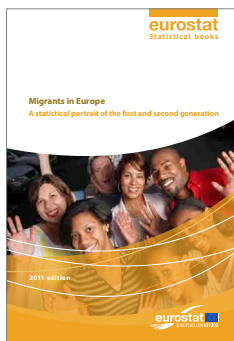# European social statistics

Over the last decade the European Union has made major progress in producing internationally comparable data for monitoring the social situation and trends across all Member States. This leaflet is a guide to help users understand the structure of Eurostat social statistics. It provides a concise overview of a wide range of statistics on social issues, such as demography, income and living conditions, labour market, education, and health.
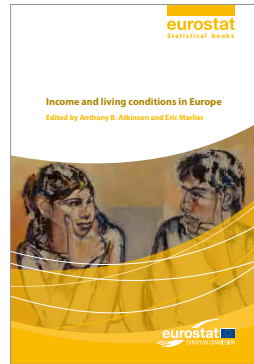
Population

Eurostat provides a large range of demographic data, including statistics on national and regional levels of population, which are supplemented by information on a range of demographic events (births, deaths, marriages and divorces, immigration and emigration) that influence the size, structure and characteristics of population groups. Every three years, Eurostat produces population projections, which aim to provide information about the likely future size and structure of the population. Eurostat also collects detailed information on different areas related to migration and asylum: foreign resident populations, annual flows of immigrants and emigrants, persons acquiring citizenship, information on asylum applicants and on asylum decisions, residence permits issued to non-EU nationals and persons found illegally present in EU Member States, as well as socio-economic characteristics of migrants. These statistics provide the basis for the development and monitoring of EU policy initiatives in several areas, including the impact of migration on labour markets, the promotion of migrant integration, the development of a common asylum system, and the prevention of unauthorised migration and trafficking in human beings. The whole system of European social statistics can also benefit from the population and housing decennial census, which is a rich source of data of the precision and detail needed for administrative planning and policy-making.

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European Social Statistics

Income and living conditions

Reliable statistics, reflecting the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and social exclusion, are essential for monitoring the social protection and social inclusion process. The main source for these statistics is the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions. Its primary focus is collecting information on the income and living conditions of different types of private households, as well as providing information on monetary poverty, material deprivation, social exclusion, housing conditions, labour, education and health status, as well as household composition. Eurostat also collects data on expenditure (covering social benefits, administration costs and other expenditure) and receipts of social protection, which are drawn up according to the European system of integrated social protection statistics methodology. The social protection benefits cover risks and needs that may arise from sickness and healthcare, disability, old age, survivors, family and children, unemployment and housing needs.

Labour market

Labour market issues are at the heart of the social and political debate. Labour market statistics cover a wide range of subjects, including employment and unemployment, quality of work, productivity, job vacancies, labour cost and earning, and labour market policies. A large share of Eurostat's labour market statistics is based on the results of the following major statistical surveys:

- EU Labour Force Survey, which is the main data source of information concerning the situation and trends within the labour market in the EU and provides a wealth of information on employment and unemployment, working time (full-time or part-time work), and types of contracts (temporary or permanent contracts);

- Structure of Earnings Survey, which provides more detailed information on the relationship between the level of earnings, individual characteristics of employees and their employer;

- Labour Cost Survey, which provides detailed data on the structure and the level of labour costs, hours worked and hours paid.

Other labour market data such as those on job vacancies, gross and net earnings, minimum wages and labour market policies are gathered through a variety of other data collections.
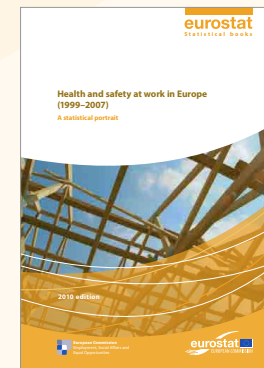
Education

Education, vocational training and lifelong learning play a vital role in both an economic and social context. Education statistics cover a range of subjects, including expenditure, personnel, participation rates, and attainment. The main source of data is a joint UNESCO/OECD/Eurostat questionnaire on education statistics, which is the basis for the core components of the Eurostat database on education statistics. Eurostat also collects data on regional enrolments and foreign language learning. Data on educational attainment and adult learning are mainly provided by household surveys, in particular the European Union labour force survey, which is complemented by an adult education survey.

Health

Health is a high priority for Europeans, who expect to have a long and healthy life, to be protected against illnesses and accidents and to receive appropriate health care. Accurate and detailed statistics on health have a key role for evidence-based decisions by national and European authorities and are a major tool for monitoring health policies. Health statistics include:

- Public health issues such as health status, health problems and health determinants, health care provision and resources, health care expenditures and causes of death. There are several sources for these statistics, including the annual EU survey on income and social conditions, the five-yearly European health interview survey, administrative data sources in the EU Member States, and the System of Health Accounts;

- Health and safety at work issues such as accidents at work and work-related health problems. These statistics are reported from administrative data sources in the EU Member States, and work-related health problems from surveys.

European social statistics are also an integral part of the new European Union strategy (Europe 2020 strategy) to develop as a smarter, knowledge-based, greener economy, and deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. This EU growth strategy for the coming decade sets targets in eight headline indicators. The progress achieved in implementing four of them (in the areas of employment, education and poverty/social exclusion) is measured with help of social statistics. The indicators are available on the Eurostat website at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators

Website

Information relating to **European social statistics** may be found on Eurostat's website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat.

From the Eurostat homepage, all presented statistical themes may be accessed from the **Statistics** tab that is permanently available in the top menu bar. From there, you can select different social statistics under the **Population and social conditions** heading. This section provides access to Eurostat's online **databases**, as well as access to the most recent **publications** relating to different topical issues. Some of the most important indicators derived from European social surveys are used to monitor employment and social policy. These are detailed within a dedicated section entitled **Employment and social policy indicators**. This section can also be accessed directly from the Statistics tab.

Statistics Explained, on Eurostat's website, is another valuable source of information relating to European social statistics. The articles presented here give a clear overview of statistical topics, and together form an encyclopaedia of European statistics. They can be accessed at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained

Eurostat's website provides two main entry points to data:

Main tables – these are pre-defined tables where the axes of the tables are fixed. They present the key indicators and are refreshed automatically as a function of the data being loaded into the database.

Database – this contains a complete set of available social statistics. The data presented may be extracted in a variety of formats and the user can freely select the information to be presented.

Publications

Eurostat releases a range of publications (such as statistics in focus, pocketbooks, statistical books, methodologies and working papers, compact guides), all of which are free of charge on its website in PDF format; some of these are also available in German and French.

Statistics in focus

- In 2009 a 6.5 % rise in per capita social protection expenditure matched a 6.1 % drop in EU-27 GDP - *14/2012*

- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2011 - *11/2012*

- 23 % of EU citizens were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2010 - *9/2012*

- Circulatory diseases - Main causes of death for persons aged 65 and more in Europe, 2009 - *7/2012*

Pocketbooks and Statistical books

- Labour market statistics
- Cultural statistics
- Key data on education in Europe
- Active ageing and solidarity between generations
- Migrants in Europe. A statistical portrait of the first and second generation
- Health and safety at work in Europe (1999-2007)
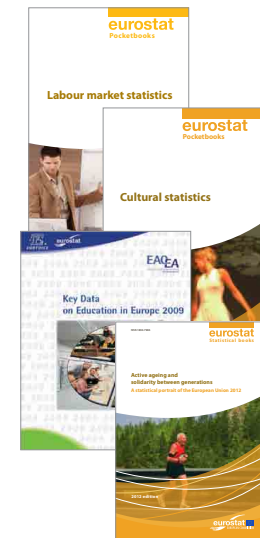- Income and living conditions in Europe

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Table 1: Population structure indicators, 1st January 2011

	Population (million)	Median age of population (¹)	Old-age dependency ratio (%) (¹)
EU-27	502.48	40.9	25.9
EA-17	331.95	41.7	27.5
Belgium	10.95	40.9	26.0
Bulgaria	7.50	41.6	25.9
Czech Republic	10.53	39.6	22.2
Denmark	5.56	40.6	25.7
Germany	81.75	44.6	31.2
Estonia	1.34	39.7	25.2
Ireland	4.48	34.7	17.4
Greece	11.31	42.1	29.0
Spain	46.15	40.3	25.2
France	65.05	40.0	25.9
Italy	60.63	43.5	30.9
Cyprus	0.80	36.2	18.6
Latvia	2.23	40.4	25.2
Lithuania	3.24	40.0	24.1
Luxembourg	0.51	39.0	20.3
Hungary	9.99	40.1	24.4
Malta	0.42	39.5	22.4
Netherlands	16.66	41.0	23.3
Austria	8.40	42.0	26.0
Poland	38.20	38.0	19.0
Portugal	10.64	41.1	27.2
Romania	21.41	38.3	21.4
Slovenia	2.05	41.7	23.9
Slovakia	5.44	37.2	17.1
Finland	5.38	42.1	26.5
Sweden	9.42	40.8	28.4
United Kingdom	62.44	39.7	25.2
Iceland	0.32	35.0	18.4
Liechtenstein	0.04	41.2	19.8
Norway	4.92	38.7	22.8
Switzerland	7.87	41.6	24.9
Montenegro	0.62	36.5	18.6
Croatia	4.41	41.5	25.4
FYR of Macedonia	2.06	36.1	16.5
Turkey	73.72	29.3	10.8

Old-age dependency ratio - population aged 65 and over to population aged 15 to 64.
(¹) EU-27, EA-17, Belgium, Cyprus and Romania - 2010 data.
Source: Eurostat (on line data codes: demo_pjan, demo_pjanind)

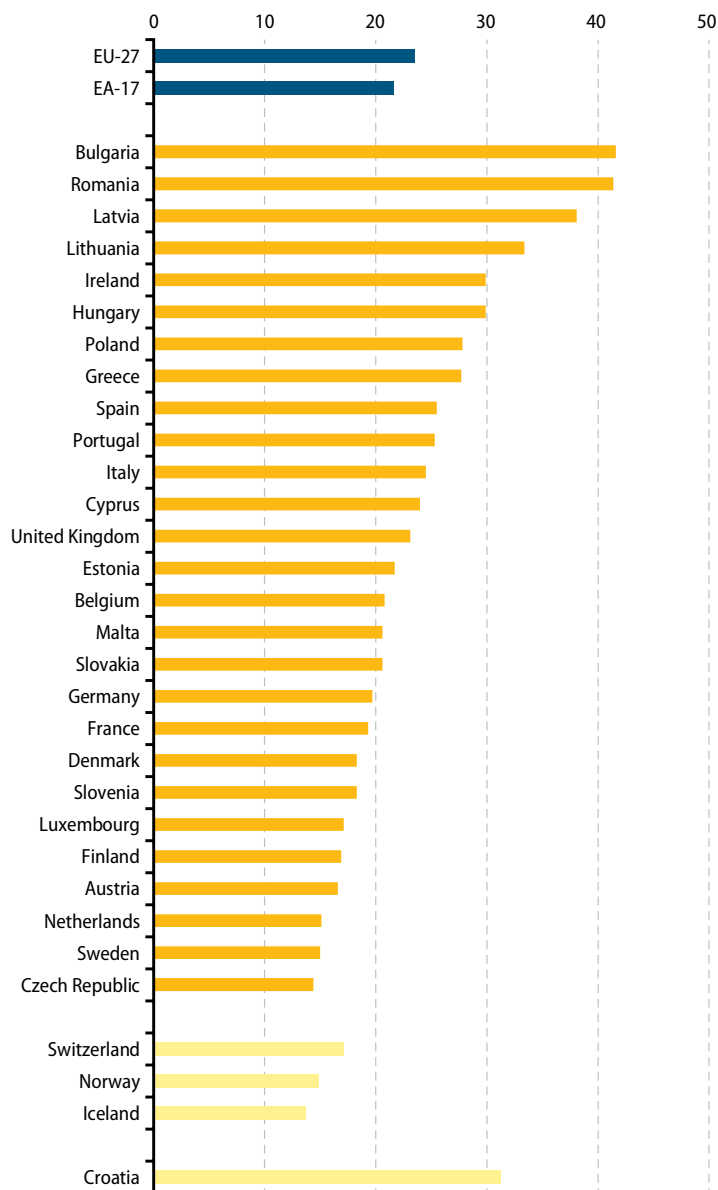**Table 2:** Life expectancy at birth and healthy life years at birth, 2010 (years)

	Life expectancy at birth (¹)		Healthy life years at birth	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
EU-27	76.7	82.6	61.7	62.6
EA-17	78.0	83.7	:	:
Belgium	77.6	83.0	64.0	62.6
Bulgaria	70.3	77.4	63.0	67.2
Czech Republic	74.5	80.9	62.2	64.6
Denmark	77.2	81.4	62.3	61.9
Germany	78.0	83.0	57.9	58.6
Estonia	70.6	80.8	54.0	58.1
Ireland	78.7	83.2	65.9	66.9
Greece	78.4	82.8	66.4	67.6
Spain	79.1	85.3	64.3	63.7
France	78.3	85.3	61.9	63.5
Italy	79.4	84.6	67.3	67.3
Cyprus	78.6	83.6	65.1	64.9
Latvia	68.6	78.4	53.5	56.5
Lithuania	68.0	78.9	57.7	62.3
Luxembourg	77.9	83.5	64.5	66.0
Hungary	70.7	78.6	56.4	58.6
Malta	79.2	83.6	70.2	71.6
Netherlands	78.9	83.0	61.1	60.2
Austria	77.9	83.5	59.3	60.7
Poland	72.1	80.7	58.5	62.2
Portugal	76.7	82.8	59.2	56.6
Romania	69.8	77.4	57.4	57.4
Slovenia	76.4	83.1	53.2	54.5
Slovakia	71.7	79.3	52.3	52.1
Finland	76.9	83.5	58.5	57.8
Sweden	79.6	83.6	71.7	71.0
United Kingdom	78.6	82.6	64.9	65.6
Iceland	79.8	84.1	69.3	67.9
Liechtenstein	79.5	84.3	:	:
Norway	79.0	83.3	69.6	69.7
Switzerland	80.3	84.9	65.5	63.5
Montenegro	73.5	78.4	:	:
Croatia	73.5	79.9	57.4	60.6
FYR of Macedonia	72.9	77.2	:	:
Turkey	73.3	78.8	:	:

(¹) EU-27, EA-17, Italy, Cyprus, Romania and Turkey - 2009 data.
Source: Eurostat (on line data codes: demo_mlexpec, hlth_hlye)

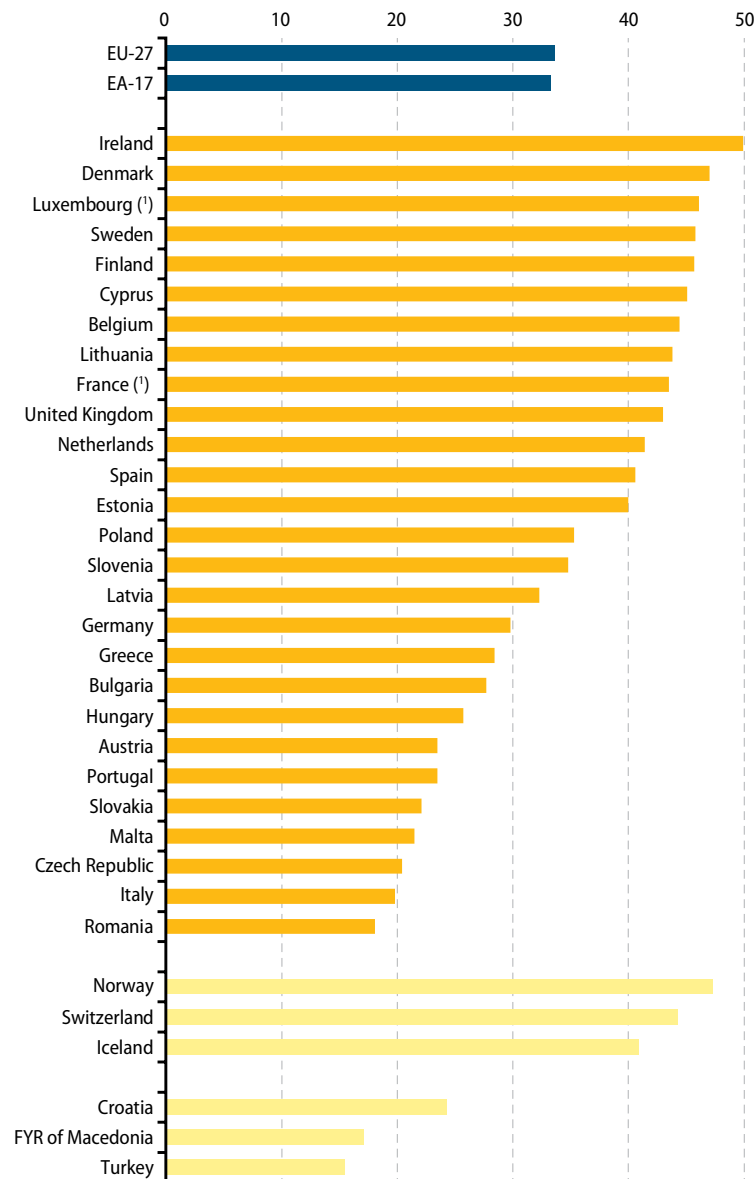**Figure 1:** Proportion of population being at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 2010
(%)

Source: Eurostat (on line data code: ilc_peps01)

Table 3: Labour market statistics, 2011 ([1])
(%)

	Employment rate		Unemployment rate		
	Men	Women	Total	Youth aged 15-24	Long-term
EU-27	70.1	58.5	9.7	21.4	4.1
EA-17	70.3	58.2	10.2	20.8	4.6
Belgium	67.1	56.7	7.2	18.7	3.5
Bulgaria	60.9	56.2	11.2	26.6	6.3
Czech Republic	74.0	57.2	6.7	18.0	2.7
Denmark	75.9	70.4	7.6	14.2	1.8
Germany	77.3	67.7	5.9	8.6	2.8
Estonia	67.7	62.8	12.5	22.3	7.1
Ireland	63.1	55.4	14.4	29.4	8.6
Greece	65.9	45.1	17.7	44.4	8.8
Spain	63.2	52.0	21.7	46.4	9.0
France	68.1	59.7	9.7	22.9	4.0
Italy	67.5	46.5	8.4	29.1	4.4
Cyprus	74.7	61.6	7.8	22.4	1.6
Latvia	62.9	60.8	15.4	29.1	8.4
Lithuania	60.9	60.5	15.4	32.9	8.0
Luxembourg	72.1	56.9	4.8	15.6	1.4
Hungary	61.2	50.6	10.9	26.1	5.2
Malta	73.6	41.0	6.5	13.7	3.0
Netherlands	79.8	69.9	4.4	7.6	1.5
Austria	77.8	66.5	4.2	8.3	1.1
Poland	66.3	53.1	9.7	25.8	3.6
Portugal	68.1	60.4	12.9	30.1	6.2
Romania	65.0	52.0	7.4	23.7	3.1
Slovenia	67.7	60.9	8.2	15.7	3.6
Slovakia	66.3	52.7	13.5	33.2	9.2
Finland	70.6	67.4	7.8	20.1	1.7
Sweden	76.3	71.8	7.5	22.9	1.4
United Kingdom	74.5	64.5	8.0	21.1	2.7
Iceland	80.3	76.6	7.1	14.6	1.7
Norway	77.1	73.4	3.3	8.6	0.8
Switzerland	85.3	73.2	:	:	:
Croatia	57.9	47.0	13.5	36.1	8.6
FYR of Macedonia	52.3	35.3	:	:	:
Turkey	69.2	27.8	8.8	16.8	2.1

([1]) Employment rate for population aged 15-64; unemployment in % of active population.
Source: Eurostat (on line data codes: lfsi_emp_a, une_rt_a, une_ltu_a)

Figure 2: Proportion of population aged 30-34 having tertiary educational attainment, 2010
(%)

(¹) Provisional data.
Source: Eurostat (on line data code: edat_lfse_07)

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat publishes **official, harmonised statistics** on the European Union (EU) and the euro area which offer an objective portrayal of social trends. Furthermore, some of the indicators are published for candidate countries and other non-member countries.

Eurostat collects data from national statistical institutes and the statistics are harmonised according to Europe-wide methodologies. Data are, therefore, genuinely **comparable** across the whole of the EU.

Symbols and abbreviations

: not available

Figures in italics are provisional or Eurostat estimates.

Extraction date

Data were extracted on: 22 May 2012

The most recent data is available at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database

Data codes

The Eurostat online data code, which is given as part of the source for tables and figures, provides users with a quick and efficient way of accessing the most up to date statistics. When used through the 'search' facility of Eurostat's website, each data code directs users to the corresponding dataset offering the freshest data and longer time-series.

For more information