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## Report on demography

# In 2012, for every person aged 65 or older, there were 4 people of working age in the EU27

## 40% of children were born outside marriage in 2011

The current demographic situation in the **EU27** is characterised by continuing population growth as well as by an ageing population. On 1 January 2012, the **EU27** population was estimated at 503.7 million, a growth of 6% compared with 1992. Over the same period, the share of those aged 65 years or older in the population increased from 14% to 18%. As well as the population age structure, family structures are also changing, influenced by fewer marriages, more divorces and an increasing share of children born outside marriage.

This information comes from the Special Supplement on Demographic Trends<sup>1</sup> to the EU Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review, published jointly by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** and the **Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** of the European Commission. The first part of the supplement is dedicated to recent and historical trends related to population changes and structures, while the other parts highlight topics such as fertility, migration, marriage and divorce.

### Around three people of working age for every older person in Italy and Germany

The age structure of the **EU27** population can be examined using age dependency ratios<sup>2</sup>, which show the level of support to the two dependent generations (under 15 years and 65 years or older) from the working age population (15-64 years). Looking at the young age dependency ratio<sup>2</sup> in the **EU27**, this decreased from 28.5% in 1992 to 23.4% in 2012. During this period, the ratio fell in all Member States, except **Denmark** (+2 percentage points). In 2012, the young age dependency ratio ranged from 20% in **Bulgaria** and **Germany** to 33% in **Ireland** and 29% in **France**.

The old age dependency ratio<sup>2</sup> in the **EU27** increased from 21.1% in 1992 to 26.8% to 2012. During this period, the ratio rose in all Member States, except **Ireland** (-0.4 pp). In 2012, the old age dependency ratio ranged from 18% in **Slovakia**, **Ireland** and **Cyprus** to 32% in **Italy** and 31% in **Germany**.

As a result, the total age dependency ratio<sup>2</sup> in the **EU27** grew slightly over the last two decades, from 49.5% in 1992 to 50.2% in 2012, meaning there are around two persons of working age for each dependent person. In the Member States, the total age dependency ratio in 2012 ranged from 39% in **Slovakia** to 56% in **France** and 55% in **Sweden**.

## Highest marriage rate in Cyprus, lowest in Bulgaria

The marriage rate in the **EU27** has decreased continuously over the last two decades, from 6.3 marriages per 1000 persons in 1990 to 5.2‰ in 2000 and 4.4‰ in 2010. This pattern could be found in a majority of Member States. In 2011, the highest marriage rates were recorded in **Cyprus** (7.3 marriages per 1000 persons), **Lithuania** (6.3‰) and **Malta** (6.1‰), and the lowest in **Bulgaria** (2.9‰), **Slovenia** (3.2‰), **Luxembourg** (3.3‰), **Spain**, **Italy** and **Portugal** (all 3.4‰).

## Highest divorce rate in Latvia, lowest in Malta

Over the same period, the divorce rate in the **EU27** has increased slightly. In 1990, there were 1.6 divorces per 1000 persons in the **EU27**, while the rate was 1.8‰ in 2000 and 1.9‰ in 2009. In a majority of Member States, the divorce rate also grew over the last two decades. In 2011, the highest divorce rates were found in **Latvia** (4.0 divorces per 1000 persons) and **Lithuania** (3.4‰), while there was less than one divorce per 1000 persons in **Malta**<sup>3</sup> (0.1‰), **Ireland** (0.7‰) and **Italy** (0.9‰).

## Highest share of birth outside marriage in Estonia, lowest in Greece

The decreasing trend in the number of marriages is also reflected in an increase of children born outside marriage. In 1990, 17% of all live births in the **EU27** were outside marriage, compared with 27% in 2000 and 40% in 2011. Over this period, the share of live births outside marriage increased in all Member States.

There were considerable differences in the share of live births outside marriage across the Member States. In 1990, almost half of live births were outside marriage in **Sweden** and **Denmark**, while it was 2% or less in **Cyprus**, **Malta** and **Greece**. In 2011, the highest shares were registered in **Estonia** (60%), **Slovenia** (57%), **Bulgaria** and **France** (both 56%), and the lowest in **Greece** (7%), **Cyprus** (17%) and **Poland** (21%).

1. The **Special Supplement on Demographic Trends** is available free of charge in pdf format in the dedicated section for population statistics on the Eurostat website: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction>. Data presented in this News Release could differ from the data published in the report, due to updates made after the data extractions used for the publication.
2. The age dependency ratios show the level of support needed by the young and/or the old generation (**dependent generations**) from the working age population (15-64 years). The **total age dependency ratio** is calculated as the ratio of the sum of persons aged below 15 and 65 or older to the working age population. The **young age dependency ratio** is calculated as the ratio of persons aged below 15 to the working age population and the **old age dependency ratio** as the ratio of persons aged 65 years or older to the working age population.
3. Divorce has only been possible by law since 2011.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

**Julia URHAUSEN**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

For further information on the data:

**Veronica CORSINI**  
Tel: +352-4301-34 978  
[veronica.corsini@ec.europa.eu](mailto:veronica.corsini@ec.europa.eu)

Eurostat news releases on the internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

### Age dependency ratios, %

|                       | Total age dependency ratio |             | Young age dependency ratio |             | Old age dependency ratio |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|                       | 1992                       | 2012        | 1992                       | 2012        | 1992                     | 2012        |
| <b>EU27</b>           | <b>49.5</b>                | <b>50.2</b> | <b>28.5</b>                | <b>23.4</b> | <b>21.1</b>              | <b>26.8</b> |
| <b>Belgium</b>        | 50.1                       | 52.3        | 27.3                       | 25.9        | 22.9                     | 26.4        |
| <b>Bulgaria</b>       | 50.2                       | 47.5        | 29.4                       | 19.7        | 20.8                     | 27.8        |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | 50.0                       | 44.6        | 30.8                       | 21.2        | 19.1                     | 23.4        |
| <b>Denmark</b>        | 48.2                       | 53.9        | 25.1                       | 27.2        | 23.1                     | 26.7        |
| <b>Germany</b>        | 45.6                       | 51.2        | 23.8                       | 20.0        | 21.8                     | 31.2        |
| <b>Estonia</b>        | 51.5                       | 48.6        | 33.3                       | 23.0        | 18.2                     | 25.5        |
| <b>Ireland</b>        | 60.6                       | 50.4        | 42.2                       | 32.5        | 18.3                     | 17.9        |
| <b>Greece</b>         | 49.0                       | 51.7        | 28.0                       | 21.8        | 21.0                     | 29.9        |
| <b>Spain</b>          | 49.0                       | 48.4        | 28.0                       | 22.6        | 21.0                     | 25.8        |
| <b>France</b>         | 52.5                       | 55.5        | 30.8                       | 28.9        | 21.6                     | 26.6        |
| <b>Italy</b>          | 44.7                       | 53.1        | 22.3                       | 21.5        | 22.4                     | 31.6        |
| <b>Cyprus</b>         | 57.7                       | 41.5        | 40.4                       | 23.3        | 17.3                     | 18.1        |
| <b>Latvia</b>         | 51.1                       | 49.0        | 32.5                       | 21.3        | 18.6                     | 27.7        |
| <b>Lithuania</b>      | 50.9                       | 49.2        | 33.9                       | 22.2        | 17.0                     | 26.9        |
| <b>Luxembourg</b>     | 45.4                       | 45.1        | 25.7                       | 24.9        | 19.7                     | 20.3        |
| <b>Hungary</b>        | 49.5                       | 45.7        | 29.1                       | 21.1        | 20.4                     | 24.6        |
| <b>Malta</b>          | 50.8                       | 45.4        | 34.7                       | 21.4        | 16.0                     | 23.9        |
| <b>Netherlands</b>    | 45.4                       | 50.5        | 26.6                       | 26.1        | 18.8                     | 24.4        |
| <b>Austria</b>        | 48.3                       | 47.6        | 26.1                       | 21.4        | 22.1                     | 26.2        |
| <b>Poland</b>         | 53.6                       | 40.7        | 37.7                       | 21.2        | 15.9                     | 19.4        |
| <b>Portugal</b>       | 49.9                       | 52.1        | 29.0                       | 22.5        | 20.9                     | 29.6        |
| <b>Romania</b>        | 50.9                       | 43.0        | 34.3                       | 21.5        | 16.6                     | 21.5        |
| <b>Slovenia</b>       | 45.2                       | 45.1        | 29.1                       | 20.8        | 16.1                     | 24.4        |
| <b>Slovakia</b>       | 53.8                       | 39.2        | 37.8                       | 21.5        | 16.0                     | 17.8        |
| <b>Finland</b>        | 48.8                       | 52.9        | 28.6                       | 25.2        | 20.3                     | 27.7        |
| <b>Sweden</b>         | 56.2                       | 55.1        | 28.5                       | 25.9        | 27.7                     | 29.2        |
| <b>United Kingdom</b> | 54.0                       | 52.5        | 29.7                       | 26.7        | 24.3                     | 25.9        |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | :                          | 47.7        | :                          | 22.1        | :                        | 25.6        |

: Data not available

## Marriages, divorce and live births outside marriage

|                       | Crude marriage rate*<br>(marriages per 1000 persons) |            |            | Crude divorce rate**<br>(divorces per 1000 persons) |            |            | Live births outside marriage***<br>(% of total live births) |             |             |
|-----------------------|--|------------|------------|---|------------|------------|---|-------------|-------------|
|                       | 1990   | 2000       | 2011       | 1990  | 2000       | 2011       | 1990  | 2000        | 2011        |
| <b>EU27</b>           | <b>6.3</b>   | <b>5.2</b> | <b>4.4</b> | <b>1.6</b>  | <b>1.8</b> | <b>1.9</b> | <b>17.4</b>   | <b>27.4</b> | <b>39.5</b> |
| <b>Belgium</b>        | 6.5  | 4.4        | 4.1        | 2.0   | 2.6        | 2.9        | 11.6  | 28.0        | 50.0        |
| <b>Bulgaria</b>       | 6.9  | 4.3        | 2.9        | 1.3   | 1.3        | 1.4        | 12.4  | 38.4        | 56.1        |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | 8.8  | 5.4        | 4.3        | 3.1   | 2.9        | 2.7        | 8.6   | 21.8        | 41.8        |
| <b>Denmark</b>        | 6.1  | 7.2        | 4.9        | 2.7   | 2.7        | 2.6        | 46.4  | 44.6        | 49.0        |
| <b>Germany</b>        | 6.5  | 5.1        | 4.6        | 1.9   | 2.4        | 2.3        | 15.3  | 23.4        | 33.9        |
| <b>Estonia</b>        | 7.5  | 4.0        | 4.1        | 3.7   | 3.1        | 2.3        | 27.2  | 54.5        | 59.7        |
| <b>Ireland</b>        | 5.1  | 5.0        | 4.3        | -   | 0.7        | 0.7        | 14.6  | 31.5        | 33.7        |
| <b>Greece</b>         | 5.8  | 4.5        | 4.9        | 0.6   | 1.0        | 1.2        | 2.2   | 4.0         | 7.4         |
| <b>Spain</b>          | 5.7  | 5.4        | 3.4        | 0.6   | 0.9        | 2.2        | 9.6   | 17.7        | 37.4        |
| <b>France</b>         | 5.1  | 5.0        | 3.6        | 1.9   | 1.9        | 2.0        | 30.1  | 43.6        | 55.8        |
| <b>Italy</b>          | 5.6  | 5.0        | 3.4        | 0.5   | 0.7        | 0.9        | 6.5   | 9.7         | 23.4        |
| <b>Cyprus</b>         | 9.7  | 13.4       | 7.3        | 0.6   | 1.7        | 2.3        | 0.7   | 2.3         | 16.9        |
| <b>Latvia</b>         | 8.9  | 3.9        | 5.2        | 4.0   | 2.6        | 4.0        | 16.9  | 40.3        | 44.6        |
| <b>Lithuania</b>      | 9.8  | 4.8        | 6.3        | 3.4   | 3.1        | 3.4        | 7.0   | 22.6        | 30.0        |
| <b>Luxembourg</b>     | 6.1  | 4.9        | 3.3        | 2.0   | 2.4        | 2.1        | 12.8  | 21.9        | 34.1        |
| <b>Hungary</b>        | 6.4  | 4.7        | 3.6        | 2.4   | 2.3        | 2.3        | 13.1  | 29.0        | 42.3        |
| <b>Malta</b>          | 7.1  | 6.7        | 6.1        | -   | -          | 0.1        | 1.8   | 10.6        | 22.7        |
| <b>Netherlands</b>    | 6.5  | 5.5        | 4.3        | 1.9   | 2.2        | 2.0        | 11.4  | 24.9        | 45.3        |
| <b>Austria</b>        | 5.9  | 4.9        | 4.3        | 2.1   | 2.4        | 2.1        | 23.6  | 31.3        | 40.4        |
| <b>Poland</b>         | 6.7  | 5.5        | 5.4        | 1.1   | 1.1        | 1.7        | 6.2   | 12.1        | 21.2        |
| <b>Portugal</b>       | 7.2  | 6.2        | 3.4        | 0.9   | 1.9        | 2.5        | 14.7  | 22.2        | 42.8        |
| <b>Romania</b>        | 8.3  | 6.1        | 4.9        | 1.4   | 1.4        | 1.7        | :   | 25.5        | 30.0        |
| <b>Slovenia</b>       | 4.3  | 3.6        | 3.2        | 0.9   | 1.1        | 1.1        | 24.5  | 37.1        | 56.8        |
| <b>Slovakia</b>       | 7.6  | 4.8        | 4.7        | 1.7   | 1.7        | 2.1        | 7.6   | 18.3        | 34.0        |
| <b>Finland</b>        | 5.0  | 5.1        | 5.3        | 2.6   | 2.7        | 2.5        | 25.2  | 39.2        | 40.9        |
| <b>Sweden</b>         | 4.7  | 4.5        | 5.0        | 2.3   | 2.4        | 2.5        | 47.0  | 55.3        | 54.3        |
| <b>United Kingdom</b> | 6.6  | 5.2        | 4.5        | 2.7   | 2.6        | 2.1        | 27.9  | 39.5        | 47.3        |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | 5.9  | 4.9        | 4.6        | 1.1   | 1.0        | 1.3        | 7.0   | 9.0         | 14.0        |

\* 2010 instead of 2011 for the EU27 and the United Kingdom; France: data for 1990 exclude the overseas departments; Cyprus: data for 1990 and 2000 refer to total marriages, including marriages between non-residents, 2011 data refer to marriages with at least one spouse residing in the country.

\*\* 2010 instead of 2011 for Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom; 2009 instead of 2011 for EU27 and Greece; France: data for 1990 exclude the overseas departments.

\*\*\* EU27: data for 1990 exclude Romania; France: data for 1990 exclude the overseas departments.

: Data not available

- Not applicable. Divorce was not possible by law in Ireland until 1995 and in Malta until 2011.