

15 May 2006: International Day of Families **The family in the EU25 seen through figures**

On the occasion of the United Nation's International Day of Families, which takes place every year on 15 May, Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, publishes statistics on families in the EU and the 25 Member States. This News Release provides data on marriages, divorces, births, the compositions of families and household expenditure.

Nearly one divorce for every two marriages in the EU25

There were around 2.2 million marriages in the EU25 in 2004, or 4.8 marriages per 1000 inhabitants. **Cyprus** (7.2 marriages per 1000 inhabitants), **Denmark** (7.0) and **Malta** (6.0) had the highest marriage rates, while **Slovenia** (3.3), **Belgium** (4.1) and **Greece** (4.2) had the lowest.

However, there were almost 1 million divorces in the EU25 in 2004 (2.1 divorces per 1000 inhabitants). The Member States with the highest divorce rates were the **Czech Republic** and **Lithuania** (both 3.2) and **Estonia** (3.1). The lowest rates were found in **Ireland** (0.7 in 2003), **Italy** (0.8 in 2003) and **Greece** (1.1).

One third of all babies born outside marriage in the EU25

There were almost 4.8 million babies born in the EU25 in 2004, which makes 10.5 live births per 1000 inhabitants. **Ireland** (15.2) had the highest birth rate, followed by **France** (12.7), **Denmark**, **Luxembourg** and the **United Kingdom** (12.0 each). The lowest rates were found in **Germany** (8.6), **Latvia** (8.8) and **Lithuania** (8.9).

Out of the 4.8 million babies born in the EU25 in 2004, around one third was born outside marriage. The largest proportions of births outside marriage were found in **Estonia** (58% in 2003), followed by **Sweden** (55%), **Denmark** and **Latvia** (45% each) and **France** (45% in 2003), while the lowest were observed in **Cyprus** (3%), **Greece** (5%) and **Italy** (15%).

Marriages, divorces and births

	Marriages in 2004*		Divorces in 2004**		Live births in 2004		
	thousands	per 1000 inhabitants	thousands	per 1000 inhabitants	thousands	per 1000 inhabitants	of which % outside marriage***
EU25	2 178	4.8	956	2.1	4 797	10.5	31.6
Belgium	43	4.1	31	3.0	116	11.1	31.0
Czech Republic	51	5.0	33	3.2	98	9.6	30.6
Denmark	38	7.0	16	2.9	65	12.0	45.4
Germany	396	4.8	214	2.6	706	8.6	28.0
Estonia	6	4.5	4	3.1	14	10.4	57.8
Greece	47	4.2	13	1.1	106	9.4	4.9
Spain	215	5.0	86	2.1	453	10.6	23.2
France	259	4.3	125	2.1	768	12.7	45.2
Ireland	20	5.1	3	0.7	62	15.2	31.4
Italy	251	4.3	44	0.8	563	9.7	14.9
Cyprus	5	7.2	2	2.2	8	11.2	3.3
Latvia	10	4.5	5	2.3	20	8.8	45.3
Lithuania	19	5.6	11	3.2	30	8.9	28.7
Luxembourg	2	4.4	1	2.3	6	12.0	26.1
Hungary	44	4.3	25	2.4	95	9.4	34.0
Malta****	2	6.0	-	-	4	9.7	19.1
Netherlands	76	4.7	32	1.9	194	11.9	32.5
Austria	39	4.7	19	2.3	79	9.7	35.9
Poland	192	5.0	56	1.5	356	9.3	17.2
Portugal	49	4.7	23	2.2	109	10.4	29.1
Slovenia	7	3.3	2	1.2	18	9.0	43.5
Slovakia	28	5.2	11	2.0	54	10.0	24.8
Finland	29	5.6	13	2.5	58	11.0	40.8
Sweden	43	4.8	20	2.2	101	11.2	55.4
United Kingdom	306	5.1	167	2.8	716	12.0	42.3

* 2003: Ireland and United Kingdom

** 2003: Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom

*** 2003: Belgium, Estonia, Spain, France and Ireland

**** Divorce is not possible in Malta

Some of the data are estimations.

Two thirds of the households in the EU25 are without children

In the **EU25** in 2005, 67% of households¹ were without children², including single person households (29%), couples without children (24%) and other types of all-adult households (14%). The proportion of households with one child was 16%, 13% had two children and 4% three or more.

Among Member States, 70% or more of households in **Finland**, **Germany**, **Denmark** and **Austria** were without children, while it was 55% or less in **Poland**, **Lithuania**, **Slovakia**, **Cyprus** and **Malta**. Amongst households with children, it was most common to have one child in nearly all Member States. However, in **Denmark**, **Cyprus**, **Luxembourg** and the **Netherlands** it was more common to have two children. In **Belgium** and **Slovakia** there were equal shares of households with one or two children. In **Cyprus**, 10% of households had 3 children or more, compared to the **EU25** average of 4%.

Single parent households represented 13% of all households with children in the **EU25** in 2005. The highest rate of single parents was found in the **United Kingdom** (24%), followed by **Belgium** (18%), **Estonia** (17%) and **Denmark** and **Germany** (16% each).

Composition of households

	Households by number of children* in 2005 (%)				Single parent households, % of all households with children*, 2005
	No children	With 1 child	With 2 children	With 3 or more children	
EU25**	67	16	13	4	13
Belgium	66	14	14	6	18
Czech Republic	64	17	16	3	13
Denmark	74	11	12	4	16
Germany	75	13	9	3	16
Estonia	60	20	16	4	17
Greece	68	15	14	3	5
Spain	61	20	16	3	6
France	66	14	13	6	14
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	68	17	13	3	6
Cyprus	55	16	19	10	6
Latvia	59	23	13	4	15
Lithuania	54	22	18	6	11
Luxembourg	64	14	15	7	9
Hungary	64	17	14	5	11
Malta	55	20	19	7	4
Netherlands	69	12	14	6	13
Austria	70	15	11	4	12
Poland	53	22	18	8	9
Portugal	58	24	14	3	7
Slovenia	63	18	16	4	8
Slovakia	54	19	19	8	6
Finland***	76	10	9	5	10
Sweden	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom	68	14	12	5	24

Source: EU Labour Force Survey, spring results. Denmark and Finland: annual average

*Children aged less than 15, or aged 15 to 24 and still dependent (inactive and having at least one parent in the household).

** EU25 excludes Ireland and Sweden

***2004

: Data not available

More than a fifth of the household expenditure in the EU25 spent on housing

Out of household³ expenditure in the **EU25** in 2004, 21% went on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, 13% on transport, 13% on food and non-alcoholic beverages, 10% on recreation and culture and 6% on clothing and footwear. Most of the Member States followed the same expenditure pattern. However, in **Cyprus**, **Lithuania**, **Malta** and **Portugal** expenditure on both transport and food had higher shares than on housing. In **Greece**, **Italy** and **Portugal** there was a higher share spent on clothing than on recreation and culture. Finally, in **Austria** and the **United Kingdom** a higher share was spent on recreation and culture than on food.

Household expenditure, 2004* (in % of total household expenditure)

	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	Transport	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Recreation and culture	Clothing and footwear
EU25	21.4	13.4	12.7	9.6	6.0
Belgium	22.9	14.6	13.6	9.2	5.3
Czech Republic	21.8	10.7	17.2	11.8	5.0
Denmark	27.3	12.5	11.4	10.6	5.0
Germany	23.8	13.8	11.7	9.4	5.4
Estonia	21.9	11.6	20.5	6.6	5.9
Greece	15.4	8.5	15.0	6.0	10.1
Spain	16.0	12.0	14.2	9.3	5.5
France	24.1	14.7	14.4	9.0	4.5
Ireland	20.7	10.6	9.3	7.3	4.8
Italy	20.5	12.1	14.5	7.4	8.9
Cyprus	12.2	14.5	16.4	8.2	6.4
Latvia	21.3	10.7	21.1	8.4	5.8
Lithuania	15.8	16.6	31.8	7.8	7.4
Luxembourg	21.0	18.5	9.7	8.1	3.9
Hungary	19.4	15.6	17.7	7.9	4.0
Malta	8.6	13.5	17.3	11.1	6.2
Netherlands	21.6	11.4	11.0	10.3	5.4
Austria	18.9	12.7	10.6	11.7	6.7
Poland	24.8	10.5	19.4	7.2	4.4
Portugal	13.5	13.7	17.0	6.6	7.9
Slovenia	19.3	15.0	15.8	9.9	6.2
Slovakia	27.5	9.2	19.7	8.4	3.4
Finland	25.4	12.7	12.5	11.2	4.8
Sweden	28.6	12.9	12.3	11.9	5.2
United Kingdom	18.7	15.0	8.9	12.7	6.1

*2003: France, Poland and Portugal

Source: National accounts data, based upon current prices

1. Includes all private households as defined for the Labour Force Survey. A household is defined in terms of shared residence and common arrangements, as comprising either one person living alone or a group of persons, not necessarily related, living at the same address with common house-keeping - i.e. sharing a meal on most days or sharing a living or sitting room.
2. Children aged less than 15, or aged 15 to 24 and still dependent (inactive and having at least one parent in the household).
3. Households refer to the household sector in ESA 95 (National Accounts). For a complete definition of households in National Accounts, please see ESA 95, paragraph 2.75-2.76:
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/nfaccount/info/data/esa95/en/een00085.htm>

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