Living in the EU: Demography

Important effects of the ageing of its population will influence the future of the European Union (EU). The population is dramatically ageing, driven both by significant increases in life expectancy and by lower fertility rates than in the past. Population growth is therefore slowing down, along with an increasing old-age dependency ratio. Free movement within the EU, in particular east-west movement of EU citizens, has increased, reducing the population of some Member States, while increasing that of others. These changes have serious implications across a range of areas, including the economy, labour market, healthcare and pensions. Hence, they deserve in-depth analysis.

EU population by age group

Employment and unemployment in the EU

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Note: percentage of total EU non-national population
**Notes**

GlobalStat is a project developed by the European University Institute’s Global Governance Programme (Italy) and the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation (Portugal).

Data sources for page 1: data for EU population and population by age group, EU non-national population and employment and unemployment are from Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#), [demo_pjangroup](#), [demo_frate](#), [lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_ergan](#)). Data sources for page 2: population by age, fertility rate and life expectancy are from Eurostat ([demo_pjanind](#), [proj_15ndbims](#)); data for population growth are from [World Bank](#); data for old-age dependency ratio are from [European Commission](#).

Extraction date: data were extracted in March 2019.

This ‘At a glance’ note is part of a series ‘Living in the EU’. The other issues in the series cover [Climate Change and Energy](#), [European Elections and Democracy](#), [Asylum and Migration](#), [Education and Health](#), and [the Economy](#).

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