

The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 61.5 points out of 100, Latvia ranks 19th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 8.7 points below the score for the EU as a whole.¹

Since 2010, Latvia's score has increased by 6.3 points, mainly due to improvements in the domains of power (+ 14.3 points) and money (+ 9.2 points). Since 2020, progress in Latvia has stalled (+ 0.1 points). This can be attributed to simultaneous increases in the domains of knowledge (+ 2.7 points) and work (+ 2.2 points), and decreases in the domains of time (- 3.2 points) and power (- 1.8 points). As a result, Latvia's ranking in the Index has fallen by three places since 2020, and currently stands at 19th place.

[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

Latvia's highest ranking (14th among all Member States) is in the domain of work, in which it scores 76.4 points. Since 2020, the country's score has increased by 2.2 points, but it has fallen four places in the ranking for this domain due to faster progress by other EU countries. Within this domain, the country performs best in the sub-domain of participation (89.1 points), where it ranks 7th in the EU. In the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work, Latvia's score has increased by 4.2 points since 2020, moving the country's ranking for this sub-domain up from 16th place to 14th.

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities in Latvia are particularly pronounced in the domain of money, in which Latvia ranks 26th, with a score of 68.1 points. Since 2020, progress has slipped back (- 1.3 points), although Latvia's ranking for this domain remains the same. With a score of 77.3 points, Latvia's greatest room for improvement is in the sub-domain of economic situation, in which the country ranks last in the EU. In the sub-domain of financial resources, the country scores 60.1 points and ranks 24th.

Biggest improvement

Since 2020, the biggest improvement in Latvia's score has been in the domain of knowledge (+ 2.7 points), which has increased to 50.4 points. However, due to faster progress being made by other Member States, the country's ranking remains unchanged, occupying last place in the EU. The key driver of the increase in the country's score for this domain has been an improvement in the sub-domain of attainment and participation (+ 5.0 points), which has moved the country's ranking for this sub-domain up from 22nd to 20th place. With a score of 38.5 points, Latvia has also improved in the sub-domain of segregation (+ 1.3 points), although its ranking for this sub-domain remains last in the EU.

A step backwards

Since 2020, Latvia's score in the domain of time (62.6 points) has decreased (- 3.2 points), resulting in a drop in its ranking for this domain from 10th to 19th place. Increasing gender inequalities in this domain are due to a considerable decrease in score (- 19.9 points) in the sub-domain of care activities (to 69.9 points). In particular, between 2016 and 2022, the data show a considerable reduction in men's involvement in caring and cooking activities, resulting in a huge increase in the gender gap in care. As a result, Latvia has fallen 21 places in this ranking, and now stands at 23rd in the EU. This is the biggest drop in both score and ranking in this sub-domain out of all Member States.

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.

Latvia is improving at a **slower pace** than other Member States. Its Gender Equality Index score has improved, but remains consistently and significantly lower than the EU average. Progress in gender equality has been slower than in other EU Member States. The gap between the country and the EU average has widened over time.

Explore Latvia's Index results

									Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020
Index	55.2	56.2	57.9	59.7	60.8	62.1	61.4	61.5	6.3	0.1
Work	72.6	74.3	73.6	74.2	74.0	74.3	74.2	76.4	3.8	2.2
Participation	86.9	86.9	87.8	89.3	90.1	89.9	89.9	89.1	2.2	-0.8
Segregation and quality of work	60.7	63.5	61.8	61.7	60.8	61.4	61.3	65.5	4.8	4.2
Money	58.9	59.6	64.3	65.5	65.2	68.7	69.4	68.1	9.2	-1.3
Financial resources	43.5	43.5	51.9	53.7	54.6	59.4	60.0	60.1	16.6	0.1
Economic situation	79.8	81.5	79.5	80.0	78.0	79.4	80.3	77.3	-2.5	-3.0
Knowledge	49.2	48.8	48.9	49.7	49.3	50.9	47.7	50.4	1.2	2.7
Attainment and participation	60.5	62.2	59.1	62.3	61.1	65.6	61.1	66.1	5.6	5.0
Segregation	40.0	38.3	40.5	39.7	39.7	39.4	37.2	38.5	-1.5	1.3
Time	62.0	60.8	65.8	65.8	65.8	65.8	65.8	62.6	0.6	-3.2
Care activities	78.2	75.1	89.8	89.8	89.8	89.8	89.8	69.9	-8.3	-19.9
Social activities	49.2	49.2	48.2	48.2	48.2	48.2	48.2	56.1	6.9	7.9
Power	34.8	37.9	39.0	44.1	49.4	50.4	50.9	49.1	14.3	-1.8
Political	38.1	43.7	40.5	36.7	40.6	43.4	43.7	41.8	3.7	-1.9
Economic	37.5	42.1	44.2	45.6	46.1	48.2	49.2	45.5	8.0	-3.7
Social	29.5	29.5	33.2	51.4	64.3	61.2	61.3	62.4	32.9	1.1
Health	77.3	77.9	78.4	78.3	78.4	79.3	79.3	78.9	1.6	-0.4
Status	80.0	80.5	79.8	79.0	79.9	80.4	81.4	80.6	0.6	-0.8
Behaviour	65.5	65.5	65.5	65.5	65.5	65.5	64.9	64.9	-0.6	0.0
Access	88.3	89.7	92.3	92.9	92.1	94.6	94.5	93.8	5.5	-0.7

Explore Latvia's performance by indicator

		Latvia		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	50	61	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	36	36	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	28	5	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	36	43	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	63	61	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	1349	1697	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	13341	15017	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	28	21	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	15	14	20	20
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	38	26	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	19	14	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	44	14	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)	41	24	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	73	35	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)	24	28	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	11	17	11	15
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	38	62	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	29	71	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2023)**	13	88	30	70
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (% , 1st semester 2023)	23	77	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (% , 2022)	17	83	28	72
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2022)	80	20	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	60	40	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (% , 2022)	26	74	20	80
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)	46	55	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	78	68	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	55	52	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	79	50	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	23	27	38	43
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	11	9	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	12	12	5	5

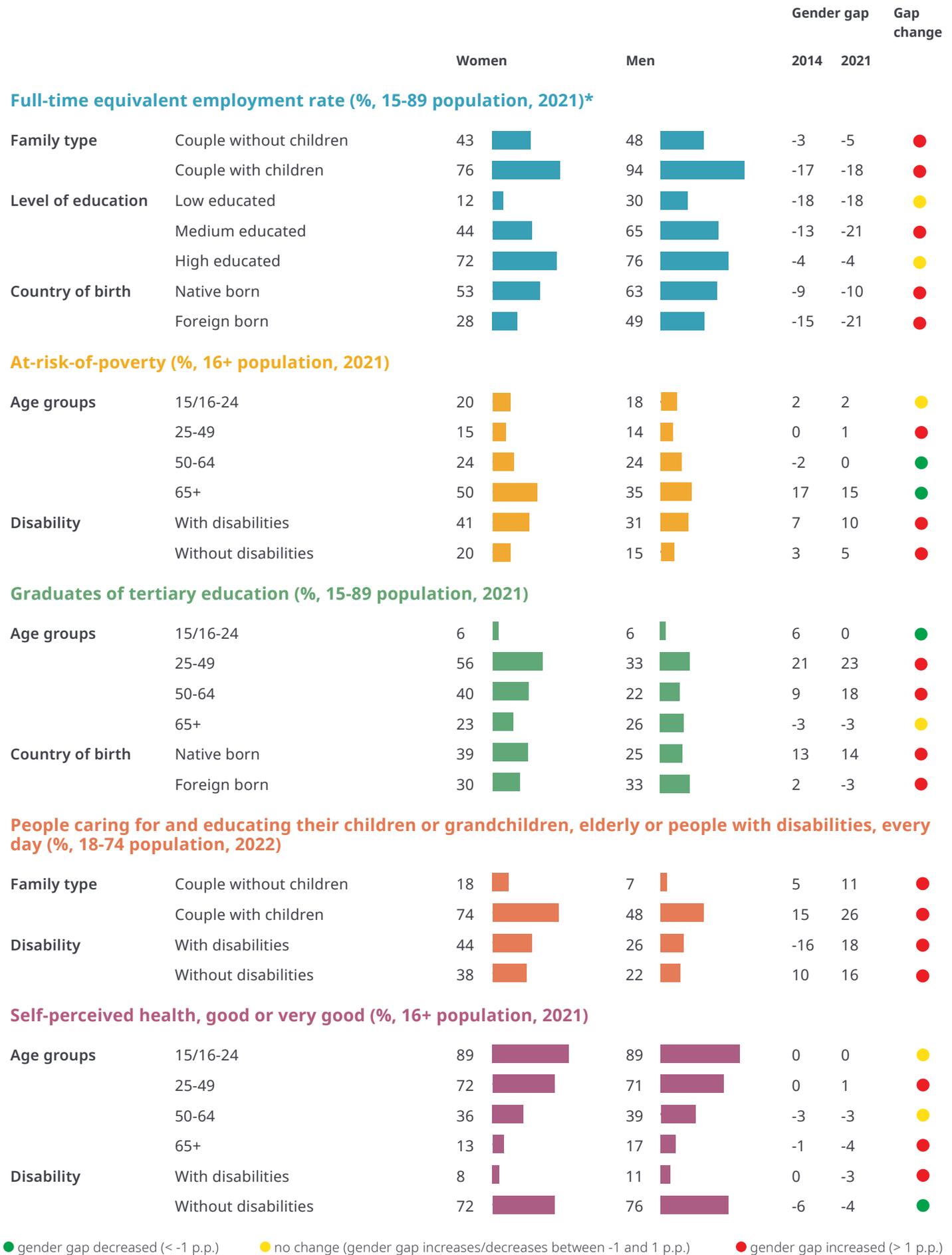
* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

** LV: 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 Latvia 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 Latvia, three women were murdered by an intimate partner, and 16 women were murdered by a family member.

Source: Eurostat, 2021

Violence at a glance

Intimate partner violence

In Latvia, 30 % of women who have ever been in a relationship have experienced violence by an intimate partner during their adult life. In total, 16 % have experienced physical violence (including threats) or sexual violence, while 29 % have experienced psychological violence. Around 4 % have experienced intimate partner violence during the last 12 months, while 10 % have experienced it in the last five years.

Source: Eurostat, 2021

Sexual harassment at work

In Latvia, around one in nine women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work. Up to 2 % of women have experienced sexual harassment at work during the last 12 months, while 5 % have experienced it in the last five 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. Latvia signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2016, but has not yet ratified it. The Convention has not yet entered into force in Latvia.

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 in Latvia are more likely than men to choose environment-friendly options

In 2022, considerably more women (51 %) than men (41 %) reported regularly choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities; for example, by avoiding single-use items, buying second-hand goods, and educating the children under their care about environmental issues. Around 35 % of women, compared with 27 % of men, reported regularly avoiding plastic and/or single-use products. These figures are significantly lower than the EU average of 49 % for women and 42 % for men in 2022.

Women in Latvia are more likely than men to opt for modes of transportation with lower carbon emissions

In 2022, 34 % of women and 31 % of men in Latvia reported frequently choosing low carbon-emission modes of transport. These numbers fall below the EU average of 42 % for women and 41 % for men. With regard to their typical weekly means of transport, 38 % of women and 29 % of men in Latvia listed public transportation among their top three choices. The percentage for women exceeds the EU average of 32 %, while the figure for men is in line with the EU average.

The energy and transport sectors in Latvia, as well as decision-making positions, suffer from a significant under-representation of women

In 2022, women comprised 26 % of workers in the energy sector in Latvia, and 26 % of workers in the country's transport sector. In 2022, only 8 % of decision-makers in parliamentary committees focusing on the environment and climate change were women, in contrast to the EU average of 30 %. The presence of women in senior administrative positions within national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change stood at 43 %, which is slightly below the EU average of 44 %.

[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 Latvia

	Latvia		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	25	20	31	23
Sometimes	34	37	43	41
Never	41	43	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	35	27	49	42
Sometimes	53	52	44	46
Never	13	22	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	51	41	51	49
Sometimes	38	51	41	41
Never	11	9	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	56	51	59	53
Sometimes	33	39	35	39
Never	11	10	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	34	66	36	64
Natural sciences	64	36	56	44
Technologies	28	72	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)				
65+	9	5	8	6
Low educational attainment	7	8	12	12
Single	12	10	10	9
Lone parents	7	8	12	11
Non-EU migrants	7	7	12	13
People with disabilities	9	8	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)				
16-24	7	10	8	9
Low educational attainment	9	11	9	10
Single	12	10	10	9
Lone parents	7	8	12	11
Non-EU migrants	5	4	11	12
People with disabilities	6	7	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% , +15, 2022)	26	74	24	76
Transport				
People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	34	31	42	41
Sometimes	46	45	39	41
Never	20	23	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	56	60	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	38	29	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	49	48	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (% , 15+, 2022)	26	74	22	78
Decision-making				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	57	43	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	92	8	70	30

* n.a.: not available

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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