

The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 77.8 points out of 100, Denmark ranks 3rd in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 7.6 points above the score for the EU as a whole.¹

Since 2010, Denmark's score has increased by 2.6 points, mainly due to improvements in the domains of power (+ 15.9 points) and money (+ 5.9 points). Since 2020, Denmark's overall score has remained unchanged. While the country has registered an improvement in the domain of power (+ 4.6 points), progress in the domain of knowledge has stalled (- 0.1 points), and has regressed in the domain of time (- 10.4 points). Due to other Member States making faster progress, Denmark has slipped from 2nd to 3rd place since the last edition of Index.

[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

Denmark's highest ranking (2nd among all Member States) is in the domain of work, in which it scores 82.1 points. The country has consistently ranked 2nd in this domain since 2010. Within this domain, the country scores highest in the sub-domain of participation in work (89.9 points), ranking 6th among the Member States (+ 1.5 points since 2020). In the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work, Denmark ranked 3rd in 2021, a rise of 3.5 points and two places since 2020.

Most room for improvement

The domain in which Denmark has the most room for improvement is that of health, in which the country scored 88.6 points, placing it 10th in the EU. Since 2020, Denmark's score for the domain of health has decreased slightly (- 0.9 points), resulting in a drop of one place in the ranking. The country has experienced the most significant decline in the domain of health out of all Member States since 2020. In this domain, decreases in the scores for the sub-domains of health status and health access have driven Denmark's score down (- 1.6 and - 1.4 points, respectively). Denmark's ranking has dropped by three places in both of these sub-domains.

Biggest improvement

Since the last Index edition, Denmark's biggest improvement has been in the domain of power (+ 4.6 points), improving its ranking from 5th place to 4th. The country has made a steady improvement in the domain of economic decision-making (+ 9.3 points), improving its ranking by five places to 6th place. Since 2020, Denmark's scores also improved in the sub-domains of political and social decision-making (+ 2.0 and + 1.8 points, respectively).

A step backwards

Since 2020, the largest decline in Denmark's score has been in the domain of time (- 10.4 points). During this time, the sub-domains of social activities and care activities have seen decreases of 16.1 points and 3.7 points, respectively. In the sub-domain of care activities, Denmark has fallen six places in the ranking, and currently stands in 9th place. Since the previous edition of the Index, Denmark's progress in the domain of knowledge has stalled (- 0.1 points). Consequently, the country's ranking has fallen from 3rd place to 7th in this domain.

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.

Denmark 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 average narrowed over time.

Explore Denmark's Index results

	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020
Index	75.2	75.6	76.8	77.5	77.4	77.8	77.8	77.8	2.6	0.0
Work	79.8	79.7	79.2	79.6	79.7	79.4	79.5	82.1	2.3	2.6
Participation	88.5	88.3	87.2	88.3	88.7	88.4	88.4	89.9	1.4	1.5
Segregation and quality of work	71.9	72.1	72.0	71.8	71.5	71.4	71.5	75.0	3.1	3.5
Money	83.6	85.7	86.6	87.1	86.8	89.1	88.5	89.5	5.9	1.0
Financial resources	78.3	80.4	82.4	83.2	83.3	85.8	84.9	85.6	7.3	0.7
Economic situation	89.3	91.4	91.1	91.2	90.5	92.4	92.3	93.5	4.2	1.2
Knowledge	73.2	71.3	73.6	72.3	71.3	71.0	69.3	69.2	-4.0	-0.1
Attainment and participation	81.7	80.5	82.1	81.8	79.5	80.7	79.3	80.0	-1.7	0.7
Segregation	65.6	63.1	66.0	64.0	64.0	62.5	60.6	60.0	-5.6	-0.6
Time	80.4	85.4	83.1	83.1	83.1	83.1	83.1	72.7	-7.7	-10.4
Care activities	75.8	85.5	86.1	86.1	86.1	86.1	86.1	82.4	6.6	-3.7
Social activities	85.3	85.3	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	64.1	-21.2	-16.1
Power	58.0	57.5	61.5	64.9	66.2	66.8	69.3	73.9	15.9	4.6
Political	75.1	76.1	71.2	74.2	76.0	75.3	74.1	76.1	1.0	2.0
Economic	47.5	45.6	55.7	56.5	56.0	55.1	59.2	68.5	21.0	9.3
Social	54.8	54.8	58.7	65.3	68.3	71.8	75.7	77.5	22.7	1.8
Health	90.3	90.2	89.6	89.9	89.7	89.5	89.5	88.6	-1.7	-0.9
Status	92.2	92.6	91.6	92.4	91.1	91.6	92.0	90.4	-1.8	-1.6
Behaviour	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.7	81.9	81.9	0.2	0.0
Access	97.8	96.9	96.2	96.3	96.8	95.9	95.2	93.8	-4.0	-1.4

Explore Denmark's performance by indicator

		Denmark		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	49	59	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	39	42	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	43	14	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	37	47	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	70	73	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	2868	3479	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	24812	26113	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	14	12	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	25	25	20	20
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	36	29	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	33	26	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	51	25	43	21
Time					
Care activities	People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	15	21	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	60	42	63	36
Social activities	Workers doing sporting, cultural or leisure activities outside of their home, at least daily or several times a week (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	32	38	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	14	24	11	15
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	35	65	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	44	56	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2023)**	50	50	30	70
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (% , 1st semester 2023)	42	58	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (% , 2022)	43	57	28	72
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2022)	48	52	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	45	55	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (% , 2022)	24	76	20	80
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)	67	70	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, Break in times series)	83	80	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	55	58	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	62	43	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	66	60	38	43
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	12	12	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	10	12	5	5

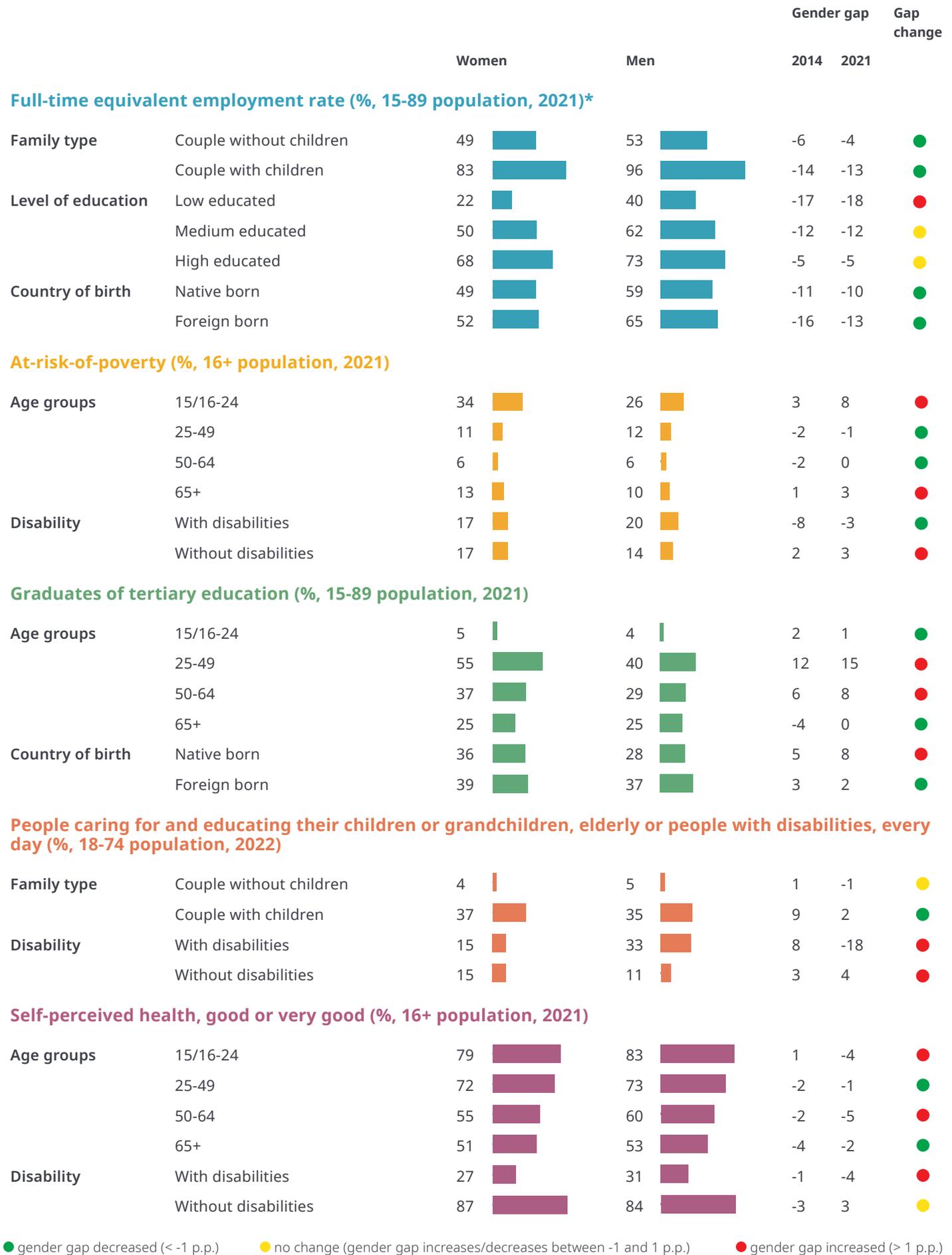
* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

** DK: 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 Denmark 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. Denmark does not provide comparable data on intentional homicide.

Source: Eurostat, 2021

Violence at a glance

Intimate partner violence

In Denmark, about 45 % of women who have ever been in a relationship have experienced violence by an intimate partner during their adult life. In total, 26 % have experienced physical violence (including threats) or sexual violence, while 42 % have experienced psychological violence. Up to 7 % have experienced intimate partner violence in the last 12 months, and 17 % have experienced it in the last five years.

Source: Eurostat, 2021

Sexual harassment at work

In Denmark, almost half (46 %) of all women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work. Around 6 % of women have experienced sexual harassment at work during the last 12 months, while up to 19 % have experienced it in the last 5 years.

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. Denmark signed the Istanbul Convention in October 2013, and ratified it in April 2014. The Convention entered into force in Denmark in August 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.¹ 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

Women and men in Denmark are less likely than the EU average to choose environmental options

In 2022, 35 % of women and 37 % of men in Denmark reported regularly avoiding plastic and/or single-use products, which is lower than the corresponding shares across the EU (49 % and 42 %, respectively). Similarly, fewer women and men in Denmark (36 % and 33 %, respectively) reported walking as one of their three main means of transport compared the EU as a whole (46 % and 43 %, respectively).

Even before the current energy crisis, non-EU migrant women and men and people with disabilities in Denmark were struggling

Even before the full impact of the ongoing energy crisis was felt, women and men in Denmark were facing challenges in paying their energy and heating bills. In 2021, 8 % of non-EU migrant women and 10 % of non-EU migrant men reported being unable to keep their homes adequately warm. In the same year, 6 % of women and 7 % of men with disabilities struggled to keep their homes sufficiently warm. These figures are likely to have risen significantly with the ongoing energy crisis.

Women in Denmark are underrepresented in decision-making positions

In 2022, women in Denmark made up just 15 % of those employed as senior administrators in national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change. This was considerably lower than the EU average of 44 % of women in such decision-making positions.

[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 Denmark

	Denmark		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% , 15+, 2018)	n/a	n/a	62	61
Avoiding animal products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	24	25	31	23
Sometimes	42	38	43	41
Never	35	38	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	35	37	49	42
Sometimes	52	49	44	46
Never	12	14	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	46	49	51	49
Sometimes	46	44	41	41
Never	8	7	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	45	45	59	53
Sometimes	47	45	35	39
Never	8	10	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	37	63	36	64
Natural sciences	59	41	56	44
Technologies	28	72	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)				
65+	2	2	8	6
Low educational attainment	5	4	12	12
Single	5	5	10	9
Lone parents	5	4	12	11
Non-EU migrants	8	10	12	13
People with disabilities	6	7	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)				
16-24	5	4	8	9
Low educational attainment	6	6	9	10
Single	5	5	10	9
Lone parents	5	4	12	11
Non-EU migrants	9	12	11	12
People with disabilities	4	6	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% , +15, 2022)				
	27	73	24	76
Transport				
People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	46	45	42	41
Sometimes	35	40	39	41
Never	19	15	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)				
	58	60	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)				
	27	30	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)				
	36	33	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (% , 15+, 2022)				
	21	79	22	78
Decision-making				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)				
	85	15	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)				
	68	32	70	30

Source: EIGE Survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities, European Social Survey, Eurostat LFS, EU-SILC, Education statistics, EIGE Women and Men in Decision-Making.

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.

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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