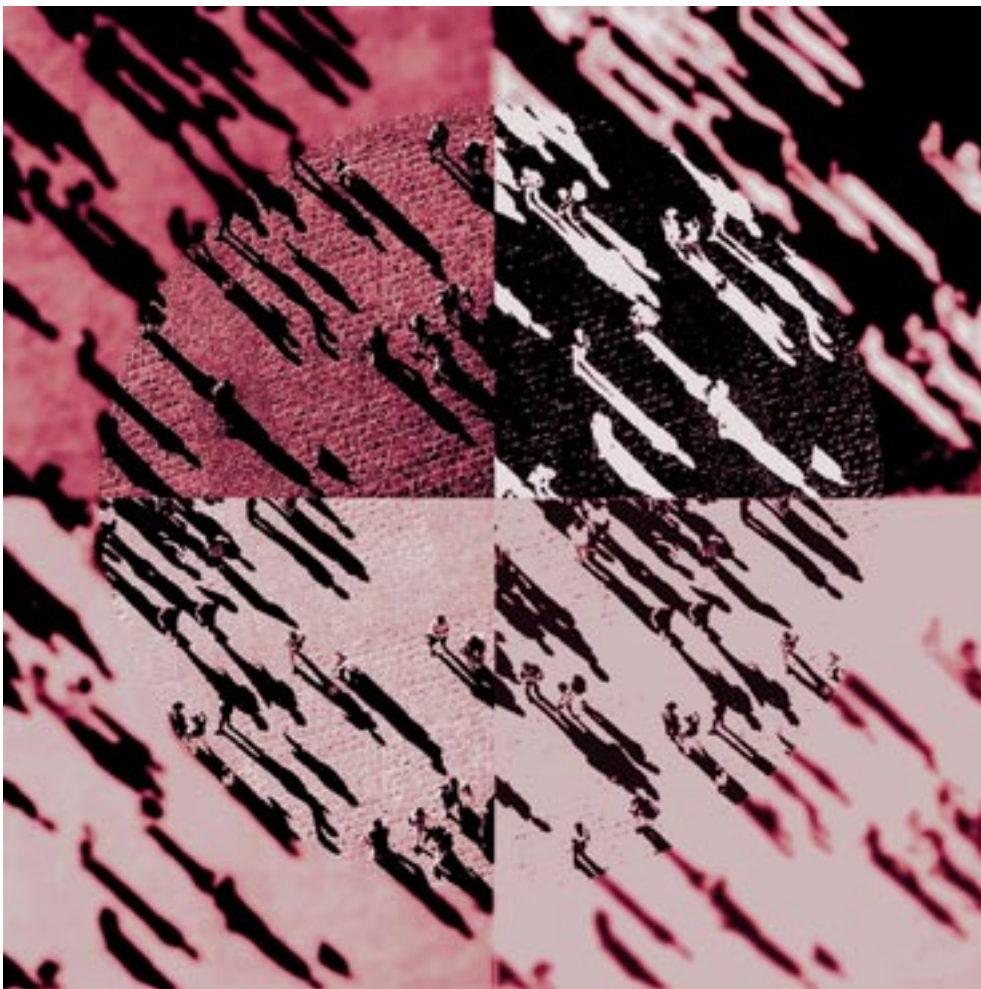


# The social situation in the European Union

- In brief -



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## I Introduction

With a view of disseminating information on the social situation to a larger public, this booklet presents the key findings of the Social Situation Report, 2001 which is the second annual Report produced jointly by DG Employment and Social Affairs and Eurostat<sup>1</sup>.

This annual Report provides a broad description of the social situation in Europe. Using harmonised statistical information at EU level, it allows the monitoring of different social developments across Member States and the assessment of their impact on European citizens' quality of life.

The Lisbon Summit highlighted social policy as a core element in Europe's strategic goal of becoming *"the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion"*.

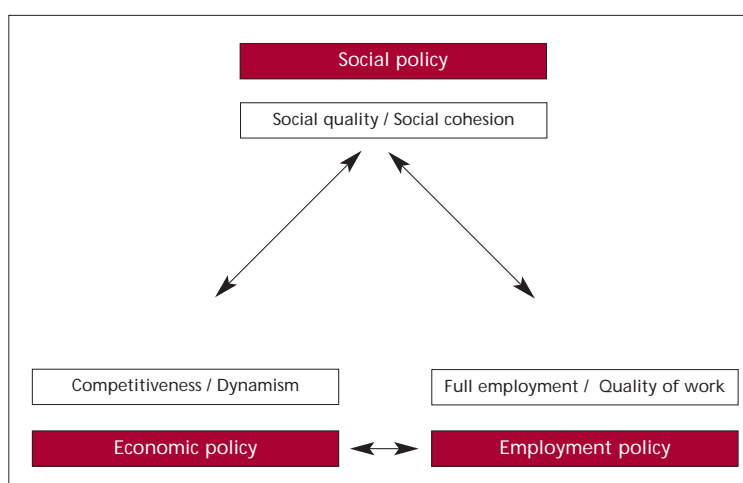
Subsequently, the European Social Agenda, endorsed at the Nice European Council, provided the political basis for the consolidation of a comprehensive strategy of mutually reinforcing economic, employment and social policy.

A widespread consensus exists on the fact that the strengthening of the European economy and its social model will result from policies promoting synergy and positive interaction between economic growth, employment and social cohesion.

A better understanding of the different dimensions of the social situation and their inter-play is a prerequisite for a successful implementation of this strategy. The Report will contribute to such an improved comprehension of the multiple dimensions of living standards of European citizens.

By providing qualitative and quantitative analysis on European social trends, it represents a powerful tool for policy makers at European, national and regional level involved with the modernisation of the European social model.

The Report not only addresses the interests of policy makers and the academic community; it is also aimed at people in the socio-economic field, NGOs, social partners and every single citizen who is interested in having an in-depth look at contemporary society and willing to contribute to the debate on and the implementation of the European Social Agenda.



The policy mixes to be established to create a virtuous circle of economic and social progress should reflect the interdependence of these policies and aim to maximise their mutual positive reinforcement.

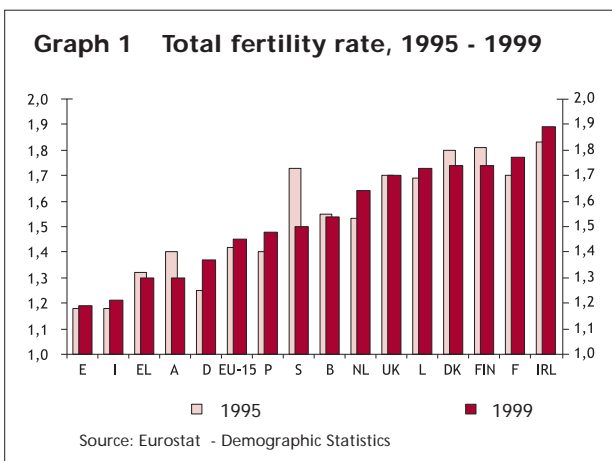
<sup>1</sup> To obtain a full version of this report, see list of dashshops at the end of this booklet.

## II The social situation ...

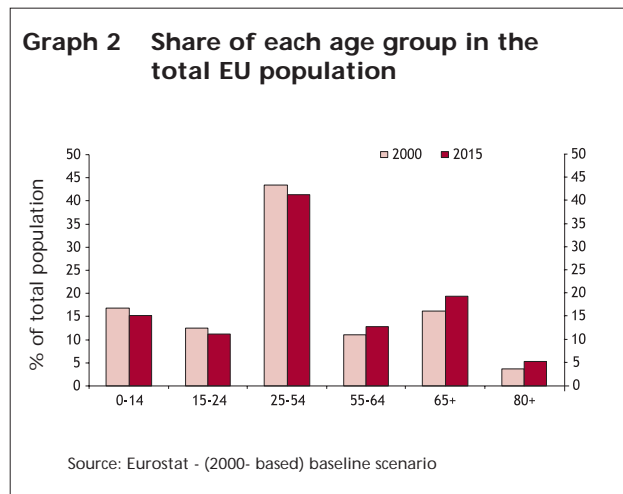
The last decade has witnessed a steady improvement in average living conditions across the Union. Economic and social policies have helped enhance opportunities for better lives in many areas. Yet, progress may also generate new challenges and highlight the problems and unacceptable conditions still to be tackled. At the same time novel demands are on the horizon as Europe's transformation to a knowledge-based society takes off. The successful policies of the past and present must be adjusted and updated to deal with the new developments and challenges.

### Population

- **Life expectancy** at birth continues to rise - over the last 50 years life expectancy has increased by 10 years. More importantly, disability - free life expectancy is increasing too. Not only will there be more years to life, Europeans may also expect more life to years. Women can now expect to live for 74 years without any severe disability and men, 69 years.
- At the other end of life, **fertility** levels are no longer falling to the extent they were just a few years ago, but in most Member States they have remained at very low levels.



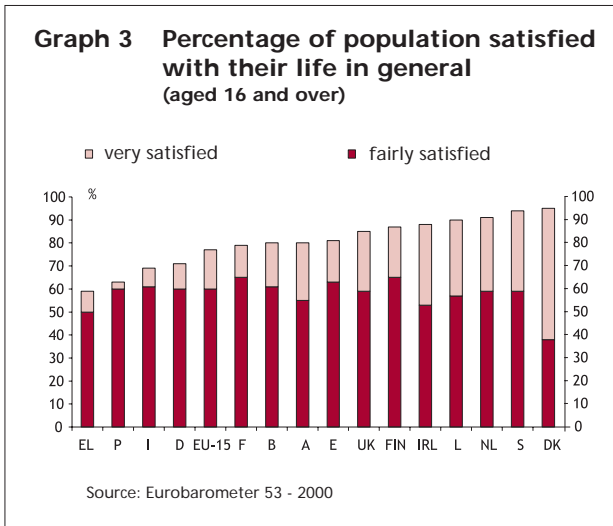
- **Accelerated ageing** is one of the obvious consequences of our increased ability to prolong life and control reproduction. Over the next 15 years the number of very old (80+) Europeans will increase by 50 percent while the number of 0-24 year olds will drop by about 7%.



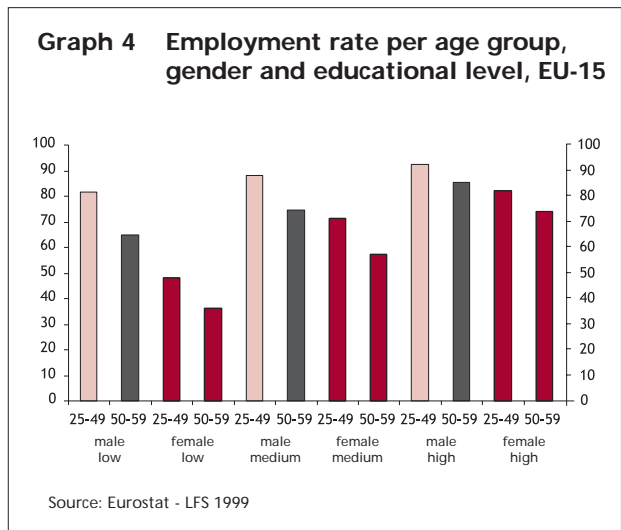
- For 35 years **baby-boomers** have given Europe an unusually large work-force of prime-age, but now even the boomers are coming of age and the age cohorts following them are substantially smaller. For that reason the social and economic impact of ageing will be particularly pronounced in the next decades.
- The fact that Europe is faced with the prospect of more older people and a shrinking **workforce** is without doubt the most crucial fall-out from ageing.
- The number of smaller and single person households is increasing but **household structures** remain different between the North and the South.
- The growing **immigration** from outside the Union is concentrated on the economically dynamic regions and the big urban areas. As a result most big cities are becoming more multicultural in composition.

## Living conditions

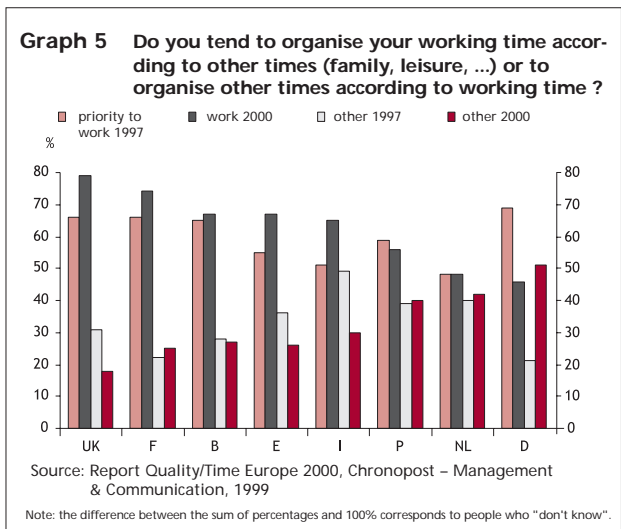
- The level of **satisfaction** among Europeans is impressive: 83% declare themselves to be satisfied with their health, 77% with their life in general, and 67% with their income.



- **Health** is an absolute priority for Europeans, who generally are less materialistic than often expected. In their ranking of the main determinants of their quality of life they put health before income and place family life as a close third priority.
- **Education** is another important factor in life quality, one which impacts not just on employment and income but also on health and social participation. It is therefore of great consequence that levels of educational attainment have been doubled over the last 30 years: 74% of the 25-29 olds now have a post-compulsory education. Yet, on the threshold to the knowledge-based society it is untenable that almost a third of the cohort still fails to reach this level and thus risks being left behind. While the development of life-long learning will open many new opportunities for training and up-grading after school, it is difficult to take advantage of these if one failed to attain an education at upper secondary level in the first place.

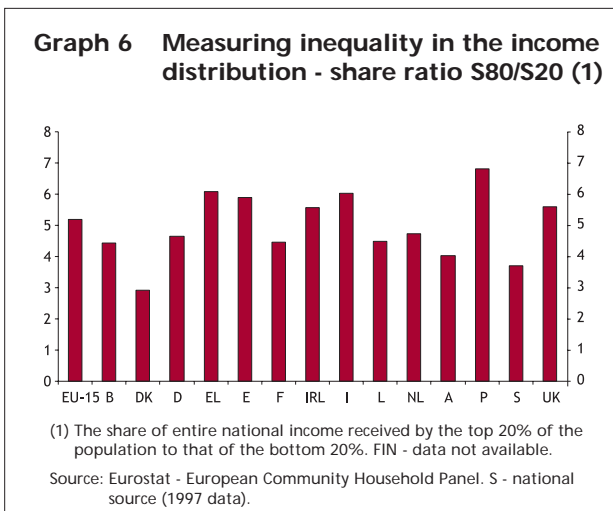


- **Family life:** despite increasing individualisation and more frequently changing household/family patterns, the family remains a pivotal and treasured factor of European social life. While attaching priority to work, a majority of Europeans would like to find more time for family activities.
- **Safety:** amid growing feelings of uncertainty Europeans still feel quite safe.



## Income distribution

- **Income** differences in the EU are still large, both within and between Member States.
- Member States with lower average incomes tend to have greater income inequalities. This is worth noting since as a general rule the wealthier Member States tend to have more effective **redistribution** via benefits.

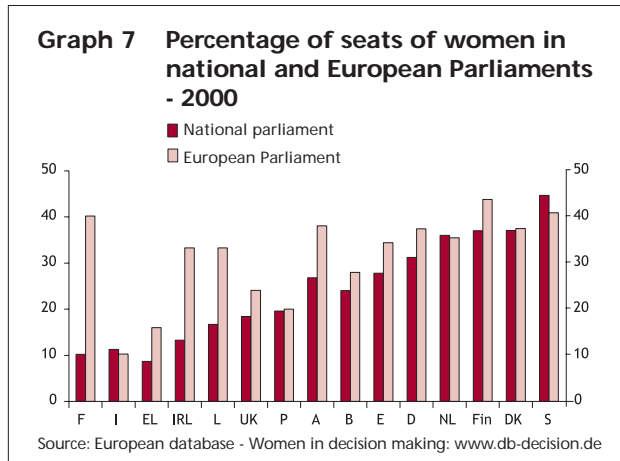


- 80% of Europeans agree that **income differences** are too high and that "large differences in income are not good for society - and a majority also think that governments should address the problem.
- Among **low-income groups** single parent families report the greatest difficulties in terms of making ends meet. As a result the risk of child poverty remains an important issue

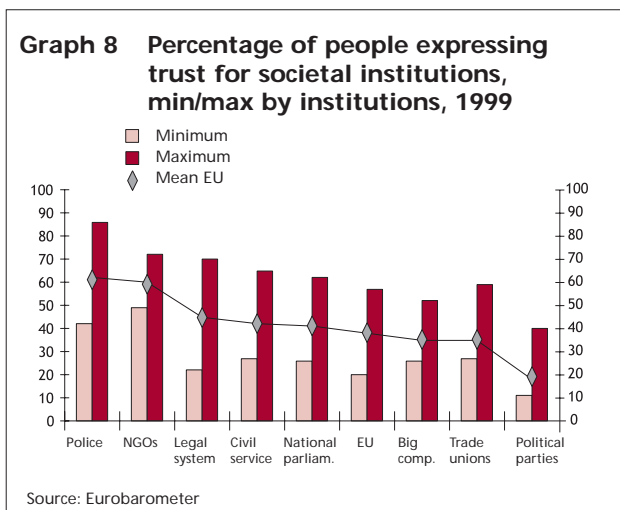
## Trust and participation in society

- **Flexibilisation** of employment and working conditions have increased opportunities for participating in paid employment, yet, the resulting impact on quality of work is open to discussion.
- While possibilities for women to participate in society on equal terms have been greatly improved,

marked **inequalities in gender** representation are still prevalent in economic and political life, particularly in decision-making functions.



- **e-divide**: though the situation may be improving, there are big differences in the ability to participate in the e-society through internet access, both within and between Member States.
- The **trust** of European citizens in central authorities such as the civil service is surprisingly low.



### III ... and the policy challenges

- The rise in the number of the very old poses a challenge to **systems of health and long-term care** and to our ability to contain demand through the promotion of healthy ageing lifestyles.
- The shrinking of the **labour force** and the increase in pensioners gives particular pertinence to the Union's existing efforts to raise the activity and employment rates of all of working age, since this can improve economic dependency rates and thus modify the economic and social effects of deteriorating old age dependency rates.
- As baby boomers approach the age of early retirement it becomes increasingly crucial to find ways to improve employment opportunities for older workers and to enable and motivate them to seize these possibilities. Adjusting well to an ageing work force will require important changes in **labour market and work place practices** of age management.
- Current **inequalities in income distribution, education and health** preclude the disadvantaged from participating in society to their full potential.
- The growing availability of **knowledge** combined with improved individual capabilities for processing and sharing information, is raising the expectations of citizens – there is a growing tendency among people to expect higher quality, tailor-made, customised responses to their needs.
- Participation is a crucial factor in the formation of **social cohesion**. Thus a considerable challenge for the building of a socially cohesive Europe relates to the extent to which we can secure sufficient access for all to participate in markets, politics and civil society.
- As employment levels are rising and more Europeans get to participate in paid work it becomes increasingly important to strive not just for **more**, but also for **better jobs** and to focus on the **quality of work**.
- And as Europe succeeds in raising the employment rate of women and older workers it becomes increasingly important to achieve a higher degree of **reconciliation between work and family life**.
- High levels of **emigration and ageing** in several EU regions present a threat to economic growth and social progress.
- The growing number of non EU nationals living in the Union underlines the importance of measures aimed at securing a rapid **integration of newcomers** into economic and social life.

*The welfare systems of Member States have provided European citizens with good protection and contributed significantly to the development of social cohesion. These welfare systems have furthermore adapted well to a number of challenges over time. They now have to adjust to the accelerating pace of demographic changes and the requirements of a rapidly evolving knowledge-based economy. Appropriate ways must be found to counteract and contain the ageing and shrinking of the labour force and the pressure on pension and health expenditure emanating from demographic trends. The information revolution presents welfare systems with the challenge to ensure that the opportunities offered by new technologies are exploited to the full while the risks of negative side effects are minimised.*

*Achieving sustainable economic growth and full employment amid a successful transition to a knowledge-based, yet older Europe, will require that scarce human resources are treated with much more care than in the past, which gives a new importance to social policy. The current inequalities in income distribution, education and health represent a barrier to people participating in society to their full potential. Yet, this report also highlights some of the positive interactions between income, education, health and employment which we can build on, when developing our resources of human capital.*

*Social policy is not only an instrument for arriving at a more equitable society. Where it is cost-effective, it can contribute substantially to a more effective and productive economy. This underlines that there is a need to monitor social trends and analyse their overall impact on the economy and society in order to design the most adequate and efficient social policy response.*

## IV The indicators

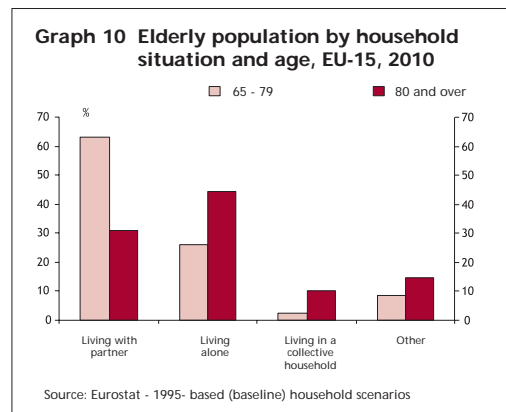
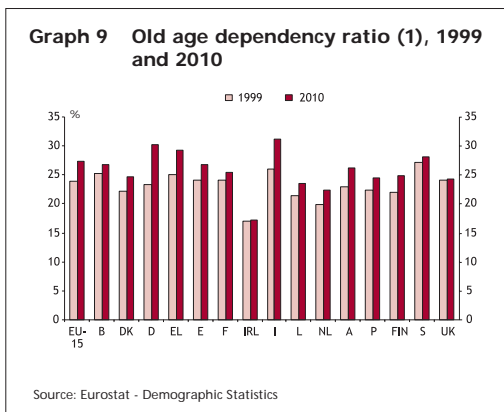
### Ageing of the population

In 1999, there were 60 million elderly people aged 65 and over in the EU compared with only 34 million in 1960. Today, elderly people represent 16% of the total population or 24% of what is considered to be the working age population (15-64 year olds). By 2010, this ratio is expected to rise to 27%. Over the next fifteen years, the number of 'very old' people aged 80 and over will rise by almost 50%.

#### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Old age dependency ratio (1)</b>																
1999	24	25	22	23	25	24	24	17	26	21	20	23	22	22	27	24
2010	27	27	25	30	29	27	25	17	31	24	22	26	24	25	28	24

(1) Population aged 65 and over as a percentage of the working age population (15-64)  
Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics



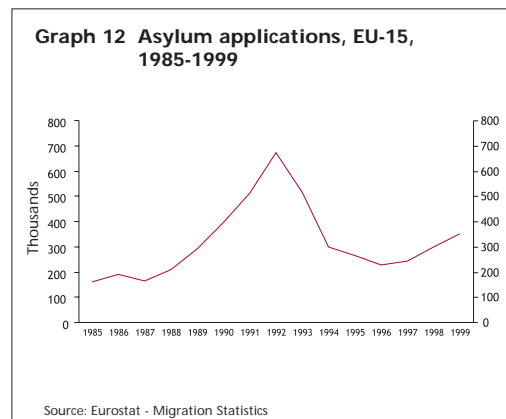
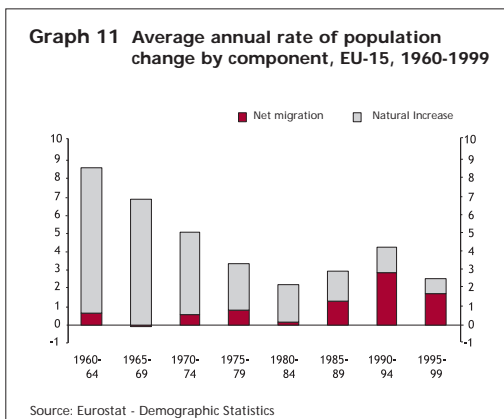
### Migration and asylum

Since 1989, net migration has been the main component of annual population change in the Union. In 1999, the annual net migration rate was 1.9 per 1 000 population, representing around 70% of total population growth. Around 5% of the EU population are non-nationals (3.5% are non-EU nationals and 1.5% EU nationals). In 1999, there were over 350 000 asylum applications in the fifteen Member States.

#### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Net migration rate (per 1 000 population)</b>																
1999	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.5	2.4	1.0	0.9	4.9	1.8	10.9	2.8	1.1	1.1	0.7	1.5	2.7
1995 - 99	1.7	1.0	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.1	0.7	4.8	2.1	9.6	2.0	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.9
1990 - 94	2.9	1.9	2.0	7.0	5.7	0.4	1.3	-0.4	1.9	10.5	2.7	7.5	-1.3	1.8	3.7	1.3

Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics





## Education outcomes

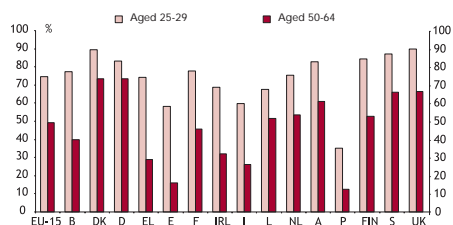
Attainment levels of the population have improved significantly over the last thirty years, particularly among females. Today, more than 74% of young people aged 25-29 in the Union have a post-compulsory qualification. At the same time, however, 19% of persons aged 18-24 leave the education system with only lower secondary education at best.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Percentage of 18-24 year-olds having left education with low qualifications (ISCED 0-2)</b>																
1999	19	15	13	15	18	29	15	19	27	19	16	11	45	10	7	7*
Population aged 18-24 by activity status (%), 1999																
In education and employment	15	6	39	28	2	5	7	11	3	7	38	13	7	23	17	27
In education and not empl.	36	51	23	28	40	47	47	32	42	49	20	27	34	31	42	19
Not in education and in empl.	34	29	31	33	34	33	29	43	30	35	33	51	48	33	31	40
Not in educ. and not in empl.	16	14	7	11	24	15	17	15	26	9	9	8	11	13	10	14

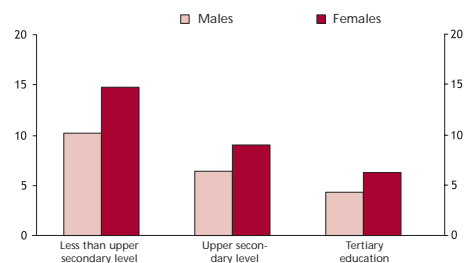
Note: 1997 data for IRL and A. UK - GCSE 'O' levels are included under ISCED 3.  
Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 13 Percentage of population that has completed at least upper secondary education, by age-group, 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 14 Unemployment rates of the population aged 25-59 by sex and level of education, EU-15, 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

## Lifelong learning

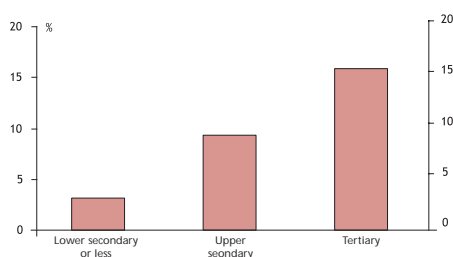
EU-wide, 8% of the population aged 25-64 participated in education/training (in the last four weeks) in 1999. Such training activities seem to be more prevalent in the Nordic countries, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Older persons are less likely to receive training than younger persons. Higher qualified persons are more likely than the low-qualified to participate in such training.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Percentage of 25-64 year-olds having participated in education or training in the last four weeks, 1999</b>																
<b>Total 25-64</b>	8	7	20	6	1	5	3*	5	6	5	14*	8	3*	18	26	19
25-34	14	11	30	13	4	12	6	9	12	8	22	14	8	25	33	23
35-44	8	8	21	5	1	4	2	5	5	6	15	8	2	20	29	21
45-54	6	6	16	3	0*	1	1	3	3	4	9	5	1	17	23	18
55-64	3	1	9	1	:	1	0	1*	1	1*	5	2	:	6	15	11

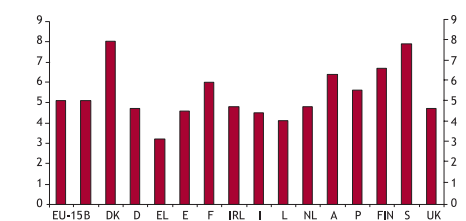
Note: 1997 data for IRL and A  
Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 15 Percentage of 25-64 year-olds who participated in training in the last four weeks, by level of education, EU-15, 1998**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 16 Total public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP, 1997**



Source: Eurostat - UOE (Unesco, OECD and Eurostat) questionnaires on education statistics

## Employment

In 1999, an estimated 162 million people were in employment in the Union, a rise of more than 7 million since 1995. This represents annual growth of around 1.2% per annum. In 1999, employment increased by 1.6%. The employment rate for the population aged 15-64 stood at 62% in 1999.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Employment rate, 15-64 years</b>																
1999	62.1	58.9	76.5	64.8	55.6	52.3	60.4	62.5	52.5	61.6	70.9	68.2	67.4	67.4	70.6	70.4

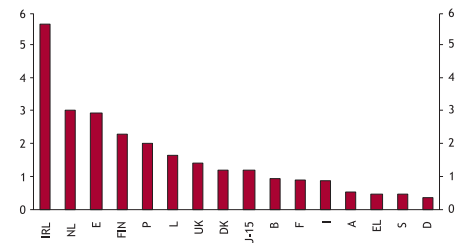
### Trend in employment

1999 (millions)	162.1	3.9	2.7	37.9	4.0	15.2	23.6	1.6	22.3	0.2	8.0	4.0	4.8	2.2	4.2	27.6
1995 (millions)	154.7	3.8	2.6	37.3	3.8	13.6	22.9	1.3	21.5	0.2	7.1	3.9	4.5	2.0	4.1	26.1
1999-1995 (millions)	7.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.5
1999/1995 (% av. ann. growth)	1.2	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.5	2.9	0.9	5.6	0.9	1.6	3.0	0.5	2.0	2.3	0.5	1.4
1999/1998 (% annual growth)	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.1	-0.7	3.3	1.7	6.0	1.3	2.2	2.7	1.4	1.8	2.0	2.3	1.2

Note: 1999 data on growth for EL, F, IRL and P are based on forecasts.

Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey and National Accounts (ESA 95)

**Graph 17 Average annual employment growth, 1995 - 1999**



Source: Eurostat - National Accounts (ESA 95)

**Graph 18 Employment rates (15-64 years), 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

## Employment of older workers

During the last decade, the EU employment rate of 55-64 year-old men fell by around 5 percentage points to stand at 47% in 1999. The decline may be the result of a combination of job shortages, lower mobility and inadequate skills rather than the wish to retire early. In contrast, the comparable female rate rose by almost 4 points to reach 27% in 1999. Overall, 37% of the population aged 55-64 were in employment in 1999.

### Key indicator

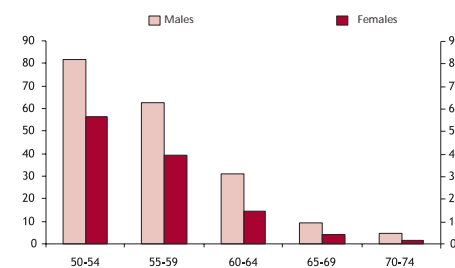
	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Employment rate, 55-64 years, 1999</b>																
Total	37	25	54	38	38	35	28	44	27	26	35	29	51	39	65	49
Men	47	35	60	47	55	52	32	62	41	35	49	42	62	41	67	59
Women	27	15	48	29	23	19	25	26	15	17	22	18	42	38	62	40

Persons in employment aged 55-64, 1999 (1000)

	15469	256	301	4338	488	1436	1526	137	1867	11	542	257	545	212	617	2929
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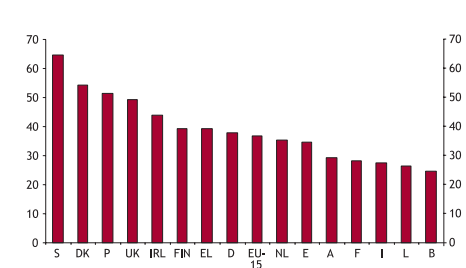
Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 19 Employment rates by age-group and sex, EU-15, 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 20 Employment rates of 55-64 year-olds, 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

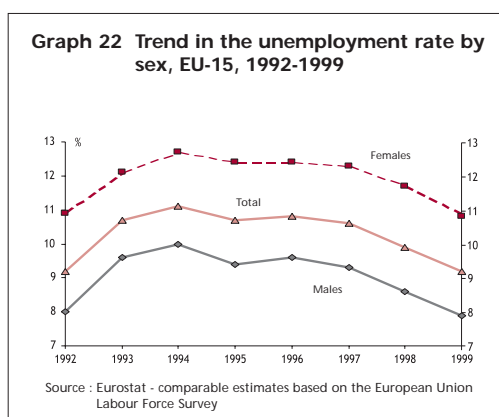
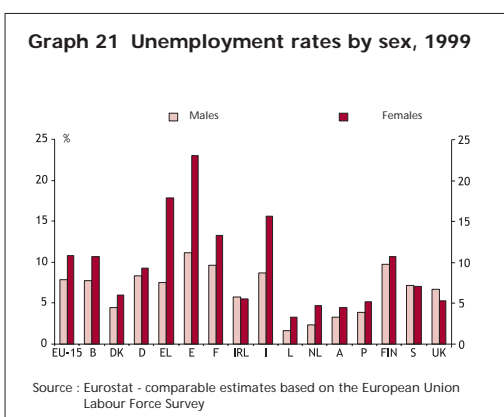
## Unemployment

In 1999, the total number of unemployed in the Europe of Fifteen dropped below 16 million for the first time since 1992. This represents 9.2% of the labour force compared with 4.2% and 4.7% in the United States and Japan respectively. Between 1998 and 1999, Spain and Ireland recorded the largest falls in their unemployment rates although Spain continues to have the highest figure (15.9%). In contrast, Greece is the only country where the rate continues to rise.

### Key indicator

Unemployment rate	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
1999	9.2	9.1	5.2	8.8	11.7	15.9	11.3	5.7	11.3	2.3	3.3	3.8	4.5	10.2	7.2	6.1
1998	9.9	9.5	5.2	9.4	10.9	18.8	11.8	7.6	11.8	2.7	4	4.5	5.2	11.4	8.3	6.3
1994	11.1	10.0	8.2	8.5	8.9	24.1	12.3	14.3	11.1	3.2	7.1	3.8	6.9	16.6	9.4	9.6
Unemployment (1000), 1999	15763	396	149	3460	521	2607	2887	96	2649	4	263	146	228	261	319	1766

Source : Eurostat - comparable estimates based on the European Union Labour Force Survey



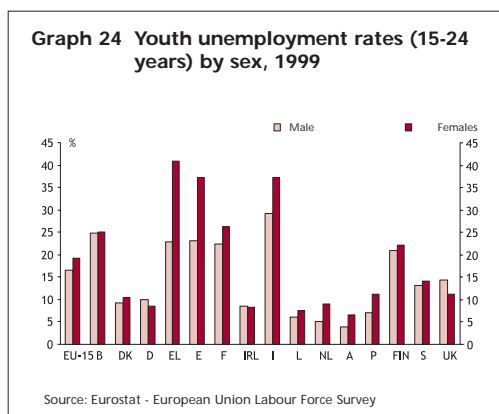
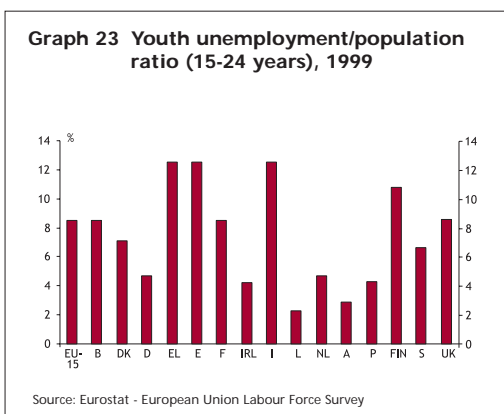
## Youth unemployment

EU-wide, 8.5% of young people (aged 15-24) were unemployed in 1999. The unemployment rate (as a percentage of the labour force) among young people was 17.9%. The differences between these two percentages vary significantly between countries. While the first figure shows that a relatively small proportion of young people is unemployed, the second one gives an indication as to the labour market situation for young people. For most countries, youth unemployment fell between 1998 and 1999, in line with the overall drop in unemployment.

### Key indicator

Youth unemployment/population ratio	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
1999	8.5	8.5	7.1	4.7	12.5	12.5	8.5	4.2	12.5	2.3	4.7	2.9	4.3	10.8	6.6	8.6
1998	9.2	7.8	5.7	5.0	11.9	14.7	9.2	5.5	13.0	2.5	5.2	3.7	5.0	11.1	7.6	9.0
1994	10.7	8.8	7.8	4.8	10.2	19.4	10.8	10.7	12.6	3.3	7.0	3.5	6.8	15.5	11.6	11.2
Youth unemployment rate	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
1999	17.9	24.9	9.8	9.2	31.6	29.5	24.2	8.3	32.7	6.8	7.2	5.1	9.0	21.4	13.6	13.0
1998	19.5	23.2	8.0	9.9	30.1	35.4	26.5	11.3	33.8	7.1	8.0	6.4	10.6	23.5	16.6	13.6
1994	22.0	24.2	11.1	8.8	27.7	45.1	29.2	23.0	32.3	7.3	11.5	5.7	15.0	34.0	22.0	17.0

Source : Eurostat - comparable estimates based on the European Labour Force Survey



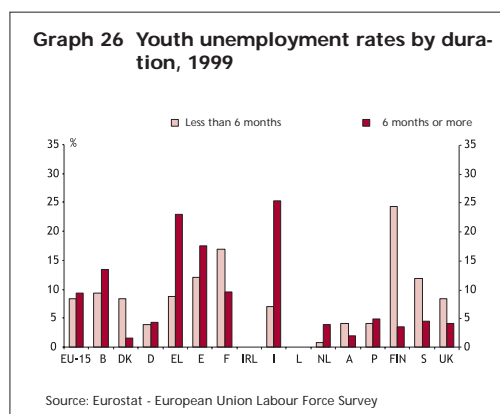
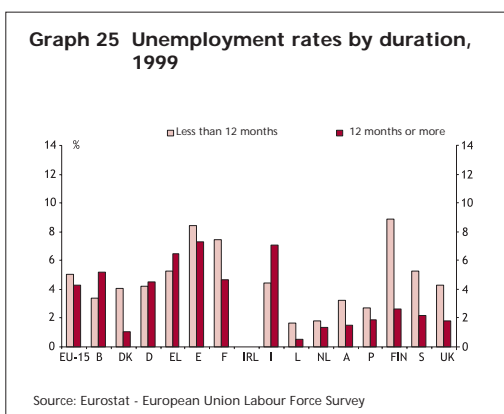
## Long-term unemployment

In 1999, 4.2% of the EU-15 working population were affected by long-term unemployment. Put another way, 45% of unemployed people were jobless for at least one year. The long-term unemployment rate has fallen in recent years but remains relatively high (around 7%) in Spain and Italy. For young people aged 15-24, 9.4% of the EU working population were unemployed for at least six months.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Long-term unemployment rate (12 months or more)</b>																
1999	4.2	5.2	1.1	4.5	:	7.3	4.4	2.7	6.9	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.7	2.9	2.1	1.7
1998	4.7	5.8	1.3	4.8	:	9.4	4.8	3.3	7.1	0.9	1.7	1.4	2.2	3.9	2.9	2.1
1994	5.3	5.9	2.5	3.8	:	12.7	4.7	9.1	6.9	0.9	3.5	1.1	3.1	6.2	1.9	4.3
<b>Persons unemployed for 12 months or more as a percentage of total unemployed, 1999</b>																
	45	57	21	51	55	46	39	47	61	32	38	31	38	29	29	29
<b>Youth long-term unemployment rate (6 months or more)</b>																
1999	9.4	13.4	1.6	4.3	23.0	17.5	9.6	:	25.4	:	3.9	1.9	4.8	3.5	4.4	4.0
1998	11.0	13.9	1.3	4.8	21.9	23.0	13.0	:	25.9	:	5.1	2.4	5.0	5.8	6.4	4.1
1994	13.9	15.0	3.3	4.4	20.3	32.1	13.8	16.1	25.7	:	6.3	:	5.9	:	:	9.0
<b>Young persons unemployed for 6 months or more as a percentage of total unemployed 1999</b>																
	53	59	16	52	73	59	36	:	78	:	82	31	54	13	27	32

Source: Eurostat - comparable estimates based on the European Union Labour Force Survey



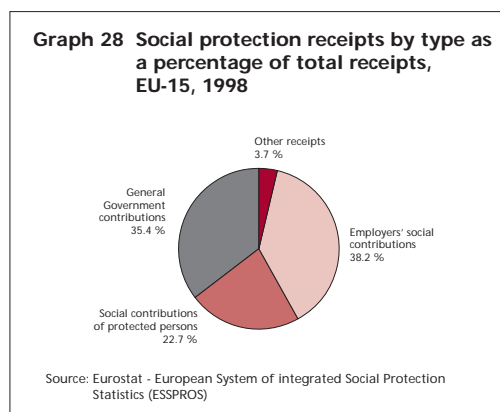
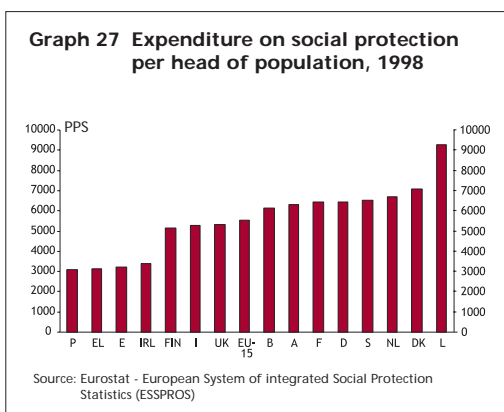
## Social protection expenditure

In 1998, EU social protection expenditure represented 27.7% of GDP, confirming the downward trend in this indicator observed since the peak of 28.9% in 1993. There are considerable differences between Member States with quite a clear north/south divide. Despite these disparities, social protection expenditure is tending to converge with the largest increases in recent years being observed in the countries with the lowest levels of expenditure.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Expenditure on social protection as a percentage of GDP</b>																
1998	27.7	27.5	30.0	29.3	24.5	21.6	30.5	16.1	25.2	24.1	28.5	28.4	23.4	27.2	33.3	26.8
1993	28.9	29.5	31.9	28.4	22.3	24.7	30.9	20.5	26.2	24.5	33.5	28.9	21.3	34.6	38.6	29.1
1990	25.4	26.4	28.7	25.4	23.2	20.5	27.6	18.7	24.3	19.1	32.4	26.7	15.8	25.1	33.1	22.9

Source: Eurostat - European System of integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)



## Old age benefits

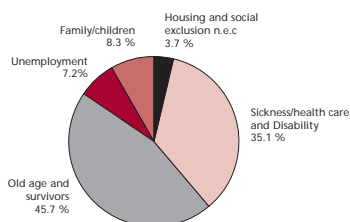
In most Member States in 1998, the largest share of social protection expenditure was assigned to the old age and survivors functions. This was especially true of Italy (64.0% of total benefits against the EU average of 45.7%). EU-wide, benefits paid under the old-age and survivors functions rose by 22% in real terms during the period 1990-1998.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Old age and survivors benefits as a percentage of total social benefits</b>																
1998	45.7	42.8	38.3	42.3	52.6	46.1	44.0	24.9	64.0	44.2	41.1	48.2	42.7	34.5	39.4	43.9
1990	45.7	40.4	36.7	45.8	50.9	42.9	42.7	30.5	59.6	45.8	37.4	50.0	43.1	33.8	:	42.5

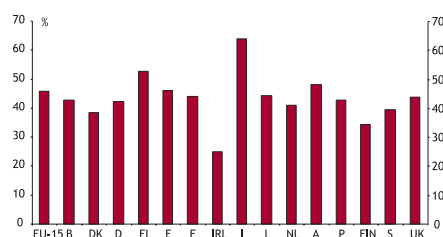
Source: Eurostat - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)

**Graph 29 Social benefits by groups of functions as a percentage of total benefits, EU-15, 1998**



Source: Eurostat - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)

**Graph 30 Old age and survivors benefits as a percentage of total social benefits, 1998**



Source: Eurostat - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)

## Income distribution

At EU level, the bottom (poorest) 20% of the population received 7.6% of total income in 1996, while the top (richest) 20% received 39.3% of total income, i.e. 5.2 times more. This gap between the most and least well-off persons is smallest in Denmark (2.9) and Sweden (3.7). It is widest in the four southern Member States where average income is the lowest in the Union.

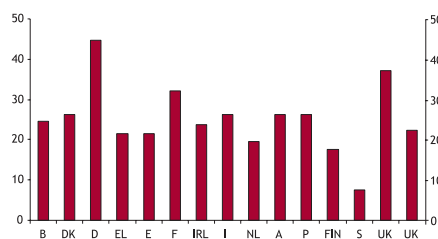
### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Share ratio S80/S20 (1)</b>																
1996	5.2	4.4	2.9	4.7	6.1	5.9	4.5	5.6	6.0	4.5	4.7	4.0	6.8	:	3.7	5.6

(1) The share of entire national income received by the top 20% of the population to that of the bottom 20%. EU-15 estimate excludes FIN, S. B, P - provisional data

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel. S - national source (1997 data).

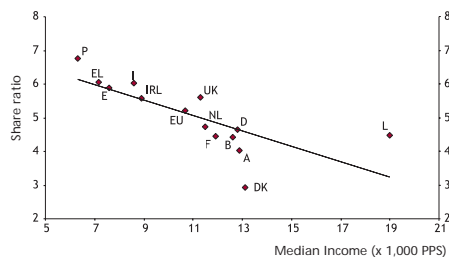
**Graph 31 Coefficient of variation of GDP per capita for NUTS III regions, 1997**



(1) NUTS II only. (2) All UK. (3) = All UK except Inner London (newly created region with very high GDP/head)

Source: Eurostat - Regional accounts

**Graph 32 Level of income and income inequality, 1996**



Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel

## Low income households

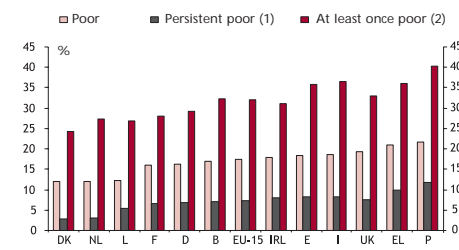
Around 17% of EU citizens had an equivalised income that was less than 60% of the national median in 1996. The proportion of 'poor' people was relatively high (over 20%) in Greece and Portugal and lowest in Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria and Sweden (11-14%). Social benefits reduce the proportion of poor people in all Member States but to very differing degrees: the reduction ranging from around 10% in Greece and Italy to over 60% in Denmark, almost double the EU average.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Percentage of the population with an income less than 60% of the national median, before and after social benefits (1), 1996</b>																
After social benefits	17	17	11	16	21	18	16	18	19	12	12	13	22	:	14	19
Before social benefits	26	28	30	23	23	26	27	33	22	24	24	24	27	:	:	32
National currency symbol	:	BEF	DKK	DEM	GRD	ESP	FRF	IEP	ITL	LUF	NLG	ATS	PTE	FMK	SEK	GBP
60% of med. ann. inc. (nc)	:	318640	76960	16513	1024000	613899	52191	3771	8802(2)	463848	15535	117600	539400	:	:	4969
60% of med. ann. inc. (PPS)	:	7562	7883	7675	4313	4558	7166	5362	5188	11409	6891	7733	3772	:	:	6800

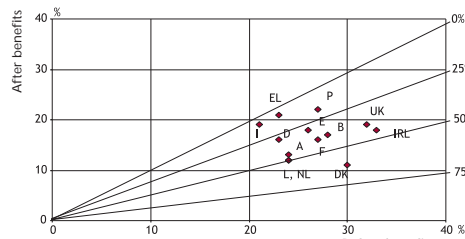
EU-15 estimate excludes FIN, S. (1) Social benefits other than pensions, i.e. pensions are included 'before' and 'after'. (2) I - data in 1000s. B, P - provisional data  
Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel. S - national source (1997 data).

**Graph 33 Percentage of the population living in (persistent) poverty, 1996**



(1) persons who were also in income poverty in 1995 and 1994  
(2) Persons who experienced poverty at least one year during the period 1994-1996  
Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel

**Graph 34 Percentage of the population on a low income before and after social benefits other than pensions, 1996**



Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel

## Jobless households and low wages

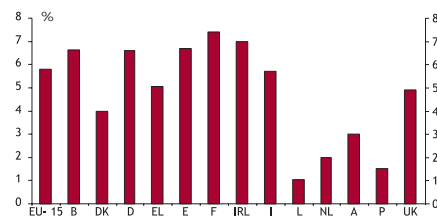
Two important driving factors of poverty are jobless households and low wages. EU-wide, 6% of households (in which at least one person is active) are jobless. The people living in such households are around four times more likely than people in a working household to have a low income. Work, however, does not remove the threat of poverty. For a number of reasons ranging from low wages to the number of non-working members in the household, a sizeable proportion of the population living in a working household are also poor.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Share of households in which no member is in employment among all households in which at least one person is active (%)</b>																
1999	5.8	6.6	4*	6.6	5.1	6.7	7.4	7.0	5.7	1.0	2.0	3.0	1.5	:	:	4.9
<b>Poverty rates (%) among the population living in ..., 1996</b>																
Jobless households (1)	50	59	16	47	33	47	58	58	55*	:	43	39	32*	:	:	55
Working households (2)	13	11	7	13	17	15	12	10	17	10	9	10	18	:	:	11

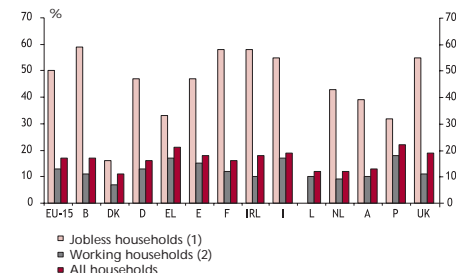
(1) Persons living in households (in which at least one person is active) in which no member is in employment.  
(2) Persons living in households (in which at least one person is active) in which at least one member is in employment  
Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey, 1999. IRL - LFS 1997. DK - European Community Household Panel, 1996.

**Graph 35 Share of households in which no member is in employment among all households in which at least one person is active, 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 36 Poverty rates among persons living in jobless households, working households and all households, 1996**



Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel

## Female employment

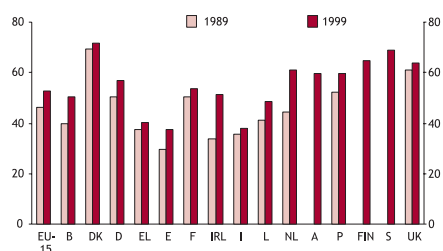
Between 1989 and 1999, the EU employment rate for males fell by almost 3 percentage points. Over the same period, the rate for females rose by 6 points, thereby narrowing the gap between the sexes. However, the rate for males (72%) remains considerably higher than that of females (53%). Female rates are highest in the three Nordic countries.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Employment rates, 15-64 years, 1999</b>																
Females	52.6	50.2	71.6	57.1	40.3	37.3	53.5	51.4	38.1	48.5	61.3	59.7	59.6	64.6	68.9	63.7
Males	71.6	67.5	81.2	72.4	71.6	67.8	67.5	73.6	67.1	74.4	80.3	76.7	75.7	70.2	72.1	76.9

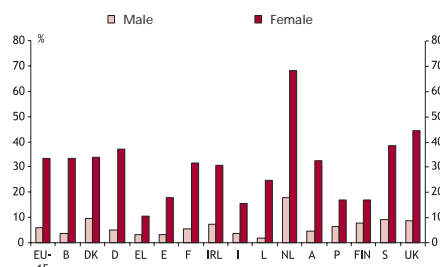
Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 37 Female employment rates (15-64 years), 1989 and 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

**Graph 38 Percentage of persons in employment working part-time, by sex, 1999**



Source: Eurostat - European Union Labour Force Survey

## Earnings of men and women

EU-wide, the average earnings of a woman in 1998 were estimated at 23% less than the earnings of a man (industry and services). Overall, the smallest differences are found in Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and Sweden, although a sectoral analysis produces different results. In general, the gap between the sexes appears to be narrowing: in 1995, the average for the Union was 26%. Although it is not possible to determine whether women are paid less for equal work, it can be concluded that women are in lower-paid positions.

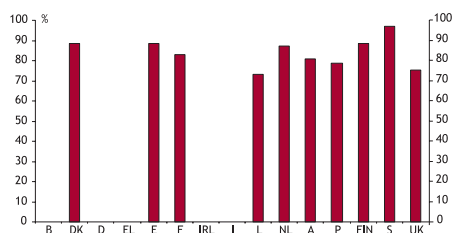
### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Average earnings of women as a percentage of men's, 1998</b>																
Industry and Services	77*	84*	82	77	73*	76	80	70*	77*	84*	72	69	73	79	82	72
Industry	72*	80	95	76	79	76	81	73	81*	74	78	65	72	81	92	70

See methodological notes

Source: Eurostat - Harmonised statistics on earnings 1998. B, EL, IRL and L (Industry and Services) and I (all data) - Structure of Earnings 1995

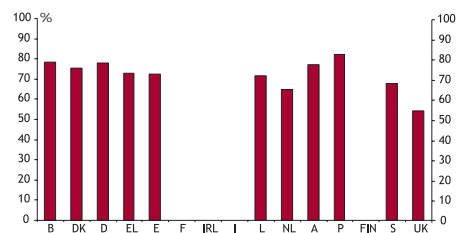
**Graph 39 Average earnings of women as a percentage of men's, 1998 - Hotels and restaurants sector**



No data available for B, D, EL, IRL and I

Source: Eurostat - Harmonised statistics on earnings

**Graph 40 Average earnings of women as a percentage of men's, 1998 - Financial services sector**



No data available for F, IRL, I and FIN

Source: Eurostat - Harmonised statistics on earnings

## Life and health expectancies

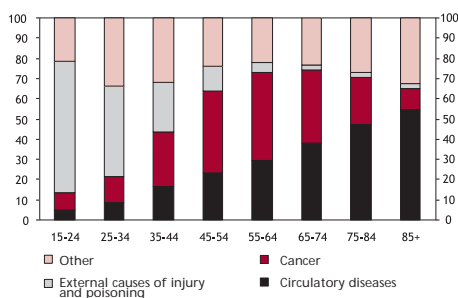
Life expectancy continues to rise and now stands at 81 years for women and 75 for men. In all Member States, women live longer than men. The southern Member States have made great strides to close the gap with the north. EU-wide, women can expect to live to 62 years of age without any disability and 74 years without any severe disability. The corresponding figures for men are 60 and 69 years.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Life expectancy, 1998</b>																
Males	75	74	74	74	76	74	75	73	75	74	75	75	72	74	77	75
Females	81	81	79	80	81	82	82	79	81	80	81	81	79	81	82	80
<b>Life expectancy without disability, 1994</b>																
Males	60	60	61	57	63	62	60	61	60	59	59	:	55	:	:	59
Females	62	61	61	60	65	64	65	64	61	61	59	:	57	:	:	61

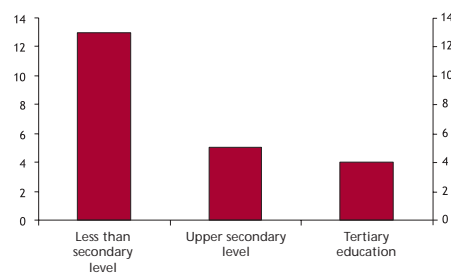
Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics and European Community Household Panel

**Graph 41 Major causes of death by age-group, EU-15, 1997**



Source: Eurostat - Mortality Statistics

**Graph 42 Proportion of population whose perceived health is bad or very bad, by level of education, EU-15, 1996**



Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel

## Accidents

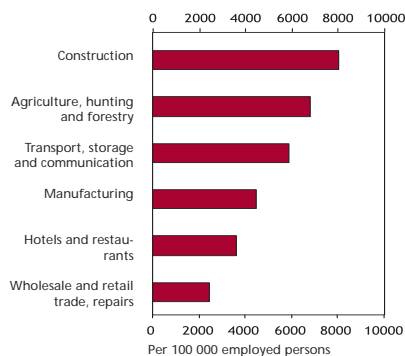
Around 4.1% of EU workers were victims of a working accident (resulting in more than three days' absence from work) in 1998. These accidents resulted in around 149 million days being lost to the economy. Road transport fatalities have fallen by 44% since 1970 but there were still over 40 000 deaths on EU roads recorded in 1998.

### Key indicator

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Working accidents (1) per 100 000 employed persons, 1998</b>																
Total	4089	5112	3203	4958	2936	7073	4920	1433	4105	4719	3909	3321	6180	3435	1329	1512
Age-group 18-24	5725	9008	3553	7657	2632	9498	8163	1228	6028	6932	7058	4131	4803	4799	1412	1638
Age-group 45-54	3543	3767	3178	4019	3455	6231	3792	1545	3741	3987	2698	3002	8594	3178	1366	1469

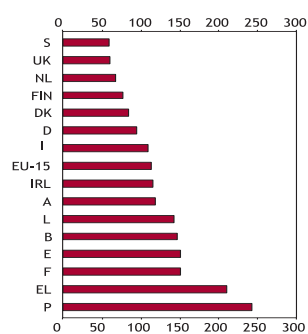
(1) Only those working accidents that lead to more than 3 days absence are included  
Source: Eurostat - European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW)

**Graph 43 Accidents at work by type of activity EU-15, 1998**



Source: Eurostat - European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW)

**Graph 44 Number of road traffic deaths per million population, 1998**



Source: Eurostat - Transport Statistics



## Key social indicators per Member State

No.	Indicator	Unit	Year	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
1	Old age dependency ratio	%	1999	24	25	22	23	25	24	24	17	26	21	20	23	22	22	27	24
2	Net migration rate	per 1000 inhab.	1999	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	5	2	11	3	1	1	1	2	3
3	Percentage of the population aged 18-24 having left education with low qualifications	%	1999	19	15	12	15	18	29	15	19	27	19	16	11	45	10	7	7*
4	Percentage of the population aged 25-64 receiving education/training	%	1999	8	7	20	6	1	5	3*	5	6	5	14*	8	3*	18	26	19
5	Employment rate of 15-64 year olds	%	1999	62	59	76	65	55	52	60	63	53	62	71	68	67	67	71	71
6	Employment rate of 55-64 year olds	%	1999	37	25	54	38	38	35	28	44	27	26	35	29	51	39	65	49
7	Unemployment rate	%	1999	9	9	5	9	12	16	11	6	11	2	3	4	5	10	7	6
8	Youth unemployment/population ratio	%	1999	9	9	7	5	13	13	9	4	13	2	5	3	4	11	7	9
9	Long-term unemployment rate	%	1999	4	5	1	5	:	7	4	3	7	1	1	1	2	3	2	2
10	Social protection expenditure as a percentage of GDP	%	1998	28	28	30	29	25	22	30	16	25	24	29	28	23	27	33	27
11	Old age benefits as a percentage of total social benefits	%	1998	46	43	38	42	53	46	44	25	64	44	39	48	43	34	39	44
12	Income distribution ratio (share ratio S80/S20)	Ratio	1996	5	4	3	5	6	6	4	6	6	4	5	4	7	:	4	6
13	Percentage of the population with an income less than 60% of the national median	%	1996	17	17	11	16	21	18	16	18	19	12	12	13	22	:	14	19
14	Share of households in which no member is in employment among all households in which at least one person is active	%	1999	6	7	4*	7	5	7	7	7	6	1	2	3	2	:	:	5
15	Female employment rate of 15-64 year olds	%	1999	53	50	72	57	41	37	53	51	38	49	61	60	60	65	69	65
16	Average earnings of women as a percentage of men's	%	1998	77*	84*	82	77	73*	76	80	67	77*	84*	72	69	73	79	82	72
17a	Life expectancy at birth - males	Years	1999	75	74	74	75	76	75	75	74	76	74	75	74	72	74	77	75
17b	Life expectancy at birth - females	Years	1999	81	81	79	81	81	83	82	79	82	81	81	81	79	81	82	80
17c	Life expectancy at birth without disability - males	Years	1994	60	60	61	57	63	62	60	61	60	59	59	:	55	:	:	59
17d	Life expectancy at birth without disability - females	Years	1994	62	61	61	60	65	64	65	64	61	61	59	:	57	:	:	61
18	Percentage of employed persons who had a working accident	%	1998	4	5	3	5	3	7	5	1	4	5	4	3	6	3	1	2

### Reading note for each key indicator

- In 1999, the number of persons aged 65 and over corresponded to 24% of what is considered to be the working age population (15-64 years).
- The net migration rate for the Union in 1999 was 1.9 per 1000 inhabitants.
- In 1999, 19% of 18-24 year-olds in the Union had left the education system without completing a qualification beyond lower secondary schooling.
- EU-wide, 8% of the population aged 25-64 participated in education/training (in the last four weeks) in 1999.
- 62% of the EU-15 population aged 15-64 were in employment in 1999.
- 37% of the EU-15 population aged 55-64 were in employment in 1999.
- 9% of the EU-15 labour force (those at work and those seeking work) were unemployed in 1999.
- 9% of the EU-15 population aged 15-24 were unemployed in 1999.
- 4% of the EU-15 labour force (those at work and those seeking work) had been unemployed for at least one year in 1999.
- In 1998, EU social protection expenditure represented 28% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- EU-wide, old-age and survivors benefits make up the largest item of social protection expenditure (46% of total benefits in 1998).
- At EU level, the poorest 20% of the population received only 8% of total income in 1996, while the richest received almost 40%, i.e. five times more.
- EU-wide, 17% of the population were living below the poverty line in 1996.
- EU-wide, 6% of households (in which at least one person is active) were jobless households in 1999, i.e. no member of the household was in employment.
- 53% of the EU-15 female population aged 15-64 were in employment in 1999.
- In the Union in 1998, the average earnings of women working in industry and services were 77% the earnings of men's.
- The average life expectancy of a male citizen in the EU was 75 years in 1999.
- The average life expectancy of a female citizen in the EU was 81 years in 1999.
- On average, a male citizen in the EU should live to 60 without disability (1994 data).
- On average, a female citizen in the EU should live to 62 without disability (1994 data).
- In 1998, around 4% of EU workers were victims of a working accident (resulting in more than three days' absence).

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<b>España</b>	<p><b>INE</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Oficina 009 Entrada por Estébanez Calderón E-28046 Madrid Tel. (34) 91 583 91 67 Fax (34) 91 579 71 20 E-mail: datashop.eurostat@ine.es</p> <p>Languages spoken: ES, EN, FR</p>	<p><b>Nederland</b>    <b>STATISTICS NETHERLANDS</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop — Voorburg</b> Postbus 4000 2270 JM Voorburg Nederland Tel. (31-70) 337 49 00 Fax (31-70) 337 59 84 E-mail: datashop@cbs.nl</p> <p>Languages spoken: EN, NL</p>
<b>France</b>	<p><b>INSEE Info service</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 Paris Cedex 12 Tél. (33) 1 53 17 88 44 Fax (33) 1 53 17 88 22 E-mail: datashop@insee.fr</p> <p>Languages spoken: FR</p>	<p><b>Portugal</b>    <b>Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa</b> <b>INE/Serviço de Difusão</b> Av. António José de Almeida, 2 P-1000-043 Lisboa Tel. (351) 21 842 61 00 Fax (351) 21 842 63 64 E-mail: data.shop@ine.pt</p> <p>Languages spoken: EN, FR, PT</p>

**Suomi/Finland**    **STATISTICS FINLAND**  
**Eurostat DataShop Helsinki**  
 Tilastokirjasto  
 PL 2B  
 FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus  
 Työpajakatu 13 B, 2. Kerros, Helsinki  
 P. (358-9) 17 34 22 21  
 F. (358-9) 17 34 22 79  
 Sähköposti: datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi  
 URL: <http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tk/kk/datashop.html>

Languages spoken:  
 EN, FI, SV

**Sverige**    **STATISTICS SWEDEN**  
**Information service**  
 Eurostat Data Shop  
 Karlavägen 100  
 Box 24 300  
 S-104 51 Stockholm  
 Tfn (46-8) 50 69 48 01  
 Fax (46-8) 50 69 48 99  
 E-post: [infoservice@scb.se](mailto:infoservice@scb.se)  
 Internet: <http://www.scb.se/info/datashop/eudatashop.asp>

Languages spoken:  
 EN, SV

**United Kingdom**  
**Eurostat Data Shop**  
**Enquiries & advice and publications**  
**Office for National Statistics**  
 Customers & Electronic Services Unit  
 B1/05  
 1 Drummond Gate  
 London SW1V 2QQ  
 United Kingdom  
 Tel. (44-20) 75 33 56 76  
 Fax (44-1633) 81 27 62  
 E-mail: [eurostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk](mailto:eurostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk)

Languages spoken:  
 EN

**Eurostat Data Shop**  
**Electronic Data Extractions,**  
**enquiries & advice**  
 1L Mountjoy Research Centre  
 University of Durham  
 Durham DH1 3SW  
 United Kingdom  
 Tel. (44-191) 374 73 50  
 Fax (44-191) 384 49 71  
 E-mail: [r-cade@dur.ac.uk](mailto:r-cade@dur.ac.uk)  
 Internet: <http://www-rcade.dur.ac.uk>

Languages spoken:  
 EN, FR

**Norway**    **Statistics Norway**  
**Library and Information Centre**  
**Eurostat Data Shop**  
 Kongens gate 6  
 Boks 8131 Dep.  
 N-0033 Oslo  
 Tel. (47) 21 09 46 42/43  
 Fax (47) 21 09 45 04  
 E-mail: [Datashop@ssb.no](mailto:Datashop@ssb.no)

Languages spoken:  
 EN, NO

**Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera**  
**Statistisches Amt des Kantons**  
**Zürich**  
**Eurostat Data Shop**  
 Bleicherweg 5  
 CH-8090 Zürich  
 Tel. (41-1) 225 12 12  
 Fax (41-1) 225 12 99  
 E-mail: [datashop@zh.ch](mailto:datashop@zh.ch)  
 Internet: <http://www.zh.ch/statistik>

Languages spoken:  
 DE, EN

**USA**    **HAVER ANALYTICS**  
**Eurostat Data Shop**  
 60 East 42nd Street  
 Suite 3310  
 New York, NY 10165  
 Tel. (1-212) 986 93 00  
 Fax (1-212) 986 69 81  
 E-mail: [eurodata@haver.com](mailto:eurodata@haver.com)

Languages spoken:  
 EN

**Eurostat home page**

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/)

**Media Support Eurostat**  
**(only for professional journalists)**  
**Postal address: Jean Monnet building**  
**L-2920 Luxembourg**  
**Office: BECH A3/48 — 5, rue Alphonse Weicker**  
**L-2721 Luxembourg**  
**Tel. (352) 43 01-33408**  
**Fax (352) 43 01-32649**  
**E-mail: [Eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int](mailto:Eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int)**