

A new Eurostat publication

A statistical portrait of the European Union compared with G20 countries

The EU in the world – 2020 edition

Today **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union**, publishes the latest edition of the publication “**The EU in the world**”, which provides a portrait of the **European Union (EU)**, considered as a single entity, in comparison with the 16 non-EU Group of Twenty countries (G20).

The G20 brings together the world major advanced and emerging economies. It includes the EU, three EU Member States (Germany, France and Italy) and 16 countries from the rest of the world (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States).

The publication includes 14 chapters and covers three general topics: **people and society** (population, health, education and training, labour market, living conditions and digital society), **economy and business** (economy and finance, international trade, business, research and development), and **environment and natural resources** (transport, energy, environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries).

The publication compares the EU to the 16 non-EU G20 countries, using a range of European and international statistics. For many indicators, the total for the world is also included. This news release presents a small selection of the wide range of indicators included in the publication.

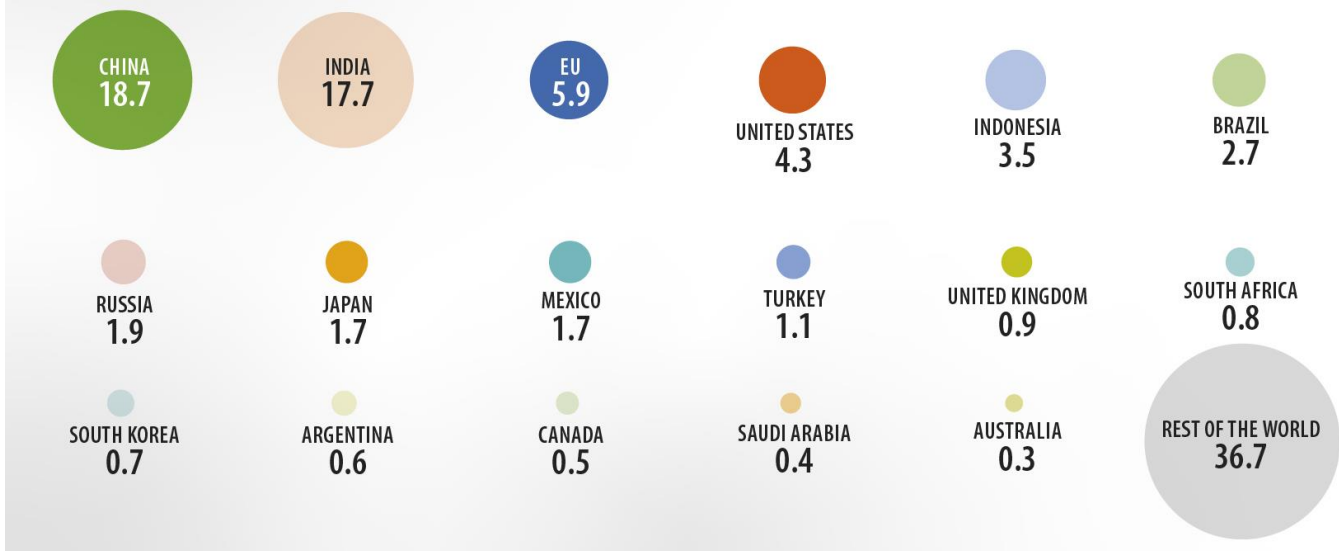
6% of the world population live in the EU

The **EU** had 450 million inhabitants in 2018, the third highest number among G20 countries, accounting for 5.9% of the world population (7.6 billion inhabitants). **China** (over 1.4 bn inhabitants or 18.7% of the world population) and **India** (almost 1.4 bn or 17.7%) were the most populous countries in the world, while the **United States** (327 million or 4.3%), **Indonesia** (268 million or 3.5%) and **Brazil** (209 million or 2.7%) accounted for a lower share of the world population than the EU. Together, the G20 members accounted for 63.3% of world population.

The average number of births per woman in the **EU** stood at 1.56 in 2017. It was the fourth lowest rate among G20 members surpassing only **Canada** (1.50), **Japan** (1.43) and **South Korea** (1.05). The highest fertility rates were registered in **South Africa** (2.43 live births per woman, which is also the world average), **Saudi Arabia** (2.37), **Indonesia** (2.34), **Argentina** (2.28), **India** (2.24) and **Mexico** (2.16).

Three quarters (75%) of the **EU** population lived in an urban area in 2018; this share was considerably above the world average of 55%. Nevertheless, in 11 of the non-EU G20 members, the share of inhabitants living in urban areas was higher than the share of the EU. This share exceeded 90% in **Argentina** and **Japan** (both 92%), while **India** had by far the lowest share, with just over one third (34%) of its population living in urban areas.

World population (% , 2018)



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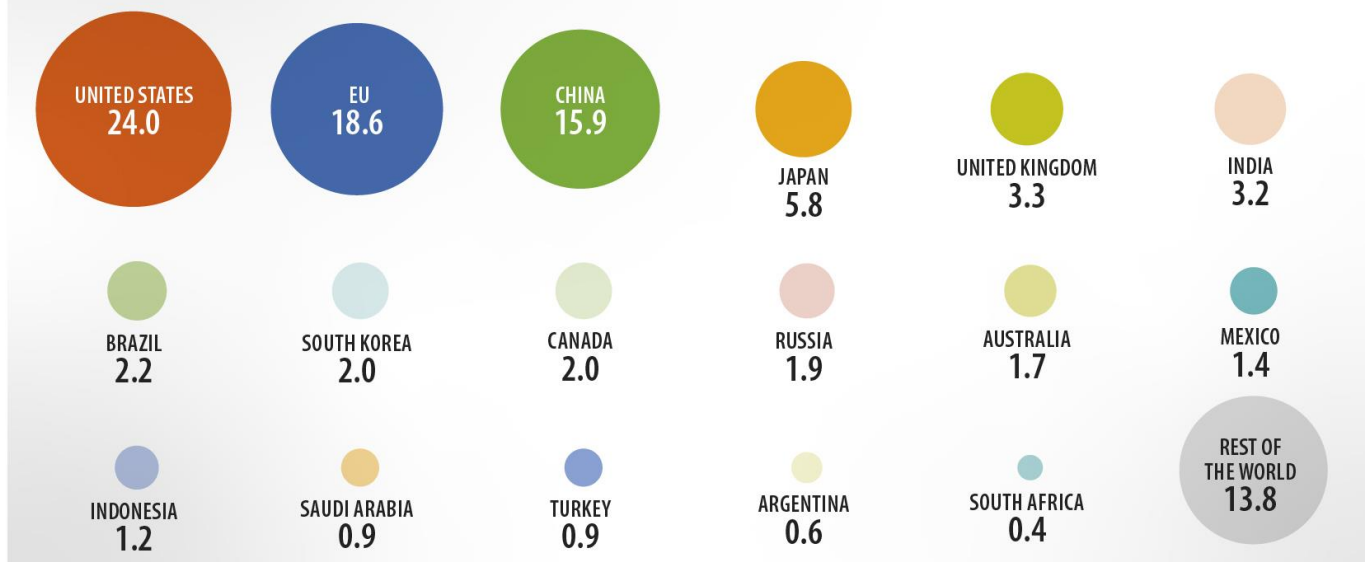
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_gind](#)) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2019)

The EU is the second-largest contributor to the world GDP after the United States

While accounting for slightly less than 6% of the world population, the **EU** generated 18.6% of the world GDP in 2018. This represented the second largest share after the **United States** (24.0%) and ahead of **China** (15.9%).

Compared to ten years before, the share of the **EU** in world GDP fell from 25.6% in 2008 to 18.6% in 2018, while the share of **China** rose significantly from 7.2% in 2008 to 15.9% in 2018, moving ahead of **Japan** (7.9% in 2008 and 5.8% in 2018). **India's** share of world GDP also increased greatly, such that it moved from the ninth largest G20 economy in 2008 (2.0% of world GDP) to the sixth largest by 2018 (3.2%), just behind the **United Kingdom** (3.3%). Together, G20 members accounted for 86.2% of global GDP in 2018. It should be noted that these relative shares are based on current price series in euro terms, reflecting market exchange rates.

World GDP (% , 2018)

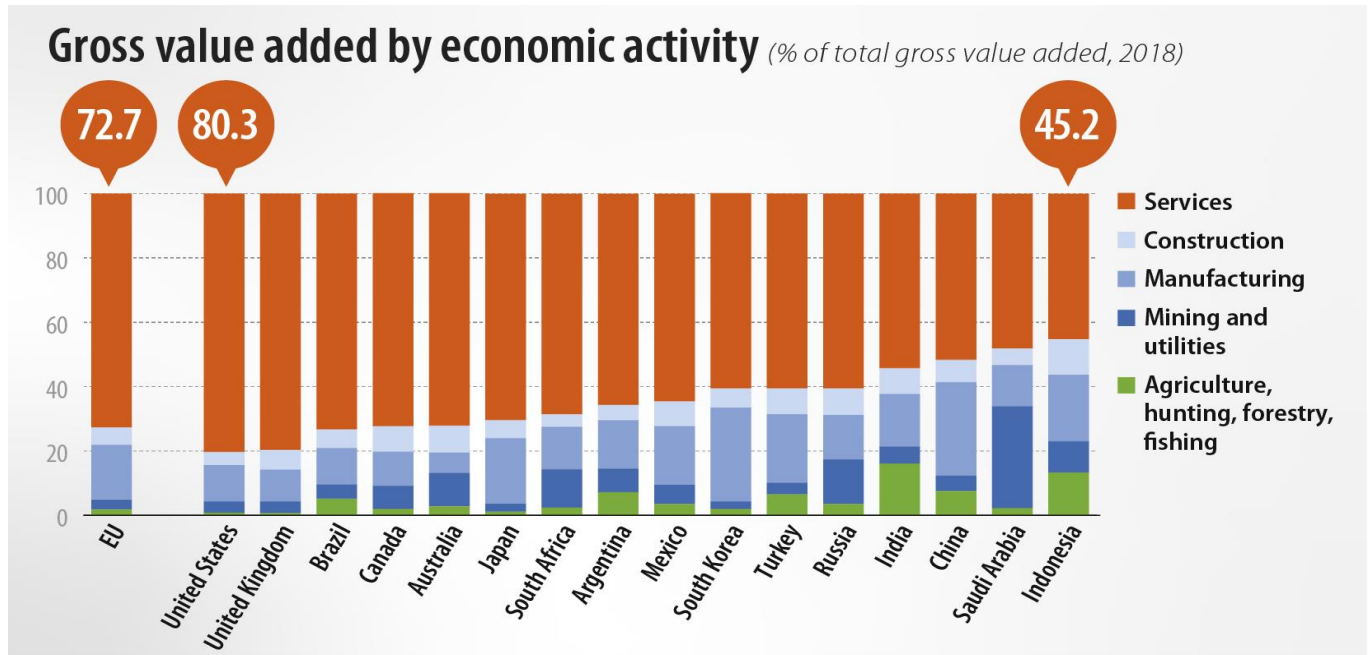


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Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [nama_10_gdp](#) and [ert_bil_eur_a](#)) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Analysis of Main Aggregates)

Services account for over 70% of gross value added in the EU

In 2018, services contributed nearly 73% of the total gross value added in the **EU** economy. This was the fourth largest share after the **United States** and the **United Kingdom** (both 80%) and **Brazil** (73%). Shares of over 70% were also registered in **Canada, Australia** and **Japan**. In all of the other G20 countries, services was also the largest activity, and accounted for more than half of total gross value added, except in **Saudi Arabia** (48%) and **Indonesia** (45%).



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Based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev. 3
 Source: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Analysis of Main Aggregates)
 Eurostat online data code: [nama_10_a10](#)

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 and Sweden.

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

The **G20** includes the EU, three EU Member States (Germany, France and Italy) and 16 countries from the rest of the world (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States).

Methods and definitions

The publication "The EU in the world" is based on a wide range of international sources reflecting the various statistical domains. As a result, there may be differences in particular regarding EU statistics concerning the latest available reference year for each source, as data for some are more quickly available than for others.

For more information

Eurostat publication [The EU in the world](#)

Set of [Statistics Explained](#) articles based on the publication "The EU in the world"

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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