

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 19/2001

POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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First demographic estimates for 2001

After a period of decline, the net inflow of international migrants (immigration minus emigration) to the European Union increased from 581 000 in 1998 to 756 000 people in 1999 and 1 068 000 persons in 2000. Based upon monthly data available at the end of 2001, latest forecasts and expert opinion, net migration is expected to show a very slight decrease in 2001 to a level of around 1 million people.

Also, the total number of live births and deaths are expected to decrease slightly. Natural population growth (live births minus deaths) is forecast to increase slightly from 380 000 in 2000 to 410 000 in 2001.

Consequently, total population growth is estimated to reach a level of close to 1.5 million, bringing the EU population on 1 January 2002 to 379.4 million.

EU population continues to increase slowly, irregularly...

During the last 50 years, the population of the present EU has grown from 295 to over 379 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 started to slow down during the last 2-3 decades.

With an estimated population growth of almost 1.5 million people, 2001 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 0.39% in 2001. Again compared with the late 1990s, this level is slightly higher, but from a more long-term perspective, it is a rather modest rise (*Figure 2*).

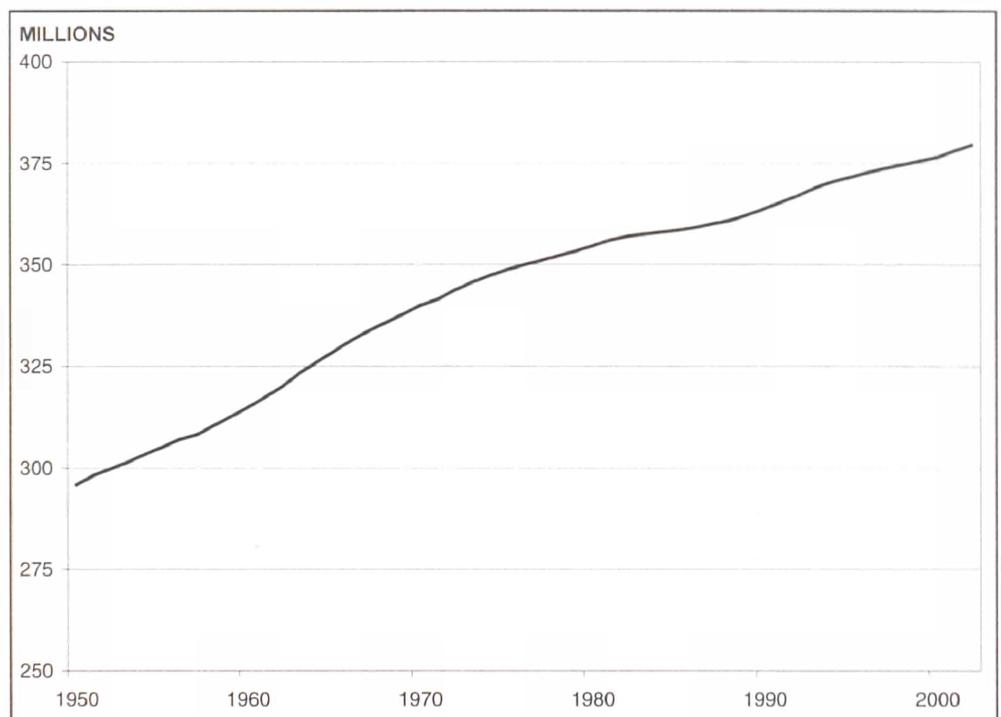


Figure 1: Total population, EU-15, 1950-2002



Table 1: Population change in 2001 (first estimates)

COUNTRY	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total	Population	Live	Deaths	Natural	Net	Total
	1.1.2001	births		increase	migration ¹⁾	increase	1.1.2002	births		increase	migration ¹⁾	increase
	(1000)						per 1000 population					
EU-15	377 987.8	4 025.9	3 615.6	410.3	1 051.3	1 461.6	379 449.3	10.6	9.5	1.1	2.8	3.9
Euro-zone ²⁾	303 892.9	3 200.7	2 851.5	349.2	855.1	1 204.3	305 097.2	10.5	9.4	1.1	2.8	4.0
Belgium	10 263.4	116.9	106.1	10.7	18	28.7	10 292.1	11.4	10.3	1.0	1.8	2.8
Denmark	5 349.2	65.3	58.6	6.8	11.2	18.0	5 367.2	12.2	10.9	1.3	2.1	3.4
Germany	82 259.5	743.5	823.5	-80.0	180	100	82 360.0	9.0	10.0	-1.0	2.2	1.2
Greece	10 564.7	107.0	100.2	6.7	25	31.7	10 596.4	10.1	9.5	0.6	2.4	3.0
Spain	40 121.7	407.4	351.4	55.9	250	305.9	40 427.6	10.1	8.7	1.4	6.2	7.6
France ³⁾	59 039.7	772.5	528.7	243.8	60	303.8	59 343.5	13.1	8.9	4.1	1.0	5.1
Ireland	3 826.2	56.1	28.8	27.3	20	47.3	3 873.5	14.6	7.5	7.1	5.2	12.3
Italy	57 844.0	545.0	541.1	3.9	170	173.9	58 017.9	9.4	9.3	0.1	2.9	3.0
Luxembourg	441.3	5.5	3.7	1.8	4	5.8	447.1	12.4	8.3	4.1	9.0	13.1
Netherlands	15 987.1	200.2	139.6	60.7	53.5	114.1	16 101.2	12.5	8.7	3.8	3.3	7.1
Austria	8 121.3	75.8	75.3	0.5	18	18.5	8 139.9	9.3	9.3	0.1	2.2	2.3
Portugal	10 242.9	114.8	104.7	10.0	50	60.0	10 302.9	11.2	10.2	1.0	4.9	5.8
Finland	5 181.1	56.1	48.4	7.7	6.1	13.8	5 194.9	10.8	9.3	1.5	1.2	2.7
Sweden	8 882.8	90.9	94.0	-3.1	30	26.9	8 909.7	10.2	10.6	-0.4	3.4	3.0
United Kingdom	59 862.8	669.0	611.5	57.5	155	212.5	60 075.3	11.2	10.2	1.0	2.6	3.5
Iceland	283.4	4.1	1.7	2.3	1.6	3.9	287.3	14.3	6.1	8.1	5.6	13.7
Liechtenstein	32.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	33.3	12.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	12.1
Norway	4 503.4	57.0	44.0	13.0	12	25.0	4 528.4	12.6	9.7	2.9	2.7	5.5
EEA	382 807.4	4 087.4	3 661.5	425.8	1 065.1	1 490.9	384 298.3	10.7	9.5	1.1	2.8	3.9
Switzerland	7 204.1	73.6	60.1	13.5	40	53.5	7 257.6	10.2	8.3	1.9	5.5	7.4
Bulgaria	8 149.5	68.2	110.7	-42.5	0	-42.5	8 107.0	8.4	13.6	-5.2	0.0	-5.2
Czech Republic	10 295.3	90.4	106.5	-16.2	-4.2	-20.4	10 274.9	8.8	10.4	-1.6	-0.4	-2.0
Hungary	10 005.2	98.0	130.3	-32.3	0	-32.3	9 972.9	9.8	13.0	-3.2	0.0	-3.2
Poland	38 644.2	363.2	361.8	1.4	-16.6	-15.2	38 629.0	9.4	9.4	0.0	-0.4	-0.4
Romania	22 430.5	213.1	252.1	-39.0	-1	-40.0	22 390.4	9.5	11.2	-1.7	0.0	-1.8
Slovak Republic	5 402.5	51.4	51.8	-0.4	0.8	0.4	5 403.0	9.5	9.6	-0.1	0.1	0.1
Slovenia	1 990.1	19.6	18.1	1.4	3.8	5.2	1 995.3	9.8	9.1	0.7	1.9	2.6
Estonia	1 366.7	12.7	18.5	-5.8	0	-5.8	1 360.9	9.3	13.6	-4.3	0.0	-4.3
Latvia	2 366.1	19.5	32.6	-13.1	-1.5	-14.6	2 351.5	8.3	13.8	-5.6	-0.6	-6.2
Lithuania	3 692.6	31.3	39.7	-8.4	-3.5	-11.9	3 680.7	8.5	10.8	-2.3	-0.9	-3.2
Cyprus	671.3	8.2	5.8	2.4	3.5	5.9	677.2	12.1	8.6	3.5	5.2	8.7
Malta	382.5	3.9	2.9	1.0	0.5	1.5	384.0	10.2	7.6	2.6	1.3	3.9

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⁾ Population at 1.1.2001 is based upon population census 1999

... and differently

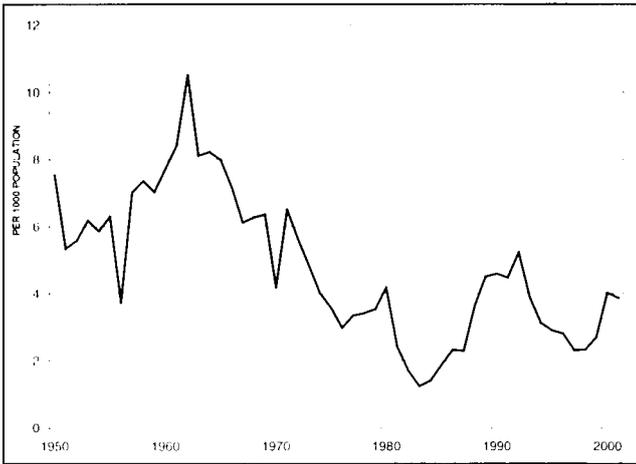


Figure 2: Total population growth, EU-15, 1950-2001

Table 1 and Figure 3 demonstrate that in 2001 the EU Member States will experience quite different rates of population growth. The populations of both Luxembourg and Ireland will continue 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 and Sweden would experience a population loss and Austria and Italy would barely grow.

Almost two-thirds of the EU countries are expected to see an increase in their population growth in 2001 (Figure 4). Notably, Greece is experiencing a relatively large increase in its population growth due to a substantial rise of live births and net inflow of migrants.

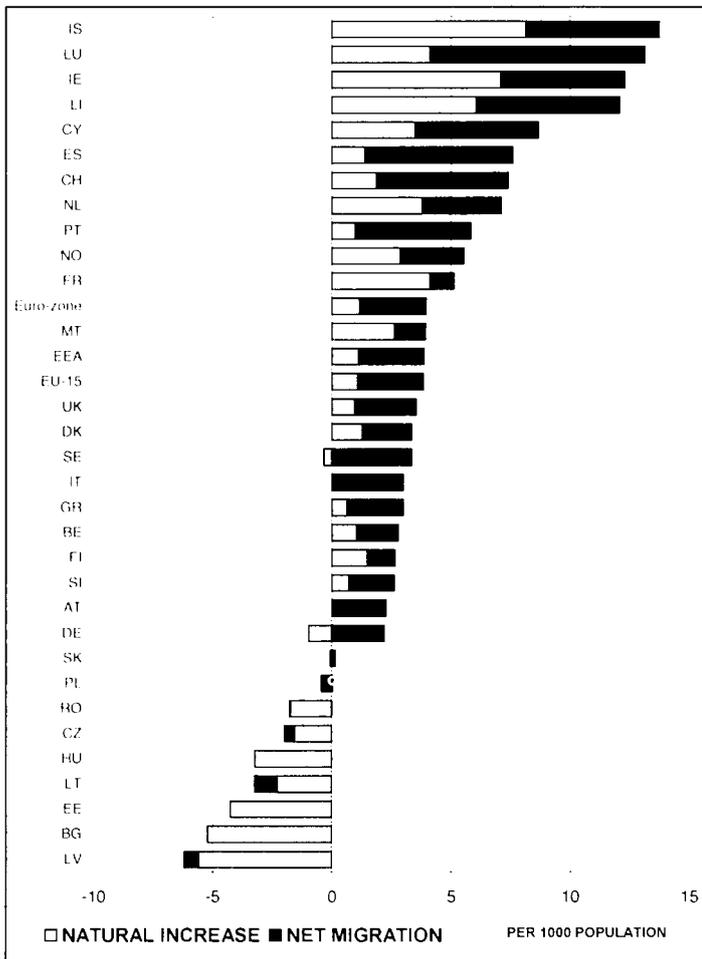


Figure 3: Crude total population growth rate, 2001

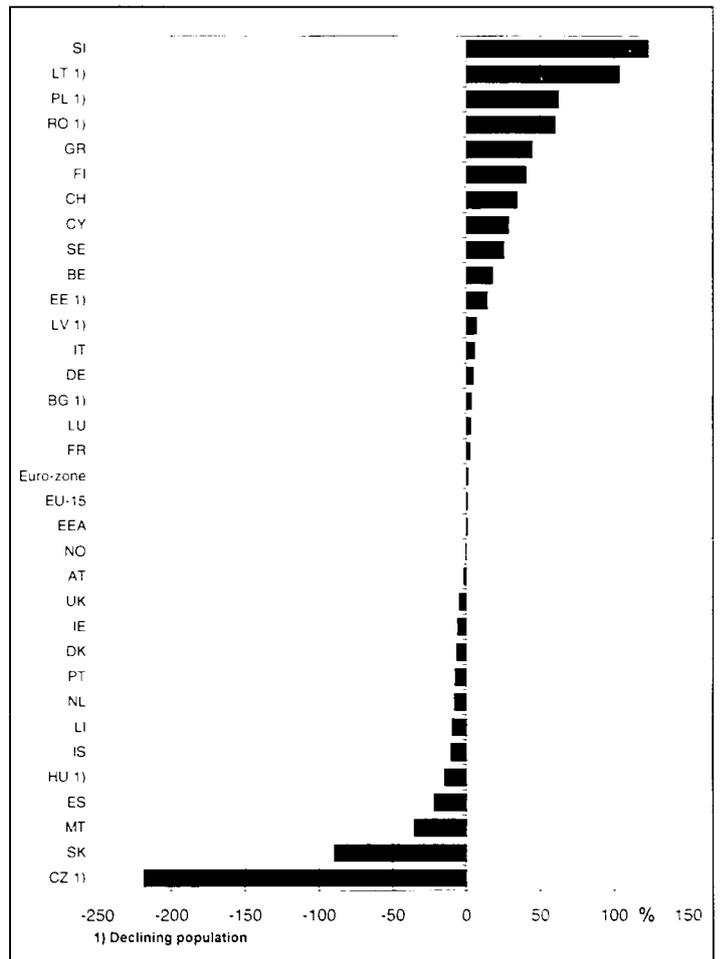


Figure 4: Population growth, relative change from 2000 to 2001

Fewer live births

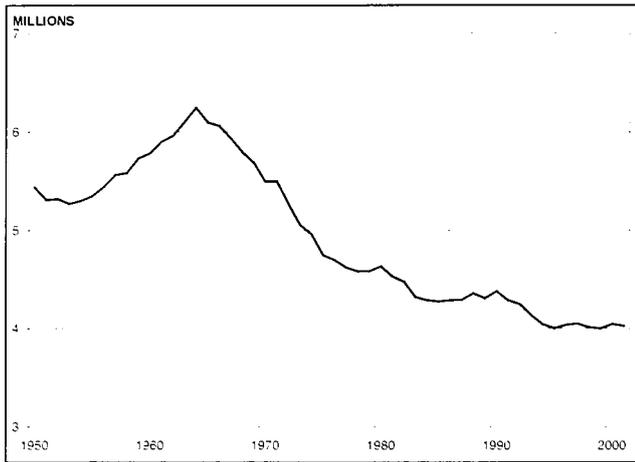


Figure 5: Live births, EU-15, 1950-2001

In 2001 the number of live births is expected to reach a level of 4.03 million, which is about 0.5% less than in 2000. 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).

Nine EU countries will probably see a fall in live births (Figure 7), with Portugal facing the largest decrease (-4%). Greece, on the other hand, is expected to be the EU country with the largest rise in births (close to 6%).

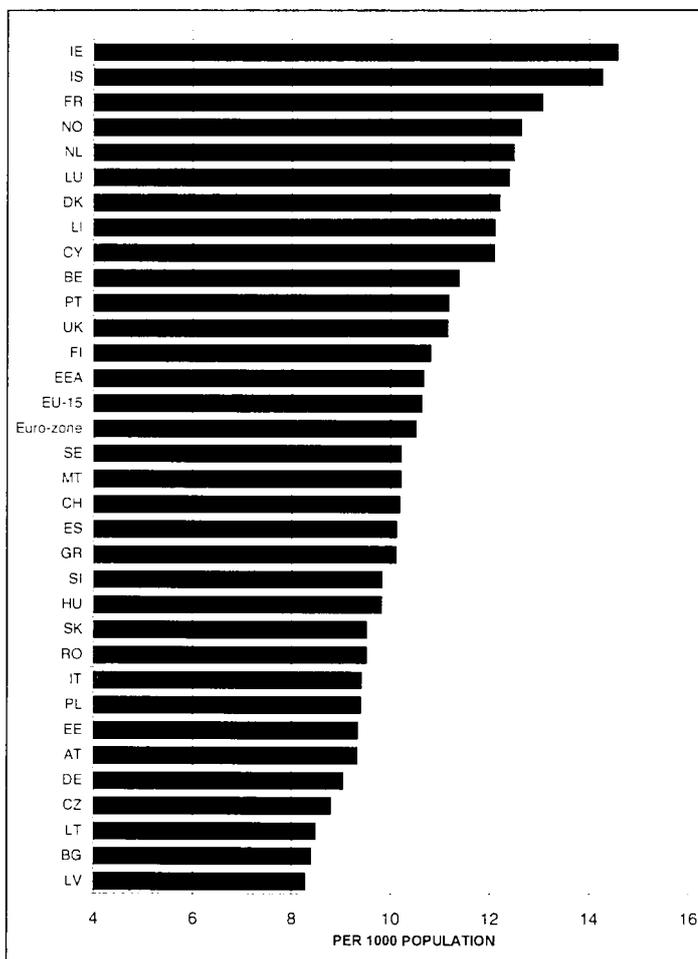


Figure 6: Crude birth rate, 2001

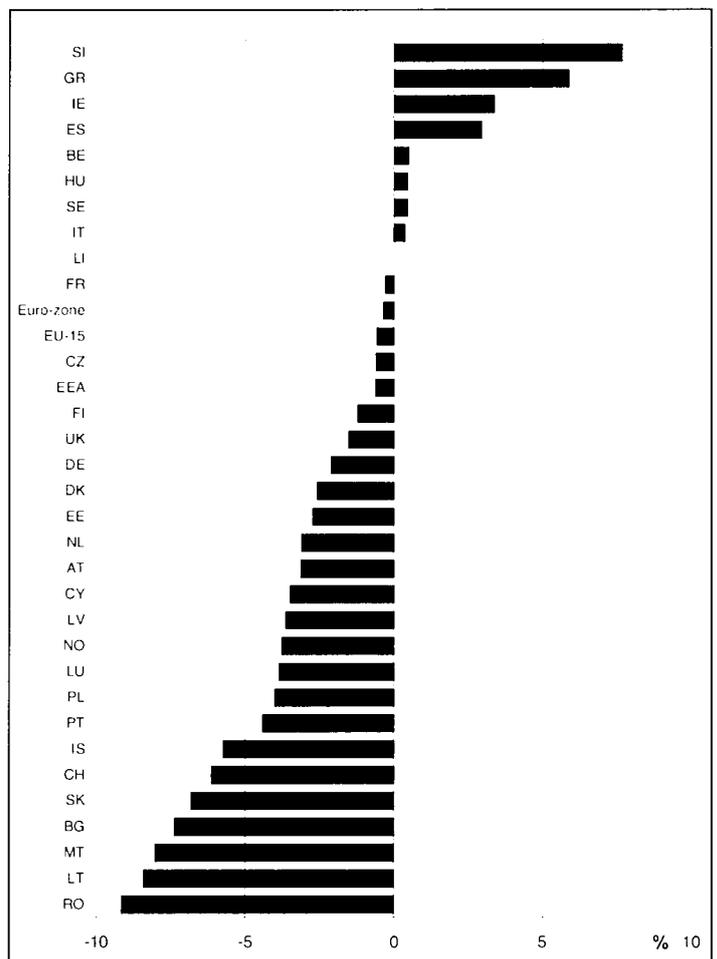


Figure 7: Live births, relative change from 2000 to 2001

Number of deaths decreases slightly

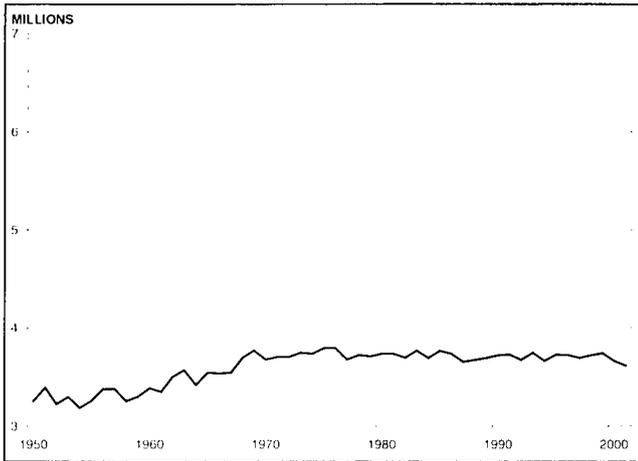


Figure 8: Deaths, EU-15, 1950-2001

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 ultimately 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 2001, it is also expected that the effects of population ageing will be counterbalanced by a further decrease in mortality rates.

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

About three-quarters of the EU countries have had a relatively 'good' year (*Figure 10*), with Ireland in the lead ($\pm 7\%$ fewer deaths). Denmark is forecast to be confronted with a rise in the number of deaths of about 1%.

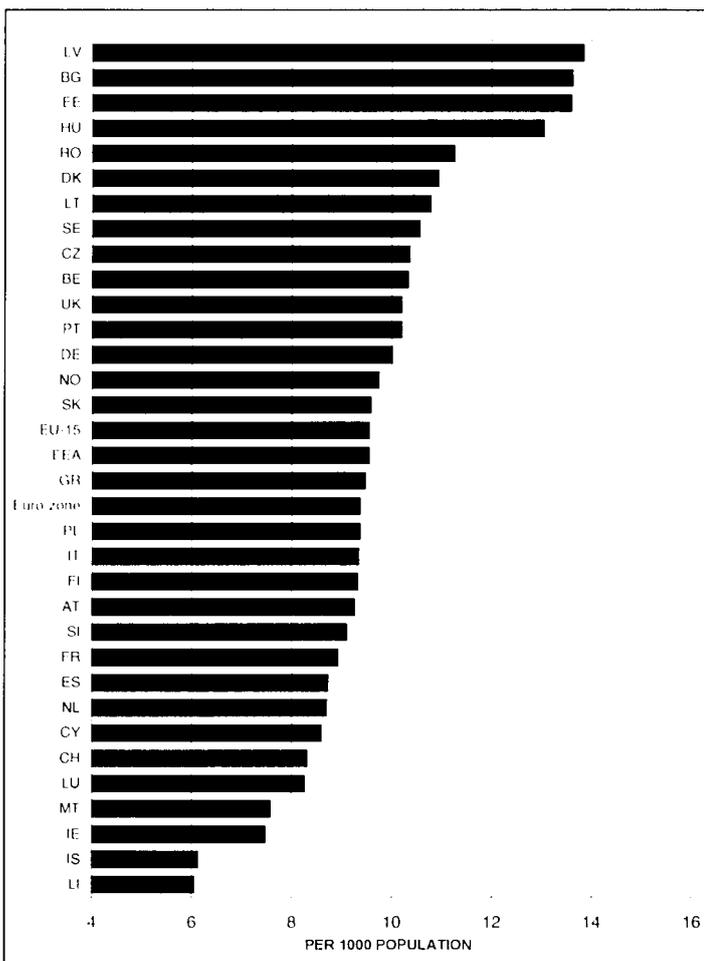


Figure 9: Crude death rate, 2001

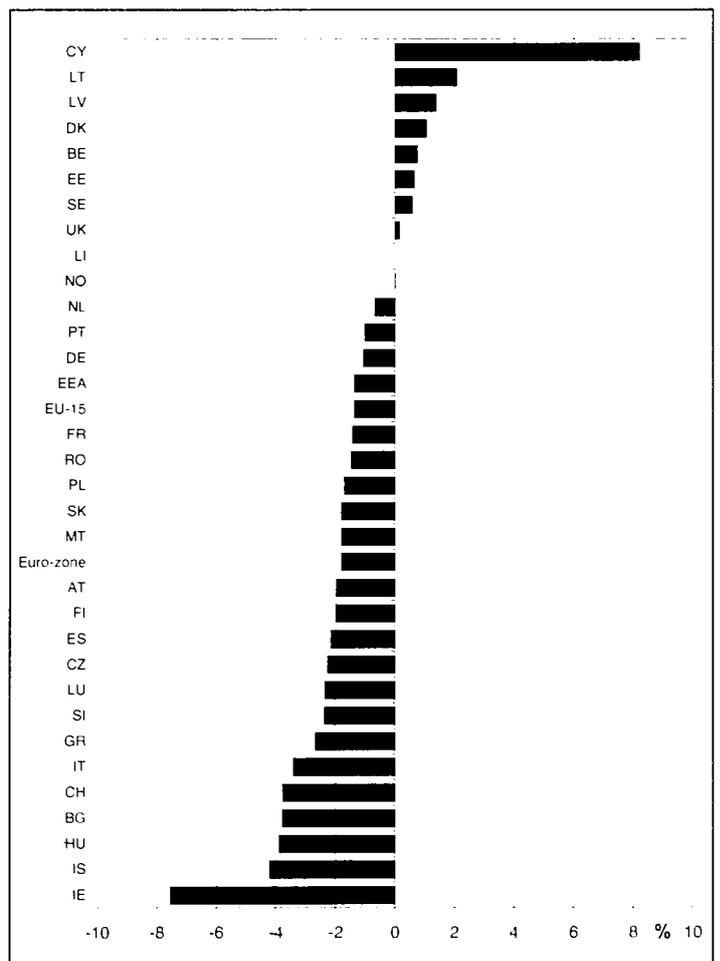


Figure 10: Deaths, relative change from 2000 to 2001

Net migration remains high

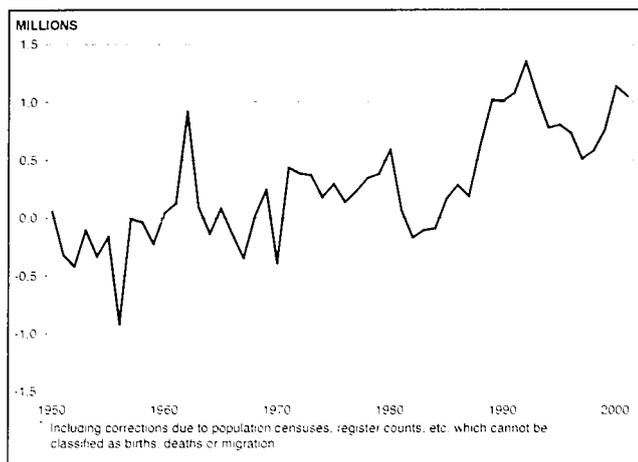


Figure 11: Net migration ¹⁾, EU-15, 1950-2001

After a period of rather strong decline, the net inflow of international migrants to the EU increased from 581 000 in 1998 to 756 000 in 1999 and 1 068 000 in 2000 (Figure 11). For 2001 net migration is expected to decrease very slightly to a level of around 1 million people.

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

Spain is the country with the sharpest decline in net migration. However, mainly due to a comprehensive programme of regularisation of its undocumented migrants, Spain continued to be the country that records the highest net migration levels within the EU.

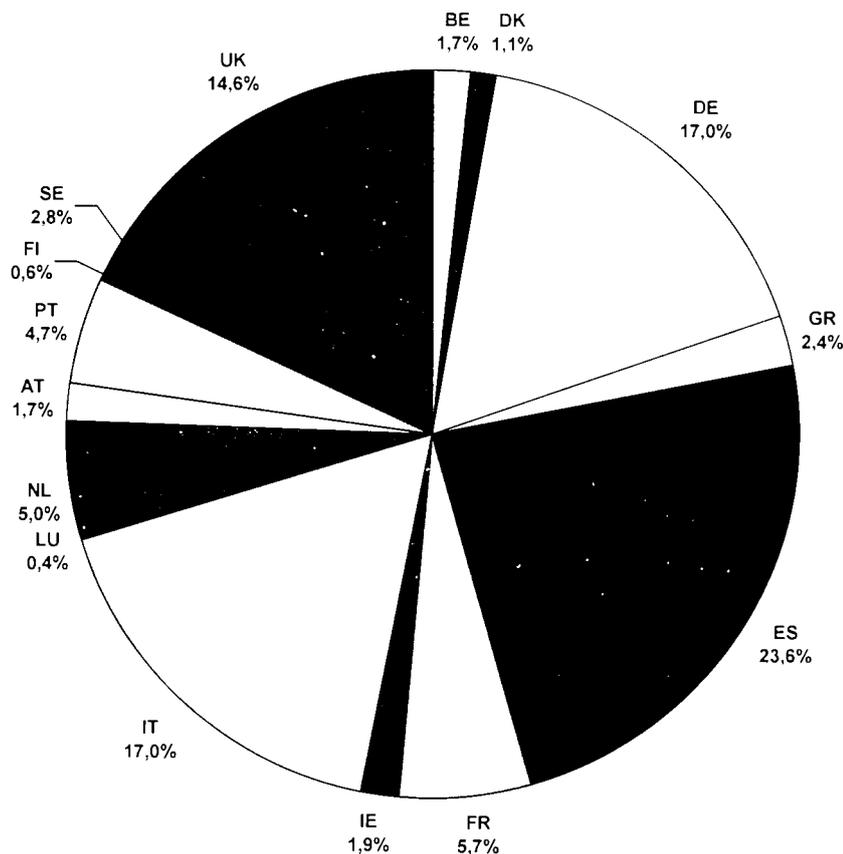


Figure 12: Net migration by Member State, 2001

Table 2: Information base for 2001, first estimates ¹⁾

COUNTRY	Monthly data availability (up to and including)				Average annual forecast error (period 1997-2000)						
	Live births	Deaths	Immigration	Emigration	Live births			Deaths			
					0 - 1 %	1 - 2 %	2 - 4 %	0 - 1 %	1 - 2 %	2 - 4 %	
Belgium	June	June	— ³⁾	— ³⁾		x				x	
Denmark	September	September	September ⁴⁾	September ⁴⁾	x				x		
Germany	March	March	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x					x	
Greece	March	March	—	—				x		x	
Spain	December	December	— ³⁾	— ³⁾			x			x	
France	August	August	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x			x			
Ireland	June	June	—	—						x	
Italy	May	May	—	—						x	
Luxembourg	August	August	—	—	x					x	
Netherlands	September	September	September ²⁾	September ²⁾	x				x		
Austria	August	August	— ³⁾	— ³⁾	x				x		
Portugal	August	August	—	—			x				x
Finland	October	September	October	October	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⁾	—	—	x						x
Switzerland	July	July	September	September						x	
Bulgaria	December	December	—	—	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Czech Republic	September	September	September	September	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Hungary	December	December	—	—	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Poland	September	September	June ⁴⁾	June ⁴⁾	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Romania	June	June	June ⁵⁾	June ⁵⁾	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Slovak Republic	August	August	August	August	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Slovenia	June	June	June	June	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Estonia	October	October	—	—	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Latvia	September	September	September	September	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Lithuania	September	September	September	September	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)	6)
Cyprus	September	September	September	September	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 2001.

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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