

KEY FIGURES ON

EUROPEAN LIVING CONDITIONS

2024 EDITION





List of EU and EFTA countries

BE Belgium	ES Spain	HU Hungary	SK Slovakia
BG Bulgaria	FR France	MT Malta	FI Finland
CZ Czechia	HR Croatia	NL Netherlands	SE Sweden
DK Denmark	IT Italy	AT Austria	IS Iceland
DE Germany	CY Cyprus	PL Poland	LI Liechtenstein
EE Estonia	LV Latvia	PT Portugal	NO Norway
IE Ireland	LT Lithuania	RO Romania	CH Switzerland
EL Greece	LU Luxembourg	SI Slovenia	

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Foreword



I am pleased to present the second edition of *Key figures on European living conditions*. This publication contains a selection of the key indicators for the European Union (EU), EU countries and countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), drawing from the rich collection of data available at Eurostat.

These indicators play a crucial role in analysing various socio-economic phenomena and in shaping EU policies and targets, such as the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In recent years, monitoring the living conditions of the most vulnerable groups has gained importance. The indicators presented in this publication have proven effective in tracking inequality in living conditions and rapidly changing socio-economic conditions, particularly during crises in the energy market and rising consumer prices.

Key figures on European living conditions provides intuitive visualisations supported by concise texts, offering a comprehensive overview of living conditions.

The first section provides information on income distribution and inequality, shedding light on social and financial disparities across countries. It also focuses on the challenges that certain population sub-groups face in accessing necessities and on how people perceive their own poverty status.

The second section covers households' characteristics, and the work capacity and conditions of households with members in the working age population. It also provides information on childcare arrangements, which are important drivers of parents' labour market participation.

The last section provides information on factors such as access to healthcare services, self-perceived health status and the living conditions of people with disabilities – also from a socio-economic perspective. It concludes with indicators related to life satisfaction.

All of Eurostat's statistics on living conditions are publicly available on the Eurostat website.

I hope this publication can again prove to be a helpful tool for analysis and policy development.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Wirtz".

Christine Wirtz
Director of Social Statistics, Eurostat

Abstract

Key figures on European living conditions presents a selection of statistical data on the European Union (EU), EU countries and EFTA countries. For some readers, this publication may offer an introduction to EU statistics on this topic, while others can use it as a starting point to explore further a wide range of data and information. These are freely available on [Eurostat's website](#) and in [Statistics Explained](#) articles.

Editors

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Statistics Explained: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained>

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Introduction

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

Key figures on European living conditions describes the living conditions of individuals and [households](#) of the EU and the [European Free Trade Association](#) (EFTA) countries. The most recent data are generally for 2022 or 2023 (depending on the source). As a consequence, high levels of inflation and the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine may be seen for a variety of indicators.

European Pillar of Social Rights

The [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) sets out 20 key principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. The [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#) is the [European Commission's](#) contribution to the implementation of the 20 principles. It proposes a series of initiatives to reach the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights by 2030 with the aim to drive national policies and reforms. Specifically, the action plan sets 3 EU headline targets in the areas of employment, skills, and social protection, 1 of which relates to living conditions

- the number of people [at risk of poverty or social exclusion](#) should be reduced (by 2030) by at least 15 million; at least 5 million of this total should be children.

Progress towards this target is monitored through the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, published by Eurostat.

Structure of the publication

Key figures on European living conditions provides an overview of the wealth of information about living conditions, which is available on Eurostat's [website](#) and in its [online databases](#).

The publication is divided into this introduction and 3 main chapters. The introduction includes information about data coverage and how to access European statistics and supporting sources of information. The main chapters cover the following areas

- income and inequality ([income inequality](#), [risk of poverty or social exclusion](#), [material and social deprivation](#), economic strain and [subjective poverty](#))
- household composition (composition of households and the presence of children), [work intensity \(households with very low work intensity and in-work risk of poverty\)](#) and [childcare arrangements](#)
- health (for example, [self-perceived health](#) and [life expectancy](#)), disability ([activity limitations](#)) and quality of life (life satisfaction, trust and reading patterns).

Each chapter presents a set of key indicators: more information can be found on Eurostat's website, which contains subject-specific [publications](#), [online articles](#) and [databases](#) covering a broad and comprehensive range of data.

Data extraction and coverage

Data extraction

Most of the statistical data presented in this publication were extracted on 12 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 countries), its individual countries (EU Member States), and EFTA countries. The countries in the figures are usually ranked according to the values for the indicator(s) illustrated.

References in the publication to northern, eastern, southern or western Europe are based on groupings in [EU vocabularies](#).

The map on the inside cover page shows the EU and EFTA countries, pinpointing their capital cities.

Country codes and names

BE Belgium	HU Hungary
BG Bulgaria	MT Malta
CZ Czechia	NL Netherlands
DK Denmark	AT Austria
DE Germany	PL Poland
EE Estonia	PT Portugal
IE Ireland	RO Romania
EL Greece	SI Slovenia
ES Spain	SK Slovakia
FR France	FI Finland
HR Croatia	SE Sweden
IT Italy	
CY Cyprus	IS Iceland
LV Latvia	LI Liechtenstein
LT Lithuania	NO Norway
LU Luxembourg	CH Switzerland

Temporal data coverage

If data for a reference year (or [reference period](#)) aren't available for a country, the authors made efforts to complete the coverage with data for the next most recent reference year. These exceptions are footnoted.

Equally, methodological changes following a change in the legal basis for the statistics on income and living conditions may also have an impact on the comparability of data for different years.

Notes and flags

Notes and flags are used to explain and define specific characteristics of data. In this publication, these have been restricted as far as possible to allow more space for illustrating the data. This publication includes only the main notes needed to interpret the data and to highlight when data for a particular year have been replaced by data for another. Data not shown in individual figures may simply not be available or may not be reliable enough to be published. The full set of notes and flags is available on Eurostat's website (see below) via the online data code(s) presented for each map or figure.

Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to access Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through [Eurostat's website](#). Eurostat provides users with free access to its databases and [publications](#). The website is updated daily and presents the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU, as well as individual EU, EFTA and enlargement countries (for some datasets, information may be provided for a wider range of non-EU countries).

You can use online data codes, such as *ilc_pees01n*, to find the most recent data in in [Eurostat's online database](#) or using the Eurostat [website's search function](#). These data codes are included in the source below each map or figure.

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

Main data source

Most of the data in this publication are from the [statistics on income and living conditions \(EU-SILC\)](#).

These statistics cover objective and subjective aspects of income, poverty, social exclusion, housing, labour, education and health.

Variables are collected in monetary and non-monetary terms for households and for individuals.

The statistical population consists of all people living in [private households](#). People living in [collective households and in institutions](#) are generally excluded from the target population. Data are collected through sample surveys.

The survey and dissemination of indicators have an annual frequency. The reference period for most survey variables and published indicators is the survey year. There are some exceptions such as

- income, which is the previous calendar or tax year
- age, which is the age of the respondent at the end of the income reference period, from which the household composition is also derived.

These statistics provide 2 types of annual data

- cross-sectional data about a moment or period of time
- longitudinal data about changes for individuals observed over a 4- to 6-year period.

All EU countries produce statistics on income and living conditions in accordance with EU legislation. Indicators for the EU are computed as population-weighted averages of national indicators. This publication also includes data from this source for 3 EFTA countries (Liechtenstein does not provide data).

1

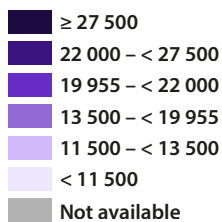
Income and inequality



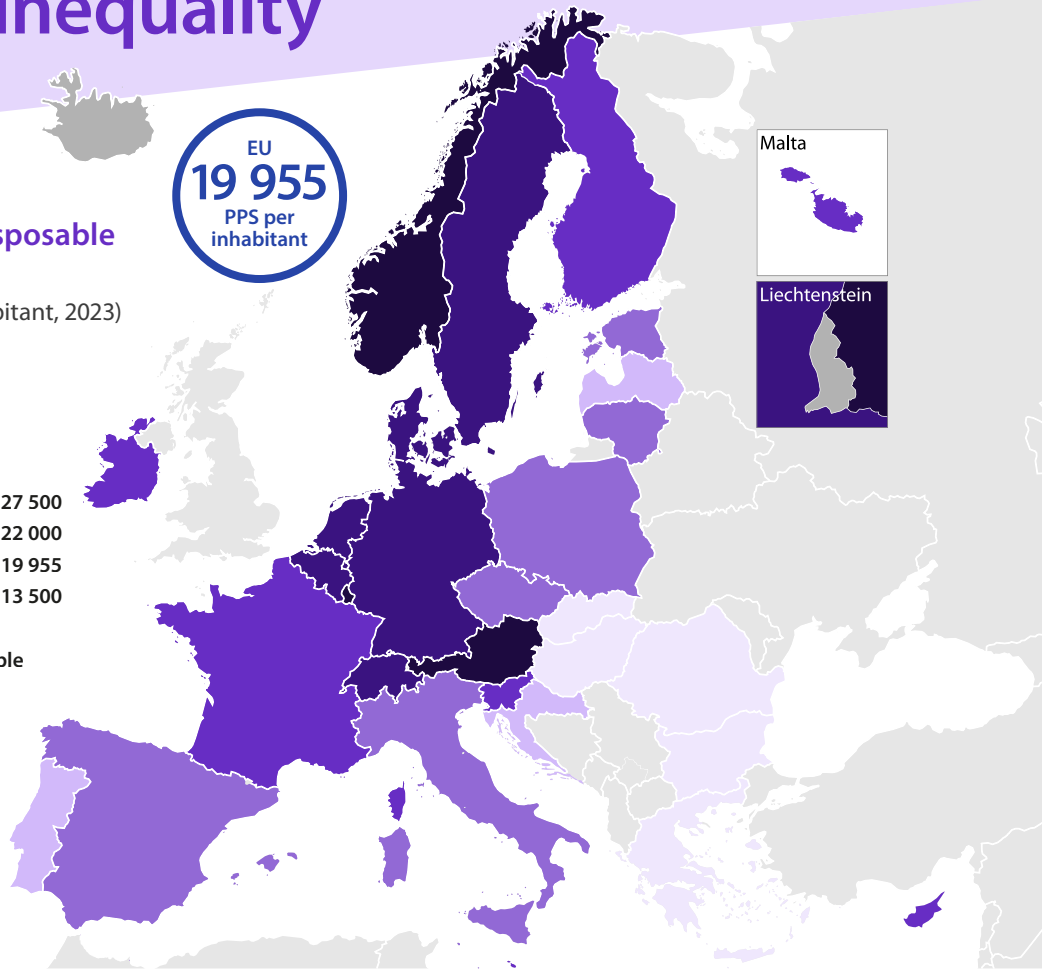
Income distribution and inequality

Median disposable income

(PPS per inhabitant, 2023)



EU
19 955
PPS per
inhabitant



Malta

Liechtenstein

Note: CH, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_di03](#))

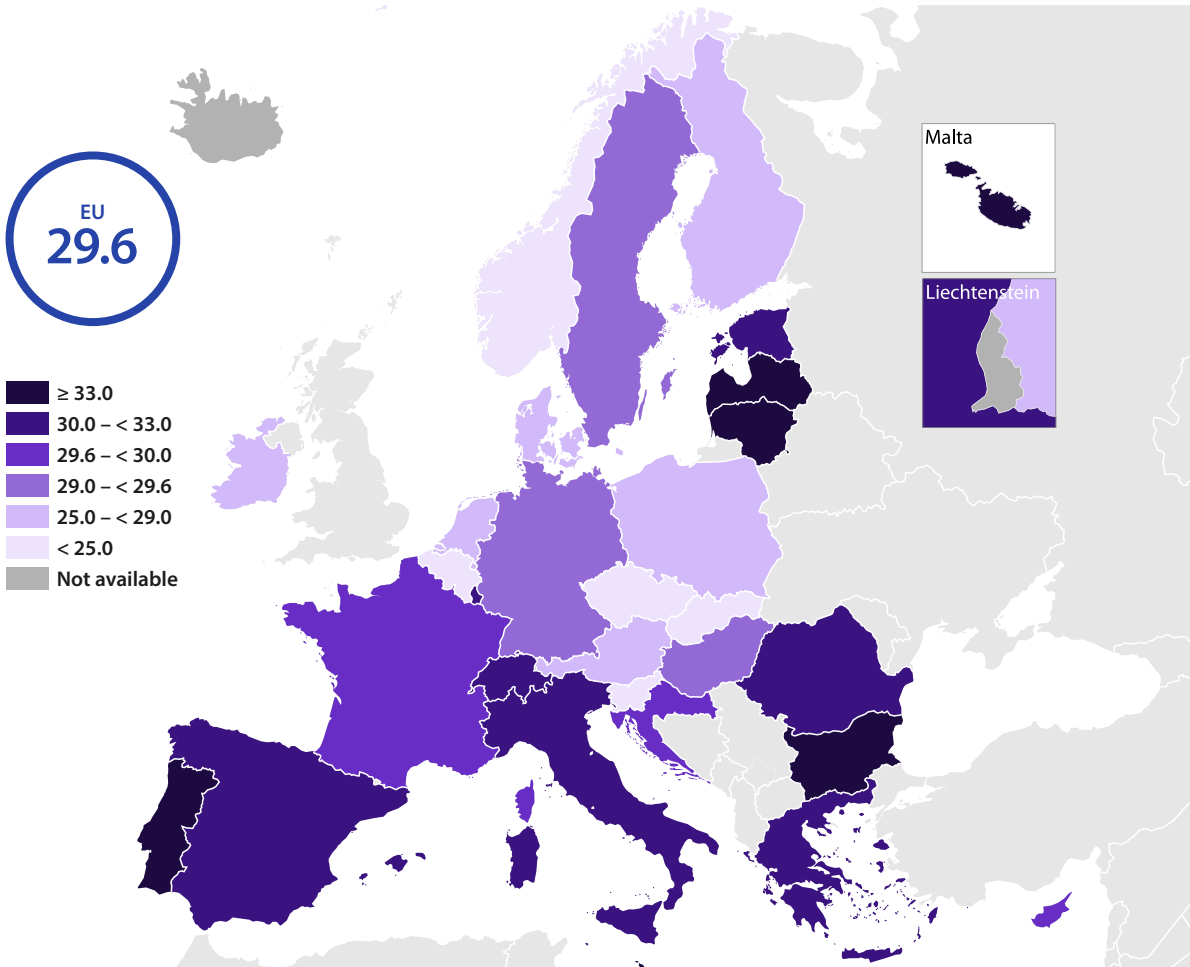


The equivalised disposable income is the total net equivalised income divided by the weighted number of household members (based on the number and age of the household members). The level of income is expressed in purchasing power standards (PPS) which is a unit that takes account of price-level differences between countries. The median equivalised income of a population is the income level at which half of the people in the population have a higher income and the other half a lower income.

In 2023, the median annual disposable income in the EU was 19 955 PPS per inhabitant. It varied considerably across EU countries: western and Nordic EU countries reported the highest levels and southern, eastern and Baltic countries reported the lowest levels. Values ranged from 10 670 PPS per inhabitant in Slovakia, 10 960 PPS in Hungary, 11 084 PPS in Romania and 11 155 PPS in Bulgaria to 28 690 PPS per inhabitant in Austria and 34 777 PPS in Luxembourg.

Gini coefficient for equivalised disposable income per inhabitant

(scale from 0 to 100, 2023)



Note: CH, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_di12](#))



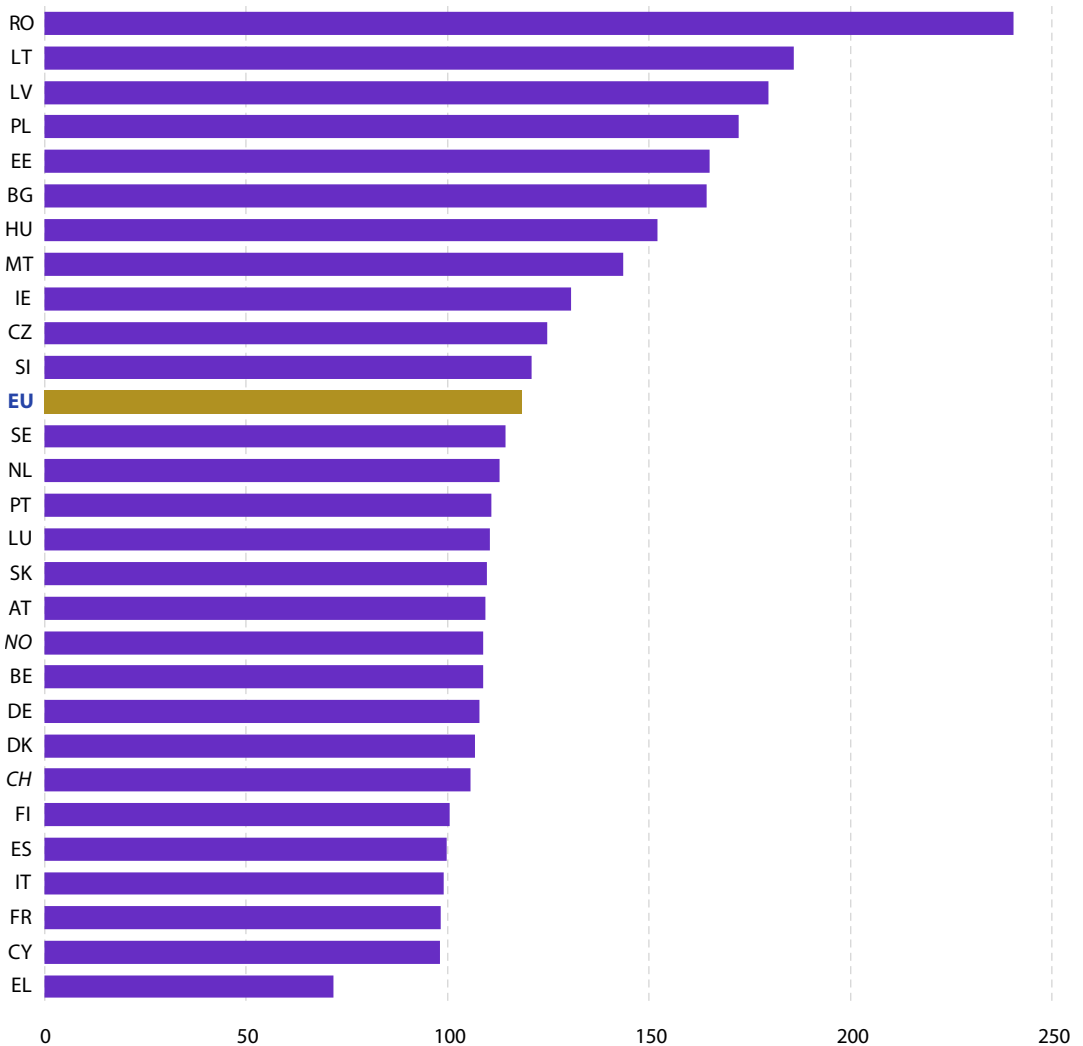
The Gini coefficient gives the extent to which the distribution of income within a country deviates from an equal distribution. A Gini value of 100% means that only 1 person receives all the income in the country, while a Gini value of 0% means that income is distributed equally across the whole population.

In 2023, the Gini coefficient for the EU was 29.6%. Among the EU countries, the highest income disparities were recorded in Bulgaria (37.2%) and Lithuania (35.7%). Income was most evenly distributed in Slovakia, Slovenia, Belgium and Czechia, all reporting Gini coefficients below 25.0%.

More information:
[income distribution and inequality.](#)

Income in real terms

(index SILC 2010=100, 2023)



Note: CH, 2022. HR: not available. Based on income in euro terms.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_di18](#))



The median equivalised disposable income in real terms shows how income levels have changed over time, after removing the impact of price changes (inflation).

Compared with 2010, in real terms the median equivalised disposable income across the EU was 18.5% higher in 2023. The median income was lower in 2023 than in 2010 in 5 EU countries: Greece (down 28.4%), Cyprus, France (both down 1.8%), Italy (down 1.0%) and Spain (down 0.3%). By contrast, the median income increased most strongly in Romania, up 140.4%. The Baltic countries, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary, also recorded median incomes increasing by more than half.

People at risk of poverty and social exclusion

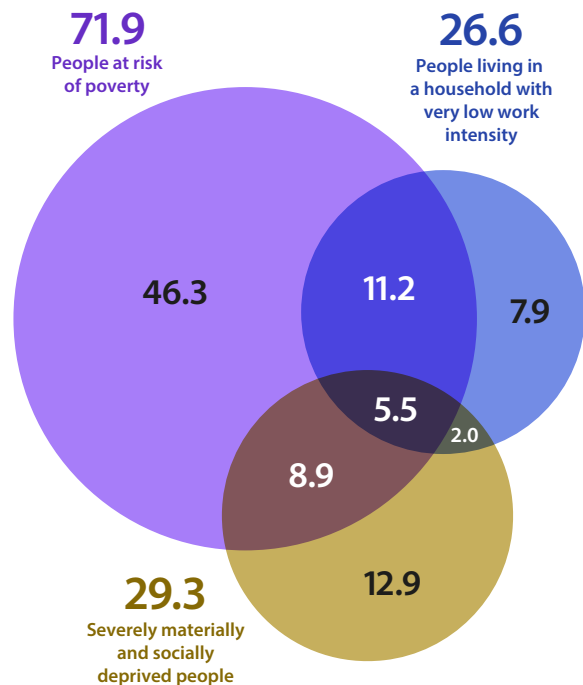


People who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion are those who are in **at least 1** of these 3 situations

- people who are at risk of poverty, in other words, with an equivalised disposable income that is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers
- people who experience severe material and social deprivation, in other words, those who cannot afford at least 7 of 13 deprivation items that most people consider desirable or even necessary for an adequate quality of life; among these, 6 relate to individuals and 7 to households
- people (aged less than 65) living in a household with very low work intensity, meaning living in households where adults worked for 20% or less of their combined work-time potential during the 12 months before the survey.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by type of risk

(million, EU, 2023)



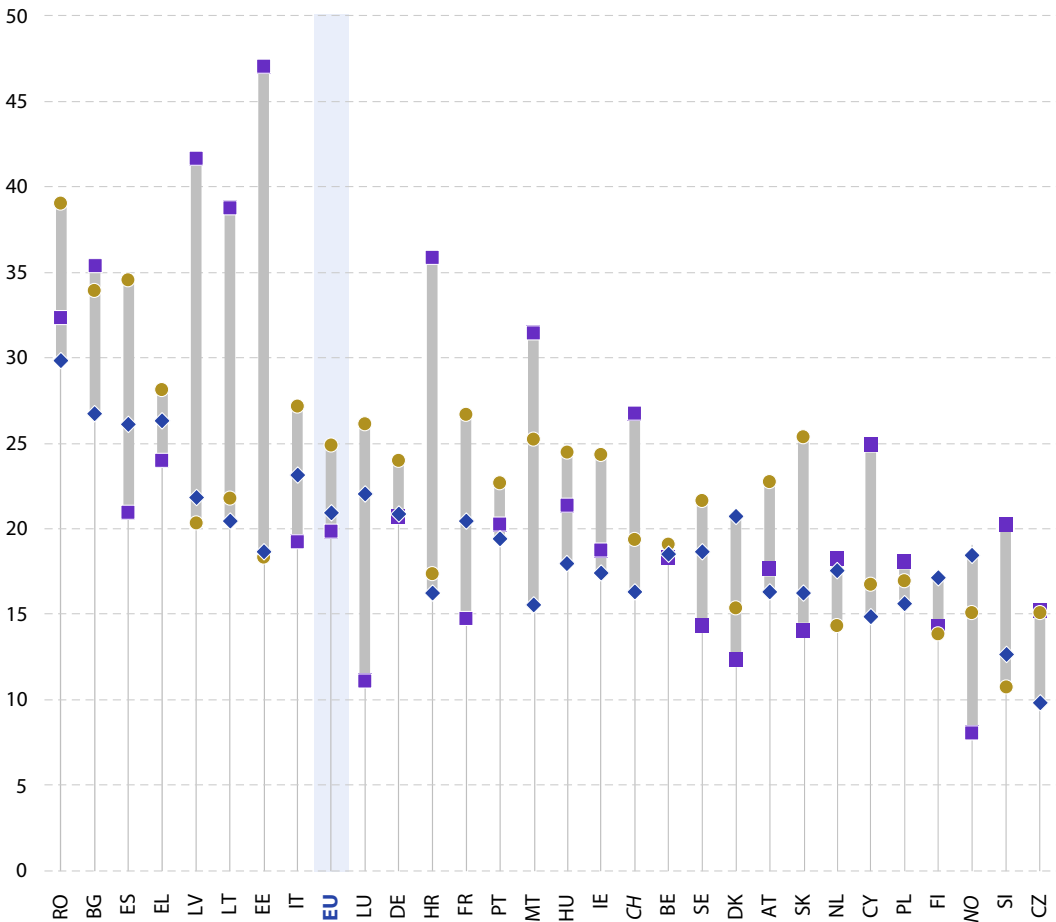
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_pees01n](#))

In 2023, 94.6 million people in the EU (21.4% of the population) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The figure slightly decreased compared with 2022 (95.3 million, 21.6% of the population).

In 2023, a total of 71.9 million people were at risk of poverty, while 5.5 million people simultaneously faced all 3 situations: they were at risk of poverty, experiencing severe material and social deprivation, and living in a household with very low work intensity.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by age

(% share of population in respective age group, 2023)



- 65 or over
- ◆ 18-64
- Less than 18

Note: CH, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_pees01n](#))

Across the EU, the risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 was highest among children (people aged less than 18) and lowest among people aged 65 or over.

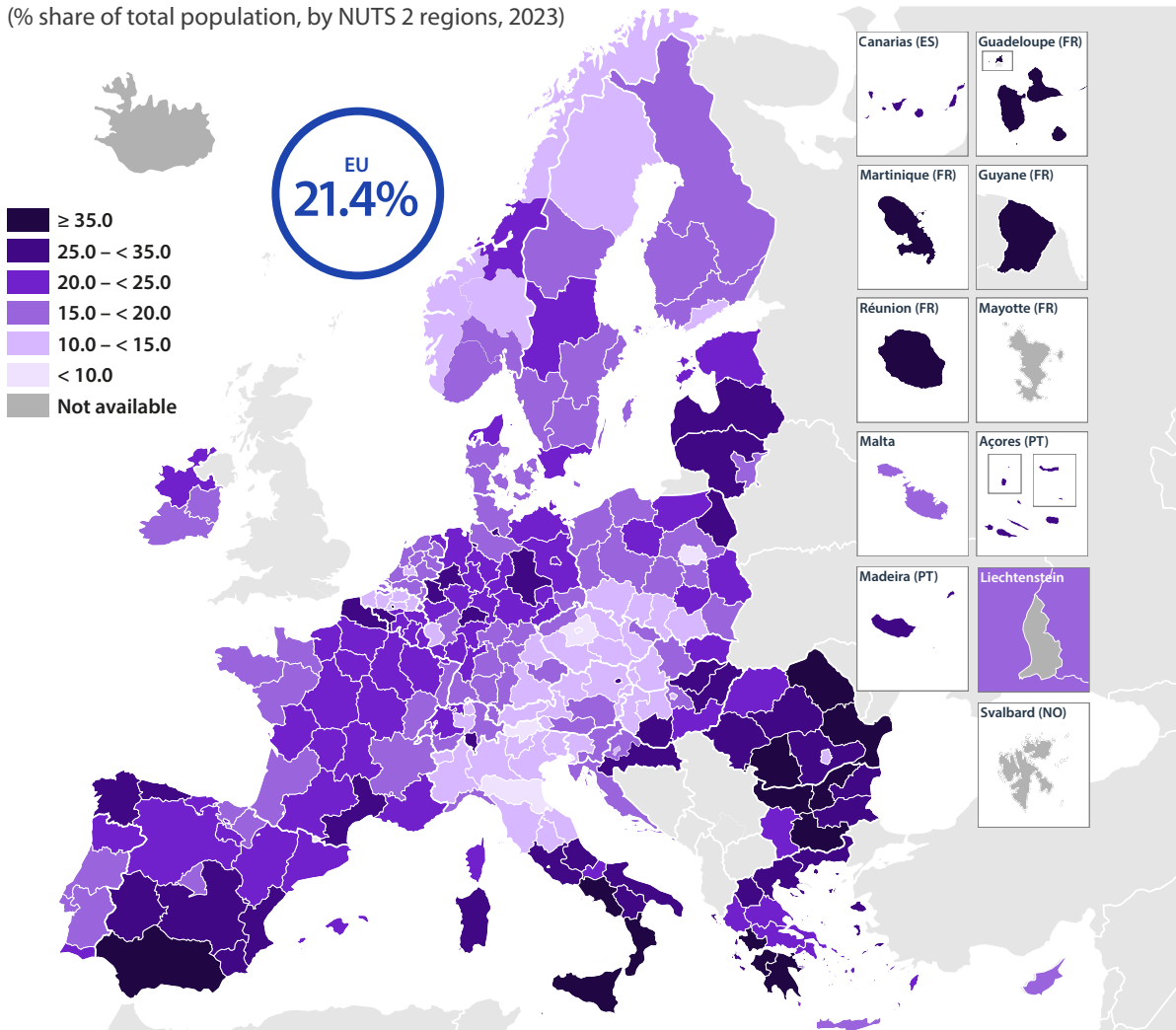
In around half the EU countries, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 was highest for children. In Slovakia and Spain, the share for children was more than 8.0 [percentage points](#) higher than the next highest share among the 2 other age groups.

In Denmark and Finland, people of working age (18 to 64 years) faced the highest risk of poverty or social exclusion.

In 11 EU countries, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion was highest for older people. In Estonia, the share for older people was 28.4 points higher than the next highest share among the 2 other age groups.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(% share of total population, by NUTS 2 regions, 2023)



Note: Länsi-Suomi (FI19) and Åland (FI20) are aggregated (same value for both regions). CZ, FR, SK and CH: 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc_peps11n](#) and [ilc_peps01n](#))

In 2023, the regional share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion wasn't evenly distributed around the EU average. Approximately two fifths of all regions in the EU (103 out of 240 for which data are available) recorded shares equal to or above the EU average.

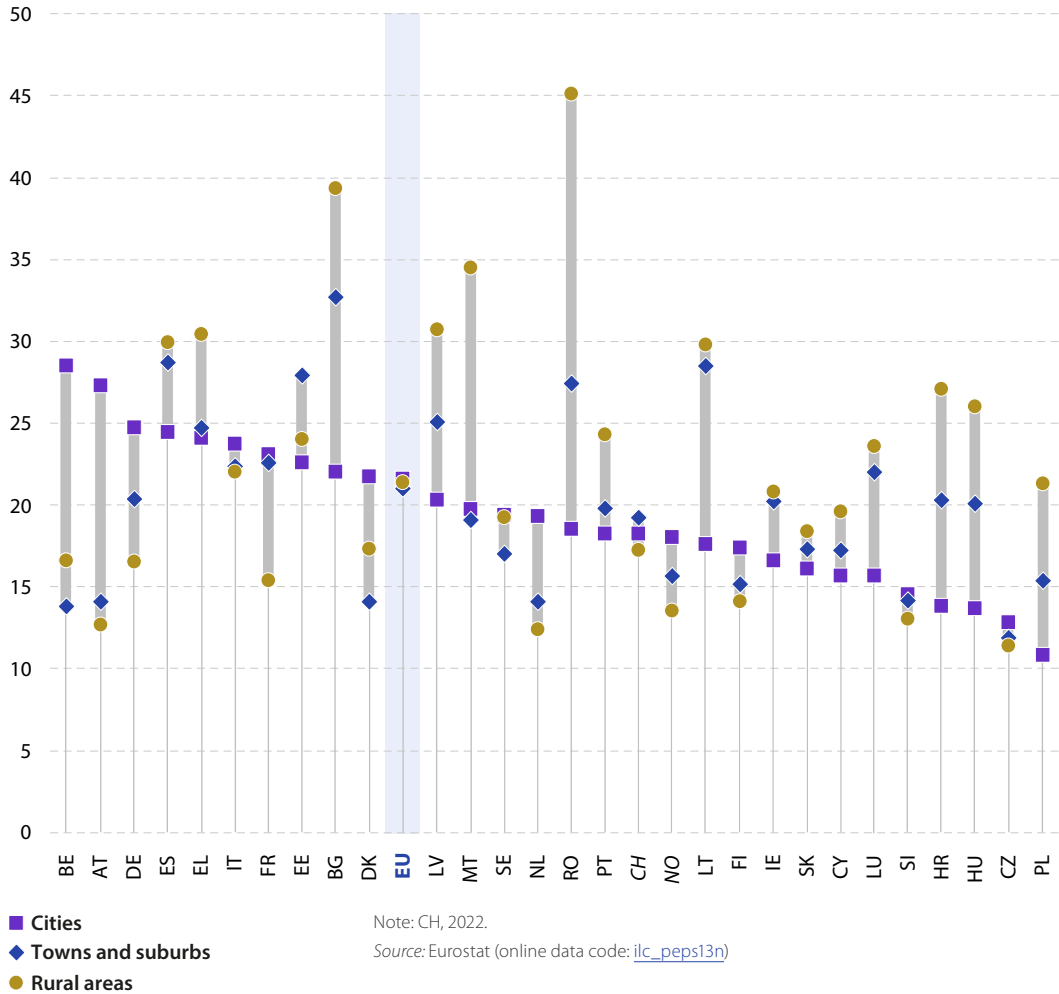
In 19 regions across the EU, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 was at least 35.0%. Most of these regions were located in Bulgaria, south-western Greece, southern Spain, the outermost regions of France (2022 data), southern

Italy, or eastern and southern Romania. This group also included the Belgian capital region. Guyane in France (49.5%; 2022 data), Calabria in southern Italy (48.6%) and Sud-Est in Romania (45.3%) had the highest shares.

Fewer than 10.0% of people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 in 5 regions. These were the capital regions of Czechia and Poland, a region neighbouring the capital region of Czechia, and 2 northern Italian regions.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by degree of urbanisation

(% share of population in respective degree of urbanisation, 2023)



In 2023, the risk of poverty or social inclusion in the EU was highest in the cities (21.6%), followed by rural areas (21.4%) and suburbs (21.0%).

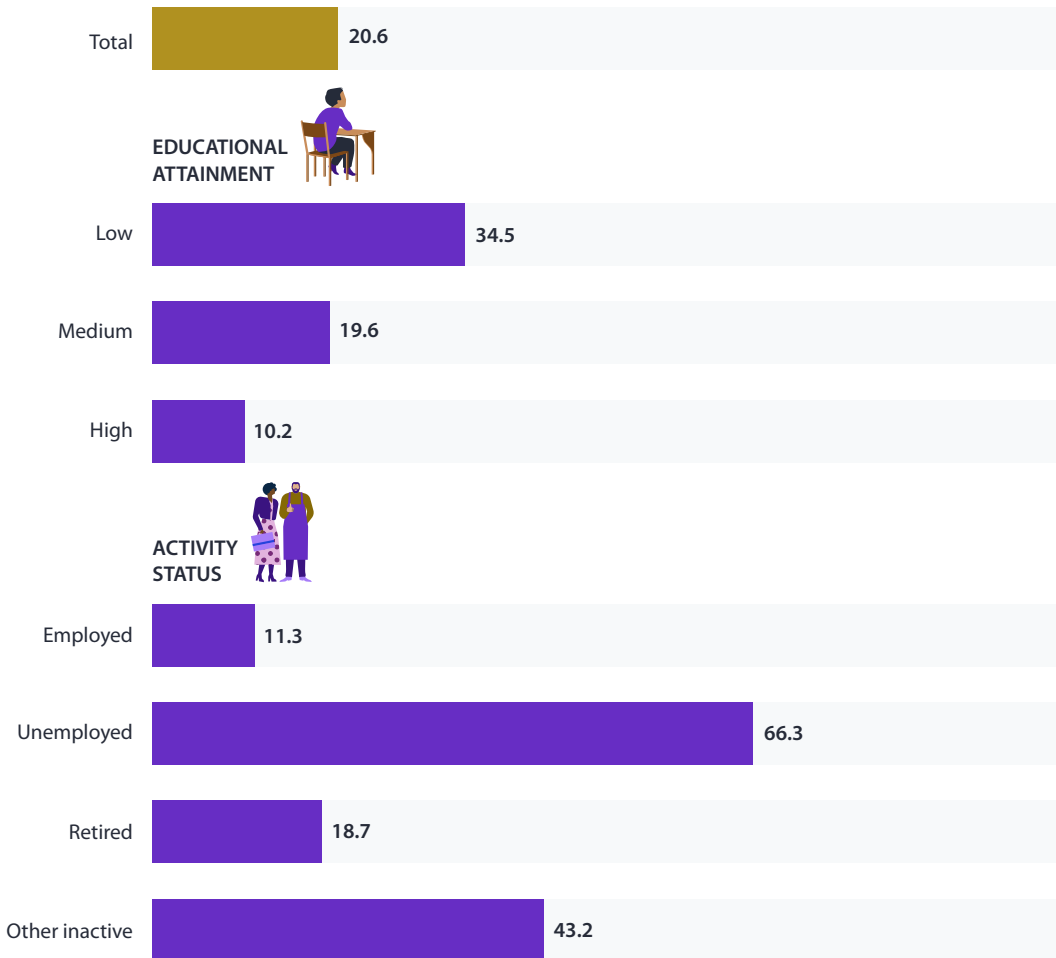
Across the EU countries, differences in the risk of poverty or social exclusion between the 3 degrees of urbanisation were considerably bigger than in the EU as a whole. In 2023, there were 10 EU countries where the differences between the risk of poverty or social exclusion across the 3 degrees of urbanisation were more than 10.0 percentage points. The widest ranges were in Romania (26.6 points) and Bulgaria (17.3 points), both with their highest shares of risk of poverty or social exclusion in rural areas and their lowest shares in cities. In 2 EU countries, relatively wide ranges were recorded with cities having the highest share: Austria, where rural areas had the lowest shares, and Belgium, where towns and suburbs reported the lowest share.



Local administrative units are classified by degree of urbanisation as cities, towns and suburbs, and rural areas.

People aged 18 or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by educational attainment and activity status

(% share of population in respective categories, EU, 2023)



Note: the category of other inactive people includes all people outside the labour force apart from retired people.

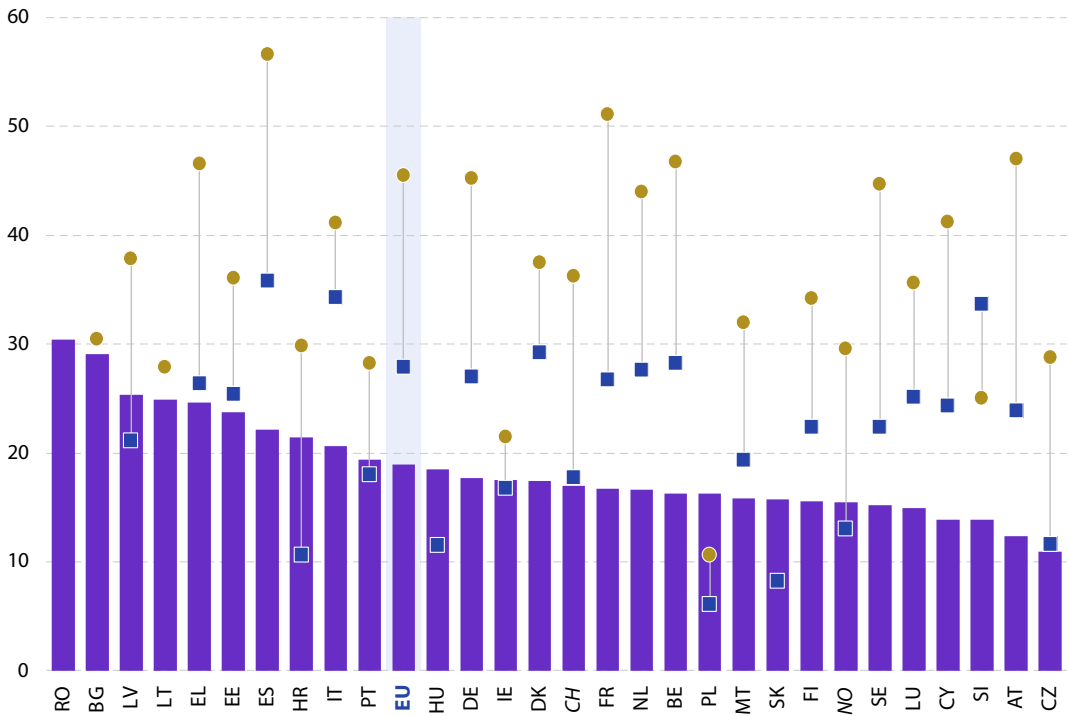
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc_peps01n](#), [ilc_peps04n](#) and [ilc_peps02n](#))

In 2023, more than a third (34.5%) of adults (people aged 18 or over) in the EU with a low level of [educational attainment](#) (no more than lower secondary education) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. By contrast, the share was around a tenth (10.2%) for people with a high level of education (having completed at least 1 level of tertiary education).

When considering their activity status, by far the highest share of adults in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 was for unemployed people (66.3%), followed by [other inactive](#) (43.2%). Just under a fifth (18.7%) of retired people and just over a tenth (11.3%) of employed people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

People aged 18 or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by citizenship

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



- EU citizens (other than nationals)
- Non-EU citizens
- Nationals

Note: CH, 2022. BG, LT and RO: EU citizens other than nationals not available. HU, RO and SK: non-EU citizens not available. HR, LV, HU, PL and SK: low reliability for EU citizens. BG: low reliability for non-EU citizens.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_peps05n](#))

Across the EU, nearly a fifth (18.9%) of adults aged 18 or over who were nationals of the EU country where they lived were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023. The shares were considerably higher for EU citizens living in other EU countries (27.9%) and non-EU citizens (45.5%).

Poland was the only EU country where the share of adults who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion was higher for nationals than for EU citizens living in other EU countries and for non-EU citizens. There were 6 other EU countries where the share of nationals at risk of poverty or social exclusion was higher than the share for citizens of other EU countries: Ireland, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal and Slovakia.



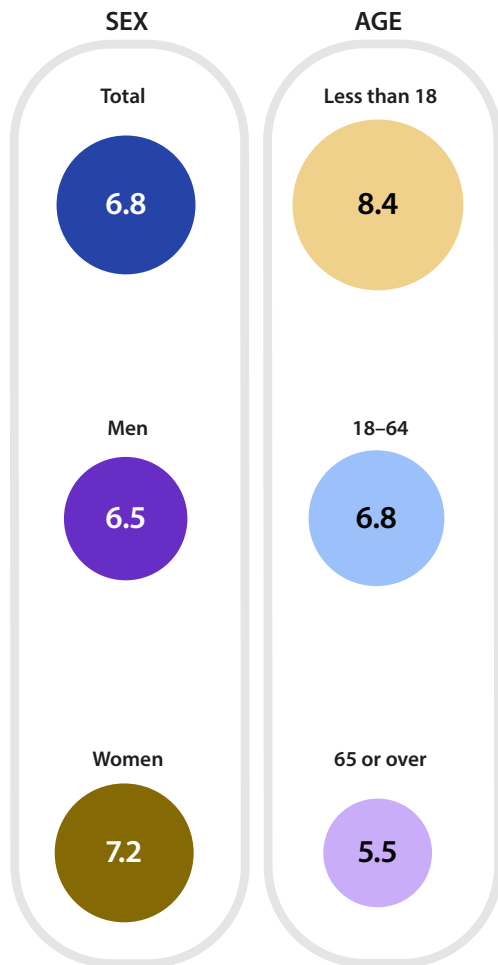
More information:

[poverty and social exclusion, income and living conditions in urban and rural Europe and the risk of poverty and social exclusion among migrant populations.](#)

Severe material and social deprivation

People experiencing severe material and social deprivation, by sex and age

(% share of population in respective category, EU, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_mdspd11](#))



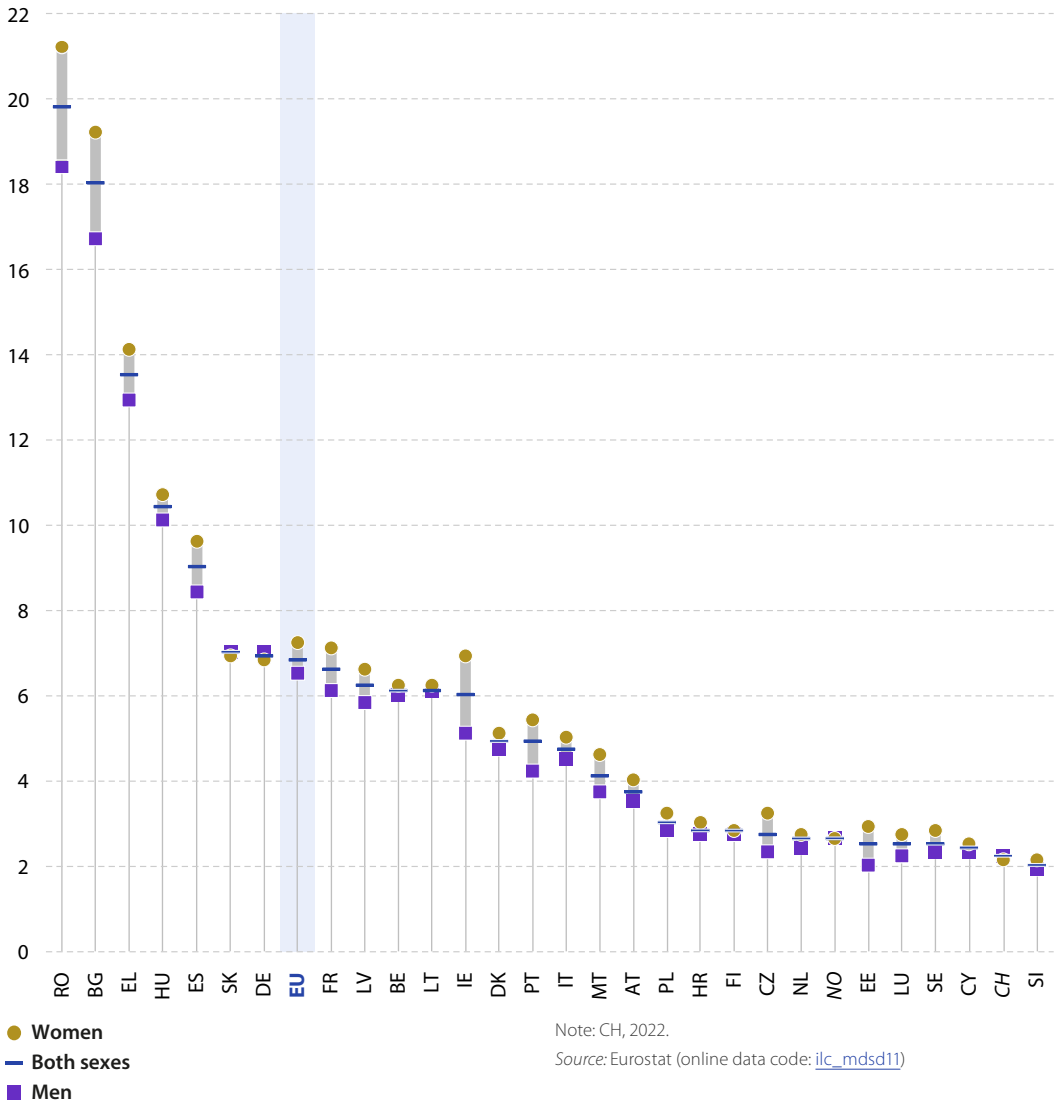
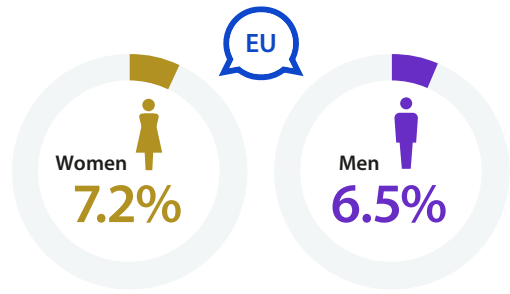
The **severe material and social deprivation** rate is the share of people who cannot afford at least 7 of 13 deprivation items that most people consider desirable or even necessary to lead an adequate quality of life. The items are classified into 2 groups – items at household level (such as the capacity to face unexpected expenses or the ability to keep a home adequately warm) and items at individual level (such as having regular leisure activities or having an internet connection).

In 2023, the severe material and social deprivation rate in the EU was 6.8%, marginally up from 6.7% in 2022. This rate was higher for women (7.2%) than for men (6.5%). Considering 3 broad age groups, the rate was highest for children (aged less than 18; 8.4%), followed by people of working-age (aged 18 to 64; 6.8%) and lowest for older people (aged 65 or over; 5.5%).



People experiencing severe material and social deprivation, by sex

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



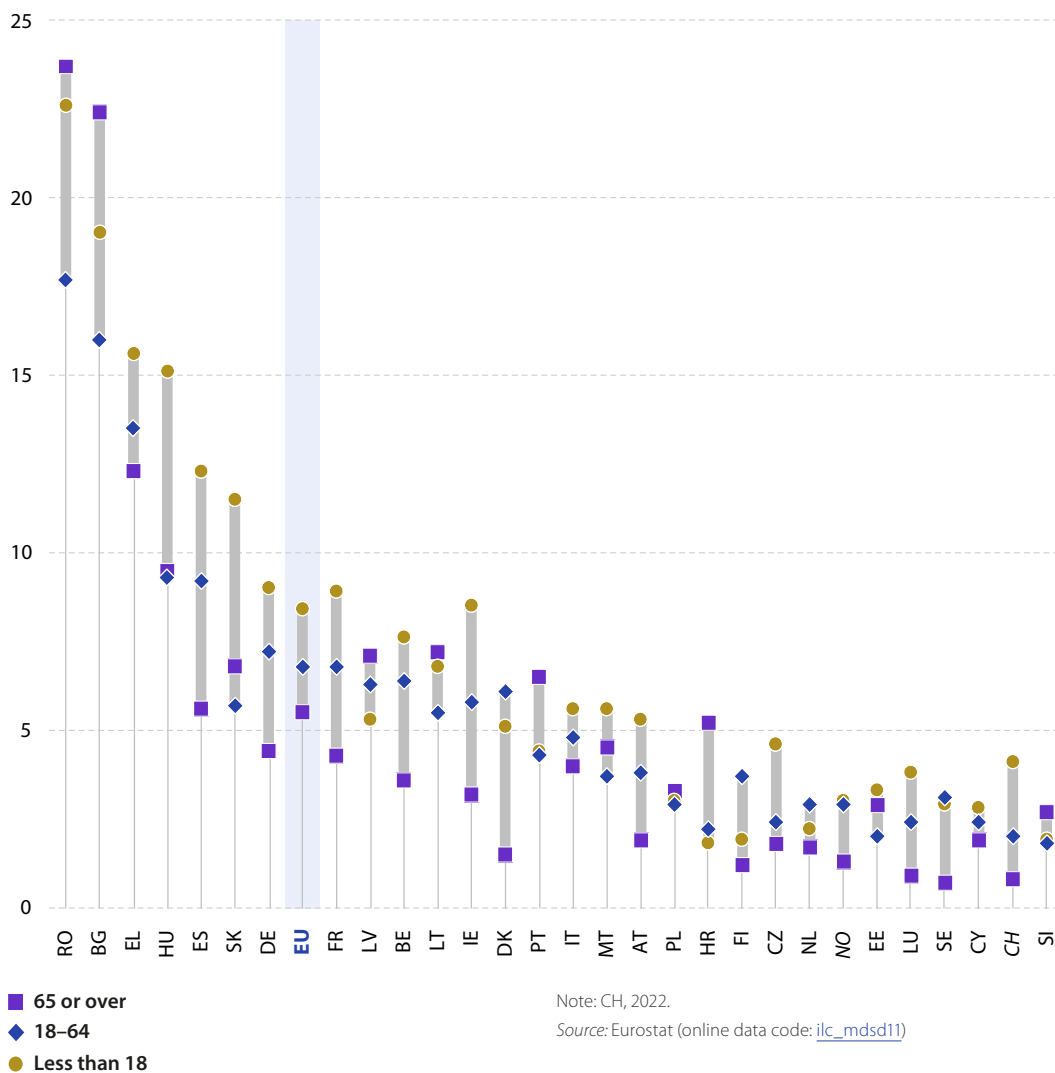
In 2023, Romania (19.8%), Bulgaria (18.0%) and Greece (13.5%) recorded notably higher severe material and social deprivation rates than in other EU countries. The lowest rate was 2.0% in Slovenia. The average rate for the EU was 6.8%.

In all but 2 EU countries, the severe material and social deprivation rate was higher for women than

for men. In Germany, the rate for men (7.0%) was marginally higher than the rate for women (6.8%), while in Slovakia the rates for men (7.0%) and women (6.9%) were even closer. In relative terms, the largest gender differences were observed in Estonia, Czechia, Ireland and Portugal.

People experiencing severe material and social deprivation, by age

(% share of population in respective age group, 2023)



In 2023, the severe material and social deprivation rate was highest for children (people aged under 18) in 15 EU countries. The widest percentage point gaps to the next highest rate among the 2 other age groups) were in Hungary and Slovakia.

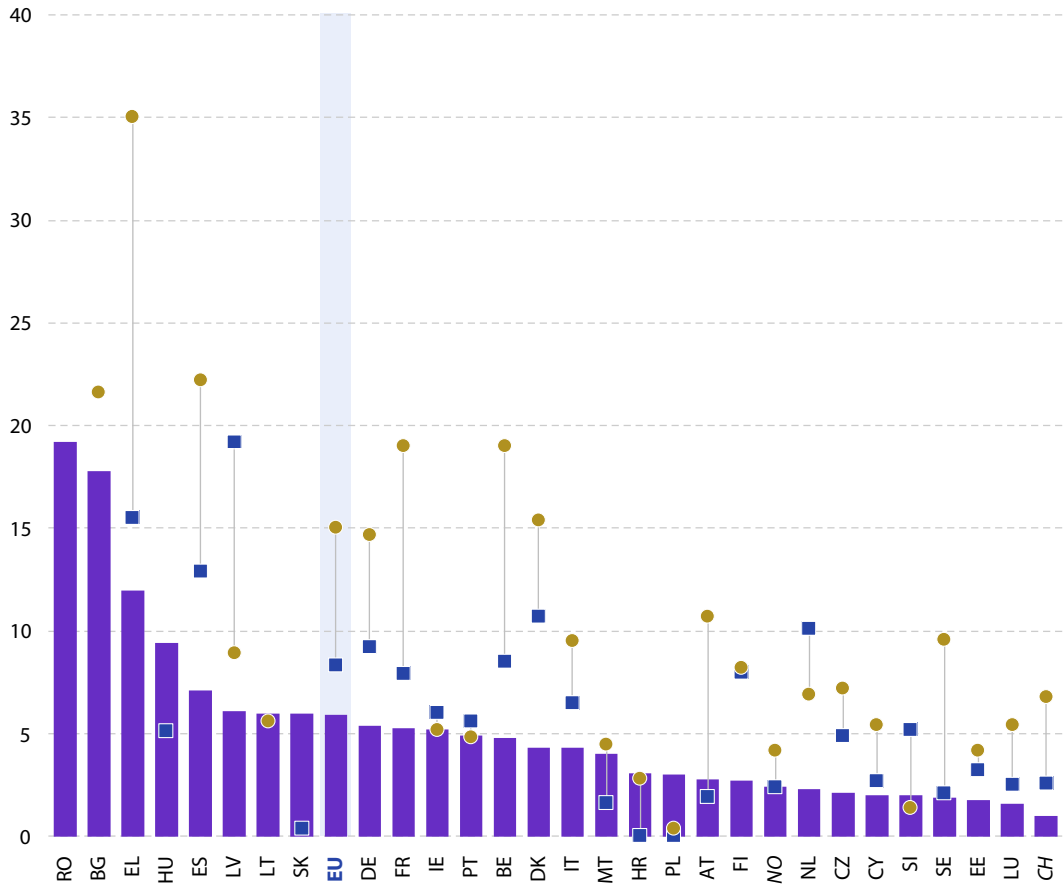
In 8 EU countries, the highest rate in 2023 was among people older than 65. The rate for older people in Bulgaria and Croatia was notably higher than the rates for the 2 other age groups.

In 4 EU countries – Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden – the rate was highest in 2023 for people of working age (18 to 64).

Focusing on people of working age, Romania (17.7%), Bulgaria (16.0%) and Greece (13.5%) all recorded severe material and social deprivation rates above 10.0%. For the same age group, Slovenia, Estonia and Croatia reported the lowest shares (1.8%, 2.0% and 2.2%, respectively).

People aged 18 or over experiencing material and social deprivation, by citizenship

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



- Non-EU citizens
- EU citizens (other than nationals)
- Nationals

Note: CH, 2022. BG, LT and RO: EU citizens not available. HU, RO and SK: non-EU citizens not available. EE, HR, LV, HU, PL and SK: low reliability for EU citizens. BG: low reliability for non-EU citizens.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_md5d15](#))

Across the EU, 5.9% of adults aged 18 or over who were nationals of the EU country where they lived experienced severe material and social deprivation in 2023. The shares were somewhat higher for EU citizens living in another EU country (8.3%) and considerably higher for non-EU citizens (15.0%).

Croatia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia were the only EU countries where the share of adults who experienced severe material and social deprivation was higher for nationals than for non-EU citizens;

the shares were the same for nationals and non-EU citizens in Ireland. Croatia and Poland were also 2 of only 6 EU countries where the share for nationals was higher than for citizens of other EU countries: the others were Hungary, Malta, Austria and Slovakia.

More information:
[material deprivation and economic strain.](#)

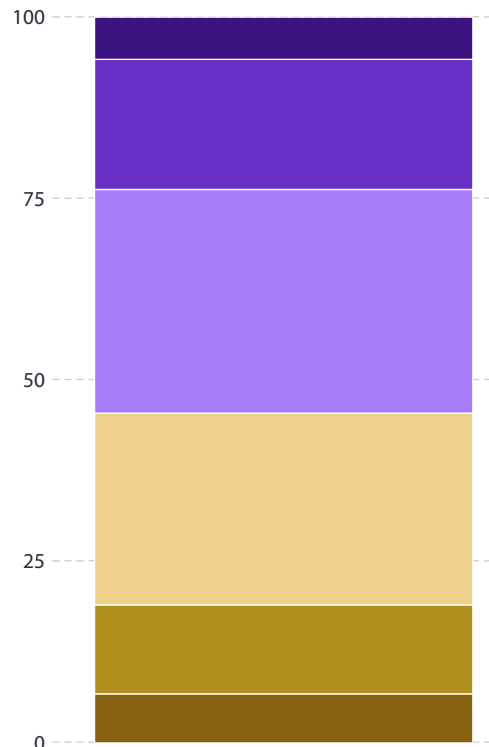
Economic strain

Ability of people to make ends meet

(% share of total population, EU, 2023)

In 2023, the share of households in the EU able to make ends meet very easily or easily was collectively 23.6%. At the other end of the range, the share of households experiencing difficulty or great difficulty to make ends meet was 19.1%. The share of households making ends meet fairly easily or with some difficulty was collectively 57.2%.

- Very easily
- Easily
- Fairly easily
- Some difficulty
- Difficulty
- Great difficulty

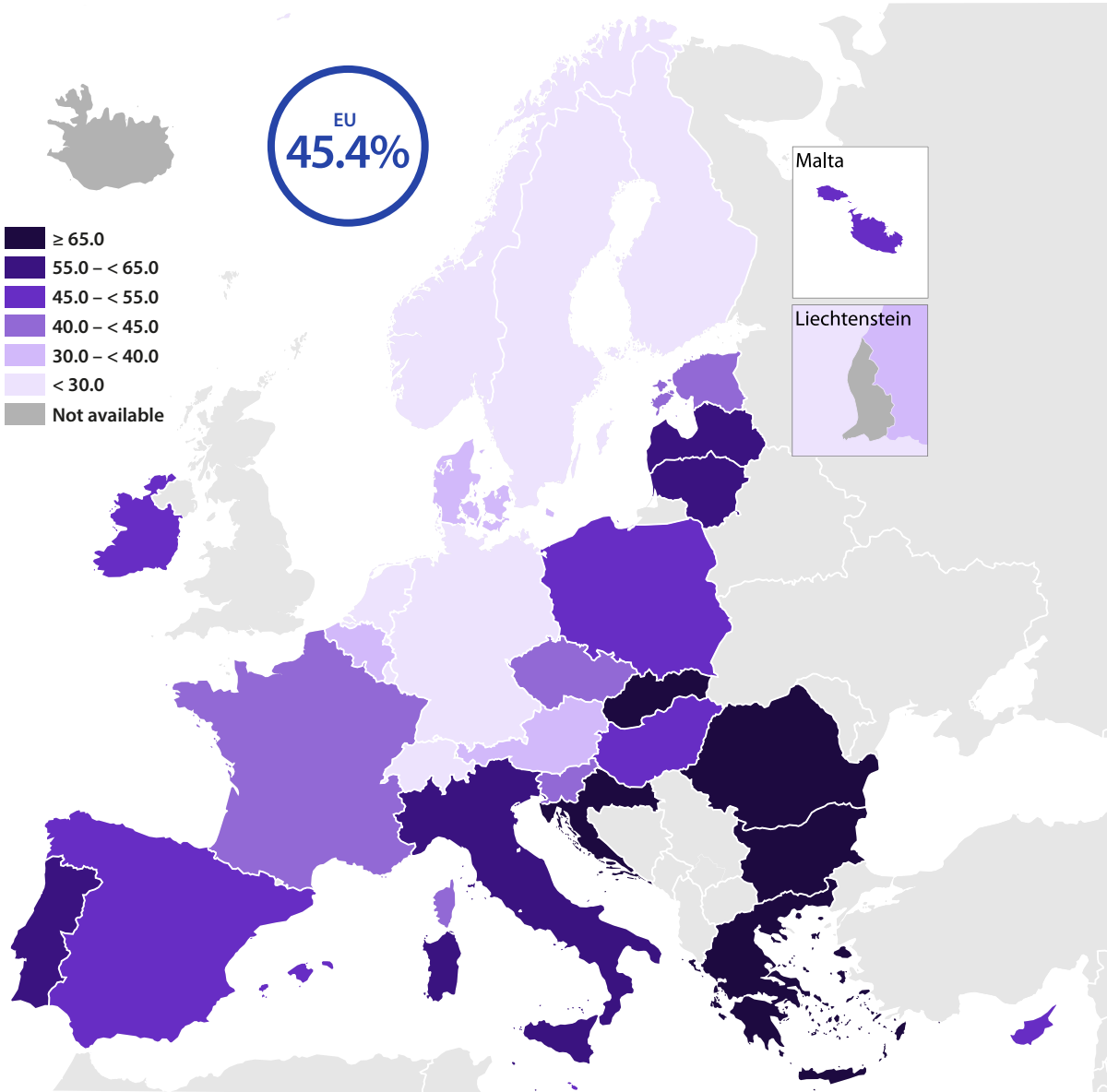


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_mdcs09](#))



People having at least some difficulty to make ends meet

(% share of total population, 2023)



Note: CH, 2022. DE: low reliability.

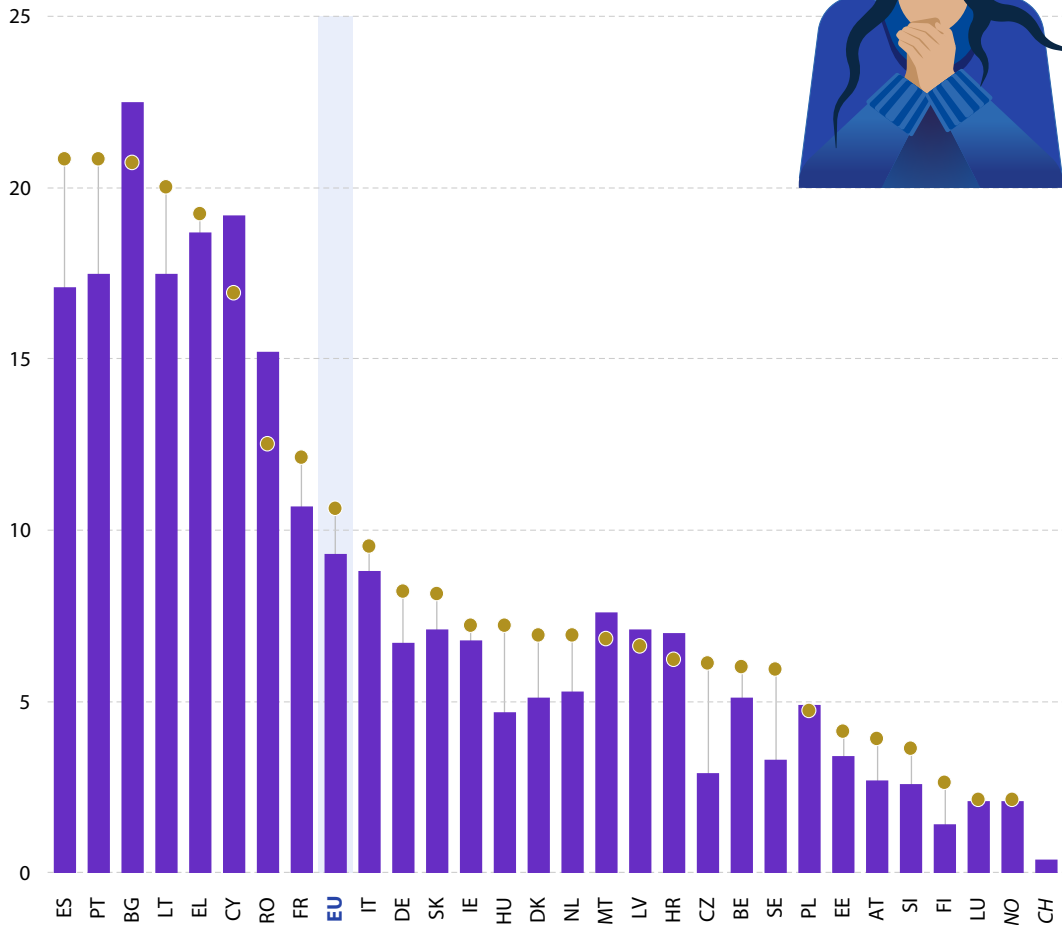
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_mdcs09](#))

Aggregating the 6 steps of the ability to make ends meet into 2 groups, 45.4% of households in the EU had at least some difficulty making ends meet in 2023.

The share of households having at least some difficulty making ends meet in 2023 ranged from around a quarter or less in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Luxembourg and Finland to 78.2% in Bulgaria and 87.6% in Greece.

People unable to keep their home adequately warm

(% share of total population, 2022 and 2023)



■ 2022

● 2023

Note: CH, 2023 not available. LT: break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_mdex01](#))



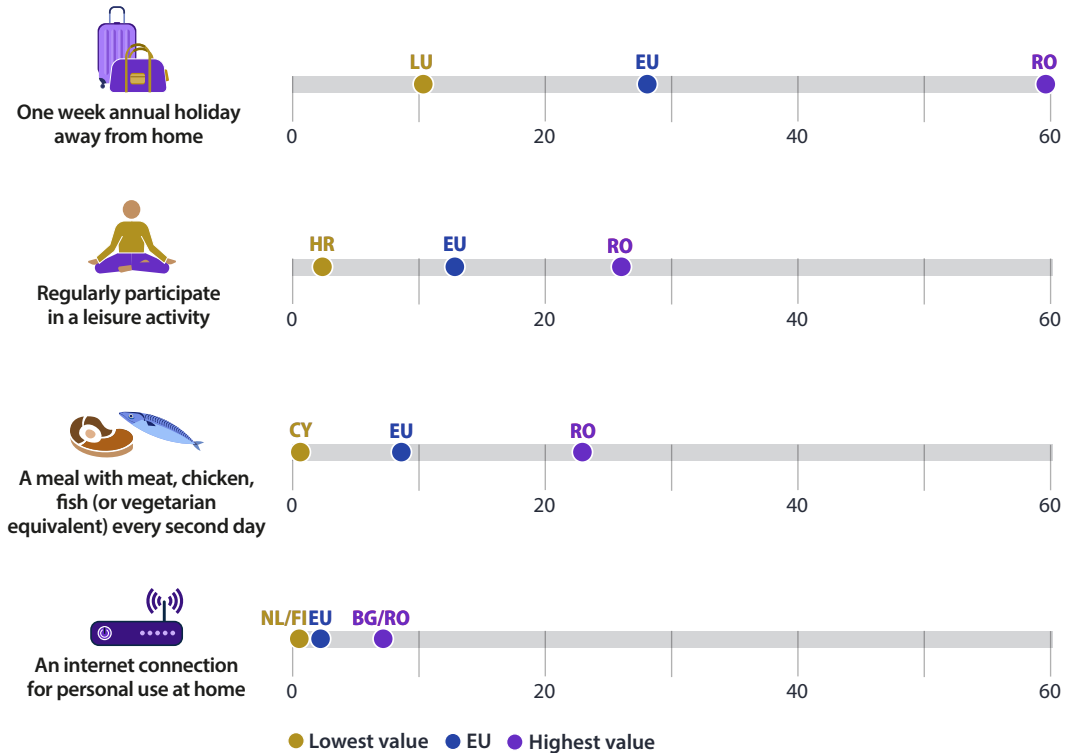
The ability to keep a home adequately warm depends on several factors, including the general condition of the building, geographical location and the cost of energy.

In 2023, 10.6% of people in the EU couldn't afford to keep their home adequately warm, up from 9.3% in 2022 (and 6.9% in 2021). Among the EU countries, this share ranged in 2023 from 2.1% in Luxembourg to just over 20.0% in Bulgaria, Spain and Portugal.

In 19 EU countries, the share of people who couldn't afford to keep their home adequately warm increased between 2022 and 2023. The largest increases were in Spain, Portugal and Czechia, up 3.7, 3.3 and 3.2 percentage points, respectively. By contrast, this share was stable in Luxembourg and fell between 2022 and 2023 in Romania, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Malta, Croatia, Latvia and Poland.

People unable to pay for selected items

(% share of total population, 2023)



Note: for each expenditure item, the figure shows the share for the EU average as well as for the EU countries with the lowest and highest shares.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc_mdcs02](#), [ilc_mdcs11a](#), [ilc_mdcs03](#) and [ilc_mdcs07a](#))



The inability to afford particular goods or services can be used as a measure of absolute poverty. These indicators focus on affordability, not whether someone chooses not to purchase the good or service for any other reason.

In 2023, 28.5% of people in the EU were unable to afford a week of holiday away from home each year, almost unchanged compared with 2022 (28.6%). Among the EU countries, this share was lowest in 2023 in Luxembourg (10.6%) and highest in Romania (59.5%).

Compared with 12.4% in 2022, 13.0% of people in the EU were unable to afford to participate regularly in a leisure activity in 2023. Among the EU countries, this share was lowest in 2023 in Croatia (2.7%) and highest in Romania (27.4%).

In 2023, 9.5% of people in the EU were unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day, up from 8.3% in 2022. Among the EU countries, this share was lowest in 2023 in Cyprus (1.3%) and highest in Romania (23.3%).

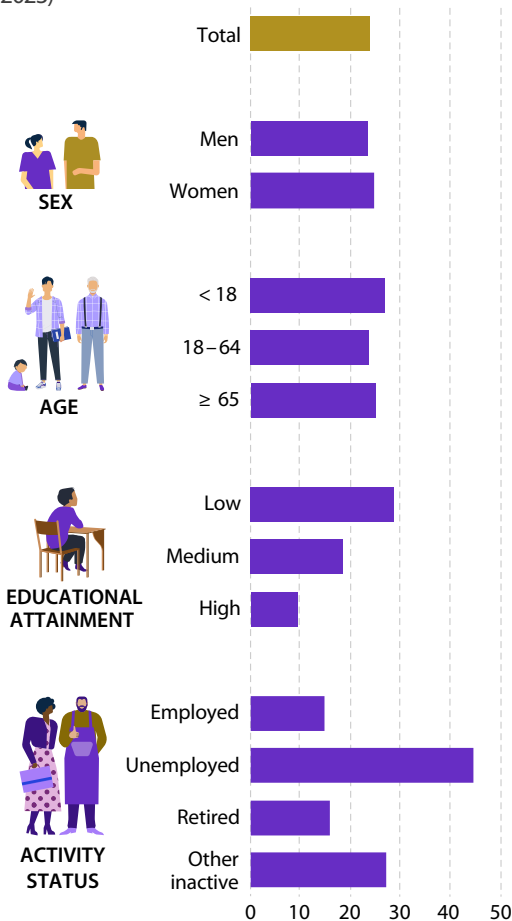
Compared with 2.4% in 2022, 2.3% of people in the EU were unable to afford an internet connection for personal use at home in 2023. Among the EU countries, this share was lowest in 2023 in the Netherlands and Finland (both 0.3%) and highest in Bulgaria and Romania (both 7.3%).

More information:
[material deprivation and economic strain and housing.](#)

Subjective poverty

People considering themselves to be poor, by sex, age, educational attainment and activity status

(% share of population in respective category, EU, 2023)



Note: for the disaggregations by educational attainment and by activity status, the coverage is for people aged 18 or over. The category of other inactive people includes all people outside the labour force apart from retired people.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc_sbip01](#), [ilc_sbip02](#) and [ilc_sbip03](#))



Subjective poverty aims to assess an individual's perception of the difficulties experienced by their household in making ends meet. The assessment takes into account the household's material wellbeing situation including income, expenditure, debt and wealth. There are 6 response categories ranging from great difficulty to very easily. A household having great difficulty or difficulty to make ends meet is considered to fall under subjective poverty.

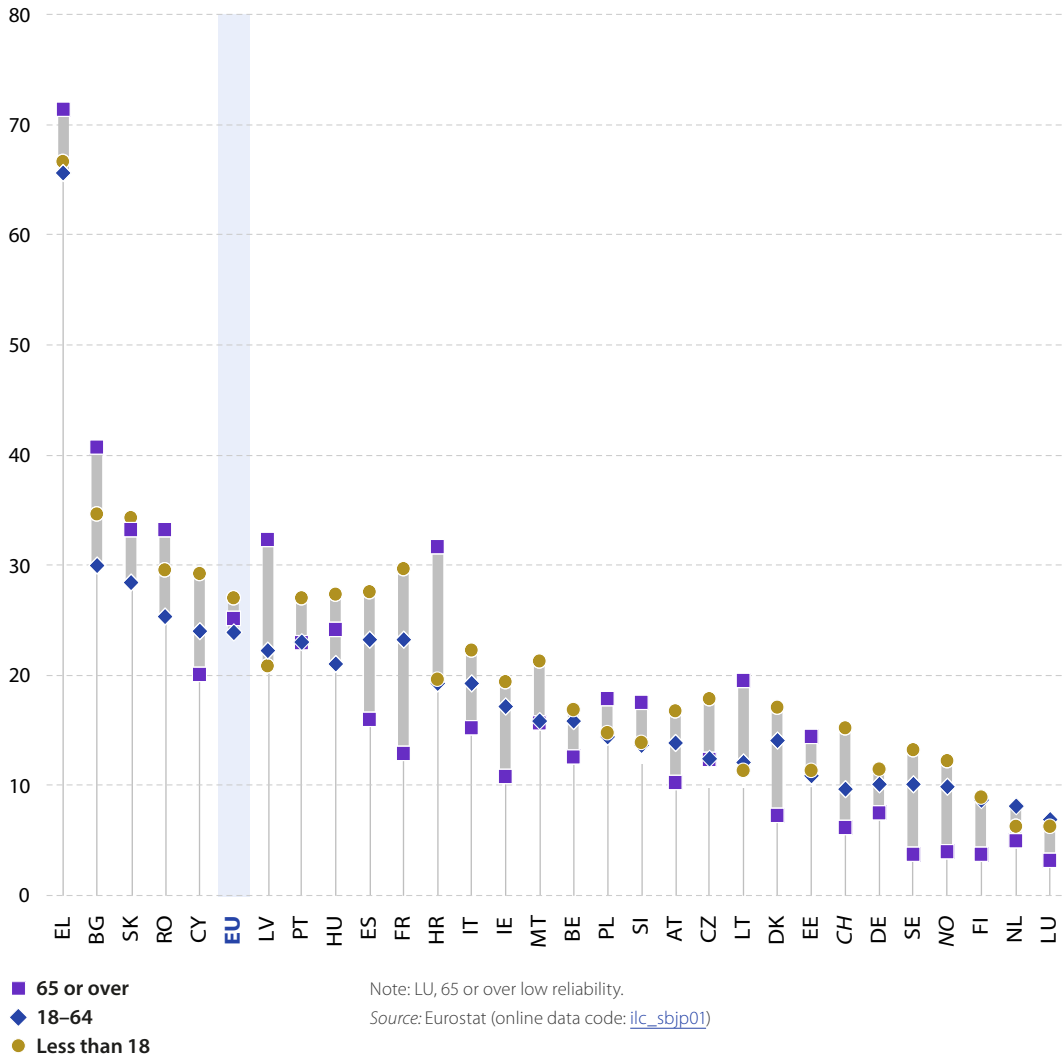
In the EU, 24.1% of people considered themselves to be subjectively poor in 2023. This share was slightly higher among women (24.7%) than men (23.5%).

Subjective poverty was highest among children (26.9%; people aged less than 18), somewhat lower for older people (25.0%; people aged 65 or over) and lowest among adults of working age (23.8%; people aged 18 to 64).

People aged 18 or over with a low education level (28.8%) were approximately 3 times as likely to feel poor as those with a high level of education (9.4%). When disaggregated by the activity status in the labour market, unemployed people (44.7%) were, by far, the most likely to be subjectively poor. Employed people (14.9%) were least likely to be subjectively poor, with a somewhat higher share for retired people (15.8%) and a notably higher share for other inactive (27.1%).

People considering themselves to be poor, by age

(% share of population in respective age group, 2023)



In most EU countries, the share of the population considering themselves to be subjectively poor ranged in 2023 from 6.2% in Luxembourg, 7.1% in the Netherlands and 7.5% in Finland to 33.2% in Bulgaria. Greece (67.0%) was above this range.

In most EU countries, the share of subjectively poor people in 2023 was highest among children. Nevertheless, in the Baltic countries, most eastern EU countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia) and Greece the share was highest among older people, while in Luxembourg and the Netherlands the share was highest among working-age adults.

More information:
[subjective poverty.](#)

2

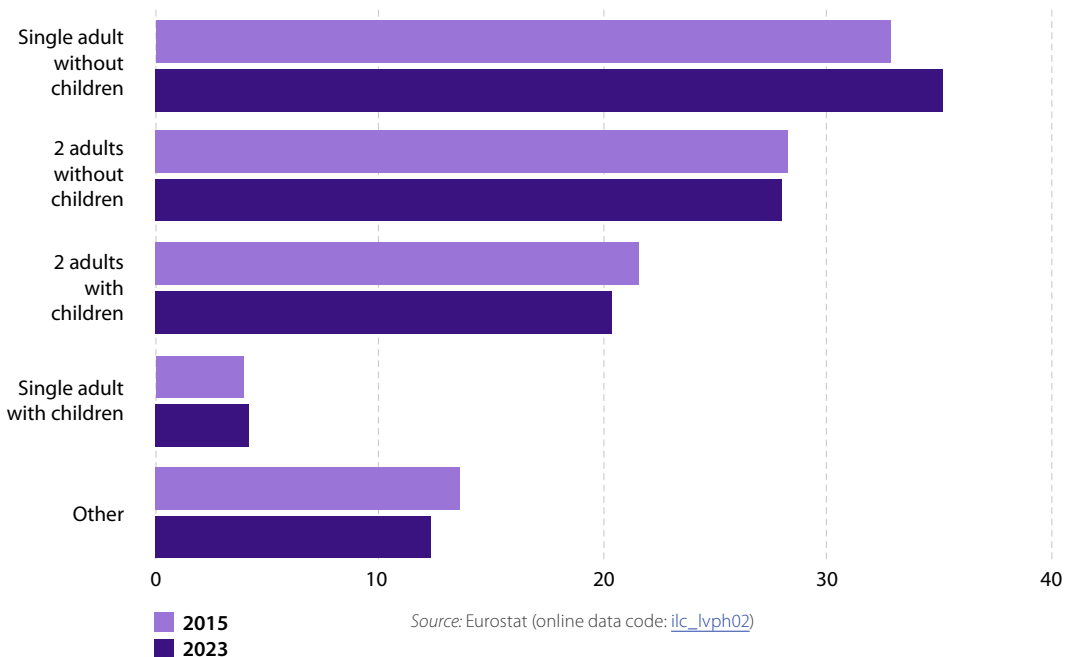
Households, work intensity and childcare



Household conditions

Distribution of people by household composition

(% share of total population, EU, 2015 and 2023)



A private household might include either a person living alone or a group of people, not necessarily related, living at the same address.

Whether a young person within a household is considered a child or not may be based solely on their age or also on their economic dependence

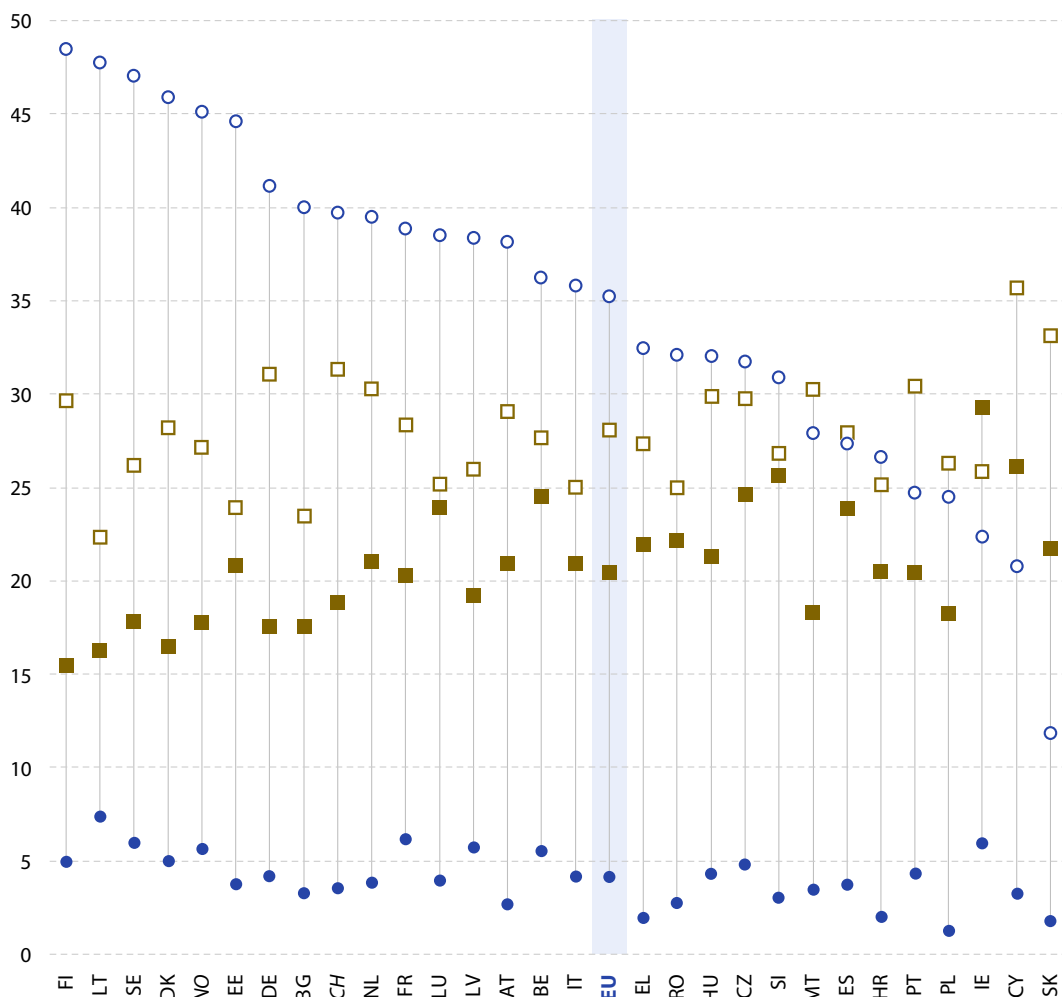
In 2023, there were 200 million private households in the EU, with an average of 2.3 members per household. They were composed as

- 35.2% – a single adult without children
- 28.0% – 2 adults without children
- 20.4% – 2 adults with children
- 4.1% – single adult with children
- 12.3% – other kinds of households.

Between 2015 and 2023, the number of private households in the EU increased by 4.6%. Of these, the share of households composed of a single adult without children increased most compared with 2015, up 2.4 [percentage points](#). The shares for households with 2 adults decreased by 0.2 points for those without children and by 1.1 points for those with children. The largest fall was for other household types, down 1.3 points.

Distribution of people by household composition

(% share of total population, 2023)



- Single adult without children
- 2 adults without children
- 2 adults with children
- Single adult with children

Note: NO and CH, 2022. Ranked on the share for single adults without children.

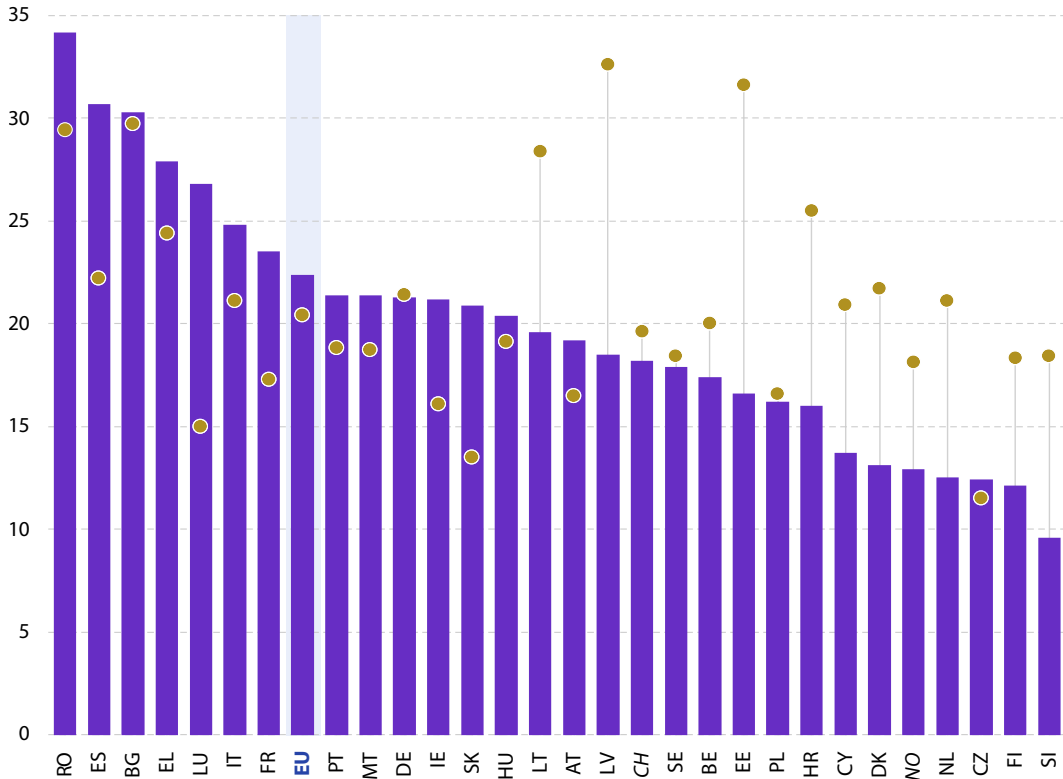
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_lvph02](#))

Among households with 1 or 2 adults, the most common household composition in 2023 was single adults with no children; this situation was observed in 20 EU countries. In Ireland, households with 2 adults with children were most common, while in Spain, Cyprus, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia the most common household type was 2 adults without children.

Finland recorded the highest share of households composed of a single adult without children (48.4%) and Lithuania recorded the highest share of households composed of a single adult with children (7.3%). The highest share of households with 2 adults without children was 35.7% in Cyprus, while for households composed of 2 adults with children it was 29.2% in Ireland.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by household composition

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



● Households without dependent children

■ Households with dependent children

Note: CH, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_peps03n](#))



More information:
[household composition and poverty and social exclusion in various household compositions.](#)

In 2023, the share of people at [risk of poverty or social exclusion](#) in the EU was 22.4% among people living in households with dependent children, compared with 20.4% among people living in households without [dependent children](#). While this gap for the EU is narrow, it reflects quite different situations among the EU countries.

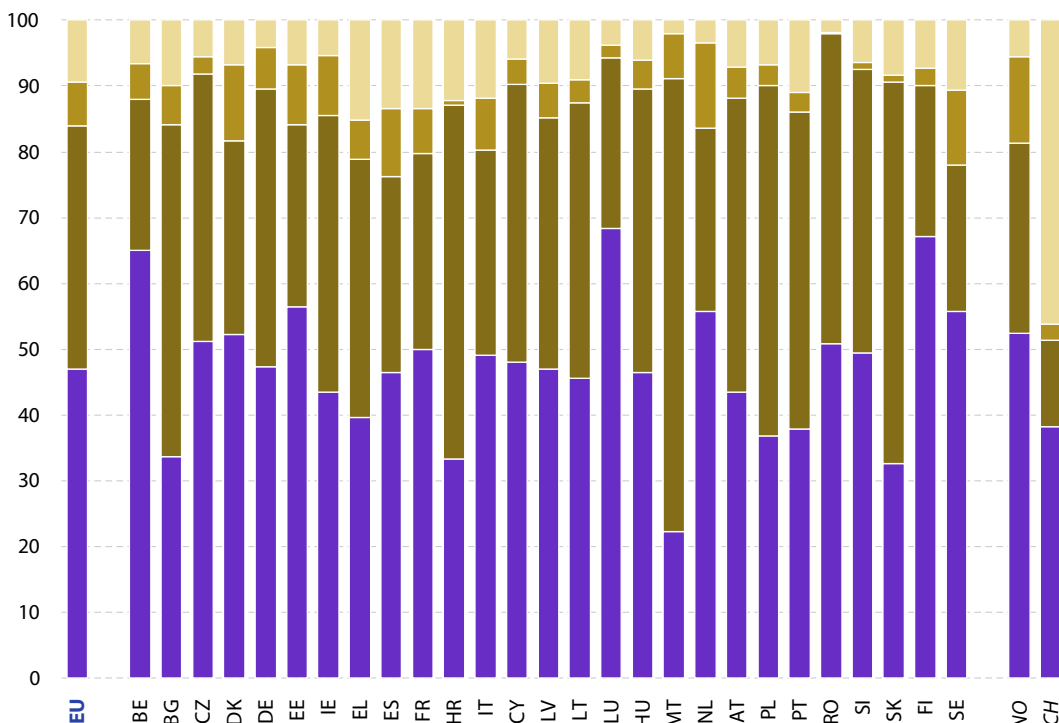
In 14 EU countries, the share was higher among people living in households with dependent children. This gap was widest in Luxembourg, where the share for households with dependent children was 11.8 percentage points higher.

In the remaining 13 EU countries, the share was lower among people living in households with dependent children. This gap was widest in Estonia and Latvia, where the share for households with dependent children was, respectively, 15.0 and 14.1 percentage points lower.

Work intensity

Young adults aged 18–34 living with at least 1 of their parents, by activity status

(% share, 2023)



- Unemployed
- Employed working part-time
- Employed working full-time
- Students and other people outside the labour force

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021. Ranked on protocol order.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_lvps08](#) and [ilc_lvps09](#))

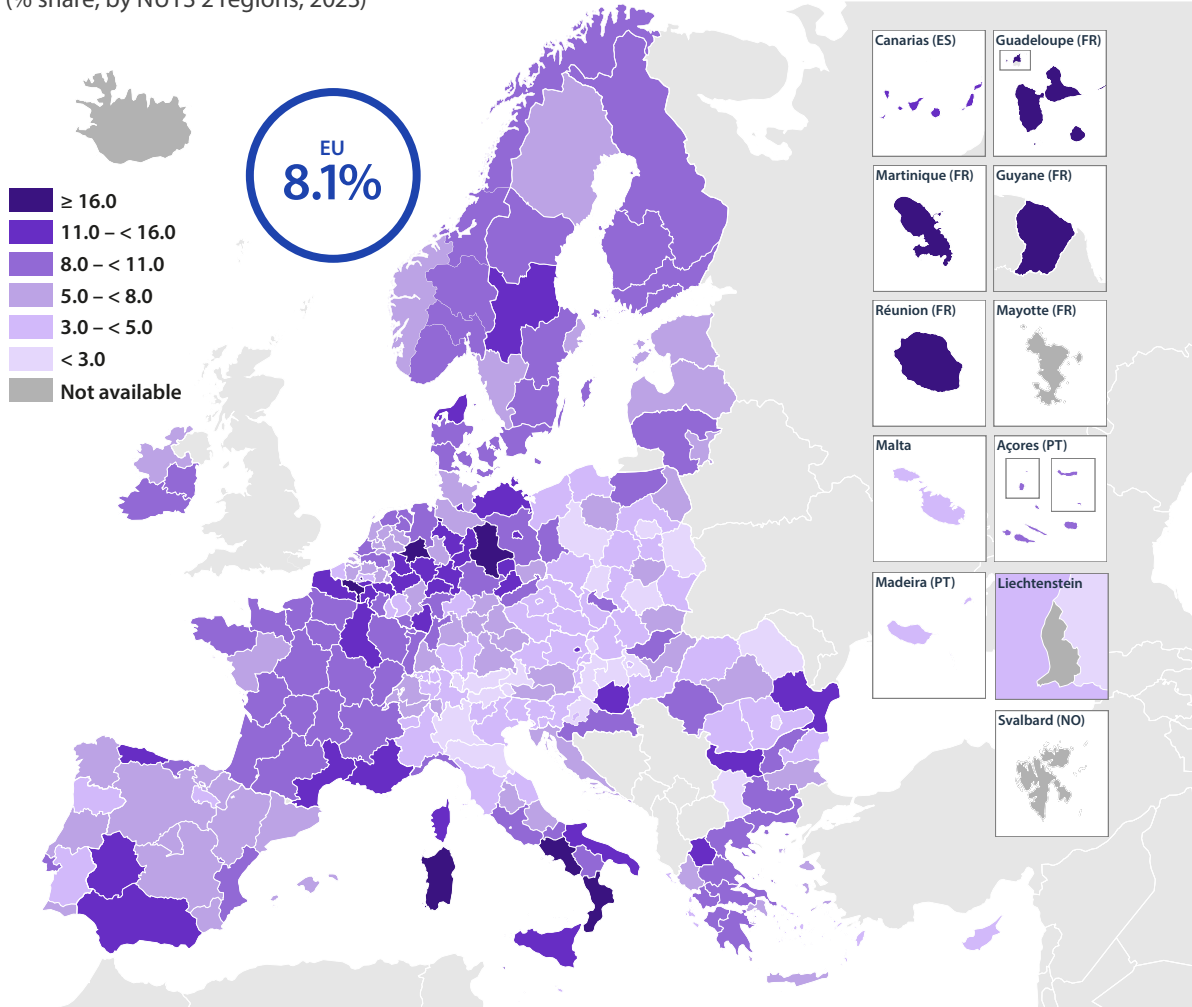
In 2023, nearly half (49.6%) of all young adults (aged 18 to 34) in the EU lived with at least 1 parent or benefitted from the household income. This share was below a quarter in the [Nordic EU countries](#) – the next lowest share being 31.1% in Germany. By contrast, the highest share among the EU countries was 76.9%, observed in Croatia.

Close to half (47.0%) of young adults in the EU who lived with at least 1 parent or benefitted from

the household income in 2023 were students or otherwise [outside the labour force](#). More than a third (37.0%) worked full-time, a much smaller share (6.6%) part-time and just under a tenth (9.4%) were unemployed. In Malta, Slovakia, Croatia, Poland and Bulgaria, more than half of all young adults living with at least 1 parent or benefitting from the household income were employed full-time.

People aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity

(% share, by NUTS 2 regions, 2023)



Note: Länsi-Suomi (FI19) and Åland (FI20) are aggregated (same value for both regions). FR and CH: 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_lvh21n](#))

In the EU, 8.1% of people aged less than 65 [lived in households with very low work intensity](#) in 2023. The regional distribution of the share of people who lived in households with very low work intensity was almost evenly distributed around the EU average. Nearly half (46%) of all regions in the EU (111 of 240) recorded shares above the EU average.

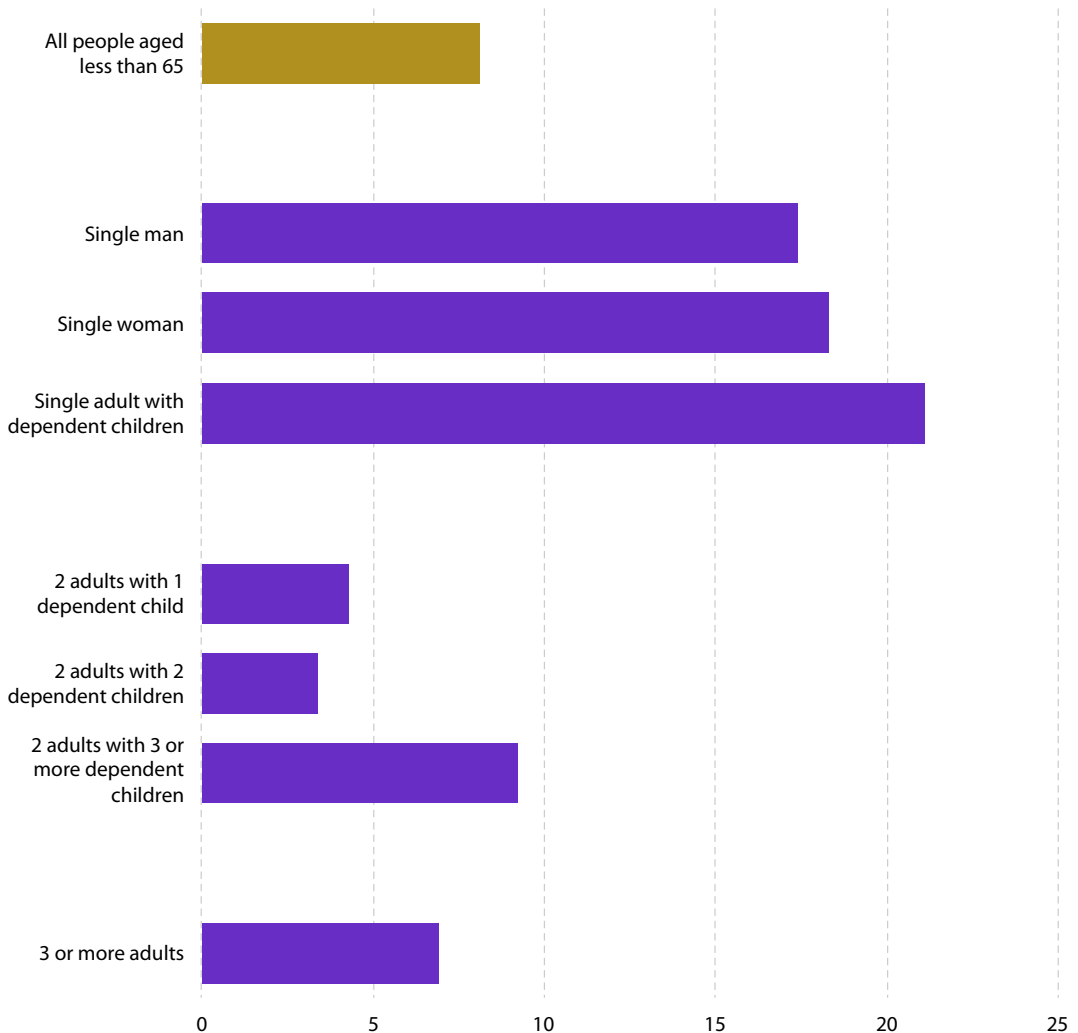
There were 14 regions across the EU where the share of people who lived in households with very low work intensity in 2023 was at least 16.0%. This group was composed of 2 regions located in Belgium, the

2 Spanish regions of Ciudades de Ceuta y Melilla, 3 German regions, the 4 French outermost regions for which data are available and 3 southern Italian regions. Guyane in France had the highest share (28.1%; 2022 data).

Fewer than 3.0% of people lived in households with very low work intensity in 2023 in 19 regions, mainly in eastern EU countries. This group also included 3 regions in northern Italy and 3 regions in western Austria.

People aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity, by household composition

(% share, EU, 2023)



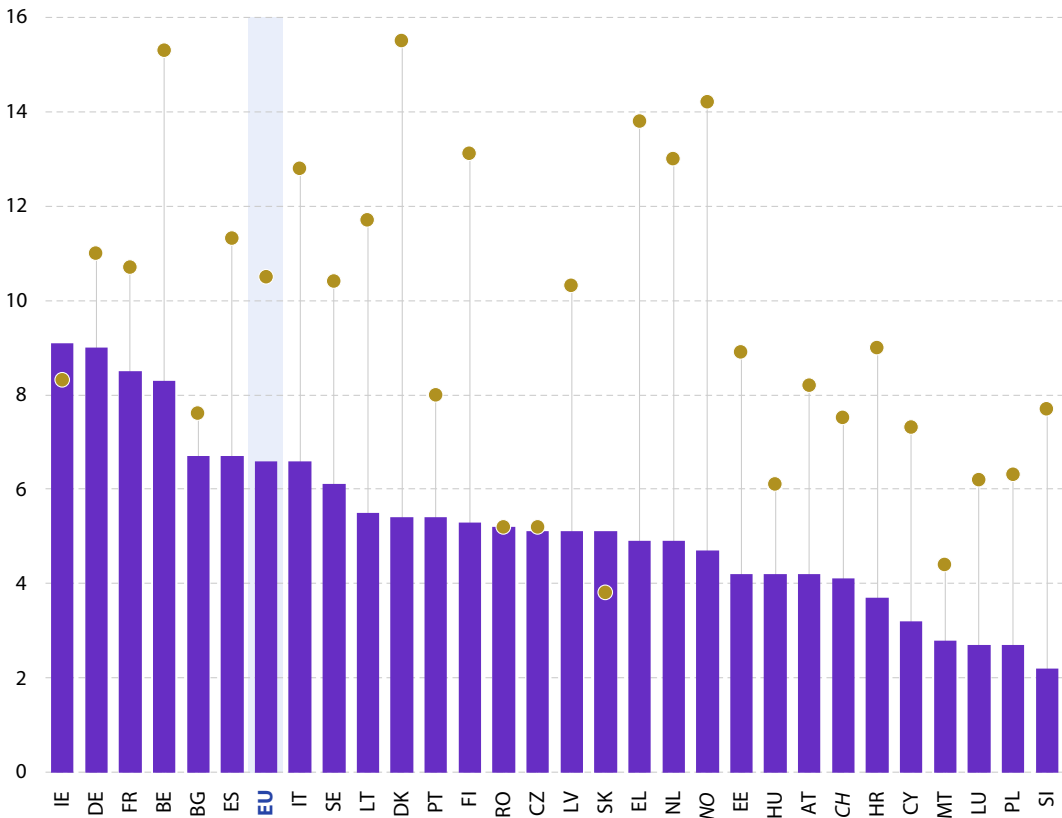
Source: Eurostat
(online data code: [ilc_lvhl13n](#))



While about 1 in 12 people (8.1%) aged less than 65 lived in households with very low work intensity in the EU in 2023, all types of single-adult households had above-average shares: 17.4% for people in households composed of a single male without children, 18.3% for their female counterparts and 21.1% for people in single-adult households with dependent children. The share of people living in a household with very low work intensity was also slightly higher than the average among people living in households composed of 2 adults with 3 or more dependent children (9.2%), while households composed of 2 adults with 1 or 2 dependent children had below average shares, 4.3% and 3.4%, respectively.

People aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity, by type of household

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



● Households without dependent children

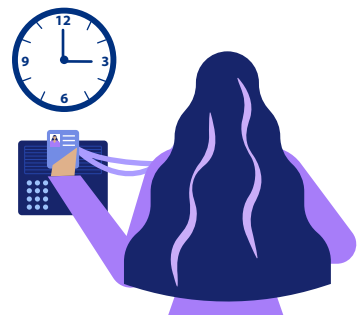
■ Households with dependent children

Note: CH, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_lvhl13n](#))

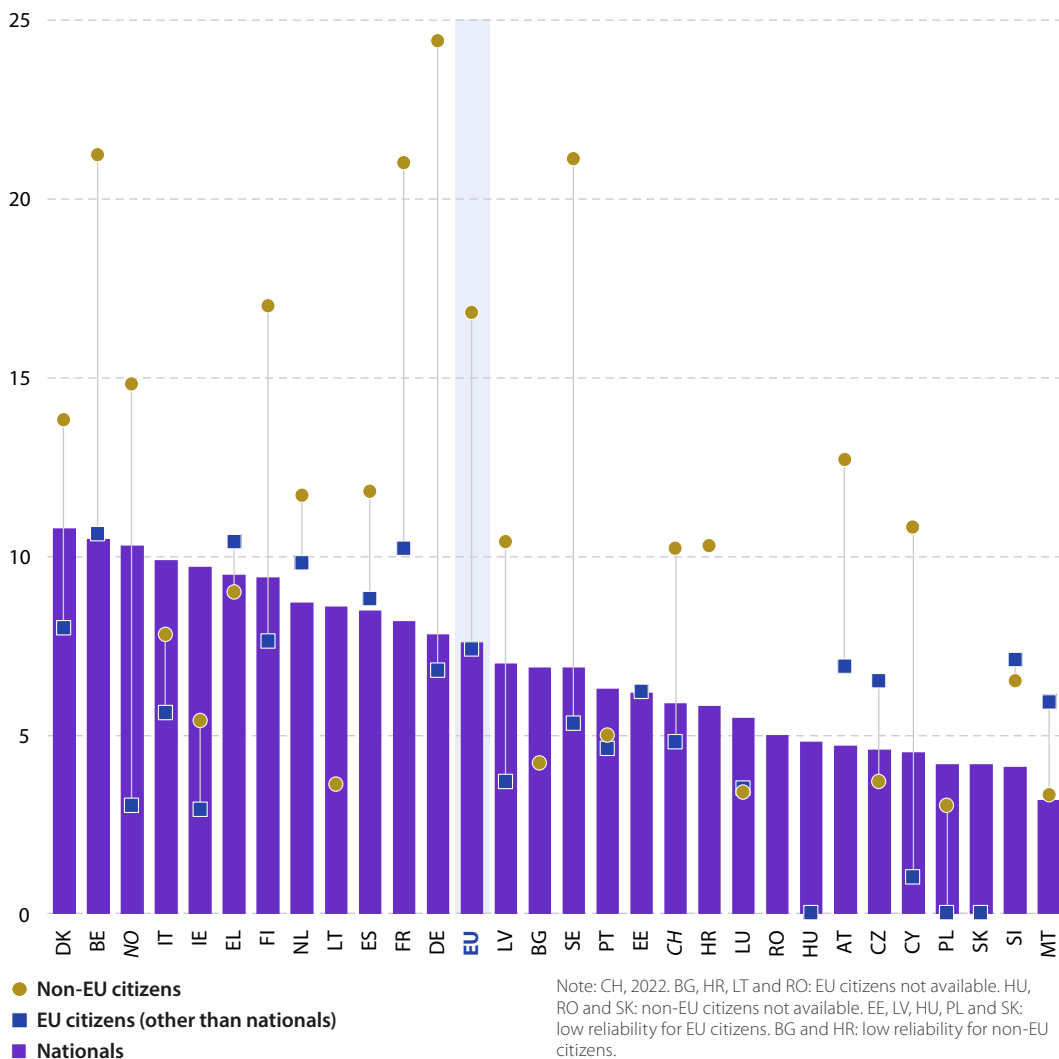
In the EU, the share of people aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity was highest in 2023 for households without dependent children (10.5%). For comparison, the share for households with dependent children was 6.6%. The largest difference between these 2 shares was recorded in Denmark, where this share was 10.1 percentage points higher for households without dependent children. It should be noted that many households without dependent children were single-adult households.

In Ireland and Slovakia, the share of people aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity was higher for households with dependent children than for those without dependent children. These were the only EU countries where this was observed in 2023, although Romania had the same shares in both cases.



People aged 18–64 living in households with very low work intensity, by citizenship

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)

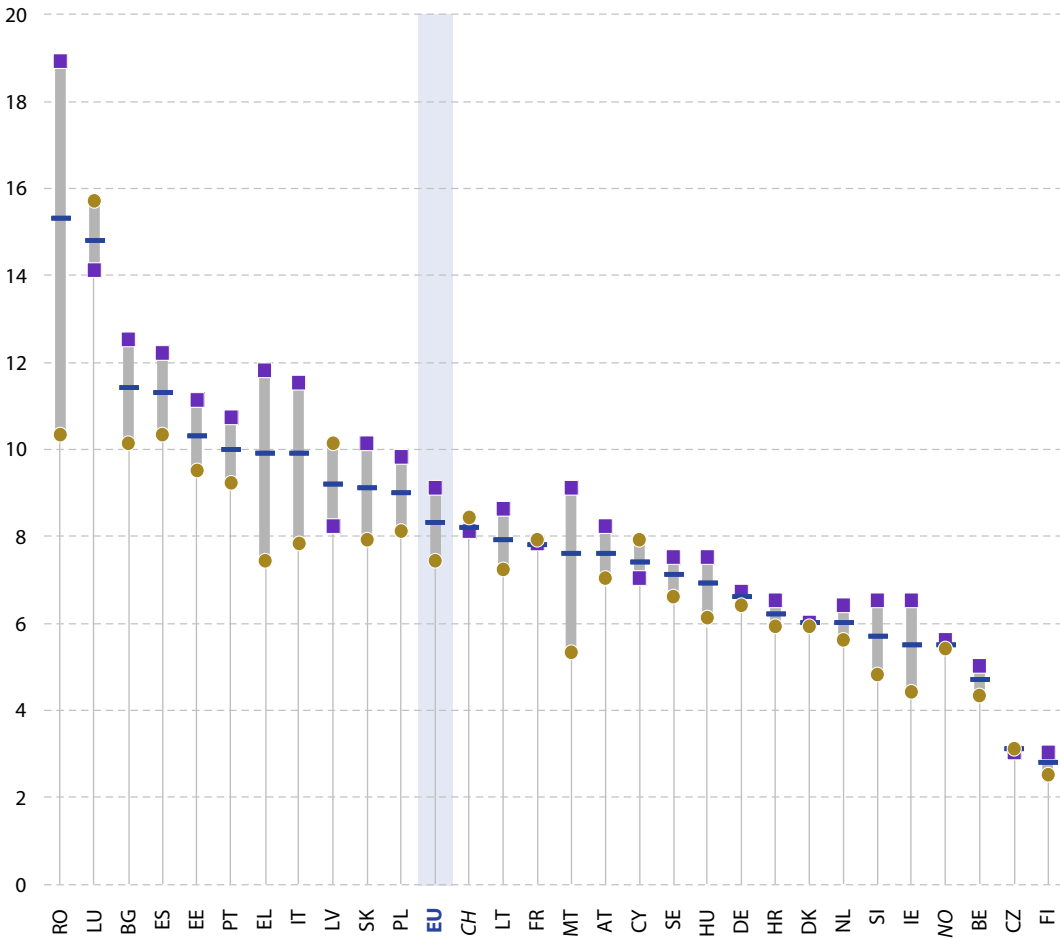


In the EU, 7.6% of people aged 18 to 64 who were nationals of the EU country where they lived were in households with very low work intensity. Among their counterparts who were EU citizens living in another EU country, the share was slightly lower, at 7.4%. However, among non-EU citizens aged 18 to 64 the share living in households with very low work intensity was considerably higher, at 16.8%.

For a small majority of the EU countries, the share of people aged 18 to 64 living in households with very low work intensity was highest among non-EU citizens. In 5 EU countries – Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland and Portugal – it was highest among nationals, while in Czechia, Greece, Malta and Slovenia it was highest among EU citizens living in another EU country. In Estonia, this share was the same for all 3 categories of citizenship.

In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate for people aged 18 or over, by sex

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



- Men
- Both sexes
- Women

Note: CH, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_iw01](#))

Risk of poverty isn't limited to people with low work intensity or people without employment. In 2023, 8.3% of employed people aged 18 or over in the EU were [at risk of poverty](#). This share was notably lower for women (7.4%) than for men (9.1%).

Among the EU countries, the highest rates of people who were in-work and at risk of poverty in 2023 were 15.3% in Romania and 14.8% in Luxembourg. By contrast, the lowest rate was 2.8%, observed in Finland. In 22 EU countries, the in-work at-risk-of-poverty rate

was higher for men than for women, with the largest gender difference in Romania (8.6 percentage points). In some other EU countries, the rates were marginally (Czechia and France) or notably (Cyprus, Luxembourg and Latvia) higher for women than for men.

More information: [work intensity](#).

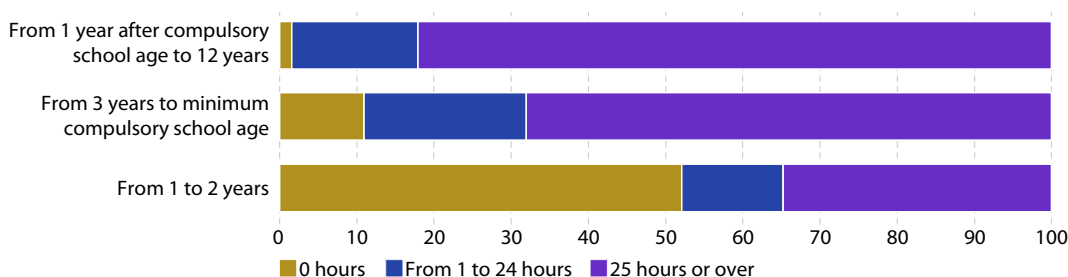
Childcare arrangements



Formal childcare is intended as a formal education programme that is institutionalised, intentional and planned through public organisations and recognised private bodies.

Children in formal childcare or education, by age and duration

(% share, EU, 2023)



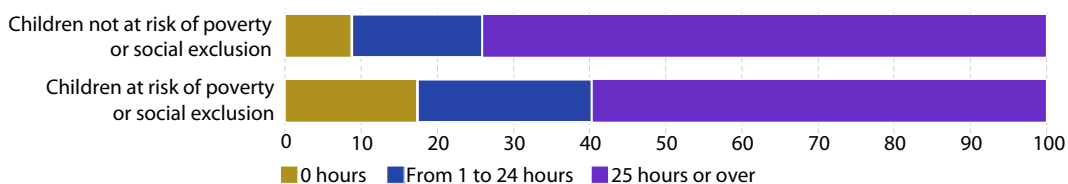
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_caindform25](#))

In 2023, the share of children in formal childcare or education in the EU increased with age. It was less than half (47.9%) for those aged 1 to 2 years and 89.1% for those aged from 3 years to the minimum [compulsory school age](#). Participation was almost complete (98.4%) for children aged from 1 year after compulsory school age to 12 years.

While just fewer than half of children aged less than 3 years in the EU received little or no childcare in 2023, of those that had some such care, most received at least 25 hours. The situation was similar for the older age groups: the share of children receiving at least 25 hours of formal childcare or education greatly exceeded the share receiving (some but) fewer than 25 hours of such care or education.

Children in formal childcare or education, by duration and risk of poverty or social exclusion status

(% share of children aged from 3 years to minimum compulsory school age, EU, 2022)



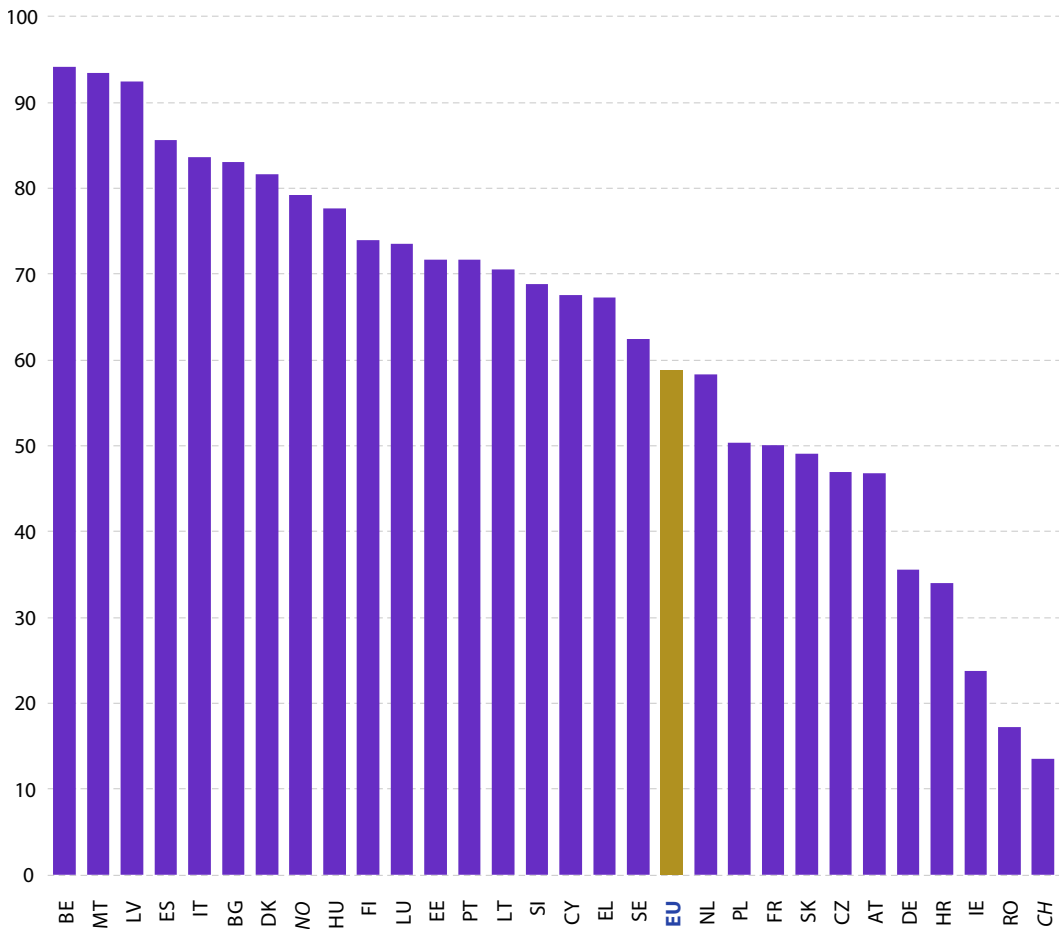
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_caindform25](#))

In the EU in 2022, the amount of time that children aged from 3 years to the minimum compulsory school age spent in formal childcare or education varied depending on their situation concerning risk of poverty or social exclusion. Around 1 in 6 (17%) children in this age group who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion spent no

time in formal childcare or education, compared with around 1 in 10 (9%) children of the same age who weren't at risk. Equally, children in this age group who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion were less likely to spend 25 or more hours in formal childcare or education than were children of the same age who weren't at risk.

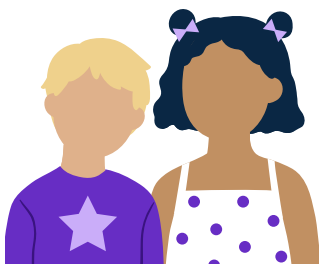
Children receiving 25 hours or more of formal childcare or education per week and at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(% of children aged from 3 years to minimum compulsory school age, 2023)



Note: CY, HU, MT, NO and CH: low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_caindform25b](#))



Focusing on children in the EU aged from 3 years to the minimum compulsory school age who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 58.7% spent 25 hours or more in formal childcare or education in 2023. Among the EU countries, the highest shares were in Belgium (94.2%), Malta (93.5%) and Latvia (92.5%). Seven EU countries recorded shares below half, with the lowest share in Romania (17.2%).

More information: [childcare arrangements.](#)

3

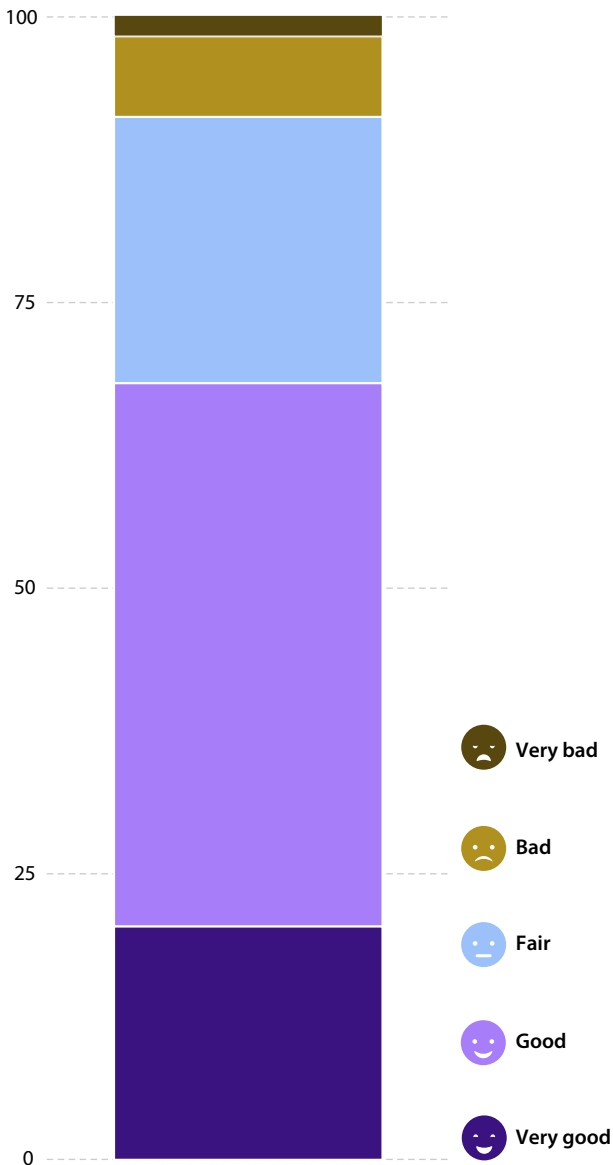
Health, disability and life satisfaction



Health

Structure of self-perceived health of people aged 16 or over

(% share of population in respective category, EU, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_silc_10](#))



Indicators on self-perceived health give an insight into how respondents assess their health in general. Health is evaluated in 5 modalities from very bad (lowest), through bad, fair and good to very good (highest).

In the EU, 67.9% of the population aged 16 or over perceived their health as very good or good in 2023. By contrast, 8.8% perceived their health as very bad or bad. The remaining 23.3% described their health as fair.

More information:


[self-perceived health and unmet needs for medical examination.](#)

 Very bad

 Bad

 Fair

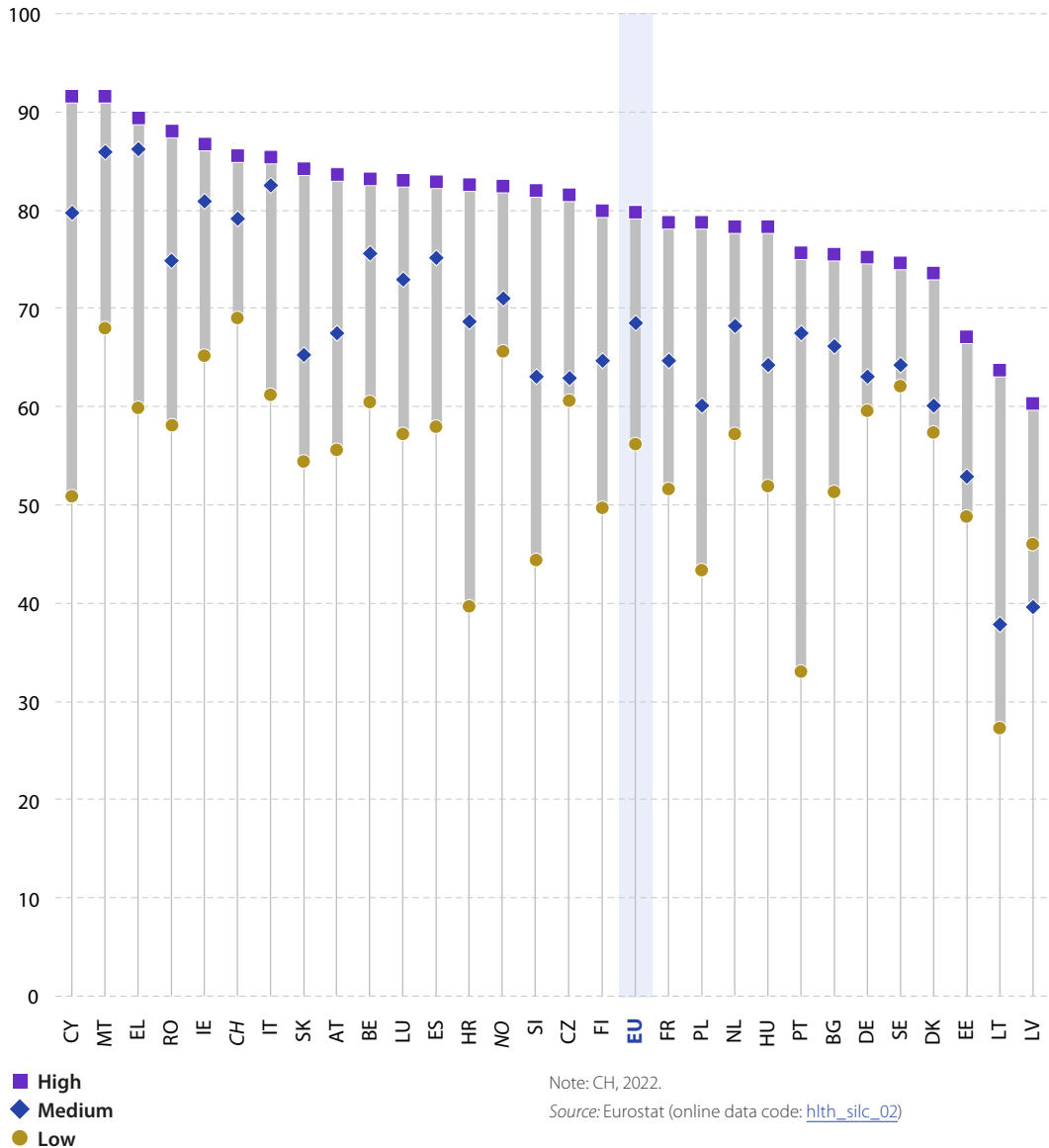
 Good

 Very good



People aged 16 or over with very good or good self-perceived health, by educational attainment

(% share of population in respective educational level, 2023)

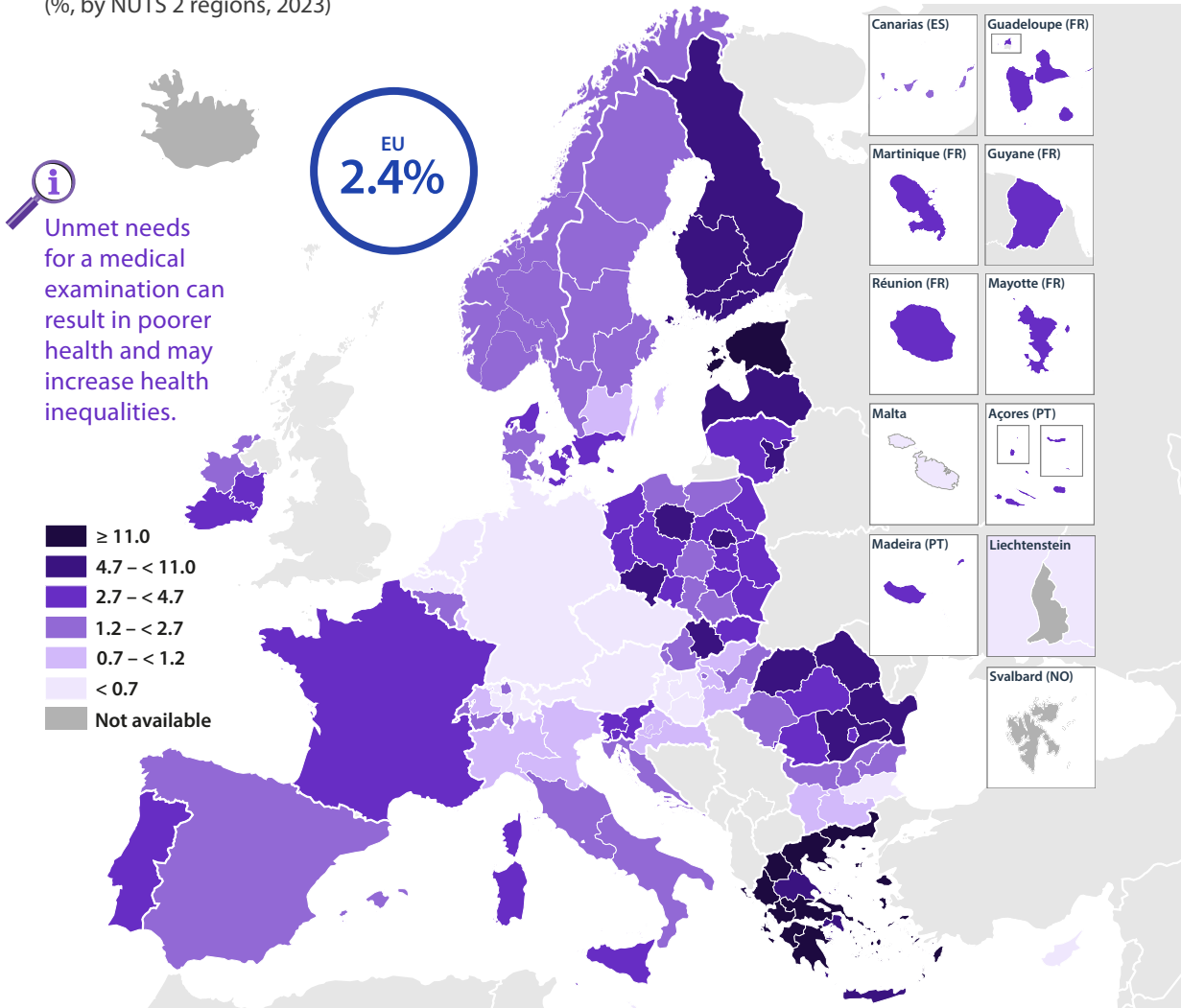


In 2023, more than half (56.1%) of people aged 16 or over in the EU with a low level of [educational attainment](#) (no more than lower secondary education) perceived their health to be very good or good. The share was 68.4% for people with a medium level of education and 79.6% for people with a high level of educational attainment (having completed at least 1 level of tertiary education).

Nearly all EU countries showed the same pattern – the lowest share for people with a low level of educational attainment and the highest share for people with a high level of educational attainment. The only exception was Latvia, where the lowest share was observed for people with a medium level of educational attainment.

People aged 16 or over reporting unmet needs for medical examination

(%, by NUTS 2 regions, 2023)



Note: CZ, DE, ES, FR, NL, AT and PT: national data. BE and IT: NUTS level 1. Länsi-Suomi (FI19) and Åland (FI20) are aggregated (same value for both regions). CH: 2022.

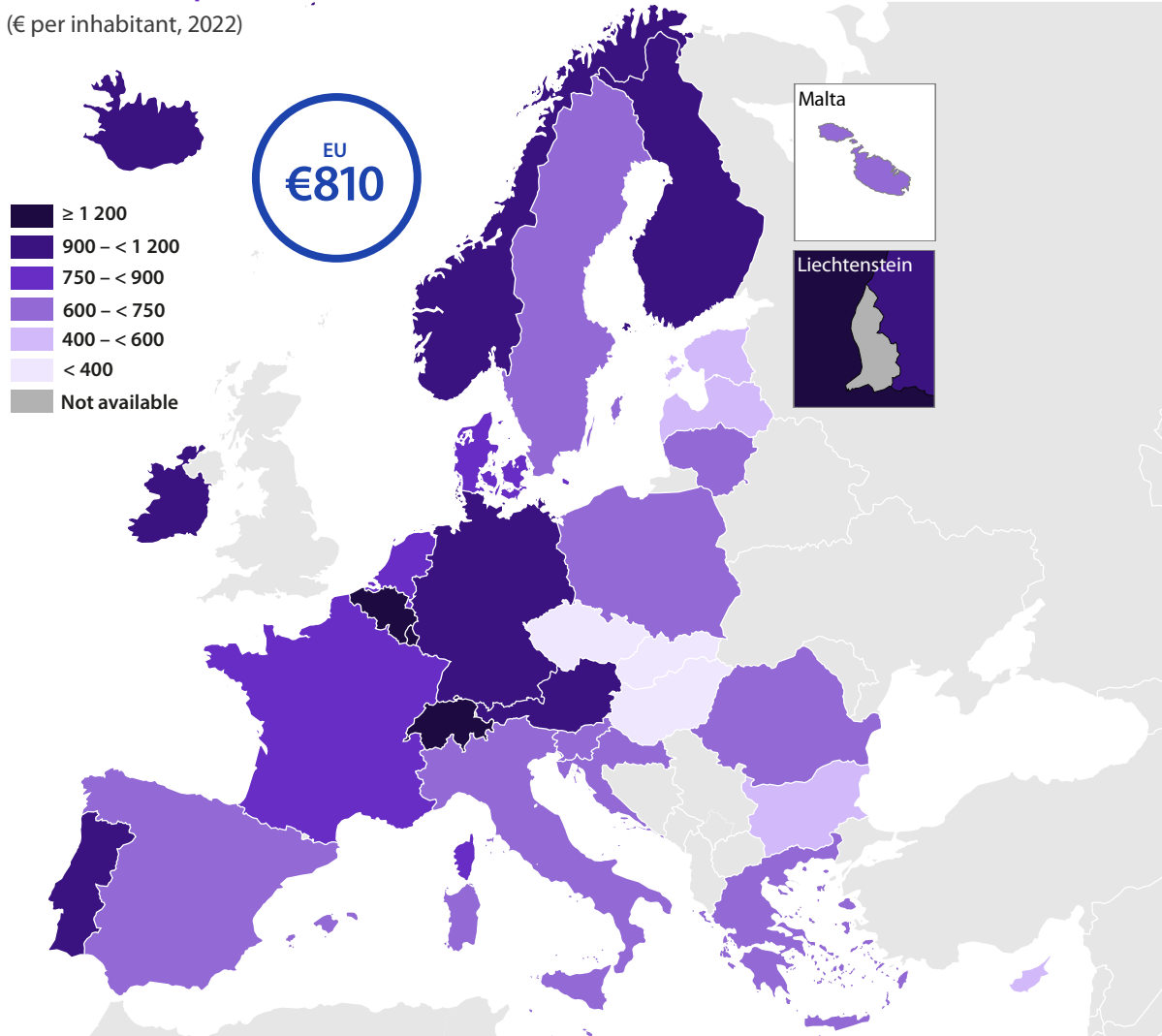
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [hlth_silc_08_r](#) and [hlth_silc_08](#))

In 2023, the share of people aged 16 or over in the EU with unmet needs for medical examination – due to it being too expensive, too far to travel, and/or because of waiting lists – was 2.4%. In detail, the reasons varied from waiting lists (1.2%), through being too expensive (1.0%) to being too far to travel (0.1%); note that the shares are rounded and so don't sum to the total.

Among the EU regions, the 5 highest overall shares of unmet needs for a medical examination in 2023 were all recorded in Greece: their shares ranged from 13.1% to 15.6% in Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki; Ionia Nisia; Voreio Aigaio; Dytiki Makedonia; and Peloponnisos. Furthermore, all 13 Greek regions were among the 15 EU regions with the highest shares. The lowest overall shares were recorded in Malta and Cyprus, both 0.1%.

Household expenditure on health

(€ per inhabitant, 2022)



Note: CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [nama_10_co3_p3](#))



Expenditure for health includes expenditure for medical products (including medicine), appliances and equipment, as well as for outpatient and hospital services.

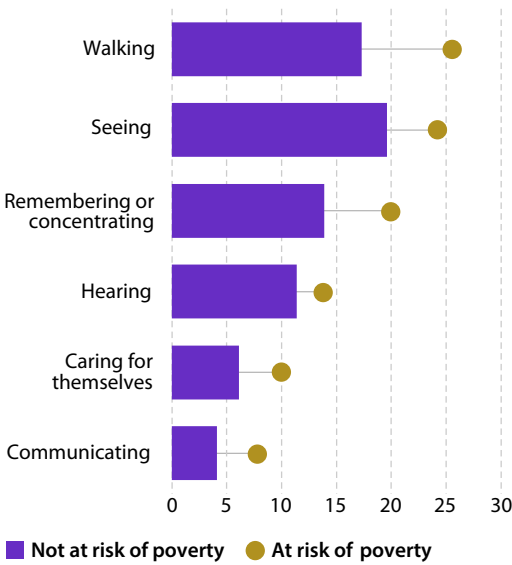
The average household expenditure on health in the EU was €810 per inhabitant in 2022. This value varied greatly between EU countries, from less than €400 per inhabitant in Slovakia, Hungary and Czechia to €1 500 per inhabitant or more in Luxembourg and Belgium.

These variations reflect, at least in part, the different types of healthcare delivery across EU countries as well as price level differences.

More information: [household consumption by purpose.](#)

People reporting moderate or severe basic activity difficulties, by poverty situation and type of basic action

(% share of population in the respective category, EU, 2022)



In the EU, a higher share of people at risk of poverty reported moderate or severe difficulties in carrying out basic activities than did people who weren't at risk of poverty. This situation was observed in 2022 for each of the 6 basic activities surveyed.

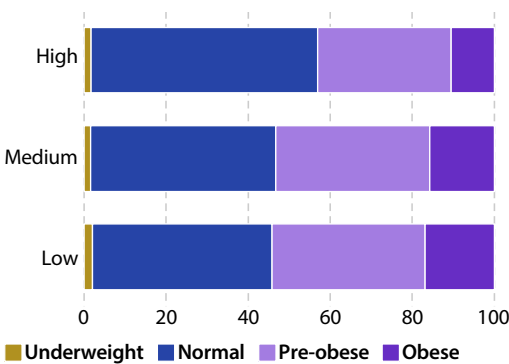
In the EU, around a quarter (24.9%) of people at risk of poverty reported moderate or severe difficulties with walking in 2022, whereas the share was 17.3% for people not at risk of poverty, a gap of 7.6 percentage points. The gaps were smaller for the shares of people having difficulty with remembering or concentrating (6.0 points), seeing (4.6 points), caring for themselves (3.7 points), communicating (3.4 points) and hearing (2.3 points).

Note: the statistical variables underlying this and other health problems covered by this indicator were developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_hch19](#))

Distribution of people by body mass index and educational attainment

(% share of people aged 16 or over, EU, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_hch10](#))

Just over half (50.6%) of people aged 16 or over in the EU were overweight in 2022. Most overweight people were pre-obese (36.0% of the total), while the remainder (14.6%) were obese. The share of people who were overweight was notably lower among people with a high level of educational attainment: 43.1% for people with a high level of educational attainment and 53.3% and 54.1%, respectively, for people with medium or low levels of attainment.

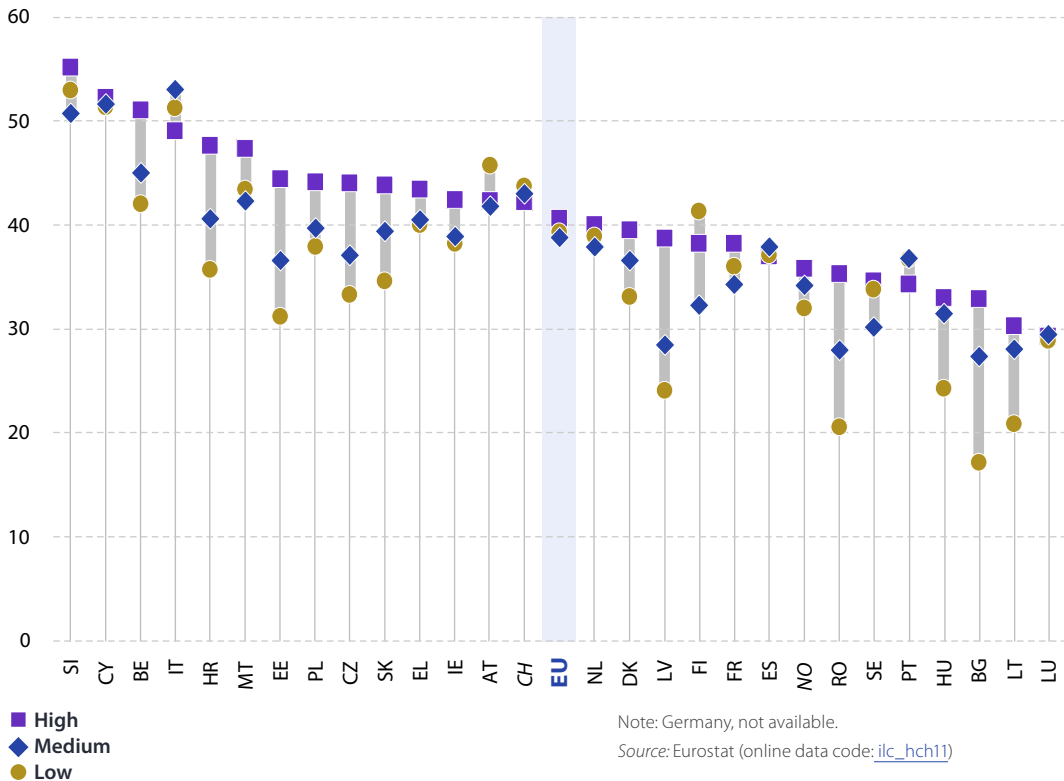


The body mass index (BMI) is a measure of a person's weight relative to their height that links fairly well with body fat. The BMI is accepted as the most useful measure of obesity for adults when only weight and height data are available. It's calculated as a person's weight (in kilograms) divided by the square of their height (in metres). $BMI = \text{weight (kg)} / \text{height (m}^2\text{)}$. The following subdivision is commonly used to classify results for the BMI.

- <18.5: underweight
- 18.5<25.0: normal weight/height ratio
- ≥25.0: overweight, comprising
 - 25.0<30.0: pre-obese
 - ≥30.0: obese

People aged 16 or over eating fruit at least once a day, by educational attainment

(% share of population in respective educational level, 2022)

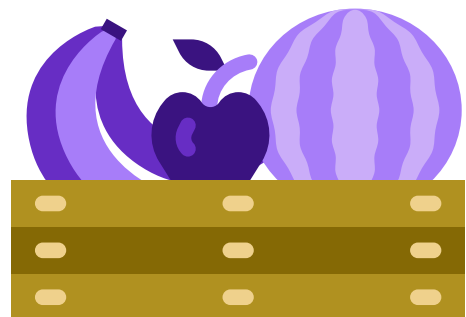


In the EU in 2022, 2 in 5 (39.4%) people reported consuming fruit at least once a day during a typical week. This share ranged from 26.6% in Bulgaria to 52.6% in Slovenia.

In the EU, the share of people consuming fruit daily didn't differ notably when disaggregated by educational attainment: the shares ranged in 2022 from 38.8% among people with a medium level of educational attainment, through 39.3% for people with a low level to 40.6% for people with a high level. Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia and Czechia reported the widest ranges in this share when disaggregated by educational attainment; in all of these EU countries, the highest shares were for people with a high level of educational attainment and the lowest shares for people with the lowest level of attainment.

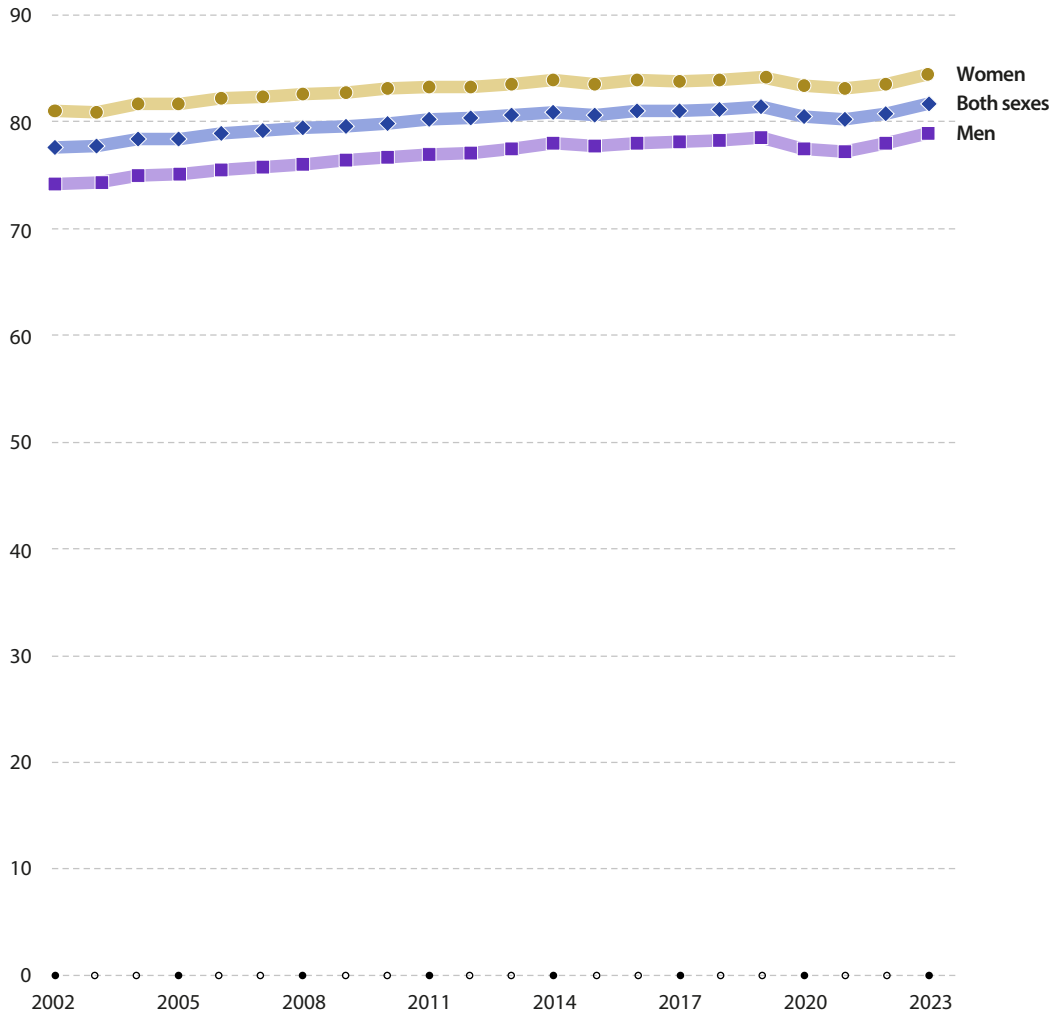


The frequency of consumption of fruit concerns fresh, frozen, canned or dried fruits. It includes fruit cut into small pieces or mashed/puréed, but not fruit juices.



Life expectancy at birth, by sex

(years, EU, 2002–2023)



Note: 2010–12, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019–22, break in series.

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

EU 2023

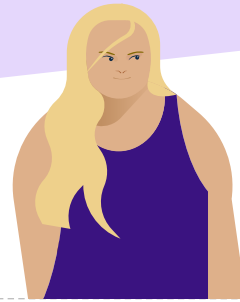
Women
84.2
years

Men
78.9
years

Life expectancy at birth in the EU was 81.5 years in 2023. For women, it was 84.2 years, while for men it was 78.9 years. Life expectancy at birth in the EU increased between 2002 and 2019 by 3.7 years. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, life expectancy at birth in the EU decreased to 80.4 years in 2020 and to 80.1 years in 2021, followed by an increase to 80.6 years in 2022.

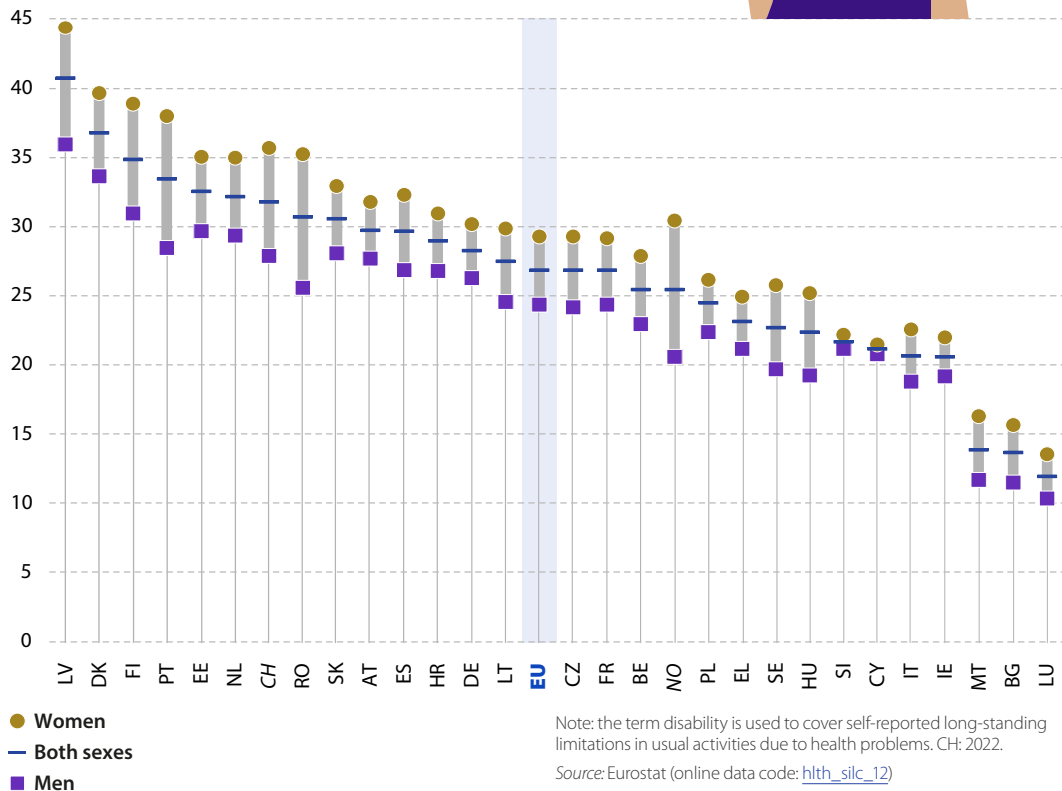
More information: [life expectancy.](#)

Disability



People aged 16 or over with disabilities, by sex

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



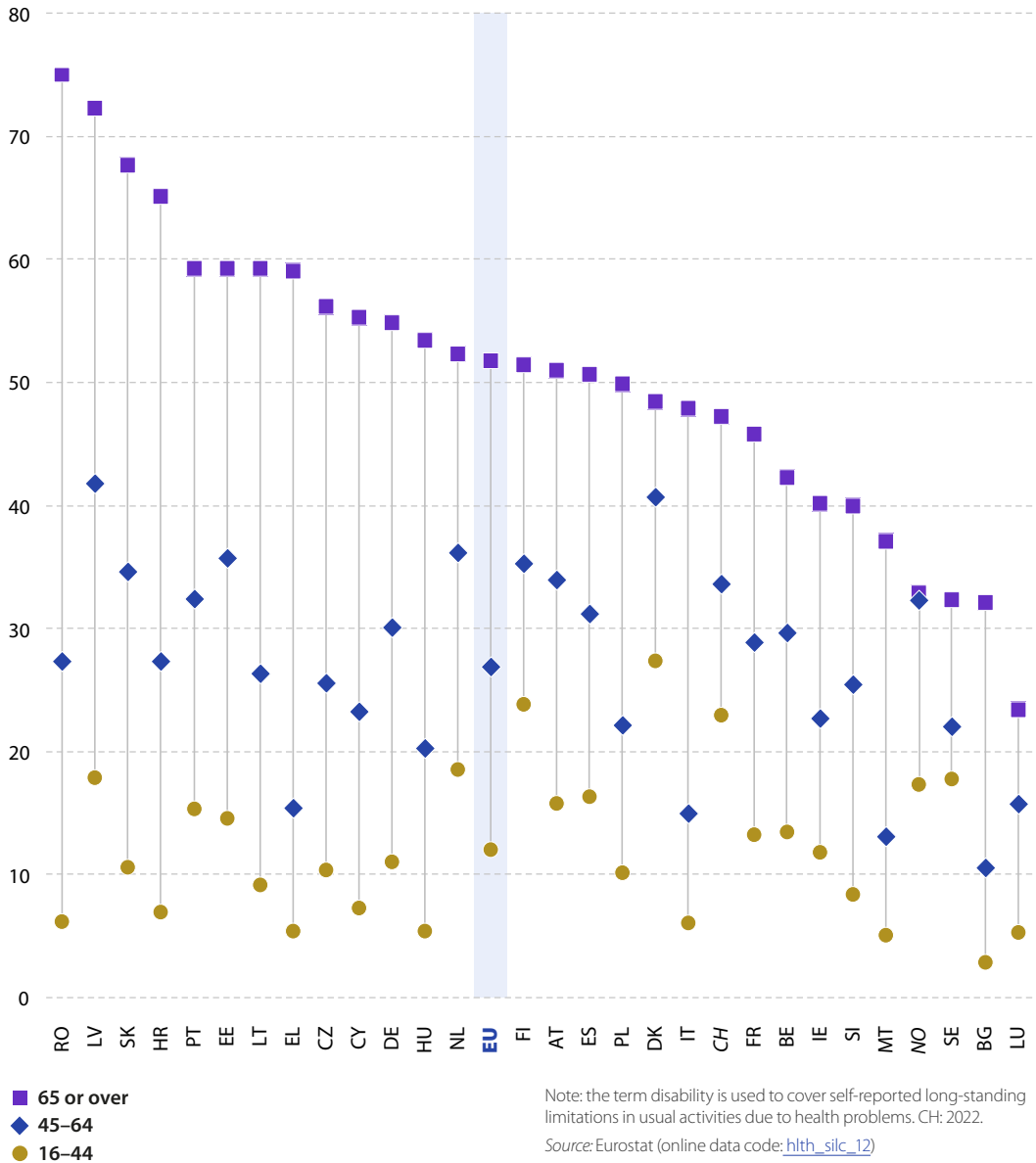
Data on activity limitations are a proxy to measure disability. Such data are collected to assess the limitations people have had due to health problems for at least 6 months in carrying out their usual activities. Usual activities include those at home, school or work, and include leisure activities. The extent of activity limitations is evaluated on a scale of 3 levels from no limitations, some limitation and severely limited.

In 2023, 26.8% of people aged 16 or over in the EU reported some or severe disability. This share was notably higher for women (29.2%) than for men (24.3%).

Latvia (40.7%) and Denmark (36.7%) had the highest shares of people reporting disability in 2023, while the lowest were in Malta (13.8%), Bulgaria (13.6%) and Luxembourg (11.9%). In all EU countries, the shares were higher for women than for men. The widest gender gaps were in Romania, Portugal, Latvia and Finland (7.9 to 9.7 percentage points), while the narrowest was in Cyprus (0.7 points).

People aged 16 or over with disabilities, by age

(% share of population in respective age group, 2023)

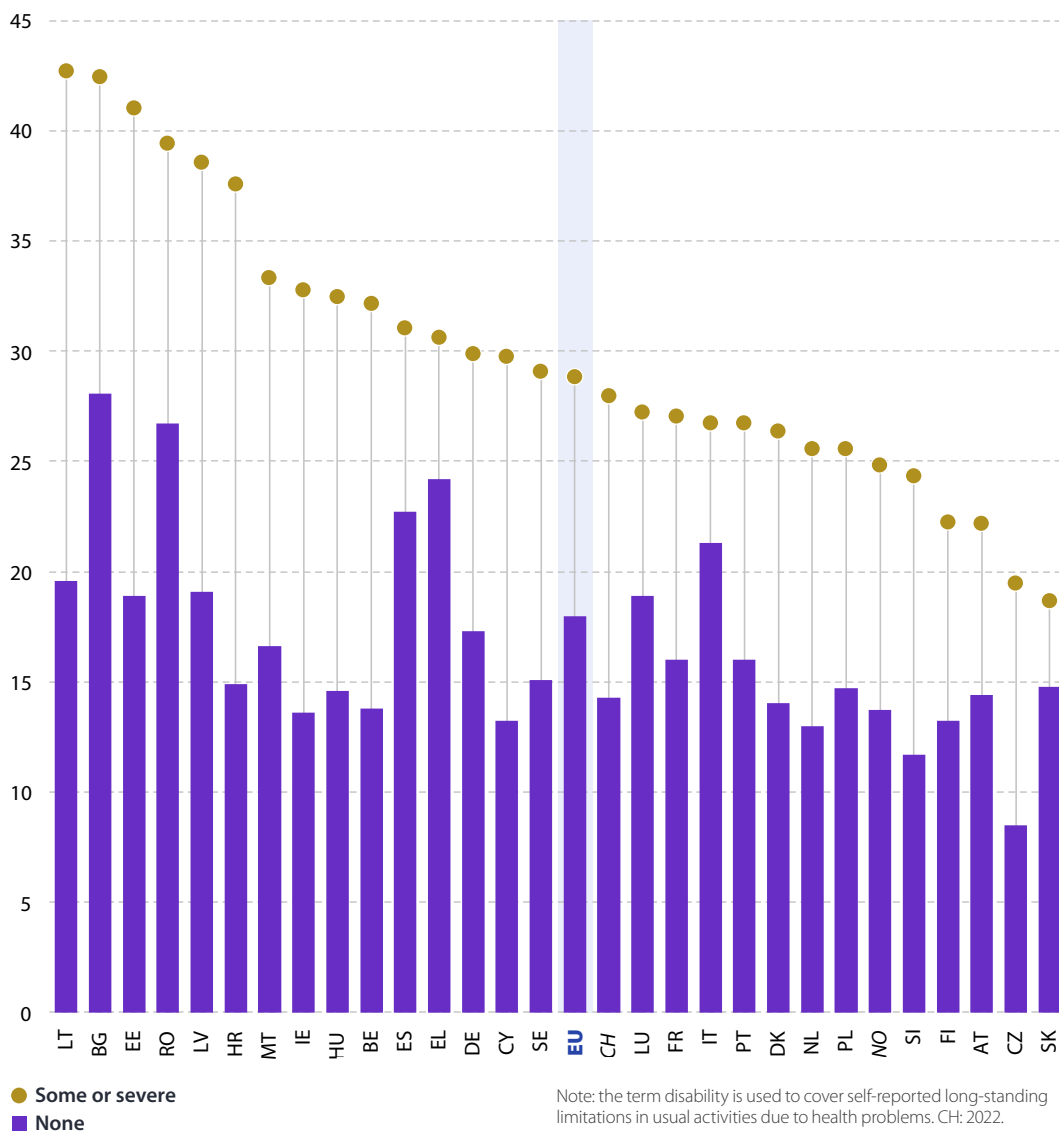


In the EU, older age groups reported higher shares of people reporting disabilities. In 2023, this share was 11.9% among people aged 16 to 44, 26.8% among people aged 45 to 64 and 51.7% among people aged 65 or over.

A similar pattern between age and disability was observed in 2023 in each of the EU countries. In percentage point terms, Romania observed the widest gap between the shares for the youngest and oldest age groups (68.7 points). The narrowest gaps were in Sweden (14.6 points), Luxembourg (18.1 points) and Denmark (21.1 points).

People aged 16 or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by level of disability

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)

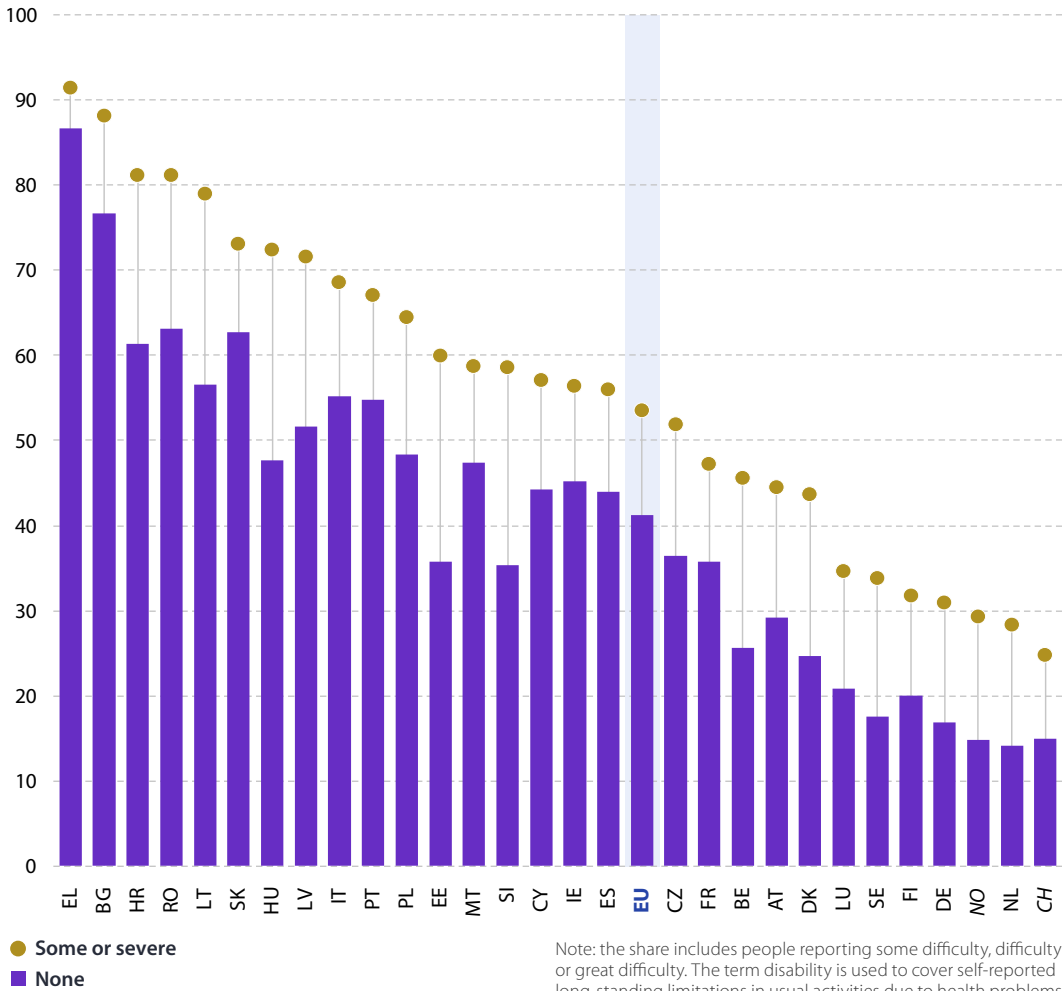


The level of disability can be combined with various indicators of people's income, social and employment situations. In 2023, the share of people [at risk of poverty or social exclusion](#) in the EU was 28.8% among people aged 16 or over with a disability, compared with 18.0% among people without a disability.

In all EU countries, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2023 was higher among people with a disability than among those with no disability. In relative terms, the difference between the 2 shares was widest in Croatia where the share for people with a disability was 2.5 times as high as for people with no disability. The difference was narrowest in Slovakia, Italy and Greece (1.3 times as high).

People aged 16 or over living in households that reported having difficulties in making ends meet, by level of disability

(% share of population in respective category, 2023)



Note: the share includes people reporting some difficulty, difficulty or great difficulty. The term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. CH: 2022. DE: low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_dm060](#))

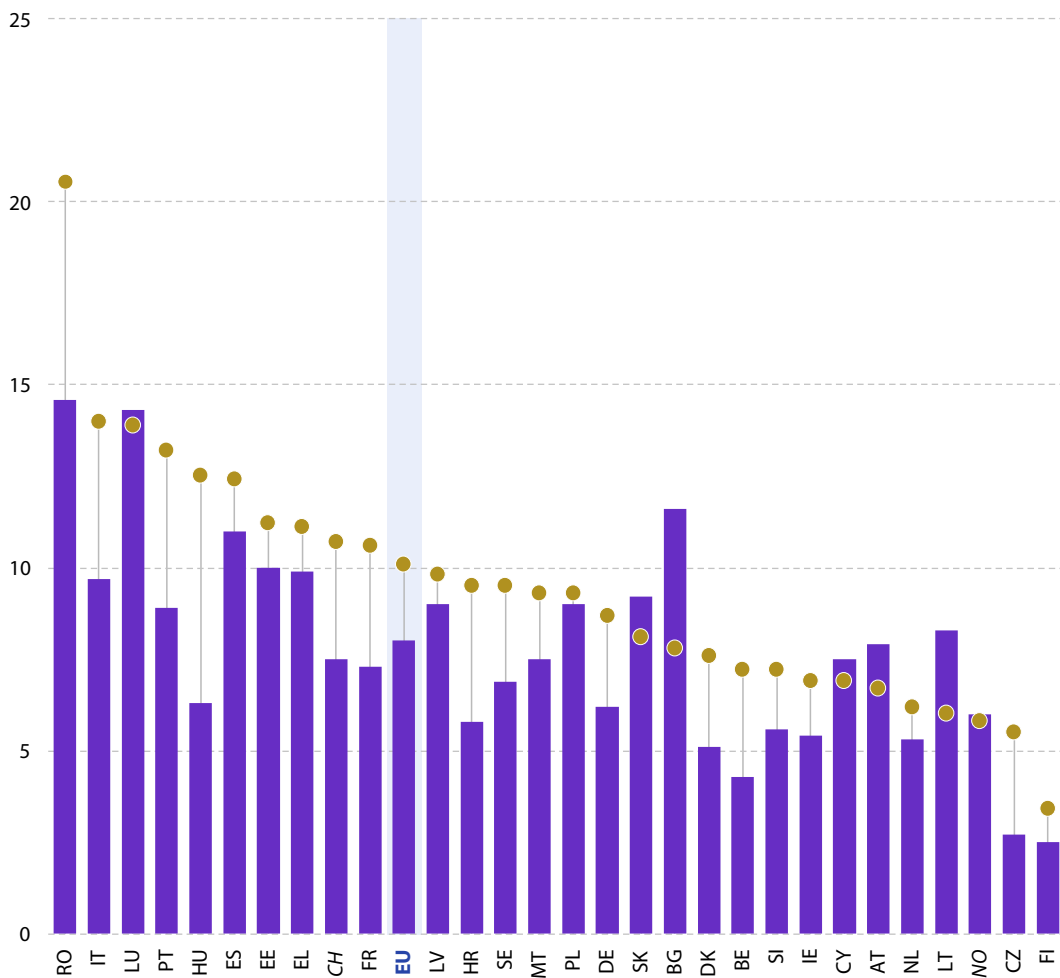
In 2023, the share of people in the EU living in households having difficulties in making ends meet was 53.5% among people aged 16 or over with a disability, compared with 41.3% among people of the same age without a disability.

In all EU countries, the share of people having difficulties in making ends meet in 2023 was higher among people with a disability than among those with no disability. In relative terms, the difference

between these 2 shares was widest in the Netherlands where the share for people with a disability was 2.0 times as high as for people with no disability. The difference was narrowest in Greece and Bulgaria (1.1 times as high).

Employed people aged 18 or over at risk of poverty, by level of disability

(% share, 2023)



● Some or severe

■ None

Note: the term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. CH: 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth_dpe050](#))

In 2023 in the EU, 10.1% of employed people aged 18 or over with a disability were [at risk of poverty](#), compared with 8.0% among employed people of the same age without a disability.

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria and Slovakia were the only EU countries where the share of employed people at risk of poverty in 2023 was lower among people with a disability than among those with no disability.

More information:

[disability statistics – housing conditions, poverty and income inequalities for people with disabilities and the financial situation of people with disabilities.](#)

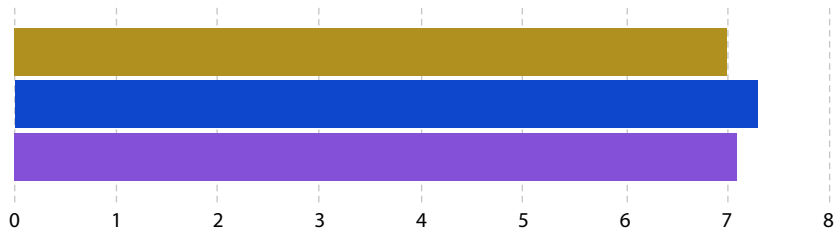
Life satisfaction

Average rate of overall life satisfaction among people aged 16 or over

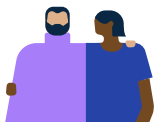
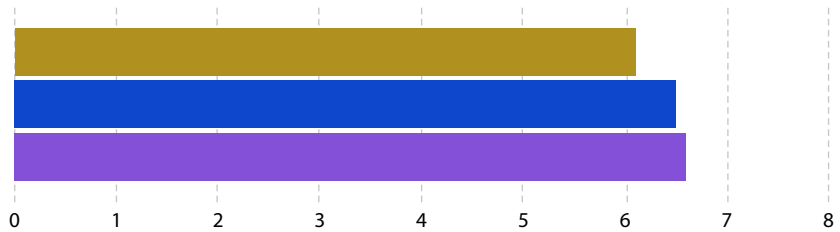
(rating from 0 (low) to 10 (high), EU, 2013, 2018 and 2022)



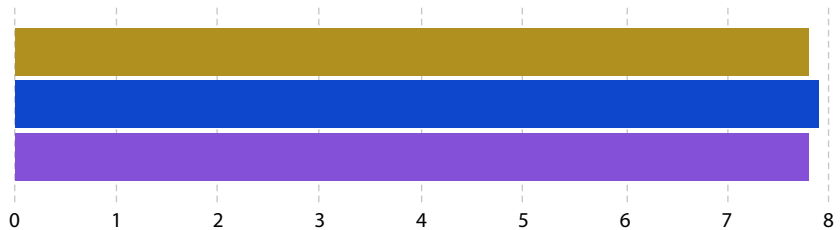
Overall life satisfaction



Satisfaction with own financial situation



Satisfaction with personal relationships



■ 2013
■ 2018
■ 2022

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc_pw01](#) and [ilc_pw01b](#))

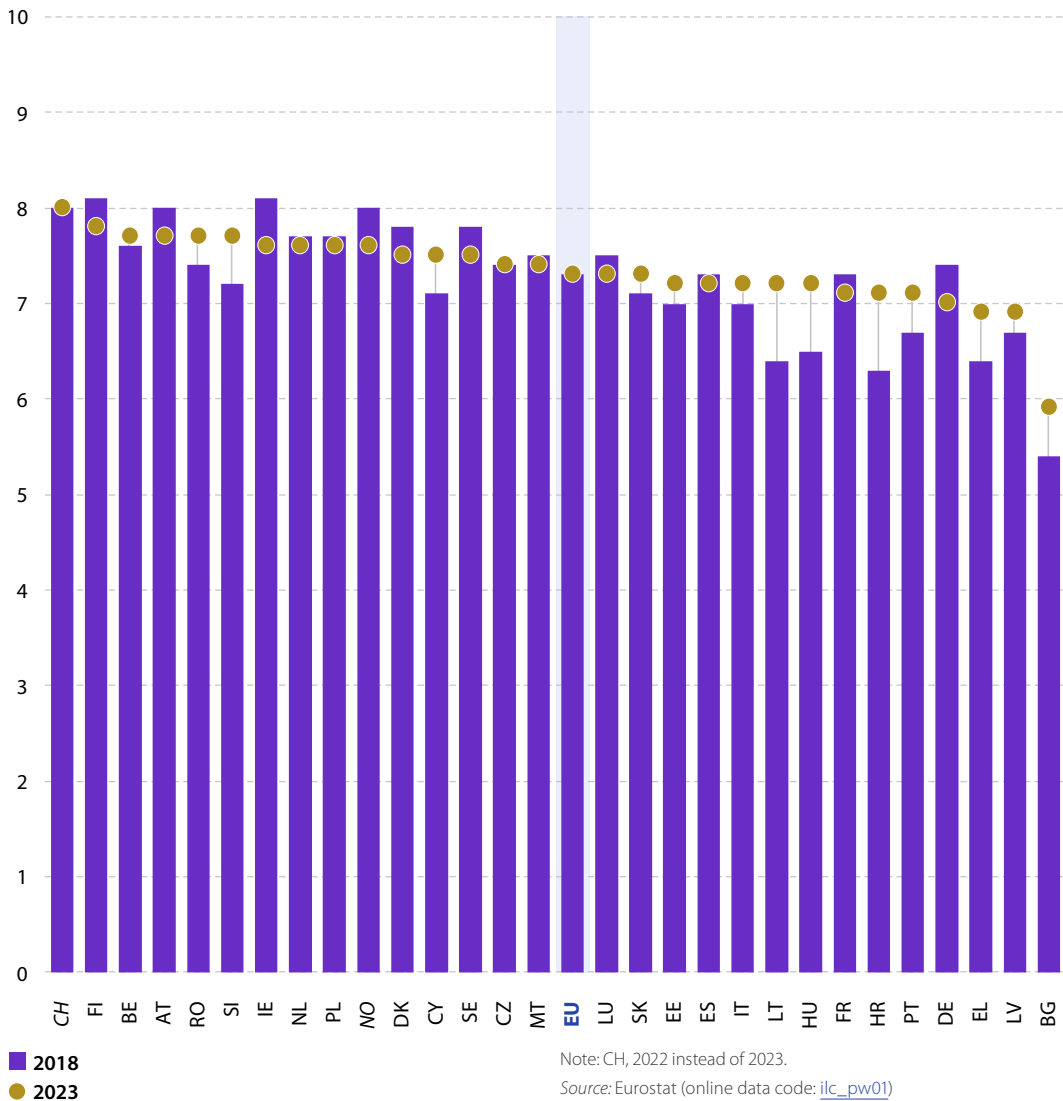


Subjective life satisfaction is a person's overall assessment of their life situation. It's a cognitive and evaluative reflection on past and present experiences. Overall life satisfaction is a rating on a scale from 0 (not satisfied at all) to 10 (fully satisfied).

In 2022, people aged 16 or over in the EU rated their satisfaction with life at an average of 7.1, down from 7.3 in 2018, but slightly up from 7.0 in 2013. In terms of their satisfaction with their own financial situation, the average rating in 2022 was 6.6, similar to the rating in 2018 (6.5) but up from 6.1 in 2013. Personal relationships were rated at an average of 7.8 in 2022, down slightly from 7.9 in 2018 and the same as it had been in 2013.

Average rate of overall life satisfaction among people aged 16 or over

(rating from 0 (low) to 10 (high), 2018 and 2023)

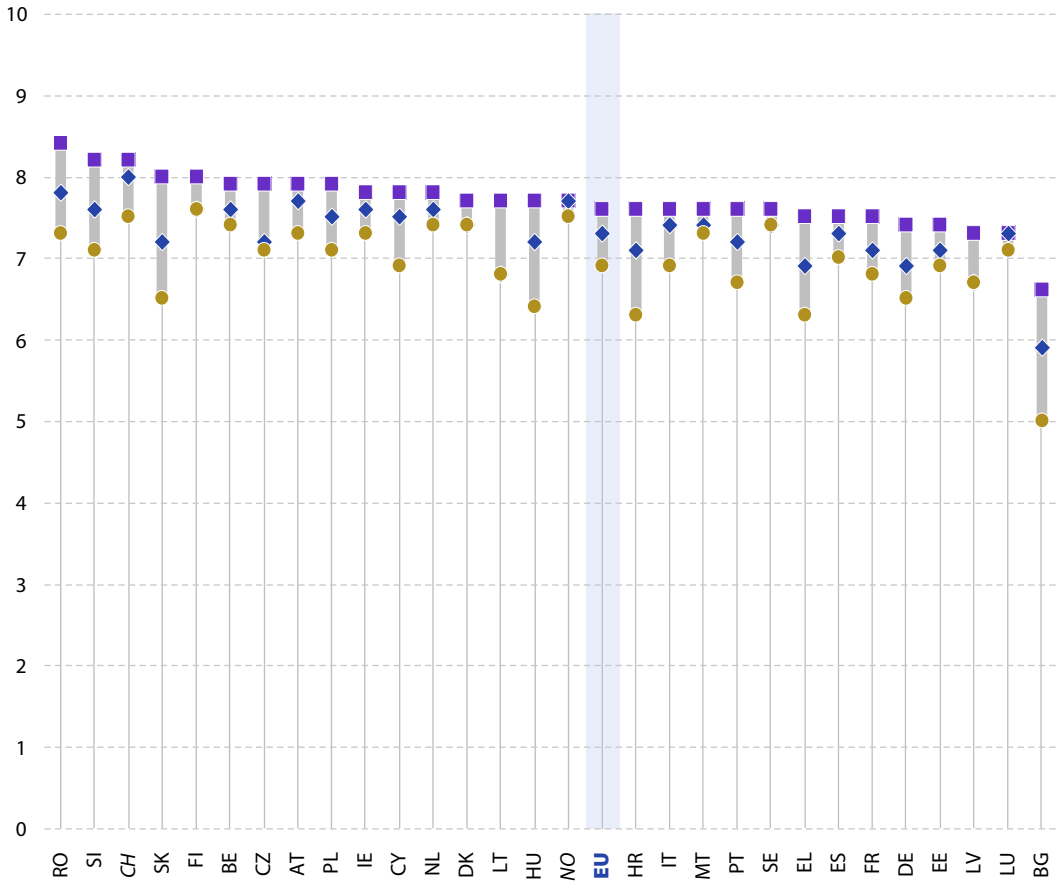


In 2023, people aged 16 or over in the EU rated their satisfaction with life at an average of 7.3, the same as it had been in 2018. Among the EU countries, Finland (7.8) observed the highest average rating in 2023, ahead of Belgium, Austria, Romania and Slovenia (all 7.7). The lowest rating, by far, was in Bulgaria (5.9); the next lowest ratings were in Greece and Latvia (6.9).

A total of 14 EU countries observed an increase in average life satisfaction between 2018 and 2023, with the largest increases in Lithuania (from 6.4 to 7.2) and Croatia (from 6.3 to 7.1). Czechia recorded no change. The remaining 12 EU countries observed a fall in average life satisfaction, with the largest decreases in Ireland (down 0.5) and Germany (down 0.4).

Average rate of overall life satisfaction among people aged 16 or over, by educational attainment

(rating from 0 (low) to 10 (high), 2023)



- High
- ◆ Medium
- Low

Note: CH, 2022. EU, DE, FR, HU, PL and PT: low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_pw01](#))

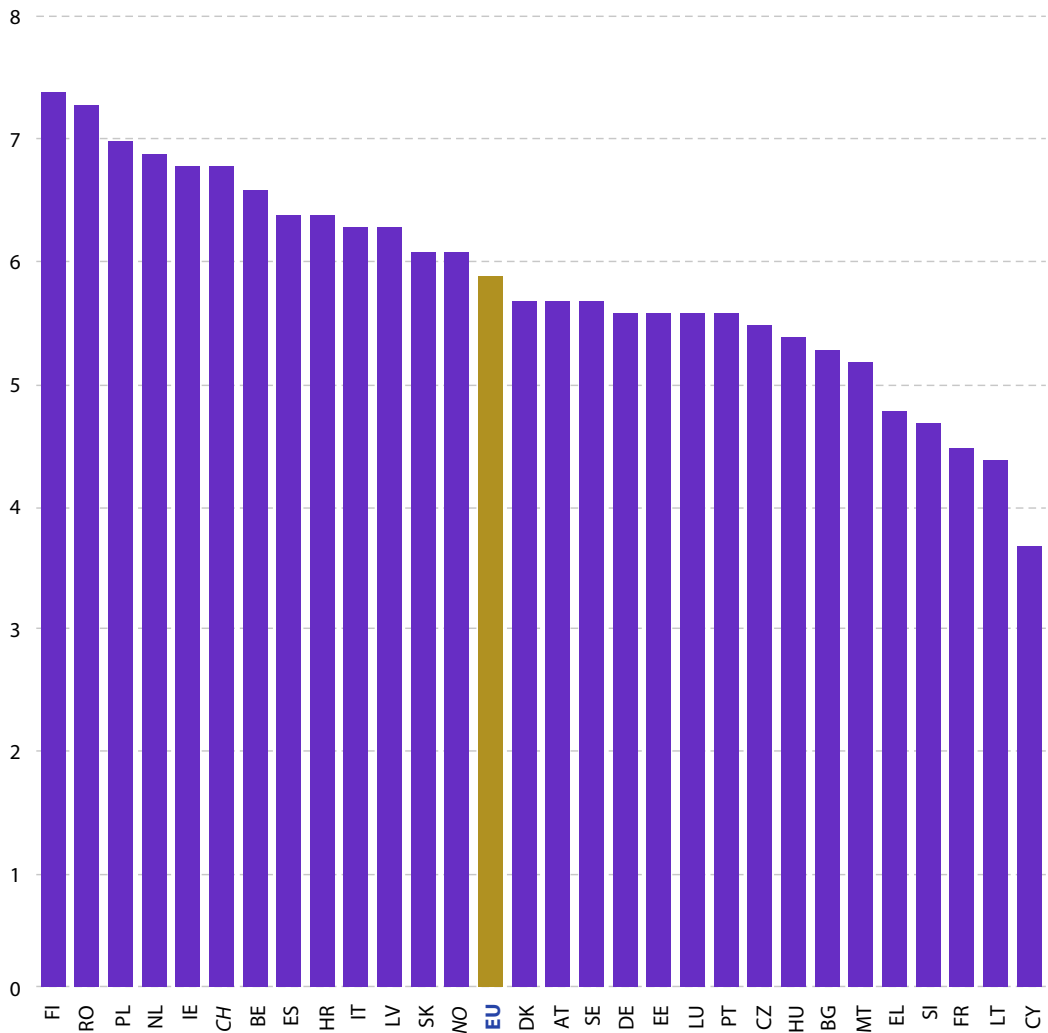


Average life satisfaction in the EU was positively related to educational attainment. In 2023, people with a low level of educational attainment had the lowest overall life satisfaction (6.9), while it was higher for people with a medium level (7.3) and highest for people with a high level (7.6).

In the vast majority of EU countries, a similar relationship between overall life satisfaction and educational attainment was observed. In Luxembourg, there was no difference in the life satisfaction rating for people with medium or high levels of educational attainment, while in Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden there was no difference in the life satisfaction rating for people with low or medium levels of educational attainment. While Luxembourg and Sweden reported the narrowest ranges in life satisfaction ratings based on educational attainment, Bulgaria and Slovakia reported the widest.

Average rate of trust in others among people aged 16 or over

(rating from 0 (low) to 10 (high), 2023)



Note: CH, 2022. EU, DE, FR, HU, PL and PT: low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_pw03](#))

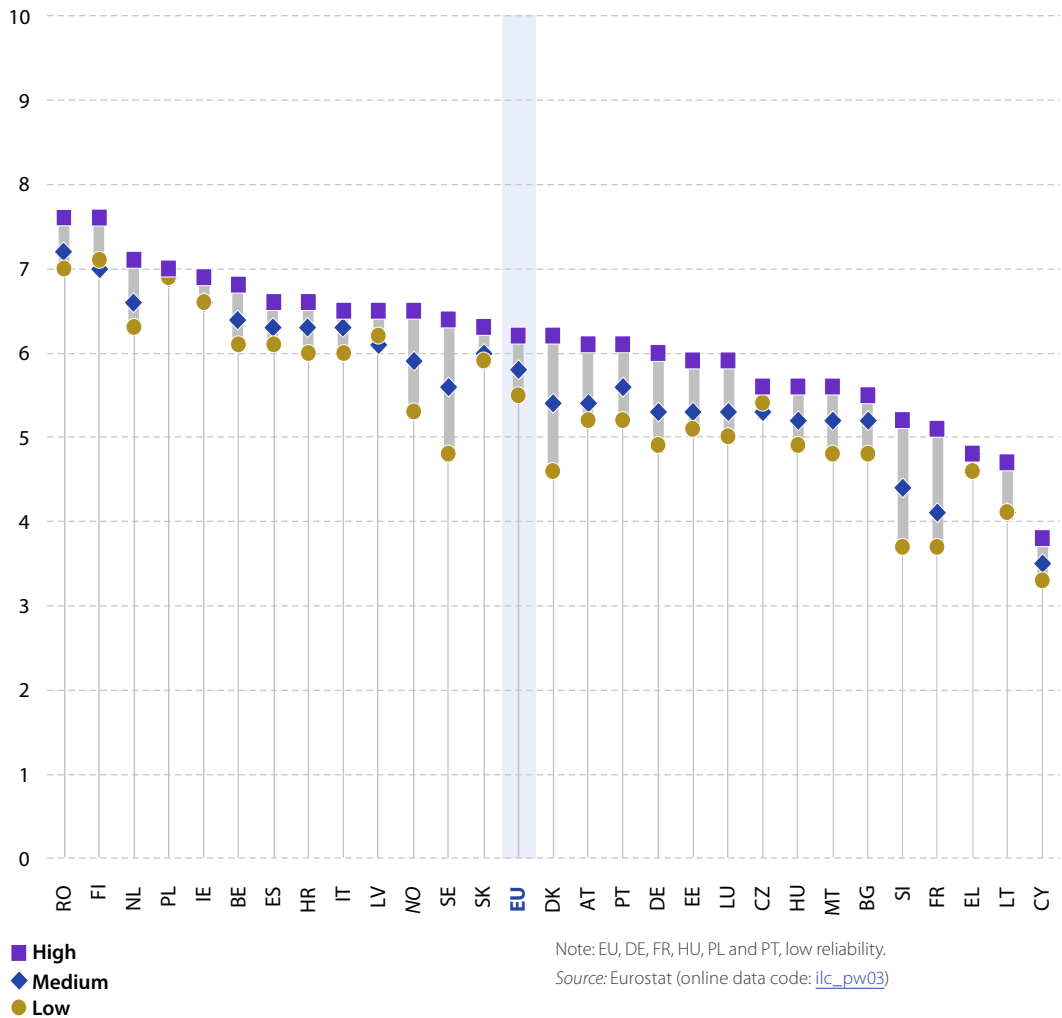


Trust in others is a person's opinion/feeling about a core value or belief and is an abstract evaluation. The reference to others concerns people with whom the respondent isn't acquainted, in other words, other than family, friends, neighbours and so on.

Across the EU, people rated their trust in others at an average of 5.8 in 2023. The rating ranged from less than 5.0 in Cyprus, Lithuania, France, Slovenia and Greece to more than 7.0 in Romania and Finland.

Average rate of trust in others among people aged 16 or over, by educational attainment

(rating from 0 (low) to 10 (high), 2023)



In 2023, people in the EU with a high level of educational attainment rated their trust in others higher (6.2) than people with a medium level (5.8) and people with a low level (5.5). Most EU countries observed a similar pattern, with a descent from higher to lower ratings in line with educational attainment.

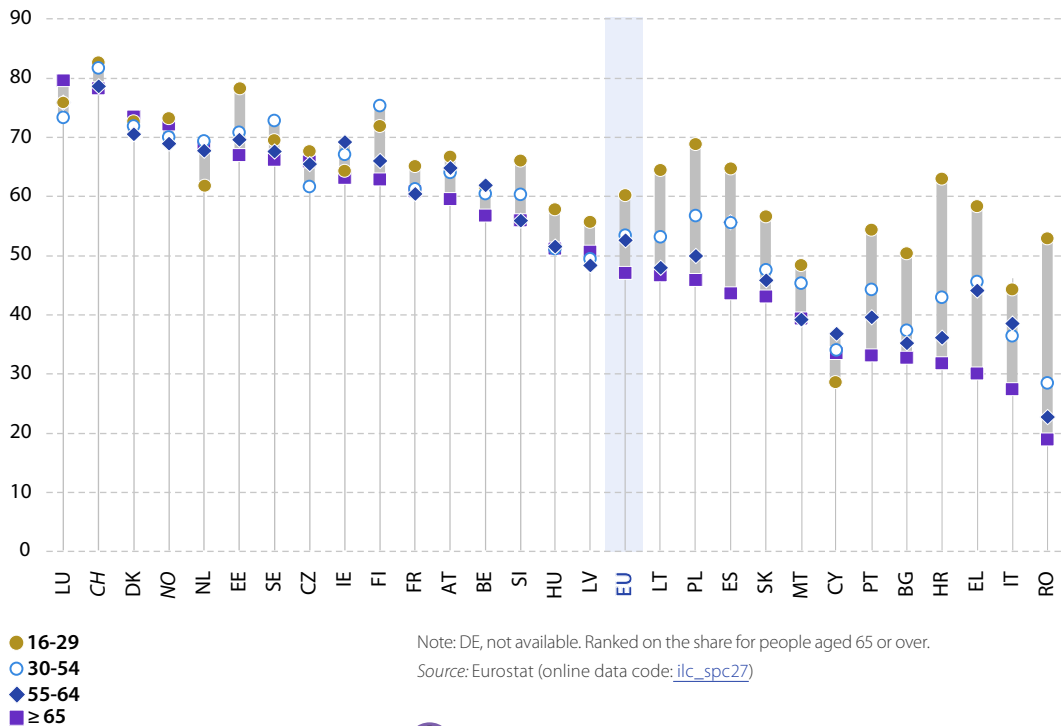
Greece was an exception, as people with medium and high levels of educational attainment gave similar ratings.

In Czechia, Latvia and Finland, people with a medium level of attainment gave the lowest rating, while in Ireland, Lithuania and Poland this rating was joint lowest for people with a low or medium level.

The most noticeable differences in the ratings between education levels were in Denmark, Sweden, Slovenia and France; the difference was narrowest in Poland and Greece.

People having read at least 1 book during the 12 months preceding the survey, by age

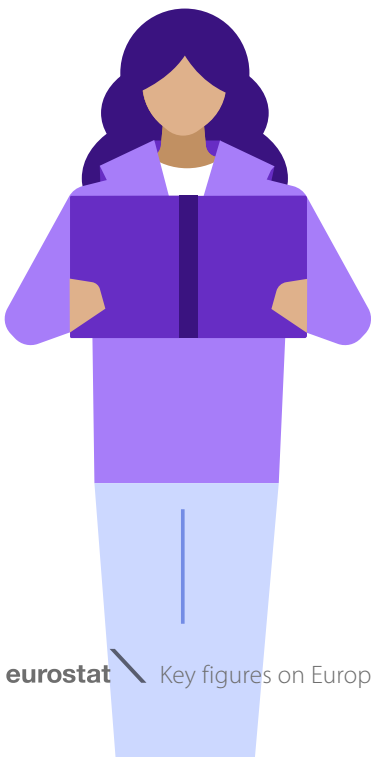
(% share of population in respective age group, 2022)



Reading books includes all types of books in terms of format (including audiobooks and e-books, but not podcasts) and subject matter, other than school textbooks and work manuals. Magazines and journals are excluded. The frequency refers to the number of books people have completely read, regardless of length, during the 12 months preceding the survey.

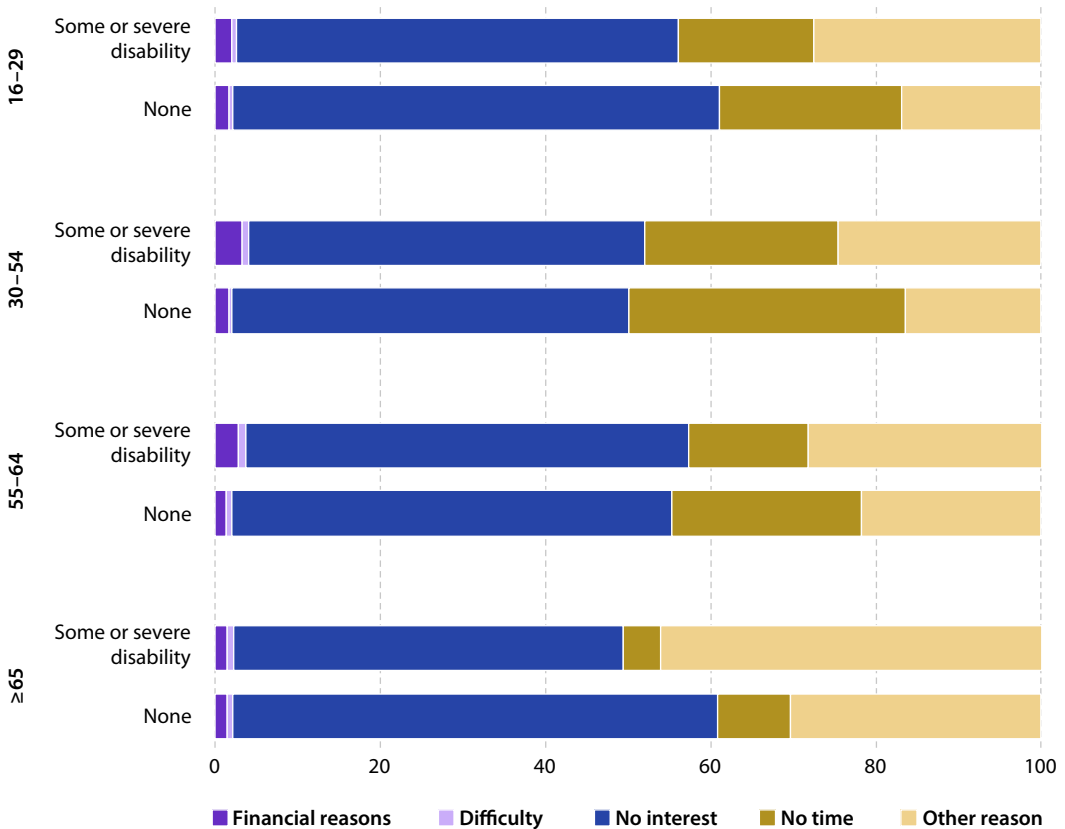
The share of people in the EU who read at least 1 book in the 12 months preceding the survey ranged in 2022 from 60.2% among young people aged 16 to 29 to 47.1% for people aged 65 or over. In 18 EU countries, young people were most likely to have read at least 1 book during the previous 12 months. Similarly, 16 EU countries reported that older people were least likely to have read at least 1 book during the previous 12 months; in Hungary older people were joint least likely with people aged 30 to 54.

The difference between age groups in the shares of people who read at least 1 book in the 12 months preceding the survey was most noticeable in Romania, Croatia and Greece; it was narrowest in Denmark.



Reasons for not having read a book during the 12 months preceding the survey, by age and level of disability

(% share of population in respective category, EU, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_scp29](#))

People most commonly cited a lack of interest as their main reason for not having read a single book during the 12 months preceding the survey. In the EU, the share of non-readers reporting this reason in 2022 ranged from 47.8% among people aged 30 to 54 up to 58.0% among young people aged 15 to 29. The next most common reason depended on the age group

- a lack of time was the second most common reason for the 2 younger age groups (16 to 29 and 30 to 54)
- the second most common category among people aged 55 to 64 and 65 or over was (unspecified) reasons other than cost, difficulty, no interest or no time.

The age group of people aged 65 or over had a small share of people citing a lack of time as a reason for not reading, while the high share citing other (unspecified) reasons may reflect physical difficulties with reading, such as deteriorating eyesight or difficulties concentrating. For example, 46.2% of people aged 65 or over with a disability cited another reason for not reading, compared with 30.3% for people of the same age without a disability.

Regardless of the age group, the share of people citing other (unspecified) reasons for not reading was higher among people with a disability than among those without a disability.

More information:
[life satisfaction and quality of life indicators.](#)

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2024 EDITION

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