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Preface

Dear readers,

The *Eurostat regional yearbook* is a rich source of information about Europeans' everyday life. What happens in the regions has an immediate impact on the conditions citizens face. The effects of European and national policies are felt directly at regional level.

For many years tangible progress has been made in economic and social conditions in the vast majority of European regions, with an increasing trend towards stronger cohesion. The European Union is continuing to apply its regional and urban policies to consolidate these achievements, a task which is even more difficult in current times.

The 15 chapters of this regional yearbook investigate interesting regional similarities and differences in the 27 Member States and in the candidate and EFTA countries. We are pleased to include two entirely new topics in this issue: coastal regions and a revised urban-rural typology. The chapters on transport and on health appeared in earlier issues, but have been reintroduced this year.

Beyond being a source of information, the regional yearbook also aims to tempt readers to dig deeper into the Eurostat website, which contains far more regional data. For many indicators, the electronic tables and the databases available from Eurostat go into a degree of detail beyond the scope of this regional yearbook.

Eurostat is constantly updating the range of regional indicators available and cooperates closely with the Member States of the European Union, the candidate countries and EFTA countries to improve their quality.

I wish you an enjoyable reading experience!

Walter Radermacher
Director-General, Eurostat

Abstract

Eurostat regional yearbook 2010 gives a detailed picture of a large number of statistical fields in the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as in candidate and EFTA countries. If you would like to take a closer look at social and economic trends in Europe's regions, this publication is for you! The texts are written by specialists in statistics and are accompanied by maps, figures and tables on each subject. There is a broad set of regional indicators for the following 15 subjects: population, European cities, labour market, gross domestic product, household accounts, structural business statistics, information society, science, technology and innovation, education, transport, tourism, health, agriculture, coastal regions, and last but not least, a study on a new urban-rural typology. This publication is available in German, English and French.

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Introduction

Statistics on regions and cities

Statistical information is an important tool for understanding and quantifying the impact of political decisions on citizens in a specific territory or area. Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, is responsible for collecting and disseminating data at European level, not just from the 27 Member States of the European Union, but also from the three candidate countries, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, and the four EFTA countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The aim of this publication, the *Eurostat regional yearbook 2010*, is to give a flavour of some of the statistics on regions and cities that Eurostat collects from these countries. Statistics on regions make it possible to identify patterns and trends in more detail than in national data. Because there are 271 NUTS 2 regions in the EU-27, 30 statistical regions on level 2 in the candidate countries, and 16 statistical regions on level 2 in the EFTA countries, the volume of data is so large that there has to be a sorting principle to make it understandable and meaningful.

Statistical maps are one way of presenting large amounts of statistical data in a user-friendly way. That is why this year's *Eurostat regional yearbook*, like previous editions, contains many maps in which the data are sorted into different statistical classes represented by colour shades. Some chapters also make use of graphs and tables to present the data, selected and sorted according to principles to make the results more apparent.

Historically speaking

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the extended version of the *Eurostat regional yearbook*. It first came out in 2000, under the title *Regions: Statistical yearbook*. It was — and still is — published in German, English and French. The publication itself has existed since 1971, under several titles and in all the official languages of the time. It started life as a publication gathering together a large number of tables with regional data and a couple of statistical maps, but no real text commenting on the data in the tables. Still, publishing the tables did have a very important purpose before the Eurostat database became freely available on the Internet, as it is now.

By 2000, it was time to include more maps and graphs in the publication, as well as longer texts explaining and commenting on the statistics presented in each chapter. The PDF version of all previous editions dating back to 2000 is available for downloading from the Eurostat website. Go to the following link:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/publications/regional_yearbook/previous_editions_sub

The first extended version of the *Eurostat regional yearbook*, published in 2000, had eight chapters, and it is interesting to see that all the subjects published then remain in the publication today: **agriculture**, **population**, **gross domestic product**, **labour market** (divided into two chapters on the Labour Force Survey and regional unemployment), **research and development** (now a part of the chapter on science, technology and innovation), **tourism** and **transport**. The publication has been enlarged with additional chapters almost every year since then. This year, the *Eurostat regional yearbook* has 15 chapters, an all-time high so far!

Core content and news in the 2010 edition

This year's edition has a mix of core subjects and some new or recurring topics. Chapter 1, on **population,** presents some basic demographic indicators, such as population density, population growth, fertility rates and migration, and also shows some newly-calculated population projections that can be described as 'what-if' scenarios to provide information about the likely size and structure of the population in the near future. This chapter can be considered as a key to all the others, since the other topics all more or less depend on the composition of the population.

Chapter 2, on **European cities,** highlights some aspects of urbanisation. It focuses on sustainability, particularly the demographic challenge of an ageing society. This phenomenon is shown on a series of maps depicting cities at European level, and it includes some individual examples. A novelty in the chapter is the use of annual data. Eurostat started to collect annual data from cities last year, and is now publishing this material for the first time.

The chapter on the **labour market** is this year divided into two parts, referring to two separate data collections: the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Structure of Earnings Survey. The first part of the labour market chapter also contains a cluster analysis based on a classification of the predominant sector of employment for each NUTS 2 region, which suggests a model that will enable analysis of the labour market data in more detail.

The three economic chapters on **gross domestic product**, **household accounts** and **structural business statistics** are also essential for understanding the general economic situation in regions, private households and different sectors of the business economy.

For the second year in a row, there is a set of data on the **information society**. This chapter describes the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) among private persons and households in the European regions. This chapter measures, for example, how many households use the Internet regularly and how many people have access to broadband connections.

The two chapters about **science, technology and innovation** and **education** represent two interlinked subjects that are very important for measuring the future competitiveness of the European economy on a global scale. The chapter on **transport** gives a detailed picture on a number of different indicators: transport infrastructure, road safety, as well as air and maritime transport. Closely related to transport are statistics on **tourism**, which not only give a picture of our general travel behaviour within Europe, but also of the impact of tourism on the local (regional) economy.

The chapter on **health** focuses on three issues: causes of death, hospital discharges and healthcare staff, especially nurses and midwives. The chapter on **agriculture** focuses broadly on several economic aspects of agriculture, based on the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA), and also on energy costs in agriculture.

Finally, there are two new chapters, broadening and deepening the regional picture. The chapter on **coastal regions** presents a number of statistical subjects with data for NUTS 3 regions on the coastal borders of the EU's Member States. It is therefore more detailed (NUTS 3 instead of NUTS 2) and more specialised (only coastal regions) than the other chapters.

The final chapter is of particular interest for analytical work: it deals with the categorisation of NUTS 3 regions into 'predominantly urban', 'intermediate' or 'predominantly rural'. A revised **urban-rural typology** for categorising the NUTS 3 regions is suggested.

The NUTS classification

Europe stands for diversity. What is trivial on a national level is even more so with regard to regions. In addition, there are many more regions than countries, which results in a very complex picture when comparing data. That is why Eurostat has developed a regional classification for Europe that provides a harmonised hierarchy of regions on three levels.

NUTS (nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) subdivides each Member State into a number of NUTS 1 regions, each of which is in turn subdivided into a number of NUTS 2 regions and so on. If available, administrative structures are used for the different NUTS levels. Where there is no administrative layer for a given level, artificial regions are created by aggregating smaller administrative regions.

It should be noted that some Member States have a relatively small population and are therefore not divided into more than one NUTS 2 region. Thus, for these countries, the NUTS 2 value is identical to the national value. Following the latest revision of the NUTS classification in 2006, this now applies to six Member States, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Malta, to one candidate country, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and to two EFTA countries, Iceland and Liechtenstein. In each case, the whole country consists of one single NUTS 2 region.

A folding map inside the cover accompanies this publication. It shows all NUTS level 2 regions in the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU-27) and the corresponding level 2 statistical regions in the candidate and EFTA countries, and it has a full list of codes and names of these regions. The map is to help readers locate the name and NUTS code of a specific region on the other statistical maps in the publication.

The NUTS classification has been used for regional statistics for many decades, and has always formed the basis for regional funding

policy. However, it was only in 2003 that NUTS acquired a legal basis, when the Parliament and Council adopted the NUTS regulation ([1]).

(1) More information on the NUTS classification can be found at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/introduction

The NUTS regulation states that the regional classification can be amended to take into account new administrative divisions or boundary changes, but only at a minimum of three-year intervals. This is to ensure stability for the sake of historical statistics. In 2010, a second review took place, but the results of these changes will not come into force before 1 January 2012.

Coverage

The *Eurostat regional yearbook 2010* contains statistics on the 27 Member States of the European Union and, where available, data are also given on the three candidate countries, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, and the four EFTA countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Regions in the candidate and EFTA countries are called 'statistical regions' and follow the same rules as the NUTS regions in the European Union, except that there is no legal base. A full set of data from the candidate and EFTA countries is not yet available in the Eurostat database for some of the policy areas, but the situation is systematically improving, and the next edition of the yearbook should provide even better coverage for these countries.

More regional information

In the subject area 'Regions and cities' under the heading 'General and regional statistics' on the Eurostat website, there are tables with statistics on both 'Regions' and the 'Urban Audit', with more detailed time series. A number of indicators at NUTS level 3 (mainly for land area, demography, gross domestic product and labour market data) are also available on this public database. This is important, since some of the countries covered are not divided into NUTS 2 regions, as mentioned above.

Another innovation in this year's edition is the inclusion of source links, which enable readers to obtain up-to-date figures. These links can be found under each map, table and graph in this publication. In the PDF version of the publication, there are hyperlinks to the corresponding data set in the Eurostat database.

It is also possible to download Excel tables containing the specific data used to produce the maps and other illustrations for each chapter in this publication. These can be found on the Eurostat website under the product page of the *Eurostat regional yearbook*.

There is also a complete listing of the content of the regional and urban databases. This is available in the Eurostat publication *European regional and urban statistics — Reference guide — 2010 edition*, which can be downloaded free of charge from the Eurostat website. We hope readers will find this publication both interesting and useful. Feedback is always welcome.