

First demographic estimates for 2003

Based upon monthly data available at the end of 2003, latest forecasts and expert opinion, the net inflow of international migrants (immigration minus emigration) to the European Union is expected to show a decrease in 2003 to a level of around 983 000 persons, against 1 260 000 persons in 2002.

The number of live births is expected to increase slightly from 3.99 million in 2002 to 4.03 million in 2003. The total number of deaths is also expected to increase slightly from 3.68 million in 2002 to 3.74 million in 2003. Natural population growth (live births minus deaths) is forecast to decrease from 309 000 in 2002 to 294 000 in 2003.

Consequently, total population growth is estimated to reach a level of around 1.3 million (compared to 1.6 million in 2002), bringing the EU population on 1 January 2004 to 380.8 million.

Population censuses were held in 2000 and 2001 in most EU countries. This has led to lower than expected population counts on 1 January 2001 and 2002, followed sometimes by significantly (upwards) corrections, notably for Italy and the UK. There are therefore breaks in series between 2000 and 2003, resulting in discrepancies in figures for population growth and net migration. Population figures for the intercensal period for the countries concerned and the EU will be recalculated in the near future.

The population of the 10 Acceding Countries amounted to 74.1 million people on 1 January 2004. This is a decrease of 60 000 compared with 1 January 2003. This decline is mainly due to negative natural growth (deaths outnumbering live births). Negative net migration also played a role in the population decline of some countries.

EU population continues to increase slowly ...

During the last 50 years, the population of the present EU has grown from 295 to over 380 million (Figure 1). In 1953, the EU's population exceeded 300 million. Thereafter it took 10, 13 and 22 years respectively to increase by 25 million inhabitants. Thus, population growth began to slow during the last 2-3 decades.

With an estimated population growth of around 1.3 million people, 2003 fits fairly well in this latter general trend. Although during the second half of the 1990s lower levels were recorded, the latest increase is much smaller than those observed during the 1960s (on average 2.5 million a year).

In relative terms, the EU population is expected to grow by 0.34% in 2003. Again compared with the late 1990s, this level is slightly higher, but from a longer-term perspective, it is a rather modest rise (Figure 2).

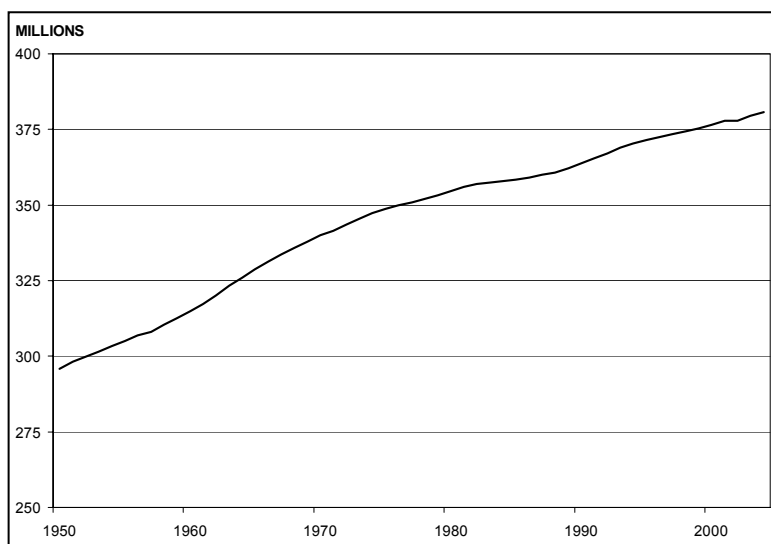


Figure 1: Total population, EU-15, 1950-2004

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 1/2004

POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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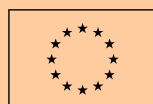


Table 1: Population change in 2003 (first estimates)

COUNTRY	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total
	1.1.2003	births		increase	migration ¹⁾	increase	1.1.2004	births		increase	migration ¹⁾	increase
	(1000)						per 1000 population					
EU-15	379 482.5	4 033.3	3 739.7	293.6	982.6	1 276.2	380 758.8	10.6	9.8	0.8	2.6	3.4
Euro-zone ²⁾	305 829.3	3 180.2	2 985.1	195.2	843.8	1 039.0	306 868.4	10.4	9.7	0.6	2.8	3.4
Belgium	10 355.8	111.2	105.3	5.9	35.0	40.9	10 396.7	10.7	10.2	0.6	3.4	3.9
Denmark	5 383.5	64.9	57.8	7.1	7.0	14.1	5 397.6	12.0	10.7	1.3	1.3	2.6
Germany	82 536.7	709.8	861.6	-151.8	160.2	8.4	82 545.1	8.6	10.4	-1.8	1.9	0.1
Greece	11 018.4	102.5	104.0	-1.5	30.0	28.5	11 046.9	9.3	9.4	-0.1	2.7	2.6
Spain	40 683.0	438.0	368.4	69.6	225.0	294.6	40 977.6	10.7	9.0	1.7	5.5	7.2
France	59 629.1	759.3	552.8	206.5	60.0	266.5	59 895.5	12.7	9.2	3.5	1.0	4.5
Ireland	3 963.6	62.1	29.1	33.0	28.0	61.0	4 024.6	15.5	7.3	8.3	7.0	15.3
Italy	57 321.1	542.2	589.3	-47.2	207.7	160.5	57 481.6	9.4	10.3	-0.8	3.6	2.8
Luxembourg	448.3	5.2	3.8	1.4	1.1	2.5	450.8	11.5	8.5	3.0	2.5	5.6
Netherlands	16 192.6	204.2	142.0	62.2	2.8	65.0	16 257.6	12.6	8.8	3.8	0.2	4.0
Austria	8 067.0	77.0	77.3	-0.3	25.3	24.9	8 091.9	9.5	9.6	0.0	3.1	3.1
Portugal	10 407.5	112.3	103.4	9.0	63.3	72.3	10 479.8	10.8	9.9	0.9	6.1	6.9
Finland	5 206.3	56.5	48.1	8.4	5.5	13.9	5 220.2	10.8	9.2	1.6	1.1	2.7
Sweden	8 940.8	98.2	92.9	5.3	28.8	34.1	8 974.9	11.0	10.4	0.6	3.2	3.8
United Kingdom	59 328.9	690.0	603.9	86.0	103.0	189.0	59 517.9	11.6	10.2	1.4	1.7	3.2
Iceland	288.5	4.1	1.8	2.2	-0.3	2.0	290.5	14.1	6.3	7.8	-0.9	6.9
Liechtenstein	33.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	34.3	11.7	5.9	5.9	5.9	11.7
Norway	4 552.3	54.8	42.8	12.0	11.3	23.3	4 575.6	12.0	9.4	2.6	2.5	5.1
EEA	384 357.1	4 092.5	3 784.5	308.0	993.9	1 302.0	385 659.1	10.6	9.8	0.8	2.6	3.4
Switzerland	7 324.1	71.2	62.4	8.8	44.0	52.8	7 376.9	9.7	8.5	1.2	6.0	7.2
Acceding Countries ³⁾	74 200.9	683.1	774.9	-91.8	32.1	-59.7	74 141.1	9.2	10.4	-1.2	0.4	-0.8
Czech Republic	10 203.3	91.2	107.5	-16.3	24.0	7.7	10 211.0	8.9	10.5	-1.6	2.4	0.8
Estonia	1 356.0	13.0	18.0	-5.0	-0.1	-5.1	1 350.9	9.6	13.3	-3.7	-0.1	-3.8
Cyprus ⁴⁾	715.1	8.0	5.6	2.4	10.2	12.6	727.7	11.1	7.8	3.3	14.1	17.4
Latvia	2 331.5	20.5	32.7	-12.1	-0.8	-12.9	2 318.5	8.8	14.1	-5.2	-0.3	-5.6
Lithuania	3 462.6	30.4	40.9	-10.5	-4.9	-15.4	3 447.1	8.8	11.8	-3.0	-1.4	-4.5
Hungary	10 142.4	96.5	136.0	-39.5	12.4	-27.1	10 115.2	9.5	13.4	-3.9	1.2	-2.7
Malta	397.3	4.0	3.3	0.7	1.6	2.3	399.6	10.0	8.2	1.8	3.9	5.7
Poland	38 218.5	350.7	360.2	-9.5	-15.3	-24.8	38 193.7	9.2	9.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6
Slovenia	1 995.0	17.2	19.2	-2.0	3.6	1.6	1 996.7	8.6	9.6	-1.0	1.8	0.8
Slovakia	5 379.2	51.5	51.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	5 380.7	9.6	9.6	0.0	0.3	0.3
Bulgaria	7 845.8	65.6	112.2	-46.5	-	-46.5	7 799.3	8.4	14.3	-5.9	-	-5.9
Romania	21 772.8	208.7	264.5	-55.8	-0.9	-56.8	21 716.0	9.6	12.2	-2.6	0.0	-2.6

¹⁾ Including corrections due to population censuses, register counts, etc. which cannot be classified as births, deaths or migrations

²⁾ Total of the 12 EU countries that participate in the Euro zone from 1.1.2001 (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland)

³⁾ Total of the 10 acceding countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia)

⁴⁾ Government controlled area

... and differently

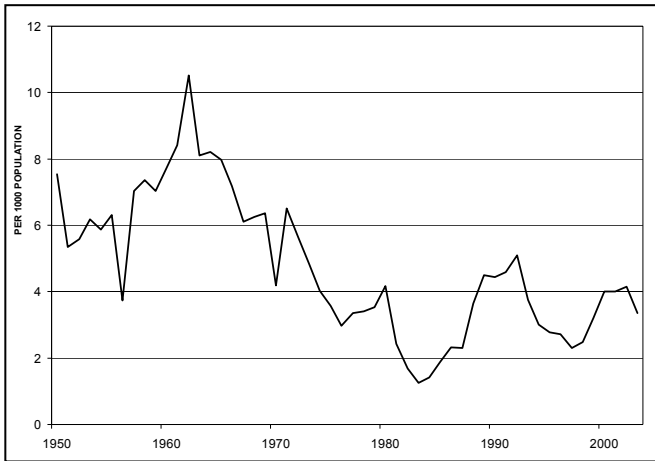


Figure 2: Total population growth, EU-15, 1950-2003

Table 1 and Figure 3 demonstrate that in 2003 the EU Member States have experienced quite different rates of population growth. The population of Ireland has continued to grow at well over 1.5% per year, whereas population growth in Germany is almost nil.

These first estimates confirm that international migration is still an important component of population change. For example, without migration Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy would have experienced a population loss.

The majority of the EU countries are expected to experience a decrease in their population growth in 2003 (Figure 4). Only in Finland, Spain and Sweden has population growth increased.

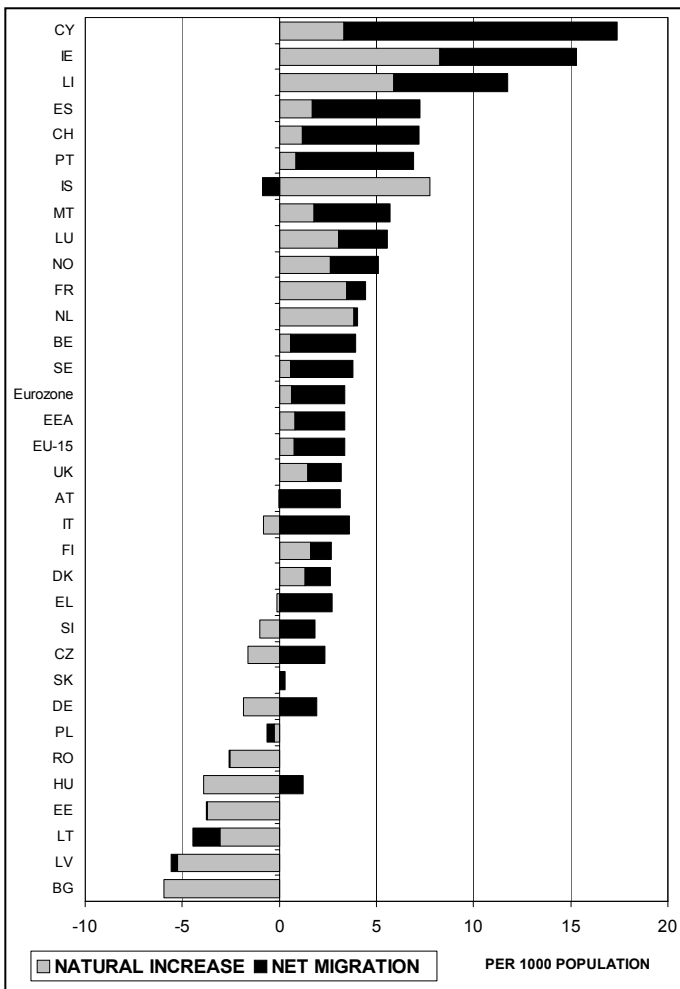


Figure 3: Crude total population growth rate, 2003

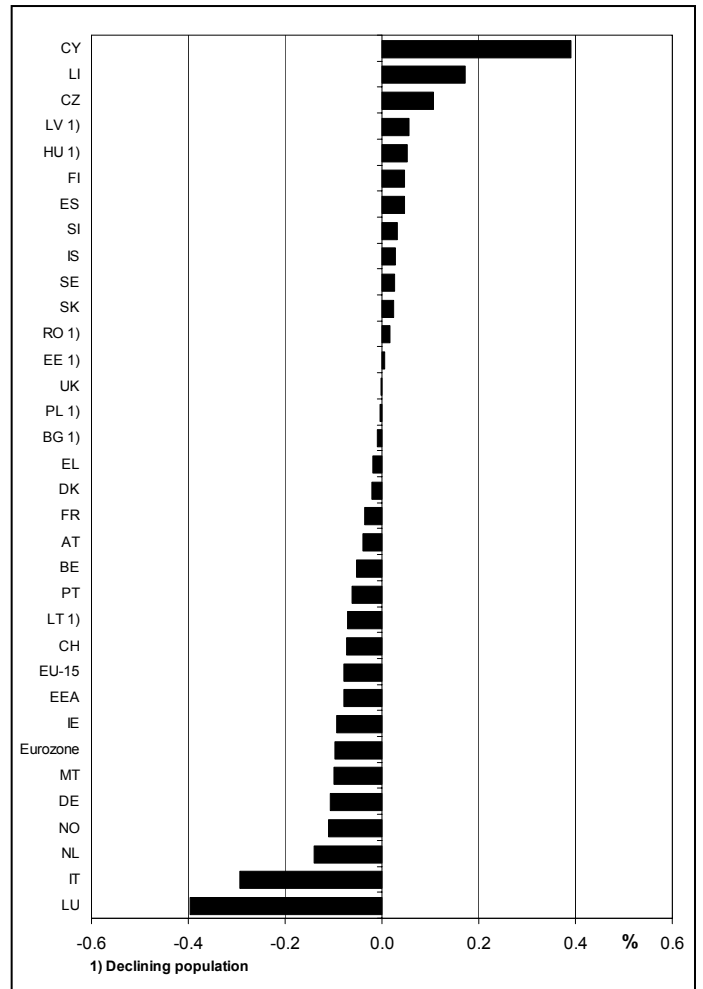
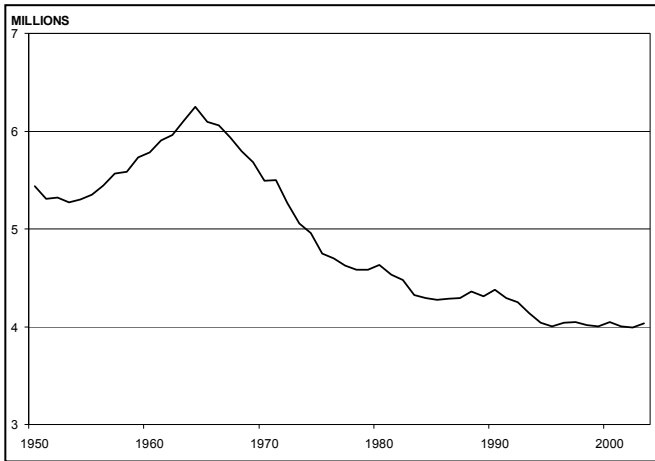


Figure 4: Population growth rate, change in percentage points from 2002 to 2003

Slightly more live births



In 2003 the number of live births is expected to reach a level of 4.03 million, which is about 1.1% higher than the post-war low of 2002. In the mid-1960s the annual number of babies was over 2 million higher, but during the period 1965 to 1975 fertility dropped dramatically (Figure 5).

Crude birth rates are forecast to remain highest in Ireland and lowest in Germany (Figure 6).

Six EU countries will probably see a fall in live births (Figure 7), with Luxembourg facing the largest decrease (-3.1%). Spain, on the other hand, is expected to be the EU country with the largest rise in births (6.4%).

Figure 5: Live births, EU-15, 1950-2003

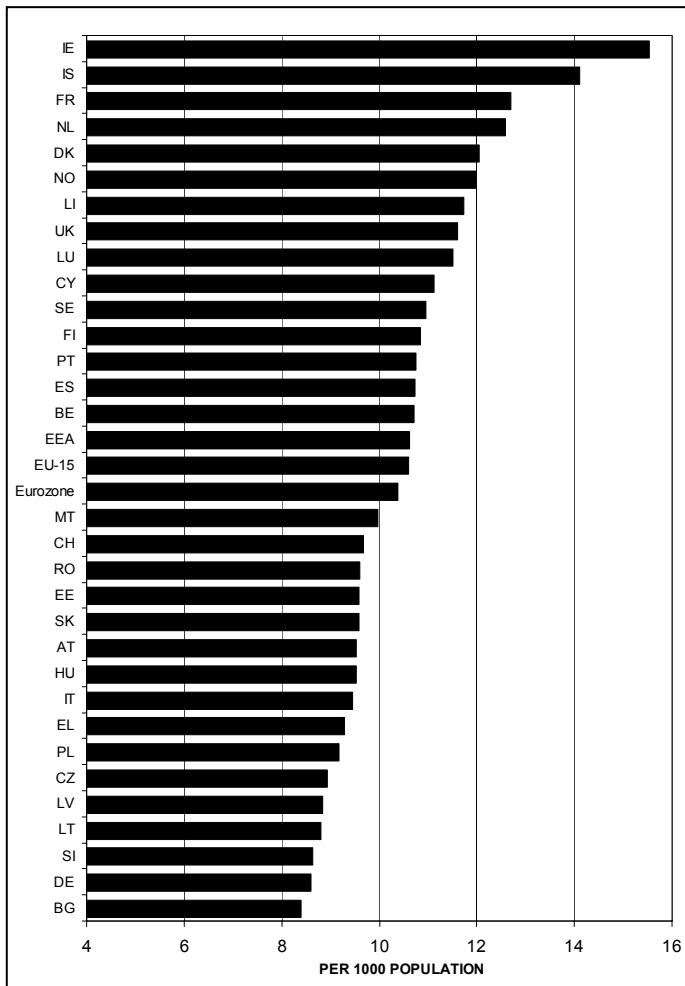


Figure 6: Crude birth rate, 2003

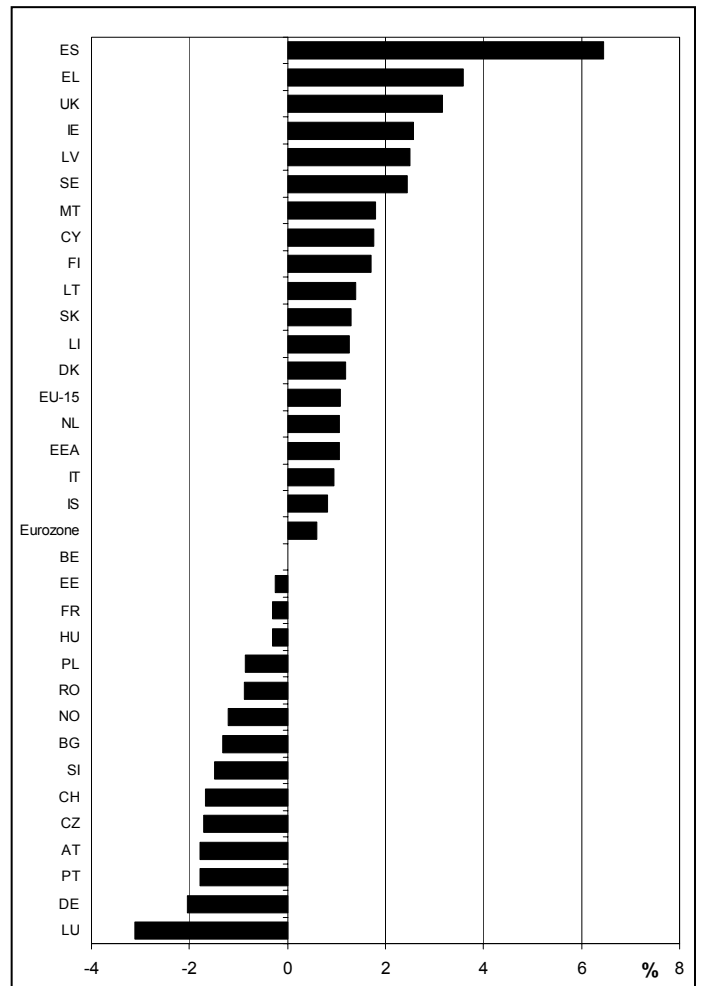


Figure 7: Live births, relative change from 2002 to 2003

Number of deaths increases as well

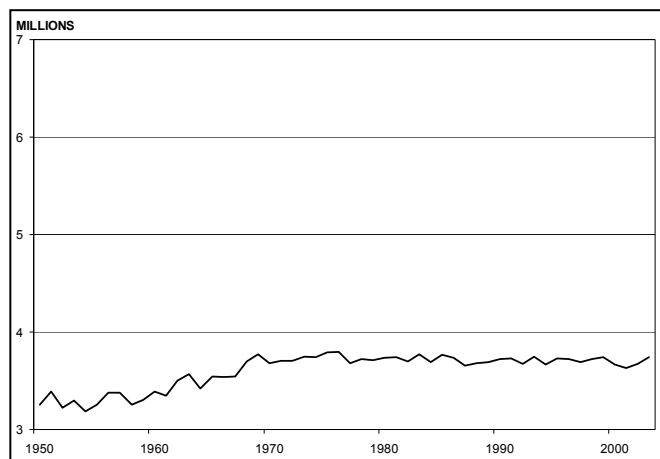


Figure 8: Deaths, EU-15, 1950-2003

In 1976 the number of deaths in the EU reached a post-war high of almost 3.8 million. Thereafter, the annual number of deaths fluctuated and decreased somewhat to a level of around 3.7 million (Figure 8). The impact of a growing number of elderly people on deaths was fully compensated by decreasing mortality rates. For 2003, it is expected that the effects of population ageing might start to outweigh the decrease in mortality rates, with about 64 000 more deaths compared to the previous year.

Due to an aged population and a relatively less favourable mortality pattern, Denmark continues to be the EU Member State with the highest crude death rate (Figure 9). Ireland with its relatively young population is the Member State with the lowest level.

About half of the EU countries have had a relatively 'bad' year (Figure 10), with Italy experiencing the largest increase in the number of deaths (around 6%). Portugal is forecast to see a decrease in the number of deaths of about 2.7%.

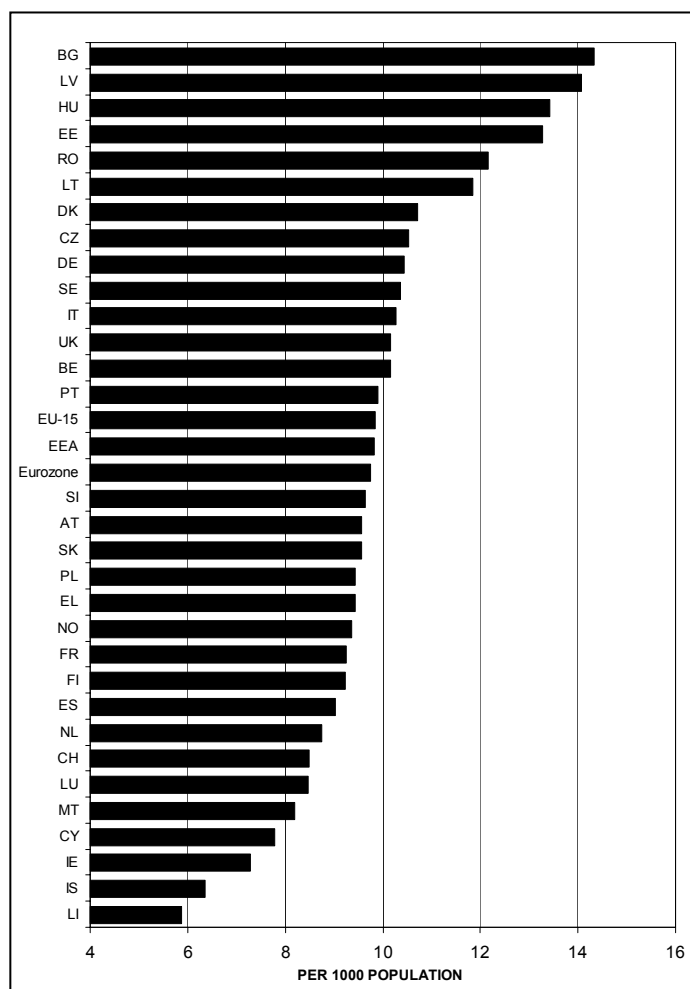


Figure 9: Crude death rate, 2003

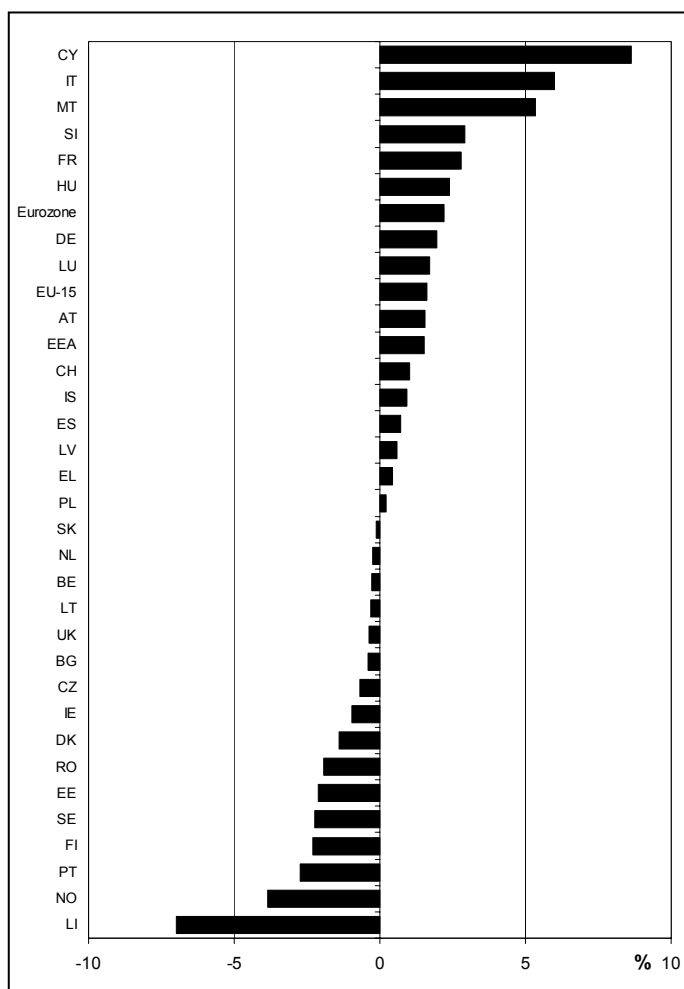
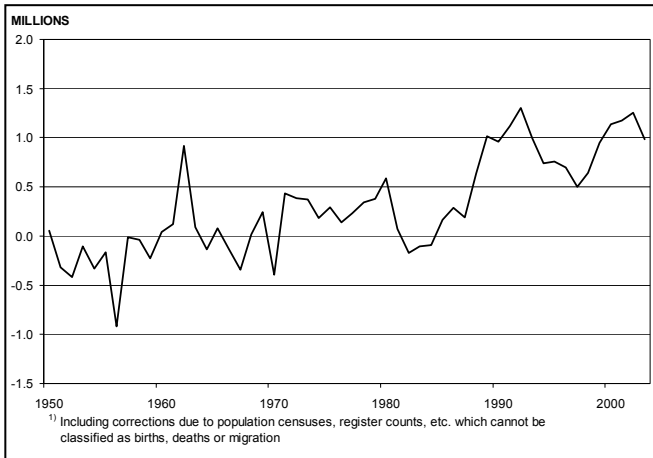


Figure 10: Deaths, relative change from 2002 to 2003

Net migration remains high



After a period of rather strong decline in the 1990s, the net inflow of international migrants to the EU increased to 1 260 000 in 2002 (Figure 11). For 2003 net migration is expected to decrease to a level of around 983 000 persons.

Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany together have received around 70% of this net inflow (Figure 12). Ireland is expected to be the EU country with the highest relative net migration per 1000 inhabitants. France, Germany and the United Kingdom, on the other hand, seem to grow less due to net migration than one would expect considering their population size.

Figure 11: Net migration ¹⁾, EU-15, 1950-2003

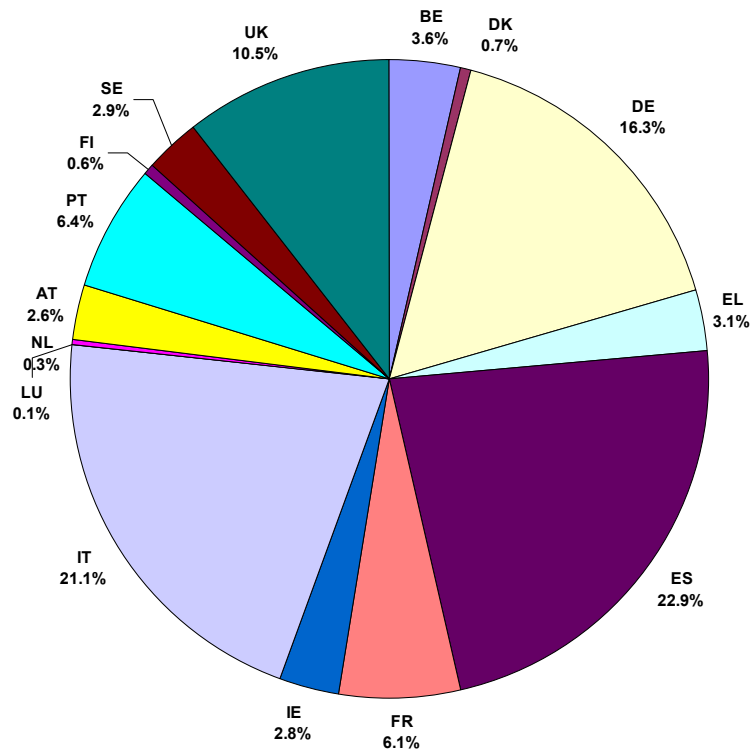


Figure 12: Net migration by Member State, 2003

Table 2: Information base for 2003, first estimates ¹⁾

COUNTRY	Monthly data availability (up to and including)				Average annual forecast error (period 1998-2002)						
	Live births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration	Live births			Deaths			
					0 - 1 %	1 - 2 %	2 - 4 %	0 - 1 %	1 - 2 %	2 - 4 %	
Belgium	August	August	— ³⁾	— ³⁾		x				x	
Denmark	September	September	September ⁴⁾	September ⁴⁾	x			x			
Germany	July	July	May	May	x					x	
Greece	—	—	—	—						x	
Spain	December	December	— ³⁾	— ³⁾		x				x	
France	October	October	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x			x			
Ireland	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾						x	
Italy	April	April	April	April		x		x			
Luxembourg	August	August	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x					x	
Netherlands	September	September	September ²⁾	September ²⁾	x			x			
Austria	September	September	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x					x	
Portugal	— ²⁾	— ²⁾	— ³⁾	— ³⁾						x	
Finland	October	October	October	October	x					x	
Sweden	August	August	August	August	x			x			
United Kingdom	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x					x	
Iceland	August	October	November	November							x
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	—							x
Norway	June ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾		x				x	
Switzerland	June	June	August	August						x	
Czech Republic	June	June	June	June	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Estonia	September	September	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Cyprus	June	June	June	June	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Latvia	September	September	September	September	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Lithuania	August	August	August	August	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Hungary	August	August	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Malta	September	September	September	September	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Poland	September	September	September ⁴⁾	September ⁴⁾	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Slovenia	June	June	June	June	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Slovakia	September	September	September	September	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Bulgaria	December	December	—	—	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)
Romania	September	September	—	—	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)	5)

¹⁾ Estimates are primarily based upon provisional monthly data series available around 1 December 2003.

Technical details about the methodology used for live births and deaths can be found in Eurostat Working Paper E4/1997-7.

²⁾ National estimates.

³⁾ National estimates solely on net migration.

⁴⁾ Quarterly data.

⁵⁾ For these countries, nowcasts have been made for the first time in 2000. Therefore it is not possible to give this information.

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