

## Progress in gender equality

The data for 2022 Index is mostly from 2020. The UK is not included.

With 74.2 out of 100 points, Belgium ranks 8th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 5.6 points above the EU's score.

Since 2010, Belgium's score has increased by 4.9 points. Its progress has been relatively slow as compared to other Member States, resulting in a drop in its ranking by three places. Since 2019, Belgium's score has increased by 1.5 points which is among the highest improvements among the Member States. The country retained its rank at the 8th place.

Improvements in the domains of power, health and work have been the main drivers of the increased score.

### Best performance

Belgium performs best in the domain of money, scoring 89.8 points and ranking 2nd among all Member States. Within this domain, the country performs best in the sub-domain of financial resources, in which it ranks 4th with a score of 84.9 points (+ 7.0 points since 2010 and + 0.3 since 2019). Since 2019, Belgium's score in the domain of money has remained almost the same (- 0.1 points).

### Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities are strongly pronounced in the domain of health (88.5 points) in which Belgium's ranking is the lowest (12th among all Member States). Belgium's progress in this domain has stalled since 2010 (+ 2.0 points), but has substantially improved since 2019 (+ 2.2 points). Belgium's most room for improvement is in the sub-domain of health access in which it scores 98.3 points and ranks 15th (with an increase in ranking by one place since 2019).

### Biggest improvement

Belgium's score has improved the most in the domain of power (+ 19.1 points since 2010 and + 6.0 points since 2019), moving up the country's ranking to the 7th place (+ 1 place since 2019). The changes in score were driven by improvements in the sub-domains of political and economic decision-making (+ 8.9 points and + 10.3 points since 2019, respectively), which are among the highest scores in the EU.

### A step backwards

Since 2010, Belgium's score has worsened in the domain of time (- 5.0 points). Its ranking has dropped from the 7th to the 11th place. This change is driven by higher levels of gender inequality in social and care activities (- 6.2 and - 3.7 points, respectively).

		Change since	
		2010	2019
SE	83.9	3.8	0.0
DK	77.8	2.6	0.0
NL	77.3	3.3	1.4
FI	75.4	2.3	0.1
FR	75.1	7.6	-0.4
ES	74.6	8.2	0.9
IE	74.3	8.9	1.2
BE	74.2	4.9	1.5
LU	73.5	12.3	1.1
AT	68.8	10.1	0.8
DE	68.7	6.1	0.1
EU	68.6	5.5	0.6
SI	67.5	4.8	-0.1
MT	65.6	11.2	0.6
IT	65.0	11.7	1.2
PT	62.8	9.1	0.6
LV	61.4	6.2	-0.7
EE	61.0	7.6	-0.6
HR	60.7	8.4	1.5
BG	60.7	5.7	0.8
LT	60.6	5.7	2.2
PL	57.7	2.2	1.1
CY	57.3	8.3	0.3
CZ	57.2	1.6	0.5
SK	56.0	3.0	0.0
HU	54.2	1.8	0.8
RO	53.7	2.9	-0.8
EL	53.4	4.8	0.9

## Explore Belgium's Index results

	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Index</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>74.2</b>
<b>Work</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>75.5</b>
Participation	75.7	75.4	77.5	78.2	79.5	80.2	80.4
Segregation and quality of work	69.8	70.4	70.2	70.2	70.1	69.9	70.9
<b>Money</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>85.6</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>89.8</b>
Financial resources	77.9	78.6	82.7	83.3	83.8	84.6	84.9
Economic situation	94.0	93.3	92.6	93.6	93.8	95.4	95.1
<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>70.1</b>
Attainment and participation	73.3	72.5	73.3	74.3	73.8	74.0	73.8
Segregation	68.1	68.8	68.9	68.4	69.0	67.7	66.6
<b>Time</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>65.3</b>
Care activities	72.6	75.7	68.9	68.9	68.9	68.9	68.9
Social activities	68.1	68.1	61.9	61.9	61.9	61.9	61.9
<b>Power</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>
Political	65.8	70.0	70.2	67.8	68.1	72.0	80.9
Economic	32.8	36.0	38.0	40.2	41.8	53.3	63.6
Social	50.9	51.0	57.1	61.7	60.8	59.2	58.6
<b>Health</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>88.5</b>
Status	92.6	93.4	93.3	93.3	93.6	93.3	93.8
Behaviour	70.3	70.3	70.3	70.3	70.3	70.3	75.1
Access	99.3	98.1	98.0	97.9	98.4	98.1	98.3

### About Index

The Gender Equality Index is a tool that monitors progress in gender equality across the EU over time. It measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health, and it is composed of 31 indicators. The Index uses a scale of 1 to 100, where 1 stands for total inequality and 100 for total equality.

Two additional domains are included in the Index but do not impact a country's final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, dis/ability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women monitors, measures and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

The Gender Equality Index 2022 also includes a thematic focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and care.

## Explore Belgium's performance by indicator

		Belgium		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>Work</b>					
<b>Participation</b>	FTE employment rate (%)*	40	53	41	57
	Duration of working life (years)	32	35	33	38
<b>Segregation and quality of work</b>	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (%)	40	12	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (%)	30	33	22	26
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100)	66	66	62	63
<b>Money</b>					
<b>Financial resources</b>	Mean monthly earnings (PPS)	2778	3075	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS)	23537	25032	20010	21013
<b>Economic situation</b>	At-risk-of-poverty (%)	15	13	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80	28	27	20	20
<b>Knowledge</b>					
<b>Attainment and participation</b>	Graduates of tertiary education (%)	36	30	27	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education (%)	14	14	16	15
<b>Segregation</b>	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (%)	52	29	43	21
<b>Time</b>					
<b>Care activities</b>	People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%)	43	29	37	25
	People doing cooking and/or household, every day (%)	81	33	78	32
<b>Social activities</b>	Workers doing sporting, cultural or leisure activities outside of their home, at least daily or several times a week (%)	32	39	27	31
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (%)	9	10	12	11
<b>Power</b>					
<b>Political</b>	Share of ministers (%)	50	50	33	66
	Share of members of parliament (%)	43	56	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies (%)	42	57	29	70
<b>Economic</b>	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (%)	37	62	31	68
	Share of board members of central bank (%)	35	65	26	73
<b>Social</b>	Share of board members of research funding organisations (%)	38	61	40	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (%)	30	69	36	63
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (%)	21	78	20	79
<b>Health</b>					
<b>Status</b>	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%)	73	78	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years)	83	79	83	78
	Healthy life years at birth (years)	64	64	65	64
<b>Behaviour</b>	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%)**	72	51	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%)	37	41	38	43
<b>Access</b>	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (%)	2	2	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (%)	5	5	5	5

\* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

\*\* EU: EIGE estimation

**Source:** Eurostat (education statistics, European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), Eurofound (European Working Conditions Survey, European Quality of Life Survey), EIGE (Women and Men in Decision-Making).

# Explore intersecting inequalities

		Women	Men	Gender gap in 2020 (p.p)	Gender gap in 2014 (p.p)	Gap change 2014 - 2020
<b>FTE employment rate (%)*</b>						
<b>Family type</b>	Couple without children	32	37	-5	-5	●
	Couple with children	67	87	-20	-18	●
<b>Level of education</b>	Low educated	12	27	-15	-15	●
	Medium educated	39	57	-18	-16	●
	High educated	65	72	-7	-4	●
<b>Country of birth</b>	Native born	41	52	-11	-11	●
	Foreign born	36	55	-19	-17	●
<b>At-risk-of-poverty (%)</b>						
<b>Age groups</b>	15/16-24	15	17	-2	0	●
	25-49	12	10	2	2	●
	50-64	13	13	0	2	●
	65+	20	17	3	0	●
<b>Disability</b>	Without disabilities	12	11	1	1	●
	With disabilities	21	21	0	0	●
<b>Graduates of tertiary education (%)</b>						
<b>Age groups</b>	15/16-24	19	12	7	6	●
	25-49	53	39	14	10	●
	50-64	36	32	4	-1	●
	65+	18	24	-6	-8	●
<b>Country of birth</b>	Native born	37	30	7	3	●
	Foreign born	32	30	2	0	●
<b>People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%)**</b>						
<b>Family type</b>	Couple without children	21	10	11	11	●
	Couple with children	87	68	19	19	●
<b>Disability</b>	Without disabilities	43	30	13	13	●
	With disabilities	44	22	22	22	●
<b>Self-perceived health, good or very good (%)</b>						
<b>Age groups</b>	15/16-24	93	95	-2	-3	●
	25-49	84	86	-2	-3	●
	50-64	67	70	-3	-4	●
	65+	54	60	-6	-3	●
<b>Disability</b>	Without disabilities	92	93	-1	0	●
	With disabilities	22	27	-5	-3	●

- gender gap decreased (< -1 p.p.)
- no change (gender gap increases/decreases between -1 and 1 p.p.)
- gender gap increased (> 1 p.p.)

\* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

\*\* Gap change since 2014 not shown because there are no new data

**Source:** Source: Eurostat (education statistics, European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), Eurofound (European Working Conditions Survey, European Quality of Life Survey), EIGE (Women and Men in Decision-Making).

# Violence

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## A lack of evidence to assess violence against women

No score is given to Belgium in the domain of violence, due to a lack of comparable EU-wide data.

## Femicide

In 2020, 788 women were murdered by an intimate partner, a family member or a relative in 17 EU Member States, according to official reports. Data on femicide is not available in Belgium.

Source: Eurostat, 2020

## Istanbul Convention: state of play

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence. Belgium signed the Istanbul Convention in September 2012 and ratified it in March 2016. The treaty entered into force in July 2016.

## EIGE/FRA survey

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) will carry out a survey on violence against women (VAW II) in eight EU Member States (CZ, DE, IE, CY, LU, HU, RO, SE), which will complement the Eurostat-led data collection on gender-based violence and other forms of interpersonal violence (EU-GBV) in the remaining countries. The use of a unified methodology will ensure the availability of comparable data across all EU Member States. Data collection will be completed in 2023, and the results will be used to update the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index 2024 and its thematic focus on violence against women.

# Index 2022 - thematic focus on COVID-19

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The Gender Equality Index 2022 focuses on socio-economic consequences resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The thematic focus analyses the following aspects:

- Childcare
- Long-term care
- Housework
- Flexible working arrangement

The data was gathered using a survey that was carried out in all EU Member States between June and July 2021. Both the survey design and data collection timeframe ensured a comprehensive coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact. The survey was conducted using an international web panel with a quota sampling method based on a stratification approach<sup>[1]</sup>. It targeted the general population, aged between 20 and 64 years. Representative quotas were designed based on 2020 Eurostat population statistics. Post-stratification weighting was carried out to adjust for differences between the sample and population distribution in key variables and to ensure the sample accurately reflected the socio-demographic structure of the target population.

[1] The data was collected via a web survey using the international panel platform CINT as a main resource. CINT is an international platform that brings together several international panels, reaching more than 100 million registered panellists across more than 150 countries. To fulfil the required sampling in small countries, additional panel providers (IPSOS, TOLUNA, KANTAR) were engaged, which allowed for the same profiling requirements of the respondents and GDPR compliance.

# COVID-19 in Belgium

Belgium EU  
Women Men Women Men

	Belgium Women	Belgium Men	EU Women	EU Men
<b>Childcare</b>				
<b>Caring for children/grandchildren 0-11 every day during the pandemic (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Less than 1 hour	14	19	10	14
Between 1 and 4 hours	56	58	50	65
More than 4 hours	30	23	40	21
<b>Caring for children/grandchildren 12-17 every day during the pandemic (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Less than 1 hour	24	29	22	23
Between 1 and 4 hours	61	57	58	63
More than 4 hours	15	14	20	14
<b>Relying on external support for children 0-17 by type of support (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Daycare centre/school (also if with reduced offer/online format)	43	52	42	51
After-school programme(s) and other extracurricular activities	40	44	41	49
Nanny or babysitter	25	34	22	31
Nurse or social worker	21	31	20	28
Grandparents or other relatives	40	52	46	54
Other adults (neighbours, friends, parents from child's school or daycare)	33	46	32	39
<b>Caring for children/grandchildren 0-11 and participating in social and individual activities (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Never	14	8	13	7
1-2 times a week	15	13	13	9
3 times a week or more	71	79	74	84
<b>Distribution of care and supervision for children (aged 0-11) (% , 20-64, EU, 2021)</b>				
Completely or mostly my partner	15	18	13	31
About equal or both together	33	39	32	44
Completely or mostly me	50	39	52	23
Mainly another person	2	3	2	2
<b>Long-term care</b>				
<b>Long-term caring (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
	25	29	30	31
<b>Long-term caring every day during the pandemic (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Less than 1 hour	24	18	20	21
Between 1 and 4 hours	66	61	62	60
More than 4 hours	9	21	18	19
<b>Rely on external support by use of external support (% , 20-64, 2021)</b>				
Residential long-term care facilities/ institutions	54	72	39	57
Daycare centre	49	69	39	55
Home-based personal care workers	55	70	43	58
Domestic cleaners and helpers	63	69	45	58
Nurse and/or health care assistants	62	74	41	57
Social worker	44	64	36	52
Relatives, neighbours, friends	68	73	65	72
<b>Long-term caring and participating in social and individual activities (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Never	8	10	9	6
1-2 times a week	13	8	12	8
3 times a week or more	80	83	79	86
<b>Housework</b>				
<b>Undertaking housework tasks every day (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
Less than 1 hour	12	14	11	18
Between 1 and 4 hours	68	74	69	70
More than 4 hours	20	12	20	12
<b>Distribution of housework chores within the household (% , 20-64, EU, 2021)</b>				
Completely or mostly my partner	9	40	11	39
About equal or both together	26	34	22	40
Completely or mostly me	61	24	66	20
Mainly another person	3	2	1	2
<b>Flexible working arrangement</b>				
<b>Change in your working time arrangements (% , 20–64, 2021)</b>				
You chose to reduce your working time to take care of your children and/or other relatives	6	9	8	10
You chose to change your working time in order to take care of your children and/or other relatives	11	14	12	18
You chose to reduce your working time and/or change your working schedule for reason other than care	7	8	7	10
Your employer reduced your working time	9	6	10	10
Your working time increased	9	8	7	6

Source: EIGE's survey on gender equality and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19



European Institute  
for Gender Equality

Explore the 2022 Index

## European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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