

First demographic estimates for 2002

Based upon monthly data available at the end of 2002, latest forecasts and expert opinion, the net inflow of international migrants (immigration minus emigration) to the European Union is expected to show a very slight decrease in 2002 to a level of just over 1 million people, against 1 150 000 persons in 2001.

The number of live births is expected to reach a post-war low of 3.99 million while the total number of deaths is expected to increase slightly. Natural population growth (live births minus deaths) is therefore forecast to decrease from 369 000 in 2001 to 315 000 in 2002.

Consequently, total population growth is estimated to reach a level of around 1.3 million (compared to 1.5 million in 2001), bringing the EU population on 1 January 2003 to 378.5 million.

Population censuses were held in 2000 and 2001 in most EU countries. This has led to lower than expected population counts on 1 January 2001 and 2002, notably for Italy and the UK. There is therefore a break in series in 2000, 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.

The population of the 10 Acceding Countries amounted to 74.5 million people on 1 January 2003. This is a decrease of 135 000 compared with 1 January 2002. This decline is mainly due to negative natural growth (deaths outnumbering live births). Negative net migration also played an important role in the population decline.

EU population continues to increase slowly, irregularly...

During the last 50 years, the population of the present EU has grown from 295 to over 378 million (Figure 1). In 1953, the EU's population exceeded 300 million. Thereafter it took 10, 13 and 22 years respectively to increase by 25 million inhabitants. Thus, population growth began to slow during the last 2-3 decades.

With an estimated population growth of over 1.3 million people, 2002 fits fairly well in this latter general trend. Although during the second half of the 1990s lower levels were recorded, the latest increase is much smaller than those observed during the 1960s (on average 2.5 million a year).

In relative terms, the EU population is expected to grow by 0.36% in 2002. Again compared with the late 1990s, this level is slightly higher, but from a longer-term perspective, it is a rather modest rise (Figure 2).

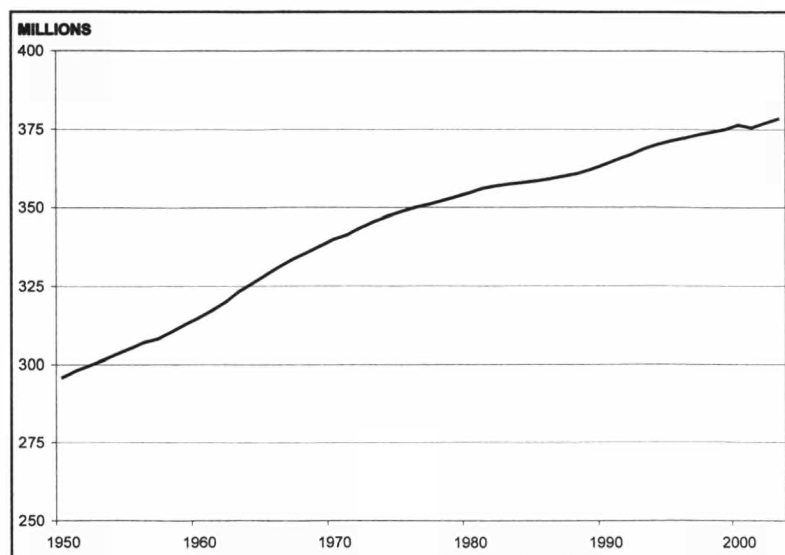


Figure 1: Total population, EU-15, 1950-2003

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 25/2002

POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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Table 1: Population change in 2002 (first estimates)

COUNTRY	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total
	1.1.2002	births		increase	migration ¹⁾	increase	1.1.2003	births		increase	migration ¹⁾	increase
	(1000)						per 1000 population					
EU-15	377 128.3	3 990.1	3 675.4	314.7	1 027.6	1 342.3	378 470.6	10.6	9.7	0.8	2.7	3.6
Euro-zone ²⁾	303 922.5	3 173.4	2 919.6	253.9	876.7	1 130.6	305 053.0	10.4	9.6	0.8	2.9	3.7
Belgium	10 309.7	113.6	107.2	6.4	30.0	36.4	10 346.2	11.0	10.4	0.6	2.9	3.5
Denmark	5 368.4	63.7	58.5	5.3	14.0	19.3	5 387.6	11.9	10.9	1.0	2.6	3.6
Germany	82 440.3	725.0	840.0	-115.0	230.0	115	82 555.3	8.8	10.2	-1.4	2.8	1.4
Greece	10 988.0	98.9	103.6	-4.6	35.0	30.4	11 018.4	9.0	9.4	-0.4	3.2	2.8
Spain	40 409.3	420.0	373.0	47.0	227.0	274.0	40 683.3	10.4	9.2	1.2	5.6	6.8
France	59 341.4	766.7	531.4	235.3	60.0	295.3	59 636.7	12.9	8.9	4.0	1.0	5.0
Ireland	3 882.7	58.0	30.2	27.8	20.0	47.8	3 930.5	14.8	7.7	7.1	5.1	12.2
Italy	56 331.9	539.1	557.1	-18.0	150.0	132.0	56 463.9	9.6	9.9	-0.3	2.7	2.3
Luxembourg	444.1	5.3	3.7	1.6	3.0	4.6	448.6	11.9	8.3	3.6	6.7	10.3
Netherlands	16 105.3	202.3	141.6	60.7	28.9	89.6	16 194.9	12.5	8.8	3.8	1.8	5.5
Austria	8 139.3	78.2	75.1	3.0	17.0	20.0	8 159.3	9.6	9.2	0.4	2.1	2.5
Portugal	10 335.6	110.8	107.9	3.0	70.0	73.0	10 408.5	10.7	10.4	0.3	6.7	7.0
Finland	5 194.9	55.4	48.8	6.6	5.8	12.4	5 207.3	10.6	9.4	1.3	1.1	2.4
Sweden	8 909.1	94.7	94.3	0.4	32.9	33.3	8 942.5	10.6	10.6	0.0	3.7	3.7
United Kingdom	58 928.4	658.2	603.1	55.1	104.0	159.1	59 087.5	11.2	10.2	0.9	1.8	2.7
Iceland	286.6	4.1	1.8	2.2	-0.4	1.8	288.4	14.2	6.4	7.7	-1.3	6.4
Liechtenstein	33.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	33.9	11.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	11.9
Norway	4 524.1	54.1	43.9	10.2	21.8	32.0	4 556.1	11.9	9.7	2.2	4.8	7.0
EEA	381 972.5	4 048.7	3 721.4	327.3	1 049.3	1 376.5	383 349.0	10.6	9.7	0.9	2.7	3.6
Switzerland	7 261.2	70.4	60.5	9.9	45.0	54.9	7 316.1	9.7	8.3	1.4	6.2	7.5
Acceding Countries ³⁾	74 669.5	680.6	764.7	-84.0	-51.5	-135.5	74 534.0	9.1	10.3	-1.1	-0.7	-1.8
Cyprus ⁴⁾	705.5	7.7	4.6	3.1	3.5	6.6	712.1	10.8	6.4	4.4	4.9	9.3
Czech Republic	10 206.4	91.7	106.5	-14.8	-47.5	-62.4	10 144.1	9.0	10.5	-1.5	-4.7	-6.1
Estonia	1 361.2	13.2	18.5	-5.3	-1.0	-6.3	1 355.0	9.7	13.6	-3.9	-0.7	-4.6
Hungary	10 174.9	96.2	132.4	-36.2	16.4	-19.8	10 155.1	9.5	13.0	-3.6	1.6	-1.9
Latvia	2 345.8	19.9	32.2	-12.3	-4.7	-17.0	2 328.8	8.5	13.8	-5.3	-2.0	-7.3
Lithuania	3 475.6	30.1	40.8	-10.7	-5.4	-16.0	3 459.6	8.7	11.8	-3.1	-1.5	-4.6
Malta	394.6	3.8	3.0	0.7	0.9	1.6	396.3	9.6	7.7	1.9	2.3	4.2
Poland	38 632.5	351.0	356.9	-5.8	-17.4	-23.3	38 609.2	9.1	9.2	-0.2	-0.5	-0.6
Slovak Republic	5 379.0	49.9	51.7	-1.8	0.7	-1.2	5 377.8	9.3	9.6	-0.3	0.1	-0.2
Slovenia	1 994.0	17.3	18.2	-0.9	3.0	2.1	1 996.1	8.7	9.1	-0.4	1.5	1.1
Bulgaria	7 845.3	64.9	108.8	-43.9	-	-43.9	7 801.4	8.3	13.9	-5.6	-	-5.6
Romania	22 391.7	206.9	269.1	-62.2	0.0	-62.2	22 329.5	9.3	12.0	-2.8	0.0	-2.8

¹⁾ Including corrections due to population censuses, register counts, etc. which cannot be classified as births, deaths or migrations

²⁾ Total of the 12 EU countries that participate in the Euro zone from 1.1.2001 (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland)

³⁾ Total of the 10 acceding countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia)

⁴⁾ Government controlled area

...and differently

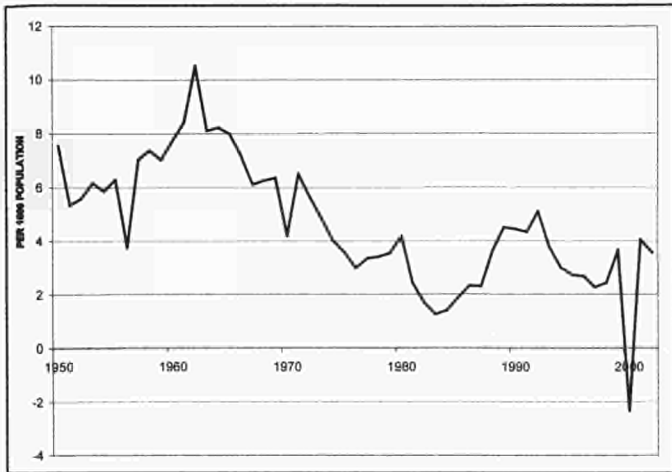


Figure 2: Total population growth, EU-15, 1950-2002

Table 1 and Figure 3 demonstrate that in 2002 the EU Member States have experienced quite different rates of population growth. The populations of both Luxembourg and Ireland have continued to grow at well over 1% per year, whereas Germany just exceeds a rate of 0.1%.

These first estimates confirm that international migration is still an important component of population change. For example, without migration Germany, Greece and Italy would have experienced a population loss and Sweden would have barely grown.

Almost all the EU countries are expected to experience a decrease in their population growth in 2002 (Figure 4). Only in Austria and Sweden has population growth increased.

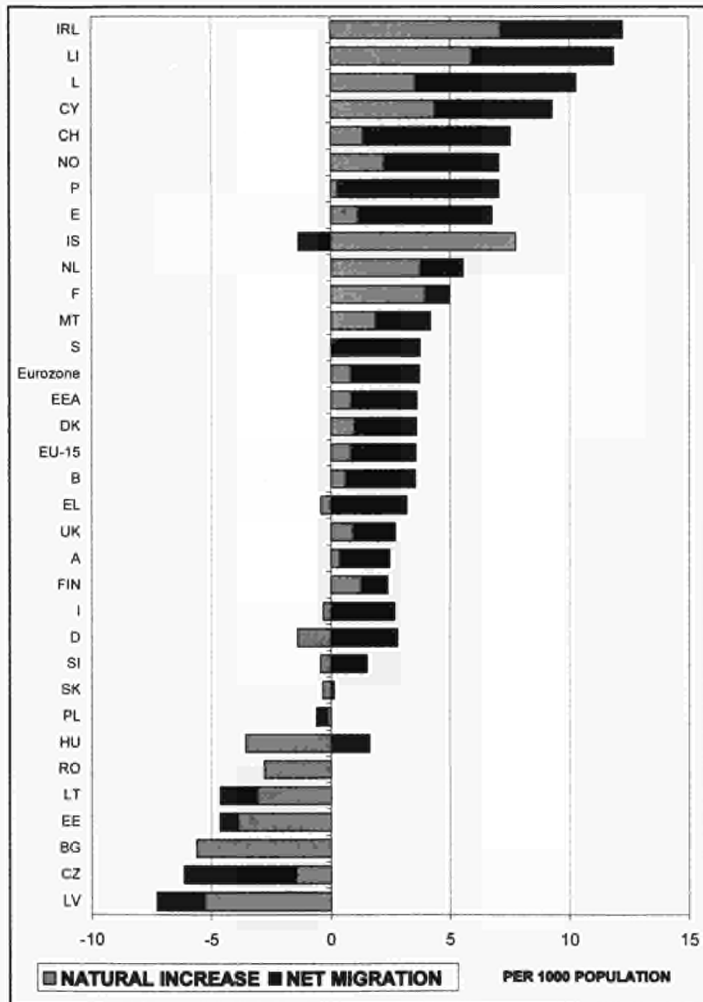


Figure 3: Crude total population growth rate, 2002

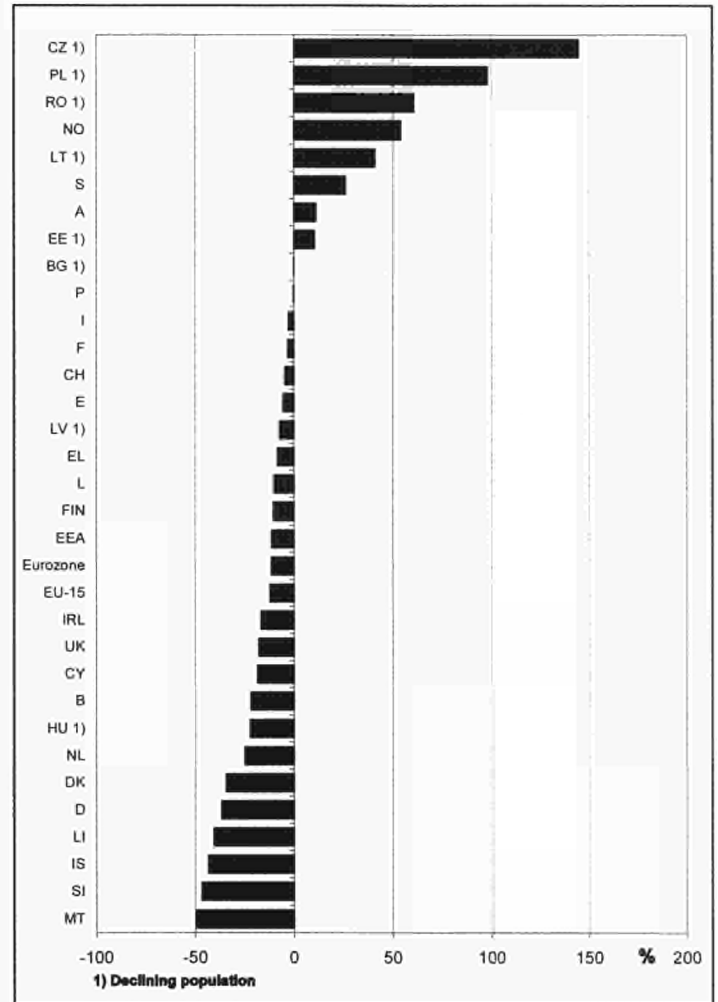
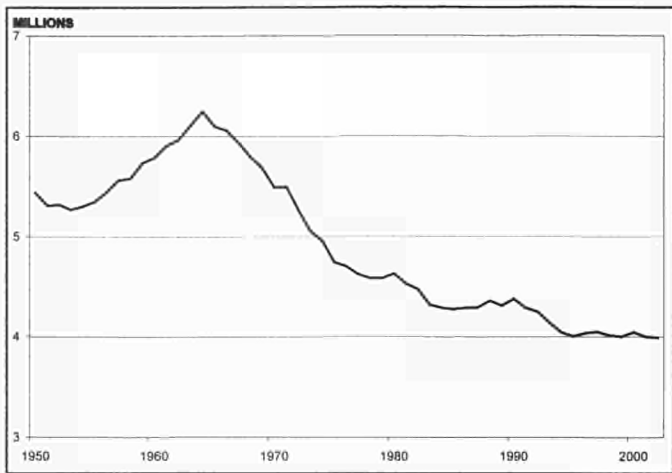


Figure 4: Population growth rate, relative change from 2001 to 2002

Fewer live births



In 2002 the number of live births is expected to reach a level of 3.99 million, which is about 0.3% less than in 2001. This level is a post-war low. In the mid-1960s the annual number of babies was over 2 million higher, but during the period 1965 to 1975 fertility dropped dramatically (Figure 5).

Crude birth rates are forecast to remain highest in Ireland and lowest in Germany (Figure 6).

Ten EU countries will probably see a fall in live births (Figure 7), with Greece facing the largest decrease (-3.5%). Spain, on the other hand, is expected to be the EU country with the largest rise in births (close to 4%).

Figure 5: Live births, EU-15, 1950-2002

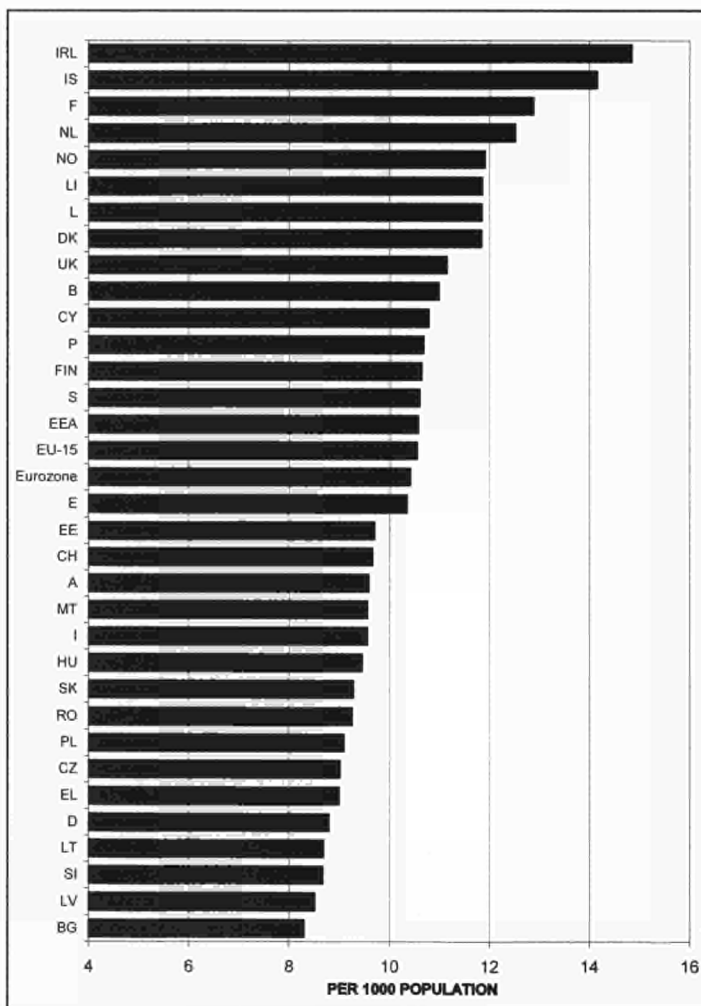


Figure 6: Crude birth rate, 2002

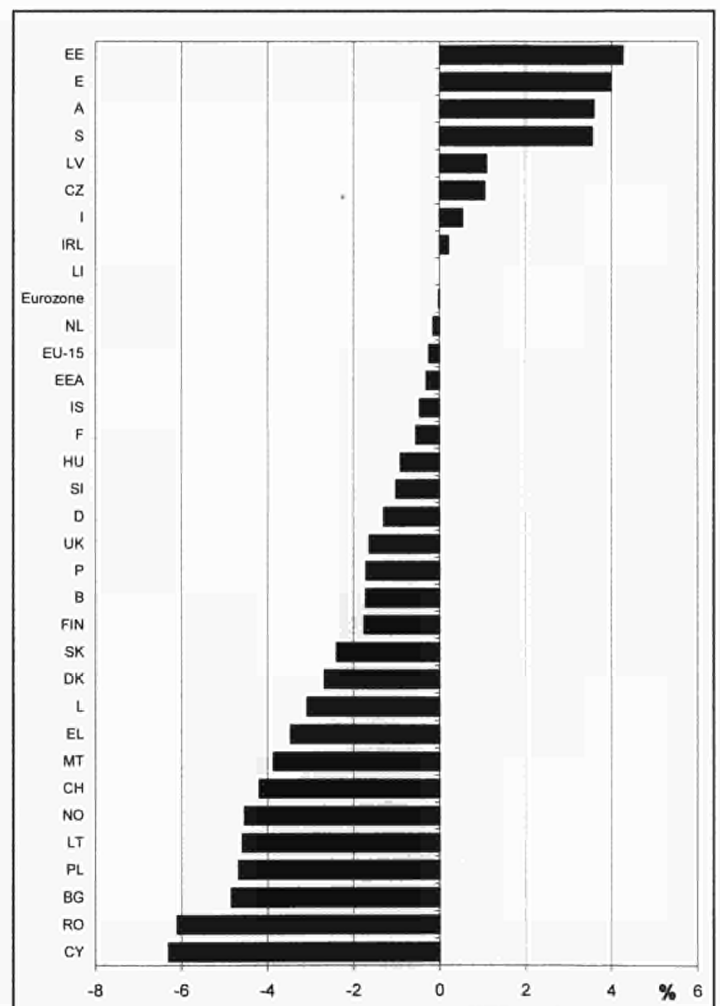


Figure 7: Live births, relative change from 2001 to 2002

Number of deaths increases slightly

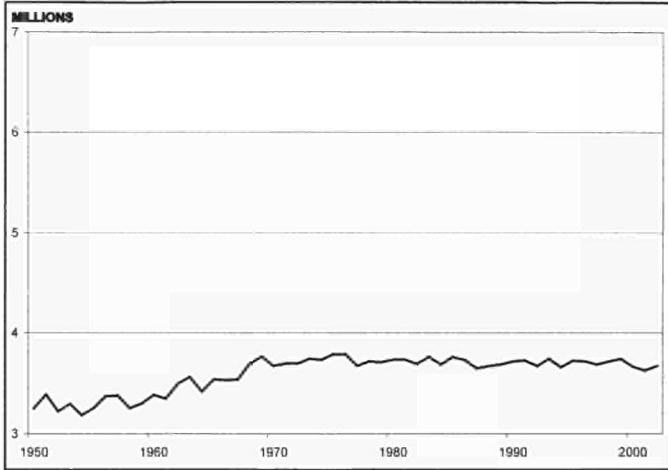


Figure 8: Deaths, EU-15, 1950-2002

In 1976 the number of deaths in the EU reached a post-war high of almost 3.8 million. Thereafter, the annual number of deaths fluctuated and decreased somewhat to a level of around 3.6 million (Figure 8). The impact of a growing number of elderly people on deaths was fully compensated by decreasing mortality rates. For 2002, it is expected that the effects of population ageing might start to outweigh the decrease in mortality rates, with about 60 000 more deaths compared to the previous year.

Due to an aged population and a relatively less favourable mortality pattern, Denmark continues to be the EU Member State with the highest crude death rate (Figure 9). Ireland with its relatively young population is the Member State with the lowest level.

About three-quarters of the EU countries have had a relatively 'bad' year (Figure 10), with Spain experiencing the largest increase in the number of deaths (around 4%). Greece is forecast to see a decrease in the number of deaths of about 1%.

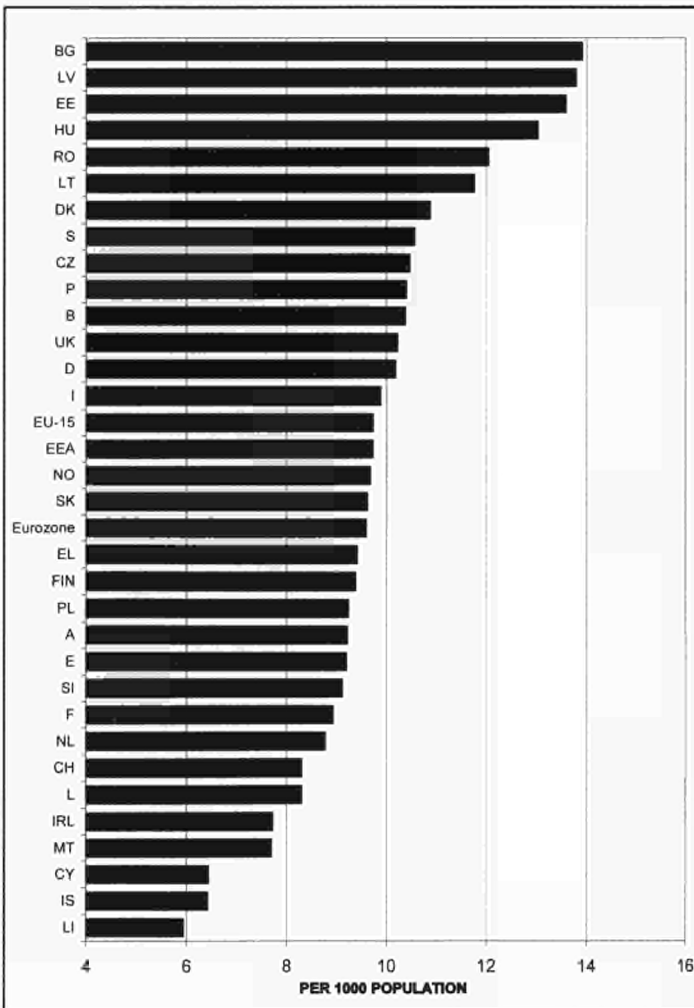


Figure 9: Crude death rate, 2002

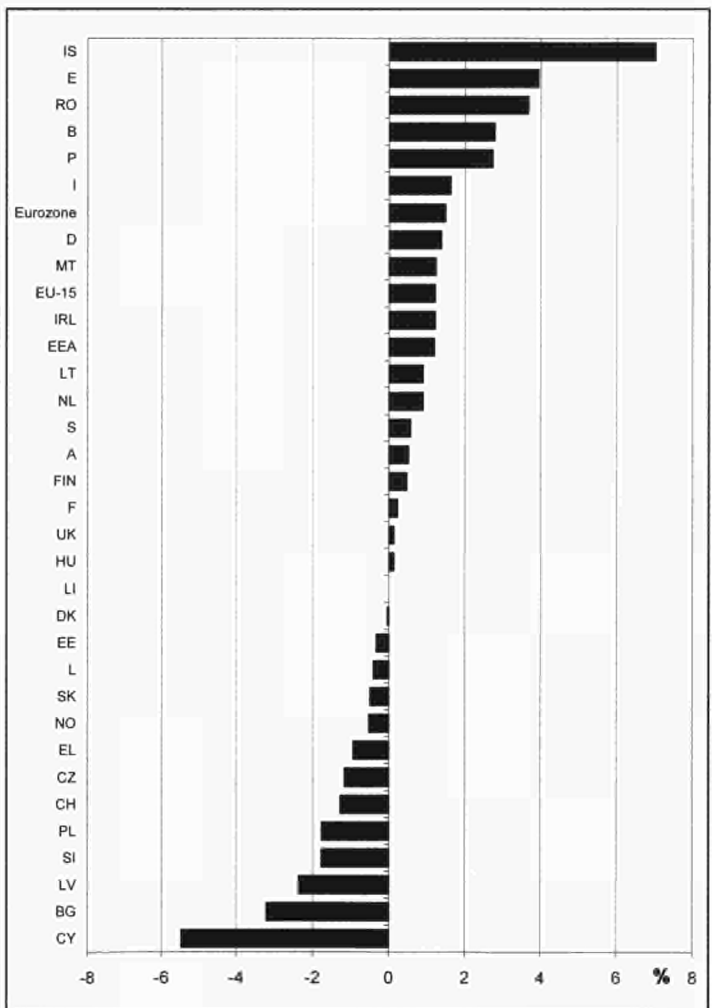
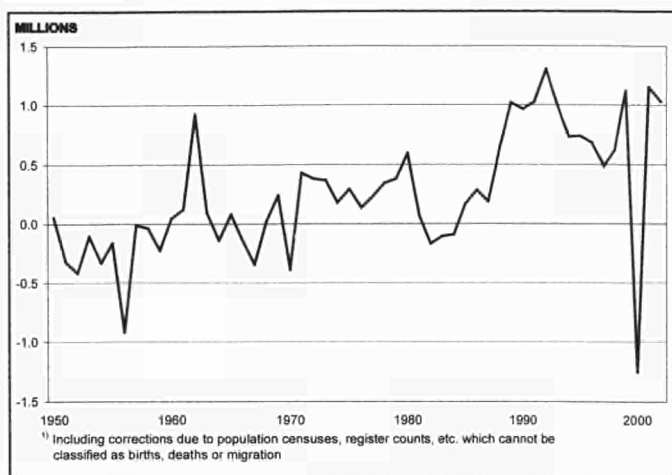


Figure 10: Deaths, relative change from 2001 to 2002

Net migration remains high



After a period of rather strong decline, the net inflow of international migrants to the EU increased to 1 150 000 in 2001 (Figure 11). For 2002 net migration is expected to decrease very slightly to a level of around 1 million people.

Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany together have received around 70% of this net inflow (Figure 12), although Luxembourg remains the EU country with the highest relative net migration per 1000 inhabitants. France and the United Kingdom, on the other hand, seem to grow less due to net migration than one would expect considering their population size.

Figure 11: Net migration ¹⁾, EU-15, 1950-2002

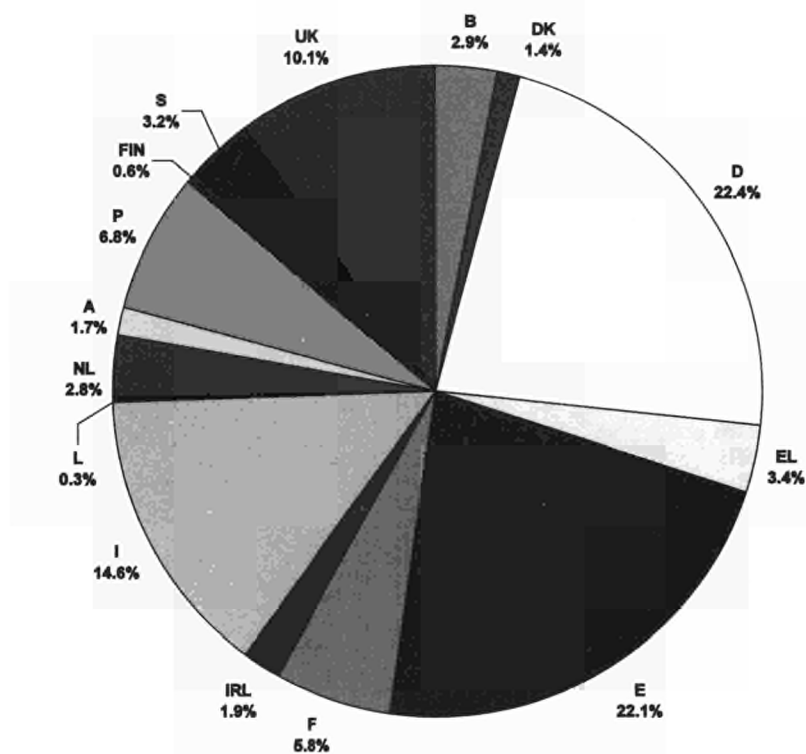


Figure 12: Net migration by Member State, 2002

Table 2: Information base for 2002, first estimates ¹⁾

COUNTRY	Monthly data availability (up to and including)				Average annual forecast error (period 1997-2001)						
	Live births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration	Live births			Deaths			
					0 - 1 %	1 - 2 %	2 - 4 %	0 - 1 %	1 - 2 %	2 - 4 %	
Belgium	July	July	— ³⁾	— ³⁾		x				x	
Denmark	June	June	June ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾	x			x			
Germany	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x			x			
Greece	June	June	—	—						x	
Spain	—	—	— ³⁾	— ³⁾		x				x	
France	September	September	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x			x			
Ireland	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾						x	
Italy	April	April	— ³⁾	— ³⁾						x	
Luxembourg	August	August	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x					x	
Netherlands	September	September	September ²⁾	September ²⁾	x			x			
Austria	September	September	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x			x			
Portugal	December	December	— ³⁾	— ³⁾		x				x	
Finland	September	September	September	September	x					x	
Sweden	August	August	August	August	x			x			
United Kingdom	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x					x	
Iceland	September	September	September	September							x
Liechtenstein	—	—	—	—							x
Norway	September ⁴⁾	September ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾	x					x	
Switzerland	August	August	September	September						x	
Bulgaria	December	December	—	—	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Czech Republic	June	June	June	June	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Hungary	September	September	—	—	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Poland	September	September	September ⁴⁾	September ⁴⁾	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Romania	December	December	—	—	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Slovak Republic	September	September	September	September	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Slovenia	June	June	June	June	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Estonia	October	October	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Latvia	September	September	September	September	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Lithuania	September	September	July	July	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Cyprus	June	June	June	June	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Malta	September	September	September	September	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)

¹⁾ Estimates are primarily based upon provisional monthly data series available around 1 December 2002.

Technical details about the methodology used for live births and deaths can be found in Eurostat Working Paper E4/1997-7.

²⁾ National estimates

³⁾ National estimates solely on net migration

⁴⁾ Quarterly data

⁵⁾ Half yearly data

⁶⁾ For these countries, nowcasts have been made for the first time in 2000. Therefore it is not possible to give this information

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For information on methodology

This publication has been produced by Harold Eding (Statistics Netherlands) and Harri Crujisen (NIDI). For further information, contact François-Carlos Bovagnet, Eurostat/E4, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 33527, Fax (352) 4301 34029

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