

8 March 2007: International Women's Day

A statistical illustration of the situation of women and men in the EU27

In conjunction with International Women's Day on 8 March 2007, **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, publishes some statistical data on women in the **EU** within the fields of demography, education, computer skills, employment and unemployment, illustrating differences and similarities with men.

Life expectancy for women expected to be over 80 years in all Member States in 2050

Women had a higher life expectancy than men in all Member States in 2005, and this is forecast to be the same in 2050. In the **EU27** there was a difference of around 6 years in 2005 (81.5 years for women compared with 75.4 years for men), with the highest differences in **Lithuania** and **Latvia** (12 years) and lowest in **Malta**, the **United Kingdom**, the **Netherlands** and **Sweden** (4 years). By 2050, life expectancy is expected to increase both for women and for men, the increase being however generally higher for men. Due to this, the gap is expected to narrow in almost all Member States, with differences ranging from 3 years in **Denmark**, **Cyprus**, **Malta** and **Sweden** to 8 years in **Estonia**, **Latvia** and **Lithuania**.

In 2005, life expectancy for women ranged from 75.4 years in **Romania** to 83.9 years in **Spain**. In 2050 it is expected to be over 80 years in all Member States, ranging from 82.0 years in **Romania** to 89.1 years in **France**.

One result of this higher life expectancy is that women made up 59% of those aged 65 years or more in the **EU27** in 2005. Considering forecasts of the population structure for 2050, the share of women is expected to decrease to 55% in the **EU27**.

France and Ireland had the highest fertility rate in 2005

The fertility rate¹ in the **EU27** in 2005 was 1.51, with **France** (1.92), **Ireland** (1.88), **Denmark**, **Finland** and the **United Kingdom** (all 1.80) recording the highest rates. In **Poland** (1.24), **Slovakia** (1.25), **Slovenia** (1.26), **Lithuania** (1.27), the **Czech Republic** and **Greece** (both 1.28) the lowest rates were observed.

Life expectancy and fertility rates

	Life expectancy at birth, 2005		Life expectancy at birth, 2050**		Fertility rate, 2005
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
EU27	81.5p	75.4p	:	:	1.51p
EU25	81.9p	75.8p	:	:	1.52
Belgium	82.4	76.7	88.3	82.3	1.72
Bulgaria	76.3	69.0	82.6	78.2	1.31
Czech Republic	79.1	72.9	84.1	79.7	1.28
Denmark	80.2	75.6	83.7	80.9	1.80
Germany	81.8	76.2	86.9	82.0	1.34
Estonia	78.1	67.3	83.1	74.9	1.50
Ireland	81.8	77.1	87.0	82.4	1.88
Greece	81.5	76.6	85.1	80.3	1.28
Spain	83.9	77.4	87.9	81.4	1.34
France*	83.8	76.8	89.1	82.7	1.92
Italy	83.2	77.6	88.8	83.6	1.34
Cyprus	81.7	77.0	85.1	81.9	1.42
Latvia	77.4	65.6	82.5	74.3	1.31
Lithuania	77.4	65.4	83.7	75.5	1.27
Luxembourg	82.3	76.2	86.7	81.6	1.70
Hungary	76.9	68.6	83.4	78.1	1.32
Malta	81.4	77.7	85.0	81.8	1.37
Netherlands	81.6	77.2	83.6	80.2	1.73
Austria	82.2	76.7	87.7	83.6	1.41
Poland	79.4	70.8	84.4	79.1	1.24
Portugal	81.4	74.9	86.6	80.4	1.40
Romania	75.4	68.2	82.0	77.6	1.32
Slovenia	81.3	74.1	85.2	79.8	1.26
Slovakia	77.9	70.1	83.4	77.7	1.25
Finland	82.3	75.5	86.5	81.9	1.80
Sweden	82.8	78.4	86.5	83.3	1.77
United Kingdom	81.1	76.9	86.6	82.9	1.80

p: provisional

* Excluding overseas departments

** Based upon demographic assumptions

: Data not available

Nearly a quarter of women and men have graduated from tertiary education

In the **EU27** in the second quarter of 2006, the share of those aged 25 to 59 having graduated from tertiary education was very similar for women (24%) and men (23%). The Member States with the highest share of women aged 25 to 59 having graduated from tertiary education were **Finland** (42%), **Estonia** and **Denmark** (both 39%), while the lowest shares were found in **Romania** (12%), the **Czech Republic** and **Malta** (both 13%). In almost all Member States more women than men studied humanities and arts, while the opposite was true for science, maths and computing. In the **EU27** in 2004, 66% of students of humanities and arts were women compared with 38% for science, maths and computing.

Denmark, Luxembourg and Hungary largest proportion of women with high computer skills

In the **EU25** in the second quarter of 2006, 15% of women aged 16 to 74 reported having high computer skills compared with 29% of men of this age. In all Member States, men reported higher shares than women. **Denmark** (25%), **Luxembourg** and **Hungary** (both 21%) had the largest proportion of women with high computer skills.

On the other hand, the share of women in the **EU25** aged 16 to 74 with no computer skills was 44%, compared with 38% for men of this age. In almost all Member States, the share of persons with no computer skills was higher for women than for men. The highest shares of women with no computer skills were found in **Bulgaria** (69%), **Italy** (64%), **Portugal** (61%) and **Greece** (60%).

Tertiary education and computer skills

	Share of those aged 25-59 having graduated from tertiary education, Q2 2006		Computer skills**, Q2 2006							
			Women aged 16-74, in %				Men aged 16-74, in %			
	Women	Men	None	Low	Medium	High	None	Low	Medium	High
EU27	23.8	23.1	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EU25	24.3	23.7	44	15	26	15	38	11	22	29
Belgium	33.5	30.9	45	16	24	15	36	13	22	29
Bulgaria	27.1	16.9	69	12	14	5	70	10	12	8
Czech Republic	12.6	14.7	49	16	25	10	47	15	19	19
Denmark	38.9	32.6	18	18	39	25	14	10	24	52
Germany	20.8	28.0	29	20	35	16	21	14	28	37
Estonia	39.0	28.3	49	10	22	19	47	9	13	31
Ireland	33.9	28.5	58	14	12	16	58	13	7	22
Greece	22.3	22.8	60	13	14	13	53	15	13	19
Spain	30.6	28.9	49	12	22	17	43	9	19	29
France	28.2	24.7	49	11	25	15	41	9	22	28
Italy	14.3	12.3	64	8	17	11	54	7	16	23
Cyprus	31.1	32.1	56	8	20	16	53	10	15	22
Latvia	27.8	15.1	53	17	22	8	51	15	18	16
Lithuania	32.0	24.3	53	12	24	11	54	11	15	20
Luxembourg*	25.4	29.4	37	14	28	21	17	9	23	51
Hungary	19.7	16.3	43	11	25	21	44	9	17	30
Malta	13.0	12.1	53	10	17	20	50	8	21	21
Netherlands	29.0	32.2	30	27	41	2	19	15	54	12
Austria	15.8	20.4	38	15	27	20	27	9	22	42
Poland	20.7	15.7	55	18	19	8	53	15	17	15
Portugal	16.6	11.6	61	8	15	16	55	8	12	25
Romania	11.9	12.5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	25.5	18.8	47	11	22	20	37	10	17	36
Slovakia	13.9	15.0	37	20	34	9	34	16	25	25
Finland	41.8	30.0	29	18	34	19	25	13	24	38
Sweden	36.7	26.1	22	23	38	17	18	12	28	42
United Kingdom	30.6	31.0	38	15	28	19	30	9	26	35

* Data for those having graduated from tertiary education refer to Q2 2005

** Skills surveyed included the ability to:

- copy or move a file or folder;
- use copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document;
- use basic arithmetic formula (add, subtract, multiply, divide) in a spreadsheet;
- compress files;
- connect and install new devices, e.g. a printer or a modem
- write a computer program using a specialised programming language.

In the survey, persons who ticked **none** of these six items were classed as having no computer skills, those who ticked 1 or 2 of these skills were classed as having **low level** basic computer skills, those ticking 3 or 4 were classed **medium level**, and those ticking 5 or all items were classed **high level**.

: Data not available

Almost a third of employed women in the EU27 worked part-time

The unemployment rate² for women in the **EU27** was 8.5% in January 2007, compared with 6.7% for men. It was higher for women than for men in all Member States, except **Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania** and the **United Kingdom**. The Member States with the largest differences in unemployment rates between women and men were **Greece** (13.3% for women, 5.4% for men), **Spain** (11.9% and 6.2%) and the **Czech Republic** (8.6% and 5.1%).

The employment rate³ for persons aged 15 to 64 in the **EU27** was 57.1% for women and 71.5% for men in the second quarter of 2006. It was lower for women than for men in all Member States. The female employment rate varied from 34.6% in **Malta** to 73.2% in **Denmark**.

Almost a third of women (31.4%) worked part-time, compared with 7.7% of men, in the **EU27** in the second quarter of 2006. The proportion of women working part-time ranged from 2.7% in **Bulgaria** to 74.7% in the **Netherlands**.

In the second quarter of 2006, 14.9% of women employees in the **EU27** were employed on a temporary basis, compared with 13.8% for men. **Romania** (1.8%), **Estonia** (2.2%) and **Lithuania** (2.8%) had the lowest shares of female temporary employees, while **Spain** (37.3%), **Poland** (25.6%) and **Finland** (21.8%) had the highest shares.

Unemployment and employment rates, part-time employment and temporary employees

	Unemployment rates, (seasonally adjusted), January 2007**		Employment rates, 15-64, Q2 2006		Employed part-time as a share of total employment, Q2 2006		Temporary employees as a share of total employees, Q2 2006	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
EU27	8.5	6.7	57.1	71.5	31.4	7.7	14.9	13.8
EU25	8.6	6.6	57.3	71.9	32.9	7.7	15.5	14.4
Belgium	8.7	7.0	53.6	67.0	42.6	7.9	10.8	7.3
Bulgaria	8.8	8.2	55.0	63.3	2.7	1.6	6.1	6.7
Czech Republic	8.6	5.1	56.8	73.6	8.7	2.3	10.4	7.6
Denmark	3.8	2.7	73.2	80.6	35.9	12.8	11.2	8.1
Germany	8.5	7.0	61.4	72.5	45.8	9.3	14.0	14.3
Estonia	4.6	3.9	66.4	71.3	11.6	4.6	2.2	4.2
Ireland	4.0	4.6	58.8	77.3	:	:	4.9	3.5
Greece	13.3	5.4	47.5	74.6	10.4	3.0	13.3	9.1
Spain	11.9	6.2	53.2	76.0	23.5	4.5	37.3	32.2
France	9.4	7.6	57.7	68.5	30.7	5.8	14.4	13.0
Italy	8.7	5.3	46.7	71.1	26.7	4.7	15.3	11.3
Cyprus	5.4	4.1	59.8	79.6	12.0	4.6	19.9	8.5
Latvia	5.3	6.8	62.9	68.2	8.7	4.6	4.9	9.6
Lithuania	5.8	6.8	61.1	66.4	11.8	6.5	2.8	6.7
Luxembourg*	6.9	3.6	53.7	73.3	38.2	2.5	5.8	4.9
Hungary	8.5	7.5	51.1	63.9	5.7	2.8	6.0	7.5
Malta	8.4	6.0	34.6	73.8	22.1	4.5	6.9	2.5
Netherlands	4.3	3.0	67.5	80.8	74.7	23.2	17.6	15.0
Austria	5.1	4.1	63.0	77.0	40.7	6.5	8.7	8.6
Poland	14.2	11.2	47.8	60.2	13.5	7.1	25.6	28.6
Portugal	8.4	6.2	62.4	74.0	15.9	7.5	21.5	19.0
Romania	6.4	8.4	54.1	65.2	10.2	9.3	1.8	2.1
Slovenia	6.1	4.2	63.3	70.8	11.8	7.8	19.9	16.4
Slovakia	12.3	9.9	51.6	66.9	4.8	1.2	5.2	5.2
Finland	7.4	6.7	68.1	71.7	18.2	9.2	21.8	14.1
Sweden	:	:	70.6	75.5	40.3	11.7	19.4	15.7
United Kingdom	5.1	5.7	65.8	77.0	42.6	10.6	6.3	4.8

* Data for employment rates, part-time and temporary employees refer to Q2 2005

** Denmark: December 2006, Greece, Italy: Q3/2006, United Kingdom: November 2006

: Data not available

1. **Fertility rate:** The mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her childbearing years under the presumption of the current fertility rates.
2. **Unemployment rate:** The number of unemployed people aged 15 to 74 as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of employed and unemployed people (active population).
3. **Employment rate:** The number of employed persons aged 15-64 years as a percentage of the population of the same age.

Issued by:
Eurostat Press Office

Tim ALLEN
BECH Building
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG

Tel: +352-4301-33 444
Fax: +352-4301-35 349
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

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