



The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

## Progress in gender equality

With 82.2 points out of 100, Sweden ranks 1st in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 12.0 points above the score for the EU as a whole. <sup>1</sup>

Since 2010, Sweden's score has increased by 2.1 points overall, mainly due to improvements in the domains of power (+ 7.3 points) and knowledge (+ 5.7 points). Since 2020, Sweden's score has decreased (- 1.7 points), but the country remains in 1st place in the ranking out of all EU Member States. Increasing gender inequalities in the domain of time (- 18.2 points) have been the main drivers of the fall in Sweden's score.

[1] The Gender Equality Index 2023 has been affected by certain changes in EU-wide surveys and through the use of the most up-to-date sources. For the first time, it benefits from EIGE's survey data on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities carried out across the EU in 2022, and from new data from the 2021 EWCTS survey (Eurofound). Regulation (EU) 2019/1700, which came into force from 1 January 2021, also introduced some changes into the EU-LFS. These methodological changes will affect nine indicators included in the domains of work, knowledge and time, together with their respective scores, as well as the overall Index and the analysis of intersecting inequalities using the respective indicators.

An analysis has been carried out of the possible impact that these changes may have had on the Index and on the interpretation of the corresponding time series. Despite the break in time series that the changes entail, the time series analysis can be considered adequate (see Index 2023 report).

		Change since	
		2010	2020
SE	82.2	2.1	-1.7
NL	77.9	3.9	0.6
DK	77.8	2.6	0.0
ES	76.4	10.0	1.8
BE	76.0	6.7	1.8
FR	75.7	8.2	0.6
LU	74.7	13.5	1.2
FI	74.4	1.3	-1.0
IE	73.0	7.6	-1.3
AT	71.2	12.5	2.4
DE	70.8	8.2	2.1
EU	70.2	7.1	1.6
SI	69.4	6.7	1.9
IT	68.2	14.9	3.2
MT	67.8	13.4	2.2
PT	67.4	13.7	4.6
BG	65.1	10.1	4.4
LT	64.1	9.2	3.5
PL	61.9	6.4	4.2
LV	61.5	6.3	0.1
HR	60.7	8.4	0.0
CY	60.7	11.7	3.4
EE	60.2	6.8	-0.8
SK	59.2	6.2	3.2
EL	58.0	9.4	4.6
CZ	57.9	2.3	0.7
HU	57.3	4.9	3.1
RO	56.1	5.3	2.4

## Best performance

Sweden's highest ranking (1st among all Member States) is in the domain of power, in which it scores 85.1 points. Since 2020, progress in this domain has stalled (+ 0.5 points). Within this domain, the country performs best in the sub-domain of political decision-making (95.9 points), in which it ranks 1st in the EU. With a score of 92.9 points, the country also ranks 1st in the sub-domain of social decision-making, following an increase in score of + 1.5 points since 2020.

## Most room for improvement

Sweden's lowest ranking (8th in the EU) is in the domain of money, in which the country scores 87.2 points. Since 2020, Sweden's score in this domain has increased slightly (+ 1.3 points), maintaining the same rank. Within this domain, the sub-domain in which the country shows the most room for improvement is in that of economic situation, in which Sweden ranks 12th with a score of 91.2 points. In the sub-domain of financial resources, the country scores 82.6 points and ranks 6th among the Member States.

## Biggest improvement

Since 2020, the biggest improvement in Sweden's score has been in the domain of work (+ 1.8 points), in which the country reached 84.8 points and maintained its ranking of 1st place. Improvement in the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work (+ 4.9 points) has been the key driver of this increased score. As a result, the country's ranking in this sub-domain has increased by two places, and currently stands 1st in the EU with a score of 77.1 points. In the sub-domain of participation, Sweden scores 93.3 points and also ranks 1st.

## A step backwards

Since 2020, Sweden's score in the domain of time has decreased considerably (- 18.2 points), bringing the country's score in this domain down to 71.9 points. As a result, its ranking for the domain has also fallen by two places, moving down to 3rd. The development in this domain can be attributed to a major decrease (- 33.7 points) in the sub-domain of social activities, in which Sweden now scores 55.6 points and ranks 15th in the EU, following a drop of 14 places. In the sub-domain of care activities, Sweden scores 93.1 points and ranks 1st in the EU.

## Convergence

Upward convergence in gender equality describes increasing equality between women and men in the EU, accompanied by a decline in variations between Member States. This means that countries with lower levels of gender equality are catching up with those with the highest levels, thereby reducing disparities across the EU. Analysis of convergence patterns in the Gender Equality Index shows that disparities between Member States decreased over the period 2010–2021, and that **EU countries continue their trend of upward convergence.**

Looking more closely at the performance of each Member State, patterns can be identified that reflect a relative improvement or slipping back in the Gender Equality Index score of each Member State in relation to the EU average.

Sweden is *flattening*. Its Gender Equality Index score is higher than the EU average, but has grown at a slower pace over time. The gap between the country and the EU has narrowed over time.

# Explore Sweden's Index results

										Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020	
<b>Index</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	
<b>Work</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	
Participation	91.9	93.8	95.4	95.7	95.8	95.9	95.4	93.3	1.4	-2.1	
Segregation and quality of work	70.4	70.6	71.5	71.9	71.7	72.0	72.2	77.1	6.7	4.9	
<b>Money</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>85.9</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	
Financial resources	75.9	77.4	82.3	82.1	82.0	81.9	81.4	82.6	6.7	1.2	
Economic situation	95.8	93.9	93.1	91.9	91.9	88.9	90.7	92.1	-3.7	1.4	
<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	
Attainment and participation	74.4	75.6	78.5	80.2	80.5	82.6	80.5	85.4	11.0	4.9	
Segregation	67.1	66.6	67.5	67.9	68.4	68.4	69.1	68.4	1.3	-0.7	
<b>Time</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>-12.6</b>	<b>-18.2</b>	
Care activities	84.6	82.6	90.9	90.9	90.9	90.9	90.9	93.1	8.5	2.2	
Social activities	84.3	84.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	55.6	-28.7	-33.7	
<b>Power</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
Political	92.1	93.0	93.9	95.1	94.9	95.0	95.5	95.9	3.8	0.4	
Economic	58.7	52.6	60.8	69.4	71.7	70.7	69.4	69.2	10.5	-0.2	
Social	87.1	87.1	87.8	87.9	87.8	89.8	91.4	92.9	5.8	1.5	
<b>Health</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	
Status	95.7	95.7	97.4	96.9	96.3	96.4	96.3	94.8	-0.9	-1.5	
Behaviour	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	91.2	91.2	1.9	0.0	
Access	94.5	94.2	95.8	98.0	98.1	98.2	98.3	97.7	3.2	-0.6	

# Explore Sweden's performance by indicator

		Sweden		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>Work</b>					
<b>Participation</b>	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	53	61	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	41	44	34	38
<b>Segregation and quality of work</b>	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	40	13	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	47	58	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	67	68	62	63
<b>Money</b>					
<b>Financial resources</b>	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	2628	3024	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	22448	23109	20261	21221
<b>Economic situation</b>	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	16	15	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	25	24	20	20
<b>Knowledge</b>					
<b>Attainment and participation</b>	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	44	32	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	43	33	19	18
<b>Segregation</b>	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	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 (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	25	25	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	61	46	63	36
<b>Social activities</b>	Workers doing sporting, cultural or leisure activities outside of their home, at least daily or several times a week (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	25	37	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	11	17	11	15
<b>Power</b>					
<b>Political</b>	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	46	54	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	48	52	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2023)**	48	52	30	70
<b>Economic</b>	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (% , 1st semester 2023)	36	64	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (% , 2022)	35	65	28	72
<b>Social</b>	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2022)	50	50	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	55	45	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (% , 2022)	50	50	20	80
<b>Health</b>					
<b>Status</b>	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)	70	74	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	85	81	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	68	69	64	63
<b>Behaviour</b>	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	80	65	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	60	57	38	43
<b>Access</b>	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	5	4	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	4	4	5	5

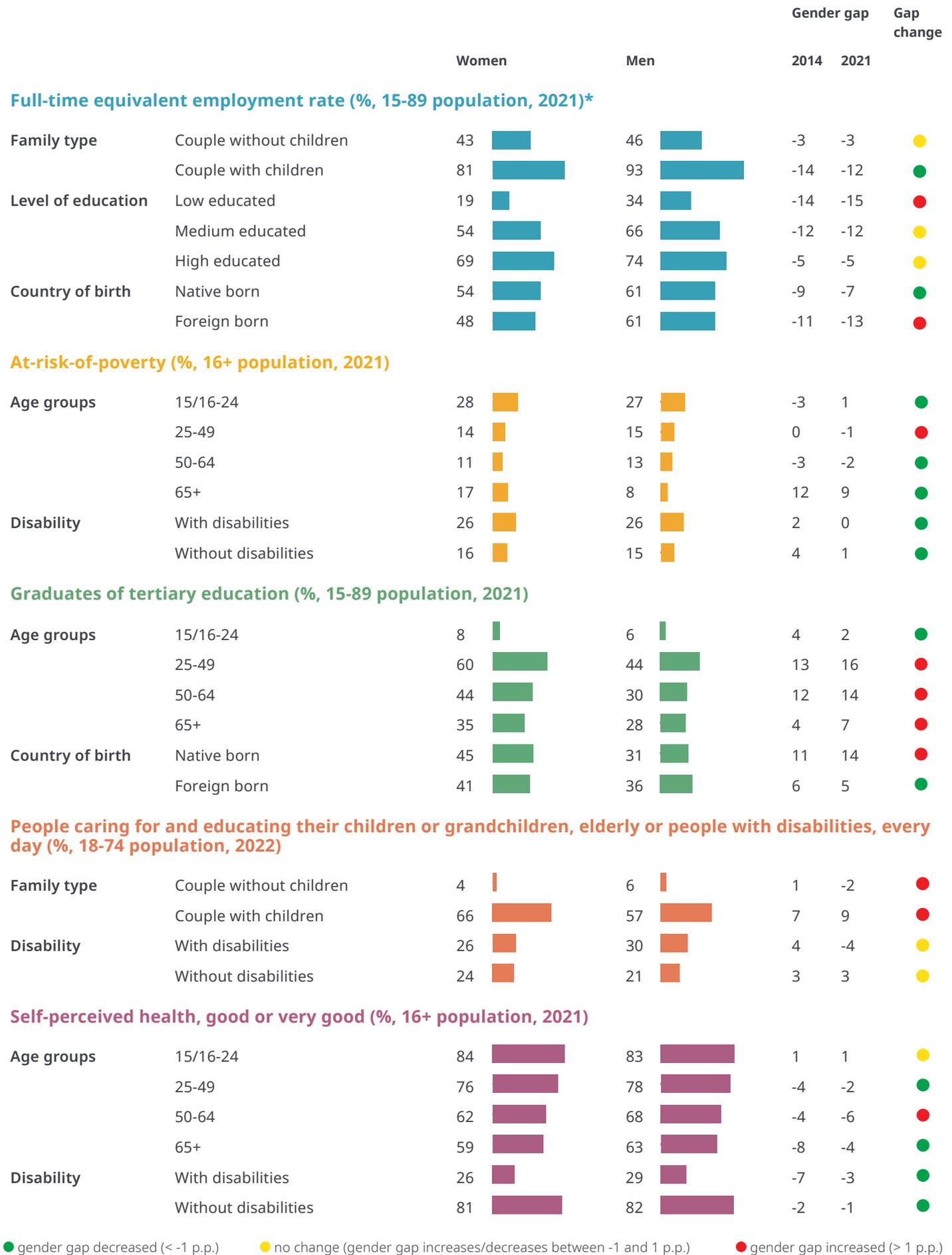
\* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

\*\* SE: Regional assemblies

\*\*\* 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), EIGE (Survey on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities, Women and Men in Decision-Making).

# Explore intersecting inequalities



● 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

Source: Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), EIGE's survey on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities.

# Violence

## A lack of evidence to assess violence against women

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

## Femicide

In 2021, 720 women were murdered by an intimate partner, family member or relative in 17 EU Member States, according to official reports. In Sweden, 15 women were murdered by an intimate partner. No data is available for the number of women murdered by a family member.

**Source:** Eurostat, 2021

## Violence at a glance

### Intimate partner violence

No data is available. Data on intimate partner violence will be updated in 2024 using Eurostat data complemented by the survey on violence against women carried out by FRA and EIGE.

**Source:** Eurostat, 2021

### Sexual harassment at work

No data is available. Data on sexual harassment at work will be updated in 2024 using Eurostat data complemented by the survey on violence against women carried out by FRA and EIGE.

**Source:** Eurostat, 2021

## 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. Sweden signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011, and ratified it in July 2014. The treaty entered into force in November 2014.

The European Council approved the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention on 1 June 2023.

## EIGE/FRA survey on violence against women

The Fundamental Rights Agency (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 this year, and the results will be used to update the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index 2024, with its thematic focus on violence against women.

# Thematic focus

The Gender Equality Index 2023 focuses on the socially fair transition of the European Green Deal. Its thematic focus analyses the following aspects:

- **Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation**
- **Energy**
- **Transport**
- **Decision-making**

The data was collected through various surveys, such as the EIGE 2022 survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities, as well as other EU-wide surveys.<sup>1</sup> The EIGE survey focused on gender differences in unpaid care, including links to transport, the environment and personal consumption and behaviour.

## **Focus 2023: The European Green Deal**

### **A greater share of women than men in Sweden exhibit a sense of personal responsibility towards mitigating climate change**

In 2018, around 76 % of women in Sweden felt a personal responsibility to reduce climate change, in contrast to 66 % of men. These percentages were noticeably higher than the EU average, which stood at 62 % for women and 61 % for men. In housework activities, approximately 56 % of women reported regularly choosing environmentally friendly choices, compared with 45 % of men.

### **Compared with the EU average, fewer people in Sweden struggled to heat their homes**

Even before the full impact of the ongoing energy crisis, many people in the EU were struggling to pay for energy and heating. In Sweden, non-EU migrant women and men (both 4 %) struggled the most to keep their homes adequately warm in 2021, compared with 12 % of non-EU migrant women and 13 % of non-EU migrant men on average across the EU. Similarly, non-EU migrant women and men (both 5 %) reported the highest level of arrears on utility bills, compared with an average of 11 % for such women and 12 % for such men across the EU.

### **Women were underrepresented in the energy and transport sectors in Sweden**

In 2022, only 29 % of workers in the energy sector in Sweden were women. Similarly, women accounted for just 22 % of workers in the country's transport sector. In national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change, 28 % of senior administrators employed were women. Meanwhile, 44 % of decision-makers in parliamentary committees focusing on the environment and climate change in 2022 were women, which is significantly higher than the EU average of 30 %.

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[1] The following sources were used: the EIGE survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities; the European Social Survey; Eurostat-LFS; EU-SILC; education statistics; and the EIGE's WiDM.

# Green Deal in Sweden

	Sweden		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation</b>				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% , 15+, 2018)	76	66	62	61
<b>Avoiding animal products (% , 16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	30	22	31	23
Sometimes	49	44	43	41
Never	21	34	26	36
<b>Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	37	36	49	42
Sometimes	55	51	44	46
Never	8	13	7	11
<b>Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	42	42	51	49
Sometimes	50	47	41	41
Never	8	11	8	10
<b>Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	56	45	59	53
Sometimes	39	46	35	39
Never	5	9	6	8
<b>Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)</b>				
Natural sciences and technologies	38	62	36	64
Natural sciences	59	41	56	44
Technologies	34	66	28	72
<b>Energy</b>				
<b>People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)</b>				
65+	2	1	8	6
Low educational attainment	2	2	12	12
Single	3	2	10	9
Lone parents	3	4	12	11
Non-EU migrants	4	4	12	13
People with disabilities	4	3	12	11
<b>People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)</b>				
16-24	4	4	8	9
Low educational attainment	3	4	9	10
Single	3	2	10	9
Lone parents	3	4	12	11
Non-EU migrants	5	5	11	12
People with disabilities	3	5	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% , +15, 2022)	29	71	24	76
<b>Transport</b>				
<b>People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% , 16-74, 2022)</b>				
Regularly	45	43	42	41
Sometimes	38	40	39	41
Never	17	17	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	59	64	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	36	33	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	53	43	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (% , 15+, 2022)	22	78	22	78
<b>Decision-making</b>				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	72	28	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	56	44	70	30

# About Index

The Gender Equality Index is a tool for monitoring 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 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 2023 also includes a thematic focus on the socially fair transition of the European Green Deal.

This year's edition of the Index includes a long-awaited update to the domain of time using the EIGE survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities.

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## EIGE's survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities

This EIGE survey focuses on gender differences in unpaid care in order to better understand how they impact the job opportunities, work-life balance, leisure and social activities of women and men. The survey aims to fill current data gaps and improve the capacity of the Gender Equality Index to capture changes in the domain of time in a more conceptually sound, coherent and regular way. The findings from this EIGE survey will contribute to monitoring the European Care Strategy and the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, as reducing the gender gap in care is a key objective of these strategies. The survey was carried out during the summer of 2022, and involved over 60,000 respondents aged 16-74 across the 27 EU Member States.

## European Institute for Gender Equality

We are an independent centre and the primary source for information on gender equality in the European Union. We contribute to making the European Union become a Union of Equality, where women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity are free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our societies.

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