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## Causes of death in the EU28 in 2010

# Circulatory diseases main cause of death for men and women aged 65 years and over

For the older **EU28** population, those aged 65 years and over, circulatory diseases<sup>1</sup> and neoplasms<sup>1</sup> were by far the most prevalent causes of death in 2010, with 1 931 deaths and 1 075 deaths respectively per 100 000 inhabitants of this age group<sup>2</sup>. Respiratory diseases<sup>1</sup> (378 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants), digestive diseases<sup>1</sup> (177), diseases of the nervous system<sup>1</sup> (154) and deaths due to external causes<sup>1</sup> (125) were the other main causes of death for this age group. For all main causes, the standardised death rates<sup>2</sup> for older men in the **EU28** were higher than for older women.

For the total **EU28** population, the order of the main causes of death was similar to the older population, while for the **EU28** population aged less than 65 years neoplasms (86 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants of this age group) was the most common cause of death, followed by circulatory diseases (52) and external causes (30).

This information is published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The standardised death rates presented in this release take into account the latest census results and are calculated based on the newly defined standard population<sup>2</sup> and are available for more detailed causes of death<sup>3</sup>.

**EU28 – Standardised death rates for main causes<sup>1</sup>, by age and sex**

	Circulatory diseases	Neoplasms	Respiratory diseases	Digestive diseases	External causes	Diseases of nervous system & sense organs
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Men, total</b>	492	376	116	60	70	38
<b>Women, total</b>	360	212	60	38	29	32
<b>Total, under 65 years</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Men, under 65 years</b>	78	102	13	25	47	7
<b>Women, under 65 years</b>	27	71	6	10	13	5
<b>Total, 65 years and over</b>	<b>1 931</b>	<b>1 075</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Men, 65 years and over</b>	2 198	1 505	542	207	165	169
<b>Women, 65 years and over</b>	1 736	794	282	154	99	143

### **Heart infarction among persons aged 65 and over: lowest death rates in France and Spain**

Death caused by heart infarction occurred more often among older men in the **EU28** than among older women (338 deaths per 100 000 men aged 65 and over and 188 deaths per 100 000 women aged 65 and over). Death rates due to heart infarction also varied significantly between the Member States in 2010, with the highest rates for older men in **Romania** (618 deaths per 100 000 men) and **Finland** (595) and for older women in **Malta** (455 per 100 000 women) and **Romania** (412). The lowest rates for both older men and women were registered in **France** (168 for men and 85 for women) and **Spain** (258 for men and 138 for women).

### **Cancer among persons aged 65 and over: lowest death rates in Bulgaria and Cyprus**

In the **EU28**, the death rate for older men due to cancer in 2010 was almost twice as high as for women (1 456 deaths per 100 000 men aged 65 and over and 764 deaths per 100 000 women aged 65 and over). Among the Member States, the death rates due to cancer were highest for men in **Estonia** (1 937), **Croatia** (1 933) and **Slovenia** (1 878) and for women in **Denmark** (1 053 in 2009), **Ireland** (966) and **Slovenia** (954). For both men and women, the lowest rates occurred in **Bulgaria** (1 069 for men and 532 for women) and **Cyprus** (1 098 for men and 590 for women).

The most prevalent cancer leading to death for older men in the **EU28** was lung cancer (348 deaths per 100 000 men) in 2010, while for older women it was breast cancer (112 deaths per 100 000 women).

### **Melanoma of skin among persons aged 65 and over: lowest death rates in Greece and Romania**

As for the other causes of death in the **EU28**, the death rate for older men in 2010 due to melanoma of skin (15 deaths per 100 000 men aged 65 and over) were higher than for women (8 deaths per 100 000 women aged 65 and over). In the Member States, the rates for older men were highest in **Croatia** (28), **Slovenia**, **Slovakia** and **Sweden** (all 26) and for older women in **Slovenia** (16), **Ireland**, **Croatia**, **Latvia** and **Slovakia** (all 14). For both men and women, the lowest rates occurred in **Greece** (6 for men and 5 for women) and **Romania** (6 for men and 4 for women).

### **Accidents among persons aged 65 and over: highest death rates in Slovenia and Croatia**

Among the external causes of death, accidents were the most common cause among both older men and women in 2010. In the **EU28**, the death rate for older men due to accidents was 121 deaths per 100 000 men, and for older women 82 deaths per 100 000 women. For both men and women, **Slovenia** (240 for men and 143 for women) and **Croatia** (226 for men and 182 for women) registered the highest rates per 100 000 inhabitants due to accidents, and **Greece** (71 deaths for men and 27 deaths for women), **Portugal** (66 and 32) and **Bulgaria** (64 and 25) the lowest.

### **Suicide: higher death rates for older men than for older women in all Member States**

Suicide was a less common cause of death among older men and women in the **EU28**, with a rate of 31 deaths per 100 000 men and 8 deaths per 100 000 women. There were considerable differences between the Member States, however, it should be noted that difficulties of investigation and cultural differences may affect the data for this cause of death.

## Deaths per 100 000 inhabitants aged 65 and over, for selected causes of death, 2010

	Cancer		Lung cancer	Breast cancer	Melanoma of skin	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>EU28</b>	<b>1 456</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Belgium*</b>	1 495	772	451	138	12	8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1 069	532	234	79	16	6
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1 722	898	386	115	24	10
<b>Denmark*</b>	1 605	1 053	375	163	23	13
<b>Germany</b>	1 346	780	306	124	15	8
<b>Estonia</b>	1 937	763	472	96	23	13
<b>Ireland</b>	1 500	966	325	137	23	14
<b>Greece</b>	1 336	672	392	117	6	5
<b>Spain</b>	1 428	597	351	83	10	6
<b>France</b>	1 416	668	301	112	13	8
<b>Croatia</b>	1 933	913	428	145	28	14
<b>Italy</b>	1 501	745	394	109	12	6
<b>Cyprus</b>	1 098	590	232	116	16	7
<b>Latvia</b>	1 846	763	417	94	19	14
<b>Lithuania</b>	1 696	684	383	98	19	12
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1 600	747	352	137	20	10
<b>Hungary</b>	1 783	906	490	123	19	8
<b>Malta</b>	1 210	750	309	140	11	6
<b>Netherlands</b>	1 675	902	453	125	21	12
<b>Austria</b>	1 363	775	260	114	22	13
<b>Poland</b>	1 678	792	481	88	17	11
<b>Portugal</b>	1 379	633	232	88	10	7
<b>Romania</b>	1 190	623	278	93	6	4
<b>Slovenia</b>	1 878	954	391	134	26	16
<b>Slovakia</b>	1 738	803	366	116	26	14
<b>Finland</b>	1 261	720	304	97	20	9
<b>Sweden</b>	1 265	809	204	93	26	13
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1 499	947	345	126	19	10
<b>Iceland*</b>	1 387	899	243	122	12	6
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	1 027	726	87	118	46	75
<b>Norway</b>	1 488	859	291	101	43	19
<b>Switzerland</b>	1 293	672	269	121	23	11
<b>Former Yugo. Rep. of Macedonia</b>	1 255	654	297	105	26	9

\* 2009 data

## Deaths per 100 000 inhabitants aged 65 and over, for selected causes of death, 2010

	Heart infarction		Accidents		Suicide	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>EU28</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Belgium*</b>	335	176	162	124	41	12
<b>Bulgaria</b>	413	232	64	25	46	13
<b>Czech Republic</b>	455	264	169	111	41	7
<b>Denmark*</b>	353	186	104	85	35	10
<b>Germany</b>	412	234	93	66	37	11
<b>Estonia</b>	336	179	144	43	46	12
<b>Ireland</b>	579	324	75	54	9	3
<b>Greece</b>	321	185	71	27	9	1
<b>Spain</b>	258	138	89	55	24	5
<b>France</b>	168	85	177	120	47	13
<b>Croatia</b>	588	328	226	182	70	20
<b>Italy</b>	267	144	124	92	21	4
<b>Cyprus</b>	307	143	167	88	13	0
<b>Latvia</b>	437	223	165	56	57	10
<b>Lithuania</b>	260	158	189	68	67	16
<b>Luxembourg</b>	300	142	212	99	29	2
<b>Hungary</b>	475	263	179	127	83	20
<b>Malta</b>	556	455	128	52	17	3
<b>Netherlands</b>	296	170	141	103	17	6
<b>Austria</b>	419	218	151	86	54	13
<b>Poland</b>	342	173	132	73	36	6
<b>Portugal</b>	287	174	66	32	47	9
<b>Romania</b>	618	412	115	49	30	8
<b>Slovenia</b>	286	174	240	143	74	12
<b>Slovakia</b>	560	296	103	46	31	4
<b>Finland</b>	595	326	217	114	31	8
<b>Sweden</b>	518	266	153	91	27	9
<b>United Kingdom</b>	347	194	83	67	10	3
<b>Iceland*</b>	405	245	98	88	16	0
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	80	41	55	34	77	0
<b>Norway</b>	496	279	175	131	24	6
<b>Switzerland</b>	214	113	146	105	38	10
<b>Former Yugo. Rep. of Macedonia</b>	687	416	119	66	18	6

\* 2009 data

1. **Diseases of the circulatory system** include ischaemic heart diseases (causing e.g. heart infarctions), other heart diseases and cerebrovascular diseases (e.g. strokes).  
**Neoplasms** might be benign (e.g. Meningioma) or malignant (e.g. cancer).  
**Diseases of the respiratory system** include influenza, pneumonia and chronic lower respiratory diseases (e.g. asthma).  
**Diseases of the digestive system** include ulcers of stomach, duodenum and jejunum as well as chronic liver diseases (e.g. hepatitis, cirrhosis).  
**External causes** include accidents (e.g. accidental falls, transport accidents), suicides, homicides and events of undetermined intent (e.g. those deaths for which the intent, whether intentional or accidental, could not be established).  
**Diseases of the nervous system** include e.g. inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system, degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases and meningitis.
2. Data are calculated using the **standardised death rate** (death per 100 000 inhabitants). The standardised death rate indicates the number of death in relation to the total population, having excluded the differences in the age distribution when comparing different populations. As most causes of death vary significantly with people's age and sex, the use of a standard population to calculate the death rates improves comparability over time and between countries. The standardised death rate is a weighted average of age-specific mortality rates. The weighting factor is the age distribution of a (European) standard reference population, revised in 2012. For more information see:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product\\_details/publication?p\\_product\\_code=KS-RA-13-028](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-RA-13-028)
3. Eurostat presents the causes of death statistics according to a revised list of causes of death which is now available for 86 causes of death, compared to 65 previously. The revised list is available under the following link:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST\\_NOM\\_DTL&StrNom=COD\\_2012&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntPcKey=&StrLayoutCode=HIERARCHIC](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/index.cfm?TargetUrl=LST_NOM_DTL&StrNom=COD_2012&StrLanguageCode=EN&IntPcKey=&StrLayoutCode=HIERARCHIC)

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

**Julia URHAUSEN**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

For further information about the data:

**Monica PACE**  
Tel: +352-4301-32 484  
[monica.pace@ec.europa.eu](mailto:monica.pace@ec.europa.eu)

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