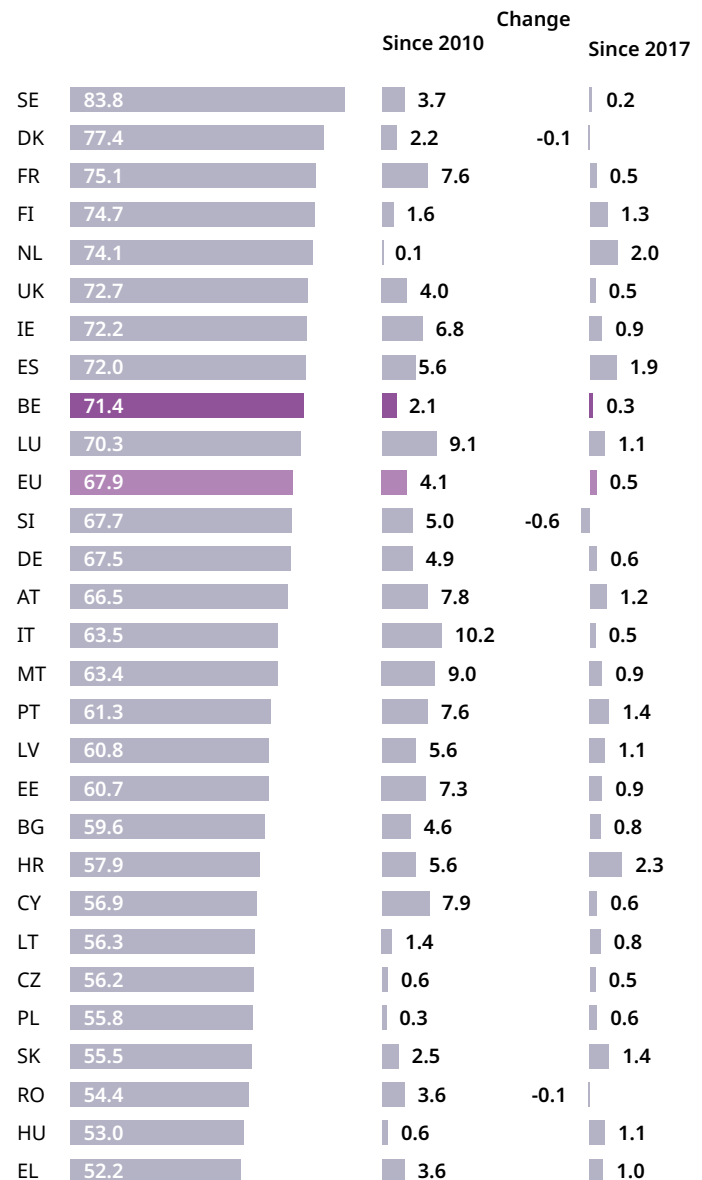


Progress on gender equality in Belgium since 2010

With 71.4 out of 100 points, Belgium ranks 9th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Belgium's score is 3.5 points above the EU's score.

Since 2010, its score has increased by only 2.1 points. Belgium's score has increased only slightly (0.3 points) since 2017. The country's ranking has dropped by four places since 2010.



Best performance

Belgium's scores are highest in the domains of money (88.7 points) and health (86.5 points). In the domains of money and knowledge, Belgium has some of the highest scores among all countries (ranking 2nd in both).

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domains of power (55.7 points) and time (65.3 points). In these domains, the country's ranking has dropped by four places since 2010.


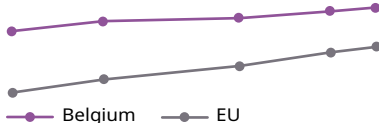

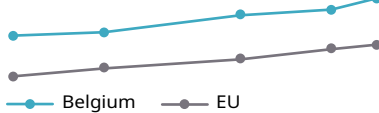

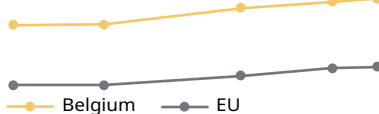

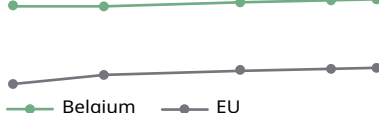

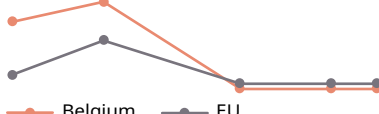

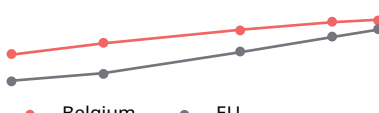


Biggest improvement

Since 2010, Belgium's scores have improved the most in the domains of power (+ 7.8 points) and money (+ 3.2 points).

A step backwards

Since 2010, Belgium's score has decreased in the domain of time (- 5.0 points). Progress has stalled in the domain of health (no change since 2010), where Belgium ranks 17th (falling three places since 2010).

Explore Belgium's Index results

Scores	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	Trends in scores 2010-2018 Country and EU trends
 Overall Index	69.3	70.2	70.5	71.1	71.4	
Work	72.7	72.8	73.8	74.1	74.7	
 Participation	75.7	75.4	77.5	78.2	79.5	
Segregation and quality of work	69.8	70.4	70.2	70.2	70.1	
Money	85.5	85.6	87.5	88.3	88.7	
 Financial resources	77.9	78.6	82.7	83.3	83.8	
Economic situation	94.0	93.3	92.6	93.6	93.8	
Knowledge	70.6	70.6	71.1	71.3	71.4	
 Attainment and participation	73.3	72.5	73.3	74.3	73.8	
Segregation	68.1	68.8	68.9	68.4	69.0	
Time	70.3	71.8	65.3	65.3	65.3	
 Care activities	72.6	75.7	68.9	68.9	68.9	
Social activities	68.1	68.1	61.9	61.9	61.9	
Power	47.9	50.5	53.4	55.2	55.7	
 Political	65.8	70.0	70.2	67.8	68.1	
Economic	32.8	36.0	38.0	40.2	41.8	
Social	50.9	51.0	57.1	61.7	60.8	
Health	86.5	86.4	86.3	86.3	86.5	
 Status	92.6	93.4	93.3	93.3	93.6	
Behaviour	70.3	70.3	70.3	70.3	70.3	
Access	99.3	98.1	98.0	97.9	98.4	

About the Index

Each year, we score the EU Member States and the EU as a whole to see how far they are from reaching gender equality. The Index uses **a scale of 1 to 100, where 1 is for total inequality and 100 is for total equality.**

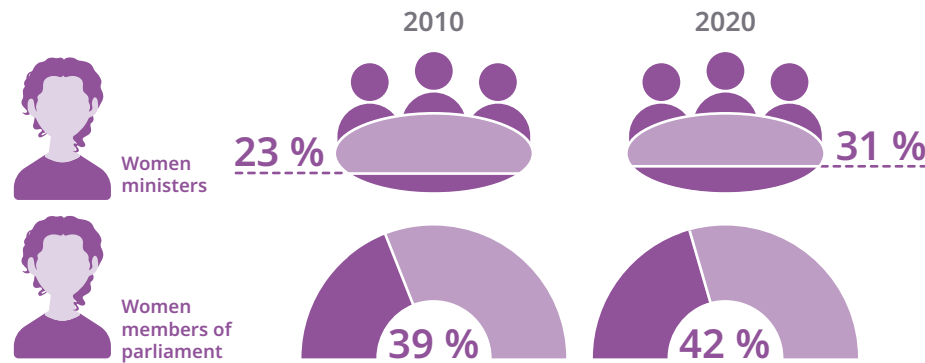
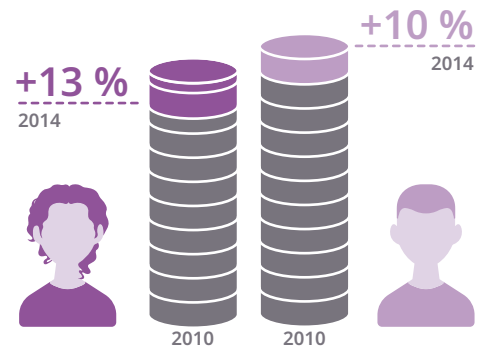
The scores are based on the gaps between women and men and levels of achievement in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and **their subdomains. Two additional domains** are included in the Index but do not have an impact on the final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, (dis)ability, country of birth, education and family type. The domain of violence against women measures and analyses women's experiences of violence. The Index is composed of **31 indicators.** The Gender Equality Index 2020 also includes **a thematic focus on digitalisation and the future of work.**

Key highlights



Financial situation improved for both women and men

The mean monthly earnings of both women and men increased between 2010 and 2014.



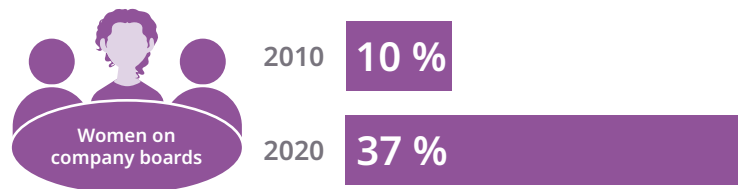
Moving towards gender balance in parliament

The shares of women members of parliament and ministers have increased.

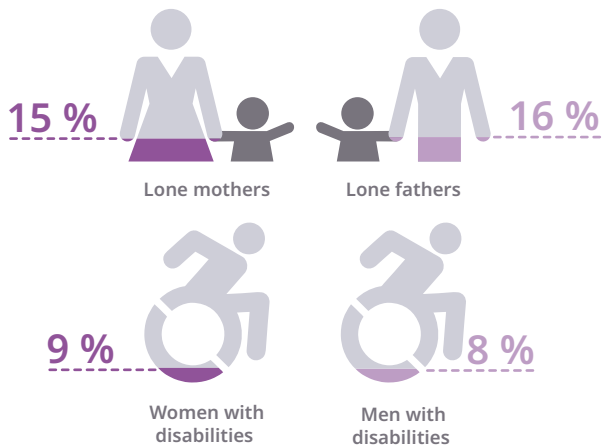


Improvements in economic decision-making

The share of women on the boards of the largest publicly listed companies has risen.



Unmet needs for dental examination



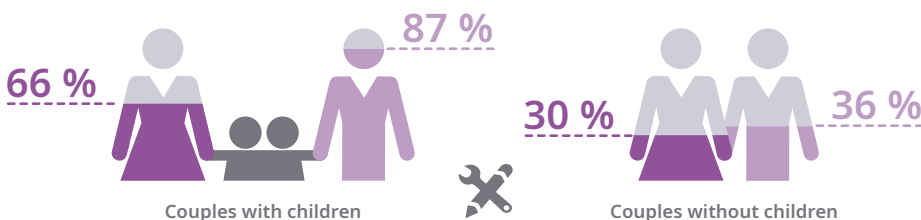
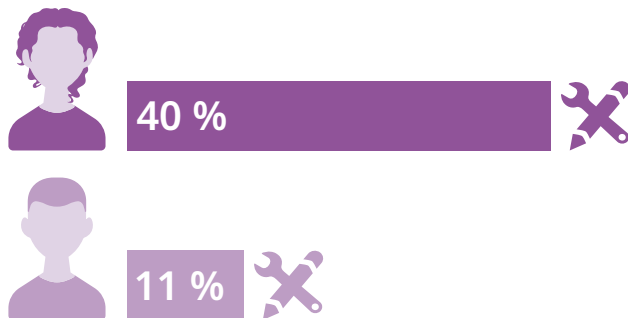
Uneven access to healthcare services

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of people reporting an unmet need for dental examination since 2010. The shares are higher among lone mothers and lone fathers, as well as among women and men with disabilities.



Uneven concentrations of women and men persist in the workforce

More women than men work in education, health and social work.









Gender gap in employment persists

The gender gap in full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate is much wider for women and men in couples with children than for couples without children.



Explore Belgium's performance by indicator

Indicators			Belgium		EU	
			Women	Men	Women	Men
Work						
	Participation	Full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate* (15 +, %, 2018)	39	53	42	57
		Duration of working life (15 +, years, 2018)	31	35	34	39
	Segregation and quality of work	Segregation in employment (15 +, %, 2018)	40	11	31	8
		Flexibility (15 +, %, 2015)	30	33	23	27
		Career Prospects Index (15 +, points, 0-100, 2015)	66	67	63	64
Money						
	Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (16 +, euro in purchasing power standard, 2014)	2 771	3 108	2 249	2 809
		Mean yearly household net income** (16 +, euros in purchasing power standard, 2018)	22 338	23 634	17 860	18 668
	Economic conditions	At risk of poverty (16 +, %, 2018)	16	14	17	16
		Income distribution (16 +, %, 2018)	27	26	20	19
Knowledge						
	Attainment and participation	Graduates from tertiary education (15 +, %, 2018)	33	29	26	25
		Participation in lifelong learning (15 +, %, 2018)	15	14	17	16
	Segregation	Segregation in education (15 +, %, 2017)	54	31	43	21
Time						
	Care activities	Caring for children, grandchildren, older people or people with disabilities (18 +, %, 2016)	43	29	38	25
		Cooking and/or housework every day (18 +, %, 2016)	81	33	79	34
	Social activities	Sporting, cultural or leisure activities (15 +, %, 2015)	32	39	28	32
		Voluntary or charitable activities (15 +, %, 2015)	10	10	12	11
Power						
	Political	Ministers (%, second quarter of 2020)	31	69	32	68
		Members of parliament (both houses) (%, second quarter of 2020)	42	58	32	68
		Members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2019)	43	57	29	71
	Economic	Board members of largest companies (%, first semester of 2020)	37	64	29	71
		Board members of central bank (%, 2019)	8	92	25	75
	Social	Board members of research funding organisations (%, 2019)	46	54	38	62
		Board members of public broadcasting organisations (%, 2019)	35	65	37	63
		Board members of national Olympic sport organisations (%, 2019)	12	88	17	83
Health						
	Status	People in good health (16 +, %, 2018)	72	77	67	72
		Life expectancy (years, 2018)	84	79	84	78
		Healthy life years (years, 2018)	64	63	64	63
	Behaviour	Smoking and drinking** (16 +, %, 2014)	32	50	28	48
		Physical activity and/or consuming fruit and vegetables** *** (16 +, %, 2014)	29	36	36	40
Access	Unmet need for medical examination (16 +, %, 2018)	2	2	4	3	
	Unmet need for dental examination (16 +, %, 2018)	4	4	4	4	

Sources: Eurostat (education statistics, European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), Eurofound (European Working Conditions Survey, European Quality of Life Survey), EIGE (Women and Men in Decision-Making). * FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week; ** EU: Non-weighted average ***BE: EIGE estimation.
Read more about the Gender Equality Index at <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index>



Violence

Why is there no score for the violence domain?

There is no new data to update the score for violence, which is why no figure is given. Eurostat is currently coordinating an EU-wide survey on gender-based violence, with results expected in 2023. EIGE will launch a second round of administrative data collection on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide in 2022. Both data sources will be used to update the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index 2024.

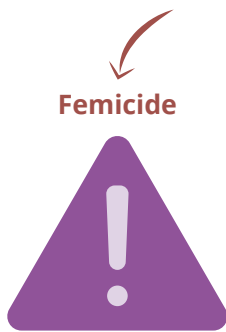
Unlike the other domains of the Index, the domain of violence does not measure differences between women's and men's situations; rather, it examines women's experiences of violence (prevalence, severity and disclosure). The overall objective is not to reduce the gaps in violence between women and men, but to eradicate violence completely.



Data gaps mask the true scale of violence.

The EU needs comprehensive, up-to-date and comparable data to develop effective policies that combat violence against women.

Violence at a glance



Femicide

No data available

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)



16 % to 27 % of 22 544 girls (in the resident migrant population) are at risk of female genital mutilation

Source: EIGE



Cyberviolence

3 % of women experienced online harassment

Source: EQLS, Eurofound, European Quality of Life Survey



During the COVID-19 lockdowns, women in violent relationships were stuck at home and exposed to their abuser for long periods of time, putting them at greater risk of domestic violence. Even without a pandemic, women face the greatest danger from people they know.

Istanbul Convention: state of play

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on violence against women and domestic violence. Belgium signed the Istanbul Convention in September 2012 and ratified it in March 2016. The treaty entered into force in July 2016.



Thematic focus on digitalisation and the future of work

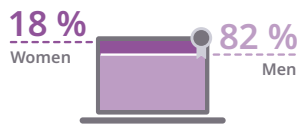
The Gender Equality Index 2020 focuses on digitalisation and the future of work. The thematic focus looks at three areas:

- use and development of digital skills and technologies;
- digital transformation of the world of work (segregation, working conditions, work-life balance);
- broader consequences of digitalisation for human rights, violence against women, and caring activities.

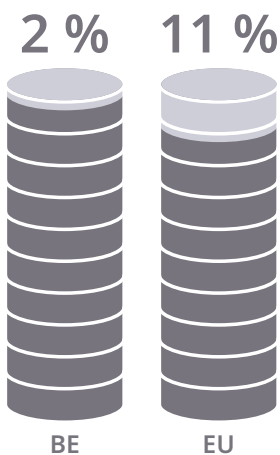
ICT graduates



ICT specialists



Gender pay gap in ICT



Main indicators	Belgium		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Digital skills				
Internet daily users (16-74, %, 2019)	83	86	78	80
Above basic digital skills (16-74, %, 2019)	32	37	31	36
<i>Information skills</i>	73	74	71	71
<i>Communications skills</i>	79	78	67	66
<i>Problem-solving skills</i>	59	65	56	63
<i>Software skills</i>	36	42	39	44
Training to improve digital skills (16-74, %, 2018)	27	32	18	22
Segregation in education and labour market				
ICT graduates (%, 2018)	12	88	20	80
ICT specialists (15+, %, 2019)	18	82	18 (s)	82 (s)
Scientists and engineers in high-technology sectors (25-64, %, 2019)	21	79	20	80
Working in ICT				
ICT at work and activities performed (16-74, %, 2018)				
<i>Used computer, laptop, smartphone, etc.</i>	41	43	37	42
<i>Used other computerised equipment</i>	14	21	8	13
<i>Exchanged emails</i>	36	39	32	36
<i>Created or edited electronic documents</i>	20	27	24	28
<i>Used social media</i>	9	10	9	11
<i>Used applications to receive tasks or instructions</i>	13	18	10	14
<i>Used occupation-specific software</i>	21	25	19	24
<i>Developed or maintained IT systems or software</i>	2	6	3	7
Part-time in ICT (20-64, %, 2018)	15	5	17	5
Working time arrangements among ICT specialists (20-64, %, 2015, national-level data not available)	In the EU, 21 % of women and 22 % of men entirely determined their working hours themselves, compared with 13 % of women and 18 % of men in other occupations			
Gender pay gap in ICT (%, 2014)	2 %		11 %	

Source: Eurostat (education statistics, digital economy and society statistics, European Union Labour Force Survey, Structure of Earnings Survey), Eurofound (European Working Conditions Survey)
s: Eurostat estimate
Some areas of concern (e.g. platform work and artificial intelligence) are not covered by the indicators owing to a lack of EU-wide comparable data.

Read more about the Gender Equality Index at <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index>

European Institute for Gender Equality

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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