

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 | 85.8 | 81.5 | 17 | 22 |
| Switzerland | 84.6 | 79.8 | 86.9 | 82.3 | 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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