# KEY FIGURES ON EUROPE

## 2025 EDITION

eurostat

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## List of EU and EFTA countries

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

# KEY FIGURES ON EUROPE

2025 EDITION

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**Collection: Flagship publications**

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# Foreword

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 8th edition of 'Key figures on Europe', which offers a panoramic view of recent EU developments, drawing from Eurostat's statistics and data. Whether you are looking to understand sweeping shifts in population, digital society, and energy, or trends in employment, inflation, and international trade, this is your go-to resource.

'Key figures on Europe' allows you to easily compare different countries within the European Union. Key indicators are organised into 3 chapters: 'People and society', 'Economy and business' and 'Environment and natural resources'. Each chapter is enriched with engaging visualisations and explanations, making complex data understandable and accessible at a glance.

For those eager to dive deeper, Eurostat's website offers the most recent EU official statistics, which are also enhanced with data visualisations and background information. There, you will additionally find the 'Statistics Explained' section, which breaks down complex topics into user-friendly insights, and the European Statistical Monitor, which provides a monthly update on key short-term EU indicators.

Whether you are using it for work, study, or out of sheer curiosity, I hope that you will find this publication both informative and inspiring.

Enjoy discovering the wealth of Eurostat's statistics and data!

**Mariana Kotzeva**
Director-General, Eurostat

## Abstract

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

## Editors

Eurostat, Unit B4 – Dissemination and user support

## Contact details

Eurostat
Bâtiment Joseph Bech
5, rue Alphonse Weicker
2721 Luxembourg
E-mail: estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu

## Production and layout

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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

## Acknowledgements

The editors of this publication would like to thank colleagues in Eurostat who were involved in its preparation.

# Contents

# Introduction

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union (EU). Its mission is to provide high quality statistics on Europe, such as key information on its people, economy and the environment.

'Key figures on Europe' is published every year: it focuses on annual data. The 2025 edition describes the situation in the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, with the most recent data generally for 2023 or 2024 (depending on the source). Consequently, the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis may be seen for a variety of indicators.

## Structure of the publication

'Key figures on Europe' provides users with an overview of the wealth of information available on Eurostat's website and within its online databases. It offers 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 3 main chapters. The introduction includes information about data coverage and on accessing 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: more information can be found on Eurostat's website, such as 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 on 2 May 2025. Eurostat's online database may contain fresher data. Note that some older data included in this edition may differ from equivalent values published in previous editions due to revisions.

### Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (a sum/average covering the 27 current members of the EU) as well as its individual countries and the 4 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 countries join/leave the EU).

The countries in the figures are usually ranked according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

References in the publication to EU countries being in northern, eastern, southern or western Europe are based on groupings provided by EU vocabularies.

The map on the inside cover page shows the EU and EFTA countries.

## Country codes and names

**BE** Belgium
**BG** Bulgaria
**CZ** Czechia
**DK** Denmark
**DE** Germany
**EE** Estonia
**IE** Ireland
**EL** Greece
**ES** Spain
**FR** France
**HR** Croatia
**IT** Italy
**CY** Cyprus
**LV** Latvia
**LT** Lithuania
**LU** Luxembourg
**HU** Hungary
**MT** Malta
**NL** Netherlands
**AT** Austria
**PL** Poland
**PT** Portugal
**RO** Romania
**SI** Slovenia
**SK** Slovakia
**FI** Finland
**SE** Sweden

**IS** Iceland
**LI** Liechtenstein
**NO** Norway
**CH** Switzerland

## Temporal data coverage

If data for a reference year (or reference period) aren't available for a particular country, the authors tried to complete the coverage using data for recent previous reference years (these exceptions are noted under each visualisation).

## Notes and flags

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

## Accessing European statistics

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

You can use the Eurostat online data codes, such as 'nama_10_gdp', to find the most recent data in Eurostat's online database. These online data codes are included in the source below each map or figure.

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

The release and update dates for all statistical indicators are published on the Eurostat release calendar.

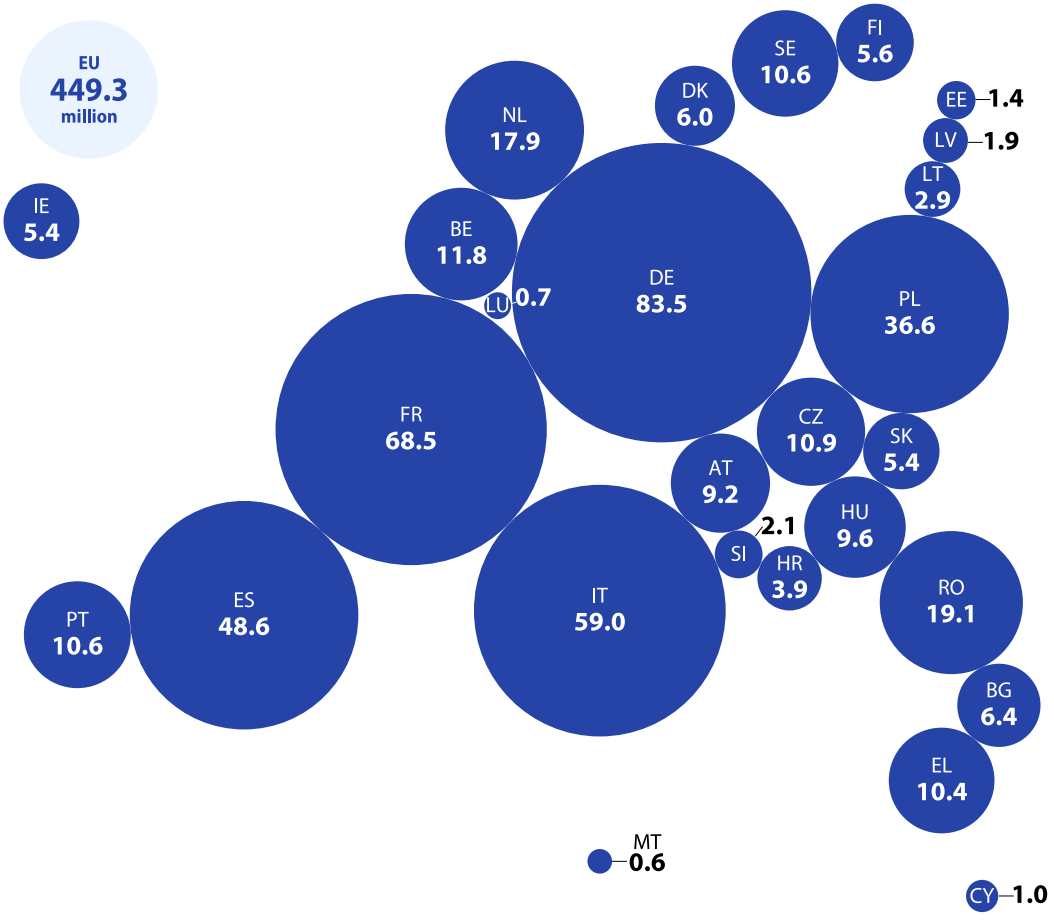
# 1

# People and society

# Population

## Population

(million inhabitants, 1 January 2024)



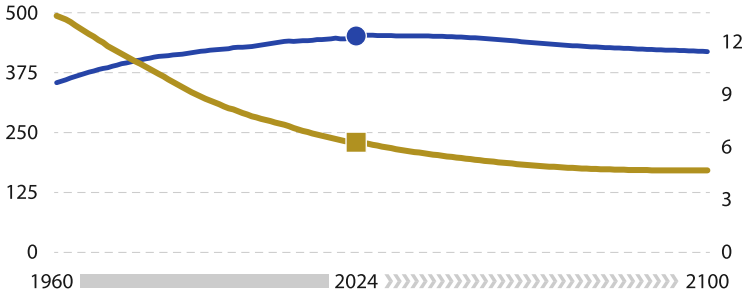

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

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, the EU's population declined, but it rebounded during 2021, 2022 and 2023. As of 1 January 2024, there were 449.3 million people living in the EU, 1.6 million more than on 1 January 2023.

There are considerable differences in population levels between EU countries: on 1 January 2024, the number of inhabitants ranged from 0.6 million in Malta up to 83.5 million in Germany. Together, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland were home to almost two thirds (65.9%) of the EU's population.

## Population

(EU, 1 January 1960–2100)

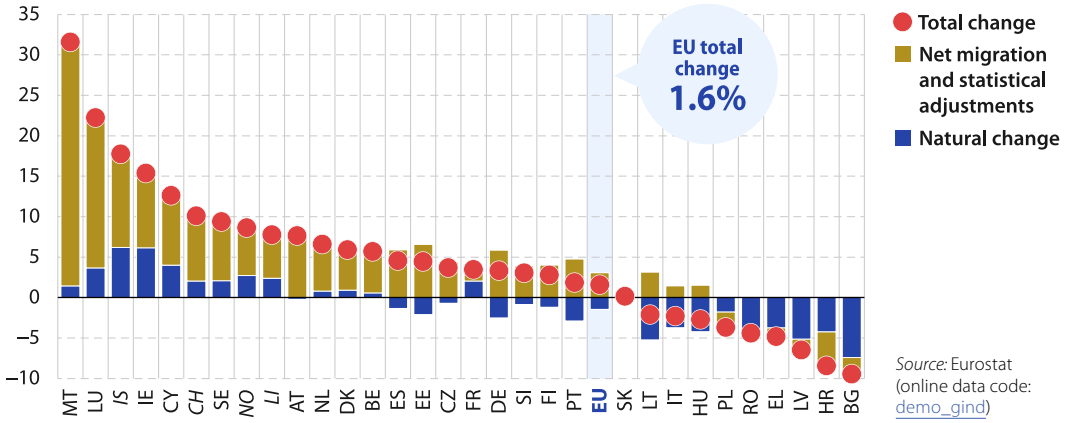



*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: demo_gind and proj_23np23) and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2024). World Population Prospects 2024, Online Edition

In 1974, the EU's share of the global population fell below 10.0%. This downward development continued through to 2024 when the EU accounted for 5.5% of the world's population. According to Eurostat's baseline projections, the population of the EU will grow to 453.3 million inhabitants in 2026. Thereafter, it is projected to fall back to 419.5 million by 2100. According to this baseline, coupled with faster population growth in the rest of the world, around 1 in 25 people – or 4.1% of the global population – will be living in the EU at the end of this century.

## Population change

(% of total population, 1 January 2014–24)



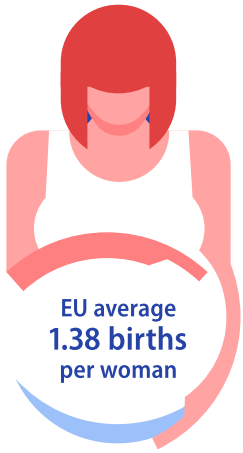

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

Between 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2024, the EU's population rose 7.0 million (or 1.6%); 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 31.6% and 22.3%, respectively. At the other end of the range, the biggest decreases in percentage terms were in Bulgaria (down 9.4%) and Croatia (down 8.4%).

A natural decrease in the number of inhabitants (more deaths than births) in Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Latvia, Poland and Romania was reinforced by net outward migration (more people leaving than entering the country) leading to a decline in population numbers. There was also an overall decline in the populations of Italy, Lithuania and Hungary, despite net inward migration.

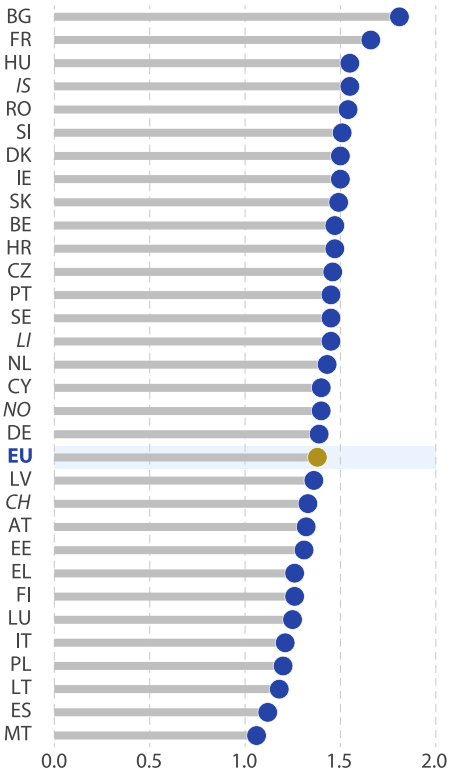
## Fertility rate

(live births per woman, 2023)




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 required to keep the total number of inhabitants at a constant level (in the absence of migration).

In 2023, the total fertility rate among EU countries ranged from a high of 1.81 live births per woman in Bulgaria down to 1.12 in Spain and 1.06 in Malta. The EU average was 1.38 live births per woman.

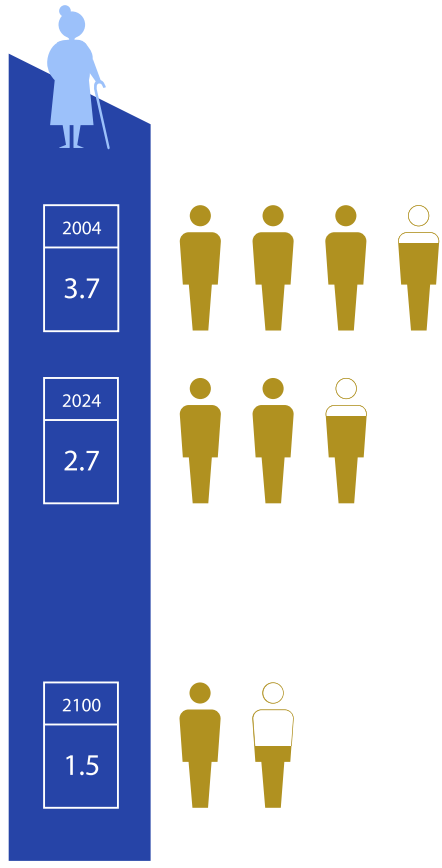



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: demo_find)

## Ageing population

(ratio, number of people aged 20–64 per person aged ≥ 65, EU, 2004, 2024 and 2100)

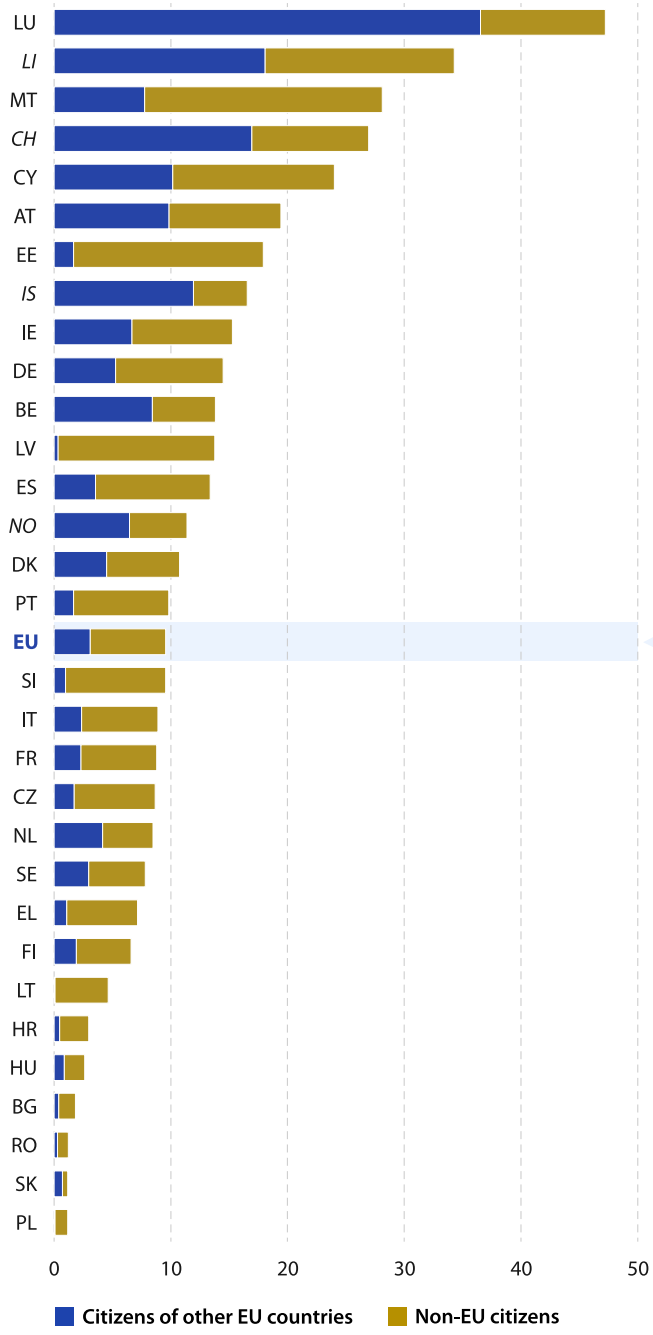
Population ageing has been observed across much of Europe in recent decades. Changes in population structure can have serious implications for issues such as pension funds, government revenues and the provision of services such as health and social care. The number of working-age people (defined here as those aged from 20 to 64) in the EU expressed relative to the number of older people (aged 65 or over) fell from 3.7 in 2004 to 2.7 by 2024. 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 2024)




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

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

On 1 January 2024, there were 43.0 million foreign citizens living in EU countries. Of those, 14.0 million people were citizens of EU countries other than the country in which they resided (3.1% of the population) and 29.0 million were citizens of non-EU countries (6.4% of the population). Note that there was also a small number of stateless people and people whose citizenship was unknown (not shown); together they accounted for 0.03% of the EU's total population).

**EU**

**3.1%**
**citizens of other EU countries**

**6.4%**
**non-EU citizens**

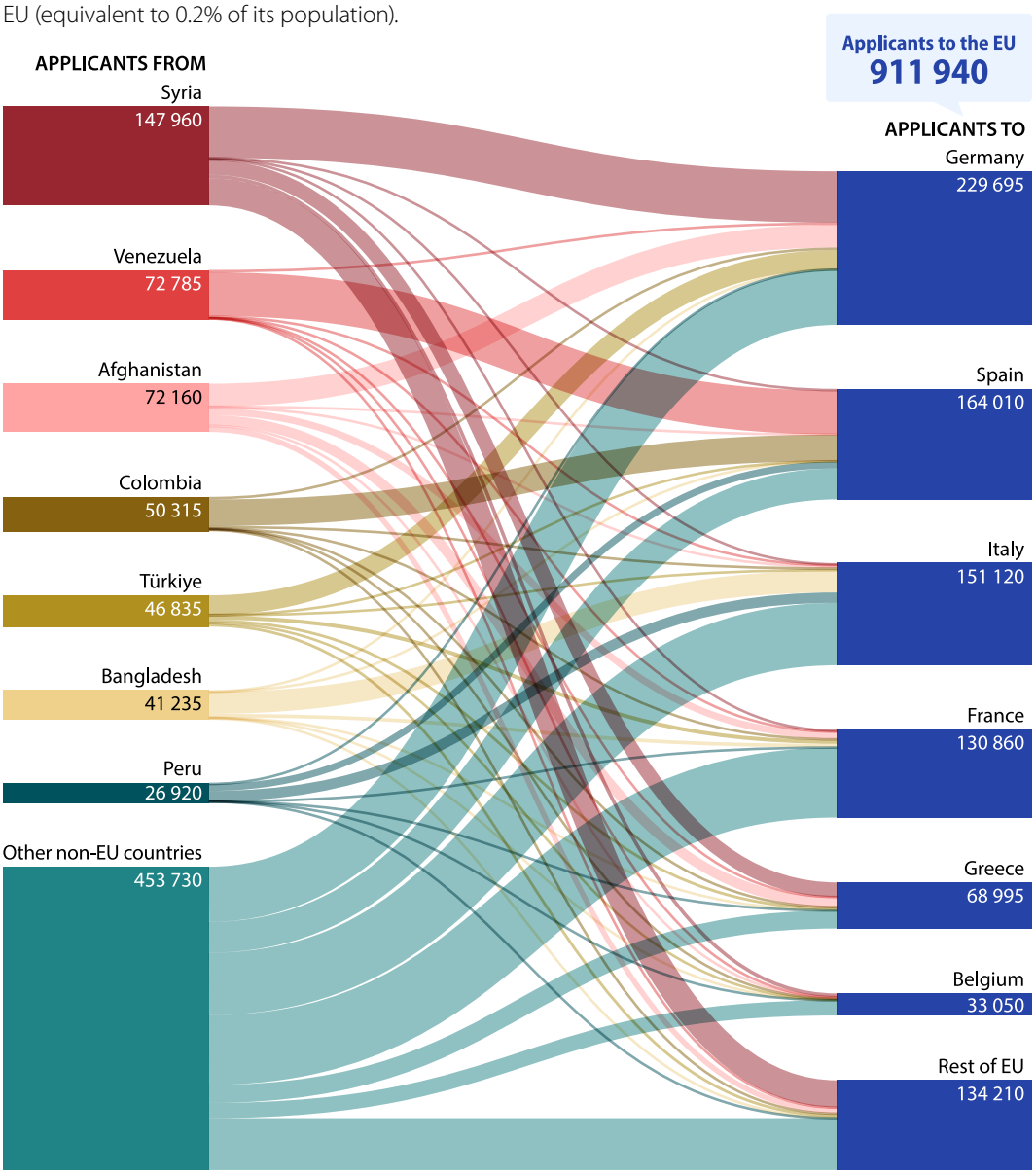
In relative terms, foreign citizens accounted for 9.6% of the total population in the EU, with this share ranging from almost half (47.2%) of the population in Luxembourg to less than 1.5% in Romania, Poland and Slovakia. A large majority of the EU countries reported a higher number of non-EU citizens than citizens of other EU countries within their populations.

## First-time asylum applicants

(number of applicants in EU countries, 2024)

Having peaked at 1.2 million during the 2015–16 migrant crisis, the number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU dropped to just over half a million by 2021. However, there was a rebound in 2022 (up 63.0%) and in 2023 (up 20.1%). A more moderate decline followed in 2024 (down 13.1%), when there were 911 940 asylum applicants in the EU (equivalent to 0.2% of its population).

In 2024, the highest numbers of asylum applicants in the EU were Syrians (147 960), followed by Venezuelans (72 785) and Afghans (72 160). The most common EU countries for lodging an application included Germany, Spain, Italy and France.

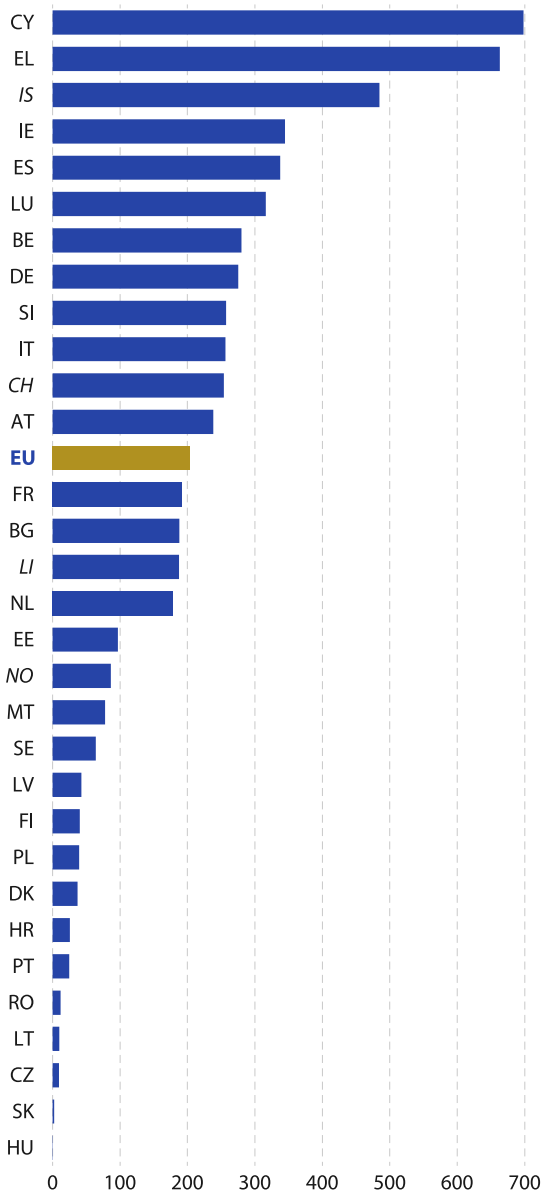



Note: rounded data. Only applications made by non-EU citizens.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

## First-time asylum applicants

(number per 100 000 inhabitants, 2024)

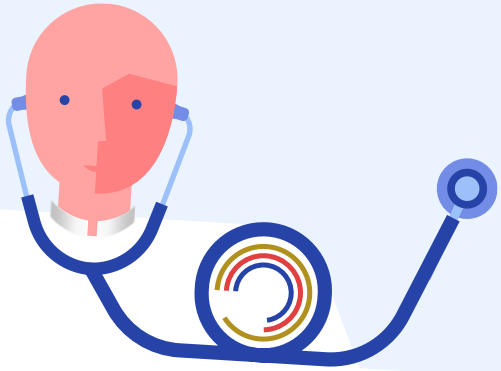



Note: applicants who are non-EU citizens. PT: 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: migr_asyappctza and demo_gind)

In 2024, the number of first-time asylum applications lodged in the EU was 203 per 100 000 inhabitants. Among the EU countries, the highest ratio – 698 applicants per 100 000 inhabitants – was in Cyprus. At the other end of the scale, the number of applicants per 100 000 inhabitants was 12 in Romania, 10 in Lithuania, 9 in Czechia and 3 in Slovakia; in Hungary, there was an average of 0 applicants per 100 000 inhabitants (calculated from an absolute number of 25 such applicants).

# Health

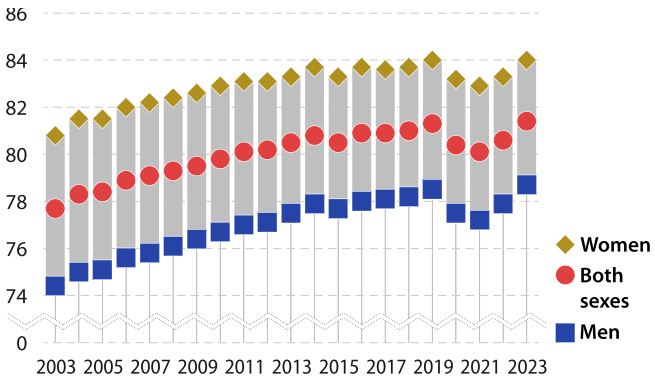


## Life expectancy at birth

(years, EU, 2003–23)

Following a fall in life expectancy in both 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 crisis, life expectancy in the EU grew again in the next 2 years. By 2023, it had recovered to 84.0 years for women and 78.7 years for men.

The narrowing gender gap witnessed during the previous 2 decades was reversed somewhat during the crisis. However, in 2022 and 2023 it narrowed again, down to 5.4 and 5.3 years, respectively.

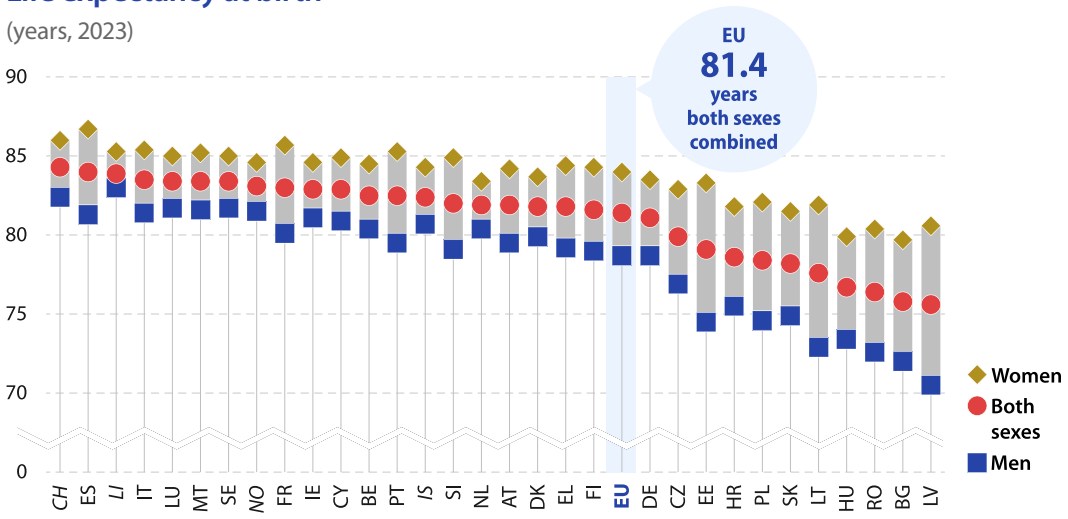



Note: the y-axis is cut.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

## Life expectancy at birth

(years, 2023)



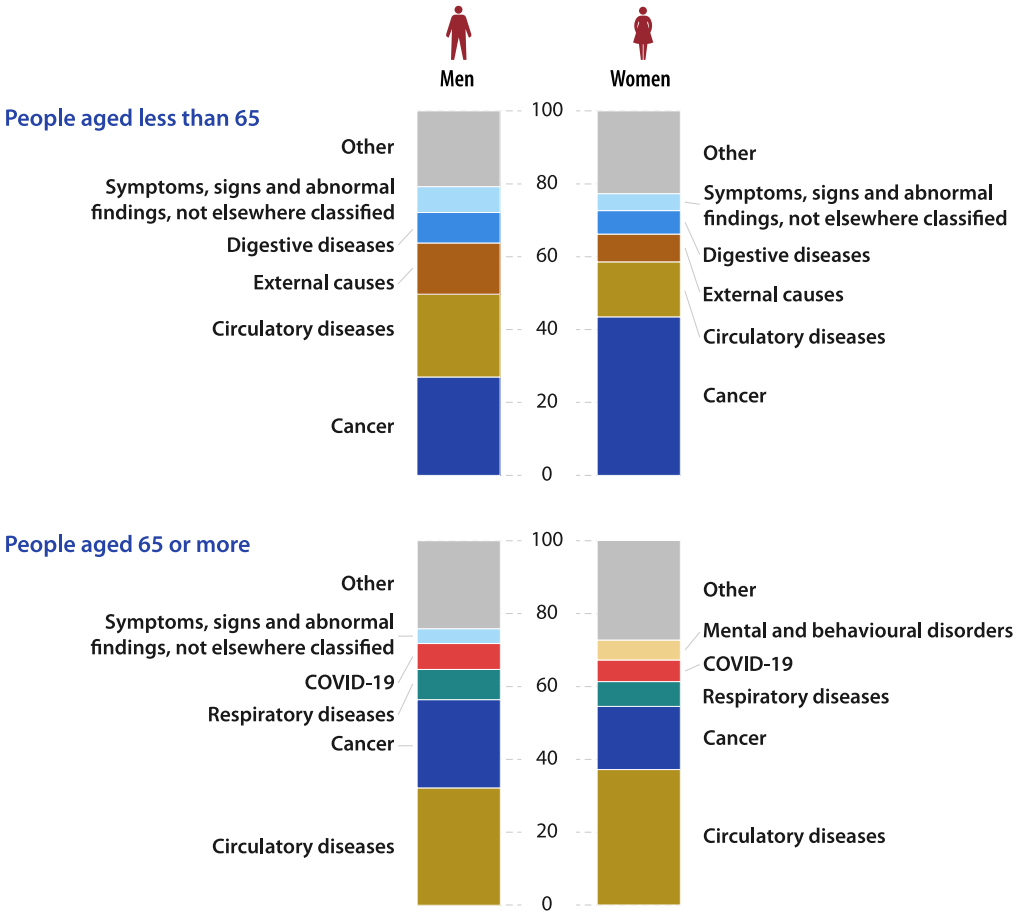

Note: the y-axis is cut.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

Among the EU countries, Spain (84.0 years), Italy (83.5 years), Luxembourg, Malta and Sweden (all 83.4 years) recorded the highest average life expectancies at birth (for both sexes combined) in 2023; the lowest were in Latvia (75.6 years) and Bulgaria (75.8 years). New-born girls had higher life expectancy than new-born boys in every EU country, with particularly large gender gaps in the Baltic countries – Latvia (10.1 years), Lithuania (9.0 years) and Estonia (8.8 years). The narrowest gaps were in the Netherlands (3.0 years), Sweden and Luxembourg (both 3.3 years).

## Major causes of death

(% of all deaths, 2022)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: hlth_cd_aro)

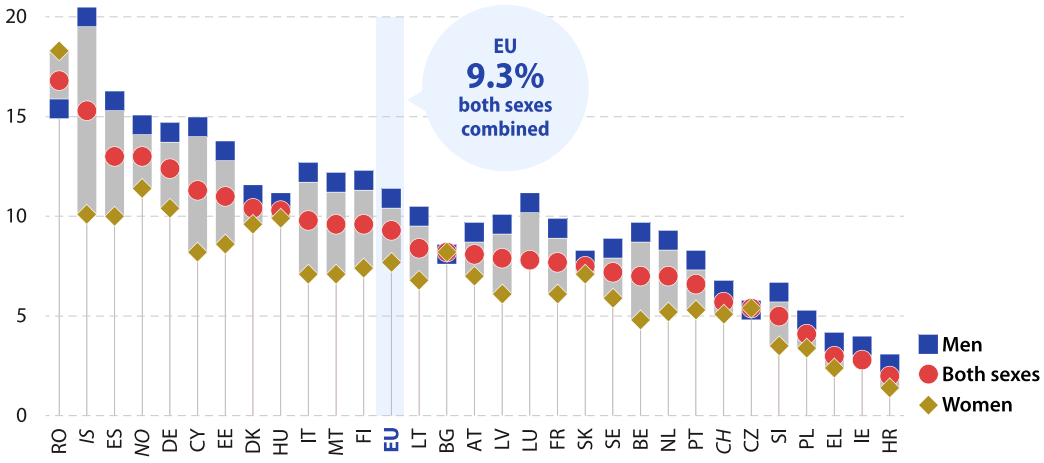
In 2022, there were 5.2 million deaths in the EU, among which the vast majority (85.3%) occurred among people aged 65 or over.

The main causes of death varied considerably between older and younger people and somewhat between men and women (based on a list of 18 causes). Among people aged less than 65, the most common cause was cancer, followed by circulatory diseases, external causes and digestive diseases. Among older people, the most common cause was circulatory diseases, followed by cancer, respiratory diseases and COVID-19.

# Education

## Early leavers from education and training

(%, share of people aged 18–24, 2024)




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. IE and LU: women, not available due to small sample sizes.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_14)

The risk of poverty, unemployment or social exclusion is higher among people leaving school at a relatively young age. In 2024, the share of early leavers from education and training in the EU was 9.3%, ranging from 16.8% in Romania to 2.0% in Croatia. The EU has set itself the goal of reducing this level to below 9% by 2030.

In 2024, young men (10.9%) in the EU were more likely to be early leavers than young women (7.7%). A gender gap with higher shares for young men existed in the vast majority of EU countries.

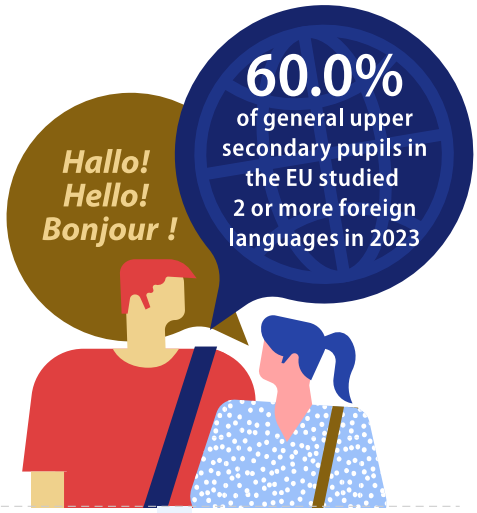
The only exception with a notably higher share of early leavers among young women was Romania, while in Bulgaria and Czechia the share was marginally higher among young women.

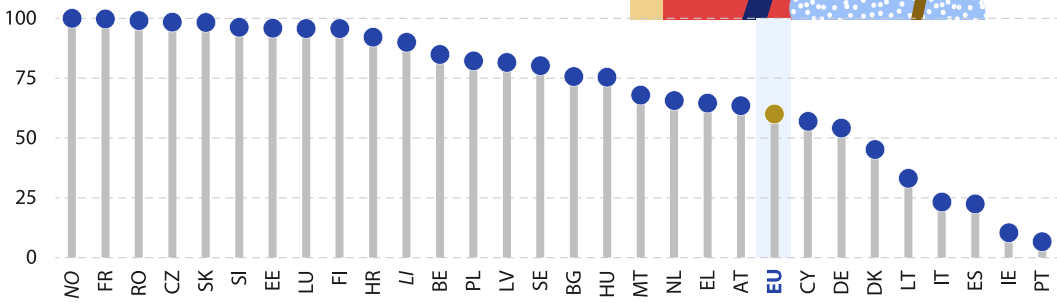
The biggest gender gap was in Cyprus, where the share of early leavers among young men (14.5%) was 6.3 percentage points higher than that among young women (8.2%). Spain, Italy, Estonia, Malta, Finland and Belgium also had gender gaps wider than 4.0 points.

## Learning 2 or more foreign languages

(%, share of students in general upper secondary education, 2023)

In 2023, 60.0% of general upper secondary students in the EU were studying 2 or more foreign languages. At least 98.0% of all general upper secondary students in France, Romania, Czechia and Slovakia were studying 2 or more foreign languages, compared with 10.4% in Ireland and 6.7% in Portugal.



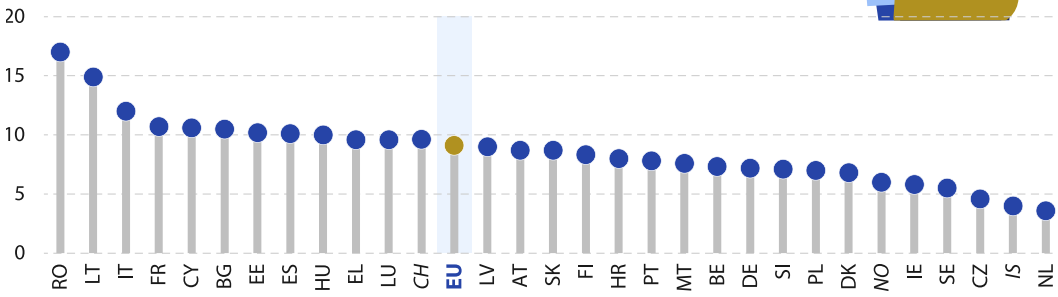

Note: LI, 2022.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: educ_uoe_lang02)

## Young people neither in employment nor in education and training

(%, share of people aged 15–24, 2024)

The share of young people (aged 15 to 24) neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) concerns people who weren't employed and hadn't participated recently in any form of education or training. In 2024, the NEET rate for young people in the EU stood at 9.1%. The rate in Romania (17.0%) was 4.7 times as high as that observed in the Netherlands (3.6%).

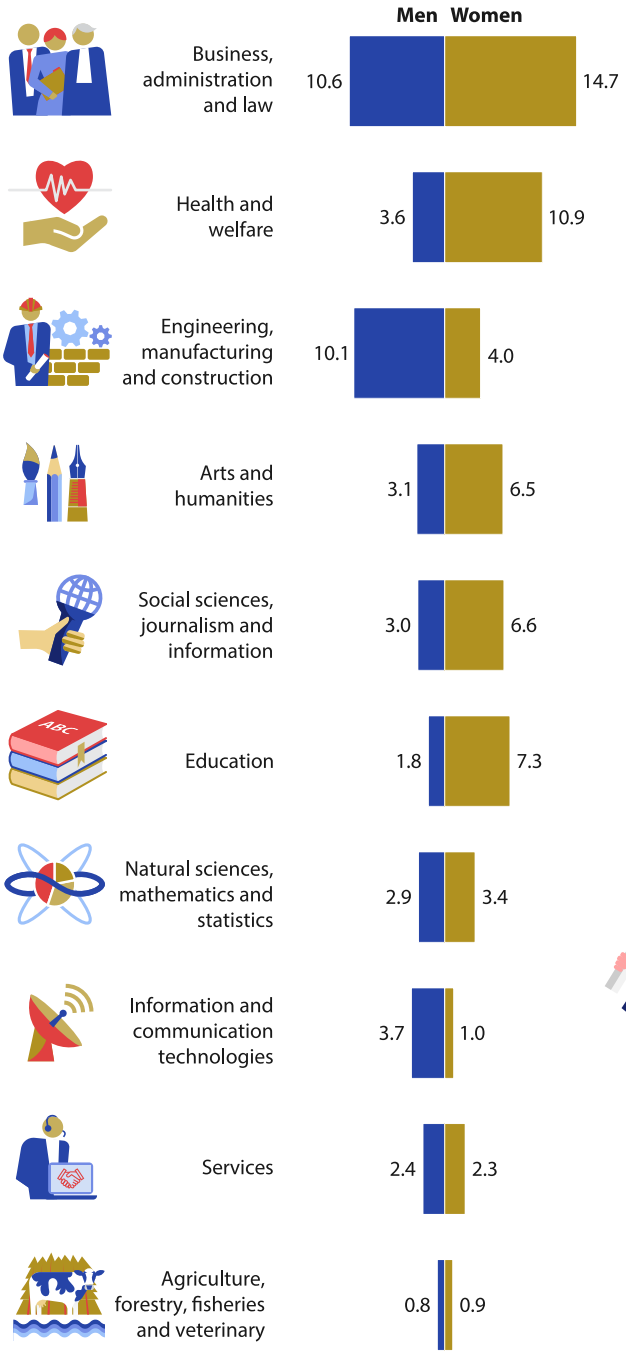



Note: not having been in education of training refers to the situation during the 4 weeks prior to being surveyed.

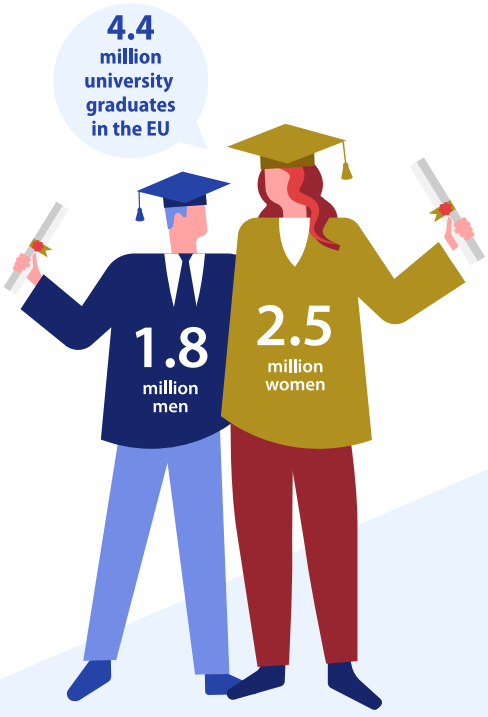
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20)

## Fields of study for university graduates

(%, share of all graduates, EU, 2023)




In 2023, there were 4.4 million tertiary education graduates across the EU: female university graduates (2.5 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 people having studied education, where there were 4.1 times as many female as male graduates. The numbers of male and female graduates were similar for services as well as for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary fields. By contrast, there were 3.7 times as many male as female graduates among those having studied information and communication technologies.



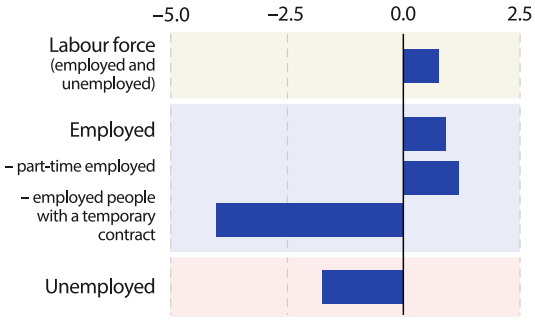

Note: ranked on the total share of graduates (male and female combined).

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: educ_uoe_grad01 and educ_uoe_grad03)

# Labour market

## Annual change in the labour force composition

(%, people aged 20–64, EU, 2024)

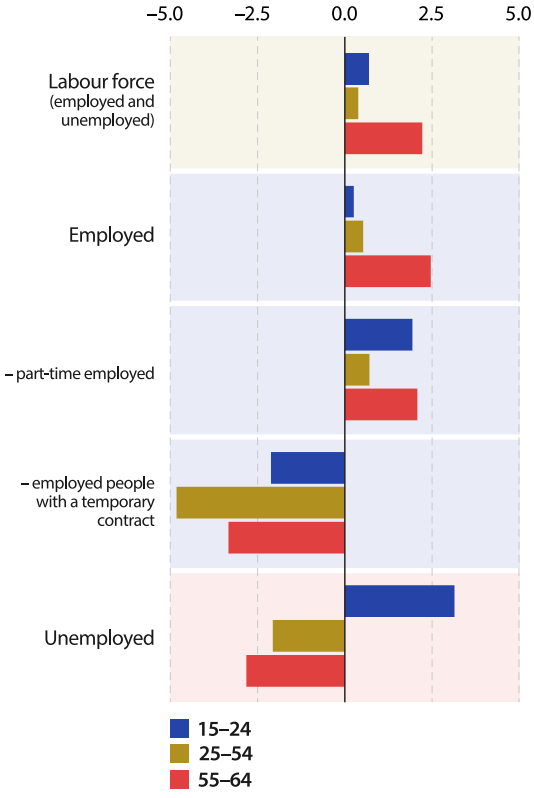



*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: lfsi_emp_a, lfsi_pt_a and une_rt_a)

The size of the EU labour force (employed and unemployed people aged 20 to 64) increased 0.8% between 2023 and 2024, reaching 209 million. The number of people in employment grew 0.9%, while the number of unemployed people fell 1.8%. Among employed people, there was a slightly stronger increase in the number of part-time workers (up 1.2%) and a fall in the number of employed people with a temporary contract (down 4.0%).

## Annual change in the labour force composition, by age group

(%, EU, 2024)




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

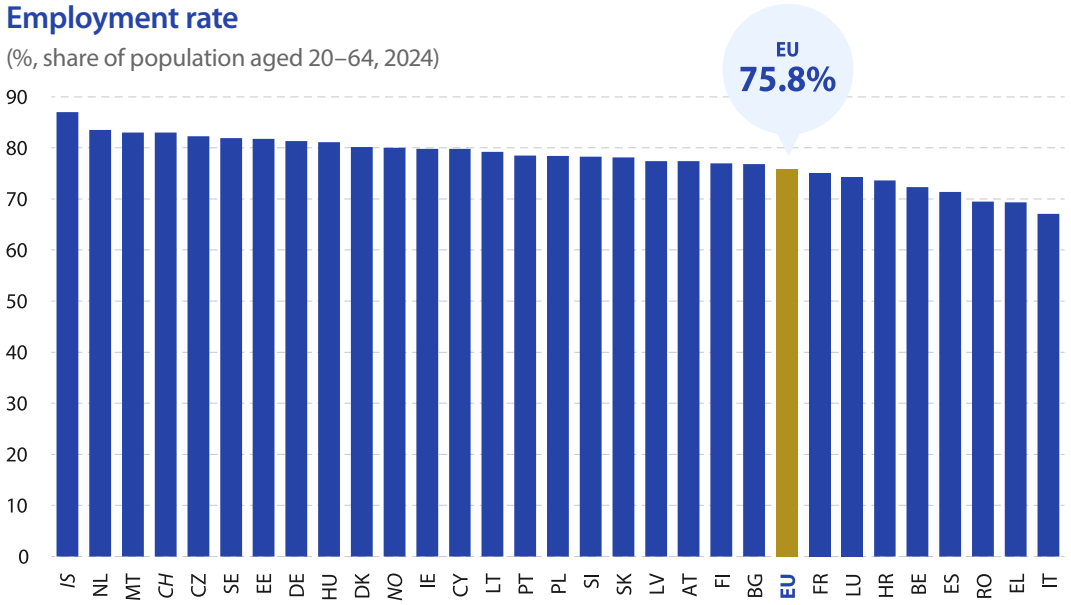
In 2024, a core group of working-age people (aged 25 to 54) accounted for almost three quarters (71.2%) of the EU's labour force aged 15 to 64.

While young people (aged 15 to 24) accounted for 9.1% of the total number of employed people in the EU in 2024, their shares of part-time employment (15.7%) and employment with a temporary contract (33.3%) were considerably higher.

Between 2023 and 2024, the size of the EU's labour force and the number of employed people were relatively stable among people aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 54 but increased more strongly among older people. Growth in part-time employment was stronger for younger and older employed people, while the fall in the number of people employed with a temporary contract was most notable among people aged 25 to 54. Despite an overall decrease in the number of unemployed people, the number of young unemployed people increased.

## Employment rate

(%, share of population aged 20–64, 2024)



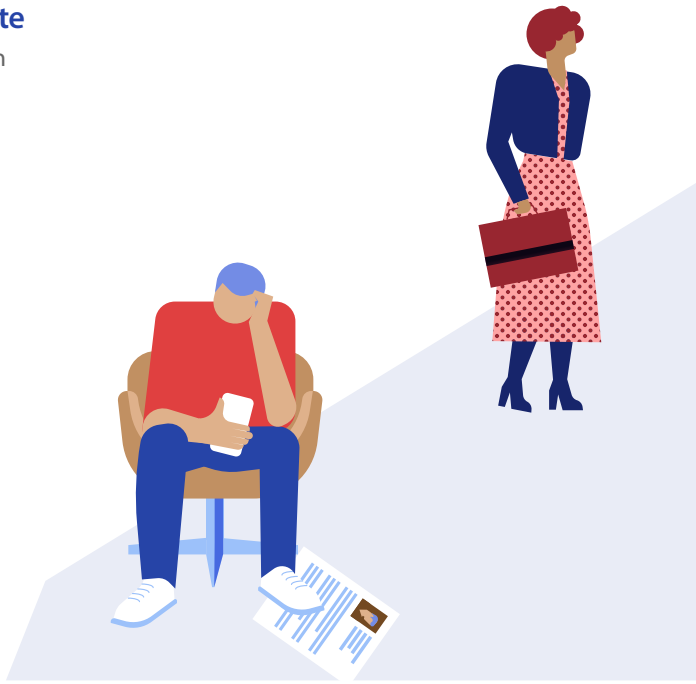

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)

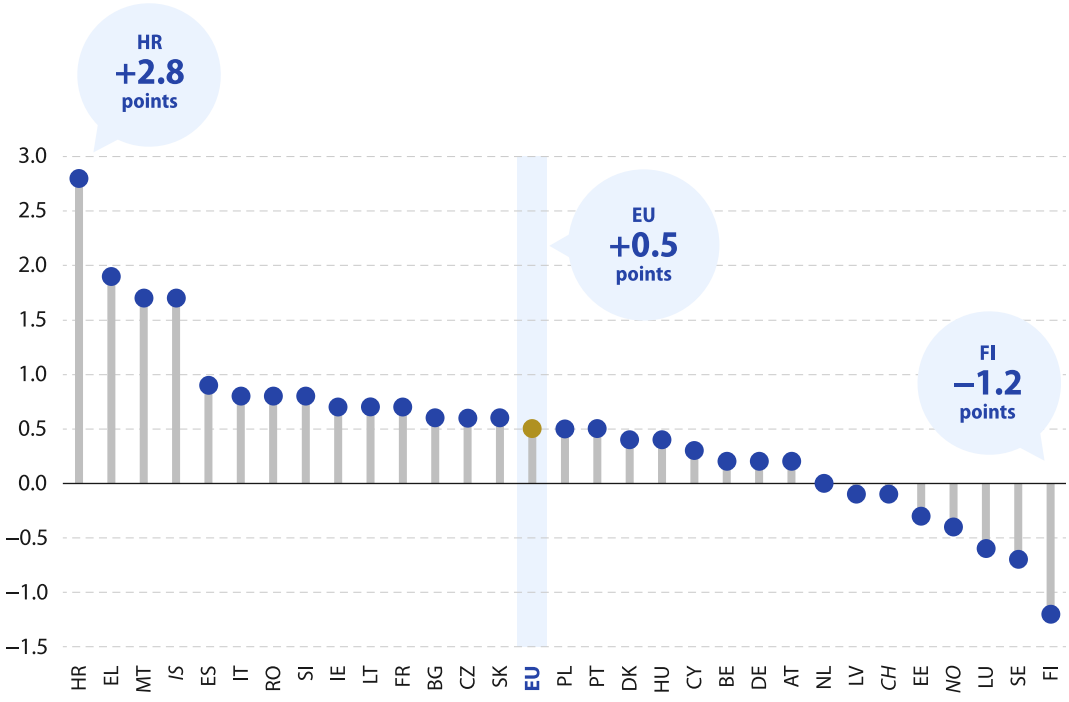
The EU employment rate – which measures the share of employed people aged 20 to 64 within the population of the same age – was 75.8% in 2024. There were 8 EU countries where at least 80.0% of adults aged 20 to 64 were in employment: the highest rates were in the Netherlands (83.5%), Malta (83.0%), Czechia (82.3%), Sweden (81.9%) and Estonia (81.8%). At the other end of the range, fewer than 70.0% of adults aged 20 to 64 were in employment in Italy (67.1%), Greece (69.3%) and Romania (69.5%).

## Annual change in the employment rate

(percentage points based on share of population aged 20–64, 2024)

The EU's employment rate for people aged 20 to 64 reached 75.8% in 2024, up 0.5 percentage points compared with the previous year. Between 2023 and 2024, the employment rate for people aged 20 to 64 rose in 21 of the EU countries, was unchanged in 1 and fell in the remaining 5. The largest annual increase was in Croatia (up 2.8 points), while Finland (down 1.2 points) had the largest decrease.

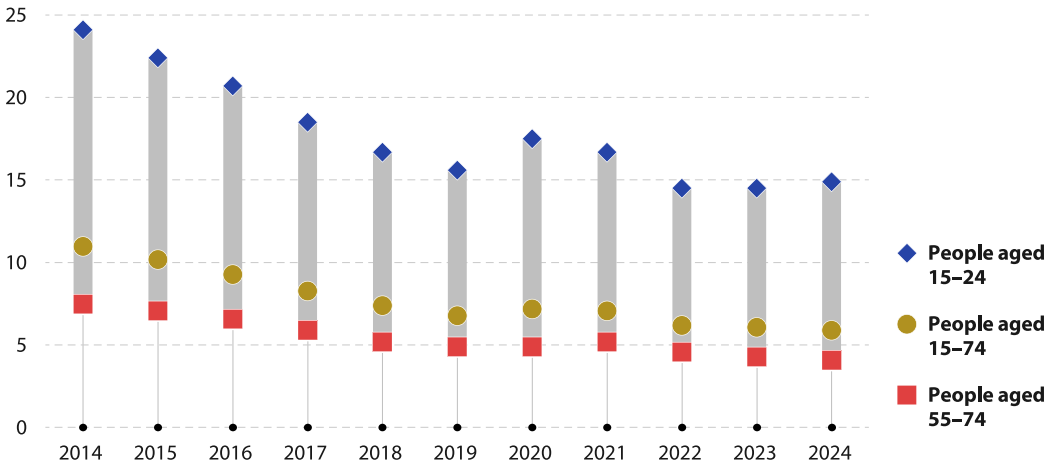





*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)

## Unemployment rate

(%, share of labour force, EU, 2014–24)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

In 2014, the EU's unemployment rate fell slightly to 11.0% and continued to fall during the following 5 years, reaching a low of 6.8% by 2019. In 2020, as the COVID-19 crisis impacted labour markets, the rate increased to 7.2%. It then decreased slightly in 2021, more markedly in 2022 and more moderately again in 2023 and 2024, to reach 5.9%.

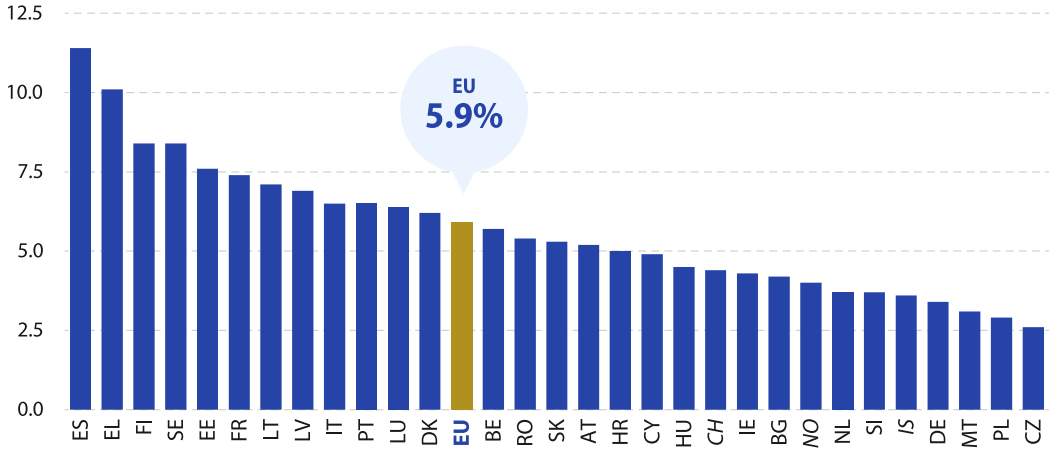
The EU youth unemployment rate (for people aged 15 to 24) was 14.9% in 2024, 2.5 times as high as the rate for the whole population (aged 15 to 74) and 3.6 times as high as the rate for older people (aged 55 to 74), which was 4.1%. Between 2014 and 2024, the rate for older people increased in 2021, while the rate for younger people increased in 2020 and 2024.

## Unemployment rate

(%, share of labour force aged 15–74, 2024)

In 2024, the highest unemployment rates among the EU countries for people aged 15 to 74 were in Spain (11.4%) and Greece (10.1%); the next highest rate was 8.4% in both Finland and Sweden.

Relatively low unemployment rates were recorded in Malta and Poland in 2024, close to 3.0%; the lowest rate was in Czechia (2.6%).

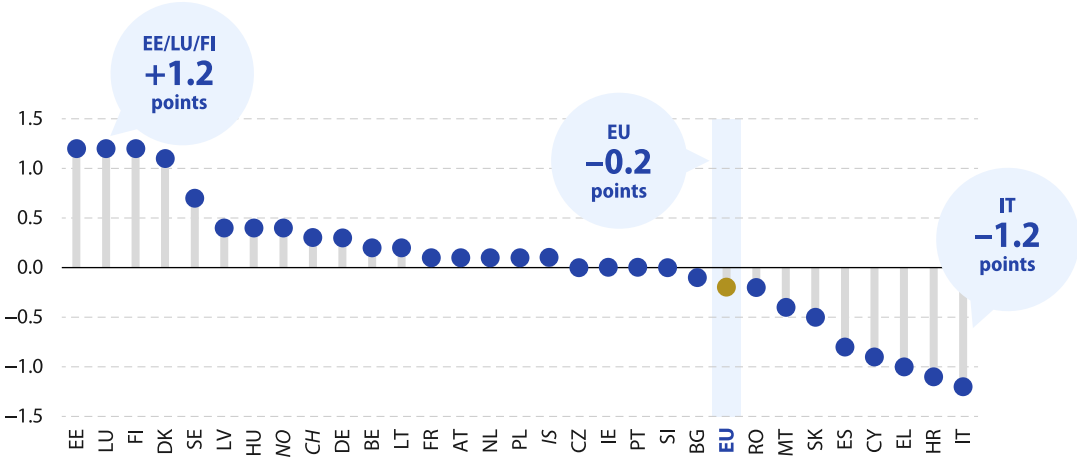



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

## Annual change in the unemployment rate

(percentage points based on share of labour force aged 15–74, 2024)

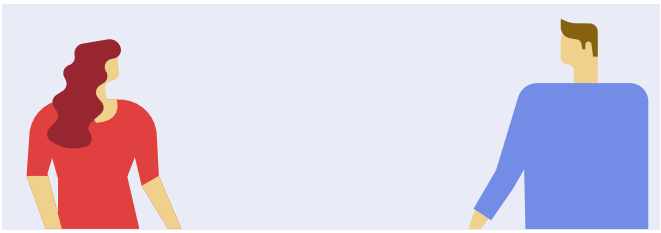
Compared with 2023, the EU's unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 74 was 0.2 percentage points lower in 2024. This rate rose in 14 EU countries, was unchanged in 4 and fell in the remaining 9. The largest increases were in Estonia, Luxembourg, Finland (all up 1.2 points) and Denmark (up 1.1 points), while the largest decreases were in Italy (down 1.2 points), Croatia (down 1.1 points), Greece (down 1.0 points), Cyprus (down 0.9 points) and Spain (down 0.8 points).

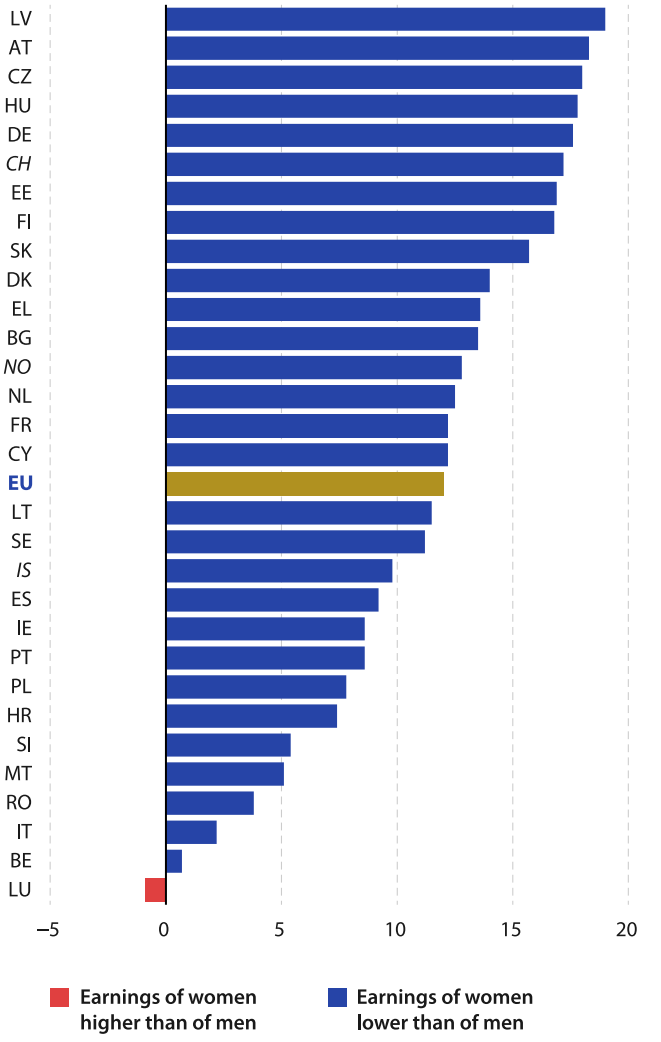



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

## Unadjusted gender pay gap

(%, 2023)



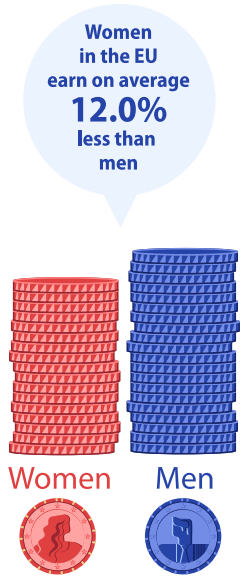



Note: difference between earnings of female and male employees as a percentage of earnings of male employees, based on average gross hourly earnings.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: earn_gr_gpgr2)

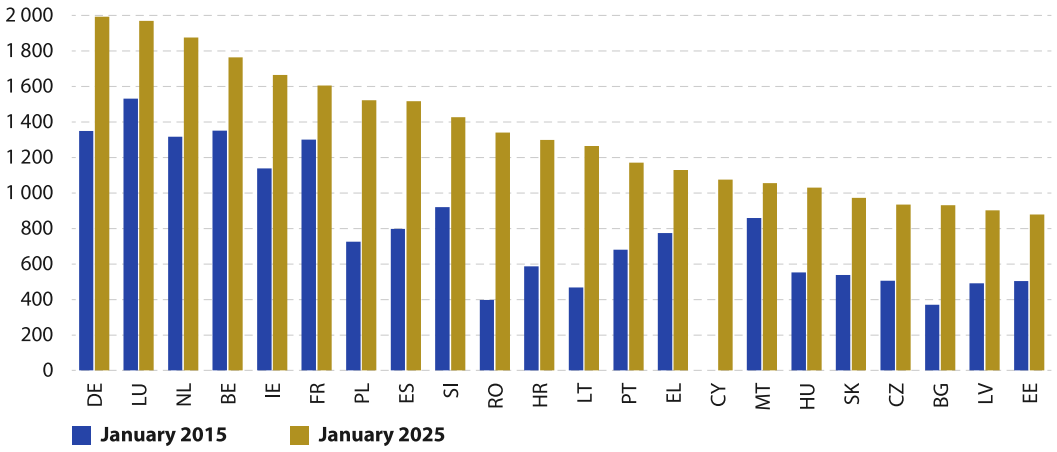
The unadjusted gender pay gap provides an overall picture of the differences in pay between men and women. It measures the gap in hourly earnings between male and female employees in industry, construction and services among enterprises with 10 or more employees.

In 2023, average hourly earnings for women across the EU were 12.0% lower than those for men. The widest gender pay gap was in Latvia, where women's earnings were 19.0% lower than those of men. By contrast, the gap was less than 4.0% in Romania (3.8%), Italy (2.2%) and Belgium (0.7%). The only country where women earned more than men was Luxembourg, where the average earnings of women were higher by 0.9%.



## National monthly minimum wage

(PPS, January 2015 and January 2025)




Note: no national minimum wage in Denmark, Italy, Austria, Finland or Sweden. January 2015, Cyprus not available.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: earn_mw_cur)

The minimum wage is the lowest wage that employers are legally obliged to pay their employees.

The national minimum wage usually applies to all employees, or at least to a large majority of employees in the country. Some countries have exceptions, for example, for younger workers, apprentices or workers with disabilities.

The minimum wage statistics are presented as monthly rates for gross earnings, in other words, before the deduction of income tax and social security contributions payable by the employee.

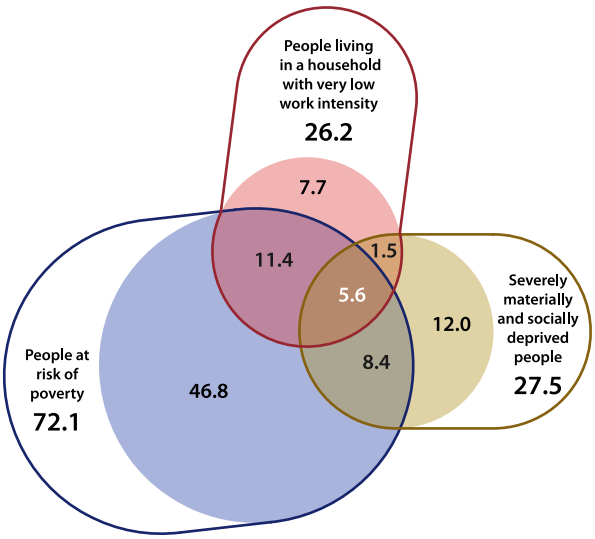
Expressed in purchasing power standards (PPS), these rates have been adjusted to price differences across countries. In January 2025, the highest minimum wages were in Germany and Luxembourg, at 1 992 PPS and 1 969 PPS, respectively. The lowest minimum wages were in Estonia at 878 PPS.

Between 1 January 2015 and 1 January 2025, minimum wages more than tripled in PPS terms in Romania and more than doubled in Lithuania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Poland. The smallest relative increases were in Malta and France.

# Living conditions

## People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(million people, EU, 2024)



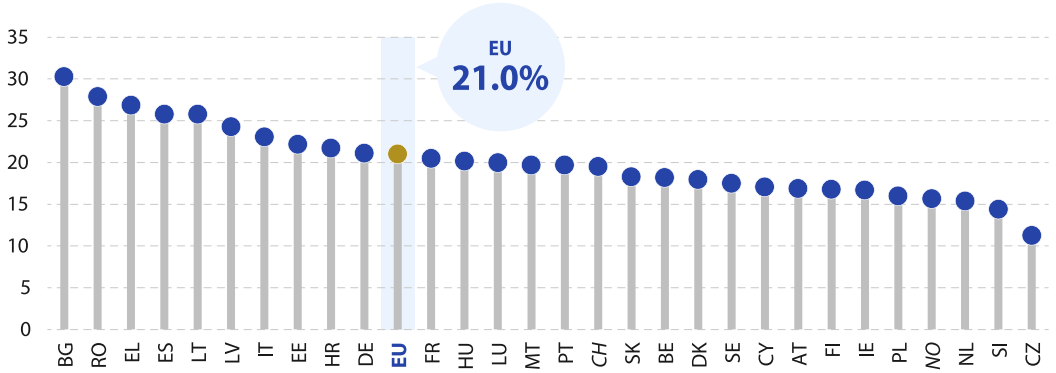

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: ilc_pees01n)

In 2024, 93.3 million people (21.0% of the EU population) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least 1 of the following 3 situations: 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, the risk of poverty after social transfers: 72.1 million people were in this situation across the EU in 2024. Among them, 25.4 million were also in 1 or both of the other 2 conditions. There were 1.2 million fewer people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024 than in 2023.

## People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(%, share of total population, 2024)



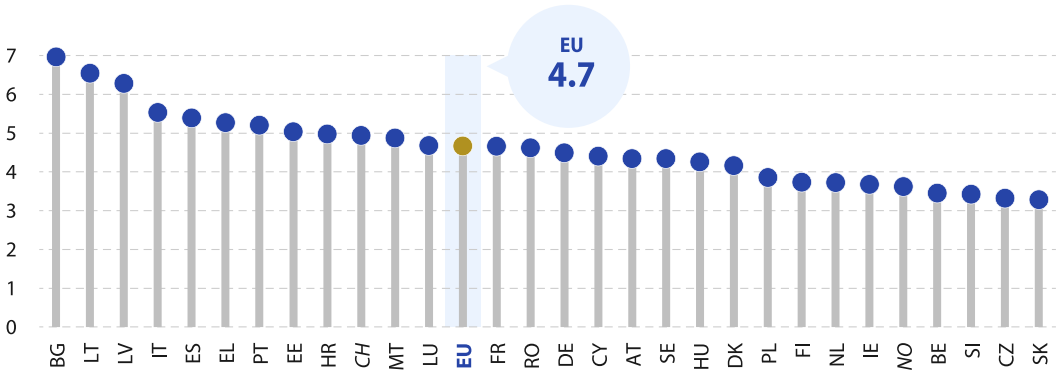

Note: CH, 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: ilc_peps01n)

Among the EU countries, the share of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024 was highest in Bulgaria (30.3%), followed by Romania (27.9%), Greece (26.9%), Spain and Lithuania (both 25.8%). At the other end of the range, 11.3% of people in Czechia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

## Income quintile share ratio S80/S20 for disposable income

(EU, 2024)




Note: CH, 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: tessi180)

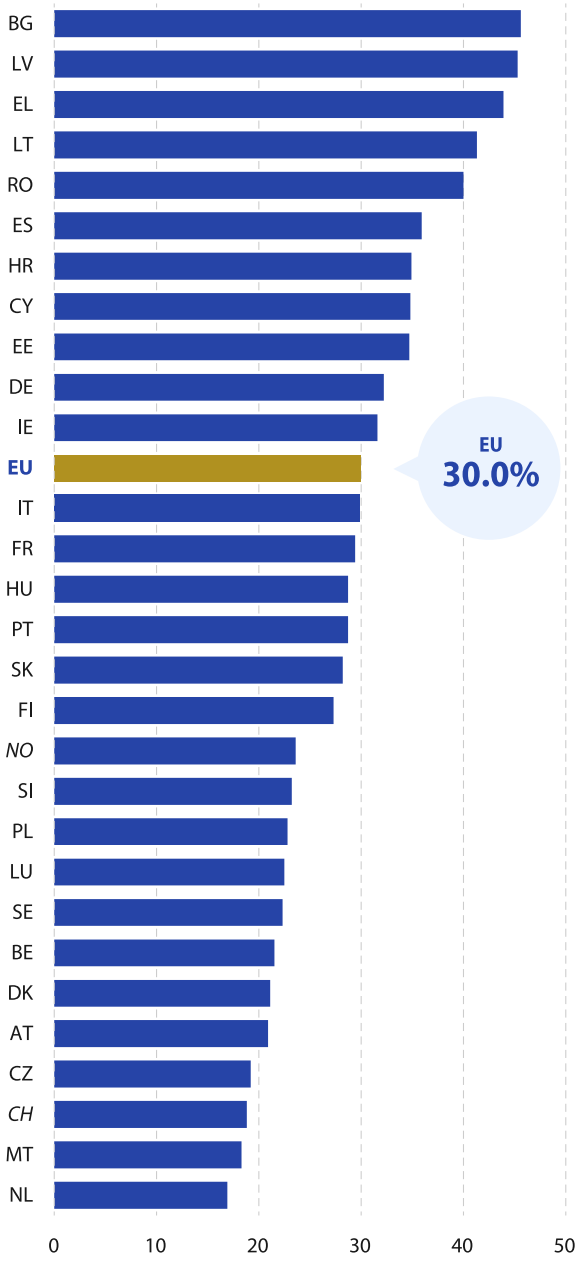
The income quintile share ratio refers to the ratio of total income received by the 20% of the country's population with the highest income (top quintile) to that received by the 20% of the country's population with the lowest income (lowest quintile). The income measure is equivalised disposable income.

In the EU, the total income in 2024 of people in the top quintile was 4.7 times as high as that of people in the bottom quintile.

Based on the income quintile share ratio, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Latvia had the most unequal economies among EU countries; the total income of their top quintile in 2024 was more than 6.0 times as high as that of their bottom quintile. The least unequal countries, according to this measure, were Slovakia and Czechia.

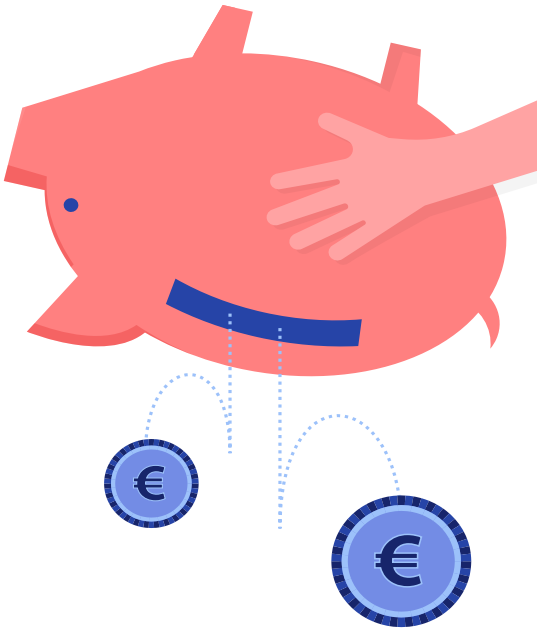
## Inability to face unexpected financial expenses

(%, share of total population, 2024)




Note: CH, 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes04)

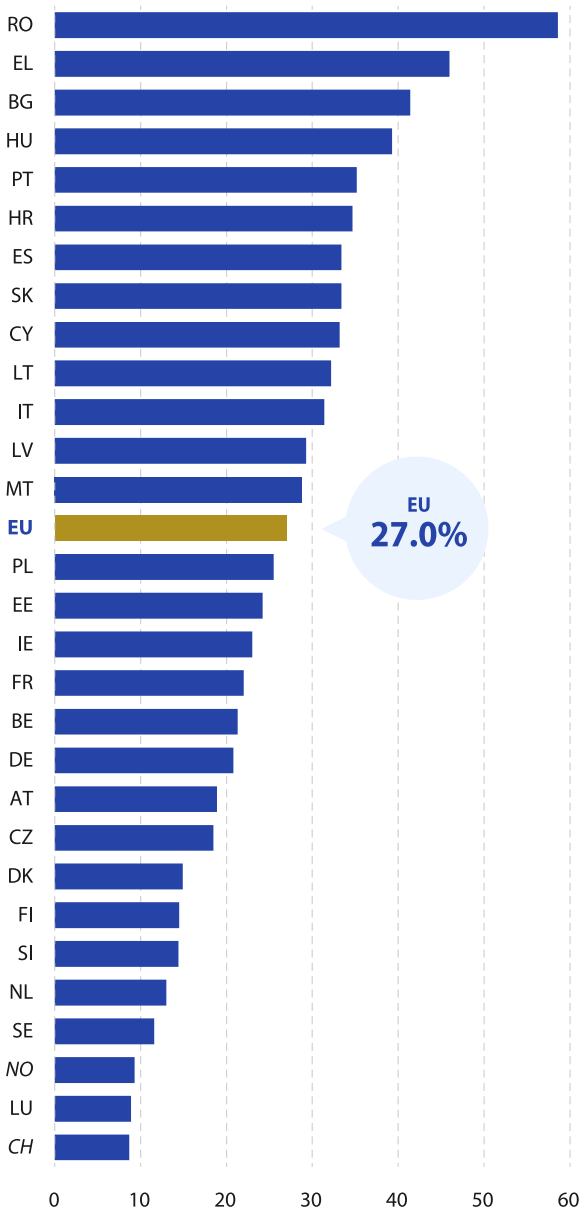


Material deprivation refers to the enforced inability (rather than the choice not to do so) to pay for specific expenses; an example is unexpected financial expenses. In 2024, 3 in 10 (30.0%) people in the EU living in private households were unable to face an unexpected financial expense. This share was 1.2 percentage points lower than in 2023, which may, at least in part, be linked to disinflation.

At least 40.0% of the population were unable to face an unexpected financial expense in 2024 in 5 of the EU countries, with the highest shares in Bulgaria (45.6%) and Latvia (45.3%). By contrast, a relatively small share of the population in the Netherlands was unable to face such expenses (16.9%).

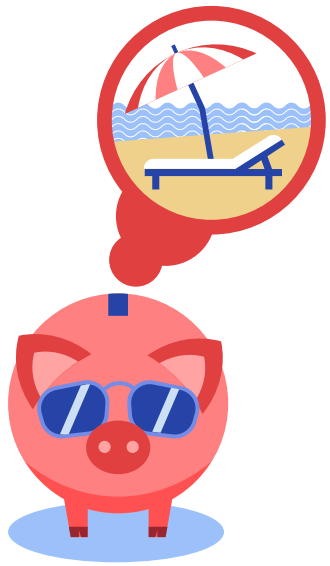
## Inability to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home

(%, share of total population, 2024)




Note: CH, 2023.

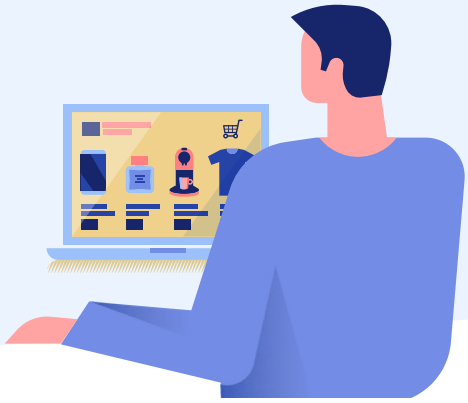
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes02)



Another measure of material deprivation is the inability to afford a week's annual holiday away from home. In 2024, 27.0% of the EU population were unable to afford this. Not being able to afford a week's holiday indicates the financial inability to afford a holiday, rather than other reasons why someone might not go away on holiday (for example, because they didn't feel like taking a holiday away from home).

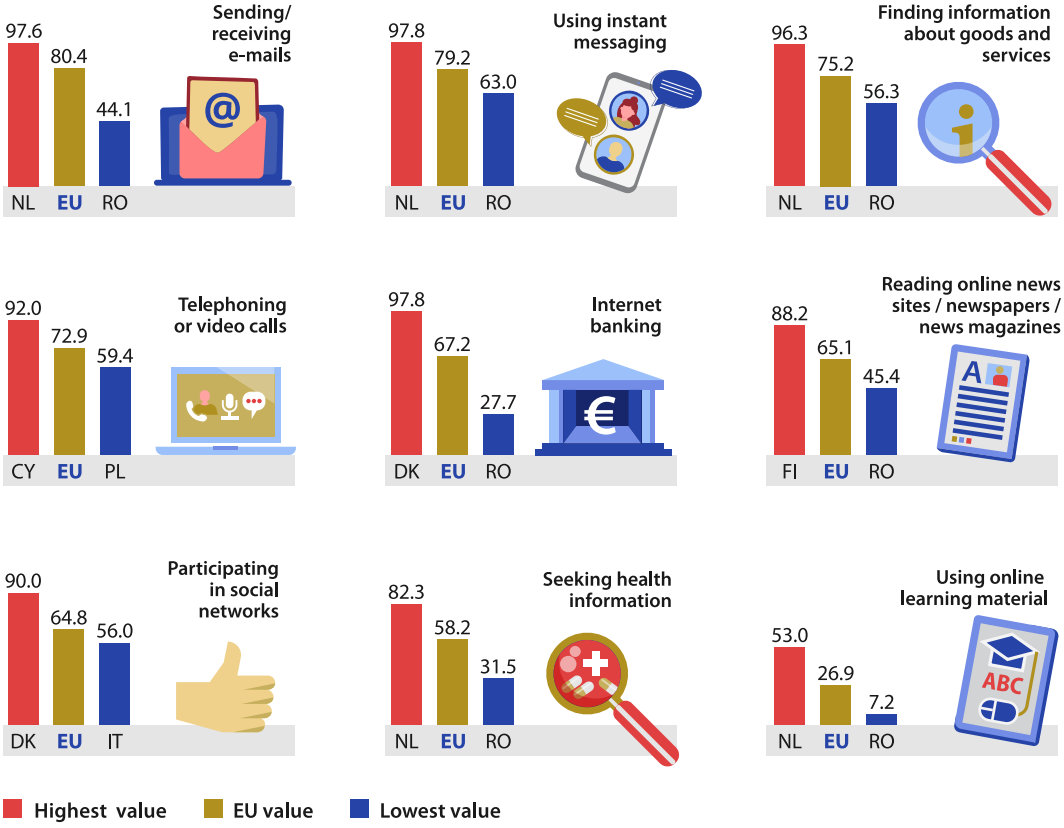
The highest share of people who couldn't afford a week's annual holiday away from home in 2024 was in Romania, at 58.6%, with the next highest shares in Greece (46.0%), Bulgaria (41.4%) and Hungary (39.3%). By contrast, the share of the population unable to afford a week's annual holiday away from home was 11.6% in Sweden and even lower in Luxembourg, at 8.9%.

# Digital society



## Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74, 2024)




Note: activities ranked on the EU value.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

In 2024, 92.8% of people (aged 16 to 74) in the EU declared they had used the internet during the 3 months prior to being surveyed.

Across the EU, some of the internet activities most commonly performed in 2024 by people aged 16 to 74 included sending/receiving e-mails (80.4%), using instant messaging (79.2%), finding information about goods and services (75.2%), and telephoning or making video calls (72.9%).

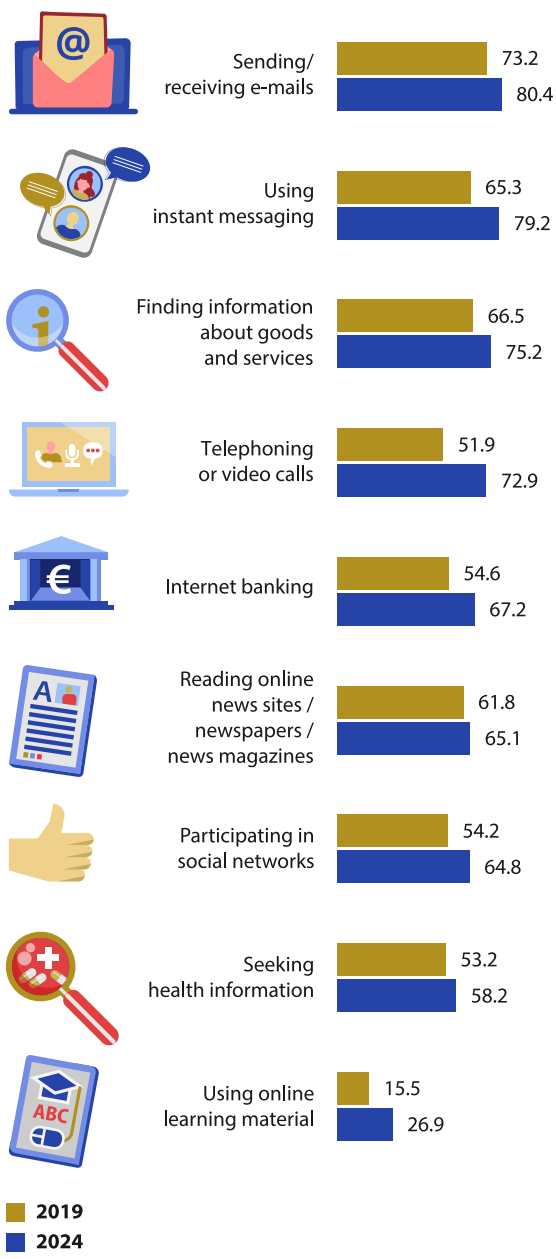
A majority of people in the EU also used the internet for internet banking (67.2%), reading online news sites / newspapers / magazines (65.1%), participating in social networks (64.8%) and seeking health information (58.2%).

## Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74, EU, 2019 and 2024)

The share of people aged 16 to 74 in the EU who engaged in many of the most common activities on the internet grew over the last couple of decades.

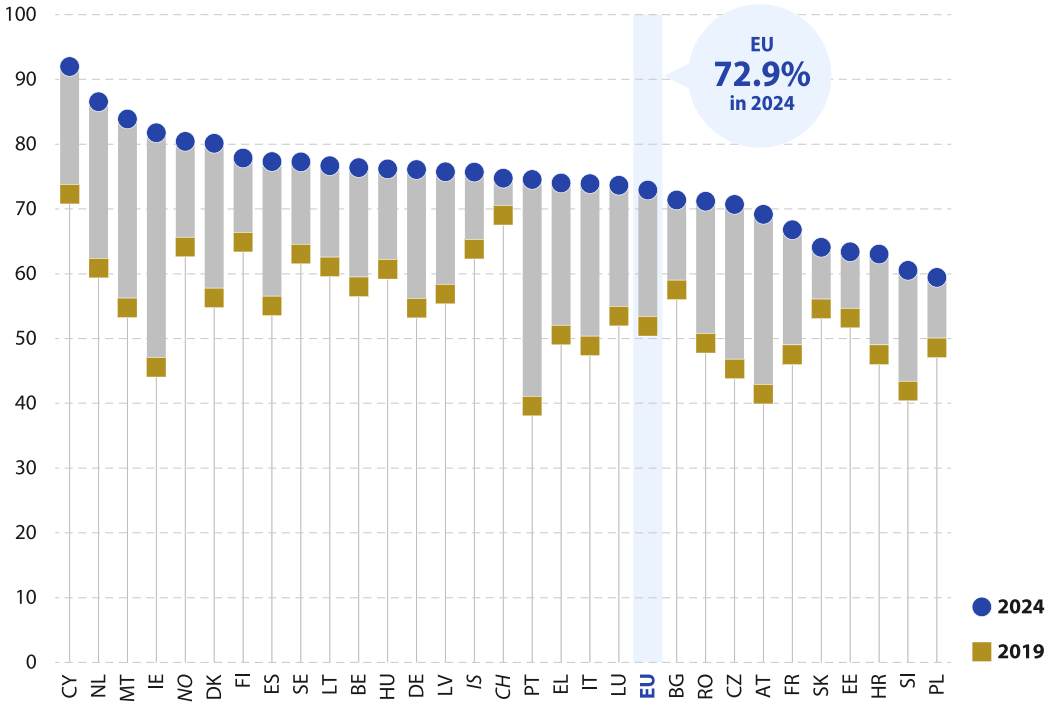
Recent developments between 2019 and 2024 show that a gradual upward trend in internet activities continued in recent years. Among the 9 relatively common internet activities presented here, all recorded a higher share within the EU population in 2024 than in 2019. The clearest example of this is the share of people telephoning or making video calls, which rose 21.0 percentage points between 2019 and 2024. There were large increases in the share of the EU population using instant messaging and internet banking, up 14.0 and 12.7 points, respectively. The share of the EU population using online learning material also increased strongly, up 11.4 points . (Note that these statistics don't cover a large part of the school-age population – pupils aged less than 16.)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

## Using the internet for telephoning or video calls

(%, share of people aged 16–74, 2019 and 2024)




Note: CH, 2023 instead of 2024; IS, 2021 instead of 2024.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

The share of people aged 16 to 74 in the EU using the internet to make telephone or video calls increased 21.0 percentage points between 2019 and 2024. The share of people using the internet to make such calls rose in each of the EU countries during the period under consideration. The largest increases were in Ireland (up 36.2 points) and Portugal (up 35.0 points).

Among the EU countries, the highest share of people using the internet to make telephone or video calls in 2024 was 92.0% in Cyprus, followed by 86.6% in the Netherlands. The lowest shares were 59.4% in Poland and 60.5% in Slovenia.

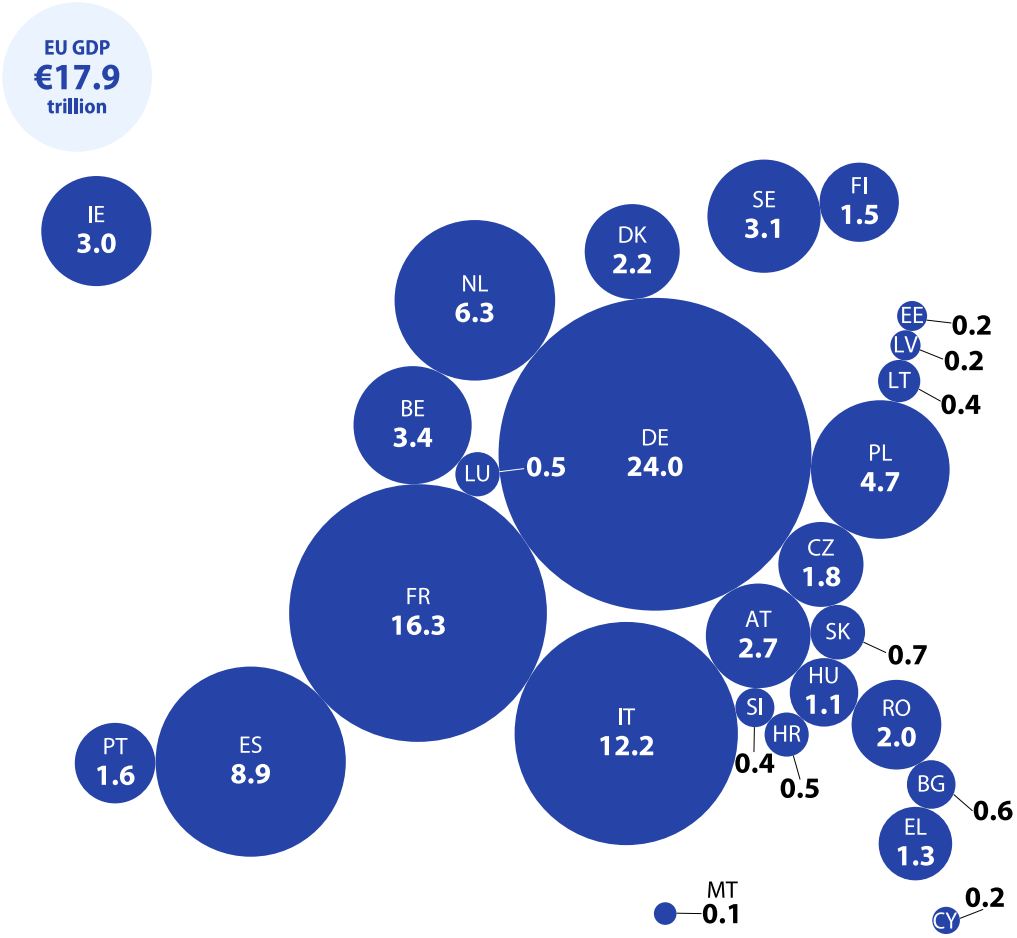
# 2

# Economy and business

# Economy and finance

## GDP

(%, share of EU total, 2024)

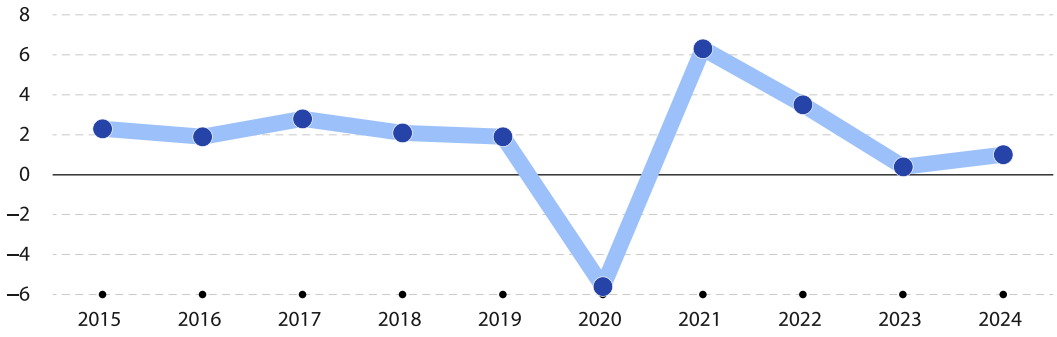



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_gdp)

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 €17.9 trillion in 2024. Germany had the largest economy among the EU countries (€4.3 trillion, or 24.0% of the EU total), followed by France (16.3%) and Italy (12.2%). At the other end of the range, Malta (0.1%) had the smallest economy in the EU, behind Cyprus, Estonia and Latvia (0.2%).

## Real change in GDP

(%, annual change, based on chain-linked volumes, EU, 2015–24)



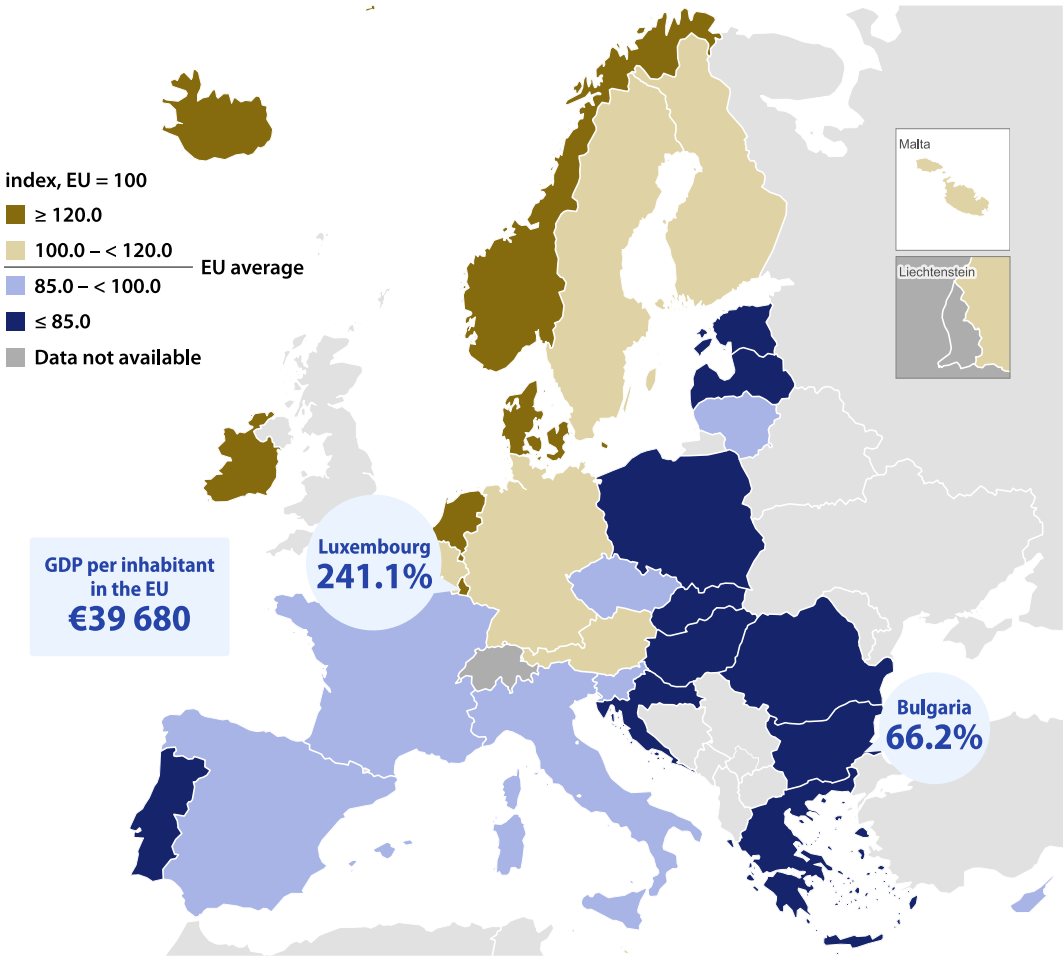

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: naida_10_gdp)

The real change in GDP shows the rate of change in economic output having removed the effects of price changes (inflation or deflation). Between 2015 and 2019, the EU recorded annual growth rates in the range of 1.9% to 2.8%. In 2020, the economy was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions; GDP fell 5.6%. GDP then rebounded, rising 6.3% in 2021 and 3.5% in 2022. Growth in 2023 and 2024 was more modest, at 0.4% and 1.0%, respectively.


# Gross domestic product

## GDP per inhabitant

(EU = 100, based on PPS, 2024)




Note: IS and NO, 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_pc)

GDP per inhabitant can be used to compare economic output of economies of different sizes. Within the EU, this ratio increased from €38 150 in 2023 to €39 680 in 2024.

As the cost of living varies from place to place, this value 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 countries can be expressed in relation to the EU average (set to equal 100).

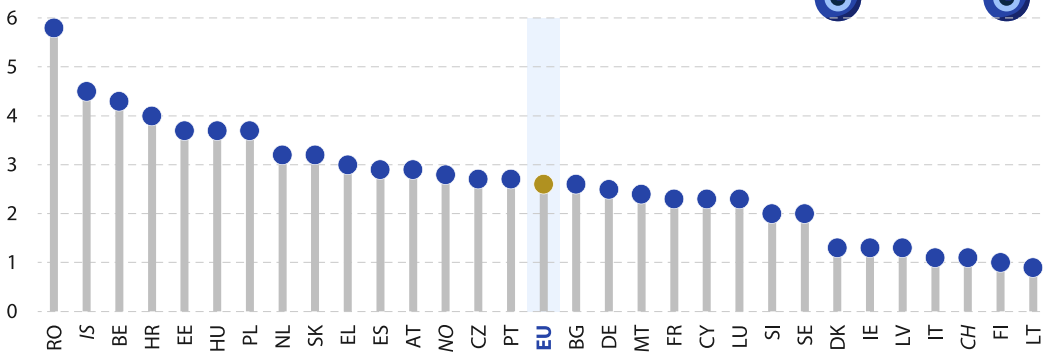
In 2024, the highest value was in Luxembourg, where GDP per inhabitant in PPS was 241.1% of the EU average, in other words, 2.4 times as high. By contrast, GDP per inhabitant in Bulgaria was almost two thirds (66.2%) of the EU average.

Differences between GDP and income/consumption may be the result of different factors. For example, foreign-owned enterprises contribute to the GDP where they operate but may transfer income to their foreign owners.

# Prices

## Inflation rate

(%, annual change, 2024)

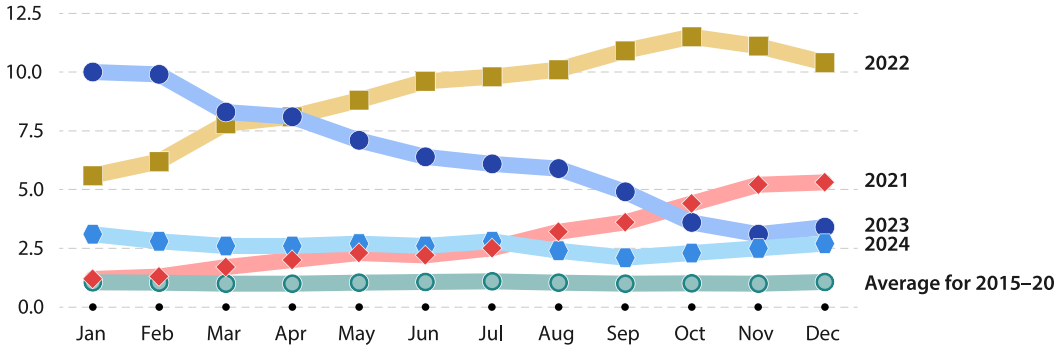



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

The inflation rate shows the change in the price of a basket of consumer goods and services. Inflation in the EU increased to 2.9% in 2021, followed by rapid price growth, up 9.2% in 2022; this reflected, at least in part, the impact of Russian military aggression against Ukraine. In 2023 and 2024, prices continued to rise, but at slower rates, increasing by 6.4% and 2.6%, respectively. In 2024, prices increased 4.0% or more in 3 EU countries: Romania (5.8%), Belgium (4.3%) and Croatia (4.0%).

## Inflation rate

(%, annual rate of change, EU, average for 2015–20, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024)

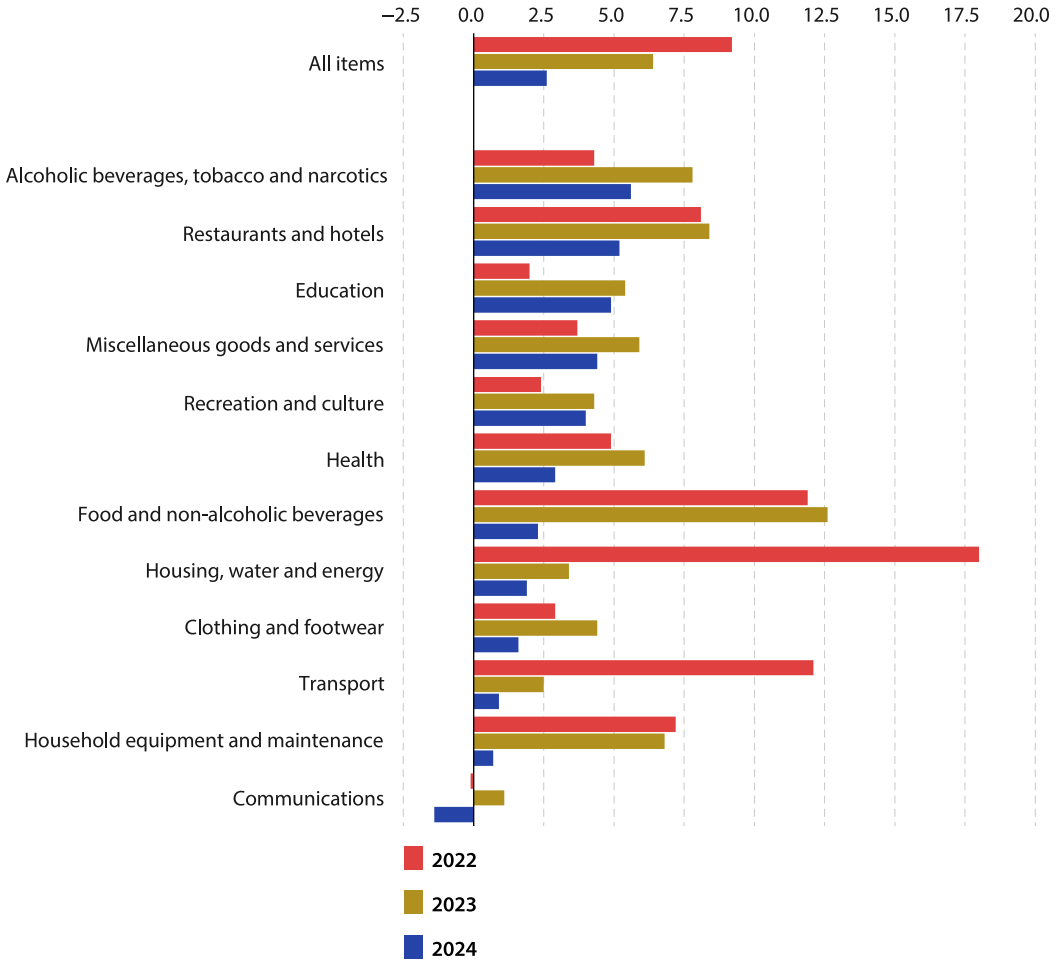



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_manr)

EU inflation was relatively modest during the period 2015–20. Thereafter, the rate of inflation accelerated and by December 2021 it was 5.3%. This pattern continued into 2022: prices rose until a peak in October when the inflation rate reached 11.5%. There was disinflation (price increases, but at a slower rate) most months from November 2022 until September 2024 when a rate of 2.1% was observed. The inflation rate increased in the final 3 months of 2024, reaching 2.7% by December 2024.

## Consumer prices

(%, annual rate of change, EU, 2022–24)



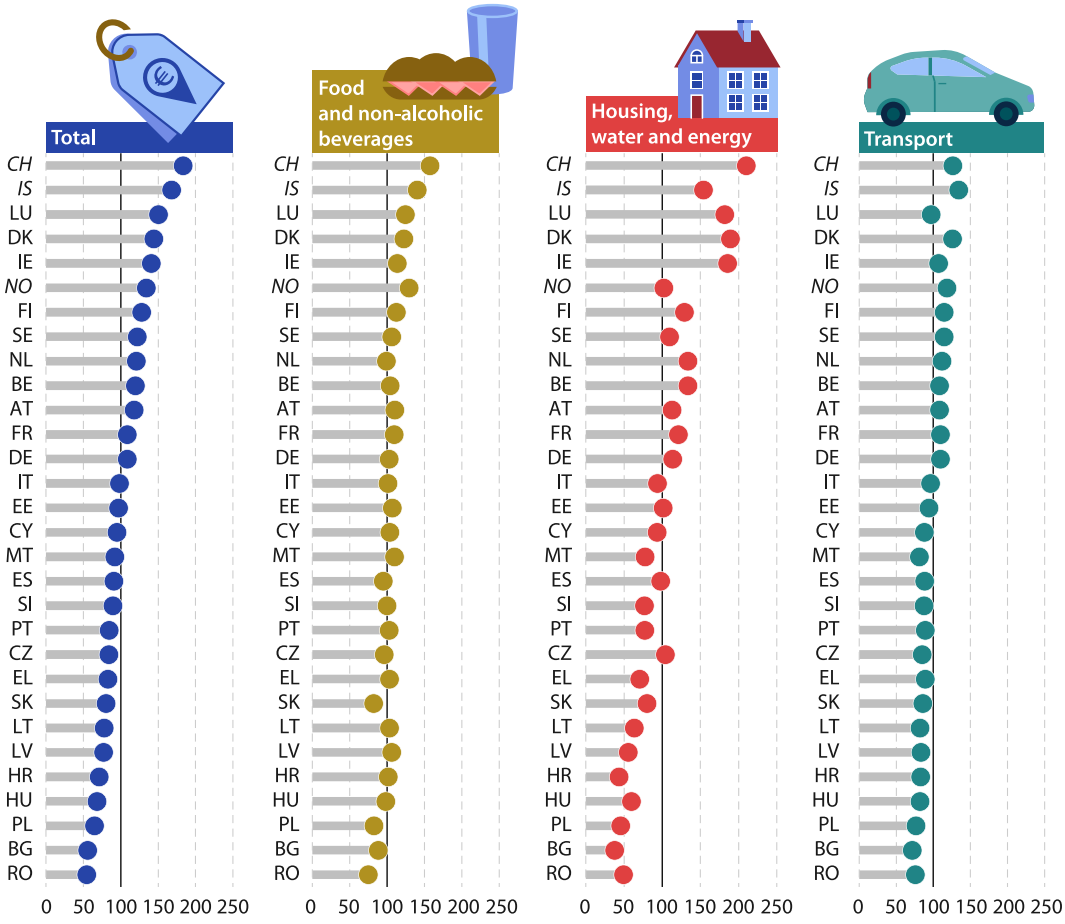

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

In 2024, the EU's overall inflation rate (covering all items) was 2.6%. When looking across 12 broad categories, the highest inflation rate was recorded for alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics, at 5.6%. The lowest rate of change was for communications, where prices fell 1.4%.

The sharp increase in prices experienced during 2022 and subsequent slowdown in inflation in 2023 and 2024 wasn't uniform. The highest price increases across the EU in 2022 were observed for housing, water and energy, as well as for transport; these then had below-average inflation in 2023 and 2024. food and non-alcoholic beverages had above-average inflation rates in 2022 and 2023, followed by a below average rate in 2024. The categories of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics as well as restaurants and hotels both had below-average inflation rates in 2022 and above-average rates in 2023 and 2024. Communications had the lowest inflation rate in all 3 years, with negative rates of change in 2 of these years.

## Comparative price levels

(EU = 100, 2023)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind)

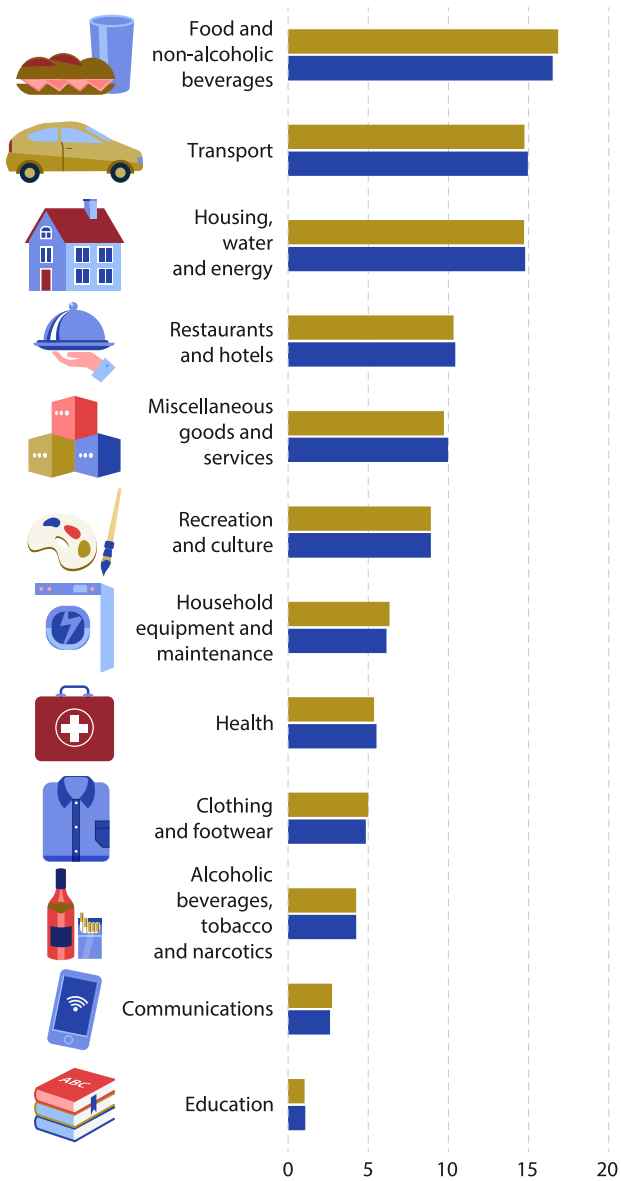
Price level indices measure price differences between countries; these are expressed as a percentage of prices for the EU average, which is set equal to 100. Among the EU countries, the overall price level index in 2023 was highest in Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland, all with values which were more than 40% above the EU average. In Romania and Bulgaria, price levels were just over half the EU average.

There was a relatively low degree of variation in price levels for food and non-alcoholic beverages, with the highest prices in Luxembourg and Denmark (25% and 23%, respectively, above the EU average) and the lowest in Romania (25% below). A similar pattern existed for transport, with the highest prices in Denmark (26% above the EU average) and the lowest in Bulgaria (29% below). By contrast, the price of housing, water and energy displayed a greater variation, from more than 80% above the EU average in Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg down to 62% below the average in Bulgaria.

# Household consumption expenditure

## Household budget structure

(%, share of total household consumption expenditure, EU, January 2024 and 2025)



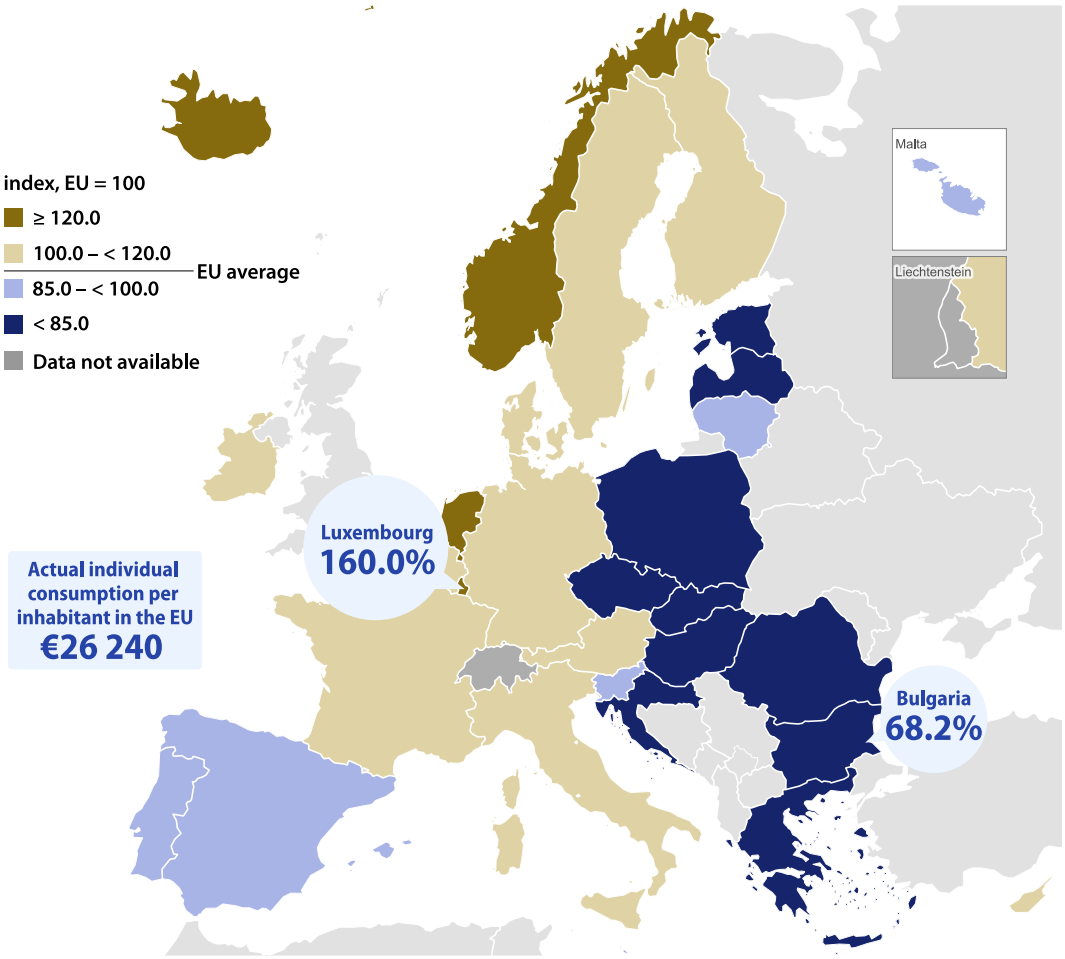

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_inw)

In January 2025, almost half (46.2%) of total household consumption expenditure in the EU was for 3 categories: food and non-alcoholic beverages, transport, and housing, water and energy. All of these categories were characterised by high price increases during at least 1 of the recent years, underlying their role in relation to the cost-of-living crisis.

Across the EU, there were decreases between January 2024 and January 2025 in the shares of household expenditure on food and non-alcoholic beverages (down 0.4 percentage points), household equipment and maintenance (down 0.2 points), clothing and footwear (down 0.2 points) and communications (down 0.1 points). By contrast, the largest increases were for the shares of expenditure on miscellaneous goods and services (up 0.3 points) and transport (up 0.2 points).

## Actual individual consumption per inhabitant

(EU = 100, based on PPS, 2024)




Note: IS and NO, 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_pc)

Actual individual consumption is based on consumption by households and may be more useful than GDP for comparing the relative welfare of consumers across various countries.

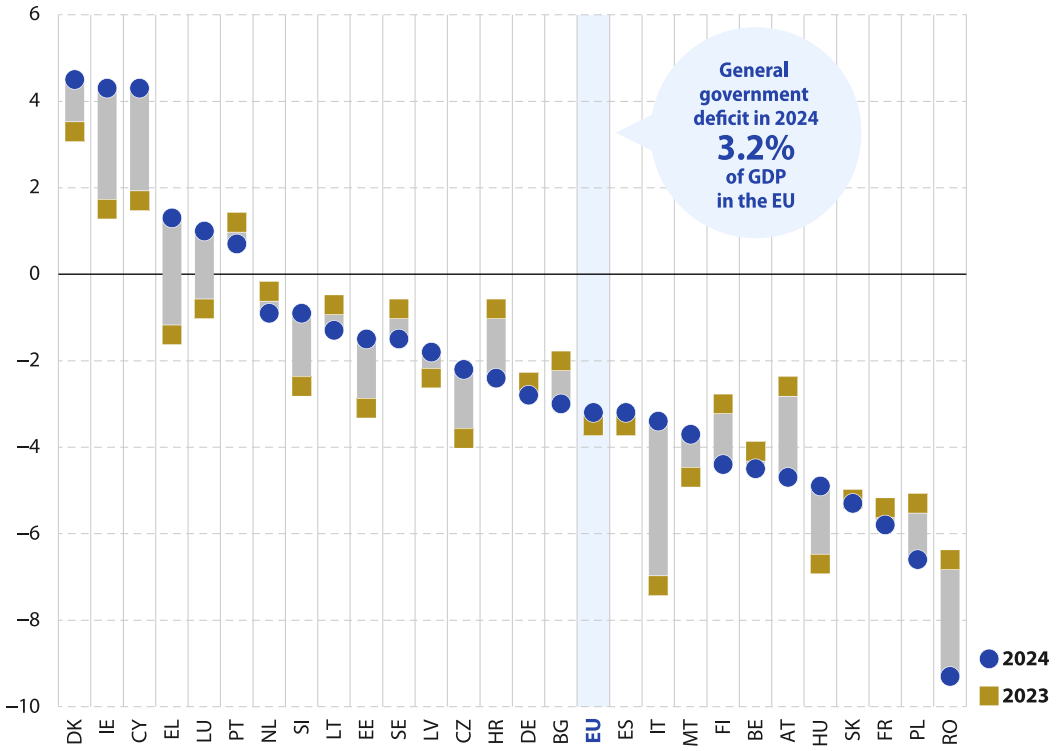
Within the EU, actual individual consumption per inhabitant grew from €25 150 in 2023 to €26 240 in 2024.

The information in the map is based on data in purchasing power standards (PPS) and presented as an index in relation to the EU average (set equal to 100). In 2024, the highest value among the EU countries was in Luxembourg, at 160.0%, indicating that actual individual consumption in PPS was 60.0% above the EU average. By contrast, actual individual consumption per inhabitant was almost a third below the EU average in Bulgaria (68.2%) and Hungary (69.3%).

# Government finance

## General government deficit/surplus

(%, relative to GDP, 2023 and 2024)



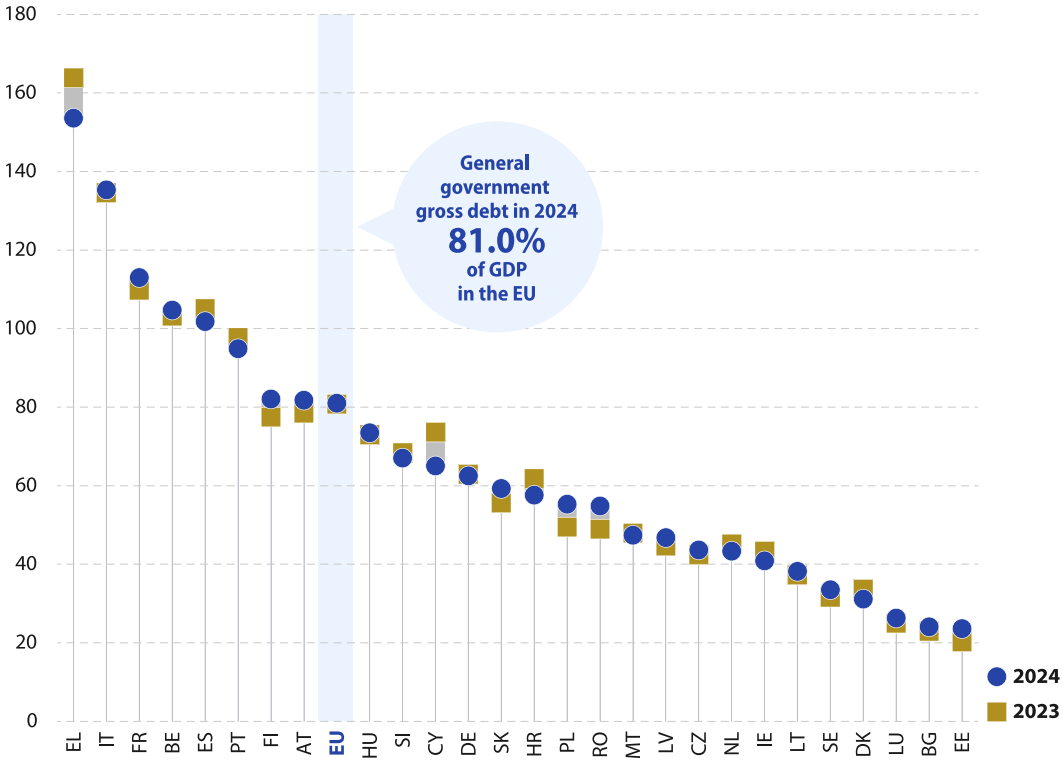

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

In 2024, the general government deficit across the EU narrowed, having widened in 2023. In 2024, the deficit was equivalent to 3.2% of GDP, down from 3.5% in 2023.

There was a budget surplus in 2024 in 6 of the EU countries. The largest surpluses were in Denmark (4.5%), Ireland and Cyprus (both 4.3% of GDP), while smaller surpluses were recorded in Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal. The largest deficits were in Romania (9.3% of GDP), Poland (6.6%) and France (5.8%), while Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Malta, Italy and Spain also recorded deficits of more than 3.0% of GDP.

## General government gross debt

(%, relative to GDP, 2023 and 2024)

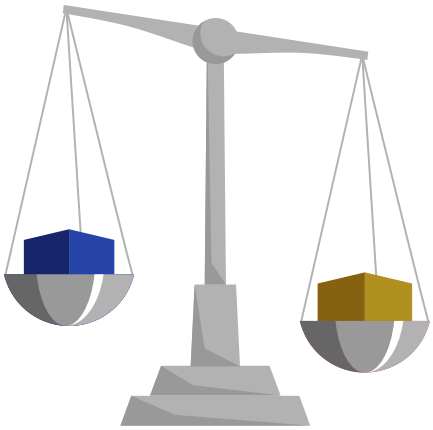



*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

Consolidated gross debt in the EU was 81.0% of GDP in 2024, up 0.2 percentage points from 2023 and down 8.5% from its peak of 89.5% in 2020 (which reflected the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in that year). In 2024, consolidated debt was highest in Greece at 153.6% of GDP. Italy, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Finland and Austria were the only other EU countries to record a ratio that was above the EU average, while 4 more EU countries recorded a ratio above 60.0%. At the other end of the range, the lowest ratio was in Estonia (23.6%).

In a majority of EU countries, debt relative to GDP rose between 2023 and 2024. The biggest increases were in Romania (up 5.9 points) and Poland (up 5.8 points). There were 11 countries where debt as a share of GDP fell in 2024, with the largest decrease in Greece (down 10.3 points).

# International trade

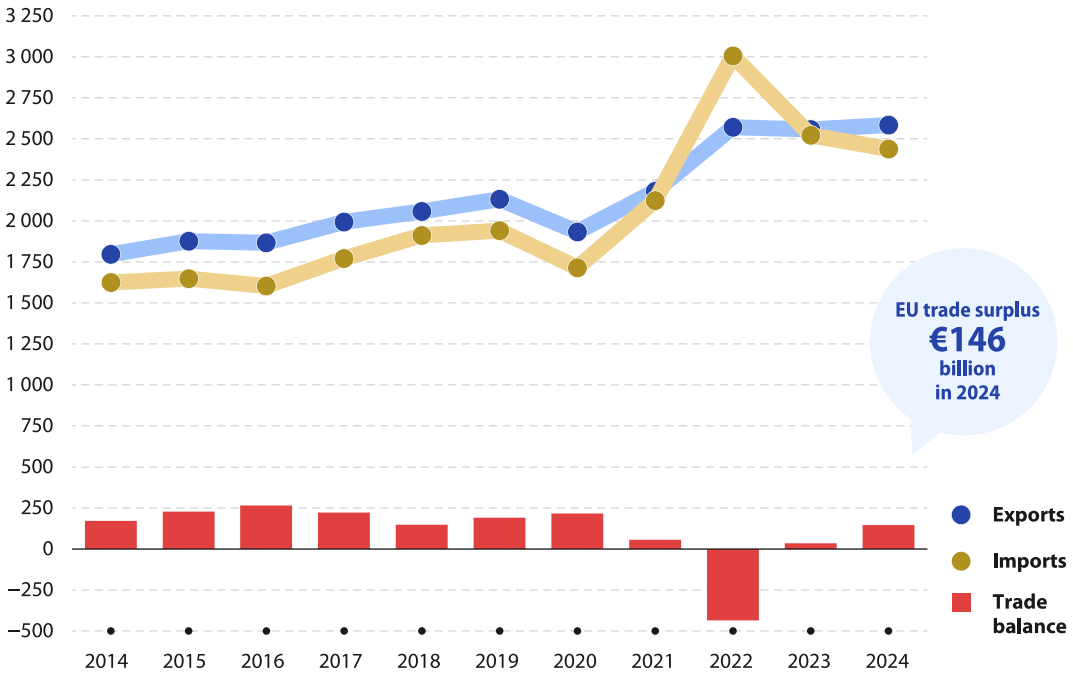


## International trade in goods with non-EU countries

(€ billion, EU, 2014–24)

Having posted a trade surplus for goods during 10 consecutive years up to 2021, the EU recorded a deficit in 2022. Surpluses were again recorded in 2023 and 2024. Goods exported from the EU to non-EU countries were valued at €2 584 billion in 2024, €146 billion higher than the value of goods imported into the EU.

In 2024, the EU's exports were 1.1% higher than the previous year, while imports decreased 3.4%.

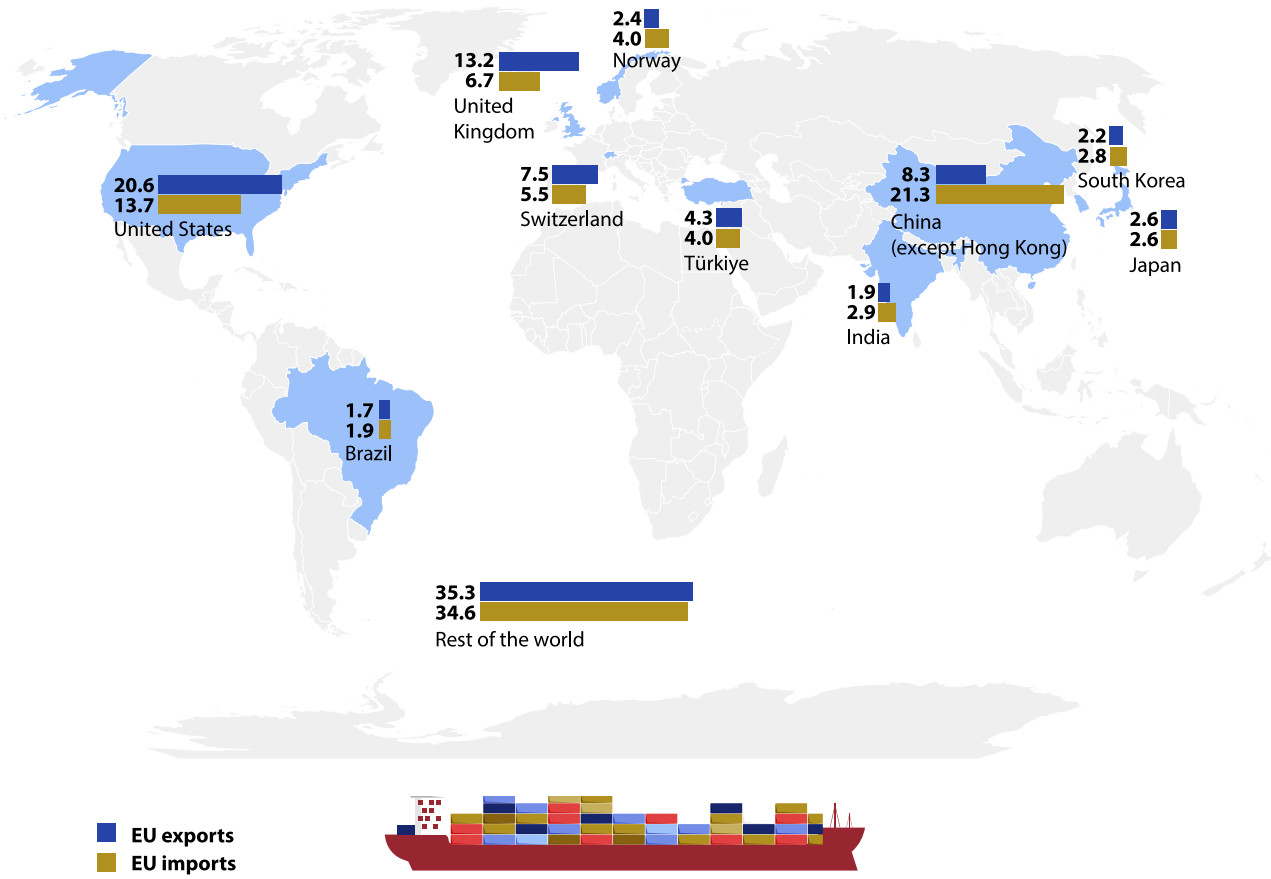



Note: the data are valued in current price terms.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_intratrd)

## Top 10 partners for international trade in goods

(%, share of all partners, EU, 2024)




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)

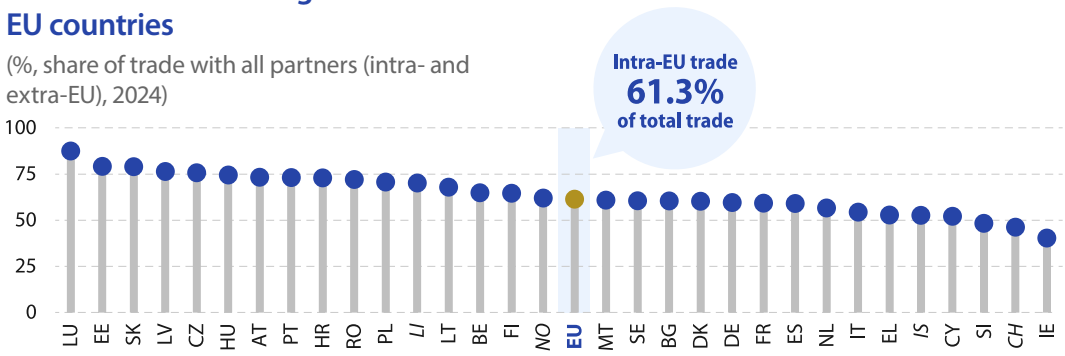
In 2024, the United States was the EU's leading export market, receiving 20.6% of the total value of goods exported from the EU. The next largest export markets for EU goods were the United Kingdom (13.2%) and China (excluding Hong Kong; 8.3%).

The picture for imports was different, as more than a fifth (21.3%) of all goods imported into the EU in 2024 originated from China (excluding Hong Kong). The United States was the 2nd largest country of origin for EU imports (13.7%).

Between 2023 and 2024, Brazil replaced Russia in the top 10 partners of the EU for trade in goods. The decline in the relative importance of Russia as a trading partner of the EU reflected the impact of sanctions/restrictions as well as falling prices for energy products.

## International trade in goods with EU countries

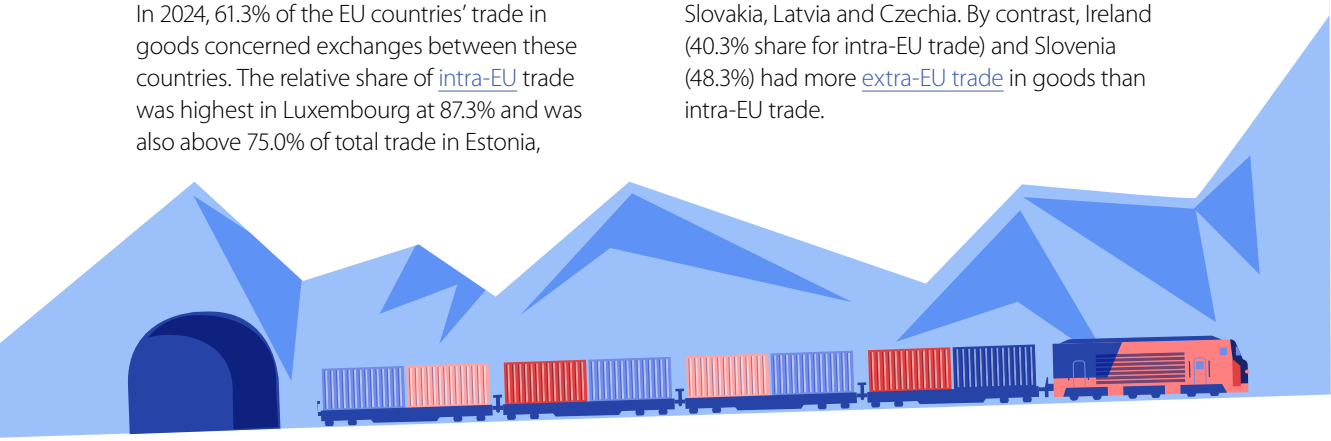
(%, share of trade with all partners (intra- and extra-EU), 2024)




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

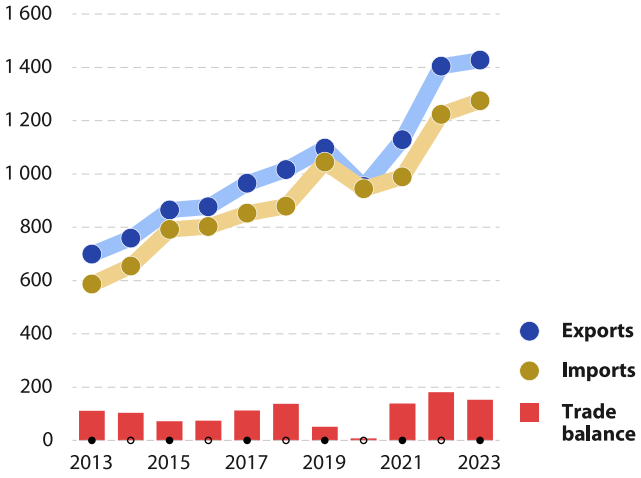
*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: ext_lt_intratrd and ext_lt_intercc)

In 2024, 61.3% of the EU countries' trade in goods concerned exchanges between these countries. The relative share of intra-EU trade was highest in Luxembourg at 87.3% and was also above 75.0% of total trade in Estonia, Slovakia, Latvia and Czechia. By contrast, Ireland (40.3% share for intra-EU trade) and Slovenia (48.3%) had more extra-EU trade in goods than intra-EU trade.



## International trade in services with non-EU countries

(€ billion, EU, 2013–23)



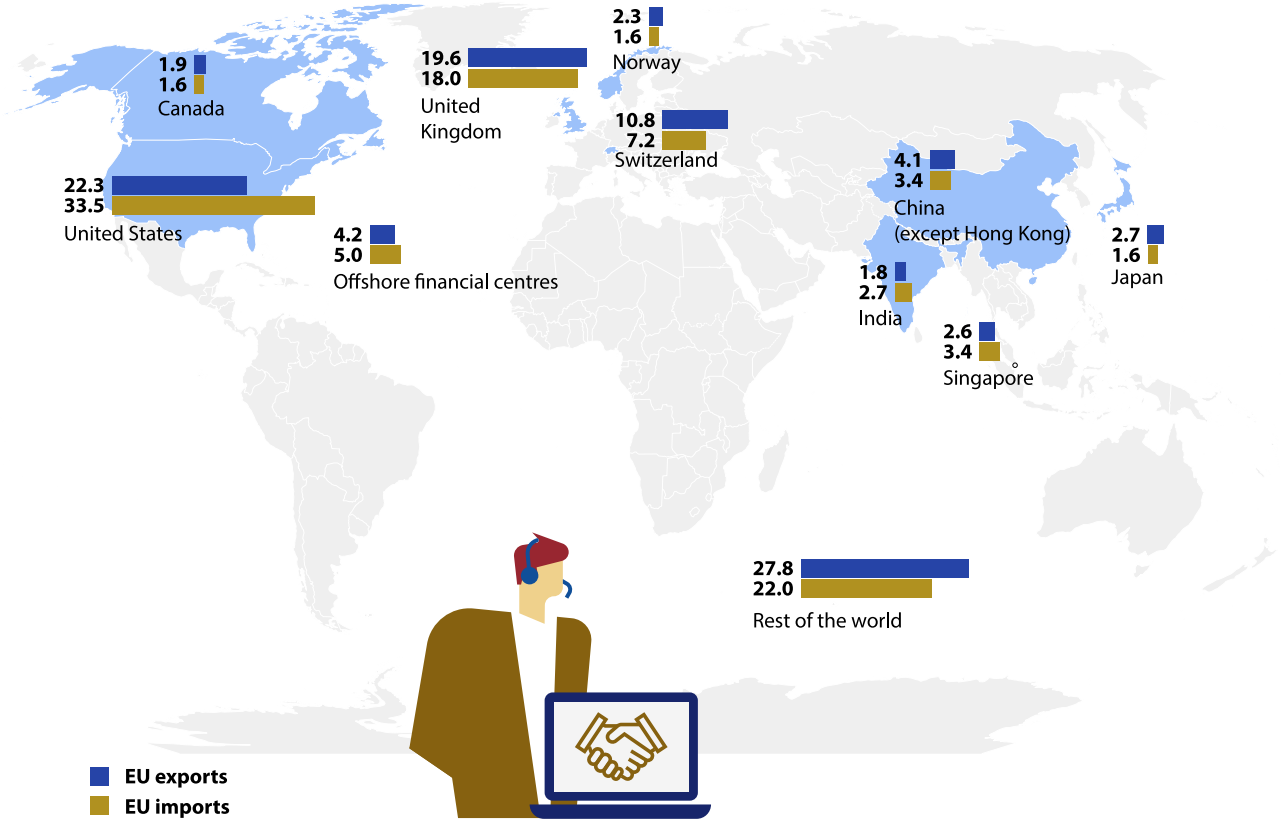

In 2023, exports of services from the EU to non-EU countries were valued at €1 427 billion while imports into the EU were valued at €1 274 billion. The EU recorded a trade surplus for services throughout the period 2013 to 2023; the surplus of €153 billion in 2023 was the 2nd highest during this period.

Note: the data are valued in current price terms.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det)

## Top 10 partners for international trade in services

(%, share of all partners, EU, 2023)




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).

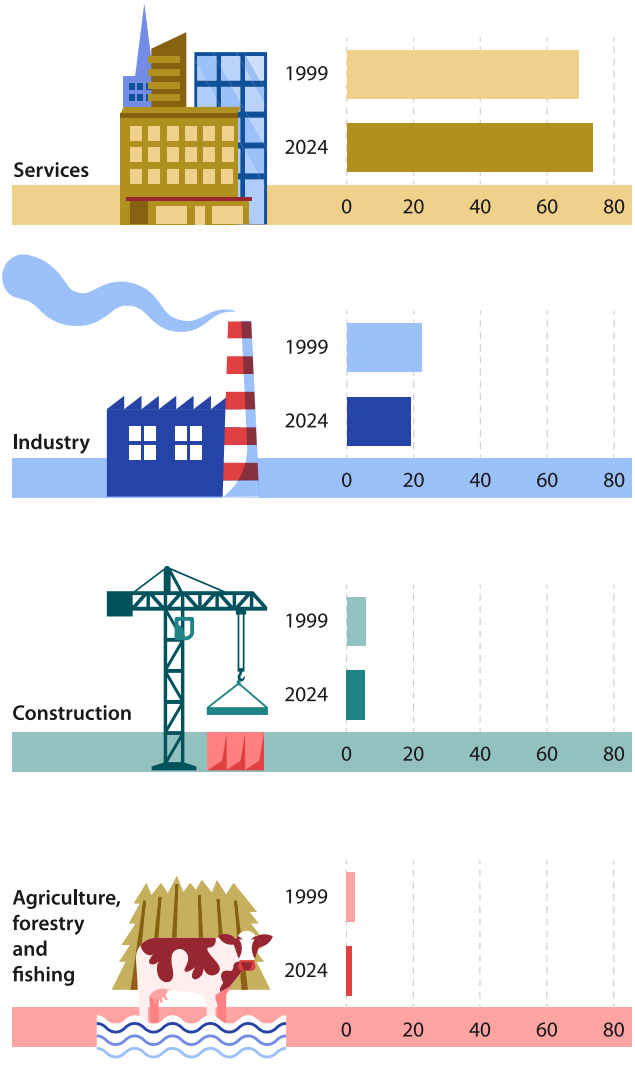
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_tot)

In 2023, 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 (19.6%). Switzerland was the EU's next largest trade partner for services exports (10.8%). By contrast, around one third (33.5%) of services that the EU imported from non-EU countries originated in the United States, followed at some distance by the United Kingdom (18.0%).

# Business

## Change in the sectoral structure of value added

(%, share of total value added, EU, 1999 and 2024)



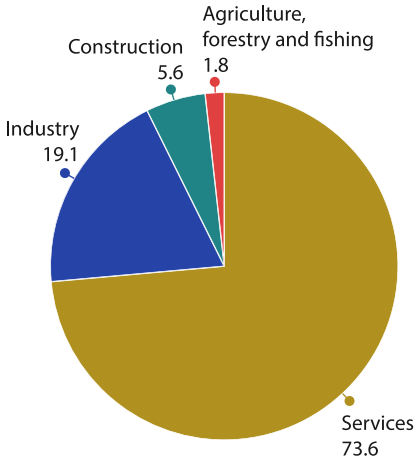

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

## Sectoral structure of value added

(%, share of total value added, EU, 2024)

In the quarter of a century from 1999 to 2024, the share of EU total value added generated in the services sector rose from 69.4% to 73.6%, mainly due to increases in the output of professional, scientific, technical, administrative and support service activities. The other parts of the EU economy contracted in relative terms: industry's share fell from 22.4% to 19.1%, the share of value added in construction fell slightly from 5.7% to 5.6%, and the share of agriculture, forestry and fishing fell from 2.5% to 1.8%.

Looking at the changes between 2023 and 2024, value added increased (in current price terms) for all parts of the EU economy except for industry. The fastest increase was for services, up 5.5%, followed by construction (3.1%) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (1.3%). Value added in industry fell 2.1% in 2024.

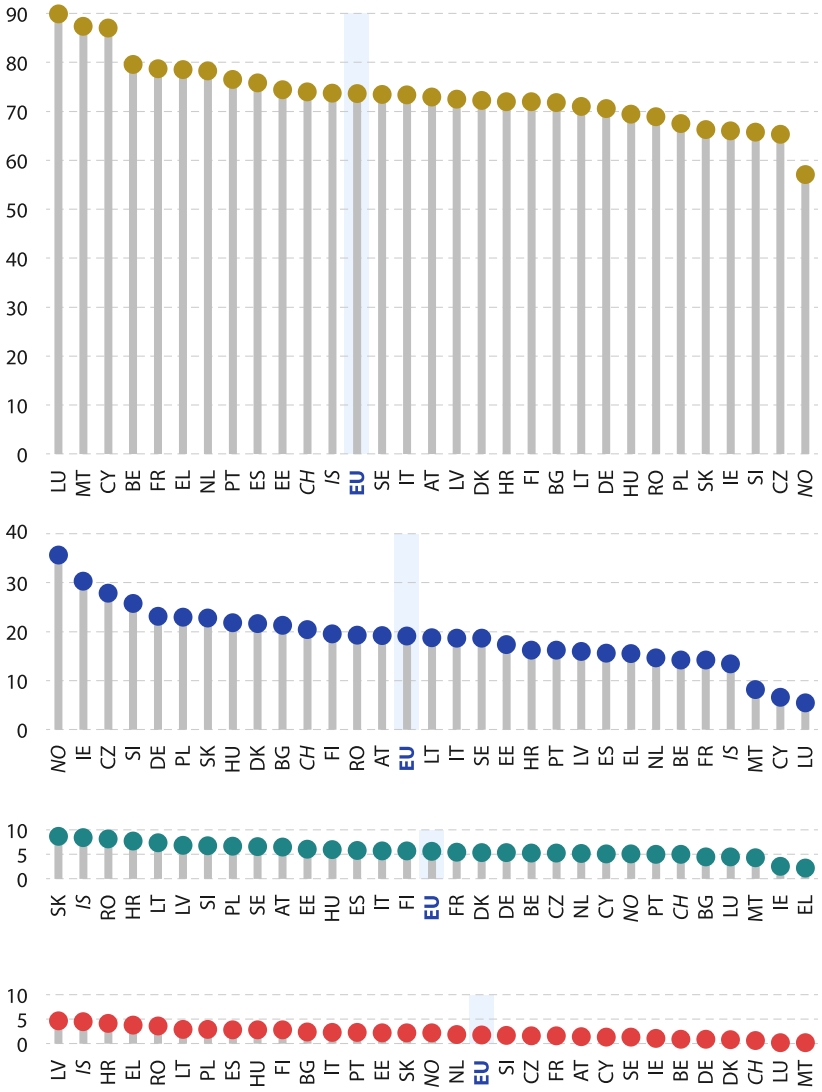



Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0% for reasons of rounding.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

## Sectoral gross value added

(%, share of total value added, 2024)




**Services**
EU 73.6%

**Industry**
EU 19.1%

**Construction**
EU 5.6%

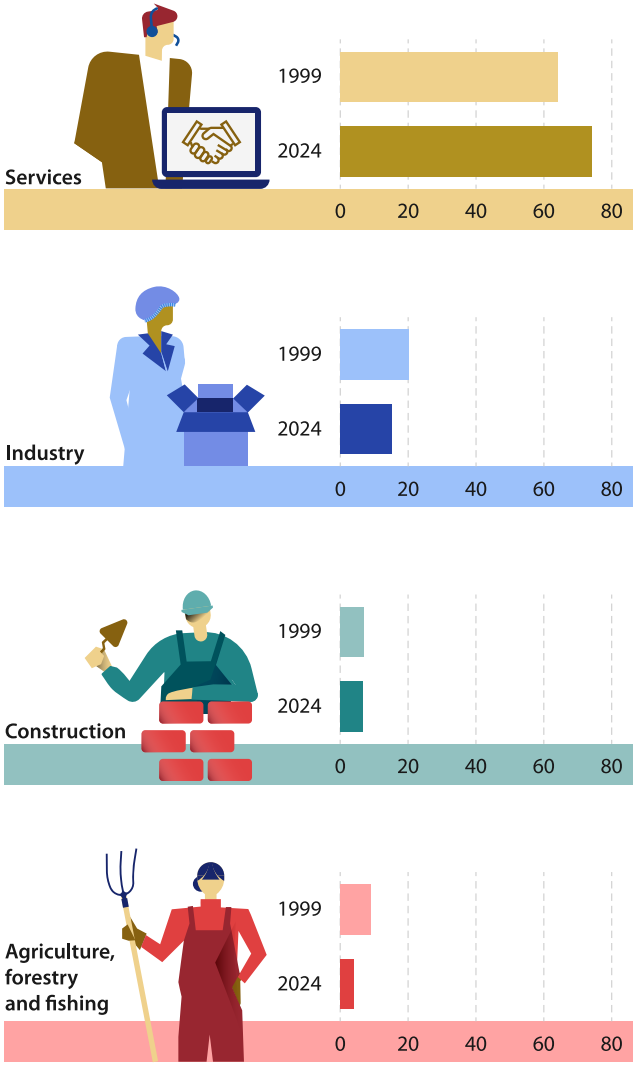
**Agriculture, forestry and fishing**
EU 1.8%

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

In 2024, the share of services in total value added among EU countries was above 80.0% in the tourism-oriented economies of Cyprus (87.0%) and Malta (87.4%); the highest share was observed in Luxembourg – which is characterised by a large financial services sector – at 89.9%. The industrial economy contributed 30.3% of total value added in Ireland, with the next highest share in Czechia (27.8%). The largest relative contributions from construction were in Slovakia (8.7%) and Romania (8.2%), while the largest contribution from agriculture, forestry and fishing was in Latvia (4.7%).

## Change in the sectoral structure of employment

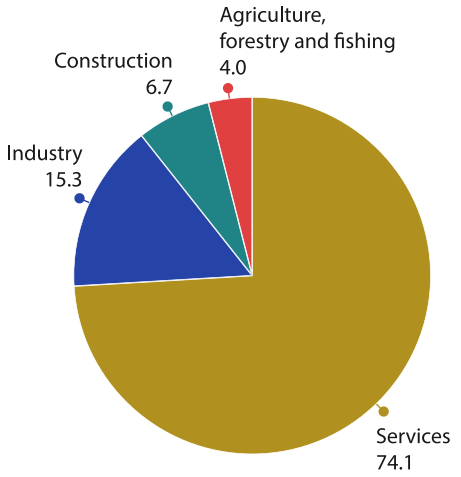
(%, share of total employment, EU, 1999 and 2024)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

## Sectoral structure of employment

(%, share of total employment, EU, 2024)




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

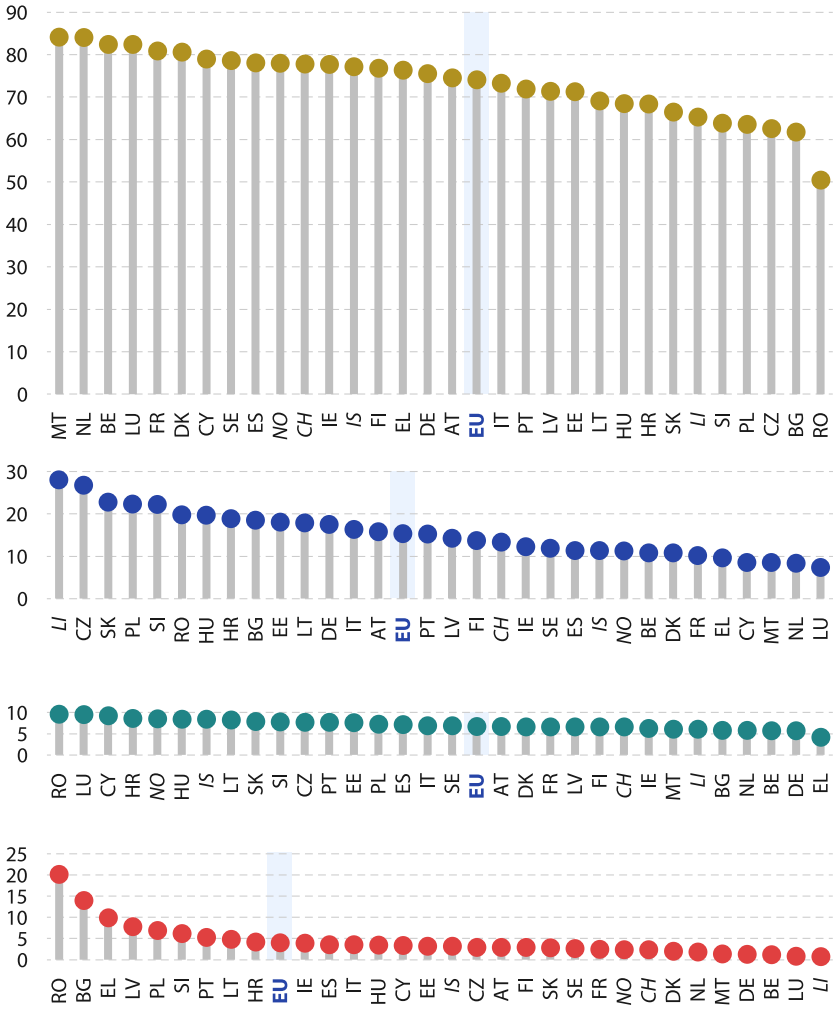
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

The contribution of services to the EU's economy was slightly larger in employment terms than it was in value added terms. In 2024, services provided work to 74.1% of all people employed in the EU, compared with 64.0% in 1999. The shares of each of the other sectors decreased between 1999 and 2024. The share of people employed in the industrial economy fell from 20.3% to 15.3% and the share in construction fell slightly from 6.9% to 6.7%; the share in agriculture, forestry and fishing more than halved from 8.8% to 4.0%.

EU employment grew 0.8% in 2024 and the number of people employed increased in 3 of the 4 broad activity groupings. Growth was registered for services (up 1.1%), construction (0.9%) and industry (0.2%), while the only decline was for agriculture, forestry and fishing (down 3.2%).

## Sectors of employment

(%, share of total employment, 2024)




**Services**
EU **74.1%**

**Industry**
EU **15.3%**

**Construction**
EU **6.7%**

**Agriculture, forestry and fishing**
EU **4.0%**

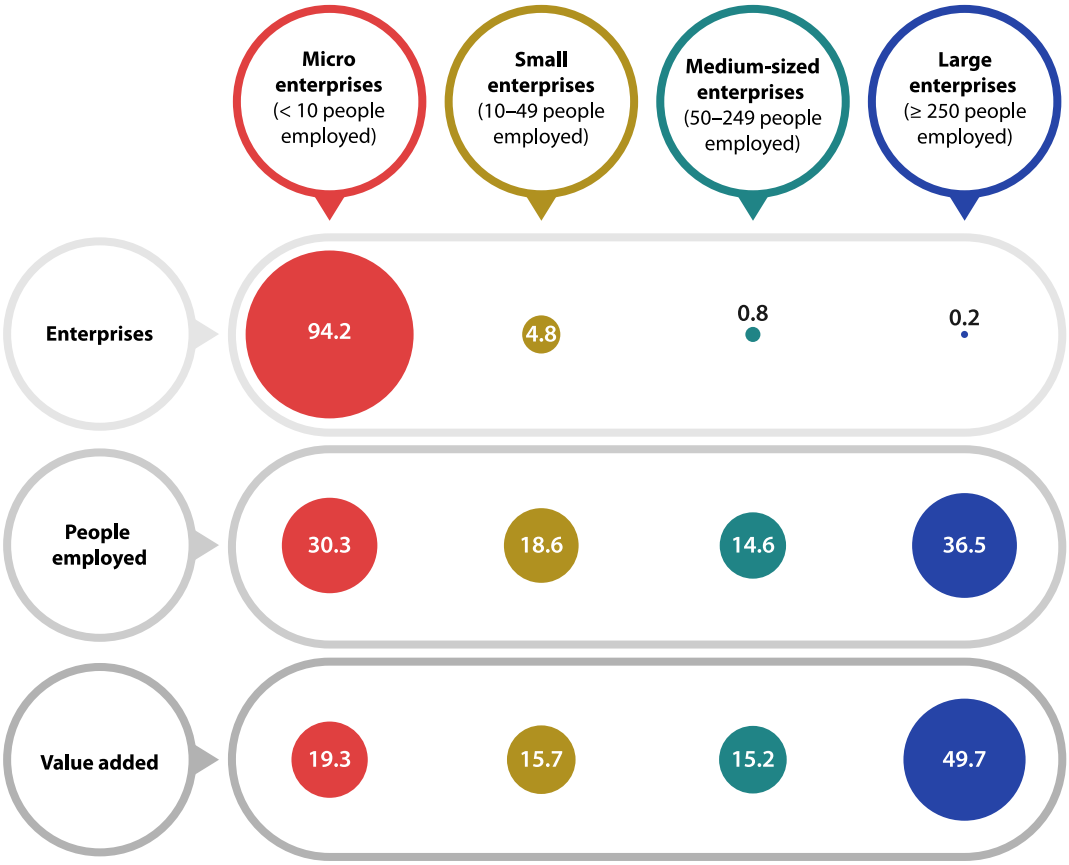
Note: LI, 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

Among the EU countries, Romania had the smallest share (50.5%) of its workforce employed in the services sector in 2024. By contrast, services provided work to 84.2% of those employed in Malta and 84.1% in the Netherlands. Czechia was the only EU country in which industry accounted for more than a quarter (26.8%) of the total workforce. Among EU countries, Romania (9.6%) and Luxembourg (9.5%) recorded the highest shares of people employed in construction and Romania also had the highest share of total employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing (20.1%).

## Enterprise size class structure of the business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, EU, 2022)



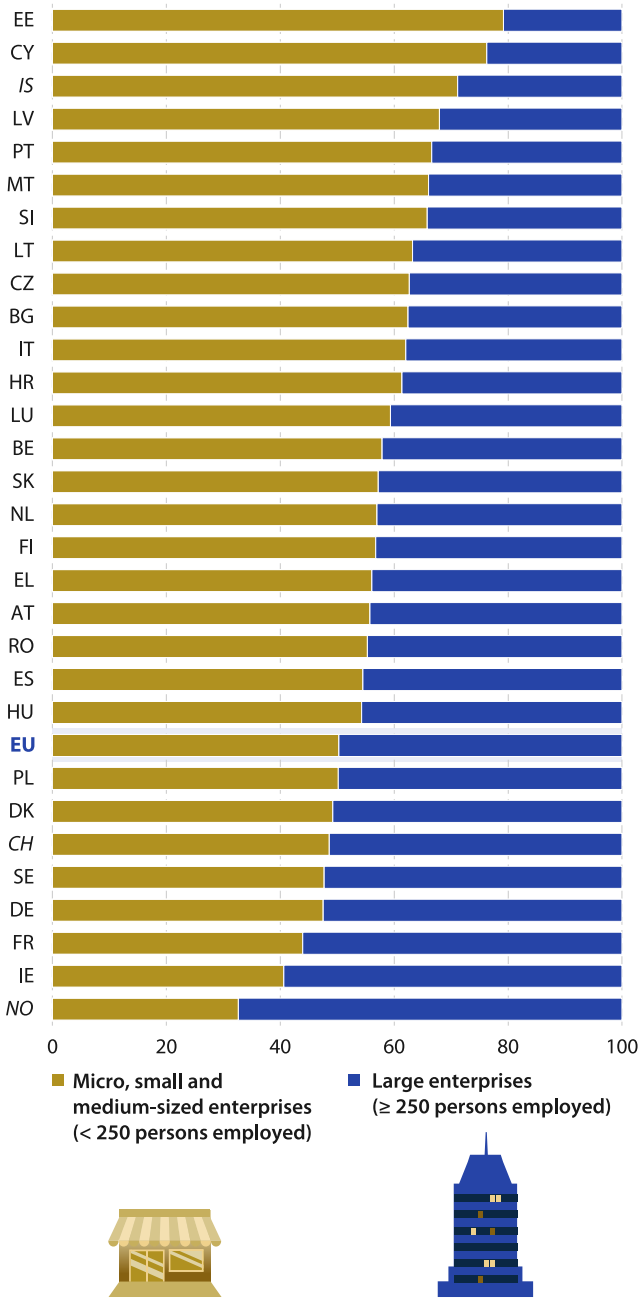

Note: the business economy includes the sectors of industry, construction, distributive trades and market services. Includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication. The shares do not always sum to 100.0% for reasons of rounding.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_ovw)

In 2022, an overwhelming majority (94.2%) of enterprises in the EU's business economy had fewer than 10 people employed and were therefore classified as micro enterprises. By contrast, just 0.2% of all enterprises in the EU in 2022 had 250 or more people employed and were classified as large enterprises. The economic weight of large enterprises in the EU was considerably greater in terms of employment and value added, as they provided work to more than a third (36.5%) of the EU's business economy workforce and contributed close to half (49.7%) of its value added.

## Enterprise size class shares of value added in the business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, 2022)




Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (also called SMEs or 'small businesses') – in other words, enterprises with fewer than 250 people employed – are often referred to as the backbone of the EU's economy, providing jobs and growth opportunities.

In 2022, there were 32.2 million SMEs in the EU's business economy. SMEs employed 102.5 million people and contributed €5.1 trillion of value added. The economic contribution made by SMEs was particularly notable in Estonia and Cyprus, where SMEs provided more than 75% of the value added in the business economy.

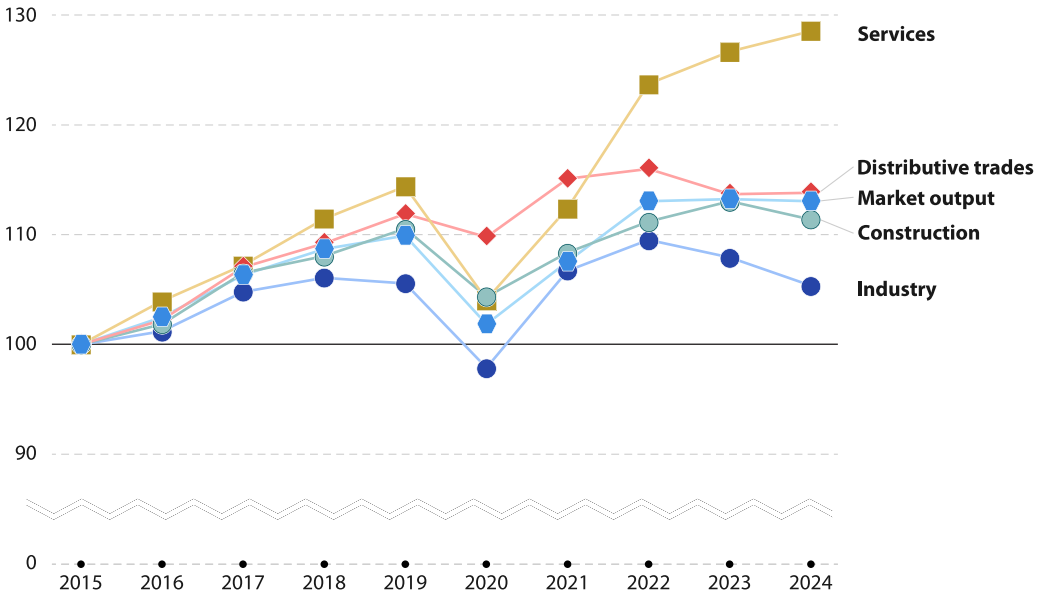
By contrast, large enterprises (with 250 or more people employed) accounted for 59.4% of value added within the Irish business economy in 2022 and also for more than half of the value added in France, Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

Note: PT, excluding other personal service activities.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_ovw)

## Volume developments of market production

(index 2015 = 100, EU, 2015–24)




(%, overall change in output, 2015–24)

**13.0%**
**Market output**

**5.3%**
**Industry**

**11.4%**
**Construction**

**13.8%**
**Distributive trades**

**28.5%**
**Services**

Note: annual indices are calendar adjusted. The indices were originally compiled with 2021 as their base year and have been re-referenced to 2015 = 100. The y-axis is cut.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: sts_tot_prod_a, sts_inpr_a, sts_copr_a, sts_trtu_a and sts_sepr_a)

In real terms, the EU's market output peaked in 2019; it decreased 7.3% in 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. In 2021, output partially rebounded (up 5.6%), and in 2022 returned to a level above the 2019 peak (as a result of growth of 5.1%). Growth of 0.2% in 2023 continued this upward development, albeit at a much slower pace; this was followed in 2024 by a fall of the same amount (down 0.2%). Overall, market output in 2024 was 13.0% higher than in 2015.

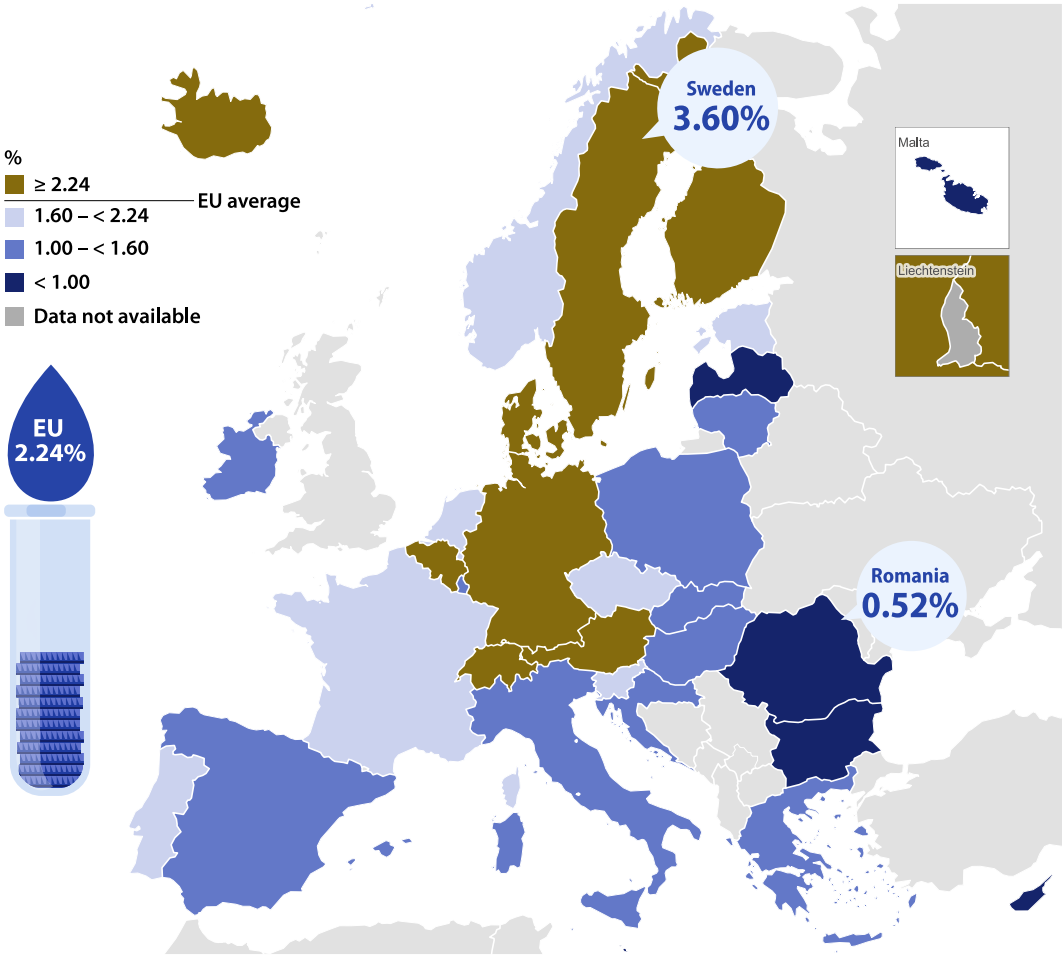
Between 2015 and 2024, output in the EU increased

- 5.3% in industry
- 11.4% in construction
- 13.8% in distributive trades
- 28.5% in services.

# Research and development

## Gross domestic expenditure on R&D

(%, relative to GDP, 2023)




Note: CH, 2021.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: rd_e_gerdtot)

Research and development (R&D) and innovation are key elements for technical solutions to global societal challenges such as climate change or active and healthy ageing (AHA). EU gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) was €386 billion in 2023, which marked a 7.2% increase compared with 2022. Note that this rate of change is calculated on data in current prices.

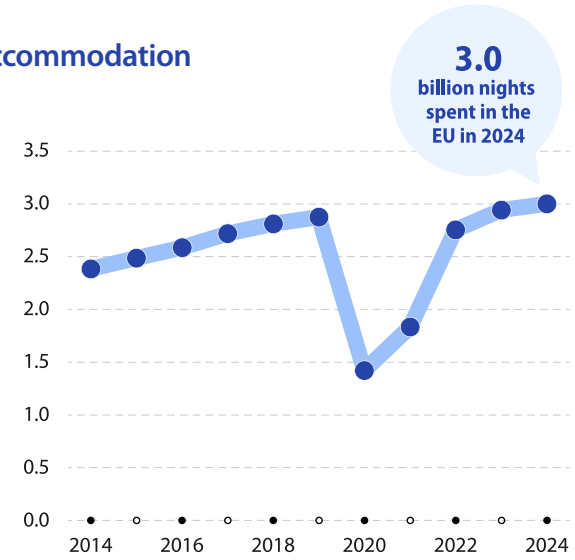
GERD is often expressed relative to GDP, resulting in an indicator that is also known as R&D intensity. With economic activity rebounding from the COVID-19 crisis at a faster rate than the increase in R&D expenditure, the EU's R&D intensity fell to 2.24% in 2021. Thereafter, it stabilised: rates of 2.23% and 2.24% were recorded in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Among the EU countries, R&D intensity in 2023 ranged from 0.52% in Romania to 3.60% in Sweden.

# Tourism

## Number of nights spent at tourist accommodation

(billion nights, EU, 2014–24)

The total number of nights spent in tourist accommodation across the EU halved between 2019 (2.9 billion nights spent) and 2020 (1.4 billion), largely as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The number of nights spent in tourist accommodation partially recovered in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, this number surpassed its pre-pandemic level and in 2024 it increased further, to reach 3.0 billion nights spent across the EU.

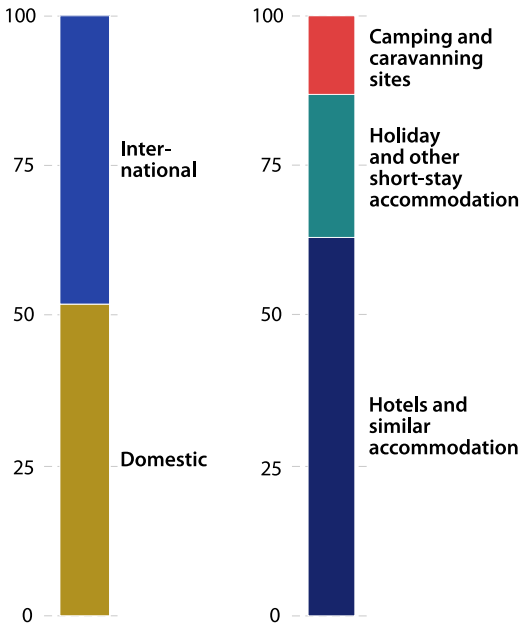



Note: these statistics cover business and leisure travellers.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: tour_occ_ninat and tour_occ_nim)

## Distribution of nights spent at tourist accommodation

(%, EU, 2024)



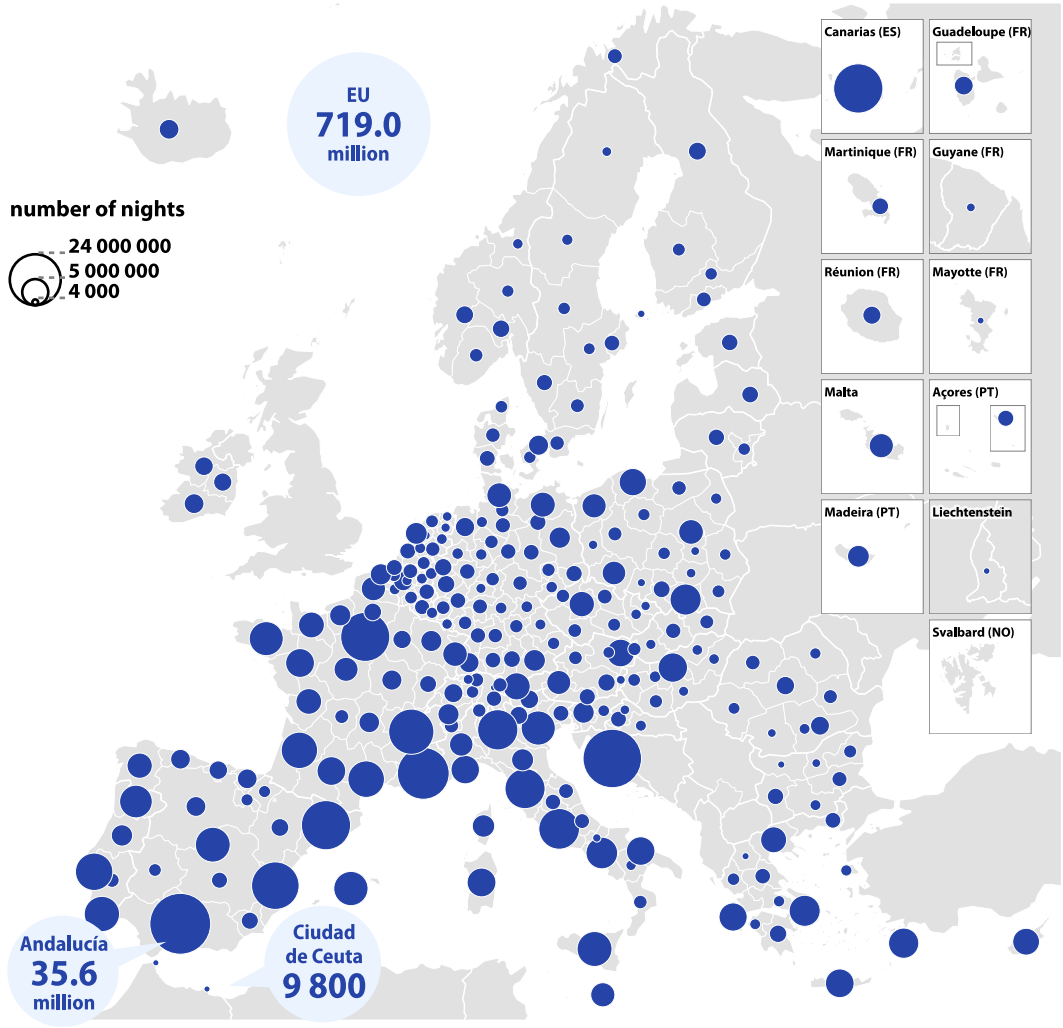

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

A relatively even split in terms of nights spent at tourist accommodation between domestic tourists and international tourists was once again observed in the EU in 2024, after domestic tourists had been in a large majority during the COVID-19 crisis. In 2024, domestic tourists accounted for 52.0% of the total nights spent in EU tourist accommodation.

The share of nights spent by tourists in hotels and similar accommodation, holiday and other short-term accommodation, and camping grounds also returned to its pre-pandemic structure. Hotels and similar accommodation accounted for 63.1% of the nights spent in EU tourist accommodation in 2024, with smaller shares for holiday and other short-term accommodation (23.8%) and camping and caravanning sites (13.1%).

## Guest nights spent at short-term accommodation booked via online platforms

(nights, NUTS level 2 regions, 2023)




Note: the online platforms are Airbnb, Booking, Expedia Group and TripAdvisor. The size of the circle is proportional to the number of guest nights in each region.

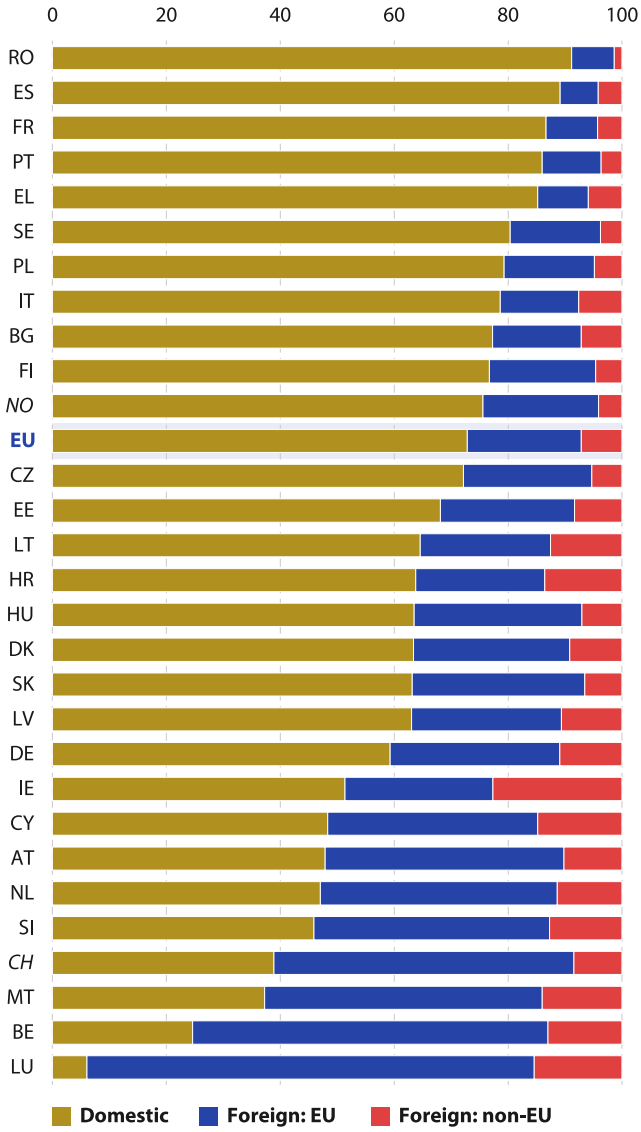
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: tour_ce_omn12)

Four large online collaborative economy platforms (Airbnb, Booking, Expedia Group and TripAdvisor) provide data on guest nights spent in short-stay accommodation. In 2023, 719 million guest nights were spent in accommodation booked via these 4 online platforms.

In 2023, the number of guest nights spent at accommodation facilities booked via the 4 online platforms exceeded 10.0 million in 17 NUTS level 2 regions. These regions were in Spain, France (5 regions each), Italy (4 regions, Portugal (2 regions) and Croatia (1 region). Andalucía in Spain had the highest number, at 35.6 million guest nights.

## Destination of trips by residents

(%, people aged 15 or over, 2023)

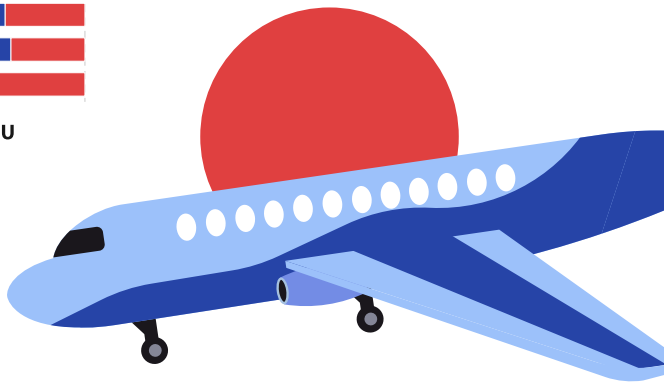


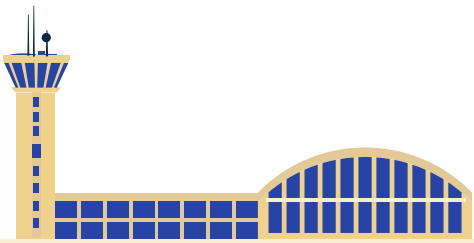

Note: SE and CH, 2022.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: tour_dem_ttw)

In 2023, EU residents made 1.1 billion tourism trips involving at least 1 overnight stay. Nearly three quarters (72.8%) of these trips were domestic. Most foreign trips were elsewhere within the EU (20.0% of all trips) and the remainder (7.2%) were to non-EU countries.

The share of domestic trips in 2023 was relatively low in some of the smallest EU countries, notably Luxembourg (6.0%). The division between EU or non-EU trips among foreign trips may reflect several factors, for example location (being close to non-EU countries or not) or language. In Ireland, 1.1 times as many trips were to other EU countries as to non-EU countries; by contrast, the equivalent ratio in Romania was 5.3. The largest non-EU destinations for trips by EU residents were the United Kingdom, Türkiye, Switzerland and the United States.





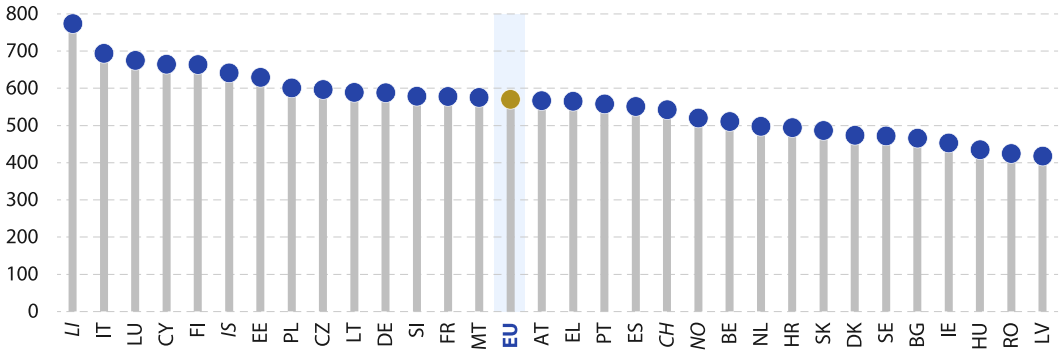
# 3

# Environment and natural resources

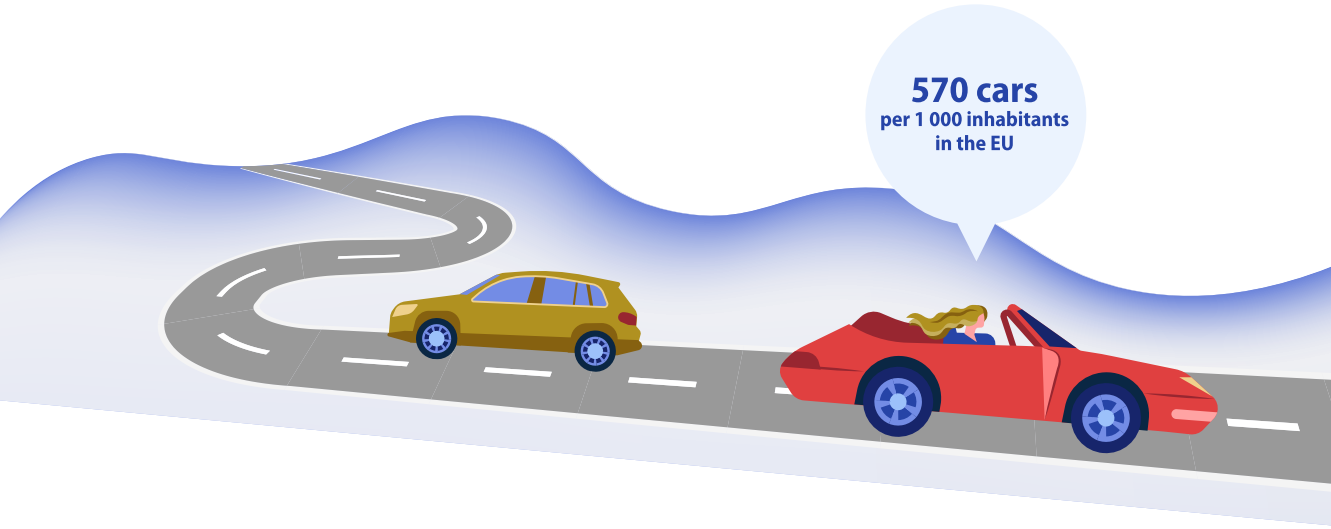
# Transport

## Passenger cars

(number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants, 2023)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: road_eqs_carhab and demo_pjan)

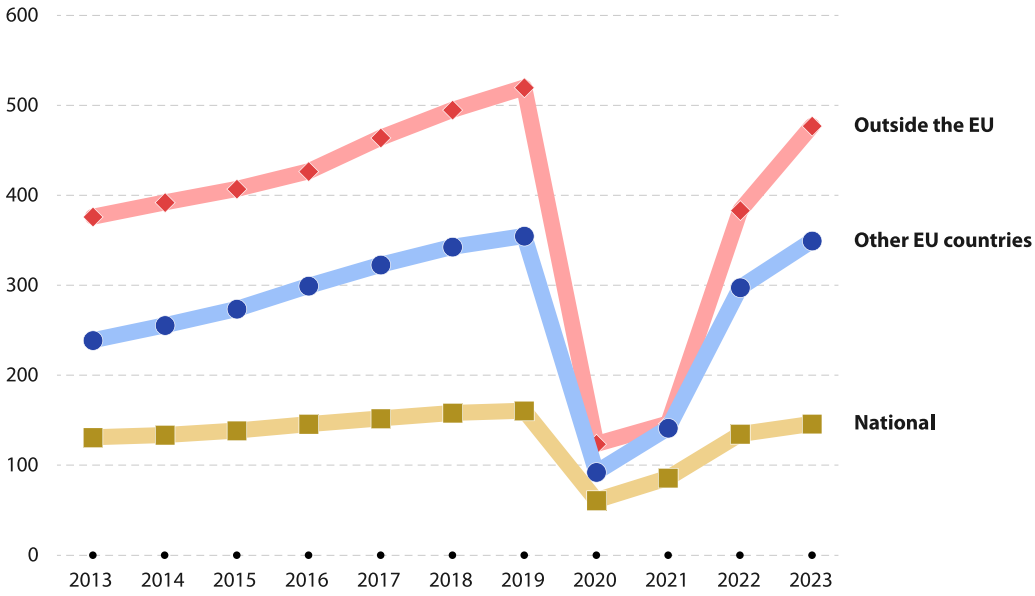



In 2023, there were around 256 million passenger cars on the EU's roads, equivalent to 570 cars per 1 000 inhabitants or slightly more than 1 car for every 2 people. Car motorisation rates were highest in Italy (694 per 1 000 inhabitants) and Luxembourg (675 per 1 000 inhabitants). The lowest motorisation rate for passenger cars was in Latvia – 418 cars per 1 000 inhabitants.

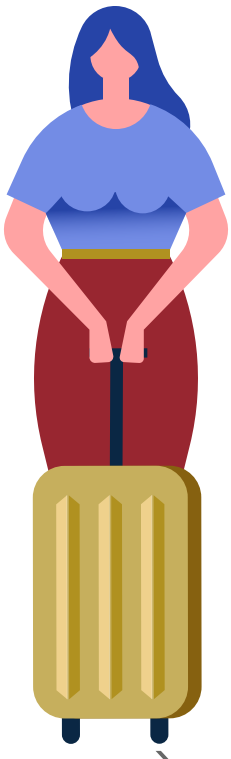
Newer cars may be less environmentally-damaging, with more efficient engines and lower emissions, although these benefits may be offset to some extent by trends towards heavier or more powerful vehicles. Nonetheless, more than half (55%) of all passenger cars in the EU in 2023 were estimated to be at least 10 years old, compared with around a tenth (9%) less than 2 years old.

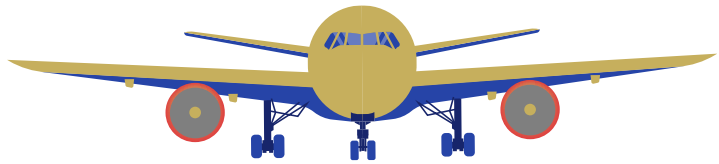
## Passengers carried by air

(million passengers carried – arrivals and departures, EU, 2013–23)




*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)





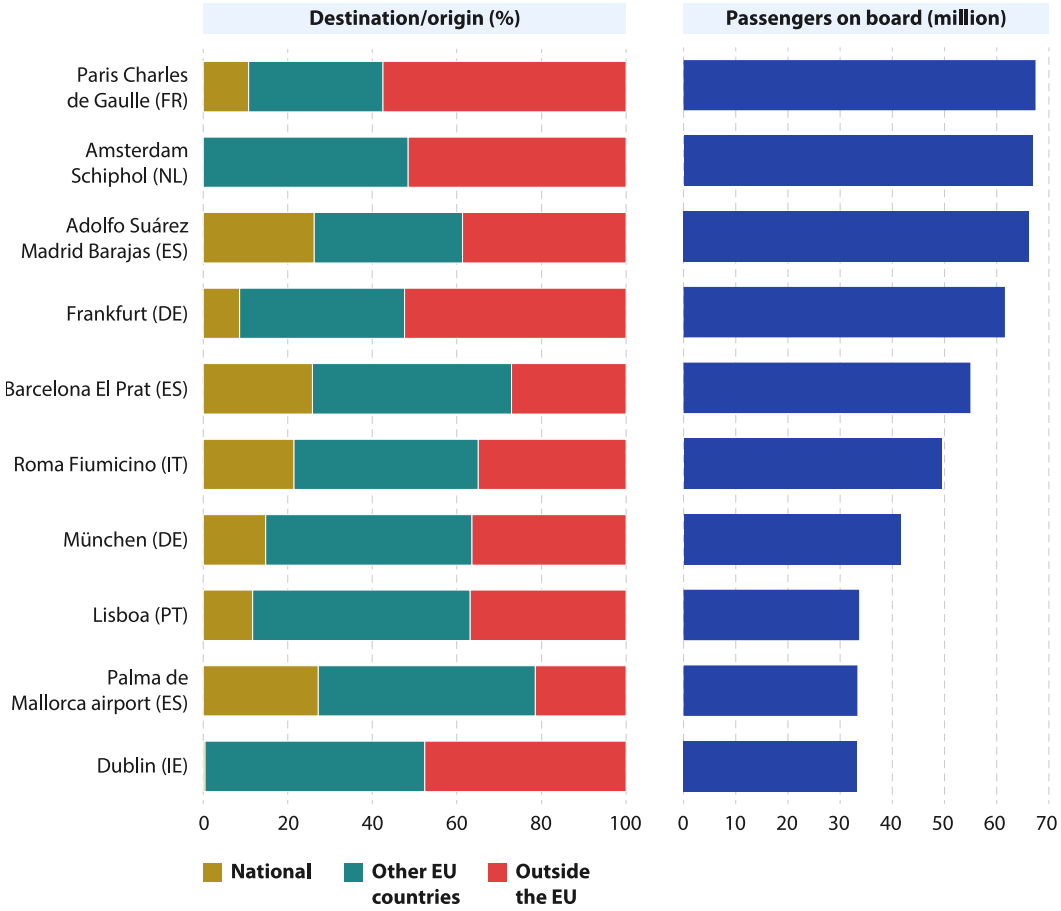
In 2023, the total number of passengers carried by air to or from airports in the EU was 973 million. There were 146 million air passengers carried on national flights within EU countries, 350 million on flights between different EU countries and 477 million on international flights starting or finishing outside of the EU.

In 2019, the total number of passengers carried by air to or from airports in the EU had been 1 035 million. The COVID-19 crisis impacted heavily on this figure in 2020 and 2021, as it dropped to 277 million and 374 million, respectively. There was a stronger rebound in 2022 (to 816 million) and continued growth in 2023 (to 973 million).

In 2023, the total number of passengers carried by air to or from airports in the EU was at 94% of its 2019 level. For passengers on national flights this ratio was 91%, for passengers on flights from or to countries outside the EU it was 92% and for passengers on flights between different EU countries it was 99%.

## Busiest EU passenger airports

(passengers on board, 2024)




Note: Dublin, Paris and Lisbon airports, 2023.

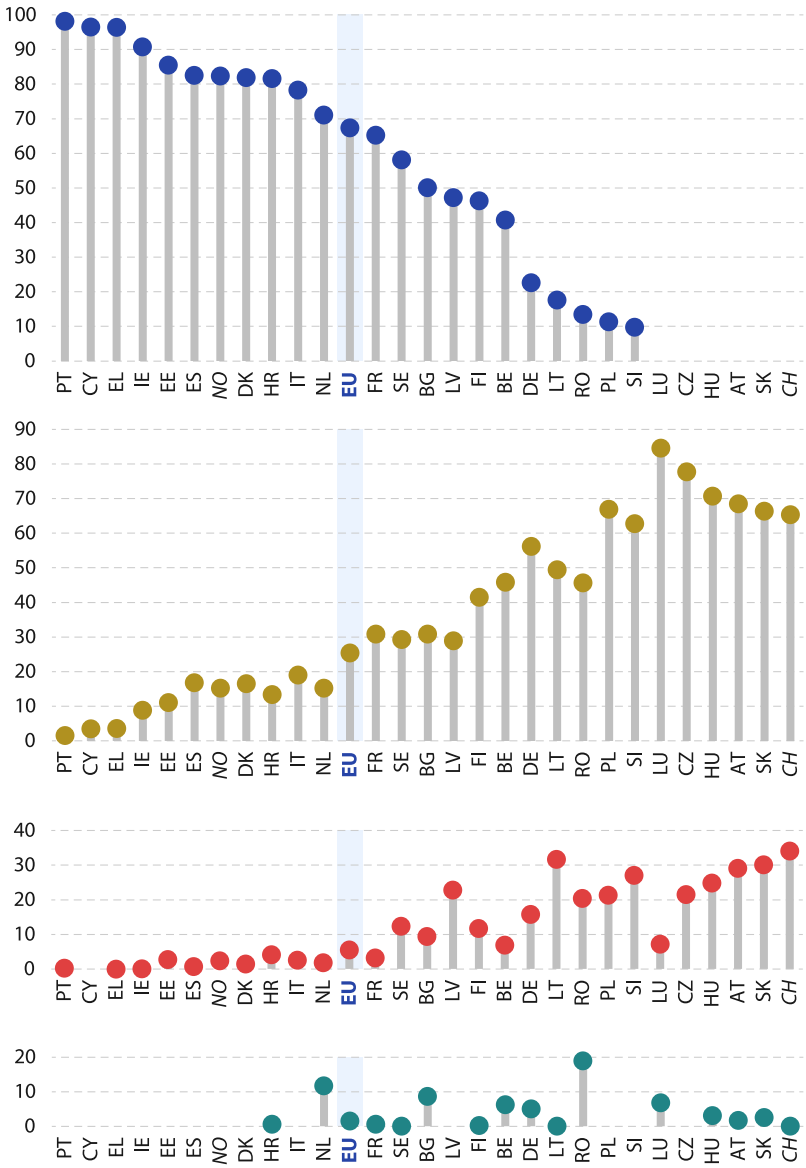
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoa)

In terms of the number of passengers carried, the busiest airport in the EU was Paris Charles de Gaulle, with 67.5 million passengers on board in 2023. Based on data for 2024, the next largest airports were Amsterdam Schiphol (66.8 million), Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas (66.1 million) and Frankfurt (61.5 million).

The origin/destination of passengers who used the busiest airports in the EU varied considerably: more than half of the passengers in Paris Charles de Gaulle, Frankfurt or Amsterdam Schiphol were on international flights starting or finishing outside the EU; more than half of the passengers using Dublin, Lisboa or Palma de Mallorca airports were flying to/from other EU countries; more than 1 in 4 of the passengers using Palma de Mallorca, Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas or Barcelona El Prat were on national flights.

## Freight modes of transport

(%, share of freight based on tonne-kilometres, 2023)




**67.4%** of EU freight transport was by sea

Maritime (sea)

Roads

Railways

Inland waterways

Note: MT, not available. CY: no railways. CZ, DK, EE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LV, PL, PT, SI and NO: negligible or no navigable inland waterways. CZ, LU, HU, AT, SK and CH: no maritime transport. Air transport: not shown due to small share. Ranked on maritime.

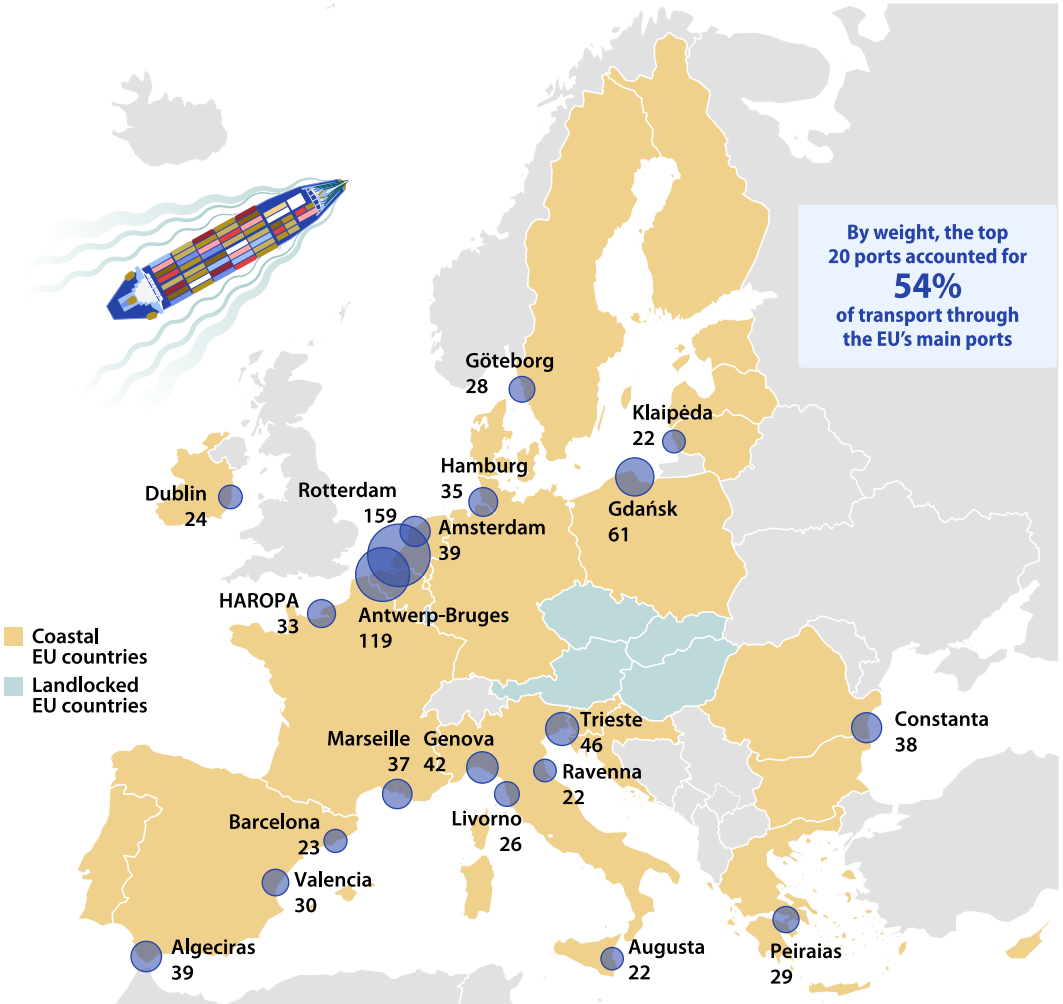
*Source*: Eurostat (online data code: tran_hv_ms_frmod)

Based on tonne-kilometres, the vast majority of EU freight transport in 2023 was carried by sea (67.4%) or by road (25.3%). The remainder was split mainly between rail (5.5%) and inland waterways (1.6%), with air freight having a smaller share (0.2%).

Rail accounted for close to a third (31.7%) of all Lithuanian freight, while inland waterways accounted for more than a tenth of Romanian (18.9%) and Dutch (11.7%) freight.

## Busiest short sea shipping ports

(million tonnes of goods transported to/from main ports in the EU, 2023)




Note: excludes the movement of cargo across oceans (deep sea shipping). HAROPA includes Le Havre and Rouen.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: mar_sg_am_pw)

In 2023, the total weight of goods transported to/from main ports in the EU by short sea shipping was 1.6 billion tonnes; this was equivalent to a decrease of 5.4% when compared with 2022. Rotterdam in the Netherlands was by far the busiest EU port in terms of goods transported (159 million tonnes; 9.9% of the EU total). The 2nd busiest port was the port of Antwerp-Bruges in Belgium (119 million tonnes), which was almost twice as busy as the next port, Gdańsk in Poland (61 million tonnes).

# Energy

## Structure of final energy consumption

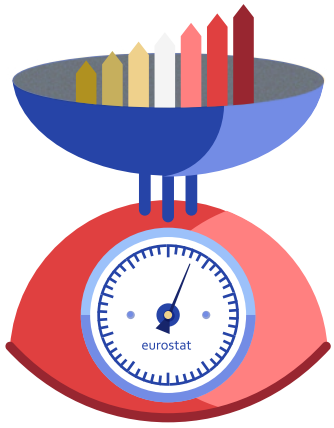
(%, based on joules, EU, 1993 and 2023)

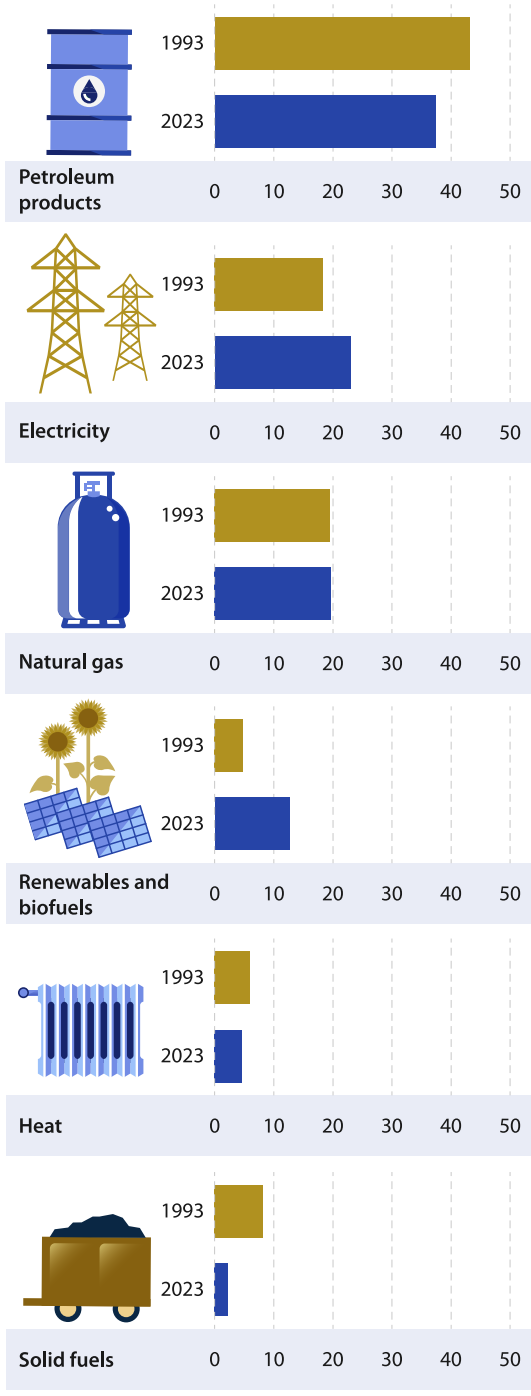
In 2023, the EU's final energy consumption was 36 600 petajoules (PJ); this was 3.3% lower than the level recorded in 2022. Petroleum products accounted for more than a third (37.4%) of the EU's final energy consumption in 2023, with electricity (22.9%) and natural gas (19.7%) recording the next highest shares.

The quantity of energy consumption across the EU in 2023 was 1.2% lower than 30 years earlier (in 1993). This overall similarity in the level conceals a considerable shift in the structure of the EU's final energy consumption, moving away from solid fuels as well as oil and petroleum products towards renewables and biofuels as well as electricity. For example, the share of solid fuels fell from 8.2% to 2.2% between 1993 and 2023, while that of renewables and biofuels rose from 4.8% to 12.6% over 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 0.6% of EU final energy consumption in 2023.

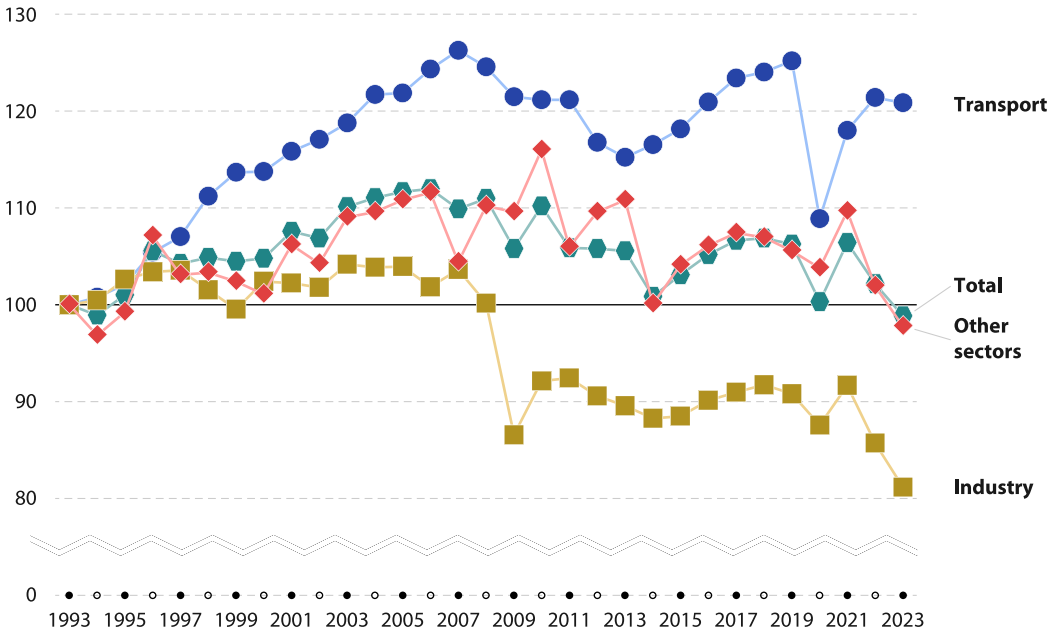
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)



## Final energy consumption, by end use

(1993 = 100, based on joules, EU, 1993–2023)




Note: data presented as an index with 1993 = 100. The residual category of other sectors includes residential use, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and services other than transport. The y-axis is cut.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)

In 2023, industry accounted for slightly less than a quarter (24.6%) of the energy consumed within the EU, while the share for transport was 32.0%, leaving 43.4% for other sectors – these mainly concern residential use and services.

Energy consumption for transport rose between 1993 and 2007, slowed down during the global financial and economic crisis and its aftermath and then grew again from 2013 to 2019: overall, consumption increased 25.1% from 1993 to 2019. By contrast, final energy consumption within industry fell by close to a tenth (down 9.2%) over the same period, with a particularly large decline during the global financial and economic crisis in 2009 (down 13.6%).

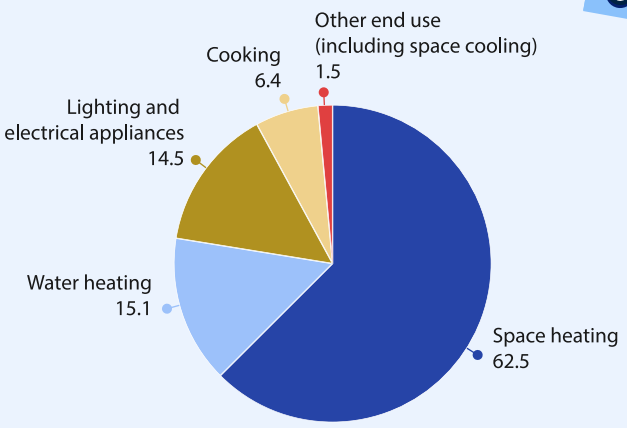
From 2020 onwards, these long-term developments were interrupted by the COVID-19 and cost-of-living crises. The overall level of final energy consumption in the EU fell 5.6% in 2020, with a particularly large decline for transport (consumption down 13.0%). Overall energy consumption rebounded in 2021 (up 6.1%) before decreasing again in 2022 (down 4.0%) and 2023 (down 3.3%). The most recent decreases may reflect, in part, efforts by energy users to reduce the quantity of consumption to try to reduce somewhat the impact of high energy prices.

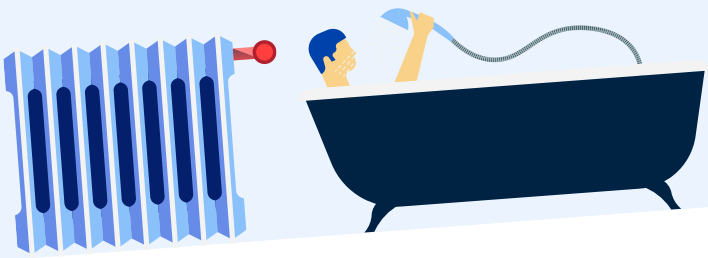
## Final energy consumption in the residential sector, by use

(%, EU, 2023)

In the EU, the main use of energy in the residential sector in 2023 was for heating homes, accounting for 62.5% of final energy consumption. The share used for water heating was 15.1%, just ahead of lighting and electrical appliances (14.5%; this excludes the use of electricity for the main heating, cooling or cooking systems). Main cooking devices required 6.4% of the energy used. Space cooling and other uses accounted for 0.6% and 0.8%, respectively. Despite remaining at a very low share, the residential use of energy for cooling has increased more rapidly than other uses in recent years.

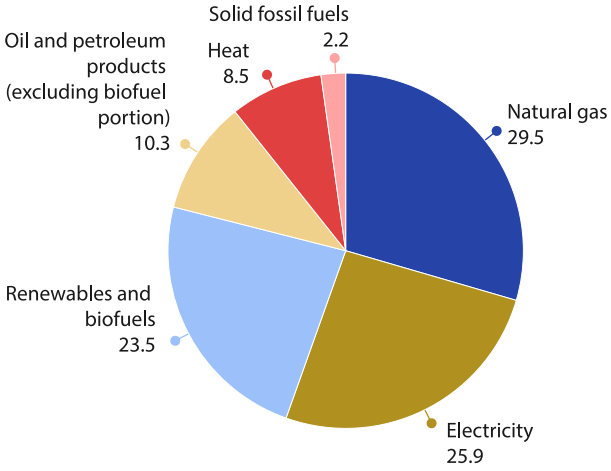
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nrg_d_hhq)



## Final energy consumption in the residential sector, by fuel

(%, EU, 2023)




In 2023, close to 80.0% of the final energy consumption in the EU's residential sector was covered by 3 fuels

- natural gas (29.5%)
- electricity (25.9%)
- renewables and biofuels (23.5%).

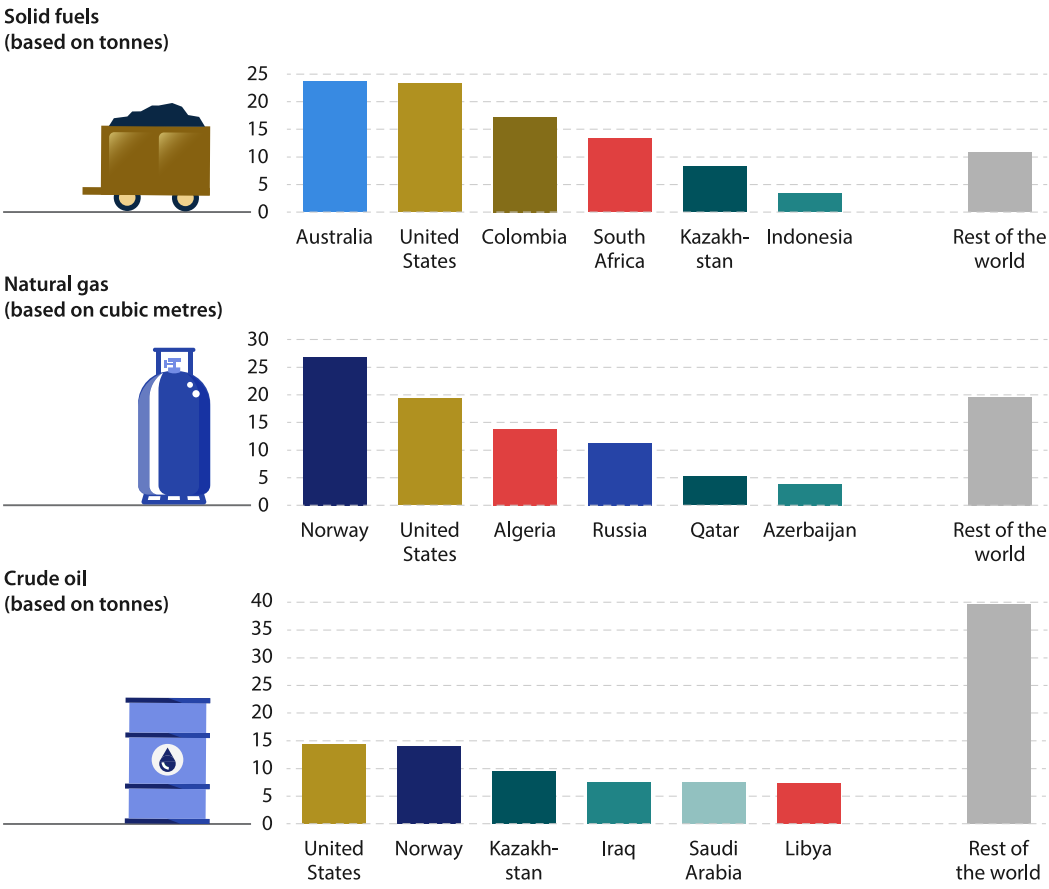
There were notably smaller shares for oil and petroleum products (10.3%), derived heat (8.5%) and solid fossil fuels such as coal (2.2%).

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

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_c)

## Origin of energy imports

(%, share of all extra-EU imports, EU, 2023)



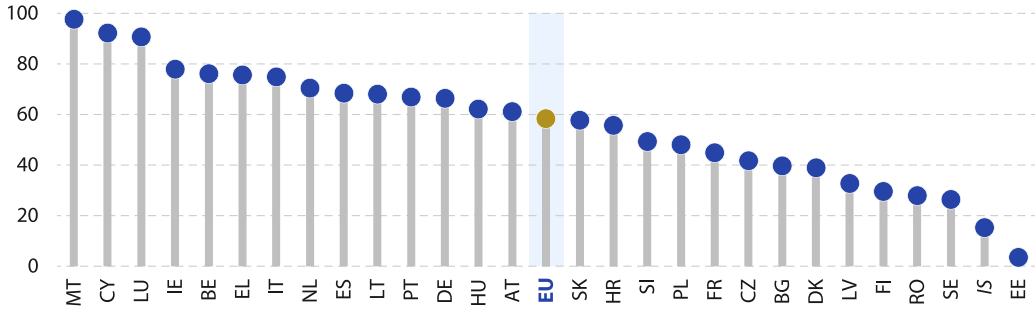

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_ti_sff, nrg_ti_gas and nrg_ti_oil)

Traditionally, the EU relied heavily on energy imports from Russia; in 2021, Russia was the largest supplier of solid fuels (52.4% of EU imports), natural gas (44.0%) and crude oil (25.3%). This situation has changed greatly due to sanctions and/or restrictions on Russian imports. While Russia was still the 4th largest supplier of natural gas to the EU in 2023 (11.2% of the total), it wasn't among the top suppliers of solid fuels or crude oil.

The United States (14.3%) and Norway (14.0%) were the largest suppliers of the EU's crude oil imports in 2023. They were also the largest suppliers of natural gas: Norway provided 26.9% of the total and the United States 19.3%. Furthermore, the United States (23.3%) was also the 2nd largest provider of the EU's imports of solid fuels, with only Australia (23.7%) having a larger share.

## Energy dependency rate

(%, net imports as a share of gross available energy, 2023)




Note: NO, 2022; IS, 2021. NO, value not shown (= –700.0%). A negative value indicates that a country exports more energy than it imports.

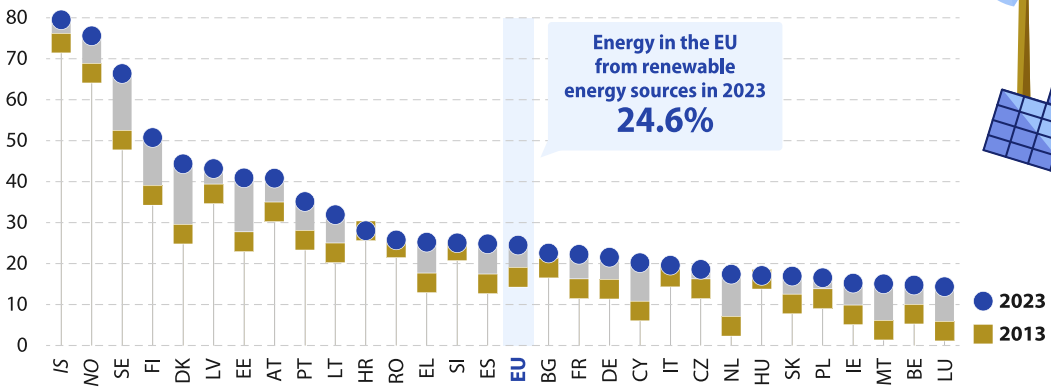
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_id)

The energy dependency rate indicates the extent to which an economy relies upon imports to meet its energy needs. In 2023, the EU's dependency rate was 58.3%: in other words, net imports accounted for close to three fifths of gross available energy.

None of the EU countries were self-sufficient in relation to their energy needs, with some of the smaller ones – Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg – reliant on external supplies for more than 90.0% of their needs.

## Energy from renewable energy sources

(%, share of total gross final energy consumption, 2013 and 2023)

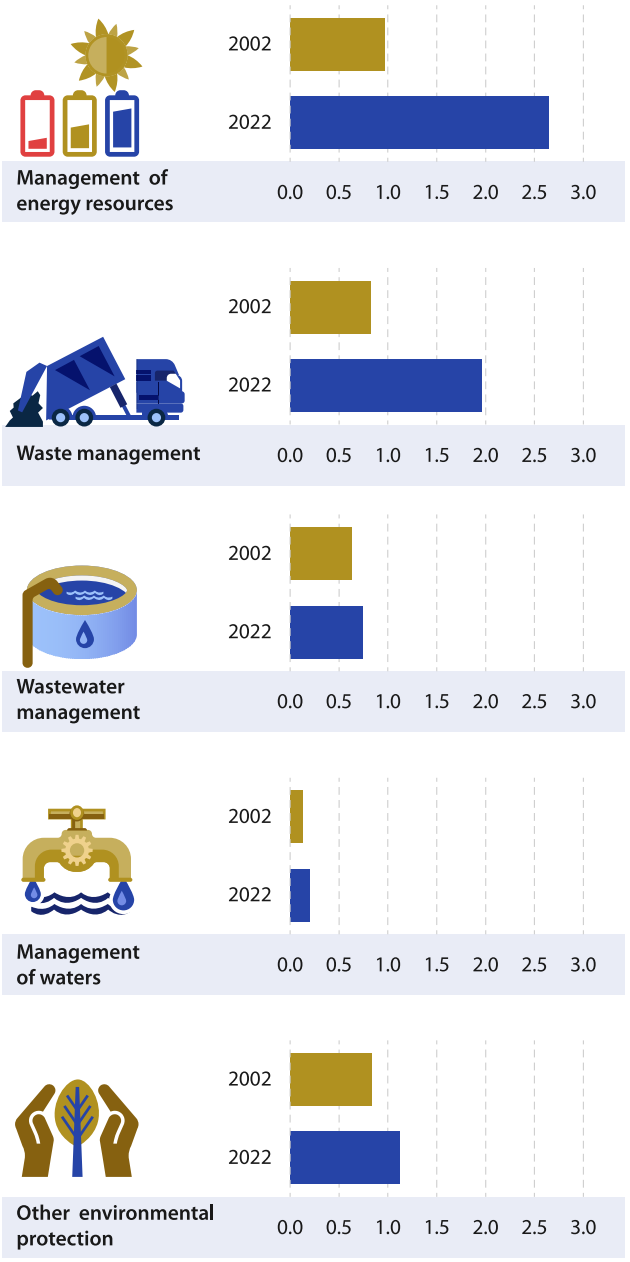



Note: IS, 2022 instead of 2023.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_ren)

In 2023, 24.6% of the EU's gross final energy consumption was from renewable energy sources, compared with 16.7% a decade earlier. In 2023, nearly two thirds (66.4%) of the final energy consumption in Sweden was from renewable sources as was more than half (50.8%) in Finland; shares of more than 40.0% were also recorded in Denmark, Latvia, Estonia and Austria.

# Environment




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

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_egss1)

## Employment in the environmental economy

(million full-time equivalents, EU, 2002 and 2022)

The environmental economy includes activities that relate to environmental protection and the management of natural resources. Overall, there were 6.7 million people working in the EU's environmental economy in 2022, an increase of 97.7% when compared with the situation in 2002.

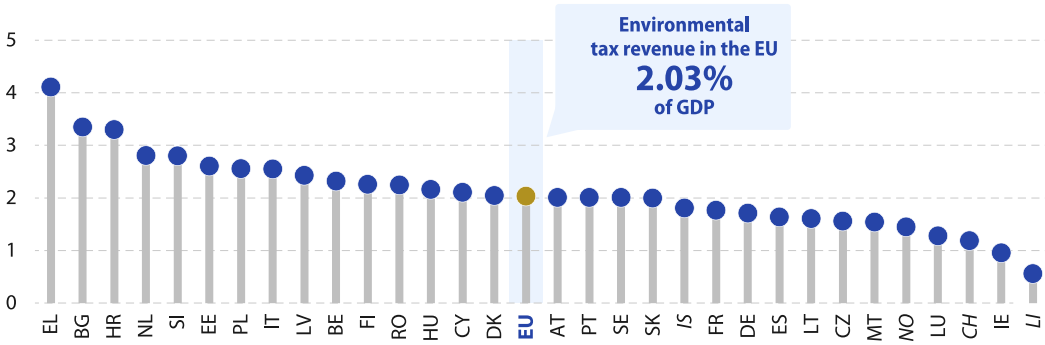
In 2022, the management of energy resources had the largest workforce within the EU's environmental economy (2.7 million), followed by waste management (2.0 million) and other environmental protection (1.1 million).

The size of the EU workforce for the management of energy resources was 2.8 times as large in 2022 as it had been in 2002; this was by far the most rapid expansion among the various subsectors of the environmental economy.

## Environmental tax revenue

(%, relative to GDP, 2023)

Environmental taxes can be used to try to influence the behaviour of economic operators, both producers and consumers. In 2023, EU environmental tax revenues were valued at €349 billion, equivalent to 2.03% of GDP. This ratio peaked at 4.11% in Greece, while it was 3.35% in Bulgaria and 3.30% in Croatia. By contrast, environmental tax revenues accounted for 0.96% of GDP in Ireland and for 1.28% in Luxembourg.




Note: LI, 2021.

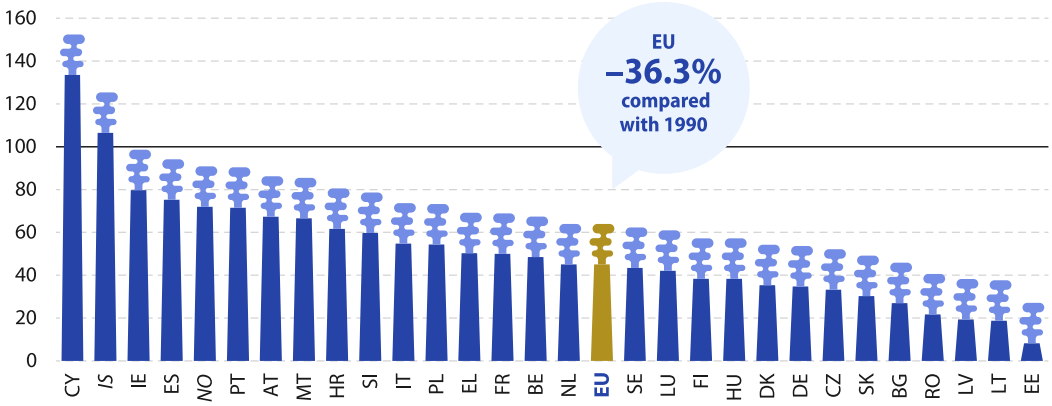
*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_tax)

## Greenhouse gas emissions

(1990 = 100, based on tonnes of $CO_2$ equivalents, 2023)

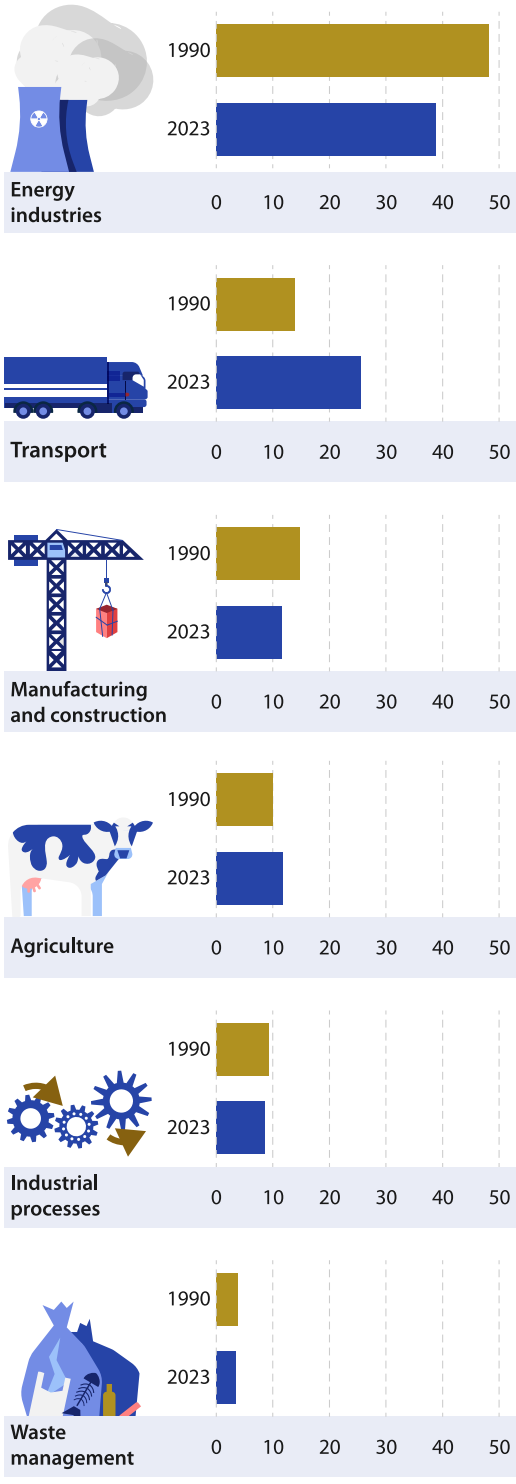
Developments in the level of greenhouse gas emissions may be traced using data for the Kyoto basket of greenhouse gases. By 2023, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU had fallen 36.3% compared with their 1990 levels.

Between 1990 and 2023, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell in all but 1 EU country: Cyprus. The level of emissions more than halved in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia.




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 $CO_2$ 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 $CO_2$ equivalents, EU, 1990 and 2023)

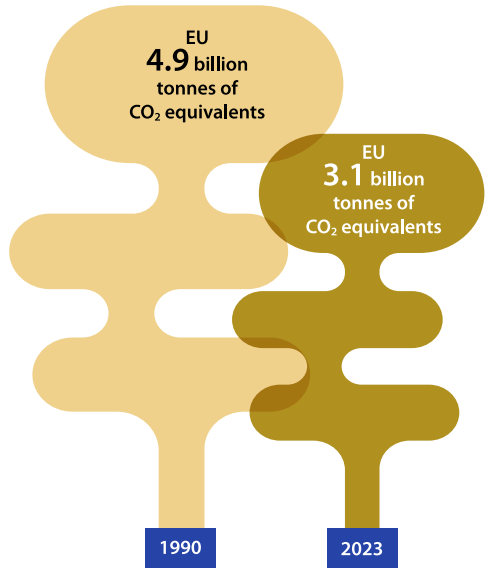
In 2023, the total quantity of EU greenhouse gas emissions was 3.1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents. The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU were fuel combustion in energy industries ([1]) (38.8% of the total) and in transport (25.6%).

The only source that increased the quantity of its greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2023 was transport, with an overall increase of 17.9%. For each of the remaining sources, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell between 1990 and 2023. Decreases of at least two fifths were recorded for fuel combustion in manufacturing and construction (down 49.6%), fuel combustion in energy industries (down 48.6%), waste management (down 41.3%) and industrial processes (down 41.2%).

([1]) Including not only fuel combustion in energy industries but also in sectors other than transport, manufacturing and construction.

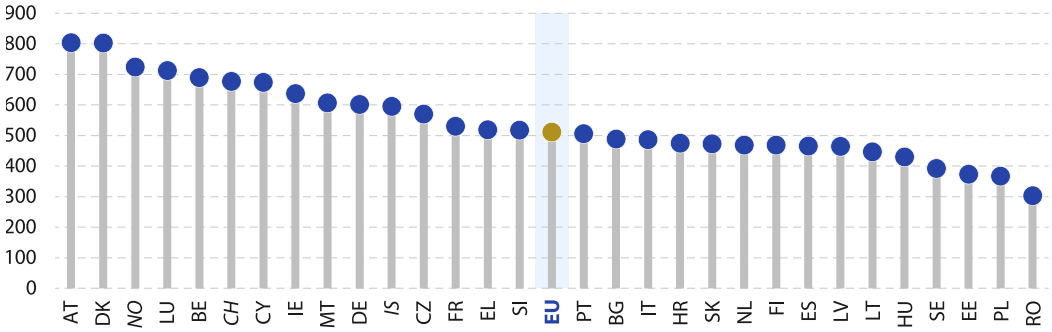
Note: energy industries includes not only fuel combustion in energy industries but also in sectors other than transport, manufacturing and construction.

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



## Municipal waste generation

(kg per inhabitant, 2023)



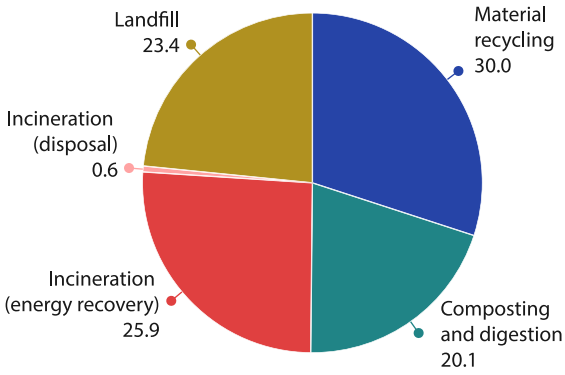

Note: BG, DK, EL, IT, LV, AT, RO, IS and CH, 2022. CZ: 2021. IE: 2020.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)


Municipal waste constituted 10.3% of the total waste generated in the EU in 2022. On average, people living in the EU generated 511 kg of municipal waste each in 2023. Among the EU countries, municipal waste generation was highest in Austria (803 kg per inhabitant; 2022 data) and Denmark (802 kg per inhabitant; 2022 data). By contrast, municipal waste generation was lowest in Romania (303 kg per inhabitant; 2022 data).

## Municipal waste treatment methods

(%, share of all methods, EU, 2023)



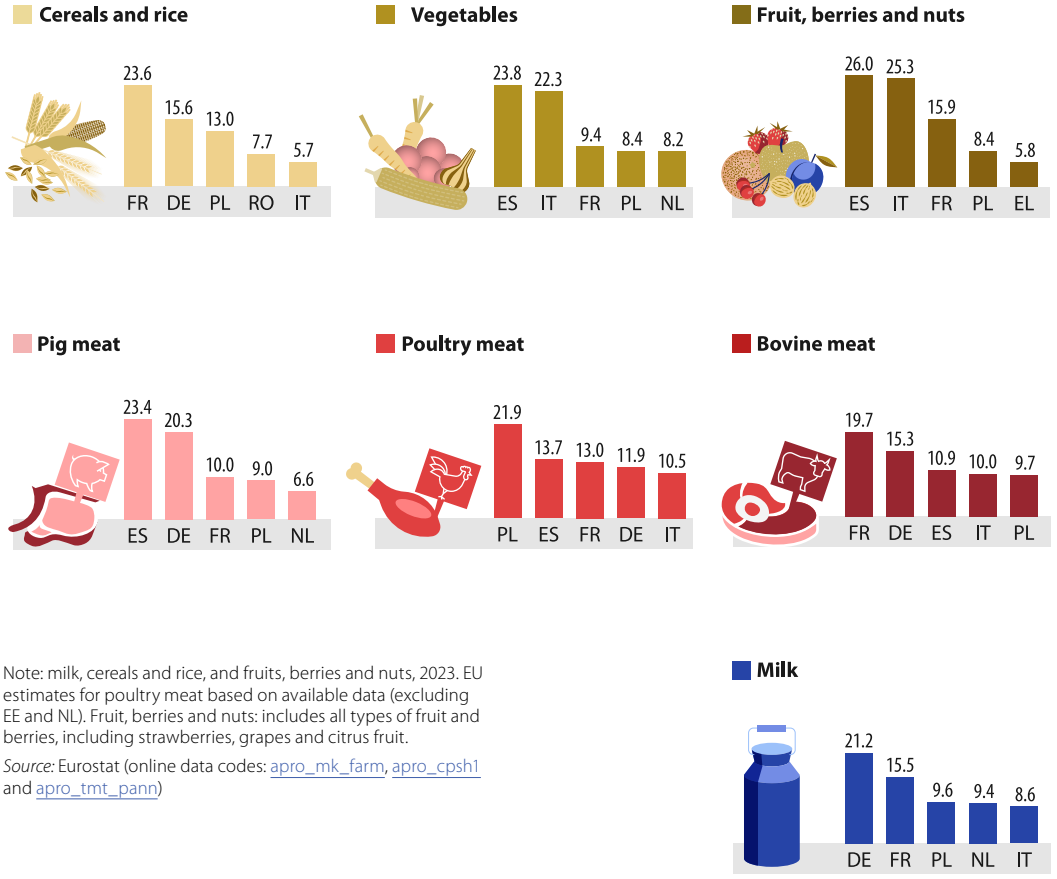

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)

In 2023, 221 million tonnes of municipal waste were treated in the EU, representing 96.2% of the municipal waste generated. Material recycling was used for 30.0% of the municipal waste treated across the EU, while the share treated by composting or digestion was 20.1%; these are generally considered to be the most environmentally sustainable treatment methods. By contrast, more than a quarter (25.9%) of the municipal waste treated in the EU was incinerated with energy recovery and a small part (0.6%) without energy recovery, while under a quarter (23.4%) was landfilled.

# Agriculture

## Top 5 EU countries for the production of selected agricultural products

(%, 2024)




Note: milk, cereals and rice, and fruits, berries and nuts, 2023. EU estimates for poultry meat based on available data (excluding EE and NL). Fruit, berries and nuts: includes all types of fruit and berries, including strawberries, grapes and citrus fruit.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mk_farm, apro_cpsh1 and apro_tmt_pann)

Agricultural products are a major part of the EU's regional and cultural identity. In 2023, there were 271.6 million tonnes of cereals and rice harvested in the EU, France accounting for the largest share (23.6%). A total of 62.2 million tonnes of vegetables were harvested in the EU in 2024, with Spain (23.8%) and Italy (22.3%) accounting for the highest shares. There were 59.0 million tonnes of fruits, berries and nuts harvested in the EU in 2023, with Spain (26.0%) and Italy (25.3%) recording the highest shares; these figures comprise all types of fruit, including those used for the production of beverages. In a similar vein, 160.8 million tonnes of raw milk were available on EU farms in 2023, with Germany recording the highest share (21.2%).

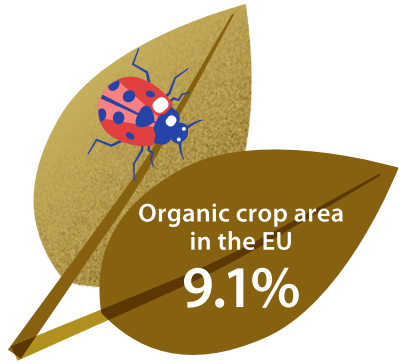
In 2024, the EU produced 21.0 million tonnes of pig meat, over 13.2 million tonnes of poultry meat and 6.6 million tonnes of bovine meat. Spain (23.4%) and Germany (20.3%) accounted for the largest shares of the pig meat produced in the EU. Poland had the largest share (21.9%) of the EU's production of poultry meat and France the largest share (19.7%) for bovine meat production.

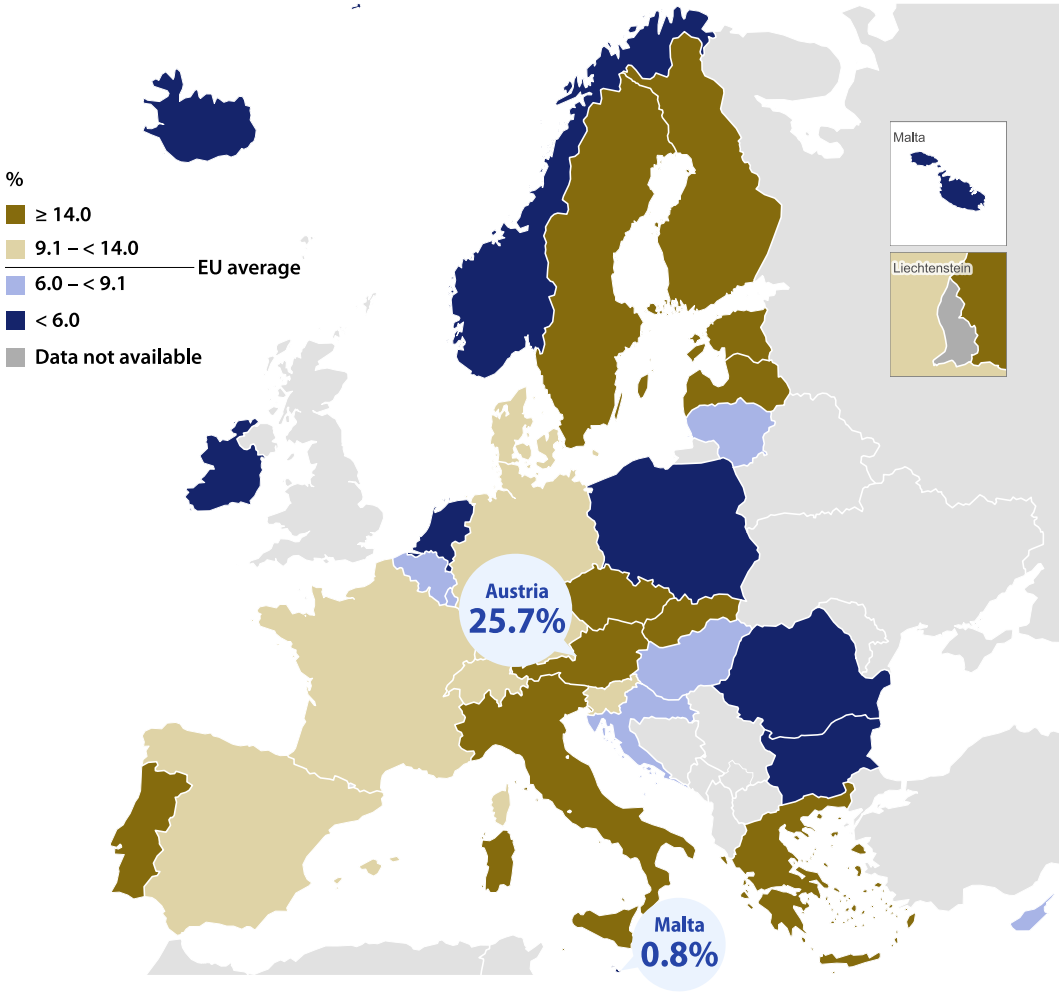
## Organic crop area

(%, share of utilised agricultural area, 2023)

In 2020, the fully converted organic area and area under conversion to organic farming across the EU was 14.7 million hectares (excluding kitchen gardens).

In 2020, the area used for organic crop farming accounted for 9.1% of the EU's total utilised agricultural area. In 2023, this share ranged from a low of 0.8% in Malta to a high of 25.7% in Austria (2020 data). In Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Malta, Poland, Germany and Portugal, the growth between 2022 and 2023 in the area used for organic crop farming exceeded 10.0%.




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). BE, EL, ES, RO, SI, FI and NO: 2022. EU, AT and IS: 2020.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: org_cropar and apro_cpsh1)

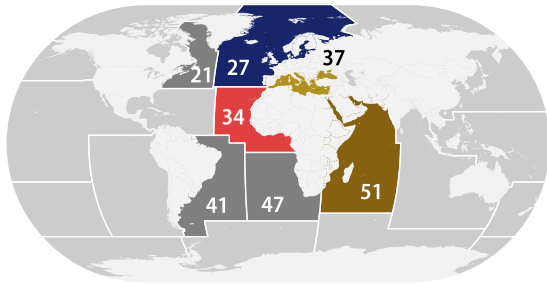
# Fisheries

## EU countries with the largest fish catches

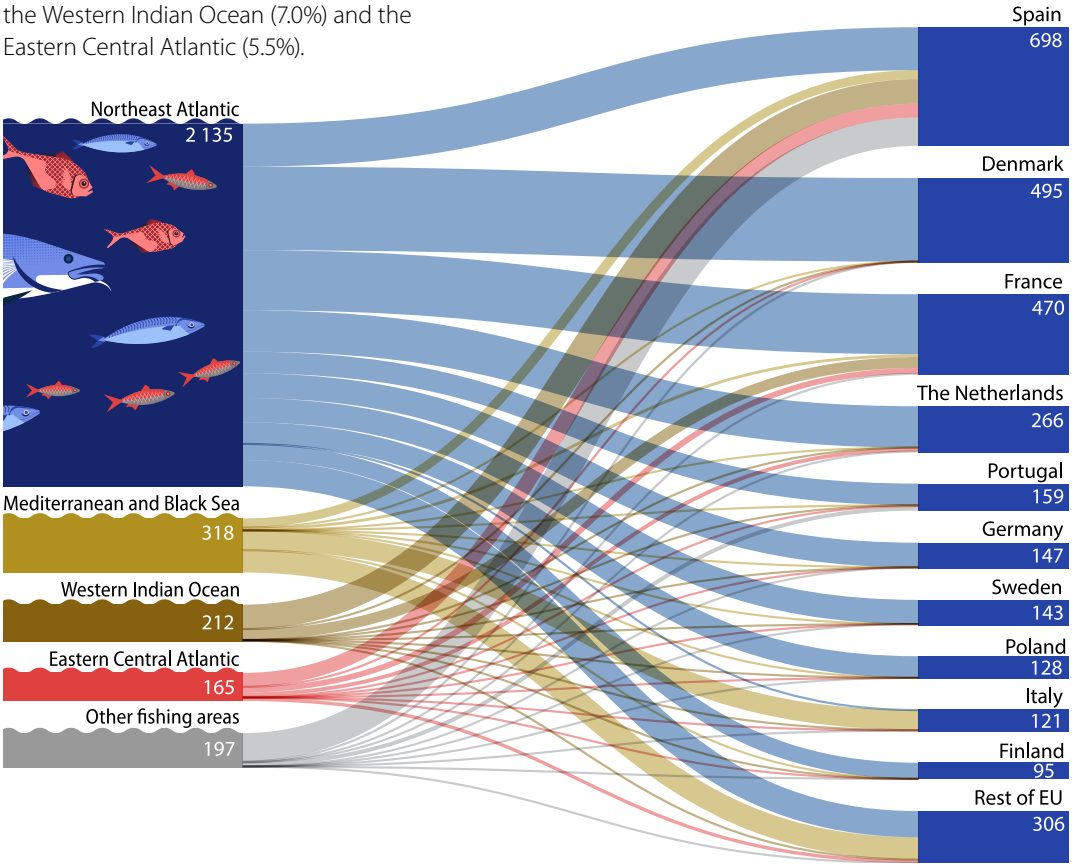
(1 000 tonnes live weight, main fishing areas, 2023)

Although the EU fishing fleet operates worldwide, the vast majority (70.5%) of its catch in 2023 was taken from the Northeast Atlantic. The largest fish catches (by weight) in this area were by Denmark, France, Spain and the Netherlands, with the most common species including herring, blue whiting, sprat and mackerel. The next largest fishing areas for the EU were the Mediterranean and Black Sea (10.5% of the total catch), the Western Indian Ocean (7.0%) and the Eastern Central Atlantic (5.5%).

**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



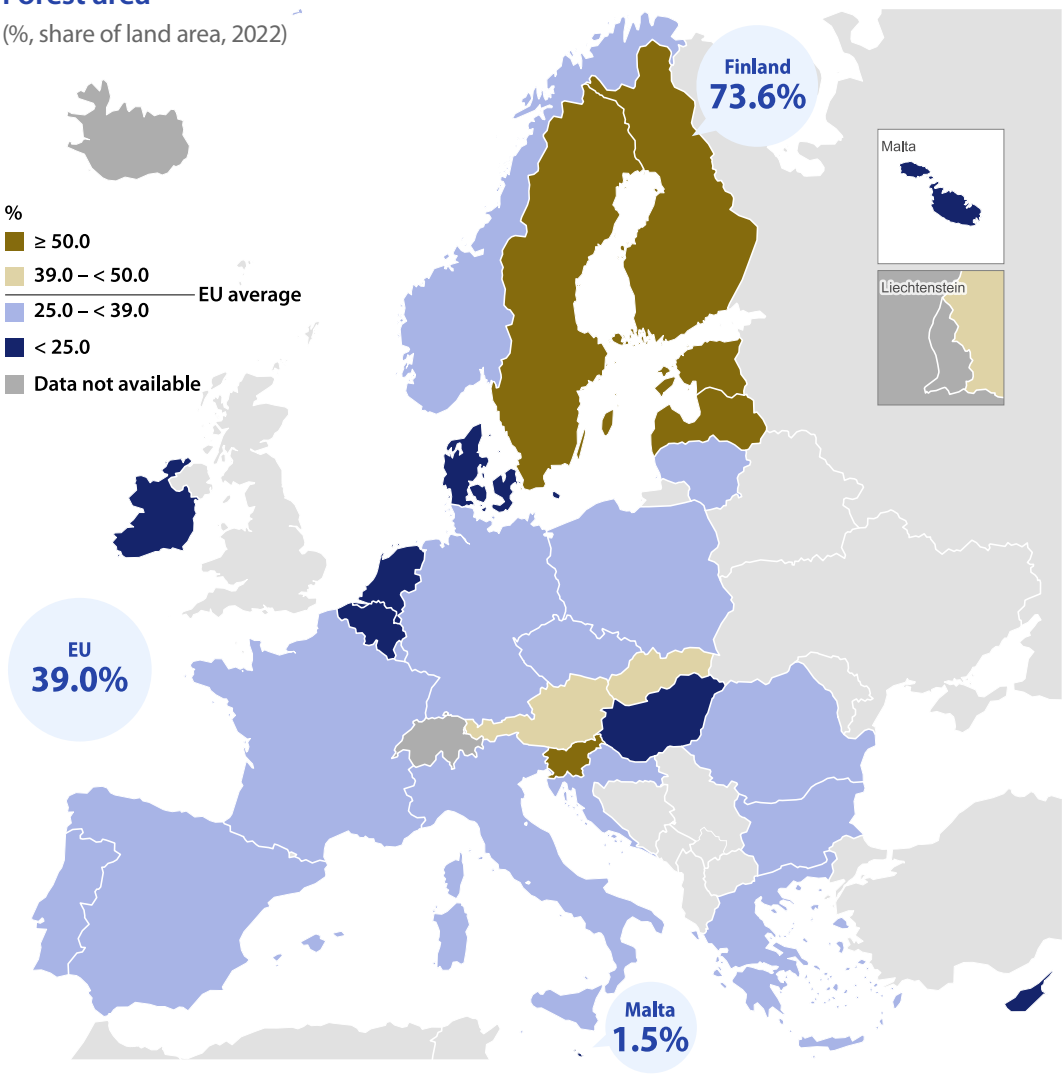

Note: CZ, LU, HU, AT and SK are landlocked. PT: 2021 or 2022 depending on the area. IE and LV: not available. EU totals by area exclude IE and LV and include 2021 or 2022 data for PT.

*Source:* Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main)

# Forestry

## Forest area

(%, share of land area, 2022)




*Source*: Eurostat (online data codes: for_area_efa and reg_area3)

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 2022, there were 160 million hectares of forests covering 39.0% of the EU's land area. In absolute terms, Sweden (28.0 million hectares) and Finland (22.4 million hectares) had the largest forest areas. In relative terms, the forests of Finland (73.6%) and Sweden (68.7%) covered the largest shares of land area. Malta (1.5%) was the only EU country to record a share below 10.0% and also had the smallest forest area (460 hectares).

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