

142/2018 - 13 September 2018

Eurostat regional yearbook 2018

Take a look at how your region compares to others

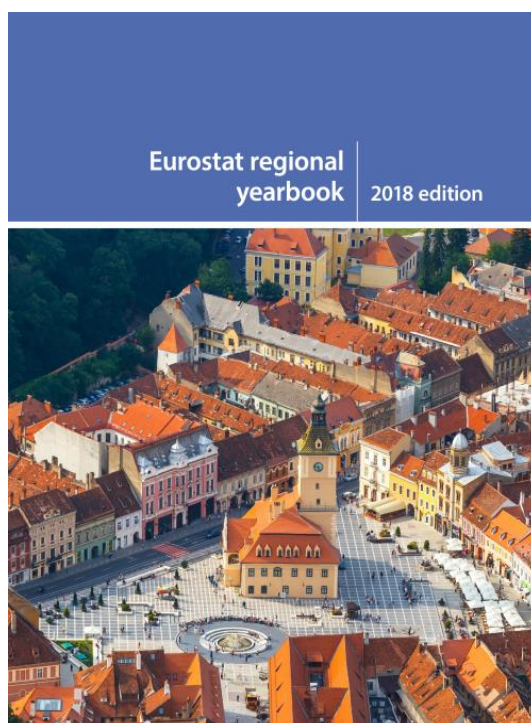
Figures at regional and local level

Is life expectancy in your region higher than in other regions of the **European Union (EU)**? What is the quality of life in your region? How much entrepreneurial activity takes place in your region? How much money is invested in research and innovation? Is your region richer than others? Which region has the highest internet use and do those internet users participate in social networks?

You can find answers to these and many more questions in the 2018 edition of Eurostat regional yearbook, published each year by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. It contains chapters on regional policies and European Commission priorities, as well as statistics on population, health, education and training, labour market, economy, structural business statistics, research and innovation, digital economy and society, tourism, transport and agriculture. It also includes two special statistical focus chapters: the first is on cities and the second on regional typologies. This News release focuses on differences in employment rates in cities and rural areas, life expectancy between men and women and social media usage at regional level.

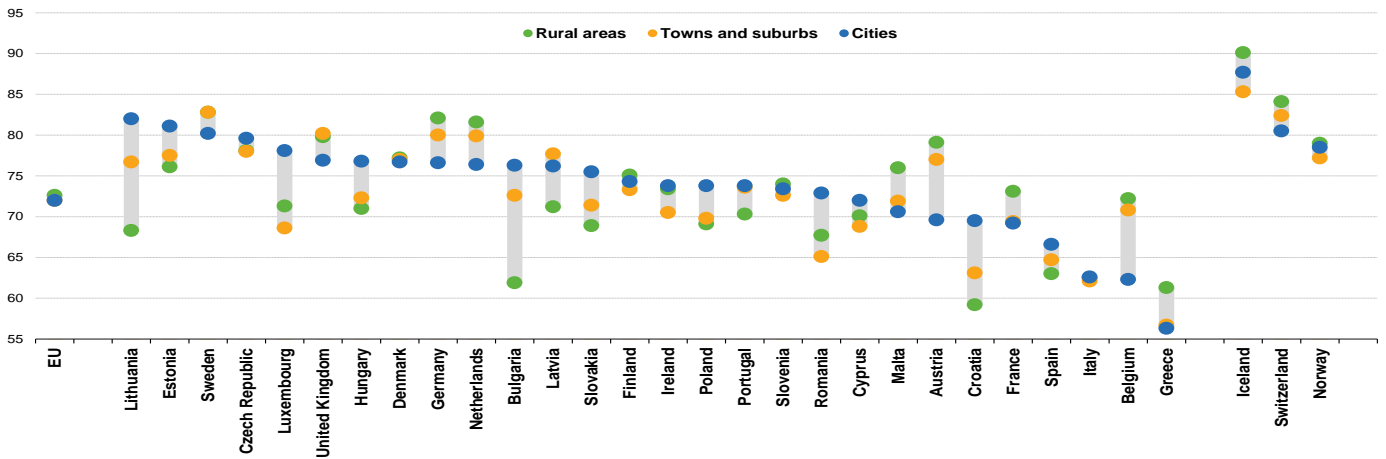
The regional yearbook provides an overview of the wide range of regional statistics available for the 276 regions at NUTS level 2 (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics) and, for some indicators, the 1 342 smaller regions at NUTS level 3. Data is available for all 28 Member States of the EU and, where possible, regions in the EFTA and candidate countries.

In addition to the regional yearbook, Eurostat offers three interactive applications to help visualise and analyse regional and local data: the two data visualisation tools Regions and cities illustrated and the Statistical atlas, as well as the mobile application My region.



Employment rate – lower in cities than in rural areas in particular in Belgium and Austria

Employment rate, by degree of urbanisation, 2017
(% share of population aged 20-64)



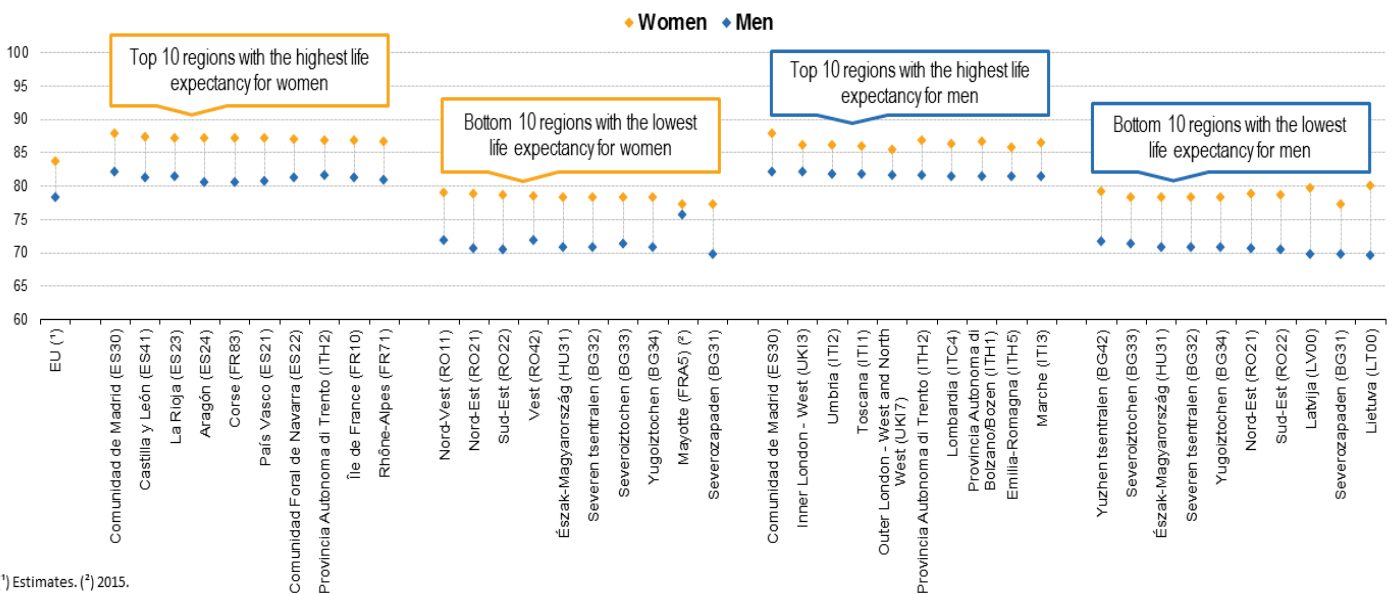
Note: ranked on cities The source dataset can be found [here](#).

At EU level, little difference exists between the employment rates in rural areas (73%), and the rates in towns and suburbs, or in cities (both 72%). However, in the eastern part of the EU and the **Baltic Member States**, working-age people living in cities were much more likely to be in employment than those living in rural areas in 2017. The largest gap (14 percentage points (pp)) of the employment rate for working-age people living in cities and those living in rural areas was observed in **Lithuania** (82% for cities and 68% for rural areas) and **Bulgaria** (76% for cities and 62% for rural areas), followed by **Croatia** where the difference was 11 pp (70% employment rate for cities and 59% for rural areas).

On the other hand, for Member States in the western part of the EU, there tends to be higher employment rates recorded for working-age people living in rural areas than in cities. The largest differences were observed in **Belgium**, where the employment rate for working-age persons living in rural areas was 72%, 10pp higher than for those living in cities (62%), followed by **Austria** with a difference of 9pp (70% for cities and 79% for rural areas), the **Netherlands** (76% and 82%) with 6pp of the difference, **Germany** (77% and 82%), **Malta** (71% and 76%) and **Greece** (56% and 61%) - all three with a difference of 5pp.

Life expectancy for both women and men highest in Comunidad de Madrid in Spain

NUTS 2 regions with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth, by sex, 2016 (years)



(*) Estimates. (²) 2015.

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

Life expectancy for women in the EU was on average 83.6 years, compared with 78.2 years for men.

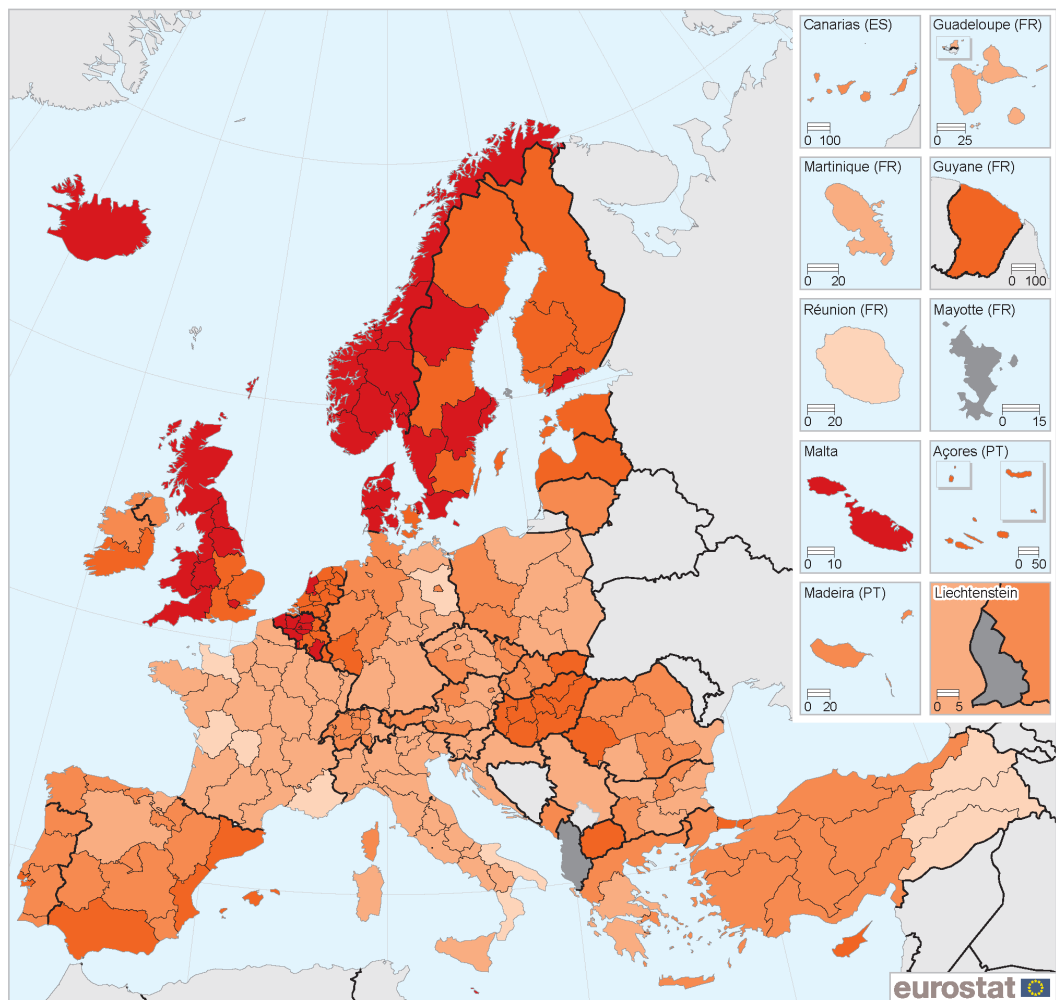
Among the top 10 regions in the EU with the highest level of life expectancy for women, six regions were in Spain (with highest life expectancy in **Comunidad de Madrid** of 87.8 years), three in France (with highest life expectancy in **Corse** of 87.1 years) and one in Italy (**Provincia Autonoma di Trento** of 86.9 years).

On the other hand, when looking at the EU's top 10 regions with the highest level of life expectancy for men, one region was in Spain (**Comunidad de Madrid** of 82.2 years), seven regions were in Italy (with highest life expectancy in **Umbria** of 81.8 years) and two in the United Kingdom (with highest life expectancy in **Inner London – West** of 82.1 years).

The largest gender gaps in life expectancy for NUTS 2 regions were recorded in the three Baltic Member States. Women in Lithuania could expect to live almost 11 years longer than men, in Latvia the gap ran at 10 years, while in Estonia women could expect to live nine years more than men. There were no regions in the EU where the average life expectancy at birth was higher for men than for women.

The EU regions with the highest use of social media were principally located in Belgium, the Nordic Member States and the United Kingdom

Proportion of people participating in social networks, by NUTS 2 regions, 2017
(% share of people aged 16-74)



% share of people aged 16-74; based on use during the three months prior to the survey

- EU-28 = 54
- < 40
- 40 - < 50
- 50 - < 60
- 60 - < 70
- ≥ 70
- Data not available

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat — GISCO, 09/2018

0 200 400 600 800 km

Note: Germany, Greece, Poland, the United Kingdom and Turkey: NUTS1, Serbia: national data. Course (FR83) and Mellersta Norrland (SE32): low reliability due to small sample size.

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

More than half (54%) of the population aged 16-74 years in the EU used the internet to participate in social networks (by using websites such as Instagram, Facebook or Twitter) in 2017.

In 2017, among the regions, the highest shares of population aged 16-74 years taking part in social media were observed in **Mellersta Norrland** in Sweden (85%), the Danish capital **Hovedstaden** (79%), **Prov. West-Vlaanderen** in Belgium, the Swedish capital **Stockholm** and **Wales** in the United Kingdom (all 76%).

At the other end of the range, the lowest participation rates were found in the French regions of **La Réunion** (34%) and **Limousin** (35%), followed by **Puglia** in Italy (37%), **Poitou-Charentes** and **Basse-Normandie** in France as well as **Brandenburg** in Germany (all 38%).

Geographical information

The Eurostat regional yearbook uses the 2013 version of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS 2013).

Methods and definitions

Cities (densely populated areas): areas where at least half of the population lives in urban centres (with a population density of at least 1 500 inhabitants per km² and a minimum of 50 000 inhabitants).

Towns and suburbs (intermediate density areas): areas where less than half of the population lives in rural grid cells and less than half of the population lives in urban centres.

Rural areas (thinly populated areas): areas where more than half of the population lives in rural grid cells (with a population density of less than 300 inhabitants per km² and less than 5 000 inhabitants in total).

For more information

Eurostat regional yearbook 2018 edition. Paper version can be ordered free of charge from the EU Bookshop, PDF-version and a set of Statistics Explained articles, containing the underlying data, are available on the Eurostat website.

Regions and cities, overview page on the Eurostat website.

European statistics on regions and cities, a newly released information brochure.

Eurostat Statistical atlas, a data visualisation tool containing an updated set of maps from the Eurostat regional yearbook

Eurostat Regions and cities illustrated, a data visualisation tool with maps, graphs and an animated timeline.

Eurostat My region, a mobile phone app based on regional datasets.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Renata PALEN
Tel: **+352-4301-33444**
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Production of the publication:


Teodóra BRANDMÜLLER
Tel: **+352-4301-32927**
teodora.brandmueller@ec.europa.eu

Åsa ÖNNERFORS
Tel: **+352-4301-37705**
asa.onnerfors@ec.europa.eu

 [EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu