European Institute for Gender Equality

Gender Equality Index 2026

Sweden



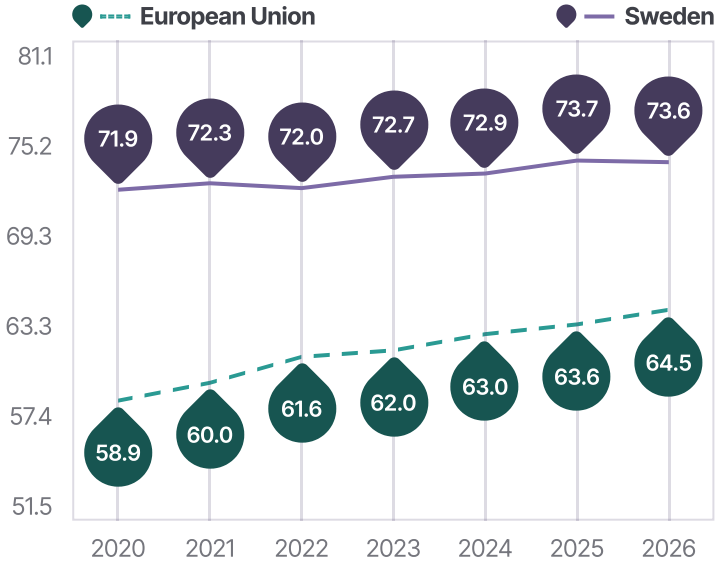
Sweden scores 73.6 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index, ranking 2nd in the EU – no longer the highest-ranking Member State. The score has increased by 1.7 points since 2020, and decreased by 0.1 points since 2025. This recent decline is mainly due to a fallback in the domains of health, money and power, though the domains of knowledge and work improved.

Sweden's score remains well above the EU average, a position it has held throughout the years. However, progress has stagnated, while the EU average continues to catch up.

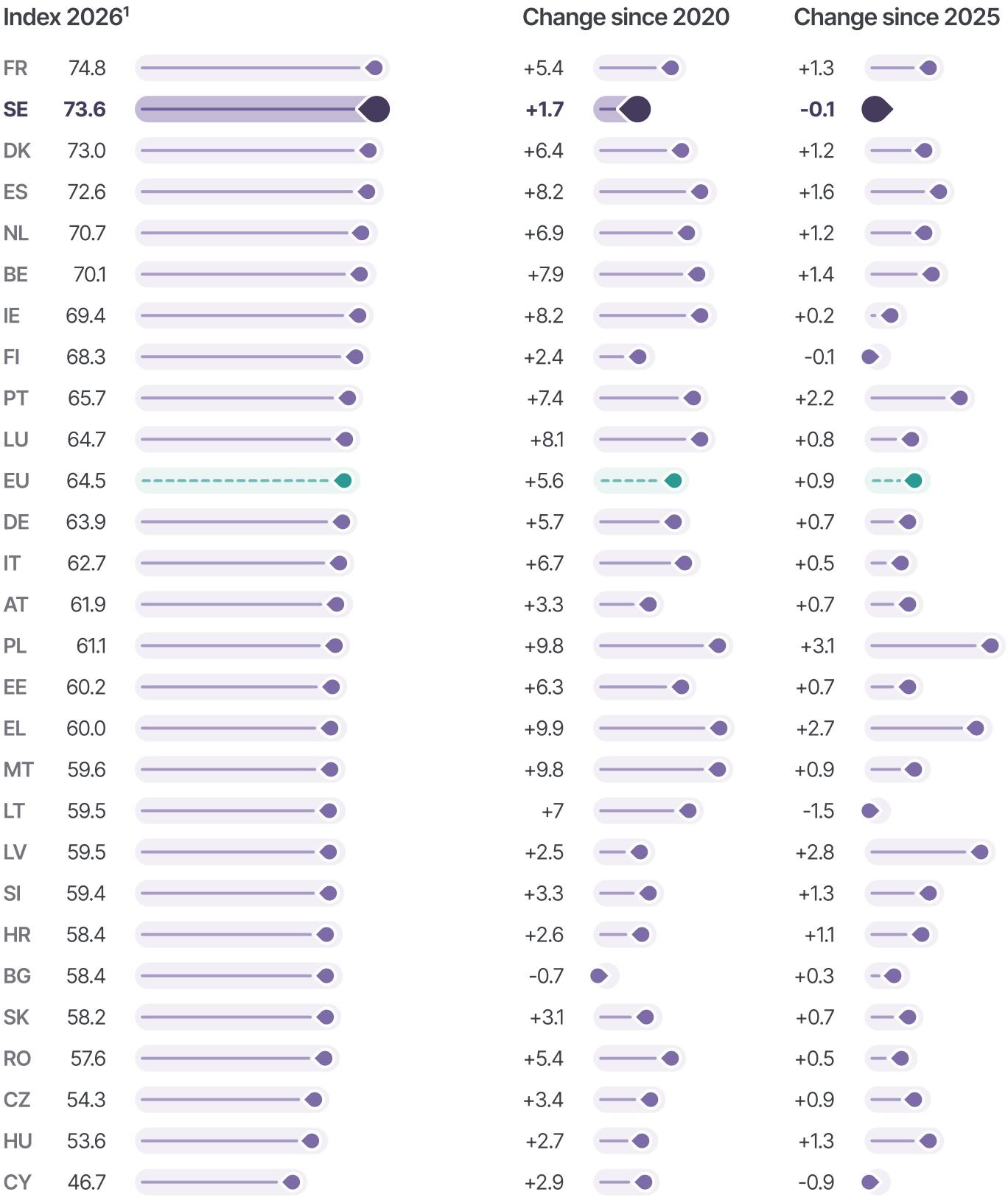
Scores (0-100)

Index	73.6
Work	81.0
Money	80.1
Knowledge	56.3
Time	58.7
Power	79.6
Health	89.8

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

Sweden has its **best performance** in the domain of work, where it ranks 1st in the EU, with 81.0 points. This is driven by the subdomain of participation, which ranks 3rd in the EU with 91.7 points.

Sweden holds 1st position in both the subdomains of political power and social power, with 87.4 and 95.7 points respectively. This reflects the high shares of women in political power positions and the highest share of women in the highest decision-making body of the national Olympic sport organisations.

Most room for improvement

The **most room for improvement** lies in the domain of time, where Sweden ranks 23rd in the EU with a score of 58.7 points. In social activities, Sweden ranks 26th in the EU with 60.6 points, driving its low ranking in the domain of time.

Sweden has its lowest score in knowledge, at 56.3 points, yet it ranks 9th in the EU in this domain.

Biggest improvement

Sweden had its **biggest improvement** since 2025 in the domain of knowledge, where the score rose by 1.7 points. The subdomain of attainment and participation drove most of this gain (+ 3.3 points). Segregation also improved, but by less (+ 0.6 points).

A step backwards

A step backwards has been recorded in the domain of health, which lost 1.4 points since 2025, driven entirely by the subdomain of status (– 2.8 points), while the subdomain of behaviour remained unchanged.

Sweden also shows a decline in the domain of money of 1.0 points since last edition of the Index. Both subdomains lost points: economic situation fell by 1.7 points and financial resources by 0.2 points.

The domain of power has slightly decreased by 0.7 points due to the subdomain of social power (– 1.9 points) and political power (– 0.9 points).

Explore Sweden's Index results

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change since 2020	Change since 2025
Index	**71.9**	**72.3**	**72.0**	**72.7**	**72.9**	**73.7**	**73.6**	**1.7**	**-0.1**
Work	**76.9**	**78.2**	**78.9**	**78.9**	**79.9**	**80.6**	**81.0**	**4.1**	**0.4**
Participation	92.0	91.3	91.0	90.2	90.7	91.5	91.7	-0.3	0.2
Segregation and quality of work	64.3	66.9	68.4	69.0	70.4	71.1	71.5	7.2	0.4
Money	**79.4**	**78.6**	**78.8**	**78.5**	**78.9**	**81.1**	**80.1**	**0.7**	**-1.0**
Financial resources	78.1	78.1	79.6	80.4	79.7	81.2	81.0	2.9	-0.2
Economic situation	80.8	79.0	77.9	76.6	78.1	80.9	79.2	-1.6	-1.7
Knowledge	**52.9**	**50.9**	**51.5**	**53.3**	**54.4**	**54.6**	**56.3**	**3.4**	**1.7**
Attainment and participation	69.3	63.4	63.3	67.8	70.2	70.5	73.8	4.5	3.3
Segregation	40.3	40.8	41.8	41.9	42.1	42.3	42.9	2.6	0.6
Time	**58.7**	**58.7**	**58.7**	**58.7**	**58.7**	**58.7**	**58.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Care activities	56.7	56.7	56.7	56.7	56.7	56.7	56.7	0.0	0.0
Social activities	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	0.0	0.0
Power	**77.5**	**81.1**	**77.1**	**81.0**	**78.5**	**80.3**	**79.6**	**2.1**	**-0.7**
Political	90.3	91.8	92.3	93.0	88.5	88.3	87.4	-2.9	-0.9
Economic	59.3	62.1	60.6	57.1	57.3	60.2	60.3	1.0	0.1
Social	87.0	93.6	82.0	99.9	95.5	97.6	95.7	8.7	-1.9
Health	**89.6**	**90.1**	**91.1**	**89.9**	**91.1**	**91.2**	**89.8**	**0.2**	**-1.4**
Status	91.2	92.3	94.3	91.8	94.3	94.4	91.6	0.4	-2.8
Behaviour	88.0	88.0	88.0	88.0	88.0	88.0	88.0	0.0	0.0

Explore Sweden's performance by indicator

Work		Sweden Women	Sweden Men	EU Women	EU Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[2]	54	62	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2025)	42	45	35	40
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (%, 15-74, 2025)	25	75	20	81
	Managerial positions (%, 15-74, 2025)	44	56	36	64
	Low paid workers (%, 16+, 2025)	27	20	37	29
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2025)	30710	36193	25525	32079
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2025)	23		24	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64,%, 2025)[3]	79	131	73	147
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)	12	14	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 30-34, 2025)	63	50	51	40
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2025)	17	25	27	34
Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (%, 2024)	78	22	75	25
	Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (%, 2024)	39	61	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (%, 16-74, 2024)	42	23	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (%, 45-64, 2019)	23	10	20	13
	Housework chores every day (%, 16-74, 2024)	60	43	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	26	43	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (%, 16-74, 2024)	9	14	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2025)	48	52	32	68
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2025)	44	56	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2025)[4]	48	52	32	68
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (%, 2025)	38	62	35	65
Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (%, 2025)	51	49	26	74
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+, 2025)	62	67	65	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 65+, 2024)	63	71	48	54
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 16+ population, 2019)	80	65	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 16+ population, 2019)	60	57	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

Women in Sweden show the highest employment rate and the longest duration of working life

The full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate[5] is 54 % for women and 62 % for men. Both rates have decreased by 1 pp over the previous year. Despite this decline, Sweden has one of the highest employment levels for women in the EU. The gender gap stands among the lowest in the EU; it is wider among couples with children (13 pp) than among couples without children (1 pp), and narrows as education levels increase.

Women in Sweden spend an average of 42 years in employment, compared with 45 years for men. This is the longest working life for women in the EU and one of the longest for men.

Sweden leads the EU with women's representation among managers

Women's share of ICT (information and communications technology) specialists in Sweden rose to 25 %, up by 1 pp since the previous year. Among managerial positions, women's share stands at 44 %, after a decrease of 1 pp over the same period. This is still the highest share of women among managers in the EU.

The gender pension gap remains slightly below the EU average

The gender pension gap in Sweden stands at 23 %, without changes since the previous year and close to the EU average of 24 %.

Women's earnings relative to their partner have decreased slightly

Women in couples in Sweden earn 79 % of their partner's income, down by 2 pp since the previous year. Men in couples earn 31 % more than their partner, up by 1 pp over the previous year. The gender disparity has widened in the previous year (52 pp), yet it remains smaller than the EU average (74 pp).

In-work poverty is lower for women overall, but much higher among young women

In Sweden, 12 % of employed women and 14 % of employed men living in single-adult or single-parent households are at risk of poverty. The rate for men has risen by 2 pp since the previous year, while the rate for women did not change. The pattern reverses sharply among people aged 16–24, reaching 41 % for women against 13 % for men and resulting in a gender gap of 28 pp.

Tertiary graduates decline, while IVET graduates increase

In Sweden, 63 % of women aged 30–34 have completed tertiary education, compared with 50 % for men. The rate fell by 3 pp for women and 1 pp for men since the previous year. Among people aged 25–34, 17 % of women and 25 % of men have completed IVET (initial vocational education and training) studies. Both genders show an increase over the previous year (+ 2 pp for women, + 1 pp for men).

5. The FTE employment rate measures working hours comparatively, even though people may work different numbers of hours per week.

Study fields remain gender segregated

Women make up 78 % of EHW (education, health and welfare, humanities and the arts) graduates in Sweden, and 39 % of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates. Both shares have increased over the the previous year by 1 pp.

Persisting gender disparities in the distribution of care activities

In Sweden, 42 % of women and 23 % of men care for children aged 0–11 for more than 35 hours a week. Both levels are slightly above the EU averages (41 % and 20 %, respectively).

In long-term care, 23 % of women aged 45–64 and 10 % of men provide more than 20 hours of care a week.

Daily housework chores are performed by 60 % of women and 43 % of men. The gender gap remains wide, though it is one of the smallest in the EU.

Time spent in leisure shows one of the widest gender gaps

In Sweden, 26 % of women and 43 % of men spend more than 8 hours a week on leisure activities. This is one of the largest gender gaps in the EU.

Voluntary and charitable participation is lower for both genders, at 9 % of women and 14 % of men, below the EU rates of 13 % and 17 %.

Women remain well represented in politics

In Sweden, women hold 48 % of ministerial posts (+ 2 pp since the previous year), far exceeding the EU average of 32 %. Their share of parliamentary seats is 44 % (– 2 pp), and in regional assemblies at 48 % without changes over the previous year. Both remain well above the EU averages of 33 % and 32 %, respectively.

> Sweden does not have gender quotas for parliament.

Women remain the majority on sports boards, a unique case in the EU

Women hold 38 % of board seats among the largest listed companies in Sweden, unchanged since the previous year and above the EU average of 35 %. In the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations, women hold 51 % of seats, the only case in the EU where women are the majority.

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

Self-perceived health is decreasing, while healthy life years at 65 or over are high

In Sweden, 62 % of women and 67 % of men rate their health as 'good' or 'very good'. Women's rate decreased by 3 pp since the previous year, and men's by 2 pp. The gender gap widens in single-parent households to 13 pp, to the disadvantage of single mothers.

Women aged 65 and over can expect to spend 63 % of their remaining life in good health, against 71 % for men. The percentage for women has decreased by 1 pp over the previous year, while the portion for men has increased by 3 pp. Both figures stand among the highest in the EU.

Health behaviours are among the most favourable in the EU for both genders

In Sweden, 80 % of women and 65 % of men neither smoke nor drink harmfully. Both rates are among the highest in the EU.

Physical activity and healthy eating are also widespread, at 60 % of women and 57 % of men. These are among the highest levels in the EU and far above the EU averages of 38 % and 43 %.

Explore intersecting inequalities

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89, 2024)[6]		Women	Men	Gender gap	Gender gap in 2019	Gap change
Household composition	Couple without children	46	47	-1	3	🟢
	Couple with children	83	96	-13	-11	🔴
Level of education	Low educated	20	35	-15	-16	🟢
	Medium educated	54	65	-11	-11	🟠
	High educated	69	74	-5	-3	🔴
Country of birth	Native born	55	61	-6	-6	🟠
	Foreign born	53	65	-12	-12	🟠
In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (%, 16+ employed population, 2025)						
Household composition	Single-adult household	10	12	-2	-2	🟠
	Single-parent household	18	22	-4	0	🔴
Age groups	15/16-24	41	13	28	n/a	n/a
	25-49	13	14	-1	1	🟠
	50-64	8	12	-4	-2	🔴
	65+	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Country of birth	Native born	10	11	-1	0	🔴
	Foreign born	20	22	-2	-2	🟠
Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (%, 25-34, 2024)						
Country of birth	Native born	17	29	-12	-15	🟢
	Foreign born	10	11	-1	0	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	27	43	-16	-10	🔴
	Without disabilities	17	29	-12	-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	44	26	18	n/a	n/a
Age groups	15/16-24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	25-49	44	22	22	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	54	58	-4	-10	🟢
	Single-parent household	56	69	-13	-8	🔴
	Couple without children	65	62	3	0	🔴
	Couple with children	70	75	-5	-5	🟠
Age groups	15/16-24	71	76	-5	2	🔴
	25-49	65	69	-4	-2	🔴
	50-64	60	61	-1	-6	🟢
	65+	52	53	-1	-10	🟢
Disability	With disabilities	17	23	-6	-1	🔴
	Without disabilities	77	75	2	-3	🟢

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.)

6. 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[7].

Sweden's score for the domain of violence is 37.4 points, which is higher than the EU average[8].

The score for the subdomain of prevalence is 29.5 points, the subdomain of severity is 41.7 points and for the subdomain of disclosure it is 41.0 points.

- In Sweden, 53 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15. This is 22 pp higher than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- In Sweden, 49 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- In Sweden, 40 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.
- In 2024, 0.34 women out of 100 000 inhabitants in Sweden were victims of intentional homicide by a current or former partner (0.21), or a family member (0.13).
- At age 13, 22 % of girls and 15 % of boys in Sweden report being cyberbullied. By age 15, the gender gap has narrowed, reaching 16 % for girls and 14 % for boys[9].
- In Sweden, 20 % of women who have ever worked have experienced sexual harassment at work via social networks or messaging apps[10]. This is among the highest levels in the EU.

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

Sweden signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011 and ratified it in July 2014. The treaty entered into force in November 2014.

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

7. 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.
8. More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024, Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.
9. Based on HBSC study data browser (findings from the 2021–2022 HBSC Survey)
10. Based on EU-GBV Survey (2021 wave)

Violence against women

Physical and/or sexual violence	Sweden Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**53**	**31 e**
18-29	56	35 e
30-44	60	35 e
45-64	52	31 e
65-74	36	24 e
severe limitations	69	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	52	30 e
some	62	40 e
some or severe	63	41 e
no limitations	49	28 e
intimate partner violence	31	18 e
non-partner violence	42	20 e
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (%, 18-74, 2021)	**5**	**3 e**

Femicide	Sweden Women	EU Women
Women victims of intentional homicide by current or former partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2024) [11]	**0.34**	**0.4**
family member	0.13	0.4
current or former partner	0.21	:

Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation	Sweden Women	EU Women
Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (%, 18-74, 2021)	**49**	**57 e**
intimate partner violence	69	72 e
non-partner violence	30	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)	**52**	**31 e**

Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else	Sweden Women	EU Women
Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (%, 18-74, 2021)	**40**	**31 e**
intimate partner violence	38	31 e
non-partner violence	49	38 e

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

Cyberviolence	Sweden		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
13-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [12]	22	15	19 e	16 e
15-year-olds who have been cyberbullied at least once or twice in the past couple of months (%, 2022) [13]	16	14	15 e	14 e
	Women		Women	
Ever-working women who have experienced sexual harassment at work via social network and messages (%, 18-74, 2022)	20		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

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

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

All women and men in employment as well as in the overall population are eligible for parental leave and its related benefits

Employed women and men in Sweden are all equally covered by parental leave and parental leave benefits. This also holds for the overall population, with no exclusion from parental leave benefits recorded for both genders.

Parental leave benefits in Sweden are used mostly by women

Women account for 54 % of people receiving publicly administered parental leave benefits or publicly administered paid parental leave.

No gap between well-paid leave and publicly subsidised childcare in Sweden

In Sweden, there is no difference between the maximum duration of well-paid leave at the age at which children gain a universal right to early childhood education and care.

14. 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	Sweden Women	Sweden Men	EU Women	EU Men
1. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave (%, 20-49, 2024) [15]	**0**	**0**	**8**	**11**
2. Employed women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave by reason for ineligibility (%, 20-49, 2024)				
Self-employment	0	0	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) [16]	**0**	**0**	**18**	**13**
5. Women and men not eligible for statutory parental leave benefits by reason for ineligibility, (%, 20-49, 2024) [17]				
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) [18]	**54**	**46**	**:**	**:**
	Gap		**Gap**	
7. Gap between well-paid childcare leave and ECEC place guarantee (years, 2024/2025) [19]	**0**		**:**	

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

15. 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).

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. '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.

18. 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.

19. 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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