

Global Britain Briefing Note

No 123

9th March 2017

Post-Brexit, remaining EU to lose 49 million of population by 2080

- Population of Germany to *shrink* by almost 14 million from 80 million in 2020 to 67 million in 2080
- UK population to *grow* by almost 14 million between 2020 and 2080, to a total of 80 million
- Populations of France, Benelux, Scandinavia and Ireland to grow between 2020 and 2080
- Southern & Eastern Europe to lose population between 2020 and 2080
- Poland to lose a third of its population between 2020 and 2080

Table 1: Projected EU populations in 2020, 2050 & 2080: millions				
Country	2020	2050	2080	2080 versus 2020
<i>Growth</i>				
France	65.7	71.1	74.3	+ 8.6
Netherlands	17.2	17.6	17.4	+ 0.2
Belgium	11.6	12.5	12.9	+ 1.3
Sweden	10.1	11.9	13.5	+ 3.4
Denmark	5.6	6.3	6.7	+ 0.9
Finland	5.6	5.8	5.8	+ 0.2
Ireland	4.9	5.8	6.2	+ 1.3
Cyprus	1.2	1.4	1.4	+ 0.2
Luxembourg	0.6	0.8	1.0	+ 0.4
<i>Nine growing countries above</i>	<i>122.7</i>	<i>133.2</i>	<i>139.2</i>	<i>+ 16.5</i>
<i>Stable population</i> Malta	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>zero</i>
<i>Shrinkage</i>				
Germany	80.4	74.5	66.6	(13.8)
Italy	59.7	56.3	51.1	(8.6)
Spain	46.2	44.8	39.7	(6.5)
Poland	38.4	33.1	25.7	(12.7)
Romania	18.8	15.2	12.0	(6.8)
Greece	10.8	9.7	8.1	(2.7)
Czech Republic	10.6	10.0	9.0	(1.6)
Portugal	10.2	9.2	7.9	(2.3)
Hungary	9.7	8.3	7.0	(2.7)
Austria	8.7	8.8	8.5	(0.2)
Bulgaria	6.9	5.2	3.8	(3.1)
Slovakia	5.9	4.9	4.1	(1.8)
Croatia	4.2	3.6	2.9	(1.3)
Lithuania	2.8	2.4	2.1	(0.7)
Slovenia	2.1	1.9	1.7	(0.4)
Latvia	1.9	1.6	1.4	(0.5)
Estonia	1.3	1.1	1.0	(0.3)
<i>Seventeen shrinking countries above</i>	<i>318.6</i>	<i>290.6</i>	<i>252.6</i>	<i>(66.0)</i>
<i>Total EU-27</i>	<i>441.7</i>	<i>424.2</i>	<i>392.2</i>	<i>(49.5)</i>
<i>UK (assumed to be outside the EU)</i>	<i>66.7</i>	<i>75.4</i>	<i>80.3</i>	<i>+ 13.6</i>

Note: in the table above, figures preceded by a plus sign indicate increases, figures in brackets indicate shrinkages

Data Source

United Nations: Department of Economic & Social Affairs, Population Division:-

World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, Volume 1: Comprehensive Tables:

2020 – 2100: Medium Variant:

https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf

The United Nations began publishing world population prospects in 1946, shortly after its foundation. The “2015 Revision”, from which the data used in this Briefing Note is summarised, is the twenty-third. The previous issue was the “2012 Revision” published in 2013. Individual UN member states provide the “raw” population data which the UN Population Division then processes and harmonises to produce its projections.

The three essential components or drivers of population change are fertility (numbers of children per woman), mortality and migration. The UN makes three estimates or “variants” of future population growth: “upper”, “medium” and “lower”. This Briefing Note uses the Medium Variant.

Africa is the fastest-growing major area. More than half of global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in that continent. Africa has the highest rate of population growth among major areas, growing at a pace of 2.55 per cent annually in 2010-2050. Consequently, of the additional 2.4 billion people projected to be added to the global population between 2015 and 2050, 1.3 billion will be added in Africa. Asia is projected to be the second largest contributor to future global population growth, adding 0.9 billion people between 2015 and 2050, followed by Northern America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania, which are projected to have much smaller increments. In the medium variant, Europe is projected to have a smaller population in 2050 than in 2015.

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