European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Equality Index 2026

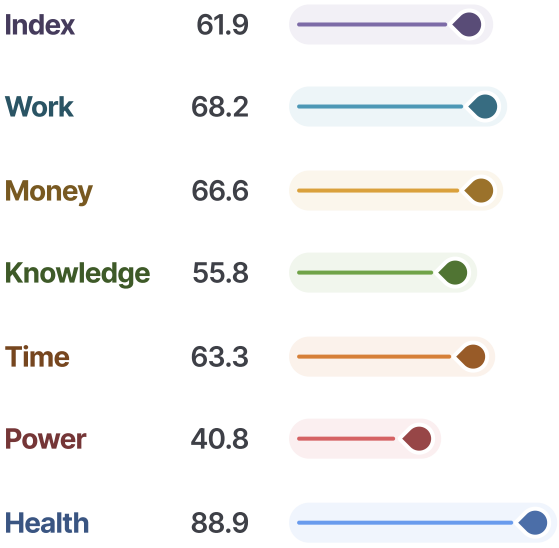
Austria



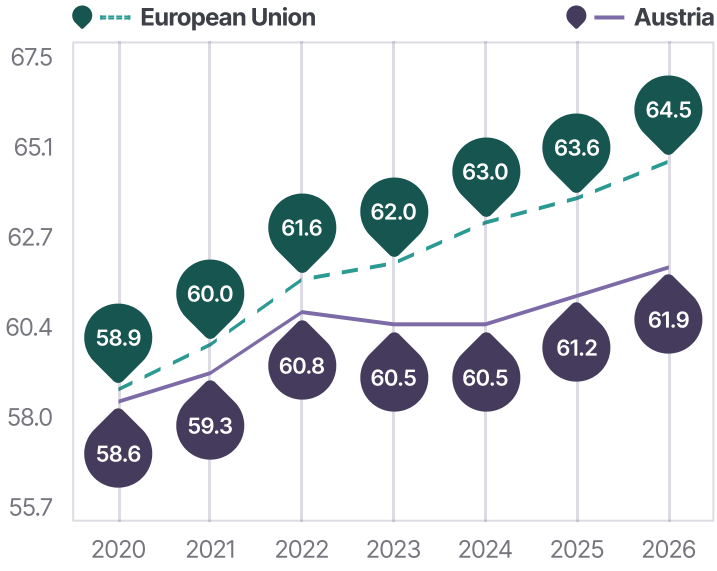
Austria scores 61.9 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index, ranking 13th in the EU. Its score has increased by 3.3 points since 2020 and by 0.7 points since 2025, mainly due to the domain of knowledge, with further gains in the domains of money and power.

Austria has increased its Gender Equality Index score more slowly than the EU average, slightly widening the distance to the EU average over the previous years.

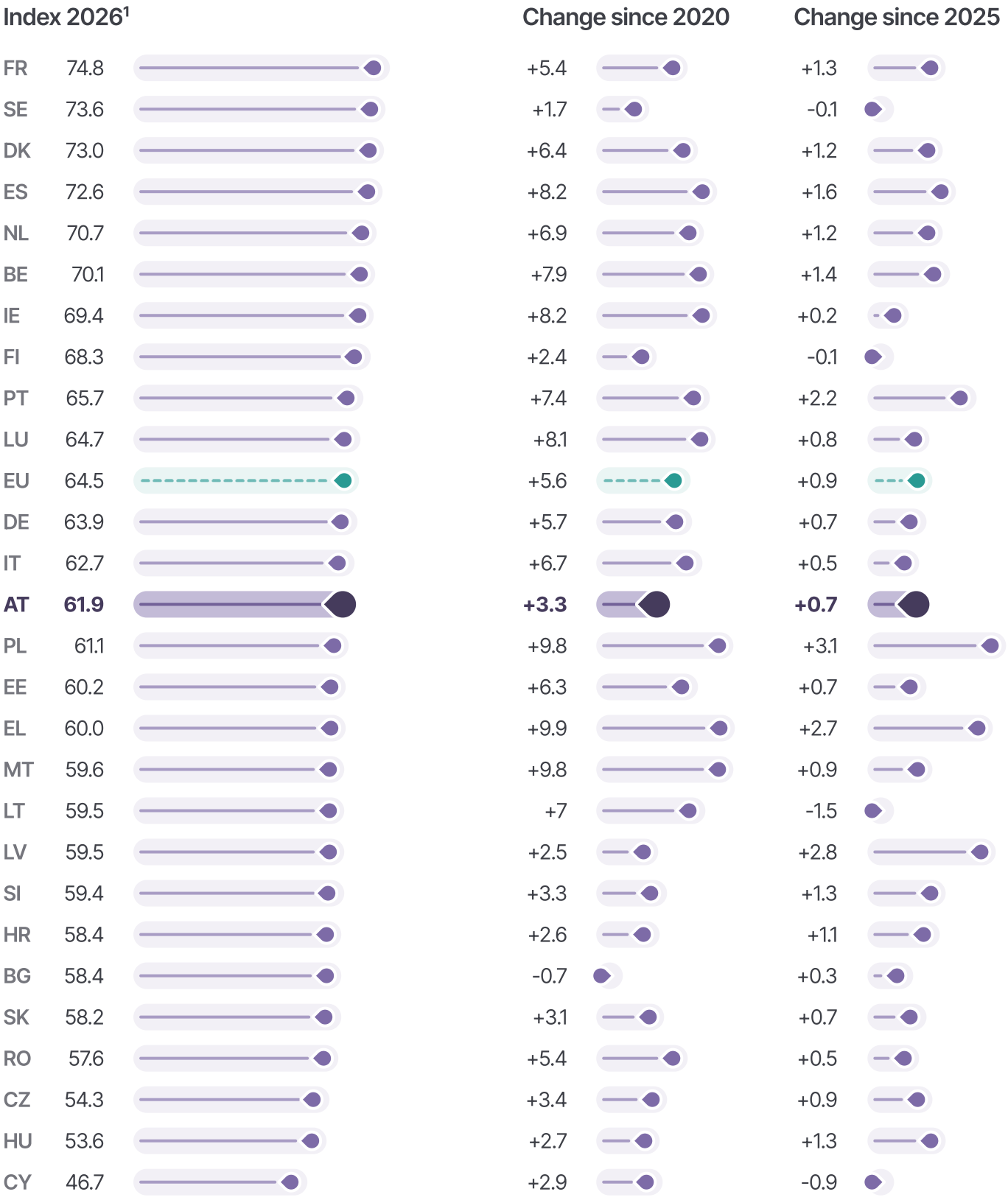
Scores (0-100)



Trend (2020 - 2026)



Compare countries



1. The Gender Equality Index has been reviewed in 2025 (see About the Index). For the Index 2026, data corrections and updates to the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) microdata carried out by several National Statistical Institutes affected a number of indicators included in the Index. As a result, the previous editions of the Gender Equality Index have been recalculated, and scores might be slightly different compared to the scores presented in the Index 2025. The Index is calculated every year by using N-1 data, for the overall time series. The Index 2026 is mostly based on 2025 data and traces progress from a short-term (2024–2025) and longer-term (2019–2025) perspective. The domain of time is calculated with the 2024 EIGE CARE survey. Lithuania/Latvia, and Croatia/Bulgaria have the same scores. Their position in the ranking is determined statistically based on the second decimal place of the Index score.

Progress in gender equality

Best performance

Austria has its **best performance** in the domain of health, where it holds 5th place in the EU, with a score of 88.9 points. This result reflects a high score in the subdomain of behaviour (86.3 points, 4th position).

Most room for improvement

The **most room for improvement** for Austria occurs in the domain of money, where the country ranks last in the EU (27th place) with a score of 66.6 points. Both subdomains have to be improved, as 'financial resources' also ranks last in the EU (67.3 points), while economic situation ranks 25th (65.9 points).

Austria has its lowest score in the domain of power (40.8 points), though it ranks 12th in the EU. The main issue lies in the subdomain of social power, which still has room for improvement (19.1 points, 19th position).

Biggest improvement

Austria had its **biggest improvement** since 2025 in the domain of knowledge, where the score has increased by 1.6 points, driven by a sharp rise in the subdomain of attainment and participation (+ 4.5 points), where improvements have been made in gender equality among tertiary graduates.

A step backwards

Since 2025, Austria **has not experienced any step backwards.** However, the domain of health is stagnating over the previous year. Its score has increased slightly by 0.2 points due to a small improvement in health status (+ 0.5 points).

Explore Austria's Index results

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change since 2020	Change since 2025
Index	**58.6**	**59.3**	**60.8**	**60.5**	**60.5**	**61.2**	**61.9**	**3.3**	**0.7**
Work	**64.6**	**64.9**	**66.9**	**65.3**	**66.5**	**67.8**	**68.2**	**3.6**	**0.4**
Participation	78.9	79.5	80.1	79.6	80.3	81.3	81.7	2.8	0.4
Segregation and quality of work	52.9	53.0	55.9	53.6	55.0	56.5	57.0	4.1	0.5
Money	**62.6**	**64.3**	**64.7**	**64.4**	**65.5**	**65.5**	**66.6**	**4.0**	**1.1**
Financial resources	63.6	65.8	65.6	66.2	66.2	65.8	67.3	3.7	1.5
Economic situation	61.6	62.9	63.8	62.7	64.8	65.1	65.9	4.3	0.8
Knowledge	**56.3**	**55.5**	**55.8**	**55.5**	**55.5**	**54.2**	**55.8**	**-0.5**	**1.6**
Attainment and participation	82.9	81.5	85.6	81.9	81.4	76.9	81.4	-1.5	4.5
Segregation	38.2	37.8	36.3	37.6	37.8	38.3	38.3	0.1	0.0
Time	**63.3**	**63.3**	**63.3**	**63.3**	**63.3**	**63.3**	**63.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Care activities	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	53.2	0.0	0.0
Social activities	75.3	75.3	75.3	75.3	75.3	75.3	75.3	0.0	0.0
Power	**33.4**	**34.8**	**38.3**	**38.5**	**37.4**	**39.9**	**40.8**	**7.4**	**0.9**
Political	58.5	69.5	67.4	70.0	66.0	66.4	65.4	6.9	-1.0
Economic	39.9	41.8	47.0	47.9	48.1	50.6	54.2	14.3	3.6
Social	16.1	14.5	17.7	17.0	16.5	18.8	19.1	3.0	0.3
Health	**88.8**	**89.1**	**89.8**	**89.1**	**88.6**	**88.7**	**88.9**	**0.1**	**0.2**
Status	91.3	92.0	93.4	91.9	91.0	91.1	91.6	0.3	0.5
Behaviour	86.3	86.3	86.3	86.3	86.3	86.3	86.3	0.0	0.0

Explore Austria's performance by indicator

Work		Austria Women	Austria Men	EU Women	EU Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[2]	43	60	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2025)	37	41	35	40
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (%, 15-74, 2025)	20	80	20	81
	Managerial positions (%, 15-74, 2025)	37	63	36	64
	Low paid workers (%, 16+, 2025)	44	28	37	29
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2025)	32761	47072	25525	32079
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2025)	35		24	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64,%, 2025)[3]	63	176	73	147
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)	18	15	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 30-34, 2025)	49	40	51	40
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2025)	33	41	27	34
Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (%, 2024)	74	26	75	25
	Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (%, 2024)	29	71	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)	52	21	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (%, 45-64, 2019)	15	10	20	13
	Housework chores every day (%, 16-74, 2024)	55	29	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	34	46	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	13	17	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2025)	48	52	32	68
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2025)	38	62	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2025)[4]	35	65	32	68
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (%, 2025)	36	64	35	65
Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (%, 2025)	17	83	26	74
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)	67	70	65	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 65+, 2024)	43	48	48	54
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 16+ population, 2019)	71	56	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 16+ population, 2019)	44	48	38	43

Source: EU-LFS, EU-SILC, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), Eurostat health statistics, EIGE's CARE survey, EIGE, Gender Statistics Database, WMID.

2. FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week
3. Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age
4. Share of members in local municipalities for BG, EE, IE, CY, LT, LU, MT, SI

Key highlights

The gender employment gap widens among couples with children

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate[5] is 43 % for women and 60 % for men. The rate for women is among the lowest in the EU, and the gender gap is one of the widest. Among couples with children the gap widens to 35 pp. By contrast, it narrows to 5 pp among couples without children.

The average duration of working life is shorter for women than for men in Austria (37 years compared with 41 years), in both cases above the EU average (35 years and 40 years, respectively).

Women's representation among managers is growing, while it is declining among ICT specialists

Women account for 20 % of ICT (information and communications technology) specialists in Austria, down 1 pp over the previous year. Among managers, the share of women has increased to 37 % (+ 1 pp since the previous year).

Austria has the widest gender gap among low-paid workers

In Austria, 44 % of women are low-paid workers[6], compared with 28 % of men. The figure for women is one of the highest in the EU, and the gender gap is the widest in the EU.

High levels of earnings for women, but far below men's

In Austria, median annual earnings[7] are 32,761 PPS for women and 47,072 PPS for men. Earnings for women are among the highest in the EU, but the gender gap is also the widest.

The gender pension gap remains wide

The gender pension gap in Austria is 35 %, one of the widest in the EU and well above the EU average (24 %). It has narrowed slightly by 1 pp since the previous year.

In-work poverty for single adults and parents is rising

In Austria, 18 % of employed women and 15 % of employed men living in single-adult or single-parent households are at risk of poverty – a gender gap of 3 pp. Since the previous year, both figures have increased, by 1 pp for women and 3 pp for men. The gender gap is much wider among single-parent households at 30 pp, with women at higher risk.

5. The FTE employment rate measures working hours comparatively, even though people may work different numbers of hours per week.
6. Percentage of employed population receiving two thirds or less of the national median employee income, which covers gross employee cash or near cash income, gross non-cash employee income and employers' social insurance contributions.
7. Median annual earnings of the 18–64 population in employment, computed as the median of gross employee cash or near cash income, gross non-cash employee income and cash benefits from self-employment.

Tertiary education is falling for women, but rising for men

In Austria, 49 % of women aged 30–34 completed tertiary education, down 2 pp since the previous year. For men the percentage has risen by 2 pp to 40 %. IVET (initial vocational education and training) completion is higher among men. Among people aged 25–34, 33 % of women have completed IVET studies (+ 1 pp since the previous year), compared with 41 % of men.

Gender segregation remains high in EHW and STEM fields

Women account for 74 % of EHW (education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts) graduates in Austria, but only 29 % of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates. These figures have not changed since the previous year.

Austria has the widest gender gap in childcare in the EU

In Austria, 52 % of women spend more than 35 hours a week caring for children aged 0–11, compared with 21 % of men. This 31 pp gender gap is the widest in the EU.

A wide gender gap is also found in daily housework. While 55 % of women do tasks such as cooking, cleaning and laundry every day, the figure for men is 29 %.

The gender gap is smaller in long-term care. Among people aged 45–64, 15 % of women spend more than 20 hours a week providing long-term care, compared with 10 % of men.

Gender parity among ministers is near, but representation falls in parliament and regional assemblies

Women hold 48 % of senior and junior ministerial positions in Austria, one of the highest shares in the EU, following an increase of 3 pp since the previous year. The share of women in the national parliament has fallen by 3 pp over the the previous year to 38 %, and the share in regional assemblies has decreased to 35 % (– 1 pp).

> Austria does not have gender candidate quotas for parliament.

Women's presence on company boards and in sports leadership is rising slightly

The percentage of women on the boards of the largest listed companies in Austria has reached 36 %, a small increase of 1 pp since the previous year.

Women's representation in the highest decision-making body of the national Olympic sport organisations has increased by 1 pp over the previous year, resulting in 17 % of members.

> As of December 2025, Austria has notified complete transposition of the Directive (EU) 2022/2381 (Gender Balance on Boards Directive) into national law.

Healthy life years at 65 remain lower for women than men

In Austria, 67 % of women and 70 % of men report their health as ‘good’ or ‘very good’. Both figures have increased by 1 pp since the previous year.

At age 65, women are expected to spend 43 % of their remaining life in good health, compared with 48 % for men.

Healthy behaviour shows a mixed gender picture

In Austria, 71 % of women and 56 % of men avoid smoking and harmful drinking habits, a gender gap of 15 pp. For physical activity and healthy eating habits, 44 % of women and 48 % of men are physically active and/or regularly eat fruit and vegetables.

Explore intersecting inequalities

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[8]		Women	Men	Gender gap	Gender gap in 2019	Gap change
Household composition	Couple without children	38	43	-5	-6	🟢
	Couple with children	56	91	-35	-37	🟢
Level of education	Low educated	22	42	-20	-19	🔴
	Medium educated	42	60	-18	-18	🟠
	High educated	61	70	-9	-10	🟢
Country of birth	Native born	42	58	-16	-18	🟢
	Foreign born	45	64	-19	-20	🟢
In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	14	15	-1	4	🟢
	Single-parent household	36	6	30	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	34	10	24	30	🟢
	25-49	17	14	3	6	🟢
	50-64	19	15	4	-1	🔴
	65+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Country of birth	Native born	17	13	4	3	🔴
	Foreign born	23	21	2	8	🟢
Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2024)						
Country of birth	Native born	37	46	-9	-9	🟠
	Foreign born	19	28	-9	-7	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	30	42	-12	-10	🔴
	Without disabilities	24	34	-10	-8	🔴
Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)						
Household composition	Single-parent household	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Couple with children	56	17	39	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	55	21	34	n/a	n/a
	50-64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	56	64	-8	-9	🟢
	Single-parent household	69	79	-10	-11	🟢
	Couple without children	64	65	-1	4	🟢
	Couple with children	76	80	-4	3	🔴
Age groups	15/16-24	88	92	-4	0	🔴
	25-49	78	81	-3	0	🔴
	50-64	61	60	1	1	🟠
	65+	48	51	-3	0	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	27	29	-2	-4	🟢
	Without disabilities	86	87	-1	2	🟢

Source: Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), EIGE CARE survey.

🟢 gender gap decreased (<= -1 p.p.) 🟠 no change (gender gap increases/decreases between -1 and 1 p.p.) 🔴 gender gap increased (>= 1 p.p.)

8. FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week. Family type is based on the relationships between the members of households. Children are only those economically dependent household members (i.e. aged below 18).

Violence against women

Violence against women is one of the additional domains of the Gender Equality Index. The composite indicator on violence against women was calculated on the basis of the EU-GBV survey on violence against women[9].

Austria's score for the domain of violence is 27.3 points, which is lower than the EU average[10].

The score for the subdomain of prevalence is 19.7 points, the subdomain of severity is 35.7 points and for the subdomain of disclosure it is 26.4 points.

- In Austria, 36 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15. This is 5 pp higher than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- In Austria, 44 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- 26 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.
- In Austria in 2024, 0.65 women out of 100 000 inhabitants were victims of intentional homicide by a current or former partner (0.47), or a family member (0.17).
- Girls report cyberbullying more often than boys at both ages in Austria. Among 13-year-olds, 16 % of girls reported cyberbullying, compared with 11 % of boys. At age 15, the gender gap narrows – 13 % for girls and 11 % for boys[11].
- In Austria, 8 % of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work via social networks or messaging apps[12].

The **Istanbul Convention** is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

Austria signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011 and ratified it in November 2013. The treaty entered into force in Austria in August 2014.

The European Council approved the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention on 1 June 2023.

9. The calculations of the composite measure in 2024 differ in several ways from the calculations carried out in 2017 due to slight differences in methodologies between the FRA EU wide survey on violence against women of 2012 and the EU-GBV survey (wave 2021). For more details, see EIGE (2025). Gender Equality Index 2024: Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities. Publications Office.
10. More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024, Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.
11. Based on HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)
12. Based on EU-GBV Survey (2021 wave)

Violence against women

Physical and/or sexual violence	Austria Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**36**	**31 e**
18-29	46	35 e
30-44	40	35 e
45-64	32	31 e
65-74	23	24 e
severe limitations	40	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	36	30 e
some	42	40 e
some or severe	42	41 e
no limitations	34	28 e
intimate partner violence	17	18 e
non-partner violence	28	20 e
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**2**	**3 e**

Femicide	Austria Women	EU Women
Women victims of intentional homicide by current or former partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2024) [13]	**0.65**	**0.4**
family member	0.17	0.4
current or former partner	0.47	:

Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation	Austria Women	EU Women
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**44**	**57 e**
intimate partner violence	65	72 e
non-partner violence	28	37 e
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**23 u**	**37 e**
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from one or several types of perpetrators (non-partner, current partner or former partner) (%, 18-74, 2021)	**38**	**31 e**

Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else	Austria Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (%, 18-74, 2021)	**26**	**31 e**
intimate partner violence	32	31 e
non-partner violence	29	38 e

13. Data for the EU and for RO not disagregated by perpetrators. Data for Finland from 2023.

Cyberviolence	Austria		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
13-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [14]	16	11	19 e	16 e
15-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [15]	13	11	15 e	14 e
	Women		Women	
Ever-working women who have experienced sexual harassment at work via social network and messages (%, 18-74, 2022)	8		7 e	

Source:
- EU-GBV survey on violence against women (Statistics | Eurostat (europa.eu))
- Italy, the data based on Victimisation survey 2022-2023 (Le molestie: vittime e contesto – Anno 2022-2023 – Istat); women aged 18-70.
- Femicide, Eurostat (crim_hom_vrel) • HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)

Legend:
- EU: EIGE's estimation
- u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)
- d: definition differs
- e: estimated
- : not available

14. EU: EIGE estimation, unweighted average of the 27 Member States BE: unweighted average of Flemish Belgium and French Belgium data.
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Parental leave

The Gender Equality Index 2026 focuses on parental leave as a key policy tool for promoting gender equality, supporting families and promoting children's well-being. Well-designed parental leave can help parents reconcile work and family life, support a more equal division of care responsibilities and strengthen participation in the labour market. It also supports children's early development by enabling parents to spend time with them during the first years of life. Although parental leave is available in all EU Member States, rules on access and benefits vary considerably[16].

The analysis looks at who is eligible for parental leave and its related benefits.

Employed women in Austria are less likely than employed men to be excluded from statutory parental leave

Among employed people in Austria, 7 % of women and 11 % of men are not eligible for statutory parental leave. In both cases, exclusion is entirely due to self-employment. By contrast, all employed women and men are eligible for parental leave benefits.

A modest gender gap in exclusion from parental leave benefits in the overall population

Among the overall population in Austria, 6 % of women and 4 % of men are ineligible for parental leave benefits. Exclusion is fully attributable to an unmet residency requirement for both genders.

Parental leave or its related benefits in Austria are taken up almost entirely by women

Among recipients of publicly administered parental leave benefits, 97 % are women.

A four-year gap separates well-paid leave from guaranteed childcare provision in Austria

In Austria, four years stand between the end of well-paid parental leave and the point at which a childcare place is guaranteed, leaving families with neither well-paid leave nor assured access to formal childcare during this period.

16. The analysis uses a static microsimulation to estimate how many potential parents would be eligible for parental leave across the EU. Country-specific eligibility rules are applied to representative survey data. The analysis covers people aged 20–49 and focuses on formal eligibility rather than actual take-up. It distinguishes between eligibility for job-protected parental leave (the statutory right to take time away from work while keeping a job) and eligibility for parental leave benefits (the financial compensation received during that leave). In countries where the eligibility conditions for leave and benefits are identical, the two measures produce the same results. However, where eligibility criteria differ, benefit eligibility is often broader than leave eligibility, as entitlement to financial support may extend to individuals who are not in employment. To reflect these differences, eligibility rates were simulated separately for the employed population (leave entitlement) and for the overall population (benefit entitlement). It uses 2024 data from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). For more details, see Gender Equality Index 2026: Making parental leave work (EIGE, 2026).

Parental leave

Parental leave	Austria Women	Austria Men	EU Women	EU Men
1. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave (%, 20-49, 2024) [17]	**7**	**11**	**8**	**11**
2. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave by reason for ineligibility (%, 20-49, 2024)				
Self-employment	100	100	71	76
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	20	16
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	8	8
3. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024)	**0**	**0**	**4**	**4**
4. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits (%, 20-49, 2024) [18]	**6**	**4**	**18**	**13**
5. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits by reason for ineligibility, (%, 20-49, 2024) [19]				
Unemployement or inactivity	0	0	:	:
Self-employment	0	0	:	:
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	:	:
Unmet residency requirement	100	100	:	:
6. Recipients/users of publicly-administered parental leave benefits or publicly-administered paid parental leave (%, 2023) [20]	**97**	**3**	**:**	**:**
	Gap		**Gap**	
7. Gap between well-paid childcare leave and ECEC place guarantee (years, 2024/2025) [21]	**4**		**:**	

Source: • EU-LFS, EU-SILC • OECD Family Database • Eurydice

Legend:
- Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: the analysis uses a static microsimulation to estimate how many potential parents would be eligible for job-protected parental leave (the statutory right to take time away from work while keeping one's job) and eligibility for parental leave benefits (the financial compensation received during that leave).
- Indicators 2, 5, 6: figures rounded to whole numbers, sum may not add up to 100 %
- : not available

17. Sweden applies a one-year residency requirement for EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA nationals, which was simulated but resulted in extremely small numbers, rounded to zero (0).

18. Sweden applies a one-year residency requirement for EU/EEA and non-EU/EEA nationals, which was simulated but resulted in extremely small numbers, rounded to zero (0).

19. 'EU-27' average excluded due to the results being unrepresentative as the figure covers only the subset of Member States with a non-negligible ineligible population to decompose by reason, excluding countries with near-full eligibility and unmet employment conditions and unmet residency requirements will be conflated.

20. DK, SE and PT do not make a distinction between the different leaves, therefore their numbers also include users of maternity and paternity leave. For BE and CZ, data is an average of users/recipients in each month of the given year. For LU, data refer to recipients of the first (right after birth) and second parental leave (before 6th birthday). For EE, data refer to recipients of shared parental benefits (jagatav vanemahüvitis). For FI, data refer to recipients of the sharable parental allowance plus the paternity allowance after the parental allowance period. For DE, data include both recipients of 'Elterngeld' and 'ElterngeldPlus'. PL and FI latest data for 2021; DK latest data for 2022. Data is not available for other countries.

21. Well-paid leave' is defined as leave compensated with an earnings-related payment equivalent to 66 % of earnings or above. The measure combines maternity, paternity, and parental leave, and reflects the continuous well-paid period achievable from birth if leave is taken full-time, in one uninterrupted period, by one or both parents in sequence.

About the Index

The Gender Equality Index, first launched in 2013, has become a cornerstone of gender monitoring in the European Union. In 2025, the Index underwent a comprehensive review to strengthen its alignment with current EU policy priorities, integrate new data and update its methodology.

The Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 27 indicators. Scores range from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects complete gender inequality and 100 represents full 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, disability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women measures, monitors and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

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The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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