

Eurostat regional yearbook 2011



Eurostat regional yearbook 2011

Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers to your questions about the European Union.

Freephone number (*):

00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(*) Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00 800 numbers or these calls may be billed.

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2011

ISBN 978-92-79-20366-4

ISSN 1830-9674

doi:10.2785/1392

Cat. No: KS-HA-11-001-EN-C

Theme: General and regional statistics

Collection: Statistical books

© European Union, 2011

Reproduction of content other than photos is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.

© Photo credits: foreword: © European Union; cover and chapters 'Introduction', 'Population', 'Labour market', 'Labour cost', 'Education', 'Health', 'Household accounts', 'Structural business statistics', 'Information society', 'Land cover and land use' and 'Trends in densely and thinly populated areas': © Phovoir; chapters 'European cities' and 'Coastal regions': © Ardis Önnarfors; chapters 'Gross domestic product', 'Transport' and 'Science, technology and innovation': © Digital Photo Library of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy of the European Commission; chapter 'Tourism': © Sylvie Villaume.

Reproduction of photos is allowed for non-commercial purposes and within the sole context of this publication.

Printed in Belgium

PRINTED ON ELEMENTAL CHLORINE-FREE BLEACHED PAPER (ECF)



Foreword

The *Eurostat regional yearbook* provides an overview of key statistics available for the regions of Europe. A close look at many of the very relevant social, economic and environmental indicators will quickly reveal that national figures do not show the full picture of what is happening in Europe in many, and perhaps most, cases. Very different developments are often visible if one looks at smaller geographical scales. Thus the *Eurostat regional yearbook* is a valuable supplement to *Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook*, which concentrates exclusively on statistics on a national scale. On this occasion I would like to draw your attention to a recent publication of the European Commission, *Investing in Europe's future — Fifth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion*, which puts many of the statistics shown in the *Eurostat regional yearbook* into a European policy context: pa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/cohesion5/pdf/5cr_en.pdf



The system of so-called NUTS (nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) on which the regional statistics are based has strong implications beyond the direct field of statistics. Its definition of regions is used more and more in other areas, and thus contributes to shaping the perception of European citizens in their identification with a certain regional structure. The NUTS system thus contributes to the gradual creation of a common European concept of regions.

In 2011, for the first time, you can find the content of this book updated online in 'Statistics explained'. As usual, the latest and most complete versions of all the data can be downloaded from the Eurostat website.

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union. Working together with national statistical authorities in the European statistical system, we produce official statistics, which meet the highest possible standards of quality.

I wish you an enjoyable reading experience!

Walter Radermacher
Director-General, Eurostat
Chief Statistician of the European Union



Abstract

Statistical information is an important tool for understanding and quantifying the impact of political decisions on the citizens in a specific territory or region. The *Eurostat regional yearbook 2011* gives a detailed picture of a large number of statistical fields in the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as in EFTA and candidate countries. The text of each chapter has been written by specialists in statistics and is accompanied by maps, figures and tables. A broad set of regional indicators are presented for the following 16 subjects: population, labour market, labour cost, education, health, European cities, gross domestic product, household accounts, structural business statistics, information society, tourism, land cover and land use, coastal regions, transport, science, technology and innovation and last but not least, a study on trends in densely and thinly populated areas.

Editor-in-chief

Teodóra Brandmüller

Eurostat, Head of section, Unit E.4, Regional statistics and geographical information

Editor

Åsa Önnersfors

Eurostat, Unit E.4, Regional statistics and geographical information

Map production

Abaco Srl, coordinated by César de Diego Diez, Åsa Önnersfors, Daniela Scirankova and Atanas Trifonov

Eurostat, Unit E.4, Regional statistics and geographical information

Dissemination

Isabelle Fiasse

Eurostat, Unit D.4, Dissemination

Contact details

Eurostat

Bâtiment Joseph Bech

5, rue Alphonse Weicker

2721 LUXEMBOURG

E-mail: estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu

For more information please consult

Internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data extracted

February–April 2011



Acknowledgements

The editor-in-chief and the editor of the *Eurostat regional yearbook 2011* would like to thank all of the colleagues who contributed. We would particularly like to thank those who were involved in each specific chapter:

- **Population:** Veronica Corsini, Giampaolo Lanzieri, Monica Marcu and Gabriela Senchea Badea (Eurostat, Unit F.1, Population)
- **Labour market:** Lourdes Prado Ureña and Daniela Scirankova (Eurostat, Unit E.4, Regional statistics and geographical information)
- **Labour cost:** Simone Casali (Eurostat, Unit F.2, Labour market)
- **Education:** Marta Beck-Domzalska, Sorin-Florin Gheorghiu, Dominique Groenez, Sylvain Jouhette, Emmanuel Kailis and Paolo Turchetti (Eurostat, Unit F.4, Education, science and culture)
- **Health:** Marta Carvalhido, Elodie Cayotte and Jean-Marc Schaefer (Eurostat, Unit F.5, Health and food safety; Crime)
- **European cities:** Teodóra Brandmüller (Eurostat, Unit E.4, Regional statistics and geographical information)
- **Gross domestic product:** Andreas Krüger (Eurostat, Unit C.2, National accounts — Production)
- **Household accounts:** Andreas Krüger (Eurostat, Unit C.2, National accounts — Production)
- **Structural business statistics:** Aleksandra Stawińska (Eurostat, Unit G.2, Structural business statistics)
- **Information society:** Anna Lööf and Albrecht Wirthmann (Eurostat, Unit F.6, Information society and tourism statistics)
- **Tourism:** Christophe Demunter and Sylvie Villaume (Eurostat, Unit F.6, Information society and tourism statistics)
- **Land cover and land use:** Paolo Dominici, Marjo Kasanko, Laura Martino and Alessandra Palmieri (Eurostat, Unit E.1, Farms, agro-environment and rural development)
- **Coastal regions:** Isabelle Collet (Eurostat, Unit E.4, Regional statistics and geographical information)
- **Transport:** Anastassia Vakalopoulou (Eurostat, Unit E.6, Transport)
- **Science, technology and innovation:** Ilcho Bechev, Daniela Silvia Crintea, Bernard Félix, Dominique Groenez and Reni Petkova (Eurostat, Unit F.4, Education, science and culture)
- **Trends in densely and thinly populated areas:** Lewis Dijkstra and Angela Winkelhorst (Directorate-General for Regional Policy, Unit C.3, Economic and quantitative analysis; additionality)

We are also very grateful to:

- the **Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission**, particularly the German, English and French translation units and the Editing Unit;
- the **Publications Office of the European Union**, and in particular Nadine Joffé in Unit B.1, Cross-media publishing and the proofreaders in Unit B.2, Editorial services.



Contents

Foreword	3
Acknowledgements	5
INTRODUCTION	13
Statistics on regions and cities	14
Core content and news in the 2011 edition	14
Coverage	16
The NUTS classification	16
‘Statistics explained’	16
Eurostat online data codes	17
More regional information	17
1 POPULATION	19
Introduction	20
Main statistical findings	20
Population size and density	20
Population change in 2008	20
Demographic ageing: the situation today	27
Conclusion	27
Data sources and availability	31
Context	31
2 LABOUR MARKET	33
Introduction	34
Main statistical findings	34
Employment	34
Unemployment	36
Long-term unemployment	36
Youth unemployment	40
Disparities in regional labour markets	44
Data sources and availability	44
Definitions	44
Context	46
3 LABOUR COST	49
Introduction	50
Main statistical findings	50
Hourly labour costs	50
Hours actually worked	50
Structure of labour costs	50
Data sources and availability	52
Context	55



4 EDUCATION	57
Introduction	58
Main statistical findings	58
Students in tertiary education.....	58
Students aged 17 in education.....	58
Participation of four-year-olds in education.....	58
Students in upper-secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.....	61
Tertiary educational attainment	61
Early leavers from education and training.....	61
Data sources and availability	66
Context.....	66
5 HEALTH	69
Introduction	70
Main statistical findings	70
Causes of death — malignant neoplasms.....	70
Combined malignant neoplasms of the larynx, trachea, bronchus and lung.....	70
Breast cancer	70
Malignant neoplasms of the prostate.....	74
Hospital discharges.....	74
Malignant neoplasms of the trachea, bronchus and lung.....	74
Breast cancer	74
Conclusion	74
Data sources and availability	78
Context.....	78
6 EUROPEAN CITIES	81
Introduction	82
Main statistical findings	82
Why cities matter	82
The urban labour force	82
Students in higher education.....	82
Perception of poverty	86
Perception of air pollution.....	86
Data sources and availability	86
Context.....	91
7 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	93
Introduction	94
Main statistical findings	94
Regional GDP per inhabitant in 2008.....	94
Major regional differences even within countries themselves	94
Dynamic catch-up process in the new Member States	96
Different trends within countries themselves	97



Convergence makes progress	97
Data sources and availability	99
What is regional gross domestic product?	99
Purchasing power parities and international volume comparisons	99
Dispersion of regional per-inhabitant GDP	101
Context.....	101
8 HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS	103
Introduction	104
Main statistical findings	104
Private household income	104
Results for 2008.....	104
Disposable income.....	106
Dynamic development on the edges of the EU	107
Data sources and availability	110
Context.....	110
9 STRUCTURAL BUSINESS STATISTICS	113
Introduction	114
Main statistical findings	114
Regional specialisation.....	114
Business concentration	119
Data sources and availability	120
Context.....	123
10 INFORMATION SOCIETY	125
Introduction	126
Main statistical findings	126
Access to information and communication technologies.....	126
E-commerce by individuals.....	128
Regular use of the Internet	129
Conclusions.....	133
Data sources and availability	135
Context.....	135
11 TOURISM	139
Introduction	140
Main statistical findings	140
Tourism in the EU-27: trends and facts	140
Top 20 tourist regions in the EU-27.....	140
Number of overnight stays	140
Trends in tourism over the period 2004–09.....	140
Overnight stays in campsites	141
Top 20 tourist regions in the EU-27 visited by foreign tourists.....	141
Share of inbound tourism.....	141



Domestic tourism: most popular regions	146
Average length of stay: hotel versus campsites	146
Top 20 regions by accommodation capacity.....	151
Accommodation capacity in hotels	151
Conclusion	151
Data sources and availability	154
Context.....	154
12 LAND COVER AND LAND USE	157
Introduction	158
Main statistical findings	158
Artificial areas	158
More than 8.8 % of EU land used for residential, commercial and industrial purposes	158
Cropland covers Europe evenly.....	161
Grasslands maintain Europe's livestock farming	161
Forests and woodlands dominate the European landscape	161
European landscapes are diverse	161
Conclusions.....	166
Data sources and availability	166
Glossary.....	166
Context.....	167
13 COASTAL REGIONS	169
Introduction	170
Main statistical findings	170
EU coastal regions bordering the maritime basins	170
Population of the EU coastal regions	170
The EU population living along maritime basins.....	170
Structure of the EU coastal regions' population by maritime basins.....	170
The EU coastal regions population by maritime basins and urban-rural typology.....	170
Change in EU coastal regions' population	173
Share of women in the population of EU coastal regions	175
Active population of the EU coastal regions.....	179
Share of women in the active population of EU coastal regions	179
Unemployment in EU coastal regions.....	179
Female unemployment in EU coastal regions.....	179
Data sources and availability	179
Context.....	180
14 TRANSPORT.....	185
Introduction	186
Main statistical findings	186
Stock of passenger cars, buses and coaches	186
Stock of road freight vehicles.....	187



Air transport	187
Maritime transport	193
Data sources and availability	199
15 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	201
Introduction	202
Main statistical findings	202
Research and development	202
Human resources in science and technology	202
Patents	207
Data sources and availability	208
Context	211
16 TRENDS IN DENSELY AND THINLY POPULATED AREAS	215
Introduction	216
Main statistical findings	216
Severe material deprivation	216
At-risk-of-poverty	216
Access to primary healthcare	216
Broadband Internet connection	217
Crime, violence and vandalism	218
Data sources and availability	219
Context	223
ANNEX 1 — NUTS (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics)	225
European Union: NUTS 2 regions	225
EFTA countries: Statistical regions at level 2	228
Candidate countries: Statistical regions at level 2	229
ANNEX 2 — Cities participating in the Urban Audit data collection	230
European Union: Urban Audit cities	230
EFTA countries: Urban Audit cities	234
Candidate countries: Urban Audit cities	235



Introduction





Statistics on regions and cities

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, is responsible for collecting and disseminating data at European level, primarily from the 27 Member States of the European Union, but also from the EFTA and candidate countries, at both national and regional levels. The aim of this publication, the *Eurostat regional yearbook 2011*, is to give a flavour of some of the statistics on regions and cities that Eurostat collects and to present the most recent figures for each statistical subject.

The countries within the European Union are often compared with each other, but in reality it is very difficult to compare a small country like Malta, which has around 400 000 inhabitants, or Luxembourg, which has around 500 000 inhabitants, with Germany, the country which has the biggest population in the EU, more than 80 million inhabitants. Comparing regional data that are as detailed as possible is often more meaningful and it also highlights the disparities — or evenness — within the countries themselves. Most statistics in this publication are based on NUTS 2 regions, but this year we have also introduced some maps based on NUTS 3 regions, the lowest available NUTS level, whenever data for this level are available.

A problem with regional statistics and city statistics is that the volume of data inevitably gets very large (there are as many as 1 303 NUTS 3 regions for the EU-27) and there has to be some kind of sorting principle to make the data comprehensible. Statistical maps are excellent for 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 thematic maps in which the data are sorted into different statistical classes represented by colour shades on the maps. Some chapters also make use of graphs and tables to present the data, selected and sorted according to principles designed to make the results more apparent.

Europe 2020 is the EU's new growth strategy for the coming decade and is the successor to the Lisbon strategy. The overall target of Europe 2020 is that Europe should become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy and it sets out a number of specific, measurable statistical targets. The aim is to reach the objectives on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy by the year 2020. The Europe 2020 targets are mentioned explicitly in many of the chapters of this publication and you can study the strategy in more detail on the European Commission website, at: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

You will also find quick access to the Europe 2020 'Headline indicators' on the Eurostat website at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators

Please note that the latest available reference year is not identical across the publication. Each section aims at

showing the latest data available, as is frequently the case in statistical publications. In the light of the financial crisis, which had for certain subjects of the publication severe implications in the observed years, it is important to keep in mind the reference year with respect to the overall economic and social events. The following table gives an overview of the latest available reference year for each chapter.

Chapter number	Subject	Latest available reference year
1	Population	2008
2	Labour market	2009
3	Labour cost	2008
4	Education	2009
5	Health	2008
6	European cities	2008
7	Gross domestic product	2008
8	Household accounts	2008
9	Structural business statistics	2008
10	Information society	2010
11	Tourism	2009
12	Land cover and land use	2009
13	Coastal regions	2009
14	Transport	2009
15	Science, technology and innovation	2008
16	Trends in densely and thinly populated areas	2009

Eurostat may have more recent data than shown in the publication. It can be found directly on the Eurostat website. The data codes below all maps, tables and figures in the publication will help you locate the indicator on the Eurostat website.

Core content and news in the 2011 edition

The aim of the publication is to cover as many subjects for which Eurostat collects regional data as possible, and as a result new subjects are constantly introduced. The 2011 edition contains 16 chapters covering a mix of core subjects and new topics. The first chapter on **population** presents the latest figures on some of the basic demographic indicators, such as population density, population change, fertility rates and life expectancy for both men and women. Four out of eight maps in this chapter present statistics by NUTS 3 regions, which gives an even more detailed picture compared to higher regional levels. It is also worth noting that this chapter has the best coverage of the EFTA and candidate countries. The population chapter is in a way the basis for all other statistical subjects, since they depend on the composition of the population.



The second chapter on the **labour market**, based on data from the EU Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), examines the regional employment and unemployment patterns with a special focus on female participation in the labour market and on the two most severe forms of unemployment, long-term unemployment and youth unemployment. The next chapter is about **labour cost**, based on the Labour Cost Survey (LCS), and shows statistics on NUTS 1 regions for indicators like 'hourly labour costs' and 'hours actually worked'.

Education is crucial to the future economic and social success of the European Union and the fourth chapter shows us the state of play regarding enrolment in education and educational attainment in the countries examined here. The next chapter deals with another topic important to each one of us, namely **health**. Cancer (malignant neoplasm) is on average the second most common cause of death in the European Union and in some countries it is the leading cause of death. The health chapter this year focuses on the death rates for the three most prevalent cancer forms and on the number of hospital discharges of inpatients per 100 000 inhabitants for these types of cancer.

Around 68 % of the European Union's population lives in an urban area, so this is also a topic close to many of us. The chapter on **European cities** shows some of the indicators related to the Europe 2020 goals and it also presents two indicators from the Urban Audit perception survey.

The next three chapters are all economy-related, dealing with, namely, **gross domestic product**, **household accounts** and **structural business statistics**. Economy is in a sense also the basis of all other chapters and the basis for realising the political goals set out in the Europe 2020 strategy. The results this year are especially interesting as we are now beginning to see statistical evidence of the financial crisis that hit Europe and the rest of the world at the end of the first decade of 2000.

The chapter on the **information society** describes the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) among private persons and households in the European regions. The analysis in this chapter concentrates on the development of broadband connections, Internet access and regular use of Internet, etc., during the most recent two-year period, from 2008 to 2010. **Tourism** is another important economic activity for many regions in Europe, with wide social, cultural and environmental implications. Besides maps for NUTS 2 regions, this edition includes more detailed results on accommodation capacity by NUTS 3 regions. **Land cover and land use** is a topic new to this publication and we are very proud to have the subject represented for the

first time. 'Land cover' describes the biophysical coverage of land (e.g. crops, grass, broad-leaved forest or built-up area) whereas 'land use' indicates the socioeconomic use of land (e.g. agriculture, forestry, recreation or residential use). Both these aspects are essential for monitoring a wide range of environmental and socioeconomic trends, linked to sustainable use of resources as well as climate change and biodiversity. For the second year in a row, we also have a chapter about **coastal regions**, defined as regions (on NUTS level 3) having either a coastline or more than half of their population living within 50 km of the sea. This chapter examines the specific conditions in these NUTS 3 regions and their connection to maritime basins.

Transport statistics are crucial for monitoring and — in the longer term — improving regional accessibility. The transport chapter this year focuses on the following topics: road passenger transport (motorisation rate and shares of public transport vehicles) and stocks of road freight vehicles. It also contains four tables on passenger and freight transport ranked by the top 20 air- and seaport regions in Europe.

The next statistical topic, **science, technology and innovation** is — alongside statistics on education and the information society — a key element for achieving the ambitious goals set out in the Europe 2020 strategy concerning 'smart growth', i.e. to develop a European economy based on knowledge and innovation. This chapter presents the most recent figures on research and development (R & D) and human resources in science and technology (HRST) as well as patent statistics, the latter for the first time in this publication, broken down by NUTS 3 regions.

The last chapter in the *Eurostat regional yearbook 2011* is a study of **trends in densely and thinly populated areas**, another subject which is presented here for the first time. This chapter is based on a classification of areas by degree of urbanisation as defined in the Labour Force Survey, but here the definition has been applied to another statistical area, namely the data collection called EU-SILC (EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions). Statistics on five crucial social issues are presented: severe material deprivation; at-risk-of-poverty; access to primary healthcare; broadband Internet connection; and perception of problems with crime, violence and vandalism in the close neighbourhood. All these issues are broken down by degree of urbanisation (densely, intermediate or thinly populated areas) in each country and illustrated by a series of interesting graphs. In contrast to the other topics, this chapter only contains one statistical map, which illustrates the degree of urbanisation concept geographically.



Coverage

The *Eurostat regional yearbook 2011* contains statistics on the 27 Member States of the European Union and, where available, data are also shown for the EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and the candidate countries (Montenegro, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽¹⁾ and Turkey). Iceland is, from 27 July 2010, in fact both an EFTA and a candidate country, but here it is sorted under the EFTA countries. Montenegro has been a new candidate country since 17 December 2010.

The NUTS classification

NUTS (the nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) is a regional classification for the 27 Member States of the European Union providing a harmonised hierarchy of regions on three geographical levels. The NUTS classification 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.

The NUTS regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council) was adopted in May 2003 and entered into force in July 2003; it has since been amended twice and also supplemented twice with new Member States in 2004 (10 new Member States) and 2008 (two new Member States, Bulgaria and Romania). The second regular amendment (EU No 31/2011) was adopted in January 2011 and will enter into force from 1 January 2012.

These are the principles for determining the NUTS regions in the Member States.

Principle 1: The NUTS regulation defines the following minimum and maximum population thresholds for the size of the NUTS regions.

Level	Minimum	Maximum
NUTS 1	3 million	7 million
NUTS 2	800 000	3 million
NUTS 3	150 000	800 000

⁽¹⁾ The name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is shown in tables as FYR of Macedonia. This does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which is to be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Principle 2: NUTS favours administrative divisions (normative criterion).

For practical reasons the NUTS classification is based on the administrative divisions applied in the Member States. That generally comprises two main regional levels; the additional third level is created by aggregating administrative units.

Principle 3: NUTS favours general geographical units.

General geographical units are normally more suitable for any given indicator than geographical units specific to certain fields of activity.

Regions have also been defined and agreed with the EFTA and candidate countries; these regions are called 'statistical regions' and follow exactly the same rules as the NUTS regions in the European Union, except that there is no legal base.

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. It also applies to the statistical regions at level 2 in the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein and in the candidate countries Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In each of these cases, the whole country consists of one single level 2 NUTS region or statistical region.

A folding map inside the cover accompanies this publication. It shows all NUTS 2 regions in the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU-27) and the corresponding level 2 statistical regions in the EFTA and candidate countries, and it also has a full list of codes and names of these regions. The map is intended to help readers to locate the name and NUTS code of a specific region on the other statistical maps in the publication. More information on the NUTS classification can be found here: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/nuts_nomenclature/introduction

'Statistics explained'

All the chapters in the *Eurostat regional yearbook* have, for the past couple of years, also been included as articles in 'Statistics explained', Eurostat's user-friendly guide to European statistics, which you will find on the Eurostat website. 'Statistics explained' is a wiki-based system, with an approach somewhat similar to Wikipedia, which presents statistical topics in an easy-to-understand way. Together, the articles make up an encyclopaedia of European statistics, which is completed by a statistical glossary clarifying the terms used. In addition, numerous links are provided to the latest data and metadata, as well as further information, making 'Statistics explained' a portal for regular and occasional users alike.



In May 2011, 'Statistics explained' contained more than 1 000 articles and glossary items, and its content is regularly expanded and its user-friendliness increased. From next year (2012) onwards, 'Statistics explained' will be used as a tool for producing new content for the *Eurostat regional yearbook*. This is already the case for another important Eurostat publication, namely *Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook*, which is the most comprehensive selection of Eurostat data at national level. This means that the latest text on each topic both for the *Eurostat yearbook* and for the *Eurostat regional yearbook* will be available in 'Statistics explained' earlier than in the printed versions, and in this way, the most recent results will be made available to our users without the inevitable delays that are part and parcel of making high-quality printed publications. The German and French versions of the two publications will only be available in 'Statistics explained' and not as printed publications from this year (2011) onwards. The increased possibilities for user-friendliness and searchability in the German and French versions offered by 'Statistics explained' were considered more important to spend time and effort on, compared to the very limited number of printed copies disseminated in these two languages. 'Statistics explained' can be accessed via a link on the right-hand side of the Eurostat website or directly at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained

Eurostat online data codes

Under each table, figure or map in all Eurostat publications you will find hyperlinks with Eurostat online data codes, allowing easy access to the most recent data on the Eurostat website. The online data codes lead either to a two- or three-dimensional table in the TGM (table, graph, map) interface or to an open dataset which contains more dimensions and longer time series in the Data Explorer interface ⁽²⁾. In the

Eurostat regional yearbook, these online data codes are given as part of the source below each table, figure and map.

In the PDF version of this publication, the reader is led directly to the freshest data when clicking on the hyperlinks for Eurostat online data codes. Readers of the printed version can access the freshest data by typing a standardised hyperlink into a web browser, for example:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/product?code=<data_code>&mode=view, where <data_code> is to be replaced by the online data code in question. The data codes can also be fed into the 'search' function of the Eurostat website.

More regional information

In the subject area 'Regions and cities' under the heading 'General and regional statistics' on the Eurostat website, you will find statistics on both 'Regions' and 'Urban Audit' (city statistics), containing more dimensions and longer time series than those presented in this publication.

It is also possible to download the Excel files that contain the specific data used to produce the maps and other illustrations for each chapter in this publication. These you will also find on the Eurostat website under the product page of the *Eurostat regional yearbook*.

The yearly updated Eurostat publication *European regional and urban statistics — Reference guide* contains a complete listing of the content of the regional and urban databases. It can be downloaded free of charge from the Eurostat website, just like all other Eurostat publications.

We hope that you will find the 2011 edition of the *Eurostat regional yearbook* both interesting and useful. Any feedback on the content is always welcome.

⁽²⁾ There are two types of online data codes: (1) tables (accessed using the TGM interface) with eight-character codes, which consist of three or five letters — the first of which is 't' — followed by five or three digits, e.g. *tps00001* and *tsdph220*; and (2) databases (accessed using the Data Explorer interface), which have codes that use an underscore '_' within the syntax of the code, e.g. *nama_gdp_c*