Key figures on Europe | 2022 edition

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Foreword

This fifth edition of *Key figures on Europe* follows on from the success of the four previous editions. It aims to provide innovative and intuitive visualisations and concise text so that users can rapidly obtain an understanding of differences between EU Member States.

Key figures on Europe contains a selection of key indicators for the European Union (EU) and its individual Member States, drawing from the rich collection of data that are available at Eurostat. It provides an insight into the current situation and recent developments across the EU with regard to people and society, the economy and business, the environment and natural resources. This is the second edition showing data on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. The latest data relating to the impact of the pandemic and its associated measures are available from Eurostat's European statistical recovery dashboard ([1]).

The effects of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine have not yet been fully captured by the statistical indicators presented in this edition.

You can find more up-to-date information on a wide range of socioeconomic issues in *Statistics Explained*, a portal that forms part of Eurostat's official website, presenting statistical topics in an easily understandable way. The latest and most complete data can also be downloaded from the Eurostat website.

I hope that you find this publication interesting and useful both in your work and your daily life.

Mariana Kotzeva
Director-General, Eurostat

([1]) See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/recovery-dashboard/.

Abstract

Key figures on Europe presents a selection of statistical data on the European Union (EU). Most data cover the EU and its Member States as well as the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). This publication may be viewed as an introduction to EU statistics and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available on Eurostat's website at https:/ec.europa.eu/eurostat; they are complemented by a comprehensive selection of online articles in *Statistics Explained*.

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For more information please consult

Eurostat's website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat
Statistics Explained: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained

Acknowledgements

The editors of this publication would like to thank colleagues in Eurostat who were involved in its preparation.

Table of contents

Introduction

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union (EU) situated in Luxembourg. Its mission is to provide high quality statistics for Europe, which provide us with the key information on Europe's economy, society and environment that we need both as citizens and as decision makers.

Key figures on Europe is published every year with annual data. This 2022 edition describes the situation in the EU and the EFTA countries, with the most recent data generally for 2020 or 2021 depending on the source. As a consequence, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and its associated measures in 2020 and 2021 may be seen for a variety of indicators; datasets reflecting the full scale and full length of the crisis will only be available in future editions.

Structure of the publication

Key figures on Europe provides users of official statistics with an overview of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat's website and within its online databases. It has been conceived to offer a balanced set of indicators for a broad cross-section of information covering socioeconomic and environmental developments in the EU.

Key figures on Europe is divided into an introduction and three main chapters. The introduction includes information concerning data coverage and more generally how to access European statistics and supporting sources of information. The main chapters treat the following areas: people and society (population, health, education, the labour market, living conditions and the digital society); economy and business (GDP, prices, household consumption, government finance, international trade, business, research and development, and tourism); environment and natural resources (transport, energy, environment, agriculture, fisheries and forestry).

Each chapter presents a set of key indicators: a great deal more information can be found when consulting Eurostat's website, which contains subject-specific publications, online articles and databases covering a broad and comprehensive range of data.

Data extraction and coverage

Data extraction

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted in mid-May 2022.

Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the **EU** (a sum/average covering the 27 **Member States of the EU**) as well as the individual EU Member States and the four **EFTA countries**. The order of the Member States in the figures usually reflects their ranking according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

The map on the inside cover page identifies the EU Member States and EFTA countries, as well as pinpointing their capital cities.

Codes for EU Member States and EFTA countries

BE	Belgium	IT	Italy	RO	Romania
BG	Bulgaria	CY	Cyprus	SI	Slovenia
CZ	Czechia	LV	Latvia	SK	Slovakia
DK	Denmark	LT	Lithuania	FI	Finland
DE	Germany	LU	Luxembourg	SE	Sweden
EE	Estonia	HU	Hungary		
IE	Ireland	MT	Malta	IS	Iceland
EL	Greece	NL	Netherlands	LI	Liechtenstein
ES	Spain	AT	Austria	NO	Norway
FR	France	PL	Poland	CH	Switzerland
HR	Croatia	PT	Portugal		

Temporal data coverage

If data for a reference year (or reference period) are not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to complete the coverage using data for recent previous reference years (these exceptions are footnoted). Particular attention should be paid to these deviations when the standard reference year is 2020 or 2021, as for some indicators – particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis – large changes in 2020 and/or 2021 mean that earlier data may not be a good proxy for missing 2020 or 2021 data.

Notes and flags

Notes and flags are means of explaining and defining specific characteristics of particular data. In this publication, these have been restricted as far as possible in order to allow more space for illustrating the data. The publication includes only the main notes required for interpretation of the data and to highlight when data for one year have been replaced with data for another. A full set of notes and flags are available on Eurostat's website via online data code(s) presented for each illustration.

Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to obtain Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through its website (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat). Eurostat provides users with free access to its databases and its publications in portable document format (PDF). The website is updated daily and presents the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU, its Member States, EFTA and enlargement countries (for some datasets, information may be provided for a wider range of non-member countries).

Eurostat online data codes, such as *nama_10_gdp*, allow easy access to the most recent data on Eurostat's website (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database). In this publication, these online data codes are given as part of the source for each illustration.

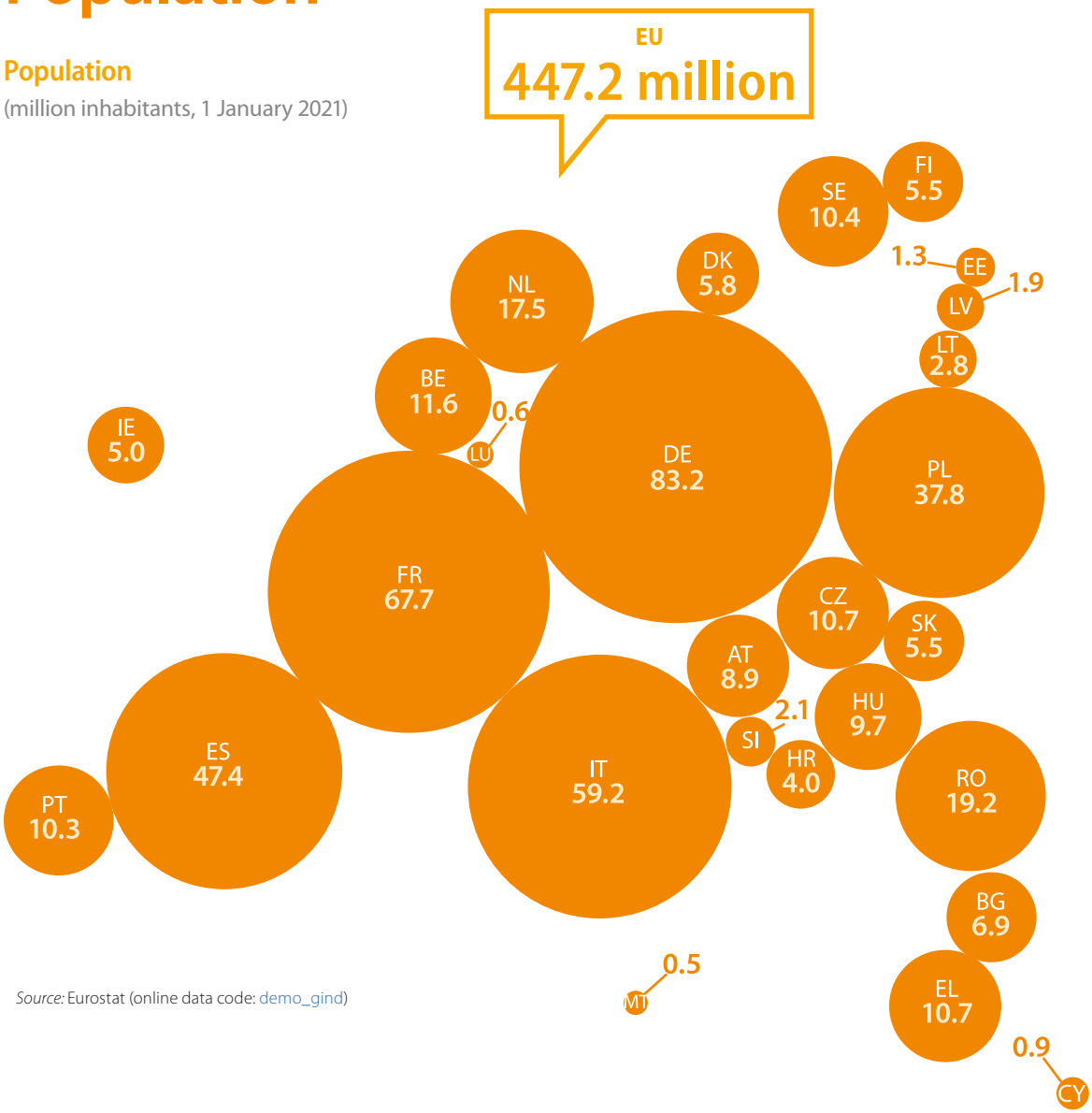
Some of the indicators presented in this publication are relatively complex. *Statistics Explained* provides a comprehensive online glossary with definitions for a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms; it is organised under thematic headings (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Thematic_glossaries).

1 People and society

Population

Population

(million inhabitants, 1 January 2021)



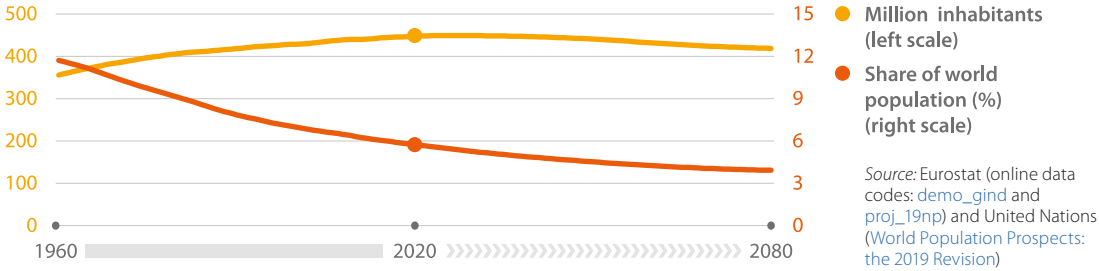
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

In recent years, the total number of inhabitants in the EU has grown at a relatively slow pace (compared with historical developments). On 1 January 2021, the population of the EU stood at 447.2 million, which was 278 000 less than a year before. Aside from two small contractions in 2010 and 2011, this was the only decrease recorded in the EU's population during the last six decades.

There are considerable differences in population levels between EU Member States: on 1 January 2021, the number of inhabitants ranged from 0.5 million in Malta up to 83.2 million in Germany. Together, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland comprised 66.0 % of the EU's population.

Population

(EU, mid-year 1960–2080)

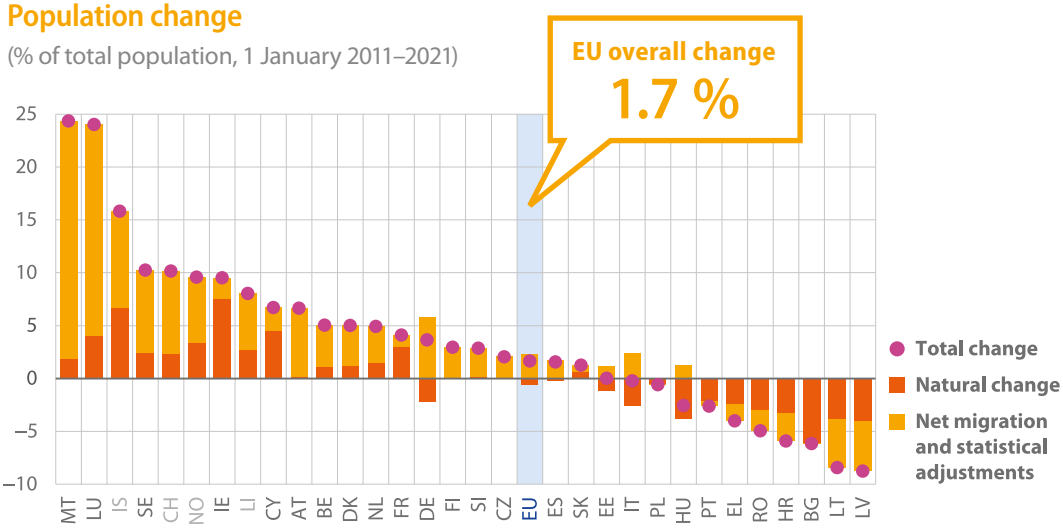


Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_gind and proj_19np) and United Nations (World Population Prospects: the 2019 Revision)

In 1974, the EU's share of the global population fell below 10.0 %. This downward pattern continued through to 2020 by when the EU accounted for 5.7 % of the total number of inhabitants in the world. According to mid-year estimates based on Eurostat's baseline projections, the population of the EU will grow, albeit slowly, up until the year 2026 (449.3 million inhabitants), after which it is projected to fall back to 419.1 million by 2080. These developments, coupled with faster population growth in the rest of the world, mean that it is projected that less than 1 in 25 people in the world – or 3.9 % – will be living in the EU by 2080.

Population change

(% of total population, 1 January 2011–2021)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

Between 1 January 2011 and 2021, the EU's population rose 7.3 million (or 1.7 %). The rate of population increase during this period was highest in Malta and Luxembourg, with their populations increasing overall by almost one quarter (24.4 % and 24.0 % respectively); at the other end of the range, the biggest decreases in percentage terms were observed in Latvia (–8.7 %) and Lithuania (–8.4 %). A natural decrease in the number of inhabitants (more deaths than births) in Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Greece, Portugal and Poland was reinforced by net outward migration (more people emigrating than immigrants arriving) leading to a decline in population numbers. There was also an overall decline in the populations of Hungary and Italy, despite net inward migration.

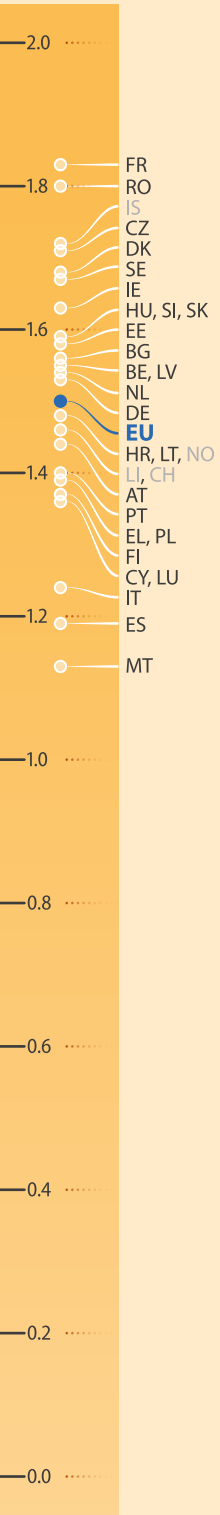
Fertility rate

(live births per woman, 2020)

In developed world countries, a total fertility rate of 2.1 is considered to be the replacement level: in other words, this is the average number of live births per woman that is required to keep the total number of inhabitants at a constant level (in the absence of migration).

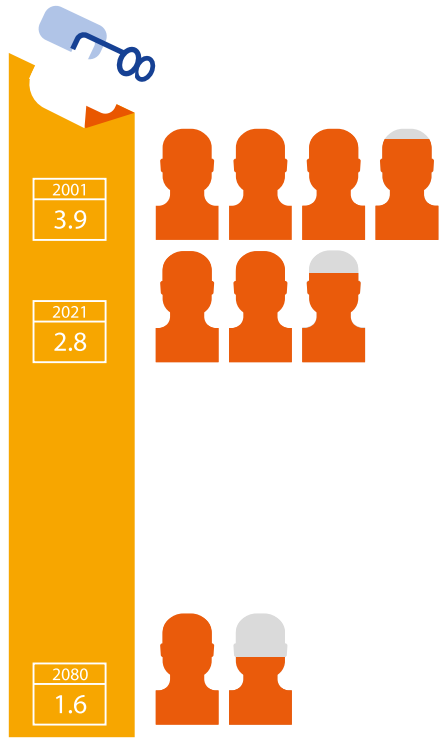
In 2020, the total fertility rate in the EU averaged 1.50 live births per woman. This rate ranged from a high of 1.83 live births per woman in France down to 1.13 in Malta; the fertility rate was also relatively low in many of the other southern EU Member States, as Spain, Italy and Cyprus each had a rate of 1.36 or less, which was also the case in Luxembourg.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_find)



Ageing population

(ratio, number of people aged 20–64 years per person aged ≥65 years, EU, 2001, 2021 and 2080)

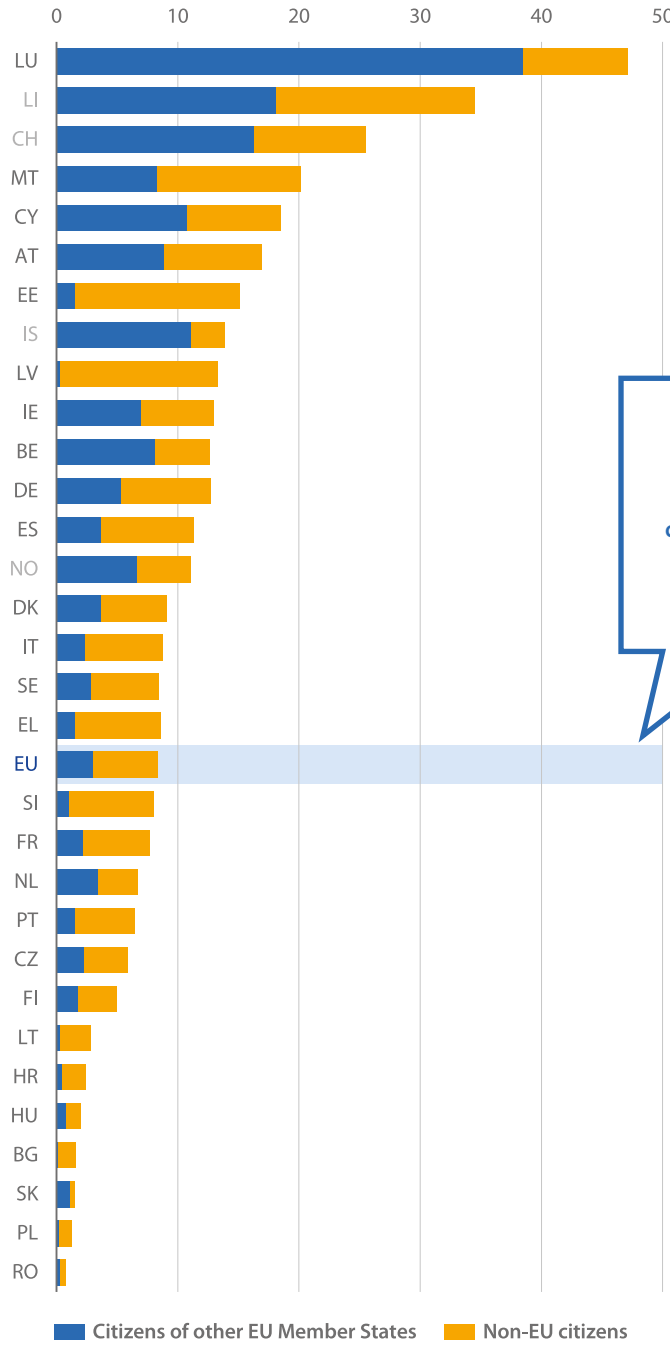


Population ageing has been observed across much of Europe in recent decades. Changes in population structure can have serious implications for issues such as pension funds, government revenues and the provision of services such as health and social care. The number of working-age people (defined here as those aged from 20 to 64 years) in the EU expressed relative to the number of older persons (aged 65 years or over) fell from 3.9 in 2001 to 2.8 by 2021. According to Eurostat's baseline projections, this ratio is expected to fall to 1.6 by 2080.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjanind and proj_19np)

Citizenship of the population

(%, share of total population, 1 January 2021)



On 1 January 2021, there were 37.4 million foreign citizens living in the EU; this figure was composed of 13.7 million who were citizens of EU Member States other than the one where they were resident, and 23.7 million citizens of non-member countries; note, there were also a small number of stateless persons and persons whose citizenship was unknown (not shown; together they accounted for approximately 0.04 % of the EU's total population).

EU

3.1 %

citizens of other EU Member States

5.3 %

non-EU citizens

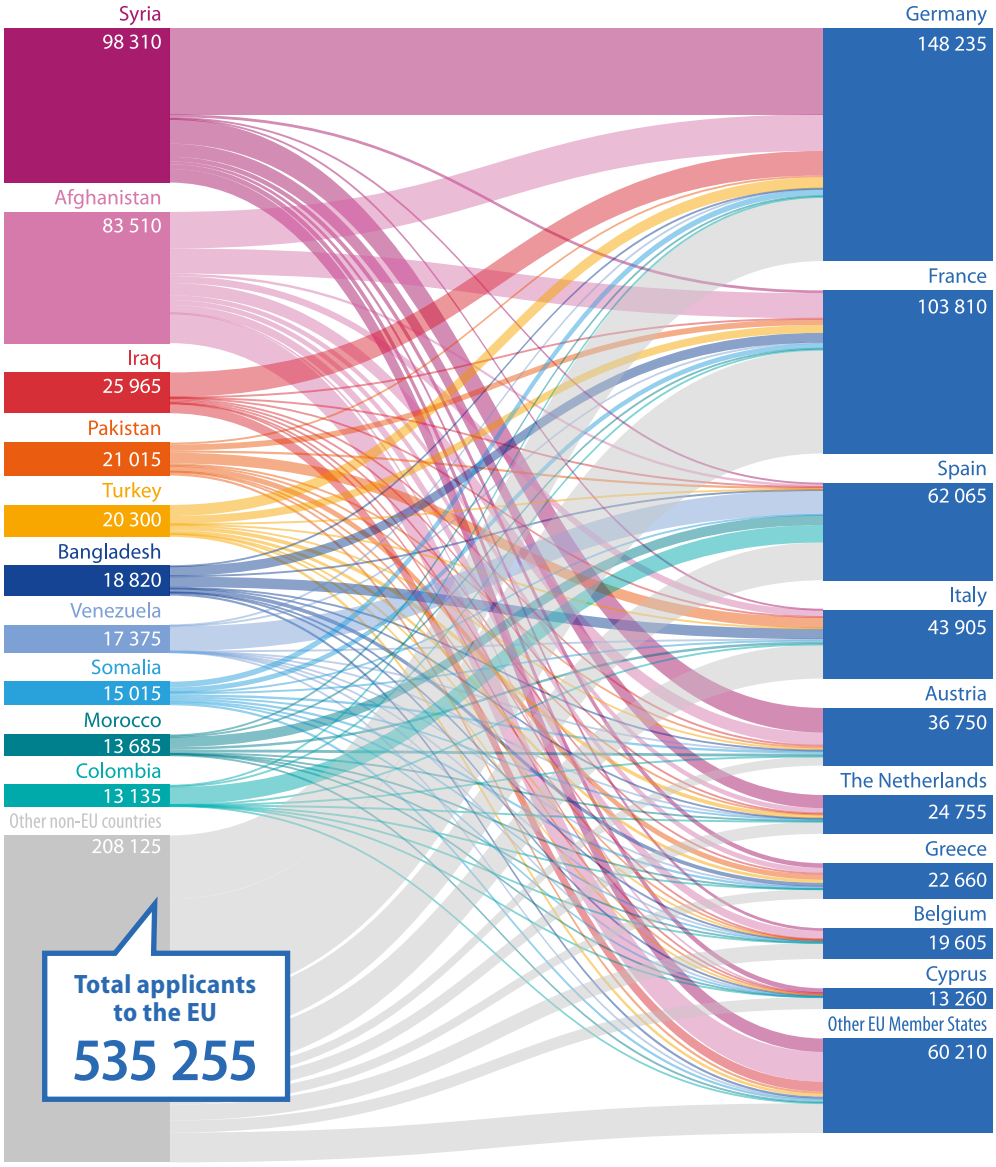
In relative terms, foreign citizens accounted for 8.4 % of the total population in the EU, with this share ranging from almost half (47.1 %) of the population in Luxembourg to less than 1.5 % in Romania and Poland. A majority (20) of the EU Member States reported a higher number of non-EU citizens than foreign citizens of other EU Member States within their populations.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

First time asylum applications

(number of applications in EU Member States, 2021)

Having peaked during the migrant crisis of 2015 and 2016 at over one million first time asylum applications, the number of applications to the EU fell thereafter. In 2021, there were 535 255 applications, equivalent to just 0.1 % of the EU population. The highest number of asylum applications came from Syrian citizens (98 310), followed by Afghan (83 510) and Iraqi (25 965) citizens. The largest numbers of applications were lodged in Germany (148 235), France (103 810) and Spain (62 065).

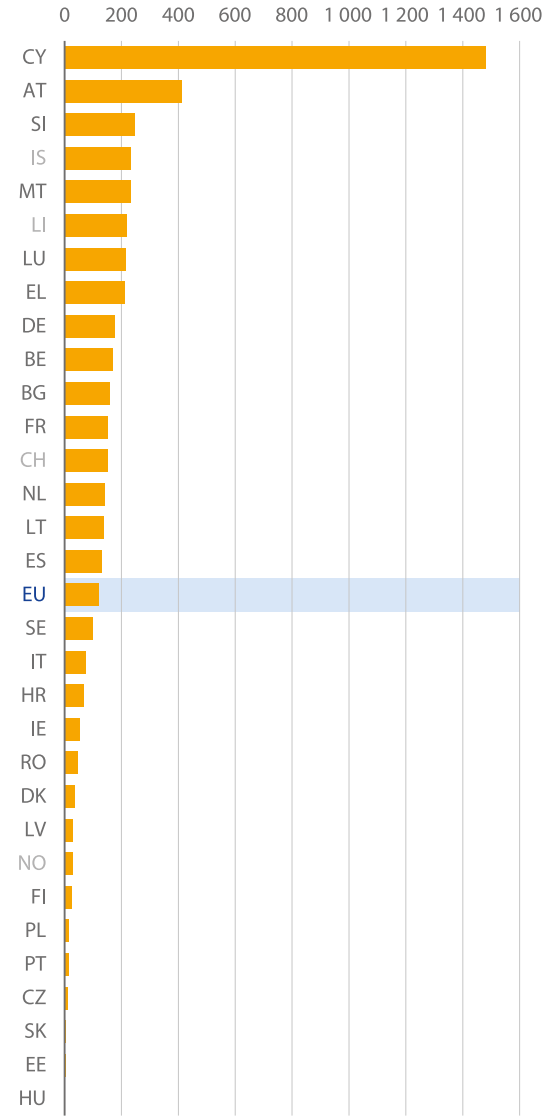


Note: rounded data. Includes only applications made by non-EU citizens.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

First time asylum applications

(number per 100 000 inhabitants, 2021)



Note: applications made by non-EU citizens.

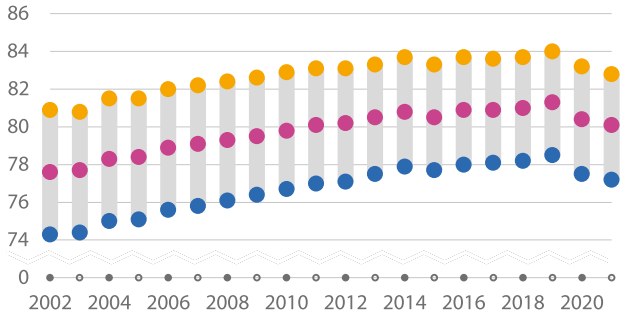
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_asyappctza and demo_gind)

In 2021, there were 120 first time asylum applications lodged in the EU per 100 000 inhabitants. This figure varied considerably between EU Member States with the highest ratio in Cyprus (1 480 applications per 100 000 inhabitants), followed by Austria (411 applications per 100 000 inhabitants) and Slovenia (248 applications per 100 000 inhabitants). At the lower end of the range, there were three Member States that recorded single-digit ratios: Slovakia and Estonia (both 6 applications lodged per 100 000 inhabitants) and Hungary (0 applications per 100 000 inhabitants; a total of 40 first time asylum applications were lodged in Hungary during the course of 2021).

Health

Life expectancy at birth

(years, EU, 2002–2021)



The impact of the COVID-19 crisis led to a fall in life expectancy in both 2020 and – to a lesser degree – 2021. Life expectancy at birth in 2021 was 82.8 years for women and 77.2 years for men, with the narrowing of the gender gap witnessed during the last two decades being reversed during the pandemic.

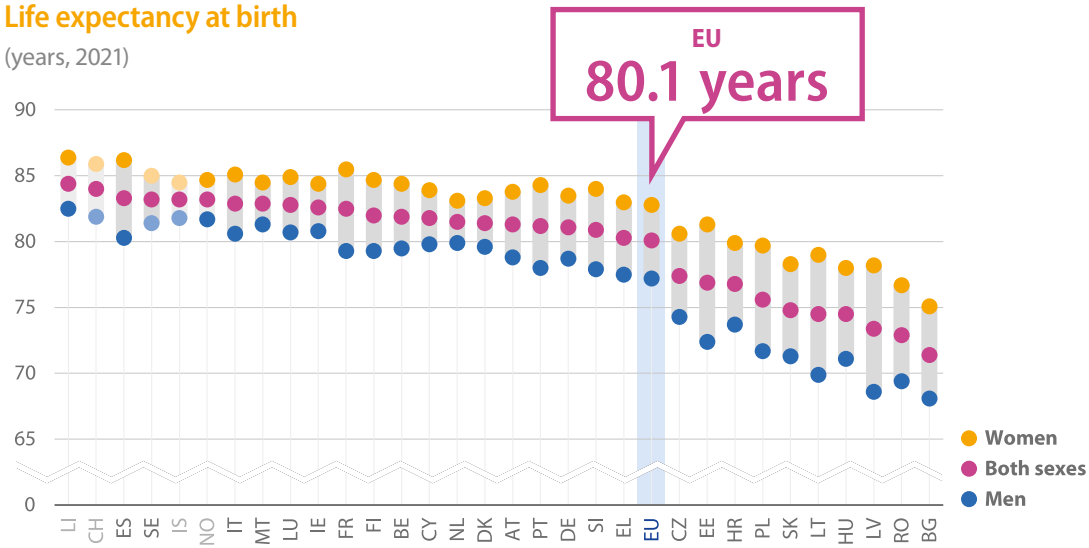
- Women
- Both sexes
- Men

Note: the y-axis is cut.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

Life expectancy at birth

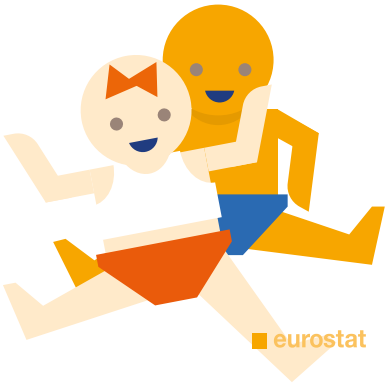
(years, 2021)



Note: the y-axis is cut. DE and IE: 2020.

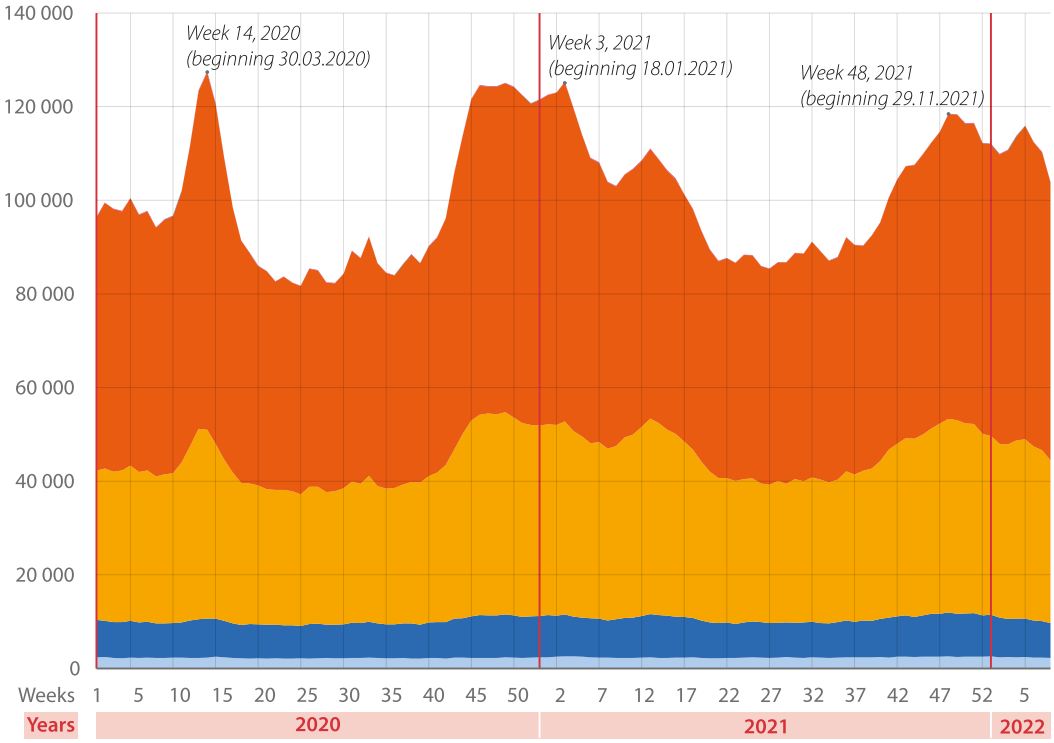
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec)

Among the EU Member States, the highest average (for both sexes) life expectancy at birth in 2021 was recorded in Spain (at 83.3 years), while the lowest was in Bulgaria (71.4 years). A gender gap – with higher life expectancy for women – existed in every EU Member State, with particularly large differences between the sexes in Latvia (9.6 years), Lithuania (9.1 years) and Estonia (8.9 years). The smallest gaps were recorded in the Netherlands and Malta (both 3.2 years).



Weekly deaths for age groups

(deaths, EU, week 1 of 2020 to week 8 of 2022)



Unknown
80 years or over
From 60 to 79 years
From 40 to 59 years
Less than 40 years

Note: excluding IE and some deaths for SE for which the precise week of death is not available – in 2021 this concerned 3.3 % of all deaths in SE.

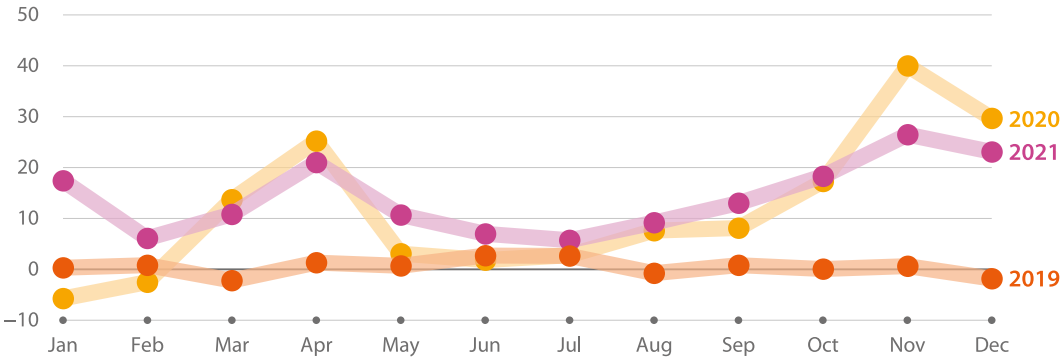
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_r_mwk_20)

In 2020, there were 5.2 million deaths in the EU (excluding Ireland). Compared with 2019, this represented an increase of 616 000 deaths in absolute terms and 13.4 % in relative terms. This relatively high level of deaths was sustained in 2021, as the total rose a further 15 800 (compared with 2020), equivalent to an increase of 0.3 %.

The number of deaths in any particular week varied greatly, in part reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and seasonal variations. Three periods since the start of 2020 stand out with a notably higher number of deaths. The first was a quite sharp peak at the onset of the pandemic, centred around week 14 of 2020 (beginning 30.03.2020). The second was a longer period covering the months of the winter of 2020/2021 with a peak in week 3 of 2021 (beginning 18.01.2021). There were much lower numbers of weekly deaths during the summer of 2021. However, another wave began in the autumn of 2021, with the number of weekly deaths remaining relatively high during the months of the winter of 2021/2022; a peak was recorded in week 48 of 2021 (beginning 29.11.2021).

Excess mortality

(%, compared with average monthly baseline deaths, EU, 2019–2021)

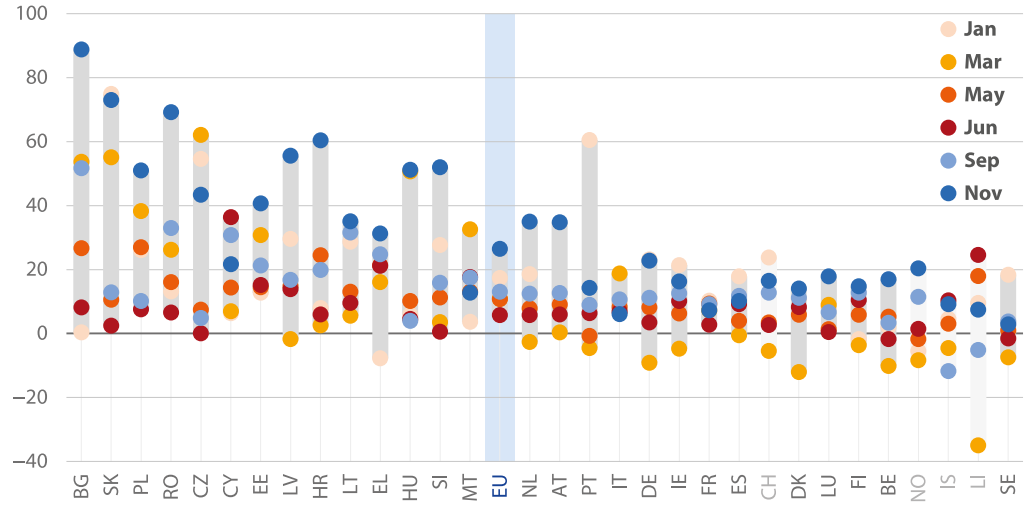


Note: the monthly baseline number of deaths is the average number of deaths each month in the years 2016–2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_mmonth and demo_mexrt)

Excess mortality

(%, compared with average monthly baseline deaths, 2021)



Note: ranked on the average monthly excess mortality for the whole of 2021. The monthly baseline number of deaths is the average number of deaths each month in the years 2016–2019.

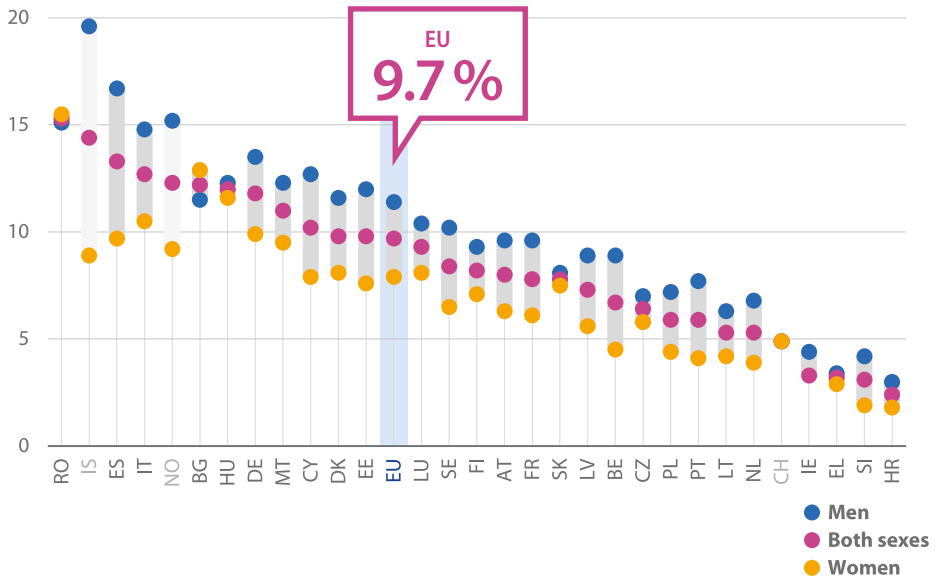
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mexrt)

Due principally to the COVID-19 crisis, excess mortality in 2020 and 2021 was much more volatile than in 2019 (which can be considered as a more regular year). While there were fewer deaths in the EU in January and February 2020 than was typical (during the period 2016–2019), for all other months of 2020 and 2021 the number of deaths in the EU was above average. The number of deaths was particularly high (compared with the average during 2016–2019) in spring 2020, winter 2020/21, spring 2021 and again in winter 2021/22. In the most recent peak month – November 2021 – the highest excess mortality rates were recorded in Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Latvia, Slovenia, Hungary and Poland.

Education

Early leavers from education and training

(%, share of people aged 18–24 years, 2021)



The risk of poverty, unemployment or social exclusion is higher among people leaving school at a relatively young age. In 2021, the share of early leavers in the EU was 9.7 %, ranging from 15.3 % in Romania to 2.4 % in Croatia. Young men in the EU (11.4 %) were more likely than young women (7.9 %) to be early leavers.

Note: early leavers are defined as people who have attained at most a lower secondary education and who are not involved in further education or training. IE: women, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_14)

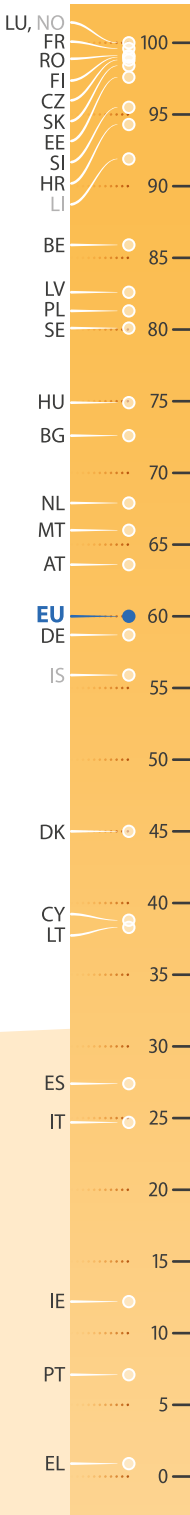
Learning two or more foreign languages

(%, share of students in general upper secondary education, 2020)

Some 60.0 % of general upper secondary students in the EU were studying two or more foreign languages in 2020. At least 99.0 % of all general upper secondary students in Luxembourg, France, Romania and Finland were studying two or more foreign languages, compared with less than 15.0 % in Ireland, Portugal and Greece.

Note: IS, 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: educ_uoe_lang02)



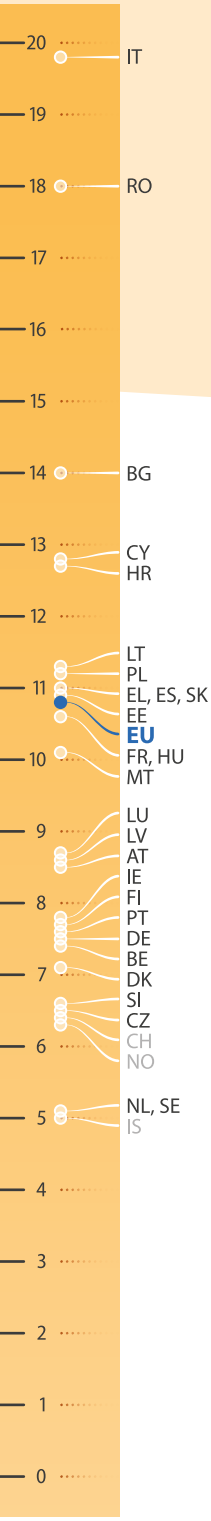
Young people neither in employment nor in education and training

(%, share of people aged 15–24 years, 2021)

The share of young people (aged 15–24 years) neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) concerns people who were not employed and had not received any form of education or training during a specified period of time. In 2021, the NEET rate for young people in the EU stood at 10.8 %. The rate in Italy (19.8 %) was almost four times as high as in the Netherlands and Sweden (both 5.1 %).

Note: CH, 2020.

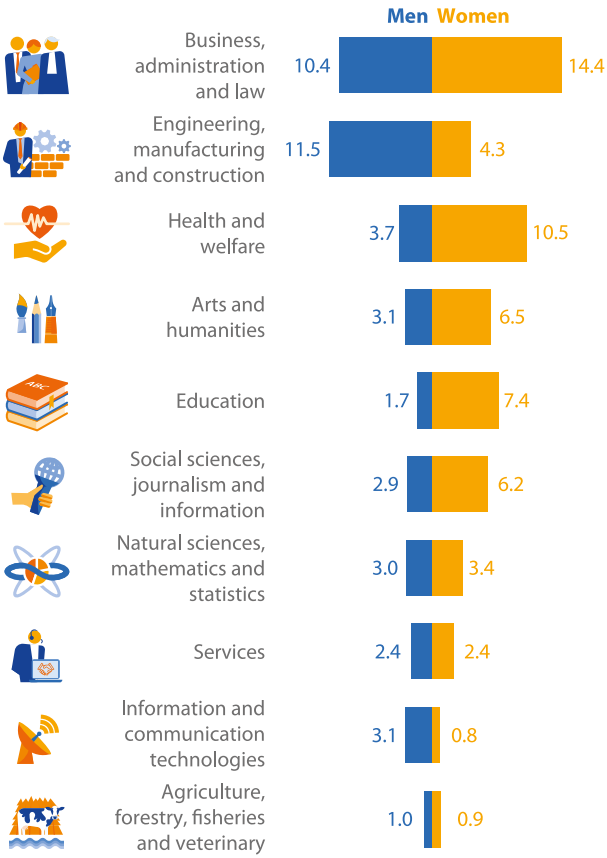
Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20)



In 2019, there were 3.9 million tertiary education graduates across the EU: female university graduates (2.2 million) outnumbered their male counterparts (1.7 million). This pattern of more female than male graduates was repeated for a majority of fields of study and was particularly apparent among those who had studied education (more than four times as many female as male graduates). By contrast, there were almost four times as many male as female graduates among those having studied information and communication technologies.

Fields of study for university graduates

(%, EU, 2019)

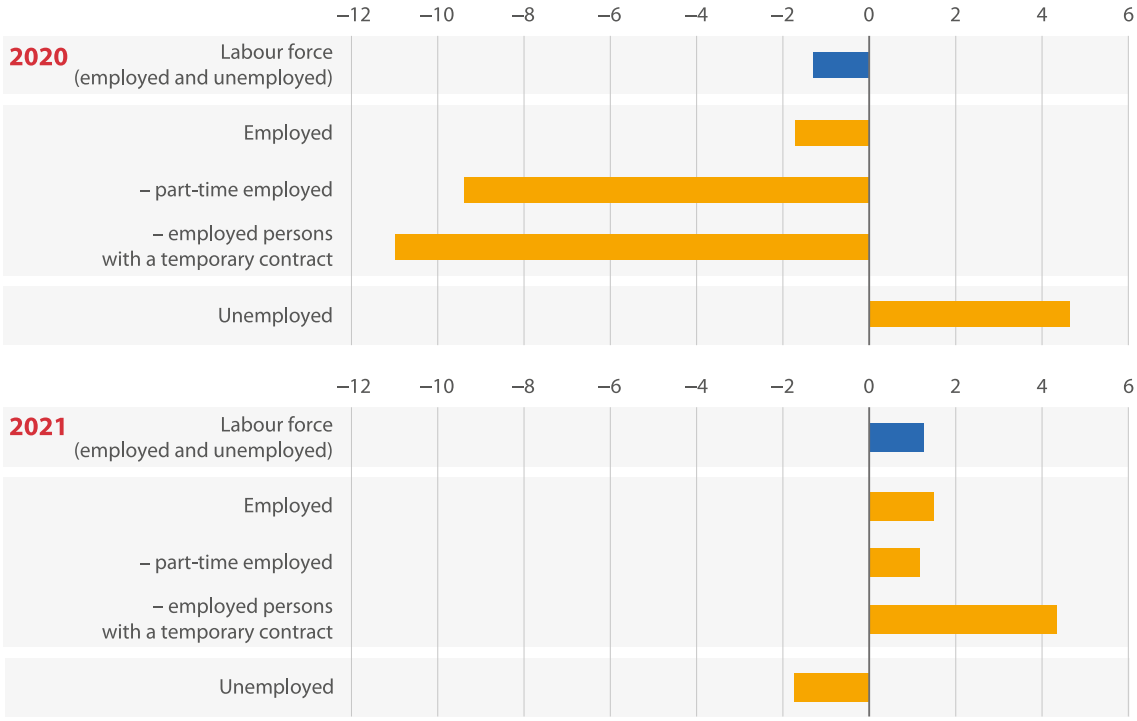


Source: Eurostat (online data codes: educ_uoe_grad01 and educ_uoe_grad03)

Labour market

Change in the labour force composition

(%, persons aged 20–64 years, EU, 2020 and 2021)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: lfsi_emp_a, lfsi_pt_a and une_rt_a)

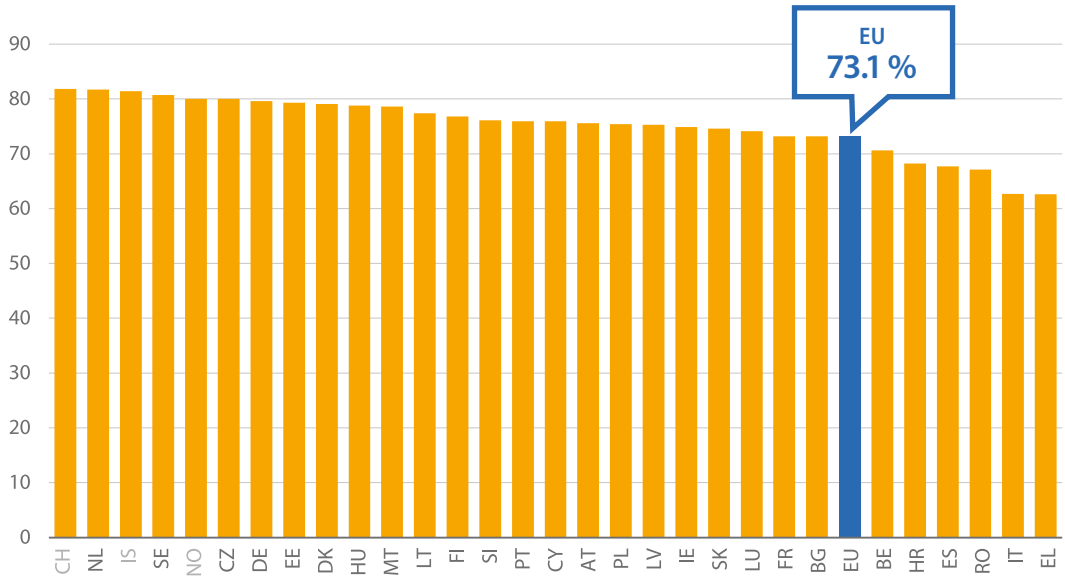
The COVID-19 crisis impacted heavily on labour markets in the EU Member States, softened to some extent by efforts of national governments to support businesses and employment.

The size of the labour force aged 20–64 years in the EU contracted 1.3 % between 2019 and 2020. Within the labour force, the number of persons in employment fell 1.7 %. Large falls were observed for the number of part-time workers (down 9.4 %) and particularly employed persons with a temporary contract (down 11.0 %). The number of unemployed persons aged 20–64 years increased 4.6 %.

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis was quite different in 2021, which may (in part) reflect fewer and less severe lockdown arrangements and a gradual return to work. The EU labour force aged 20–64 years grew 1.3 % in 2021 (compared with 2020) while the number of persons employed increased 1.5 %. There was also a partial rebound in the number of employed persons with a temporary contract (up 4.3 %) and part-time workers (up 1.2 %). The number of unemployed persons aged 20–64 years fell 1.7 %.

Employment rate

(%, share of population aged 20–64 years, 2021)



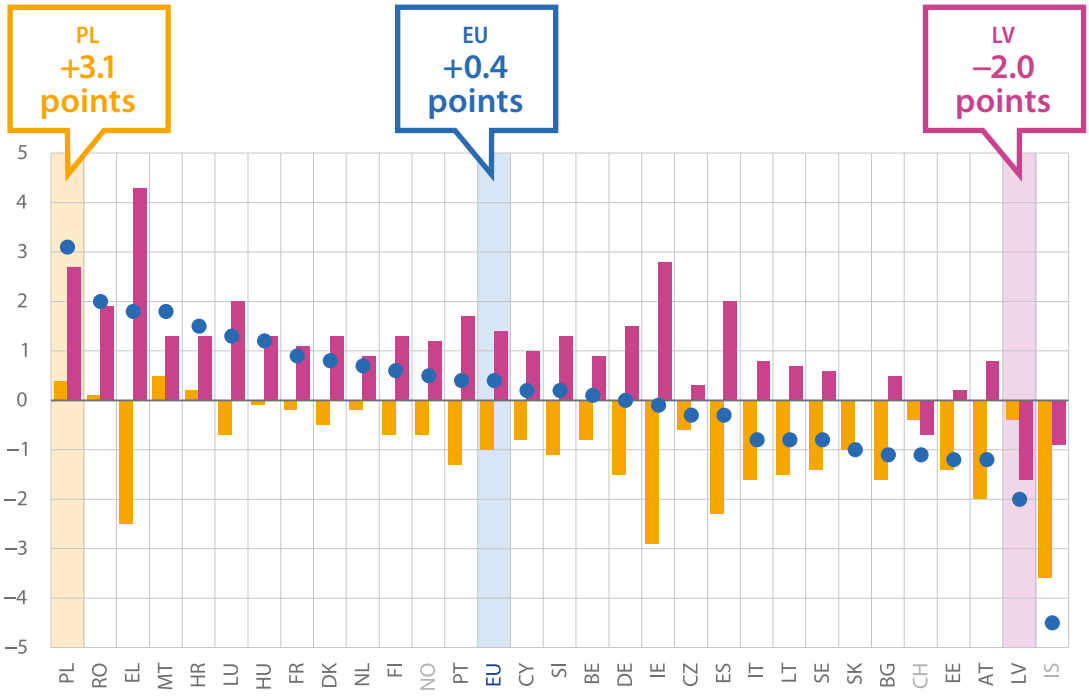
Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)

The EU employment rate – which measures the share of the population aged 20–64 years who were in work – was 73.1 % in 2021. There were three EU Member State where at least 80.0 % of adults aged 20–64 years were in employment: the Netherlands (81.7 %), Sweden (80.7 %) and Czechia (80.0 %). At the other end of the range, less than 70.0 % of adults aged 20–64 years were in employment in Croatia (68.2 %), Spain (67.7 %), Romania (67.1 %), Italy (62.7 %) and Greece (62.6 %).

Change in the employment rate

(percentage points based on share of population aged 20–64 years, 2020 and 2021)

Having fallen 1.0 percentage points between 2019 and 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 crisis, the EU employment rate rebounded in 2021 above its pre-crisis level. There were 15 EU Member States where the employment rate in 2021 had already recovered beyond its pre-crisis 2019 levels. The largest increases in employment rates between 2019 and 2021 were recorded in Poland (up 3.1 percentage points) and Romania (2.0 points). The largest decline, down 2.0 points, was observed in Latvia. In fact, Latvia was the only Member State to record a fall in its employment rate in 2021; furthermore, its fall in 2021 was larger than that observed in 2020.

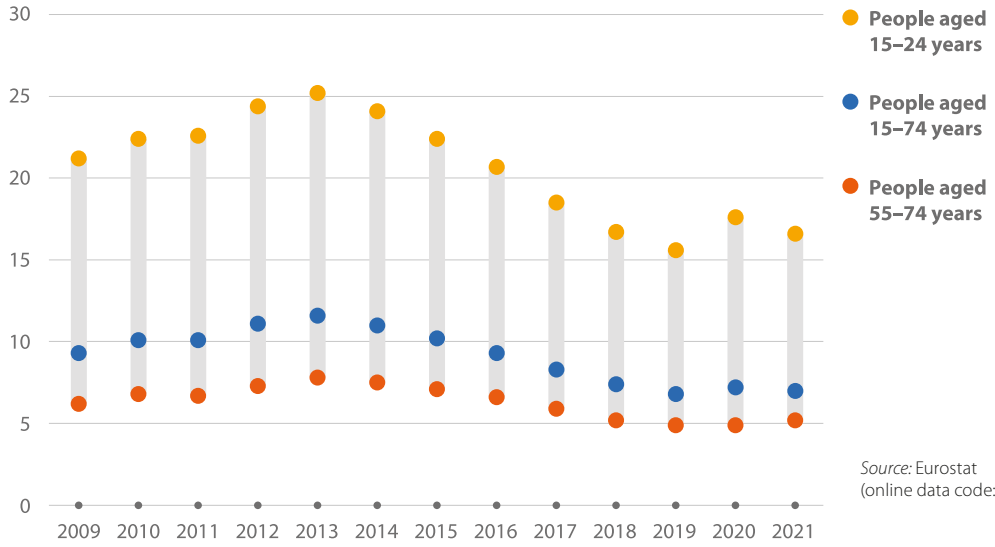


Note: ranked on the change (in percentage points) between 2019 and 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a)

Unemployment rate

(%, share of labour force, EU, 2009–2021)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

In 2009, the EU unemployment rate for people aged 15–74 years was 9.3 %. In the wake of the global financial and economic crisis, the unemployment rate rose sharply, peaking at 11.6 % in 2013. During the following six years, the unemployment rate fell each and every year, to stand at 6.8 % by 2019. In 2020, as labour markets were impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, the EU unemployment rate increased to 7.2 %. There was a slight reduction in 2021, as the rate fell to 7.0 %.

The EU youth (people aged 15–24 years) unemployment rate was 16.6 % in 2021, which was 3.2 times as high as the unemployment rate for persons aged 55–74 years (5.2 %).

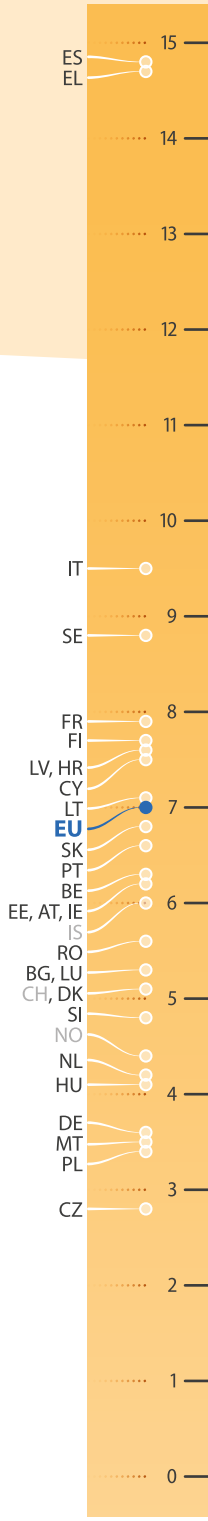
Unemployment rate

(% share of labour force aged 15–74 years, 2021)

In 2021, among the EU Member States the highest unemployment rates for people aged 15–74 years were recorded in Spain (14.8 %) and Greece (14.7 %).

Relatively low unemployment rates – within the range of 3.4–3.6 % – were recorded in Germany, Malta and Poland, with the rate in Czechia (2.8 %) even lower.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

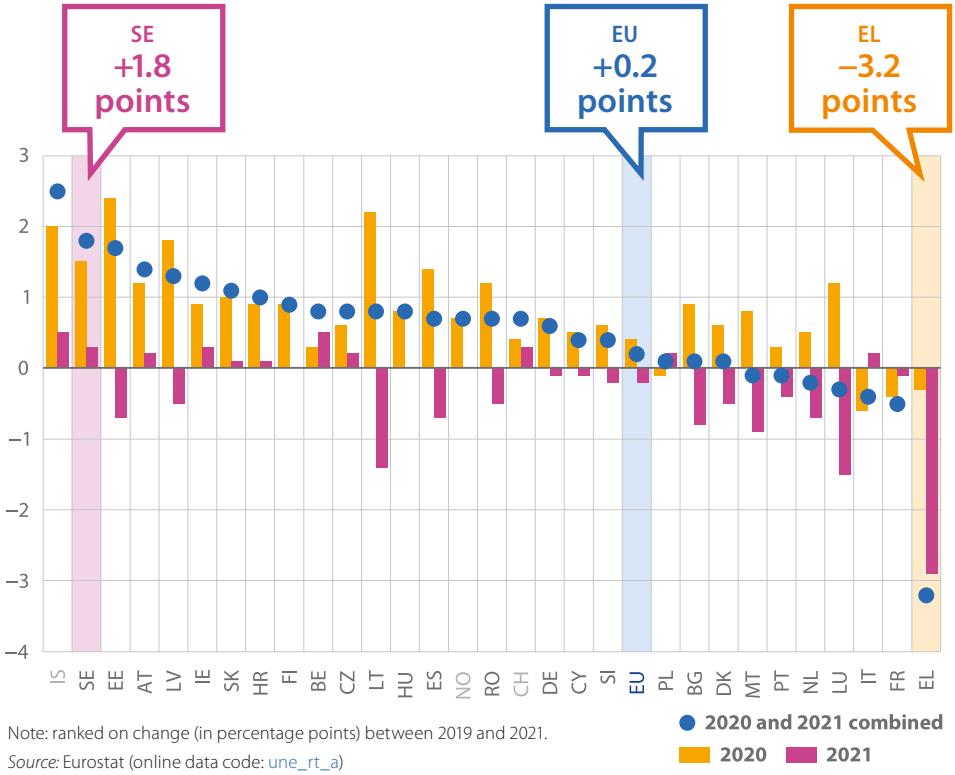


Change in unemployment rate

(percentage points based on share of labour force aged 15–74 years, 2020 and 2021)

Between 2019 and 2021, the unemployment rate fell in Greece, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Malta, while it grew elsewhere.

The largest increases were recorded in Estonia (up 1.7 percentage points) and Sweden (up 1.8 points).



Note: ranked on change (in percentage points) between 2019 and 2021.

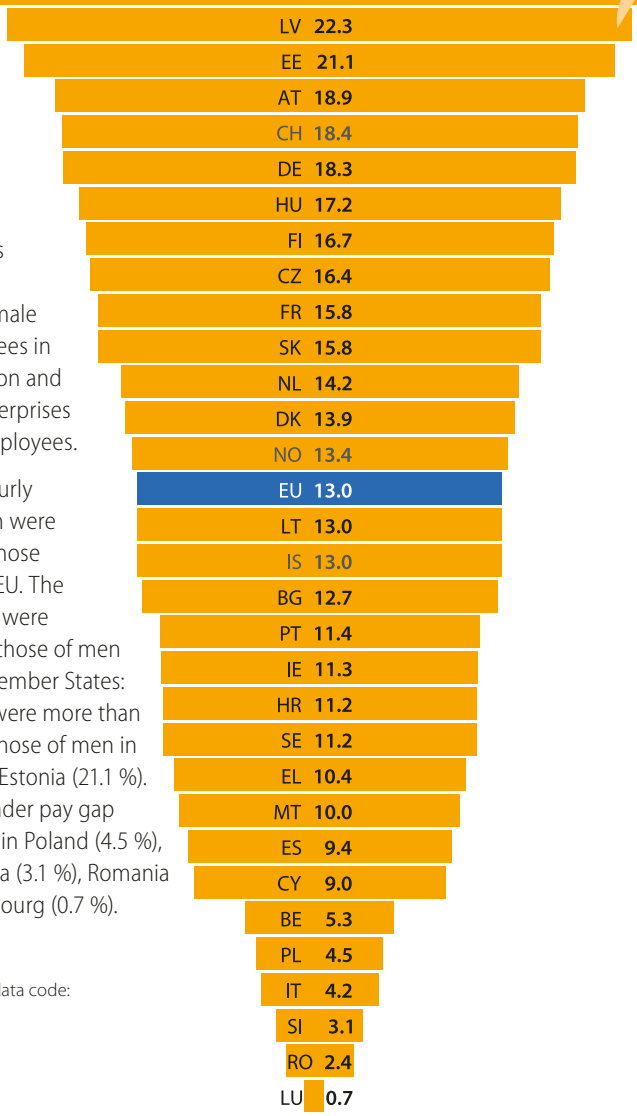
Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a)

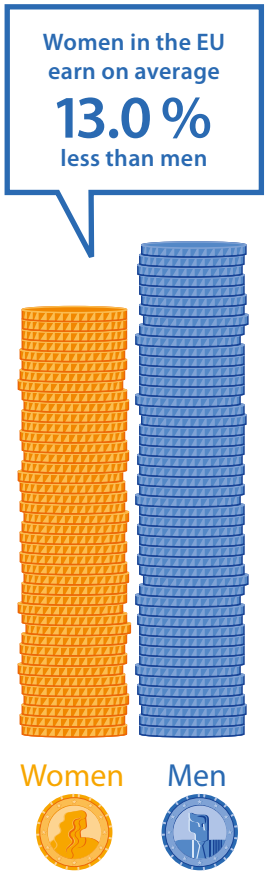
Unadjusted gender pay gap

(difference between average gross hourly earnings of male and female employees, as a percentage of earnings for male employees, 2020)

The unadjusted gender pay gap provides an overall picture of the differences in pay between men and women. It measures the gap in hourly earnings between male and female employees in industry, construction and services among enterprises with 10 or more employees.

In 2020, average hourly earnings for women were 13.0 % lower than those for men across the EU. The earnings of women were consistently below those of men in each of the EU Member States: women's earnings were more than 20.0 % lower than those of men in Latvia (22.3 %) and Estonia (21.1 %). By contrast, the gender pay gap was less than 5.0 % in Poland (4.5 %), Italy (4.2 %), Slovenia (3.1 %), Romania (2.4 %) and Luxembourg (0.7 %).





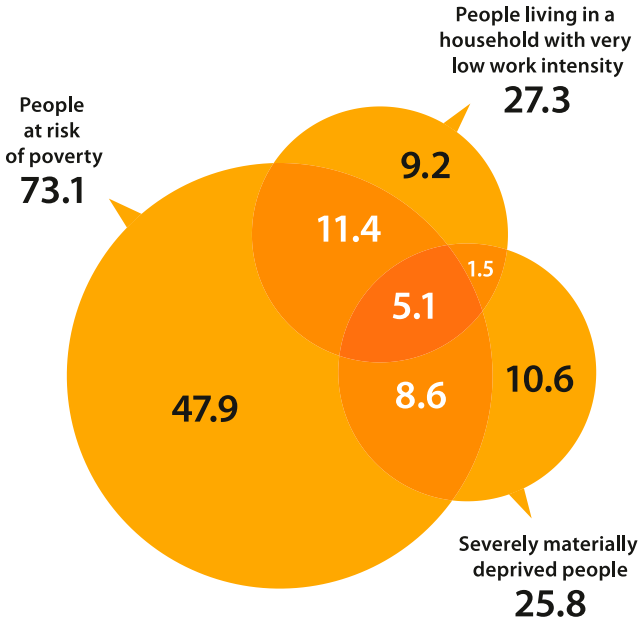
Note: IE and EL, 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: earn_gr_gpgr2)

Living conditions

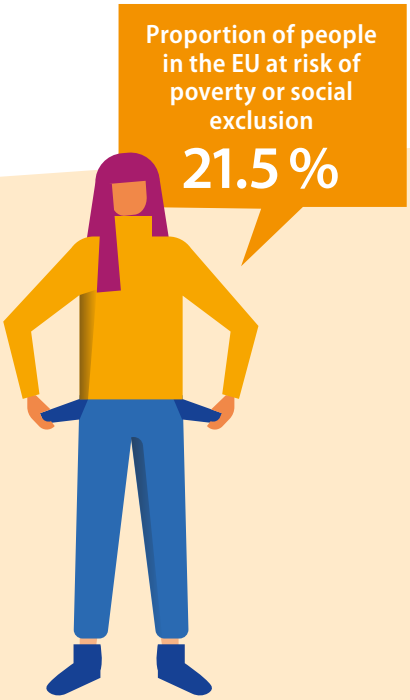
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(million persons, EU, 2020)



In 2020, 94.4 million people, or 21.5 % of the EU population, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at risk of poverty after social transfers; severely materially deprived; or living in a household with very low work intensity. The greatest risk of poverty or social exclusion was from income poverty, in other words, people who were at risk of poverty after social transfers: this condition was faced by 73.1 million people across the EU in 2020, among whom 25.2 million were affected at the same time by one or both of the other two conditions. Compared with a year earlier, there were 3.0 million additional people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2020, reflecting (at least in part) the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_pees01)



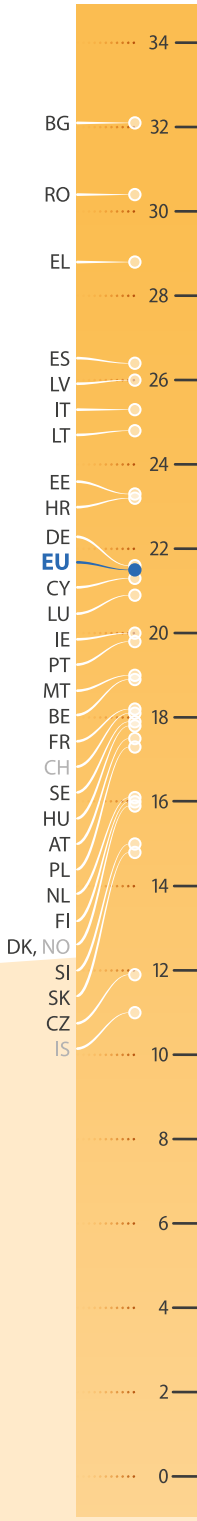
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

(% share of total population, 2020)

In 2020, the share of the population that was at risk of poverty or social exclusion was highest, among the EU Member States, in Bulgaria at 32.1 %. At least one in four of the population in Romania, Greece, Spain, Latvia and Italy were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. At the other end of the range, less than one in six people in the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Slovenia and Slovakia were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with a low of 11.9 % recorded in Czechia.

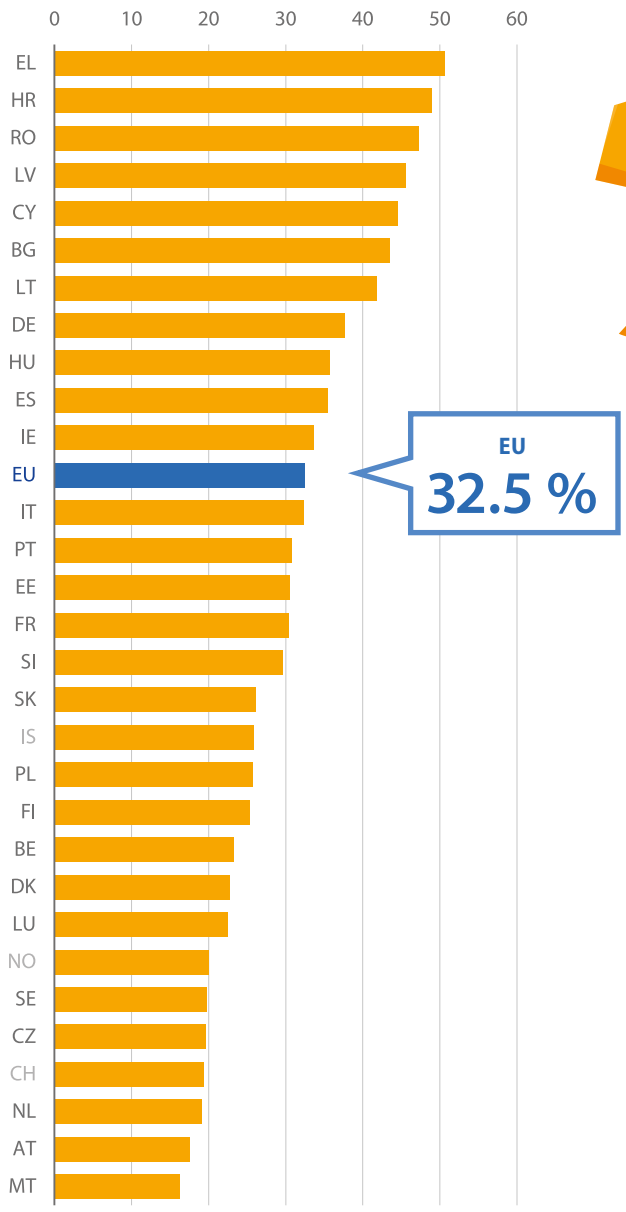
Note: IS, 2018.

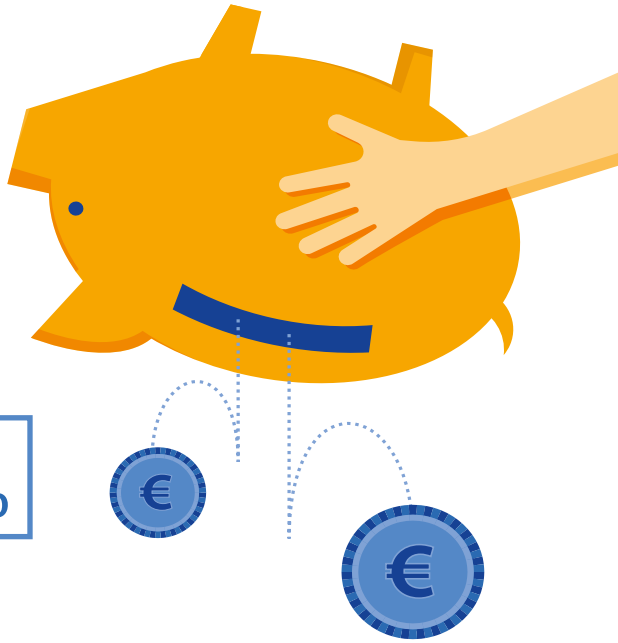
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_peps01)



Inability to face unexpected financial expenses

(% share of total population, 2020)





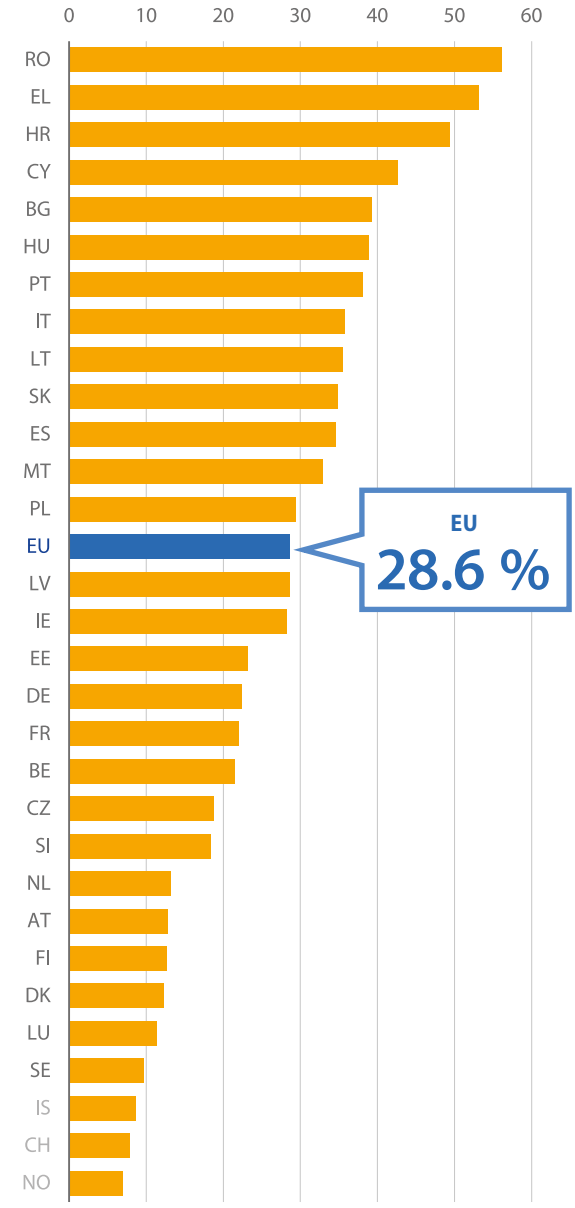
Material deprivation refers to the enforced inability (rather than the choice not to do so) to pay for/afford specific expenses; one example is unexpected financial expenses. In 2020, just under one third (32.5 %) of the EU population living in private households were unable to face an unexpected financial expense. This share rose 1.6 percentage points between 2019 and 2020. More than two fifths of the population were unable to face an unexpected financial expense in 2020 in seven of the EU Member States, with this share peaking in Greece at 50.7 %. By contrast, a relatively small share of the population in Malta was unable to face such expenses (16.3 %).

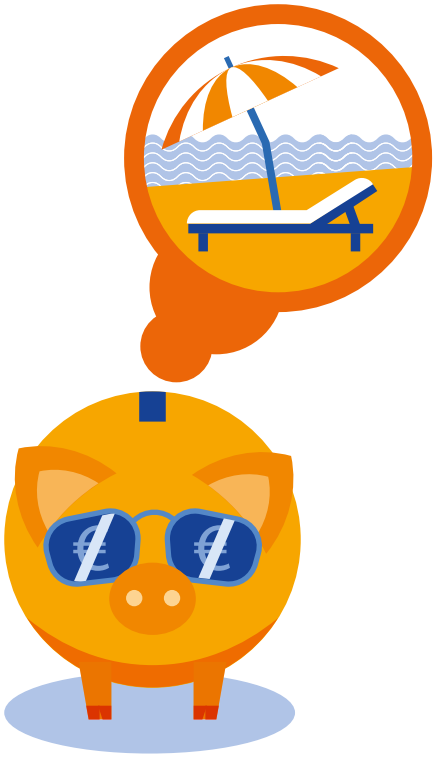
Note: IS, 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes04)

Inability to afford paying for one week annual holiday away from home

(% share of total population, 2020)





Another component of the material deprivation rate is the inability to afford one week of holiday away from home each year. In 2020, some 28.6 % of the EU population were unable to afford such a holiday; note these figures refer to an inability to afford and are not impacted by whether or not people could actually depart on holiday (for example as a result of the COVID-19 crisis). The highest shares among the EU Member States, two fifths or more of the population, were recorded in Cyprus, Croatia and Greece, peaking at 56.1 % in Romania. By contrast, the share of the population that was unable to afford one week's holiday away from home was around one tenth in Luxembourg (11.4 %) and Sweden (9.7 %).

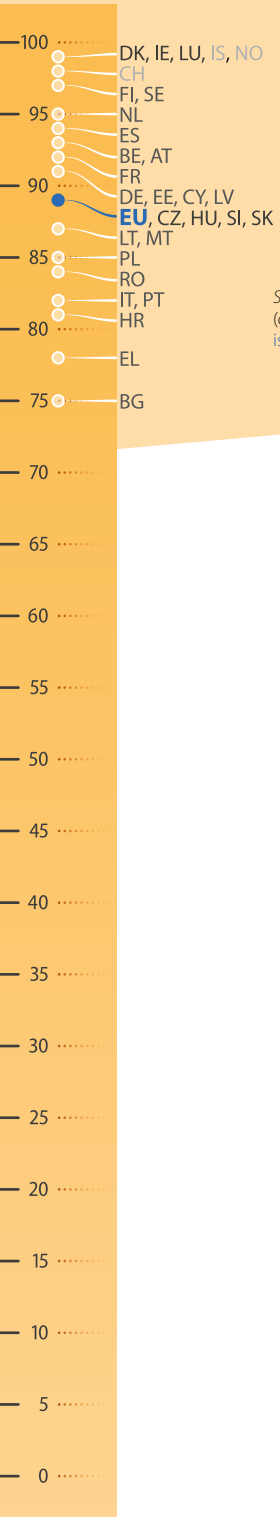
Note: IS, 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes02)

Digital society

Internet usage

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2021)

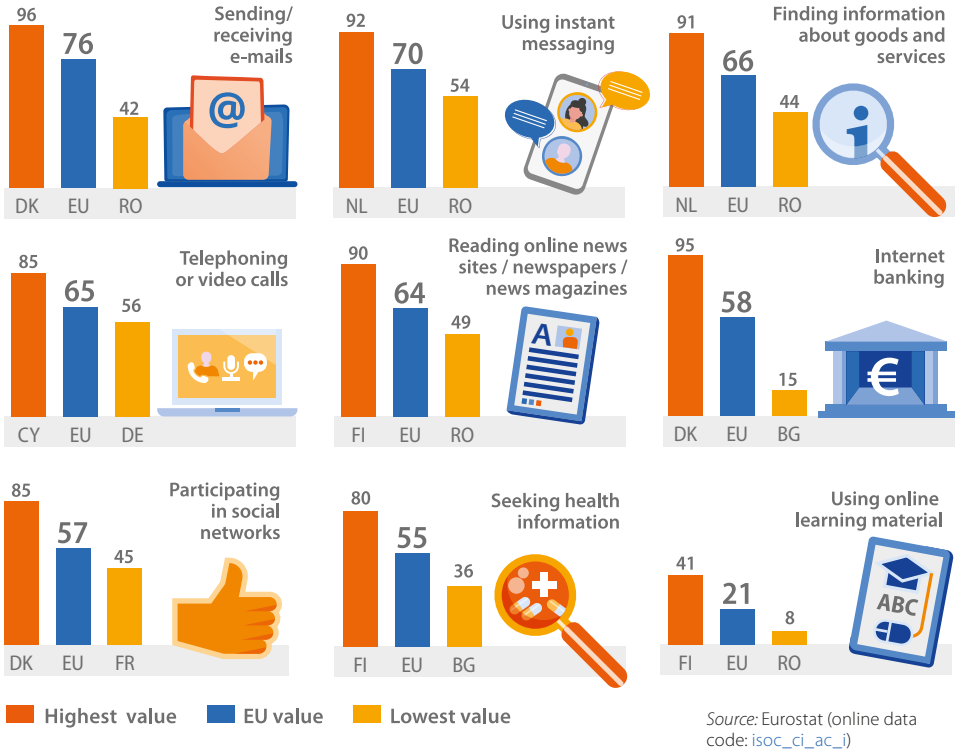


Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ifp_iu)

The internet has become an integral part of most people's lives, changing the way people study, work, communicate and enjoy their free time. In 2021, 89 % of adults (aged 16–74 years) in the EU declared they had used the internet during the previous three months. This share ranged from 99 % in Denmark, Ireland and Luxembourg to 75 % in Bulgaria.

Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2021



Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

Across the EU, some of the internet activities most commonly performed in 2021 by people aged 16–74 years included: sending/receiving e-mails (76 %), using instant messaging (70 %), finding information about goods and services (66 %) and telephoning or making video calls (65 %). A majority of adults in the EU also used the internet (among other purposes) for reading online news sites / newspapers / magazines (64 %), internet banking (58 %), participating in social networks (57 %) and seeking health information (55 %).

Internet activities

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, EU, 2019–2021)

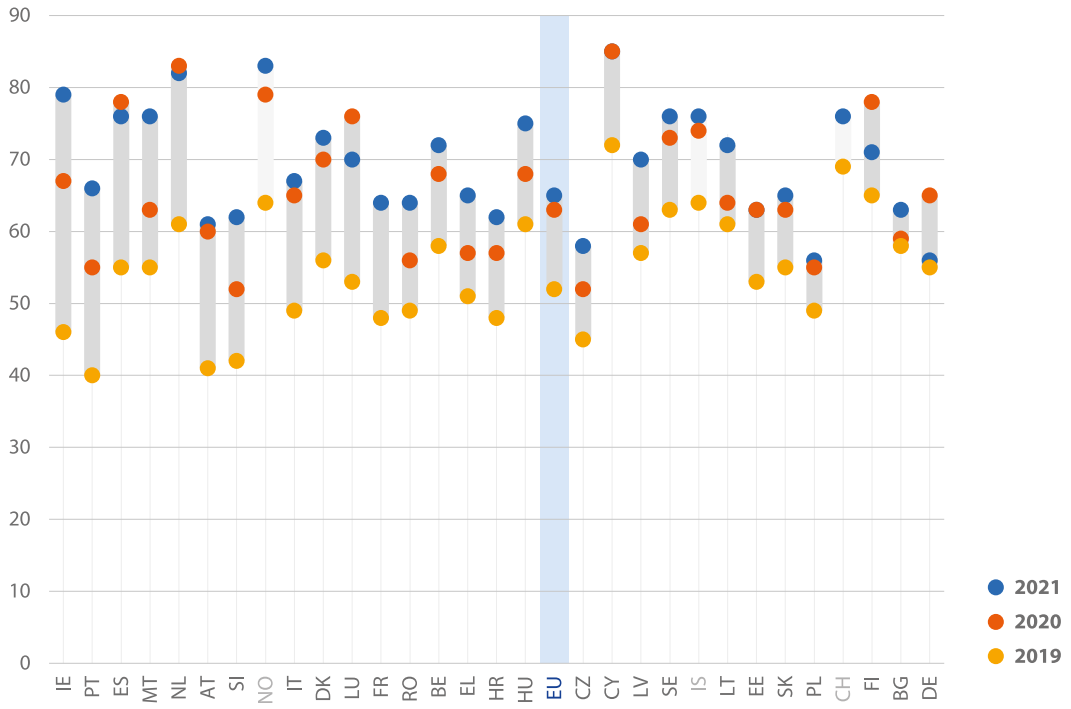
The proportion of people in the EU having participated in many of the most commonly performed internet activities grew at a rapid pace in 2020. As well as a continuation of a gradual well-established upward trend, this may also have reflected the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on people's internet activities. This pattern was most apparent for the use made of telephoning or video calls, as the share of people performing this activity rose 11 percentage points between 2019 and 2020. In a similar vein, given the widespread use of remote learning for schools, tertiary education and training during 2020, it is unsurprising that the share of the EU population using online learning material also increased, up 5 points; note that a large part of the school-age population (pupils aged less than 16 years) is not covered by these statistics.

As lockdown restrictions ended and people could once again participate in a broader range of leisure activities, participation rates for some of the most commonly performed internet activities fell in 2021. This was particularly notable for finding information about goods and services (where the share of EU adults participating in this internet activity fell 4 percentage points) and for reading online news sites / newspapers / news magazines (down 2 points).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

Using the internet for telephoning or video calls

(%, share of people aged 16–74 years, 2019–2021)

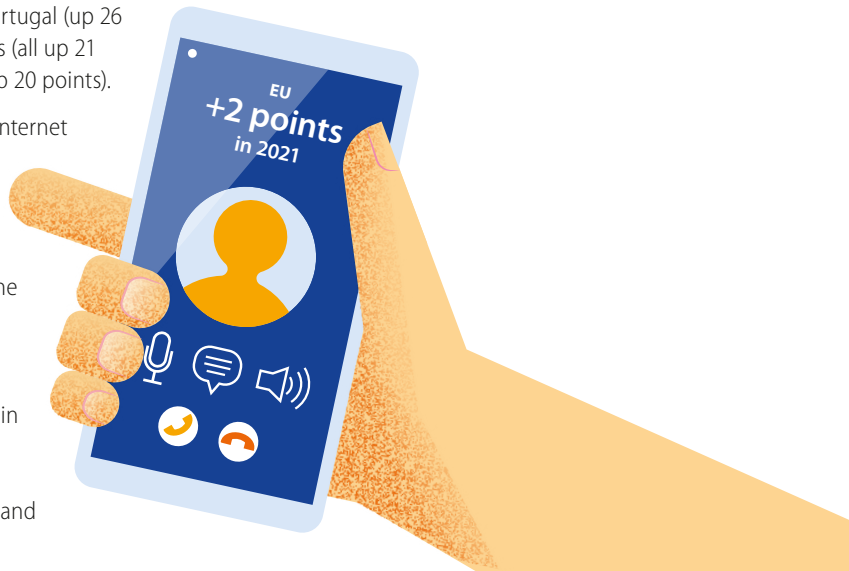


Note: ranked on the change (in percentage points) between 2019 and 2021. FR and CH: 2020, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ac_i)

The share of people aged 16–74 years using the internet to make telephone or video calls increased 13 percentage points between 2019 and 2021. The proportion of people using the internet to make such calls rose in each of the EU Member States between 2019 and 2021. The largest increases were recorded in Ireland (up 33 points), Portugal (up 26 points), Spain, Malta, the Netherlands (all up 21 points), Austria and Slovenia (both up 20 points).

The proportion of people using the internet to make telephone or video calls generally rose at a much faster pace between 2019 and 2020, than between 2020 and 2021. Despite having risen rapidly at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, the share of people aged 16–74 years using the internet to make telephone or video calls in 2021 fell 6 percentage points in Luxembourg, fell 7 points in Finland and fell 9 points in Germany; there were also smaller decreases in Spain and the Netherlands.

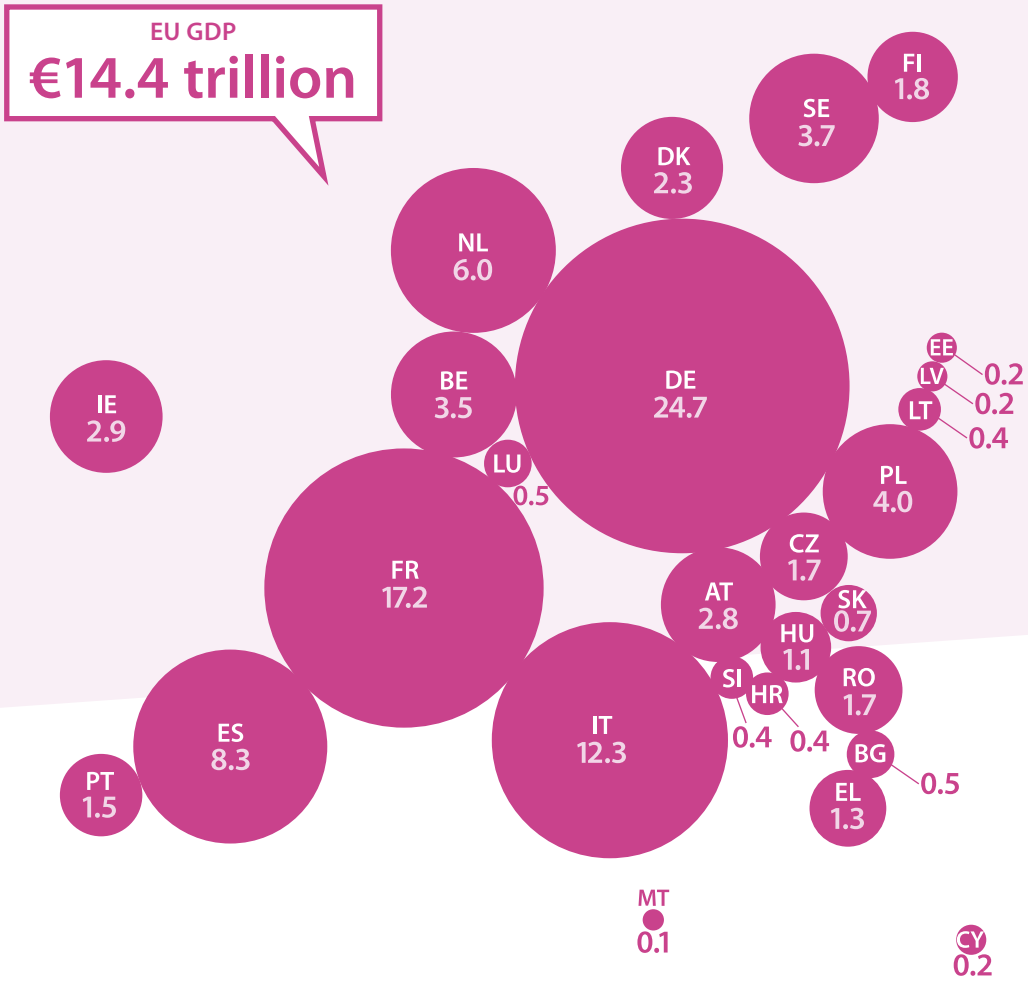


2 Economy and business

Economy and finance

GDP

(%, share of EU total, 2021)

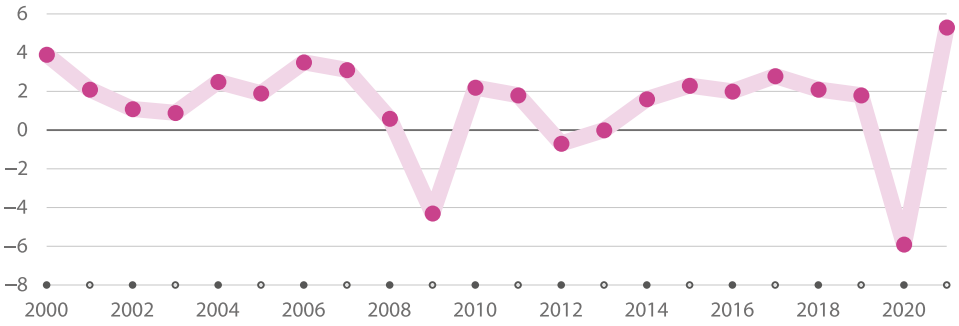


Gross domestic product (GDP) is an indicator used to measure the size and performance of an economy; it provides information on the value of goods and services produced during a given period. Within the EU, GDP was valued at €14.4 trillion in 2021. Germany had the largest economy among the EU Member States (€3.6 trillion, or 24.7 % of the EU total), followed by France (17.2 %) and Italy (12.3 %). At the other end of the range, Malta (0.1 %) had the smallest economy in the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_gdp)

Real change in GDP

(%, annual change, based on chain-linked volumes, EU, 2000–2021)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: naida_10_gdp)

The real change in GDP shows the rate of change in economic output having removed the effects of price changes (inflation and deflation). Between 2000 and 2008, the EU economy grew each year, with GDP rising 0.6–3.9 % each year in real terms. From 2008 to 2013, the economy was strongly affected by the global financial and economic crisis, with GDP falling 4.3 % in 2009 and by a much smaller amount (0.7 %) in 2012, while output was unchanged in 2013. Thereafter, the EU economy progressively recovered, with annual growth rates in the range of 1.6 % to 2.8 % per year between 2014 and 2019. In 2020, the economy was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis (the direct health consequences and related restrictions) and GDP fell 5.9 %. In 2021, GDP rebounded, rising 5.3 %.

GDP per inhabitant

(EU = 100, based on PPS, 2021)

GDP per inhabitant can be used to compare economic output of different sized countries. GDP per inhabitant in the EU fell from €31 310 in 2019 to €29 910 in 2020, before rebounding to €32 270 in 2021. As the cost of living varies from place to place, the information presented here has been adjusted to reflect price level differences using an artificial currency unit called a purchasing power standard (PPS). Using this measure, the relative living standards of individual EU Member States can be expressed in relation to the EU average set to equal 100. In 2021, the highest value was recorded in Luxembourg, where GDP per inhabitant in PPS was almost 2.8 times as high as the EU average. By contrast, GDP per inhabitant in Bulgaria was just over half (55 %) the EU average.

Note: IS, NO and CH, 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_pc)

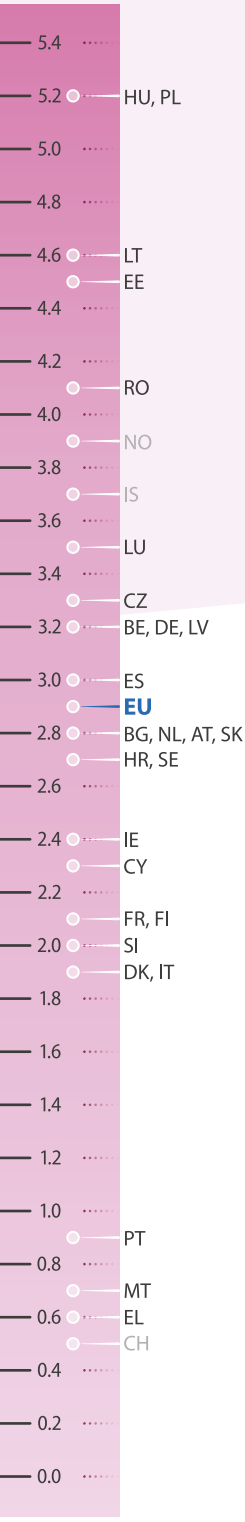
Prices

Consumer price changes – all items

(%, annual change, 2021)

The inflation rate shows the change in the price of a basket of consumer goods and services. Prices in the EU increased 0.7 % in 2020 and 2.9 % in 2021. While there were eight EU Member States that recorded deflation in 2020 – the strongest falls being 1.1 % in Cyprus and 1.3 % in Greece – prices rose in each of the EU Member States in 2021, with annual inflation peaking at 5.2 % in Hungary and Poland.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

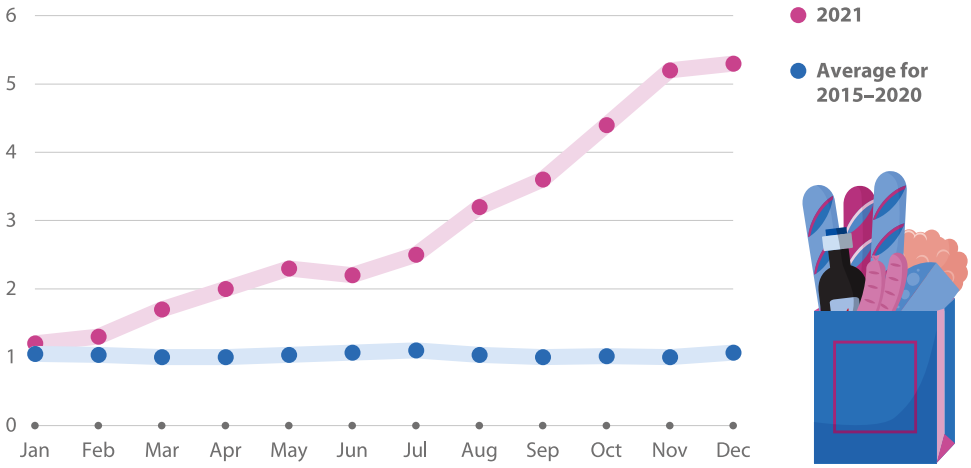


Consumer price changes – all items

(%, annual rate of change, EU, average for 2015–2020 and 2021)

The EU inflation rate rose at a relatively modest pace during the period 2015–2020, as the average rate of price changes for each month was 1.0 % or 1.1 %. By contrast, the EU inflation rate quickened during the course of 2021: it was slightly above the 2015–2020 average in January and February 2021 but increased thereafter. By December 2021, the annual rate of change for prices in the EU was 5.3 %.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_manr)



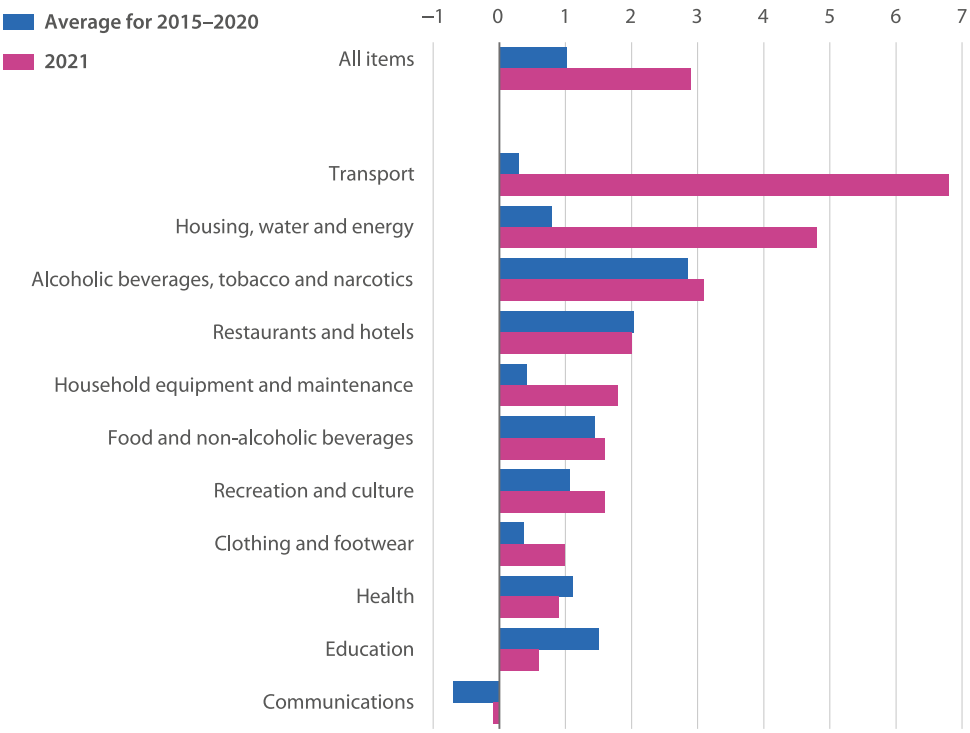
Consumer prices

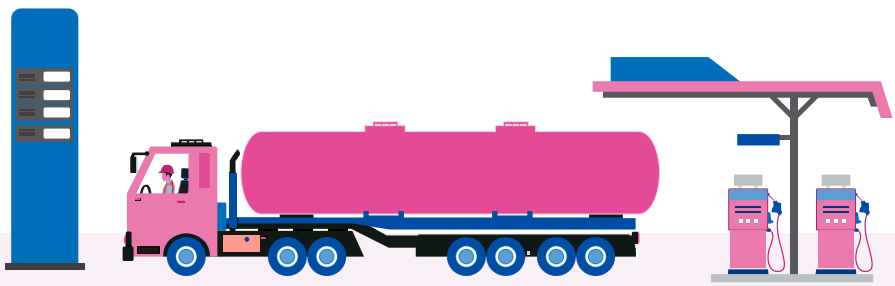
(%, annual rate of change, EU, average for 2015–2020 and 2021)

The overall inflation rate (covering all-items) in the EU was 2.9 % in 2021 when compared with 2020; this was almost three times as high as the average rate of change recorded between 2015 and 2020. There were however marked differences between the different components that make-up the all-items index.

Transport prices rose at a considerably faster pace in 2021 (up 6.8 %) than they had on average between 2015 and 2020 (an annual rate of change of 0.3 %). A similar pattern was apparent for the price of housing, water and energy and of household equipment and maintenance. In 2021, annual price increases broadly in line with the period 2015–2020 were observed for food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, and restaurants and hotels. By contrast, price increases for health and for education were smaller in 2021 than for 2015–2020. The price of communications in the EU has fallen in recent years and this pattern continued in 2021, albeit by a small amount (down 0.1 %).

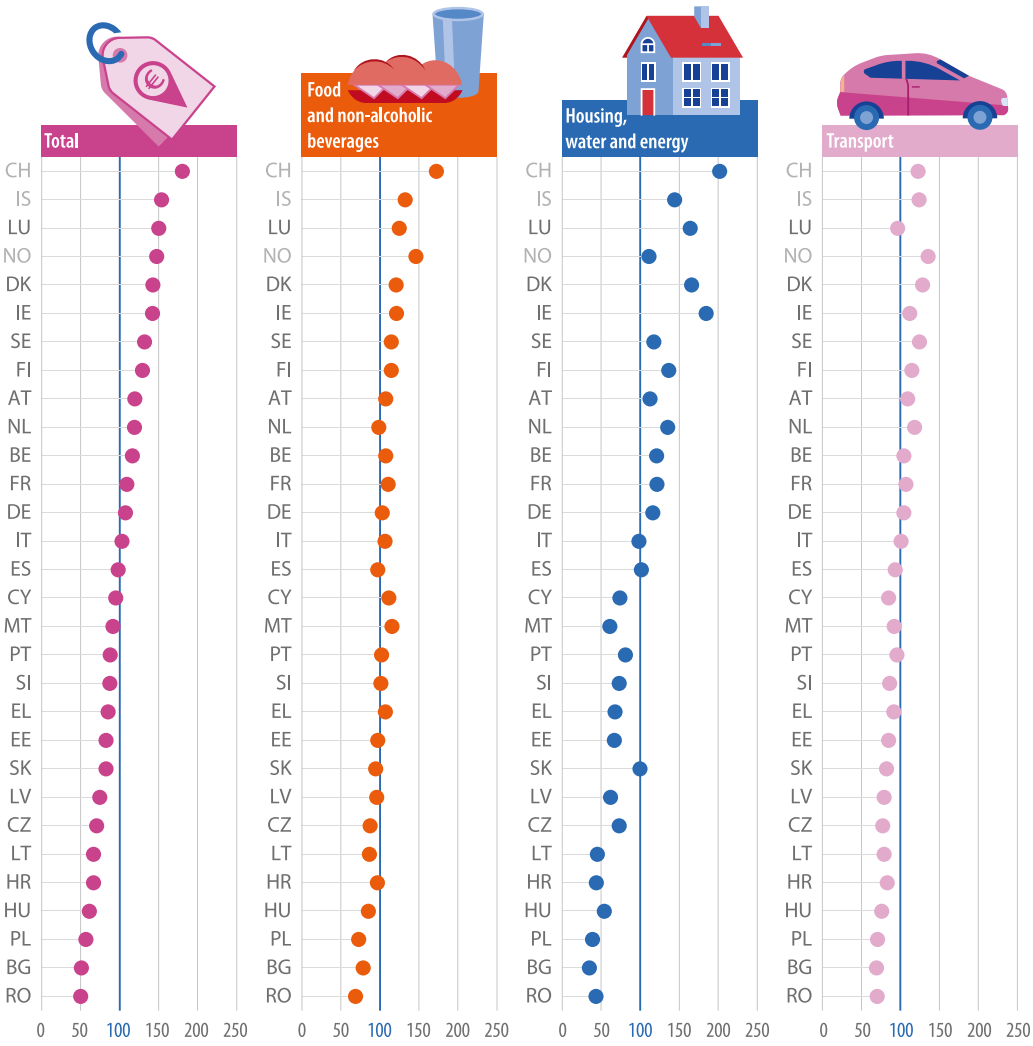
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)





Comparative price levels

(EU = 100, 2020)



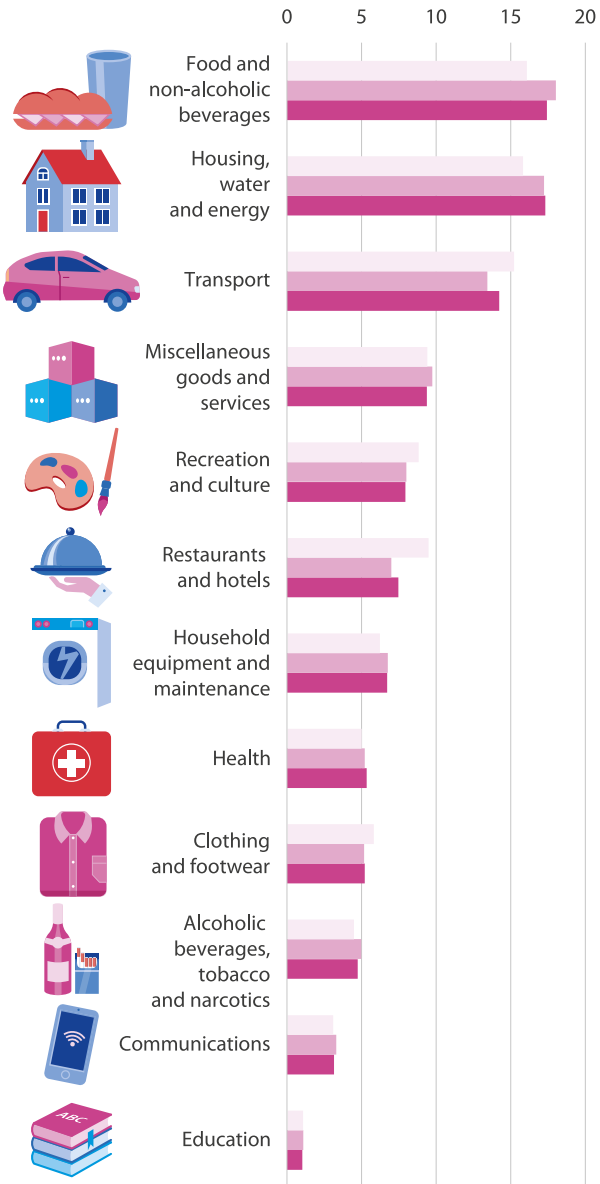
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind)

Price level indices measure price differences between countries; these are expressed as a percentage of prices for the EU average, which is therefore set to equal 100. In 2020, the overall price level index was highest in Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland, all with values that were more than 40 % above the EU average. Price levels were around half the EU average in Romania and Bulgaria. There was a relatively low degree of variation in price levels for food and non-alcoholic beverages, with the highest prices in Luxembourg (25 % above the EU average) and the lowest in Romania (31 % below). A similar pattern existed for transport, with the highest prices in Denmark (28 % above the EU average) and the lowest in Bulgaria (31 % below). By contrast, the price of housing, water and energy displayed a greater variation, from 84 % above the EU average in Ireland down to 65 % below in Bulgaria.

Household consumption expenditure

Household budget structure

(%, share of total household consumption expenditure, EU, January 2020, 2021 and 2022)



In January 2022, the largest categories of household consumption expenditure in the EU were food and non-alcoholic beverages, and housing, water and energy. Together these two categories accounted for more than one third of total expenditure.

The COVID-19 crisis impacted not only on overall economic activity, but also on household consumption patterns across the EU. The share of expenditure on several categories commonly related to eating and living at home increased between January 2020 and January 2021. For example, there were increases of 2.0 percentage points for food and non-alcoholic beverages, 1.5 points for housing, water and energy, 0.6 points for household equipment and maintenance, and 0.5 points for alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics. The counterbalance was a lower share of expenditure for activities outside the home, most notably falls of 2.4 points for restaurants and hotels, and 1.7 points for transport; there was also a 0.8 points fall for recreation and culture.

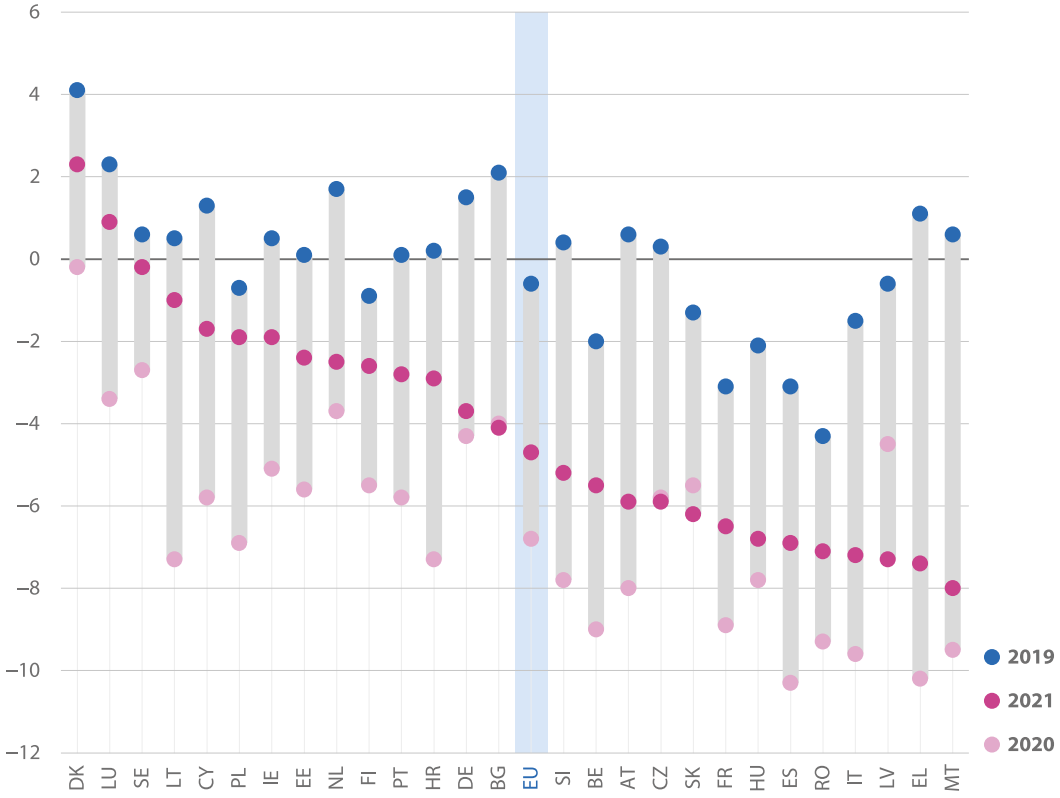
There was some evidence – as of January 2022 – that household consumption in the EU was returning to its pre-pandemic structure, albeit rather slowly. Between January 2021 and January 2022, the relative weight of transport, restaurants and hotels increased, while the share of food and non-alcoholic beverages fell.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_inw)

Government finance

General government deficit/surplus

(%, relative to GDP, 2019–2021)



Note: ranked on the general government deficit/surplus in 2021.

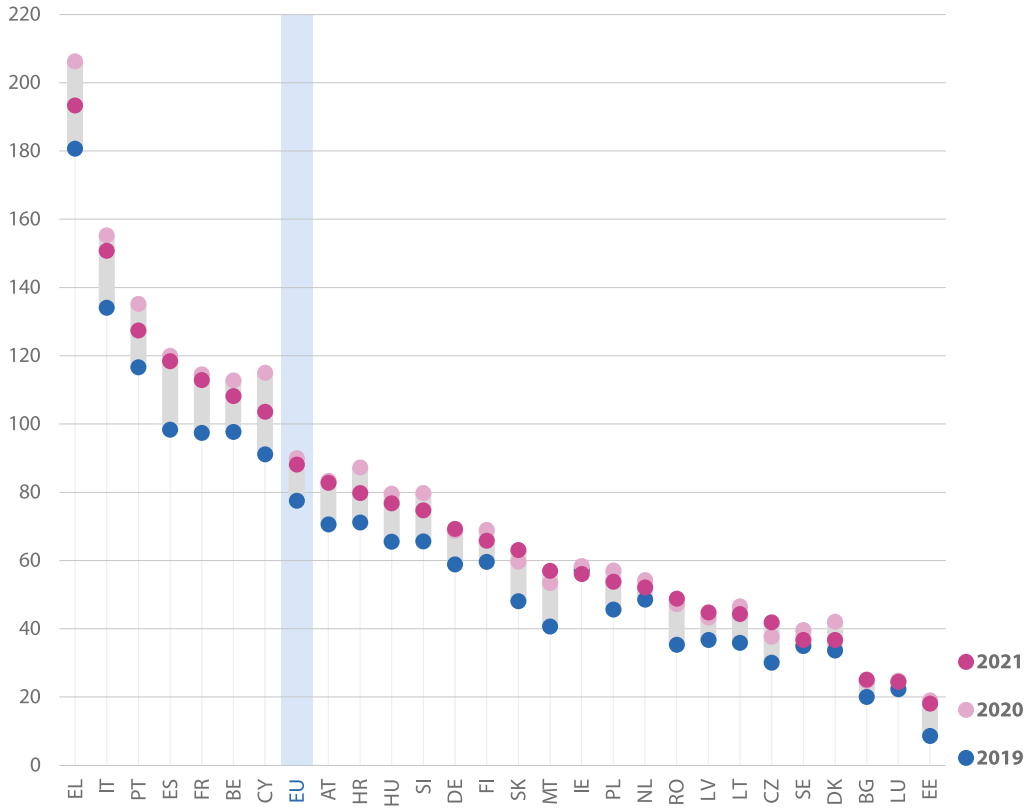
Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

In 2020, the general government deficit across the EU was equivalent to 6.8 % of its GDP, a much larger deficit than recorded in 2019 (0.6 %) in large part reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Between 2020 and 2021 the deficit narrowed somewhat, to stand at 4.7 % of GDP.

General government deficits in the EU Member States were consistently larger (or surpluses smaller) in 2021 than they had been prior to the onset of the pandemic in 2019. All of the EU Member States recorded a budget deficit in 2020. However, this situation changed somewhat in 2021, as Denmark (2.3 % of GDP) and Luxembourg (0.9 %) both recorded general government surpluses. By contrast, Romania, Italy, Latvia and Greece had deficits of at least 7.0 % of GDP, with this ratio peaking at 8.0 % in Malta.

General government gross debt

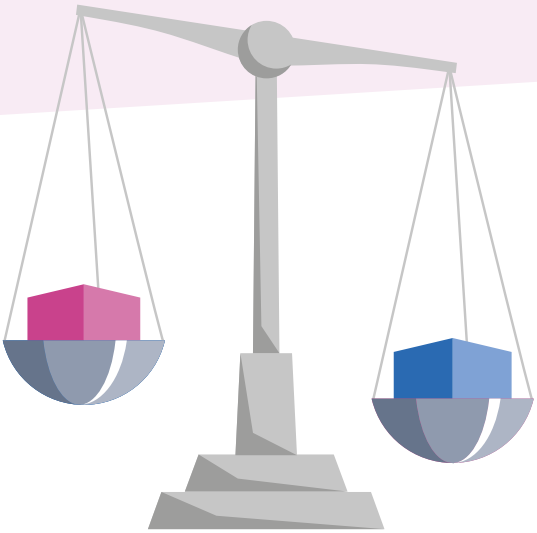
(%, relative to GDP, 2019–2021)



Note: ranked on the consolidated government gross debt in 2021.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1)

Consolidated gross debt in the EU was 90.0 % of GDP in 2020, up 12.5 percentage points from 77.5 % in 2019 in large part reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 crisis; this ratio fell to 88.1 % in 2021. In 2021, consolidated debt was highest in Greece at 193.3 %. Italy, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium and Cyprus also recorded ratios of more than 100 % when compared with GDP. The largest increases in debt relative to GDP between 2019 and 2021 were in Spain, Italy, Malta, France and Slovakia, all up at least 15.0 percentage points.

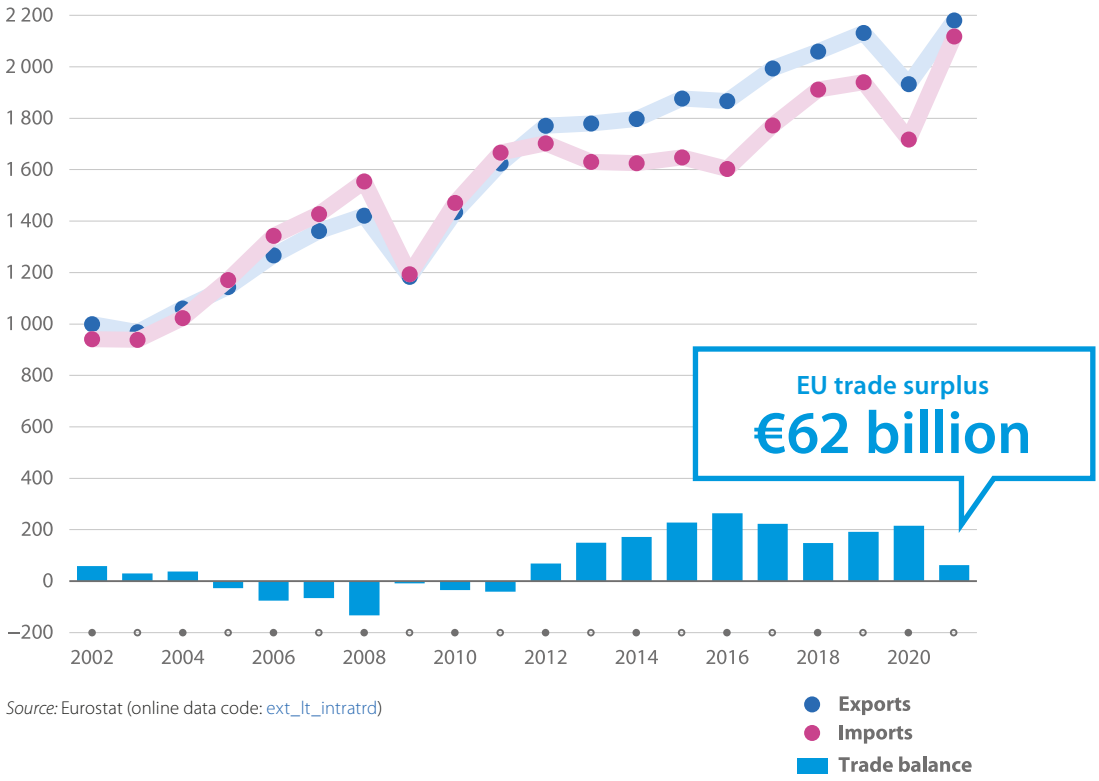
International trade



International trade in goods with non-member countries

(€ billion, EU, 2002–2021)

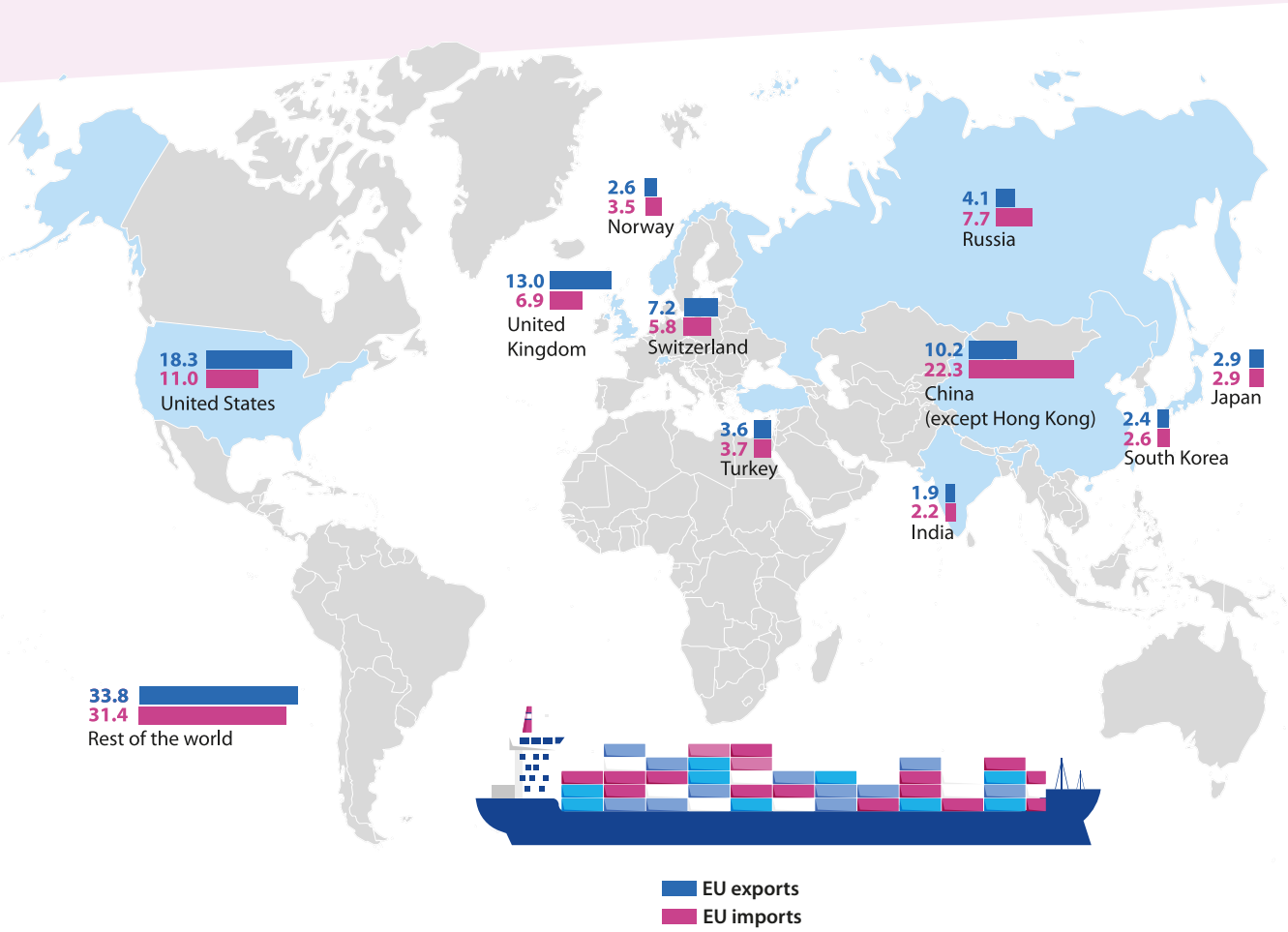
In 2021, the EU exported goods to non-member countries that were valued at €2 181 billion, which was €62 billion higher than the value of its imported goods. As a result, the EU recorded its tenth successive annual trade surplus for goods. The COVID-19 crisis impacted on the value of the trade in goods in 2020: exports were 9.3 % lower than in 2019, while imports were 11.5 % lower. These figures rebounded in 2021, as exports grew 12.8 % and imports grew by as much as 23.4 %.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_intratrd)

Top 10 partners for EU international trade in goods

(%, share of all partners, EU, 2021)



In 2021, the United States was the EU's leading export market, accounting for 18.3 % of the total value of goods exported outside the EU. The second largest export market for EU goods was the United Kingdom with a 13.0 % share, followed by China (excluding Hong Kong; 10.2 %) and Switzerland (7.2 %).

There was a different picture for imports, as more than one fifth (22.3 %) of all goods imported into the EU in 2021 originated from China (excluding Hong Kong). The United States was the second largest country of origin for EU imports (11.0 %), followed by Russia (7.7 %) and the United Kingdom (6.9 %).

Between 2020 and 2021, there was a rapid decline in the relative importance of the United Kingdom as one of the EU's leading trading partners, likely reflecting the impact of Brexit (among other factors). While EU imports from the rest of the world were 23.4 % higher in 2021 (than in 2020), imports from the United Kingdom were 13.1 % lower.

Note: the figure shows the share of EU exports to non-member countries and the share of EU imports from non-member countries. Selected based on the average share of exports and imports.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_maineu)

International trade in goods with Member States

(%, share of trade with all partners (intra- and extra-EU), 2021)

In 2021, 61.2 % of the EU Member States' trade in goods concerned exchanges between Member States. The relative share of intra-EU trade was highest in Luxembourg at 85.8 % and also accounted for three quarters or more of total trade in Slovakia and Czechia. By contrast, the share of intra-EU trade was within the range of 52.2 % to 54.4 % in Italy, Cyprus and Greece, while Ireland (where the share of intra-EU trade was notably lower than in previous years as a result of the United Kingdom having left the EU) had the lowest share, at 38.1 %

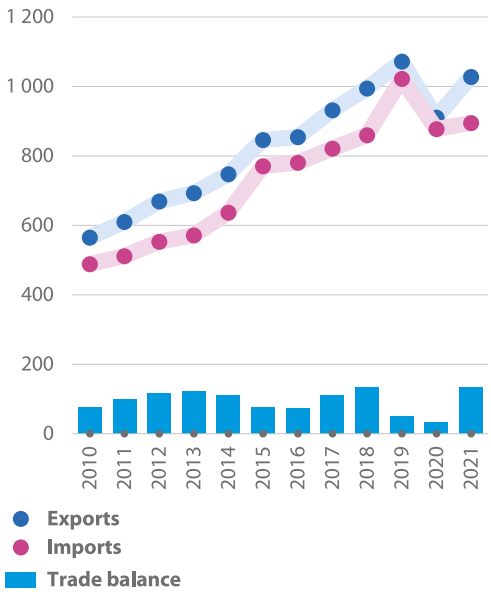
Intra-EU trade
61.2 %
of total trade

Note: calculation based on the average value of exports and imports.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ext_lt_intratrd and ext_lt_intercc)

International trade in services with non-member countries

(€ billion, EU, 2010–2021)

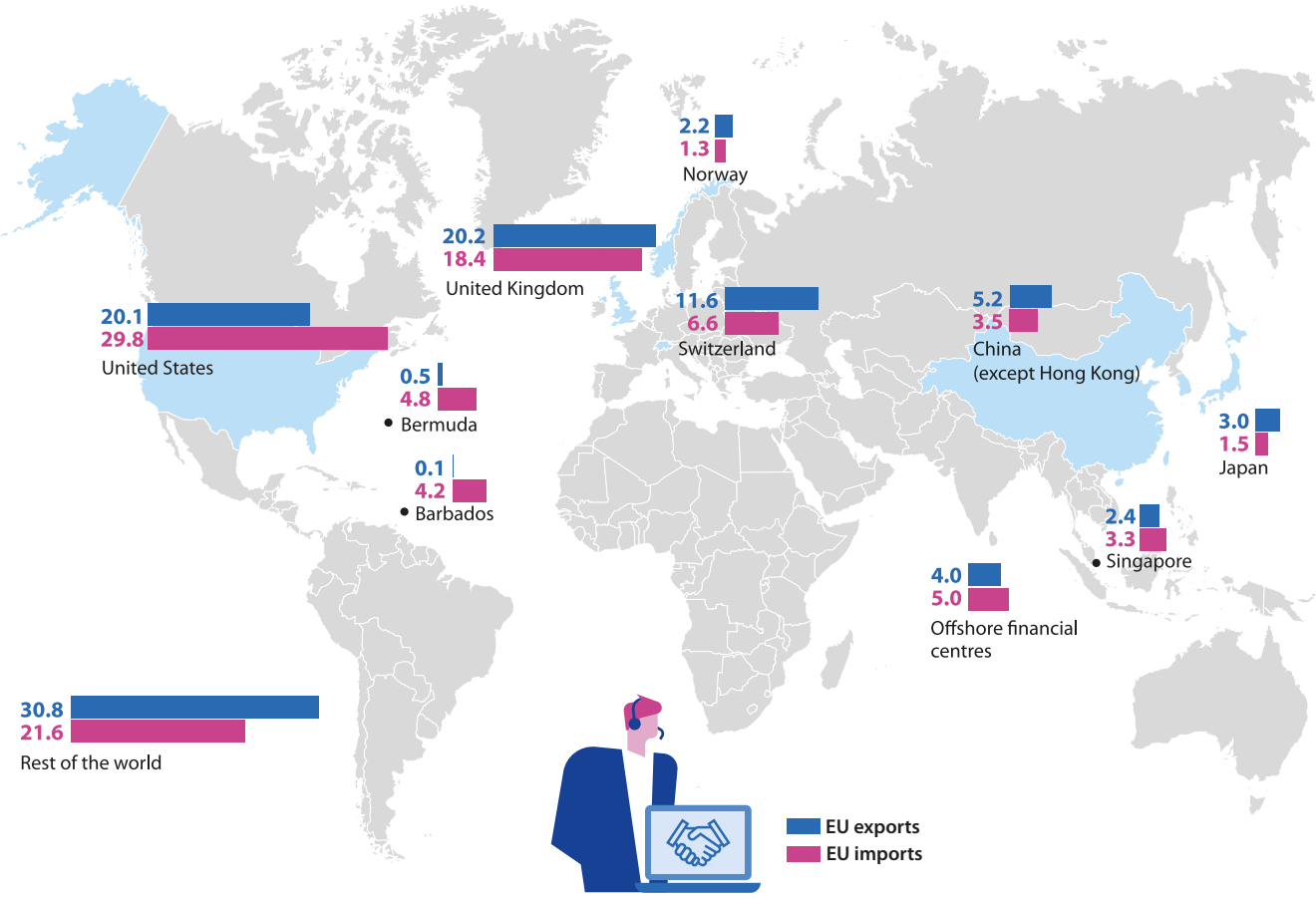


Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det)

In recent years, there has been a rapid increase in the value of world trade in services. This pattern was also observed across the EU, as the value of exports to non-member countries increased overall 89.9 % between 2010 and 2019 and the value of imports from outside the EU increased overall 109.2 %. There was a rapid reversal in 2020, as the impact of the COVID-19 crisis led to the value of exports and imports falling 15.1 % and 14.1 % respectively. In 2021, exports of services from the EU to non-member countries were valued at €1 027 billion while imports into the EU were valued at €894 billion. The EU ran a trade surplus for services throughout the period 2010–2021, with a peak recorded in 2018 (€134 billion); a similar surplus was recorded in 2021 (€133 billion).

Top 10 partners for EU international trade in services

(%, share of all partners, EU, 2020)



In 2020, the EU's leading trade partners for services were the United States and the United Kingdom. Slightly more than one fifth (20.2 %) of services exported from the EU were destined for the United Kingdom, with a similar share for the United States (20.1 %). Switzerland was the third largest trade partner for the EU's service exports (11.6 %). By contrast, the highest share (29.8 %) of services imported into the EU from non-member countries originated in the United States, while a somewhat lower share was recorded for the United Kingdom (18.4 %).

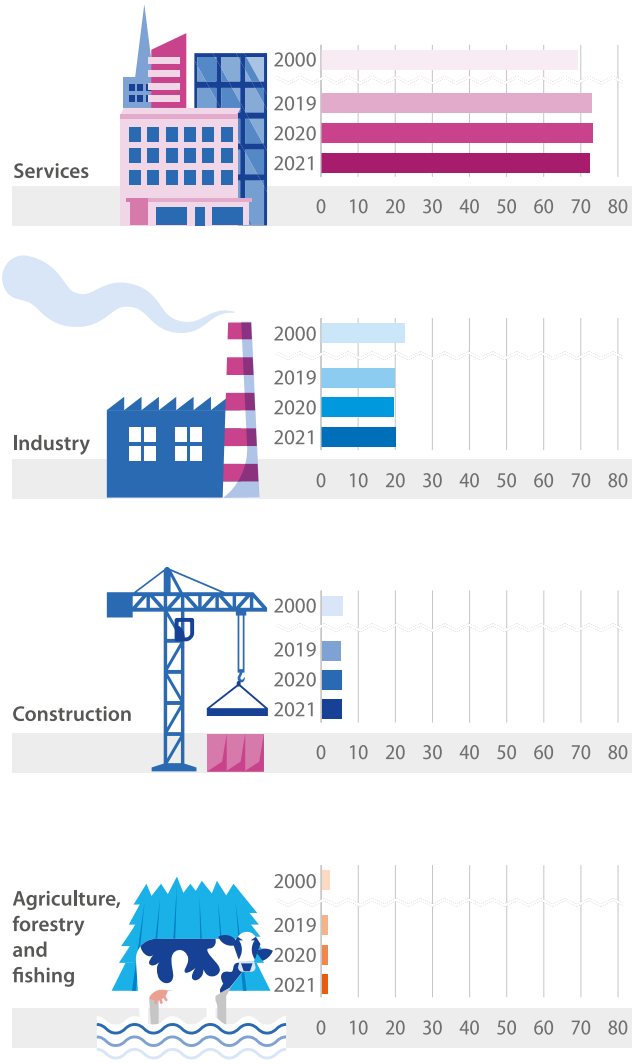
Note: the figure shows the share of EU exports to non-member countries and the share of EU imports from non-member countries. Selected based on the average share of exports and imports. The data shown for offshore financial centres exclude Singapore, Bermuda and Barbados (for which information is shown separately).

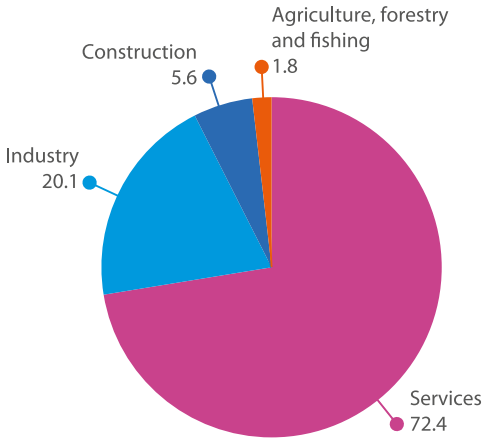
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_tot)

Business

Developments for the sectoral structure of value added

(%, share of total value added, EU, 2000 and 2019–2021)





Between 2000 and 2020, the share of EU total value added that was generated within the services sector rose from 69.2 % to 73.1 %, mainly due to increases in the output of professional, scientific and technical activities. By contrast, the relative share of some other parts of the EU economy contracted between 2000 and 2020: industry's share went down from 22.6 % to 19.5 %, while the share of agriculture, forestry and fishing fell from 2.5 % to 1.8 % and that of construction from 5.7 % to 5.5 %.

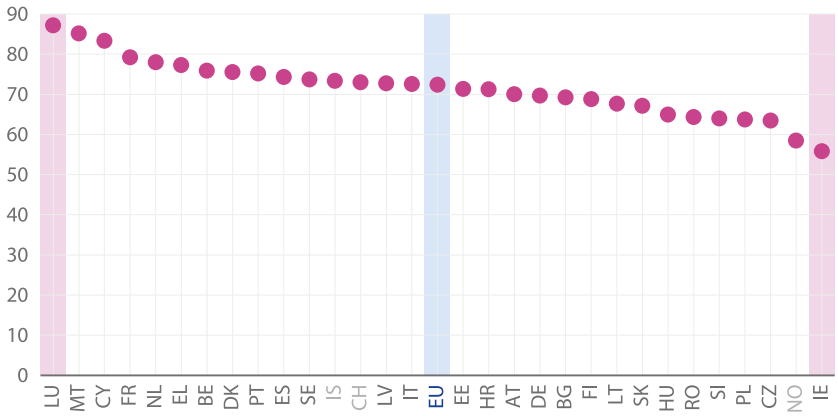
The share of services within the EU's total value added decreased between 2020 and 2021, falling from 73.1 % to 72.4 %; at least some of this contraction may be explained by the COVID-19 crisis. While most activities in the business economy rebounded strongly in 2021, the pandemic had a disproportionate impact on several service activities.

Note: the time intervals between the years shown are not equal.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

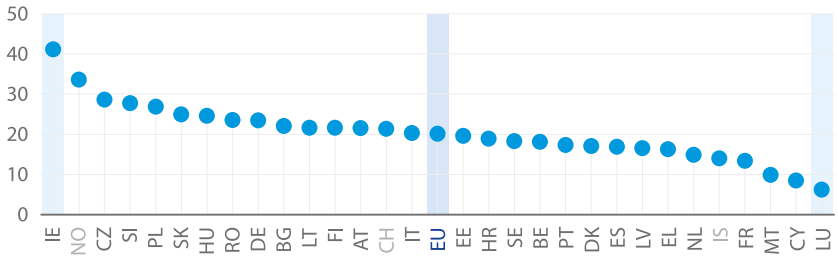
Sectoral gross value added

(%, share of total value added, 2021)



EU 72.4 %

Services



EU 20.1 %

Industry

EU 5.6 %

Construction

EU 1.8 %

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

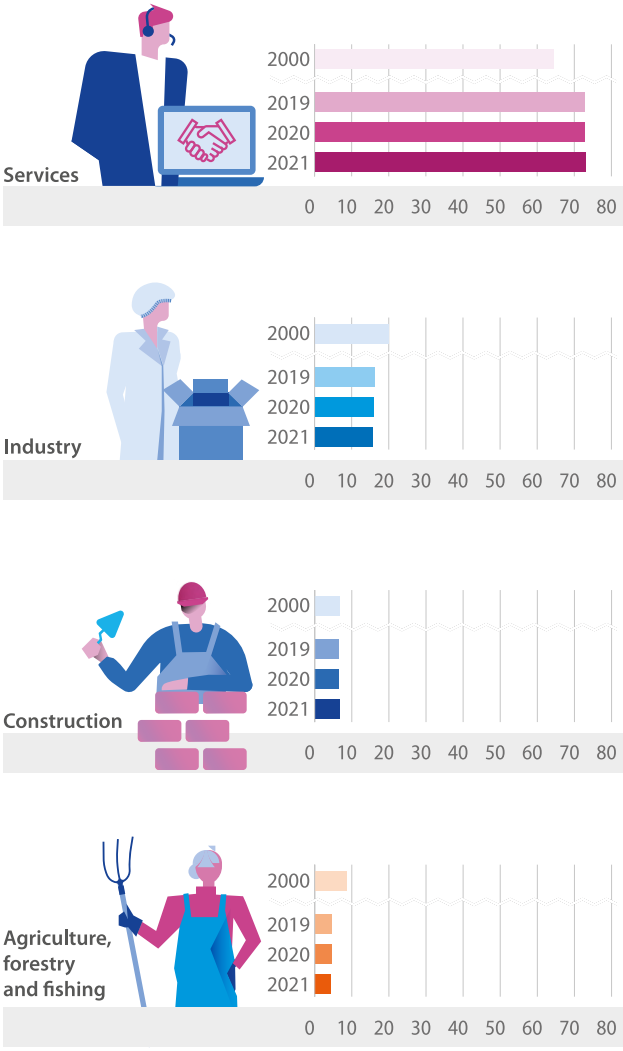
In 2021, the share of services in total value added was above 80 % in the tourism-oriented economies of Cyprus and Malta, although the highest share was in Luxembourg at 87.2 % (which is characterised by a large financial services sector). The industrial economy contributed more than two fifths of total value added in Ireland (41.2 %), with the next highest share in Czechia (28.6 %). The largest relative contributions from construction (7.3 %) and from agriculture, forestry and fishing (4.8 %) were recorded in Romania.

Note: IS, 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10)

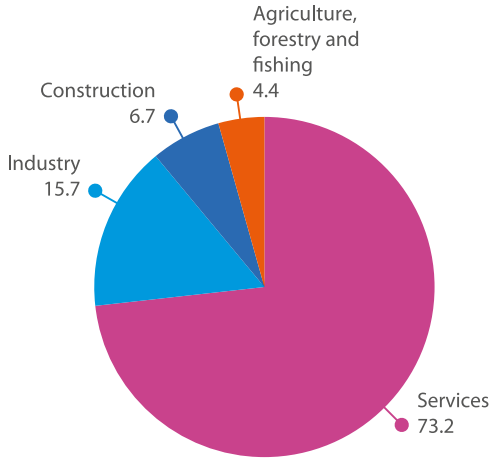
Developments in the sectoral structure of employment

(%, share of total employment, EU, 2000 and 2019–2021)



Note: the time intervals between the years shown are not equal.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

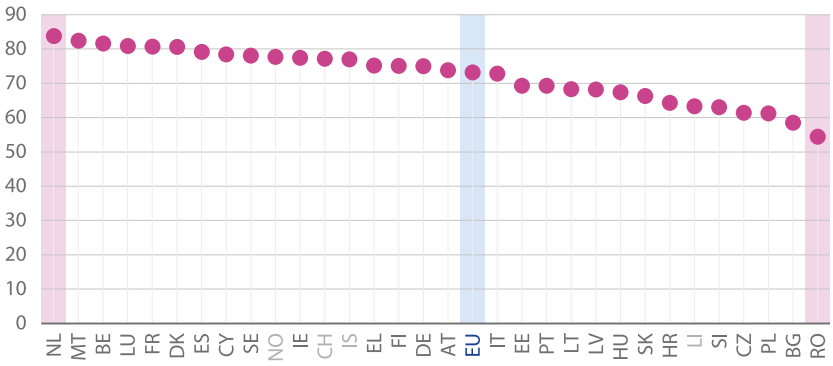


The relative importance of services within the EU economy was almost the same for employment as it was for value added. In 2021, services provided work to 73.2 % of people employed in the EU, compared with 64.6 % at the turn of the millennium. By contrast, the relative importance of all other sectors decreased between 2000 and 2021: the share of the EU workforce that was employed within the industrial economy fell from 19.9 % to 15.7 %, while the agriculture, forestry and fishing workforce declined from 8.6 % to 4.4 %, and the share of persons employed in construction fell from 6.9 % to 6.7 %.

Having fallen 1.4 % between 2019 and 2020, the total number of people employed in the EU economy rebounded partially, increasing 1.2 % in 2021. At an aggregate level, the whole of the services sector experienced an identical decline in 2020 (down 1.4 %), followed by a slightly faster rebound (up 1.6 %). However, a more detailed analysis reveals the varied impact of the COVID-19 crisis on EU service activities. Employment levels for distributive trades, transport, accommodation and food service activities fell 3.4 % between 2019 and 2020 (a much smaller decrease than for value added) but failed to recover fully in 2021 as the number of persons employed increased 0.4 %.

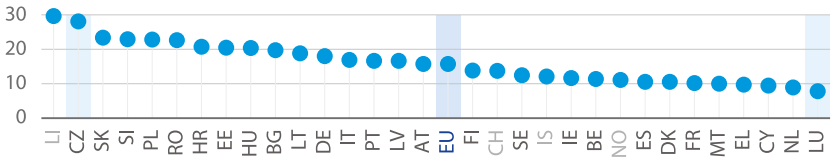
Sectors of employment

(%, share of total employment, 2021)



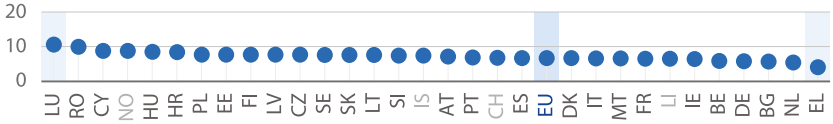
EU 73.2 %

Services



EU 15.7 %

Industry



EU 6.7 %

Construction

EU 4.4 %

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Among the EU Member States, Romania had the lowest share (54.4 %) of its workforce employed in the services sector in 2021. By contrast, services provided work to 83.7 % of those employed in the Netherlands. Czechia was the only Member State to report that industry accounted for more than one quarter (28.1 %) of the total workforce. Bulgaria (16.2 %) was characterised by a high (but falling) share of total employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing, while Luxembourg was the only Member State to report a double-digit share (10.6 %) of its workforce employed in construction.

Note: LI, 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10_e)

Enterprise size class structure of the non-financial business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, EU, 2019)

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – in other words, enterprises with less than 250 persons employed – are often referred to as the backbone of the European economy, providing jobs and growth opportunities. In 2019, an overwhelming majority (93.0 %) of enterprises in the EU's non-financial business economy had less than 10 persons employed and were therefore classified as micro enterprises.

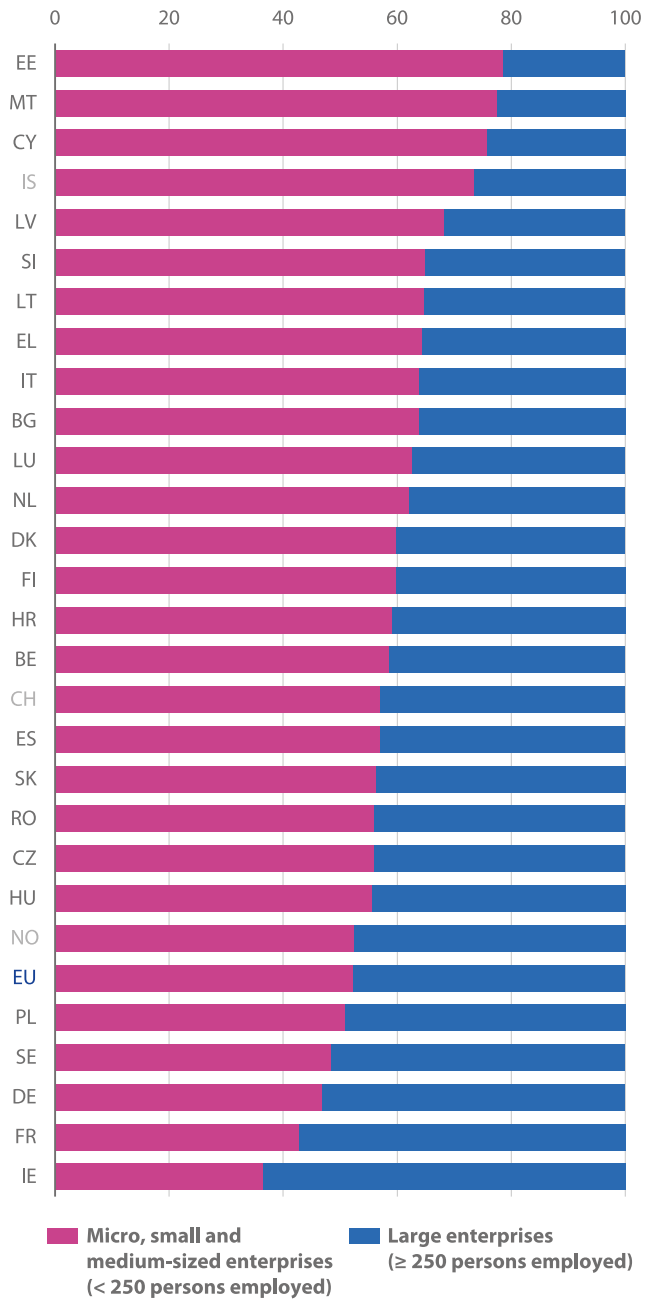
By contrast, just 0.2 % of all enterprises in the EU in 2019 had 250 or more persons employed and were classified as large enterprises. The economic weight of large enterprises in the EU was considerably greater in employment and value added terms, as they provided work to more than one third (35.6 %) of the EU's non-financial business economy workforce and contributed close to half (47.6 %) of its value added.

Note: the non-financial business economy includes the sectors of industry, construction, distributive trades and most market services other than finance.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_sca_r2)

Enterprise size class shares of value added in the non-financial business economy

(%, share for each enterprise size class, 2019)



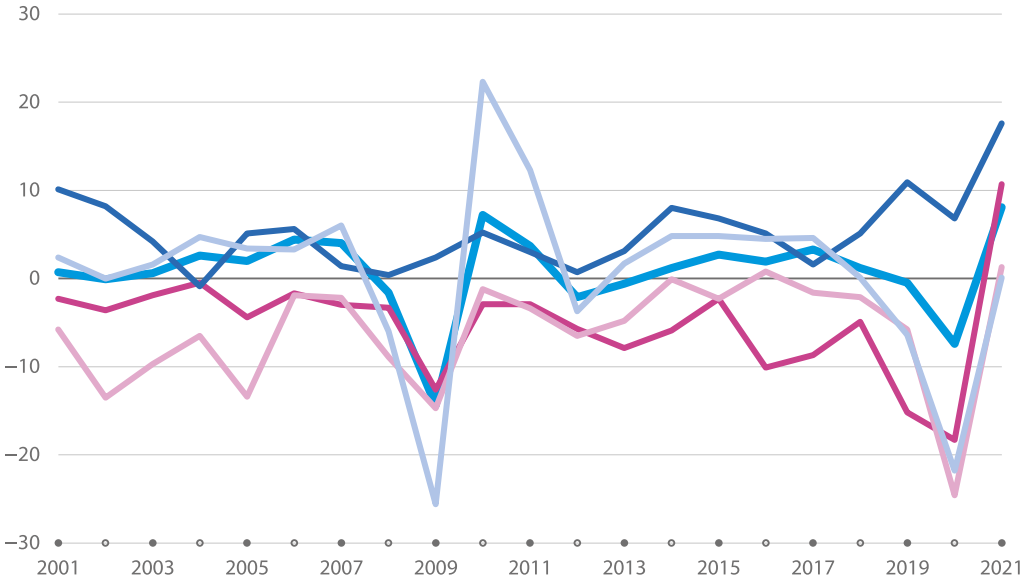
In 2019, there were 23.1 million SMEs (with less than 250 persons employed) in the EU's non-financial business economy. Together, these SMEs employed 84.7 million people and contributed €3 587 billion of value added. The economic contribution made by SMEs was particularly notable in Cyprus (2018 data), Malta and Estonia, where SMEs provided more than 75.0 % of the value added in the non-financial business economy; the contribution of micro enterprises (employing fewer than 10 persons) was particularly high. By contrast, large enterprises (with 250 or more persons employed) accounted for more than three fifths (63.5 %) of the value added in the Irish non-financial business economy and more than half of the value added in France, Germany and Sweden.

Note: CY, 2018. AT and PT: data are incomplete and therefore not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_sca_r2)

Volume developments of industrial output

(%, annual change, EU, 2001–2021)



(%, overall change in output, 2001–2021)

161.8 %
Pharmaceuticals

14.8 %
Industry

–0.1 %
Motor vehicles

–67.3 %
Mining coal and lignite

–72.7 %
Clothing

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts_inpr_a)

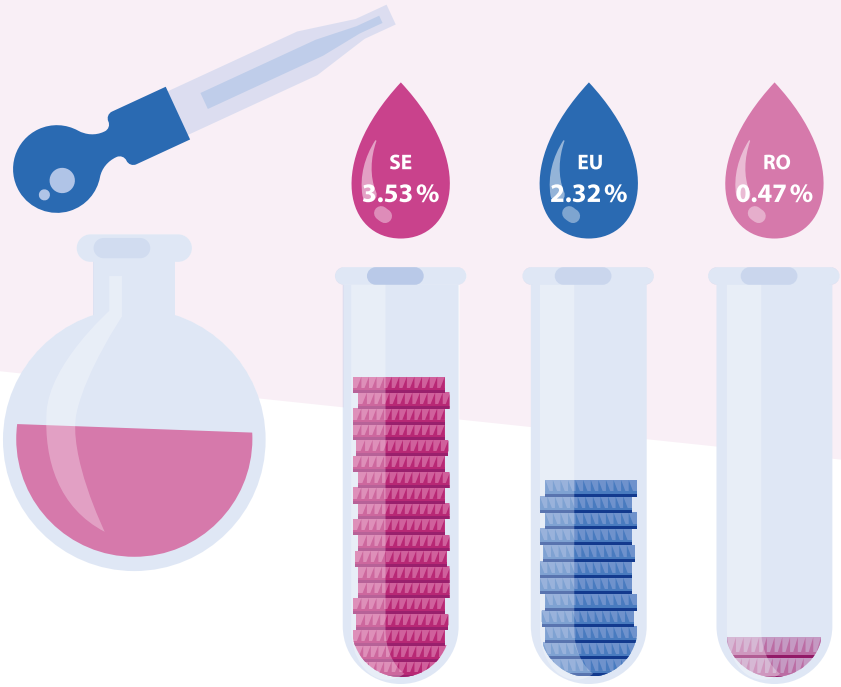
The EU's industrial output peaked in April 2008 at the onset of the global financial and economic crisis; it then declined during the remainder of 2008 and output fell 14.4 % in real terms in 2009 (compared with a year before). Subsequent growth came to an end in 2019 as output decreased 0.5 %. In 2020, as the impact of the COVID-19 crisis was felt, output decreased a further 7.4 %. In 2021, output rebounded (up 8.1 %) and almost returned to its pre-pandemic peak level (recorded in 2018).

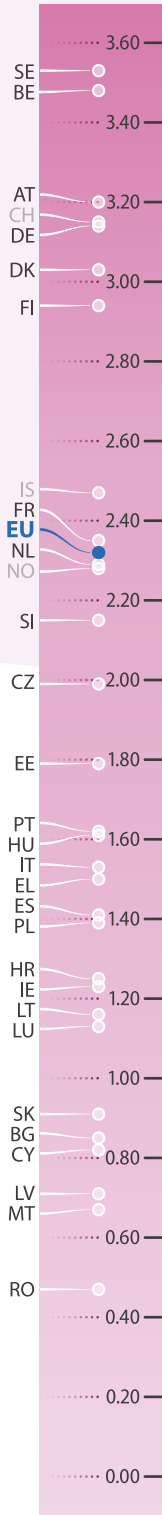
Across the EU, the level of output for the mining of coal and lignite fell every year during the period 2001–2020; there was a rebound in 2021 although output remained considerably below its pre-pandemic level. A similar pattern was observed for clothing manufacturing, although the rebound in 2021 was more modest. By contrast, the level of output for pharmaceuticals increased almost continuously during the period under consideration: pharmaceuticals was one of only a handful of industrial activities to report an increase in output in 2020. Motor vehicles manufacturing's output fell 21.8 % during 2020, but output remained more or less unchanged in 2021.

Research and development

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D

(% relative to GDP, 2020)





Research and development (R&D) and innovation are central to providing the scientific and technical solutions needed to meet global societal challenges such as climate change or active and healthy ageing. EU gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) was €311 billion in 2020, which was a 0.2 % decrease on the year before; note that this rate of change is in current prices and so reflects price changes as well as real changes in the level of expenditure.

GERD is often expressed relative to GDP, resulting in an indicator that is also known as R&D intensity. The EU's R&D intensity rose above 2.00 % for the first time in 2011 (2.02 %) and continued to grow at a modest (and almost interrupted) pace through to 2019 (2.23 %). With expenditure on R&D remaining almost unchanged in 2020 and GDP falling strongly (due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis), R&D intensity increased to a new high in 2020 (2.32 %). The highest R&D intensity among the EU Member States was 3.53 % in Sweden, while Belgium (3.48 %) and Austria (3.20 %) recorded the next highest intensities. Note that the low level of economic activity in 2020 impacted on all of these intensities (as GDP is used as the denominator) and these high levels may not be sustainable.

Note: CH, 2019.

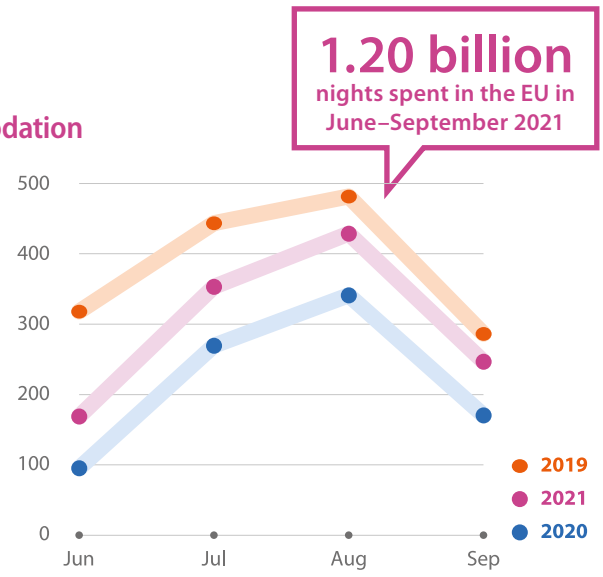
Source: Eurostat (online data code: rd_e_gerdtot)

Tourism

Summer nights spent at tourist accommodation

(million nights, EU, June to September 2019–2021)

Tourism has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Focusing on the main summer months of June to September, the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation in the EU was 876 million in 2020, compared with 1 529 million the previous year. In other words, demand for tourist accommodation in 2020 was down 42.7 % compared with 2019. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis persisted into 2021, as the number of nights spent in tourist accommodation in the EU stood at 1 198 million, which remained more than a fifth (21.7 %) below pre-pandemic levels. Note: throughout this section on tourism, EU totals for reference year 2019 include 2018 data for Ireland.

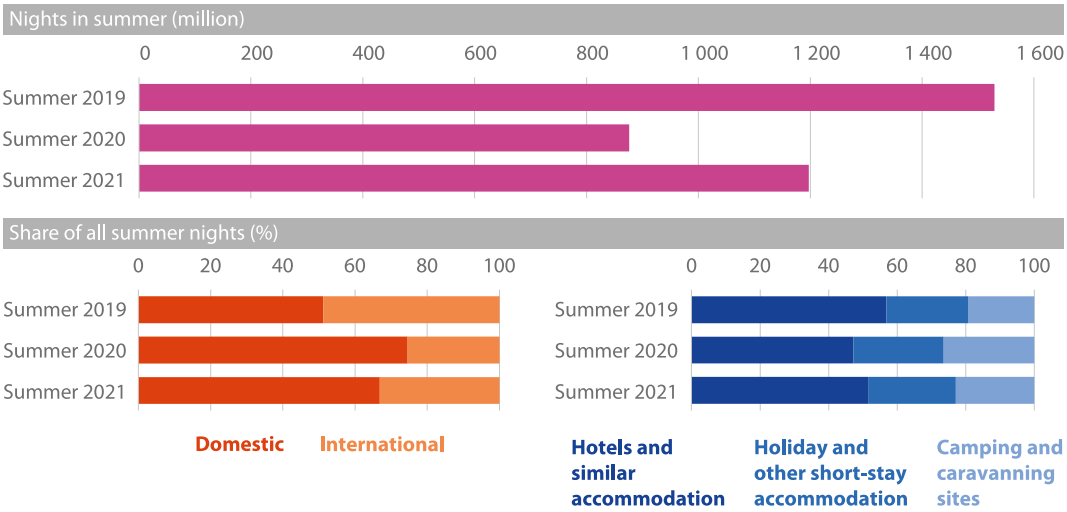


Note: these statistics cover business and leisure travellers. 2019: including IE data for 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

Summer nights spent at tourist accommodation

(EU, June to September 2019–2021)



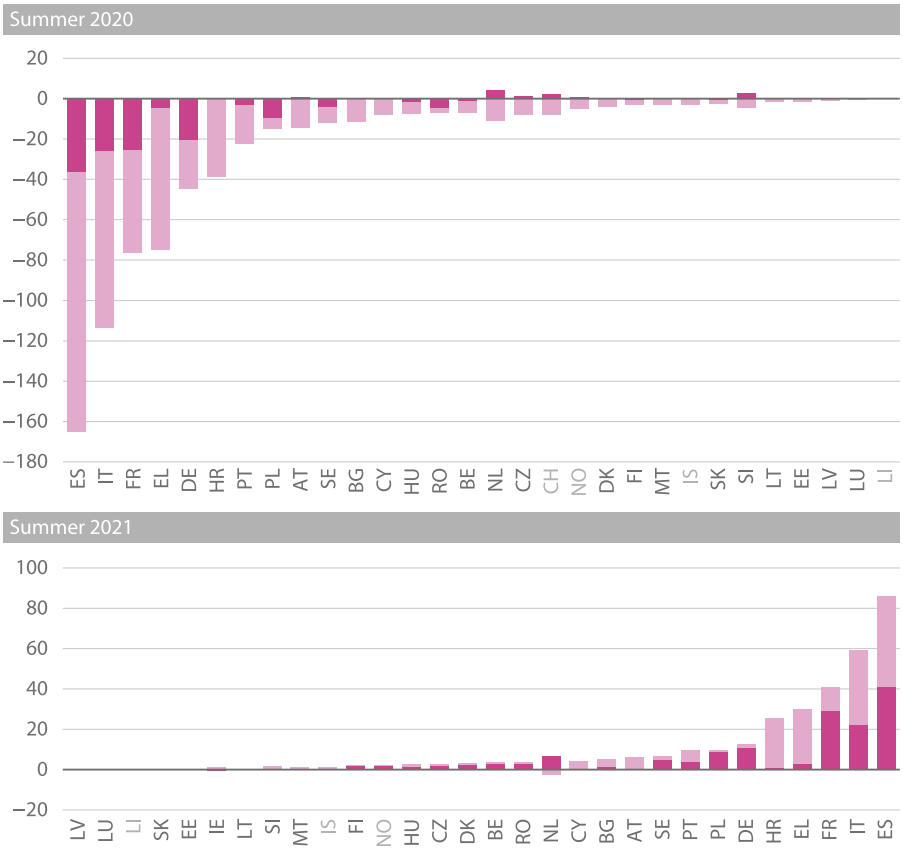
In summer 2019, domestic tourists (in other words, tourists resident in the same country where they were staying as tourists) accounted for 51.2 % of the total nights spent in tourist accommodation, with international tourists making up the remaining 48.8 %. In summer 2020, the share for domestic tourists rose to 74.6 %, highlighting the particularly strong impact of the COVID-19 crisis on international tourism. In summer 2021, the share of domestic tourists was 66.9 %; as such, it remained considerably higher than before the pandemic.

Note: summer 2019, including IE data for summer 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

Annual change in summer nights spent at tourist accommodation

(million nights)



Note: ranked on the overall change (domestic and international) in summer nights spent in tourist accommodation. IE: change for summer 2020, not available. CH: change for summer 2021, not available.

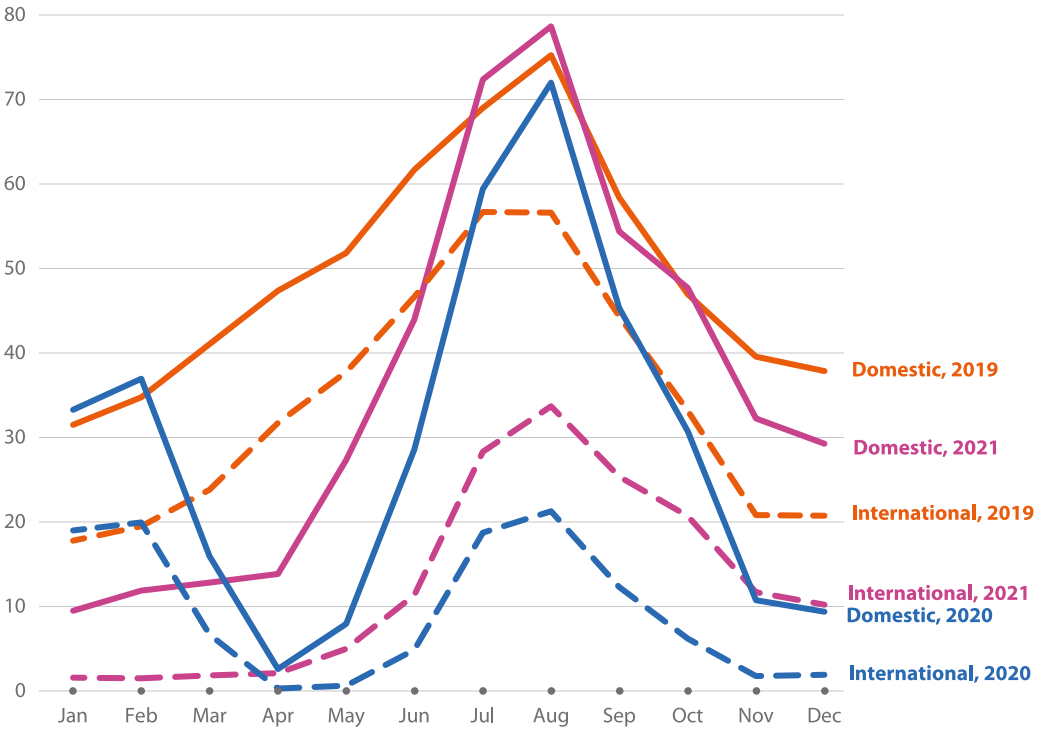
Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_nim)

All EU Member States recorded a lower number of nights spent in tourist accommodation in summer 2020 than they had in summer 2019. For example, in Spain there were 165 million fewer nights spent in tourist accommodation in summer 2020 than in the previous summer. While all Member States recorded fewer nights spent by international tourists, nine reported an increase in the number of nights spent by domestic tourists.

In summer 2021, there was a rebound in tourist activity across much of the EU. In absolute terms, the highest increases in nights spent by domestic tourists were recorded in Spain (up 41.4 million nights compared with summer 2020), while there was rapid growth in the number of nights spent by international tourists in Spain (up 44.7 million nights), Italy (up 36.9 million nights) and Greece (up 26.7 million nights).

Arrivals in EU tourist accommodation

(million arrivals, EU, 2019–2021)



Note: 2019, including IE data for 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_arm)

The number of arrivals in EU tourist accommodation fell strongly in March 2020, as the COVID-19 crisis hit the EU. By April 2020, domestic arrivals were 5.5 % of the level they had been in 2019 and international arrivals were at 0.8 %. Later in the spring and summer months, the number of arrivals partially recovered: in August 2020, the number of domestic arrivals was back to 95.6 % of the equivalent figure for 2019, although international arrivals remained at 37.5 % of the previous year's level.

As the second wave of COVID-19 infections grew in autumn and winter 2020, the number of arrivals fell more strongly than in a typical year. Only by summer 2021 was there a marked recovery in the number of arrivals in EU tourist accommodation. In August 2021, the number of domestic arrivals was 4.5 % higher than before the pandemic, although international arrivals remained at 59.5 % of their August 2019 level.

3 Environment and natural resources

Transport

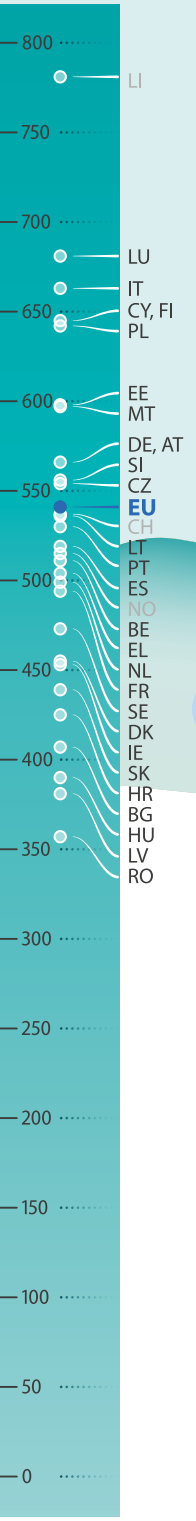
Passenger cars

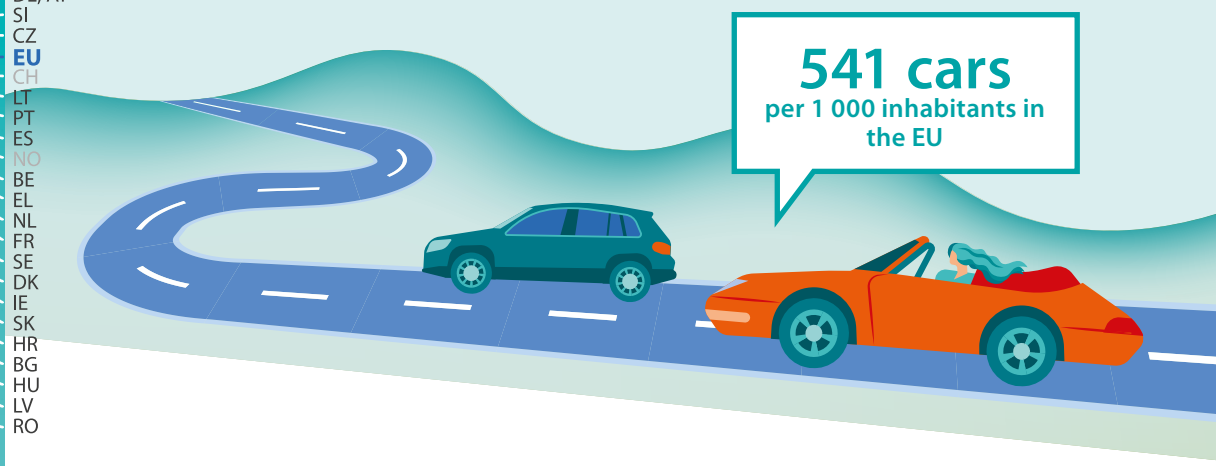
(number of cars per 1 000 inhabitants, 2019)

In 2019, there were 242 million passenger cars on the EU's roads, equivalent to 541 cars per 1 000 inhabitants or slightly more than one car for each two persons. Car ownership rates were highest in Luxembourg (681 per 1 000 inhabitants) followed by Italy, Cyprus, Finland and Poland (all above 600 per 1 000 inhabitants). There were less than 400 cars per 1 000 inhabitants in Hungary (390), Latvia (381) and Romania (357).

Note: DK, excluding vans.

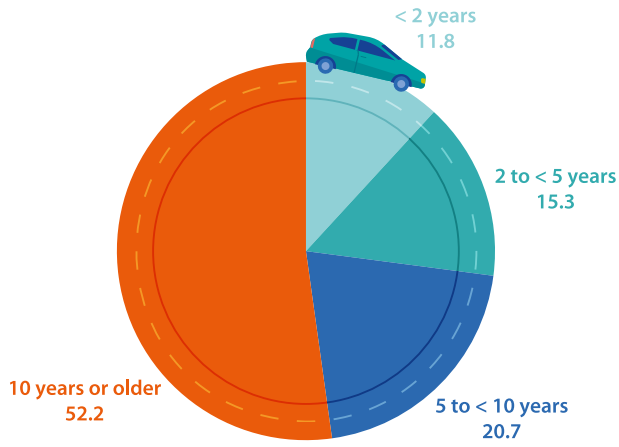
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tran_r_vehst and demo_pjan)





Age of passenger cars

(%, share of all passenger cars, EU, 2019)



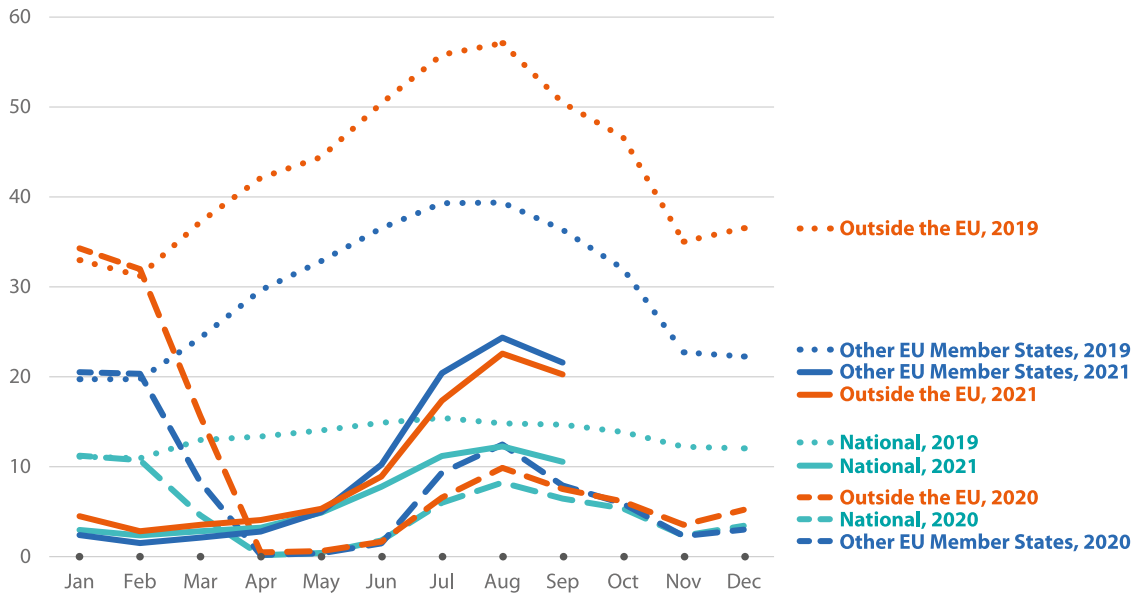
Newer cars tend to be less environmentally-damaging, with lower fuel consumption and lower emissions, although these benefits may be offset to some extent if there is a trend towards larger or more powerful vehicles; there is also a growing share of electric/hybrid vehicles in the EU. In 2019, more than half (52.2 %) of all passenger cars in the EU were estimated to be at least 10 years old, compared with just 11.8 % that were less than two years.

Note: EU estimates based on available data (including AT data for 2018; excluding vans for DK; excluding BG, EL and SK).

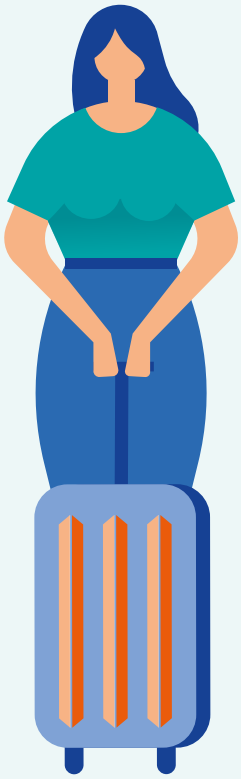
Source: Eurostat (online data code: road_eqs_carage)

Passengers carried by air

(million passengers carried – arrivals and departures, EU, 2019–2021)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)



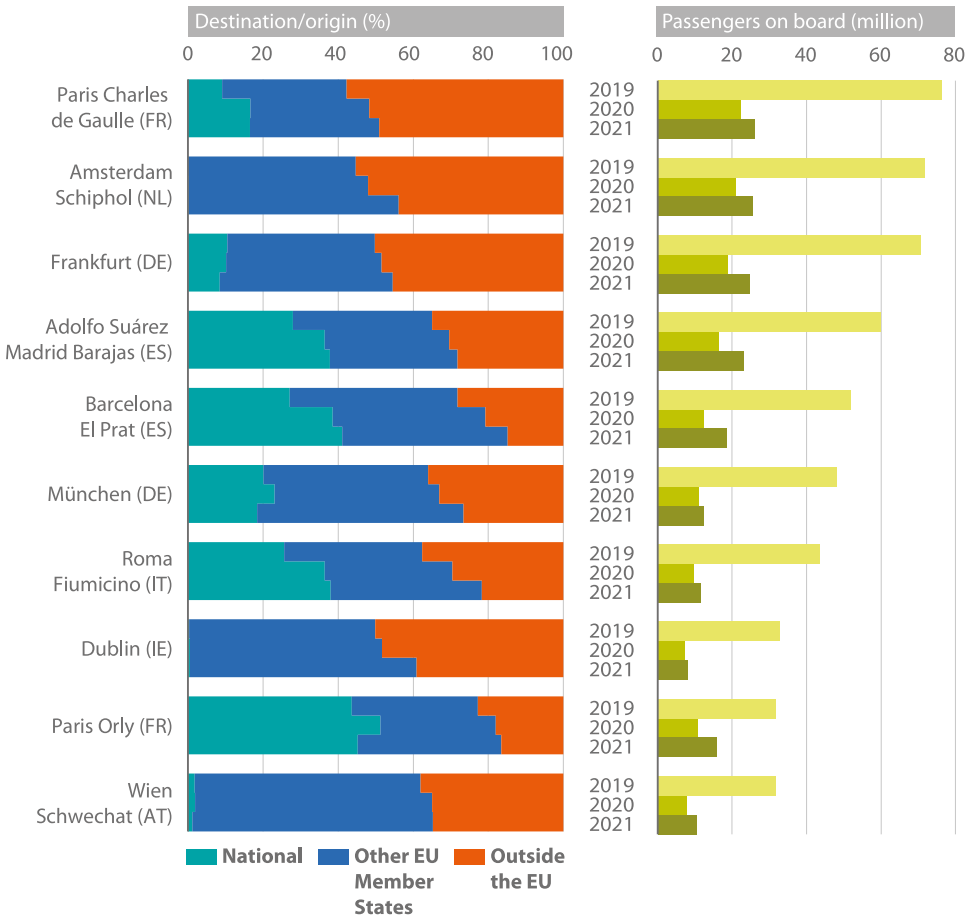
The COVID-19 crisis had a considerable impact on air passenger transport. While the number of passengers carried in January and February 2020 were broadly in line with the equivalent numbers for the same months of 2019, figures were much lower for all subsequent months of 2020 and this pattern continued into 2021, although there were signs of a partial recovery in summer 2021; at the time of writing, the latest data available are for September 2021.

In 2019, the total number of passengers carried by air to or from airports in the EU was around one billion (1 035 million). This figure dropped to 277 million passengers carried in 2020, a fall of almost three quarters (73.3 %) compared with pre-pandemic levels. In the nine months from January to September 2021, 238 million passengers were carried by air to or from airports in the EU, compared with 802 million in the same period of 2019 (a fall of 70.3 %).

Looking in more detail at the latest information available for September 2021, air passenger numbers on national flights within EU Member States remained below levels recorded prior to the pandemic, at 71.9 % of their September 2019 level. The number of air passengers flying to/from other EU Member States was 59.3 % of its September 2019 level, while air passenger numbers on international flights outside of the EU remained considerably lower than before the crisis, at 40.2 % of their September 2019 level.

Top 10 EU passenger airports

(passengers on board, 2019–2021)



The ranking of the 10 busiest airports in the EU is based on data for 2019 (thereby before the impact of the COVID-19 crisis). In 2020, all of the 10 busiest airports recorded considerable falls in passenger numbers compared with levels experienced in 2019; decreases were within the range of 66 % to 78 %. This pattern continued in 2021, as the number of passengers was down (compared with 2019) 51 % to 75 %. The smallest declines for 2020 and 2021 (both relative to 2019) were recorded in Paris Orly, which traditionally has a large share of passengers on national (domestic) flights. The largest falls were in Dublin, which traditionally has very few national flights.

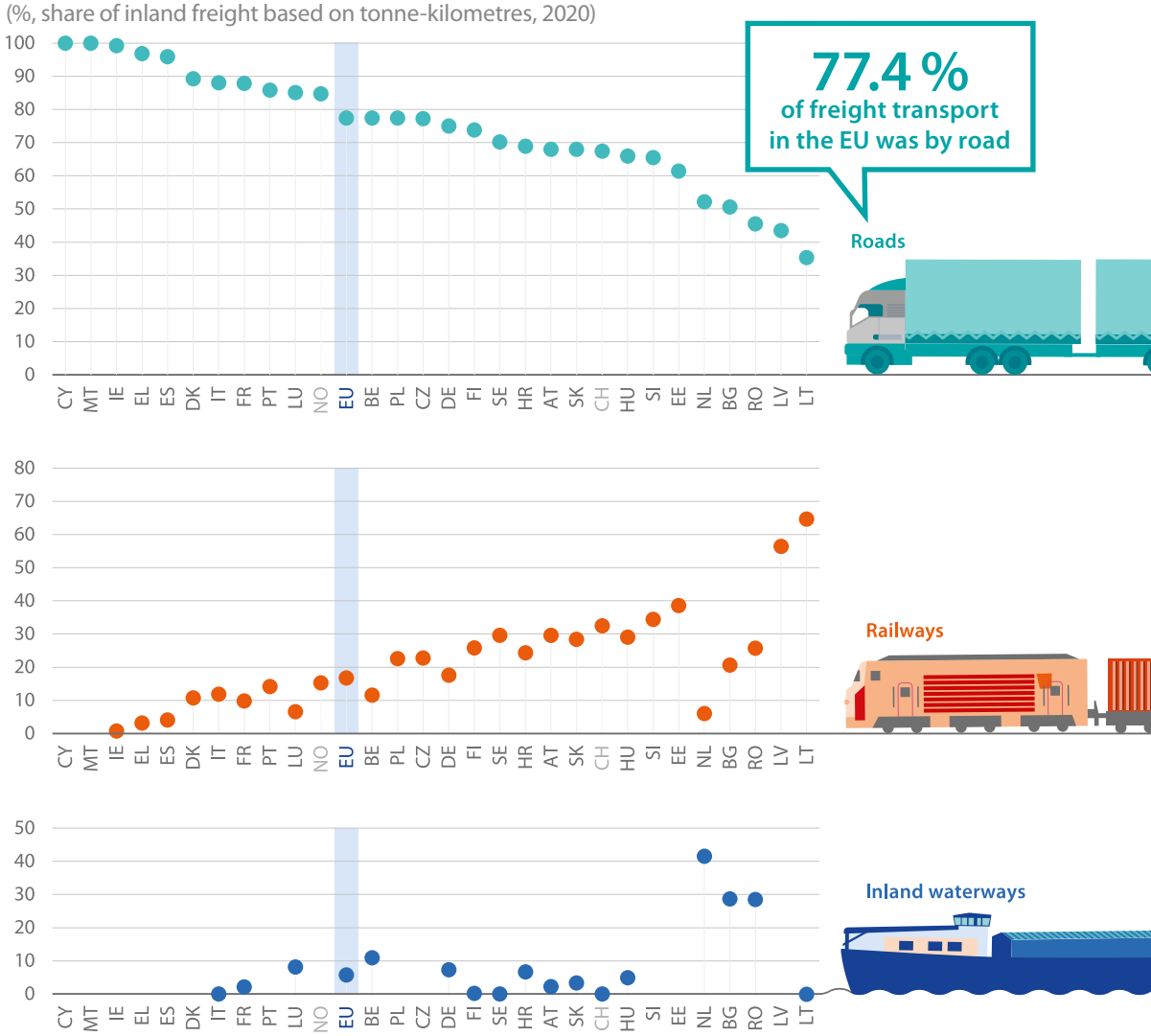
Looking at the distribution of passenger numbers between 2019 and 2021 according to origin/destination, all of the airports shown recorded a decline in their share of passengers on international flights outside of the EU. Conversely, the relative shares of national passengers and passengers to/from other EU Member States rose in most airports. Frankfurt, München and Wien Schwechat were the only three of the 10 busiest airports to report a smaller share of passengers on national flights in 2021 than in 2019. The Spanish airports of Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas and Barcelona El Prat were the only two where the share of passengers on flights to or from other EU Member States fell.

Note: top 10 airports based on total passenger numbers for 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoa)

Inland freight modes of transport

(%, share of inland freight based on tonne-kilometres, 2020)



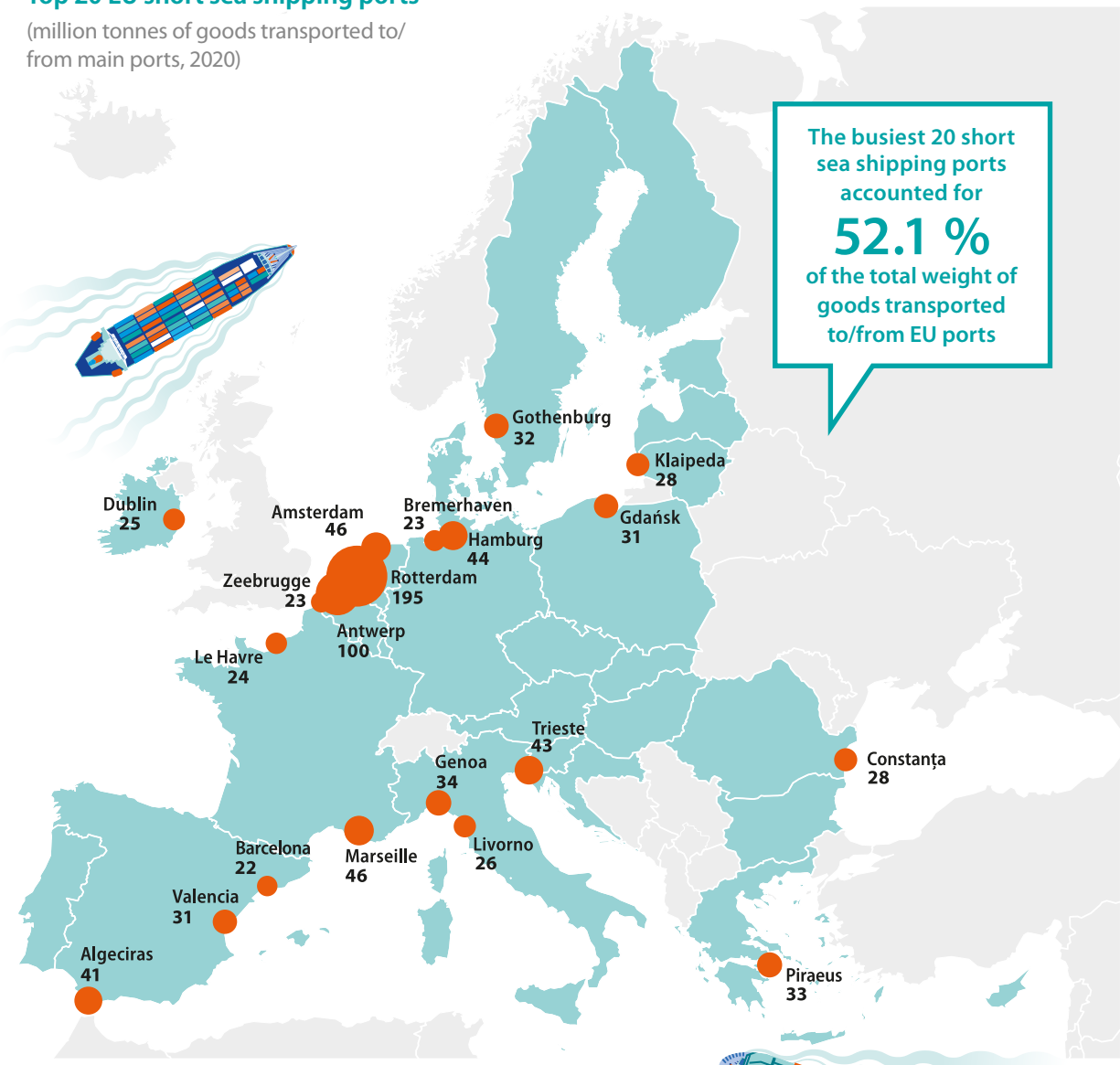
EU inland freight transport (excluding pipelines) in 2020 was estimated at around 2.3 trillion tonne-kilometres. Most of this total (77.4 %) was carried by road; the remainder was split between rail (16.8 %) and inland waterways (5.8 %). Rail accounted for more than half of all inland freight transported in Lithuania and Latvia (64.7 % and 56.5 % respectively), while inland waterways accounted for 41.6 % of the freight transported within the Netherlands.

Note: CY and MT, no railways. DK, EE, IE, EL, ES, CY, LV, MT, PT, SI and NO: no navigable inland waterways.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tran_hv_frmod)

Top 20 EU short sea shipping ports

(million tonnes of goods transported to/from main ports, 2020)



In 2020, the total weight of goods transported to/from main ports in the EU by short sea shipping was 1.7 billion tonnes; this was equivalent to a fall of 6.6 % compared with 2019. Rotterdam was by far the busiest port in terms of goods transported (195 million tonnes; 11.6 % of the EU total). The weight of goods handled in Rotterdam was approximately twice as high as in the second busiest port, Antwerp (100 million tonnes), which in turn was around twice as high as in the next busiest ports, Amsterdam and Marseille (both 46 million tonnes).

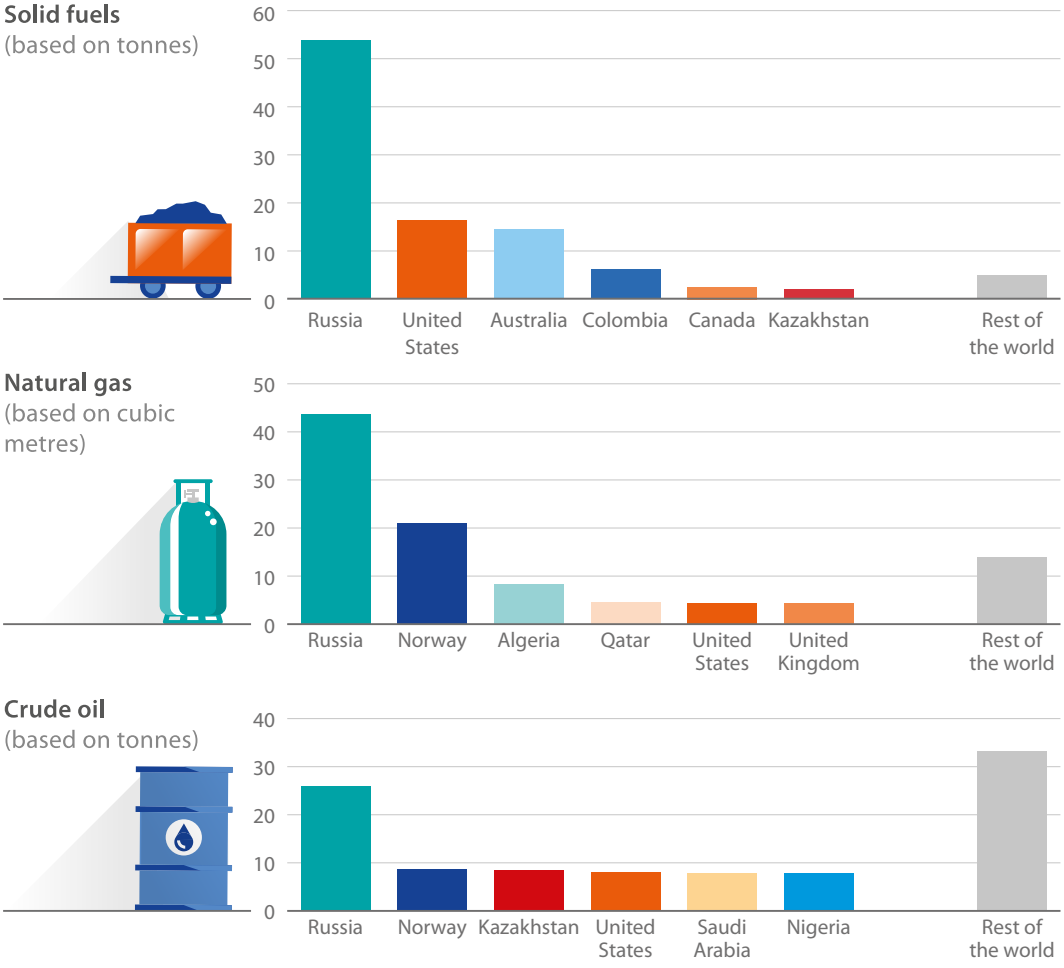
Note: excludes the movement of cargo across oceans (deep sea shipping).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: mar_sg_am_pw)

Energy

Origin of energy imports

(%, share of all extra-EU imports, EU, 2020)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_ti_sff, nrg_ti_gas and nrg_ti_oil)

The EU imports nearly three fifths of all the energy that it requires, with particularly high levels of dependency for crude oil and natural gas. Although it is too soon to evaluate the initial impact of the military aggression in Ukraine and related sanctions (as the latest data available are for 2020), the EU relied heavily on energy imports from Russia. In 2020, Russia (113.0 million tonnes) accounted for more than one quarter of the EU's crude oil imports, for more than two fifths (155.0 billion cubic metres) of the EU's natural gas imports and for more than half (44.2 million tonnes) of the EU's imports of solid fuels. Norway was the second largest origin of EU imports for natural gas (21.0 % of the EU total) and for crude oil (8.7 %).

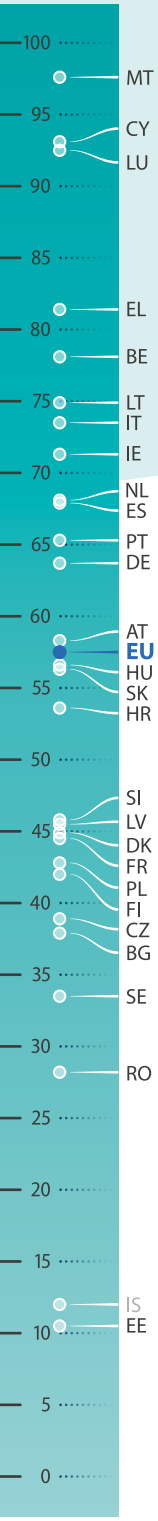
Energy dependency rate

(%, net imports as a share of gross available energy, 2020)

The energy dependency rate indicates the extent to which an economy relies upon imports to meet its energy needs. In 2020, the EU's dependency rate was 57.5 %: in other words, net imports accounted for almost three fifths of gross available energy. None of the EU Member States were self-sufficient in relation to their energy needs, with some of the smaller ones – Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg – almost completely reliant on external supplies. At the other end of the range, Estonia (10.5 %), Romania (28.2 %) and Sweden (33.5 %) were least reliant on imports for meeting their energy needs.

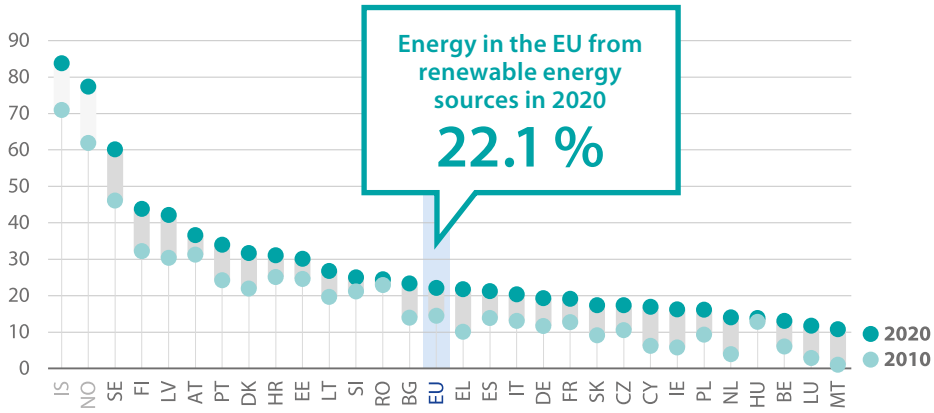
Note: NO, value not shown (= –623.1 % in 2020). A negative value indicates that a country exports more energy than it imports.

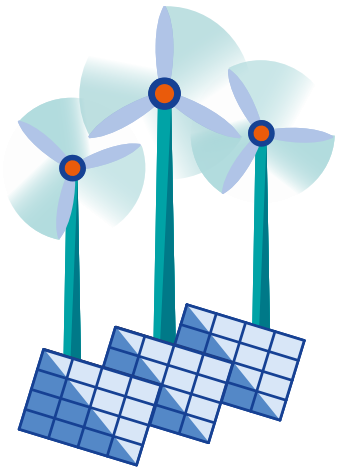
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_id)



Energy from renewable energy sources

(%, share of total gross final energy consumption, 2010 and 2020)



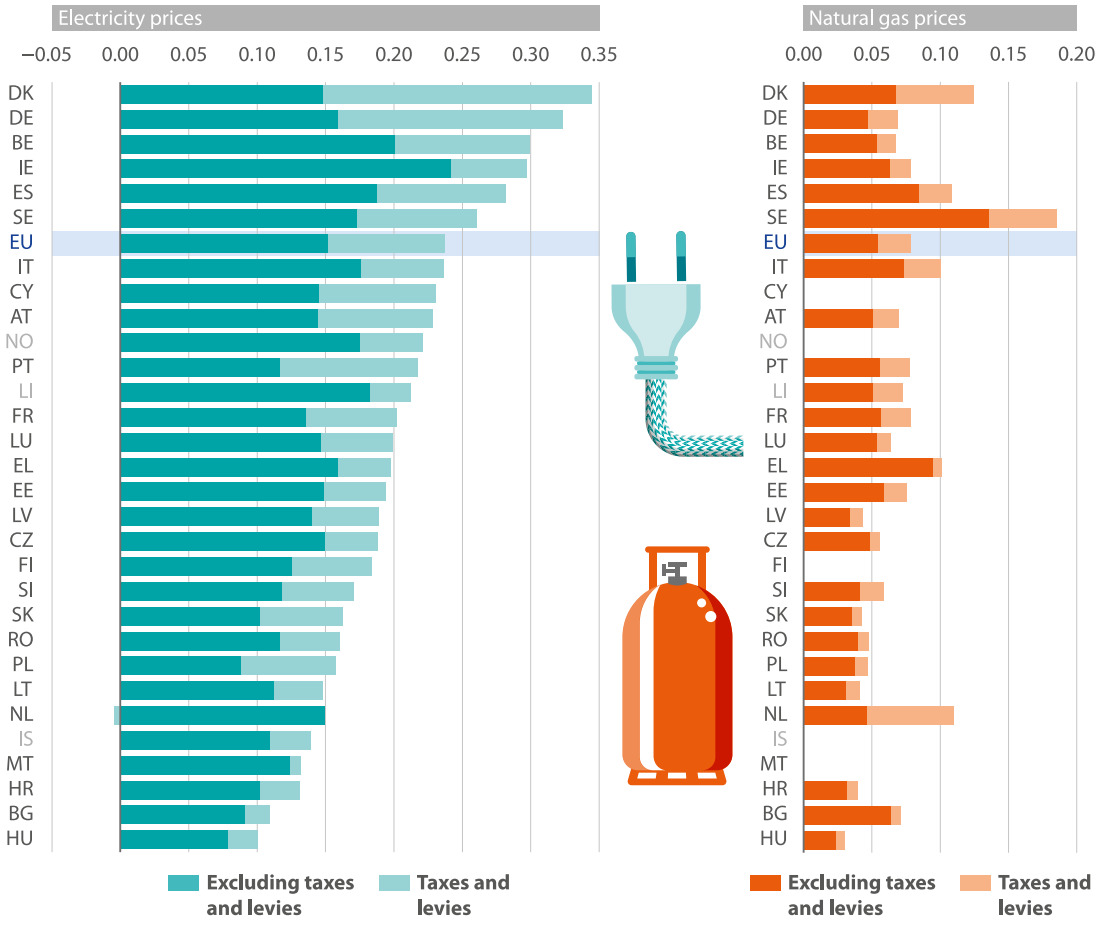


In 2020, some 22.1 % of the EU's gross final energy consumption was from renewable energy sources, compared with 14.4 % a decade earlier. In 2020, more than three fifths (60.1 %) of the final energy consumption in Sweden was from renewable sources, while shares of more than one third were also recorded in Finland, Latvia, Austria and Portugal. By contrast, the lowest shares of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption – less than 15.0 % – were recorded in the Netherlands, Hungary, Belgium and Luxembourg, with a low of 10.7 % in Malta.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_ind_ren)

Electricity and natural gas prices

(€ per kWh, household consumers, average prices for second half 2021)



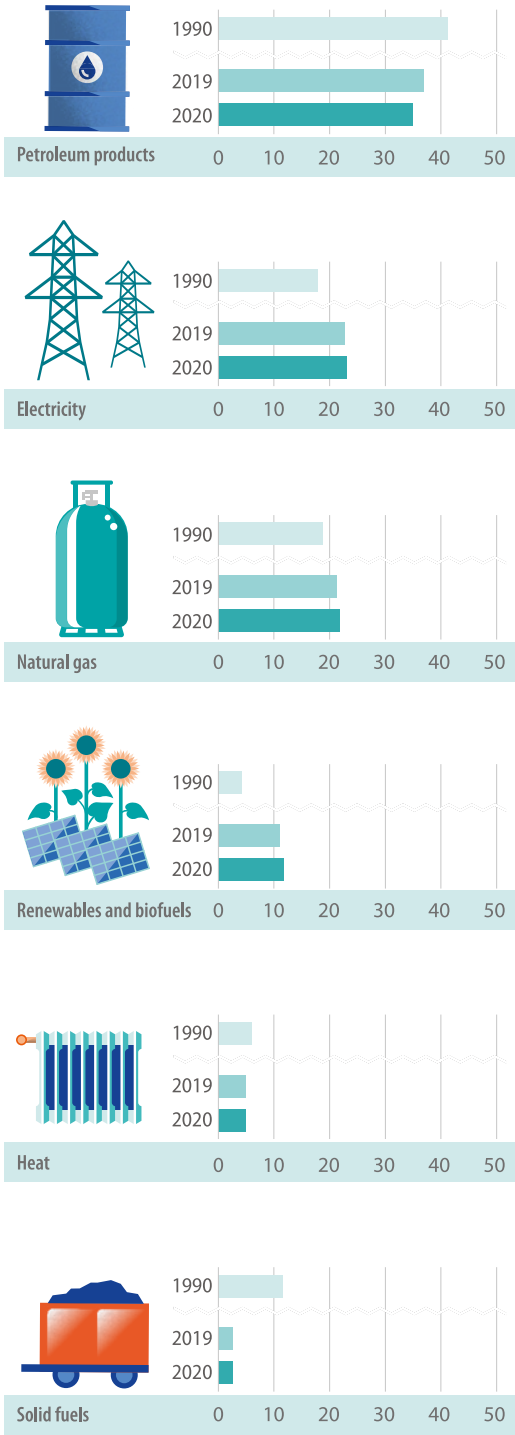
Note: ranked on total electricity prices. CY, MT, FI, IS and NO: natural gas prices not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_204 and nrg_pc_202)

Electricity and natural gas prices are typically composed of three components: the basic price of energy, network charges, and taxes and/or levies. The proportion of taxes and levies in the overall retail price varies greatly between EU Member States.

In the second half of 2021, household prices for electricity – presented here for a household with annual consumption within the range of 2 500–5 000 kWh – averaged €0.237 per kWh across the EU. Consumers in Denmark paid the highest prices for their electricity, 3.4 times as much as those in Hungary. While the share of taxes and/or levies in the total price of electricity in Denmark was 56.9 %, this could be contrasted with the Netherlands where a negative share was observed (−3.0 %) as subsidies (in the form of refunds/allowances) were greater than taxes and levies

The price of natural gas – measured here for a household with annual consumption within the range of 20–200 GJ – averaged €0.078 per kWh across the EU in the second half of 2021. Consumers in Sweden paid 6.1 times as much as consumers in Hungary for their natural gas. Taxes and/or levies accounted for more than half of the total price that was paid by consumers in the Netherlands (57.8 %); this share was lowest in Greece (6.2 %).



Structure of final energy consumption

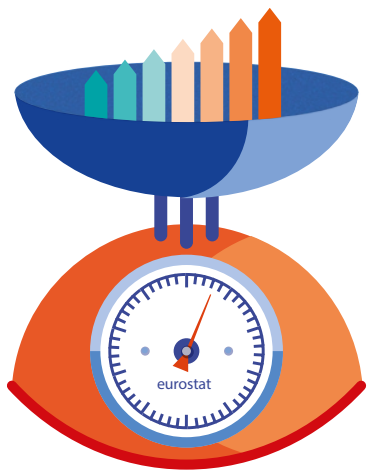
(%, based on tonnes of oil equivalent (toe), EU, 1990, 2019 and 2020)

In 2020, the EU's final energy consumption was 886 million toe; this was 5.6 % lower than the level recorded in 2019 before the COVID-19 crisis. Petroleum products accounted for more than one third (35.0 %) of the EU's final energy consumption (although their share was falling), with electricity (23.2 %) and natural gas (21.9 %) also recording relatively high shares.

When compared with 1990, the EU's consumption of energy in 2020 remained more or less stable, with an average fall of 0.1 % per year. This overall development hid a considerable shift in the structure of the EU's final energy consumption, moving away from solid fuels and petroleum products towards electricity as well as renewables and biofuels. For example, the share of solid fuels fell from 11.5 % to 2.6 % between 1990 and 2020, while that of renewables and biofuels rose from 4.3 % to 11.8 % during the same period.

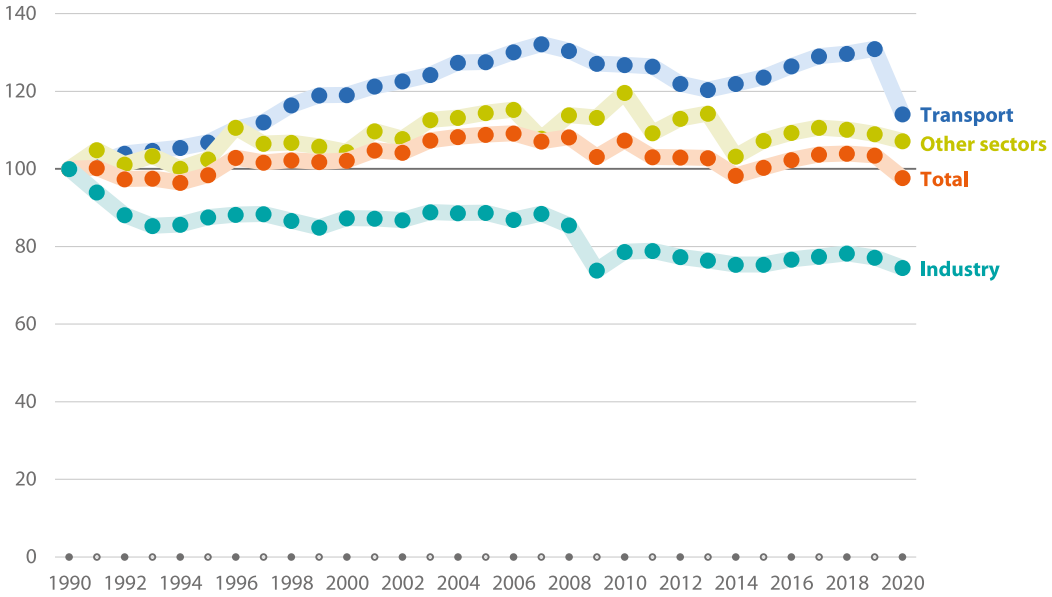
Note: solid fuels includes coal, manufactured gases, peat, oil shale and oil sands. The residual category of waste (non-renewable) – not presented here – accounted for 0.6 % of EU final energy consumption in 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)



Final energy consumption by end use

(1990 = 100, based on tonnes of oil equivalent (toe), EU, 1990–2020)



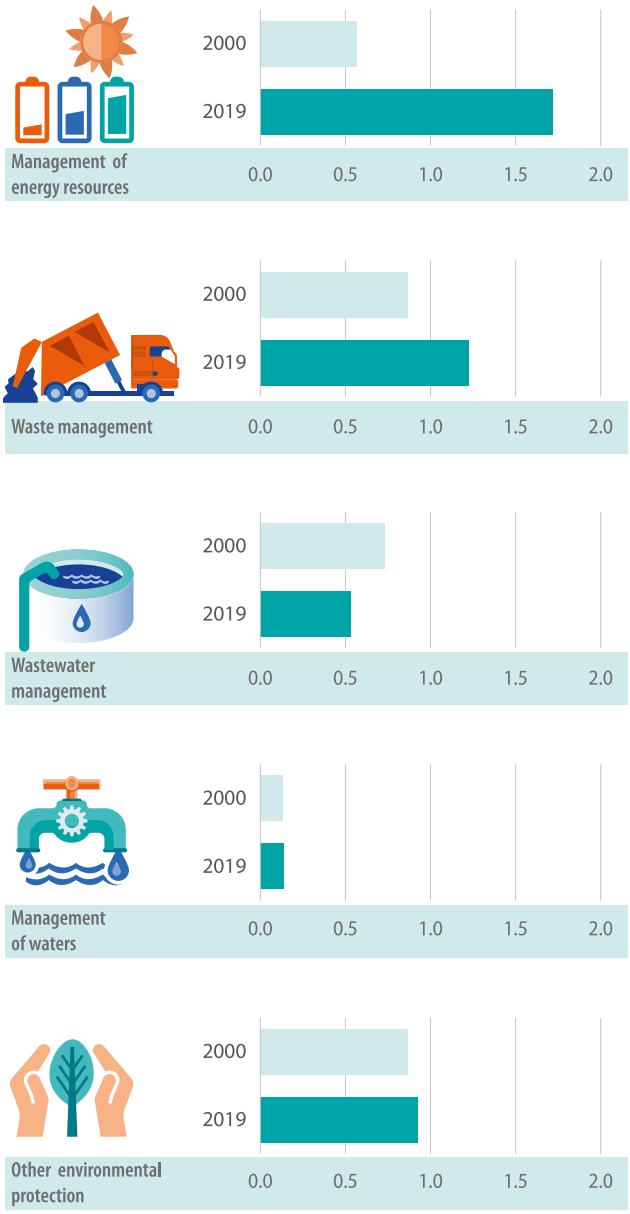
Note: the residual category of other sectors includes residential use, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and services other than transport.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s)

In 2020, industry accounted for slightly more than one quarter (26.1 %) of the energy consumed within the EU, while the share for transport was 28.4 %, leaving 45.5 % for other sectors – these mainly concern residential use and services.

Although there was almost no difference in the overall level of EU final energy consumption in 1990 and 2020, there were considerable differences for the various end uses. Energy consumption for transport rose at a relatively rapid and uninterrupted pace between 1990 and 2019 (other than during the global financial and economic crisis and its aftermath), as consumption increased overall 30.9 %. By contrast, final energy consumption within industry fell by close to one quarter (down 22.8 %) during the same period, with a particularly large decline in consumption during the global financial and economic crisis in 2009 (down 13.6 %). These long-term developments were interrupted by the COVID-19 crisis in 2020. The overall level of final energy consumption in the EU fell 5.6 % in 2020 (compared with 2019), with a particularly large decline for transport, as consumption fell 12.8 %.

Environment



Employment in the environmental economy

(million full-time equivalents, EU, 2000 and 2019)

The environmental economy includes activities that relate to environmental protection and the management of natural resources. Overall, there were 4.5 million people working in the EU's environmental economy in 2019, which marked an increase of 43.3 % when compared with the situation in 2000.

In 2019, the management of energy resources had the largest workforce within the EU's environmental economy (1.7 million), followed by waste management (1.2 million) and other environmental protection (0.9 million). The size of the EU workforce for the management of energy resources was 3.0 times as large in 2019 as it had been in 2000; this was by far the most rapid expansion among the different subsectors of the environmental economy. By contrast, there was a decrease in the number of persons employed for wastewater management.

Note: the residual category of other environmental protection includes, for example, general environmental administration and education.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_egss1)

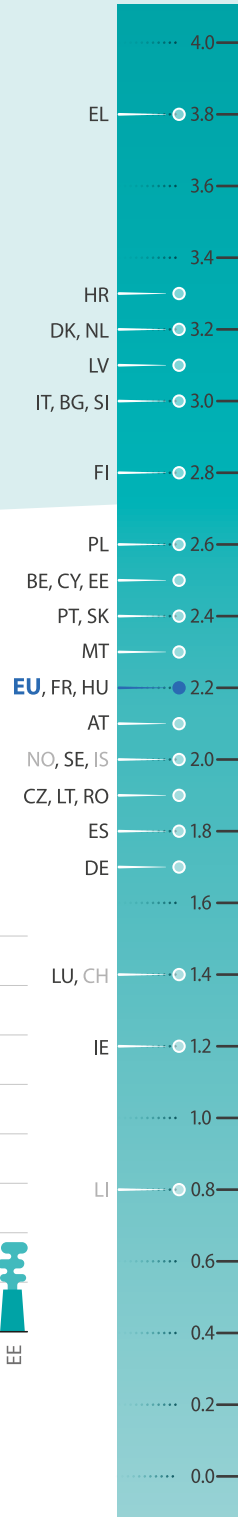
Environmental tax revenue

(%, relative to GDP, 2020)

Environmental taxes can be used to try to influence the behaviour of economic operators, both producers and consumers. In 2020, EU environmental tax revenues were valued at €300 billion, equivalent to 2.2 % of GDP. This ratio peaked at 3.8 % in Greece, while it was 3.3 % Croatia and 3.2 % in Denmark and the Netherlands. By contrast, environmental tax revenues accounted for less than 2.0 % of GDP in Czechia, Lithuania, Romania, Spain, Germany, Luxembourg and Ireland.

Note: LI, 2019.

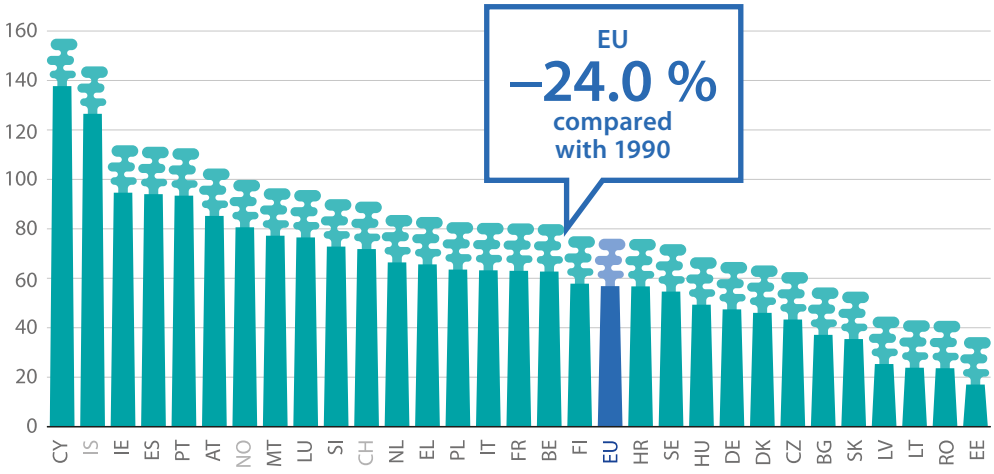
Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_tax)



Greenhouse gas emissions

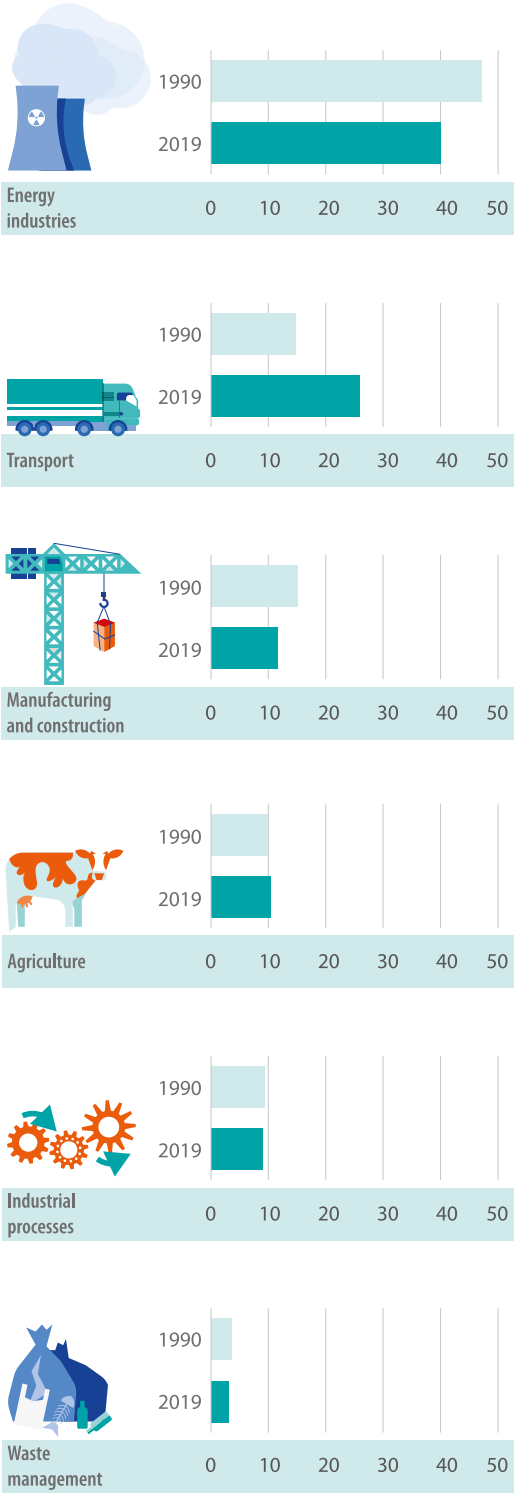
(1990 = 100, based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, 2019)

The indicator for greenhouse gas emissions traces developments of man-made emissions for the Kyoto basket of greenhouse gases. The EU has pledged to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases it emits. By 2019, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU had fallen 24.0 % compared with their 1990 levels. During this period, the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions fell in the vast majority (22) of EU Member States, and more than halved in Estonia, Romania, Lithuania and Latvia. By contrast, the level of emissions rose in five EU Member States, including Cyprus which had by far the highest increase (up 56.9 %).



Note: greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride and sulphur hexafluoride. These gases are aggregated by using global warming potential (GWP) factors to obtain data in CO_2 equivalents.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge), based on European Environment Agency (EEA)



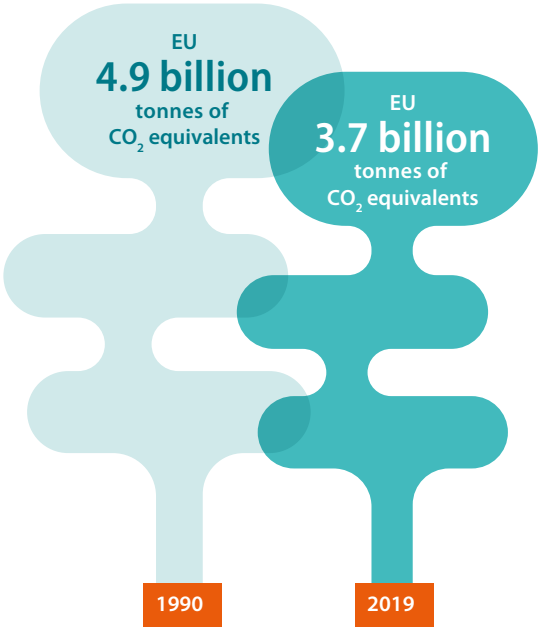
Source sectors of greenhouse gas emissions

(%, based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, EU, 1990 and 2019)

In 2019, the total quantity of EU greenhouse gas emissions was 3.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents. The principal sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU were energy industries (40.0 % of the total; comprising fuel combustion in energy industries and other energy sectors) and transport (25.8 %; this includes international aviation), while smaller contributions came from fuel combustion in manufacturing and construction (11.6 %), agriculture (10.3 %), industrial processes and product use (9.1 %) and waste management (3.1 %).

The only source that increased the quantity of its greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2019 was transport (an overall increase of 33.2 %); otherwise, emissions fell for each of the remaining sources, with decreases of more than one third recorded for waste management (33.9 %), energy industries (35.6 %) and manufacturing and construction (41.5 %).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge), based on European environment agency (EEA)



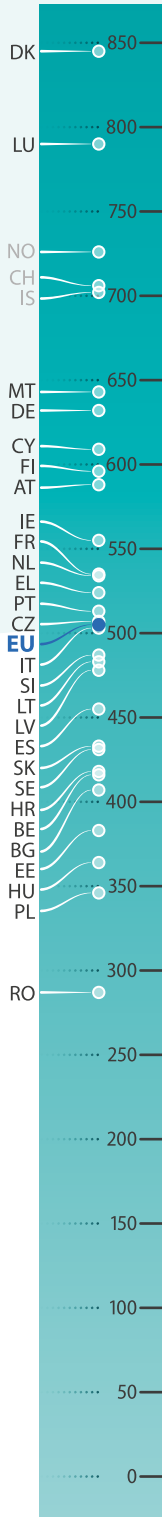
Municipal waste generation

(kg per inhabitant, 2020)

Across the EU, an average of 505 kg of municipal waste was generated per inhabitant in 2020. Among the EU Member States, municipal waste generation was highest at 845 kg per inhabitant in Denmark and 790 kg per inhabitant in Luxembourg, while Malta, Germany and Cyprus all had quantities within the range of 600–650 kg per inhabitant. By contrast, municipal waste generation was less than 400 kg per inhabitant in Estonia, Hungary and Poland, and was less than 300 kg per inhabitant in Romania (287 kg). Municipal waste constitutes around one tenth of the total waste that is generated each year in the EU.

Note: EL, IT and AT, 2019. BG and IS: 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)

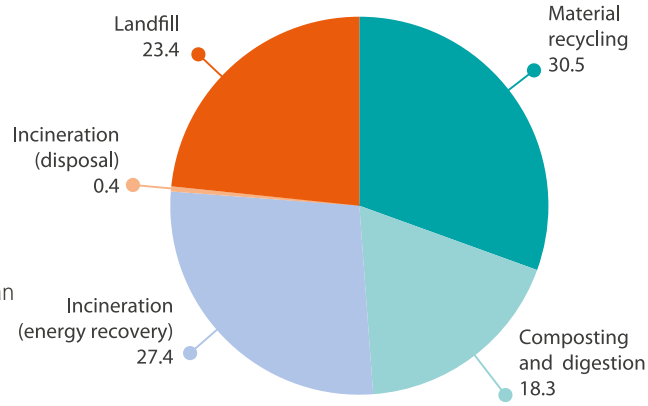


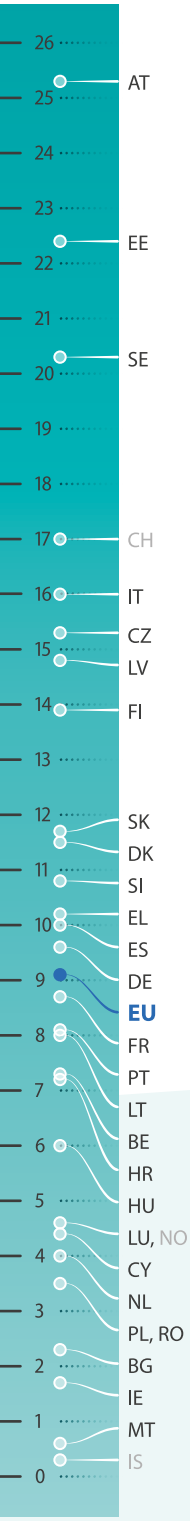
Municipal waste treatment methods

(%, share of all methods, EU, 2020)

In 2020, there were 221.2 million tonnes of municipal waste treated in the EU, representing 98 % of the municipal waste generated. Material recycling accounted for 30.5 % of the municipal waste treated across the EU, while the share for composting and digestion was 18.3 %: these are generally considered to be the most environmentally sustainable treatment methods. By contrast, more than one quarter (27.4 %) of the municipal waste treated in the EU was sent for incineration with energy recovery and a small part (0.4 %) for incineration without energy recovery, while almost one quarter (23.4 %) was landfilled.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_wasmun)

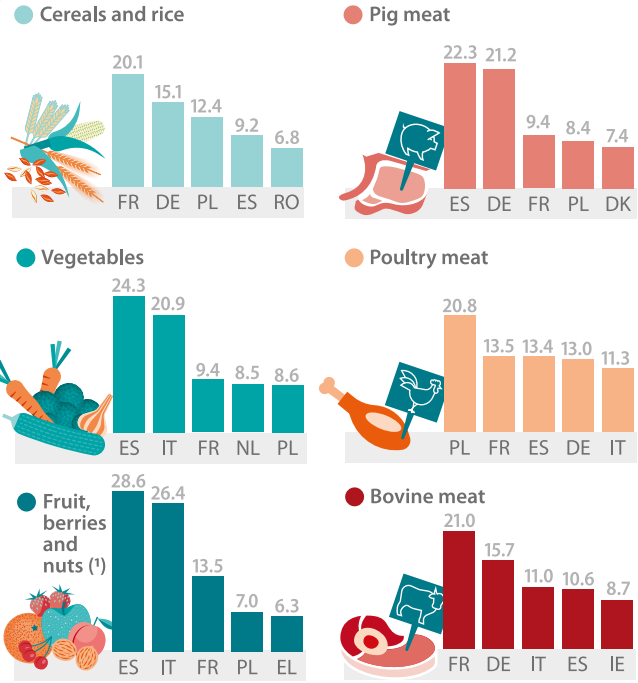




Agriculture

Top five EU Member States for the production of selected agricultural products

(%, share of EU total, 2021)



Note: milk, cereals and rice, and fruits, berries and nuts, 2020. EU estimates for poultry meat based on available data (excluding EE, NL and AT).
(1) All types of fruit and berries are covered, including strawberries, grapes and citrus fruit.

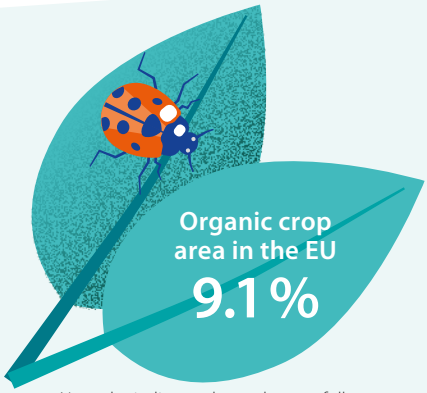
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mk_farm, apro_cpnh1 and apro_mt_pann)

Agricultural products are a major part of the EU's regional and cultural identity. In 2020, there were 286.5 million tonnes of cereals and rice harvested in the EU, France accounting for the largest share (20.1 %). In a similar vein, some 160.1 million tonnes of raw milk were available on EU farms, with Germany recording the highest share (20.7 %). There were 63.9 million tonnes of fruit, berries and nuts harvested in the EU, with Spain recording the highest share (28.6 %); these figures include all types of fruit, including those used for the production of beverages. In 2021, a total of 65.6 million tonnes of vegetables were harvested in the EU, with Spain accounting for the highest share (24.3 %).

Organic crop area

(%, share of utilised agricultural area, 2020)

In 2020, the total area available for organic crops across the EU was estimated to be 14.7 million hectares (excluding kitchen gardens); this figure includes areas that were fully converted as well as areas under conversion. Organic crop farming accounted for 9.1 % of the EU's total utilised agricultural area in 2020. This share ranged from highs of 25.3 % in Austria (2019 data), 22.4 % in Estonia and 20.3 % in Sweden, down to less than 3.0 % in Bulgaria and Ireland, with a low of 0.6 % in Malta.



Note: the indicator shows the area fully converted or under conversion to organic farming as a share of the utilised agricultural area (excluding kitchen gardens). AT: 2019.

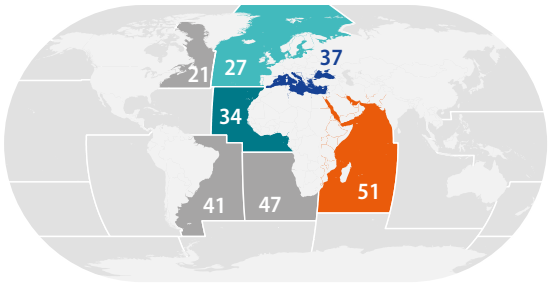
Source: Eurostat (online data code: org_cropar)

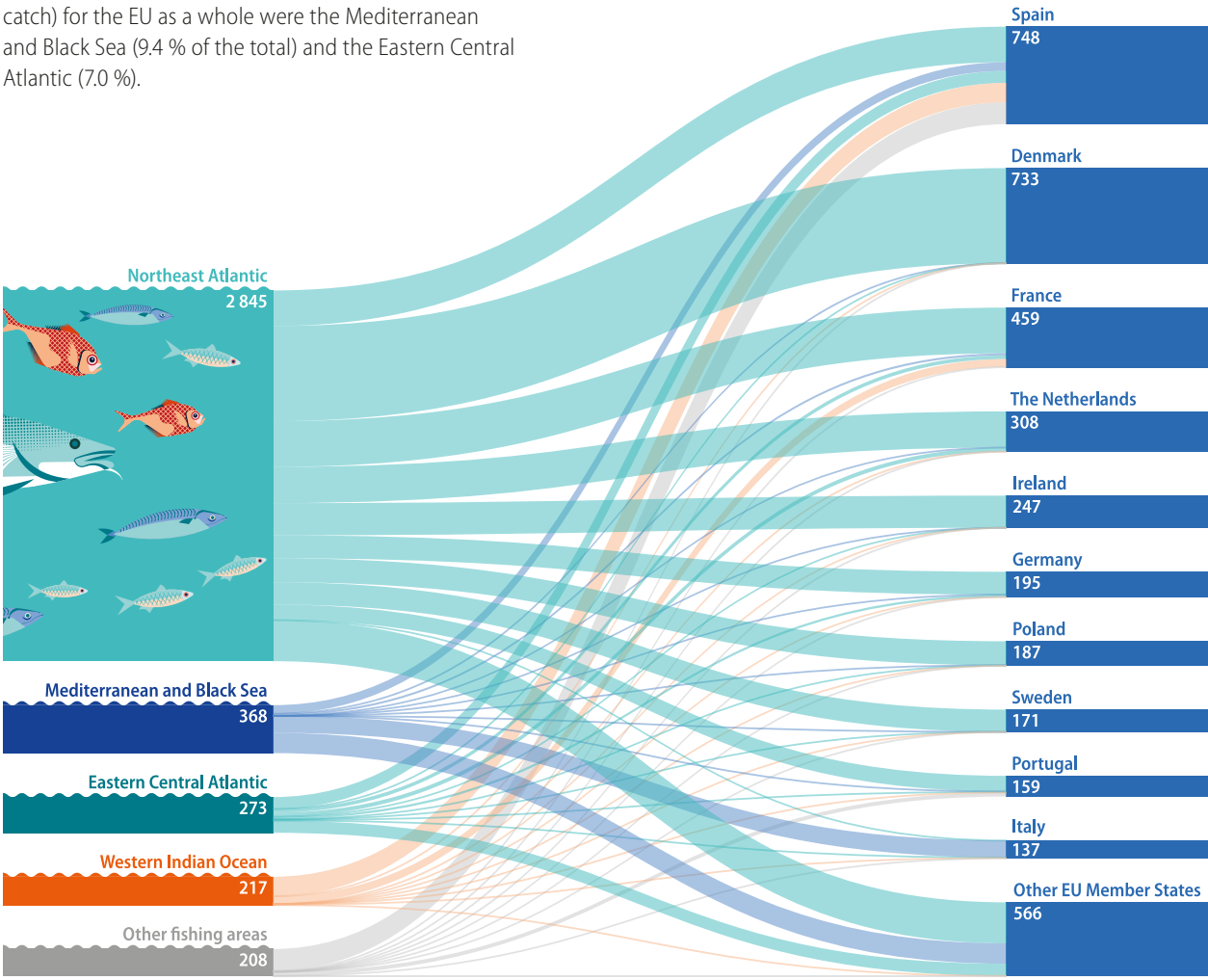
Fisheries

EU Member States with the largest fish catches

(1 000 tonnes live weight, main fishing areas, 2020)

Although the EU fishing fleet operates worldwide, almost three quarters (72.8 %) of its catch in 2020 was taken from the Northeast Atlantic. The largest fish catches in this area were recorded for Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Spain, with the most common species including herring, mackerel and sprats. The next largest fishing areas (by catch) for the EU as a whole were the Mediterranean and Black Sea (9.4 % of the total) and the Eastern Central Atlantic (7.0 %).





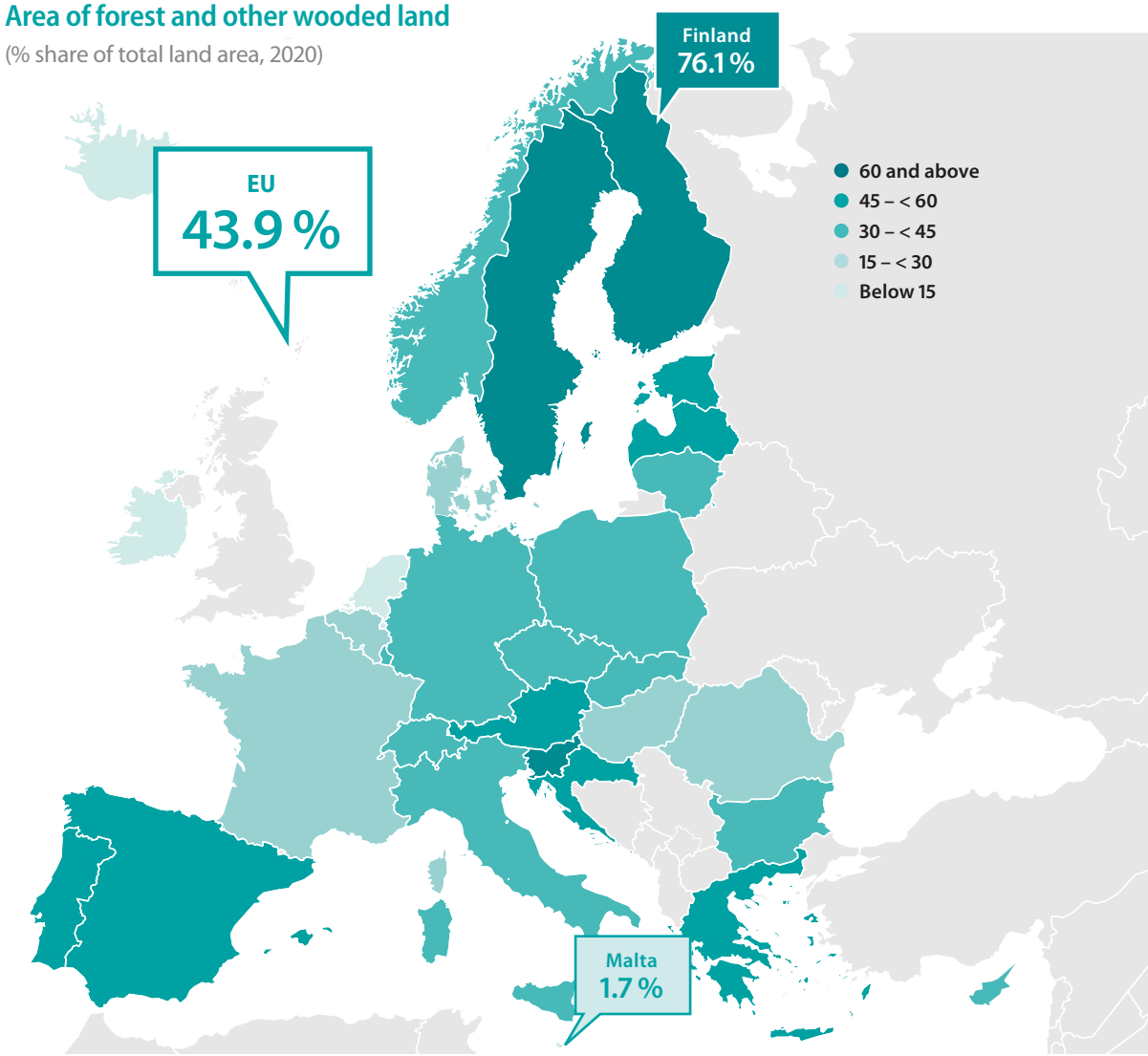
Note: CZ, LU, HU, AT and SK are landlocked. IE: 2017. EU totals by area include 2017 data for IE and 2016 data for LV.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main)

Forestry

Area of forest and other wooded land

(% share of total land area, 2020)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: for_area and reg_area3) and Food and Agriculture Organization

The EU has many different types of forests, reflecting its climatic diversity, soil types, altitude and topography. Forests provide an important renewable resource: they offer a habitat for animals and a livelihood for humans, while mitigating climate change and providing some protection from concerns such as soil erosion or surface run-off.

In 2020, there were 180 million hectares of forests and other wooded land covering 43.9 % of the EU's total land area. In absolute terms, Sweden (30.3 million hectares) and Spain (28.0 million hectares) had the largest areas of forest and other wooded land. In relative terms, the forests and other wooded land of Finland (76.1 %) and Sweden (74.5 %) covered the largest shares of land area; Malta was the only EU Member State to record a single-digit share (1.7 %) and also had the lowest area of forest and other wooded land (530 hectares).

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