

THE POPULATION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA IN 1992

On 1 January 1993 the population of the European Community stood at 347 million according to Eurostat estimates based on the latest figures available. At the same date the population of the European Economic Area (the Community countries plus Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Sweden) was estimated at 373 million. The average annual growth rate over the last decade was 0.3% for both sets of countries - one of the lowest figures in the world.

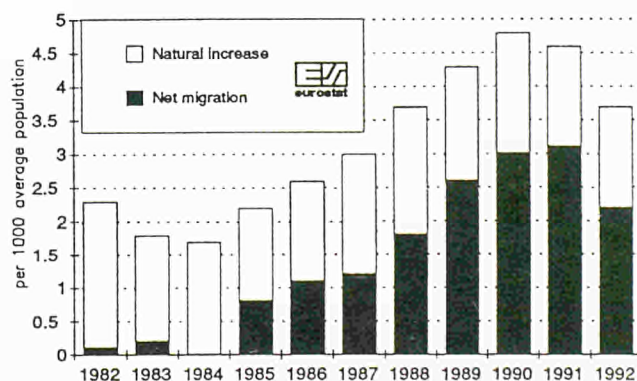
In 1992 the number of births fell for the third year running, and the marriage rate reached its lowest level since 1960. Life expectancy, however, increased and the infant mortality rate again fell.

Slowdown in population growth since 1990

3.938 million births and 3.457 million deaths were recorded in the European Community in 1992, giving a natural increase of 481 000 persons. Net migration for the year is estimated at 719 000, nearly half of this being accounted for by the Federal Republic of Germany. The population of the Community thus grew by 1.2 million or 3.5 ‰.

During the same period, the non-community countries of the EEA underwent a population increase of 151 thousand inhabitants. Half of this increase was due to natural increase and the other half was due to net migration.

Graph 1 : Components of total increase



Net migration higher than the natural increase

Between 1984 and 1990 the total growth rate for the EEA rose steadily, mainly as a result of rising net migration (Fig. 1). In the last two years this trend has been reversed, and in 1992 net migration in the EEA fell by 29% compared with the previous year.

The relative weight of these two components of total population growth has been reversed in the last ten years, with natural growth becoming less important than net migration.

In 1992 60% of the growth in the Community population came from net migration and the remaining 40% from the natural increase. In the non-Community countries of the EEA the contributions of natural growth and net migration were more or less equal.

Amongst the countries of the European Economic Area the highest natural growth rates are to be found in Ireland and Iceland, where the proportion of persons over 60 years of age is only about 15% (Fig. 2). At the other end of the scale, the natural growth rates have been negative since 1972 in the Federal Republic of Germany, where the proportion of over-60s is almost as high as that of the under-20s (about 20% of the total population).

Manuscript completed on = 18.06.1993

For further information please contact: Mme A. Franco
Eurostat, L-2920 Luxembourg, tel. 4301-33209 Fax: 4301-34415

Price (excl. VAT) in Luxembourg: Subscription ECU 206

Catalogue number: CA-NK-93-007-EN-C

Table 1 : Population change in 1992 - EUR 12 and EEA ^(b)

COUNTRY	Population 1-1-1993 (c)	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net migration	Total Increase	Rates				
							Birth	Mortality	Natural Increase	Net migration	Total Increase
							(1000)				
B	10068.3	125.1	105.7	19.4	25.4	44.7	12.5	10.5	1.9	2.5	4.5
DK	5180.6	67.8	60.8	7.0	11.5	18.4	13.1	11.8	1.3	2.2	3.6
D	80614.1	805.8	881.2	-75.5	345.0	269.5	10.0	10.9	-0.9	4.3	3.3
GR	10320.0	104.0	98.0	6.0	35.0	41.0	10.1	9.5	0.6	3.4	4.0
E	39114.2	381.3	341.1	40.2	18.1	58.3	9.8	8.7	1.0	0.5	1.5
F	57526.6	742.8	523.0	219.8	90.0	309.8	12.9	9.1	3.8	1.6	5.4
IRL	3556.5*	51.6	30.8	20.8	-6.0	14.8	14.5	8.7	5.9	-1.7	4.2
I	56932.7	561.3	547.1	14.2	89.2	103.4	9.9	9.6	0.3	1.6	1.8
L	395.2	5.1	4.0	1.1	4.3	5.4	13.1	10.2	2.9	10.8	13.7
NL	15238.9	196.7	129.9	66.8	57.9	124.7	13.0	8.6	4.4	3.8	8.2
P	9850.3	115.0	101.2	13.9	-10.0	3.9	11.6	10.2	1.4	-1.0	0.4
UK	57959.0	781.0	634.2	146.8	59.0	205.8	13.5	11.0	2.5	1.0	3.6
EUR 12	346756.3	3937.5	3457.0	480.5	719.3	1199.7	11.4	10.0	1.4	2.1	3.5
A	7909.6	95.3	83.2	12.1	36.6	48.8	12.1	10.5	1.5	4.6	6.2
SF	5055.0	66.7	49.5	17.2	8.8	26.0	13.2	9.8	3.4	1.7	5.2
IS	262.4	4.6	1.8	2.9	-0.3	2.6	17.7	6.7	10.9	-1.0	10.0
FL	29.9	0.4 ^a	0.2 ^a	0.2 ^a	0.4 ^a	0.6 ^a	14.0 ^a	7.7 ^a	6.3 ^a	13.3 ^a	19.6 ^a
N	4299.2	60.1	44.4	15.7	10.0	25.7	14.1	10.4	3.7	2.4	6.0
S	8692.0	122.7	94.7	28.0	19.6	47.6	14.2	10.9	3.2	2.3	5.5
EEA	373004.3*	4287.3*	3731.0*	556.3*	794.4*	1350.7*	11.5*	10.0*	1.5*	2.1*	3.6*

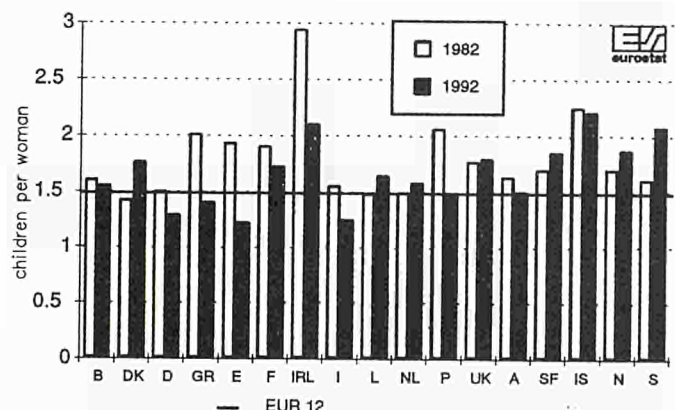
* EUROSTAT estimate (a) 1991 (b) Provisional
(c) Resident population for Italy. Including administrative corrections for Netherlands

The fall in the birth rate in the countries of southern Europe (Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal) during the 1980s led to a reduction in their natural growth rate between 1982 and 1992 (Fig. 2), while the rise in the birth rate in the countries of northern Europe (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden) has had the opposite effect.

Overall decline in fertility ...

The number of births in the Community has fallen for the third year running. In 1992 the reduction amounted to 55 000 births, or 1.4%. However, since 1992 was a leap year, this decrease was diminished by the 11 000 births, representing roughly the number of births for one day.

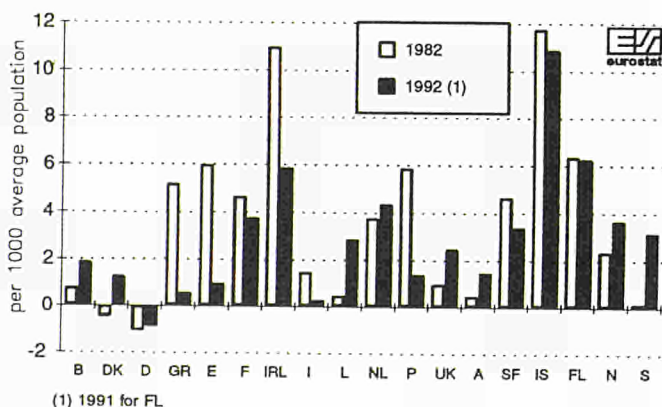
Graph 3 : Total fertility



In 1992 the birth rate was 11.4 o/oo, the lowest figure since 1960. In the non-Community countries of the EEA, on the other hand, the number of births has been rising since 1983, and this is reflected by a birth rate of 13.4 o/oo in 1992 compared with 12.1 o/oo in 1983.

The total fertility rate (obtained by adding together the fertility rates by age of the mother for a given year) illustrates the above trends. As the total number of potentially fertile women remains relatively stable, a fall in the number of births leads to a fall in the total fertility rate. For 1992, for instance, Eurostat puts the total fertility rate for the Community at 1.48 births per woman - the first time this figure has fallen below 1.50.

Graph 2 : Rate of natural increase



(1) 1991 for FL

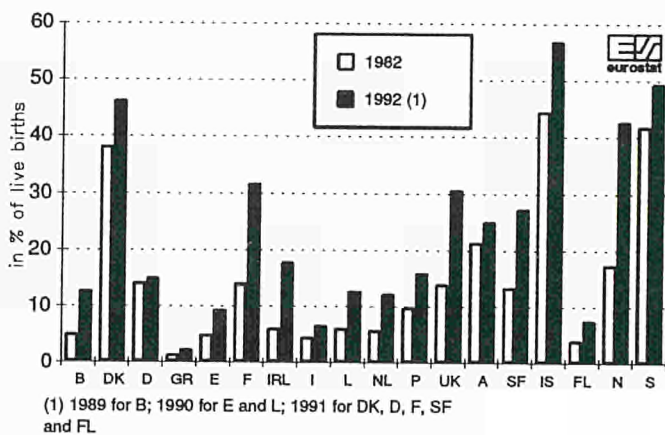
In the EFTA member countries of the EEA the values for the total fertility rate are all higher than the Community average (Fig. 3).

In the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway) the upward trend of the last five years is continuing. Sweden, which had reached the generation replacement level in 1990 (2.13 births per woman), has levelled off since then. On the other hand, the countries of southern Europe (Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal) are continuing their downward trend. Italy (1.26) and Spain (1.23) are reaching levels never seen before in peacetime. The total fertility rate in the Federal Republic of Germany, which had remained at about 1.42 births per woman between 1986 and 1990, fell to 1.33 in 1991 and 1.30 in 1992. Although there was a slight increase in the number of births between 1986 and 1990 in the western Länder, this was vastly outweighed by the effect of the figures in the new Länder.

... but an increase in extra-marital births

Despite the fall in the number of births, the proportion of extra-marital births is rising steadily. In 1992, 19.5% of births in the Community were extra-marital, compared with 10.7% in 1982.

Graph 4 : Births outside marriage



The scale and intensity of this phenomenon vary according to country. In the Scandinavian countries nearly one birth in two is extra-marital, but this figure falls to about one birth in three in France and the United Kingdom and one in four in Austria and Norway (Fig. 4). With the exception of Portugal, the figures for the countries of southern Europe are rising but still remain below 10%.

Marriage less popular

Over the last decade all countries of the European Economic Area have seen an increase in the divorce rate or a fall in the marriage rate, or a combination of both phenomena.

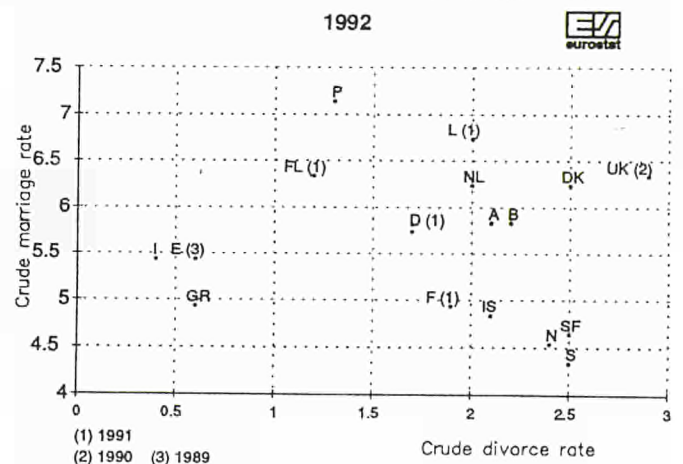
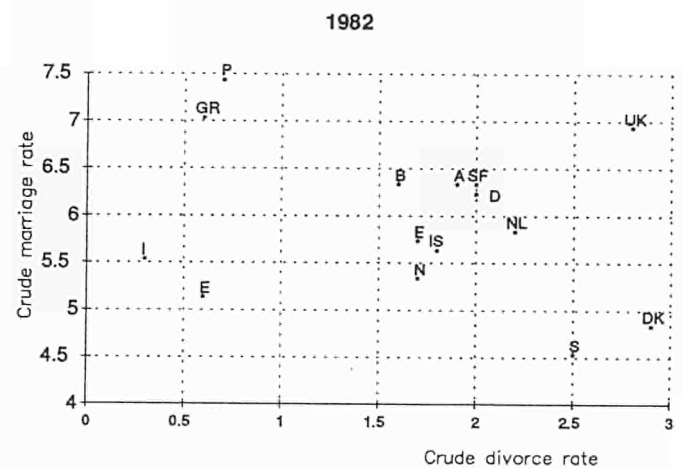
In the Community the gross marriage rate fell from 6.0‰ in 1982 to 5.6‰ in 1992.

The Nordic countries again stand out in terms of marriage and divorce rates: marriage rates are below 5‰ and divorce rates above 2‰ (Fig. 5).

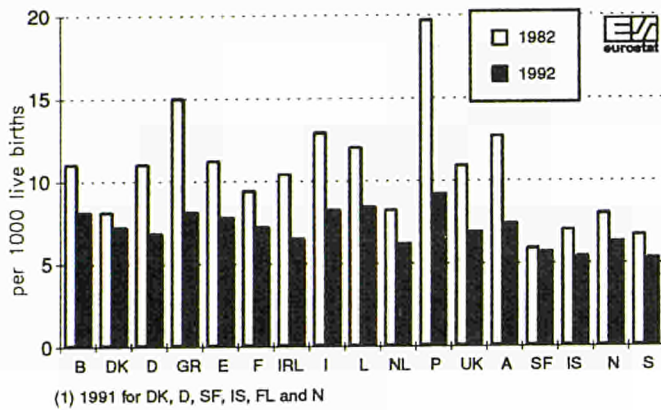
With gross marriage rates below 5‰, France and Ireland still have the lowest figures in the Community. In 1992 these two countries were joined by Greece (4.9‰), where there are traditionally fewer marriages in leap years.

The marriage rate in Portugal is still the highest in the Community, but this figure is inflated to a certain extent by the large number of Portuguese migrant workers who declare themselves resident in Portugal when they marry there but are in fact resident in another country.

Graph 5 : Crude marriage and divorce rates



Graph 6 : Infant mortality rate



In 1992, for the first time, all countries in the EEA had infant mortality rates below 10⁰/₁₀₀. Between 1982 and 1992 there was a particularly sharp drop in those countries in which it had been highest: Portugal (-53%), Greece (-46%) and Austria (-41%). Those countries in which the rate was already very low in 1982 - for instance the Scandinavian countries - showed more modest falls. There has thus been a convergence in infant mortality rates which puts the EEA countries in a bracket between 5.4⁰/₁₀₀ (Sweden) and 9.3⁰/₁₀₀ (Portugal). Since 1989 Liechtenstein has not had a single death below one year of age.

Convergence of infant mortality rates

In 1992 the infant mortality rate in the European Community was 7.4⁰/₁₀₀, compared with 11.4⁰/₁₀₀ in 1982.

Average lifespan becoming longer

Life expectancy is continuing to rise in the EEA countries. In six countries male life expectancy is at least 74 years (Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), while female life expectancy is over 80 years in seven (Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).

Table 2 : Main demographic indicators 1992 - EUR 12 and EEA (h)

COUNTRY	Average population 1992 (1000)	FERTILITY		MARRIAGES		DIVORCES		MORTALITY			
		Total fertility (d)	% of births outside marriage	Marriages (1000)	Crude marriage rate (e)	Divorces (1000)	Divorces per 1000 population	Deaths under one year	Infant mortality rate (f)	Life expectancy at birth(g)	
										Males (years)	Females (years)
B	10045.2	1.56	11.6 ^a	58.3	5.8	22.3	2.2	1027	8.2	72.8*	79.5*
DK	5171.4	1.77*	46.5 ^c	32.3	6.2	13.0	2.5	471 ^c	7.3 ^c	72.5*	78.0*
D	80569.7	1.30*	15.1 ^c	452.1	5.6	136.3 ^c	1.7 ^c	5711 ^c	6.9 ^c	72.1*	78.7*
GR	10300.0	1.41	2.5	50.0	4.9	6.5	0.6	850	8.2	74.6*	79.8*
E	39085.1	1.23	9.6	215.1	5.5	23.1 ^a	0.6 ^a	3005	7.9	73.3*	80.3*
F	57372.1	1.73	31.8	269.9	4.7	108.1 ^c	1.9 ^c	5400	7.3	73.1	81.3
IRL	3547.6	2.11	18.0	16.1	4.5	-	-	343	6.6	71.0	76.7
I	56845.0	1.26	6.8	306.9	5.4	24.0	0.4	4675	8.3	74.0*	80.4*
L	392.5	1.65*	12.9	2.5	6.4	0.8 ^c	2.0 ^c	44	8.5	72.0*	79.1*
NL	15184.0	1.59	12.4	93.6	6.2	30.1	2.0	1233	6.3	74.3	80.3
P	9898.1	1.48	16.1	69.9 ^b	7.1	12.4	1.3	1068	9.3	69.8*	77.3*
UK	57854.0	1.80*	30.8	375.4 ^b	6.5 ^b	165.7 ^b	2.9 ^b	5445	7.0	73.2*	78.6*
EUR 12	346214.6	1.48*	19.5*	1926.8*	5.6*	541.3 ^{c*}	1.6 ^{c*}	29300*	7.4*	72.8*	79.4*
A	7884.2	1.51	25.2	45.7	5.8	16.3	2.1	718	7.5	72.9	79.4
SF	5042.0	1.86	27.4	23.0	4.6	12.8	2.5	382 ^c	5.8 ^c	71.3*	79.3*
IS	261.1	2.22	57.0	1.2	4.7	0.5 ^c	2.1 ^c	25 ^c	5.5 ^c	75.1*	80.8*
FL	29.6	:	7.7	0.2 ^c	6.3 ^c	0.0 ^c	1.2 ^c	0 ^c	0.0 ^c	69.5*	73.6*
N	4256.4	1.88	42.9	19.3	4.5	10.2	2.4	387 ^c	6.4 ^c	74.0*	80.1*
S	8668.1	2.09	49.5	37.1	4.3	21.9	2.5	657	5.4	75.3	80.8
EEA	372356.0	1.49*	20.9*	2053.3*	5.5*	602.1 ^{c*}	1.6 ^{c*}	31400*	7.3*	72.9*	79.5*

* Estimation EUROSTAT (a) 1989 (b) 1990 (c) 1991 (d) children per woman (e) per 1000 average population (f) per 1000 live births (g) The data refer to the year 1991, with the exception of France, Ireland, Netherlands, Austria and Sweden for which the data refer to 1992. The data for Spain and Italy refer to the year 1990. (h) Provisional

INFORMATION:

Ana FRANCO - 4301-33209 François BEGEOT - 4301-34905 José DIAS - 4301-34905