

KEY FIGURES ON

EUROPEAN LIVING CONDITIONS

2023 EDITION





## List of countries

**BE** Belgium  
**BG** Bulgaria  
**CZ** Czechia  
**DK** Denmark  
**DE** Germany  
**EE** Estonia  
**IE** Ireland  
**EL** Greece

**ES** Spain  
**FR** France  
**HR** Croatia  
**IT** Italy  
**CY** Cyprus  
**LV** Latvia  
**LT** Lithuania  
**LU** Luxembourg

**HU** Hungary  
**MT** Malta  
**NL** Netherlands  
**AT** Austria  
**PL** Poland  
**PT** Portugal  
**RO** Romania  
**SL** Slovenia

**SK** Slovakia  
**FI** Finland  
**SE** Sweden  
**IS** Iceland  
**LI** Liechtenstein  
**NO** Norway  
**CH** Switzerland

**KEY FIGURES ON**

**EUROPEAN LIVING CONDITIONS**

**2023 EDITION**

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# Foreword



I am pleased to present the first edition of *Key figures on European living conditions*. This publication contains a selection of key indicators for the European Union (EU), its individual Member States and countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), taken from the rich collection of data available at Eurostat. Indicators on European living conditions are used both for the analysis of socio-economic phenomena, and for the conception and development of EU policies and targets, such as the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights. During the past few years, indicators for the most vulnerable groups in society have become a particularly relevant tool for monitoring social and material well-being in the face of disruptive global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or sustained high levels of inflation following the Russian military aggression against Ukraine.

*Key figures on European living conditions* provides intuitive visualisations and innovative data presentations supported by concise text.

The publication provides a comprehensive overview of living conditions in Europe.

- The first section analyses income distribution and inequality, shedding light on social and financial disparities across countries and focusing on the challenges that certain groups face in accessing necessities.
- The second section covers households' characteristics and the employment situation of household members. It also provides information on living arrangements and the impact of these factors on overall well-being.
- The last section analyses factors such as access to healthcare services, health and disability – also from a socio-economic perspective.

All of Eurostat's statistics on living conditions are publicly available on the Eurostat website.

I hope that you find this publication both interesting and useful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Wirtz".

**Christine Wirtz**  
Director of social statistics, Eurostat

## Abstract

*Key figures on European living conditions* presents a selection of statistical data on the European Union (EU). Most data cover the EU and its Member States as well as the EFTA countries. This publication may be viewed as an introduction to EU statistics on this topic 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*.

## Editors

Nina Jere, Annika Johansson, Helene Strandell and Dubravka Sušilović  
Eurostat, Unit B4 – Dissemination and user support

Estefania Alaminos Aguilera, Alessandro Albano and Sigita Geske  
Eurostat, Unit F4 – Income and living conditions; quality of life

## Contact details

Eurostat  
Bâtiment Joseph Bech  
5, rue Alphonse Weicker  
2721 Luxembourg  
E-mail: [estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu)

## Production

Data processing and drafting of text were done by Giovanni Albertone, Simon Allen and Andrew Redpath – INFORMA s.à r.l.

## Design and layout

Publications Office of the European Union, Graphic Design Department  
Graphic designer, Dale Jones – Ecorys

## 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.

You can find this publication online by scanning the QR code below:



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# Introduction

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

*Key figures on European living conditions* describes the living conditions of individuals and [households](#). The 2023 edition is the first edition of this publication. It describes the situation in the EU and the [European Free Trade Association](#) (EFTA) countries, with the most recent data generally for 2021 or 2022 (depending on the source). As a consequence, the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, high levels of inflation, and the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine may be seen for a variety of indicators.

## European Pillar of Social Rights

The [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) sets out 20 key principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. The [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#) is the [European Commission's](#) contribution to the implementation of the 20 principles. It proposes a series of initiatives to reach the objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights by 2030 with the aim to drive national policies and reforms. Specifically, the action plan sets three EU headline targets in the areas of employment, skills, and social protection, one of which relates to living conditions:

- the number of people [at risk of poverty or social exclusion](#) should be reduced (by 2030) by at least 15 million; at least 5 million should be children.

Progress towards this target is monitored through the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, published by Eurostat.



## Structure of the publication

*Key figures on European living conditions* 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](#) concerning living conditions.

*Key figures on European living conditions* 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:

- income and inequality (risk of poverty or social exclusion, [material and social deprivation](#), economic strain and [income inequality](#));
- households and [work intensity](#) (composition of households and the presence of children living with their parents, households with very low work intensity and in-work [risk of poverty](#));
- health and disability ([self-perceived health](#), [life expectancy](#), life satisfaction and [activity limitations](#)).

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 the middle of July 2023.

### Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (a sum/average covering the 27 current Member States of the EU) as well as the individual EU Member States and the four EFTA countries. The order of the

Member States and EFTA countries in the figures usually reflects their ranking according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

References in the publication to groupings of EU Member States are based on labels provided by [EU vocabularies](#).

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

## Codes and names of EU Member States and EFTA countries

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

## 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 exceptions from the common reference years. For some indicators, particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, large changes in 2020 and/or 2021 mean that earlier data may not be a good proxy for missing 2021 or 2022 data. Equally, methodological changes following a change in the legal basis for the statistics on income and living conditions may also have an impact on the comparability of data for different years.

## Notes and flags

Notes and flags are means of explaining and defining specific characteristics of particular data. This publication includes only the main notes required for interpretation of the data and to highlight when data for a year has been replaced with data for the most recent earlier year. Data that are not shown in individual figures may simply not be available, may not be reliable enough to be published or they may be confidential. A full set of notes and flags is available on Eurostat's website (see below) via the online data code(s) presented for each figure or map.

## Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to obtain Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through its [website](#). 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-EU countries).

Eurostat online data codes, such as *ilc\_pees01n*, allow easy access to the most recent data on Eurostat's [website](#). In this publication, these online data codes are given as part of the source below each figure or map.

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](#).

## Main data source

Most of the data in this publication are from the [statistics on income and living conditions](#) (EU-SILC).

- These statistics cover objective and subjective aspects of income, poverty, social exclusion, housing, labour, education and health.
- Variables are collected in monetary and non-monetary terms for households and for individuals.
- The statistical population consists of all persons living in [private households](#). Persons living in [collective households and in institutions](#) are generally excluded from the target population. Data are collected through sample surveys.
- The survey and dissemination of indicators have an annual frequency. The reference period for most survey variables and published indicators is the survey year. There are some exceptions such as:
  - income, which is the previous calendar or tax year from which an individual's activity status and the household's work intensity are also derived;
  - age, which is the age of the respondent at the end of the income reference period, from which the household type is also derived.
- It provides two types of annual data:
  - cross-sectional data relating to a moment or period of time;
  - longitudinal data relating to changes for individuals observed over a four- to six-year period.
- All EU Member States produce statistics on income and living conditions in accordance with EU legislation. Indicators for the EU are computed as population-weighted averages of national indicators.

# 1

## Income and inequality

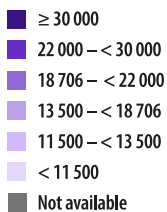


# Income distribution and inequality

## Median equivalised disposable income

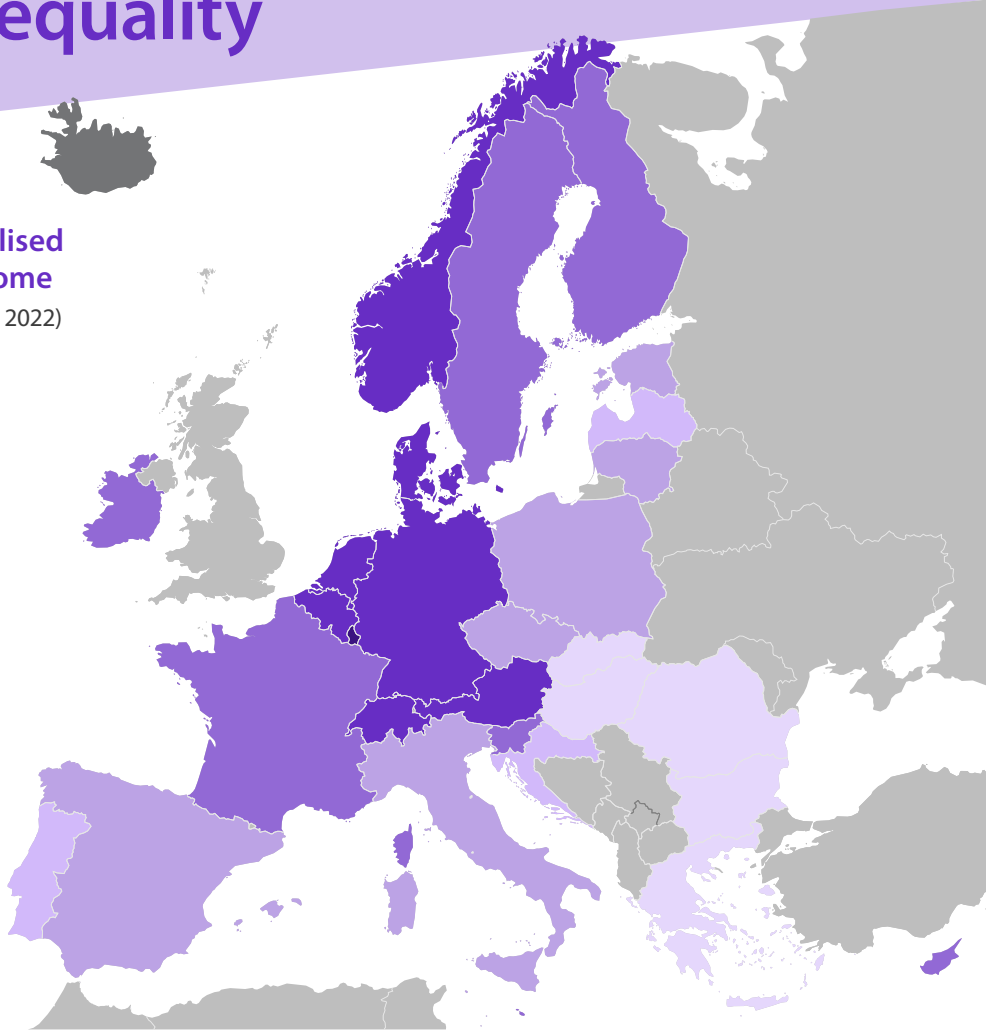
(PPS per inhabitant, 2022)

EU  
18 706  
PPS



Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_di03](#))



The equivalised disposable income is the total net income of all household members divided by the weighted number of household members. The level of income is expressed in purchasing power standards (PPS) which is a unit that takes account of price-level differences between countries. The median income of a population is the income level at which half of the population have a higher income and the other half a lower income.

In 2022, the median annual disposable income was 18 706 PPS per inhabitant for the EU. It varied considerably across the EU Member States. The highest levels were reported by western and Nordic Member States and the lowest levels by southern eastern and Baltic Member States. Values ranged from 9 671 PPS per inhabitant in Bulgaria to 25 437 PPS per inhabitant in the Netherlands and 33 214 PPS per inhabitant in Luxembourg.

## Income quintile share ratio, by age

(2022)

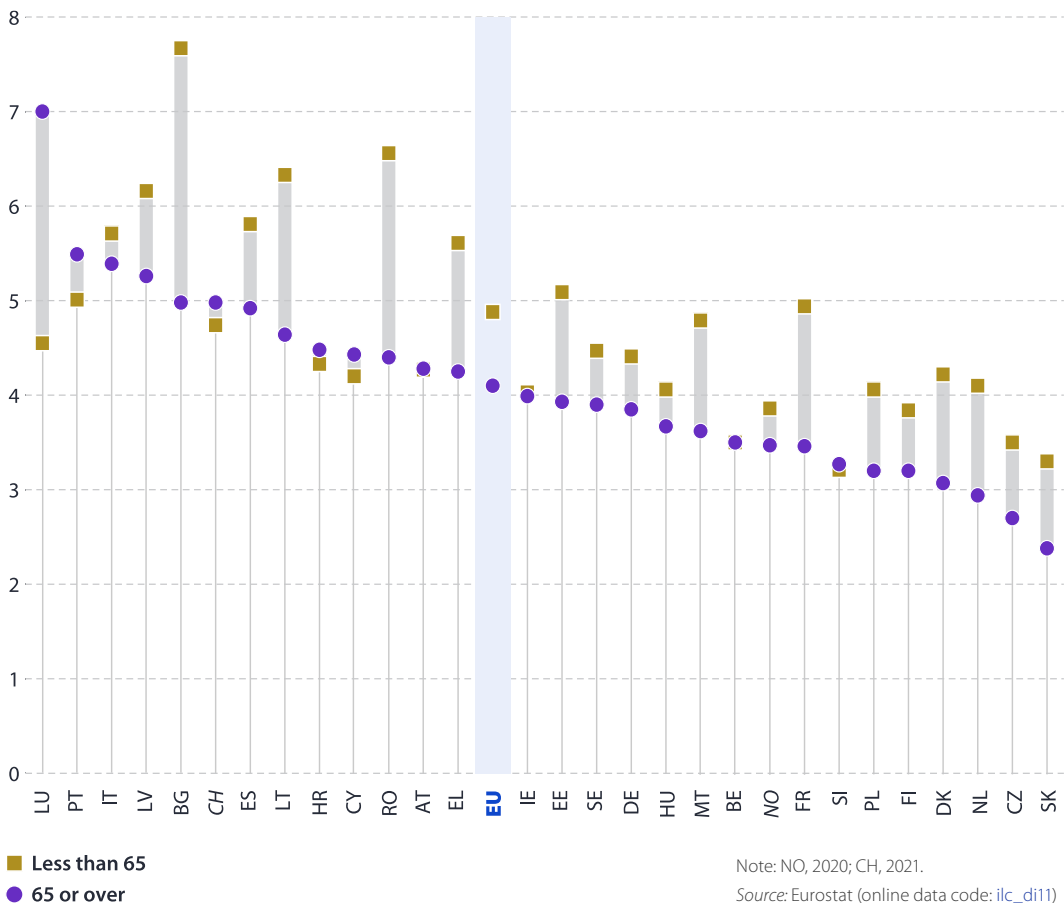


Income inequality can be measured by the **income quintile share ratio (S80/S20)**, which compares the income received by the 20 % of the population with the highest income (top quintile) with the income received by the 20 % of the population with the lowest income (bottom quintile). High values for this ratio reveal considerable disparities in the distribution of income between the highest and lowest income groups.

In 2022, the income quintile share ratio for the EU was 4.7, showing that, on average, the highest income group received 4.7 times as much income as that received by the 20 % of the population with the lowest income.

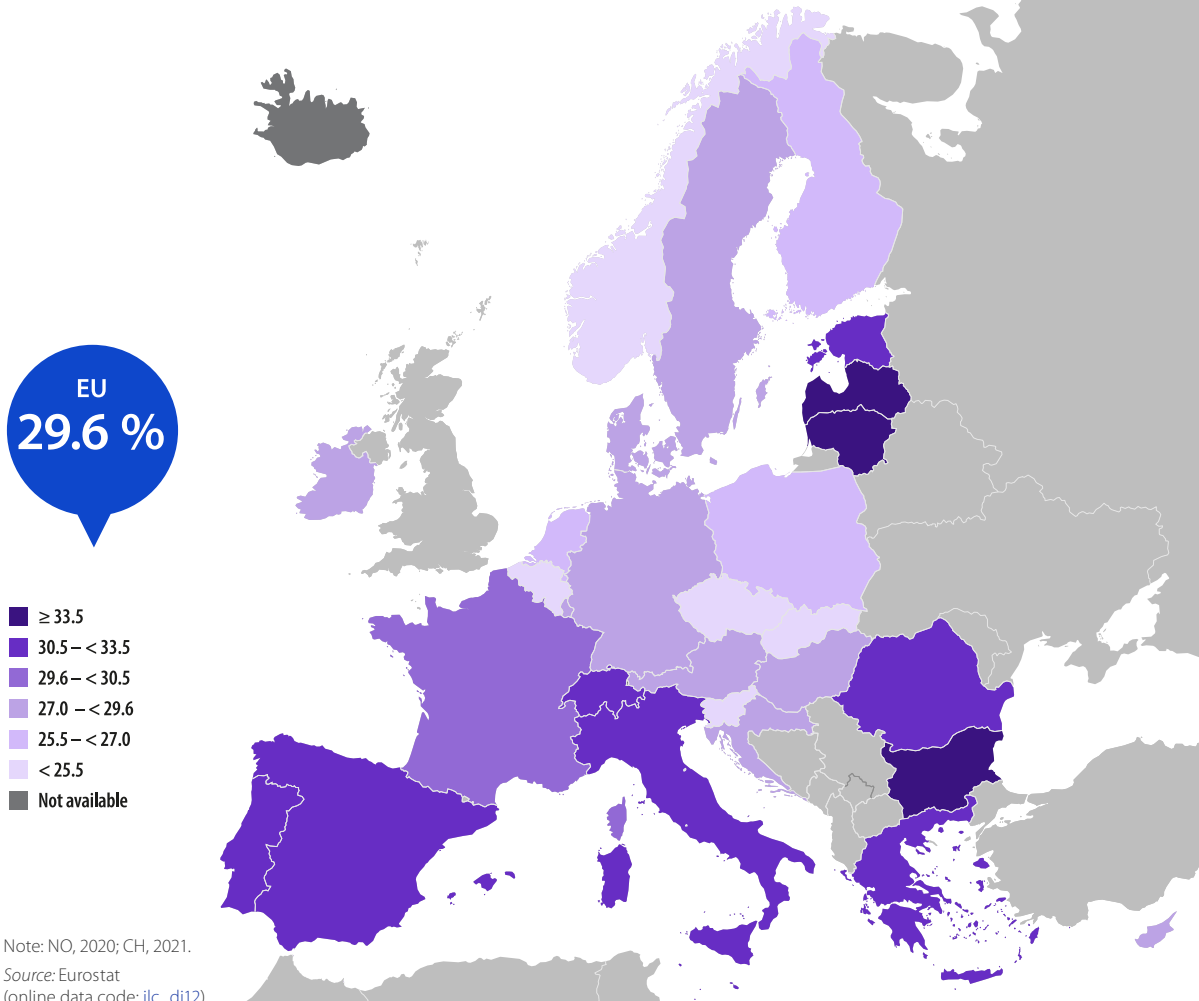
The income quintile share ratio in 2022 ranged from 3.1 in Slovakia to 6.0 in Romania, 6.3 in Latvia, 6.4 in Lithuania and 7.3 in Bulgaria.

For the EU, the ratio for the population aged 65 or over was 4.1, while for people aged less than 65 it was 4.9. In other words, there was a greater disparity in the income distribution for people aged less than 65. In the majority of EU Member States, the ratio was higher for people aged less than 65 than for those aged 65 or over.



## Gini coefficient for equivalised disposable income per inhabitant

(%, 2022)



The Gini coefficient gives the extent to which the distribution of income within a country deviates from an equal distribution. A Gini value of 100 % means that only one person receives all the income in the country, while a Gini value of 0 % means that income is distributed equally across the whole population.

In 2022, the Gini coefficient for the EU was 29.6 %. The highest income disparities among the EU Member States according to this indicator were recorded in Bulgaria (38.4 %), Lithuania (36.2 %) and Latvia (34.3 %). Income was most evenly distributed in Belgium (24.9 %), Czechia (24.8 %), Slovenia (23.1 %) and Slovakia (21.2 %).

**More information:**  
[income distribution and inequality methodology and data.](#)

# People at risk of poverty and social exclusion

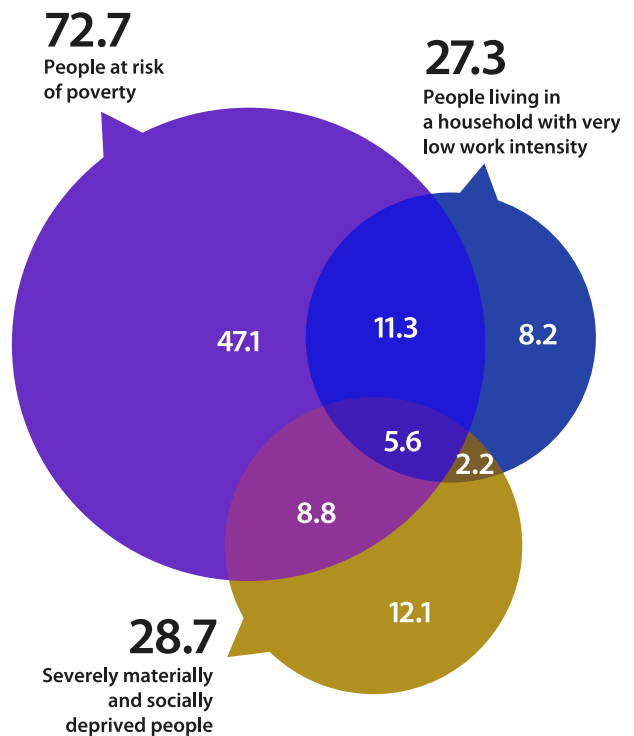


To calculate the number or share of people who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion three separate measures are combined. Included are people who are in at least one of these three situations:

- Persons who are at risk of poverty, in other words, with an equivalised disposable income that is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers.
- Persons who experience severe material and social deprivation, in other words, those who cannot afford at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items that are considered by most people to be desirable or even necessary to lead an adequate quality of life. Six of these items relate to individuals and seven to households.
- Persons (aged less than 65 years) living in a household with very low work intensity, in other words, those living in households where adults worked for 20 % or less of their combined work-time potential during the previous 12 months.

## Number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by type of risk

(million, EU, 2022)

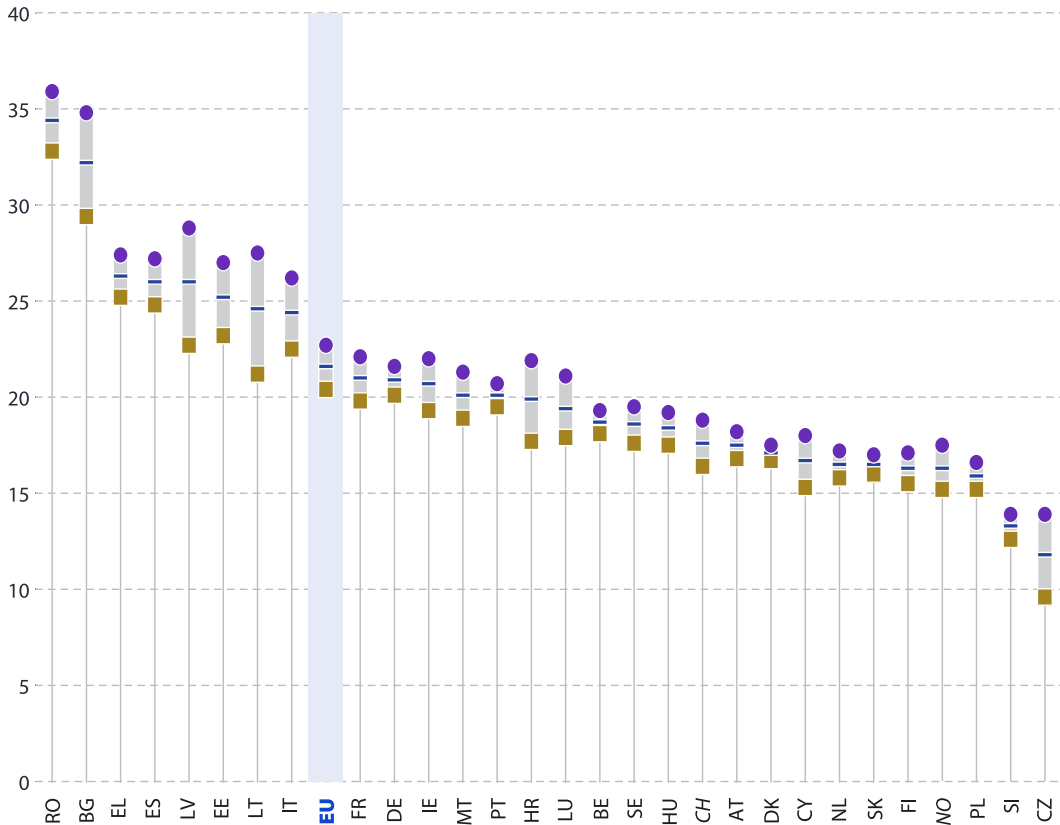
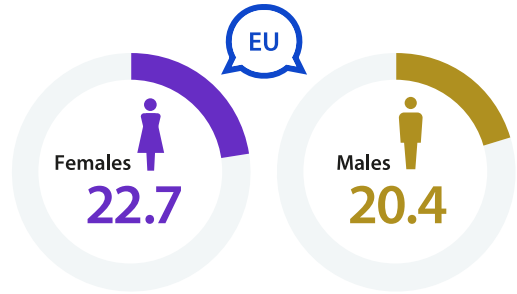


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc\\_pees01n](#))

The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU in 2022 was 95.3 million, down almost 300 000 from 2021. Some 72.7 million people were at risk of poverty, the most common of the three situations. Looking at the intersection of all three conditions, 5.6 million people simultaneously faced all three situations: in other words, they were at risk of poverty, experiencing severe material and social deprivation, and living in a household with very low work intensity.

### Share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by sex

(%, 2022)



- Females
- Both sexes
- Males

In relative terms, 21.6 % of the population in the EU was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022. This share was slightly higher for females (22.7 %) than for males (20.4 %).

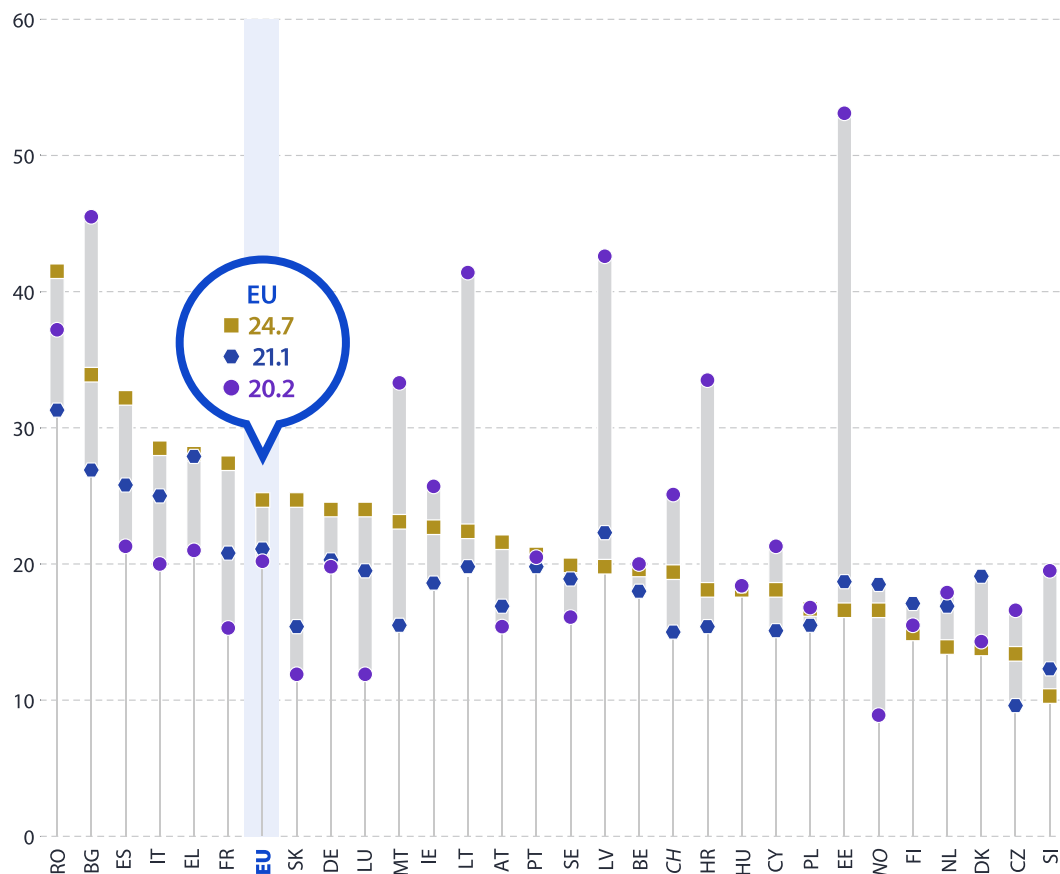
Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.  
 Source: Eurostat  
 (online data code: [ilc\\_pees01n](#))

Among the EU Member States, the highest shares of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022 were recorded in Romania (34.4 %) and Bulgaria (32.2 %), while the lowest shares were in Slovenia (13.3 %) and Czechia (11.8 %). In every Member State, the share was higher for females than for males, with the widest gender differences in [percentage point](#) terms in Lithuania and Latvia (both over 6.0 percentage points difference) and the narrowest in Denmark (0.8 percentage points).



## Share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by age

(%, 2022)



- Less than 18
- 18-64
- 65 or over

Considering three age groups – children (people aged less than 18), adults of working age (18 to 64 years) and older people (aged 65 or over) – the risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU in 2022 was highest among children and lowest among older people.

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_pees01n](#))

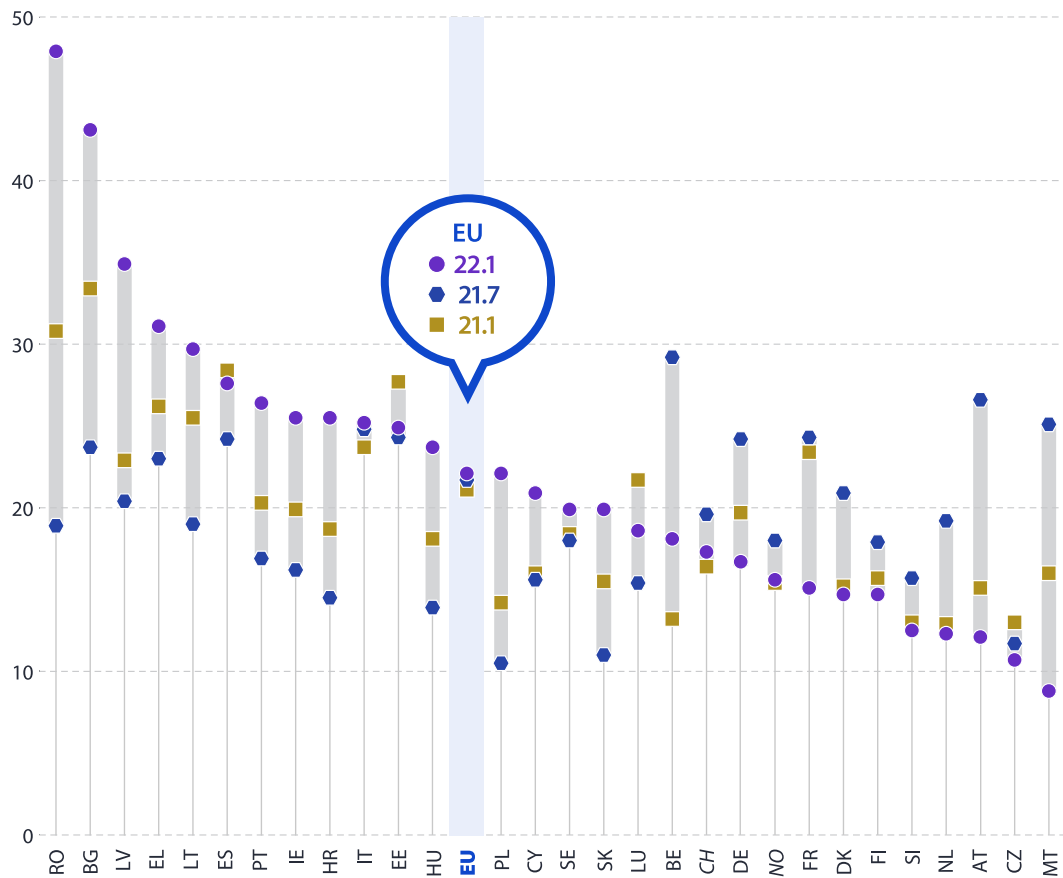
In 11 EU Member States, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022 was highest for children. In Slovakia, France and Spain, the share for children was more than 6.0 percentage points higher than the next highest share of the other two age groups.

In Finland and Denmark, the highest risk of poverty or social exclusion was among adults of working age. Hungary recorded the same shares for adults of working age and for older people, both slightly higher than for children.

In 13 Member States, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion was highest for older people.

## Share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by degree of urbanisation

(%, 2022)



- Rural areas
- Cities
- Towns and suburbs

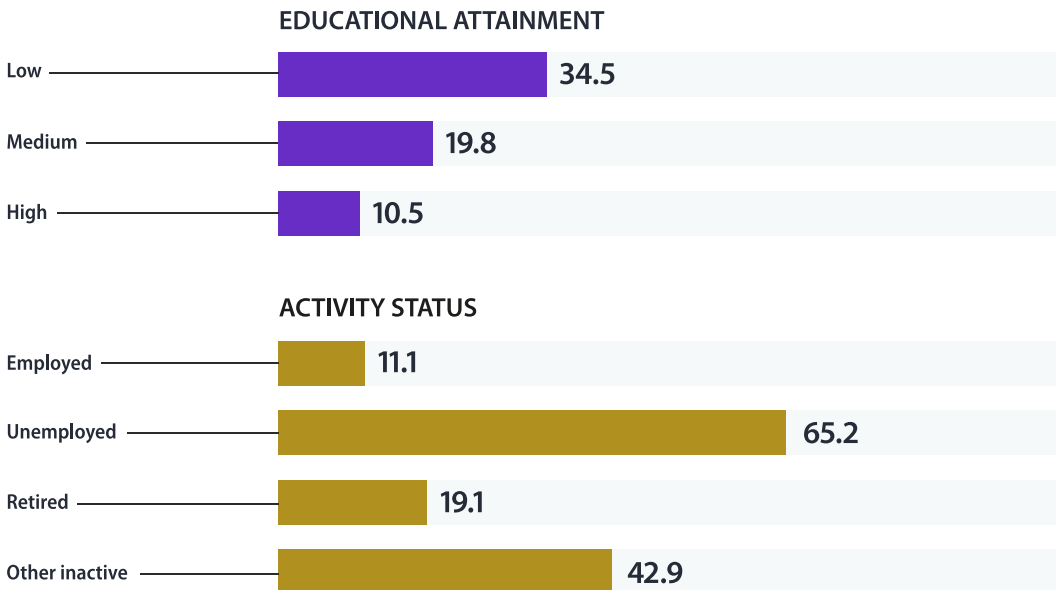
The [degree of urbanisation](#) classification distinguishes cities, towns and suburbs, and rural areas. In 2022, the risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU was highest in rural areas (22.1 %) and lowest in towns and suburbs (21.1 %).

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.  
 Source: Eurostat  
 (online data code: [ilc\\_peps13n](#))

Differences in the risk of poverty or social exclusion between the three degrees of urbanisation were considerably bigger across the EU Member States. There were nine Member States where the differences between the risk of poverty or social exclusion across the three degrees of urbanisation were more than 10.0 points. The widest ranges were in Bulgaria (19.4 points) and Romania (29.0 points), both with their highest shares of risk of poverty or social exclusion in rural areas and their lowest shares in cities. Three Member States recorded relatively wide ranges with cities recording the highest share: Malta and Austria, where rural areas had the lowest shares, and Belgium, where towns and suburbs had the lowest share.

## Share of people aged 18 or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by educational attainment and activity status

(%, EU, 2022)



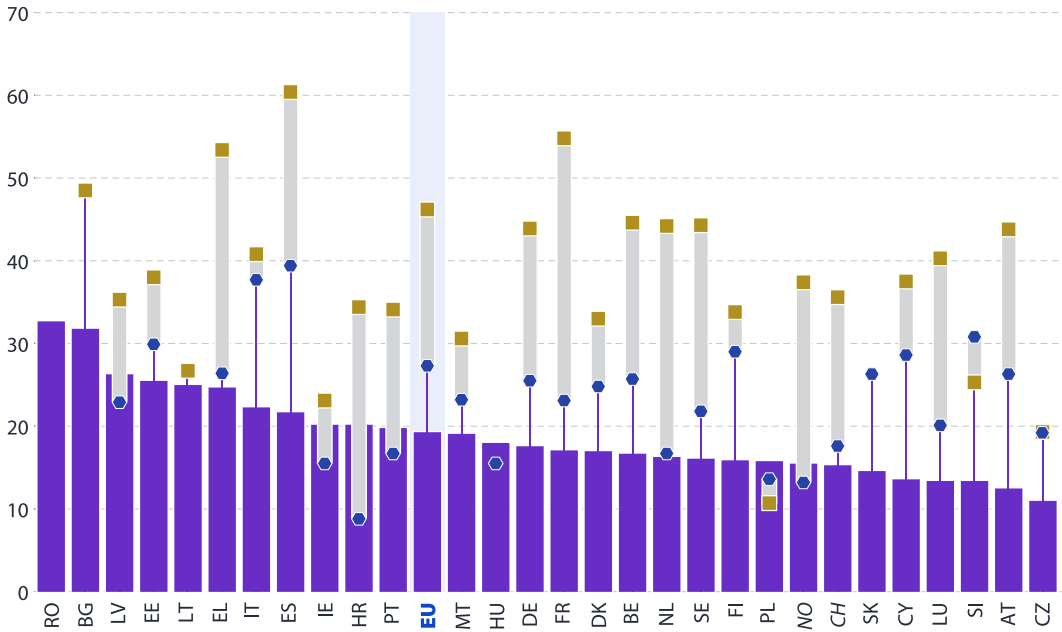
Source: Eurostat  
(online data codes: [ilc\\_peps04n](#)  
and [ilc\\_peps02n](#))

In 2022, more than one third (34.5 %) of adults (persons aged 18 or over) in the EU with a low level of [educational attainment](#) (no more than lower secondary education) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. By contrast, the share was around one tenth (10.5 %) for people with a high level of education (having completed at least one level of tertiary education).

With respect to activity status, by far the highest share of adults in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022 were unemployed persons (65.2 %), followed by other economically inactive persons (such as carers; 42.9 %). By comparison, just under one fifth (19.1 %) of retired people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion as were just over one tenth (11.1 %) of employed persons.

## Share of people aged 18 or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by citizenship

(%, 2022)



- Non-EU citizens
- EU citizens (other than nationals)
- Nationals

Across the EU as a whole, nearly one fifth (19.3 %) of adults aged 18 or over who were nationals of the EU Member State where they lived were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The shares were considerably higher for EU citizens living in another Member State (27.3 %) and non-EU citizens (46.2 %).

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021. BG, LT and RO: EU citizens not available. HU, RO and SK: non-EU citizens not available. HR, LV, HU, PL and SK: low reliability for EU citizens. BG and HR: low reliability for non-EU citizens.

Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_peps05n](#))

Among the EU Member States, Poland was the only one where the share of adults who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion was higher for nationals than for non-EU citizens. Poland was also one of only six Member States where the share for nationals was higher than for citizens of other EU Member States: the others were Ireland, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary and Portugal.



**More information:**

[the risk of poverty and social exclusion methodology](#),  
[data on poverty and social exclusion](#), [data on income and living conditions in urban and rural Europe](#) and [data on the risk of poverty and social exclusion among migrant populations](#).

# Severe material and social deprivation

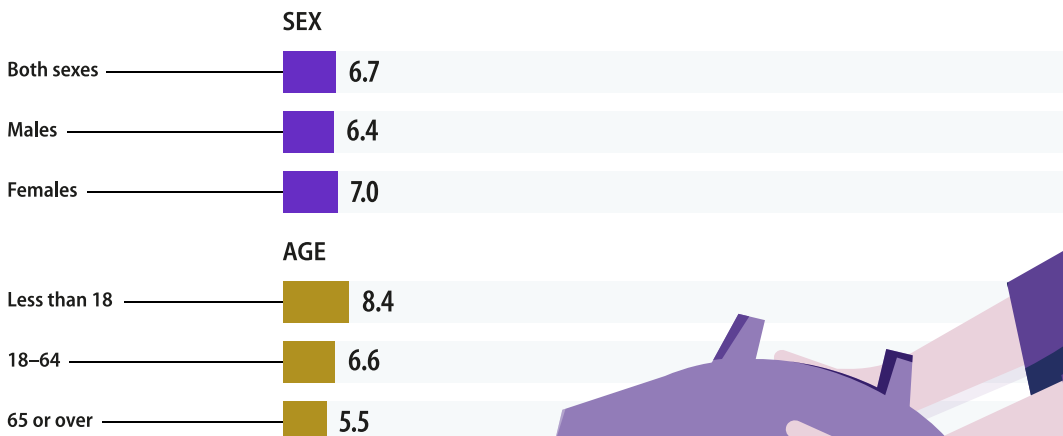


The severe material and social deprivation rate is the share of people who cannot afford at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items that are considered by most people to be desirable or even necessary to lead an adequate quality of life. The items are classified into two groups – items at household level (such as capacity to face unexpected expenses or ability to keep home adequately warm) and items at individual level (such as having regular leisure activities or having an internet connection).

## Severe material and social deprivation rate, by sex and age

(%, EU, 2022)

In 2022, the severe material and social deprivation rate in the EU was 6.7 %, up from 6.3 % in 2021. This rate was slightly higher for females (7.0 %) than for males (6.4 %). Considering three broad age groups, the rate was highest for children (aged less than 18; 8.4 %), followed by adults of working-age (aged 18 to 64; 6.6 %) and lowest for older people (aged 65 or over; 5.5 %).

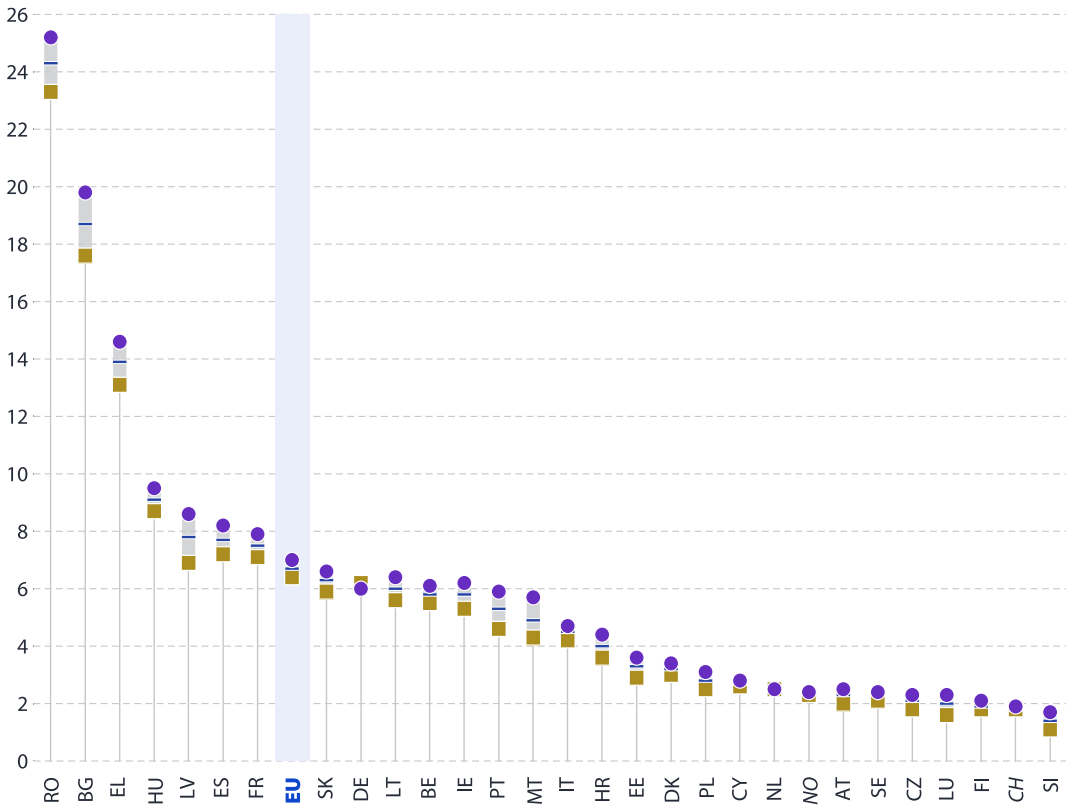
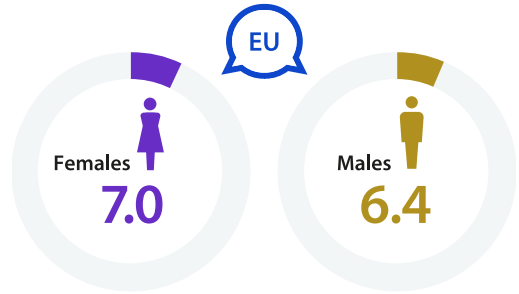


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc\\_mdspd11](#))



### Severe material and social deprivation rate, by sex

(%, 2022)



- Females
- Both sexes
- Males

Among the EU Member States, Romania (24.3 %), Bulgaria (18.7 %) and Greece (13.9 %) recorded severe material and social deprivation rates that were notably higher than elsewhere. The lowest rate was 1.4 % in Slovenia. The rate for the EU was 6.7 %.

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.  
 Source: Eurostat  
 (online data code: [ilc\\_mdspd11](#))

In all but two EU Member States, the severe material and social deprivation rate was higher for females than for males. In Germany, the rate for males (6.2 %) was somewhat higher than the rate for females (6.0 %) and in the Netherlands severe material and social deprivation rates for males and females were the same. In absolute terms, the largest gender differences were observed in Member States with high overall rates, such as Bulgaria and Romania. In relative terms, the largest gender differences were observed in Slovenia, Luxembourg and Malta.

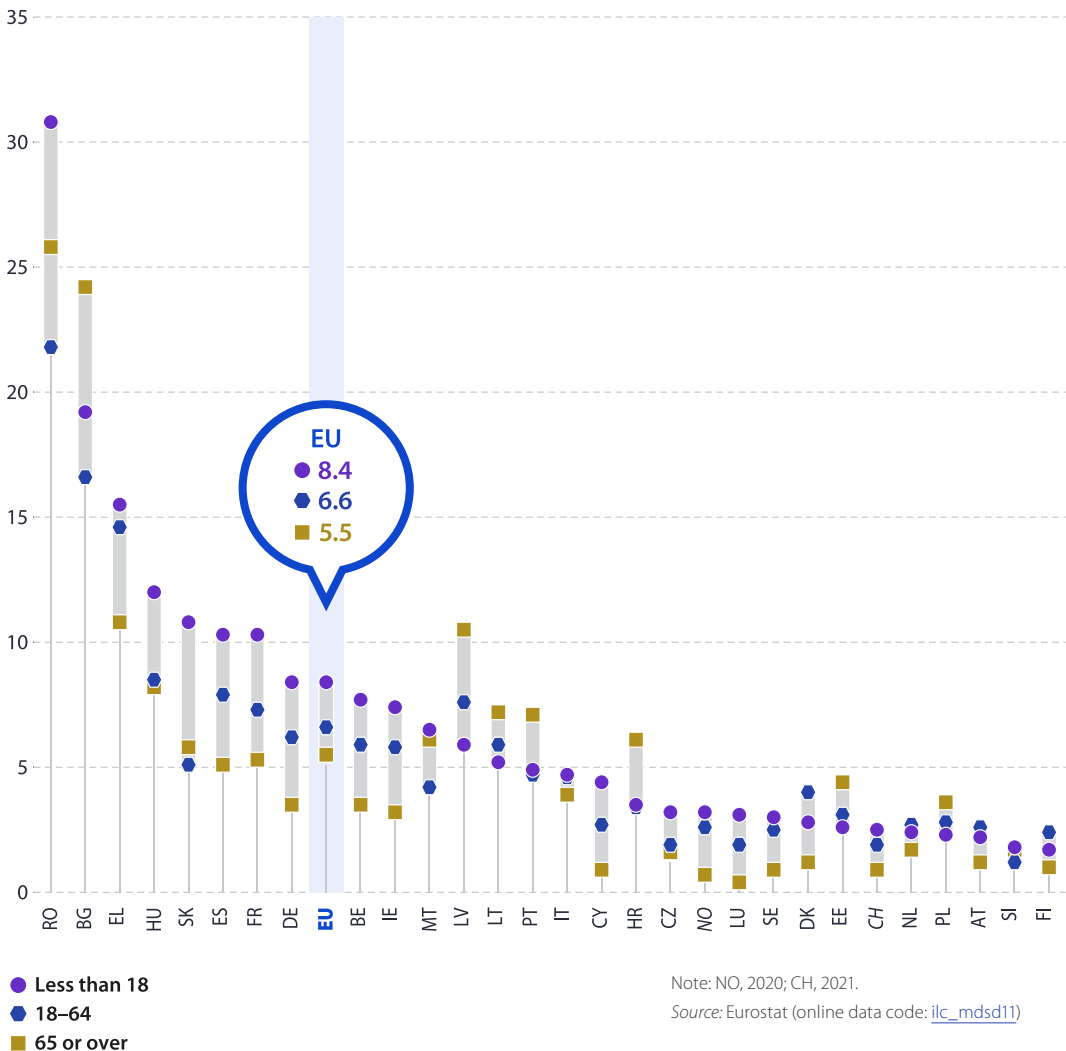
## Severe material and social deprivation rate, by age

(%, 2022)

Across age groups, the severe material and social deprivation rate was highest in 2022 for children (persons aged under 18) in 16 EU Member States. The widest percentage point gaps to the next highest rate (for one of the other age groups) were in Slovakia and Romania.

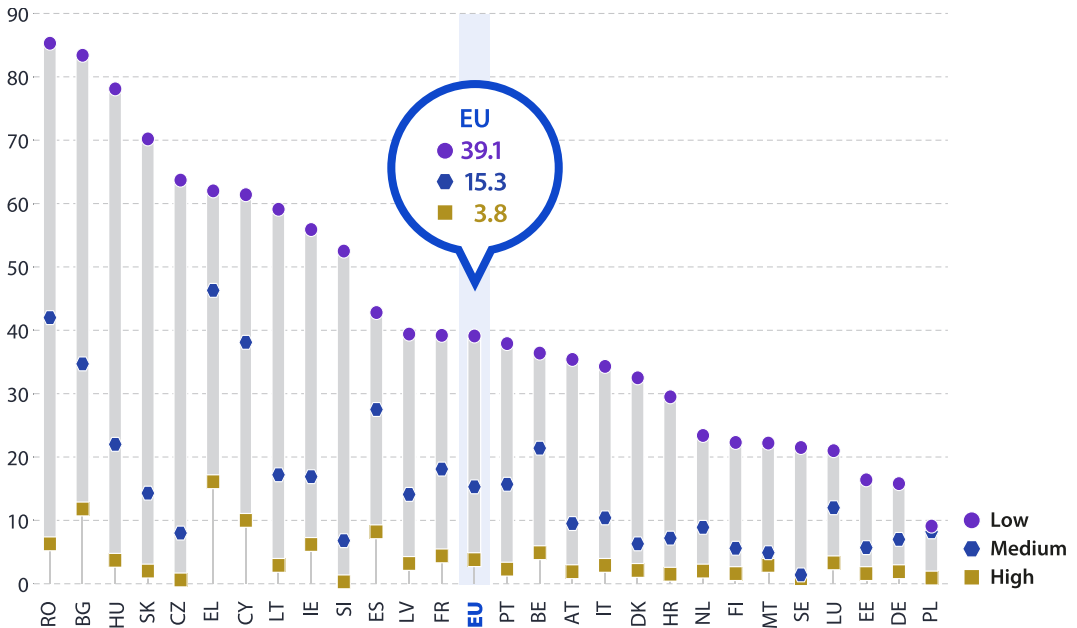
In seven Member States, the highest rate in 2022 was among persons older than 65. The rate for persons older than 65 in Bulgaria was notably higher than for the rates in the two other age groups.

In four Member States – Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria and Finland – the rate was highest in 2022 for adults of working age (18 to 64). Romania (21.8%), Bulgaria (16.6%) and Greece (14.6%) all recorded severe material and social deprivation rates for adults of working age that were above 10.0%.



## Severe material and social deprivation rate of children aged less than 16, by the highest level of education attained by their parents

(%, 2021)



Note: SI, low reliability for low level of education.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc\\_chmd03](#))



**The child-specific material deprivation rate is the share of children aged less than 16 who lack at least 3 out of 17 items for affordability reasons (and not by choice or due to any other reasons). The items are classified into two groups – items at child level (such as some new clothes or fresh fruit and vegetables daily) and items at household level (such as being able to replace worn-out furniture or owning a car).**

The child-specific material deprivation rate (for children aged less than 16) in the EU is linked to the highest level of educational attainment of (either of) their parents: the higher the educational level of their parents, the lower the child-specific material deprivation rate. In 2022, this pattern was observed for the EU as a whole and for every EU Member State.

For children whose parents had a low level of educational attainment, the child-specific material deprivation rate in the EU was 39.1 % compared with 3.8 % for those whose parents had a high level of educational attainment.

Among the EU Member States, the widest ranges in absolute terms between the rates in 2022 depending on the level of parents' educational attainment were in Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Czechia; the narrowest range was in Poland.

**More information:**

**[material deprivation methodology, data on material deprivation and economic strain and data on material deprivation of children.](#)**

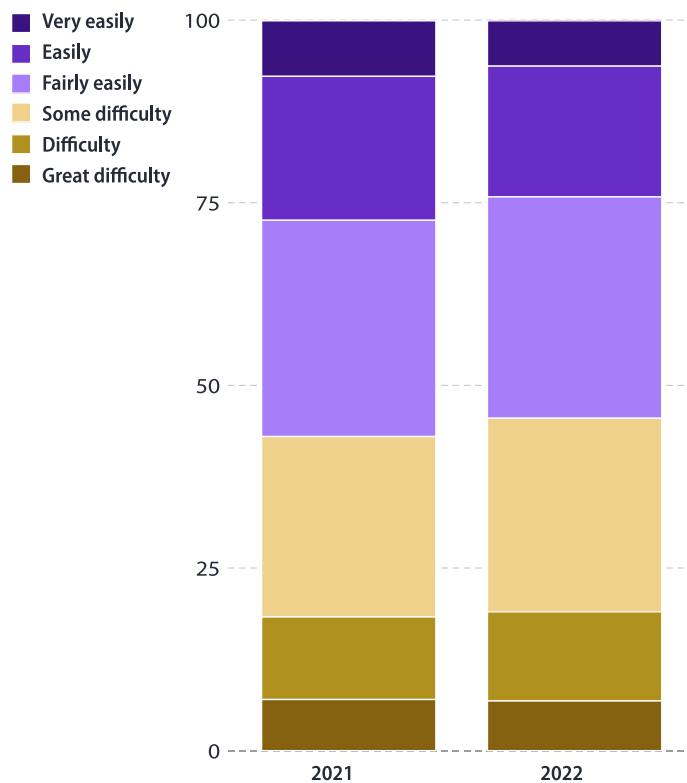


# Economic strain

## Ability of households to make ends meet

(%, EU, 2021 and 2022)

Between 2021 and 2022, the proportion of households able to make ends meet very easily or easily decreased, from 27.3 % collectively to 24.1 %. At the other end of the range, the proportion of households experiencing great difficulty to make ends meet decreased slightly, from 7.0 % to 6.8 %. Between these ends of the spectrum, the share of households making ends meet fairly easily increased from 29.6 % to 30.3 % while the share making ends meet with some difficulty and with difficulty collectively increased from 36.0 % to 38.7 %.

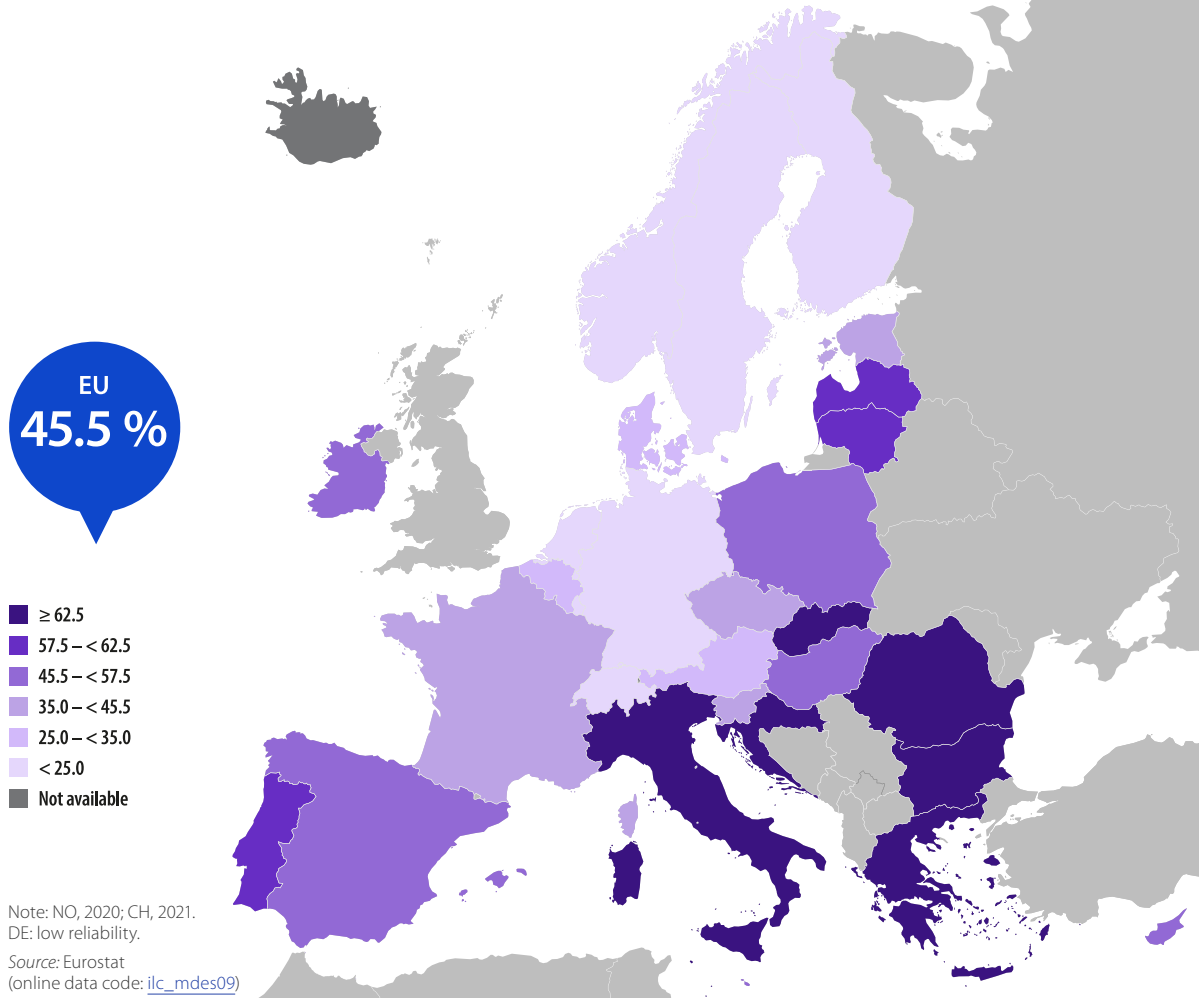


Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_mdcs09](#))



## Share of households with at least some difficulty to make ends meet

(%, 2022)



Aggregating the six steps of the ability to make ends meet into two groups, 45.5 % of households in the EU had at least some difficulty making ends meet in 2022. Consequently, 54.5 % could make ends meet with at least some ease.

The share of households having at least some difficulty making ends meet in 2022 ranged from less than one quarter in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and Luxembourg to 80.3 % in Bulgaria and 89.6 % in Greece.

## Share of people living in households unable to keep their home adequately warm

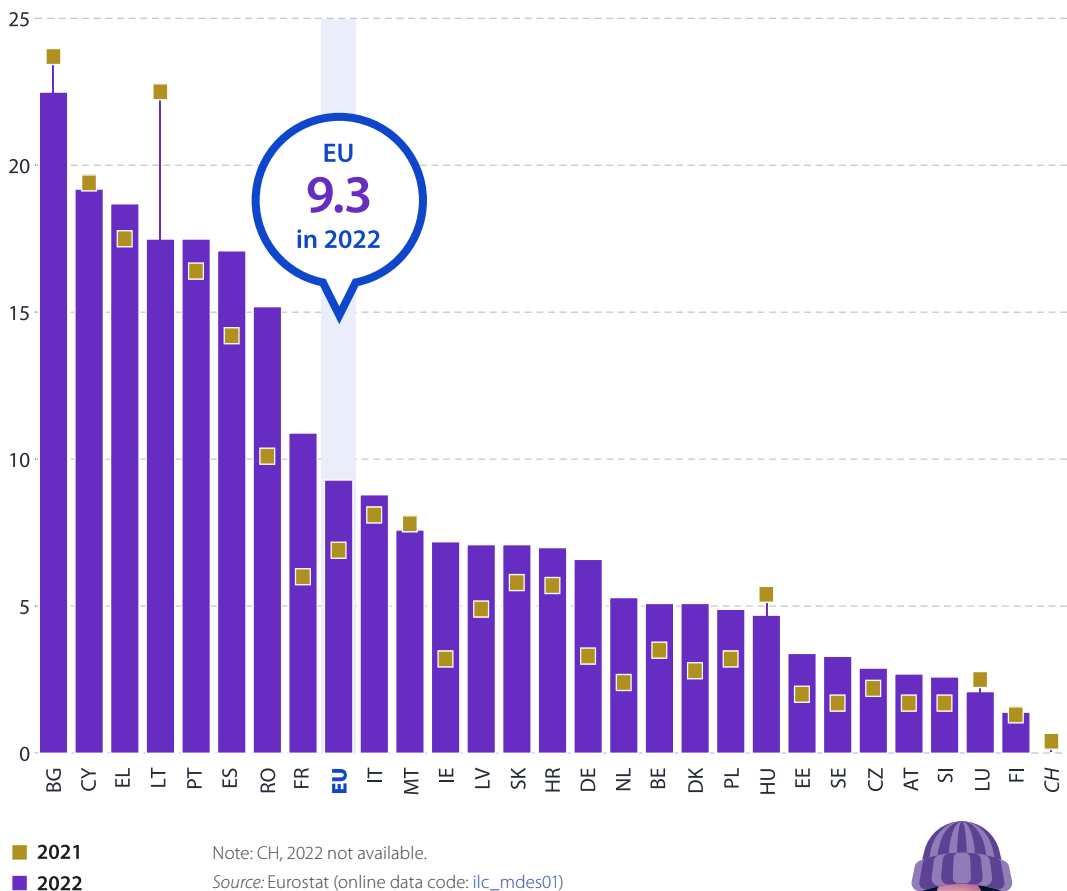
(%, 2021 and 2022)



The ability to keep a home adequately warm depends on a number of factors, including the general condition of the building, the outside temperature and the cost of energy.

In 2022, 9.3 % of people in the EU could not afford to keep their home adequately warm, up from 6.9 % in 2021. Among the EU Member States, this share ranged from 1.4 % in Finland to 22.5 % in Bulgaria.

In 21 of the EU Member States, the share of people who could not afford to keep their home adequately warm increased between 2021 and 2022. The largest increases were in Romania and France, up 5.1 and 4.9 percentage points, respectively. By contrast, this share fell between 2021 and 2022 in Cyprus, Malta, Luxembourg, Hungary, Bulgaria and Lithuania.



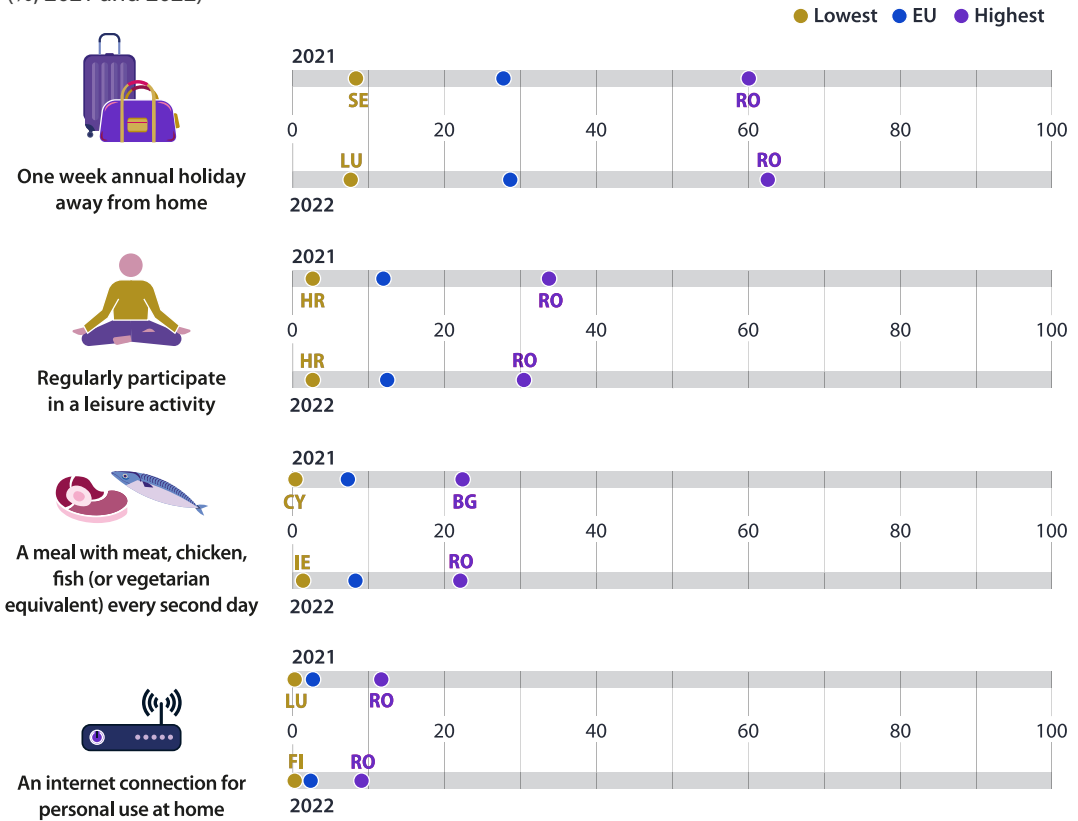
### More information:

[economic strain methodology](#), [data on material deprivation and economic strain](#) and [data on housing](#).



## Share of people unable to pay for selected items

(%, 2021 and 2022)



Note: for each expenditure item, the figure shows the share for the EU average as well as for the EU Member States with the lowest and highest shares.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc\\_mdcs02](#), [ilc\\_mdcs11a](#), [ilc\\_mdcs03](#) and [ilc\\_mddu07a](#))



The inability to afford particular goods or services can be used as a measure of absolute poverty. These indicators focus on affordability, not whether someone chooses not to purchase the good or service for any other reason.

In 2022, 28.6 % of people in the EU were unable to afford a week of holiday away from home each year, up from 27.7 % in 2021. Among the EU Member States, this share was lowest in 2022 in Luxembourg (7.6 %) and highest in Romania (62.5 %).

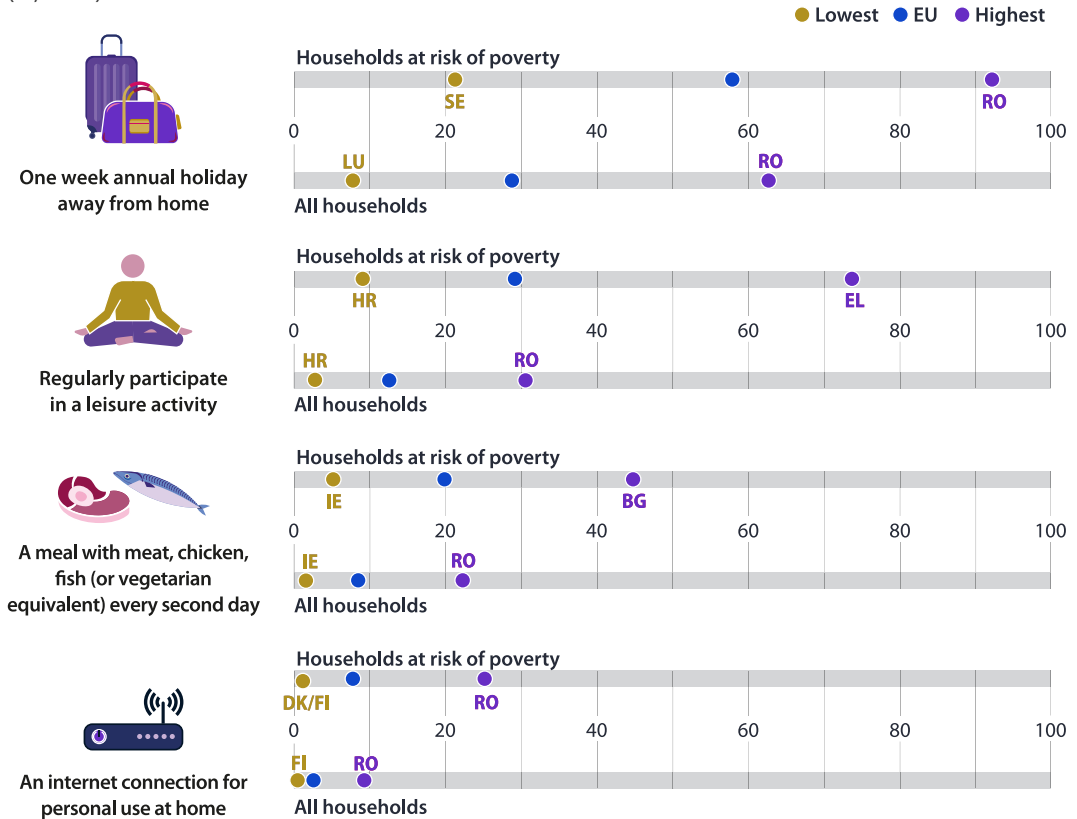
In 2022, 12.4 % of people in the EU were unable to afford to participate regularly in a leisure activity, up from 11.9 % in 2021. Among the EU Member States, this share was lowest in 2022 in Croatia (2.6 %) and highest in Romania (30.4 %).

In 2022, 8.3 % of people in the EU were unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day, up from 7.3 % in 2021. Among the EU Member States, this share was lowest in 2022 in Ireland (1.4 %) and highest in Romania (22.1 %).

In 2022, 2.4 % of people in the EU were unable to afford an internet connection for personal use at home, down from 2.7 % in 2021. Among the EU Member States, this share was lowest in 2022 in Finland (0.3 %) and highest in Romania (9.1 %).

## Share of people unable to pay for selected items, by risk of poverty

(%, 2022)



Note: for each expenditure item, the figure shows the share for the EU average as well as for the EU Member States with the lowest and highest shares.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ilc\\_mdcs02](#), [ilc\\_mdcs11a](#), [ilc\\_mdcs03](#) and [ilc\\_mdcs07a](#))

Unsurprisingly, the shares of people in the EU who were unable to afford various goods and services in 2022 was higher among households that were at risk of poverty:

- 57.7 % of people living in households at risk of poverty were unable to afford a week of holiday away from home each year, approximately double the 28.6 % share for all households;
- 29.0 % of people living in households at risk of poverty were unable to afford to participate regularly in a leisure activity, more than double the 12.4 % share for all households;
- 19.7 % of people living in households at risk of poverty were unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day, more than double the 8.3 % share for all households;
- 7.6 % of people living in households at risk of poverty were unable to afford an internet connection for personal use at home, more than three times the 2.4 % share for all households.

## Household budget structure

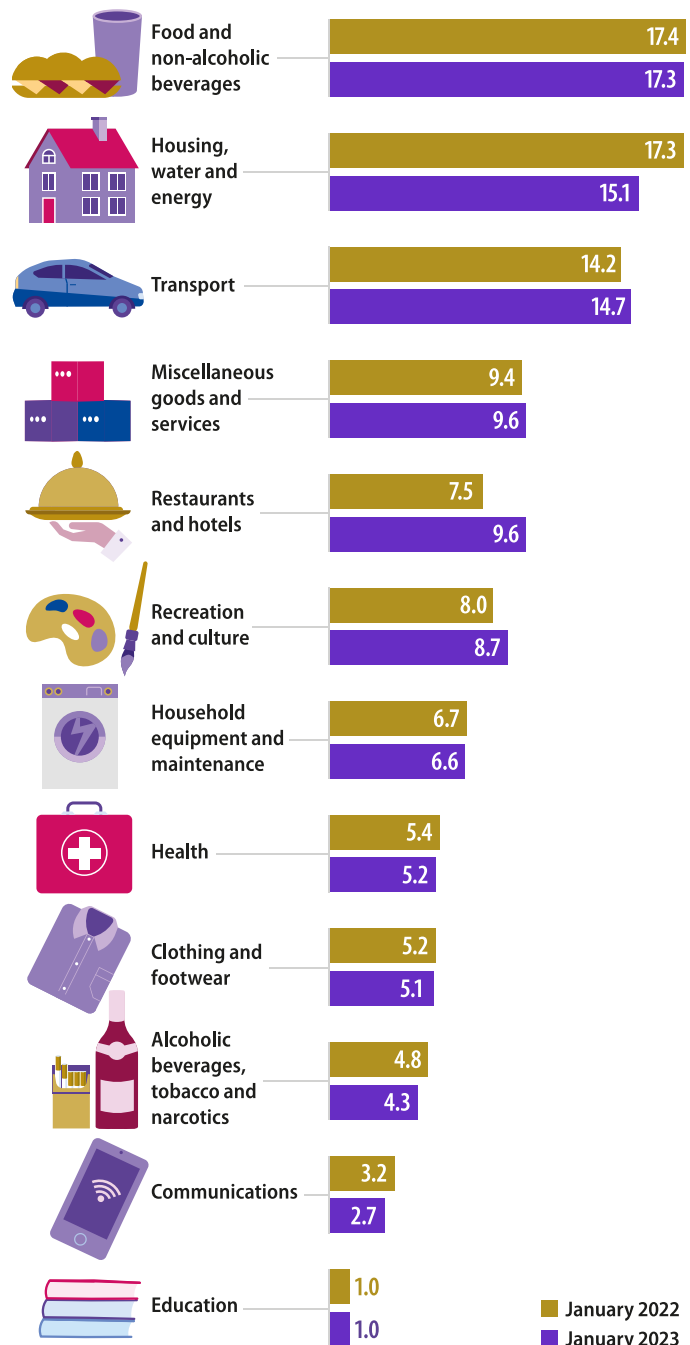
(%, share of total household consumption expenditure, EU, January 2022 and 2023)

In January 2023, the largest categories of [household final monetary consumption expenditure](#) in the EU were: food and non-alcoholic beverages; housing, water and energy; and transport. Together they accounted for close to half (47.1 %) of total expenditure. All three of these categories were characterised by high price increases during the cost-of-living crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted not only overall economic activity, but also household consumption patterns. Between January 2022 and January 2023, there was a rebound in the share of expenditure for activities outside the home, most notably an increase of 2.1 percentage points for restaurants and hotels. There were also notable gains during this period for recreation and culture and for transport (up 0.7 and 0.5 points, respectively).



Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [prc\\_hicp\\_inw](#))



# 2

## Households and work intensity



# Household conditions



Private households include either one person living alone or a group of people, not necessarily related, living at the same address.

The presence of a child within a household may be based solely on age or also on dependence.

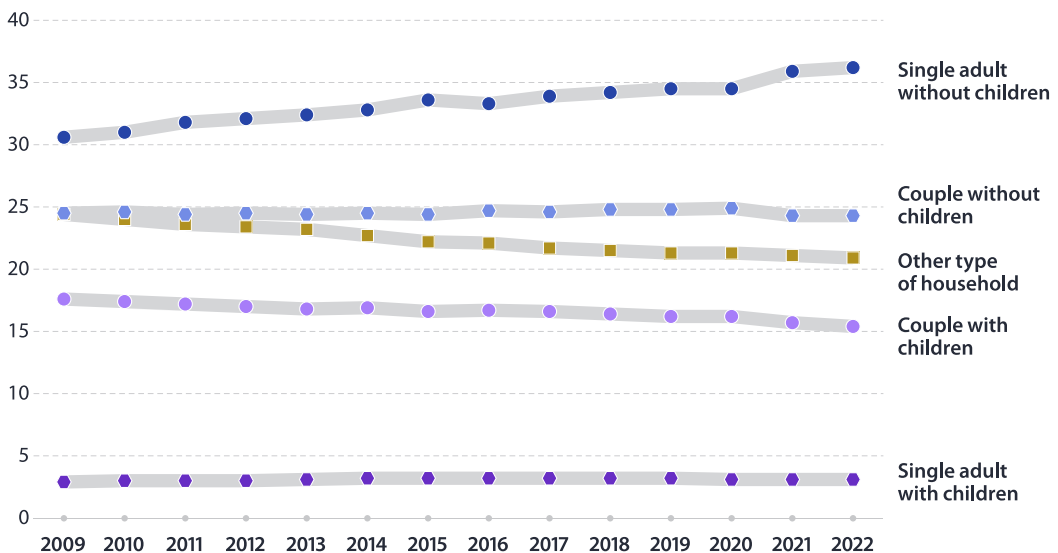
- Data from the labour force survey consider all people aged less than 18 as children; online data codes (shown below charts/illustrations) for this source start with *lfs*.
- Statistics on income and living conditions consider people to be a dependent child if they are i) aged less than 25 ii) do not have an independent income and iii) live with a parent; online data codes for this source start with *ilc*.

## Development in the composition of private households

(%, EU, 2009–2022)

In 2022, 198 million households resided in the EU, with an average of 2.2 members per household. Single adult households (with or without children) accounted for 39.3 % of the total while 39.7 % were households composed of couples (again, with or without children). The remaining share (20.9 %) were other types, in other words, composed of two adults who were not living together as a couple, or three or more adults (with or without children). Fewer than 1 in 10 households with a single adult had children, whereas nearly 4 in 10 households composed of couples had children.

Between 2009 and 2022, the number of households in the EU increased by 8.9 %. The share of households composed of single adults without children increased during this period by 5.6 percentage points. The shares for households composed of couples decreased by 0.2 points for those without children and by 2.2 points for those with children. The largest percentage point fall was for other types of households, down 3.4 points.



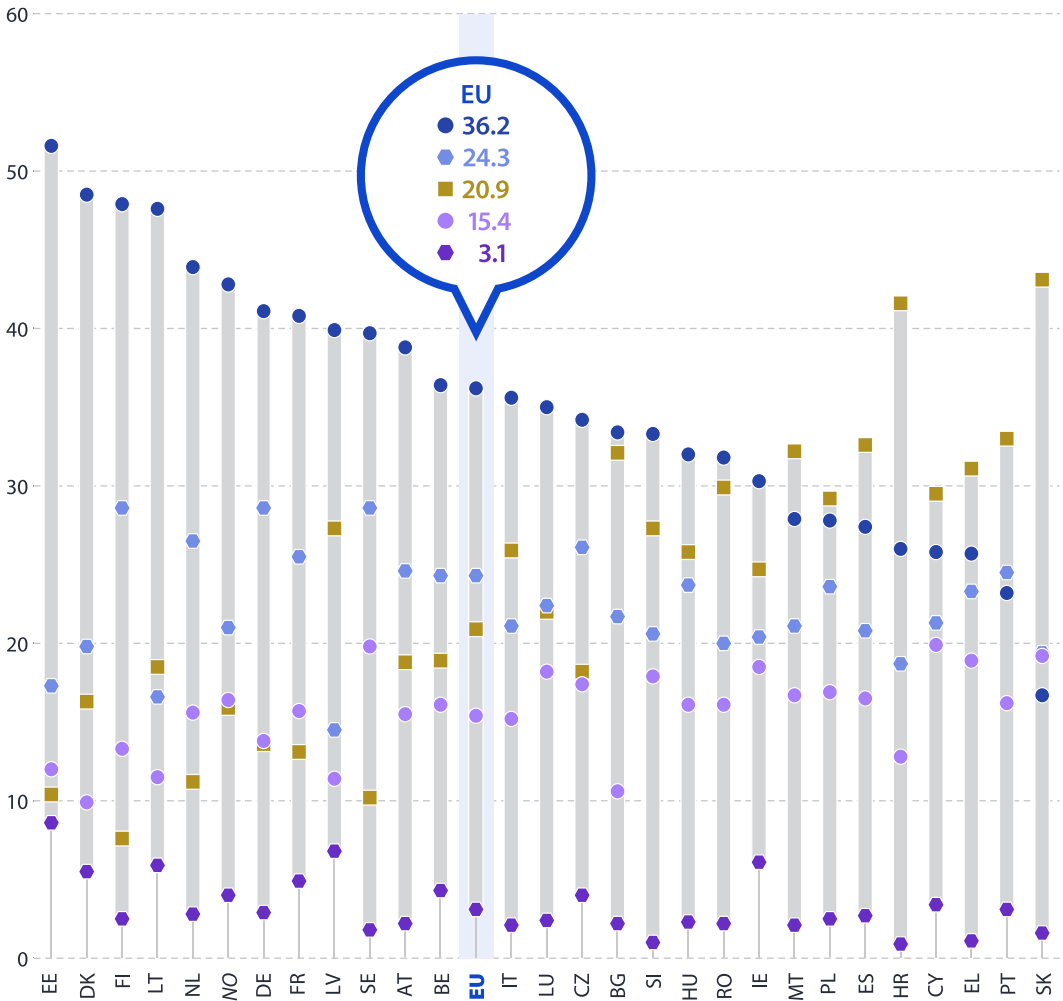
Note: all people aged less than 18 are counted as children.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfst\\_hhnhtych](#))



## Share of households, by household composition

(%, 2022)



- Single adult without children
- Couple without children
- Other type of household
- Couple with children
- Single adult with children

In 19 EU Member States, the most common household type in 2022 was single adults with no children. In the remaining eight – Greece, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia – other types of households were most common.

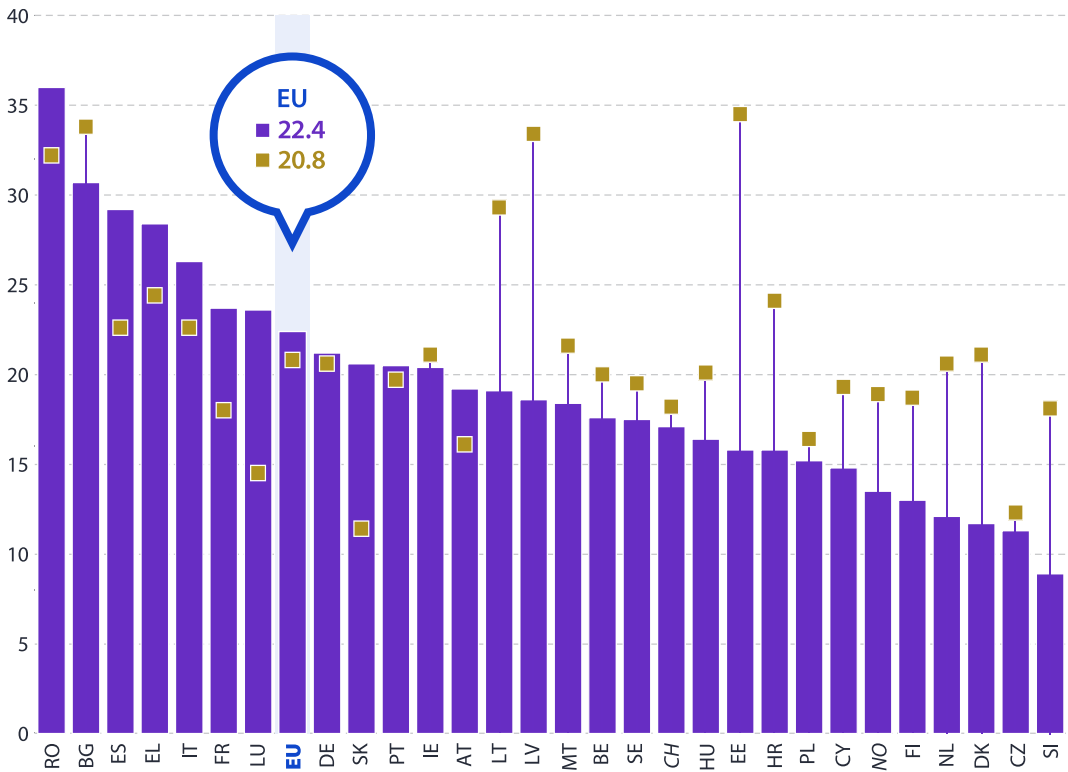
The highest share of households composed of a single adult without children was 51.6 % in Estonia, where the highest share for households composed of a single adult with children was also observed (8.6 %). The highest share of households composed of a couple without children was 28.6 %, recorded in Finland and in Sweden. The highest share for households composed of a couple with children was 19.9 % in Cyprus. Other types of households were most common in Slovakia (43.1 %).

Note: all people aged less than 18 are counted as children. Ranked on the share for single adults without children.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfst\\_hnhhtych](#))

### Share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by household composition

(%, 2022)



- Households with dependent children
- Households without dependent children

In 2022, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU was 22.4 % among people living in households with dependent children, compared with 20.8 % among people living in households without dependent children. This narrow gap reflects quite different situations among the EU Member States. In 10 Member States, the share was higher among people living in households with dependent children (as in the EU). This gap was widest in Slovakia and Luxembourg, where the shares for households with dependent children were more than 9.0 percentage points higher.

Note: a child is dependent if they are i) aged less than 25 ii) do not have an independent income and iii) live with a parent. NO, 2020; CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_peps03n](#))



**More information:**  
[household conditions methodology,](#)  
[data on household composition and data on poverty](#)  
[and social exclusion in various types of households.](#)

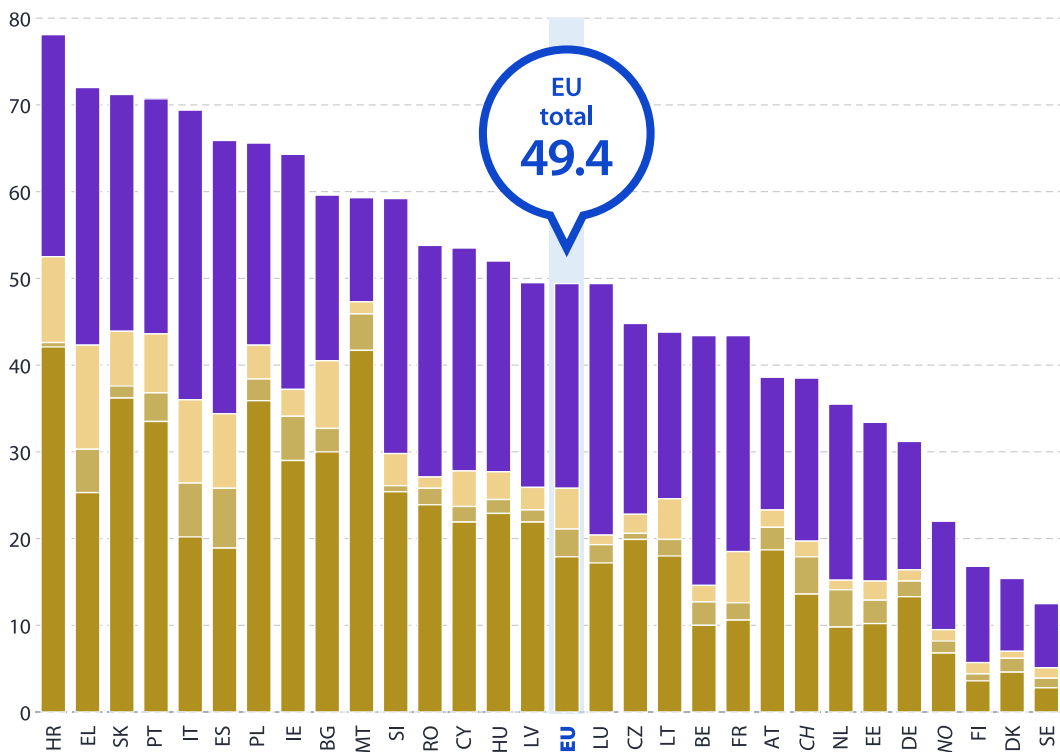
# Work intensity

## Share of young adults aged 18–34 living with at least one of their parents, by self-defined economic status

(%, 2022)

In 2022, nearly half (49.4 %) of all young adults (aged 18 to 34) in the EU lived with at least one parent. This share was below 20.0 % in the [Nordic Member States](#) – the next lowest share being 31.3 % in Germany – while the highest share among the EU Member States was 78.2 %, observed in Croatia.

In 2022, more than 40.0 % of young adults in the EU who lived with their parents were students, while more than one third worked full-time and just under one tenth were unemployed. In Malta, Poland, Croatia, Slovakia and Bulgaria, the majority of young adults living with their parents were employed full-time.

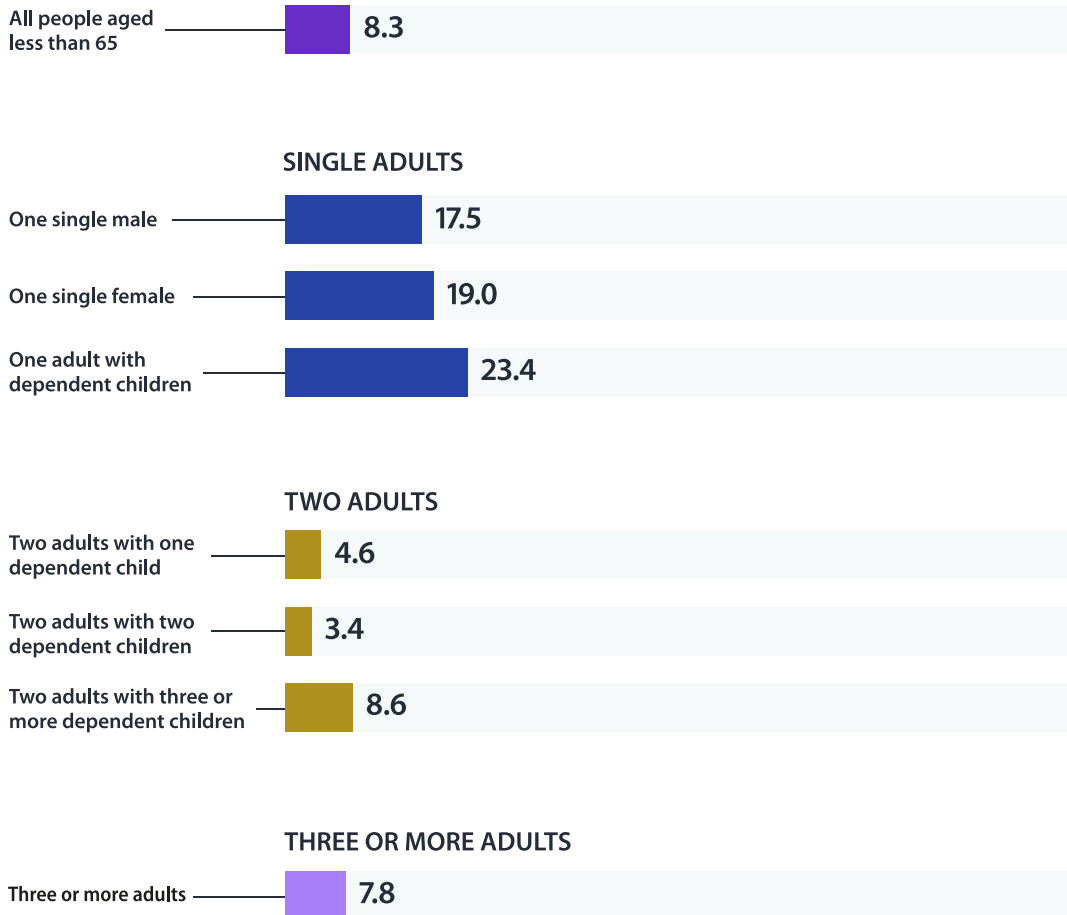


- Students and other persons outside the labour force
- Unemployed
- Employed working part-time
- Employed working full-time

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.  
 Ranked on the overall share of young adults living with their parents.  
 Source: Eurostat  
 (online data code: [ilc\\_lvps08](#) and [ilc\\_lvps09](#))

## Share of people aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity, by household type

(%, EU, 2022)

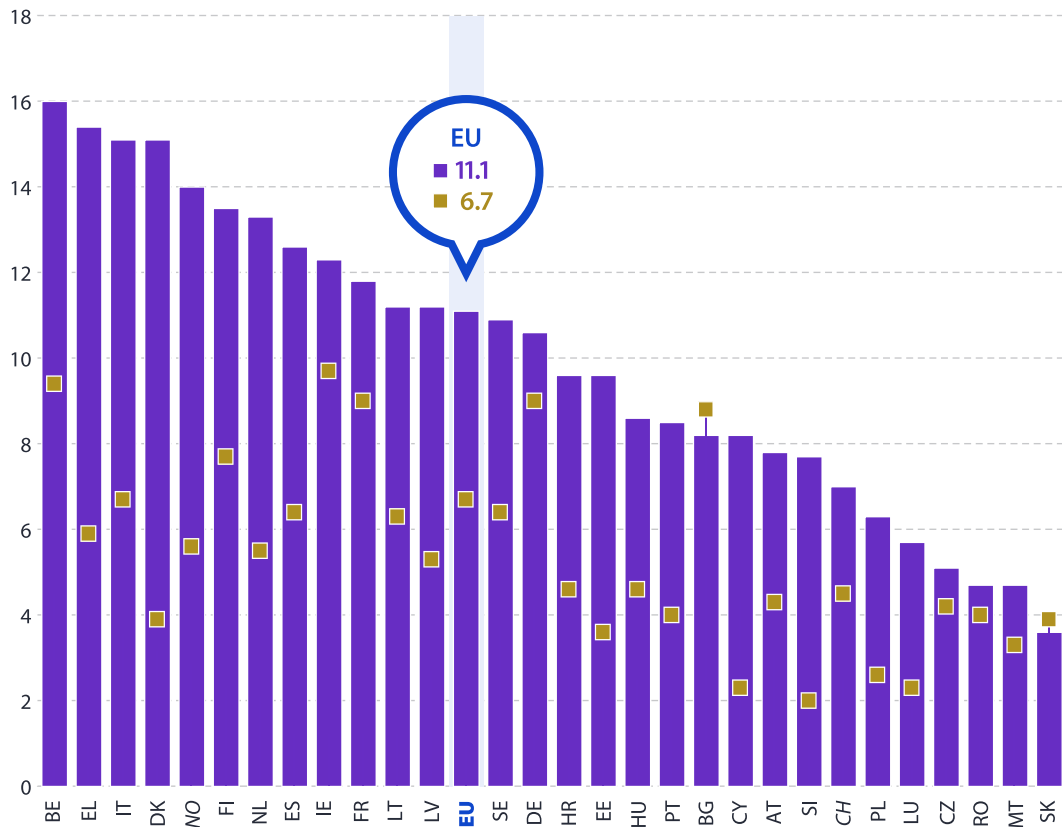


Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_lvhl13n](#))

In the EU, 8.3 % of people aged less than 65 [lived in households with very low work intensity](#) in 2022. Higher than average shares were recorded for all types of single adult households: 17.5 % for households composed of a single male without children, 19.0 % for their female counterparts and 23.4 % for households composed of one adult with dependent children. The share of people living in a household with very low work intensity was also slightly higher than average for households composed of two adults with three or more dependent children (8.6 %), while households composed of two adults with one or two dependent children had below average shares, 4.6 % and 3.4 %, respectively.

### People aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity, by household composition

(%, 2022)



- Households with dependent children
- Households without dependent children

In the EU, the share of people aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity was higher in 2022 for households without dependent children (11.1 %) than for those with dependent children (6.7 %). It should be noted that a large proportion of households without dependent children were composed of a single adult.

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.

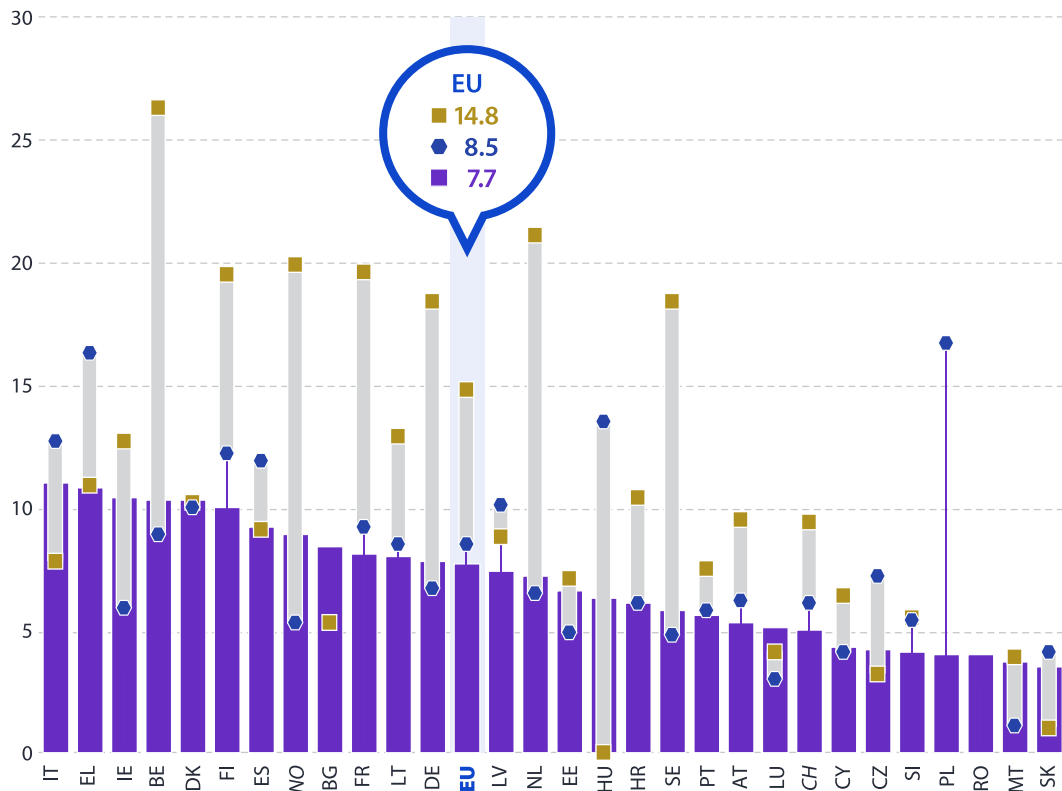
Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [ilc\\_lvh13n](#))

Bulgaria and Slovakia were the only EU Member States where, in 2022, the share of people aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity was higher for households with dependent children than for those without dependent children. The largest difference between these two shares was recorded in Denmark, where the share of people aged less than 65 living in households with very low work intensity was 11.2 percentage points higher for households without dependent children.



### Share of adults aged 18–64 living in households with very low work intensity, by country of birth

(%, 2022)



- Non-EU country
- Another EU Member State
- Reporting country

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021. BG and RO: another EU Member State not available. RO: non-EU country not available. EE, LV, LT and PL: low reliability for another EU Member State. BG and SK: low reliability for non-EU country.

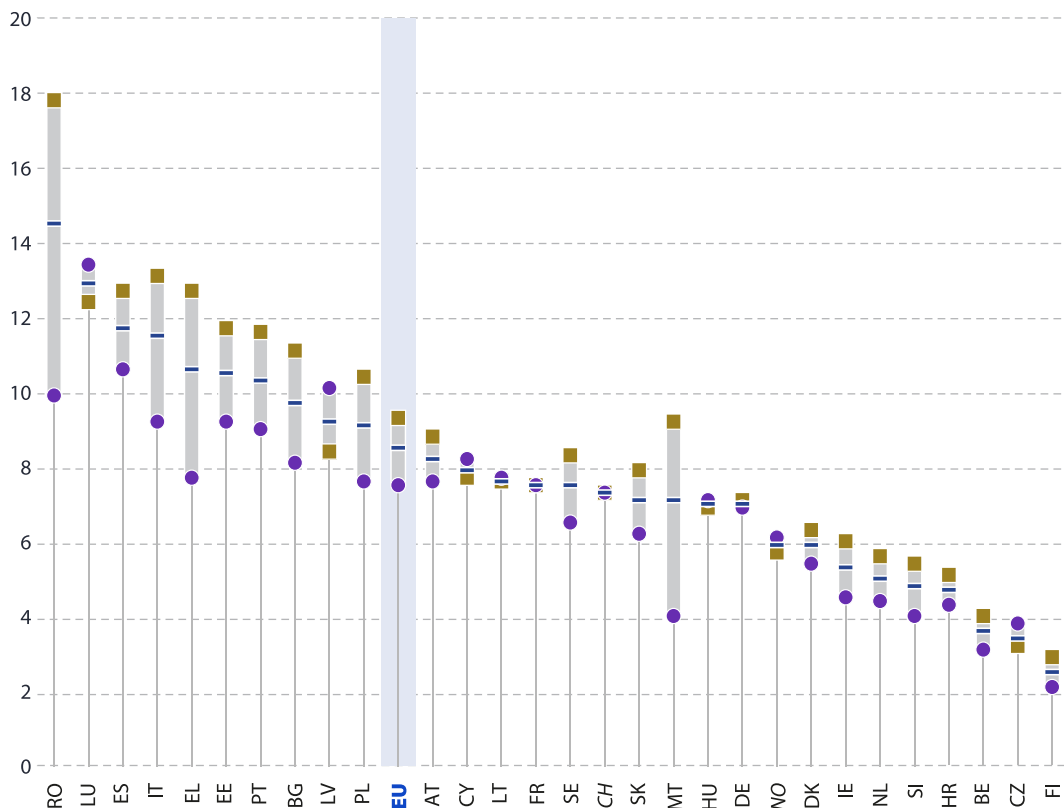
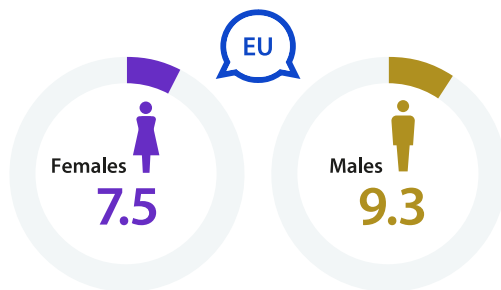
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc\\_lvhl16n](#))

In the EU, 7.7 % of people aged 18 to 64 living in the same EU Member State as where they were born lived in households with very low work intensity. Among their counterparts who lived in the EU but in a different EU Member State to where they had been born, the share was slightly higher, at 8.5 %. However, among people aged 18 to 64 living in the EU but born in a non-EU country, the share living in households with very low work intensity was considerably higher, at 14.8 %.

For a small majority of the EU Member States, the share of people aged 18 to 64 living in households with very low work intensity was highest among people born in non-EU countries, while in eight Member States it was highest among people born in a different Member State. In Denmark and Luxembourg, the highest share was observed for people living in the same EU Member State as where they were born.

**More information:**  
work intensity [methodology and data](#).

### In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate for people aged 18 or over, by sex (% , 2022)



- Males
- Both sexes
- Females

Risk of poverty is not exclusive to people with low work intensity or without employment. In 2022, 8.5 % of employed persons aged 18 or over in the EU were at risk of poverty. This share was notably lower for females (7.5 %) than for males (9.3 %).

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.  
 Source: Eurostat  
 (online data code: [ilc\\_iw01](#))

Among the EU Member States, the lowest rate of people who were in-work and at risk of poverty in 2022 was 2.5 %, observed in Finland. By contrast, this rate exceeded 10.0 % in seven Member States and peaked at 14.5 % in Romania. In 20 Member States, the in-work at-risk-of-poverty rate was higher for males than for females, with the largest gender difference in Romania (79 percentage points). In France, the rates were the same for males and females, while in Lithuania, Hungary, Cyprus, Czechia, Luxembourg and Latvia, the rates were slightly higher for females.





# 3

## Health and disability



# Health

## Structure of self-perceived health of people aged 16 or over

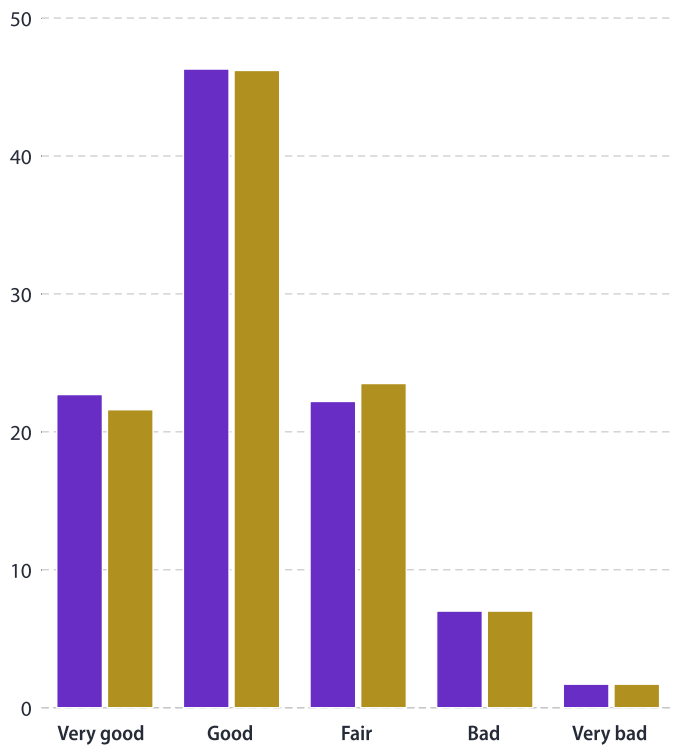
(%, EU, 2021 and 2022)



Indicators on self-perceived health status give an overall assessment by respondents of their health in general. Health is evaluated in five modalities from very bad (lowest), through bad, fair and good to very good (highest).

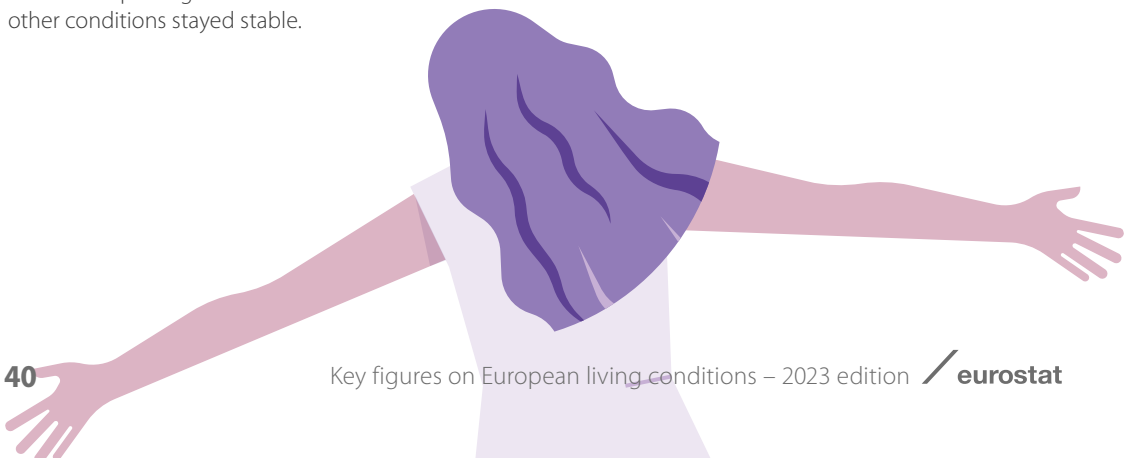
In the EU, 67.8 % of the population aged 16 or over perceived their health as very good or good in 2022. By contrast, 8.7 % perceived their health as very bad or bad. The remaining 23.5 % described their health as fair.

A comparison of the self-perception of health in 2021 and 2022 shows two main differences: a small decrease (down 1.1 [percentage points](#)) in the share of people aged 16 or over in the EU reporting very good health; a similar increase (up 1.3 points) in the share reporting fair health. All other conditions stayed stable.

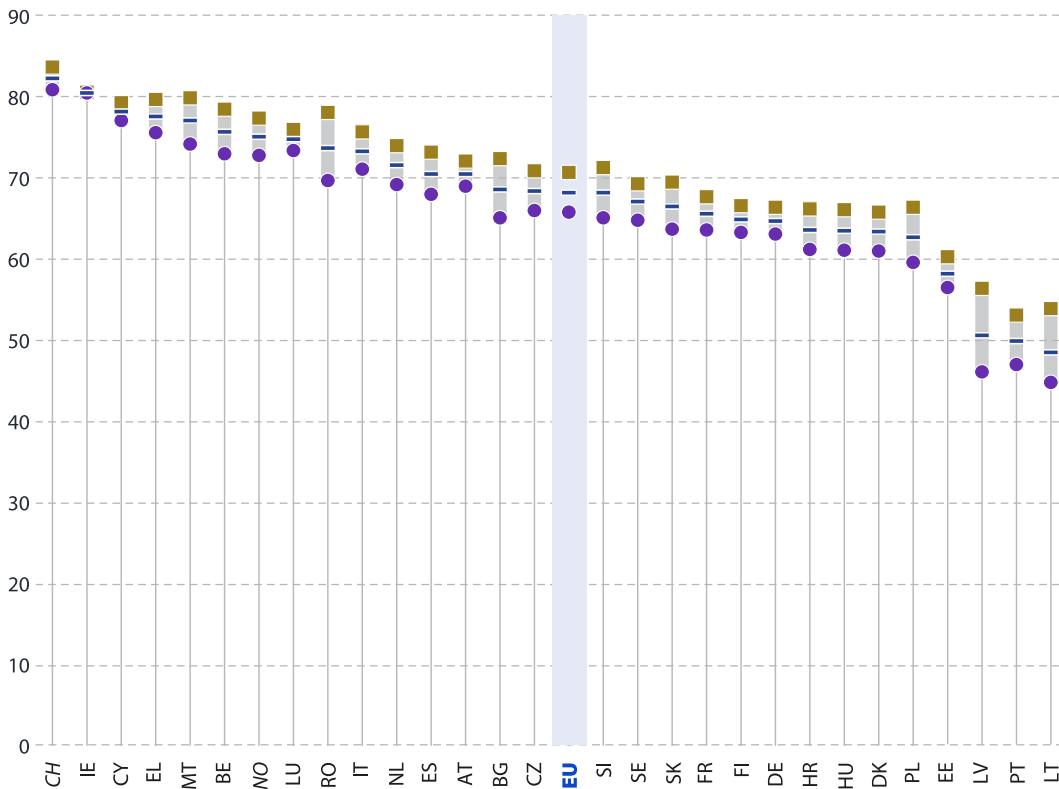
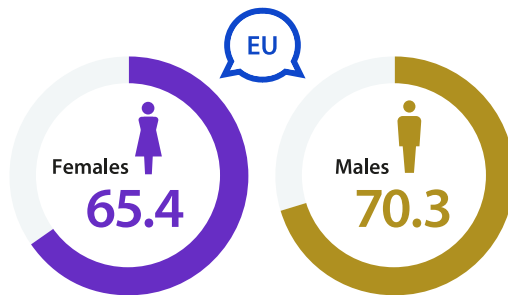


■ 2022 ■ 2021

Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [hlth\\_silc\\_10](#))



### Share of people aged 16 or over with very good or good self-perceived health, by sex (% , 2022)



- Males
- Both sexes
- Females

Across the EU Member States, the share of people who perceived their health as very good or good ranged from less than half in Lithuania (48.1 %) and Portugal (49.5 %) to more than three quarters in Belgium (75.3 %), Malta (76.7 %), Greece (77.2 %), Cyprus (77.8 %) and Ireland (80.1 %).

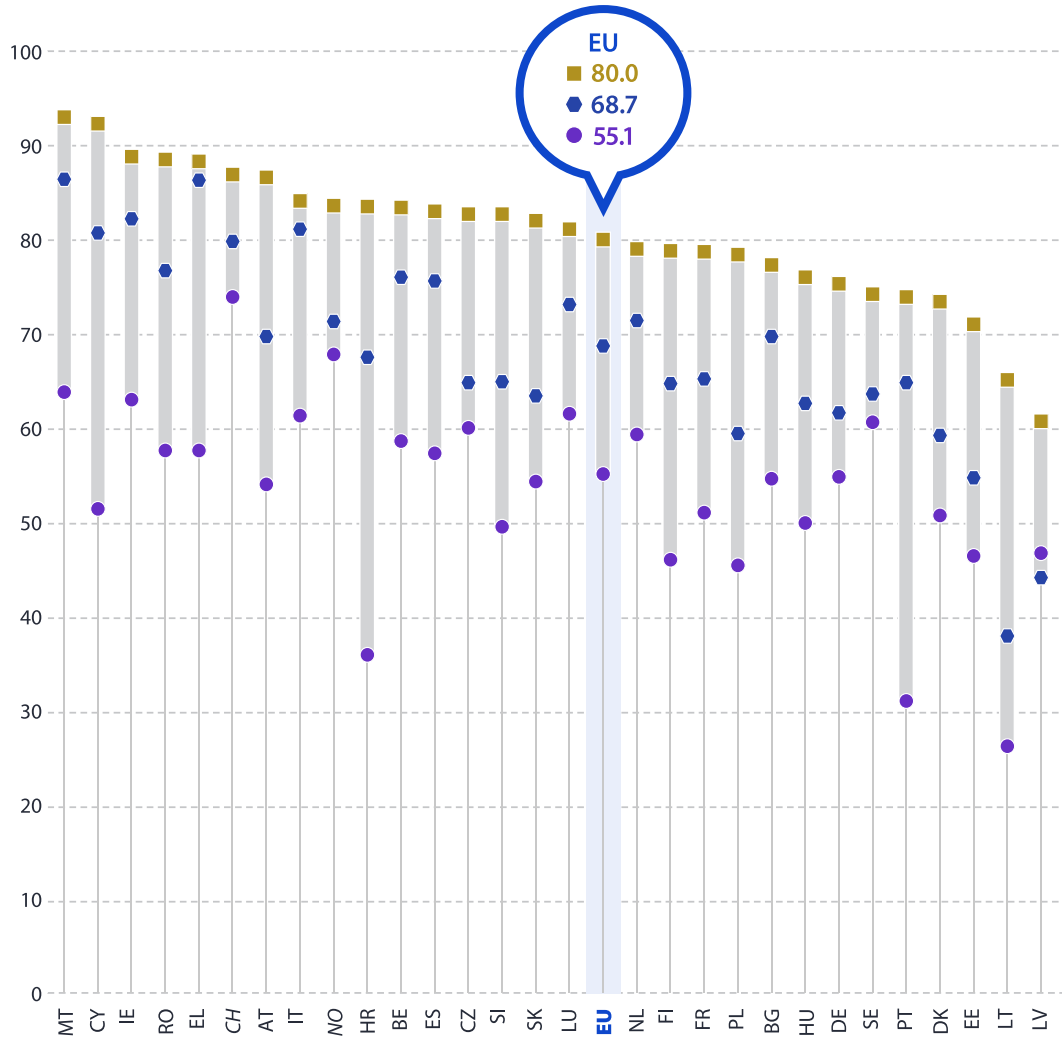
However, the shares of people aged 16 or over with very good or good self-perceived health conditions in the EU in 2022 were higher for males than for females: 70.3 % compared with 65.4 %, respectively. Higher shares for males were also reported for all EU Member States. In Ireland, the shares were almost the same for the two sexes, with a gap of 0.1 points. Elsewhere, the gap ranged from 2.2 points in Cyprus to 10.3 points in Latvia.

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth\\_silc\\_10](#))

### Share of people aged 16 or over with very good or good self-perceived health, by educational attainment

(%, 2022)



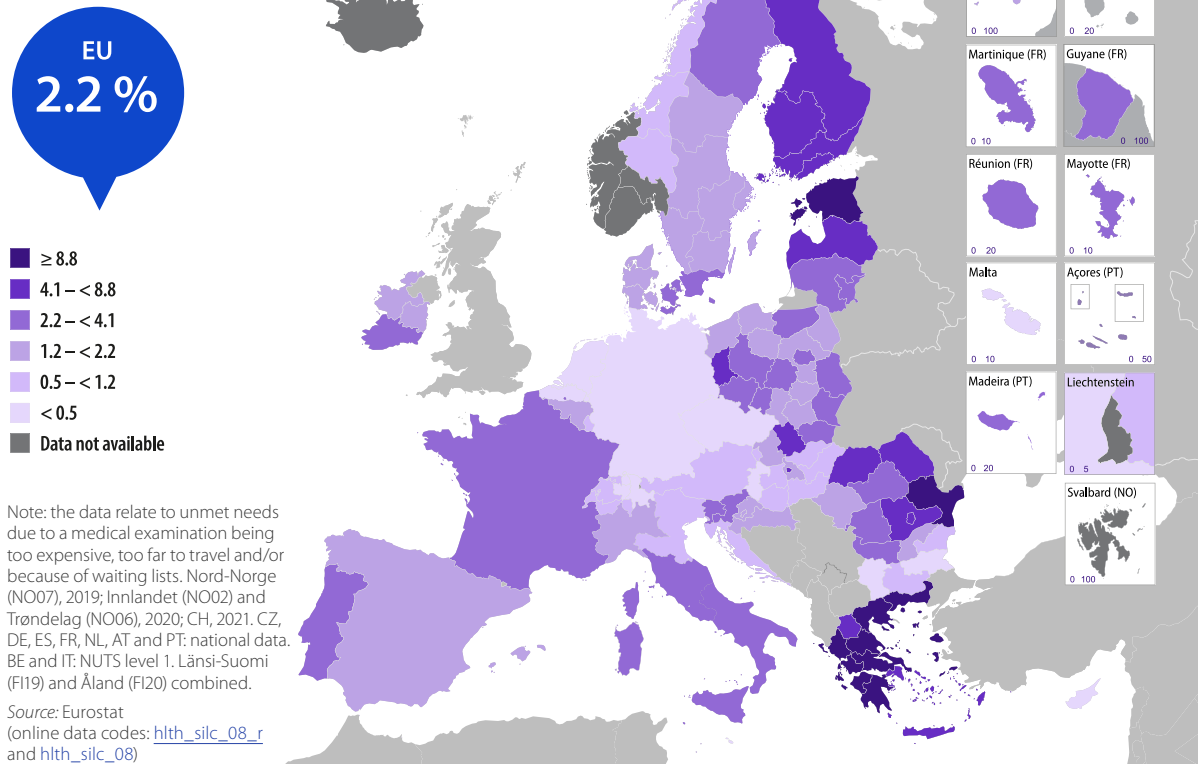
- High
- Medium
- Low

In 2022, more than half (55.1 %) of people aged 16 or over in the EU with a low level of [educational attainment](#) (no more than lower secondary education) perceived their health to be very good or good. The share was 68.7 % for people with a medium level of education and 80.0 % for people with a high level of educational attainment (having completed at least one level of tertiary education). This pattern – the lowest share for people with a low level of educational attainment and the highest share for people with a high level of educational attainment – was also observed in nearly all EU Member States. In Latvia, the lowest share was observed for people with a medium level of educational attainment.

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.  
 Source: Eurostat  
 (online data code: [hlth\\_silc\\_02](#))

## Self-reported unmet needs for medical examination among people aged 16 or over

(%, by NUTS 2 regions, 2022)



**Unmet needs for a medical examination can result in poorer health for people not receiving care and may increase health inequalities.**

In 2022, the share of people aged 16 or over in the EU with unmet needs for medical examination – due to it being too expensive, too far to travel, and/or because of waiting lists – was 2.2 %. In detail, the shares were 1.1 % for being too expensive, 0.1 % for being too far to travel, and 0.9 % because of waiting lists.

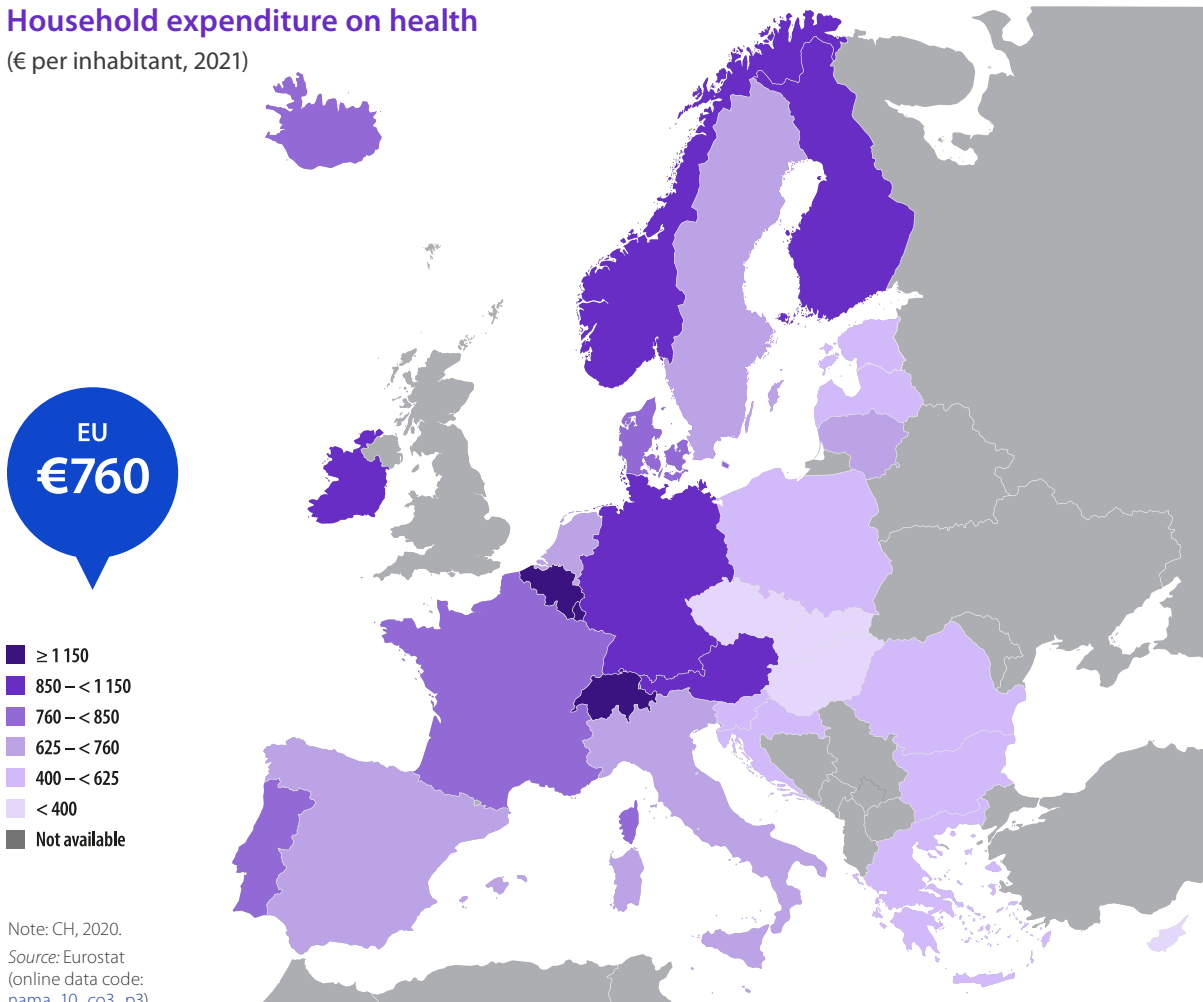
At a regional level, the five highest overall shares of unmet needs for a medical examination were all recorded in Greece: in 2022, shares ranged from 10.3 % to 14.0 % in Ionia Nisia, Anatoliki Makedonia and Thraki, Voreio Aigaio, Sterea Ellada, and Peloponnisos. The lowest overall share was recorded in Cyprus, 0.1 %. Note that only national data are available for several EU Member States (Czechia, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Austria and Portugal) while the data for Belgium and Italy are at a more aggregated regional level.

### More information:

**self-perceived health and unmet needs for health examination methodology, data on self-perceived health and regional data on unmet needs for medical examination.**

## Household expenditure on health

(€ per inhabitant, 2021)



Expenditure for health includes expenditure for medical products (including medicines), appliances and equipment, as well as for outpatient and hospital services.

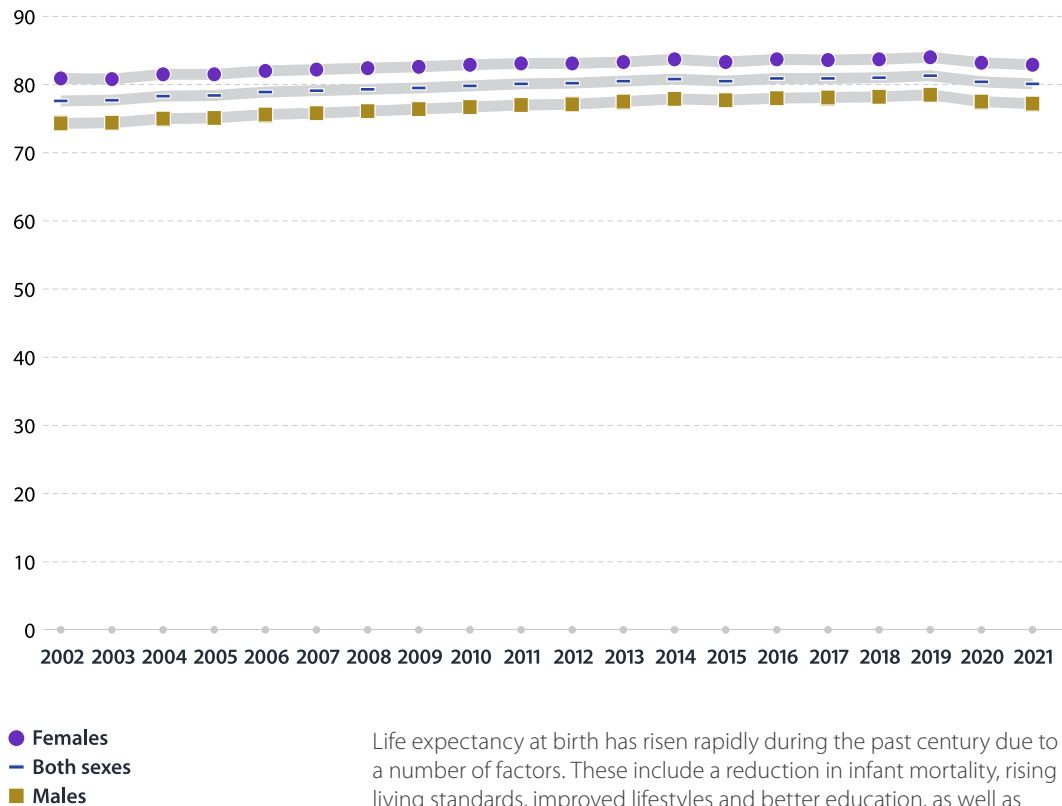
Per inhabitant, average household expenditure on health was €760 in the EU in 2021. This value varied greatly between EU Member States, from less than €400 per inhabitant in Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary and Cyprus to €1 200 per inhabitant in Luxembourg and €1 340 per inhabitant in Belgium.

These variations reflect, to some degree, the different provisions for the delivery of healthcare across the EU Member States. Where the largest share of health expenditure is covered by the government, it is more commonplace to find that household private consumption expenditure per inhabitant on health was relatively low.

**More information:**  
[data on household consumption by purpose.](#)

## Life expectancy at birth, by sex

(years, EU, 2002–2021)



Life expectancy at birth has risen rapidly during the past century due to a number of factors. These include a reduction in infant mortality, rising living standards, improved lifestyles and better education, as well as advances in healthcare and medicine.

Note: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, break in series.

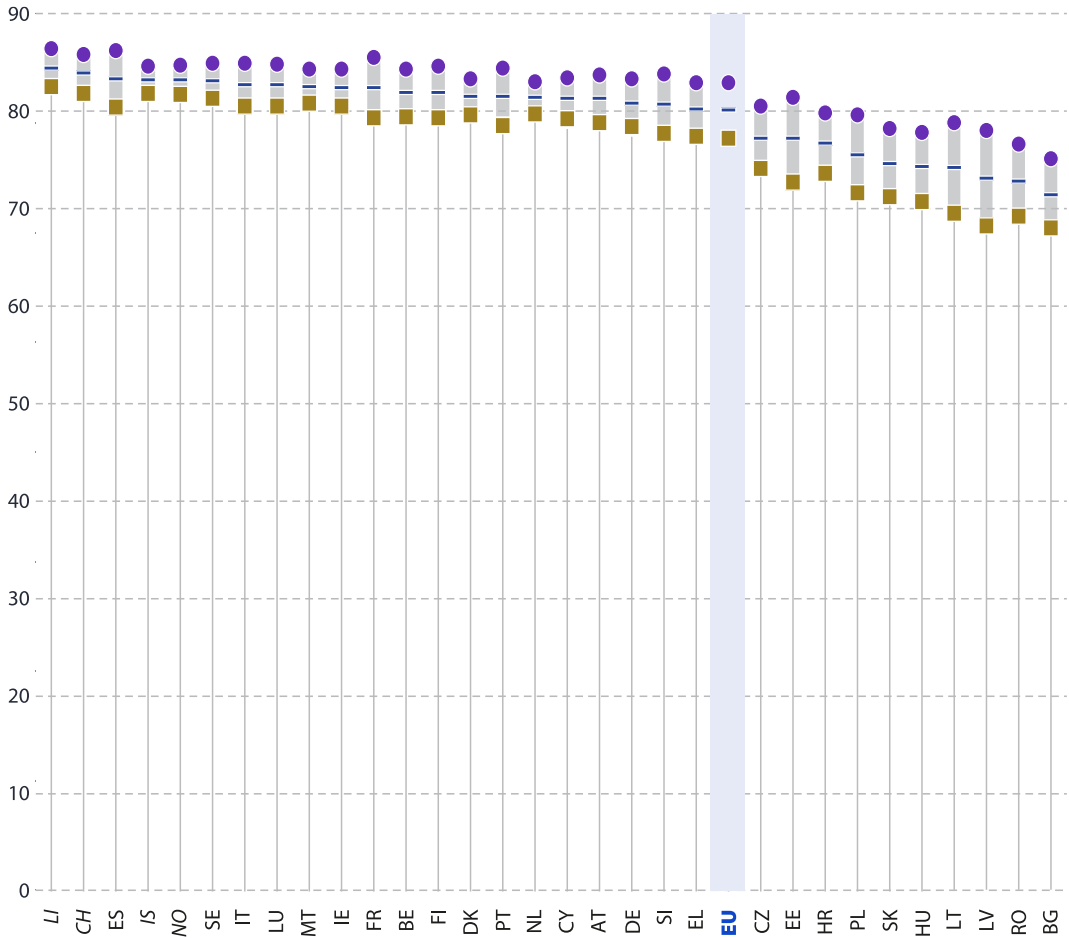
Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [demo\\_mlexpec](#))

Life expectancy at birth in the EU was 80.1 years in 2021 (1.2 years lower than in 2019). For females it was 82.9 years, while for males it was 77.2 years. Overall between 2002 (the start of the time series) and 2021, life expectancy at birth in the EU increased by 2.5 years, from 77.6 to 80.1 years; during this period, there was an increase of 2.0 years for females and 2.9 years for males.



### Life expectancy at birth, by sex

(years, 2021)



Source: Eurostat  
(online data code: [demo\\_mlexpec](#))

- Females
- Both sexes
- Males

**Females**  
**82.9**

**Males**  
**77.2**

Newly born females in the EU could be expected to outlive newly born males by an average of 5.7 years in 2021. This gap varied substantially between EU Member States but was always in favour of females. In 2021, the largest gender gaps for life expectancy were observed in the [Baltic Member States](#): 9.8 years in Latvia, 9.3 years in Lithuania and 8.7 years in Estonia. The narrowest gap was 3.3 years in the Netherlands.

**More information:**  
**[life expectancy data.](#)**



## Overall life satisfaction among people aged 16 or over

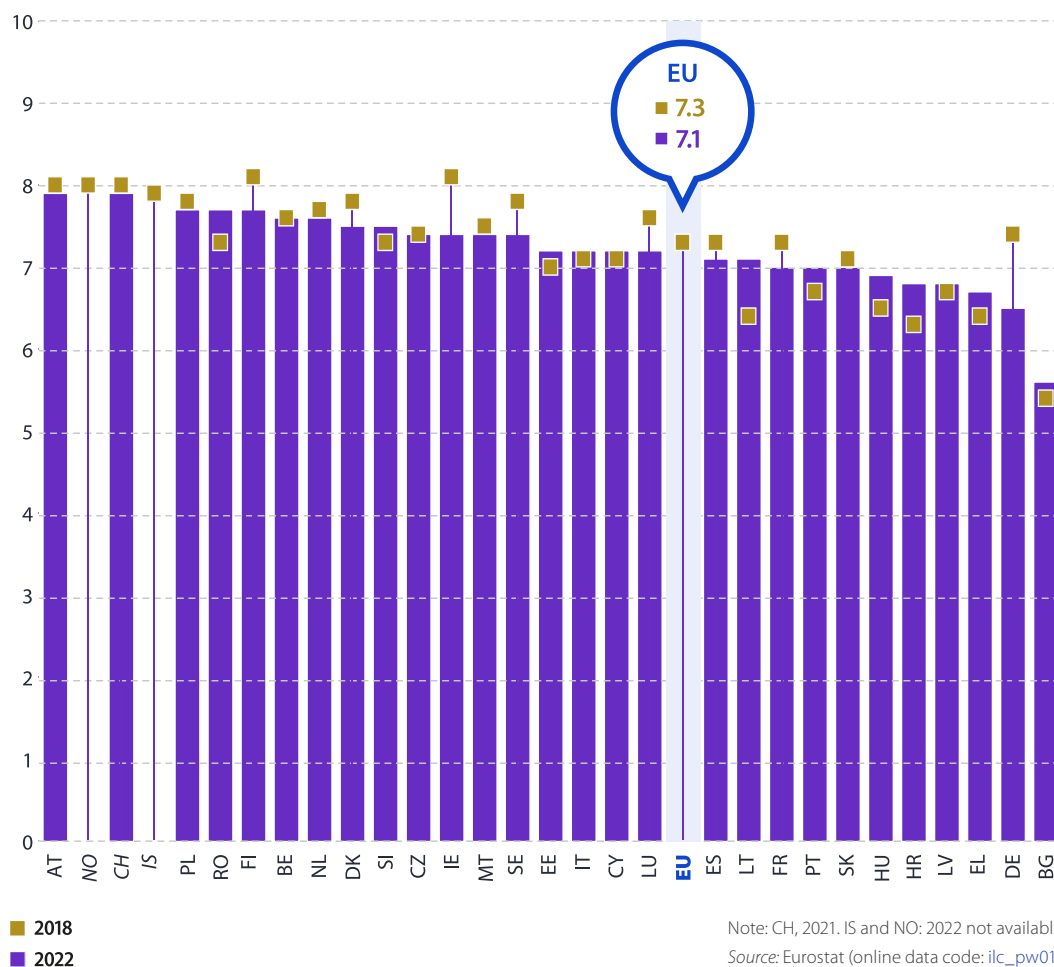
(rating, 2018 and 2022)



Subjective life satisfaction is a person's overall assessment of their lifetime. It is a cognitive and evaluative reflection on past and present experiences. Overall life satisfaction is a rating on a scale from 0 (low) to 10 (high).

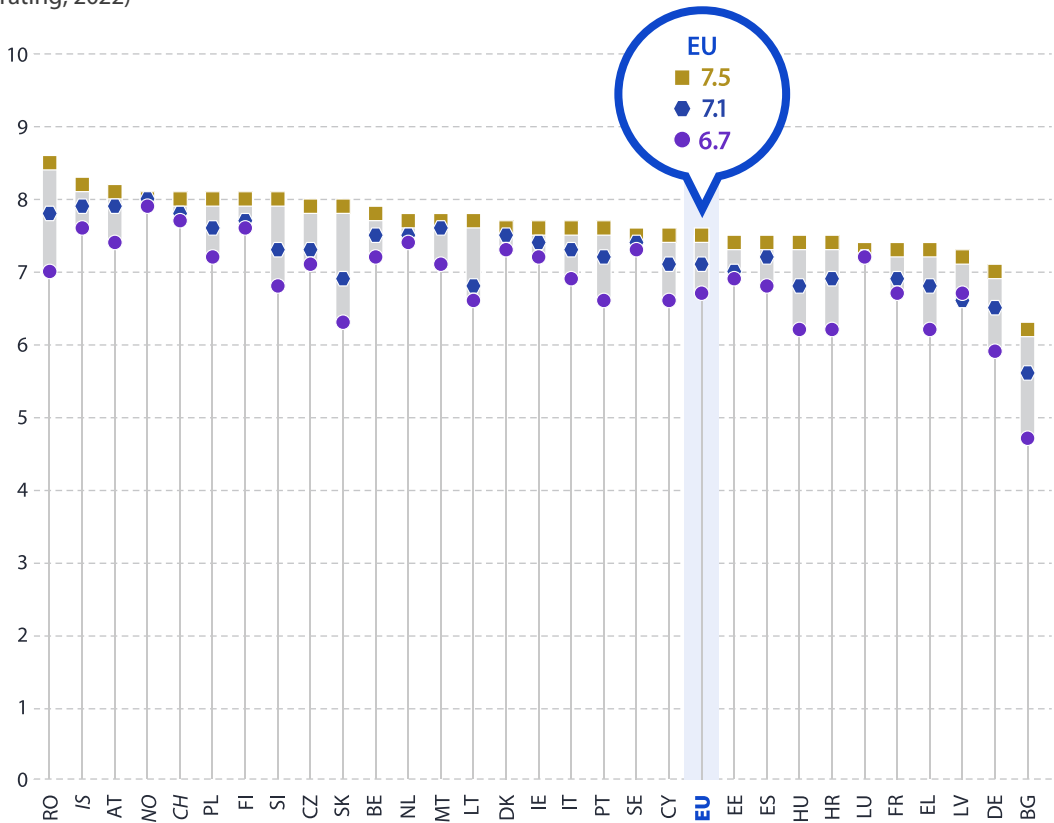
In 2022, people aged 16 or over in the EU rated their satisfaction with life at an average of 7.1, down from 7.3 in 2018. Among the EU Member States, the average rating in 2022 was highest in Austria (7.9), ahead of Poland, Romania and Finland (all 7.7). The lowest rating, by far, was in Bulgaria (5.6), with people in Germany recording the next lowest rating (6.5).

A total of 12 EU Member States observed an increase in average life satisfaction between 2018 and 2022, with the largest increase (from 6.4 to 7.1) in Lithuania. Belgium and Czechia recorded no change. The remaining 13 Member States observed a fall in average life satisfaction, with the largest decreases in Ireland (down 0.7) and Germany (down 0.9).



### Overall life satisfaction among people aged 16 or over, by educational attainment

(rating, 2022)



- High
- ◆ Medium
- Low

Average life satisfaction in the EU was positively related to educational attainment. In 2022, overall life satisfaction was lowest for people with a low level of educational attainment (6.7), higher for people with a medium level (7.1) and highest for people with a high level (7.5).

Note: NO, 2020; CH, 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ilc\\_pw01](#))

A similar relationship between overall life satisfaction and educational attainment was observed in all EU Member States except for Luxembourg, where there was very little difference in life satisfaction between people with different educational attainment levels, and Latvia, where people with a medium level of attainment were slightly less satisfied with their life on average than people with a low level. While Luxembourg reported the narrowest range in life satisfaction ratings based on educational attainment, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia reported the widest ranges.

**More information:**  
[methodology on well-being indicators,](#)  
[methodology and data on measuring the quality of life.](#)

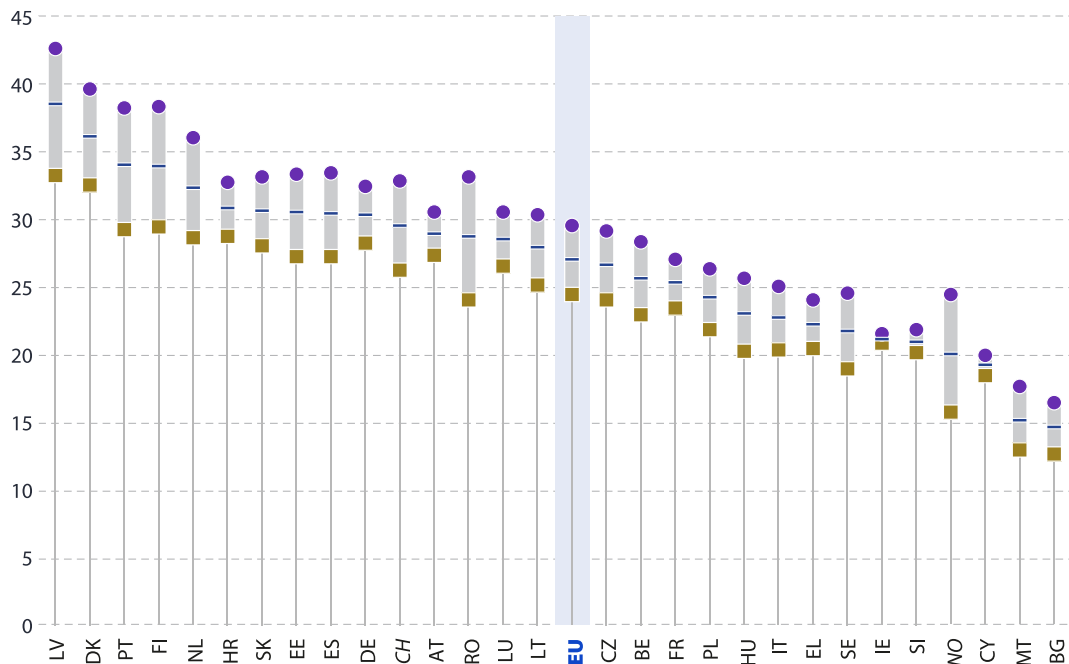
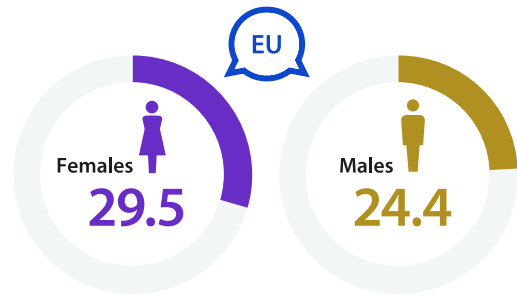
# Disability



As a proxy to measure disability, data are collected to assess the activity limitations people have experienced – because of health problems – in carrying out usual activities for at least six months. The extent of activity limitations is evaluated on a scale of three levels from none, through some limitation to severely limited. In this chapter, the term disability is used to cover activity limitations.

## Share of people aged 16 or over with disabilities, by sex

(%, 2022)



- Females
- Both sexes
- Males

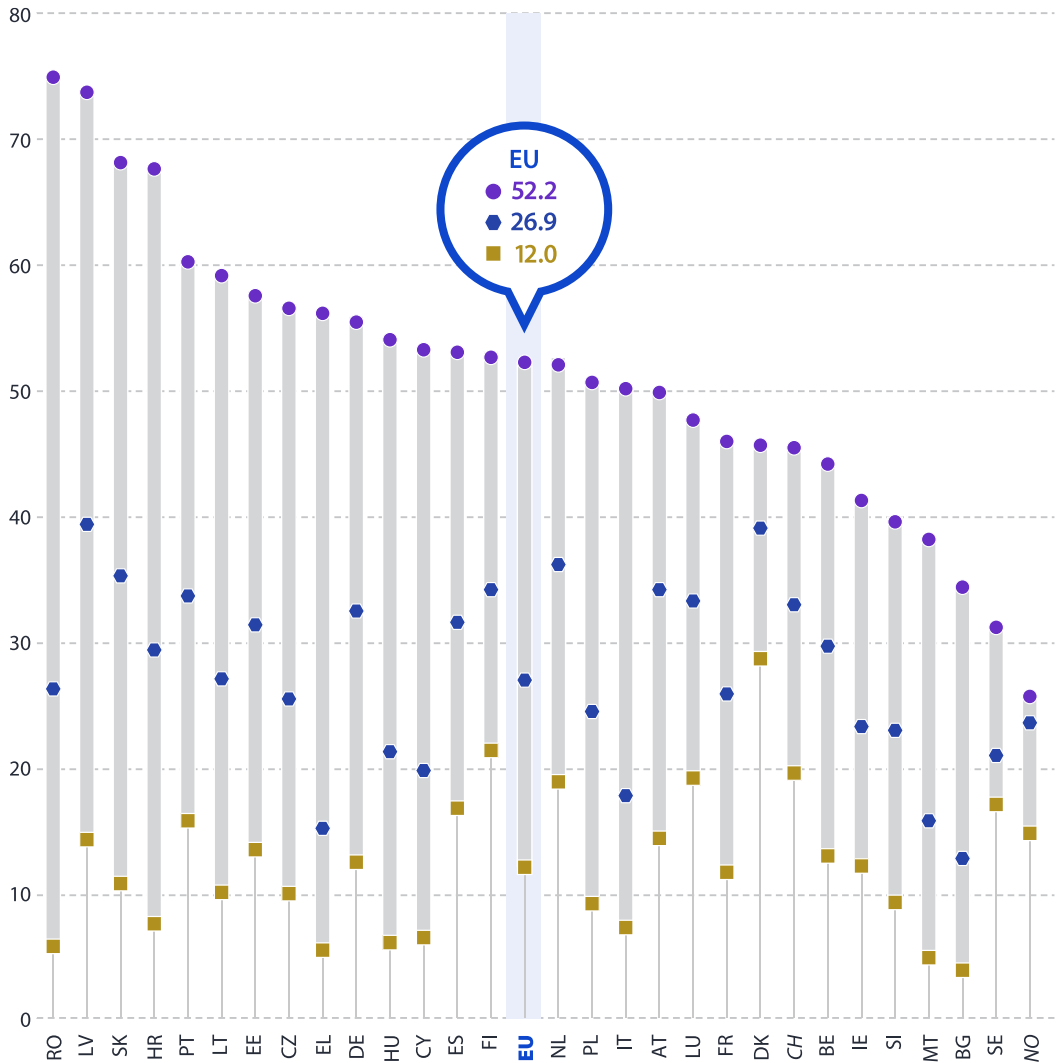
In 2022, 27.0 % of people aged 16 or over in the EU reported some or severe disability. This share was notably higher for females (29.5 %) than for males (24.4 %).

Note: the term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. NO: 2020. CH: 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth\\_silc\\_12](#))

The highest shares of people reporting disability in 2022 were observed in Latvia (38.5 %) and Denmark (36.1 %), while the lowest were in Malta (15.1 %) and Bulgaria (14.6 %). In all EU Member States, the shares were higher for females than for males. The widest gender gaps were in Latvia, Romania, Portugal and Finland (8.9 to 9.4 percentage points) while the narrowest was in Ireland (0.7 points).

### Share of people aged 16 or over with disabilities, by age (% , 2022)



- 65 or over
- 45-64
- 16-44

In the EU, higher shares of people reporting disabilities were observed among older age groups. In 2022, this share was 12.0 % among people aged 16 to 44, 26.9 % among people aged 45 to 64 and 52.2 % among people aged 65 or over.

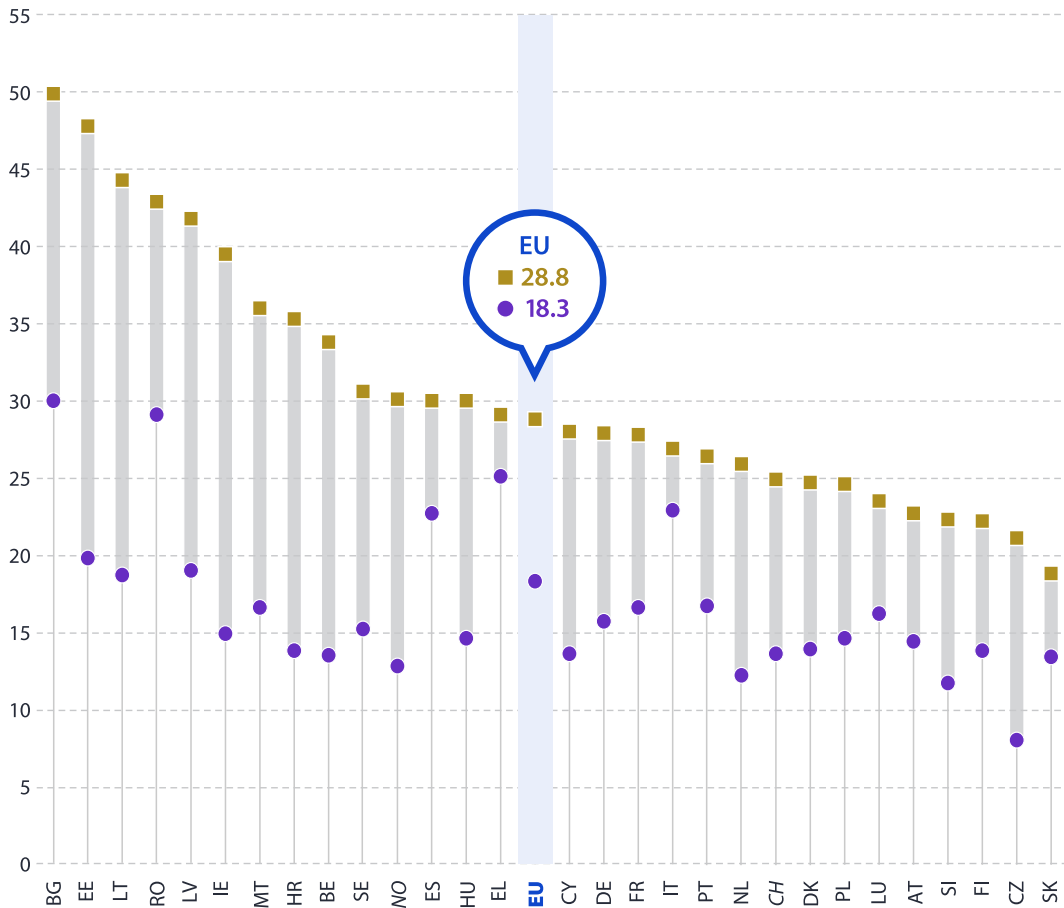
Note: the term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. NO: 2020. CH: 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth\\_silc\\_12](#))

A similar pattern between age and disability was observed in 2022 in each of the EU Member States. In percentage point terms, the widest gap between the shares for the youngest and oldest age groups was observed in Romania (69.2 points). The narrowest gaps were in Denmark (17.0 points) and Sweden (14.1 points).

### Share of people aged 16 or over at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by level of disability

(%, 2022)



- Some or severe
- None

The level of disability can be used in combination with various indicators of the income, social and employment situation of people. In 2022, the share of people [at risk of poverty or social exclusion](#) in the EU was 28.8 % among people aged 16 or over with a disability, compared with 18.3 % among people without a disability.

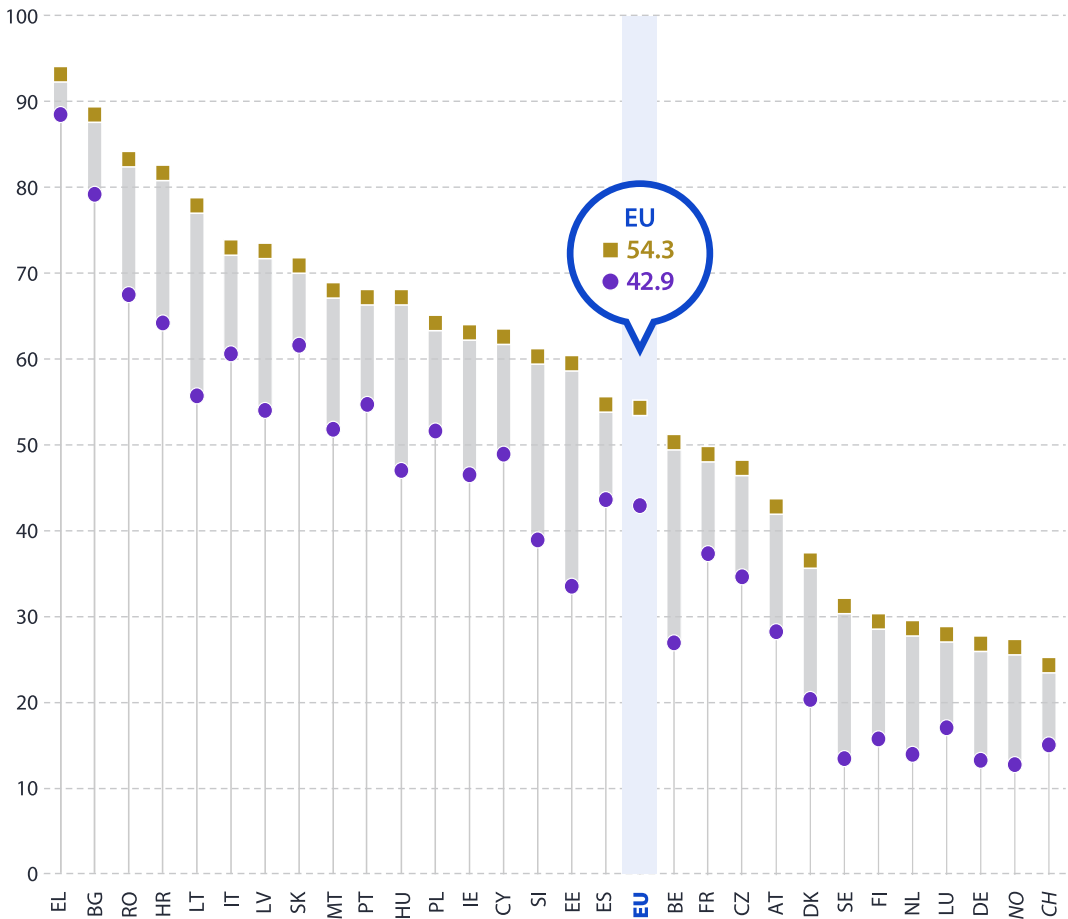
Note: the term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. NO: 2020. CH: 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth\\_dpe010](#))

In all EU Member States, the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2022 was higher among people with a disability than among those with no disability. In absolute terms, the difference between the two shares was widest in Estonia (28.0 percentage points). In relative terms, the difference was widest in Ireland (where the share for people with a disability was 2.7 times as high as for people with no disability). The difference was narrowest in Greece and Italy both in absolute (4.0 points) and relative (1.2 times as high) terms.

### Share of people aged 16 or over living in households that reported having difficulties in making ends meet, by level of disability

(%, 2022)



- Some or severe
- None

In 2022, the share of people having difficulties in making ends meet in the EU was 54.3 % among people aged 16 or over with a disability, compared with 42.9 % among people of the same age without a disability.

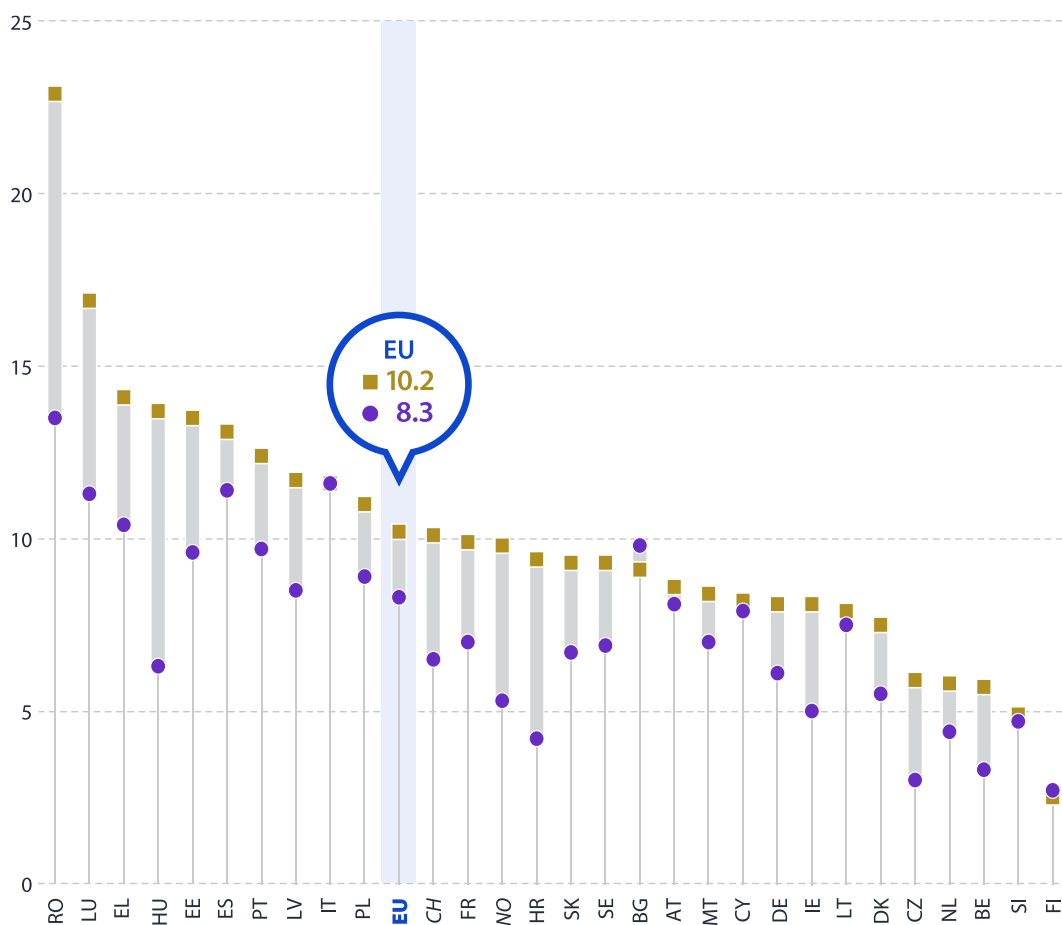
Note: the share includes people reporting some difficulty, difficulty or great difficulty. The term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. NO: 2020. CH: 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth\\_dm060](#))

In all EU Member States, the share of people having difficulties in making ends meet in 2022 was higher among people with a disability than among those with no disability. In absolute terms, the difference between these two shares was widest in Estonia (26.0 percentage points), while in relative terms it was widest in Sweden (where the share for people with a disability was 2.3 times as high as for people with no disability). The difference was narrowest in Greece in absolute terms (4.7 points) and joint narrowest in Bulgaria and Greece in relative terms (1.1 times as high).

## Share of employed persons aged 18 or over at risk of poverty, by level of disability

(%, 2022)



- Some or severe
- None

In 2022, the share of employed people at [risk of poverty](#) in the EU was 10.2 % among people aged 16 or over with a disability, compared with 8.3 % among people of the same age without a disability.

Note: the term disability is used to cover self-reported long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems. NO: 2020. CH: 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [hlth\\_dpe050](#))

Bulgaria and Finland were the only EU Member States where the share of employed people at risk of poverty in 2022 was lower among people with a disability than among those with no disability, while the shares for these two subpopulations were the same in Italy.

**More information:**  
[disability methodology](#), [data on functional and activity limitation](#),  
[data on poverty and income inequalities for people with disabilities](#)  
[and data on the financial situation of people with disabilities.](#)





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**KEY FIGURES ON**

**EUROPEAN LIVING CONDITIONS**

**2023 EDITION**

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