 816
<b>Asia</b>	70 704	76 143	75 917	74 190	78 945	84 627	82 844	79 547	76 623
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	9 691	10 233	10 804	11 389	11 769	11 790	11 757	11 683	11 601
<b>Northern America</b>	4 663	4 002	3 735	3 760	4 064	4 356	4 518	4 341	4 461
<b>Oceania</b>	449	459	491	463	484	518	554	567	573
	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
<b>EU-27 (2)</b>	7 609	7 457	6 897	6 475	6 130	5 905	5 483	5 108	5 072
<b>China</b>	26 313	28 798	25 131	20 745	21 627	24 721	21 555	19 848	17 569
<b>India</b>	19 108	20 241	21 699	23 452	25 048	26 524	27 890	27 728	27 408
<b>Japan</b>	1 662	1 793	2 147	1 759	1 533	1 281	1 213	1 213	1 141
<b>Russian Federation</b>	2 585	1 854	2 027	2 163	2 371	2 363	1 620	1 326	1 441
<b>United States</b>	4 197	3 618	3 383	3 396	3 689	3 973	4 123	3 992	4 124

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

(2) Break in series, 1998.

Source: Eurostat (tps00111), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Table 3.9:** Number of live births

(1 000)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27 (1)</b>	5 117.9	5 074.8	5 073.4	5 121.6	5 022.1	4 993.3	5 040.8	5 117.0	5 134.6	5 223.1	5 266.1
<b>Euro area (1)</b>	3 200.1	3 191.4	3 221.6	3 287.3	3 236.6	3 230.3	3 245.8	3 281.9	3 269.4	3 308.0	3 308.0
<b>Belgium</b>	116.2	114.2	114.2	114.9	114.2	111.2	112.1	115.6	118.0	121.4	120.7
<b>Bulgaria</b>	64.1	65.4	72.3	73.7	68.2	66.5	67.4	69.9	71.1	74.0	75.3
<b>Czech Republic</b>	90.7	90.5	89.5	90.9	90.7	92.8	93.7	97.7	102.2	105.8	114.6
<b>Denmark</b>	67.6	66.2	66.2	67.1	65.5	64.1	64.7	64.6	64.3	65.0	64.1
<b>Germany</b>	812.2	785.0	770.7	767.0	734.5	719.3	706.7	705.6	685.8	672.7	682.7
<b>Estonia</b>	12.6	12.2	12.4	13.1	12.6	13.0	13.0	14.0	14.4	14.9	15.8
<b>Ireland</b>	52.8	54.0	53.9	54.8	57.9	60.5	61.5	62.0	61.0	64.2	70.6
<b>Greece</b>	102.0	100.9	100.6	103.3	102.3	103.6	104.4	105.7	107.5	112.0	110.0
<b>Spain</b>	369.0	365.2	380.1	397.6	406.4	418.8	441.9	454.6	466.4	483.0	488.3
<b>France</b>	758.1	768.6	776.5	808.2	804.1	793.6	793.9	800.2	807.8	830.3	816.5
<b>Italy</b>	534.5	515.4	537.2	543.1	535.3	538.2	544.1	562.6	554.0	560.0	563.2
<b>Cyprus</b>	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.4	8.2	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.2	8.7	8.5
<b>Latvia</b>	18.8	18.4	19.4	20.2	19.7	20.0	21.0	20.3	21.5	22.3	23.3
<b>Lithuania</b>	37.8	37.0	36.4	34.1	31.5	30.0	30.6	30.4	30.5	31.3	32.3
<b>Luxembourg</b>	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5
<b>Hungary</b>	100.4	97.3	94.6	97.6	97.0	96.8	94.6	95.1	97.5	99.9	97.6
<b>Malta</b>	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
<b>Netherlands</b>	192.4	199.4	200.4	206.6	202.6	202.1	200.3	194.0	187.9	185.1	180.9
<b>Austria</b>	84.0	81.2	78.1	78.3	75.5	78.4	76.9	79.0	78.2	77.9	76.3
<b>Poland</b>	412.6	395.6	382.0	378.3	368.2	353.8	351.1	356.1	364.4	374.2	387.9
<b>Portugal</b>	113.0	113.5	116.0	120.0	112.8	114.4	112.5	109.3	109.4	105.4	102.5
<b>Romania</b>	236.9	237.3	234.6	234.5	220.4	210.5	212.5	216.3	221.0	219.5	214.7
<b>Slovenia</b>	18.2	17.9	17.5	18.2	17.5	17.5	17.3	18.0	18.2	18.9	19.6
<b>Slovakia</b>	59.1	57.6	56.2	55.2	51.1	50.8	51.7	53.7	54.4	53.9	54.4
<b>Finland</b>	59.3	57.1	57.6	56.7	56.2	55.6	56.6	57.8	57.7	58.8	58.7
<b>Sweden</b>	90.5	89.0	88.2	90.4	91.5	95.8	99.2	100.9	101.3	105.9	107.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	726.6	716.9	700.0	679.0	669.1	668.8	695.5	716.0	722.5	748.6	770.7
<b>Croatia</b>	55.5	47.1	45.2	43.7	41.0	40.1	39.7	40.3	42.5	41.4	42.0
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	29.5	29.2	27.3	29.3	27.0	27.8	27.0	23.4	22.5	22.6	22.7
<b>Turkey</b>	1 480.0	1 472.0	1 451.0	1 363.0	1 362.0	1 362.0	1 361.0	1 360.0	1 361.0	1 362.0	1 361.0
<b>Iceland</b>	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
<b>Norway</b>	59.8	58.4	59.3	59.2	56.7	55.4	56.5	57.0	56.8	58.5	58.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	80.6	78.9	78.4	78.5	72.3	72.4	71.8	73.1	72.9	73.4	74.4

(1) Break in series, 1998.

Source: Eurostat (tps00111)

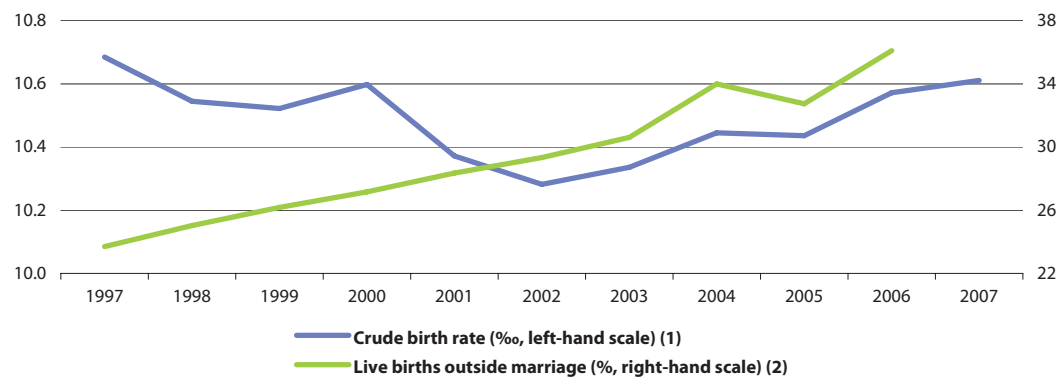
**Table 3.10:** Crude birth rate

(‰)

	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
<b>World</b>	35.1	33.4	30.8	28.3	27.6	27.0	24.7	22.6	21.1
<b>Europe (1)</b>	19.2	16.8	15.7	14.8	14.4	13.7	11.5	10.2	10.2
<b>Africa</b>	48.0	47.0	46.5	45.9	45.1	43.2	40.8	38.9	37.7
<b>Asia</b>	39.2	37.7	33.5	29.5	28.5	27.9	25.0	22.2	20.1
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	41.0	37.9	35.3	33.0	30.6	27.8	25.3	23.2	21.5
<b>Northern America</b>	22.0	17.7	15.7	15.1	15.5	15.8	15.5	14.1	13.8
<b>Oceania</b>	26.7	24.5	24.0	21.0	20.4	20.1	19.9	18.9	17.8
	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
<b>EU-27 (2)</b>	18.3	17.4	15.6	14.3	13.3	12.6	11.6	10.6	10.4
<b>China</b>	38.0	36.9	28.6	21.5	20.9	22.3	18.2	16.0	13.6
<b>India</b>	40.7	38.8	37.3	36.0	34.3	32.5	30.7	27.7	25.1
<b>Japan</b>	17.2	17.6	19.9	15.4	12.9	10.5	9.7	9.6	9.0
<b>Russian Federation</b>	21.0	14.4	15.3	15.9	16.8	16.2	10.9	8.9	9.9
<b>United States</b>	21.8	17.7	15.7	15.1	15.6	15.9	15.7	14.4	14.1

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.  
 (2) Break in series, 1998.

Source: Eurostat (tps00112), United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 3.14:** Live births outside marriage and crude birth rate, EU-27

(1) Break in series, 1998; provisional data for 2007.

(2) Not available for 2007; excluding Belgium from 1998 onwards; excluding Italy for 2004 and 2006.

Source: Eurostat (tps00112 and demo\_fagec)

**Table 3.11: Total fertility rate**

(mean number of children per woman)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Belgium</b>	1.59	1.60	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1.23	1.09	1.11	1.23	1.26	1.20	1.21	1.23	1.29	1.31	1.37
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.13	1.14	1.14	1.17	1.18	1.22	1.28	1.33
<b>Denmark</b>	1.75	1.76	1.73	1.75	1.78	1.76	1.72	1.76	1.78	1.80	1.83
<b>Germany</b>	1.32	1.37	1.36	1.36	1.38	1.35	1.34	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.32
<b>Estonia</b>	1.37	1.32	1.28	1.32	1.39	1.34	1.37	1.37	1.47	1.50	1.55
<b>Ireland</b>	1.88	1.93	1.93	1.89	1.88	1.93	1.96	1.95	1.93	1.86	1.90
<b>Greece</b>	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.24	1.26	1.25	1.27	1.28	1.30	1.33	1.39
<b>Spain</b>	1.16	1.17	1.16	1.19	1.23	1.24	1.26	1.31	1.33	1.35	1.38
<b>France</b>	:	:	1.78	1.81	1.89	1.90	1.88	1.89	1.92	1.94	2.00
<b>Italy</b>	1.20	1.21	:	1.23	1.26	1.25	1.27	1.29	:	1.32	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	1.95	1.86	1.76	1.67	1.64	1.57	1.49	1.50	1.49	1.42	1.47
<b>Latvia</b>	1.18	1.14	1.12	1.19	1.24	1.21	1.23	1.29	1.24	1.31	1.35
<b>Lithuania</b>	1.49	1.47	1.46	1.46	1.39	1.30	1.24	1.26	1.26	1.27	1.31
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1.77	1.72	1.68	1.74	1.76	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.66	1.66	1.65
<b>Hungary</b>	1.46	1.37	1.32	1.28	1.32	1.31	1.30	1.27	1.28	1.31	1.34
<b>Malta</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	1.38	1.41
<b>Netherlands</b>	1.53	1.56	1.63	1.65	1.72	1.71	1.73	1.75	1.73	1.71	1.70
<b>Austria</b>	1.45	1.39	1.37	1.34	1.36	1.33	1.39	1.38	1.42	1.41	1.40
<b>Poland</b>	1.59	1.52	1.44	1.37	1.35	1.32	1.25	1.22	1.23	1.24	1.27
<b>Portugal</b>	1.44	1.47	1.47	1.50	1.55	1.45	1.47	1.44	1.40	1.40	1.35
<b>Romania</b>	1.37	1.40	1.40	1.39	1.39	1.31	1.26	1.27	1.29	1.32	1.31
<b>Slovenia</b>	1.28	1.25	1.23	1.21	1.26	1.21	1.21	1.20	1.25	1.26	1.31
<b>Slovakia</b>	1.47	1.43	1.37	1.33	1.29	1.20	1.18	1.20	1.24	1.25	1.24
<b>Finland</b>	1.76	1.75	1.70	1.74	1.73	1.73	1.72	1.77	1.80	1.80	1.84
<b>Sweden</b>	1.60	1.52	1.50	1.50	1.54	1.57	1.65	1.71	1.75	1.77	1.85
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1.73	1.72	1.71	1.68	1.64	1.63	1.64	1.71	1.77	1.78	1.84
<b>Croatia</b>	:	:	:	:	1.47	1.38	:	1.32	1.34	1.41	1.38
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	2.07	1.93	1.90	1.76	1.88	1.73	1.80	1.77	1.52	1.46	1.46
<b>Iceland</b>	2.12	2.04	2.05	1.99	2.08	1.95	1.93	1.99	2.04	2.05	2.08
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	:	:	:	:	1.57	1.52	1.47	1.37	1.44	1.49	1.42
<b>Norway</b>	1.89	1.86	1.81	1.84	1.85	1.78	1.75	1.80	1.83	1.84	1.90
<b>Switzerland</b>	1.50	1.48	1.47	1.48	1.50	1.38	1.39	1.39	1.42	1.42	1.43

Source: Eurostat (tsdde220)

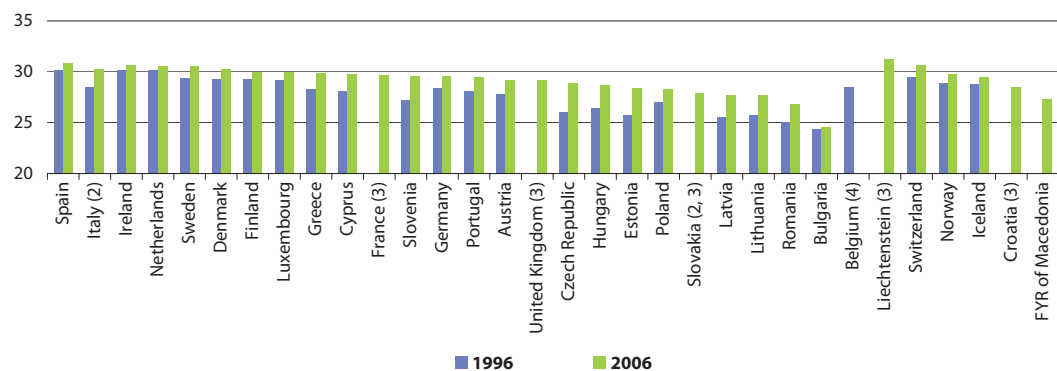
**Table 3.12: Average fertility rates**  
(mean number of children per woman)

	1960-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90-95	95-00	00-05
<b>World</b>	4.98	4.90	4.47	3.92	3.58	3.38	3.05	2.80	2.65
<b>Europe (1)</b>	2.58	2.36	2.16	1.97	1.89	1.83	1.57	1.40	1.41
<b>Africa</b>	6.87	6.80	6.72	6.61	6.45	6.13	5.68	5.28	4.98
<b>Asia</b>	5.65	5.67	5.04	4.19	3.67	3.40	2.97	2.67	2.47
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	5.97	5.54	5.04	4.48	3.92	3.41	3.03	2.73	2.52
<b>Northern America</b>	3.35	2.55	2.01	1.78	1.81	1.89	1.99	1.95	1.99
<b>Oceania</b>	3.98	3.57	3.23	2.73	2.59	2.51	2.48	2.42	2.37
<b>China</b>	5.72	6.06	4.86	3.32	2.55	2.46	1.92	1.78	1.70
<b>India</b>	5.82	5.61	5.26	4.89	4.50	4.15	3.86	3.46	3.11
<b>Japan</b>	2.02	2.00	2.07	1.81	1.76	1.66	1.49	1.39	1.29
<b>Russian Federation</b>	2.55	2.02	2.03	1.94	2.04	2.12	1.55	1.25	1.30
<b>United States</b>	3.31	2.55	2.02	1.79	1.83	1.92	2.03	1.99	2.04

(1) EU-27, Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Source: United Nations, Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**Figure 3.15: Mean age of women at childbearing (1)**  
(years)



(1) Malta, not available.

(2) 2005 instead of 2006.

(3) Not available for 1996.

(4) Not available for 2006.

Source: Eurostat (tps00017)

**Table 3.13: Marriages**

(per 1 000 persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27 (1)</b>	5.15	5.11	5.2	5.18	4.87	4.89	4.85	4.86	4.88	:	:
<b>Euro area</b>	:	:	:	5.12	4.82	4.82	4.7	4.64	4.61	4.45	:
<b>Belgium</b>	4.69	4.35	4.32	4.40	4.09	3.91	4.03	4.15	4.12	4.25	4.28
<b>Bulgaria</b>	4.18	4.31	4.33	4.30	3.99	3.71	3.92	3.99	4.33	4.26	3.87
<b>Czech Republic</b>	5.61	5.35	5.20	5.39	5.12	5.17	4.79	5.04	5.06	5.15	5.53
<b>Denmark</b>	6.48	6.55	6.66	7.19	6.82	6.92	6.50	6.98	6.67	6.71	6.70
<b>Germany</b>	5.15	5.09	5.25	5.09	4.73	4.75	4.64	4.80	4.71	4.54	4.48
<b>Estonia</b>	3.99	3.92	4.06	4.01	4.14	4.31	4.21	4.45	4.55	5.18	5.23
<b>Ireland</b>	4.25	4.52	4.93	5.04	4.98	5.23	5.08	5.07	5.13	5.13	:
<b>Greece</b>	5.62	5.12	5.62	4.48	5.21	5.27	5.54	4.64	5.50	5.18	5.16
<b>Spain</b>	4.96	5.21	5.21	5.38	5.11	5.12	5.05	5.06	4.83	4.61	:
<b>France</b>	4.87	4.64	4.87	5.03	4.84	4.65	4.56	4.46	4.51	4.34	4.19
<b>Italy</b>	4.88	4.92	4.93	4.99	4.58	4.65	4.48	4.28	4.23	4.13	4.21
<b>Cyprus</b>	10.71	11.40	13.22	14.08	15.07	14.48	7.69	7.23	7.76	6.80	7.50
<b>Latvia</b>	3.98	4.00	3.93	3.88	3.93	4.16	4.30	4.48	5.45	6.39	6.80
<b>Lithuania</b>	5.26	5.21	5.07	4.83	4.53	4.66	4.91	5.57	5.84	6.26	6.83
<b>Luxembourg</b>	4.78	4.80	4.86	4.92	4.49	4.53	4.43	4.36	4.41	4.16	4.10
<b>Hungary</b>	4.56	4.37	4.44	4.71	4.28	4.53	4.48	4.33	4.39	4.42	4.06
<b>Malta</b>	6.43	6.51	6.35	6.60	5.58	5.66	5.90	5.99	5.88	6.25	6.06
<b>Netherlands</b>	5.45	5.54	5.66	5.53	4.97	5.20	4.86	4.51	4.52	4.35	4.49
<b>Austria</b>	5.20	4.91	4.94	4.90	4.25	4.52	4.58	4.71	4.75	4.46	4.33
<b>Poland</b>	5.30	5.42	5.68	5.49	5.10	5.02	5.12	5.02	5.42	5.93	6.52
<b>Portugal</b>	6.52	6.57	6.75	6.23	5.67	5.45	5.15	4.68	4.61	4.52	4.37
<b>Romania</b>	6.68	6.46	6.23	6.05	5.87	5.92	6.16	6.61	6.56	6.79	8.78
<b>Slovenia</b>	3.78	3.80	3.89	3.62	3.48	3.54	3.39	3.28	2.88	3.17	3.17
<b>Slovakia</b>	5.19	5.10	5.07	4.81	4.42	4.66	4.83	5.18	4.85	4.81	5.08
<b>Finland</b>	4.56	4.66	4.70	5.05	4.79	5.19	4.95	5.61	5.58	5.36	5.58
<b>Sweden</b>	3.65	3.57	4.03	4.50	4.02	4.26	4.36	4.79	4.92	5.02	5.24
<b>United Kingdom</b>	5.32	5.21	5.13	5.19	4.84	4.94	5.14	5.20	5.23	:	:
<b>Croatia</b>	5.40	5.35	5.27	4.93	4.97	5.13	5.03	5.11	4.98	4.97	:
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	7.05	6.97	7.03	7.03	:	7.15	7.11	6.92	7.12	7.31	7.58
<b>Turkey</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	6.80	8.75	9.05	8.91	:
<b>Iceland</b>	5.46	5.58	5.62	6.32	5.21	5.75	5.29	5.19	5.42	5.53	:
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	12.55	:	:	7.23	5.99	5.19	4.37	4.76	5.38	4.31	5.10
<b>Norway</b>	5.41	5.27	5.26	5.65	5.09	5.30	4.90	4.06	4.84	4.66	4.98
<b>Switzerland</b>	5.52	5.44	5.69	5.53	4.98	5.51	5.46	5.34	5.40	5.32	5.34

(1) Break in series, 1998.

Source: Eurostat (tps00012)

**Table 3.14: Divorces**

(per 1 000 persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27 (1)</b>	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	:	:
<b>Belgium</b>	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1
<b>Czech Republic</b>	3.2	3.1	2.3	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0
<b>Denmark</b>	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6
<b>Germany</b>	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3	:
<b>Estonia</b>	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.8
<b>Ireland</b>	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	:	:
<b>Greece</b>	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2
<b>Spain</b>	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.7	:	:
<b>France</b>	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.2	:
<b>Italy</b>	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	:	0.8
<b>Cyprus</b>	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.1
<b>Latvia</b>	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.3
<b>Lithuania</b>	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4
<b>Luxembourg</b>	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.3
<b>Hungary</b>	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
<b>Malta</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0
<b>Austria</b>	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4
<b>Poland</b>	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.7
<b>Portugal</b>	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4
<b>Romania</b>	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7
<b>Slovenia</b>	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4
<b>Slovakia</b>	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.3
<b>Finland</b>	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5
<b>Sweden</b>	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3
<b>United Kingdom</b>	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	:	:
<b>Croatia</b>	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	:
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
<b>Turkey</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	:
<b>Iceland</b>	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6	:
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	2.1	:	:	3.9	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.8
<b>Norway</b>	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2
<b>Switzerland</b>	2.4	2.5	2.9	1.5	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.6

(1) Break in series, 1998.

Source: Eurostat (tps00013)





### 3.5 Life expectancy

#### Introduction

Another contributing factor to the ageing of the EU's population is a gradual increase in life expectancies. This may, at least in part, be attributed to higher standards of living, better healthcare, as well as more awareness of health issues.

A set of health expectancy indicators have been developed to extend the concept of life expectancy to cover morbidity and disability, so as to assess the quality of life; these indicators are included in the list of structural indicators on the basis of which the Commission draws up its annual synthesis report, thereby integrating public health into the Lisbon strategy.

The EC Treaty (Title XIII Public Health, Article 152) states that 'Community action, which shall complement national policies, shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing human illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to human health.' The ongoing programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) targets the following objectives:

- to improve information and knowledge for the development of public health;
- to enhance the capability of responding rapidly and in a co-ordinated fashion to threats in health;
- and to promote health and prevent disease through addressing health determinants across all policies and activities.

The European Commission report on 'Long-term care in the European Union' released in April 2008, analyses the main challenges Member States face in the field of long-term care, their strategies for tackling them and presents possible solutions<sup>(7)</sup>.

#### Definitions and data availability

According to the United Nations (UN) definition, a death is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capacity of resuscitation); this definition therefore excludes foetal deaths.

**Life expectancy** can be given for any age. It relates to the mean number of years still to be lived by a person who has reached a certain age, if subjected throughout the rest of his or her life to the current mortality conditions (age-specific probabilities of dying). The most common life expectancy figures relate to life expectancy at birth, measured as the mean number of years that a newborn child can expect to live if subjected throughout his/her life to the current mortality conditions; in this publication life expectancy is also presented at age 65.

Health expectancies extend the concept of life expectancy to morbidity and disability, in order to assess the quality of life. These are composite indicators that combine mortality data with data referring

(7) [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/news/2008/apr/long\\_term\\_care\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2008/apr/long_term_care_en.pdf).

to health. The **Healthy Life Years (HLY)** indicator measures the number of remaining years that a person of a specific age is still expected to live in a healthy condition. A healthy condition is defined by the absence of limitations in functioning/disability. Therefore, the indicator is also called disability-free life expectancy (DFLE). HLY indicators are calculated by gender, at birth, and at the age of 65.

### Main findings

Increasing life expectancy is one of the many factors that contribute towards Europe's ageing population profile. This indicator has gradually risen for males and females in Europe, as in other world regions, and this trend is expected to continue. EU-27 life expectancy of a boy at birth was 75.2 years in 2004, while the life expectancy of a newborn girl was just over six years higher at 81.5 years. There remain quite large variations in life expectancies across the EU-27. For males, the lowest life expectancy in 2006 was recorded in Lithuania (65.3 years) and the highest in Sweden and Cyprus (both 78.8); for women, the range was narrower, from a low of 76.2 years in Romania to a high of 84.4 in both Spain and France.

Gender differences in life expectancy were, in the 1960s, associated with unfavourable male mortality. This pattern was reversed in the 1980s as the gender gap closed in north western Europe, followed by southern Europe in the 1990s. The difference in life expectancies has been further narrowed in recent years, as the growth in female life expectancy slowed somewhat. The convergence of

life expectancy figures may be a consequence of more similar circumstances in terms of the lifestyles led by men and women in the EU – for example, fewer men are working in areas of the economy where high degrees of physical effort are required throughout the working day (agriculture, mining, or the manufacture of iron and steel). Nevertheless, persistently higher male mortality is recorded throughout the entire life cycle and with respect to all of the main causes of death.

Health expectancies can be used to measure the potential of the population to participate in society. There are many Member States that are in the process of implementing or considering changes to their statutory age for retirement, as well as the promotion of policies that actively encourage older persons to remain in work longer. In 2005, for most countries, healthy life years at birth for females were above those for men. The exceptions included Cyprus, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Iceland and Norway, where men at birth had 1 to 2 years of healthy life more (compared with women).

As people are living longer there has been a growing interest in the older generations – both as potential actors in the workforce, or as a specific market of consumers. This is borne out when looking at the life expectancy of those persons who are aged 65; in 2006, the average man of this age could be expected to live an additional 12.7 years in Latvia, rising to 18.2 additional years in France. The life expectancy of women at the age of 65 was higher, ranging from 16.3 years in Bulgaria to 22.7 years in France.



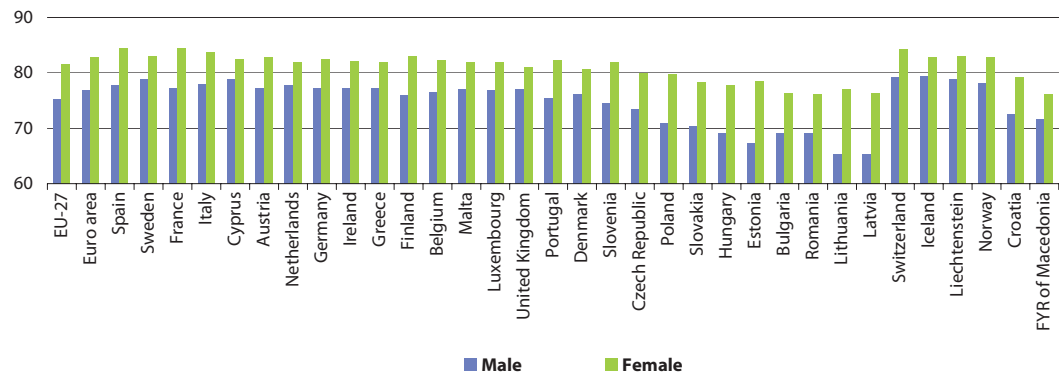
**Table 3.15:** Life expectancy at birth  
(years)

	Male						Female					
	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006
<b>EU-27</b>	:	:	:	74.5	75.2	:	:	:	:	80.9	81.5	:
<b>Euro area</b>	:	:	:	76.0	76.8	:	:	:	:	82.2	82.8	:
<b>Belgium</b>	73.9	74.4	74.6	75.1	76.0	76.6	80.7	80.7	81.0	81.2	81.8	82.3
<b>Bulgaria</b>	67.4	67.4	68.4	68.8	68.9	69.2	74.5	74.6	75.0	75.5	75.8	76.3
<b>Czech Republic</b>	70.4	71.2	71.7	72.1	72.6	73.5	77.5	78.2	78.5	78.7	79.2	79.9
<b>Denmark</b>	73.1	74.0	74.5	74.8	75.4	76.1	78.3	79.0	79.2	79.4	80.2	80.7
<b>Germany</b>	73.6	74.5	75.1	75.7	76.5	77.2	80.1	80.8	81.2	81.3	81.9	82.4
<b>Estonia</b>	64.3	64.1	65.5	65.3	66.4	67.4	75.6	75.4	76.2	77.0	77.8	78.6
<b>Ireland</b>	73.1	73.4	74.0	75.2	76.4	77.3	78.7	79.1	79.2	80.5	81.4	82.1
<b>Greece</b>	75.1	75.4	75.5	76.2	76.6	77.2	80.2	80.3	80.6	81.1	81.3	81.9
<b>Spain</b>	74.5	75.3	75.8	76.3	76.9	77.7	82.0	82.4	82.9	83.2	83.7	84.4
<b>France</b>	:	74.8	75.3	75.7	76.7	77.3	:	82.6	83.0	83.0	83.8	84.4
<b>Italy</b>	75.5	76.1	77.0	77.4	77.9	:	81.8	82.2	82.9	83.2	83.8	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	:	:	:	76.4	76.8	78.8	:	:	:	81.0	82.1	82.4
<b>Latvia</b>	:	:	:	64.7	65.9	65.4	:	:	:	76.0	76.2	76.3
<b>Lithuania</b>	64.6	66.0	66.8	66.2	66.3	65.3	75.9	76.6	77.5	77.5	77.7	77.0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	73.3	73.7	74.6	74.6	75.9	76.8	80.2	80.8	81.3	81.5	82.3	81.9
<b>Hungary</b>	66.3	66.5	67.6	68.3	68.7	69.2	75.0	75.6	76.2	76.7	77.2	77.8
<b>Malta</b>	74.8	74.9	76.2	76.3	77.4	77.0	79.6	80.0	80.3	81.3	81.2	81.9
<b>Netherlands</b>	74.7	75.2	:	76.0	76.9	77.7	80.5	80.8	:	80.7	81.5	82.0
<b>Austria</b>	73.7	74.5	75.2	75.8	76.4	77.2	80.2	81.0	81.2	81.7	82.1	82.8
<b>Poland</b>	68.1	68.9	69.6	70.3	70.6	70.9	76.6	77.4	78.0	78.8	79.2	79.7
<b>Portugal</b>	71.6	72.4	73.2	73.8	75.0	75.5	79.0	79.5	80.2	80.6	81.5	82.3
<b>Romania</b>	65.1	66.3	67.7	67.3	68.2	69.2	72.8	73.8	74.8	74.7	75.5	76.2
<b>Slovenia</b>	71.1	71.3	72.2	72.6	73.5	74.5	79.0	79.2	79.9	80.5	80.8	82.0
<b>Slovakia</b>	68.8	68.6	69.2	69.8	70.3	70.4	77.0	77.0	77.5	77.7	78.0	78.4
<b>Finland</b>	73.1	73.6	74.2	74.9	75.4	75.9	80.7	81.0	81.2	81.6	82.5	83.1
<b>Sweden</b>	76.6	76.9	77.4	77.7	78.4	78.8	81.7	82.1	82.0	82.1	82.8	83.1
<b>United Kingdom</b>	74.3	74.8	75.5	76.0	76.8	:	79.5	79.8	80.3	80.6	81.0	:
<b>Croatia</b>	:	:	70.7	:	71.9	72.5	:	:	77.7	:	78.8	79.3
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	70.3	70.2	70.8	70.6	71.5	71.7	74.8	74.4	75.2	75.6	75.8	76.2
<b>Iceland</b>	76.5	77.7	77.8	78.6	78.9	79.5	81.2	81.6	81.6	82.5	83.2	82.9
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	72.3	73.6	73.9	77.1	78.5	78.9	81.6	82.1	79.9	82.3	85.1	83.1
<b>Norway</b>	75.4	75.6	76.0	76.4	77.6	78.2	81.2	81.4	81.5	81.6	82.6	82.9
<b>Switzerland</b>	76.0	76.4	77.0	77.9	78.6	79.2	82.2	82.7	82.8	83.2	83.8	84.2

Source: Eurostat (tps00025)

**Figure 3.16: Life expectancy at birth, 2006 (1)**

(years)

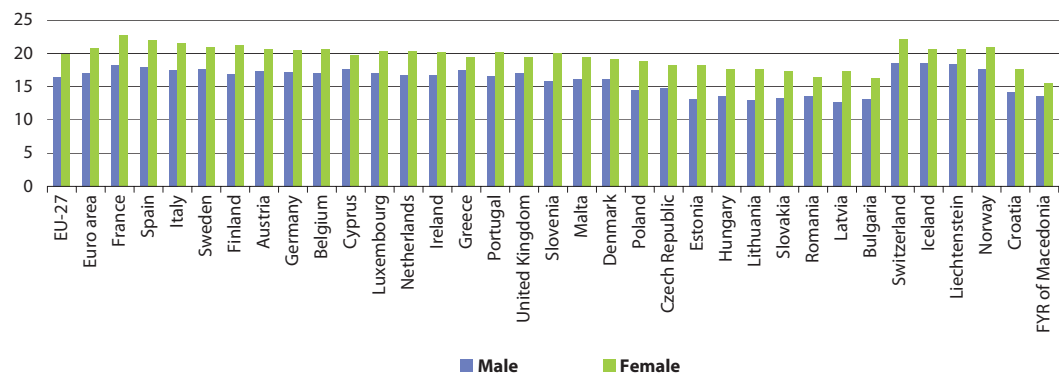


(1) The United Kingdom, 2005; EU-27, euro area and Italy, 2004; the figure is ranked on the average of male and female.

Source: Eurostat (tps00025)

**Figure 3.17: Life expectancy at 65, 2006 (1)**

(years)



(1) The United Kingdom, 2005; EU-27, euro area and Italy, 2004; the figure is ranked on the average of male and female.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde210)



### 3.6 Migration and asylum

#### Introduction

Migration is influenced by a combination of economic, political and social factors. These factors may act in a migrant's country of origin (push factors) or in the country of destination (pull factors). The relative economic prosperity and political stability of the EU are thought to exert a considerable pull effect on immigrants.

International migration may increasingly be used as a tool to solve specific labour market shortages, but alone will almost certainly not be enough to reverse the ongoing trend of population ageing.

Migration policies are increasingly concerned with attracting a particular migrant profile, often in an attempt to alleviate specific skills shortages. Selection can be carried out on the basis of language proficiency, work experience, education and/or age, or alternatively by employers so that migrants already have a job upon their arrival. Besides policies to encourage labour recruitment, immigration policy is often focused on two areas: preventing unauthorised migration<sup>(8)</sup> and the illegal employment of migrants who are not permitted to work, and promoting the integration of immigrants into society. Significant resources have been mobilised to fight people smuggling and trafficking networks in the EU.

Some of the most important legal texts adopted in the area of immigration include:

- Council Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification<sup>(9)</sup>;
- Council Directive 2003/109/EC on a long-term resident status for third country nationals<sup>(10)</sup>;
- Council Directive 2004/114/EC on the admission of students<sup>(11)</sup>, and;
- Council Directive 2005/71/EC for the facilitation of the admission of researchers into the EU<sup>(12)</sup>.

The Commission re-launched in 2005 the debate on the need for a common set of rules for the admission of economic migrants with a Green Paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration<sup>(13)</sup>, which led to the adoption of a 'policy plan on legal migration' at the end of 2005<sup>(14)</sup>. In July 2006 the Commission adopted a communication on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals<sup>(15)</sup> which aims to strike a balance between security and basic rights of individuals during all stages of the illegal immigration process. In June 2007, Council conclusions on the strengthening of integration policies in the EU by promoting unity in diversity were adopted, while in September 2007, the Commission presented its third annual report on migration and integration<sup>(16)</sup>.

(8) In June 2008, the European Parliament approved at first reading a new Directive on the return of illegal immigrants, a key step towards a European immigration policy that aims to encourage the voluntary return of illegal immigrants but otherwise lay down minimum standards for their treatment.

(9) [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l\\_251/l\\_25120031003en00120018.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2003/l_251/l_25120031003en00120018.pdf).

(10) [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l\\_016/l\\_01620040123en00440053.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l_016/l_01620040123en00440053.pdf).

(11) [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l\\_375/l\\_37520041223en00120018.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2004/l_375/l_37520041223en00120018.pdf).

(12) [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l\\_289/l\\_28920051103en00150022.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_289/l_28920051103en00150022.pdf).

(13) COM(2004) 811; [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/immigration/work/doc/com\\_2004\\_811\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/work/doc/com_2004_811_en.pdf).

(14) COM(2005) 669; [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0669en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0669en01.pdf).

(15) COM(2006) 402; [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006\\_0402en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0402en01.pdf).

(16) COM(2007) 512; [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/immigration/docs/com\\_2007\\_512\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/immigration/docs/com_2007_512_en.pdf).

The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (as amended by the 1967 New York Protocol) has for more than 50 years defined who is a refugee, and laid down a common approach towards refugees that has been one of the cornerstones for the development of a common asylum system within the EU. Asylum is a form of protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and/or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

Since the beginning of 1990s, the flow of persons seeking international protection in the EU has been such that the Member States have decided to find common solutions to this challenge. The European Commission adopted on 17 February 2006 a communication on strengthened practical cooperation in the area of asylum presenting a vision of how Member States should further cooperate on asylum with a view to the establishment of a fully harmonised EU system. A number of directives in this area have been developed, the four main legal instruments on asylum including:

- the Reception Conditions Directive<sup>(17)</sup>;
- the Asylum Procedures Directive<sup>(18)</sup>;
- the Qualification Directive<sup>(19)</sup>, and;
- the Dublin Regulation<sup>(20)</sup>.

The EU is also focusing on the need for better coordination in partnership with third countries to deal more effectively with root causes and to provide for durable solutions to resolve refugee situations. In this context, the Council has invited the Commission to develop Regional Protection Programmes (RPP) to enhance protection capacity and develop resettlement programmes. A new financial instrument was adopted in March 2004 to establish a programme for financial and technical assistance to third countries in the area of migration and asylum (AENEAS); it is a multi-annual programme for the period 2004-2008.

### Definitions and data availability

Eurostat produces statistics on a range of issues related to international migration and asylum. Data are supplied on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis by national statistical institutes and by ministries of justice and the interior. Whereas some Member States base their migration flow and migrant population stock statistics on population registers, others may use sample surveys or data extracted from administrative procedures such as the issuing of residence permits. Many statistics are currently sent to Eurostat as part of a joint migration data collection organised by Eurostat in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Labour Office.

(17) Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:031:0018:0025:EN:PDF>.

(18) Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:326:0013:0034:EN:PDF>.

(19) Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004L0083:EN:HTML>.

(20) Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:050:0001:0010:EN:PDF>.



Most important areas of Community statistics have a clear basis in European law, defining the responsibilities of Member States and of Eurostat in terms of the collection, transmission and publication of data. The **migration statistics** domain had been unusual in not having a legal base, being instead governed by a series of voluntary agreements between Eurostat and the data suppliers in Member States. While this may have been appropriate in the past, it became clear that the growing policy importance of this subject at both national and European level meant that a more formal approach was necessary. In the autumn of 2005 the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on statistics on migration and international protection, which was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council by the summer of 2007<sup>(21)</sup>. The adoption of the Regulation 862/2007 is designed as a step towards the provision of reliable and harmonised statistics on migration and asylum.

The focus of the Regulation is to provide harmonised statistical definitions based on existing international standards and on European legislation and policy on immigration, asylum and border control issues. Although these definitions must be applied, Member States remain free to use any appropriate data sources, according to national availability and practice. The Regulation allows for the use of scientifically sound estimates in cases where directly observed data are not available. To allow Member States time to make necessary amendments to their data collection systems, the proposed Regulation also allows for data to be supplied according to national definitions in the first year following its coming into force (2008), which will then be reported in the

following year. The Regulation provides a framework which needs to be completed through the adoption of implementing measures in the form of Commission Regulations.

The Regulation covers most of Eurostat's existing statistics on migration related issues. Statistics on immigration and emigration flows, together with statistics on the citizenship and country of birth composition of the resident population, provide information on the impact of migration on the size and structure of the population. Statistics on asylum applications and the subsequent decisions to grant or refuse refugee status or other types of international protection will be adapted somewhat under the Regulation. For example, asylum applications statistics will be collected on a monthly basis as these are needed to allow a continuous monitoring of short-term variations in the origin and numbers of asylum seekers. In comparison, data on appeals against asylum decisions are relatively complex to collect and are not needed so frequently – and so will only be collected annually.

The only new area of statistics covered by the Regulation is that of residence permits issued to non-EU citizens. These statistics offer a useful insight into the reasons for immigration – as a distinction can be made between permits issued under different immigration rules regarding the reunification of families, economic migrants, and persons admitted as students. A further aspect of the Regulation is that most of the statistics to be collected will include a disaggregation by age and sex. This is of particular interest when trying to monitor policies aimed at preventing the trafficking of women and children.

(21) Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007; [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/L\\_199/L\\_19920070731en00230029.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/L_199/L_19920070731en00230029.pdf).

A **national citizen** is defined as a person who is a citizen of the country in which he or she is currently resident. **Non-nationals** are persons who are not citizens of the country in which they are currently resident.

**Net migration** is the difference between immigration into and emigration from the country during the year (net migration is therefore negative when the number of emigrants exceeds the number of immigrants). Since several countries either do not have accurate figures on immigration and emigration or have no figures at all, net migration is sometimes estimated on the basis of the difference between population change and natural increase between two dates. These statistics on net migration (including corrections) are therefore affected by the statistical inaccuracies in the two components of the population change as well as administrative corrections. Net migration gives no indication of the relative scale of the separate immigration and emigration flows to and from a country; a country may report low net migration but experience very high immigration and emigration flows. **Immigrants** are those persons arriving or returning from abroad to take up residence in a country for a certain period, having previously been resident elsewhere. **Emigrants** are people leaving their country of usual residence and effectively taking up residence in another country.

The **acquisition of citizenship** refers to grants of citizenship of the reporting country to persons who have previously been citizens of another country or who have been stateless.

An **asylum applicant** is defined as a person who has requested protection under: either Article 1 of the 1951 Geneva (amended by the 1967 New York Protocol), or, within the remit of the United Nations

Convention Against Torture and other forms of cruel or inhuman treatment (UNCAT) or the European Convention on Human Rights or other relevant instruments of protection. This definition is intended to refer to all who apply for protection on an individual basis, irrespective of whether they lodge their application on arrival at an airport or land border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether they entered the territory legally (for example, as a tourist) or illegally. An **asylum seeker** is a person awaiting a decision on an application for refugee status or another form of international protection. A **refugee** (as defined by Article 1 of the 1951 UN Convention) is someone with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Data on **asylum decisions** refer to the date on which a decision was made, not to the date of the asylum application. Data is collected on decisions at 1st instance. **Total decisions** cover positive decisions, negative decisions and other non-status decisions. These figures only cover grants of refugee status as defined by Article 1 of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the status of refugees, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967; they therefore exclude grants of other types of protection status such as humanitarian protection.

### Main findings

While net migration into the EU has been positive and generally rising since the end of the 1980s, there is a volatile nature to migratory patterns over time. After a rapid increase during the first years of the 21st century, with 2 million more immigrants than emigrants in 2003, net migration has decreased somewhat since in the EU-27. Net migration





ranged between 1.64 and 2.03 million per annum between 2002 and 2007, while net migration was never over the threshold of a million before 2002. When expressed as a ratio in relation to the total population, immigration accounted for 0.39 % of the total number of inhabitants in the EU-27 in 2007.

The vast majority of the Member States reported positive net migration (including corrections) the only exceptions with negative net migration (including corrections) in 2007 were Poland (-20 500), Lithuania (-5 200), the Netherlands (-1 600), Bulgaria (-1 400) and Latvia (-600). In relative terms, positive net migration accounted for 1.64 % of the population in Cyprus in 2007, while Spain (1.58 %), Ireland (1.49 %) and Luxembourg (1.26 %) were the only other countries to record net migration above the threshold of 1 % of the total population. At the other end of the scale, the loss of population through net migration ranged from 0.01 % of the total population of the Netherlands to 0.15 % in Lithuania.

There are a number of different types of migration that may be identified: among them, economic migration (the search for work), family reunification, retirement, study, or asylum. In most of the Member States for which data are available for 2006, a majority of migrants were at the lower end of the working age range (between 15 and 34 years). Indeed, in the United Kingdom this age group accounted for more than three quarters of all immigrants (76.4 %).

Most Member States counted more non-EU nationals than citizens of EU-27 Member States among their foreign immigrants. The exceptions were Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria

and Slovakia, where more EU-27 citizens than non-EU citizens immigrated. Returning nationals accounted for a minority of immigrants in most countries. However, in Denmark, Lithuania, Poland (permanent stays only) and Finland there were more national immigrants returning home than either non-national EU-27 immigrants or immigrants from countries outside of the EU.

There are two different categories of person which should be taken into account when studying asylum statistics. The first includes persons who have lodged an asylum claim and whose claim is under consideration by a relevant authority. The second is composed of persons who have been recognised, after consideration, as refugees or have been granted another kind of international protection. Asylum-seekers generally remain within the territory of the Member State concerned during consideration of their claims. The number of asylum-seekers has decreased over the past few years in the EU, having peaked in 1992 (670 000 applications in the EU-15) and again in 2001 (424 000 applications in the EU-27). By 2007, there were an estimated 218 900 asylum applications received in the EU-27, a slight upturn on the figure for 2006. More applications for asylum were lodged in Sweden than any other Member State in 2007, with France, the United Kingdom, Greece and Germany being the other main recipients of applications. Only a minority of asylum applicants are recognised as refugees or are granted subsidiary protection. Over half (57.8 %) of all EU-27 asylum decisions in 2006 resulted in a rejection, while some 55 135 persons were granted refugee status or subsidiary protection the same year.

**Table 3.16:** Net migration (including corrections)

(1 000)

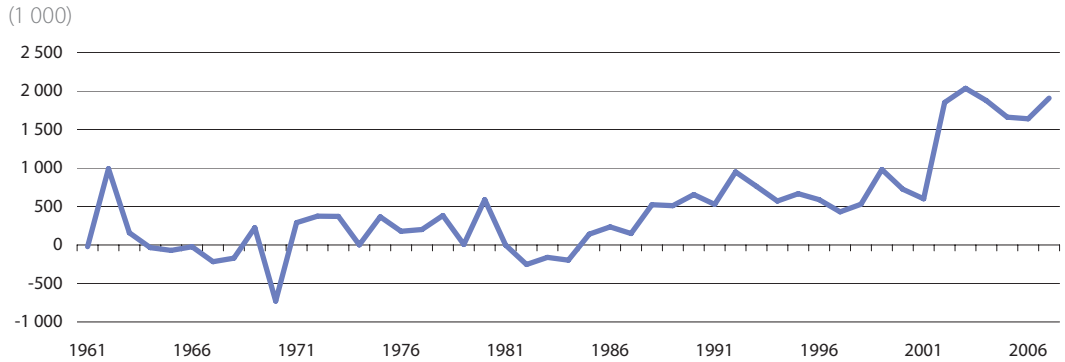
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27 (1)</b>	430	529	980	725	600	1 852	2 035	1 875	1 660	1 639	1 908
<b>Euro area (1)</b>	:	434	835	975	1 235	1 658	1 806	1 606	1 404	1 319	1 579
<b>Belgium</b>	10	12	16	14	36	41	35	36	51	53	62
<b>Bulgaria</b>	0	0	0	0	-214	1	0	0	0	0	-1
<b>Czech Republic</b>	12	9	9	7	-43	12	26	19	36	35	84
<b>Denmark</b>	12	11	9	10	12	10	7	5	7	10	20
<b>Germany</b>	93	47	202	168	275	219	142	82	82	26	48
<b>Estonia</b>	-7	-7	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ireland</b>	17	16	24	32	39	33	31	48	66	67	64
<b>Greece</b>	61	55	45	29	38	38	35	41	40	40	41
<b>Spain</b>	94	159	238	390	441	649	625	610	641	605	702
<b>France (1)</b>	:	-1	150	158	173	184	189	105	92	90	71
<b>Italy</b>	50	56	35	50	50	345	612	557	324	377	494
<b>Cyprus</b>	5	4	4	4	5	7	12	16	14	9	13
<b>Latvia</b>	-9	-6	-4	-6	-5	-2	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1
<b>Lithuania</b>	-22	-22	-21	-20	-3	-2	-6	-10	-9	-5	-5
<b>Luxembourg</b>	4	4	4	3	3	3	5	4	6	5	6
<b>Hungary</b>	18	17	17	17	10	4	16	18	17	21	14
<b>Malta</b>	1	0	0	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Netherlands</b>	30	44	44	57	56	28	7	-10	-23	-26	-2
<b>Austria</b>	2	8	20	17	44	35	38	62	56	29	31
<b>Poland</b>	-12	-13	-14	-410	-17	-18	-14	-9	-13	-36	-20
<b>Portugal</b>	29	32	38	47	65	70	64	47	38	26	20
<b>Romania</b>	-13	-6	-3	-4	-558	-2	-7	-10	-7	-6	1
<b>Slovenia</b>	-1	-5	11	3	5	2	4	2	6	6	14
<b>Slovakia</b>	2	1	1	-22	1	1	1	3	3	4	7
<b>Finland</b>	5	4	3	2	6	5	6	7	9	11	14
<b>Sweden</b>	6	11	14	24	29	31	29	25	27	51	54
<b>United Kingdom</b>	58	97	138	144	151	158	178	227	193	247	175
<b>Croatia</b>	0	-4	-23	-52	14	9	12	12	8	7	6
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	-2	-2	-2	-3	-3	-25	-3	0	-1	-1	0
<b>Turkey</b>	101	99	79	58	2	-1	-3	1	-1	-3	0
<b>Iceland</b>	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	4	5	4
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Norway</b>	10	13	19	10	8	17	11	13	18	24	40
<b>Switzerland</b>	-3	11	25	24	41	48	42	38	32	37	69

(1) Break in series: for 1997 France includes metropolitan regions only.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde230)



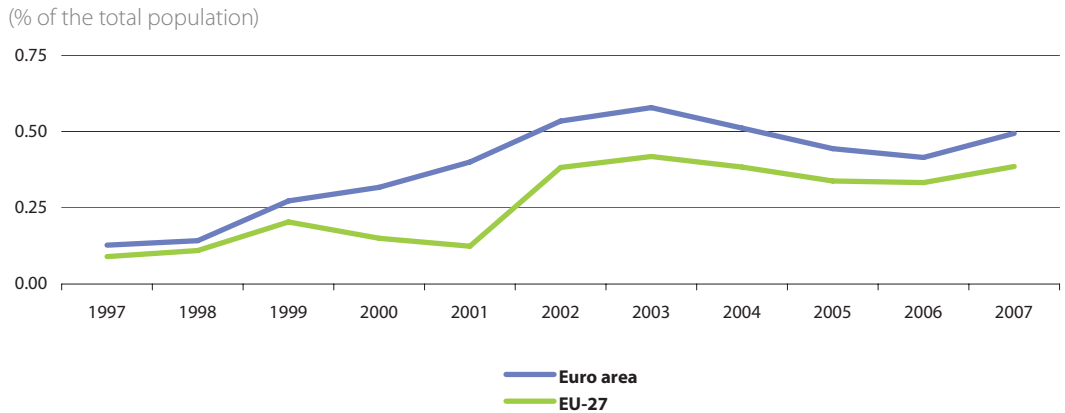
**Figure 3.18:** Net migration (including corrections), EU-27 (1)



(1) Break in series: up to and including 1997 France includes metropolitan regions only; 2007 data are provisional.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde230)

**Figure 3.19:** Net migration rate (including corrections) (1)

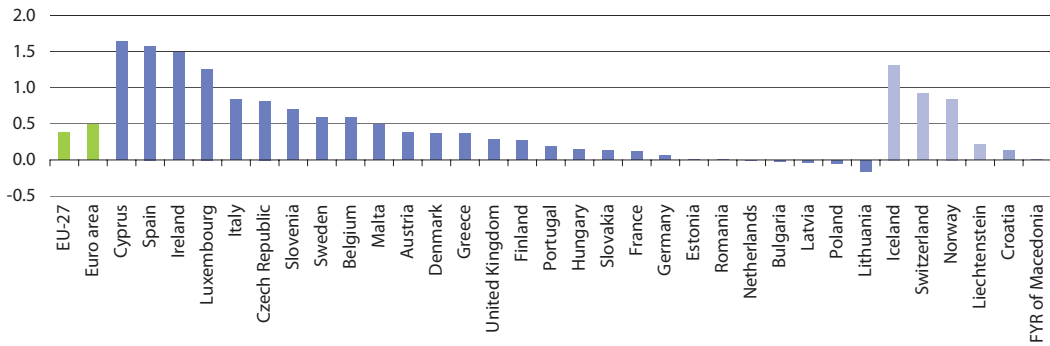


(1) Break in series: for 1997 France includes metropolitan regions only; 2007 data are provisional.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde230 and tps00001)

**Figure 3.20: Net migration (including corrections), 2007 (1)**

(% of the population)

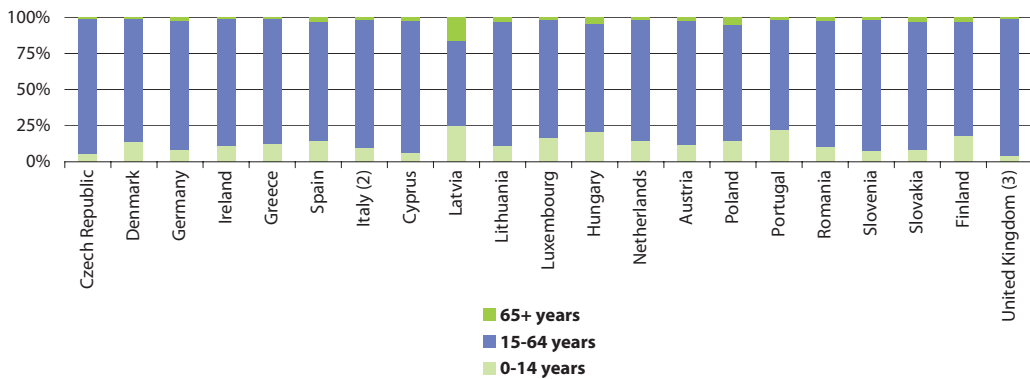


(1) EU-27, euro area, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Liechtenstein, provisional.

Source: Eurostat (tsdde230 and tps00001)

**Figure 3.21: Immigration by age, 2006 (1)**

(%)



(1) Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France and Malta, not available.

(2) 2003.

(3) 2005.

Source: Eurostat (migr\_immictz)

**Table 3.17:** Immigration by age, 2006

	Total immigrants (persons)	Immigration by age (% of total immigration)										
		<15	15-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+
<b>Belgium (1)</b>	81 913	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	68 183	5.5	26.0	18.1	14.5	11.3	9.6	7.5	4.1	2.0	0.6	0.7
<b>Denmark</b>	56 750	14.0	36.0	18.2	10.7	7.0	4.8	3.2	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.1
<b>Germany</b>	661 855	8.5	25.3	17.5	13.2	10.2	8.1	6.6	4.6	2.6	1.3	2.1
<b>Estonia</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	103 260	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Greece (2)</b>	86 693	12.3	19.4	17.5	14.7	11.1	8.3	7.0	5.0	2.9	1.1	0.8
<b>Spain</b>	840 844	14.4	23.1	17.3	12.9	9.5	6.6	4.8	3.4	2.7	2.2	2.9
<b>France (3)</b>	182 390	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Italy (1)</b>	440 301	10.0	19.1	20.5	16.2	11.2	8.3	6.0	3.7	1.8	1.3	2.0
<b>Cyprus</b>	15 545	6.0	19.8	19.4	13.7	11.3	9.1	5.9	4.0	3.8	3.6	2.6
<b>Latvia</b>	2 801	24.8	12.4	9.2	8.5	7.5	5.4	5.5	3.0	4.4	3.2	16.0
<b>Lithuania</b>	7 745	11.3	21.5	19.4	12.9	8.9	8.1	7.1	3.5	2.7	1.4	3.2
<b>Luxembourg</b>	14 352	16.4	17.8	18.3	14.8	10.9	8.2	5.2	3.3	2.2	1.1	1.7
<b>Hungary</b>	21 520	21.0	20.8	15.3	10.2	7.7	5.3	4.8	3.6	3.5	3.4	4.4
<b>Malta</b>	1 829	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	101 150	14.7	24.9	18.9	13.1	9.6	6.5	4.3	2.8	2.0	1.2	2.0
<b>Austria</b>	100 972	11.5	26.4	17.2	12.1	9.5	7.1	5.3	3.7	2.7	2.0	2.7
<b>Poland (4)</b>	10 802	14.4	15.3	15.0	10.3	7.1	6.9	8.2	7.9	6.3	3.4	5.3
<b>Portugal (2)</b>	27 703	22.4	18.6	14.3	13.6	10.3	7.9	5.6	3.0	1.9	1.1	1.5
<b>Romania (2)</b>	7 714	10.0	13.1	11.9	14.9	15.4	11.4	8.4	6.5	4.2	1.9	2.3
<b>Slovenia</b>	20 016	7.9	25.0	16.6	12.9	11.2	9.4	7.3	4.4	2.2	1.2	2.0
<b>Slovakia</b>	12 611	8.7	22.1	14.1	13.1	11.4	8.7	6.7	5.6	4.2	2.4	3.1
<b>Finland</b>	22 451	18.1	20.6	17.5	13.0	8.9	6.5	4.4	3.5	2.7	1.9	2.9
<b>Sweden</b>	95 750	20.0	20.5	17.5	13.7	9.4	6.5	4.3	2.7	1.9	1.5	2.0
<b>United Kingdom (5)</b>	529 008	4.1	39.5	24.4	12.5	7.8	4.7	3.0	1.9	0.4	0.7	0.8

(1) 2003.

(2) Excluding nationals.

(3) Excluding nationals and EU-15 foreigners.

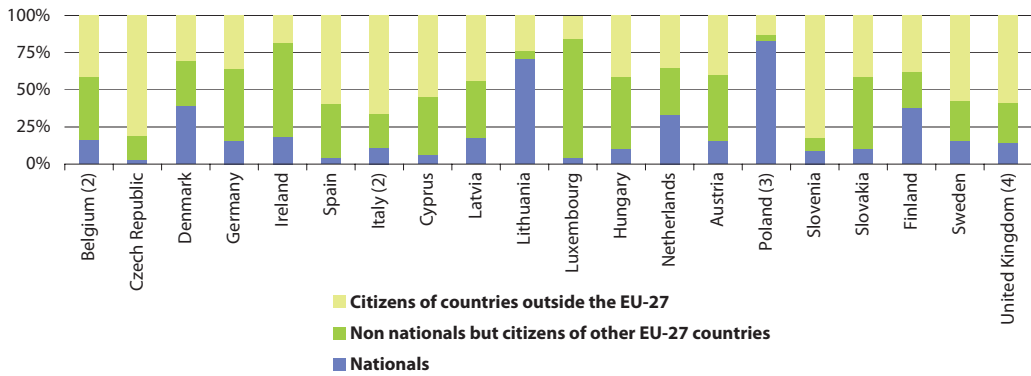
(4) Immigrants for permanent stay only.

(5) Excluding flows from Ireland; data by age, 2005.

Source: Eurostat (migr\_immictz)

**Figure 3.22: Immigration by broad group of citizenship, 2006 (1)**

(% of total immigrants)



(1) Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, France, Malta, Portugal and Romania, not available.

(2) 2003.

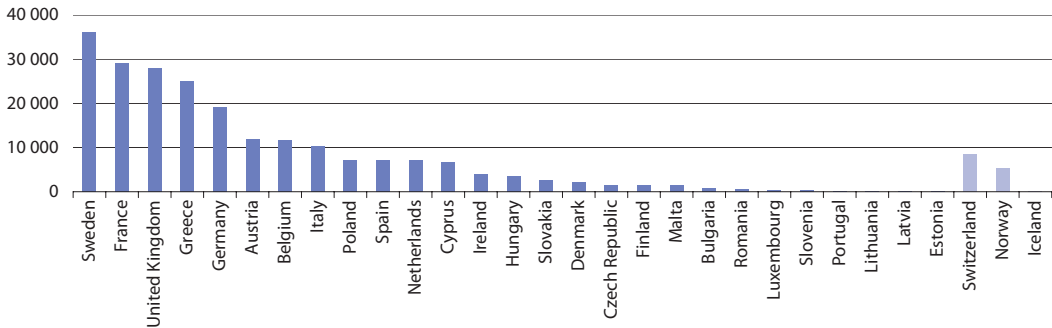
(3) Immigrants for permanent stay only.

(4) Excluding immigrants from Ireland, whatever their citizenship.

Source: Eurostat (migr\_immictz)

**Figure 3.23: Asylum applications, 2007 (1)**

(persons)



(1) Provisional figures for EU-27, 218 935 asylum applications in 2007; euro area, 136 100 asylum applications in 2007; Italy, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, 2006.

Source: Eurostat (tps00021)

**Table 3.18:** Asylum applications

(persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	:	313 645	380 450	406 585	424 180	421 470	344 800	276 675	234 675	197 410	218 935
<b>Euro area</b>	:	231 670	265 105	273 400	271 355	245 335	215 480	181 720	168 720	129 855	136 100
<b>Belgium</b>	11 790	21 965	35 780	42 690	24 505	18 800	13 585	12 400	12 575	8 870	11 575
<b>Bulgaria</b>	370	835	1 350	1 755	2 430	2 890	1 320	985	700	500	815
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2 110	4 085	7 355	8 790	18 095	8 485	11 400	5 300	3 590	2 730	1 585
<b>Denmark</b>	5 100	5 700	6 530	10 345	12 510	5 945	4 390	3 235	2 280	1 960	2 225
<b>Germany</b>	104 355	98 645	94 775	78 565	88 285	71 125	50 565	35 605	28 915	21 030	19 165
<b>Estonia</b>	0	25	25	5	10	10	15	10	10	5	15
<b>Ireland</b>	3 880	4 625	7 725	10 940	10 325	11 635	7 485	4 265	4 305	4 240	3 935
<b>Greece</b>	4 375	2 950	1 530	3 085	5 500	5 665	8 180	4 470	9 050	12 265	25 115
<b>Spain</b>	4 975	4 935	8 405	7 925	9 490	6 310	5 765	5 365	5 050	5 295	7 195
<b>France</b>	21 415	22 375	30 905	38 745	47 290	51 085	59 770	58 545	49 735	30 750	29 160
<b>Italy</b>	1 890	13 100	18 450	15 195	17 400	16 015	13 705	9 630	9 345	10 350	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	:	225	790	650	1 620	950	4 405	9 675	7 715	4 540	6 780
<b>Latvia</b>	:	35	20	5	15	25	5	5	20	10	35
<b>Lithuania</b>	240	160	145	305	425	365	395	165	100	145	125
<b>Luxembourg</b>	435	1 710	2 930	625	685	1 040	1 550	1 575	800	525	425
<b>Hungary</b>	:	7 120	11 500	7 800	9 555	6 410	2 400	1 600	1 610	2 115	3 420
<b>Malta</b>	70	160	255	160	155	350	455	995	1 165	1 270	1 380
<b>Netherlands</b>	34 445	45 215	39 275	43 895	32 580	18 665	13 400	9 780	12 345	14 465	7 100
<b>Austria</b>	6 720	13 805	20 130	18 285	30 125	39 355	32 360	24 635	22 460	13 350	11 920
<b>Poland</b>	3 580	3 425	3 060	4 660	4 480	5 170	6 810	7 925	5 240	4 225	7 205
<b>Portugal</b>	250	355	305	225	235	245	115	115	115	130	225
<b>Romania</b>	1 425	1 235	1 665	1 365	2 280	1 000	885	545	485	380	660
<b>Slovenia</b>	70	335	745	9 245	1 510	650	1 050	1 090	1 550	500	370
<b>Slovakia</b>	645	505	1 320	1 555	8 150	9 745	10 300	11 395	3 550	2 850	2 640
<b>Finland</b>	970	1 270	3 105	3 170	1 650	3 445	3 090	3 575	3 595	2 275	1 405
<b>Sweden</b>	9 680	12 840	11 220	16 285	23 500	33 015	31 355	23 160	17 530	24 320	36 205
<b>United Kingdom</b>	32 500	46 015	71 160	80 315	71 365	103 080	60 045	40 625	30 840	28 320	27 905
<b>Iceland</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	85	40	:
<b>Norway</b>	2 270	8 375	10 160	10 845	14 770	17 480	16 020	7 950	5 400	5 320	:
<b>Switzerland</b>	23 185	39 735	43 935	15 780	18 720	24 255	18 920	12 730	8 650	8 580	:

Source: Eurostat (tps00021)

**Table 3.19:** Acquisition of citizenship and asylum applications  
(persons)

	Acquisition of citizenship		Asylum applications		Asylum decisions					
					Number of decisions		of which, rejections (%)		Number of positive decisions	
	2005	2006	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	:	:	197 410	218 935	237 970	:	57.8	:	55 135	:
<b>Euro area</b>	:	:	129 855	136 100	146 205	:	66.9	:	23 490	:
<b>Belgium</b>	:	:	8 870	11 575	8 345	:	70.8	:	2 440	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	:	6 738	500	815	695	770	30.9	31.8	95	335
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2 626	2 346	2 730	1 585	3 020	2 280	72.7	68.9	365	390
<b>Denmark</b>	10 197	7 961	1 960	2 225	925	850	81.6	44.1	170	475
<b>Germany</b>	117 241	124 566	21 030	19 165	30 760	28 570	57.8	44.6	1 950	7 870
<b>Estonia</b>	7 072	4 781	5	15	5	15	100.0	66.7	0	5
<b>Ireland</b>	4 073	5 763	4 240	3 935	4 245	3 810	90.6	90.0	395	375
<b>Greece</b>	:	1 962	12 265	25 115	11 180	20 990	85.9	98.5	195	165
<b>Spain</b>	42 860	62 375	5 295	7 195	4 065	5 400	95.0	95.5	205	245
<b>France</b>	154 827	147 868	30 750	29 160	37 495	29 150	92.4	88.5	2 855	3 350
<b>Italy</b>	:	35 266	10 350	:	9 260	:	39.7	:	5 215	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	3 952	:	4 540	6 780	5 585	7 170	31.9	32.3	170	210
<b>Latvia</b>	20 106	18 964	10	35	15	20	0.0	50.0	10	10
<b>Lithuania</b>	435	467	145	125	130	145	19.2	34.5	95	60
<b>Luxembourg</b>	954	1 128	525	425	890	1 035	55.6	41.5	370	540
<b>Hungary</b>	:	6 101	2 115	3 420	2 020	2 805	60.1	49.0	200	250
<b>Malta</b>	:	474	1 270	1 380	1 185	955	53.6	34.6	550	625
<b>Netherlands</b>	28 488	29 089	14 465	7 100	14 180	:	53.0	:	4 345	:
<b>Austria</b>	34 876	25 746	13 350	11 920	15 490	16 045	37.9	41.4	4 065	5 195
<b>Poland</b>	2 866	989	4 225	7 205	7 280	6 185	12.8	29.7	2 465	3 035
<b>Portugal</b>	:	3 627	130	225	105	110	71.4	77.3	30	25
<b>Romania</b>	767	29	380	660	365	590	74.0	57.6	55	135
<b>Slovenia</b>	2 684	3 204	500	370	900	540	63.3	50.0	10	10
<b>Slovakia</b>	1 393	1 125	2 850	2 640	2 815	2 970	30.6	39.7	10	95
<b>Finland</b>	5 683	4 433	2 275	1 405	2 520	2 020	61.1	51.7	695	840
<b>Sweden</b>	39 573	51 239	24 320	36 205	46 395	32 470	27.3	37.5	22 745	15 640
<b>United Kingdom</b>	161 755	154 015	28 320	27 905	27 520	27 630	74.2	70.5	5 045	6 805
<b>Croatia</b>	:	12 292	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	2 660	2 147	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Turkey</b>	6 901	5 072	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Iceland</b>	:	:	40	:	30	:	66.7	:	0	:
<b>Norway</b>	12 655	11 955	5 320	:	4 215	:	48.0	:	1 685	:
<b>Switzerland</b>	38 437	46 711	8 580	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat (tps00024, tps00021, tps00163 and tps00164)