

Population projections 2008-2060

From 2015, deaths projected to outnumber births in the EU27

Almost three times as many people aged 80 or more in 2060

The **EU27** population is projected to increase from 495 million on 1 January 2008 to 521 million in 2035, and thereafter gradually decline to 506 million in 2060. The annual number of births is projected to fall over the period 2008-2060, while at the same time the annual number of deaths is projected to continue rising. From 2015 onwards deaths would outnumber births, and hence population growth due to natural increase would cease. From this point onwards, positive net migration would be the only population growth factor. However, from 2035 this positive net migration would no longer counterbalance the negative natural change, and the population is projected to begin to fall.

The **EU27** population is also projected to continue to grow older, with the share of the population aged 65 years and over rising from 17.1% in 2008 to 30.0% in 2060, and those aged 80 and over rising from 4.4% to 12.1% over the same period.

These population projections¹ for the period 2008-2060 come from a report² issued by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**. Population projections are what-if scenarios that aim to provide information about the likely future size and structure of the population, and should therefore be considered with caution.

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

There are projected to be considerable differences between the individual Member States. Between 2008 and 2060, the population is projected to rise in thirteen Member States and fall in fourteen. The strongest population growth is projected to be found in **Cyprus** (+66%), **Ireland** (+53%), **Luxembourg** (+52%), the **United Kingdom** (+25%) and **Sweden** (+18%), and the sharpest declines in **Bulgaria** (-28%), **Latvia** (-26%), **Lithuania** (-24%), **Romania** (-21%) and **Poland** (-18%).

In 2060, the Member States with the largest populations would be the **United Kingdom** (77 million), **France**³ (72 mn), **Germany** (71 mn), **Italy** (59 mn) and **Spain** (52 mn).

30% of the EU27 population to be aged 65 or more in 2060

The **EU27** population is projected to become older throughout the projection period, due in particular to persistently low fertility and an increasing number of survivors to higher ages. This ageing process would occur in all Member States. In 2060, the share of the population aged 65 or more is projected to range from 23.6% in **Luxembourg**, 24.7% in the **United Kingdom** and 25.0% in **Denmark** to 36.2% in **Poland**, 36.1% in **Slovakia** and 35.0% in **Romania**.

In consequence, the old age dependency ratio in the **EU27**, i.e. the population aged 65 years and older divided by the working age population, is projected to increase from 25% in 2008 to 53% in 2060. In other words, there would be only two persons of working age for every person aged 65 or more in 2060, compared with four persons to one today. The old age dependency ratio is projected to be more than 60% in **Bulgaria**, the **Czech Republic**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Poland**, **Romania**, **Slovenia** and **Slovakia**, and less than 45% in **Denmark**, **Ireland**, **Cyprus**, **Luxembourg** and the **United Kingdom**.

1. The EUROPOP2008 "convergence scenario" is based on the population on 1st January 2008 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.
2. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 72/2008 "Ageing characterises the demographic perspectives of the European societies", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
3. "France métropolitaine", excluding the four overseas departments (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion)

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Total population (000s)

	Population at 1 January			Growth since 1.1.2008 (%)	
	2008	2035	2060	2035	2060
EU27	495 394	520 654	505 719	5.1	2.1
Belgium	10 656	11 906	12 295	11.7	15.4
Bulgaria	7 642	6 535	5 485	-14.5	-28.2
Czech Republic	10 346	10 288	9 514	-0.6	-8.0
Denmark	5 476	5 858	5 920	7.0	8.1
Germany	82 179	79 150	70 759	-3.7	-13.9
Estonia	1 339	1 243	1 132	-7.2	-15.4
Ireland	4 415	6 057	6 752	37.2	52.9
Greece	11 217	11 575	11 118	3.2	-0.9
Spain	45 283	53 027	51 913	17.1	14.6
France³	61 876	69 021	71 800	11.5	16.0
Italy	59 529	61 995	59 390	4.1	-0.2
Cyprus	795	1 121	1 320	41.1	66.2
Latvia	2 269	1 970	1 682	-13.2	-25.9
Lithuania	3 365	2 998	2 548	-10.9	-24.3
Luxembourg	482	633	732	31.3	51.7
Hungary	10 045	9 501	8 717	-5.4	-13.2
Malta	410	429	405	4.5	-1.4
Netherlands	16 404	17 271	16 596	5.3	1.2
Austria	8 334	9 075	9 037	8.9	8.4
Poland	38 116	36 141	31 139	-5.2	-18.3
Portugal	10 617	11 395	11 265	7.3	6.1
Romania	21 423	19 619	16 921	-8.4	-21.0
Slovenia	2 023	1 992	1 779	-1.5	-12.1
Slovakia	5 399	5 231	4 547	-3.1	-15.8
Finland	5 300	5 557	5 402	4.9	1.9
Sweden	9 183	10 382	10 875	13.1	18.4
United Kingdom	61 270	70 685	76 677	15.4	25.1
Norway	4 737	5 634	6 037	18.9	27.4
Switzerland	7 591	8 798	9 193	15.9	21.1

Older population

	Percentage aged 65+			Percentage aged 80+			Old age dependency ratio (%)	
	2008	2035	2060	2008	2035	2060	2008	2060
EU27	17.1	25.4	30.0	4.4	7.9	12.1	25.4	53.5
Belgium	17.0	24.2	26.5	4.7	7.4	10.2	25.8	45.8
Bulgaria	17.3	24.7	34.2	3.6	7.1	12.8	25.0	63.5
Czech Republic	14.6	24.1	33.4	3.4	7.9	13.4	20.6	61.4
Denmark	15.6	24.1	25.0	4.1	7.7	10.0	23.6	42.7
Germany	20.1	30.2	32.5	4.7	8.9	13.2	30.3	59.1
Estonia	17.2	22.8	30.7	3.6	6.8	10.7	25.2	55.6
Ireland	11.2	17.6	25.2	2.8	5.0	9.6	16.3	43.6
Greece	18.6	26.3	31.7	4.1	7.9	13.5	27.8	57.1
Spain	16.6	24.8	32.3	4.6	7.2	14.5	24.2	59.1
France³	16.5	24.4	25.9	5.0	8.5	10.8	25.3	45.2
Italy	20.1	28.6	32.7	5.5	9.1	14.9	30.5	59.3
Cyprus	12.4	19.0	26.2	2.8	5.3	8.6	17.7	44.5
Latvia	17.3	23.7	34.4	3.6	6.7	11.9	25.0	64.5
Lithuania	15.8	24.3	34.7	3.3	6.4	12.0	23.0	65.7
Luxembourg	14.2	21.3	23.6	3.5	5.8	8.9	20.9	39.1
Hungary	16.2	23.1	31.9	3.7	7.6	12.6	23.5	57.6
Malta	13.8	24.8	32.4	3.2	8.3	11.8	19.8	59.1
Netherlands	14.7	25.9	27.3	3.8	8.0	10.9	21.8	47.2
Austria	17.2	26.1	29.0	4.6	7.2	11.4	25.4	50.6
Poland	13.5	24.2	36.2	3.0	7.7	13.1	19.0	69.0
Portugal	17.4	24.9	30.9	4.2	7.6	12.8	25.9	54.8
Romania	14.9	22.9	35.0	2.8	6.2	13.1	21.3	65.3
Slovenia	16.1	27.4	33.4	3.5	8.4	13.9	23.0	62.2
Slovakia	12.0	23.0	36.1	2.6	6.4	13.2	16.6	68.5
Finland	16.5	26.4	27.8	4.3	9.4	10.8	24.8	49.3
Sweden	17.5	23.6	26.6	5.3	8.1	10.0	26.7	46.7
United Kingdom	16.1	21.9	24.7	4.5	6.7	9.0	24.3	42.1
Norway	14.6	22.6	25.4	4.6	7.1	10.0	22.1	43.9
Switzerland	16.4	25.2	28.0	4.7	7.7	11.1	24.1	48.5