

2000 EDITION

Living conditions in Europe

Statistical pocketbook



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



THEME 3
Population
and social
conditions

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.

It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2000

ISBN 92-828-9349-9

© European Communities, 2000

Printed in France

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER

Symbols and abbreviations

*	provisional/estimated data or low reliability due to small number of observations
:	not available
-	nil
.	not applicable or data not statistically significant
0	less than half the unit used

EU-15	European Union of Fifteen
EUR-11	eleven participating countries in the Euro (excluding DK, EL, S, UK)
B	Belgium
DK	Denmark
D	Germany
EL	Greece
E	Spain
F	France
IRL	Ireland
I	Italy
L	Luxembourg
NL	Netherlands
A	Austria
P	Portugal
FIN	Finland
S	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
IS	Iceland
LI	Liechtenstein
NO	Norway
CH	Switzerland

Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Explanatory notes	3
Indicators by domain	
1. Population	
Population trends	6
Population structure and dependency	8
Population growth	10
Population by citizenship	12
Asylum	14
2. Households and families	
Size and composition of households	18
Household situation of the elderly	20
Cohabitation, marriage and divorce	22
Fertility	24
3. Education and training	
Education outcomes	28
Participation in education and training	30
Foreign language learning	32
Tertiary education	34
Lifelong learning	36
Expenditure on education	38
4. Labour market	
Employment growth	42
Employment	44
Ageing in employment	46
Equal opportunities in employment	48
Working time	50
Unemployment	52
Youth unemployment	54
Long-term unemployment	56
Unemployment and education	58
5. Earnings	
Average earnings of full-time workers	62
Earnings of men and women	64
Minimum wage	66

6. Income	
Net equivalised income	70
Income distribution	72
Low income	74
Social transfers	76
Non-monetary poverty	78
7. Social protection	
Social protection expenditure	82
Social protection benefits	84
Social protection receipts	86
.	
8. Consumption and housing	
Consumer expenditure	90
Housing type, size and ownership	92
Housing problems	94
Household goods	96
9. Health and safety	
Life and health expectancies	100
Perceived health	102
Selected health problems	104
Major causes of death	106
Accidents at work	108
Road traffic deaths	110
10. Social participation	
Social contact	114
Provision of help and support	116
11. Crime	
Crimes recorded by the police	120
Prison population	122

Introduction

This is the third edition of the statistical pocketbook on **Living conditions in Europe**. It aims to provide a consistent and internationally comparable set of social statistics and indicators that best describe the current social situation in the fifteen Member States of the European Union (as well as in the EFTA countries where information is available).

Each of the eleven chapters focuses on an area of social policy. Within each chapter, a range of policy-relevant indicators, as well as more descriptive data, are presented in tables and charts and accompanied by a short commentary.

Data are drawn from around ten harmonised sources available in Eurostat, such as the European Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the European Community Household Panel (ECHP). The statistics on crime were provided by the United Kingdom Home Office.

The forthcoming European Commission report on **The Social Situation in the European Union 2000**, which complements this pocketbook, provides a more in-depth analysis of the key social policy concerns for the European Union.

Explanatory notes

The notes presented below cover several indicators. Other notes that are specific to one indicator appear below each table.

Countries

Data for the three European Economic Area countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) and Switzerland have been included where available. Unless otherwise stated, data for the Federal Republic of Germany include the new German Länder.

Rounding of figures

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be a discrepancy between the sum of the components and the total as shown.

Population scenarios

Eurostat calculates three population scenarios for each Member State. The low and high scenario can be considered as plausible extremes with respect to population growth. The baseline scenario describes the 'average development' and can therefore be used as a sort of reference. This scenario is generally fairly close to the latest population forecasts made by the National Statistical Institutes.

Purchasing power standards (PPS)

The purchasing power parity is a conversion rate that uses the prices of a selection of comparable products and thus takes account of the real purchasing power of a currency. The amounts obtained using this rate are called purchasing power standards (PPS).

ISCED - International Standard Classification of Education

Education data in this report are based on ISCED. The term 'Less than upper secondary' corresponds to primary level (ISCED 1) and lower secondary (ISCED 2) education. 'Upper secondary education' refers to ISCED 3 and covers 'A' levels, 'Baccalauréat', 'Abitur' or equivalent vocational education. For some countries, the end of ISCED 2 marks the end of compulsory schooling. For others, the boundary between ISCED 2 and 3 is less clear. Tertiary education (university and non-university programmes) refers to ISCED 5-7.

Income data

The income data are based on the third wave of the European Community Household Panel (1996) but refer to the twelve months prior to the survey, i.e. 1995. In order to take account of differences in household size and composition in the comparison of income levels, the household's total income is divided by its 'equivalent size', computed using the modified OECD equivalence scale. This scale gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to the second and each subsequent person aged 14 and over, and 0.3 to each child aged less than 14 in the household.

Dependent children

Dependent children include all children up to the age of 15 plus all those persons aged 16-24 who are economically inactive (mainly in education) and who are living with at least one of their parents.

Editor: Peter Whitten (Eurostat, Unit E3)

POPULATION

Population trends

	EU-15	EUR-11	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Total population (1000)																					
1960	314 826	242 324	9 129	4 565	72 543	8 300	30 327	45 465	2 836	50 026	313	11 417	7 030	8 826	4 413	7 471	52 164	176	16	3 568	5 296
1980	354 572	275 274	9 855	5 122	78 180	9 588	37 242	53 731	3 393	56 388	363	14 091	7 546	9 714	4 771	8 303	56 285	227	26	4 079	6 304
2000	376 443	292 081	10 234	5 331	82 152	10 540	39 430	59 220	3 786	57 699	435	15 862	8 093	9 999	5 172	8 860	59 631	279	32	4 480	7 150
2020	388 233	300 929	10 658	5 526	84 670	11 269	40 307	62 831	3 909	56 543	501	17 204	8 443	10 513	5 350	9 470	61 038	311	35	4 851	:
Percentage share of total EU-15 population																					
2000	100	77.6	2.7	1.4	21.8	2.8	10.5	15.7	1.0	15.3	0.1	4.2	2.1	2.7	1.4	2.4	15.8	.	.	.	.
Population density (number of inhabitants per square km)																					
1998	118	123	334	123	230	80	78	108	54	191	165	383	96	109	15	22	245	3	198	14	172

Note: Population on 1 January for the year in question. Data for the year 2000 are based on nowcast estimates. Three types of population scenarios are calculated by Eurostat (high, baseline and low). The data for 2020 (and for 2000 in the graph) are based

Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics ; 1995-based demographic scenarios.

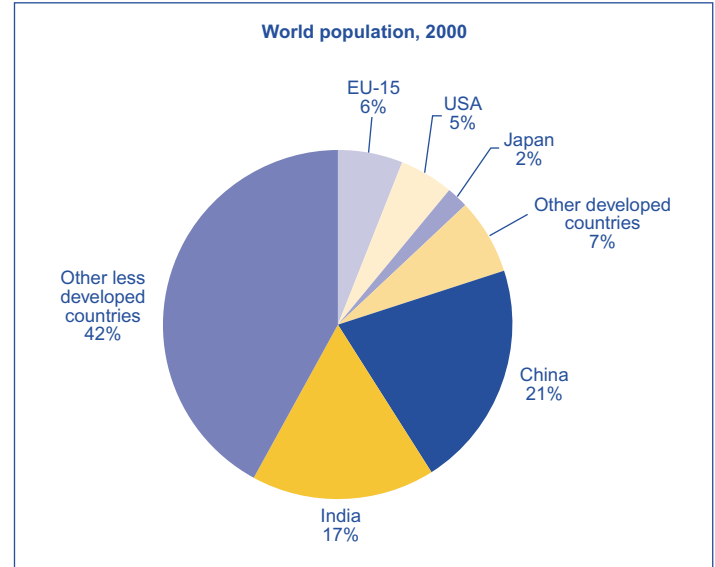
376 million inhabitants in the Union

The population of the European Union stood at 376 million on 1 January 2000 compared with around 272 million in the USA and 126 million in Japan. The population of the potential members of the Union, i.e. the twelve countries who are in the process of membership negotiations, is around 106 million.

Germany has the largest population. Its 82 million inhabitants make up 22% of the Union's population while the United Kingdom, France and Italy each account for around 15% of the total.

Belgium and the Netherlands are by far the most densely populated of the 15 Member States with 334 and 383 inhabitants per square kilometre respectively. In contrast, Finland and Sweden are very scarcely populated.

Further reading: "Demographic statistics", 1999 edition. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Slightly fewer births and deaths in 1998", No.1/1999. "First demographic estimates for 1999", No.1/2000. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - demo.



Population structure and dependency

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Population structure (percentage of total), 1999																				
Under 15	17.1*	17.7	18.2	15.8	15.4	15.3	19.0	22.2	14.6	18.8	18.5	17.0	17.0	18.4	18.7	19.2	23.7	18.8	19.9	17.5
15-64	67.0*	65.6	67.0	68.3	67.7	68.3	65.3	66.5	68.0	66.9	68.0	67.6	68.0	66.9	63.9	65.2	64.7	71.0	64.7	67.3
65-79	12.2*	13.2	10.9	12.4	13.4	12.8	12.1	8.8	13.4	11.2	10.4	12.0	12.2	11.4	12.6	11.7	8.9	8.0	11.2	11.2
80 and over	3.7*	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	2.5	4.0	3.1	3.1	3.4	2.8	3.3	4.8	3.9	2.7	2.2	4.2	4.0
'Very old' population (aged 80 and over)																				
1999 (1000)	13 758*	353	209	2 909	370	1415	2147	94	2 269	13	496	277	282	172	433	2317	7	1	188	282
Increase 2000-2010 (%)	36	49	5	35	47	40	52	16	47	46	26	35	35	33	9	17	55	36	11	:
Old age dependency ratio (%)																				
1999	24*	25	22	23	25	24	24	17	26	21	20	23	22	22	27	24	18	14	24	23
2010	27	27	24	29	29	26	25	19	31	23	23	26	24	25	28	25	22	21	23	:

Note: I, P, S, IS, LI - 1998 data instead of 1999. The old age dependency ratio is the population aged 65 and over expressed as a percentage of the working age population (15-64 years). The data for 2010 are based on the baseline scenario - see explanatory notes.

Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics ; 1995-based demographic scenarios.

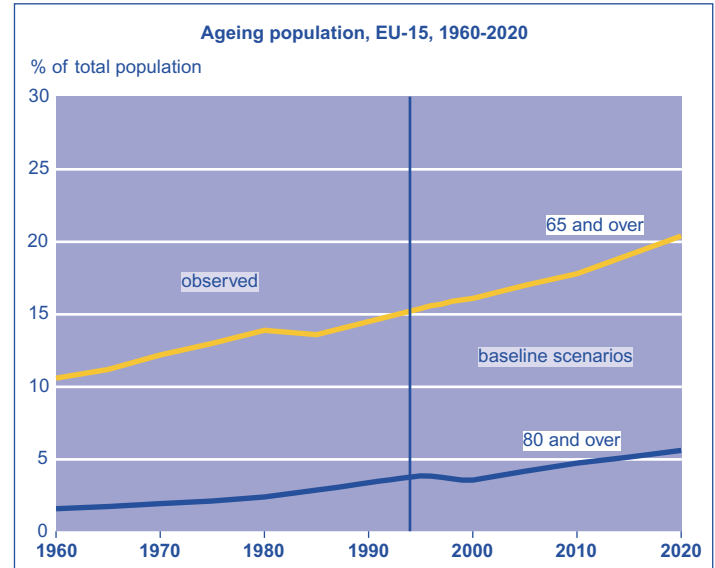
'Very old' population will increase by 36% in the next ten years

Between 1960 and the present day, the proportion of older people (65 years and over) in the population has risen from 11% to 16%. By 2010, there will be twice as many older persons (69 million) as in 1960 (34 million). Even in the next decade, the number of persons aged 65 and over will rise by around 13% in EU-15.

The growth of the population aged 80 and over has been even more pronounced. Over the next decade, numbers of 'very old' people will rise by 36%. Belgium, Greece, France, Italy and Luxembourg are expected to experience the largest increases (around 50%). In sharp contrast, growth will be negligible in Denmark and Sweden.

In 1999, the EU-15 population aged 65 and over corresponded to 24% of what is considered to be the working age population (15-64 years). By 2010, this ratio will have risen to 27. From a demographic point of view, Ireland appears to be in the best position to support its older citizens (17%).

Further reading: "Demographic statistics", 1999 edition. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - demo.



Population growth

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Average annual population growth rates (per 1 000 population)																				
1990-94	4.3	3.6	3.1	6.0	6.3	1.8	5.0	5.1	2.0	13.9	7.0	8.9	-0.2	4.9	6.7	3.6	10.1	14.7	5.4	10.1
1995-99	2.5	2.0	4.4	1.5	2.1	1.3	4.1	10.2	1.5	13.5	5.6	1.3	1.7	2.8	1.0	3.3	9.1	10.7	6.0	3
2015-19 (1)	0.5	1.5	1.4	-0.5	1.0	-0.9	2.0	3.4	-2.4	6.1	3.1	1.3	1.7	0.9	3.5	1.6	4.2	2.7	4.2	:
Average annual net migration rate (per 1 000 population)																				
1990-94	2.9	1.9	2.0	7.0	5.7	0.4	1.3	-0.4	1.9	10.5	2.7	7.5	-1.3	1.8	3.7	1.3	-0.8	8.0	1.9	6.9
1995-99	1.7	1.0	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.1	0.7	4.8	2.1	9.6	2.0	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.9	0.7	4.5	2.5	1.1
2015-19 (1)	1.6	1.4	1.8	2.4	2.2	1.5	0.8	2.9	1.4	4.1	2.1	2.7	2.4	0.9	2.1	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.7	:
First calendar year of population decline - according to baseline population scenario (2)																				
Year	2023	2032	2034	2013	2038	2014	2034	2030	2008	.	2037	2029	2040	2026	.	2030	:	:	:	:

Note: Population growth rates represent the relative increase of the total population per 1 000 inhabitants during the year(s) in question. The increase in total population is made up of the natural increase (live births less deaths) and net migration. Net migration is estimated on the basis of the difference between population change and natural increase (corrected net migration). (1) Data for 2015-2019 are based on the baseline scenario - see explanatory notes. (2) The population is not expected to decline in Luxembourg and Sweden.

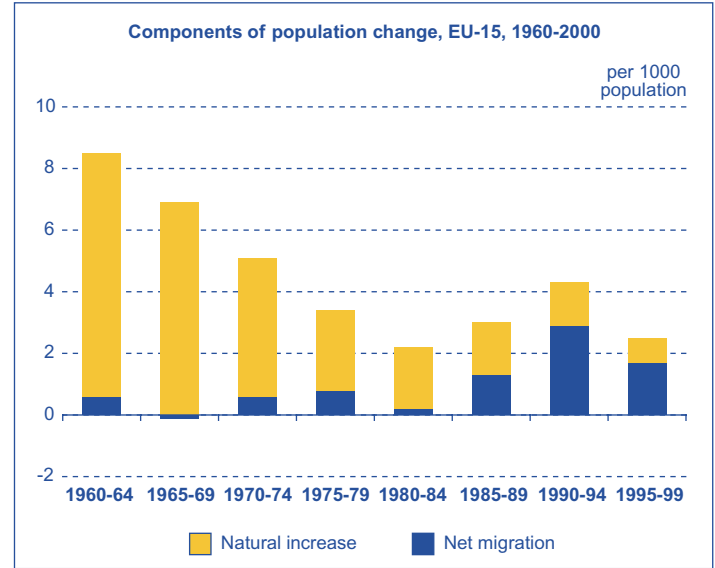
Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics ; 1995-based demographic scenarios.

Important role of international migration in population growth

There has been a gradual slowing down of population growth in the Union over the last 35 years. Over the period 1995-1999, the population increased on average by 2.5 per 1000 population compared with an annual average of around 8 in the 1960s. Since the mid-1980s, international migration has rapidly gained importance as a major determinant of population growth. Its contribution over the last five years has been around 70% on average. Without positive net migration the populations of Germany, Italy and Sweden would be in decline.

According to the baseline scenario, total EU population should peak around 2025 and fall to its current level by 2050. Within the Union, future population growth will be far from uniform. Italy may be faced with a population decline as early as 2008 while both Luxembourg and Sweden are unlikely to experience any decline.

Further reading: "Demographic statistics", 1999 edition. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Beyond the predictable: demographic changes in the EU up to 2050", No.7/1997. "Slightly fewer births and deaths in 1998", No.1/1999. Eurostat. "First demographic estimates for 1999", No.1/2000. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - demo.



Population by citizenship

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Population by citizenship (1000), 1998																				
Nationals	355 500 9 289	5 045	74 692	10 325	38 738	53 055	3 594	56 576	276	14 976	7 341	9 782	5 067	8 326	56 058	267	19	4 235	5 721	
Non-nationals	19 100 903	250	7 366	161	610	3 597	111	885	148	678	734	175	80	522	2 121	6	12	157	1 375	
... Other EU nationals	6 000 562	51	1 850	45	261	1 322	85	134	131	190	95	46	15	177	805	2	5	64	817	
... Non-EU nationals	13 100 341	198	5 516	116	349	2 275	26	751	16	488	639	129	65	345	1 315	3	7	93	558	
Non-nationals as a percentage of total population																				
1990, Total	4.1	8.9	2.9	6.1	2.2	1.0	6.3	2.3	0.9	28.7	4.3	6.6	1.0	0.4	5.3	4.3	1.9	36.5	3.3	16.0
1998, Total	5.1	8.9	4.7	9.0	1.5	1.5	:	3.0	1.5	34.9	4.3	9.1	1.8	1.6	5.9	3.6	2.1	37.6	3.6	19.4
... Other EU nationals	1.6	5.5	1.0	2.3	0.4	0.7	:	2.3	0.2	31.0	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.3	2.0	1.4	0.9	16.1	1.5	11.5
... Non-EU nationals	3.5	3.3	3.7	6.7	1.1	0.9	:	0.7	1.3	3.8	3.1	7.9	1.3	1.3	3.9	2.3	1.2	21.5	2.1	7.9

Note: EL, I, UK, LI and NO - 1997 data instead of 1998. EU-15 data are estimated. F - in 1990, other EU nationals represented 2.3%, non-EU nationals 4.0%.

Source: Eurostat - Migration Statistics.

19 million non-nationals in the EU

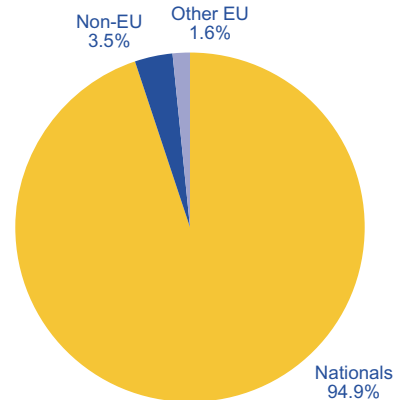
The total number of non-nationals living in the 15 Member States in 1998 was around 19 million, the equivalent of 5.1% of the total population. In 1990, the comparable figure was 4.1%.

Luxembourg is a unique case with non-nationals accounting for just over one-third of the population. Belgium, Germany and Austria also have sizeable non-national populations (around 9%). Next come France and Sweden with about 6%.

Among the non-nationals, around one-third are citizens of another EU Member State and the remaining two-thirds are citizens of countries outside the Union. Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg are the only countries where 'other EU nationals' outnumber non-EU nationals.

Further reading: "European Social Statistics - Migration statistics", 2000 edition. "Demographic statistics", 1999 edition. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "The population of selected European countries by country of birth", No.10/1998. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - migrat.

Population by citizenship group, EU-15, 1 January 1998



Asylum

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	NO	CH
Asylum applications (1000)																		
1985	159.2*	5.4	8.7	73.8	1.4	2.3	28.9	:	5.4	0.1	5.6	6.7	0.1	0.0	14.5	6.2	0.8	9.7
1990	397.0	12.9	5.3	193.1	4.1	8.6	54.8	0.1	3.6	0.1	21.2	22.8	0.1	2.7	29.4	38.2	4.0	35.8
1995	263.7	11.4	5.1	127.9	1.3	5.7	20.4	0.4	1.8	0.3	29.3	5.9	0.3	0.8	9.0	44.0	1.5	17.0
1996	226.8	12.4	5.9	116.4	1.6	4.7	17.4	1.2	0.7	0.3	22.9	7.0	0.3	0.7	5.8	29.6	1.8	17.9
1997	240.5	11.7	5.1	104.4	4.4	5.0	21.4	1.9	1.7	0.4	34.4	6.7	0.3	1.0	9.7	32.5	2.3	24.0
1998	290.1	22.0	5.7	98.6	2.0	6.6	22.4	4.6	6.9	1.7	45.2	13.8	0.4	1.3	12.8	46.0	8.4	:
1999*	345.0*	35.8	6.5	95.1	1.5	8.4	30.8	7.8	11.7*	2.9	39.3	20.1	0.3	3.1	11.2	70.4	9.1	60.7

Note: B, I, UK - number of cases. I - first estimates for 1999. UK - 1996 figure includes 11 050 dependents. In the graph, the crude asylum application rate represents the number of asylum applications made during the course of the year per 1 000 total population.

Source: Eurostat - Asylum Statistics.

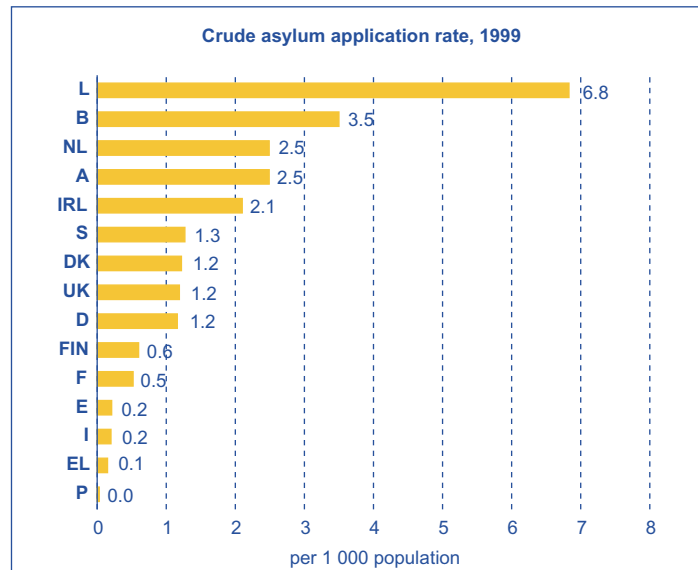
345 000 asylum requests in the EU in 1999

After peaking at 672 000 in 1992, the number of asylum applications in the EU fell to 227 000 in 1996. Thereafter, the trend is upward. In 1999, an estimated 345 000 requests for asylum were made in the EU, a rise of around 20% on the 1998 figure.

The largest increase (in absolute terms) has taken place in the United Kingdom (+ 24 000 in 1999). In relative terms, Finland, Luxembourg and Italy have experienced the strongest rises as a result of the entry of a relatively large group of displaced persons from former Yugoslavia.

In 1999, Germany had the largest number of applications (95 000) but, in terms of overall population, Luxembourg had the highest rate of asylum requests, namely 7 per 1 000 inhabitants. The two other Benelux Member States have also got relatively many asylum seekers.

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "First demographic estimates for 1999", No.1/2000. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - migrat.



HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

Size and composition of households

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Average household size ⁽¹⁾																			
1981/82	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.6	2.7	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.3	2.6	2.3	2.7	:	2.7	2.5
1998	2.5	2.4	2.2*	2.2	2.7	3.1	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	3.0	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.3
Proportion of persons living in private households by type of household. 1996 ⁽²⁾																			
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
One-person households	11	12	17	15	7	4	12	7	8	11	13	11	4	15	24	12	8	19	17
Lone-parent family	7	9	5	6	6	6	7	10	7	5	5	6	7	9	3	11	8	9	6
Couples without children	20	20	26	25	16	11	20	9	14	18	26	17	12	22	36	22	16	21	28
Couples with children	55	56	50	50	58	62	56	65	62	56	55	50	58	50	27	50	55	49	46
Other households	7	4	2	4	14	16	4	9	9	11	1	16	18	3	11	5	12	2	4

Note: ⁽¹⁾ The average number of persons per household. ⁽²⁾ Children may be of any age. Households composed of a couple with (or without) children and at least one other adult are grouped under 'other households', even if the other adult is a relative. EU-15 excludes S. NO - 1997 data. In the graph, the notion of 'dependent children' is used - see explanatory notes. DK, FIN, S - no data. D, E, A, P - no data for 1983. IRL - 1997 data instead of 1998.

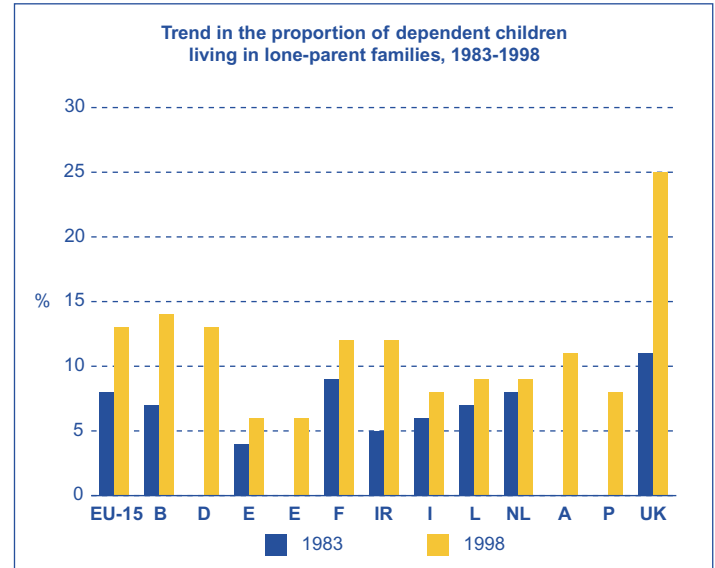
Source: Eurostat - Census (data on average household size 1981/82). Labour Force Survey (data on average household size 1998 and data in graph). European Community Household Panel (data on persons by type of household). S, IS, NO, CH - national data.

Trend towards smaller households

In 1998, there were on average 2.5 persons per household in the EU compared with 2.8 in 1981. Every Member State has experienced a decline, due largely to the rising number of persons living alone and lone-parent families. Today, around 11% of the population lives alone compared with 8% in 1981. The proportion of people living on their own is highest in the Nordic countries. In 1998, 13% of all dependent children were living with just one parent compared with just 8% in 1983. In the United Kingdom, the proportion has more than doubled over this period (11% to 25%).

In parallel with the above changes, the share of the population living in nuclear families (composed of a couple with children) is gradually declining but still stands around 55%. The highest proportions can be observed in Ireland and the southern Member States. Couples without children represent 20% of the population (although the data include couples who have not yet had any children and others whose children have left home).

Further reading: “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”, European Commission. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): “Lone parent families: a growing phenomenon”, No.12/1998. Eurostat.



Household situation of the elderly

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Where the population aged 65-79 will live, 2010																
Living alone	26	28	35	29	22	17	29	29	22	23	29	25	18	33	33	29
Living with partner	63	56	60	65	65	67	63	49	61	61	65	60	64	56	64	61
Living in a collective household	2	2	3	1	4	1	2	6	4	3	3	2	1	2	1	2
Other	9	14	2	5	8	14	6	16	13	14	3	13	16	9	2	7
Where the population aged 80 and over will live, 2010																
Living alone	44	50	62	52	36	28	46	38	38	37	44	42	30	49	62	50
Living with partner	31	28	26	29	35	34	34	19	30	28	27	29	35	23	30	31
Living in a collective household	10	8	10	10	12	4	10	19	13	9	24	11	4	14	4	8
Other	14	14	2	10	16	33	10	24	18	26	5	18	31	14	3	11

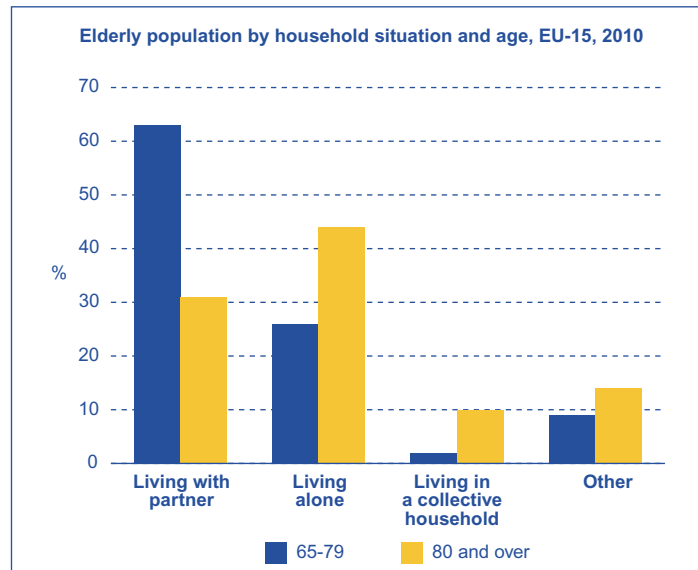
Note: 2010 data are based on the baseline scenario - see explanatory notes.

Source: Eurostat - 1995-based (baseline) household scenarios.

In several Member States, at least half the ‘very old’ population will live alone in 2010

In 2010, more than 80% of the Union’s elderly population (aged 65 and over) will either be living alone or with a partner. The remainder will live with their children (or other relatives/friends) or in a home/institution. It is clear however that demand for housing and care changes considerably as people grow older. Thus, the elderly should not be regarded as a single age-group. While 63% of those aged 65-79 will live solely with a partner, only 31% of the ‘very old’ (aged 80 and over) will do so. The ‘very old’ will continue to have a greater tendency to live alone (44%), in collective households (10%) or with their children/other relatives/friends (14%). There are marked differences between countries, particularly regarding the proportion of ‘very old’ people living with their children (or other relatives/friends): 30% or more have this form of potential support in Spain and Portugal compared with 5% or less in Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden.

Further reading: “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”, European Commission.



Cohabitation, marriage and divorce

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Crude marriage rate (per 1 000 population)																				
1970-74	7.6	7.6	6.6	7.0	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.3	7.5	6.3	8.7	6.8	9.4	7.9	5.1	8.2	8.2	6.2	7.3	6.9
1998 (1)	5.1	4.4	6.5	5.1	5.4	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.8	5.5	4.8	6.7	4.7	3.6	5.3	5.6	12.8	5.4	5.4
Crude divorce rate (per 1 000 population)																				
1970-74	1.0	0.8	2.5	1.5	0.4	0.0	0.9	-	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.3	0.1	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.5	-	1.1	1.2
1998 (1)	1.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	0.9	0.9	2.0	:	0.6	2.4	2.1	2.2	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.7	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.5
Percentage of couples living in a consensual union, 1996 (2)																				
Total	8	9	22	9	2	2	14	3	2	7	11	11	3	21	27	9	21	:	22*	11
Age-group 16-29	31	31	72	40	15	10	47	17	9	27	46	39	11	63	73	34	65	:	69	40

Note: The crude marriage/divorce rates are the ratios of the number of marriages/divorces to the mean population in a given year. The proportion of marriages dissolved by divorce by cohort (see graph) is the ratio between the number of divorces taking place at each duration reached during the year and the initial number of marriages of the corresponding cohort. (1) 1998 data or latest available year. (2) By definition, couples are either married or living in a consensual union. EU-15 excludes S. NO - 'Total' covers population aged 16-79. Data refer to 1997.

Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics. European Community Household Panel (data on consensual union). S, IS, NO, CH - national data.

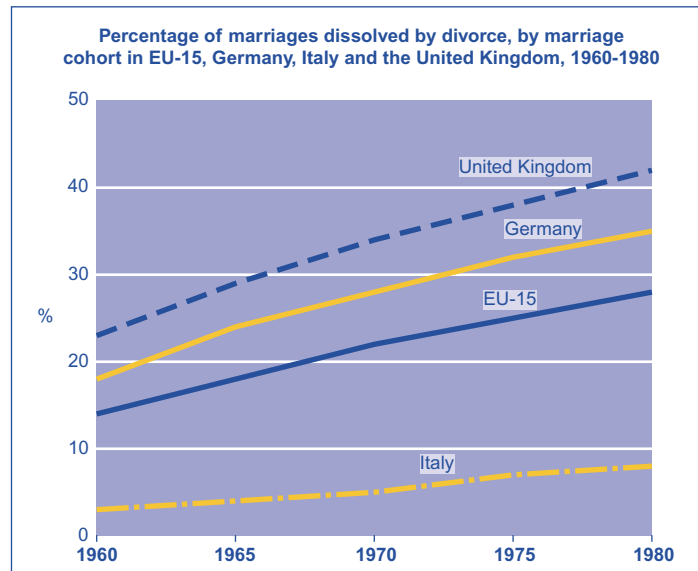
Fewer and later marriages and more marital breakdowns

In 1998, there were only 5 marriages per 1000 inhabitants in EU-15 compared with almost 8 in 1970. The average age at which people first get married has also increased: for men, from 26 years in 1980 to almost 30 today and for women, from 23 to 27 years.

Looking at marriage cohorts, the proportion of divorces is estimated at 14% for marriages entered into in 1960. For those more recently married couples (1980), the proportion had doubled to 28%. There are however considerable differences between countries with more than 40% of marriages (entered into in 1980) ending in divorce in Denmark, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Of the population living in couples, 8% are cohabiting and 92% are married. Virtually all couples are married in the southern Member States and Ireland but less than 80% are in Denmark, Finland and Sweden. For the age-group under 30, around seven in ten couples in the Union are married.

Further reading: “Demographic Statistics”, 1999 edition. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): “About one marriage in four ends in divorce in the EU”, No.14/1997. Eurostat. “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”, European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - demo.



Fertility

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Total fertility rate																				
1960	2.59	2.56	2.54	2.37	2.28	2.86	2.73	3.76	2.41	2.28	3.12	2.69	3.10	2.72	2.20	2.72	4.17	:	2.91	2.44
1990	1.57	1.62	1.67	1.45	1.39	1.36	1.78	2.11	1.33	1.61	1.62	1.45	1.57	1.78	2.13	1.83	2.30	:	1.93	1.59
1998	1.45	1.53	1.72	1.34	1.30	1.15	1.75	1.93	1.19	1.68	1.62	1.34	1.46	1.70	1.51	1.72	2.05	:	1.81	1.44
2020 ⁽¹⁾	1.65	1.80	1.79	1.50	1.70	1.50	1.80	1.79	1.50	1.79	1.80	1.60	1.69	1.80	1.90	1.79	2.08	1.60	1.89	:
Percentage of live births outside marriage																				
1970	6	3	11	7	1	1	7	3	2	4	2	13	7	6	19	8	30	5	7	4
1998 ⁽²⁾	26*	18	45	19	4	12	40	28	9	18	21	30	20	37	55	38	64	14	49	9

Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if current fertility rates were to continue. (1) Baseline scenario - see explanatory notes. (2) Estimated data for 1998 or latest year available.

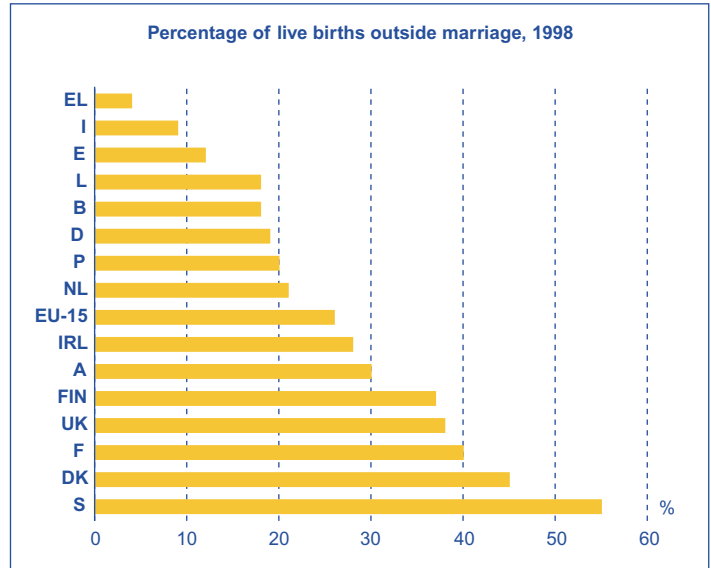
Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics.

Fewer children and later in life

The number of babies born in the EU fell in 1998 to around 4 million - a new post-war low. Indeed, the total fertility rate for the EU has fallen from 2.59 in 1960 to 1.45 in 1998. Countries with the highest fertility at the beginning of the 1980s (Greece, Spain, Ireland and Portugal) are those where it has since fallen most (by 33-48%). Today, the total fertility rate is lowest in Spain (1.15) and Italy (1.19). Despite a sharp decrease, Ireland continues to record the highest rate (1.93). According to the baseline scenario, the EU fertility rate will rise steadily to 1.65 in 2020.

Births outside marriage continue to increase throughout the Union, basically reflecting the growing popularity of cohabitation: from 6% of all births in 1970 to 26% in 1998. In Sweden, more than half (55%) the children born in 1998 had unmarried parents.

Further reading: "Demographic statistics", 1999 edition. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Slightly fewer births and deaths in 1998", No.1/1999. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - demo.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education outcomes

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Percentage of population that has completed at least upper secondary education (ISCED 3, 5-7), 1999																			
Total, age-group 25-59	62	60	81	82	51	38	63	51	46	64	66	77	22	75	79	63	64	86	83
Age-group 25-29	71	78	89	83	72	58	78	69	60	68	76	85	35	85	87	69	69	94	91
Age-group 30-39	67	68	83	84	63	47	70	60	52	68	72	82	24	86	85	65	64	92	86
Age-group 40-49	61	56	80	82	47	33	60	45	46	63	64	74	19	76	78	65	66	85	82
Age-group 50-59	50	44	77	76	30	19	50	34	29	56	55	67	13	57	69	56	57	76	77
Percentage of population that has completed tertiary education (ISCED 5-7), 1999																			
Total, age-group 30-59	20	27	28	25	18	19	20	21	10	20	23	9	9	32	29	27	23	29	24
Age-group 30-39	22	31	30	25	24	27	24	27	11	21	25	11	10	37	31	28	27	33	28

Note: The levels of education are defined according to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) - see explanatory notes. IRL, A (graph only) - 1997 data. EL - 1998 data. EU-15 estimated with data for these countries.

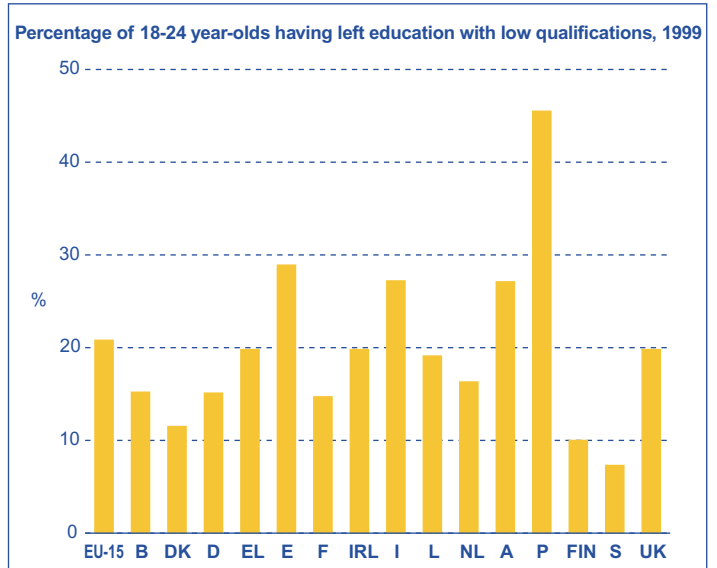
Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey.

Younger generation is better educated though one in five 'school leavers' are low qualified

Attainment levels of the population have improved significantly over the last thirty years. In 1999, 71% of the younger generation aged 25-29 had completed at least upper secondary education compared with only 50% of persons aged 50-59. Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal have the lowest levels of educational attainment but have witnessed the most significant increases in the last three decades. Over the same thirty year period, the proportion of those attaining a tertiary education qualification increased quite dramatically from 15% among those aged 50-59 to 22% among those aged 30-39.

Despite this improvement in education levels, 21% of 18-24 year-olds have left the education system without completing a qualification beyond lower secondary schooling. The picture across the Union is far from homogeneous but disparities can largely be explained by the different proportions of young people still in education. EU-wide, 40% of this age-group are still in education and it can be assumed that the majority will attain at least an upper secondary qualification ('A' levels, Baccalauréat, Abitur or equivalent).

Further reading: "Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators, 1998". Eurostat. "Key data on education in Europe 1999/2000". European Commission. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - Ifs.



Participation in education and training

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Age at which compulsory education ends (1)																			
Age	.	18*	16	18*	15	16	16	15	14	15	17*	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16
Participation rates by age, 1997																			
16	91	99	93	96	90	86	96	92	:	:	97	89	78	91	98	80	89	95	:
17	84	97	82	93	66	78	92	81	:	:	91	88	73	95	97	68	77	94	:
18	73	86	74	86	62	67	83	81	:	:	80	68	56	84	95	50	67	89	:
19	59	74	56	66	53	57	71	50	:	:	69	41	45	44	31	46	63	51	:
20	49	63	39	47	45	56	57	40	:	:	58	29	38	42	35	41	43	45	:
Participation rates (16-18 year olds) by sex, 1997																			
Males	82	92	82	92	69	74	90	78	:	:	90	85	66	88	96	64	76	92	:
Females	84	95	84	91	76	80	91	91	:	:	89	78	71	91	96	69	81	93	:

Note: (1) In B, D, NL the last year or two may be part-time compulsory schooling. P - 1995/96 data. In the graph, the threshold of 12 hours per week is used to discount for most 'student-type' jobs. Employment rates represent persons in employment as a percentage of the population of the same age. See also Employment section.

Source: Eurostat - UOE (Unesco, OECD and Eurostat) questionnaires on education statistics.

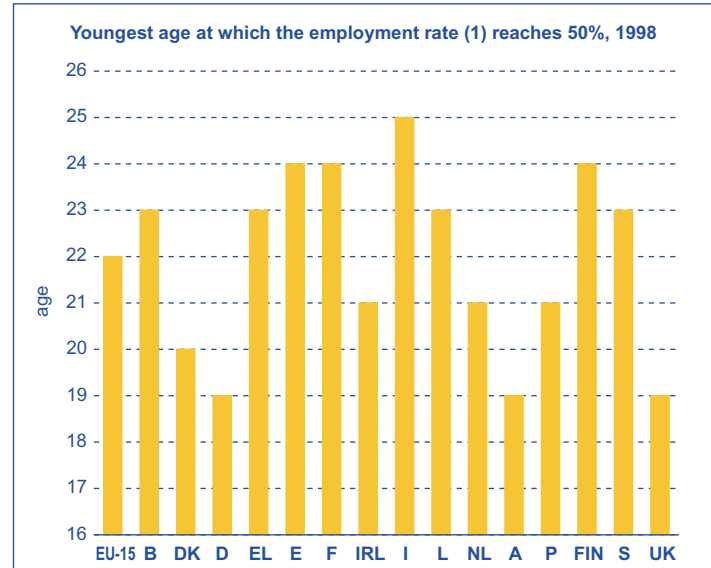
Prolonged education and training

For most Member States, full-time compulsory schooling ends at 15-16 years of age. However, the vast majority of young people choose to stay on longer in education or training. Around 83% of the EU-15 population aged 16-18 were still in education in 1997. Even at the age of 19, around 70% of young people in Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands had still not left the education system.

Overall, participation rates for females are slightly higher than for males although the gap is particularly significant in Ireland (in favour of females) and Austria (in favour of males).

As a result of the longer stay in education, young people are entering the labour market at a later age. For EU-15, it is not until the age of 22 that 50% of young people are in employment for a minimum of 12 hours per week. However, there are considerable differences between countries. The average age in the United Kingdom is 19 compared with 25 in Italy. The figure for Germany and Austria is also 19 but may be slightly misleading as, in the dual system, young people are classified simultaneously as both students and workers.

Further reading: "Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators, 1998". Eurostat. "Key data on education in Europe 1999/2000". European Commission.



Foreign language learning

	EU-15	B (F)	B (VL)	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS
Average number of languages learnt per pupil, 1997																		
Primary	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	-	0.4	1.8	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.7	:	0.4
General secondary	1.3	1.4	1.9	2.0	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.1	2.9	1.2	1.2	1.0	2.5	1.7	:	1.7
Percentage of pupils learning selected foreign languages in general secondary education, 1997																		
English	90	63	71	100	94	54	96	95	.	76	77	94	98	75	99	100	:	76
French	22	2	95	15	24	46	23	.	70	34	98	12	13	24	13	21	:	8
German	10	5	24	76	.	5	1	26	25	3	98	14	.	0	1	44	:	23
Spanish	8	3	0	6	1	-	.	34	4	0	11	:	2	:	:	6	:	2

Note: Data refer to foreign languages studied by each pupil in 1996/97 as opposed to those studied throughout their entire schooling. B(F) - French-speaking Community which includes small German-speaking Community. B(VL) - Flemish-speaking Community. L - French and German are official languages (in addition to Luxembourgish) but are taught as foreign languages at school. F, L, A - 1997/98. NL, P - 1995/96. IRL, NL - full-time education only. P - ISCED 2 general only. S - ISCED 2 general and vocational only.

Source: Eurostat - UOE (Unesco, OECD and Eurostat) questionnaires on education statistics.

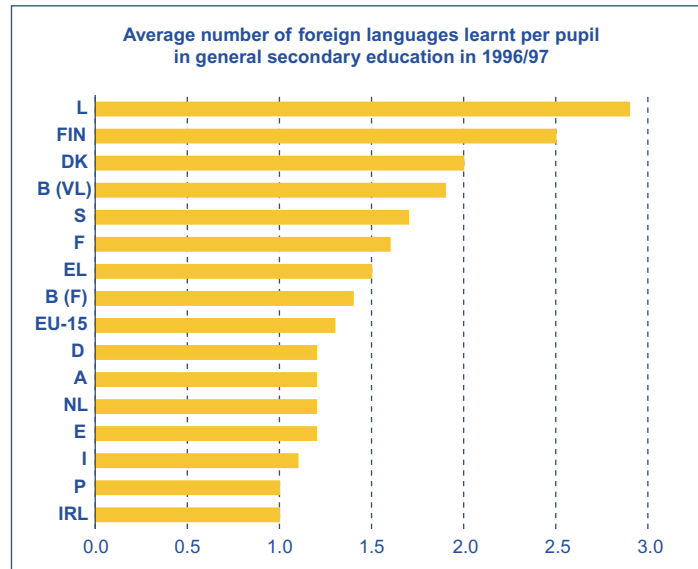
English the most widely-taught language at school

In most Member States, the teaching of foreign languages begins at the start of primary education. In Ireland, however, there was no language tuition at this level in 1997 while in Germany the number of pupils being taught a language is very small. In Luxembourg, most pupils learn two languages.

Pupils enrolled in general secondary education (compulsory and post-compulsory) were learning on average 1.3 foreign languages in 1997. A number of countries seem to put more emphasis on language learning - the Flemish community of Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg and Finland.

English is the most popular foreign language in all Member States except Luxembourg and the Flemish community of Belgium. Virtually every pupil in eight Member States was being taught English in 1997. Overall, French is the second most popular language, studied by almost all pupils in the Flemish community of Belgium and Luxembourg, 70% in Ireland, 46% in Greece and 34% in Italy. In Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden, German is the second most popular language behind English but ahead of French. Around one-third of pupils in France were studying Spanish.

Further reading: "Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators, 1998". "Key data on education in Europe 1999/2000". European Commission.



Tertiary education

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
Students in tertiary education (1000), 1997																		
Total	12 266	361	180	2 132	363	1 684	2 063	135	1 893	2	469	241	351	226	275	1891	8	185
Percentage increase in the number of students in higher education 1987-1997																		
Total	51	44	41	14	83	72	51	84	58	75	17	34	216	69	51	77	64	134
Males	:	35	24	:	89	61	43	59	36	:	6	26	195	59	40	59	48	115
Females	:	56	60	:	78	84	58	117	82	:	32	43	234	80	61	99	77	152
Females per 100 males in tertiary education, 1997																		
Females	107	102	120	84	92	112	122	107	117	110	93	95	134	112	126	107	141	129
Median age of students in tertiary education, 1997																		
Total	23	21	26	26	21	22	22	21	:	23	23	25	23	25	25	24	25	25

Note: Tertiary education corresponds to ISCED levels 5-7. See explanatory notes. For the graph: (¹) Social science includes business administration, mass communication and documentation. (²) Engineering includes Transport, Trade, craft and industrial programmes.

Source: Eurostat - UOE (Unesco, Oecd and Eurostat) questionnaires on education statistics.

Greater numbers in tertiary education, particularly women

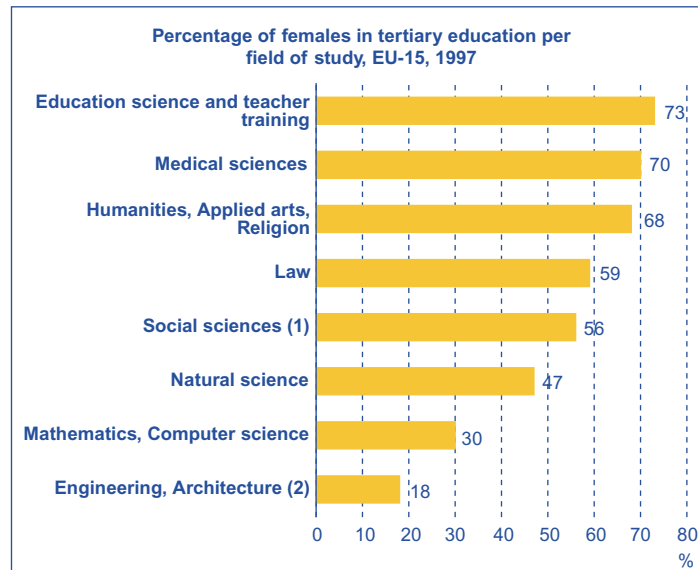
In 1997, there were just over 12 million students enrolled in tertiary education in EU-15. This represents a 50% rise from the 1987 level. All Member States experienced a significant increase over this period. The rise has been particularly sharp among females with numbers at least doubling in Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

EU-wide, there are now 107 females for every 100 males in tertiary education. In Denmark, France, Portugal and Sweden, the ratio is at least 120:100. In contrast there are still only 84 women per 100 men in Germany.

On average, students in tertiary education are 23 years old. This figure ranges from 21 in Belgium, Greece and Ireland to 26 in Denmark and Germany reflecting both the different ages at which students enter tertiary education and the length of study.

Females account for more than two-thirds of students in teacher training (73%), medical science (70%) and humanities (68%). However, they are considerably under-represented in engineering (18%) and mathematics/computer science (30%).

Further reading: "Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators, 1998". "Key data on education in Europe 1999/2000". European Commission.



Lifelong learning

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
Students aged 30 and over as a percentage of all students (1), 1997																		
All levels (2)	4*	6	5	2	0	2	1	:	:	:	3	:	3	6	9	11	3	5
Tertiary education	17	7	24	19	3	11	8	:	:	3	12	21	13	27	30	32	22	24
Percentage of employees who participated in training in the last 4 weeks by age-group (3), 1999																		
Age-group 30-39	10	9	22	6	1	5	2	9	6	3	18	9	4	23	26	24	:	18
Age-group 50-59	7	5	16	2	.	1	1	4	4	.	6	5	.	19	21	17	:	14
Percentage of employees aged 30-59 who participated in training in the last 4 weeks, by level of education (3), 1999																		
Less than upper secondary level	4	3	12	1	.	1	1	4	2	2	7	5	1	12	13	14	:	8
Upper secondary level	8	8	18	3	1	4	1	6	8	7	15	8	7	17	22	21	:	14
Tertiary education	15	13	28	7	2	7	4	12	12	9	18	14	9	32	33	34	:	24

Note: (1) B, D, E, L, A, FIN - students whose age is unknown are excluded. (2) UOE data which includes all students enrolled at ISCED 0-7 and excludes training of employed persons. (3) LFS data. The question refers to training that took place in the 4 weeks prior to the survey. F, NL, P - Information on training is collected only if this is under way on the date of the survey. Consequently the extent of training may be underestimated. IRL, L, A - 1997 data, EL - 1998. EU-15 estimated with these countries.

Source: Eurostat - UOE (Unesco, OECD and Eurostat) questionnaires on education statistics and European Labour Force Survey (training in employment).

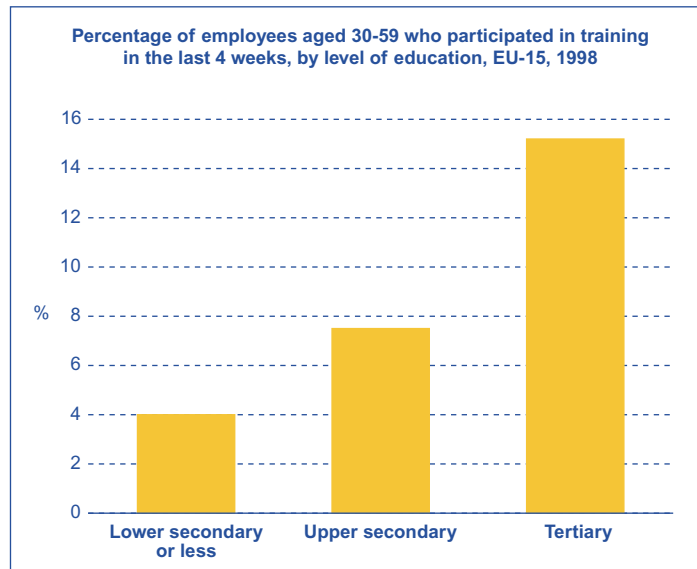
More continued training for the young and the qualified

Of all students enrolled in education in EU-15, 4% were aged 30 or above in 1997. This age-group accounts for up to 17% of all students in tertiary education. In Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the proportion is around 30%.

EU-wide, 9% of employees participated in training (in the last four weeks) in 1999. Such training seems to be more prevalent in the northern Member States: 18-26% of employees aged 30-39 in Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom had received training.

Throughout the Union, training for employees decreases with age: from 10% among those aged 30-39 to 7% among the 50-59 age-group. The level of education attained also influences the chances of participation in “life-long learning” for employees: 15% of those with a tertiary qualification received training against 4% of those with the lowest level of education.

Further reading: “Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators, 1998”. Eurostat. “Key data on education in Europe 1999/2000”. European Commission.



Expenditure on education

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
Total public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP, 1996																		
Total	5.3	5.7*	8.8	4.7	3.1	4.8	6.0	5.0	4.9	4.3	5.3	6.5	5.7	7.4	8.0	5.1	5.3	7.2
Expenditure per student in public institutions by level of education, PPS, 1996																		
Primary (ISCED 1)	3 477	3 808*	6 318	3 200	1 857	3 015	3 361	2 079	4 664	3 192	3 392	5 678	2 745	4 247	5 206	3 167	:	5 095
Secondary (ISCED 2-3)	4 857	6 592*	6 360	4 106	1 938	4 048	6 314	3 153	5 701	9 570	5 198	7 589	3 205	4 695	5 396	4 661	4 400	6 791
Tertiary (ISCED 5-7)	6 829	6 029*	7 494	8 887	2 854	5 004	6 246	7 738	4 813	3 682	8 907	9 969	5 878	7 024	12 156	7 851	5 407	7 718
Financial aid to students as a percentage of total public expenditure on education, 1996																		
Total	5.6	3.6*	18.0	4.1	0.4	3.1	3.6	8.5	1.9	2.7	12.4	3.4	1.8	8.2	15.4	9.4	5.2	15.5

Note: The above data refers solely to public expenditure. It therefore excludes all private expenditure on education. In some countries, the latter accounts for a considerable share of total expenditure on education. Expenditure per student is influenced by many factors such as the number of students enrolled, the average length of study, teachers' salaries, etc. See explanatory notes for description of PPS and ISCED levels of education. B - 1995 data and not included in EU-15 average. NL - tertiary figure includes private institutions. IS - ISCED 2-3 includes ISCED 0-1. NO - ISCED 1 includes ISCED 2.

Source: Eurostat - UOE (Unesco, OECD and Eurostat) questionnaires on education statistics.

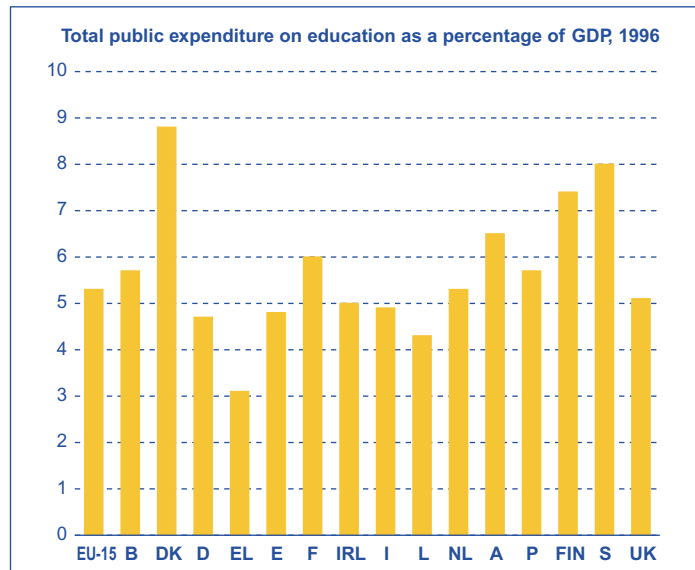
Public expenditure on education: 5.3% of EU GDP

In 1996, total public expenditure accounted for 5.3% of the GDP of the EU. The highest levels of expenditure were found in the Nordic countries with between 7.4 and 8.8%, and the lowest in Greece with 3.1%.

In virtually all Member States, expenditure per student increases with the level of education: averaging 3477 PPS per pupil in primary education, 4857 PPS at the secondary level and 6829 PPS per student in tertiary education. In a few countries such as France and Italy, unit costs for pupils in secondary level exceed those recorded in tertiary education.

Total financial aid awarded to students accounts for 6% of total public expenditure on education. This proportion tends to be higher in the northern Member States.

Further reading: “Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators, 1998”. Statistics in Focus (Population and social conditions): “Public expenditure on education in the EU”, No.15/1998. Eurostat. “Key data on education in Europe 1999/2000”. European Commission. “Key topics in education - Volume I Financial support for students in higher education in Europe, Trends and debates”, Eurydice. 1999.



LABOUR MARKET

Employment growth

	EU-15	EUR-11	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Persons in employment (1000), 1995-1999																				
1995	153 708	117 184	3 764	2 611	36 376	3 820	13 580	22 874	1 292	21 526	167	7 143	3 928	4 494	2 040	4 047	26 046	140	2 043	:
1996	154 475	117 591	3 777	2 628	36 091	3 805	13 749	22 939	1 341	21 682	168	7 308	3 906	4 561	2 069	4 127	26 324	140	2 112	3 778
1997	155 520	118 251	3 808	2 654	35 802	3 792	14 124	23 012	1 416	21 686	171	7 537	3 926	4 632	2 137	4 076	26 747	139	2 171	3 766
1998	157 608	119 761	3 855	2 707	35 935	3 921	14 628	23 279	1 487	21 786	174	7 724	3 962	4 752	2 179	4 176	27 043	145	2 237	3 833
1999*	159 559	121 253	3 890	2 734	36 041	3 968	15 096	23 581	1 549	21 960	182	7 879	4 002	4 818	2 255	4 285	27 319	151	2 253	3 862
Employment growth																				
Change (thousands)																				
1995-1999	5 850	4 069	126	123	-335	148	1 516	707	258	434	15	735	74	324	215	238	1 273	11	210	84*
Average annual growth rate (%) 1995-1999	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.2	-0.2	1.0	2.7	0.8	4.7	0.5	2.2	2.5	0.5	1.8	2.5	1.4	1.2	2.0	2.6	0.7*
Annual growth rate (%) 1999	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.3	1.2	3.2	1.3	4.2	0.8	4.4	2.0	1.0	1.4	3.5	2.6	1.0	4.2	0.7	0.8

Note: Total employment (annual average) according to the European System of National Accounts. 1999 data are estimated. EU-15 includes UK data from LFS. CH - Growth calculated over the period 1996-1999.

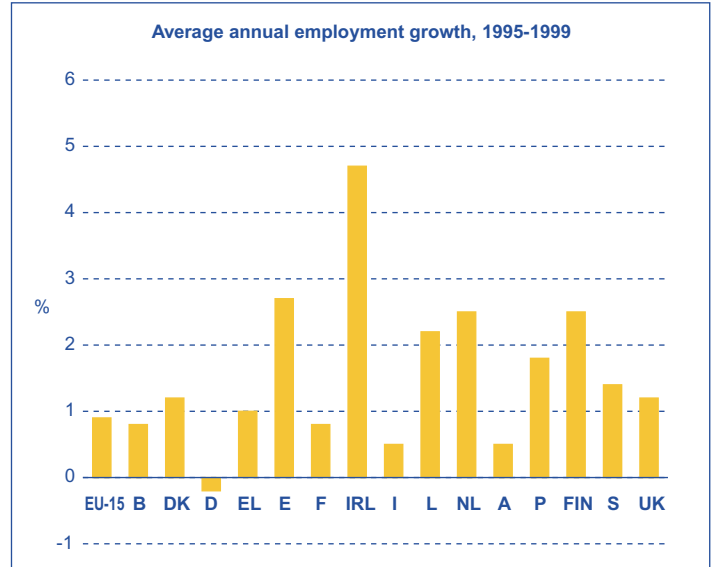
Source: Eurostat - European System of National Accounts (ESA 95). UK - comparable estimates based on the Labour Force Survey. IS, NO, CH - Labour Force Survey data.

Significant employment growth in nearly all Member States

In 1999, an estimated 159.5 million people were in employment in the Union, a rise of more than 5.8 million since 1995. This period, which followed a few years of recession, witnessed substantial employment growth in a number of Member States: 2.7% on average per year in Spain, 4.7% in Ireland, 2.2% in Luxembourg and 2.5% in the Netherlands and Finland. In absolute terms, the largest increase in the number of people in employment was in Spain (+1.5 million). Germany on the other hand saw the number of people in work fall by 335 000 or an average of -0.2% per year. 1999 has however seen renewed growth of 0.3% in this country. EU-wide, the employment growth rate stood at 1.2% in 1999.

Over this period (1995-1999), the number of jobs in services increased significantly in virtually all Member States. In contrast, job losses were recorded in the agricultural sector throughout the Union with one or two minor exceptions.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 2 - na_aggr and Theme 3 - employ (qlfd).



Employment

	EU-15	EUR-11	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Employment rates by age-group, 1999																				
15-64	62.1	60.1	58.9	76.5	64.8	55.6	52.3	60.4	62.5	52.5	61.6	70.9	68.2	67.4	67.4	70.6	70.4	83.1	77.9	78.4
25-64	67.4	65.8	66.6	78.6	68.3	62.7	59.3	68.5	68.3	58.4	67.7	72.7	70.9	74.8	72.5	78.3	73.8	87.5	82.5	81.3
Persons in employment by sector (percentage share of total), 1999																				
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Agriculture	4.5	4.8	2.4	3.3	2.9	17.8	7.4	4.3	8.6	5.4	2.0	3.2	6.2	12.6	6.4	3.0	1.6	8.6	4.6	4.8
Industry	29.3	30.5	25.8	26.9	33.8	23.0	30.6	26.3	28.5	32.4	22.0	22.3	29.8	35.3	27.7	25.0	26.1	26.6	22.3	24.7
Services	66.2	64.7	71.8	69.8	63.3	59.2	62.0	69.4	62.9	62.2	76.1	74.5	64.0	52.1	65.9	72.0	72.4	64.7	73.1	70.5
Percentage of persons in employment who are self-employed, 1999																				
Total	14	15	15	8	10	32	19	11	18	24	8	11	11	25	13	11	12	18	7	15

Note: Data refer to spring 1999. Employment rates represent persons in employment aged 15-64 as a percentage of the population of the same age. Persons in employment are those who during the reference week (of the Labour Force Survey) did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Family workers are included. EL, IS - 1998 data. EU-15 estimated with EL (1998).

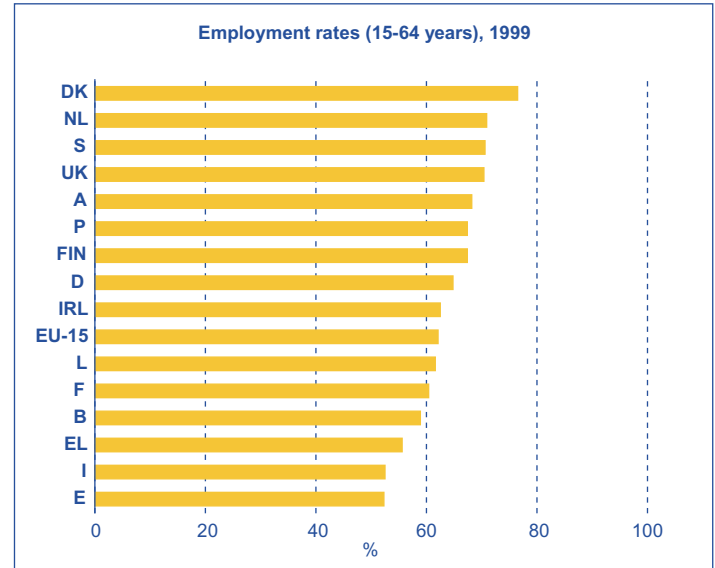
Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey.

Employment rates vary considerably between Member States

In 1999, the employment rate for the population aged 15-64 ranged from 52.3% in Spain and 52.5% in Italy to 76.5% in Denmark. The EU average of 62.1% is considerably lower than the US (73%) and Japan (70%). As many young people aged 15-24 are still in education, it may be more meaningful to focus on persons aged 25-64: for the Union as a whole, 67.4% of this age-group are in employment.

EU-wide, 4.5% are employed in agriculture, 29.3% in industry and the remaining 66.2% in services. This pattern is rather similar throughout the Member States with the exception of Greece and Portugal which still have a relatively large share of people working in agriculture. The latter may explain, in part, the rather high proportion of self-employed people in these two countries: 32% and 25% respectively compared with an average of 14% for the Union as a whole.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - employ/lfs.



Ageing in employment

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Persons in employment aged 55-64, 1999																			
(1000)	15 481	256	301	4 338	506	1 436	1 526	137	1 867	11	542	257	545	212	617	2 929	17	257	490
Employment rates, 55-64 years, by sex, 1999																			
Total	37	25	54	38	39	35	28	44	27	26	35	29	51	39	65	49	85	64	65
Males	47	35	60	47	56	52	32	62	41	35	49	42	62	41	67	59	90	70	79
Females	27	15	48	29	24	19	25	26	15	17	22	18	42	38	62	40	81	59	51
Employment rates by age-group, 1999																			
55-59	51	37	71	55	47	45	47	51	37	38	50	41	59	55	78	62	89	76	79
60-64	22	13	34	20	32	25	10	36	18	13	19	12	44	22	48	36	81	51	48
65-69	7	4	6	5	12	4	2	14	6	2	5	5	25	4	11	12	58	17	17
70-74	3	2	-	3	5	1	1	8	3	1	2	3	20	2	4	5	16	4	10

Note: Data refer to spring 1999. Employment rates represent persons in employment as a percentage of the population of the same age. Persons in employment are those who during the reference week (of the Labour Force Survey) did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Family workers are included. EL, IS - 1998 data. EU-15 estimated with EL (1998).

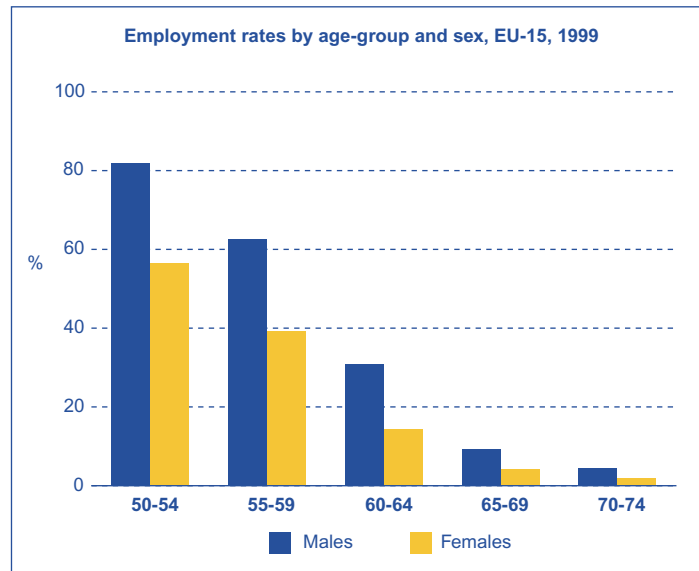
Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey.

15 million people in employment are aged 55-64

More than one-third (37%) of persons around the retirement age (55-64) are in employment. Sweden has by far the highest percentage (65%) while the proportion in Denmark, Portugal and the United Kingdom is around 50%. At the other end of the scale, less than 30% of older people are working in Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Austria. Throughout the Union, males (EU average of 47%) are more likely to be employed at this age than females (27%).

Looking at more-detailed age-groups: the employment rate of the population aged 55-59 is 51% with figures ranging around 37% in Belgium and Italy to 78% in Sweden. Among those aged 60-64, only 22% of the population are in a job. Rates are lowest (around 10%) in Belgium, France, Luxembourg and Austria and highest (over 40%) in Portugal and Sweden. EU-wide, 7% of persons aged 65-69 are in employment. Portugal stands out with 25% of this age-group in a job.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - lfs.



Equal opportunities in employment

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Employment rates, 15-64 years, by sex, 1999																			
Males	71.6	67.5	81.2	72.4	71.6	67.8	67.5	73.6	67.1	74.4	80.3	76.7	75.7	70.2	72.1	76.9	87.8	81.7	87.2
Females	52.6	50.2	71.6	57.1	40.3	37.3	53.5	51.4	38.1	48.5	61.3	59.7	59.6	64.6	68.9	63.7	78.3	74.0	69.6
Percentage of persons in employment working part-time by sex, 1999																			
Males	6	4	10	5	3	3	6	7	3	2	18	4	6	8	9	9	11	11	10
Females	33	34	34	37	11	18	32	31	16	25	68	33	17	17	38	44	51	44	56
Percentage of employees with a fixed-term contract by sex, 1999																			
Males	12	8	9	13	12	31	13	3	8	3	9	7	17	15	11	6	5	8	12
Females	14	14	11	13	15	35	15	4	12	4	15	8	20	21	16	7	5	13	12
Employment rates of women aged 25-49 with and without children, 1999																			
Without children	69	70	:	76	55	52	74	60	53	69	76	77	75	:	:	79	:	:	:
With at least one child aged 0-5	55	70	:	53	50	43	58	46	47	48	63	67	74	:	:	58	:	:	:

Note: Data refer to spring 1999. Employment rates represent persons in employment as a percentage of the population aged 15-64 years. Persons in employment are those who during the reference week did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Family workers are included. The classification by part-time or full-time job depends on a direct question in the LFS, except for A and NL where it depends on a threshold on the basis of the number of hours usually worked. EL, IRL, IS - 1998 data. EU-15 estimated with EL and IRL (1998).

Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey.

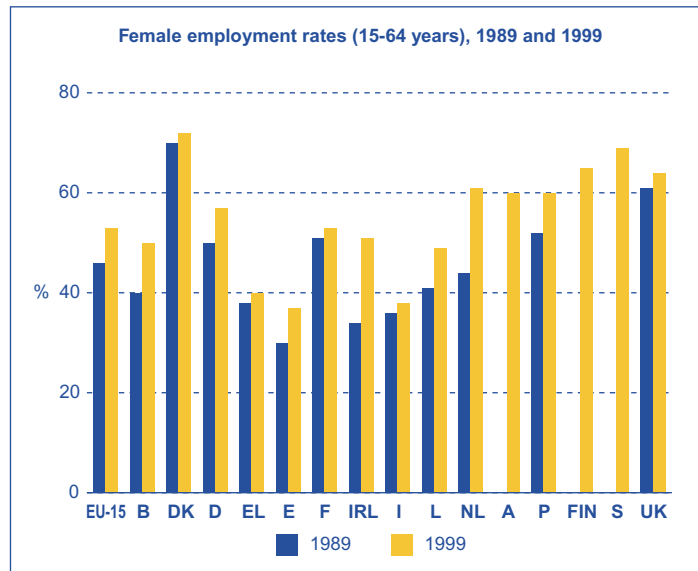
Gap between the sexes is narrowing but remains substantial

Between 1989 and 1999, the EU employment rate for males fell by almost 3 percentage points. Over the same period, the rate for females rose by 6 points, thereby closing the gap between the sexes. However, the rate for males (71.6%) remains considerably higher than that of females (52.6%). Female rates are highest in the three Nordic countries.

EU-wide, 33% of females in employment are working part-time against only 6% of males. Female part-time work is particularly prevalent in the Netherlands (68%) and the United Kingdom (44%). Throughout the Union, women are more likely to have a fixed-term contract. Spain has by far the highest proportion (35% of all female employees).

Mothers aged 25-49 with at least one young child (aged 0-5) are less likely (55%) to be employed than childless women of the same age (69%). The gap between these two groups is largest in Germany, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. In contrast, in Belgium and Portugal the two rates are almost identical. Differences between countries reflect the varying levels of discrimination, the extent of child-care provision, the availability of part-time work, taxation, welfare support, attitudes towards women at work, etc.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - lfs.



Working time

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Average number of hours usually worked per week, full-time employees, 1999																			
Total	40	38	39	40	41	41	40	40	38	40	39	40	41	39	40	44	49	39	41
Males	41	39	40	41	42	41	40	41	40	41	39	40	41	40	40	45	52	39	42
Females	39	37	38	39	39	40	39	38	36	38	38	40	39	38	40	41	43	38	40
Percentage of full-time employees working long hours, 1999																			
> 40 hours/week	19	10	15	12	25	14	15	15	15	6	3	8	18	10	9	51	64	7	67
> 48 hours/week	8	5	6	7	8	7	6	8	4	3	1	4	7	5	3	21	41	4	3
Percentage of employees doing the following types of work (1), 1999																			
Shift work	14	9	8	18*	18	8	9	16*	23	12	9	19	8	23	27	13	24	23	7
Night work	16	14	14	17*	17	10	15	16*	14	12	11	17	9	17	13	22	19	17	17
Sunday work	26	19	32	23*	24	15	25	28*	19	19	23	24	10	24	34	39	47	28	34

Note: Data refer to spring 1999. EL, IS - 1998 data. (1) The response categories are 'never', 'sometimes' and 'usually'. The above data refer to 'sometimes' and 'usually' combined. 'Usually' means working on at least half of the working days during the four weeks preceding the survey. An employee is classified as a shift worker if he/she usually works two or more different work-shifts. Work shifts are defined as distinct periods of work within a 24-hour day. Night work is defined as work done during the usual sleeping hours. D, IRL - 1997 data. E, L - 1998 data. Figures for EU-15 include 1998 data for EL, E, L and exclude D, IRL.

Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey.

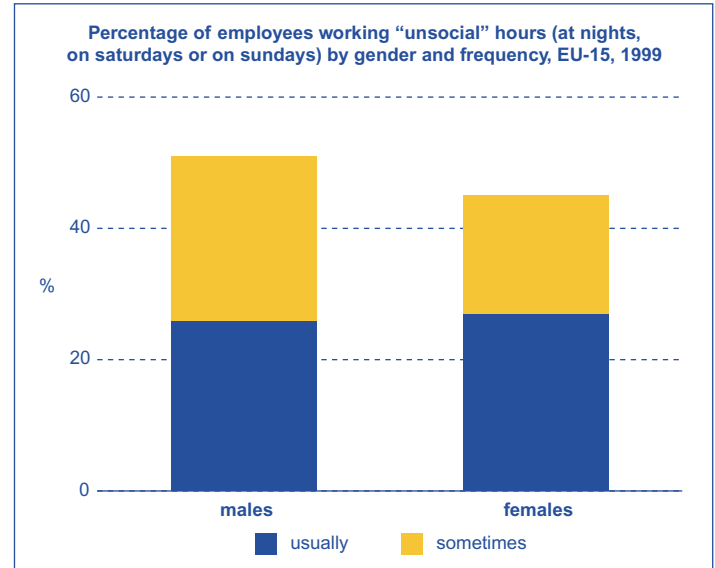
Longest working hours in the United Kingdom

Full-time employees in EU-15 work for an average of 40 hours per week. The picture is relatively homogeneous throughout the Union with the exception of the United Kingdom (44 hours). Men work more hours than women in all Member States although in Netherlands, Austria and Sweden the difference is less than one hour. In contrast, the gender gap is almost 5 hours in the United Kingdom.

Almost 20% of full-time employees were working longer than the average of 40 hours per week in 1999. Around 8% worked at least 48 hours per week. The figure for the United Kingdom was as high as 21%.

At EU level, 16% of employees had jobs which involved them “usually” or “sometimes” working at night while 26% worked on Sundays in 1999. Combining these data (along with Saturday work), 52% of male employees and 45% of females were working “unsocial” hours.

Further reading: “Labour Force Survey Results 1999”. Eurostat. “Employment in Europe 1999”. European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - lfs.



Unemployment

	EU-15	EUR-11	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Unemployment (1000)																				
1994	18 380.6	14 626.8	416.2	228.6	3 299.3	369.5	3 733.7	3 053.5	202.2	2 513.9	5.4	517.0	146.2	332.6	409.2	411.8	2 743.2	:	:	:
1999	15 693.7	12 978.7	394.6	147.8	3 433.6	474.8	2 616.2	2 893.5	95.3	2 648.5	4.2	261.2	143.1	228.0	261.6	319.1	1 765.8	3.4	75.6	125.4
Unemployment rates																				
1994	11.1	11.6	10.0	8.2	8.4	8.9	24.1	12.3	14.3	11.2	3.2	7.1	3.8	7.0	16.6	9.4	9.6	:	:	:
1999	9.2	10.0	9.0	5.2	8.7	10.7	15.9	11.3	5.8	11.3	2.3	3.3	3.7	4.5	10.2	7.2	6.1	2.2	3.2	3.1
Unemployment rates by sex, 1999																				
Males	7.9	8.3	7.8	4.5	8.3	7.0	11.2	9.6	5.8	8.7	1.7	2.3	3.1	3.9	9.7	7.2	6.7	1.6	3.3	2.8
Females	10.8	12.2	10.7	6.0	9.3	16.5	23.1	13.3	5.8	15.6	3.3	4.7	4.5	5.2	10.8	7.1	5.3	2.8	3.2	3.6

Note: Unemployed people - according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria are those persons aged 15 and over who are i) without work, ii) available to start work within the next two weeks and, iii) have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks or have found or have found a job to start later. Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the active population of the same age. The active population (or labour force) is defined as the sum of employed and unemployed persons. EL - 1998 data instead of 1999. EU-15 estimated with EL (1998).

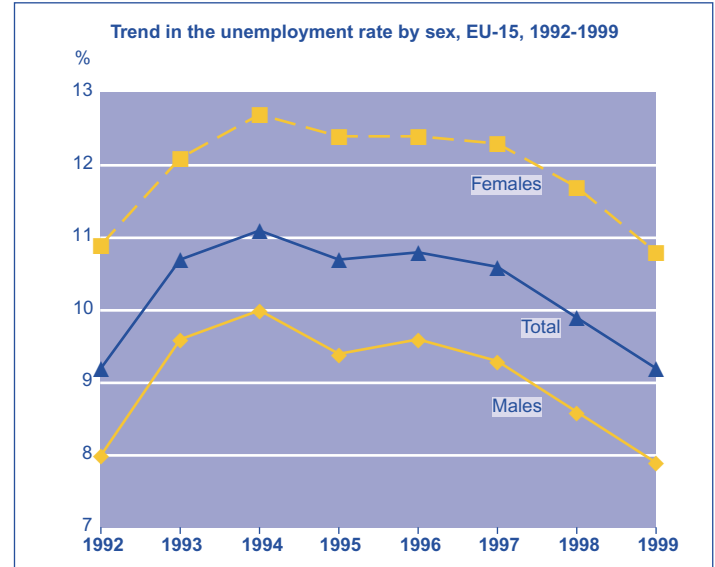
Source: Eurostat - comparable estimates based on the European Labour Force Survey.

15.7 million unemployed in EU-15 in 1999

The EU-15 unemployment rate rose sharply from 9.2% in 1992 to peak at 11.1% in 1994. It then fluctuated around this level until 1998 from which point unemployment has fallen significantly. In 1999, the rate stood at 9.2%. This recent two-year downward trend can be observed, to varying degrees, in all Member States with the most significant falls occurring in Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden. In Greece (1998 data only) the rate continues to rise. Looking at the trend over a longer period - since the EU-15 peak in 1994 - rates in Ireland and the Netherlands fell by more than half.

In 1999, the country most severely hit by unemployment was Spain (15.9%). In contrast, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria and Portugal recorded rates of 5% or less. These figures are similar to Japan (4.7%) and the United States (4.2%). In the vast majority of Member States, women (EU average 10.8%) are more likely to be unemployed than men (7.9%). Ireland, Sweden and, in particular, the United Kingdom (6.7% men against 5.3% women) are the exceptions.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". Statistics in Focus (General Statistics): "EU unemployment still marked by wide regional variations", No. 5A/1999. Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - unemploy.



Youth unemployment

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Number of unemployed persons aged 15-24 (1000)																			
1999	3 865	104	43	403	168	756	592	28	865	1	91	27	67	70	62	590	1	41	35
Youth unemployment/population ratio (1)																			
1994	10.7	8.8	7.8	4.8	10.2	19.4	10.8	10.6	12.5	3.3	7.0	3.5	6.8	15.5	11.7	11.2	:	:	:
1999	8.5	8.4	7.1	4.6	11.9	12.6	8.2	4.2	12.4	2.3	4.8	2.9	4.3	10.9	6.3	8.6	3.1	8.0	4.3
Youth unemployment rates (2)																			
1994	22.0	24.2	11.0	8.7	27.7	45.1	29.1	22.8	32.3	7.3	11.5	5.7	15.1	34.0	22.0	17.0	:	:	:
1999	17.7	24.7	9.7	9.0	29.8	29.7	23.6	8.3	32.7	6.6	7.2	5.0	8.9	21.4	13.6	13.0	4.3	12.3	6.2
Youth unemployment rates by sex, 1999																			
Males	16.5	24.6	9.1	9.7	21.5	23.4	21.9	8.4	29.1	5.9	5.0	3.7	7.1	20.6	13.1	14.5	3.5	13.1	6.5
Females	19.2	24.8	10.3	8.3	39.4	37.5	25.7	8.3	37.1	7.5	9.3	6.4	11.2	22.3	14.2	11.3	5.1	11.5	5.8

Note: Unemployment is defined according to the ILO definition. See 'Unemployment' for definition. (1) Youth unemployment/population ratios show the unemployed aged 15-24 as a percentage of the population of the same age. (2) Youth unemployment rates represent unemployed persons aged 15-24 as a percentage of the active population (or labour force) of the same age. EL - 1998 data instead of 1999. EU-15 estimated with EL (1998).

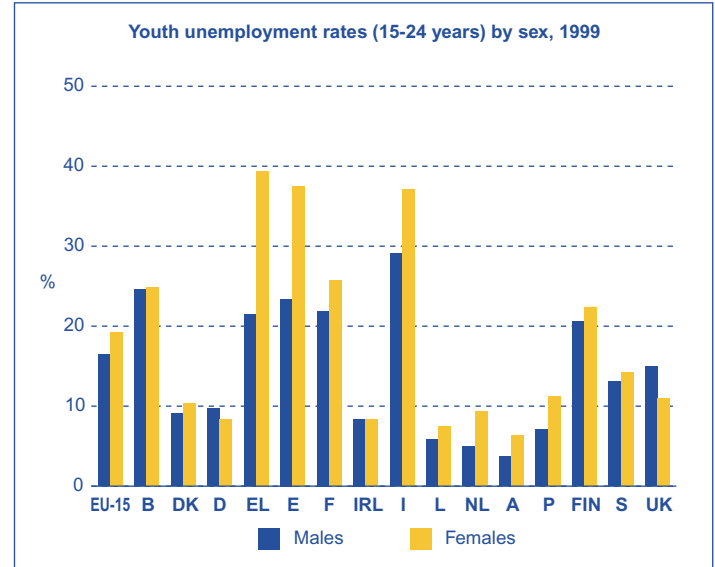
Source: Eurostat - comparable estimates based on the European Labour Force Survey.

Around one in twelve young people are unemployed

In 1999, almost 3.9 million young people aged 15-24 in the Union were unemployed. This represents 8.5% of the youth population or, put another way, 17.7% of the labour force of this age-group. The differences between these two percentages vary significantly between countries. While the first figure shows that a relatively small proportion of young people is unemployed, the second one gives an indication as to the labour market situation for young people (bearing in mind that they are largely first-time entrants onto the labour market and that a sizeable proportion have low qualifications).

The recent trend in the unemployment rate for young people has followed a similar pattern to the overall rate of unemployment. However, young people are still more than twice as likely as people aged 25 and over to be unemployed. Today, the youth unemployment rate ranges from 5-7% in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Austria to around 30% in Greece, Spain and Italy. Young females (19.2%) are more likely than young males (16.5%) to be unemployed although the gap is not as large as it is with the population aged 25 and over.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". "Youth in the European Union. From Education to Working Life", 1997. Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - unemploy.



Long-term unemployment

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Long-term unemployment rates (12 months or more)																			
1994	5.4	5.6	2.6	3.8	4.5	12.8	4.7	9.1	6.9	1.0	3.1	:	2.8	:	:	4.4	:	:	:
1999	4.3	5.2	1.0	4.5	5.9	7.3	4.7	:	7.1	0.8	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.6	2.2	1.8	0.6	0.4	1.1
Persons unemployed for 12 months or more as a percentage of total unemployed, 1999																			
Total	46	61	20	51	54	46	39	:	61	32	38	32	41	22	29	30	20	13	34
Youth long-term unemployment rates (6 months or more)																			
1994	13.9	14.9	3.3	4.4	20.1	32.1	13.8	16.2	25.6	3.8	6.4	:	5.8	:	:	9.0	:	:	:
1999	9.6	13.4	1.6	4.3	21.8	17.5	9.6	:	25.3	2.9	4.0	1.9	4.8	3.4	4.4	4.1	0.9	0.8	2.2
Persons unemployed for 6 months or more as a percentage of total unemployed, 1999																			
Total	52	59	16	49	73	59	36	:	77	43	54	31	53	12	27	32	12	6	36

Note: Unemployment is defined according to the ILO definition. See 'Unemployment' for definition. The unemployed are counted as long-term unemployed if they have been jobless for at least twelve months. For the age-group 15-24, the threshold is lowered to six months or more. The long-term unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons unemployed for twelve months or more by the active population (or labour force) of the same age and multiplying by 100. EL, IS - 1998 data. EU-15 estimated with EL (1998). In the graph, EU-15 excludes NL, A, FIN, S for which data are not available.

Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey (data in table) and European Community Household Panel (data in graph).

Around half the unemployed are jobless for at least one year

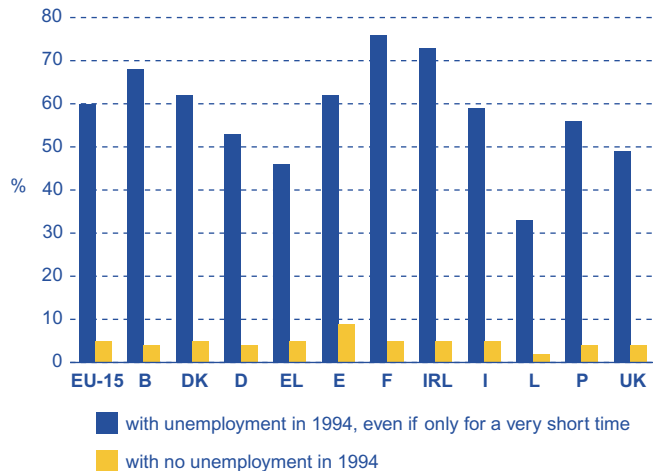
In 1999, 4.3% of the EU-15 labour force were unemployed for at least one year. Spain (7.3%) and Italy (7.1%) are the countries most affected by long-term unemployment. In relation to the total number of unemployed, just under half were looking for a job for at least twelve months. This proportion is lowest in Denmark and Finland (about 20%) but around the 60% mark in Belgium and Italy.

The youth long-term unemployment rate (six months or more) stood at 9.6% in 1999. Put another way, 52% of young unemployed persons have been without a job for six months or more. In Greece and Italy, this applies to more than 70% of the young unemployed compared with only 12% in Finland.

The chart provides some unique data on the persistence of unemployment. The chances of being unemployed during a year are 60% for those who were unemployed at some point during the previous year. For those who were not unemployed the previous year, the risk is only 5%.

Further reading: "Labour Force Survey Results 1999". Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Dynamic Measures of Economic Activity and Unemployment: 1. Patterns and Transitions over Time", No.17/1999. "Dynamic Measures of Economic Activity and Unemployment: 2. Status in terms of the amount of time spent", No.18/1999. Eurostat. "Employment in Europe 1999". European Commission, Employment and Social Affairs DG. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - unemploy/lfs.

The risk of experiencing unemployment during 1995 among persons...



Unemployment and education

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Unemployment rates of the population aged 25-59 by level of education, 1999																			
Males and Females																			
Less than upper secondary level	12	12	7	16	8	15	15	:	10	4	5	8	4	14	10	10	3	2	5
Upper secondary level	8	7	4	9	11	13	9	:	8	1	2	4	5	10	7	5	1	2	2
Tertiary education	5	3	3	5	6	11	6	:	7	1	2	2	2	5	4	3	1	1	2
Males																			
Less than upper secondary level	10	10	7	17	5	10	14	:	8	3	4	10	4	12	9	13	3	2	4
Tertiary education	4	2	3	4	4	7	5	:	5	1	1	2	3	3	5	3	0	2	1
Females																			
Less than upper secondary level	15	16	7	14	13	23	17	:	17	5	7	7	5	15	11	7	3	2	6
Tertiary education	6	4	4	6	9	16	7	:	9	2	2	2	2	6	3	2	1	1	3

Note: The three levels of education are defined according to ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education). See explanatory notes. EL, IS - 1998 data. EU-15 estimated with EL (1998).

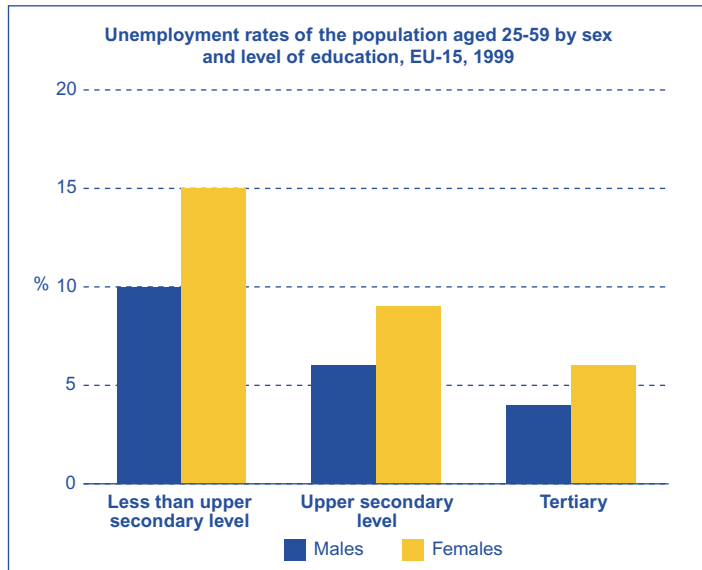
Source: Eurostat - European Labour Force Survey.

Qualifications tend to reduce the risk of unemployment

Higher education qualifications seem to reduce, albeit to differing degrees, the risk of unemployment in all Member States. In EU-15, the unemployment rate of persons with a tertiary education qualification stood at 5% in 1999 compared with 8% for persons who had completed at best upper secondary education and 12% among those who had not gone beyond compulsory schooling.

With the exception of Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal, the least-qualified in all countries are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as university graduates. The most significant differences between the two extremes are found in Belgium, Germany, Austria (though the rates are still comparatively low) and Finland. In Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal, unemployment rates are low (1-5%) regardless of the level of education.

Further reading: “Labour Force Survey Results 1999”. “Education across the European Union - Statistics and Indicators 1998”. Eurostat. “Key data on education”, 1999. European Commission, Education and Culture DG / Eurostat. “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”. European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - unemployment.



EARNINGS

Average earnings of full-time workers

	EU-15	B	DK	D(1)	D(2)	EL	E	F(3)	IRL	I	L	NL	A(4)	P	FIN	S	UK	CH
Mean gross monthly earnings, ECUs, 1995																		
Industry	1 874	2 087	2 607	2 699	1 897	954	1 171	1 722	1 857	1 270	2 365	2 129	2 097	557	1 929	1 977	1 704	3 093
Services	1 745	2 129	2 916	2 489	1 842	878	1 156	1 734	1 779	1 495	2 502	2 152	1 901	815	1 867	2 002	1 647	3 043
Mean gross monthly earnings by education level, ECUs, 1995																		
Less than upper secondary level	.	1 838	2 328	2 117	1 549	871	1 003	1 584	1 695	1 220	2 178	1 821	1 696	564	1 723	1 821	1 425	:
Upper secondary level	.	2 033	2 719	2 620	1 774	864	1 262	1 678	1 687	1 514	2 971	2 050	2 112	812	1 786	2 028	1 699	:
Tertiary education	.	2 691	3 633	3 946	2 667	1 158	1 565	2 537	2 298	2 071	2 627	3 030	3 427	1 660	2 567	2 425	2 270	:

Note: EU averages are weighted by number of employees. (¹) Germany prior to 3.10.1990 (²) New Länder. (³) F - 1994. (⁴) A - 1996

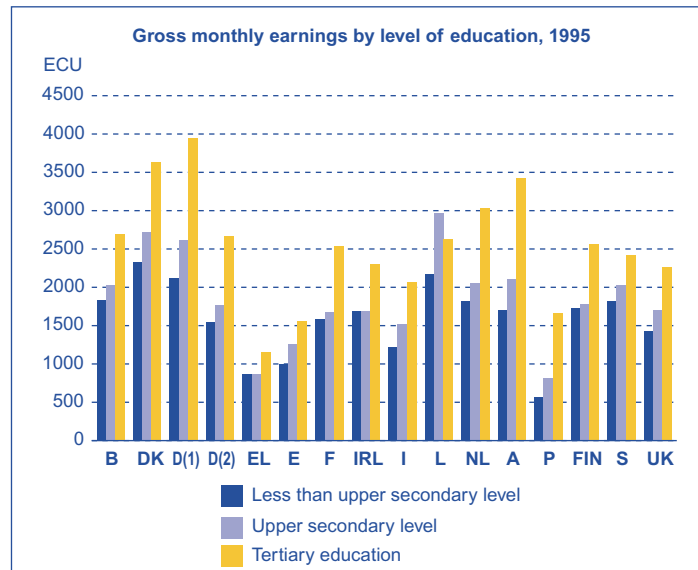
Source: Eurostat - Structure of Earnings statistics.

Considerable impact of education on earnings

In 1995, gross earnings were higher in the northern Member States than in the southern ones. The highest average earnings in industry and the service sector were found in Denmark, Germany and Luxembourg, while the lowest were in Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal. In most Member States, earnings in industry and services were quite similar.

Full-time employees with a tertiary education qualification earn on average considerably more than those who have completed upper secondary school ('A' levels, Baccalauréat, Abitur or equivalent). In 1995, the difference was around 50% in Germany, France and the Netherlands, and as high as 62% in Austria and 104% in Portugal. The earnings difference between those with upper secondary and those with lower secondary education was rather less at about 10-25% in most countries and, 0-6% in Greece, France, Ireland and Finland.

Further reading: "Social Portrait of Europe", 1998. Statistics in Focus (Population and social conditions): "The distribution of earnings in the European Union", No.8/1998. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ses.



Earnings of men and women

	EU-15	B	DK	D(1)	D(2)	EL	E	F(3)	IRL	I	L	NL	A(4)	P	FIN	S	UK
Monthly earnings of women as a percentage of men's, 1995																	
Total	76	84	85	74	87	73	76	80	70	79	84	69	73	71	78	84	70
Legislators, senior officials and managers	73	79	81	68	79	90	78	76	79	82	67	61	74	75	80	82	73
Professionals	81	82	87	79	83	74	80	82	79	83	86	73	89	86	83	87	83
Technicians and associate professionals	80	86	81	72	79	73	85	86	86	87	88	71	73	83	77	83	76
Clerks	83	84	86	78	83	78	77	94	80	81	83	74	81	83	91	94	84
Service workers, shop and market sales workers	79	79	86	68	73	72	77	91	68	84	79	69	73	80	82	94	74
Manual workers	72	80	83	70	75	68	71	80	65	75	67	69	68	68	78	87	64
Craft and related trades workers	71	82	88	72	74	59	71	81	57	75	77	73	69	63	79	83	58
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	75	76	86	74	76	72	72	79	67	73	67	66	69	71	81	94	69
Elementary occupations	80	83	83	78	80	86	81	90	66	83	81	75	78	84	81	89	74

Note: (1) Former West Germany (2) New Länder (3) 1994 (4) 1996 (5) Full-time earnings, bonuses excluded

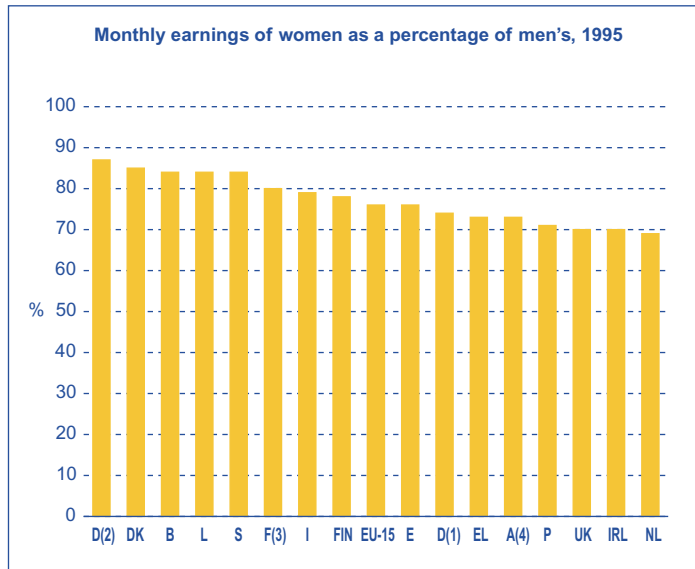
Source: Eurostat - Structure of Earnings statistics.

No Member State in which women's earnings exceed 85% of men's

Throughout the Union, women's average full-time earnings are less than men's: in 1995, the average gross monthly wage of women working on a full-time basis was 76% the earnings of a man. In Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg and Sweden, the average wages of women are equivalent to 84-85% of men's. In Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, on the other hand, women's wages represent only 69-70% of men's.

These discrepancies should primarily be interpreted as the result of comparing averages for two populations of employees with very different characteristics. Firstly, women and men do not have the same jobs. On average, manual workers (predominantly men) are better paid than office clerks (mostly women). Secondly, working women tend to be younger. As a result, women on average have less seniority and less of an opportunity to be in management positions. This clearly has an impact on their average salary level. Thirdly, the attainment levels of women are in general lower than men which, in turn, means that they are more likely to earn less.

Further reading: "Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. Statistics in Focus (Population and social conditions): "Women's earnings in the EU", No.6/1999. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ses



Minimum wage

	B	EL	E	F	L	NL	P	UK
Average minimum monthly wage								
Euro								
1990	853	335	451	753	762	877	225	.
2000	1 096	458	496	1 049	1 191	1 092	371	1 025
National currency								
	BEF	GRD	ESP	FRF	LUF	NLG	PTE	GBP
2000	44 208	147 517	82 460	6 882	48 050	2 406	74 433	634

Note: The minimum monthly wages are calculated on an annual basis (thus including the 13th and 14th month payments where applicable). EL - data for 1999 referring to unmarried non-manual employees in their first job. UK - minimum wage was introduced in 1999. In the graph, F - 1997 data instead of 1998. UK - 1999 data instead of 1998.

Source: National Statistical Institutes.

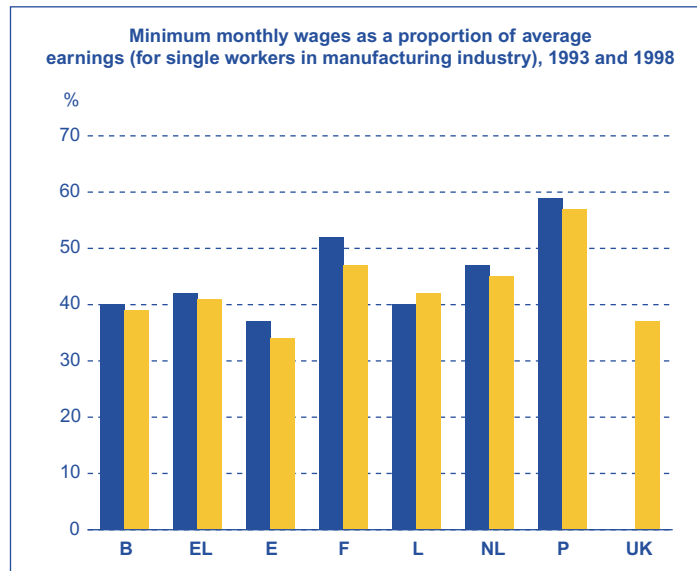
Minimum wages in eight Member States

In total, eight EU Member States apply a national minimum wage. There are two distinct groups of countries: one comprising Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom with levels around 1000 Euro per month and a second group comprising Greece, Spain and Portugal in which the level is less than half this amount. Although, Portugal has the lowest minimum wage (371 Euro) it has recorded the largest increase in the last decade (+65%).

Between 1993 and 1998, the national minimum wage relative to average gross earnings (of a single worker in manufacturing industry) did not change significantly in most Member States. In France, the ratio fell from 52% to 47%. Portugal remains the country with the highest ratio (57% in 1998).

For all countries for which data are available, women are approximately twice as likely as men to be paid at the level of the minimum wage.

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Population and social conditions): "Minimum wages in the European Union 1999", No.7/1999. Minimum wages "A Comparative study", 1997. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - minwages.



INCOME

Net equivalised income

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Mean equivalised net annual income, 1996																
National currency symbol	.	BEF	DKK	DEM	GRD	ESP	FRF	IEP	ITL	LUF	NLG	ATS	PTE	FMK	SEK	GBP
in national currency	.	583 809	136 782	30 183	1 986 494	1 227 846	98 170	7 699	17 131 (1)	897 062	30 182	218 381	1 101 984	:	:	10 023
in PPS	12 343	13 857	14 043	14 052	8 400	9 102	13 496	10 949	10 101	21 992	13 414	14 377	7 722	:	:	13 721
Equivalised income components, 1996																
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	:	:	100
Income from work	70	61	69	68	72	71	.	75	69	69	70	68	76	:	:	72
Private income	4	6	3	4	7	3	.	2	4	4	2	3	3	:	:	4
Social transfers	26	33	28	27	21	25	.	23	27	27	28	29	21	:	:	23
... Old-age / survivors pensions (2)	18	19	12	20	19	18	.	10	24	18	15	18	16	:	:	12
... Other social transfers	8	14	17	7	2	7	.	13	3	9	12	11	5	:	:	11

Note: Data were collected in 1996 but refer to the year prior to the survey, i.e. 1995. The income measure refers to the mean equivalised total net monetary income of households for the reference year. Income amounts reported in national currencies are converted to a common unit PPS using purchasing power parities. Differences in household size and composition are taken into account by considering 'equivalised incomes' - see explanatory notes. (1) I - data in 1000s. (2) Pensions include any pension or benefit relating to old-age or retirement plus any survivor's pension/benefit.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel.

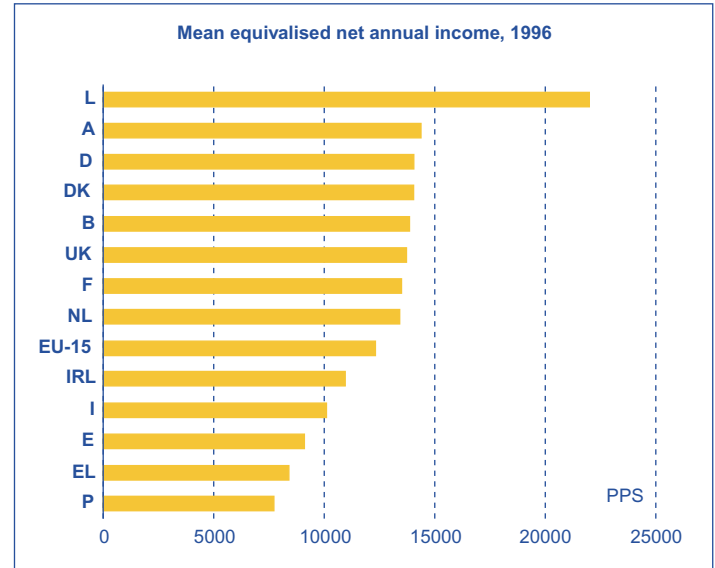
North/South divide in income levels

In 1996, the mean equivalised net annual income was around 14000 PPS in around half the Member States including Germany, France and the United Kingdom. A north/south divide remains with income levels in Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal between 7700 and 10100 PPS. Ireland also lies below the EU average. Luxembourg is an outlier with its exceptionally high income levels.

In most countries, around 70% of equivalised income arises from work (employment and self-employment), around 25-30% from pensions and other social transfers, and the remainder from capital and other private sources.

In Greece and Portugal only 21% of income comes from pensions and other social transfers. In contrast, the share of social transfers accounts for 33% of income in Belgium.

Further reading: "European Community Household Panel (ECHP): Selected indicators from the 1995 wave", 1999. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ilc.



Income distribution

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Share of income (percentage of total), 1996																
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	:	:	100
Bottom quintile	8	8	11	8	7	7	8	8	7	9	8	9	6	:	:	7
2nd quintile	13	14	15	14	12	13	13	12	13	13	13	14	11	:	:	12
3rd quintile	17	18	18	18	17	17	18	16	17	17	16	18	16	:	:	16
4th quintile	23	22	22	23	23	23	22	23	23	23	23	23	23	:	:	23
Top quintile	39	37	33	37	41	41	38	42	40	38	40	37	44	:	:	42
Income inequality measures, 1996																
Share ratio S80/S20	5.2	4.4	2.9	4.7	6.1	5.9	4.5	5.6	6.0	4.5	4.7	4.0	6.8	:	:	5.6
Gini coefficient (%)	31	28	23	28	34	33	29	33	33	28	29	26	37	:	:	33

Note: Persons are ranked according to their income and then divided into 5 groups of equal size known as quintiles. The share ratio S80/S20 represents the share of the top 20% to that of the bottom 20%. The Gini coefficient varies from 0% (no inequality) to 100% (total inequality) and provides an overall indication of the income distribution.

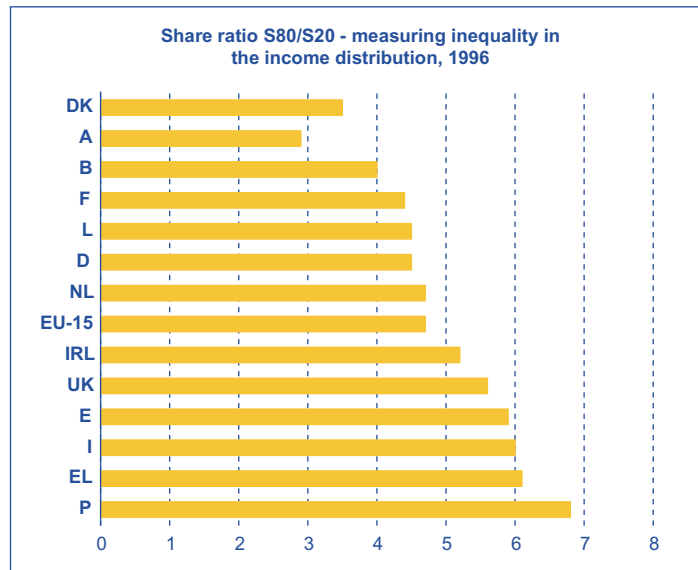
Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel.

Disparities in the income distribution

At EU level, the bottom (poorest) 20% of the population received only 7.6% of total income in 1996, while the top (richest) 20% received 39.3% of total income, i.e. 5.2 times more. This gap between the most and least well-off persons (known as the share ratio S80/S20) is smallest in Denmark (2.9) and Austria (4.0). It is widest in the four southern Member States with Portugal recording the highest ratio (6.8). Ireland and the United Kingdom also find themselves above the EU average.

The Gini coefficient varies from 0% (no inequality) to 100% (total inequality) and provides an overall indication of income distribution. The highest value can be observed in Portugal reflecting greater inequality. In contrast, Denmark has the lowest level of inequality.

Further reading: “European Community Household Panel (ECHP): Selected indicators from the 1995 wave”, 1999. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): “Social benefits and their redistributive effect in the EU”, No.13/1999 (2000 update forthcoming). Eurostat. “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”, European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ilc.



Low income

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
60% of national median annual income, 1996																
National currency symbol	.	BEF	DKK	DEM	GRD	ESP	FRF	IEP	ITL	LUF	NLG	ATS	PTE	FMK	SEK	GBP
"Poverty line"	.	318 640	76 960	16 513	1 024 000	613 899	52 191	3 771	8 802 (1)	463 848	15 535	117 600	539 400	:	:	4 969
Percentage of persons living below the "poverty line", 1996																
Total	17	17	11	16	21	18	16	18	19	12	12	13	22	:	:	19
1 adult aged 15-64 living alone	22	17	22	21	23	17	26	31	18	12	25	20	40	:	:	23
1 adult aged 65 or more living alone	25	28	28	21	36	10	25	28	25	14	9	27	51	:	:	36
Lone-parent with dependent children	36	27	6	49	25	30	31	51	18	31*	37	35	32	:	:	52
2 adults aged 15-64 without dependent children	11	12	10	11	16	15	11	10	9	11	5	8	22	:	:	8
2 adults, at least one aged 65 or more, without dependent children	16	19	21	12	35	19	14	11	12	12	9	13	37	:	:	22
2 adults with one dependent child	12	12	4	10	11	15	8	11	15	6	10	10	15	:	:	12
2 adults with three or more dependent children	25	24	4	22	16	32	19	25	34	22	17	26	36	:	:	25

Note: The extent of low income (or relative poverty) is measured in terms of the proportion of the population with equivalised income below 60% of the median equivalised income in each country. The notion of 'dependent children' is used - see explanatory notes. (1) I - data 1000s.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel.

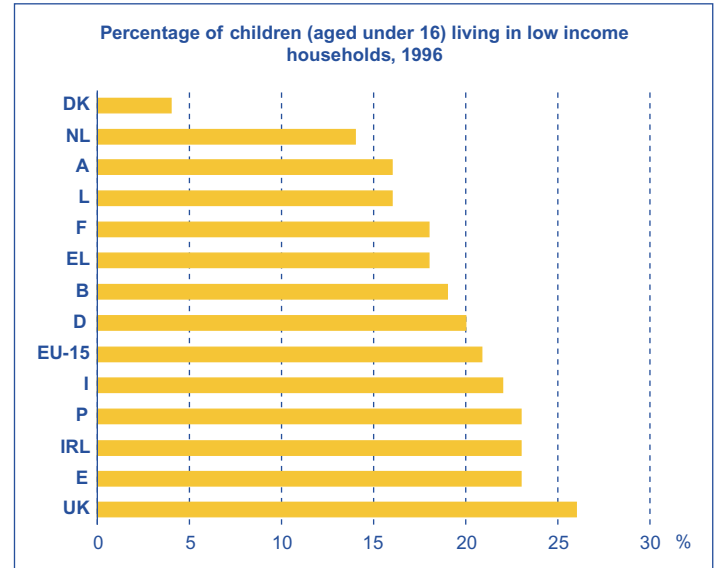
17% of the population below the poverty line

Around 17% of EU citizens had an equivalised income that was less than 60% of the median for their country (the 'poverty line') in 1996. The proportion of 'poor' people was relatively high (over 20%) in Greece and Portugal and lowest in Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Austria (11-13%).

Poverty tends to be more prevalent among 'lone parents with dependent children', 'adults living alone' and 'two adults with three or more dependent children'. Rates for older people are generally higher than their younger counterparts. More than one in three old people living alone in Greece and the United Kingdom (and one in two in Portugal) can be classified as having a 'low income'.

The proportion of children (aged under 16) living in a household with low income is higher (21%) than for the population as a whole. Children in Spain, Ireland and the United Kingdom seem to be particularly worse off compared with adults. In Denmark they are considerably less likely to live in 'poor' households.

Further reading: "European Community Household Panel (ECHP): Selected indicators from the 1995 wave", 1999. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Social benefits and their redistributive effect in the EU", No.13/1999 (2000 update forthcoming). Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ilc.



Social transfers

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Percentage of the population receiving any income from ... , 1996																
Social transfers	73	89	85	78	50	58	79	90	51	86	81	86	89	:	:	85
... Old age / survivors pension	30	28	19	29	39	34	25	23	40	29	19	34	36	:	:	28
Percentage of the population whose only income source is ... , 1996																
Social transfers	13	19	14	15	13	12	4	16	17	11	15	8	13	:	:	14
Among the population living solely on social transfers, percentage whose main source of income is a ... , 1996																
Old age / survivors pension	72	66	62	78	95	75	72	42	90	78	54	89	82	:	:	47
Percentage of the population with a 'low income' before and after social transfers, 1996																
Before social transfers but including pensions	26	28	30	23	23	26	27	33	21	24	24	24	27	:	:	32
Total income including social transfers	17	17	11	16	21	18	16	18	19	12	12	13	22	:	:	19

Note: For definition of income, see 'Net equivalised income'.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel.

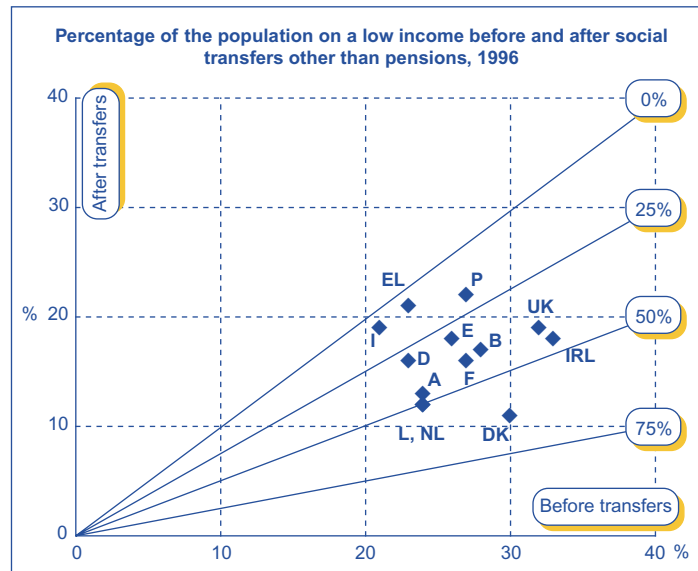
Impact of transfers on population with a low income is significant

Although social transfers constitute only 26% of equivalised income, 73% of EU citizens benefit from such transfers, either directly or indirectly, i.e. through other household members. The percentage varies from only 50% in Greece and Italy to around 90% in Belgium, Ireland and Portugal.

EU-wide, 13% of the population rely on social transfers as their only source of income. The proportion ranges from 4% in France to 19% in Belgium. Of those who depend solely on social transfers, 73% receive a pension as the main source.

Social transfers other than pensions reduce the percentage of “poor” people in all Member States, but to very differing degrees. The reduction in 1996 was smallest in Greece, Italy and Portugal: between 10% and 20%. In no other Member State was it less than 30%, and in Denmark - the country with the lowest “poverty rate” after payment of benefits - it was around 60%.

Further reading: “European Community Household Panel (ECHP): Selected indicators from the 1995 wave”, 1999. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): “Social benefits and their redistributive effect in the EU”, No.13/1999 (2000 update forthcoming). Eurostat. “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”, European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ilc.



Non-monetary poverty

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Percentage of households that cannot afford selected items ⁽¹⁾, 1996																
Eat meat/chicken/fish every second day	6	3	2	4	48	3	5	3	6	4	2	6	6	10	:	7
Keeping home adequately warm	13	3	3	1	45	53	7	8	19	3	2	2	66	5	:	6
Buying new rather than second-hand clothes	13	9	5	13	31	11	10	8	16	5	13	9	45	18	:	13
Percentage of households (un)able to make ends meet, 1996																
With (great) difficulty	18	15	11	7	56	33	18	25	19	8	15	18	38	21	:	18
With some difficulty or fairly easily	58	56	53	52	37	56	68	66	65	40	41	59	57	62	:	59
(Very) easily	24	29	35	40	7	11	14	9	16	52	44	24	5	18	:	22
Percentage of households with normally some money left to save ⁽²⁾, 1996																
Total	41	47	50	51	10	36	31*	32	27	53	54	64	14	34	:	52

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Each household is asked whether or not it can afford to pay for a number of items. The data include only those households that want the items. ⁽²⁾ Each household is asked whether or not it can normally save money. The answer categories are 'yes', 'very little' or 'no'. The above data include only those households that said 'yes'. F - the wording of the question is slightly different: figure includes those households who replied that they consume less than they earn and put money aside.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel.

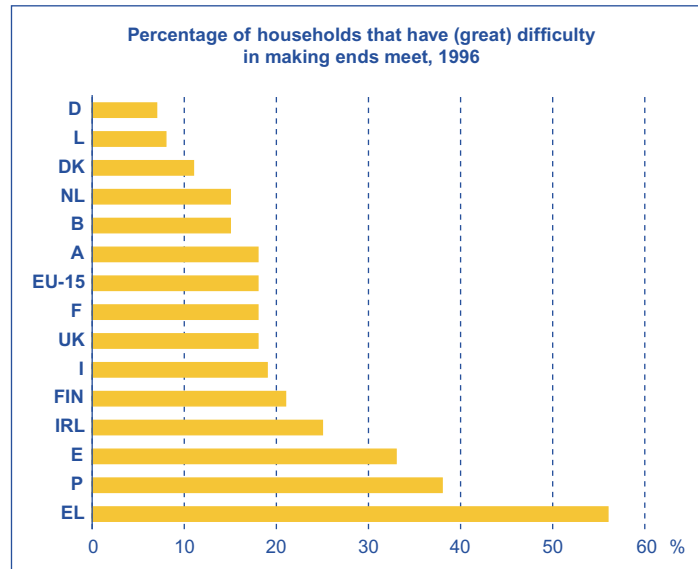
Indicators of non-monetary poverty - making ends meet

In 1996, 13% of EU households reported that they could not afford to buy new clothes (rather than second-hand ones). A similar percentage said that they could not afford to keep their home adequately warm. This applied to 45-66% of the households in Greece, Spain and Portugal. Around 6% of EU households declared that they were able to afford to eat meat/chicken/fish every second day.

For the Union as a whole, 18% of households had (great) difficulty in making ends meet in 1996. A further 58% had some (or little) difficulty while the remaining 24% were able to make ends meet (very) easily. Households in Greece, Spain and Portugal appear to have the most difficulty in making ends meet.

In 1996, around four in ten EU households reported that they normally had some money left to save. In Greece (as low as one in ten) and Portugal, the rates were considerably lower.

Further reading: "European Community Household Panel (ECHP): Selected indicators from the 1995 wave", 1999. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - ilc.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection expenditure

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
As a percentage of GDP																		
1990	25.4	26.6	30.3	25.4	22.6	19.9	27.7	19.1	24.1	23.5	32.5	26.7	15.5	25.5	32.9	23.1	:	26.3
1997	28.2	28.5	31.4	29.9	23.6	21.4	30.8	17.5	25.9	24.8	30.3	28.8	22.5	29.9	33.7	26.8	18.3	25.7
Per capita, PPS																		
1997	5 334	6 144	6 796	6 230	2 912	3 297	6 082	3 339	5 200	8 837	6 257	6 233	2 868	5 189	6 485	4 982	3 900	5 973
Trend in real per capita expenditure (Index 1990=100)																		
1993	113	111	113	104	96	124	111	119	109	120	104	110	143	116	104	127	:	113
1997	119	118	121	112	111	121	118	139	116	138	102	118	176	121	106	131	:	119

Note: Social protection encompasses all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households and individuals of the burden of a defined set of risks or needs, provided that there is neither a simultaneous reciprocal nor an individual arrangement involved. GDP - Gross Domestic Product. PPS - Purchasing Power Standards.

Source: Eurostat - European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

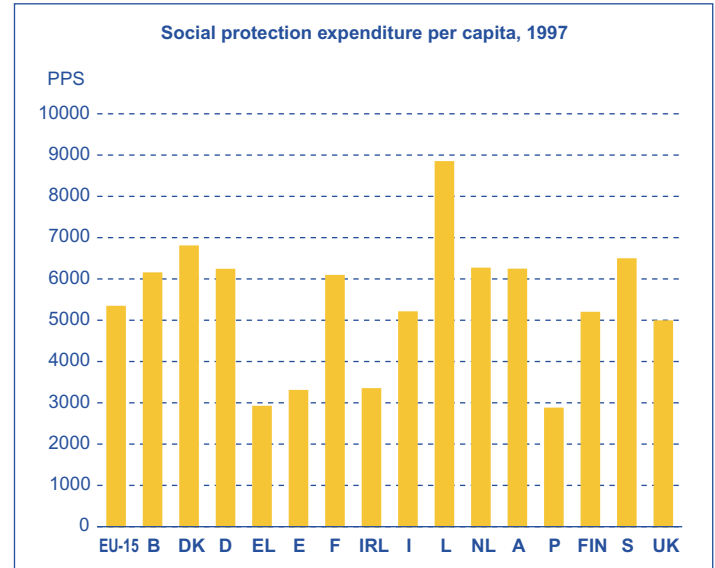
Social protection expenditure - disparities between countries

In 1997, social protection expenditure represented 28.2% of GDP, compared with a figure of 25.4% in 1990. The EU average conceals major differences among the Member States: Denmark, France and Sweden have the highest rates (31-34%) while Greece, Spain, Ireland and Portugal record the lowest ratios (18-24%).

The disparities between the countries reflect differences in the social protection systems, demographic changes, unemployment levels and other social, institutional and economic factors.

When social protection is expressed in PPS per capita, the differences are even more pronounced: the ratio between Luxembourg (which spends the most) and Portugal (which spends the least) is 3.1 to 1. However, the fact that this ratio stood at 3.7:1 in 1990 reflects an increasing convergence of social protection expenditure in the Member States.

Further reading: "Social Protection expenditure and receipts 1980-1997", 2000. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Social Protection in Europe", No.2/2000. "ESSPROS Manual", 1996. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - sespros.



Social protection benefits

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
Social protection benefits by groups of functions (as a percentage of total benefits)																		
Old age and survivors benefits																		
1990	45.7	40.4	36.7	45.8	50.9	42.9	42.7	30.5	59.6	45.8	37.4	50,0	43.1	33.8	:	42.5	:	34,4
1997	45.2	43.0	39.4	41.8	51.4	46.1	43.6	24.9	65.1	43.6	37.7	48.5	42.8	33.8	39.6	40.7	31.2	34.3
Sickness, health care and disability																		
1990	36.5	34.1	30.1	38.0	34.7	36.6	35.6	38.4	33.7	39.1	44.7	33.2	46.9	44.0	:	36.1	:	43.7
1997	35.4	32.8	28.9	36.1	31.4	36.6	34.0	40.7	29.5	38.0	45.9	34.1	45.9	36.6	34.2	38.2	49.9	44.3
Unemployment																		
1990	7.1	13.8	15.4	5.9	4.2	18.0	8.3	14.6	1.7	2.6	8.3	4.6	2.5	6.1	:	5.7	:	6.9
1997	7.5	12.7	12.6	9.1	4.6	14.1	7.8	15.7	1.8	3.7	11.0	5.5	5.0	13.3	9.5	4.0	3.2	4.3
Family and children																		
1990	7.6	9.4	11.9	7.6	7.2	1.7	9.3	11.4	4.9	10.8	5.6	10.5	7.1	13.5	:	9.0	:	10.8
1997	8.3	8.8	12.6	10.1	8.2	2.0	10.0	13.2	3.5	13.2	3.7	10.5	5.3	12.6	10.8	9.1	12.5	13.7

Note: Social benefits are classified in the following eight functions: Sickness/health care, Disability, Old age, Survivors, Family/children, Unemployment, Housing and Social exclusion not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.). The above table has regrouped the data into 4 broad categories. The figures do not sum up to 100 as benefits for housing and social exclusion (n.e.c.) have not been included in the table. EU-15 figures exclude S.

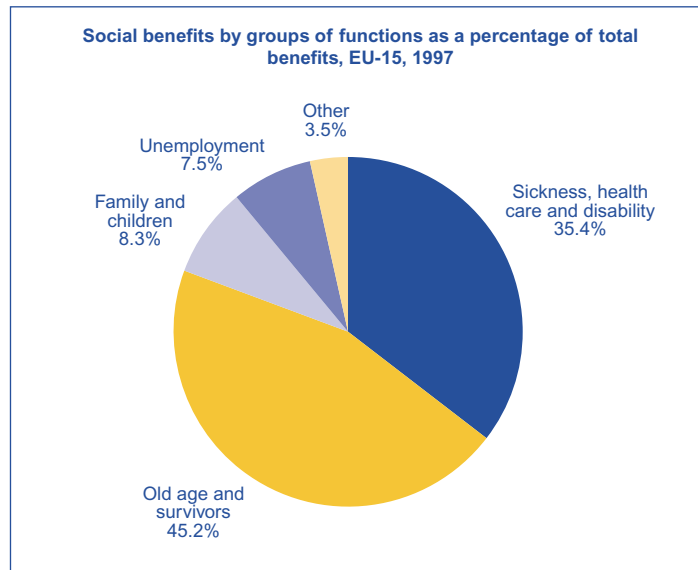
Source: Eurostat - European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

The old-age and survivors functions account for the major part of benefits

In most Member States, old-age and survivors benefits make up the largest item of social protection expenditure (EU-wide, it amounted to 45.2% of total benefits in 1997). This was especially true of Italy, where these two functions accounted for 65.1% of all benefits. In Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Finland, the group of functions sickness/health care/disability take the largest share of benefits paid. There are also major differences between the Member States when it comes to the relative importance of unemployment-related benefits. These accounted for over 14% of the total benefits in Spain and Ireland but less than 2% in Italy. The family/children function represented 8.3% of all benefits in EU-15 in 1997.

Between 1990 and 1997 the structure of social benefits showed different rates of growth for the various functions. The variations result from evolving needs and changes in the legislation on social protection.

Further reading: "Social Protection expenditure and receipts 1980-1997", 2000. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Social Protection in Europe", No.2/2000. "ESSPROS Manual", 1996. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - sespros.



Social protection receipts

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
Receipts of social protection by type (as a percentage of total receipts)																		
General government contributions																		
1990	28.8	24.7	80.1	25.2	33.4	26.2	16.7	59.0	29.0	40.6	25.0	35.9	33.8	40.6	:	39.9	:	63.0
1997	32.4	24.9	67.8	30.1	29.6	27.1	24.0	63.9	30.5	47.2	15.6	34.6	43.3	44.8	46.2	47.3	56.2	60.8
Employers' social contributions																		
1990	42.0	40.9	7.8	43.6	38.8	54.4	52.0	24.3	52.9	28.9	20.0	38.1	37.1	44.1	:	27.2	:	24.0
1997	38.4	49.2	8.5	38.6	37.6	52.2	46.4	21.4	50.3	25.1	22.6	37.7	28.6	35.1	39.2	25.2	35.4	23.9
Social contributions paid by protected persons																		
1990	23.0	25.2	5.3	28.4	20.0	16.9	28.8	15.6	15.0	22.6	39.1	25.1	20.0	8.0	:	16.3	:	12.4
1997	24.0	23.1	17.5	28.9	23.2	17.5	26.4	13.8	17.1	23.6	46.4	27.1	18.1	13.3	7.8	15.3	8.4	14.4
Other receipts																		
1990	6.2	9.3	6.8	2.8	7.8	2.5	2.5	1.0	3.1	7.9	15.9	0.9	9.2	7.3	:	16.6	:	0.5
1997	5.2	2.8	6.2	2.4	9.6	3.3	3.2	0.9	2.1	4.1	15.3	0.6	10.1	6.8	6.8	12.3	:	1.0

Note: Other receipts come from a variety of sources, such as interest and dividends. EU-15 figures exclude S.

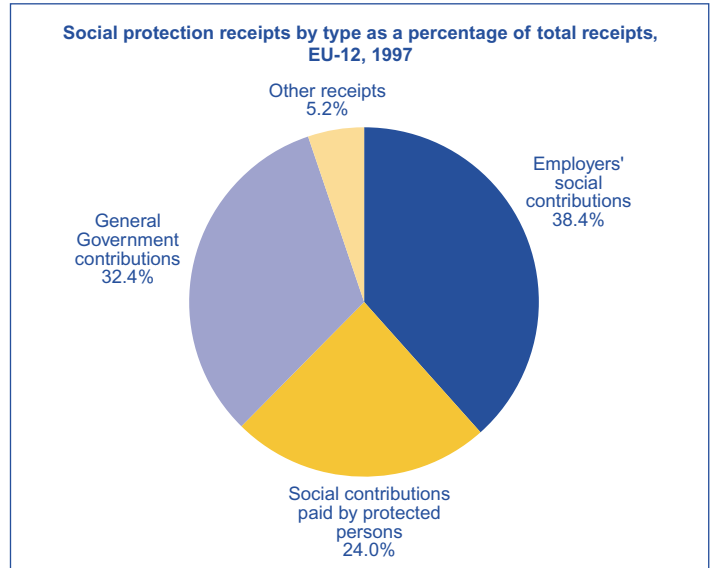
Source: Eurostat - European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

Two patterns of funding social protection

At EU level, the main sources of funding for the social protection system are social contributions (employers and protected persons), which accounted for 62.4% of total receipts in 1997, followed by tax-funded general government contributions (32.4%). The EU average conceals considerable differences between the Member States in the structure of funding. Social security contributions are more significant (around 70%) in Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands. In contrast, Denmark, Ireland (over 60%) tend to rely on taxes to finance their social protection systems. Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (45-47%) are also heavily dependent on general government contributions.

The proportion of general government contributions in total funding rose by 3.6 points between 1990 and 1997 for EU-15. The largest increases were observed in Portugal and the United Kingdom. Over the same period, the share of employers' social contributions fell by 3.6 points but the share of social contributions paid by protected persons rose by 1 point.

Further reading: "Social Protection expenditure and receipts 1980-1997", 2000. Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Social Protection in Europe", No.2/2000. "ESSPROS Manual", 1996. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - sespros.



CONSUMPTION AND HOUSING

Consumer expenditure

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Structure of consumer expenditure (percentage of total) , 1994																			
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Housing, water, electricity and other fuel	25	29	28	25	24	24	23	22	24	27	27	22	20	27	26	26	18	22	30
Food, drinks, tobacco	19	14	18	16	21	25	19	26	23	14	14	18	24	19	21	17	20	19	17
Transport and communication	15	13	18	16	11	13	16	15	15	15	11	19	18	16	15	14	17	19	12
Recreation, hotels and restaurants	16	17	14	17	9	15	14	14	13	16	16	13	13	16	16	20	19	16	20
Clothing and footwear	7	6	6	7	13	8	6	6	7	8	6	9	6	5	6	6	7	7	6
Furniture, household equipment, repairs	7	7	6	7	7	6	8	5	6	9	7	11	7	5	5	8	6	7	6
Other goods and services	11	15	11	12	15	9	14	12	11	9	19	9	12	13	11	9	14	11	9

Note: IS - 1995 data. CH - 1992 data. In the graph, the first quartile Q1 is the 25% of households with the lowest income, the upper quartile Q4 is the 25% of households with the highest income. A - excluded because of incomplete data on imputed rents.

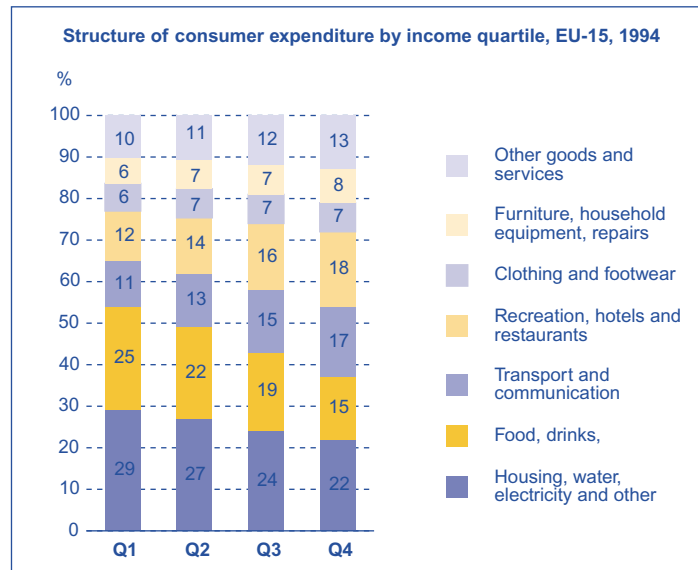
Source: Eurostat - Household Budget Surveys.

Housing accounts for around one quarter of the household budget

In nearly all Member States, housing accounts for the largest share of household expenditure (around 25%). The other basic necessity (food) occupies second place in most cases. The four southern Member States and Ireland tend to spend more of their budget on food, drink and tobacco than other countries. In sharp contrast, the Benelux countries consume considerably less on food.

The graph shows some significant differences in EU consumption expenditure patterns (most notably in food, housing and transport) across four income groups. Food represents 25% of total expenditure of low income households but only 15% of the budget of high-income households. Housing accounts for 29% of total consumption expenditure in the lowest quartile compared with 22% in the highest. This indicates, to some extent, the relatively high costs of adequate housing for the lower income group. Consequently, the lower income group spends considerably less of their budget on recreation, hotels and restaurants and transport.

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Household budgets between 1988 and 1994", No.3/1999. "The European consumer in 1994", No.9/1999. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - hbs.



Housing type, size and ownership

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Percentage of households living in houses (versus flats)																			
1996	53	76	59	40	46	37	58	94	33	67	68	44	68	57	50	82	50	79	24
Average number of rooms per person ⁽¹⁾																			
1981/82	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.8	:	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.8	:	:	:
1996	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	1.6	2.2	2.6	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.8	:
Owner-occupied dwellings ⁽²⁾																			
1981/82	54	58	55	40	70	73	51	74	59	60	42	48	57	61	59	56	:	:	:
1996	60	66	53	41	76	81	55	81	77	70	51	50	66	64	58	67	81	76	31

Note: EU-15 excludes S. NO - 1997 data instead of 1996. ⁽¹⁾ The precise definition of a room may vary from country to country and often depends on the source used. However, in principle, corridors, verandas, utility rooms, lobbies, bathrooms, toilets and kitchens are excluded. ⁽²⁾ Comparisons made over time should take into account that data from the Census are based on dwellings while data from the ECHP are based on households. In the graph, the notion of 'dependent children' is used - see explanatory notes.

Source: Eurostat - Censuses of Population 1981/82 and 1990/91. European Community Household Panel 1996. S, IS, NO, CH - national data.

Around 60% of EU households own their home

For the Union as a whole, there are marginally more households living in houses (53%) than flats. However, the EU-15 average masks markedly different situations: the proportion living in houses ranges from 33% in Italy to 94% in Ireland.

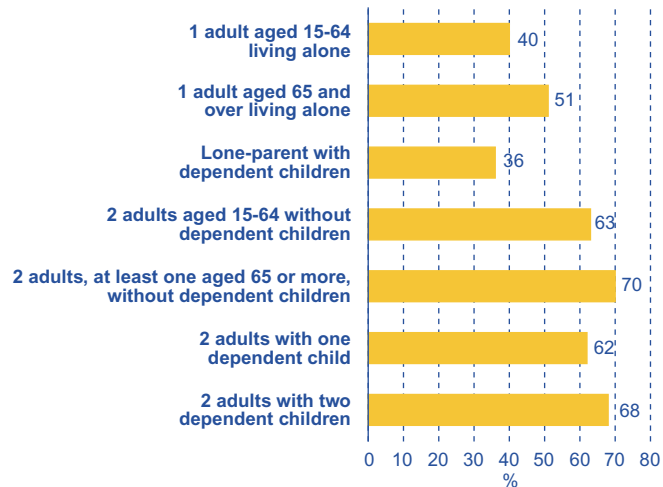
The average number of rooms per person stood at 1.8 for EU-15 in 1996, as against 1.6 in 1981/82. The four southern Member States all lie below the EU average.

The proportion of owner-occupiers has risen throughout the Union over the last two decades and in 1996 stood at 60%. More than 75% of households in Greece, Spain, Ireland and Italy own their accommodation. The proportion is around 50% in Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Austria. Only in Germany do the majority rent.

Elderly persons (aged 65 and over) living alone are less likely (51%) than elderly couples (70%) to be owner-occupiers.

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Housing conditions of the elderly in the EU", No.14/1999. "Population, Households and Dwellings in Europe - Main results of the 1990/91 censuses", 1996. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - housing.

Percentage of owner-occupiers by household type, EU-15, 1996



Housing problems

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO
Percentage of households lacking at least one of three basic amenities ⁽¹⁾, 1996																		
All households	4	7	3	5	:	4	5	7	5	3	1	7	21	5	:	0	:	:
Elderly couples ⁽²⁾	5	8	1	6	:	6	6	8	6	4	1	6	27	8	:	0	:	:
Elderly persons living alone ⁽³⁾	11	18	5	11	:	13	17	17	13	10	2	14	52	6	:	1	:	:
Percentage of households declaring that they experience specific problems with their accommodation, 1996																		
Shortage of space	15	14	16	11	24	22	12	12	17	9	10	16	28	16	16	19	:	16
Leaky roof or damp or rot ⁽⁴⁾	17	19	12	10	22	25	21	14	11	11	17	11	42	7	:	21	:	4
Noise from neighbours or outside ⁽⁵⁾	30	27	18	35	21	35	24	13	36	22	34	27	25	26	:	27	:	27*
Vandalism or crime in the area	18	19	11	10	5	20	23	16	19	11	20	8	22	20	12	27	:	6

Note: EU-15 excludes S. ⁽¹⁾ The three basic amenities are bath/shower, indoor flushing toilet and hot running water. ⁽²⁾ Couples, at least one of whom is aged 65 or over, without dependent children ⁽³⁾ Aged 65 and over ⁽⁴⁾ Each household in the survey was asked "Do you have any of the following problems with your accommodation?" The categories 'leaky roof', 'damp walls, floors, foundations' and 'rot in windows, frames or floors' have been combined. A household is included in this group if it reports at least one of the 3 problems. ⁽⁵⁾ Noise from neighbours or other street noise (traffic, businesses, factories, etc.).

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel. NO - national data 1995.

EU-wide, 17% of the population live in overcrowded accommodation

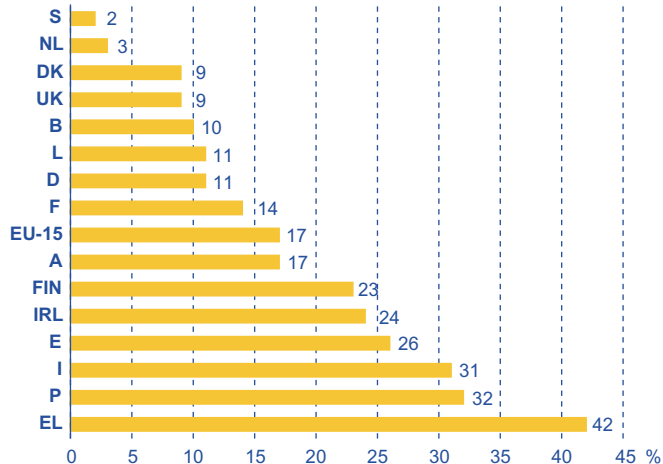
At EU-level, only 4% of households are missing one (or more) of three basic amenities in their accommodation: bathroom or shower, indoor flushing toilet and hot running water. By comparison, the corresponding figure for elderly persons living alone is 11%.

From a list of potential housing problems, noise emerged as the most common complaint: 30% of EU-15 households reported it in 1996. Only 13% of Irish households raised this problem. Less than 20% of households reported a leaky roof or damp or rot. A similar percentage cited crime or vandalism in the area. Finally, 15% found their home too small. The proportion was highest in those countries with among the lowest average of rooms per person (Greece, Spain and Portugal).

For the Union as a whole, 17% of the population can be considered to be living in overcrowded conditions (more than one person per room). People living in the four southern Member States seem to be the worst affected by this problem.

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Population and Social Conditions): "Housing conditions of the elderly in the EU", No.14/1999. "Population, Households and Dwellings in Europe - Main results of the 1990/91 censuses", 1996. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - housing.

Percentage of the population that is living in overcrowded households, i.e. more than one person per room (excluding kitchens), 1996



Household goods

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Percentage of households owning selected consumer durables, 1996																			
Colour television	97	96	97	98	94	98	94	97	97	98	98	97	90	93	97	97	97	94	88
Video recorder	64	65	68	60	43	65	62	72	57	68	70	61	52	61	67	82	79	59	38
Microwave oven	46	52	36	49	7	38	49	59	14	33	57	50	17	72	64	74	64	56	14
Dishwasher	31	32	34	41	21	19	37	22	25	56	22	46	18	42	40	23	41	51	40
Percentage of households owning other items, 1996																			
Telephone	94	93	98	96	92	88	97	83	91	98	98	96	79	94	:	94	99	:	:
Car	73	75	62	74	57	69	79	69	78	83	68	73	61	66	72	72	88	76	77

Note: EU-15 excludes S. In the graph, S - data on 'affordability' of cars are not available. NO - 1997 data. CH - 1990 data.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel. S, IS, NO, CH - national data.

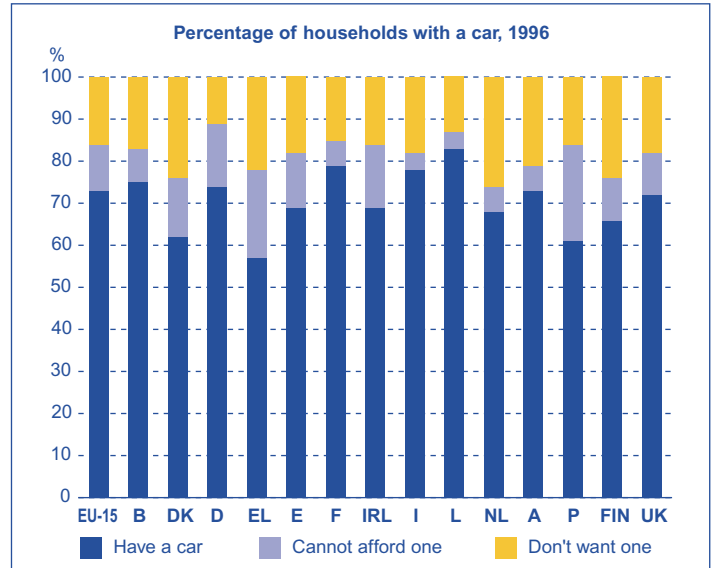
Household goods: consumer preference versus affordability

Overall, 73% of EU-15 households have at least one car. 16% do not want one (or don't have one for other reasons) while the remaining 11% cannot afford one. More than 20% of Danish, Greek, Dutch and Finnish households choose not to have a car. The rate of car ownership is highest in Luxembourg and lowest in Greece.

EU-wide, 94% of households own a telephone. Ireland and Portugal fall well below the EU average. Throughout the Union, virtually every household has their own colour television: 97% in 1996 compared with just over 50% in 1980.

The United Kingdom is the largest consumer of video recorders (82%) and microwaves (74%) while dishwashers prove most popular in Luxembourg (56%). The Greeks, Italians and Portuguese are much less likely to own a microwave than other countries.

Further reading: "Social Portrait of Europe", 1998. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - housing.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Life and health expectancies

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	LI	NO	CH
Infant mortality rate, per 1000 live births																				
1970	23	21	14	23	30	28	18	20	30	25	13	26	56	13	11	19	13	12	13	15
1998	5*	6	5	5	7	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	6	4	4	6	3	7*	4	4
Life expectancy at birth, men																				
1980	71*	70	71	70	72	73	70	70	71	69	73	69	68	69	73	70	73	:	72	73
1998 (1)	75*	74	74	74	76	74	75	73	75	74	75	75	72	74	77	75	77	:	76	77
Life expectancy at birth, women																				
1980	77*	77	77	76	77	79	78	76	77	76	79	76	75	78	79	76	80	:	79	80
1998 (1)	81*	81	79	80	81	82	82	79	81	80	81	81	79	81	82	80	82	:	81	83
Life expectancy without disability, 1994																				
Men	60	60	61	57	63	62	60	61	60	59	59	:	55	:	:	59	:	:	:	:
Women	62	61	61	60	65	64	65	64	61	61	59	:	57	:	:	61	:	:	:	:

Note: The infant mortality rate is defined as the number of infants who die within the first year of life divided by the number of live births (per 1000 live births). Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a person would live if age-specific mortality rates observed for a certain calendar year or period were to continue. Life expectancy without disability is calculated by the Sullivan method and uses Eurostat mortality data and disability prevalence figures from the ECHP. (1) Estimated data for 1998 or latest available year.

Source: Eurostat - Demographic Statistics and European Community Household Panel.

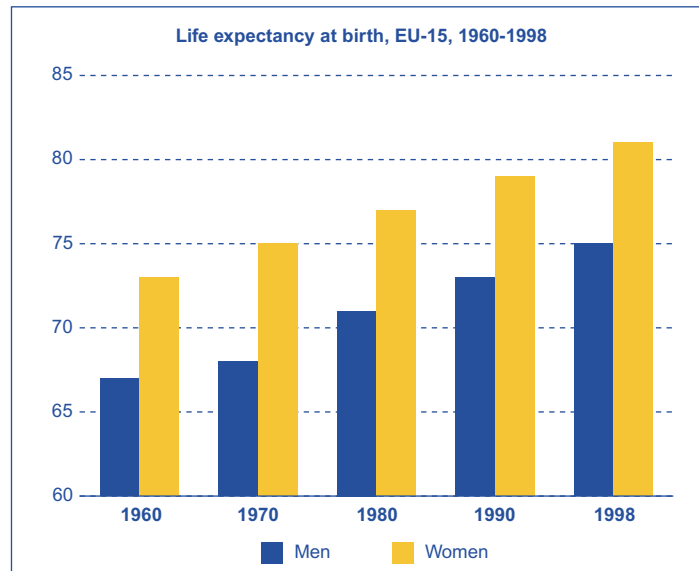
Life expectancy continues to rise

Over the past 50 years, life expectancy of men and women has risen steadily: by around 10 years in total for each sex. Throughout the Union, women live longer than men do. In 1998, the life expectancy of women in EU-15 was 81 years while that for men was 75 years. Eurostat estimates that the life expectancy of women and men may reach 84 and 78 years respectively by the year 2020.

Health expectancies are a group of health indicators combining data on mortality and disability/morbidity. At EU-level, women can expect to live to 62 years of age without any disability and 74 years without any severe disability. The corresponding figures for men are 60 and 69 years.

Progress in medical research and care has also led to a dramatic improvement in the infant mortality rate for EU-15 which has fallen from 23 deaths per 1000 live births in 1970 to 5 deaths per 1000 live births in 1998. Differences between Member States have diminished considerably.

Further reading: "Key data on health 2000". "Demographic statistics", 1999 edition. Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - demo.



Perceived health

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	NO	CH
Percentage of the population aged 16 and over who feel that their health is bad or very bad, 1996																		
Total	9	6	8	8	9	12	8	4	13	7	5	8	24	8	6	8	7	4
Percentage of the population aged 65 and over who feel that their health is bad or very bad, by sex, 1996																		
Total	23	13	23	19	26	32	18	10	35	17	10	24	57	25	11	13	14	7
Men	20	8	19	17	24	26	16	9	32	18	8	22	51	24	10	11	13	5
Women	25	16	26	20	28	36	19	11	38	16	12	25	62	23	12	15	15	8
Percentage of the population aged 16 and over who feel that their health is bad or very bad, by income level, 1996																		
Low income	14	9	12	14	15	14	11	4	16	12	8	15	38	11	:	16	:	:
High income	5	3	2	5	4	6	5	1	7	2	3	4	12	4	:	2	:	:

Note: Data on perceived health - respondents are asked 'How is your health in general?'. There are 5 response categories: very bad, bad, fair, good and very good. Included in the 'low income' group are those persons with an equivalised income below 60% of the median equivalised income in each country. Included in the 'high income' group are those persons with an equivalised income exceeding 140% of the median equivalised income in each country. Comparing data over time from a panel survey such as the ECHP should take account of the changes in the population surveyed from one year to another. EU-15 excludes S. NO -1998 data.

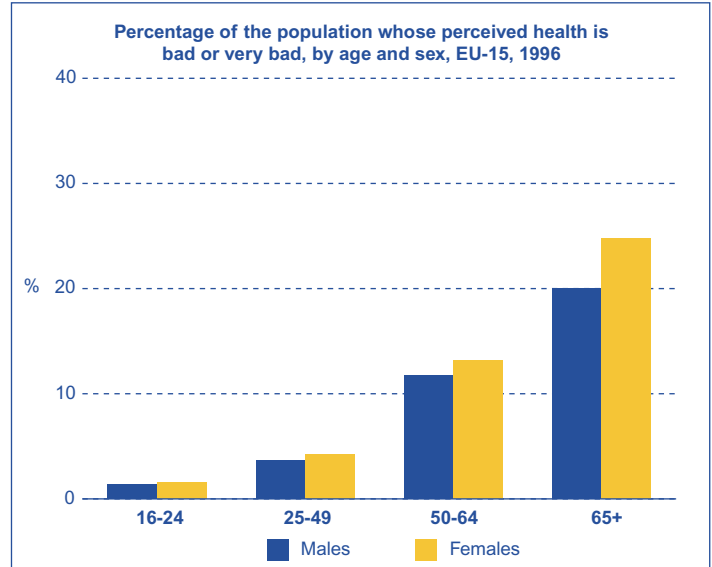
Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel. S, NO, CH - national data.

Around one in four elderly persons claim to be in (very) bad health

EU-wide, around 9% of adults (aged 16 and over) perceive their health to be 'bad' or 'very bad'. 65% feel that their health is 'good' or 'very good' while the remaining 26% describe it as 'fair'. Citizens of the southern Member States, particularly Portugal, tend to be more pessimistic about their health than those in other countries.

The proportion of persons in the category '(very) bad' increases with age: almost one in four elderly people (aged 65 and over) described their health as such in 1996. For all ages, women are more likely than men to perceive their health as '(very) bad'. This pattern can be observed in every Member State with one or two minor exceptions. Throughout the Union, persons with a high level of income report better health than persons with a low level of income. On average, 14% of persons with a low income describe their health as '(very) bad' compared with only 5% of persons with a high income.

Further reading: "Key data on health 2000". Eurostat. "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000". European Commission.



Selected health problems

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Percentage of persons aged 65 and over stating that they have a chronic physical or mental health problem/illness or disability which hampers them in their daily activities, 1996																
To some extent	24	18	24	24	20	24	28	26	18	29	24	26	27	30	32*	28
Severely	18	19	21	17	17	15	26	11	16	15	17	16	24	30	32*	16
Percentage of persons whose Body Mass Index indicates that they are (severely) overweight, 1996																
Overweight																
Males	20	16	17	23	27	24	16	16	15	23	14	20	17	18	22	21
Females	14	10	9	15	18	16	10	11	13	12	14	16	21	18	14	18
Severely overweight																
Males	6	6	5	5	9	8	5	4	4	9	3	6	8	9	5	8
Females	7	8	7	4	13	6	4	6	5	7	7	6	9	8	4	10

Note: Comparing data over time from a panel survey such as the ECHP should take account of the changes in the population surveyed from one year to another. The Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure of a person's weight relative to his or her height that correlates fairly well with body fat content in adults. BMI is accepted by experts as the most useful measure of obesity in adults when only weight and height data are available. The Body Mass Index is calculated by dividing a person's weight (in kg) by their height (in m squared). Persons with BMI of 27-30 are regarded as overweight, those with a reading of 30+ are severely overweight.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel. S - national data. Body Mass Index data are based on Eurobarometer 44.3.

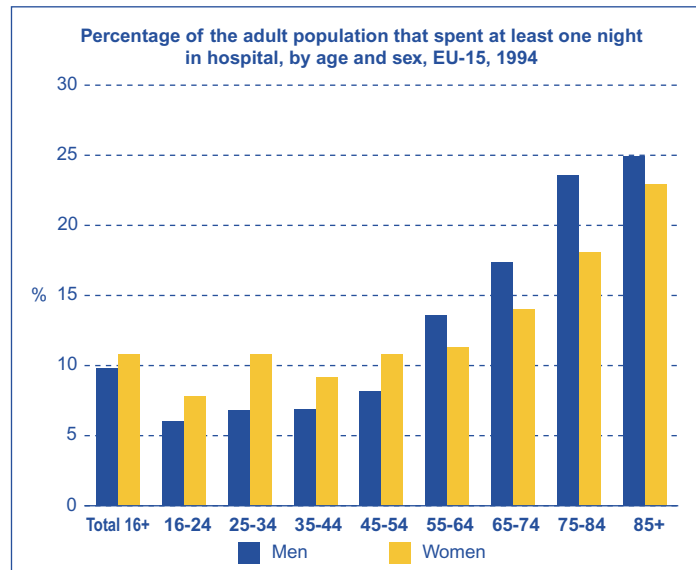
Around 6% of the adult population is severely overweight

Just over 40% of the EU population aged 65 and over report being hampered in their daily activities by a chronic, physical or mental health problem, illness or disability (18% are “severely” hampered, 24% “to some extent”).

The average height of men in the EU is 1.75m, that of women 1.63m. The tallest citizens are the Dutch and the Danes, the smallest the Spanish and Portuguese. The average weight of men in the EU is 78kg, that of women 65kg. Health risks such as heart disease grow considerably when the Body Mass Index (combining data on height and weight) exceeds 27 (overweight). Although the majority of adults have a ‘normal’ BMI, 20% of men and 14% of women are ‘overweight’ and a further 6-7% are ‘severely overweight’. Greece has the highest rates of severe obesity among both sexes.

Around 10% of the EU adult population spent at least one night in hospital in 1994. The proportion rises to more than 20% among the ‘very old’. Older men are more likely than women to be hospitalised.

Further reading: “Key data on health 2000”. Eurostat. “The Social Situation in the European Union 2000”. European Commission.



Major causes of death

	EU-15	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Standardised death rates (SDRs) per 100 000 population, 1996																				
Men	Number	SDR																		
Circulatory diseases	714 185	358	351	374	433	384	290	255	465	324	406	350	463	428	444	380	398	371	377	300
of which heart attacks	326 226	163	132	200	211	131	106	85	285	121	163	159	210	106	289	216	248	222	203	147
Cancer	518 999	262	305	269	262	220	260	293	256	261	282	284	248	241	227	191	252	200	228	225
External causes of injury & poisoning	117 749	62	86	72	58	60	58	89	60	54	83	41	79	88	115	55	40	80	58	63
Women																				
Circulatory diseases	866 605	227	221	221	274	296	201	146	279	214	234	200	307	307	247	219	237	206	210	185
of which heart attacks	291 749	79	60	99	106	58	47	34	135	58	58	72	108	54	130	99	116	96	86	71
Cancer	411 443	145	153	201	156	118	116	130	173	137	143	162	148	125	124	141	171	174	159	128
External causes of injury & poisoning	68 546	25	36	34	24	19	18	39	20	23	26	21	27	25	37	24	17	38	26	26

Note: Comparison of the general (total) mortality rates in Member States is affected by the different age structures of the populations. In a relatively "old population" there will be more deaths than in a "young population" because mortality is higher in older age groups. For comparisons the age effect can be offset by the use of a standard population. The standardised death rate (SDR) is thus an adjusted crude rate that enables comparisons to be made between countries and between the two sexes. Data for B (1993) and IS (1995).

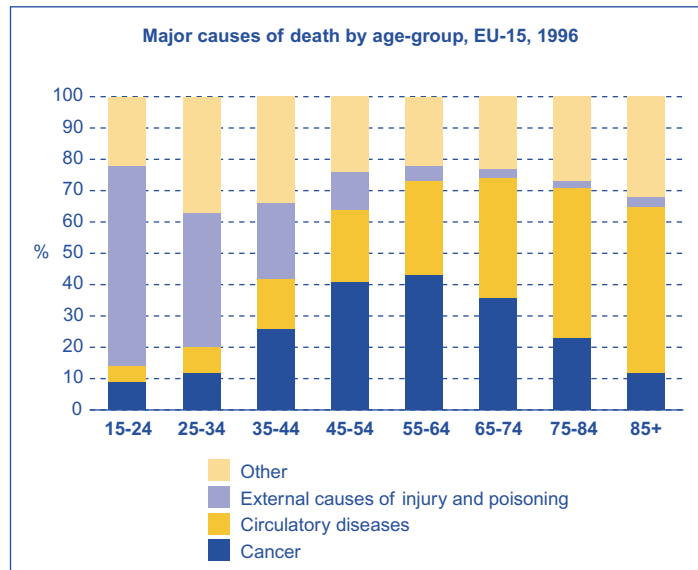
Source: Eurostat - Mortality Statistics.

Circulatory diseases and cancer remain the major causes of death

Mortality patterns differ significantly according to age and sex. As a general rule, mortality is higher among men than women in all age groups. For both men and women, circulatory diseases are the major cause of death throughout the Union (the one exception is in France where men are most likely to die of cancer): 714 000 men and 867 000 women died of such diseases in 1996. This represents 358 and 227 deaths per 100 000 population. Austria has the highest rates for both sexes.

The graph shows the impact of age on the causes of death. External causes of injury and poisoning prevail among the young (aged 15-34) but account for only a small proportion of those aged 55 and over. Cancer represents the major cause of death among those aged 45-64. For those aged 75 and over, circulatory diseases account for around half of all deaths.

Further reading: "Key data on health 2000". "Demographic Statistics", 1999 edition. Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - health.



Accidents at work

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Work accidents with more than 3 days absence, (per 100 000 employed persons), 1996																
Total	4 229	5 059	2 704	5 098	3 783	6 736	4 964	1 494	4 179	4 741	4 251	3 554	6 949	3 372	1 217	1 550
Age-group under 25	5 405	9 127	2 701	6 844	3 733	8 491	7 796	1 159	5 458	6 524	6 861	3 755	8 586	4 566	1 160	1 560
Age-group 45 and over	3 735	3 666	2 440	4 276	4 242	5 449	4 279	1 650	4 328	3 869	2 850	4 704	6 145	3 004	1 232	1 486
Fatal work accidents (per 100 000 employed persons), 1996																
Total	5	5	3	3	4	6	4	3	4	.	:	5	10	2	2	2
Age-group under 25	4	5	1	2	1	4	3	:	4	.	:	2	8	1	1	1
Age-group 45 and over	7	8	5	5	5	7	6	:	6	.	:	11	16	2	3	3

Note: These figures relate to almost 90% of persons in employment in the Union. The above rates have been calculated for only eight major branches of economic activity (NACE Rev. 1 sections). UK and IRL data do not include road traffic accidents at work. E and F include accidents which occurred at work but were not necessarily as a result of work (e.g., heart attack). This may have a significant impact on the number of fatalities. The figures for EU-15 include data on road traffic deaths in the course of work. Such deaths have been excluded from the national figures as data are not available for Ireland and the United Kingdom. '.' indicates data are not significant.

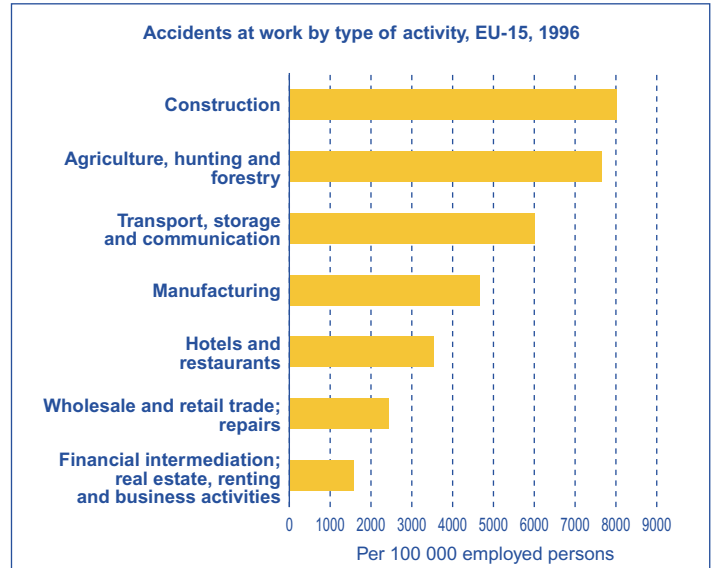
Source: Eurostat - European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW).

Around 4% of EU workers were the victims of a working accident in 1996

In 1996, around 4.8 million accidents at work - each resulting in more than 3 days' absence - were recorded in the Union. This represents 4 229 accidents at work per 100 000 persons in employment or put another way, 4.2% of all workers were the victims of an accident at work. It is estimated that 150 million working days were lost in 1996 as a result of these accidents. In addition, 6 423 fatal accidents were recorded in EU-15.

The incidence of accidents varies considerably depending on the economic activity of the enterprise, and the age and sex of workers. The construction industry (8%) has the highest incidence of accidents. With the exception of Greece, Ireland, Austria and Sweden, the incidence of accidents decreases with age in all Member States. In contrast, the frequency of fatal accidents increases considerably with age.

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Population and social conditions): "Accidents at work in the EU in 1996", No.4/2000. "European Statistics on Accidents at Work - Methodology", 1998 Edition. "Key data on health 2000". Eurostat. "Precarious Employment and Health-Related Outcomes in the European Union", 1999. European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. NewCronos Database Theme 3 - health.



Road traffic deaths

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	IS	NO	CH
Road traffic deaths, 1998																			
actual number	40 400*	1 500	499	7 792	2 070	4 811	8 437	458	6 226	57	1 066	963	1 999	400	541	3 581	10	255	616
adjusted number	42 290*	.	.	.	2 380*	.	8 900*	.	6 700*	.	.	.	2 600*	.	.	.	.	.	.
per million private cars	246*	334	271*	187*	1 020*	300	310*	383	220*	234	182*	248	615*	198	125	150*	80	:	189
per million population	113*	147	94	95	225*	122	150*	123	115*	134	68	119	260*	78	61	61	37	58	87
Percentage change in the number of road accident deaths																			
1989-1998	-21	-25	-26	-20	+22	-33	-20	0	-3	-15	-27	-31	-17	-46	-40	-36	-180	-33	:

Note: The data include all categories of victim (pedestrians, car drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists, etc). The 'adjusted number' in the table reflects differences between countries in the time period taken into account after an accident. While the majority of Member States apply the international standard of 30 days, four do not. To obtain comparable data and hence apply the standard 30 day period, the following coefficients were used: EL (1.15), F (1.057), I (1.08) and P (1.3). EL, IS, NO, CH - 1996 data. I, P, S - 1997 data. IS - data were unusually low in 1996.

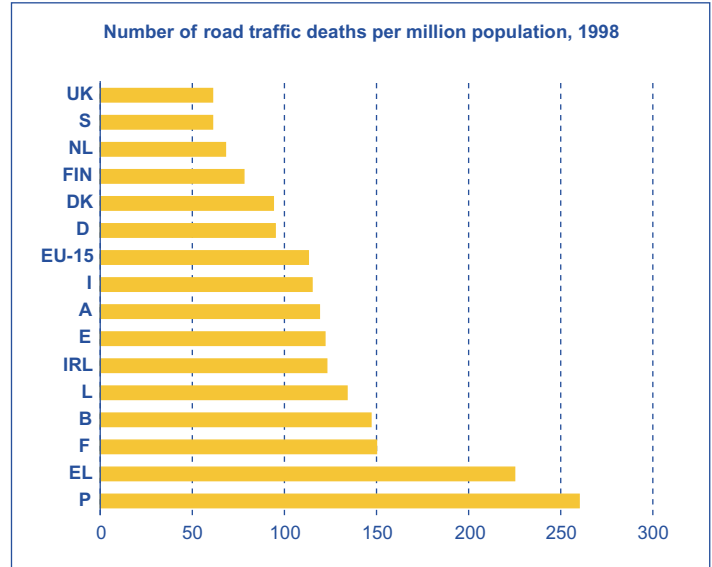
Source: Eurostat - REGIO. IS, NO, CH - national data.

More than 42 000 deaths on EU roads

In 1998, the estimated number of deaths caused by road traffic accidents was just over 42 000 for EU-15. Despite an increase in the number of cars on the road, the number of deaths fell by around 21% between 1989 and 1998. The biggest improvements were recorded in Finland (-46%), Sweden (-40%) and the United Kingdom (-36%). In contrast, there was a 22% rise in the number of road deaths in Greece (although the rate per million cars actually fell).

Whatever the indicator used (number of deaths related to the population or to the total number of cars), Greece and Portugal record the worst levels of road safety. While for the Union as a whole around 113 people per million population died on the roads, the corresponding rates for Greece and Portugal were 225 and 260 respectively. Sweden and the United Kingdom have the lowest death rate (61) followed by the Netherlands (68) and Finland (78).

Further reading: Statistics in Focus (Regions): "Road safety in the regions of the European Union", No.2/1998. "Key data on health 2000". Eurostat. NewCronos Database Theme 1 - regio.



SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Social contact

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Percentage of the population aged 16 and over talking to neighbours, 1996																
At least once a week	83	70	71	83	95	88	:	88	82	80	66	78	88	81	:	85
Once or twice a month	9	16	13	10	3	6	:	8	8	9	15	13	6	10	:	9
Less than once a month or never	8	14	16	7	1	6	:	4	9	11	19	9	6	10	:	6
Percentage of the population aged 16 and over meeting people (at home or elsewhere), 1996																
At least once a week	79	78	80	73	90	92	:	97	82	71	83	70	75	82	:	85
Once or twice a month	16	16	17	21	8	6	:	2	12	19	14	23	14	14	:	10
Less than once a month or never	6	6	3	6	2	2	:	1	6	10	3	7	11	4	:	4
Participation in social, cultural and political activities by type of organisation, 1998																
At least one activity	46	48	84	53	24	28	40	51	34	57	79	53	26	72	85	53

Note: In the graph, persons with little or no contact are those who i) talk to neighbours less than once a month or never, and ii) meet people at home or elsewhere less than once a month or never. Data for F, L (aged 80 and over) and S are not available.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel (talking to neighbours and meeting people). European Commission - Eurobarometer (participation in activities).

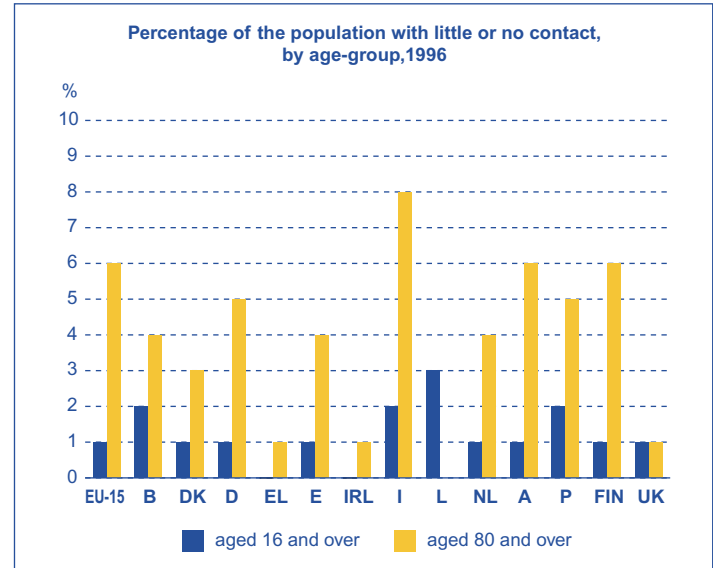
Overall, there is a high level of social interaction throughout the EU

On average, more than 80% of EU citizens talk to a neighbour at least once a week. At the other end of the scale, only 8% do so less than once a month or never. Meeting people (at home or elsewhere) is also a frequent occurrence in the EU. Overall, citizens of Greece, Spain and Ireland tend to report the highest levels of face-to-face interaction.

Social interaction in old age is high although a minority of very old people have very limited social contact: on average just over 6% of those aged over 80 years fall into this category compared with 1% of the adult population.

Organised participation in social, cultural and political activities is relatively high (46%) in the EU. In contrast to informal social interaction between family members, friends and neighbours, participation in formal activities is more common in the north than in the south.

Further reading: "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission.



Provision of help and support

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
Percentage of the population whose daily activities include looking after children without pay, 1996																
Men	16	19	23	16	12	11	12	17	15	20	31	14	5	19	:	21
Women	31	38	28	28	36	27	23	40	37	33	41	33	25	27	:	37
Percentage of the population whose daily activities include looking after people other than children ⁽¹⁾ without pay, 1996																
Men	4	4	4	4	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	2	1	5	:	6
Women	8	8	7	7	5	8	5	7	9	7	8	7	6	7	:	10
Percentage of the population whose daily caring activities ⁽²⁾ prevent them from undertaking the amount of paid work they would otherwise do, 1996																
Men	6	8	8	5	4	6	0	6	5	2	4	4	7	4	:	12
Women	32	21	21	41	23	32	17	42	22	37	48	45	25	14	:	45

Note: Data refer to the population aged 16 and over. ⁽¹⁾ Providing care to sick, disabled or frail adults. ⁽²⁾ Either looking after children or adults.

Source: Eurostat - European Community Household Panel.

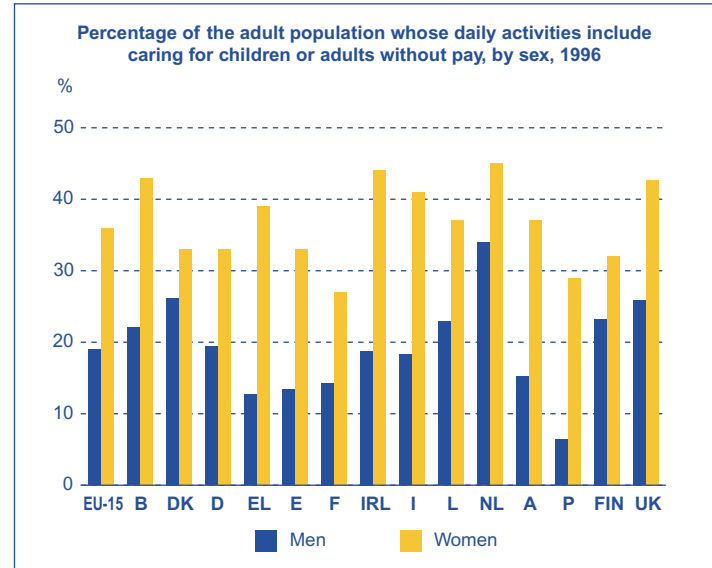
More than one in three women provide unpaid daily care for children or adults

The main form of interpersonal help and support is childcare. EU-wide, 23% of adults are involved in looking after children (their own and/or others) on a daily basis. Women are almost twice as likely as men to provide unpaid child care (31% compared with 16%). In the southern Member States, their disparity is even larger: 3 to 1 in Greece and almost 5 to 1 in Portugal. In Denmark and the Netherlands, the difference is much smaller.

Provision of unpaid 'informal' care to sick or disabled adults and older people (in the same household and outside) is much less common than childcare: on average 6% of EU citizens are engaged in such activities on a daily basis with women again outnumbering men (8% compared with 4%).

Around 23% of carers say that such informal care activities prevent them from undertaking the amount of paid work they would otherwise do. This applies to 32% of female carers compared with only 6% of male ones. More than 40% of female carers in Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Austria and the United Kingdom say that they are affected.

Further reading: "The Social Situation in the European Union 2000", European Commission.



CRIME

Crimes recorded by the police

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	NO	CH
Percentage change in the number of crimes recorded by the police ⁽¹⁾																		
1994-1998	1	:	-9	-1	27	2	9	-15	12	-7	-8	-5	3	0	7	-13	28	6
1997-1998	3	18	-6	-2	2	-1	2	-6	-1	11	0	0	6	3	0	-1	3	-1
Homicides recorded by the police, 1998 ⁽²⁾																		
Number	5 677	218	49	975	176	1 040	961	51	924	4	:	77	152	113	187	750	38	76
Rate per 100 000 population	1.80	2.14	0.93	1.19	1.93	2.61	1.64	1.41	1.60	0.94	:	0.95	1.52	2.19	2.11	1.43	0.86	1.07
Percentage change in selected crimes recorded by the police, 1997-1998																		
Domestic burglary ⁽³⁾	-4	:	-9	-8	-2	-2	3	-7	4	:	-4	-8	-11	-1	-4	-6	-11	1
Theft of a motor vehicle ⁽⁴⁾	4	4	-9	-15	14	2	0	2	3	:	1	6	18	20	-2	-2	8	3
Drug trafficking ⁽⁵⁾	1	-8	4	0	10	-7	7	8	4	2	-14	-5	4	14	-11	-9	12	15

Note: UK - England and Wales only. The number of homicides in the UK as a whole in 1998 was 925. ⁽¹⁾ The range of offences covered differ between each country and comparisons based upon absolute figures are therefore misleading. ⁽²⁾ The intentional killing of a persons excluding attempts: murder, manslaughter (excluding death by dangerous driving), euthanasia and infanticide; excluding abortion and help with suicide. DK, S - includes all deaths initially reported as homicide to the police. NL, S - excluding euthanasia. ⁽³⁾ Gaining access to a dwelling by the use of force to steal goods. EL - includes burglary in non domestic premises. ⁽⁴⁾ Includes all land vehicles with an engine that run on the road. NL - 1996-97 ⁽⁵⁾ Illegal importing, exporting, supplying transportation, etc of narcotic drugs. EL, L - includes all drugs offences. NL, CH - 1996-97. ⁽⁶⁾ Violence against the person, robbery and sexual offences. D - 1996-97.

Source: Home Office, United Kingdom

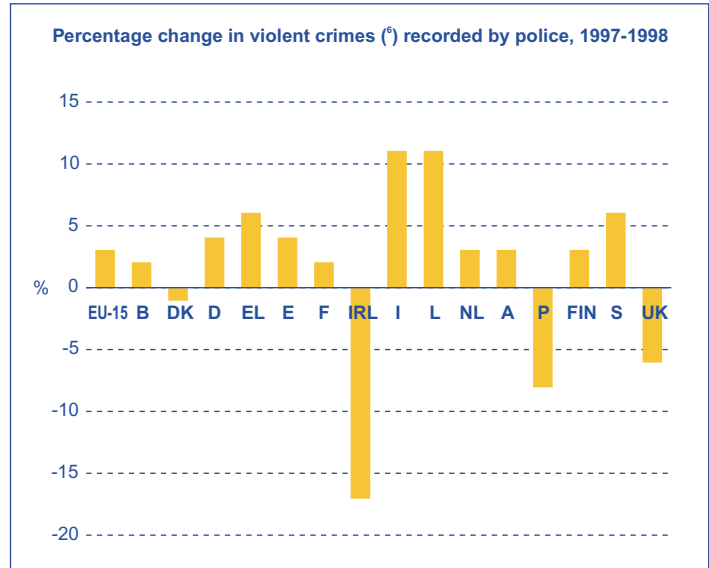
During 1998, recorded crime rose on average by 3% in the Union

In 1998, there were an estimated 24 million crimes recorded by the police in the fifteen Member States. Absolute comparisons of crime levels are often misleading but comparisons of trends are possible. Over the period 1994-98, recorded crime rose by 1% on average. During 1998, crime increased by 3% with the largest rise in Belgium (+18%) and the largest falls in Denmark and Ireland (both -6%).

EU-wide, just under 5 700 homicides were recorded in 1998. This represents 1.8 homicides per 100 000 population.

In 1998, the number of domestic burglaries fell virtually throughout the Union (EU average of -4%). In contrast, thefts of a motor vehicle rose on average by 4% with relatively large increases being observed in Greece, Portugal and Finland. Drug trafficking offences rose on average by 1% in 1998. The largest falls were in the Netherlands and Sweden. Greece and Finland witnessed the highest rises.

Further reading: "Comparisons of criminal justice statistics, European Union Member States, applicant countries and selected other countries 1998", Home Office (United Kingdom).



Prison population

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	NO	CH
Number of persons in prison																		
1988	:	6 497	3 362	:	4 178	28 917	46 423	1 953	34 675	372	6 254	6 565	8 168	4 054	5 427	57 229	2 113	4 679
1993	324 008	7 489	3 370	65 838	7 135	46 076	51 134	2 801	51 231	418	8 037	7 099	11 079	3 432	5 697	53 172	2 650	5 627
1998	361 857	7 860	3 340	78 324	7 129	44 370	53 607	2 620	49 864	392	11 699	6 891	14 330	2 836	5 290	73 305	2 466	5 648
Percentage change in the number of persons in prison																		
1994-1998	7	5	-5	16	22	-6	0	28	-4	-13	34	1	43	-15	-15	29	-8	-4
1997-1998	1	-8	5	4	28	4	-2	8	-1	-12	-1	-1	1	-5	1	5	-3	-6
Number of persons in prison per 100 000 population																		
1998	88	77	63	95	68	111	89	71	87	91	75	85	144	55	60	124	56	79

Note: The prison population in a country reflects, among other things: a) the crime rate; b) the extent to which crimes are cleared up; c) the extent to which the accused are remanded in custody; and d) the extent and length of custodial sentences (more precisely, length of time served). F - Metropolitan and overseas departments. UK - data are estimated.

Source: Home Office, United Kingdom and Council of Europe.

EU prison population rose by 7% between 1994 and 1998

The prison population in a country reflects, among other things, the crime rate, the extent to which crimes are cleared up, the extent to which courts impose custodial sentences and the length of time served.

In 1998, there were an estimated 362 000 persons in prison in the Union. This represents 88 persons per 100 000 population compared with 668 in the United States. The high rates observed in Portugal and the United Kingdom reflect, in part, the longer sentences imposed in these countries.

Over the period 1994-98, the prison population rose on average by 7% since 1994. The number of prisoners in Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom rose by around 30-40% while Finland and Sweden saw their prison populations fall by 15%.

Further reading: “Comparisons of criminal justice statistics, European Union Member States, applicant countries and selected other countries 1998”, Home Office (United Kingdom).

