

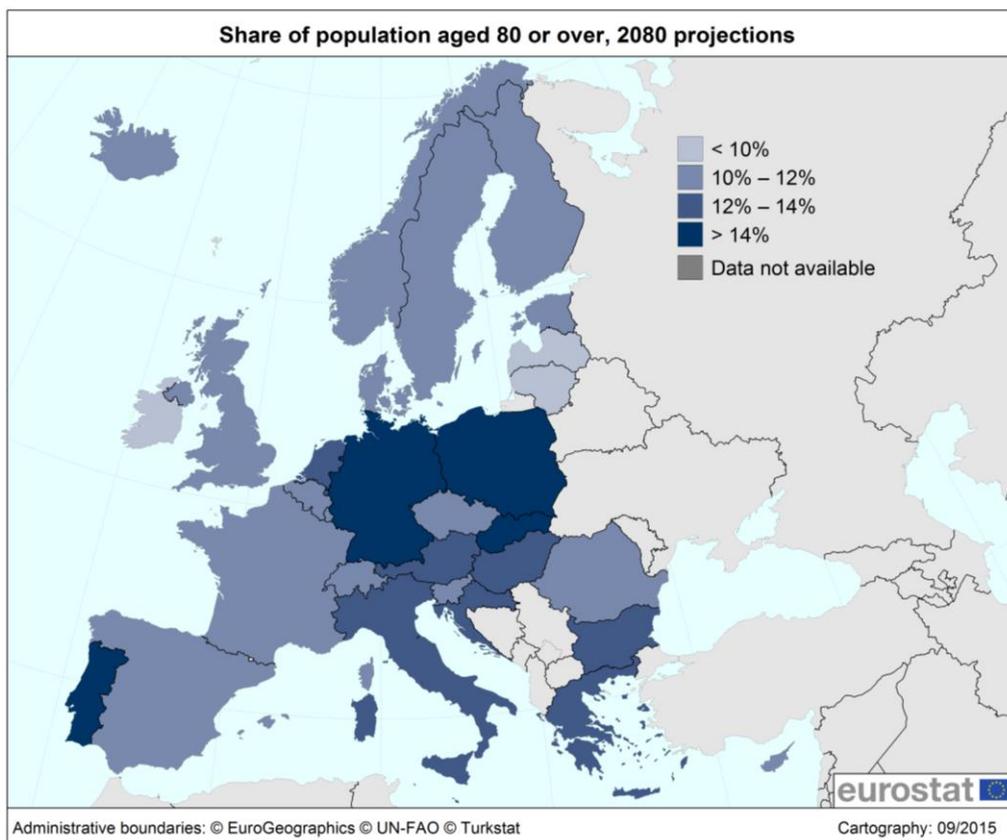
International Day of Older Persons

1 out of every 8 persons in the EU could be 80 or above by 2080

Elderly people less at risk of poverty or social exclusion

The **European Union** (EU) as a whole is confronted with an ageing population. In 2014, the proportion of persons aged 65 or over reached 18.5% in the **EU** and it is projected to further increase in the future to almost 30% by 2080. In particular, the proportion of persons aged 80 or over among the total population is expected to more than double, from just over 5% in 2014 to more than 12% by 2080. This demographic trend confronts the **EU** with major challenges, notably regarding the economic situation and social inclusion of older people.

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. Indicators on the risk of poverty and social exclusion among persons aged 65 or over, as well as on elderly internet users are also presented in this News Release. These statistics are only a small part of the data by age available on the Eurostat website.



Share of population aged 80 or over projected to at least double in almost all Member States

In 2014 in the **EU**, 18.5% of the population was aged 65 or over, including around 5.1% aged 80 or over. Member States with the highest proportions of population aged 80 or over were **Italy** (6.4%), **Greece** (6.0%), **Spain** and **rance** (5.7% each). Conversely, the lowest proportions were found in **Ireland** and **Slovakia** (both with 3.0% of their opulation aged 80 or over) as well as in **Cyprus** (3.1%).

The proportion of the **EU** population aged 80 or over has risen over the last 15 years, from 3.5% in 2001 to 5.1% in 2014. Population projections show that the **EU** population will age further: by 2080, almost 1 out of every 8 persons (12.3% of the population) would be aged 80 or over. **Slovakia** (now the Member State with the lowest proportion) is projected to become the Member State with the highest share of persons aged 80 or over (16.3%), followed by **Portugal** (15.8%), **Germany** (15.1%) and **Poland** (14.9%). At the opposite end of the scale, **Ireland** (with 7.4% of the population expected to be aged 80 or over by 2080), **Lithuania** (8.9%) and **Latvia** (9.5%) would have the lowest shares.

Life expectancy at 65: widest gap between men and women in the EU Baltic States

Across Member States in 2013, life expectancy for women at 65 ranged from less than 18 years in **Bulgaria** to more than 23 years in **France** and **Spain**. For men it varied from less than 14 years in **Latvia** to more than 19 years in **France**, **Spain** and **Luxembourg**. The biggest differences in life expectancy at 65 between men and women were registered in **Estonia** and **Lithuania** (5.1 years each) as well as in **Latvia** (4.7 years), and the lowest in the **United Kingdom** (2.3 years), **Sweden** (2.5 years), **Denmark** and **Ireland** (both 2.7 years). At **EU** level, life expectancy in 2013 at the age of 65 was 21.3 years for women and 17.9 years for men (or a difference of 3.4 years).

Older population and life expectancy in the EU Member States

	Proportion of population aged 65 or over		Proportion of population aged 80 or over		Life expectancy at 65 (2013)	
	2014	2080 (projected)	2014	2080 (projected)	Females	Males
EU	18.5	28.7	5.1	12.3	21.3	17.9
Belgium	17.8	26.0	5.3	10.6	21.4	17.8
Bulgaria	19.6	29.7	4.4	12.4	17.9	14.2
Czech Republic	17.4	27.3	3.9	10.9	19.3	15.7
Denmark	18.2	26.9	4.2	11.4	20.4	17.7
Germany	20.8	32.5	5.4	15.1	21.1	18.2
Estonia	18.4	28.4	4.9	11.8	20.3	15.2
Ireland	12.6	21.9	3.0	7.4	20.8	18.1
Greece	20.5	31.1	6.0	13.5	21.6	18.7
Spain	18.1	27.8	5.7	10.8	23.4	19.2
France	18.0	26.4	5.7	11.1	23.6	19.3
Croatia	18.4	30.4	4.5	13.2	19.1	15.3
Italy	21.4	31.3	6.4	13.3	22.6	18.9
Cyprus	13.9	25.2	3.1	10.8	21.6	18.6
Latvia	19.1	23.8	4.8	9.5	18.6	13.9
Lithuania	18.4	20.7	5.0	8.9	19.2	14.1
Luxembourg	14.1	25.6	3.9	10.4	21.9	19.1
Hungary	17.5	29.6	4.2	12.8	18.4	14.5
Malta	17.9	27.9	3.9	13.0	21.4	18.4
Netherlands	17.3	29.2	4.3	12.6	21.2	18.2
Austria	18.3	30.3	5.0	13.5	21.5	18.2
Poland	14.9	32.3	3.9	14.9	19.9	15.5
Portugal	19.9	35.7	5.5	15.8	21.6	17.8
Romania	16.5	28.1	4.0	11.9	18.1	14.7
Slovenia	17.5	28.1	4.7	11.7	21.4	17.2
Slovakia	13.5	35.9	3.0	16.3	18.8	14.7
Finland	19.4	28.0	5.0	12.0	21.8	18.0
Sweden	19.4	25.7	5.2	10.7	21.3	18.8
United Kingdom	17.5	25.8	4.7	10.9	20.9	18.6
Montenegro	13.3	:	2.6	:	17.5	15.0
FYR of Macedonia	12.4	:	2.1	:	16.4	14.4
Serbia	18.0	:	4.0	:	16.9	14.3
Turkey	7.7	:	1.6	:	19.8	16.3
Iceland	13.2	24.0	3.6	10.2	21.2	18.8
Liechtenstein	15.5	:	3.3	:	22.0	18.9
Norway	15.9	26.4	4.3	10.9	21.4	18.5
Switzerland	17.6	27.5	4.9	11.8	22.4	19.4

: Data not available

EU, Portugal, Romania and the United Kingdom: 2014 data are estimated.

Almost 20% of persons aged 65 or over in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion

In the EU, 18.2% of persons aged 65 or over were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2013. On average, this risk was lower than for the population below 65 (of which 25.9% were at risk of poverty or social exclusion). This pattern can be observed in twenty Member States, especially in **Ireland** (where the risk of being at risk of poverty or social exclusion concerned 13.3% of the population aged 65 or over vs. 31.8% of the population aged below 65, or a difference of 18.5 percentage point), **Hungary** (with a 17.3 pp gap), **Greece** (with a 15.8 pp gap) and **Spain** (with a 15.5 gap). However, in eight Member States persons aged 65 or above were more likely to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion than persons below 65, in particular in **Bulgaria**, **Estonia**, **Slovenia** and **Croatia**.

More likely to be at risk of monetary poverty than severely materially deprived

In the EU in 2013, persons aged 65 or over were more likely to be at risk of monetary poverty (13.8%) than severely materially deprived (6.9%). This was also the case in a large majority of the Member States, notably in **Estonia**, **Belgium**, **Sweden** and **Finland**.

The at-risk-of-monetary-poverty rate of the population aged 65 or over was much lower than for persons aged less than 65 in particular in **Hungary** (4.4% vs.16.1%, or a difference of 11.7 percentage point) , **Luxembourg** (gap of 11.1 pp) and **Greece** (gap of 10.0 pp). Member States where the severe material deprivation rate of persons aged 65 or over was much lower than for persons below 65 were **Hungary** (with a 12.0 pp difference), **Greece** (8.3 pp difference), **Cyprus** (8.2 pp), the **United Kingdom** (7.5 pp) and **Ireland** (7.2 pp).

Risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU Member States, by age group, 2013

	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion		People at risk of (monetary) poverty		People severely materially deprived	
	% of those aged less than 65	% of those aged 65 or over	% of those aged less than 65	% of those aged 65 or over	% of those aged less than 65	% of those aged 65 or over
EU	25.9	18.2	17.3	13.8	10.2	6.9
Belgium	21.1	19.5	14.4	18.4	5.7	2.0
Bulgaria	45.7	57.6	19.4	27.9	41.2	50.7
Czech Republic	15.5	10.4	9.2	5.8	6.8	5.3
Denmark	20.6	11.4	12.7	10.6	4.5	1.0
Germany	21.4	16.0	16.4	14.9	5.9	3.2
Estonia	22.6	28.0	17.5	24.4	7.8	6.3
Ireland	31.8	13.3	14.6	10.1	10.8	3.6
Greece	38.9	23.1	25.1	15.1	22.0	13.7
Spain	30.0	14.5	22.0	12.7	6.9	2.7
France	19.7	10.4	14.8	8.7	5.5	2.7
Croatia	29.5	31.9	18.7	23.4	14.2	16.9
Italy	29.9	22.6	20.1	15.3	12.9	10.7
Cyprus	28.1	26.1	14.6	20.1	17.2	9.0
Latvia	34.9	36.1	19.8	17.6	23.4	26.6
Lithuania	30.6	31.7	20.8	19.4	15.5	18.4
Luxembourg	20.8	7.0	17.3	6.2	1.9	0.9
Hungary	36.3	19.0	16.1	4.4	28.7	16.7
Malta	24.6	20.8	15.9	14.9	10.0	7.1
Netherlands	17.8	6.1	11.4	5.5	2.8	0.8
Austria	19.3	16.2	14.1	15.4	4.8	1.8
Poland	26.9	19.7	18.1	12.3	12.0	11.5
Portugal	29.2	20.3	19.8	14.6	11.4	9.0
Romania	41.3	35.0	23.7	15.0	28.7	27.5
Slovenia	19.9	23.0	13.4	20.5	6.6	6.7
Slovakia	20.7	13.6	13.9	6.0	10.4	9.2
Finland	15.8	16.8	10.8	16.1	2.8	1.1
Sweden	16.4	16.5	14.4	16.4	1.7	0.2
United Kingdom	26.2	18.1	15.7	16.6	9.6	2.1
FYR of Macedonia	48.7	44.0	25.3	16.5	37.5	38.8
Serbia	43.4	35.7	25.5	19.4	26.9	26.9
Iceland	14.3	4.2	10.0	4.0	2.2	0.2
Norway	14.9	9.8	11.2	9.7	2.2	0.5
Switzerland	13.7	29.6	11.5	29.5	0.7	0.3

Silver surfers are in the northern EU Member States

In 2014, less than half (42%) of the **EU** population aged between 65 and 74 used the internet. This average masks noticeable differences between Member States. More than two-thirds of persons aged 65 to 74 used the internet in **Denmark** (84%), **Luxembourg** (81%), **Sweden** (78%), the **Netherlands** (76%), the **United Kingdom** (70%) and **Finland** (68%), while this was the case for less than 20% of older persons in **Romania** and **Bulgaria** (10% each), **Greece** (14%), **Cyprus** (16%) and **Croatia** (17%).

Internet users aged 65 to 74 in the **EU** mainly used the internet for e-mailing (86%), finding information about goods and services (79%) and, to a lesser extent, reading news (60%) and making purchases (42%). However, reading online news was by far the main activity among elderly internet users in the three EU Baltic States – **Lithuania** (93%), **Latvia** (84%) and **Estonia** (83%) – as well as in **Greece** (87%), **Poland** (74%), **Croatia** (73%) and **Bulgaria** (67%).

Elderly internet users most active in social networks in Hungary, least in Germany

In 2014 in the **EU**, around a quarter (23%) of internet users aged between 65 and 74 participated in social networks. The differences between the Member States are also here significant. The highest share was recorded in **Hungary**, where more than half of elderly internet users participated in social networks (51%), followed by **Portugal** (44%), **Malta** and **Sweden** (both 43%) and **Latvia** (41%). At the opposite end of the scale, fewer than one out of five internet users aged 65 to 74 participated in social networks in **Germany** (11%), the **Czech Republic** (15%), **France** (17%) and **Lithuania** (18%).

Internet use* in the EU, people aged 65 to 74, 2014

	Internet users (%)	Of which (as percentage of internet users aged 65-74)				
		Sending/receiving e-mails	Finding information on goods/services	Reading online news	Online purchases	Participating in social networks
EU	42	86	79	60	42	23
Belgium	54	91	79	57	28	27
Bulgaria	10	51	53	67	2	30
Czech Republic	37	86	79	85	17	15
Denmark	84	90	77	66	50	34
Germany	53	91	86	63	49	11
Estonia	44	66	72	83	17	25
Ireland	37	78	79	40	30	22
Greece	14	63	69	87	17	29
Spain	26	78	77	76	17	33
France	53	90	80	45	46	17
Croatia	17	58	56	73	11	24
Italy	20	79	51	62	14	24
Cyprus	16	61	85	68	19	32
Latvia	33	63	51	84	11	41
Lithuania	21	62	76	93	6	18
Luxembourg	81	98	88	80	56	32
Hungary	28	89	84	89	11	51
Malta	35	79	79	75	36	43
Netherlands	76	94	83	52	35	30
Austria	40	87	73	63	28	25
Poland	21	65	69	74	18	23
Portugal	23	78	75	66	15	44
Romania	10	72	52	66	5	34
Slovenia	27	78	82	73	16	24
Slovakia	31	73	65	67	17	20
Finland	68	85	80	73	29	21
Sweden	78	89	89	87	44	43
United Kingdom	70	89	84	46	68	27
Turkey	5	43	65	81	15	52
Iceland	88	87	74	87	17	60
Norway	77	86	76	87	34	34
Switzerland	62	93	68	61	51	13

* Internet use within the last three months.

Methods and definitions

Eurostat **population projections** result from the application of a set of assumptions on future developments for fertility, mortality and net migration. The projections should not be considered as forecasts, as they show what would happen to the resulting population structure if the set of assumptions are held constant over the entire time horizon under consideration; in other words, the projections are 'what-if' scenarios that track population developments under a set of assumptions.

Life expectancy at 65 is the mean number of years that a person of 65 years of age can expect to live, if subjected throughout the rest of his or her life to the current mortality conditions.

Persons are **at risk of poverty or social exclusion** when they are either at risk of poverty, or severely materially deprived or living in a household with a very low work intensity. For persons aged 65 or over the last criterion does not apply.

Persons **at risk of monetary poverty** are those living in a household with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers).

Severely materially deprived persons have living conditions constrained by a lack of resources and experience at least 4 out of the 9 following deprivation items: cannot afford 1) to pay rent/mortgage or utility bills on time, 2) to keep home adequately warm, 3) to face unexpected expenses, 4) to eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, 5) a one week holiday away from home, 6) a car, 7) a washing machine, 8) a colour TV, or 9) a telephone (including mobile phone).

An **internet user** is here defined as a person who has used the internet within the last three months.

For more information

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

Eurostat's [infographic](#) on life satisfaction of people aged 75 or over in the EU.

Eurostat's Statistics Explained articles: "[Population structure and ageing](#)" and "[Sustainable development – demographic changes](#)"

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