

Age dependency ratio

The total age dependency ratio¹ is rising due to increasing life expectancy and fertility. The old-age dependency ratio has been continuously increasing since 1987. Slovenia had 23.9 older persons per 100 working-age people in 2011,² 0.1 more than in 2010 and 2.0 more than in 2005. The young-age dependency ratio also rose for the fourth year in a row. At the beginning of 2011 Slovenia had 20.5 children per 100 working-age people, 0.3 more than in 2010 and 0.1 more than in 2005. Consequently, the total age dependency ratio is also increasing, totalling 44.3, up 0.3 on a year earlier and up 2.1 on 2005.

The ageing index declined in 2011 due to higher fertility, but it remains around 117 due to longer life expectancy. As a result of a higher number of births,³ the share of children in the total population grew for the third consecutive year since 2004 (having declined from 14.4% to 13.9% between 2005 and 2008, it rose again to 14.2% in 2011). In 2011 the share of older people remained the same as a year earlier (16.5%, 1.2% higher than in 2005) due to the very weak inflow of the generation of people born in 1945. The number of people aged 65 and over in 2003 was higher than the number of children for the first time ever. The ageing index, which is the ratio between these two population groups, exceeded 100. It rose to 117.7 by 2010, while in 2011 it declined to 116.5 owing to a larger increase in the number of children relative to the increase in older population. The share of the working-age population was rising until 2004. In 2005 (when it was still 70.3%), it began to decline, falling to 69.3% by 2011,⁴ despite high positive net migration,⁵ which otherwise increases this population group.

¹ The age dependency of the population is measured by three ratios: a) the old-age dependency ratio, which is the ratio of the population aged 65+ to the working-age population (which has an internationally comparable definition as the population aged 15–64); b) the young-age dependency ratio, which is the ratio of the population aged 0–14 to the working-age population; and c) the total age dependency ratio, which is the ratio of the young and old populations to the working-age population.

² The age dependency indicators were previously calculated with regard to the population as at 1 July (or 30 June) of a given year, as the situation in the middle of the year should be a more suitable approximation of the annual average of the population than at the beginning (or end) of the year. As Eurostat releases detailed data on the population by age only for the situation as at 1 January, we are also starting to analyse the age composition of Slovenia's population as at 1 January.

³ See the indicator *Fertility rate*.

⁴ This decline was also partly due to the change in the statistical definition of the permanent population in 2008, which does not include persons who have lived in Slovenia or have been absent from Slovenia for less than one year. However, the impact of the change is not significant. In 2008, the last year for which

The old-age dependency ratio in Slovenia is still below the EU average, but the gap is closing. Most of the large EU Member States have higher life expectancies than Slovenia.⁶ The ratio of old people to total population in the EU as a whole is therefore also higher. However, all countries face similar problems regarding the declining shares of children and working-age population, despite positive net migration. The average old-age dependency ratio in the EU is therefore higher than in Slovenia. In 2010, it rose to 26.0 older people per 100 working-age population, which was 2.3 p.p. more than in Slovenia. The gap, which had been slowly closing in previous years, even increased somewhat in 2010. The old-age dependency ratio remains highest in Germany, Italy and Greece, the countries which also have the largest shares of older people in total population.

data is available according to both definitions, the share of the working-age population in the total population was 70.0% according to the previous definition, and 69.7% according to the new definition, which does not include foreigners with temporary residence.

⁵ See the indicator *Migration ratio*.

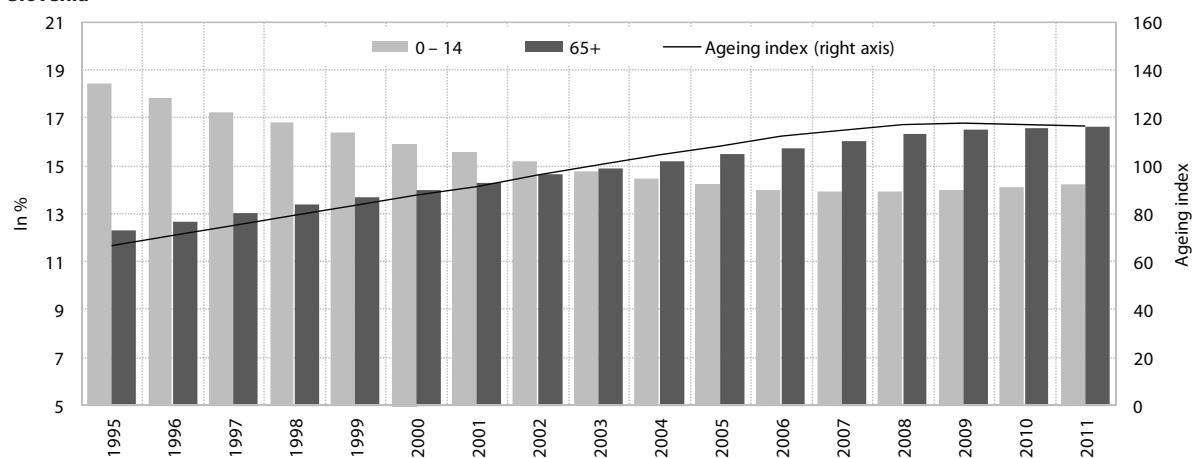
⁶ See the indicator *Life expectancy and infant mortality*.

Table: Age-dependency ratio of the population aged 65+ in selected EU-27 Member States, in %

| | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| EU-27 | 21.9 | 23.2 | 24.7 | 25.0 | 25.1 | 25.4 | 25.6 | 26.0 | N/A |
| Austria | 22.5 | 22.8 | 23.4 | 24.2 | 25.0 | 25.3 | 25.8 | 26.1 | 26.0 |
| Belgium | 23.9 | 25.6 | 26.2 | 26.2 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 26.1 | N/A |
| Bulgaria | 22.2 | 23.9 | 24.7 | 24.9 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.1 | 25.4 | 25.8 |
| Cyprus | 17.2 | 17.0 | 17.3 | 17.2 | 17.6 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 18.7 | N/A |
| Czech Republic | 19.3 | 19.8 | 19.7 | 19.9 | 20.2 | 20.5 | 21.0 | 21.5 | 22.1 |
| Denmark | 22.7 | 22.2 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 23.1 | 23.6 | 24.2 | 24.8 | 25.7 |
| Estonia | 20.2 | 22.5 | 24.2 | 24.5 | 25.1 | 25.3 | 25.1 | 25.2 | 25.1 |
| Finland | 21.1 | 22.1 | 23.9 | 24.0 | 24.8 | 24.8 | 25.1 | 25.6 | 26.5 |
| France | 22.9 | 24.6 | 25.3 | 25.5 | 25.3 | 25.5 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 26.1 |
| Greece | 22.3 | 24.3 | 26.8 | 27.5 | 27.7 | 27.7 | 27.9 | 28.3 | 29.1 |
| Ireland | 17.8 | 16.7 | 16.3 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 16.2 | 16.8 | 17.4 |
| Italy | 24.0 | 26.8 | 29.4 | 29.8 | 30.2 | 30.3 | 30.5 | 30.7 | 30.9 |
| Latvia | 20.4 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 24.4 | 24.8 | 24.9 | 25.1 | 25.3 | 25.3 |
| Lithuania | 18.5 | 20.7 | 22.3 | 22.4 | 22.8 | 23.0 | 23.2 | 23.4 | 24.1 |
| Luxembourg | 20.5 | 21.4 | 21.0 | 20.9 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 20.6 | 20.5 | 20.3 |
| Hungary | 20.9 | 22.0 | 22.7 | 23.0 | 23.1 | 23.5 | 23.9 | 24.2 | 24.3 |
| Malta | 16.4 | 17.9 | 19.2 | 19.8 | 19.9 | 19.7 | 20.1 | 21.3 | 22.4 |
| Germany | 22.5 | 23.8 | 27.8 | 29.0 | 29.9 | 30.4 | 30.9 | 31.5 | 31.2 |
| Netherlands | 19.3 | 20.1 | 20.7 | 21.2 | 21.5 | 21.8 | 22.3 | 22.8 | 23.3 |
| Poland | 16.5 | 17.7 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 18.9 | 19.1 |
| Portugal | 21.8 | 23.6 | 25.2 | 25.4 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 26.2 | 26.8 | 27.3 |
| Romania | 17.5 | 19.3 | 21.2 | 21.2 | 21.4 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | N/A |
| Slovakia | 16.3 | 16.6 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 16.6 | 16.7 | 17.0 | 17.2 |
| Slovenia | 17.4 | 19.9 | 21.8 | 22.2 | 22.7 | 23.4 | 23.6 | 23.8 | 23.9 |
| Spain | 22.2 | 24.4 | 24.5 | 24.3 | 24.3 | 24.1 | 24.2 | 24.6 | 25.2 |
| Sweden | 27.5 | 26.9 | 26.4 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.6 | 27.2 | 27.7 | 28.5 |
| United Kingdom | 24.4 | 24.3 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.1 | 24.2 | 24.6 | 25.0 | 25.2 |

Source: Eurostat Portal Page – Population and social conditions – Population, 2011.
 Note: N/A – not available.

Figure: Old (65+) and young (0-14) population as a percentage of the total population and ratio between them (ageing index), Slovenia



Source: Eurostat Portal Page – Population and social conditions – Population, 2011.