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Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU

2024 edition

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Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU

2024 edition

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Foreword

I am pleased to present the 2024 edition of *Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU*.

Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU presents a selection of key equality and non-discrimination statistics for the European Union (EU), EU Member States and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

Equality and non-discrimination have strong foundations in the EU treaties and the EU charter of fundamental rights. The European Commission has put equality at the heart of its agenda, aiming to build a Union of Equality free from discrimination. In addition, reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind are guiding principles for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU offers a range of indicators organised around five domains of interest for equality – population, health, education, the labour market, and income and living conditions – as well as non-discrimination. For each of these domains, data are presented with analyses for a variety of grounds of discrimination, such as sex, age, disability, citizenship or country of origin.

These statistics help identify disparities and recognise areas where specific groups may face disadvantages. As well as specifically being an important component of policymaking and monitoring, statistics on equality and non-discrimination are of interest to non-governmental organisations and the general public.

All of Eurostat's statistics on equality and non-discrimination are publicly available on the Eurostat website.

I hope that you find this publication interesting and useful.

Christine Wirtz

Director of social statistics, Eurostat

Abstract

Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU presents a selection of key equality and non-discrimination statistics for the European Union (EU), EU Member States and EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to European statistics on these subjects and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on [Eurostat's website](#).

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Introduction

[Eurostat](#) is the statistical office of the [European Union](#) (EU). Its mission is to provide high-quality statistics for Europe, thereby offering key information on the EU's economy, society and environment that are needed by citizens and decision makers.

Equality and non-discrimination

The EU is founded on respect for equality and human rights, permitting the basic principles of pluralism, tolerance and solidarity to prevail, while eliminating discrimination. Non-discrimination is defined as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference or other differential treatment that has the intention or effect of nullifying or impairing human rights and fundamental freedoms. The [six grounds of discrimination](#) that are at the basis of the EU's equality and non-discrimination statistics are sex, age, disability, ethnicity (or racial origin), religion and sexual orientation.

Structure of the publication

Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU is divided into six chapters. The first five are focused on a particular domain related to equality, namely population, education, health, the labour market, and income and living conditions. The sixth is focused on non-discrimination. Each of the chapters present a range of indicators disaggregated by various equality dimensions/grounds of discrimination: sex, age, [disability](#), [citizenship](#) or foreign background (country of birth and/or country of birth of parents). These statistics help identify disparities and recognise areas where specific groups may face disadvantages.

Data extraction and coverage

Data extraction

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted in April or June 2024. Eurostat's online database may contain revised data.

Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (a sum/average covering the 27 EU Member States) as well as the individual EU Member States and the four [European Free](#)

[Trade Association](#) (EFTA) countries. The order of the countries in the figures usually reflects their ranking according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

Temporal data coverage

Statistics on population, the labour market, income and living conditions, and the information society are available for 2023. For most other annual data collections, data are available up to 2021 or 2022. A few indicators are presented for older years.

If data for a reference year (or [reference period](#)) are not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to complete the coverage using data for recent previous reference years (these exceptions are footnoted). Particular attention should be paid to these deviations when the standard reference year is 2020 or 2021, as for some indicators – particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis – large changes in 2020 and/or 2021 mean that earlier data may not be a good proxy for missing 2020 or 2021 data.

Notes and flags

Notes and flags are used to explain and define specific characteristics of data. This publication includes only the main notes needed to interpret the data and to highlight when data for one year have been replaced by data for another. Data not shown in individual figures may simply not be available or may be confidential. A full set of notes and flags is available on Eurostat's website (see below) via the online data code(s) presented for each figure.

Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to access Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through [Eurostat's website](#). You can use the Eurostat online data codes, such as `demo_pjanind`, to find the most recent data in [Eurostat's online database](#). These data codes are included in the source below each figure.

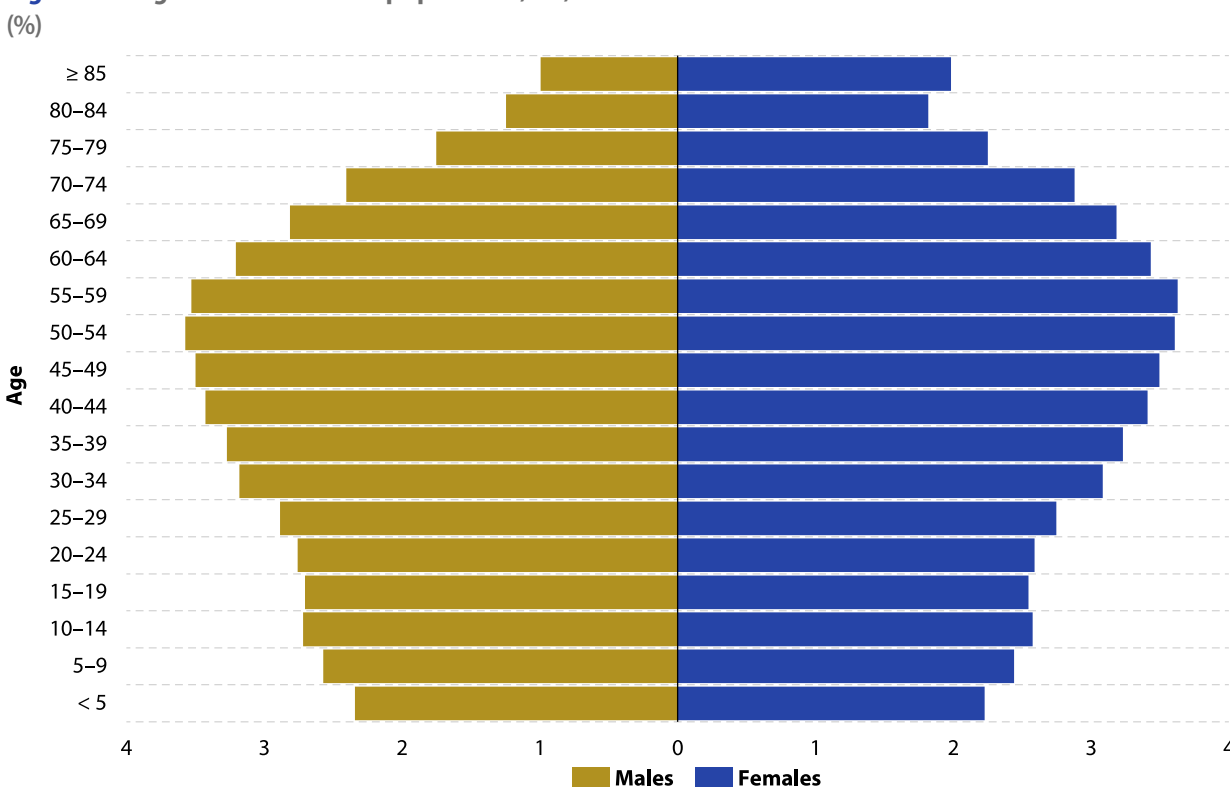
Some of the indicators presented in this publication can be complex. The Statistics Explained website provides a comprehensive online [glossary](#) containing definitions of a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms. Whenever a specialist term is used in the text, it is linked to its glossary definition.

1. Population

This chapter provides insights into the prevalence of different groups of people at risk of discrimination.

Structure

Figure 1.1: Age structure of the population, EU, 2023



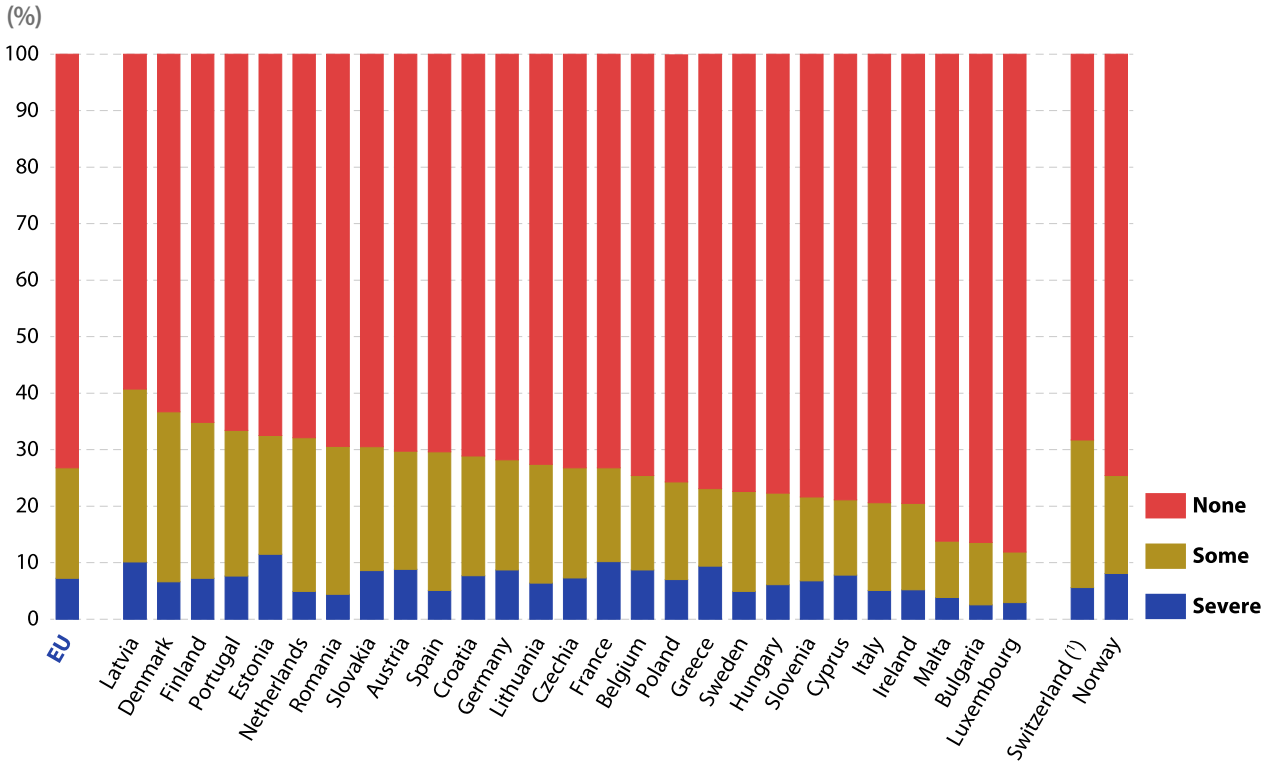
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_pjangroup](#))

As of January 2023, there were 449 million people living in the EU. Females accounted for a 51.1 % share of the total. From the youngest age group (children aged less than five years) through until the age group for people aged 45 to 49 years, there were more boys/men than girls/women. Thereafter, there were more women than men. The largest gender gaps were within the oldest age groups. For example, there were 20 % more women than men aged

70 to 74 years; among persons aged 85 years or over, there were twice as many women as men.

For both sexes combined, 20.1 % of the population was aged below 20 years, 58.6 % was aged 20 to 64 years and 21.3 % was aged 65 years or over. As such, on average there were 0.71 younger and older people (combined) for every person aged 20 to 64 years.

Figure 1.2: Structure of the population aged 16 years or over, by level of disability (activity limitation), 2023



(*) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_silc_20](#))

Disability is a term used to describe different concepts such as impairments (for example, hearing loss), activity limitations (for example, difficulties in communicating) and participation restrictions (for example, denied employment because of employer’s prejudice regarding mental health problems). The global activity limitation indicator (GALI) is a common measure used in all EU social sample surveys coordinated by Eurostat and is considered as the main measure of disability across the EU.

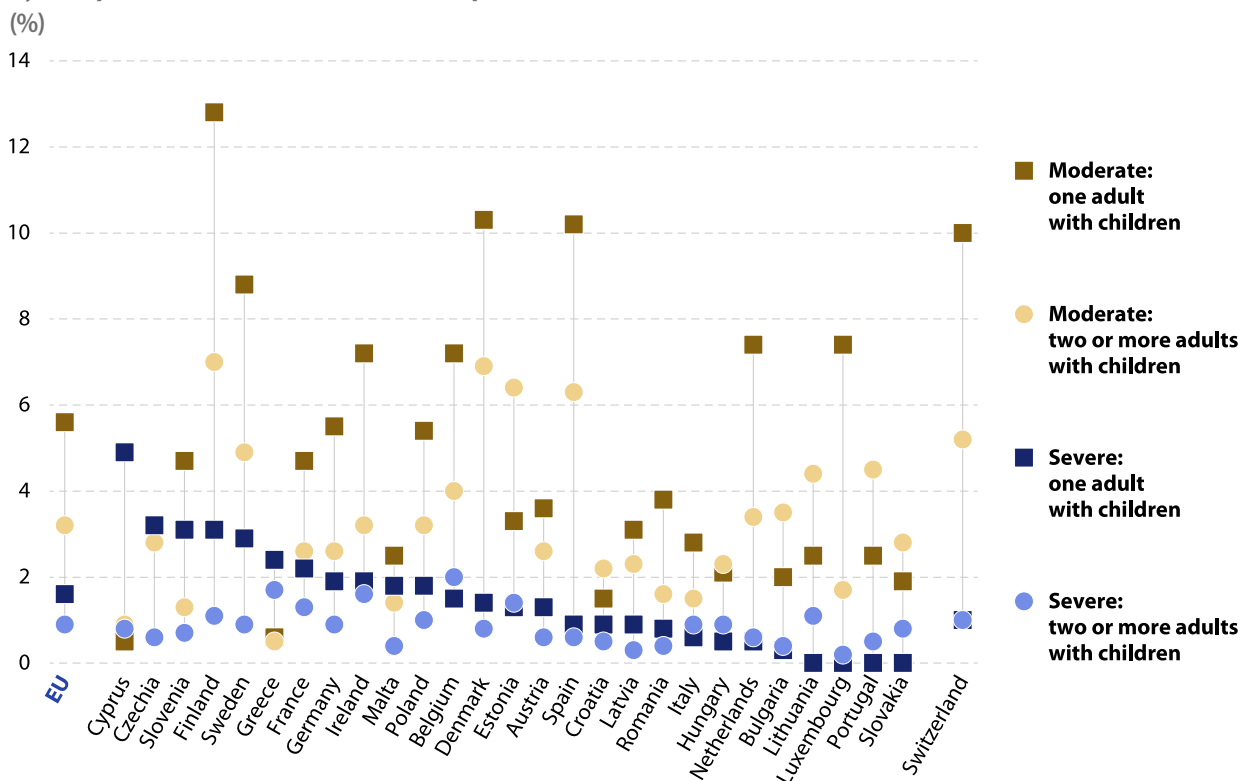
In 2023, just under three quarters (73.2 %) of the EU population aged 16 years or over reported that they had no activity limitation; in other words, they had no disability. Around one fifth (19.6 %) reported that they had some disability, while the share with a severe disability was 7.2 %.

The share of people aged 16 years or over who, in 2023, reported not having a disability was highest among the EU Member States in Luxembourg (88.1 %), Bulgaria (86.4 %)

and Malta (86.2 %). At the other end of the range, Latvia (59.3 %) and Denmark (63.3 %) reported the lowest shares.

Focusing on people who reported a severe disability in 2023, the lowest shares among the EU Member States were in Bulgaria at 2.5 % and Luxembourg at 2.9 %. At the other end of the range, Estonia reported the highest share at 11.5 %.

Figure 1.3: Share of children aged less than 16 years with a disability (activity limitation), by composition of households with dependent children, 2021



Note: ranked on the share for children with a severe disability within a household of one adult with dependent children.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_hch13](#))

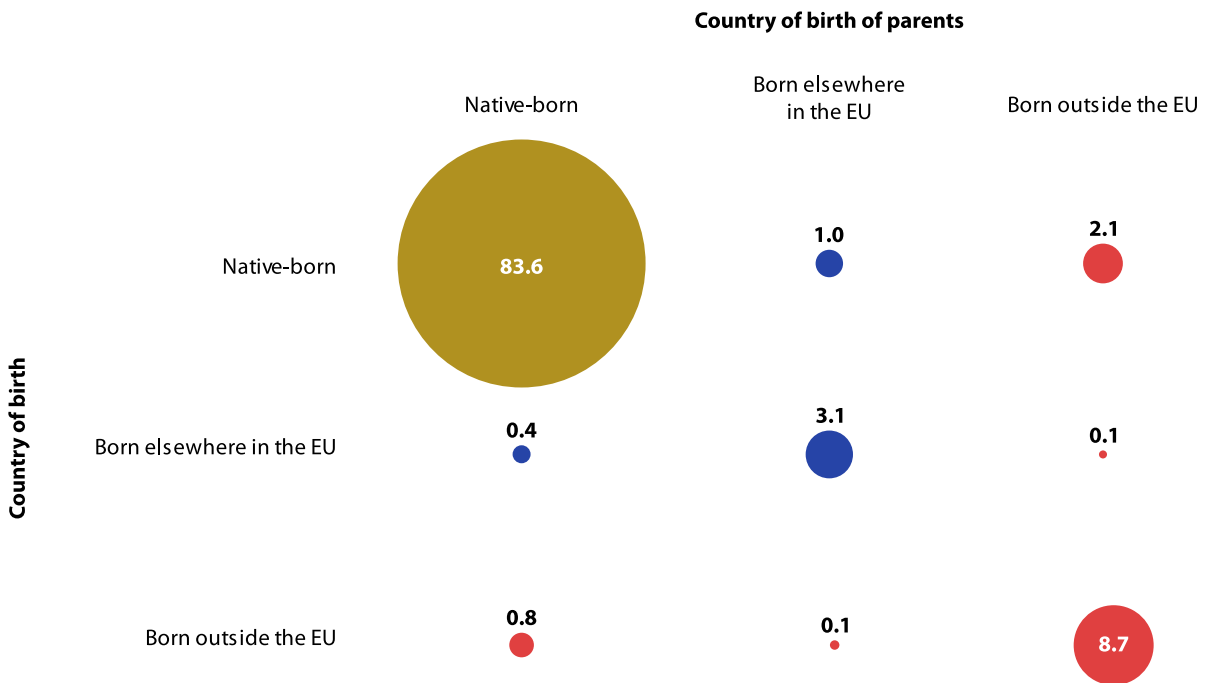
Turning to children aged less than 16 years in the EU, 95.6 % had no disability in 2021. A moderate disability was reported for 3.4 % of children and a severe disability for 1.0 %.

In 2021, a larger share of children aged less than 16 years in the EU had a disability in [households](#) composed of one adult with dependent children than in households with two or more adults with dependent children: this was observed for both moderate and severe levels of disability and was also observed in a majority of EU Member States.

- In Cyprus and Croatia, a similar situation to that for the EU was observed for children with severe disabilities, but not for those with moderate disabilities.

- In Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, a similar situation to that for the EU was observed for children with moderate disabilities, but not for those with severe disabilities.
- By contrast, in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Portugal and Slovakia, the reverse situation to that in the EU as a whole was observed. The share of children with moderate or severe levels of disability was higher in households composed of two or more adults with dependent children than in households composed of one adult with dependent children.

Figure 1.4: Structure of the population (aged 15–74 years), by country of birth and country of birth of parents, EU, 2023
(%)



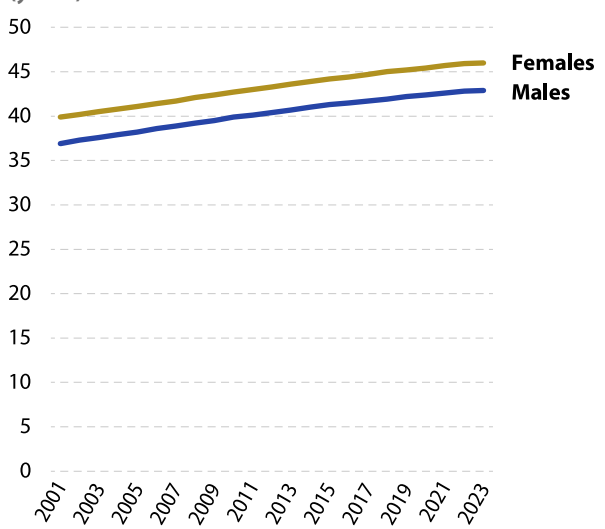
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa_pgaccpm](#))

In 2023, the structure of the population aged 15 to 74 years in the EU in terms of where they and their parents had been born was as follows.

- Among people born in the EU Member State where they lived
 - 83.6 % had been born in the same Member State as (at least one of) their parents,
 - 1.0 % had parents who had been born elsewhere in the EU,
 - 2.1 % had parents who had been born outside the EU.
- Among people born in a different Member State from where they lived
 - 0.4 % had parents who had been born in the EU Member State where the person currently lived,
 - 3.1 % had parents who had also been born elsewhere in the EU,
 - 0.1 % had parents who had been born outside the EU.
- Among people born outside the EU
 - 0.8 % had parents who had been born in the EU Member State where the person currently lived,
 - 0.1 % had parents who had been born elsewhere in the EU,
 - 8.7 % had parents who had also been born outside the EU.

Demographic indicators

Figure 1.5: Median age, by sex, EU, 2001–2023
(years)

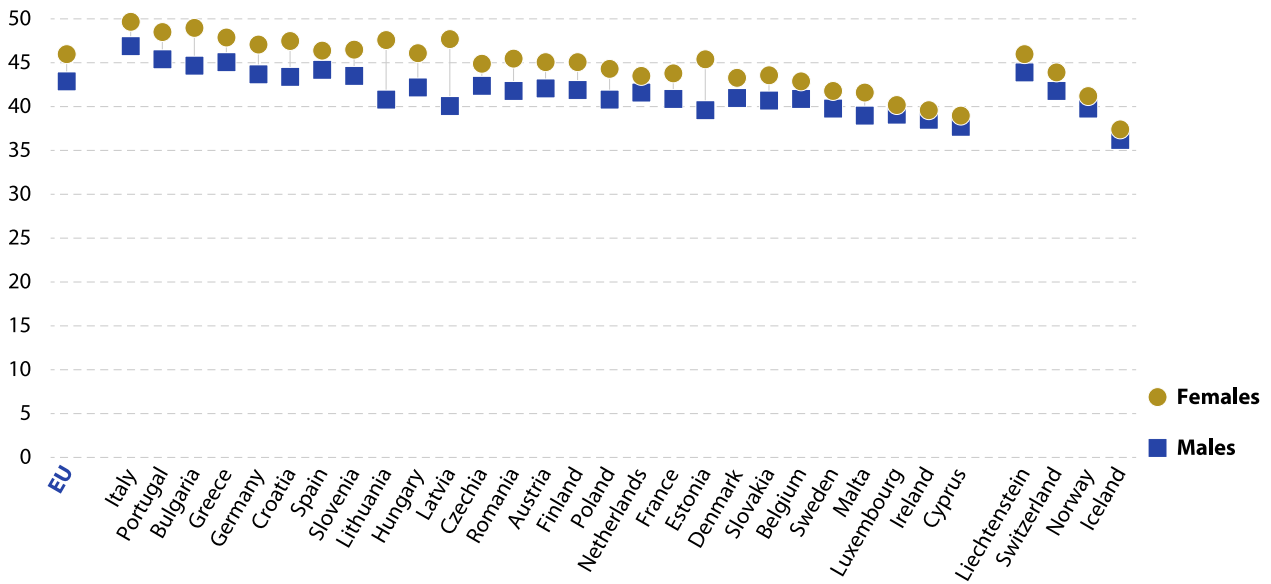


Note: 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022, breaks in series.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_pjanind](#))

One measure of a population’s age distribution is the **median age**, in other words the age at which half of the population is younger and half older.

The ageing of the EU’s population can be seen from the rise in the median age. Between 2001 and 2023 it rose from 38.4 years to 44.5 years, an increase of 6.1 years. Throughout this period, the median age for females was above that for males, with the difference ranging from 2.8 to 3.1 years.

Figure 1.6: Median age, by sex, 2023
(years)

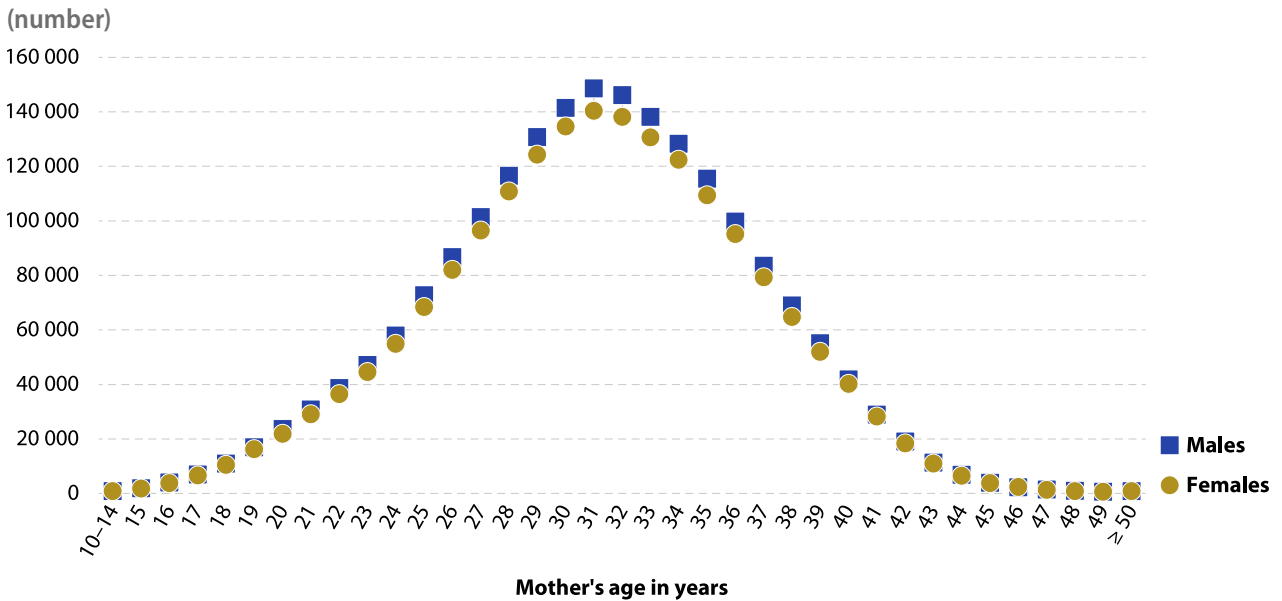


Note: ranked on the median age for both sexes.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_pjanind](#))

In 2023, the highest median ages among EU Member States were in Italy (48.4 years) and Portugal (47.0 years), while the lowest were in Sweden (40.8 years), Malta (40.1 years), Luxembourg (39.7 years), Ireland (39.1 years) and Cyprus (38.4 years).

In the EU, the median age in 2023 was higher for females (46.0 years) than for males (42.9 years). The median age was higher for females than for males in every EU Member State. This gap ranged from 1.1 years in Ireland and Luxembourg to more than five years in the [Baltic Member States](#): 5.8 years in Estonia, 6.8 years in Lithuania and 7.6 years in Latvia.

Figure 1.7: Number of live births, by mother's age and newborn's sex, EU, 2022

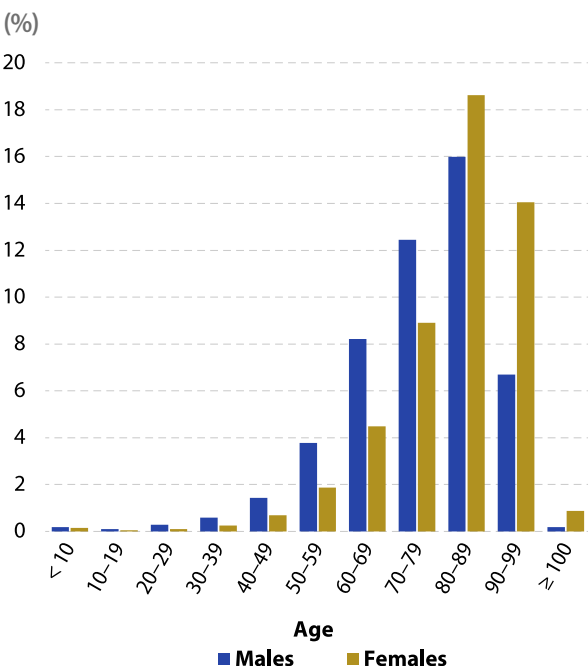


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_fasec](#))

The most common age for a woman to give birth in the EU in 2022 was 31 years (7.4 % of all births). More generally, a majority (56.5 %) of births were to mothers in their thirties, just over a third (35.4 %) to mothers in their twenties, 5.9 % to mothers in their forties, 2.1 % to mothers aged less than 20 years and less than 0.1 % to mothers aged 50 years or over.

At almost every year of age – the only exceptions were for mothers aged 46 or 49 years – women in the EU were more likely to give birth to a boy than to a girl. Overall, the number of newborn boys was 5.4 % more than the number of newborn girls in 2022.

Figure 1.8: Death rates, by sex and age group, EU, 2022



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_magec](#) and [demo_pjan](#))

When analysed by age, deaths are heavily skewed: more than half (56.4 %) of the 5.16 million deaths across the EU in 2022 were among people aged 80 years or over. By contrast, fewer than 1.0 % of deaths were among people aged less than 30 years.

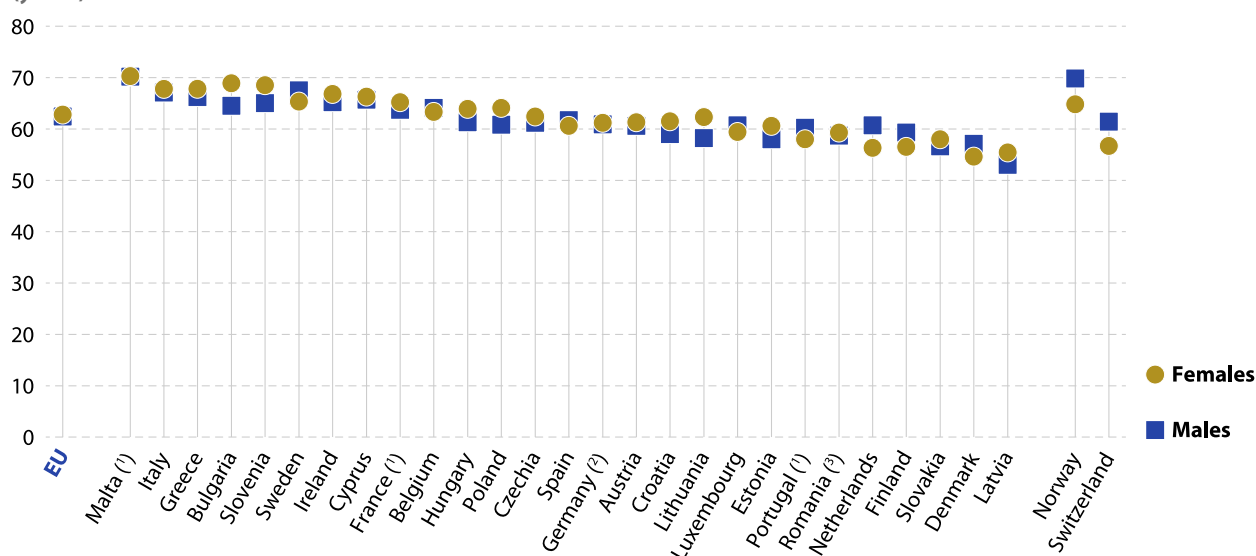
Although the total number of deaths in the EU was approximately the same for females and for males, their age distribution was different. The death rates for males were higher than for females in every five-year age group up to and including 95 to 99 years, whereas the rate for females was higher than for males within the oldest age group (from 100 years onwards).

2. Health

This chapter provides insights on health inequalities and risk factors by examining both the objective and subjective aspects of people’s health.

Life expectancy and healthy life years

Figure 2.1: Healthy life years at birth, by sex, 2022 (years)



Note: ranked on the number of healthy life years at birth for both sexes.

(1) Provisional.

(2) Low reliability.

(3) Estimates.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_hlye](#))

Healthy life years, also called **disability-free life expectancy (DFLE)**, are defined as the number of years that a person is expected to live in a healthy condition. This indicator is compiled separately for three ages: at birth and at 50 and 65 years. It is based on the age-specific prevalence (shares) of the population in healthy and unhealthy conditions and age-specific [mortality](#) information. A healthy condition is defined as one without limitation in functioning and without disability.

In 2022, [life expectancy at birth](#) in the EU was 80.6 years. Life expectancy for females (83.3 years) was higher than for males (77.9 years). The highest levels of life expectancy among the EU Member States were in Spain, Sweden, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Malta and France; the lowest were in Bulgaria and Latvia.

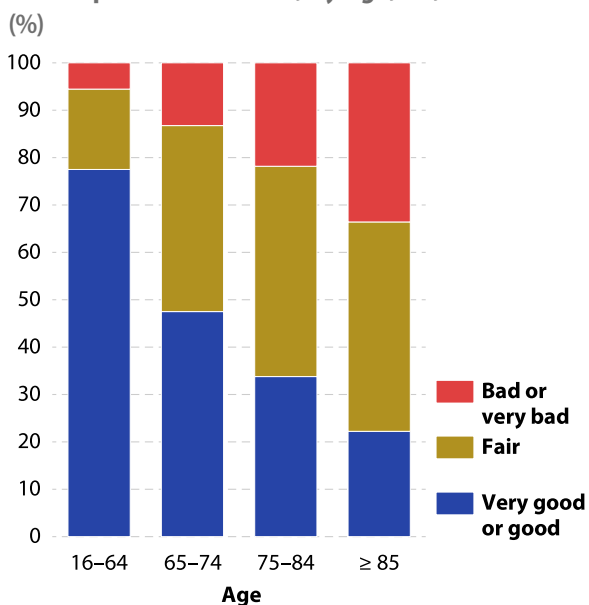
In 2022, the number of healthy life years at birth in the EU was 62.6 years. Among the EU Member States, the highest values were in Malta (70.2 healthy life years), Italy

(67.4 years) and Greece (67.0 years); the lowest were in Latvia (54.2 years) and Denmark (55.9 years).

The number of healthy life years for females in the EU was higher (62.8 years) than for males (62.4 years) in 2022. In around two thirds of the EU Member States, the number of healthy life years was higher for females than for males. Across the Member States, this gender gap ranged from 4.4 years more for females in Bulgaria to 4.4 years more for males in the Netherlands.

Self-perceived health

Figure 2.2: Structure of the population according to self-perceived health, by age, EU, 2023

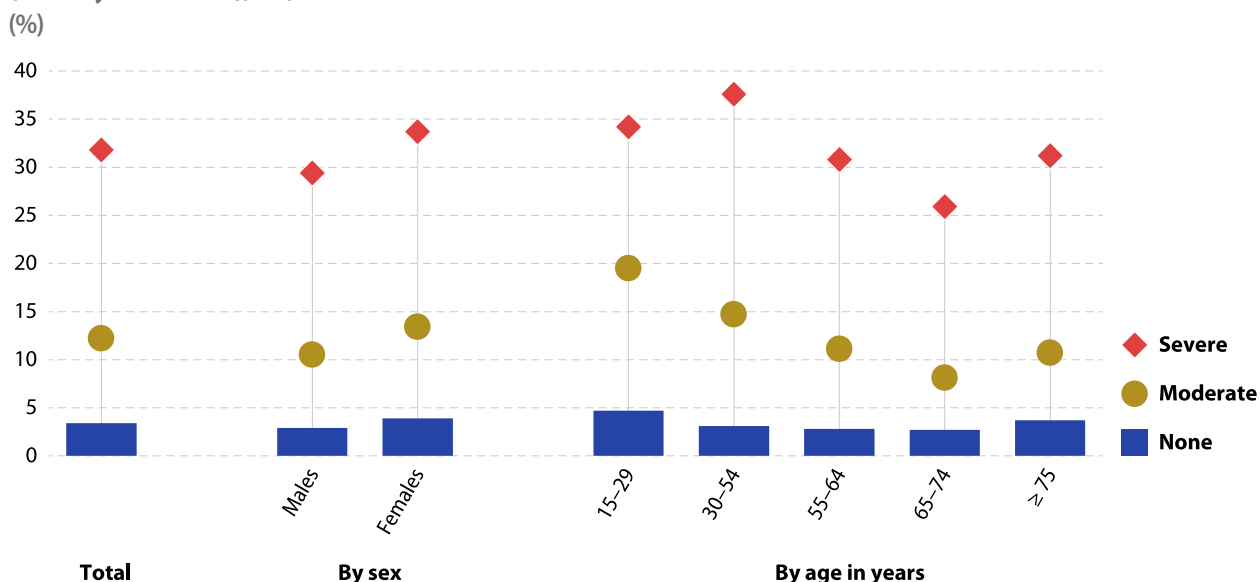


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_silc_01](#))

Across the EU, more than two thirds (67.8 %) of people aged 16 years or over considered their health to be very good or good in 2023. Just under one quarter (23.3 %) reported their health as fair and the remaining 8.8 % as bad or very bad.

When analysed by age, the share of people in the EU considering their health to be very good or good was largest among people aged 16 to 64 years. The share reporting fair health increased with age up to the age group 75 to 84 years (and was then stable).

Figure 2.3: Share of people aged 15 years or over with depressive symptoms, by level of disability (activity limitation), EU, 2019



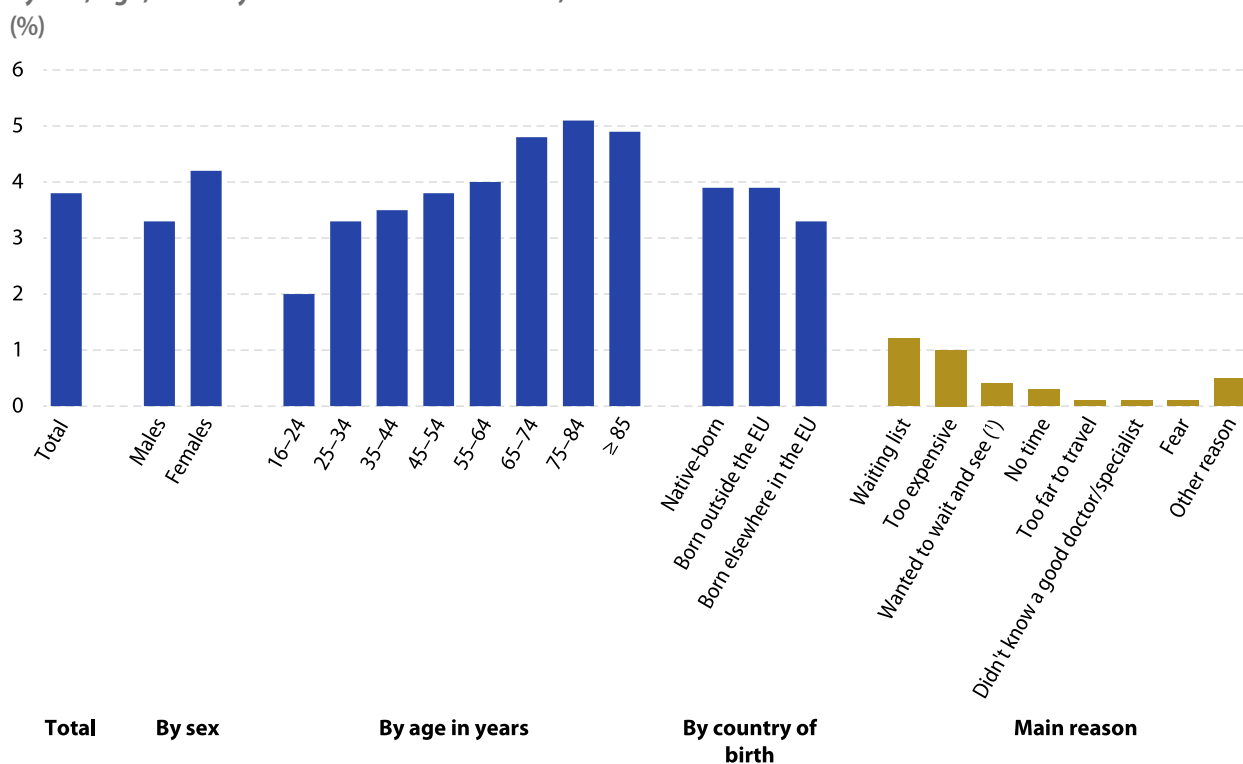
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_ehis_mh1d](#))

Among people aged 15 years or over in 2019, the self-reported incidence of depressive symptoms across the EU was clearly higher for people with a severe disability (31.8 %) than for people with a moderate disability (12.2 %) or no disability at all (3.4 %). A similar pattern was observed

for males and females, albeit with slightly lower shares for males for all disability statuses. Depressive symptoms were higher among younger age groups (15 to 29 or 30 to 54 years), lowest among people aged 65 to 74 years and then higher for people aged 75 years or over.

Access to health services

Figure 2.4: Share of people aged 16 years or over reporting unmet needs for medical examination, by sex, age, country of birth and main reason, 2023



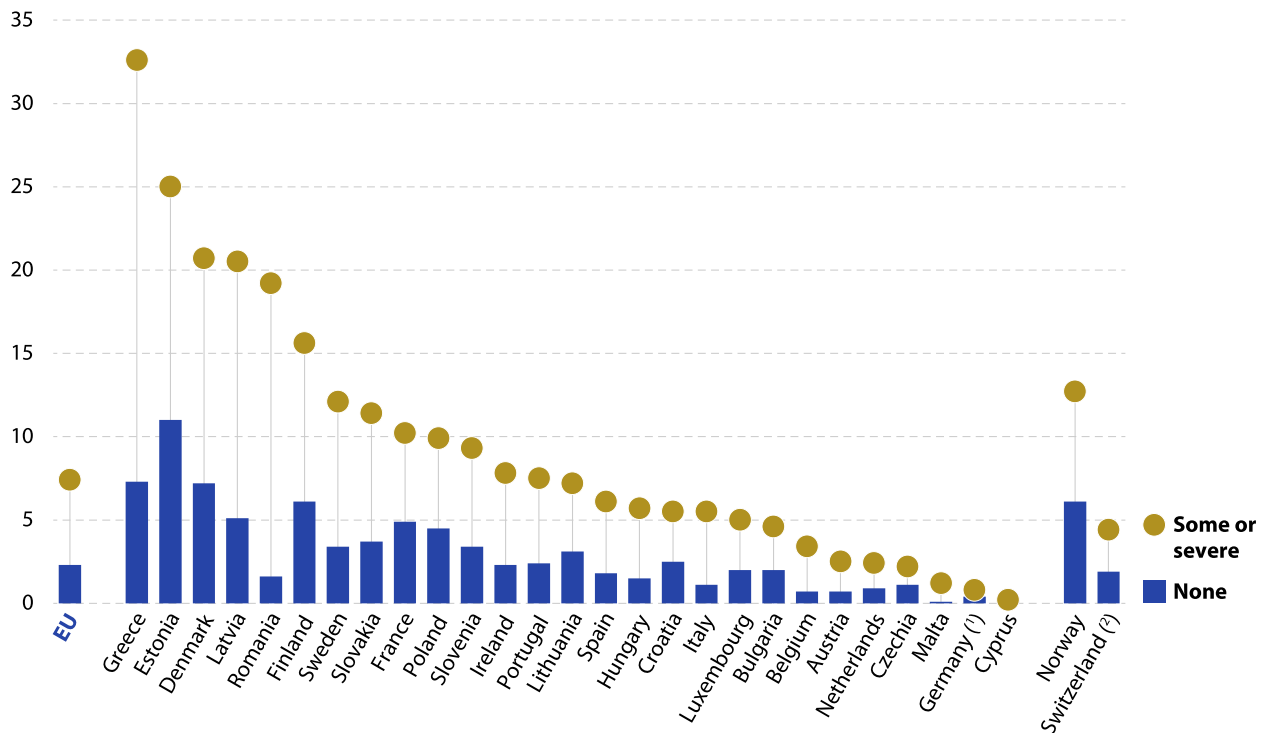
(*) Wanted to wait and see if the problem would get better on its own.
 Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [hlth_silc_08](#) and [hlth_silc_29](#))

The share of people aged 16 years or over in the EU reporting, in 2023, [unmet needs for medical examination](#) during the previous 12 months was 3.8 %. This share was higher for females (4.2 %) than for males (3.3 %) and was progressively higher for age groups from the age of 16 to 24 years (2.0 %) upwards, peaking at 5.1 % for people 75 to 84 years; the share was slightly lower for the oldest age group (4.9 % for people aged 85 years or over). A 3.3 % share of people born elsewhere in the EU (in other words, born in a different EU Member State from the one where

they lived) had unmet needs for medical examination; this was below the shares reported for native-born people (3.9 %) and for people born outside the EU (also 3.9 %).

To avoid double counting, the main reason for unmet needs was surveyed. The two most common main reasons for people aged 16 years or over in the EU to have unmet needs for medical examination in 2023 were waiting lists and cost, as mentioned by 1.2 % and 1.0 %, respectively, of respondents.

Figure 2.5: Share of people aged 16 years or over with self-reported unmet needs for medical examination during the previous 12 months, by level of disability (activity limitation), 2023 (%)



(¹) Estimates.

(²) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_dh030](#))

In 2023, the share of people aged 16 years or over in the EU reporting unmet needs for medical examination during the previous 12 months was 7.4 % for people with some or severe disabilities compared with 2.3 % for people with no disabilities.

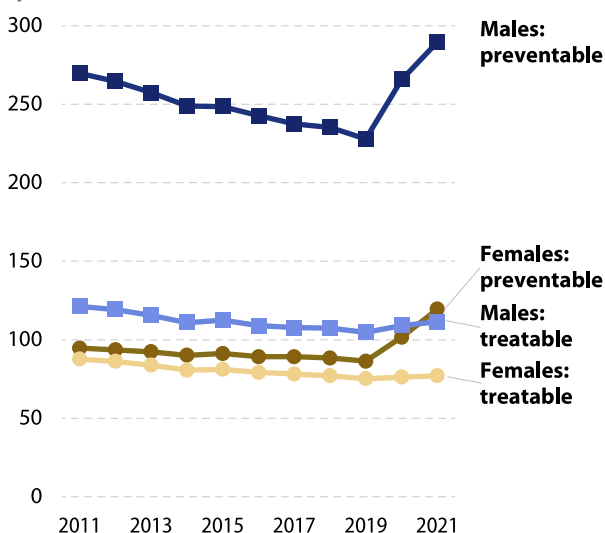
Comparing the share of people reporting unmet needs for medical examination between people with or without disabilities, the largest absolute gap among the EU Member States was observed in Greece: 7.3 % of people without a

disability reported an unmet need in 2023, compared with 32.6 % for people with a disability.

Focusing on people with a disability, one in three (32.6 %) in Greece reported, in 2023, unmet needs for medical examination, the highest share among the EU Member States. Other Member States with relatively high shares included Estonia (25.0 %), Denmark (20.7 %), Latvia (20.5 %) and Romania (19.2 %). By contrast, the lowest shares were 0.2 % in Cyprus and 0.8 % in Germany.

Treatable and preventable mortality

Figure 2.6: Treatable and preventable mortality of residents, by sex, EU, 2011–2021 (per 100 000 inhabitants)



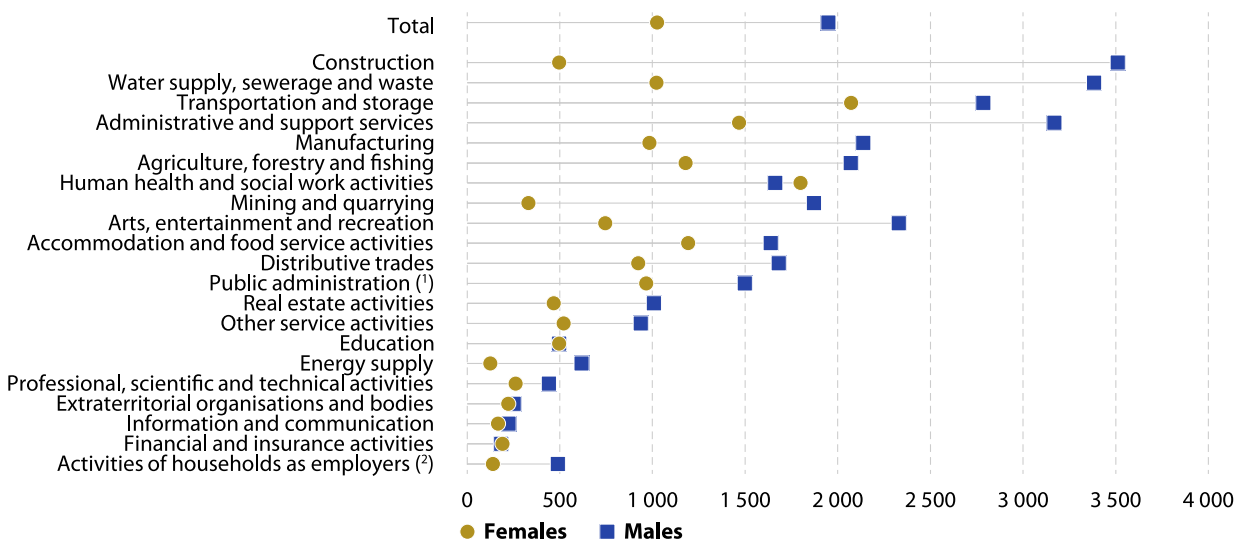
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_cd_apr](#))

Some deaths from specific diseases/conditions among people aged less than 75 years are considered as **avoidable**. A disease/condition is considered as **treatable** if a death from this disease/condition could have been avoided through timely and optimal quality health care. Preventable deaths cover deaths which could have been avoided by public health interventions of primary prevention focusing on wider determinants, such as behaviour, lifestyle and environmental factors.

In 2021, there were 1.26 million avoidable deaths in the EU. The majority (68.3 %) of these were preventable, with men accounting for a high share (68.7 %) of all preventable deaths. The large increases in preventable deaths in 2020 and 2021 – which largely reflected direct and indirect consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic – reversed the clear downward trend in earlier years.

Health and safety in the workplace

Figure 2.7: Standardised incidence rate of non-fatal accidents at work, by sex and activity, EU, 2021 (per 100 000 people employed)



Note: ranked on the rate for both sexes.

(¹) Includes also defence and compulsory social security.

(²) Includes also undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hsw_n2_01](#))

In 2021, there were 2.89 million [non-fatal accidents at work](#) in the EU, more than two thirds (68.3 %) of which were recorded for men. In addition, there were 3 347 [fatal](#)

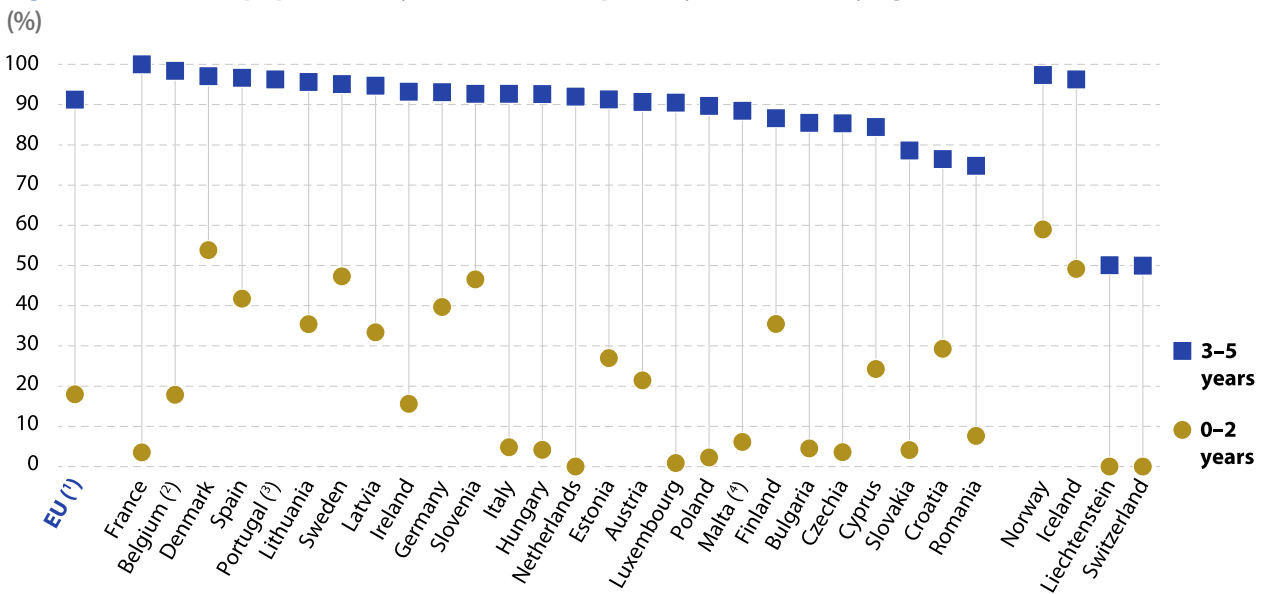
[accidents at work](#), of which 93.1 % were recorded for men. Across the EU, non-fatal accidents were largely concentrated, in 2021, in male-dominated activities such as construction.

3. Education

This chapter provides insights into participation of different groups in education, highlighting disparities in educational outcomes and variations in digital skills.

Early childhood and primary education

Figure 3.1: Share of pupils in early childhood and primary education, by age, 2022



Note: Greece, not available. Ranked on the ratio for children aged 3–5 years.
 (†) Excluding Greece. Incomplete data for Belgium, Malta and Portugal.
 (‡) Excluding the Flemish community for early childhood educational development.
 (‡) 0–2 years: not available. 3–5 years: excluding early childhood educational development at age 3 years.
 (†) Excluding early childhood educational development.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [educ_uoe_enrp02](#), [educ_uoe_enrp05](#) and [demo_pjan](#))

Early childhood education programmes are educational programmes before primary education. In order to be classified as educational, programmes for young children must be intentionally designed to support children’s cognitive, physical and socio-emotional development. Childcare-only programmes are not educational and are not considered as part of early childhood education.

Just under one fifth (18.0 %) of children in the EU under the age of three years were in education in 2022, almost exclusively in early childhood education. Among children aged 3 to 5 years, this share was 91.2 %; again, children in this age group who were in education were nearly all in early childhood education, with 1.0 % in primary education.

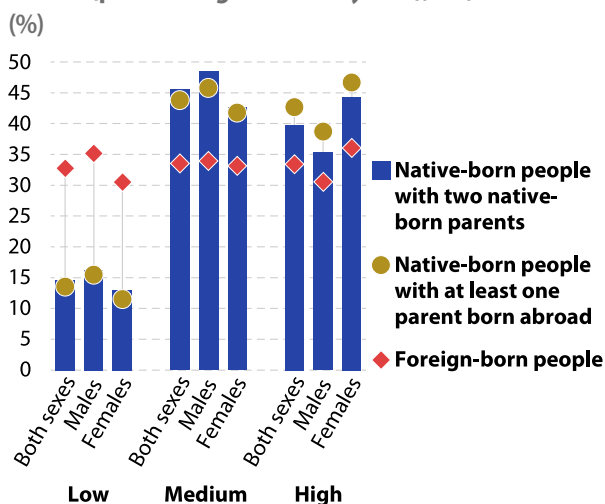
Among the EU countries, the share of children in the EU under the age of three years who were in education in

2022 peaked at 53.8 % in Denmark. Although this share was below 50.0 % in all other EU countries, Sweden and Slovenia also recorded shares over 45.0 %. By contrast, this share was below 10.0 % in 11 EU countries, with the lowest shares in the Netherlands (0.0 %) and Luxembourg (0.9 %).

All children in France aged three to five years were in education in 2022. Elsewhere, this ratio ranged from 98.4 % in Belgium to 74.8 % in Romania.

Educational attainment

Figure 3.2: Structure of the population in terms of educational attainment, by sex and migration status (persons aged 25–54 years), EU, 2023

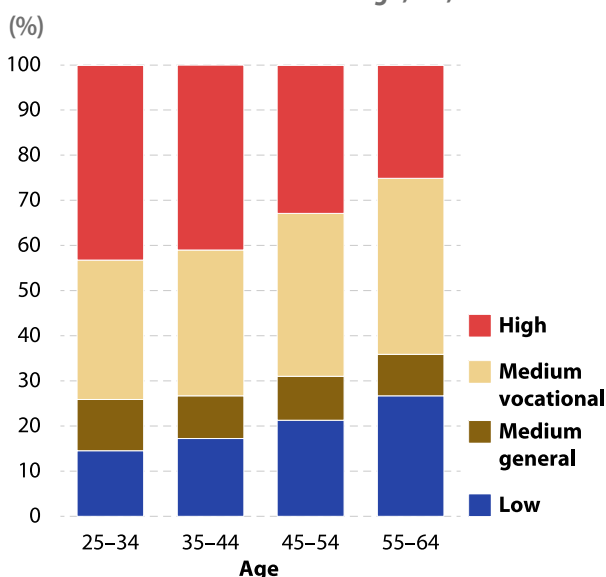


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa_pqanedm](#))

In 2023, more than one third (38.7 %) of people aged 25 to 54 years in the EU had a high level of education, 43.4 % had a medium level of education and less than one fifth (17.9 %) had a low level.

A smaller share of women (16.2 %) in the EU had a low level of educational attainment than was observed among men (19.5 %) in 2023. The situation was reversed for people

Figure 3.3: Structure of the population, by educational attainment and age, EU, 2023



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [edat_lfse_03](#))

An aggregated analysis of people’s highest level of educational attainment can be made looking at three levels:

- low (defined as [ISCED](#) levels 0, 1 or 2), meaning no more than a lower secondary education,
- medium (defined as [ISCED](#) levels 3 or 4), meaning upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education,
- high (defined as [ISCED](#) levels 5, 6, 7 or 8), meaning a tertiary level of education.

When looking at the level of educational attainment in the adult population, it is common to look at an age group starting at 25 years. This is done so that people still in tertiary education have probably completed at least one of the lower levels of tertiary education.

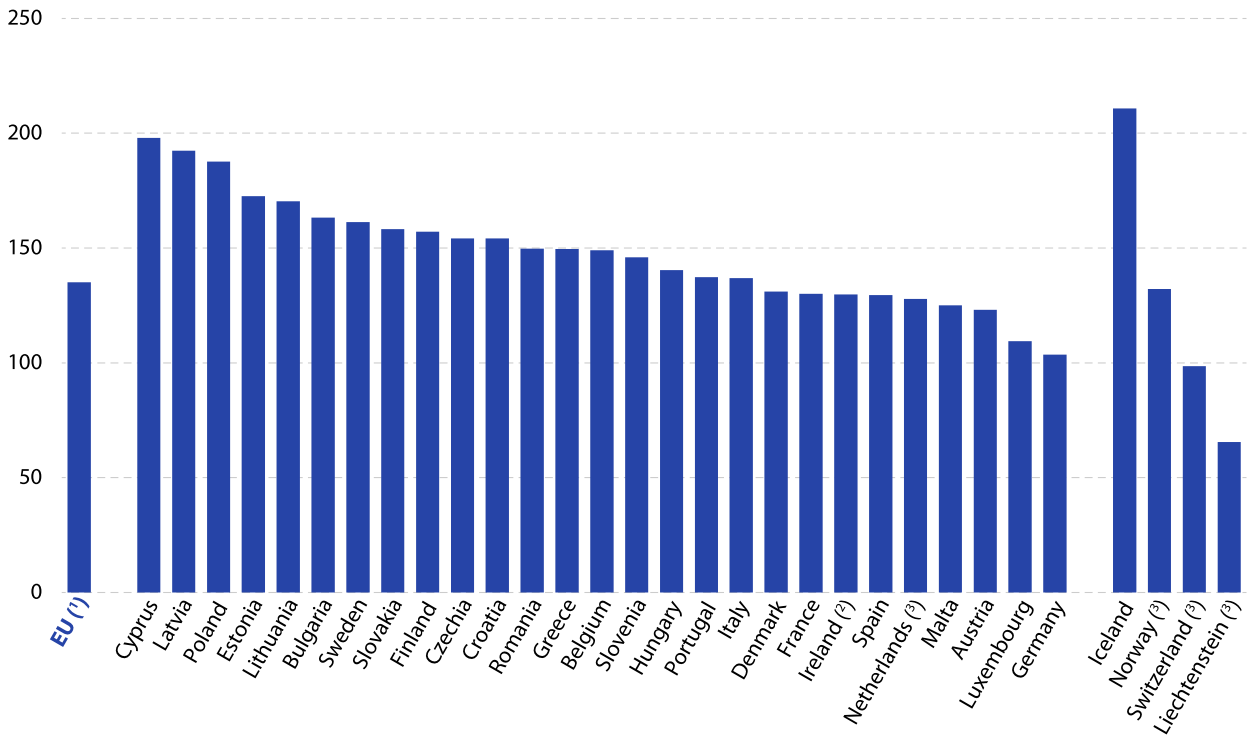
with a high level of educational attainment, with shares of 42.8 % for women and 34.6 % for men.

When analysed by migration status, the share of the population in the EU in 2023 with a low level of educational attainment was higher for foreign-born people (32.7 %) than for native-born people with two native-born parents (14.7 %) or native-born people with at least one parent born abroad (13.5 %). Among foreign-born people, the shares with a medium or high level of educational attainment were lower than for either of the other two statuses.

Across the EU in 2023, native-born people with at least one parent born abroad were most likely to have a high level of educational attainment, regardless of sex.

The long-term trend of a decreasing share of the EU population with a low level of educational attainment and an increasing share with a high level is reflected in an analysis by age group. In 2023, the youngest age group, people aged 25 to 34 years, had the highest share of people with a high level of education; the oldest age group, people aged 55 to 64 years, had the highest share of people with a low level of education.

Figure 3.4: Ratio of female to male graduates from tertiary education, 2022
(number of females per 100 males)



(1) Does not include data for all EU Member States.
 (2) Undercoverage: incomplete data for private government independent institutions.
 (3) 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [educ_uoe_grad09](#))

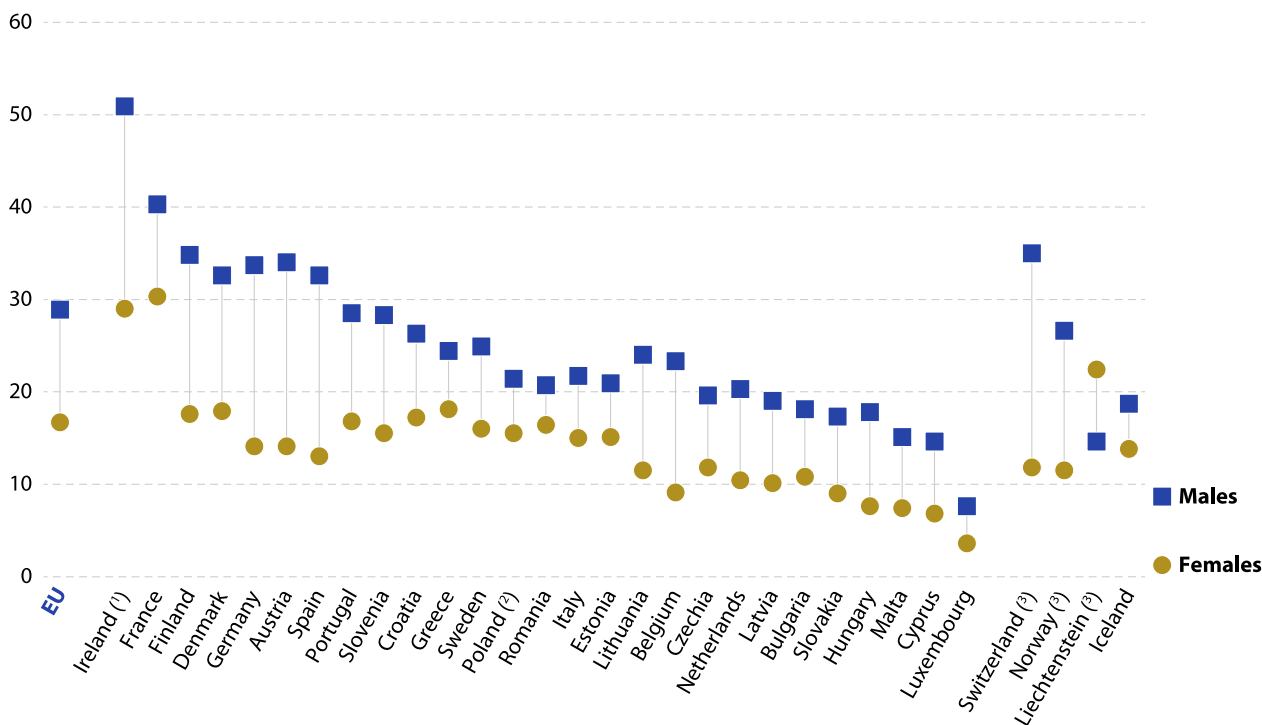
Across the EU, there were 4.1 million graduates from tertiary education in 2022, of which 57.4 % were female. As such, on average there were 135 female graduates for every 100 male graduates.

In all EU Member States, female graduates outnumbered male graduates in 2022. The lowest ratios were in Germany and Luxembourg, where there were, respectively, 104 and 109 female graduates for every 100 male graduates. These

ratios were considerably below the next lowest ratio, 123 in Austria. At the other end of the ranking, three Member States stood out with much higher ratios:

- in Cyprus, there were 198 female graduates per 100 male graduates, in other words, almost twice as many female as male graduates;
- in Latvia and Poland there were, respectively, 192 and 188 female graduates per 100 male graduates.

Figure 3.5: Ratio of graduates in tertiary education in STEM fields to population, by sex, 2022
(per 1 000 population aged 20–29 years)



Note: ranked on the ratio for both sexes.

⁽¹⁾ Undercoverage: incomplete data for private government independent institutions.

⁽²⁾ Estimates.

⁽³⁾ 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [educ_uoe_grad04](#))

Graduates in STEM are graduates from courses in natural sciences, mathematics, statistics, [information and communication technologies](#), engineering, manufacturing and construction.

In 2022, 1.1 million people in the EU graduated from tertiary education courses in STEM fields of education, equivalent to 26.6 % of all graduates from tertiary education. Close to two thirds (64.6 %) of these graduates were men. Among all male graduates from tertiary education, 40.3 % were STEM graduates; the share for female graduates was considerably lower, at 16.4 %.

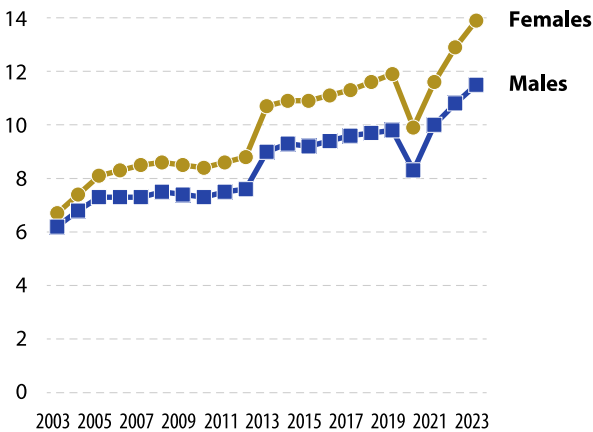
In 2022, there were, on average, 23.0 STEM graduates for every 1 000 people aged 20 to 29 years in the EU population. Among the EU Member States, this ratio

ranged from 40.1 per 1 000 in Ireland to 5.6 per 1 000 in Luxembourg.

When analysed by sex, the ratio of STEM graduates to the population aged 20 to 29 years was higher for men than for women in every EU Member State. In 2022, the largest gaps were in Belgium and Spain, where this ratio for men was at least 2.5 times as high as for women. The narrowest gaps were observed in Romania, France, Greece, Poland, Estonia and Italy, where this ratio for men was 1.3 or 1.4 times as high as for women.

Lifelong learning

Figure 3.6: Participation rate in education and training (during the previous four weeks) for people aged 25–64 years, by sex, EU, 2003–2023 (%)



Note: 2006, 2013 and 2021, breaks in series.

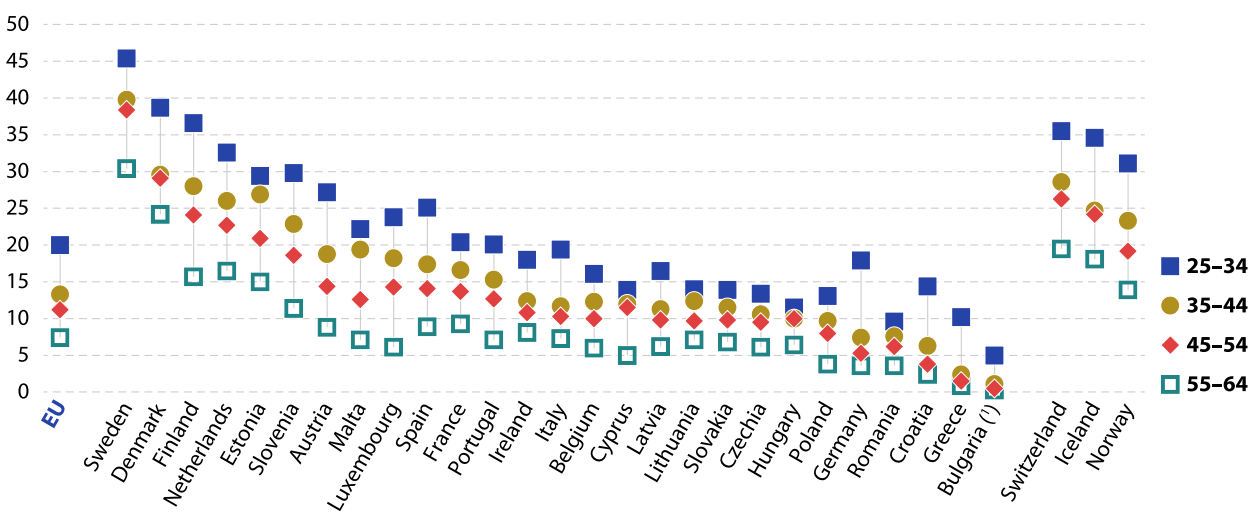
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [trng_lfse_01](#))

In 2023, 12.7 % of people in the EU aged 25 to 64 years participated in education and/or training during the four weeks prior to being surveyed. Such participation was higher among women than among men, with shares of 13.9 % and 11.5 %, respectively.

Overall, participation rates for men and for women have increased between 2003 and 2023 and the gap between the rates for men and for women has increased in [percentage points](#) terms (!). Participation rates fell sharply in 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 crisis. Rates increased in the next three years and were, in 2022 and 2023, well above the rates in the years prior to the crisis.

(!) Some of the largest annual increases may be influenced by breaks in series, such as in 2003 or 2013.

Figure 3.7: Participation rate in education and training (during the previous four weeks), by age, 2023 (%)



Note: ranked on the rate for people aged 25–64.

(!) 45–54 and 55–64: low reliability.

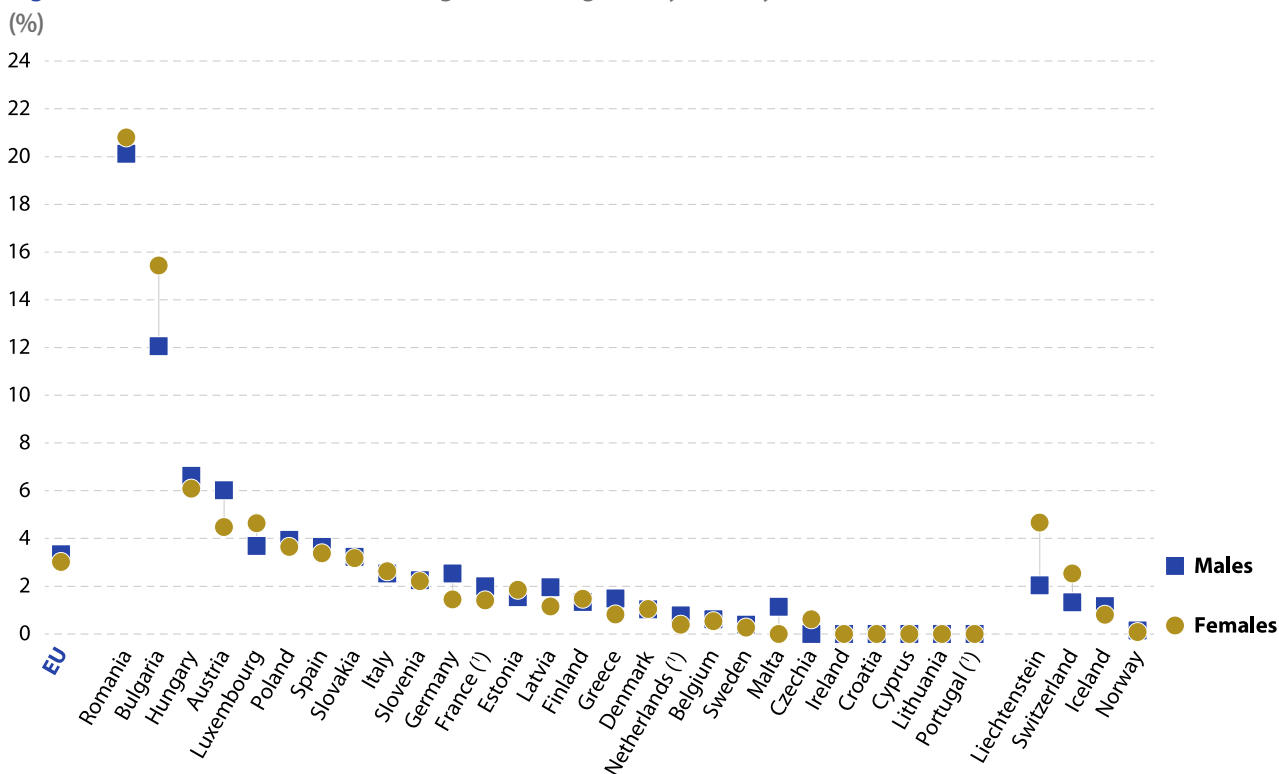
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [trng_lfse_01](#))

Among people aged 25 to 64 years, the highest participation rates in education and/or training in 2023 were observed in Sweden (38.8 %), Denmark (30.5 %), Finland (26.1 %), the Netherlands (24.4 %) and Estonia (23.2 %). Participation rates below 10.0 % were observed in eight Member States, with the lowest rate in Bulgaria (1.4 %).

Across the EU, participation rates in education and/or training were highest for younger people (20.0 % for people aged 25 to 34 years) and lowest for older people (7.4 % for people aged 55 to 64 years) in 2023. All EU Member States reported a decline in participation rates from the highest rate for younger people to the lowest rate for older people.

Young people leaving education

Figure 3.8: Out-of-school rate among children aged 15 years, by sex, 2022



Note: ranked on the rate for both sexes.

(*) Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [educ_uoe_enra27](#))

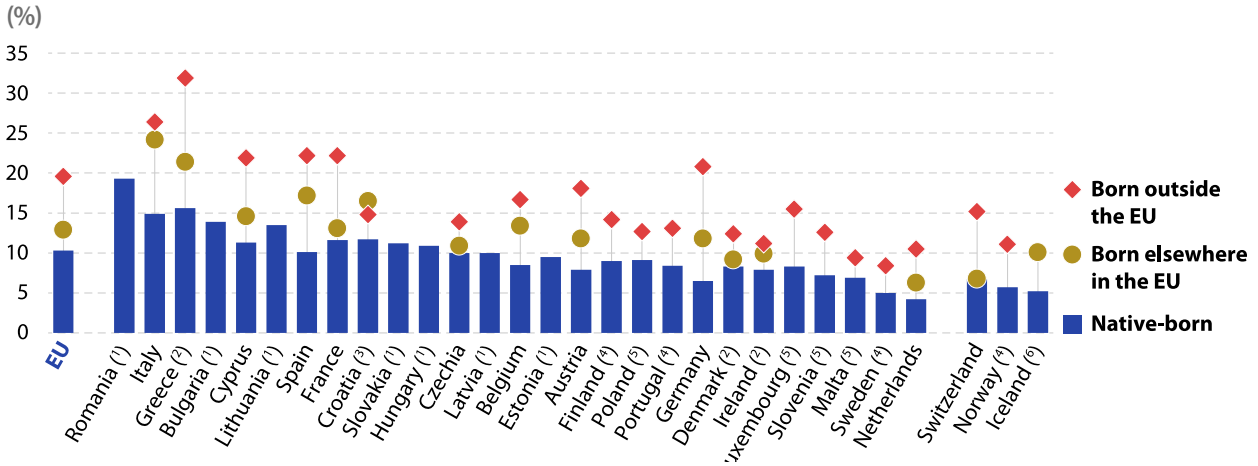
The out-of-school rate for 15-year-old children is calculated as 100 minus (the number of 15-year-old children enrolled in education at any ISCED level divided by the total population of 15-year-olds multiplied by 100).

In the EU, 3.2 % of 15-year-olds were not enrolled in education in 2022. This rate was clearly higher in Romania (20.5 %) and Bulgaria (13.7 %) than in other EU Member States: the next highest rate was 6.4 % in Hungary. In 10 Member States, the rate was below 1.0 %, with practically no 15-year-old children out of school (rates of 0.0 %) in Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Portugal.

The out-of-school rate for 15-year-olds in the EU was slightly higher for boys (3.3 %) than for girls (3.0 %) in 2022. In many EU Member States, the gap between the rates for boys and for girls was 1.0 percentage points or less.

- A larger gap with a higher rate for girls was observed in Bulgaria (3.4 percentage points).
- Slightly larger gaps with higher rates for boys were observed in Austria (1.6 percentage points), Malta and Germany (both 1.1 percentage points).

Figure 3.9: Share of young people (aged 15–29 years) neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), by country of birth, 2023



(1) Born elsewhere in the EU and born outside the EU: not available.
 (2) Born elsewhere in the EU: low reliability.
 (3) Born elsewhere in the EU and born outside the EU: low reliability.
 (4) Born elsewhere in the EU: not available.
 (5) Born elsewhere in the EU: not available. Born outside the EU: low reliability.
 (6) Born outside the EU: low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [edat_lfse_28](#))

The share of young people (aged 15 to 29 years) neither in employment nor in education or training – known as the NEET share – is calculated from a ratio.

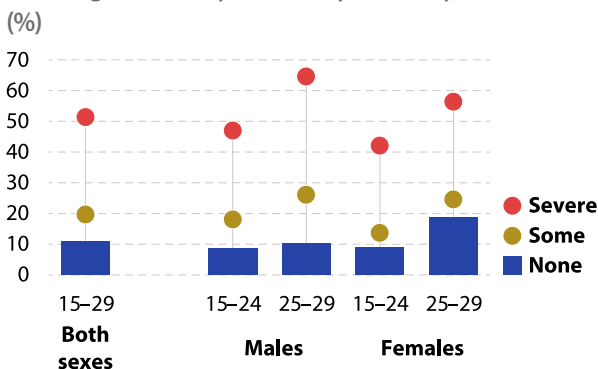
- The numerator is people who are not **employed** (they are **unemployed** or outside the **labour force**) and also have not received any (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks prior to being surveyed.
- The denominator is the total population of the same age group (excluding non-response concerning their participation in education and training).

In 2023, 11.2 % of young people aged 15 to 29 years were NEETs. This share was lower for native-born people (10.3 %) and higher for people born elsewhere in the EU (12.9 %) and for people born outside the EU (19.6 %).

Data analysed by country of birth are not available for all of the EU Member States. However, subject to availability,

the lowest NEET share in 2023 was always for native-born people. Equally, the highest NEET share was nearly always for people born outside the EU. There was one exception, Croatia, where the share for people born elsewhere in the EU was higher.

Figure 3.10: Share of young people (aged 15–29 years) neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET), by disability (activity limitation), sex and age, EU, 2022

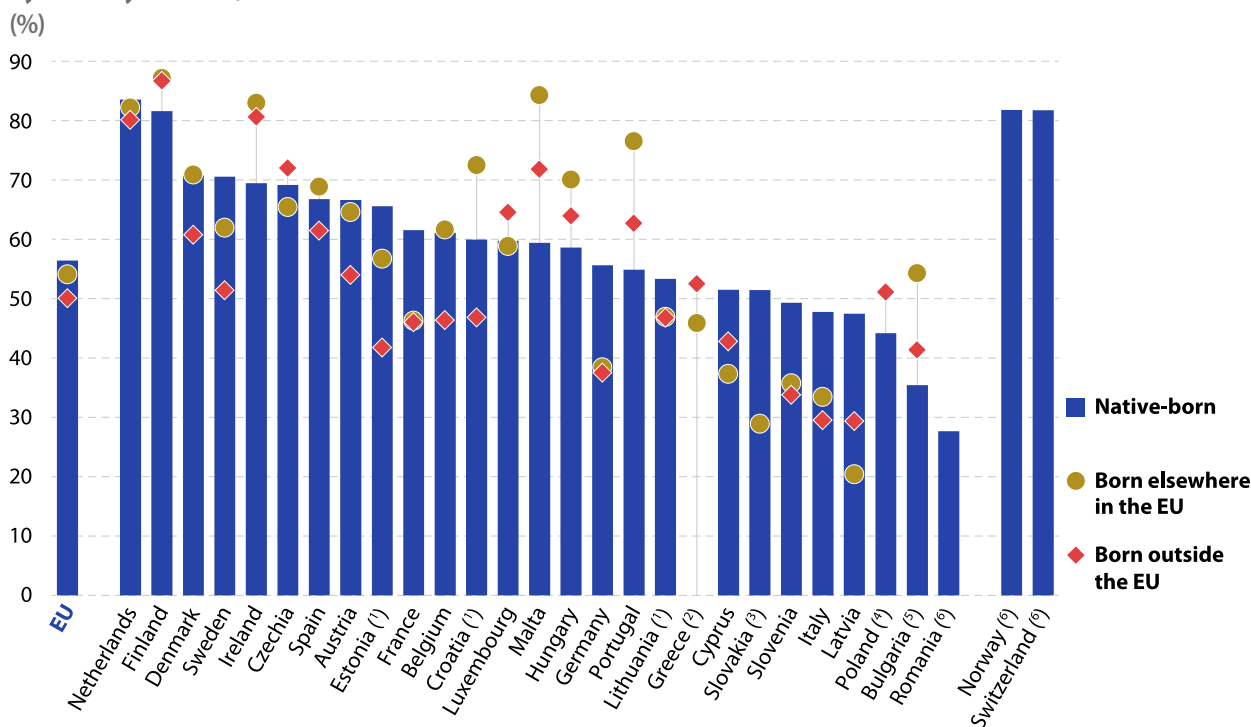


In the EU, the NEET share in 2022 for people aged 15 to 29 years without a disability was 10.8 %. Among people with some disability, this share was 1.8 times as high (19.6 %) while among people with a severe disability this share was 4.7 times as high (51.3 %). Regardless of sex or age group (15 to 24 years or 25 to 29 years), people with some disability had higher NEET shares than those without and people with a severe disability had, by far, the highest NEET rates.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [edat_lfse_39](#))

Digital skills

Figure 3.11: Share of people aged 16–74 years with at least basic overall digital skills, by country of birth, 2023



(1) Born elsewhere in the EU: low reliability.

(2) Native-born: not available.

(3) Born elsewhere in the EU: low reliability. Born outside the EU: not available.

(4) Born elsewhere in the EU: not available.

(5) Born elsewhere in the EU and born outside the EU: low reliability.

(6) Born elsewhere in the EU and born outside the EU: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [isoc_sk_dskl_i21](#))

The **digital skills** indicator covers five areas: information and data literacy skills, communication and collaboration skills, digital content creation skills, safety skills, and problem-solving skills. To have at least basic overall digital skills, people must have basic or above basic skills in all five areas, meaning that for each area they know how to do at least one specific activity.

In the EU, 55.6 % of people aged 16 to 74 years had at least basic overall digital skills in 2023. Among the EU Member States, this share ranged from less than two fifths in Romania (27.7 %) and Bulgaria (35.5 %) to more than four fifths in Finland (82.0 %) and the Netherlands (82.7 %).

Across the EU, the share of people aged 16 to 74 years with at least basic overall digital skills in 2023 ranged from 50.0 % among people born outside the EU, through 54.0 % for people born elsewhere in the EU, to 56.4 % for native-born people.

A pattern of a lower share of people with at least basic overall digital skills among people born outside the EU than

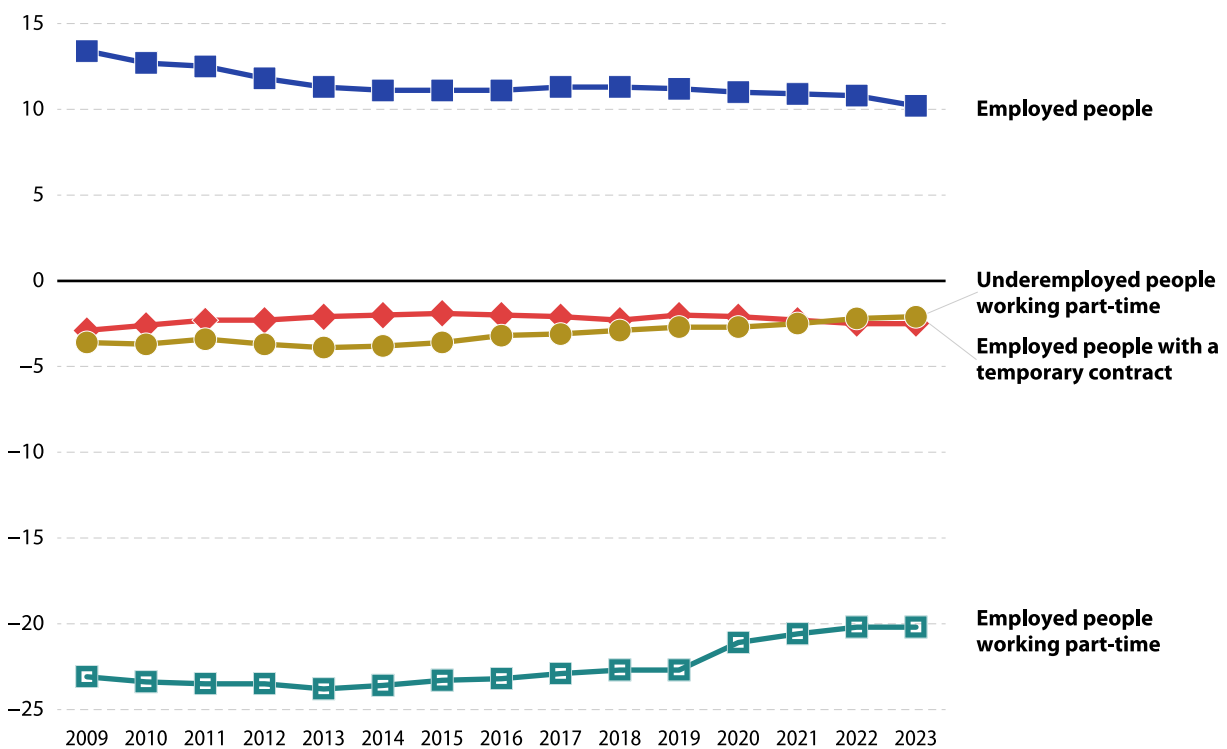
among native-born people was observed in 15 EU Member States (among 24 for which data are available) in 2023. The most notable exceptions were Malta and Ireland, where the shares among people born outside the EU were more than 10.0 percentage points higher than those among native-born people. Comparing the shares for native-born people and people born elsewhere in the EU, there was a similar pattern, with 14 Member States (among 24 for which data are available) reporting a higher share among native-born people. The most notable exception was Malta, where the share among people born elsewhere in the EU was 24.9 percentage points higher than the share among native-born people.

4. Labour market

This chapter provides insights into inequalities related to work, focusing on various aspects such as employment, unemployment, job quality and earnings.

Employment rates

Figure 4.1: Gender employment gap of people aged 20–64 years, by type of employment, EU, 2009–2023 (percentage points)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [sdg_05_30](#))

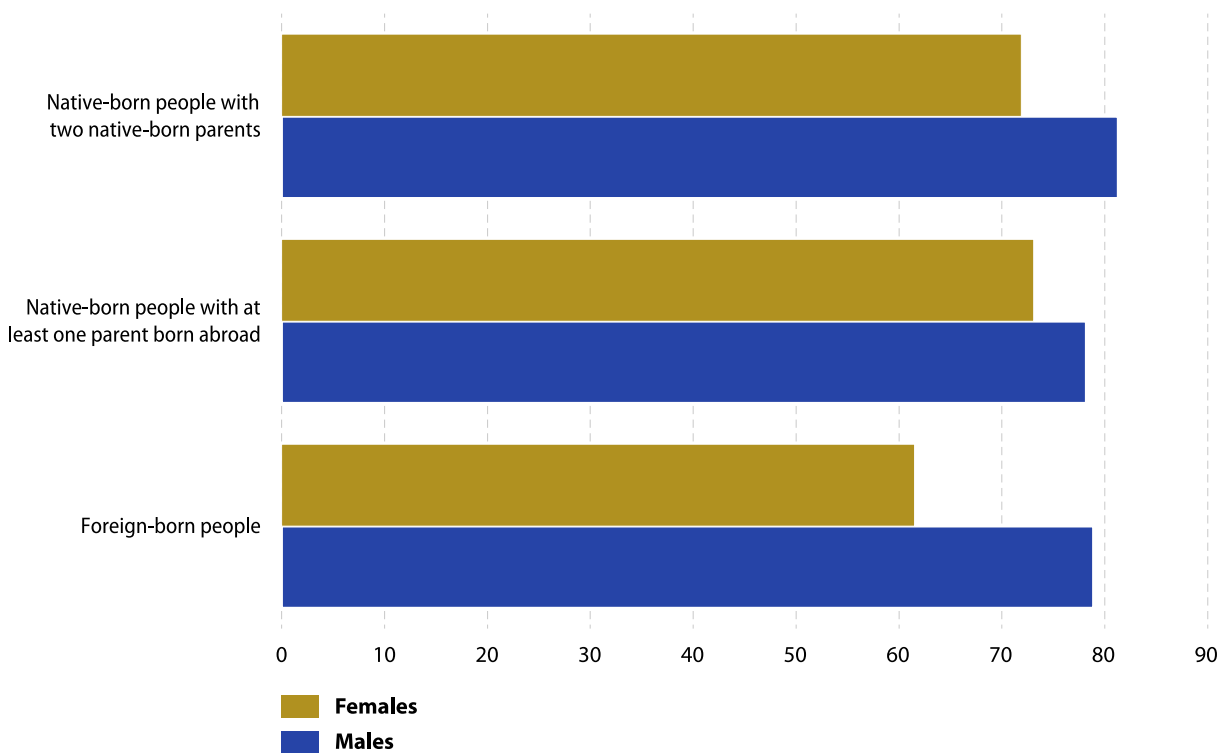
The employment rate is the percentage of employed people in relation to the comparable total population. The gender employment gap is the difference between the employment rates of men and women; it is calculated as the rate for men minus the rate for women, expressed in percentage points.

The gender gap for the [employment rate](#) of people aged 20 to 64 years in the EU narrowed from 13.4 percentage points in 2009 to 10.2 percentage points in 2023, with employment rates systematically higher for men.

Looking at three measures of relatively precarious employment – all employed people working part-

time, [underemployed people working part-time](#) and [employed people with a temporary contract](#) – the gender employment gap was reversed, with higher rates for women than for men. The largest gender gap was for the employment rate of employed people working part-time, where the employment rate for men in 2023 was 20.2 percentage points lower than that for women.

Figure 4.2: Employment rate (people aged 20–64 years), by migration status and sex, EU, 2023 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa_erganedm](#))

When analysed by migration status, the employment rate in the EU in 2023 was lowest for foreign-born people (69.9 %) and highest for native-born people with two native-born parents (76.6 %). The rate for native-born people with at least one parent born abroad (75.7 %) was quite close to the rate for native-born people with two native-born parents.

When analysed by sex, the situation across the EU in 2023 was different.

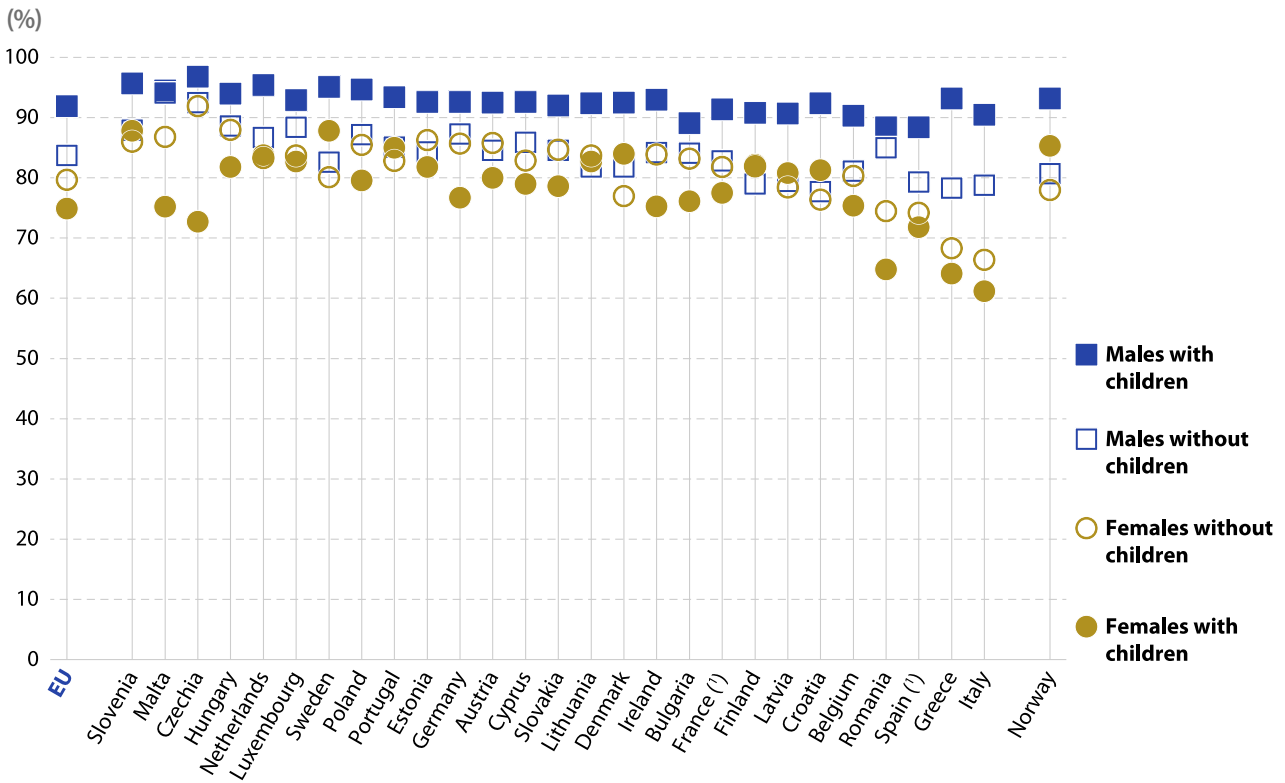
- Among women, the highest employment rate was recorded for native-born people with at least one parent

born abroad (73.1 %), rather than for native-born people with two native-born parents.

- Among men, the lowest employment rate was recorded for native-born people with at least one parent born abroad (78.2 %), rather than for foreign-born people.

Consequently, the widest gender employment gap was for foreign-born people, as the employment rate for men was 17.4 percentage points higher than for women. The narrowest gap was for native-born people with at least one parent born abroad, at 5.1 percentage points.

Figure 4.3: Employment rate of people aged 25–54 years, by presence of children and sex, 2023



Note: all household members aged less than 15 years are classified as children. Household members aged between 15 and 24 years are classified as children if they are dependent. Ranked on the rate for both sexes regardless of the presence of children.

(1) Definition differs.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfst_hheredty](#))

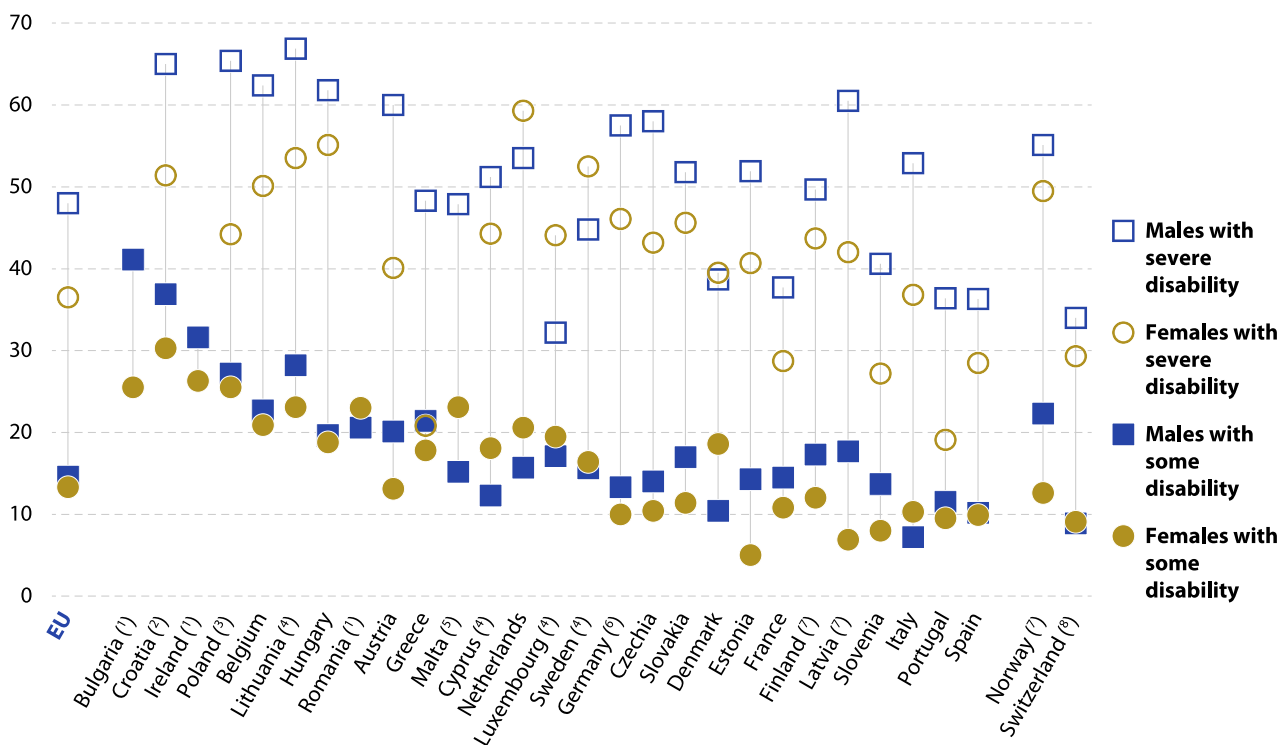
For people aged 25 to 54 years, the gender employment gap in the EU in 2023 was much larger for people with children than without.

- For those with children, the gap was 17.0 percentage points, resulting from a higher rate for men (91.9 %) and a lower rate for women (74.9 %).
- For those without children, the gap was 4.0 percentage points, with a higher rate for men (83.7 %) than for women (79.7 %).

A similar pattern was observed in 2023 in many EU Member States.

- Without exception, the highest employment rate was for men with children. The employment rate for men with children was higher than 90.0 % in 24 of the Member States.
- In two thirds of the Member States, the lowest employment rate was for women with children. Notable exceptions were Sweden and Denmark, where the rates for women with children were 7.7 and 7.0 percentage points, respectively, higher than for women without children. A similar situation, but with smaller gaps, was observed in Croatia, Latvia, Portugal, Slovenia, the Netherlands and Finland.

Figure 4.4: Disability employment gap (people aged 20–64 years), by sex and level of disability (activity limitation), 2023 (percentage points)



Note: ranked on the rate for both sexes regardless of the level of disability.

- (1) People with severe disability: not available.
- (2) Females with severe disability: low reliability.
- (3) Low reliability.
- (4) People with severe disability: low reliability.

- (5) Females with severe disability: not available.
- (6) Estimates.
- (7) Males with severe disability: low reliability.
- (8) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_dlm200](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?code=hlth_dlm200))

The disability employment gap shows the difference in employment rates for people with a disability compared with people without a disability.

For people aged 20 to 64 years, the disability employment gap in 2023 was much larger for people with severe rather than some disability: among men, the gap was 48 percentage points for those with a severe disability compared with 15 percentage points for those with some disability; among women, the gap was 37 percentage points for those with a severe disability compared with 13 percentage points for those with some disability. This pattern was also generally observed among the EU Member States, although Greece had a clearly smaller difference in disability employment gaps for women: 18 percentage points for women with some disability compared with 21 percentage points for women with a severe disability.

In 2023, the disability employment gap in the EU for people with some disability was slightly larger for men (15 percentage points) than for women (13 percentage points); a larger gap for men was also observed in two thirds of the EU Member States. The disability employment gap in the

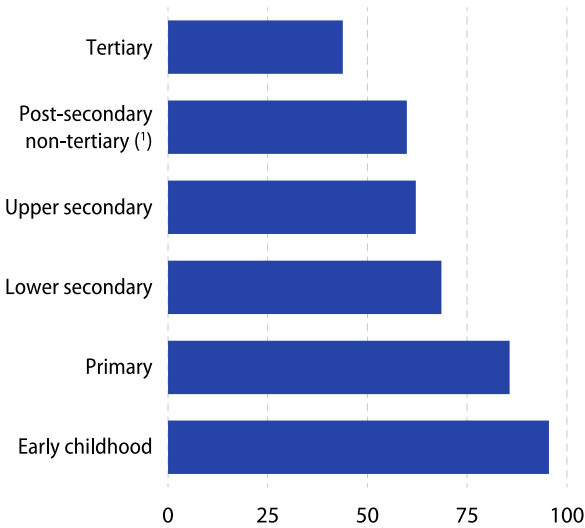
EU for people with severe disability was also larger for men (48 percentage points) than for women (37 percentage points); this situation was observed in all EU Member States for which data are available, except for Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden.

There were large differences between EU Member States in the disability employment gaps in 2023.

- Regardless of sex, the disability employment gap for people with some disability was generally between 5 and 23 percentage points. Larger gaps were observed in Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland and Poland for men and women and in Lithuania for men.
- The disability employment gap for women with severe disability was generally between 27 and 55 percentage points. Smaller gaps were observed in Portugal and Greece and a larger gap in the Netherlands.
- The disability employment gap for men with severe disability generally ranged between 36 and 62 percentage points. A smaller gap was observed in Luxembourg and larger gaps in Croatia, Poland and Lithuania.

Occupations

Figure 4.5: Female teachers as a share of all teachers, by education level, EU, 2021 (%)

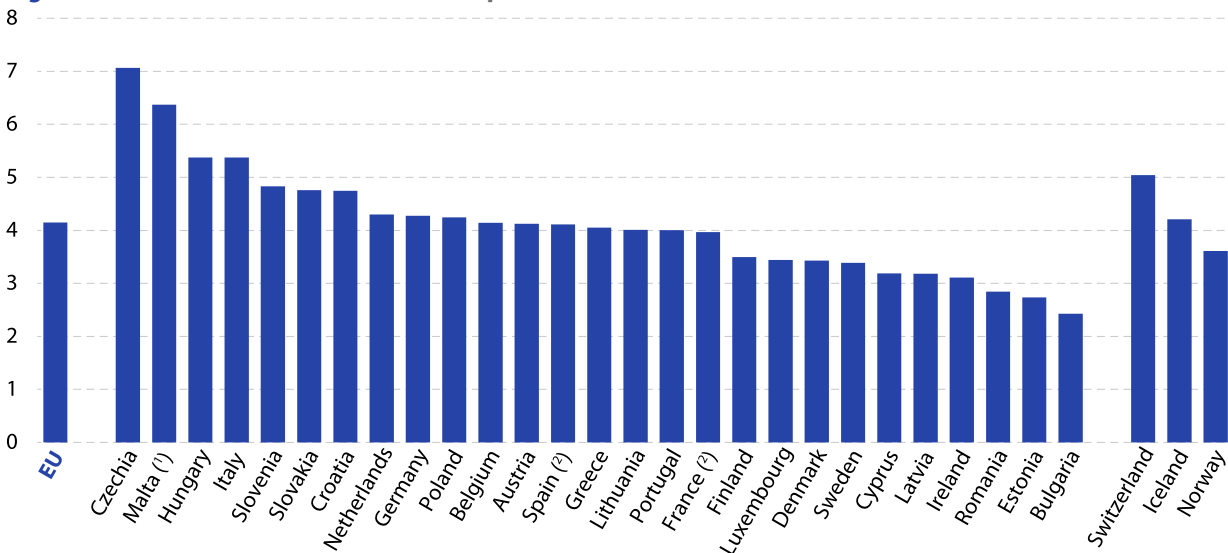


⁽¹⁾ Excluding Estonia, Italy and Portugal.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [educ_uoe_perp01](#))

Many women are employed in teaching. Within early childhood education (ISCED level 0), 95.5 % of teachers in the EU in 2021 were women. This share was progressively lower for higher levels of education. Nevertheless, women were in a majority at all levels of education except for tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 to 8), where their share was 43.9 %.

Figure 4.6: Ratio of male to female ICT specialists, 2023



⁽¹⁾ Low reliability.

⁽²⁾ Definition differs.

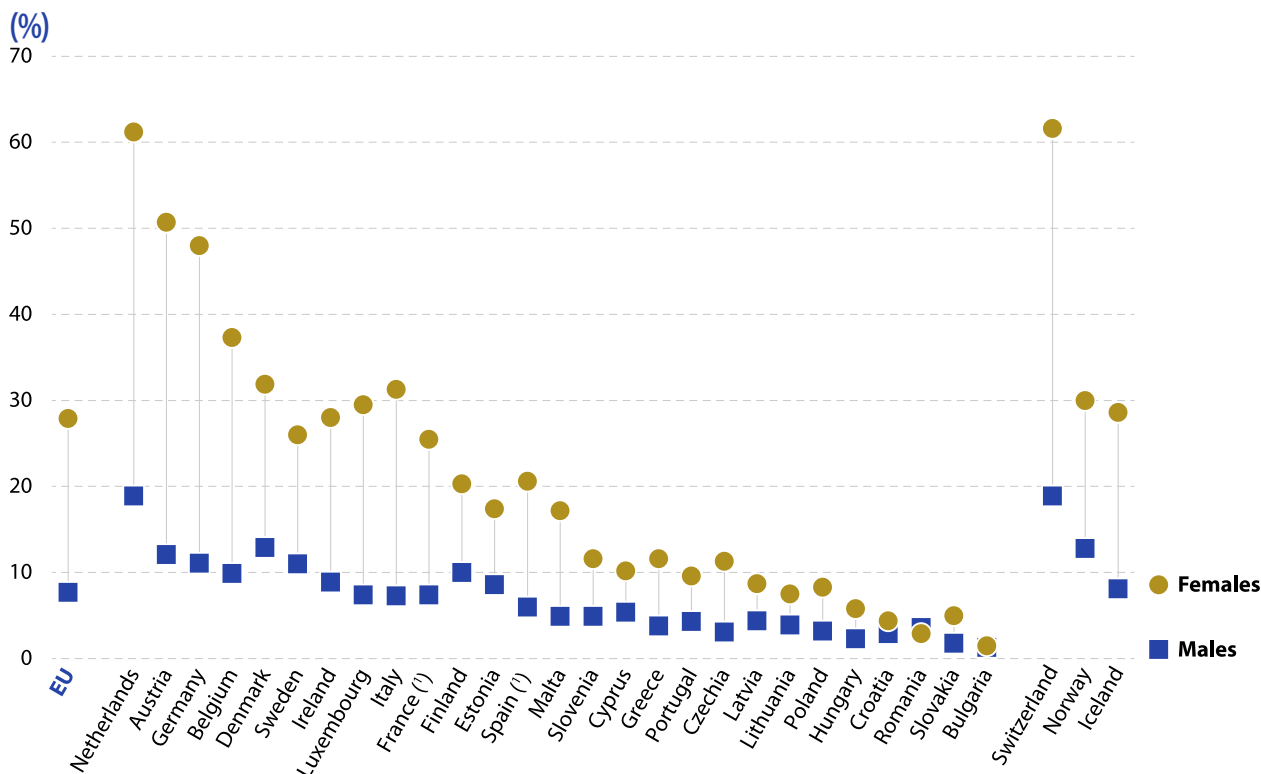
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [isoc_sks_itsps](#))

Information and communication technology (ICT) specialists are defined as workers who have the ability to develop, operate and maintain ICT systems and for whom ICT constitute the main part of their job. Across the EU in 2023, there were 4.1 times as many male ICT specialists

as there were female ones. Czechia (7.1) and Malta (6.4) recorded the highest ratios of male to female ICT specialists among the EU Member States. The lowest ratio was 2.4 in Bulgaria.

Employment characteristics

Figure 4.7: Share of employed people in part-time employment (people aged 20–64 years), by sex, 2023



Note: ranked on the share for both sexes.

(*) Definition differs.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsa_eppga](#))

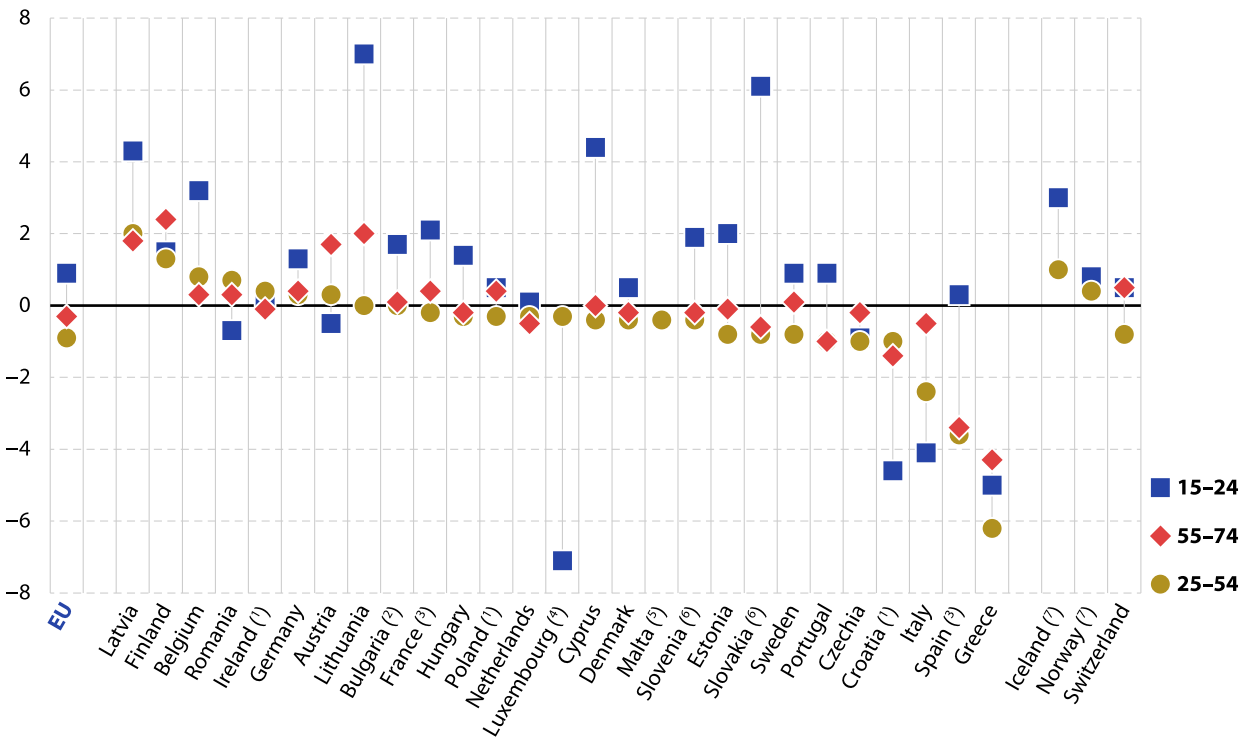
In 2023, 17.1 % of people aged 20 to 64 years in the EU who were in employment worked part time. Among the EU Member States, part-time employment was least common in Bulgaria, where 1.4 % of employed people didn't work full time. In most other Member States, the share was below 25.0 %. Higher shares were observed in Germany (28.5 %), Austria (30.4 %) and the Netherlands (39.0 %).

The share of part-time employment in the EU was higher for women (27.9 %) than for men (7.7 %) in 2023, a gap of 20.2 percentage points. The largest gender gap for the

share of part-time employment was in the Netherlands, at 42.3 percentage points, as the share for women was 61.2 % and that for men was 18.9 %. Gender gaps were also large in the other two EU Member States with relatively high shares of part-time employment, Austria (a gap of 38.6 percentage points) and Germany (36.9 percentage points). The narrowest gender gap was recorded for Bulgaria, at 0.2 percentage points. Romania was the only Member State to record a higher share of part-time employment among men (3.6 %) than among women (2.9 %), resulting in a negative gap of 0.7 percentage points.

Unemployment

Figure 4.8: Gender unemployment gap, by age, 2023
(percentage points)



Note: ranked on the gender unemployment gap for people aged 25 to 54 years.

(1) 55-74: low reliability.

(2) 15-24: low reliability.

(3) Definition differs.

(4) 15-24: low reliability. 55-74: not available.

(5) 15-24 and 55-74: not available.

(6) 15-24 and 55-74: low reliability.

(7) 55-74: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [une_rt_a](#))

In 2023, there were 13.2 million unemployed people aged 15 to 74 years in the EU. Just over one fifth (21.3 %) of these were young people aged 15 to 24 years, 63.3 % were aged 25 to 54 years and 15.4 % were aged 55 to 74 years.

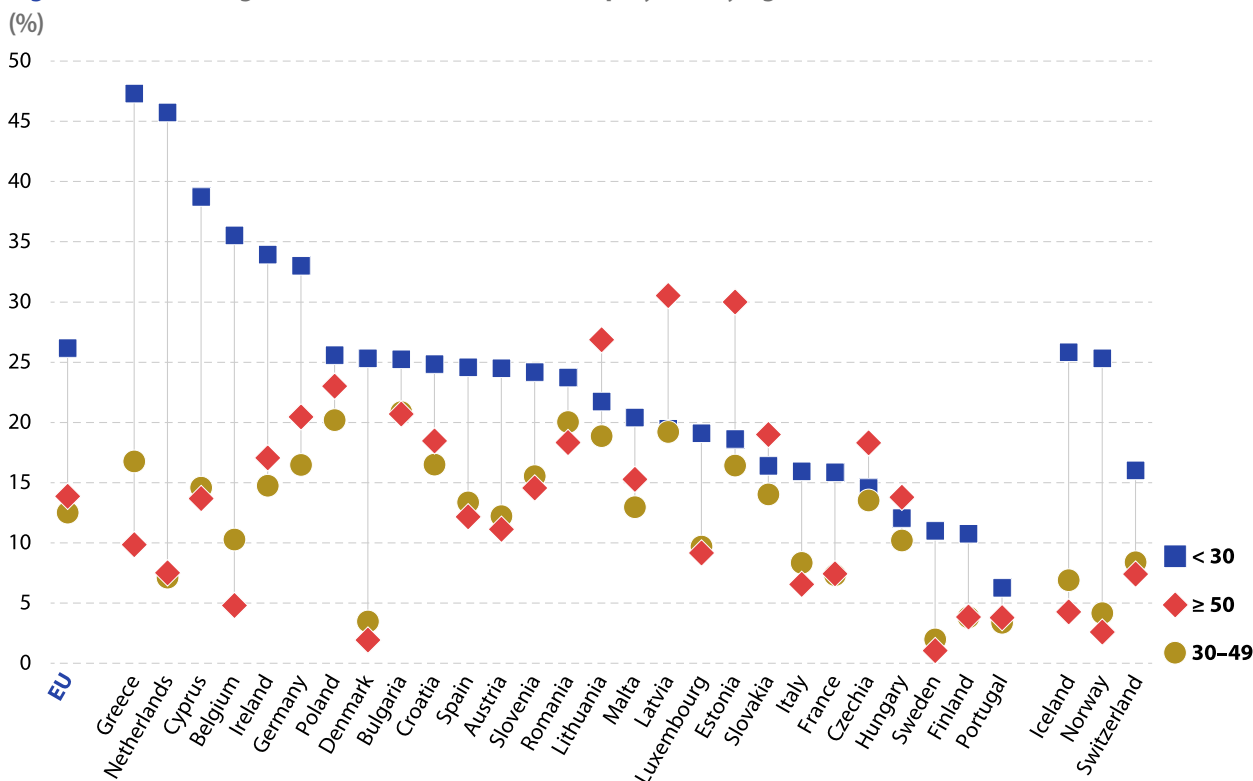
The overall [unemployment rate](#) in the EU in 2023 was 6.1 %. There was a higher rate for younger people (14.5 %) than for people aged 25 to 54 years (5.5 %) or aged 55 to 74 years (4.3 %).

In 2023, the unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage points higher for younger males than for younger females in the EU. Among people aged 25 to 54 years, the reverse situation was observed, with the unemployment rate for women 0.9 percentage points higher than for men. Among older people, the unemployment rate for women was also higher than that for men, but with a narrower gap (0.3 percentage points).

- Unlike in the EU as a whole, Luxembourg, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Czechia, Romania and Austria recorded higher unemployment rates for younger females than for younger males, resulting in negative gender unemployment gaps.
- Latvia, Finland, Belgium, Romania, Ireland, Germany and Austria recorded positive gender unemployment gaps among people aged 25 to 54 years, indicating higher unemployment rates for men than for women, again in contrast to the situation for the EU as a whole.
- Among people aged 55 to 74 years, the situation was relatively balanced: around half the EU Member States recorded higher unemployment rates for men and around half for women; there was no gender gap in this age groups in Cyprus.

Earnings

Figure 4.9: Low-wage earners as a share of all employees, by age, 2018



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [earn_ses_publa](#))

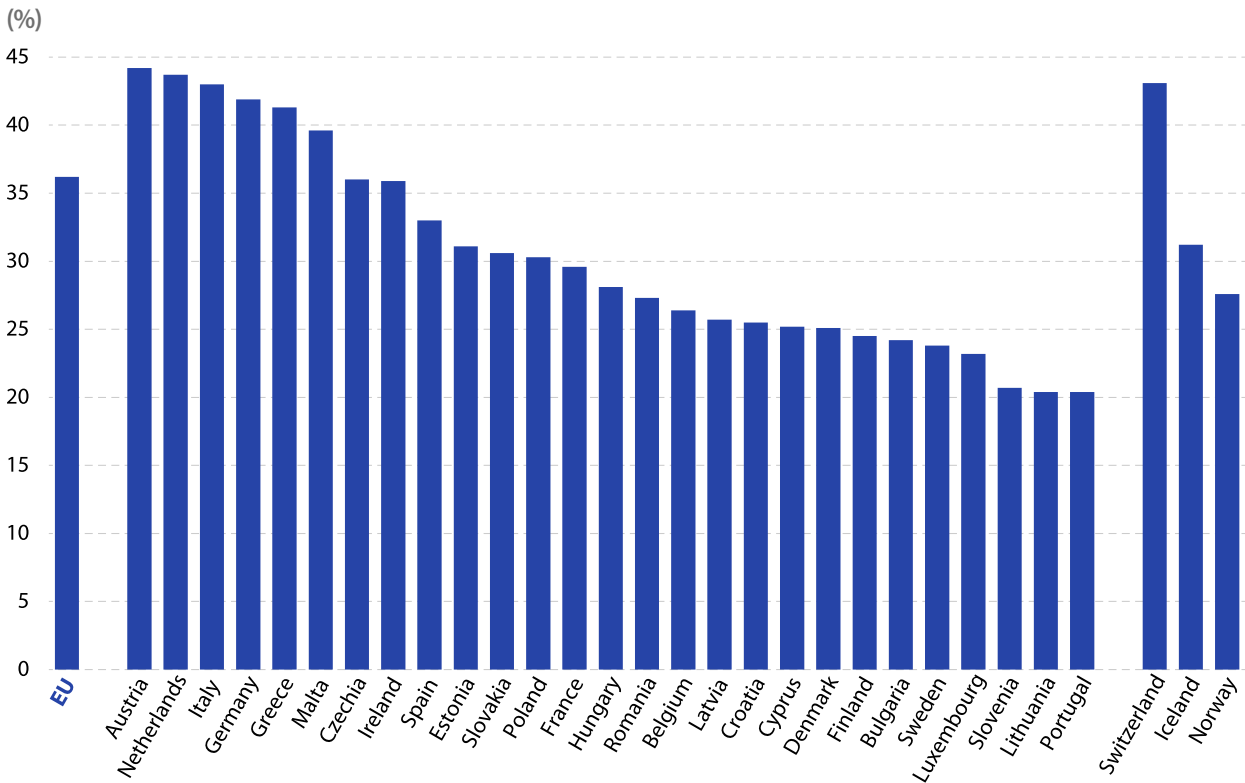
Low-wage earners are [employees](#) (excluding apprentices) who earn two thirds or less of the national median gross hourly [earnings](#).

In 2018, the share of low-wage earners among all employees was 15.2 % in the EU. Among the EU Member States, this share was 5.0 % or lower in Sweden, Portugal and Finland. The highest shares were in the Baltic Member States – 23.5 % in Latvia, 22.3 % in Lithuania and 22.0 % in Estonia – as well as Poland (21.9 %) and Bulgaria (21.4 %).

Younger employees, aged less than 30 years, were much more likely to be low-wage earners. More than a quarter (26.2 %) of employees across the EU in this age group were low-wage earners in 2018. By contrast, the shares for employees aged 30 to 49 years and 50 years or over were relatively close, at 12.5 % and 13.9 %, respectively.

A higher share of low-wage earners among younger employees (rather than those in the two older age groups studied) was observed in 2018 for 21 of the EU Member States. The exceptions were Czechia, the Baltic Member States, Hungary and Slovakia, where the highest shares were for employees aged 50 years or over. In relative terms, the greatest variations between the shares of low-wage earners for these three age groups were observed in Denmark and Sweden, where the shares among younger employees were more than 10.0 times as high as the shares among older employees. The narrowest variation was in Bulgaria, where the share among younger employees was 1.2 times as high as the share among older employees.

Figure 4.10: Gender overall earnings gap (people aged 15–64 years), 2018



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [earn_gr_goeg](#))

The gender overall earnings gap provides a summary indicator of the earnings gap between males and females combining the impact of three factors. It is calculated for people aged 15 to 64 years on the basis of average earnings of females (whether employed or not employed) compared with average earnings of males. The factors are

- (a) the average hourly earnings,
- (b) the monthly average of the number of hours paid (before any adjustment for part-time work) and
- (c) the employment rate.

In 2018, the gender overall earnings gap in the EU was 36.2 %. In other words, working age females would earn 36.2 % less than their male counterparts.

Three EU Member States reported gender overall earnings gaps that were clearly lower than in the rest of the EU: 20.4 % in Lithuania and Portugal and 20.7 % in Slovenia.

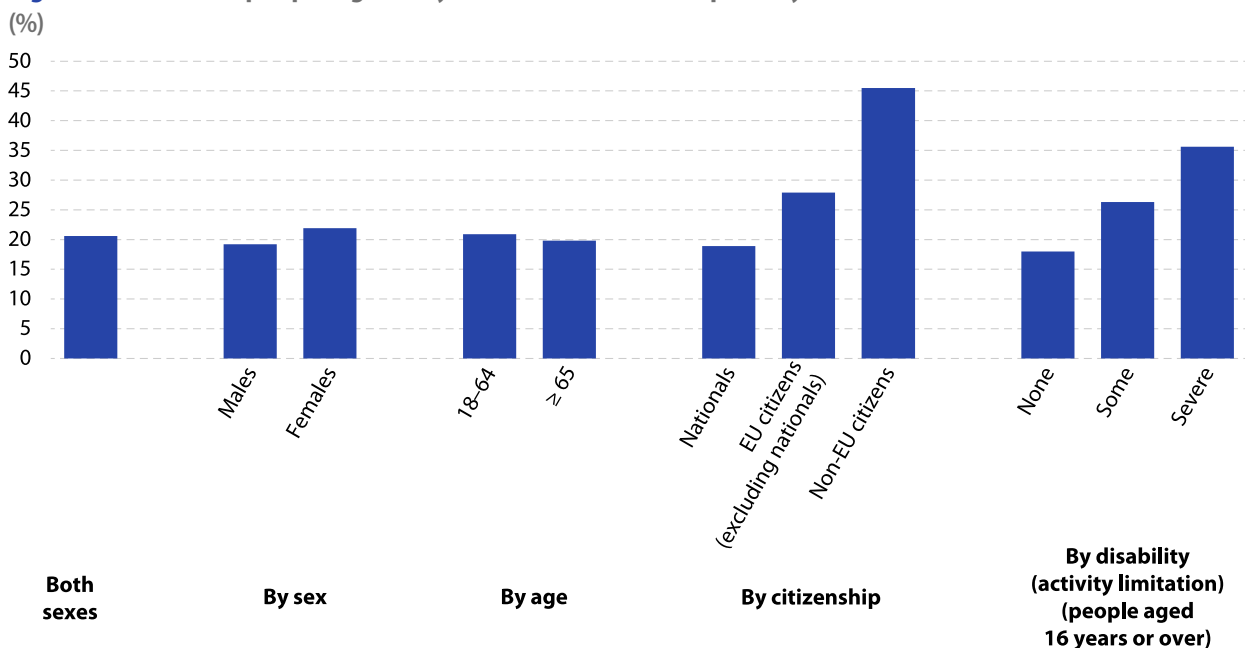
Six EU Member States reported clearly higher rates: Austria (44.2 %), the Netherlands (43.7 %), Italy (43.0 %), Germany (41.9 %), Greece (41.3 %) and Malta (39.6 %). They were the only Member States with a gender overall earnings gap above the EU average.

5. Income and living conditions

This chapter provides insights into the economic and social conditions of different groups that may face disadvantages, including issues of poverty, social inclusion, income inequality, material deprivation, housing conditions and social protection.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Figure 5.1: Share of people aged 18 years or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, EU, 2023



Note: the share of people aged less than 18 years at risk of poverty was 24.8 %.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc_peps01n](#), [ilc_peps05n](#), [ilc_peps06n](#) and [hlth_dpe010](#))

A person at risk of poverty or social exclusion is

- at risk of poverty or
- severely materially and socially deprived or
- living in a household with a very low work intensity.

A person is only counted once as being at risk of poverty or social exclusion even if they are in more than one of the situations mentioned above.

In 2023, there were 94.6 million people in the EU who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, equivalent to 21.4 % of the population.

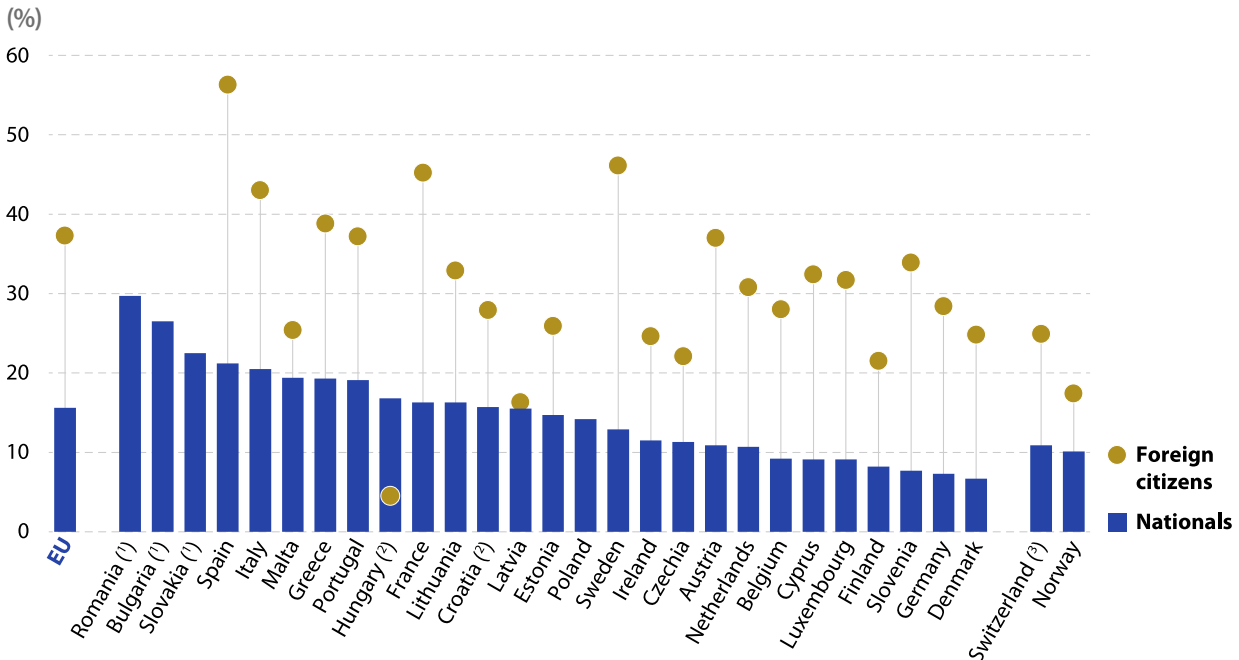
Some 74.7 million people in the EU who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 were adults aged 18 years or over, equivalent to 20.6 % of people in this age group. Men were less likely to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion (19.2 %)

than women (21.9 %). Nationals were less likely to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion (18.9 %) than citizens of other EU Member States (27.9 %) or non-EU citizens (45.5 %).

In the EU, the share of people aged 16 years or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion was 18.0 % in 2023 for people without a disability. By contrast, it was 26.3 % for people with some disability and 35.6 % for people with a severe disability.

Monetary poverty and income inequality

Figure 5.2: At-risk-of-poverty rate for children, by citizenship of their parents, 2023



Note: all household members aged below 18 years are classified as children.

(1) Foreign citizens: not available.

(2) Foreign citizens: low reliability.

(3) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_li33](#))

The **at-risk-of-poverty rate** is the share of people with an **equivalised disposable income** (after **social transfers**) below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. The threshold is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers.

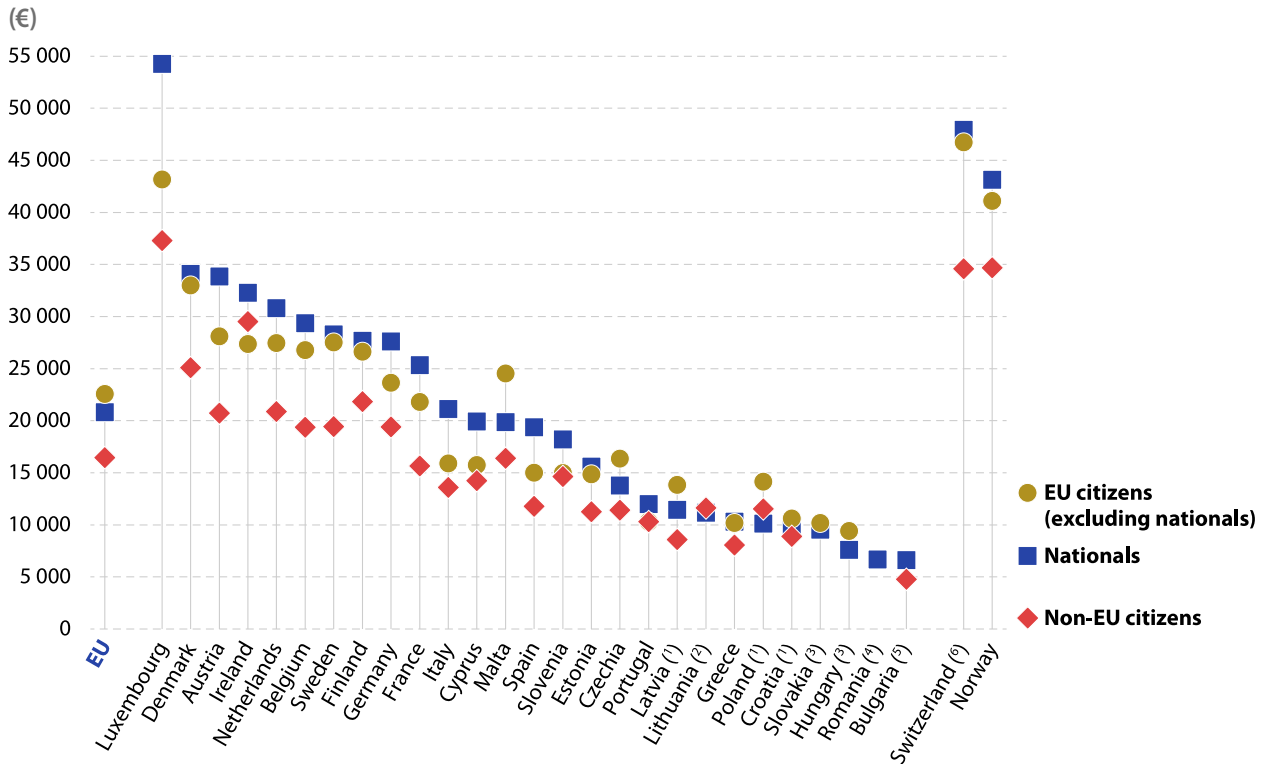
The **equivalised disposable income** is the total income of a household, after tax and other deductions, which is available for spending or saving, divided by the number of household members converted into equalised adults. Household members are equalised or made equivalent by weighting each person according to their age using the standardised OECD scale which gives a weight to all members of the household (and then adds these up to arrive at the equivalised household size): a weight of 1.0 is applied to the first adult, 0.5 to all other people aged 14 years or over and 0.3 to each child aged less than 14 years.

In 2023, the at-risk-of-poverty rate for children – defined here as all household members aged below 18 years – was 15.6 % for children both of whose parents were nationals and 37.3 % for children who had at least one parent who was a [foreign citizen](#).

When analysed by the citizenship of their parents, the at-risk-of-poverty rate for children in 2023 is available for 24 EU Member States. In most Member States, the rate was higher for children who had at least one parent who was a foreign citizen than for those whose parents were both nationals. However, the reverse was observed in two

Member States: in Poland, the gap between the rates was small, while in Hungary the gap was clearly larger (although the rate for children who had at least one parent who was a foreign citizen is of low reliability due to the sample size). In five Member States, the at-risk-of-poverty rates for children who had at least one parent who was a foreign citizen was more than 25.0 percentage points higher than the rate for children both of whose parents were nationals: Spain (35.1 percentage points), Sweden (33.2 percentage points), France (28.9 percentage points), Slovenia (26.2 percentage points) and Austria (26.1 percentage points).

Figure 5.3: Median equivalised net income (people aged 18 years or over), by group of country of citizenship, 2023



(1) EU citizens (excluding nationals): low reliability.

(2) EU citizens (excluding nationals): not available.

(3) EU citizens (excluding nationals): low reliability. Non-EU citizens: not available.

(4) EU citizens (excluding nationals) and non-EU citizens: not available.

(5) EU citizens (excluding nationals): not available. Non-EU citizens: low reliability.

(6) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_di15](#))

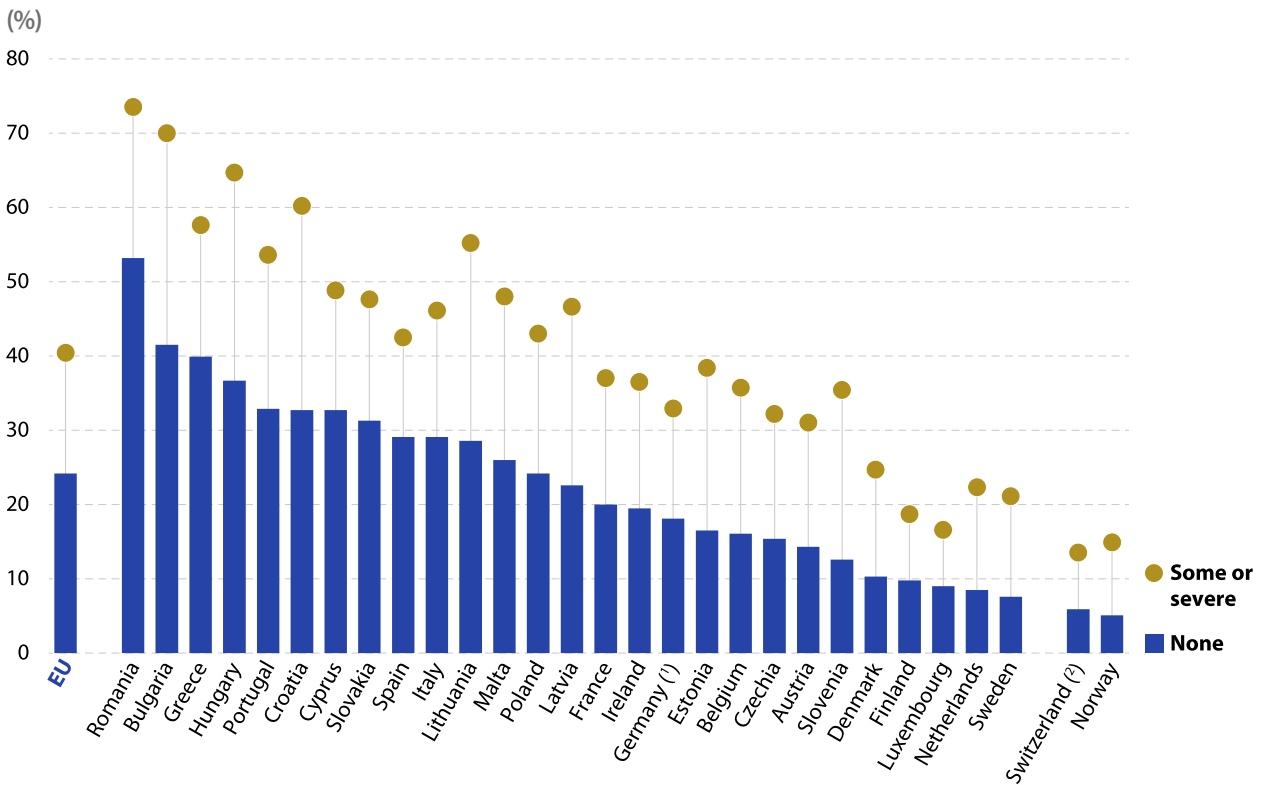
The median equivalised net income of people aged 18 years or over in the EU was €20 614 in 2023. This average ranged from less than €7 000 in Bulgaria and Romania to €31 620 in Ireland, €32 267 in Austria, €33 706 in Denmark and €49 239 in Luxembourg.

Across the EU and among people aged 18 years or over, citizens of other EU Member States had a higher median equivalised net income (€22 553) than nationals (€20 807). The average income of non-EU citizens was lower, at €16 430. Complete data for 2023 analysed by citizenship are available for 22 EU Member States.

- The lowest median equivalised net income in 2023 was generally recorded for non-EU citizens. The only exceptions were
 - Ireland, where the lowest average was for citizens of other Member States
 - Poland, where the lowest average was for nationals.
- The highest median equivalised net income was most often recorded for nationals. The five exceptions, where the highest average was for citizens of other Member States, were Czechia, Croatia, Latvia, Malta and Poland.

Material deprivation and economic strain

Figure 5.4: Share of people aged 16 years or over unable to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home, by level of disability (activity limitation), 2023



(¹) Estimates.

(²) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_dm020](#))

The inability to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home refers to the enforced inability (rather than a lack of interest) to afford to pay for such a holiday.

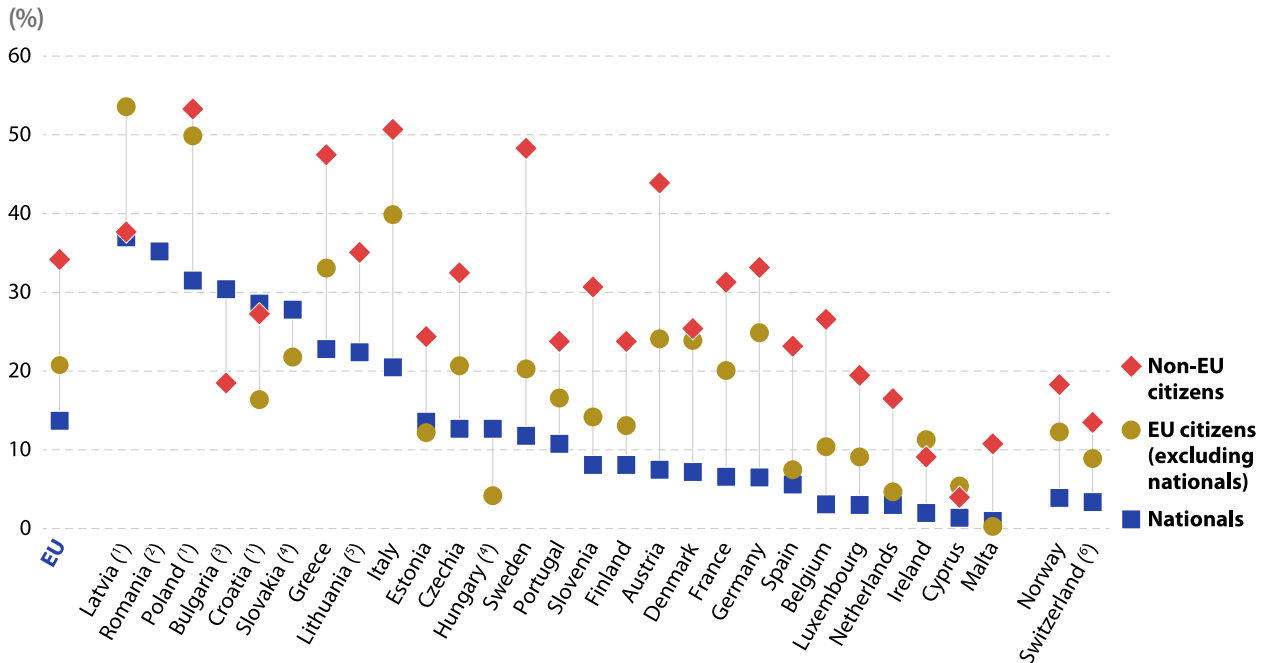
The share of people aged 16 years or over in the EU who were unable to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home was 28.5 % in 2023. In Luxembourg, 1 in 10 people (9.9 %) were unable to afford such a holiday, whereas this share was close to 6 in 10 in Romania (59.5 %).

In the EU, people with a disability were more likely to be unable to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home: in 2023, the share of people in this situation was 24.2 % for people without a disability compared with 40.4 % for people with some or a severe disability, a difference of 16.2 percentage points.

In 2023, all EU Member States reported a higher share of people with disabilities unable to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home than was the case for people without a disability. The narrowest gap was in Luxembourg, where the share among people with a disability was 16.6 %, 7.6 percentage points more than for people without a disability (9.0 %). Gaps of at least 20.0 percentage points were observed in 10 Member States, reaching 28.5 percentage points in Bulgaria, 28.0 percentage points in Hungary and 27.5 percentage points in Croatia.

Housing conditions

Figure 5.5: Overcrowding rate, by group of country of citizenship, 2023



Note: ranked on the rate for nationals.

(1) EU citizens (excluding nationals): low reliability.

(2) EU citizens (excluding nationals) and non-EU citizens: not available.

(3) EU citizens (excluding nationals): not available. Non-EU citizens: low reliability.

(4) EU citizens (excluding nationals): low reliability. Non-EU citizens: not available.

(5) EU citizens (excluding nationals): not available.

(6) 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_lvho15](#))

The **overcrowding rate** is defined as the percentage of the population living in an overcrowded household. A household is overcrowded if it does not have a minimum number of rooms equal to:

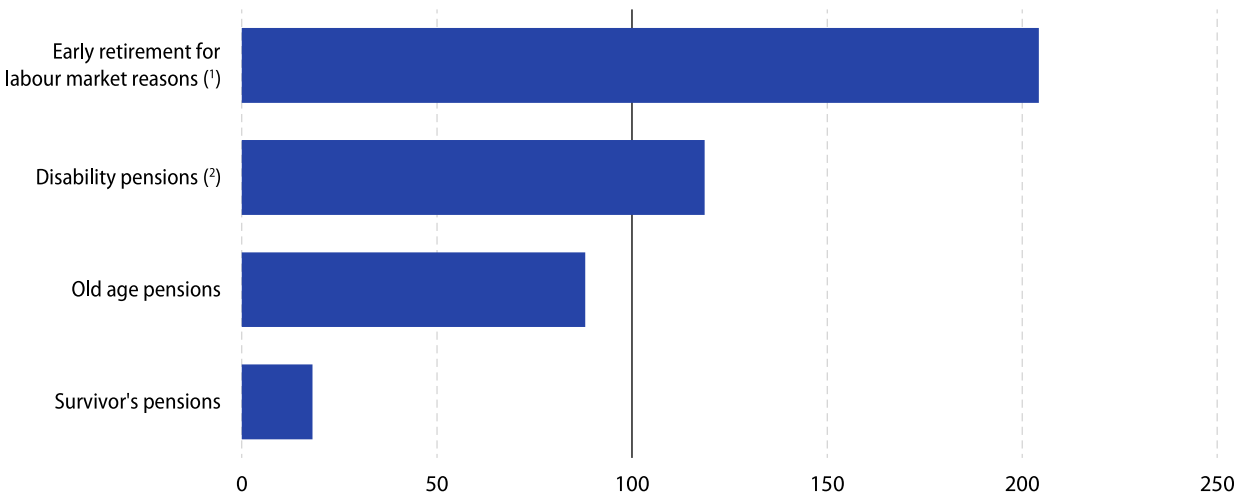
- one room for the household,
- one room per couple in the household,
- one room for each single person aged 18 years or over,
- one room per pair of single people of the same sex aged between 12 and 17 years,
- one room for each single person aged between 12 and 17 years and not included in the previous category,
- one room per pair of children aged less than 12 years.

The overcrowding rate in the EU was 16.8 % in 2023. When analysed by citizenship, the overcrowding rate was highest for non-EU citizens (34.2 %), lower for EU citizens (20.8 %) and lowest for nationals (13.7 %). This pattern from higher to lower rates across these three types of citizenship was observed in 16 of the 22 EU Member States for which a full set of data is available. However,

- in Estonia and Malta the lowest overcrowding rate was observed for EU citizens,
- in Ireland, Cyprus and Latvia the highest overcrowding rate was observed for EU citizens, and
- in Croatia the highest overcrowding rate was observed for nationals and the lowest for EU citizens.

Social protection

Figure 5.6: Ratio of male to female beneficiaries of pensions, EU, 2021
(per 100 women)



⁽¹⁾ Excluding Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovenia.

⁽²⁾ Excluding Hungary.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [spr_pns_ben](#))

At an aggregated level, [four types of pensions](#) can be identified within social protection statistics: [old age](#), [disability](#), [survivors](#) and [early retirement for labour market reasons](#). The data on [pension beneficiaries](#) generally include people receiving state or occupational pensions, but not private pensions (for example, from private insurance policies). It should be noted that it is quite common for some people to receive more than one type of pension: consequently, the sum of the number of people receiving each particular type of pension exceeds the total number of people receiving any pension.

For survivor's pensions, an analysis by sex is particularly skewed towards females. This is unsurprising given the longer life expectancy of females. In 2021, on average there were 18 males who received a survivor's pension for every 100 females who received such a pension.

In the EU, the most common type of pension is an old age pension (including [anticipated](#) and [partial](#) old age pensions), received by approximately four in five people who are beneficiaries of any type of pension. The ratio of the number of men to women receiving an old age pension shows a larger number of female than male beneficiaries, again reflecting the distribution by sex of the population of older people. In 2021, on average there were 88 men who received an old age pension for every 100 women who received such a pension.

Across the EU, disability pensions were received by about one in eight (12 %) of all beneficiaries of pensions. In 2021, on average there were 119 men who received a disability pension for every 100 women who received such a pension; in other words, more men than women received disability pensions.

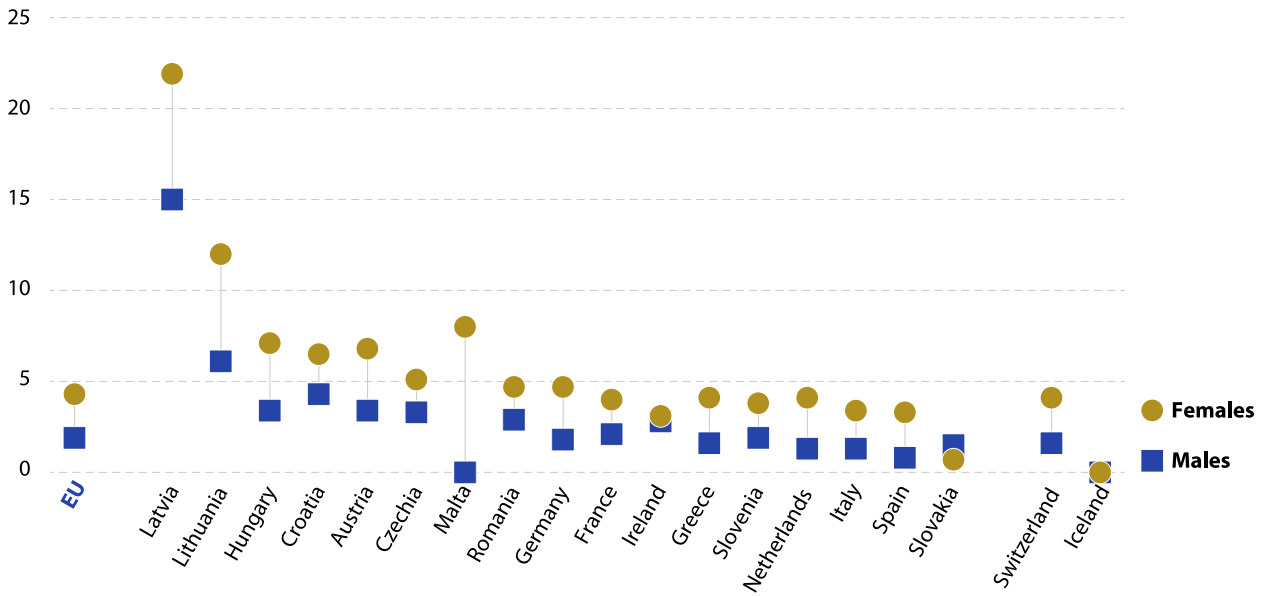
The least common type of pension in the EU is a pension for early retirement due to labour market reasons. Although data are incomplete, less than 1.0 % of beneficiaries of pensions received this type of pension in 2021. For such pensions, an analysis by sex is particularly skewed in favour of men, reflecting among other factors the higher labour force participation rate of men and possibly the occupational hazards to which they are exposed. In 2021, on average there were 204 men who received a pension for early retirement due to labour market reasons for every 100 women who received such a pension.

6. Non-discrimination and personal security

This chapter provided insights into the extent and nature of self-perceived discrimination, overall (in)security of potentially vulnerable population groups, including gender-based violence.

Experience of crime

Figure 6.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide by an intimate partner or a family member relative to population size, by sex, 2022
(per million inhabitants)



Note: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Finland and Sweden, not available.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [crim_hom_vrel](#))

The incidence of police-recorded crimes varies widely across the EU not only due to differences in the underlying prevalence of the acts, but also due to different laws, recording practices and reporting to the police.

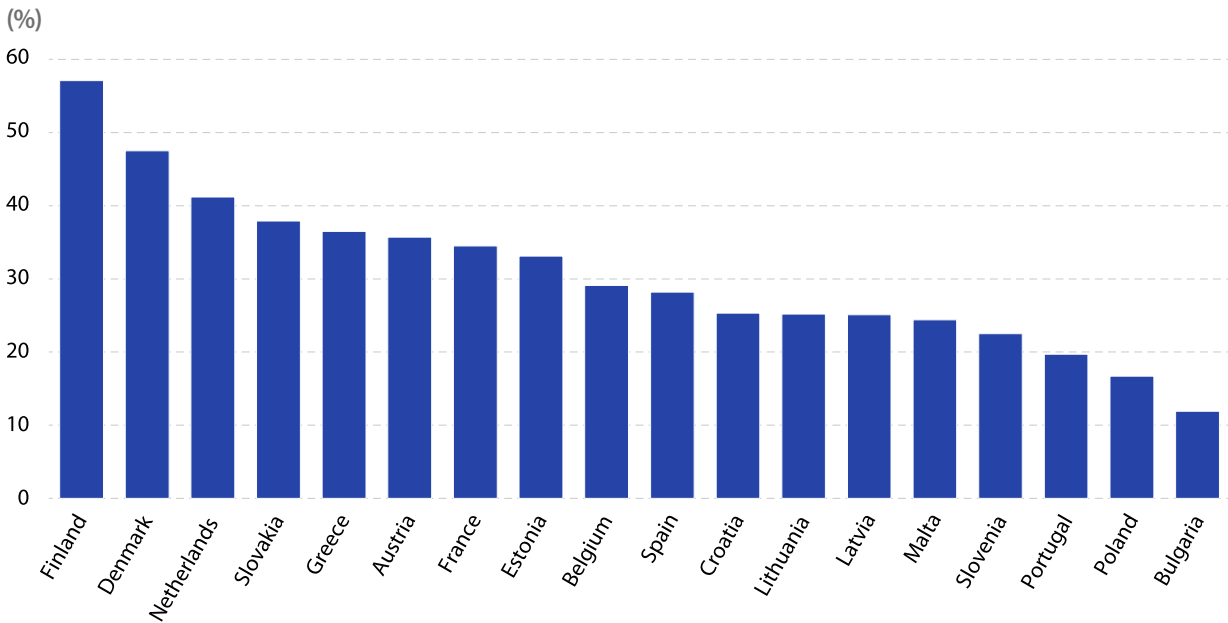
Intentional homicide means killing a human being wilfully and illegally; the intent was to cause death or serious injury, but not necessarily that it was planned beforehand. This is a wider concept than **murder**, for which also planning and other criteria are considered. Intentional homicide excludes attempted intentional homicide, justifiable self-defence, assisted suicide, euthanasia and abortion.

Across the EU, an average of 4.3 females per million inhabitants were the victims of intentional homicide by an intimate partner or a family member in 2022, over double the average for males (1.9 per million inhabitants).

In 16 of the 17 EU Member States for which data are available, the incidence of such violence was higher for females than for males in 2022: the exception was Slovakia where the ratios were small but twice as high among males

than among females. It should be noted that intentional homicide is a relatively rare event and that the incidence of such violence can vary greatly from year to year, particularly in smaller Member States. Also, comparisons between countries may be misleading due to different national legislations: as a consequence, definitions in the international classification of crime for statistical purposes may not be fully respected.

Figure 6.2: Share of females who have experienced violence, 2021



Note: Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Romania and Sweden, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [gbv_any_type](#))

Violence directed against a person because of that person’s sex, or violence that affects persons of a particular sex disproportionately can be defined as gender-based violence.

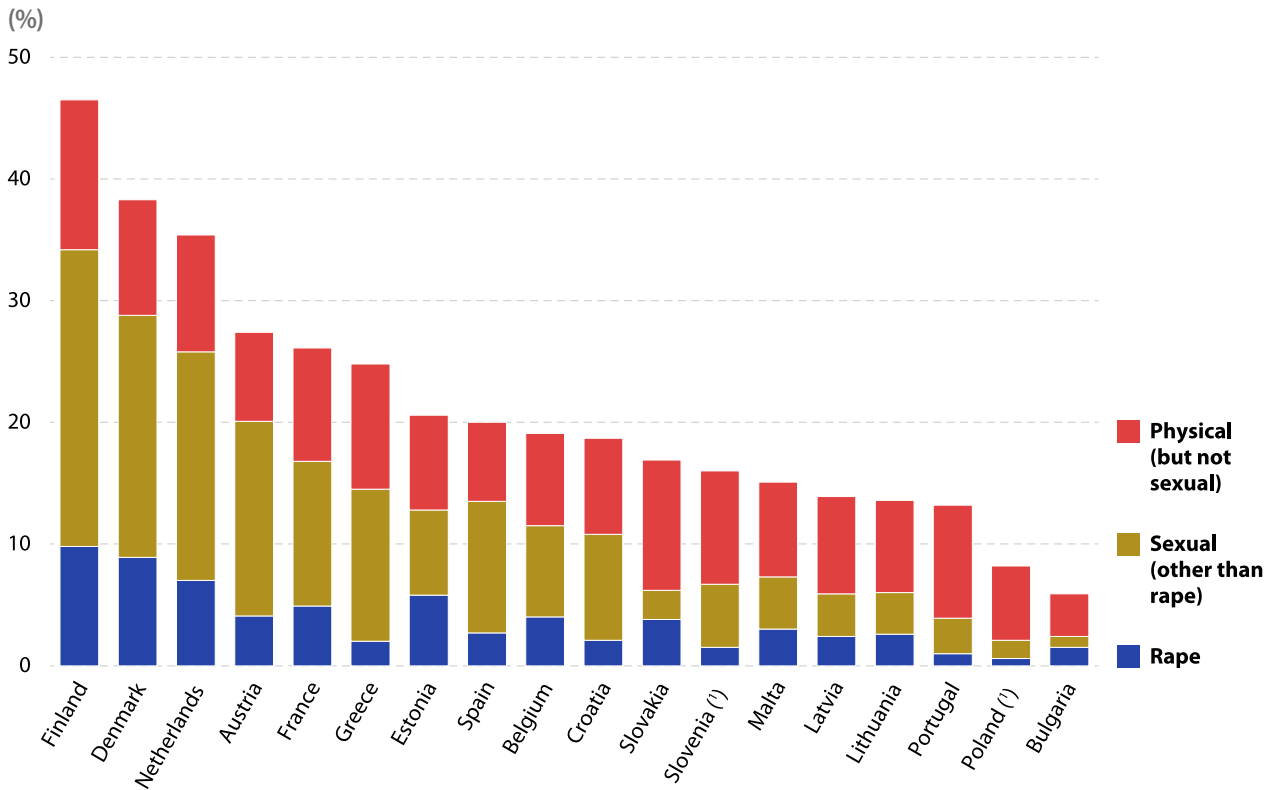
A substantial amount of violence is not reported or officially recorded. Data from a population survey serve to establish the level of disclosed – rather than just reported – violence. Nevertheless, survey data reflect the willingness of respondents to disclose any violence experienced as well as cultural attitudes towards the tolerance of violence; therefore, they may still understate the actual prevalence of violence.

Differing levels of disclosure of experiencing violence may, in part, relate to a general opinion of the wider community in each country in terms of what level of violence is ‘tolerated’. In countries where there is a lower threshold for what is ‘tolerated’, women may be more likely to disclose acts of violence.

Among the 18 EU Member States for which data for 2021 are available, the share of women who had experienced violence during adulthood (since the age of 15 for violence

from non-partners, during their lifetime for violence from an intimate partner) ranged from just over 1 in 10 in Bulgaria (12 %) to more than half in Finland (57 %).

Figure 6.3: Share of females who have experienced violence by a non-partner, 2021



Note: Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Romania and Sweden, not available.

(*) Rape: estimate based on 20 to 49 sample observations.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [gbv_npv_type](#))

Various categories of perpetrators of violence can be identified. Intimate partners are, for example, spouses, cohabitants or people in informal intimate relationships (such as dating), whether current or former. Non-partners are all other persons, in other words perpetrators with whom a victim has never had an intimate relationship.

Focusing on violence by non-partners, the share of women who disclosed that they had experienced physical or sexual violence was highest in Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, France and Greece, ranging between a quarter and nearly half. The analyses of non-partner violence by type shows that the higher prevalence in these EU Member States is largely due to a higher prevalence of degrading or humiliating sexual acts other than rape; the share of such acts (within all violent acts) was also relatively high in Spain and Croatia. This situation could occur in cases where more women might not consider degrading or humiliating sexual acts carried out by a non-partner to be acceptable and might be more willing to disclose this type of violence.

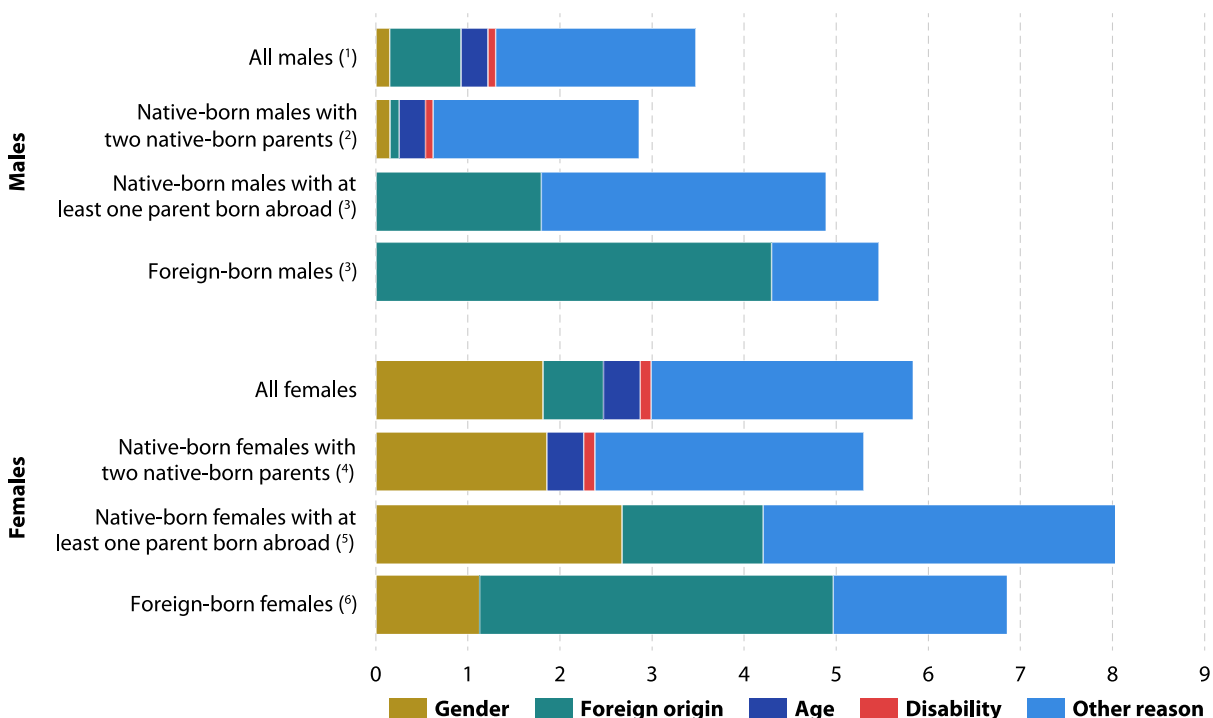
The share of women reporting having experienced violence by a non-partner was highest for younger women (aged 18 to 29 years) and lowest for older women (65 to 74 years): this age gradient from higher to lower rates through four age groups was observed in nearly all of the EU Member States. As such, younger women seem to be more ready to share their violent experiences. In general, reporting experiences that might have happened a long time ago could be impacted by recall issues. However, a lower prevalence rate for older age groups might also be connected with the social norms existing in the country implying that they preferred not to share this kind of experience, even by way of a survey.

Self-reported discrimination and barriers in the labour market

Data on discrimination at work are available for several reasons, including gender, age, foreign origin, disability and other reasons, such as physical appearance, sexual orientation or trade union affiliation.

Figure 6.4: Share of employed people (aged 20–64 years) feeling discriminated against at work in their current job, by main reason, sex and migration status, EU, 2021

(%)



Note: 90.2 % of all people did not feel discriminated against at work. Non-response was 5.2 %.

(¹) Disability: low reliability.

(²) Foreign origin and disability: low reliability.

(³) Gender, age and disability: not available.

(⁴) Foreign origin: not available. Disability: low reliability.

(⁵) Foreign origin: low reliability. Age and disability: not available.

(⁶) Age and disability: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_21disc02](#))

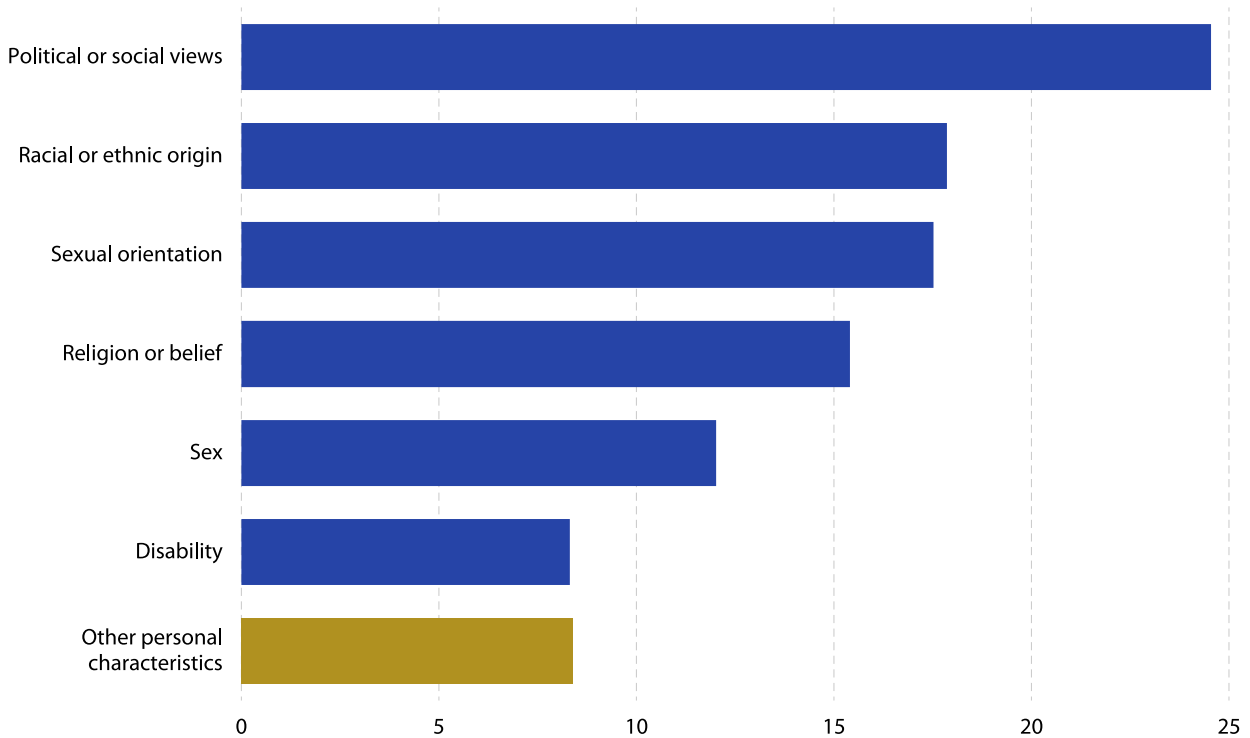
In 2021, 5.8 % of women aged 20 to 64 years in the EU felt they faced discrimination in their current job, compared with 3.5 % of men. In general, most people disclosing discrimination did so within the miscellaneous category of other reasons, with a higher share for women than for men. The most common specific ground for discrimination (among all people) was gender discrimination: this was reported by 1.8 % of women and 0.1 % of men. The next most common was foreign origin, disclosed by 0.8 % of

men and 0.7 % of women. Women were more likely than men to disclose discrimination on the grounds of age.

Regardless of sex, native-born people with two native-born parents were less likely to feel they faced discrimination in their current job than people with a different migration status. This was particularly notable concerning foreign origin as a ground for discrimination, as can be seen for men (incomplete data for women). Among foreign-born men, 4.3 % felt discriminated against due to their foreign origin, as did 3.8 % of foreign-born women.

Figure 6.5: Share of people (aged 16–74 years) having encountered hostile or degrading online messages within the preceding three months, by reason, EU, 2023

(%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [isoc_ci_hm](#))

Hostile or degrading online messages are defined as those that respondents personally consider to be discriminatory and/or hateful (in other words, hate speech), for example because of profanities, offensive comments or threats aimed at groups of people or individuals, based on characteristics such as race, sex, religion or sexual orientation.

The share of people aged 16 to 74 years in the EU having encountered hostile or degrading online messages towards groups of people or individuals during the three months prior to being surveyed in 2023 was 33.5 %.

The most common type of online messages which respondents personally considered as discriminatory and/or hateful were ones that were perceived as hostile or

degrading based on political or social views: these were encountered by 24.5 % of people aged 16 to 74 years in 2023. Messages perceived as hostile or degrading based on racial or ethnic grounds (17.9 %) or sexual orientation (17.5 %) were the next most common, followed closely by those based on religion or belief (15.4 %) or sex (12.0 %).

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Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU

2024 edition

Statistics on equality and non-discrimination in the EU presents a selection of key equality and non-discrimination statistics for the European Union (EU), EU Member States and EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to European statistics on these subjects and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on [Eurostat's website](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/).

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