

Living conditions in Europe - professional homecare

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in March 2026
Planned article update: October 2031*

Highlights

In 2024, 8.5% of people in the EU were living in households where at least one member needed [long-term care](#) due to health problems.

In 2024, among the people in the EU who lived in households where at least one member needed long-term care, 28.3% received professional homecare services, an increase of 7.3 percentage points compared with 2016.

In 2024, the share of people in households where at least one member needed long-term care, reporting financial barriers as the main reason for not using (more) professional homecare fell markedly in the EU, from 15.4% (2016) to 10.5% (2024).

At EU level, insufficient availability of professional homecare was a common reason cited for not using more homecare services; this reason was slightly more prevalent in rural areas (5.3%) than in cities (4.9%) in 2024.

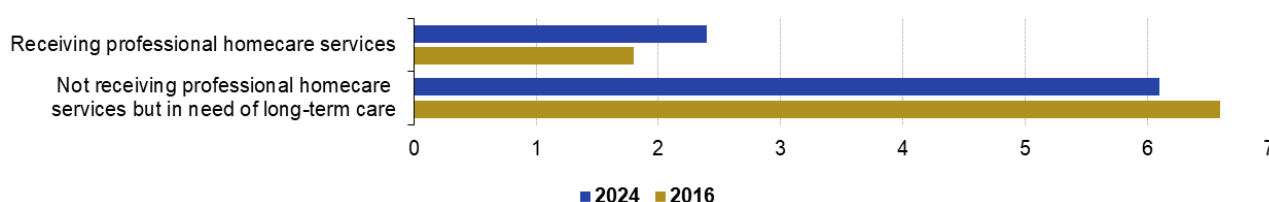
This article provides an overview of the use of professional homecare services in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) in 2024, as well as changes between 2016 and 2024. It examines the prevalence of professional homecare in households where at least one member reported a need for long-term care, considering care status and household type. It also explores unmet needs for professional homecare services and reasons for not using (more) such services. The analysis offers insights into accessibility and availability of professional homecare available from [Eurostat's online database](#) . [EU statistics on income and living conditions \(EU-SILC\)](#) data cover all EU countries, as well as most of the [EFTA](#) and [candidate countries](#) .

People in households in the EU by care status

In 2024, 8.5% of EU residents lived in households where at least one member needed long-term care due to health problems (**Figure 1**). Out of those, 2.4% lived in households where professional homecare services were provided while 6.1% lived in households where long-term care was needed, but no professional homecare services were received. The remaining 91.5% lived in households where no members needed long-term care due to health problems.

Compared with 2016, the share of people in households receiving professional homecare increased by 0.6 percentage points (pp), from 1.8% in 2016 to 2.4% in 2024. At the same time, those in households needing long-term care without receiving professional homecare decreased by 0.5 pp, from 6.6% in 2016 to 6.1% in 2024.

People in households in the EU by care status, 2024 and 2016 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_at19)

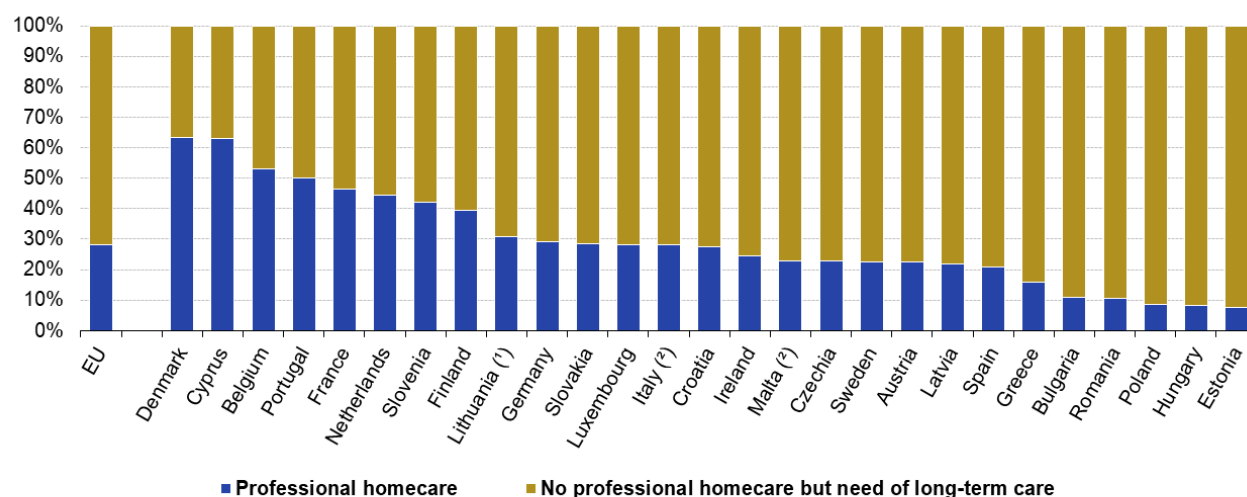
eurostat

Figure 1: People in households in the EU by care status, 2024 and 2016 (%) Source: Eurostat (ilc_at19)

Households with at least one resident indicating a requirement for long-term care

In 2024, among EU residents living in households where at least one member reported a need for long-term care, 28.3% received professional homecare services, a 7.3 pp increase from 2016. Denmark had the highest share of people in households receiving professional homecare services (63.5%), followed by Cyprus (62.9%) and Belgium (52.9%). In contrast, Estonia (7.6%), Hungary (8.3%), and Poland (8.5%) reported shares below 10%.

People in households with at least one person that reported a need for long-term care by care status, 2024 (%)



Note: data sorted by professional homecare.

(1) Provisional.

(2) Low reliability

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_at22)

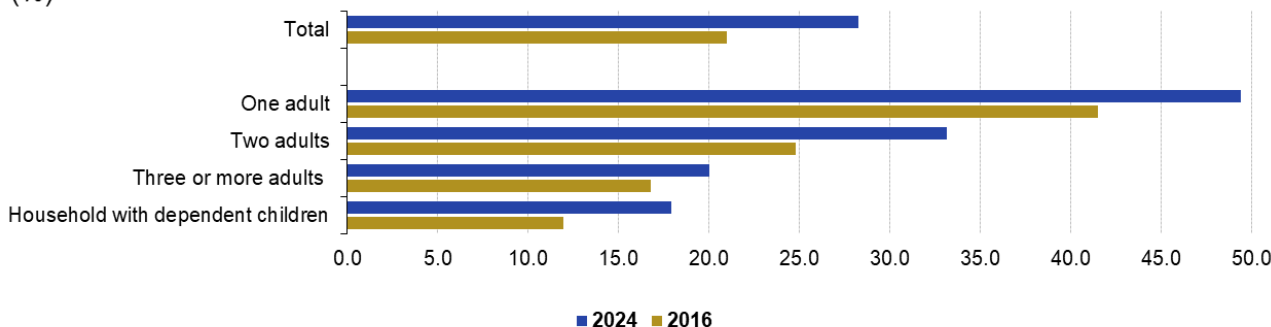
eurostat

Figure 2: People in households with at least one person that reported a need for long-term care by care status, 2024 (%) Source: Eurostat (ilc_at22)

In 2024, the highest shares of people receiving professional homecare services were observed in households composed solely of adults (**Figure 3**); 49.4% of adults with long-term care needs living in single adult households received such services, a 7.9 pp rise compared to 2016. The remaining 50.6% of this group required long-term care but did not receive professional homecare. By comparison, the corresponding shares of people living in households receiving professional homecare were lower in households with 2 adults (33.2%), 3 or more adults (20.0%) and

households with dependent children (17.9%). Between 2016 and 2024, the share of people in households where at least one member needed long-term care and received professional homecare services increased across all household types.

People in households in the EU with at least one person that reported a need for long-term care and received professional homecare services by household type , 2024 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_ats22)

eurostat

Figure 3: People in households in the EU with at least one person that reported a need for long-term care and received professional homecare services by household type, 2024 and 2016 (%) Source: Eurostat (ilc_ats22)

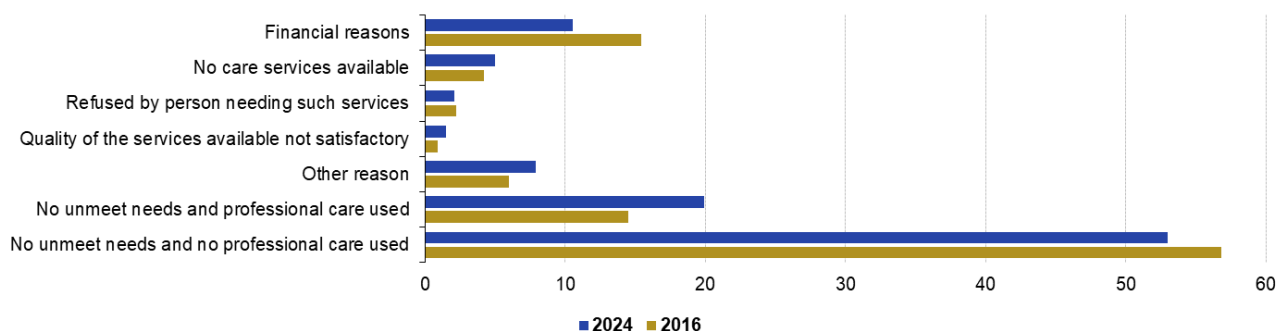
Main reason for not using (more) professional homecare

Between 2016 and 2024, the share of people in households where at least one person needed professional homecare but did not use it (or use more) for financial reasons decreased from 15.4% to 10.5%. The share of people not using (more) professional homecare due to unavailability of such services rose from 4.2% to 5.0%, while the share of those not using (more) professional homecare due to unsatisfactory service quality slightly increased from 0.9% to 1.5%.

In 2024, out of those EU residents living in households where at least one member reported a need for long-term care, 19.9% received professional homecare services and did not need more, 53.0% didn't need professional homecare services, while 27.1% needed (more) professional homecare services but did not receive such for various reasons such as financial reasons, availability issues, refusal to use, quality or some other reasons (**Figure 4**).

People in households in the EU with at least one person needing long-term care by main reason of not using (or requiring more) professional homecare services, 2024 and 2016

(%)



Note: 2016 estimated data.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_ats20)

eurostat

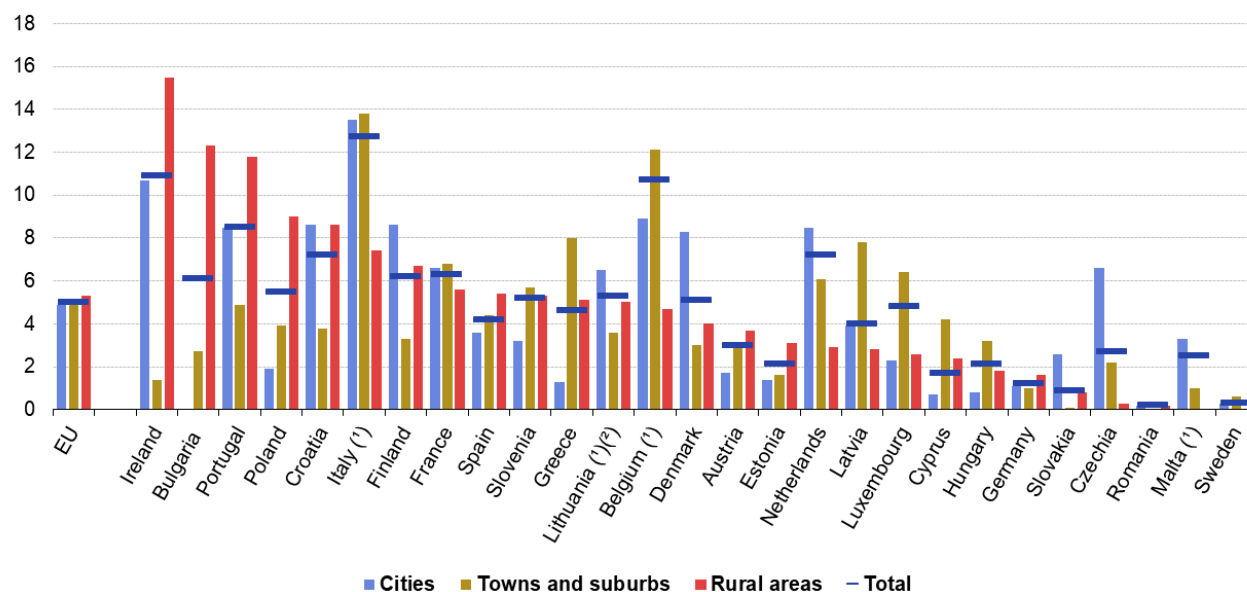
Figure 4: People in households in the EU with at least one person needing long term care by main reason of not using (or requiring more) professional homecare services, 2024 and 2016 (%) Source: Eurostat (ilc_ats20)

Insufficient availability of professional homecare services by degree of urbanisation

At EU level, 5.0% of people living in households where at least one person needed long-term care did not use (more) professional homecare services due to insufficient availability. This issue was slightly more prevalent in rural areas (5.3%) than in cities (4.9%) in 2024.

People in households with at least one person needing professional homecare services and not using them (or requiring more) primarily due to insufficient availability, 2024

(%)



Note: ranked by Rural areas.

(1) low reliability

(2) provisional

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_ats20b)

eurostat

Figure 5: People in households with at least one person needing professional homecare services and not using them (or requiring more) primarily due to insufficient availability, 2024 (%) Source: Eurostat (ilc_ats20b)

Among EU countries, the highest shares of people in households not using (more) professional homecare services due to insufficient availability were in Italy (13.5% in cities, 13.8% in towns and suburbs, and 7.4% in rural areas), Ireland (10.7% in cities, 1.4% in towns and suburbs, and 15.5% in rural areas), Belgium (8.9% in cities, 12.1% in towns and suburbs, and 4.7% in rural areas), and Portugal (8.5% in cities, 4.9% in towns and suburbs, and 11.8% in rural area).

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Living conditions in Europe – professional homecare - tables and graphs](#)

Data sources

The data used in this article come from the [EU statistics on income and living conditions \(EU-SILC\)](#). EU-SILC data are compiled annually and serve as the main source of statistics measuring income and living conditions in Europe. They are also the primary source of information linking various aspects of [households](#) and individual quality of life.

The 6-yearly module on 'access to services' collects information on various topics, such as use of services, including care services and services for independent living; self-perceived discrimination; affordability of services; unmet service needs. This module was conducted under the EU regulation specifying the list of target secondary variables to be included in the [access to services](#) module.

The reference population for the information presented in this article includes all private households and their current members residing in EU Member States at the time of data collection. Those living in collective households are generally excluded from the target population. The EU data are population-weighted averages of national data.

Context

In the context of EU-SILC, people are considered to require 'long-term care' if they need the help/assistance of another person due to long-term health problems. The main characteristics of a long-term health problem are its duration of at least 6 months (for each person) and its potential requirement for prolonged supervision, observation, or care. Household members requiring temporary help are excluded.

'Professional care' refers to homecare provided as a job or paid activity. The term 'professional' does not imply a notion or a quality of care.

'Homecare' aims to enable people to remain at home rather than use residential, long-term, or institutional-based nursing care. Homecare may include healthcare and/or life assistance. Home healthcare might involve medical treatment, wound care, pain management, and therapy. Life assistance includes aid with daily tasks such as meal preparation, medication reminders, laundry, light housekeeping, shopping, transportation, and companionship.

Explore further

Database

- [Income and living conditions database](#)
- [Access to services \(2016 and 2024\) database](#)

Thematic section

- [Income and living conditions](#)

Publications

- [Key figures on European living conditions – 2025 edition - Eurostat](#)

Methodology

- [ESMS metadata file - ilc_esms](#)
- [Income and living conditions - information on data](#)
- [Income and living conditions - methodology](#)
- [2016 EU-SILC module on "Access to services" - assessment report](#)

Legislation

- [Income and living conditions - legislation](#)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2242](#)
- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2015/245](#)

External links

- [European Commission - Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion: Indicators' Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee](#)
- [European Commission - Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion: Employment and social analysis](#)