

8 March 2010: International Women's Day

A statistical perspective on women and men in the EU27

How much higher is the life expectancy for women than for men, and what is it expected to be in 2030? Is the unemployment rate for women higher than for men? And what about the employment rate? What are the differences between women and men in their use of the internet - sending e-mails, reading on-line newspapers, doing internet banking or checking work opportunities?

Answers to these questions can be found in this News Release, published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March 2010. This News Release presents just a small selection of the large amount of gender based data available from Eurostat.

One woman in four aged 65 and over in 2030

Life expectancy for women in 2008 ranged between 77.0 years in **Bulgaria** and 84.9 years in **France** (in 2007), and was higher than for men in all Member States. In 2008, the largest differences in life expectancy between women and men, of around eleven years, were found in **Lithuania** (77.6 years for women and 66.3 years for men), **Estonia** (79.5 and 68.7) and **Latvia** (77.8 and 67.0), and the smallest, of around four years, in the **Netherlands** (82.5 and 78.4), **Sweden** (83.3 and 79.2) and the **United Kingdom** (81.8 and 77.6 in 2007). On average in the **EU27** in 2007, life expectancy at birth was 82.2 years for women and 76.1 years for men, a difference of 6.1 years.

In 2030, life expectancy at birth in the **EU27** is expected to rise to 85.3 years for women and 80.0 years for men, a difference of 5.3 years. Differences between women and men are projected to narrow, ranging from around three years in **Cyprus** to around nine years in **Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia**.

This rise in life expectancy will be reflected by an increase in the proportion of women aged 65 and over: in 2008, a fifth (19%) of women in the **EU27** were aged 65 and over, while this share is expected to increase to a quarter (26%) in 2030.

Demography

	Life expectancy at birth, 2008*		Life expectancy at birth, 2030**		Women aged 65 and over as a proportion of all women, %	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	2008	2030**
EU27	82.2	76.1	85.3	80.0	19	26
Belgium	82.6	77.1	85.4	80.2	19	25
Bulgaria	77.0	69.8	81.3	75.3	20	27
Czech Republic	80.5	74.1	83.7	78.1	17	26
Denmark	81.0	76.5	84.5	80.0	17	25
Germany	82.7	77.6	85.6	80.8	23	30
Estonia	79.5	68.7	82.9	74.0	21	26
Ireland	82.3	77.5	85.3	81.1	12	17
Greece	82.3	77.7	85.3	80.9	21	26
Spain	84.3	78.0	86.5	80.9	19	24
France***	84.9	77.6	87.0	81.0	19	26
Italy	84.2	78.7	86.9	81.7	23	29
Cyprus	83.1	78.5	84.9	81.5	13	19
Latvia	77.8	67.0	81.5	72.8	21	27
Lithuania	77.6	66.3	81.9	72.8	20	26
Luxembourg	83.1	78.1	84.6	80.2	16	21
Hungary	78.3	70.0	82.4	75.4	20	26
Malta	82.3	77.1	84.6	79.9	16	26
Netherlands	82.5	78.4	85.3	81.1	17	26
Austria	83.3	77.8	85.8	80.9	20	26
Poland	80.0	71.3	83.7	76.6	16	26
Portugal	82.4	76.2	85.4	79.7	20	26
Romania	77.2	69.7	81.3	75.5	17	23
Slovenia	82.6	75.5	85.1	78.9	20	28
Slovakia	79.0	70.8	82.7	76.0	15	24
Finland	83.3	76.5	85.9	79.9	19	28
Sweden	83.3	79.2	86.0	81.9	20	24
United Kingdom	81.8	77.6	85.0	80.9	18	22
Norway	83.2	78.4	81.5	85.8	17	22
Switzerland	84.6	79.8	82.3	86.9	19	25

* 2007: EU27, Belgium, France, Italy, United Kingdom

** 2030: Eurostat population projections convergence scenario 2008-2060 (EUROPOP2008)

*** "France métropolitaine", excluding the four overseas departments (French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion) for the 2030 data

For the first time, unemployment rate for women lower than for men in the EU27

Over the last decade¹, the unemployment rate² in the **EU27** has been higher for women than for men. Since May 2009, the unemployment rate for women in the **EU27** has for the first time been lower than for men. This reflects the effects of the current economic crisis on the labour market where sectors such as construction and manufacturing were hit hard leading to job losses predominantly among men.

In January 2010, the unemployment rate in the **EU27** was 9.3% for women and 9.7% for men. In fifteen Member States, the unemployment rate was higher for men than for women. The largest differences in unemployment rates in January 2010 in favour of women were found in **Estonia** (11.2% for women and 19.7% for men in Q4 2009), **Lithuania** (10.6% and 18.6% in Q3 2009), **Latvia** (19.2% and 26.6%) and **Ireland** (9.9% and 17.0%). The largest differences in the rates in favour of men were observed in **Greece** (13.5% for women and 7.1% for men in Q3 2009) and **Italy** (9.8% and 7.7%).

As for the employment rate³, it was 58.7% for women and 71.0% for men in the third quarter of 2009 in the **EU27**, compared with 59.4% and 73.3% respectively in the third quarter of 2008. The employment rate for women in the third quarter of 2009 was lower than for men in all Member States, except **Lithuania** (61.2% for women and 59.6% for men).

Employment

	Unemployment rates*				Employment rates					
	January 2000		January 2010		Q3 2005		Q3 2008		Q3 2009	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
EU27	10.0	8.0	9.3	9.7	56.5	71.4	59.4	73.3	58.7	71.0
Belgium	8.7	6.2	8.0	8.0	53.4	69.0	56.6	68.5	55.8	67.0
Bulgaria	14.2	14.3	7.7	8.5	53.5	62.3	60.4	69.6	58.9	67.4
Czech Republic	10.7	7.8	8.8	7.8	56.5	73.8	57.6	75.7	56.5	73.7
Denmark	5.4	4.7	6.9	7.7	72.1	80.2	74.4	82.8	73.7	78.9
Germany	7.8	7.6	6.8	8.1	60.7	71.8	65.7	76.8	66.1	75.8
Estonia	11.4	14.0	11.2	19.7	61.3	68.4	67.5	73.6	61.8	65.1
Ireland	4.9	5.0	9.9	17.0	59.3	78.2	60.7	75.4	57.5	66.1
Greece	17.7	7.5	13.5	7.1	46.4	74.3	49.1	75.3	49.3	74.0
Spain	17.0	8.4	18.9	18.7	51.6	76.0	55.1	73.6	53.0	66.4
France	11.4	8.1	10.5	9.8	58.7	69.8	60.8	70.1	60.5	68.8
Italy	14.1	8.3	9.8	7.7	44.8	70.0	47.2	70.7	46.1	68.9
Cyprus	7.3	3.1	6.4	6.1	58.2	79.9	62.4	80.0	62.3	78.0
Latvia	13.5	14.7	19.2	26.6	59.1	68.8	65.4	72.9	58.8	60.9
Lithuania	13.8	17.2	10.6	18.6	59.6	67.4	62.7	67.5	61.2	59.6
Luxembourg	3.2	1.8	6.3	5.6	53.7	73.3	55.1	72.5	57.5	73.8
Hungary	5.8	7.1	10.6	11.5	51.2	63.7	51.0	63.9	49.9	61.2
Malta	7.5	6.7	7.6	6.7	33.7	72.8	38.6	72.9	37.9	71.6
Netherlands	3.4	2.3	4.0	4.4	66.7	80.4	71.5	83.5	71.5	82.4
Austria	4.6	3.4	4.6	5.9	62.7	77.1	66.3	79.5	66.9	77.8
Poland	17.4	13.6	9.0	8.8	47.6	59.9	53.0	67.2	53.0	66.9
Portugal	5.0	3.7	11.2	10.0	61.7	73.4	62.5	73.9	61.1	70.5
Romania	6.5	8.2	6.1	8.2	51.8	63.9	54.3	66.7	53.5	67.2
Slovenia	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.9	62.2	70.9	65.5	74.4	64.6	71.9
Slovakia	17.6	18.5	14.0	13.4	50.8	65.3	55.4	70.8	52.8	67.4
Finland	10.8	9.2	8.1	9.9	67.3	72.0	69.6	74.6	68.0	70.5
Sweden	5.7	6.6	8.7	9.5	71.3	75.8	73.2	78.2	70.8	75.0
United Kingdom	5.1	6.2	6.6	8.8	66.0	78.0	65.8	77.4	65.0	74.7
Croatia	:	:	11.1	10.7	:	:	52.6	66.8	52.2	62.0
Turkey	:	:	13.3	13.0	:	:	25.8	69.8	25.5	66.6
Iceland	:	:	:	:	80.3	90.3	80.2	88.6	77.9	82.8
Norway	3.1	3.7	2.7	3.7	72.5	78.3	75.7	81.2	74.1	78.2

* Q3 2009 data for Greece, Lithuania, Romania and Turkey. Q4 2009 data for Estonia. November 2009 data for the United Kingdom and Norway. December 2009 data for Denmark.

: Data not available

Higher share of women than men use internet banking in Estonia, France, Latvia and Lithuania

In 2009, more than half of women (55%) aged 16 to 74 in the **EU27** used the internet in the last three months for sending or receiving e-mails, compared with 60% of men. The highest rates for women were found in **Sweden** (83%), the **Netherlands** (82%) and **Denmark** (80%).

There was also a larger share of men (35%) than women (27%) in the **EU27** using the internet to read or download online newspapers/magazines. The highest rates for women were found in **Estonia** and **Finland** (both 63%) and **Denmark** (59%).

Less than one third of women (30%) in the **EU27** used the internet for banking, compared with 35% of men. The largest proportions of women were observed in **Finland** (72%), the **Netherlands** and **Sweden** (both 69%).

In 2009, the internet was used by 15% of both women and men in the **EU27** to look for a job or to send a job application. **Denmark** (27%) had the highest rate for women, followed by **Finland** (26%), **Latvia**, **Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** (all 23%).

Internet use, 2009

	Individuals aged 16 to 74 years who used the internet in the last 3 months for:							
	Sending/receiving e-mails		Reading/downloading online newspapers/magazines		Internet banking		Looking for a job/sending a job application	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
EU27	55	60	27	35	30	35	15	15
Belgium	65	72	29	39	41	51	13	14
Bulgaria	33	35	19	23	2	2	8	9
Czech Republic	53	57	40	45	17	20	8	8
Denmark	80	82	59	68	64	69	27	28
Germany	66	74	21	34	36	46	18	17
Estonia	63	61	63	62	64	60	20	26
Ireland	57	54	15	23	29	31	12	15
Greece	27	35	17	25	4	7	6	5
Spain	48	55	33	43	20	27	16	17
France	62	58	22	26	44	40	17	16
Italy	34	43	19	27	12	20	9	10
Cyprus	36	40	23	32	13	18	6	5
Latvia	54	53	47	46	45	39	23	26
Lithuania	47	46	48	49	33	32	14	17
Luxembourg	77	86	45	64	46	61	12	13
Hungary	54	57	34	38	14	18	19	18
Malta	49	53	30	34	29	36	15	14
Netherlands	82	88	39	52	69	78	18	16
Austria	59	67	35	48	29	41	10	11
Poland	44	47	16	20	20	23	9	9
Portugal	36	44	22	33	14	21	10	11
Romania	27	30	20	23	2	2	4	5
Slovenia	52	54	34	34	24	25	13	12
Slovakia	60	63	34	36	24	29	16	16
Finland	77	74	63	65	72	72	26	22
Sweden	83	83	45	54	69	73	23	21
United Kingdom	72	76	37	48	41	49	23	27

1. The series started in January 2000.
2. The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed plus unemployed.
3. The employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 15 to 64 in employment by the total population of the same age group.

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