

# Demographic statistics for the European Neighbourhood Policy-East countries 2019 edition



## Background information

This short guide presents the latest data available for the **European Union (EU)** and the **European Neighbourhood Policy-East (ENP-East) countries** concerning **demography**. Eurostat compiles, monitors and analyses a wide range of demographic data, including statistics on national and regional populations, and demographic events/factors (births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and emigration, asylum and citizenship).

In the coming decades, the EU is expected to face a number of challenges associated with an ageing society which will impact on a range of areas, including labour markets, pensions, health care and long-term care, housing and social services. As such, population change and the structure of populations are increasingly the focus of political, economic, social and cultural analyses for planning, programme monitoring and evaluation. For example, in 2006, the European Commission released a Communication on '[The demographic future of Europe — from challenge to opportunity](#)' (COM(2006) 571 final), followed in 2009 by a Communication titled '[Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU](#)' (COM(2009) 180 final) and on a three yearly basis (the latest being in 2018) [ageing reports](#) providing economic and budgetary projections related to ageing.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) — established in 2004 — reflects the European Union's (EU) wish to build on common interests with partner countries and commitment to work jointly in key priority areas. The ENP is complemented by regional and multilateral cooperation initiatives, for example, the [Eastern Partnership](#). On 18 November 2015, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission jointly presented a [review of the European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (SWD(2015) 500 final) which underlined a new approach for the EU in relation to its eastern and southern neighbours, based on stabilising the region in political, economic, and security-related terms.

There are currently 16 neighbours within the ENP, of which six in the East, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Data shown for Georgia exclude the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia over which the government of Georgia does not exercise effective control and the data shown for Moldova exclude areas over which the government of the Republic of Moldova does not exercise effective control. The latest data for Ukraine generally exclude the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol; for vital demographic events they also exclude the territories which are not under effective control of the Ukrainian government. For this reason tables and figures providing a time series of data for Ukraine have a footnote indicating a break in series.

The European Commission supports the ENP-East countries through technical assistance programmes to promote evidence-based decision-making and to foster democratic developments. Eurostat coordinates

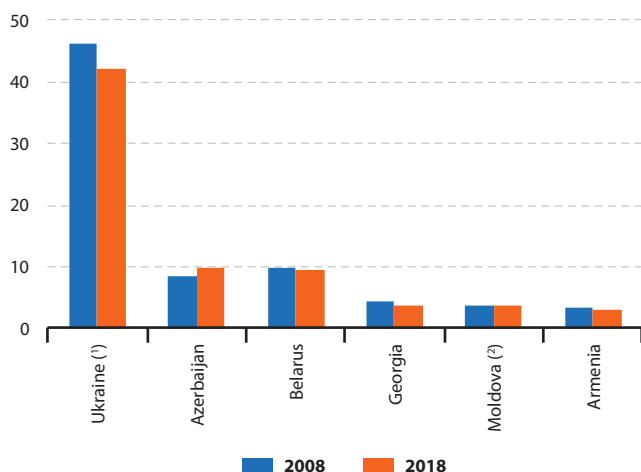
the EU's efforts to increase the capacity of the ENP-East countries to produce good quality statistics and to promote the use of European and internationally recognised standards through technical assistance and direct support to national statistical authorities, with the goal of improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of robust, reliable and timely statistical data. These data are made available free-of-charge on Eurostat's website.

## Main statistical findings

There were 513 million inhabitants in the EU-28 in 2018, with its population growing overall by 2.5 % during the period from 2008 to 2018. This total may be compared with the 72 million inhabitants who were living in the six ENP-East countries in 2018, equivalent to 14.0 % of the EU-28 total. In contrast to the situation in the EU-28, the level of population declined in the ENP-East countries between 2008 and 2018, down 5.1 % overall. This fall may be explained by large contractions in Georgia (−14.9 %), Ukraine (−8.6 %; note there is a break in series) and Armenia (−8.0 %), as well as smaller falls in Belarus and Moldova. As such, Azerbaijan was the only ENP-East country to record an increase in population between these years, up 14.7 %.

Ukraine had, by far, the largest number of inhabitants among the ENP-East countries in 2018 (42.2 million); relative to the EU Member States, this was between the populations of Spain and Poland. Ukraine accounted for 58.8 % of the total number of inhabitants in the ENP-East countries in 2018. Georgia, Moldova and Armenia were the smallest ENP-East countries in population terms, each with between 3.7 and 3.0 million inhabitants, larger than the population of Lithuania but smaller than that of Croatia.

**Figure 1: Population, as of 1 January**  
(million)



(¹) Break in series.

(²) 2018: estimate.

Within the EU-28, there was an average of 117.9 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> in 2018. None of the ENP-East countries recorded a higher ratio, as the highest population density was 116.8 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> in Moldova, slightly below the EU-28 average. Azerbaijan and Armenia (2017 data) also recorded densities of at least 100 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. The least densely populated ENP-East country in 2018 was Belarus, with an average of 45.7 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1: Population and population density**

	Population, as of 1 January (million)		Population density (inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup> )	
	2008	2018	2008	2018
<b>EU-28<sup>(1)</sup></b>	500.3	512.7	115.1	117.9
Armenia <sup>(2)</sup>	3.2	3.0	104.1	100.0
Azerbaijan	8.6	9.9	101.0	114.0
Belarus	9.7	9.5	46.0	45.7
Georgia <sup>(1)</sup>	4.4	3.7	64.0	65.2
Moldova	3.6	3.5	117.7	116.8
Ukraine <sup>(3)</sup>	46.2	42.2	76.8	75.3

(<sup>1</sup>) Break in series.

(<sup>2</sup>) Population density: 2017 instead of 2018.

(<sup>3</sup>) Population: break in series. Population density: 2014 instead of 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo\\_gind](#), [tps00003](#) and [reg\\_area3](#))

Women accounted for a slightly higher share of the EU-28 population than men: in 2017, their share stood at 51.1 %. In broad terms, a similar pattern could be observed in all ENP-East countries as in all cases women were in a majority, their share ranging from 50.1 % in Azerbaijan to 53.7 % in Ukraine.

**Table 2: Population by sex, as of 1 January**

	Male		Female		Ratio of male/female population	
	(% share of total population)				(% of female population)	
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
<b>EU-28</b>	48.8	48.9	51.2	51.1	95.1	95.6
Armenia	48.3	47.5	51.7	52.5	93.5	90.5
Azerbaijan	49.3	49.9	50.7	50.1	97.2	99.4
Belarus	46.7	46.6	53.3	53.4	87.6	87.2
Georgia	47.3	47.9	52.7	52.1	89.8	92.0
Moldova	48.1	48.1	51.9	51.9	92.5	92.6
Ukraine <sup>(1)</sup>	46.1	46.3	53.9	53.7	85.6	86.3

(<sup>1</sup>) Break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_pjan](#))

Population ageing affects the entire EU, with increased life expectancy and low levels of fertility driving this development. Across most of the EU, one of the consequences of increased longevity has been a contraction in the proportion of working age people. The proportion of older persons in the total population is expected to continue to rise in the coming decades, as more and more members of the post-war baby-boom generation reach retirement. This will lead to an increased burden on those of working age to contribute to the social expenditure required by the ageing population for a range of related services.

Such demographic patterns are expected to continue and become more accentuated in the coming decades, and the total number of inhabitants is projected to fall in several EU Member States. In 2017, there were more persons in the EU-28 aged 65 years and more (19.4 % of the total population) than young persons aged less than 15 years (15.6 %). Over the period 2007-2017, the share of the EU-28 population who were aged 65 years and more rose by 2.4 percentage points. Among the ENP-East countries, the elderly accounted for a smaller proportion of the total population. Their share ranged, in 2017, from a high of 16.2 % in Ukraine, down to 11.2 % in Armenia and Moldova, with the 6.3 % share in Azerbaijan well below this range. Ukraine was the only ENP-East country where the proportion of young people in the total population was less than in the

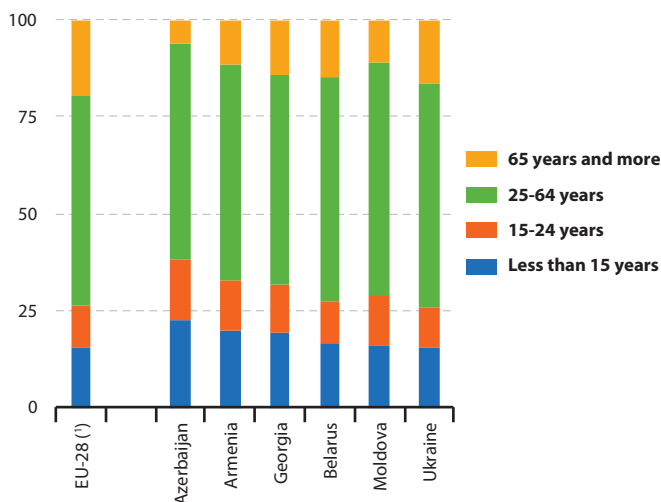
**Table 3: Population structure**  
(% of total population)

	Less than 15 years		15-24 years		25-64 years		65 years and more	
	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017	2007	2017
<b>EU-28 (*)</b>	15.9	15.6	12.5	10.9	54.6	54.0	17.0	19.4
Armenia	19.7	20.0	19.6	12.8	49.9	56.0	10.8	11.2
Azerbaijan	23.8	22.6	20.8	15.4	48.3	55.7	7.1	6.3
Belarus	14.9	16.6	16.3	10.6	54.2	58.1	14.6	14.7
Georgia	17.7	19.5	16.6	12.0	51.1	54.1	14.6	14.5
Moldova	18.2	16.0	19.1	13.1	52.5	59.8	10.3	11.2
Ukraine (*)	14.2	15.4	15.6	10.2	53.8	58.2	16.4	16.2

(\*) Break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_pjangroup](#))

**Figure 2: Population structure, 2017**  
(% of total population)



(\*) Estimates.

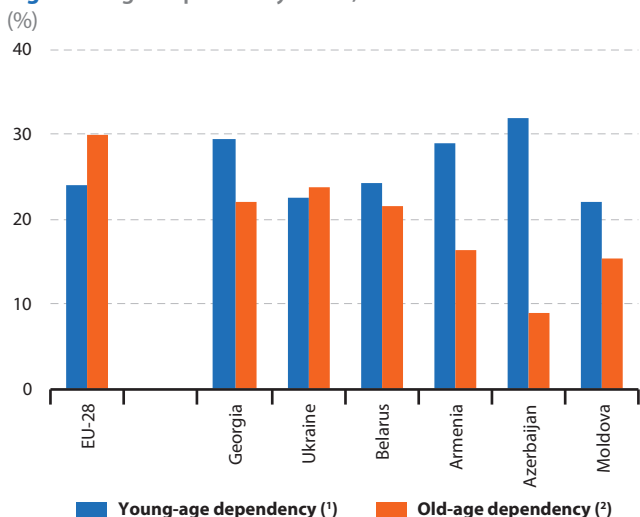
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_pjangroup](#))

EU-28, as those aged less than 15 years accounted for a 15.4 % share of its total population. By contrast, young people accounted for one fifth or more of the total population in Armenia and Azerbaijan (20.0 % and 22.6 % respectively).

Dependency ratios provide an alternative measure for analysing the impact of population ageing: the old-age dependency ratio is calculated as the number of inhabitants aged 65 years and more relative to the population aged 15-64 years old. The EU-28 old-age dependency ratio was 29.9 % in 2017; in other words, there were just over three persons of working age in the EU to 'support' each elderly person. Young people are also dependents and the proportion of those aged less than 15 years relative to the population aged 15-64 years was 24.0 % in the EU-28 in 2017. Adding these two shares together, the total dependency ratio for the EU-28 was 53.9 %; in other words, there were fewer than two persons of working age to 'support' those at either end of the age spectrum.

Georgia was the only ENP-East country to record a total dependency ratio that was above 50.0 %: its ratio of 51.4 % was nevertheless below the EU-28 average. However, a clear majority of dependents in Georgia were young persons, as the young-age dependency ratio was 29.5 % and these young persons will gradually move into the working age population. The young-age dependency ratio in Georgia was higher than the old-age dependency ratio, a situation that was repeated in all of the other ENP-East countries except for Ukraine. In fact, the latter had a broadly similar age structure of the population to that in the EU-28 and the second highest total dependency ratio of all ENP-East countries.

**Figure 3: Age-dependency ratios, 2017**



Note: ranked on the sum of the young and old-age dependency ratios.

(1) Population aged 65 and over relative to population aged 15-64.

(2) Population aged 0-14 relative to population aged 15-64.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_pjanind](#))

Life expectancy at birth in the EU-28 is generally higher than in most other parts of the world: it reached 83.6 years for women and 78.2 years for men in 2016. During the period covering 2006-2016, life expectancy at birth in the EU-28 rose by 1.6 years for women and 2.4 years for men; as a result, the gender gap declined from 6.2 years in 2006 to 5.4 years by 2016.

Among the ENP-East countries, life expectancy at birth in 2016 was also consistently higher for women than for men. Male life expectancy ranged from 72.9 years in Azerbaijan (2015 data) down to 67.0 years in Moldova (2012 data), while female life expectancy ranged from a high of 79.2 years in Belarus down to 74.9 years in Moldova (2012 data). With the exception of Azerbaijan, the gender gap for life expectancy was higher in the ENP-East countries than in the EU-28, ranging from 4.8 years in favour of women in Azerbaijan (2015 data), though 6.9 years in Armenia (the second lowest gap) to 10.2 years in Belarus.

**Table 4: Life expectancy at birth**  
(years)

	Male		Female	
	2006	2016	2006	2016
<b>EU-28 (1)</b>	75.8	78.2	82.0	83.6
Armenia	69.7	71.5	76.0	78.4
Azerbaijan (2)	70.1	72.9	75.4	77.7
Belarus	:	69.0	:	79.2
Georgia	69.7	68.3	78.4	77.2
Moldova	64.7	:	72.4	:
Ukraine (2)	62.3	67.5	73.8	77.3

(1) Break in series.

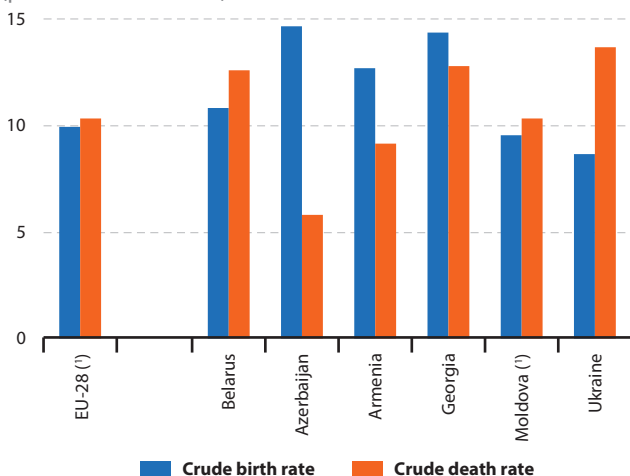
(2) 2015 instead of 2016.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_mlexpec](#))

Changes in population are composed of two distinct components: the crude rate of natural population change (the difference between births and deaths) and the crude rate of net migration (the balance between the flows of people coming into and leaving a country). There was a small difference in the crude birth and death rates of the EU-28 in 2017, as they stood at 9.9 births and 10.3 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants. As deaths exceeded births the natural rate of population change was slightly negative. This was more than balanced out by a crude rate of net migration of 2.7 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017.

The crude birth rate in Azerbaijan was considerably higher than the crude death rate in 2017, resulting in a high rate of natural population growth (8.8 per 1 000 inhabitants). Armenia and Georgia also recorded more births than deaths. By contrast, deaths exceeded births in the remaining three ENP-East countries, most notably in Ukraine where the rate of natural population change was  $-5.0$  per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017.

**Figure 4: Crude birth rate and crude death rate, 2017**  
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



Note: ranked on the crude rate of natural change (birth rate - death rate).

(\*) Estimates.

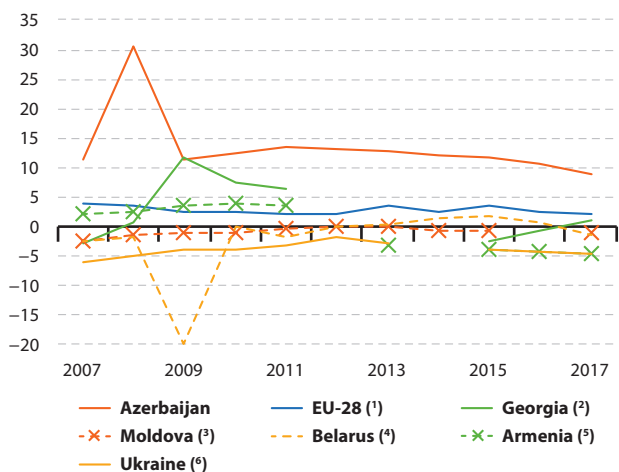
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_gind](#))



Most of the ENP-East countries reported relatively small rates of net migration (in other words, similar numbers of emigrants and immigrants). The one notable exception was Armenia, where the crude rate of net migration was  $-8.0$  per 1 000 inhabitants in 2017, continuing a series of relatively high negative rates that started around 2013.

Fertility steadily declined in the EU from the mid-1960s to the turn of the century and despite a modest increase in recent years, the EU-28 total fertility rate — the mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years conforming to the age-specific fertility rates of a given year — remained at a low level in 2016, when an average of 1.60 children were born to each woman. A total fertility rate of around 2.1 live births per woman is considered to be the replacement level for industrialised countries: in other words, the average number of live births required to keep the population

**Figure 5: Crude rate of total population change**  
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



(¹) 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2017: breaks in series. 2013-2017: estimates and/or provisional.

(²) 2012 and 2013: not available. 2014: break in series. 2014-2016: estimates. 2014 value not shown for reasons of readability:  $-185.2$ .

(³) 2015-2017: estimates. 2016: not available.

(⁴) 2015: estimate.

(⁵) 2012 and 2014: not available.

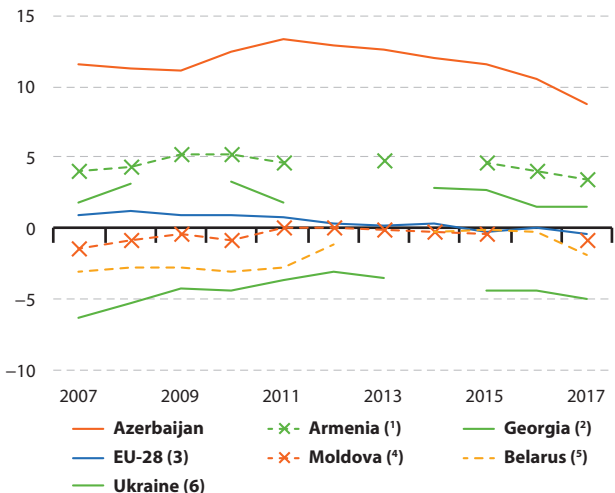
(⁶) 2015: break in series. 2014: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_gind](#))

size constant in the absence of inward or outward migration. As in the EU-28, the total fertility rate in most of the ENP-East countries was considerably lower than this replacement level, the one exception being Georgia where the fertility rate in 2016 stood at 2.23. Elsewhere among the ENP-East countries this rate ranged from 1.28 in Moldova (2012 data) and 1.35 in Ukraine to rates above the EU-28 average and in the range of 1.62 to 1.90 in Armenia, Belarus and Azerbaijan.

The infant mortality rate — the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1 000 live births — has fallen consistently in the EU-28 over recent decades as improved healthcare facilities and techniques have reduced the risks associated with childbirth. In the EU-28, this rate stood at 3.6 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2016. The infant mortality rate was lower in Belarus than in the EU-28, at 3.2 deaths per 1 000 live births. Elsewhere among the ENP-East countries infant mortality rates were at least twice as high as the EU-28 average, ranging from 7.4 deaths per 1 000 live births in Ukraine to 10.4 in Azerbaijan. As in the EU-28, the infant mortality rate fell between 2006 and 2016 in most of the ENP-East countries, although Azerbaijan was an exception.

**Figure 6: Crude rate of natural population change**  
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

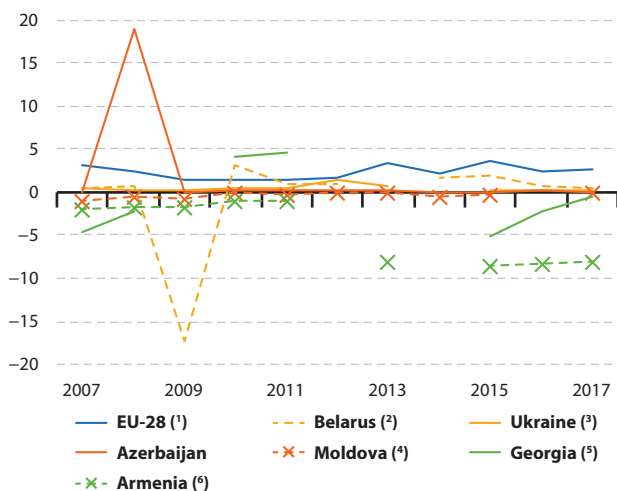


(¹) 2012 and 2014: not available.  
 (²) 2014: break in series. 2014 and 2015: estimates. 2009, 2012 and 2013: not available.  
 (³) 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2017: breaks in series. 2013-2017: estimates and/or provisional.  
 (⁴) 2015 and 2017: estimates and/or provisional. 2016: not available.  
 (⁵) 2013: not available.  
 (⁶) 2015: break in series. 2014: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_gind](#))

**Figure 7: Crude rate of net migration (and statistical adjustment)**

(per 1 000 inhabitants)



(1) 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2017: breaks in series. 2013-2017: estimates and/or provisional.

(2) 2015: estimate. 2016: not available.

(3) 2015: break in series. 2014: not available.

(4) 2015-2017: estimates and/or provisional. 2016: not available.

(5) 2014: break in series. 2014-2016: estimates. 2014 value not shown for reasons of readability: -188.0. 2009, 2012 and 2013: not available.

(6) 2012 and 2014: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo\\_gind](#))

**Table 5: Fertility rate and infant mortality rate**

	Total fertility rate (mean number of children per woman)		Infant mortality rate (1) (per 1 000 live births)	
	2006	2016	2006	2016
EU-28 (2)	1.54	1.60	4.6	3.6
Armenia	1.34	1.62	13.9	8.7
Azerbaijan	1.97	1.90	10.1	10.4
Belarus	1.29	1.73	6.1	3.2
Georgia	1.41	2.23	15.8	9.0
Moldova (3)	1.22	1.28	11.8	9.4
Ukraine	1.30	1.35	9.6	7.4

(1) Number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1 000 live births.

(2) Fertility rate: break in series.

(3) Fertility rate: 2012 instead of 2016.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo\\_find](#) and [demo\\_minfind](#))

# Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat's mission is to provide high quality statistics for Europe. Eurostat collects data from national statistical authorities.

## Further information

### Eurostat's website

Eurostat's website (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>) provides free access to its statistics; it is available in German, English and French. Eurostat online data codes, which are given in the source under each table or figure, provide users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics. When entered in the 'search' facility on Eurostat's website, these codes provide users with the freshest data and longer time series.

### Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php>) is Eurostat's wiki-based system that presents statistical topics in an easy to understand way.

### **Statistical articles on ENP countries:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European\\_Neighbourhood\\_Policy\\_countries\\_-\\_statistical\\_overview](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European_Neighbourhood_Policy_countries_-_statistical_overview)

### **Background information on the ENP:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical\\_cooperation\\_-\\_European\\_Neighbourhood\\_Policy](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical_cooperation_-_European_Neighbourhood_Policy)

### National statistical authorities of the ENP-East countries

<b>Armenia</b>	<a href="https://www.armstat.am/en/">https://www.armstat.am/en/</a>
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<a href="https://www.stat.gov.az/?lang=en">https://www.stat.gov.az/?lang=en</a>
<b>Belarus</b>	<a href="http://www.belstat.gov.by/en/">http://www.belstat.gov.by/en/</a>
<b>Georgia</b>	<a href="http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=0&amp;lang=eng">http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=0&amp;lang=eng</a>
<b>Moldova</b>	<a href="http://www.statistica.md/index.php?l=en">http://www.statistica.md/index.php?l=en</a>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<a href="http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/">http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/</a>

Data were extracted on 25 January 2019.

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