

Europe 2020 employment indicators

Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU reached a new peak at 72.2% in 2017

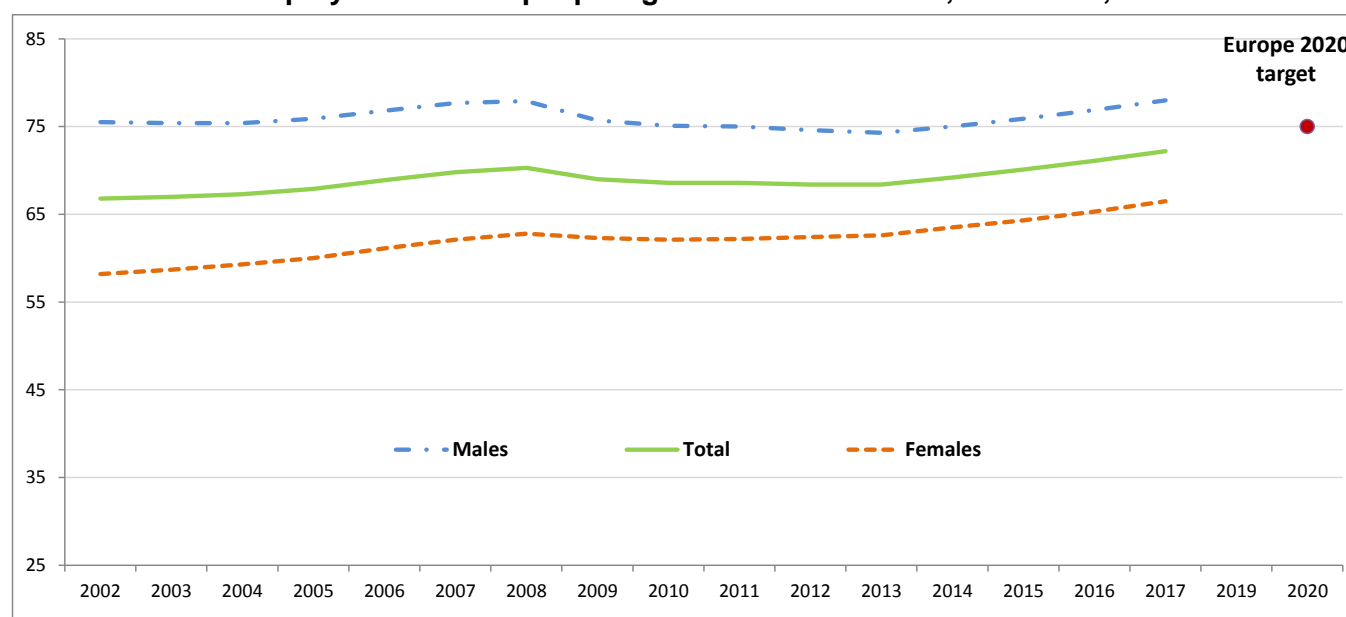
Nine Member States already achieved their 2020 targets

In 2017, the employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union** (EU) stood at 72.2%, up compared with 2016 (71.1%). 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.

The upward trend in the employment rate is visible both for men and women. The employment rate for men hit 78.0% in 2017, an increase compared with 2016 (76.9%) and nearly the same as its 2008 level (77.9%) when the previous peak was recorded. As for women, their employment rate has continuously risen since 2010 to reach 66.5% in 2017 (as compared to 65.3% in 2016). Similarly, the employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** has grown steadily, from 38.4% in 2002 to 57.1% in 2017. The greater participation of older workers is also one of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment.

This information comes from the 2017 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.

Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU, 2002-2017, %

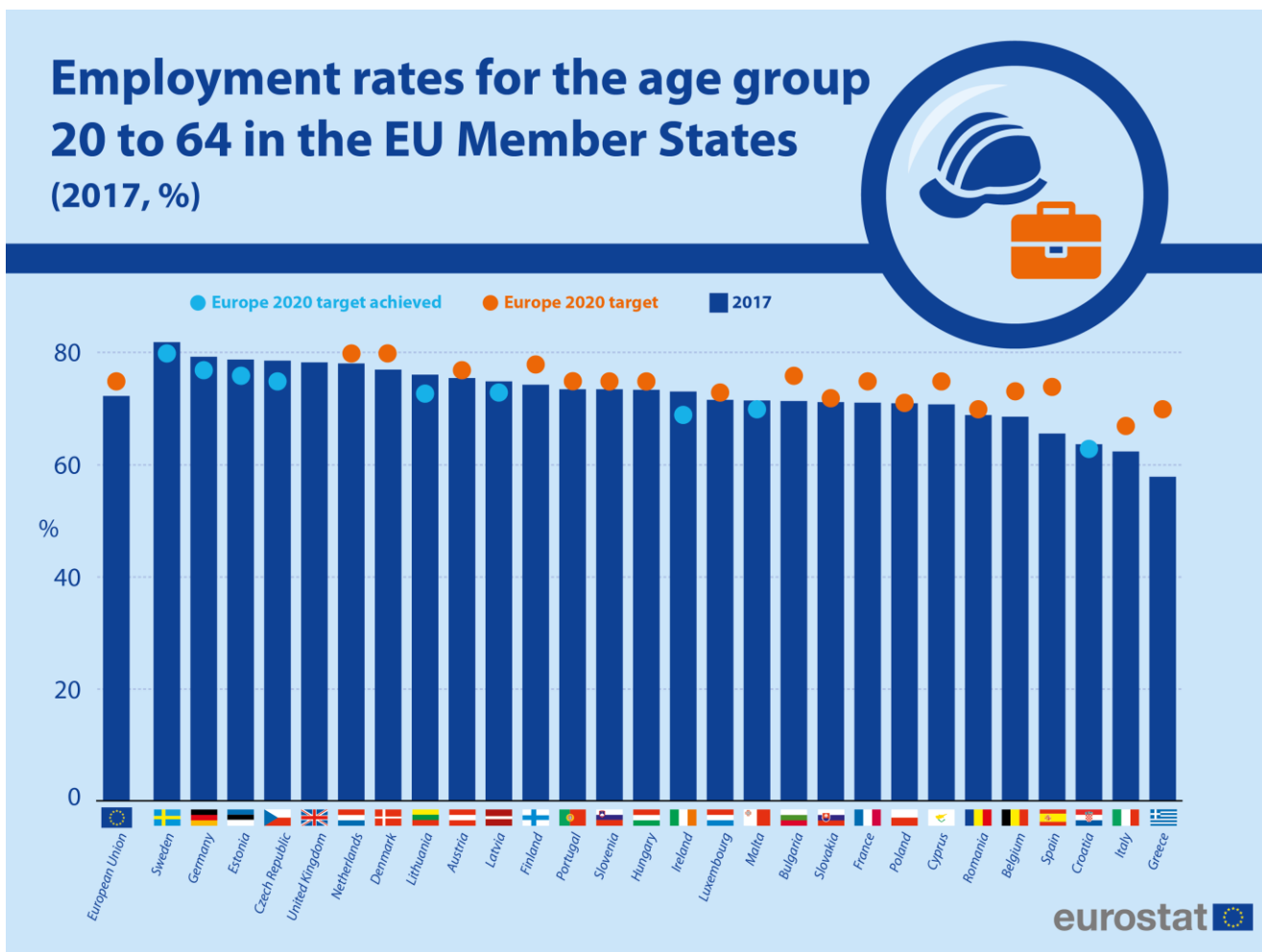


One-third of Member States already achieved their Europe 2020 employment target

Compared with 2016, the employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 increased in 2017 in all Member States except **Denmark**, where it went down (-0.5 percentage points, pp). It grew most strongly in **Bulgaria** (+3.6 pp), **Slovenia** (+3.3 pp), **Portugal** (+2.8 pp), **Romania** (+2.5 pp), **Croatia** (+2.2 pp) and **Estonia** (+2.1 pp).

Employment rates above 75% were recorded in **Sweden** (81.8%), **Germany** (79.2%), **Estonia** (78.7%), the **Czech Republic** (78.5%), the **United Kingdom** (78.2%), the **Netherlands** (78.0%), **Denmark** (76.9%), **Lithuania** (76.0%) and **Austria** (75.4%). Among these Member States, the **Czech Republic**, **Germany**, **Estonia**, **Lithuania** and **Sweden** have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator in 2017, as have **Ireland**, **Croatia**, **Latvia** and **Malta**.

On the other hand, the lowest employment rate was observed in **Greece** (57.8%), although it grew over the year (+1.6 pp), followed by **Italy** (62.3%, +0.7 pp), **Croatia** (63.6%, +2.2 pp), as well as **Spain** (65.5%, +1.6 pp).



Narrowest gender employment gap in Lithuania, widest in Malta

Employment rates of men and women continued however to vary considerably in many Member States in 2017.

The difference between the employment rate of women and that of men aged 20-64 was lowest in **Lithuania** (75.5% for women vs. 76.5% for men, or -1.0 pp), **Finland** (-3.5 pp), **Sweden** (-4.0 pp) and **Latvia** (-4.3 pp).

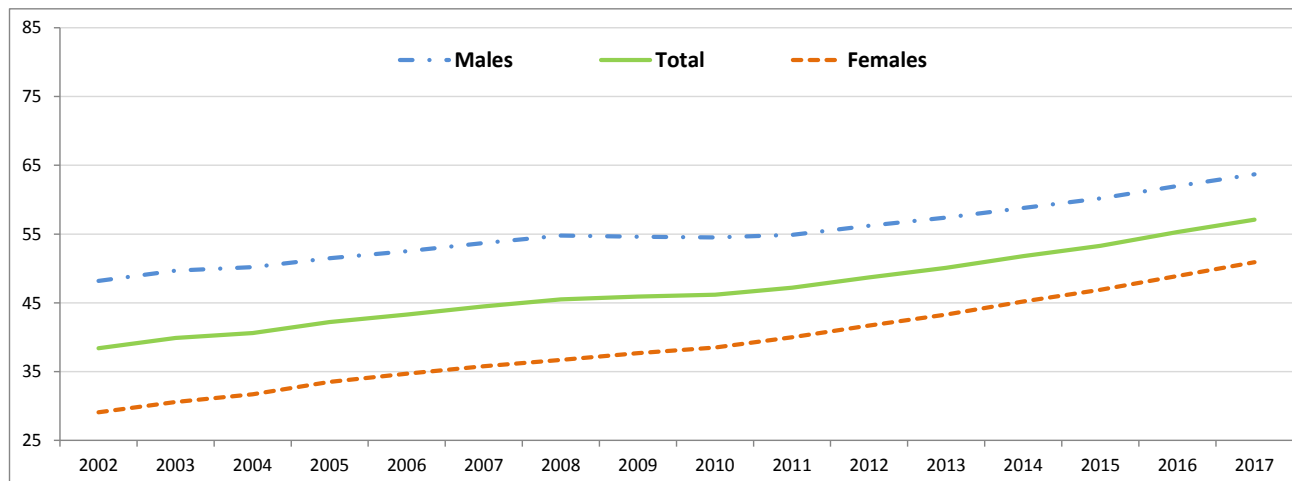
At the opposite end of the scale, the largest difference between the employment rate of women and that of men was observed in **Malta** (58.0% for women vs. 84.1% for men, or -26.1 pp). Big gaps were also recorded in **Italy** (-19.8 pp) and **Greece** (-19.7 pp).

At **EU** level, the difference between the employment rate of women aged 20-64 (66.5%) and that of men aged 20-64 (78.0%) was -11.5pp in 2017.

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

From 38.4% in 2002, the employment rate of people aged 55-64 in the EU has grown steadily to reach 57.1% in 2017. The growth was stronger for women (from 29.1% in 2002 to 50.9% in 2017) than for men (48.2% in 2002 vs. 63.7% in 2017). As a consequence, the gap between the employment rate of women and men aged 55-64 in the EU has been reduced, from a 19.1 percentage points difference in 2002 to a 12.8 pp difference in 2017.

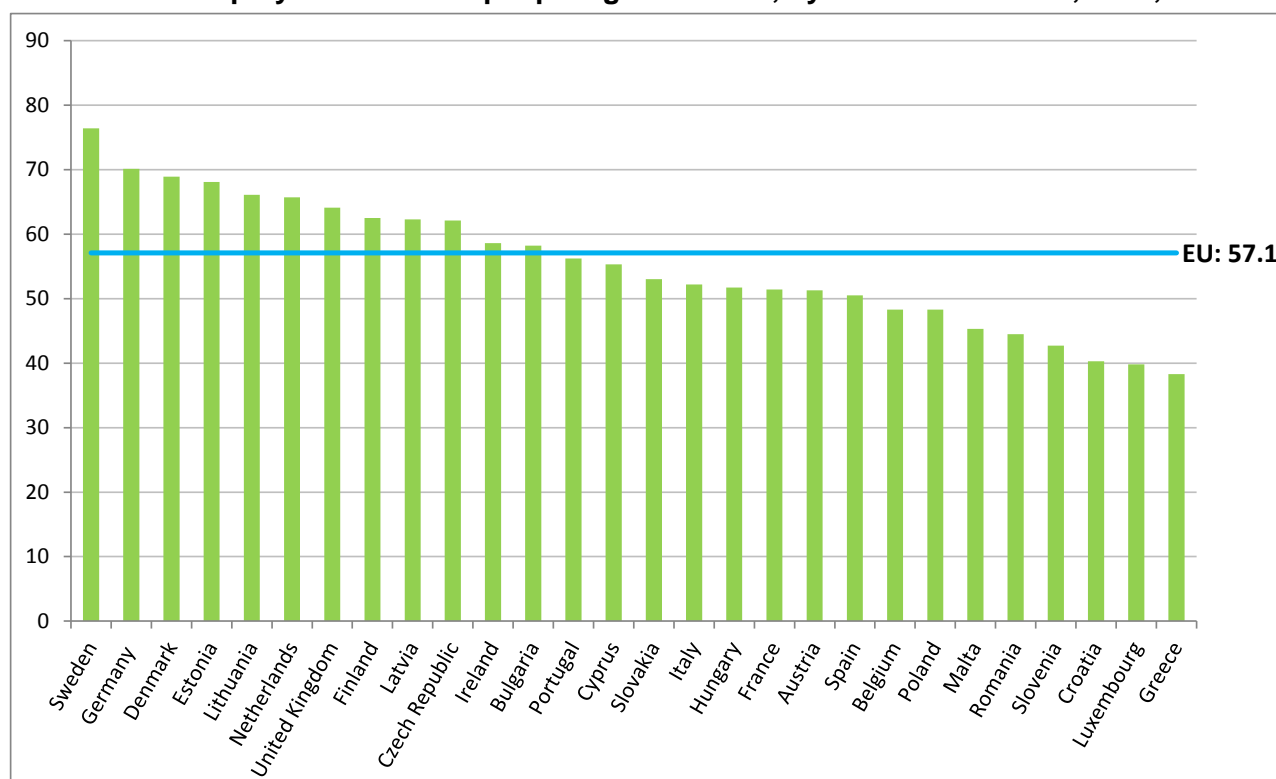
Employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 in the EU, 2002-2017, %



More than two-thirds of people aged 55 to 64 have a job in Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Estonia

In 2017, over half of the population aged 55 to 64 was in employment in twenty EU Member States. The highest employment rate for this age group was observed in **Sweden** (76.4%), ahead of **Germany** (70.1%), **Denmark** (68.9%), **Estonia** (68.1%), **Lithuania** (66.1%), the **Netherlands** (65.7%) and the **United Kingdom** (64.1%). On the other hand, the lowest employment rates were registered in **Greece** (38.3%), **Luxembourg** (39.8%), **Croatia** (40.3%) and **Slovenia** (42.7%). Compared with 2016, the employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 increased in 2017 in all EU Member States.

Employment rates of people aged 55 to 64, by EU Member State, 2017, %



Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 (%)

	2016			2017			Europe 2020 targets (Total)
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
EU	71.1	76.9	65.3	72.2	78.0	66.5	75.0
Belgium	67.7	72.3	63.0	68.5	73.4	63.6	73.2
Bulgaria	67.7	71.3	64.0	71.3	75.3	67.3	76.0
Czech Republic	76.7	84.6	68.6	78.5	86.3	70.5	75.0
Denmark	77.4	80.7	74.0	76.9	80.2	73.7	80.0
Germany	78.6	82.7	74.5	79.2	83.1	75.2	77.0
Estonia	76.6	80.8	72.6	78.7	82.4	75.1	76.0
Ireland	71.4	77.5	65.4	73.0	79.1	67.0	69.0
Greece	56.2	65.8	46.8	57.8	67.7	48.0	70.0
Spain	63.9	69.6	58.1	65.5	71.5	59.6	74.0
France	70.0	73.8	66.3	70.6	74.6	66.7	75.0
Croatia	61.4	66.2	56.6	63.6	68.9	58.3	62.9
Italy	61.6	71.7	51.6	62.3	72.3	52.5	67.0
Cyprus	68.7	73.8	64.1	70.7	75.6	66.2	75.0
Latvia	73.2	74.7	71.8	74.8	77.0	72.7	73.0
Lithuania	75.2	76.2	74.3	76	76.5	75.5	72.8
Luxembourg	70.7	76.1	65.1	71.5	75.4	67.5	73.0
Hungary	71.5	78.6	64.6	73.3	81	65.7	75.0
Malta	69.6	83.2	55.5	71.4	84.1	58.0	70.0
Netherlands	77.1	82.6	71.6	78.0	83.3	72.8	80.0
Austria	74.8	78.7	70.9	75.4	79.4	71.4	77.0
Poland	69.3	76.4	62.2	70.9	78.2	63.6	71.0
Portugal	70.6	74.2	67.4	73.4	77.3	69.8	75.0
Romania	66.3	75.0	57.4	68.8	77.3	60.2	70.0
Slovenia	70.1	73.3	66.7	73.4	76.9	69.7	75.0
Slovakia	69.8	76.9	62.7	71.1	77.5	64.7	72.0
Finland	73.4	75.0	71.7	74.2	75.9	72.4	78.0
Sweden	81.2	83.0	79.2	81.8	83.8	79.8	80.0
United Kingdom	77.5	83.1	72.1	78.2	83.4	73.1	-
Iceland	87.8	91.1	84.4	87.6	90.5	84.5	-
Norway	78.6	80.4	76.7	78.3	80.2	76.2	-
Switzerland	82.0	86.5	77.5	82.1	86.8	77.4	-
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	53.3	63.7	42.5	54.8	65.6	43.7	-
Turkey	54.4	75.5	33.2	55.3	76.1	63.6	-
Montenegro	57.1	63.0	51.3	58.2	65.2	51.4	-

- No national target or not applicable.
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 (%)

	2016			2017		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
EU	55.3	62.0	48.9	57.1	63.7	50.9
Belgium	45.4	50.7	40.2	48.3	53.8	42.8
Bulgaria	54.5	58.3	51.0	58.2	62.5	54.3
Czech Republic	58.5	68.2	49.3	62.1	71.7	53.0
Denmark	67.8	71.9	63.6	68.9	72.8	65.2
Germany	68.6	73.7	63.5	70.1	75.0	65.4
Estonia	65.2	63.7	66.5	68.1	66.6	69.3
Ireland	57.2	65.4	49.1	58.6	66.8	50.6
Greece	36.3	46.2	27.2	38.3	49.6	28.0
Spain	49.1	55.7	42.8	50.5	57.8	43.5
France	49.8	51.6	48.2	51.4	52.8	50.1
Croatia	38.1	45.1	31.6	40.3	49.0	32.3
Italy	50.3	61.7	39.7	52.2	62.8	42.3
Cyprus	52.2	61.0	43.7	55.3	65.0	46.1
Latvia	61.4	61.3	61.4	62.3	62.4	62.1
Lithuania	64.6	66.8	62.8	66.1	67.2	65.2
Luxembourg	39.6	46.4	32.4	39.8	45.4	33.9
Hungary	49.8	59.7	41.5	51.7	62.6	42.4
Malta	44.1	61.8	26.4	45.3	64.2	26.3
Netherlands	63.5	72.8	54.2	65.7	74.8	56.6
Austria	49.2	57.6	41.1	51.3	60.1	42.8
Poland	46.2	55.7	37.6	48.3	58.3	39.3
Portugal	52.1	58.5	46.3	56.2	63.0	50.2
Romania	42.8	53.0	33.6	44.5	55.3	34.9
Slovenia	38.5	43.6	33.4	42.7	48.0	37.5
Slovakia	49.0	55.1	43.5	53.0	56.6	49.6
Finland	61.4	59.8	63.0	62.5	61.7	63.4
Sweden	75.5	77.5	73.5	76.4	78.4	74.4
United Kingdom	63.4	69.6	57.4	64.1	69.3	59.1
Iceland	84.6	89.7	79.4	83.9	89.1	78.6
Norway	72.6	75.7	69.5	71.9	75.0	68.7
Switzerland	71.5	77.2	65.8	72.2	78.6	65.8
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	40.7	55.0	26.6	41.4	54.5	28.5
Turkey	33.4	49.2	18.1	34.4	50.6	18.7
Montenegro	41.2	49.6	33.2	43.7	52.8	35.1

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

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.

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

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 25 April 2018.

A news release on regional unemployment in 2017 is planned for 26 April 2018.

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.

The European Commission [website](#) dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

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