

Europe 2020 employment indicators

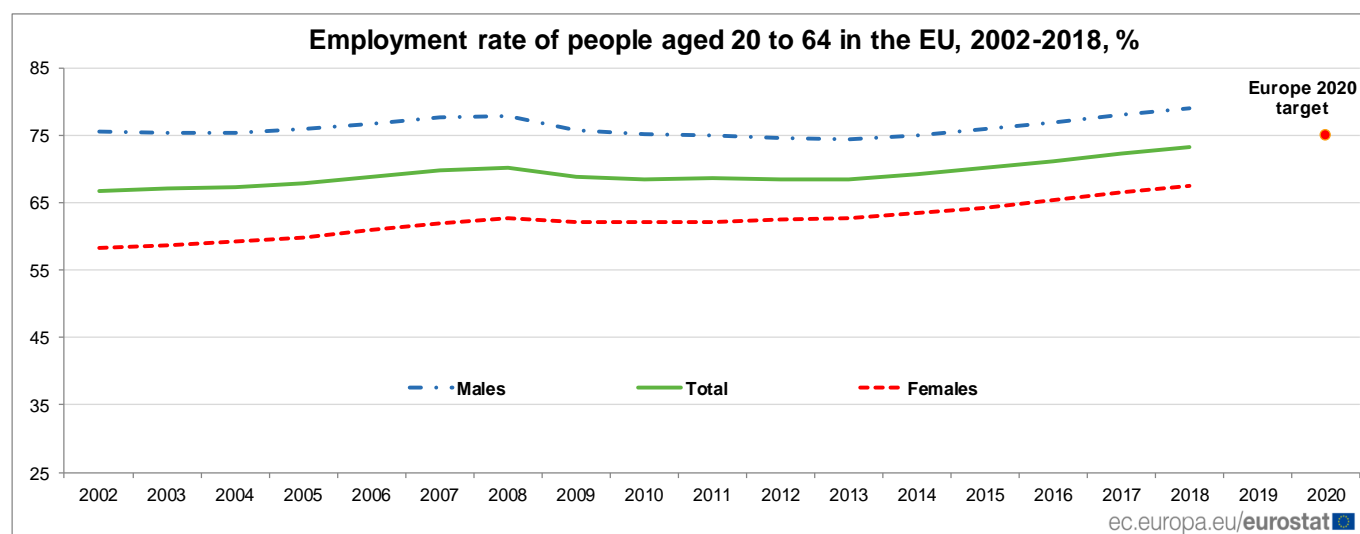
Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU reached a new peak at 73.2% in 2018

13 Member States already achieved their 2020 targets

In 2018, the employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union** (EU) stood at 73.2%, up compared with 2017 (72.2%). 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 79.0% in 2018, and has increased steadily since 2013. As for women, their employment rate has continuously risen since 2010 to reach 67.4% in 2018. Similarly, the employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** has grown steadily, from 38.4% in 2002 to 58.7% in 2018. The greater participation of older workers is also one of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment.

This information comes from the 2018 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.

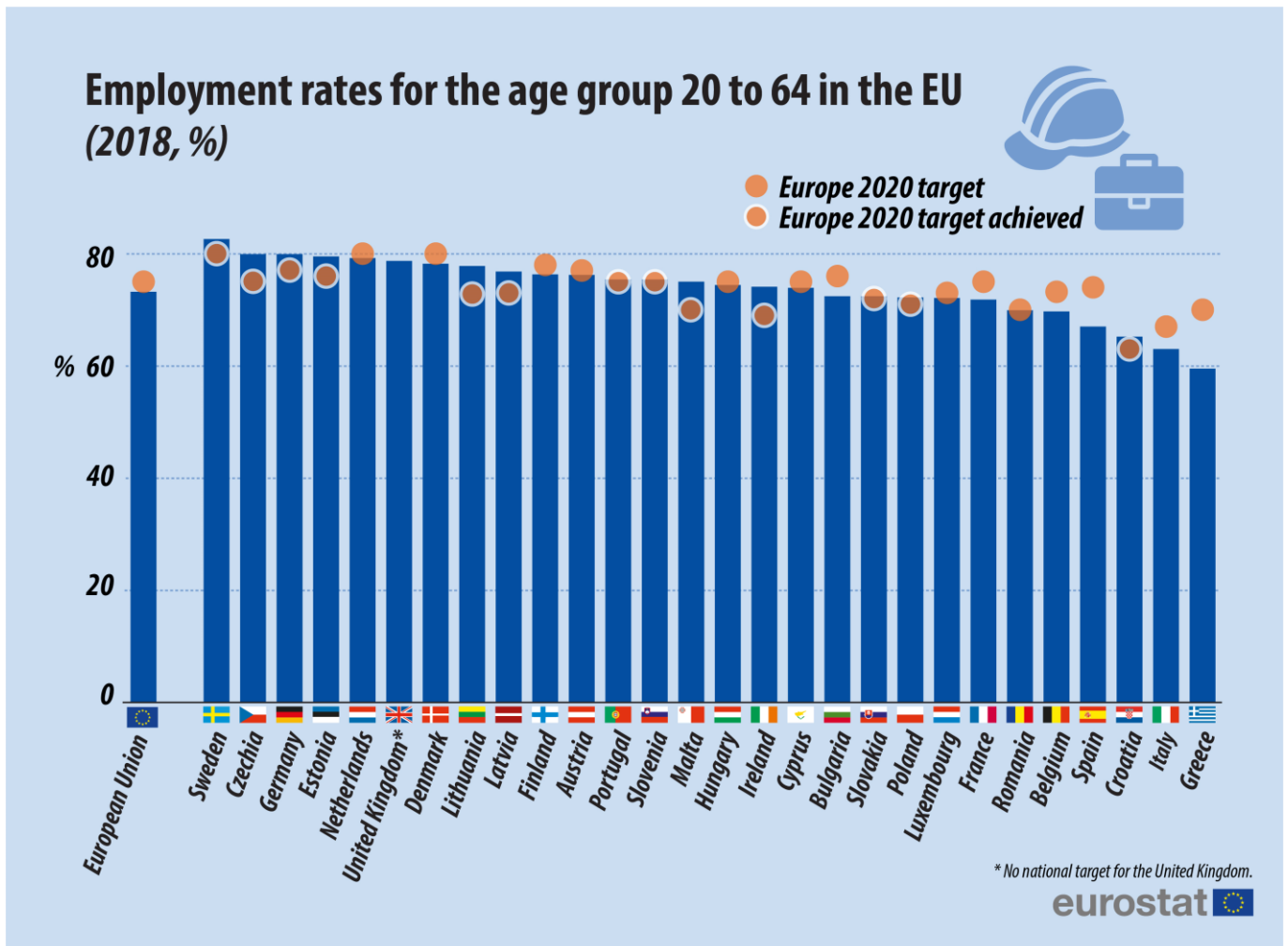


13 Member States already achieved their Europe 2020 employment target

Compared with 2017, the employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 increased in 2018 in all Member States without exception. It grew most strongly in **Cyprus** (+3.1 percentage points, pp), **Finland** (+2.1 pp), **Latvia**, **Malta**, **Portugal** and **Slovenia** (all +2.0 pp).

Employment rates above 75% were recorded in **Sweden** (82.6%), **Czechia** and **Germany** (both 79.9%), **Estonia** (79.5%), the **Netherlands** (79.2%), the **United Kingdom** (78.7%), **Denmark** (78.2%), **Lithuania** (77.8%), **Latvia** (76.8%), **Finland** (76.3%), **Austria** (76.2%), **Portugal** and **Slovenia** (both 75.4%). Among these Member States, **Czechia**, **Germany**, **Estonia**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Portugal**, **Slovenia** and **Sweden** have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator in 2018, as have **Ireland**, **Croatia**, **Malta**, **Poland** and **Slovakia**.

On the other hand, the lowest employment rate was observed in **Greece** (59.5%), although it grew over the year (+1.7 pp), followed by **Italy** (63.0%, +0.7 pp), **Croatia** (65.2%, +1.6 pp) as well as **Spain** (67.0%, +1.5 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 2018.

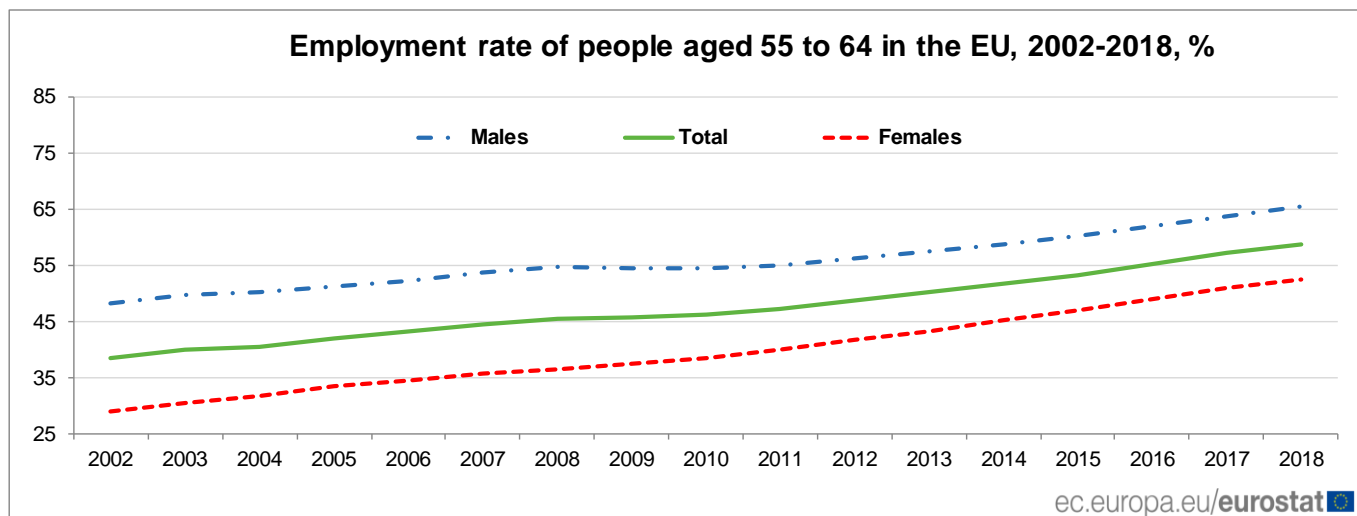
The difference between the employment rate of women and that of men aged 20 to 64 was lowest in **Lithuania** (76.7% for women vs. 79.0% for men, or -2.3 pp), **Finland** (-3.7 pp), **Latvia** (-4.2 pp) and **Sweden** (-4.3 pp).

At the opposite end of the scale, the largest difference between the employment rate of women and that of men was observed in **Malta** (63.4% for women vs. 85.7% for men, or -22.3 pp). Big gaps were also recorded in **Greece** (-21.0 pp) and **Italy** (-19.8 pp).

At **EU** level, the difference between the employment rate of women aged 20 to 64 (67.4%) and that of men aged 20 to 64 (79.0%) was -11.6 pp in 2018.

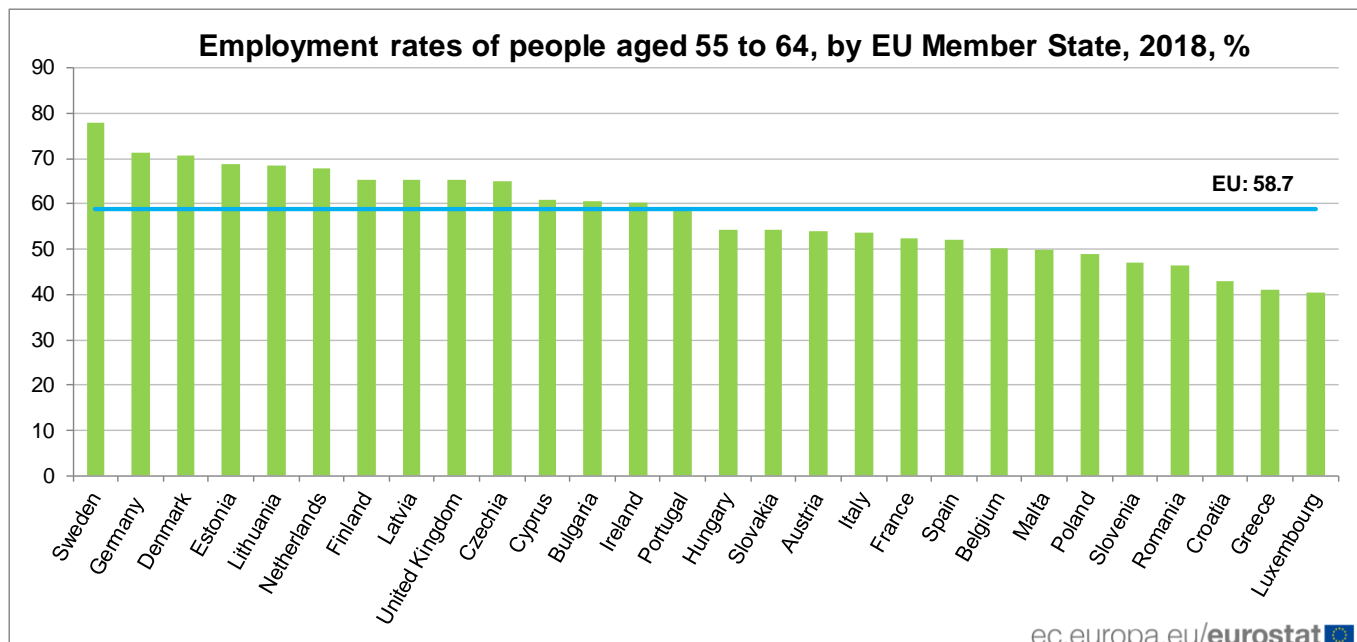
Employment rate of those aged 55 to 64 at its highest point in the EU

From 38.4% in 2002, the employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 in the EU has grown steadily to reach 58.7% in 2018. The growth was stronger for women (from 29.1% in 2002 to 52.4% in 2018) than for men (48.2% in 2002 vs. 65.4% in 2018). As a consequence, the gap between the employment rate of women and men aged 55 to 64 in the EU has been reduced, from a -19.1 pp difference in 2002 to a -13.0 pp difference in 2018.



Over 70% of people aged 55 to 64 have a job in Sweden, Germany and Denmark

In 2018, over half of the population aged 55 to 64 was in employment in twenty-one EU Member States. The highest employment rate for this age group was observed in **Sweden** (77.9%), ahead of **Germany** (71.4%), **Denmark** (70.7%), **Estonia** (68.9%), **Lithuania** (68.5%) and the **Netherlands** (67.7%). On the other hand, the lowest employment rates were registered in **Luxembourg** (40.5%), **Greece** (41.1%) and **Croatia** (42.8%). Compared with 2017, the employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 increased in 2018 in all EU Member States.



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, 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 26 April 2019.

A news release on regional unemployment in 2018 is planned for 29 April 2019.

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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Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 (%)

	2017			2018			Europe 2020 targets (Total)
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
EU28	72.2	78.0	66.5	73.2	79.0	67.4	75.0
Belgium	68.5	73.4	63.6	69.7	73.9	65.5	73.2
Bulgaria	71.3	75.3	67.3	72.4	76.5	68.3	76.0
Czechia	78.5	86.3	70.5	79.9	87.4	72.2	75.0
Denmark	76.9	80.2	73.7	78.2	81.5	74.8	80.0
Germany	79.2	83.1	75.2	79.9	83.9	75.8	77.0
Estonia	78.7	82.4	75.1	79.5	83.4	75.6	76.0
Ireland	73.0	79.1	67.0	74.1	80.3	68.1	69.0
Greece	57.8	67.7	48.0	59.5	70.1	49.1	70.0
Spain	65.5	71.5	59.6	67.0	73.1	61.0	74.0
France	71.0	75.0	67.2	71.8	75.7	68.1	75.0
Croatia	63.6	68.9	58.3	65.2	70.3	60.1	62.9
Italy	62.3	72.3	52.5	63.0	72.9	53.1	67.0
Cyprus	70.8	75.7	66.2	73.9	79.3	68.9	75.0
Latvia	74.8	77.0	72.7	76.8	79.0	74.8	73.0
Lithuania	76.0	76.5	75.5	77.8	79.0	76.7	72.8
Luxembourg	71.5	75.4	67.5	72.1	76.0	68.0	73.0
Hungary	73.3	81.0	65.7	74.4	82.1	66.8	75.0
Malta	73.0	84.7	60.6	75.0	85.7	63.4	70.0
Netherlands	78.0	83.3	72.8	79.2	84.3	74.2	80.0
Austria	75.4	79.4	71.4	76.2	80.7	71.7	77.0
Poland	70.9	78.2	63.6	72.2	79.4	65.0	71.0
Portugal	73.4	77.3	69.8	75.4	78.9	72.1	75.0
Romania	68.8	77.3	60.2	69.9	78.9	60.6	70.0
Slovenia	73.4	76.9	69.7	75.4	79.0	71.7	75.0
Slovakia	71.1	77.5	64.7	72.4	79.2	65.5	72.0
Finland	74.2	75.9	72.4	76.3	78.2	74.5	78.0
Sweden	81.8	83.8	79.8	82.6	84.7	80.4	80.0
United Kingdom	78.2	83.4	73.1	78.7	83.7	73.8	-
Iceland	87.6	90.5	84.5	86.5	89.5	83.2	-
Norway	78.3	80.2	76.2	79.2	81.7	76.5	-
Switzerland	82.1	86.8	77.4	82.5	87.0	77.9	-
Montenegro	58.2	65.2	51.4	59.8	66.7	52.9	-
North Macedonia	54.8	65.6	43.7	56.1	66.6	45.2	-
Serbia	61.4	68.5	54.5	63.1	70.5	55.8	-
Turkey	55.3	76.1	34.5	55.6	76.0	35.2	-

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

Employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 (%)

	2017			2018		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
EU28	57.1	63.7	50.9	58.7	65.4	52.4
Belgium	48.3	53.8	42.8	50.3	55.1	45.6
Bulgaria	58.2	62.5	54.3	60.7	65.4	56.4
Czechia	62.1	71.7	53.0	65.1	74.0	56.6
Denmark	68.9	72.8	65.2	70.7	74.9	66.4
Germany	70.1	75.0	65.4	71.4	76.1	66.9
Estonia	68.1	66.6	69.3	68.9	65.9	71.5
Ireland	58.4	66.6	50.3	60.4	68.6	52.3
Greece	38.3	49.6	28.0	41.1	53.3	30.0
Spain	50.5	57.8	43.5	52.2	59.7	44.9
France	51.4	52.8	50.1	52.3	54.1	50.5
Croatia	40.3	49.0	32.3	42.8	51.0	35.2
Italy	52.2	62.8	42.3	53.7	64.2	43.9
Cyprus	55.3	64.9	46.2	60.9	70.3	51.9
Latvia	62.3	62.4	62.1	65.4	66.3	64.7
Lithuania	66.1	67.2	65.2	68.5	70.5	66.9
Luxembourg	39.8	45.4	33.9	40.5	45.5	35.2
Hungary	51.7	62.6	42.4	54.4	65.5	44.9
Malta	47.2	64.5	29.9	49.7	67.2	32.1
Netherlands	65.7	74.8	56.6	67.7	76.6	58.8
Austria	51.3	60.1	42.8	54.0	63.5	44.8
Poland	48.3	58.3	39.3	48.9	59.8	39.1
Portugal	56.2	63.0	50.2	59.2	64.5	54.6
Romania	44.5	55.3	34.9	46.3	57.9	35.7
Slovenia	42.7	48.0	37.5	47.0	52.2	41.9
Slovakia	53.0	56.6	49.6	54.2	58.4	50.4
Finland	62.5	61.7	63.4	65.4	64.3	66.5
Sweden	76.4	78.4	74.4	77.9	80.0	75.8
United Kingdom	64.1	69.3	59.1	65.3	70.3	60.6
Iceland	83.9	89.1	78.6	80.7	86.0	75.4
Norway	71.9	75.0	68.7	72.0	76.1	67.9
Switzerland	72.2	78.6	65.8	72.6	79.1	66.1
Montenegro	43.7	52.8	35.1	46.6	55.8	37.9
North Macedonia	41.4	54.5	28.5	42.7	56.8	28.8
Serbia	45.5	55.9	36.0	46.5	57.2	36.7
Turkey	34.4	50.6	18.7	35.3	51.3	19.7

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