

The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 73.0 points out of 100, Ireland ranks 9th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 2.8 points above the score for the EU as a whole.¹

Since 2010, Ireland's score has increased by 7.6 points overall, mainly due to improvements in the domain of power (+ 27.5 points) and knowledge (+ 4.2 points). Since 2020, the country's score has decreased by 1.3 points, which is the largest decline among all Member States. Setbacks in the domain of time (– 14.7 points) and stalled progress in the domains of health (– 0.2 points), work (– 0.1 points) and money (+ 0.5 points) since 2020 have been the drivers of this decrease. As a result, Ireland's ranking has dropped by two places to the 9th place since last year's 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

Ireland's best performance is in the domain of health (94.8 points), where it ranks 1st out of all Member States. Although progress in this domain has stalled (– 0.2 points) since 2020, the country's ranking has moved up one place due to slower progress being made by other Member States. The country's highest score (96.8 points) is in the sub-domain of health status, in which it also ranks 1st in the EU. Ireland ranks 4th in the sub-domain of health behaviour, with a score of 89.7 points.

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities in Ireland are pronounced in the domain of work (76.4 points), in which the country ranks 12th. Since 2020, Ireland's score has stagnated (– 0.1 points), resulting in a drop of six places in the ranking for this domain, due to slower progress than in other EU countries. Ireland's greatest room for improvement is in the sub-domain of participation (85.4 points). Ireland ranks 15th in this sub-domain, a rise of three places since 2020. In the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work, Ireland's score has dropped by 2.5 points since 2020, moving the country from 6th to 10th place.

Biggest improvement

Since 2020, Ireland's biggest improvement in score has been in the domain of power (+ 3.0 points), moving the country's ranking up one place to 9th. This improvement is mainly due to progress in the sub-domain of economic decision-making (+ 5.2 points), moving its ranking up one place to 7th. Ireland has also improved in the sub-domains of social decision-making (+ 2.0 points) and political decision-making (+ 1.8 points), in which it ranks 3rd and 18th in the EU, respectively.

A step backwards

Since 2020, Ireland's score has decreased in the domain of time (– 14.7 points), with its ranking dropping from 6th to 23rd place. This setback is due a considerable decrease in the country's score in the sub-domain of social activities (– 30.0 points), the second largest decrease in this sub-domain among all Member States. As a result, Ireland's ranking in this sub-domain has dropped by 20 places to 26th.

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.

Ireland 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 has narrowed over time.

Explore Ireland's Index results

									Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020
Index	65.4	67.7	69.5	71.3	72.2	73.1	74.3	73.0	7.6	-1.3
Work	73.5	73.7	73.9	75.5	75.9	76.5	76.5	76.4	2.9	-0.1
Participation	77.4	77.3	78.3	81.7	82.4	82.8	82.5	85.4	8.0	2.9
Segregation and quality of work	69.8	70.2	69.7	69.8	69.9	70.6	70.9	68.4	-1.4	-2.5
Money	85.5	84.4	84.7	85.5	86.5	87.8	87.5	88.0	2.5	0.5
Financial resources	81.1	80.7	81.0	81.7	83.3	82.6	82.3	82.2	1.1	-0.1
Economic situation	90.2	88.2	88.6	89.5	89.8	93.3	93.1	94.1	3.9	1.0
Knowledge	65.3	67.7	66.4	66.9	67.3	67.4	68.1	69.5	4.2	1.4
Attainment and participation	72.7	74.0	74.1	77.8	79.3	80.2	79.7	84.2	11.5	4.5
Segregation	58.6	62.0	59.6	57.6	57.2	56.7	58.2	57.4	-1.2	-0.8
Time	70.8	76.5	74.2	74.2	74.2	74.2	74.2	59.5	-11.3	-14.7
Care activities	69.9	81.6	76.2	76.2	76.2	76.2	76.2	84.0	14.1	7.8
Social activities	71.8	71.8	72.1	72.1	72.1	72.1	72.1	42.1	-29.7	-30.0
Power	37.2	40.7	48.6	53.4	55.8	58.4	61.7	64.7	27.5	3.0
Political	32.9	37.0	39.8	44.1	45.3	47.0	48.8	50.6	17.7	1.8
Economic	21.7	25.4	39.9	46.4	50.0	55.6	62.9	68.1	46.4	5.2
Social	72.1	71.7	72.4	74.5	76.8	76.1	76.5	78.5	6.4	2.0
Health	90.7	90.4	90.6	90.9	91.3	91.3	95.0	94.8	4.1	-0.2
Status	96.5	96.5	96.8	97.1	97.6	97.7	96.8	96.8	0.3	0.0
Behaviour	79.0	79.0	79.0	79.0	79.0	79.0	89.7	89.7	10.7	0.0
Access	98.0	97.0	97.3	97.9	98.8	98.6	98.7	98.2	0.2	-0.5

Explore Ireland's performance by indicator

		Ireland		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	47	62	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	35	41	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	36	9	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (% , 15+ workers, 2021)	33	43	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	65	64	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	2597	3084	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	22814	23772	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	14	12	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	26	25	20	20
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 15-89 population, 2021)	44	38	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	25	23	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	48	23	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)	36	28	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	68	45	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)	10	24	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	12	18	11	15
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	29	71	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	28	72	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2022)**	26	74	30	70
Economic	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)	40	60	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)	50	50	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)	81	81	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	84	81	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	68	66	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	69	59	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	56	55	38	43
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	4	3	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (% , 16+ population, 2021)	3	2	5	5

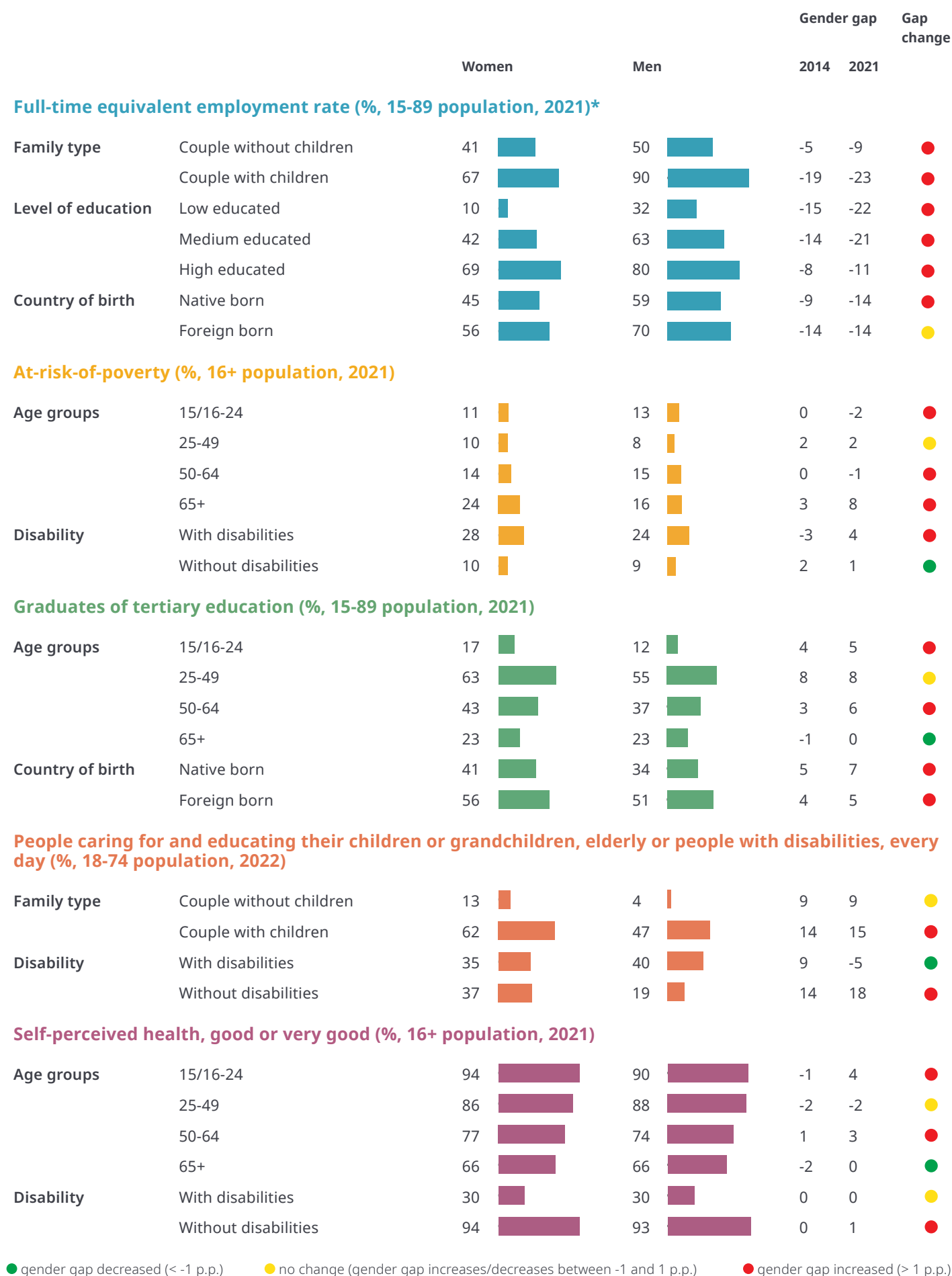
* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

** IE: Local municipalities

*** 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



* 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 Ireland 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. Ireland does not provide comparable data on femicide.

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.

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.

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. Ireland signed the Istanbul Convention in November 2015, and ratified it in March 2019. The Convention entered into force in Ireland in July 2019.

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 Ireland are less likely to choose low-carbon modes of transport than their counterparts elsewhere in the EU

In 2022, around 34 % of women and 38 % of men regularly opted for low carbon-emission modes of transport such as cycling, public transport, and car-pooling instead of their own personal car. These figures are notably lower than the EU average of 42 % for women and 41 % for men. Similarly, more women (77 %) and men (71 %) in Ireland used the car as one of their three main means of transport during a typical week in 2022, compared with the EU average (66 % and 70 %, respectively).

Lone parents, non-EU migrants, and women and men with disabilities in Ireland struggle the most to afford energy

In 2021, lone mothers (8 %) and lone fathers (10 %) in Ireland struggled the most to keep their homes adequately warm. Similarly, 8 % of women with disabilities and 5 % of men with disabilities reported being unable to heat their homes sufficiently. Women and men with disabilities were also more often in arrears on utility bills in 2021 (13 % and 11 %, respectively). Likewise, non-EU migrant women (12 %) and non-EU migrant men (9 %) were also more likely than other groups to be in arrears on their utility bills.

Women are underrepresented in the energy and transport sectors in Ireland and in decision-making

In 2022, women made up only 20 % of workers in the transport sector in Ireland. Similarly, in the same year, women made up just 14 % of senior administrators in national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change, which is considerably lower than the EU average of 44 %. Moreover, women constituted only 25 % of the members of parliamentary committees dealing with the environment and climate change in 2022.

[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 Ireland

	Ireland		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% , 15+, 2018)	57	62	62	61
Avoiding animal products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	28	30	31	23
Sometimes	44	33	43	41
Never	28	37	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	48	46	49	42
Sometimes	43	41	44	46
Never	9	12	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	42	52	51	49
Sometimes	46	40	41	41
Never	12	8	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	59	54	59	53
Sometimes	36	36	35	39
Never	5	10	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	36	64	36	64
Natural sciences	55	45	56	44
Technologies	24	76	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)				
65+	2	2	8	6
Low educational attainment	4	5	12	12
Single	6	5	10	9
Lone parents	8	10	12	11
Non-EU migrants	7	6	12	13
People with disabilities	8	5	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)				
16-24	10	8	8	9
Low educational attainment	11	8	9	10
Single	6	5	10	9
Lone parents	8	10	12	11
Non-EU migrants	12	9	11	12
People with disabilities	13	11	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% , +15, 2022)*	0	100	24	76
Transport				
People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	34	38	42	41
Sometimes	43	39	39	41
Never	23	23	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	77	71	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	30	26	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	42	42	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)	86	14	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	75	25	70	30

* Low reliability

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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