KEY FIGURES ON THE EU IN THE WORLD

2025 EDITION

eurostat

KEY FIGURES

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Foreword

This is the 8th edition of *Key figures on the EU in the world*. It provides a concise, yet comprehensive, selection of statistics on the EU – considered as a single entity – in comparison with countries across the globe, from the smallest to the largest.

Drawing from the vast amount of data available at Eurostat and from other international sources, this publication provides an insight into EU society, the economy and the environment as compared with other parts of the world.

Whether you are a policymaker, researcher, student or someone with a general interest in international affairs, this publication aims to inform and inspire. It makes complex data accessible, bringing together a broad range of statistics to highlight the EU within an increasingly interconnected world.

I hope that you will find this publication interesting and useful both for your work and your daily life.

Mariana Kotzeva
Director-General, Eurostat

Abstract

Key figures on the EU in the world provides a statistical portrait of the European Union in relation to other parts of the world. It's structured into 3 chapters: people and society, the economy and trade, and the environment and natural resources.

This publication complements 2 of Eurostat's flagship publications, *Key figures on Europe* and the *Eurostat regional yearbook*. For some readers, it offers an introduction to EU and international statistics, while others may use it as a starting point for exploring a broad range of data. These statistics are freely available on Eurostat's website and in *Statistics Explained*, as well as from a variety of international organisations.

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Introduction

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union (EU). Our mission is to provide high-quality statistics on Europe, offering both citizens and decision-makers key information on the EU's economy, society and environment.

The European statistical system (ESS) has developed gradually to provide harmonised statistics across the EU. Today, European statistics inform decision-making in all EU policy areas. The ESS is a partnership between Eurostat and the national statistical offices and other national authorities in each EU country responsible for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics. This partnership includes EU countries and members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA); the ESS also coordinates its work with enlargement countries.

Structure of the publication

Key figures on the EU in the world gives a snapshot of the official statistical information available on Eurostat's website and the websites of other international organisations. This publication provides a balanced set of indicators, with a broad selection of information; it's composed of an introduction and 3 main chapters: people and society, the economy and trade, and the environment and natural resources.

Data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (27 countries), a world average (if available), and/or a selection of other countries and territories in the world. In most cases, the selected countries and territories have the highest or lowest values for specific criteria, such as the most populous or countries with the highest/lowest population density. A note under each figure indicates the selection criteria applied.

The EU aggregates presented in *Key figures on the EU in the world* include information for all 27 EU countries or estimates when there is missing information; notes below the figures indicate any incomplete totals or estimates for the EU. Time series for EU aggregates cover all 27 EU countries for the whole of the period under consideration, regardless of when they joined the EU. The harmonised consumer price index (see the subchapter on consumer prices within Chapter 2) is an exception: time series for this indicator reflect changes in the composition of EU membership.

Throughout this publication, for the sake of simplicity, the word 'countries' covers both countries and territories; this doesn't represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. Some international sources provide separate data for several entities which are in fact part of an EU country – for example, some of the French overseas departments, such as French Guiana or Mayotte, or the autonomous region of the Åland Islands (which forms part of Finland); this publication doesn't

consider these as non-EU countries. This publication generally presents data for Hong Kong and Macao separately from mainland China; consequently, the data for China exclude Hong Kong and Macao unless otherwise stated.

If data for a reference period aren't available for a particular country, then the publication may present data for previous reference years (notes below each figure mention these exceptions), normally going back up to 3 years. This process wasn't used if the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak resulted in a significant break in series, hindering comparability, such as for tourism or transport-related indicators.

Data sources

The data presented reflect international/worldwide statistical standards, for example, UN standards for national accounts and the IMF's standards for balance of payments statistics. Although most statistics have international concepts and definitions, there may be discrepancies in the methods used to compile the data.

Data for the EU

Eurobase, Eurostat's online database, was the source for almost all of the indicators presented for the EU. Eurostat updates Eurobase twice daily, so there may be differences between the data presented in this publication and any data downloaded subsequently. In exceptional cases, this publication presents EU data for some indicators from international sources, for example, data converted using purchasing power parities (PPPs) for comparability reasons. Furthermore, the publication presents EU data for the same reference year as used for the non-EU countries even when fresher data are available for the EU, again to improve comparability. In such cases, this has clearly been indicated in a note below the figure.

World and non-EU countries

The data in this publication for the world aggregate and for non-EU countries originate from a range of official international organisations. For some of the indicators, several international statistical sources are available, each with their own policies and practices for data management (for example, for the estimation of missing data and the frequency of updating). In almost all figures, the publication presents data for the world and/or non-EU countries from only one source for each indicator.

Data extraction and processing

The statistical data in this publication were extracted and the related commentary drafted between November 2024 and January 2025.

Many international sources present monetary data in national currencies and/or United States dollars ($; USD), whereas Eurostat presents data in national currencies and/or euro (€; EUR). For use in this publication, the conversion into euro of monetary data for non-EU countries used market exchange rates for each year. Data previously converted by international sources from national currencies using purchasing power parities remain in dollar-based purchasing power standards (also known as international USD).

The publication standardises several indicators by expressing their values relative to an appropriate measure for the size of a country, for example, in relation to the total number of inhabitants, the total or land area, or gross domestic product (GDP). The sources for these size measures were the following

- the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects) for the number of inhabitants
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Land use) for the total or land area
- the World Bank (World Development Indicators) for GDP.

Data presentation

Many of the data sources used to produce *Key figures on the EU in the world* contain metadata that provide information on the status of particular values or data series. This publication includes only the main notes needed to interpret the data and to highlight when data for a particular year have been replaced by data for another.

A billion is a thousand million and a trillion is a thousand billion.

Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to access Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through its website, with free access to an online database and a broad range of publications. Eurostat updates the website daily to present the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU as well as on individual EU, EFTA and enlargement countries; some datasets include information for a wider range of non-EU countries.

You can use online data codes, such as *tran_hv_psmod*, to find the most recent data in Eurostat's online database or use the website's search function. The Source below each figure in this publication identifies the relevant online data codes.

Some of the indicators presented in this publication can be complex. The *Statistics Explained* website provides a comprehensive online glossary explaining a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms. Specialist terms in the text have a link to their glossary definitions.

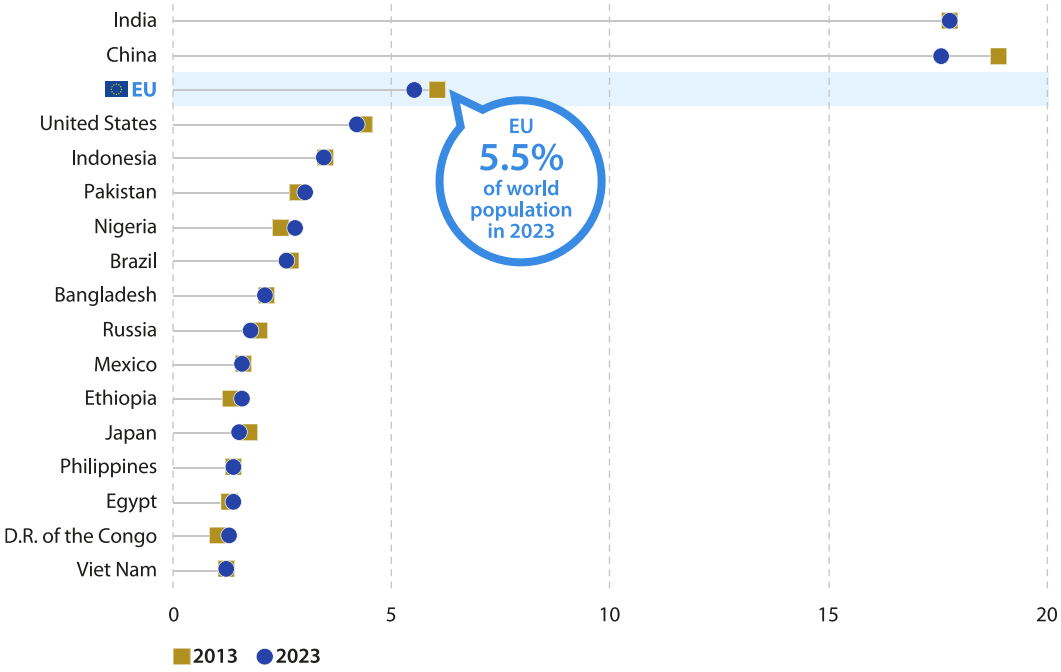
1

People and society

Population overview

Population

(% of world population, 2013 and 2023)



Note: average population. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023.

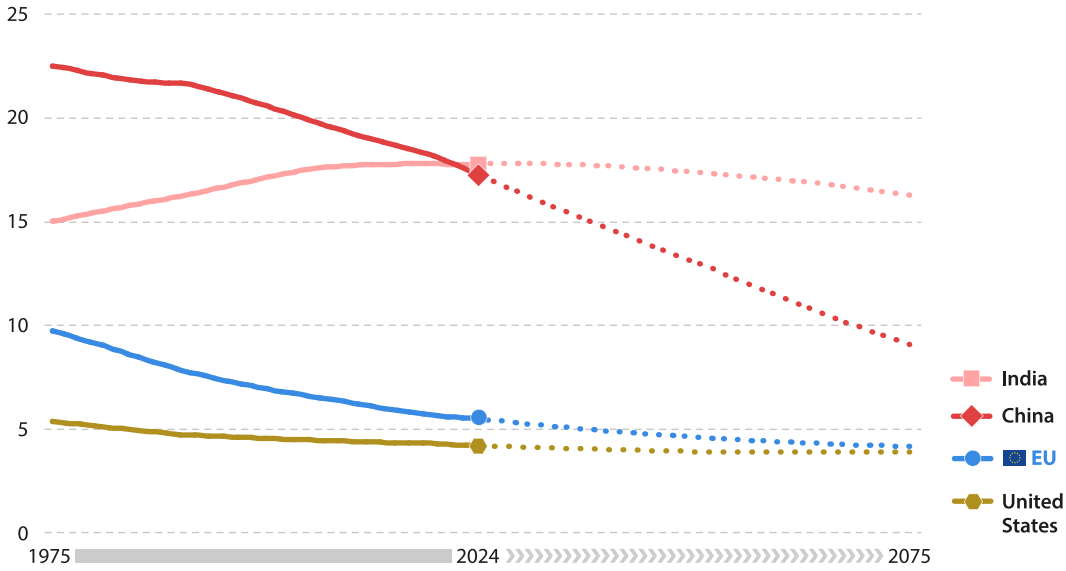
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

The world's population in 2023 was 8.09 billion inhabitants, up from 7.29 billion in 2013. The EU's population was 448 million in 2023, equivalent to 5.5% of the global total. In 2023, there were 2 countries that had larger populations than the EU: India (1.44 billion; 17.8% of the world total) and China (1.42 billion; 17.6%). After the EU, the United States (343 million; 4.2%) and Indonesia (281 million; 3.5%) had the next largest populations. There were 12 other countries where the number of inhabitants in 2023 was more than 100 million.

Collectively, the EU and the 16 largest countries accounted for 71.1% of the world's population in 2023, down from 72.6% in 2013. Between these years and among the largest countries, 3 African countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo (up 39.6%), Ethiopia (up 30.7%) and Nigeria (up 25.9%) – recorded the fastest population growth, while Japan was the only country with a falling number of inhabitants (down 2.6%).

Population

(% of world population, 1975–2075)



Note: average population. Projections start in 2024. Data are presented for the EU and the 3 most populous non-EU countries.

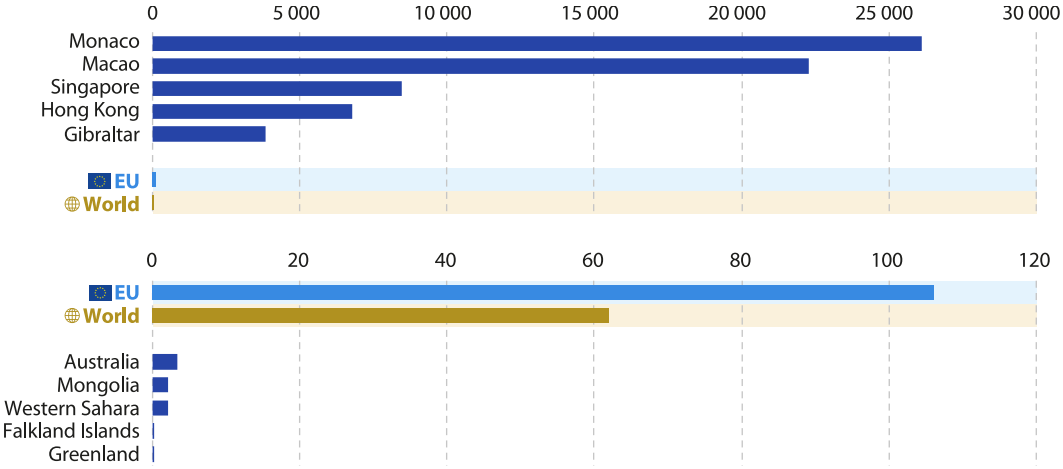
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_gind and proj_23np) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

The latest United Nations population projections suggest that the pace at which the world's population is expanding will slow over the coming decades. Nevertheless, projections show the total number of inhabitants reaching 10.0 billion by 2061 and continuing to grow to 10.3 billion by 2075; based on these projections, the world's population will be 2.5 times as high in 2075 as it was in 1975.

The EU's share of the world's population declined from 9.8% in 1975 to 5.5% in 2023; projections show it falling to 4.2% by 2075, an overall decrease of 5.6 percentage points. Projections also show China's share falling 13.4 points by 2075 compared with 1975, with the United States' share falling 1.5 points during the same period. By contrast, projections indicate a rise of 1.3 points for India. However, the overall change in India comprises an increase from 15.0% in 1975 to a projected peak of 17.8% by 2029, followed by a decline to 16.3% by 2075.

Population density

(inhabitants per km^2, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest population densities. The figure is presented in 2 parts with different scales: for ease of comparison, the EU and world averages are shown in each part.

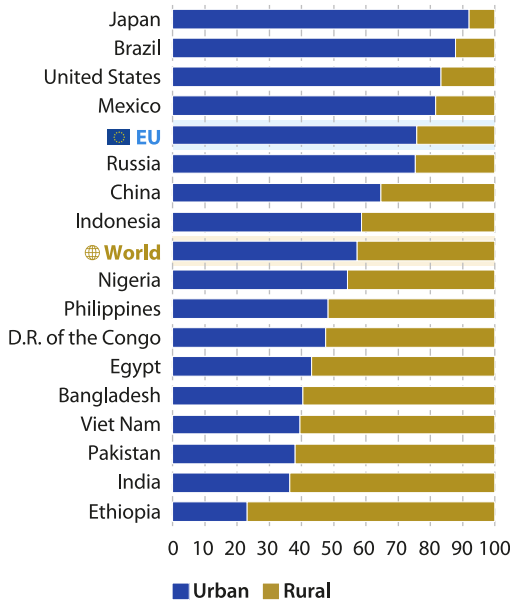
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_gind and reg_area3) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

On average, there were 106 inhabitants per square kilometre (km^2) in the EU in 2023. Therefore, the population density of the EU was considerably above the world average (62 inhabitants per km^2). The 5 most densely populated countries in the world were all relatively small: among them, Monaco (26 100 inhabitants per km^2) and Macao (22 300 people per km^2) had the highest densities in 2023. At the other extreme, the least densely populated countries were Greenland and the Falkland Islands, each with fewer than 1.0 inhabitant per km^2.

Urban and rural population

(% of population, 2023)

According to the World Bank, approximately 3 out of 4 (75.7%) EU inhabitants lived in an urban area in 2023; this share was considerably higher than the global average (57.3%). Among the 16 most populous countries in the world, only Japan (92.0%), Brazil (87.8%), the United States (83.3%) and Mexico (81.6%) had a higher share of urban residents than the EU. By contrast, rural areas accounted for more than 6 out of 10 inhabitants across Ethiopia (76.8%), India (63.6%), Pakistan (62.0%) and Viet Nam (60.5%).



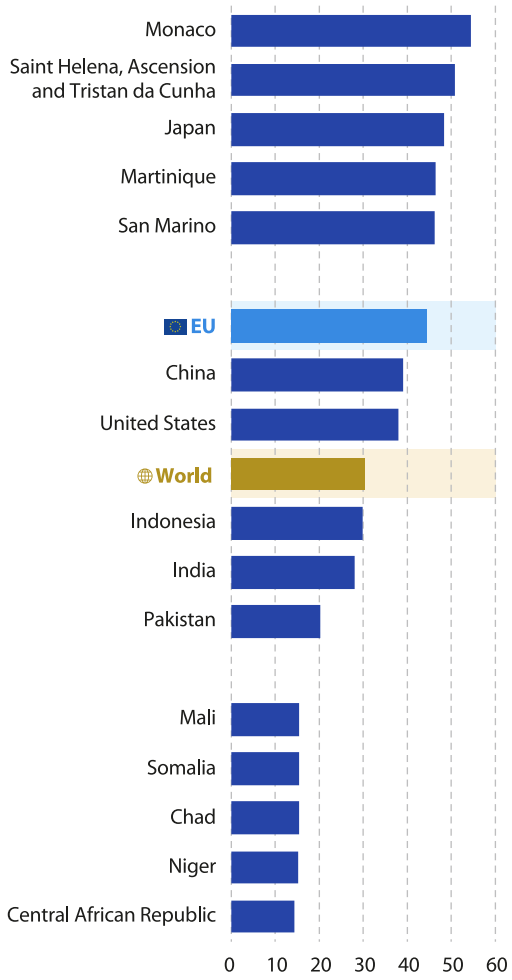
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

Age of population

Median age

(years, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest median ages. Due to the its specific nature, data for the Holy See have atypical values and are not shown.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_pjanind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

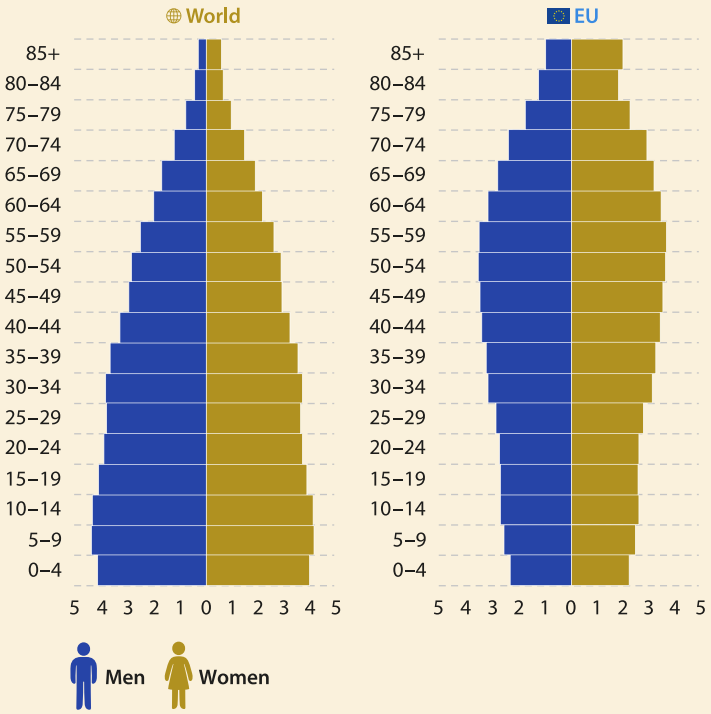
The median age is the age that divides a population into 2 groups of equal size: half are younger and the other half are older.

The median age of the EU's population was 44.5 years in 2023, nearly 50% higher than the world average of 30.4 years. Among the 5 most populous countries in the world, the median age ranged from 20.3 years in Pakistan to 39.1 years in China.

In 2023, Monaco (Europe) and Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (Western Africa) had the highest median ages in the world, at 54.5 and 50.9 years, respectively. Among the top 5 countries with the highest median ages, Japan (48.4 years) stood out as the only one with a large population. However, Italy would rank among the top 5 if considering the EU countries individually (rather than as part of the EU). At the other end of the range, the bottom 5 countries with the lowest median ages were all located in Africa. The Central African Republic had the lowest median age, at 14.3 years.

Age pyramids

(% of population, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 3 most populous non-EU countries.

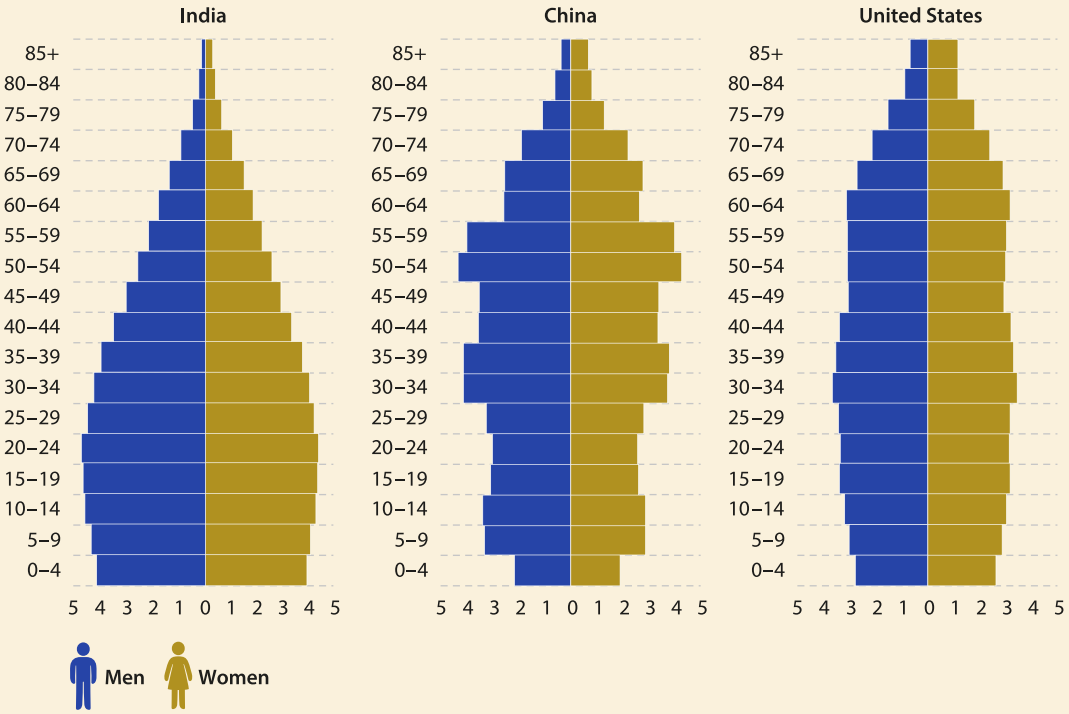
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_pjangroup) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

In 2023, younger age groups dominated the world's population pyramid. Young men (aged less than 20 years) made up 17.0% of the total population, which was 1.0 percentage point higher than the corresponding share for young women (16.0%). That said, fertility rates were in decline, as children aged 0 to 4 accounted for a smaller share of the world's population than children aged 5 to 9.

The EU's age pyramid had a relatively narrow base in 2023, indicating lower levels of fertility, while the middle and upper sections of the pyramid were relatively broad, reflecting longer life expectancy. Another difference between the age pyramid for the EU and that for the world was the somewhat higher gender imbalance among older age groups in the EU. This disparity was most apparent for people aged 85 or more and reflected higher life expectancy for women.

Age pyramids

(% of population, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 3 most populous non-EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_pjangroup) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

India's age pyramid has some similarities to the age pyramid for the whole world. However, in 2023 the share of older people in the total population of India was below the global average; this pattern was apparent for people aged 50 or more. In the lower sections of the pyramid (below 20 years), younger age groups accounted for progressively smaller shares of the total population compared with that recorded for people aged 20 to 24, highlighting the impact of a declining fertility rate in recent years.

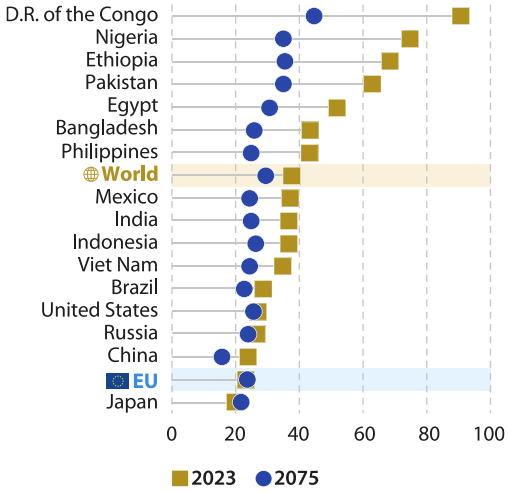
The age pyramid for China in 2023 had more similarities with that for the EU than that of the world, particularly the relatively low share of the total population accounted for by younger generations. However, there are 2 distinct peaks for different age shares in China, the first around 30 to 39 years and the second around 50 to 59 years. In its upper sections, the age pyramid for China is similar to that for the whole of the world, insofar as a people aged 80 or more accounted for a relatively small share of the total population.

The age pyramid of the United States indicates an ageing society with slowly falling birth rates and improved life expectancy. The upper sections of the pyramid in 2023 closely resembled those of the EU, with a relatively high share of elderly people and greater female longevity. Population shares among middle aged groups were more regular, while the narrow base indicates declining fertility rates in recent years.

Young and old age dependency ratios summarise the level of support for younger people (aged less than 15) and older people (aged 65 or more) provided by the working-age population (those aged 15 to 64).

Young-age dependency ratio

(%, people aged less than 15 as a share of the population aged 15–64, 2023 and 2075)



In 2023, the young-age dependency ratio in the EU was 23.3%, well below the world average (38.5%) and lower than in all of the world's most populous countries except for Japan (19.8%). With fertility rates already at low levels, projections of the young-age dependency ratios of the EU and Japan are for marginal increases in the coming years, reaching 23.8% and 21.8%, respectively, by 2075. By contrast, the United Nations projects this ratio to fall across much of the world – particularly in Africa – with the world's young-age dependency ratio at 29.5% in 2075.

Note: ranked on the ratio for 2023. Projections for 2075. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjanind and proj_23ndbi) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

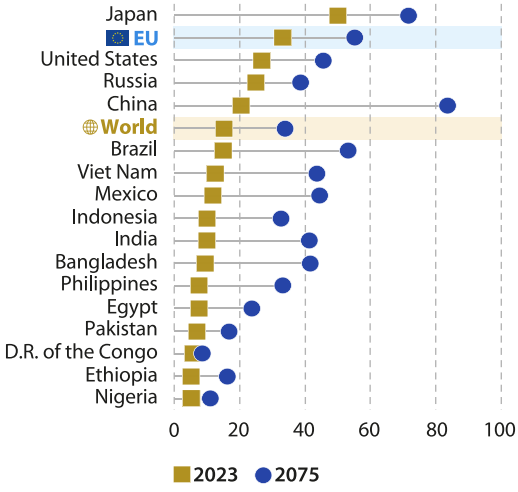
Old-age dependency ratio

(%, people aged 65 or more as a share of the population aged 15–64, 2023 and 2075)

In 2023, the old-age dependency ratio in the EU was 33.4%, higher than that in all of the most populous countries, except for Japan (50.3%). The EU ratio in 2023 was more than twice as high as the world average (15.4%). This ratio is projected to rise to 55.5% by 2075 in the EU and to 34.2% for the global average. All of the largest countries in the world are projected to experience an increase, rising to a peak of 83.8% in China.

Note: ranked on the ratio for 2023. Projections for 2075. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023.

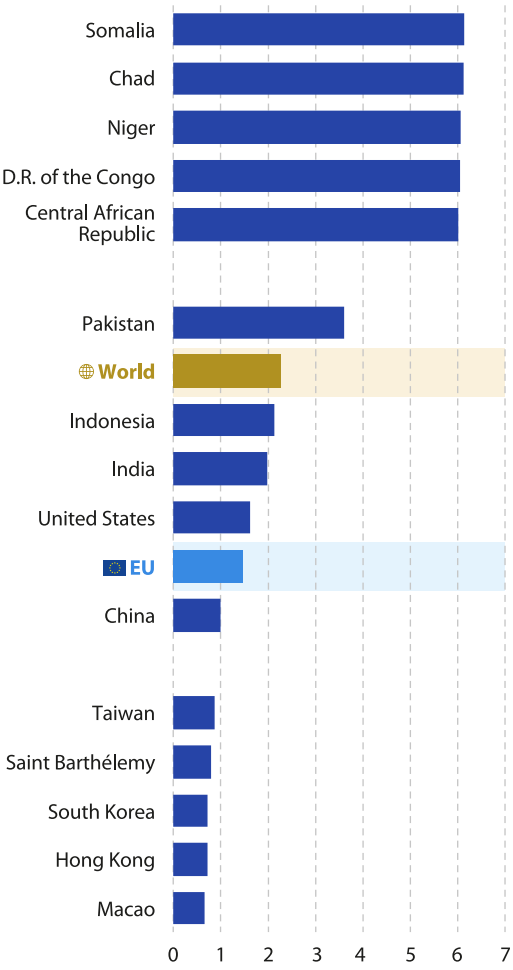
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjanind and proj_23ndbi) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)



Population change

Fertility rate

(average number of children per woman, 2023)



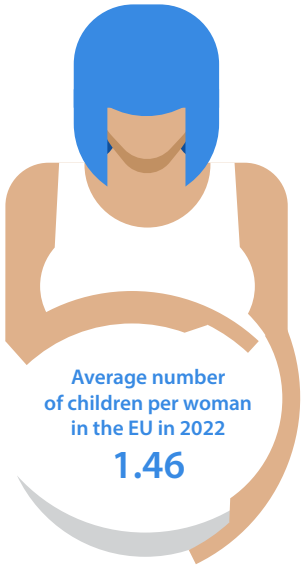
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest fertility rates. EU: 2022.

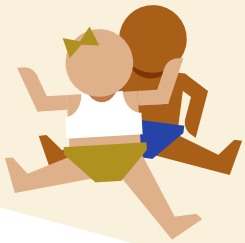
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_find) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

Measures of fertility reflect the number of births, which is an element of natural population change. The most widely used indicator of fertility is the total fertility rate. The replacement level in developed countries is around 2.1 live births per woman: in other words, this is the average number of births required to keep the size of a population constant in the absence of migration.

The fertility rate in the EU steadily declined from the mid-1960s through to the turn of the century. At the beginning of the 2000s, it rose briefly and then stabilised within the range of 1.50 to 1.57 live births per woman between 2006 and 2021, before falling to 1.46 in 2022. By contrast, the global average in 2023 was 2.25 live births per woman. Among the 5 most populous countries in the world, this rate ranged from 1.00 live births per woman in China to 3.61 in Pakistan.

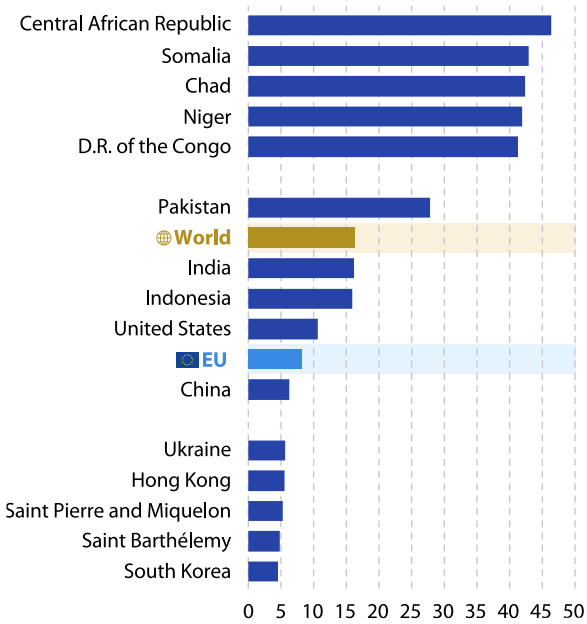
In 2023, the highest fertility rates in the world were in Africa: Somalia, Chad, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic all had rates over 6.00 live births per woman. The lowest fertility rates were in Eastern Asia: Macao, Hong Kong and South Korea had rates below 0.80 live births per woman.





Crude birth rate

(per 1 000 inhabitants, 2023)



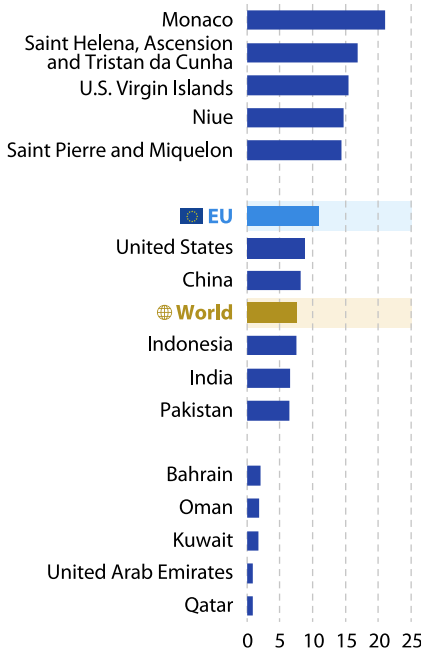
In 2023, the crude birth rate or the ratio of the number of live births to the population for the EU was 8.2 per 1 000 inhabitants; this was around half the world average (16.3 per 1 000 inhabitants). Among the 5 most populous countries in the world, China (6.3 per 1 000 inhabitants) had a crude birth rate that was lower than in the EU, while the latest birth rates for the United States, Indonesia and India were also below the world average. The highest crude birth rate in the world was 46.4 per 1 000 inhabitants in the Central African Republic, approximately 10 times as high as the lowest rate, 4.6 per 1 000 inhabitants in South Korea.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude birth rates. Due to the its specific nature, data for the Holy See have atypical values and are not shown.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

Crude death rate

(per 1 000 inhabitants, 2023)



In 2023, the crude death rate or the ratio of the number of deaths to the population for the EU was 10.8 per 1 000 inhabitants; this was higher than the world average that stood at 7.6 per 1 000 inhabitants. Monaco had the highest crude death rate at 21.0 per 1 000 inhabitants, reflecting its high median age. Considering EU countries individually, Bulgaria would rank among the 5 countries in the world with the highest crude death rates. At the other end of the range, Western Asian countries recorded the lowest crude death rates: Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman all had rates below 2.0 deaths per 1 000 inhabitants.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude death rates. Due to the its specific nature, data for the Holy See have atypical values and are not shown.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

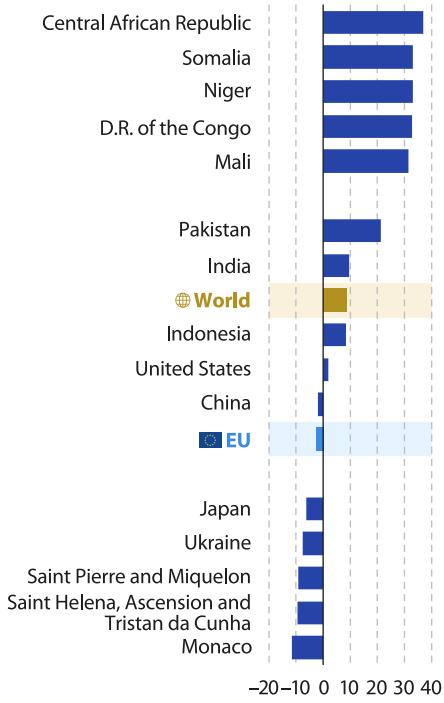
Crude rate of natural change

(per 1 000 inhabitants, 2023)

When deaths exceed births the natural population change is negative; the EU experienced this situation in 2023 (a contraction of 2.6 per 1 000 inhabitants), as it had almost every year since 2012. Among the 5 most populous countries in the world, China also recorded a negative rate, with a contraction of 2.0 per 1 000 inhabitants. The other countries had positive crude rates of natural change that ranged from 2.0 per 1 000 inhabitants in the United States to 9.5 per 1 000 inhabitants in India and 21.3 per 1 000 inhabitants in Pakistan; the global average was 8.7 per 1 000 inhabitants.

In 2023, Monaco recorded the lowest negative rate of natural change, reflecting its high crude death rate. Considering EU countries individually, Latvia and Lithuania both had rates that were lower than in Japan (which had the fifth lowest rate among non-EU countries). African countries recorded the highest crude rates of natural population change: the Central African Republic, Somalia, Niger and the Democratic Republic of the Congo all had rates above 32.0 per 1 000 inhabitants.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude rates of natural change. Due to the its specific nature, data for the Holy See have atypical values and are not shown.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

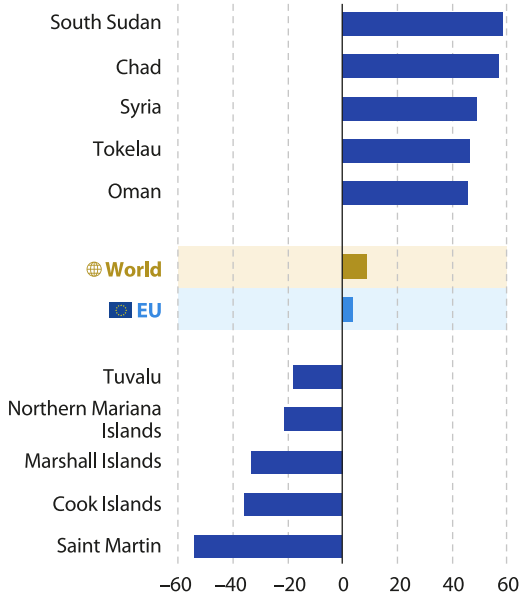
Crude rate of total change

(per 1 000 inhabitants, 2023)

Positive net migration outweighed the EU's natural population change, resulting in a positive crude rate of total population change of 3.7 per 1 000 inhabitants in 2023. Globally, the crude rate of total change was the same as the crude rate of natural change, since there is no net migration worldwide.

In 2023, South Sudan and Chad recorded the highest crude rates of total population change in the world, driven by high crude rates of natural increase and significant net migration. The latter was principally due an influx of refugees from war-torn neighbouring countries. Several island nations recorded the lowest negative crude rates of total population change; their negative rates reflected large flows of emigrants due to education and/or work opportunities as well as concerns about the impact of climate change on the sustainability of island life.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude rates of total change. Due to the its specific nature, data for the Holy See have atypical values and are not shown.

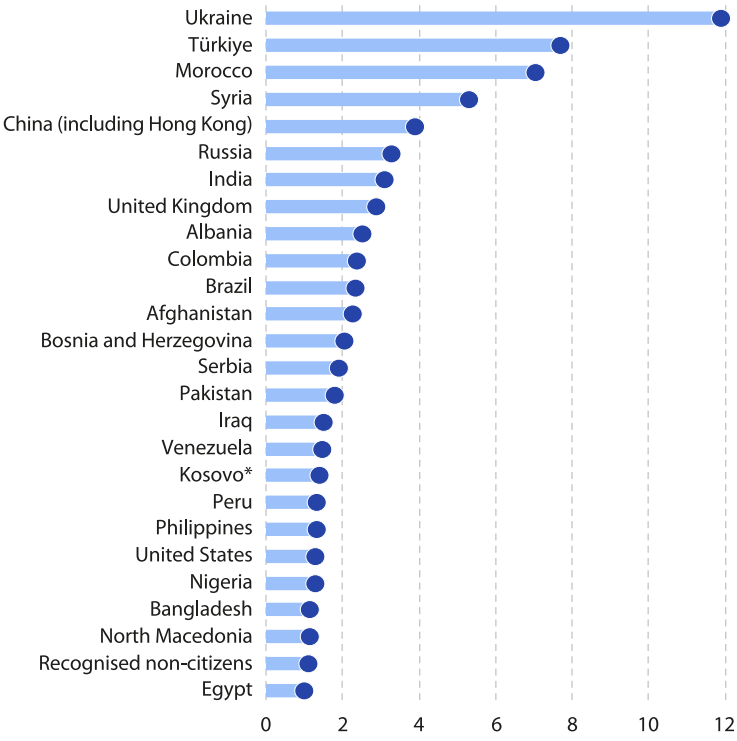


Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

Foreign population in the EU

Country of citizenship of non-EU citizens living in the EU

(%, 2023)



Note: excluding non-EU citizens living in Denmark, Greece, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta and Poland. Data are presented for countries of citizenship with at least a 1.0% share of all non-EU citizens living in the EU. Rest of the world: 25.3%.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

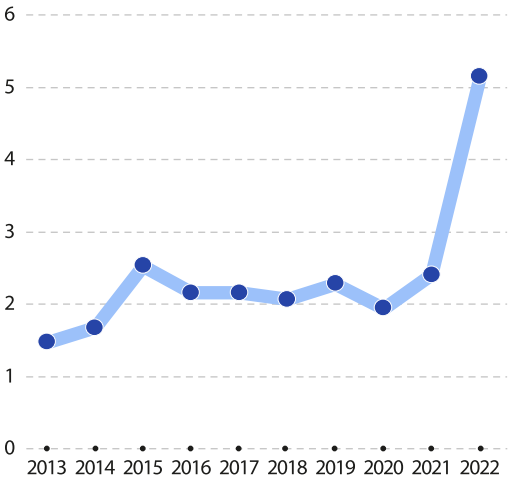
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_pop1ctz)

Any person who has the citizenship (nationality) of an EU country is automatically also an EU citizen. At the beginning of 2023, there were 27.4 million people residing in the EU who weren't citizens of an EU country; this was equivalent to 6.1% of the EU population.

In 2023, there were 25 non-EU citizenships that each had at least 1.0% of all non-EU citizens living in the EU, as did recognised non-citizens; collectively they accounted for 74.7% of all non-EU citizens living in the EU. The largest communities of people residing in the EU who weren't citizens of an EU country were Ukrainian (11.9%), Turkish (7.7%), Moroccan (7.1%) and Syrian (5.3%), while Chinese (including Hong Kong) and Russian citizens accounted for 3.9% and 3.3%, respectively, of the total.

Arrivals of migrants from non-EU countries

(millions, EU, 2013–22)



Around 5.1 million people migrated to an EU country from a non-EU country during 2022, by far the highest number of migrant arrivals from non-EU countries during the last decade. The number of arrivals more than doubled between 2021 and 2022, reflecting the impact of Russian military aggression against Ukraine. Note that these migratory flows don't refer to citizenship, but to flows of people whose previous residence was a non-EU country. As such, they include not only non-EU citizens but also EU citizens arriving in the EU.

Note: migrants whose previous residence was a non-EU country. 2013–19: excluding migrants from the United Kingdom. Breaks in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_imm12prv and migr_imm5prv)

Country of citizenship of non-EU citizens

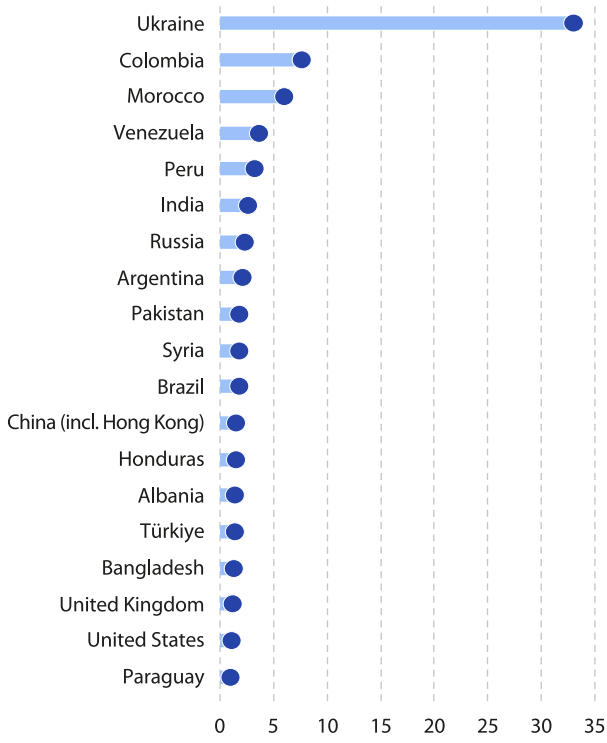
(% of all non-EU citizens arriving in the EU, 2022)

In 2022, 4.8 million non-EU citizens arrived in the EU.

Citizens from 19 different countries each represented at least 1.0% of arrivals. Together these 19 countries of citizenship represented 76.7% of the total number of non-EU citizens arriving in the 16 EU countries for which detailed data are available. Ukrainian citizens comprised the largest share, accounting for around a third (33.1%), while the next largest communities of recent arrivals were Colombian (7.7%) and Moroccan (6.0%).

Note: excluding non-EU citizens arriving in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Cyprus, Malta, Poland and Portugal. Data are presented for countries of citizenship with at least a 1.0% share of all non-EU citizens arriving in the EU. Rest of the world: 23.3%.

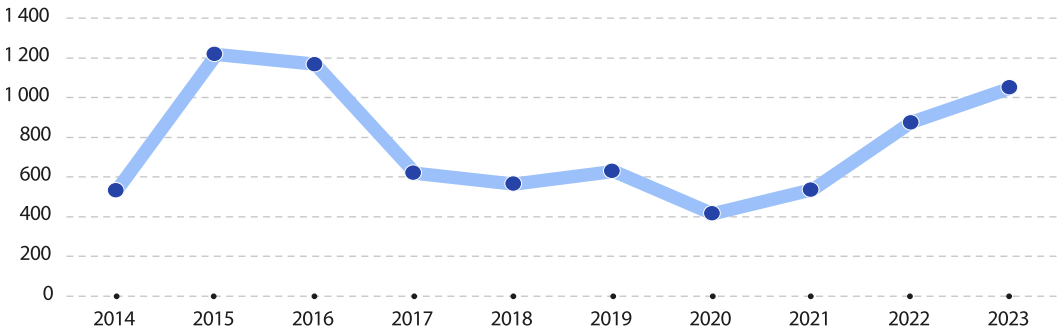
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm1ctz)



Asylum is a form of protection given by a state on its territory. It's granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in their country of citizenship and/or residence in particular for fear of persecution based on reasons such as race, religion or opinion. An asylum applicant is someone who is seeking international protection but whose claim for refugee status hasn't yet been determined.

First time asylum applicants

(1 000, EU, 2014–23)



Note: non-EU citizens as applicants.

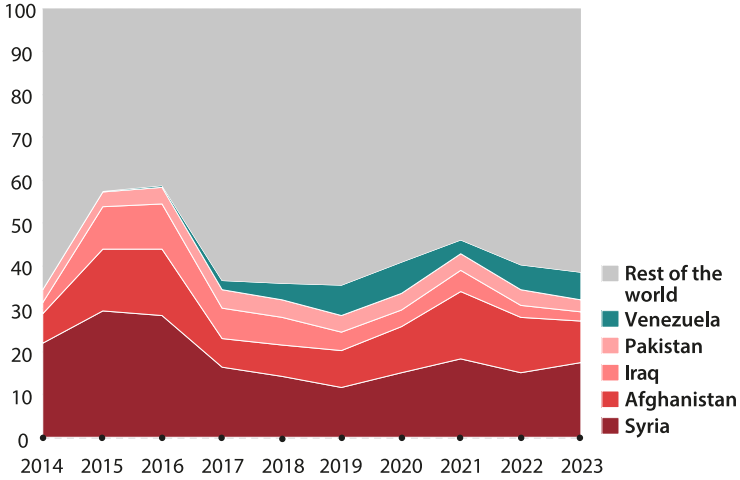
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

As of the end of 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that there were 6.9 million asylum seekers across the world.

After the large fall in first-time asylum applications in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related international mobility restrictions, the number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU continuously grew to reach 1.05 million by 2023, nearing the levels observed during the Syrian migration crisis of 2015 and 2016.

Country of citizenship of first time asylum applicants

(% of all first time asylum applicants in the EU, 2014–23)



Between 2014 and 2023, 7.6 million non-EU citizens made first-time applications for asylum in the EU. Slightly over a fifth (20.3%) of the applicants during these 10 years were Syrians and more than a tenth (11.5%) were Afghans; the next largest shares were from Iraqis, Pakistanis and Venezuelans.

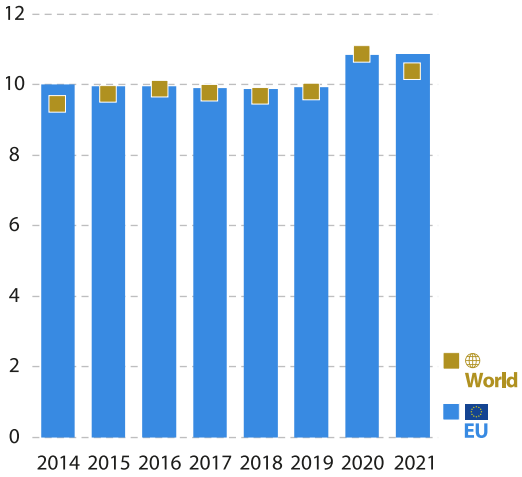
Note: data are presented for the 5 non-EU countries of citizenship with the largest number of first time applicants during the period from 2014 to 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

Health and mortality

Current healthcare expenditure relative to GDP

(%, 2014–21)



Healthcare systems across the world differ in terms of organisation and financing. General taxation or social security funds often provide funding for public expenditure on healthcare. Private expenditure on healthcare mainly comes from direct household payments and private health insurance.

In 2021, current healthcare expenditure in the EU was equivalent to 10.9% of GDP, which was slightly higher than the world average (10.4%). Globally and in the EU, this ratio remained relatively stable from 2014 to 2019, followed by a sharp increase during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note: more recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth_sha11_hf) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

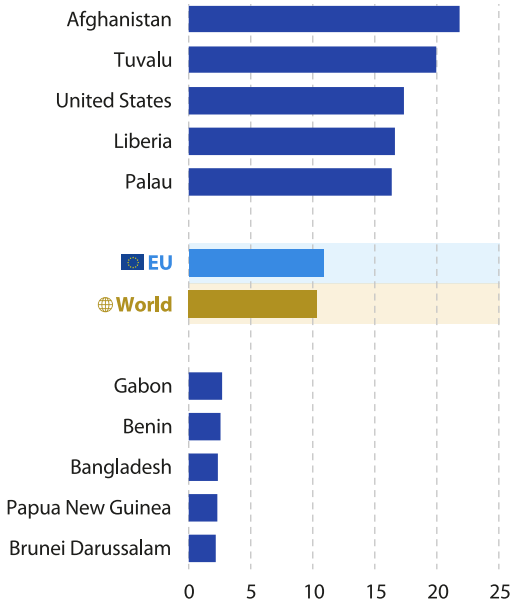
Current healthcare expenditure relative to GDP

(%, 2021)

In 2021, most countries of the world had a ratio of current healthcare expenditure to GDP below 15.0%. Exceptions were Afghanistan, the island nations of Tuvalu and Palau, as well as the United States and Liberia. Considering EU countries individually, Germany would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest ratios of current healthcare expenditure to GDP.

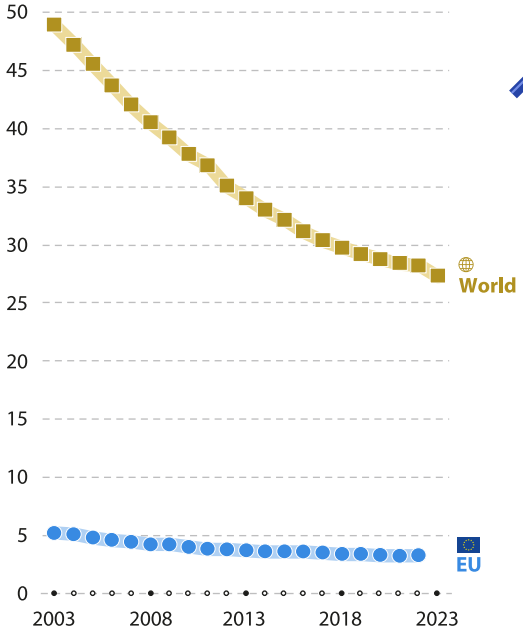
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest current healthcare expenditure relative to GDP. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth_sha11_hf) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)



Infant mortality rate

(deaths per 1 000 live births, 2003–23)



The infant mortality rate is the ratio between the number of deaths of children aged less than 1 year and the number of live births in the same reference period; the value is expressed per 1 000 live births. The rapid decrease of infant mortality rates reflects the significant progress made in medical healthcare services.

During the last 2 decades, global infant mortality rates almost halved, while they fell by more than a third across the EU. In 2023, the infant mortality rate for the world was 27.3 deaths per 1 000 live births, while the average for the EU was 3.3 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2022.

Note: EU, not available for 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_minfind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

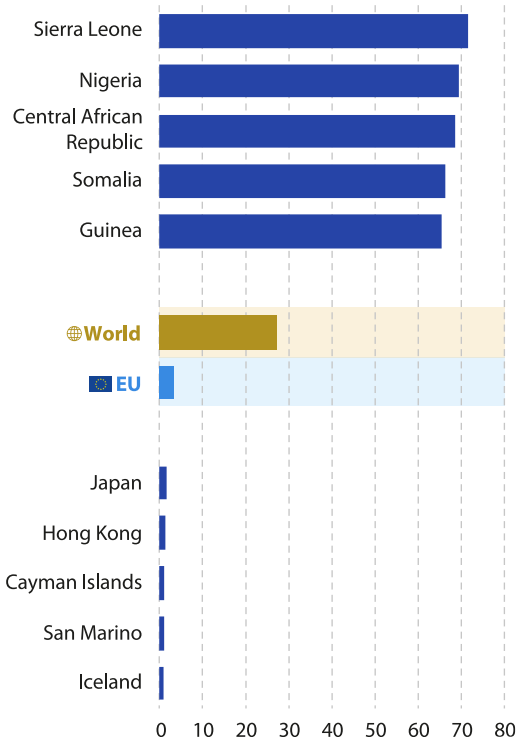
Infant mortality rate

(deaths per 1 000 live births, 2023)

In 2023, Iceland had the lowest infant mortality rate in the world (1.0 death per 1 000 live births). There were 12 other countries that had rates below 2.0 deaths per 1 000 live births, including 4 EU countries – Estonia, Slovenia, Sweden and Finland. African countries recorded the highest infant mortality rates, with 15 countries having rates above 50.0 deaths per 1 000 live births. Sierra Leone in Western Africa had the highest rate (71.6 deaths per 1 000 live births).

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest infant mortality rates. EU: 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_minfind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)



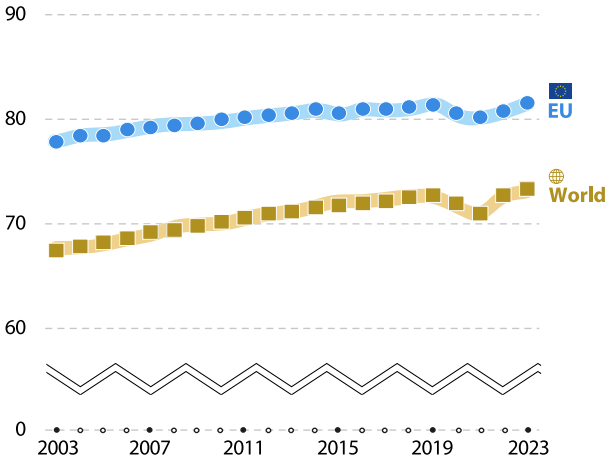
Life expectancy at birth reflects the mean number of years that a newborn can be expected to live if subjected throughout the rest of their life to the current mortality conditions.

Life expectancy at birth

(years, 2003–23)

In many developed countries life expectancy at birth rose rapidly during the last century due to a number of factors, including reductions in infant mortality, rising living standards, improved lifestyles and better education, as well as advances in healthcare.

Life expectancy at birth in the EU rose from 77.7 years in 2003 to 81.5 years by 2023. The world average rose from 67.4 years in 2003 to 73.2 years by 2023. The EU and world averages both fell in 2020 and 2021, reflecting at least in part the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; thereafter they resumed an upward path.



Note: y-axis is cut.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

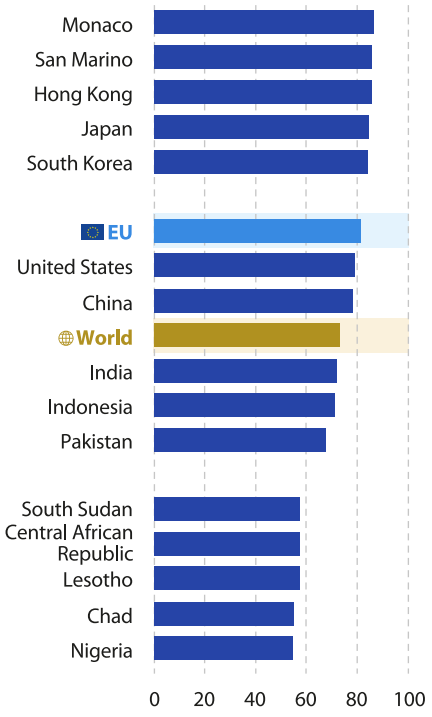
Life expectancy at birth

(years, 2023)

In 2023, life expectancy at birth in the EU was 81.5 years, 8.3 years higher than the global average. Among the 5 most populous countries in the world, life expectancy at birth ranged from 67.6 years in Pakistan to 79.3 years in the United States. Monaco had the highest life expectancy at birth, at 86.4 years, with San Marino and Hong Kong also exceeding 85.0 years. The 5 countries with the lowest life expectancies at birth were all in Africa, with Nigeria – the continent's most populous country – recording the lowest, at 54.5 years.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest life expectancies at birth.

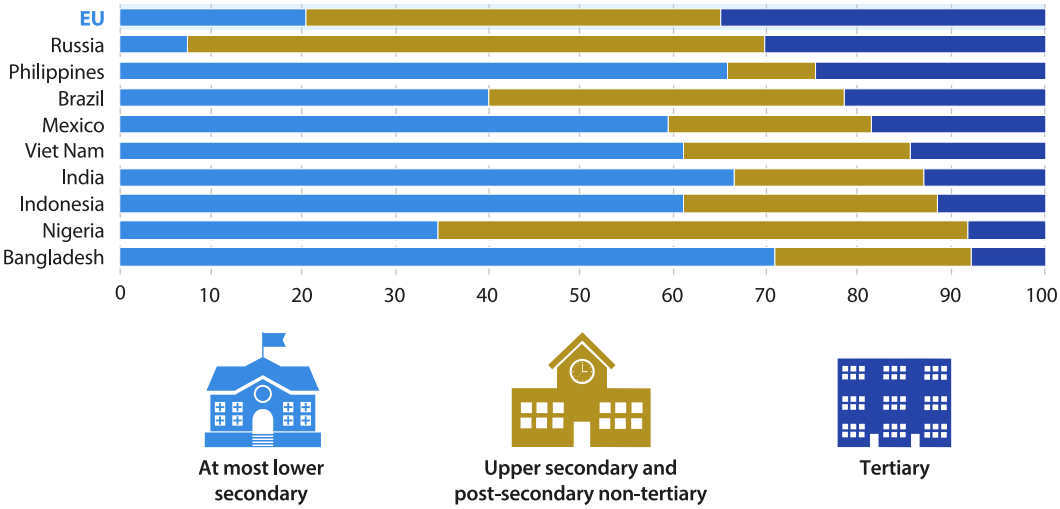
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)



Education and training

People aged 25 or more by highest level of educational attainment

(% of all people aged 25 or more, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023 (subject to availability). Bangladesh, Nigeria and the Philippines: 2022. EU: people aged 25–64.

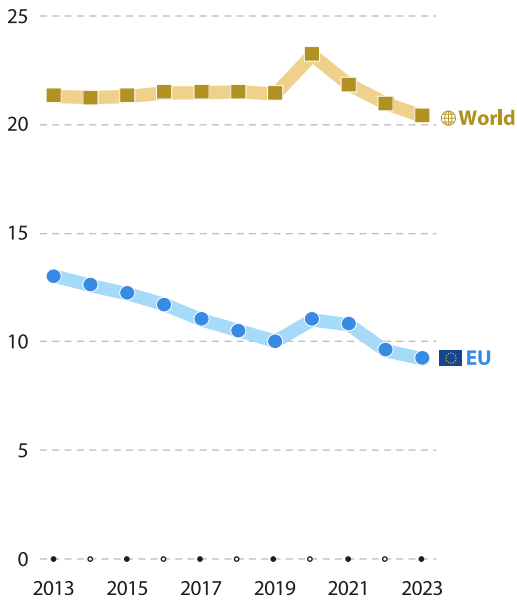
Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_03) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

In 2023, more than a third (35.1%) of people aged 25–64 in the EU had completed (at least 1 level of) tertiary education. The share having completed an upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary level of education (but not tertiary education) was closer to a half (44.7%). Slightly over a fifth (20.2%) had completed, at most, lower secondary education.

Recent data are also available for some of the most populous countries in the world. In 2023, Russia (30.4%), the Philippines (24.8%; 2022 data) and Brazil (21.8%) had the highest shares of people aged 25 or more with tertiary educational attainment. By contrast, in Bangladesh (8.2%; 2022 data) and Nigeria (8.4%; 2022 data) fewer than a tenth of people aged 25 or more had a tertiary educational attainment.

People aged 15–24 not in employment, education or training

(% of all people aged 15–24, 2013–23)



In labour market policy, NEET is an abbreviation for young people who are not in employment, education or training. Factors that influence the share of young people who are NEET include the length, types and accessibility of education and training, as well as cultural issues.

In the EU, the share of 15 to 24-year-olds who were NEET decreased from 13.0% in 2013 to 10.0% in 2019. This share rose in 2020, reflecting labour market challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, before 3 consecutive declines led to a low of 9.2% in 2023. For comparison, the global average remained between 21.2% and 21.5% from 2013 to 2019, then rose to 23.2% in 2020, before falling to 20.4% in 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

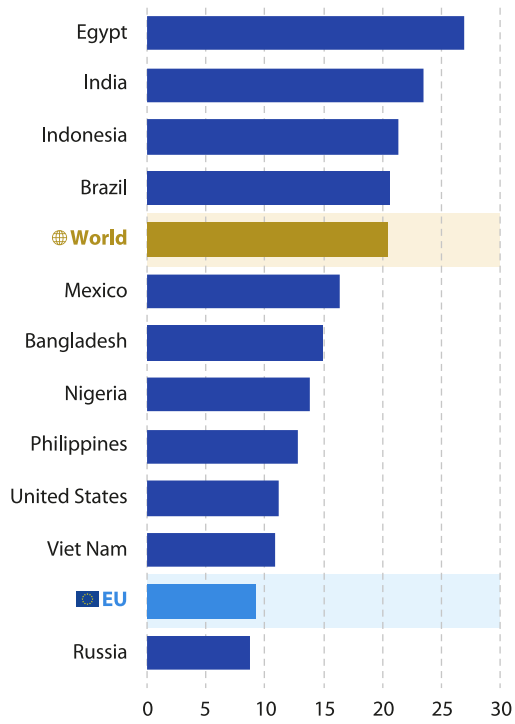
People aged 15–24 not in employment, education or training

(% of all people aged 15–24, 2023)

Among the most populous countries in the world, Egypt (26.9%; 2022 data), India (23.5%), Indonesia (21.4%) and Brazil (20.6%) had NEET rates above the global average. Russia (8.7%) and the EU (9.2%) were the only countries with single-digit rates.

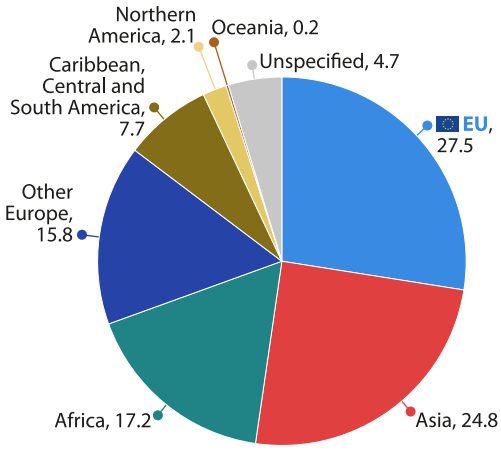
Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023 (subject to availability). Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and the Philippines: 2022. The United States: people aged 16–24 years.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)



Tertiary education students from abroad by continent of origin

(%, EU, 2022)



Note: generally based on the country of upper secondary diploma, but for some EU countries based on the country of usual residence, citizenship, upper secondary/prior education or other criteria. Excluding the Netherlands.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: educ_uoe_mobs02)

In 2022, approximately 1.5 million internationally mobile students were in tertiary education across the EU. This includes students from one EU country studying in another, as well as students from non-EU countries studying within the EU. More than a quarter (27.5%) of internationally mobile students in the EU were mobile between EU countries, while close to a quarter were from Asia (24.8%). The next highest shares of internationally mobile students were from Africa (17.2%) and elsewhere in Europe (15.8%).

Several factors influence which EU country international students choose as their destination, including entry requirements for countries and institutions, perceptions of educational quality, language of instruction, cultural and historical ties, and geographical proximity. In France, more than half of internationally mobile students in 2022 came from Africa, while in Portugal this share was around 40%. In Cyprus, Ireland, Latvia, Hungary and Finland, more than two fifths of all internationally mobile students were from Asia, while in Spain, more than two fifths were from the Caribbean, Central and South America. Ireland had a notably higher share of internationally mobile students from Northern America compared with the other EU countries.

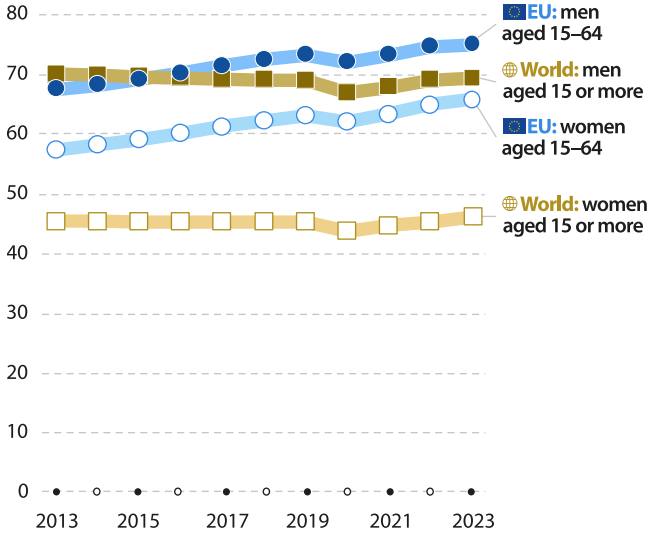
Labour market

Employment rate

(%, 2013–23)

Between 2013 and 2019, employment rates in the EU increased. After a fall in employment rates during the COVID-19 pandemic, they bounced back, reaching 75.1% for men and 65.7% for women by 2023. Compared with 2013, the male employment rate rose 7.5 percentage points, while the female rate increased by 8.4 points.

Global employment rates experienced modest declines from 2013 to 2019. Rates fell more sharply in 2020 and recovered over the next 3 years. By 2023, the global employment rate for men was 0.7 percentage points lower than in 2013, while the female rate had increased by 0.7 points.

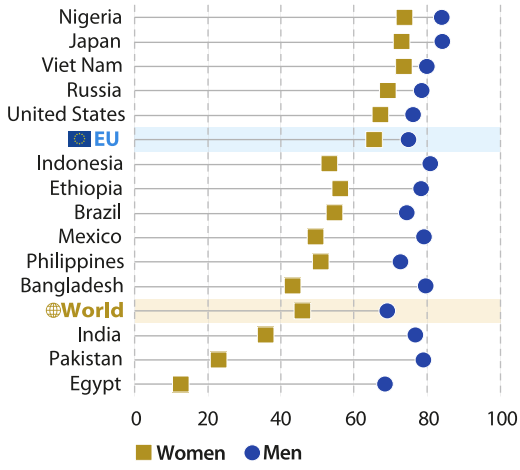


Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

Employment rate of people aged 15–64

(%, 2023)

In 2023 and among the most populous countries in the world, Nigeria, Japan and Viet Nam reported employment rates for both men and women that were considerably higher than the global average. In all of the most populous countries, male employment rates were higher than female rates. Viet Nam, the United States, Russia and the EU recorded the narrowest gender employment gaps. Pakistan (2021 data) and Egypt (2022 data) had the widest gaps, with male employment rates more than 50 percentage points higher than female rates.

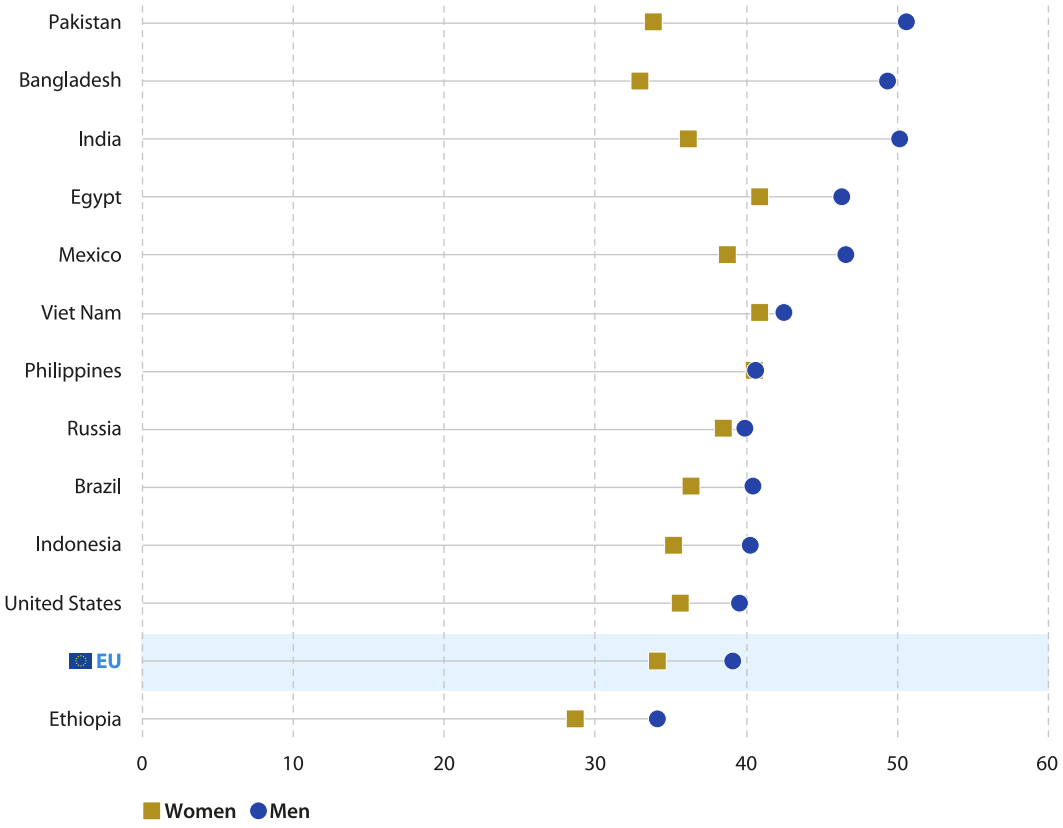


Note: ranked on the total rate for both sexes combined. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023 (subject to availability). Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and the Philippines: 2022. Ethiopia and Pakistan: 2021. World: people aged 15 years or more. Pakistan: non-calendar year. The United States: people aged 16–64.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi_emp_a) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

Average weekly hours worked in their main job by people employed aged 15 or more

(hours, 2023)



Note: ranked on the average for both sexes combined. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023 (subject to availability). Bangladesh, Egypt and the Philippines: 2022. Ethiopia and Pakistan: 2021. Pakistan: non-calendar year. The United States: people aged 16 or more.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsa_ewhun2) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

In 2023, the mean number of weekly hours worked by employed people across the EU was 36.9. Men worked an average of 39.2 hours, while women worked 34.2 hours.

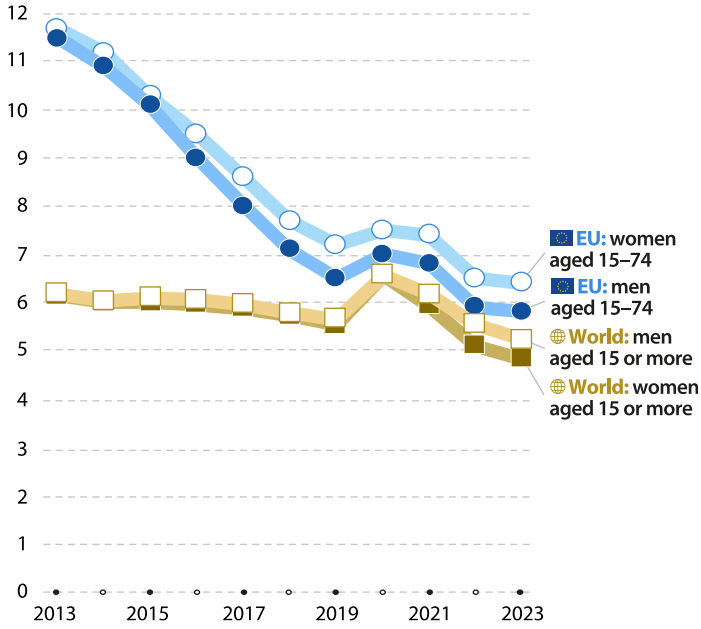
The average number of hours worked can reflect factors such as the legal, contractual or customary length of a typical working week, the incidence of part-time work, the structure of the economy and employment by working status – working hours often vary between the self-employed (with or without employees), employees and family workers.

Among the most populous countries in the world, Pakistan (2021 data) and India had the highest average weekly hours for men, with over 50.0 hours per week in 2023. Egypt (2022 data), Viet Nam and the Philippines (2022 data) recorded the highest averages for women, with more than 40.0 hours per week. Ethiopia (2021 data) had the lowest average weekly hours for both men and women.

Unemployment rate

(%, 2013–23)

EU unemployment rates for men and women aged 15 to 74 years fell between 2013 and 2019. In 2020, unemployment rates increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was followed by 3 consecutive years of falling unemployment rates. By 2023, unemployment rates stood at 5.8% for men and 6.4% for women. The EU's gender unemployment gap, with higher unemployment rates for women than for men, widened from 0.2 percentage points in 2013 to 0.7 points by 2019, before narrowing at the onset of the pandemic and stabilising thereafter at 0.6 points.



The global unemployment rate for people aged 15 or more declined between 2013 and 2019, before increasing in 2020 due to the pandemic. Thereafter, the unemployment rate fell more quickly than before the pandemic. The world's gender unemployment gap remained relatively stable from 2013 to 2019, with slightly higher rates for women.

In 2020, the unemployment rates for both sexes were the same. However, by 2023, the male unemployment rate was 1.3 percentage points lower than in 2013, while the female rate was also lower, down 1.0 point.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

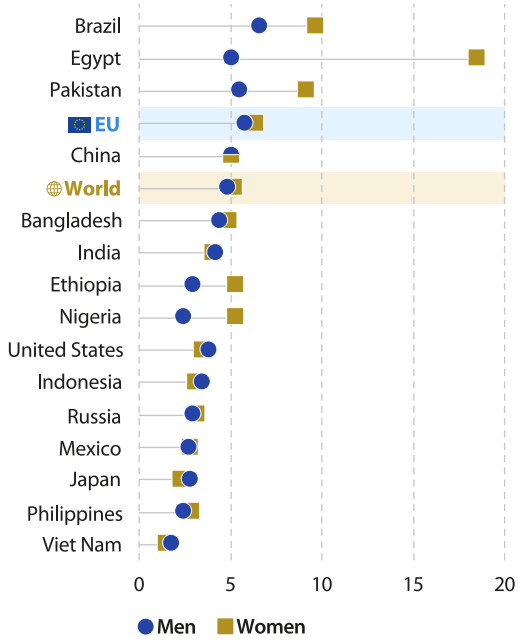
Unemployment rate of people aged 15 or more

(%, 2023)

In 2023, Brazil had the highest male unemployment rate among the most populous countries in the world, at 6.6%, while Egypt had the highest female rate, at 18.5% (2022 data). Viet Nam reported the lowest unemployment rates for both sexes, 1.8% for men and 1.5% for women. Egypt (2022 data) had the largest gender unemployment gap, its rate for women was 13.5 percentage points higher than for men.

Note: ranked on the total unemployment rate for both sexes combined. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023 (subject to availability). Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and Philippines: 2022. China, Ethiopia and Pakistan: 2021. China: only the total for both sexes combined is available; data are for urban areas only. EU: people aged 15–74. Pakistan: non-calendar year. The United States: people aged 16 years or more.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

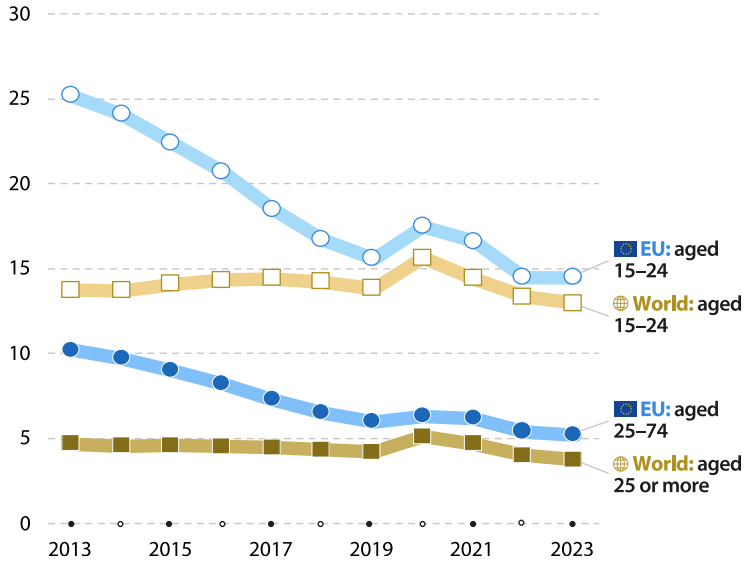


Youth and adult unemployment rates

(%, 2013–23)

In the EU, the youth unemployment rate (for people aged 15 to 24) was substantially higher than the unemployment rate for people aged 25 to 74 between 2013 and 2023. The youth unemployment rate dropped from 25.2% in 2013 to 15.6% by 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic it peaked at 17.5% in 2020; it fell to 14.5% in 2022 and 2023.

Globally, the youth unemployment rate was also consistently higher than the unemployment rate for people aged 25 or more. Between 2013 and 2019, the youth rate remained relatively stable, while the rate for older people fell at a modest pace. Both these rates rose in 2020 but declined during the following 3 years. By 2023, the global youth unemployment rate was 13.0%, compared with a rate of 3.7% for older people.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)

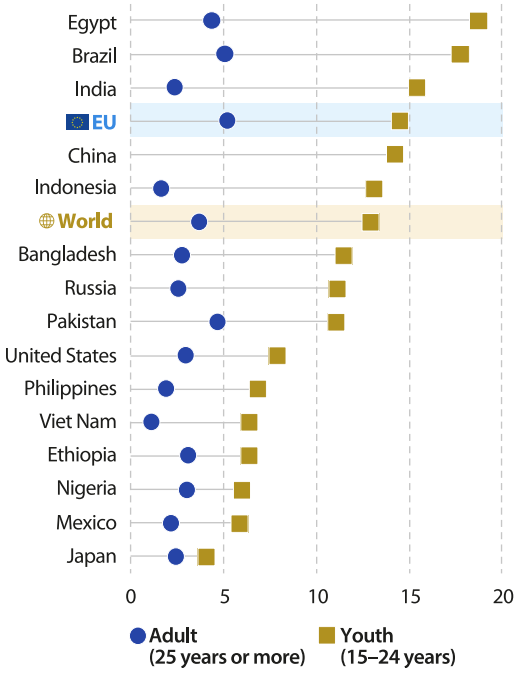
Youth and adult unemployment rates

(%, 2023)

In 2023, Egypt (18.9%; 2022 data) and Brazil (18.0%) reported the highest youth unemployment rates among the most populous countries in the world. Nigeria (2022 data) and Mexico recorded youth unemployment rates of no more than 6.0%, while Japan registered the lowest rate, at 4.1%.

Note: ranked on the youth unemployment rate. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people in 2023 (subject to availability). Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and Philippines: 2022. China, Ethiopia and Pakistan: 2021. China adult: not available. China youth: people aged 16–24; data are for urban areas only. EU adult: people aged 25–74. Pakistan: non-calendar year. The United States youth: people aged 16–24.

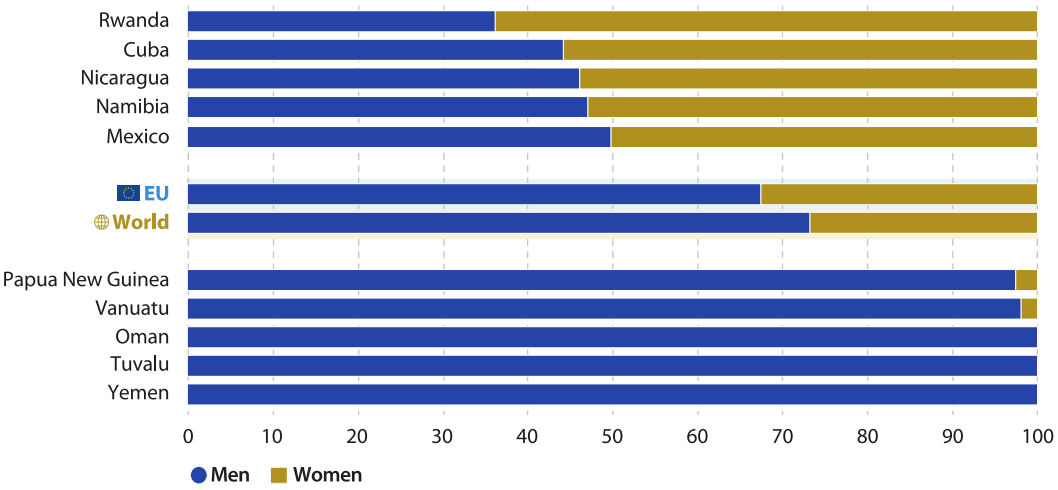
Source: Eurostat (online data code: une_rt_a) and the International Labour Organization (ILOSTAT)



Women in parliaments

Seats held in lower chambers of national parliaments

(% of all seats, December 2024)

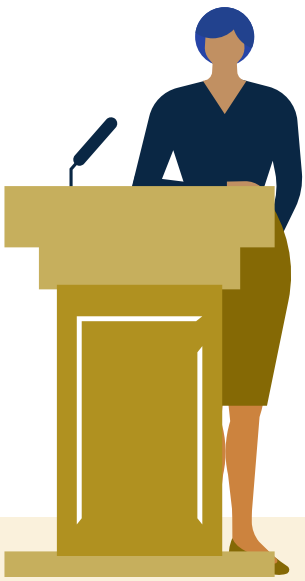


Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest shares for women.

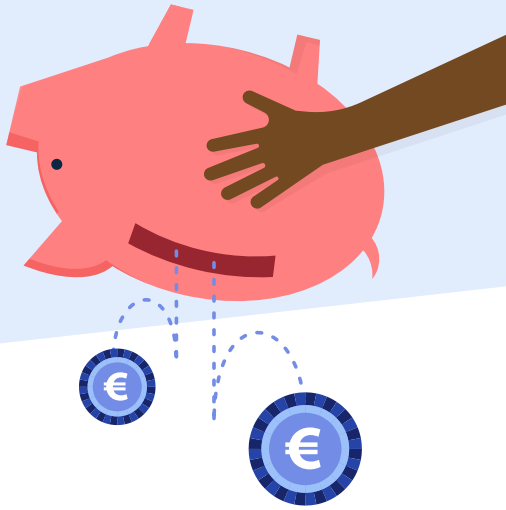
Source: the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Parline)

The share of women in parliament is one of the indicators covered by the UN's sustainable development goals. For reasons of comparability, the data presented here concern lower chambers of parliament only.

In December 2024, women held almost a third (32.6%) of all seats in national parliaments across the EU, compared with a global average of 26.8%. Rwanda (63.8%), Cuba (55.7%), Nicaragua (53.9%), Namibia (52.9%) and Mexico (50.2%) were the only countries worldwide where women held a majority of the parliamentary seats. Andorra and the United Arab Emirates had gender parity, with women and men each holding 50.0% of the seats. By contrast, Oman and Yemen in Western Asia and Tuvalu in Oceania had no women in their respective parliaments.

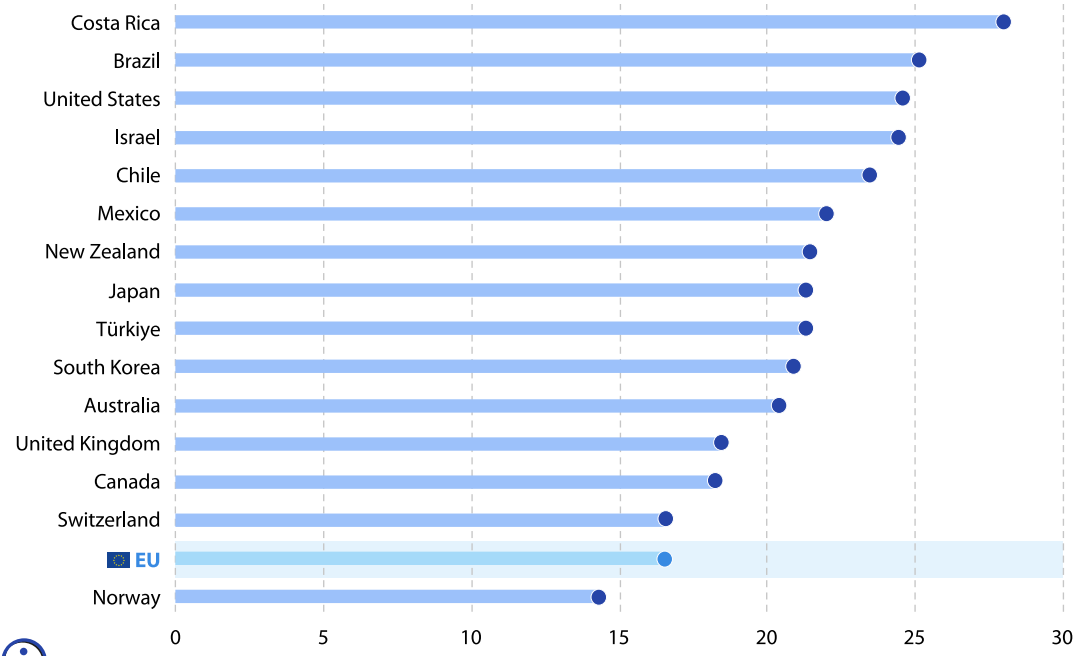


Living conditions



At-risk-of-monetary-poverty rate

(%, 2022)



The at-risk-of-poverty rate is an indicator of relative poverty: it's the share of the population with an income below a certain national threshold. The data presented here use an equivalised disposable income threshold of 60% of the median national income after social transfers. As there is no threshold for the EU, the data for the EU are weighted averages of the rates for the 27 EU countries.

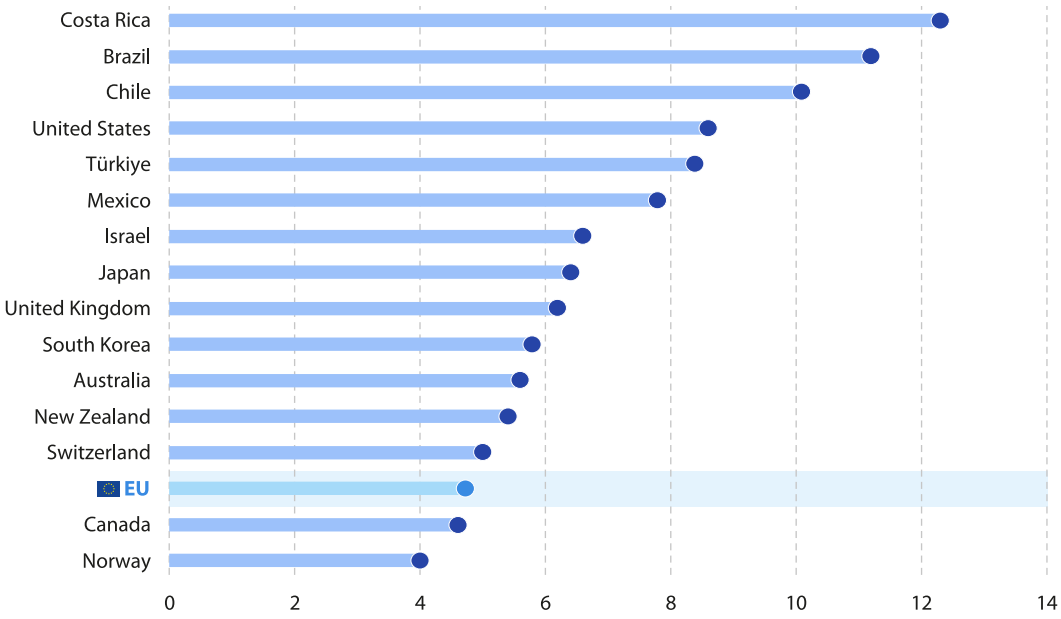
Note: this indicator measures the proportion of the population with an income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. The threshold is defined as 60% of the national median income level after taxes and social transfers. Income per person is calculated for each household using an equivalence scale (accounting for the composition of each household in terms of adults and children) to determine household size. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with recent data. More recent data are available for the EU; note that data for older years may have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Japan and Switzerland: 2021. Australia: 2020. EU: calculated using a modified equivalence scale.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_li02) and the OECD (Income Distribution database)

Among the countries shown, only Norway (14.3%) recorded an at-risk-of-poverty rate in 2022 that was lower than the rate for the EU (16.5%). Costa Rica (28.0%) reported the highest rate, with its rate close to double the one for Norway.

Quintile share ratio (S80/S20 ratio) for gross disposable income

(2022)



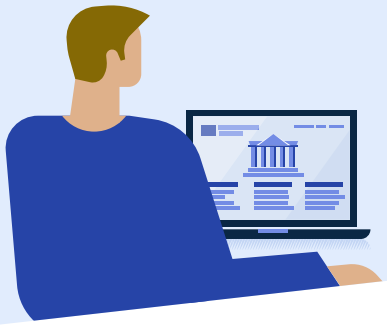
Note: note that data for older years may have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. More recent data are available for the EU. Canada, Israel, Japan, Türkiye and the United Kingdom: 2021. Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland: 2020. EU: calculated using a modified equivalence scale.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_di11) and the OECD (Income Distribution database)

The income quintile share ratio is the ratio of the share of equivalised disposable income received by the 20% of the population with the highest income (the top quintile) compared with the share received by the 20% of the population with the lowest income (the bottom quintile). Income per person is calculated for each household using an equivalence scale (accounting for the composition of each household in terms of adults and children) to determine household size.

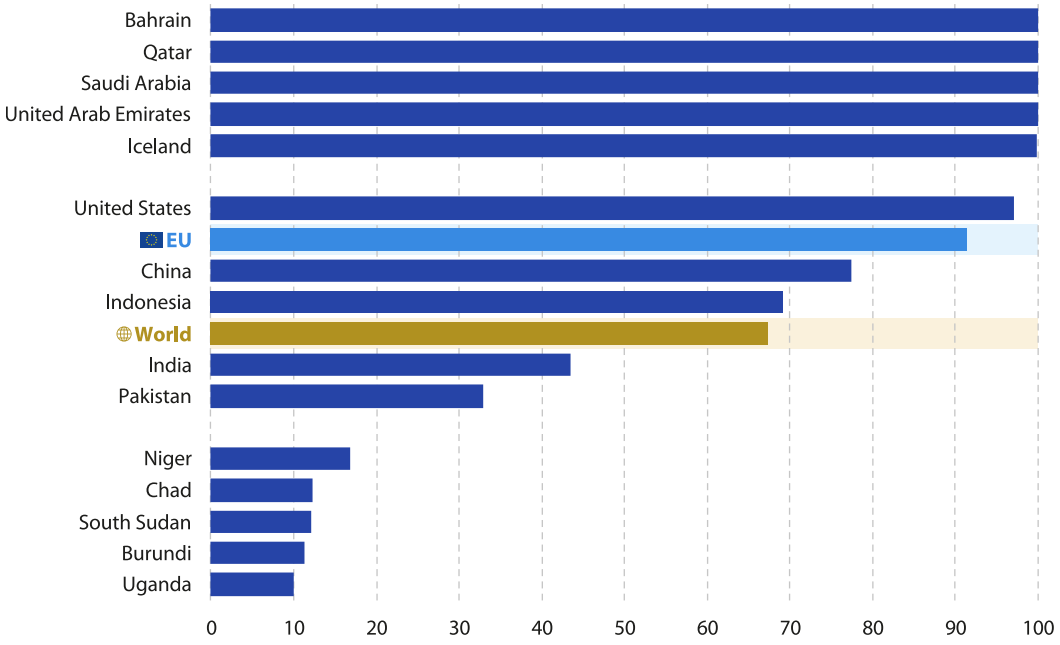
The EU's income quintile share ratio was 4.7 in 2022, meaning the top 20% of earners received 4.7 times the disposable income of the bottom 20%. Canada (2021 data) and Norway recorded more equal income distribution than the EU, according to this measure. Income distribution was more unequal elsewhere, most notably in parts of Central and South America, as Costa Rica, Brazil and Chile all reported double-digit ratios.

Digital society



People using the internet within the previous 3 months

(%, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest rates of internet usage. Burundi, Chad, Iceland, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, South Sudan and the United States: 2022. Uganda: 2021. India: 2020. EU: people aged 16-74.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc_ci_ifp_iu) and the International Telecommunication Union

Information and communication technologies have become widely available across the globe, both in terms of accessibility as well as cost. By 2023, 4 Western Asian countries – Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – had universal internet use, with 100.0% of people using the internet within the previous 3 months. A few other Asian and European countries, along with the United States, recorded shares of at least 97.0%.

On average, 91.4% of people in the EU aged 16 to 74 years used the internet, exceeding the global average (67.4%) by 24.0 percentage points. Considering EU countries individually, Luxembourg and Denmark would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest shares.

Internet use among the world's 5 most populous countries varied considerably. In Pakistan, 32.9% of all individuals used the internet, compared with 77.5% in China and 97.1% in the United States.

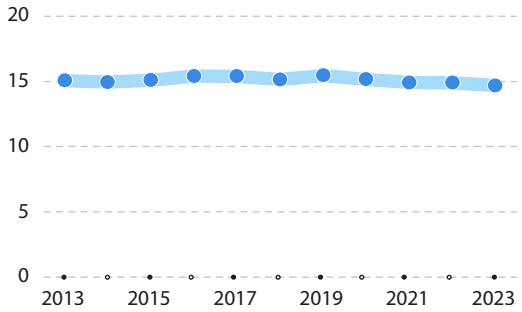
2

Economy and trade

Gross domestic product

EU share of the world gross domestic product (GDP)

(%, based on international USD, EU, 2013–23)



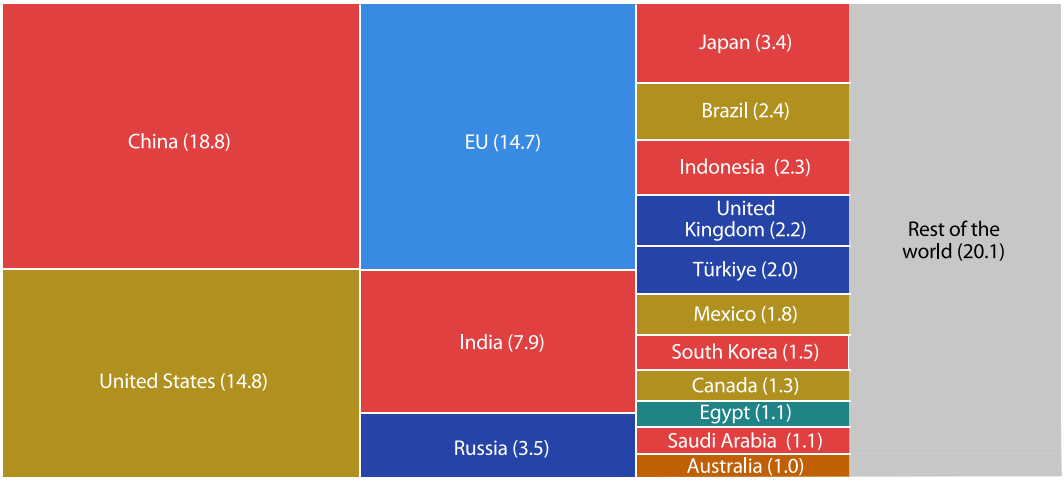
GDP provides a measure of the size of an economy. In 2023, the total economic output of the world, using this measure, was €97.5 trillion. One method to calculate the share of each economy in the world total, is to convert GDP to a common currency (such as the euro or the United States dollar (USD)) using market exchange rates. An alternative is to convert GDP using purchasing power parities – these reflect differences in price levels between economies; the information presented below uses this approach.

The EU's share of world GDP (based on international USD) peaked at 15.5% in 2019. Thereafter, it decreased during 4 consecutive years, to 14.7% in 2023.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

World gross domestic product (GDP)

(%, based on international USD, 2023)



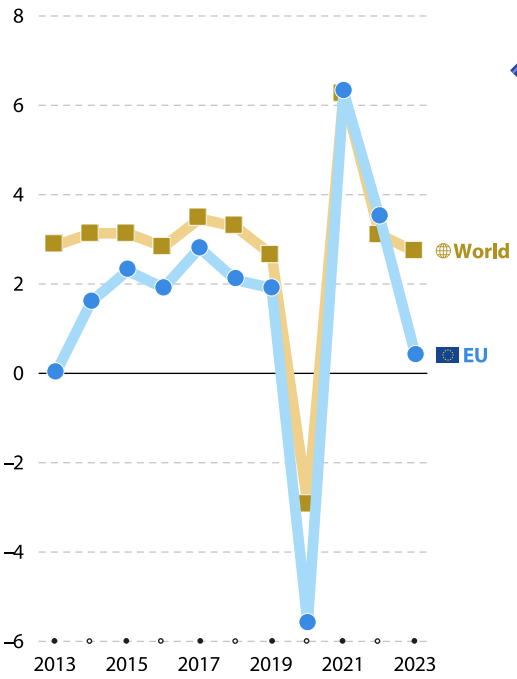
In 2023, China, the United States and the EU had the largest shares of world GDP, contributing 18.8%, 14.8% and 14.7%, respectively. Another 13 countries each accounted for at least 1.0% of the global total. Considering EU countries individually, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland each held at least 1.0% of global GDP. The world's 16 largest economies – the EU and 15 non-EU countries – together accounted for 79.9% of the world's economic output.

Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world GDP.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

Annual real change in gross domestic product (GDP)

(%, 2013–23)



Removing the impact of price changes (inflation and deflation) results in a volume measure of GDP. This makes it easier to compare economic developments over time and shows the 'real' change in GDP.

In real terms, global GDP grew each year from 2013 to 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a 2.9% contraction in 2020, but GDP rebounded by 6.3% in 2021. The EU similarly saw growth each year from 2014 to 2019, a sharp decline of 5.6% in 2020, and a strong recovery (up 6.3%) in 2021. Both EU and global growth rates returned to more typical levels in 2022 and 2023, with the latest EU rate of 0.4% considerably below the world average of 2.7%.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_gdp) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

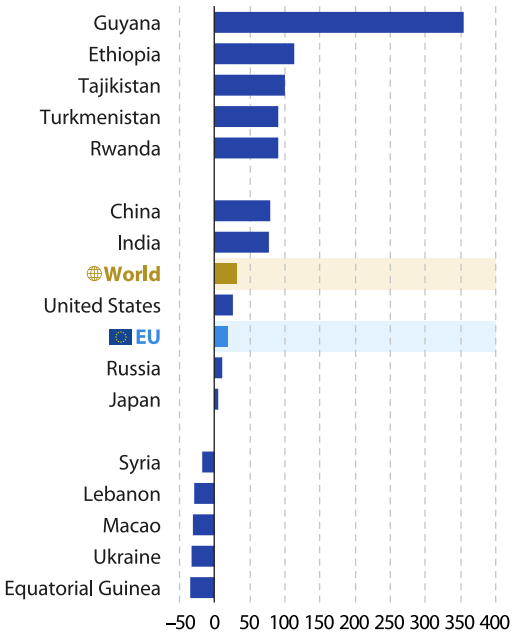
Overall real change in gross domestic product (GDP)

(%, 2013–23)

Between 2013 and 2023, global GDP increased in real terms by 31.0%, while the EU's GDP grew by 18.2%. Among the 5 largest economies in the world, real GDP growth between 2013 and 2023 ranged from 5.8% in Japan to 78.5% in China. The GDP of Guyana in South America increased 354.1% in real terms during this period and that of Ethiopia in Eastern Africa more than doubled (up 112.3%). Considering EU countries individually, Ireland's GDP also more than doubled over the same period.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 largest economies and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest rates of overall real change in GDP. Lebanon: 2013–22. Syria: 2013–21.

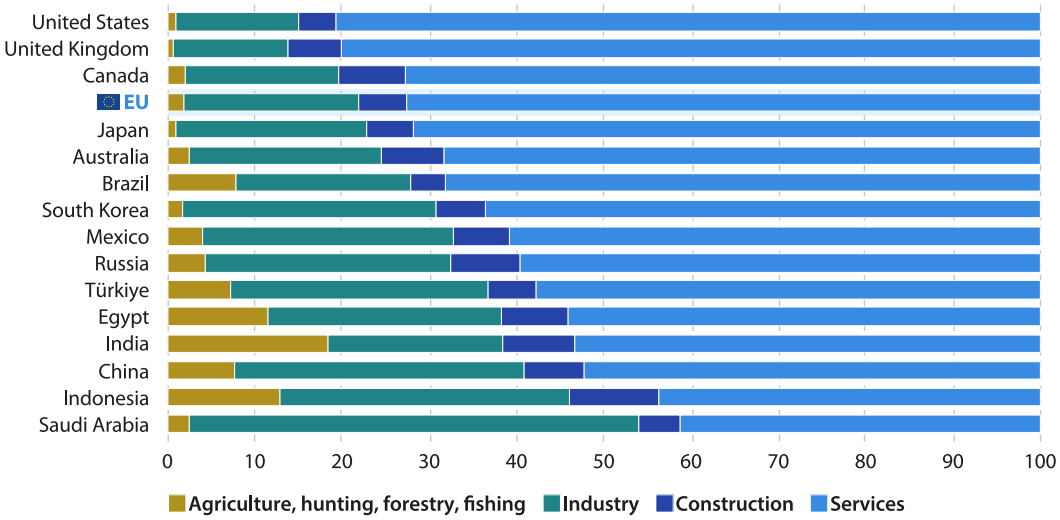
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_gdp) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)



Economic structure

Gross value added by economic activity

(% of total gross value added, 2022)



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world GDP. More recent data are available for the EU. EU, Japan, Mexico, Türkiye and the United Kingdom: based on ISIC Rev.4. Other countries: approximation of activities based on ISIC Rev.3.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a10), the OECD (OECD.Stat) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Analysis of Main Aggregates)

In 2022, services contributed nearly three quarters (72.6%) of gross value added in the EU. The United States (80.7%) and the United Kingdom (80.0%) had higher shares of services than the EU. In most other large economies, the share of services was generally lower than in the EU, although they still contributed more than half of all value added. Saudi Arabia, where the share of services was 41.3%, and Indonesia (43.7%) were the only exceptions.

Industry was the second largest economic activity in value added terms in 2022 in the EU (20.1% of gross value added) and all but one of the other large economies. Saudi Arabia recorded the highest share of industry (51.4% of total value added) and was the only large economy where industry contributed a majority of value added; the United Kingdom had the lowest share for industry (13.1%).

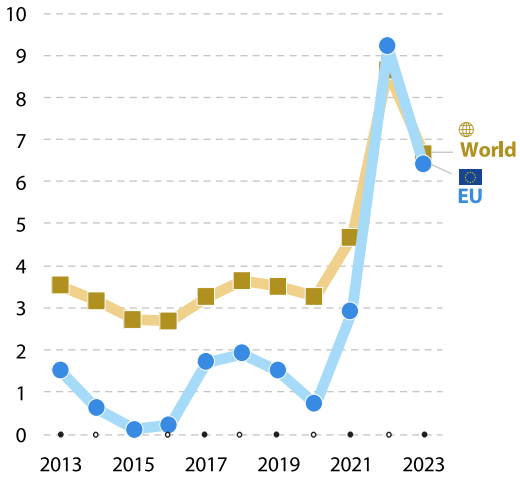
India (18.4%), Indonesia (13.0%) and Egypt (11.5%) were the only large economies where agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing contributed more than a tenth of gross value added in 2022. The United Kingdom had the lowest share (0.7%), while Japan, the United States, South Korea, the EU and Canada also had relatively low shares (at most 2.0%).

Indonesia was the only large economy where construction contributed more than a tenth (10.2%) of gross value added in 2022. Brazil had the lowest share for construction (4.0%), while the EU's share was 5.4%.

Consumer prices

Annual change in consumer prices

(%, 2013–23)



Consumer price indices reflect developments over time in the prices of consumer goods and services acquired, used or paid for by households.

Between 2013 and 2020, the EU's inflation rate was below 2.0% each year, while the global rate remained within the range of 2.7% to 3.6%. In the EU, after relatively high consumer price increases in 2021 there were notably higher increases in 2022 (9.2%) and 2023 (6.4%). The worldwide inflation rate peaked at 8.6% in 2022 before falling to 6.7% a year later.

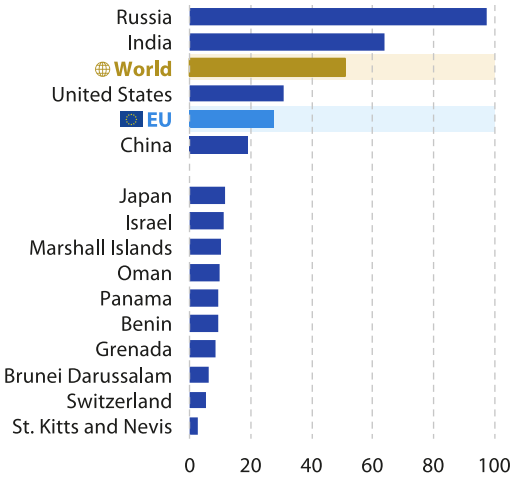
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind) and the International Monetary Fund (World Economic Outlook database)

Overall change in consumer prices

(%, 2013–23)

Across the world, consumer prices rose by an estimated 50.8% overall between 2013 and 2023, while the EU had a corresponding increase of 27.7%. Among the 5 largest economies in the world, consumer price increases ranged from 11.3% in Japan to 97.4% in Russia.

Between 2013 and 2023, every country in the world experienced some degree of inflation. St. Kitts and Nevis in the Caribbean saw the lowest consumer price increases, with prices increasing by only 2.7%, followed by Switzerland (5.1%) and Brunei Darussalam (6.2%). Considering EU countries individually, Greece and Cyprus would rank among the 20 countries in the world with the lowest overall changes in consumer prices between 2013 and 2023. By contrast, several countries experienced a period of hyperinflation, including Zimbabwe and Venezuela.

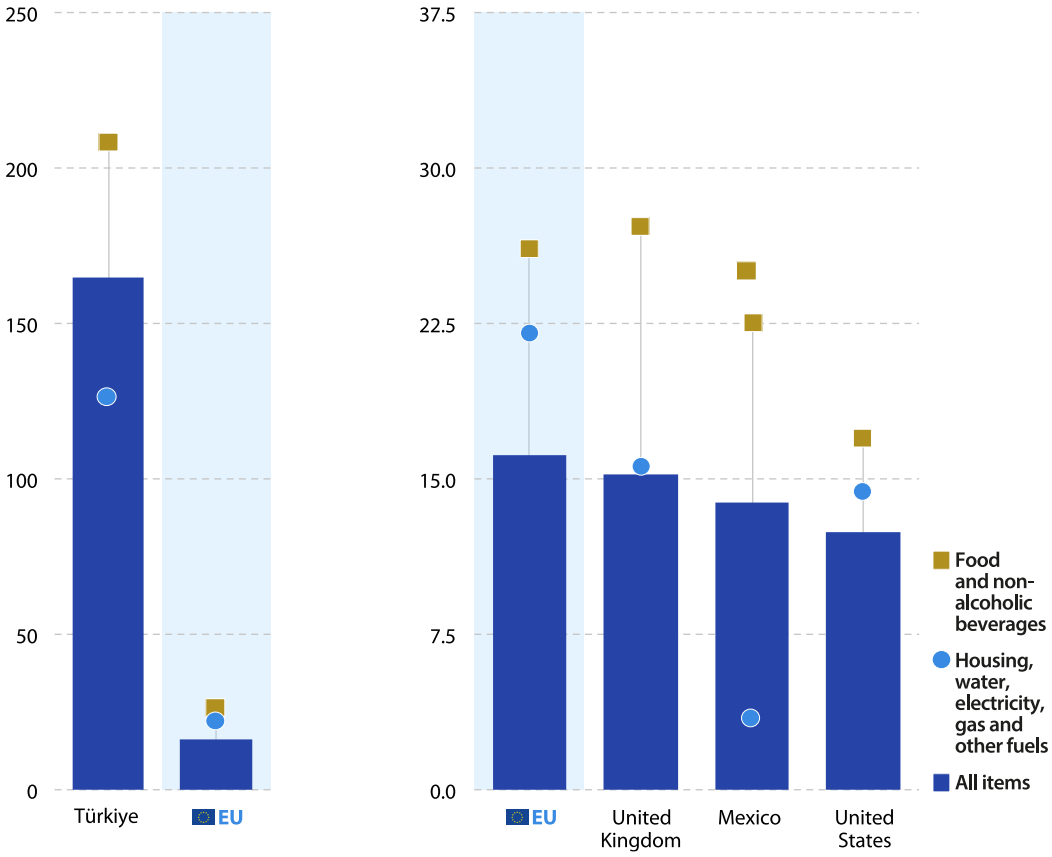


Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 largest economies and the 10 non-EU countries with the lowest overall change in consumer prices. Japan is one of the 5 largest countries as well as having one of the 10 lowest overall changes.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind) and the International Monetary Fund (World Economic Outlook database)

Overall change in consumer prices

(%, 2021–23)



Note: the figure is presented in 2 parts with different scales: for ease of comparison, the EU and world averages are shown in each part. Data are presented for the EU and 4 of the 10 largest economies (no detailed/timely information available for Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Japan or Russia).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind) and the International Monetary Fund (World Economic Outlook database and Consumer Price Indices)

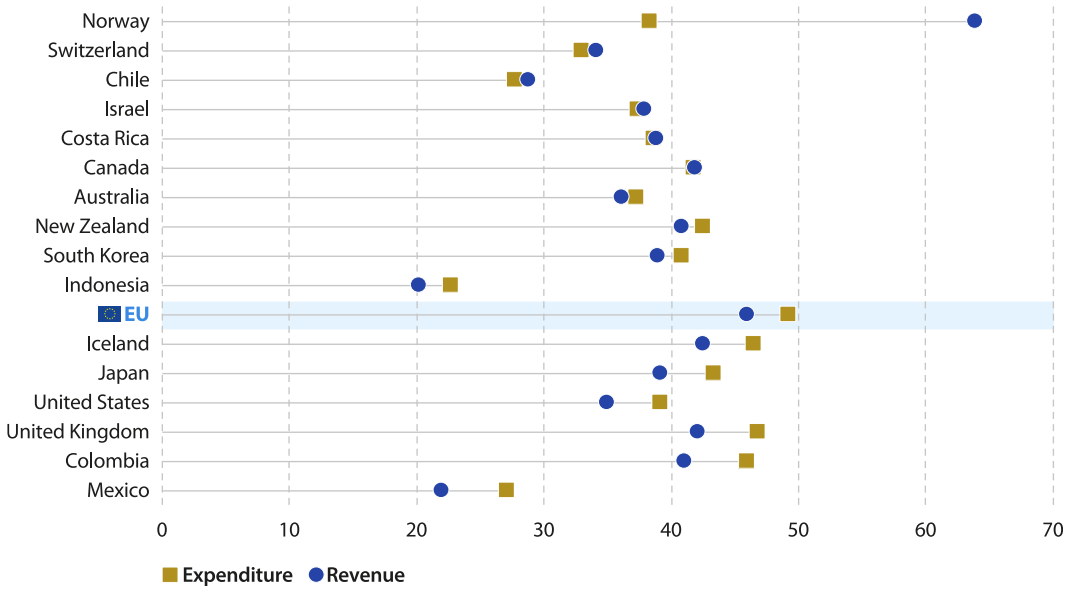
Global energy and food prices saw substantial increases in 2022 that continued – though at a lower level – in 2023. The effects of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine severely impacted energy markets, leading to a sharp rise in oil, gas and electricity prices. Energy costs surged as countries sought alternative supplies amid sanctions on Russia. Food prices also climbed, with the price of wheat, maize and vegetable oils reaching historic highs, reflecting disruptions to agricultural exports from Ukraine and Russia.

Between 2021 and 2023, the EU's all-items consumer price index increased overall by 16.1%. During the same period, the price of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels rose 22.0%, while food and non-alcoholic beverages saw even higher price increases, up 26.0%. Across several of the world's largest economies, food price inflation was particularly high: in Türkiye, the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages surged 207.8%, while the United Kingdom (27.1%), Mexico (22.5%) and the United States (16.9%) also reported rapid price increases for food and non-alcoholic beverages that surpassed their overall inflation rates.

Government finances

General government expenditure and revenue relative to GDP

(%, 2022)



Note: ranked on the percentage point difference between the ratios for expenditure and revenue. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with 2022 data. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

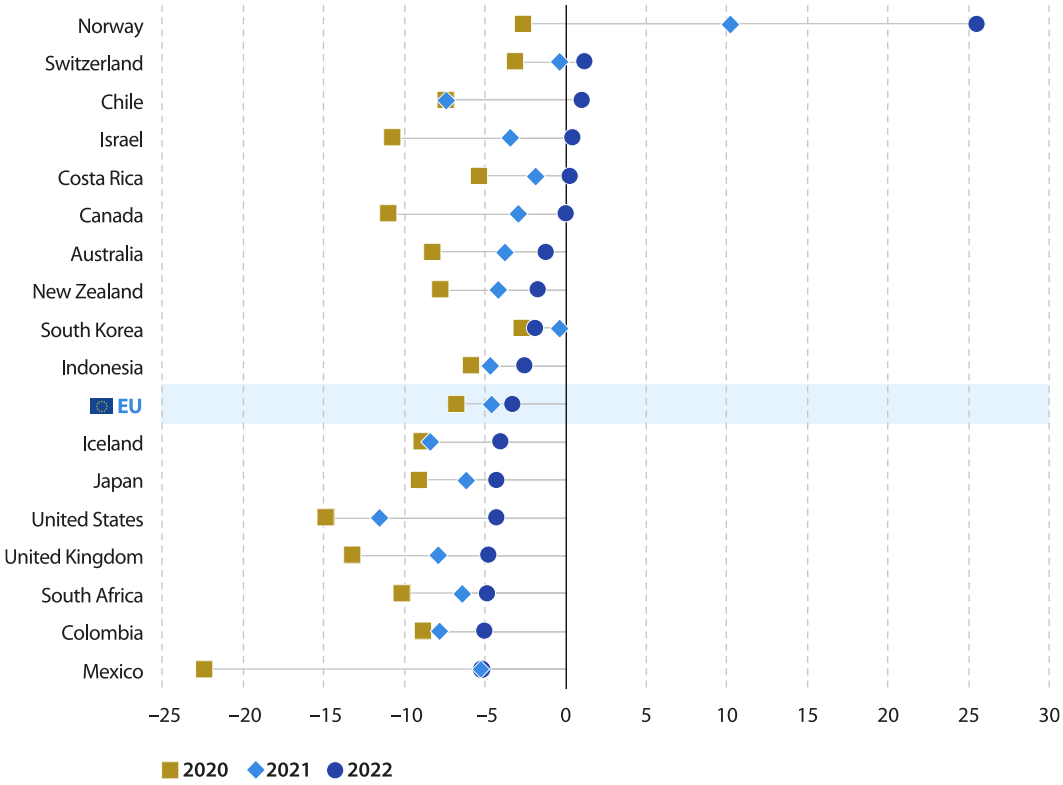
Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10a_main) and the OECD (Government at a glance)

The general government sector includes all levels of government, from central to the most local level and includes social security funds; it doesn't include public corporations.

General government revenue or expenditure are measures of the size of the government within an economy. In 2022, the EU's general government expenditure was 49.2% of GDP, higher than in all other economies for which data are shown and substantially higher than in countries such as Indonesia (22.7%), Mexico (27.1%) or Chile (27.8%). The EU's ratio of revenue to GDP (46.0%) also surpassed the ratios for all of the other economies, with the exception of Norway (63.9%). The EU's high ratios reflect, among other factors, extensive public services, highly developed social welfare systems and relatively high tax rates.

General government deficit relative to GDP

(%, 2020–22)



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with data for 2020–22. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1) and the OECD (Government at a glance)

Subtracting expenditure from revenue results in a basic measure of the general government surplus/deficit (public balance). This provides information on general government borrowing/lending for a particular year, in other words, borrowing to finance a deficit or lending made possible by a surplus.

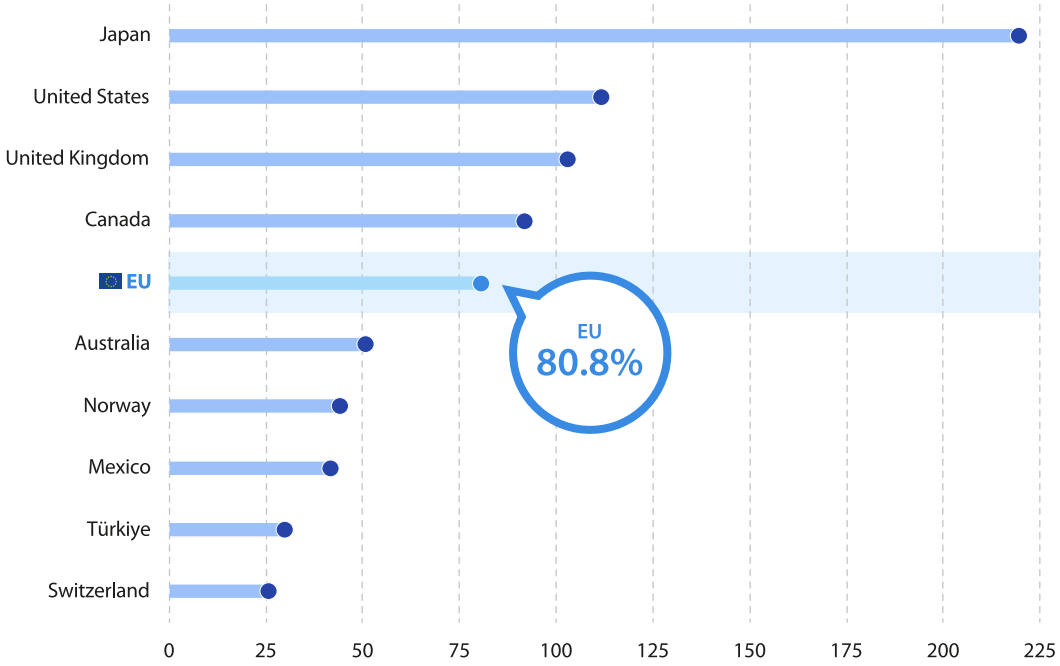
Data for the public balance show that all economies for which data are shown, including the EU, recorded a general government deficit in 2020, as did nearly all in 2021 (Norway was an exception) and most in 2022.

In 2022, the largest general government deficits were in Mexico (5.1% of GDP), Colombia (5.0%) and South Africa (4.9%). The deficit in the EU was 3.2%. The largest surplus was in Norway (25.6%), followed by Switzerland (1.2%), Chile (1.1%), Israel (0.5%), Costa Rica (0.3%) and Canada (0.1%).

In 2022, South Korea reported a larger general government deficit compared with 2021. All other countries for which data are available reported a smaller deficit, a surplus rather than a deficit, or – in the case of Norway – a larger surplus. The EU's deficit relative to GDP narrowed from 4.6% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022.

General government debt relative to GDP

(%, 2023)

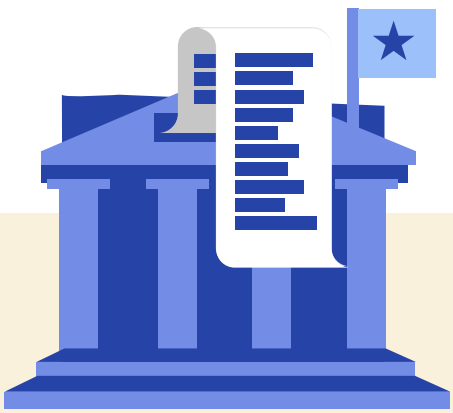


Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with 2023 data.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1) and the OECD (Government debt by instrument coverage)

General government debt (often referred to as national debt or public debt) refers to the stock of certain liabilities of the general government sector. The debt is gross as no account is made of assets. These obligations to others arise from past borrowing, in other words, governments taking out loans, issuing debt securities (bonds and treasury bills) and accepting deposits.

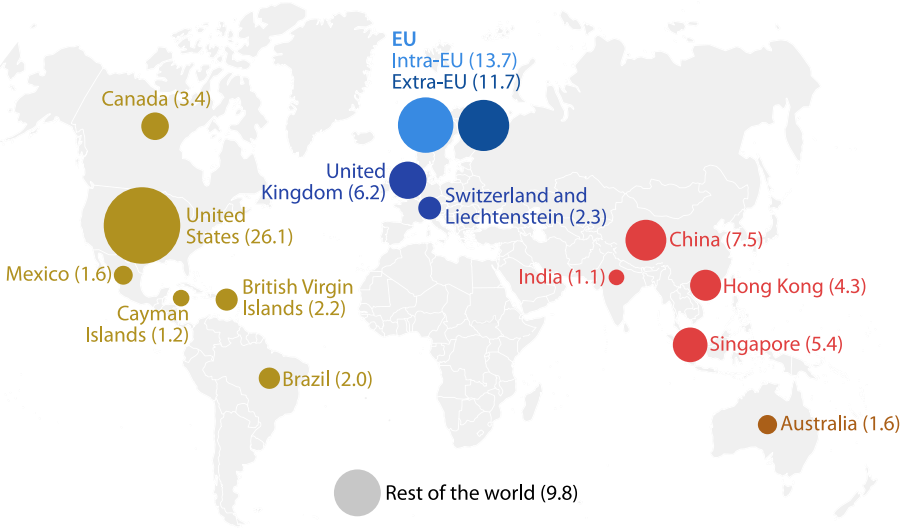
At the end of 2023, general government debt in the EU was equivalent to 80.8% of GDP. Among the countries for which data are available, Japan's general government debt was more than twice its level of GDP, while both the United States and the United Kingdom had debt levels that were greater than their GDP. By contrast, general government debt in Switzerland, Türkiye, Mexico and Norway was less than half of their GDP.



Foreign direct investment

Stocks of inward foreign direct investment

(% of world stocks, 2023)



Note: excluding investments of special purpose entities. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world inward FDI stocks.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos) and UNCTAD (FDI/MNE database)

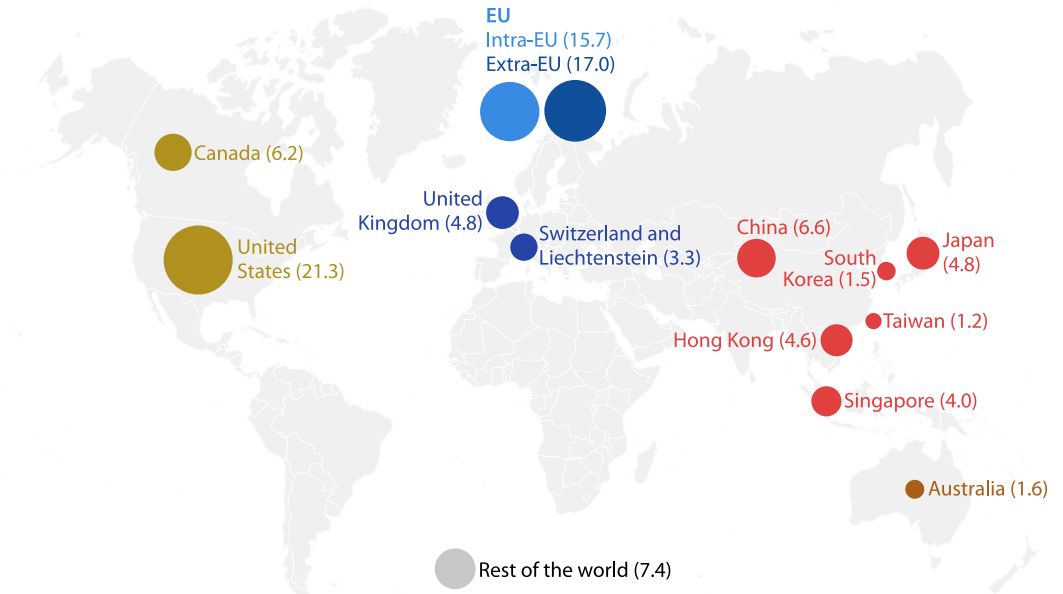
Foreign direct investment (FDI) is investment in new foreign plant/offices, or by purchasing existing assets that belong to a foreign enterprise. FDI statistics provide details about the stocks of investment built up over time. From the perspective of an individual economy, FDI can be inward or outward: inward FDI is investment coming into the reporting economy from abroad; outward FDI is investment from the reporting economy going abroad.

EU countries may receive foreign investment either from within the EU (intra-EU FDI) or from non-EU countries (extra-EU FDI). At the end of 2023, inward FDI stocks in the EU (intra- and extra-EU combined) accounted for approximately a quarter of the global total: intra-EU FDI had a 13.7% share of global inward FDI stocks, while extra-EU FDI contributed 11.7%.

Alongside the EU, 14 non-EU countries also held at least 1.0% of global inward FDI stocks in 2023. Collectively, these 15 economies accounted for 90.2% of the world total. Considering EU countries individually, the Netherlands, Ireland, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Spain, Malta, Belgium and Italy also had at least 1.0% of global inward FDI stocks. The United States held the highest share of inward FDI stocks in 2023, with 26.1% of the global total. Outside of the EU, China (7.5% of the total), the United Kingdom (6.2%) and Singapore (5.4%) had the next highest shares.

Stocks of outward foreign direct investment

(% of world stocks, 2023)



Note: excluding investments of special purpose entities. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world outward FDI stocks.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos) and UNCTAD (FDI/MNE database)

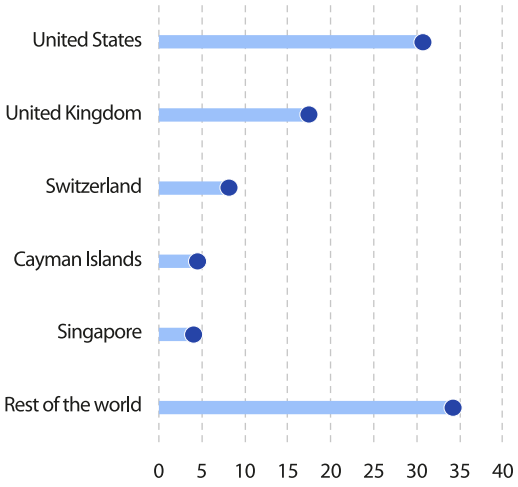
At the end of 2023, outward FDI stocks from the EU (intra- and extra-EU combined) accounted for nearly a third of global outward FDI stocks. Within this total, FDI held outside of the EU (extra-EU) represented 17.0%, while FDI held elsewhere within the EU (intra-EU) contributed an additional 15.7%.

Alongside the EU, 12 non-EU countries also accounted for at least 1.0% of global outward FDI stocks in 2023. Collectively, these 13 economies held 92.6% of the world total. Considering EU countries individually, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Ireland, Belgium, Malta, Spain, Italy and Sweden also had at least 1.0% of global outward FDI stocks. After the EU (intra- and extra-EU combined), the United States held the second largest share of outward FDI stocks (21.3%), followed by China (6.6%) and Canada (6.2%).

Data on global inward and outward FDI stocks indicate that the origin of FDI is somewhat more concentrated (92.6% of the global outward total from 13 economies) than its destination (90.2% of the global inward total in 15 economies). The British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands (which are both offshore financial centres), Brazil, Mexico and India ranked among the largest FDI destinations, but not among the main origins. Conversely, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan ranked among the largest origins of FDI, but not among the destinations.

Non-EU countries' stocks of foreign direct investment in the EU

(% of extra-EU stocks in the EU, 2023)



Focusing on the EU's extra-EU FDI identifies the main non-EU countries both in terms of their investments in the EU (inward FDI from the EU's perspective) and the EU's investments in these countries (outward FDI from the EU's perspective).

At the end of 2023, the United States held nearly a third (30.9%) of the EU's inward stocks of FDI from non-EU countries. The United Kingdom ranked second with a 17.6% share. Switzerland held the third largest FDI stock in the EU, followed by the Cayman Islands and Singapore (both offshore financial centres).

Note: including investments of special purpose entities. Data are presented for the 5 countries with the largest shares of the EU's inward FDI stocks.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos)

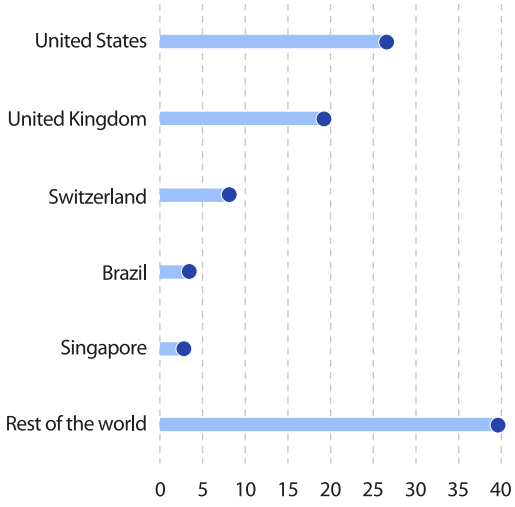
Non-EU countries' stocks of foreign direct investment from the EU

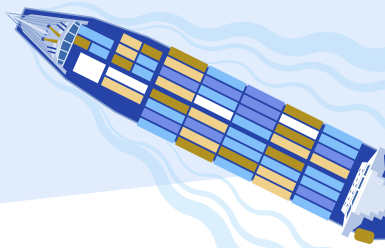
(% of extra-EU stocks from the EU, 2023)

At the end of 2023, the same 3 countries – the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland – ranked as the top 3 destinations for the EU's outward stocks of FDI held in non-EU countries. The United States accounted for more than a quarter (26.6%) of the total, the United Kingdom had close to a fifth (19.3%), and Switzerland received less than a tenth (8.2%).

Note: including investments of special purpose entities. Data are presented for the 5 countries with the largest shares of the EU's outward FDI stocks.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos)





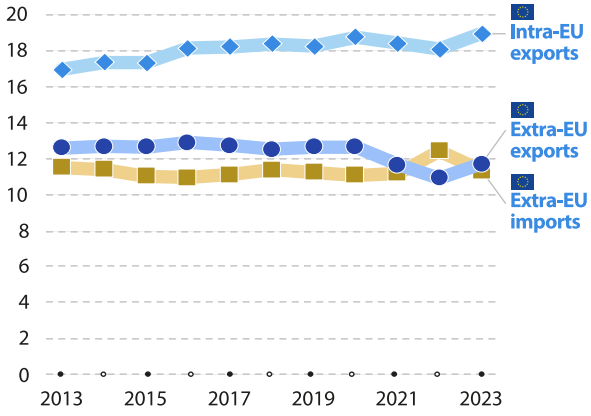
International trade – share of world trade

EU countries' trade in goods

(% of world trade in goods, 2013–23)

In 2023, the EU countries accounted for 30.7% of global exports of goods and 29.5% of imports. Most EU countries traded more within the EU than with non-EU countries. Their combined trade with non-EU countries represented 11.7% of global exports of goods and 11.4% of imports.

Between 2013 and 2023, the EU's share of global exports of goods (intra- and extra-EU combined) increased by 1.1 percentage points, while its share of imports rose by 1.4 points. An expansion in trade between EU countries drove these increases, while the share of EU trade with non-EU countries declined modestly.



Note: Eurostat uses intra-EU exports as the most reliable measure of intra-EU trade as, at aggregated levels, total intra-EU exports has better coverage than total intra-EU imports.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_intertrd) and the International Monetary Fund (Direction of Trade Statistics)

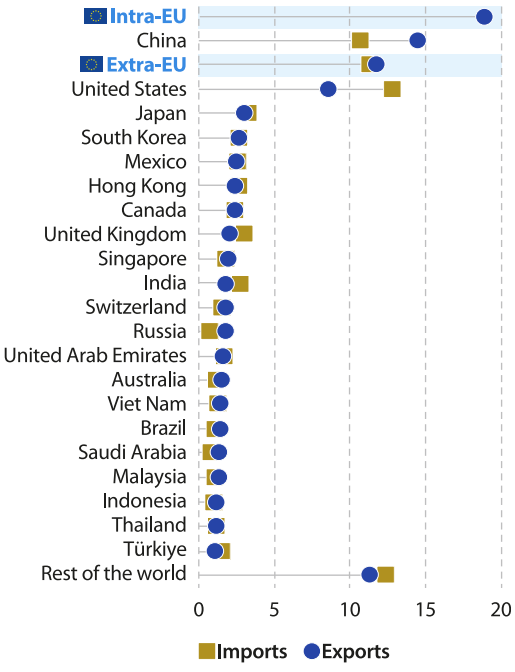
Trade in goods

(% of world trade in goods, 2023)

Excluding intra-EU trade, China had the largest share of global exports of goods in 2023, accounting for 14.5%. Behind China and the EU (11.7%), the United States had the third largest share (8.6%). For imports of goods, the United States had the largest share (12.8%), followed by the EU (11.4%) and China (10.7%).

Note: ranked on the share of exports and imports combined. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of global trade in goods. Calculating world trade for the EU as the sum of all EU countries' trade, leads to a certain amount of double counting due to quasi-transit trade. Further information can be found on Eurostat's website.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_intertrd), the United Nations (Comtrade) and the International Monetary Fund (Direction of Trade Statistics)

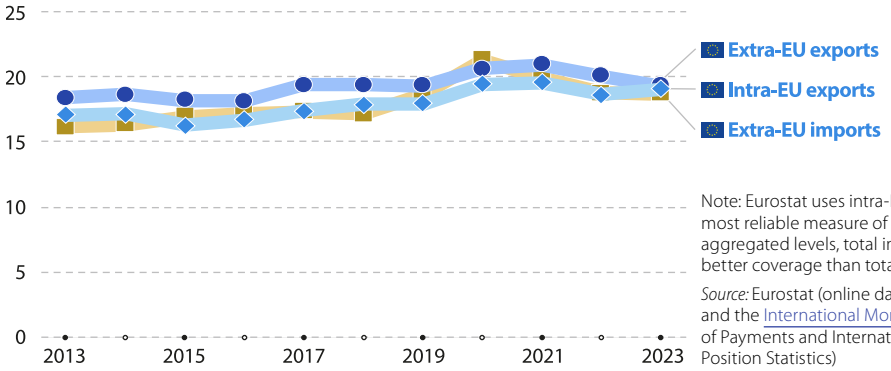


EU countries' trade in services

(% of world trade in services, 2013–23)

The EU's share of global trade in services was even greater than that of goods. In 2023, the EU accounted for 38.3% of global exports of services and 37.5% of imports. The EU had a slightly higher level of services' exports to non-EU countries than to other EU countries, while imports displayed the opposite situation.

Between 2013 and 2023, the EU increased its overall share (intra- and extra-EU combined) of global trade in services, despite a falling share in the last 2 years. Its share of global exports rose 2.9 percentage points during the last 10 years, while the increase for imports was somewhat larger, up 4.3 points. Higher levels of trade in services for both intra- and extra-EU trade drove these gains.



Note: Eurostat uses intra-EU exports as the most reliable measure of intra-EU trade as, at aggregated levels, total intra-EU exports has better coverage than total intra-EU imports.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q) and the International Monetary Fund (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics)

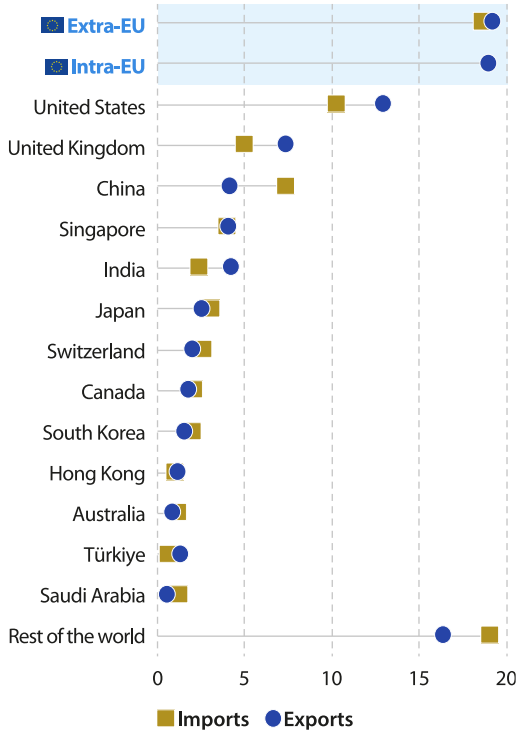
Trade in services

(% of world trade in services, 2023)

In 2023, the EU (extra-EU trade only) dominated trade in services, surpassing any individual country in terms of its share of global exports and imports. Among non-EU countries, the United States had the highest shares for both flows with 13.0% of global exports of services and 10.3% of imports. The United Kingdom had the next highest share of exports (7.4% of the global total), while China had the next highest share of imports (7.4%).

Note: ranked on the share of exports and imports combined. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of global trade in services.

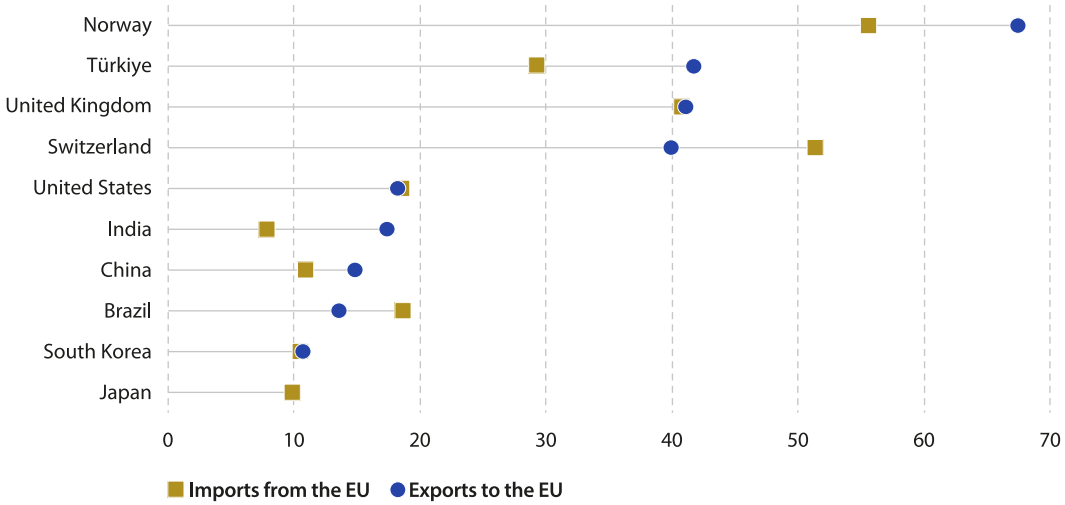
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q) and the International Monetary Fund (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics)



Trade between the EU and the rest of the world

EU as the destination or origin of traded goods

(% of national exports or imports of goods, 2023)



Note: ranked on exports. Data are presented for the 10 countries with the largest value of trade (exports and imports combined) in goods with the EU. Russia: not available.

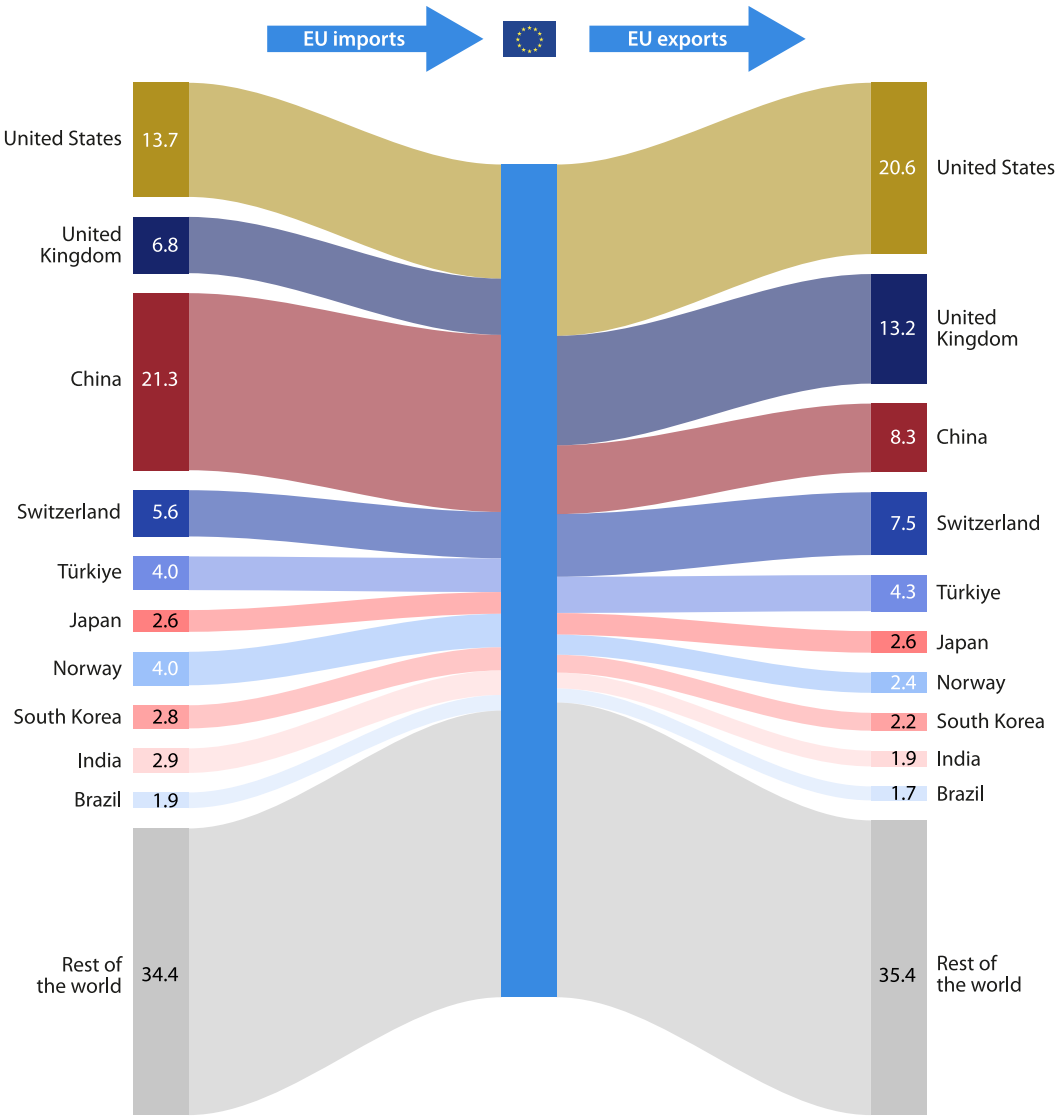
Source: the United Nations (Comtrade)

In 2023, the 10 non-EU countries with the highest levels of trade (exports and imports combined) in goods with the EU were the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Türkiye, Norway, Japan, South Korea, India and Brazil; no recent information is available for Russia.

For these countries, how important was the EU as a trading partner? In 2023, Norway conducted more than half of its goods trade with the EU, with a 67.5% share of its exports destined for the EU and a 55.7% share of its imports originating from the EU. Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland sent more than 40% of their exported goods to the EU, while about the same share of all goods imported into Switzerland and the United Kingdom originated in the EU. By contrast, the EU was the origin of less than a tenth of the goods imported into India and Japan.

EU trade in goods

(% of EU exports and imports of goods, 2024)



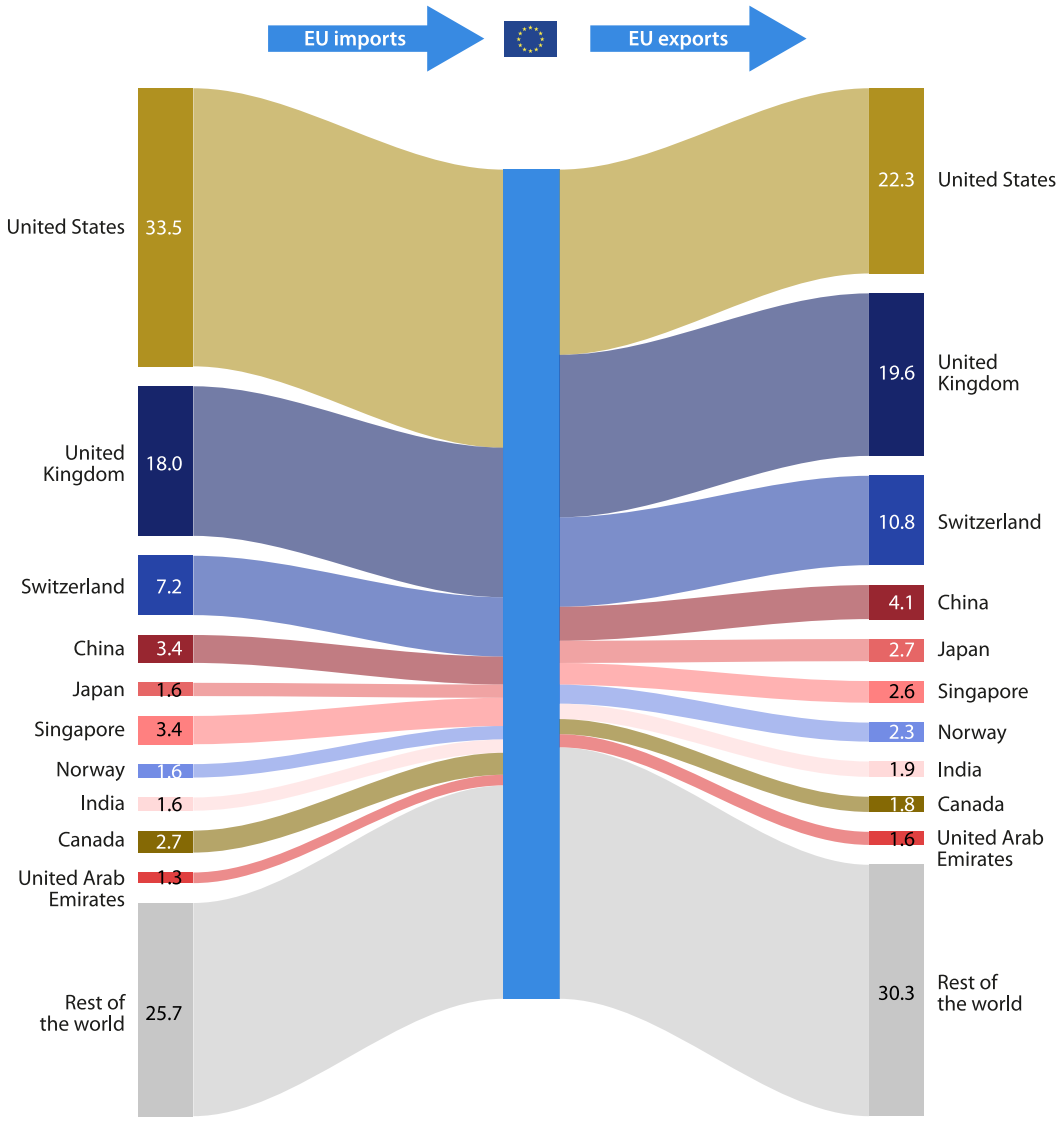
Note: ranked on exports. Data are presented for the 10 countries with the largest value of trade (exports and imports combined) in goods with the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

In 2024, the EU exported €2 584 trillion of goods to non-EU countries and imported €2 434 trillion of goods, resulting in a trade surplus. The United States was the EU's largest export market for goods, accounting for 20.6% of extra-EU exports. China was the principal origin of goods imported into the EU, accounting for 21.3% of extra-EU imports. Among its 10 largest trading partners for goods, the EU had a surplus with the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Türkiye and Japan.

EU trade in services

(% of EU exports and imports of services, 2023)



Note: ranked on exports. Data are presented for the 10 countries with the largest value of trade (exports and imports combined) in services with the EU.

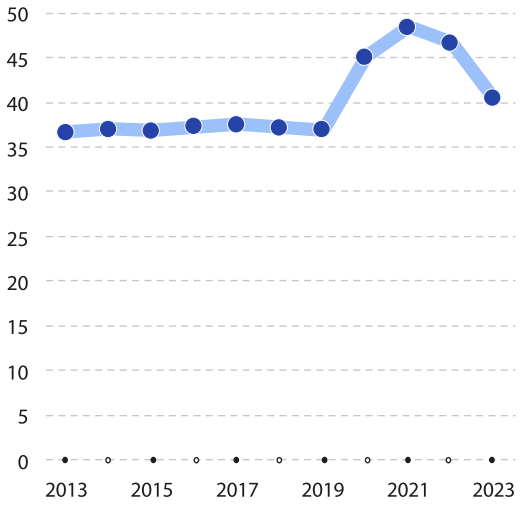
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det)

In 2023, the EU exported €1 427 billion of services to non-EU countries and imported €1 274 billion of services, resulting in a trade surplus. The United States was the EU's largest trading partner for services, accounting for 22.3% of extra-EU exports and 33.5% of extra-EU imports; it was followed by the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Among its 10 largest trading partners for services, the EU had a surplus with Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Japan, China, Norway, Canada and the United Arab Emirates.

Tourism

International visitors to the EU

(% of worldwide international overnight visitors, 2013–23)



Tourism statistics define international visitors according to their country of residence, not according to their citizenship. Data on international visitors for the world exclude same day visitors and therefore only cover overnight visitors.

The number of international tourist arrivals peaked in 2019 at 1.46 billion worldwide. The EU hosted 36.8% of global tourists in 2019, a share that had been stable since 2013. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic sharply reduced the number of international tourists in 2020 and 2021. Although visitor numbers rebounded in 2022 and 2023, the worldwide total remained about a tenth lower than the pre-pandemic high. During the pandemic, the EU's share of the global tourism market increased, primarily due to restrictions on long-haul and transcontinental travel.

Note: includes intra-EU arrivals.

Source: the World Tourism Organization (Global and regional tourism performance)

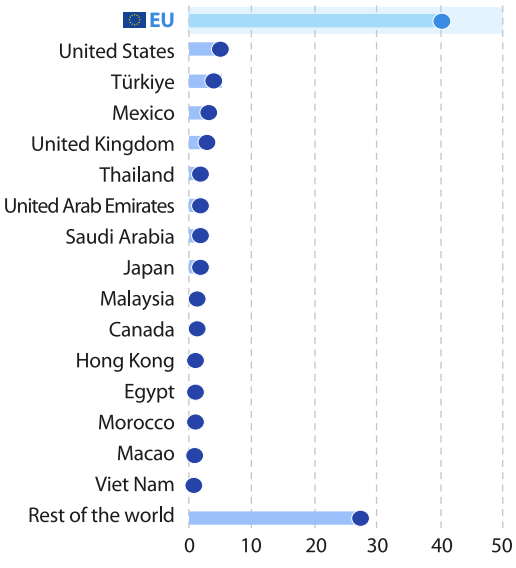
International visitors to the EU

(% of worldwide international overnight visitors, 2023)

The EU as a whole accounted for a much greater share of the world's international tourist visitors in 2023 than did any non-EU country: its 40.3% share was close to 8 times the share recorded by the United States (5.1%). A total of 15 non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0% of the world's international visitors in 2023; individually, 10 of the EU countries also accounted for at least 1.0% of the world total (with the highest shares recorded for France, Spain and Italy).

Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world tourist arrivals. EU: includes intra-EU arrivals. China and Russia: not available.

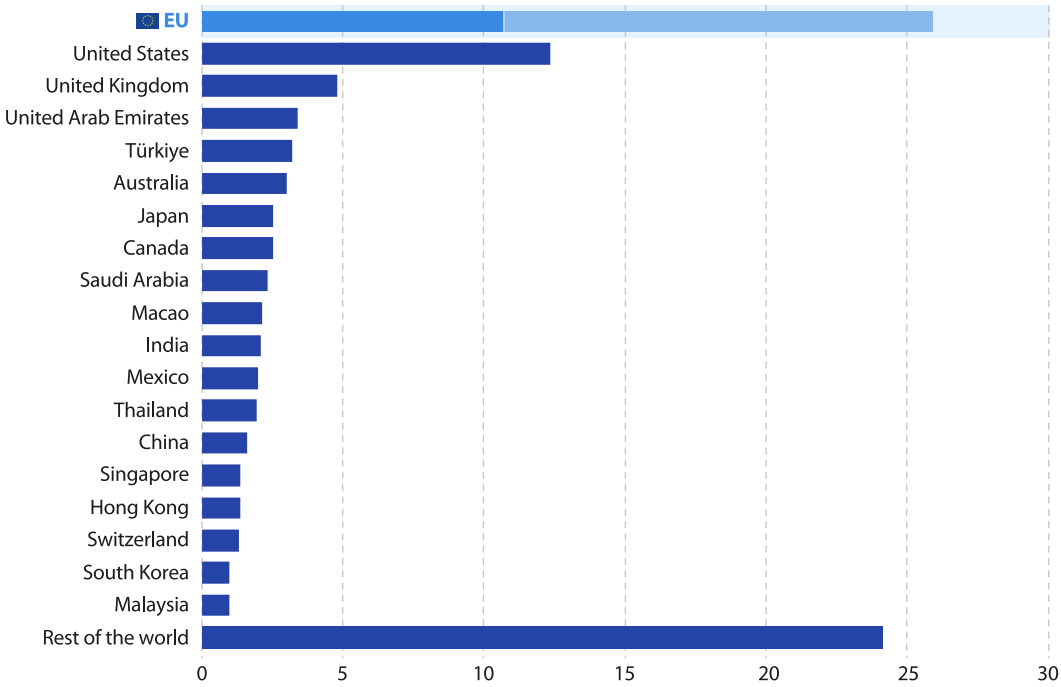
Source: the World Tourism Organization (Global and regional tourism performance)



Receipts from international tourism

(% of worldwide receipts, 2023)

International tourism receipts include payments (and prepayments) in a country by international tourists, including payments to domestic carriers for international transport.



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world receipts from international tourism. EU: estimates made for the purpose of this publication; the darker shade shows extra-EU receipts while the lighter shade shows intra-EU receipts.

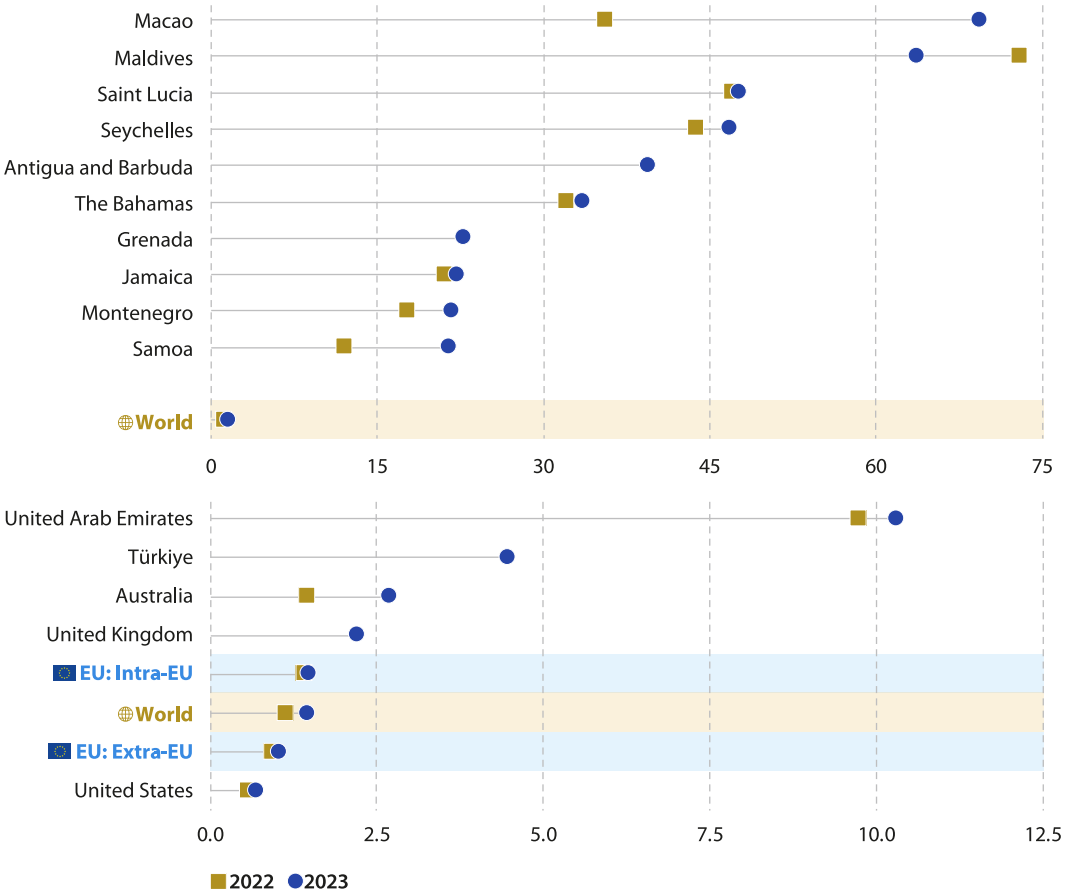
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det) and the World Tourism Organization (Global and regional tourism performance)

The EU received 25.9% of worldwide receipts from international tourism in 2023: 15.2% was from international tourism between EU countries, while 10.7% came from non-EU tourists. Considering EU countries individually, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, Croatia and Poland would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0% of worldwide receipts from international tourism.

In 2023, 18 non-EU countries received at least 1.0% of worldwide receipts from international tourism. The United States had a 12.3% share, which was far higher than the share recorded for other non-EU countries; the United Kingdom had the next highest share (4.8%).

International tourism receipts relative to GDP

(%, 2022 and 2023)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 non-EU countries with the largest world receipts from international tourism in 2023 and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest tourism receipts relative to GDP in 2023. The figure is presented in two parts with different scales: for ease of comparison, the world average is show in each part. Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Türkiye and the United Kingdom: 2022, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: bop_its6_det and nama_10_gdp), the World Tourism Organization (Global and regional tourism performance) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

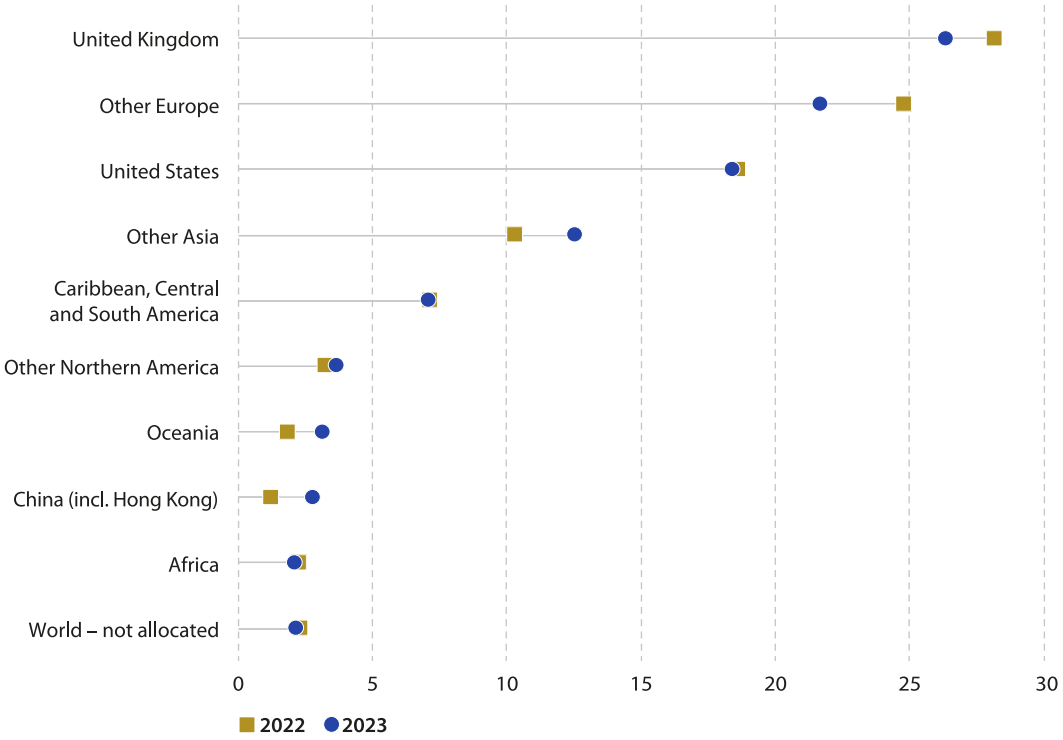
International tourism receipts were equivalent to 2.5% of the EU's GDP in 2023. These included 1.5% of GDP from international tourism between EU countries and 1.0% of GDP from international tourism from non-EU countries. The share for 2023 was 0.2 percentage points higher than a year before, continuing a post-COVID-19 recovery.

While the EU's total international tourism receipts relative to GDP were somewhat above the world average (1.5% in 2023), many smaller countries, often island nations, reported much higher ratios. In Macao (69.3%) and the Maldives (63.6%), international tourism receipts were equivalent to more than half of GDP; Saint Lucia (47.6%) and the Seychelles (46.7%) had the next highest ratios.

In 2023, Macao's international tourism receipts relative to GDP nearly doubled compared with 2022. Australia and Samoa also recorded considerable post-COVID-19 recoveries, with ratios rising to 1.8 times their 2022 level.

Country/continent of origin of tourist arrivals

(% of all extra-EU tourist arrivals at EU tourist accommodation, 2022 and 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_arnraw)

The EU attracts many international tourists from outside the EU. Data for 2022 and 2023 – when the recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued – illustrate the origin of these international tourists arriving at EU tourist accommodation.

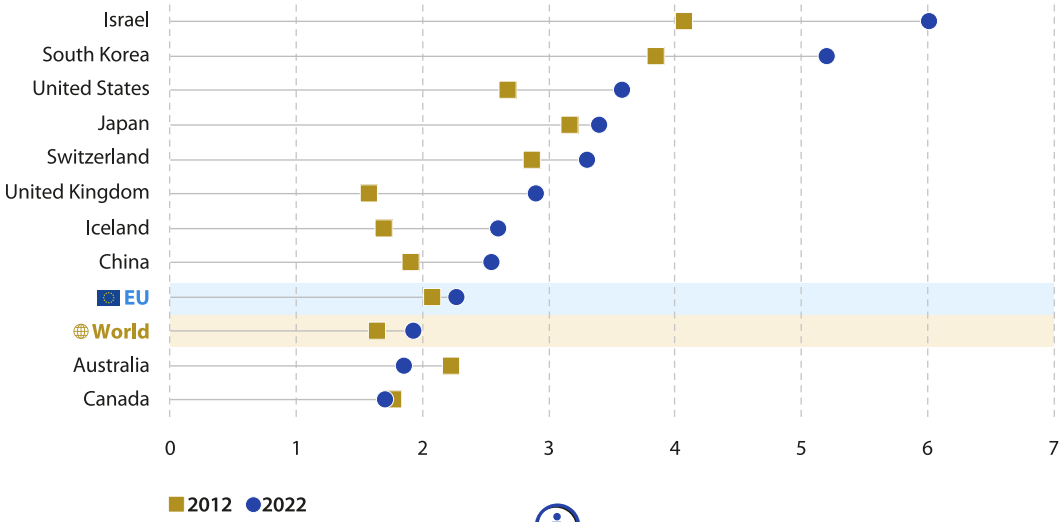
Between 2022 and 2023, international tourist arrivals from distant markets expanded significantly, highlighting a shift in travel patterns as the recovery from the pandemic continued. The number of arrivals from Asia and Oceania increased notably, driven by the re-opening of borders and growing purchasing power.

In 2023, nearly half (48.1%) of all international tourists from non-EU countries arriving at EU tourist accommodation came from other parts of Europe. Over half of these (26.4%) came from the United Kingdom. Northern America accounted for 22.1% of the EU's international tourist arrivals, with a majority of these visitors (18.4% of the total) coming from the United States. Asia accounted for slightly less than a sixth (15.3%) of the EU's international tourist arrivals, with 2.8% of the total coming from China or Hong Kong.

Research and development

Research and development intensity

(%, 2012 and 2022)



Note: research and development (R&D) intensity is calculated as the ratio of intramural expenditure on R&D relative to GDP, expressed as a percentage. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest R&D intensities in 2022. Australia: 2011 instead of 2012. Iceland: 2013 instead of 2012. Australia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the world: 2021 instead of 2022. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: rd_e_gerdtot) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UIS: Science, Technology and Innovation)

Research and development (R&D) and innovation are some of the primary driving forces behind competitiveness, productivity, economic growth and job creation. Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) is a key measure of the level of R&D activity performed in an economy; it includes R&D funded from abroad, but excludes payments made abroad.

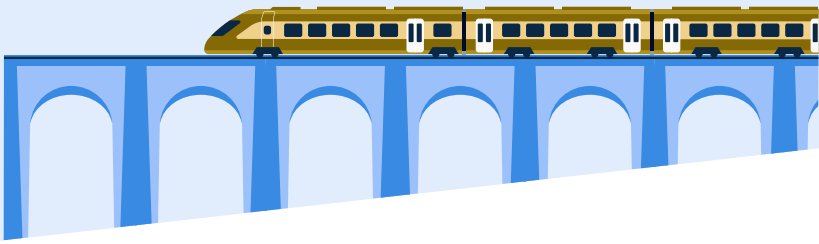
In 2022, the EU recorded €363 billion of gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD). The EU's R&D intensity, measured as GERD relative to GDP, stood at 2.27%; it exceeded the global average of 1.93% (2021 data). Among non-EU countries, Israel and South Korea recorded the highest R&D intensities, at 6.02% and 5.21%, respectively. The United States, Japan and Switzerland (2021 data) also recorded ratios that were above 3.0%.

Considering EU countries individually, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, Germany and Finland would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest R&D intensities in 2022, all at least 3.0%.

3

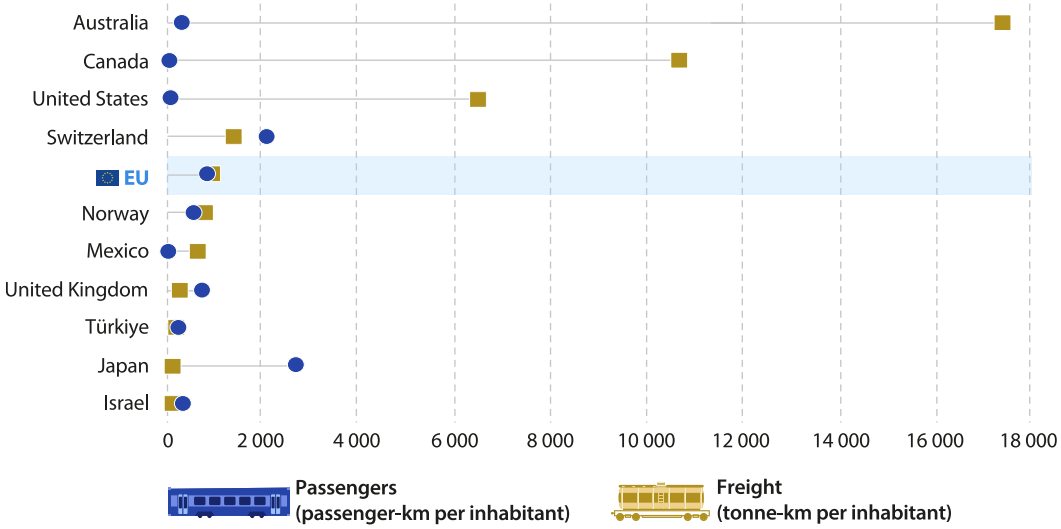
Environment and natural resources

Transport



Rail transport relative to population size

(2022)



Note: ranked on freight transport. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with at least 10 billion tonne-km of rail freight transport and/or at least 1 billion passenger-km of rail passenger transport with 2022 data available. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries. EU: freight excluding Belgium and Greece.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: rail_pa_total, rail_go_total and demo_gind), the OECD (Annual transport trends) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

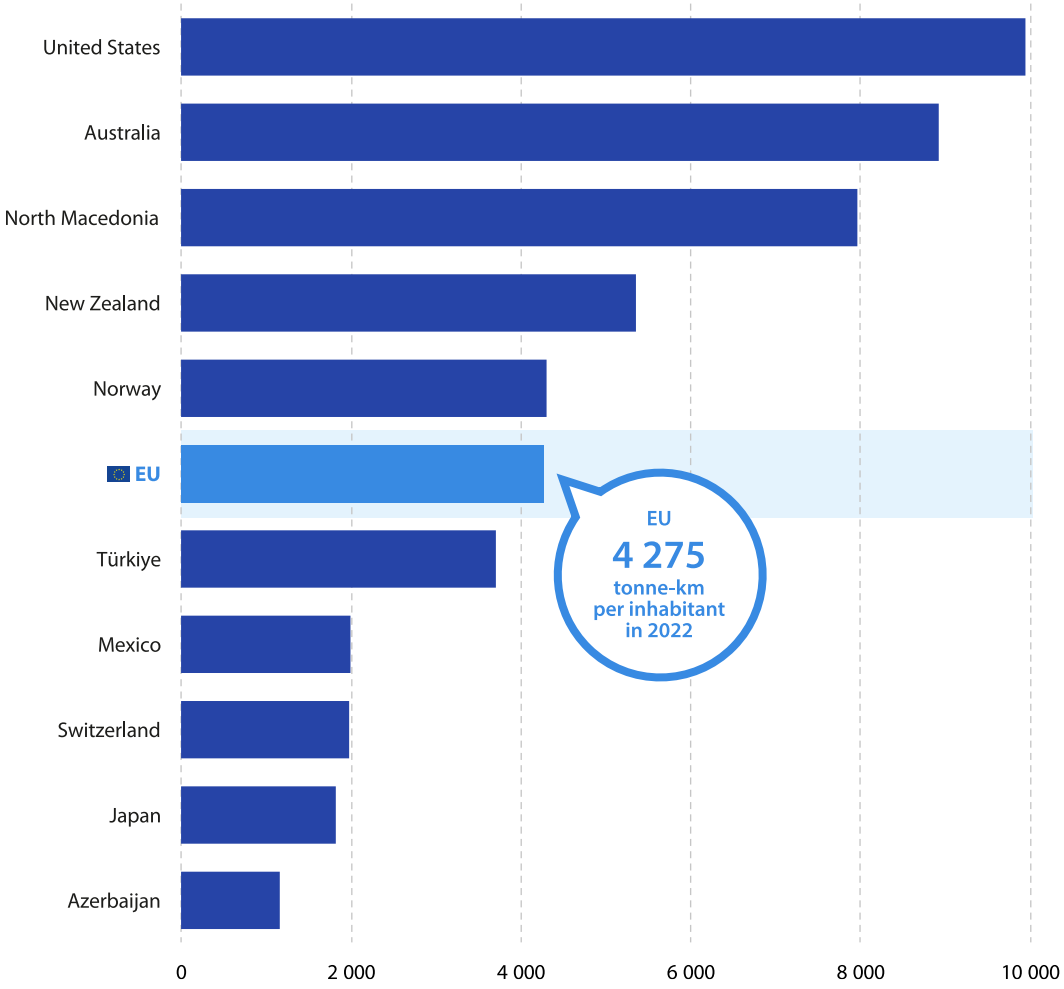
Transport measurement uses some specific units: tonne-kilometre (tonne-km) and passenger-kilometre (passenger-km). These represent the transport of 1 tonne of goods (freight) or 1 passenger over a distance of 1 kilometre.

EU rail passenger transport performance was 387 billion passenger-km in 2022, equivalent to 862 passenger-km per inhabitant. Rail freight transport performance in 2022 was 403 billion tonne-km (excluding Belgium and Greece), equivalent to 944 tonne-km per inhabitant.

The extent of rail transport use varied greatly between countries both for passenger and freight services. In Australia, Canada and the United States, rail services focused mainly on freight transport, while passenger transport dominated in Japan and Switzerland.

Road freight transport relative to population size

(tonne-km per inhabitant, 2022)



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with at least 10 billion tonne-km of road freight transport with 2022 data available. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

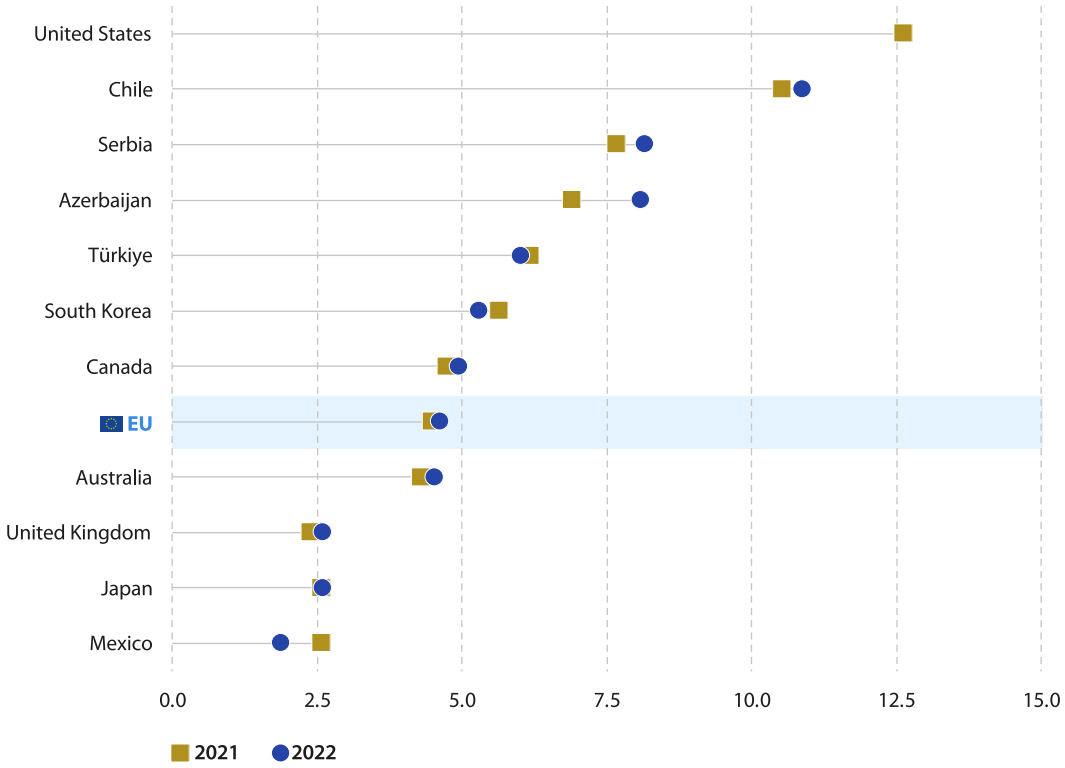
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: road_go_ta_tott and demo_gind), the OECD (Annual transport trends) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

Haulage businesses registered in the EU transported 1.92 trillion tonne-km of freight by road in 2022, equivalent to 4 275 tonne-km per inhabitant.

The United States and Australia had the highest levels, with averages of 9 940 and 8 910 tonne-km per inhabitant, respectively, reflecting both the extensive use of road freight and relatively long transport distances. High levels of road freight transport performance may reflect not only an extensive use of road freight transport, but also the large distances over which goods may be transported. In Azerbaijan, Japan, Switzerland and Mexico, road freight transport averaged less than 2 000 tonne-km per inhabitant.

Road traffic deaths relative to population size

(per 100 000 inhabitants, 2021 and 2022)

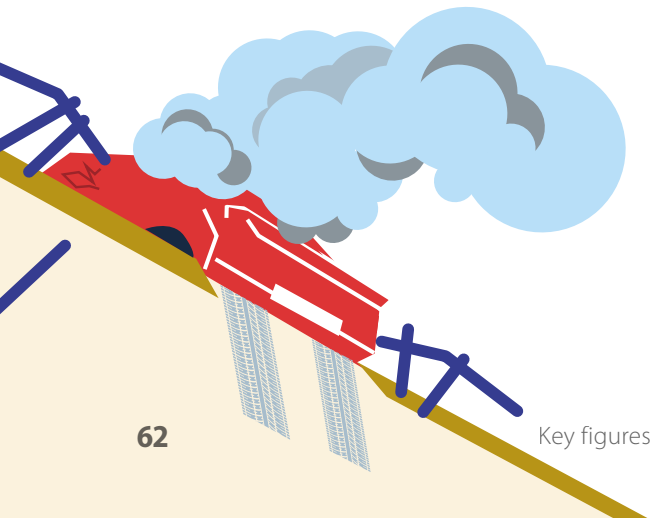


Note: ranked on 2022. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with at least 500 road traffic deaths with 2021 and/or 2022 data available. The United States: 2022 not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tran_sf_roadus and demo_gind), the OECD (Annual transport trends) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2024)

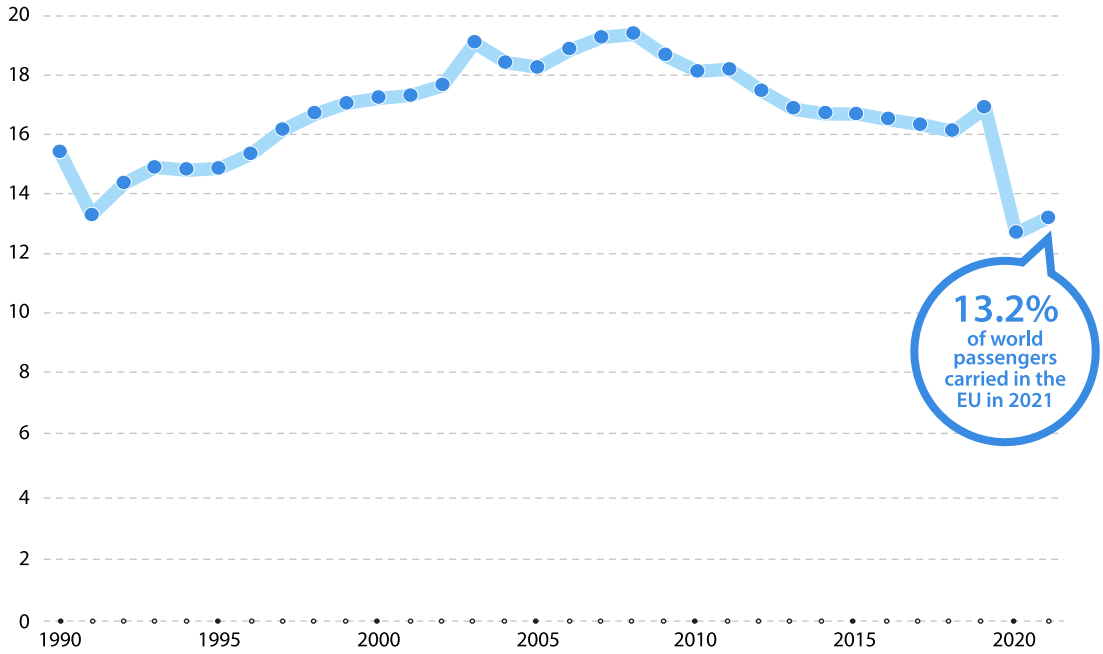
In the EU, there were 4.6 road traffic deaths per 100 000 inhabitants in 2022. Among the non-EU countries illustrated, the United States (2021 data) and Chile recorded the highest ratios, with 12.6 and 10.9 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants, respectively. Mexico, Japan and the United Kingdom reported the lowest ratios, below 3.0 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants.

Between 2021 and 2022, the ratio of road traffic deaths in the EU increased slightly from 4.5 to 4.6 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants. Most non-EU countries also experienced an increase in this ratio between 2021 and 2022, with the exceptions of Mexico, South Korea and Türkiye.



Air passengers carried

(% of world air passengers carried, EU, 1990–2021)



Note: data refer to aircraft passengers of air carriers registered in the EU.1990–2018, excluding Denmark and Sweden.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

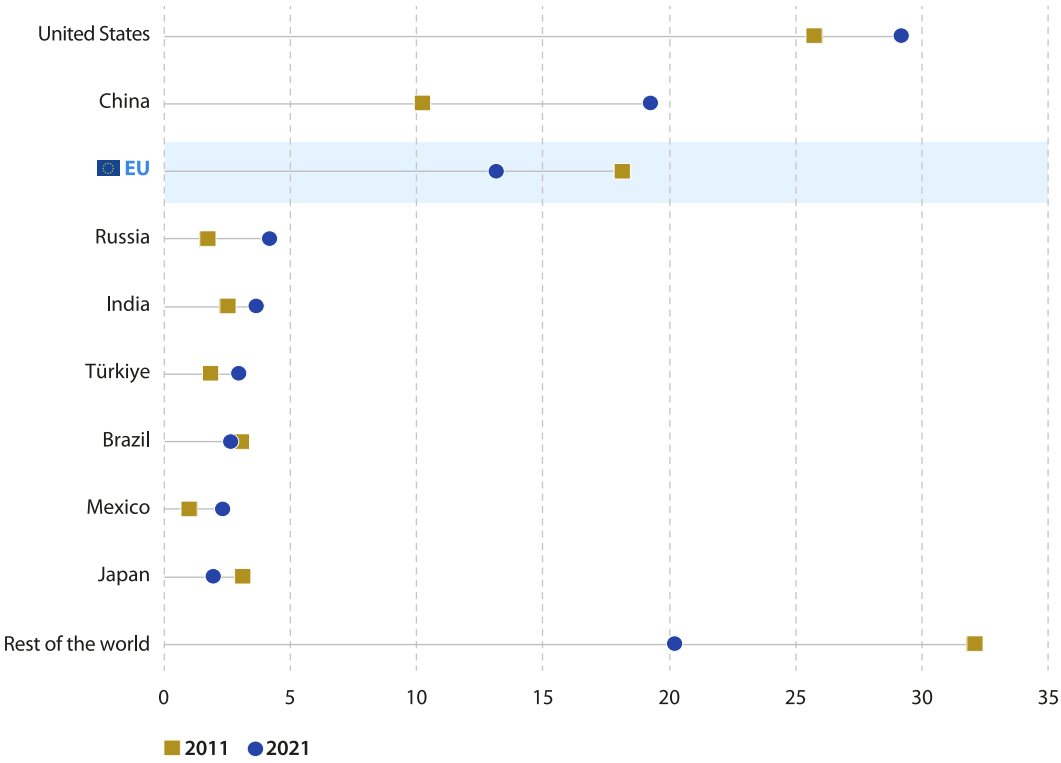
The data presented in this publication for air passengers and air freight carried reflect the nationality of the carrier (airline), not the origin or destination of passengers/freight.

Airlines worldwide carried 1.02 billion passengers in 1990. This figure passed through 2.0 billion in 2006, 3.0 billion in 2013 and 4.0 billion in 2017. By 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of global air passengers had peaked at 4.46 billion. Global passenger numbers plummeted in 2020 (down 60.2%). The following year the number of air passengers carried worldwide partially recovered, up 28.7%.

The EU accounted for 13.3% of the world's air passenger numbers in 1991, down from 15.4% in 1990. Its share increased most years thereafter, peaking at 19.4% in 2008. As air passenger growth in the rest of the world outpaced that of the EU, there was a gradual fall in the EU's share of global air passenger numbers through to 2019, when its share was 16.9%. The pandemic caused a sharp decline in the number of air passengers in the EU, with larger decreases than in most other parts of the world. The EU's share of global air passenger numbers fell to 12.7% in 2020 and 13.2% in 2021, far below its 2019 level.

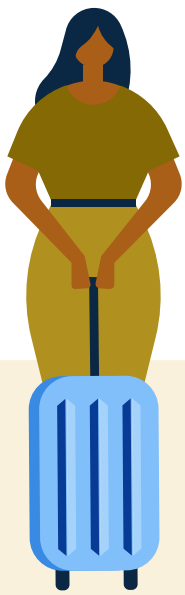
Air passengers carried

(% of world air passengers carried, 2011 and 2021)



Note: data refer to aircraft passengers of air carriers registered in each country (or in the EU). Ranked on 2021. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 2.0% of world air passengers in 2021. EU: 2011 excluding Denmark and Sweden.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

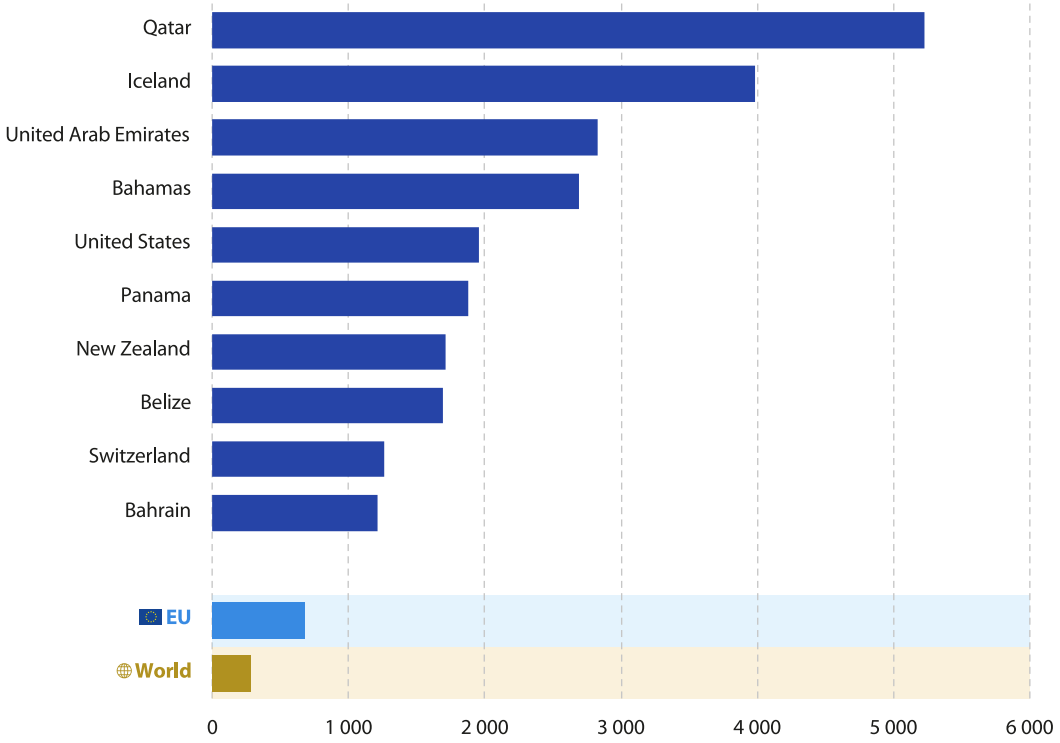


The pandemic and its related restrictions severely impacted air passenger transport, leading to a substantial decline in activity during 2020 and 2021. Some countries with relatively large domestic markets, such as China and the United States, saw their carriers' share of global air passenger numbers increase during the pandemic.

In 2021, carriers from the United States accounted for 29.2% of the world's air passengers, while Chinese carriers had a share of 19.3% and carriers from EU countries a share of 13.2%. Carriers from 6 other non-EU countries had shares ranging from 2.0% to 4.2%. Considering EU countries individually, Irish carriers would also rank among those with at least 2.0% of the world's air passengers.

Air passengers carried relative to population size

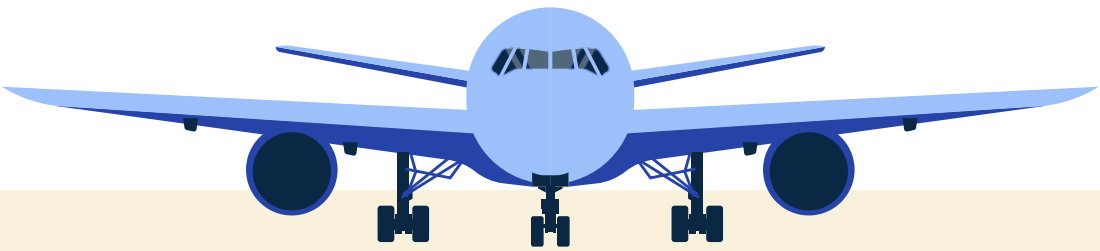
(number per 1 000 inhabitants, 2021)

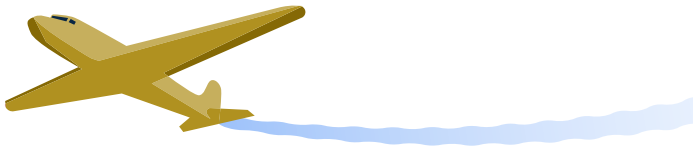


Note: data refer to aircraft passengers of air carriers registered in each country (or in the EU). Data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest ratio of air passengers per inhabitant in 2021.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

In 2021, EU carriers transported 674 air passengers per 1 000 inhabitants; this was 2.4 times as high as the world average of 285 passengers per 1 000 inhabitants. Carriers from Qatar and Iceland recorded the highest ratios, with 5 224 and 3 983 passengers per 1 000 inhabitants, respectively. Carriers from the United Arab Emirates and the Bahamas (2 831 and 2 686 passengers per 1 000 inhabitants, respectively) followed at some distance. Considering EU countries individually, carriers from Ireland, Austria, Hungary and Sweden would also rank among the top 10 countries with the highest ratios of air passengers relative to population.



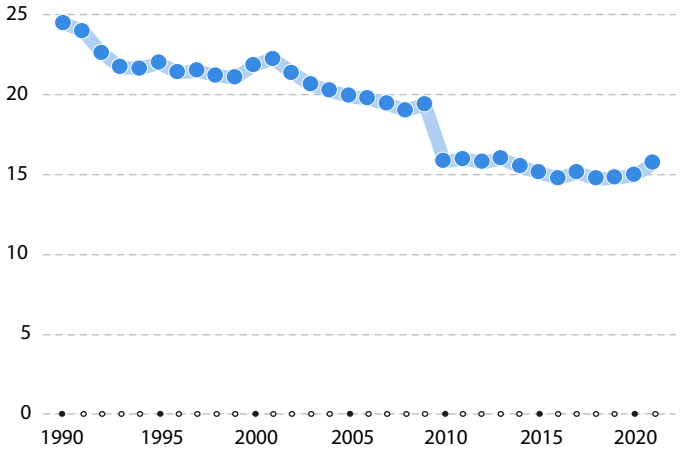


EU share of world air freight

(%, based on tonne-km, EU, 1990–2021)

Worldwide, the quantity of air freight transported increased from 56.1 billion tonne-km in 1990 to 219.5 billion tonne-km by 2019. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the quantity of freight transported by air fell 16.9% to 182.5 billion tonne-km in 2020. A year later, the global volume of air freight transport almost completely rebounded, rising to 219.2 billion tonne-km.

EU carriers saw their share of the world's air freight decline most years between 1990 and 2010, falling from 24.5% to 15.8%. Thereafter, their share remained relatively stable, even during the pandemic. In 2021, EU carriers accounted for 15.7% of global air freight transport.



Note: data refer to freight carried by air carriers registered in the EU countries.1990–2018, excluding Denmark and Sweden.

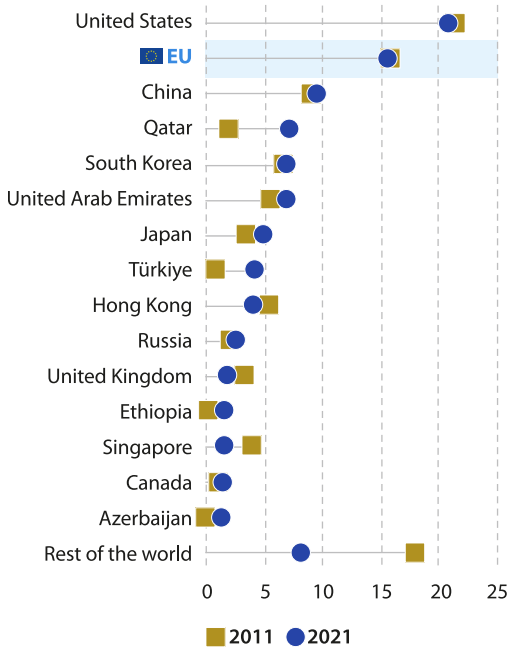
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_gooc)

World air freight

(% , based on tonne-km, 2011 and 2021)

In 2021, carriers from the United States accounted for more than a fifth (21.0%) of the world's air freight transport, while Chinese carriers had a 9.6% share. Carriers from 12 other non-EU countries had shares of more than 1.0%, with relatively high shares for carriers from Qatar (7.2%), South Korea (7.0%) and the United Arab Emirates (7.0%). Considering EU countries individually, carriers from Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and France would also rank among those with at least 1.0% of world air freight transport in 2021.

Between 2011 and 2021, carriers from Qatar and Türkiye saw their share of the world's air freight transport grow at a relatively rapid pace, increasing by 5.3 and 3.4 percentage points, respectively. By contrast, carriers from Singapore recorded the largest decrease, as their share of the world's air freight transport fell 2.3 points, while carriers from the United Kingdom and Hong Kong also registered falls of more than 1.0 point.



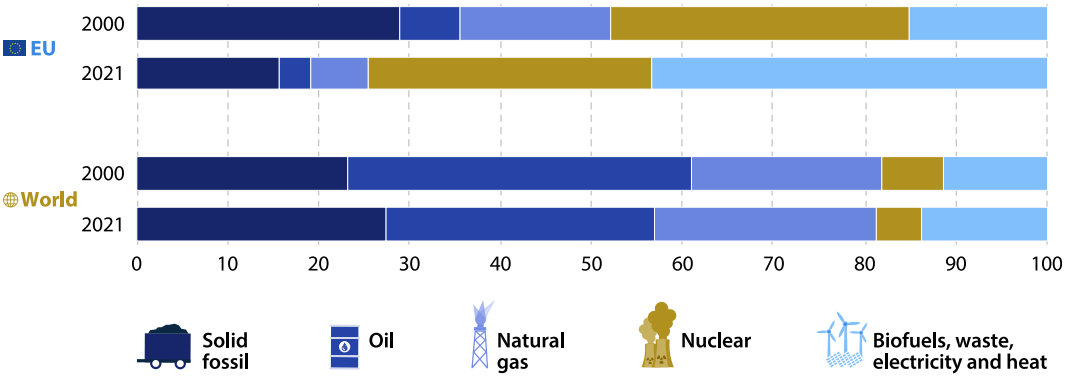
Note: data refer to freight carried by air carriers registered in each country (or in the EU). Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world air freight in 2021. EU: 2011 excluding Denmark and Sweden.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_gooc)

Energy production and trade

Structure of primary production of energy

(%, 2000 and 2021)



Note: solid fossil fuels includes oil shales/sands and peat. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Dashboards)

Primary production of energy is any extraction of energy products in a useable form from natural sources. This includes the exploitation in coal mines, crude oil fields, hydro power plants or other renewable energy sources (such as geothermal, wind or solar energy), or the production of biofuels.

In 2021, fossil fuels contributed 26.5% of the EU's primary production of energy. Solid fossil fuels – such as coal – accounted for the largest share (17.0%), followed by natural gas (6.2%) and oil (3.3%). In comparison, fossil fuels accounted for 81.2% of the world's primary production of energy, with a prominent role for oil (29.5%), solid fossil fuels (27.4%) and natural gas (24.4%).

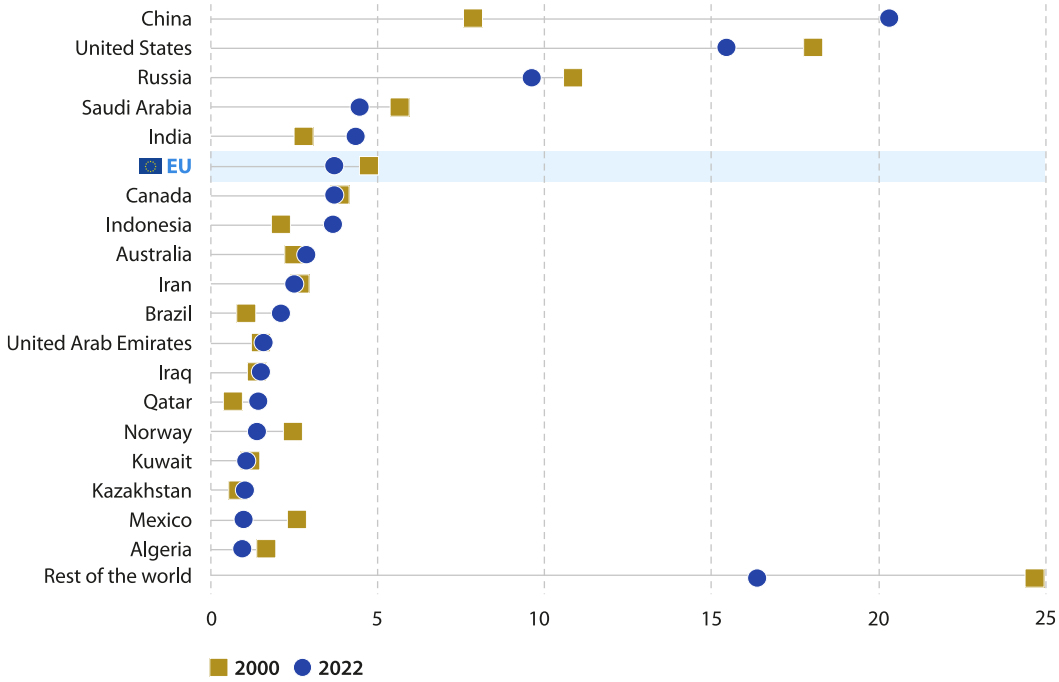
Nuclear energy provided 27.6% of the EU's primary production of energy in 2021, surpassing the share of fossil fuels. By contrast, nuclear energy provided a much lower share of the world's primary production of energy, at 5.0%.

Biofuels, waste, electricity and heat contributed almost half (45.8%) of the EU's primary production of energy, which was the highest share among the 5 energy sources illustrated. By contrast, this source provided a relatively low share of the world's primary production, at 13.8%.

Between 2000 and 2021, the contribution of all fossil fuels to the EU's primary production of energy declined rapidly, while the share of nuclear energy decreased more slowly. Consequently, the relative importance of biofuels, waste, electricity and heat increased substantially. Globally, the mix of energy sources changed less, with decreases for oil and nuclear and increases for the other energy sources.

Primary production of energy

(% of world primary production, 2000 and 2022)



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world primary production of energy in 2022. More recent data are available for the EU.

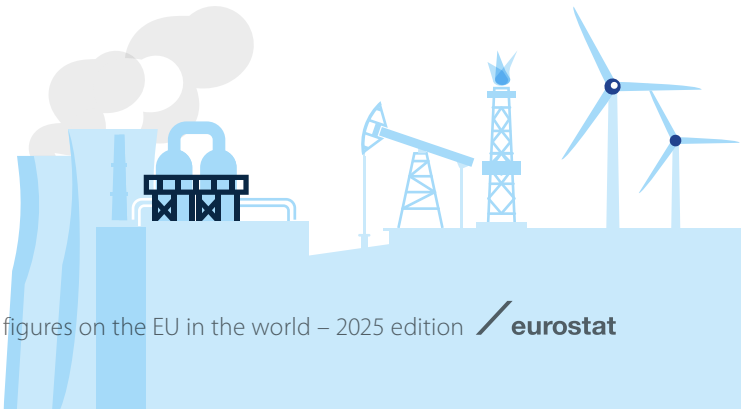
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Yearbook)

In 2022, the EU produced 24 billion gigajoules (GJ) of primary energy, accounting for 3.8% of the world's total primary production of 627 billion GJ.

China was the world's largest primary producer of energy in 2022, with a 20.4% share of the total. The United States (15.5%) was the only other country producing more than a tenth of global production; Russia was the next largest producer, with a 9.7% share. Additionally, 15 other non-EU countries each contributed at least 1.0% of global production, including

- oil and natural gas producers like Saudi Arabia, Canada and Iran
- coal producers like Indonesia and Australia
- biofuels and fossil fuels producers like India and Brazil.

Between 2000 and 2022, the EU's share of the world's primary energy production fell 1.0 percentage points. During the same period, the United States' share fell 2.6 points, while Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Norway also recorded larger declines than the EU. By contrast, China recorded a very rapid increase in its share of the world's primary production of energy, up 12.5 points; Indonesia, India and Brazil also recorded increases of at least 1.0 point.



Imports and exports of energy

(% of world trade, 2022)

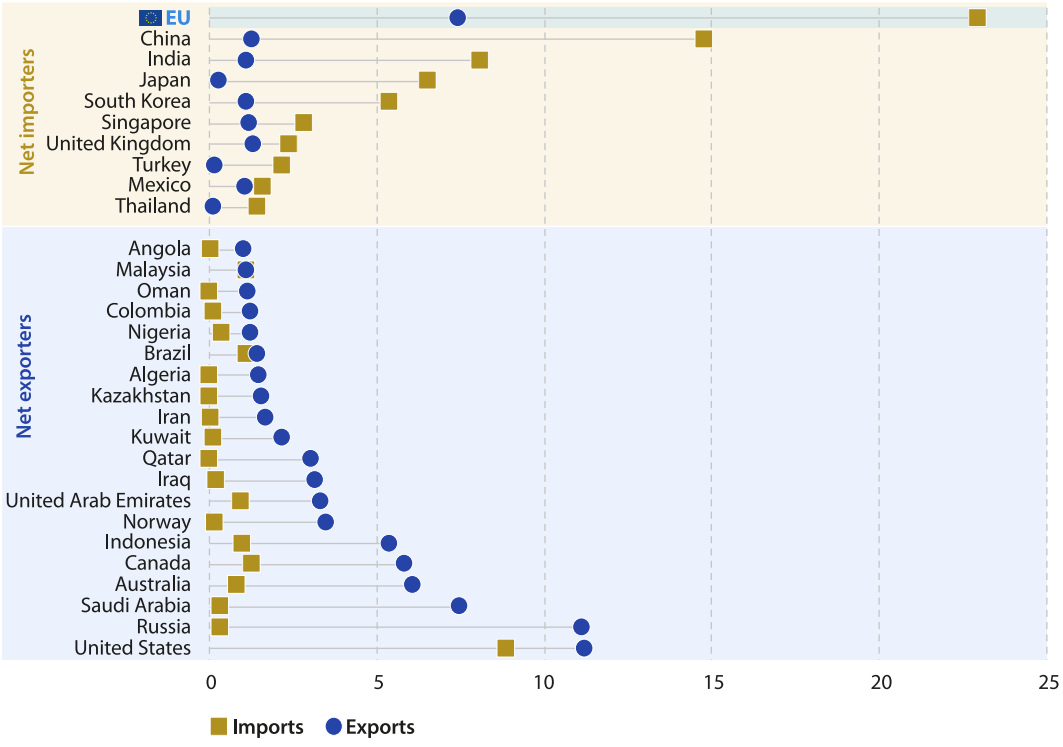
In 2022, the EU imported 54 billion GJ of energy, while its exports were 18 billion GJ. These values represented, respectively, 22.9% and 7.5% of world trade in energy.

Among non-EU countries, China accounted for the highest share of global energy imports (14.8% of the total in 2022), followed by the United States (8.9%), India (8.1%), Japan (6.5%) and South Korea (5.4%). Ten other non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0% of global energy imports. Considering EU countries individually, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Spain, Belgium and Poland would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0% of global energy imports.

Russia and the United States recorded the highest shares of global energy exports (they both accounted for 11.2% of the total in 2022), followed by Saudi Arabia (7.5%), Australia (6.1%), Canada (5.8%) and Indonesia (5.4%). Twenty other non-EU countries (mainly producing fossil fuels) accounted for at least 1.0% of global energy onsidering EU countries individually, the Netherlands would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0% of global energy exports.

In 2022, the EU's net energy imports were greater than for any non-EU country; China, India, Japan and South Korea also had relatively high net imports. By contrast, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and Indonesia were the leading net exporters of energy.

The main difference between levels of primary energy production and total energy supply is international trade: compared with demand, a shortfall of production needs to be met by net imports (the balance of imports minus exports) while net exports accompany a production surplus.



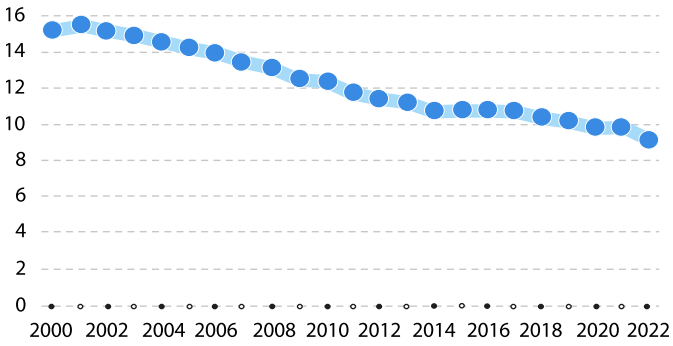
Note: net importers ranked on imports; net exporters ranked on exports. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of global exports and/or imports of energy. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Yearbook)

Energy supply and consumption

EU share of world total energy supply

(%, EU, 2000–22)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Dashboards and Energy Statistics Yearbook)

The total energy supply is the amount of energy needed to meet a territory's internal energy demands; therefore, it excludes energy for international aviation and maritime bunkers. The supply typically comes from primary production and net imports but can also include changes in stocks and recovered or recycled products.

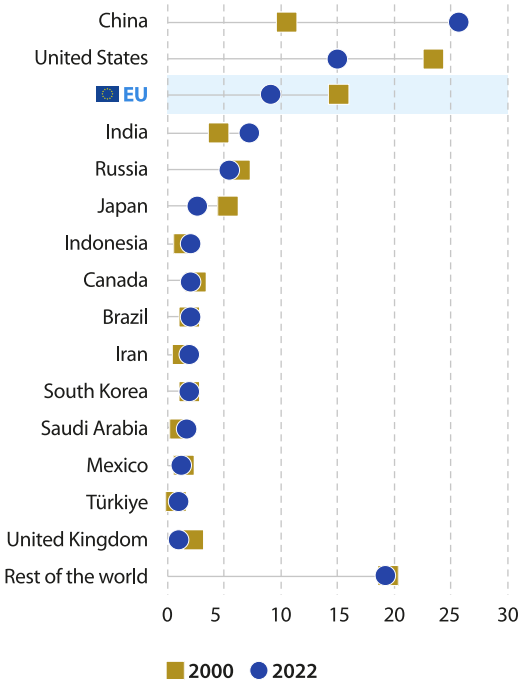
In 2022, the global total energy supply was 604 billion GJ, with 55 billion GJ in the EU. The EU's share of the world's total energy supply fell most years between 2000 and 2022, down from 15.2% to 9.1%.

World total energy supply

(%, 2000 and 2022)

In 2022, China (25.7%) and the United States (15.1%) had higher shares of the world's total energy supply than the EU (9.1%); there were 12 other non-EU countries that accounted for at least 1.0%. Considering EU countries individually, Germany, France and Italy would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0% of the world's total energy supply.

Between 2000 and 2022, the United States, the EU, Japan and the United Kingdom all saw their shares of the world's total energy supply fall by at least 1.0 percentage points. By contrast, China's share more than doubled, increasing 15.2 points, while India also recorded a relatively large increase, up 2.8 points.

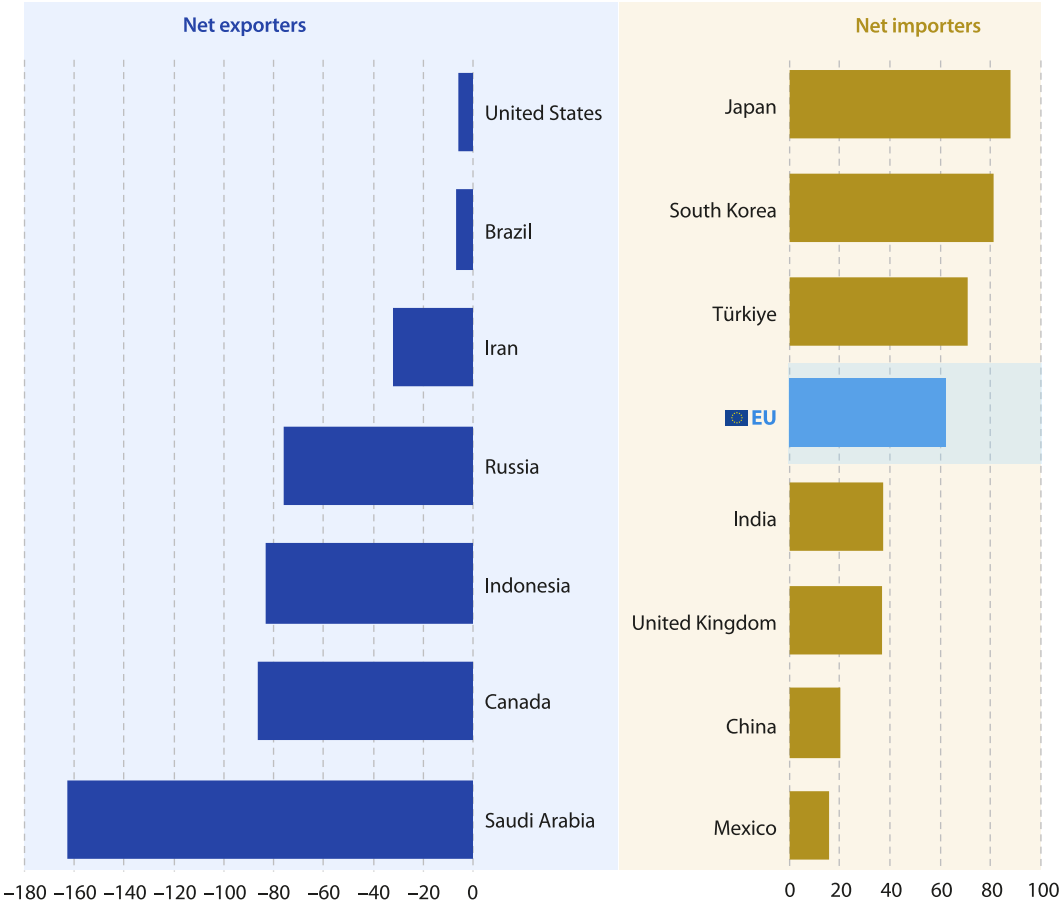


Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world total energy supply in 2022. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Yearbook)

Energy dependency rate

(%, 2022)



Note: different scales used for the two parts of the figure. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world total energy supply. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Yearbook)

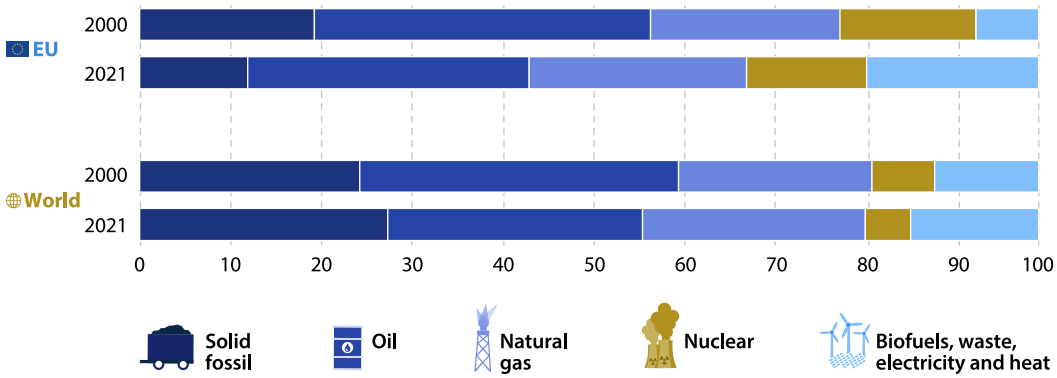
The energy dependency rate shows the extent to which net imports are important for meeting a country's energy needs. Positive energy dependency rates indicate net importers, whereas negative rates reflect net exporters.

In 2022, the EU's energy dependency rate was 62.5%, meaning that close to two thirds of the energy available in the EU came from net imports.

Among the 14 non-EU countries that accounted for at least 1.0% of the world's total energy supply in 2022, Japan (87.8%), South Korea (81.4%) and Türkiye (70.9%) had higher energy dependency rates than the EU. India, the United Kingdom, China and Mexico also relied on net imports of energy, but to a lesser degree than the EU. Saudi Arabia recorded the largest negative rate, with net exports equivalent to 162.7% of gross available energy. Canada, Indonesia and Russia also recorded large negative rates..

Structure of total energy supply

(%, 2000 and 2021)



Note: solid fossil fuels includes oil shales/sands and peat. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Dashboards)

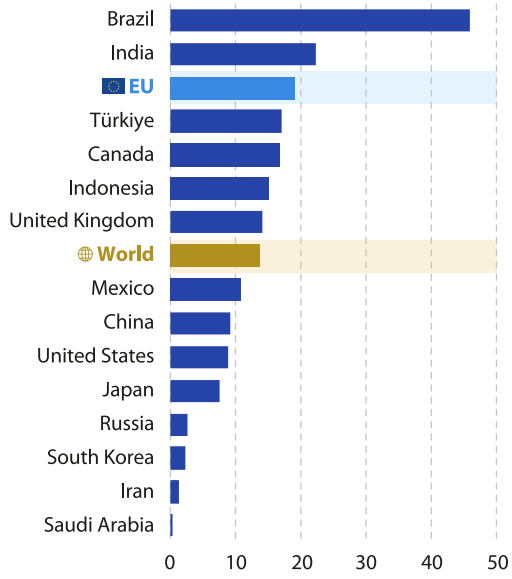
In 2021, fossil fuels contributed approximately two thirds of the EU's total energy supply; oil (31.3%) and natural gas (24.2%) had the highest shares, followed by solid fossil fuels (12.0%). Globally, fossil fuels accounted for 80.7% of the world's total energy supply, with oil (28.4%), solid fossil fuels (27.6%) and natural gas (24.8%) having similar shares. The relative importance of fossil fuels in the world's total energy supply was 2.3 times as high as their share in the EU.

In 2021, biofuels, waste, electricity and heat contributed 19.2% to the EU's total energy supply, which was somewhat higher than the global average (14.2%). Nuclear energy provided 13.3% of the EU's total energy supply, which was 2.6 times as high as the global average (5.0%).

Between 2000 and 2021, the EU became less dependent on nuclear energy, oil and solid fossil fuels for its energy supply. By contrast, the relative importance of biofuels, waste, electricity and heat grew at a rapid pace, their share of total energy supply close to trebling. The share of natural gas also increased, although at a much slower pace.

Renewables as a share of total energy supply

(%, 2022)



Renewable energy sources are energy sources that replenish (or renew) themselves naturally. They include renewables that provide heat or electricity (hydropower; tide, wave, ocean, geothermal, wind and solar energy; and ambient heat) and combustibles (biofuels and renewable municipal waste).

In 2022, renewables accounted for 18.9% of the EU's total energy supply; this share exceeded the global average of 13.9% (2021 data). Among the 14 non-EU countries that accounted for at least 1.0% of the world's total energy supply, only Brazil (46.1%) had more than a quarter of its supply coming from renewables. At the other end of the ranking, renewables accounted for 0.1% of Saudi Arabia's total energy supply.

Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world total energy supply. World average: 2021. More recent data are available for the EU.

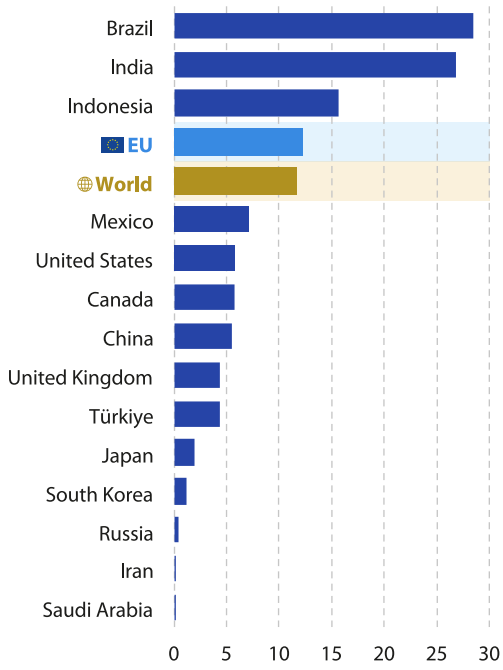
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Balances)

Renewables as a share of final energy consumption

(%, 2022)

End users, such as households, industry and agriculture consume energy: their combined consumption is final energy consumption. This measure excludes energy used by the energy sector itself (including for deliveries and transformation) and non-energy use of energy products.

Renewables accounted for 12.2% of the EU's final energy consumption in 2022; this share was slightly higher than the global average of 11.8% (2021 data). Among non-EU countries, 28.4% of Brazil's final energy consumption came from renewables (for example, biofuels in the form of ethanol or biodiesel), with the next highest shares in India (26.8%) and Indonesia (15.7%).



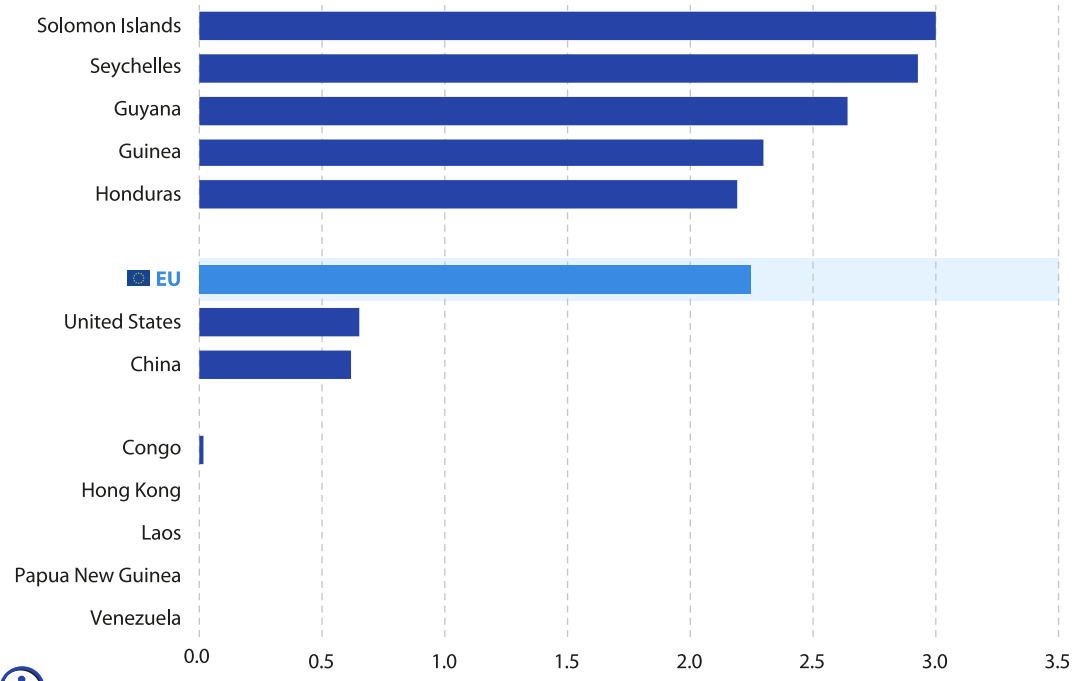
Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world final energy consumption. World average: 2021. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Balances)

Environment

Environment related taxes relative to GDP

(%, 2021)



An environmental tax is a tax on activities or items with a proven, specific negative impact on the environment. Examples include taxes on energy, transport, and pollution.

Note: data are presented for the EU, China, the United States and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest ratio of environment related taxes to GDP. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

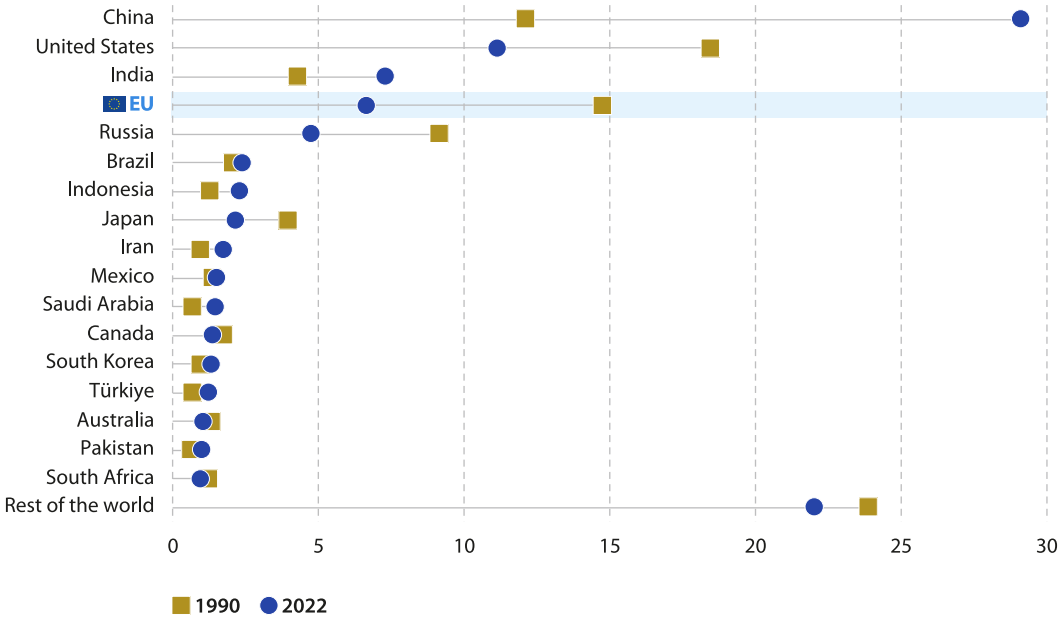
Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_tax) and the OECD (Green Growth)

In 2021, EU countries raised €330 billion of revenue from environmental taxes, equivalent to 2.25% of their GDP. For comparison, the United States generated 0.65% of GDP from such taxes, while China had a ratio of 0.62%. There were 4 non-EU countries that had higher ratios of environmental tax revenues to GDP than the EU: the Solomon Islands, the Seychelles, Guyana and Guinea.

Considering EU countries individually, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, the Netherlands and Italy would rank among the 5 countries in the world with the highest rates of environmental taxes; 13 more EU countries had rates higher than in 1 or more of the top 5 non-EU countries. In 4 countries – Hong Kong, Laos, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela – there were negligible or no environmental taxes.

Greenhouse gas emissions

(% of world greenhouse gas emissions, 1990 and 2022)



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world greenhouse gas emissions excluding land use, land-use change and forestry in 2022.

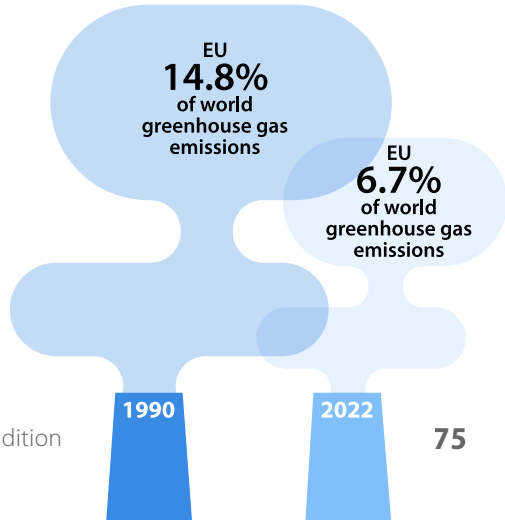
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators) based on data from the EDGAR (Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research) Community GHG Database, a collaboration between the European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA)

To enable comparisons and aggregations, statisticians convert emissions of different greenhouse gases to carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalents based on their global warming potential.

The World Bank (based on data from the EDGAR database) estimates that global greenhouse gas emissions totalled 53.8 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalents in 2022.

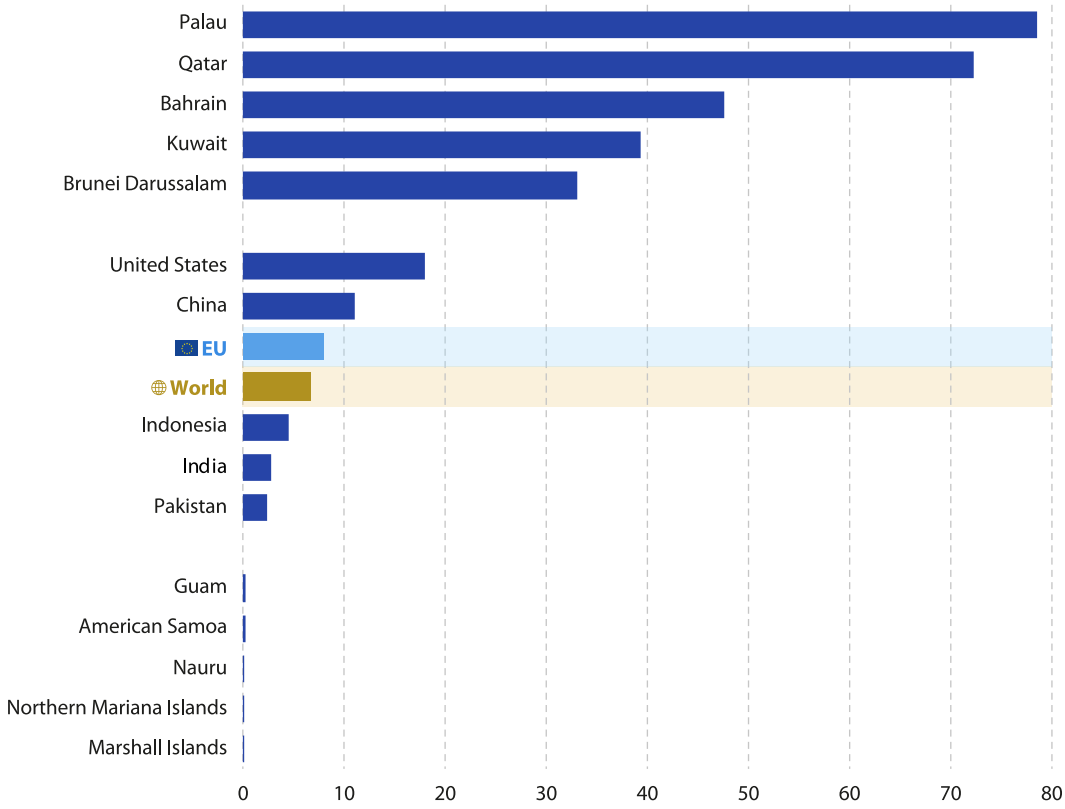
The EU accounted for a 6.7% share of the world's greenhouse gas emissions in 2022. China alone contributed 29.1% to global emissions, which was 2.6 times as high as the share of the United States (11.2%). India had the third highest share (7.3%) among the 16 non-EU countries that each accounted for at least 1.0% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Considering EU countries individually, Germany would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Between 1990 and 2022, the EU's share of global greenhouse gas emissions fell by more than half, from 14.8% to 6.7% (a decrease of 8.1 percentage points). The United States' share decreased by 7.3 points and Russia's by 4.4 points. China recorded the biggest increase, more than doubling its share of global emissions from 12.2% to 29.1%, an increase of 17.0 points; India's share increased 3.0 points.



Greenhouse gas emissions relative to population size

(tonnes of CO_2 equivalents per inhabitant, 2022)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest greenhouse gas emissions excluding land use, land-use change and forestry relative to population size.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators) based on data from the EDGAR (Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research) Community GHG Database, a collaboration between the European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA)

The intensity of greenhouse gas emissions is a ratio of emissions relative to population size. In 2022, EU inhabitants generated an average of 8.0 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents of greenhouse gas emissions each; this was about a fifth more than the global average of 6.6 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents per person.

Among the most populous countries in the world, greenhouse gas emissions per inhabitant were less than 5.0 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents in Pakistan, India and Indonesia. However, emissions were as high as 11.1 tonnes and 18.0 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, respectively, in China and the United States.

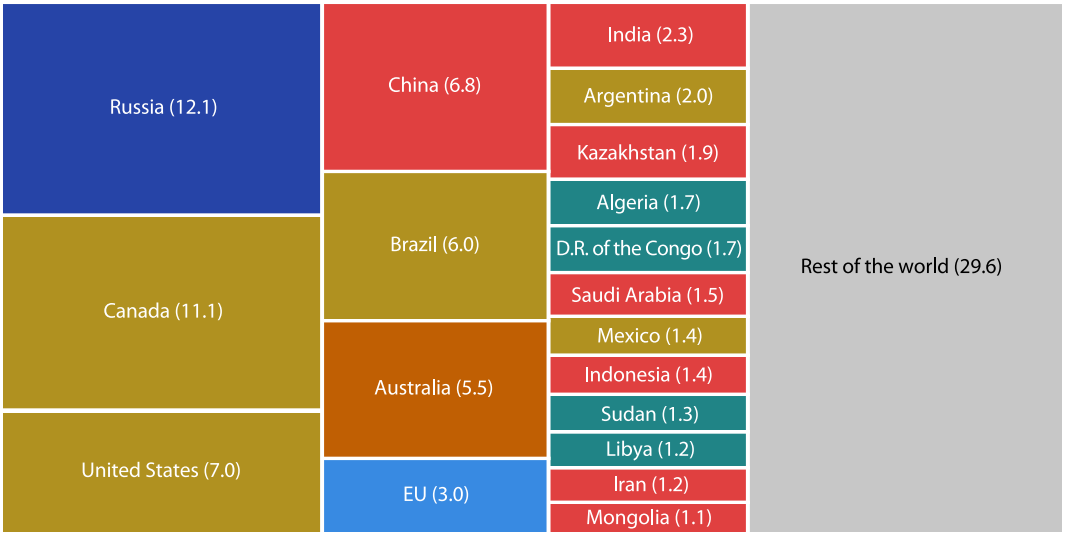
Oil and gas producing countries in Western Asia, such as Qatar and Bahrain, were among the non-EU countries with some of the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions per person in 2022 (72.2 and 47.5 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents per person, respectively). Although several island nations in the Pacific – the Marshall Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, Nauru, American Samoa and Guam – had the lowest emission intensities, another – Palau – had the highest.

Land and land use

Total area

(% of world total area, 2022)

There are 2 main measures that define the size of a territory: its total area and its land area. The latter excludes inland waters, such as lakes, rivers and transitional waters.

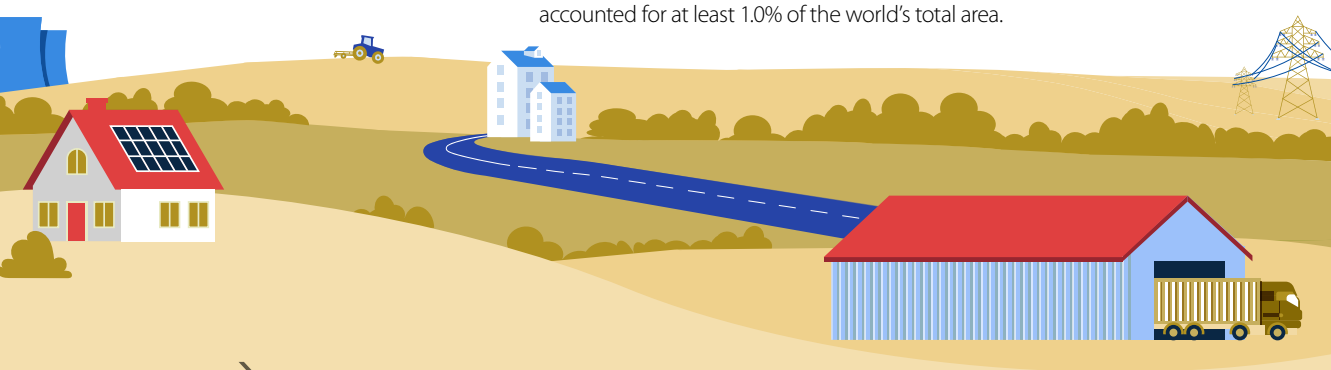


Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of the world's total area. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: reg_area3) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Land use)

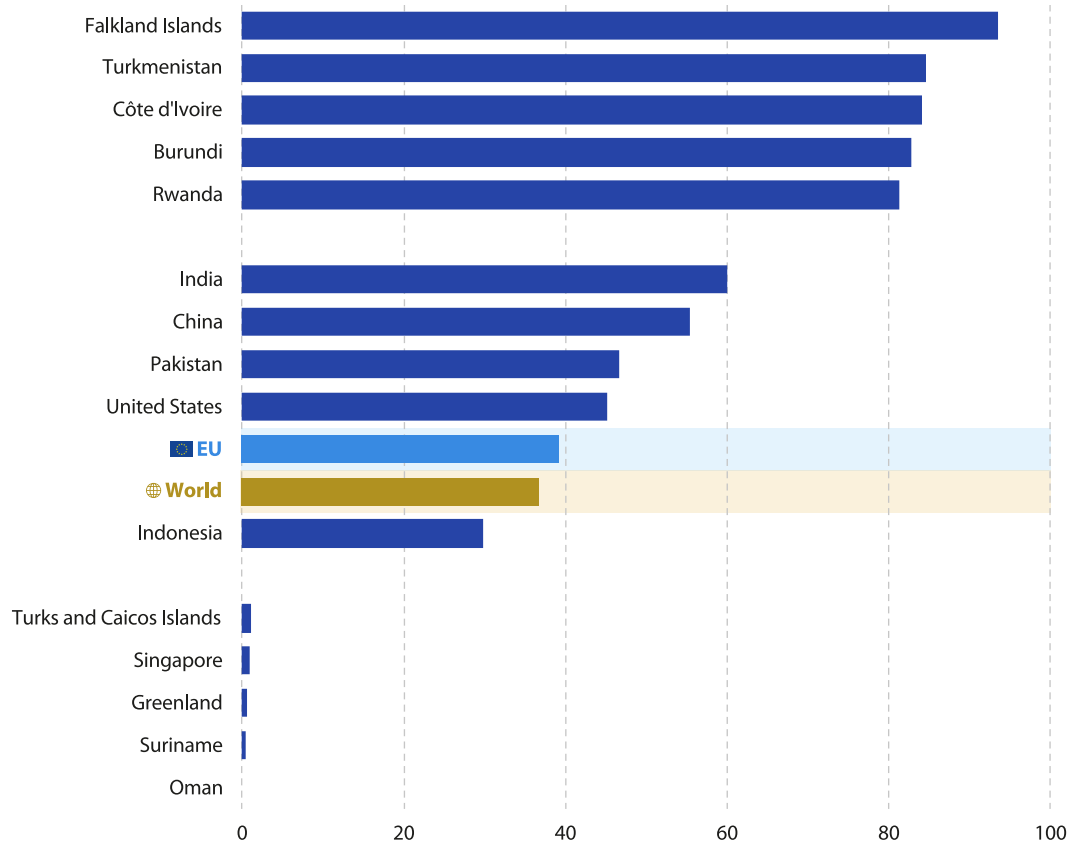
The total area of all countries in the world is estimated at 140.8 million km^2 or slightly more than a quarter of the Earth's surface. Land makes up the vast majority of the total area, as inland waters account for 3.0%.

In 2022, the EU covered a total area of 4.2 million km^2, making up 3.0% of the world's total area. Russia was the largest country in the world, with a 12.1% share, followed by Canada (11.1%), the United States (7.0%) and China (6.8%). Brazil and Australia were the only other countries that were larger in area than the EU. Twelve other non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0% of the world's total area.



Land used for agriculture

(% of land area, 2022)



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the 5 most populous countries and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest/lowest shares of land area used for agriculture.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_cpsh1 and reg_area3) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Land use)

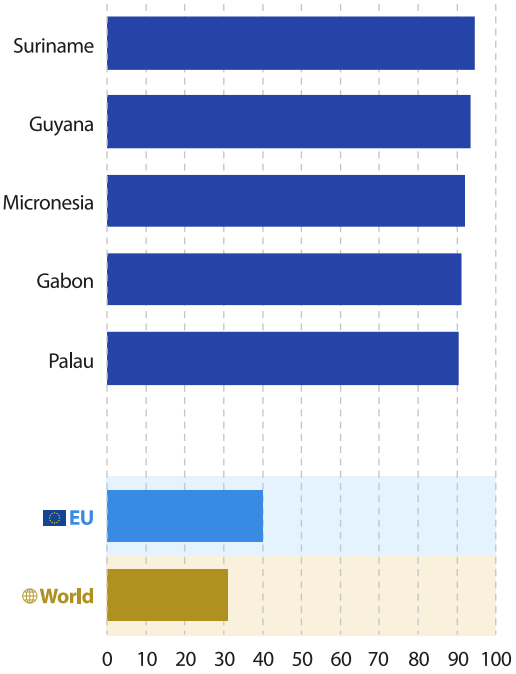
Across the world, agriculture is one of the principal uses of land. In 2022, the world's agricultural area covered 47.8 million km^2 (4.78 billion hectares), which equated to 36.7% of the world's land area. The EU's agricultural area totalled 1.61 million km^2 (161 million hectares), 39.1% of its land area, which was slightly higher than the global average. Among the 5 most populous countries in the world, the share of land used for agriculture in 2022 ranged from 29.8% in Indonesia to 60.0% in India.

Agriculture covered more than three quarters of the total land area in 12 non-EU countries. The Falkland Islands had the highest share at 93.5%, while the other countries in this group were in Central and Western Asia, Africa and South America.

The countries with the lowest shares of land used for agriculture were quite diverse. Oman has a large desert area, Greenland has a large ice coverage, Suriname is mainly forested and Singapore is almost exclusively urbanised.

Land area covered by forests

(% of land area, 2022)



Along with their economic and recreational functions, forests impact water resources, stabilise the Earth's climate, and provide shelter/habitats to animal and plant life. In 2022, forests covered an area of 40.5 million km^2 globally, equivalent to 31.1% of the world's land area. The EU's forest area totalled 1.60 million km^2, 39.9% of its land area.

In 2022, forests covered more than 80.0% of the land area in 8 non-EU countries. The neighbouring South American countries of Suriname and Guyana had the highest shares, at 94.5% and 93.5%, respectively. There was no forest area in 7 non-EU countries: the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, the Holy See, Monaco, Nauru, Qatar and Tokelau.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the highest shares of land area covered by forests.

Source: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Land use)

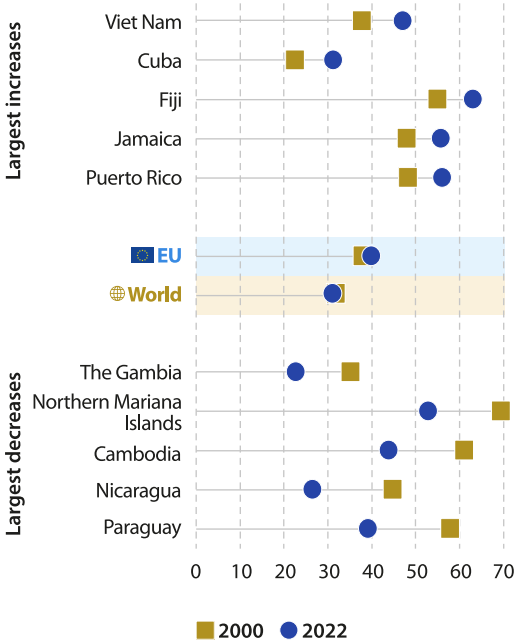
Land area covered by forests

(% of land area, 2000 and 2022)

Across the globe, the ratio of forest to land area decreased by 0.9 percentage points between 2000 and 2022; the ratio in the EU increased by 1.9 points. During this period, Viet Nam in South-Eastern Asia and Cuba in the Caribbean recorded the largest increases in their share of land covered by forests. By contrast, 7 countries recorded a decrease of at least 10.0 points: Paraguay and Nicaragua (South and central America), Cambodia and Myanmar/Burma (South-Eastern Asia), the Northern Mariana Islands (Oceania), The Gambia and Tanzania (Africa).

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 5 non-EU countries with the largest increases/decreases (in percentage point terms) in the forest share of land.

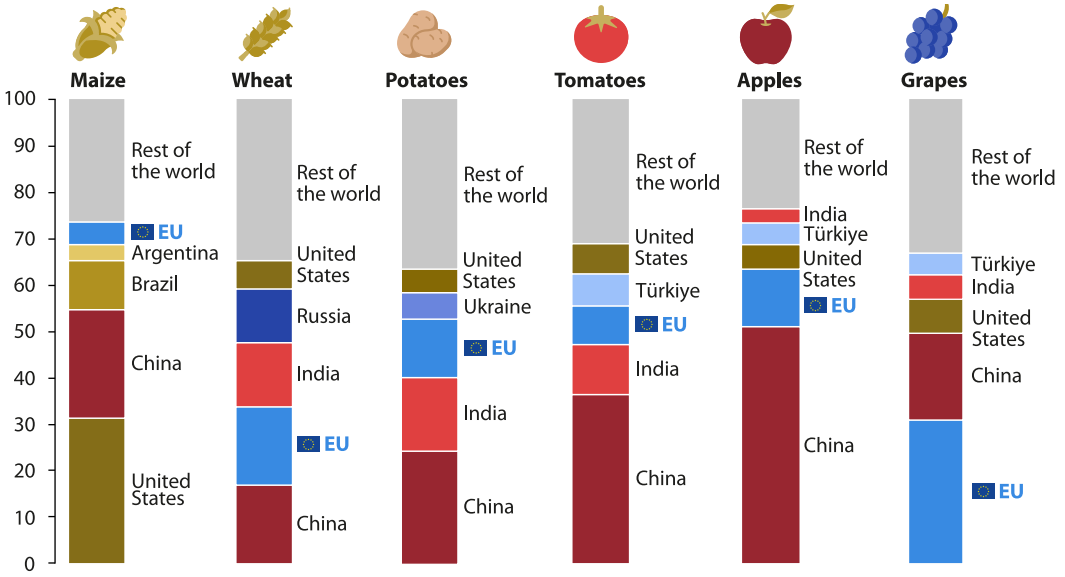
Source: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Land use)



Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Production of selected crops

(% of world production, based on tonnes, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the EU and the 4 non-EU countries with the highest levels of harvested production. More recent data are available for the EU for maize and potatoes.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_cpsh1) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Crops and livestock products)

In 2023, global production of maize and wheat stood at 1 242 and 799 million tonnes, respectively. The EU contributed 4.9% of the world's maize harvest, which was considerably less than the 31.4% and 23.3% shares of the United States and China. The EU's share of global wheat production stood at 16.7%, just behind China's 17.1% leading share.

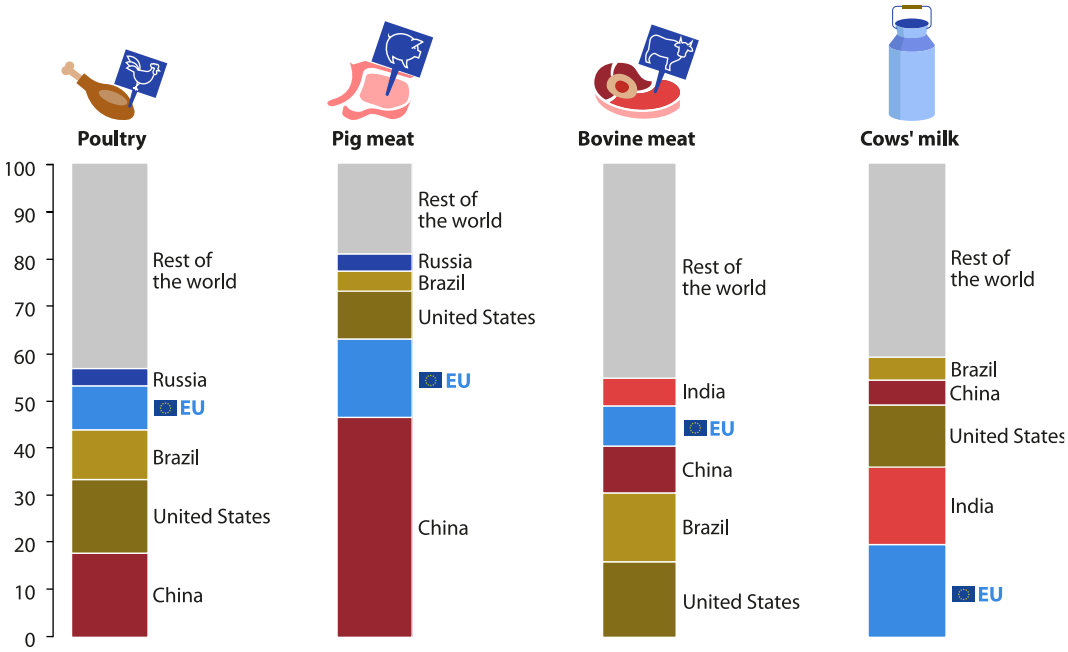
Globally, potato and tomato production totalled 383 and 192 million tonnes, respectively, in 2023. The EU's potato harvest contributed 12.6% to the world total, the third highest share behind China (24.4%) and India (15.7%). The EU was also the third largest producer of tomatoes in the world, with an 8.3% share of the global total, once again behind China (36.5%) and India (10.6%).

For apples and grapes, global production stood at 97.3 and 72.5 million tonnes, respectively, in 2023. China harvested more than half (51.0%) of the world's apple crop, while the EU had the second highest share, at 12.4%. Considering EU countries individually, Poland would rank among the 4 countries in the world with the largest apple harvests.

The EU was the world's leading producer of grapes, accounting for almost a third (31.0%) of the global harvest. Considering EU countries individually, Italy and France would both rank among the 4 largest grape-producing countries in the world, with their share of the global grape harvest behind that of China (18.6% of the world total).

Production of meat and milk

(% of world production, based on tonnes, 2023)



Note: data are presented for the EU and the 4 non-EU countries with the highest levels of meat and milk production. EU: meat production in slaughterhouses only. Poultry: estimate made for the purpose of this publication. More recent data are available for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mt_pann and apro_mk_farm) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Crops and livestock products)

Statistics on meat production measure the carcass weight of slaughtered animals whose meat is fit for human consumption.

Statistics on milk production measure the farm production of milk, including milk used as cattle feed, for own consumption, direct sale and milk collected by dairies.

In 2023, global production of meat from poultry, pigs and bovines stood at 144 million tonnes, 125 million tonnes and 77 million tonnes, respectively.

The EU accounted for 9.3% of the world's production of poultrymeat in 2023, which was a smaller share than Brazil (10.4%), the United States (15.6%) or China (17.8%).

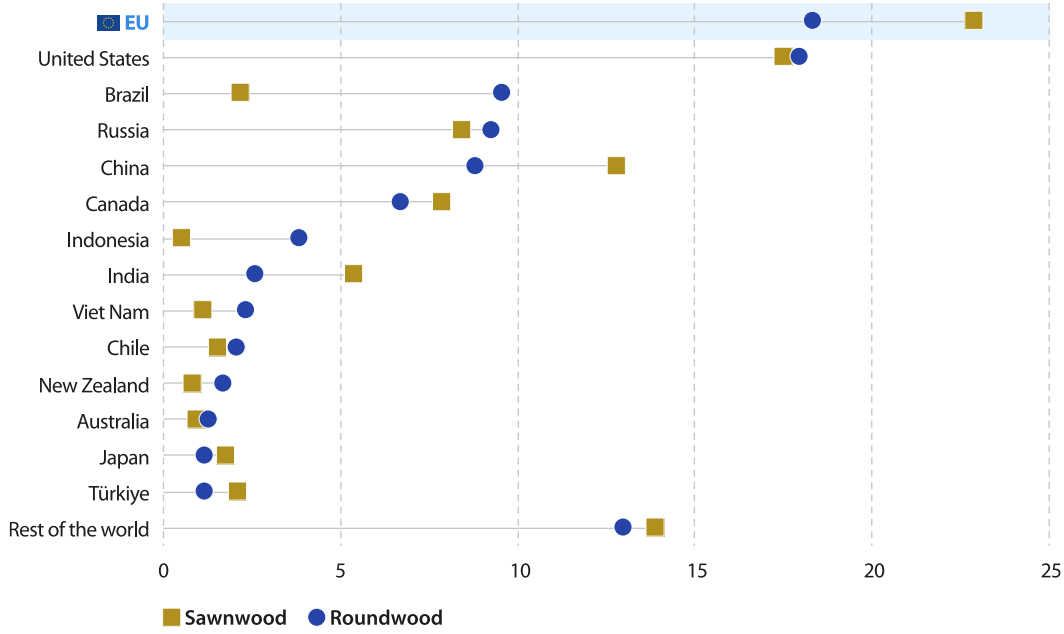
In 2023, the EU contributed 16.6% of the world's production of pigmeat; this was the second highest share worldwide, with China accounting for almost half (46.5%) of all global production. Considering EU countries individually, Spain would rank among the 4 countries in the world with the largest production of pigmeat, ahead of Russia.

In 2023, the United States (16.0% of the world total), Brazil (14.6%) and China (9.8%) had the highest shares of global meat production from bovines, while the EU contributed the fourth highest share (8.3% of world production).

In 2023, the production of cows' milk reached 783 million tonnes worldwide. The EU led global production, contributing around a fifth (19.7%) of the total, while India and the United States had 16.2% and 13.1% shares, respectively.

Production of wood

(% of world production, based on cubic metres, 2023)



Note: ranked on roundwood. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world production (roundwood and sawnwood combined). Data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data codes: for_basic and for_swpan).

Source: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Forestry Production and Trade)

Roundwood production (also known as removals) comprises all quantities of wood removed from forests, other wooded land, or other tree felling sites. Sawmills produce sawnwood either by sawing lengthways or by a profile-chipping process; with a few exceptions, this process produces sawnwood that is thicker than 6 mm.

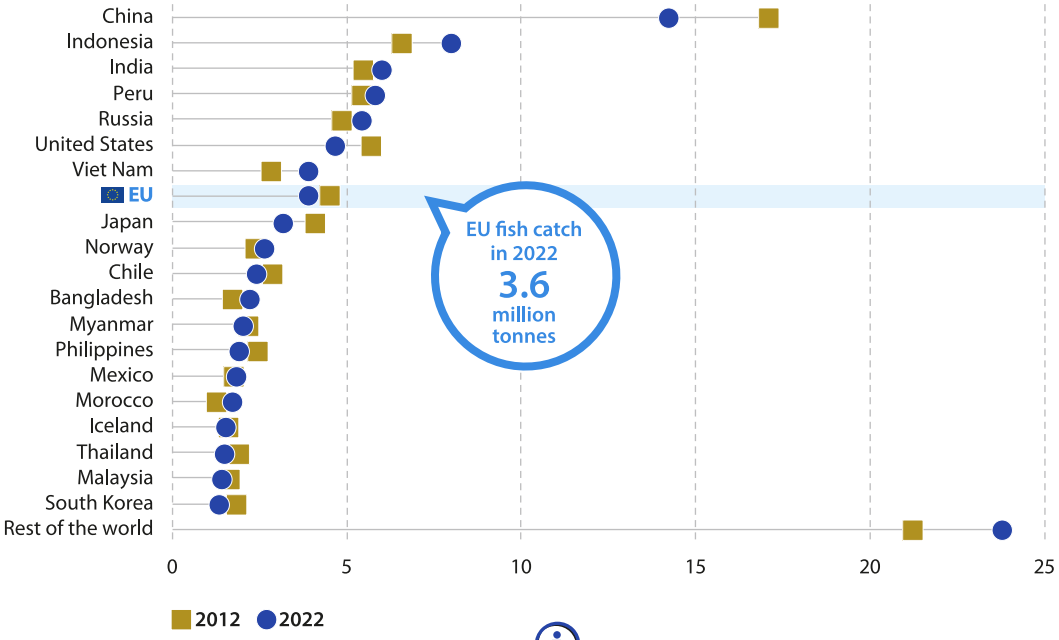
In 2023, the world produced 1.92 billion m^3 of roundwood. The EU's roundwood production was 353 million m^3, thereby accounting for nearly a fifth (18.4%) of the global total. The United States, with a slightly lower share of 18.0%, was the only non-EU country to record a double-digit share, while Brazil (9.6%), Russia (9.3%), China (8.8%) and Canada (6.7%) had relatively similar shares.

The EU is the world's leading producer of sawnwood: in 2023, its sawnwood production was 102 million m^3, equivalent to 22.9% of the global total (445 million m^3). The United States and China were the second and third largest producers of sawnwood, with 17.5% and 12.8% of the world total, respectively; no other non-EU country recorded a double-digit share.

In 2023, 13 non-EU countries produced at least 1.0% of the world's combined output of roundwood and sawnwood. Considering EU countries individually, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland and France would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0% of global roundwood and sawnwood production.

Fish catch

(% of world fish catch, based on tonnes, 2012 and 2022)



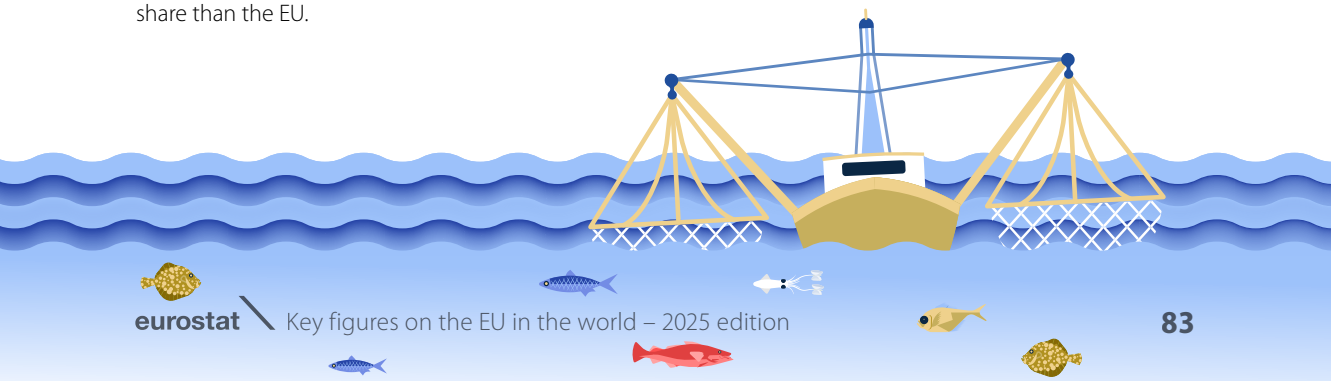
Note: including fish, crustaceans, molluscs and similar; excluding marine mammals, crocodiles, corals, pearls, mother-of-pearl, sponges and aquatic plants. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world fish capture in 2022. Data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main).

Source: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Global Capture Production)

The fish catch includes catches of fishery products such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs and similar. It covers offshore, inshore and inland fishing, and measures quantities based on the live weight equivalent of the landed weight.

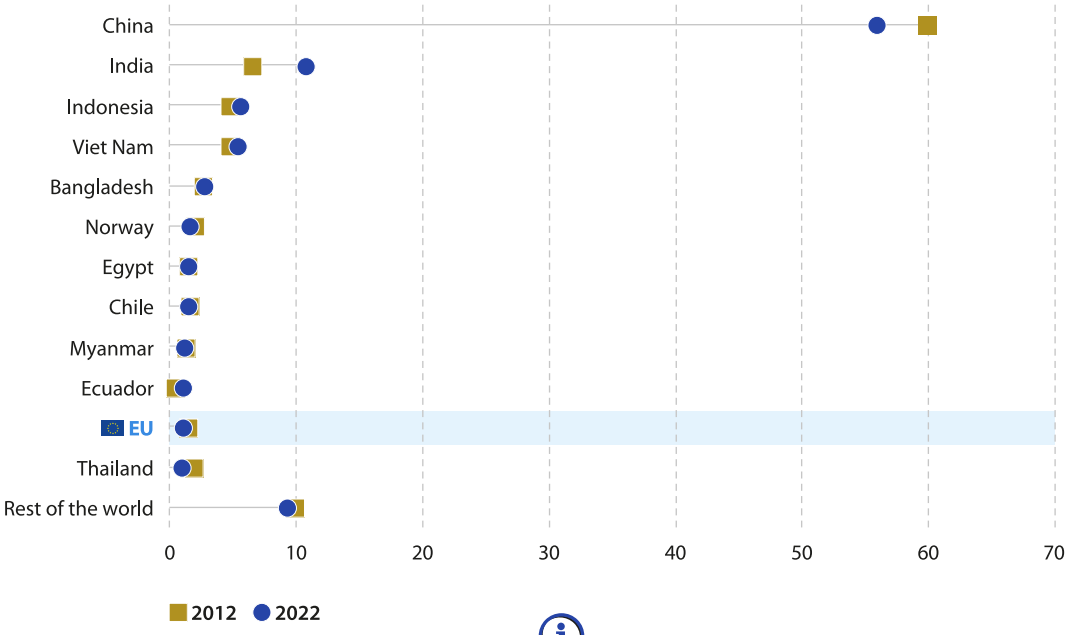
In 2022, the total fish catch worldwide was 91.0 million tonnes. The EU's fish catch was 3.6 million tonnes, equivalent to 3.9% of the global total. There were 7 non-EU countries that caught larger quantities of fish than the EU: China (14.3% of the world total), Indonesia (8.0%), India (6.0%), Peru (5.8%), Russia (5.5%), the United States (4.7%) and Viet Nam (3.9%). A further 12 non-EU countries caught at least 1.0% of the world's total catch, but a smaller share than the EU.

Between 2012 and 2022, the global fish catch grew by 2.7%. The EU's share of the total catch decreased by 0.6 percentage points during this period. China recorded a larger decrease (down 2.9 points), as did the United States (down 1.0 points) and Japan (down 0.9 points). Indonesia (up 1.4 points) and Viet Nam (up 1.1 points) recorded the largest increases in their respective shares of the world's fish catch.



Aquaculture production

(% of world production, based on tonnes, 2012 and 2022)



Note: including fish, crustaceans, molluscs and similar; excluding aquatic plants, pearls and mother-of-pearl. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0% of world aquaculture production in 2022. Data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: fish_aq2a).

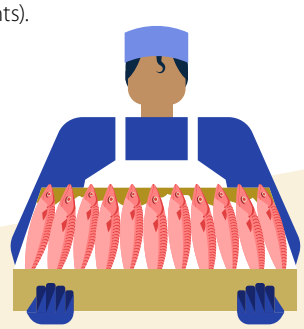
Source: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Global Aquaculture Production)

Fish farming or aquaculture is the farming of aquatic (freshwater or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs and crustaceans, for human use or consumption, under controlled conditions.

In 2022, global aquaculture production of animals stood at 94.4 million tonnes, surpassing the world's fish catch by 3.7%. The EU produced 1.1 million tonnes of aquaculture animals, accounting for 1.2% of the global total. Aquaculture production in the EU was equivalent to less than a third (31.4%) of its fish catch.

China dominated aquaculture production of animals, accounting for 56.0% of global output in 2022. Nine other non-EU countries recorded higher levels of aquaculture production than the EU: this group included 6 countries in Asia (including those with the 5 highest shares), as well as Norway, Egypt, Chile and Ecuador.

Between 2012 and 2022, world aquaculture production grew 48.7%. Over the same period, the EU's share of global production fell by 0.4 percentage points. Among non-EU countries contributing at least 1.0% of global aquaculture production, China (down 4.0 points) and Thailand (down 0.9 points) observed larger decreases in their respective shares than the EU. India recorded the most substantial increase (up 4.2 points), followed at some distance by Indonesia (up 0.9 points).



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