

Population projections 2010-2060

EU27 population is expected to peak by around 2040

One person in eight aged 80 or more in 2060

The **EU27** population is projected to increase from 501 million on 1 January 2010 to 525 million in 2035, to peak at 526 million around 2040, and thereafter gradually decline to 517 million in 2060. The **EU27** population is also projected to continue to grow older, with the share of the population aged 65 years and over rising from 17% in 2010 to 30% in 2060, and those aged 80 and over rising from 5% to 12% over the same period.

These population projections¹ for the period 2010-2060 are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. Population projections are scenarios that aim to provide information about the possible future size and structure of the population, and should therefore be considered with caution.

Strongest population growth in Ireland, Luxembourg, Cyprus and the United Kingdom

There are projected to be considerable differences between the Member States. Between 2010 and 2060, the population is projected to rise in fourteen Member States and fall in thirteen. The strongest population growth is projected to be found in **Ireland** (+46%), **Luxembourg** (+45%), **Cyprus** (+41%), the **United Kingdom** (+27%), **Belgium** (+24%) and **Sweden** (+23%), and the sharpest declines in **Bulgaria** (-27%), **Latvia** (-26%), **Lithuania** (-20%), **Romania** and **Germany** (both -19%).

In 2060, the Member States with the largest populations would be the **United Kingdom** (79 million), **France** (74 mn), **Germany** (66 mn), **Italy** (65 mn) and **Spain** (52 mn).

A significant increase in the older population between 1960 and 2060

The **EU27** population is expected to become older throughout the projection period, due in particular to relatively low fertility and an increasing number of people living to higher ages. This ageing process will occur in all Member States. In 2060, the share of the population aged 65 or more is projected to range from 22% in **Ireland** and 25% in the **United Kingdom**, **Belgium** and **Denmark** to 36% in **Latvia**, 35% in **Romania** and **Poland** and 33% in **Bulgaria**, **Germany** and **Slovakia**. Comparing 2060 with the situation one hundred years before, in 1960², the share of those aged 65 or more is expected to increase between two and six times in the Member States for which data are available.

In 2060, the share of the population aged 80 or more is projected to be 12% on average in the **EU27**, to range from 9% in **Ireland**, **Cyprus** and the **United Kingdom** to 14% in **Spain**, **Italy** and **Germany**. Compared with the situation one hundred years before, in 1960, the share of those aged 80 or more is expected to grow between five and eighteen times by 2060 in the Member States for which data are available.

In consequence, the old age dependency ratio in the **EU27**, i.e. the population aged 65 years and older divided by the population aged 15 to 64, is projected to increase from 26% in 2010 to 53% in 2060. In other words, there would be only two persons aged 15 to 64 for every person aged 65 or more in 2060, compared with four persons to one in 2010. The old age dependency ratio is projected to be 60% or more in **Bulgaria**, **Germany**, **Latvia**, **Poland**, **Romania** and **Slovakia**, and 45% or less in **Belgium**, **Denmark**, **Ireland**, **Luxembourg** and the **United Kingdom**. In 1960, the old age dependency ratio ranged from 10% to 19% in the Member States for which data are available, meaning that there were between five and ten persons aged 15 to 64 for every person aged 65 or more.

1. The EUROPOP2010 "convergence scenario" is based on the population on 1st January 2010 and on the assumption that fertility, mortality and net migration will progressively converge between Member States in the long run. Alternative assumptions in a different conceptual framework would yield different results. Data on projections of the population can be found in the database on the Eurostat web site: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> under Population and Social conditions/Population/Population projections. The forthcoming Eurostat publication: **Eurostat Population Projections 2010-based (EUROPOP2010): Methodology and results of a long-term scenario of demographic convergence** will provide additional details on methodology.
2. A more detailed analysis of the ageing of the EU and EFTA population in the 100 years from 1960 to 2060 can be found in the following report: Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 23/2011 "**The greying of the baby boomers: A century-long view of ageing in European populations**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.

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Total population (000s)

| | Population at 1 January | | | Growth since 1.1.2010 (%) | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------|
| | 2010 | 2035 | 2060 | 2035 | 2060 |
| EU27 | 501 044 | 524 537 | 516 940 | 4.7 | 3.2 |
| Belgium | 10 840 | 12 473 | 13 445 | 15.1 | 24.0 |
| Bulgaria | 7 564 | 6 406 | 5 531 | -15.3 | -26.9 |
| Czech Republic | 10 507 | 10 782 | 10 468 | 2.6 | -0.4 |
| Denmark | 5 535 | 5 954 | 6 080 | 7.6 | 9.8 |
| Germany | 81 743 | 76 478 | 66 360 | -6.4 | -18.8 |
| Estonia | 1 340 | 1 259 | 1 173 | -6.1 | -12.5 |
| Ireland | 4 468 | 5 512 | 6 545 | 23.4 | 46.5 |
| Greece | 11 305 | 11 605 | 11 295 | 2.7 | -0.1 |
| Spain | 45 989 | 50 867 | 52 279 | 10.6 | 13.7 |
| France | 64 714 | 71 345 | 73 724 | 10.2 | 13.9 |
| Italy | 60 340 | 65 166 | 64 989 | 8.0 | 7.7 |
| Cyprus | 803 | 1 007 | 1 134 | 25.4 | 41.3 |
| Latvia | 2 248 | 1 963 | 1 672 | -12.7 | -25.6 |
| Lithuania | 3 329 | 2 977 | 2 676 | -10.6 | -19.6 |
| Luxembourg | 502 | 649 | 728 | 29.3 | 45.0 |
| Hungary | 10 014 | 9 575 | 8 860 | -4.4 | -11.5 |
| Malta | 413 | 413 | 387 | 0.0 | -6.2 |
| Netherlands | 16 575 | 17 650 | 17 070 | 6.5 | 3.0 |
| Austria | 8 375 | 8 934 | 8 869 | 6.7 | 5.9 |
| Poland | 38 167 | 36 857 | 32 710 | -3.4 | -14.3 |
| Portugal | 10 638 | 10 786 | 10 266 | 1.4 | -3.5 |
| Romania | 21 462 | 19 857 | 17 308 | -7.5 | -19.4 |
| Slovenia | 2 047 | 2 149 | 2 058 | 5.0 | 0.5 |
| Slovakia | 5 425 | 5 528 | 5 116 | 1.9 | -5.7 |
| Finland | 5 351 | 5 725 | 5 744 | 7.0 | 7.3 |
| Sweden | 9 341 | 10 746 | 11 525 | 15.0 | 23.4 |
| United Kingdom | 62 008 | 71 874 | 78 925 | 15.9 | 27.3 |
| Iceland | 318 | 370 | 435 | 16.6 | 37.0 |
| Liechtenstein | 36 | 40 | 38 | 11.7 | 6.8 |
| Norway | 4 858 | 5 955 | 6 587 | 22.6 | 35.6 |
| Switzerland | 7 786 | 9 090 | 9 319 | 16.7 | 19.7 |

Older population

| | Percentage aged 65+ | | | Percentage aged 80+ | | | Old age dependency ratio* (%) | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------|------|---------------------|------|------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| | 1960 | 2010 | 2060 | 1960 | 2010 | 2060 | 1960 | 2010 | 2060 |
| EU27 | : | 17.4 | 29.5 | : | 4.6 | 12.0 | : | 25.9 | 52.6 |
| Belgium | 12.0 | 17.2 | 25.5 | 1.8 | 4.9 | 9.9 | 18.5 | 26.0 | 43.8 |
| Bulgaria | 7.4 | 17.5 | 32.7 | 1.0 | 3.8 | 12.8 | 11.2 | 25.4 | 60.3 |
| Czech Republic | 9.5 | 15.2 | 30.7 | 1.3 | 3.6 | 12.2 | 14.6 | 21.6 | 55.0 |
| Denmark | 10.5 | 16.3 | 25.5 | 1.6 | 4.1 | 10.1 | 16.4 | 24.9 | 43.5 |
| Germany | 11.5 | 20.6 | 32.8 | 1.6 | 5.0 | 13.5 | 17.0 | 31.3 | 59.9 |
| Estonia | : | 17.1 | 30.5 | : | 4.1 | 11.1 | : | 25.2 | 55.5 |
| Ireland | 11.1 | 11.3 | 22.0 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 9.0 | 19.2 | 16.8 | 36.6 |
| Greece | : | 18.9 | 31.3 | : | 4.6 | 13.3 | : | 28.4 | 56.7 |
| Spain | 8.2 | 16.8 | 31.5 | 1.2 | 4.9 | 14.2 | 12.7 | 24.7 | 56.4 |
| France | 11.6 | 16.6 | 26.6 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 11.0 | 18.7 | 25.7 | 46.6 |
| Italy | 9.3 | 20.2 | 31.7 | 1.3 | 5.8 | 14.1 | 14.0 | 30.8 | 56.7 |
| Cyprus | : | 13.1 | 27.4 | : | 2.9 | 9.2 | : | 18.6 | 47.6 |
| Latvia | : | 17.4 | 35.7 | : | 3.9 | 12.6 | : | 25.2 | 68.0 |
| Lithuania | : | 16.1 | 31.2 | : | 3.6 | 10.8 | : | 23.3 | 56.6 |
| Luxembourg | 10.8 | 14.0 | 26.4 | 1.5 | 3.6 | 10.2 | 15.9 | 20.4 | 45.0 |
| Hungary | 8.9 | 16.6 | 32.1 | 1.1 | 3.9 | 12.5 | 13.6 | 24.2 | 57.8 |
| Malta | : | 14.8 | 31.0 | : | 3.3 | 11.2 | : | 21.3 | 55.6 |
| Netherlands | 8.9 | 15.3 | 27.2 | 1.4 | 3.9 | 11.1 | 14.6 | 22.8 | 47.5 |
| Austria | 12.1 | 17.6 | 29.1 | 1.7 | 4.8 | 11.6 | 18.4 | 26.1 | 50.7 |
| Poland | 5.8 | 13.5 | 34.5 | 0.7 | 3.3 | 12.3 | 9.5 | 19.0 | 64.6 |
| Portugal | 7.8 | 17.9 | 32.0 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 13.5 | 12.4 | 26.7 | 57.2 |
| Romania | : | 14.9 | 34.8 | : | 3.1 | 13.1 | : | 21.4 | 64.8 |
| Slovenia | : | 16.5 | 31.6 | : | 3.9 | 12.7 | : | 23.8 | 57.6 |
| Slovakia | 6.8 | 12.3 | 33.5 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 12.1 | 11.1 | 16.9 | 61.8 |
| Finland | 7.2 | 17.0 | 27.0 | 0.9 | 4.6 | 10.3 | 11.6 | 25.6 | 47.4 |
| Sweden | 11.7 | 18.1 | 26.3 | 1.8 | 5.3 | 9.9 | 17.8 | 27.7 | 46.2 |
| United Kingdom | 11.7 | 16.4 | 24.5 | 1.9 | 4.6 | 9.3 | 18.0 | 24.9 | 42.1 |
| Iceland | 8.0 | 12.0 | 20.3 | 1.5 | 3.3 | 7.8 | 14.0 | 17.9 | 33.5 |
| Liechtenstein | 7.8 | 13.5 | 29.3 | 1.2 | 3.2 | 13.4 | 12.3 | 19.3 | 52.9 |
| Norway | 10.9 | 14.9 | 24.9 | 2.0 | 4.5 | 9.6 | 17.3 | 22.5 | 43.0 |
| Switzerland | 10.2 | 16.8 | 30.4 | 1.5 | 4.8 | 12.3 | 15.5 | 24.7 | 54.4 |

: Data not available

* The population aged 65 years and older divided by the population aged 15 to 64