

European mortality bulletin, week 15, 2015:

Since the beginning of the year, excess all-cause mortality among the elderly (65+) has been observed in 11 of 16 reporting countries. The excess mortality seems to be decreasing.

In Denmark, England, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Wales excess number of deaths among the elderly have been observed since the beginning of the year. For all these countries the excess seen this winter appears to have ended. Excess all-cause mortality cannot be attributed with certainty to specific causes, but may be associated with circulating influenza, extreme cold or increase in acute respiratory illness. The current excess coincide with circulating influenza A H3, and medium to high intensity ([FluNews Europe](#)) in most countries and additionally with cold snaps in Spain and Portugal in the first weeks of the year.

The pooled analyses, which may accumulate even minor increases in excess mortality across countries, do detect excess all-cause mortality among the elderly during 2015 on higher levels compared with the previous four winter seasons.

Data from 16 countries or regions* was received, of these 15** were included in the pooled analyses.

Excess mortality levels in most recent weeks may be difficult to interpret because adjustment for delayed registrations may be imprecise. Further, results of pooled analyses may vary dependent on which countries were included in the weekly analyses.

Pooled analysis are adjusted for variation between the included countries and for differences in the local delay in reporting.

Further details are available on <http://www.euromomo.eu>

*Denmark, England (UK), Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland (UK), Portugal, Scotland (UK), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales (UK)

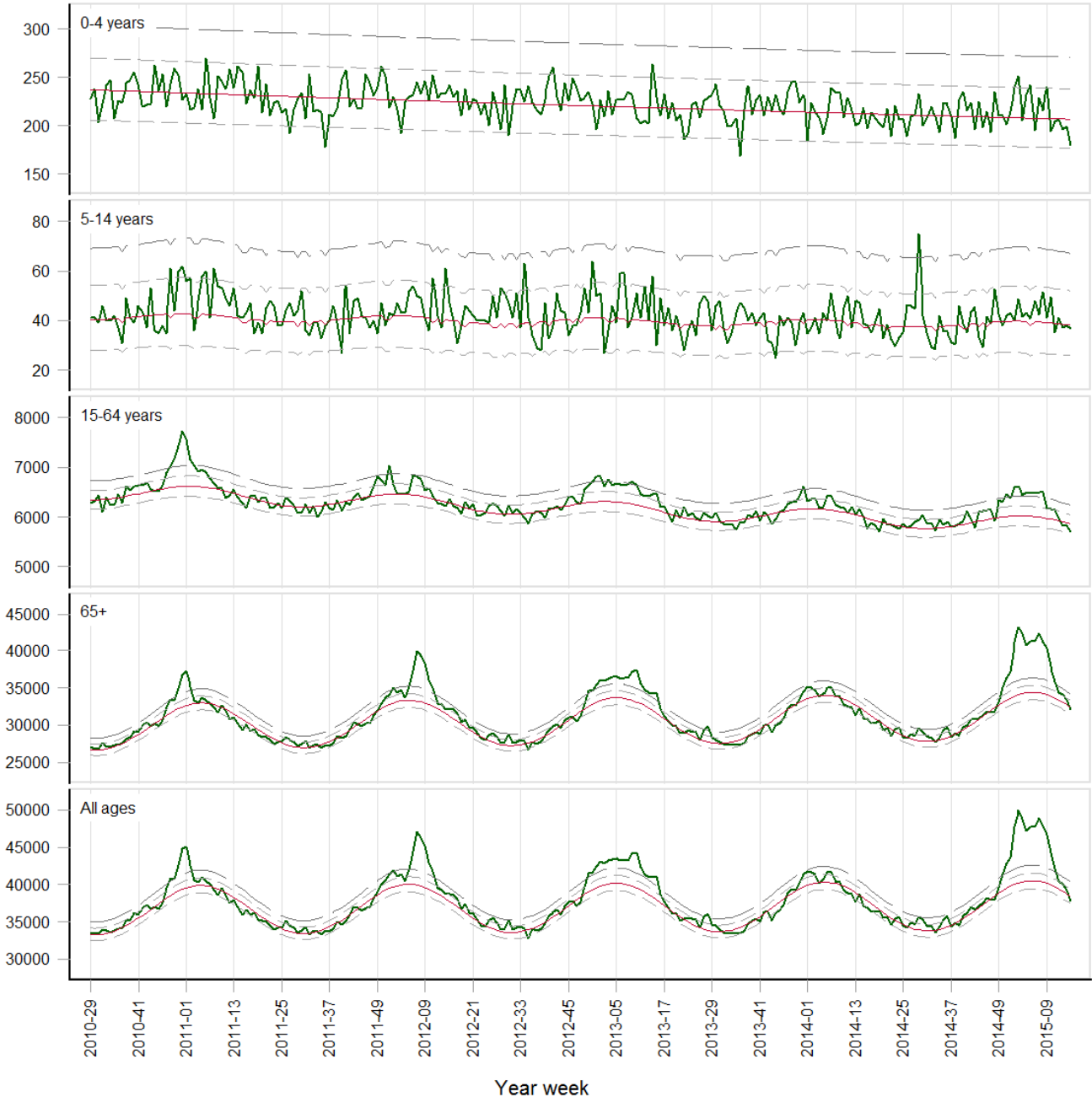
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Pooled number of deaths

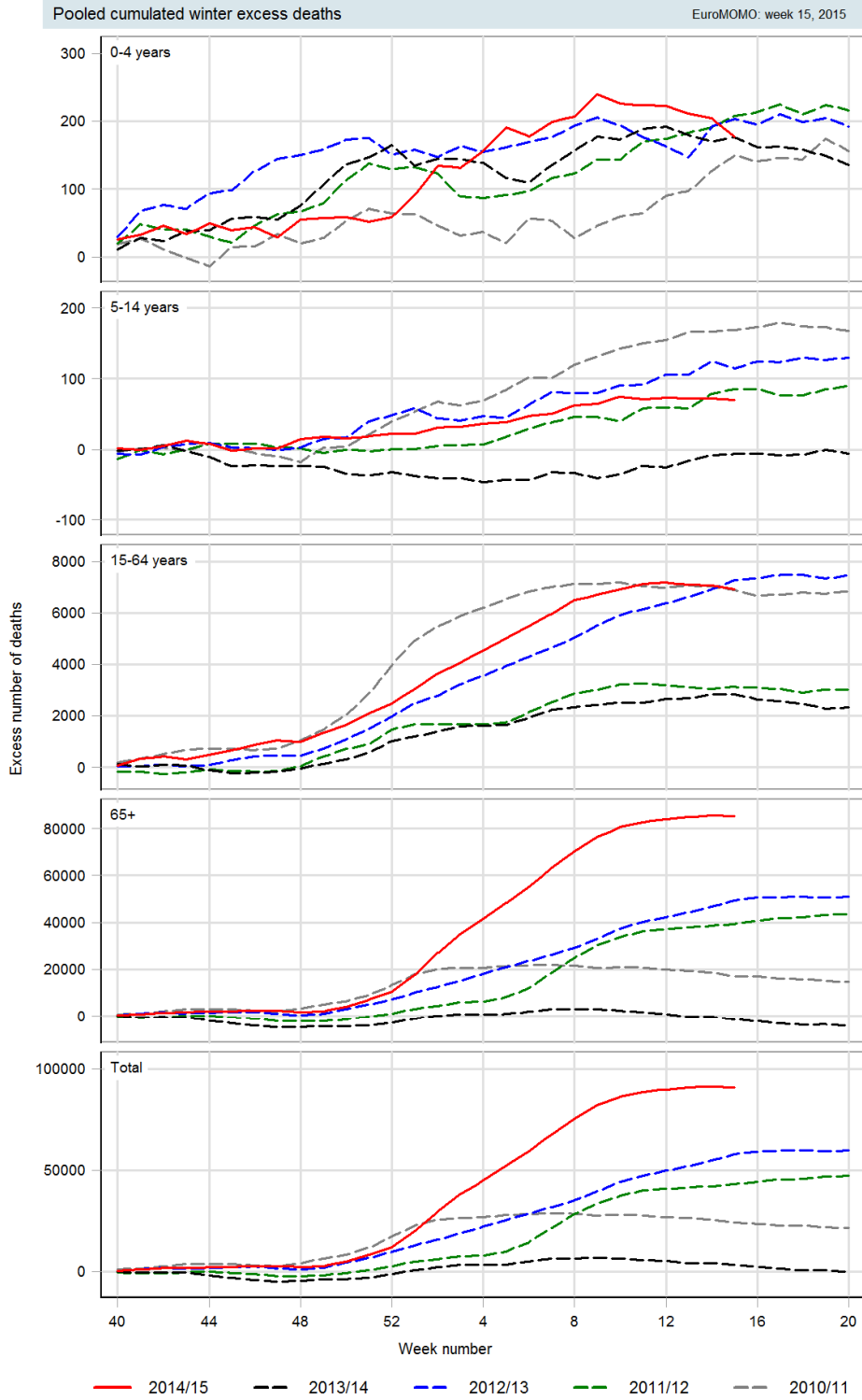
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— Stratified baseline — Delay-adjusted number of deaths
 - - - Normal range (+- 2 z-scores) - - - Substantial increase (4 z-scores)

Participating countries:

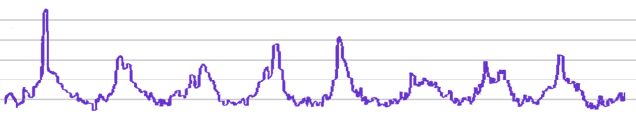
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden
 Switzerland, UK (England), UK (Scotland), UK (Wales)



Participating countries:

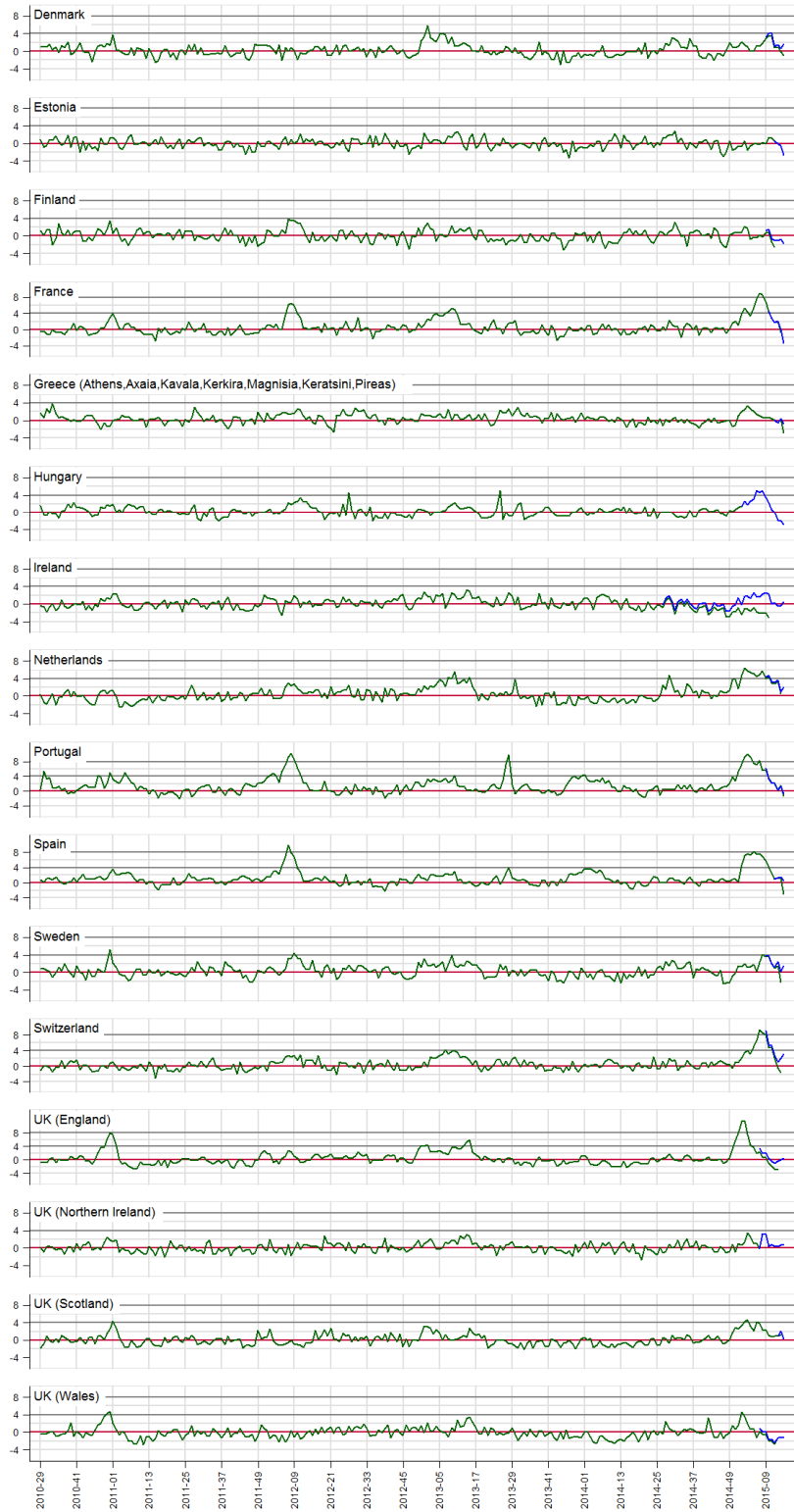
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Weekly z-score, age group Total by country EuroMOMO: week 15, 2015



Z-scores below -4 has been cut off

— Standardised variation around the baseline (z-score) — Delay-adjusted z-score