

8 March 2006: International Women's Day

A statistical view of the life of women and men in the EU25

In conjunction with International Women's Day on 8 March 2006, **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, publishes statistical tables providing information on women in the **EU**, showing differences and similarities with men.

Women in the EU25 live on average 6 years longer than men

Women have a higher life expectancy than men in all Member States. In the **EU25** (81.2 years for women compared to 75.1 years for men) there was a difference of around 6 years in 2004. The difference was highest in **Lithuania** (77.7 years compared to 66.3 years) and lowest in **Malta** (80.7 years compared to 76.7 years).

One result of this higher life expectancy is that women made up 59% of those aged 65 years or more in the **EU25** in 2004. **Latvia** (68%) had the highest share of women in this age group, and **Greece** and **Cyprus** (55% each) the lowest.

The fertility rate¹ in the **EU25** in 2004 was 1.50, with **Ireland** (1.99) recording the highest rate, and the **Czech Republic** (1.22) the lowest.

The average age of women at the birth of their first child² was higher in 2004 than in 1994 in all Member States. It increased by about 1 year and 5 months at the **EU25** level. The youngest first-time mothers were found in **Estonia** (24.6 years), **Latvia** (24.7) and **Lithuania** (24.8), and the oldest in the **United Kingdom** (29.7) and **Spain** (29.2), compared to a **EU25** average of 28.2.

	Life expectancy at birth*, 2004		Share of women among those aged 65 years or more, 2004	Fertility rate, 2004	Women's age at first child	
	Women	Men			1994	2004**
EU25	81.2	75.1	59.3	1.50	26.8	28.2
Belgium	81.7	75.9	58.8	1.64	26.9	27.6
Czech Republic	79.2	72.6	61.3	1.22	22.9	26.3
Denmark	80.1	75.4	57.8	1.78	27.2	28.4
Germany	82.1	76.5	60.3	1.36	27.3	28.8
Estonia	76.9	66.0	67.0	1.40	23.4	24.6
Greece	81.4	76.6	55.3	1.29	26.4	27.9
Spain	83.8	77.2	57.8	1.32	28.1	29.2
France	83.8	76.7	59.2	1.90	27.9	28.4
Ireland	81.2	76.4	56.5	1.99	27.1	28.0
Italy	82.5	76.8	58.8	1.33	27.7	28.3
Cyprus	81.7	76.6	55.3	1.49	25.2	27.2
Latvia	76.2	65.9	67.7	1.24	23.3	24.7
Lithuania	77.7	66.3	65.6	1.26	23.0	24.8
Luxembourg	82.2	76.0	59.3	1.71	27.8	28.7
Hungary	77.2	68.7	63.2	1.28	23.6	26.3
Malta	80.7	76.7	58.0	1.37	:	:
Netherlands	81.4	76.9	58.4	1.73	28.2	28.9
Austria	82.1	76.4	61.4	1.42	25.4	27.0
Poland	79.2	70.6	62.1	1.23	23.6	25.5
Portugal	81.4	74.9	58.2	1.40	25.6	27.1
Slovenia	80.7	73.5	62.6	1.25	24.6	27.5
Slovakia	78.0	70.3	62.4	1.24	22.8	25.3
Finland	82.2	75.3	60.9	1.80	26.9	27.8
Sweden	82.6	78.3	57.2	1.75	27.1	28.6
United Kingdom	80.7	76.2	57.7	1.74	28.2	29.7

Some of the data are estimations.

: Data not available

* 2003: EU25, Belgium, Estonia, Italy, Malta, United Kingdom.

** 1997: Belgium, 2002: Estonia, Greece, Spain.

55% of tertiary students in the EU25 are women

In the **EU25**, more women than men aged 20 to 24 had completed at least upper secondary education³ in 2005: 80% of women compared to 75% of men. This is true in all Member States except the **Czech Republic** and the **United Kingdom**, where the proportions were very similar. The highest proportion of women having completed at least upper secondary education was observed in **Slovenia** (94%), and the lowest in **Malta** (48%).

Among tertiary students³ in the **EU25**, 55% were women in 2003. Women accounted for more than half of tertiary students in all Member States except **Germany** and **Cyprus**, where numbers were equal. Within science, mathematics and computing 37% of tertiary students were women in the **EU25**. Only **Italy** and **Portugal** had almost as many women as men studying science, mathematics and computing, while in the **Netherlands** fewer than a quarter of those studying these subjects were women. In all Member States more women than men studied humanities and arts, ranging from 54% in **Slovakia** to 80% in **Latvia**, compared to an **EU25** average of 66%.

	Share of those aged 20 to 24 having at least completed upper secondary education, 2005*		Share of women among tertiary students, 2003**		
	Women	Men	Total	Science, maths. & computing***	Humanities & art****
EU25	80.0	74.6	54.6	37.3	65.6
Belgium	84.6	76.0	53.3	30.1	59.0
Czech Republic	89.8	90.8	50.7	34.5	61.1
Denmark	77.5	74.5	57.9	32.2	62.8
Germany	74.2	71.5	49.5	33.4	64.9
Estonia	87.0	74.9	61.5	39.2	74.7
Greece	88.7	79.4	51.0	37.2	73.5
Spain	68.2	54.8	53.1	35.6	61.7
France	84.3	81.2	55.0	:	:
Ireland	88.8	83.4	55.7	42.5	66.2
Italy	78.1	67.8	56.2	49.0	74.3
Cyprus	88.9	72.0	49.5	32.2	59.5
Latvia	86.6	77.0	61.7	33.1	79.8
Lithuania	90.1	80.5	60.0	37.4	74.1
Luxembourg	71.7	70.4	53.3	35.5	:
Hungary	85.4	81.3	56.7	35.0	65.0
Malta	48.4	41.7	56.9	33.4	57.9
Netherlands	78.9	70.6	51.0	23.4	56.4
Austria	87.6	84.1	53.0	34.8	64.6
Poland	91.7	88.4	57.8	42.6	69.0
Portugal	56.6	40.4	56.6	49.8	64.3
Slovenia	93.5	87.8	56.2	30.0	73.4
Slovakia	92.1	90.9	53.1	33.9	54.3
Finland	87.9	81.2	53.5	41.7	71.3
Sweden	89.0	86.6	59.6	42.8	63.1
United Kingdom	76.7	77.5	55.9	35.7	61.5

* Germany: 2004

** Belgium: Data exclude independent private institutions. Germany, Slovenia: Data exclude ISCED level 6. Cyprus, Luxembourg: Most students study abroad and are not included

*** Greece: 2002, Luxembourg: 1999

**** Greece: 2002

: Data not available

Almost a third of managers in the EU25 are women

Women were more likely to be unemployed than men in the **EU25**, with an unemployment rate of 9.6% for women compared to 7.6% for men in January 2006. The female unemployment rate ranged from 3.8% in **Ireland** to 19.1% in **Poland**. Only in **Estonia**, **Ireland**, **Latvia**, **Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** were the same or a lower proportion of women unemployed than men.

The employment rate, i.e. the percentage of the working age population in employment, was lower for women than for men in all Member States: 56% for women and 71% for men in the **EU25** in the second quarter of 2005. The female employment rate varied between 34% in **Malta** and 71% in **Denmark** and **Sweden**.

On average, around a third of working women were in part-time jobs, compared to 7% of men. The proportion of women working part-time ranged from less than 5% in **Slovakia** to more than 75% in the **Netherlands**.

Almost a third (32%) of the managers in the **EU25** were women: the highest shares were found in **Latvia** (44%), **Lithuania** (43%) and **Estonia** (38%), and the lowest in **Cyprus** (14%), **Malta** (15%) and **Denmark** (23%).

The gender pay gap⁴ in the **EU25** in 2004 was 15%, meaning that women earned 15% less than men. The gap was around 5% in **Malta**, **Portugal** and **Belgium**, and about 25% in **Cyprus**, **Estonia** and **Slovakia**.

	Unemployment rates, Jan 2006*		Employment rates, Q2 2005**		Employed part-time as a share of total employment, Q2 2005***		Share of female managers in total managers Q2 2005***	Gender pay gap, 2004****
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men		
EU25	9.6	7.6	56.3	71.2	32.6	7.3	32.1	15e
Belgium	9.7	7.6	54.1	67.7	40.7	7.1	32.9	6
Czech Republic	9.6	6.3	56.0	73.3	8.4	2.1	30.3	19
Denmark	5.0	3.8	70.8	80.1	32.7	12.8	23.0	17
Germany	10.2	8.2	59.3	71.1	44.3	7.7	26.4	23
Estonia	6.2	6.2	63.5	66.5	10.4	4.9	37.5	24
Greece	15.5	6.4	46.2	74.5	9.1	2.1	25.8	10
Spain	11.0	6.6	51.2	75.0	24.9	4.7	32.3	15
France	10.1	8.3	57.9	69.0	30.9	5.7	37.1	12
Ireland	3.8	4.7	58.0	76.2	24.4	5.0	30.2	11p
Italy	9.7	6.0	45.4	70.2	25.7	4.5	31.9	7p
Cyprus	6.4	4.5	58.5	79.5	13.8	5.1	13.6	25
Latvia	7.8	8.5	59.4	66.9	11.6	7.6	44.3	15
Lithuania	7.3	6.6	59.2	66.3	8.5	4.6	42.7	16
Luxembourg	7.8	3.8	50.6	72.4	40.2	2.4	26.3	14
Hungary	7.5	7.0	50.9	63.0	6.1	2.9	34.3	11
Malta	9.8	6.9	33.6	73.5	19.3	4.7	14.5	4
Netherlands	5.0	4.3	66.4	79.9	75.3	22.6	25.6	19
Austria	5.6	4.9	61.7	75.1	38.7	5.9	27.0	18
Poland	19.1	15.6	46.4	58.2	14.2	7.7	32.5	10
Portugal	8.7	6.9	61.9	73.4	16.6	7.1	34.2	5
Slovenia	6.7	6.1	61.7	70.2	11.0	7.1	32.8	9
Slovakia	16.6	15.2	50.8	64.1	3.9	1.2	31.2	24
Finland	8.8	7.7	67.4	71.0	18.5	9.1	29.7	20
Sweden	6.3	6.4	70.5	74.6	39.9	11.8	29.8	17
United Kingdom	4.5	5.4	65.8	77.3	43.1	10.6	34.5	22

* Belgium, Denmark, Hungary: December 2005, United Kingdom: November 2005, Greece, Italy: Q3 2005, Sweden: March 2005.

** Employment rates for population aged 15 to 64, Luxembourg: 2004

*** Share of part-time employed and share of female managers for population aged 15 years and over, Luxembourg: 2004

**** Slovenia: 2002, Finland: 2003

e estimated

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Women work longer hours than men

In the Member States for which data is available, the total number of hours worked per day⁵ - i.e. gainful work/study and domestic work - is generally higher for women than for men: over an hour more in **Italy, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania, Spain** and **Hungary**. Only in the **United Kingdom** and **Sweden** are the number of hours worked by women and men almost equal. Women work the longest hours in **Lithuania** and **Slovenia** (around 8 hours a day) and least in **Germany** and **Belgium** (around 6h:30 a day). Women spend more time than men on domestic work, while the reverse is true for gainful work and study.

Women and men spend almost equal amounts of time on eating meals and personal care, ranging from 2 to 3 hours a day depending on the Member State.

In the Member States for which data is available, women have less free time than men. The difference ranged from 20 minutes in **Sweden** to 1h:05 in **Slovenia**. Women have the most free time in **Finland** (5h:30) and **Germany** (5h:24), and the least in **Lithuania** (3h:49).

The main domestic tasks carried out by women are food preparation and cleaning and other upkeep. In general, men tend to spend a higher proportion of time on gardening, shopping and services, and construction and repairs.

Structure of use of time by women and men aged 20 to 74 - hours and minutes per day

	<i>Gainful work/study</i>		<i>Domestic work</i>		Total work		Meals and personal care		Free time	
	<i>women</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>women</i>	<i>men</i>	women	men	women	men	women	men
Belgium	2:07	3:30	4:32	2:38	6:39	6:08	2:43	2:40	4:50	5:22
Germany	2:05	3:35	4:11	2:21	6:16	5:56	2:43	2:33	5:24	5:52
Estonia	2:33	3:40	5:02	2:48	7:35	6:28	2:08	2:15	4:36	5:28
Spain	2:26	4:39	4:55	1:37	7:21	6:16	2:33	2:35	4:29	5:17
France	2:31	4:03	4:30	2:22	7:01	6:25	3:02	3:01	4:08	4:46
Italy	2:06	4:26	5:20	1:35	7:26	6:01	2:53	2:59	4:08	5:08
Latvia	3:41	5:09	3:56	1:50	7:37	6:59	2:10	2:10	4:09	4:48
Lithuania	3:41	4:55	4:29	2:09	8:10	7:04	2:22	2:25	3:49	4:50
Hungary	2:32	3:46	4:58	2:40	7:30	6:26	2:19	2:31	4:38	5:29
Poland	2:29	4:15	4:45	2:22	7:14	6:37	2:29	2:23	4:36	5:25
Slovenia	2:59	4:07	4:58	2:40	7:57	6:47	2:08	2:13	4:29	5:34
Finland	2:49	4:01	3:56	2:16	6:45	6:17	2:06	2:01	5:30	6:08
Sweden	3:12	4:25	3:42	2:29	6:54	6:54	2:28	2:11	5:04	5:24
United Kingdom	2:33	4:18	4:15	2:18	6:48	6:36	2:16	2:04	5:04	5:32
Norway	2:53	4:16	3:47	2:22	6:40	6:38	2:08	2:02	5:51	6:03

Breakdown of domestic work for women and men aged 20 to 74 (in %)

Women	BE	DE	EE	ES	FR	IT	LV	LT	HU	PL	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
Food preparation	22	20	26	27	25	25	28	29	29	32	29	23	23	22	22
Dish washing	8	8	9	10	7	11	9	8	10	10	9	6	10	7	9
Cleaning & other upkeep	21	21	18	21	26	28	18	22	16	17	19	21	14	20	16
Laundry, ironing & handicrafts	14	12	12	11	11	11	9	9	11	9	11	12	10	11	12
Gardening	2	4	5	1	3	2	9	6	6	3	8	3	4	3	4
Construction & repairs	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Shopping and services	13	15	10	12	14	11	9	8	8	10	7	14	13	15	12
Childcare	13	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	12	14	10	12	13	13	15
Other domestic work	5	9	9	8	3	3	9	8	7	4	6	7	11	7	8
Domestic work total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Men	BE	DE	EE	ES	FR	IT	LV	LT	HU	PL	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
Food preparation	14	12	13	20	13	12	14	16	9	18	11	15	17	19	17
Dish washing	6	6	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	4	2	3	7	7	6
Cleaning & other upkeep	13	18	21	13	16	15	25	30	18	20	20	26	13	14	14
Laundry, ironing & handicrafts	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1
Gardening	11	7	7	9	13	16	15	9	20	9	20	4	7	9	7
Construction & repairs	15	13	20	6	23	6	15	13	11	13	15	15	13	12	17
Shopping and services	17	20	12	20	19	23	10	10	10	15	10	20	15	17	15
Childcare	12	7	7	13	6	12	4	5	9	11	7	8	11	9	12
Other domestic work	10	15	14	14	5	11	12	12	19	9	14	8	14	10	11
Domestic work total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1. The mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her childbearing years under the presumption of the current fertility rates.
2. Average age of mothers at the time their first child is born.
3. Education levels: Upper secondary education: ISCED level 3 in the international classification of education (ISCED). The educational programmes included at this level typically require the completion of some 9 years of full-time education (since the beginning of ISCED level 1) for admission or a combination of education and vocational or technical experience. Tertiary education: ISCED levels 5-6, University level or equivalent.
4. The gender pay gap is the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees in the whole economy. The population consists of all paid employees aged 16-64 that are 'at work 15+ hours per week'. It should be noted, however, that women and men have different employment characteristics. Firstly, women and men do not have the same breakdown of employment across branches, and do not occupy the same jobs. Secondly, working women tend to be younger, and as a result, on average, they have less seniority and less of an opportunity to be in management positions. This means that the differences observed in average earnings do not necessarily reflect a gap in pay between women and men occupying the same job with the same level of seniority. Differences in the number of hours worked, linked to part-time and full-time jobs, do not affect the averages, as the figures relate to full-time equivalents.
5. The data are taken from national Time Use Surveys conducted between 1998 and 2004 by national statistical institutes and research institutes. The average time spent on various activities is calculated for all persons aged 20 to 74, and across the whole year including working days and weekends, as well as holiday periods. This explains why, for example, the time spent on gainful work is significantly less than a normal working day. Only main activities are covered by the study; simultaneous activities are not analysed. For example, *Childcare* as a simultaneous activity (e.g. while preparing food) is not included. Therefore time spent on some activities may be underestimated.

Total work, meals and personal care, and free time do not add up to 24 hours, as travel time and sleep are not shown in the table.

Source: Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, Population and Social Conditions, 4/2006, "How is the time of women and men distributed in Europe?", PDF version available as a free download from the Eurostat website.

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