

International Day of Older Persons

Nearly 27 million people aged 80 or over in the European Union

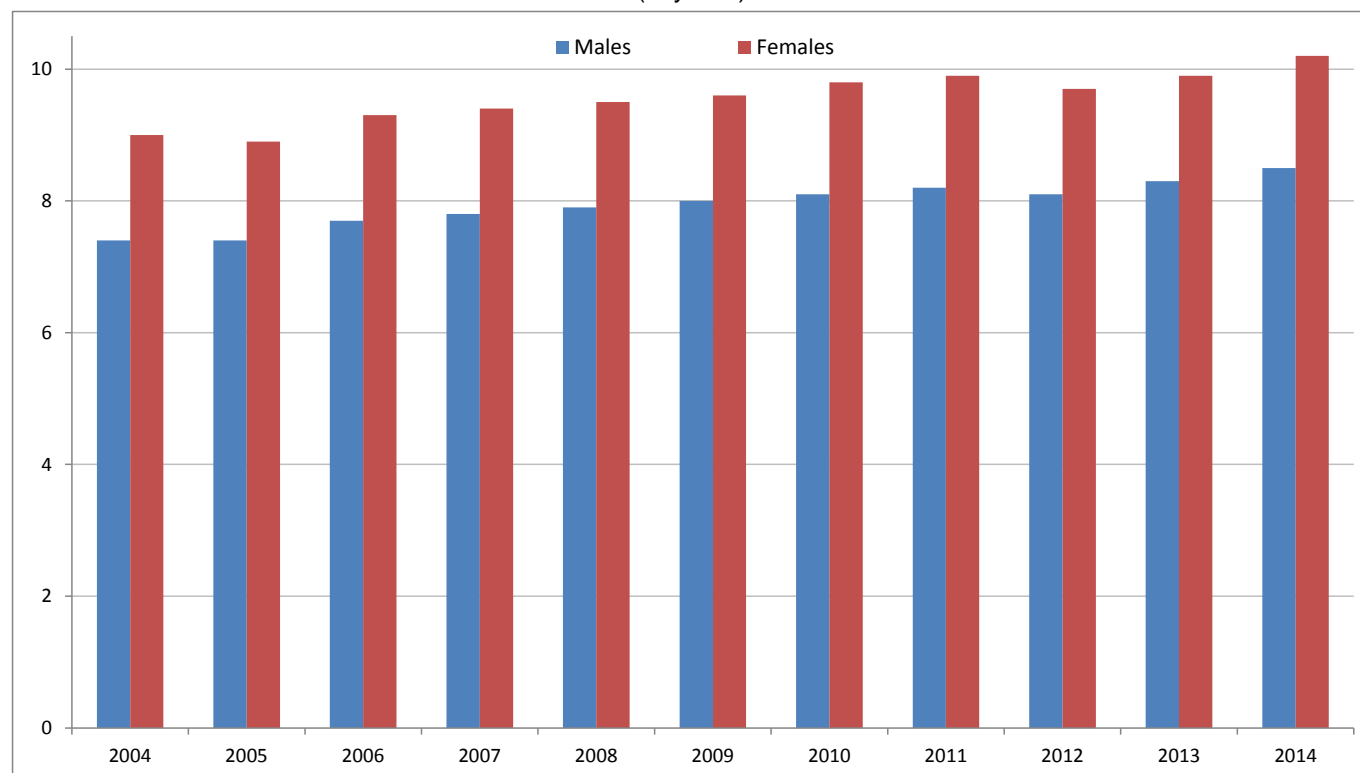
Almost 10 years' life expectancy at the age of 80

In 2015, almost 27 million people aged 80 or over (hereafter "elderly people") were living in the **European Union** (EU), 7 million more than in 2005. An increase in both their absolute number and their share in total population is observed in nearly every EU Member State. The rising share of elderly people in the **EU** (from 4.0% in 2005 to 5.3% in 2015) means that in 2015 one in every 20 persons living in the **EU** was aged 80 or over. The ageing of the population structure is, at least partly, the result of an increasing life expectancy, which grew at the age of 80 from 8.4 years in 2004 to 9.5 years in 2014.

Although their proportion shrank between 2005 and 2015, women still accounted for around two-thirds of elderly people in the **EU**. This overrepresentation of women among people aged 80 or over is observed in all EU Member States.

On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, celebrated each year on 1st October, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes demographic indicators on elderly people living in the EU. An [interactive tool](#) on the lives of people aged 65 or over in the EU is also available on the Eurostat website.

Life expectancy at the age of 80 in the EU, by sex, 2004-2014
(in years)

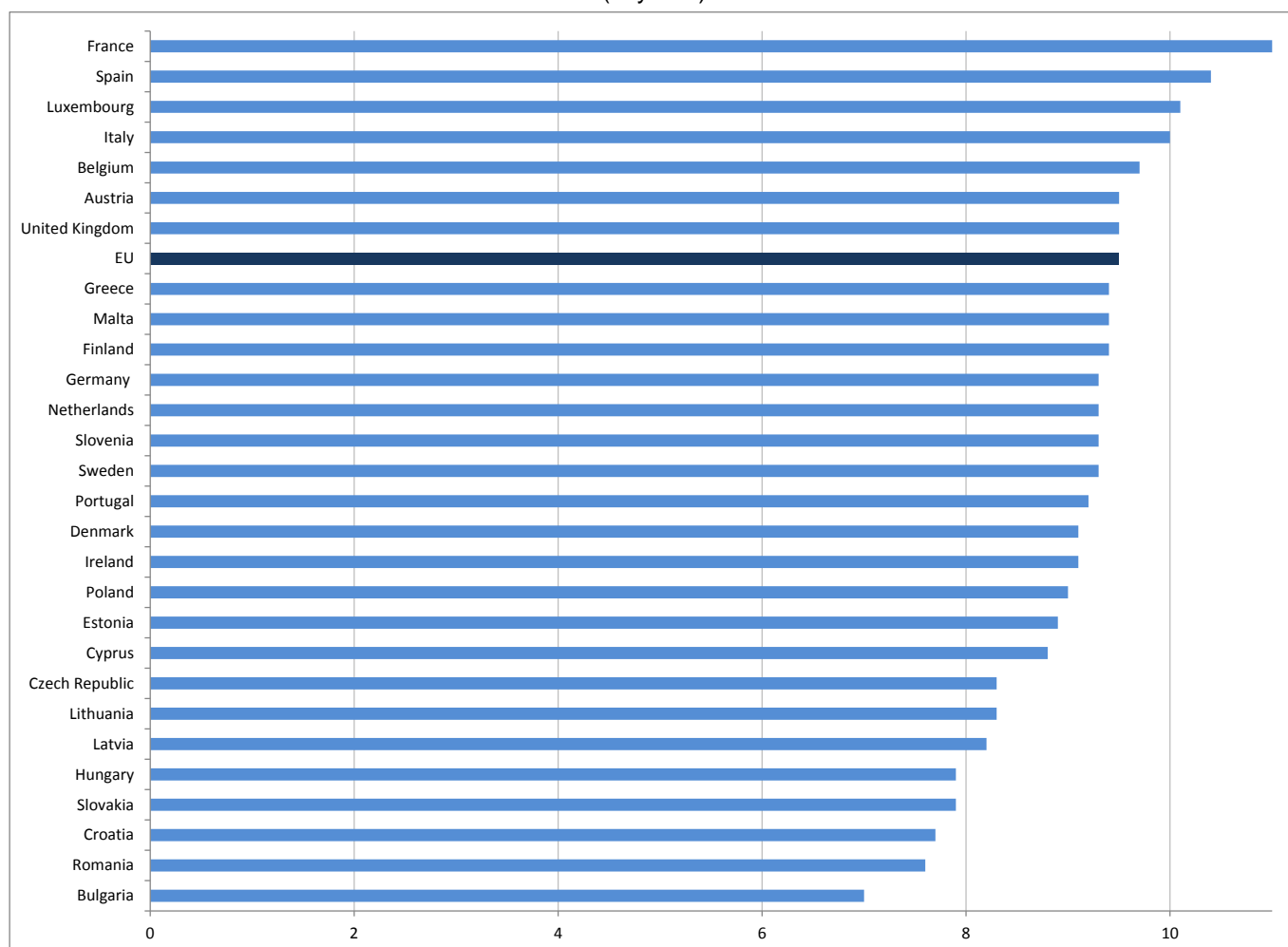


People aged 80 can expect to live the longest in France

At EU level, life expectancy at the age of 80 stood at 9.5 years in 2014. People aged 80 in 2014 could expect to live at least 11 years more in **France**, followed by **Spain** (10.4 years), **Luxembourg** (10.1 years) and **Italy** (10.0 years). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest life expectancy at the age of 80 was recorded in **Bulgaria** (7.0 years), **Romania** (7.6 years), **Croatia** (7.7 years), **Hungary** and **Slovakia** (both 7.9 years). This means that there is a 4-year gap across the EU as regard life expectancy at the age of 80.

Compared with 2004, life expectancy in the EU at the age of 80 rose by 1.1 year in the last decade (from 8.4 years to 9.5 years). A similar trend is observed in all Member States, with gains in life expectancy ranging from a bit over half a year in **Sweden** (0.6 year), **Bulgaria**, **Hungary** and **Finland** (all 0.7 year) to more than one and a half years in **Romania** (1.9 year), **Estonia**, **Spain** and **France** (all 1.6 year).

Life expectancy at the age of 80 in the EU Member States, 2014
(in years)



Women aged 80 in Luxembourg can expect to live almost 3 years more than men

In every EU Member State, life expectancy at the age of 80 is higher for women than for men. In 2014, the largest gender gap was recorded in **Luxembourg** (11.2 years' life expectancy for women compared with 8.5 years for men, or a 2.7 year difference), followed by **France** (2.5 years), **Estonia** (2.2 years), **Italy** (2.1 years), **Spain** and **Portugal** (both 2.0 years). At EU level, life expectancy at the age of 80 stood at 10.2 years for women and at 8.5 years for men (a 1.7 year gap)

Compared with 2004, life expectancy has increased more rapidly for women than for men in a majority of Member States, notably in **Estonia** (where women gained almost one year of life expectancy more than men) and **Hungary** (gain of half a year). In contrast, the gap between men and women has narrowed in the past ten years in eight Member States, in particular in **Greece** and **Cyprus**, where men gained almost half a year (0.4 year) of life expectancy over women.

Life expectancy (in years) at the age of 80, by sex

	2004			2014			Change 2014/2004		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU	8.4	7.4	9.0	9.5	8.5	10.2	+1.1	+1.1	+1.2
Belgium	8.2	7.1	8.8	9.7	8.5	10.4	+1.5	+1.4	+1.6
Bulgaria	6.3	5.8	6.6	7.0	6.4	7.3	+0.7	+0.6	+0.7
Czech Republic	6.9	6.1	7.3	8.3	7.4	8.9	+1.4	+1.3	+1.6
Denmark	8.2	7.0	8.9	9.1	8.2	9.8	+0.9	+1.2	+0.9
Germany	8.5	7.7	8.8	9.3	8.4	9.8	+0.8	+0.7	+1.0
Estonia	7.3	6.3	7.6	8.9	7.3	9.5	+1.6	+1.0	+1.9
Ireland	8.0	6.9	8.8	9.1	8.2	9.8	+1.1	+1.3	+1.0
Greece	8.4	7.9	8.8	9.4	9.1	9.6	+1.0	+1.2	+0.8
Spain	8.8	7.6	9.5	10.4	9.2	11.2	+1.6	+1.6	+1.7
France	9.4	8.1	10.3	11.0	9.5	12.0	+1.6	+1.4	+1.7
Croatia	6.9	6.1	7.3	7.7	6.9	8.1	+0.8	+0.8	+0.8
Italy	8.9	7.7	9.6	10.0	8.8	10.9	+1.1	+1.1	+1.3
Cyprus	7.6	7.0	8.2	8.8	8.4	9.2	+1.2	+1.4	+1.0
Latvia	6.8	5.8	7.1	8.2	7.0	8.6	+1.4	+1.2	+1.5
Lithuania	7.4	6.5	7.8	8.3	7.1	8.8	+0.9	+0.6	+1.0
Luxembourg	8.4	6.8	9.3	10.1	8.5	11.2	+1.7	+1.7	+1.9
Hungary	7.2	6.5	7.5	7.9	6.9	8.4	+0.7	+0.4	+0.9
Malta	7.8	7.1	8.2	9.4	8.6	10.0	+1.6	+1.5	+1.8
Netherlands	8.2	7.0	8.9	9.3	8.3	10.0	+1.1	+1.3	+1.1
Austria	8.3	7.3	8.7	9.5	8.6	10.1	+1.2	+1.3	+1.4
Poland	7.5	6.6	8.0	9.0	7.9	9.7	+1.5	+1.3	+1.7
Portugal	8.2	7.2	8.8	9.2	8.0	10.0	+1.0	+0.8	+1.2
Romania	5.7	5.3	6.0	7.6	7.0	7.9	+1.9	+1.7	+1.9
Slovenia	8.0	6.7	8.5	9.3	8.1	10.0	+1.3	+1.4	+1.5
Slovakia	6.8	6.1	7.2	7.9	7.0	8.4	+1.1	+0.9	+1.2
Finland	8.7	7.4	9.2	9.4	8.4	10.1	+0.7	+1.0	+0.9
Sweden	8.7	7.6	9.4	9.3	8.4	10.0	+0.6	+0.8	+0.6
United Kingdom	8.5	7.6	9.0	9.5	8.7	10.0	+1.0	+1.1	+1.0
Iceland	9.2	7.8	10.3	9.7	8.7	10.6	+0.5	+0.9	+0.3
Liechtenstein	9.6	7.3	11.1	8.7	8.1	9.1	-0.9	+0.8	-2.0
Norway	8.7	7.4	9.5	9.3	8.3	10.0	+0.6	+0.9	+0.5
Switzerland	9.2	8.2	9.9	10.0	8.9	10.7	+0.8	+0.7	+0.8
Montenegro	:	:	:	7.2	7.0	7.3	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	5.8	5.4	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.3	+0.4	+0.6	+0.2
Albania	:	:	:	7.1	6.8	7.3	:	:	:
Serbia	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.9	+0.6	+0.4	+0.7
Turkey	:	:	:	8.4	7.4	9.1	:	:	:

: Data not available

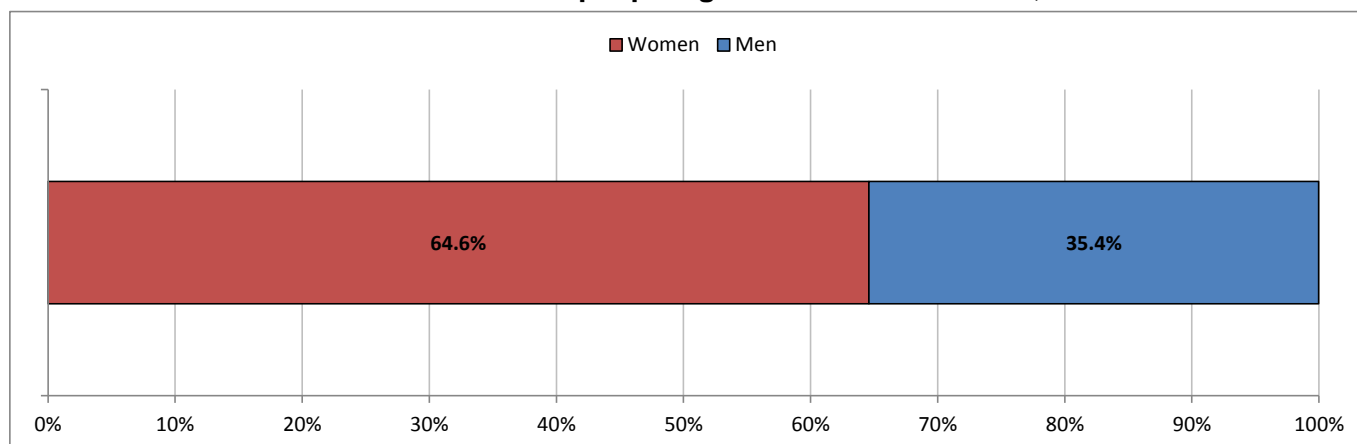
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

In Baltic EU Member States, about three quarters of 80+ are women

In every EU Member State, women were a significant majority among elderly people, with proportions ranging in 2015 from just below 60% in **Cyprus** (58.9%) and **Greece** (59.2%) to more than 70% in **Hungary** (70.5%) and the three EU Baltic Member States – **Lithuania** (73.4%), **Estonia** (75.2%) and **Latvia** (75.9%).

Compared with 2005 however, the share of women among people aged 80 or over decreased in a majority of Member States, with the most remarkable falls being registered in **Luxembourg** (from 71.6% in 2005 to 64.2% in 2015, or -7.4 percentage points – pp), **Germany** (-7.2 pp), **Austria** (-6.2 pp), **Finland** (-5.3 pp), the **United Kingdom** (-4.5 pp) and the **Netherlands** (-4.4 pp).

Gender distribution of people aged 80 or over in the EU, 2015

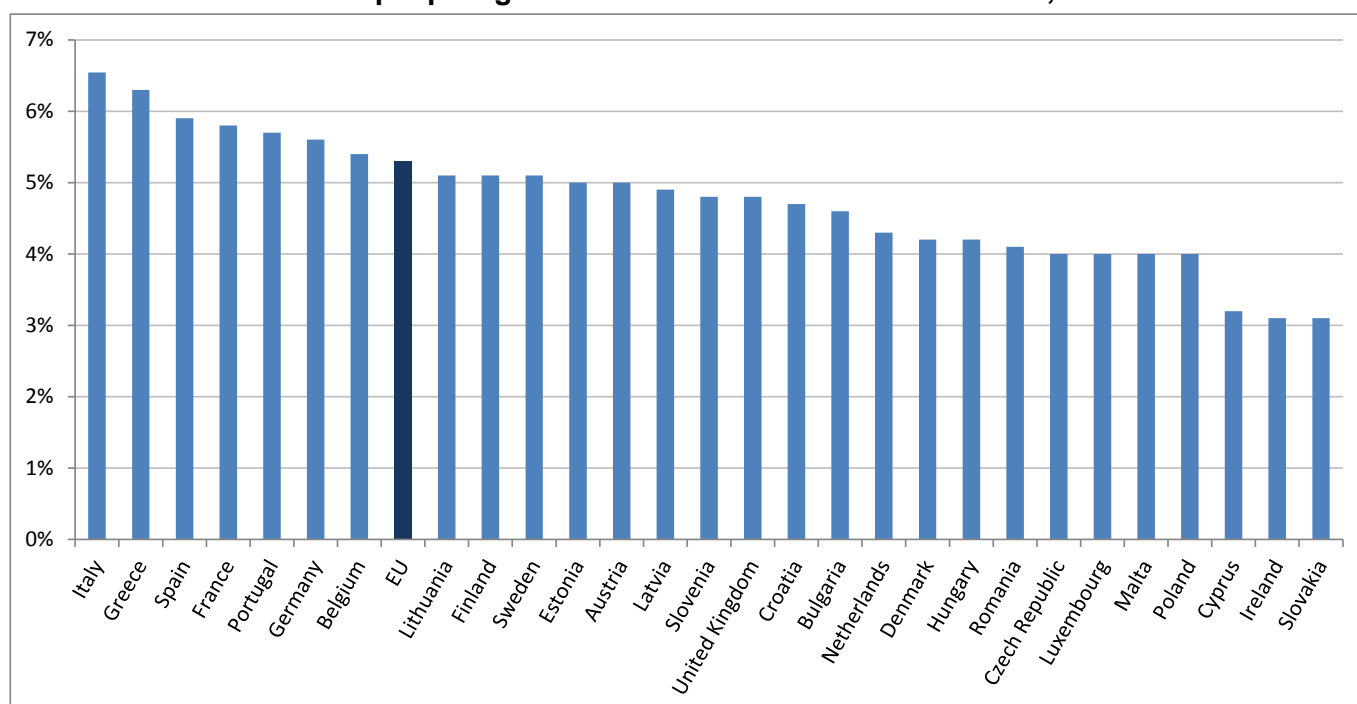


Highest proportion of people aged 80 or over in Italy and Greece

In general, Southern Member States registered the highest proportions of elderly people. In 2015, the highest shares of people aged 80 or over were indeed recorded in **Italy** (6.5%) and **Greece** (6.3%), followed by **Spain** (5.9%), **France** (5.8%) and **Portugal** (5.7%). In contrast, **Ireland** and **Slovakia** (both 3.1%) as well as **Cyprus** (3.2%) recorded the lowest proportions of elderly people in their population.

Compared with 2005, the share of people aged 80 or over rose by 2015 in all Member States, except **Sweden**. The largest increase was registered in **Greece** (from 3.9% in 2005 to 6.3% in 2015, or +2.4 pp), ahead of **Lithuania** (+2.1 pp), **Romania** (+2.0 pp), **Estonia** and **Latvia** (both +1.9 pp), **Croatia**, **Portugal** and **Slovenia** (all +1.8 pp), **Spain** (+1.7 pp) and **Italy** (+1.6 pp).

Share of people aged 80 or over in the EU Member States, 2015



Population aged 80 or over as of 1st January

	2005			2015		
	Absolute number	Share of people aged 80+ in total population (%)	Proportion of women among population aged 80+	Absolute number	Share of people aged 80+ in total population (%)	Proportion of women among population aged 80+
EU	19 728 485	4.0%	67.9%	26 761 655	5.3%	64.6%
Belgium	447 652	4.3%	67.6%	611 388	5.4%	64.4%
Bulgaria	244 033	3.2%	63.1%	331 193	4.6%	64.2%
Czech Republic	307 859	3.0%	69.7%	418 698	4.0%	67.2%
Denmark	220 871	4.1%	66.3%	239 409	4.2%	62.5%
Germany	3 556 982	4.3%	72.3%	4 544 298	5.6%	65.1%
Estonia	42 520	3.1%	77.6%	65 292	5.0%	75.2%
Ireland	108 895	2.6%	65.1%	141 566	3.1%	61.5%
Greece	432 665	3.9%	61.1%	680 969	6.3%	59.2%
Spain	1 821 369	4.2%	65.5%	2 732 405	5.9%	63.3%
France	2 800 661	4.5%	67.2%	3 850 802	5.8%	65.0%
Croatia	126 555	2.9%	72.2%	197 164	4.7%	68.4%
Italy	2 844 713	4.9%	67.0%	3 977 449	6.5%	64.4%
Cyprus	19 464	2.7%	58.9%	27 506	3.2%	58.9%
Latvia	67 515	3.0%	78.7%	96 615	4.9%	75.9%
Lithuania	100 095	3.0%	74.3%	149 111	5.1%	73.4%
Luxembourg	14 638	3.2%	71.6%	22 294	4.0%	64.2%
Hungary	337 889	3.3%	69.6%	418 295	4.2%	70.5%
Malta	11 491	2.9%	62.8%	17 129	4.0%	64.0%
Netherlands	573 573	3.5%	68.2%	734 976	4.3%	63.8%
Austria	345 419	4.2%	71.8%	429 851	5.0%	65.6%
Poland	966 187	2.5%	70.8%	1 525 896	4.0%	69.4%
Portugal	410 825	3.9%	64.8%	595 570	5.7%	64.6%
Romania	439 034	2.1%	65.4%	815 899	4.1%	64.5%
Slovenia	60 459	3.0%	74.0%	99 523	4.8%	69.5%
Slovakia	127 381	2.4%	68.8%	168 459	3.1%	69.7%
Finland	203 318	3.9%	71.5%	277 477	5.1%	66.2%
Sweden	482 337	5.4%	63.9%	499 408	5.1%	61.9%
United Kingdom	2 614 085	4.3%	65.9%	3 093 013	4.8%	61.4%
Iceland	9 007	3.1%	60.8%	12 052	3.7%	58.9%
Liechtenstein	987	2.9%	68.0%	1 269	3.4%	65.6%
Norway	213 155	4.6%	66.0%	220 439	4.3%	63.0%
Switzerland	328 148	4.4%	66.4%	408 701	5.0%	63.7%
Montenegro	10 283	1.7%	64.0%	17 066	2.7%	60.7%
FYR of Macedonia	30 251	1.5%	58.7%	46 125	2.2%	59.8%
Albania	40 587	1.3%	62.1%	64 492	2.2%	57.7%
Serbia	186 133	2.5%	63.6%	294 417	4.1%	62.4%
Turkey	:	:	:	1 315 845	1.7%	61.7%

Data are provisional

: Data not available

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Data presented in this News Release come from the annual demographic data collection carried out by Eurostat. Over time, data at EU level may be affected by small changes in population methodology in some Member States.

Life expectancy at 80 is the mean number of years that a person of 80 years of age in a given reference year can expect to live, if subjected throughout the rest of his or her life to the current mortality conditions.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to population data.

Eurostat [database](#) on population.

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to mortality and life expectancy.

Eurostat [database](#) on mortality indicators and life expectancy.

Eurostat Statistics Explained articles: "[Population structure and ageing](#)" and "[Mortality and life expectancy statistics](#)".

Eurostat [interactive tool](#) "A look at the lives of the elderly in the EU today"

The UN [webpage](#) dedicated to the International Day of Older Persons.

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