

Population growth slowing and life expectancy increasing in the Euro-Mediterranean region, 2000-2007

Between the years 2000 and 2007, the population in the nine Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs)¹ grew faster than in the EU-27 (13.0% compared with 2.6%). Over the same period, the population of Turkey increased by 9.3%. Growth rates varied widely among the MPCs, with annual rates of well over 2% in the occupied Palestinian territory and Jordan, and virtually nil in Lebanon. Patterns of crude birth and death rates were broadly consistent with that of population growth, with high birth rates in the MPCs compared to a low birth rate coupled with a relatively high death rate in the EU-27.

Apart from Israel, life expectancy was lower in the MPCs and Turkey than in the EU-27 – although this indicator improved in all countries over the period 2000-2007.

The proportion of the population in the three age groups (under 15, 15-64, and 65 and over) varied greatly with, for example, 46% of Palestinians in the youngest group compared with 16% in the EU-27.

For clarity, only the years 2000 and 2007 are shown in the graphs.

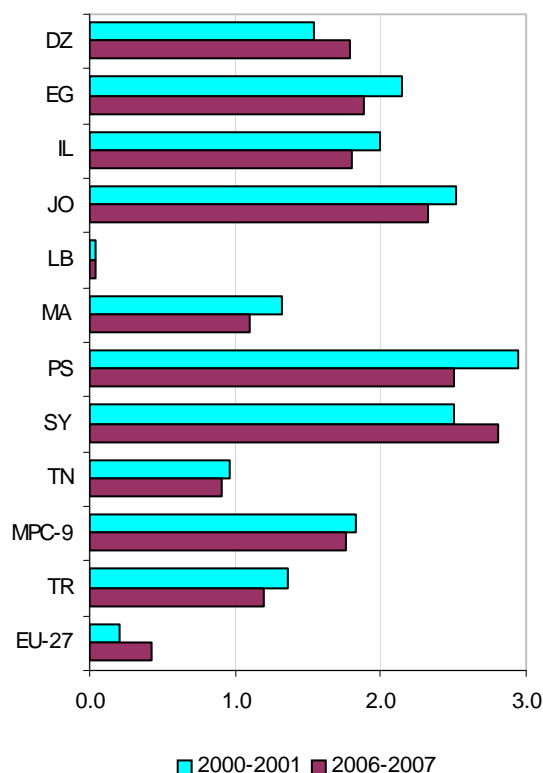
Population grows faster across the MPCs than across the EU

The total population of the MPCs rose from 165 million in 2000 to 187 million in 2007 - a rise of 13.0% (Table 1 and Table 2). At the same time, the population of the EU-27 grew by 2.6% (from 483 to 495 million).

Three countries, Egypt (73 million), Algeria (34 million) and Morocco (31 million) accounted for around three-quarters of the population of the MPCs in 2007, while at the other end of the scale, the occupied Palestinian territory and Lebanon each had a population of under 4 million. The population of Turkey exceeded 70 million in 2007.

Between 2000 and 2007, the population in all the MPCs and Turkey increased, although growth slowed over the period (Fig. 1). Among the MPCs, growth rates were, in general, highest in the occupied Palestinian territory: 2.9% between 2000 and 2001, and 2.5% between 2006 and 2007.

Figure 1: Annual growth rates of population in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (%)



¹ MPCs = Algeria (DZ), Egypt (EG), Israel (IL), Jordan (JO), Lebanon (LB), Morocco (MA), occupied Palestinian territory (PS), Syria (SY) and Tunisia (TN).

Turkey (TR) is no longer considered an MPC, as it is now a candidate for EU membership.

Annual growth rates for Jordan and Syria were also over 2%. This rate was also exceeded by Egypt for most of the period. In comparison, Lebanon's population hardly grew at all, with annual growth

rates below those of the EU-27 (which fluctuated between 0.2% and 0.5% over the period).

Table 1: Population at 1 January in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (million)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
DZ	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.6	32.1	32.6	33.2	33.8
EG	63.3	64.6	66.0	67.4	68.8	70.2	71.6	73.0
IL	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.1
JO	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.6
LB	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
MA	28.3	28.6	29.0	29.4	29.7	30.0	30.3	30.7
PS	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7
SY	16.1	16.5	16.9	17.3	17.7	18.0	18.4	18.9
TN	9.5	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.2
MPC-9	165.2	168.2	171.3	174.4	177.6	180.6	183.7	186.8
TR ⁽¹⁾	64.3	65.1	66.0	66.9	67.7	68.6	69.4	70.3
EU-27	482.8	483.8	484.6	486.6	488.8	491.0	493.0	495.1

⁽¹⁾ Mid-year population.

Key components of population change consistent with growth

Crude birth rates (births per 1000 population) were higher in all MPCs and Turkey than in the EU-27 (Fig. 2). This rate was by far the highest in the occupied Palestinian territory, although it fell from 41 births per 1000 population in 2000 to 36 births per 1000 in 2007. The rate in Jordan was also high at a steady level of around 29 per 1000. At around 17 per 1000, in 2000 the crude birth rates in Lebanon and Tunisia were the lowest in the MPCs, but, while rates in Tunisia remained stable, by 2007 the rate in Lebanon had risen to over 21 per 1000.

At 9.7 per 1000 population in 2007, **crude death rates** (deaths per 1000 population) in the EU-27 were higher than in the MPCs where the average was 5.5 per 1000 (Fig. 3). Death rates were highest in Jordan (7 per 1000 population) followed by Turkey and Egypt (over 6 per 1000 population). The crude death rate was lowest in Syria at just over 3 per 1000, down from almost 4 per 1000 in 2000. The occupied Palestinian territory also saw the crude death rate fall from 5 in 2000 to 4 in 2007, while rates in Lebanon rose steadily from 4 per 1000 in 2000 to 6 per 1000 in 2007.

Figure 2: Crude birth rates in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (births per 1000 population)

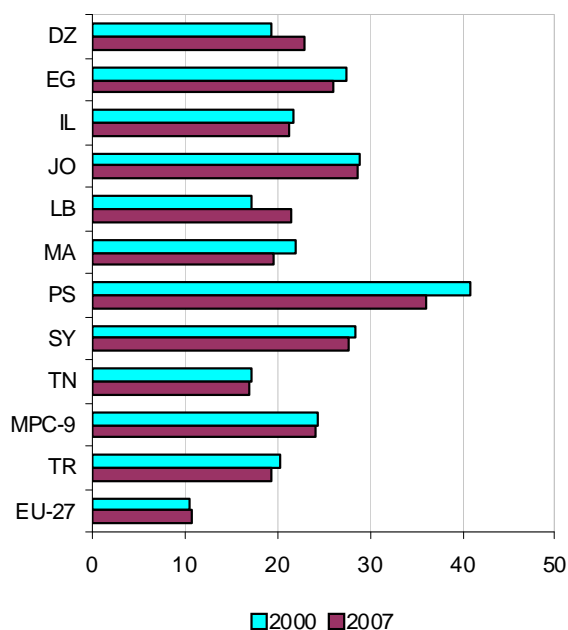
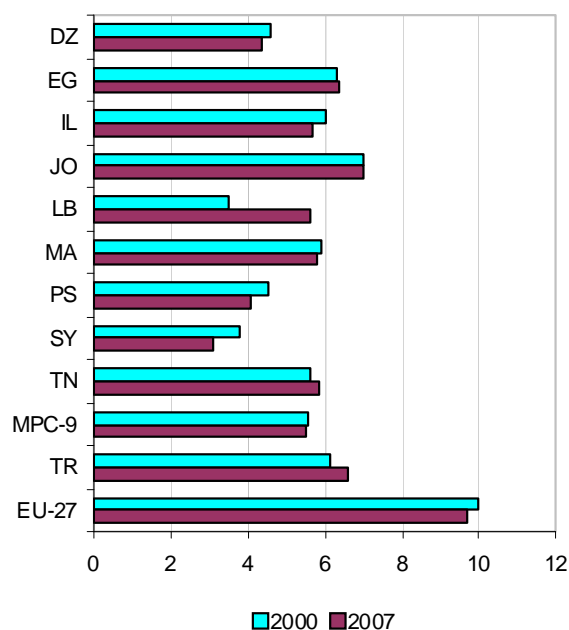


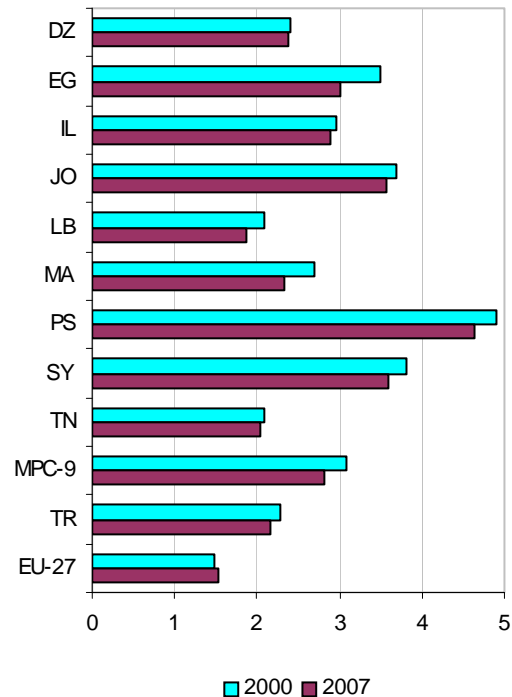
Figure 3: Crude death rates in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (deaths per 1000 population)



The crude birth and death rates are generally consistent with the recorded growth in population. High birth rates are consistent with population growth, while high death rates tend to reflect an older population, which, in itself, implies less growth. Any inconsistency could perhaps have been explained by data on migration, but such data was not available.

The **total fertility rate** for the MPCs was almost twice that of the EU-27 but fell from 3.1 in 2000 to 2.8 in 2007 - while that for the EU-27 remained stable over the period (Fig. 4). The total fertility rate for the occupied Palestinian territory was the highest throughout the period (4.9 in 2000 and 4.6 in 2007). The total fertility rates for Syria and Jordan were also high at well over 3. The total fertility rate for Egypt fell from 3.5 in 2000 to 3.0 in 2007. Fertility rates also fell in Morocco and Lebanon – the latter country had the lowest total fertility rate among the MPCs in 2007.

Figure 4: Total fertility rates in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (children per woman)



Determinants of population change: variation in life expectancy, infant mortality and age at first marriage

For males, life expectancy at birth in 2007 was 3 years higher in the EU-27 than in the MPCs (Fig. 5). However, male life expectancy increased rapidly in the MPCs – from 68.7 years

in 2000 to 71.7 years in 2007, compared to the EU-27 where it increased from 74.3 years to 74.7 years over the same period.

Figure 5: Life expectancy at birth for males in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (years)

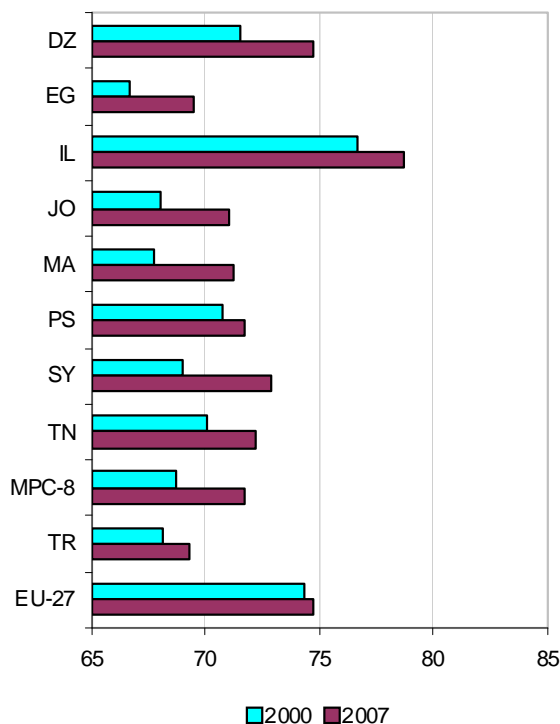
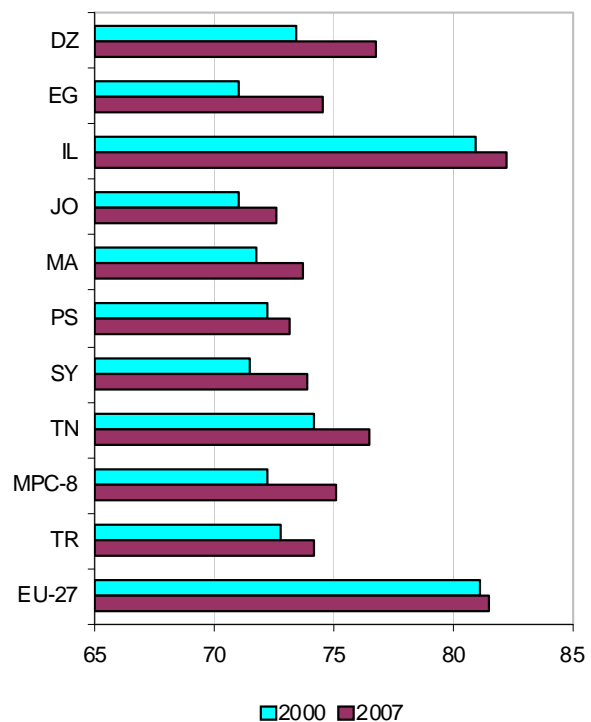


Figure 6: Life expectancy at birth for females in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (years)

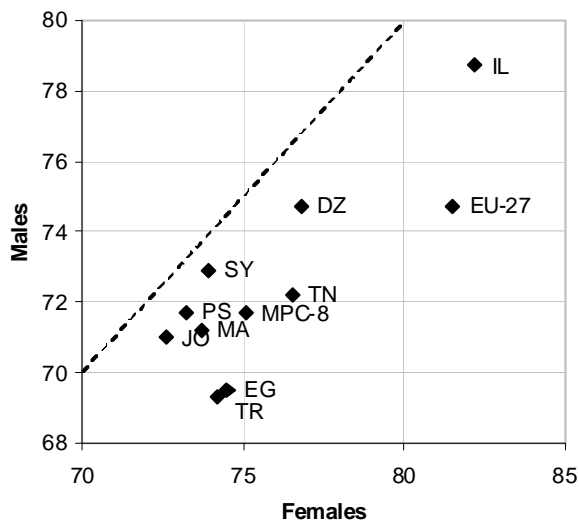


Note: No data on life expectancy for LB. MPC figures refer to the 8 countries for which data are available.

There was a general rise in life expectancy for males in all MPCs throughout the period. The levels were highest in Israel and Algeria, with Israel's figure well above the EU-27 average throughout the period. Male life expectancy was relatively low in Egypt and Turkey where the figure never rose above 70 years.

The same pattern was found for life expectancy at birth for females – although figures were invariably higher than the corresponding figures for males (Fig. 6). In 2000 life expectancy for females was 8.9 years higher in the EU-27 than in the MPCs, but by 2007 this gap had narrowed to 6.4 years. Life expectancy for females in Egypt and Turkey was more in line with other MPCs than it was for males. In 2007, life expectancy for females in Israel was 7 years greater than the MPCs average.

Figure 7: Life expectancy at birth for males and females in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27, 2007 (years)



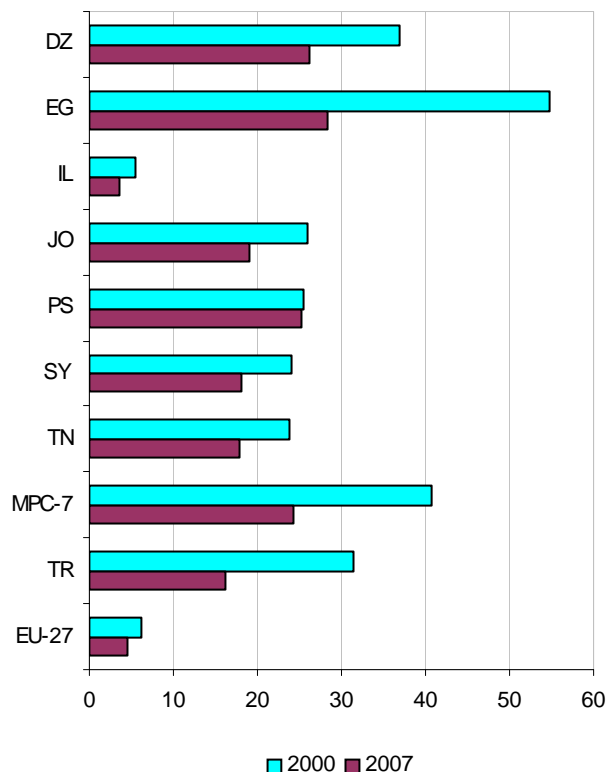
There are significant differences in life expectancy at birth for males compared to females in all countries, as illustrated in Figure 7. The dotted line represents equal life expectancy for each sex. The point for the EU-27 is furthest from this line showing that in this group of countries women are expected to outlive men longest, by almost 7 years. Egypt and Tunisia also show a large gap between sexes, as does Turkey. The gap is smallest in Syria, the occupied Palestinian territory and Jordan.

Infant mortality rate (the number of deaths of children aged under 1 per 1000 live births) in the MPCs was, apart from Israel, higher than the average for the EU-27, but was seen to fall during the period 2000-2007 – particularly in Algeria, Egypt, and Jordan (Fig. 8).

In the countries for which data are available, infant mortality in 2000 was 7 times higher in the MPCs than in the EU-27. However, between 2000 and 2007 this rate fell considerably for the MPCs, from 40.7 in 2000 to 24.3 in 2007 – a fall of two-fifths.

Among the MPCs, the lowest figures by far were in Israel – with infant mortality rates similar to the EU-27 average. High rates of infant mortality were found in Egypt and Algeria. Compared to 2000, infant mortality rates were lower in 2007 in all MPCs.

Figure 8: Infant mortality rates in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (deaths of infants per 1000 live births)



Note: No data on infant mortality for LB and MA. MPC figures refer to the 7 countries for which data are available.

Men tended, on average, to marry at the same age in the MPCs as in the EU-27 – at around 30 years of age (Fig. 9). Men in Turkey married 4 years earlier in life. There was wide variation among the MPCs, with Algerian men marrying some 9 years later in life than Palestinian men. The average age of marriage rose greatly for Lebanese men in the period – from around 28 years in 2000 to 36 years in 2007, the highest in the region.

Perhaps of more relevance to population growth in the MPCs is the average age at which women marry (Fig. 10) - the lower the age the greater likelihood of large families. For the MPCs, the average age at first marriage for women, unlike men, was lower than that for the EU-27 and, except for Lebanon, did not increase steadily over the

period – so the gap was wider at the end of the period than at the start. The age of marriage for Turkish women was around 3 years less than for women in the MPCs.

Women in Algeria and, especially at the end of the period, in Lebanon married late in life. Women married much earlier in life in the occupied Palestinian territory – at around 19 years old – more than 10 years younger than in Algeria.

The difference in average age at first marriage between men and women is greater in the MPCs than in the EU-27 and Turkey. The age difference is widest among Palestinians, Egyptians, Tunisians, and Moroccans.

Figure 9: Average age at first marriage for males in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (years)

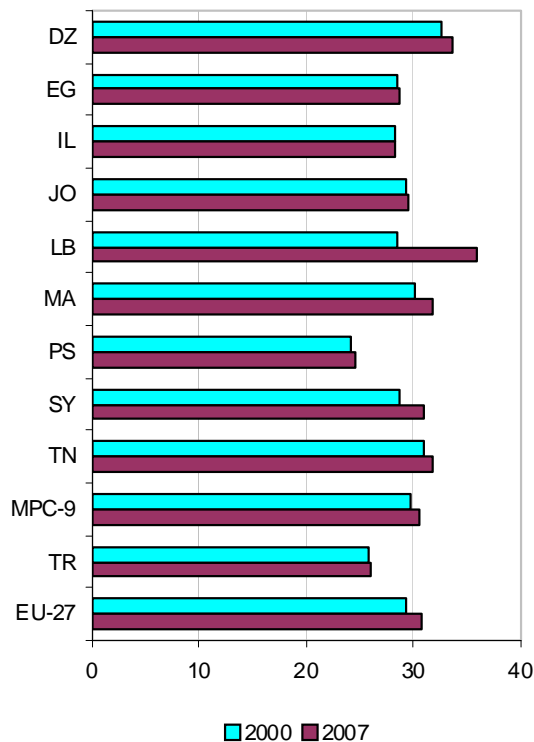
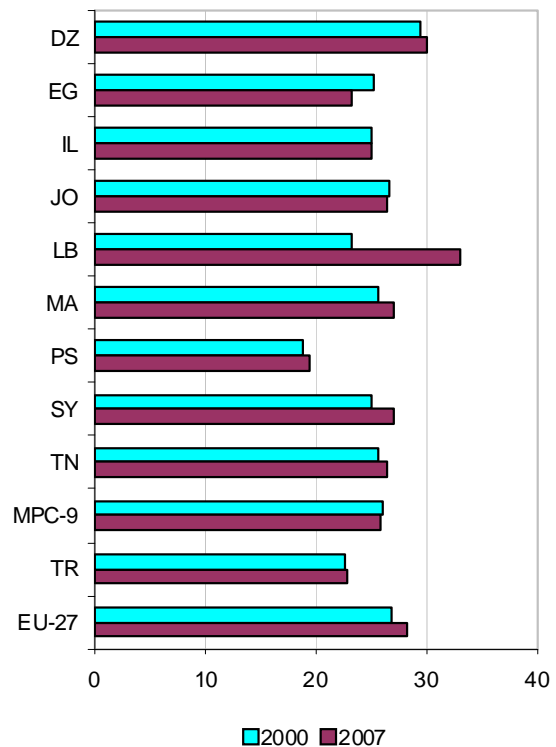


Figure 10: Average age at first marriage for females in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27 (years)



Wide variation in ages of dependency

In 2007 the proportion of the population of working age (aged 15 to 64) was higher in the EU-27 than in the MPCs – 67% compared to 63% (Fig. 11). In the EU-27, there were roughly equal numbers above and below working age – 17% over 65 and 16% aged 0-14. In the MPCs, the balance

between the older and younger groups was quite different, with 5% and 32%, respectively. The age distribution for Turkey was similar to that of the MPCs. The percentage of the population of working age was above 60% for all countries except for Jordan, Syria and the occupied

Palestinian territory - the latter having only 51% in this age group. The younger group (0-14) was much larger than the older (65+) in all MPCs, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territory,

where 46% of the population is under 15 – almost three times the proportion in the EU-27. Relatively large populations were observed in the older age group in Israel, Lebanon and Tunisia.

Figure 11: Proportion of population in broad age groups in the MPCs, Turkey and EU-27, 2007 (%)

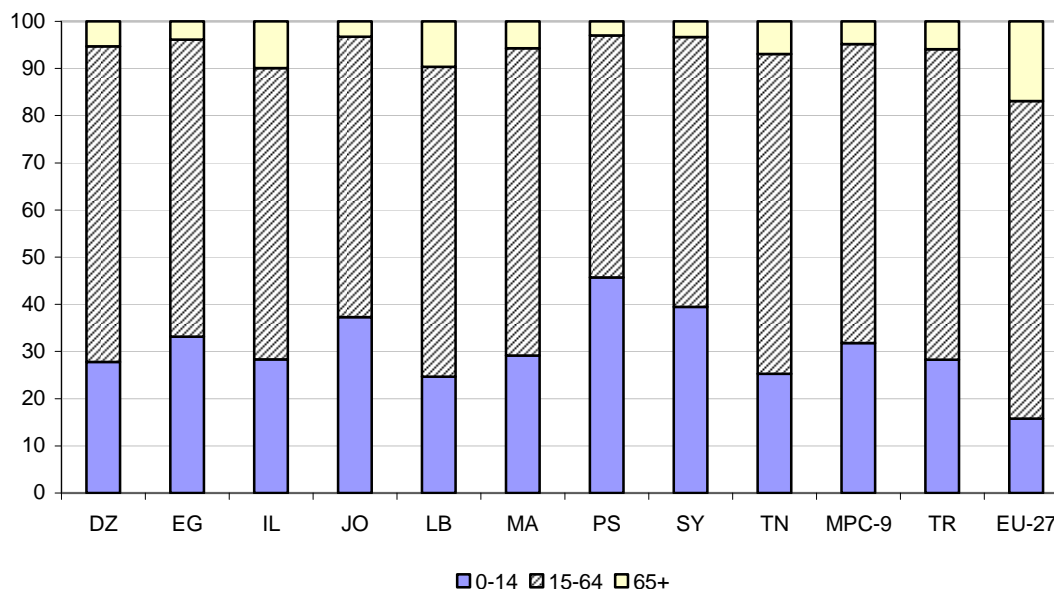


Table 2: Demographic data

	Popu- lation growth 2000- 2007 (%)	2007									
		Crude birth rate (‰)	Crude death rate (‰)	Total fertility rate	Life expectancy (years)		Infant mortality rate (‰)	Age at first marriage (years)		Popu- lation aged 0-14 (%)	Popu- lation aged 65+ (%)
					Males	Fe- males		Males	Fe- males		
DZ	11.9	23.0	4.4	2.4	74.7	76.8	26.2	33.6	30.0	27.8	5.3
EG	15.3	26.0	6.4	3.0	69.5	74.5	28.4	28.7	23.1	33.2	3.8
IL	14.0	21.2	5.7	2.9	78.7	82.2	3.6	28.4	25.1	28.3	9.9
JO	18.2	28.8	7.0	3.6	71.0	72.6	19.0	29.5	26.4	37.3	3.2
LB	0.3	21.5	5.6	1.9	:	:	16.1 ⁽¹⁾	36.0	33.0	24.7	9.6
MA	8.5	19.5	5.8	2.3	71.2	73.7	:	31.7	27.0	29.2	5.7
PS	20.6	36.1	4.1	4.6	71.7	73.2	25.3 ⁽²⁾	24.7	19.5	45.7	3.0
SY	17.5	27.6	3.1	3.6	72.9	73.9	18.0	30.9	27.1	39.5	3.3
TN	6.8	16.9	5.9	2.0	72.2	76.5	17.9	31.8	26.5	25.3	7.0
MPC-9	13.0	24.1	5.5	2.8	71.7	75.1	24.3	30.5	25.9	31.8	4.8
TR	9.3	19.4	6.6	2.2	69.3	74.2	16.1	26.1	22.8	28.3	5.9
EU-27	2.6	10.6	9.7	1.5	74.7	81.5	4.5	30.8	28.3	15.8	16.9

(1) 2004. (2) 2006.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Definitions:

The *total fertility rate* is the average number of children that would be born per woman if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years and bore children according to the fertility rates observed at each age at a given time.

The *crude birth rate* (or *crude death rate*) is the ratio of live births (or deaths) in a specified period to the mid-year population in that period.

Life expectancy is the mean number of years of life expected given the age specific mortality rates in a given period of time.

Infant mortality rate is the proportion of the number of deaths of infants (died before reaching first birthday) during a given period of time to the number of live births during the same period.

Sources:

EU-27 data are generally from Eurostat. Most data for MPCs were supplied by the national statistical institutes. Data for Turkey were mainly supplied by TURKSTAT. Gaps in data available for MPCs have been filled by estimates.

Abbreviations:

DZ: Algeria

EG: Egypt

IL: Israel

JO: Jordan

LB: Lebanon

MA: Morocco

PS: occupied Palestinian territory

SY: Syria

TN: Tunisia

MPC-9: the nine Mediterranean partner countries

TR: Turkey

EU-27: the 27 European Union Member States

This publication has been prepared by Mr. Ian Máté and Mr. Frank Thomas, short-term experts in Population Statistics, under the supervision of Mr. Bahjat Achikbache, long-term expert in Social Statistics for the *MEDSTAT II* programme, the EU-funded regional Euro-Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation programme.

MEDSTAT II was implemented between January 2006 and September 2009 and sought to:

- Harmonise statistical methods in Mediterranean partner countries in line with European and international conventions and standards.
- Improve the comparability of data between the partner countries and with those from EU Member States and EFTA countries.
- Enhance the quality of services offered to users by the National Statistical Institutes and their partner organisations involved in the production of statistics.

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Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Data on "Mediterranean countries, Population and social conditions":
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