

## Tertiary education graduates

# Engineering, manufacturing and construction dominated by male graduates

### Women overrepresented in Education

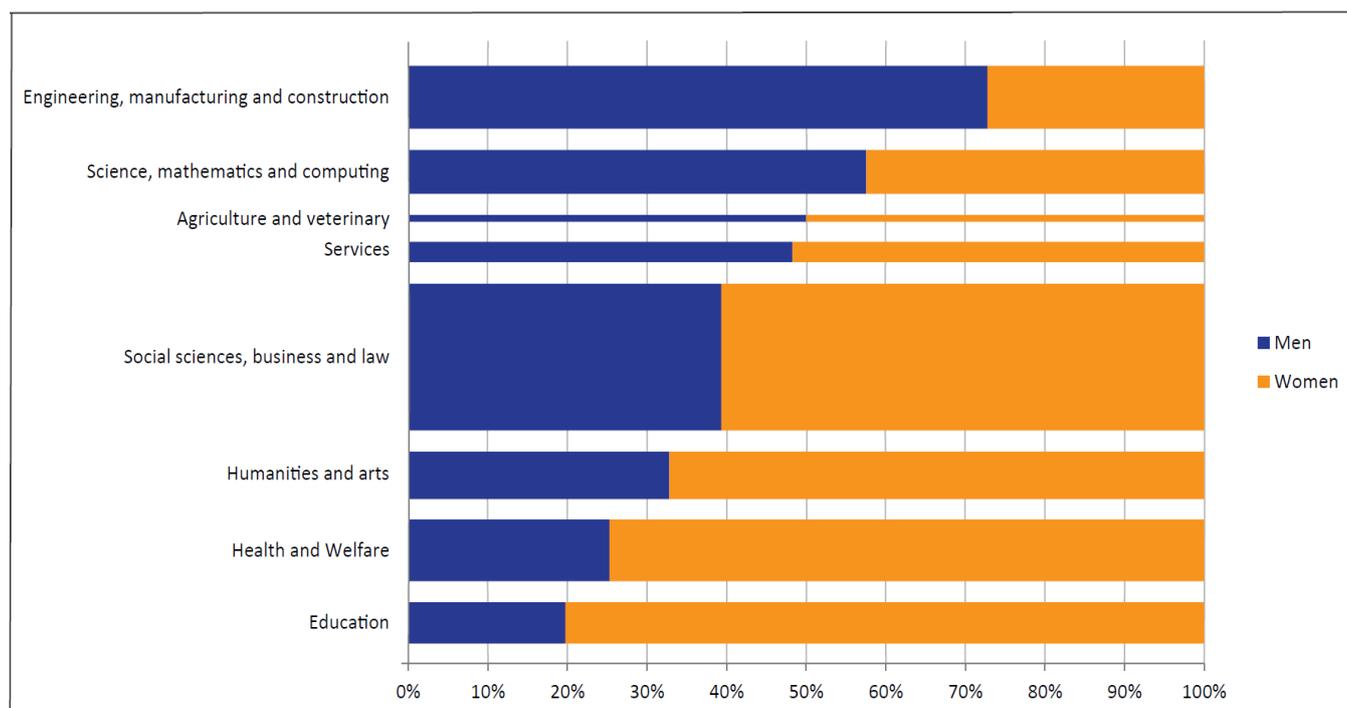
Almost 5 million tertiary education students graduated in the **European Union (EU)** in 2014: 58% were women and 42% men.

Male dominated education fields are Engineering, manufacturing and construction (where men account for 73% of the graduates in this field) and Science, mathematics and computing (58%).

On the other hand, four out of five graduates in Education are women (80%). Another field where women are largely overrepresented is Health and welfare, with 75% female graduates.

These data are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, and show only a small selection of the wide range of data on education available at Eurostat.

**Distribution of EU tertiary graduates by field and sex, 2014**



## One in three graduates studied social sciences, business or law

The largest share of graduates in all Member States studied Social science, business and law. In **Bulgaria**, this field was followed by nearly half of all graduates (49%). It accounted for a large share also in **Luxembourg** (46%), **Cyprus** (44%) and **Lithuania** (43%).

One in five graduates in **Romania**, **Austria**, **Finland** (all 21%) and **Germany** (20%) received their diplomas in Engineering, manufacturing and construction.

The share of graduates in Health and welfare was particularly high in **Belgium** (25%), where one in four graduates was in this field, and exceeded 20% also in in **Sweden** (23%), **Denmark** (21%) and **Finland** (20%).

Humanities and arts were popular in the **United Kingdom** and **Italy** (both 16%). In the **United Kingdom**, 17% graduated in Science, mathematics and computing. This field had a relatively large share also in **Malta** (15%) and **Germany** (14%). By far the largest share of Education graduates was in **Luxembourg** (26%).

### Tertiary education graduates by main fields of education, 2014

	Number of graduates (in 1000)	Of which (in %)					
		Social sciences, business & law	Engineering, manufacturing & construction	Health & welfare	Humanities & arts	Science, mathematics & computing	Education
<b>EU</b>	<b>4 752.5</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	110.9	29.9	12.3	25.3	10.7	5.5	9.0
<b>Bulgaria</b>	63.4	49.1	15.0	7.2	6.6	5.0	7.6
<b>Czech Republic</b>	104.7	32.7	12.1	9.9	7.6	9.3	10.3
<b>Denmark</b>	70.2	34.9	12.4	21.2	11.7	8.2	7.4
<b>Germany</b>	521.8	29.0	20.4	7.3	12.3	14.4	11.2
<b>Estonia</b>	10.2	31.1	13.1	13.1	13.0	11.1	7.8
<b>Ireland</b>	65.0	29.1	10.0	15.1	11.5	11.3	6.6
<b>Greece</b>	67.3	32.4	17.8	10.9	11.4	11.8	9.8
<b>Spain</b>	443.3	26.9	15.5	15.1	8.8	8.5	16.2
<b>France</b>	741.0	41.7	15.4	15.8	9.4	9.3	2.6
<b>Croatia</b>	35.2	41.0	15.2	9.8	9.6	8.1	4.0
<b>Italy</b>	374.4	32.1	15.8	16.2	15.8	7.5	6.8
<b>Cyprus</b>	7.8	43.6	10.3	7.7	7.3	6.3	19.1
<b>Latvia</b>	17.3	41.5	13.6	12.8	9.6	6.7	6.3
<b>Lithuania</b>	33.1	43.2	16.5	12.4	8.0	5.9	8.8
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1.8	46.2	5.6	6.1	7.8	8.3	25.9
<b>Hungary</b>	72.5	38.9	12.7	8.4	9.3	6.6	13.5
<b>Malta</b>	3.9	36.1	8.6	14.3	13.8	15.2	7.9
<b>Netherlands</b>	141.3	39.6	8.2	18.6	8.6	6.5	11.3
<b>Austria</b>	82.0	31.8	20.8	6.5	8.7	9.4	11.5
<b>Poland</b>	557.8	36.6**	12.4	12.3	7.3	6.7	14.9**
<b>Portugal</b>	88.5	30.5	18.6	17.5	9.1	7.9	8.3
<b>Romania</b>	153.5	41.5	21.2	14.9	8.6	5.8	1.9
<b>Slovenia</b>	18.4	35.2	15.8	7.8	9.9	10.2	10.0
<b>Slovakia</b>	66.2	33.3	12.7	18.1	7.2	7.6	12.7
<b>Finland</b>	53.9	25.2	20.5	20.1	13.2	7.2	6.2
<b>Sweden</b>	74.7	28.9	17.7	22.7	5.9	7.8	13.8
<b>United Kingdom</b>	772.4	29.8	8.8	15.4	16.3	16.8	9.7
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	0.3	78.2	17.3	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Norway</b>	47.7	27.1	12.0	20.8	9.0	7.5	16.1
<b>Switzerland</b>	85.8	36.0	14.4	13.6	8.3	8.0	10.4
<b>Serbia</b>	50.7	35.4	16.1	8.0	10.8	10.1	9.0
<b>Turkey</b>	733.2	45.6	13.4	6.5	10.9	6.7	10.4
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	12.3	43.1	12.9	8.7	10.9	8.7	6.1
<b>United States</b>	3 784.6*	32.1	6.6	16.2	20.9	8.7	7.4
<b>Japan</b>	980.7	26.2	16.6	14.0	14.3	3.1	7.7

\* 2013 data.

\*\* Doctoral level (ISCED 8) Education graduates are included in the field "Social sciences, business and law".  
The source dataset can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

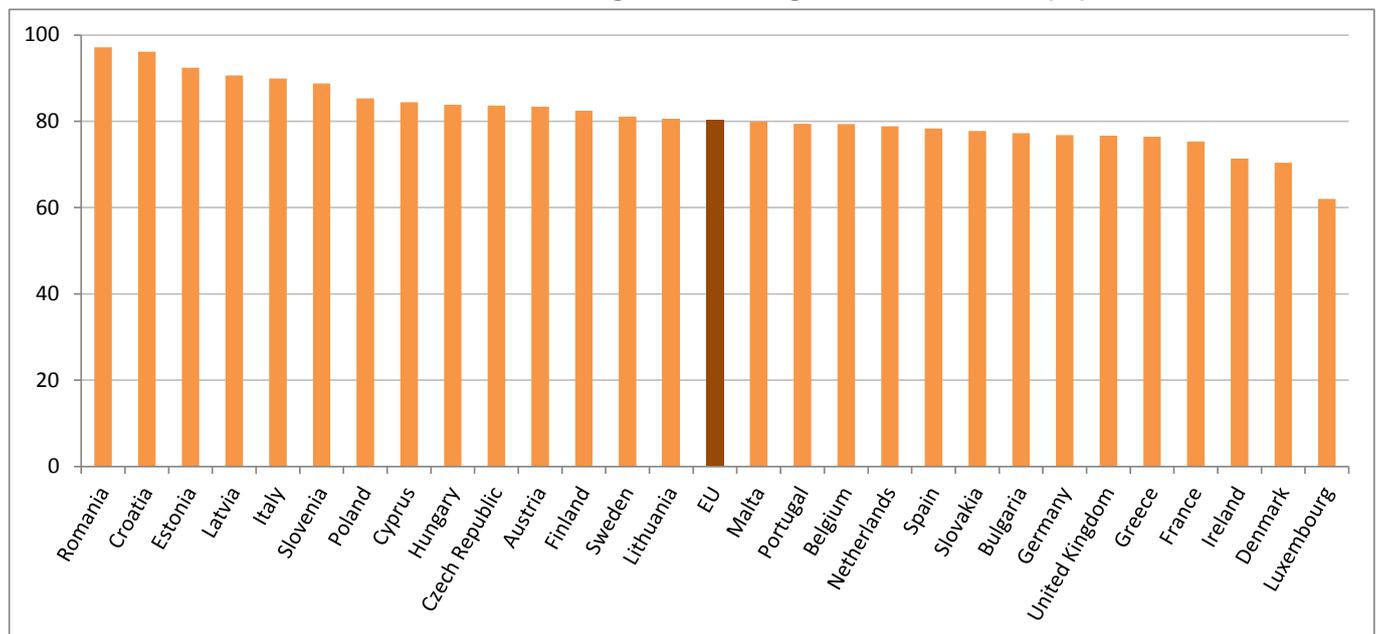
## 80% of Education graduates are women

In all Member States, there were more women among tertiary education graduates than men (58% of graduates were women at EU level). The share of female graduates was particularly high in **Estonia** and **Poland** (both 66%). The most balanced gender distribution was observed in **Germany** (51%) and **Ireland** (52%).

Engineering, manufacturing, and construction is clearly dominated by men at the **EU** level (73% of the graduates in this field are men) and in all the Member States. The share of male graduates in this field ranged from 61% in **Poland** to 85% in **Ireland**. Science, mathematics and computing is another male field in most Member States – apart from **Romania** (41% of the graduates in this field are men), **Portugal** (43%), **Cyprus** (46%), **Italy** (47%) and **Bulgaria** (50%). The highest share of male graduates in Science, mathematics and computing was in **Netherlands** (73%), well above the **EU** level (58%).

Women are overrepresented in Education in all the Member States – their share in this field in the **EU** was 80% and ranged from 62% in **Luxembourg** to 97% in **Romania**. Also in Health and welfare, female graduates dominated both on the **EU** level (75%) and in all the Member States, with the highest share in **Estonia** (90%) and the lowest in **Cyprus** (65%).

Share of women among Education graduates in 2014 (%)



### Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

### Methods and definitions

**Tertiary education** refers to **ISCED** (International Standard Classification of Education) 2011 level 5-8, namely, short-cycle tertiary education, bachelor's or equivalent level, master's or equivalent level, and doctoral or equivalent level.

**Graduates** are those who successfully complete an educational programme during the reference calendar year. Graduates refer to persons – the individual is only counted once per reference year even if he or she has obtained multiple qualifications in multiple fields.

### For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to education and training.

Eurostat [database](#) on education and training.

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**Tertiary education graduates by sex, 2014**  
(share of graduates in the respective field of education - %)

	Total		Social sciences, business & law		Engineering, manuf. & construction		Health and welfare		Humanities & arts		Science, mathematics & computing		Education	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>EU</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>80.3</b>
Belgium	40.2	59.8	40.6	59.4	76.4	23.6	23.5	76.5	36.5	63.5	67.8	32.2	20.7	79.3
Bulgaria	40.0	60.0	34.1	65.9	67.1	32.9	30.8	69.2	29.5	70.5	49.8	50.2	22.7	77.3
Czech Republic	39.9	60.1	32.9	67.1	71.9	28.1	17.4	82.6	29.5	70.5	61.4	38.6	16.3	83.7
Denmark	41.7	58.3	44.7	55.3	63.9	36.1	21.2	78.8	32.2	67.8	64.1	35.9	29.6	70.4
Germany	49.5	50.5	44.0	56.0	80.7	19.3	30.0	70.0	29.9	70.5	61.7	38.3	23.2	76.8
Estonia	33.6	66.4	25.8	74.2	67.7	32.3	10.5	89.5	25.6	74.4	54.0	46.0	7.6	92.4
Ireland	47.7	52.3	46.5	53.5	85.0	15.0	24.0	76.0	39.7	60.3	63.5	36.5	28.6	71.4
Greece	42.2	57.8	38.5	61.5	68.2	31.8	27.7	72.3	26.7	73.3	53.8	46.2	23.6	76.4
Spain	43.9	56.1	40.5	59.5	74.7	25.3	26.1	73.9	40.6	59.4	64.6	35.4	21.6	78.4
France	44.1	55.9	39.4	60.6	74.4	25.6	25.9	74.1	30.5	69.5	61.8	38.2	24.6	75.4
Croatia	40.2	59.8	32.9	67.1	69.4	30.6	20.4	79.6	27.9	72.1	54.5	45.5	3.8	96.2
Italy	40.3	59.7	41.3	58.7	66.0	34.0	31.8	68.2	27.9	72.1	46.9	53.1	10.1	89.9
Cyprus	37.1	62.9	40.0	60.0	71.5	28.5	35.2	64.8	27.7	72.3	46.4	53.6	15.6	84.4
Latvia	34.8	65.2	29.5	70.5	71.9	28.1	12.2	87.8	20.7	79.3	61.4	38.6	9.4	90.6
Lithuania	37.0	63.0	28.4	71.6	77.3	22.7	17.5	82.5	26.9	73.1	55.0	45.0	19.6	80.4
Luxembourg	45.1	54.9	46.0	54.0	74.8	25.2	21.2	78.8	33.3	66.7	70.8	29.2	38.0	62.0
Hungary	37.4	62.6	31.1	68.9	75.0	25.0	23.3	76.7	32.8	67.2	63.0	37.0	16.2	83.8
Malta	45.2	54.8	41.2	58.8	77.2	22.8	27.4	72.6	40.7	59.3	70.7	29.3	20.1	79.9
Netherlands	43.4	56.6	46.2	53.8	76.9	23.1	25.7	74.3	42.4	57.6	72.6	27.4	21.2	78.8
Austria	44.5	55.5	40.4	59.6	78.2	21.8	28.6	71.4	30.1	69.9	66.4	33.6	16.6	83.4
Poland	34.0	66.0	30.6	69.4	61.4	38.6	26.7	73.3	24.3	75.7	52.3	47.7	14.7*	85.3*
Portugal	40.7	59.3	38.2	61.8	67.4	32.6	21.0	79.0	39.4	60.6	43.1	56.9	20.6	79.4
Romania	41.3	58.7	33.5	66.5	64.3	35.7	29.1	70.9	36.7	63.3	40.6	59.4	2.9	97.1
Slovenia	40.1	59.9	30.9	69.1	75.8	24.2	21.2	78.8	30.6	69.4	58.5	41.5	11.3	88.8
Slovakia	36.8	63.2	31.8	68.2	68.4	31.6	19.6	80.4	32.6	67.4	54.3	45.7	22.2	77.8
Finland	39.6	60.4	35.7	64.3	78.5	21.5	15.2	84.8	26.4	73.6	57.4	42.6	17.6	82.4
Sweden	37.7	62.3	36.8	63.2	69.4	30.6	18.5	81.5	37.5	62.5	60.0	40.0	18.9	81.1
United Kingdom	42.9	57.1	46.8	53.2	77.6	22.4	22.9	77.1	37.2	62.8	53.9	46.1	23.3	76.7
Liechtenstein	67.2	32.8	70.8	29.2	48.9	51.1	75.0	25.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	41.4	58.6	41.3	58.7	80.7	19.3	17.0	83.0	38.5	61.5	66.9	33.1	25.6	74.4
Switzerland	51.7	48.3	51.9	48.1	85.3	14.7	25.8	74.2	38.8	61.2	67.8	32.2	30.7	69.3
Serbia	42.2	57.8	40.4	59.6	64.8	35.2	26.9	73.1	27.7	72.3	54.6	45.4	16.7	83.3
Turkey	50.8	49.2	52.0	48.0	73.0	27.0	33.0	67.0	37.7	62.3	50.0	50.0	36.0	64.0
FYR of Macedonia	43.9	56.1	42.1	57.9	57.9	42.1	24.7	75.3	32.7	67.3	60.9	39.1	25.4	74.6
Japan	51.1	48.9	60.8	39.2	87.3	12.7	36.4	63.6	31.2	68.8	74.8	25.2	28.4	71.6

- No graduates in this field.

\* Doctoral level (ISCED 8) Education graduates are included in the field "Social sciences, business and law".

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