

First demographic estimates for 2006

EU population expected to continue to grow

Based on the monthly data available at the end of 2006 and the latest national forecasts, Eurostat has "forecast" births, deaths and net international migration in 2006 and, consequently, the population on 1 January 2007 for 34 countries: the 27 Member States, the three candidate countries (HR, MK and TR) and the four EFTA countries (IS, LI, NO and CH). As these "forecasts" refer to the present day and not to some time in the future, they are commonly known as "nowcasts".

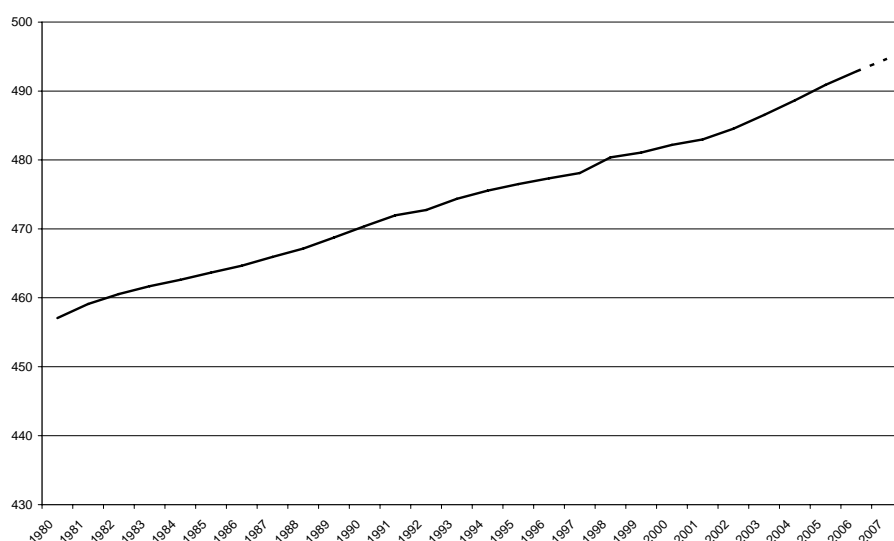
EU population growth is slowing down...

The population of the EU-27 Member States is expected to have risen to 494.7 million on 1 January 2007, after increasing by about 1.8 million in 2006 (see Figure 1). This is a growth rate of 0.37%, smaller than in previous years (0.40% in 2005 and 0.46% in 2004). Therefore, while still higher than the average since 1980, the total change in 2006 is expected to continue the downward trend observed in recent years.

This is due to an expected reduction, in comparison with the previous year, of positive net migration, not counterbalanced by the increase in the natural change. Natural change is expected to show a slight recovery, thanks to an increase of 1.1% in live births and a reduction of 1.0% in deaths in comparison with the previous year. Nevertheless, migration is forecast to be the main component of the population growth once again, as it has been since 1992 for EU-27 (see Figure 2).

Due to the difficulties existing in several countries with measurement of migration flows, in order to calculate the population size at the end of each year some use provisional estimates for migration, to be revised after the next census. Figures for corrected net migration from 2001 onwards should therefore be treated with caution.

Figure 1: Observed (1980-2006) and forecast (2007) total EU-27 population (in million)



Note: the jump observed in 1998 is due to the inclusion, from that year onwards, of the French overseas departments in the population data for France.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

41/2007

Population

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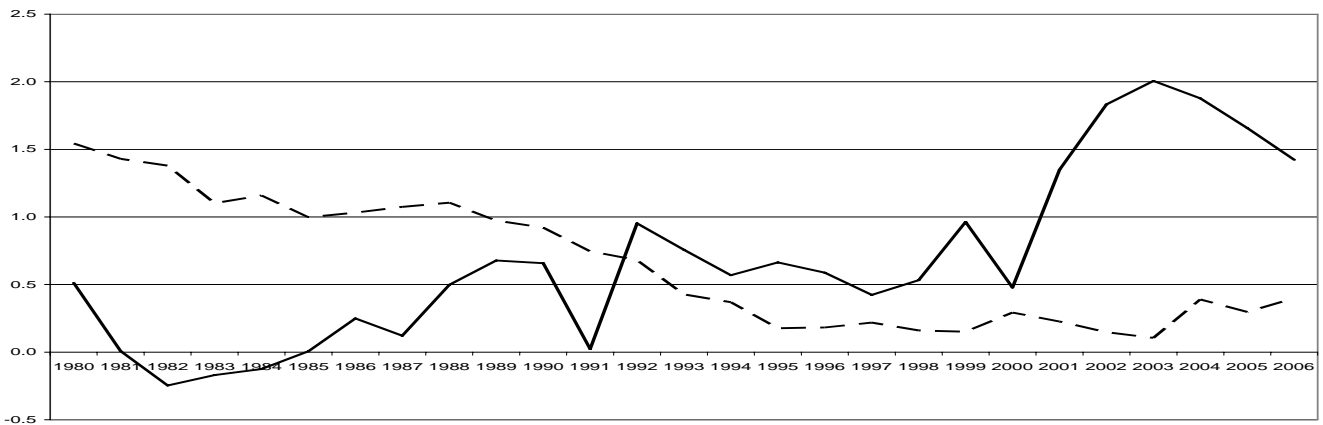


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Table 1: Population change in 2006 (nowcasts)

COUNTRY	Population 1.1.2006	Live births	Deaths	Natural change	Net migration	Total change	Population 1.1.2007	Crude birth rate	Crude death rate	Crude natural change rate	Crude net migration rate	Crude total change rate
	(1000)							x1000				
EU-27	492 852.4	5 190.9	4 791.0	399.8	1 422.6	1 822.4	494 674.8	10.5	9.7	0.8	2.9	3.7
EU-25	463 523.4	4 897.5	4 418.0	479.4	1 434.9	1 914.3	465 437.7	10.5	9.5	1.0	3.1	4.1
EA-13	316 567.9	3 281.4	2 914.1	367.3	1 200.1	1 567.4	318 135.3	10.3	9.2	1.2	3.8	4.9
EA-12	314 564.5	3 263.2	2 895.6	367.6	1 192.9	1 560.5	316 125.0	10.3	9.2	1.2	3.8	4.9
Candidate countries	79 001.3	1 421.7	519.9	901.7	9.0	910.7	79 912.1	17.9	6.5	11.3	0.1	11.5
EEA28	468 498.4	4 958.5	4 461.8	496.7	1 461.4	1 958.2	470 456.6	10.6	9.5	1.1	3.1	4.2
EFTA	12 434.1	133.5	104.1	29.4	78.7	108.1	12 542.2	10.7	8.3	2.4	6.3	8.7
<i>EU Member States</i>												
Belgium	10 511.4	120.8	102.4	18.4	40.7	59.1	10 570.5	11.5	9.7	1.7	3.9	5.6
Bulgaria	7 718.8	72.4	113.2	-40.8	-11.5	-52.3	7 666.5	9.4	14.7	-5.3	-1.5	-6.8
Czech Republic	10 251.1	104.8	104.8	0.0	37.8	37.8	10 288.9	10.2	10.2	0.0	3.7	3.7
Denmark	5 427.5	65.0	56.1	8.9	9.3	18.2	5 445.7	12.0	10.3	1.6	1.7	3.4
Germany	82 438.0	672.5	839.3	-166.8	40.5	-126.3	82 311.7	8.2	10.2	-2.0	0.5	-1.5
Estonia	1 344.7	14.7	17.6	-2.9	-1.9	-4.8	1 339.9	11.0	13.1	-2.1	-1.4	-3.6
Ireland	4 209.0	64.4	26.7	37.7	80.0	117.7	4 326.7	15.1	6.3	8.8	18.7	27.6
Greece	11 125.2	108.2	105.3	2.9	41.0	43.9	11 169.1	9.7	9.4	0.3	3.7	3.9
Spain	43 758.3	471.1	381.0	90.0	636.0	726.1	44 484.3	10.7	8.6	2.0	14.4	16.5
France	62 886.2	820.0	530.3	289.7	160.5	450.1	63 336.3	13.0	8.4	4.6	2.5	7.1
<i>of which, Metropolitan France</i>	<i>61 044.7</i>	<i>786.7</i>	<i>520.0</i>	<i>266.7</i>	<i>157.2</i>	<i>423.9</i>	<i>61 468.6</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>6.9</i>
Italy	58 751.7	570.5	545.4	25.1	157.0	182.1	58 933.8	9.7	9.3	0.4	2.7	3.1
Cyprus	766.4	8.6	5.3	3.4	6.2	9.6	776.0	11.2	6.8	4.4	8.1	12.4
Latvia	2 294.6	21.7	33.4	-11.7	-2.5	-14.1	2 280.5	9.5	14.6	-5.1	-1.1	-6.2
Lithuania	3 403.3	30.9	45.0	-14.1	-3.5	-17.6	3 385.7	9.1	13.3	-4.2	-1.0	-5.2
Luxembourg	459.5	5.6	3.5	2.0	2.8	4.9	464.4	12.1	7.7	4.4	6.1	10.5
Hungary	10 076.6	99.4	132.3	-33.0	14.2	-18.7	10 057.9	9.9	13.1	-3.3	1.4	-1.9
Malta	404.3	3.8	3.1	0.7	2.6	3.3	407.7	9.4	7.5	1.8	6.3	8.2
Netherlands	16 334.2	184.7	137.4	47.3	-35.3	12.0	16 346.2	11.3	8.4	2.9	-2.2	0.7
Austria	8 265.9	76.5	74.5	2.0	28.0	29.9	8 295.9	9.2	9.0	0.2	3.4	3.6
Poland	38 157.1	368.3	376.0	-7.6	-47.6	-55.2	38 101.8	9.7	9.9	-0.2	-1.2	-1.4
Portugal	10 569.6	110.4	102.2	8.2	31.2	39.4	10 609.0	10.4	9.7	0.8	2.9	3.7
Romania	21 610.2	221.0	259.9	-38.8	-0.7	-39.6	21 570.6	10.2	12.0	-1.8	0.0	-1.8
Slovenia	2 003.4	18.2	18.5	-0.3	7.2	6.9	2 010.3	9.1	9.2	-0.1	3.6	3.4
Slovakia	5 389.2	52.6	52.8	-0.2	2.6	2.5	5 391.6	9.8	9.8	0.0	0.5	0.5
Finland	5 255.6	58.6	47.7	10.9	10.6	21.5	5 277.1	11.1	9.1	2.1	2.0	4.1
Sweden	9 047.8	105.6	91.5	14.1	58.0	72.1	9 119.8	11.6	10.1	1.5	6.4	7.9
United Kingdom	60 393.1	740.5	586.0	154.5	159.5	314.0	60 707.1	12.2	9.7	2.6	2.6	5.2
<i>EU candidate countries</i>												
Croatia	4 442.8	40.0	51.5	-11.5	8.5	-3.0	4 439.8	9.0	11.6	-2.6	1.9	-0.7
FYR Macedonia	2 038.5	21.7	18.4	3.3	0.5	3.7	2 042.2	10.6	9.0	1.6	0.2	1.8
Turkey	72 520.0	1 360.0	450.0	910.0	0.0	910.0	73 430.0	18.6	6.2	12.5	0.0	12.5
<i>EFTA countries</i>												
Iceland	299.9	4.2	1.8	2.4	1.4	3.8	303.7	13.9	6.1	7.8	4.7	12.5
Liechtenstein	34.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	35.2	10.0	6.6	3.5	5.4	8.9
Norway	4 640.2	56.5	41.7	14.9	24.9	39.8	4 680.0	12.1	8.9	3.2	5.4	8.5
Switzerland	7 459.1	72.4	60.4	12.0	52.2	64.2	7 523.4	9.7	8.1	1.6	7.0	8.6

Figure 2: Observed (1980-2005) and forecast (2006) natural change (dashed line) and corrected net migration (continuous line) in the European Union (in million)



Note: from 1998 onwards the figures include the French overseas departments. The net migration is calculated as the difference between total and natural change (see methodological notes).

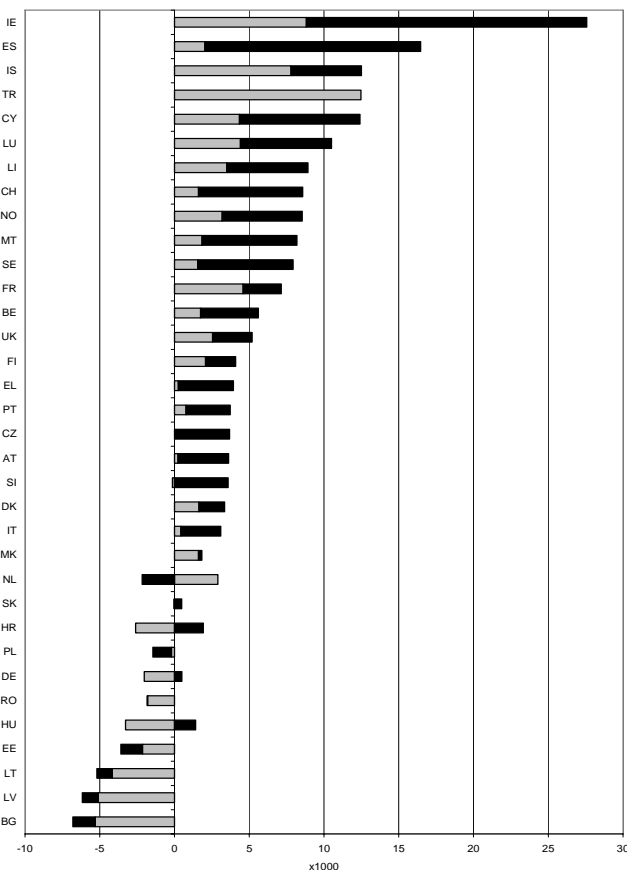
...but with differences between countries

The decline in population is forecast to continue in nine countries (BG, DE, EE, LV, LT, HU, PL, RO and HR), while in two (SI and SK) positive net migration compensates for the negative natural change (see Table 2). The geographical pattern shows that the eastern part of the European Union is hit harder by population decline, as in several of these countries the decrease in the natural component is expected to be accompanied by negative net migration.

Table 2: Forecast main components of population change in 2006

Main component of change	Countries
Growth due only to migration	SI, SK
Growth due more to migration	BE, CZ, DK, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LU, MT, AT, PT, SE, UK, LI, NO, CH
Growth due more to natural change	FR, FI, MK, TR, IS
Growth due only to natural change	NL
Decline due only to natural change	DE, HR, HR
Decline due more to natural change	BG, EE, LV, LT, RO
Decline due more to migration	PL
Decline due only to migration	none

Figure 3: Forecast crude rates of natural change (grey) and net migration (black) in 2006

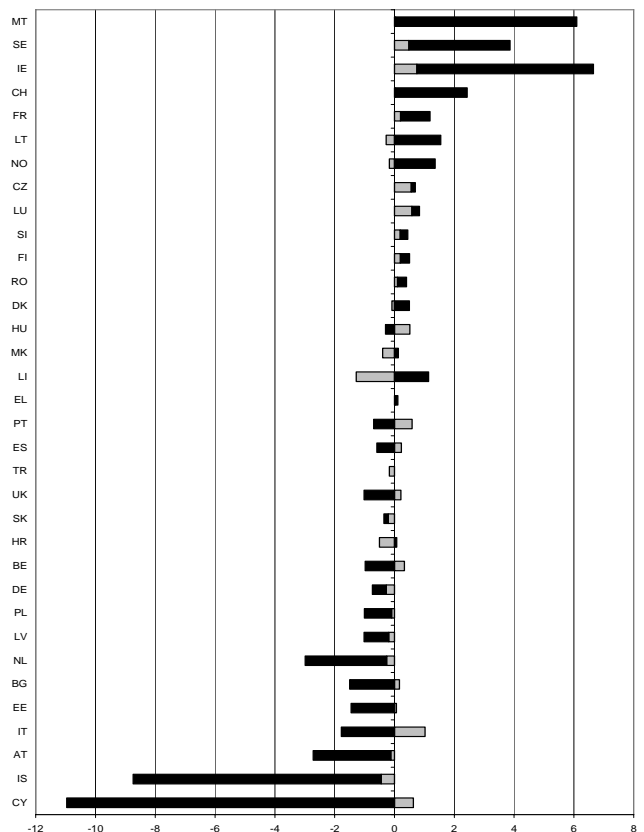


Note: countries in descending order of crude growth rate.

The two components both moved mostly in the same direction in 2006: only a few countries are expected to show any divergence. In their cases, the overall total rate of change is usually lower (see Figure 3). Thanks to an assumed¹ significant inflow of migrants, Ireland is forecast to be the best performer in terms of population growth, gaining 27 persons for every 1000 inhabitants in 2006. On the other hand, Bulgaria is expected to show the greatest decline, losing 7 persons per 1000 inhabitants, 5 of them due to a combination of high mortality and low fertility.

In comparison with the observed values in 2005, exactly half of the countries will record no slowdown in population growth (see Figure 4). This shows that the demographic growth expected in Europe in 2006 is far from uniform. Across the countries, the biggest changes are expected in migration, reflecting the high variability of this component.

Figure 4: Changes (in per thousand points) in the crude rates of natural change (grey) and net migration (black) from 2005 to 2006



Note: countries in descending order of the change, in per thousand points, in the crude growth rate from 2005 to 2006. This value might differ from the sum of the crude rates of natural increase and net migration, as in 2005 the statistical adjustments were no longer included in the net migration.

¹ National forecast (see methodological notes).

Classification of the countries based on the forecast crude rates² in 2006 would identify three major groups (see Figure 5), together with a few countries expected to show exceptional values for some components.

The first group, made up of the 12 countries on the left of Figure 5 (from BE to LI), are expected to show, on average, relatively high fertility and moderate mortality. The resultant positive crude rate of natural increase is further sustained by a relatively high crude rate of net migration, producing a relatively high growth rate.

The second group, consisting of 11 countries (from CZ to MK in Figure 5), shows, on average, low fertility and mortality instead, with the natural increase near to zero as these two components counterbalance each other in most of these countries. Net migration is also relatively low, and sometimes even negative, and the resultant crude growth rate is therefore low or even negative.

The third group, i.e. the 7 countries (from BG to HR in Figure 5), is expected to display low fertility and high mortality and, hence, negative natural change. The low,

in most cases negative, levels of net migration will not compensate for the negative natural change and therefore all these countries are expected to show a population decline in 2006.

The four remaining countries (IE, ES, TR and IS) appear isolated as their crude net migration and/or natural change rates are relatively high.

On the basis of Figure 5, different numbers of groups can easily be identified simply by drawing a horizontal line on the graph. For instance, within the cluster with high growth rates, two (or more) subgroups can be identified, splitting CY, MT, CH and LI from the rest. The values on the vertical axis are the average distances between clusters. Obviously, alternative input data or methods could produce different classifications.

The classification into seven clusters (three groups plus four individual countries) can also be discerned in Figure 6, which, however, is based on the natural change and net migration and therefore does not show all the information used for the cluster analysis. Figure 6 also illustrates the main components of the forecast population change: the sectors between the axis and the straight lines correspond to different degrees of influence by the various demographic drivers. For instance, LU belongs to the group with high growth, thanks especially to migration. The further the countries are towards the top right of Figure 6, the higher their crude growth rate (and vice versa).

² The comparison of crude rates across countries might be affected by the age composition of their populations. Age standardisation is usually used to control the effect of age composition, but the necessary data are not available for 2006. However, the dissimilarity of the age composition of these countries from a European age pattern, to be used as standard, can be considered negligible in most cases.

Figure 5: Countries clustered by average distances between the forecast crude rates in 2006

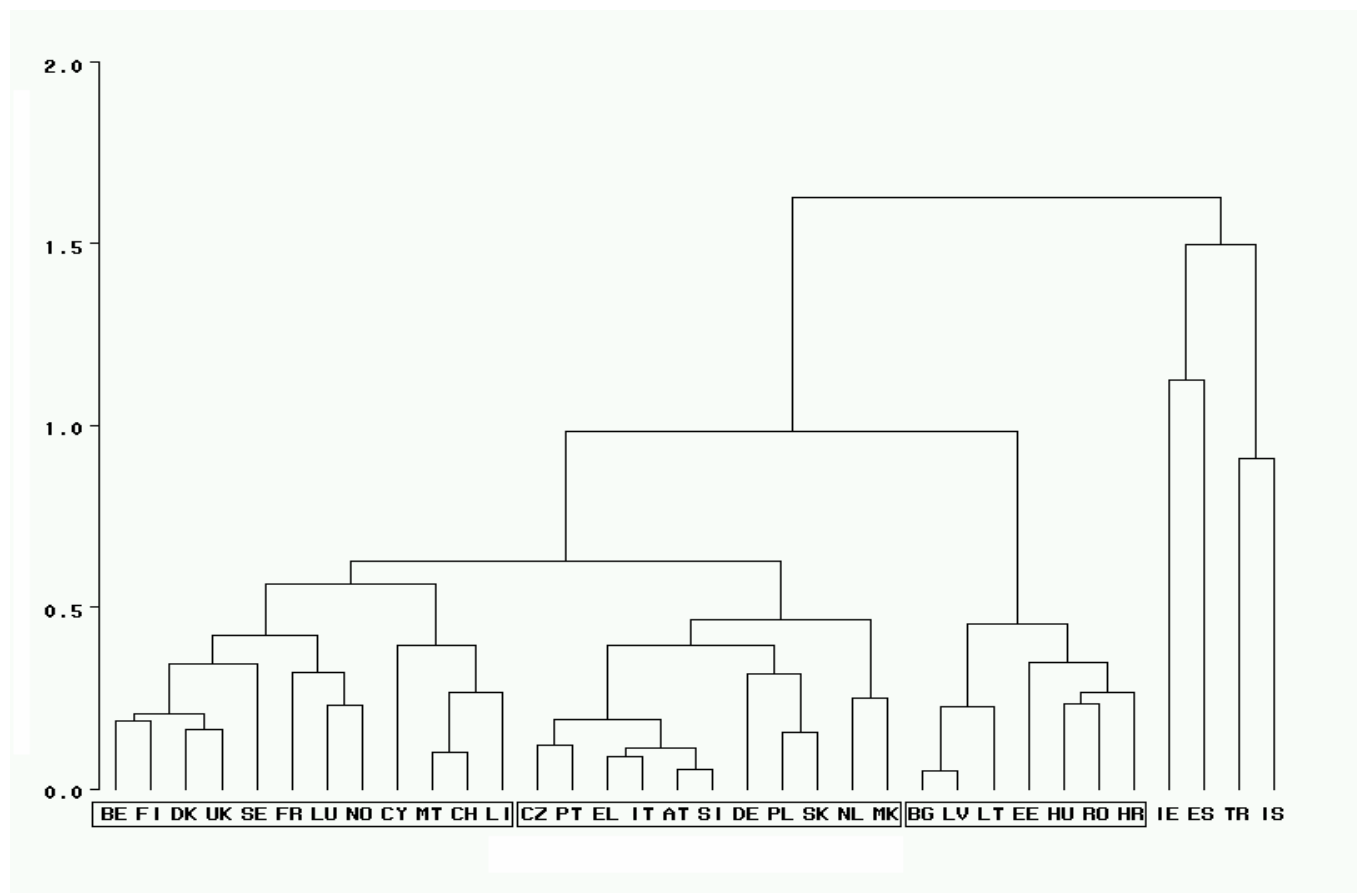


Table 3: Information base for 2006¹⁾

Country	Monthly data availability (up to and including)			
	Live births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration
BE	June 2006	June 2006	—	—
BG	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	—	—
CZ	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾
DK	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006 ³⁾	September 2006 ³⁾
DE	August 2006 ²⁾	August 2006 ²⁾	June 2006 ²⁾	June 2006 ²⁾
EE	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	—	—
IE	March 2006	March 2006	April 2006 ^{4),6)}	April 2006 ^{4),6)}
EL	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	—	—
ES	May 2006 ²⁾	May 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾
FR	July 2006	July 2006	—	—
IT	March 2006	March 2006	—	—
CY	September 2006	September 2006	July 2006	June 2006
LV	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006
LT	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾
LU	August 2006	August 2006	—	—
HU	August 2006 ²⁾	August 2006 ²⁾	December 2005	December 2005
MT	December 2005	December 2005	December 2005	December 2005
NL	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006
AT	September 2006	August 2006	June 2006	June 2006
PL	September 2006	September 2006	June 2006 ³⁾	June 2006 ³⁾
PT	December 2005 ²⁾	December 2005 ²⁾	—	—
RO	September 2005 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	June 2006 ^{2), 5)}	June 2006 ^{2), 5)}
SI	June 2006	June 2006	June 2006	June 2006
SK	August 2006	August 2006	August 2006	August 2006
FI	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾
SE	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006	September 2006
UK	June 2006	June 2006	December 2005	December 2005
HR	December 2005	December 2005	December 2005	December 2005
MK	December 2005	December 2005	—	—
TR	—	—	—	—
IS	December 2005	December 2005	December 2003	December 2003
LI	September 2006 ²⁾	September 2006 ²⁾	—	—
NO	December 2005	December 2005	December 2005 ⁷⁾	December 2005 ⁷⁾
CH	August 2006	August 2006	September 2006	September 2006

1) Estimates based primarily on the provisional monthly data series available on 15 November 2006.

2) National forecasts available until December 2006.

3) Quarterly data.

4) Data available for the period April 2005 to April 2006.

5) Half-yearly data.

6) National estimates available for the whole of 2006.

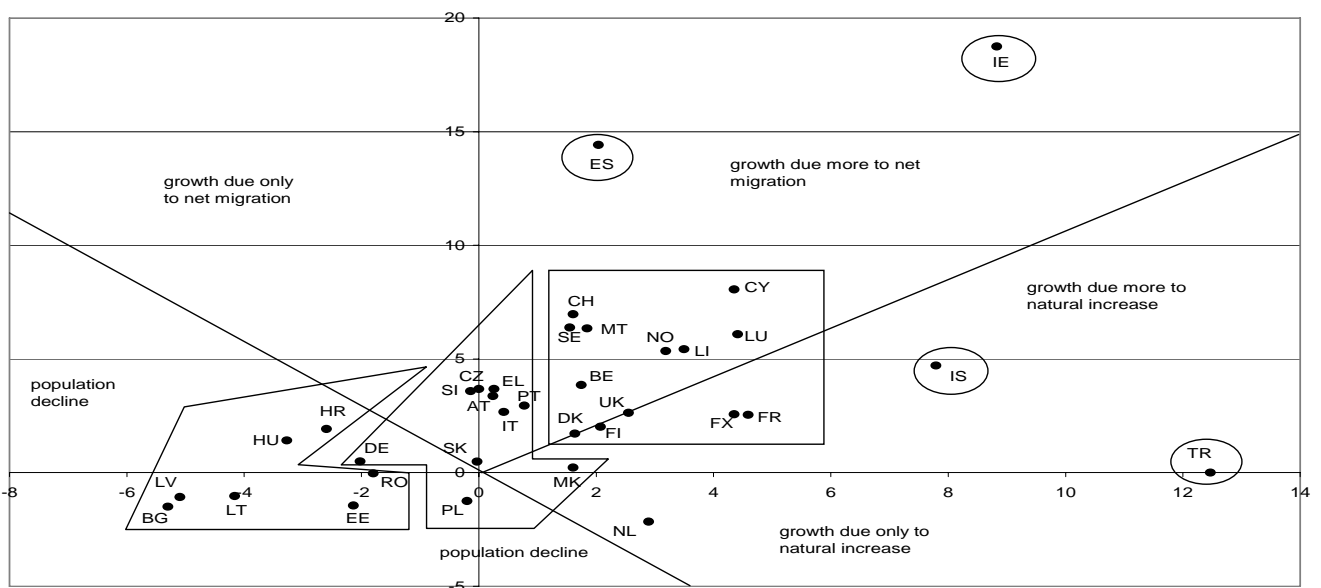
7) National estimates available for the first two quarters of 2006.

Table 4: Differences between nowcasts and observed data in the last exercise (2005)

Countries	Errors (nowcast - observed)					Relative errors [(nowcast - observed)/observed]						
	Population 1 Jan 2005	Live births	Deaths	Net migration	Population 1 Jan 2006	Nowcast error	Population 1 Jan 2005	Live births	Deaths	Net migration	Population 1 Jan 2006	Nowcast error
EU-27	-174 044	4 654	40 503	13 720	-196 172	-22 128	0.0%	0.1%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
EU-25	-174 044	7 219	37 985	29 985	-174 825	-781	0.0%	0.2%	0.9%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%
EA-13	-148 134	26 683	23 113	21 806	-122 758	25 376	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%
EA-12	-148 134	27 325	23 502	21 043	-123 268	24 866	0.0%	0.9%	0.8%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%
EFTA	0	-1 212	-291	2 831	1 910	1 910	0.0%	-0.9%	-0.3%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Average	-6 446	172	1 500	508	-7 266	-820	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.7%	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%
BE	0	1 667	1 546	-17 414	-17 293	-17 293	0.0%	1.4%	1.5%	-34.4%	-0.2%	-0.2%
BG	0	-1 779	-485	-13 699	-14 992	-14 992	0.0%	-2.5%	-0.4%	na	-0.2%	-0.2%
CZ	0	-173	-294	-662	-542	-542	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-1.8%	0.0%	0.0%
DK	0	-136	727	1 039	176	176	0.0%	-0.2%	1.3%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%
DE	0	4 357	3 627	16 931	17 661	17 661	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	20.8%	0.0%	0.0%
EE	-510	-143	279	-514	-1 446	-936	0.0%	-1.0%	1.6%	na	-0.1%	-0.1%
IE	0	2 484	-556	-19 046	-16 005	-16 005	0.0%	4.1%	-2.0%	-28.8%	-0.4%	-0.4%
EL	-7 050	-3 745	-3 556	-5 731	-12 970	-5 920	-0.1%	-3.5%	-3.4%	-14.3%	-0.1%	-0.1%
ES	0	6 977	-5 023	10 718	22 718	22 718	0.0%	1.5%	-1.3%	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%
FX	-141 084	-11 215	12 875	12 219	-152 956	-11 872	-0.2%	-1.4%	2.5%	13.5%	-0.3%	0.0%
IT	0	26 029	19 419	13 861	20 471	20 471	0.0%	4.7%	3.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%
CY	0	44	-294	6 248	6 586	6 586	0.0%	0.5%	-5.4%	43.3%	0.9%	0.9%
LV	0	-86	-111	-547	-523	-523	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.3%	97.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LT	0	-280	139	-1 544	-1 963	-1 963	0.0%	-0.9%	0.3%	17.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%
LU	0	-118	-134	-1 181	-1 165	-1 165	0.0%	-2.2%	-3.7%	-42.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%
HU	0	-692	769	857	-603	-603	0.0%	-0.7%	0.6%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MT	0	145	-235	1 077	1 457	1 457	0.0%	3.8%	-7.5%	113.6%	0.4%	0.4%
NL	0	894	1 204	3 744	3 434	3 434	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	-16.4%	0.0%	0.0%
AT	0	-813	-764	4 568	4 519	4 519	0.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%	8.1%	0.1%	0.1%
PL	0	-5 517	3 471	-78	-9 066	-9 066	0.0%	-1.5%	0.9%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
PT	0	943	-5 444	2 709	9 096	9 096	0.0%	0.9%	-5.1%	7.1%	0.1%	0.1%
RO	0	-786	3 003	-2 566	-6 355	-6 355	0.0%	-0.4%	1.1%	35.5%	0.0%	0.0%
SI	0	-642	-388	764	510	510	0.0%	-3.5%	-2.1%	11.9%	0.0%	0.0%
SK	0	-489	-536	674	722	722	0.0%	-0.9%	-1.0%	19.8%	0.0%	0.0%
FI	0	-135	308	-336	-779	-779	0.0%	-0.2%	0.6%	-3.7%	0.0%	0.0%
SE	0	-7 874	-2 417	-2 020	-7 477	-7 477	0.0%	-7.8%	-2.6%	-7.6%	-0.1%	-0.1%
UK	-25 400	-4 264	13 372	3 649	-39 388	-13 988	0.0%	-0.6%	2.3%	1.9%	-0.1%	0.0%
Average	759	-284	-1 220	929	2 622	1 864	0.0%	-0.7%	-2.4%	-29.7%	0.1%	0.1%
HR	17	-569	-2 439	3 331	5 219	5 202	0.0%	-1.3%	-4.7%	40.5%	0.1%	0.1%
MK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TR	1 500	0	0	-1 474	26	-1 474	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Average	0	-303	-73	708	477	477	0.0%	-1.2%	0.5%	-15.7%	-0.3%	-0.3%
IS	0	-103	-1	-3 273	-3 376	-3 376	0.0%	-2.4%	0.0%	-84.6%	-1.1%	-1.1%
LI	0	-4	7	-7	-18	-18	0.0%	-1.1%	3.1%	-5.0%	-0.1%	-0.1%
NO	0	740	-671	3 422	4 834	4 834	0.0%	1.3%	-1.6%	18.7%	0.1%	0.1%
CH	0	-1 845	374	2 689	469	469	0.0%	-2.5%	0.6%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%

Notes: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was not included in the latest nowcast as it was granted candidate country status on 16 December 2005. The revision of the population on 1 January 2005 for Metropolitan France (FX) is due to the results of the census surveys.

Figure 6: Countries by forecast crude rates of natural increase (horizontal axis) and net migration (vertical axis) in 2006



➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

DATA COLLECTIONS

This publication is part of an annual cycle of data collections on demography and corresponding releases by Eurostat: at the beginning of every year, the first estimates for the previous year based on extrapolation of the latest available monthly data ("First demographic estimates"); in the summer, the first main demographic data and indicators from a basic data collection ("Population in Europe: first results"); in the autumn, the final values for the previous year integrating further information from an extensive data collection ("Population in Europe" and "Demographic outlook"); and in the winter, the regional details from the specific data collection ("Population in the regions of Europe").

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITIONS

European Union Member States (EU-27): Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).

EU-25: EU-27 without Bulgaria and Romania.

Euro area (EA-13): Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Finland.

EA-12: EA-13 without Slovenia.

EU candidate countries: Croatia (HR), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK) and Turkey (TR).

European Economic Area (EEA): EU-25 Member States, Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (LI) and Norway (NO).

European Free Trade Association (EFTA): Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

National conditions: data for **France** refer to the whole of France, i.e. Metropolitan France (FX) plus the overseas departments (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and Reunion); figures for **Cyprus** refer to the government-controlled area.

GLOSSARY

Natural change: the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths.

Net migration: the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants. Since several countries have either no

accurate figures on immigration and emigration or no figures at all, net migration is sometimes also estimated, based on the difference between the total change and the natural change between the two dates concerned (*corrected net migration*). The statistics on net migration may therefore be affected by all the statistical inaccuracies in the two components of this equation, especially total change.

Total change: the difference between the population sizes on 1 January of two consecutive years. The crude rate of total change is a measure of the population growth. In the absence of statistical adjustments, the sum of the natural change and net migration gives the total change.

Crude rate: the ratio of the number of events to the person-years lived, the latter estimated assuming a constant annualised growth rate. For clearer presentation, it is usually multiplied by 1000 so that it can be expressed as number of events per 1000 inhabitants.

METHODOLOGY

Eurostat nowcasts are based primarily on extrapolation of monthly time series of live births, deaths, immigration and emigration to cover the whole year. The extrapolation model is selected with a view to minimisation of the root mean square error, taking into account any seasonal components. For migration flows, given their variability and the lack of appropriate data, alternative methods or national forecasts can be used in specific cases. Population nowcasts are therefore obtained by means of the component method.

Table 3 shows the jump-off month of the extrapolation model for each component and country. For some countries, the extrapolation can therefore cover the whole of 2006 and not only the missing months. Table 4 assesses the accuracy of the last nowcast exercise. The differences for the population on 1 January 2005 reflect the changes in the base population due to revisions made by the National Statistical Institutes after the exercise and, as such, cannot be attributed to the nowcasting method. In several cases, revisions also affect the time series of the various components and therefore the results of the nowcast, but they are not taken into account in Table 4. Moreover, the data referring to the latest months are usually provisional, which might influence the extrapolation of the time series. For instance, the difference for live births in Sweden is because the latest exercise used provisional values rather different from the final ones.

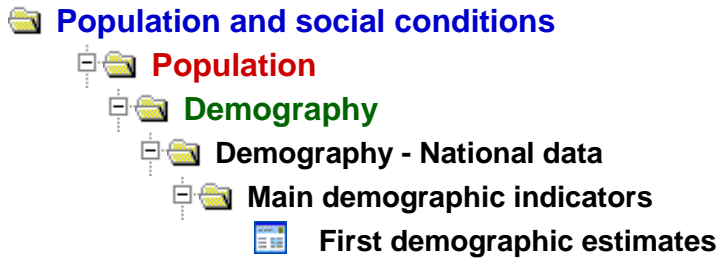
Source of all data, figures and tables in this publication: Eurostat nowcasts.

Further information:

Reference publications:

EUROSTAT (2006): "[Population in Europe 2005: first results](#)". Statistics in Focus 16/2006.

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/Population and social conditions/Data](#)



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