



Regions of the European Union

A statistical portrait — 2009 edition



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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2008

ISBN 978-92-79-09804-8

ISSN 1830-7906

DOI 10.2785/19208

Cat. No. KS-EP-08-001-EN-C

Theme: General and regional statistics

Collection: Statistical books

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FOREWORD

This Eurostat publication provides an overview of the most recent developments in the regions of the current 27 Member States of the European Union. In most of the analysis data are also presented for regions of the EFTA countries, and in some cases also for the regions of the three candidate countries. The themes selected for the five chapters represent interesting aspects of the demographic, social and economic situation across Europe's regions. The information is mainly provided through maps, presenting statistical data on a wide range of regional indicators. It is intended to give an idea of the range of European statistics available in this area, but in no way is it an exhaustive presentation. Should you wish to look in more detail at the regional situation in the European Union, the annual Eurostat regional yearbook^(*) provides a more complete presentation. Further information is also available on the Eurostat website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.



Walter Radermacher
Director-General, Eurostat

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Radermacher', written in a cursive style.

(*) http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-HA-08-001/EN/KS-HA-08-001-EN.PDF.

REGIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

A statistical portrait – 2009 edition

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Data extracted on 28-31 July 2008

All statements on policies within this publication are given for information purposes only. They do not constitute an official policy position of the European Commission and are not legally binding. To know more about such policies, please consult the European Commission's website at <http://ec.europa.eu/>.

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Introduction to regional statistics and regional policy

European regional and urban statistics are used for a wide range of purposes, for example for allocating regional funds in a rational and coherent way and for ex-post assessment of the results of regional and cohesion policy. Regional and urban statistics provide the possibility to analyse patterns and trends within countries, complementing the more traditional analysis at country level. Comparable regional statistics form an important part of the European statistical system, and have been collected for several decades. Eurostat's regional statistics cover the principal features of economic and social life within the European Union (EU). The concepts and definitions used for regional statistics are as close as possible to those used for the production of statistics at a national level.

Definitions of regions

The functions of government require power to be exercised by administrative units at a lower level than the nation state, either through 'top-down' devolution of responsibilities or through a federal structure. The limits of regions are usually based on natural boundaries (such as rivers, mountains and coastlines), historical boundaries and/or administrative boundaries (that may be more or less arbitrary), some of which may coincide.

Regional statistics in the EU are based on a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), with a similar classification of statistical regions for candidate countries and EFTA countries. At the beginning of the 1970s, Eurostat set up the first version of NUTS, but it was not until 2003 that NUTS acquired a legal basis through a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council ⁽¹⁾. The first review of the classification under this legal basis took place in 2006 and the data presented in this publication are based on the version of the classification adopted in February 2007 and extended in 2008 to accommodate the accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007. NUTS has three regional levels: each with minimum and maximum thresholds for the average population size of the regions.

(1) No 1059/2003.

Average population size for regions

NUTS level	Minimum	Maximum
1	3 million	7 million
2	800 000	3 million
3	150 000	800 000

NUTS is based largely on the institutional divisions in each Member State. Although clearly defined, usually universally recognised and relatively stable, the administrative and historical grounds on which they are defined differ widely from country to country and as such international comparability is difficult to achieve. When the administrative structure of a Member State does not correspond to all three main regional levels it is often necessary to identify an additional level which may have no administrative function and exist solely for statistical purposes. The table below provides information on the number of regions in each country.

Number of regions

	NUTS (2006) level		
	1	2	3
EU-27	97	271	1 303
Belgium	3	11	44
Bulgaria	2	6	28
Czech Republic	1	8	14
Denmark	1	5	11
Germany	16	39	429
Estonia	1	1	5
Ireland	1	2	8
Greece	4	13	51
Spain	7	19	59
France	9	26	100
Italy	5	21	107
Cyprus	1	1	1
Latvia	1	1	6
Lithuania	1	1	10
Luxembourg	1	1	1
Hungary	3	7	20
Malta	1	1	2

	NUTS (2006) level		
	1	2	3
Netherlands	4	12	40
Austria	3	9	35
Poland	6	16	66
Portugal	3	7	30
Romania	4	8	42
Slovenia	1	2	12
Slovakia	1	4	8
Finland	2	5	20
Sweden	3	8	21
United Kingdom	12	37	133
Croatia	1	3	21
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	1	8
Turkey	12	26	81
Iceland	1	1	2
Liechtenstein	1	1	1
Norway	1	7	19
Switzerland	1	7	26

Lists and maps of regions

A full list of EU-27 regions can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nuts/codelist_en.cfm?list=nuts.

Maps of the regions are available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nuts/overview_maps_en.cfm?list=nuts.

Regional policies

Objectives

The EU's regional policy aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing differences in the level of development among regions and Member States. For the period 2007-2013 a budget of EUR 347.41 billion is foreseen ⁽²⁾, equivalent to more than one third of the whole EU budget. The main concerns of the policy for 2007 to 2013 are:

- convergence – 81.5 % of the funds available;
- (regional) competitiveness and employment – 16 % of the funds available;
- territorial cooperation – 2.5 % of the funds available.

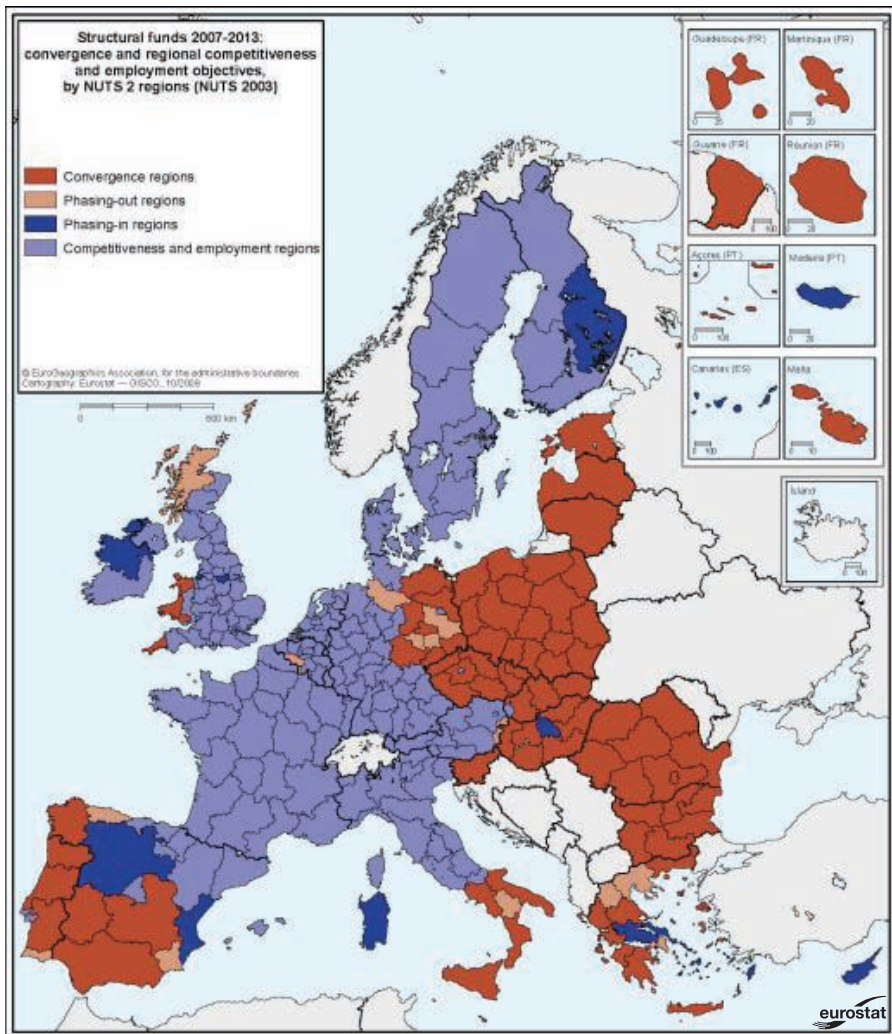
Convergence regions are NUTS level 2 regions whose gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant (measured in purchasing power parities) is less than 75 % of the EU-25 average, in other words the poorest regions and Member States. These 84 regions from 18 of the Member States (marked in the deep rusty red colour in the map overleaf – based on NUTS 2003 regions) have a total population of 154 million inhabitants.

Because GDP per inhabitant was notably lower for the EU-25 than for the EU-15 a number of regions in the EU-15 which formerly had the equivalent status of convergence regions were no longer eligible because of the sharp change in the threshold: these 16 'phasing-out' regions (marked in the light rusty red colour in the map overleaf) were allocated transitional funding.

All other NUTS level 2 regions, of which there are 168 (based on NUTS (2003)), are eligible under the **regional competitiveness and employment** objective, which aims to strengthen competitiveness, attractiveness and employment. Of these, special transitional assistance will be provided to 13 'phasing-in' regions (marked in dark blue in the map overleaf), which formerly had the equivalent status of convergence regions and where GDP exceeds 75 % of the EU-15 average.

Territorial cooperation aims to strengthen i) cross-border cooperation ii) transnational cooperation aiming at integrated territorial development iii) and inter-regional cooperation and exchanges of experience. Some 181.7 million people live in cross-border areas. All EU regions are covered by at least one of the 13 transnational cooperation areas (as adopted by the European Commission in its decision of 31 October 2006) and are therefore eligible for both transnational and inter-regional cooperation.

(2) http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/fonds/index_en.htm.



Source: Directorate-General for Regional Policy

Instruments

The three main objectives of regional policy are supported by three different funds, namely: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund.

The **European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF) co-finances investments in all Member States but is concentrated on the poorest regions. Concerning convergence, it focuses on economic modernisation/diversification, as well as sustainable jobs. Concerning regional competitiveness and employment, the priorities are innovation and the knowledge-based economy, environment and risk prevention, and access to transport and telecommunications services. The focus for territorial cooperation is the development of economic and social cross-border activities, transnational and inter-regional cooperation, as well as the networking and exchange of experiences between relevant authorities.

The **European Social Fund** (ESF) focuses on adaptability of workers and enterprises, access to employment and labour force participation, social inclusion, and partnerships for employment and inclusion reform.

The **Cohesion Fund** mainly co-finances transport networks and environment projects. Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant is less than 90 % of the EU-25 average are eligible. For the period 2007-2013, the Cohesion Fund concerns the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007, as well as Greece and Portugal; Spain is eligible to a phase-out fund.

The regional development component, as well as the cross-border cooperation component of the new Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), help candidate countries to develop their competitiveness, particularly through the development of transport networks and environmental infrastructure.

For more information on regional policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/history/index_en.htm.

Regional database and GISCO

In addition to national level some of the data in Eurostat are available also at subnational level. Eurostat's regional and urban statistics are stored in its web-based, public database, in the 'Regions' and 'Urban Audit' domains of the 'General and regional statistics' theme. These data can be accessed free of charge via the Internet http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/shared/per_gensta.

Geographic information systems (GIS) involve the collection, processing and dissemination of spatial (geographical) data. Maps are a common output of GIS, and the maps in this publication have been produced by GISCO, the geographical information system of the European Commission. GISCO is a service within Eurostat responsible for encouraging the use of geographical information systems within the European Statistical System (ESS) and the European Commission. Other tasks of GISCO include to:

- manage and disseminate the geographical reference database of the European Commission;
- act as a reference centre concerning GIS;
- promote geo-referencing of statistics and collaboration between national statistical institutes and mapping agencies;
- pursue and ensure standardisation and harmonisation in the exchange of geographic information;
- co-lead the INSPIRE initiative on the introduction of a European spatial data infrastructure – see <http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/>.

Urban Audit

Eurostat launched the Urban Audit in response to the growing demand for an assessment of the quality of life in European towns and cities. A pilot project was initiated in 1999 and focused on 58 large cities. This was followed by a data collection in 2003 and 2004 (2001 as the main reference year) covering 258 cities in the EU-27. Data was collected for over 300 variables covering most aspects of urban life, for example: demography, housing, health, crime, the labour market, income disparity, local administration, educational qualifications, the environment, climate, travel patterns, information society, and cultural infrastructure. Data were compiled for three types of spatial unit: the central/core city, in other words, the administrative unit for which a rich data set is generally available; the larger urban zone, in order to capture information that covers the hinterland of the city; and sub-city districts to take account of intra-urban discrepancies.

The latest round of data collection was in 2006 and 2007 (main reference year 2004), and aimed to keep close to the established methods, with some improvements. The coverage was extended to include 63 more cities within the EU, as well as adding 5 Croatian, 26 Turkish, 6 Norwegian and 4 Swiss cities. To supplement the Urban Audit, the Large City Audit was added to include other cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants, with the intention of compiling a database from data already available to the national statistical authorities.

In January 2004, a perception survey was conducted in parallel with the Urban Audit data collection: in each of 31 participating cities within the EU-15 some 300 persons were interviewed by telephone about their perception of various aspects of the quality of life within their city. In December 2006 the survey was repeated with a larger sample and extended to 75 cities within the EU-27, Croatia and Turkey. This publication contains only a small amount of information on the Urban Audit: more information is available from http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/pgp_ds_region/pge_ds_region_1.

From 2009 onwards there will be an annual Urban Audit with a reduced dataset of around 30 indicators complemented by an exhaustive Urban Audit every 3 to 4 years.

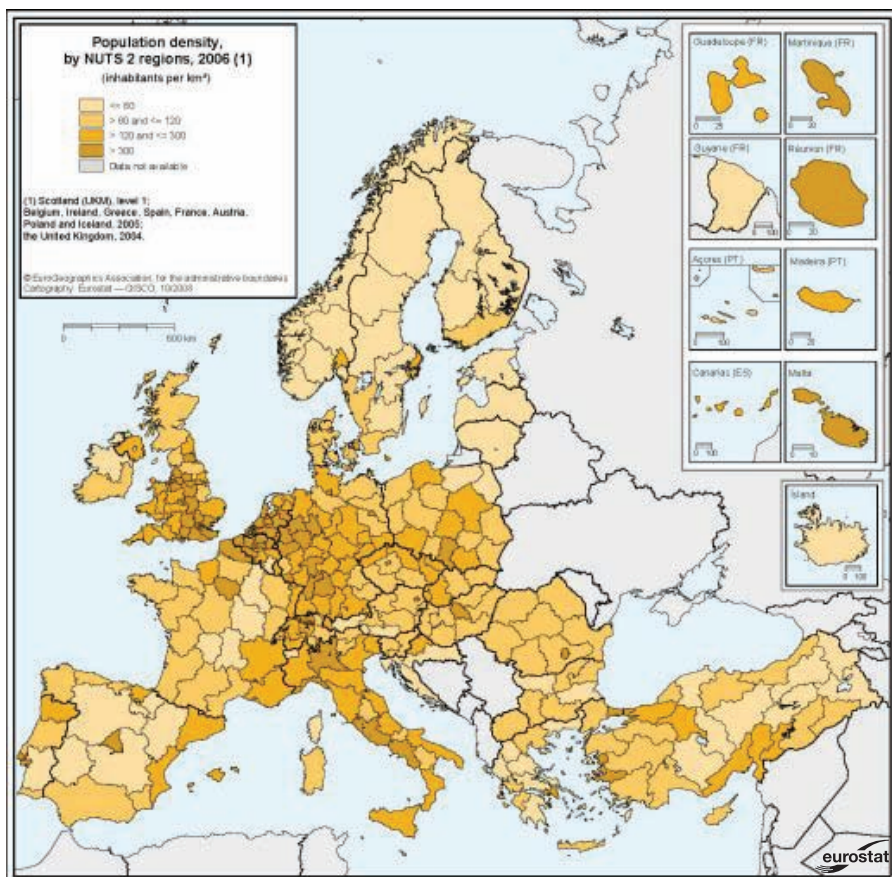


Population and social conditions

1

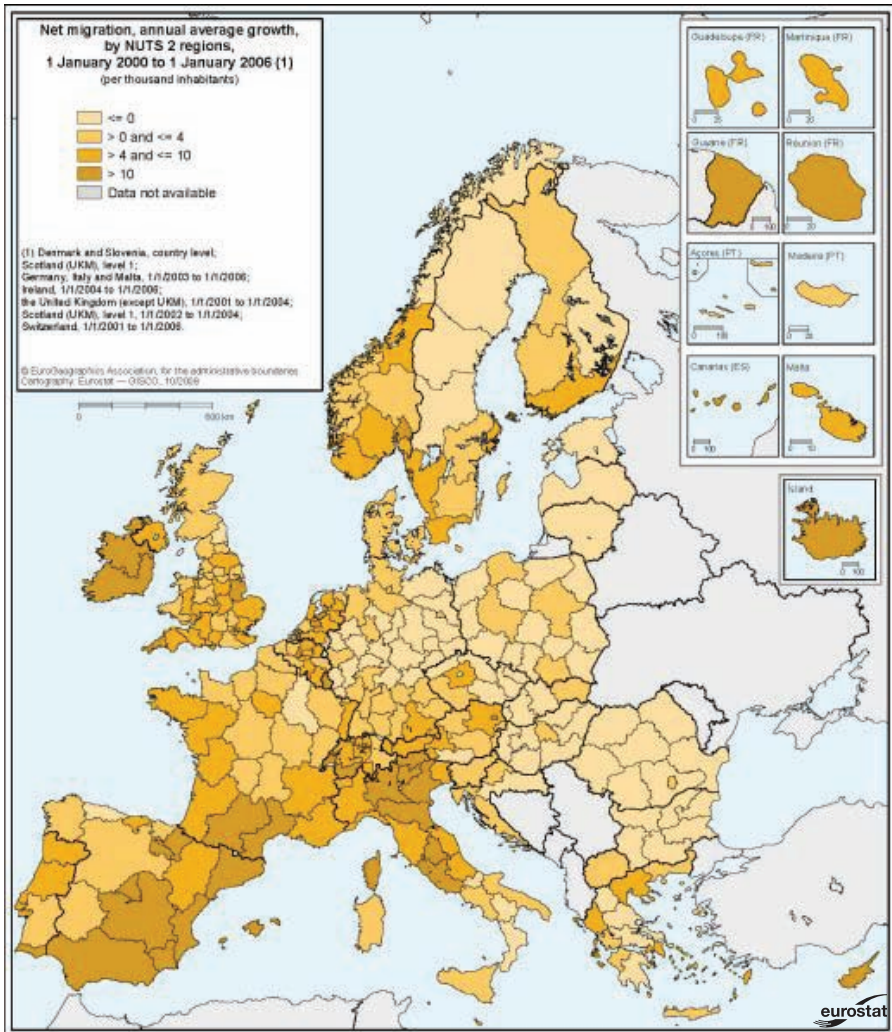


The **population density** of a region is the ratio of the population of a territory to its size. The map below shows that in most Member States the capital city regions are among the most densely populated. Inner London (United Kingdom) was by far the most densely populated; the least densely populated region was the French overseas department of Guyane, while the next seven least densely populated regions were all in Sweden or Finland.



Source: Eurostat (tgs00024)

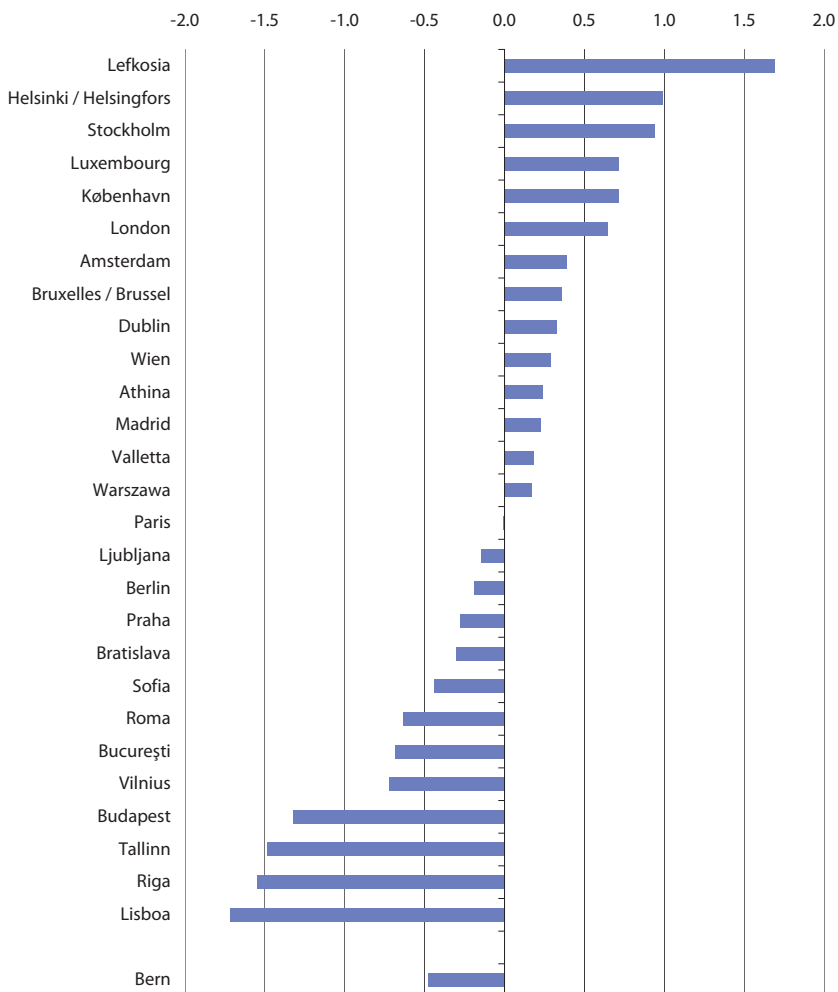
International migration has become a major element of population change within the EU. The map below shows the annual average population change through **net migration**, calculated over the relatively long period from the beginning of 2000 to the beginning of 2006. Several regions have recorded a fall in population due to migration, for example, in northern Sweden, large parts of eastern Germany and many regions in the central and eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 or 2007. Net migration figures are derived from changes in the total population that cannot be attributed to births and deaths.



Source: Eurostat (reg_d2jan and reg_d3natmo)

The Urban Audit provides an analysis of population change at the city level. Data shown in the figure below concern the core (within administrative boundaries) areas of capital cities. The capital cities of most of the central and eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 or 2007 recorded decreases in population from 1991 to 2004, the notable exception being Warszawa (Poland). Among the capital cities of the EU-15 Member States, the population fell considerably in Roma (Italy) and in Lisboa (Portugal).

Resident population annual average rate of change, capital cities, 1991-2004 (1) (%)

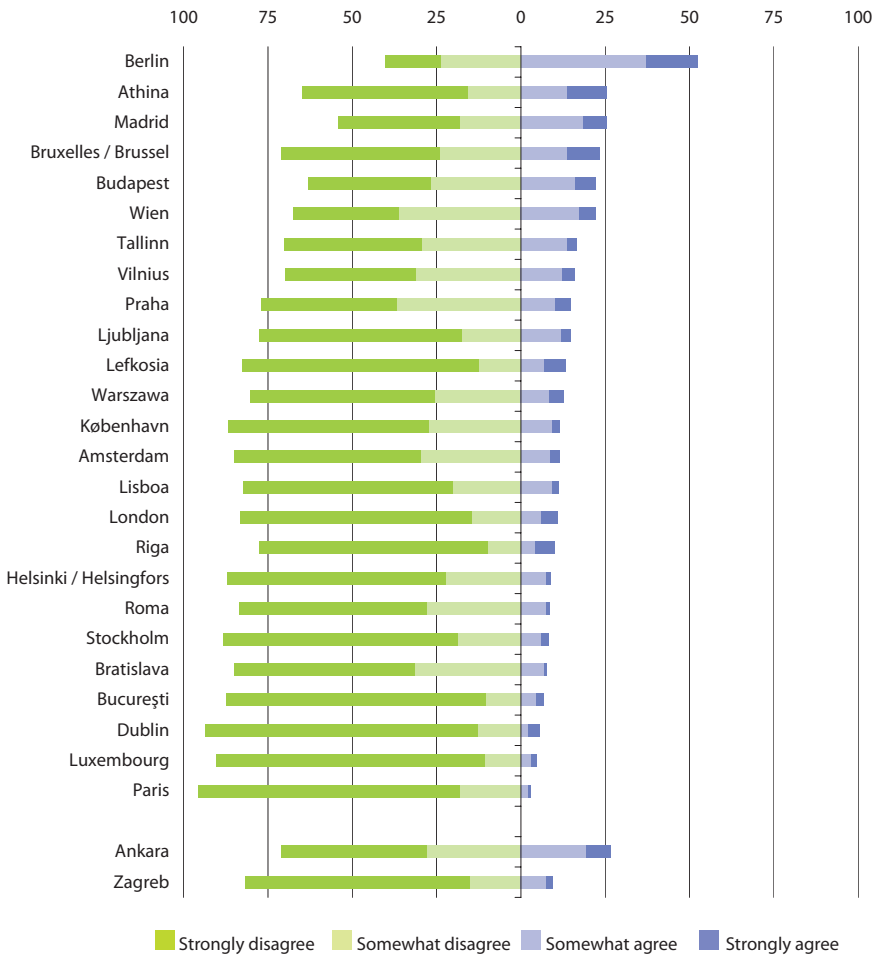


(1) Sofia and Copenhagen, 1991 to 2001; Dublin, 1991 to 2002; Berlin, 1992 to 2004; Paris, 1990 to 2004.

Source: Eurostat (urb_ikey)

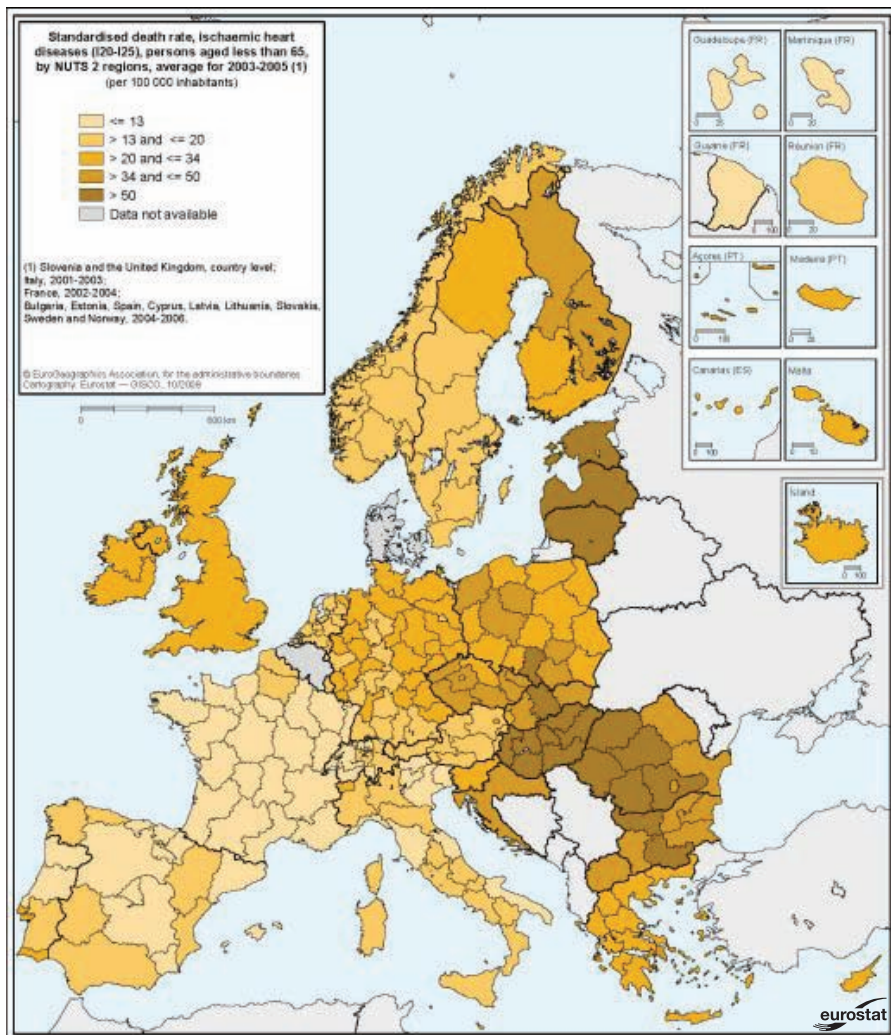
The perceived quality and affordability of housing is one of several factors that attract/deter people to/from a city. The figure below shows that perceptions concerning housing vary greatly between the capital cities – note that two factors are combined, namely the quality of the housing stock that is available, and its affordability (cost). Only in Berlin (Germany) were the majority of answers positive.

Perception of housing: proportion of respondents who agree or disagree that it is easy to find good housing at a reasonable price, 2006 (%)



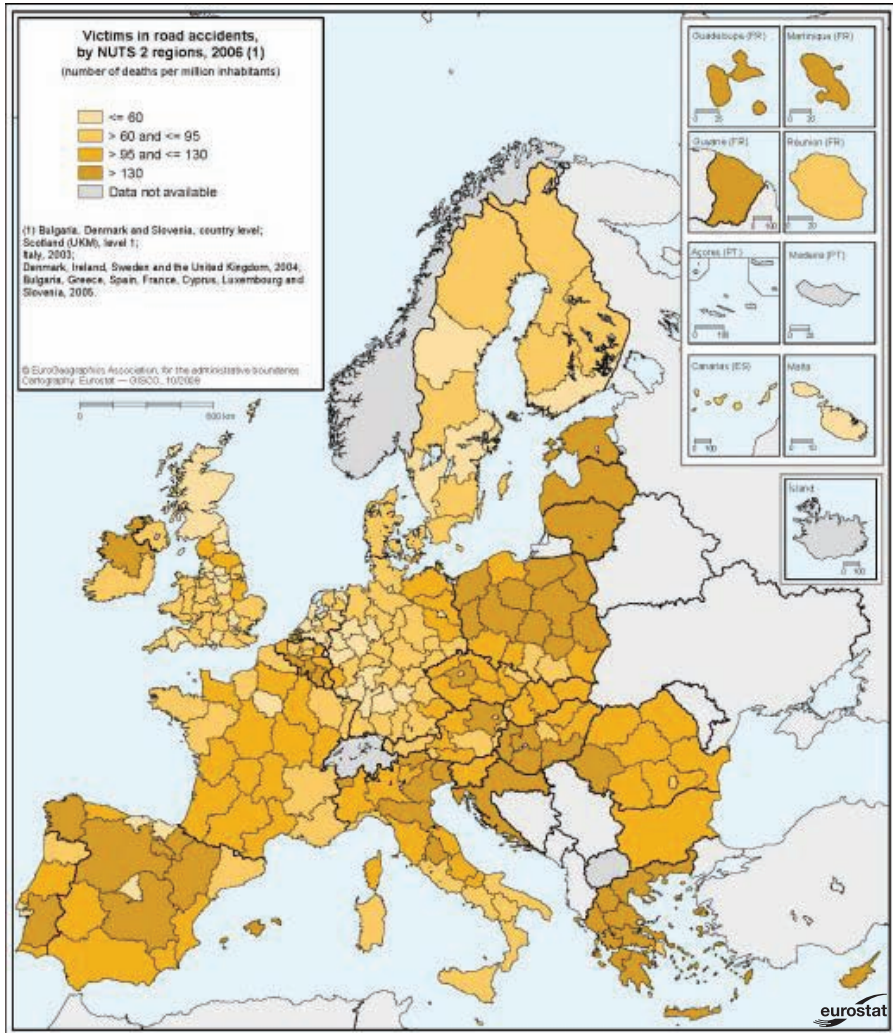
Source: Eurostat (urb_percep)

Many factors determine **mortality**, such as age, health, living or working conditions. Ischaemic heart diseases accounted for more than one in ten deaths under the age of 65 in the EU-27 (2003 to 2005 average). The map below shows that there are few regional differences in this death rate within countries, Portugal being a notable exception, although there is a clear pattern across the EU from north-east (higher values) to south-west (lower values).



Source: Eurostat (hlth_cd_ysdr1)

The map below shows the distribution of deaths resulting from **road accidents**. Several regions comprising major conurbations have fewer road traffic deaths than neighbouring regions, for example, around Berlin (Germany) and Wien (Austria). This may reflect higher use of public transport and lower average driving speeds within capital cities compared with high-speed road networks in surrounding regions leading into and out of the capital cities.



Source: Eurostat (hlth_cd_ysdr1)



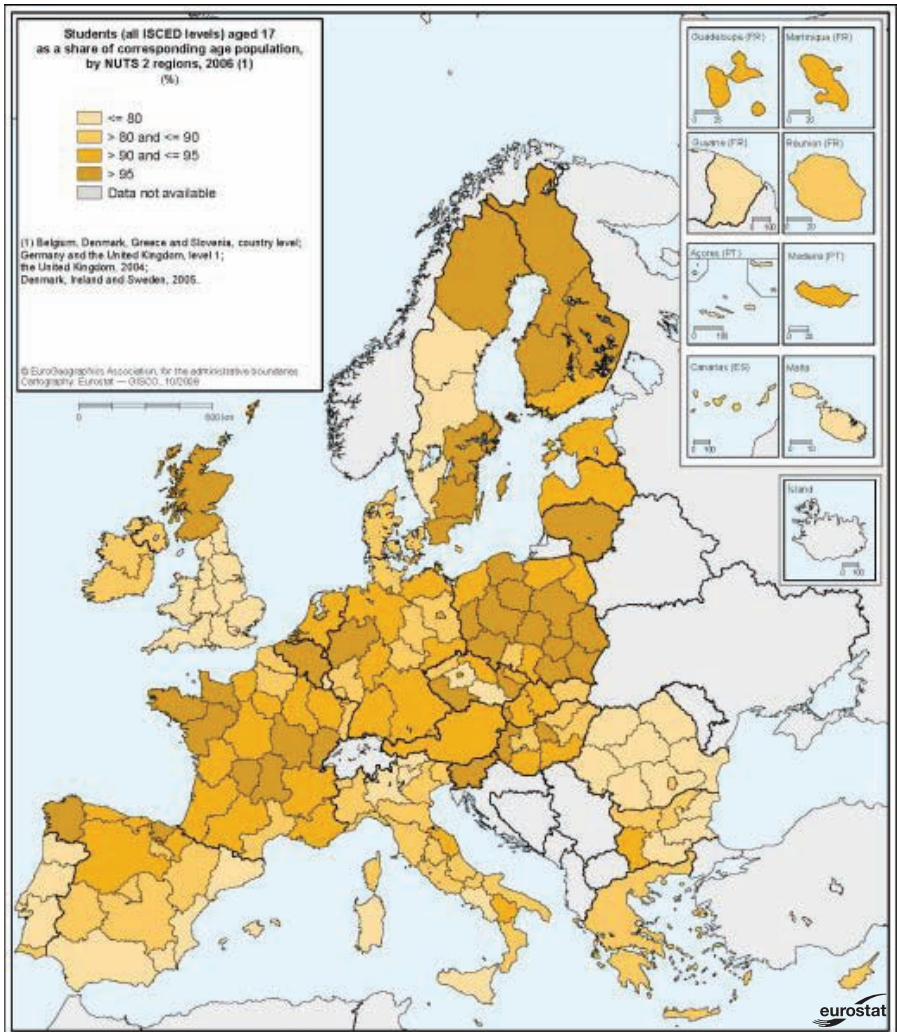
**Education, science
and technology**

2



Education and training are widely recognised as important for a knowledge-based society and economy. The map below shows the level of **participation in education** among 17 year-olds. Although there are large national differences, for example, relatively low levels of participation throughout Romania and high rates throughout Poland, there are also Member States with strong regional disparities, for example, in the Czech Republic, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

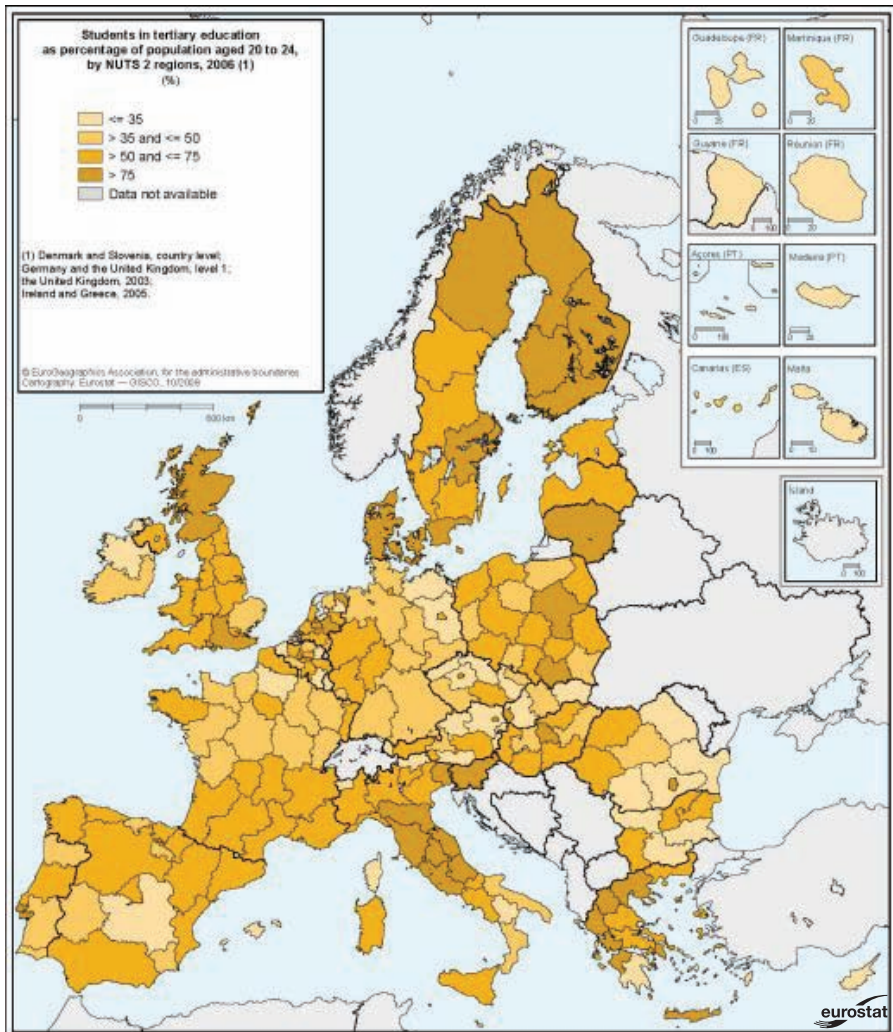
An alternative indicator of youth participation is the proportion of 15-24 year olds that are in upper secondary education and post secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED levels 3 and 4). Participation rates (for 2005 or 2006 depending on the Member State) were above 50 % in nearly all of the regions in Belgium and Finland, several Italian regions, two Swedish regions, as



Source: Eurostat (educ_renrlrg3 and reg_d2jan)

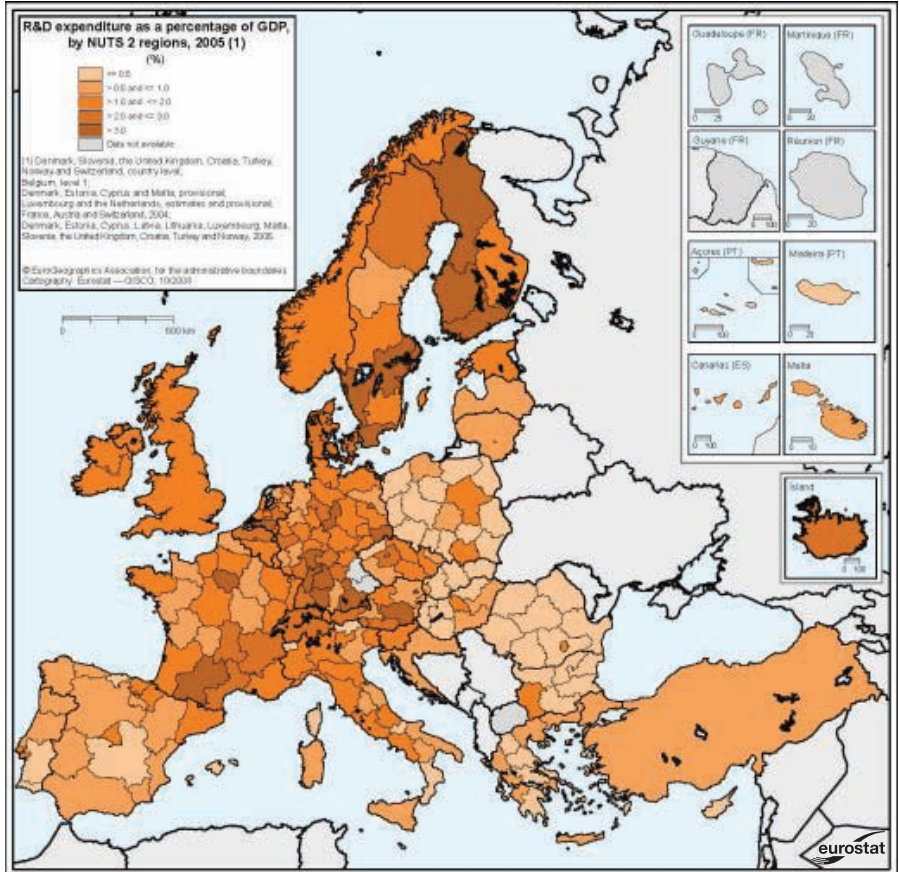
well as the regions covering the capital cities of Hungary and the Czech Republic; no recent data is available for the United Kingdom, but in 2004 all regions had a participation rate over 50 %.

The map below shows the number of students in tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 and 6) as a percentage of the population aged 20 to 24 years old (note that tertiary education students may be younger or older). This indicator is influenced by the geographical distribution of higher education institutions, therefore many capital city regions figured among the regions with the highest ratios, notably București - Ilfov (Romania), Praha (the Czech Republic), Bratislavský kraj (Slovakia), Région de Bruxelles-Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (Belgium), and Wien (Austria), while three Greek regions also figured in the top ten.



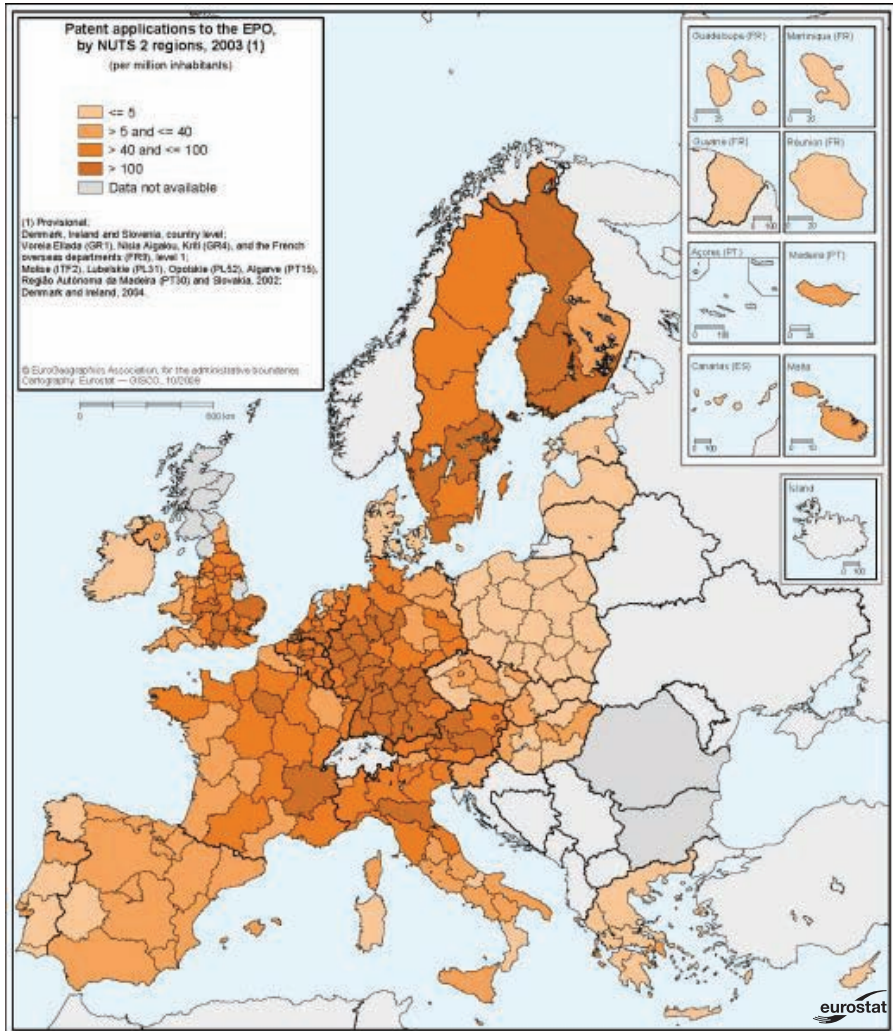
Source: Eurostat (educ_renr1r1 and reg_d2jan)

Research and development (R&D) intensity is calculated as R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP. In the map below there are 40 regions where R&D intensity is above 2 %, and in half of these it is above 3 % (a target set for the whole of the EU to reach by 2010). Several clusters with high R&D intensity can be identified, often in regions that have universities and research institutes (such as Braunschweig or Tübingen (both Germany)), or areas where transport equipment manufacturing is particularly important (such as the Midi-Pyrénées (France) or Stuttgart Germany)). The ten most research-intensive regions included four German and four Swedish regions.



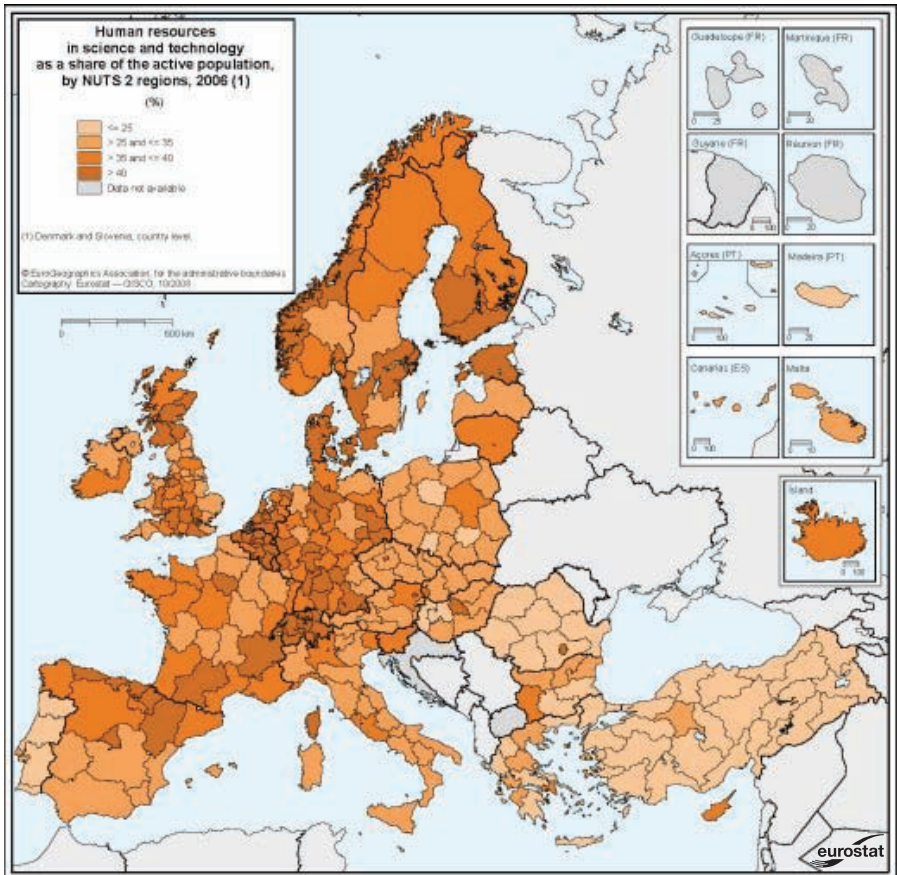
Source: Eurostat (rd_e_gerdreg)

A similar distribution (to that for R&D intensity) can be seen in terms of **patent applications** to the European patent office (see the map below). High numbers of applications (relative to population size) were recorded in several regions of Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as in Luxembourg. The top ten most active patenting regions included eight in Germany (Stuttgart was the highest), one in Austria (Vorarlberg), and one in the Netherlands (Noord-Brabant) which was the most active of all with 381 patent applications per million inhabitants in 2003.



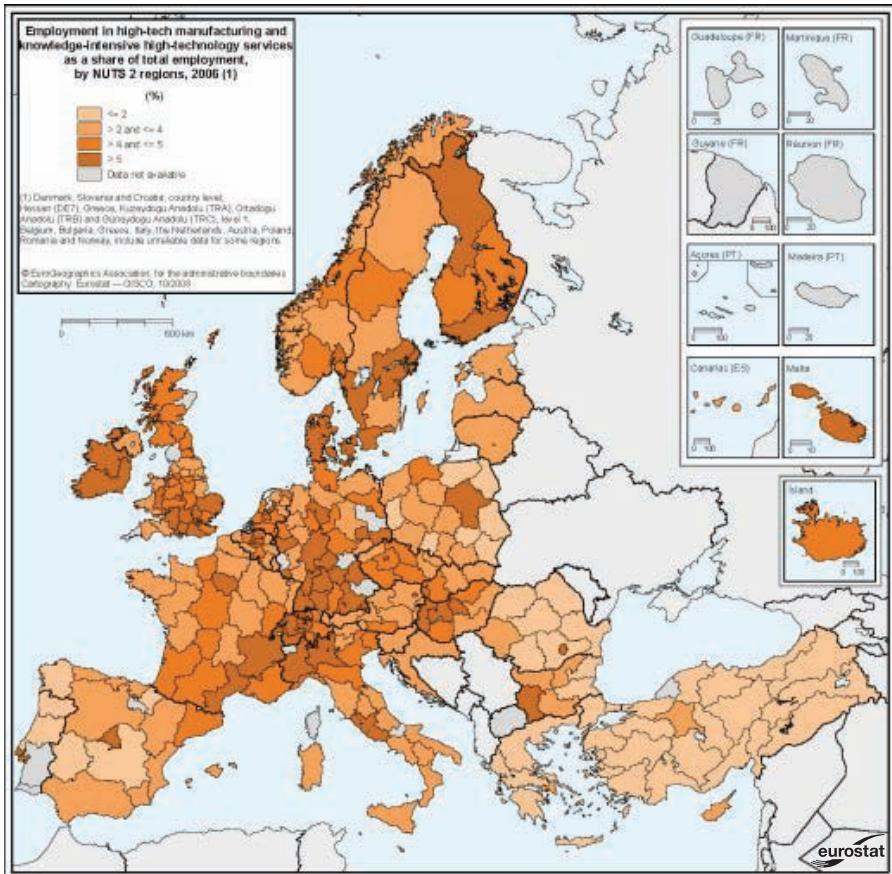
Source: Eurostat (rd_e_gerdreg)

Human resources in science and technology (HRST) – as shown in the map below – cover persons who have completed tertiary education and/or are employed in an S&T occupation for which tertiary education is normally required. HRST are often concentrated in or around capital cities and this is especially clear to see in those countries where the overall proportion of HRST (in the active population) is low. Of the ten EU-27 regions with the highest shares of HRST, five capitals were represented (the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Czech Republic, France, and Belgium), alongside two more Belgian regions, the País Vasco (Spain), Utrecht (the Netherlands) and Oberbayern (Germany).



Source: Eurostat (hrst_st_rcat)

High-tech sectors include manufacturing activities such as aerospace and services such as computer and related activities. The map below shows the **share of high-tech sectors in total employment**: in the top ten regions high-tech sectors accounted for 8 % or more of employment, with four of these in Germany, two in the United Kingdom, and one each in France, Hungary, Finland and Sweden.



Source: Eurostat (htec_emp_reg)



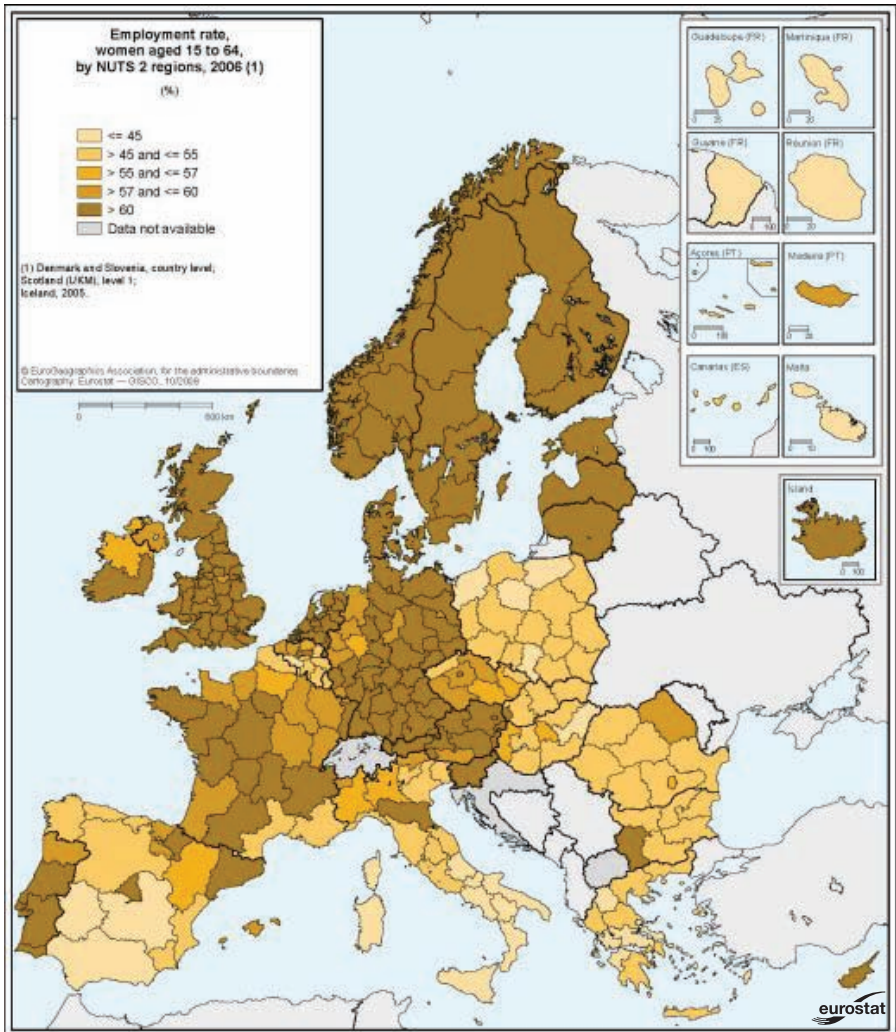
Labour market and income

3



Minimum employment targets have been set for the EU for 2010: an overall **employment rate** of 70 %, a female employment rate of 60 %, and an employment rate for older workers of 50 %. As of 2006, from 264 NUTS level 2 regions ⁽³⁾, 70 had reached or surpassed the 70 % overall target, and a further 34 had reached the intermediate target (for 2005) of 67 %. The highest overall employment rates were generally found in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the Nordic Member States.

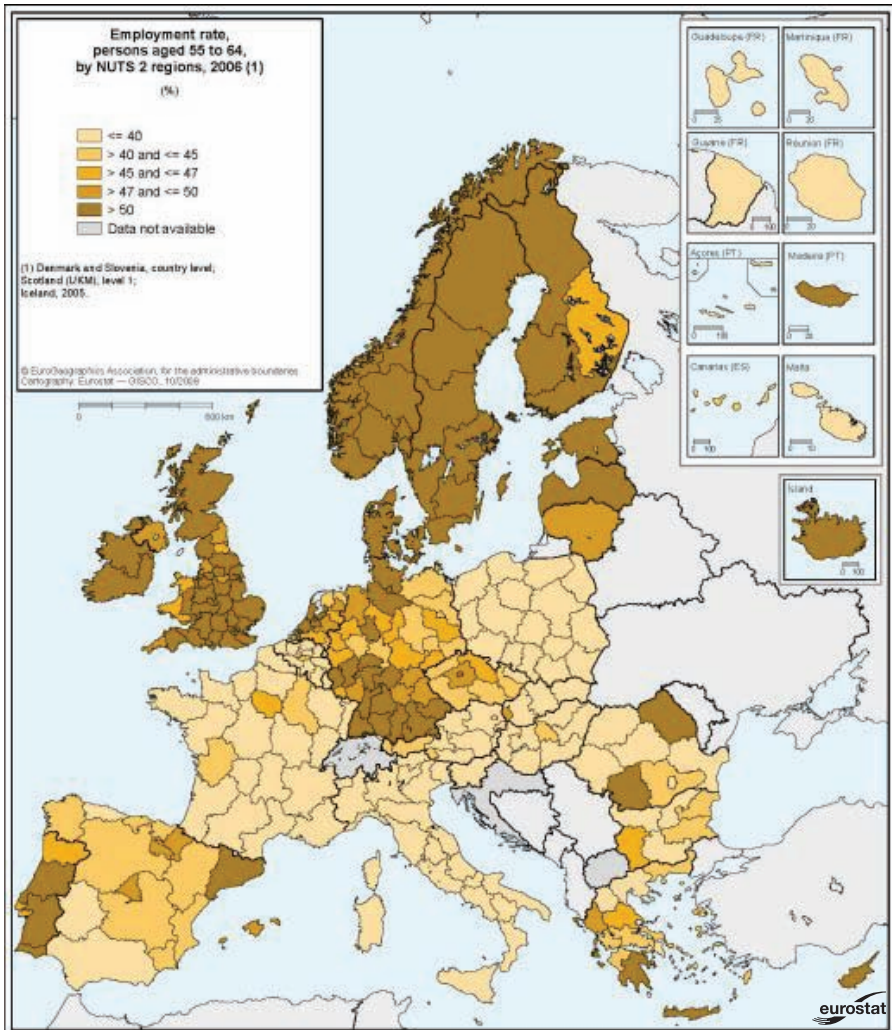
(3) Denmark, Slovenia, country level; Scotland, NUTS level 1.



Source: Eurostat (reg_lfe2emprt)

By 2006 there were 124 regions within the EU-27 at or above the 60 % target for the female employment rate (see the map on the previous page). The highest rate was recorded in Åland, Finland, at 76.9%. There were 31 regions where the rate was equal to or below 45 %, of which eight were in Italy and six in Greece.

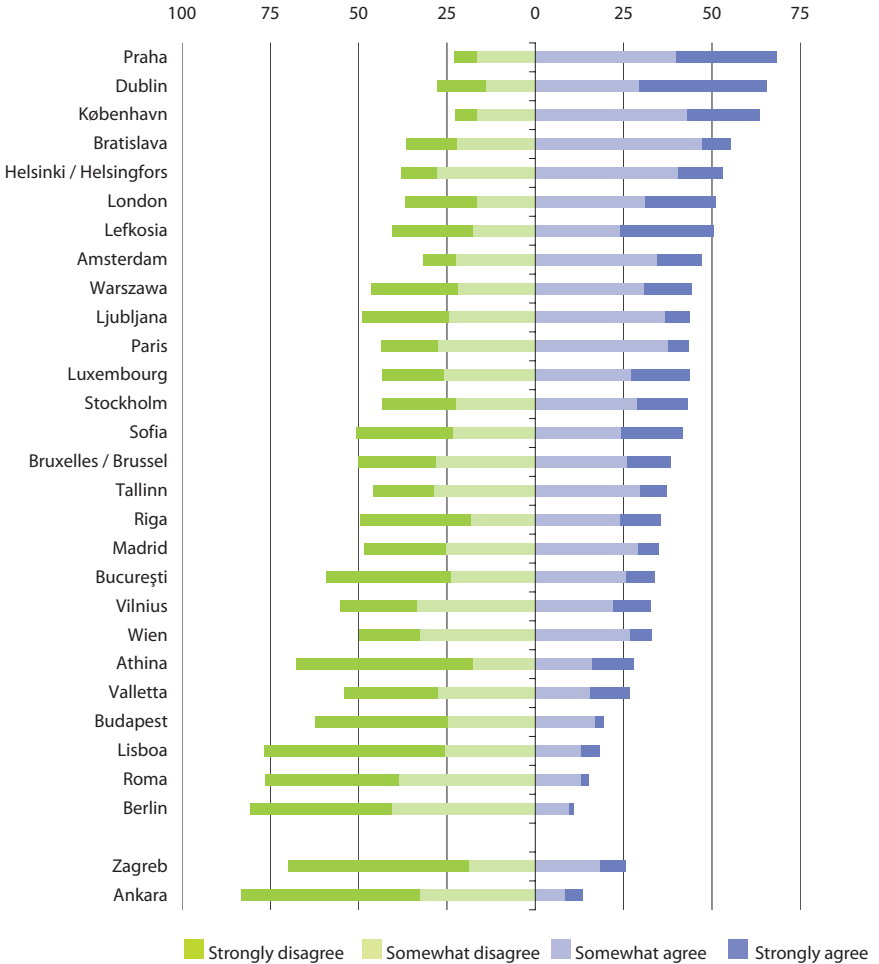
While the overall employment rate shows the proportion of the population of working age (15-64 years) that are in employment, the rate for older workers shown in the map below focuses on persons aged 55 to 64. A relatively large number of regions had reached the 50 % target for older workers, including Denmark (no regional breakdown available), Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, all regions in Ireland and Sweden, and most of the regions in Finland and the United Kingdom.



Source: Eurostat (reg_lfe2mprt)

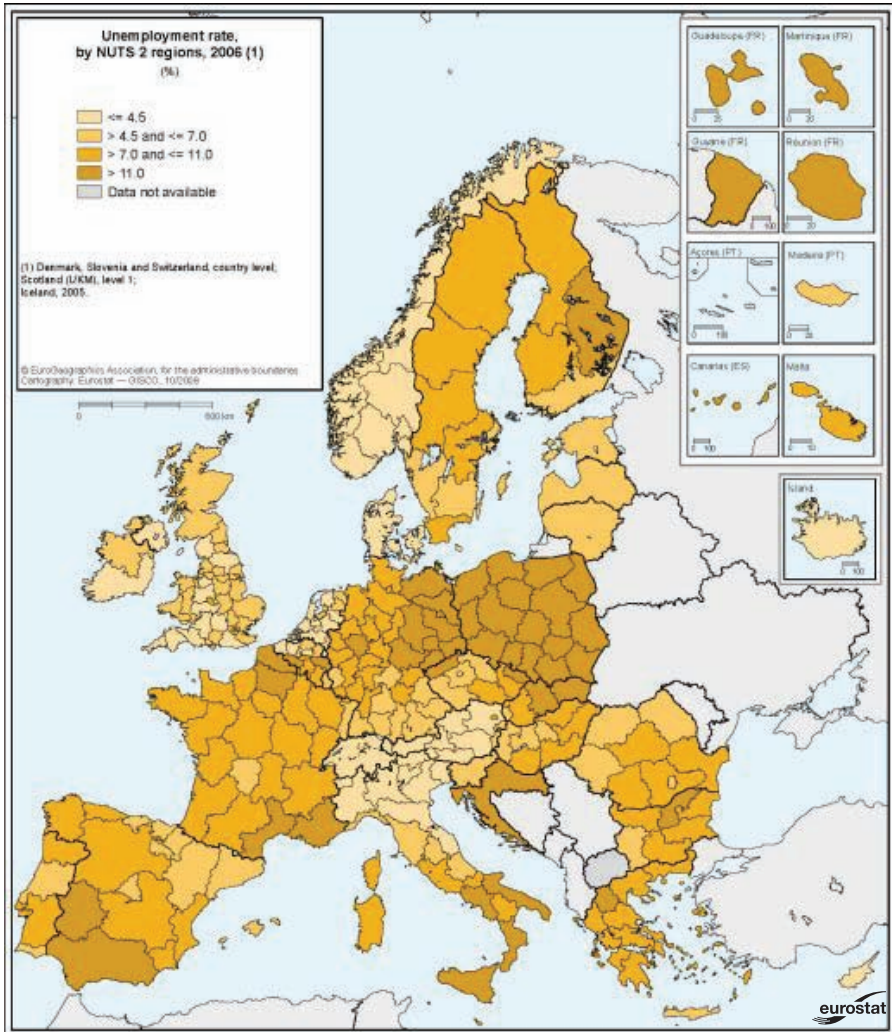
Employment opportunities are an issue that influences where people choose to live. The figure below shows perceptions in capital cities concerning the ease of finding a job: more than three fifths of respondents in Praha (the Czech Republic), Dublin (Ireland) and København (Denmark) agreed that it was easy to find a job.

Proportion of respondents reporting whether they agree that it is easy to find a job, 2006 (%)



Source: Eurostat (urb_percep)

The **unemployment rate** in the EU-27 was 8.2 % in 2006. A number of Member States showed little regional variation as regards unemployment rates, for example, consistently low rates were registered throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, while relatively high rates were seen in Poland – see the map below. Some Member States reported regional variations, notably higher unemployment rates in southern Belgium, Spain and Italy, as well as eastern Germany and Slovakia.

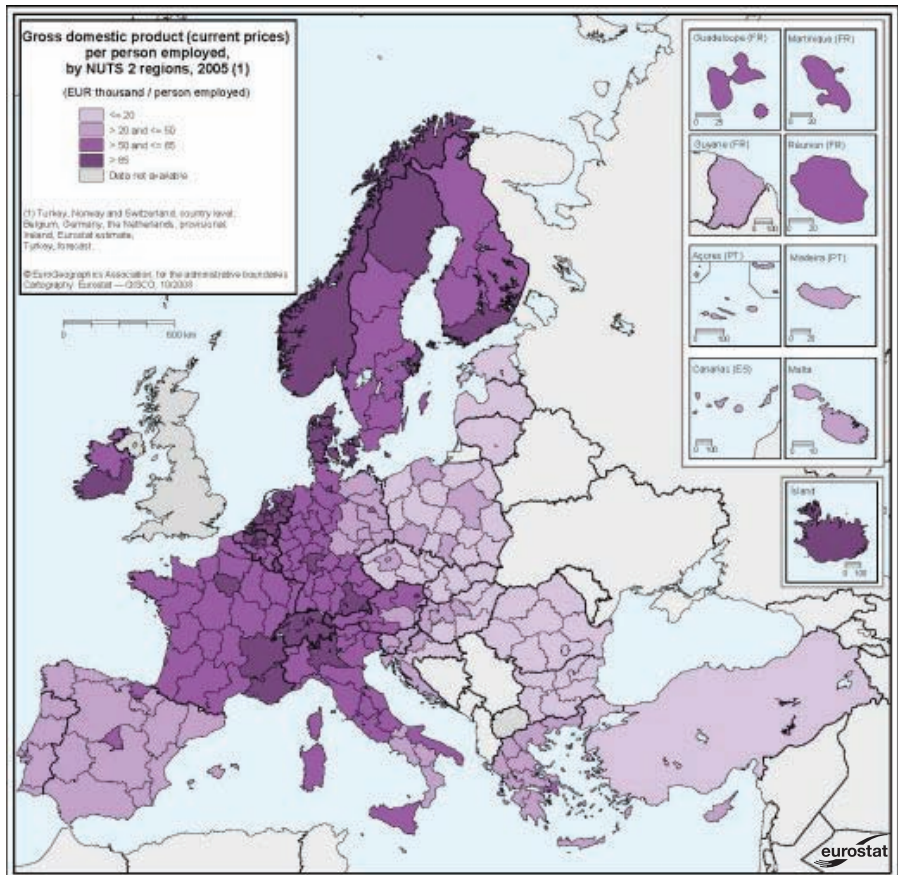


Source: Eurostat (reg_lfu3rt)

An analysis of **labour productivity** considers gross domestic product (GDP) in relation to the number of persons employed. Comparing 2000 with 2005 ⁽⁴⁾ some 29 regions (out of 214) recorded productivity growth of 50 % or more, including all of the Czech, Hungarian and Slovak regions, seven Polish regions, one Bulgarian region, as well as Estonia and Lithuania. Growth below 10 % was mainly found in German and Swedish regions.

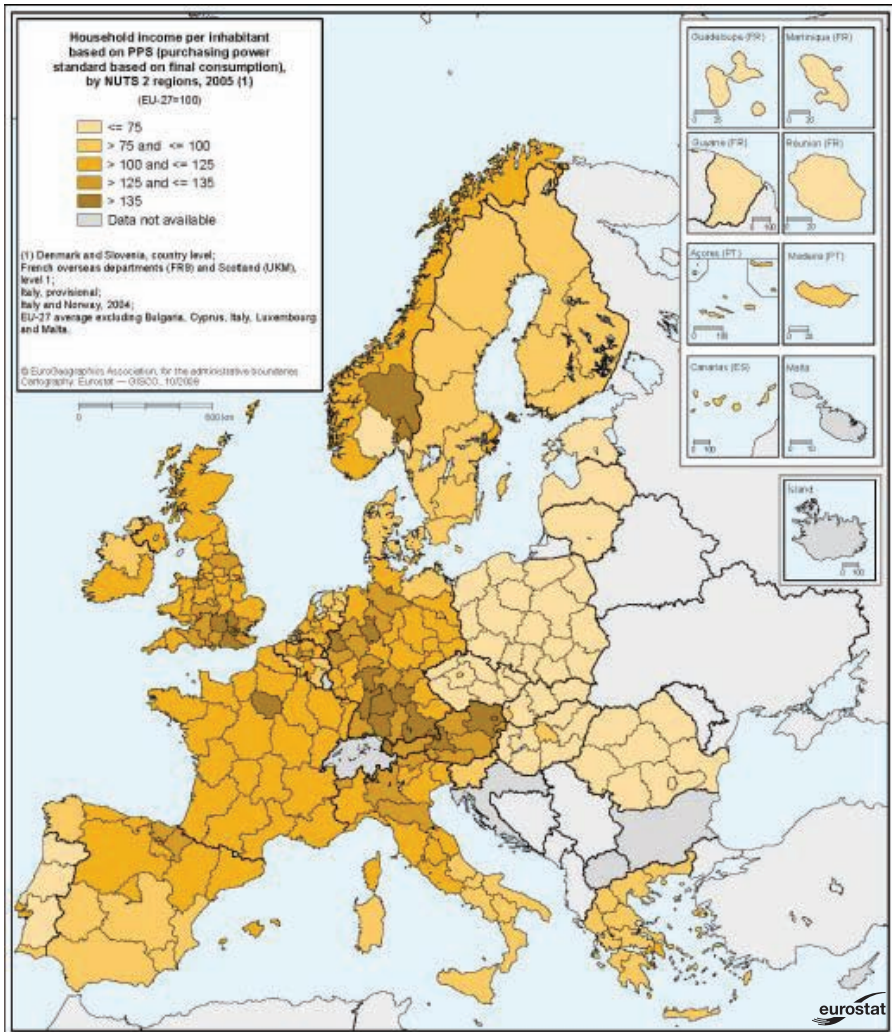
Substantial productivity differences remain between EU regions (see the map below). A common feature is that capital city regions tend to have the highest apparent labour productivity: the exceptions being in Germany (where Hamburg was highest), Spain (País Vasco), Italy (Lombardia) and the Netherlands (Groningen).

(4) The Netherlands, Romania and the United Kingdom, not available.



Source: Eurostat (reg_e2gdp)

A roughly similar pattern appears when studying disposable **household income** (see the map below), even when taking account of difference in price levels (by using purchasing power standards for the analysis). Most capital city regions recorded the highest disposable income within each Member State with the exceptions of Belgium (Vlaams Brabant), Germany (Hamburg), Spain (País Vasco), Italy (Provincia Autonoma Bolzano/Bozen), the Netherlands (Utrecht) and Finland (Åland). Strong regional differences within Member States were observed in Belgium, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Of the ten regions with the highest disposable income per inhabitant, five were in the United Kingdom, four in Germany, and one in France, with levels in Hamburg and Inner London considerably higher than anywhere else.



Source: Eurostat (reg_ehh2inc)



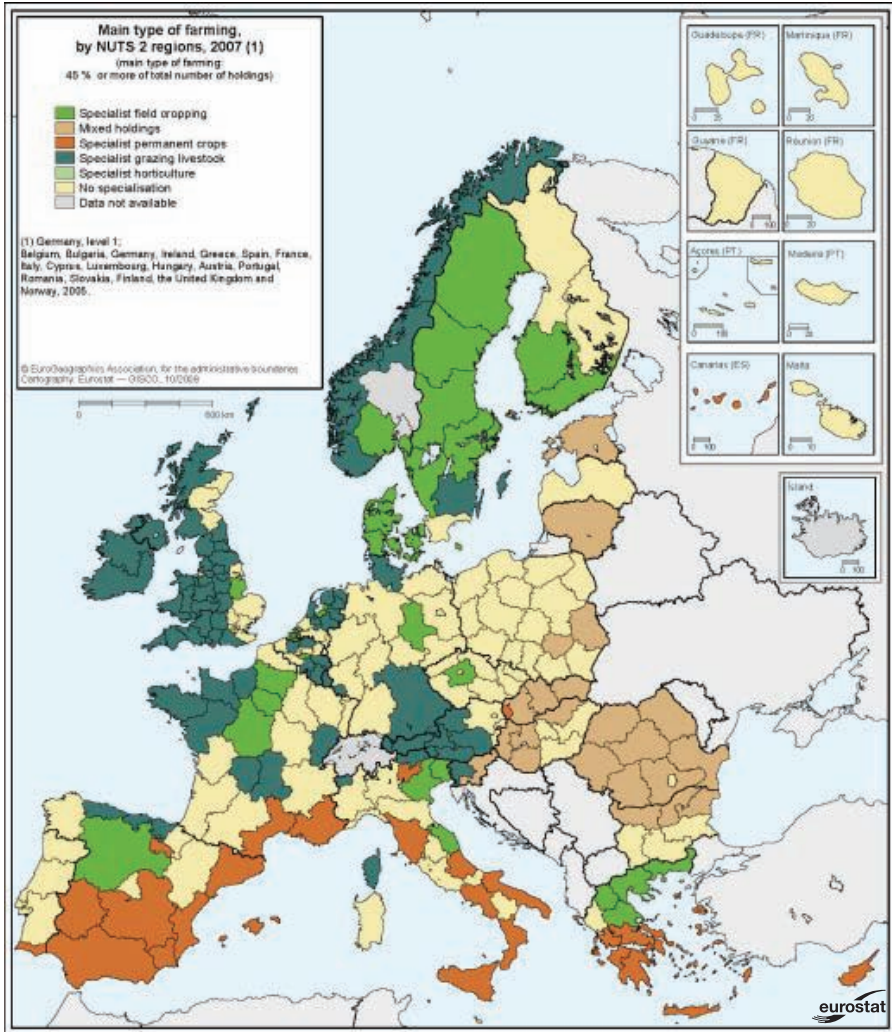
Agriculture

4



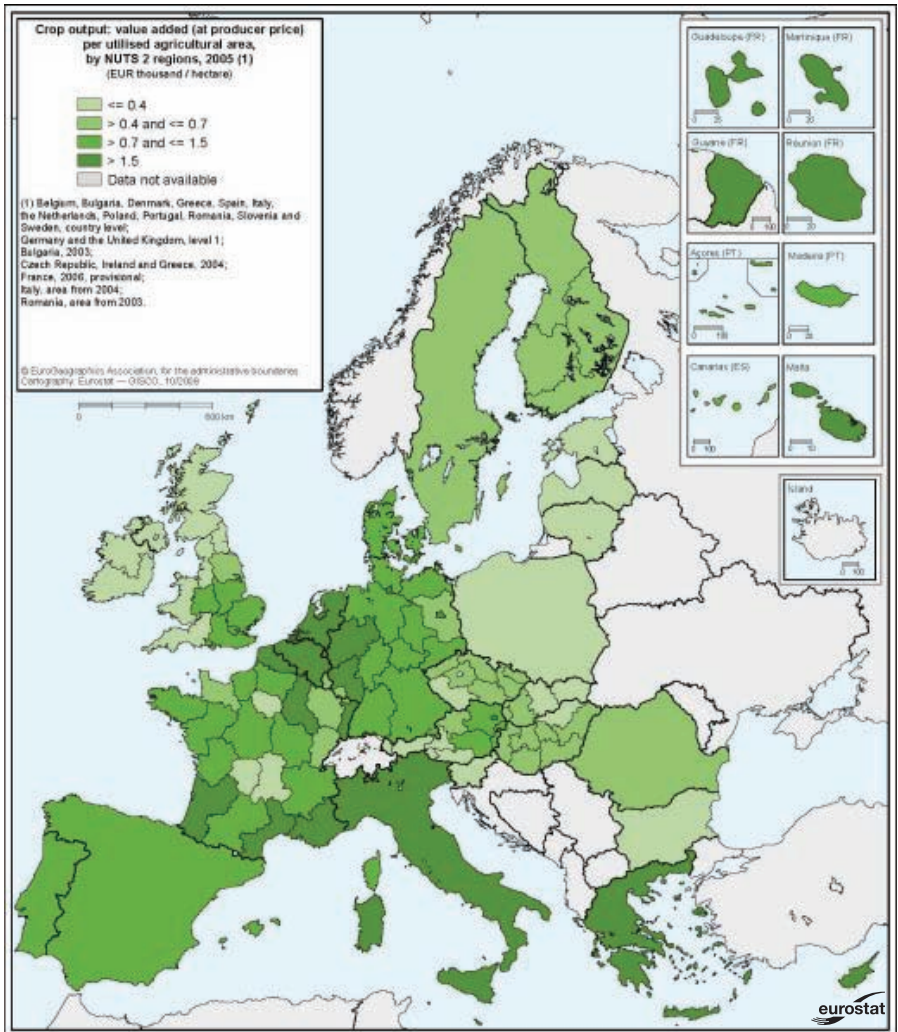
Reforms of the common agricultural policy (CAP) started in the early 1990s and resulted in a change towards a market-oriented and a more environment-friendly and sustainable form of agriculture. In the 2003/04 reforms, direct aid was decoupled from production and moves were made to try to realign the CAP with consumer concerns; furthermore, a comprehensive rural development policy was introduced.

Agricultural holdings are classified by **type of farming**: where a particular type of activity accounts for more than two thirds of the overall economic size it is specialised; where none of the agricultural activities is much more significant than the others it is considered to be a mixed holding. The following map shows the most frequent type of holding in each region: this is determined as the one to which at least 45 % of the region's holdings belonged. Of 251 regions shown in the map some 97 regions had no dominant type of farming, in other words no particular type accounted for more than 45 % of the holdings in that region. The most common form of specialisation was grazing livestock, for which Salzburg (Austria) was the most specialised among 70 regions that included Luxembourg, the Irish regions and many regions in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Austria and the United Kingdom. Specialist field cropping was the main type of farming in 31 regions, including all regions in Denmark, and several in Greece and Sweden. Regions dominated by permanent crops (such as vineyards) were mainly located in Greece and Spain, central and southern Italy, as well as in Cyprus, but included also Bratislavský kraj (Slovakia), and the northern Italian Provincia Autonoma Trento. There were only two regions dominated by horticulture, Hamburg (Germany) and the Région de Bruxelles-Capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (Belgium), both small, urban regions. Finally, all of the regions dominated by mixed holdings were in the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or 2007, including half or more of the regions in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia, as well as in Estonia and Lithuania.



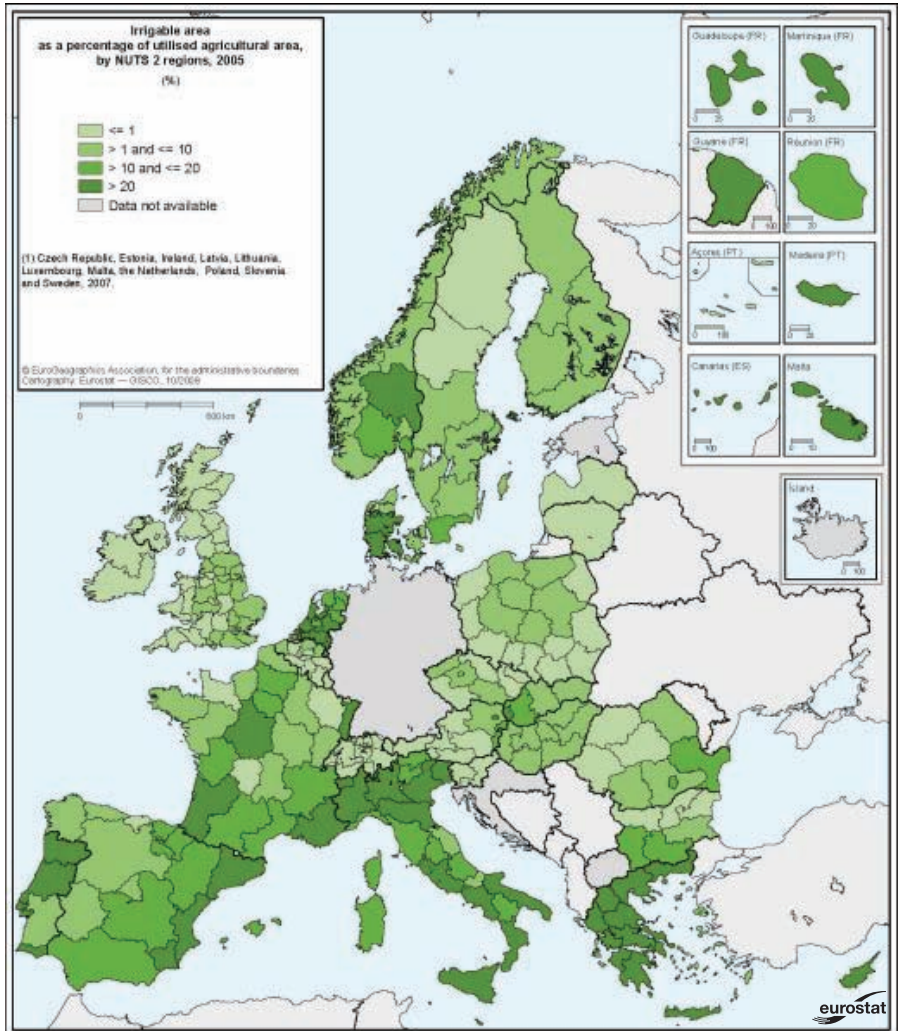
Source: Eurostat (ef_r_nuts)

The utilised agricultural area (UAA) includes arable land, kitchen gardens, permanent pasture, and land used for permanent crops. The map below shows the value of **crop output** per hectare of UAA – the value depends mainly on the type of crop, with horticulture and permanent crops often generating particularly high values per hectare. The regions with the highest values are known for growing vegetables, fruit or ornamental plants and most are situated in the southern part of Europe, in the Netherlands and Belgium, the French overseas departments, or around major cities such as Wien (Austria) or Hamburg (Germany). Low crop output values per hectare can often be explained by the predominance of livestock grazing, extreme weather conditions, or lower levels of mechanisation and use of chemicals.



Source: Eurostat (reg_a2acct and reg_a2land)

The map below shows the density of the **irrigable agricultural area**, calculated as a share of the total UAA. Whether the area was actually irrigated depends on the crop cultivated, as well as the specific weather conditions. The Região Autónoma da Madeira (Portugal) had the highest proportion of irrigable area (85 %), with Greek, Italian and Dutch regions making up the remainder of the top ten. A total of 13 regions reported no irrigated areas, including both Irish regions and seven British regions (including all four Scottish regions).



Source: Eurostat (ef_lu_ofirrig)

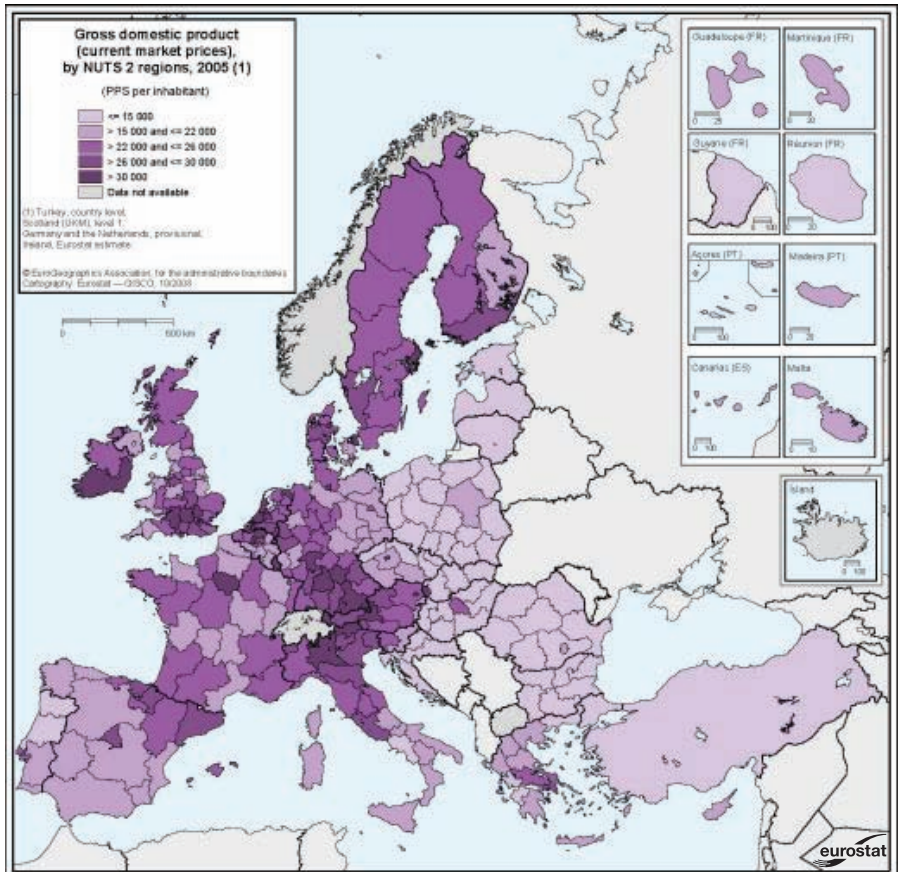
Economy

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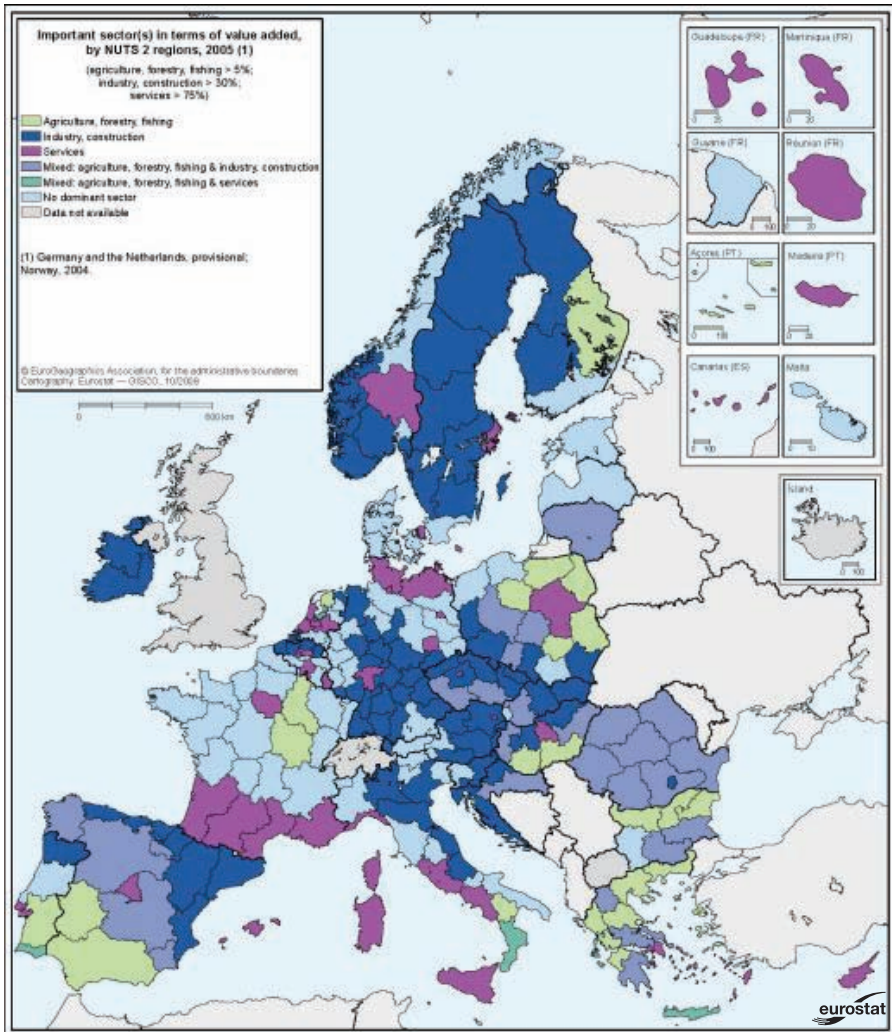
Gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant (in PPS, therefore adjusted for price level differences) is generally lower in the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007, although the regions containing the capital cities of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia recorded levels above the EU-27 average (PPS 22 400 in 2005) – see the map below. In some 30 regions, GDP per inhabitant was below 50 % of the EU-27 average, including several regions in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as Latvia. There is an overall trend of decreasing regional variations for this indicator: as between 2000 and 2005 the highest rates of growth for GDP per inhabitant (in PPS) were recorded in Romanian and Slovak regions and the Baltic Member States, as well as several other regions in central and eastern Europe, while among the EU-15 Member States, the highest rates of growth were recorded in several Greek and Spanish regions, as well as one Irish region.

The map on the next page provides an analysis of the importance of three broad **economic sectors** in each region: agriculture, forestry and fishing; industry and construction; and services. Services are dominant in many of the regions that accommodate the capital city,



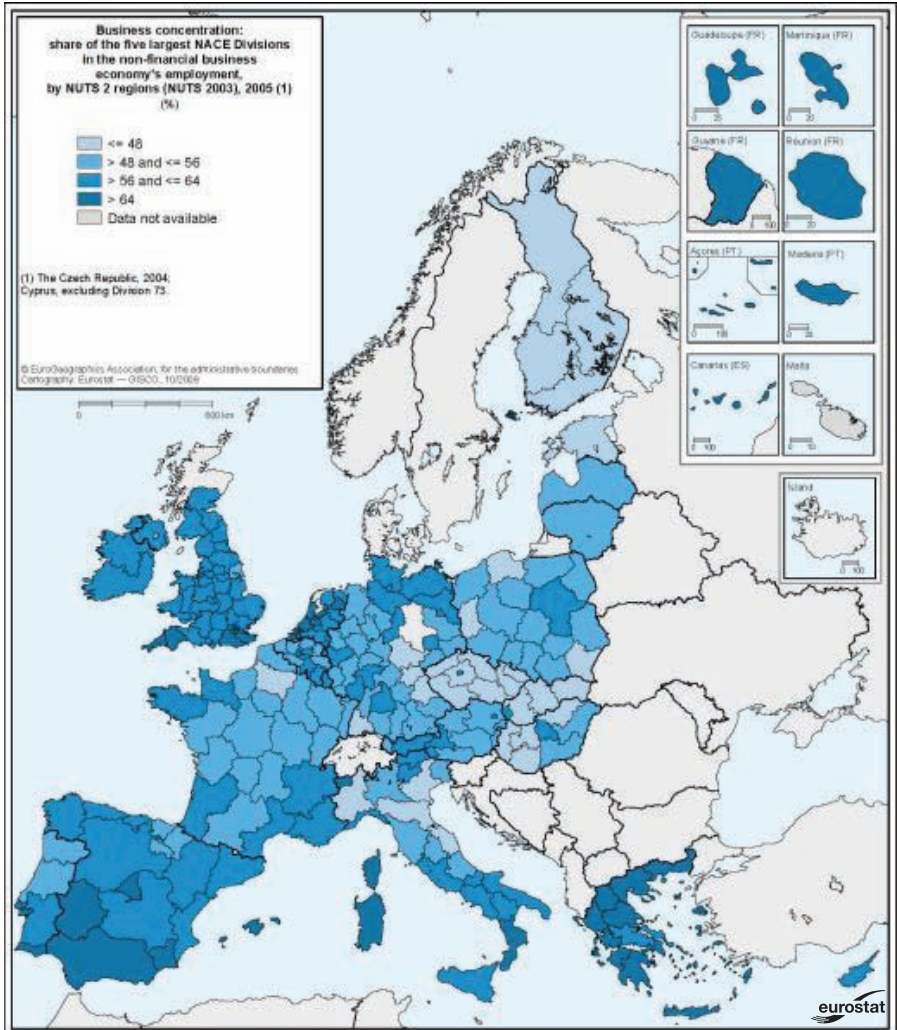
Source: Eurostat (reg_e2gdp)

with a few exceptions, notably the region of București - Ilfov (Romania). Traditional tourism regions of southern France and Italy, as well as Cyprus and the Balearic islands are dominated by services. A band of regions with significant industry and construction activity runs from northern Italy, through a large part of central Europe (taking in many regions of Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and southern Poland) into much of central and southern Germany and finishes in northern Belgium and the Netherlands. Outside of this very broad area, multi-regional clusters of industry and construction are found in northern and eastern Spain, Ireland, Sweden, Finland (and Norway).



Source: Eurostat (reg_e3vabp95)

The map below on **business concentration** is based on the aggregate employment share of the five largest NACE Divisions in the non-financial business economy (industry, construction and services other than financial intermediation). Regions where services dominate tend to record high shares (higher concentration), whereas those that are more focused on industry generally recorded lower shares. The 20 most concentrated regions were all from Greece, Spain and Portugal, with the exceptions of the urban areas of inner London (United Kingdom) and Utrecht (the Netherlands), as well as the Finnish islands of Åland. Note that the data presented here is based on the previous version of NUTS (2003).



Source: Eurostat (sbs_r_nuts03)

The table below shows the most specialised regions in employment terms within the business economy. Key factors for regional specialisation include: access to raw materials, weather and the environment, location (particularly for transport), and proximity to a critical mass of clients.

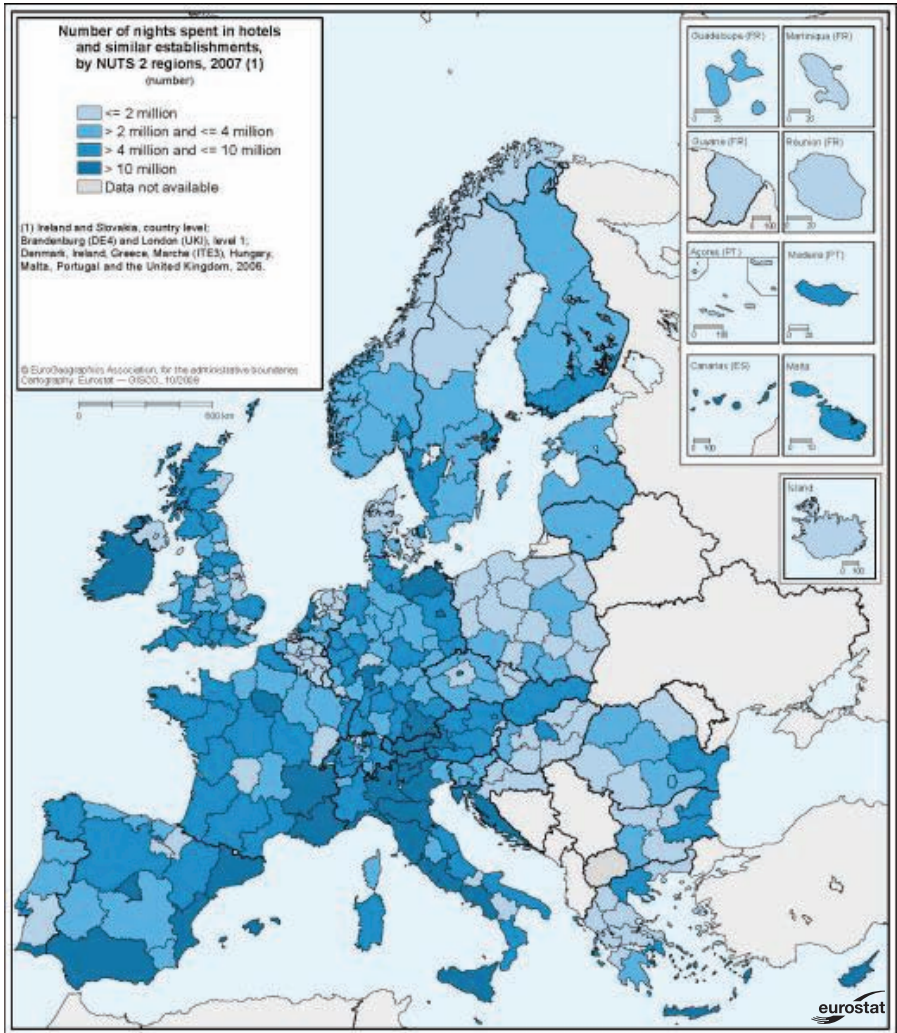
Most specialised region by activity (NACE sections and divisions), EU-27 and Norway, 2005 (% of total non-financial business economy employment of the region and average share of all regions) (1)

Activity (NACE)	Most specialised region		All regions
	Name (NUTS 2 region)	Share (%)	Av. share (%)
Mining & quarrying (C)	Śląskie (PL22)	11.0	0.6
Coal, lignite & peat (10)	Śląskie (PL22)	c	0.3
Crude petroleum & natural gas (11)	Agder og Rogaland (NO04)	7.7	0.1
Uranium & thorium ores (12)	Severovýchod (CZ05)	c	0.0
Metal ores (13)	Övre Norrland (SE08)	c	0.0
Other mining & quarrying (14)	Alentejo (PT18)	c	0.2
Manufacturing (D)	Západné Slovensko (SK02)	59.8	26.4
Food & beverages (15)	Bretagne (FR52)	12.1	3.4
Tobacco products (16)	Trier (DEB2)	c	0.0
Textiles (17)	Prov. West-Vlaanderen (BE25)	5.8	0.9
Wearing apparel; fur (18)	Dytiki Makedonia (GR13)	11.8	1.1
Leather & leather products (19)	Marche (ITE3)	7.9	0.4
Wood & wood products (20)	Itä-Suomi (FI13)	c	1.0
Pulp, paper & paper products (21)	Norra Mellansverige (SE06)	4.9	0.6
Publishing & printing (22)	Inner London (UK11)	4.4	1.4
Fuel processing (23)	Cumbria (UKD1)	c	0.1
Chemicals & chemical products (24)	Rheinessen-Pfalz (DEB3)	12.4	1.5
Rubber & plastic products (25)	Auvergne (FR72)	9.1	1.3
Other non-metallic mineral prod. (26)	Świętokrzyskie (PL33)	5.5	1.2
Basic metals (27)	Východné Slovensko (SK04)	c	0.9
Fabricated metal products (28)	Franche-Comté (FR43)	9.1	2.9
Machinery & equipment n.e.c. (29)	Unterfranken (DE26)	12.3	2.8
Office machinery & computers (30)	Southern and Eastern (IE02)	1.4	0.1
Electrical machinery & apparatus (31)	Západné Slovensko (SK02)	c	1.3
Radio, TV & communication equip. (32)	Pohjois-Suomi (FI1A)	7.0	0.6
Medical, precision & optical instr. (33)	Border, Midland and Western (IE01)	6.1	0.8
Motor vehicles & (semi)-trailers (34)	Braunschweig (DE91)	c	1.8
Other transport equipment (35)	Agder og Rogaland (NO04)	6.5	0.7
Furniture; manufacturing n.e.c. (36)	Warmińsko-mazurskie (PL62)	8.1	1.4
Recycling (37)	Brandenburg - Nordost (DE41)	0.7	0.1
Electricity, gas & water supply (E)	Sud-vest Oltenia (RO41)	6.1	1.2
Electricity, gas & hot water supply (40)	Bratislavský kraj (SK01)	c	0.9
Water supply (41)	Stredné Slovensko (SK03)	3.1	0.3
Construction (F)	Andalucía (E561)	28.2	10.2
Distributive trades (G)	Kentriki Makedonia (GR12)	40.1	25.0
Motor trades (50)	Réunion (FR94)	6.8	3.3
Wholesale trade (51)	Attiki (GR30)	15.4	7.8
Retail trade & repair (52)	Kriti (GR43)	24.9	13.9
Hotels & restaurants (H)	Ionia Nisia (GR22)	29.8	7.1
Transport, storage & communication (I)	Åland (FI20)	50.4	9.5
Land transport & pipelines (60)	Bratislavský kraj (SK01)	14.9	4.4
Water transport (61)	Åland (FI20)	41.3	0.2
Air transport (62)	Corse (FR83)	7.2	0.3
Supporting transport activities (63)	Bremen (DE50)	11.9	2.1
Post & telecommunications (64)	Köln (DEA2)	25.7	2.4
Real estate, renting, business activities (K)	Inner London (UK11)	48.1	20.0
Real estate activities (70)	Latvija (LV00)	5.4	2.2
Renting (71)	Hamburg (DE60)	1.7	0.5
Computer activities (72)	Berks., Buckinghamsh. and Oxfords. (UKJ1)	7.8	2.1
Research & development (73)	Oberbayern (DE21)	2.2	0.3
Other business activities (74)	Inner London (UK11)	36.9	14.8

(1) Bulgaria, Denmark, Malta, Slovenia, North Eastern Scotland (UKM5) and Highlands and Islands (UKM6): not available; Cyprus: excluding research and development (73); Norway: excluding water supply (41); the Czech Republic and Norway: 2004; c: confidential.

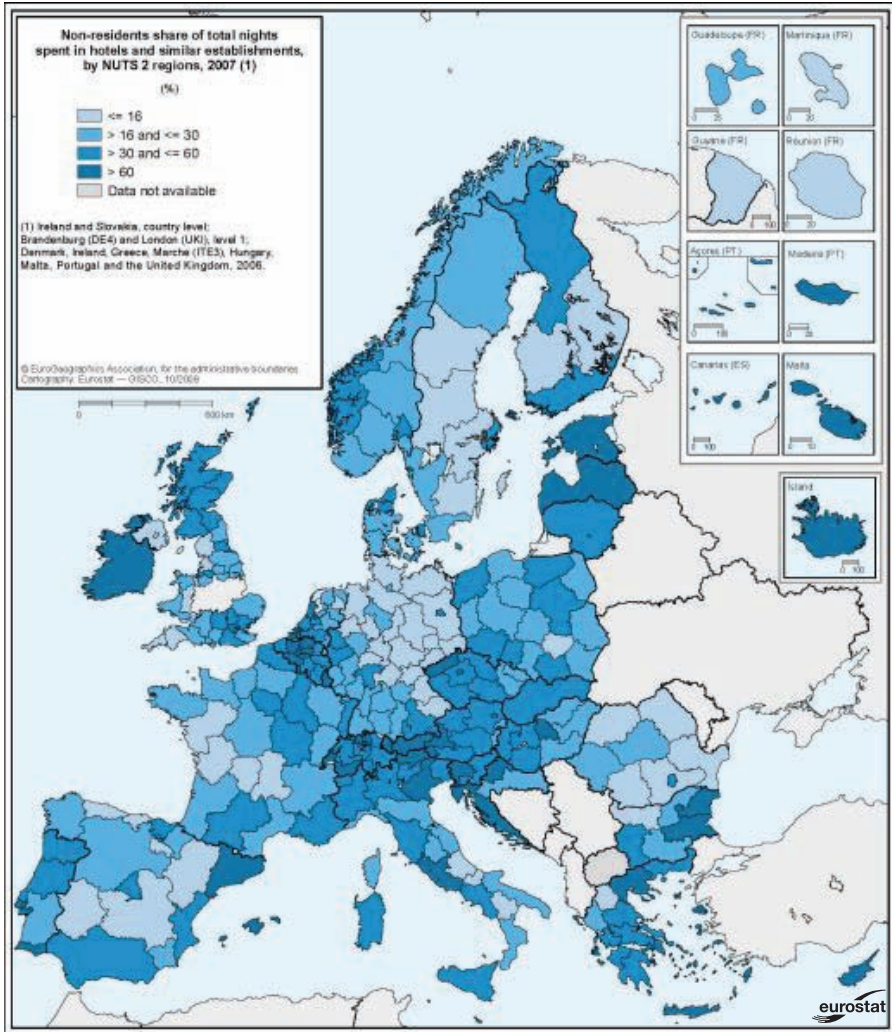
Source: Eurostat (sbs_r_nuts03)

The extent to which the **tourism** capacity of a region is used can be expressed by the number of nights spent in accommodation. The maps on these facing pages focus on hotels and similar establishments and show the overall volume of use as well as the importance of in-bound international tourists (non-residents). The regions most frequently visited by tourists tend to be coastal regions, islands and the Alps, as well as the regions of several capital cities – Paris



Source: Eurostat (tour_occ_nin2)

(France), London (the United Kingdom) or Praha (the Czech Republic) – note, however, that the figures make no distinction between nights spent for leisure purposes (holidays) or those for business purposes. The share of non-residents in tourism demand was unsurprisingly very high for small countries (for example Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus), and shares exceeding 60 % were recorded in several regions of Belgium, Greece and Austria.



Signs and abbreviations

Symbols

The letter c is used in tables to represent data that is not available because the value is confidential. In figures (charts/graphs), missing information is footnoted when it is not available. In maps missing data is normally shaded grey.

Geographical aggregates

- EU European Union
- EU-15 European Union of 15 Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom)
- EU-25 European Union of 25 Member States (EU-15 and the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia)
- EU-27 European Union of 27 Member States (EU-25 and Bulgaria and Romania)

Note that EU aggregates are back-calculated when sufficient information is available – for example, data relating to the EU-27 aggregate is often presented for periods prior to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 and the accession of ten new Member States in 2004, as if all 27 Member States had always been members of the EU.

Abbreviations

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
ESS	European Statistical System
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIS	Geographical information system
GISCO	Geographical Information System of the European Commission
HRST	Human resources in science and technology
ISCED	International standard classification of education
LU	Livestock unit
NACE	Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community
NUTS	Classification of territorial units for statistics
R&D	Research and development
S&T	Science and technology
UAA	Utilised agricultural area

European Commission

Regions of the European Union – A statistical portrait — 2009 edition

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

2008 — 53 pp. — 14.8 x 21 cm

ISBN 978-92-79-09804-8

ISSN 1830-7906

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Regions of the European Union

A statistical portrait — 2009 edition

European regional and urban statistics are used for a wide range of purposes, for example for allocating regional funds in a rational and coherent way and for ex post assessment of the results of regional and cohesion policy. Regional and urban statistics provide the possibility to analyse patterns and trends within countries, complementing the more traditional analysis at country level. Comparable regional statistics form an important part of the European statistical system, and have been collected for several decades. Eurostat's regional statistics cover the principal features of economic and social life within the European Union.

The themes selected for the five chapters represent interesting aspects of the demographic, social and economic situation across Europe's regions. The information is mainly provided through maps, presenting statistical data on a wide range of regional indicators. It is intended to give an idea of the range of European statistics available in this area.

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ISBN 978-92-79-09804-8



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