

KEY FIGURES ON

EUROPE

2023 EDITION





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

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Foreword

This sixth edition of *Key figures on Europe* follows on from the success of the five previous editions. It aims to provide innovative and intuitive visualisations and concise text so that users can rapidly obtain an understanding of the overall situation in the European Union (EU) as well as the differences between EU Member States.

Key figures on Europe contains a selection of key indicators at both EU and individual Member State level, drawing on the rich collection of data available. It provides an insight into recent developments across the EU with regard to: people and society; the economy and business; the environment and natural resources.

The statistical indicators presented in the 2023 edition may be used to assess the economic and social effects of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and measures on the EU and its Member States.

You can find more up-to-date information on a wide range of socioeconomic issues in *Statistics Explained*, a portal that forms part of Eurostat's official website, presenting statistical topics in an easily understandable way. The latest and most complete data can also be downloaded from the Eurostat website.

I hope that you find this publication interesting and useful both in your work and your daily life.



Mariana Kotzeva
Director-General, Eurostat



Abstract

Key figures on Europe presents a selection of statistical data on the European Union (EU). Most data cover the EU and its Member States as well as the EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to EU statistics and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on Eurostat's website at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>; they are complemented by a comprehensive selection of online articles in *Statistics Explained*.

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For more information please consult

Eurostat's website: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>
Statistics Explained: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained>

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Introduction

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

Key figures on Europe is published every year: it focuses on annual data. The 2023 edition describes the situation in the EU and the [European Free Trade Association](#) (EFTA) countries, with the most recent data generally for 2021 or 2022 (depending on the source). As a consequence, the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine may be seen for a variety of indicators.

Structure of the publication

Key figures on Europe provides users of official statistics with an overview of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat's [website](#) and within its [online databases](#). It has been conceived to offer a balanced set of indicators for a broad cross-section of information covering socioeconomic and environmental developments in the EU.

Key figures on Europe is divided into an introduction and three main chapters. The introduction includes information concerning data coverage and more generally how to access European statistics and supporting sources of information. The main chapters treat the following areas: people and society ([population](#), [health](#), [education](#), the [labour market](#), [living conditions](#) and the [digital society](#)); economy

and business ([GDP](#), prices, household consumption, [government finance](#), [international trade](#), business, [research and development](#), and [tourism](#)); environment and natural resources ([transport](#), [energy](#), [environment](#), [agriculture](#), [fisheries](#) and [forestry](#)).

Each chapter presents a set of key indicators: a great deal more information can be found when consulting 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

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted at the start of May 2023.

Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (a sum/average covering the 27 current Member States of the EU) as well as the individual EU Member States and the four EFTA countries. Data for [consumer prices](#) are an exception insofar as the composition of the EU aggregate changes over time (reflecting the composition of the EU as Member States join/leave the EU).

The order of the EU Member States in the figures usually reflects their ranking according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

The map on the inside cover page identifies the EU Member States and EFTA countries, as well as showing the location of their capital cities.

Codes for EU Member States and EFTA countries

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

Temporal data coverage

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

Notes and flags

Notes and flags are means of explaining and defining specific characteristics of particular data. In this publication, these have been restricted as far as possible in order to allow more space for illustrating the data. The publication includes only the main notes required for interpretation of the data and to highlight when data for one year have been replaced with data for another. A full set of notes and flags are available on Eurostat's website via online data code(s) presented for each illustration.

Accessing European statistics

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

Eurostat online data codes, such as `nama_10_gdp`, allow easy access to the most recent data on Eurostat's [website](#). In this publication, these online data codes are given as part of the source for each illustration.

Some of the indicators presented in this publication are relatively complex. Statistics Explained provides a comprehensive online glossary with definitions for a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms; it is organised under [thematic headings](#).

1

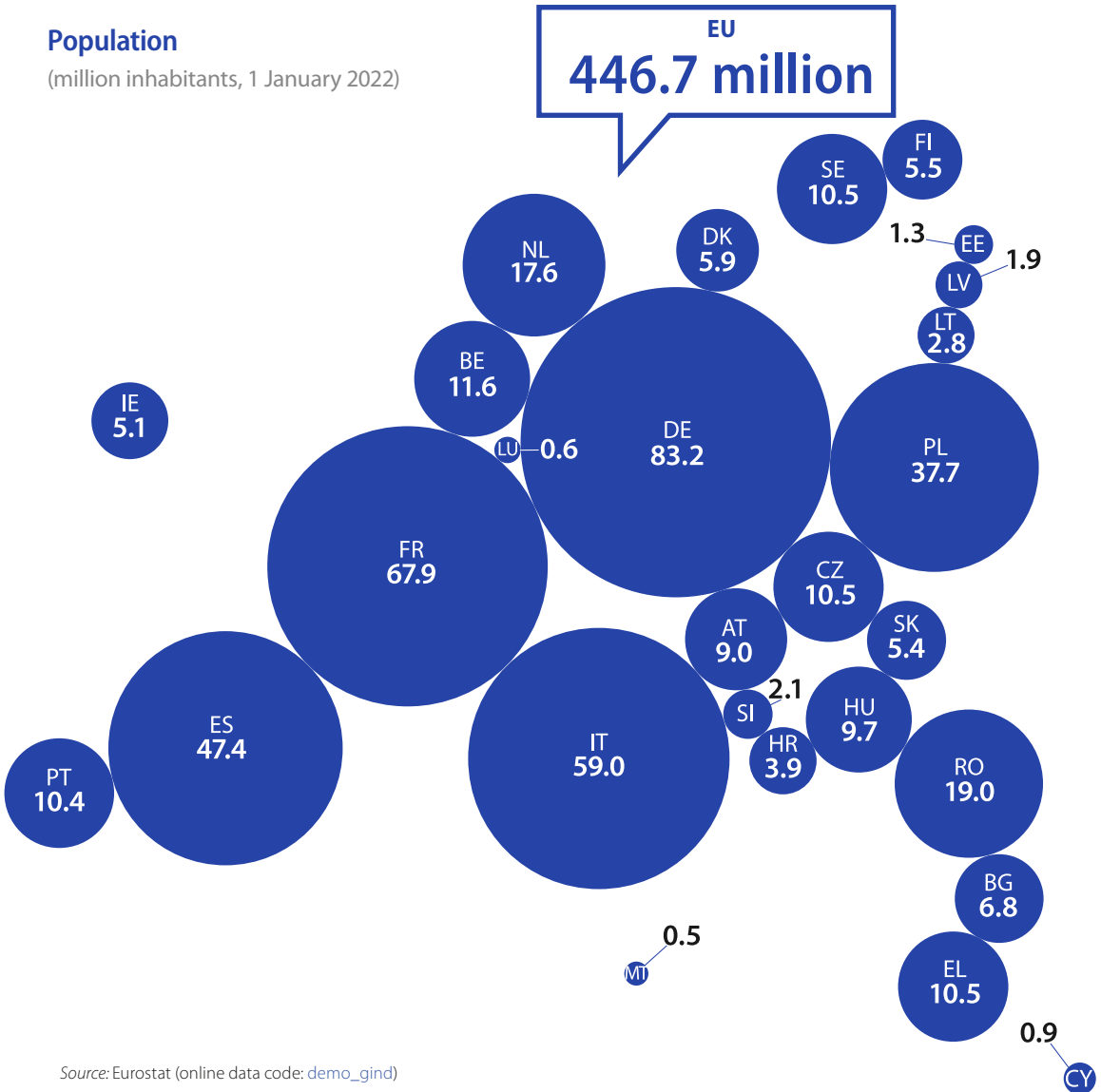
People and society



Population

Population

(million inhabitants, 1 January 2022)



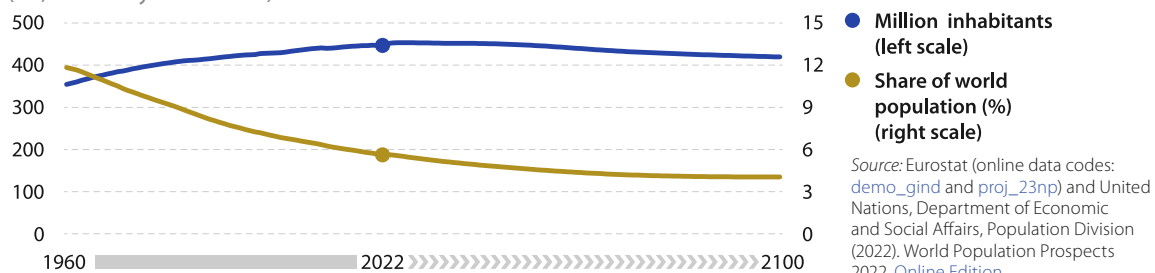
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_gind](#))

Over the last decade, the total number of inhabitants in the EU grew at a relatively slow pace, when compared with historical developments. During 2020 and 2021, the EU's [population](#) declined; to some extent this reflected the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. As of 1 January 2022, there were 446.7 million people living in the EU, which was 265 000 less than a year before and 750 000 less than on 1 January 2020.

There are considerable differences in population levels between EU Member States: on 1 January 2022, the number of inhabitants ranged from 0.5 million in Malta up to 83.2 million in Germany. Together, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland were home to almost two thirds (66.1 %) of the EU's population.

Population

(EU, 1 January 1960–2100)

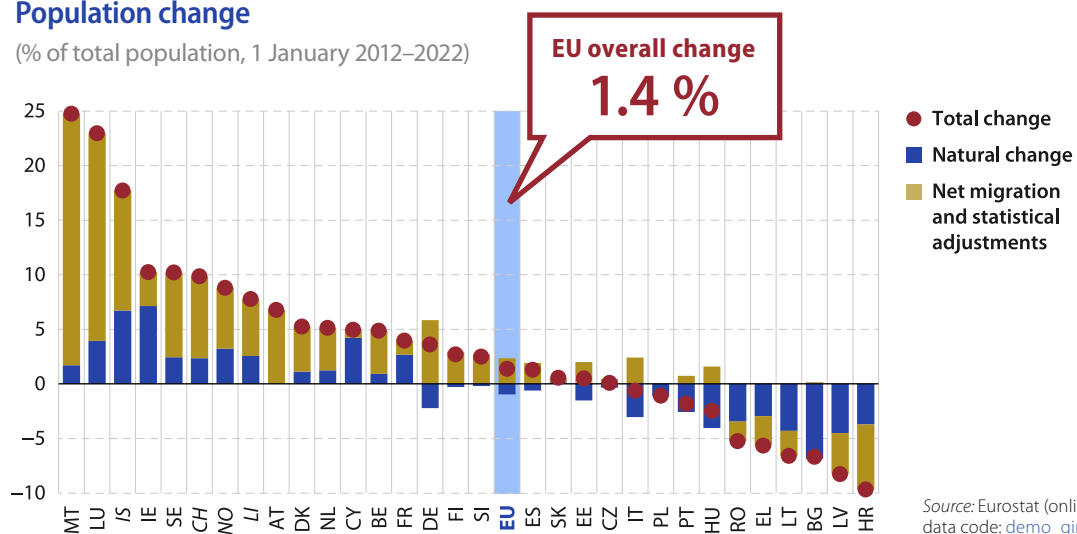


In 1974, the EU's share of the global population fell below 10.0 %. This downward pattern continued through to 2022 by when the EU accounted for 5.6 % of the world's population. According to information based on Eurostat's [baseline projections](#), the population of the EU will grow, albeit slowly, up until the year 2026

(453.3 million inhabitants), after which it is projected to fall back to 419.5 million by 2100. These developments, coupled with faster population growth in the rest of the world, mean that it is projected that around 1 in 25 people – or 4.1 % of the global population – will be living in the EU by the turn of the century.

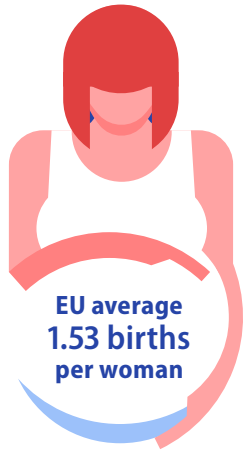
Population change

(% of total population, 1 January 2012–2022)



Between 1 January 2012 and 2022, the EU's population rose 6.2 million (or 1.4 %); net inward migration was the driving factor behind this growth.. The rate of [population increase](#) during this period was highest in Malta and Luxembourg, with their populations increasing overall by almost one quarter (24.8 % and 23.0 %, respectively); at the other end of the range, the biggest decreases in percentage terms were observed in Croatia (down 9.7 %) and

Latvia (down 8.3 %). A [natural decrease](#) in the number of inhabitants (more deaths than births) in Latvia, Lithuania, Croatia, Romania and Greece was reinforced by net outward [migration](#) (more people emigrating than immigrants arriving) leading to a decline in population numbers. There was also an overall decline in the populations of Bulgaria, Hungary, Portugal, Poland and Italy, despite net inward migration.

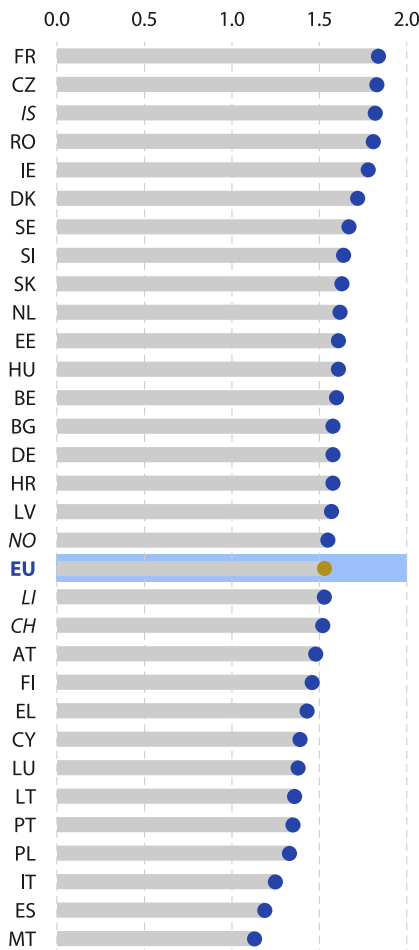


Fertility rate

(live births per woman, 2021)

In developed countries, a **total fertility rate** of 2.1 is considered to be the replacement level: in other words, this is the average number of live births per woman that is required to keep the total number of inhabitants at a constant level (in the absence of migration).

In 2021, the total fertility rate ranged from a high of 1.84 live births per woman in France and 1.83 in Czechia, down to 1.13 in Malta.

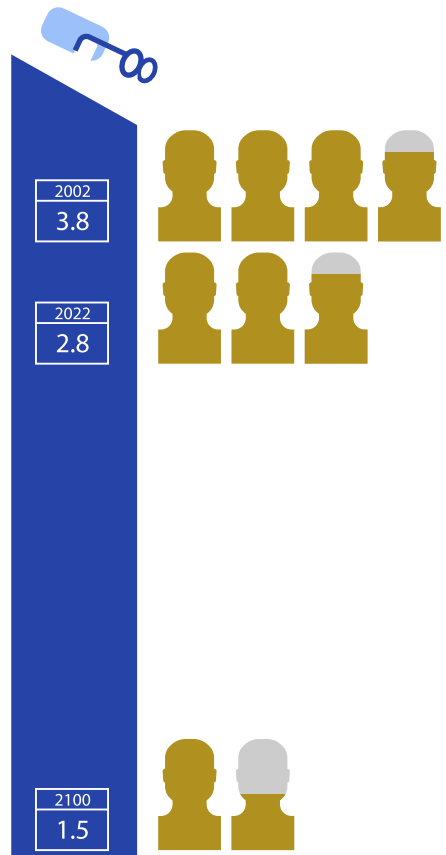


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_find](#))

Ageing population

(ratio, number of people aged 20–64 years per person aged ≥ 65 years, EU, 2002, 2022 and 2100)

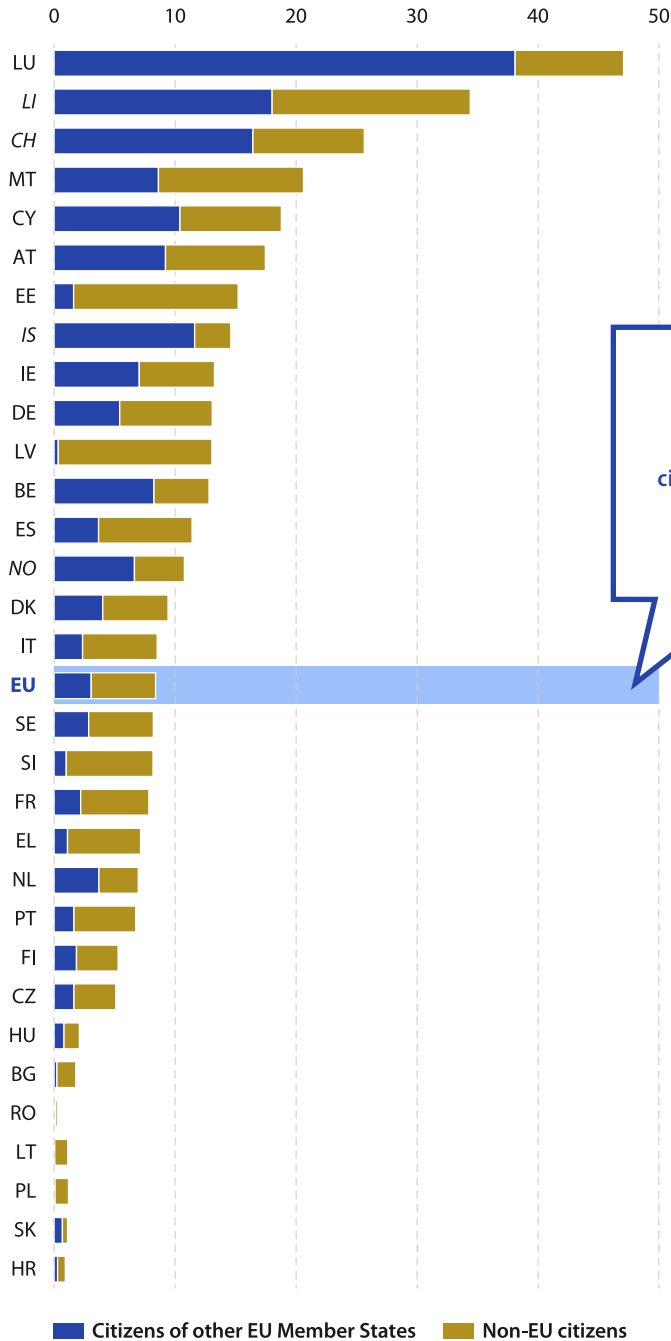
Population ageing has been observed across much of Europe in recent decades. Changes in population structure can have serious implications for issues such as pension funds, government revenues and the provision of services such as health and social care. The number of working-age people (defined here as those aged from 20 to 64 years) in the EU expressed relative to the number of older persons (aged 65 years or over) fell from 3.8 in 2002 to 2.8 by 2022. According to Eurostat’s baseline projections, this dependency ratio is expected to fall to 1.5 by 2100.



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [demo_pjanind](#) and [proj_23np](#))

Citizenship of the population

(%, share of total population, 1 January 2022)



On 1 January 2022, there were 37.5 million *foreign citizens* living in the Member States of the EU. This figure was composed of 13.7 million persons who were citizens of EU Member States other than the one in which they resided and 23.8 million citizens of non-EU countries. Note that

EU
3.1 %
citizens of other EU Member States
5.3 %
non-EU citizens

there was also a small number of *stateless persons* and persons whose *citizenship* was unknown (not shown; together they accounted for 0.08 % of the EU's total population).

In relative terms, foreign citizens accounted for 8.4 % of the total population in the EU, with this share ranging from almost half (47.1 %) of the population in Luxembourg to less than 1.0 % in Croatia. A majority (20) of the EU Member States reported a higher number of non-EU citizens than foreign citizens of other EU Member States within their populations.

Note: ranked on the total share for all foreign citizens, including stateless and unknown.

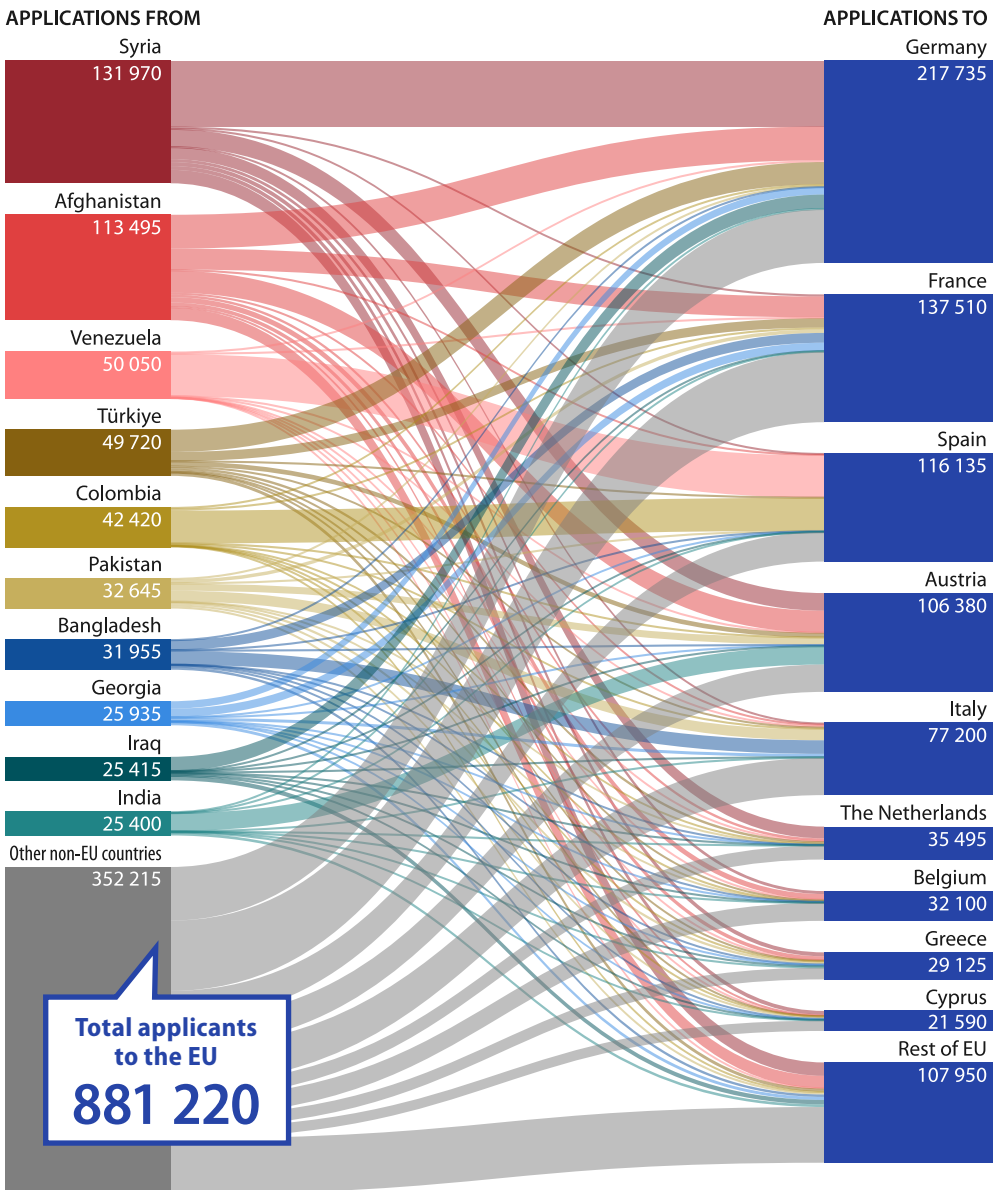
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_pop1ctz](#))

First time asylum applications

(number of applications in EU Member States, 2022)

Having peaked during the migrant crisis of 2015 and 2016 at over one million **first time asylum applications**, the number of applications to the EU had fallen to just over half a million in 2021. However, there was a rebound in 2022 (up 64.0 %), with the total number of asylum applications rising to 881 220

(equivalent to 0.2 % of the EU's population). The highest numbers of asylum applications came from Syrian (131 970) and Afghan (113 495) citizens. Within the EU Member States, the most common countries for lodging an application included Germany, France, Spain and Austria.

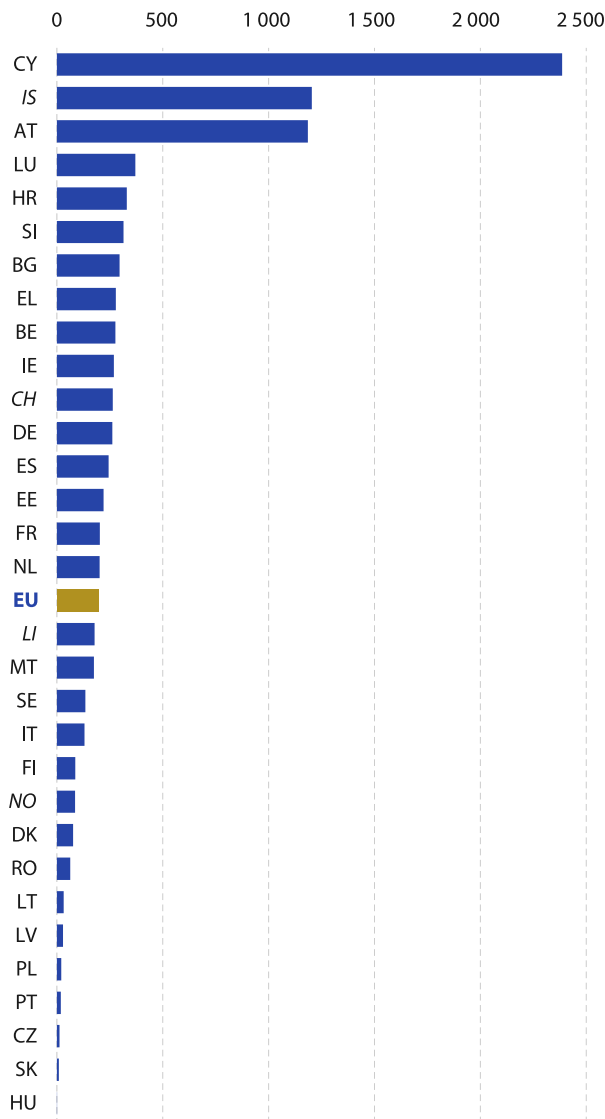


Note: rounded data. Includes only applications made by non-EU citizens.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

First time asylum applications

(number per 100 000 inhabitants, 2022)



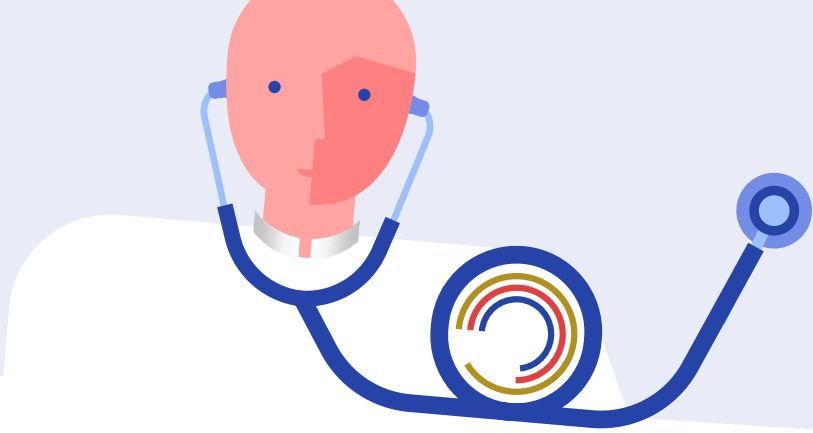
In 2022, there were 197 first time asylum applications lodged in the EU per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure varied considerably between EU Member States with the highest ratios, by far, in Cyprus (2 386 applications per 100 000 inhabitants) and Austria (1 185 applications per 100 000 inhabitants). At the lower end of the range, there were two Member States that recorded single-digit ratios: Slovakia (9 applications lodged per 100 000 inhabitants) and Hungary (zero applications per 100 000 inhabitants; a total of 45 first time asylum applications were lodged in Hungary during the course of 2022).



Note: applications made by non-EU citizens.

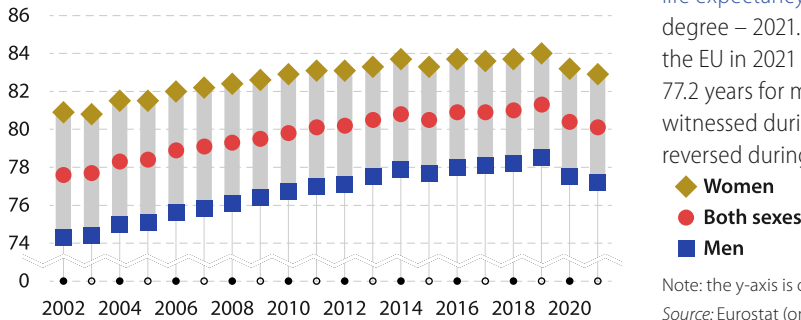
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_asypactza and demo_gind)

Health



Life expectancy at birth

(years, EU, 2002–2021)



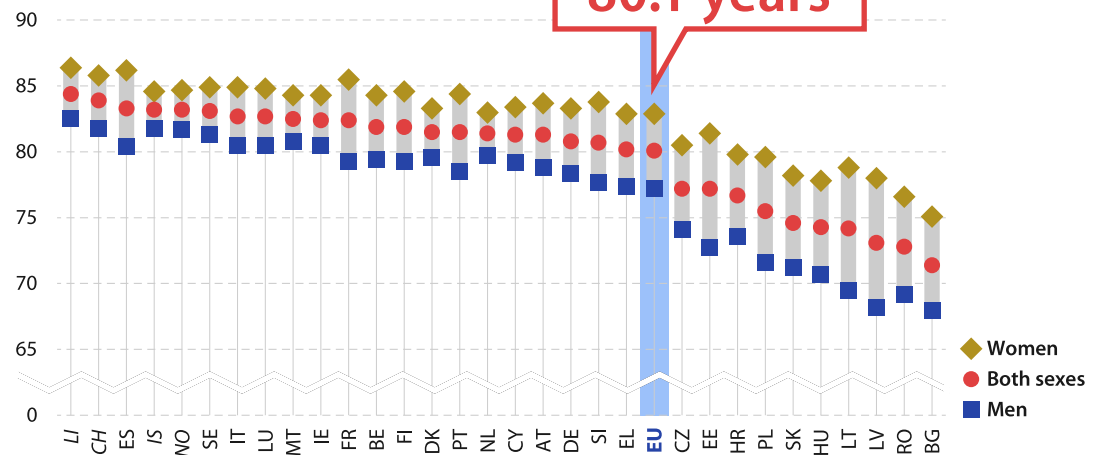
The impact of the COVID-19 crisis led to a fall in life expectancy in both 2020 and – to a lesser degree – 2021. Life expectancy at birth across the EU in 2021 was 82.9 years for women and 77.2 years for men. The narrowing gender gap witnessed during the previous two decades was reversed during the pandemic.

Note: the y-axis is cut.

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

Life expectancy at birth

(years, 2021)



Note: the y-axis is cut. DE and IE: 2020.

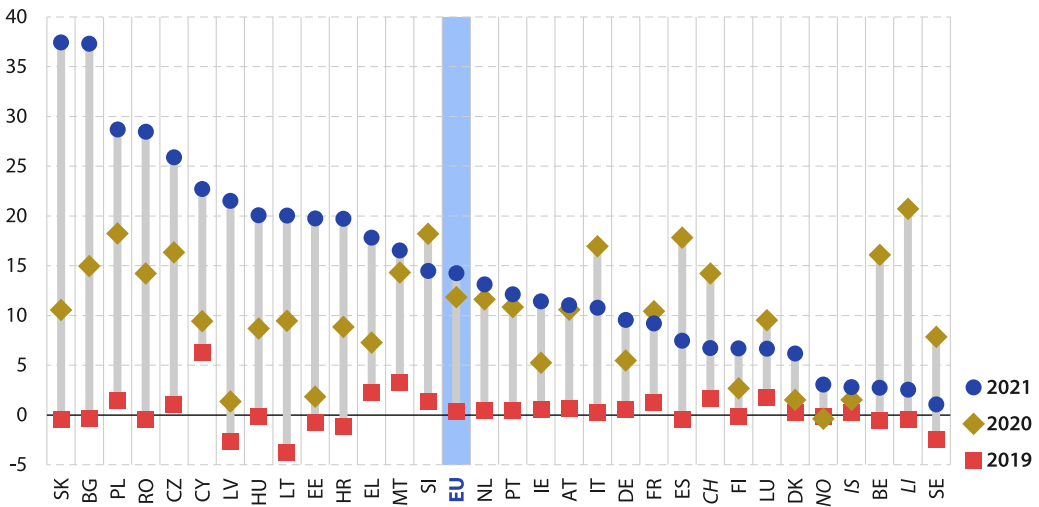
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [demo_mlexpec](#))

Among the EU Member States, the highest average (for both sexes) life expectancy at birth in 2021 was recorded in Spain (at 83.3 years), while the lowest was in Bulgaria (71.4 years). Women had higher life expectancy than men in every EU Member State, with particularly large gender gaps in the Baltic Member

States – Latvia (9.8 years), Lithuania (9.3 years) and Estonia (8.7 years). The narrowest gaps were recorded in the Netherlands (3.3 years), Malta (3.5 years) and Sweden (3.6 years).

Excess mortality

(%, compared with average annual baseline deaths, 2019–2021)



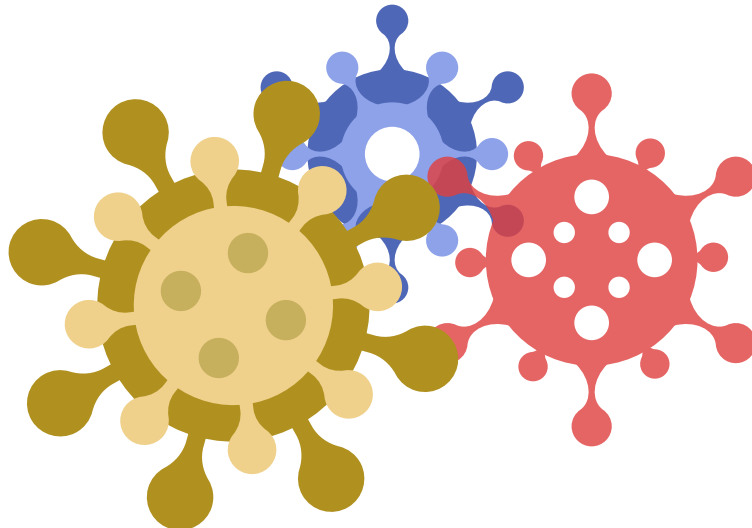
Note: ranked on excess mortality in 2021. The baseline number of deaths is the average annual number of deaths during the period 2016–2019.

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

In 2021, there were 5.3 million deaths in the EU. Compared with 2019 (before the onset of the COVID-19 crisis), the number of deaths in 2021 was 644 261 higher in absolute terms, up 13.8 %. In the EU, excess mortality was considerably more volatile and greater in 2020 and 2021 than in the years prior to the pandemic.

Excess mortality was greater in 2021 than in 2020 in a majority (20) of EU Member States. The largest decreases in excess mortality between 2020 and 2021

were observed in Belgium and Spain. The highest rates of excess mortality in 2021 were observed in Slovakia (37.4 %) and Bulgaria (37.3 %), with rates also above 25.0 % in Poland, Romania and Czechia. By contrast, there were eight Member States where the number of deaths in 2021 was less than 10.0 % above the baseline average (for the period 2016–2019). In 2021, the lowest excess mortality rates were recorded in Sweden and Belgium.



Education



Early leavers from education and training

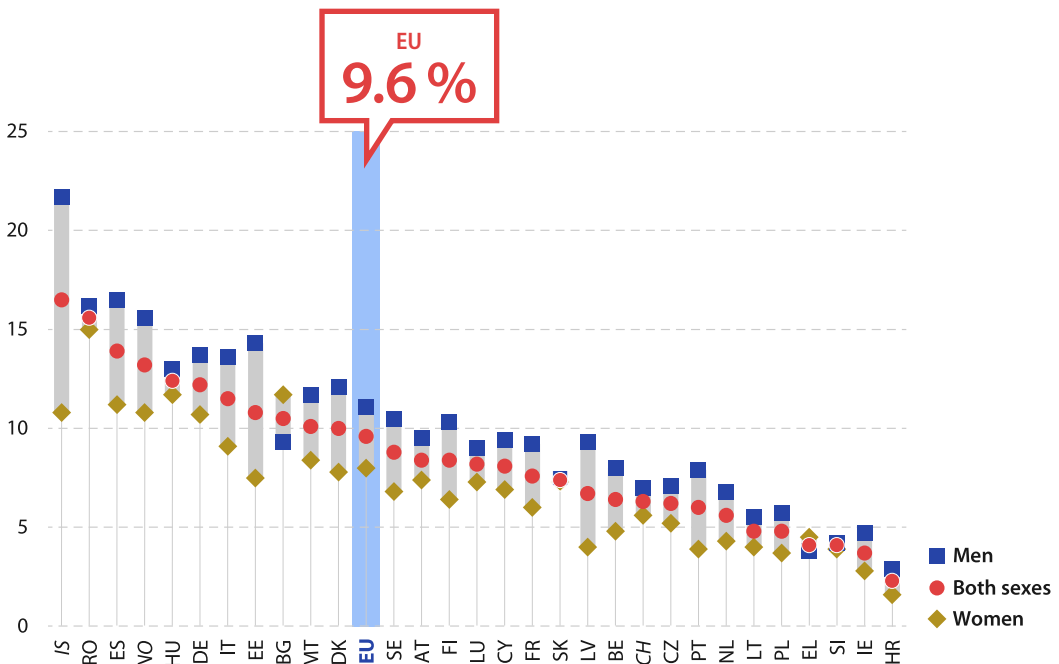
(%, share of people aged 18–24 years, 2022)

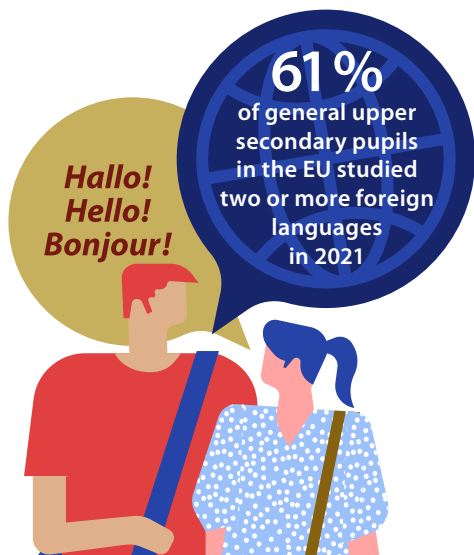
The risk of poverty, unemployment or social exclusion is higher among people leaving school at a relatively young age. In 2022, the share of early leavers in the EU was 9.6 %, ranging from 15.6 % in Romania to 2.3 % in Croatia.

Young men (11.1 %) in the EU were more likely than young women (8.0 %) to be early leavers from education and training. In 2022, this gender gap was apparent in the vast majority of EU Member States (25 out of 27), with Bulgaria and Greece the only exceptions (with a higher share of early leavers among young women than young men). The largest difference between the sexes was recorded in Estonia, where the share of early leavers among young men was 6.8 percentage points higher than that for young women. Relatively wide gender gaps were also observed in Spain and Latvia. By contrast, there was almost no difference between the sexes in terms of their share of early leavers in Slovakia and Slovenia.

Note: early leavers are defined as people who have attained at most a lower secondary education and who are not involved in further education or training.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_14)

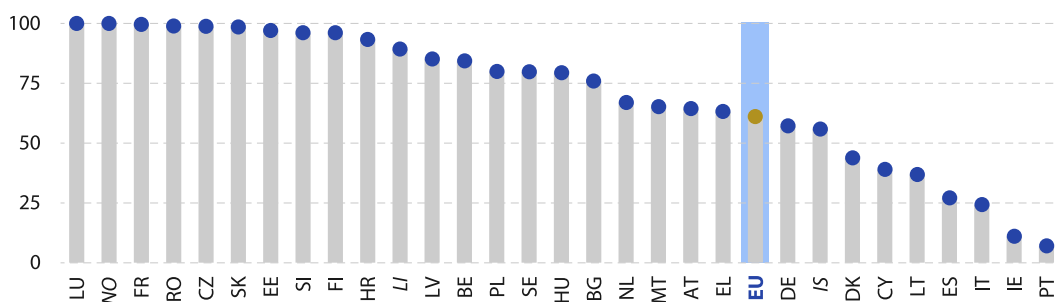




Learning two or more foreign languages

(%, share of students in general upper secondary education, 2021)

Some 61.0 % of general upper secondary students in the EU were studying two or more foreign languages in 2021. At least 99.0 % of all general upper secondary students in Luxembourg, France and Romania were studying two or more foreign languages, compared with less than 15.0 % in Ireland and Portugal.



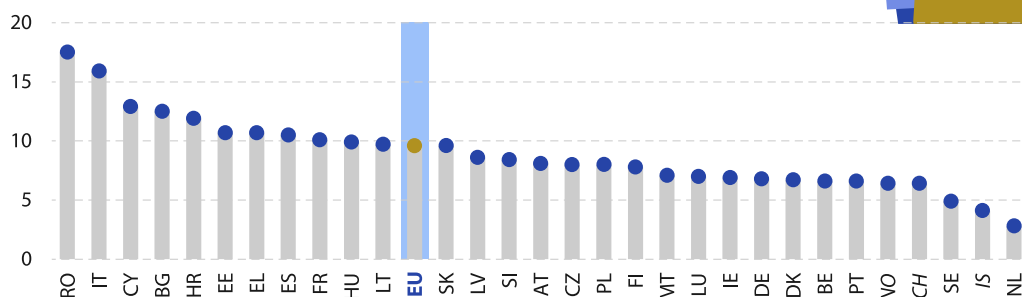
Note: IS, 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [educ_uoe_lang02](#))

Young people neither in employment nor in education and training

(%, share of people aged 15–24 years, 2022)

The share of young people (aged 15–24 years) **neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)** concerns people who were not employed and had not received any form of education or training during a specified period of time. In 2022, the NEET rate for young people in the EU stood at 9.6 %. The rate in Romania (17.5 %) was more than six times as high as that observed in the Netherlands (2.8 %).



Note: CH, 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [edat_lfse_20](#))

Fields of study for university graduates

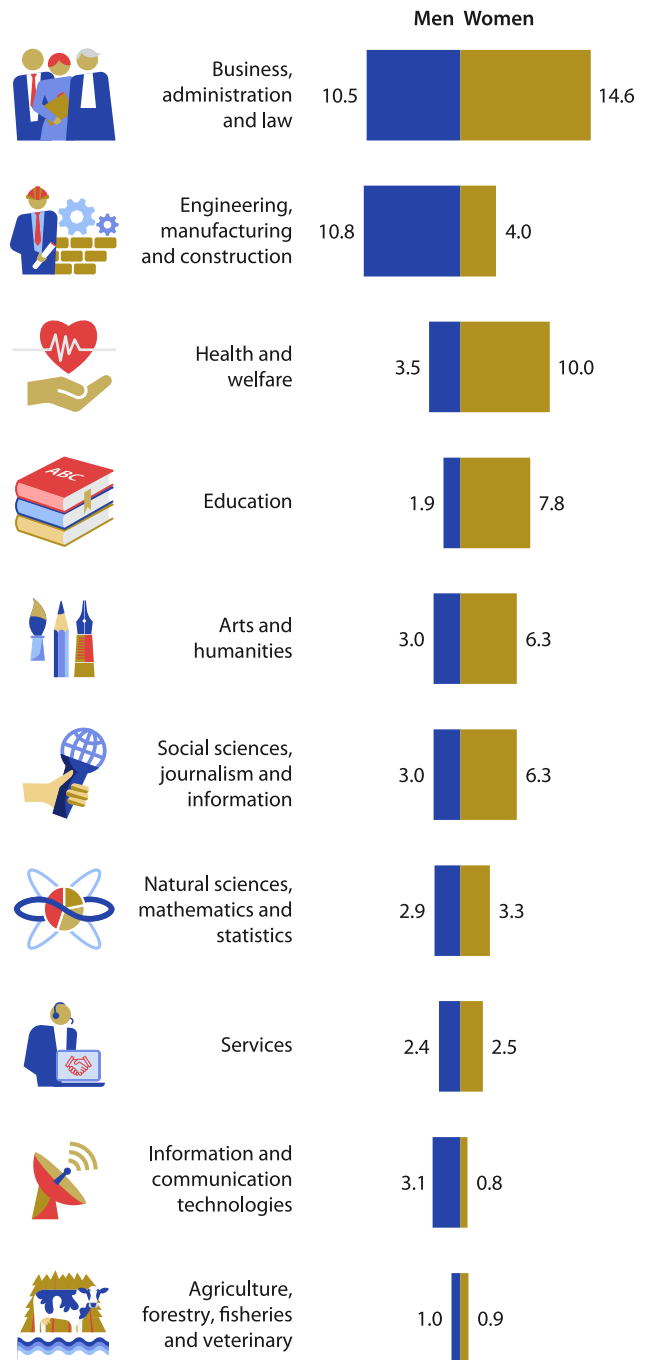
(% share of all graduates, EU, 2020)

In 2020, there were 4.2 million tertiary education graduates across the EU: female university graduates (2.4 million) outnumbered their male counterparts (1.8 million). This pattern of more female than male graduates was repeated for a majority of fields of study and was particularly apparent among those having studied education, where there were more than four times as many female as male graduates. By contrast, there were almost four times as many male as female graduates among those having studied information and communication technologies.

4.2 million
university graduates in the EU

1.8 million men

2.4 million women



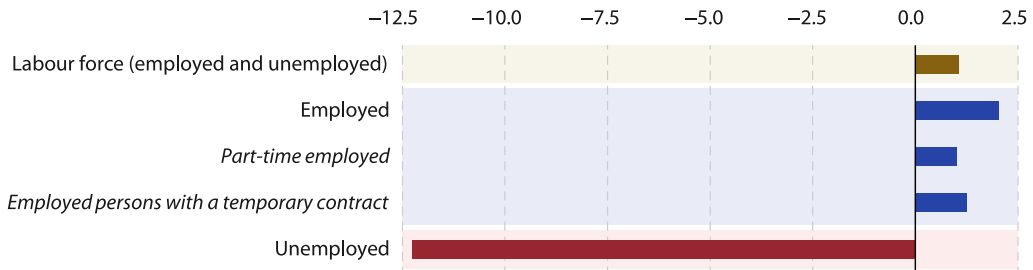
Note: ranked on the total share of graduates (male and female combined).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [educ_uoe_grad01](#) and [educ_uoe_grad03](#))

Labour market

Annual change in the labour force composition

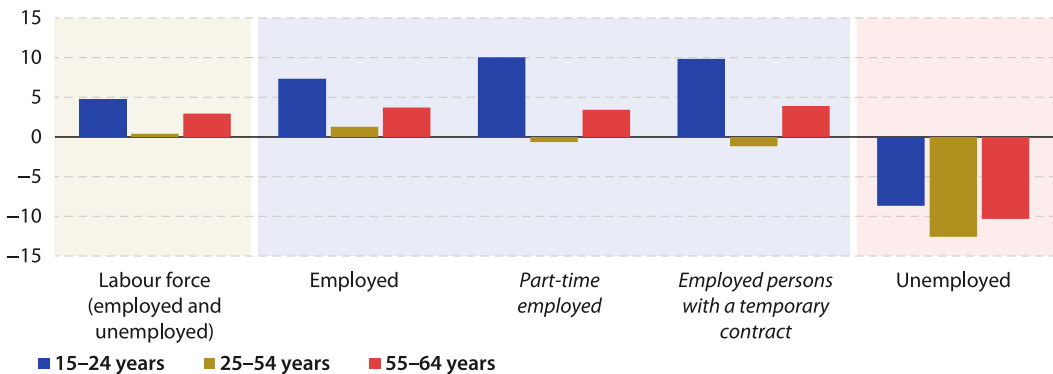
(%, persons aged 20–64 years, EU, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: *lfsi_emp_a*, *lfsi_pt_a* and *lfsa_uhan*)

Annual change in the labour force composition by age group

(%, EU, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: *lfsi_emp_a*, *lfsi_pt_a* and *lfsa_uhan*)

Following the heavy impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the EU labour market in 2020 and to a lesser extent in 2021, in 2022 there was a perceptible return to work: the size of the EU labour force (for persons aged 20–64 years) increased 1.1 % compared with a year before. The number of persons in employment grew 2.0 %, while there were also increases in the number of part-time workers (up 1.0 %) and the number of employed persons with a temporary contract (up 1.2 %). By contrast, the number of unemployed persons fell 12.2 %.

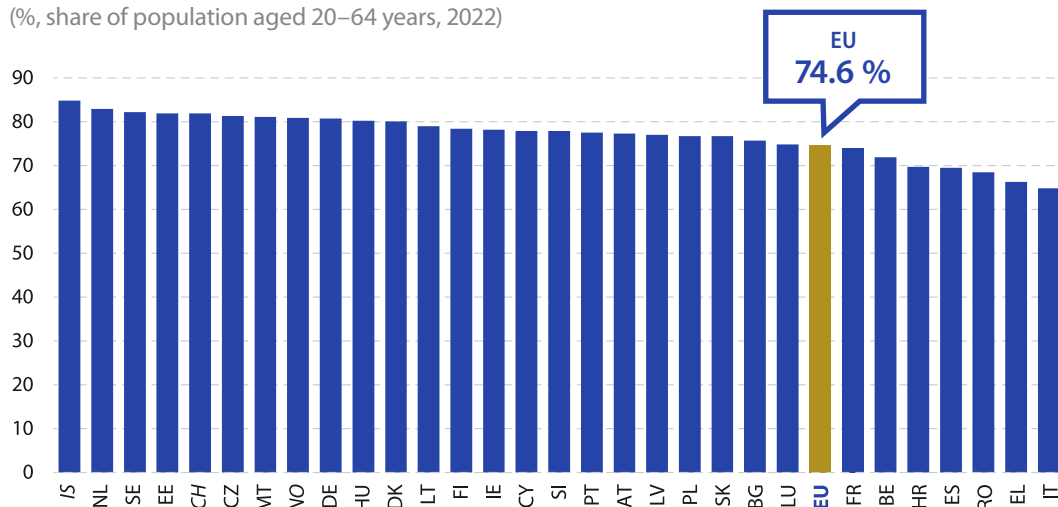
In 2022, a core group of working-age people (aged 25 to 54 years) accounted for almost three quarters

(72.0 %) of the EU's labour force (employed and unemployed persons) and for a slightly higher share of the total number of persons employed (72.5 %).

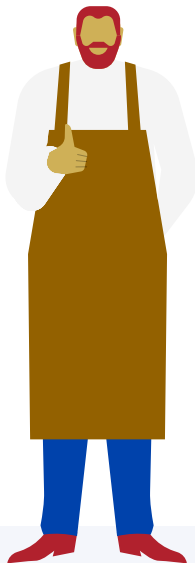
Young people (aged 15–24 years) are much more likely than older people to be in precarious work, such as agency, temporary, seasonal or casual work, or part-time employment. While young people accounted for 8.2 % of the total number of employed persons in the EU in 2022, their shares of part-time employment (15.2 %) and employment with a temporary contract (29.6 %) were considerably higher.

Employment rate

(%, share of population aged 20–64 years, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)



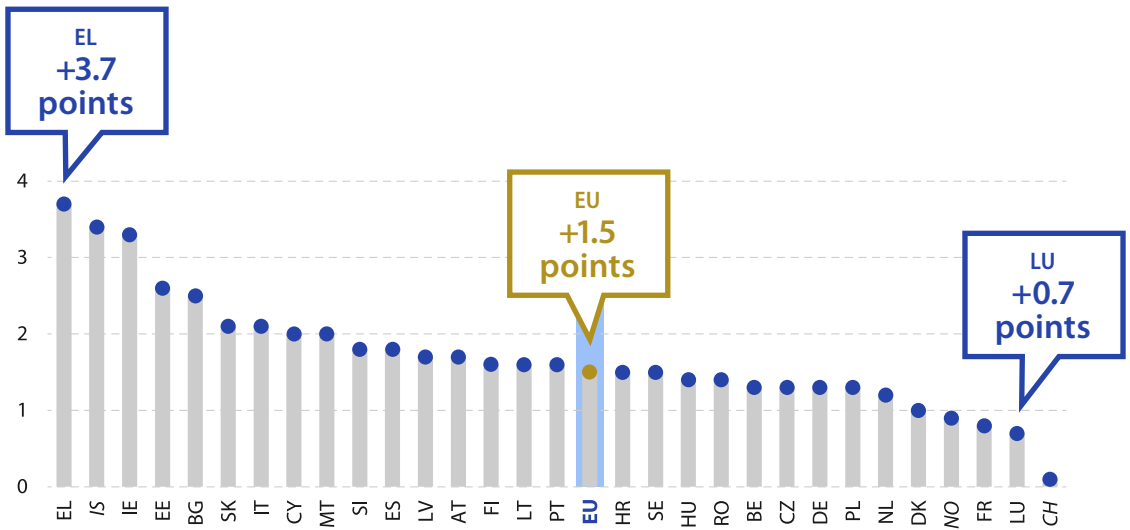
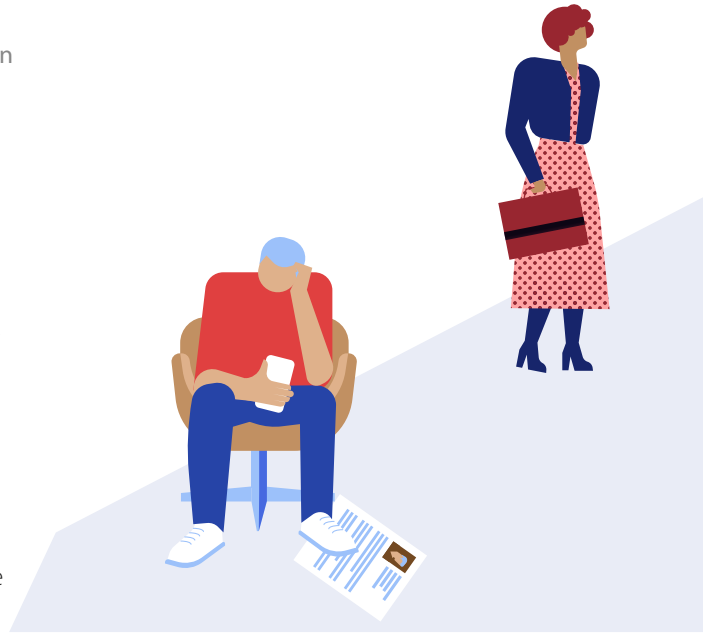
The EU **employment rate** – which measures the share of the population aged 20–64 years who were in work – was 74.6 % in 2022. There were eight EU Member States where at least 80.0 % of adults aged 20–64 years were in employment: the highest rates were recorded in the Netherlands (82.9 %), Sweden (82.2 %) and Estonia (81.9 %). At the other end of the range, less than 70.0 % of adults aged 20–64 years were in employment in Croatia (69.7 %), Spain (69.5 %), Romania (68.5 %), Greece (66.3 %) and Italy (64.8 %).

Annual change in the employment rate

(percentage points based on share of population aged 20–64 years, 2022)

Having fallen 1.0 percentage points between 2019 and 2020 (to 71.7 %), the EU's employment rate for people aged 20–64 years rebounded, climbing to 73.1 % in 2021. There was further growth in 2022, as the rate rose an additional 1.5 percentage points to 74.6 %. In 2022, employment rates in all EU Member States were higher than they had been in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 crisis.

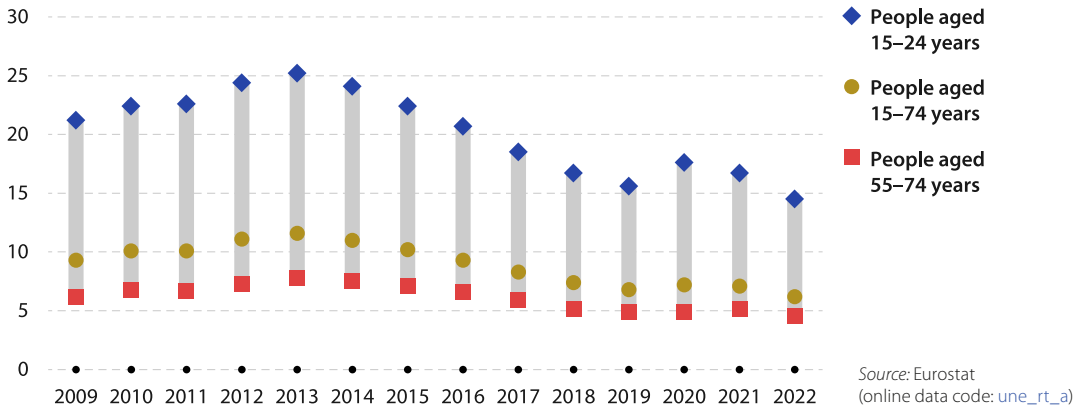
Between 2021 and 2022, the employment rate for people aged 20–64 years rose in each of the EU Member States. The biggest annual increases were observed in Greece (up 3.7 percentage points) and Ireland (3.3 points). France and Luxembourg were the only Member States where the employment rate did not increase by at least 1.0 percentage points.



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

Unemployment rate

(%, share of labour force, EU, 2009–2022)



In 2009, the EU **unemployment rate** for people aged 15–74 years was 9.3 %. In the wake of the global financial and economic crisis, the unemployment rate rose sharply, peaking at 11.6 % in 2013. During the following six years, the unemployment rate fell each and every year, to stand at 6.8 % by 2019. In 2020, as labour markets were impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, the rate increased to 7.2 %. This was followed by a modest decrease in

2021 and a more marked decrease in 2022. The EU unemployment rate stood at 6.2 % in 2022.

The EU **youth unemployment rate** (for people aged 15–24 years) was 14.5 % in 2022, which was 2.3 times as high as the rate for the whole population (aged 15–74 years) and 3.2 times as high as the rate for older persons (aged 55–74 years).

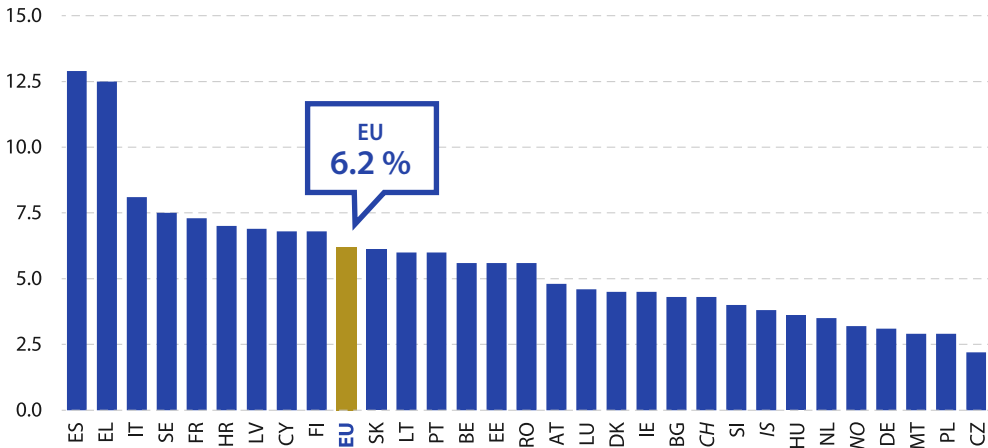


Unemployment rate

(% share of labour force aged 15–74 years, 2022)

In 2022, the highest unemployment rates among the EU Member States for people aged 15–74 years were recorded in Spain (12.9 %) and Greece (12.5 %); none of the other Member States recorded double-digit rates.

Relatively low unemployment rates – close to 3.0 % – were recorded in Germany, Malta and Poland, while the lowest rate was observed in Czechia (2.2 %).



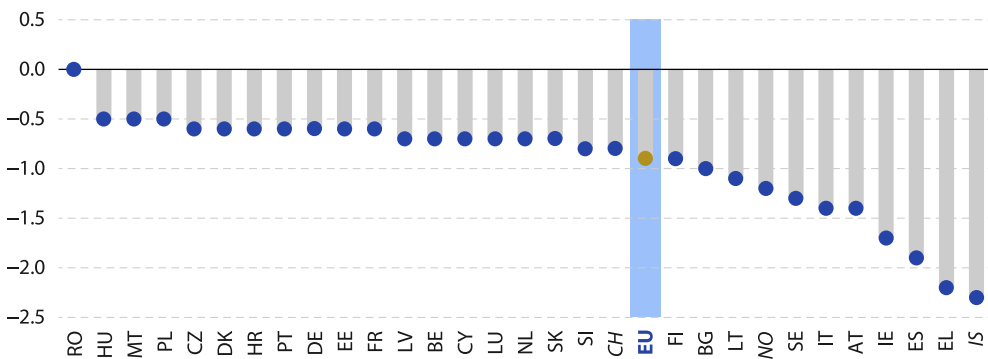
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [une_rt_a](#))

Annual change in the unemployment rate

(percentage points based on share of labour force aged 15–74 years, 2022)

Compared with 2021, the unemployment rate in 2022 for people aged 15–74 years was unchanged in Romania; it fell in all of the remaining EU

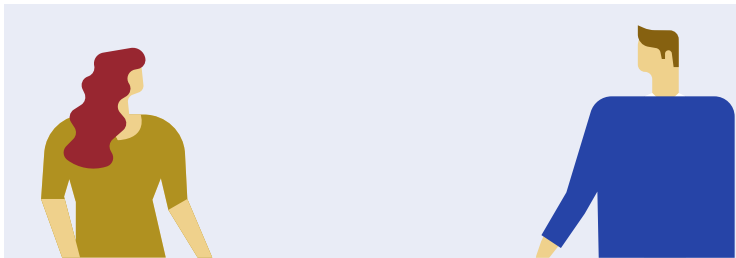
Member States. The largest falls were recorded in Greece (down 2.2 percentage points), Spain (down 1.9 points) and Ireland (down 1.7 points).



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

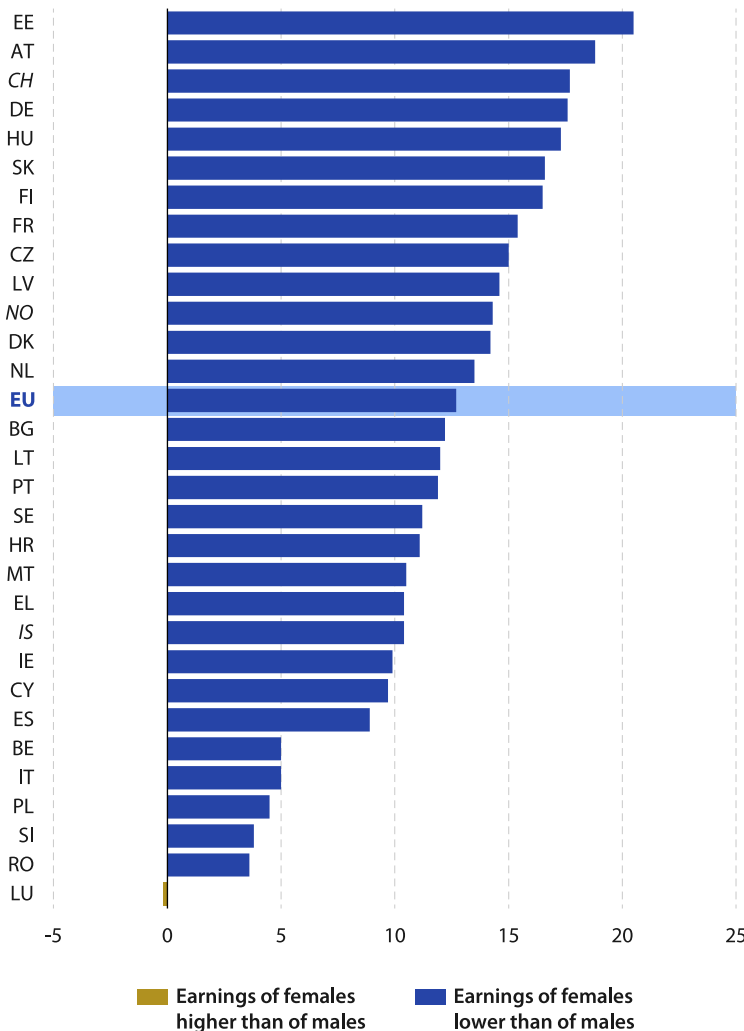
Unadjusted gender pay gap

(%, difference between earnings of female and male employees as a percentage of earnings of male employees, based on average gross hourly earnings, 2021)

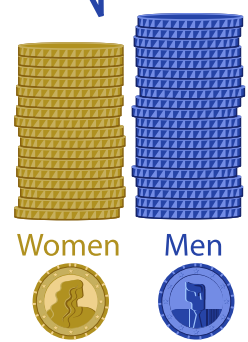


The unadjusted gender pay gap provides an overall picture of the differences in pay between men and women. It measures the gap in hourly earnings between male and female employees in industry, construction and services among enterprises with 10 or more employees.

In 2021, average hourly earnings for women across the EU were 12.7 % lower than those for men. The widest gender pay gap was recorded in Estonia, where women's earnings were 20.5 % lower than those of men. By contrast, the gap was less than 5.0 % in Poland (4.5 %), Slovenia (3.8 %) and Romania (3.6 %). A different pattern was observed in Luxembourg, as the average earnings of women were marginally higher than those of men (by 0.2 %).



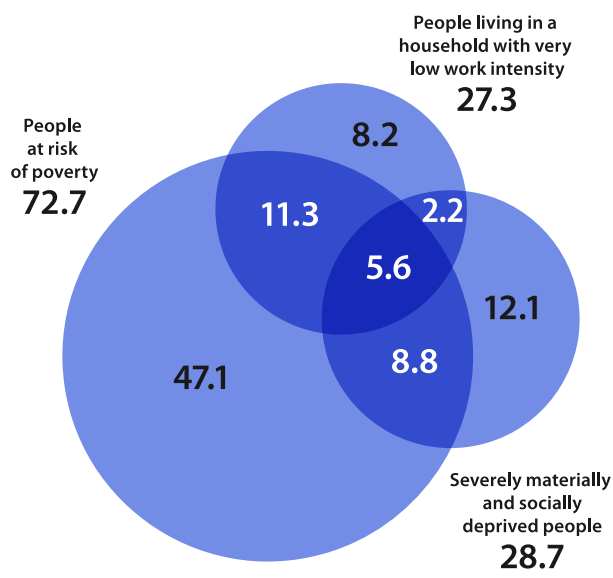
Women in the EU earn on average **12.7%** less than men



Note: IE, 2020; EL, 2018.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: [earn_gr_gpgr2](#))

Living conditions

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (million persons, EU, 2022)



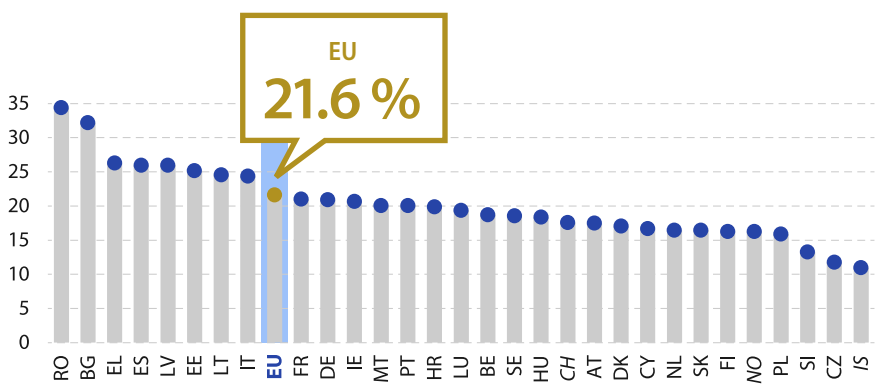
In 2022, 95.3 million people, or 21.6 % of the EU population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at risk of poverty after social transfers; facing severe material and social deprivation; or living in a household with very low work intensity. The greatest risk of poverty or social exclusion was from income poverty, in other words, people who were at risk of poverty after social transfers: this condition was faced by 72.7 million people in 2022, among whom 25.6 million were affected at the same time by one or both of the other two conditions. Compared with a year earlier, there were 0.3 million fewer people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022.

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

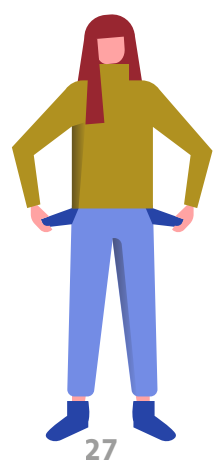
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (% share of total population, 2022)

In 2022, the share of the population that was at risk of poverty or social exclusion was highest among the EU Member States in Romania (34.4 %) and Bulgaria (32.2 %). At least one in four of the population in Greece, Spain, Latvia and Estonia were also at risk of

poverty or social exclusion. At the other end of the range, less than one in six people in the Netherlands, Slovakia, Finland, Poland and Slovenia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with a low of 11.8 % recorded in Czechia.

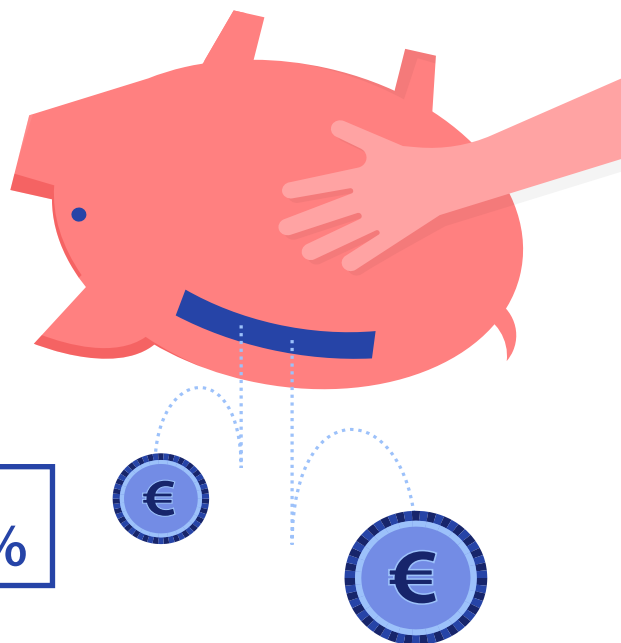
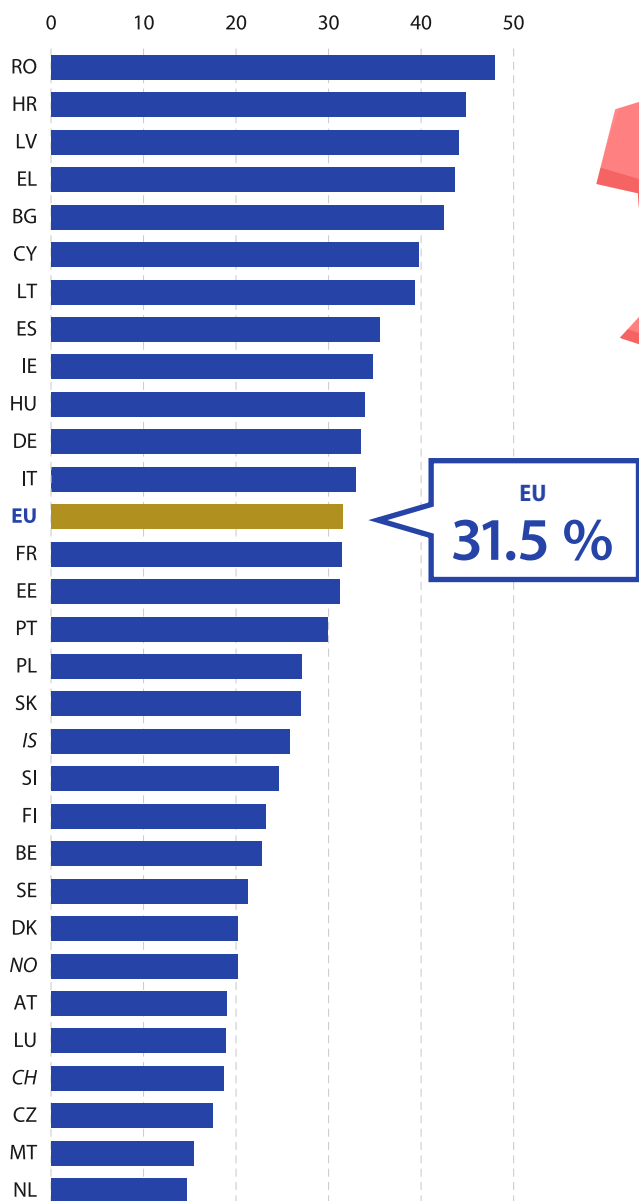


Note: CH, 2021. NO: 2020. IS: 2018.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_peps01n](#))



Inability to face unexpected financial expenses

(% share of total population, 2022)



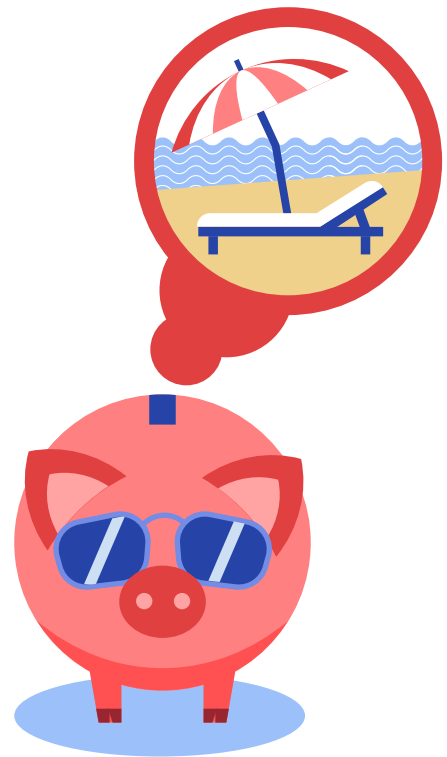
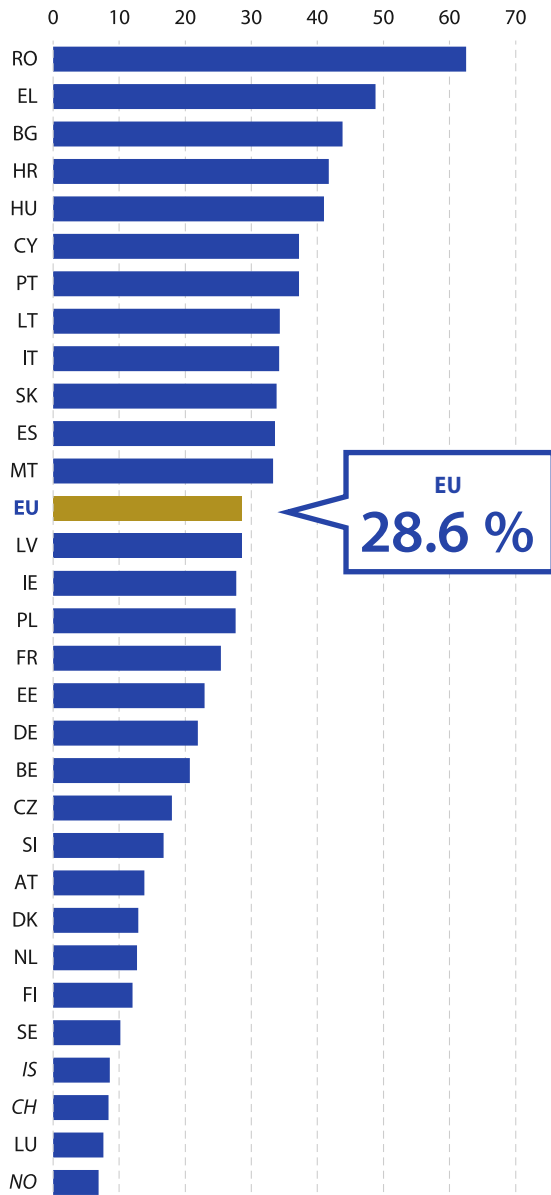
Material deprivation refers to the enforced inability (rather than the choice not to do so) to pay for/afford specific expenses; one example is unexpected financial expenses. In 2022, almost one third (31.5 %) of the EU population living in private households were unable to face an unexpected financial expense. This share was 1.3 percentage points higher than in 2021 (which may, at least in part, be linked to the growing cost-of-living crisis). More than two fifths of the population were unable to face an unexpected financial expense in 2022 in five of the EU Member States, with the highest share in Romania (47.9 %). By contrast, a relatively small proportion of the population in Malta and the Netherlands was unable to face such expenses (15.4 % and 14.6 % respectively).

Note: CH, 2021. NO: 2020. IS: 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_mdcs04](#))

Inability to afford paying for a one-week annual holiday away from home

(% share of total population, 2022)

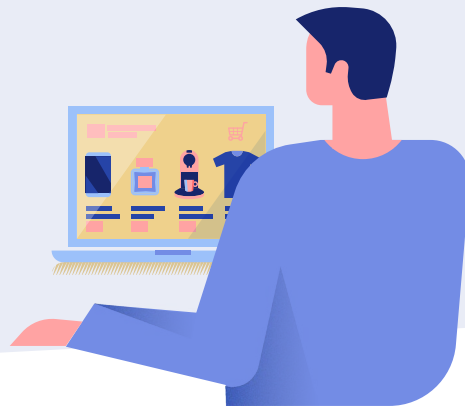


Another component of material deprivation is the inability to afford one week of holiday away from home each year. In 2022, some 28.6 % of the EU population were unable to afford such a holiday. Note that these figures refer to an inability to afford a holiday and are not impacted by whether or not people could actually depart on holiday (for example, simply because they did not feel like taking a holiday). Some of the highest shares among the EU Member States – between two fifths and half of the population – were recorded in Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Greece; a peak of 62.5 % was observed in Romania. By contrast, the share of the population that was unable to afford one week’s holiday away from home was around one tenth in Sweden (10.2 %) and was lower in Luxembourg (7.6 %).

Note: CH, 2021. NO: 2020. IS: 2018.

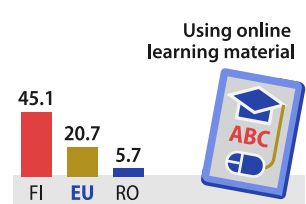
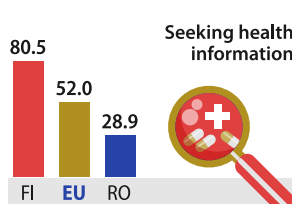
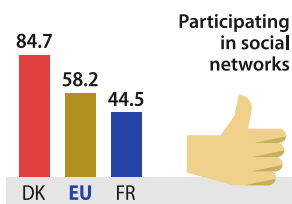
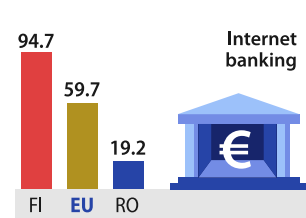
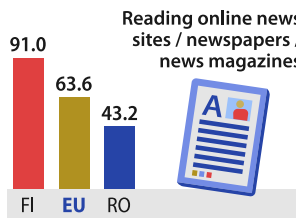
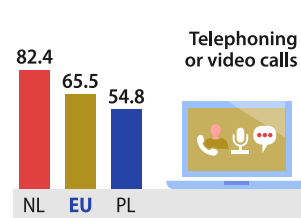
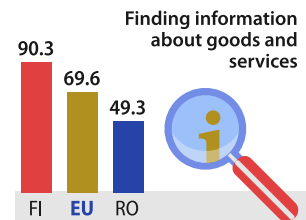
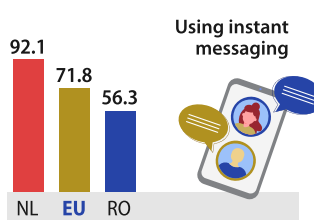
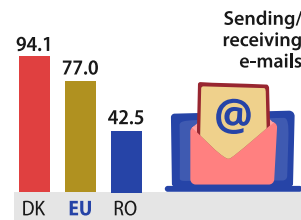
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc_mdcs02](#))

Digital society



Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2022)



■ Highest value ■ EU value ■ Lowest value

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

The internet has become an integral part of most people's lives, changing the way people study, work, communicate and enjoy their free time. In 2022, 90.0 % of people (aged 16–74 years) in the EU declared they had [used the internet](#) during the previous three months.

Across the EU, some of the internet activities most commonly performed in 2022 by people aged 16–74

years included: sending/receiving e-mails (77.0 %), using instant messaging (71.8 %), finding information about goods and services (69.6 %) and telephoning or making video calls (65.5 %). A majority of people aged 16–74 years in the EU also used the internet (among other purposes) for reading online news sites / newspapers / magazines (63.6 %), internet banking (59.7 %), participating in social networks (58.2 %) and seeking health information (52.0 %).

Internet activities

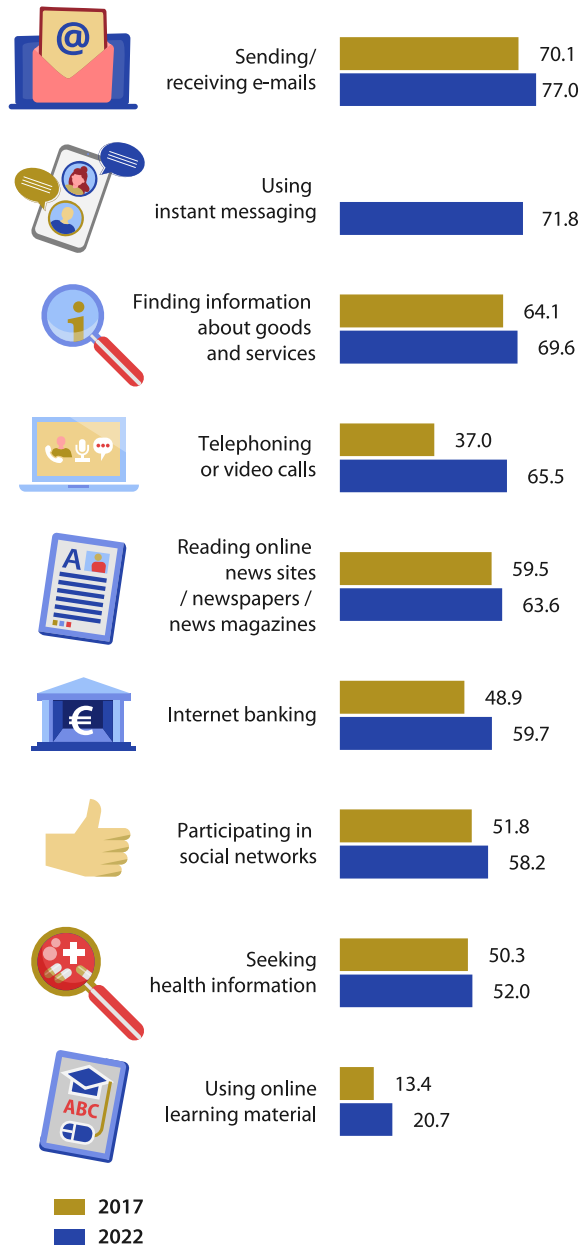
(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, EU, 2017 and 2022)

The proportion of people aged 16–74 years in the EU having participated in many of the most commonly performed internet activities grew between 2017 and 2022. As well as a continuation of a gradual well-established upward trend, the most recent developments may also reflect the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on some people's internet activities. This was most apparent when looking at the use made of telephoning or video calls, as the share of people performing this activity rose 28.5 percentage points between 2017 and 2022. In a similar vein, given the widespread use of remote learning for schools, tertiary education and training during 2020 and 2021, it is unsurprising that the share of the EU population using online learning material also increased, up 7.3 points; note that a large part of the school-age population (pupils aged less than 16 years) is not covered by these statistics. There was also a relatively large increase in the proportion of the EU population making use of internet banking, up 10.8 points between 2017 and 2022.

As lockdown restrictions ended and people could once again participate in a broader range of leisure activities, participation rates for some of the most commonly performed internet activities fell. This was particularly notable for the share of the EU population aged 16–74 years seeking health information online; the proportion of people participating in this internet activity fell 3.3 percentage points between 2021 and 2022.

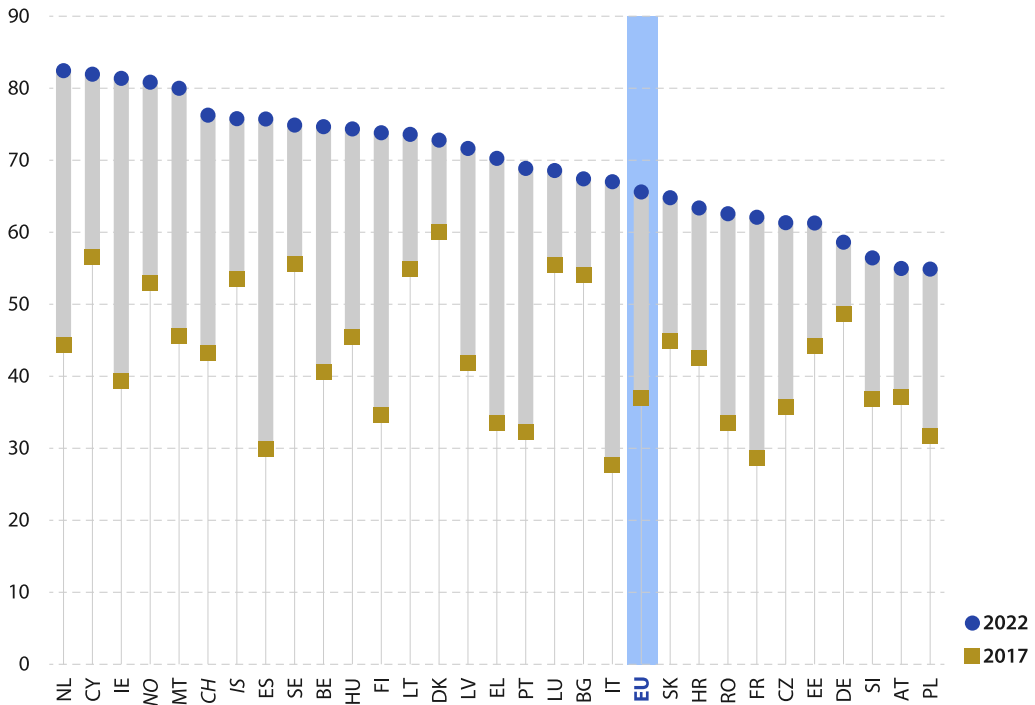
Note: using instant messaging, not available for 2017.

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



Using the internet for telephoning or video calls

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2017 and 2022)

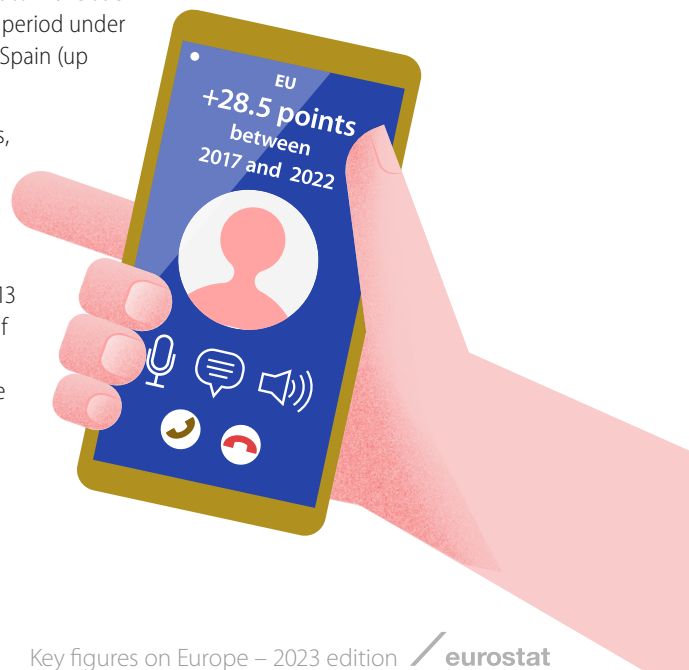


The share of people aged 16–74 years in the EU using the internet to make telephone or video calls increased 28.5 percentage points between 2017 and 2022. The proportion of people using the internet to make such calls rose in each of the EU Member States during the period under consideration. The largest increases were recorded in Spain (up 45.8 percentage points) and Ireland (up 42.0 points).

Note: IS and CH, 2021 instead of 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_1)

Having risen rapidly at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the share of people in the EU making use of the internet for telephone or video calls rose at a slower pace in 2021, before almost stagnating in 2022. A closer analysis of the latest data reveals that the EU Member States were almost evenly split, with 13 Member States recording a fall in 2022 in their share of people using the internet to make telephone or video calls compared with 2021. The biggest decreases were registered in Austria and Slovenia, both down more than 5.0 percentage points.



2

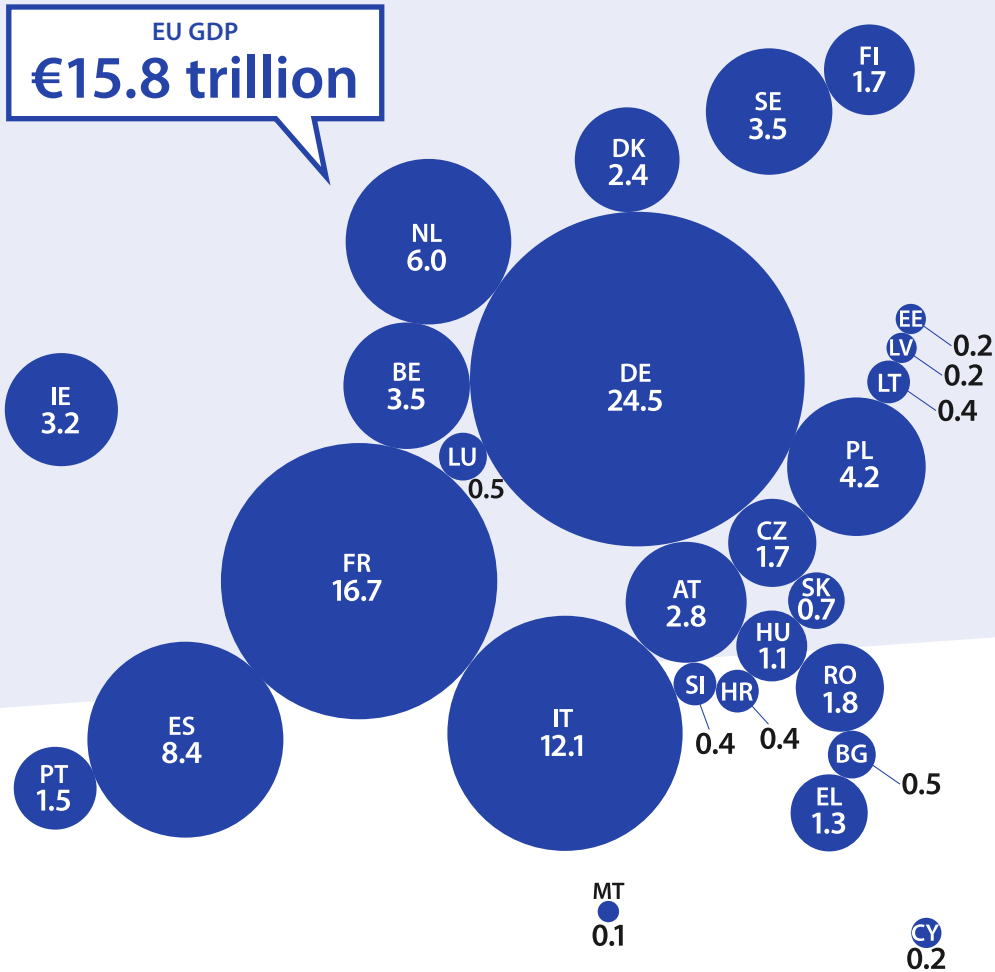
Economy and business



Economy and finance

GDP

(%, share of EU total, 2022)

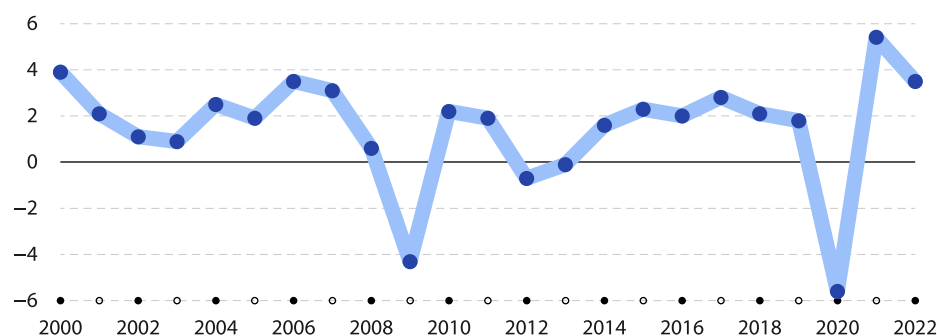


Gross domestic product (GDP) is an indicator used to measure the size and performance of an economy. It provides information on the value of goods and services produced during a given period. Within the EU, GDP was valued at €15.8 trillion in 2022. Germany had the largest economy among the EU Member States (€3.9 trillion, or 24.5 % of the EU total), followed by France (16.7 %) and Italy (12.1 %). At the other end of the range, Malta (0.1 %) had the smallest economy in the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_gdp)

Real change in GDP

(%, annual change, based on chain-linked volumes, EU, 2000–2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [naida_10_gdp](#))

The real change in GDP shows the rate of change in economic output having removed the effects of price changes (inflation or deflation). Between 2000 and 2008, the EU economy grew each year, with GDP rising 0.6–3.9 % in real terms. From 2009 to 2013, the economy was strongly affected by the global financial and economic crisis, with GDP falling 4.3 % in 2009 and much smaller amounts in 2012 and 2013 (0.7 % and 0.1 %, respectively).

Thereafter, the EU economy progressively recovered, with annual growth rates in the range of 1.6–2.8 % between 2014 and 2019. In 2020, the economy was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis (the direct health consequences and related restrictions) and GDP fell 5.6 %. GDP rebounded, rising 5.4 % in 2021 and growth was sustained the following year, when GDP rose a further 3.5 %.



Note: IS and NO, 2021. CH: 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [nama_10_pc](#))

GDP per inhabitant

(EU = 100, based on PPS, 2022)

GDP per inhabitant can be used to compare economic output of different sized economies. Within the EU, this ratio fell from €31 310 in 2019 to €30 030 in 2020. However, it rebounded in 2021 and then grew further in 2022, as the EU's GDP per inhabitant climbed to €35 210. As the cost of living varies from place to place, the information presented here has been adjusted to reflect price level differences using an artificial currency unit called a **purchasing power standard (PPS)**. Based on this measure, the relative living standards of individual EU Member States can be expressed in relation to the EU average (set to equal 100). In 2022, the highest value was recorded in Luxembourg, where GDP per inhabitant in PPS was 2.6 times as high as the EU average. By contrast, GDP per inhabitant in Bulgaria was close to three fifths (58.7 %) of the EU average.

261	●	LU
234	●	IE
167	●	NO
160	●	CH
137	●	DK
129	●	NL
125	●	AT
120	●	BE
119	●	IS
119	●	SE
117	●	DE
109	●	FI
102	●	MT
102	●	FR
100	●	EU
96	●	IT
92	●	SI
92	●	CY
91	●	CZ
90	●	LT
87	●	EE
85	●	ES
80	●	PL
78	●	HU
77	●	PT
77	●	RO
74	●	LV
73	●	HR
68	●	SK
68	●	EL
59	●	BG

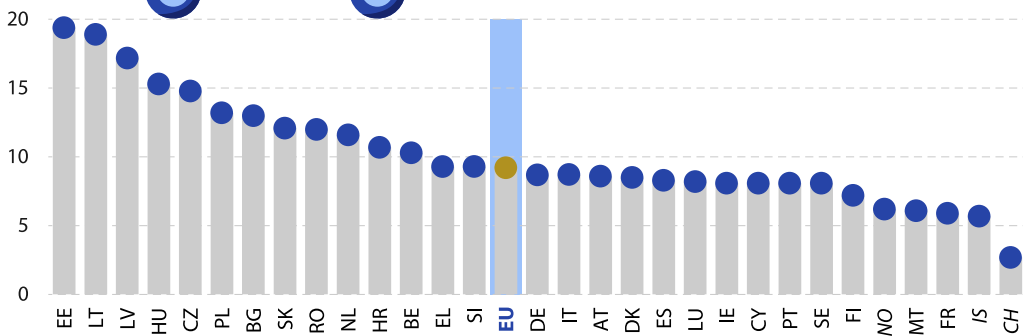
Prices



Inflation rate

(%, annual change, 2022)

The inflation rate shows the change in the price of a basket of consumer goods and services. Prices in the EU increased 0.7 % in 2020, 2.9 % in 2021, and 9.2 % in 2022. Double-digit price increases were observed in 12 of the EU Member States in 2022, with annual inflation highest in Estonia at 19.4 %.



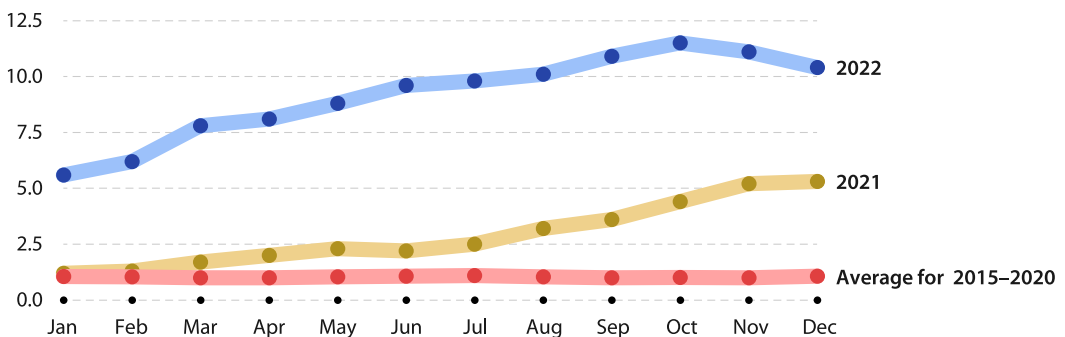
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [prc_hicp_aind](#))

Inflation rate

(%, annual rate of change, EU, average for 2015–2020, 2021 and 2022)

EU inflation was relatively modest during the period 2015–2020. Thereafter, the rate of inflation accelerated and by December 2021 it was 5.3 %. This pattern continued into 2022, as price rises continued to

increase up until a peak in October (when the inflation rate was 11.5 %). There were signs of slower price growth during the final two months of the year.



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

Consumer prices

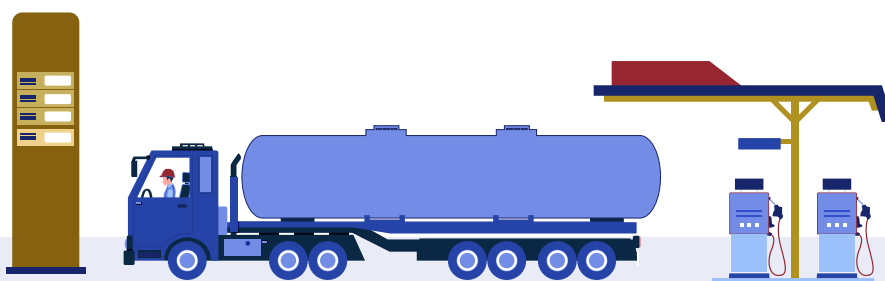
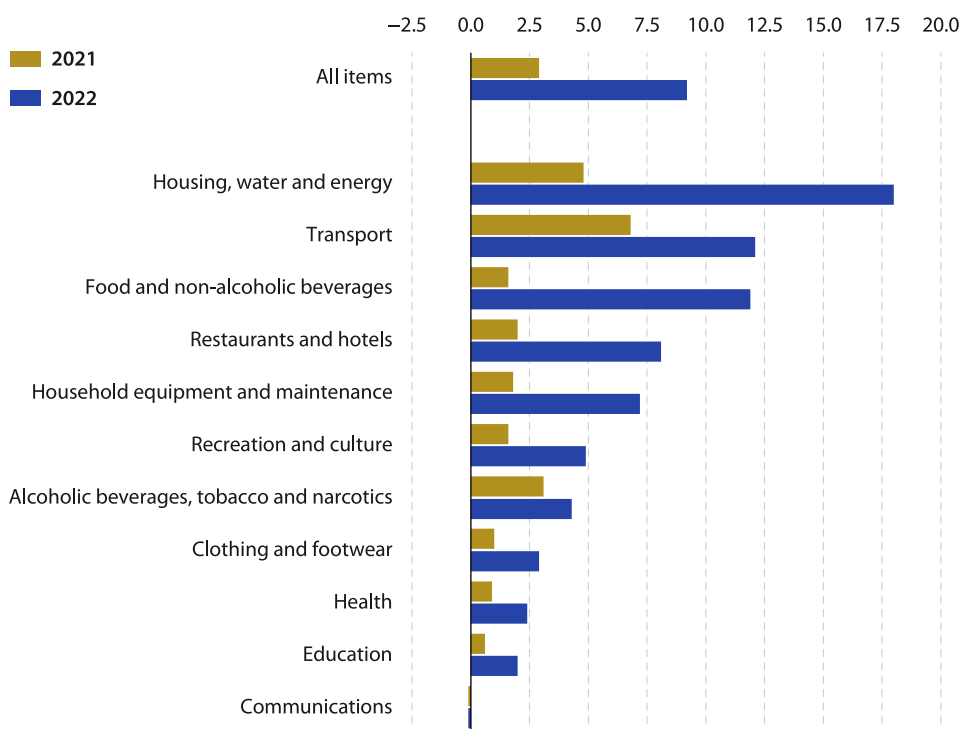
(%, annual rate of change, EU, 2021 and 2022)

In 2022, the EU's overall inflation rate (covering all items) was 9.2 %. During the period 2015–2020 the annual inflation rate had been in the range of 0.1–1.9 %.

However, the sharp increase in overall prices experienced during 2021 and 2022 was not uniform, with marked differences between the different components that make up the all-items index; some of these differences may be linked to the impact of Russian military aggression against Ukraine.

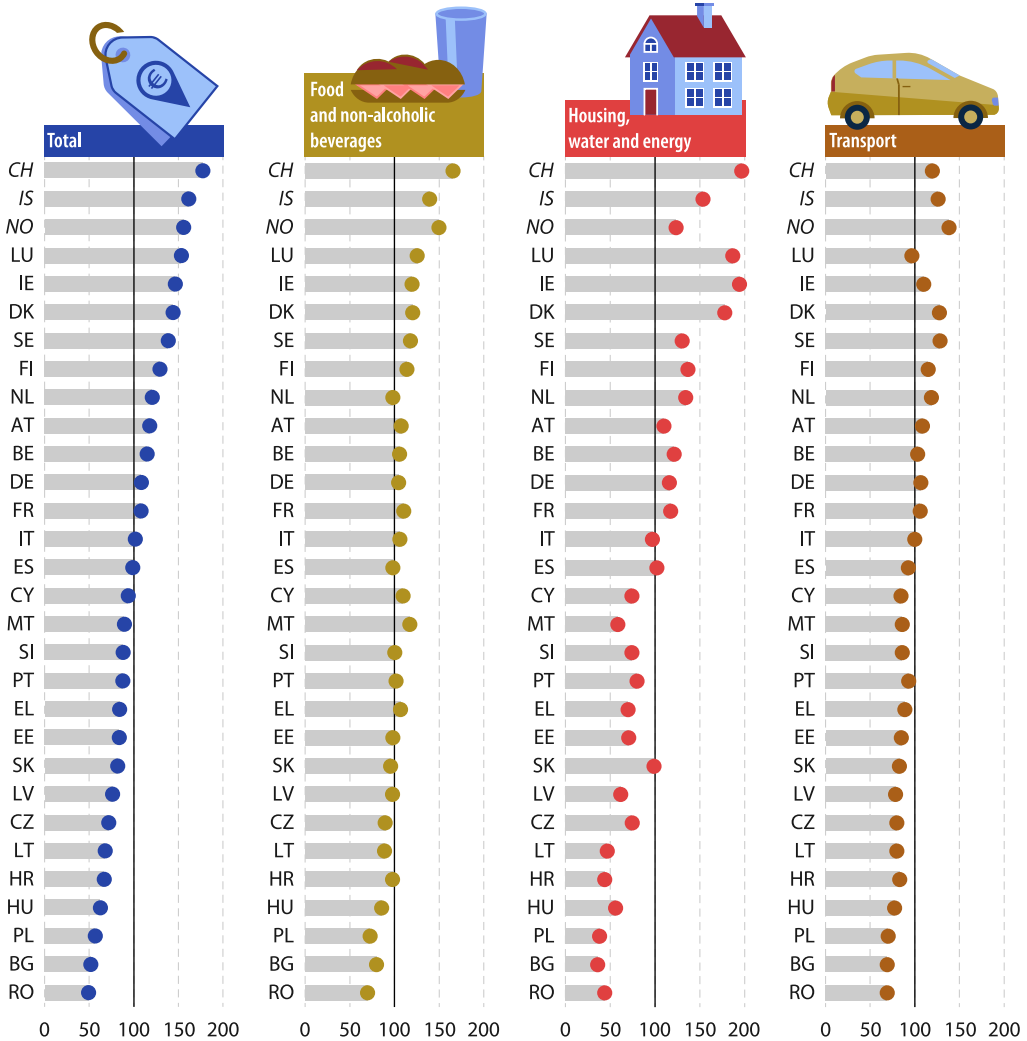
Housing, water and energy prices were up 18.0 % across the EU in 2022, transport prices up 12.1 %, and the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages up 11.9 %. At the other end of the range, price increases for education, health, and clothing and footwear were relatively subdued (within the range of 2.0–3.0 %), while there was a modest fall (down 0.1 %) in the price of communications.

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



Comparative price levels

(EU = 100, 2021)



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

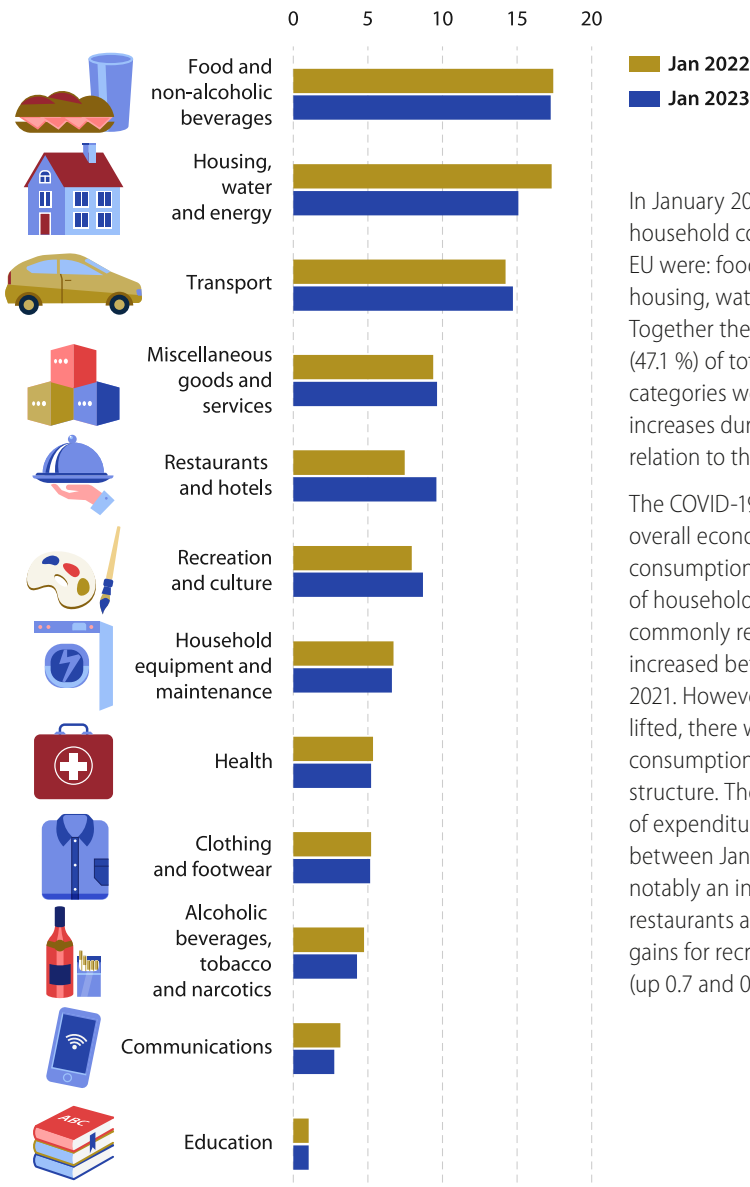
Price level indices measure price differences between countries; these are expressed as a percentage of prices for the EU average, which is therefore set to equal 100. In 2021, the overall price level index was highest among the EU Member States in Luxembourg, Ireland and Denmark, all with values that were more than 40 % above the EU average. Price levels were around half the EU average in Romania and Bulgaria. There was a relatively low degree of variation in price levels for food and

non-alcoholic beverages, with the highest prices in Luxembourg (25 % above the EU average) and the lowest in Romania (30 % below). A similar pattern existed for transport, with the highest prices in Denmark and Sweden (28 % above the EU average) and the lowest in Bulgaria and Romania (31 % below). By contrast, the price of housing, water and energy displayed a greater variation, from 94 % above the EU average in Ireland down to 64 % below in Bulgaria.

Household consumption expenditure

Household budget structure

(%, share of total household consumption expenditure, EU, January 2022 and 2023)



In January 2023, the largest categories of household consumption expenditure in the EU were: food and non-alcoholic beverages; housing, water and energy; and transport. Together they accounted for close to half (47.1 %) of total expenditure. All three of these categories were characterised by high price increases during 2022, underlying their role in relation to the cost-of-living crisis.

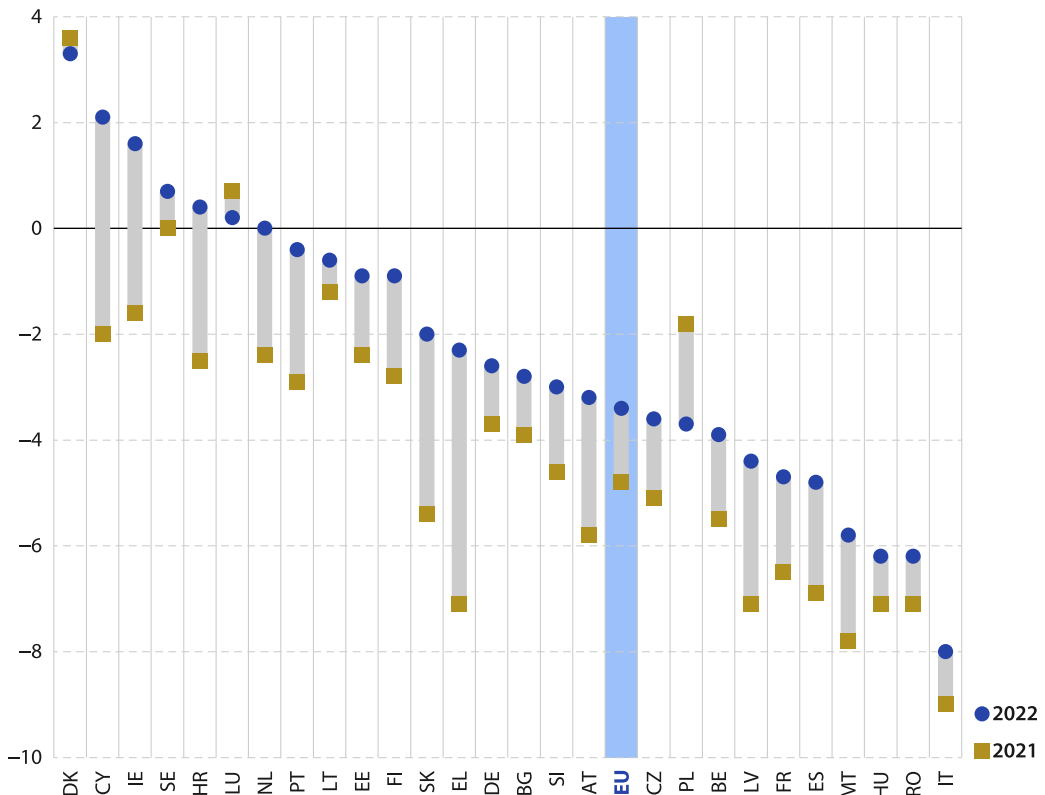
The COVID-19 crisis impacted not only overall economic activity, but also household consumption patterns. Across the EU, the share of household expenditure on several categories commonly related to eating and living at home increased between January 2020 and January 2021. However, with COVID-19 restrictions lifted, there was some evidence that household consumption was returning to its pre-pandemic structure. There was a rebound in the share of expenditure for activities outside the home between January 2022 and January 2023, most notably an increase of 2.1 percentage points for restaurants and hotels; there were also notable gains for recreation and culture and for transport (up 0.7 and 0.5 points, respectively).

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

Government finance

General government deficit/surplus

(%, relative to GDP, 2021 and 2022)



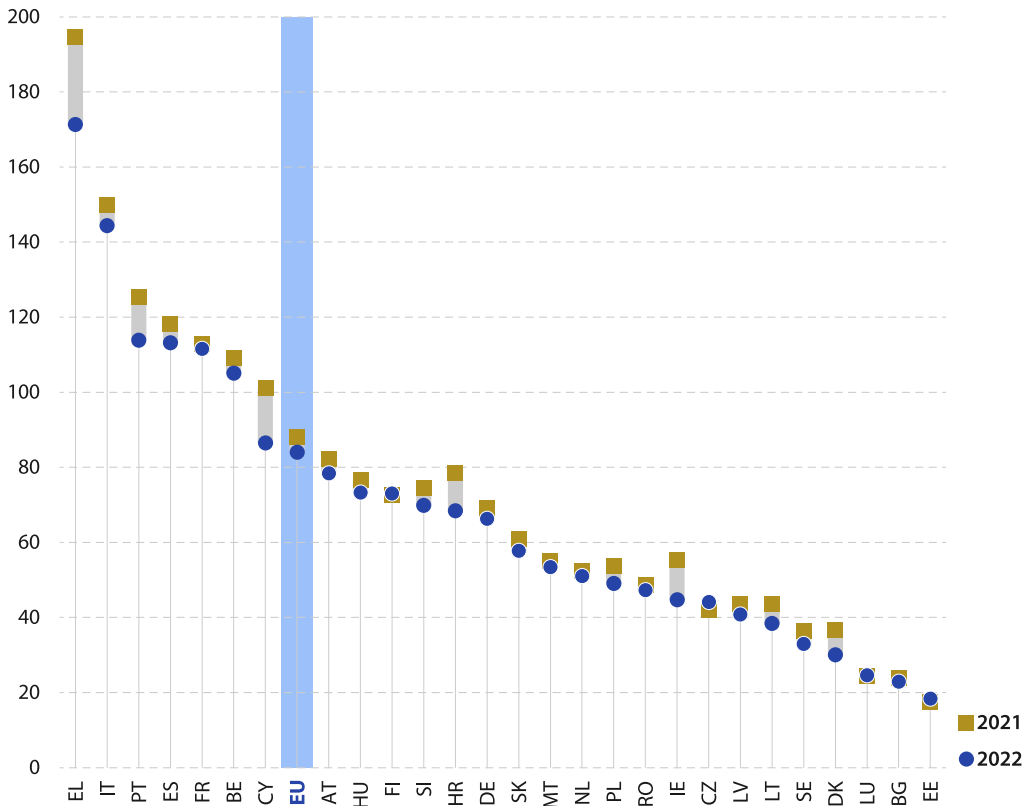
In 2022, the [general government deficit](#) across the EU was equivalent to 3.4 % of GDP. Between 2021 and 2022 the deficit narrowed, reflecting the decreasing impact of the COVID-19 crisis on [government expenditure](#).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

Six of the EU Member States recorded a budget surplus in 2022; the highest was observed in Denmark (3.3 % of GDP). By contrast, Malta, Hungary and Romania had deficits that were greater than 5.0 % of GDP, with this ratio peaking at 8.0 % in Italy.

General government gross debt

(%, relative to GDP, 2021 and 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

Consolidated gross debt in the EU was 84.0 % of GDP in 2022, down 6.0 percentage points from its peak of 90.0 % in 2020 (reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in that year). In 2022, consolidated debt was highest across the EU Member States in Greece at 171.3 % of GDP. Italy, Portugal, Spain, France and Belgium also recorded ratios of more than 100 %. At the other end of the range, Luxembourg and Bulgaria had ratios of debt to GDP that were below 25.0 % of GDP, with the lowest ratio observed in Estonia (18.4 %).

In a majority of the EU Member States, there was a fall in debt relative to GDP between 2021 and 2022. The biggest decrease was recorded in Greece (down 23.3 percentage points), while Cyprus, Portugal, Ireland and Croatia also recorded decreases in double digits. There were four Member States where debt as a share of GDP rose in 2022, with the highest increase in Czechia (up 2.1 points).



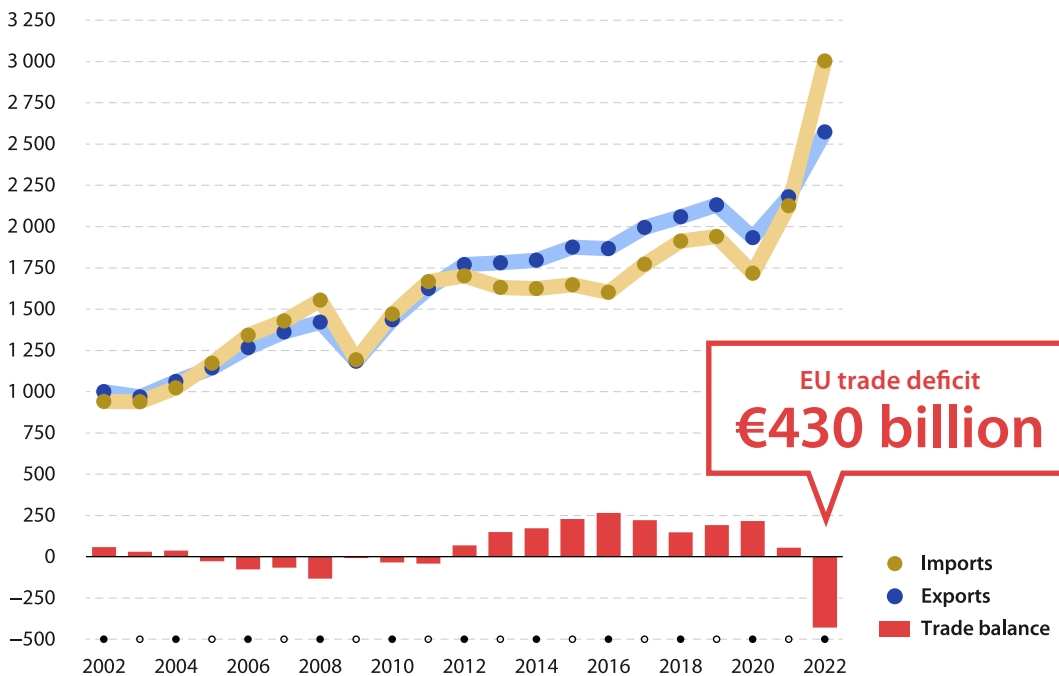
International trade



International trade in goods with non-EU countries

(€ billion, EU, 2002–2022)

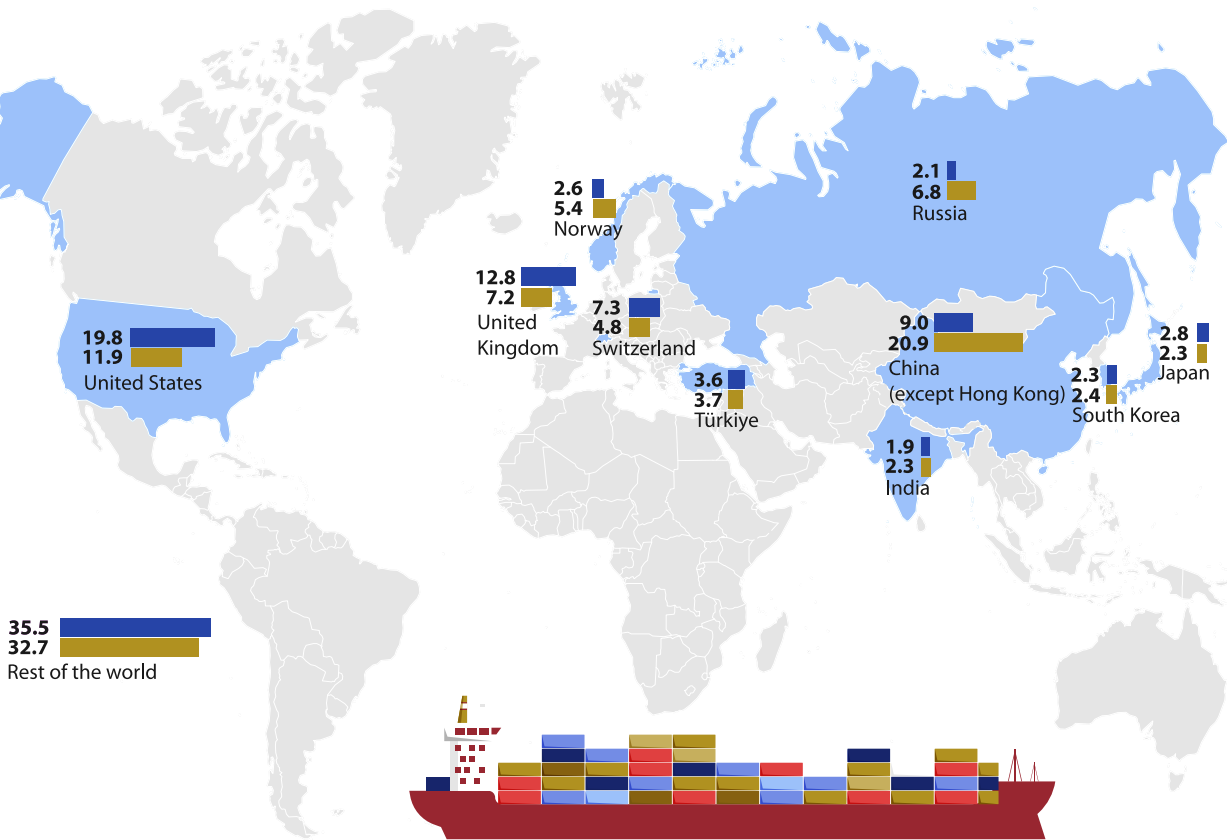
Having posted a trade **surplus** for goods during 10 consecutive years from 2012 to 2021, the EU posted a **deficit** in 2022. Goods exported from the EU to non-EU countries were valued at €2 573 billion, which was €430 billion lower than the value of goods imported into the EU. The latest figures available suggest that world trade was booming in 2022, with record highs for both exports and imports. Note that the data in this section are valued in current price terms and that part of the rapid increase in the value of trade may be attributed to price inflation, in particular for goods such as energy and food.



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

Top 10 partners for international trade in goods

(%, share of all partners, EU, 2022)



■ EU exports
■ EU imports

In 2022, the United States was the EU's leading export market, receiving 19.8 % of the total value of goods exported outside the EU. The next largest export markets for EU goods were the United Kingdom (with a 12.8 % share) and China (excluding Hong Kong; 9.0 %).

There was a different picture for imports, as more than one fifth (20.9 %) of all goods imported into the EU in 2022 originated from China (excluding Hong Kong). The United States was the second largest country of origin for EU imports (11.9 %).

Between 2021 and 2022, there was a decline in the relative importance of Russia as one of the EU's leading trading partners, reflecting the impact of sanctions/restrictions imposed by the EU following Russian military aggression against Ukraine. While the value of EU exports to the rest of the world was 18.0 % higher in 2022 (than in 2021), exports to Russia were 38.1 % lower.

Note: the figure shows the share of EU exports to non-EU countries and the share of EU imports from non-EU countries. Selected based on the average share of exports and imports.

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

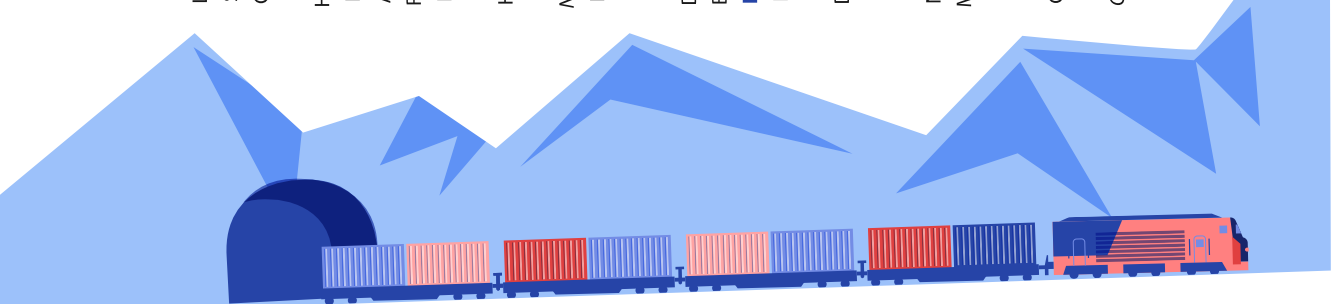
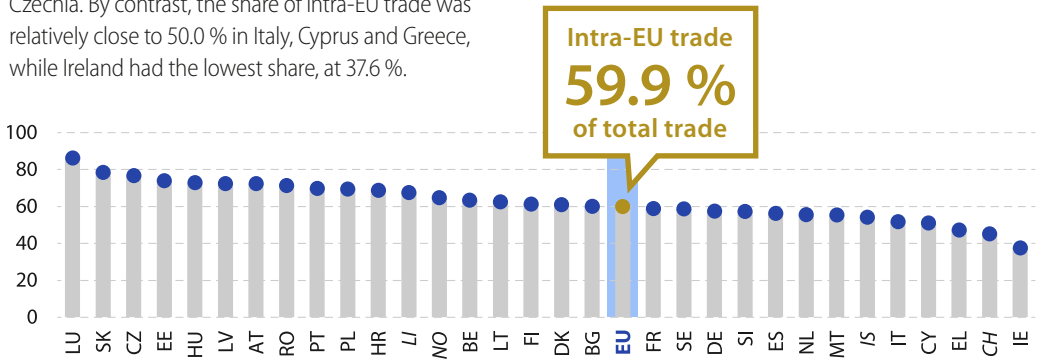
International trade in goods with Member States

(%, share of trade with all partners (intra- and extra-EU), 2022)

In 2022, 59.9 % of the EU Member States' trade in goods concerned exchanges between Member States. The relative share of intra-EU trade was highest in Luxembourg at 86.3 % and also accounted for three quarters or more of total trade in Slovakia and Czechia. By contrast, the share of intra-EU trade was relatively close to 50.0 % in Italy, Cyprus and Greece, while Ireland had the lowest share, at 37.6 %.

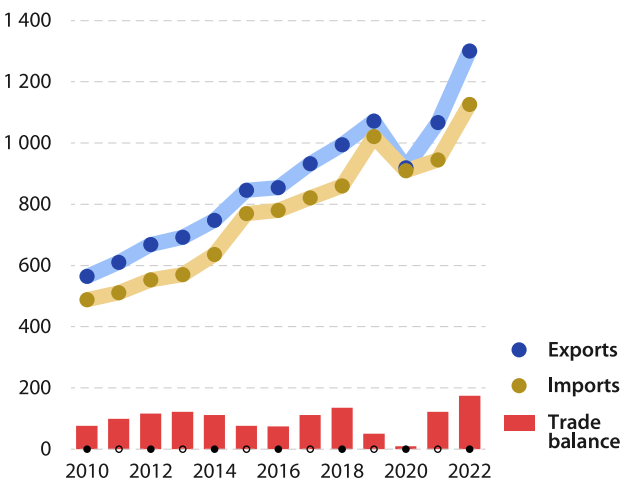
Note: calculation based on the average value of exports and imports.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ext_lt_intratrd and ext_lt_intercc)



International trade in services with non-member countries

(€ billion, EU, 2010–2022)

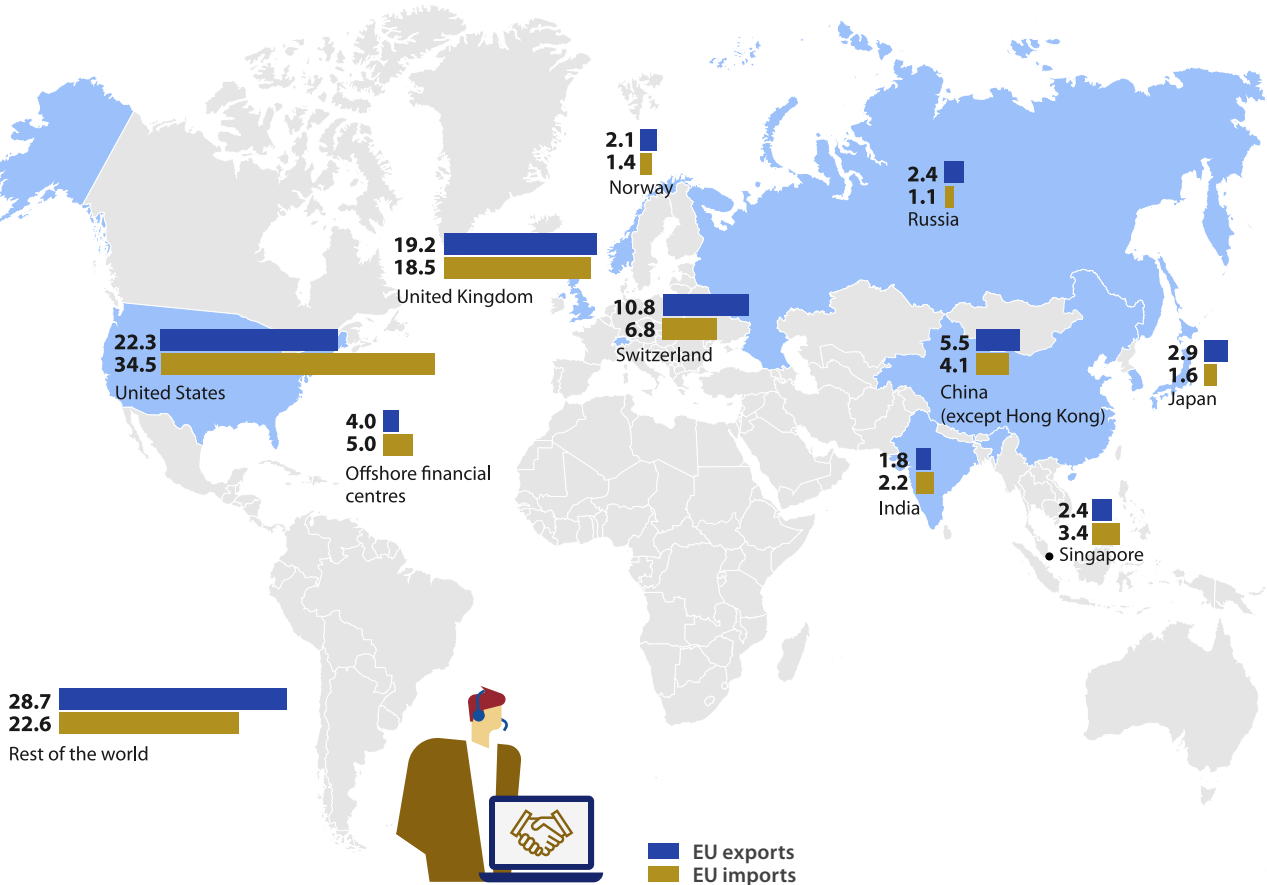


In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in the value of world trade in services. This pattern was also observed across the EU, despite a fall in trade during the COVID-19 crisis. In 2022, exports of services from the EU to non-EU countries were valued at €1 300 billion while imports into the EU were valued at €1 126 billion. The EU recorded a trade surplus for services throughout the period 2010–2022, with the surplus of €175 billion in 2022 the highest during this period.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det)

Top 10 partners for international trade in services

(%, share of all partners, EU, 2021)



In 2021, the EU’s leading trade partners for services were the United States and the United Kingdom. Around one fifth of services exported from the EU were destined for the United States (22.3 %) and the United Kingdom (19.2 %). Switzerland was the third largest trade partner for the EU’s service exports (10.8 %). By contrast, more than one third (34.5 %) of services imported into the EU from non-EU countries originated in the United States, followed at some distance by the United Kingdom (18.5 %).

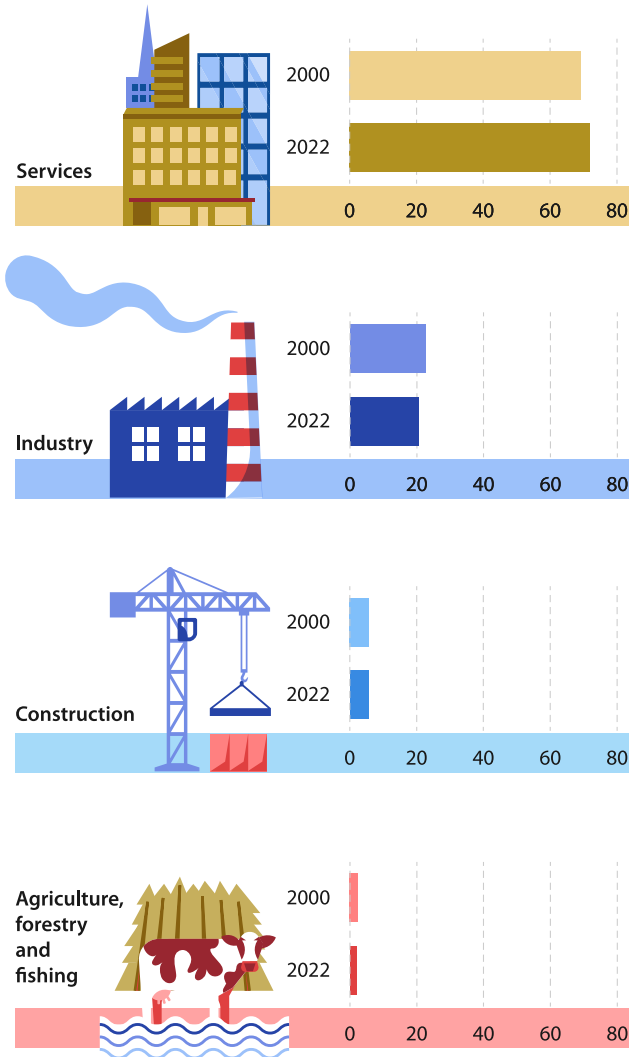
Note: the figure shows the share of EU exports to non-EU countries and the share of EU imports from non-EU countries. Selected based on the average share of exports and imports. The data shown for offshore financial centres exclude Singapore (for which information is shown separately).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [bop_its6_tot](#))

Business

Developments for the sectoral structure of value added

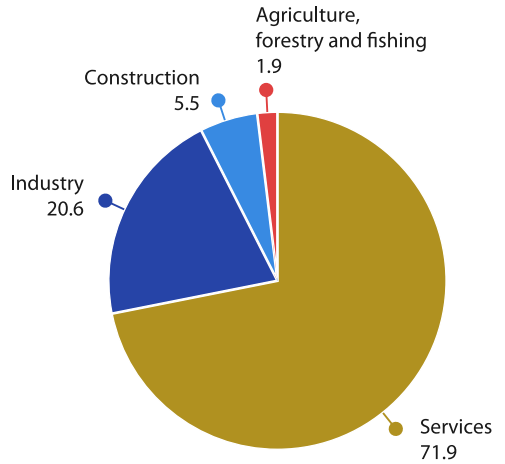
(%, share of total value added, EU, 2000 and 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

Sectoral structure of value added

(%, share of total value added, EU, 2022)



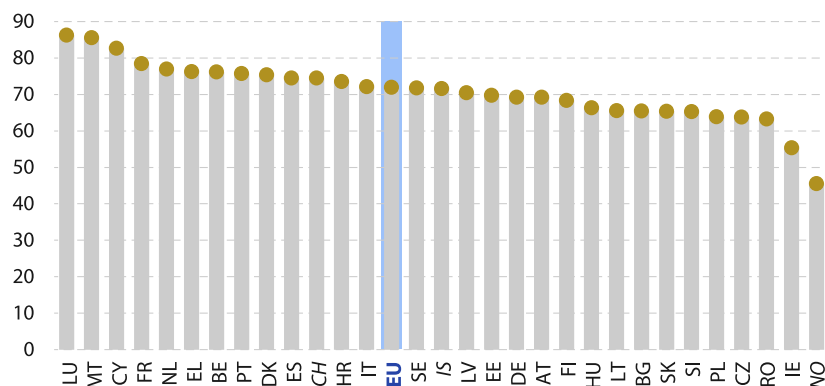
Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0 % for reasons of rounding.

Between 2000 and 2022, the share of EU total value added that was generated within the services sector rose from 69.2 % to 71.9 %, mainly due to increases in the output of professional, scientific, technical administrative and support service activities. By contrast, the relative share of some other parts of the EU economy contracted: industry's share went down from 22.6 % to 20.6 %, while the share of agriculture, forestry and fishing fell from 2.5 % to 1.9 % and that of construction from 5.7 % to 5.5 %.

Looking at the changes between 2021 and 2022, value added increased (in current price terms) for all four parts of the EU economy. There were double-digit growth rates observed for: agriculture, forestry and fishing; industry; and construction. By contrast, the services sector saw its value added increase at a slower pace, up 8.1 %.

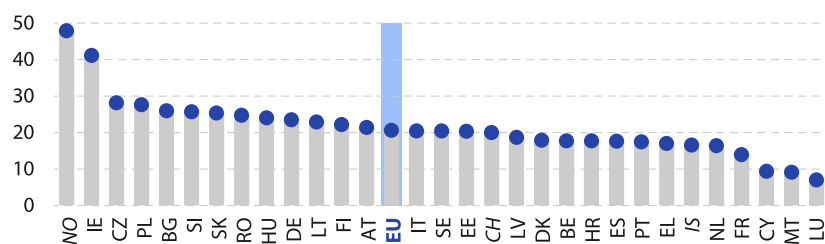
Sectoral gross value added

(%, share of total value added, 2022)



EU
71.9 %

Services



EU
20.6 %

Industry



EU
5.5 %

Construction



EU
1.9 %

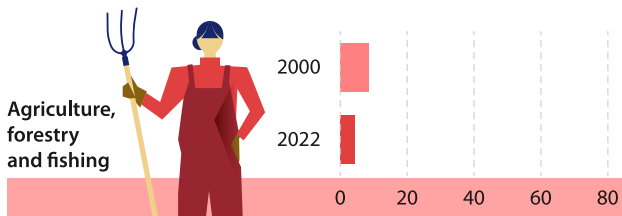
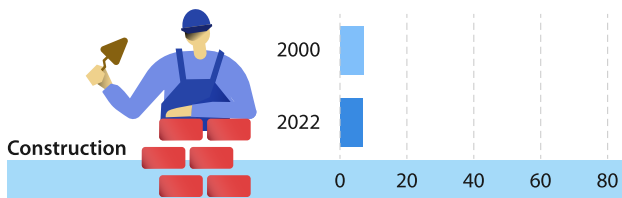
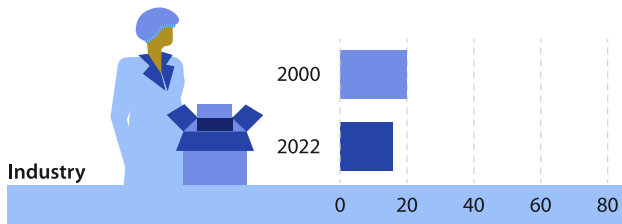
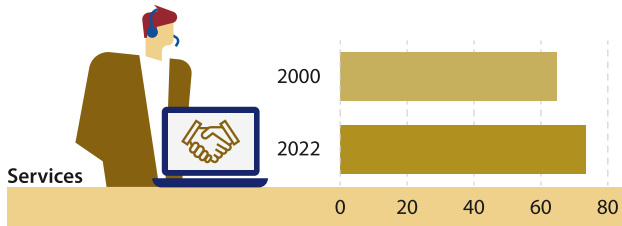
Agriculture, forestry and fishing

In 2022, the share of services in total value added was above 80.0 % in the tourism-oriented economies of Cyprus and Malta, although the highest share was recorded in Luxembourg at 86.3 % (which is characterised by a large financial services sector). The industrial economy contributed more than two fifths of total value added in Ireland (41.2 %), with the next highest share in Czechia (28.1 %). The largest relative contribution from construction (7.8 %) was observed in Austria, while the largest contribution from agriculture, forestry and fishing (5.8 %) was recorded in Latvia.

Source: Eurostat
(online data code:
nama_10_a10)

Developments in the sectoral structure of employment

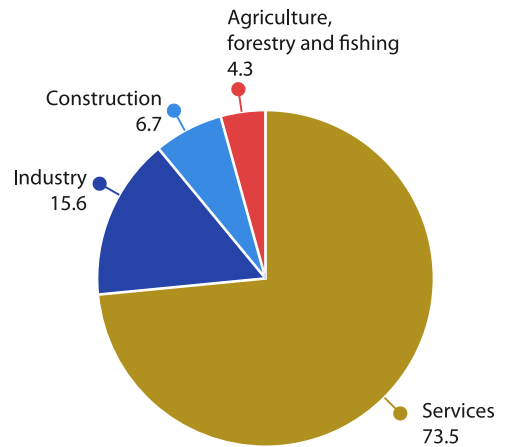
(%, share of total employment, EU, 2000 and 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

Sectoral structure of employment

(%, share of total employment, EU, 2022)



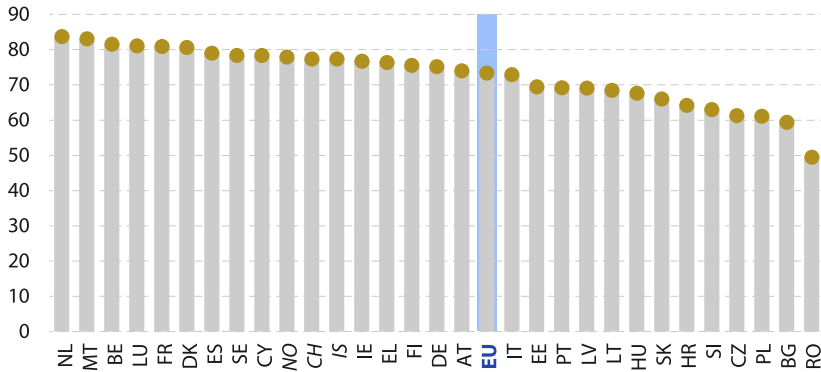
Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0 % for reasons of rounding.

The relative importance of services within the EU economy was almost the same for employment as it was for value added. In 2022, services provided work to 73.5 % of people employed in the EU, compared with 64.6 % at the turn of the millennium. The relative importance of all other sectors decreased between 2000 and 2022: the share of the EU workforce that was employed within the industrial economy fell from 19.9 % to 15.6 %, while the share of the agriculture, forestry and fishing workforce halved from 8.6 % to 4.3 %, and the share of persons employed in construction fell from 6.9 % to 6.7 %.

There was a 1.4 % fall in the total number of people employed across the EU at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, followed by a comparable rebound the following year (up 1.5 % in 2021). The latest information available shows employment growth accelerating in 2022, up 2.0 %. The number of people employed increased in the EU in three of the four broad activity groupings in 2022, with the highest growth registered for construction and services; the only decline was in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

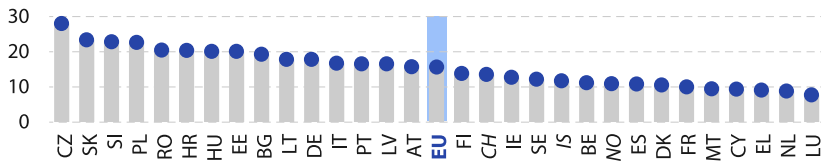
Sectors of employment

(%, share of total employment, 2022)



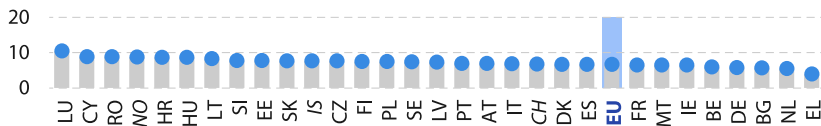
EU
73.5 %

Services



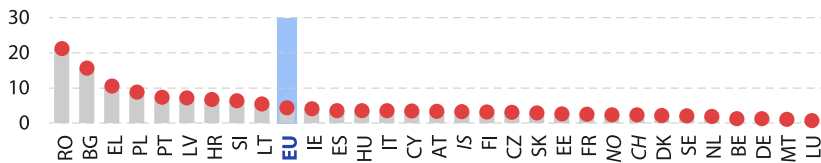
EU
15.6 %

Industry



EU
6.7 %

Construction



EU
4.3 %

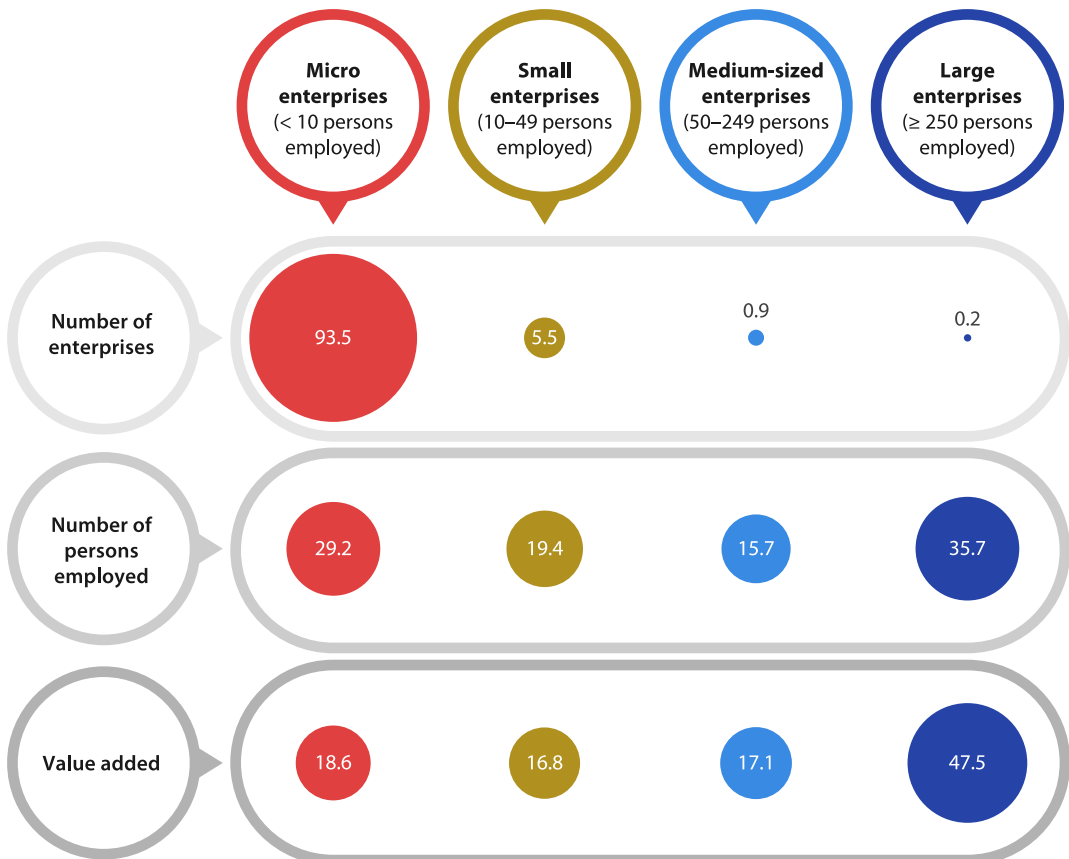
Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Among the EU Member States, Romania had the lowest share (49.5 %) of its workforce employed in the services sector in 2022. By contrast, services provided work to 83.8 % of those employed in the Netherlands. Czechia was the only Member State to report that industry accounted for more than one quarter (28.0 %) of the total workforce. Romania (21.1 %) was characterised by a high share of total employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, while Luxembourg was the only Member State to report a double-digit share (10.5 %) of its workforce employed in construction.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

Enterprise size class structure of the non-financial business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, EU, 2020)



Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – in other words, enterprises with less than 250 persons employed – are often referred to as the backbone of the EU’s economy, providing jobs and growth opportunities. In 2020, an overwhelming majority (93.5 %) of enterprises in the EU’s non-financial business economy had less than 10 persons employed and were therefore classified as micro enterprises.

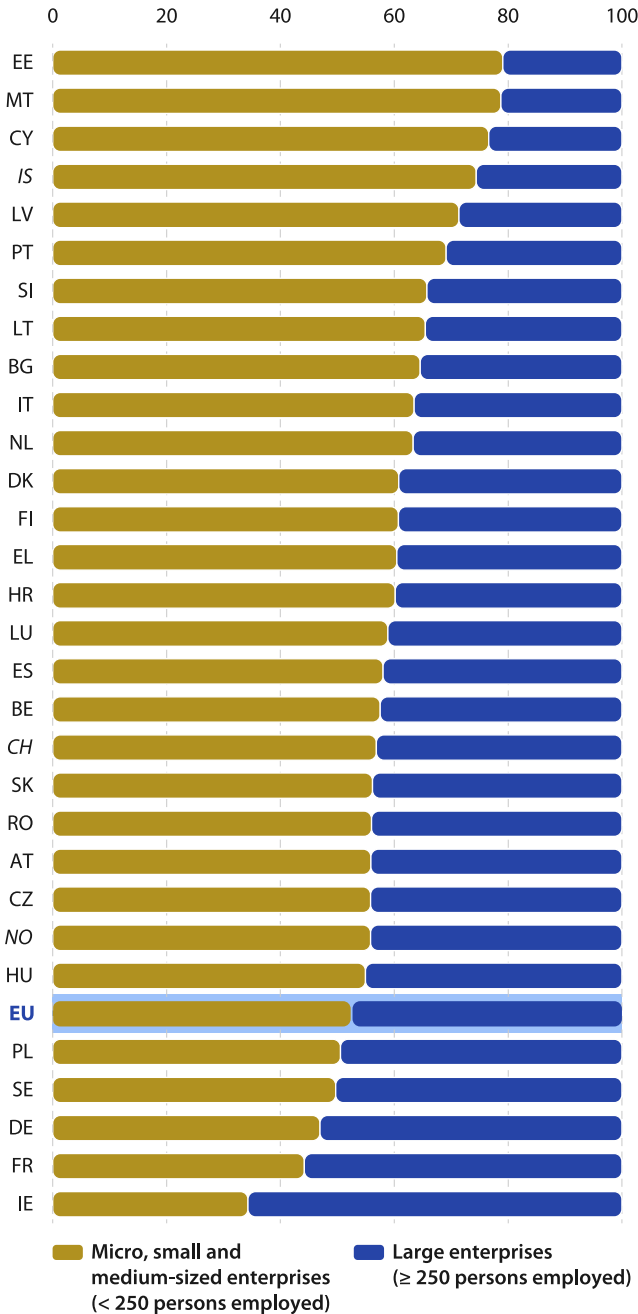
By contrast, just 0.2 % of all enterprises in the EU in 2020 had 250 or more persons employed and were classified as large enterprises. The economic weight of large enterprises in the EU was considerably greater in employment and value added terms, as they provided work to more than one third (35.7 %) of the EU’s non-financial business economy workforce and contributed close to half (47.5 %) of its value added.

Note: the non-financial business economy includes the sectors of industry, construction, distributive trades and most market services other than finance. Enterprises: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_sca_r2)

Enterprise size class shares of value added in the non-financial business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, 2020)



In 2020, there were 23.4 million SMEs (with less than 250 persons employed) in the EU's non-financial business economy. Together, these SMEs employed 82.0 million people and contributed €3 410 billion of value added. The economic contribution made by SMEs was particularly notable in Cyprus (excluding electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply), Malta and Estonia, where SMEs provided more than 75.0 % of the value added in the non-financial business economy. The contribution of micro enterprises (employing fewer than 10 persons) was particularly high in these three EU Member States.

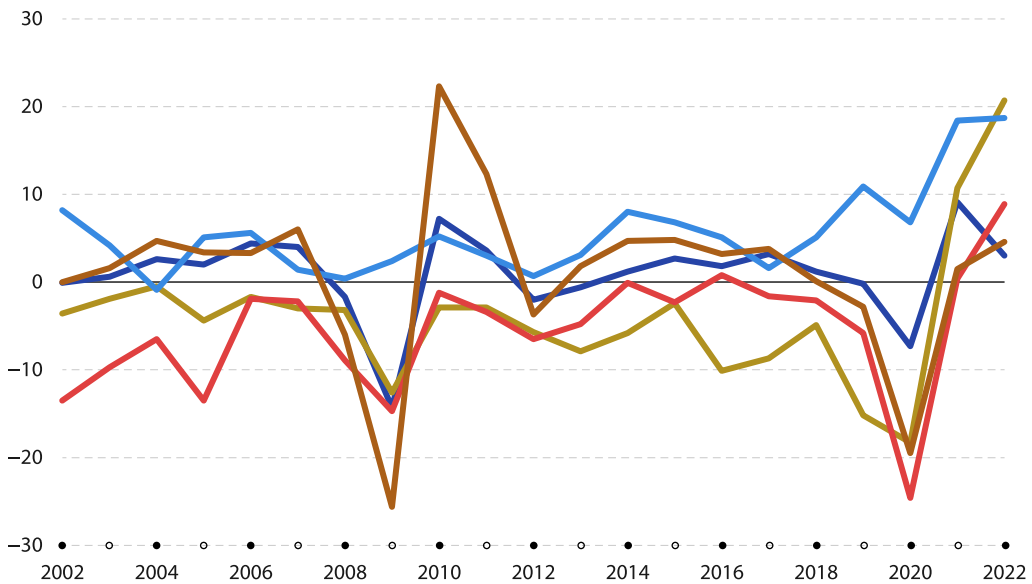
By contrast, large enterprises (with 250 or more persons employed) accounted for almost two thirds (65.7 %) of value added within the Irish non-financial business economy and for more than half of the value added in France, Germany and Sweden.

Note: RO, 2019. CY: excluding electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply. AT: excluding electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and real estate activities. PT: excluding real estate activities.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_sca_r2)

Volume developments of industrial output

(%, annual change, EU, 2001–2022)



(%, overall change in output, 2002–2022)



189.3 %
Pharmaceuticals



19.8 %
Industry



11.0 %
Motor vehicles



–59.0 %
Mining coal and lignite



–65.9 %
Clothing

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts_inpr_a)

In real terms, the EU's industrial output peaked in April 2008 at the onset of the global financial and economic crisis and declined during the remainder of 2008. Output fell 14.3 % in real terms in 2009 (compared with a year before). Subsequent growth came to an end in 2019 as industrial output decreased 0.2 %. In 2020, as the impact of the COVID-19 crisis was felt, output decreased a further 7.3 %. In 2021, it rebounded (up 9.1 %) and returned to a level that was slightly above its pre-pandemic peak (recorded in 2018). The upward development continued in 2022, as industrial output grew a further 3.0 %.

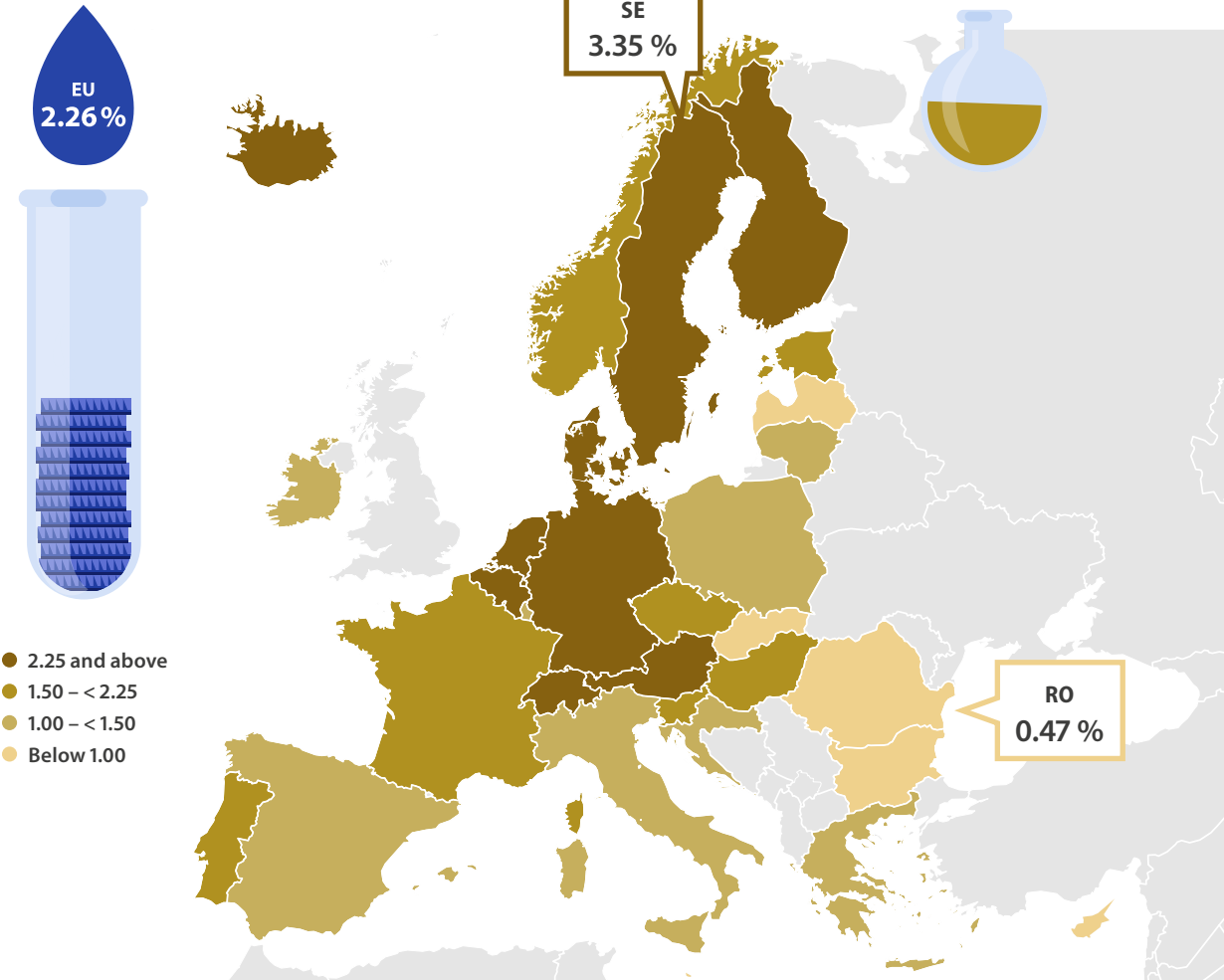
Across the EU, the level of output for the mining of coal and lignite fell (in real terms) every year during

the period 2001–2020; there was a rebound in 2021 although output remained considerably below its pre-pandemic level and a further rapid expansion in 2022. A similar pattern was observed between 2018 and 2022 for clothing manufacturing and motor vehicles manufacturing, although their rebound in activity was more modest and only started to show signs of accelerating in 2022. By contrast, the level of output for pharmaceuticals increased almost continuously during the period 2001–2022. Pharmaceuticals was one of only a handful of industrial activities to report an increase in output in 2020 and this was followed by very high growth rates for the two subsequent years.

Research and development

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D

(% relative to GDP, 2021)



Research and development (R&D) and innovation are central to providing the scientific and technical solutions needed to meet global societal challenges such as climate change or active and healthy ageing. EU gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) was €328 billion in 2021, which marked a 5.9 % increase on the year before. Note that this rate of change is in current prices.

GERD is often expressed relative to GDP, resulting in an indicator that is also known as R&D intensity. The EU's R&D intensity rose above 2.00 % for the first time in 2011 and continued to grow at a modest (and almost uninterrupted) pace through to 2020 (2.30 %). With economic activity rebounding from the COVID-19 crisis at a faster rate than the increase in R&D expenditure, the EU's R&D intensity fell to 2.26 % in 2021.

Note: CH, 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: rd_e_gerdtot)

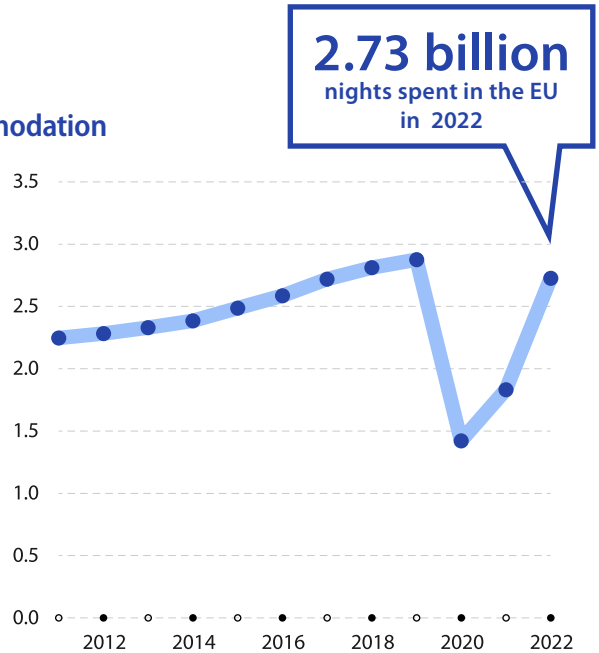
Tourism

Number of nights spent at tourist accommodation

(billion nights, EU, 2011–2022)

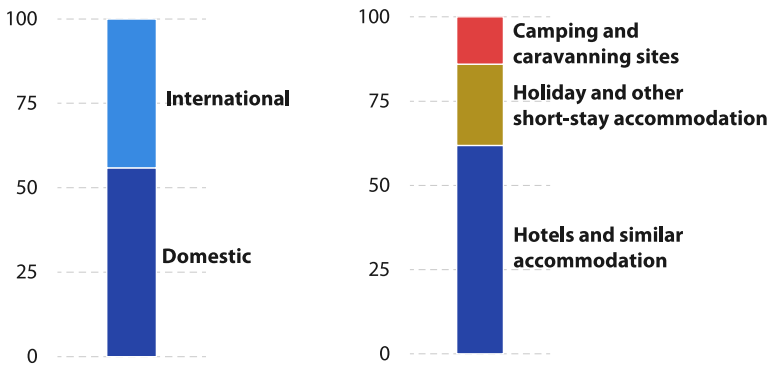
Tourism was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, with the total number of nights spent in tourist accommodation across the EU halving between 2019 (2.87 billion nights spent) and 2020 (1.42 billion). The impact of the COVID-19 crisis persisted into 2021, as the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation in the EU partially recovered to 1.83 billion. In 2022, this measure of tourism returned to a level close to that observed before the pandemic, with 2.73 billion nights spent across the EU.

Note: these statistics cover business and leisure travellers.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [tour_occ_ninat](#) and [tour_occ_nim](#))



Distribution of nights spent at tourist accommodation

(EU, 2022)



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

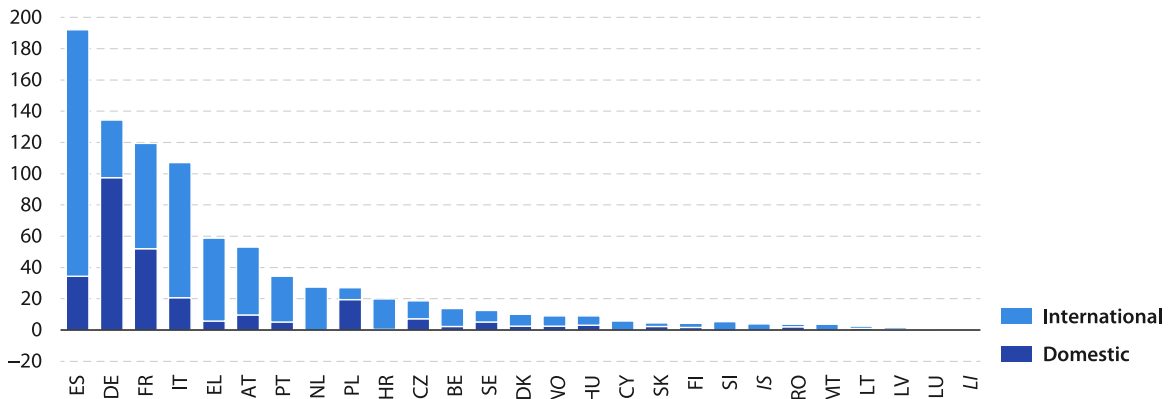
Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, there was a relatively even split in terms of nights spent at tourist accommodation between domestic tourists (those who are resident in the same country as where they were staying) and international tourists. However, this situation changed during the pandemic, as international tourists faced a broader range of restrictions preventing them from travelling. In 2021, domestic tourists accounted for 67.9 % of the total nights spent in EU tourist accommodation. There was a partial recovery of international tourism in 2022, with the share of

international tourists increasing to 44.1 %, while that of domestic tourists fell to 55.9 %.

The pandemic also impacted the type of accommodation that was used by tourists: the proportion of nights spent by tourists in holiday and other short-term accommodation and camping grounds increased. With the recovery in tourism activity during 2022, hotels and similar accommodation accounted for an increased share of the nights spent in EU tourist accommodation (61.9%).

Annual change in summer nights spent at tourist accommodation

(million nights, 2022)



From the summer of 2021 onwards, there was a rebound in tourist activity across much of the EU as many of the restrictions linked to the COVID-19 crisis were phased out; this pattern accelerated during 2022 as higher numbers of international tourists started to travel.

During 2022, the largest increases, in absolute terms, in nights spent by domestic tourists were recorded in the two largest EU economies: Germany (up 97.4 million nights compared with 2021) and France (up 52.1 million). For international tourists, the number of nights spent rose substantially in Spain (up 157.6 million nights), Italy (up 86.4 million), France (up 67.3 million), Greece (up 52.9 million) and Austria (up 43.3 million). In Germany and Poland, there were more nights spent by domestic tourists than by international tourists.

The smallest overall changes were observed in Lithuania, Latvia and Luxembourg, where the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation in 2022 was fewer than 3.0 million more than in 2021; this was also the case in Liechtenstein.

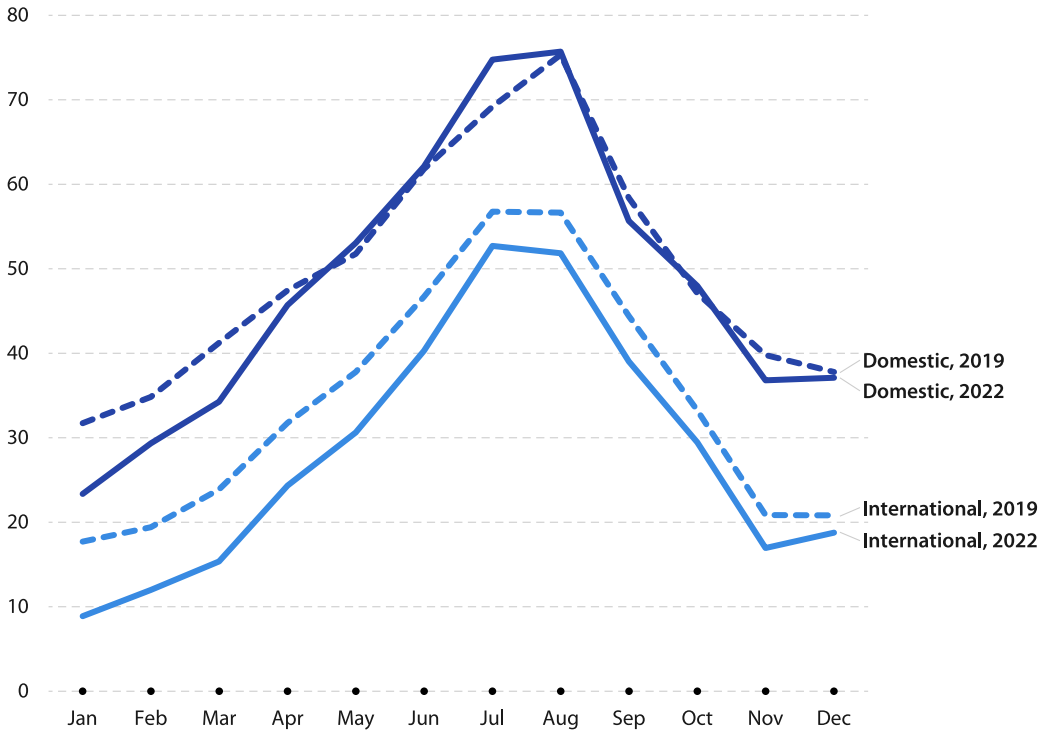
Note: BG, EE, IE, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [tour_occ_ninat](#) and [tour_occ_nim](#))



Arrivals in EU tourist accommodation

(million arrivals, EU, 2019 and 2022)



The number of arrivals in EU tourist accommodation has a strong seasonal component, with a peak recorded during the summer months. By the spring of 2022, domestic arrivals in EU tourist accommodation had (more or less) returned to pre-pandemic levels. International arrivals remained somewhat lower than they had been in 2019, although the gap closed during the year. Considering the whole of 2022, the number of domestic arrivals was back to 96.6 % of the equivalent figure for 2019, while the corresponding figure for international arrivals was 83.0 %.

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

3

Environment and natural resources



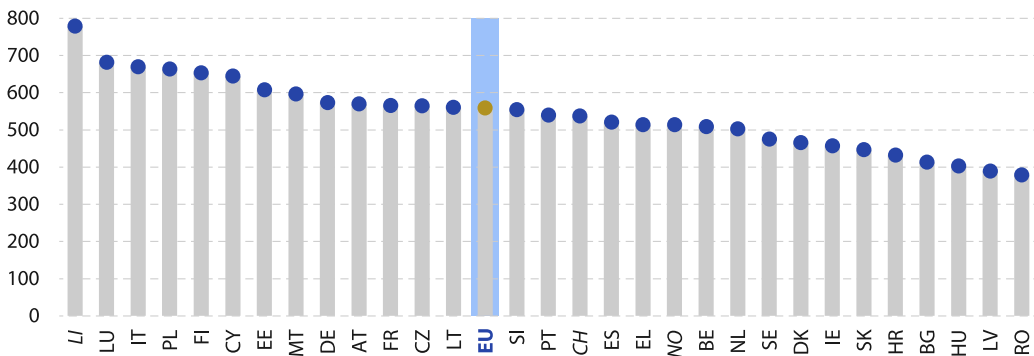
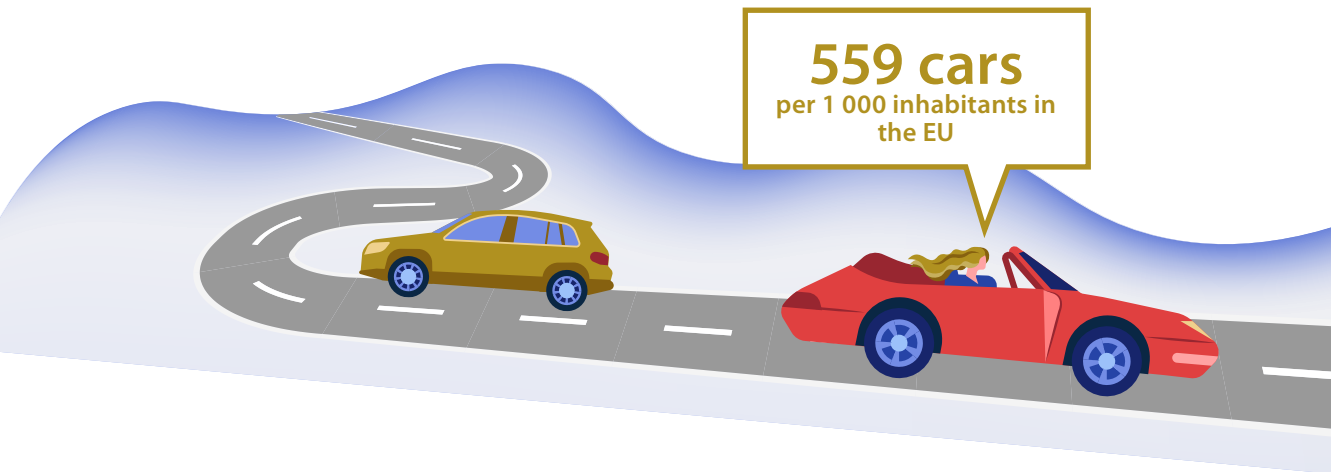
Transport

Passenger cars

(number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants, 2020)

In 2020, there were 250 million **passenger cars** on the EU's roads, equivalent to 559 cars per 1 000 inhabitants or slightly more than one car for each two persons. Car ownership rates were highest in Luxembourg (682 per 1 000 inhabitants), followed by Italy, Poland, Finland and Cyprus (all above 640 per 1 000 inhabitants). There were less than 400 cars per 1 000 inhabitants in Latvia (390) and Romania (379).

From a technology perspective, newer cars may be less environmentally-damaging, with more efficient engines and lower emissions, although these benefits may be offset to some extent if there is a trend towards heavier or more powerful vehicles. There is also a growing share of electric/hybrid vehicles in the EU. In 2020, more than half (53.0 %) of all passenger cars in the EU were estimated to be at least 10 years old, compared with 12.4 % that were less than two years old.

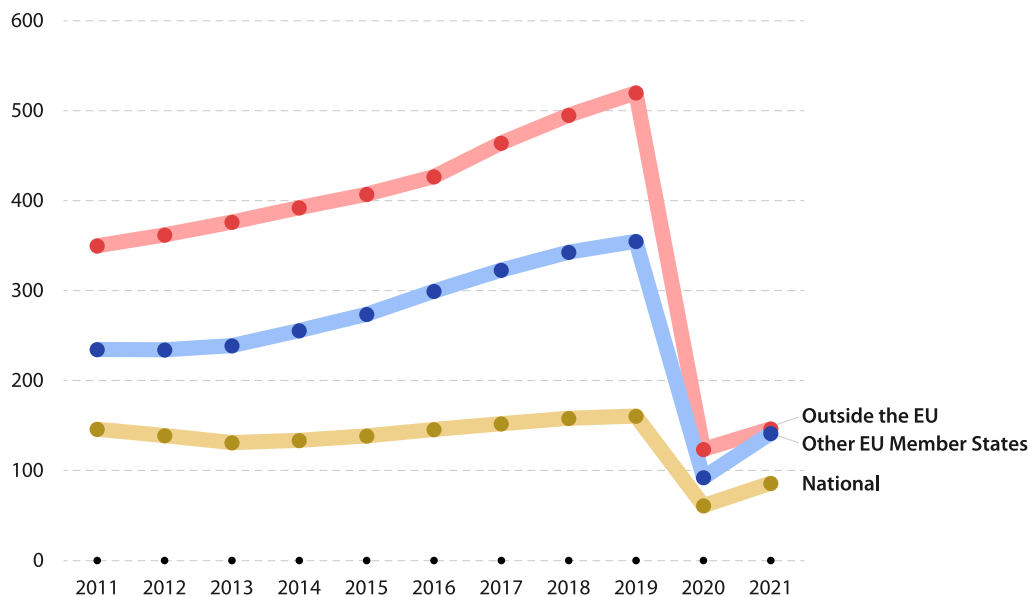


Note: DK, excluding vans.

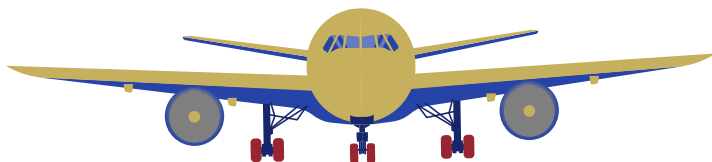
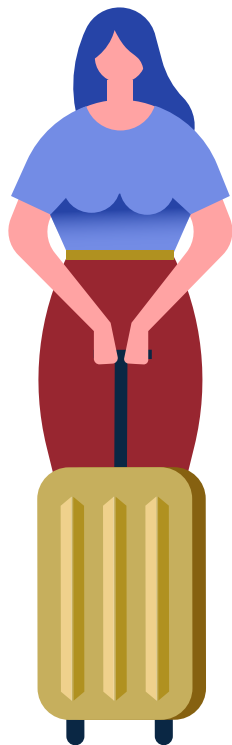
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tran_r_vehst and demo_pjan)

Passengers carried by air

(million passengers carried – arrivals and departures, EU, 2011–2021)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)



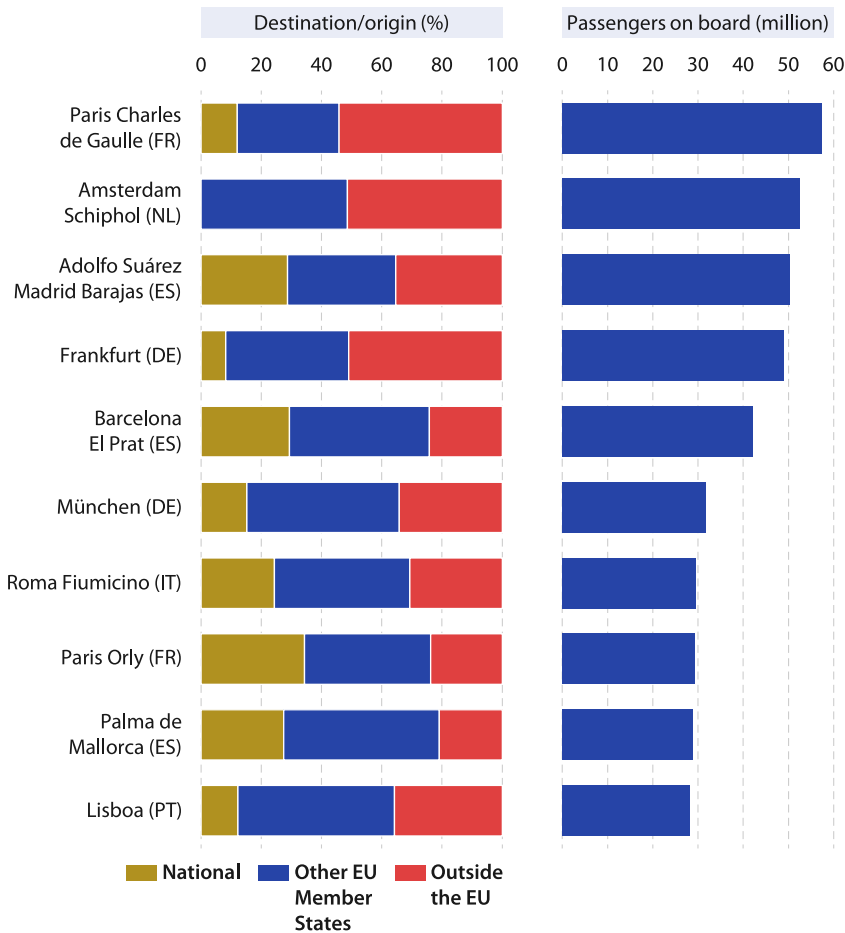
The COVID-19 crisis had a considerable impact on air passenger transport, with a collapse in the number of passengers carried during 2020. This was followed by a modest recovery in 2021. In 2019, the total number of passengers carried by air to or from airports in the EU was around one billion (1 035 million). This figure dropped to 277 million in 2020, while there was a partial rebound the following year, with 374 million passengers carried in 2021.

Looking in more detail at the latest information available for 2021, there were 86 million air passengers carried on

national flights within EU Member States in 2021. The number of air passengers flying between different Member States was 142 million, while a similar number of passengers were carried on international flights starting or finishing outside of the EU (146 million). In 2021, the number of national passengers was at 53.6 % of its 2019 level, while lower ratios were recorded for international transport: passenger numbers on flights between different Member States and on international flights outside the EU were at, respectively, 39.9 % and 28.1 % of their 2019 level.

Busiest EU passenger airports

(passengers on board, 2022)



Note: DK and EL, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoa)

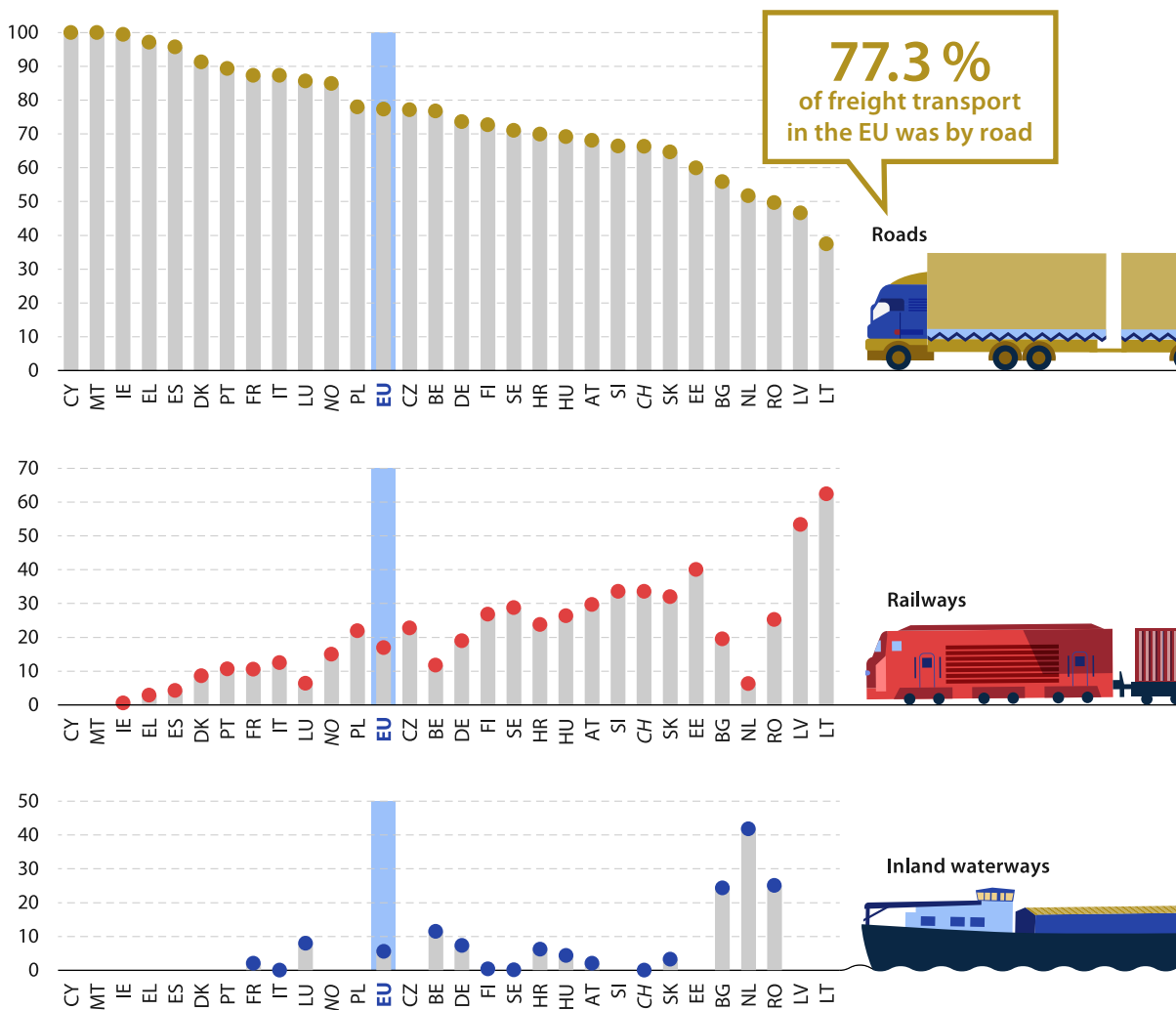
Between 2021 and 2022, the number of air passengers more than doubled for 7 out of the 10 busiest airports in the EU. The only exceptions – although they too posted rapid growth – were Frankfurt, Paris Orly and Palma de Mallorca airports. Post-pandemic, the fastest growth rates were observed in München and Roma Fiumicino airports, where passenger numbers were more than 2.5 times their level of 2021. Despite the rapid upturn, all 10 of the busiest airports in the EU continued to record lower passenger numbers than before the pandemic (in 2019).

In terms of the number of passengers carried, the busiest airport in the EU in 2022 was Paris Charles de Gaulle with 57.5 million passengers on board. It was followed by

Amsterdam Schiphol (52.5 million), Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas (50.3 million) and Frankfurt (49.0 million). There are considerable differences concerning the origin/destination of passengers passing through the busiest airports in the EU: more than half of the passengers in Paris Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam Schiphol or Frankfurt were on international flights starting or finishing outside the EU, whereas more than half of the passengers in Lisboa, Palma de Mallorca and München airports were flying to/from other EU Member States, and more than one third of the passengers passing through Paris Orly were on national flights.

Inland freight modes of transport

(%, share of inland freight based on tonne-kilometres, 2021)



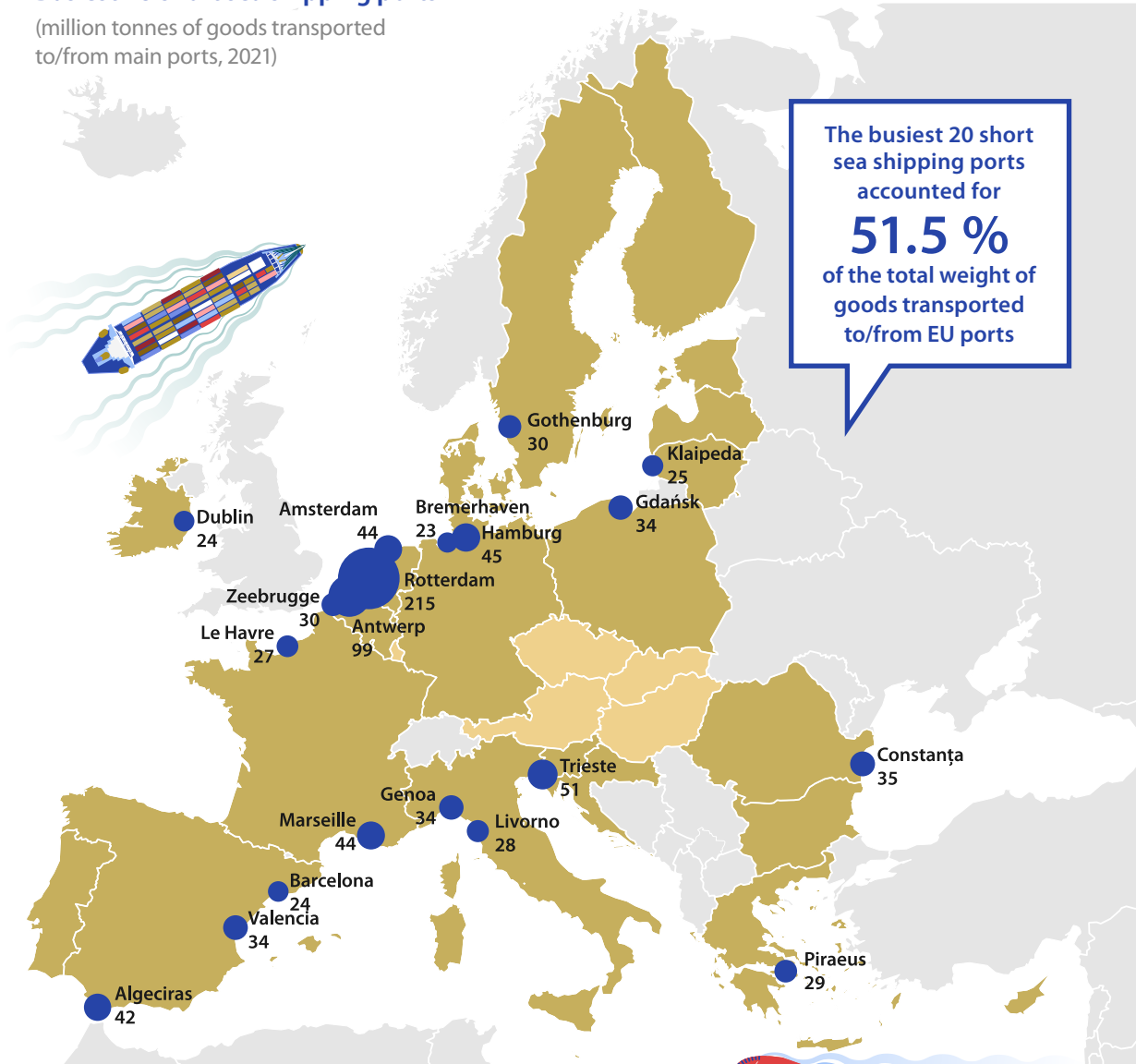
EU inland freight transport (excluding pipelines) in 2021 was estimated at around 2.5 trillion tonne-kilometres. Most of this total (77.3 %) was carried by road; the remainder was split between rail (17.0 %) and inland waterways (5.6 %). Rail accounted for more than half of all inland freight transported in Lithuania and Latvia (62.5 % and 53.4 %, respectively), while inland waterways accounted for 41.9 % of the freight transported within the Netherlands.

Note: CY and MT, no railways. CZ, DK, EE, IE, EL, ES, CY, LV, LT, MT, PL, PT, SI and NO: no navigable inland waterways.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tran_hv_frmod)

Busiest EU short sea shipping ports

(million tonnes of goods transported to/from main ports, 2021)



The busiest 20 short sea shipping ports accounted for **51.5 %** of the total weight of goods transported to/from EU ports

In 2021, the total weight of goods transported to/from main ports in the EU by short sea shipping was 1.8 billion tonnes; this was equivalent to a 6.0 % increase when compared with 2020. Rotterdam in the Netherlands was by far the busiest EU port in terms of goods transported (215 million tonnes; 12.0 % of the EU total). The weight of goods handled in Rotterdam was more than twice as much as in the second busiest port, namely Antwerp in Belgium (99 million tonnes), which in turn was around twice as much as in the next busiest port, Trieste in Italy (51 million tonnes).

Note: excludes the movement of cargo across oceans (deep sea shipping).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: mar_sg_am_pw)

Energy

Structure of final energy consumption

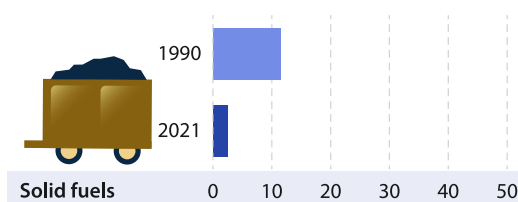
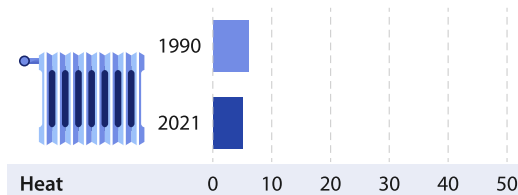
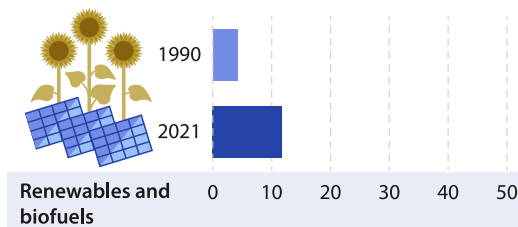
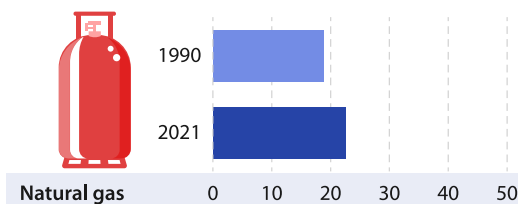
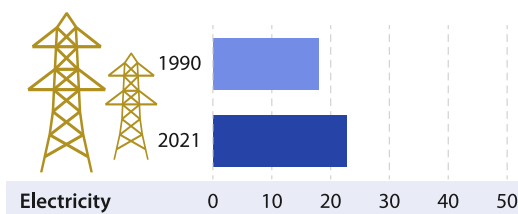
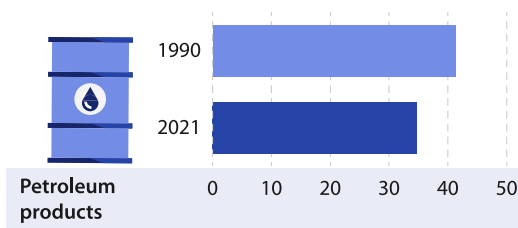
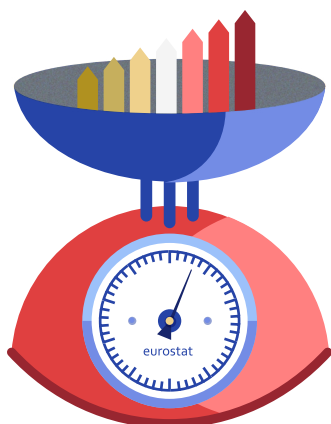
(%, based on joules, EU, 1990 and 2021)

In 2021, the EU's final energy consumption was 39 351 petajoules (PJ); this was 6.2 % higher than the level recorded in 2020 (when consumption fell as a result of the COVID-19 crisis). Petroleum products accounted for more than one third (34.8 %) of the EU's final energy consumption (although their share was falling), with electricity (22.8 %) and natural gas (22.6 %) also recording relatively high shares.

When compared with 1990, the EU's consumption of energy in 2021 remained more or less stable, with an average increase of 0.1 % per year. This overall development hid a considerable shift in the structure of the EU's final energy consumption, moving away from solid fuels and petroleum products towards electricity as well as renewables and biofuels. For example, the share of solid fuels fell from 11.5 % to 2.5 % between 1990 and 2021, while that of renewables and biofuels rose from 4.3 % to 11.8 % during the same period.

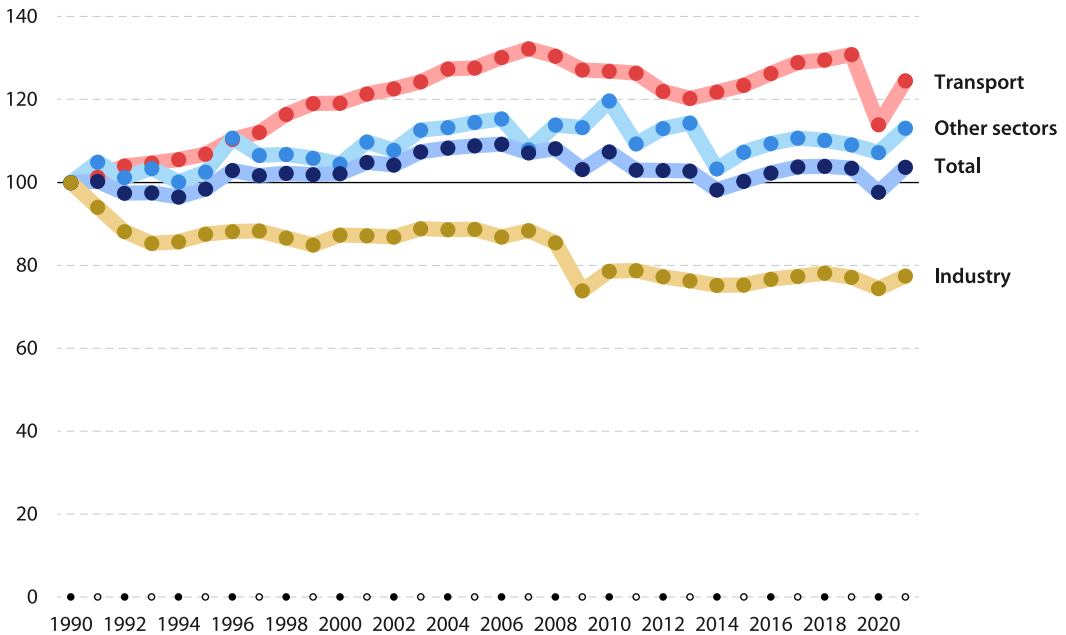
Note: solid fuels includes coal, manufactured gases, peat, oil shale and oil sands. The residual category of waste (non-renewable) – not presented here – accounted for 0.5 % of EU final energy consumption in 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)



Final energy consumption by end use

(1990 = 100, based on joules, EU, 1990–2021)



Note: the residual category of other sectors includes residential use, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and services other than transport.

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

In 2021, industry accounted for slightly more than one quarter (25.6 %) of the energy consumed within the EU, while the share for transport was 29.2 %, leaving 45.2 % for other sectors – these mainly concern residential use and services.

Energy consumption for transport rose at a relatively rapid and uninterrupted pace between 1990 and 2019 (other than during the global financial and economic crisis and its aftermath), as consumption increased overall 30.8 %. By contrast, final energy consumption within industry fell by close to one quarter (down 22.9 %) during the same period, with a particularly large decline in consumption during the global financial and economic crisis in 2009 (down 13.6 %). From 2020 onwards, these long-term developments were interrupted by the COVID-19 crisis. The overall level of final energy consumption in the EU fell 5.6 % in 2020 (compared with 2019), with a particularly large decline for transport (consumption down 12.9 %). With a partial recovery from the pandemic in 2021, overall energy consumption rebounded, increasing 6.2 % (compared with 2020). The fastest increase in energy consumption was observed for transport (up 9.3 %).





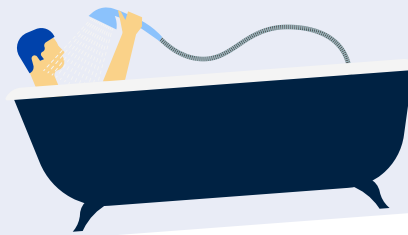
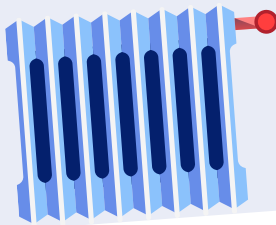
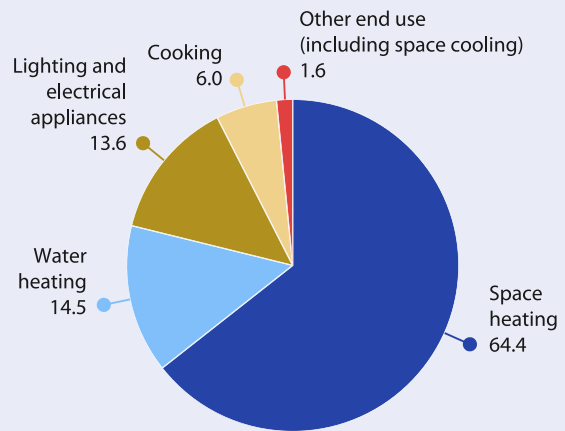
Final energy consumption in the residential sector by use

(%, EU, 2021)

In the EU, the main residential use of energy in 2021 was for heating homes, accounting for 64.4 % of final energy consumption in the residential sector. The share used for water heating was 14.5 %, just ahead of lighting and electrical (13.6 %; this excludes the use of electricity for the main heating, cooling or cooking systems). Main cooking devices required 6.0 % of the energy used. Space cooling and other uses accounted for 0.5 % and 1.1 %, respectively.

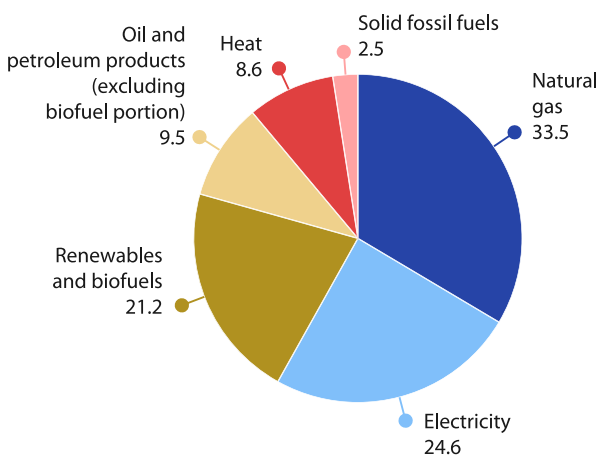
Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0 % for reasons of rounding.

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



Final energy consumption in the residential sector by fuel

(%, EU, 2021)



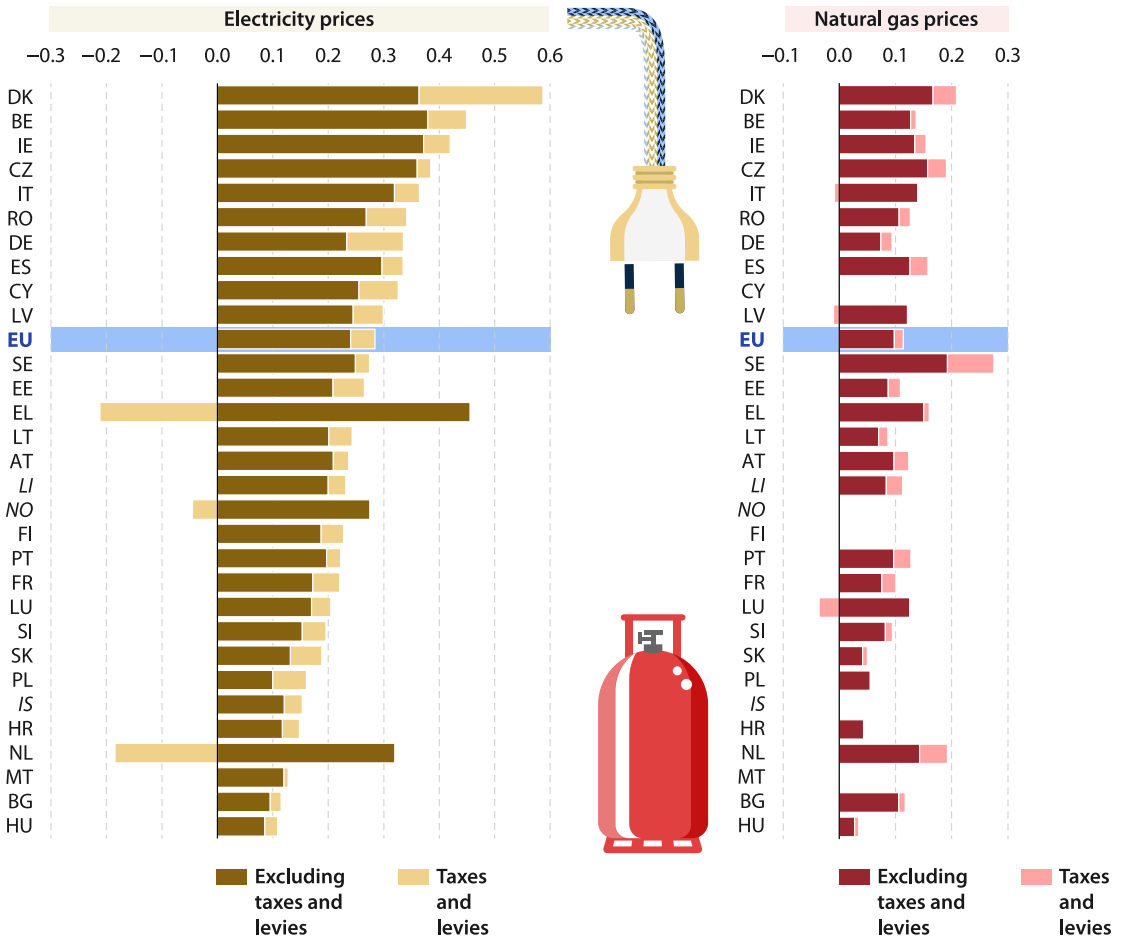
In 2021, around four fifths of the final energy consumption in the residential sector in the EU was covered by three fuels: natural gas (33.5 %), electricity (24.6 %) and renewables and biofuels (21.2 %). Notably smaller shares were observed for oil and petroleum products (9.5 %), derived heat (8.6 %) and solid fossil fuels such as coal (2.5 %).

Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0 % for reasons of rounding.

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

Electricity and natural gas prices

(€ per kWh, household consumers, average prices for second half 2022)



Note: ranked on total electricity prices. IS: electricity prices, first half of 2022. LI: natural gas prices, first half of 2022. CY, MT, FI, IS and NO: natural gas prices not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [nrg_pc_204](#) and [nrg_pc_202](#))

Electricity and natural gas prices are typically composed of three components: the basic price of energy, network charges, and taxes and/or levies. The proportion of taxes and levies in the overall retail price varies greatly between EU Member States. In the wake of the rapid increase in the price of energy following Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine, many governments in the EU provided some form of subsidy to help households and businesses. These subsidies – in the form of refunds/allowances – were sometimes greater than taxes and levies; this was the case, for example, in the Netherlands for electricity and Luxembourg for natural gas.

In the second half of 2022, household prices for electricity – presented here for a household with annual consumption within the range of 2 500–5 000 kWh – averaged €0.284 per kWh across the EU. Consumers in Denmark paid the highest prices for their electricity, 5.4 times as much as those in Hungary.

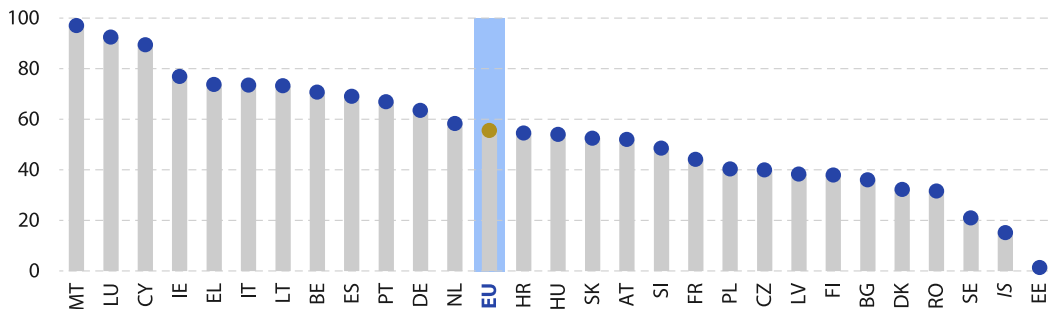
The price of natural gas – measured here for a household with annual consumption within the range of 20–200 GJ – averaged €0.114 per kWh across the EU in the second half of 2022. Consumers in Sweden paid 7.9 times as much as consumers in Hungary for their natural gas.

Energy dependency rate

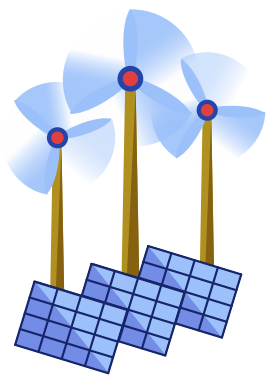
(%, net imports as a share of gross available energy, 2021)

The **energy dependency rate** indicates the extent to which an economy relies upon imports to meet its energy needs. In 2021, the EU's dependency rate was 55.5%: in other words, net imports accounted for more than half of **gross available energy**.

None of the EU Member States were self-sufficient in relation to their energy needs, with some of the smaller ones – Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus – almost completely reliant on external supplies.



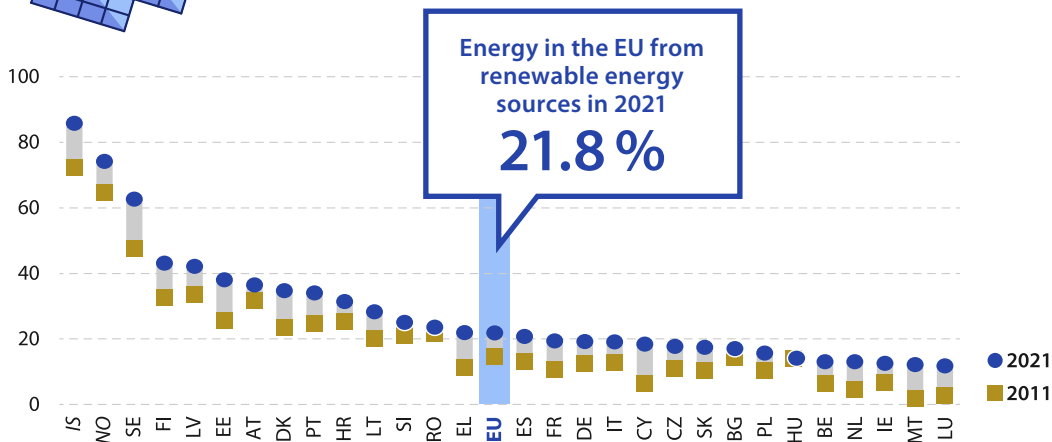
Note: NO, value not shown (= -616.6% in 2021). A negative value indicates that a country exports more energy than it imports.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_id)



Energy from renewable energy sources

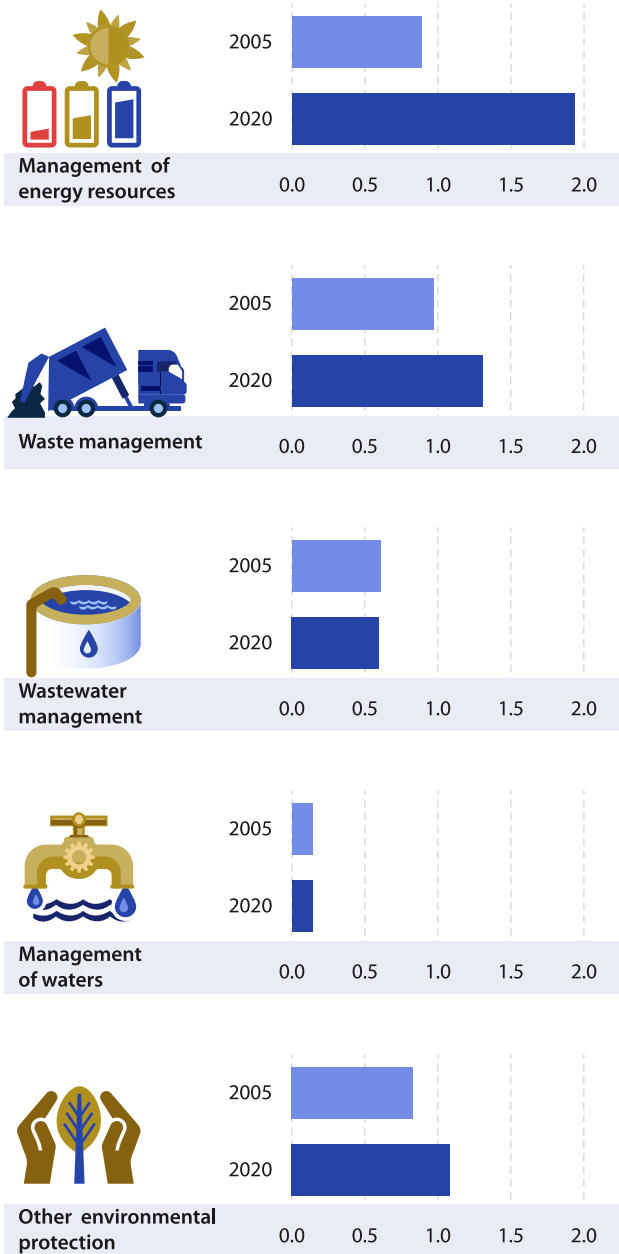
(%, share of total gross final energy consumption, 2011 and 2021)

In 2021, some 21.8% of the EU's gross **final energy consumption** was from **renewable energy sources**, compared with 14.5% a decade earlier. In 2021, more than three fifths (62.6%) of the final energy consumption in Sweden was from renewable sources, while shares of more than two fifths were also recorded in Finland and Latvia.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_ren)

Environment



Employment in the environmental economy

(million full-time equivalents, EU, 2005 and 2020)

The **environmental economy** includes activities that relate to environmental protection and the management of natural resources. Overall, there were 5.1 million people working in the EU's environmental economy in 2020, which marked an increase of 47.5 % when compared with the situation in 2005.

In 2020, the management of energy resources had the largest workforce within the EU's environmental economy (1.9 million), followed by waste management (1.3 million) and other environmental protection (1.1 million). The size of the EU workforce for the management of energy resources was 2.2 times as large in 2020 as it had been in 2005; this was by far the most rapid expansion among the different subsectors of the environmental economy. By contrast, there was a modest fall during the same period in the number of persons employed for wastewater management.

Note: the residual category of other environmental protection includes, for example, general environmental administration and education.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_egss1)

Environmental tax revenue

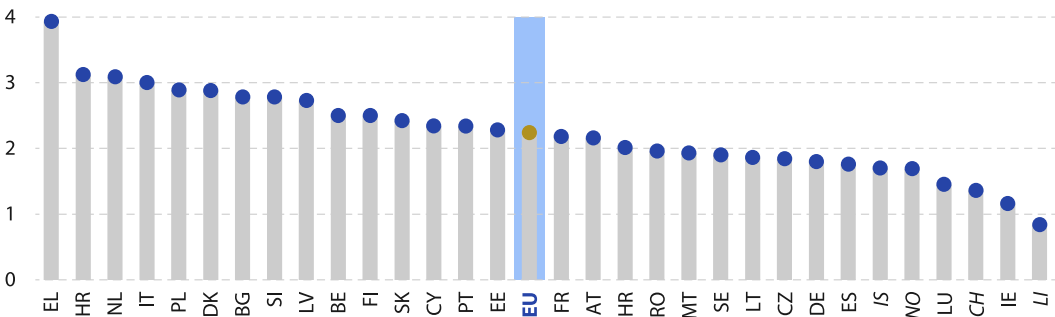
(%, relative to GDP, 2021)

Environmental taxes can be used to try to influence the behaviour of economic operators, both producers and consumers. In 2021, EU environmental tax revenues were valued at €326 billion, equivalent to 2.2 % of GDP. This ratio

peaked at 3.9 % in Greece, while it was at least 3.0 % in Croatia, the Netherlands and Italy. By contrast, environmental tax revenues accounted for 1.5 % of GDP in Luxembourg and for 1.2 % in Ireland.

Note: LI, 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_tax)



Environmental tax revenue in the EU
2.2 % of GDP

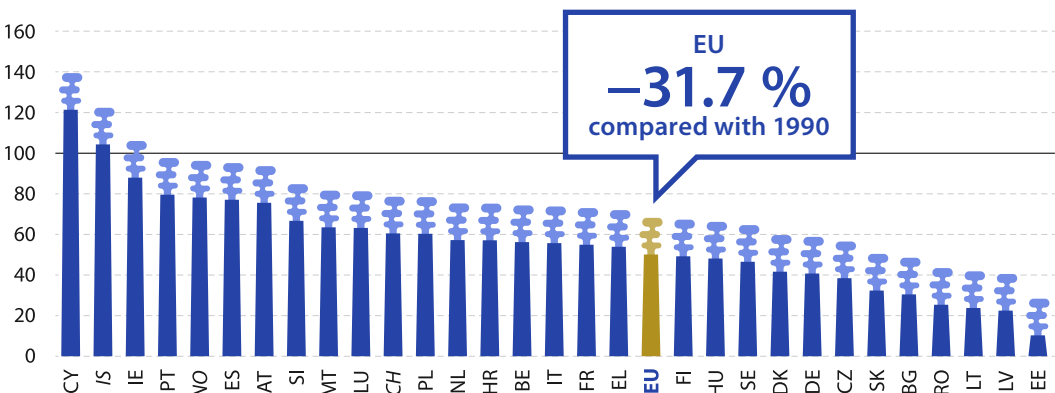


Greenhouse gas emissions

(1990 = 100, based on tonnes of CO₂ equivalents, 2020)

Developments in the level of greenhouse gas emissions may be traced using data for the Kyoto basket of greenhouse gases. By 2020, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU had fallen 31.7 % compared with their 1990 levels; note that economic activity was particularly low during the first year of the

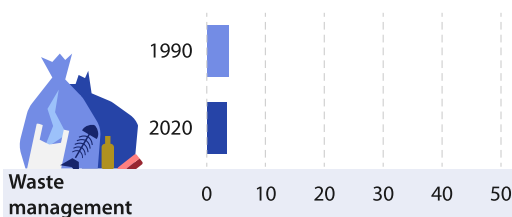
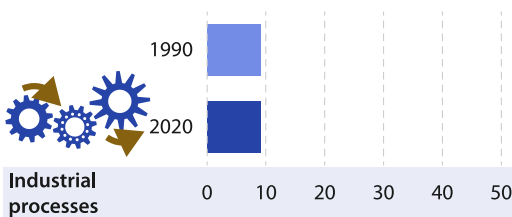
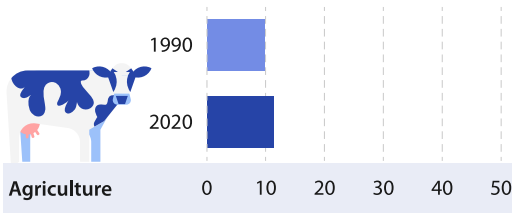
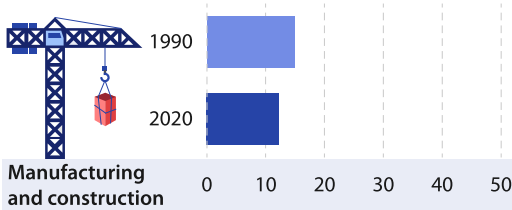
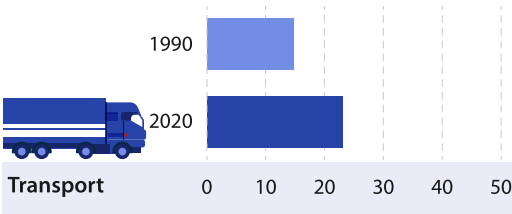
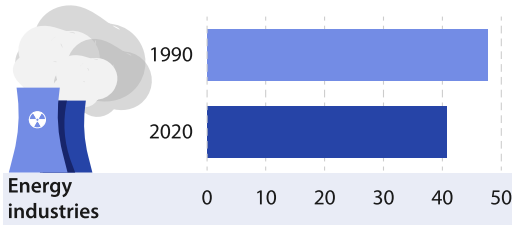
COVID-19 crisis. Between 1990 and 2020, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell in all but two of the EU Member States. The level of emissions more than halved in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria.



EU
-31.7 %
compared with 1990

Note: greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride and sulphur hexafluoride. These gases are aggregated by using global warming potential (GWP) factors to obtain data in CO₂ equivalents.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge), based on European Environment Agency (EEA)



Source sectors of greenhouse gas emissions

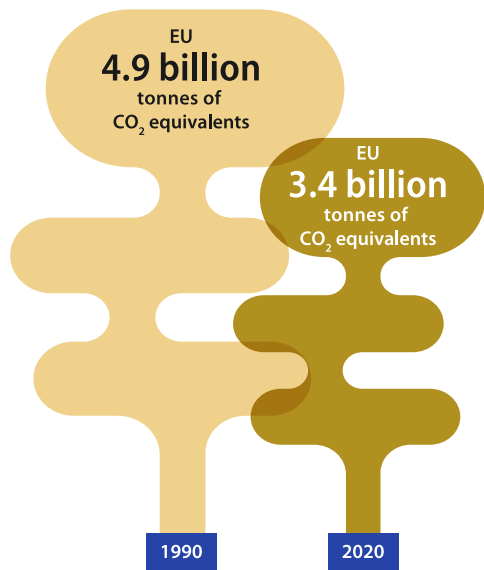
(%, based on tonnes of CO₂ equivalents, EU, 1990 and 2020)

In 2020, the total quantity of EU greenhouse gas emissions was 3.4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents. The principal sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU were energy industries (40.7 % of the total; including not only fuel combustion in energy industries but also in sectors other than transport, manufacturing and construction) and transport (23.1 %; this includes international aviation).

The only source that increased the quantity of its greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2020 was transport, with an overall increase of 6.8 %. This was despite a dramatic fall in emissions at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. For example, emissions from international aviation fell 57.8 % between 2019 and 2020. Otherwise, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell between 1990 and 2020 for each of the remaining sources, with decreases of more than one third recorded for waste management (down 39.5 %), energy industries (down 41.7 %) and manufacturing and construction (down 43.4 %).

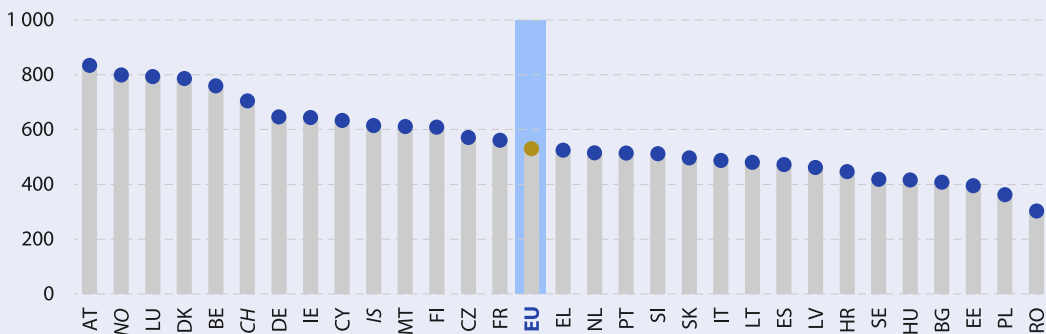
Note: energy industries includes not only fuel combustion in energy industries but also in sectors other than transport, manufacturing and construction.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge), based on European environment agency (EEA)



Municipal waste generation

(kg per inhabitant, 2021)



Note: BG, IE, IT, AT and IS, 2020. EL: 2019.

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

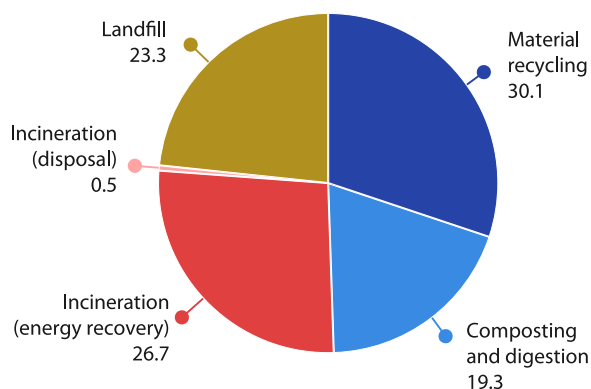
Municipal waste constitutes around one tenth of the total waste that is generated each year in the EU. On average, each inhabitant in the EU generated 530 kg of municipal waste in 2021. Among the EU Member States, municipal waste generation was highest in Austria (834 kg per inhabitant), Luxembourg (793 kg) and Denmark (786 kg). By contrast, municipal waste generation was less than 400 kg per inhabitant in Estonia, Poland and Romania, where the lowest rate was recorded (302 kg per inhabitant).



In 2021, there were 234.0 million tonnes of municipal waste treated in the EU, representing 98.8 % of the municipal waste generated. Material **recycling** accounted for 30.1 % of the municipal waste treated across the EU, while the share for composting and digestion was 19.3 %: these are generally considered to be the most environmentally sustainable treatment methods. By contrast, more than one quarter (26.7 %) of the municipal waste treated in the EU was **incinerated** with energy recovery and a small part (0.5 %; 2019 data) without energy recovery, while almost one quarter (23.3 %) was **landfilled**.

Municipal waste treatment methods

(%, share of all methods, EU, 2021)



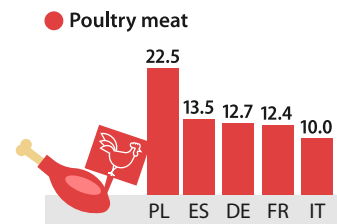
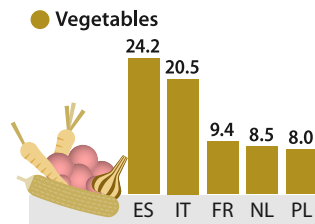
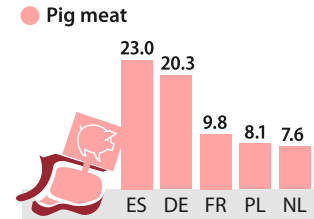
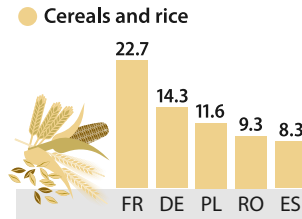
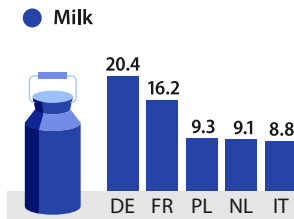
Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0 % for reasons of rounding. Incineration (disposal): 2019.

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

Agriculture

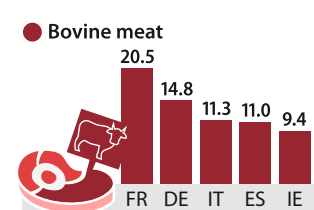
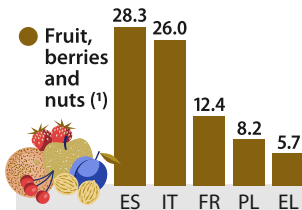
Top five EU Member States for the production of selected agricultural products

(%, share of EU total, 2022)



Note: milk, cereals and rice, vegetables, and fruits, berries and nuts, 2021. EU estimates for poultry meat based on available data (excluding EE and NL).
 (!) All types of fruit and berries are covered, including strawberries, grapes and citrus fruit.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mk_farm, apro_cpnh1 and apro_mt_pann)



Agricultural products are a major part of the EU's regional and cultural identity. In 2021, there were 297.5 million tonnes of cereals and rice harvested in the EU, France accounting for the largest share (22.7%). In a similar vein, some 159.8 million tonnes of raw milk were available on EU farms, with Germany recording the highest share (20.4%). A total of 65.8 million tonnes of vegetables were harvested in the EU, with Spain accounting for the highest share (24.2%). There were 62.2 million tonnes of fruit, berries and nuts harvested in the EU, with Spain again recording the highest share (28.3%); these figures

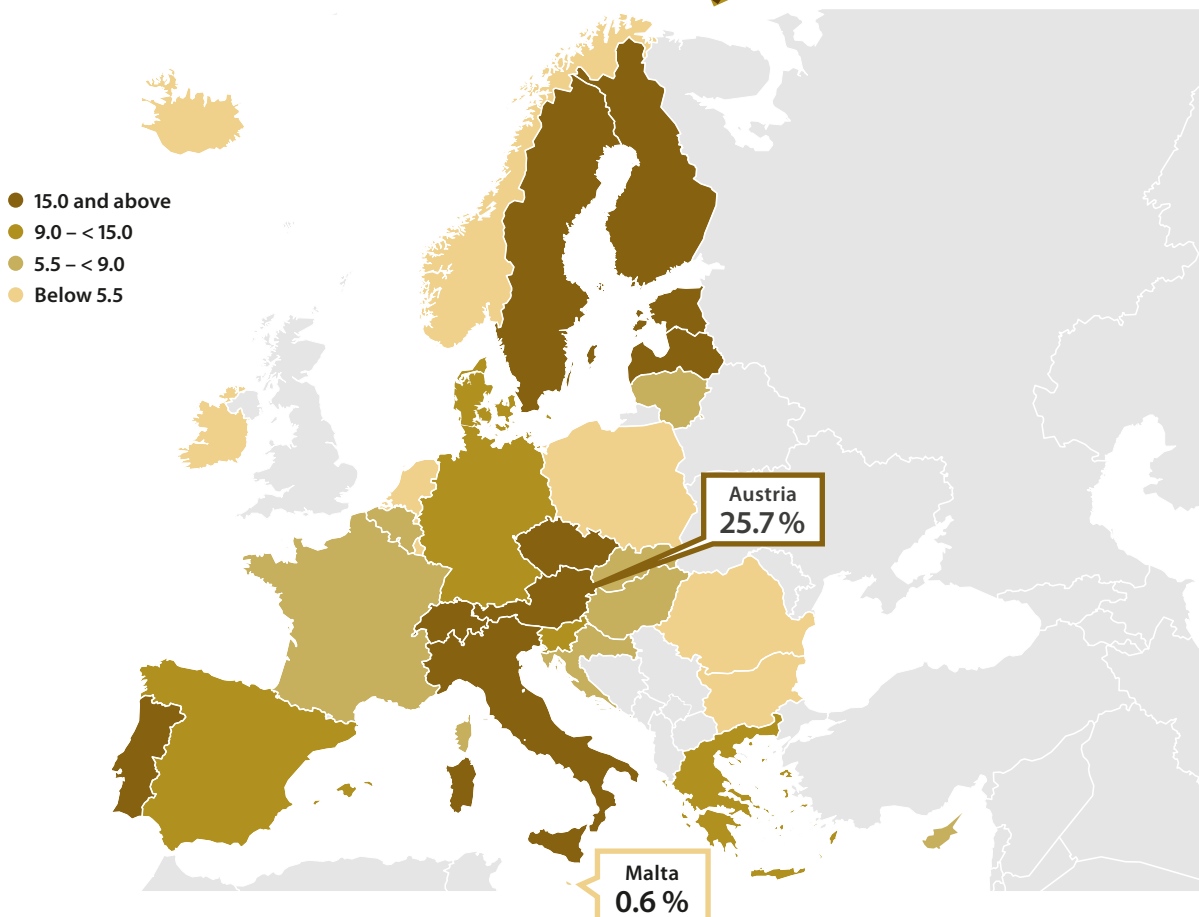
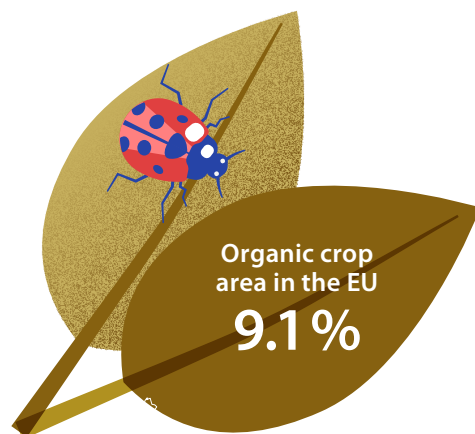
comprise all types of fruit, including those used for the production of beverages.

Fresher information is available concerning the production of meat: in 2022, the EU produced 22.1 million tonnes of pig meat, an estimated 12.1 million tonnes of poultry meat, and 6.6 million tonnes of bovine meat. Spain (23.0%) and Germany (20.3%) each accounted for more than one fifth of the pig meat produced in the EU. Poland had a similar share (22.5%) of the EU's production of poultry meat, while France accounted for around one fifth (20.5%) of the bovine meat produced in the EU.

Organic crop area

(%, share of utilised agricultural area, 2021)

In 2020, the total area available for organic crops across the EU was 14.7 million hectares (excluding kitchen gardens). Organic crop farming accounted for 9.1 % of the EU's total utilised agricultural area. The share of organic crop farming ranged in 2021 from lows of 2.0 % or less in Malta, Bulgaria and Ireland to highs of 20.2 % in Sweden, 23.0 % in Estonia and 25.7 % in Austria (2020 data). In several EU Member States – Lithuania, Croatia, France (2019–2020), Luxembourg, Finland and Ireland – there was double-digit growth between 2020 and 2021 in the area set aside for organic crops. Faster expansions were observed in Romania and Cyprus while by far the largest increase was in Portugal where the area more than doubled.



Note: the indicator shows the area fully converted or under conversion to organic farming as a share of the utilised agricultural area (excluding kitchen gardens). EU, EL, FR, AT, PL, IS and NO: 2020.

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

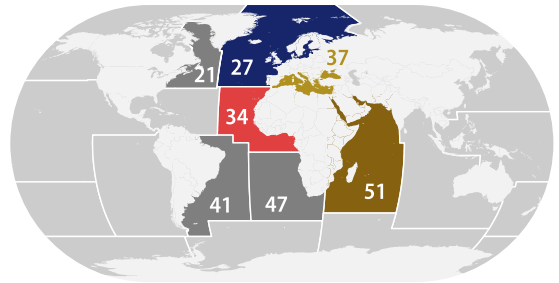
Fisheries

EU Member States with the largest fish catches

(1 000 tonnes live weight, main fishing areas, 2021)

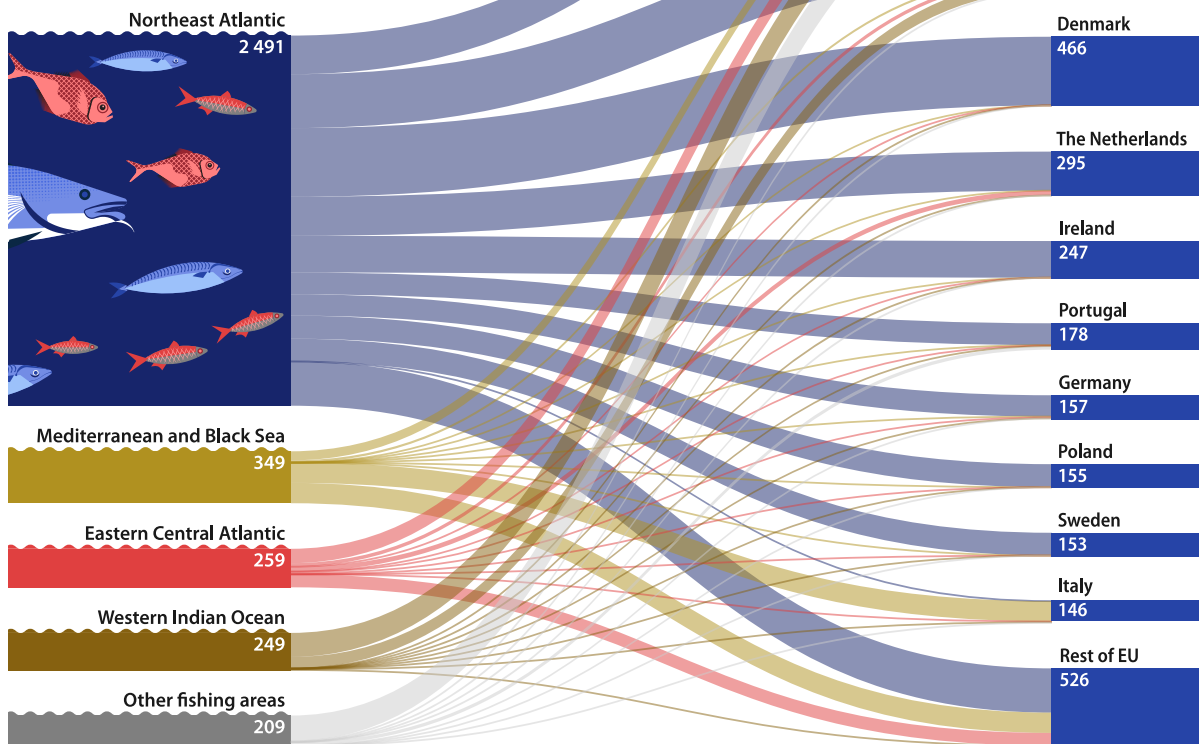
Although the EU fishing fleet operates worldwide, the vast majority (70.0 %) of its catch in 2021 was taken from the Northeast Atlantic. The largest fish catches in this area were recorded for Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Ireland (2017 data), with the most common species including herring, mackerel and sprats. The next largest fishing areas (by weight of catch) for the EU as a whole were the Mediterranean and Black Sea (9.8 % of the total), the Eastern Central Atlantic (7.3 %) and the Western Indian Ocean (7.0 %).

FAO major fishing areas



27 Northeast Atlantic
37 Mediterranean and Black Sea
34 Eastern Central Atlantic
51 Western Indian Ocean

21 Northwest Atlantic
41 Southwest Atlantic
47 Southeast Atlantic



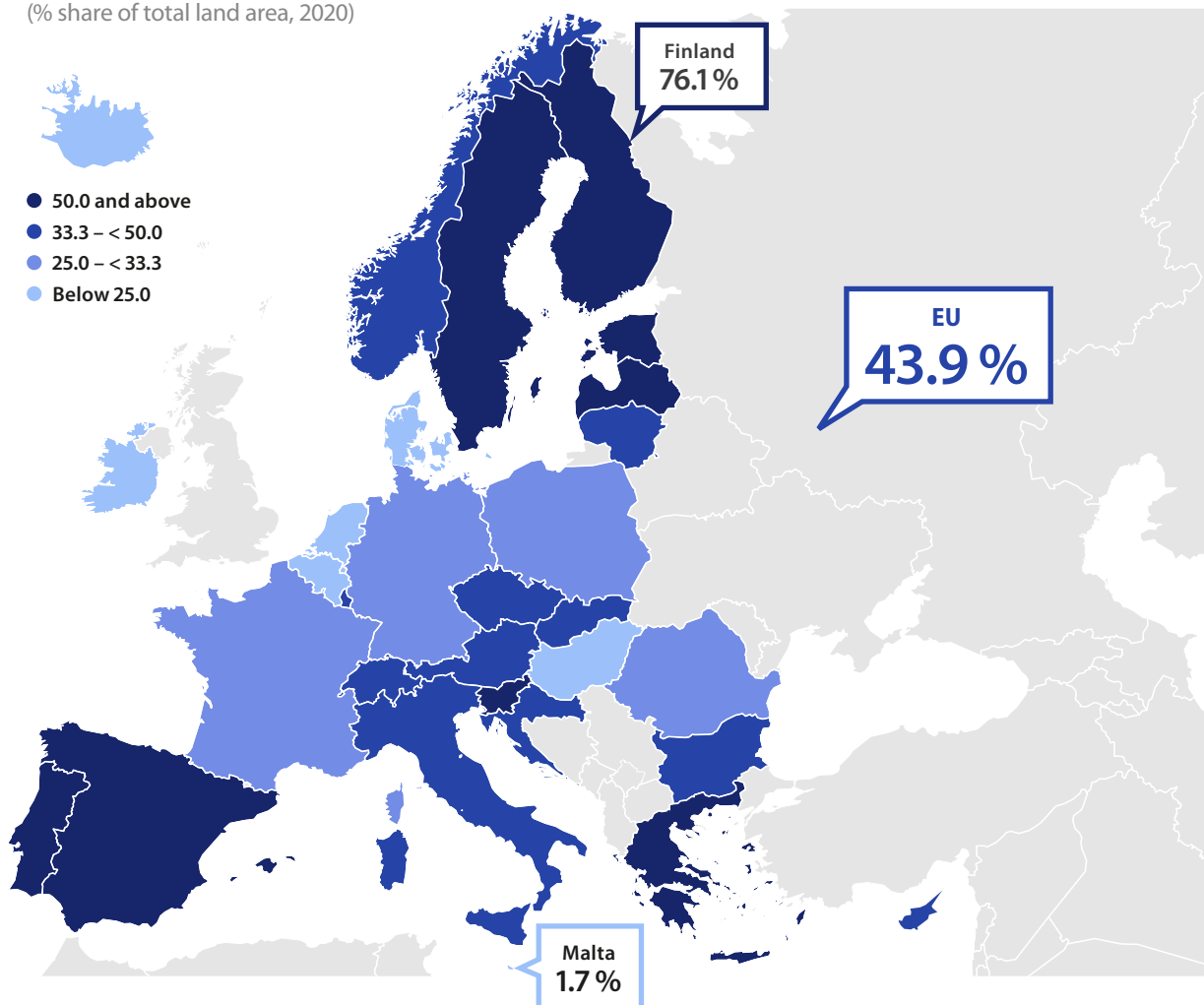
Note: CZ, LU, HU, AT and SK are landlocked. IE: 2017. EU totals by area include 2017 data for IE and 2016 data for LV.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main)

Forestry

Area of forest and other wooded land

(% share of total land area, 2020)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: for_area and reg_area3) and Food and Agriculture Organization

The EU has many different types of **forests**, reflecting its climatic diversity, soil types, altitude and topography. Forests provide an important renewable resource: for example, they offer a habitat for animals and a livelihood for humans, while mitigating climate change and providing some protection from concerns such as soil erosion or surface run-off.

In 2020, there were 180 million hectares of forests and other wooded land covering 43.9% of the EU's land area. In

absolute terms, Sweden (30.3 million hectares) and Spain (28.0 million hectares) had the largest areas of forest and other wooded land. In relative terms, the forests and other wooded land of Finland (76.1%) and Sweden (74.5%) covered the largest proportions of land area. Malta was the only EU Member State to record a single-digit share (1.7%) and also had the smallest area of forest and other wooded land (530 hectares).

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EUROPE

2023 EDITION

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