

Europe 2020 employment indicators

Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU reached a new peak at 71.1% in 2016

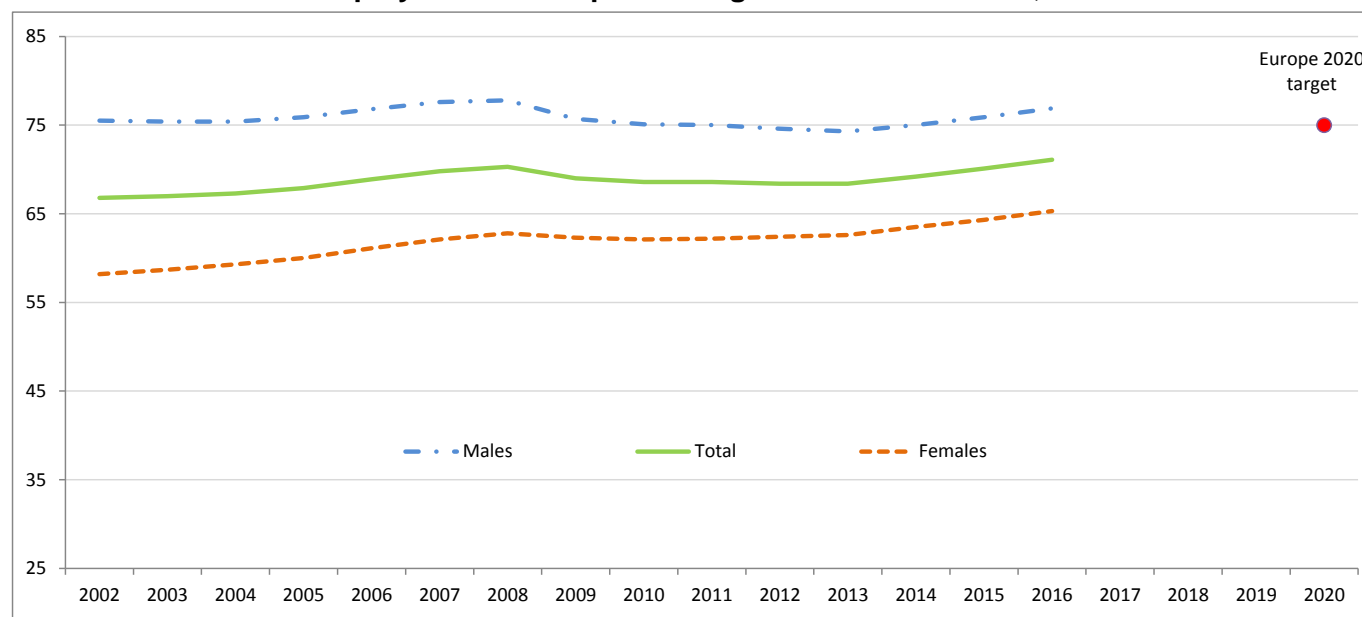
Seven Member States already achieved their 2020 targets

In 2016, the employment rate of the population aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union (EU)** stood at 71.1%, up compared with both 2015 (70.1%) and its previous peak recorded in 2008 (70.3%). The Europe 2020 strategy target is to reach a total employment rate for people aged 20 to 64 of at least 75% in the **EU** by 2020. This objective has been translated into national targets in order to reflect the situation and possibilities of each Member State to contribute to the common goal.

The upward trend in employment rate is visible both for men and women. For men, their employment rate hit 76.9% in 2016, an increase compared with 2015 (75.9%) but still below its 2008 level (77.8%). As for women, their employment rate has continuously risen since 2010 to reach 65.3% in 2016. Similarly, the employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** has grown steadily over the last years, from 38.4% in 2002 to 55.3% in 2016. The greater participation of older workers is also one of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment.

This information comes from an [article](#) issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2016 results of the European Labour Force Survey. This survey collects data on employment and unemployment, as well as on a large range of other variables related to the labour market, of which only a small selection is shown in this News Release.

Employment rate of persons aged 20 to 64 in the EU, %

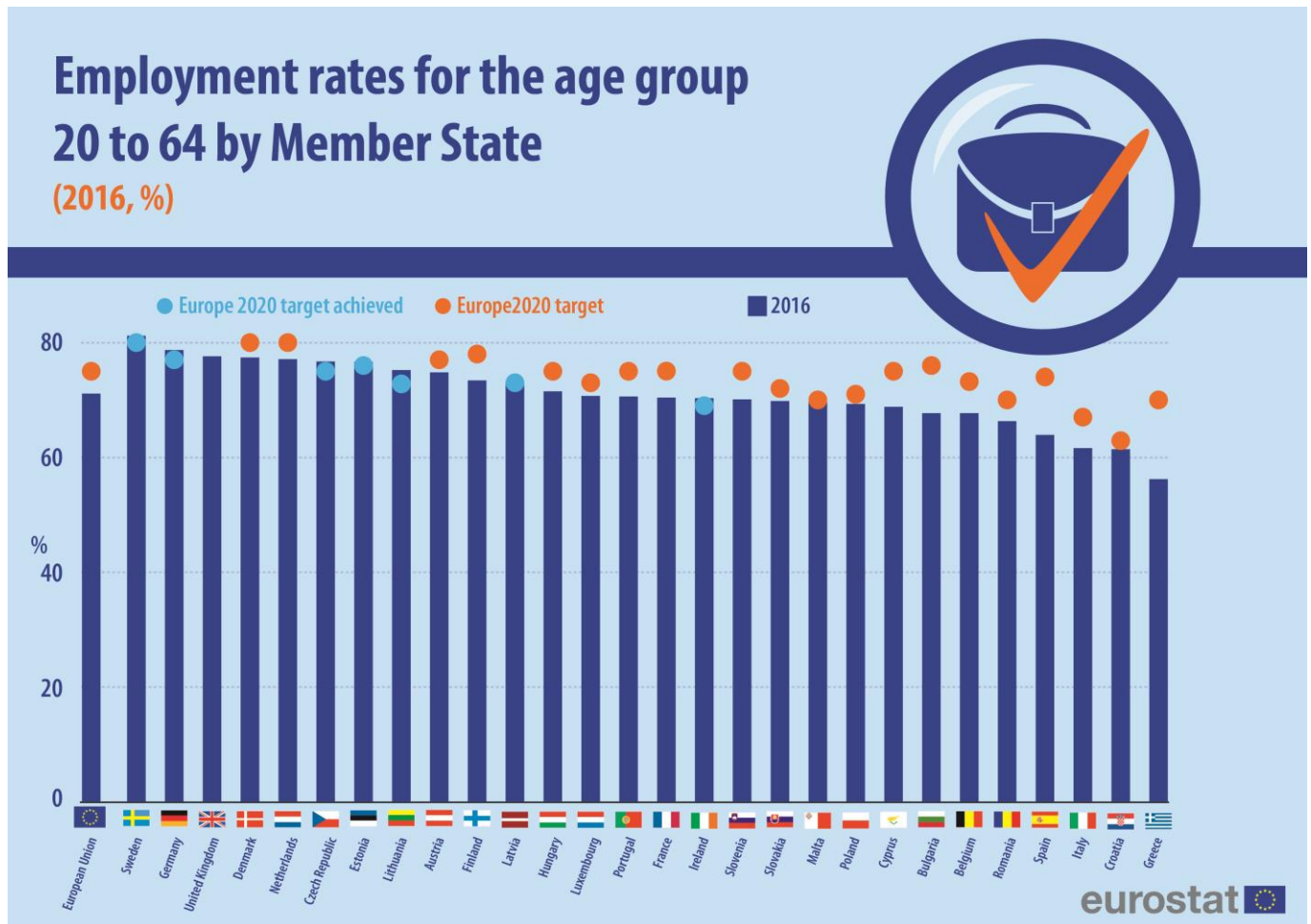


A quarter of Member States already achieved their Europe 2020 employment target

Compared with 2015, the employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 increased in 2016 in all Member States except **Luxembourg** where it remained nearly stable. It grew most strongly in **Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Spain, Lithuania** and **Malta**.

Employment rates above 75% were recorded in **Sweden** (81.2%), **Germany** (78.7%), the **United Kingdom** (77.6%), **Denmark** (77.4%), the **Netherlands** (77.1%), the **Czech Republic** (76.7%), **Estonia** (76.6%) and **Lithuania** (75.2%). Among these Member States, the **Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Lithuania** and **Sweden** have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator in 2016, as have **Ireland** and **Latvia**. **Malta** is only 0.4 percentage points from reaching its target.

On the other hand, the lowest employment rate was observed in **Greece** (56.2%), followed by **Croatia** (61.4%), **Italy** (61.6%) as well as **Spain** (63.9%).



Narrowest gender employment gap in Lithuania, widest in Malta

Employment rates of men and women continued however to vary considerably in many Member States in 2016.

The difference between the employment rate of women and that of men aged 20-64 was lowest in **Lithuania** (74.3% for women vs. 76.2% for men, or -1.9 percentage points), **Latvia** (-2.9 pp), **Finland** (-3.3 pp) and **Sweden** (-3.8 pp).

At the opposite end of the scale, the largest difference between the employment rate of women and that of men was observed in **Malta** (55.5% for women vs. 83.1% for men, or -27.6 pp). Big gaps were also recorded in **Italy** (-20.1 pp), **Greece** (-19.0 pp), **Romania** (-17.6 pp) and the **Czech Republic** (-16.0 pp).

At **EU** level, the difference between the employment rate of women aged 20-64 (65.3%) and that of men aged 20-64 (76.9%) was -11.6 pp in 2016, compared with -17.3 pp in 2002.

Employment rates for the age group 20 to 64 (%)

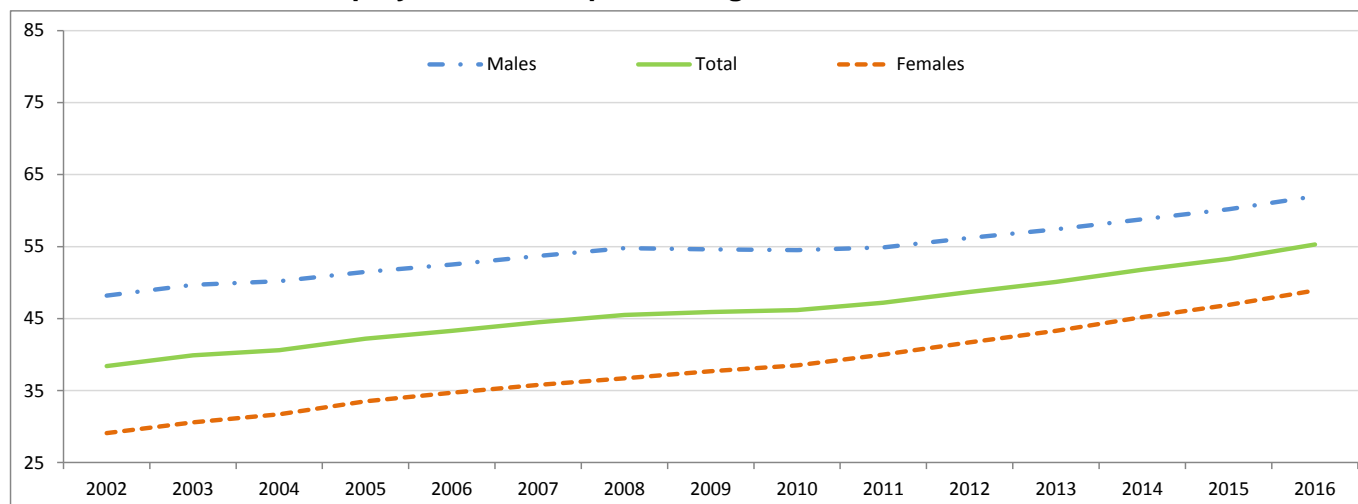
| | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | Europe 2020 targets (Total) |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | |
| EU | 70.1 | 75.9 | 64.3 | 71.1 | 76.9 | 65.3 | 75.0 |
| Belgium | 67.2 | 71.3 | 63.0 | 67.7 | 72.3 | 63.0 | 73.2 |
| Bulgaria | 67.1 | 70.4 | 63.8 | 67.7 | 71.3 | 64.0 | 76.0 |
| Czech Republic | 74.8 | 83.0 | 66.4 | 76.7 | 84.6 | 68.6 | 75.0 |
| Denmark | 76.5 | 80.2 | 72.6 | 77.4 | 80.7 | 74.0 | 80.0 |
| Germany | 78.0 | 82.3 | 73.6 | 78.7 | 82.8 | 74.5 | 77.0 |
| Estonia | 76.5 | 80.5 | 72.6 | 76.6 | 80.8 | 72.6 | 76.0 |
| Ireland | 68.7 | 75.1 | 62.6 | 70.3 | 76.5 | 64.2 | 69.0 |
| Greece | 54.9 | 64.0 | 46.0 | 56.2 | 65.8 | 46.8 | 70.0 |
| Spain | 62.0 | 67.6 | 56.4 | 63.9 | 69.6 | 58.1 | 74.0 |
| France | 70.0 | 73.6 | 66.5 | 70.4 | 74.2 | 66.8 | 75.0 |
| Croatia | 60.6 | 65.4 | 55.9 | 61.4 | 66.2 | 56.6 | 62.9 |
| Italy | 60.5 | 70.6 | 50.6 | 61.6 | 71.7 | 51.6 | 67.0 |
| Cyprus | 67.9 | 72.3 | 64.0 | 68.8 | 73.9 | 64.1 | 75.0 |
| Latvia | 72.5 | 74.6 | 70.5 | 73.2 | 74.7 | 71.8 | 73.0 |
| Lithuania | 73.3 | 74.6 | 72.2 | 75.2 | 76.2 | 74.3 | 72.8 |
| Luxembourg | 70.9 | 76.7 | 65.0 | 70.7 | 76.1 | 65.1 | 73.0 |
| Hungary | 68.9 | 75.8 | 62.1 | 71.5 | 78.6 | 64.6 | 75.0 |
| Malta | 67.8 | 81.4 | 53.6 | 69.6 | 83.1 | 55.5 | 70.0 |
| Netherlands | 76.4 | 81.9 | 70.8 | 77.1 | 82.6 | 71.6 | 80.0 |
| Austria | 74.3 | 78.4 | 70.2 | 74.8 | 78.7 | 70.9 | 77.0 |
| Poland | 67.8 | 74.7 | 60.9 | 69.3 | 76.4 | 62.2 | 71.0 |
| Portugal | 69.1 | 72.6 | 65.9 | 70.6 | 74.2 | 67.4 | 75.0 |
| Romania | 66.0 | 74.7 | 57.2 | 66.3 | 75.0 | 57.4 | 70.0 |
| Slovenia | 69.1 | 73.3 | 64.7 | 70.1 | 73.3 | 66.7 | 75.0 |
| Slovakia | 67.7 | 75.0 | 60.3 | 69.8 | 76.9 | 62.7 | 72.0 |
| Finland | 72.9 | 73.9 | 71.8 | 73.4 | 75.0 | 71.7 | 78.0 |
| Sweden | 80.5 | 82.5 | 78.3 | 81.2 | 83.0 | 79.2 | 80.0 |
| United Kingdom | 76.8 | 82.5 | 71.3 | 77.6 | 83.1 | 72.1 | - |
| Iceland | 86.5 | 89.6 | 83.3 | 87.8 | 91.1 | 84.4 | - |
| Norway | 79.1 | 81.3 | 76.7 | 78.6 | 80.4 | 76.7 | - |
| Switzerland | 82.8 | 87.3 | 78.2 | 83.3 | 87.7 | 78.9 | - |
| FYR of Macedonia | 51.9 | 61.5 | 42.1 | 53.3 | 63.7 | 42.5 | - |
| Turkey | 53.9 | 75.3 | 32.5 | 54.4 | 75.5 | 33.2 | - |

- No national target or not applicable.
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Employment rate of those aged 55 to 64 at its highest point in the EU

From 2002 onwards, the employment rate of people aged 55-64 in the EU has grown steadily to reach 55.3% in 2016, compared with 38.4% in 2002. The growth was stronger for women (from 29.1% in 2002 to 48.9% in 2016) than for men (48.2% in 2002 vs. 62.0% in 2016). As a consequence, the gap between the employment rate of women and men aged 55-64 in the EU has been reduced, from a 19.1 percentage points difference in 2002 to a 13.1 pp difference in 2016.

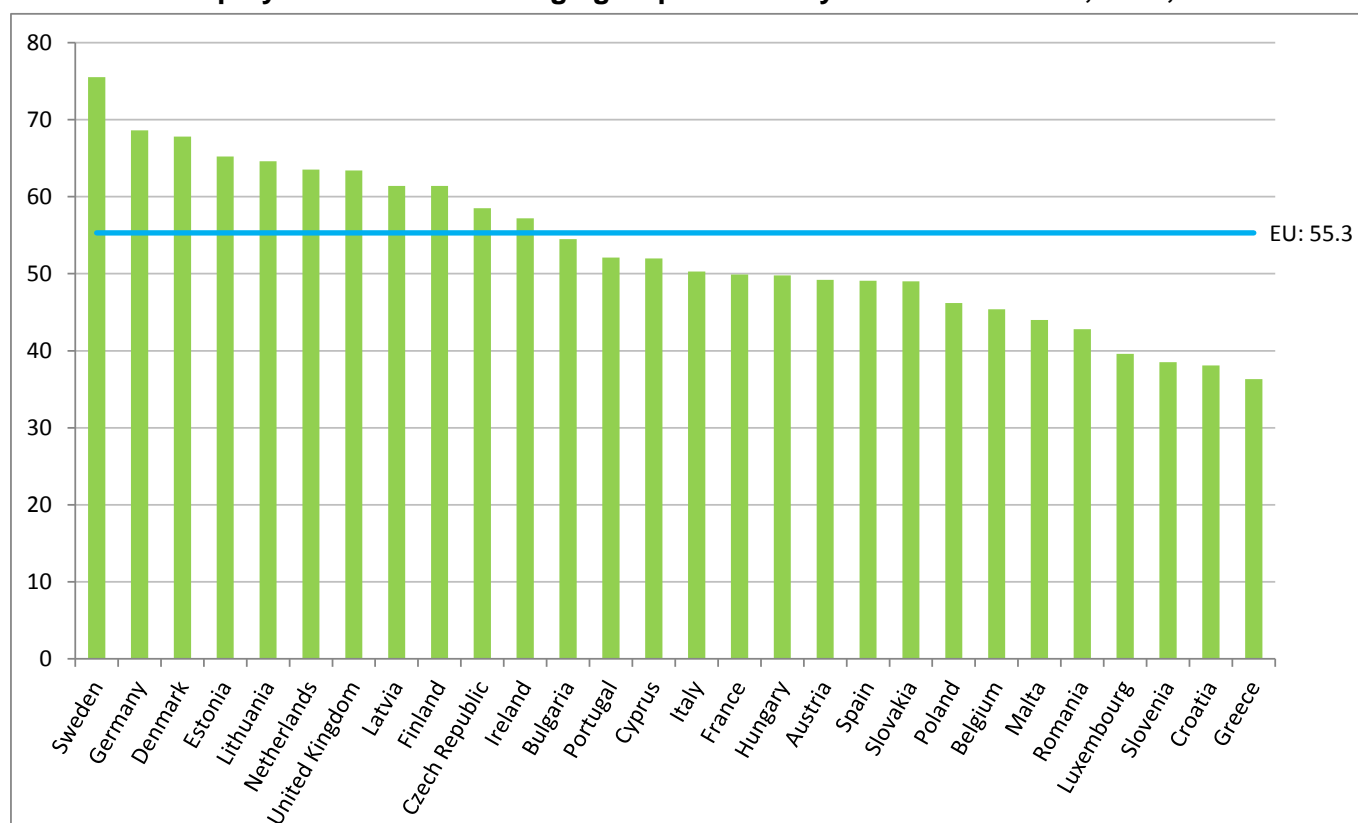
Employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the EU, %



More than two-thirds of persons aged 55 to 64 have a job in Sweden, Germany and Denmark

In 2016, over half of the population aged 55 to 64 was in employment in fifteen EU Member States. The highest employment rate for this age group was observed in **Sweden** (75.5%), ahead of **Germany** (68.6%), **Denmark** (67.8%), **Estonia** (65.2%), **Lithuania** (64.6%), the **Netherlands** (63.5%) and the **United Kingdom** (63.4%). On the other hand, the lowest employment rates were registered in **Greece** (36.3%), **Croatia** (38.1%), **Slovenia** (38.5%) and **Luxembourg** (39.6%). Compared with 2015, the employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 increased in 2016 in all EU Member States except **Croatia**.

Employment rates for the age group 55 to 64 by EU Member State, 2016, %



Employment rates for the age group 55 to 64 (%)

| | 2015 | | | 2016 | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| EU | 53.3 | 60.2 | 46.9 | 55.3 | 62.0 | 48.9 |
| Belgium | 44.0 | 48.9 | 39.3 | 45.4 | 50.7 | 40.2 |
| Bulgaria | 53.0 | 56.8 | 49.5 | 54.5 | 58.3 | 51.0 |
| Czech Republic | 55.5 | 65.5 | 45.9 | 58.5 | 68.2 | 49.3 |
| Denmark | 64.7 | 69.8 | 59.6 | 67.8 | 71.9 | 63.6 |
| Germany | 66.2 | 71.3 | 61.2 | 68.6 | 73.7 | 63.6 |
| Estonia | 64.5 | 63.1 | 65.7 | 65.2 | 63.7 | 66.5 |
| Ireland | 55.6 | 64.9 | 46.4 | 57.2 | 65.7 | 48.9 |
| Greece | 34.3 | 44.9 | 24.7 | 36.3 | 46.2 | 27.2 |
| Spain | 46.9 | 54.0 | 40.2 | 49.1 | 55.7 | 42.8 |
| France | 48.8 | 50.8 | 47.0 | 49.9 | 51.6 | 48.3 |
| Croatia | 39.2 | 48.2 | 30.7 | 38.1 | 45.1 | 31.6 |
| Italy | 48.2 | 59.3 | 37.9 | 50.3 | 61.7 | 39.7 |
| Cyprus | 48.5 | 57.8 | 39.5 | 52.0 | 60.9 | 43.3 |
| Latvia | 59.4 | 60.1 | 58.9 | 61.4 | 61.3 | 61.4 |
| Lithuania | 60.4 | 62.4 | 58.8 | 64.6 | 66.8 | 62.8 |
| Luxembourg | 38.4 | 43.0 | 33.7 | 39.6 | 46.4 | 32.4 |
| Hungary | 45.3 | 54.4 | 37.7 | 49.8 | 59.7 | 41.5 |
| Malta | 40.3 | 58.8 | 21.9 | 44.0 | 61.7 | 26.3 |
| Netherlands | 61.7 | 71.1 | 52.4 | 63.5 | 72.8 | 54.2 |
| Austria | 46.3 | 54.1 | 38.8 | 49.2 | 57.6 | 41.1 |
| Poland | 44.3 | 54.2 | 35.5 | 46.2 | 55.7 | 37.6 |
| Portugal | 49.9 | 56.0 | 44.5 | 52.1 | 58.5 | 46.3 |
| Romania | 41.1 | 51.2 | 32.1 | 42.8 | 53.0 | 33.6 |
| Slovenia | 36.6 | 42.6 | 30.5 | 38.5 | 43.6 | 33.4 |
| Slovakia | 47.0 | 53.6 | 41.0 | 49.0 | 55.1 | 43.5 |
| Finland | 60.0 | 57.4 | 62.5 | 61.4 | 59.8 | 63.0 |
| Sweden | 74.5 | 76.8 | 72.1 | 75.5 | 77.5 | 73.5 |
| United Kingdom | 62.2 | 68.7 | 56.0 | 63.4 | 69.6 | 57.4 |
| Iceland | 84.8 | 89.0 | 80.5 | 84.6 | 89.7 | 79.4 |
| Norway | 72.2 | 75.6 | 68.8 | 72.6 | 75.7 | 69.5 |
| Switzerland | 72.8 | 78.9 | 66.7 | 73.9 | 79.9 | 67.9 |
| FYR of Macedonia | 40.1 | 52.2 | 28.3 | 40.7 | 55.0 | 26.6 |
| Turkey | 31.8 | 46.3 | 17.7 | 33.4 | 49.2 | 18.1 |

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Data for France, including Europe 2020 target, exclude the overseas departments.

Methods and definitions

The **Labour Force Survey** (LFS) is a large sample survey among private households. LFS data refer to the resident population and therefore LFS results relate to the persons resident in the country irrespective of the country where those persons work. This difference may be significant in countries with large cross-border flows. For further information, please consult the Eurostat [EU-LFS publication](#).

Annual results presented in this news release are calculated as average of quarterly results.

The **employment rate** represents employed persons as a percentage of the population in the same age group. The employment status is measured according to the definition of the International Labour Organisation. It should be noted that the employment situation of individuals depends on the availability of jobs as well as the decision/willingness to work among the population.

Timetable

A news release on Europe 2020 education indicators is planned for 26 April 2017.

A news release on regional unemployment in 2016 is planned for 27 April 2017.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Eurostat [database](#) on EU-LFS results.

Main [concepts and definitions](#) of the EU-LFS.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on employment rates and Europe 2020 national targets.

The European Commission [website](#) dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

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