KEY FIGURES ON EUROPE

2024 EDITION

eurostat

FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS

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*

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Printed by Imprimerie Bietlot in Belgium

Manuscript completed in June 2024

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2024

Kosovo – this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the maps don't imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union.

Theme: General and regional statistics
Collection: Flagship publications

Print	ISBN 978-92-68-16409-9	ISSN 1830-7892	doi: 10.2785/298757	KS-EI-24-001-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-68-16408-2	ISSN 2315-201X	doi: 10.2785/318624	KS-EI-24-001-EN-N

Foreword

Welcome to the 7th edition of *Key figures on Europe*, one of the flagship and most popular publications of Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU).

Highlighting recent developments across the EU, the annual *Key figures on Europe* draws on the rich collection of data available from Eurostat to provide you with selected key indicators for the EU and for its individual countries.

Continuing the effective format of previous editions, these indicators are organised under the categories of people and society, economy and business, and environment and natural resources. To make it easier for the user to intuitively access and engage with the publication, data are explained by means of visualisations and concise texts.

With all of these elements, *Key figures on Europe* helps you to get a rapid overview of developments in the EU and to compare different EU countries easily. For example, the statistical indicators in the 2024 edition can help you understand major demographic and economic changes, such as those relating to employment, population, GDP and inflation, as well as issues like energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

For a better experience with *Key figures on Europe*, you can use the Eurostat website to explore the most up-to-date and complete European statistics and find additional background information and data visualisations. There, you can also find the *Statistics Explained* section, which presents statistical topics in an easily understandable way. Also, the European Statistical Monitor that is published on the Eurostat website offers you an overview of key short-term indicators on the EU; it is updated monthly with the latest available data for each indicator.

I hope that you will find this publication valuable for your work, studies and other aspects of your daily life, and that it will inspire you to discover the many other useful resources that are freely available to you from Eurostat.

Mariana Kotzeva
Director-General, Eurostat

Abstract

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

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Production

INFORMA s.à r.l. under contract with Eurostat

Layout

Ecorys under contract with Eurostat

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 the preparation of this publication.

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 2024 edition describes the situation in the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, with the most recent data generally for 2022 or 2023 (depending on the source). As a consequence, the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine may be seen for a variety of indicators.

Structure of the publication

Key figures on Europe provides users with an overview of the wealth of information that is 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 more generally how to access European statistics and supporting sources of information. The main chapters treat the following areas: people and society (population, health, education, the labour market, living conditions and the digital society); economy and business (GDP, prices, household consumption, government finance, international trade, business, research and development, and tourism); environment and natural resources (transport, energy, environment, agriculture, fisheries and forestry).

Each chapter presents a set of key indicators: a great deal more information can be found when consulting Eurostat's website, which contains subject-specific publications, online articles and databases covering a broad and comprehensive range of data.

Data extraction and coverage

Data extraction

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted on 2 May 2024. Eurostat's online database may contain revised data.

Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (a sum/ average covering the 27 current members of the EU) as well as the individual EU 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 (1 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, as well as their capital cities.

Codes and names for EU and EFTA countries

BE	Belgium	**HU**	Hungary
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CY	Cyprus	***IS***	*Iceland*
LV	Latvia	***LI***	*Liechtenstein*
LT	Lithuania	***NO***	*Norway*
LU	Luxembourg	***CH***	*Switzerland*

Temporal data coverage

If data for a reference year (or reference period) aren't available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to complete the coverage using data for recent previous reference years (these exceptions are footnoted).

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 in order to allow more space for illustrating the data. This publication includes only the main notes needed to interpret the data and to highlight when data for 1 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 a 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 of 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.

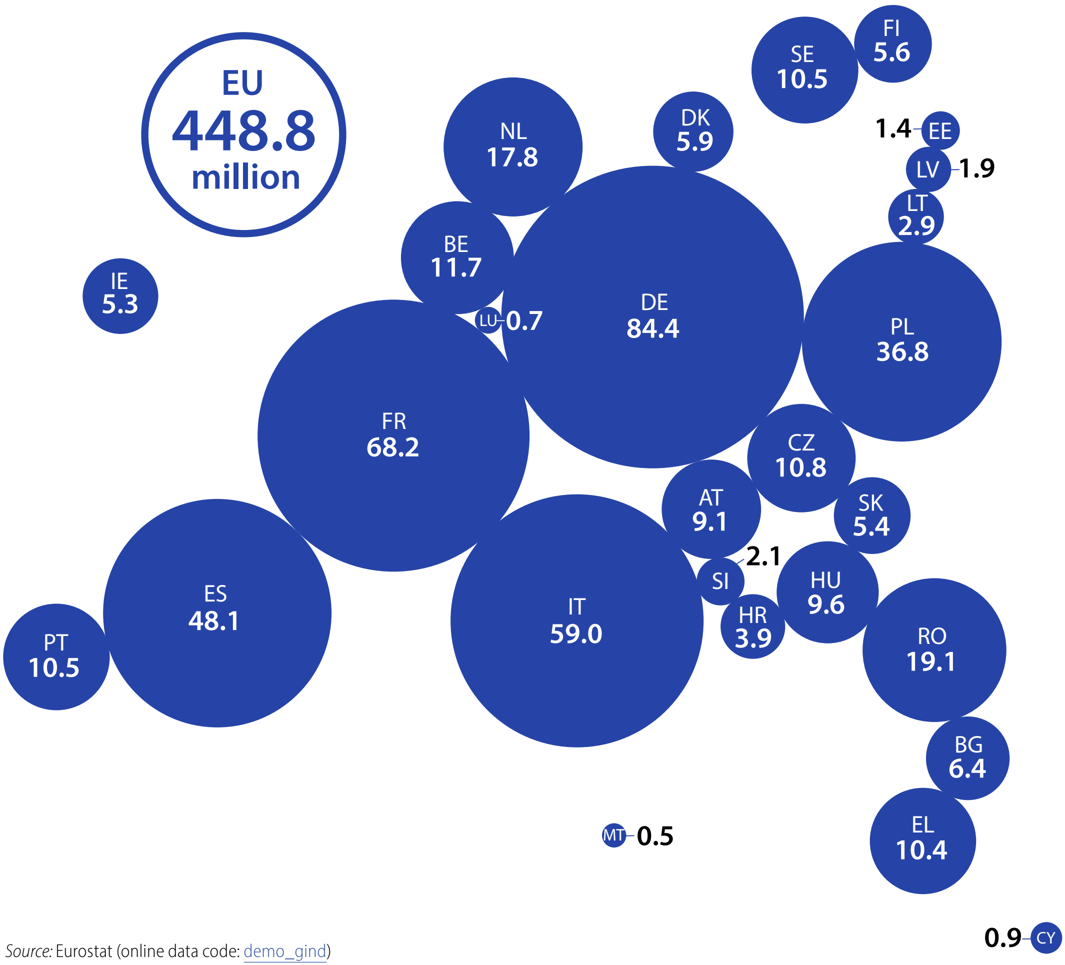
1

People and society

Population

Population

(million inhabitants, 1 January 2023)



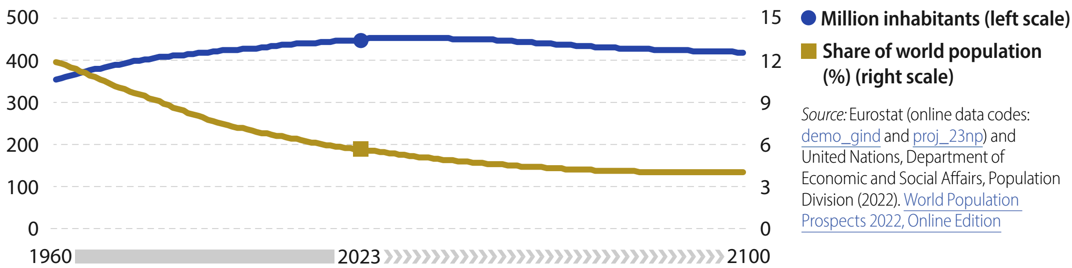
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

Over the last decade, the total number of inhabitants in the EU grew at a relatively slow pace when compared with historical developments. During 2020 and 2021, the EU's population declined; to some extent this reflected the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. As of 1 January 2023, there were 448.8 million people living in the EU, 1.93 million more than on 1 January 2022.

There are considerable differences in population levels between EU countries: on 1 January 2023, the number of inhabitants ranged from 0.5 million in Malta up to 84.4 million in Germany. Together, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland were home to almost two thirds (66.0%) of the EU's population.

Population

(EU, 1 January 1960–2100)

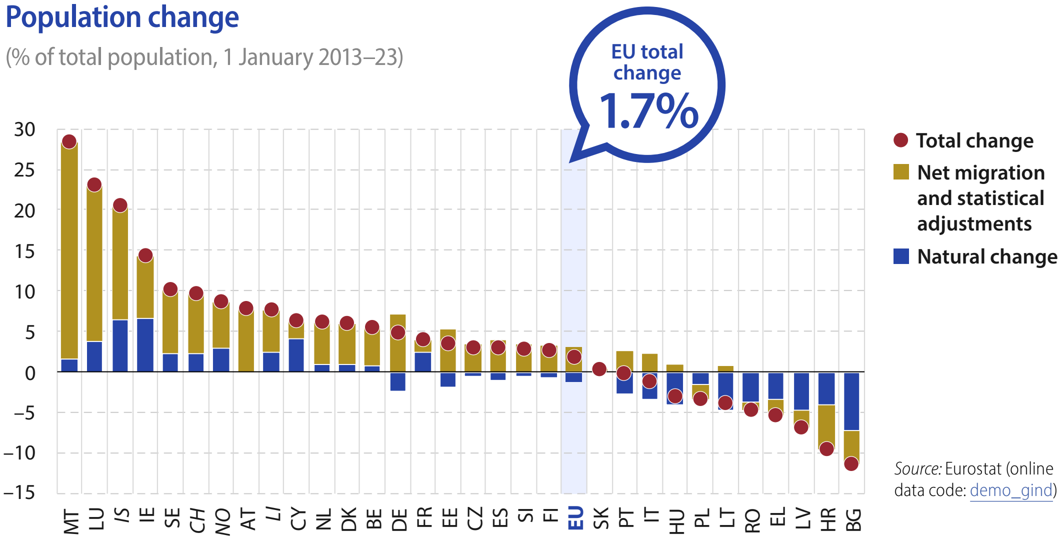


Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_gind and proj_23np) and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, Online Edition

In 1974, the EU's share of the global population fell below 10.0%. This downward development continued through to 2023 by when the EU accounted for 5.6% of the world's population. According to information based on Eurostat's baseline projections, the population of the EU will grow, albeit slowly, up until the year 2026 (453.3 million inhabitants), after which it's projected to fall back to 419.5 million by 2100. These developments, coupled with faster population growth in the rest of the world, mean that it's projected that around 1 in 25 people – or 4.1% of the global population – will be living in the EU by the turn of the century.

Population change

(% of total population, 1 January 2013–23)



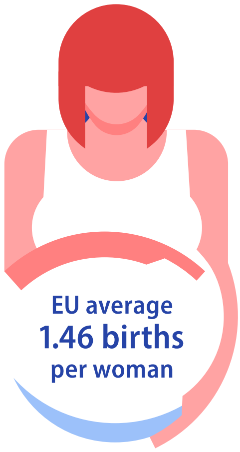
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

Between 1 January 2013 and 2023, the EU's population rose 7.5 million (or 1.7%); 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 around a quarter (28.3% and 23.0%, respectively). At the other end of the range, the biggest decreases in percentage terms were in Bulgaria (down 11.5%) and Croatia (down 9.6%).

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 emigrating than immigrants arriving) leading to a decline in population numbers. There was also an overall decline in the populations of Italy, Lithuania, Hungary and Portugal, despite net inward migration.

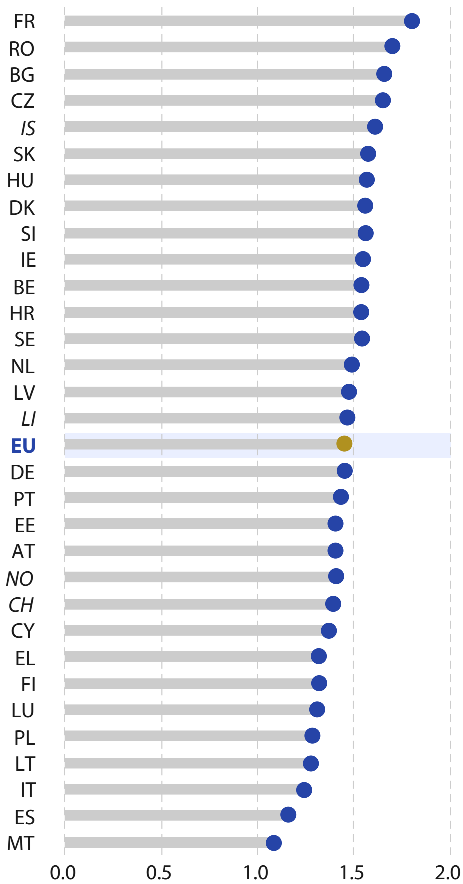
Fertility rate

(live births per woman, 2022)



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 2022, the total fertility rate ranged from a high of 1.79 live births per woman in France down to 1.16 in Spain and 1.08 in Malta. The EU average was 1.46 live births per woman.

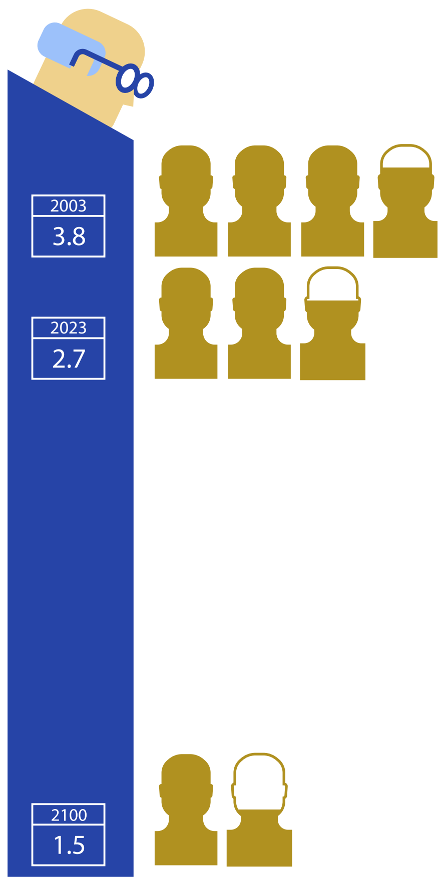


Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_find)

Ageing population

(ratio, number of people aged 20–64 years per person aged ≥ 65 years, EU, 2003, 2023 and 2100)

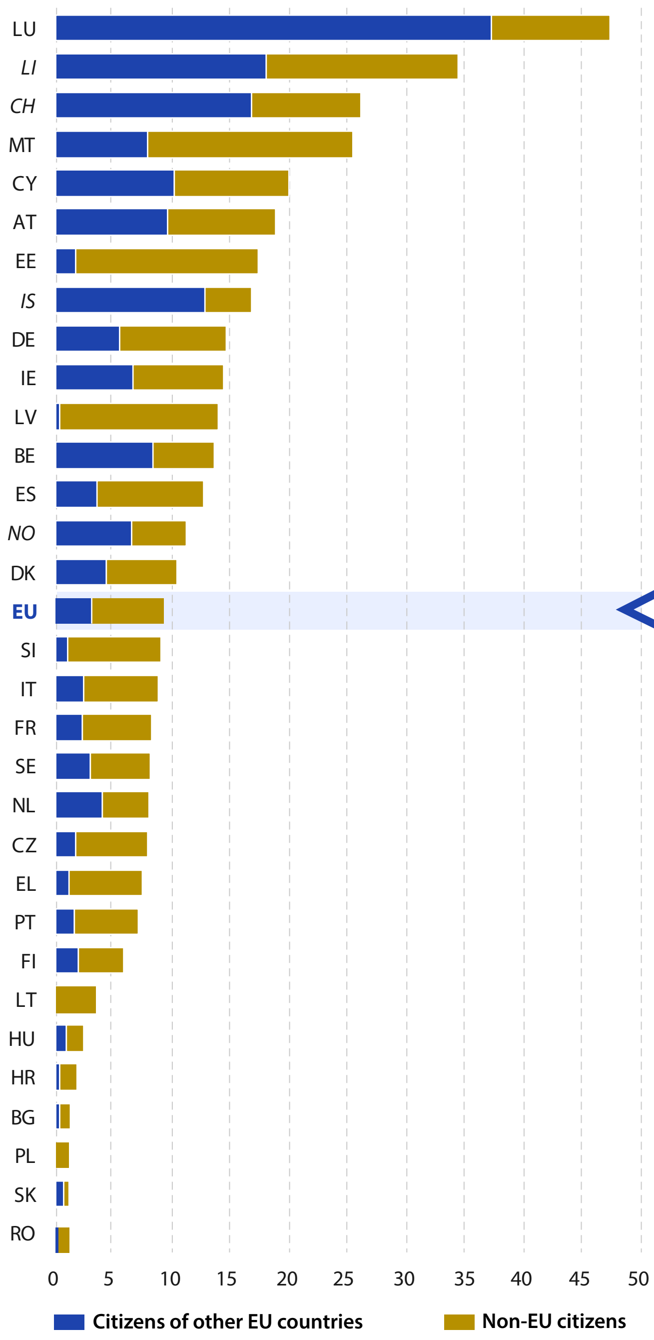
Population ageing has been observed across much of Europe in recent decades. Changes in population structure can have serious implications for issues such as pension funds, government revenues and the provision of services such as health and social care. The number of working-age people (defined here as those aged from 20 to 64 years) in the EU expressed relative to the number of older people (aged 65 years or over) fell from 3.8 in 2003 to 2.7 by 2023. 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

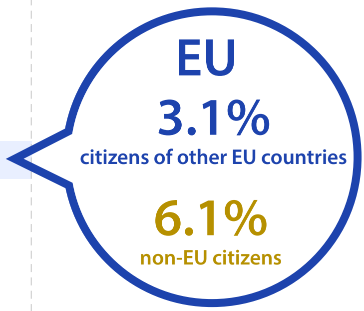
(%, share of total population, 1 January 2023)



Note: ranked on the total share for all foreign citizens, including stateless and unknown. LI: 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

On 1 January 2023, there were 41.3 million foreign citizens living in EU countries. This figure was composed of 13.9 million people who were citizens of EU countries other than the country in which they resided and 27.3 million citizens of non-EU countries. 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).



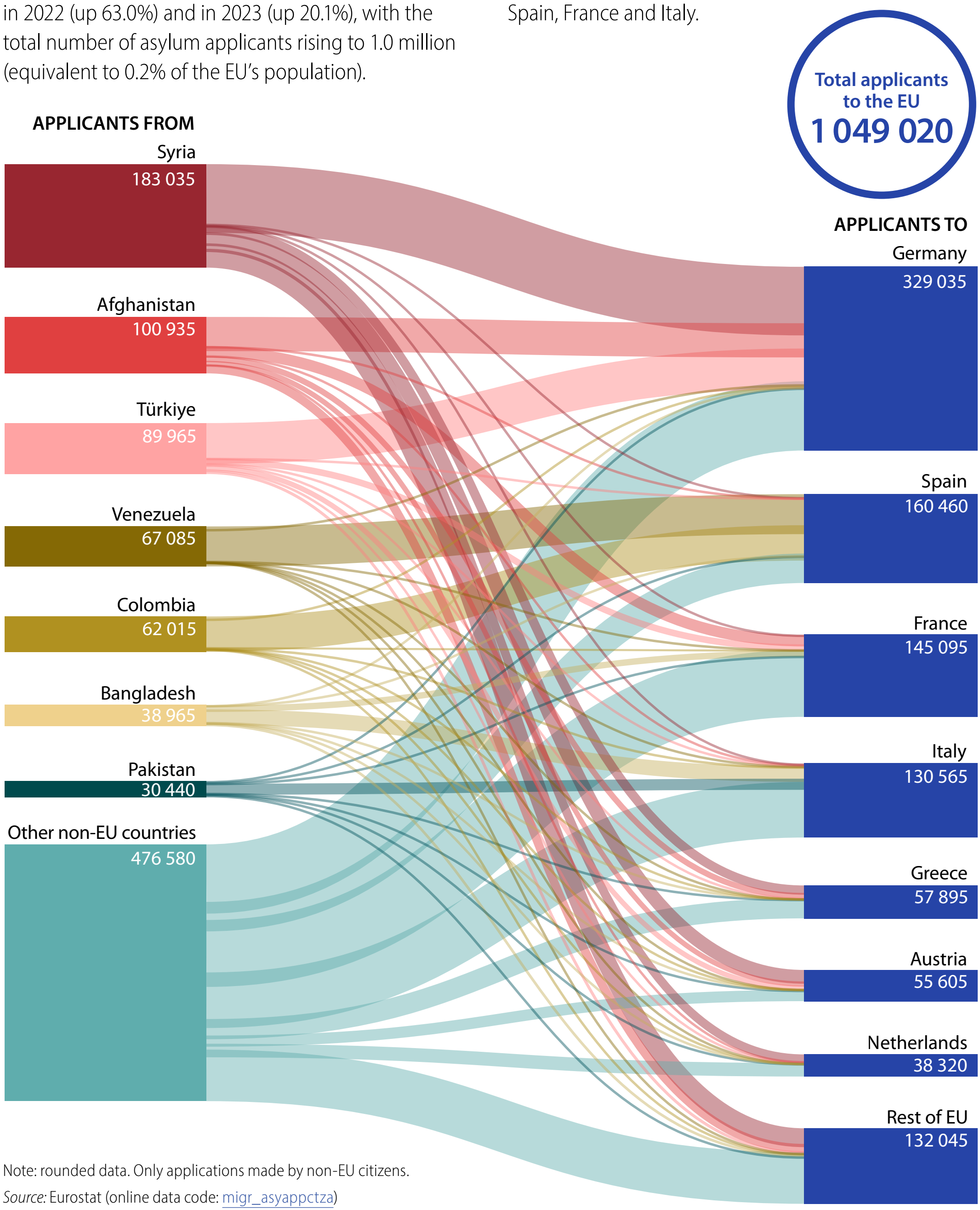
In relative terms, foreign citizens accounted for 9.2% of the total population in the EU, with this share ranging from almost half (47.4%) of the population in Luxembourg to less than 1.5% in Romania, Slovakia, Poland and Bulgaria. A majority of the EU countries reported a higher number of non-EU citizens than foreign citizens of other EU countries within their populations.

First-time asylum applicants

(number of applicants in EU countries, 2023)

Having peaked during the migrant crisis at 1.2 million first-time asylum applicants in each of 2015 and 2016, the number of applications to the EU was just over half a million in 2021. However, there was a rebound in 2022 (up 63.0%) and in 2023 (up 20.1%), with the total number of asylum applicants rising to 1.0 million (equivalent to 0.2% of the EU's population).

In 2023, the highest numbers of asylum applicants in the EU came from Syrian (183 035) and Afghan (100 935) citizens. Among the EU countries, the most common countries for lodging an application included Germany, Spain, France and Italy.

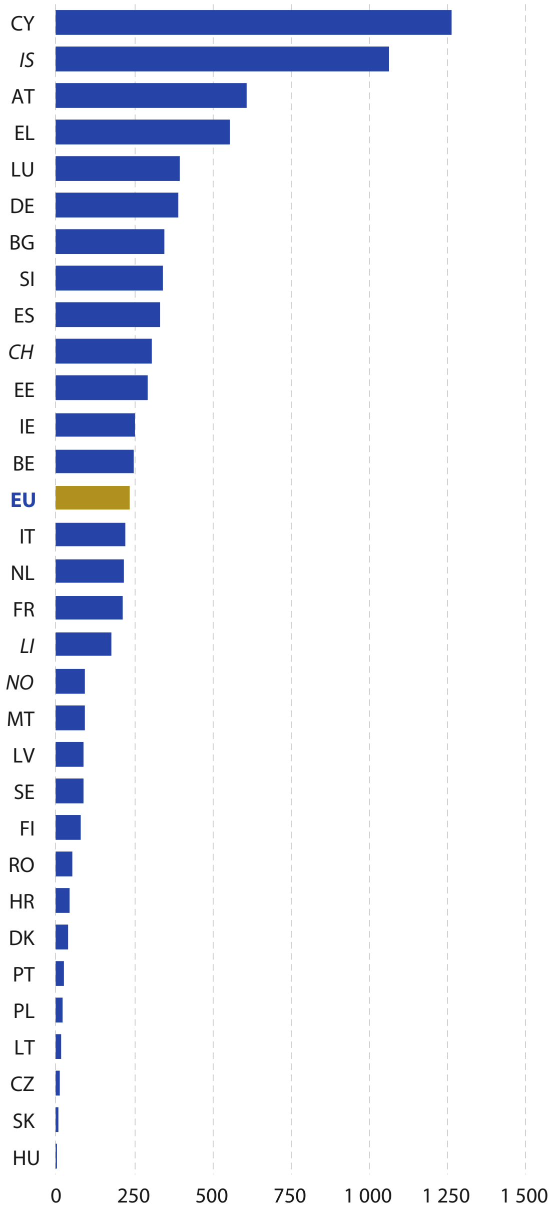


Note: rounded data. Only applications made by non-EU citizens.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

First-time asylum applicants

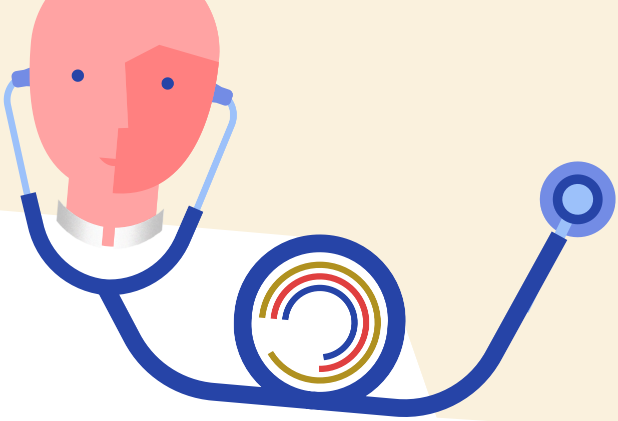
(number per 100 000 inhabitants, 2023)



Note: applications made by non-EU citizens.

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

In 2023, the number of first-time asylum applications lodged in the EU was 234 per 100 000 inhabitants. Among the EU countries, the highest ratio was 1 266 applicants per 100 000 inhabitants in Cyprus. At the other end of the scale, Czechia had 10 applicants per 100 000 inhabitants, Slovakia 7 applicants per 100 000 inhabitants and Hungary 0 applicants per 100 000 inhabitants (calculated from an absolute number of 30 such applicants).



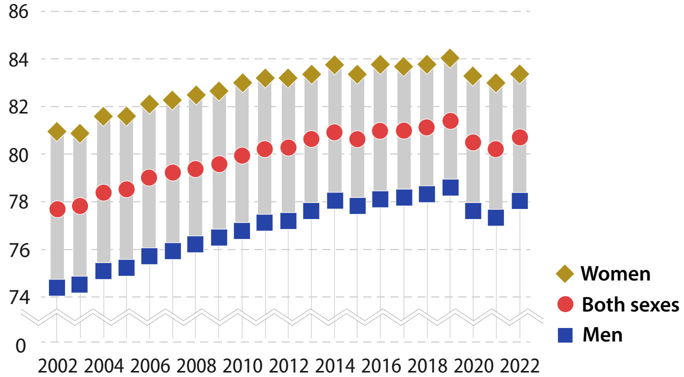
Health

Life expectancy at birth

(years, EU, 2002–22)

Following a fall in life expectancy in both 2020 and 2021, life expectancy in the EU grew again in 2022, recovering to 83.3 years for females and 77.9 years for males. These levels were higher than in 2020, but below those observed in 2019.

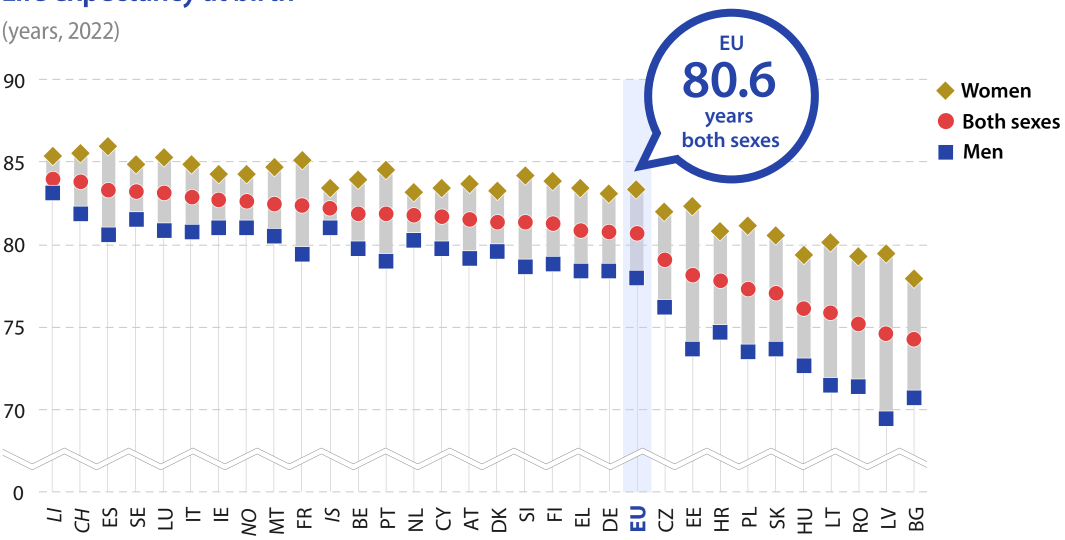
The narrowing gender gap witnessed during the previous 2 decades was reversed somewhat during the COVID-19 crisis. However, in 2022 it narrowed quite sharply to 5.4 years.



Note: the y-axis is cut.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

Life expectancy at birth

(years, 2022)

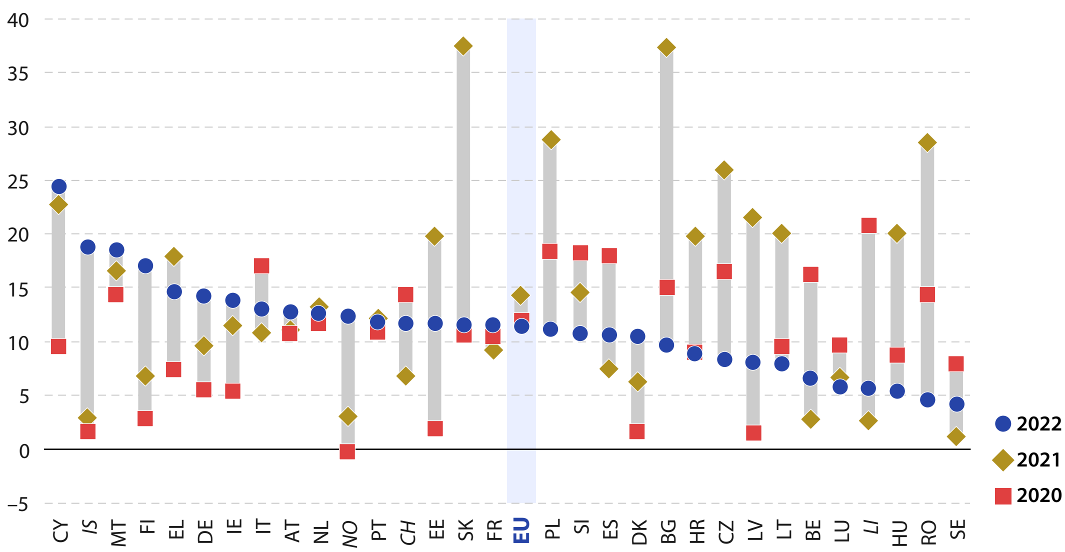


Note: the y-axis is cut.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

Among the EU countries, Spain recorded the highest average life expectancy at birth (for both sexes combined) in 2022 (at 83.2 years), while the lowest was in Bulgaria (74.2 years). New-born females had higher life expectancy than new-born males in every EU country, with particularly large gender gaps in the Baltic countries – Latvia (10.0 years), Lithuania and Estonia (both 8.7 years). The narrowest gaps were in the Netherlands (2.9 years), Ireland (3.3 years) and Sweden (3.4 years).

Excess mortality

(%, compared with average annual baseline deaths, 2020–22)



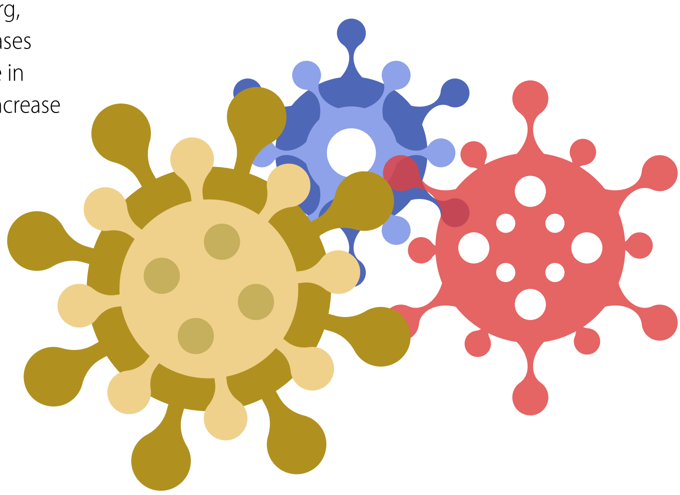
Note: ranked on excess mortality in 2022. The baseline number of deaths is the average annual number of deaths during the period 2016–19.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_magec)

In 2022, there were 5.2 million deaths in the EU. Compared with 2019, the number of deaths in 2022 was 505 000 higher in absolute terms, up 10.9%. In the EU, excess mortality was considerably greater in 2020, 2021 and 2022 than in 2019 and earlier years.

Excess mortality was smaller in 2022 than in 2021 in a majority of EU countries, including all eastern and Baltic EU countries, as well as Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal. The largest decreases in excess mortality between 2021 and 2022 were in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania and the largest increase in Finland.

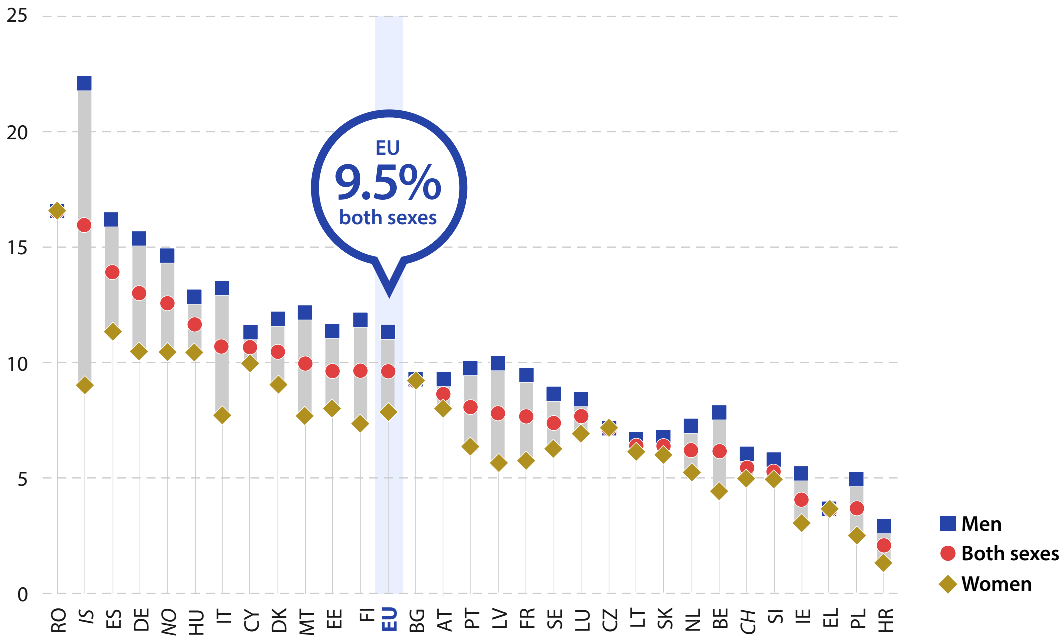
The highest rates of excess mortality in 2022 were in Cyprus (24.3%), Malta (18.4%) and Finland (17.0%). By contrast, there were 10 EU countries where the number of deaths in 2022 was less than 10.0% above the baseline average for the period 2016–19. The lowest excess mortality rates were in Sweden (4.1%) and Romania (4.5%).



Education

Early leavers from education and training

(%, share of people aged 18–24 years, 2023)



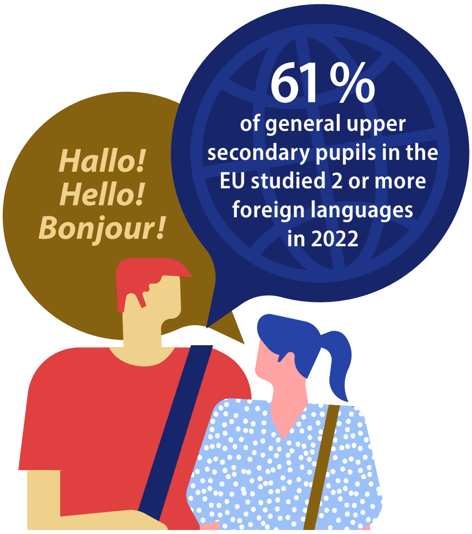
Note: early leavers are defined as people who have attained at most a lower secondary education and who are not involved in further education or training. LU: women, not available.

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 2023, the share of early leavers from education and training in the EU was 9.5%, ranging from 16.6% in Romania to 2.0% in Croatia. The EU has set itself the goal of reducing this level to below 9% by 2030.

In 2023, young men (11.3%) 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 for which data are available (24 out of 26). The only exception with a higher share of early leavers among young women was Romania, while in Czechia the share was the same for both sexes.

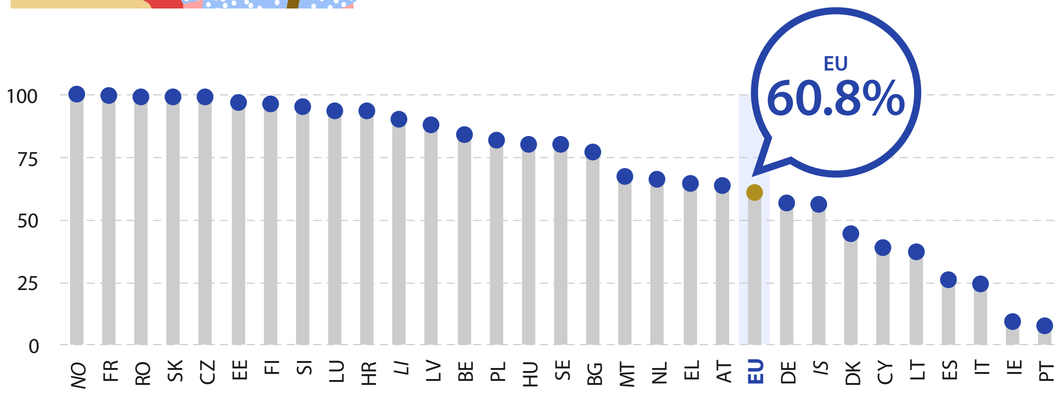
The biggest gender gap was in Italy, where the share of early leavers among young men (13.1%) was 5.5 percentage points higher than that among young women (7.6%). Germany, Spain, Finland, Latvia and Malta also had gender gaps in excess of 4.0 points.



Learning 2 or more foreign languages

(%, share of students in general upper secondary education, 2022)

In 2022, 60.8% 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, Slovakia and Czechia were studying 2 or more foreign languages, compared with fewer than 10.0% in Ireland and Portugal.



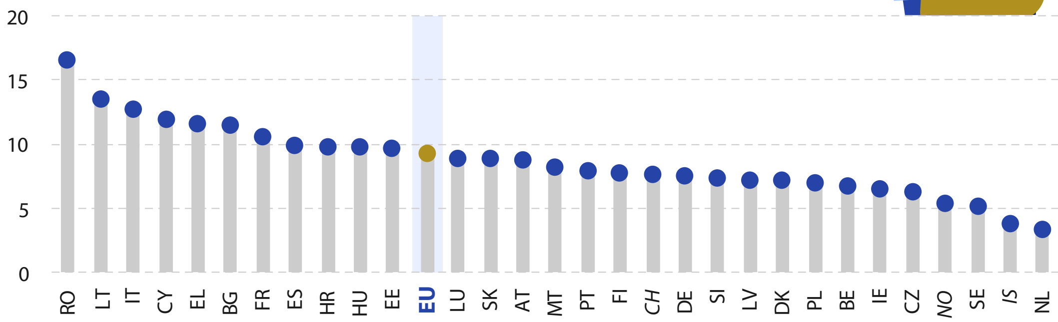
Note: IS, 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: educ_uoe_lang02)

Young people neither in employment nor in education and training

(%, share of people aged 15–24 years, 2023)

The share of young people (aged 15–24 years) neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) concerns people who were not employed and hadn't participated in any form of education or training. In 2023, the NEET rate for young people in the EU stood at 9.2%. The rate in Romania (16.5%) was 5.0 times as high as that observed in the Netherlands (3.3%).

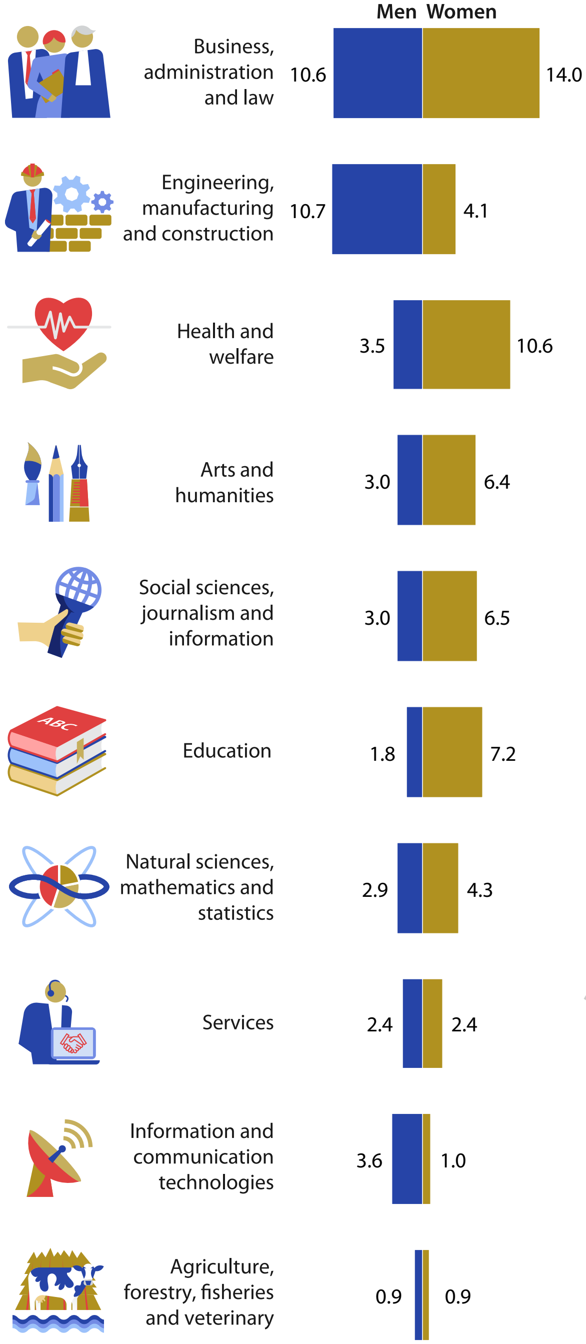


Note: not having been in education or tratining refers to the situation during the 4 weeks prior to being surveyed.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20)

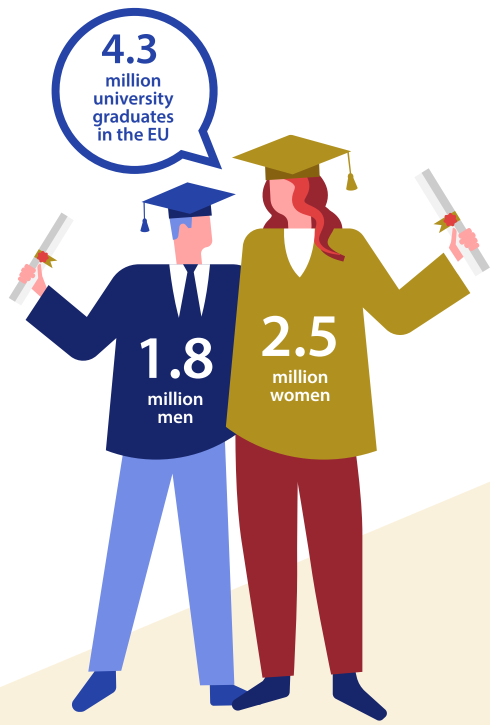
Fields of study for university graduates

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



Note: ranked on the total share of graduates (male and female combined).
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: educ_uoe_grad01 and educ_uoe_grad03)

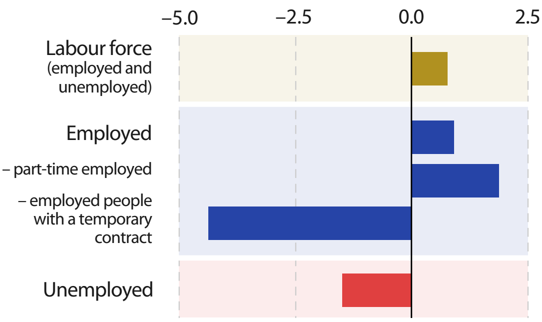
In 2022, there were 4.3 million tertiary education graduates across the EU: female university graduates (2.5 million) outnumbered their male counterparts (1.8 million). This pattern of more female than male graduates was repeated for a majority of fields of study and was particularly apparent among people having studied education, where there were 4.0 times as many female as male graduates. By contrast, there were 3.6 times as many male as female graduates among those having studied information and communication technologies.



Labour market

Annual change in the labour force composition

(%, people aged 20–64 years, EU, 2023)

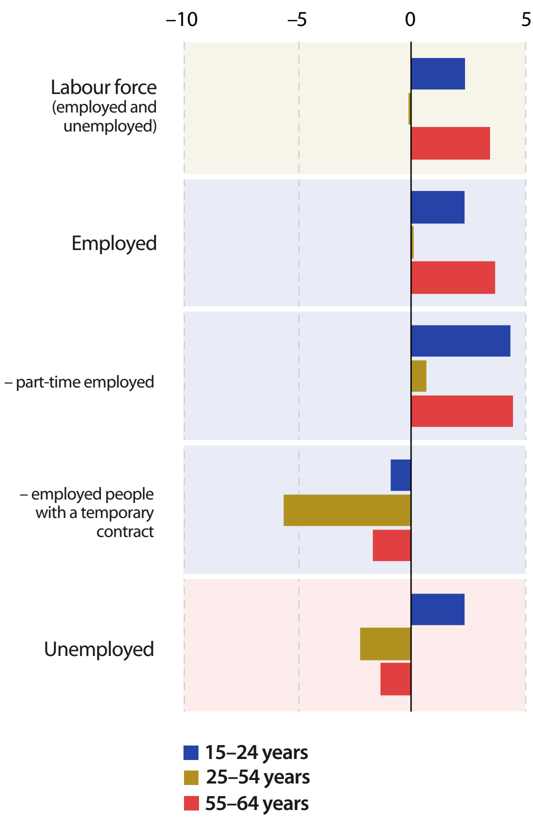


Source: Eurostat (online data codes: lfsi_emp_a, lfsi_pt_a and une_rt_a)

The size of the EU labour force (employed and unemployed people) among people aged 20 to 64 years increased 0.8% between 2022 and 2023. The number of people in employment grew 0.9%, while the number of unemployed people fell 1.5%. Among employed people, there was a stronger increase in the number of part-time workers (up 1.9%) and a fall in the number of employed people with a temporary contract (down 4.4%).

Annual change in the labour force composition, by age group

(%, EU, 2023)



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

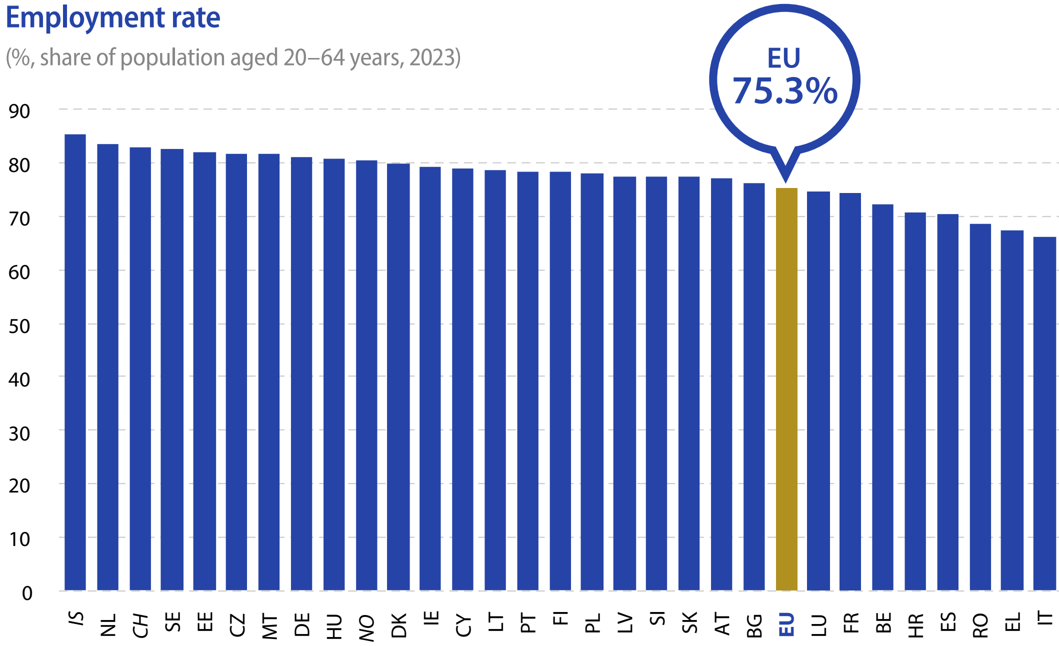
In 2023, a core group of working-age people (aged 25 to 54 years) accounted for almost three quarters (71.5%) of the EU's labour force aged 15 to 64 years.

Young people (aged 15 to 24 years) are much more likely than older people to be in precarious work, such as agency, temporary, seasonal or casual work, or part-time employment. While young people accounted for 8.3% of the total number of employed people in the EU in 2023, their shares of part-time employment (15.6%) and employment with a temporary contract (32.7%) were considerably higher.

Between 2022 and 2023, the size of the EU's labour force and the number of employed people were almost unchanged among people aged 25 to 54 years but increased among younger and older people. Growth in part-time employment was particularly strong for younger and older employed people, while the fall in the number of people employed with a temporary contract was most strongly concentrated among people aged 25 to 54 years. 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 years, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)

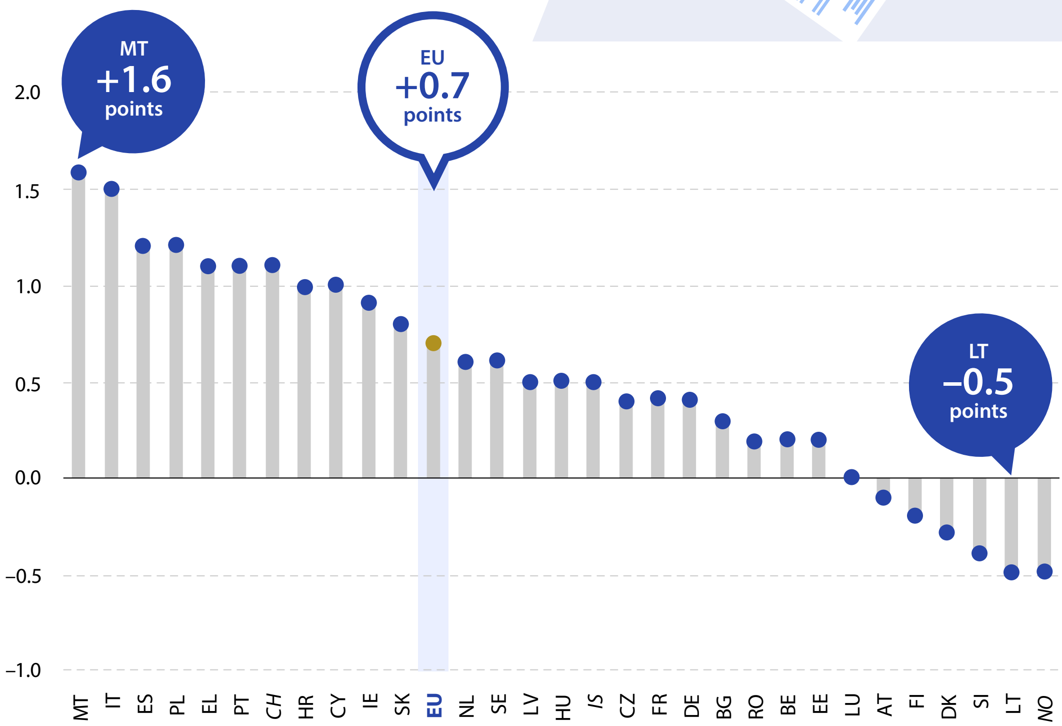
The EU employment rate – which measures the share of the population aged 20 to 64 years who were in work – was 75.3% in 2023. There were 7 EU countries where at least 80.0% of adults aged 20 to 64 years were in employment: the highest rates were in the Netherlands (83.5%), Sweden (82.6%) and Estonia (82.1%). At the other end of the range, fewer than 70.0% of adults aged 20 to 64 years were in employment in Romania (68.7%), Greece (67.4%) and Italy (66.3%).

Annual change in the employment rate

(percentage points based on share of population aged 20–64 years, 2023)

Having fallen between 2019 and 2020 (to 71.5%), the EU's employment rate for people aged 20 to 64 years rebounded over the next three years to reach 75.3% in 2023.

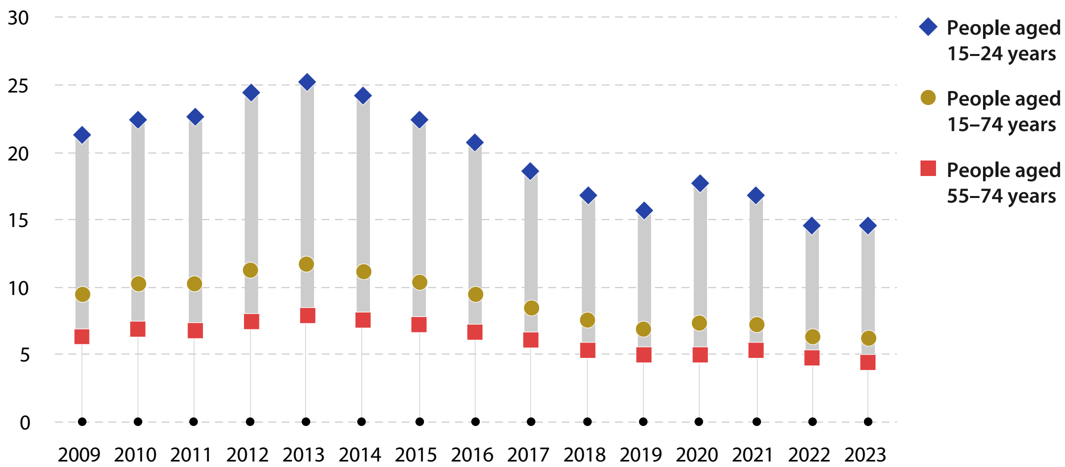
Between 2022 and 2023, the employment rate for people aged 20 to 64 years rose in 21 of the EU countries, was unchanged in 1 and fell in the remaining 5. The largest annual increases were in Malta (up 1.6 percentage points) and Italy (1.5 points), while Lithuania (down 0.5 points) had the largest decrease.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)

Unemployment rate

(%, share of labour force, EU, 2009–23)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

In 2009, the unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 74 years in the EU was 9.3%. In the wake of the global financial and economic crisis, the unemployment rate rose sharply, peaking at 11.6% in 2013. During the following 6 years, the unemployment rate fell each year, declining to 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 then more moderately in 2023, to reach 6.1%.

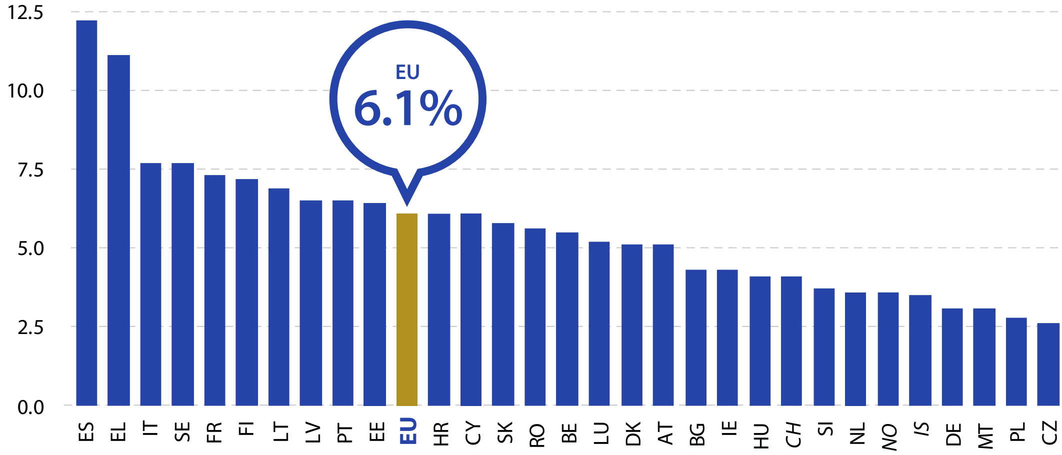
The EU youth unemployment rate (for people aged 1 5 to 24 years) was 14.5% in 2023, 2.4 times as high as the rate for the whole population (aged 15 to 74 years) and 3.4 times as high as the rate for older people (aged 55 to 74 years), which was 4.3%.

Unemployment rate

(%, share of labour force aged 15–74 years, 2023)

In 2023, the highest unemployment rates among the EU countries for people aged 15 to 74 years were in Spain (12.2%) and Greece (11.1%); all of the other countries recorded rates below 8.0%.

Germany, Malta and Poland had relatively low unemployment rates, close to 3.0%, while the lowest rate was in Czechia (2.6%).



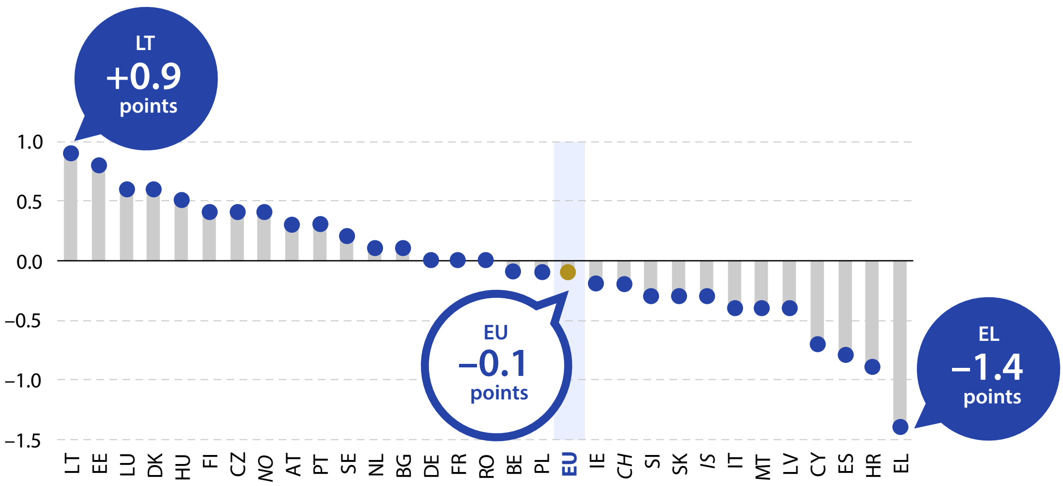
Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

Annual change in the unemployment rate

(percentage points based on share of labour force aged 15–74 years, 2023)

Compared with 2022, the EU's unemployment rate for people aged 15 to 74 years was 0.1 percentage points lower in 2023. This rate rose in 12 EU countries, was unchanged in 3 and fell in the remaining 12.

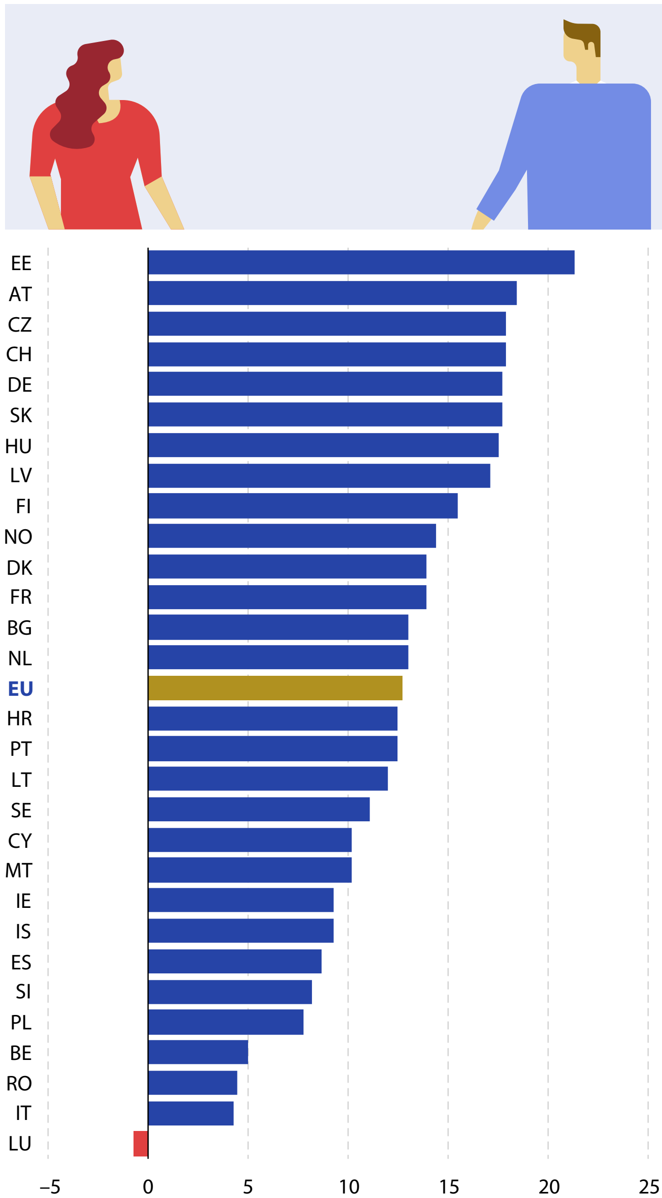
The largest increases were in Lithuania (up 0.9 points) and Estonia (up 0.8 points) and the largest decrease was in Greece (down 1.4 points).



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

Unadjusted gender pay gap

(%, difference between earnings of female and male employees as a percentage of earnings of male employees, based on average gross hourly earnings, 2022)



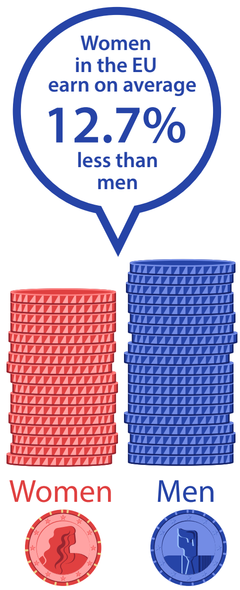
Earnings of women higher than of men
Earnings of women lower than of men

Note: EL, not available.

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.

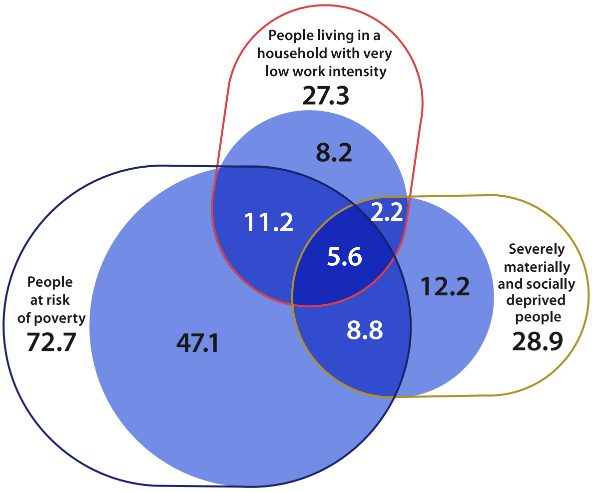
In 2022, average hourly earnings for women across the EU were 12.7% lower than those for men. The widest gender pay gap was in Estonia, where women's earnings were 21.3% lower than those of men. By contrast, the gap was 5.0% or less in Belgium (5.0%), Romania (4.5%) and Italy (4.3%). The only country where women earned more than men was Luxembourg, where the average earnings of women were marginally higher (by 0.7%).



Living conditions

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(million people, EU, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_pees01n)

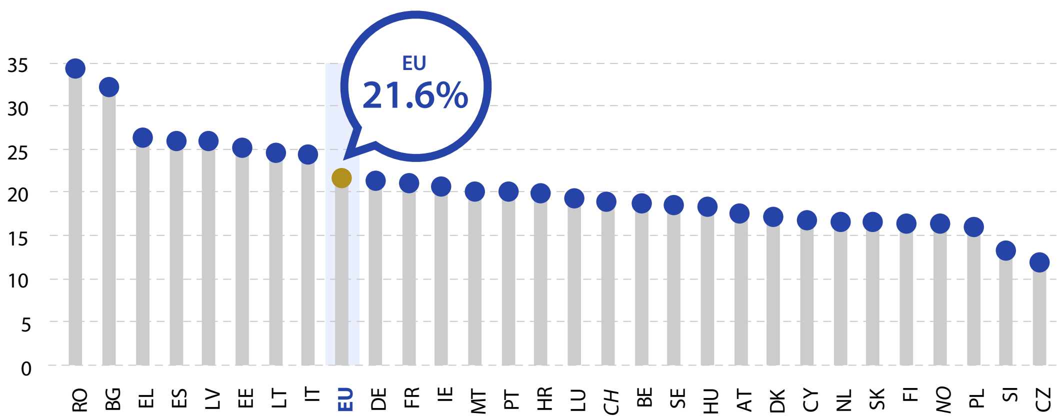
In 2022, 95.3 million people (21.6% of the EU population) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least 1 of the following 3 situations: at risk of poverty after social transfers; facing severe material and social deprivation; or living in a household with very low work intensity.

The greatest risk of poverty or social exclusion was from income poverty, in other words, people who were at risk of poverty after social transfers: 72.7 million people were in this situation in 2022. Among these 72.7 million people, 25.7 million were also in 1 or both of the other 2 conditions. There were 256 000 fewer people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022 than in 2021.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(%, share of total population, 2022)

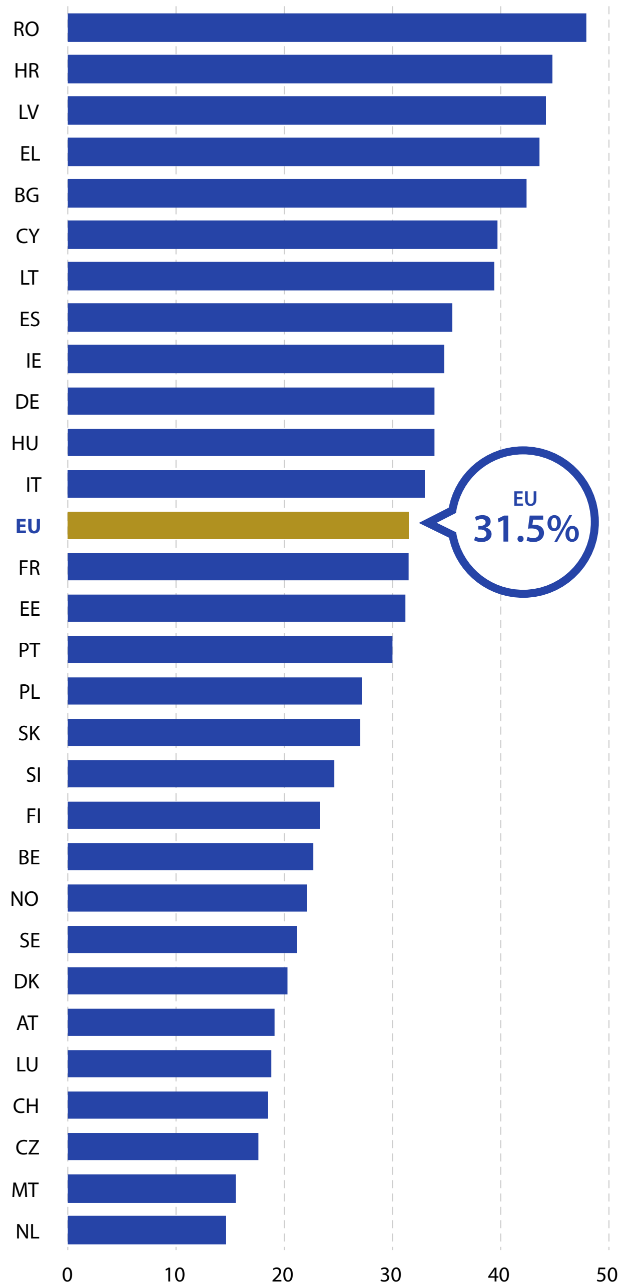
Among the EU countries, the share of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022 was highest in Romania (34.4%) and Bulgaria (32.2%). Equally, at least 1 in 4 (more than 25.0%) of the population in Greece, Spain, Latvia and Estonia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. At the other end of the range, fewer than 14.0% of people in Slovenia and Czechia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.



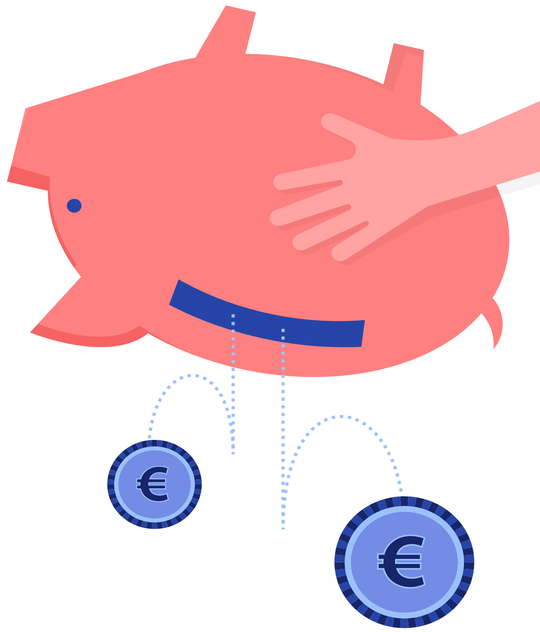
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_peps01n)

Inability to face unexpected financial expenses

(%, share of total population, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes04)



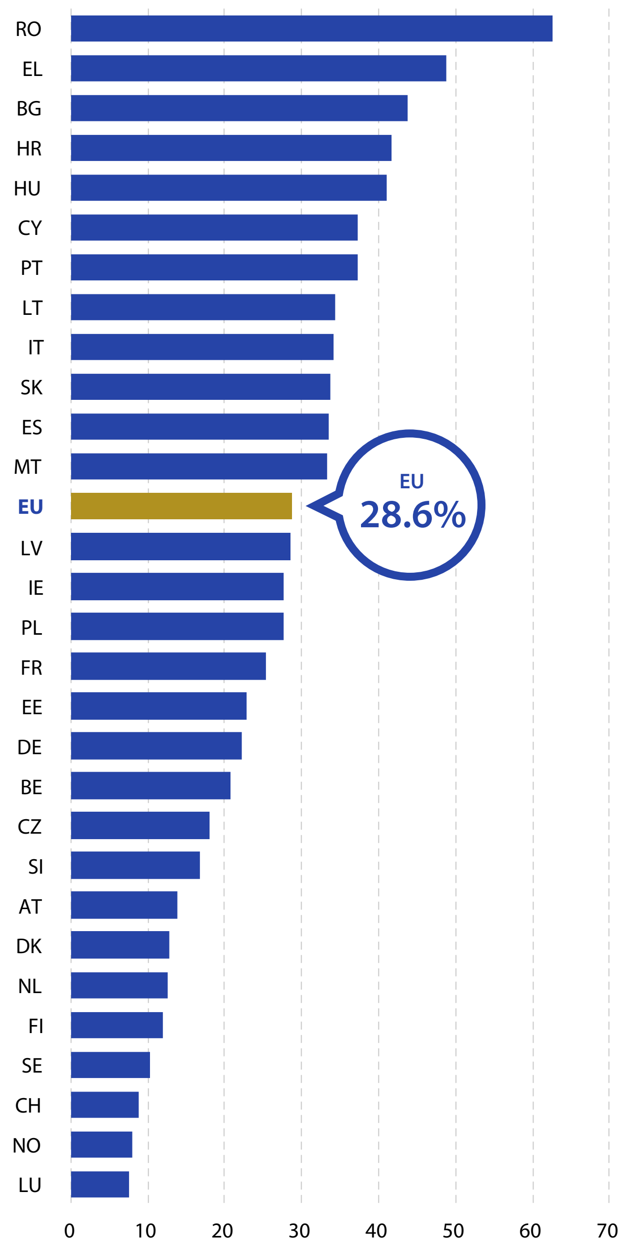
Material deprivation refers to the enforced inability (rather than the choice not to do so) to pay for specific expenses; an example is unexpected financial expenses. In 2022, almost a third (31.5%) of the EU population living in private households were unable to face an unexpected financial expense.

This share was 1.3 percentage points higher than in 2021 (which may, at least in part, be linked to the beginning of the cost-of-living crisis).

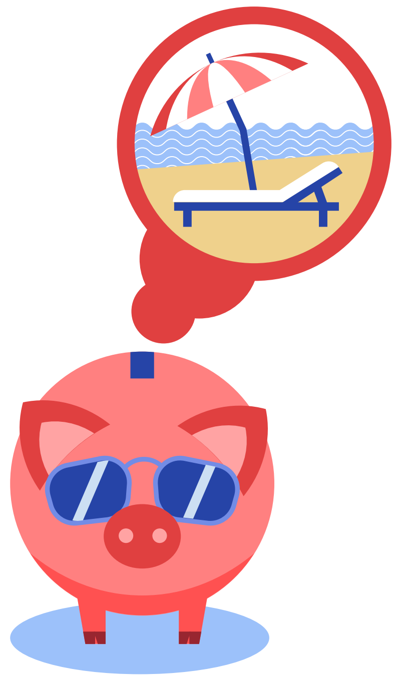
More than 40.0% of the population were unable to face an unexpected financial expense in 2022 in 5 of the EU countries, with the highest share in Romania (47.9%). By contrast, relatively small share of the population in the Netherlands and Malta were unable to face such expenses (14.6% and 15.4%, respectively).

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

(%, share of total population, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes02)



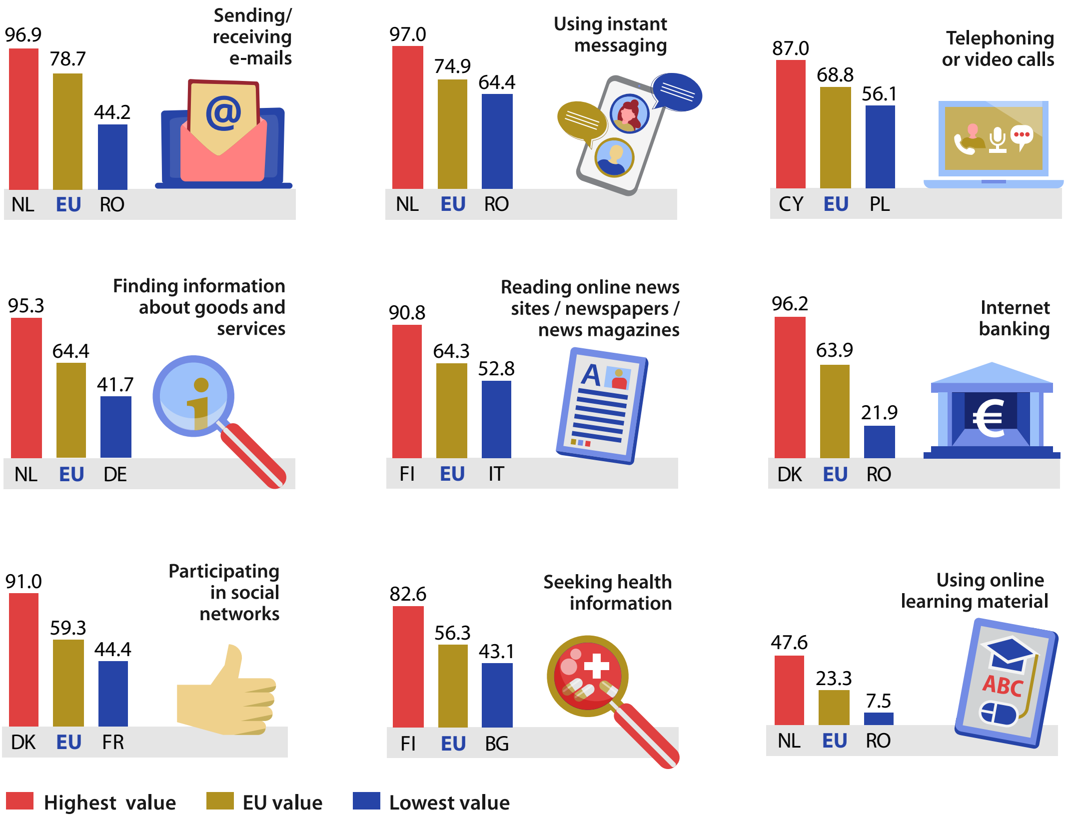
Another measure of material deprivation is the inability to afford a week's annual holiday away from home. In 2022, 28.6% of the EU population were unable to afford this. Not being able to afford a week's holiday indicates the financial inability to afford a holiday, rather than other reasons why someone might not go away on holiday (for example, because they didn't feel like taking a holiday away from home).

Some of the highest shares of people who couldn't afford a week's annual holiday away from home – between two fifths and half of the population – were in Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Greece; there was a peak of 62.5% in Romania. By contrast, the share of the population unable to afford a week's annual holiday away from home was 10.2% in Sweden and even lower in Luxembourg, at 7.6%.

Digital society

Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

The internet has become an integral part of most people's lives, changing the way people study, work, communicate and enjoy their free time. In 2023, 91.4% of people (aged 16 to 74 years) 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 2023 by people aged 16 to 74 years included: sending/receiving e-mails (78.7%), using instant messaging (74.9%), telephoning or making video calls (68.8%) and finding information about goods and services (64.4%).

A majority of people also used the internet for reading online news sites / newspapers / magazines (64.3%), internet banking (63.9%), participating in social networks (59.3%) and seeking health information (56.3%).

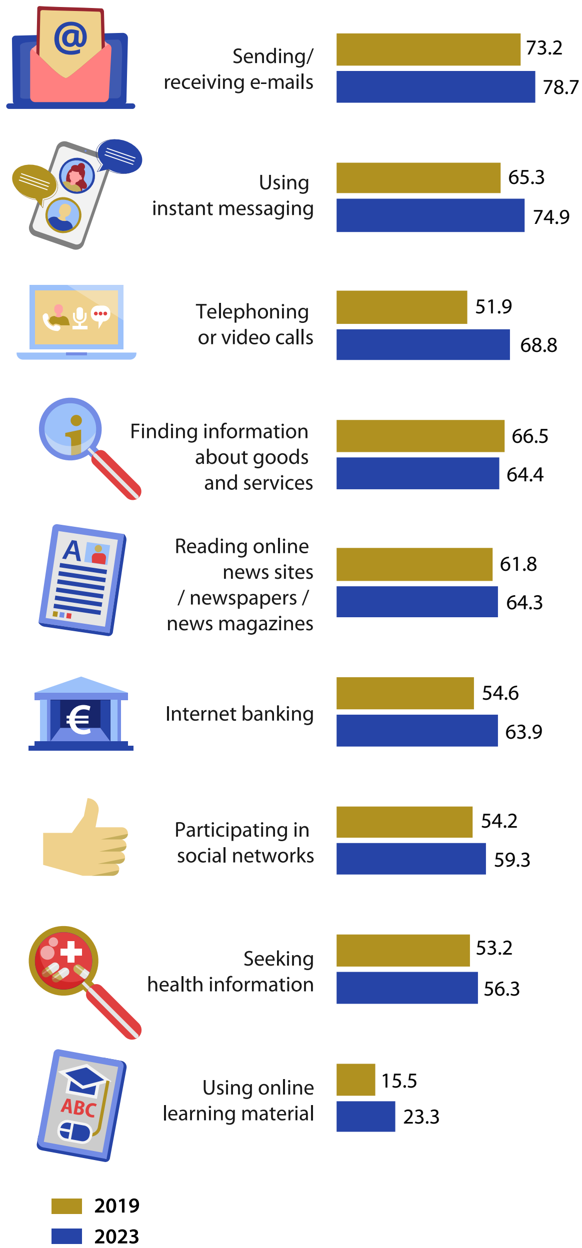
Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, EU, 2019 and 2023)

The share of people aged 16 to 74 years 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 2023 show that a gradual upward trend continued in recent years. The clearest example of this is the share of people making video calls, which rose 16.9 percentage points between 2019 and 2023. There were relatively large increases in the share of the EU population using instant messaging and internet banking, up 9.7 and 9.3 points, respectively. The share of the EU population using online learning material also increased, up 7.9 points; note that these statistics don't cover a large part of the school-age population (pupils aged less than 16 years).

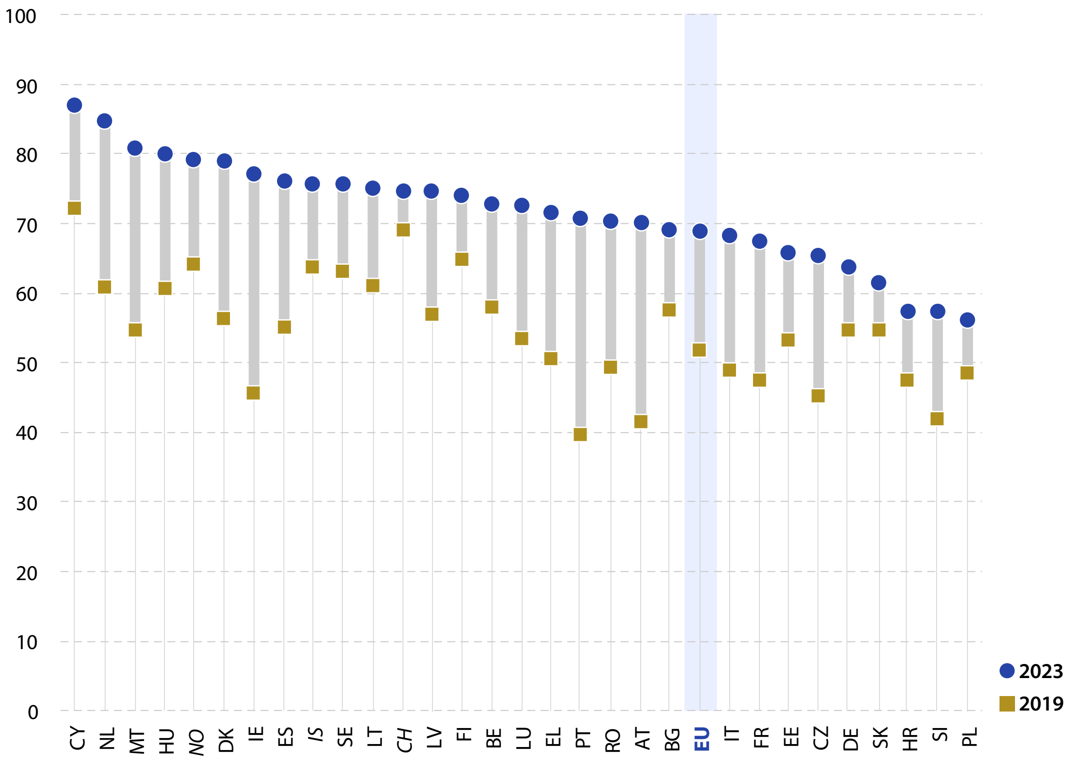
Among the 9 relatively common internet activities presented here, only using the internet to find information about goods and services recorded a lower share within the EU population aged 16 to 74 years in 2023 than in 2019, down 2.0 points.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

Using the internet for telephoning or video calls

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2019 and 2023)



Note: IS, 2021 instead of 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

The share of people aged 16 to 74 years in the EU using the internet to make telephone or video calls increased 16.9 percentage points between 2019 and 2023. 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 31.5 points), Portugal (up 31.1 points) and Austria (up 28.8 points).

Among the EU countries, the highest share of people using the internet to make telephone or video calls in 2023 was 87.0% in Cyprus, followed by 84.7% in the Netherlands. The lowest shares were 56.1% in Poland and 57.3% in Croatia and Slovenia.

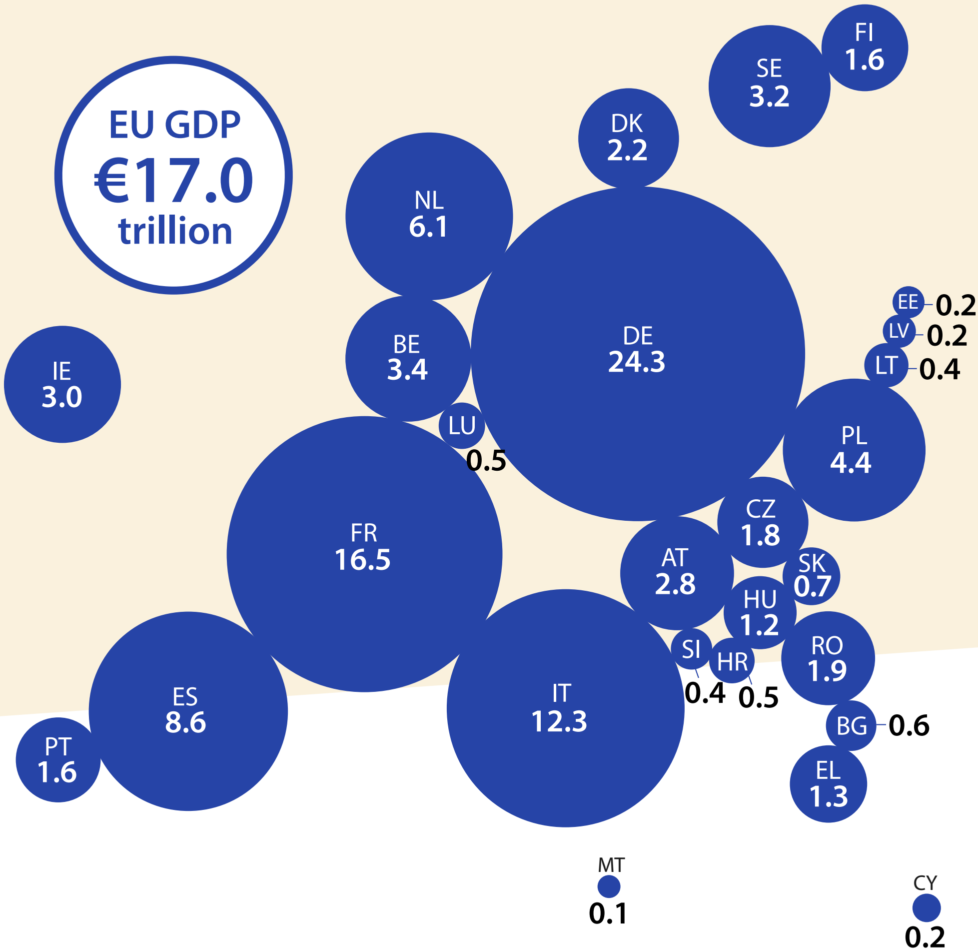
2

Economy and business

Economy and finance

GDP

(%, share of EU total, 2023)

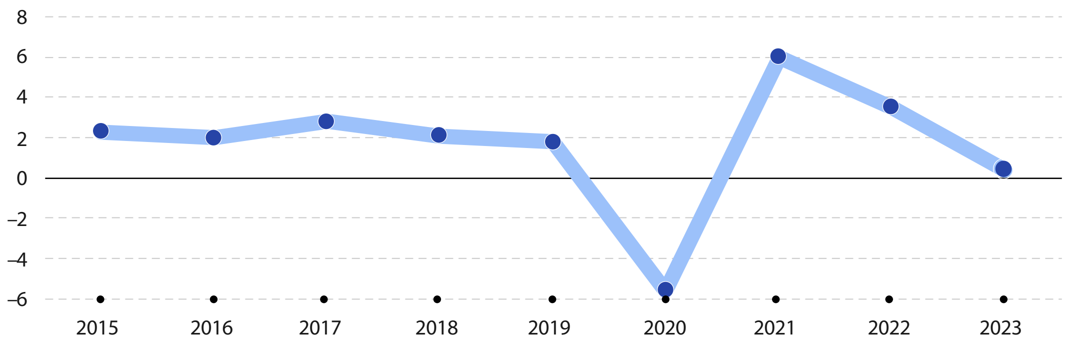


Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_gdp)

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 €17.0 trillion in 2023. Germany had the largest economy among the EU countries (€4.1 trillion, or 24.3% of the EU total), followed by France (16.5%) and Italy (12.3%). At the other end of the range, Malta (0.1%) had the smallest economy in the EU.

Real change in GDP

(%, annual change, based on chain-linked volumes, EU, 2015–23)

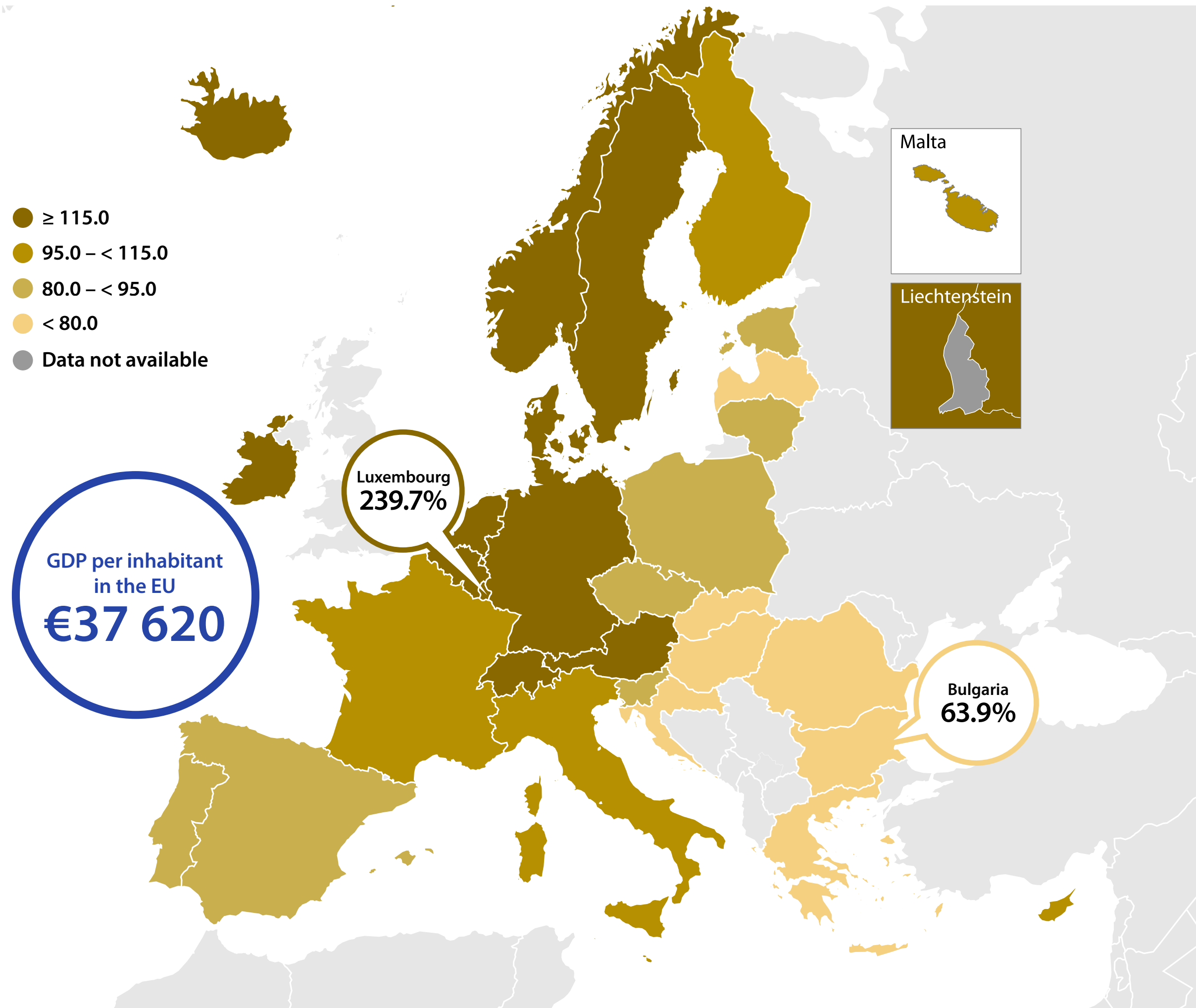


Source: Eurostat (online data code: naida_10_gdp)

The real change in GDP shows the rate of change in economic output having removed the effects of price changes (inflation or deflation). The EU recorded annual growth rates in the range of 1.8% to 2.8% between 2015 and 2019. In 2020, the economy was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, and GDP fell 5.6%. GDP subsequently rebounded, rising 6.0% in 2021 and 3.5% in 2022. Growth in 2023 was more modest, at 0.4%.

GDP per inhabitant

(EU = 100, based on PPS, 2023)



Note: HR, IS and NO, 2022. CH: 2020.

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 €35 450 in 2022 to €37 620 in 2023.

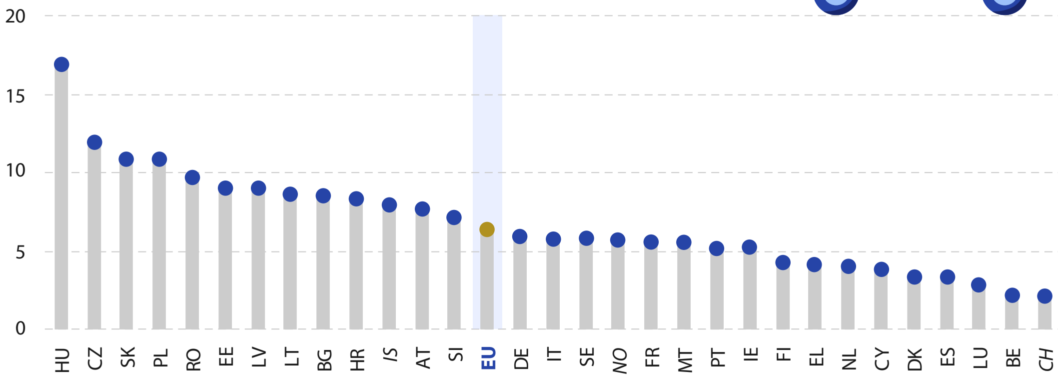
As the cost of living varies from place to place, this value has been adjusted to reflect price level differences using an artificial currency unit called a purchasing power standard (PPS). Based on this measure, the relative living standards of individual EU countries can be expressed in relation to the EU average (set to equal 100).

In 2023, the highest value was in Luxembourg, where GDP per inhabitant in PPS was 239.7% of the EU average, in other words, 2.4 times as high. By contrast, GDP per inhabitant in Bulgaria was close to two thirds (63.9%) of the EU average.

Prices

Inflation rate

(%, annual change, 2023)

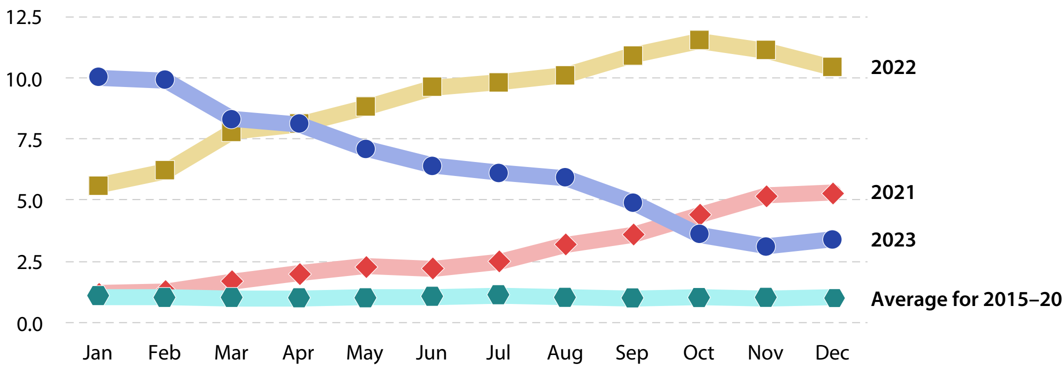


Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

The inflation rate shows the change in the price of a basket of consumer goods and services. Prices in the EU increased 0.7% in 2020 and inflation accelerated to 2.9% in 2021 and 9.2% in 2022. In 2023, prices continued to rise, but at a slower rate, increasing by 6.4%. In 2023, there were price increases in excess of 10.0% in 4 EU countries: Hungary (17.0%), Czechia (12.0%), Slovakia (11.0%) and Poland (10.9%).

Inflation rate

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

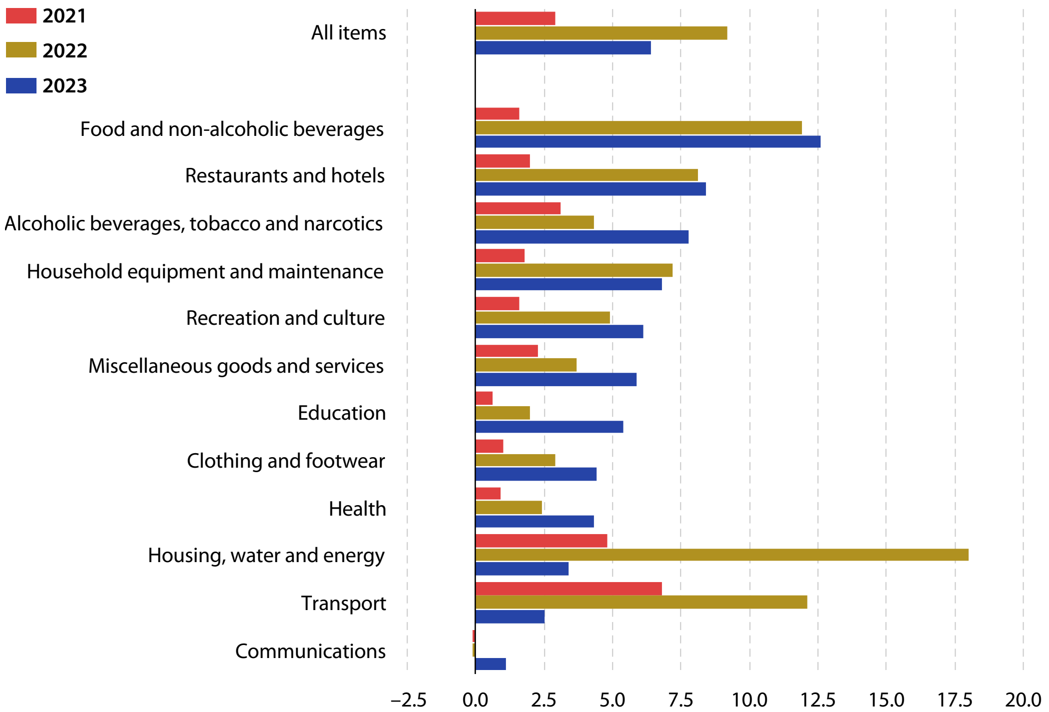


Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_manr)

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, as price rises continued to increase up until a peak in October (when the inflation rate was 11.5%). There was slower price growth during the final 2 months of 2022 and most of 2023, with the rate falling to 3.1% by November 2023. There was a slight increase in December 2023, as the inflation rate rose to 3.4%.

Consumer prices

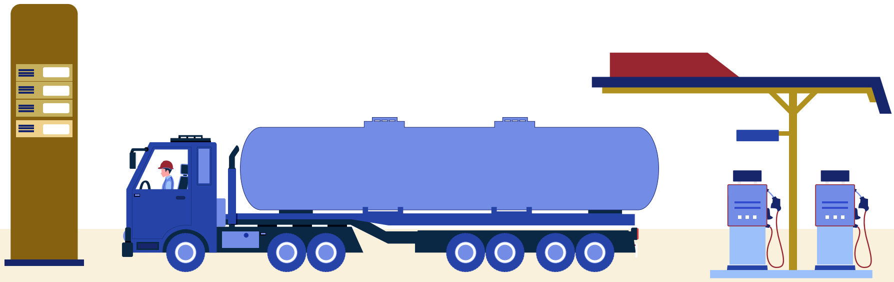
(%, annual rate of change, EU, 2021–23)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

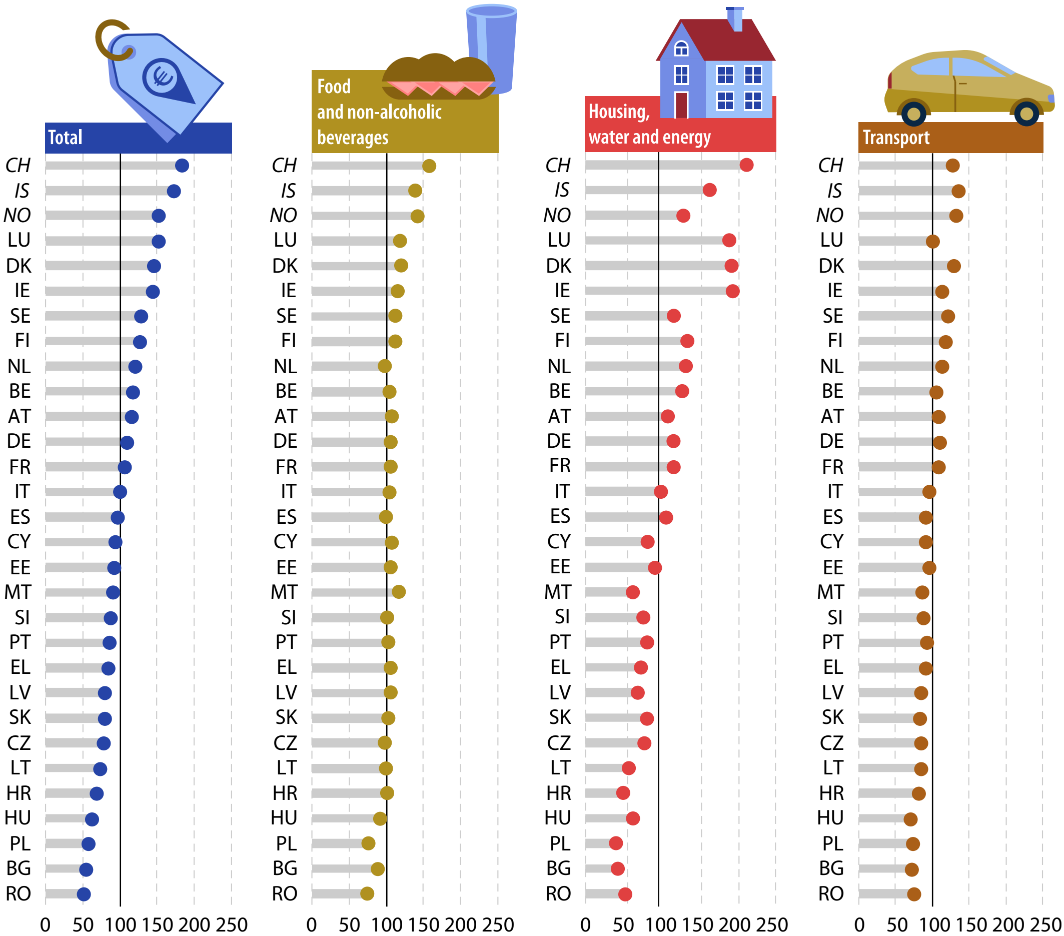
In 2023, the EU's overall inflation rate (covering all items) was 6.4%. When analysed across 12 broad categories, the highest inflation rate in 2023 was recorded for food and non-alcoholic beverages, at 12.6%. The lowest inflation rates were for communications (up 1.1%) and transport (up 2.5%).

The sharp increase in overall prices experienced during 2022 and subsequent slowdown in inflation in 2023 wasn't uniform; there were marked differences between the different components that make up the all-items index. Housing, water and energy, as well as transport had the highest price increases across the EU in 2022 but then had below average inflation in 2023. By contrast, health, education, and clothing and footwear had relatively low inflation rates in 2022 (in the range of 2.0% to 2.9%), but all had higher rates in 2023 (in the range of 4.3% to 5.4%). Food and non-alcoholic beverages stood out as the only component with an above average level of inflation in 2022 and in 2023.



Comparative price levels

(EU = 100, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind)

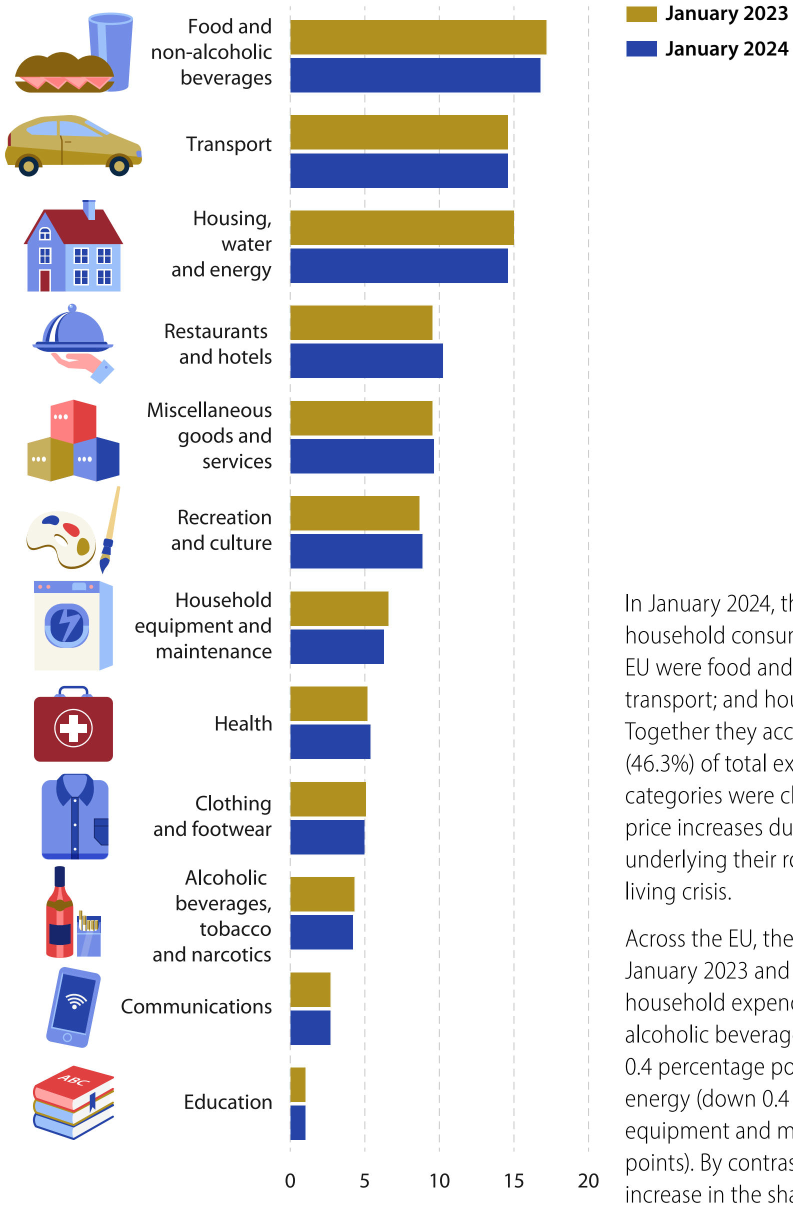
Price level indices measure price differences between countries; these are expressed as a percentage of prices for the EU average, which is set equal to 100. In 2022, the overall price level index was highest among the EU countries in Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland, all with values at least 45% above 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 Denmark and Luxembourg both (21% above the EU average) and the lowest in Romania (28% below). A similar pattern existed for transport, with the highest prices in Denmark (29% above the EU average) and the lowest in Hungary (30% below). By contrast, the price of housing, water and energy displayed a greater variation, from 95% above the EU average in Ireland and 94% above in Denmark down to 62% below the average in Bulgaria and 61% below in Poland.

Household consumption expenditure

Household budget structure

(%, share of total household consumption expenditure, EU, January 2023 and 2024)



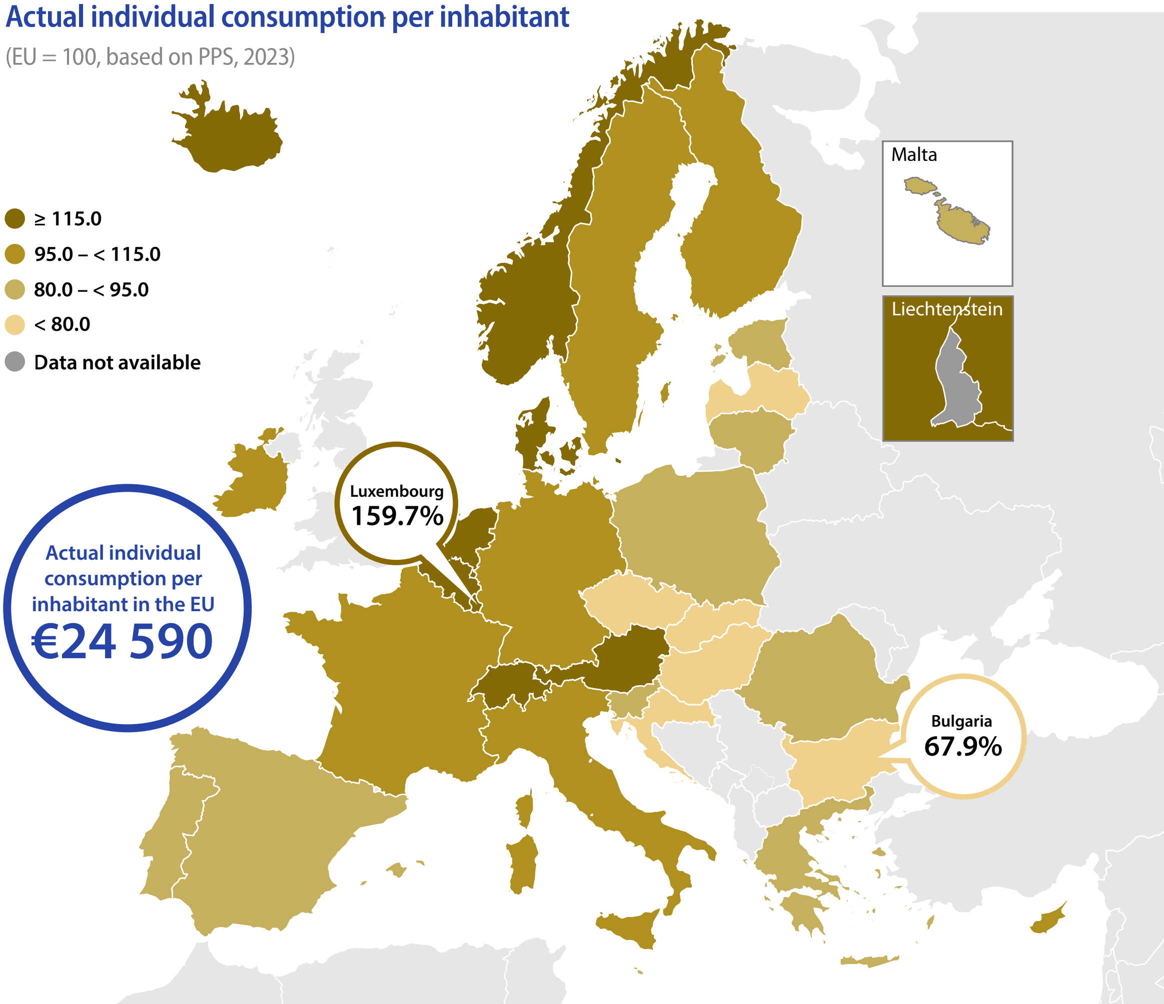
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_inw)

In January 2024, the largest categories of household consumption expenditure in the EU were food and non-alcoholic beverages; transport; and housing, water and energy. Together they accounted for close to half (46.3%) of total expenditure. All 3 of these categories were characterised by high price increases during the last 2 to 3 years, underlying their role in relation to the cost-of-living crisis.

Across the EU, there were decreases between January 2023 and January 2024 in the share of household expenditure on food and non-alcoholic beverages (down 0.4 percentage points), housing, water and energy (down 0.4 points), and household equipment and maintenance (down 0.3 points). By contrast, there was a notable increase in the share of expenditure on restaurants and hotels (up 0.7 points).

Actual individual consumption per inhabitant

(EU = 100, based on PPS, 2023)



Note: HR, IS and NO: 2022. CH: 2020.

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 €23 230 in 2022 to €24 590 in 2023.

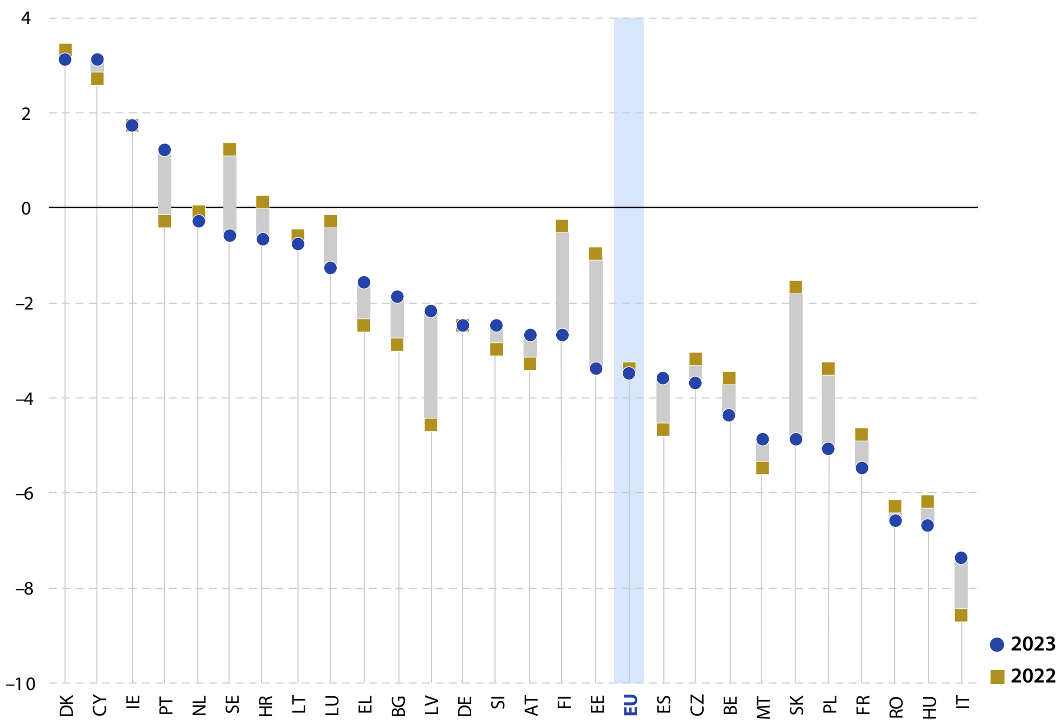
The information presented in the map is based on data in PPS and presented as an index in relation to the EU average (set equal to 100). Differences between GDP and individual consumption may be the result of different factors. For example, cross-border workers contribute to the GDP in the country where they work but their consumption is recorded in their home country. Foreign-owned enterprises contribute to the GDP where they operate but may transfer income to their foreign owners.

In 2023, the highest value among the EU countries was in Luxembourg, at 159.7%, indicating that actual individual consumption in PPS was 59.7% above the EU average. By contrast, actual individual consumption per inhabitant was close to a third below the EU average in Bulgaria (67.9%) and Hungary (68.0%).

Government finance

General government deficit/surplus

(%, relative to GDP, 2022 and 2023)



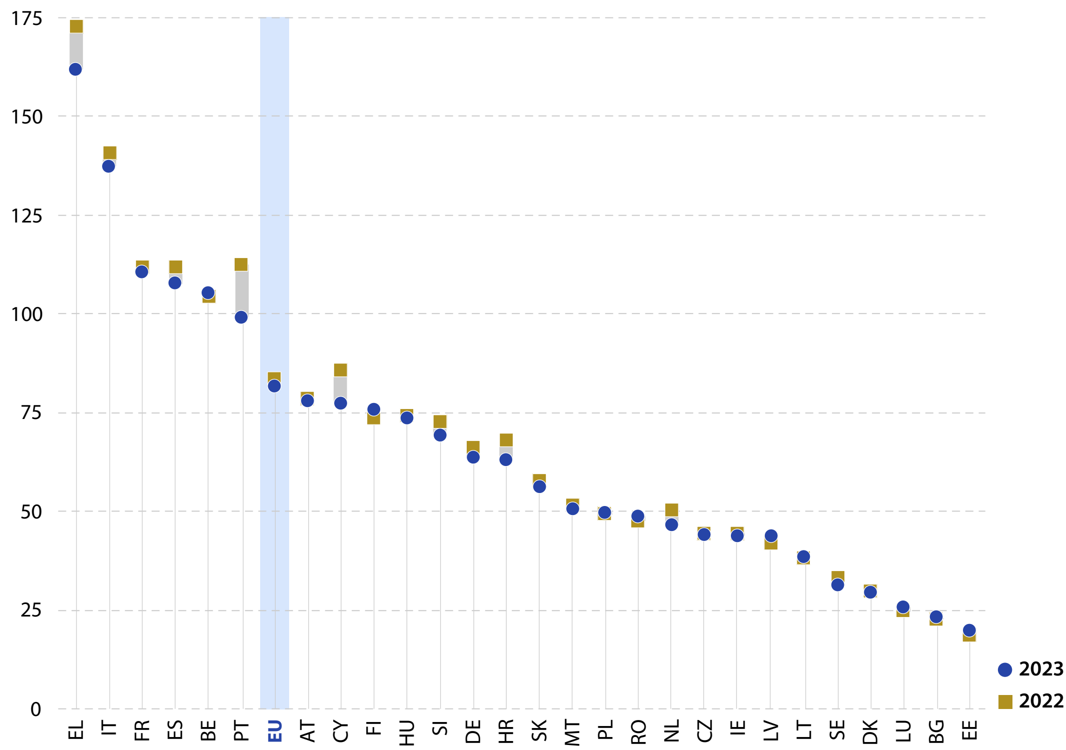
Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

In 2023, the general government deficit across the EU stabilised, having narrowed in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, the deficit was equivalent to 3.5% of GDP, up from 3.4% in 2022.

There was a budget surplus in 2023 in 4 of the EU countries; the highest were in Denmark and Cyprus (both 3.1% of GDP) and were followed by Ireland (1.7%) and Portugal (1.2%). The largest deficits were in Italy (7.4% of GDP), Hungary (6.7%) and Romania (6.6%), while France, Poland, Slovakia, Malta, Belgium, Czechia, Spain and Estonia also recorded deficits of more than 3.0% of GDP.

General government gross debt

(%, relative to GDP, 2022 and 2023)

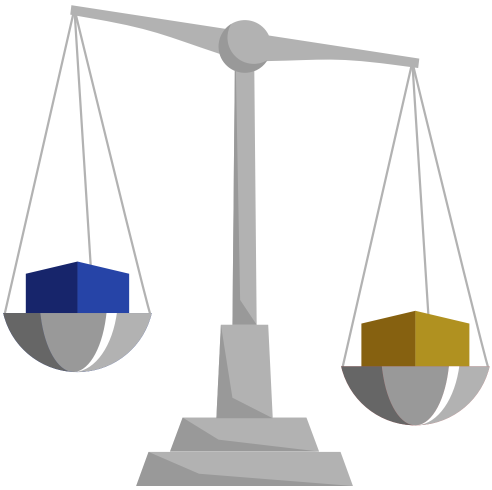


Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

Consolidated gross debt in the EU was 81.7% of GDP in 2023, down 1.7 percentage points from 2022 and down 8.3% from its peak of 90.0% in 2020 (reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in that year). In 2023, consolidated debt was highest in Greece at 161.9% of GDP. Italy, France, Spain, Belgium and Portugal were the only other EU countries to record a ratio that was above the EU average, while 7 more EU countries recorded a ratio above 60.0%. At the other end of the range, the lowest ratio was in Estonia (19.6%).

In a majority of EU countries, there was a fall in debt relative to GDP between 2022 and 2023. The biggest decreases were in Portugal (down 13.3 points), Greece (down 10.8 points) and Cyprus (down 8.3 points). There were 9 countries where debt as a share of GDP rose in 2023, with the largest increases in Finland (up 2.3 points) and Latvia (up 1.8 points).

International trade

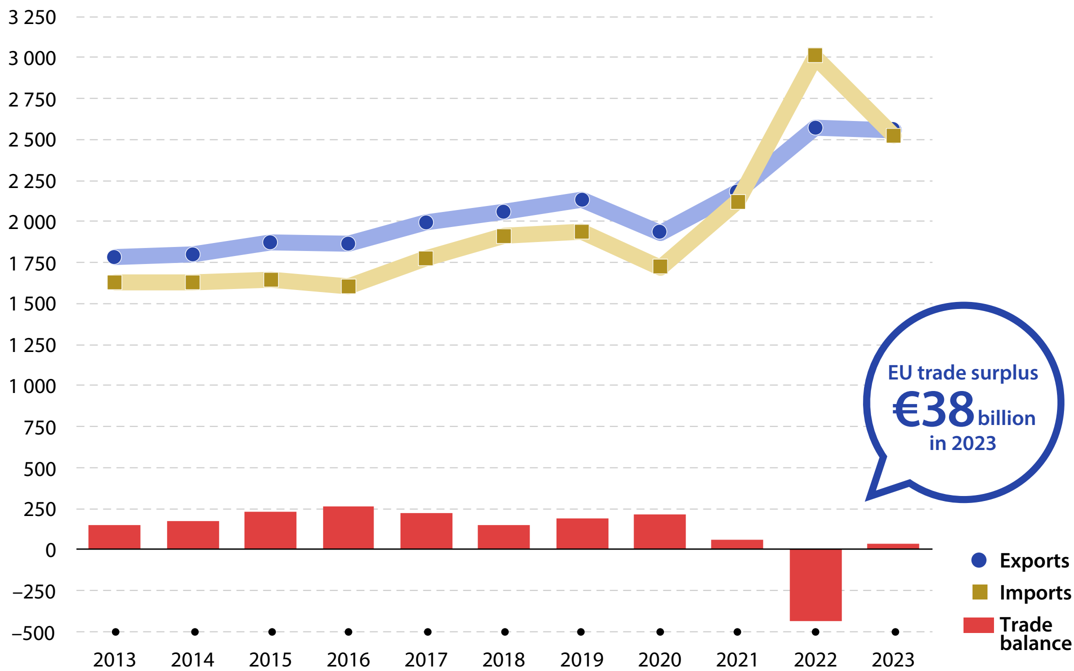


International trade in goods with non-EU countries

(€ billion, EU, 2013–23)

Having posted a trade surplus for goods during 10 consecutive years up to 2021, the EU recorded a deficit in 2022. This was reversed in 2023 as goods exported from the EU to non-EU countries were valued at €2 557 billion in 2023, €38 billion higher than the value of goods imported into the EU.

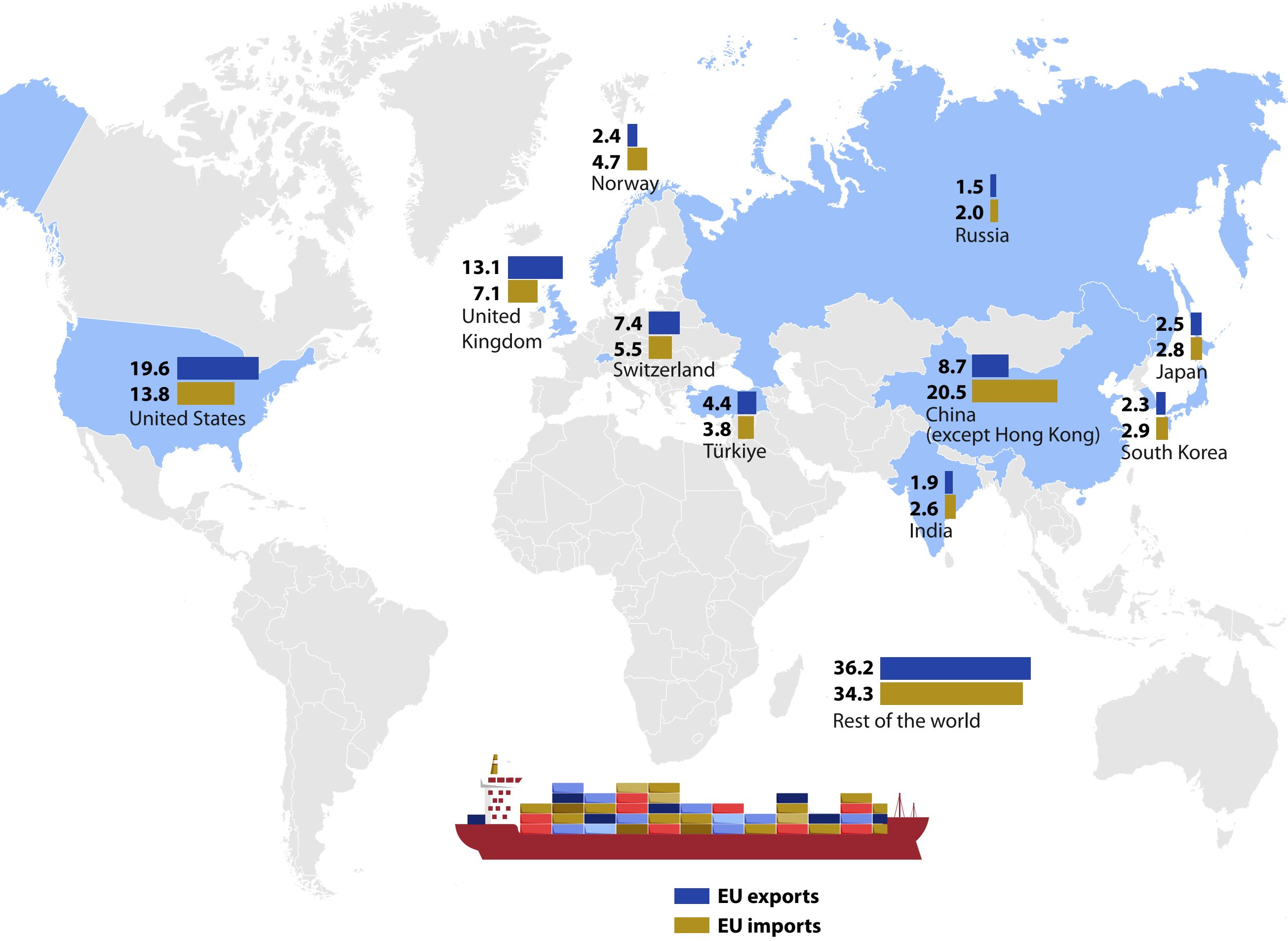
In 2023, the EU's exports were 0.5% lower than the previous year, while imports decreased 16.2%. Note that the data in this section are valued in current price terms and that part of the rapid decrease in the value of imports may be attributed to falling prices, in particular for energy products.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_intratrd)

Top 10 partners for international trade in goods

(%, 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.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_maineu)

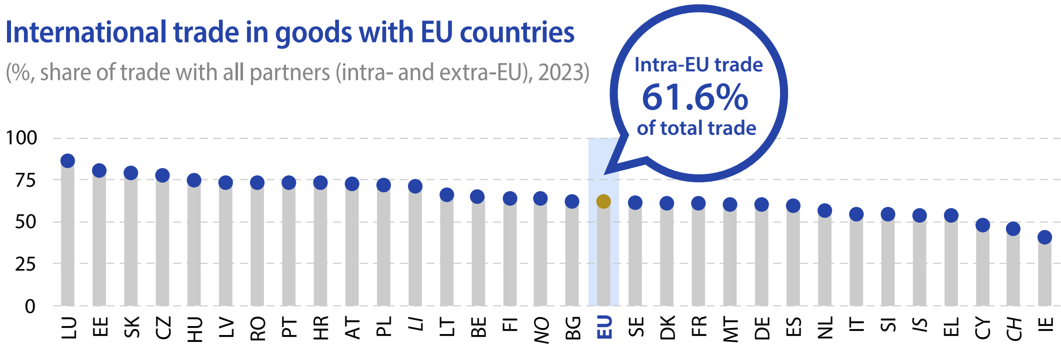
In 2023, the United States was the EU's leading export market, receiving 19.6% of the total value of goods exported outside the EU. The next largest export markets for EU goods were the United Kingdom (13.1%) and China (excluding Hong Kong; 8.7%).

There was a different picture for imports, as more than a fifth (20.5%) of all goods imported into the EU in 2023 originated from China (excluding Hong Kong). The United States was the 2nd largest country of origin for EU imports (13.8%).

Between 2022 and 2023, there was a decline in the relative importance of Russia as a leading trading partner of the EU. This reflected the impact of sanctions/ restrictions imposed by the EU following Russian military aggression against Ukraine as well as falling prices for energy products. EU exports to Russia were 30.3% lower in 2023 than in 2022, while imports from Russia were 75.0% lower.

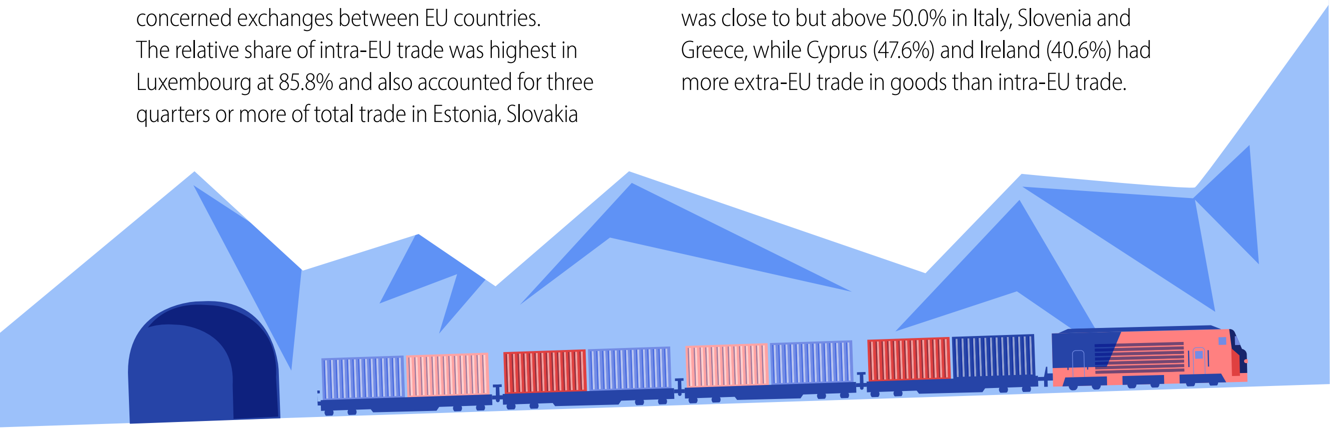
International trade in goods with EU countries

(%, share of trade with all partners (intra- and extra-EU), 2023)



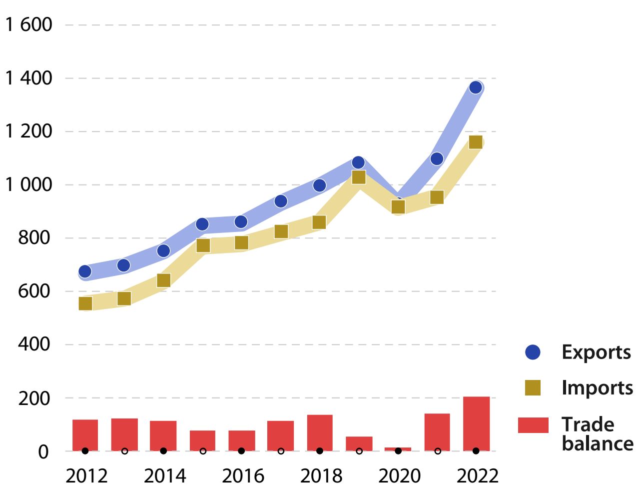
Note: calculation based on the average value of exports and imports. *Source:* Eurostat (online data codes: ext_lt_intratrd and ext_lt_intercc)

In 2023, 61.6% of the EU countries' trade in goods concerned exchanges between EU countries. The relative share of intra-EU trade was highest in Luxembourg at 85.8% and also accounted for three quarters or more of total trade in Estonia, Slovakia and Czechia. By contrast, the share of intra-EU trade was close to but above 50.0% in Italy, Slovenia and Greece, while Cyprus (47.6%) and Ireland (40.6%) had more extra-EU trade in goods than intra-EU trade.



International trade in services with non-EU countries

(€ billion, EU, 2012–22)

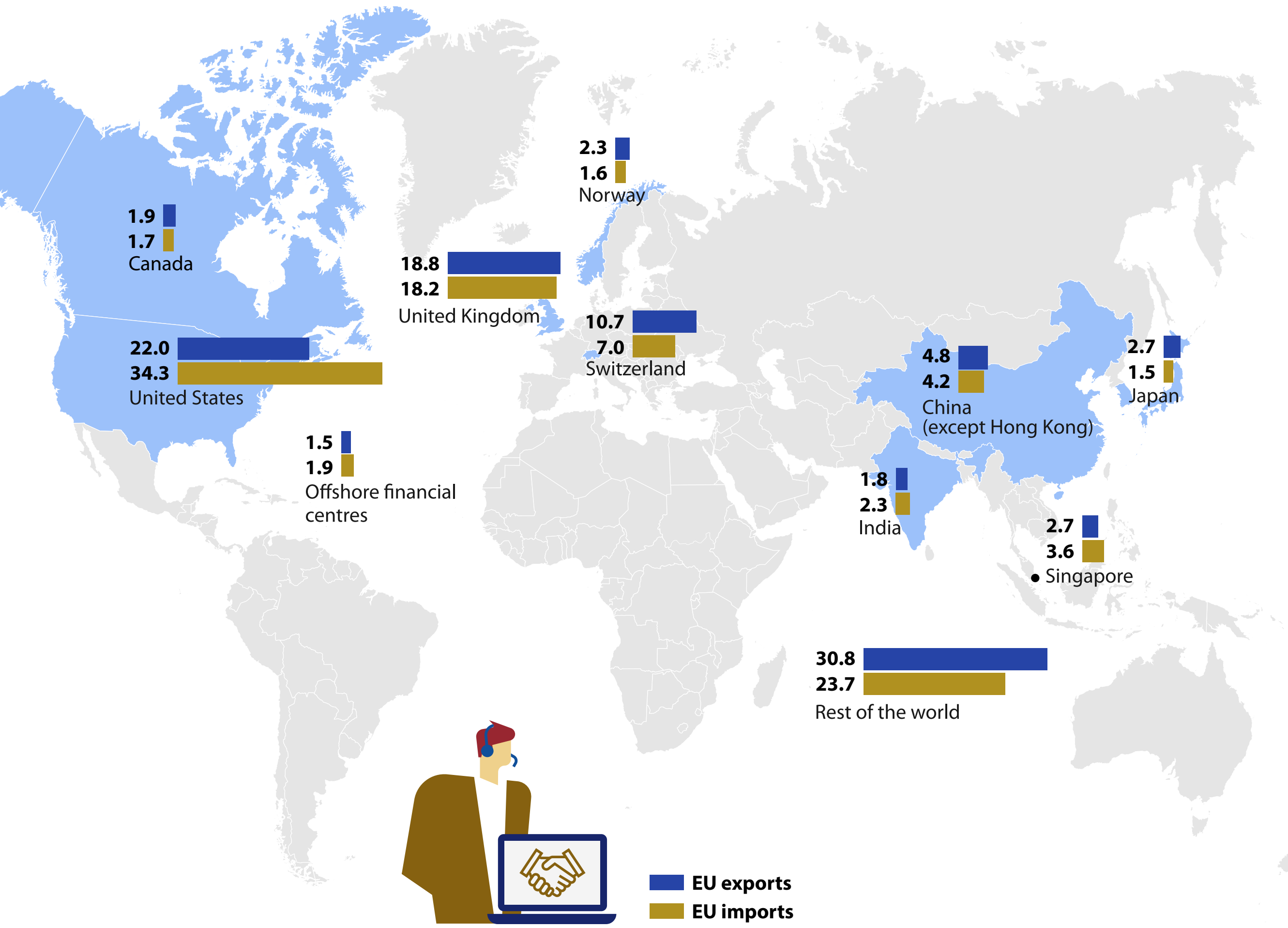


In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in the value of world trade in services. This pattern was also observed across the EU. In 2022, exports of services from the EU to non-EU countries were valued at €1 361 billion while imports into the EU were valued at €1 155 billion. The EU recorded a trade surplus for services throughout the period 2012–22, with the surplus of €206 billion in 2022 the highest during this period.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det)

Top 10 partners for international trade in services

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



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).

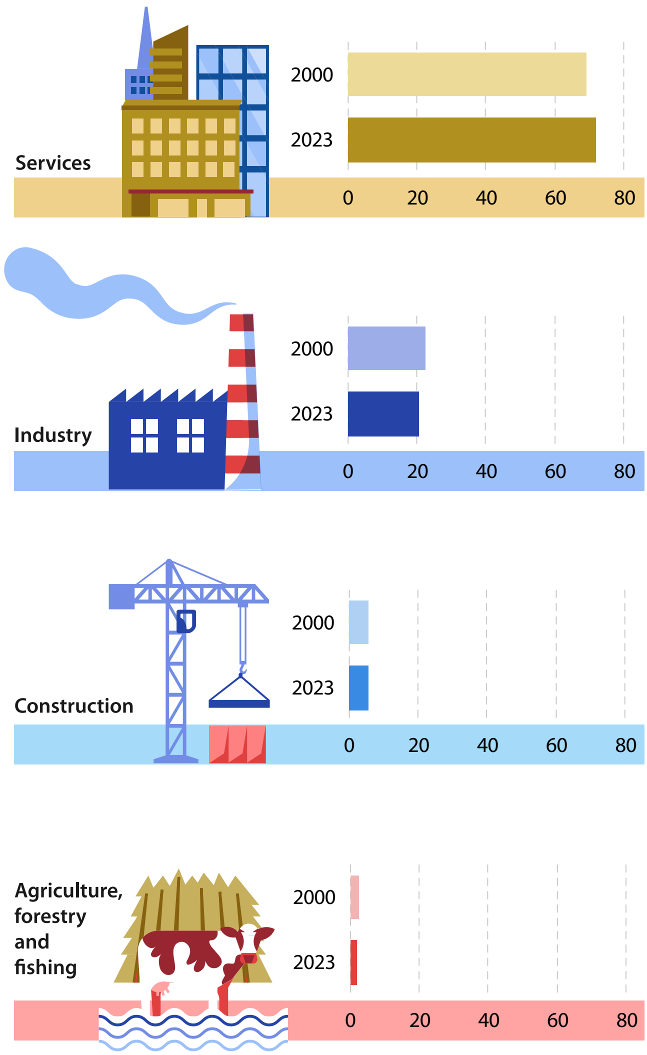
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_tot)

In 2022, the EU's leading trade partners for services were the United States and the United Kingdom. Around a fifth of services exported from the EU were destined for the United States (22.0%) and the United Kingdom (18.8%). Switzerland was the 3rd largest trade partner for the EU's services exports (10.7%). By contrast, more than a third (34.3%) of services imported into the EU from non-EU countries originated in the United States, followed at some distance by the United Kingdom (18.2%).

Business

Change in the sectoral structure of value added

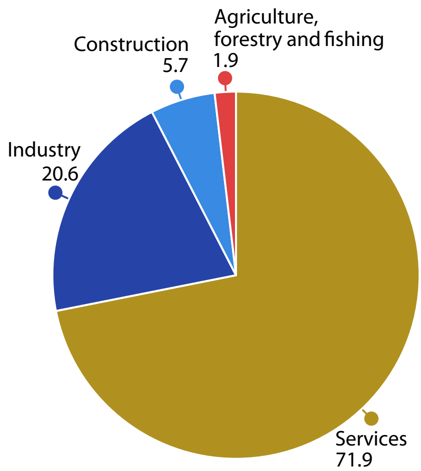
(%, share of total value added, EU, 2000 and 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

Sectoral structure of value added

(%, share of total value added, EU, 2023)



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

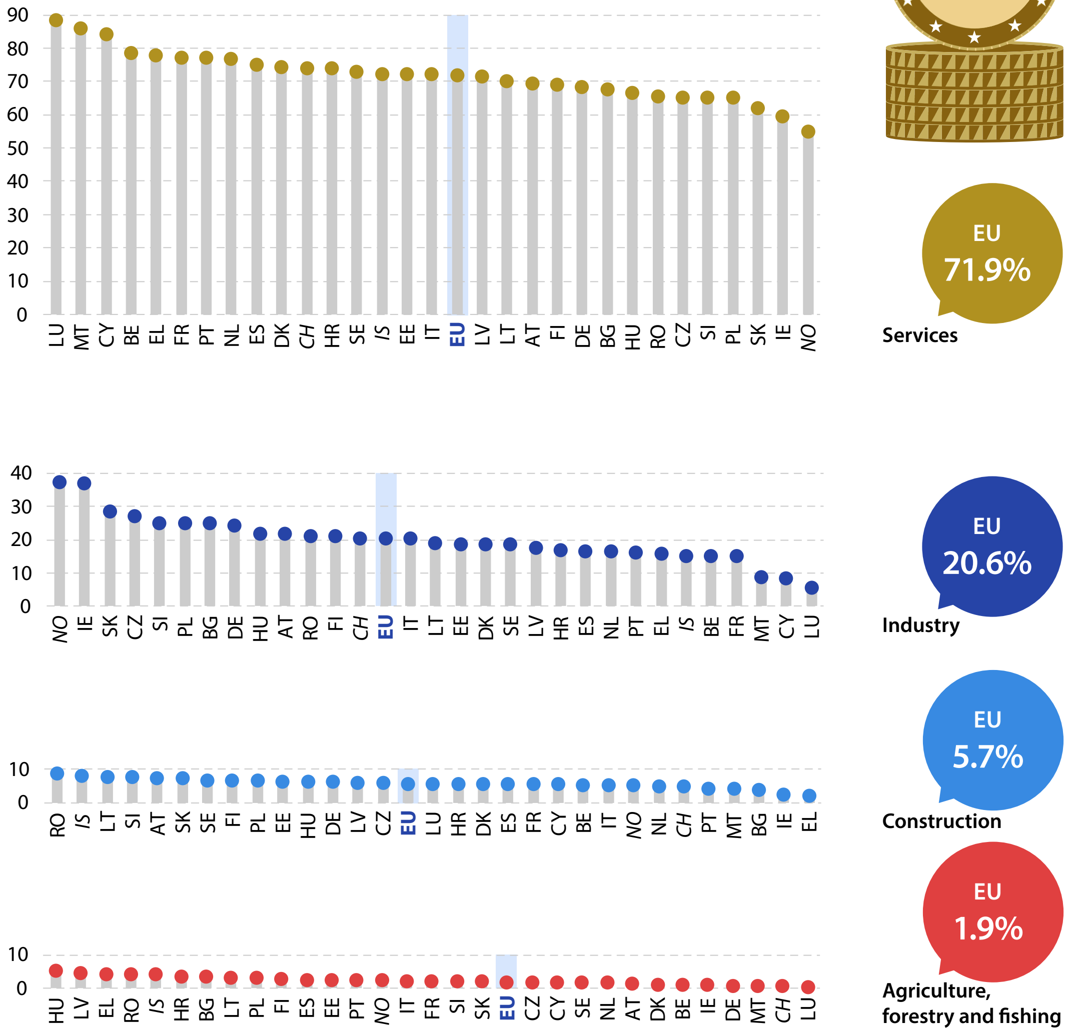
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

Between 2000 and 2023, the share of EU total value added generated in the services sector rose from 69.2% to 71.9%, mainly due to increases in the output of public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities and in the output of distributive trades, transport, accommodation and food service activities. Some other parts of the EU's economy contracted in relative terms: industry's share went from 22.6% to 20.6%, while the share of agriculture, forestry and fishing went from 2.5% to 1.9%. The share of value added in construction was 5.7% in both 2000 and 2023.

Looking at the changes between 2022 and 2023, value added increased (in current price terms) for all parts of the EU economy. The fastest increase was for construction, up 10.7%, followed by industry (7.1%) and services (6.9%). The slowest increase between 2022 and 2023 was for agriculture, forestry and fishing, up 5.6%.

Sectoral gross value added

(%, share of total value added, 2023)

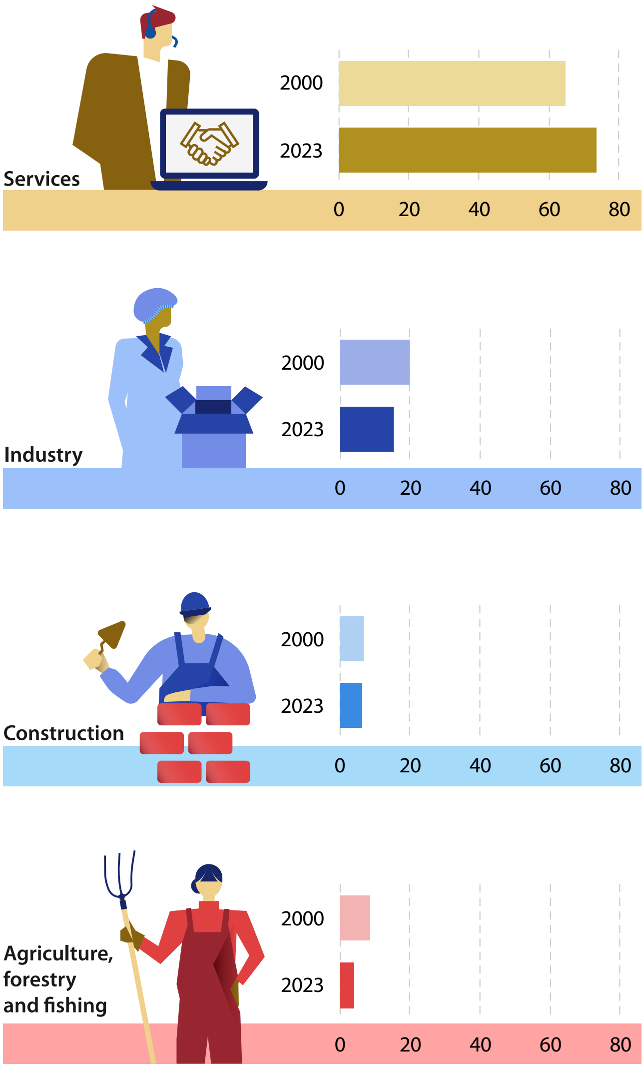


Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

In 2023, the share of services in total value added was above 80.0% in the tourism-oriented economies of Malta and Cyprus, although the highest share was in Luxembourg (which is characterised by a large financial services sector), at 88.3%. The industrial economy contributed more than a third of total value added in Ireland (37.2%), with the next highest share in Slovakia (28.6%). The largest relative contribution from construction was in Romania (8.8%), while the largest contribution from agriculture, forestry and fishing was in Hungary (5.4%).

Change in the sectoral structure of employment

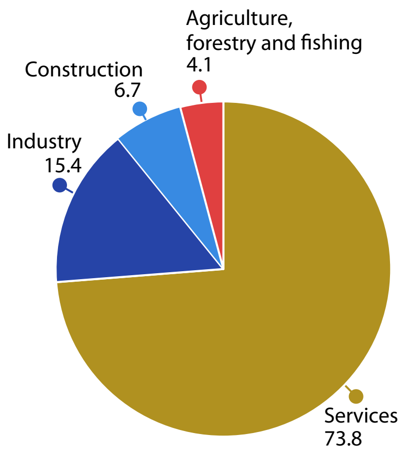
(%, share of total employment, EU, 2000 and 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

Sectoral structure of employment

(%, share of total employment, EU, 2023)



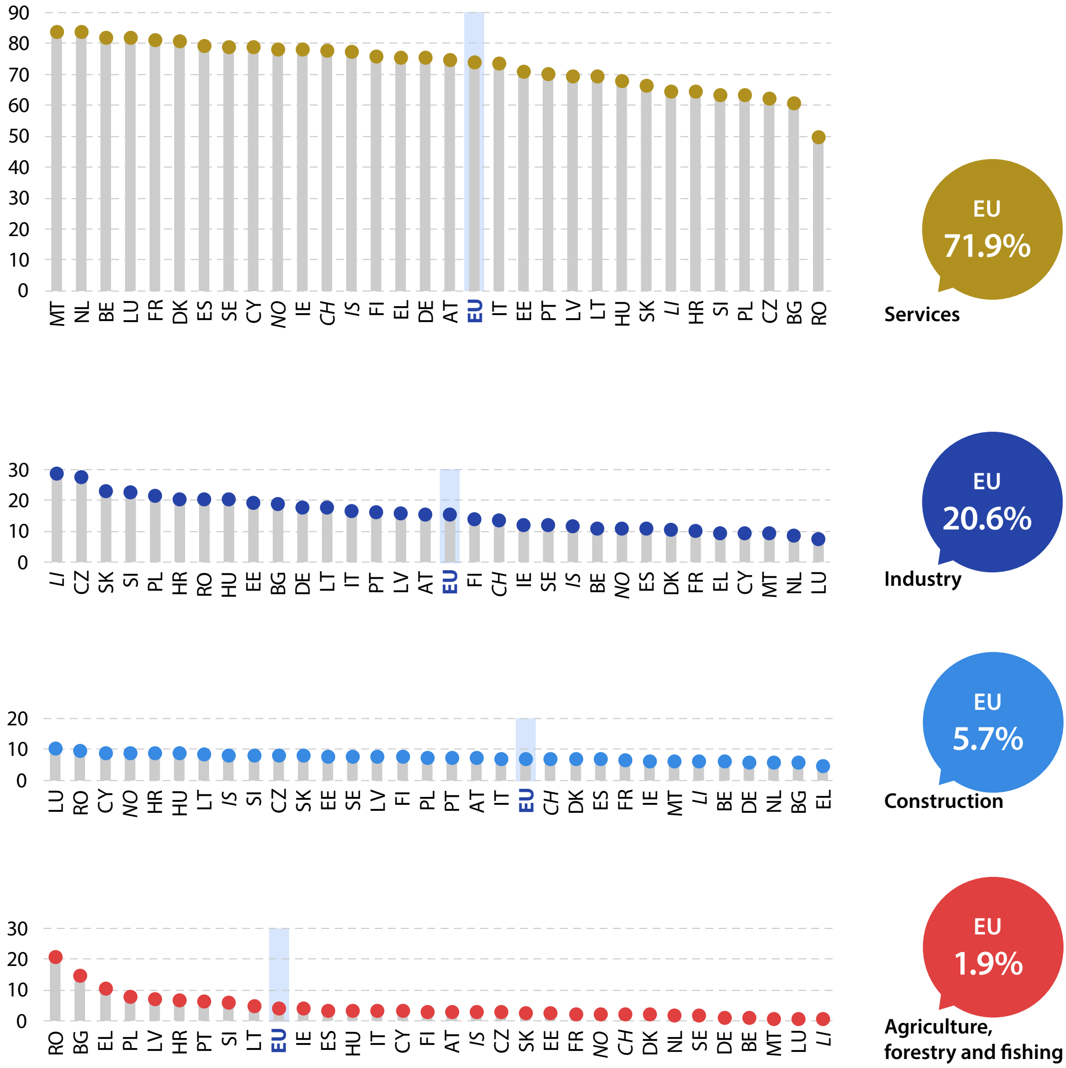
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

The contribution of services to the EU's economy was slightly larger in employment terms than it was in value added terms. In 2023, services provided work for 73.8% of people employed in the EU, compared with 64.6% at the turn of the millennium. The shares of each of the other sectors decreased between 2000 and 2023. The share of people employed in the industrial economy fell from 19.9% to 15.4%, while the share in agriculture, forestry and fishing more than halved from 8.6% to 4.1%, and the share in construction fell from 6.9% to 6.7%.

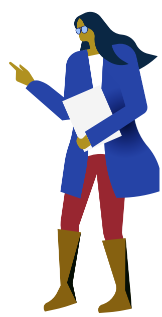
EU employment grew 1.2% in 2023, slower than in 2022 when it increased by 2.0%. In 2023, the number of people employed increased in 3 of the 4 broad activity groupings. Growth was registered for services (up 1.6%), construction (1.1%) and industry (0.2%), while the only decline was for agriculture, forestry and fishing (down 1.2%).

Sectors of employment

(%, share of total employment, 2023)



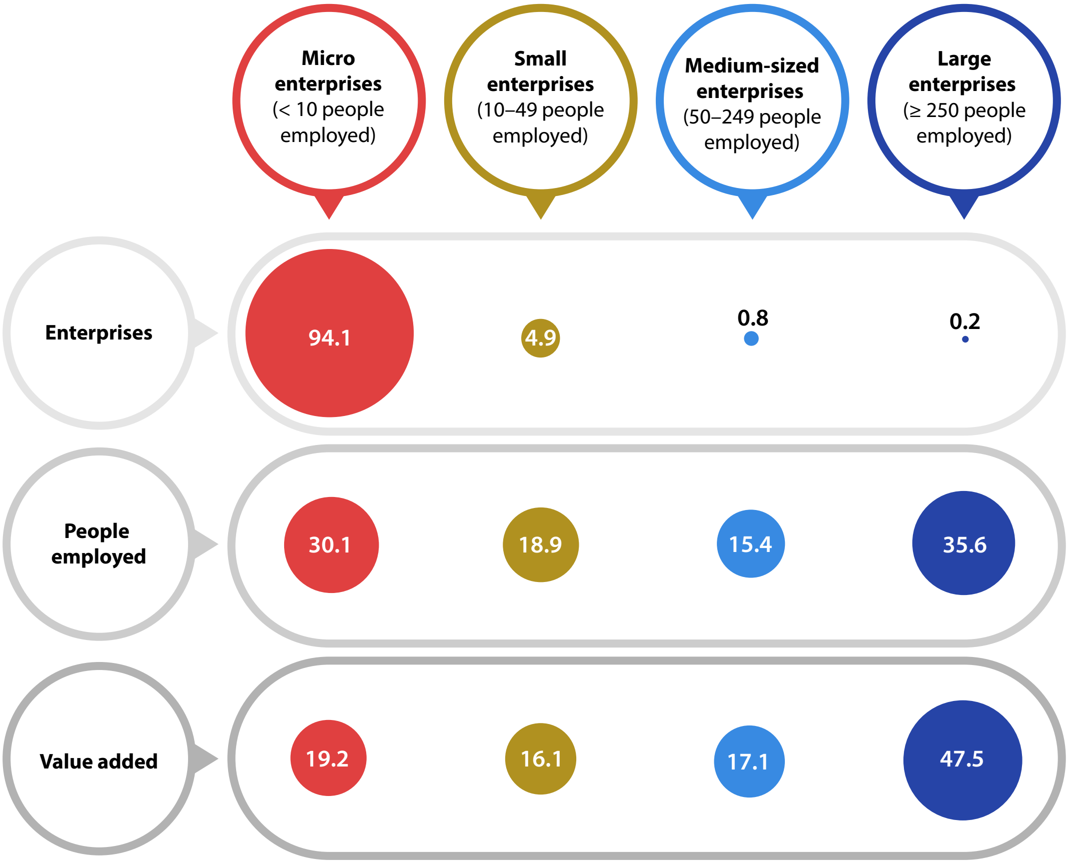
Note: HR and LI, 2022.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)



Among the EU countries, Romania had the lowest share (49.4%) of its workforce employed in the services sector in 2023. By contrast, services provided work to 83.6% of those employed in Malta and 83.5% in the Netherlands. Czechia was the only EU country to report that industry accounted for more than a quarter (27.5%) of the total workforce. Romania (20.9%) was characterised by a high share of total employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, while Luxembourg (10.1%) was the only EU country to report that more than a tenth of its workforce was employed in construction.

Enterprise size class structure of the business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, EU, 2021)



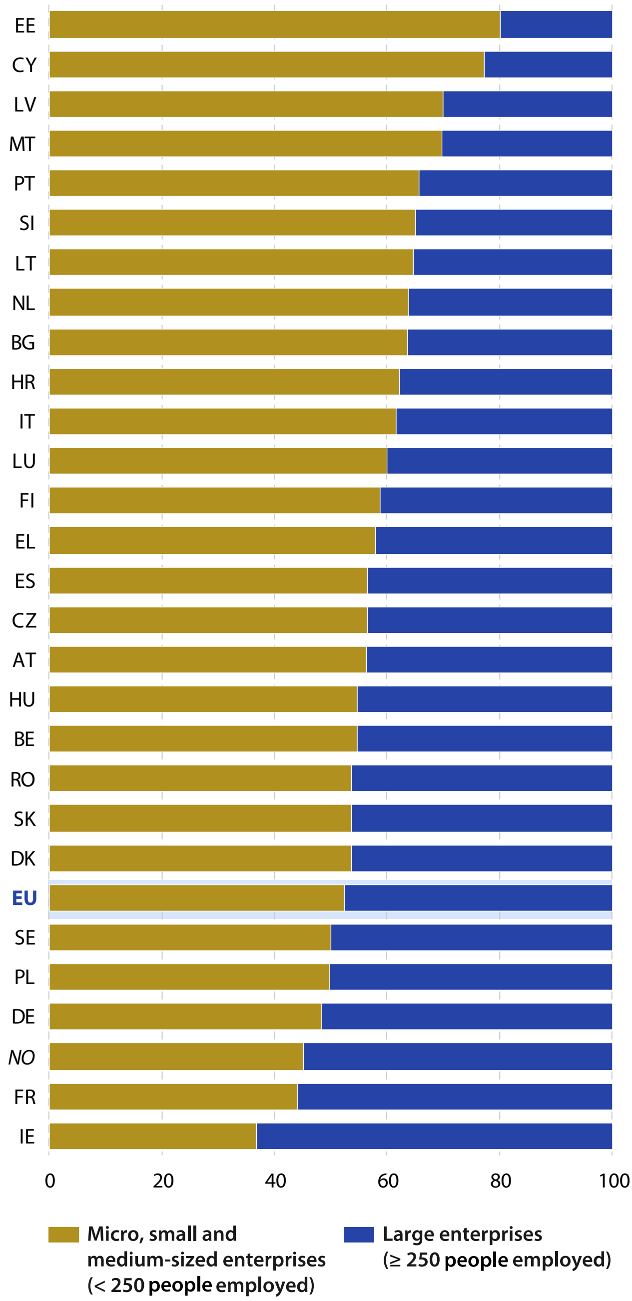
Note: the business economy includes the sectors of industry, construction, distributive trades and market services. The shares do not sum to 100.0% for reasons of rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_ovw)

In 2021, an overwhelming majority (94.1%) 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 2021 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 (35.6%) of the EU's business economy workforce and contributed close to half (47.5%) of its value added.

Enterprise size class shares of value added in the business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, 2021)



Note: PT, excluding real estate activities. CY: excluding mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; arts, entertainment and recreation.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_sca_r2)

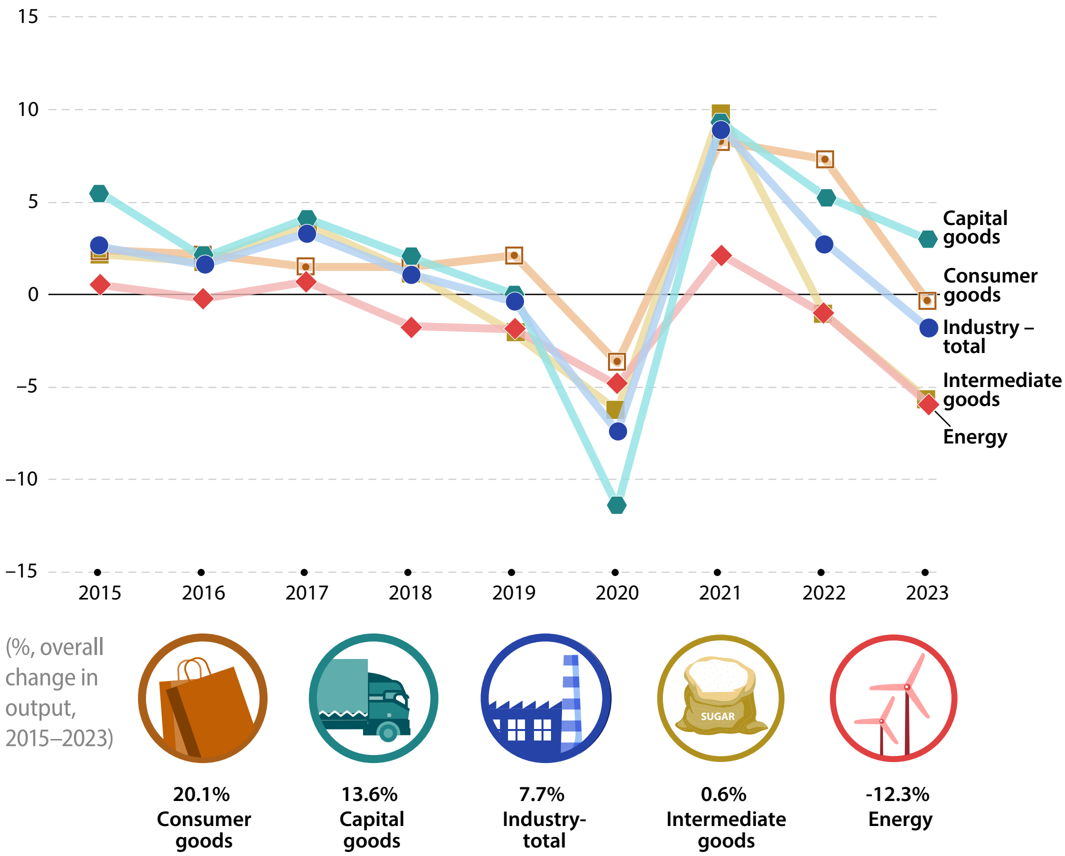
Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (also called SMEs or 'small businesses') – in other words, enterprises with fewer than 250 people employed – are often referred to as the backbone of the EU's economy, providing jobs and growth opportunities.

In 2021, there were 30.9 million SMEs in the EU's business economy. SMEs employed 100.5 million people and contributed €4 930 billion of value added. The economic contribution made by SMEs was particularly notable in Estonia and Cyprus (note the incomplete activity coverage), where SMEs provided more than three quarters of the value added in the business economy.

By contrast, large enterprises (with 250 or more people employed) accounted for more than three fifths (63.1%) of value added within the Irish business economy in 2021 and for at least half of the value added in France, Germany, Poland and Sweden.

Volume developments of industrial output

(%, annual change, EU, 2015–23)



Note: industry includes NACE Sections B to D.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts_inpr_a)

In real terms, the EU's industrial output peaked in 2018 as output decreased 0.4% in 2019 and a further 7.4% in 2020. In 2021, output rebounded (up 9.1%) and thereby returned to a level above the 2018 peak. Growth of 2.8% in 2022 continued this upward development. In 2023, industrial output fell 1.8%. Overall, industrial output in 2023 was 7.7% higher than in 2015.

Across the EU, the level of output for energy fell (in real terms) most years during the period 2015–23; there were small increases in 2015, 2017 and 2021. The overall decrease between 2015 and 2023 was 12.3%.

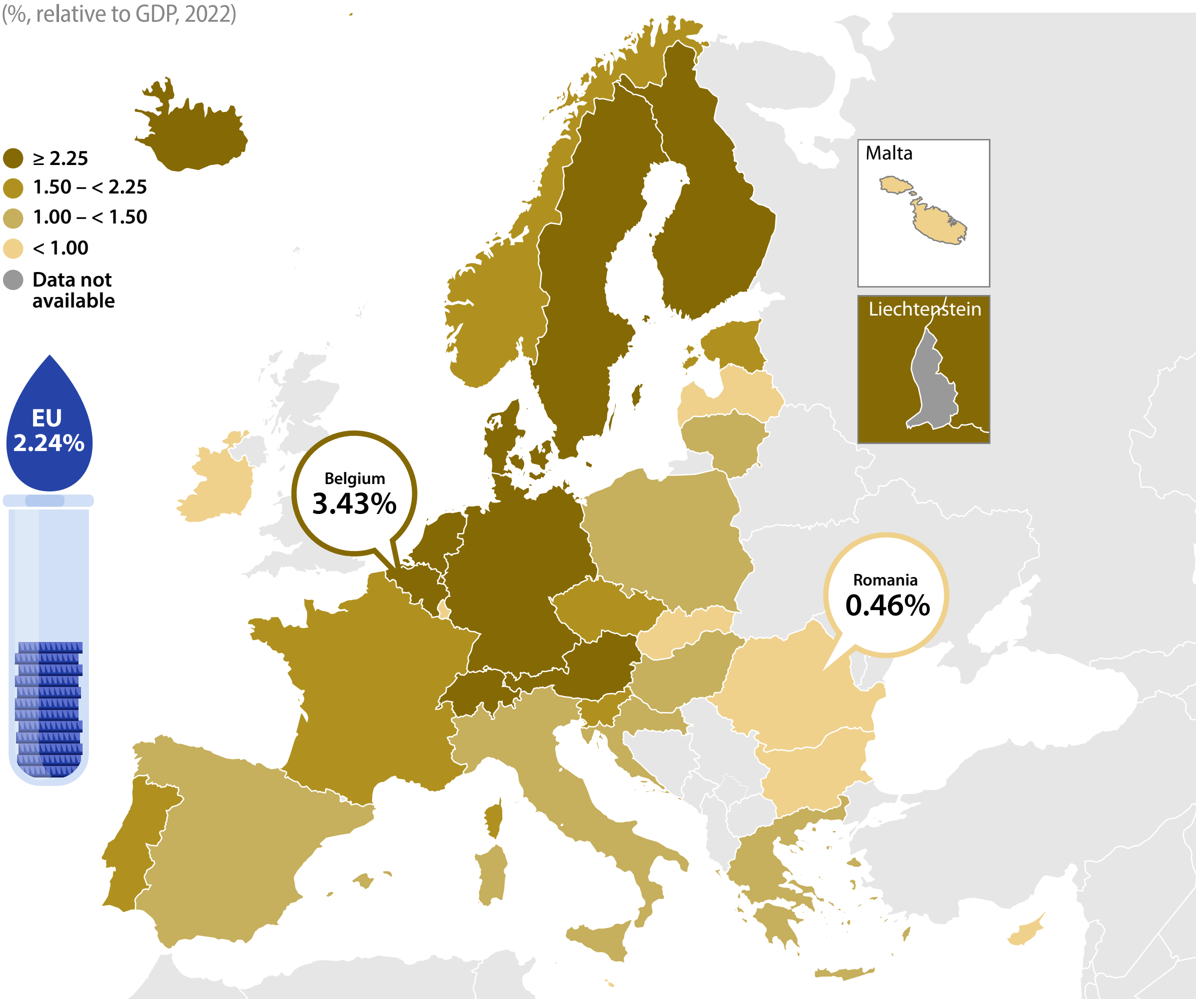
The other industrial groupings recorded expansions in EU output between 2015 and 2023, ranging from 0.6% for intermediate goods industries, through 13.6% for capital goods industries to 20.1% for consumer goods industries.

All 3 of these groupings experienced growth for several years from 2015 and all experienced a large contraction in 2020 followed by a strong rebound in 2021. The output of capital goods industries continued to expand in 2022 and 2023, although at a progressively slower rate. By contrast, consumer goods industries recorded a moderate decline in 2023 while intermediate goods industries contracted both in 2022 (moderately) and 2023 (more strongly).

Research and development

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D

(%, relative to GDP, 2022)



Note: CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: rd_e_gerdtot)

Research and development (R&D) and innovation are central to providing the scientific and technical solutions needed to meet global societal challenges such as climate change or active and healthy ageing.
EU gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) was €355 billion in 2022, which marked a 7.1% increase compared with 2021. Note that this rate of change is in current prices.

GERD is often expressed relative to GDP, resulting in an indicator that is also known as R&D intensity. The EU's R&D intensity rose above 2.00% for the 1st time in 2011 and continued to grow in an almost uninterrupted manner through to 2020 by when it had reached 2.30%. With economic activity rebounding from the COVID-19 crisis at a faster rate than the increase in R&D expenditure, the EU's R&D intensity fell to 2.27% in 2021 and 2.24% in 2022.

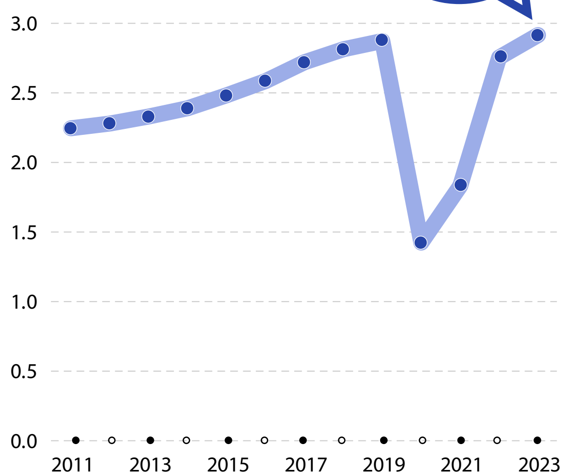
Tourism

Number of nights spent at tourist accommodation

(billion nights, EU, 2011–23)

Tourism was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The total number of nights spent in tourist accommodation across the EU halved between 2019 (2.87 billion nights spent) and 2020 (1.42 billion). The number of nights spent in tourist accommodation partially recovered in 2021 and 2022, to 1.83 billion and 2.75 billion, respectively. In 2023, this number surpassed the level observed before the pandemic, with 2.91 billion nights spent across the EU.

2.91 billion nights spent in the EU in 2023

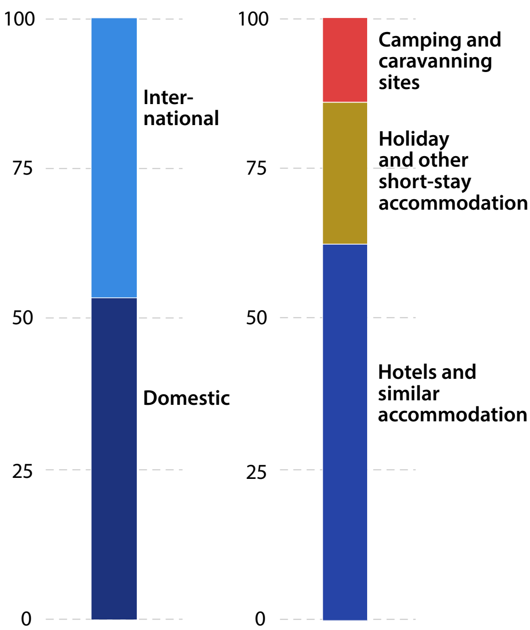


Note: these statistics cover business and leisure travellers.

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

Distribution of nights spent at tourist accommodation

(%, EU, 2023)



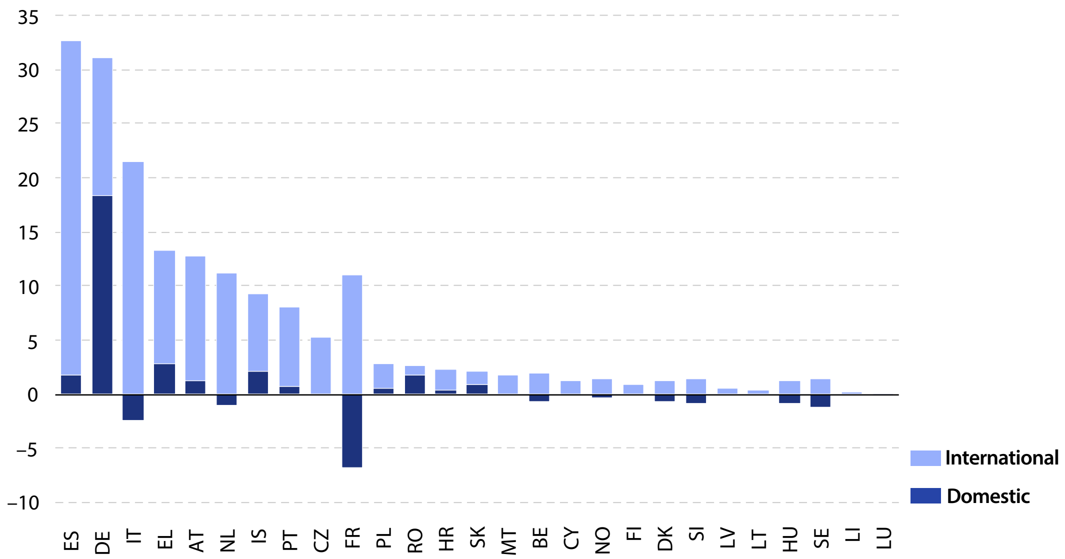
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

A relatively even split in terms of nights spent at tourist accommodation between domestic tourists (those who are resident in the same country as where they were staying) and international tourists was once again observed in the EU in 2023, after domestic tourists had been in the majority during the COVID-19 crisis. In 2023, domestic tourists accounted for 53.4% 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 62.9% of the nights spent in EU tourist accommodation in 2023, ahead of 23.7% in holiday and other short-term accommodation and 13.5% in camping grounds.

Annual change in summer nights spent at tourist accommodation

(million nights, 2023)



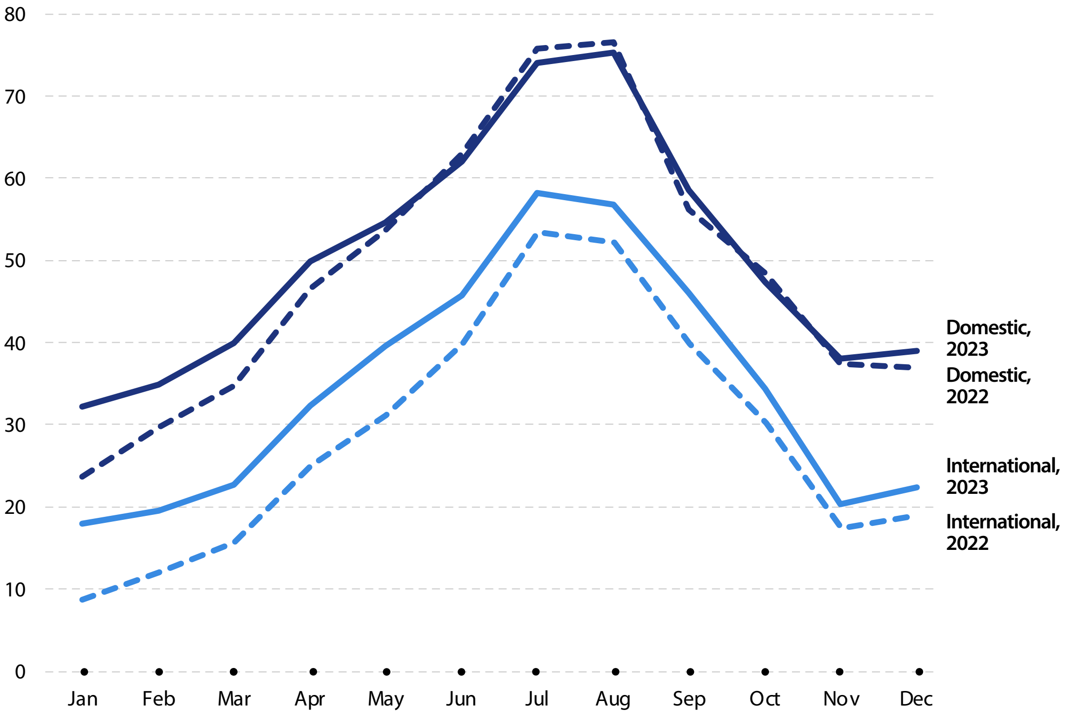
Note: BG, EE and IE, not available.

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

Overall, nearly all of the EU countries recorded a larger number of nights spent in tourist accommodation in 2023 than in 2022; Luxembourg was the only exception as the number was stable. The largest increases were in Spain and Germany, with 32.6 and 31.0 million extra nights, respectively. During 2023, the largest increase in the number of nights spent by domestic tourists was in Germany, up 18.3 million nights compared with 2022. For international tourists, the number of nights spent rose most notably in Spain (up 31.0 million nights) and Italy (up 21.6 million).

Arrivals at tourist accommodation

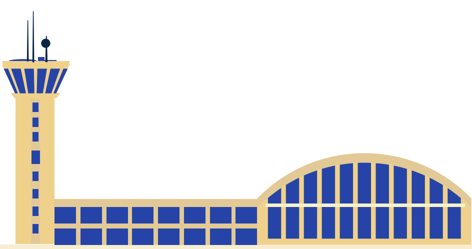
(million arrivals, EU, 2022 and 2023)

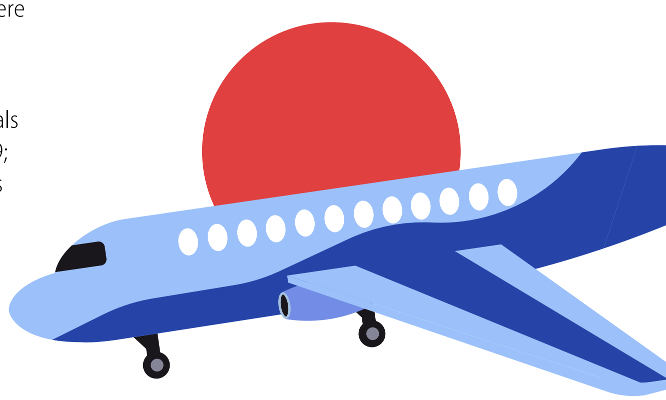


Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_arm)

The number of arrivals in EU tourist accommodation has a strong seasonal component, with a peak typically recorded during the summer months. Together, July and August accounted for 24.6% of domestic arrivals in 2023 and 28.0% of international arrivals. The smallest shares of arrivals were in January, with 5.3% of domestic arrivals and 4.2% of international arrivals.

Overall in 2023, the number of international tourist arrivals in the EU remained 1.5% below its pre-crisis high in 2019; by contrast, the number of domestic arrivals in 2023 was 2.2% higher than it had been in 2019.





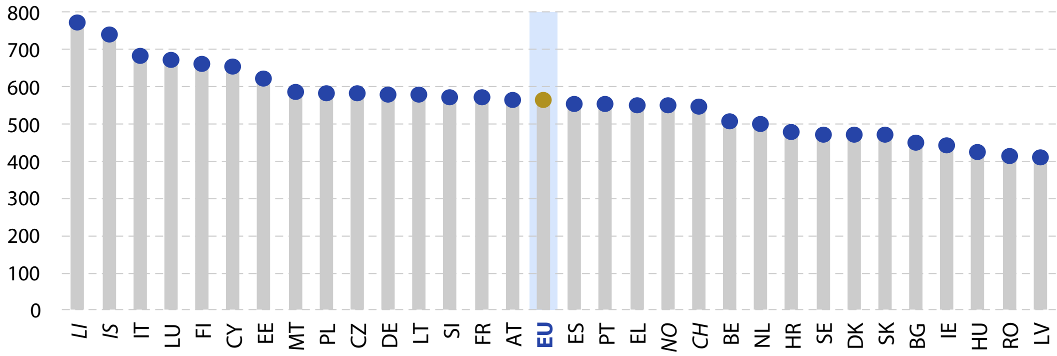
3

Environment and natural resources

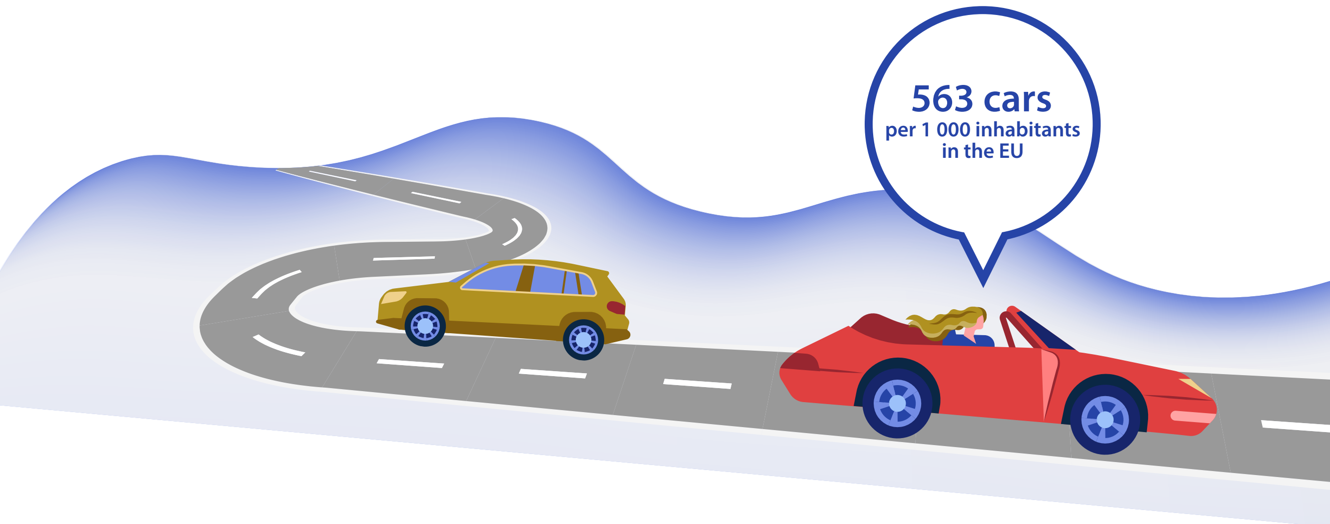
Transport

Passenger cars

(number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants, 2022)



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

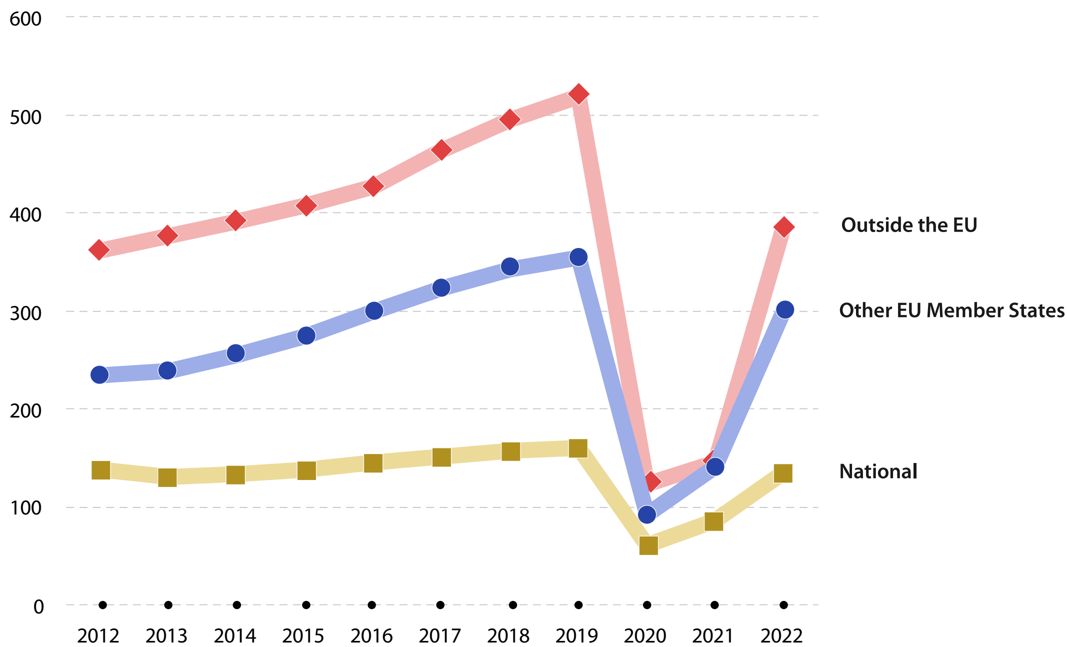


In 2022, there were around 253 million passenger cars on the EU's roads, equivalent to 563 cars per 1 000 inhabitants or slightly more than 1 car for every 2 people. Car motorisation rates were highest in Italy (682 per 1 000 inhabitants), followed by Luxembourg, Finland, Cyprus and Estonia (all above 600 per 1 000 inhabitants). The lowest motorisation rates for passenger cars were in Latvia (409 cars per 1 000 inhabitants) and Romania (413 cars per 1 000 inhabitants).

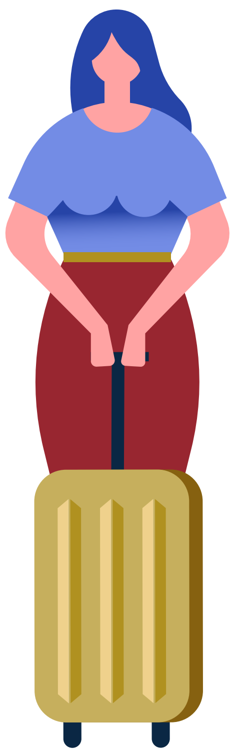
Newer cars may be less environmentally-damaging, with more efficient engines and lower emissions, although these benefits may be offset to some extent if there is a trend towards heavier or more powerful vehicles. There is also a growing share of electric/hybrid vehicles in the EU, at least in part in response to emission targets. Nonetheless, more than half (55%) of all passenger cars in the EU in 2022 were estimated to be at least 10 years old, compared with around a tenth (9%) less than 2 years old.

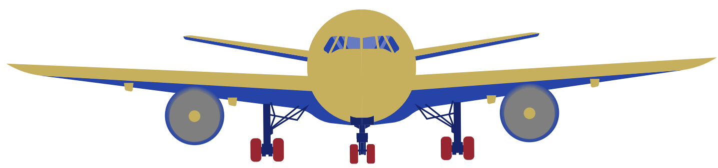
Passengers carried by air

(million passengers carried – arrivals and departures, EU, 2012–22)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)





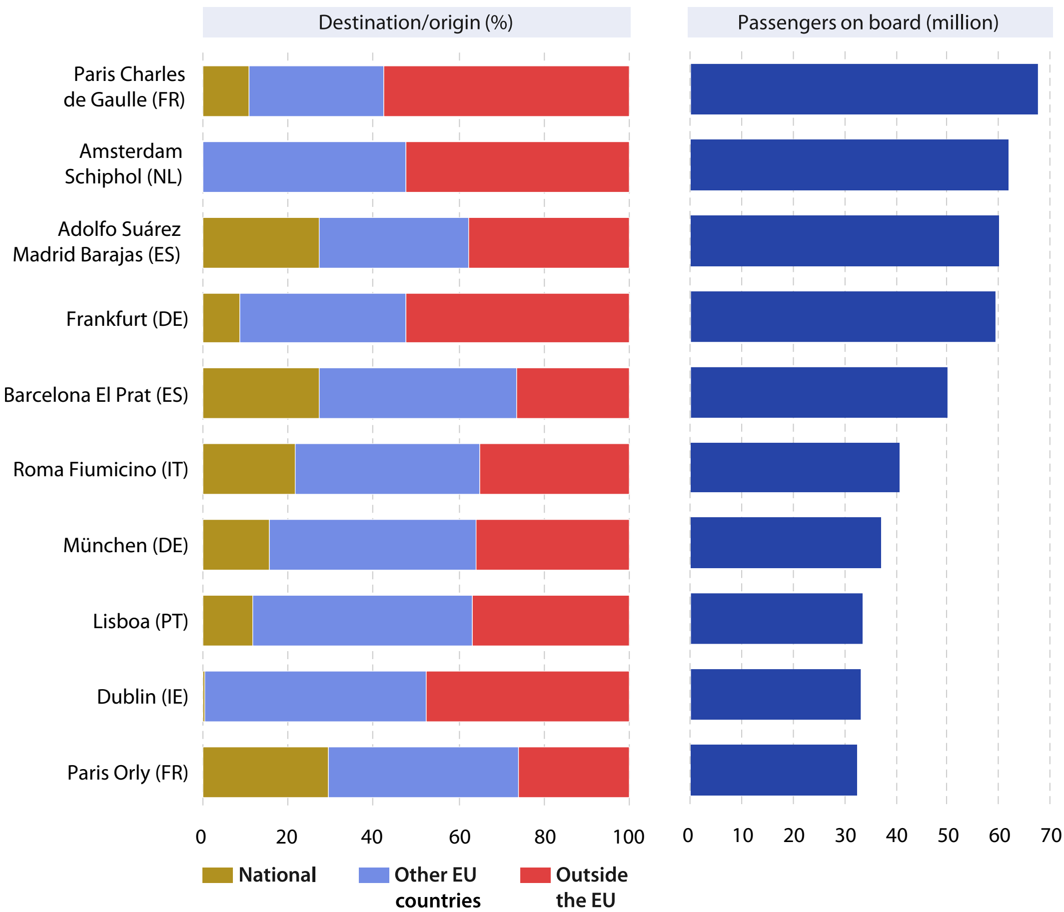
In 2019, the total number of passengers carried by air to or from airports in the EU was 1 035 million (1.0 billion). The COVID-19 crisis impacted heavily on this figure in 2020 and 2021, as it dropped to 277 million and 374 million, respectively. There was a stronger rebound in 2022, when 821 million passengers were carried by air.

In 2022, the number of national passengers and of passengers flying between different EU countries were both at 84% of their 2019 levels. There was a lower ratio for international transport as passengers on flights from or to countries outside the EU were at 74% of their 2019 level.

In 2022, there were 136 million air passengers carried on national flights within EU countries. The number of air passengers flying between different EU countries was 299 million, while a larger number of passengers were carried on international flights starting or finishing outside of the EU (386 million).

Busiest EU passenger airports

(passengers on board, 2023)



Note: excluding airports in Greece.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoa)

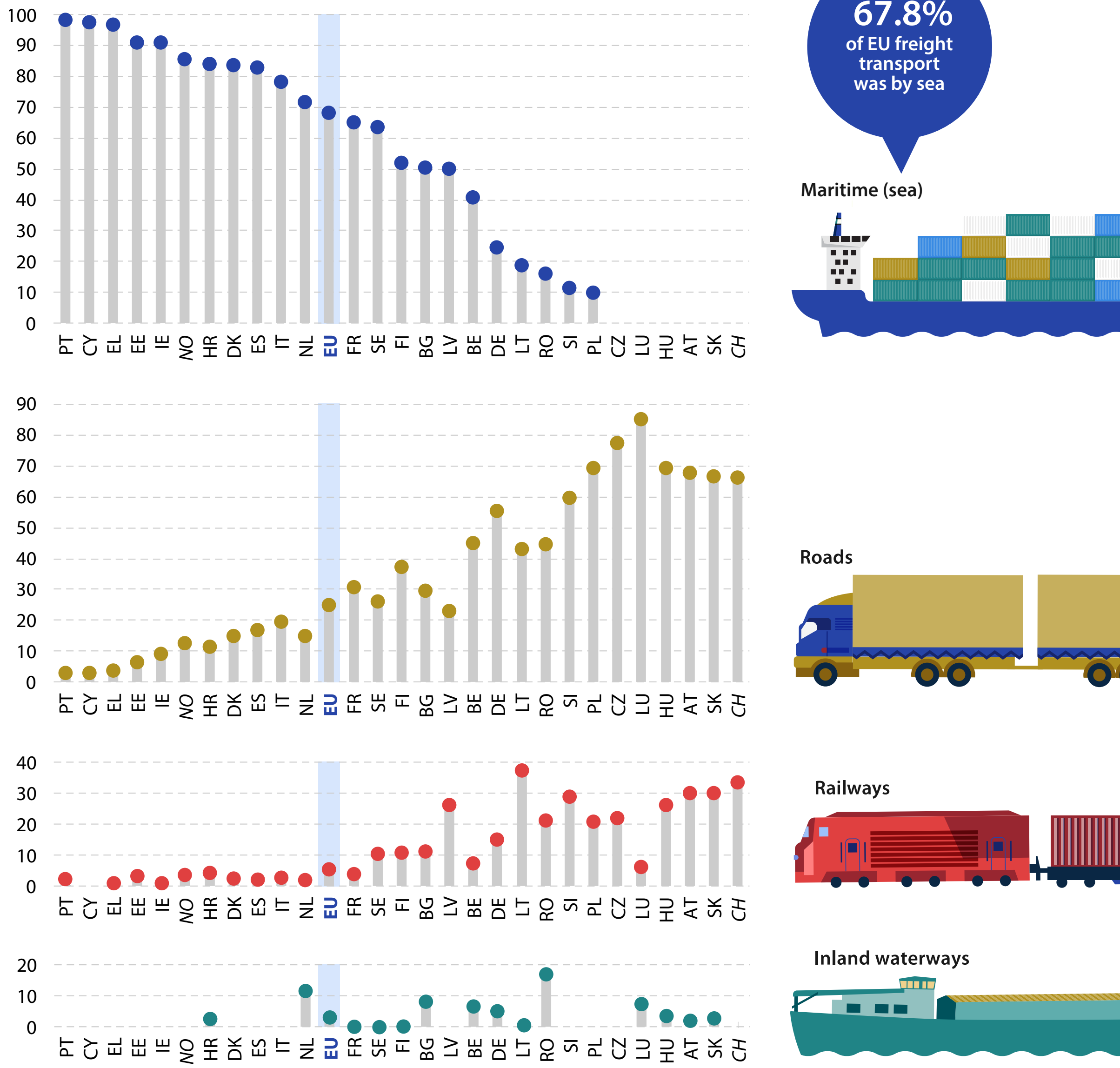
In terms of the number of passengers carried, the busiest airport in the EU in 2023 was Paris Charles de Gaulle with 67.5 million passengers on board. It was followed by Amsterdam Schiphol (61.9 million), Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas (60.1 million) and Frankfurt (59.3 million).

There were considerable differences concerning the origin/destination of passengers who used the busiest airports in the EU in 2023: more than half of the passengers in Paris Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam Schiphol or Frankfurt were on international flights starting or finishing outside the EU; more than half of the passengers in Dublin or Lisboa airports were flying to/from other EU countries; more than a quarter of the passengers passing through Paris Orly, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona El Prat or Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas were on national flights.

Between 2022 and 2023, the number of air passengers on board at the 10 busiest airports in the EU increased most rapidly in Roma Fiumicino (up 38.0%); Paris Orly airport recorded the smallest increase (up 10.7%).

Freight modes of transport

(%, share of freight based on tonne-kilometres, 2022)



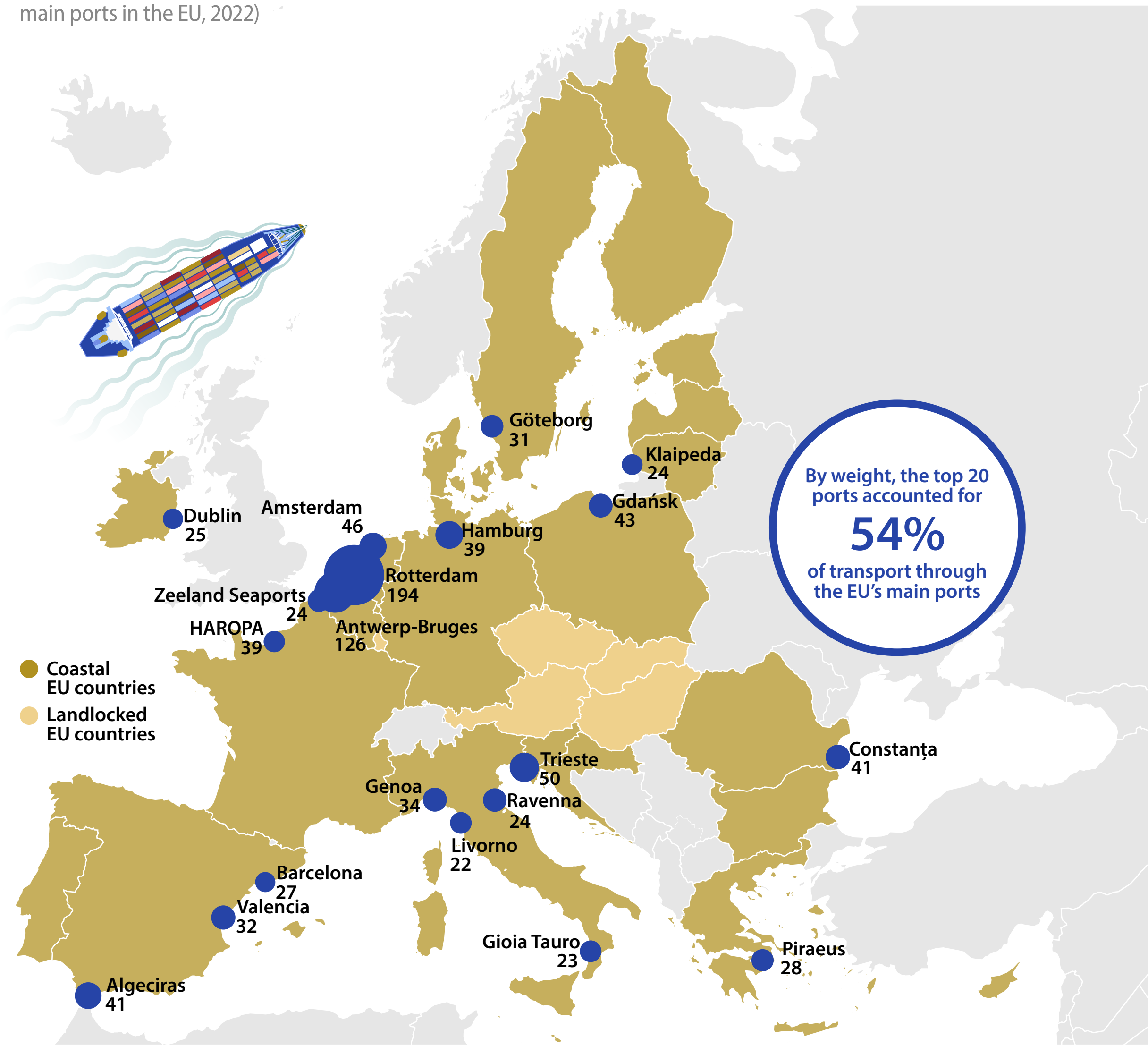
Note: MT, not available. CY: no railways. CZ, DK, EE, IE, EL, ES, IT, CY, LV, LT, PL, PT, SI and NO: negligible or no navigable inland waterways. CZ, LU, HU, AT, SK and CH: no maritime transport. Air transport: not shown due to small share. Ranked on maritime.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tran_hv_ms_frmod)

Most EU freight transport (based on tonne-kilometres) in 2022 was carried by sea (67.8%) or by road (24.9%). 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 more than a third (37.2%) of all Lithuanian freight, while inland waterways accounted for more than a tenth of Romanian (17.0%) and Dutch (11.6%) freight.

Busiest short sea shipping ports

(million tonnes of goods transported to/from main ports in the EU, 2022)



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

Source: Eurostat (online data code: mar_sg_am_pw)

In 2022, the total weight of goods transported to/from main ports in the EU by short sea shipping was 1.7 billion tonnes; this was equivalent to a decrease of 4.6% when compared with 2021. Rotterdam in the Netherlands was by far the busiest EU port in terms of goods transported (194 million tonnes; 11% of the EU total); this marked a 12.4% decrease compared with 2021. The 2nd busiest port was the port of Antwerp-Bruges in Belgium (126 million tonnes), which was more than twice as busy as the next port, Trieste in Italy (50 million tonnes).

Energy

Structure of final energy consumption

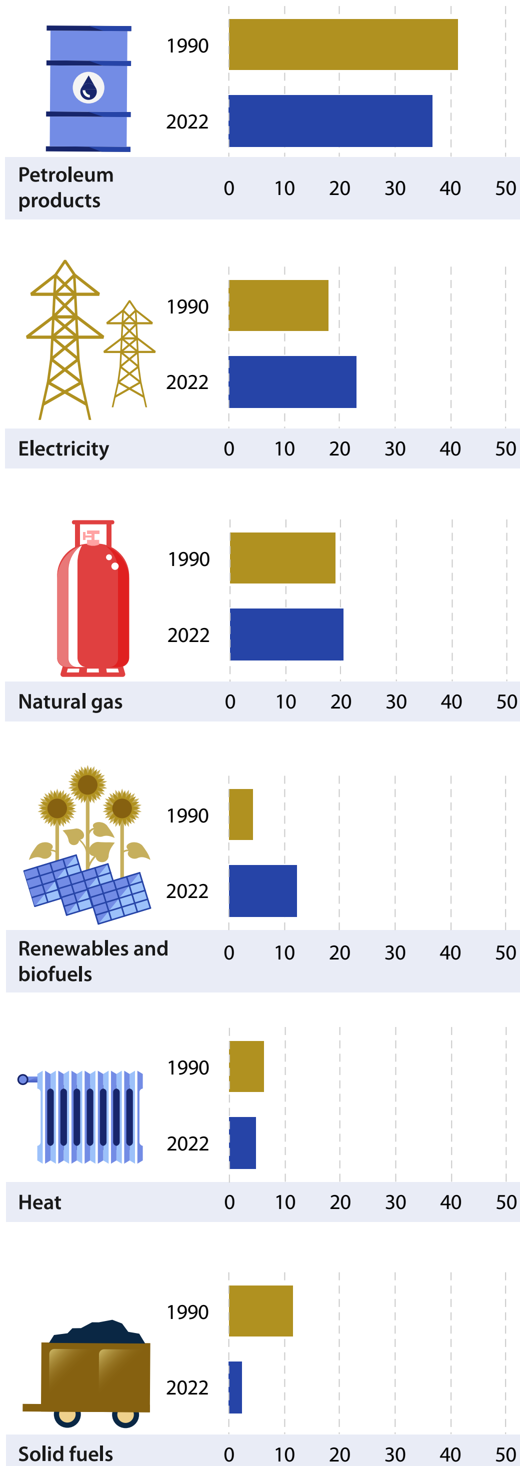
(%, based on joules, EU, 1990 and 2022)

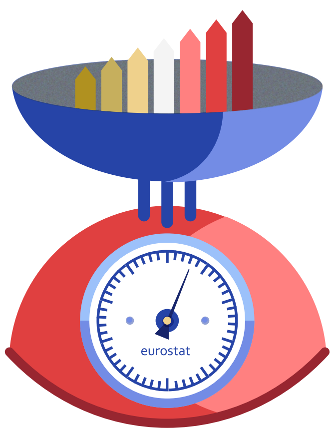
In 2022, the EU's final energy consumption was 37 771 petajoules (PJ); this was 3.9% lower than the level recorded in 2021. Petroleum products accounted for more than a third (36.8%) of the EU's final energy consumption, with electricity (23.0%) and natural gas (20.5%) also recording relatively high shares.

The quantity of energy consumption across the EU in 2022 was 0.5% lower than in 1990. This overall similarity in the level hid a considerable shift in the structure of the EU's final energy consumption, moving away from solid fuels and petroleum products towards renewables and biofuels, as well as electricity. For example, the share of solid fuels fell from 11.5% to 2.3% between 1990 and 2022, while that of renewables and biofuels rose from 4.3% to 12.2% during the same period.

Note: solid fuels includes coal, manufactured gases, peat, oil shale and oil sands. The residual category of waste (non-renewable) – not presented here – accounted for 0.6% of EU final energy consumption in 2022.

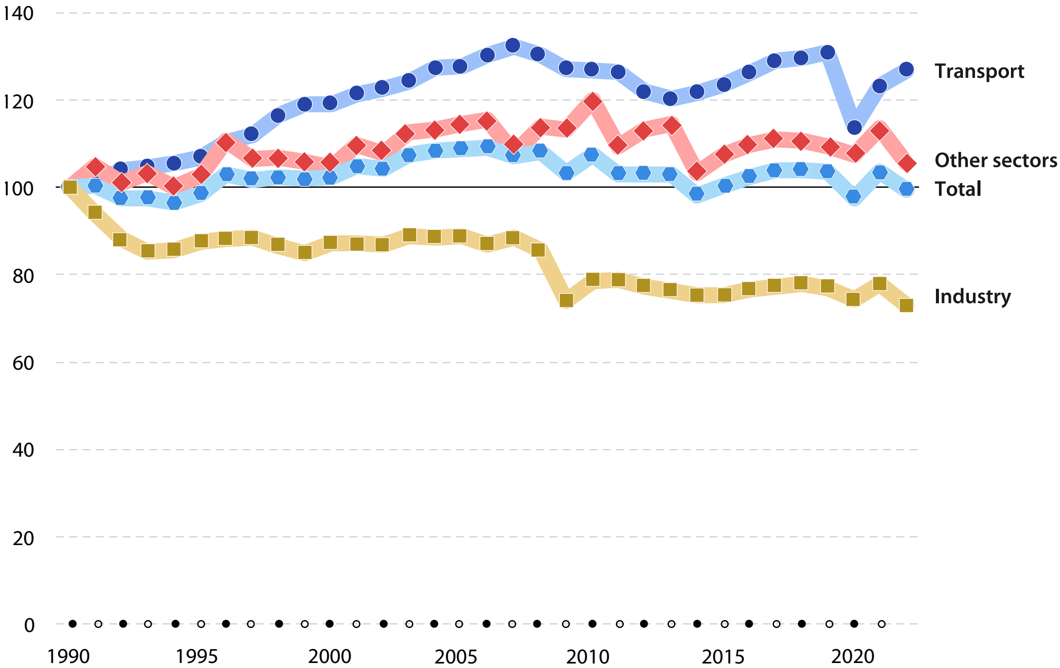
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)





Final energy consumption, by end use

(1990 = 100, based on joules, EU, 1990–2022)



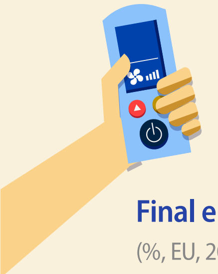
Note: the residual category of other sectors includes residential use, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and services other than transport.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)

In 2022, industry accounted for slightly more than a quarter (25.1%) of the energy consumed within the EU, while the share for transport was 31.0%, leaving 43.9% for other sectors – these mainly concern residential use and services.

Energy consumption for transport rose in an almost uninterrupted manner between 1990 and 2019, with a slowdown during the global financial and economic crisis: consumption increased 30.8% overall. By contrast, final energy consumption within industry fell by close to a quarter (down 23.0%) during the same period, with a particularly large decline during the global financial and economic crisis in 2009 (down 13.6%).

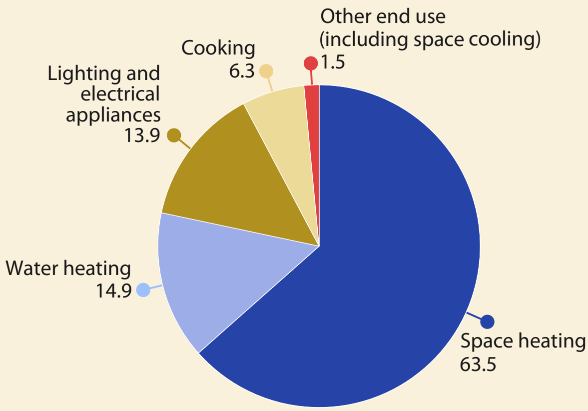
From 2020 onwards, these long-term developments were interrupted by the COVID-19 and cost-of-living crises. The overall level of final energy consumption in the EU fell 5.6% in 2020, with a particularly large decline for transport (consumption down 12.9%). Overall energy consumption rebounded in 2021 before decreasing again in 2022 (down 3.9%), the latter development in part reflecting efforts to reduce the quantity of consumption to offset high energy prices.



Final energy consumption in the residential sector, by use

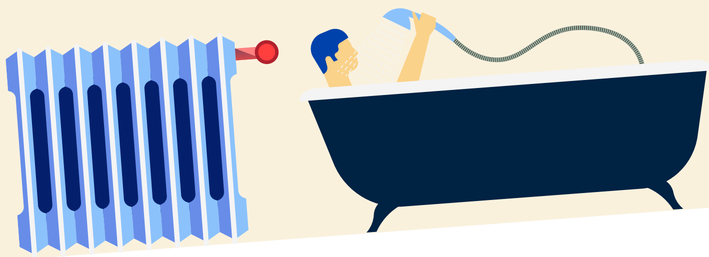
(%, EU, 2022)

In the EU, the main residential use of energy in 2022 was for heating homes, accounting for 63.5% of final energy consumption in the residential sector. The share used for water heating was 14.9%, just ahead of lighting and electrical appliances (13.9%; this excludes the use of electricity for the main heating, cooling or cooking systems). Main cooking devices required 6.3% of the energy used. Space cooling and other uses accounted for 0.6% and 0.9%, 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. For example, between 2019 and 2022 the use for cooling increased 38.8%, compared with an overall decrease of 2.6%.



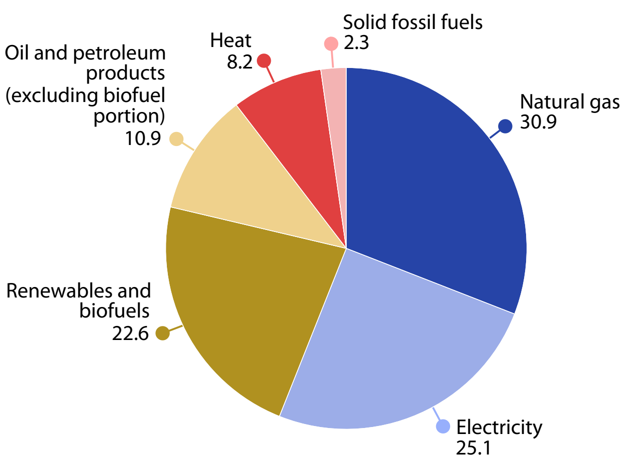
Note: the shares do not sum to 100.0% for reasons of rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_d_hhq)



Final energy consumption in the residential sector, by fuel

(%, EU, 2022)

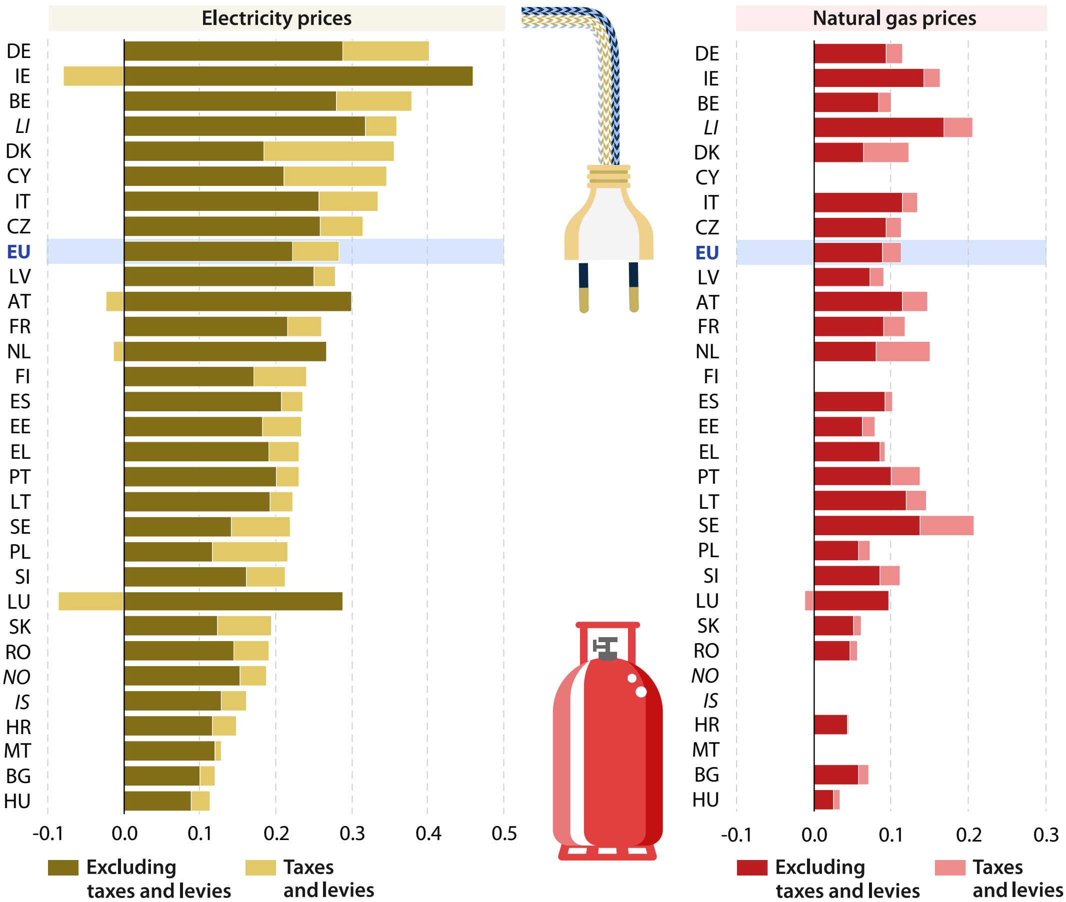


In 2022, close to four fifths of the final energy consumption in the residential sector of the EU was covered by 3 fuels: natural gas (30.9%), electricity (25.1%), and renewables and biofuels (22.6%). There were notably smaller shares for oil and petroleum products (10.9%), derived heat (8.2%) and solid fossil fuels such as coal (2.3%).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_c)

Electricity and natural gas prices

(€ per kWh, household consumers, average prices for second half 2023)



Note: ranked on total electricity prices. CY, MT, FI, IS and NO: natural gas prices not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_204 and nrg_pc_202)

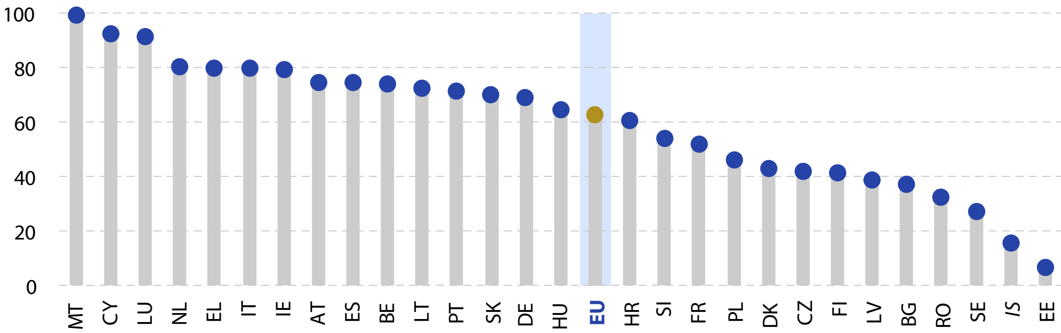
Electricity and natural gas prices are typically composed of 3 components: the basic price of energy, network charges, and taxes and/or levies. The share of taxes and levies in the overall retail price varies greatly between EU countries. In the wake of the rapid increase in the price of energy following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, many governments in the EU provided some form of subsidy to help households and businesses. These subsidies – in the form of refunds/allowances – were sometimes greater than taxes and levies; in the 2nd half of 2023, this was the case, for example, in Ireland for electricity and Luxembourg for electricity and natural gas.

In the 2nd half of 2023, household prices for electricity – presented here for a household with annual consumption within the range of 2 500–5 000 kWh – averaged €0.283 per kWh across the EU. Consumers in Germany paid the highest prices for their electricity, 3.6 times as much as those in Hungary.

The price of natural gas – measured here for a household with annual consumption within the range of 20–200 GJ – averaged €0.113 per kWh across the EU in the 2nd half of 2023. Consumers in Sweden paid 6.2 times as much as consumers in Hungary for their natural gas.

Energy dependency rate

(%, net imports as a share of gross available energy, 2022)



Note: IS and NO, 2021. NO, value not shown (= −616.6%). A negative value indicates that a country exports more energy than it imports.

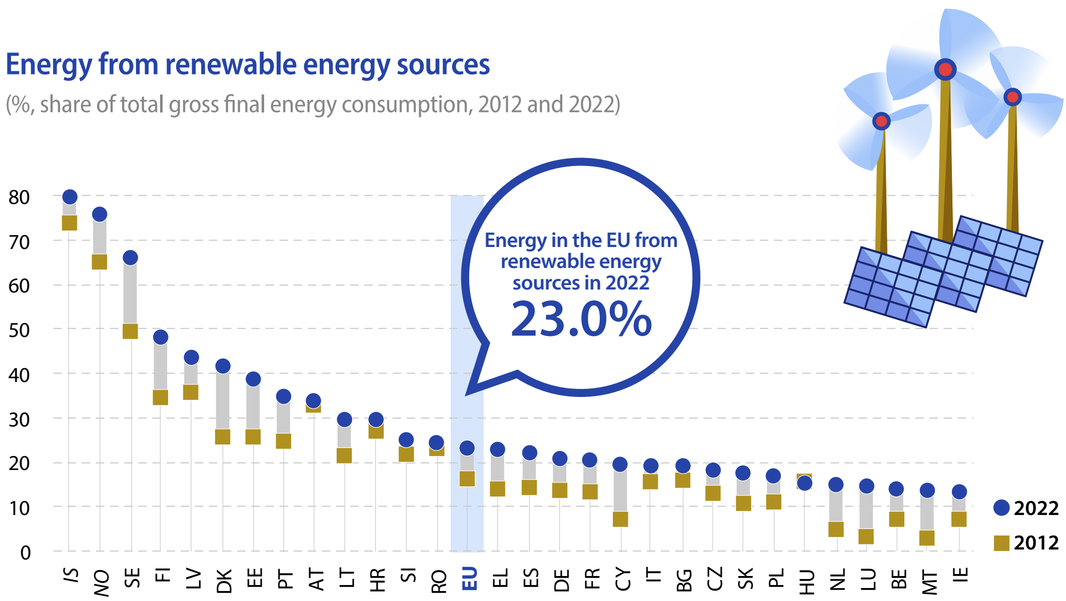
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_id)

The energy dependency rate indicates the extent to which an economy relies upon imports to meet its energy needs. In 2022, the EU's dependency rate was 62.5%: in other words, net imports accounted for more than 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

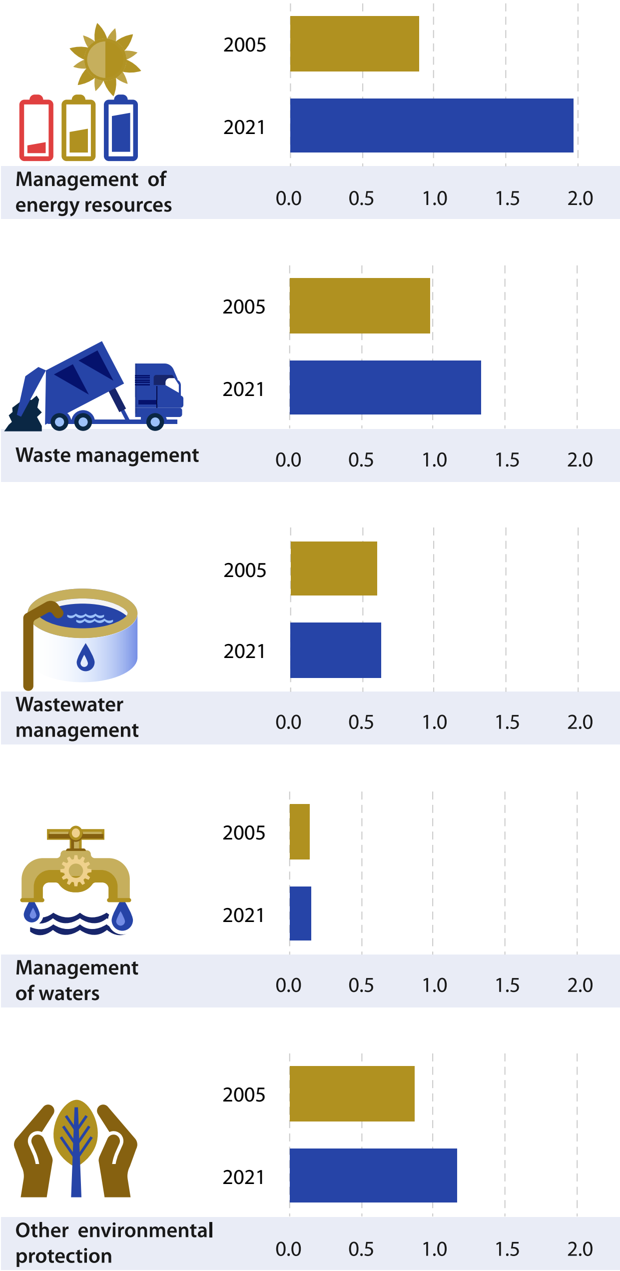
(%, share of total gross final energy consumption, 2012 and 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_ren)

In 2022, 23.0% of the EU's gross final energy consumption was from renewable energy sources, compared with 16.0% a decade earlier. In 2022, nearly two thirds (66.0%) of the final energy consumption in Sweden was from renewable sources, while shares of more than two fifths were also recorded in Finland, Latvia and Denmark.

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, 2005 and 2021)

The environmental economy includes activities that relate to environmental protection and the management of natural resources. Overall, there were 5.2 million people working in the EU's environmental economy in 2021, which marked an increase of 50.9% when compared with the situation in 2005.

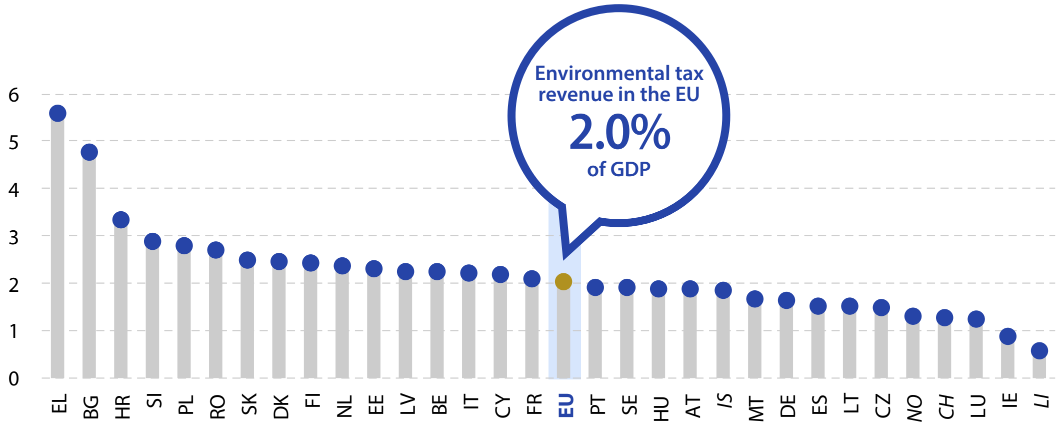
In 2021, the management of energy resources had the largest workforce within the EU's environmental economy (2.0 million), followed by waste management (1.3 million) and other environmental protection (1.2 million).

The size of the EU workforce for the management of energy resources was 2.2 times as large in 2021 as it had been in 2005; this was by far the most rapid expansion among the various subsectors of the environmental economy. By contrast, there was almost no growth during the same period in the number of people employed in the management of waters or in wastewater management.

Environmental tax revenue

(%, relative to GDP, 2022)

Environmental taxes can be used to try to influence the behaviour of economic operators, both producers and consumers. In 2022, EU environmental tax revenues were valued at €321 billion, equivalent to 2.0% of GDP. This ratio peaked at 5.6% in Greece, while it was 4.8% in Bulgaria. By contrast, environmental tax revenues accounted for 0.9% of GDP in Ireland and for 1.2% in Luxembourg.



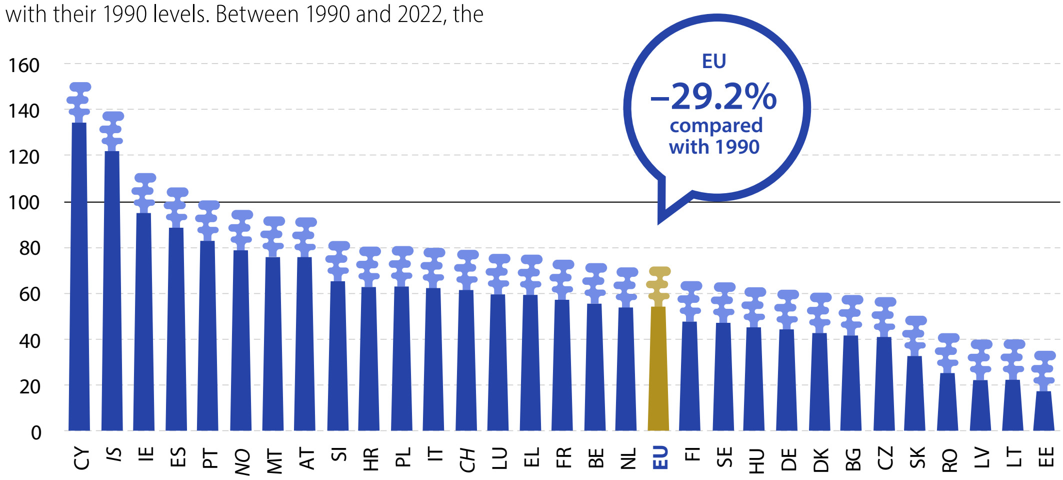
Note: LI, 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_tax)

Greenhouse gas emissions

(1990 = 100, based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, 2022)

Developments in the level of greenhouse gas emissions may be traced using data for the Kyoto basket of greenhouse gases. By 2022, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU had fallen 29.2% compared with their 1990 levels. Between 1990 and 2022, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell in all but 4 of the EU countries, namely Cyprus, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. The level of emissions more than halved in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Romania.

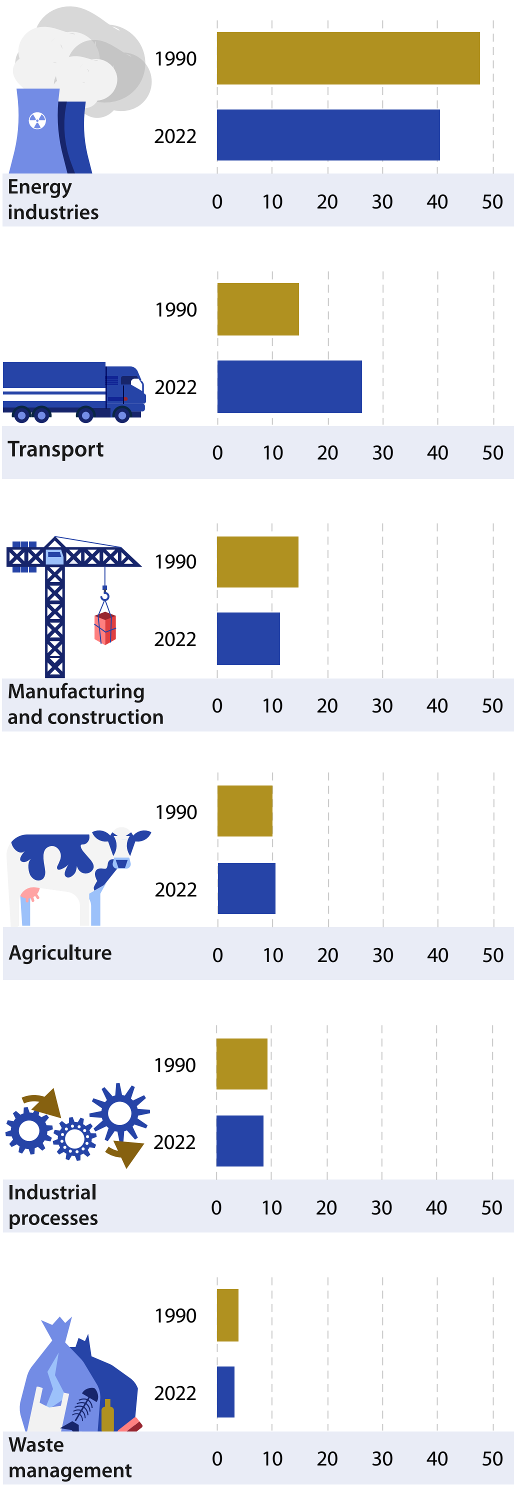


Note: greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride and sulphur hexafluoride. These gases are aggregated by using global warming potential (GWP) factors to obtain data in CO_2 equivalents.

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 2022)

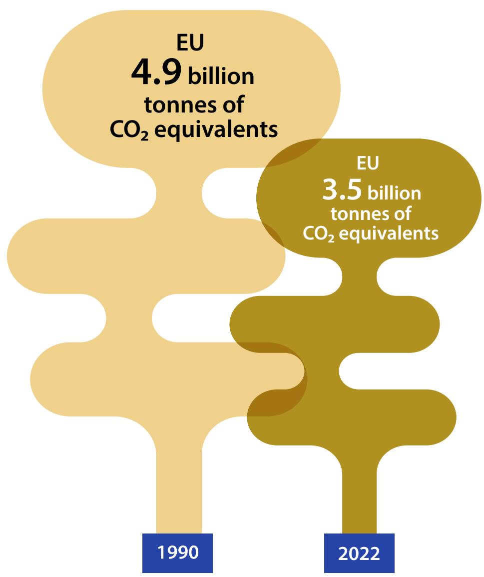


In 2022, the total quantity of EU greenhouse gas emissions was 3.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents. The principal sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU were fuel combustion in energy industries (40.4% of the total; including not only fuel combustion in energy industries but also in sectors other than transport, manufacturing and construction) and in transport (26.2%; this includes international aviation).

The only source that increased the quantity of its greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2022 was transport, with an overall increase of 25.6%. For each of the remaining sources, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell between 1990 and 2022. Decreases of at least two fifths were recorded for fuel combustion in manufacturing and construction (down 45.6%), waste management (down 40.6%) and fuel combustion in energy industries (down 40.0%).

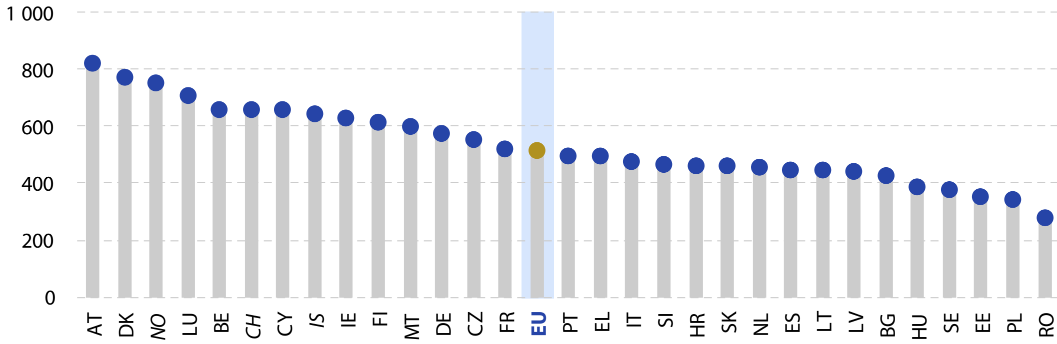
Note: energy industries includes not only fuel combustion in energy industries but also in sectors other than transport, manufacturing and construction.

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



Municipal waste generation

(kg per inhabitant, 2022)

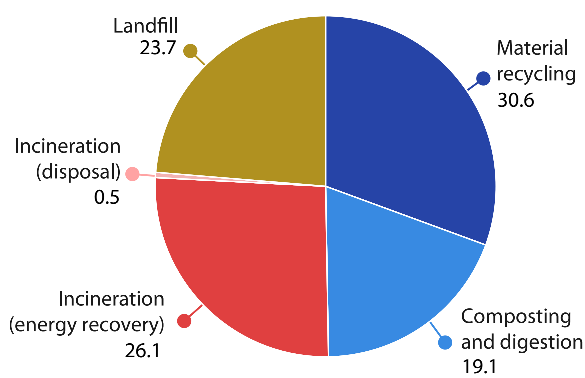


Note: BG, CZ, EL, IT, LV, AT, PT, FI and IS, 2021. IE: 2020.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)

Municipal waste constitutes around a tenth of the total waste that is generated each year in the EU. On average, people living in the EU generated 513 kg of municipal waste each in 2022. Among the EU countries, municipal waste generation was highest in Austria (835 kg per inhabitant), Denmark (787 kg) and Luxembourg (721 kg). By contrast, municipal waste generation was lowest in Romania (301 kg per inhabitant).

Municipal waste treatment methods

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



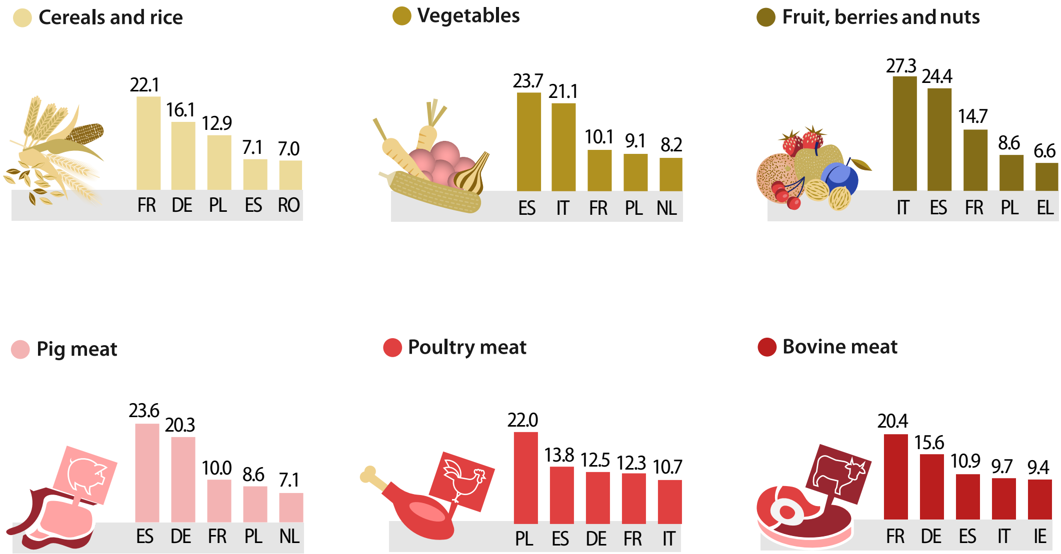
Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)

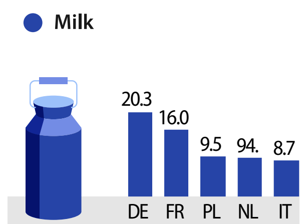
In 2022, there were 225 million tonnes of municipal waste treated in the EU, representing 98.2% of the municipal waste generated. Material recycling was used for 30.6% of the municipal waste treated across the EU, while the share treated by composting or digestion was 19.1%: these are generally considered to be the most environmentally sustainable treatment methods. By contrast, more than a quarter (26.1%) of the municipal waste treated in the EU was incinerated with energy recovery and a small part (0.5%) without energy recovery, while almost a quarter (23.7%) was landfilled.

Agriculture

Top 5 EU countries for the production of selected agricultural products

(%, 2023)





Note: milk, cereals and rice, vegetables, and fruits, berries and nuts, 2022. EU estimates for poultry meat based on available data (excluding EE and NL). Fruit, berries and nuts: cover all types, including strawberries, grapes and citrus fruit.

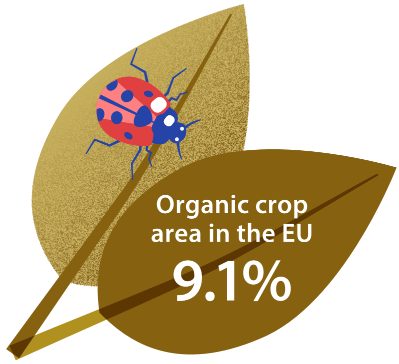
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mk_farm, apro_cpsh1 and apro_mt_pann)

Agricultural products are a major part of the EU's regional and cultural identity. In 2022, there were 270.8 million tonnes of cereals and rice harvested in the EU, France accounting for the largest share (22.1%). A total of 58.6 million tonnes of vegetables were harvested in the EU, with Spain accounting for the highest share (23.7%). There were 62.7 million tonnes of fruit, berries and nuts harvested in the EU, with Italy recording the highest share (27.3%); these figures comprise all types of fruit, including those used for the production of beverages. In a similar vein, 160.0 million tonnes of raw milk were available on EU farms, with Germany recording the highest share (20.3%).

Fresher information is available about the production of meat: in 2023, the EU produced 20.6 million tonnes of pig meat, an estimated 12.5 million tonnes of poultry meat and 6.4 million tonnes of bovine meat. Spain (23.6%) and Germany (20.3%) each accounted for more than a fifth of the pig meat produced in the EU. Poland had a similar share (22.0%) of the EU's production of poultry meat, as did France (20.4%) for bovine meat production.

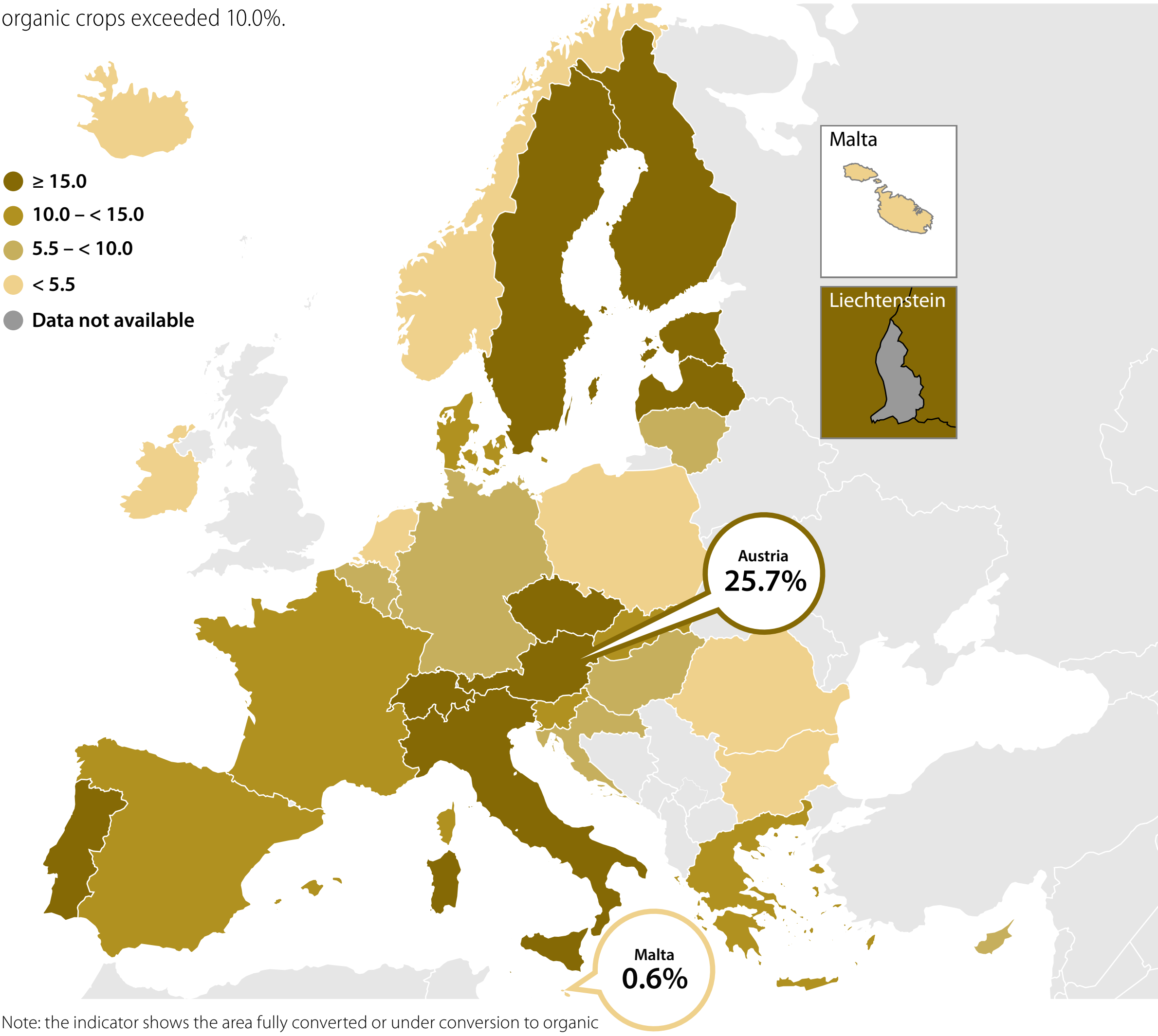
Organic crop area

(%, share of utilised agricultural area, 2022)



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

Organic crop farming accounted for 9.1% of the EU's total utilised agricultural area in 2022. The share of organic crop farming ranged from lows of 2.2% or less in Malta, Bulgaria and Ireland to highs of 19.3% in Portugal, 19.9% in Sweden, 23.4% in Estonia and 25.7% in Austria (2020 data). In Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Romania and Ireland, the growth between 2021 and 2022 in the area set aside for organic crops 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). LV, PL, SI, SK, NO and CH: 2021. EU, EL, AT and IS: 2020.

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

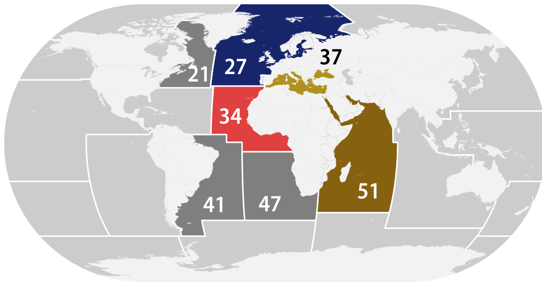
Fisheries

EU countries with the largest fish catches

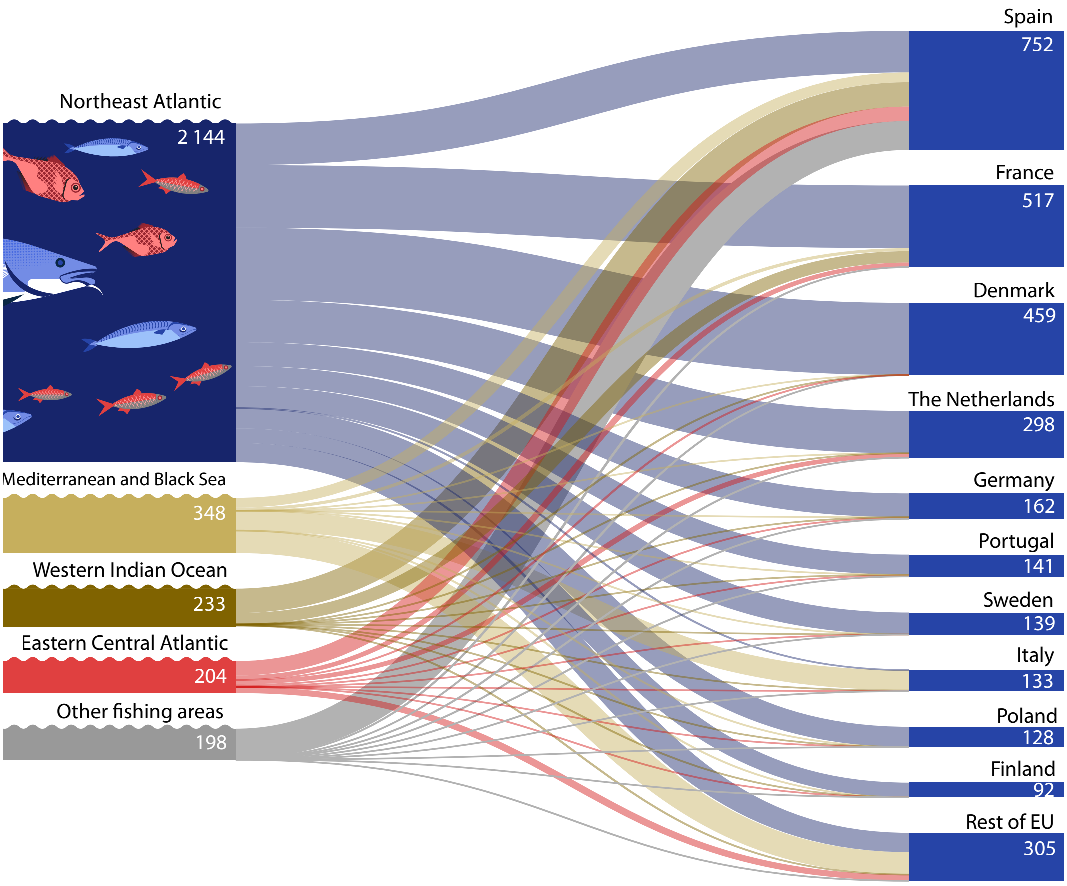
(1 000 tonnes live weight, main fishing areas, 2022)

Although the EU fishing fleet operates worldwide, the vast majority (68.6%) of its catch in 2022 was taken from the Northeast Atlantic. The largest fish catches in this area were by Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Spain, with the most common species including herring, sprat and mackerel. The next largest fishing areas (by weight) for the EU were the Mediterranean and Black Sea (11.1% of the total catch), the Western Indian Ocean (7.5%) and the Eastern Central Atlantic (6.5%).

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



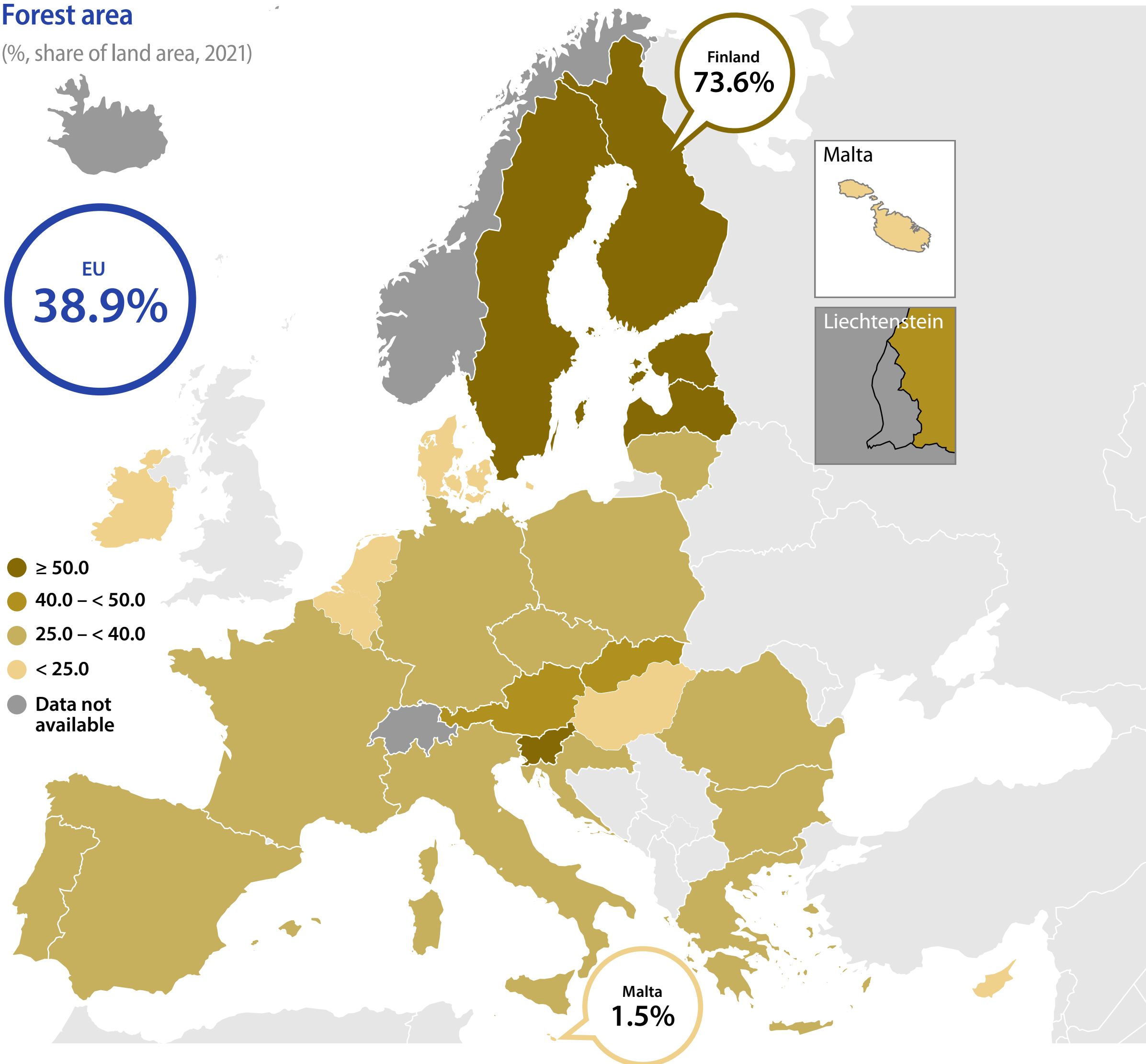
Note: CZ, LU, HU, AT and SK are landlocked. IE and LV: not available.
EU totals by area exclude IE and LV.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main)

Forestry

Forest area

(%, share of land area, 2021)



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 2021, there were 160 million hectares of forests covering 38.9% of the EU's land area. In absolute terms, Sweden (28.03 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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KEY FIGURES ON EUROPE

2024 EDITION

Key figures on Europe presents a selection of statistical data on the European Union (EU). Most data cover the EU as well as the EU and EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to EU statistics and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on Eurostat's website together with a range of online articles in *Statistics Explained*.

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Print: ISBN 978-92-68-16409-9
PDF: ISBN 978-92-68-16408-2