

Reconciliation between work and family life

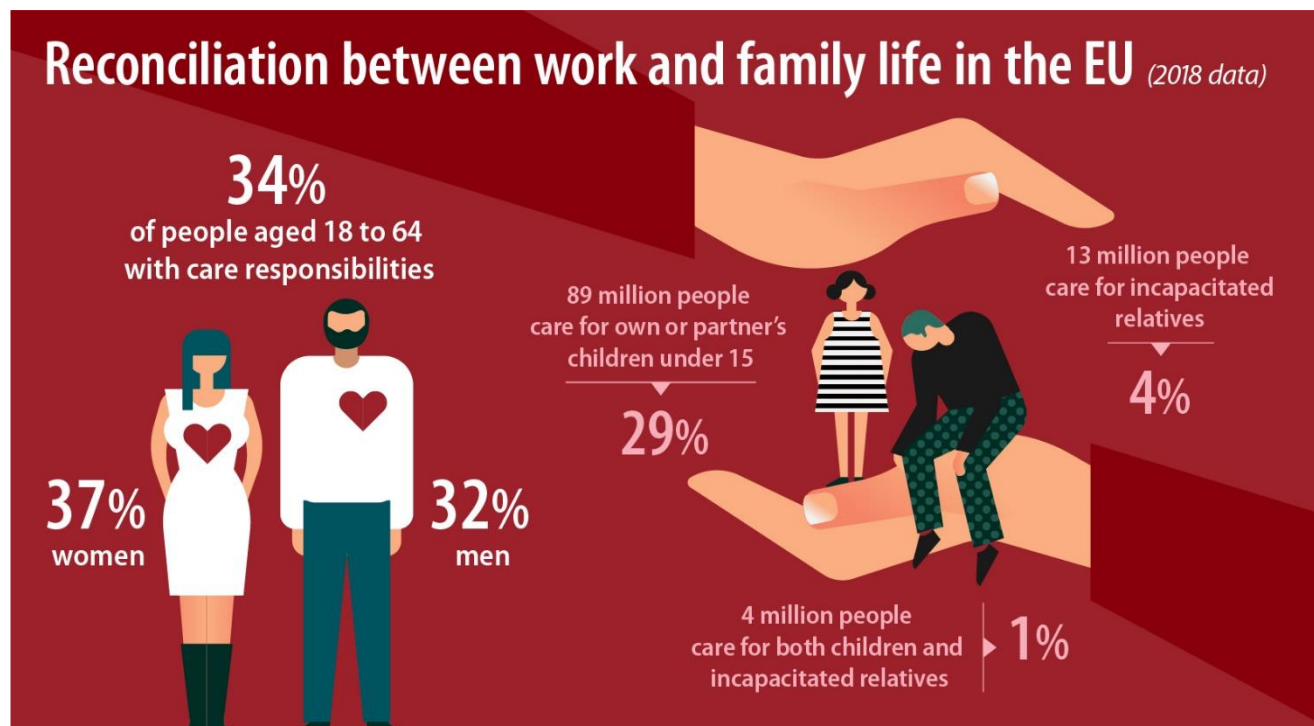
1 in 3 people in the EU reported care responsibilities in 2018

Less than one-third of people with childcare responsibilities used childcare services

In 2018, among the 308 million people aged 18 to 64 in the **European Union (EU)** just over one third (34%), or 106 million people, reported care responsibilities. These responsibilities involved caring for own or partner's children under 15 years of age (89 million people, or 29%), incapacitated relatives (13 million, 4%), or both children and incapacitated relatives (4 million, 1%). Caring for children includes having children in the household or taking care of children outside the household.

More women than men (37% of women compared with 32% of men) reported care responsibilities across all categories of care in 2018: care responsibility for own or partner's children (30% of women compared with 28% of men), for incapacitated relatives (5%; 3%), and both (2%; 1%).

These selected findings, issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, come from a special data collection from the 2018 European Labour Force Survey on reconciliation of work and family life, presented in a [Statistics Explained article](#).



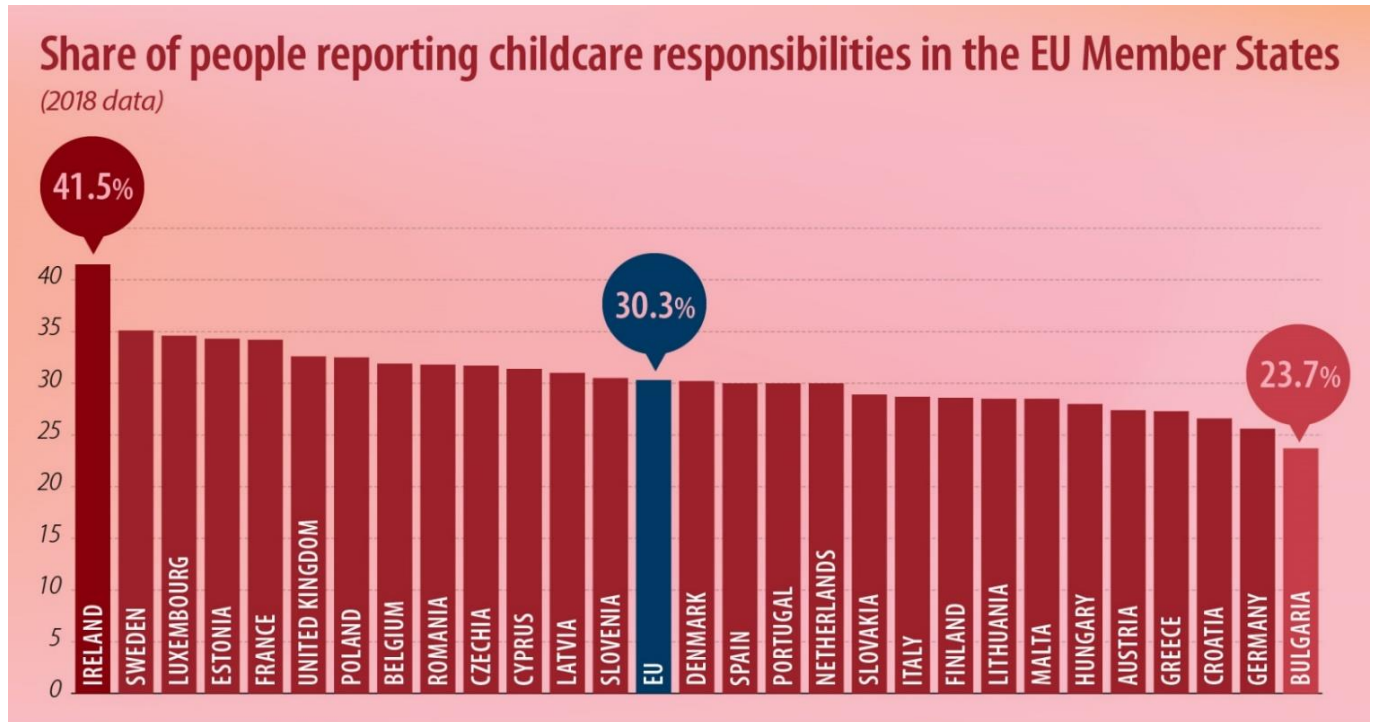
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In the EU, 27% of the employed persons aged 18 to 64 with childcare responsibilities adapted their work to facilitate childcare in 2018. Women were more affected than men with over twice the share of women reporting effects of childcare on their employment (39%) compared with men (17%).

Additionally at EU level in 2018, 28% of people with childcare responsibilities reported using childcare services for all children, with a higher share reported by the employed (31%) compared with the unemployed (19%) and inactive (14%). Correspondingly, 72% of people with childcare responsibilities reported not using childcare services for all or some of their children.

Highest share of childcare responsibilities reported in Ireland, lowest in Bulgaria

In 2018, **Ireland** recorded the highest share of people reporting childcare responsibilities, combined or not with care for incapacitated relatives (42% of total population aged 18 to 64), ahead of **Sweden** and **Luxembourg** (both 35%), **Estonia** and **France** (both 34%). In contrast, the lowest shares were recorded in **Bulgaria** (24%), followed by **Germany** (26%), **Croatia**, **Greece** and **Austria** (all 27%).

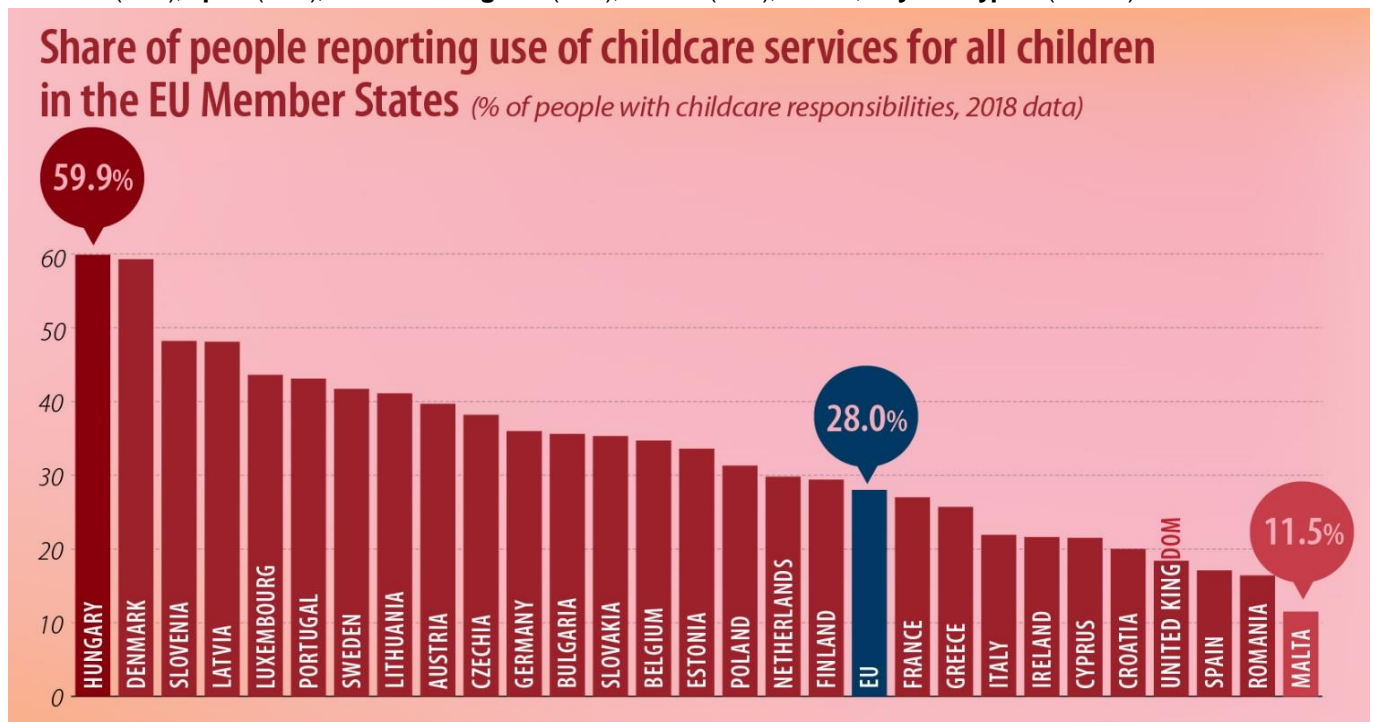


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Less than third of those with childcare responsibilities used childcare services

In two EU Member States, Hungary (60%) and Denmark (59%), more than half of the population with childcare responsibilities used childcare services for all children in 2018. They were followed by **Latvia** and **Slovenia** (both 48%), **Luxembourg** (44%) and **Portugal** (43%), **Sweden** (42%) and **Lithuania** (41%).

In contrast, a quarter or less of the population with childcare responsibilities used childcare services for all children in **Malta** (12%), **Romania** (16%), **Spain** (17%), the **United Kingdom** (18%), **Croatia** (20%), **Ireland**, **Italy** and **Cyprus** (all 22%).



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Own arrangements as main reason for not using childcare services in majority of the EU Member States

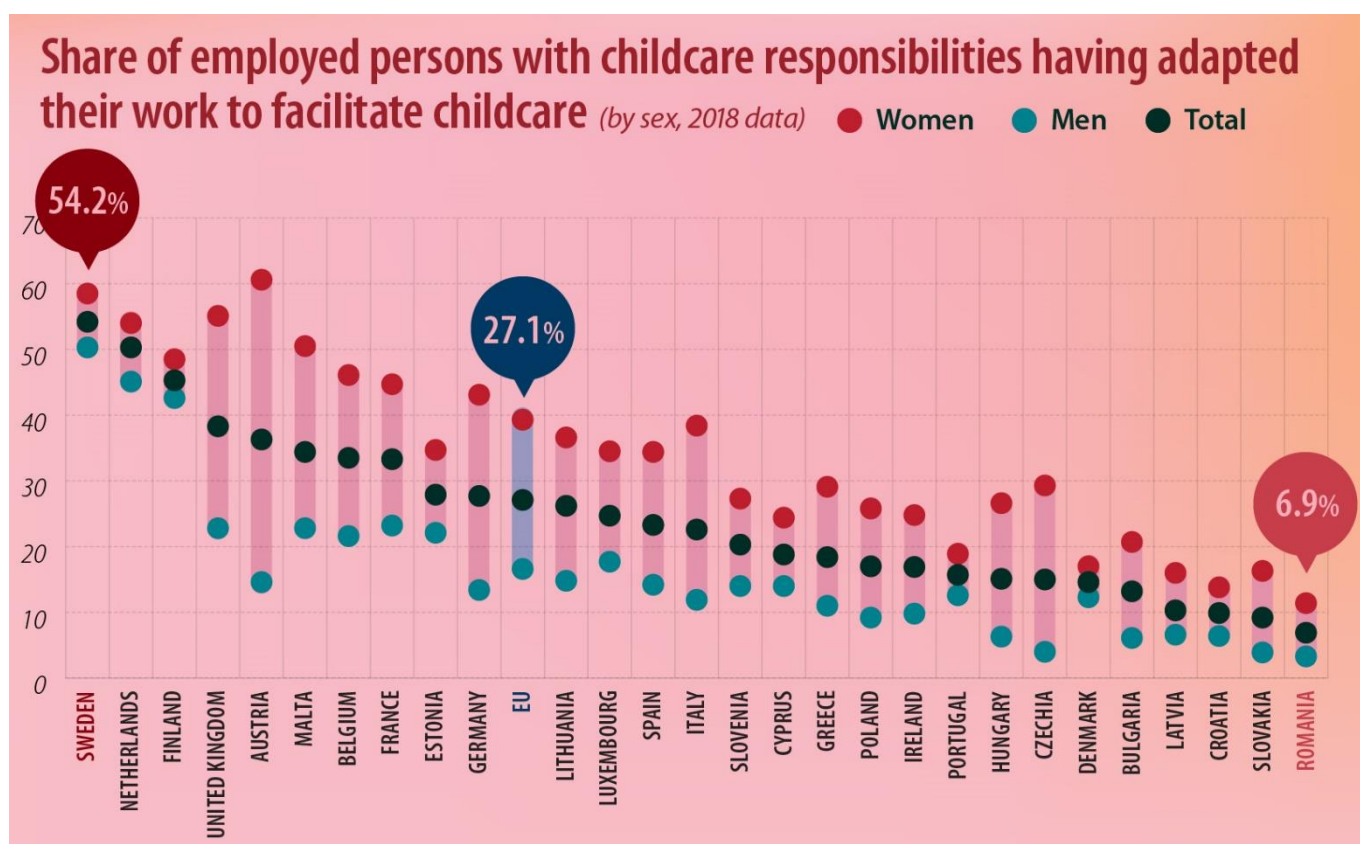
At EU level, the most frequently reported reasons for not using childcare services were “own arrangements or arrangements with partner” (47% of those who reported not using childcare services), “children take care of themselves” (18%) and “informal support” (15%).

In twenty-two EU Member States, “having own arrangements or arrangements with partner” was the most frequently reported reason for not using childcare services, with the highest shares in **Latvia** (74%), **Austria** and **Slovakia** (both 65%), and **Hungary** (64%). In the remaining six EU Member States, “children take care of themselves” was the most frequently reported reason: **Finland** (63%), **Denmark** (55%), **Estonia** and **Sweden** (both 52%), **Slovenia** (46%) and **Luxembourg** (28%).

Almost a third of the employed people adapted their work to facilitate childcare

In the EU, 27% of employed people with childcare responsibilities adapted their work to facilitate childcare in 2018. These changes included “reduction of working time” (10% of employed people with childcare responsibilities), “change of job or employer” or “family leave” (3% each), “any change to increase income” (2%), “less demanding tasks in job” (1%) or other changes (10%).

Across the EU Member States, the share of employed persons having adapted their work to facilitate childcare responsibilities varied considerably; ranging from 7% in **Romania**, 9% in **Slovakia** and 10% in **Croatia** to 50% in the **Netherlands** and 54% in **Sweden**.



Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, 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.

Methods and definitions

The European Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a large sample survey among private households in Europe and an important source for European statistics about the situation and trends in the EU labour market. The topic of the 2018 ad hoc module was reconciliation between work and family life. The module on care responsibilities considers all existing care responsibilities for own and spouse's or partner's children up to 14 years of age and other incapacitated relatives from the age of 15. The European Labour Force Survey (LFS) samples from the usual resident population. This means that newly arrived migrants and migrants who stay less than one year are normally not captured by the survey.

Population with childcare responsibilities includes those with care responsibilities for own or partner's children up to 14 years of age, combined or not with care for incapacitated relatives. People having own or partner's children living in their household are automatically considered as having childcare responsibilities.

Childcare services comprise all forms of care organised by private or public structures like the so called center based pre-schools, nursery schools (which normally are assigned to ISCED level 0), day care centres, crèches or after school centres. Also included is organised family care or care by professional childminders arranged with an intermediate service or directly employed by the family. The care can take place in the household, at the carer's home or at a facility. Organised services are included irrespective of direct payments by the parents (could e. g. be subsidised by the state or the employer). Childminders that are engaged directly by the parents have to be paid to be seen as a professional service. Professional means that the childminder is undertaking his/her job as a real profession (with an own registered business) not as side-activity that provides some extra money.

For more information

Eurostat database on the 2018 LFS ad hoc module on reconciliation between work and family life

Eurostat Statistics Explained article on reconciliation of work and family life in 2018

Eurostat quality report on the 2018 LFS ad hoc module on reconciliation between work and family life

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Population aged 18 to 64 by care responsibilities, 2018

(absolute numbers, percentage of population aged 18 to 64)

	Total	No care responsibilities		With care responsibilities							
				Total		For own or partner's children		For incapacitated relatives		For own or partner's children and incapacitated relatives	
				in 1 000	%	in 1 000	%	in 1 000	%	in 1 000	%
EU	308 275	202 312	65.6%	105 963	34.4%	89 088	28.9%	12 656	4.1%	4 219	1.4%
Belgium	6 906	4 500	65.2%	2 406	34.8%	2 067	29.9%	206	3.0%	133	1.9%
Bulgaria	4 306	3 099	72.0%	1 207	28.0%	980	22.8%	184	4.3%	43	1.0%
Czechia	6 588	4 318	65.5%	2 270	34.5%	2 044	31.0%	182	2.8%	44	0.7%
Denmark	3 484	2 407	69.1%	1 076	30.9%	1 027	29.5%	24	0.7%	25	0.7%
Germany	48 668	35 211	72.4%	13 456	27.6%	12 055	24.8%	1 021	2.1%	380	0.8%
Estonia	806	486	60.3%	320	39.7%	259	32.2%	43	5.4%	18	2.2%
Ireland	2 683	1 480	55.2%	1 203	44.8%	1 051	39.2%	89	3.3%	63	2.4%
Greece	6 293	4 075	64.7%	2 219	35.3%	1 586	25.2%	501	8.0%	132	2.1%
Spain	29 254	18 972	64.9%	10 283	35.1%	8 268	28.3%	1 495	5.1%	520	1.8%
France	38 449	23 758	61.8%	14 692	38.2%	12 659	32.9%	1 545	4.0%	488	1.3%
Croatia	2 561	1 712	66.9%	848	33.1%	634	24.8%	167	6.5%	47	1.9%
Italy	36 863	24 117	65.4%	12 746	34.6%	9 919	26.9%	2 182	5.9%	646	1.8%
Cyprus	534	345	64.7%	189	35.3%	163	30.5%	21	4.0%	5	0.9%
Latvia	1 161	745	64.1%	415	35.9%	342	29.4%	56	4.8%	18	1.5%
Lithuania	1 751	1 194	68.2%	557	31.8%	488	27.9%	58	3.3%	11	0.6%
Luxembourg	367	226	61.5%	141	38.5%	119	32.4%	14	3.9%	8	2.2%
Hungary	6 086	4 154	68.3%	1 932	31.7%	1 655	27.2%	228	3.7%	49	0.8%
Malta	311	212	68.0%	100	32.0%	82	26.4%	11	3.5%	6	2.1%
Netherlands	10 449	6 514	62.3%	3 934	37.7%	2 892	27.7%	803	7.7%	239	2.3%
Austria	5 550	3 822	68.9%	1 728	31.1%	1 482	26.7%	208	3.7%	39	0.7%
Poland	22 969	14 395	62.7%	8 574	37.3%	7 048	30.7%	1 117	4.9%	409	1.8%
Portugal	6 174	4 034	65.3%	2 140	34.7%	1 765	28.6%	288	4.7%	88	1.4%
Romania	12 340	8 194	66.4%	4 145	33.6%	3 818	30.9%	219	1.8%	107	0.9%
Slovenia	1 299	865	66.6%	434	33.4%	388	29.8%	38	2.9%	9*	0.7%
Slovakia	3 576	2 419	67.6%	1 157	32.4%	1 001	28.0%	123	3.4%	33	0.9%
Finland	3 238	2 219	68.5%	1 019	31.5%	901	27.8%	94	2.9%	24	0.8%
Sweden	5 991	3 721	62.1%	2 270	37.9%	2 057	34.3%	166	2.8%	47	0.8%
United Kingdom	39 623	25 120	63.4%	14 503	36.6%	12 340	31.1%	1 575	4.0%	588	1.5%
Iceland	210	104	49.5%	106	50.5%	77	36.7%	19	8.9%	10	4.9%
Norway	3 254	2 062	63.4%	1 192	36.6%	1 071	32.9%	86	2.6%	35	1.1%
Switzerland	5 359	3 459	64.5%	1 900	35.5%	1 424	26.6%	352	6.6%	125	2.3%
Turkey	49 819	28 451	57.1%	21 368	42.9%	19 065	38.3%	1 304	2.6%	999	2.0%

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

* Low reliability data due to low frequency of occurrence

Percentages exclude non-response

Population aged 18 to 64 with childcare responsibilities by use of childcare services, 2018

	Total	Reported using childcare services for all children		Reported not using childcare services or only using for some children		Of which:					
						Arranged alone or with partner		Children take care of themselves		Informal support	
						in 1 000	%	in 1 000	%	in 1 000	%
EU	92 315	25 859	28.0%	66 456	72.0%	30 632	47.0%	11 780	18.1%	9 725	14.9%
Belgium	2 200	762	34.7%	1 437	65.3%	740	51.5%	284	19.8%	270	18.8%
Bulgaria	1 022	364	35.6%	658	64.4%	269	40.9%	139	21.1%	107	16.3%
Czechia	2 089	798	38.2%	1 290	61.8%	736	57.1%	329	25.5%	96	7.5%
Denmark	1 053	624	59.3%	429	40.7%	69	16.0%	234	54.6%	18	4.1%
Germany	11 602	4 180	36.0%	7 423	64.0%	2 489	39.5%	1 249	19.8%	426	6.8%
Estonia	277	93	33.6%	184	66.4%	48	26.3%	96	52.0%	12	6.6%
Ireland	1 111	239	21.6%	872	78.4%	376	43.2%	165	18.9%	93	10.6%
Greece	1 646	423	25.7%	1 223	74.3%	596	49.2%	191	15.8%	222	18.4%
Spain	8 779	1 498	17.1%	7 281	82.9%	3 606	49.7%	787	10.9%	1 445	19.9%
France	13 132	3 545	27.0%	9 586	73.0%	4 151	43.3%	2 773	28.9%	1 154	12.0%
Croatia	682	136	20.0%	545	80.0%	210	38.5%	160	29.4%	84	15.4%
Italy	10 542	2 310	21.9%	8 232	78.1%	3 838	46.7%	1 061	12.9%	2 067	25.2%
Cyprus	167	36	21.5%	132	78.5%	63	47.9%	22	16.5%	37	28.3%
Latvia	356	171	48.1%	185	51.9%	137	74.0%	18	9.9%	8	4.1%
Lithuania	499	205	41.1%	294	58.9%	157	53.2%	50	17.1%	38	12.8%
Luxembourg	127	55	43.6%	71	56.4%	17	24.1%	20	28.3%	4	6.0%
Hungary	1 704	1 020	59.9%	684	40.1%	436	63.7%	129	18.9%	31	4.5%
Malta	89	10	11.5%	78	88.5%	47	60.2%	10	12.8%	9	11.6%
Netherlands	3 128	933	29.8%	2 196	70.2%	1 005	46.0%	411	18.8%	281	12.8%
Austria	1 521	603	39.7%	917	60.3%	593	64.7%	89	9.7%	73	8.0%
Poland	7 457	2 334	31.3%	5 123	68.7%	2 819	55.0%	865	16.9%	766	15.0%
Portugal	1 849	798	43.1%	1 051	56.9%	407	38.7%	138	13.1%	297	28.3%
Romania	3 925	646	16.4%	3 280	83.6%	1 729	52.7%	371	11.3%	584	17.8%
Slovenia	383	185	48.2%	199	51.8%	56	28.3%	91	45.7%	24	11.8%
Slovakia	1 034	365	35.3%	670	64.8%	437	65.2%	115	17.2%	55	8.2%
Finland	924	272	29.4%	653	70.6%	182	28.0%	408	62.9%	22	3.3%
Sweden	2 103	878	41.7%	1 225	58.3%	336	27.6%	632	52.0%	24	2.0%
United Kingdom	12 916	2 376	18.4%	10 540	81.6%	5 083	48.3%	943	9.0%	1 480	14.1%
Iceland	86	28	31.9%	59	68.1%	10	17.0%	42	71.1%	:	:
Norway	1 103	554	50.2%	549	49.8%	77	14.3%	319	58.9%	18	3.3%
Switzerland	1 538	432	28.1%	1 106	71.9%	478	44.1%	127	11.7%	160	14.8%
Turkey	20 064	1 176	5.9%	18 888	94.1%	12 510	66.2%	1 714	9.1%	1 045	5.5%

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

: Data not available because of very low reliability

Percentages exclude non-response / Totals may differ due to rounding