



# **CAP CONTEXT INDICATORS**

## **2014-2020**

### **2. AGE STRUCTURE**

2015 update

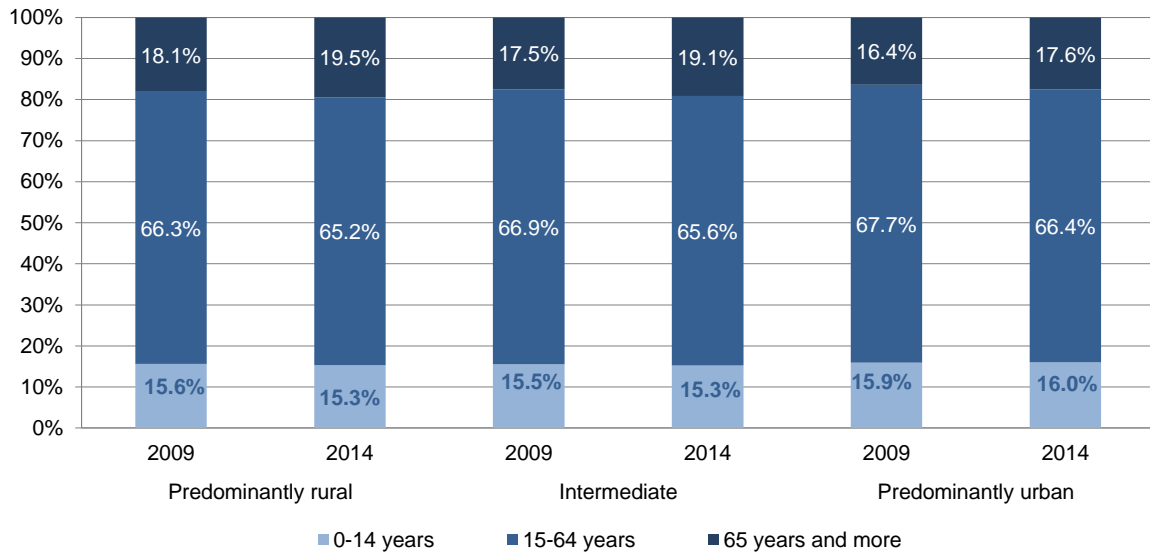
## CONTEXT INDICATOR 2: AGE STRUCTURE

There are more elderly people than young people in the EU...

In 2014, 15.3% of the EU-28 population was younger than 15 years, the working-age population (between 15 and 64 years) represented 65.2% of the total and elderly people (65 years and above) accounted for 19.5%.

Over the period 2009-2014, the proportion of elderly people increased in all types of regions, the working-age population decreased in all areas, while the share of young people decreased in all regions except for the urban ones (Graph 1).

Graph 1 – Changes in the age structure of the EU-28 population by type of region, 2009 and 2014



...and especially in the rural areas of the EU-15.

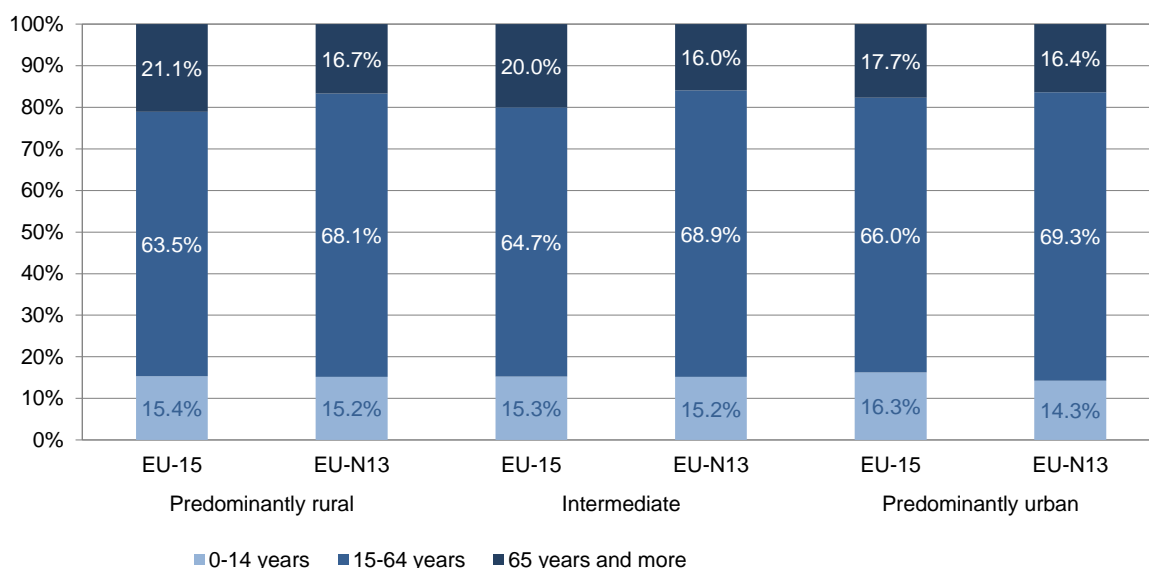
The share of the working-age population is higher in the EU-N13 (68.7%) than in the EU-15 (65.1%), in all types of regions.

The demographic differences become more evident when comparing EU-15 countries to those belonging to the EU-N13. The share of young people is higher in the EU-15, and that for all regions; in particular, urban regions of the EU-15 have the highest share of young people (16.3%) and urban regions of the EU-N13 the lowest (14.3%). Elderly people are more numerous in the EU-15 as well, especially in rural and intermediate areas, in which the difference with EU-N13 regions is around 4 percentage points. For the working age population, the share is higher in the EU-N13 than in the EU-15 in all type of regions (Graph 2).

At Member State level (Table 1), in 2014, Ireland had the highest proportion of **young people** (22%), followed by France (18.6%) and the United Kingdom (17.6%), while the lowest percentages were found in Germany (13.1%) and Bulgaria (13.7%); in 16 Member States, the share of young people decreased between 2009 and 2014. Cyprus showed the highest decrease (-1.4 percentage points), while in Ireland the share of young people grew most strongly over the considered period (+1.4 percentage points).

With regard to **elderly people**, Italy, Greece and Germany presented the highest percentages (around 20-21%), all of which increased since 2009 (+0.4 percentage points for Germany, +1.1 percentage points for Italy and +1.8 percentage points for Greece).

**Graph 2 - Age structure in the EU-15 and the EU-N13 by type of region, 2014**



The share of elderly people has grown in all EU Member States, especially in Malta (+3.6 percentage points) and Finland (+2.6 percentage points), followed by the Czech Republic and Denmark, both with +2.4 percentage points.

**Populations are ageing in most of the EU countries, in particular in rural regions.**

The working age population represented up to around 70% of the total in Poland and Slovakia, but this share is decreasing in all EU Member States except for Germany, Croatia, Cyprus and Luxemburg, where it is stable.

**Predominantly rural regions of some EU-15 countries present the highest old-age dependency ratio in the EU**

In 12 Member States one out of five people living in rural regions was older than 65 years, with the Netherlands and Portugal showing the highest proportions (both around 23%). In intermediate regions, this ratio was reached by only 6 countries and in urban regions by 2 countries. Urban areas have the highest proportion of working age population, led by Romania with 72%.

**Ireland is the country with the highest share of young and the lowest share of elderly people**

Between 2009 and 2014 the proportion of elderly people increased in all types of regions, while the share of young and working age people declined almost everywhere, or at most remained stable.

The **old-age dependency ratio**<sup>1</sup> (Table 34 and Map 1) for the EU-28 was 28.1 in 2014, meaning that there were fewer than four persons of working age for every person aged 65 or over. This ratio is higher in EU-15 countries (29.3) than in EU-N13 countries (23.8). Ireland (19.3) and Slovakia (19.0) showed the lowest values of the ratio. In rural regions the ratio touched 33.2 in EU-15 countries, while most urban regions recorded values below the average.

<sup>1</sup> The old-age dependency ratio is defined as the number of people older than 65 years in relation to those aged between 15 to 64 years.

**Table 1 - Age structure by MS**

	C.02 Age structure - 2014			Change in age structure - 2009-2014		
	MS			MS		
Country	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.
Belgium	17.0	65.2	17.8	0.1	-0.9	0.7
Bulgaria	13.7	66.7	19.6	0.7	-2.2	1.6
Czech Republic	15.0	67.6	17.4	0.8	-3.3	2.4
Denmark	17.2	64.5	18.2	-1.1	-1.3	2.4
Germany	13.1	66.0	20.8	-0.5	0.0	0.4
Estonia	15.8	65.8	18.4	0.9	-1.8	0.9
Ireland	22.0	65.4	12.6	1.4	-3.1	1.7
Greece	14.7	64.8	20.5	0.1	-1.9	1.8
Spain	15.2	66.7	18.1	0.4	-2.0	1.6
France	18.6	63.4	18.0	0.0	-1.5	1.5
Croatia	14.8	66.8	18.4	-0.6	0.1	0.5
Italy	13.9	64.7	21.4	-0.2	-0.9	1.1
Cyprus	16.3	69.9	13.9	-1.4	0.0	1.4
Latvia	14.7	66.2	19.1	0.6	-1.9	1.2
Lithuania	14.6	66.9	18.4	-0.5	-0.7	1.2
Luxembourg	16.8	69.1	14.1	-1.1	1.0	0.1
Hungary	14.4	68.0	17.5	-0.4	-0.7	1.2
Malta	14.4	67.7	17.9	-1.3	-2.4	3.6
Netherlands	16.9	65.7	17.3	-0.8	-1.6	2.4
Austria	14.3	67.4	18.3	-0.8	-0.1	0.9
Poland	15.0	70.1	14.9	-0.2	-1.1	1.4
Portugal	14.6	65.6	19.9	-0.8	-1.0	1.9
Romania	15.5	68.0	16.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.4
Slovenia	14.6	67.9	17.5	0.6	-1.7	1.0
Slovakia	15.3	71.1	13.5	-0.3	-1.0	1.3
Finland	16.4	64.2	19.4	-0.3	-2.3	2.6
Sweden	17.1	63.5	19.4	0.4	-2.0	1.6
United Kingdom	17.6	64.9	17.5	0.0	-1.4	1.4
EU-28	15.6	65.9	18.5	-0.1	-1.2	1.3
EU-15	15.8	65.1	19.1	-0.1	-1.1	1.3
EU-N13	15.0	68.7	16.4	-0.1	-1.1	1.2

**Table 1 – Age structure by typology of regions**

C.02 - Age structure - 2014 - NUTS 3									
Country	Rural			Intermediate			Urban		
	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.
Belgium	17.6	65.1	17.3	16.6	65.4	18.0	17.1	65.1	17.8
Bulgaria	13.6	65.6	20.8	14.1	66.1	19.8	13.3	70.4	16.3
Czech Republic	14.8	67.5	17.7	15.0	67.8	17.2	15.3	67.5	17.2
Denmark	16.8	62.9	20.2	17.6	63.6	18.8	16.8	68.7	14.5
Germany	13.2	65.7	21.1	13.1	65.5	21.4	13.2	66.7	20.2
Estonia	15.5	64.7	19.8	13.8	65.6	20.5	16.6	67.1	16.3
Ireland	22.7	64.4	12.9				20.2	67.9	11.9
Greece	14.8	62.7	22.6	15.4	65.3	19.3	14.4	66.8	18.8
Spain	13.3	64.1	22.6	14.5	66.5	18.9	15.8	67.0	17.2
France	17.6	61.0	21.4	18.7	63.5	17.8	19.3	65.4	15.3
Croatia	14.8	66.5	18.7	14.8	67.1	18.1	14.7	67.4	17.9
Italy	13.0	64.6	22.4	13.8	64.6	21.6	14.4	64.9	20.7
Cyprus				16.3	69.9	13.9			
Latvia	14.2	66.4	19.5	15.3	65.3	19.5	14.9	66.4	18.7
Lithuania	14.0	66.2	19.8	14.8	66.6	18.6	15.3	68.6	16.1
Luxembourg				16.8	69.1	14.1			
Hungary	14.2	68.2	17.6	15.3	68.1	16.6	13.1	67.6	19.3
Malta							14.4	67.7	17.9
Netherlands	14.7	62.1	23.2	16.9	64.5	18.6	17.0	66.2	16.8
Austria	14.4	66.8	18.8	13.9	67.4	18.7	14.5	68.1	17.4
Poland	15.5	69.9	14.5	15.2	70.4	14.4	14.2	69.8	16.0
Portugal	13.3	63.7	23.0	15.2	67.7	17.1	15.3	66.1	18.6
Romania	16.2	66.4	17.4	15.3	68.5	16.2	13.6	72.1	14.3
Slovenia	14.0	68.0	18.0	15.1	67.9	17.0			
Slovakia	15.2	71.3	13.5	15.6	71.1	13.2	14.8	70.5	14.7
Finland	16.7	62.5	20.8	15.6	63.3	21.0	16.9	67.5	15.7
Sweden	16.0	61.6	22.4	16.8	63.1	20.0	18.5	65.9	15.6
United Kingdom	16.9	62.2	20.9	16.6	63.0	20.4	18.0	65.6	16.5
EU-28	15.3	65.2	19.5	15.3	65.6	19.1	16.0	66.4	17.6
EU-15	15.4	63.5	21.1	15.3	64.7	20.0	16.3	66.0	17.7
EU-N13	15.2	68.1	16.7	15.2	68.9	16.0	14.3	69.3	16.4

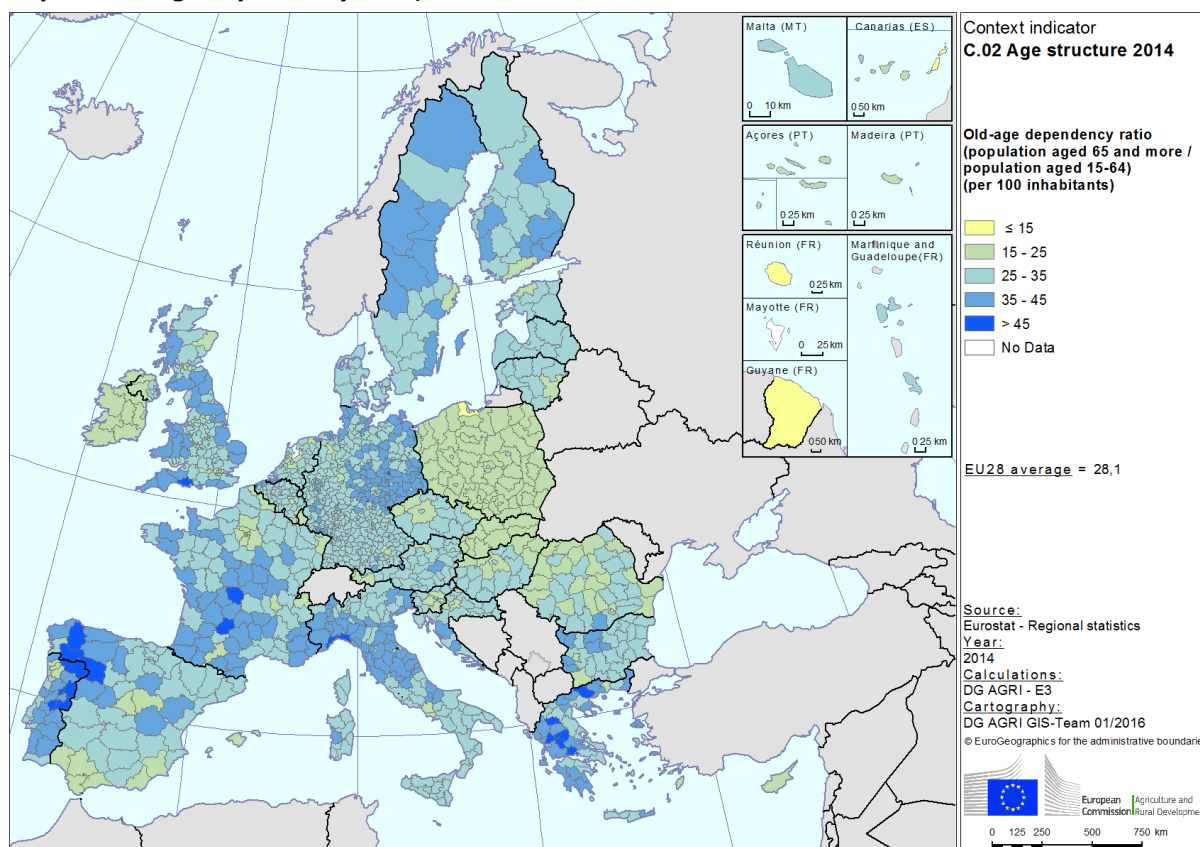
**Table 2 – Change in age structure by typology of regions**

Change in age structure - 2009-2014 - NUTS 3									
Country	Rural			Intermediate			Urban		
	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.	% 0-14 y.o.	% 15-64 y.o.	% 65+ y.o.
Belgium	-0.3	-0.3	0.6	-0.2	-1.1	1.4	0.3	-0.8	0.5
Bulgaria	0.2	-2.1	1.9	0.7	-2.3	1.6	1.5	-2.5	1.0
Czech Republic	0.5	-3.0	2.5	0.6	-3.2	2.6	1.8	-3.8	2.0
Denmark	-1.4	-1.7	3.1	-1.4	-1.5	2.8	0.0	-0.6	0.5
Germany	-0.9	0.3	0.5	-0.7	-0.2	0.9	-0.3	0.0	0.3
Estonia	0.1	-1.3	1.2	0.6	-1.8	1.3	1.7	-2.4	0.7
Ireland	1.3	-3.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	-3.2	1.5
Greece	-0.1	-1.1	1.3	0.1	-1.6	1.5	0.3	-2.6	2.3
Spain	0.3	-0.9	0.6	0.3	-1.6	1.4	0.5	-2.3	1.8
France	0.0	-1.7	1.7	0.0	-1.6	1.6	0.1	-1.4	1.2
Croatia	-0.9	0.5	0.3	-0.7	-0.4	1.0	0.1	-0.7	0.6
Italy	-0.2	-0.9	1.1	-0.2	-1.0	1.1	-0.2	-0.9	1.1
Cyprus				-1.4	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latvia	0.0	-1.2	1.3	0.1	-1.7	1.7	1.3	-2.4	1.1
Lithuania	-1.5	-0.1	1.5	-0.3	-1.3	1.6	0.8	-1.3	0.5
Luxembourg				-1.1	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hungary	-0.7	-0.5	1.2	-0.6	-0.8	1.4	0.6	-1.3	0.8
Malta				0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.3	-2.4	3.6
Netherlands	-1.3	-2.2	3.5	-1.1	-1.8	2.9	-0.7	-1.5	2.1
Austria	-1.1	0.1	1.0	-0.7	-0.3	1.0	-0.4	-0.3	0.7
Poland	-0.8	-0.4	1.2	-0.3	-1.1	1.4	0.6	-2.1	1.5
Portugal	-1.0	-0.3	1.3	-1.5	-0.2	1.7	-0.6	-1.9	2.4
Romania	0.2	-2.1	1.9	0.3	-2.1	1.8	1.3	-1.5	0.2
Slovenia	0.4	-1.6	1.2	0.8	-1.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	-0.5	-0.7	1.2	-0.5	-0.8	1.3	1.8	-3.2	1.4
Finland	-0.3	-2.3	2.6	-0.4	-2.5	2.9	-0.3	-2.2	2.5
Sweden	0.3	-2.5	2.2	0.4	-2.1	1.8	0.5	-1.7	1.2
United Kingdom	-0.5	-1.6	2.1	-0.3	-1.9	2.2	0.0	-1.2	1.2
EU-28	-0.3	-1.1	1.4	-0.2	-1.3	1.5	0.1	-1.3	1.2
EU-15	-0.3	-1.0	1.3	-0.3	-1.2	1.5	0.0	-1.2	1.2
EU-N13	-0.4	-1.1	1.4	0.0	-1.6	1.6	0.9	-2.2	1.3

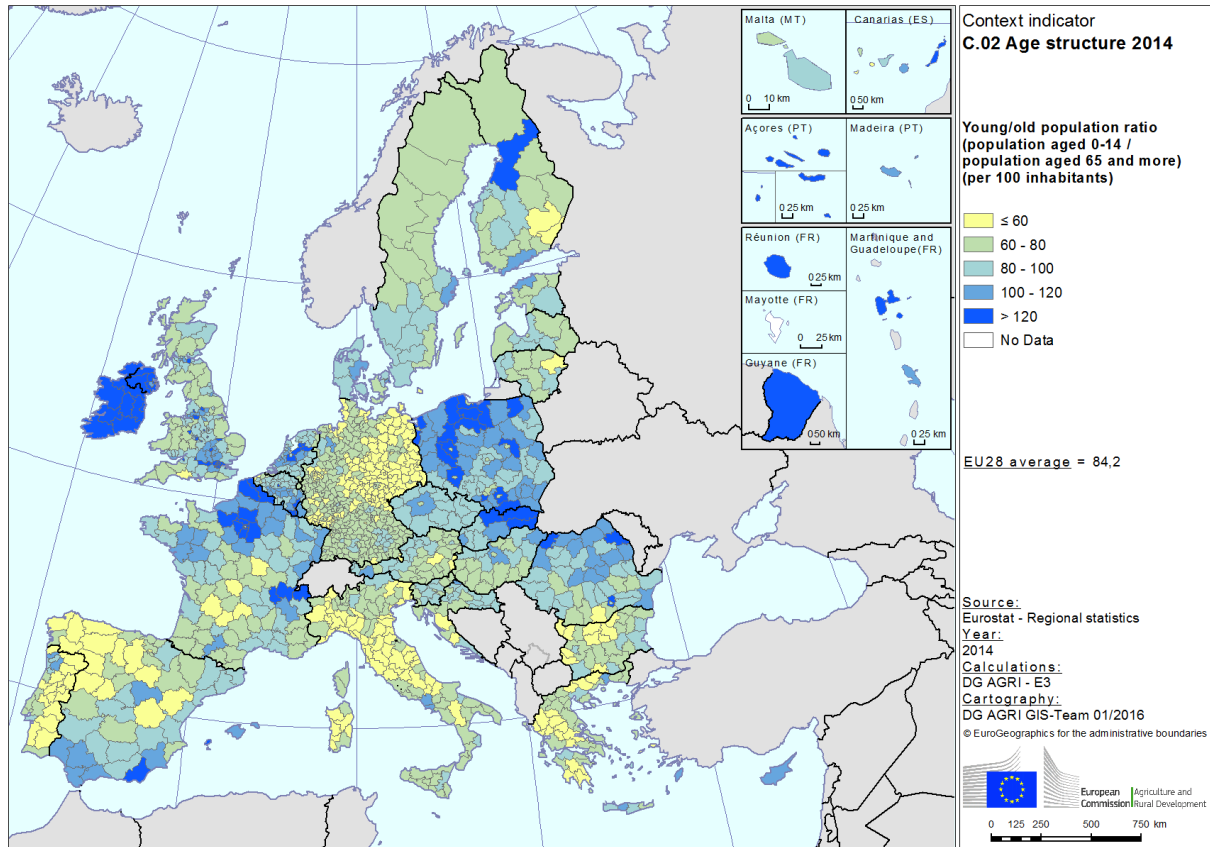
**Table 3 – Old-age dependency ratio and young/old population ratio**

Country	Old-age dependency ratio (population 65+ y.o. / population 15-64 y.o.) - 2014 - Per 100 inhab.				Young/old population ratio (population 0-14 y.o. / population 65+ y.o.) - 2014 - Per 100 inhab.			
	Rural	Intermediate	Urban	MS	Rural	Intermediate	Urban	MS
Belgium	26.5	27.5	27.3	27.3	102.0	92.3	95.9	95.6
Bulgaria	31.8	30.0	23.1	29.3	65.2	71.0	81.3	70.3
Czech Republic	26.2	25.4	25.4	25.7	83.8	86.9	89.2	86.4
Denmark	32.1	29.6	21.1	28.3	83.3	93.7	115.9	94.3
Germany	32.0	32.6	30.3	31.5	62.6	61.3	65.1	63.0
Estonia	30.7	31.3	24.3	27.9	78.3	67.4	101.9	86.0
Ireland	20.0		17.5	19.3	176.2		169.7	174.5
Greece	36.0	29.6	28.1	31.6	65.4	79.6	76.5	71.4
Spain	35.2	28.4	25.6	27.2	59.0	76.9	92.0	83.7
France	35.1	27.9	23.4	28.4	81.9	105.4	125.7	103.2
Croatia	28.2	27.0	26.5	27.6	78.9	81.7	82.0	80.2
Italy	34.7	33.5	31.8	33.1	58.2	64.1	69.9	64.9
Cyprus		19.9		19.9		117.3		117.3
Latvia	29.3	29.8	28.1	28.8	72.9	78.4	80.0	77.1
Lithuania	30.0	27.9	23.5	27.5	70.6	79.8	94.6	79.2
Luxembourg		20.4		20.4		119.6		119.6
Hungary	25.8	24.4	28.5	25.8	80.9	92.5	68.2	82.3
Malta			26.4	26.4			80.5	80.5
Netherlands	37.4	28.9	25.4	26.4	63.4	90.7	100.9	97.6
Austria	28.2	27.7	25.6	27.2	76.6	74.2	83.1	78.3
Poland	20.8	20.4	23.0	21.2	106.9	106.1	88.6	101.0
Portugal	36.1	25.3	28.2	30.3	57.6	89.2	82.0	73.5
Romania	26.3	23.6	19.9	24.3	92.9	94.8	94.6	93.9
Slovenia	26.5	25.1		25.7	77.7	88.4		83.6
Slovakia	19.0	18.6	20.8	19.0	112.5	118.2	100.8	113.2
Finland	33.3	33.2	23.2	30.2	80.1	74.3	107.7	84.7
Sweden	36.4	31.7	23.6	30.6	71.1	84.1	118.7	87.9
United Kingdom	33.5	32.4	25.2	27.0	81.1	81.7	108.9	100.6
EU-28	29.9	29.1	26.5	28.1	78.5	80.0	91.3	84.2
EU-15	33.2	30.9	26.8	29.3	72.8	76.5	91.7	82.6
EU-N13	24.6	23.2	23.7	23.8	90.8	94.9	86.9	91.5

**Map 1 – Old-age dependency ratio, 2014**



**Map 2 – Young/old population ratio, 2014**



<b>Context indicator</b>	<b>2 - Age structure</b>
<b>Comments on methodology and data</b>	Not applicable