

## Population projections 2004-2050

# EU25 population rises until 2025, then falls

## Working age population expected to decrease by 52 million by 2050

Over the next two decades the total population of the **EU25** is expected to increase by more than 13 million inhabitants, from 456.8 million on 1 January 2004 to 470.1 million on 1 January 2025. Population growth in the **EU25** until 2025 will be mainly due to net migration, since total deaths in the **EU25** will outnumber total births from 2010. The effect of net migration will no longer outweigh the natural decrease after 2025, when the population will start to decline gradually. The population will reach 449.8 million on 1 January 2050, that is a decrease of more than 20 million inhabitants compared to 2025. Over the whole projection period the **EU25** population will decrease by 1.5%, resulting from a 0.4% increase for the **EU15** and a 11.7% decrease for the ten new Member States.

The share of the population of working age (between 15 and 64) in the total population is expected to decrease strongly in the **EU25**, from 67.2% in 2004 to 56.7% in 2050, that is a fall of 52 million inhabitants of working age. The share of the population aged between 0 and 14 will also be reduced, from 16.4% in 2004 to 13.4% in 2050, while the proportion of elderly people (aged 65 and more) is expected to almost double over this period, from 16.4% in 2004 to 29.9% in 2050.

This information on population projections<sup>1</sup> in the **EU25**, **Bulgaria** and **Romania**, issued by **Eurostat**, the **Statistical Office of the European Communities**, has been derived from the analysis and extrapolation of demographic trends. Given the length of the projection period, results should be considered with caution.

### Largest declines in most of the new Member States

In 2004 the population is estimated to have decreased in seven Member States (the **Czech Republic**, **Estonia**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Hungary**, **Poland** and **Slovakia**). By 2025 the population will decrease in another six; **Italy** (from 2013), **Germany** and **Slovenia** (both 2014), **Portugal** (2018), **Greece** (2020) and **Spain** (2022). By 2050, twenty Member States are expected to register a decline in their population; the previous thirteen plus **Finland** (from 2028), **Austria** (2029), **Denmark** (2032), the **Netherlands** (2036), **Belgium** (2037), the **United Kingdom** (2040) and **France** (2042). The population will still be increasing in **Ireland**, **Cyprus**, **Luxembourg**, **Malta** and **Sweden**.

Between 2004 and 2050, the largest declines are expected to be observed in most of the new Member States: **Latvia** (-19.2%), **Estonia** (-16.6%), **Lithuania** (-16.4%), the **Czech Republic** (-12.9%), **Hungary** and **Slovakia** (both -11.9%), and **Poland** (-11.8%). Over the whole period, the strongest increases will be recorded in **Luxembourg** (+42.3%), **Ireland** (+36.0%), **Cyprus** (+33.5%) and **Malta** (+27.1%).

In absolute terms the largest population decreases are expected in **Germany** (-7.9 million), followed by **Italy** (-5.2 million) and **Poland** (-4.5 million), while the highest rises are expected in **France** (+5.8 million), the **United Kingdom** (+4.7 million) and **Ireland** (+1.5 million).

## Number of adults and young people down by 67 million by 2050

The proportion of the population in working age (between 15 and 64) is expected to decline sharply in the long run. In the **EU25** it will pass from 67.2% in 2004 to 56.7% in 2050, i.e. in absolute terms from 306.8 million in 2004 to 254.9 million in 2050. In 2050 the lowest shares of the population of working age will be observed in **Spain** (52.9%), **Italy** (53.5%), **Portugal** (55.0%) and **Greece** (55.2%) and the highest in **Luxembourg** (61.3%), **Malta** (60.8%) and the **Netherlands** (60.7%).

The share of the **EU25** population aged between 0 and 14 will decrease from 16.4% in 2004 to 13.4% in 2050. The largest decreases will be recorded in **Cyprus** (from 20.0% to 13.3%) and **Ireland** (from 20.9% to 16.0%). In 2050 the proportion of young people will range between 11.2% in **Italy** and 16.6% in **Luxembourg**.

## More than 10% of the population aged 80 or over in 2050

On the other hand, the proportion of elderly people (aged 65 and more) is expected to rise substantially throughout the whole projection period. In the **EU25** it will increase from 16.4% in 2004 to 29.9% in 2050, or from 75.3 million in 2004 to 134.5 million in 2050. The largest shares of elderly people in 2050 are expected in **Spain** (35.6%), **Italy** (35.3%), and **Greece** (32.5%), and the lowest in **Luxembourg** (22.1%), the **Netherlands** (23.5 %) and **Denmark** (24.1%).

The proportion of very old people (aged 80 and more) is expected to almost triple in the **EU25**, from 4.0% in 2004 to 11.4% in 2050, with the highest proportions expected in **Italy** (14.1%), **Germany** (13.6%) and **Spain** (12.8%).

As a consequence, the elderly dependency ratio<sup>2</sup> in the **EU25** will rise from 24.5% in 2004 to 52.8% in 2050, while the young dependency ratio<sup>3</sup> would remain more or less constant throughout the projection period, passing from 24.4% in 2004 to 23.7% in 2050. The total dependency ratio<sup>4</sup> in the **EU25** would increase from 48.9% in 2004 to 76.5% in 2050. This means that whereas in 2004 there was one inactive person (young or elderly) for every two persons of working age, in 2050 there would be three inactive persons for every four of working age.

1. The Eurostat set of population projections is just one among several scenarios of population evolution based on assumptions of fertility, mortality and migration. The current trend scenario does not take into account any future measures that could influence demographic trends and comprises four variants: the 'baseline' variant presented in this News Release, as well as 'high population', 'low population' and 'zero-migration' variants, all available on the Eurostat website. It should be noted that the assumptions adopted by Eurostat may differ from those adopted by National Statistical Institutes (for example, assumptions about migration levels in Italy and Slovenia). Therefore, the results published by Eurostat can be different from those published by Member States.
2. Population aged 65 and more as a percentage of population aged between 15 and 64.
3. Population aged between 0 and 14 as a percentage of population aged between 15 and 64.
4. Sum of young and elderly dependency ratios.
5. Data for France refer to metropolitan France.

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## Total population

	Population at 1 January (1000 inhabitants)				Percentage increase with respect to 1.1.2004		
	2004	2015	2025	2050	2015	2025	2050
<b>EU25</b>	<b>456 815</b>	<b>467 307</b>	<b>470 057</b>	<b>449 831</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
<b>EU15</b>	<b>382 674</b>	<b>394 727</b>	<b>398 780</b>	<b>384 356</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>New Member States</b>	<b>74 141</b>	<b>72 580</b>	<b>71 278</b>	<b>65 475</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-11.7</b>
Belgium	10 396	10 674	10 898	10 906	2.7	4.8	4.9
Czech Republic	10 212	10 012	9 812	8 894	-2.0	-3.9	-12.9
Denmark	5 398	5 498	5 557	5 430	1.9	2.9	0.6
Germany	82 532	82 864	82 108	74 642	0.4	-0.5	-9.6
Estonia	1 351	1 279	1 224	1 126	-5.3	-9.4	-16.6
Greece	11 041	11 390	11 394	10 632	3.2	3.2	-3.7
Spain	42 345	45 264	45 556	42 834	6.9	7.6	1.2
France <sup>5</sup>	59 901	62 616	64 392	65 704	4.5	7.5	9.7
Ireland	4 028	4 555	4 922	5 478	13.1	22.2	36.0
Italy	57 888	58 630	57 751	52 709	1.3	-0.2	-8.9
Cyprus	730	828	897	975	13.3	22.8	33.5
Latvia	2 319	2 174	2 068	1 873	-6.3	-10.8	-19.2
Lithuania	3 446	3 258	3 134	2 881	-5.5	-9.1	-16.4
Luxembourg	452	499	544	643	10.4	20.5	42.3
Hungary	10 117	9 834	9 588	8 915	-2.8	-5.2	-11.9
Malta	400	439	468	508	9.8	17.0	27.1
Netherlands	16 258	16 957	17 429	17 406	4.3	7.2	7.1
Austria	8 114	8 358	8 501	8 216	3.0	4.8	1.3
Poland	38 191	37 429	36 836	33 665	-2.0	-3.5	-11.8
Portugal	10 475	10 762	10 730	10 009	2.7	2.4	-4.4
Slovenia	1 996	2 019	2 014	1 901	1.1	0.9	-4.8
Slovakia	5 380	5 309	5 237	4 738	-1.3	-2.7	-11.9
Finland	5 220	5 354	5 439	5 217	2.6	4.2	-0.1
Sweden	8 976	9 373	9 769	10 202	4.4	8.8	13.7
United Kingdom	59 652	61 934	63 792	64 330	3.8	6.9	7.8
Bulgaria	7 801	7 130	6 465	5 094	-8.6	-17.1	-34.7
Romania	21 711	20 917	19 746	17 125	-3.7	-9.1	-21.1

## Population structure – Main age groups

	Percentage aged 0-14			Percentage aged 15-64			Percentage aged 65+		
	2004	2025	2050	2004	2025	2050	2004	2025	2050
<b>EU25</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>29.9</b>
<b>EU15</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>30.0</b>
<b>New Member States</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>29.1</b>
Belgium	17.3	15.6	14.7	65.6	61.9	57.6	17.1	22.5	27.7
Czech Republic	15.2	13.5	12.6	70.8	64.1	56.5	14.0	22.4	30.9
Denmark	18.9	15.9	15.7	66.2	62.9	60.2	14.9	21.2	24.1
Germany	14.7	12.9	11.9	67.3	62.5	56.5	18.0	24.6	31.6
Estonia	16.0	16.2	14.8	67.9	63.9	59.6	16.1	19.9	25.6
Greece	14.5	13.3	12.3	67.7	63.9	55.2	17.8	22.8	32.5
Spain	14.5	12.8	11.5	68.6	65.2	52.9	16.9	22.0	35.6
France <sup>5</sup>	18.6	16.7	15.8	65.1	60.9	57.0	16.3	22.4	27.2
Ireland	20.9	18.2	16.0	68.0	65.3	57.8	11.1	16.5	26.2
Italy	14.2	12.1	11.2	66.6	62.9	53.5	19.2	25.0	35.3
Cyprus	20.0	15.6	13.3	68.1	65.2	60.5	11.9	19.2	26.2
Latvia	15.4	16.2	14.8	68.4	64.1	59.1	16.2	19.7	26.1
Lithuania	17.7	15.1	13.7	67.3	65.7	59.6	15.0	19.2	26.7
Luxembourg	18.8	17.1	16.6	67.1	64.9	61.3	14.1	18.0	22.1
Hungary	15.9	14.3	13.8	68.6	63.7	58.1	15.5	22.0	28.1
Malta	18.2	15.6	14.5	68.7	63.1	60.8	13.1	21.3	24.7
Netherlands	18.5	16.1	15.8	67.6	63.3	60.7	13.9	20.6	23.5
Austria	16.3	13.8	12.3	68.2	64.1	57.3	15.5	22.1	30.4
Poland	17.2	14.6	13.0	69.8	64.3	57.6	13.0	21.1	29.4
Portugal	15.7	14.2	13.1	67.4	63.7	55.0	16.9	22.1	31.9
Slovenia	14.6	13.4	12.8	70.4	63.8	56.0	15.0	22.8	31.2
Slovakia	17.6	14.0	12.8	70.9	67.1	57.9	11.5	18.9	29.3
Finland	17.6	16.0	15.3	66.8	59.4	57.8	15.6	24.6	26.9
Sweden	17.8	17.1	16.3	65.0	60.7	59.4	17.2	22.2	24.3
United Kingdom	18.3	16.1	14.7	65.7	63.0	58.7	16.0	20.9	26.6
Bulgaria	14.2	11.7	11.5	68.7	64.5	55.0	17.1	23.8	33.5
Romania	16.4	14.1	12.5	69.1	66.9	57.9	14.5	19.0	29.6

### Indicators of population structure

	Young dependency ratio <sup>3</sup> (%)			Elderly dependency ratio <sup>2</sup> (%)			Total dependency ratio <sup>4</sup> (%)		
	2004	2025	2050	2004	2025	2050	2004	2025	2050
<b>EU25</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>76.5</b>
<b>EU15</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>77.1</b>
<b>New Member States</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>73.2</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	26.4	25.2	25.4	26.1	36.5	48.1	52.5	61.7	73.5
<b>Czech Republic</b>	21.5	21.1	22.2	19.7	35.0	54.8	41.2	56.1	77.1
<b>Denmark</b>	28.5	25.3	26.0	22.5	33.8	40.0	51.0	59.1	66.0
<b>Germany</b>	21.9	20.7	21.1	26.8	39.3	55.8	48.7	60.0	76.9
<b>Estonia</b>	23.6	25.3	24.8	23.8	31.3	43.1	47.4	56.6	67.9
<b>Greece</b>	21.4	20.9	22.3	26.4	35.5	58.8	47.8	56.4	81.1
<b>Spain</b>	21.2	19.7	21.7	24.6	33.6	67.5	45.8	53.3	89.2
<b>France<sup>5</sup></b>	28.5	27.4	27.7	25.2	36.9	47.9	53.7	64.3	75.6
<b>Ireland</b>	30.7	27.9	27.7	16.4	25.2	45.3	47.1	53.0	73.0
<b>Italy</b>	21.3	19.3	21.0	28.9	39.7	66.0	50.2	59.0	86.9
<b>Cyprus</b>	29.4	24.0	22.0	17.5	29.3	43.2	46.9	53.3	65.2
<b>Latvia</b>	22.5	25.2	25.0	23.6	30.7	44.1	46.1	55.9	69.1
<b>Lithuania</b>	26.2	23.1	23.0	22.3	29.2	44.9	48.6	52.2	67.8
<b>Luxembourg</b>	28.0	26.4	27.1	21.0	27.7	36.1	49.0	54.1	63.3
<b>Hungary</b>	23.1	22.4	23.7	22.6	34.5	48.3	45.7	56.9	72.0
<b>Malta</b>	26.5	24.7	23.9	19.0	33.8	40.6	45.5	58.4	64.6
<b>Netherlands</b>	27.4	25.4	26.1	20.5	32.5	38.6	47.9	57.9	64.7
<b>Austria</b>	23.9	21.5	21.5	22.8	34.5	53.2	46.7	56.0	74.6
<b>Poland</b>	24.7	22.6	22.6	18.6	32.8	51.0	43.3	55.4	73.5
<b>Portugal</b>	23.3	22.3	23.8	24.9	34.7	58.1	48.3	57.0	81.9
<b>Slovenia</b>	20.8	21.1	22.9	21.4	35.8	55.6	42.1	56.9	78.5
<b>Slovakia</b>	24.8	20.9	22.2	16.3	28.1	50.6	41.0	49.0	72.9
<b>Finland</b>	26.4	27.0	26.4	23.3	41.4	46.7	49.7	68.3	73.1
<b>Sweden</b>	27.4	28.2	27.5	26.4	36.5	40.9	53.8	64.6	68.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	27.8	25.5	25.0	24.3	33.2	45.3	52.1	58.7	70.3
<b>Bulgaria</b>	20.6	18.1	21.0	24.9	36.9	60.9	45.5	55.0	81.9
<b>Romania</b>	23.8	21.0	21.6	20.9	28.5	51.1	44.6	49.5	72.6