

The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 75.7 points out of 100, France ranks 6th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 5.5 points above the score for the EU as a whole.¹

Since 2010, France's score has increased by 8.2 points, mainly due to improvements in the domain of power (+ 31.4 points). Since 2020, France's overall score has increased only slightly (+ 0.6 points). The country has registered an improvement in the domains of power (+ 2.1 points) and time (+ 1.4 points). However, progress has stalled in the domains of knowledge (- 0.3 points) and health (- 0.3 points). Due to other Member States making faster progress, France has dropped from 5th to 6th place since the last edition of the 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

France's highest ranking (2nd among all Member States) is in the domain of power. Here, the country scores 83.8 points, an increase of 2.1 points since 2020. This progress is mainly due to an increase in the score for the sub-domain of social decision-making (+ 5.2 points), in which France's ranking rose from 7th to 2nd place. This was the biggest rise in ranking in this sub-domain across all Member States. In the sub-domain of economic decision-making, France scores 86.2 points and ranks 1st in the EU.

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities in France are pronounced in the domain of knowledge (65.2 points), in which the country ranks 11th. Since 2020, progress has stalled in this domain (- 0.3 points), resulting in a drop of three places in France's ranking in this domain. With a score of 53.7 points, France's greatest room for improvement is in the sub-domain of knowledge segregation, in which the country's ranking has fallen from 12th place to 15th since 2020. In the sub-domain of attainment and participation, the country scores 79.1 points and ranks 9th in the EU.

Biggest improvement

Since 2020, France's biggest improvement in score has been in the domain of time (+ 1.4 points). The country ranks 9th in this domain, remaining unchanged since 2020. An improvement in the sub-domain of care activities (+ 11.3 points) has been the key driver of this change, which compensates for a decrease in the sub-domain of social activities (- 6.7 points). As a result, the country scores 81.7 points in this sub-domain, and its corresponding ranking has moved up from 12th to 10th place.

A step backwards

France has taken a step backwards in the domain of work, dropping four places to 19th position. This fall in ranking is mainly due to faster progress being made by other Member States. The country scores 73.2 points in this domain - a score that has remained unchanged since 2020. The driver of the change in France's ranking for the domain of work is the performance of the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work, in which France has fallen from 10th to 20th place, losing 1.6 points since 2020.

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.

France is **outperforming** other Member States. Its Gender Equality Index score is above the EU average, and has grown at a faster rate than other Member States. The gap between the country and the EU has widened over time.

Explore France's Index results

										Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020	
Index	67.5	68.9	72.6	74.6	75.1	75.5	75.1	75.7	8.2	0.6	
Work	71.5	71.9	72.1	72.4	72.8	73.2	73.2	73.2	1.7	0.0	
Participation	81.1	81.4	82.3	82.4	83.5	83.7	83.5	85.6	4.5	2.1	
Segregation and quality of work	63.1	63.5	63.2	63.5	63.5	63.9	64.2	62.6	-0.5	-1.6	
Money	83.5	83.7	86.1	86.4	87.0	86.3	84.7	84.9	1.4	0.2	
Financial resources	75.9	77.2	80.4	81.0	80.9	80.8	78.5	79.2	3.3	0.7	
Economic situation	91.8	90.6	92.3	92.1	93.5	92.1	91.4	91.0	-0.8	-0.4	
Knowledge	62.0	62.4	66.1	66.0	66.3	67.0	65.5	65.2	3.2	-0.3	
Attainment and participation	67.9	69.7	77.5	78.5	79.6	80.3	78.8	79.1	11.2	0.3	
Segregation	56.6	55.8	56.4	55.6	55.2	55.9	54.5	53.7	-2.9	-0.8	
Time	66.6	70.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.3	68.7	2.1	1.4	
Care activities	70.3	78.5	70.4	70.4	70.4	70.4	70.4	81.7	11.4	11.3	
Social activities	63.0	63.0	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4	57.7	-5.3	-6.7	
Power	52.4	55.1	68.2	78.3	79.8	81.4	81.7	83.8	31.4	2.1	
Political	64.1	70.8	77.1	80.8	83.1	84.9	86.3	86.9	22.8	0.6	
Economic	41.2	43.2	70.2	82.9	84.6	85.4	85.8	86.2	45.0	0.4	
Social	54.6	54.6	58.4	71.7	72.3	74.2	73.5	78.7	24.1	5.2	
Health	86.7	86.8	87.1	87.4	87.4	87.4	88.6	88.3	1.6	-0.3	
Status	91.0	91.6	91.6	91.9	92.1	92.1	92.5	92.5	1.5	0.0	
Behaviour	74.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	74.0	78.0	78.0	4.0	0.0	
Access	96.8	96.6	97.6	98.1	97.9	98.1	96.4	95.3	-1.5	-1.1	

Explore France's performance by indicator

		France		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	44	54	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	35	38	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	34	10	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	16	21	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	64	67	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	2282	2798	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	22727	23965	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	15	12	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	23	22	20	20
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	34	31	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	20	18	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	38	19	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)	31	23	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	68	43	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)	30	36	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	9	12	11	15
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	49	51	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	37	63	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2023)**	48	52	30	70
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (% , 1st semester 2023)	46	54	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (% , 2022)	45	55	28	72
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2022)	45	55	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	48	52	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (% , 2022)	39	61	20	80
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)	66	70	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	86	79	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	67	66	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	72	55	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	38	43	38	43
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	8	5	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	10	9	5	5

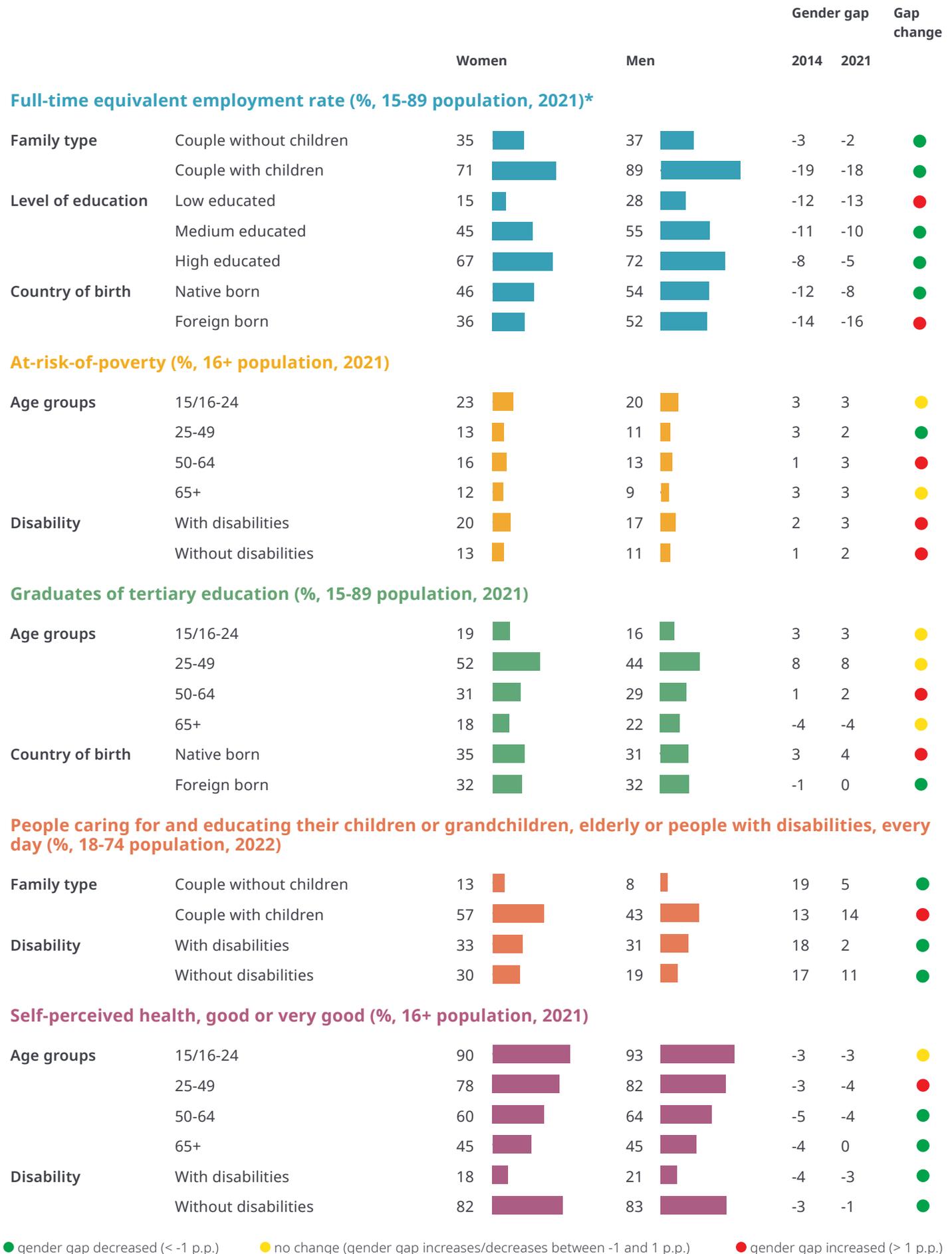
* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

** FR: 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 France 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 Slovakia, two 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

In France, 30 % of women who have ever been in a relationship have experienced violence by an intimate partner during their adult life. In total, 18 % have experienced physical violence (including threats) or sexual violence, while 28 % have experienced psychological violence. Around 30 % of women in France reported experiencing intimate partner violence during their adult life, with 11 % experiencing it in the last five years.

Source: Eurostat, 2021

Sexual harassment at work

In France, around 41 % of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work. Up to 4 % of women have experienced sexual harassment at work during the last 12 months, while 16 % 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. France signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011, and ratified it in July 2014. The treaty entered into force in France 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.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 France show a higher tendency to opt for eco-friendly choices compared with men

In 2022, around 30 % of women in France, compared with 20 % of men, avoided animal products, which was roughly in line with the EU average (31 % and 23 %, respectively). Similarly, 50 % of women in France, compared with 44 % of men, regularly avoided plastic and/or single-use products. Meanwhile, in 2018, fewer women (74 %) than men (78 %) reported feeling personal responsibility to reduce climate change. For women, this was the third-highest percentage in the EU, and for men, it was the highest among all Member States.

Lone mothers and single women in France struggle to keep their homes warm

In 2021, 14 % of lone mothers in France, compared with 10 % of lone fathers, struggled to keep their homes adequately warm. For women, this was higher than the EU average of 12 %. Similarly, 11 % of single women in France, compared with 8 % of single men, reported being unable to keep their home sufficiently warm. These figures are likely to have risen considerably with the ongoing energy crisis.

Women are significantly underrepresented in the energy and transport sectors in France

In France, only 32 % of workers in the energy sector in 2022 were women. Similarly, women accounted for just 27 % of workers in the transport sector. In the same year, 33 % of senior administrators in national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change were women, which was much lower than the EU average of 44 %. Likewise, women made up only 34 % of members of parliamentary committees focusing on the environment and climate change.

[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 France

	France		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% , 15+, 2018)	74	78	62	61
Avoiding animal products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	30	20	31	23
Sometimes	41	38	43	41
Never	29	42	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	50	44	49	42
Sometimes	43	44	44	46
Never	7	12	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	50	50	51	49
Sometimes	44	37	41	41
Never	6	13	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	57	51	59	53
Sometimes	37	40	35	39
Never	6	9	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	35	65	36	64
Natural sciences	56	44	56	44
Technologies	23	77	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)				
65+	6	5	8	6
Low educational attainment	9	8	12	12
Single	11	8	10	9
Lone parents	14	10	12	11
Non-EU migrants	11	12	12	13
People with disabilities	11	9	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)				
16-24	11	11	8	9
Low educational attainment	8	9	9	10
Single	11	8	10	9
Lone parents	14	10	12	11
Non-EU migrants	15	15	11	12
People with disabilities	8	10	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% , +15, 2022)				
	32	68	24	76
Transport				
People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	37	37	42	41
Sometimes	37	38	39	41
Never	26	25	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)				
	71	74	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)				
	24	24	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)				
	41	42	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (% , 15+, 2022)				
	27	73	22	78
Decision-making				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)				
	67	33	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)				
	66	34	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.

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.

© European Institute for Gender Equality, 2023
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

European Institute for Gender Equality
Gedimino pr. 16
LT01103
Vilnius
LITHUANIA
Tel. +370 52157444
Email: eige.sec@eige.europa.eu

Contact details

- ✈ eige.europa.eu
- f facebook.com/eige.europa.eu
- 🐦 twitter.com/eige_eu
- 📺 youtube.com/user/eurogender
- @ eige.sec@eige.europa.eu
- ☎ +370 52157444