

Population grows in twenty EU Member States

Population change in Europe in 2010: first results

On 1 January 2011, the population of the EU-27 was estimated to be 502.5 million. The total population grew by 1.4 million compared with 1 January 2010 due to natural change (the difference between live births and deaths) of 0.5 million and positive net migration of about 0.9 million. The population increased in 20 of the 27 EU Member States and declined in seven.

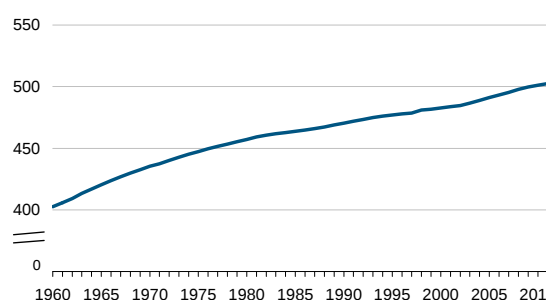
5.4 million children were born in the EU-27 in 2010, down for the second consecutive year. The crude birth rate in the EU-27 was 10.7 live births per 1 000 inhabitants and the crude death rate was 9.7 per 1 000 inhabitants.

EU-27 population is continuing to grow

In 2010, the EU-27 population continued to grow, climbing to 502.5 million by 1 January 2011. This is 1.4 million (0.3%) more than a year before. The EU-27 population has been growing without a break since 1960 (see Figure 1).

In the last two years the population grew at a slower pace than prior to 2008, when an annual total population growth of more than 4.0 per 1000 inhabitants per year was registered for several consecutive years.

Figure 1: Population on 1 January in EU-27 (million)

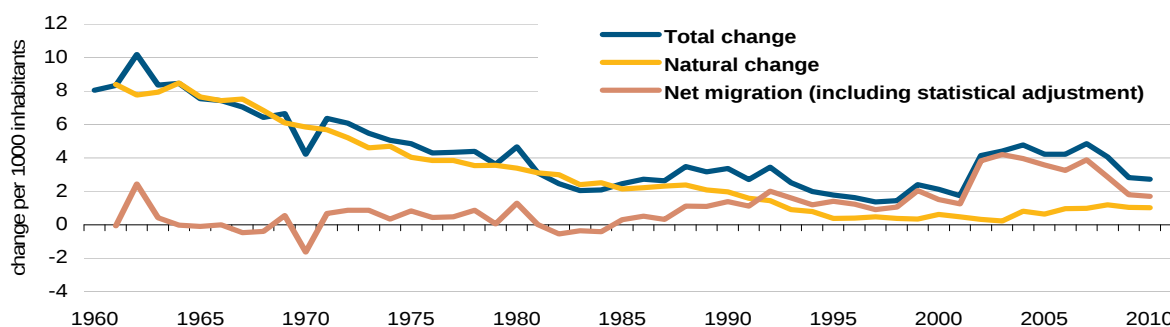


Source: Eurostat (online data code : [demo_gind](#))

In 2010, natural change added 0.5 million (38%) to the total population growth in the EU-27, while net migration (including statistical adjustments) continued to be the main determinant of population growth, contributing 0.9 million (62%).

Figure 2 shows the historical contributions made by natural change and net migration (including statistical adjustments) to population change. The contribution of natural change to population growth has been less significant than that made by net migration since 1992 and fell to a historical low in 2003 (5%). Since then, natural change accounted for an increasing proportion of total population change.

Figure 2: Crude rates of population change, EU-27



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_gind](#))

Table 1: Demographic balance in 2010 (thousand)

	Population 1.1.2010	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Net migration (including statistical adjustment)	Total change	Population 1.1.2011
EU-27	501 120.7	5 357.7	4 843.3	514.4	854.0	1 368.5	502 489.1
EA-17	330 931.8	3 408.0	3 078.9	329.1	704.6	1 033.7	331 965.5
Belgium	10 839.9	127.0	104.5	22.5	56.0	78.5	10 918.4
Bulgaria	7 563.7	75.5	110.2	-34.7	-24.2	-58.8	7 504.9
Czech Republic	10 506.8	117.2	106.8	10.3	15.6	26.0	10 532.8
Denmark	5 529.4	63.4	54.4	9.0	22.1	31.2	5 560.6
Germany	81 802.3	677.9	858.8	-180.8	130.2	-50.7	81 751.6
Estonia (1)	1 340.1	15.8	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	1 340.2
Ireland	4 467.9	73.9	27.9	46.0	-33.7	12.3	4 480.2
Greece	11 305.1	115.5	106.0	9.5	15.0	24.5	11 329.6
Spain	45 989.0	480.0	379.3	100.7	63.2	163.9	46 152.9
France	64 716.3	829.0	545.0	284.0	75.0	359.0	65 075.3
Italy	60 340.3	561.9	587.5	-25.5	311.7	286.1	60 626.4
Cyprus	803.1	10.0	5.4	4.6	-3.3	1.3	804.4
Latvia	2 248.4	19.2	30.0	-10.8	-7.9	-18.7	2 229.6
Lithuania (2)	3 329.0	35.6	42.1	-6.5	-77.9	-84.4	3 244.6
Luxembourg	502.1	5.9	3.8	2.1	7.7	9.8	511.8
Hungary	10 014.3	90.4	130.5	-40.1	11.8	-28.3	9 986.0
Malta	414.4	4.0	3.0	1.0	2.2	3.2	417.6
Netherlands	16 575.0	183.9	136.1	47.8	32.2	80.0	16 655.0
Austria	8 375.3	78.7	77.2	1.5	27.4	29.0	8 404.3
Poland	38 167.3	413.3	378.5	34.8	-2.1	32.7	38 200.0
Portugal	10 637.7	101.3	105.9	-4.5	3.8	-0.7	10 637.0
Romania	21 462.2	212.2	259.7	-47.5	-0.8	-48.4	21 413.8
Slovenia	2 047.0	21.7	18.6	3.1	0.1	3.2	2 050.2
Slovakia	5 424.9	60.4	53.4	7.0	3.4	10.3	5 435.3
Finland	5 351.4	61.0	50.9	10.1	13.8	23.8	5 375.3
Sweden	9 340.7	115.6	90.5	25.2	49.7	74.9	9 415.6
United Kingdom	62 027.0	807.3	561.7	245.6	163.1	408.7	62 435.7
Iceland	317.6	4.9	2.0	2.9	-2.1	0.8	318.5
Liechtenstein	35.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	36.2
Norway	4 858.2	61.4	41.5	19.9	42.2	62.1	4 920.3
Switzerland	7 785.8	80.0	62.5	17.5	63.2	80.7	7 866.5
Montenegro	632.9	7.4	5.6	1.8	:	:	:
Croatia	4 425.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	2 052.7	24.3	19.1	5.2	-0.6	4.6	2 057.3
Turkey	72 561.3	1 279.0	459.0	820.0	341.7	1 161.7	73 723.0

: Data not available. (1) Estonia: Natural change and net migration of less than 0.05 thousand. (2) See country information in the Methodological notes.

Source: Eurostat (online data code : [demo_gind](#))

The relatively low contribution made by 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; at the same time, the number of live births fell, while the number of deaths increased.

The gap between live births and deaths in the EU-27 has been narrowing considerably from 1960 onwards (see Figure 3). Since the number of deaths is expected to increase as the baby-boom generation moves into retirement and assuming that the fertility rate remains relatively low, negative natural change (more deaths than births) cannot be excluded in the future. In this event, the extent of population decline or growth is likely to depend on the contribution made by migration.

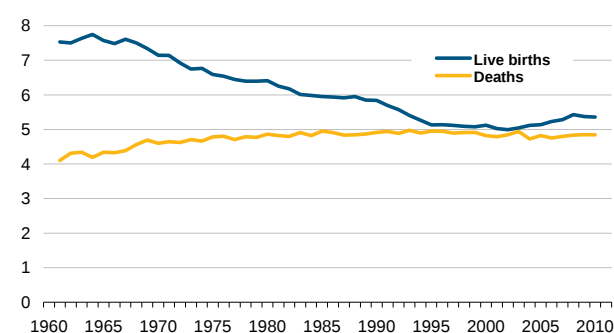
Fewer births in 2010

In 2010 there were 5.4 million live births and 4.8 million deaths in EU-27, resulting in a natural increase of 0.5 million persons. The number of live births in EU-27 decreased in 2010 for the second

year in a row, after an upward trend from 2000 to 2008 (see Figure 3).

The number of deaths decreased in 2010 compared with 2009, after increasing somewhat in 2009 compared with 2008; the change in the number of deaths weighed less than the change in live births. Therefore, the natural population change in absolute figures declined in 2010 for the second consecutive year.

Figure 3: Live births and deaths in EU-27 (million)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_gind](#))

Table 2: Crude rates of population change in 2008, 2009 and 2010 (change per 1000 inhabitants)

	Crude birth rate			Crude death rate			Natural change			Net migration (including statistical adjustment)			Total change		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
EU-27	10.9	10.7	10.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.9	1.8	1.7	4.0	2.8	2.7
EA-17	10.5	10.3	10.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	1.3	1.0	1.0	3.3	1.9	2.1	4.6	2.8	3.1
Belgium	12.0	11.8	11.7	9.8	9.7	9.6	2.2	2.1	2.1	5.9	5.9	5.1	8.0	8.0	7.2
Bulgaria	10.2	10.7	10.0	14.5	14.2	14.6	-4.3	-3.6	-4.6	-0.1	-2.1	-3.2	-4.4	-5.6	-7.8
Czech Republic	11.5	11.3	11.1	10.1	10.2	10.2	1.4	1.0	1.0	6.9	2.7	1.5	8.3	3.7	2.5
Denmark	11.8	11.4	11.4	9.9	9.9	9.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	4.6	1.8	4.0	6.5	3.3	5.6
Germany	8.3	8.1	8.3	10.3	10.4	10.5	-2.0	-2.3	-2.2	-0.7	-0.1	1.6	-2.6	-2.4	-0.6
Estonia	12.0	11.8	11.8	12.4	12.0	11.8	-0.5	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.2	0.0
Ireland	16.7	16.6	16.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	10.3	10.2	10.3	0.7	-6.2	-7.5	11.0	4.0	2.8
Greece	10.5	10.5	10.2	9.6	9.6	9.4	0.9	0.9	0.8	3.2	3.1	1.3	4.1	4.0	2.2
Spain	11.4	10.8	10.4	8.5	8.4	8.2	2.9	2.4	2.2	9.0	1.1	1.4	12.0	3.5	3.6
France	12.9	12.8	12.8	8.5	8.5	8.4	4.5	4.3	4.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	5.6	5.4	5.5
Italy	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.7	9.8	9.7	0.0	-0.4	-0.4	7.1	5.3	5.2	7.1	4.9	4.7
Cyprus	11.6	12.0	12.4	6.5	6.5	6.7	5.1	5.5	5.7	4.5	2.3	-4.1	9.6	7.8	1.6
Latvia	10.6	9.6	8.6	13.7	13.3	13.4	-3.1	-3.6	-4.8	-1.1	-2.1	-3.5	-4.2	-5.7	-8.4
Lithuania (1)	10.4	11.0	10.8	13.1	12.6	12.8	-2.6	-1.6	-2.0	-2.3	-4.6	-23.7	-4.9	-6.2	-25.7
Luxembourg	11.5	11.3	11.6	7.4	7.3	7.4	4.1	4.0	4.2	15.8	13.2	15.1	19.9	17.2	19.3
Hungary	9.9	9.6	9.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	-3.1	-3.4	-4.0	1.6	1.7	1.2	-1.4	-1.7	-2.8
Malta	10.0	10.0	9.6	7.9	7.8	7.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	5.9	-0.4	5.4	8.1	1.8	7.8
Netherlands	11.2	11.2	11.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	3.0	3.1	2.9	1.9	2.3	1.9	4.9	5.4	4.8
Austria	9.3	9.1	9.4	9.0	9.3	9.2	0.3	-0.1	0.2	4.1	2.5	3.3	4.4	2.4	3.5
Poland	10.9	10.9	10.8	10.0	10.1	9.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	-0.4	0.0	-0.1	0.5	0.8	0.9
Portugal	9.8	9.4	9.5	9.8	9.8	10.0	0.0	-0.5	-0.4	0.9	1.4	0.4	0.9	1.0	-0.1
Romania	10.3	10.4	9.9	11.8	12.0	12.1	-1.5	-1.6	-2.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-1.4	-1.7	-2.3
Slovenia	10.8	10.7	10.6	9.1	9.2	9.1	1.7	1.5	1.5	9.2	5.6	0.0	10.9	7.2	1.6
Slovakia	10.6	11.3	11.1	9.8	9.8	9.8	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.6	2.1	2.3	1.9
Finland	11.2	11.3	11.4	9.2	9.3	9.5	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	4.9	4.7	4.4
Sweden	11.9	12.0	12.3	9.9	9.7	9.6	1.9	2.3	2.7	6.0	6.7	5.3	8.0	9.1	8.0
United Kingdom	12.9	12.8	13.0	9.4	9.1	9.0	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.1	3.3	2.6	6.6	7.0	6.6
Iceland	15.2	15.8	15.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	9.0	9.5	9.1	3.3	-15.0	-6.5	12.3	-5.5	2.6
Liechtenstein	9.9	11.4	9.1	5.8	6.4	6.6	4.1	5.0	2.5	2.5	3.6	4.6	6.6	8.5	7.2
Norway	12.7	12.8	12.6	8.7	8.6	8.5	3.9	4.2	4.1	9.1	8.0	8.6	13.0	12.2	12.7
Switzerland	10.0	10.1	10.2	8.0	8.1	8.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	12.1	8.8	8.1	14.2	10.8	10.3
Montenegro	13.1	13.7	:	9.1	9.3	:	4.1	4.4	:	0.1	0.0	:	4.2	4.4	:
Croatia	9.9	10.1	:	11.8	11.8	:	-1.9	-1.8	:	1.6	-0.3	:	-0.3	-2.1	:
FYR of Macedonia	11.2	11.5	11.8	9.3	9.3	9.3	1.9	2.3	2.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	1.7	2.0	2.2
Turkey	17.8	17.2	17.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	11.4	10.8	11.2	1.7	3.7	4.7	13.1	14.5	15.9

: Data not available. (1) See country information in the Methodological notes.

Source: Eurostat (online data code : [demo_gind](#))

Population change at national level

The number of inhabitants in individual EU Member States on 1 January 2011 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 (54%) of the total EU-27 population.

Although the population of the EU-27 as a whole increased during 2010, the population growth was unevenly distributed across the Member States. A total of 20 Member States reported an increase in their populations, while the number of inhabitants fell in Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Portugal, Romania and Bulgaria.

Luxembourg, Sweden, Malta, Belgium and the United Kingdom recorded the highest population growth rates in 2010 (more than +6.0 per 1 000 inhabitants), more than twice the EU-27 average of +2.8 per 1 000 inhabitants. The highest rates of natural change were seen in Ireland (+10.3 per 1 000 inhabitants) and Cyprus (+5.7), while the highest net migration (including adjustments) was recorded in Luxembourg (+15.1 per 1 000

inhabitants), followed by Malta, Sweden, Italy and Belgium (all above +5.0 per 1 000 inhabitants).

Analysing natural change and net migration at national level separately, eight types of population change can be distinguished, depending on the sign of total population change and on both the sign and relative size of the two components (see Table 3 for the classification of the EU Member States based on this typology).

Table 3: Population change in 2010, by contribution of natural change and net migration

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

Source: Eurostat (online data code : [demo_gind](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The population estimates and the vital events data presented in this issue of 'Statistics in focus' are provisional, as reported by the countries. Data are subject to revision whenever new or final estimates are transmitted by the national statistical institutes from the countries participating in Eurostat's annual demographic data collections.

Population change is the difference between the size of population measured on 1 January of two consecutive years.

Population change consists of two components:

- **natural change**, calculated as the difference between live births and deaths; and
- **'net migration (including statistical adjustment)'**, calculated as the difference between the total change in the population and natural change; the statistics on net migration are therefore affected by all the statistical inaccuracies in the two components of this equation, especially population change. From one country to another 'net migration including statistical adjustment' may cover, besides the difference

between inward and outward migration, other changes observed in the population figures between 1 January in two consecutive years which cannot be attributed to births, deaths, immigration or emigration.

A positive population change is referred to as population growth. A negative population change is referred to as population decline. A positive natural change, also known as natural increase, occurs when live births outnumber deaths. A negative natural change, also known as natural decrease, occurs when live births are less numerous than deaths.

Crude rate: the crude rate is calculated as the ratio of the number of events to the average population in a given year. For easier presentation, it is multiplied by 1 000; the result is therefore expressed per 1 000 inhabitants.

Country information: Due to administrative reasons emigration recorded in Lithuania in 2010 may include emigration that took place over previous years.

Further information

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