

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 16/2000

POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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First demographic estimates for 2000

After a period of decline, the net inflow of international migrants (immigration minus emigration) to the European Union increased from 578 000 in 1998 to 720 000 people in 1999. Based upon monthly data available at the end of 2000, latest forecasts and expert opinions, net migration is expected to show a further increase in 2000 to a level of 816 000 people.

The total number of live births is expected to increase slightly, whilst the number of deaths will barely change. Natural population growth (live births minus deaths) is forecast to increase from 277 000 in 1999 to 343 000 in 2000.

Consequently, total population growth is estimated to reach a level of well over 1.1 million, bringing the EU population on 1 January 2001 to 377.6 million.

For the first time, figures for the 12 candidate countries are also presented here.

EU population continues to increase slowly, irregularly...

During the last 50 years, the population of the present EU has grown from 295 to almost 378 million (*Figure 1*). In 1953, EU's population size exceeded 300 million. Thereafter it took 10, 13 and 22 years to shelter another 25 million inhabitants. So, population growth started to slow down during the last 2-3 decades.

With an estimated population growth of just over 1 million people, 2000 fits fairly well in this latter general trend. Although during the second half of the 1990s lower levels were recorded, this increase is much smaller than those observed around 1992 (well over 1.5 million) or during the 1960s (on average 2.5 million a year).

In relative terms, the EU population is expected to grow by 0.31% in 2000. Again compared with the late 1990s, this level is slightly higher, but from a more long-term perspective, it is a rather modest growth (*Figure 2*).

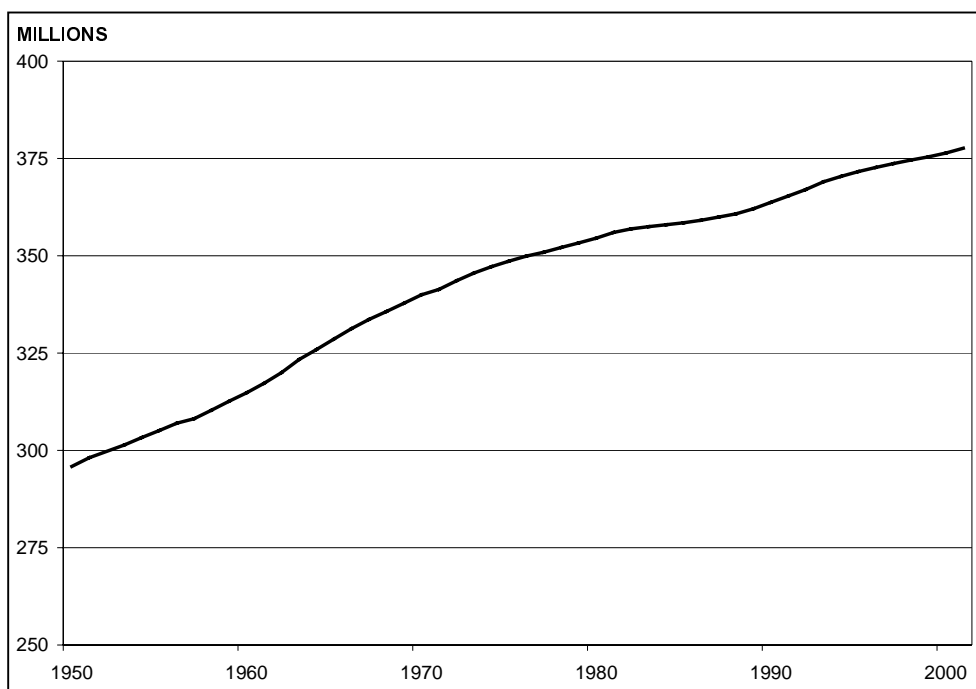


Figure 1: Total population, EU-15, 1950-2001

Table 1: Population change in 2000 (first estimates)

COUNTRY	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total
	1.1.2000	births		increase	migration	increase	1.1.2001	births		increase	migration	increase
	(1000)						per 1000 population					
EU-15	376 455.3	4 054.9	3 712.3	342.6	816	1 158.7	377 614.0	10.8	9.8	0.9	2.2	3.1
EUR-11	292 094.8	3 115.7	2 829.7	286.0	618	904.2	292 999.1	10.7	9.7	1.0	2.1	3.1
Belgium	10 236.1	114.0	103.6	10.4	20	30.4	10 266.5	11.1	10.1	1.0	2.0	3.0
Denmark	5 330.0	66.4	57.7	8.7	10	18.7	5 348.8	12.4	10.8	1.6	1.9	3.5
Germany	82 163.5	760.0	860.0	-100.0	200	100.0	82 263.5	9.2	10.5	-1.2	2.4	1.2
Greece	10 545.7	103.0	104.0	-1.0	25	24.0	10 569.7	9.8	9.9	-0.1	2.4	2.3
Spain	39 441.7	386.5	359.3	27.2	40	67.2	39 508.9	9.8	9.1	0.7	1.0	1.7
France ¹⁾	59 226.0	778.0	534.3	243.7	50	293.7	59 519.7	13.1	9.0	4.1	0.8	4.9
Ireland	3 776.6	55.4	30.5	24.9	25	49.9	3 826.5	14.6	8.0	6.5	6.6	13.1
Italy	57 679.9	560.1	563.8	-3.7	200	196.3	57 876.2	9.7	9.8	-0.1	3.5	3.4
Luxembourg	435.7	5.7	3.7	2.0	5	7.0	442.7	13.0	8.5	4.6	11.4	16.0
Netherlands	15 864.0	206.3	140.8	65.5	52	117.7	15 981.6	13.0	8.8	4.1	3.3	7.4
Austria	8 102.6	78.6	76.7	1.9	12	13.6	8 116.1	9.7	9.5	0.2	1.4	1.7
Portugal	9 997.6	115.5	107.9	7.6	11	18.6	10 016.2	11.5	10.8	0.8	1.1	1.9
Finland	5 171.3	55.8	49.1	6.7	3	10.0	5 181.3	10.8	9.5	1.3	0.6	1.9
Sweden	8 861.4	89.7	94.1	-4.4	23	18.5	8 879.9	10.1	10.6	-0.5	2.6	2.1
United Kingdom	59 623.4	680.1	626.8	53.3	140	193.3	59 816.7	11.4	10.5	0.9	2.3	3.2
Iceland	279.0	4.3	1.8	2.5	1.4	3.9	282.9	15.2	6.5	8.8	5.0	13.8
Liechtenstein	32.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	32.8	12.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	12.3
Norway	4 478.5	60.0	45.0	15.0	15	30.0	4 508.5	13.4	10.0	3.3	3.3	6.7
EEA	381 245.3	4 119.6	3 759.3	360.3	833	1 193.0	382 438.3	10.8	9.8	0.9	2.2	3.1
Switzerland	7 164.4	76.7	61.5	15.2	25	40.2	7 204.7	10.7	8.6	2.1	3.5	5.6
Bulgaria	8 190.9	71.3	113.2	-41.9	-20	-61.9	8 129.0	8.7	13.9	-5.1	-2.5	-7.6
Czech Republic	10 274.1	90.0	106.1	-16.1	9	-7.0	10 267.1	8.8	10.3	-1.6	0.9	-0.7
Hungary	10 043.2	95.9	133.6	-37.7	0.1	-37.6	10 005.6	9.6	13.3	-3.8	0.0	-3.8
Poland	38 647.0	376.7	370.8	5.9	-22	-16.3	38 630.7	9.7	9.6	0.2	-0.6	-0.4
Romania	22 455.5	234.6	257.8	-23.1	-4	-27.2	22 428.3	10.5	11.5	-1.0	-0.2	-1.2
Slovak Republic	5 398.7	56.0	54.1	1.9	1.4	3.3	5 402.0	10.4	10.0	0.4	0.3	0.6
Slovenia	1 987.8	17.5	18.5	-1.0	2	1.0	1 988.8	8.8	9.3	-0.5	1.0	0.5
Estonia	1 439.2	13.0	18.7	-5.6	-0.8	-6.4	1 432.8	9.1	13.0	-3.9	-0.6	-4.5
Latvia	2 424.2	20.0	31.6	-11.6	-3	-14.1	2 410.1	8.3	13.1	-4.8	-1.0	-5.8
Lithuania	3 698.5	33.5	39.2	-5.8	0.9	-4.9	3 693.6	9.1	10.6	-1.6	0.2	-1.3
Cyprus	666.7	7.9	5.2	2.7	0.7	3.3	670.1	11.8	7.8	4.0	1.0	5.0
Malta	380.2	4.0	3.2	0.8	0.5	1.3	381.5	10.5	8.4	2.1	1.3	3.4

¹⁾ Population at 1.1.2000 is based upon population census 1990 and live births, deaths and net migration estimates during the period 1990-1999. According to population census 1999, total population at 1 January 2000 amounted 58 747 000 persons (estimate at 6 November 2000)

... and differently

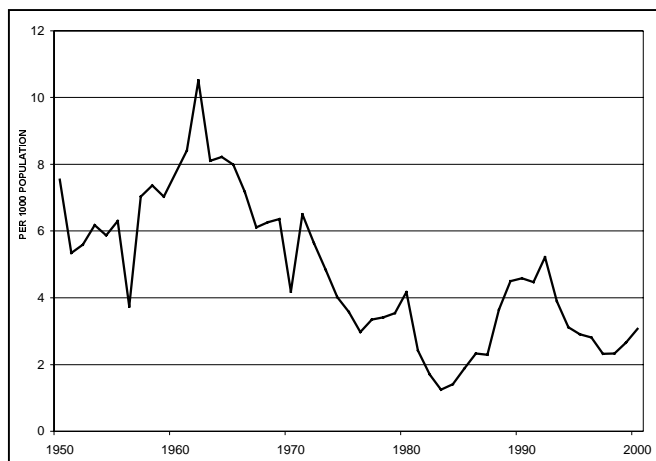


Figure 2: Total population growth, EU-15, 1950-2000

Table 1 and figure 3 demonstrate that (also) in 2000 EU Member States will experience quite different rates of population growth. The population of both Luxembourg and Ireland will continue to grow with a speed of well over 1%, whereas Germany just exceeds a rate of 0.1%.

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

Two thirds of the EU countries are expected to see an increase in their population growth in 2000 (Figure 4). Notably Italy and Sweden are experiencing a relatively strong increase in their population growth due to significant net inflows of migrants.

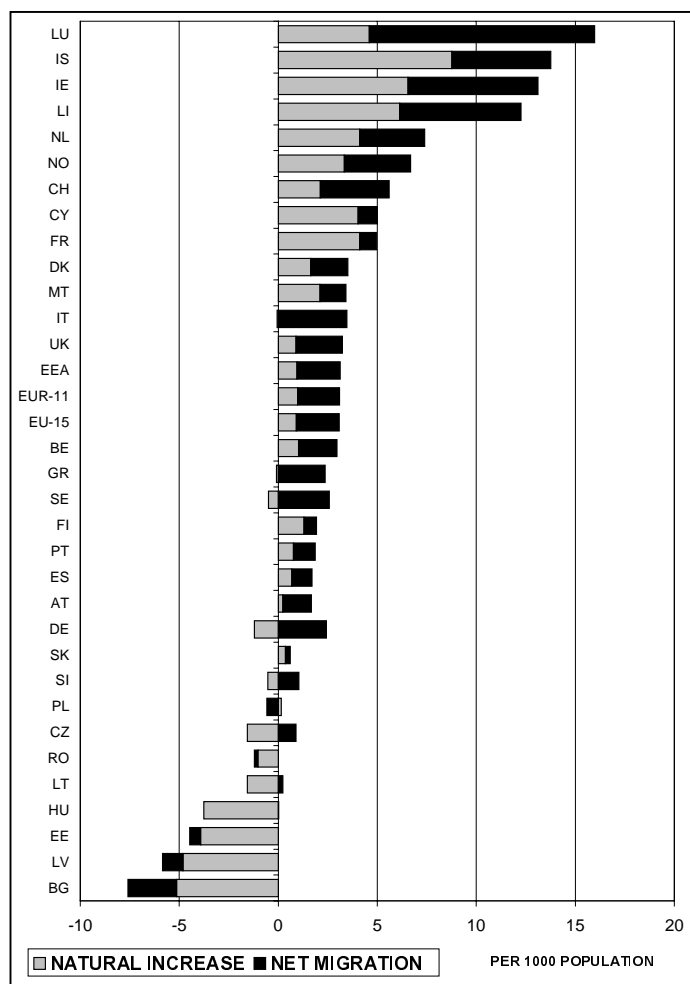


Figure 3: Crude total population growth rate, 2000

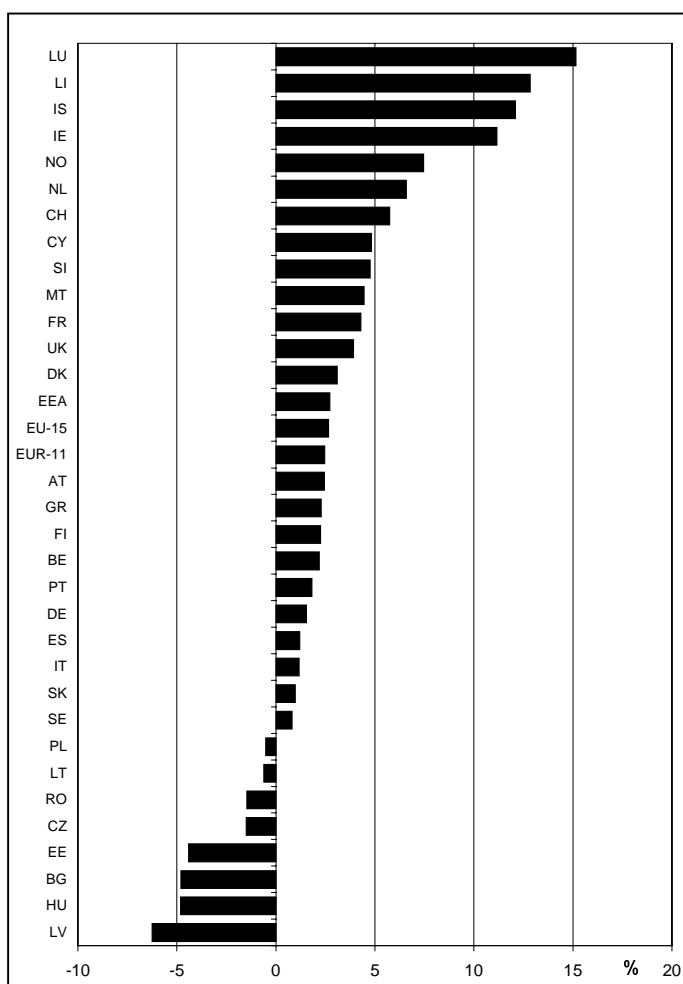


Figure 4: Population growth, relative change from 1999 to 2000

Live births increasing again

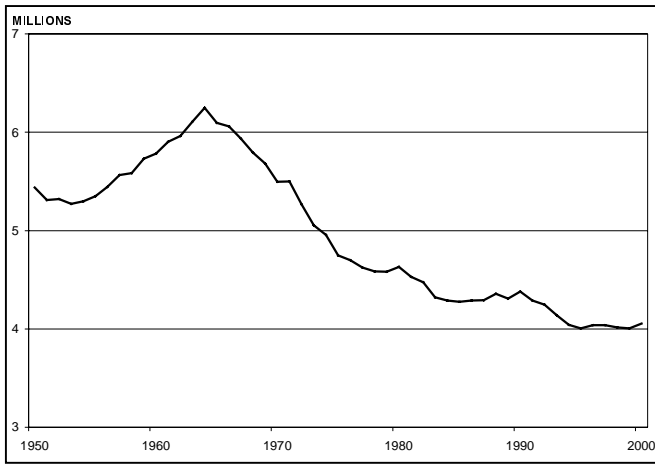


Figure 5: Live births, EU-15, 1950-2000

In 2000 the number of live births is expected to reach a level of 4.05 million, which is about 1.3% more than in 1999. Levels have not been that high since 1994, but a real millennium baby boom did not occur. 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).

Only four EU countries will probably see a decrease in live births (Figure 7), with Finland facing the strongest change (-3%). France, on the other hand, is expected to be the EU country with the strongest rise (well over 4%).

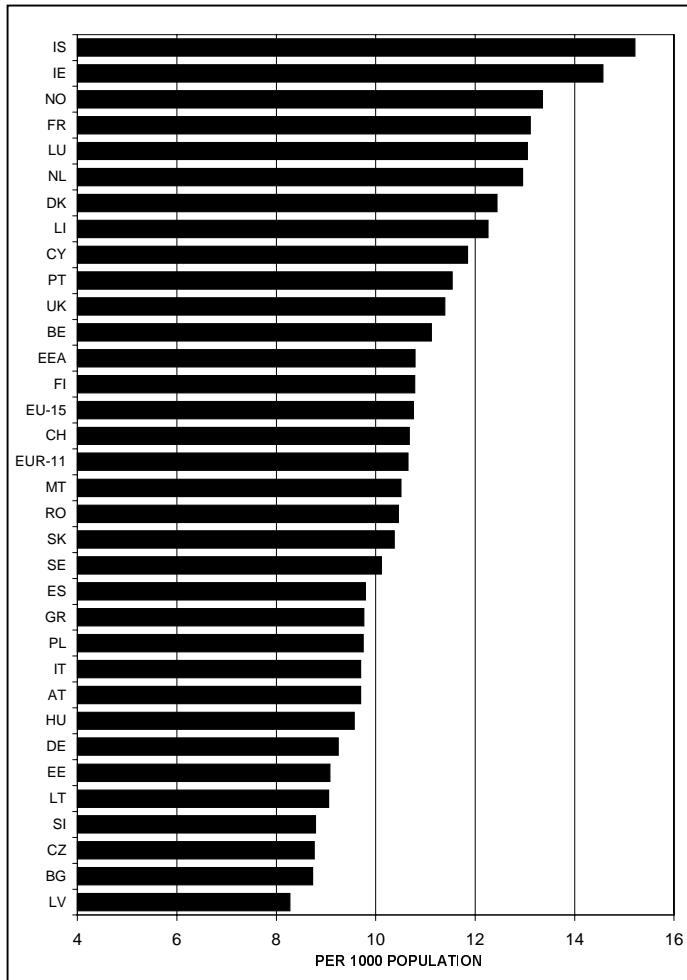


Figure 6: Crude birth rate, 2000

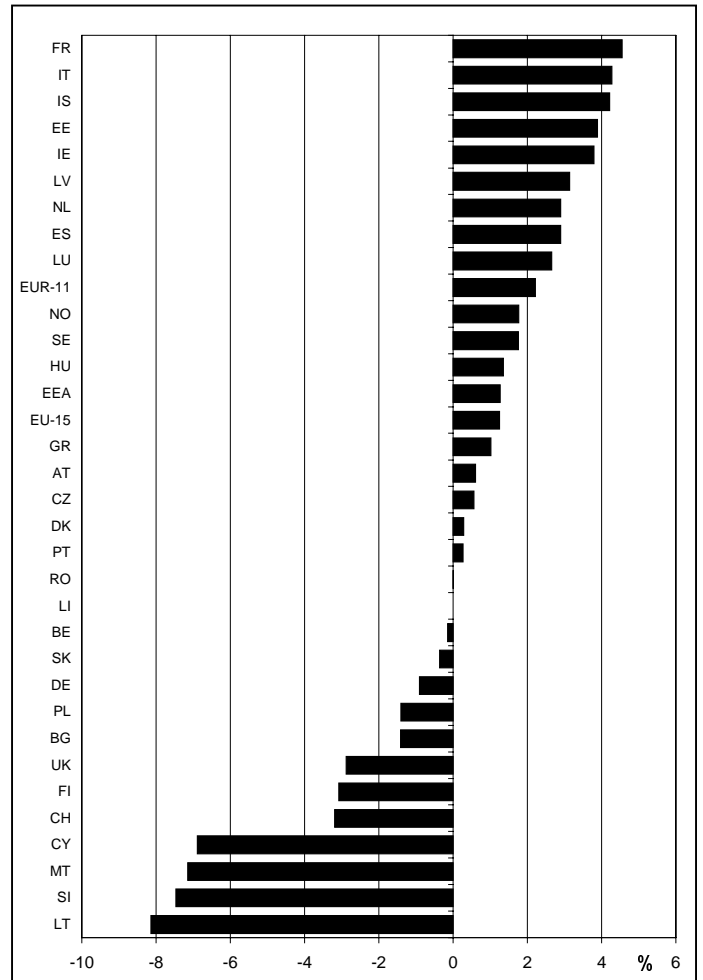


Figure 7: Live births, relative change from 1999 to 2000

Number of deaths remains almost unchanged

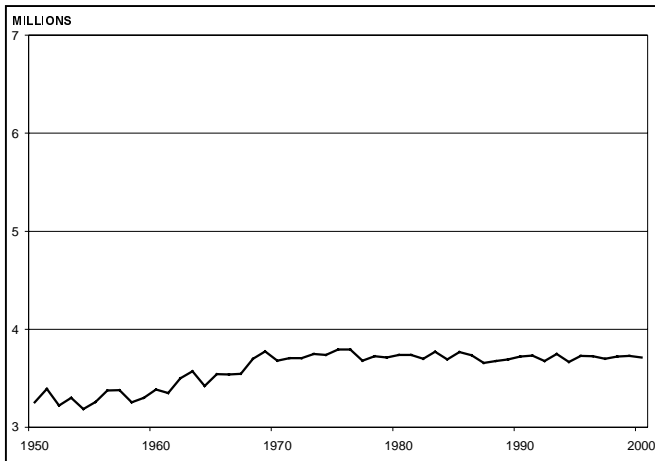


Figure 8: Deaths, EU-15, 1950-2000

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 ultimately 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 death rates. For 2000, it is also expected that the effects of population ageing will be counterbalanced by a further decrease in mortality rates.

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

About two-thirds of the EU countries have had a relatively 'good' year (Figure 10), with Ireland in the lead ($\pm 4\%$ less deaths). Germany is forecast to be confronted with a rise in the number of deaths of about 2%.

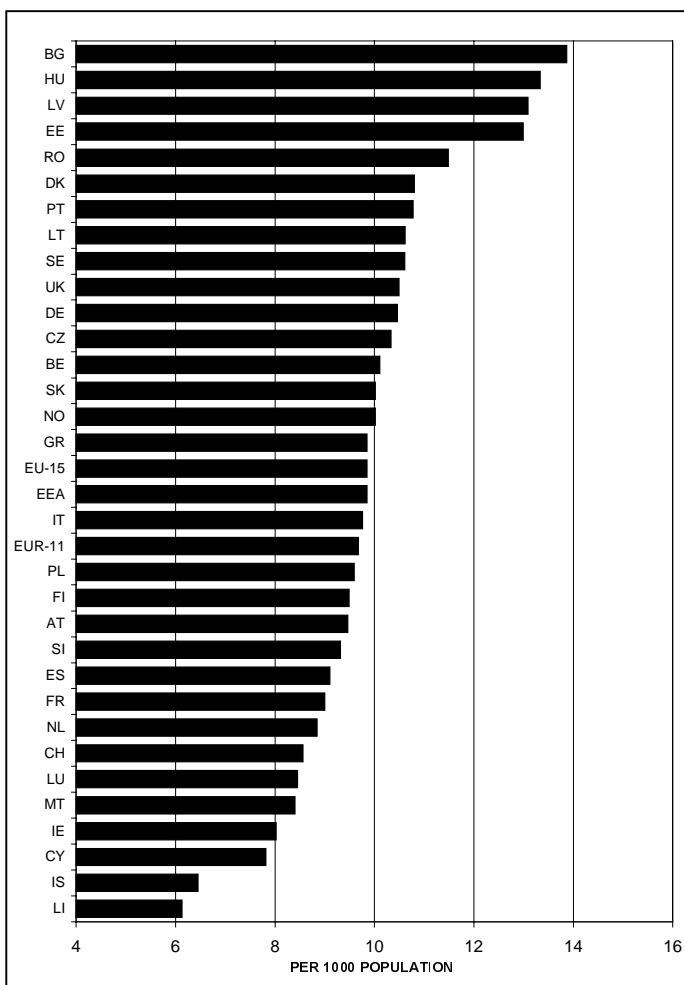


Figure 9: Crude death rate, 2000

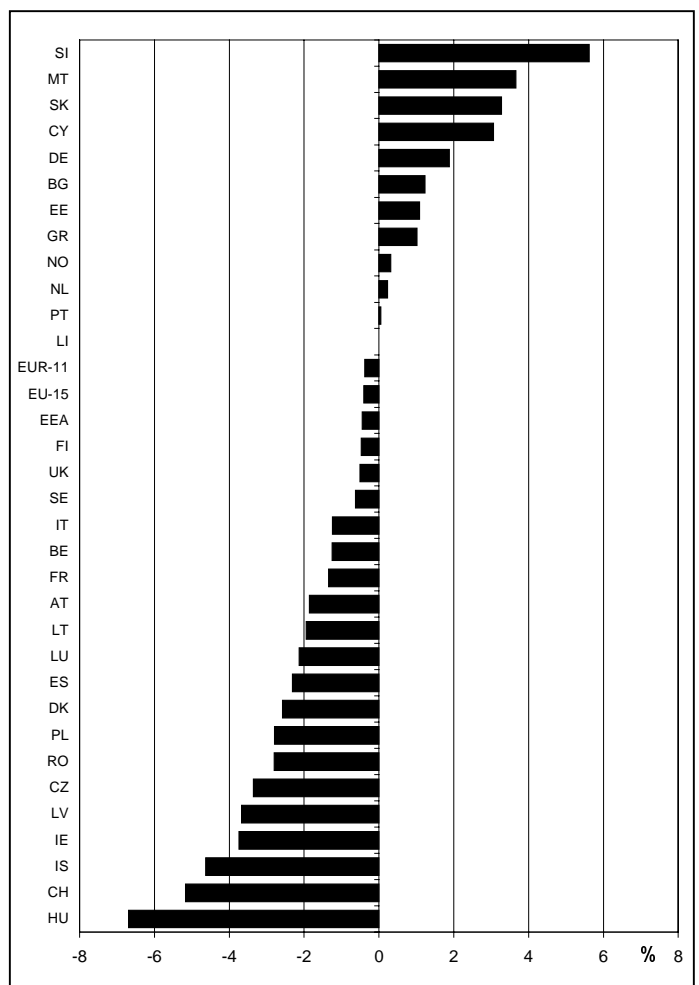


Figure 10: Deaths, relative change from 1999 to 2000

Net migration increases

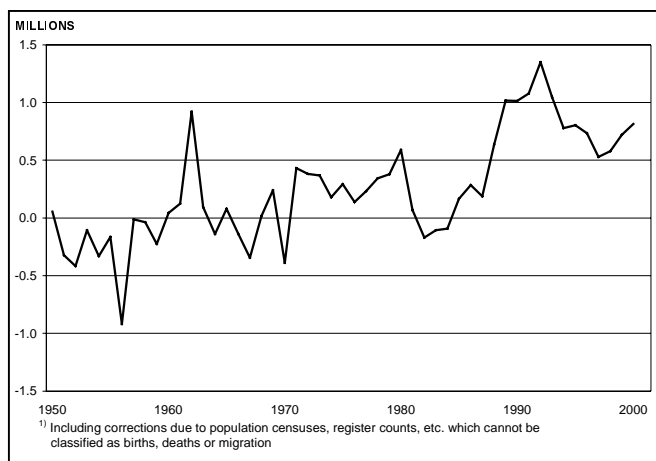


Figure 11: Net migration ¹⁾, EU-15, 1950-2000

After a period of rather strong decline, the net inflow of international migrants to the EU increased from 578 000 in 1998 to 720 000 in 1999 (*Figure 11*). For 2000 net migration is expected to increase further to a level of 816 000 people. This is slightly higher than observed in 1995.

Germany, Italy and United Kingdom together will receive around two-thirds of this net inflow (*Figure 12*), although Luxembourg remains the EU country with the relative highest net migration per 1000 inhabitants (see *Figure 3*). Finland, France and Spain, on the other hand, seem to grow less due to net migration than one would expect considering their population size.

Italy is by far the country with the strongest growth in net migration (*Figure 13*) due mainly to a new, comprehensive programme of regularisation of undocumented migrants in 2000.

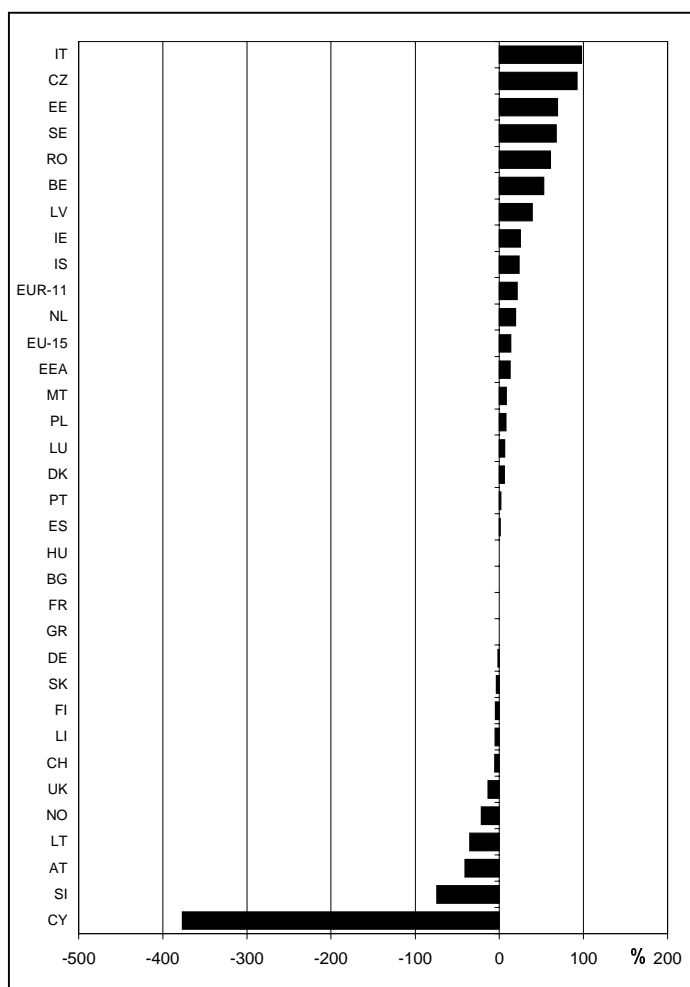


Figure 13: Net migration, relative change from 1999 to 2000

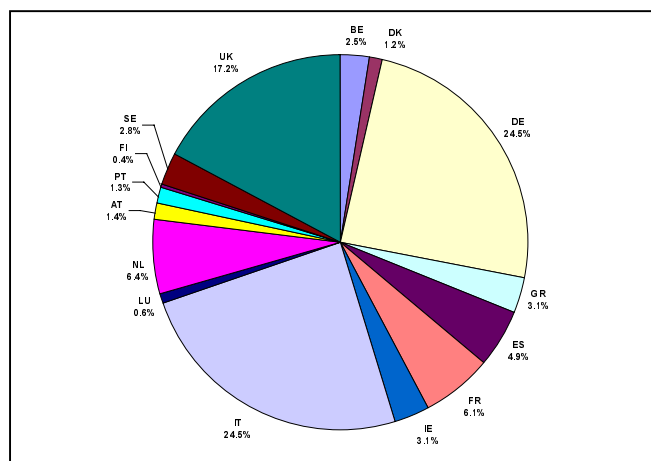


Figure 12: Net migration by Member State, 2000

Table 2: Information base for 2000, first estimates ¹⁾

COUNTRY	Monthly data availability (up to and including)			
	Live births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration
Belgium	July	July	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Denmark	September	September	September	September
Germany	— ²⁾	— ²⁾	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Greece	— ²⁾	— ²⁾	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Spain	December	December	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
France	September	September	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Ireland	March	March	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Italy	April	April	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Luxembourg	September	September	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Netherlands	September	September	September	September
Austria	August	August	— ²⁾	— ²⁾
Portugal	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Finland	October	October	October	October
Sweden	September	September	September	September
United Kingdom	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Iceland	September	September	September	September
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	—
Norway	September	September	September	September
Switzerland	July	July	September ⁴⁾	September ⁴⁾
Bulgaria	December	December	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Czech Republic	September	September	September	September
Hungary	September	September	— ⁴⁾	— ⁴⁾
Poland	September	September	— ²⁾	— ²⁾
Romania	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾
Slovak Republic	June	June	June	June
Slovenia	July	July	June	June
Estonia	October	October	September	September
Latvia	September	September	September	September
Lithuania	August	September	September	September
Cyprus	April	April	September	September
Malta	—	—	—	—

¹⁾ Estimates are primarily based upon provisional monthly data series available around 1 December 2000. Technical details about the methodology used for live births and deaths can be found in Eurostat Working Paper E4/1997-7. The forecast methods applied for international migration and asylum applications will be published shortly in the same series

²⁾ National estimates

³⁾ National estimates solely on net migration

⁴⁾ Non-nationals only

⁵⁾ Including family members

⁶⁾ Excluding family members

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