

First population estimates

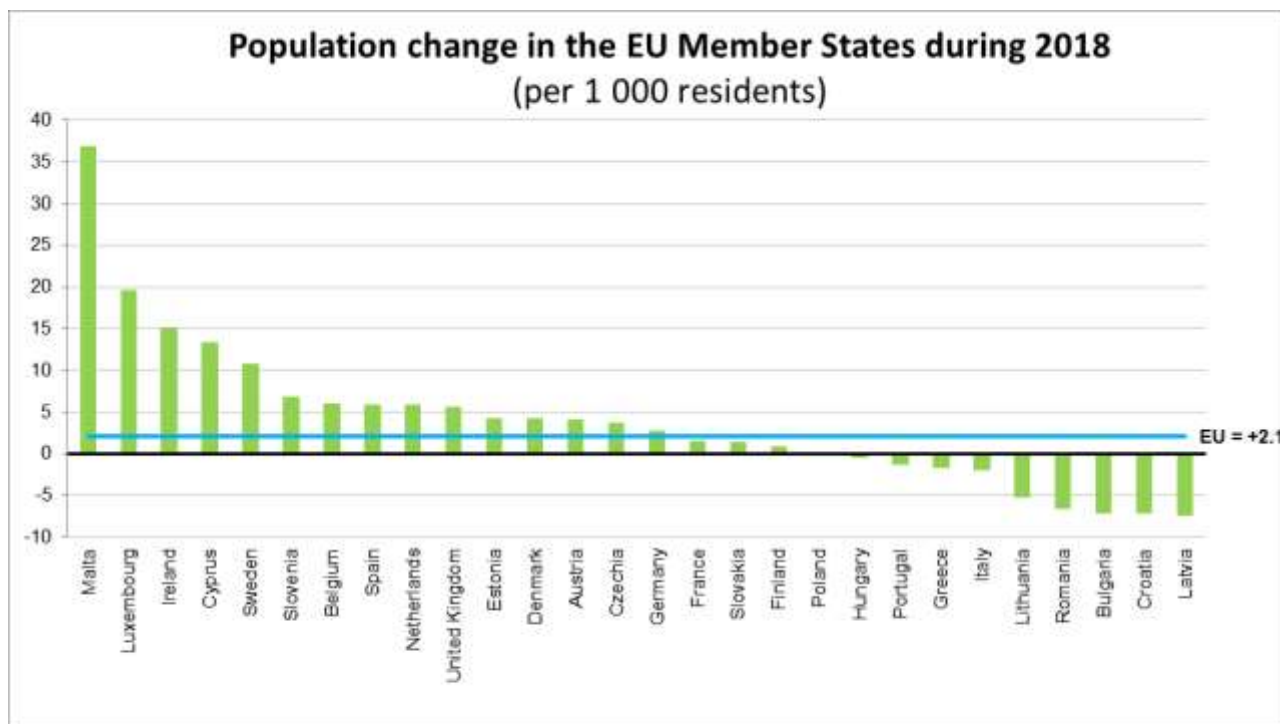
EU population up to over 513 million on 1 January 2019

More deaths than births

On 1 January 2019, the population of the **European Union** (EU) was estimated at almost 513.5 million, compared with 512.4 million on 1 January 2018. During 2018, more deaths than births were recorded in the **EU** (5.3 million deaths and 5.0 million births), meaning that the natural change of the EU population was negative for a second consecutive year. The population change (positive, with 1.1 million more inhabitants) was therefore due to net migration.

With 83.0 million residents (or 16.2% of the total EU population at 1 January 2019), **Germany** is the most populated EU Member State, ahead of **France** (67.0 million, or 13.1%), the **United Kingdom** (66.6 million, or 13.0%), **Italy** (60.4 million, or 11.8%), **Spain** (46.9 million, or 9.1%) and **Poland** (38.0 million, or 7.4%). For the remaining Member States, fourteen have a share of between 1% and 4% of the EU population and eight a share below 1%.

These figures are issued by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union, just before the World Population Day (11 July).



Population increase in eighteen Member States

During 2018, the population increased in eighteen EU Member States and decreased in ten. The largest population increase was observed in **Malta** (+36.8 per 1 000 residents), ahead of **Luxembourg** (+19.6‰), **Ireland** (+15.2‰), **Cyprus** (+13.4‰), **Sweden** (+10.8‰), **Slovenia** (+6.8‰), **Belgium** (+6.1‰), **Spain** and the **Netherlands** (both +5.9‰) and the **United Kingdom** (+5.6‰).

In contrast, the largest population decrease was recorded in **Latvia** (-7.5‰), followed by **Bulgaria** and **Croatia** (both -7.1‰), **Romania** (-6.6‰) and Lithuania (-5.3‰).

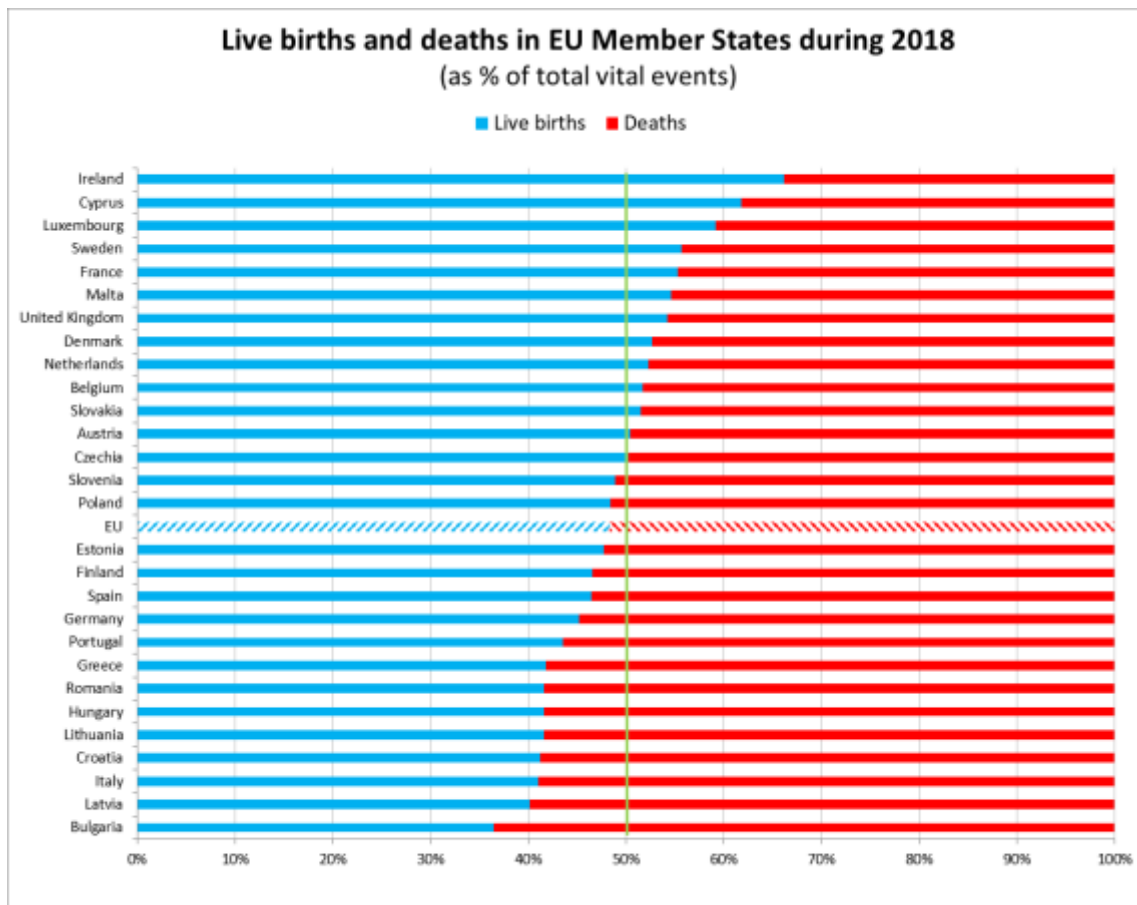
The population of the entire **EU** increased by 1.1 million people (+2.1‰) during 2018.

Highest birth rate in Ireland, lowest in Italy

During the year 2018, 5.0 million babies were born in the **EU**, almost 118 000 fewer than the previous year. Across Member States, the highest crude birth rates in 2018 were recorded in **Ireland** (12.5 per 1 000 residents), **Sweden** (11.4‰), **France** (11.3‰) and the **United Kingdom** (11.0‰), while the lowest were registered in **Italy** (7.3‰), **Spain** (7.9‰), **Greece** (8.1‰), **Portugal** (8.5‰), **Finland** (8.6‰), **Bulgaria** (8.9‰) and **Croatia** (9.0‰). At **EU** level, the crude birth rate was 9.7 per 1 000 residents.

In the meantime, 5.3 million deaths were registered in the **EU** in 2018, almost 46 000 more than the previous year. **Ireland** (6.4 per 1 000 residents), **Cyprus** (6.6‰) and **Luxembourg** (7.1‰) had in 2018 the lowest crude death rates, followed by **Malta** (7.6‰), the **Netherlands** (8.9‰), **Spain** and **Sweden** (both 9.1‰). At the opposite end of the scale, **Bulgaria** (15.4‰), **Latvia** (15.0‰), **Lithuania** (14.1‰), **Romania** (13.5‰) and **Hungary** (13.4‰) recorded the highest. For the EU as a whole, the crude death rate was 10.4 per 1 000 residents.

Consequently, **Ireland** (with a natural change of its population of +6.1‰) remained in 2018 the Member State where births most outnumbered deaths, ahead of **Cyprus** (+4.1‰), **Luxembourg** (+3.2‰), **Sweden** (+2.3‰), **France** (+2.2‰), the **United Kingdom** (+1.7‰) and **Malta** (+1.6‰). In contrast, among the fifteen EU Member States which registered a negative natural change in 2018, deaths outnumbered births the most in **Bulgaria** (-6.6‰), followed by **Latvia** (-4.9‰), **Lithuania** (-4.1‰), **Croatia**, **Hungary** and **Romania** (all -3.9‰).



Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Population change refers to the difference between the size of the population at the end and the beginning of the period. Specifically, it is the difference in population size on 1 January of two consecutive years. A positive population change is also referred to as population growth / increase. A negative population change is also referred to as population decline / decrease. The population change consists of two components: natural change and net migration.

The **natural change of population** represents the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths during the year. A positive natural change, also known as natural increase, occurs when live births outnumber deaths. A negative natural change, also named as natural decrease, occurs when live births are less numerous than deaths.

Net migration is calculated as the difference between total population change and natural change. It therefore includes statistical adjustment corresponding to all changes in the population that cannot be classified as births, deaths, immigration or emigration.

A **crude rate** is calculated as the ratio of the number of events to the average population of the respective area in a given year. For easier presentation, it is multiplied by 1 000: the result is therefore expressed per 1 000 persons (of the average population).

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to population data.

Eurostat [database](#) on population.

Eurostat [metadata](#) on population change.


Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on population.


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Total population

	Population 1.1.2018 (in 1 000)	Population 1.1.2019 (in 1 000)	Change 2018/2019 (per 1 000)*	Share in EU population 2019 (%)
EU	512 379.2	513 481.7	+2.1	100
Belgium	11 398.6	11 467.9	+6.1	2.2
Bulgaria	7 050.0	7 000.0	-7.1	1.4
Czechia	10 610.1	10 649.8	+3.7	2.1
Denmark	5 781.2	5 806.1	+4.3	1.1
Germany	82 792.4	83 019.2	+2.7	16.2
Estonia	1 319.1	1 324.8	+4.3	0.3
Ireland	4 830.4	4 904.2	+15.2	1.0
Greece	10 741.2	10 722.3	-1.8	2.1
Spain	46 658.4	46 934.6	+5.9	9.1
France	66 926.2	67 028.0	+1.5	13.1
Croatia	4 105.5	4 076.2	-7.1	0.8
Italy	60 484.0	60 359.5	-2.1	11.8
Cyprus	864.2	875.9	+13.4	0.2
Latvia	1 934.4	1 920.0	-7.5	0.4
Lithuania	2 808.9	2 794.2	-5.3	0.5
Luxembourg	602.0	613.9	+19.6	0.1
Hungary	9 778.4	9 772.8	-0.6	1.9
Malta	475.7	493.6	+36.8	0.1
Netherlands	17 181.1	17 282.2	+5.9	3.4
Austria	8 822.3	8 858.8	+4.1	1.7
Poland	37 976.7	37 972.8	-0.1	7.4
Portugal	10 291.0	10 276.6	-1.4	2.0
Romania	19 530.6	19 401.7	-6.6	3.8
Slovenia	2 066.9	2 080.9	+6.8	0.4
Slovakia	5 443.1	5 450.4	+1.3	1.1
Finland	5 513.1	5 517.9	+0.9	1.1
Sweden	10 120.2	10 230.2	+10.8	2.0
United Kingdom	66 273.6	66 647.1	+5.6	13.0
Iceland	348.5	357.0	+24.2	-
Lichtenstein	38.1	38.4	+6.9	-
Norway	5 295.6	:	:	-
Switzerland	8 484.1	8 542.3	+6.8	-
Montenegro	622.4	622.2	-0.3	-
North Macedonia	2 075.3	2 077.1	+0.9	-
Albania	2870.3	2862.4	-2.8	-
Serbia	7 001.4	6 963.8	-5.4	-
Turkey	80 810.5	82 003.9	+14.7	-

All data are provisional

- Not applicable

* Crude rate of population change represents the ratio, expressed per 1 000 residents, of the increase or decrease of population during 2018 (difference between the population on 1 January 2019 and the population on 1 January 2018) to the average population in 2018.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Natural change of population in 2018

	Absolute number in 1 000			Crude rate*		
	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Live births	Deaths	Natural change
EU	4 957.3	5 311.6	-354.2	9.7	10.4	-0.7
Belgium	118.3	110.7	+7.6	10.3	9.7	+0.7
Bulgaria	62.2	108.5	-46.3	8.9	15.4	-6.6
Czechia	114.0	112.9	+1.1	10.7	10.6	+0.1
Denmark	61.5	55.2	+6.2	10.6	9.5	+1.1
Germany	787.6	954.9	-167.4	9.5	11.5	-2.0
Estonia	14.4	15.8	-1.4	10.9	11.9	-1.0
Ireland	61.0	31.1	+29.9	12.5	6.4	+6.1
Greece	86.4	120.3	-33.9	8.1	11.2	-3.2
Spain	367.4	423.6	-56.3	7.9	9.1	-1.2
France	758.6	614.1	+144.5	11.3	9.2	+2.2
Croatia	36.9	52.7	-15.8	9.0	12.9	-3.9
Italy	439.7	633.1	-193.4	7.3	10.5	-3.2
Cyprus	9.3	5.8	+3.6	10.7	6.6	+4.1
Latvia	19.3	28.8	-9.5	10.0	15.0	-4.9
Lithuania	28.1	39.6	-11.4	10.0	14.1	-4.1
Luxembourg	6.3	4.3	+2.0	10.3	7.1	+3.2
Hungary	93.5	131.2	-37.8	9.6	13.4	-3.9
Malta	4.4	3.7	+0.8	9.2	7.6	+1.6
Netherlands	167.9	153.2	+14.7	9.7	8.9	+0.9
Austria	85.5	84.0	+1.6	9.7	9.5	+0.2
Poland	388.2	414.2	-26.0	10.2	10.9	-0.7
Portugal	87.0	113.0	-26.0	8.5	11.0	-2.5
Romania	187.8	263.1	-75.3	9.6	13.5	-3.9
Slovenia	19.6	20.5	-0.9	9.4	9.9	-0.4
Slovakia	57.6	54.3	+3.3	10.6	10.0	+0.6
Finland	47.6	54.5	-7.0	8.6	9.9	-1.3
Sweden	115.8	92.2	+23.6	11.4	9.1	+2.3
United Kingdom	731.2	610.0	+115.2	11.0	9.3	+1.7
Iceland	4.2	2.3	+2.0	12.0	6.4	+5.6
Lichtenstein	0.4	0.3	+0.1	9.9	7.2	+2.7
Norway	:	:	:	:	:	:
Switzerland	85.3	66.7	+18.6	10.0	7.8	+2.2
Montenegro	7.3	6.5	+0.8	11.7	10.5	+1.2
North Macedonia	21.3	19.7	+1.6	10.3	9.5	+0.8
Albania	28.9	21.8	+7.1	10.1	7.6	+2.5
Serbia	64.0	101.7	-37.7	9.2	14.6	-5.4
Turkey	1 248.8	426.1	+822.7	15.3	5.2	+10.1

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