

## Housing conditions in the EU27 in 2009

# One person in six lives in an overcrowded dwelling

In the **EU27**, housing conditions differ considerably between Member States. These differences can be seen both in the type of housing in which people live and in the housing problems they encounter. On average in the **EU27** in 2009, 42% of the population<sup>1</sup> lived in a flat, 34% in a detached house<sup>2</sup> and 23% in a semi-detached or terraced house<sup>2</sup>. Of the **EU27** population, 18% lived in an overcrowded dwelling<sup>3</sup>, while 16% lived in a dwelling where a leaking roof or damp were perceived as a problem, 7% considered their dwelling to be too dark, 4% had no indoor flushing toilet and 3% no bath or shower.

These figures on housing conditions are published in a report<sup>4</sup> from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

### Across the Member States, flats most common in Latvia, detached houses in Slovenia and semi-detached houses in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

The type of dwelling in which people live varies greatly between Member States: in twelve Member States, detached houses<sup>2</sup> are the most common type of dwelling, in ten flats and in five semi-detached or terraced houses<sup>2</sup>.

In 2009, over half of the population lived in flats in **Latvia** (66%), **Estonia** and **Spain** (both 65%), **Lithuania** (58%), **Greece** (56%), the **Czech Republic**, **Germany** and **Italy** (all 53%), in detached houses in **Slovenia** (69%), **Hungary** (68%), **Romania** (61%), **Denmark** (58%) and **Sweden** (51%), and in semi-detached or terraced houses in the **Netherlands** and the **United Kingdom** (both 61%) as well as **Ireland** (58%).

### Between 1% of the population in Cyprus and 58% in Latvia live in an overcrowded dwelling

Overcrowding depends upon the relation between the number of persons in a household and the number of rooms in each dwelling<sup>3</sup>. In 2009, the share of persons living in an overcrowded dwelling ranged widely between Member States, from 1% in **Cyprus**, 2% in the **Netherlands**, 3% in **Spain** and 4% in **Ireland**, **Belgium** and **Malta** to 58% in **Latvia**, 55% in **Romania** and **Hungary**, 49% in **Poland** and **Lithuania** and 47% in **Bulgaria**.

### One person in six lives in a dwelling where a leaking roof or damp is a problem

Housing conditions can also be analysed through the problems of damp, darkness or the availability of sanitary equipment. The proportion of the population living in a dwelling where they declared there was a problem with a leaking roof or damp in the walls ranged from 5% in **Finland**, 7% in **Slovakia** and **Sweden** and 8% in **Denmark** to 31% in **Slovenia**, 29% in **Cyprus**, 26% in **Latvia** and 24% in **Bulgaria**.

The share of the population living in a dwelling where darkness was considered to be a problem varied from 4% in **Slovakia**, the **Netherlands**, the **Czech Republic** and **Finland** to 16% in **Slovenia**, 11% in **Latvia** and the **United Kingdom**.

There were significant differences between Member States when considering the sanitary equipment of dwellings. The share of persons living in dwellings with no indoor flushing toilet ranged from less than 1% in 15 Member States to 43% in **Romania**, 26% in **Bulgaria** and 17% in **Lithuania** and **Latvia**. The proportion of the population living in dwellings with no bath or shower ranged from less than 1% in 17 Member States to 41% in **Romania**, 18% in **Latvia** and 16% in **Lithuania** and **Bulgaria**.

## Type of dwelling, 2009

	Share of population living in a:			
	Flat	Detached house	Semi-detached/ terraced house	Other*
<b>EU27</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	19.6	38.0	41.5	0.8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	42.1	48.1	9.4	0.4
<b>Czech Republic</b>	52.7	36.4	10.3	0.5
<b>Denmark</b>	28.8	58.4	12.8	0.0
<b>Germany</b>	53.1	29.2	16.0	1.8
<b>Estonia</b>	65.1	29.5	5.0	0.5
<b>Ireland</b>	3.1	39.1	57.6	0.2
<b>Greece</b>	56.0	34.7	9.3	0.0
<b>Spain</b>	64.6	14.2	21.1	0.2
<b>France**</b>	34.0	43.9	22.0	0.2
<b>Italy</b>	53.4	24.6	18.7	3.4
<b>Cyprus</b>	22.4	46.0	30.6	1.0
<b>Latvia</b>	66.2	29.1	4.4	0.3
<b>Lithuania</b>	57.8	34.1	8.1	0.0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	32.5	41.4	25.5	0.6
<b>Hungary</b>	29.5	67.6	2.6	0.4
<b>Malta</b>	44.5	6.4	48.5	0.5
<b>Netherlands</b>	16.0	17.6	61.4	5.0
<b>Austria</b>	42.6	43.4	13.2	0.8
<b>Poland</b>	47.8	47.0	4.9	0.2
<b>Portugal</b>	35.4	42.0	22.0	0.6
<b>Romania</b>	37.7	60.7	1.6	0.1
<b>Slovenia</b>	27.0	68.7	3.9	0.4
<b>Slovakia</b>	49.9	48.5	1.4	0.2
<b>Finland</b>	32.7	47.0	19.8	0.5
<b>Sweden</b>	40.1	50.8	8.7	0.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	14.2	24.7	60.9	0.1
<b>Iceland</b>	45.3	34.8	18.5	1.4
<b>Norway</b>	16.9	62.4	20.0	0.7
<b>Switzerland</b>	58.0	25.0	14.0	3.0

\* Other kinds of accommodation include accommodation that are situated in buildings that are used for other purposes than housing (schools etc.) and fixed habitations such as a hut.

\*\* France excluding Overseas Departments

## Housing condition indicators, 2009

	Share of population living in an overcrowded dwelling, %	% of the population living in a dwelling with:			
		Leaking roof or damp**	Darkness***	No indoor flushing toilet	No bath or shower
<b>EU27</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	3.9	15.2	9.6	0.6	0.9
<b>Bulgaria</b>	47.0	23.9	6.8	26.2	15.6
<b>Czech Republic</b>	26.6	14.6	4.3	0.7	0.5
<b>Denmark</b>	7.8	7.8	4.5	0.0	0.7
<b>Germany</b>	7.0	14.0	4.8	1.2	0.3
<b>Estonia</b>	41.2	20.2	4.7	12.2	12.8
<b>Ireland</b>	3.7	13.2	5.6	0.3	0.6
<b>Greece</b>	25.0	17.6	6.7	1.8	1.1
<b>Spain</b>	3.2	17.6	6.9	0.0	0.0
<b>France*</b>	9.6	12.6	7.5	0.8	0.6
<b>Italy</b>	23.3	20.5	7.9	0.2	0.4
<b>Cyprus</b>	1.0	29.4	5.7	0.7	0.7
<b>Latvia</b>	57.7	25.7	10.9	16.6	18.2
<b>Lithuania</b>	49.0	21.3	8.8	17.2	15.9
<b>Luxembourg</b>	6.4	17.5	7.0	0.8	0.2
<b>Hungary</b>	55.0	14.5	8.4	7.1	4.2
<b>Malta</b>	4.0	10.0	6.7	0.0	0.2
<b>Netherlands</b>	1.7	14.2	3.7	0.0	0.0
<b>Austria</b>	13.2	15.3	6.5	1.3	0.7
<b>Poland</b>	49.1	17.6	8.3	4.8	5.6
<b>Portugal</b>	14.1	19.7	8.6	2.4	2.7
<b>Romania</b>	55.3	22.0	8.7	42.5	41.2
<b>Slovenia</b>	38.0	30.6	15.5	0.6	0.6
<b>Slovakia</b>	39.7	6.6	3.5	1.1	0.3
<b>Finland</b>	5.9	4.9	4.4	0.8	1.0
<b>Sweden</b>	10.5	6.6	6.1	0.0	0.5
<b>United Kingdom</b>	7.2	14.6	10.6	0.5	0.2
<b>Iceland</b>	7.3	17.4	1.8	0.3	0.1
<b>Norway</b>	4.8	8.2	4.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Switzerland</b>	7.6	8.6	5.8	0.1	0.1

\* France excluding Overseas Departments

\*\* Whether the persons living in the dwelling perceive it having a problem with a leaking roof, dampness in the walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames or floor.

\*\*\* Whether the persons living in the dwelling consider it as being too dark.

1. These data are collected in the EU-SILC (Statistics of Income and Living Conditions) survey. This survey is the EU reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social exclusion.

The reference population is all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the Member States at the time of data collection. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population, as are small parts of the national territory amounting to no more than 2% of the national population.

More information can be found on the Eurostat website:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income\\_social\\_inclusion\\_living\\_conditions/introduction](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income_social_inclusion_living_conditions/introduction)

2. A detached house is defined as a house which has no common walls with another house, while a semi-detached house shares at least one wall (this category covers also terraced houses). Other kinds of accommodation include accommodations that are situated in buildings that are used for other purposes than housing (schools etc.) and fixed habitations like a hut.

3. A person is considered as living in an overcrowded dwelling if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to:
- one room for the household;
  - one room per couple in the household;
  - one room for each single person aged 18 or more;
  - one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12 and 17 years of age;
  - one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category;
  - one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.
4. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus 4/2011, "Housing conditions in Europe in 2009". The publication is available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.

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