

The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 76.4 points out of 100, Spain ranks 4th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 6.2 points above the score for the EU as a whole. With 76.4 points out of 100, Spain ranks 4th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 6.2 points above the score for the EU as a whole.¹

Since 2010, Spain's score has increased by 10.0 points, mainly due to improvements in the domains of power (+ 28.5 points) and time (+ 9.6 points). Since 2020, Spain's score has increased by 1.8 points and its ranking has improved by two places to 4th. Improvements in the domains of time (+ 6.4 points) and knowledge (+ 1.7 points) have been the main drivers of these recent increases in score and ranking. However, the country's ranking in the domain of work has fallen five places to 17th, while in the domain of health, Spain has dropped one place to 6th.

[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

Spain's highest ranking (3rd among all Member States) is in the domain of power, in which it scores 81.1 points. However, progress in this domain has almost stalled, with a rise of just 0.5 points since 2020. Within this domain, the country performs best in the sub-domain of economic decision-making (79.1 points), where it ranks 2nd in the EU. Spain's score for this sub-domain has increased by 3.4 points since 2020. With a score of 86.6 points, the country ranks 5th in the sub-domain of political decision-making, following a drop of two places.

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities in Spain are most pronounced in the domain of work (75.4 points), in which the country ranks 17th in the EU. Since 2020, Spain's ranking in this domain has fallen five places. With a score of 82.3 points, the country's greatest room for improvement lies in the sub-domain of participation, in which Spain ranks 22nd. Within the sub-domain of segregation and quality of work, the country scores 69.0 points and ranks 9th in the EU.

Since 2020, the biggest improvement in Spain's score has been in the domain of time (+ 6.4 points), moving the country's ranking up from 14th place to 5th. An improvement in the sub-domain of care activities (+ 11.1 points) has been the key driver of this change. As a result, the country's ranking has risen by four places in this sub-domain, where it currently stands in 5th place. With an improvement of seven places since 2020, Spain scores 57.9 points and ranks 9th in the sub-domain of social activities.

A step backwards

With a score of 91.2 points, Spain's progress in the domain of health has stalled (– 0.5 points) since 2020, bringing the country's ranking down by one place to 6th out of the EU Member States. This lack of progress towards gender equality in this domain can be attributed to a decrease in the sub-domain of health status (– 1.2 points) since 2020, resulting in a drop in the ranking in this sub-domain from 7th to 11th place.

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.

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

Explore Spain's Index results

									Change since	
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2020
Index	66.4	67.4	68.3	70.1	72.0	73.7	74.6	76.4	10.0	1.8
Work	71.8	72.3	72.4	72.9	73.2	73.7	73.6	75.4	3.6	1.8
Participation	77.0	77.5	78.0	79.1	79.3	80.2	79.4	82.3	5.3	2.9
Segregation and quality of work	66.9	67.4	67.3	67.1	67.5	67.8	68.2	69.0	2.1	0.8
Money	77.1	76.0	75.9	76.7	77.8	78.4	78.7	78.3	1.2	-0.4
Financial resources	70.4	69.6	71.0	72.2	72.3	73.5	73.5	73.4	3.0	-0.1
Economic situation	84.4	82.9	81.2	81.4	83.6	83.7	84.3	83.6	-0.8	-0.7
Knowledge	63.5	64.2	65.3	67.4	67.6	67.9	68.3	70.0	6.5	1.7
Attainment and participation	71.8	73.0	73.3	76.0	76.6	76.4	77.0	81.2	9.4	4.2
Segregation	56.2	56.6	58.1	59.7	59.7	60.3	60.6	60.4	4.2	-0.2
Time	60.8	65.8	64.0	64.0	64.0	64.0	64.0	70.4	9.6	6.4
Care activities	60.9	71.4	74.5	74.5	74.5	74.5	74.5	85.6	24.7	11.1
Social activities	60.6	60.6	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	57.9	-2.7	2.9
Power	52.6	52.9	57.0	62.0	69.4	76.9	80.6	81.1	28.5	0.5
Political	73.7	69.7	72.3	76.8	82.5	86.5	87.4	86.6	12.9	-0.8
Economic	33.3	35.8	43.5	53.4	64.8	70.1	75.7	79.1	45.8	3.4
Social	59.4	59.2	58.9	58.1	62.7	75.1	79.1	77.8	18.4	-1.3
Health	88.6	89.1	89.6	90.1	90.1	90.3	91.7	91.2	2.6	-0.5
Status	92.4	93.6	93.2	94.1	94.4	95.2	93.8	92.6	0.2	-1.2
Behaviour	78.6	78.6	78.6	78.6	78.6	78.6	83.7	83.7	5.1	0.0
Access	95.7	96.2	98.3	98.9	98.7	98.6	98.1	97.9	2.2	-0.2

Explore Spain's performance by indicator

		Spain		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89 population, 2021)*	41	55	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	34	37	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (% , 15-89 employed, 2021)	27	8	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	38	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	56	57	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	1961	2290	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	18631	19140	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (% , 16+ population, 2021)	21	20	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)	34	32	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	23	21	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (% , 15+ population, 2021)	49	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)	41	33	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (% , 18-74 population, 2022)	64	44	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)	33	39	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (% , 16-74 workers, 2022)	9	15	11	15
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	48	52	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2nd quarter 2023)	42	58	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2023)**	46	54	30	70
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (% , 1st semester 2023)	37	63	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (% , 2022)	50	50	28	72
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (% , 2022)	49	51	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (% , 2022)	40	60	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)	69	74	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, 2021)	86	80	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	63	63	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 15+ population, 2019)***	79	69	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 15+ population, 2019)	38	47	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)	6	5	5	5

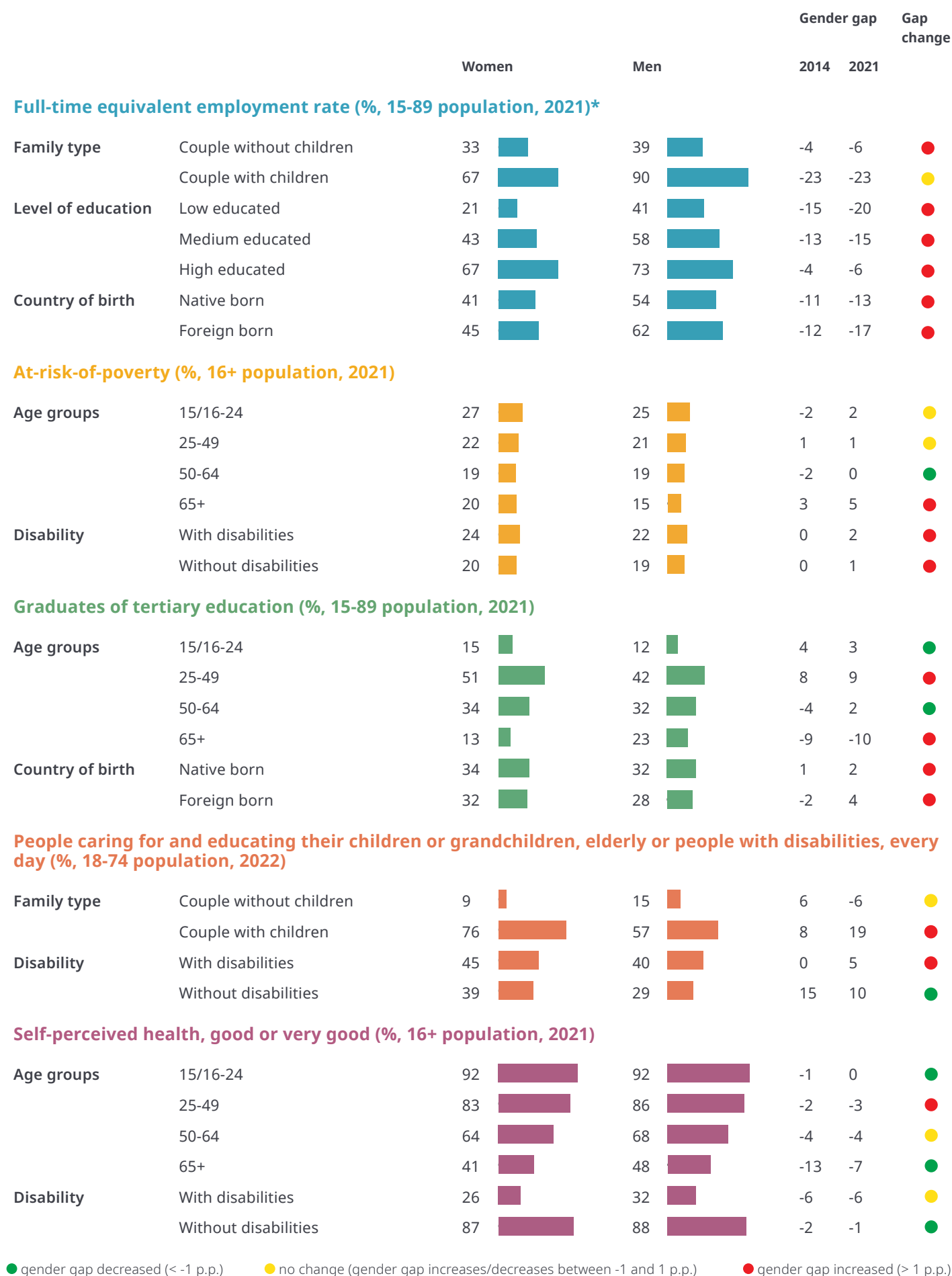
* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

** ES: 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



* 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 Spain 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 Spain, 45 women were murdered by an intimate partner, and 15 women were murdered by a family member.

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. Spain signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011, and ratified it in April 2014. The treaty entered into force in Spain 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 in Spain tend to choose environmentally friendly options more often than men

In 2018, around 64 % of women and 60 % of men in Spain felt a personal responsibility to reduce climate change. In 2022, more women (32 %) than men (27 %) reported regularly avoiding animal products. Around 55 % of women in 2022 reported regularly avoiding plastic and/or single-use products, compared with 50 % of men. More women (40 %) than men (34 %) reported using public transportation as one of their three main means of transport, which is higher than the corresponding EU average (32 % and 29 %, respectively).

Even before the current energy crisis, non-EU migrant women and lone mothers in Spain were struggling

In Spain, the gender gap was most pronounced among non-EU migrants, with greater disadvantage being experienced by women. In 2021, 30 % of non-EU migrant women were unable to keep their homes adequately warm, compared with 27 % of non-EU migrant men. A similar struggle was reported by lone parents, with 26 % of lone mothers and 25 % of lone fathers experiencing difficulties in keeping their homes warm. These figures are likely to have risen significantly with the ongoing energy crisis.

Women were highly underrepresented in the EU energy and transport sectors in Spain, and in decision-making

In Spain, only 31 % of workers in the energy sector in 2022 were women. Similarly, women accounted for just 21 % of workers in the transport sector. Women are also underrepresented in decision-making roles. In national ministries dealing with environment and climate change, 35 % of senior administrators employed were women. In 2022, 39 % of decision-makers in parliamentary committees focusing on the environment and climate change were women.

[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 Spain

	Spain		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (% , 15+, 2018)	64	60	62	61
Avoiding animal products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	32	27	31	23
Sometimes	43	40	43	41
Never	25	33	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	55	50	49	42
Sometimes	39	42	44	46
Never	6	8	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	53	56	51	49
Sometimes	39	34	41	41
Never	7	10	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	62	60	59	53
Sometimes	31	33	35	39
Never	6	7	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (% , 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	32	68	36	64
Natural sciences	51	49	56	44
Technologies	26	74	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (% , +16, 2021)				
65+	15	13	8	6
Low educational attainment	20	19	12	12
Single	20	18	10	9
Lone parents	26	25	12	11
Non-EU migrants	30	27	12	13
People with disabilities	22	21	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (% , +16, 2021)				
16-24	11	13	8	9
Low educational attainment	11	13	9	10
Single	20	18	10	9
Lone parents	26	25	12	11
Non-EU migrants	21	22	11	12
People with disabilities	10	12	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (% , +15, 2022)	31	69	24	76
Transport				
People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (% , 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	46	44	42	41
Sometimes	40	41	39	41
Never	14	14	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	63	69	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	40	34	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (% , 16-74, 2022)	51	47	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)	65	35	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (% , 2022)	61	39	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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