

# AT A GLANCE

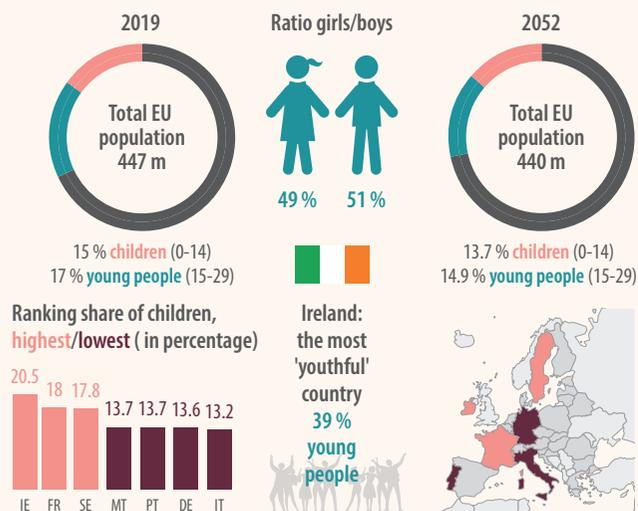
## Infographic

# YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EU: A DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



Why should young people in the EU worry about demographic change? For one thing, because the share of children and young people in the total population has been decreasing, while the share of elderly people continues to grow. Adding these figures up means today's children are expected to face an increased burden in supporting the remainder of the population as they grow up and move into work. Indeed, in 2019, out of the 447 million inhabitants of the EU-27, 68 million were children (aged 14 or less) and 91 million were older people (aged 65 years or more). A third of the total EU population — around 142 million — were under the age of 30. There were slightly more boys than girls, with the former representing 51 % of the population aged 14 years or less.

### Share of children and young people at European level



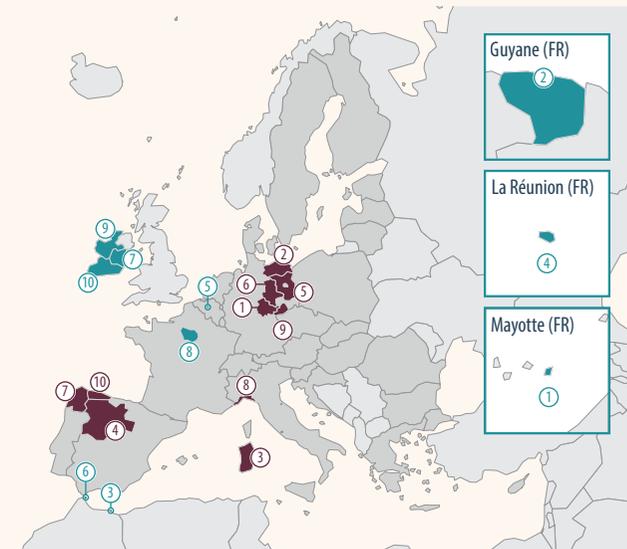
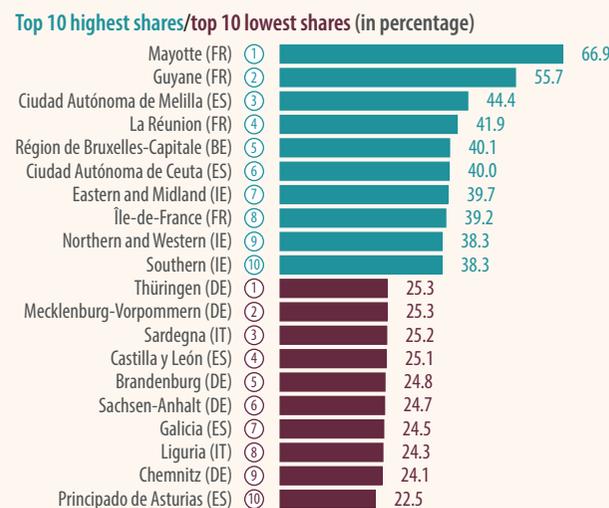
Ireland was the most 'youthful' EU country in 2019, as nearly four out of every 10 inhabitants were aged 29 years or under. Children accounted for more than one out of five Irish persons, while France and Sweden recorded the second and third highest scores. At the other end of the spectrum, the lowest share of children was registered in Italy followed by Germany, Malta and Portugal.

At regional level, Mayotte and Guyane – two French overseas departments – were the only regions in the EU-27 where children and young people represented more than half of the population in 2019. The fourth highest share was also recorded in a French overseas department – La Réunion – while the Spanish autonomous city regions of Melilla and Ceuta had the

third and sixth highest scores. Alongside these five regions from outside continental Europe, the top 10 regions with the highest share of children and young people included three Irish regions and the Belgian and French capital regions. By contrast, the regions with the lowest shares of children and young people are situated in eastern Germany, Italy and northern Spain.

According to the latest projections, the EU-27 population is expected to keep growing until 2026, reaching a peak of 449 million. However, the share of children and young people is projected to shrink from 32 % in 2019 to 29 % in 2052, thus leaving policymakers looking for solutions to ensure the long-term sustainability of public finances in the face of a declining number of economically active Europeans.

### Share of children and young people at regional level



Data source : Eurostat, 2019

## EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Ivana Katsarova; Graphics: Samy Chahri  
Members' Research Service  
PE 729.400 – April 2022

This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2022.

[eprs@ep.europa.eu](mailto:eprs@ep.europa.eu) (contact) <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)