

The European Union and the BRIC countries

A range of statistics to compare the EU with Brazil, Russia, India and China

The EU has strategic partnerships with all the **BRIC** countries: **Brazil, Russia, India** and **China**. Even though the BRIC countries have certain aspects in common, such as large populations, large land coverage and rapid economic growth, there are equally large economic and social differences between them. In order to compare the four BRIC countries and the EU, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, releases a publication "**The European Union and the BRIC countries**"¹. This publication contains data on demography, economy, health, education, labour market, trade in goods, agriculture, energy and environment, transport and communication as well as science and technology.

This release presents a selection of the statistics from the publication.

The population of the BRIC countries nearly six times higher than the EU27...

China (1 354 million inhabitants in 2010 or 20% of the world population) and **India** (1 210 mn or 18%) are the two most populous countries in the world. **Brazil** with 191 million inhabitants and **Russia** with 142 million accounted for 3% and 2% respectively of the world population. The **EU27**, with 501 million inhabitants, accounted for 7% of the total world population.

Within the **BRIC** countries, the population density varied in 2010 from 8 persons per km² in **Russia** and 22 in **Brazil** to 382 persons per km² in **India** and 141 in **China**, compared with 116 persons per km² in the **EU27**.

In general, the BRIC countries have a younger population than the EU. In 2010 those aged less than 15 made up 31% of the population in **India**, 24% in **Brazil**, 19% in **China** and 15% in **Russia**. In the **EU27**, 16% of the population were aged less than 15. The **EU27** had a significantly higher share of the population aged over 60 than all the **BRIC** countries.

Among the **BRIC** countries, **China** had the highest life expectancy at birth in 2009 (72 for men and 76 for women), followed by **Brazil** (70 for men and 77 for women), **Russia** (63 for men and 75 for women) and **India** (63 for men and 66 for women). The average life expectancy in the **EU27** was 77 years for men and 83 for women.

Demography, 2010

	Total population, millions	% of world population	Population density, inhabitants/km ²	Share of population aged under 15	Share of population aged over 60	Life expectancy, 2009	
						Men	Women
EU27	501	7.3	116	15.6	23.2	77	83
Brazil	191	2.8	22	24.2	11.0	70	77
Russia	142	2.1	8	14.9	17.5	63	75
India	1 210	17.5	382	30.6	4.9	63	66
China	1 354	19.6	141	18.5	8.5	72	76

Sources: EU27: Eurostat, BRIC countries: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Russian Federal State Statistics Service, India Census 2011, China Statistical Yearbook 2010, OECD, United Nations, World Health Organization.

...but EU27 GDP nearly 50% higher than the BRIC countries

Among the **BRIC** countries, **China** had the highest GDP (4 300 billion euro in 2010, 9% of world GDP), followed by **Brazil** (1 600 bn, 3%), **India** (1 300 bn, 3%) and **Russia** (1 100 bn, 2%). The **EU27** had a GDP of 12 300 bn euro in 2010, 26% of world GDP. When comparing the GDP per capita in the **BRIC** countries with the **EU27**, **Russia** (61% of the EU27 average) had the highest ratio, followed by **Brazil** (33%), **China** (22%) and **India** (10%).

On a global level, in 2010, the **EU27** was the largest player in world trade, accounting for 17% of world trade, followed by the **USA** (14%) and **China** (12%), compared with 3% for **Russia** and 2% each for **India** and **Brazil**. All four of the **BRIC** countries were among the ten largest trading partners of the **EU27** in 2010, with **China** in second place, **Russia** third, **India** eighth and **Brazil** tenth.

Economy

	GDP at current prices (billion euro), 2010	Share of world GDP, 2010	GDP per capita (EU27=100), 2009	Trade in goods, 2010	
				% of EU trade	% of world trade
EU27	12 256	25.9	100	-	16.7
Brazil	1 576	3.3	33	2.2	1.7
Russia	1 116	2.4	61	8.6	2.6
India	1 300	2.7	10	2.4	2.4
China	4 331	9.2	22	13.8	12.4

Sources: EU27: Eurostat, BRIC countries: United Nations, OECD

Marriage rate twice as high in China as in the EU27

Within the **BRIC** countries, the marriage rate was highest in **China** (9.0 marriages per 1 000 inhabitants), followed by **Russia** (8.5) and **Brazil** (6.6), all above the **EU27** (4.5). As regards divorces, **Russia** (4.5 divorces per 1 000 inhabitants) had the highest rate, followed by **China** and the **EU27** (both 2.0) and **Brazil** (1.4).

More cars per inhabitant in the EU than in Russia, more mobile phone subscriptions per inhabitant in Russia than in the EU

Among the **BRIC** countries, **Russia** (166 mobile phone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants² in 2010) had a level above the **EU27** average (125), while **Brazil** (104), **China** (64) and **India** (61) had lower levels.

Within the **BRIC** countries, **Russia** (233 cars per 1 000 inhabitants in 2009) had the largest number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants, followed by **Brazil** (178), **China** (34) and **India** (12). In the **EU27**, there were 473 cars per 1 000 inhabitants.

Social

	Crude marriage rates (per 1000 inhabitants), 2010*	Crude divorce rates (per 1000 inhabitants), 2010**	Mobile phone subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants), 2010***	Number of cars (per 1000 inhabitants), 2009
EU27	4.5	2.0	125	473
Brazil	6.6	1.4	104	178
Russia	8.5	4.5	166	233
India	:	:	61	12
China	9.0	2.0	64	34

* EU27 and Brazil: 2009

** EU27: 2008 and Brazil: 2009

*** EU27: 2009

: Data not available

Sources: EU27: Eurostat, BRIC countries: Eurostat for marriage and divorce rates for Russia, United Nations, International Telecommunication Union, World Bank

1. Eurostat Pocketbook "**The European Union and the BRIC countries**", PDF version - free download from Eurostat website. Some of the data presented in this News Release could differ from the data in the publication, due to updates made after the data extractions used for the publication.
2. **Mobile phone subscriptions** per 100 inhabitants refer to the number of subscriptions to public mobile telecommunication systems using cellular technology related to the population. Active pre-paid cards are treated as subscriptions. One person may have more than one subscription.

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