



The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 68.2 points out of 100, Italy ranks 13th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 2.0 points below the score for the EU as a whole.¹

Since 2010, Italy's score has increased by 14.9 points, which is the largest increase in overall score among all the Member States, resulting in the biggest rise in the ranking by eight places. This change occurred mainly due to improvements in the domain of power (+ 37.5 points). Since 2020, Italy's overall score has increased by 3.2 points. The main drivers of this increase have been improvements in the domains of time (+ 8.1 points) and power (+ 5.8 points). As a result, Italy's overall ranking has improved by one place since 2020, moving up to 13th 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

Italy's best performance (9th out of all Member States) is in the domain of health, in which it scores 89.2 points. Since 2020, the country's ranking in this domain has risen by one place, even though progress in its score has stalled (+ 0.2 points). Within this domain, the country ranks best (5th place) in the sub-domain of health status, with 94.6 points, following an improvement of one place since 2020. Italy's highest score (98.6 points) is in the sub-domain of health access, in which it currently stands in 9th place in the EU.

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities are strongly pronounced in the domain of work (65.0 points), in which the country has consistently ranked last among all Member States since 2010. Since 2020, Italy's score for this domain has increased by 1.8 points. Within this domain, Italy ranks lowest (27th) in the sub-domain of participation, for which it scores 68.9 points. The country's lowest score (61.4 points) is in the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work, in which Italy has registered a drop in ranking from 19th to 22nd place since 2020, due to making slower progress than other EU countries.

Biggest improvement

Since 2020, the biggest improvement in Italy's score has been in the domain of time (+ 8.1 points), in which it has moved up the ranking from 16th to 12th. An improvement in the sub-domain of care activities (+ 13.0 points) has been the key driver of this change. As a result, the country's ranking has risen four places in this sub-domain, currently standing at 18th. In the sub-domain of social activities, Italy has also registered an improvement (+ 3.8 points) since 2020, with the country moving from 15th place to 5th.

A step backwards

Italy's progress has stalled in the domain of money (- 0.2 points) since 2020, scoring 80.3 points and maintaining its ranking at the 14th place. The lack of progress towards gender equality in this domain is due to a decrease in score in the sub-domain of economic situation (- 0.6 points) since last year's Index. As a result, Italy's ranking in this sub-domain remains in 21st place in the EU. In the sub-domain of financial resources, the country scores 76.7 points and ranks 12th.

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.

Italy is **catching up** to other Member States. This means that its Gender Equality Index score was initially lower than the EU average, but has grown faster over time, reducing this gap.

Explore Italy's Index results

	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020
Index	53.3	56.5	62.1	63.0	63.5	63.8	65.0	68.2	14.9	3.2
Work	61.3	62.4	62.4	63.1	63.3	63.7	63.2	65.0	3.7	1.8
Participation	64.9	66.7	66.7	68.2	68.6	69.1	68.1	68.9	4.0	0.8
Segregation and quality of work	57.8	58.5	58.4	58.5	58.5	58.6	58.7	61.4	3.6	2.7
Money	78.9	78.7	78.6	78.8	79.0	79.4	80.5	80.3	1.4	-0.2
Financial resources	72.5	72.8	73.0	74.4	74.8	75.8	76.6	76.7	4.2	0.1
Economic situation	86.0	85.1	84.6	83.5	83.4	83.1	84.6	84.0	-2.0	-0.6
Knowledge	53.8	56.7	61.4	61.2	61.9	59.0	59.5	60.8	7.0	1.3
Attainment and participation	53.7	54.4	56.1	57.0	58.0	58.3	57.7	60.8	7.1	3.1
Segregation	53.9	59.2	67.1	65.8	66.0	59.7	61.4	60.7	6.8	-0.7
Time	55.1	61.4	59.3	59.3	59.3	59.3	59.3	67.4	12.3	8.1
Care activities	54.5	67.6	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	74.2	19.7	13.0
Social activities	55.7	55.7	57.4	57.4	57.4	57.4	57.4	61.2	5.5	3.8
Power	25.2	29.4	45.3	47.6	48.8	52.2	56.9	62.7	37.5	5.8
Political	31.7	35.8	47.4	47.9	49.3	52.8	58.8	62.4	30.7	3.6
Economic	10.6	14.8	44.7	53.1	54.9	56.7	59.5	66.6	56.0	7.1
Social	47.8	47.8	43.7	42.5	43.1	47.5	52.7	59.2	11.4	6.5
Health	86.3	86.5	86.3	88.7	88.4	88.4	89.0	89.2	2.9	0.2
Status	91.1	91.3	91.3	95.1	94.3	94.4	93.9	94.6	3.5	0.7
Behaviour	74.2	74.2	74.2	74.2	74.2	74.2	76.1	76.1	1.9	0.0
Access	94.9	95.5	94.8	99.0	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.6	3.7	0.0

Explore Italy's performance by indicator

		Italy		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	31	51	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	27	36	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	27	7	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	27	35	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	52	56	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	2201	2620	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	20039	20838	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	20	19	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	17	17	20	20
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	17	14	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	16	16	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	47	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)	34	25	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	72	34	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)	28	34	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	11	13	11	15
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	31	69	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	33	67	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2023)**	24	76	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)	39	61	28	72
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2018)	30	70	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	50	50	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (% , 2022)	27	73	20	80
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)	71	76	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	85	81	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	69	68	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	80	69	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	25	30	38	43
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	3	2	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	3	3	5	5

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

** IT: 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		Gap change
		Women	Men	2014	2021	
Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*						
Family type	Couple without children	24	31	-8	-7	●
	Couple with children	51	88	-36	-37	●
Level of education	Low educated	13	37	-23	-24	●
	Medium educated	41	62	-19	-21	●
	High educated	65	72	-9	-7	●
Country of birth	Native born	31	49	-19	-18	●
	Foreign born	36	68	-25	-32	●
At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)						
Age groups	15/16-24	27	25	-1	2	●
	25-49	22	20	4	2	●
	50-64	17	18	0	-1	●
	65+	17	13	6	4	●
Disability	With disabilities	21	17	2	4	●
	Without disabilities	20	19	2	1	●
Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)						
Age groups	15/16-24	7	5	2	2	●
	25-49	30	20	7	10	●
	50-64	14	13	-1	1	●
	65+	6	9	-4	-3	●
Country of birth	Native born	17	14	1	3	●
	Foreign born	15	9	5	6	●
People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)						
Family type	Couple without children	19	13	0	6	●
	Couple with children	60	43	15	17	●
Disability	With disabilities	40	32	10	8	●
	Without disabilities	32	22	10	10	●
Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+ population, 2021)						
Age groups	15/16-24	96	95	0	1	●
	25-49	90	90	-2	0	●
	50-64	73	75	-4	-2	●
	65+	39	48	-10	-9	●
Disability	With disabilities	19	21	-4	-2	●
	Without disabilities	88	90	-3	-2	●

● 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 Italy 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 Italy, 33 women were murdered by a family member, and 70 women were murdered by an intimate partner.

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. Italy signed the Istanbul Convention in September 2012, and ratified it in September 2013. The treaty entered into force in Italy 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. This 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 Italy are more inclined than men to choose environmentally friendly options

In 2018, fewer women (50 %) than men (53 %) in Italy felt a personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change, compared with EU averages of 62 % of women and 61 % of men. Meanwhile, women tend to opt for environmentally friendly choices more frequently than men. In 2022, more women (56 %) than men (47 %) reported regularly choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities. Similarly, 50 % of women reported regularly avoiding plastic and/or single-use products, compared with 43 % of men.

Among tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies, women are noticeably underrepresented

In Italy, the share of women among tertiary graduates (ISCED levels 5 and 6) in natural sciences and technologies in 2021 was 40 %. This share is higher than the EU average, where women represent 36 % of graduates in the field.

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

In 2022, women comprised 26 % of workers in the Italian energy sector. Similarly, women accounted for only 20 % of workers in the transport sector. In national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change, 39 % of the senior administrators employed were women. In 2022, women held 40 % of decision-making positions in parliamentary committees focusing on environment and climate change, compared with 30 % of women on average across the EU.

[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 Italy

	Italy		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% , 15+, 2018)	50	53	62	61
Avoiding animal products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	32	27	31	23
Sometimes	45	42	43	41
Never	23	31	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	50	43	49	42
Sometimes	43	45	44	46
Never	8	13	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	56	47	51	49
Sometimes	36	43	41	41
Never	8	10	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	67	62	59	53
Sometimes	28	32	35	39
Never	4	6	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	40	60	36	64
Natural sciences	60	40	56	44
Technologies	31	69	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)				
65+	8	7	8	6
Low educational attainment	12	12	12	12
Single	10	12	10	9
Lone parents	9	11	12	11
Non-EU migrants	11	17	12	13
People with disabilities	11	11	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)				
16-24	9	8	8	9
Low educational attainment	7	9	9	10
Single	10	12	10	9
Lone parents	9	11	12	11
Non-EU migrants	10	16	11	12
People with disabilities	8	8	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	32	32	42	41
Sometimes	39	42	39	41
Never	29	26	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	75	78	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	23	22	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	36	37	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (% , 15+, 2022)	20	80	22	78
Decision-making				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	61	39	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	60	40	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.

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