



Population

As the population of the European Union reaches 500 million, its structure is changing. Recent demographic developments show that the EU's population is growing, while its age structure is becoming older as post-war baby-boom generations reach retirement age. Furthermore, people are living longer, as life expectancy continues to increase. On the other hand, while fertility is increasing slowly, it remains well below a level that would keep the size of the population constant in the absence of inward or outward migration. As a result, the EU will, in the coming decades, face a number of challenges associated with an ageing society which will impact on a range of areas, including labour markets, pensions and provisions for healthcare, housing, and social services.

Population change and the structure of the population are gaining importance in the political, economic, social and cultural context of demographic behaviour. Demographic trends in population growth, fertility, mortality and migration are closely followed by policymakers. EU policies, notably in social and economic fields, use demographic data for planning, and for programme monitoring and evaluation.

Eurostat provides a wide range of demographic data, including statistics on populations at national and regional level, as well as for various demographic factors (births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and emigration) influencing the size, the structure and the specific characteristics of these populations. Eurostat also collects detailed information on different areas related to migration and asylum: foreign resident populations, annual flows of immigrants and emigrants, persons acquiring citizenship, monthly and quarterly information on asylum applicants and on asylum decisions, residence permits issued to non-EU nationals and persons found illegally present in EU Member States. These statistics concerning migration and asylum provide the basis for the development and monitoring of EU policy



initiatives in several areas, including: the impact of migration on labour markets, the promotion of migrant integration, the

development of a common asylum system, the prevention of unauthorised migration, and trafficking in human beings.

2.1 European population compared with world population

This subchapter gives an overview of the European Union's (EU's) population in relation to the rest of the world by looking at several key demographic indicators.

Main statistical findings

The world's population was approaching 7 000 million inhabitants at the beginning of 2010 and continues to grow. Asia accounted for the majority of the world's population (just over 60 %) with 4 167 million inhabitants, while Africa was the next most populous continent with 1 033 million inhabitants, or 15.0 % of the world total.

The world's population more than doubled between 1960 and 2010. The increase in global population between 1960 and 2010 can be largely attributed to growth in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The most populous countries in the world in 2010 were China (19.6 % of world's population) and India (17.6 %), followed at some distance by the United States and Indonesia. The share of the EU-27 in the world's population was 7.3 %.

Population density within the EU-27 was 116.4 persons per km² in 2010, more than three times as high as in the United States, but below the values recorded for Indonesia, China, Japan, India and the Republic of Korea.

The latest United Nations (UN) population projections (world population prospects: the 2008 revision) suggest that the pace at which the world's population is expanding will slow in the coming decades; however, the total number of inhabitants is nevertheless projected to reach more than 9 000 million by 2050. According to these projections, the world's population will also be relatively older in 2050 than it is now.

Ageing societies

Ageing society represents a major demographic challenge and is linked to several issues, including, persistently low fertility rates and significant increases in life expectancy during recent decades (see Table 2.3). Improvements in the quality and availability of healthcare are likely, at least in part, to explain the latter, alongside other factors such as increased

awareness of health issues, higher standards of living, or changes in workplace occupations from predominantly manual labour to tertiary activities. The average life expectancy of a new-born baby in the world was estimated at 67.6 years (for the period 2005 to 2010): the value of this indicator increased by 3.6 years compared with the period 1990 to 1995. In the EU-27, life expectancy at birth is generally higher than in most other regions of the world.

The old-age dependency ratio is used as indicator of the level of support of the old population (aged 65 years and over) by the working age population (those aged between 15 to 64 years). Both the UN's and Eurostat's population projections suggest that the population of older persons in the EU-27 will increase to such an extent that there will be fewer than two persons of working age for each person aged 65 or more by the year 2050.

Data sources and availability

The data in this subchapter is based on information from two sources: Eurostat and the UN's population division (world population prospects: the 2008 revision).

The UN is involved in several multi-national survey programmes whose results provide key information about fertility, mortality, maternal and child health. UN population data is often based on regis-

ters or estimates of mid-year population; this may be contrasted with Eurostat's data that generally reflect the situation as of 1 January in each reference year.

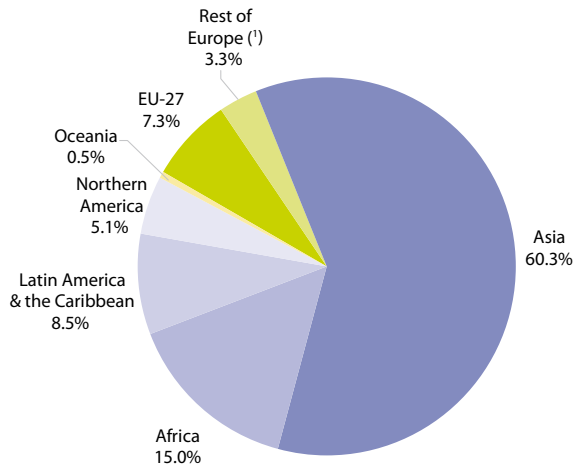
UN population projections are used in this subchapter to provide comparisons between EU and non-EU countries. Eurostat regularly produces population projections at a national level for the EU Member States.

Context

Europe's ageing society and its relatively static number of inhabitants may be contrasted against a rapid expansion in the world's population, driven largely by population growth in developing countries. However, the demographic challenge that the EU-27 is confronted with is by no means unique. Most developed, and also some emerging economies, will undergo changes in their demographic composition in the next four decades. Shrinking working age populations, a higher proportion of elderly persons, and increasing old age dependency rates suggest that there will be a considerable burden to provide social expenditure related to population ageing (pensions, healthcare, institutional care). The challenges associated with an ageing society are likely to be even more acute in countries such the Republic of Korea where this dependency ratio will rise rapidly and to a very high level.



Figure 2.1: World population, 2010
(% of total)



(*) Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

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

Table 2.1: World population

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
	(million)										
World	3 023	3 332	3 686	4 061	4 438	4 846	5 290	5 713	6 115	6 512	6 909
Europe (*)	604	634	656	676	693	707	721	727	727	729	733
Africa	285	322	367	419	482	556	639	726	819	921	1 033
Asia	1 694	1 886	2 125	2 379	2 623	2 890	3 179	3 448	3 698	3 937	4 167
Latin America and the Caribbean	220	252	286	323	363	402	442	482	521	557	589
Northern America	204	219	231	242	254	267	283	300	319	335	352
Oceania	16	18	20	21	23	25	27	29	31	34	36
	(% of the world population)										
Europe (*)	20.0	19.0	17.8	16.6	15.6	14.6	13.6	12.7	11.9	11.2	10.6
Africa	9.4	9.7	10.0	10.3	10.9	11.5	12.1	12.7	13.4	14.1	15.0
Asia	56.0	56.6	57.7	58.6	59.1	59.6	60.1	60.4	60.5	60.4	60.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.3	7.6	7.8	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5
Northern America	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.1
Oceania	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

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

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

Table 2.2: Population and population density

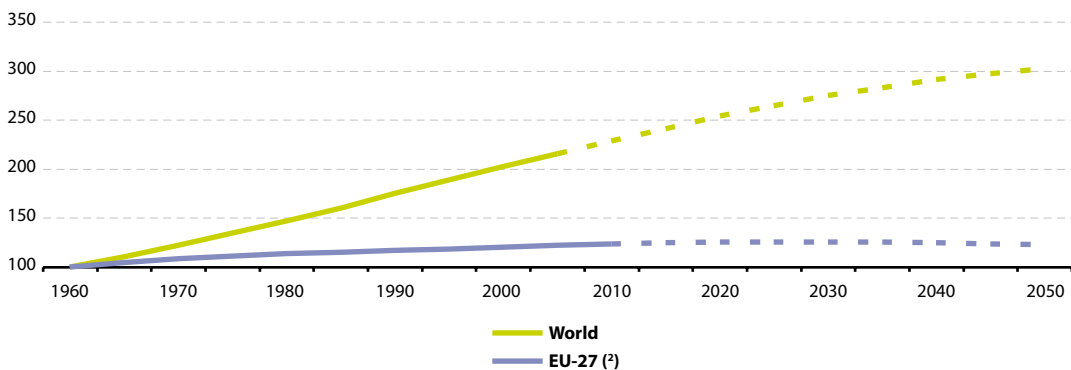
	Population (million)		Population density (persons per km ²)	
	1960	2010	1960	2010
EU-27⁽¹⁾	402.6	501.1	93.6	116.4
Argentina	20.7	40.7	7.4	14.6
Australia	10.3	21.5	1.3	2.8
Brazil	72.7	195.4	8.5	23.0
Canada	17.9	33.9	1.8	3.7
China	645.9	1 354.1	67.3	141.1
India	448.3	1 214.5	136.4	369.4
Indonesia	93.1	232.5	48.9	125.0
Japan	93.2	127.0	246.6	337.0
Rep. of Korea	25.1	48.5	251.8	502.8
Mexico	37.9	110.6	19.4	56.5
Russia	119.9	140.4	7.0	8.6
Saudi Arabia	4.1	26.2	1.9	12.2
South Africa	17.4	50.5	14.2	41.4
Turkey	28.2	75.7	36.0	98.4
United States	186.3	317.6	19.4	34.7
World	3 023.4	6 908.7	22.0	51.0

(¹) Excluding French overseas departments for 1960.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjan](#) and [demo_r_d3area](#)); World Population Prospects: the 2008 Revision, United Nations Population Division

Figure 2.2: Population (¹)

(1960=100)



(¹) Population projections (UN medium variant) are shown as a dotted line.

(²) Excluding French overseas departments up to and including 1995.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjan](#)); World Population Prospects: the 2008 Revision, United Nations Population Division

**Table 2.3: Fertility and mortality (¹)**

	Total fertility rate (live births per woman)		Life expectancy at birth (years)	
	1990	2007	1990	2007
EU-27	:	1.56	:	79.2
Argentina	2.90	2.28	72.1	75.2
Australia	1.86	1.83	77.7	81.5
Brazil	2.60	1.9	67.2	72.3
Canada	1.69	1.57	77.9	80.7
China	2.01	1.77	68.8	73.0
India	3.86	2.76	58.8	63.5
Indonesia	2.90	2.19	62.8	70.7
Japan	1.48	1.27	79.5	82.7
Rep. of Korea	1.70	1.22	72.7	79.4
Mexico	3.19	2.21	71.8	76.1
Russia	1.55	1.37	66.4	66.5
Saudi Arabia	5.45	3.17	68.9	72.8
South Africa	3.34	2.55	61.3	51.6
Turkey	2.90	2.13	66.2	71.8
United States	2.03	2.09	75.7	79.2
World	3.08	2.49	64.0	67.6

(¹) World and non-member countries, 1990-95 instead of 1990, 2005-2010 estimates instead of 2007.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_frate](#) and [demo_mlexpec](#)); World Population Prospects: the 2008 Revision, United Nations Population Division

Table 2.4: Old-age dependency ratio (¹)

(population aged 65 years and over as % of population aged 15-64)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
EU-27	:	:	:	20.6	23.3	26.1	31.5	38.7	46.1	50.6
Argentina	9.0	11.2	13.5	15.3	16.2	16.6	18.6	21.0	24.1	30.2
Australia	13.8	13.3	14.8	16.8	18.8	20.7	26.9	33.6	38.0	39.9
Brazil	6.1	6.8	7.1	7.4	8.4	10.2	13.6	19.7	26.3	35.9
Canada	12.7	12.7	13.9	16.6	18.5	20.3	27.4	37.1	40.8	43.4
China	8.6	7.7	7.9	8.3	10.1	11.4	16.8	23.7	34.6	38.0
India	5.4	5.8	6.3	6.6	7.0	7.7	9.4	12.2	15.4	20.2
Indonesia	5.9	5.7	6.2	6.3	7.5	9.0	10.8	15.4	22.0	29.1
Japan	8.9	10.2	13.4	17.2	25.3	35.1	47.7	52.8	65.2	74.3
Rep. of Korea	6.7	6.1	6.2	7.2	10.2	15.2	21.7	36.1	52.0	62.9
Mexico	6.6	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.5	10.0	13.1	18.3	27.6	35.9
Russia	9.9	11.7	15.0	15.1	17.8	17.9	22.8	29.7	31.6	38.8
Saudi Arabia	6.3	6.1	5.3	4.1	4.6	4.6	6.1	9.8	15.0	19.9
South Africa	7.0	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.8	7.1	9.6	11.9	12.7	14.5
Turkey	6.4	7.9	8.3	6.8	8.2	8.8	10.8	15.1	21.4	28.7
United States	15.3	15.9	16.9	18.7	18.7	19.4	24.9	31.7	34.0	35.1
World	9.2	9.5	10.0	10.0	10.9	11.6	14.2	17.8	21.9	25.3

(¹) Population projections (UN medium variant) from 2010 onwards.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#)); World Population Prospects: the 2008 Revision, United Nations Population Division

2.2 Population structure and ageing

The impact of demographic ageing within the European Union (EU) is likely to be of major significance in the coming decades. Consistently low birth rates and higher life expectancy will transform the shape of the EU-27's age pyramid; probably the most important change will be the marked transition towards a much older population and this trend is already becoming apparent in several Member States. As a result, the proportion of people of working age in the EU-27 is shrinking while the relative number of those retired is expanding. The share of older persons in the total population will increase significantly in the coming decades, as a greater proportion of the post-war baby boom generation reaches retirement. This will, in turn, lead to an increased burden on those of working age to provide for the social expenditure required by the ageing population.

Main statistical findings

Population structure in 2009

Young people (0 to 14 years old) made up 15.6 % of the EU-27's (excluding French overseas departments) population in 2009, while persons considered to be of working age (15 to 64 years old) accounted for 67.1 % of the population, and older persons (65 or more years old) had a 17.2 % share. Across the EU Member States (see Table 2.5), the highest share of young people was observed in Ireland (20.9 %), while the smallest share was re-

corded in Germany (13.6 %). The reverse situation was observed for the share of older persons, as Germany had the highest proportion (20.4 %), while Ireland had the lowest share (11.0 %).

The median age of the EU-27's (excluding French overseas departments) population was 40.6 years in 2009: this means that half of the EU-27 population is older than 40.6 years old, while half is younger. The median age of populations across the EU Member States ranged between 33.8 years in Ireland and 43.7 years in Germany (see Table 2.6).

Age dependency ratios may be used to study the level of support of the young and/or older persons by the working age population; these ratios are expressed in terms of the relative size of young and/or older populations relative to the working age population. The old age dependency ratio for the EU-27 (excluding French overseas departments) was 25.6 % in 2009. As such, there were around four persons of working age for every person aged 65 or over in the EU-27. The old age dependency ratio in the Member States ranged from 16.2 % in Ireland to 30.9 % in Germany.

The combination of young and old age dependency ratios provides the total age dependency ratio, which in 2009 was 48.9 % in the EU-27 (excluding French overseas departments), indicating that there were about two working age persons for every dependent person. The lowest total age dependency ratio was observed



in Slovakia (38.0 %) and the highest in France (53.9 %).

Population pyramids (Figures 2.3 and 2.4) show the distribution of population by gender and by five-year age groups. Each bar corresponds to the share of the given gender and age group in the total (men and women combined) population. The population pyramid for the EU-27 in 2009 is narrow at the bottom and is shaped more as a rhomboid due to the baby-boom cohorts of the 1960s. The baby boom was a phenomenon characterised by high fertility rates in several European countries in the middle of the 1960s. Baby boomers currently represent an important part of the working age population and the first of these large cohorts, born over a period of 20-30 years, are now getting close to retirement (this may be observed by comparing the 2009 population pyramid with a past year, in this case 1990, see Figure 2.3).

Past and current trends of population ageing in the EU

Population ageing is a long-term trend which began several decades ago in the EU. This ageing is visible in the development of the age structure of the population and is reflected in an increasing share of older persons at the same time as a declining share of working age persons in the total population.

In the past two decades, the share of the working age population in the EU-27 increased by 0.5 percentage points, while the share of the older population increased by 3.3 percentage points; as a result, the top of the EU-27 age pyramid for 2009 became larger as compared

with 1990 (see Figure 2.3). The growth in the relative share of older people may be explained by increased longevity – a pattern that has been evident for several decades as life expectancy has risen (see Subchapter 2.6 on mortality and life expectancy statistics) – it is often referred to as ‘ageing at the top’ of the population pyramid.

On the other hand, low levels of fertility have been maintained across the EU (see Subchapter 2.5 on fertility statistics); this has resulted in a decreasing share of young people in the total population. This process, known as ‘ageing at the bottom’, is visible in the population pyramids through a reduction at the base of the age pyramids, as seen between 1990 and 2009.

The development of the median age of the EU-27 (excluding French overseas departments) population also provides an illustration of population ageing. The EU median age increased from 35.2 years in 1990 to 40.6 years by 2009 (see Figure 2.6). The median age increased in all of the Member States during the past two decades, with increases higher than six years of age recorded in Slovenia, Portugal, Lithuania and Spain (see Figure 2.7).

Future trends in population ageing

Eurostat’s 2008-based national population projections (EUROPOP2008) show that population ageing is likely to affect all EU Member States. The convergence scenario of these population projections is one of several possible population change scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and structure of the population. Accord-

ing to this scenario, the EU's population will be slightly higher in 2060, while the age structure of the population will be much older than it is now; population is projected to increase by almost 5 % up to 2035, and thereafter to gradually decline by nearly 3 % through to 2060. During the same period (2008 to 2060), the median age of the EU-27 (excluding French overseas departments) population is projected to rise to 47.9 years. The population of working age is expected to decline steadily, while elderly people will likely account for an increasing share of the population – those aged 65 years or over will account for more than 30.0 % of the EU's population by 2060 (17.2 % in 2009).

Another aspect of population ageing is the progressive ageing of the older population itself, as the relative importance of the oldest people is growing at a faster pace than any other age segment of the EU's population. The share of those aged 80 years or above in the EU-27's (excluding French overseas departments) population is projected to almost triple by 2060.

As a result of the population movement between age groups, the EU's old age dependency ratio is projected to more than double from 25.6 % in 2009 to 53.5 % by 2060. The total age dependency ratio (calculated as the ratio of dependent people, young and old, over the population aged 15 to 64 years old) is projected to rise from 48.9 % in 2009 to 78.5 % by 2060.

The age pyramids for 2009 and 2060 show that the EU's population is projected to continue to age. In the coming decades, the high number of baby-boomers will swell the number of elderly people. The

population pyramid shows how the baby boomer bulge is moving up while the middle and the base of the pyramid (those of working age and children) are projected to narrow considerably by 2060.

Data sources and availability

Eurostat provides information for a wide range of demographic data. Data on population includes breakdowns by several characteristics, such as age and gender. Eurostat produces population projections at a national and regional level every three years. These projections are what-if scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and age structure of the population based on assumptions of future trends in fertility, life expectancy and migration; the latest projection exercise was EUROPOP2008.

Context

Eurostat's population projections are used by the European Commission to analyse the impact of ageing populations on public spending. Increased social expenditure related to population ageing, in the form of pensions, healthcare and institutional or private (health)care, is likely to result in a higher burden for working age populations.

A number of important policies, notably in social and economic fields, use demographic data for planning actions, monitoring and evaluating programmes – for example, population ageing and its likely effects on the sustainability of public finance and welfare provisions, or the economic and social impact of demographic change.



Table 2.5: Population age structure by major age groups (%)

	0-14 years old		15-64 years old		65 years old or over	
	1990	2009	1990	2009	1990	2009
EU-27⁽¹⁾	19.5	15.6	66.7	67.1	13.7	17.2
Belgium ⁽²⁾	18.1	16.9	67.1	66.1	14.8	17.1
Bulgaria	20.5	13.4	66.5	69.2	13.0	17.4
Czech Republic	21.7	14.1	65.8	71.0	12.5	14.9
Denmark	17.1	18.3	67.3	65.8	15.6	15.9
Germany	16.0	13.6	69.2	66.0	14.9	20.4
Estonia	22.3	14.9	66.1	67.9	11.6	17.1
Ireland	27.4	20.9	61.3	68.0	11.4	11.1
Greece	19.5	14.3	66.8	67.0	13.7	18.7
Spain	20.2	14.8	66.3	68.6	13.4	16.6
France ⁽¹⁾	20.1	18.3	65.9	65.0	13.9	16.7
Italy	16.8	14.1	68.5	65.8	14.7	20.1
Cyprus	26.0	17.1	63.1	70.1	10.8	12.7
Latvia	21.4	13.7	66.7	69.0	11.8	17.3
Lithuania	22.6	15.1	66.6	68.9	10.8	16.0
Luxembourg	17.2	18.0	69.4	68.1	13.4	14.0
Hungary	20.5	14.9	66.2	68.8	13.2	16.4
Malta	23.6	15.9	66.0	70.1	10.4	14.1
Netherlands	18.2	17.7	69.0	67.3	12.8	15.0
Austria	17.5	15.1	67.6	67.5	14.9	17.4
Poland	25.3	15.3	64.8	71.2	10.0	13.5
Portugal	20.8	15.3	66.0	67.1	13.2	17.6
Romania	23.7	15.2	66.0	69.9	10.3	14.9
Slovenia	20.9	14.0	68.5	69.6	10.6	16.4
Slovakia	25.5	15.4	64.3	72.5	10.3	12.1
Finland	19.3	16.7	67.4	66.5	13.3	16.7
Sweden	17.8	16.7	64.4	65.6	17.8	17.8
United Kingdom ⁽²⁾	19.0	17.6	65.3	66.3	15.7	16.1
Iceland	25.0	20.8	64.4	67.5	10.6	11.6
Liechtenstein	19.4	16.4	70.6	70.7	10.0	12.9
Norway	18.9	19.0	64.8	66.3	16.3	14.7
Switzerland	17.0	15.3	68.4	68.1	14.6	16.6
Croatia	:	15.4	:	67.3	:	17.3
FYR of Macedonia	:	18.1	:	70.4	:	11.5
Turkey ⁽²⁾	35.0	26.3	60.7	66.9	4.3	6.8

⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

⁽²⁾ 2008 instead of 2009.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#))

**Table 2.6:** Population age structure indicators, 2009

	Median age	Young age dependency ratio	Old age dependency ratio	Total age dependency ratio	Share of population aged 80 or over
	(years)			(%)	
EU-27⁽¹⁾	40.6	23.3	25.6	48.9	4.5
Belgium ⁽²⁾	40.7	25.6	25.8	51.4	4.7
Bulgaria	41.1	19.4	25.2	44.6	3.7
Czech Republic	39.2	19.9	20.9	40.9	3.5
Denmark	40.3	27.8	24.1	51.9	4.1
Germany	43.7	20.6	30.9	51.5	5.0
Estonia	39.3	22.0	25.2	47.2	3.9
Ireland	33.8	30.8	16.2	47.0	2.7
Greece	41.4	21.4	27.9	49.3	4.4
Spain	39.5	21.5	24.3	45.8	4.7
France ⁽¹⁾	39.7	28.2	25.7	53.9	5.2
Italy	42.8	21.4	30.6	51.9	5.6
Cyprus	35.9	24.4	18.2	42.6	2.9
Latvia	39.8	19.9	25.1	44.9	3.7
Lithuania	38.9	21.9	23.2	45.1	3.5
Luxembourg	38.7	26.4	20.5	46.9	3.5
Hungary	39.6	21.6	23.8	45.4	3.8
Malta	39.0	22.6	20.1	42.7	3.2
Netherlands	40.3	26.4	22.3	48.6	3.8
Austria	41.3	22.4	25.7	48.1	4.7
Poland	37.5	21.5	18.9	40.4	3.1
Portugal	40.4	22.8	26.3	49.1	4.3
Romania	38.0	21.7	21.3	43.0	2.9
Slovenia	41.2	20.1	23.6	43.7	3.8
Slovakia	36.5	21.3	16.7	38.0	2.7
Finland	41.8	25.2	25.2	50.3	4.5
Sweden	40.7	25.4	27.1	52.5	5.3
United Kingdom ⁽²⁾	39.2	26.5	24.3	50.7	4.5
Iceland	34.5	30.9	17.2	48.1	3.2
Liechtenstein	40.3	23.2	18.2	41.5	3.1
Norway	38.5	28.7	22.1	50.8	4.6
Switzerland	41.2	22.5	24.3	46.8	4.7
Croatia	41.1	22.8	25.7	48.5	3.4
FYR of Macedonia	35.5	25.7	16.3	42.0	1.7
Turkey ⁽²⁾	28.2	39.3	10.2	49.5	1.2

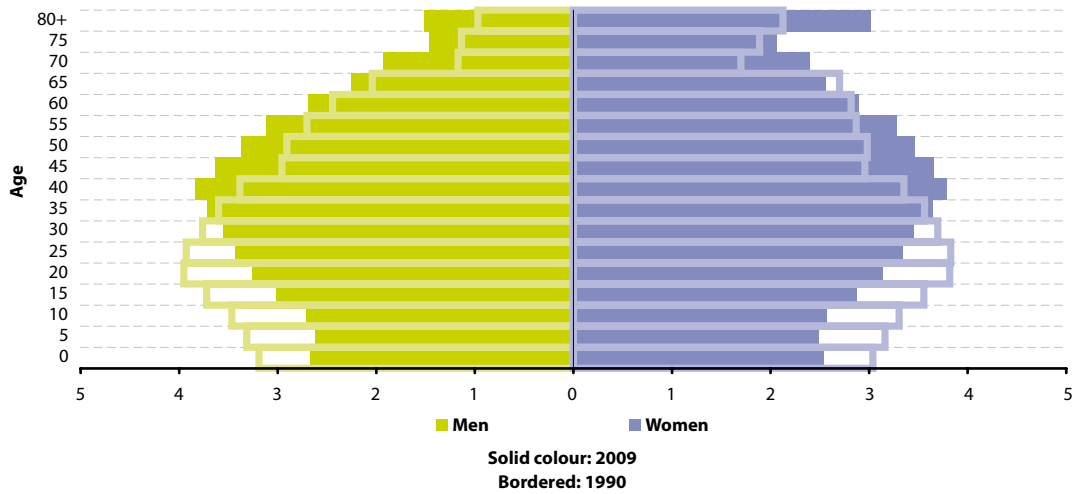
⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

⁽²⁾ 2008 instead of 2009.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#))



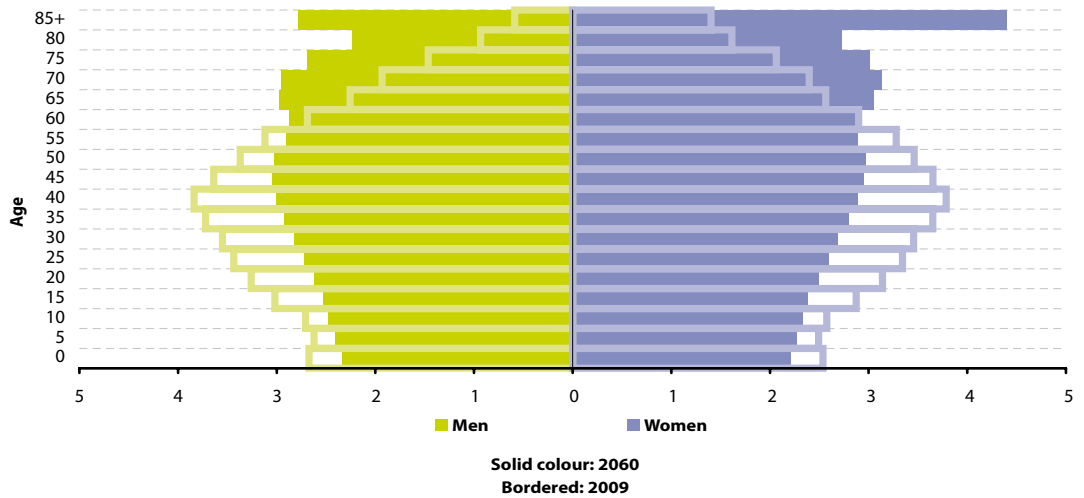
Figure 2.3: Population pyramids, EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(% of the total population)



⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjangroup](#))

Figure 2.4: Population pyramids, EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(% of the total population)

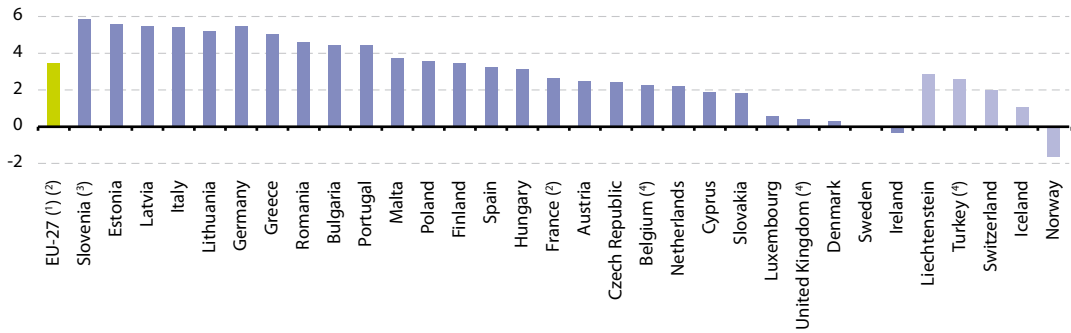


⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments; 2060 data are projections (EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario).

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjangroup](#) and [proj_08c2150p](#))



Figure 2.5: Change in the share of the population aged 65 years or over between 1990 and 2009 (percentage point change)



(1) Estimate.

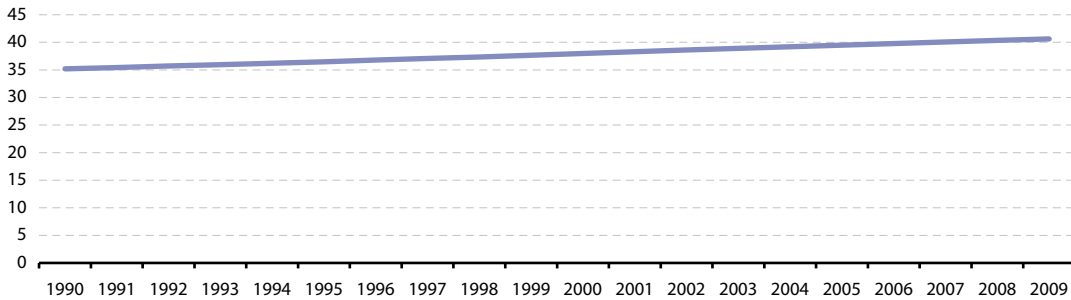
(2) Excluding French overseas departments.

(3) Data may be affected by the change of population definition in 2008.

(4) Change between 1990 and 2008.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#))

Figure 2.6: Median age of population, EU-27 (1) (years)

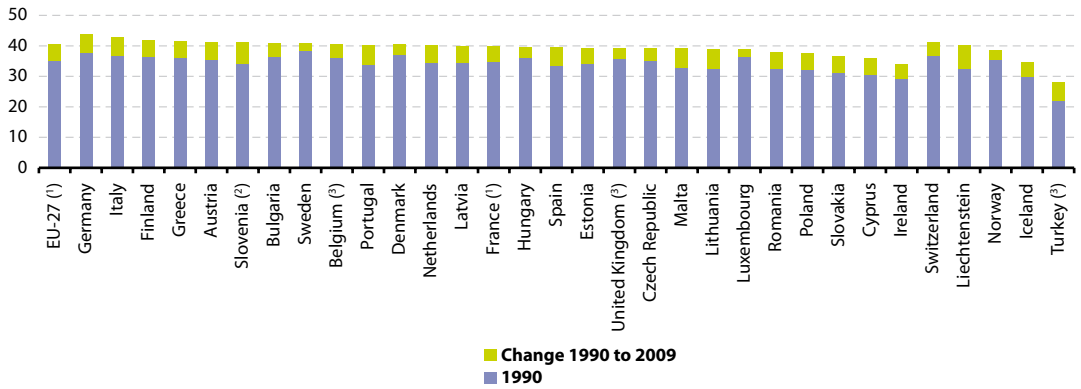


(1) Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#))



Figure 2.7: Median age of population
(years)



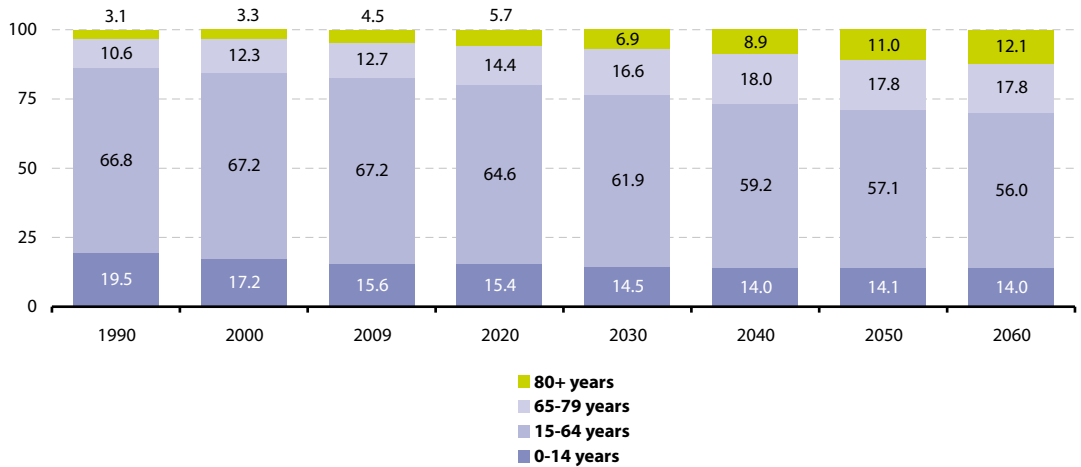
(1) Excluding French overseas departments.

(2) Data may be affected by the change of population definition in 2008.

(3) 2008 instead of 2009.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#))

Figure 2.8: Population structure by major age groups, EU-27 (1)
(% of total population)



(1) Excluding French overseas departments; 2020 to 2060 data are EUROPOP2008 convergence scenario.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#) and [proj_08c2150p](#))

2.3 Population and population change

This subchapter gives an overview of the development of European Union (EU) population, detailing the two components of population change: natural population change and net migration plus statistical adjustment. More information on net migration is provided within Subchapter 2.7 on migration and migrant population statistics.

Main statistical findings

EU-27 population continues to grow

On 1 January 2010 the population of the EU-27 was estimated at 501.1 million; this was 1.4 million people more than the year before and therefore continued a pattern of uninterrupted EU-27 population growth that has been apparent since 1960. The number of inhabitants in the EU-27 grew from 402.6 million in 1960, rising by 98.5 million persons through to 2010.

Natural population growth in the EU-27 is slowly increasing in importance

The population of the EU-27 grew by 1.4 million during 2009. Just over one third (37.3 %) of this increase resulted from natural growth (defined as the difference between live births and deaths). Net migration plus statistical adjustment continued to be the main determinant of population growth in the EU-27, accounting for 62.7 % of the population increase during 2009.

The contribution of net migration plus statistical adjustment to the total population change in the EU-27 became more significant than that of natural change

since 1992. The share of net migration plus statistical adjustment in total population growth peaked, in relative terms, in 2003 (95.1 %). Since this date, the contribution of net migration plus statistical adjustment decreased somewhat. Thus, the share of natural change in total population growth followed an upward trend over the most recent period (from 2004 onwards).

The relatively low contribution of natural change to total population growth is the result of two factors: net migration in the EU-27 increased considerably from the mid-1980s onwards; secondly, the number of live births fell, while the number of deaths increased.

The gap between live births and deaths in the EU-27 narrowed considerably from 1960 onwards (see Figure 2.11), almost reaching parity in 2003 before diverging again somewhat. Since the number of deaths is expected to increase as the baby-boom generation moves into retirement, and, assuming that the fertility rate continues to remain at a relatively low level, negative natural change (more deaths than births) cannot be excluded in the future. In this event, total population decline or growth is likely to depend strongly on the contribution of migration.

Population change at a national level

The number of inhabitants in EU Member States on 1 January 2010 ranged from 81.8 million in Germany to 0.4 million in Malta. Germany together with France, the United Kingdom and Italy comprised more than half (53.7 %) of the total EU-27 population in 2010.



Although the population of the EU-27 as a whole still increased in 2009, population growth was unevenly distributed across the Member States. A total of 19 Member States observed an increase in their respective populations, while the number of inhabitants fell in the Baltic Member States, south eastern parts of the EU (Bulgaria and Romania), Germany, Hungary and Malta.

Analysing the two components of population change at a national level, eight types of population change can be distinguished, separating growth from decline, and the relative weights of natural change and net migration – see Table 2.9 for the full typology. Luxembourg, Sweden, Slovenia, Belgium and the United Kingdom recorded the highest population growth rates in 2009 (more than 6 per 1 000 inhabitants), more than twice the EU-27 average of 2.7 per 1 000 inhabitants. The highest rates of natural change were registered in Ireland (10.2 per 1 000 inhabitants) and Cyprus (5.5 per 1 000 inhabitants), while the highest net migration plus adjustment was recorded in Luxembourg, followed by Sweden, Slovenia, Italy and Belgium (all above 5 per 1 000 inhabitants).

Data sources and availability

Eurostat provides information on a wide range of demographic data. The demographic balance provides an overview of the annual demographic developments in the Member States; statistics on population change are available in absolute figures and as crude rates.

Population change - or population growth - in a given year is the difference between the population size on 1 January of the given year and on 1 January of the follow-

ing year. It consists of two components: natural change and net migration plus statistical adjustment.

Natural population change is the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths. A positive natural change is also called natural increase.

Net migration is the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants. In the context of the annual demographic balance, Eurostat produces net migration figures by taking the difference between total population change and the natural change; this concept is referred to in this subchapter as 'net migration plus statistical adjustment'.

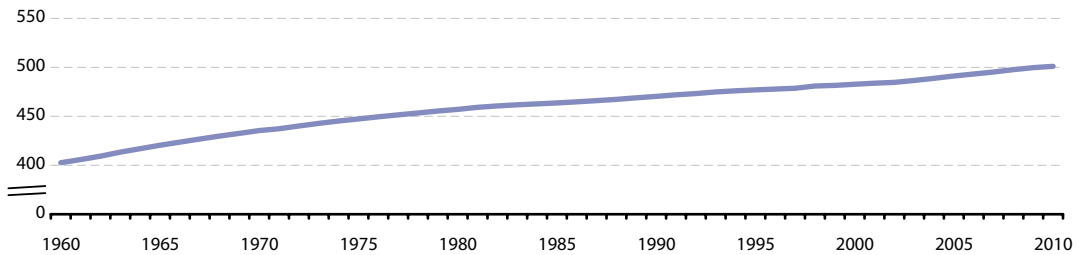
Context

Supporting policymaking and monitoring

Population change and the structure of the population are gaining importance in the political, economic, social and cultural context of demographic behaviour. In particular, this concerns recent demographic developments that focus on the working age population and the current and future evolution of the younger and older shares of the population.

A number of important policies, notably in social and economic fields, use demographic data for planning actions, monitoring and evaluating programmes. These concern, for example, population ageing and its effects on the sustainability of public finance and welfare, the evaluation of fertility as a background for family policies, the economic and social impact of demographic change, as well as any developments measured by 'per capita' indicators.

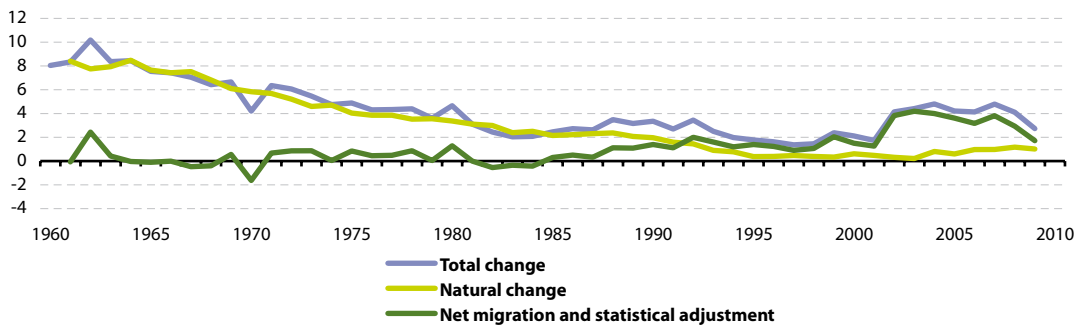
Figure 2.9: Population, EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(at 1 January, million)



⁽¹⁾ Before 1998, excluding French overseas departments; includes provisional data.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))

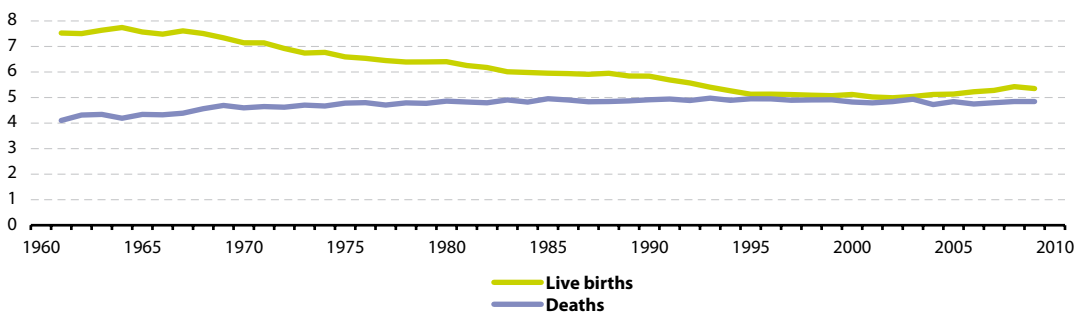
Figure 2.10: Population change by component (annual crude rates), EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



⁽¹⁾ Before 1998, excluding French overseas departments; includes provisional data.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))

Figure 2.11: Births and deaths, EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(million)



⁽¹⁾ Before 1998, excluding French overseas departments; includes provisional data.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))



Table 2.7: Demographic balance, 2009
(1 000)

	Population 1 January 2009	Live births	Deaths	Natural change (live births - deaths)	Net migra- tion and statistical adjustment (total change - natural change)	Total change between 1 January 2009 and 2010	Population 1 January 2010
EU-27	499 695.2	5 353.1	4 843.9	509.2	857.2	1 366.4	501 061.5
Belgium	10 750.0	126.0	104.0	22.0	55.0	77.0	10 827.0
Bulgaria	7 606.6	81.0	108.1	-27.1	-15.7	-42.8	7 563.7
Czech Republic	10 467.5	118.3	107.4	10.9	28.3	39.3	10 506.8
Denmark	5 505.5	62.8	54.9	7.9	21.3	29.2	5 534.7
Germany	82 002.4	651.0	841.0	-190.0	-12.8	-202.8	81 799.6
Estonia	1 340.4	15.8	16.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.3	1 340.1
Ireland	4 450.0	74.8	29.2	45.6	-39.9	5.8	4 455.8
Greece	11 260.4	117.9	110.3	7.6	27.0	34.6	11 295.0
Spain	45 828.2	494.6	391.3	103.3	57.6	160.8	45 989.0
France	64 367.0	821.9	546.2	275.8	71.1	346.8	64 713.8
Italy	60 045.1	568.9	591.7	-22.8	318.1	295.3	60 340.3
Cyprus	796.9	9.7	5.4	4.4	-3.2	1.2	798.1
Latvia	2 261.3	21.7	29.9	-8.2	-4.7	-12.9	2 248.4
Lithuania	3 349.9	36.7	42.0	-5.4	-15.5	-20.8	3 329.0
Luxembourg	493.5	5.6	3.7	2.0	6.6	8.6	502.1
Hungary	10 031.0	96.5	130.4	-33.9	15.9	-18.0	10 013.0
Malta	413.6	4.1	3.2	0.9	-1.6	-0.6	413.0
Netherlands	16 485.8	184.8	134.2	50.7	41.2	91.8	16 577.6
Austria	8 355.3	76.3	77.4	-1.0	21.1	20.0	8 375.3
Poland	38 135.9	417.6	384.9	32.6	-1.2	31.5	38 167.3
Portugal	10 627.3	99.5	104.4	-4.9	15.4	10.5	10 637.7
Romania	21 498.6	222.4	257.2	-34.8	-1.6	-36.4	21 462.2
Slovenia	2 032.4	21.6	18.7	2.9	11.7	14.6	2 047.0
Slovakia	5 412.3	61.2	52.9	8.3	4.4	12.7	5 424.9
Finland	5 326.3	60.4	49.9	10.5	14.6	25.1	5 351.4
Sweden	9 256.3	111.8	90.1	21.7	62.6	84.3	9 340.7
United Kingdom	61 596.0	790.2	559.6	230.6	181.5	412.1	62 008.1
Iceland	319.4	5.0	2.0	3.0	-4.8	-1.7	317.6
Liechtenstein	35.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	35.9
Norway	4 799.3	61.8	41.4	20.4	38.6	58.9	4 858.2
Switzerland	7 701.9	78.2	62.6	15.6	65.6	81.2	7 783.0
Croatia	4 435.1	44.6	52.4	-7.8	-1.5	-9.3	4 425.7
FYR of Macedonia	2 048.6	23.7	19.1	4.6	-0.5	4.1	2 052.7
Turkey	71 517.1	1 270.0	461.0	809.0	235.2	1 044.2	72 561.3

Source: Eurostat (demo_gind)

Table 2.8: Crude rates of population change
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

	Total change			Natural change			Net migration and statistical adjustment		
	2000	2008	2009	2000	2008	2009	2000	2008	2009
EU-27	2.1	4.1	2.7	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.5	2.9	1.7
Belgium	2.4	7.8	7.1	1.0	2.2	2.0	1.4	5.6	5.1
Bulgaria	-5.1	-4.4	-5.6	-5.1	-4.3	-3.6	0.0	-0.1	-2.1
Czech Republic	-1.1	8.3	3.7	-1.8	1.4	1.0	0.6	6.9	2.7
Denmark	3.6	5.4	5.3	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.9	3.5	3.9
Germany	1.2	-2.6	-2.5	-0.9	-2.0	-2.3	2.0	-0.7	-0.2
Estonia	-3.7	-0.4	-0.2	-3.9	-0.5	-0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0
Ireland	14.5	11.0	1.3	6.1	10.6	10.2	8.4	0.4	-9.0
Greece	2.5	4.1	3.1	-0.2	0.9	0.7	2.7	3.2	2.4
Spain	10.6	12.0	3.5	0.9	2.8	2.2	9.7	9.2	1.3
France	7.1	6.0	5.4	4.4	4.5	4.3	2.7	1.5	1.1
Italy	0.7	7.1	4.9	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	0.9	7.3	5.3
Cyprus	10.2	9.6	1.5	4.5	5.1	5.5	5.7	4.5	-4.0
Latvia	-7.4	-4.2	-5.7	-5.0	-3.1	-3.6	-2.3	-1.1	-2.1
Lithuania	-7.2	-4.9	-6.2	-1.4	-2.6	-1.6	-5.8	-2.3	-4.6
Luxembourg	12.4	19.9	17.2	4.5	4.1	4.0	7.9	15.8	13.2
Hungary	-2.1	-1.4	-1.8	-3.7	-3.1	-3.4	1.6	1.6	1.6
Malta	6.1	8.1	-1.6	3.8	2.1	2.2	2.3	5.9	-3.8
Netherlands	7.7	4.9	5.6	4.2	3.0	3.1	3.6	1.9	2.5
Austria	2.3	4.4	2.4	0.2	0.3	-0.1	2.2	4.1	2.5
Poland	-10.4	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.9	-10.7	-0.4	-0.0
Portugal	6.0	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.0	-0.5	4.6	0.9	1.4
Romania	-1.1	-1.4	-1.7	-0.9	-1.5	-1.6	-0.2	0.1	-0.1
Slovenia (1)	1.2	10.9	7.2	-0.2	1.7	1.4	1.4	9.2	5.8
Slovakia (1)	-3.7	2.1	2.3	0.5	0.8	1.5	-4.1	1.3	0.8
Finland	1.9	4.9	4.7	1.4	2.0	2.0	0.5	2.9	2.7
Sweden	2.4	8.0	9.1	-0.3	1.9	2.3	2.7	6.0	6.7
United Kingdom	3.6	6.8	6.7	1.2	3.5	3.7	2.4	3.3	2.9
Iceland	15.3	12.3	-5.5	8.8	9.0	9.5	6.5	3.3	-15.0
Liechtenstein	13.4	6.6	8.8	5.5	4.1	4.9	7.8	2.5	3.9
Norway	5.6	13.0	12.2	3.4	3.9	4.2	2.2	9.1	8.0
Switzerland	5.5	14.2	10.5	2.2	2.0	2.0	3.3	12.1	8.5
Croatia	-13.2	-0.3	-2.1	-1.5	-1.9	-1.8	-11.7	1.6	-0.3
FYR of Macedonia	4.7	1.7	2.0	5.9	1.9	2.3	-1.2	-0.3	-0.2
Turkey	14.9	13.1	14.5	14.1	11.4	11.2	0.9	1.7	3.3

(1) Break in series, 2008.

Source: Eurostat (demo_gind)



Table 2.9: Contribution of natural change and net migration (and statistical adjustment) to population change, 2009

Demographic drivers	Member States
Growth due to:	
Only natural change	Ireland, Cyprus, Poland
Mostly natural change	Spain, France, Netherlands, Slovakia, United Kingdom
Mostly net migration (and adjustment)	Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden
Only net migration (and adjustment)	Italy, Austria, Portugal
Decline due to:	
Only natural change	Estonia, Hungary
Mostly natural change	Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, Romania
Mostly net migration (and adjustment)	Lithuania
Only net migration (and adjustment)	Malta

Source: Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))

2.4 Marriage and divorce

In this subchapter, the trends in family formation and dissolution are analysed through marriage and divorce indicators. Marriage, as recognised by the law of each country, has long been considered to mark the formation of a family. Recent demographic data show that the number of marriages per 1 000 inhabitants is decreasing and the number of divorces is increasing, while more children are born to un-married women.

Main statistical findings

Fewer marriages, more divorces

The number of marriages that took place in the EU-27 in 2007 was 2.4 million, while around 1.2 million divorces were recorded in the same year. The crude marriage rate, in other words the number of marriages per 1 000 inhabitants, was 4.9, and the crude divorce rate was 2.1.

The crude marriage rate in the EU-27 declined from 7.9 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1970 to 4.9 in 2007, an overall reduction of 38 %. Over the same period, marriages became less stable, as reflected by the increase in the crude divorce rate from 0.9 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1970 to 2.1 in 2007. When considering the increase in the divorce rate it should be noted that national laws did not allow divorce in several countries until recent decades; thus, the increased number of divorces in the EU-27 may be, in part, due to divorces occurring in Member States where divorce was not previously possible.

Table 2.10 shows that in 2009 the crude marriage rate was highest in Cyprus (7.7 per 1 000 inhabitants) and Poland (6.6); the lowest crude marriage rates were reported by Slovenia (3.2) and Bulgaria (3.4).

The lowest crude divorce rates were recorded in Ireland (0.8 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2007) and Italy (0.9 in 2008). A number of other southern Member States also recorded relatively low crude divorce rates, including Slovenia (1.1) and Greece (1.2). The highest crude divorce rates were recorded in Belgium (3.0 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2009), ahead of Lithuania and the Czech Republic (both with 2.8) - see Table 2.11.

A rise in births outside marriage

The proportion of live births outside marriage continued to increase across the EU-27, reflecting a change in the pattern of traditional family formation, where parenthood followed marriage. Children born outside of marriage may be born to a couple in a non-marital relationship (for example, cohabiting couples) or to a single mother.

In the EU-27 some 37.4 % of children were born outside marriage in 2009, while the corresponding figure for 1990 was 17.4 %. The share of extramarital births has been on the rise in recent years in almost every Member State. Indeed, extramarital births accounted for the majority of live births in 2009 in Estonia, Sweden, Bulgaria, France and Slovenia. Greece (6.6 %) and Cyprus (11.7 %) were less affected by this trend (see Table 2.12).



Data sources and availability

Eurostat compiles information on a wide range of demographic data, including data on the number of marriages by gender and previous marital status and the number of divorces. Data on the number of live births according to the mother's marital status are used for the calculation of the share of births outside marriage.

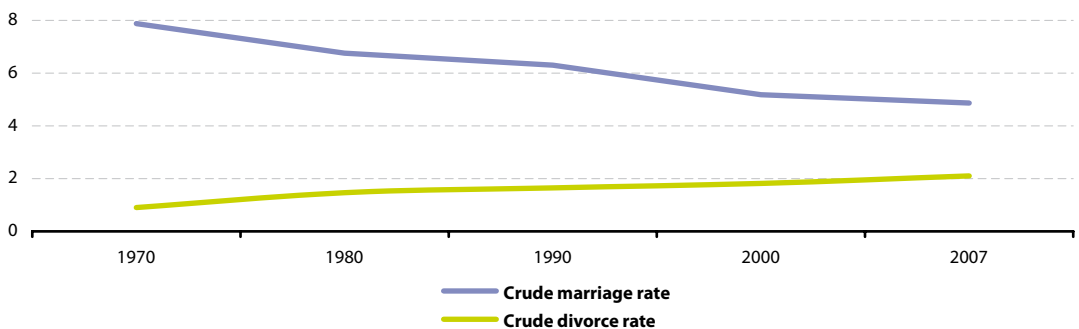
Context

Family is a shifting concept: what it means to be a member of a family and the expectations people have of family relationships vary with time and space, making it difficult to find a universally agreed and applied definition. Legal alternatives

to marriage, like registered partnership, have become more widespread and national legislation has evolved to confer more rights to unmarried couples. Alongside these new legal forms, other forms of non-marital relationships have appeared, making it more difficult for statisticians to collect data that can be compared across countries.

Due to differences in the timing and formal recognition of changing patterns of family formation and dissolution, these concepts have become more difficult to operationalise. Analysts of demographic statistics therefore have access to relatively few complete and reliable datasets with which to make comparisons over time and between and within countries.

Figure 2.12: Crude marriage and divorce rates, EU-27
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



Source: Eurostat ([demo_nind](#) and [demo_ndivind](#))

Table 2.10: Crude marriage rate
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2009
EU-27 ⁽¹⁾	:	7.9	6.8	6.3	5.2	4.9
Belgium	7.1	7.6	6.7	6.5	4.4	4.0
Bulgaria	8.8	8.6	7.9	6.9	4.3	3.4
Czech Republic	7.7	9.2	7.6	8.8	5.4	4.6
Denmark	7.8	7.4	5.2	6.1	7.2	6.0
Germany	9.5	7.4	6.3	6.5	5.1	4.6
Estonia	10.0	9.1	8.8	7.5	4.0	4.0
Ireland ⁽²⁾	5.5	7.0	6.4	5.1	5.0	5.2
Greece	7.0	7.7	6.5	5.8	4.5	5.2
Spain	7.8	7.3	5.9	5.7	5.4	3.8
France ⁽³⁾	7.0	7.8	6.2	5.1	5.0	3.9
Italy	7.7	7.3	5.7	5.6	5.0	4.0
Cyprus ⁽⁴⁾	:	8.6	7.6	9.7	13.4	7.9
Latvia	11.0	10.2	9.8	8.9	3.9	4.4
Lithuania	10.1	9.5	9.2	9.8	4.8	6.2
Luxembourg	7.1	6.4	5.9	6.1	4.9	3.5
Hungary	8.9	9.3	7.5	6.4	4.7	3.7
Malta	6.0	7.9	8.8	7.1	6.7	5.7
Netherlands	7.7	9.5	6.4	6.5	5.5	4.4
Austria	8.3	7.1	6.2	5.9	4.9	4.2
Poland	8.2	8.6	8.6	6.7	5.5	6.6
Portugal	7.8	9.4	7.4	7.2	6.2	3.8
Romania	10.7	7.2	8.2	8.3	6.1	6.3
Slovenia	8.8	8.3	6.5	4.3	3.6	3.2
Slovakia	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.6	4.8	4.9
Finland	7.4	8.8	6.1	5.0	5.1	5.6
Sweden	6.7	5.4	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.1
United Kingdom ⁽²⁾	7.5	8.5	7.4	6.6	5.2	4.4
Iceland	7.5	7.8	5.7	4.5	6.3	4.7
Liechtenstein	5.7	5.9	7.1	5.6	7.2	4.3
Norway	6.6	7.6	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0
Switzerland	7.8	7.6	5.7	6.9	5.5	5.4
Croatia	8.9	8.5	7.2	5.8	4.9	5.1
FYR of Macedonia	8.6	9.0	8.5	8.3	7.0	7.3
Turkey	:	:	8.2	:	:	8.2

⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments for 1970 to 1990; 2007 instead of 2009.

⁽²⁾ 2007 instead of 2009.

⁽³⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

⁽⁴⁾ Up to and including 2002, data refer to total marriages contracted in the country, including marriages between non-residents; from 2003 onwards, data refer to marriages in which at least one spouse was resident in the country.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_nind](#))



Table 2.11: Crude divorce rate ⁽¹⁾
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2009
EU-27 ⁽²⁾	:	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.1
Belgium	0.5	0.7	1.5	2.0	2.6	3.0
Bulgaria	:	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5
Czech Republic	1.4	2.2	2.6	3.1	2.9	2.8
Denmark	1.5	1.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Germany	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.3
Estonia	2.1	3.2	4.1	3.7	3.1	2.4
Ireland ⁽³⁾	-	-	-	-	0.7	0.8
Greece ⁽⁴⁾	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.2
Spain	-	-	-	0.6	0.9	2.1
France ⁽⁵⁾	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.1
Italy ⁽⁴⁾	-	-	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.9
Cyprus	:	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.7	2.2
Latvia	2.4	4.6	5.0	4.1	2.6	2.3
Lithuania	0.9	2.2	3.2	3.4	3.1	2.8
Luxembourg	0.5	0.6	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.1
Hungary	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4
Malta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	0.5	0.8	1.8	1.9	2.2	1.9
Austria	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.2
Poland	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.7
Portugal	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.9	1.9	2.5
Romania	2.0	0.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Slovenia	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.1
Slovakia	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.3
Finland	0.8	1.3	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.5
Sweden	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4
United Kingdom ⁽⁴⁾	:	1.1	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.2
Iceland	0.7	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	3.9	2.7
Norway	0.7	0.9	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.1
Switzerland	0.9	1.0	1.7	2.0	1.5	2.5
Croatia	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1
FYR of Macedonia	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	1.6

⁽¹⁾ Divorce was not possible by law in Italy until 1970; in Spain until 1981, in Ireland until 1995; divorce is not possible by law in Malta.

⁽²⁾ Excluding French overseas departments for 1970 to 1990; 2007 instead of 2009.

⁽³⁾ 2007 instead of 2009.

⁽⁴⁾ 2008 instead of 2009.

⁽⁵⁾ Excluding French overseas departments; 2008 instead of 2009.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_ndivind](#))

Table 2.12: Live births outside marriage, as share of total live births
(%)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2009
EU-27 (¹)	:	:	:	17.4	27.4	37.4
Belgium	2.1	2.8	4.1	11.6	28.0	45.7
Bulgaria	8.0	8.5	10.9	12.4	38.4	53.4
Czech Republic	4.9	5.4	5.6	8.6	21.8	38.8
Denmark	7.8	11.0	33.2	46.4	44.6	46.8
Germany	7.6	7.2	11.9	15.3	23.4	32.7
Estonia	:	:	:	27.2	54.5	59.2
Ireland	1.6	2.7	5.9	14.6	31.5	33.3
Greece	1.2	1.1	1.5	2.2	4.0	6.6
Spain	2.3	1.4	3.9	9.6	17.7	31.4
France (²)	6.1	6.9	11.4	30.1	42.6	52.9
Italy	2.4	2.2	4.3	6.5	9.7	23.5
Cyprus	:	0.2	0.6	0.7	2.3	11.7
Latvia	11.9	11.4	12.5	16.9	40.3	43.5
Lithuania	:	3.7	6.3	7.0	22.6	27.9
Luxembourg	3.2	4.0	6.0	12.8	21.9	32.1
Hungary	5.5	5.4	7.1	13.1	29.0	40.8
Malta	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.8	10.6	27.4
Netherlands	1.4	2.1	4.1	11.4	24.9	43.3
Austria	13.0	12.8	17.8	23.6	31.3	39.3
Poland	:	5.0	4.8	6.2	12.1	20.2
Portugal	9.5	7.3	9.2	14.7	22.2	38.1
Romania	:	:	:	:	25.5	28.0
Slovenia	9.1	8.5	13.1	24.5	37.1	53.6
Slovakia	4.7	6.2	5.7	7.6	18.3	31.6
Finland	4.0	5.8	13.1	25.2	39.2	40.9
Sweden	11.3	18.6	39.7	47.0	55.3	54.4
United Kingdom	5.2	8.0	11.5	27.9	39.5	46.3
Iceland	25.3	29.9	39.7	55.2	65.2	64.4
Liechtenstein	3.7	4.5	5.3	6.9	15.7	18.5
Norway	3.7	6.9	14.5	38.6	49.6	55.1
Switzerland	3.8	3.8	4.7	6.1	10.7	17.9
Croatia	7.4	5.4	5.1	7.0	9.0	12.9
FYR of Macedonia	5.1	6.2	6.1	7.1	9.8	12.2

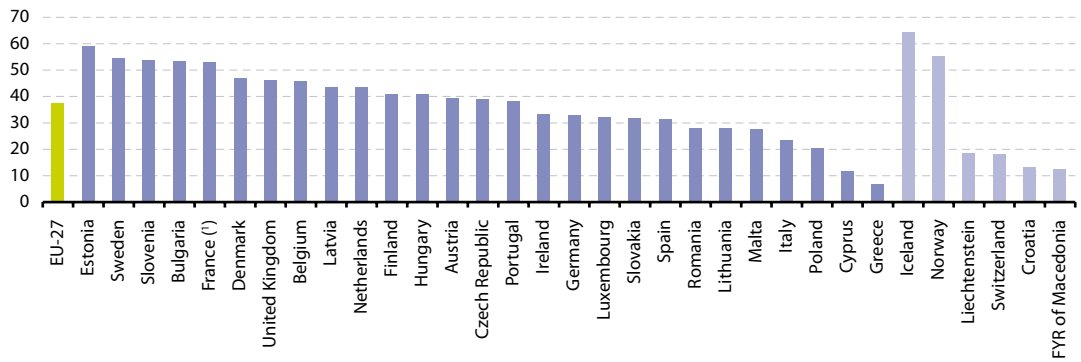
(¹) Excluding French overseas departments and Romania for 1990.

(²) Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_find](#))



Figure 2.13: Live births outside marriage, as share of total live births, 2009
(% of total live births)



(*) Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_find](#))

2.5 Fertility

This subchapter looks at the development over time of the number of births and fertility in the European Union (EU). Fertility has been steadily declining since the mid-1960s in the countries that form today the EU-27, but in recent years the total fertility rate at the EU level showed a slight recovery.

Main statistical findings

From the 1960s up to the beginning of the 21st century, the number of live births in the EU-27 declined sharply from 7.5 million to around 5.0 million in 2002. Since then there has been a modest rebound in the number of live births, as 5.4 million children were born in the EU-27 in 2008.

In recent decades Europeans have generally been having fewer children, and this can partly explain the slowdown in the EU-27's population growth (see Subchapter 2.3 on population and population change statistics). A total fertility rate of around 2.1 live births per woman is considered to be the replacement level: in other words, the average number of live births per woman required to keep the population size constant if there were no inward or outward migration. The total fertility rate in the EU-27 declined to a level well below this replacement level in recent decades, falling to 1.47 live births per woman in 2003. A slight recovery in the fertility rate was subsequently observed in most of the Member States, such that the EU-27 average had increased to 1.56 live births per woman by 2008.

The slight increase in the total fertility rate observed in recent years may, in part,

be attributed to a catching-up process following a general pattern of postponing the decision to have children. When women give birth later in life, the total fertility rate first indicates a decrease in fertility, followed later by a recovery.

Total fertility rates across EU-27 Member States converged during the last few decades. In 1980, the gap between the highest (3.2 in Ireland) and the lowest (1.5 in Luxembourg) fertility rates was 1.7 live births per woman. By 1990 this difference had decreased to 1.1 live births per woman, and by 2008 it had narrowed further to 0.8. In 2008, Ireland still had the highest fertility rate, with an average of 2.1 live births per woman in 2008, while the lowest fertility rate was recorded in Slovakia with 1.3 live births per woman.

Data sources and availability

Eurostat compiles information for a large range of demographic data, including statistics on the number of live births by gender, by the mother's age and according to marital status, as well as by the rank of the child (first, second, third child and so on). A series of fertility indicators are produced and disseminated based on the information collected, such as the total fertility rate and fertility rates according to the mother's age, the mean age of women at childbirth, the crude birth rate and the share of births outside marriage.

Context

A number of important policies, notably in social and economic fields, use demo-

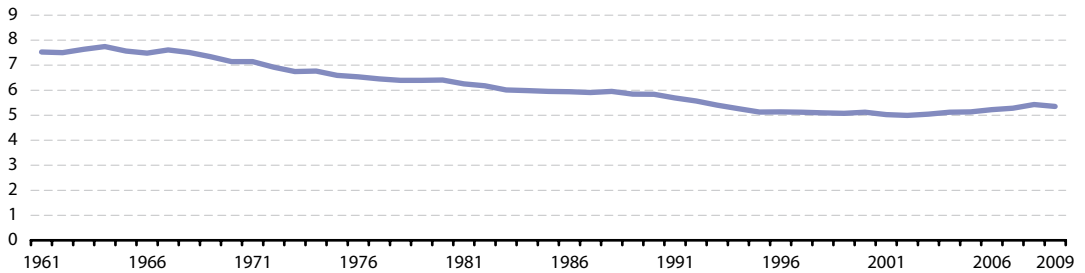


graphic data for planning actions, monitoring and evaluating programmes. These concern, for example, the evaluation of fertility as a background for family policymaking.

The EU's social policy does not include a specific strand for family issues. Policymaking in this area remains the ex-

clusive responsibility of Member States, reflecting different family structures, historical developments, social attitudes and traditions from one Member State to another. There are, however, a number of common demographic themes apparent across the whole of the EU, one of them being the reduction in the number of births.

Figure 2.14: Number of live births, EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(million)



⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments before 1998.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))

Table 2.13: Total fertility rate
(live births per woman)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2003	2008
EU-27 ⁽¹⁾	:	:	:	:	:	1.47	1.56
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	2.54	2.25	1.68	1.62	1.67	1.66	1.82
Bulgaria	2.31	2.17	2.05	1.82	1.26	1.23	1.48
Czech Republic	2.09	1.92	2.08	1.90	1.14	1.18	1.50
Denmark	2.57	1.95	1.55	1.67	1.77	1.76	1.89
Germany	:	:	:	:	1.38	1.34	1.38
Estonia	:	:	:	2.05	1.38	1.37	1.65
Ireland	3.78	3.85	3.21	2.11	1.89	1.96	2.10
Greece	2.23	2.40	2.23	1.40	1.26	1.28	1.51
Spain	:	:	2.20	1.36	1.23	1.31	1.46
France ⁽²⁾	2.73	2.47	1.95	1.78	1.87	1.87	1.99
Italy	2.37	2.38	1.64	1.33	1.26	1.29	1.41
Cyprus	:	:	:	2.41	1.64	1.50	1.46
Latvia	:	:	:	:	:	1.29	1.44
Lithuania	:	2.40	1.99	2.03	1.39	1.26	1.47
Luxembourg	2.29	1.97	1.50	1.60	1.76	1.62	1.61
Hungary	2.02	1.98	1.91	1.87	1.32	1.27	1.35
Malta	:	:	1.99	2.04	1.70	1.48	1.44
Netherlands	3.12	2.57	1.60	1.62	1.72	1.75	1.77
Austria	2.69	2.29	1.65	1.46	1.36	1.38	1.41
Poland	:	:	:	2.06	1.35	1.22	1.39
Portugal	3.16	3.01	2.25	1.56	1.55	1.44	1.37
Romania	:	:	2.43	1.83	1.31	1.27	1.35
Slovenia	:	:	:	1.46	1.26	1.20	1.53
Slovakia	3.04	2.41	2.32	2.09	1.30	1.20	1.32
Finland	2.72	1.83	1.63	1.78	1.73	1.76	1.85
Sweden	:	1.92	1.68	2.13	1.54	1.71	1.91
United Kingdom ⁽¹⁾	:	:	1.90	1.83	1.64	1.71	1.90
Iceland	:	2.81	2.48	2.30	2.08	1.99	2.15
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	1.57	1.36	1.43
Norway	:	2.50	1.72	1.93	1.85	1.80	1.96
Switzerland	2.44	2.10	1.55	1.58	1.50	1.39	1.48
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	1.32	1.46
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	:	:	1.88	1.77	1.47
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	:	2.10

⁽¹⁾ 2007 instead of 2008.

⁽²⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_frate](#))

Table 2.14: Fertility indicators, EU-27

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total fertility rate	1.45	1.47	1.50	1.51	1.54	1.56
Mean age of women at childbirth	:	29.3	29.4	29.5	29.6	29.7

Source: Eurostat ([demo_find](#))



2.6 Mortality and life expectancy

This subchapter looks at recent statistics in relation to mortality in the European Union (EU). Life expectancy at birth has risen rapidly in the last century due to a number of important factors, including reductions in infant mortality, rising living standards, improved lifestyles and better education, as well as advances in healthcare and medicine.

Main statistical findings

Life expectancy is increasing

The most commonly used indicator for analysing mortality is that of life expectancy at birth. Improvements in living standards and to health systems across Europe have led to a continuous increase in life expectancy at birth. In the EU-27 life expectancy at birth increased over the last 50 years by about ten years. Even in the last five years for which data are available (2002 to 2007) it gained 1.5 years (Figure 2.16). As a result, life expectancy in the EU-27 is generally higher than in most other regions of the world. Based on EU-27 observations for 2007, a new born male is expected to live, on average, to 76.1 years old, while a new born female is expected to live to 82.2 years old (Table 2.15).

Significant differences in life expectancy at birth are nevertheless observed between the EU Member States. Looking at the extremes of the ranges, a woman is expected to live 77.0 years in Bulgaria and 84.9 years in France, a range of 7.9 years.

A man can be expected to live 66.3 years in Lithuania and 79.2 years in Sweden, a range of 12.9 years.

The gender gap is shrinking

With a gender gap of about six years of life in 2007, women generally live longer than men in the EU-27, but the gap between male and female life expectancies varies substantially between Member States. In 2008, the largest difference between the genders was found in Lithuania (11.3 years) and the smallest in the Netherlands (4.0 years) – see Figure 2.17.

Infant mortality

Improvements in life expectancy at birth are achieved through reductions in the probability of dying. One of the most significant changes in recent decades has been a reduction in infant mortality rates. During the 15 years from 1993 to 2008 the infant mortality rate in the EU-27 fell by a half. The reductions in infant mortality were more significant in the eastern Member States which had previously recorded higher levels of infant mortality. The lowest infant mortality rate within the EU-27 in 2008 occurred in Luxembourg (1.8 deaths per 1 000 live births). However, relatively high levels of infant mortality were recorded in Romania (11.0 ‰) and Bulgaria (8.6 ‰).

Data sources and availability

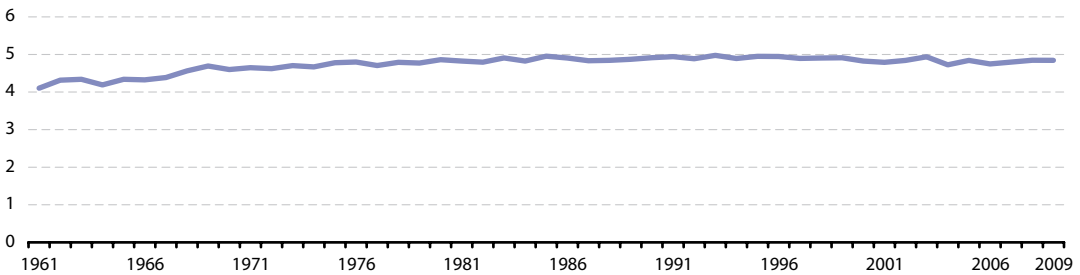
Eurostat provides information on a wide range of demographic data, including

statistics on the number of deaths by age, year of birth, gender and educational attainment, as well as information on infant mortality and late foetal deaths. A series of fertility indicators are produced and published, which may be used to derive a range of information on subjects such as life expectancy by age and gender, or crude death rates.

Context

The gradual increase in life expectancy is one of the contributing factors to the ageing of the EU-27's population – alongside the low levels of fertility sustained for decades (see Subchapters 2.2 and 2.5 on population structure and ageing and fertility statistics).

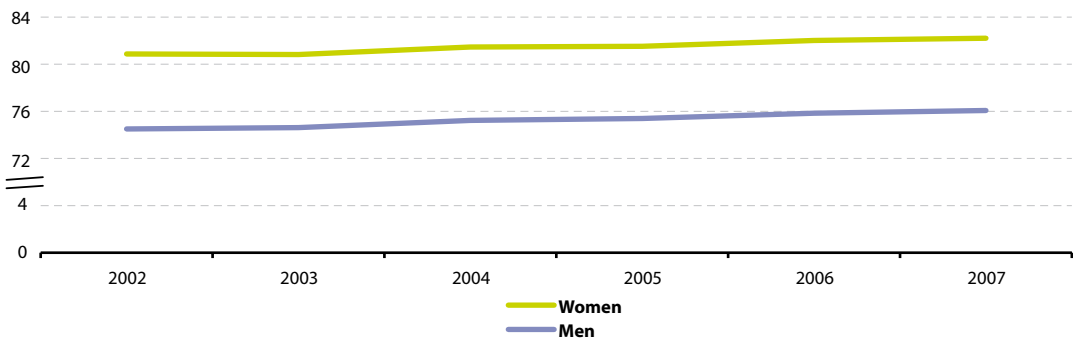
Figure 2.15: Number of deaths, EU-27 ⁽¹⁾
(million)



⁽¹⁾ Excluding French overseas departments before 1998.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))

Figure 2.16: Life expectancy at birth, EU-27
(years)



Source: Eurostat ([demo_mlexpec](#))



Table 2.15: Life expectancy at birth
(years)

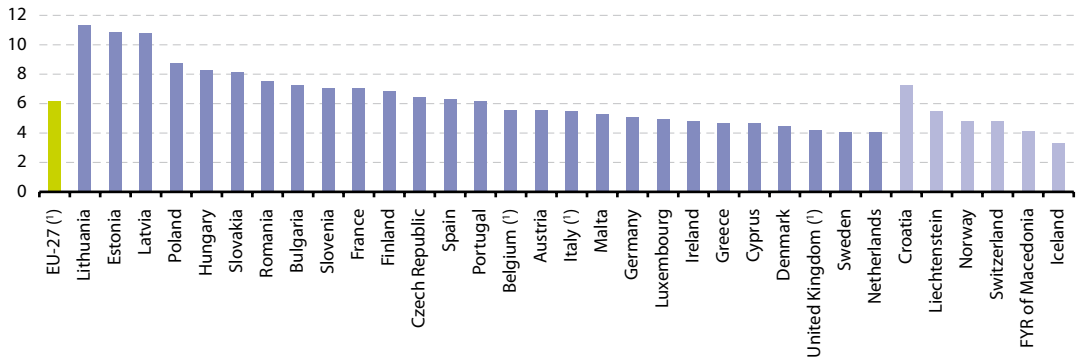
	Total		Men		Women	
	1993	2008	1993	2008	1993	2008
EU-27⁽¹⁾	:	79.2	:	76.1	:	82.2
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	76.5	79.9	73.0	77.1	79.9	82.6
Bulgaria	71.2	73.3	67.6	69.8	75.1	77.0
Czech Republic	72.9	77.3	69.3	74.1	76.5	80.5
Denmark	75.2	78.8	72.6	76.5	77.8	81.0
Germany	76.2	80.2	72.8	77.6	79.4	82.7
Estonia	68.1	74.3	62.3	68.7	74.0	79.5
Ireland	75.3	79.9	72.5	77.5	78.1	82.3
Greece	77.4	80.0	75.0	77.7	79.8	82.3
Spain	77.7	81.2	74.1	78.0	81.4	84.3
France ⁽²⁾	77.5	81.5	73.4	77.9	81.7	84.9
Italy ⁽¹⁾	77.8	81.6	74.6	78.7	81.0	84.2
Cyprus	77.2	80.8	74.7	78.5	79.8	83.1
Latvia	:	72.5	:	67.0	:	77.8
Lithuania	69.0	72.0	63.1	66.3	75.0	77.6
Luxembourg	76.0	80.7	72.2	78.1	79.6	83.1
Hungary	69.2	74.2	64.7	70.0	74.0	78.3
Malta	:	79.7	:	77.1	:	82.3
Netherlands	77.1	80.5	74.0	78.4	80.1	82.5
Austria	76.3	80.6	72.8	77.8	79.5	83.3
Poland	71.5	75.6	67.2	71.3	75.9	80.0
Portugal	74.6	79.4	71.0	76.2	78.1	82.4
Romania	69.5	73.4	65.9	69.7	73.4	77.2
Slovenia	73.6	79.1	69.4	75.5	77.6	82.6
Slovakia	72.0	74.9	67.8	70.8	76.3	79.0
Finland	75.9	79.9	72.1	76.5	79.5	83.3
Sweden	78.2	81.3	75.5	79.2	80.9	83.3
United Kingdom ⁽¹⁾	76.2	79.8	73.5	77.7	78.9	81.9
Iceland	79.0	81.6	77.1	80.0	80.9	83.3
Liechtenstein	:	82.8	:	80.0	:	85.4
Norway	77.2	80.8	74.2	78.4	80.3	83.2
Switzerland	78.4	82.3	75.0	79.8	81.7	84.6
Croatia	:	76.1	:	72.4	:	79.7
FYR of Macedonia	:	74.4	:	72.4	:	76.5

⁽¹⁾ 2007 instead of 2008.

⁽²⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_mlexpec](#))

Figure 2.17: Life expectancy at birth, gender gap, 2008 (years)



(¹) 2007.

Source: Eurostat (demo_mlexpec)



Table 2.16: Life expectancy at age 65
(years)

	Total		Men		Women	
	1993	2008	1993	2008	1993	2008
EU-27⁽¹⁾	:	18.9	:	17.0	:	20.5
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	16.9	19.3	14.5	17.3	18.9	21.0
Bulgaria	14.2	15.3	12.9	13.5	15.5	16.7
Czech Republic	14.5	17.3	12.6	15.3	16.0	18.8
Denmark	15.9	18.2	14.0	16.6	17.6	19.5
Germany	16.8	19.3	14.5	17.5	18.3	20.7
Estonia	14.2	16.8	11.7	13.6	15.7	18.9
Ireland	15.2	18.9	13.4	17.2	17.0	20.4
Greece	17.1	18.9	15.9	17.8	18.1	19.8
Spain	18.1	20.1	15.9	18.0	19.8	21.9
France ⁽²⁾	18.5	21.0	16.0	18.5	20.6	23.1
Italy ⁽¹⁾	17.7	20.1	15.6	18.0	19.5	21.8
Cyprus	16.9	19.2	15.7	17.9	18.0	20.4
Latvia	:	16.0	:	13.0	:	17.9
Lithuania	15.1	16.2	12.6	13.4	16.6	18.1
Luxembourg	16.8	19.4	14.2	17.4	18.7	21.0
Hungary	14.0	16.4	11.9	13.9	15.7	18.1
Malta	:	18.7	:	17.0	:	20.1
Netherlands	16.8	19.2	14.4	17.4	18.9	20.7
Austria	17.0	19.6	14.7	17.7	18.4	21.1
Poland	14.6	17.2	12.5	14.8	16.2	19.1
Portugal	16.0	18.7	14.2	16.9	17.5	20.3
Romania	14.1	15.7	12.8	14.0	15.2	17.2
Slovenia	15.5	18.8	13.2	16.4	17.1	20.5
Slovakia	14.5	16.1	12.4	13.8	16.2	17.8
Finland	16.4	19.6	14.1	17.5	18.0	21.3
Sweden	17.5	19.6	15.6	18.0	19.3	20.9
United Kingdom ⁽¹⁾	16.2	19.0	14.2	17.5	17.9	20.2
Iceland	18.0	19.6	16.8	18.4	19.1	20.6
Liechtenstein	:	20.6	:	18.5	:	22.2
Norway	16.9	19.4	14.8	17.6	18.8	21.0
Switzerland	18.3	20.7	15.9	18.9	20.3	22.3
Croatia	:	16.4	:	14.3	:	18.0
FYR of Macedonia	:	14.6	:	13.6	:	15.6

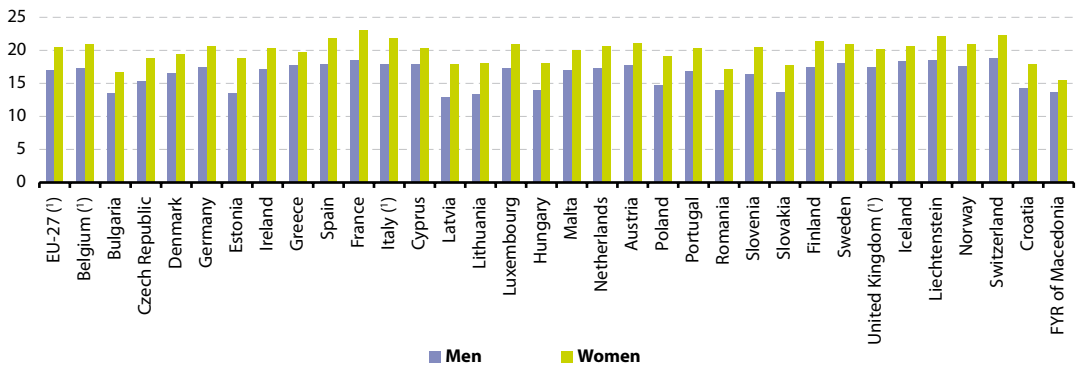
⁽¹⁾ 2007 instead of 2008.

⁽²⁾ Excluding French overseas departments.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_mlexpec](#))



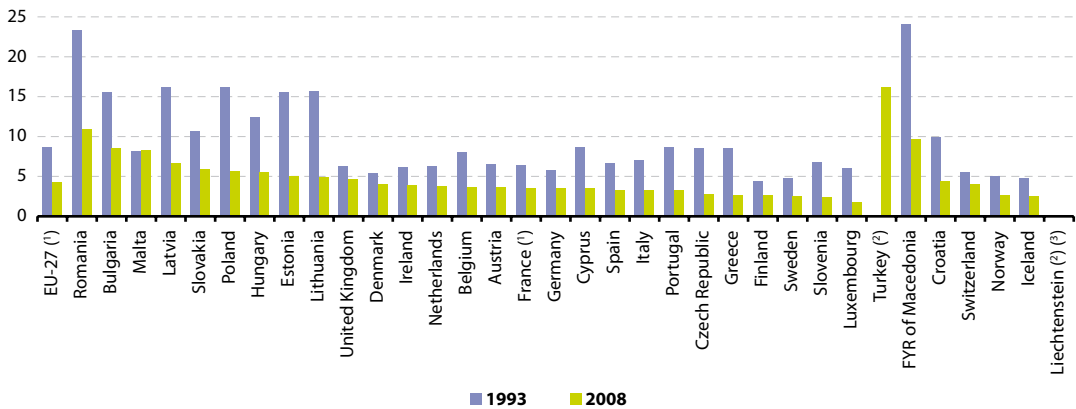
Figure 2.18: Life expectancy at age 65, 2008
(years)



(1) 2007.

Source: Eurostat (demo_mlexpec)

Figure 2.19: Infant mortality
(deaths per 1000 live births)



(1) Excluding French overseas departments.

(2) 1993, not available.

(3) Infant mortality was zero in 2008; no infant death occurred among the 350 live births.

Source: Eurostat (demo_minfind)



2.7 Migration and migrant population

This subchapter presents European Union (EU) statistics on international migration, population stocks of national and foreign (non-national) citizens, and the acquisition of citizenship. Migration is influenced by a combination of economic, political and social factors, either 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.

In destination countries, international migration may be used as a tool to solve specific labour market shortages. At the same time though, international migration alone will almost certainly not reverse the ongoing trend of population ageing experienced in many parts of the EU.

Main statistical findings

Migration flows

During 2008 about 3.8 million people immigrated into one of the EU Member States (see Figure 2.20) and at least 2.3 million emigrants are reported to have left one of the EU Member States. Compared with 2007, immigration to EU Member States is estimated to have decreased by 6 % and emigration to have increased by 13 %. It should be noted that these figures do not represent the migration flows to/from the EU as a whole, since they also include international flows within the EU - between different Member States. Just over half of the total immigrants to EU Members

States, in other words 1.8 million people, were previously residing outside the EU.

The country that reported the largest number of immigrants in 2008 was Spain (726 000), followed by Germany (682 000), the United Kingdom (590 000) and Italy (535 000). Two thirds of the total number of immigrants into the EU-27 were recorded immigrating into one of these four Member States (see Table 2.17).

Germany reported the highest number of emigrants in 2008 (738 000, resulting in negative net migration), followed by the United Kingdom with 427 000 and Spain with 266 000. There was also an important level of emigration as regards persons leaving Romania and Poland. Most EU Member States reported more immigration than emigration in 2008, but in Germany, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and the three Baltic Member States emigrants outnumbered immigrants.

Relative to the size of the resident population (see Figure 2.21), the country that recorded the highest number of immigrants in 2008 was Luxembourg with 36 immigrants per 1 000 inhabitants, followed by Malta with 22 and Cyprus with 18 immigrants per 1 000 inhabitants. Immigration was also high in the EFTA countries, far exceeding the EU Member States' average of 7.6 immigrants per 1 000 inhabitants. Luxembourg also reported the highest rate of emigration in 2008, with 20.6 emigrants per 1 000 inhabitants. Overall, the highest rate of emigration among the countries reporting in 2008 was in Iceland,

where almost 29 residents per 1 000 inhabitants left the country.

Not only foreigners immigrate to a particular Member State, but also nationals - both those returning 'home' and citizens born abroad who are immigrating for the first time. Some 600 000 immigrants, or 16 % of all immigrants into the EU Member States in 2008 were nationals.

In 2008 the share of nationals among immigrants differed from one Member State to another. The EU Member States reporting the highest shares in 2008 were Poland (75 %), Lithuania (68 %) and Estonia (48 %). In contrast, the Czech Republic, Spain, Hungary, Luxembourg, Italy, Slovakia, Cyprus and Slovenia reported very low shares, with nationals making up under 10 % of immigrants.

The share of non-nationals among immigrants to EU Member States in 2008 was 84 %. More than half of them (56 %) were citizens of non-EU countries and the rest (44 %) were citizens of other EU Member States.

Regarding the gender distribution of immigrants, there was a slight prevalence of men over women for the EU as a whole (51 % versus 49 % respectively). Only a few Member States, namely Cyprus, Italy, Spain, France and Ireland, reported more women than men among immigrants.

Immigrants to EU Member States in 2008 were on average much younger than the population of their country of destination. On 1 January 2009 the median age of the EU population was 40.6 years. The median age of immigrants in 2008 ranged from 24.8 years (in Portugal) to 37.5 years (in Greece).

Non-national population

The total number of non-nationals, in other words people who are not citizens of their country of residence, living on the territory of the EU Member States on 1 January 2009 was 31.8 million, representing 6.4 % of the EU-27's population (see Table 2.18). One year earlier, on 1 January 2008, the number of non-nationals was 30.8 million, or 6.2 % of the total population. More than one third (a total of 11.9 million persons) of all non-nationals living in the EU-27 on 1 January 2009 were citizens of a different EU Member State from the one where they were living.

In absolute terms, the largest numbers of non-nationals living in the EU on 1 January 2009 were in Germany (7.2 million persons), Spain (5.7 million), the United Kingdom (4.2 million), Italy (3.9 million) and France (3.7 million). Non-nationals in these five Member States collectively represented 77.6 % of the total number of non-nationals living in the EU-27, compared with a 62.8 % share for the same five Member States within the entire EU-27 population. In relative terms, the EU Member State with the highest share of non-nationals was Luxembourg, where non-nationals accounted for 43.5 % of the population at the beginning of 2009. The vast majority (86.3 %) of non-nationals living in Luxembourg were citizens of other EU Member States. In 2009, a high proportion of non-nationals (10 % or more of the resident population) was also observed in Latvia, Cyprus, Estonia, Spain and Austria. In contrast, the share of non-national was less than 1 % in Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

In most Member States the majority of non-nationals are citizens of a non-member



country. At the beginning of 2009 citizens of other EU Member States represented the majority of non-nationals only in Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium (2008 data), Slovakia, Cyprus and Hungary. In the case of Latvia and Estonia, the proportion of citizens from non-member countries is particularly large due to the high number of so called recognised non-citizens; these are mainly former Soviet Union citizens, who are permanently resident in these countries but have not acquired Latvian/Estonian citizenship or any other citizenship.

Looking at the distribution by continent of origin of citizens from non-member countries living in EU Member States, the largest proportion (38.1 %) were citizens of a European country outside of the EU-27 (see Figure 2.24), a total of 7.2 million people; among these more than half were citizens of Turkey, Albania or Ukraine. The second biggest group was from Africa (24.6 %), followed by Asia (19.8 %), the Americas (16.6 %) and Oceania (0.9 %). More than half of the citizens of African countries that were living in the EU were from North Africa, often from Morocco or Algeria. Many Asian non-nationals living in the EU came from south or east Asia, in particular from India or China. Citizens of Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia made up the largest share of non-nationals from the Americas living in the EU.

Nationals of non-member countries living in the EU can also be differentiated according to the level of development of their country of citizenship, based on the human development index (HDI) calculated by the United Nations (UN) under the UN Development Programme (see Figure 2.25). Among the population of nationals of

non-member countries living in the EU in 2009, 47.7 % had citizenship of a high HDI country, with Turkey, Albania and Russia accounting for almost half of these. As such, nationals of high-HDI non-member countries represented the largest proportion of all nationals of non-member countries living in the EU, whereas an analysis of the population distribution in the rest of the world (outside of the EU) shows that the medium-HDI group was the largest. A slightly smaller share (44.4 %) of nationals of non-member countries living in the EU were citizens of a medium-HDI country, one fifth of whom were citizens of Morocco, with nationals of China and Ukraine the next largest groups. The remaining 7.9 % of nationals of non-member countries living in the EU were from low-HDI countries, 30 % of whom had Nigerian or Iraqi citizenship. The citizenship structure of the population of non-nationals living in the EU varies greatly between Member States; it is influenced by factors such as labour migration, historical links between origin and destination countries, and established networks in destination countries.

Across the EU as a whole, Turkish citizens made up the biggest group of non-nationals (see Figure 2.26). This group comprised 2.4 million people in 2009, or 7.5 % of all non-nationals living in the EU. The second biggest group was Romanians living in another EU Member State (6.2 % of the non-national population), followed by Moroccans. The group of non-nationals with the most significant increase over the period 2001 to 2009 was Romanians, whose number living in other Member States increased more than sixfold over the period considered (from 0.3 million in 2001 to 2.0 million people by 2009). The number of Polish and Chinese citi-

zens also increased significantly during this period, and citizens from both of these countries figured among the ten largest non-national groups in 2009.

An analysis of the age structure of the resident population shows that, for the EU-27 as a whole, the non-national population was overall younger than the national population. The distribution by age of non-nationals shows, with respect to nationals, a greater representation of adults aged between 20 and 46 for men and between 19 and 47 for women, a feature that is quite evident when looking at the corresponding population pyramids (see Figure 2.27). In 2009 the median age of the EU-27 population was 40.6 years, while the median age of non-nationals living in the EU was 34.3 years (36.9 for citizens of other EU Member States and 33.0 for nationals from non-member countries).

Acquisition of citizenship

The number of people acquiring the citizenship of an EU-27 Member State was almost 700 000 in 2008 (see Figure 2.28). The total number of acquisitions of citizenship declined for the second consecutive year in 2008 having risen for eight years (the time-series for this indicator begins in 1998). The decline of 1.6 % in 2008 was smaller than that recorded for 2007 (3.9 %). There was a considerable decrease in the acquisition of citizenship in the United Kingdom and Germany in 2008, a combined fall of 53 700 (see Table 2.19). The largest increases were recorded in Greece, Spain, Italy, Romania and France. Some Member States, particularly Greece, Portugal and Romania, saw a high increase in the number of citizenships granted, mostly due to changes and simplifications introduced in their respec-

tive nationality laws. The highest number of acquisitions in 2008 was recorded in France, the first time since 2004 that more people gained French citizenship than citizenship of the United Kingdom. These two Member States, along with Germany and Spain accounted for 64.0 % of the total number of persons acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State in 2008. Sweden and Luxembourg were the EU Member States which granted the highest number of citizenships per inhabitant. Looking at the ratio between the number of citizenships granted by each Member State and the respective size of the resident population of non-nationals, the countries with the highest ratios were Sweden, Portugal and Poland, with 50 or more citizenship acquisitions per 1 000 non-nationals in 2008: the EU-27 average was 22 acquisitions per 1 000 non-nationals (see Figure 2.29).

For the EU as a whole, more than 90 % of those who acquired citizenship of a Member State in 2008 were previously citizens of non-member countries; this was the case in nearly all of the Member States. However, in Hungary and Luxembourg the majority of new citizenships granted were to citizens of another EU Member State: in the case of Hungary this mainly concerned persons of Romanian citizenship. As in previous years, the largest groups that acquired citizenship of an EU Member State in 2008 were citizens of Morocco (64 000, corresponding to 9 % of all citizenships granted) and Turkey (50 000, or 7 %). Compared with 2007, the number of Moroccans acquiring citizenship in the EU rose by 7 %, while the number of Turkish people acquiring citizenship fell by 10 %. The largest share of Moroccans acquired their new citizenship in France



(45 %), Italy (14 %) and Spain (13 %). The largest share of Turkish people acquired their new citizenship in Germany (49 %) or in France (21 %).

Data sources and availability

Eurostat produces statistics on a range of issues related to international migration flows, population stocks and the acquisition of citizenship. Data are collected on an annual basis and are supplied to Eurostat by the national statistical authorities of the Member States.

Since 2008 the collection of data has been based on Regulation 862/2007. This defines a core set of statistics on international migration flows, foreign (non-national) population stocks, the acquisition of citizenship, asylum and measures against illegal entry and stay. Although Member States are able to continue to use any appropriate data according to national availability and practice, the statistics collected under the Regulation must be based on common definitions and concepts. Most Member States base their statistics on administrative data sources such as population registers, registers of foreigners/non-nationals, registers of residence permits, registers of work permits, or databases on the issuing of residence permits. Some countries use sample surveys or estimation methods to produce migration statistics. The data on the acquisition of citizenship are normally produced from administrative systems. The implementation of the Regulation is expected to result in increased availability and comparability of migration and citizenship statistics.

Previously statistics on migration flows, population stocks and the acquisition of

citizenship were sent to Eurostat on a voluntary basis, as part of a joint migration data collection organised by Eurostat in cooperation with a series of international organisations, for example the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The recent changes in methodology, definitions and data sources used to produce migration and citizenship statistics may result, for some Member States, in a lack of comparability over time for their respective series.

There are problems with measuring emigration; in particular, it is more difficult to measure people leaving a country than those arriving. An analysis comparing 2008 immigration and emigration data from the EU Member States (mirror statistics) confirmed that this was true in many countries. As a result, this subchapter focuses mainly on immigration data.

Context

Migration policies within the EU 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 age. Alternatively, employers can make the selection 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 and the illegal employment of migrants who are not permitted to work, and promoting the integration of immigrants into society. In the EU, significant

resources have been mobilised to fight people smuggling and trafficking networks.

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

- Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification;
- Directive 2003/109/EC on a long-term resident status for non-member nationals;
- Directive 2004/114/EC on the admission of students;
- Directive 2005/71/EC for the facilitation of the admission of researchers into the EU;
- Directive 2008/115/EC for returning illegally staying third-country nationals;
- Directive 2009/50/EC concerning the admission of highly skilled migrants.

Within the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Home Affairs is responsible for immigration policy. In 2005, the European Commission relaunched the debate on the need for a common set of rules for the admission of economic mi-

grants with a Green paper COM(2004) 811 on an EU approach to managing economic migration which led to the adoption of a policy plan on legal migration (COM(2005) 669) at the end of 2005. In July 2006, the European Commission adopted a Communication COM(2006) 402 on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals, which aims to strike a balance between security and an individuals' basic rights during all stages of the illegal immigration process. Later that year, in September, the European Commission presented its third annual report COM(2007) 512 on migration and integration. A European Commission Communication COM(2008) 611 issued in October 2008 emphasised the importance of migration as an aspect of external and development policy. The Stockholm programme, adopted by Member State governments in December 2009, sets a framework and series of principles for the ongoing development of European policies on justice and home affairs for the period 2010 to 2014: migration-related issues are a central part of this programme.

Figure 2.20: Total immigration, EU-27 (million)



⁽¹⁾ Data for 2008 not fully comparable with data for previous years due to changes in methodology, sources and definitions.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_imm1ctz](#))

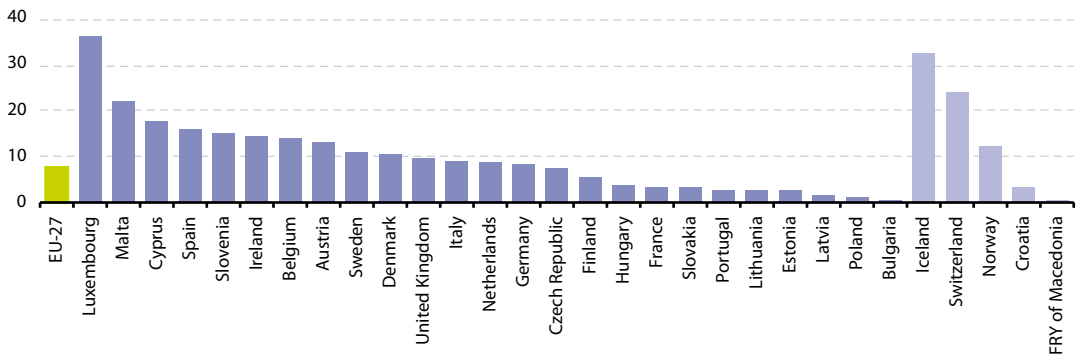


Table 2.17: Immigration by main citizenship group, 2008

	Total immigrants (1 000)	Nationals		Non-nationals					
		(1 000)	(%)	Total		Citizens of other EU Member States		Citizens of non-member countries	
				(1 000)	(%)	(1 000)	(%)	(1 000)	(%)
EU-27	3 800.0	600.0	15.8	3 200.0	84.2	1 400.0	36.8	1 800.0	47.4
Belgium	150.8	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	1.2	1.1	92.9	0.1	7.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	7.0
Czech Republic	77.8	1.7	2.1	76.2	97.9	17.6	22.7	58.5	75.2
Denmark	57.4	19.9	34.6	37.5	65.4	20.0	34.8	17.5	30.5
Germany	682.1	108.3	15.9	573.8	84.1	335.9	49.2	237.9	34.9
Estonia	3.7	1.7	47.5	1.9	52.5	1.0	27.0	0.9	25.6
Ireland	63.9	17.9	27.9	45.6	71.4	32.1	50.3	13.5	21.1
Greece	:	:	:	74.7	:	25.7	:	49.0	:
Spain	726.0	33.8	4.7	692.2	95.3	193.3	26.6	498.9	68.7
France	216.9	64.1	29.5	152.9	70.5	63.9	29.5	89.0	41.0
Italy	534.7	38.2	7.1	496.5	92.9	212.9	39.8	283.7	53.1
Cyprus	14.1	1.1	7.8	9.8	69.7	6.5	46.0	3.4	23.8
Latvia	3.5	0.9	27.1	2.5	72.9	1.6	46.0	0.9	26.9
Lithuania	9.3	6.3	68.2	3.0	31.8	0.4	4.0	2.6	27.8
Luxembourg	17.8	1.0	5.4	16.7	94.2	13.9	78.3	2.8	15.9
Hungary	37.5	2.0	5.3	35.5	94.7	17.7	47.1	17.9	47.7
Malta	9.0	1.2	13.0	7.8	86.9	4.5	49.8	3.3	37.1
Netherlands	143.5	40.2	28.0	94.3	65.7	55.4	38.6	38.9	27.1
Austria	110.1	15.3	13.9	94.4	85.7	55.3	50.3	39.1	35.5
Poland	47.9	35.9	75.0	12.0	25.0	3.1	6.4	8.9	18.6
Portugal	29.7	9.6	32.3	20.1	67.7	4.1	13.7	16.1	54.0
Romania	:	:	:	10.0	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	30.7	2.6	8.6	28.0	91.1	2.1	6.7	25.9	84.4
Slovakia	17.8	1.4	7.6	16.5	92.4	8.5	47.8	7.9	44.6
Finland	29.1	9.2	31.6	19.7	67.6	7.3	25.2	12.3	42.4
Sweden	101.2	17.9	17.6	83.0	82.0	30.4	30.0	52.6	52.0
United Kingdom	590.2	85.1	14.4	505.2	85.6	197.7	33.5	307.4	52.1
Iceland	10.3	2.8	27.4	7.5	72.6	6.4	62.2	1.1	10.4
Norway	58.1	6.4	11.1	51.7	88.9	32.2	55.4	19.5	33.5
Switzerland	184.3	22.7	12.3	161.6	87.7	113.6	61.6	48.0	26.0
Croatia	14.5	12.5	86.1	2.0	13.9	0.5	3.7	1.5	10.2
FYR of Macedonia	1.1	0.2	20.8	0.8	79.1	0.1	12.0	0.7	67.1
Turkey	:	:	:	19.7	:	6.0	:	13.7	:

Source: Eurostat (migr_imm1ctz)

Figure 2.21: Immigrants, 2008⁽¹⁾
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



⁽¹⁾ Data for the number of inhabitants refers to 1 January 2009; Greece and Romania, not available.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_imm1ctz](#) and [migr_pop1ctz](#))

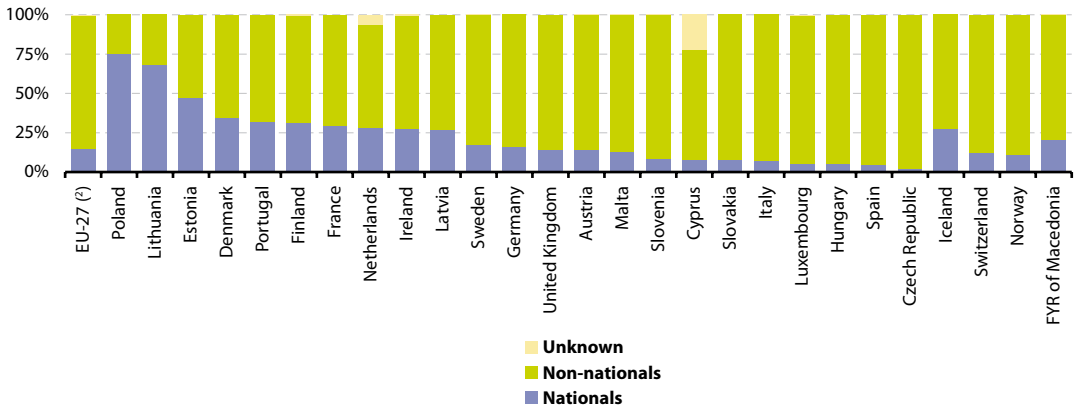
**Table 2.18:** Total population and resident non-national population by group of citizenship, 2009

	Total population (1 000)	Non-nationals					
		Total		Citizens of other EU Member States		Citizens of non-member countries	
		(1 000)	(%)	(1 000)	(%)	(1 000)	(%)
EU-27	499 432.2	31 779.9	6.4	11 937.2	2.4	19 842.7	4.0
Belgium	10 750.0	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	7 606.6	23.8	0.3	3.5	0.1	20.3	0.3
Czech Republic	10 467.5	407.5	3.9	145.8	1.4	261.7	2.5
Denmark	5 511.5	320.0	5.8	108.7	2.0	211.4	3.8
Germany	82 002.4	7 185.9	8.8	2 530.7	3.1	4 655.2	5.7
Estonia	1 340.4	214.4	16.0	9.6	0.7	204.8	15.3
Ireland	4 450.0	441.1	9.9	364.8	8.2	76.2	1.7
Greece	11 260.4	929.5	8.3	161.6	1.4	767.9	6.8
Spain	45 828.2	5 651.0	12.3	2 274.2	5.0	3 376.8	7.4
France	64 366.9	3 737.5	5.8	1 302.4	2.0	2 435.2	3.8
Italy	60 045.1	3 891.3	6.5	1 131.8	1.9	2 759.5	4.6
Cyprus	796.9	128.2	16.1	78.2	9.8	50.0	6.3
Latvia	2 261.3	404.0	17.9	9.4	0.4	394.6	17.5
Lithuania	3 349.9	41.5	1.2	2.5	0.1	39.0	1.2
Luxembourg	493.5	214.8	43.5	185.4	37.6	29.5	6.0
Hungary	10 031.0	186.4	1.9	109.8	1.1	76.6	0.8
Malta	413.6	18.1	4.4	8.2	2.0	9.9	2.4
Netherlands	16 485.8	637.1	3.9	290.4	1.8	346.7	2.1
Austria	8 355.3	864.4	10.3	317.0	3.8	547.4	6.6
Poland	37 867.9	35.9	0.1	10.3	0.0	25.6	0.1
Portugal	10 627.3	443.1	4.2	84.7	0.8	358.4	3.4
Romania	21 498.6	31.4	0.1	6.0	0.0	25.3	0.1
Slovenia	2 032.4	70.6	3.5	4.2	0.2	66.4	3.3
Slovakia	5 412.3	52.5	1.0	32.7	0.6	19.8	0.4
Finland	5 326.3	142.3	2.7	51.9	1.0	90.4	1.7
Sweden	9 256.3	547.7	5.9	255.6	2.8	292.1	3.2
United Kingdom	61 595.1	4 184.0	6.8	1 793.2	2.9	2 390.8	3.9
Iceland	319.4	24.4	7.6	19.4	6.1	5.0	1.6
Norway	4 799.3	302.9	6.3	165.4	3.4	137.6	2.9
Switzerland	7 701.9	1 669.7	21.7	1 033.4	13.4	636.3	8.3
Croatia	4 435.1	:	:	:	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	2 048.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	71 517.1	103.8	0.1	45.3	0.1	58.4	0.1

Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Figure 2.22: Share of nationals and non-nationals among immigrants, 2008 ⁽¹⁾

(%)



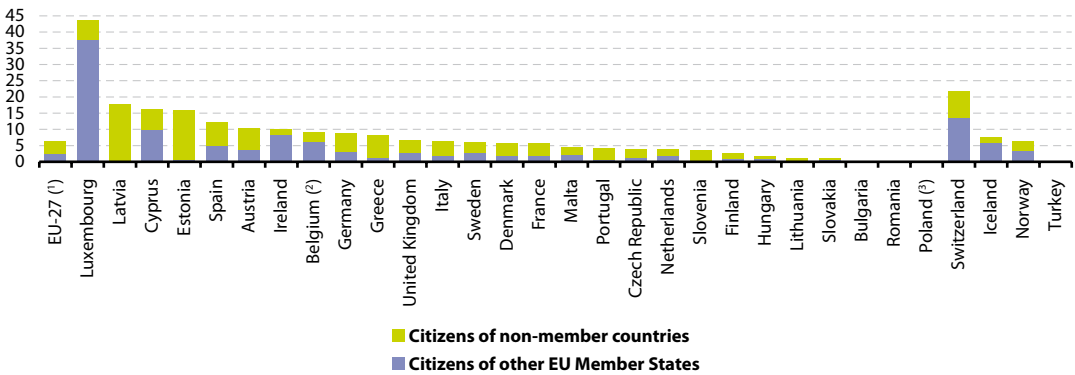
⁽¹⁾ Belgium, Greece and Romania, not available; Bulgaria, unreliable.

⁽²⁾ Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (migr_imm1ctz)

Figure 2.23: Share of non-nationals in the resident population, 2009

(%)



⁽¹⁾ Estimate.

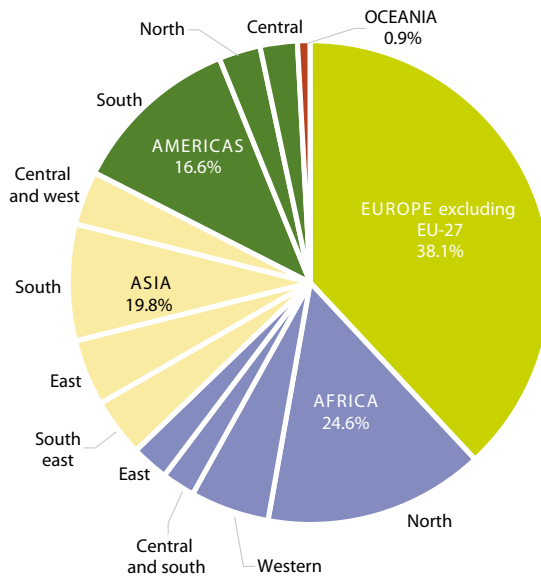
⁽²⁾ 2008.

⁽³⁾ Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

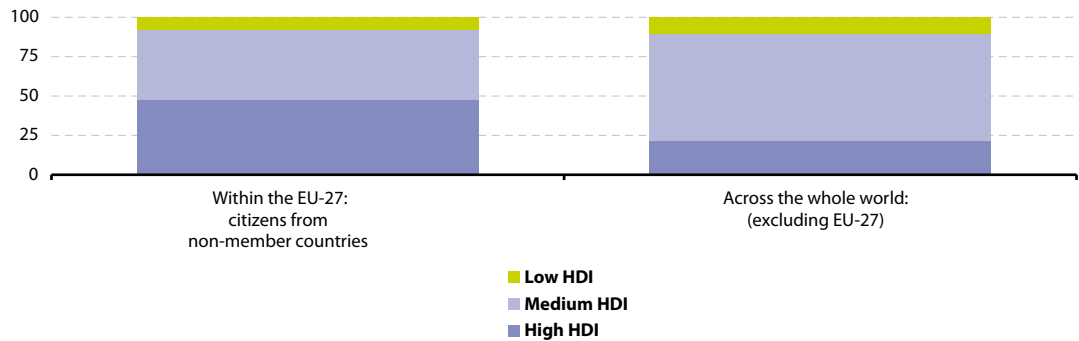


Figure 2.24: Citizens of non-member countries in the EU-27, 2009 (%)



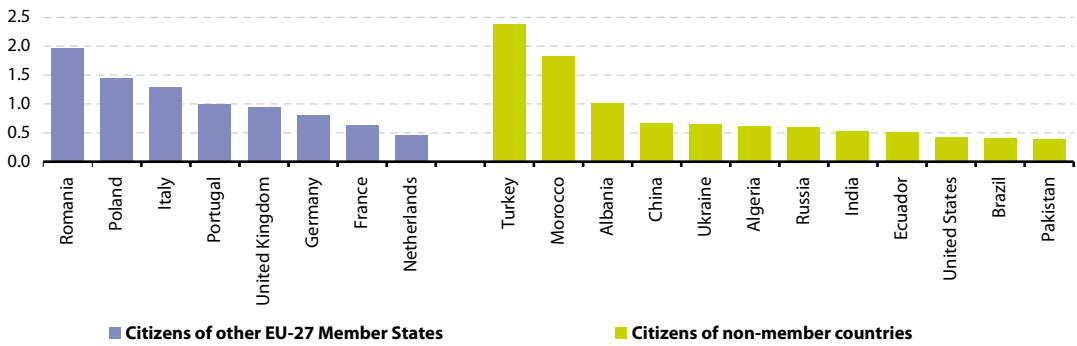
Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

Figure 2.25: Non-nationals analysed by level of human development index (HDI), 2009 (%)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#)), UN 2009 mid-year population estimates

Figure 2.26: Main countries of origin of non-nationals, EU-27, 2009 (million)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Figure 2.27: Age structure of the national and non-national populations, EU, 2009 (¹)

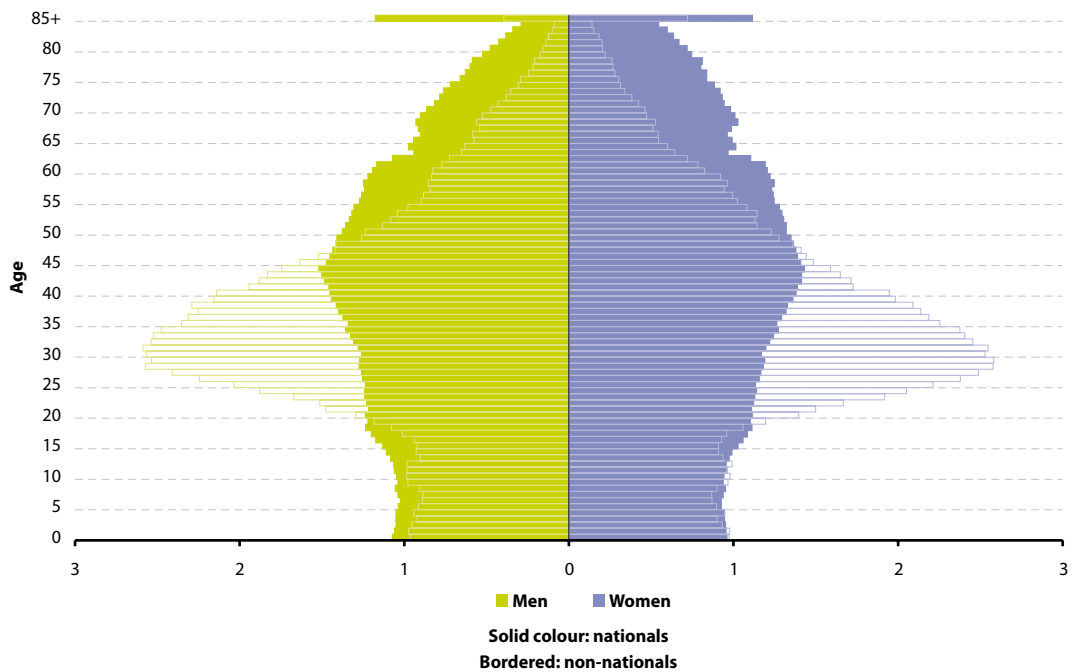
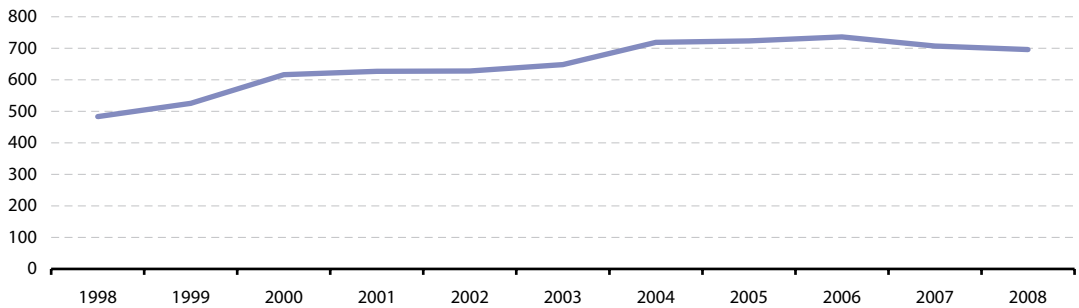


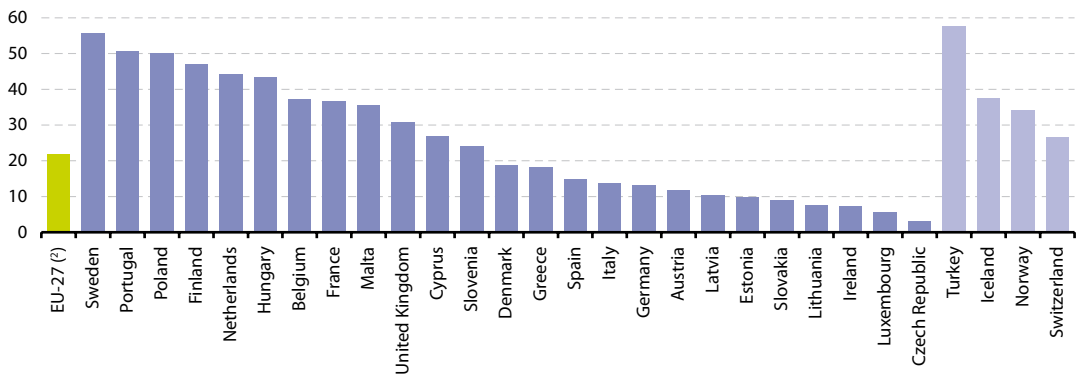


Figure 2.28: Number of persons having acquired citizenship of an EU Member State, EU-27 (1 000)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Figure 2.29: Number of persons having acquired citizenship, 2008 ⁽¹⁾ (per 1 000 non-nationals)



⁽¹⁾ Data for the number of inhabitants refers to 1 January 2009; Belgium, 2007 and number of inhabitants refers to 1 January 2008; Bulgaria and Romania not shown for reasons of comparability.

⁽²⁾ Estimate.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#), [migr_pop1ctz](#))



Table 2.19: Number of persons having acquired citizenship
(1 000)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
EU-27	483.0	525.3	616.1	627.0	628.2	648.2	718.9	723.5	735.9	707.1	696.1
Belgium	:	24.2	:	62.2	46.4	33.7	34.8	31.5	31.9	36.1	:
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	3.5	4.4	5.8	5.9	6.7	6.0	7.1
Czech Republic	:	7.3	:	:	3.3	2.2	5.0	2.6	2.3	2.4	1.2
Denmark	10.3	12.4	18.8	11.9	17.3	6.6	15.0	10.2	8.0	3.6	6.0
Germany	106.8	143.1	186.7	180.3	154.5	140.7	127.2	117.2	124.6	113.0	94.5
Estonia	10.0	4.5	3.4	3.1	4.1	3.7	6.5	7.1	4.8	4.2	2.1
Ireland	1.5	1.4	1.1	2.8	:	4.0	3.8	4.1	5.8	4.6	3.2
Greece	0.8	:	:	:	:	1.9	1.4	1.7	2.0	3.9	16.9
Spain	12.6	16.4	16.7	16.7	21.8	26.5	38.2	42.9	62.4	71.9	84.2
France	81.4	94.0	:	:	92.6	139.9	168.8	154.8	147.9	132.0	137.3
Italy	:	:	:	:	:	13.4	19.1	28.7	35.3	45.5	53.7
Cyprus	:	0.1	0.3	:	0.1	0.2	4.5	4.0	2.9	2.8	3.5
Latvia	:	12.9	13.5	9.9	9.4	10.0	17.2	20.1	19.0	8.3	4.2
Lithuania	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3
Luxembourg	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2
Hungary	6.2	6.1	5.4	8.6	3.4	5.3	5.4	9.9	6.1	8.4	8.1
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.5	0.6	0.6
Netherlands	59.2	62.1	50.0	46.7	45.3	28.8	26.2	28.5	29.1	30.7	28.2
Austria	17.8	:	24.3	31.7	36.0	44.7	41.6	34.9	25.7	14.0	10.3
Poland	:	:	:	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.9	1.1	1.5	1.8
Portugal	0.5	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.9	3.0	4.4	:	22.4
Romania	:	0.2	:	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	5.6
Slovenia	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.3	2.8	3.3	3.3	2.7	3.2	1.6	1.7
Slovakia	:	:	:	2.9	3.5	3.5	4.0	1.4	1.1	1.5	0.5
Finland	4.0	4.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	4.5	6.9	5.7	4.4	4.8	6.7
Sweden	46.5	37.8	43.5	36.4	37.8	33.2	28.9	39.6	51.2	33.6	30.5
United Kingdom	53.9	54.9	82.2	89.8	120.1	130.5	148.3	161.8	154.0	164.5	129.3
Iceland	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	:	:	:	:	0.6	0.9
Norway	9.2	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.0	7.9	8.2	12.7	12.0	14.9	10.3
Switzerland	21.3	20.4	28.7	27.6	36.5	35.4	35.7	38.4	46.7	43.9	44.4
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	12.7	8.9	:	12.3	13.2	7.6
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	2.0	1.7	1.9	:	2.6	2.7	2.1	1.7	1.1
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	24.8	8.2	6.9	5.1	4.4	6.0

Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))