

Healthcare resource statistics - beds

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in July 2025.
Planned article update: July 2026.*

Highlights

" Among EU countries, Bulgaria, Germany and Romania had the highest number of hospital beds relative to population size in 2023. "

" 9 EU countries reported more rehabilitative care beds in hospitals per head of population in 2023 than 10 years earlier, while 13 reported fewer such beds. Data are not available for 5 countries. "

" In the EU in 2023, the Netherlands, Sweden and Belgium recorded the highest number of beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities, relative to population. "

This article presents an overview of [European Union \(EU\)](#) statistics related to the availability of [hospital beds](#) as well as the availability of beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities. Hospital beds include [beds for curative care](#) , long-term care and rehabilitative care. This article is included in a set of statistical articles concerning healthcare resources in the EU which forms part of the online publication [Health in the European Union – facts and figures](#) .

Hospital beds

In 2023, there were almost 2.3 million hospital beds available across the EU. Close to three quarters of these were for the function of curative care. Most of the remainder were beds for rehabilitative care, with a smaller number for long-term care or other functions. Among these functions (curative, rehabilitative, long-term care and other), hospital beds can be categorised by those used for somatic care and those used for psychiatric care; a separate subtotal for psychiatric care beds (across all 4 functions) is also available (see Table 1).

Hospital beds by function and type of care, 2023

	Available hospital beds	of which:				Psychiatric care beds	of which:					Psychiatric care beds
		Curative care beds	Rehabilitative care beds (number of beds)	Long-term care beds	Other beds		Available hospital beds	Curative care beds	Rehabilitative care beds	Long-term care beds	Other beds	
EU	2 290 991	:	:	:	:	318 751	510.8	:	:	:	:	71.1
Belgium (*)	63 507	56 781	5 749	977	0	16 485	539.1	482.0	48.8	8.3	0.0	139.9
Bulgaria	55 724	46 233	7 194	2 297	0	3 948	864.4	717.2	111.6	35.6	0.0	61.2
Czechia	69 601	43 500	4 915	20 030	1 156	9 435	640.7	400.4	45.2	184.4	10.6	86.8
Denmark (²)	13 845	10 729	:	:	0	3 116	232.8	180.4	:	:	0.0	52.4
Germany	638 354	476 924	161 430	0	0	110 943	766.4	572.6	193.8	0.0	0.0	133.2
Estonia (²)	5 640	3 565	295	1 053	78	649	411.6	260.2	21.5	76.8	5.7	47.4
Ireland	15 372	14 238	166	968	0	1 634	289.4	268.1	3.1	18.2	0.0	30.8
Greece	44 133	39 141	445	4 547	0	6 756	424.1	376.1	4.3	43.7	0.0	64.9
Spain	139 286	119 084	2 012	18 190	0	17 050	288.1	246.3	4.2	37.6	0.0	35.3
France (²)(³)	369 363	187 565	101 367	29 249	0	51 182	540.2	274.3	148.3	42.8	0.0	74.9
Croatia	21 806	13 713	4 223	3 870	0	3 603	565.4	355.6	109.5	100.4	0.0	93.4
Italy	179 372	147 481	24 941	6 950	0	4 524	304.1	250.0	42.3	11.8	0.0	7.7
Cyprus	2 856	2 856	:	:	:	165	298.2	298.2	:	:	:	17.2
Latvia (²)	9 312	5 699	654	996	0	1 963	496.0	303.6	34.8	53.1	0.0	104.6
Lithuania	15 747	13 130	1 635	982	0	2 181	548.4	457.2	56.9	34.2	0.0	76.0
Luxembourg	2 625	2 022	536	67	0	517	393.9	303.4	80.4	10.1	0.0	77.6
Hungary	62 431	39 355	13 194	9 882	0	6 928	650.9	410.3	137.5	103.0	0.0	72.2
Malta	2 196	1 673	403	120	0	377	397.3	302.7	72.9	21.7	0.0	68.2
Netherlands	41 310	39 245	2 065	0	0	12 808	231.1	219.5	11.6	0.0	0.0	71.6
Austria	60 306	43 387	12 027	4 892	0	6 488	660.4	475.1	131.7	53.6	0.0	71.0
Poland	230 066	158 537	70 325	1 204	0	23 245	627.1	432.1	191.7	3.3	0.0	63.4
Portugal	35 754	34 089	443	0	1 222	6 311	338.0	322.3	4.2	0.0	11.6	59.7
Romania	138 846	104 645	13 714	20 487	0	16 751	728.4	549.0	71.9	107.5	0.0	87.9
Slovenia (²)	8 583	6 661	197	325	91	1 309	404.8	314.1	9.3	15.3	4.3	61.7
Slovakia	30 718	25 730	1 210	3 778	0	4 323	566.0	474.1	22.3	69.6	0.0	79.7
Finland	14 491	12 262	135	1 773	321	1 943	259.5	219.6	2.4	31.8	5.7	34.8
Sweden (²)	19 747	13 875	1 628	0	128	4 117	187.4	131.7	15.4	0.0	1.2	39.1
Iceland	992	815	61	116	0	124	257.2	211.3	15.8	30.1	0.0	32.2
Liechtenstein	89	35	0	50	4	50	223.4	87.8	0.0	125.5	10.0	125.5
Norway (²)	18 209	10 668	0	0	2 105	5 436	329.9	193.3	0.0	0.0	38.1	98.5
Switzerland	38 812	30 585	7 346	881	0	8 723	436.6	344.1	82.6	9.9	0.0	98.1
Montenegro	2 371	2 118	:	233	:	311	382.3	341.5	:	37.6	:	50.1
Serbia (*)	39 903	29 530	5 965	4 387	21	5 385	602.5	445.9	90.1	66.2	0.3	81.3
Türkiye (²)	266 594	260 240	2 737	:	0	3 617	312.4	305.0	3.2	:	0.0	4.2

Note: the total number of available hospital beds is equal to the sum of the 4 functions (curative, rehabilitative long-term care and other). Psychiatric care beds (as well as somatic care beds) are included in each of the 4 functions.

(*) Includes beds in acute care and psychiatric hospitals only.

(²) Analysis by function: excluding psychiatric care beds.

(³) Curative care beds: includes palliative care beds

(⁴) Excludes beds in the private health sector.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth_rs_bds1)

eurostat 

Table 1: Hospital beds by function and type of care, 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth_rs_bds1)

Bulgaria, Germany and Romania had the highest numbers of hospital beds relative to population size

An analysis of the number of hospital beds in relation to population reveals that there were, on average, 511 hospital beds per 100 000 inhabitants in 2023 across the whole of the EU. Among the EU countries, Germany recorded not only the highest number of hospital beds (638 354), but also the 2nd highest number relative to population size, with 766 beds per 100 000 population (see Table 1). The only EU country with a higher ratio relative to its population size was Bulgaria, with an average of 864.4 hospital beds per 100 000 inhabitants. Romania recorded the 3rd highest ratio, 728.4 hospital beds per 100 000 inhabitants. Cyprus, Ireland, Spain, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden each recorded fewer than 300 beds per 100 000 inhabitants.

In Cyprus, all hospital beds are classified as curative care. Aside from this particular case, the share of beds for the function of curative care among all hospital beds in 2023 was highest in Portugal, the Netherlands and Ireland, at 95.3%, 95.0% and 92.6%, respectively. Less than two thirds of all hospital beds were for curative care in Hungary, Croatia and Czechia (where the lowest share was recorded, at 62.5%). Elsewhere, curative care beds accounted for between 68% and 90% of all hospital beds. Note that data on curative care beds are only available for somatic care (therefore excluding psychiatric care beds) for 6 EU countries – see Table 1 for more details.

Among the EU countries that that reported beds for both somatic and psychiatric care, Poland recorded the highest

share of beds for the function of rehabilitative care, which accounted for 30.6% of the total number of hospital beds in 2023, while this share was also above 15% in Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Austria, Croatia and Malta. In 7 of the 20 EU countries for which this share is available, it was 5% or lower, with the lowest shares (below 2%) in Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Finland.

In most of the 20 EU countries for which data are available for both somatic and psychiatric care, beds for the function of long-term care accounted for less than 16% of the total number of hospital beds in 2023, with only Czechia (28.8%) and Croatia (17.7%) reporting higher shares. This share was 0.5% in Poland and there were no long-term care beds in hospitals in Germany, the Netherlands or Portugal.

Decreasing availability of hospital beds in most EU countries

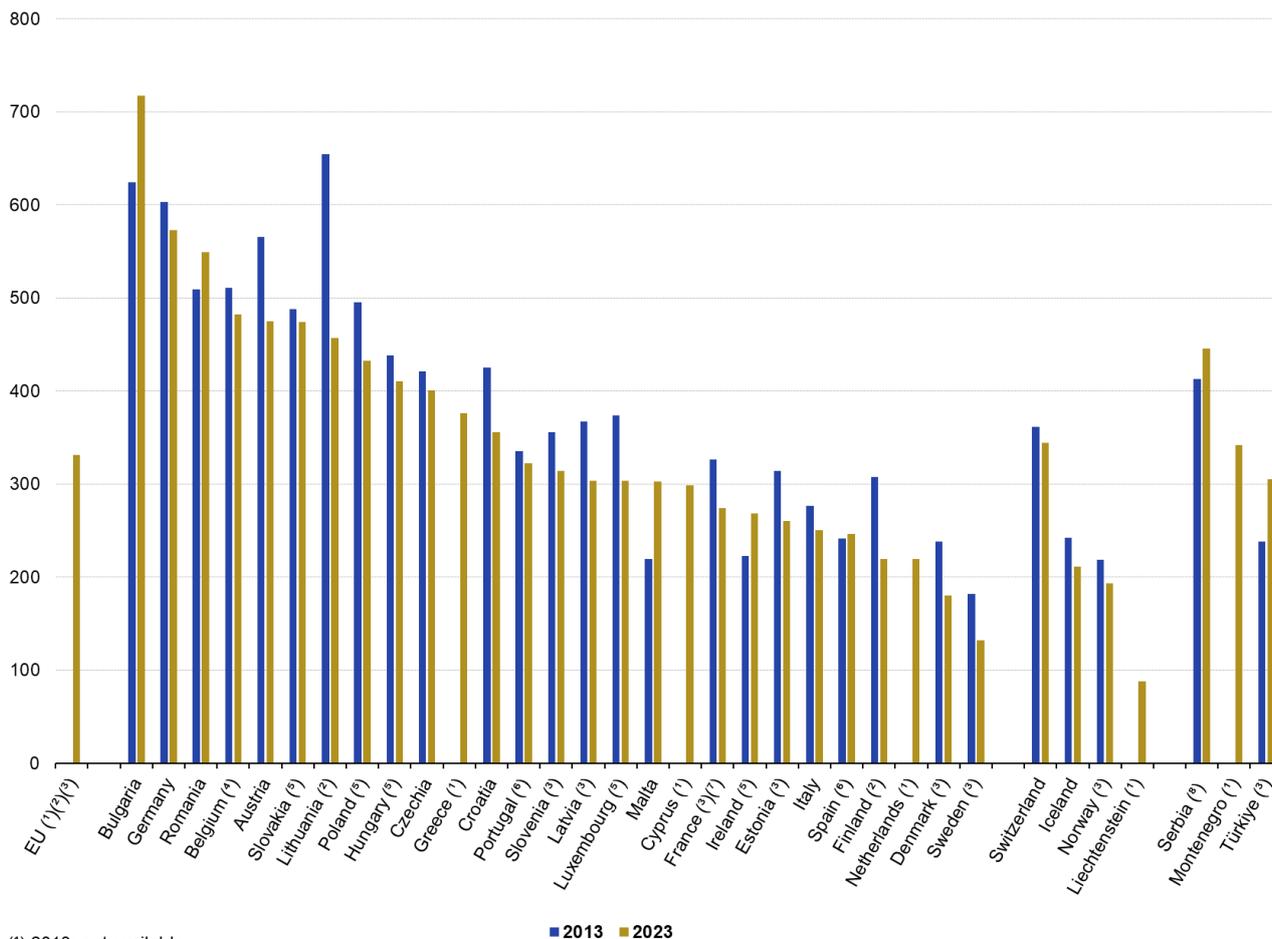
Between 2013 and 2023, the total number of hospital beds in the EU decreased by 7%. In the majority of EU countries, the number of hospital beds (in absolute terms) was lower in 2023 than it was in 2013. In relative terms, the largest contraction in the number of hospital beds was recorded in Finland, where overall bed numbers fell by 45% between 2013 and 2023. There were 6 EU countries where the total number of hospital beds rose between 2013 and 2023: Portugal, Spain (both up 0.8%), Romania (up 4%), Malta (up 8%), Bulgaria (up 13%) and Ireland (up 30%); note that there are breaks in series for Ireland and Malta.

Figures 1 to 3 provide an analysis of the changes between 2013 and 2023 in the availability (relative to the size of population) for 3 specific functions: curative, rehabilitative and long-term care. These changes in the number of hospital beds can be compared with changes in the [average length of stays for in-patients and the number of hospital discharges](#) to analyse developments in the supply of and fulfilled demand for hospital beds.

Curative care beds are used for the when the intent is to relieve symptoms or to reduce the severity of an illness or injury. Between 2013 and 2023 (see Figure 1 for information about the coverage for individual EU countries), an increase in the number of curative care beds in hospitals (relative to the population size) was recorded by 5 of the 24 EU countries for which data are available. There was a relatively small increase in Spain (4.9 beds per 100 000 inhabitants), while this ratio rose more substantially in Romania, Ireland (break in series), Malta and Bulgaria, with increases of 40, 45, 84 and 93 beds per 100 000 inhabitants, respectively. During the period under consideration, Lithuania experienced by far the largest decrease, down 197 beds per 100 000 inhabitants. In the remaining countries, this decrease was between 13 and 90 beds per 100 000 inhabitants.

Curative care beds in hospitals, 2013 and 2023

(per 100 000 inhabitants)



(1) 2013: not available.

(2) Estimates.

(3) Excluding psychiatric care beds.

(4) 2023: includes beds in acute care and psychiatric hospitals only.

(5) Break in series.

(6) 2023: provisional.

(7) Includes palliative care beds.

(8) Excludes beds in the private health sector.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth_rs_bds1)

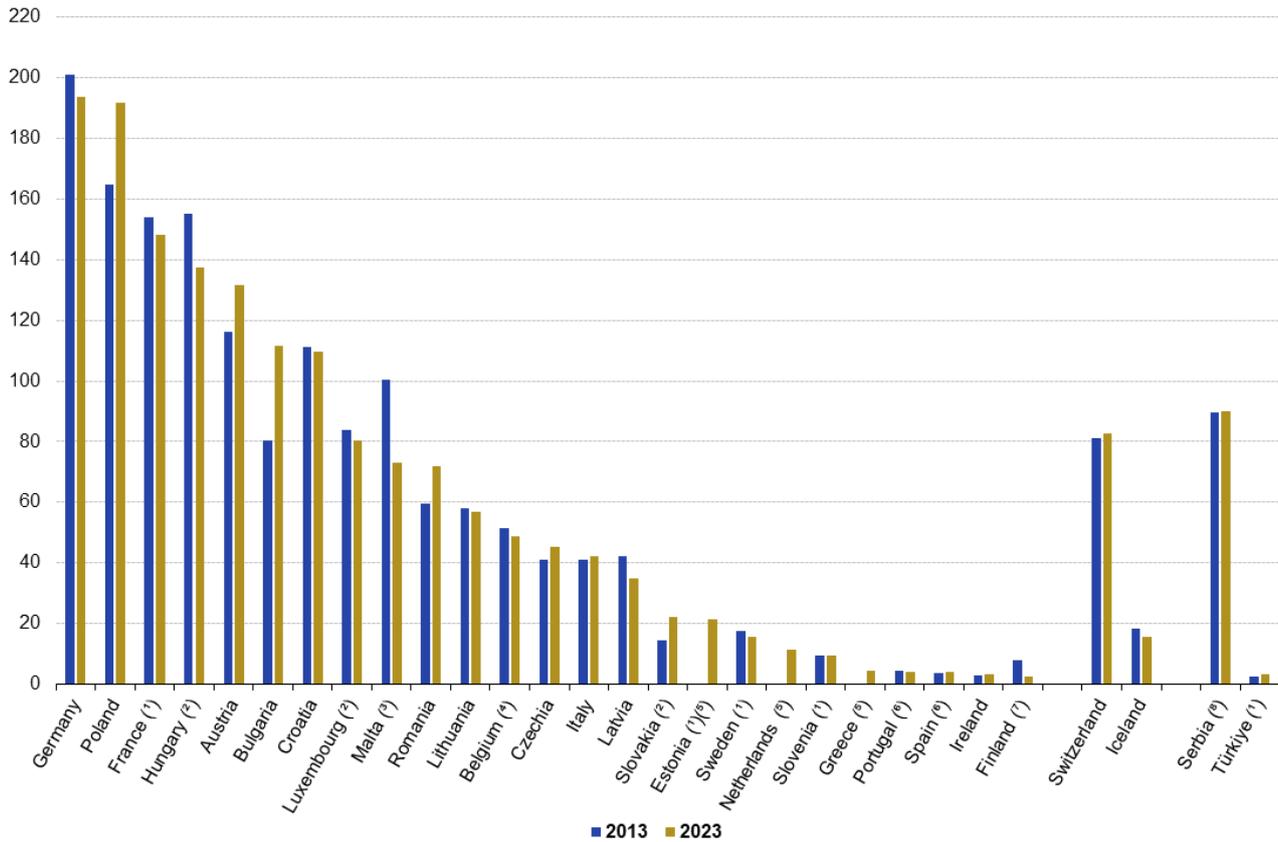
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Figure 1: Curative care beds in hospitals, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth_rs_bds1)

Rehabilitative care beds accommodate hospital patients with the intent to stabilise, improve or restore impaired body functions and structures. During the period 2013 to 2023, the number of rehabilitative beds relative to population size increased in 9 out of 22 of the EU countries for which data are available (see Figure 2 for details of the data coverage). The number of rehabilitative care beds increased by more than 12 beds per 100 000 inhabitants in Romania, Austria, Poland and Bulgaria; the last of these recorded the highest increase with an additional 31 beds per 100 000 inhabitants. By contrast, the number of rehabilitative care beds relative to population decreased in 13 EU countries between 2013 and 2023. Decreases were generally smaller than 10 beds per 100 000 inhabitants, but were larger in Hungary (down 18 beds per 100 000 inhabitants; break in series) and Malta (down 27 beds per 100 000 inhabitants between 2014 and 2023).

Rehabilitative care beds in hospitals, 2013 and 2023

(per 100 000 inhabitants)



Note: Denmark, not available. Cyprus not shown as all beds are recorded as curative care. Iceland and Liechtenstein: no rehabilitative care beds.

(¹) Excluding psychiatric care beds.

(²) Break in series.

(³) 2014 instead of 2013.

(⁴) 2023: includes beds in acute care and psychiatric hospitals only.

(⁵) 2013: not available.

(⁶) 2023: provisional.

(⁷) Estimates.

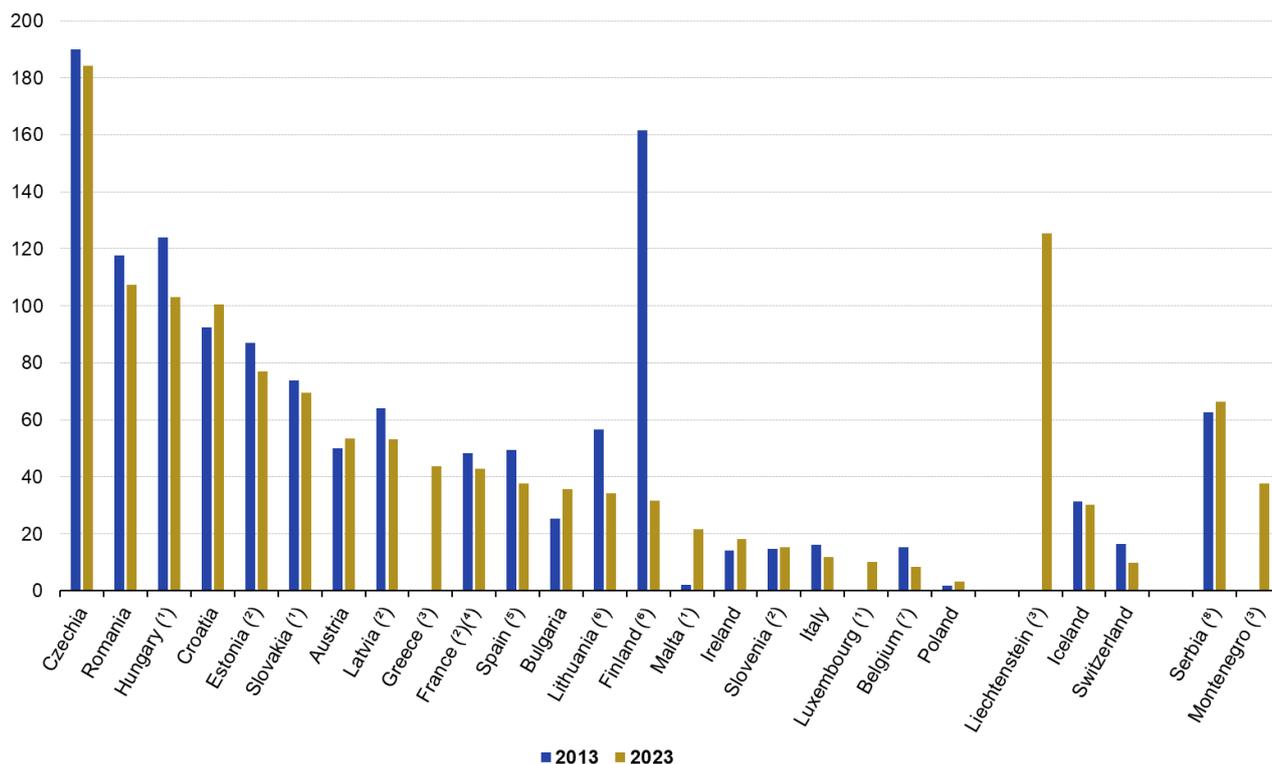
(⁸) Excludes beds in the private health sector.

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Figure 2: Rehabilitative care beds in hospitals, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth_rs_bds1)

Long-term care beds are used to alleviate pain and suffering, and to reduce or manage the deterioration in the health of patients with a degree of long-term dependency. Among the 20 EU countries for which data are available (see Figure 3 for details of the data coverage), 12 recorded a downward development in the number of long-term care beds per 100 000 inhabitants during the period 2013 to 2023. By far, the largest fall was recorded in Finland, dropping from 162 to 32 beds per 100 000 inhabitants between 2013 and 2023. In the other countries, this decrease was by less than 23 bed per 100 000 inhabitants). There were 8 EU countries where there was an increase in the number of long-term care beds relative to population size. The largest increases – all up by more than 10 additional beds per 100 000 inhabitants – were in Luxembourg, Bulgaria and Malta; note that Luxembourg and Malta both have a break in series.

Long-term care beds in hospitals, 2013 and 2023 (per 100 000 inhabitants)



Note: Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden; not available. Cyprus not shown as all beds are recorded as curative care. Germany: no long-term care beds in hospitals.

(1) Break in series.

(2) Excluding psychiatric care beds.

(3) 2013: not available.

(4) Excludes palliative care beds.

(5) 2023: provisional.

(6) Estimates.

(7) 2023: includes beds in acute care and psychiatric hospitals only.

(8) Excludes beds in the private health sector.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth_rs_bds1)

Figure 3: Long-term care beds in hospitals, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (hlth_rs_bds1)

Beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities

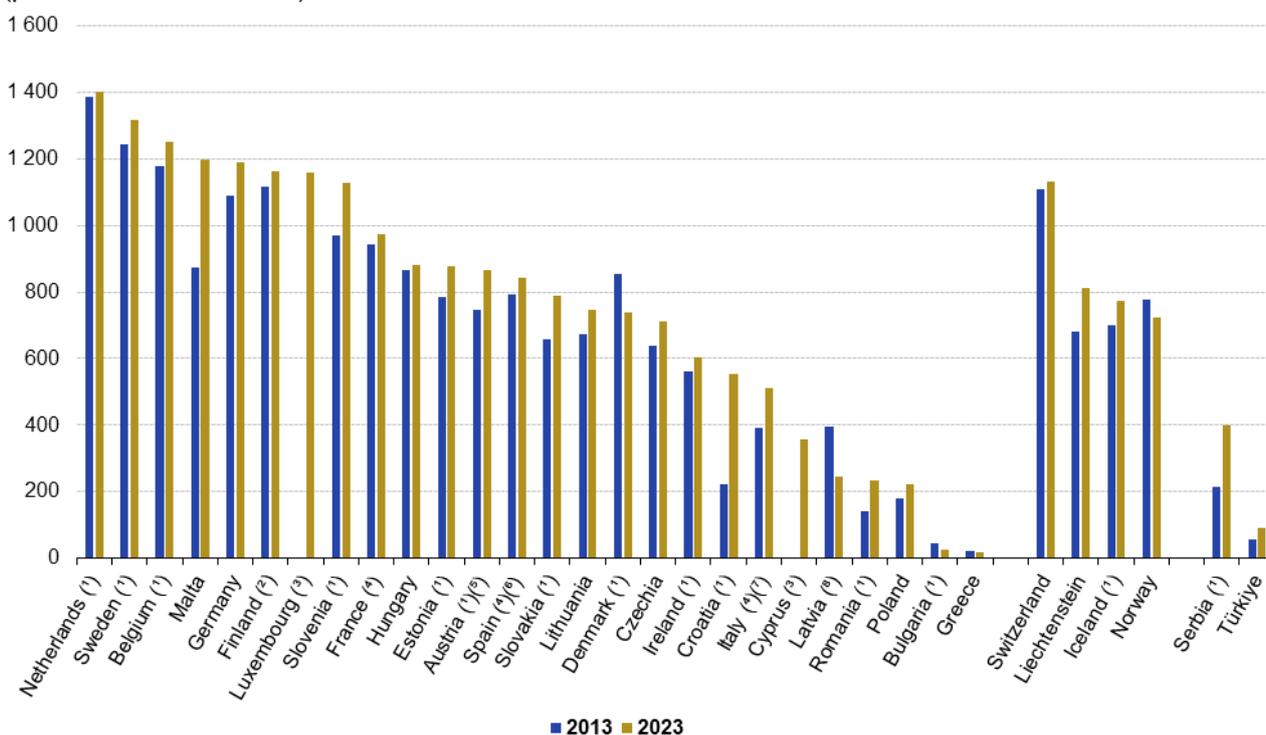
The number of beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities relative to population size increased in most EU countries

While the analysis presented so far has focused on beds in hospitals, this final section looks at beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities. In 2023, there were approximately 3.6 million beds in these facilities across the 26 EU countries for which data are available (no data available for Portugal).

Relative to population size in 2023, the highest number of beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities was recorded in the Netherlands, with 1 400 per 100 000 inhabitants (see Figure 4). Sweden (1 315 per 100 000 inhabitants) and Belgium (1 250 per 100 000 inhabitants) recorded the next highest rates. In most of the remaining EU countries for which data are available (no data for Portugal), the number of beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities exceeded 500 per 100 000 inhabitants, but was lower than 1 200 per 100 000 inhabitants. Below this range, Cyprus, Latvia (coverage is broader), Romania (break in series) and Poland had between 222 and 355 beds per 100 000 inhabitants, while the lowest numbers of beds were in Bulgaria and Greece, at 26 and 20 per 100 000 inhabitants, respectively.

Beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities, 2013 and 2023

(per 100 000 inhabitants)



Note: Portugal, not available.

(1) Break in series.

(2) Estimates.

(3) 2013: not available.

(4) 2023: provisional.

(5) Beds that are (at least partially) financed by public funds only.

(6) Excluding beds for palliative care.

(7) 2013: excluding beds in private facilities not accredited by the national health service.

(8) Includes beds in specialised children's social care centres and specialised state social care centres for mentally ill persons.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: h1th_rs_bdltc)

eurostat

Figure 4: Beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities, 2013 and 2023 Source: Eurostat (h1th_rs_bdltc)

A comparison of 2013 and 2023 data reveals that there was an increase in bed numbers per 100 000 inhabitants in

most of the EU countries for which data are available (no data for Cyprus, Luxembourg or Portugal). Relative to population size, the number of beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities fell in Latvia (down 148 per 100 000 inhabitants), Denmark (down 114), Bulgaria (down 21) and Greece (down 4), although Denmark and Bulgaria reported a break in series. The largest increase was in Croatia, which also had a break in series. Among the EU countries without a break in series, the largest increase was in Malta (up 325 beds 100 000 inhabitants). The remaining countries experienced an increase of between 16 and 157 beds per 100 000 inhabitants).

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Healthcare resources – beds: tables and figures](#)

Data sources

Key concepts

Hospitals comprise licensed establishments primarily engaged in providing medical, diagnostic and treatment services that include **physician**, nursing and other health services to in-patients, and the specialised accommodation services required by **in-patients**. Hospitals may also provide out-patient services as a secondary activity. Speciality hospitals, including mental health and substance abuse hospitals, are also covered.

Long-term care institutions refer to nursing and other residential care facilities which provide accommodation and long-term care as a package. Beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities are recorded separately from hospital beds.

Hospital beds are those beds which are regularly maintained and staffed and immediately available for the care of admitted patients. Occupied and unoccupied beds are both included. Excluded are recovery trolleys and beds for same day care (day care and out-patient care), provisional and temporary beds. Hospital beds can be partitioned by function and by category/type of care.

Total hospital beds by function = curative (acute) care beds + rehabilitative care beds + long-term care beds + other hospital beds

- **Curative care** beds in hospitals are for patients where the principal clinical intent is to relieve symptoms or to reduce the severity of an illness or injury, or to protect against its exacerbation or complication that could threaten life or normal function. They include beds for psychiatric and non-psychiatric curative (acute) care, from general hospitals, mental health hospitals and other specialised hospitals. Beds for palliative and long-term nursing care are recorded under long-term care.
- **Rehabilitative care** beds in hospitals are beds accommodating patients with the principal intent to stabilise, improve or restore impaired body functions and structures, compensate for the absence or loss of body functions and structures, improve activities and participation and prevent impairments, medical complications and risks. They include beds for psychiatric and non-psychiatric curative (acute) care, from general hospitals, mental health hospitals and other specialised hospitals.
- **Long-term care** beds in hospitals are for patients requiring long-term care with the primary goal of alleviating pain and suffering and reducing or managing the deterioration in health status in patients with a degree of long-term dependency. They include beds for psychiatric and non-psychiatric long-term care, from general hospitals, mental health hospitals and other specialised hospitals.
- **Other** beds include all other beds in hospitals not elsewhere classified.

Total hospital beds by category/type of care = somatic care beds + psychiatric care beds

- **Somatic care** means healthcare relating to the body, as distinguished from psychiatric care.
- **Psychiatric care** means healthcare concerning the mind, for example, dealing with mental and behavioural disorders. Psychiatric care beds include all beds in mental health and substance abuse hospitals, as well as beds in psychiatric departments of general and specialty hospitals.

Healthcare resources

Statistics on healthcare resources (such as beds in hospitals as well as nursing and other residential long-term care facilities) are documented in a background article on the [methodology of healthcare non-expenditure statistics](#) . This provides information on the scope of the data, its legal basis, the methodology employed, as well as related concepts and definitions.

For country specific notes on the collection of healthcare non-expenditure statistics, please refer to the annexes at the end of the national metadata reports accessible from links at the beginning of the [European metadata report](#) .

Symbols

In tables, a colon ':' is used to show where data aren't available. Data in italics are estimates or provisional.

Context

Indicators concerning the number of hospital beds (and their function and category/type of care) complement information on [healthcare expenditure](#) , [hospital personnel - physicians](#) and [equipment](#) to provide an overview of the resources available for delivering healthcare in hospitals. It should be noted that the information on hospital beds only covers beds for in-patient care: many hospitals also provide day care and out-patient care and beds used for these services are excluded from the information presented.

In many areas, technological developments have reduced the average length of stay in hospitals for in-patient procedures or replaced procedures requiring in-patient care with ones that can be provided to day care or out-patients, or with the reorganization of the national health systems providing dedicated structures such as nursing homes and other residential long-term care facilities. As such, it is commonplace to find the number of available hospital beds falling over time in many of the EU countries.

Explore further

Other articles

Online publications

- [Health in the European Union – facts and figures](#)
- [Disability statistics](#)

Healthcare resources

- [Physicians](#)
- [Nursing and caring professionals](#)
- [Dentists, pharmacists and physiotherapists](#)
- [Medical technology](#)

Methodology

- [Healthcare non-expenditure](#)

General health statistics articles

- [Health statistics introduced](#)
- [Regional health statistics](#)

Database

- [Health](#) (hlth)

Health care (hlth_care)

Health care resources (hlth_res)

Health care facilities (hlth_facil)

Available beds in hospitals by NUTS 2 region (hlth_rs_bdsrg2)

Beds in nursing and other residential long-term care facilities (hlth_rs_bdltc)

Hospital beds by function and type of care (hlth_rs_bds1)

Thematic section

- [Health](#)

Selected datasets

- [Health](#) (t_hlth)

Health care (t_hlth_care)

Hospital beds (tps00046)

Available beds in hospitals by NUTS 2 region (tgs00064)

Methodology

Manuals and guidelines

- [Healthcare non-expenditure statistics manual – Guidelines for completing the Joint questionnaire on non-monetary healthcare statistics – 2025 edition](#)

Metadata

- [Health care resources](#) (ESMS metadata file – hlth_res_esms)

External links

- [European Commission – Public health](#) , see
 - [European Commission – European core health indicators \(ECHI\)](#)
 - [European Commission – Health systems performance assessment](#)
- [OECD – The future of health systems](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) , see
 - [WHO – The Global Health Observatory \(GHO\) – Global health estimates](#)
 - [WHO – Health system governance](#)