

Active ageing in the EU

The employment rate for persons aged 60-64 increased from 23% in 2000 to 31% in 2010

...and from 50% to 61% for those aged 55-59

The proportion of the population in the **EU27** who are aged 55 and over rose from 25% in 1990 to 30% in 2010, and is estimated to reach around 40% by 2060. In connection with the demographic challenges presented by this increase, the European Union has designated 2012 as the **European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations**¹. Active ageing means that older age groups have the opportunity to stay in the workforce and share their experience, to keep playing an active role in society and to live as healthy and fulfilling lives as possible.

To mark the European Year, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, issues a new publication "**Active ageing and solidarity between generations – a statistical portrait of the European Union 2012**"², prepared in collaboration with the European Commission's **Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** and **Eurofound**, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. This publication presents data on topics such as demography, employment, transition from work to retirement, healthcare, living conditions and participation in society. In this News Release the most recent data on demographic trends and employment amongst the older population are presented, while more information on attitudes towards ageing and the participation of older persons in society can be found in a new Eurobarometer survey³ from the European Commission as well as in the Eurostat publication.

The share of those aged 55 and over varied between 21% in Ireland and 33% in Germany and Italy in 2010

The share of persons aged 55 and over in the total population increased between 1990 and 2010 in all Member States. In 2010, the largest shares of those aged 55-64 were observed in **Finland** (14.7% of the total population), the **Czech Republic** and **Malta** (both 14.1%), and the lowest in **Ireland** (10.1%), **Lithuania** (10.7%) and **Luxembourg** (10.8%). For the age group 65 and over, the highest shares were found in **Germany** (20.7%), **Italy** (20.2%) and **Greece** (18.9%), and the lowest in **Ireland** (11.3%), **Slovakia** (12.3%) and **Cyprus** (13.1%).

Employment rate for those aged 60 to 64 ranged between 13% in Hungary and 61% in Sweden in 2010

Employment of the older population has strongly increased over the last decade. While the employment rate⁴ for those aged 20-64 in the **EU27** increased by 2.1 percentage points (from 66.5% in 2000 to 68.6% in 2010), the rates for older age groups rose more sharply, by 10.6 pp for those aged 55-59 (from 50.3% to 60.9%) and by 7.5 pp for those aged 60 to 64 (from 23.0% to 30.5%). The employment rate remained at around 5% for those aged 65 and over.

In 2010, the highest employment rates for those aged 55-59 were observed in **Sweden** (80.7%), **Denmark** (75.9%) and **Finland** (72.5%), and the lowest in **Poland** (45.8%), **Slovenia** (46.9%) and **Malta** (49.3%). For those aged 60-64 the highest rates were recorded in **Sweden** (61.0%), the **United Kingdom** (44.0%) and **Estonia** (42.8%), and the lowest in **Hungary** (13.0%), **Malta** (14.2%) and **Slovakia** (17.2%). For those aged 65 and over, the highest employment rates were found in **Portugal** (16.5%), **Romania** (13.0%) and **Cyprus** (12.9%), and the lowest in **France** and **Slovakia** (both 1.6%) and **Hungary** (1.9%).

Share of total population aged 55-64 and 65 and over
(%)

	1990		2010	
	Aged 55-64	Aged 65+	Aged 55-64	Aged 65+
EU27	10.8	13.7	12.2	17.4
Belgium	11.5	14.8	12.2	17.2
Bulgaria	12.7	13.0	13.8	17.5
Czech Republic	10.4	12.5	14.1	15.2
Denmark	9.8	15.6	13.1	16.3
Germany	11.1	14.9	11.9	20.7
Estonia	11.3	11.6	11.9	17.1
Ireland	7.9	11.4	10.1	11.3
Greece	12.5	13.7	12.0	18.9
Spain	11.1	13.4	10.9	16.8
France*	10.5	13.9	12.6	16.8
Italy	11.8	14.7	12.3	20.2
Cyprus	8.1	10.8	11.3	13.1
Latvia	11.6	11.8	11.4	17.4
Lithuania	10.8	10.8	10.7	16.1
Luxembourg	11.4	13.4	10.8	14.0
Hungary	11.5	13.2	13.2	16.6
Malta	9.0	10.4	14.1	14.8
Netherlands	9.4	12.8	13.0	15.3
Austria	10.4	14.9	11.3	17.6
Poland	10.0	10.0	12.9	13.5
Portugal	11.0	13.2	11.9	17.9
Romania	11.1	10.3	11.8	14.9
Slovenia	10.8	10.6	12.8	16.5
Slovakia	9.2	10.3	12.2	12.3
Finland	10.2	13.3	14.7	17.0
Sweden	10.0	17.8	12.9	18.1
United Kingdom	10.3	15.7	11.8	16.5

* Excluding overseas departments

Employment rates⁴ by age groups (%)

	2000				2010			
	Aged 20-64	Aged 55-59	Aged 60-64	Aged 65+	Aged 20-64	Aged 55-59	Aged 60-64	Aged 65+
EU27	66.5	50.3	23.0	5.0	68.6	60.9	30.5	4.7
Belgium	66.3	37.9	12.4	1.6	67.6	53.1	20.2	2.0
Bulgaria	56.5	33.5	10.5	2.9	65.4	62.2	26.6	2.8
Czech Republic	70.9	50.2	16.9	4.1	70.4	67.1	25.2	4.7
Denmark	77.9	72.6	30.9	2.5	76.1	75.9	39.6	6.2
Germany	68.7	56.4	19.6	2.6	74.9	71.5	41.0	4.0
Estonia	67.4	58.6	29.9	7.5	66.7	63.1	42.8	8.3
Ireland	70.1	53.1	35.8	8.1	64.9	58.8	40.2	8.6
Greece	62.1	48.4	31.9	5.3	64.0	53.9	30.5	4.0
Spain	60.6	46.2	26.7	1.6	62.5	54.4	32.0	2.0
France	67.4	48.1	10.2	1.1	69.1	60.6	17.9	1.6
Italy	57.1	36.5	18.0	3.1	61.1	52.7	20.5	3.1
Cyprus	72.0	60.6	35.3	10.3	75.4	69.7	41.9	12.9
Latvia	63.4	49.3	21.8	6.6	65.0	64.3	29.4	5.6
Lithuania	66.1	56.2	25.8	7.8	64.4	61.1	33.8	4.5
Luxembourg	67.5	38.9	14.5	(1.6)	70.7	55.7	20.1	(3.4)
Hungary	60.9	33.7	7.6	1.7	60.4	51.7	13.0	1.9
Malta	57.5	45.3	(10.8)	:	60.1	49.3	14.2	(3.5)
Netherlands	74.2	54.1	18.5	2.6	76.8	70.1	37.3	5.9
Austria	70.7	42.4	12.1	2.9	74.9	61.0	22.3	5.3
Poland	61.1	37.7	20.9	7.6	64.6	45.8	19.1	4.7
Portugal	73.4	57.7	44.7	18.0	70.5	57.8	40.2	16.5
Romania	70.5	56.6	48.0	38.2	63.3	50.2	29.5	13.0
Slovenia	68.5	29.0	15.1	7.4	70.3	46.9	19.5	7.3
Slovakia	63.0	34.5	6.1	0.8	64.6	57.9	17.2	1.6
Finland	72.3	58.5	22.8	2.3	73.0	72.5	40.8	4.1
Sweden	76.3	78.6	46.0	4.9	78.7	80.7	61.0	6.3
United Kingdom	73.9	63.2	36.1	5.2	73.6	70.8	44.0	8.5

() Data with reduced reliability due to sample size

: Data not published due to small sample size

1. For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/ey2012.jsp?langId=en>
2. Eurostat publication, "Active ageing and solidarity between generations – a statistical portrait of the European Union 2012". Available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website. Data presented in this News Release could differ from the data in the publication, due to updates made after the data extractions used for the publication.
3. Special Eurobarometer 378 on Active ageing: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_379_360_en.htm#378
4. The **employment rate** represents persons in employment as a percentage of the same age population.

Published by Eurostat Press Office

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