

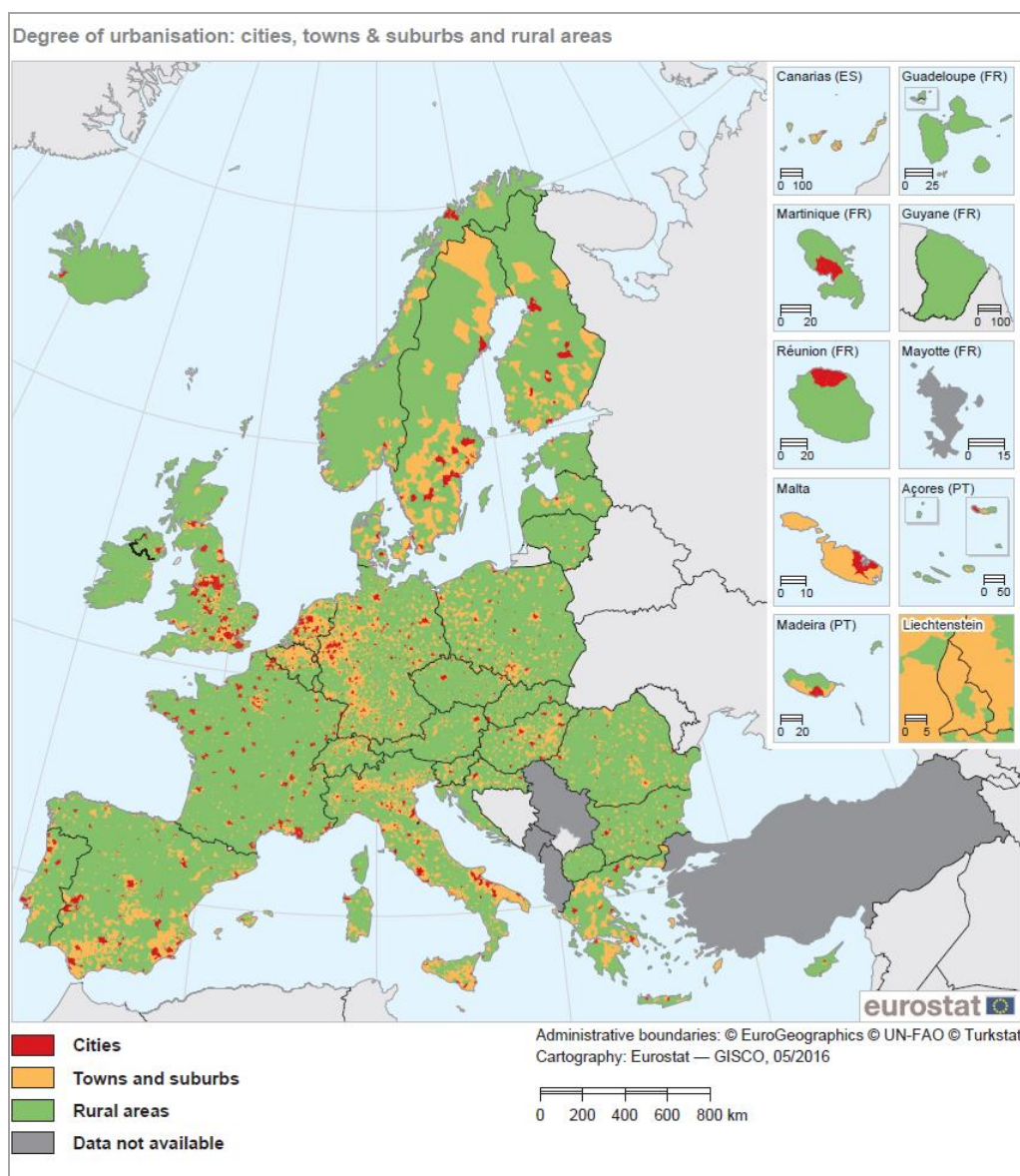
Urban Agenda for the EU

7 out of 10 city dwellers aged 20 to 64 are employed

Almost a quarter of all city dwellers at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Home to a large share of the population aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union (EU)**, cities can be viewed as both the source of and solution to many of today's economic, social and environmental challenges. Among EU city dwellers aged 20-64, 70% were in employment. The risk of poverty or social exclusion affected around 24% of all city dwellers.

Today the EU ministers for urban affairs meet to endorse the Pact of Amsterdam, which will establish an Urban Agenda for the EU. On this occasion, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, issues data on population, employment and risk of poverty in cities. Further data can be found on the Eurostat website. A flagship publication with a detailed picture of urban development and urban life in Europe will be released in September.



Cities home to more than half of the population aged 20-64 in the United Kingdom and Cyprus

In 2015 in the **EU**, around 124 million people aged 20 to 64, or 41% of the population of this age group, were city dwellers. At Member State level more than half of the population aged 20-64 lived in cities in the **United Kingdom** (60%) and **Cyprus** (54%). At the opposite end of the scale, around 1 in 5 persons aged 20 to 64 lived in cities in **Slovakia** (19%), **Slovenia** (20%) and **Luxembourg** (21%).

Employment rate tends to be higher in cities than in rural areas

On average in the **EU**, 70.0% of city dwellers aged 20 to 64 were employed in 2015, with employment rates ranging from 79.8% in **Sweden** to 53.0% in **Greece**. In the majority of Member States, cities recorded higher employment rates than rural areas, in particular in **Bulgaria** (with a 16.7 percentage point difference) and **Lithuania** (10.5 pp). In contrast, in eleven Member States, the employment rate was lower in cities than in rural areas, most markedly in **Belgium** (9.1 pp), **Austria** (8.7 pp), **Germany** (6.0 pp), **Greece** and **France** (both 5.6 pp), the **Netherlands** (5.5 pp) and the **United Kingdom** (4.2 pp).

Population and employment in the age group 20-64 in the EU, by degree of urbanisation, 2015

	Population						Employment rate (%)		
	In thousand persons			Share (%)			Cities	Towns & suburbs	Rural areas
	Cities	Towns & suburbs	Rural areas	Cities	Towns & suburbs	Rural areas			
EU	124 403	96 312	81 587	41	32	27	70.0	70.2	69.8
Belgium	1 853	3 761	1 038	28	57	16	60.8	69.6	69.9
Bulgaria	2 116	991	1 308	48	22	30	73.4	67.5	56.7
Czech Republic	1 985	2 148	2 433	30	33	37	75.4	74.2	74.9
Denmark	1 261	648	1 391	38	20	42	75.8	78.6	76.0
Germany	18 213	19 896	10 821	37	41	22	75.1	78.9	81.1
Estonia	358	122	314	45	15	39	79.6	75.6	73.4
Ireland	959	620	1 140	35	23	42	69.3	66.3	69.7
Greece	2 786	1 998	1 659	43	31	26	53.0	54.5	58.6
Spain	13 795	7 415	7 245	48	26	25	64.0	61.7	58.4
France	16 000	8 802	12 197	43	24	33	68.1	66.4	73.7
Croatia	757	800	1 003	30	31	39	63.8	61.6	57.1
Italy	11 808	15 590	8 771	33	43	24	61.3	60.5	59.6
Cyprus	280	113	124	54	22	24	69.2	67.3	65.7
Latvia	515	246	428	43	21	36	75.2	71.6	69.9
Lithuania	778	147	843	44	8	48	78.7	74.5	68.2
Luxembourg	74	115	165	21	33	47	76.2	68.4	70.3
Hungary	1 809	2 080	2 143	30	34	36	71.8	69.5	65.8
Malta	124	119	19	47	45	7	66.2	69.8	65.7
Netherlands	4 763	3 836	1 356	48	39	14	74.1	78.0	79.6
Austria	1 638	1 530	2 108	31	29	40	68.9	75.3	77.6
Poland	8 323	5 486	9 411	36	24	41	70.4	65.9	66.5
Portugal	2 730	1 937	1 520	44	31	25	68.8	70.0	68.7
Romania	4 364	2 991	4 966	35	24	40	68.9	62.7	65.5
Slovenia	252	395	641	20	31	50	68.2	68.8	69.6
Slovakia	684	1 234	1 624	19	35	46	70.8	67.9	66.1
Finland	1 277	971	914	40	31	29	73.0	72.5	73.0
Sweden	2 460	1 674	1 509	44	30	27	79.8	80.1	81.9
United Kingdom	22 442	10 648	4 499	60	28	12	75.2	79.3	79.4
Iceland	122	38	28	65	20	15	86.1	85.5	89.5
Norway	904	1 018	1 159	29	33	38	79.4	78.1	79.7
Switzerland	1 412	2 504	1 169	28	49	23	81.3	82.8	84.5

Shares may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The source dataset for the population can be found [here](#) and for the employment rate [here](#).

City dwellers less at risk of poverty or social exclusion in majority of Member States

In 2014 in the **EU**, around 50 million city dwellers (or 24.4% of the population living in cities) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. At Member State level the highest shares of city dwellers at risk of poverty or social exclusion were observed in **Greece** (34.1%), **Bulgaria** (30.0%), **Belgium** (28.6%), **Austria** (28.3%), **Romania** (28.3%) and **Italy** (27.8%), the lowest in the **Czech Republic** (13.9%), **Slovakia** (15.0%), **Luxembourg** (16.1%) and **Finland** (16.6%).

In the majority of Member States, city dwellers were less at risk of poverty or social exclusion than rural dwellers, in particular in **Romania** (with a 22.4 percentage point difference) and **Bulgaria** (21.4 pp). In contrast, in seven Member States the risk of poverty or social exclusion was higher in cities than in rural areas: **Austria** (with a 14.2 pp difference), **Denmark** (9.4 pp), **Belgium** (7.5 pp), the **United Kingdom** (6.6 pp), **Germany** (5.3 pp), **France** (3.3 pp) and the **Netherlands** (3.1 pp).

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, by degree of urbanisation, 2014

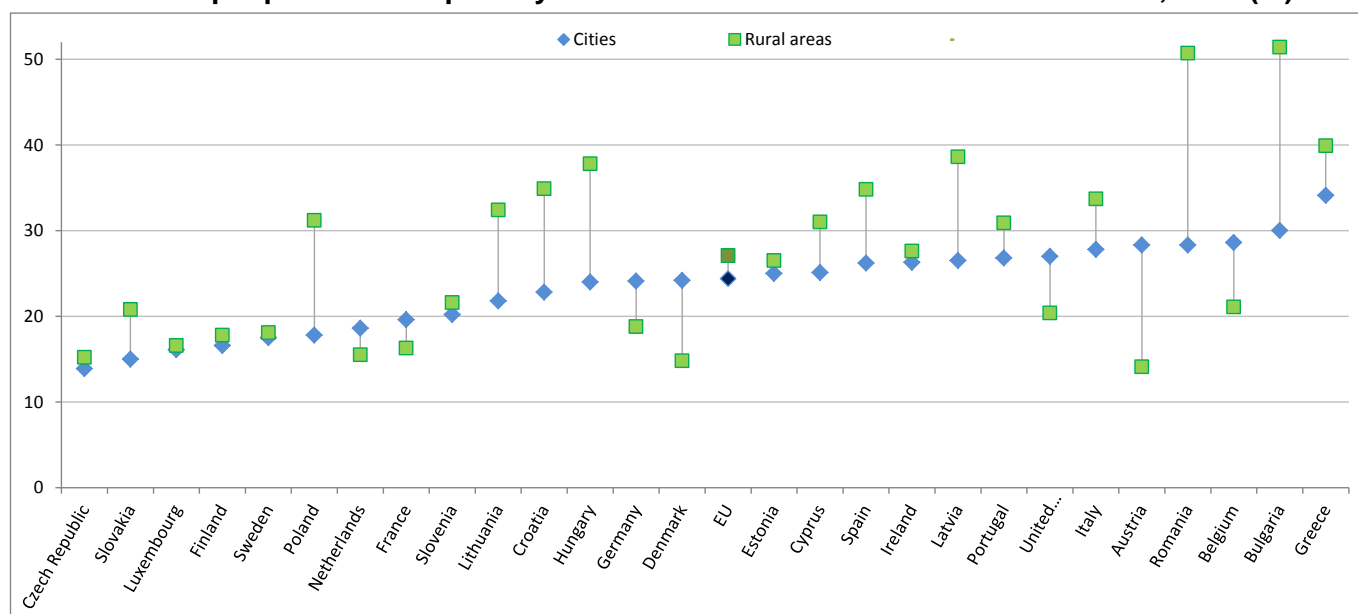
	In thousand persons			As percentage of total population		
	Cities	Towns & suburbs	Rural areas	Cities	Towns & suburbs	Rural areas
EU	50 488	33 958	37 416	24.4	22.2	27.1
Belgium	908	1 010	420	28.6	17.2	21.1
Bulgaria	859	776	1 274	30.0	40.5	51.4
Czech Republic	452	496	583	13.9	15.4	15.2
Denmark	463	167	374	24.2	14.5	14.8
Germany	6 828	6 197	3 483	24.1	18.7	18.8
Estonia	141	55	142	25.0	27.0	26.5
Ireland	480	329	457	26.3	29.3	27.6
Greece	1 397	847	1 640	34.1	32.9	39.9
Spain	6 159	3 005	4 233	26.2	29.1	34.8
France	5 383	2 484	3 470	19.6	20.6	16.3
Croatia	239	309	695	22.8	25.6	34.9
Italy	7 308	6 666	3 171	27.8	26.8	33.7
Cyprus	110	50	74	25.1	28.2	31.0
Latvia	226	61	357	26.5	31.6	38.6
Lithuania	275	84	445	21.8	27.1	32.4
Luxembourg	12	44	41	16.1	23.4	16.6
Hungary	683	956	1 457	24.0	31.6	37.8
Malta	88	10	:	23.7	24.1	:
Netherlands*	1 399	974	379	18.6	14.5	15.5
Austria	709	418	482	28.3	16.9	14.1
Poland	2 237	2 117	4 983	17.8	22.8	31.2
Portugal	1 240	749	874	26.8	25.3	30.9
Romania	2 042	1 150	5 205	28.3	30.4	50.7
Slovenia	76	140	194	20.2	19.1	21.6
Slovakia	185	326	449	15.0	17.8	20.8
Finland	305	334	288	16.6	17.4	17.8
Sweden	592	541	497	17.5	15.4	18.1
United Kingdom	9 691	3 662	1 748	27.0	20.0	20.4
Iceland	22	9	4	10.7	14.2	9.0
Norway	251	207	220	12.8	12.4	15.6
Switzerland	342	600	365	16.0	15.5	18.3

* Data are provisional.

: Data not available or not presented due to small sample size.

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

Share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in cities and rural areas, 2014 (%)



Member States are ranked in order of risk of poverty or social exclusion in cities. Malta not presented as data are not available for rural areas.

Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, 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 **degree of urbanisation** classification is used to classify local administrative units as cities, towns and suburbs, or rural areas based on a combination of geographical contiguity, population density and population thresholds applied to 1 km² grid cells. According to this classification, a **city** is a densely-populated area, where at least 50% of the population lives in an urban centre. **Towns and suburbs** are intermediate density areas where less than 50% of the population lives in rural grid cells and less than 50% live in urban centres. **Rural areas** are areas where more than 50% of the population lives in rural grid cells.

Data on **population and employment rates** presented in this News Release come from the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is a large sample survey among private households and an important source of information on the situation and trends in the EU labour force market. More information can be found [here](#).

Data on the **risk of poverty or social exclusion** presented in this News Release are based on the EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The EU-SILC survey is the EU reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution, poverty and living conditions. More information can be found [here](#).

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion are classified in accordance with three distinct criteria, but only need to be in one of these situations to be considered as part of this group. The three criteria are:

People at-risk-of-poverty are those living in a household with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers).

People suffering from severe material deprivation are those with enforced inability (rather than a choice not to do so) to afford at least four of the following nine items considered by most people to be desirable or even necessary to lead an adequate life: to face unexpected expenses, afford a one-week annual holiday away from home, a meal involving meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day, the adequate heating of a dwelling, durable goods, namely, a washing machine, a television set, telephone and car, and not being confronted with payment arrears (mortgage or rent, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments).

People living in households with very low work intensity are those aged 0-59 who live in households where on average the adults (aged 18-59) worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year. Students are excluded.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on degree of urbanisation

Eurostat [database](#) on degree of urbanisation

Eurostat [Statistics Explained](#) background article on degree of urbanisation

[Urban Agenda](#) website

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