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Eurostat regional yearbook 2019

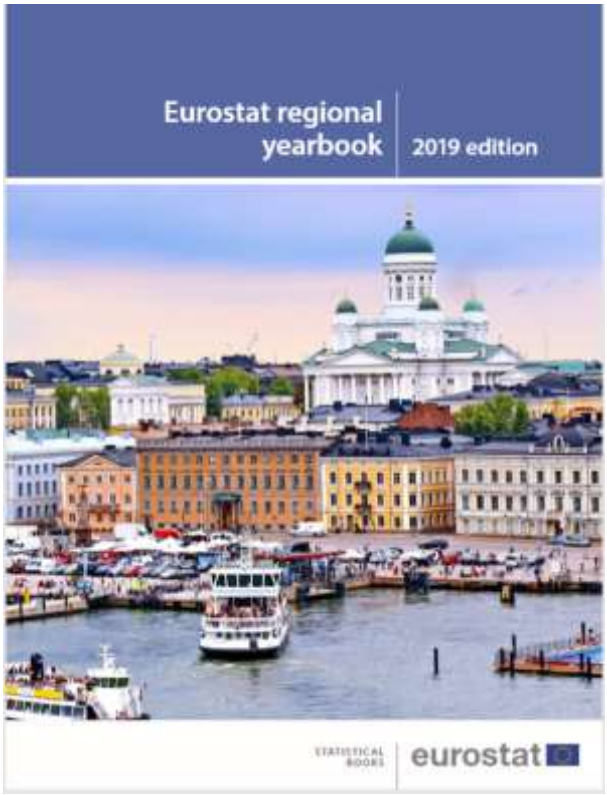
Regional diversity in the EU – how does your region compare?

Is it easier to find a job in your region than in other regions of the **European Union** (EU)? Is the median age of the population higher or lower than elsewhere in the EU? What are the main business activities of your region? How much money is invested in research and innovation? Is your region richer than others? Which region has the highest internet use?

You can find answers to these and many more questions in the 2019 edition of Eurostat's regional yearbook, published by **Eurostat**, **the statistical office of the European Union**. It presents statistics on population, health, education and training, the labour market, the economy, structural business statistics, research and innovation, the digital economy and society, tourism, transport and agriculture. It also includes a chapter on EU cities and a chapter on regional socioeconomic developments. This news release focuses on the median age of the population, the employment rate for recent graduates and a ranking of the most populated cities (including their commuting zones).

The regional yearbook provides an overview of the wide range of regional statistics that are available for 281 regions in the EU at level 2 of NUTS (classification of territorial units for statistics) and, for some indicators, the 1 348 regions at the more detailed level 3. Data are available for all 28 Member States of the EU and, where possible, for statistical regions of the EFTA and candidate countries.

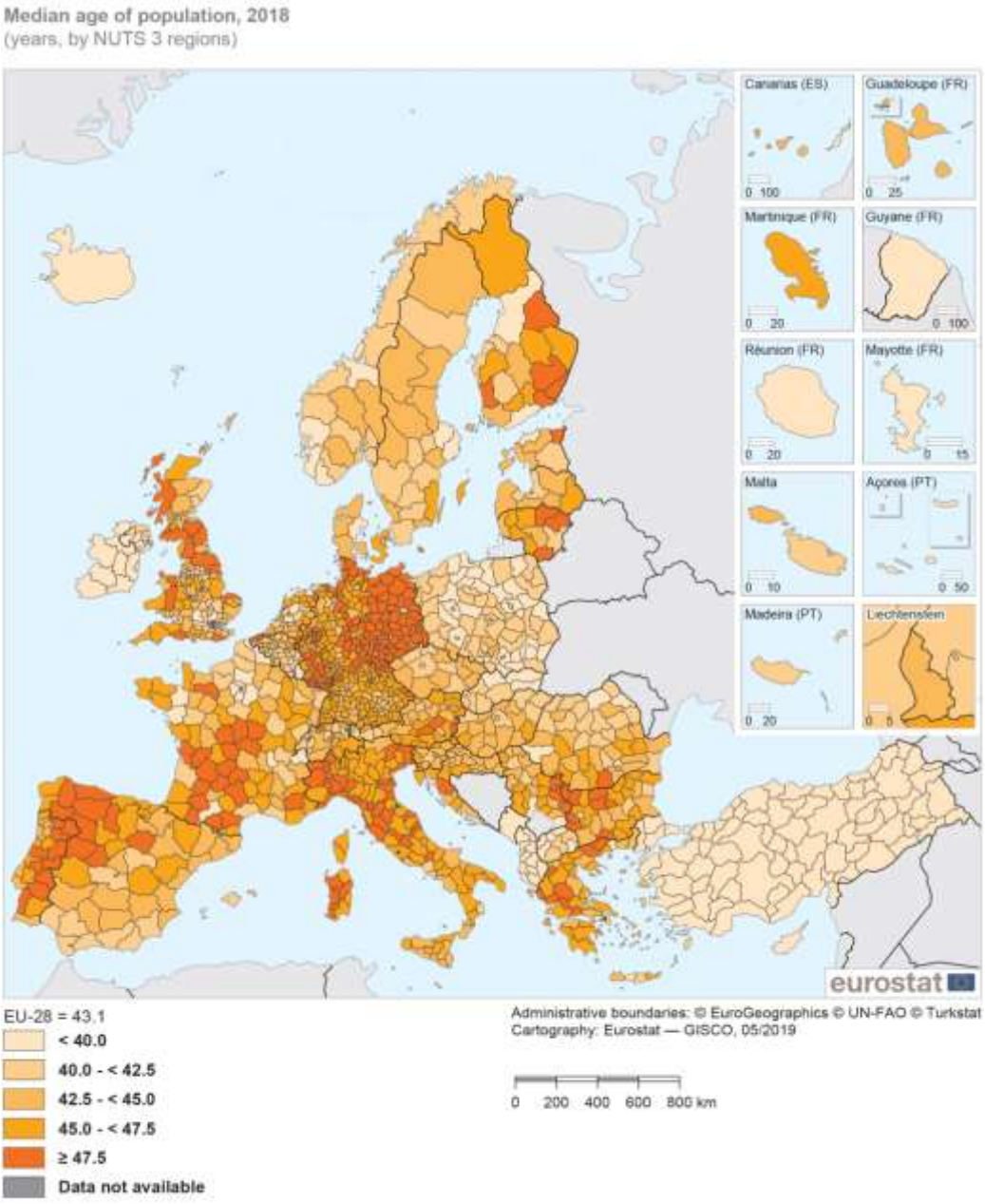
In addition to the regional yearbook, Eurostat offers three interactive applications to help visualise and analyse regional and local data: Regions and cities illustrated, the Statistical atlas, and My region, which also exist as a mobile application.



Median age of the population — highest in Evrytania in Greece, lowest in Mayotte in France

The median age of the EU population reached 43.1 years at the start of 2018. The lowest median ages were recorded in two outermost French regions **Mayotte** (18.1) and **Guyane** (26.1) and in five urban regions in the United Kingdom — **Nottingham** (29.9), **Manchester** (30.0), **Tower Hamlets** (eastern London; 31.2), **Leicester** (31.8) and **Southampton** (32.2) — which have relatively large student populations.

By contrast, the regions with the highest median ages included the central Greek region of **Evrytania** (55.0), the north-western Belgian region of **Arr. Veurne** (53.8) and nine German regions spread across three eastern Länder: **Suhl, Kreisfreie Stadt** (54.3), **Altenburger Land** and **Greiz** (both 53.4) in Thüringen, **Mansfeld-Südharz** (53.3), **Dessau-Roßlau, Kreisfreie Stadt** (53.2) and **Wittenberg** (52.8) in Sachsen-Anhalt and **Spree-Neiße** (53.3), **Prignitz** (53.0) and **Elbe-Elster** (52.8) in Brandenburg.

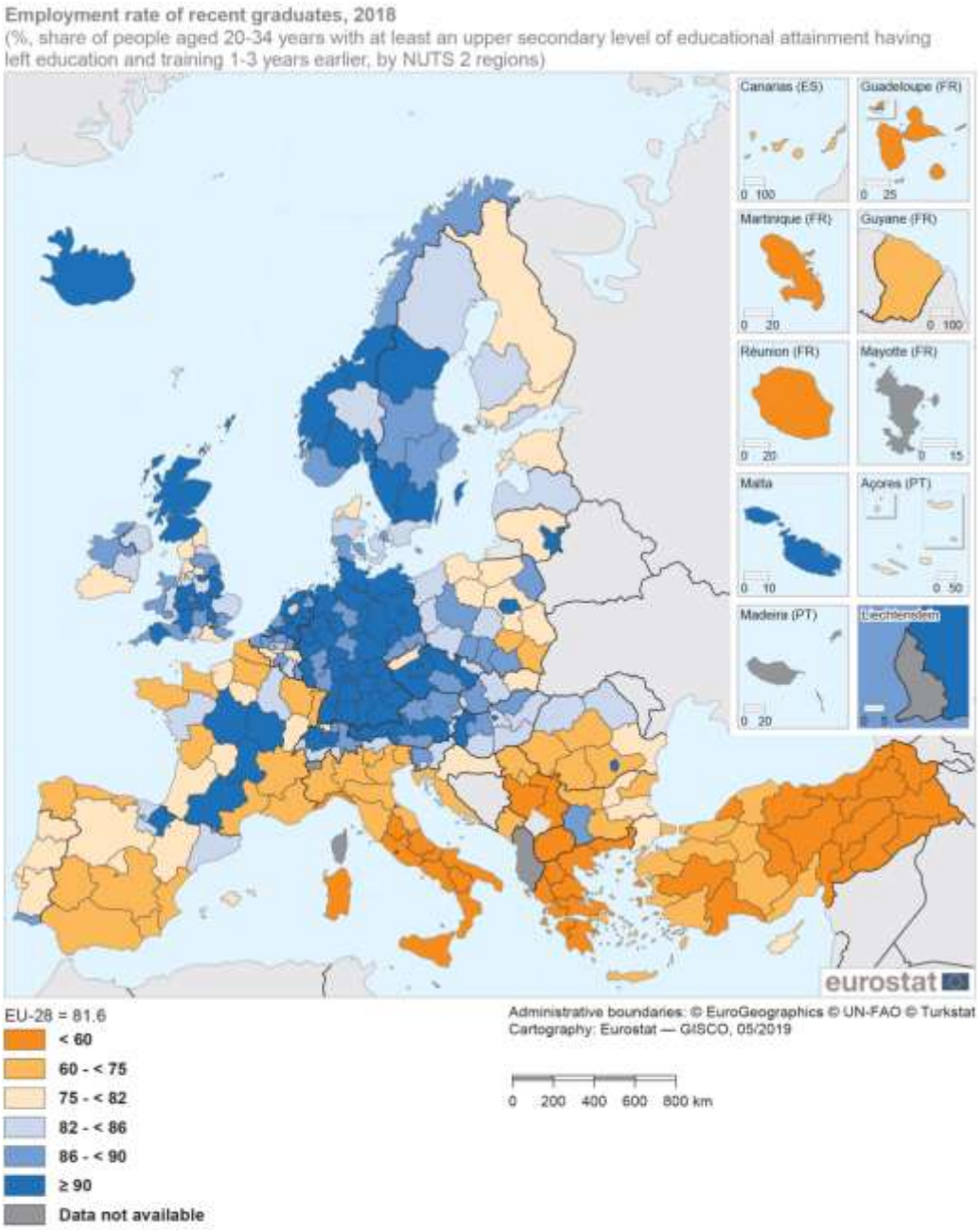


Note: EU-28, provisional.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_r_pjanind3 and demo_pjanind)

The source dataset at NUTS3 level can be found here and at all NUTS levels here.

Employment rate of recent graduates — highest in Niederbayern in Germany, lowest in Sicilia in Italy

There has been a general increase in the employment rate of recent graduates for five consecutive years. The EU-28 average stood at 80.6 % in 2018, which is getting closer to the Europe 2020 policy goal of 82 %.



Note: includes data of low reliability for some regions (too many to document). Scotland (UKM): NUTS level 1. Dytiki Makedonia (EL53), Guyane (FRY3): 2017. Cumbria (UKD1): 2016. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (UKK3): 2015.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_33)

The source dataset can be found here.

In 2018, the employment rate for recent graduates was equal to or above the 82% benchmark in 155 of 269 NUTS level 2 regions for which data are available. Among these, there were 60 NUTS level 2 regions where the employment rate for recent graduates reached 90% or more. They were concentrated across Czechia, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Sweden, with the south-eastern German region of **Niederbayern** (97.6%) and the Czech region of **Jihozápad** (96.9%) recording the highest regional employment rates for recent graduates.

By contrast, four of the five regions in the EU with the lowest employment rate for recent graduates were located in southern Italy — **Sicilia** (27.3%), **Basilicata** (31.6%), **Calabria** (31.6%), **Puglia** (36.9%) — and one in central Greece, **Sterea Ellada** (32.8 %).

Paris, London and Madrid — the most populated urban areas

More than half of the world's population reside in urban areas: cities continue to attract an increasing share of people in search of a job and an improved quality of life. The EU has a diverse mix of cities: at one end of the scale are the global metropolises of **London** and **Paris**, while approximately half of the cities in the EU had a relatively small urban centre of between 50 000 and 100 000 inhabitants. Many of the EU's largest cities (especially capital cities) attract both national and international migrants and their population numbers therefore tend to increase at a faster pace than national averages.

The source dataset can be found here and here.

The largest populations in functional urban areas (cities including their commuting zone) of the EU in 2017 were recorded in **Paris** (France; 12.8 million; 2015 data) and **London** (the United Kingdom; 12.1 million), followed — at some distance — by **Madrid** (Spain; 6.6 million). The next largest concentrations of population — all with 5.1 million inhabitants — were in **Berlin** (Germany), **Milano** (Italy) and the German urban agglomeration of the **Ruhrgebiet** (which includes, among others, Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen and Oberhausen).

Six of the 20 largest functional urban areas were in Germany, four in the United Kingdom, three in Italy and two in Spain. **Budapest** in Hungary was the only functional urban area from the eastern EU Member States among the 20 largest, and there was none from the northern Member States.

Geographical information

These data are based on the **classification of territorial units for statistics** (NUTS) 2016 as set out in the amending Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2066 of 21 November 2016. NUTS 2016 (valid from 1 January 2018) provides a uniform, consistent breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the EU.

Level 2 of the classification has 281 regions: Belgium (11), Bulgaria (6), Czechia (8), Denmark (5), Germany (38), Ireland (3), Greece (13), Spain (19), France (27), Croatia (2), Italy (21), Lithuania (2), Hungary (8), the Netherlands (12), Austria (9), Poland (17), Portugal (7), Romania (8), Slovenia (2), Slovakia (4), Finland (5), Sweden (8) and the United Kingdom (41). Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg and Malta are all considered as single regions at NUTS level 2.

Methods and definitions

Cities (densely populated areas): areas where at least half of the population lives in urban centres (with a population density of at least 1 500 inhabitants per km^2 and a minimum of 50 000 inhabitants).
Functional urban area: a city and its commuting zone.
Recent graduates: young people aged 20-34 years who had successfully completed their education within the previous 1-3 years, obtaining at least an upper-secondary level of educational attainment.
European Policy Cooperation (ET 2020 framework) sets the benchmark indicator concerning the employment rate for recent graduates to at least 82 %.

For more information

Eurostat regional yearbook — 2019 edition, also available as a set of Statistics Explained articles, containing the underlying data.
Regions and cities, overview page on the Eurostat website.
Eurostat Statistical atlas, a data visualisation tool containing an updated set of maps from the Eurostat regional yearbook.
Eurostat Regions and cities illustrated, a data visualisation tool with maps, graphs and an animated timeline.
Eurostat My region, a web application focused on comparing the performance of one region at a time.
Eurostat My region, a mobile phone app based on regional datasets.
European Pillar of Social Rights indicators presented by region (NUTS level 2)

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