news release

eurostat

First demographic estimates

On 1 January 2004, 380.8 million inhabitants in the EU and 74.1 million in the Acceding Countries

306.9 million in the euro zone

According to the first demographic estimates for 2003, published[1] today by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, the **EU** had a population of 380.8 million on 1 January 2004[2]. The population of the **euro zone**[3] is estimated at 306.9 million, and that of the **10 Acceding Countries**[4] at 74.1 million.

In the **EU** the population grew by 3.4 per 1000 inhabitants in 2003, due to natural population growth and net migration of +0.8‰ and +2.6‰ respectively. On the other hand, and despite net migration (+0.4‰), the population fell by 0.8‰ in the **Acceding Countries**, due to a negative natural growth of 1.2‰.

The natural population growth in the **EU** (live births minus deaths) is expected to decrease from +309 000 in 2002 to +294 000 in 2003, and net migration should be also down, from +1 260 000 in 2002 to +983 000 in 2003. In total, the **EU** population is estimated to have increased by 1 276 000 in 2003. This is in line with the past few years, but still modest compared with growth in the 1950s and 1960s.

Births and deaths up in the EU, but natural increase down

Live births in the **EU** are likely to have been 4.03 million, about 1.1% higher than the post-war low observed in 2002. The highest birth rates were recorded in **Ireland** (15.5 live births per 1000 inhabitants), **France** (12.7‰), the **Netherlands** (12.6‰) and **Denmark** (12.0‰). **Germany** (8.6‰), **Greece** (9.3‰), **Italy** (9.4‰) and **Austria** (9.5‰) registered the lowest rates. In the **Acceding Countries**, the highest birth rate was found in **Cyprus** (11.1‰, the only rate above the **EU** average of 10.6‰), and the lowest in **Slovenia** (8.6‰).

For 2003 it is expected that the effects of population ageing might start to outweigh the decrease in mortality rates in the **EU**, with 3.74 million deaths, about 64 000 more than in 2002. The highest mortality rates in 2003 were registered in **Denmark** (10.7 deaths per 1000 inhabitants), **Germany** and **Sweden** (both 10.4‰). **Ireland** (7.3‰), with its relatively young population, is the Member State with the lowest rate, followed by **Luxembourg** (8.5‰). In the **Acceding Countries**, the highest death rate was found in **Latvia** (14.1‰), and the lowest in **Cyprus** (7.8‰).

Consequently, the highest natural growth of the population was in **Ireland** (+8.3 per 1000 inhabitants), well ahead of the **Netherlands** (+3.8‰) and **France** (+3.5‰). Three Member States recorded a negative natural growth: **Germany** (-1.8‰), **Italy** (-0.8‰) and **Greece** (-0.1‰). In the **Acceding Countries**, there was a natural increase only in **Cyprus** (+3.3‰) and **Malta** (+1.8‰). The largest decreases were observed in **Latvia** (-5.2‰) and **Hungary** (-3.9‰). In **Slovakia** there was no change due to natural growth.

Net migration is responsible for over three quarters of the population increase

In 2003, more than three quarters of the increase in the **EU**'s population came from cross-border migration. **Spain** accounted for 23% of all the net migration to Member States, **Italy** 21%, **Germany** 16% and the **United Kingdom** 10%.

In relative terms, the largest net migratory flows were to **Ireland**, **Portugal** and **Spain**, with +7.0 per 1000 inhabitants, +6.1‰ and +5.5‰ respectively. The **Netherlands** (+0.2‰) and **France** (+1.0‰) had the lowest migration rates. Without net inward migration, **Germany**, **Italy** and **Greece** would have seen a decline in their populations.

In 2003, four **Acceding Countries** recorded more emigration than immigration, in particular **Lithuania** (-1.4‰), whilst the highest net migration rates were observed in **Cyprus** (+14.1‰) and **Malta** (+3.9‰).

EU population growth in 2003: between +0.1‰ in Germany and +15.3‰ in Ireland

In summary, whereas the populations of all the Member States increased in 2003, the changes were notably different. The largest increases were in **Ireland** (+15.3‰), **Spain** (+7.2‰) and **Portugal** (+6.9‰), and the smallest in **Germany** (+0.1‰), **Denmark** and **Greece** (+2.6‰ each).

Half of the 10 **Acceding Countries**, in particular **Latvia** (-5.6‰) and **Lithuania** (-4.5‰), had declining populations in 2003, whilst the biggest rises were in **Cyprus** (+17.4‰) and **Malta** (+5.7‰).

1. **Eurostat, Statistics in focus, Population and social conditions, 1/2004, "First demographic estimates for 2003"**. Eurostat will also publish this summer: "**European social statistics - Population - 2004 edition**". This detailed publication (which includes a CD-ROM) has population breakdowns by sex and age group, statistics on births, deaths, international migration, marriages, divorces, fertility, life expectancy and population at regional level. It also includes many post-1960 time series.
2. Population censuses were held in 2000 and 2001 in most EU countries. This led to lower than expected population counts on 1 January 2001 and 2002, followed sometimes by significant corrections, notably for Italy and the UK. There are therefore breaks in series between 2000 and 2003, resulting in discrepancies in figures for population growth and net migration. Population figures for the intercensal period for the countries concerned and the EU will be recalculated in the near future.
3. Euro zone: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.
4. Acceding Countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Population change in Europe in 2003 (first estimates)

	Population 1.1.2003, thousands	Live births per 1 000 inhabitants	Deaths per 1 000 inhabitants	Natural increase per 1 000 inhabitants	Net migration** per 1 000 inhabitants	Total increase per 1 000 inhabitants	Population 1.1.2004, thousands
EU15	**379 483**	**10.6**	**9.8**	**0.8**	**2.6**	**3.4**	**380 759**
Euro zone	**305 829**	**10.4**	**9.7**	**0.6**	**2.8**	**3.4**	**306 868**
Belgium	10 356	10.7	10.2	0.6	3.4	3.9	10 397
Denmark	5 384	12.0	10.7	1.3	1.3	2.6	5 398
Germany	82 537	8.6	10.4	-1.8	1.9	0.1	82 545
Greece	11 018	9.3	9.4	-0.1	2.7	2.6	11 047
Spain	40 683	10.7	9.0	1.7	5.5	7.2	40 978
France	59 629	12.7	9.2	3.5	1.0	4.5	59 896
Ireland	3 964	15.5	7.3	8.3	7.0	15.3	4 025
Italy	57 321	9.4	10.3	-0.8	3.6	2.8	57 482
Luxembourg	448	11.5	8.5	3.0	2.5	5.6	451
Netherlands	16 193	12.6	8.8	3.8	0.2	4.0	16 258
Austria	8 067	9.5	9.6	0.0	3.1	3.1	8 092
Portugal	10 408	10.8	9.9	0.9	6.1	6.9	10 480
Finland	5 206	10.8	9.2	1.6	1.1	2.7	5 220
Sweden	8 941	11.0	10.4	0.6	3.2	3.8	8 975
United Kingdom	59 329	11.6	10.2	1.4	1.7	3.2	59 518
Iceland	289	14.1	6.3	7.8	-0.9	6.9	291
Liechtenstein	34	11.7	5.9	5.9	5.9	11.7	34
Norway	4 552	12.0	9.4	2.6	2.5	5.1	4 576
EEA	**384 357**	**10.6**	**9.8**	**0.8**	**2.6**	**3.4**	**385 659**
Switzerland	7 324	9.7	8.5	1.2	6.0	7.2	7 377
Acceding Countries	**74 201**	**9.2**	**10.4**	**-1.2**	**0.4**	**-0.8**	**74 141**
Czech Republic	10 203	8.9	10.5	-1.6	2.4	0.8	10 211
Estonia	1 356	9.6	13.3	-3.7	-0.1	-3.8	1 351
Cyprus*	715	11.1	7.8	3.3	14.1	17.4	728
Latvia	2 332	8.8	14.1	-5.2	-0.3	-5.6	2 319
Lithuania	3 463	8.8	11.8	-3.0	-1.4	-4.5	3 447
Hungary	10 142	9.5	13.4	-3.9	1.2	-2.7	10 115
Malta	397	10.0	8.2	1.8	3.9	5.7	400
Poland	38 219	9.2	9.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	38 194
Slovenia	1 995	8.6	9.6	-1.0	1.8	0.8	1 997
Slovakia	5 379	9.6	9.6	0.0	0.3	0.3	5 381
Bulgaria	7 846	8.4	14.3	-5.9	-	-5.9	7 799
Romania	21 773	9.6	12.2	-2.6	0.0	-2.6	21 716

* Government controlled area
** Including corrections due to population censuses, register counts, etc, which cannot be classified as births, deaths or migrations.