

Living arrangements in the EU27

Three out of four children in the EU27 lived with married parents in 2008

One child in seven lived in a single parent household

In 2008, 74% of children in the **EU27** lived with two married parents¹, while 14% lived in a single-parent household and 12% in a household with cohabitating parents.

In all Member States, the most common living arrangement for children aged less than 18 years was to live in a household with married parents. In 2008, just over half of children lived with two married parents in **Estonia** and **Sweden** (both 54%), while the proportion was around 90% in **Greece** (92%) and **Cyprus** (89%). Children living in a household with cohabitating parents were most common in **Sweden** (27%), **Estonia** (23%), **France** (21%) and **Slovenia** (20%), while the highest shares of children living with one parent were found in **Latvia** and **Ireland** (both 23%), **Estonia** and the **United Kingdom** (both 21%).

These figures on living arrangements² in the EU Member States come from a report³ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. While this release focuses on the living arrangements of children and of men and women aged 65 and over, the report covers a broader range including multigenerational households and young adults.

More than half of women aged 65 and over living alone in the Nordic countries

When considering the differences in the living arrangements of men and women aged 65 and over, it should be kept in mind that this is influenced by factors such as higher life expectancy for women. Among men aged 65 and over in the **EU27**, the most common living arrangement was to live with their partner in a two-person household, while for women in this age group it was most common to live alone. It should be noted that persons living in collective households such as retirement homes are not included in the survey⁴.

In 2008, 60% of men of this age group lived with their partner only, 20% lived alone and another 20% lived in a household with other persons, such as children or relatives, with or without their partner⁵. The living arrangements of women aged 65 and over in the **EU27** showed a different picture: 41% lived alone, 37% lived with their partner only and 21% lived with others, with or without their partner.

Living in a household with their partner only was the most common living arrangement for men aged 65 and over in all Member States, while for women this was the most common living arrangement only in **Germany**, **Cyprus**, **Luxembourg** and **Portugal**. In 2008 for both men and women aged 65 and over, the highest shares of those living with their partner only were registered in the **Netherlands** (75% for men and 47% for women), **Germany** (71% and 53%) and **Sweden** (71% and 47%).

Living alone was the most common living arrangement for women aged 65 and over in the majority of Member States. More than half of women of this age group lived alone in 2008 in **Denmark** (57%), **Finland** (52%) and **Sweden** (51%), while only in **Denmark** (31%), the **United Kingdom** (27%) and **Sweden** (26%) did more than one quarter of men live alone.

Living in a household with others, with or without their partner, was the most common living arrangement for women aged 65 and over in **Latvia** (46%), **Bulgaria** and **Spain** (both 44%) in 2008. The highest shares of men living with others were found in **Spain** (41%), **Latvia** (40%) and **Greece** (39%).

Living arrangements of children aged under 18, 2008

	Percentage of children living with:			
	Two parents, married	Two parents, cohabiting	One parent	Without parents
EU27	73.8	11.5	13.6	1.2
Belgium	67.2	15.1	15.3	2.4
Bulgaria	66.9	15.6	14.4	3.2
Czech Republic	74.6	9.8	14.9	0.7
Denmark	66.9	14.0	17.8	1.2
Germany	77.5	6.6	15.1	0.8
Estonia	54.0	22.9	21.4	1.7
Ireland	67.8	7.4	23.2	1.6
Greece	91.8	2.1	4.8	1.3
Spain	83.9	7.8	7.1	1.2
France*	64.5	21.0	13.5	0.9
Italy	82.1	6.3	10.8	0.8
Cyprus	89.0	0.8	9.3	1.0
Latvia	58.9	14.5	23.3	3.4
Lithuania	74.1	5.2	17.6	3.1
Luxembourg	81.9	8.0	9.9	0.2
Hungary	71.3	12.2	15.4	1.1
Malta	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	74.2	13.9	11.5	0.4
Austria	74.4	10.6	12.9	2.1
Poland	77.9	10.6	10.8	0.8
Portugal	74.6	11.0	12.3	2.1
Romania	84.1	7.0	6.5	2.5
Slovenia	69.6	19.8	10.0	0.6
Slovakia	84.9	4.3	10.1	0.7
Finland	69.2	16.4	13.4	1.0
Sweden	54.4	27.3	17.0	1.3
United Kingdom	65.1	12.8	20.8	1.3

Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

: Data not available

* 2007 data

Living arrangements of men and women aged 65 and over, 2008

	Women			Men		
	Living alone	Living just with partner	Living with others (with or without partner)	Living alone	Living just with partner	Living with others (with or without partner)
EU27	41.2	37.4	21.4	19.7	60.0	20.4
Belgium	45.2	41.0	13.8	23.2	62.7	14.2
Bulgaria	29.6	26.1	44.4	13.5	49.5	37.0
Czech Rep.	43.2	33.8	23.0	17.7	62.9	19.4
Denmark	56.6	41.3	2.1	31.3	66.6	2.1
Germany	41.2	52.9	5.9	23.0	71.0	6.0
Estonia	47.5	23.4	29.2	22.2	55.7	22.1
Ireland	38.8	36.4	24.8	23.4	53.8	22.9
Greece	28.3	33.6	38.0	7.4	53.4	39.2
Spain	25.5	31.0	43.5	10.9	47.9	41.2
France*	48.6	40.3	11.1	21.4	64.7	13.9
Italy	40.3	30.8	28.9	16.3	51.7	32.0
Cyprus	28.6	45.3	26.1	10.5	65.0	24.5
Latvia	36.6	17.0	46.4	19.1	40.5	40.4
Lithuania	41.7	25.7	32.6	16.8	55.1	28.2
Luxembourg	40.6	45.0	14.4	17.2	66.7	16.1
Hungary	41.2	24.9	33.9	15.8	57.4	26.8
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	48.4	47.3	4.3	18.2	75.0	6.8
Austria	44.6	34.1	21.3	18.9	58.5	22.6
Poland	43.5	20.9	35.6	19.8	44.9	35.3
Portugal	30.7	35.9	33.5	12.2	57.8	30.1
Romania	36.7	27.7	35.6	17.2	53.3	29.5
Slovenia	36.2	28.4	35.4	9.7	56.3	34.0
Slovakia	43.3	23.6	33.1	14.9	52.6	32.6
Finland	51.8	37.7	10.6	24.1	65.1	10.8
Sweden	51.1	46.5	2.4	25.6	70.7	3.7
United Kingdom	46.5	41.1	12.4	27.0	60.5	12.6

Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

: Data not available

* 2007 data

1. A private **household** is defined as a person living alone or as a group of people who live together in the same private dwelling and pool income to a greater or lesser extent and share resources. Married and cohabiting **parents** include biological parents and also step/adoptive or foster parents. Children **living without parents** are those who live with no adult who can be considered as a parent.
2. These data are collected in the EU-SILC (Statistics of Income and Living Conditions) survey. The data presented in the News Release were computed on the basis of anonymised microdata and were produced by researchers from the University of Essex (United Kingdom).
3. **Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus 52/2011, "**More than 10% of households in Romania, Latvia and Bulgaria are three-generation**". The publication is available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
4. The reference population of the EU-SILC is all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the Member States at the time of data collection. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population, as are small parts of the national territory amounting to no more than 2% of the national population.
5. Living in a **household with other persons** includes for example living with children, siblings, cousins, other relatives, friends, lodgers or carers.

Published by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Julia URHAUSEN
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

For further information:

Pascal WOLFF
Tel: +352-4301-33 660
pascal.wolff@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat news releases on the internet: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>