

EFTA and candidate countries. For the best possible support, requests should always be addressed to the relevant support centre, whose mission is to provide free-of-charge help to users who have difficulties in finding the statistical data they need. User support can be reached via the 'Help' tab on Eurostat's website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/help/user_support

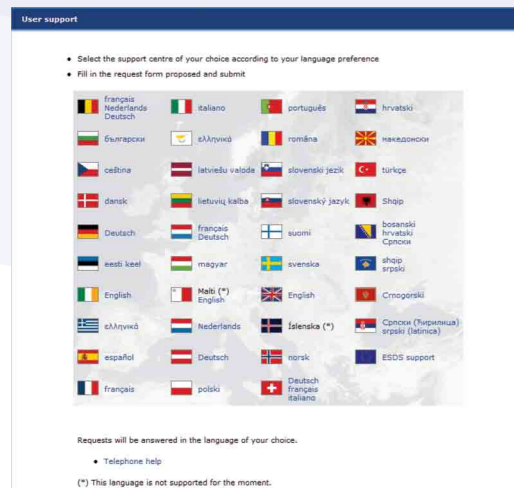
Media and institutional support

Eurostat's press office publishes news releases on a key selection of data covering the EU, the euro area, the Member States and their partners. They are available free of charge on the Eurostat website, being released at 11.00 a.m.

Should you wish to obtain a news release (on the day of publication) or the weekly release calendar by e-mail please contact: eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu or telephone +352 430133444.

About 200 news releases were published in 2011. The media support centre helps professional journalists to find data: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

The institutional support service is dedicated to assisting the staff of EU institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, Council, etc.), EU agencies and international organisations (UN, OECD etc.): eurostat-institutional-support@ec.europa.eu



Electronic versions (PDFs) of publications are free of charge

To discover more, go to the Eurostat website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>) and select the 'Publications' tab from the top menu bar.

Alternatively, search for publications according to statistical themes: use the advanced options of the website search or the 'Statistics' tab (also in the top menu bar) and select a subject of interest from the main window; each of the subjects has its own dedicated section on Eurostat's website and the vast majority of these have a link to relevant publications in the left-hand menu.

Paper copies of the most popular publications (not all are printed) can be ordered through EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>).

Eurostat's publications are classified in collections.

- News releases — providing rapid information concerning the release of key data on the EU and the euro area; RSS feeds (available at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/RSS/rss_estat_news.xml) can be used to ensure the provision of up-to-date information; a release calendar is also published (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/release_calendars/news_releases).
- Statistical books — comprehensive studies, often focusing on a particular subject; usually quite lengthy, providing analyses, tables and graphs from one or more statistical themes.
- Pocketbooks — handy, pocket-sized publications presenting the main indicators for a particular topic in a concise format.
- 'Statistics in focus' — relatively short publications presenting summaries of the main results of statistical surveys, studies and analyses; published for all statistical themes, with each issue comprising 4 to 12 pages; about 70 issues are published each year.
- Methodologies and working papers — intended for those who want to consult methodologies or nomenclatures or find specific details relating to the collection or treatment of data. Issues are published each year.

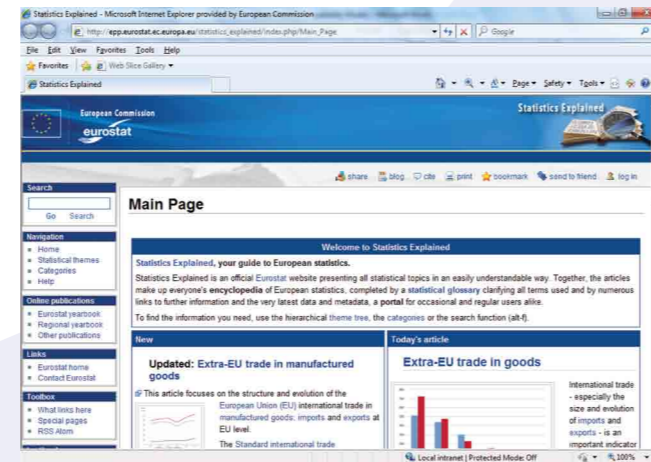
Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained) is a new electronic publication tool dealing with a large number of topics related to European statistics. It is based on Mediawiki, the software used for Wikipedia, and provides a large number of structured articles containing statistical comments, analysis and key data, as well as a glossary of statistical terms. All articles are available in English and a number also in other official EU languages. Working in a similar way

to Wikipedia, it is easy to use and navigate. Statistics Explained is a rich source of information for the full range of statistical subjects covered by Eurostat, being:

- an encyclopaedia of European Union statistics;
- a portal to further information for occasional and regular users alike;
- a statistical glossary.

Statistics Explained makes extensive use of hyperlinking and automatic indexing to provide seamless access to information at various levels. It contains statistical data and explanations, but also provides links to the latest figures and all kinds of relevant background information which may be useful for understanding the statistics presented.



Key publications

Eurostat publishes a comprehensive selection of statistical data on Europe, covering areas such as: general and regional statistics; economy and finance; population and social conditions; industry, trade and services; agriculture and fisheries; international trade; transport; environment and energy; and science and technology. Amongst these key publications, the user will find statistical books or pocketbooks such as:

- 'Europe in figures — Eurostat yearbook',
- 'Eurostat regional yearbook',
- 'The EU in the world — A statistical portrait',
- 'Key figures on Europe' (pocketbook),
- 'Migrants in Europe — A statistical portrait of the first and the second generation',

- 'Active ageing — A statistical portrait of the EU',
- 'Energy, transport and environment indicators' (pocketbook).

More information about the latest key publications can be found at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/release_calendars/publications



Statistics by theme

Information online is updated daily. Data are subdivided into nine themes and a set of EU policy indicators (these usually span several themes). To access data by theme, click on the 'Statistics' tab available in the top menu bar. Most statistical themes have several sections dedicated to particular subjects.

EU policy indicators

Europe 2020; euro indicators/PEEIs; sustainable development; macroeconomic imbalance procedure

General and regional statistics

Regions and cities; land cover/use statistics (LUCAS); rural development; candidate countries and potential candidates; European neighbourhood policy countries; international statistical cooperation

Economy and finance

National accounts (including GDP); ESA 95 input-output tables; European sector accounts; government finance statistics; exchange rates; interest rates; monetary and other financial statistics; harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICP); purchasing power parities (PPPs); balance of payments

Population and social conditions

Population; health (public health/health and safety at work); education and training; labour market (including labour force surveys); income, social inclusion and living conditions; social protection; household budget surveys; crime and criminal justice; culture

Industry, trade and services

Structural business statistics; short-term business statistics; tourism; manufactured goods (Prodcom); information society; postal services

Agriculture and fisheries

Agriculture; forestry; fisheries; food: from farm to fork; agri-environmental indicators.

International trade

Covering all goods and all partner countries

Transport

Road; rail; air; maritime; inland waterways; oil pipelines

Environment and energy

Environment; energy

Science and technology

Science, technology and innovation

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>



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Free and easy access
to European statistics

A short guide to Eurostat's website,
data and publications

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Your free access to European statistics — The Eurostat website

Eurostat provides free access to its data, which are all available on its website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>). It publishes harmonised statistics on the European Union (EU), its Member States and candidate countries, as well as on some other non-member countries, and offers a comparable, reliable and objective portrayal of economic, social, environmental and technological trends. It collects data from national statistical authorities according to EU-wide methodologies within the European Statistical System. Most Eurostat data may be freely reused for any purpose, including commercial reuse. Data are, therefore, genuinely comparable. EU data may be analysed by different EU totals, by individual countries or by region.

There are two main ways to access Eurostat's data:

- look for predefined tables, graphs and maps containing data for selected indicators from the nine statistical themes and EU policy indicators;
- use a more sophisticated tool (Eurostat's Data Explorer) for extracting user-defined data.

To discover more, open a web browser and go to the Eurostat homepage (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>). To access data, click on the link to the statistics database that is presented in the top left of the homepage. This will display a data navigation tree for accessing the datasets or selected tables, graphs and maps by theme.

In addition, access to the data navigation tree is available via the database icon on the top right of each page of the website.

It is also possible to access data for a particular statistical theme or subject: click on the 'Statistics' tab in the top menu bar and then select the subject of interest; each of these has its own dedicated section on Eurostat's website and the vast majority of these have links to relevant tables and datasets. Moreover, the application 'Statistics Explained' offers the possibility to search or browse a large range of statistical articles including links to data (see 'Statistics Explained').



Behind many items in the data navigation tree, you can find an icon which offers a link to a methodological document that provides supporting information on aspects such as data collection methods, data treatment, classifications and definitions. It also offers metadata on data coverage, frequency of data release, quality, relevance, accuracy and reliability, coherence and revision policies.

Tables, graphs and maps

The 'Tables, graphs and maps' (TGM) application shows predefined statistical data for all EU Member States, candidate countries and some other countries for the 12 most recent years or time periods available. They are predefined insofar as the user cannot modify the dimensions of the data displayed. The TGM can be accessed from the data navigation tree, which is split into two main sections: 'Tables by themes' and 'Tables on EU policy'.

The tables on EU policy offer access to data according to important EU policies and typically cut across topical subjects.

- 'Macroeconomic imbalance procedure' (MIP) focuses on the identification of emerging or persistent macroeconomic imbalances at an early stage. The MIP is accompanied by a scoreboard consisting of a small number of relevant, practical, simple, measurable and available macroeconomic and macrofinancial indicators. The scoreboard, combined with appropriate economic judgement, forms the basis for the alert mechanism report, prepared annually by the European Commission.

The indicators cover internal and external imbalances. Internal imbalances include those that can arise from public and private indebtedness; financial and asset market developments, including housing; the evolution of private sector credit flow; and the evolution of unemployment. External imbalances include those that can arise from the evolution of current account and net investment positions of Member States, real effective exchange rates, share of world exports and nominal unit labour cost.

- Short-term indicators (euro indicators) provide an overview of recent economic developments within the euro area, EU and Member States. The indicators include: balance of payments; business and consumer surveys; international trade; industry, commerce and services; the labour market; monetary and financial indicators; national accounts; and consumer prices.

- Europe 2020 indicators present data that can be used to monitor and report progress in relation to the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This strategy is based on the five EU headline targets — employment, innovation, education,

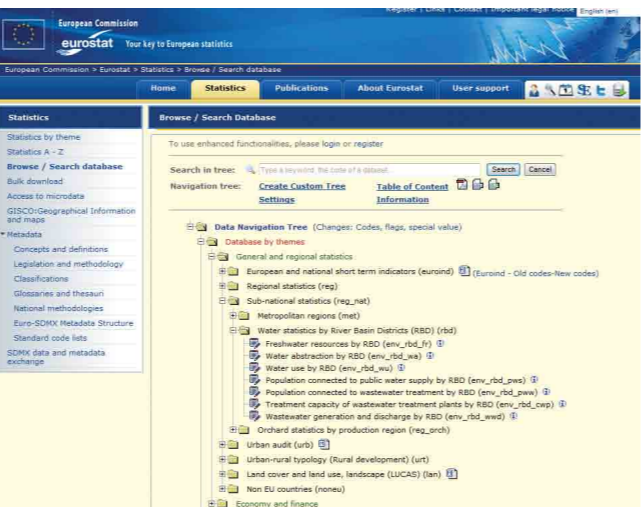
social inclusion and climate/energy — which are currently measured by eight headline indicators.

- Sustainable development indicators monitor the progress being made in relation to the quality of life and well-being for present and future generations, through the efficient use of resources, while tapping into the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion: socioeconomic development; sustainable consumption and production; social inclusion; demographic changes; public health; climate change and energy; transport; natural resources; global partnership; and good governance.

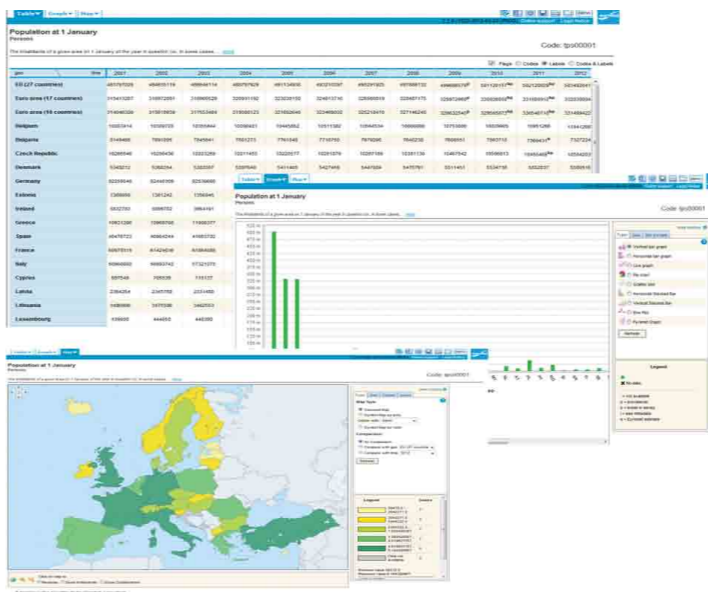
TGM, which runs in a web browser, is a self-contained interface used for viewing, printing and downloading data. The interface allows users to define the style of graphs and maps, and to save these using bookmarks.

Tables: displays data; allows users to show (or hide) footnotes/flags, labels and codes; provides different options for saving data (Microsoft Excel, HTML, XML or TSV); allows the information to be printed.

Graphs: provides a range of graph types; selects data based on the underlying main table; permits customisation of axis scales and sorting of values.



Maps: choice of styles; user-defined classes for map shading; inclusion of geographical features such as rivers; navigational tools to focus on a particular country or region.



Data Explorer

Data can also be viewed and downloaded using the Data Explorer. Most datasets on the Eurostat website include: several statistical indicators; a geographical dimension (countries, regions, cities); time dimensions (year, quarter, month, etc.); and measurement units (e.g. euro, percentage, physical units). They also include a series of flags (e.g. identifying estimates or forecasts). There may be a variety of other dimensions depending on the specific dataset in question (e.g. breakdowns by gender, age or type of economic activity/sector).

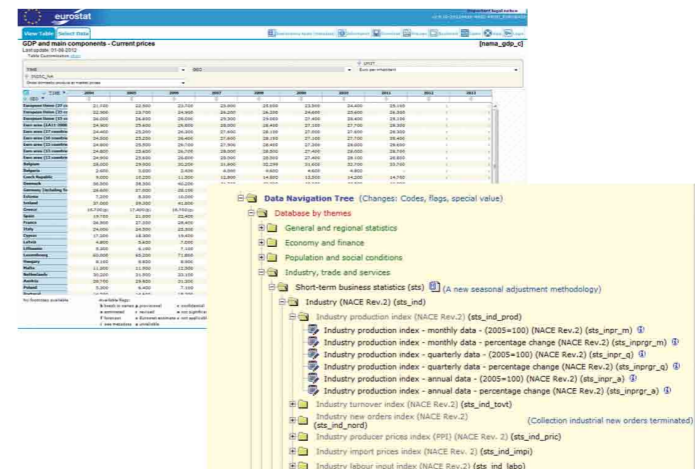
The Data Explorer is a tool which allows users to select across all dimensions of a dataset. It allows the user to build user-defined queries and then to structure the results as cross-tabulations which may be based on two, three or four dimensions.

The Data Explorer allows these user-defined selections to be saved using Internet bookmarks — which can be set to display either static or dynamic tabulations. The latter provides users with the possibility to set up a tabulation with a certain number of time periods and then to update the tabulation when new information is available, while maintaining the structure of the table.

The Data Explorer also provides tools for making extractions — these can be saved in similar formats to those produced by the 'Tables, graphs and maps' application (TGM). More advanced functions are available to users who register on the website — e.g. alerts for new publications.

International trade data

Highly aggregated data on international trade can be viewed and extracted through Eurostat's standard dataset utilities (TGM and Data Explorer). However, Eurostat collects detailed information concerning the external trade of the EU and trade between the Member States which covers over 10 000 products that are traded with more than 250 partner countries, compiled on a monthly basis. This detailed data can be extracted using a specific application for international trade and production statistics (Comext).



Other interfaces

Two other data-related interfaces are available directly from the Eurostat website.

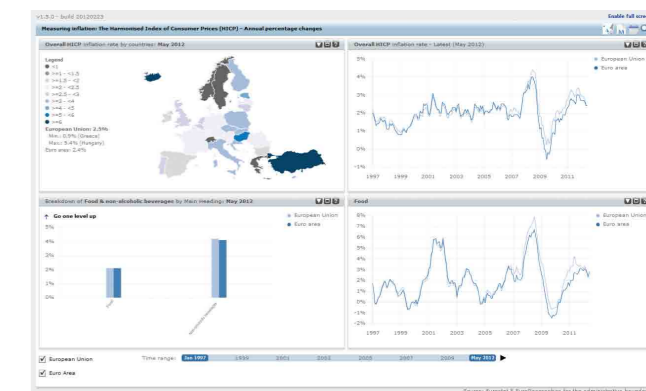
Inflation Dashboard

The 'Inflation Dashboard' gives recent figures on the harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICPs) for the European Union as well as euro area countries.

This interactive tool helps with analysing inflation developments. Four windows visualise various aspects of inflation development:

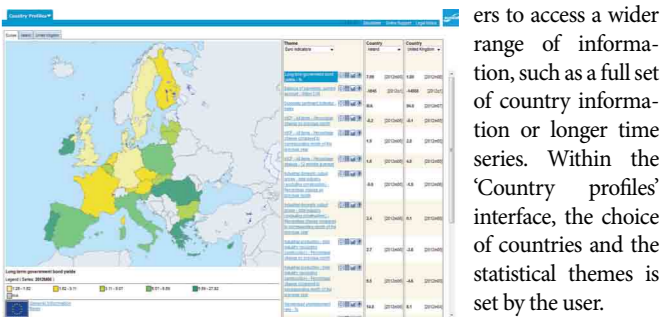
- a chart showing the overall inflation rate over time;
- a map showing the latest inflation rate by country;
- a column chart showing the breakdown of the overall index (latest inflation rate) by product category;
- a chart showing the inflation rate for a selected category over time.

Options allow the user to change the variables and to switch to a tabular view.



Country profiles

This interface permits the comparison of two countries or EU aggregates using key indicators of statistical themes. It shows the latest data in a summary table or graph by theme. Within the table, hyperlinks to the TGM interface are provided for each of the indicators, allowing us-



ers to access a wider range of information, such as a full set of country information or longer time series. Within the 'Country profiles' interface, the choice of countries and the statistical themes is set by the user.

Country profiles for mobile applications

The 'Country profiles' mobile application offers similar functionality to the web application mentioned above. It is currently available for iPad, iPhone and Android devices (search for 'Eurostat' on the Apple App Store or on the Google Play Store). In addition to a tabular presentation of data, it offers graph and map functionality for the same data. The update function allows the downloading of the most recent data. More new products for mobile devices will be launched in 2012–13.

User support

Support for all Internet users

Eurostat and the other members of the European Statistical System have set up a system of user support centres. These exist for nearly all EU languages, as well as for some languages in EEA/