

Eurostat Census 2021 grid cartography

Julien Gaffuri, Joe Davies

The Census 2021 population grid, released by Eurostat on June 16th, 2024, provides a detailed overview of the European Union's population. It includes data on a 1km resolution grid, describing resident population by sex, age, employment, birthplace, and residence change.

An interactive map¹ with these indicators is available on the Eurostat website and allows the user to explore the dataset in more detail. This web map is based on the reusable and open-source GridViz library². Various cartographic styles are available to better support the visual analysis of the dataset and its various indicators.

To complement this, two printable cartographic publications have been designed, focusing on population by age groups (under 15, 15-64, and 65 and over). On these printable maps, each grid cell is represented as a circle whose size depends on its total population and whose colour hue depends on the over or under representation of an age group, using a simplified ternary classification. This map is available as a printable A0 format, showing a 5km resolution grid at a scale of 1:4'500'000 over Europe. It is also available as a printable atlas in A4 format showing the finest resolution grid, 1km, at scale of 1:1'200'000 also over Europe. Both cartographic products offer an accessible view of Europe's population distribution by age, highlighting spatial patterns between countries as well as more local disparities, along with an overview of age distribution across larger population clusters.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/assets/estat/E/E4/gisco/website/census_2021_grid_map/index.html

² <https://github.com/eurostat/gridviz>