

64/2020 - 21 April 2020

Europe 2020 employment indicators

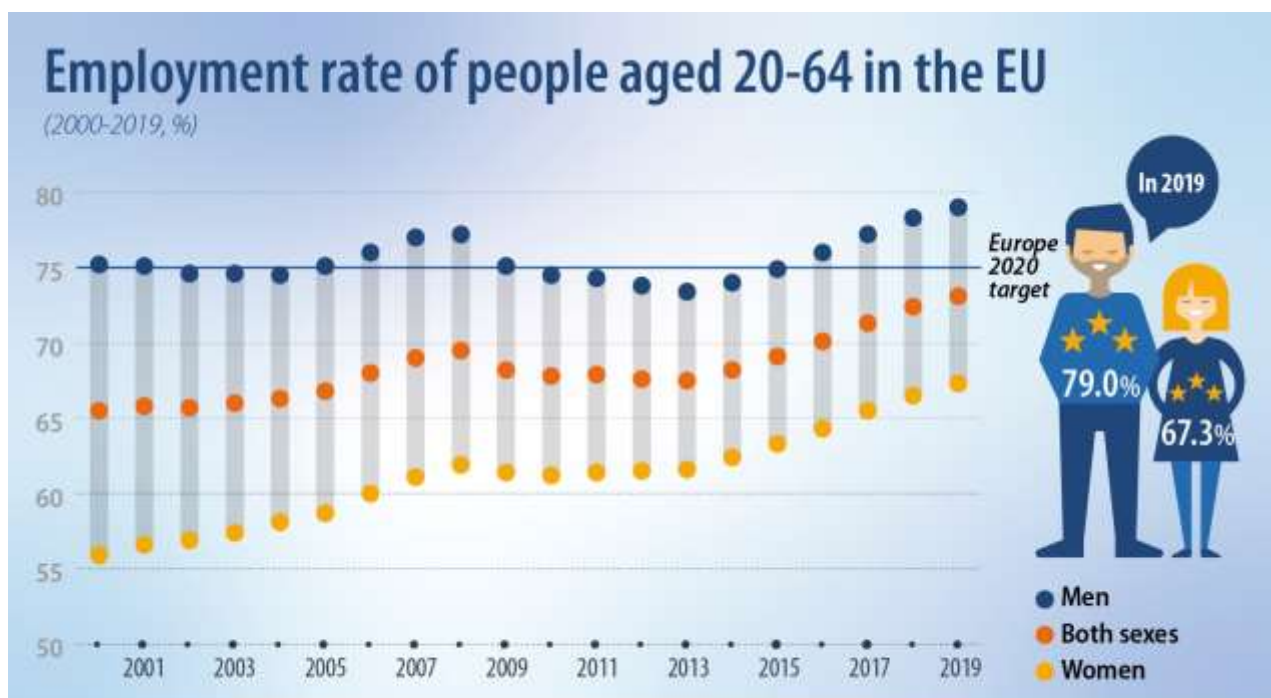
Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU reached a peak at 73.1% in 2019

17 Member States achieved their 2020 targets

In 2019, the year before COVID-19 containment measures were widely introduced by EU Member States, the employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union of 27 Member States** (EU) stood at 73.1%, up compared with 2018 (72.4%). 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 different national targets in order to reflect the situation and possibilities of each Member State to contribute to the common goal.

An upward trend in the employment rate is visible both for men and women in the period up to 2019. The employment rate for men hit 79.0% in 2019, having increased steadily since 2013. As for women, their employment rate continuously rose since 2010 to reach 67.3% in 2019. Similarly, the employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** grew steadily, from 35.0% in 2000 to 59.1% in 2019. The greater participation of older workers is also one of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment.

This information comes from the 2019 results of the European Labour Force Survey. Further details are available in an [article](#) issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. 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.

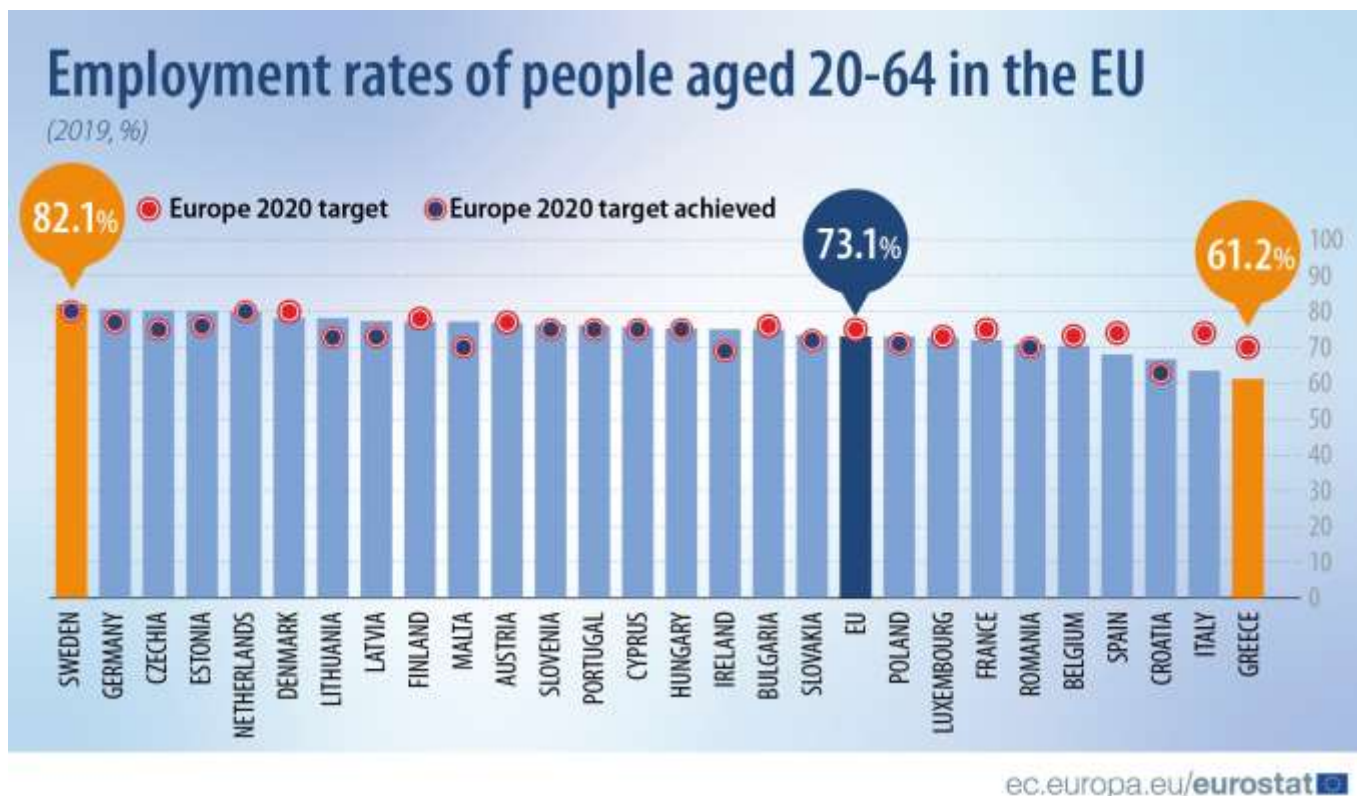


17 Member States achieved their Europe 2020 employment target

Compared with 2018, the employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 increased in 2019 in all Member States with the exception of **Sweden**, where it fell slightly (-0.3 percentage points, pp), though remaining on a very high level. It grew most strongly in **Bulgaria** (+2.6 pp), **Cyprus** (+1.8 pp), **Greece** and **Malta** (both +1.7 pp) and **Croatia** (+ 1.5 pp).

The highest employment rates were recorded in **Sweden** (82.1%), **Germany** (80.6%), **Czechia** (80.3%), **Estonia** (80.2%) and the **Netherlands** (80.1%). These five countries also exceeded their national targets for this indicator, as was the case for **Ireland**, **Croatia**, **Cyprus**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Hungary**, **Malta**, **Poland**, **Portugal**, **Romania**, **Slovenia** and **Slovakia**.

On the other hand, the lowest employment rate was observed in **Greece** (61.2%), although it grew over the year (+1.7 pp), followed by **Italy** (63.5%, +0.5 pp), **Croatia** (66.7%, +1.5 pp) as well as **Spain** (68.0%, +1.0 pp).



Narrowest gender employment gap in Lithuania, widest in Greece and Malta

Employment rates of men and women, however, varied considerably in many Member States in 2019.

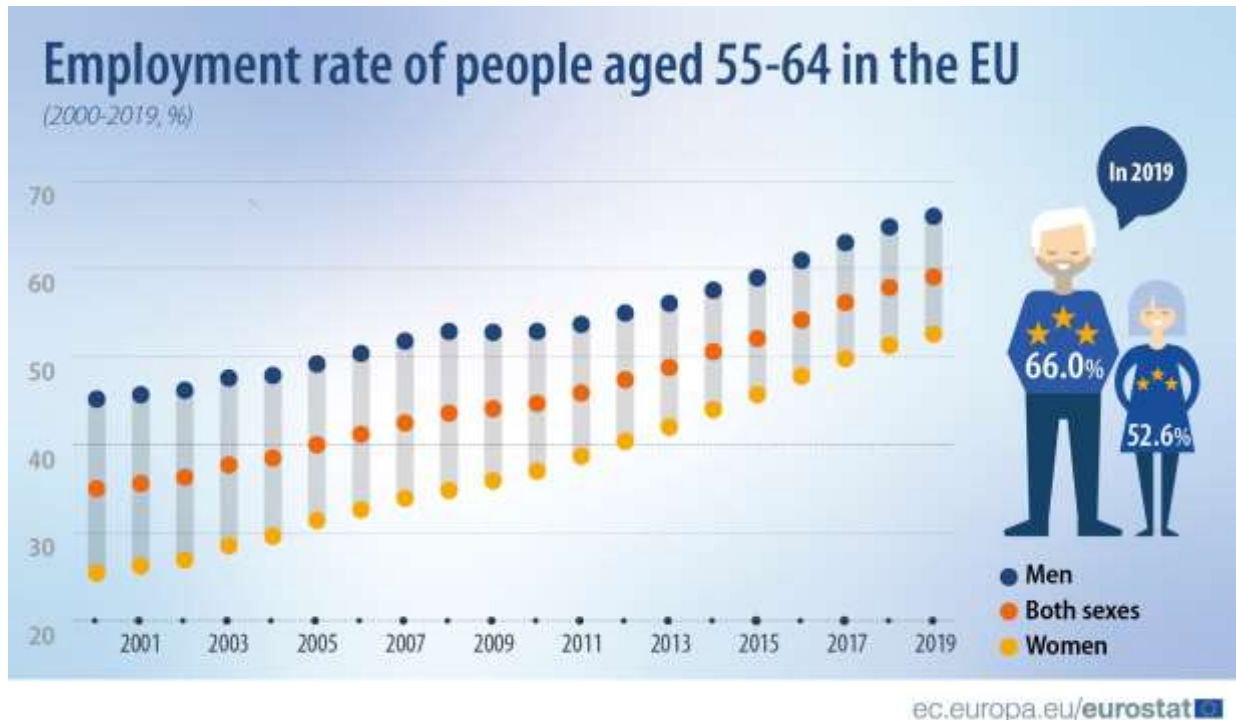
The difference between the employment rate of women and men aged 20 to 64 was lowest in **Lithuania** (77.4% for women vs. 79.0% for men, or -1.6 pp), **Finland** (-2.7 pp), **Latvia** (-3.8 pp) and **Sweden** (-4.7 pp).

At the opposite end of the scale, the largest difference between the employment rate of women and men was observed in **Greece** and **Malta** (both -20.0 pp). Big gaps were also recorded in **Italy** (-19.6 pp) and **Romania** (-19.0 pp).

At **EU** level, the difference between the employment rate of women aged 20 to 64 (67.3%) and that of men aged 20 to 64 (79.0%) was -11.7 pp in 2019.

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

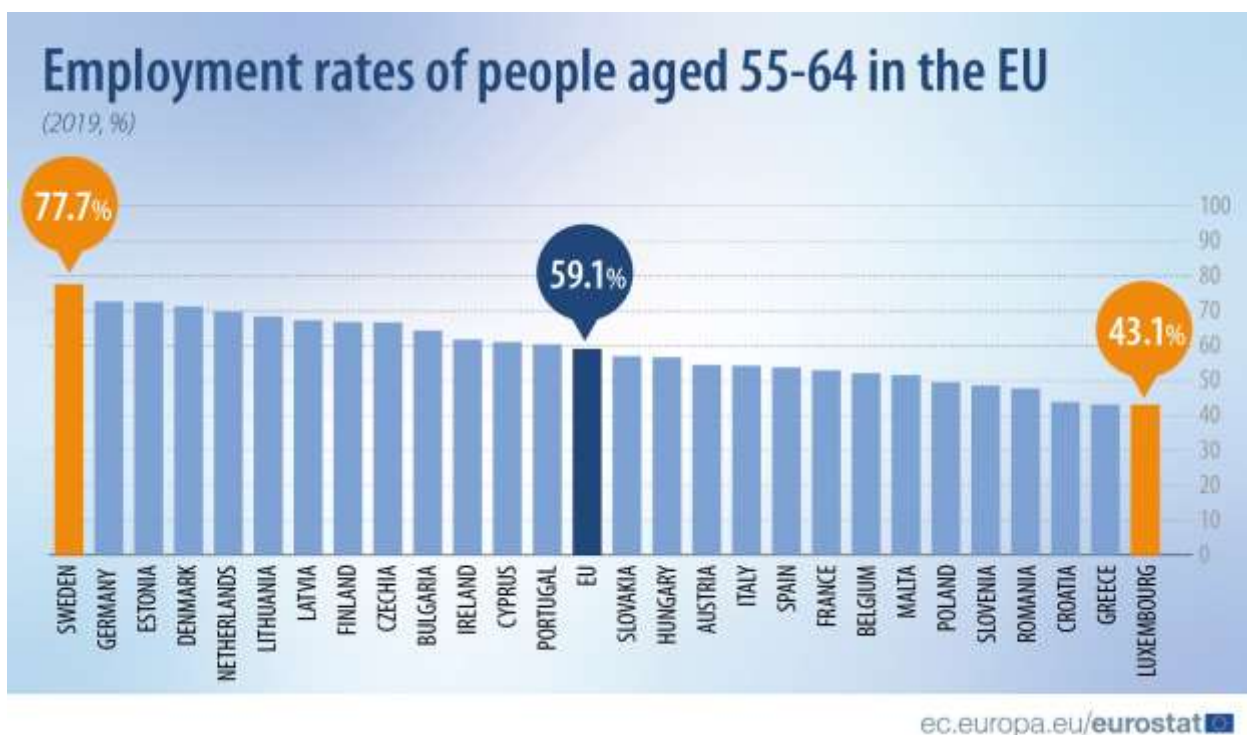
From 35.0% in 2000, the employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** grew steadily to reach 59.1% in 2019. The growth was stronger for women (from 25.4% in 2000 to 52.6% in 2019) than for men (45.2% in 2000 vs. 66.0% in 2019). As a consequence, the gap between the employment rate of women and men aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** has been reduced, from a -19.8 pp difference in 2000 to a -13.4 pp difference in 2019.



Source dataset: [lfsi_emp_a](#)

Over 70% of people aged 55 to 64 have a job in Sweden, Germany, Estonia and Denmark

In 2019, over half of the population aged 55 to 64 were in employment in twenty-one EU Member States. The highest employment rate for this age group was observed in **Sweden** (77.7%), ahead of **Germany** (72.7%), **Estonia** (72.5%) and **Denmark** (71.3%). On the other hand, the lowest employment rates were registered in **Luxembourg** (43.1%), **Greece** (43.2%) and **Croatia** (43.9%). Compared with 2018, the employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 increased in 2019 in all EU Member States with the exception of Sweden.



Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU27) 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 and Sweden.

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

The United Kingdom left the European Union on 31 January 2020. Information on dissemination of European statistics from 1 February 2020 is published on the [Eurostat website](#).

In this news release, data are also available for the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

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. Employed persons are all persons who worked at least one hour for pay or profit during the reference week or were temporarily absent from such work.

Timetable

A news release on Europe 2020 education indicators is planned for 22 April 2020.

A news release on regional unemployment in 2019 is planned for 24 April 2020.

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

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 (%)

	2018			2019			Europe 2020 targets (Total)
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
EU27*	72.4	78.3	66.5	73.1	79.0	67.3	75.0
EU28	73.2	79.0	67.4	73.9	79.6	68.2	75.0
Belgium	69.7	73.9	65.5	70.5	74.5	66.5	73.2
Bulgaria	72.4	76.5	68.3	75.0	79.3	70.7	76.0
Czechia	79.9	87.4	72.2	80.3	87.7	72.7	75.0
Denmark	77.5	80.9	73.9	78.3	81.9	74.7	80.0
Germany	79.9	83.9	75.8	80.6	84.6	76.6	77.0
Estonia	79.5	83.4	75.6	80.2	84.0	76.3	76.0
Ireland	74.1	80.3	68.1	75.1	81.4	69.0	69.0
Greece	59.5	70.1	49.1	61.2	71.3	51.3	70.0
Spain	67.0	73.1	61.0	68.0	74.0	62.1	74.0
France	71.8	75.7	68.1	72.1	75.6	68.6	75.0
Croatia	65.2	70.3	60.1	66.7	72.0	61.5	62.9
Italy	63.0	72.9	53.1	63.5	73.4	53.8	67.0
Cyprus	73.9	79.3	68.9	75.7	81.7	70.1	75.0
Latvia	76.8	79.0	74.8	77.4	79.3	75.5	73.0
Lithuania	77.8	79.0	76.7	78.2	79.0	77.4	72.8
Luxembourg	72.1	76.0	68.0	72.8	77.2	68.1	73.0
Hungary	74.4	82.1	66.8	75.3	83.1	67.6	75.0
Malta	75.5	86.0	64.1	77.2	86.7	66.7	70.0
Netherlands	79.2	84.3	74.2	80.1	84.8	75.5	80.0
Austria	76.2	80.7	71.7	76.8	81.2	72.4	77.0
Poland	72.2	79.4	65.0	73.0	80.7	65.3	71.0
Portugal	75.4	78.9	72.1	76.1	79.9	72.7	75.0
Romania	69.9	78.9	60.6	70.9	80.3	61.3	70.0
Slovenia	75.4	79.0	71.7	76.4	79.7	72.9	75.0
Slovakia	72.4	79.2	65.5	73.4	79.9	66.9	72.0
Finland	76.3	78.2	74.5	77.2	78.5	75.8	78.0
Sweden	82.4	84.4	80.2	82.1	84.4	79.7	80.0
United Kingdom	78.7	83.7	73.8	79.3	84.0	74.6	-
Iceland	86.5	89.5	83.2	85.9	88.6	83.0	-
Norway	79.2	81.7	76.5	79.5	82.0	76.8	-
Switzerland	82.5	87.0	77.9	82.9	87.3	78.6	-
Montenegro	59.8	66.7	52.9	60.8	67.5	54.2	-
North Macedonia	56.1	66.6	45.2	59.2	69.7	48.4	-
Serbia	63.1	70.5	55.8	65.2	72.1	58.2	-
Turkey	55.6	76.0	35.2	53.8	73.2	34.4	-

- No national target or not applicable

* EU27 represents the European Union of 27 Member States after 1 February 2020.

Source dataset: [lfsi_emp_a](#)

Employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 (%)

	2018			2019		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
EU27*	57.9	64.8	51.3	59.1	66.0	52.6
EU28	58.7	65.4	52.4	60.0	66.6	53.7
Belgium	50.3	55.1	45.6	52.1	57.3	47.0
Bulgaria	60.7	65.4	56.4	64.4	69.2	59.9
Czechia	65.1	74.0	56.6	66.7	74.7	58.9
Denmark	69.2	73.8	64.6	71.3	75.8	66.9
Germany	71.4	76.1	66.9	72.7	77.1	68.4
Estonia	68.9	65.9	71.5	72.5	69.6	74.9
Ireland	60.4	68.6	52.3	61.8	69.9	53.9
Greece	41.1	53.3	30.0	43.2	56.1	31.6
Spain	52.2	59.7	44.9	53.8	61.1	46.9
France	52.4	54.3	50.6	53.2	55.4	51.1
Croatia	42.8	51.0	35.2	43.9	52.6	35.9
Italy	53.7	64.2	43.9	54.3	64.6	44.6
Cyprus	60.9	70.3	51.9	61.1	72.0	50.7
Latvia	65.4	66.3	64.7	67.3	67.6	67.1
Lithuania	68.5	70.5	66.9	68.4	69.4	67.5
Luxembourg	40.5	45.5	35.2	43.1	48.9	37.1
Hungary	54.4	65.5	44.9	56.7	69.0	46.2
Malta	50.2	67.3	32.8	51.6	66.8	35.9
Netherlands	67.7	76.6	58.8	69.7	78.3	61.2
Austria	54.0	63.5	44.8	54.5	63.1	46.0
Poland	48.9	59.8	39.1	49.5	61.0	39.2
Portugal	59.2	64.5	54.6	60.4	66.5	55.1
Romania	46.3	57.9	35.7	47.8	60.1	36.5
Slovenia	47.0	52.2	41.9	48.6	53.2	44.0
Slovakia	54.2	58.4	50.4	57.0	60.3	53.9
Finland	65.4	64.3	66.5	66.8	64.8	68.6
Sweden	78.0	80.4	75.7	77.7	79.8	75.6
United Kingdom	65.3	70.3	60.6	66.3	70.9	61.9
Iceland	80.7	86.0	75.4	81.2	86.9	75.4
Norway	72.0	76.1	67.9	72.8	76.8	68.7
Switzerland	72.6	79.1	66.1	73.0	79.4	66.6
Montenegro	46.6	55.8	37.9	50.1	59.8	40.9
North Macedonia	42.7	56.8	28.8	45.1	60.1	30.3
Serbia	46.5	57.2	36.7	50.2	60.8	40.5
Turkey	35.3	51.3	19.7	33.6	48.8	18.8

* EU27 represents the European Union of 27 Member States after 1 February 2020

Source dataset: [lfsi_emp_a](#)