European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Equality Index 2026

Portugal

65.7

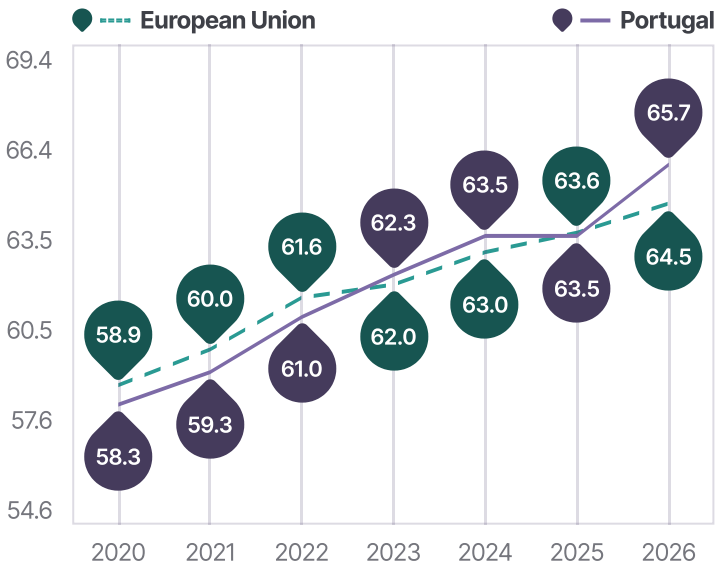
Portugal scores 65.7 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index, ranking 9th in the EU. The score has increased by 7.4 points since 2020, and by 2.2 points since 2025. The latest rise is mainly due to improvements in the domains of power and health.

Portugal's score has risen faster than the EU average over these years; it was once close to the EU average but is now above it.

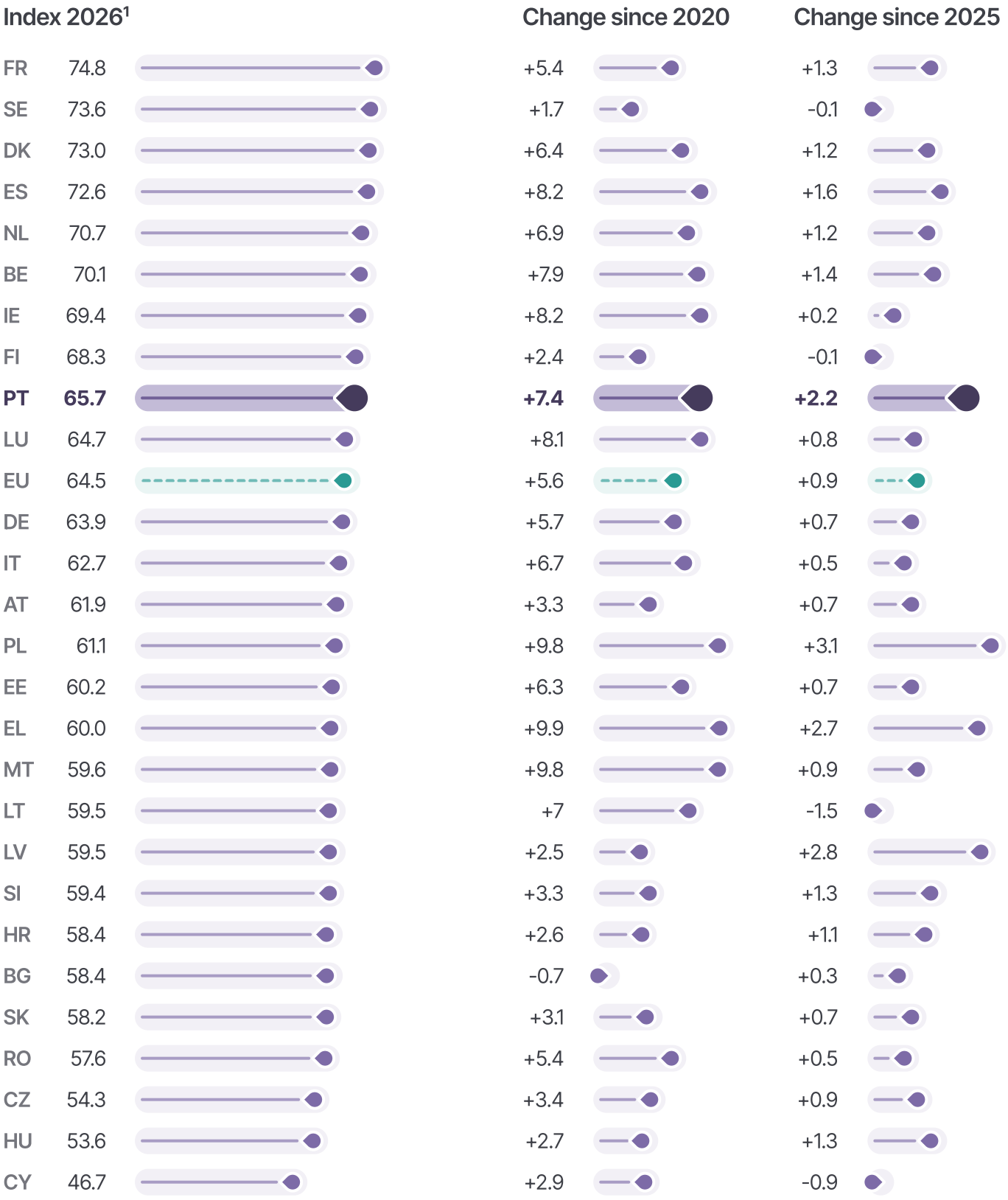
Scores (0-100)

Index	65.7
Work	75.7
Money	80.0
Knowledge	55.7
Time	67.0
Power	43.4
Health	82.1

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

Portugal has its **best performance** in the domain of work, ranking 8th in the EU, with 75.7 points. This is driven by the subdomain of participation, which ranks 6th in the EU with 90.2 points, reflecting a small gender gap in the duration of working life.

Portugal also performs well in the subdomain of social activities within the domain of time, ranking 4th in the EU.

Most room for improvement

Portugal has the **most room for improvement** in the domain of health, ranking 23rd in the EU with 82.1 points. The subdomain of health status ranks last in the EU with 82.4 points.

Portugal's lowest score is recorded in the domain of power, at 43.4 points, though it still holds 11th position in the EU.

Biggest improvement

Portugal has made its **biggest improvement** in the domain of power, gaining 6.6 points since 2025. The subdomain of social power has risen by 9.7 points, while economic power and political power have also improved by 3.3 and 2.4 points, respectively.

Despite being in last position in health status, the subdomain has increased by 3.0 points since 2025.

A step backwards

The domain of money has taken **a step backwards**, losing 0.4 points since 2025. Economic situation has fallen by 2.0 points, outweighing a 1.2-point increase in financial resources.

Explore Portugal's Index results

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change since 2020	Change since 2025
Index	**58.3**	**59.3**	**61.0**	**62.3**	**63.5**	**63.5**	**65.7**	**7.4**	**2.2**
Work	**72.6**	**72.0**	**74.0**	**74.6**	**73.8**	**75.2**	**75.7**	**3.1**	**0.5**
Participation	88.2	88.2	89.4	89.6	90.1	89.9	90.2	2.0	0.3
Segregation and quality of work	59.7	58.8	61.3	62.1	60.6	62.9	63.5	3.8	0.6
Money	**80.0**	**81.4**	**81.1**	**82.8**	**82.7**	**80.4**	**80.0**	**0.0**	**-0.4**
Financial resources	77.5	78.3	80.3	81.5	79.0	79.7	80.9	3.4	1.2
Economic situation	82.6	84.6	81.9	84.1	86.5	81.1	79.1	-3.5	-2.0
Knowledge	**58.8**	**56.9**	**55.8**	**58.0**	**59.7**	**55.5**	**55.7**	**-3.1**	**0.2**
Attainment and participation	73.6	71.7	69.3	72.1	77.6	68.5	70.2	-3.4	1.7
Segregation	47.0	45.1	44.9	46.7	45.9	45.0	44.1	-2.9	-0.9
Time	**67.0**	**67.0**	**67.0**	**67.0**	**67.0**	**67.0**	**67.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Care activities	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	0.0	0.0
Social activities	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4	0.0	0.0
Power	**23.2**	**25.6**	**29.8**	**31.2**	**34.8**	**36.8**	**43.4**	**20.2**	**6.6**
Political	46.7	50.4	48.2	48.4	51.3	50.3	52.7	6.0	2.4
Economic	28.7	30.3	37.0	42.4	45.4	47.4	50.7	22.0	3.3
Social	9.3	11.0	14.9	14.8	18.0	21.0	30.7	21.4	9.7
Health	**79.5**	**80.2**	**79.9**	**81.4**	**80.0**	**80.6**	**82.1**	**2.6**	**1.5**
Status	77.3	78.7	78.0	81.0	78.3	79.4	82.4	5.1	3.0
Behaviour	81.8	81.8	81.8	81.8	81.8	81.8	81.8	0.0	0.0

Explore Portugal's performance by indicator

Work		Portugal Women	Portugal Men	EU Women	EU Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[2]	51	61	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2025)	39	41	35	40
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (%, 15-74, 2025)	22	78	20	81
	Managerial positions (%, 15-74, 2025)	39	61	36	64
	Low paid workers (%, 16+, 2025)	25	21	37	29
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2025)	15858	18987	25525	32079
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2025)	22		24	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64,%, 2025)[3]	81	130	73	147
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)	17	14	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 30-34, 2025)	50	34	51	40
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2025)	18	25	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)	36	64	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)	28	14	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (%, 45-64, 2019)	32	16	20	13
	Housework chores every day (%, 16-74, 2024)	66	44	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	21	31	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	10	10	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2025)	40	60	32	68
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2025)	36	64	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2025)[4]	36	64	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)	26	74	26	74
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)	49	56	65	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 65+, 2024)	42	54	48	54
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 16+ population, 2019)	83	62	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 16+ population, 2019)	26	30	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

High employment rates, but a wider gender gap for parents

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate[5] is 51 % for women and 61 % for men. Both stand above the EU averages of 44 % and 59 %. Women's rate has slightly decreased over the previous year by 1 pp. The gender gap is much wider among couples with children (11 pp) than among those without children (2 pp). The gender disparity is particularly wide among people with low levels of education (17 pp) and people born outside the country (12 pp). In all cases, women are at a disadvantage.

Women in Portugal spend an average of 39 years in employment, compared with 41 years for men. Both figures are above the EU averages of 35 and 40 years, respectively. The gender gap for working life in Portugal is among the lowest in the EU.

Women's presence in ICT slightly decreased but improved in management

Women account for 22 % of ICT (information and communications technology) specialists in Portugal, down by 1 pp since the previous year. Among managers, they account for 39 %, up by 1 pp over the same period.

Low-paid work is less common than in the EU

In Portugal, 25 % of women and 21 % of men are low-paid workers[6], both down by 2 pp since the previous year. These figures are among the lowest in the EU and the gender gap is also narrower than the EU average, where 37 % of women and 29 % of men are in low-paid employment.

The gender pension gap is close to the EU average

The gender pension gap in Portugal stands at 22 %, down by 1 pp since the previous year and close to the EU average of 24 %.

In-work poverty among single parents and single adults increases for women while it decreases for men

In Portugal, 17 % of employed women and 14 % of employed men living in single-adult or single-parent households are at risk of poverty. The rate for women has risen by 2 pp since the previous year, while the rate for men has fallen by 2 pp. The gender gap is wider among people born abroad (12 pp), at the disadvantage of women.

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.

More women complete tertiary education than IVET

In Portugal, 50 % of women aged 30–34 have completed tertiary education, compared with 34 % of men.

Among people aged 25–34, 18 % of women and 25 % of men have completed IVET (initial vocational education and training) studies. Since the previous year, both figures have increased by 1 pp. The gender gap is wider among people born outside the country (9 pp).

Gender segregation in education is similar to the EU averages

Women account for 74 % of EHW (education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts) graduates and 36 % of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates. Both figures are close to the EU averages of 75 % and 34 %. Neither figure has increased since the previous year.

A smaller gender gap in childcare than in housework

In Portugal, 28 % of women spend more than 35 hours a week on childcare, compared with 14 % of men. Although the gender gap is still wide, this disparity is one of the smallest in the EU.

In long-term care, 32 % of women aged 45–64 and 16 % of men provide more than 20 hours of care a week. This is one of the widest gender gaps in the EU. The figure for women is also well above the EU average of 20 %.

Daily housework chores are done by 66 % of women and 44 % of men. These are the highest levels in the EU for both genders.

Less leisure time for women, but equal participation in voluntary work

In Portugal, 21 % of women and 31 % of men spend more than 8 hours a week on leisure activities, both below the EU averages of 30 % and 43 %.

Voluntary and charitable participation is equally low for both genders, at 10 % of both women and men.

Representation of women in politics is progressing

Women hold 40 % of ministerial posts in Portugal, up by 2 pp since the previous year. They also hold 36 % of seats in parliament and 36 % in regional assemblies. Both figures have increased by 1 pp since the previous year.

> Portugal has implemented gender quotas for parliamentary, requiring that each gender represent at least 40 % of the candidates.

Women's representation on sports boards has greatly improved

Women hold 36 % of board seats among the largest listed companies in Portugal (+ 1 pp since the previous year). In the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations, their share has risen sharply to 26 % (+ 7 pp since the previous year).

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

Poor self-rated health, with a wide gap for single adults

In Portugal, 49 % of women and 56 % of men rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Both are among the lowest levels in the EU. The gender gap is particularly wide among people living alone (17 pp), at the disadvantage of women.

Women aged 65 and over can expect to spend 42 % of their remaining life in good health, against 54 % for men. Both levels have risen since the previous year (+ 8 pp for women, + 6 pp for men). Despite this improvement, Portugal has the widest gender gap in healthy life years at 65 or over across the EU.

Explore intersecting inequalities

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[7]		Women	Men	Gender gap	Gender gap in 2019	Gap change
Household composition	Couple without children	38	40	-2	-5	🟢
	Couple with children	87	98	-11	-10	🔴
Level of education	Low educated	28	45	-17	-17	🟠
	Medium educated	66	74	-8	-5	🔴
	High educated	80	82	-2	-2	🟠
Country of birth	Native born	50	59	-9	-9	🟠
	Foreign born	64	76	-12	-13	🟢
In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	10	12	-2	-9	🟢
	Single-parent household	27	31	-4	11	🟢
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	19	12	7	7	🟠
	50-64	15	17	-2	-9	🟢
	65+	18	13	5	n/a	n/a
Country of birth	Native born	16	14	2	0	🔴
	Foreign born	27	15	12	6	🔴
Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2024)						
Country of birth	Native born	18	25	-7	-5	🔴
	Foreign born	11	20	-9	-4	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	23	24	-1	-4	🟢
	Without disabilities	18	21	-3	-5	🟢
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	30	15	15	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	28	16	12	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	30	47	-17	-22	🟢
	Single-parent household	64	68	-4	-9	🟢
	Couple without children	33	35	-2	-3	🟢
	Couple with children	72	75	-3	-4	🟢
Age groups	15/16-24	84	91	-7	-2	🔴
	25-49	74	77	-3	-8	🟢
	50-64	41	47	-6	-8	🟢
	65+	17	22	-5	-6	🟢
Disability	With disabilities	8	9	-1	-3	🟢
	Without disabilities	65	68	-3	-5	🟢

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.)

7. 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[8].

Due to data limitations the composite measure of violence could not be calculated for Portugal, but data can be found at indicator level, when available[9].

- In Portugal, 20 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. This is 11 pp lower than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- In Portugal, 53 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- In Portugal, 34 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.
- At age 13, girls and boys in Portugal report the same level of cyberbullying, 10 % each. The figure falls with age, reaching 7 % for both girls and boys, by age 15[10].
- In Portugal, 2 % of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work via social networks or messaging apps[11].

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

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

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

8. 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.
9. More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024, Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.
10. Based on HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)
11. Based on EU-GBV Survey (2021 wave)

Violence against women

Physical and/or sexual violence	Portugal Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**20**	**31 e**
18-29	22	35 e
30-44	24	35 e
45-64	18	31 e
65-74	15	24 e
severe limitations	28	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	20	30 e
some	25	40 e
some or severe	26	41 e
no limitations	17	28 e
intimate partner violence	10	18 e
non-partner violence	13	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	Portugal Women	EU Women
Women victims of intentional homicide by current or former partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2024) [12]	**:**	**0.4**
family member	:	0.4
current or former partner	:	:

Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation	Portugal Women	EU Women
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**53**	**57 e**
intimate partner violence	66	72 e
non-partner violence	40	37 e
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**:**	**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)	**20**	**31 e**

Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else	Portugal Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (%, 18-74, 2021)	**34**	**31 e**
intimate partner violence	46 u	31 e
non-partner violence	32	38 e

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

Cyberviolence	Portugal Women	Portugal Men	EU Women	EU Men
13-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [13]	10	10	19 e	16 e
15-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [14]	7	7	15 e	14 e
	Women		Women	
Ever-working women who have experienced sexual harassment at work via social network and messages (%, 18-74, 2022)	2		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

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

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[15].

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

Employed women are less likely than employed men to be ineligible for parental leave

Among employed people in Portugal, 10 % of women and 13 % of men are not eligible for statutory parental leave, in all cases due to self-employment condition. By contrast, all employed people are eligible for parental leave benefits.

No exclusion from parental leave benefits for the overall population

Among the overall population in Portugal, both women and men are eligible for parental leave benefits.

Parental leave or its related benefits in Portugal are used mostly by women

Women account for 53 % of people receiving publicly administered parental leave benefits or publicly administered paid parental leave in Portugal.

A three-year gap separates well-paid leave from guaranteed childcare in Portugal

In Portugal, families face a three-year gap between the end of well-paid parental leave and the point at which a childcare place is guaranteed.

15. 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	Portugal Women	Portugal Men	EU Women	EU Men
1. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave (%, 20-49, 2024) [16]	**10**	**13**	**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) [17]	**0**	**0**	**18**	**13**
5. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits by reason for ineligibility, (%, 20-49, 2024) [18]				
Unemployement or inactivity	0	0	:	:
Self-employment	0	0	:	:
Unmet employment conditions	0	0	:	:
Unmet residency requirement	0	0	:	:
6. Recipients/users of publicly-administered parental leave benefits or publicly-administered paid parental leave (%, 2023) [19]	**53**	**47**	**:**	**:**
	Gap		**Gap**	
7. Gap between well-paid childcare leave and ECEC place guarantee (years, 2024/2025) [20]	**3**		**:**	

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

16. 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).

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. '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.

19. 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.

20. 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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