

POPULATION AS AT 1 JANUARY 1992: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - 346 MILLION EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA - 379 MILLION

According to Eurostat estimates based on the latest available figures, the European Community had a population of 346 million as at 1 January 1992. Eurostat now presents the corresponding figures for the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) for the first time. The signing of the European Economic Area (EEA) Treaty in Oporto on 2 May 1992 ratified the creation of a market offering free movement of people, capital and goods. The 33 million inhabitants of the seven EFTA member countries, i.e. Austria (A), Finland (SF), Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (FL), Norway (N), Sweden (S) and Switzerland (CH), bring the population of the EEA to more than 379 million.

UNEVEN POPULATION SPREAD

As at 1 January 1992, the 19 countries making up the European Economic Area formed a heterogeneous group, in terms of population size, of 379 million inhabitants spread very unevenly over an area of 3.7 million sq km.

The population of these countries ranges from 30 000 (Liechtenstein) to 80.2 million (Germany) (Graph 1), while their population density varies from 2.5 (Iceland) to 364.5 inhabitants per sq km (Netherlands).

Within the EEA, the EFTA countries account for 8.7% of the population but 36.1% of the total area. EFTA's population density of 24.5 inhabitants/sq km is in fact appreciably lower than that of the EC (146.2 inhabitants/sq km). It is due mainly to the vast sparsely populated territories of the four northern countries (Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden).

SIMILAR POPULATION GROWTH

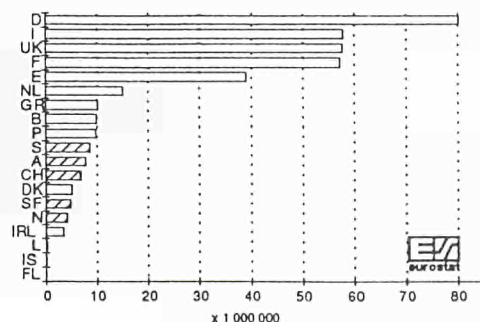
In both 1990 and 1991, all the EEA countries had a positive natural balance, with the exception of Germany (-0.2 per thousand in 1990 and -0.9 per thousand in 1991).

In 1991, the Community's natural growth fell to 505 100 from 616 000 in 1990, a drop of 18%.

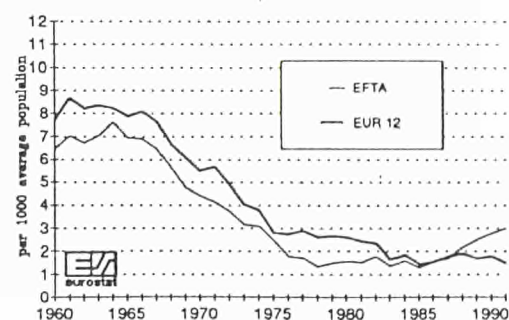
Over the same period, EFTA's natural growth rose from 90000 to 98000, an increase of 9% in a year.

Between 1960 and the beginning of the 1980s, EFTA's natural growth rate had followed a similar pattern to that of the Community, although always at a lower level (Graph 2). In the mid-1980s, the respective rates came close together and the end of the decade was characterized by an upturn in the EFTA rate that was not matched by the Community.

Graph 1 : Total population of EEA countries - 1 January 1992



Graph 2 : Rate of natural increase



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For further information please contact: A. FRANCO
Eurostat, L-2920 Luxembourg, tel. 4301-3209 Fax: 4301 4415

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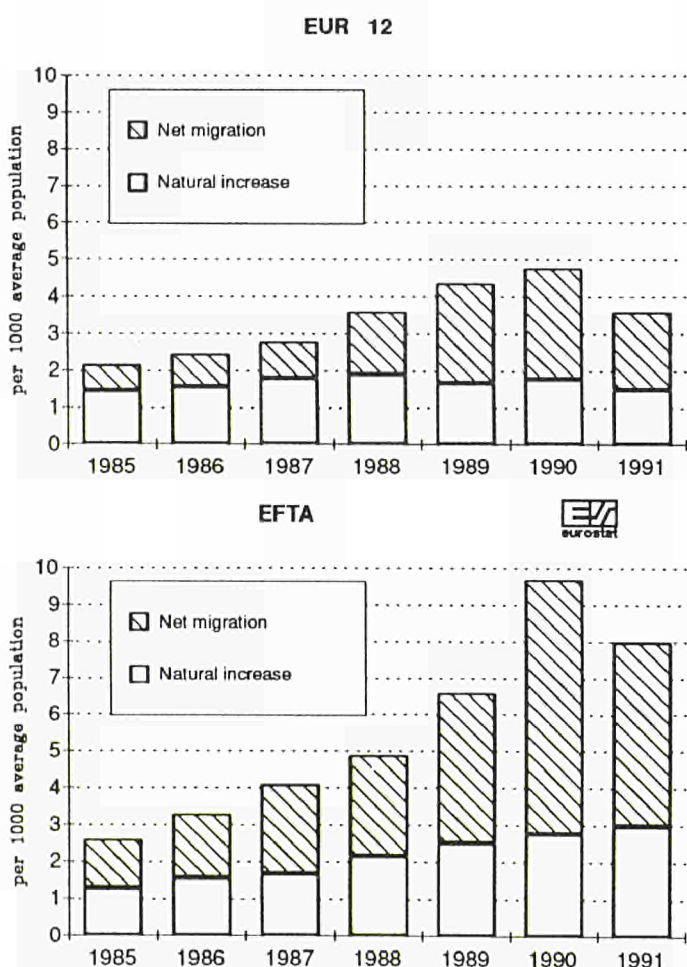
Table 1 : Population change in 1991 - EUR 12 and EFTA (1)

| COUNTRY | Population 1-1-1992 ⁽²⁾ (1000) | Births (1000) | Deaths (1000) | Natural Increase (1000) | Net migration (1000) | Total Increase (1000) | Rates (per 1000 population) | | | | |
|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | | Birth | Mortality | Natural Increase | Net migration | Total Increase |
| B | 10,022.0 | 126.1 | 105.2 | 20.9 | 14.1* | 35.0 | 12.6 | 10.5 | 2.1 | -1.4* | 3.5 |
| DK | 5,162.1 | 64.5 | 59.5 | 5.0 | 10.9 | 15.9 | 12.6 | 11.6 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| D | 80,170.0 | 828.3 | 900.8 | -72.5 | 490.0 | 417.5 | 10.4 | 11.3 | -0.9 | 6.1 | 5.2 |
| GR | 10,250.0 | 100.0 | 93.5 | 6.5 | 43.5 | 50.0 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 0.6 | 4.3 | 4.9 |
| E | 39,055.9 | 386.5 | 338.2 | 48.3 | 13.8* | 62.1 | 9.9 | 8.7 | 1.2 | 0.4* | 1.6 |
| F | 57,206.2 | 758.4 | 526.0 | 232.4 | 80.0 | 312.4 | 13.3 | 9.2 | 4.1 | 1.4 | 5.5 |
| IRL | 3,532.0 | 52.7 | 31.5 | 21.2 | -8.0* | 13.2 | 15.0 | 8.9 | 6.0 | -2.3* | 3.7 |
| I | 57,788.2 | 558.8 | 546.9 | 11.9 | 34.9 | 46.8 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| L | 389.8 | 5.0 | 3.7 | 1.2 | 4.2 | 5.4 | 12.9 | 9.7 | 3.2 | 10.8 | 14.0 |
| NL | 15,128.6 | 198.6 | 129.9 | 68.7 | 62.8 | 131.5 | 13.2 | 8.6 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 8.7 |
| P | 9,845.6 | 116.4 | 104.4 | 12.1 | -25.0 | -12.9 | 11.8 | 10.6 | 1.2 | -2.5 | -1.3 |
| UK | 57,642.0* | 792.5 | 643.1 | 149.4 | 6.8* | 156.2* | 13.8 | 11.2 | 2.6 | 0.1* | 2.7* |
| EUR12 | 346,192.4 | 3,987.8 | 3,482.7 | 505.1 | 728.1 | 1,233.1 | 11.5 | 10.1 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 3.6 |
| A | 7,860.8 | 94.6 | 83.4 | 11.2 | 58.7 | 69.9 | 12.1 | 10.7 | 1.4 | 7.5 | 8.9 |
| SF | 5,029.3 | 65.7 | 49.1 | 16.5 | 13.8 | 30.4 | 13.1 | 9.8 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 6.1 |
| IS | 259.7 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 1.0 | 3.7 | 17.6 | 7.0 | 10.6 | 3.9 | 14.5 |
| N | 4,273.6 | 60.8 | 44.9 | 15.9 | 8.0 | 23.9 | 14.3 | 10.5 | 3.7 | 1.9 | 5.6 |
| S | 8,644.1 | 123.6 | 95.0 | 28.6 | 25.0 | 53.5 | 14.3 | 11.0 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 6.2 |
| CH | 6,831.9 | 85.7 | 62.5 | 23.2 | 56.9 | 80.1 | 12.6 | 9.2 | 3.4 | 8.4 | 11.8 |
| FL | 29.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 14.2 | 6.4 | 7.8 | 0.9 | 8.7 |
| EFTA | 32,928.9 | 433.5 | 337.0 | 98.3 | 163.5 | 261.8 | 13.3 | 10.3 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 8.0 |
| EEA | 379,121.3 | 4,423.1 | 3,819.7 | 603.4 | 891.5 | 1,494.9 | 11.7 | 10.1 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 4.0 |

(1) Provisional
(2) Resident population for Italy. Including administrative corrections for Netherlands

* EUROSTAT estimate

Graph 3 : Components of total increase



In 1991, net migration was lower than in the previous year for both groups (Graph 3). The rate is more than twice as high for EFTA than for the Community (5 per thousand as against 2.1 per thousand).

At present, all the EFTA countries have positive balances of migration, with Switzerland, Austria and Sweden leading the way.

In 1991, the Community's net migration fell by 30%, mainly as a result of the 21% drop in the figure for Germany.

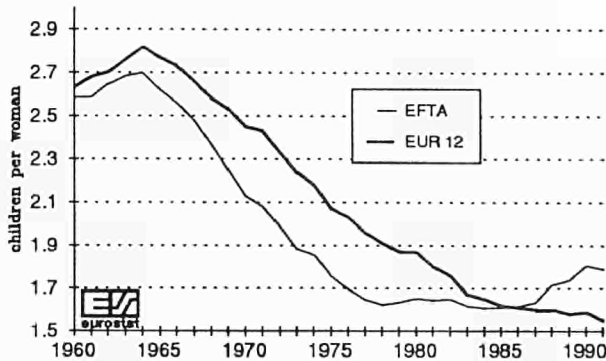
This factor makes a substantial contribution to the total population increase. It is of the same order of magnitude for both groups (58% for the Community and 63% for EFTA).

Following an unbroken rise in the rate of total increase since 1985, there was thus a reversal of the trend in 1991. In the case of the Community, this fall was due to the reduction in both the natural and migratory balances, whereas in the case of EFTA it was due solely to the decline in net migration.

SLIGHT DROP IN FERTILITY

In 1991 fertility declined in both the Community (-2.5%) and the EFTA countries (-1.1%). (Graph 4)

Graph 4 : Total fertility



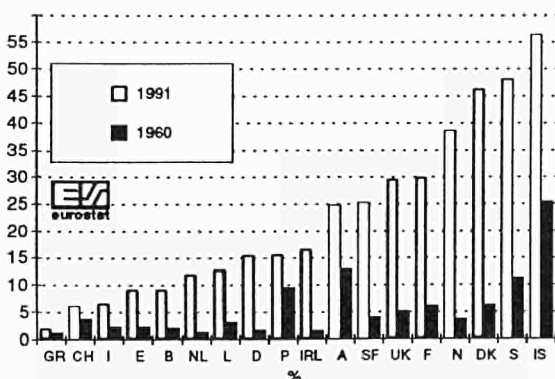
Among the EFTA countries, the rise in fertility observed since 1984 in Sweden, 1986 in Norway, 1987 in Iceland and 1988 in Finland came to a halt in Norway and fell by 1.9% in Sweden, 12% in Iceland and 4.5% in Finland. This trend does not seem to affect Switzerland, where fertility has increased by 8% since 1986, or Austria, where the fertility rate which had fluctuated around 1.45 children per woman since 1986 rose to 1.51 in 1991.

The divide between the Community countries is becoming ever more apparent: in the south, the drop in fertility is continuing despite the very low levels already reached, i.e. 1.26 children per woman in Italy and 1.28 in Spain. In 1991, the decline was most marked in Portugal (-5.3%). In the north, the fertility rate which had been stable for some two to three years went up again slightly in Denmark and the Netherlands.

RECORD LEVELS

Almost one birth in three takes place out of wedlock in the EFTA countries and one in five in the EC. The increase in the proportion of births outside marriage applied to all the EEA countries in 1991, as it has done since the beginning of the 1970s.

Graph 5 : Births outside marriage



The levels are now quite startling in the countries of northern Europe, where one birth in every two takes place out of wedlock. Iceland leads the way with 56.4%, followed by Sweden (48.2%) and Denmark (46.4%). France (30.1%) and the United Kingdom (29.7%) are catching up rapidly, with an annual rate of increase of around 2%.

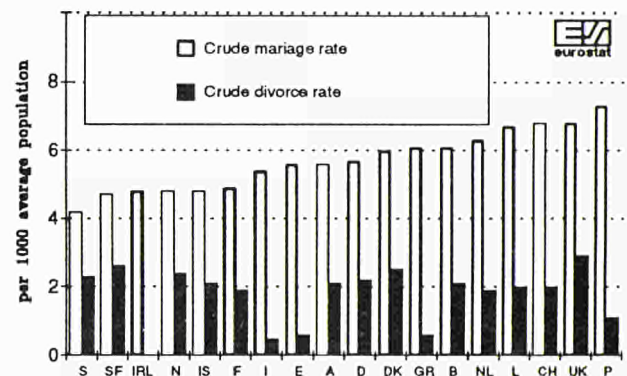
However, some countries such as Switzerland (6.1%) and Italy (6.6%) stand well apart from this trend, even though their percentage of births outside marriage has doubled in 30 years. With a figure of only 2.0%, Greece remains a special case. (Graph 5)

LESS PROPENSITY TO MARRIAGE

As in the case of fertility, 1991 saw a decline in the propensity to marriage compared with 1990 (-3.3% marriages in the Community and -4.9% in EFTA).

None of the industrialized countries has remained unaffected by the profound changes that have been

Graph 6 : Crude marriage and divorce rates - 1991



taking place since the 1970s in the size of families, the stability of partnerships and the way they are constituted. The signs of these new behaviour patterns may, however, take different forms from one country to the next: disinclination to marriage, which is replaced by couples living together, increased fragility of marriages, which more often than not end in divorce, or a combination of the two.

The EFTA countries, apart from Austria and Switzerland, have gross marriage rates of less than 5 per thousand. These low figures for the Scandinavian countries reflect the shift from marriage towards living together, which is quite widespread among the younger age groups (under 25). This is often followed by marriage at a later age.

Among the Community countries, only France and Ireland are now below the 5 per thousand mark. In contrast, Portugal still has the highest crude marriage rate in the EEA (7.3 per thousand). (Graph 6)

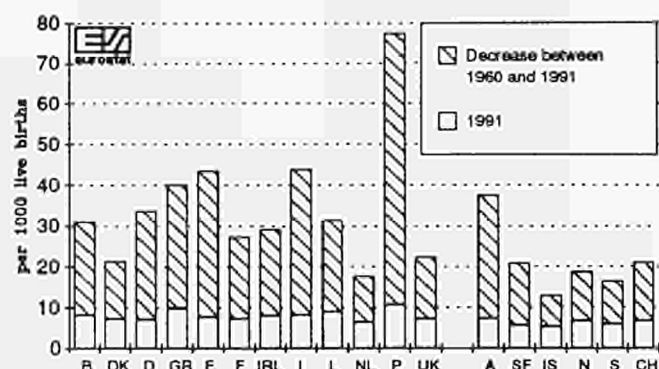
There is also a difference in the divorce rate between the two groups of countries. All the EFTA countries have gross rates of 2.0 per thousand or more, whereas in the Community this is the case for only five countries (B, DK, D, L and UK).

SOME OF THE LOWEST INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN THE WORLD

With infant mortality rates of between 5.5 per thousand (Iceland) and 7.5 per thousand (Austria), the EFTA countries lead the way worldwide, along with Japan (4.6 per thousand in 1990). Apart from Austria, they were already in a very favourable position in 1960, with rates of around 20.0 per thousand. However, a slight slowing down of progress in the Scandinavian countries is tending to cut their lead. The infant mortality rate in the Netherlands (6.5 per thousand) is comparable to that of the EFTA countries. Despite rapid and significant progress over the last 30 years, Greece (10.0 per thousand) and Portugal (10.8 per thousand) are still at the same levels as the Scandinavian countries in the early 1970s and as the other EEA countries at the beginning of the 1980s. (Graph 7)

The improvement in life expectancy at birth is continuing despite a slight slowdown in the leading countries. For women, it is now in excess of 80 years in five countries: France (81.1) and Spain (80.1) in the Community and Switzerland (80.8), Sweden (80.5) and Iceland (80.3) in EFTA. For men, it is highest in Iceland (75.7) and Sweden (75.0), followed by Switzerland (74.0). There are still considerable disparities in life expectancy at birth between men and women, the gap being greatest at

Graph 7 : Infant mortality rate (comparison between 1960 and 1991)



around 8 years in France and Finland and smallest in Iceland (4.6).

Demographic trends in all these countries are converging towards an increased ageing of the population on account of fertility stagnating at levels below the generation replacement threshold and a steady improvement - even though it is slowing down - in health conditions. The EEA already has the highest proportion of elderly persons in the world, and it will inevitably grow older.

Table 2 : Main demographic indicators 1991 - EUR 12 and EFTA (1)

| COUNTRY | Average population 1991 (1000) | FERTILITY | | MARRIAGES | | DIVORCES | | MORTALITY | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Total fertility (2) | % of births outside marriage | Marriages (1000) | Crude marriage rate (3) | Divorces (1000) | Divorces per 1000 population | Deaths under one year | Infant mortality rate (4) | Life expectancy at birth | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Males (years) | Females (years) |
| B | 10,004.5* | 1.57 | 9.1 ⁽⁵⁾ | 60.8 | 6.1 | 20.8 | 2.1 | 1,062 | 8.4 | 72.7 ⁽⁸⁾ | 79.4 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| DK | 5,124.3 | 1.68 | 46.4 ⁽⁸⁾ | 30.9 | 6.0 | 12.6 | 2.5 | 473 ⁽⁶⁾ | 7.3 ⁽⁸⁾ | 72.0 ⁽⁸⁾ | 77.7 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| D | 79,966.6* | 1.35* | 15.5 ⁽⁷⁾ | 453.3 | 5.7 | 176.7 ⁽⁷⁾ | 2.2 ⁽⁷⁾ | 6,000* | 7.2* | 72.0 ⁽⁸⁾ | 77.7 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| GR | 10,225.0 | 1.40 | 2.0 | 62.0 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 0.6 | 1,000 | 10.0 | 73.6 ⁽⁸⁾ | 78.6 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| E | 39,024.9 | 1.28 | 9.1 ⁽⁶⁾ | 219.8 | 5.6 | 23.1 ⁽⁷⁾ | 0.6 ⁽⁷⁾ | 3,015 | 7.8 | 73.4 ⁽⁸⁾ | 80.1 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| F | 57,049.7 | 1.77 | 30.1 ⁽⁸⁾ | 280.5 | 4.9 | 105.8 ⁽⁸⁾ | 1.9 ⁽⁸⁾ | 5,600 | 7.4 | 73.0 | 81.1 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| IRL | 3,524.1 | 2.18 | 16.6 | 16.9 | 4.8 | - | - | 430 | 8.2 | 71.9 ⁽⁸⁾ | 77.4 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| I | 57,767.2 | 1.26 | 6.6 | 309.1 | 5.4 | 26.5 | 0.5 | 4,630 | 8.3 | 73.2 ⁽⁶⁾ | 79.7 ⁽⁶⁾ |
| L | 387.1 | 1.64* | 12.9 ⁽⁸⁾ | 2.6 | 6.7 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 46 | 9.2 | 72.3 ⁽⁸⁾ | 78.5 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| NL | 15,069.5 | 1.61 | 12.0 | 94.9 | 6.3 | 28.0 | 1.9 | 1,288 | 6.5 | 73.7 | 79.8 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| P | 9,852.1 | 1.42* | 15.6 | 71.8 | 7.3 | 10.6 | 1.1 | 1,259 | 10.8 | 70.2 ⁽⁸⁾ | 77.3 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| UK | 57,561.0* | 1.82* | 29.7 | 390.0* | 6.8* | 167.5 ⁽⁸⁾ | 2.9 ⁽⁸⁾ | 5,823 | 7.3 | 72.9 ⁽⁸⁾ | 78.5 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| EUR12* | 345,556.0 | 1.55 | 19.8 | 1,992.5 | 5.8 | 580.0 | 1.7 | 30,626 | 7.7 | 72.7⁽⁶⁾ | 79.3⁽⁶⁾ |
| A | 7,825.3 | 1.50 | 24.8 | 44.1 | 5.6 | 16.4 | 2.1 | 708 | 7.5 | 72.6 | 79.2⁽⁸⁾ |
| SF | 5,013.9 | 1.71 | 25.2⁽⁸⁾ | 23.6 | 4.7 | 12.8 | 2.6 | 378 | 5.8 | 70.9⁽⁸⁾ | 78.9⁽⁸⁾ |
| IS | 258.0 | 2.19 | 56.4 | 1.2 | 4.8 | 0.5 | 2.1 | 25 | 5.5 | 75.7⁽⁸⁾ | 80.3⁽⁸⁾ |
| N | 4,261.7 | 1.92* | 38.6 | 20.3 | 4.8 | 10.3 | 2.4 | 419⁽⁸⁾ | 6.9⁽⁸⁾ | 73.4⁽⁸⁾ | 79.8⁽⁸⁾ |
| S | 8,617.4 | 2.10 | 48.2 | 35.9 | 4.2 | 19.5 | 2.3 | 757 | 6.1 | 75.0 | 80.5⁽⁸⁾ |
| CH | 6,791.3 | 1.60* | 6.1⁽⁸⁾ | 46.3 | 6.8 | 13.7 | 2.0 | 580 | 6.9 | 74.0⁽⁹⁾ | 80.8⁽⁹⁾ |
| FL | 29.2 | : | 7.7 | 0.4 | 12.1 | 0.0 | 1.2 | : | : | 69.5 | 73.6 |
| EFTA* | 32,796.7 | 1.79 | 30.2 | 171.7 | 5.2 | 73.2 | 2.2 | 2,867 | 6.6 | 73.5 | 79.9 |
| EEA* | 378,352.7 | 1.57 | 20.8 | 2,164.2 | 5.7 | 653.2 | 1.7 | 33,493 | 7.6 | 72.8 | 79.4 |

* Estimation EUROSTAT
(2) children per woman
(6) 1988

(1) provisional
(3) per 1000 average population
(7) 1989

(4) per 1000 live births
(8) 1990

(5) 1987
(9) 1989 - 90

INFORMATIONS:
François BEGEOT - 4301-4905
Ana FRANCO - 4301-3209