

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 7/2002

POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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Migration keeps the EU population growing

During 2000, the EU population increased by slightly more than one million. This growth was mainly due to the net inflow of international migrants (680 thousand)¹. Natural growth (births minus deaths) contributed only about one third to the total growth (372 thousand). However, compared to 1999, net migration decreased in 2000 while natural growth increased. The latter development is both due to more births (1.0 per cent) and fewer deaths (-1.9 per cent). If there has been any 'millennium effect' on births, it is particularly noticeable for France, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands (all had an increase of over 3 per cent).

As shown in Figure 1, population growth slowed in the years from 1992 to 1997. However this process came to an end in 1997 and appears to reverse from then on.

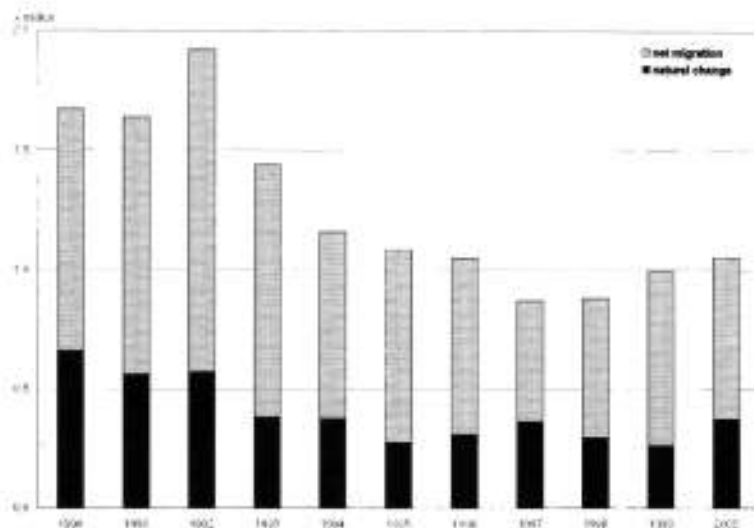


Figure 1: Population growth in the EU, 1990-2000

Most migrants went to Italy, the UK and Germany

In absolute numbers, net migration in 2000 was highest in Italy, followed by the United Kingdom and Germany (Table 1). Together, these countries account for more than 60 per cent of the total net migration of the EU. None of the countries show a negative net migration. The lowest absolute levels can be found in Finland and Luxembourg. Without international migration, Germany, Greece, Italy and Sweden would have experienced a population loss.

Measured in relative numbers, per thousand of the population, the picture looks rather different. Then, net migration in 2000 was highest in Luxembourg, followed by Ireland. In addition to a relatively high natural growth, these countries also show the strongest total population increase in the EU. The lowest net migration levels, less than one per thousand of the population, were reported by Finland, Spain and France. As a result of a significant negative natural growth and a modest positive migration surplus, the total population increase per thousand of the population in 2000 was smallest in Germany.



¹ Net migration in Figures 1-2 and in Table 1 has been calculated as the difference between the total population on 1 January and 31 December of the same year minus the difference between births and deaths during that year. Immigration, emigration and net migration in the Figures 3, 4 and 5 refer to specific migration sources/statistics. Due to the use of different definitions Figures 1-2 and Table 1 on the one hand and Figures 3-5 on the other hand are not fully comparable.

Table 1: Population growth per EU-country, 2000

	Population 1.1.2000	Natural increase	Net migration	Total increase	Population 1.1.2001	Natural increase	Net migration	Total increase
	x 1,000					per 1,000 population		
EU-15	376 455.2	372.4	680.4	1 052.8	377 507.9	1.0	1.8	2.8
Belgium	10 239.1	10.9	12.1	23.1	10 262.2	1.1	1.2	2.3
Denmark	5 330.0	9.0	10.1	19.2	5 349.2	1.7	1.9	3.6
Germany	82 163.5	-76.2	105.3	29.1	82 192.6	-0.9	1.3	0.4
Greece	10 542.8	-2.0	23.9	21.9	10 564.7	-0.2	2.3	2.1
Spain	39 441.7	27.2	20.8	48.0	39 489.6	0.7	0.5	1.2
France	59 225.7	240.6	55.0	295.6	59 521.3	4.1	0.9	5.0
Ireland	3 776.6	23.1	20.0	43.1	3 819.7	6.1	5.3	11.4
Italy	57 679.9	-17.2	181.3	164.1	57 844.0	-0.3	3.1	2.8
Luxembourg	435.7	2.0	3.6	5.6	441.3	4.5	8.3	12.9
Netherlands	15 864.0	66.1	53.1	119.2	15 983.1	4.2	3.3	7.5
Austria	8 102.6	1.5	17.3	18.8	8 121.3	0.2	2.1	2.3
Portugal	9 997.6	14.3	11.0	25.3	10 022.8	1.4	1.1	2.5
Finland	5 171.3	7.4	2.4	9.8	5 181.1	1.4	0.5	1.9
Sweden	8 861.4	-3.0	24.4	21.4	8 882.8	-0.3	2.8	2.4
United Kingdom	59 623.4	68.7	140.0	208.7	59 832.1	1.2	2.3	3.5

No uniform migration trends within the EU

Comparing 2000 with the 1990s, it appears that annual net migration per thousand EU-inhabitants in 2000 is lower than in the first half of the decade but equals the average level of the second half (see Figure 2). However, there are remarkable differences between countries in this respect. For example, in Germany, net migration per thousand population fell by 80 per cent (from 7.0 via 2.5 to 1.3). Countries with a strong decrease in net migration per thousand in the second

half of the 1990s followed by some recovery in 2000 are Austria, Sweden, Greece and France. On the other hand, the negative migration surplus in the first half of the 1990s in Ireland and Portugal significantly reversed during the second half, of the decade. Apart from Luxembourg, Ireland became the EU-country with the highest net migration per thousand of the population in 2000.

Most immigrants are non-EU nationals

Figure 3 provides a picture of the composition of immigration flows by broad groups of citizenship: nationals, other EU-nationals and non-EU nationals. The same is done in Figure 4 with regard to emigration. As not all EU-countries are able to provide these data, a complete overview is not possible.

For most of the countries considered (9 out of 12), non-EU nationals are the most numerous group in the immigration flows. In five countries more than half of the

total number of immigrants are non-EU nationals, with Italy on top (71 per cent), followed by Austria (66), Germany (57), Sweden (56), and the Netherlands (52). The percentage of nationals in the immigration flows varies from 8 in Luxembourg to 53 in Ireland. Not unexpected but nevertheless striking is the high percentage of other EU-nationals entering Luxembourg (69) and Belgium (44). The lowest shares of other EU-nationals in the immigration flows can be observed for Italy (8 per cent) and Denmark (13 per cent).

Generally more nationals in emigration flows

Obviously, the presence of nationals in the emigration flows is more prominent than in the immigration flows. Germany is the only exception to this rule. For Finland and Italy, the percentage of nationals in the emigration flows is greater than 80; for the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden more than 60. Here too, Luxembourg and Belgium clearly differ from the other countries as regards the share of other EU-nationals (more than 70 per cent for Luxembourg and more than 40 for Belgium). Finally, the emigration flows of Germany and Austria are characterized by high shares of non-EU nationals.

Figure 5, which is based on data available, shows net migration for main citizenship groups, measured in absolute numbers. In the majority of the countries considered (eight out of ten) the international migration of nationals leads to a negative balance, while for other EU-nationals and non-EU nationals a positive balance results. Together these flows add up to a positive net migration. For Germany the picture is different: a positive surplus of national migrants and a negative surplus of other EU-nationals. Luxembourg is the only country which experienced positive migration for all broad citizenship groups.

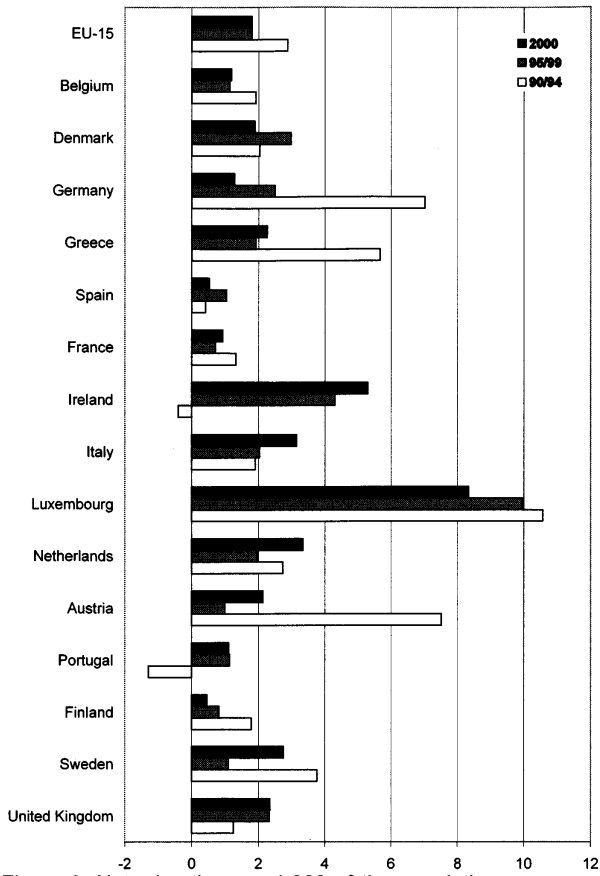


Figure 2: Net migration per 1,000 of the population per EU-country, 1990/1994, 1995/1999 and 2000

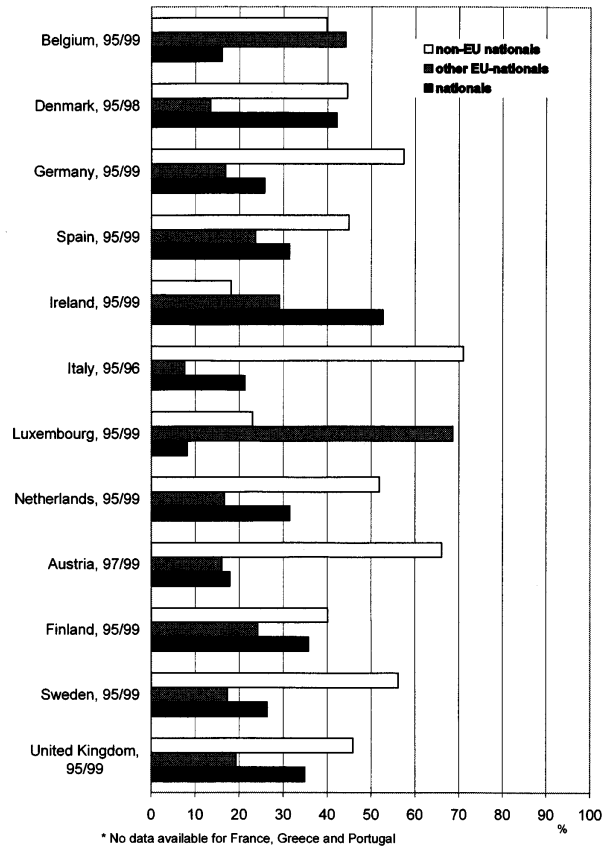


Figure 3: Immigration by broad groups of citizenship per EU-country (total=100%)*

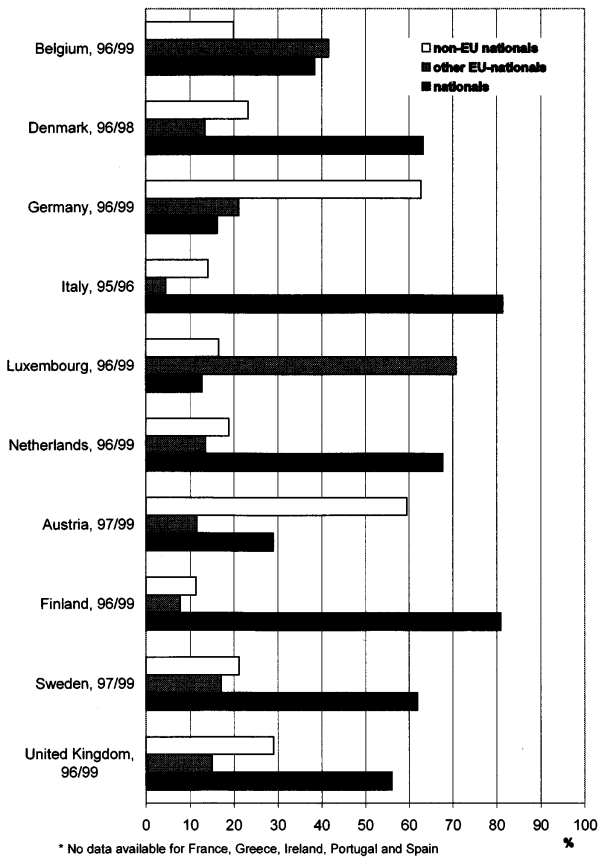


Figure 4: Emigration by broad groups of citizenship per EU-country (total=100%)*

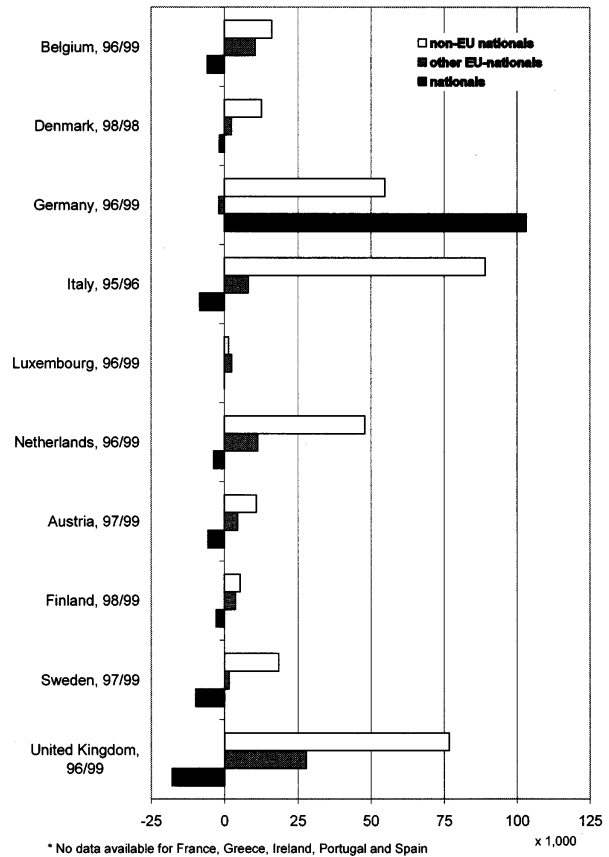


Figure 5: Net migration by broad groups of citizenship per EU-country (x 1,000)*

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