Key figures on the EU in the world

2023 edition

KEY FIGURES

eurostat

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2023 edition

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This document should not be considered as representative of the European Commission's official position.

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Kosovo – this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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Foreword

The first Eurostat publication to carry the title *The EU in the world* was a special edition, produced in 2010 for World Statistics Day. *Key figures on the EU in the world 2023* is the seventh edition of this publication. The content and structure have been revised each year: for this edition, the style of presentation has been changed, the list of indicators has been revised and the selection of non-EU countries is no longer fixed (as in the past).

Key figures on the EU in the world provides a selection of statistics on the European Union – considered as a single entity – in comparison with many countries from across the globe, from the smallest to the largest.

Drawing from the vast amount of data available at Eurostat and from other international sources, we aim to give an insight into EU society, economy and environment as compared with other parts of the 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

This publication provides a statistical portrait of the European Union in relation to other parts of the world. It is structured into three parts: people and society, economy and trade, and environment and natural resources.

It complements information found in two of Eurostat's flagship publications, *Key figures on Europe* and the *Eurostat regional yearbook*, as well as a large number of articles available from Eurostat's *Statistics Explained* web portal. *Key figures on the EU in the world 2023* may be viewed as an introduction to EU and international statistics and provides a starting point for those who wish to explore the wide range of data that are freely available from Eurostat's website and a variety of international organisations.

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This publication was produced by Giovanni Albertone, Simon Allen and Andrew Redpath – INFORMA s.à r.l.

Data extraction period

The data presented within this publication were extracted during July and August 2022.

An online data code available under most figures can be used to access the most recent data for the EU on Eurostat's website directly; this is supplemented by information on the source(s) used for data concerning non-member countries.

All statements on policies within this publication are given for information purposes only. They do not constitute an official policy position of the European Commission and are not legally binding. To know more about such policies, please consult the European Commission's website at:

https://ec.europa.eu

For more information, please consult

Eurostat's website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Table of contents

Foreword 3
Abstract 4
Introduction 6
1. People and society 9
Population overview 10
Age of population 13
Population change 17
Foreign population in the EU 20
Health and mortality 23
Education and training 26
Labour market 29
Women in parliaments 33
Living conditions 34
Digital society 35
2. Economy and trade 37
Gross domestic product 38
Economic structure 40
Consumer prices 41
Government finances 42
Foreign direct investment 45
International trade – share of world trade 48
Trade between the EU and the rest of the world 50
Tourism 53
Research and development 58
3. Environment and natural resources 59
Transport 60
Energy production and trade 67
Energy supply and consumption 70
Environment 74
Land and land use 77
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries 80

Introduction

Eurostat and the European statistical system

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union (EU), situated in Luxembourg. Its task is to provide the EU with high-quality statistics at a European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions.

Since the creation of a European statistical office in 1952, it has been clear that the planning and implementation of European policies must be based on reliable and comparable statistics. As a result, the European statistical system (ESS) was built up gradually to provide harmonised statistics across the EU. Today, European statistics inform decision-making in all EU policy areas and provide European citizens with trusted information for their daily lives.

The ESS is a partnership between Eurostat and the national statistical offices and other national authorities responsible in each EU Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics; this partnership includes the member countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The ESS also coordinates its work with enlargement countries.

Publication structure

Key figures on the EU in the world provides users of official statistics with a snapshot of the wealth of information that is available on Eurostat's website and the websites of other international organisations. The publication provides a balanced set of indicators, with a broad cross-section of information; it is composed of an introduction and three main parts – people and society, economy and trade, and environment and natural resources.

Data coverage

The publication aims to present information for the EU (the EU of 27 Member States), a world average if available, and/or a selection of other countries and territories from around the world. In most cases, the countries and territories have been selected as having the highest or lowest values for certain indicators, such as being the most populous countries, or having the highest population density. A note under the figures indicates when one or more selection criteria have been applied.

The EU aggregates presented in *Key figures on the EU in the world* include information for all 27 EU Member States or estimates for missing information; any incomplete totals or estimates that have been compiled are systematically footnoted. Time series for this aggregate are based on a fixed set of the current 27 Member States for the whole of the time period, regardless of when they joined the EU. The harmonised consumer price index (see the subchapter on consumer prices within Part 2) is an exception: time series for this indicator reflect changes in the composition of the EU.

Throughout this publication, for the sake of simplicity, the non-EU countries and territories are all referred to as countries; this does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. Data for Hong Kong and Macao are presented separately from mainland China and so any data for China exclude Hong Kong and Macao unless otherwise stated.

If data for a reference period are not available for a particular country, then efforts have been made to use data for previous reference years (these exceptions are footnoted), normally going back up to three years. For indicators whose values are likely to have changed greatly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, care has been taken not to use values from 2019 or earlier as a substitute for missing data for 2020 or 2021. In a very few figures, data are shown for 2019 (despite more recent data being available for the EU) if data availability for 2020 for non-EU countries was still quite weak at the time of drafting.

Data sources

The indicators presented are often compiled according to international – sometimes worldwide – standards, for example, UN standards for national accounts and the IMF's standards for balance of payments statistics. Although most data are based on international concepts and definitions, there may be discrepancies in the methods used to compile the data.

Data for the EU

Almost all of the indicators presented for the EU have been drawn from Eurobase, Eurostat's online database. Eurobase is updated twice daily, so there may be differences between the data presented in this publication and data that are subsequently downloaded. In exceptional cases, some indicators for the EU have been extracted from international sources, for example, when values are converted using purchasing power parities (based on constant price dollar series), or for comparability reasons. Also in exceptional cases, data are presented for the EU for the same reference year as used for the non-EU countries despite fresher data being available online for the EU, again to improve comparability.

World and non-EU countries

The data presented in this publication for the world aggregate and data for non-EU countries have generally been compiled by a range of official international organisations. For some of the indicators, several international statistical sources are available, each with their own policies and practices concerning data management (for example, concerning data validation, correction of errors, estimation of missing data, and frequency of updating). In the vast majority of figures, only one source has been used for each indicator in relation to the data presented for the world and/or non-EU countries.

Data extraction and processing

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted during July and August 2022 and the accompanying text was drafted in the first half of August 2022. Data on page 44 were extracted in January 2023.

Many of the international sources from which data were extracted present monetary data in national currencies and/or United States dollars ($; USD), whereas Eurostat data are normally presented in national currencies and/or euro (€; EUR). Monetary data for non-EU countries have been converted into euro using current exchange rates. Data that are expressed in dollars having been converted from national currencies using purchasing power parities (PPPs) have been left in dollar based purchasing power standards (also known as international USD).

Several indicators have been standardised 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) . Where necessary and available, these size measures have been extracted from the following sources:

- 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: Inputs) for the total or land area;
- the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Analysis of Main Aggregates) 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. In order to improve readability, only the most significant information has been included as footnotes under each figure. Where appropriate, substitute reference years, age ranges or other methodological differences are indicated in the footnotes provided under each figure.

The term billion is used to signify a thousand million and a trillion is used to signify a thousand billion.

Access to Eurostat data

The simplest way to access Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through its website (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat). Eurostat provides users with free access to its databases and all its publications in portable document format (PDF). The website is updated regularly and presents the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU, its Member States, EFTA and enlargement countries (for some datasets, information may be provided for a wider range of non-EU countries).

Eurostat online data codes, such as *tps00001* and *nama_10_gdp*, provide easy access to the most recent data on Eurostat's website. In this publication, these online data codes are given as part of the source for each figure.

Some of the indicators presented in this publication are relatively complex. Statistics Explained (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php) provides a comprehensive online glossary with definitions for a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms; it is organised under thematic headings (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Thematic_glossaries).

1 People and society

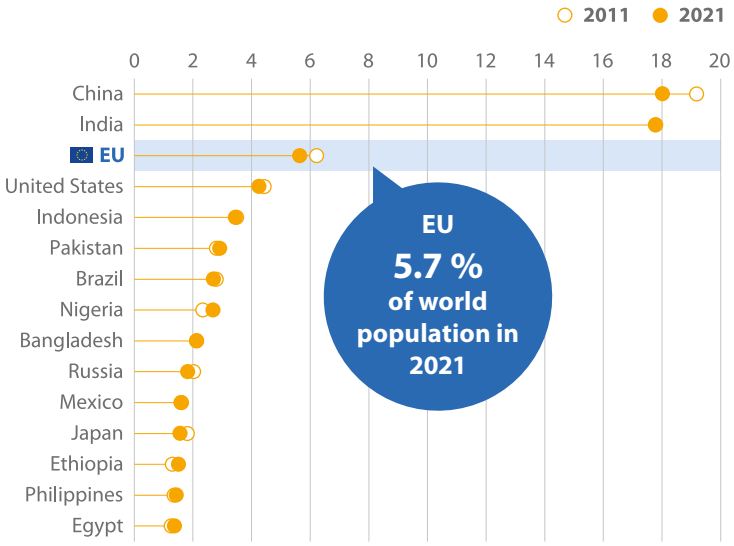
Population overview

Share of world population, 2011 and 2021

(%)

In 2021, the world's population was 7.91 billion inhabitants, up from 7.07 billion in 2011. The population of the EU was 447 million in 2021, equivalent to 5.7 % of the world total. Two countries in the world had larger populations in 2021 than the EU: China (1.43 billion; 18.0 % of the world total) and India (1.41 billion; 17.8 %). After the EU, the next largest were the United States (337 million; 4.3 % of the world total) and Indonesia (274 million; 3.5 %). There were 10 other countries where the number of inhabitants in 2021 was more than 100 million.

Collectively, the EU and the 14 largest countries accounted for 69.0 % of the world's population in 2021, down from 70.6 % in 2011. Between these years and among the largest countries, the fastest population growth was recorded in Ethiopia (up 31.0 %) and Nigeria (up 29.0 %). Japan was the only one of the largest countries with a smaller population in 2021, down 2.7 % compared with 2011.

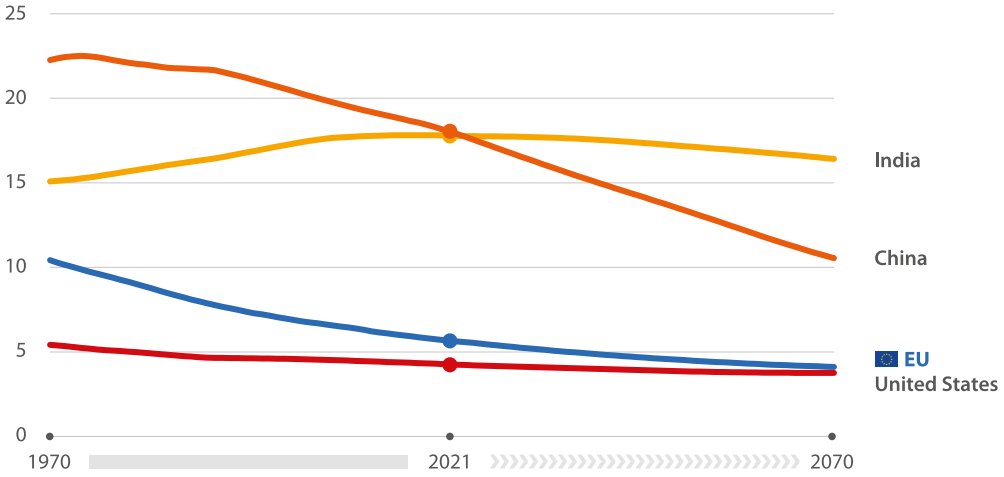


Note: population on 1 July; average population for the EU. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Share of world population, 1970 to 2070

(%)

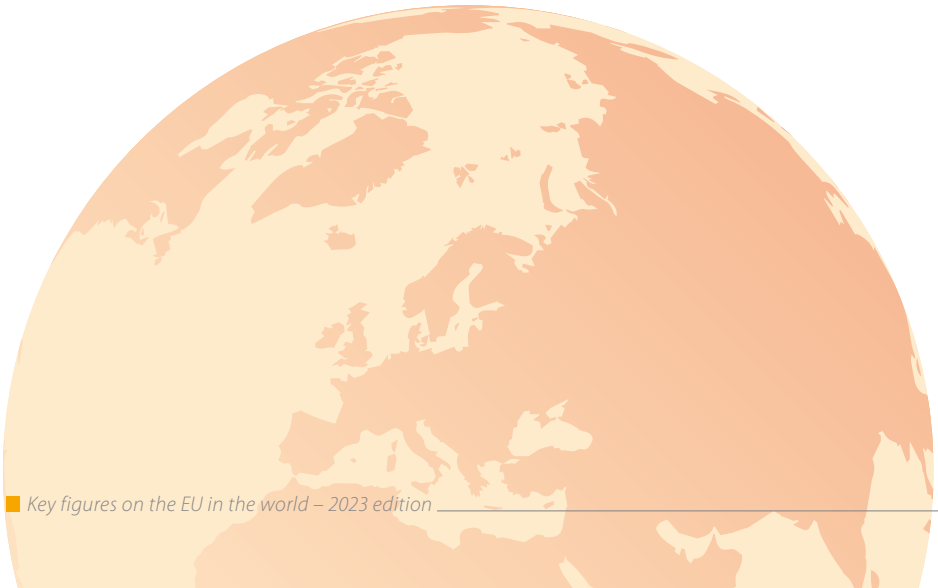


The latest United Nations population projections suggest that the pace at which the world's population is expanding will slow in the coming decades. Nevertheless, the total number of inhabitants worldwide is projected to reach 10.0 billion by 2058 and continue on to 10.3 billion by 2070. If that figure is reached, the world's population will be 2.8 times as high in 2070 as it was in 1970.

The EU's share of the world's population declined from 10.4 % in 1970 to 5.7 % in 2021; it is projected to decline to 4.1 % by 2070, an overall fall of 6.3 percentage points. China's share is projected to be 11.7 points lower in 2070 than it was in 1970 while the United States' share is projected to fall by 1.7 points between the same years. Overall, India's share is projected to rise 1.3 points. However, this represents an increase from 15.1 % in 1970 to a peak of 17.8 % in recent years (2016–2018), followed by a projected decline to 16.4 % by 2070.

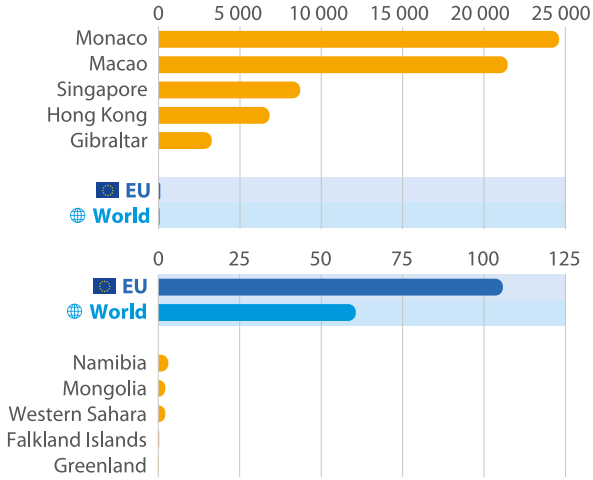
Note: population on 1 July; average population for the EU. Projections start in 2022 ; baseline projections for the EU and medium variant for China, India and the United States. Data are presented for the EU and the three most populous non-EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_gind and proj_19np) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)



Population density, 2021
(inhabitants per km²)

On average, there were 106 inhabitants per square kilometre (km²) in the EU in 2021. As such, the EU was considerably more densely populated than the world average, which was 61 inhabitants per km². The five most densely populated territories were all relatively small: Monaco (24 600 inhabitants per km²) and Macao (21 500 people per km²) had the highest densities in 2021. At the other extreme, the least densely populated territories were the Falkland Islands and Greenland, each with less than one inhabitant per km².

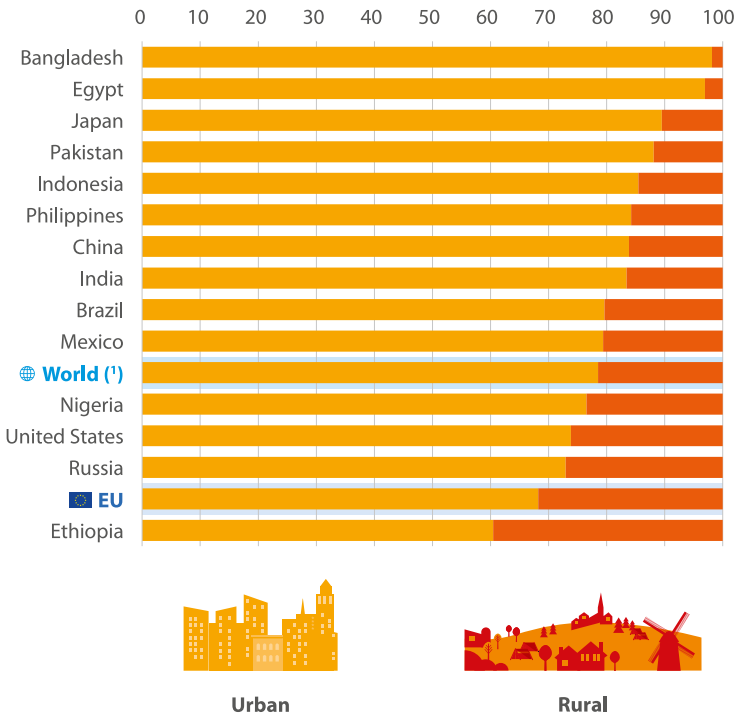


Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest population densities. The figure is presented in two parts with different scales: for ease of comparison, the EU and world averages are show in each part.

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 2022)

Urban and rural population shares, 2020
(% of total population)

More than two thirds (68.2 %) of the EU population lived in an urban area (based on grid cells) in 2020; this share was below the world average (78.5 %). Among the 14 most populous countries in the world, only Ethiopia (60.5 %) had a lower share of inhabitants living in urban areas than did the EU. By contrast, 96.9 % of the population in Egypt lived in urban areas as did 98.2 % in Bangladesh.



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

(1) Coverage based on the Database of Global Administrative Areas (GADM).

Source: JRC GHSL Data Package 2022

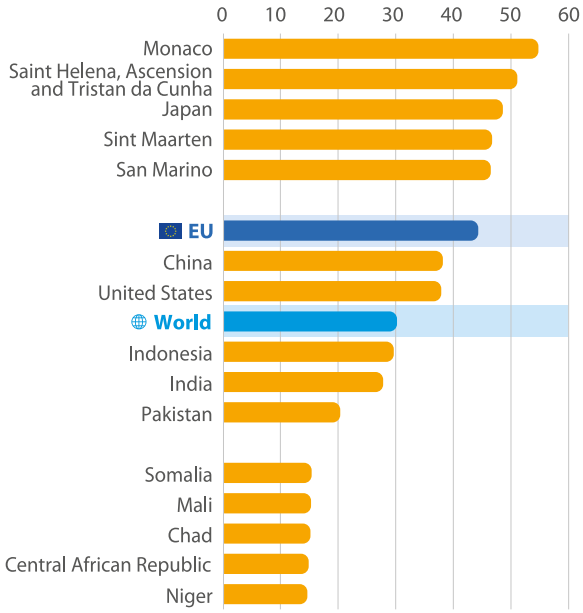
Age of population

Median age, 2021

(years)

The median age is the age that divides a population into two groups that are numerically equivalent: half of the population is younger and the other half older. The median age of the EU's population was 44.1 years in 2021, nearly 50 % higher than the world average of 30.0 years. Among the five most populous countries in the world, the median age ranged from 20.2 years in Pakistan to 37.9 years in China.

Japan, one of the most populous countries in the world, had the third highest median age. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Italy would rank among the five countries in the world with the highest median ages. Two countries in the world had a median age over 50.0 years: in Monaco (Europe), the average age was 54.5 years; in Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (Western Africa), the average age was 50.9 years. The five lowest median ages in the world were all in Africa. The Central African Republic and Niger both recorded a median age below 15.0 years. For comparison, the median age in Monaco was 3.8 times as high as that in Niger.

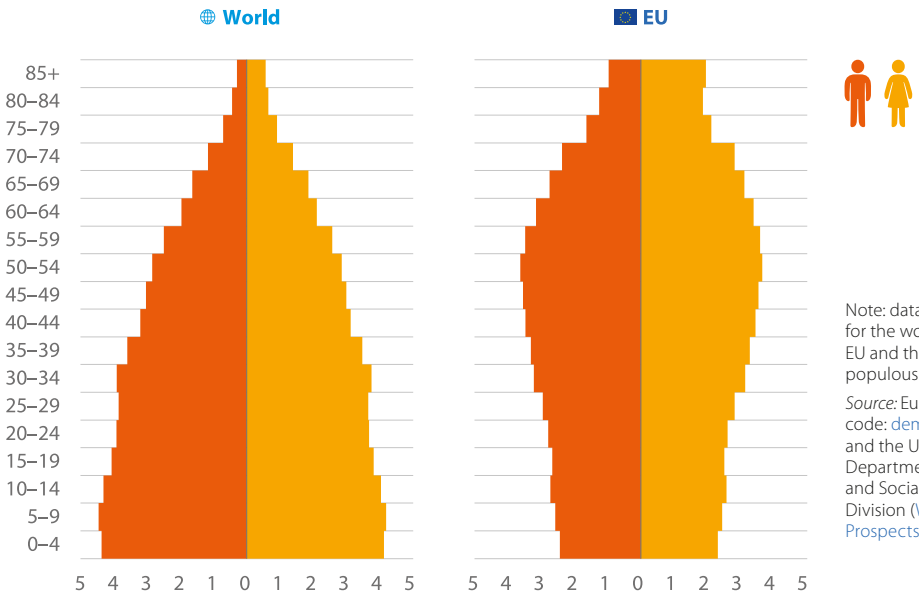


Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest median ages.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_pjanind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Age pyramids, 2021
(% of total population)

The overall pattern of a progressively smaller share of the population in the younger age groups in the EU was interrupted by a slightly higher share for the age group covering people aged 10–14 years. By contrast, age groups covering young people generally accounted for the largest shares of the world's population in 2021. Another notable difference between the population pyramid for the EU and that for the world was the relatively high gender imbalance among older age groups in the EU compared with the world as a whole: this is most noticeable for the age groups 75–79 years, 80–84 years and 85 years or more.



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the three 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 2022)

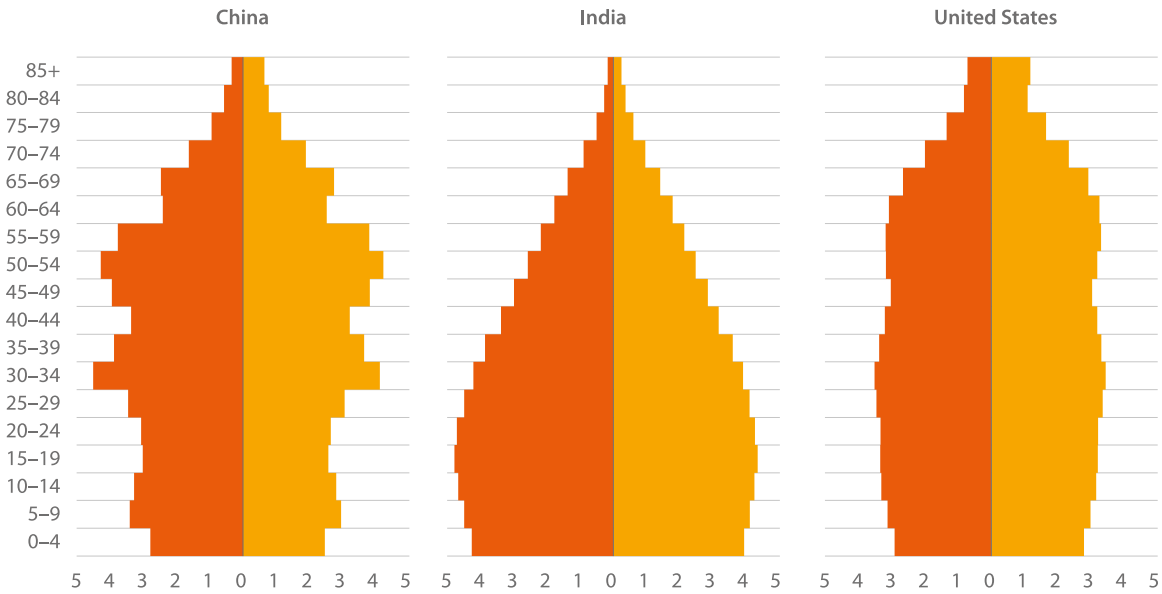
Age pyramids, 2021
(% of total population)

The age pyramid for China in 2021 had more similarities with that for the EU than that of the world, particularly the relatively low share of the total population that was accounted for by the younger generations. There were two peaks in the age shares in China, one around 50–54 years and the other around 30–34 years. One similarity with the age pyramid for the world was the smaller proportion of the population accounted for by older people and particularly those aged 80 years or more.

The share of older people in India in 2021 was relatively small compared with the world average; this was apparent for people aged 45 years or more.

Unlike the pyramid for the world, in India the shares of the age groups for people aged less than 15 years were smaller than the share recorded for young people aged 15–19 years; this reflects lower fertility rates during recent years.

In the United States, there were two peaks in the 2021 age distribution, one around 30–34 years and the other around 55–59 years. While the age structure of the older part of the population in the United States was broadly similar to that in the EU, the population shares among age groups from 35–39 years down to 10–14 years were more regular; the United States also recorded smaller shares in the youngest age groups.

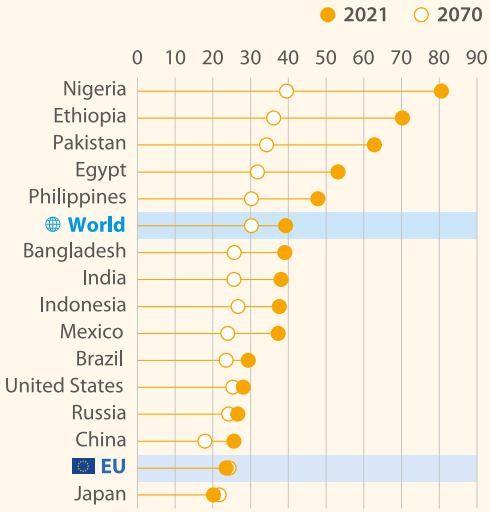


Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the three most populous non-EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_pjangroup) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Young-age dependency ratio, 2021 and 2070

(persons aged 0-14 years as a percentage of the population aged 15-64 years)



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

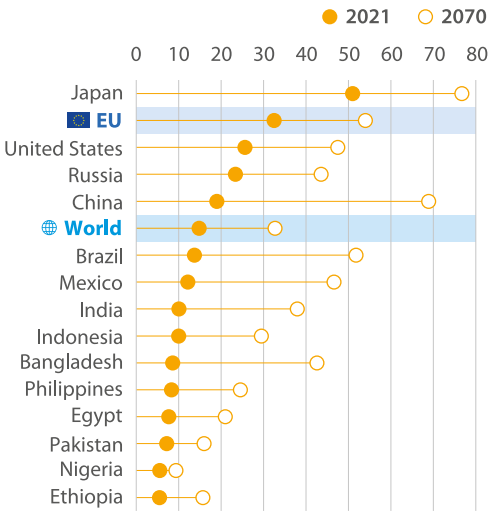
In 2021, the young-age dependency ratio in the EU was 23.5 %, well below the world average (39.3 %) and lower than in all of the world's largest countries except for Japan (20.1 %). With relatively low fertility rates, the EU's young-age dependency ratio is projected to change only slightly by 2070, to reach 24.3 %. The EU's gap to the world average (30.2 % by 2070) is projected to close greatly, as this ratio falls in all large countries except for Japan.

Note: ranked on the ratio for 2021. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjanind and proj_19ndbi) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Old-age dependency ratio, 2021 and 2070

(persons aged 65 years or more as a percentage of the population aged 15-64 years)



In a similar manner, the EU's old-age dependency ratio in 2021 (32.5 %) was higher than that in all of the largest countries of the world except for Japan (51.0 %). The ratio in the EU was more than twice the world average (14.8 %). This ratio is projected to rise by 2070 to 54.0 % in the EU and to 32.7 % for the global average. All of the largest countries in the world are projected to experience an increase, with the ratio reaching 76.7 % in Japan.

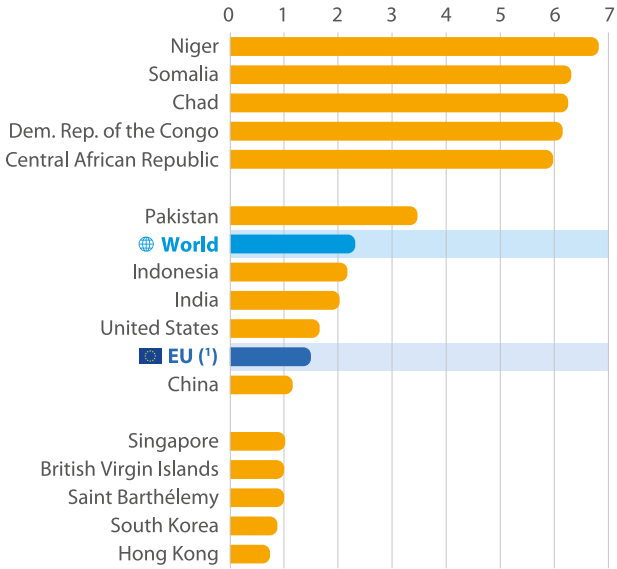
Note: ranked on the ratio for 2021. Data are presented for the world average, the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 100 million people.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjanind and proj_19ndbi) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Population change

Fertility rate, 2021

(average number of children per woman)



One element of natural population change is the number of births which is reflected in measures of fertility. The most widely used indicator of fertility is the total fertility rate. A total fertility rate of around 2.1 live births per woman is considered to be the replacement level in developed countries: in other words, the average number of live births per woman required to keep the size of the 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, the EU's total fertility rate rose briefly. The rate for the EU has been between 1.50 and 1.57 live births per woman since 2006 and was 1.50 in 2020. By contrast, the world average in 2021 was 2.32 live births per woman. Among the five most populous countries in the world, the rate in 2021 ranged from 1.16 live births per woman in China to 3.47 in Pakistan.

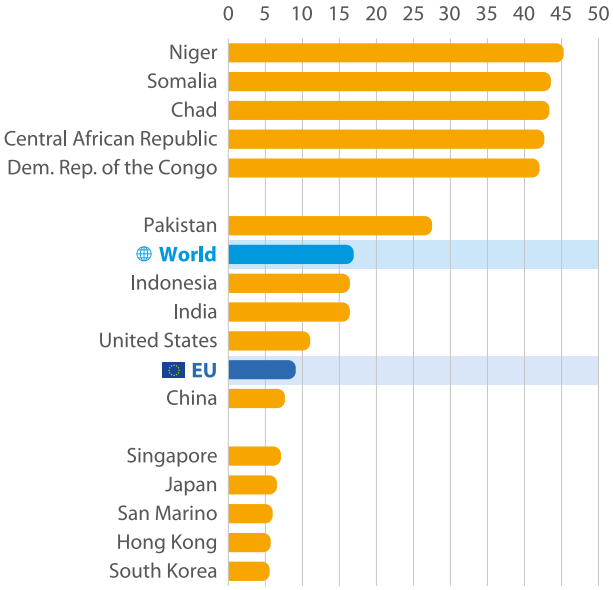
The highest fertility rates in the world in 2021 were in African countries: rates over 6.00 live births per woman were observed in Niger, Somalia, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The two lowest rates were both in Eastern Asia – South Korea and Hong Kong – and were below 1.00 live births per woman.

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

(1) 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_find) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Crude birth rate, 2021
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

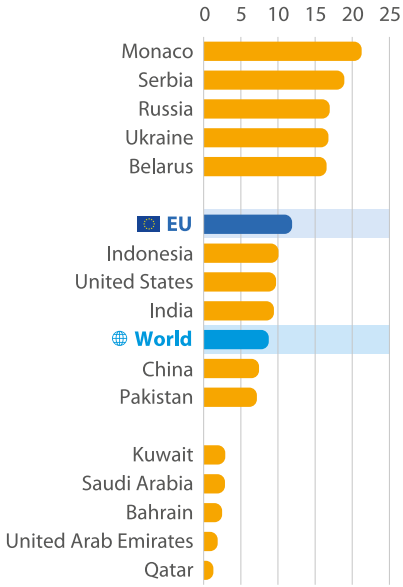


In 2021, the crude birth rate (the ratio of the number of live births to the population) for the EU was 9.1 per 1 000 inhabitants. This was just over half the world average (16.9 per 1 000 inhabitants). The highest crude birth rate in the world was 45.3 per 1 000 inhabitants in Niger, approximately eight times as high as the lowest rate, 5.6 per 1 000 inhabitants in South Korea. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Italy would rank among the five countries in the world with the lowest crude birth rates.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude birth rates.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Crude death rate, 2021
(per 1 000 inhabitants)



In 2021, the average crude death rate (the ratio of the number of deaths to the population) for the EU was 11.9 per 1 000 inhabitants. The average rate for the whole world was somewhat lower, at 8.8 per 1 000 inhabitants. The highest crude death rate was 21.3 per 1 000 inhabitants in Monaco, reflecting its high average median age. Elsewhere, the highest crude death rates were in central and eastern Europe. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania would rank among the five countries in the world with the highest crude death rates; the rate in Bulgaria was above that in Monaco and as such the highest in the world. The lowest crude death rates were in several countries in Western Asia.

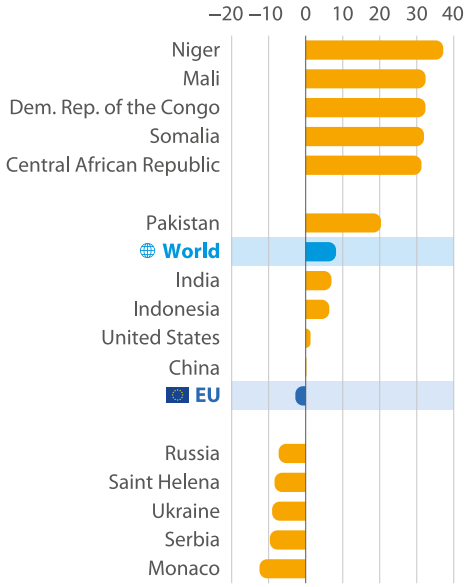
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude death rates.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Crude rate of natural change, 2021
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

When deaths exceed births there is negative natural population change; this situation was experienced in the EU in 2021 (a contraction of 2.8 per 1 000 inhabitants), as has been the situation almost every year since 2012. Natural population growth was observed for the world (8.2 per 1 000 inhabitants). Among the five most populous countries in the world, the crude rate of natural change in 2021 ranged from 0.2 per 1 000 inhabitants in China to 7.4 per 1 000 inhabitants in India and 20.4 per 1 000 inhabitants in Pakistan.

The lowest negative rate of natural change was observed in Monaco, reflecting its high crude death rate. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Bulgaria and Latvia would rank among the five countries in the world with the lowest negative rates of natural change and Lithuania's rate was also lower than that in some of the bottom five non-EU countries; the rate in Bulgaria was below that in Monaco and as such the lowest in the world. Reflecting high birth rates, the highest rates of natural population change were observed in five African countries.



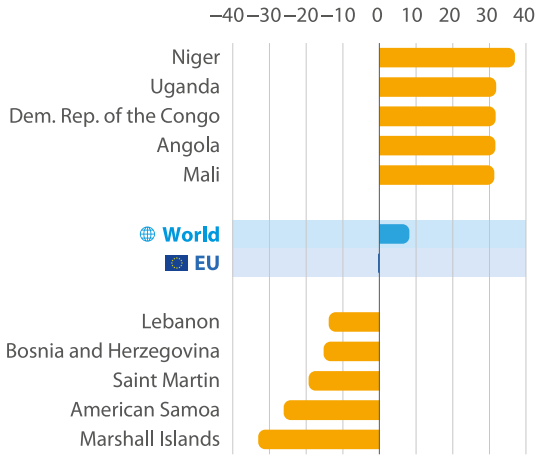
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude rates of natural change.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Crude rate of total change, 2021
(per 1 000 inhabitants)

Positive net migration resulted in the EU's rate of total population change (a contraction of 0.4 per 1 000 inhabitants) being less negative than its natural population change. The world rate of total population change was the same as its natural change, as there is no net migration globally.

The highest rate of total population change was in Niger, as was the case for natural population change; four more African countries completed the top five. The three countries with the lowest negative rates of total population change were all island nations; their negative rates reflect high flows of emigrants, with people often leaving for education or work opportunities.



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest crude rates of total change.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Foreign population in the EU

Country of citizenship of non-EU citizens living in the EU, 2021

(%)

Any person who has the citizenship (nationality) of an EU Member State is automatically also an EU citizen. At the beginning of 2021, there were 23.7 million people residing in the EU who were not citizens of a Member State. This was equivalent to 5.3 % of the EU population.

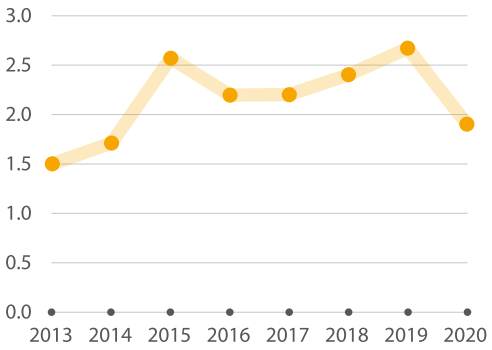
There were 31 non-EU citizenships that each had at least 1.0 % of all non-EU citizens living in the EU, as did recognised non-citizens. These collectively accounted for 76.7 % of all non-EU citizens living in the EU. The largest communities were Moroccan (8.7 % of all people residing in the EU who were not citizens of an EU Member State), Turkish (8.5 %) and Syrian (5.2 %).

Note: including 2020 data for Estonia. Excluding non-EU citizens living in Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta or 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: 23.3 %.

*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)

Number of immigrants from non-EU countries, EU, 2013–2020
(millions)

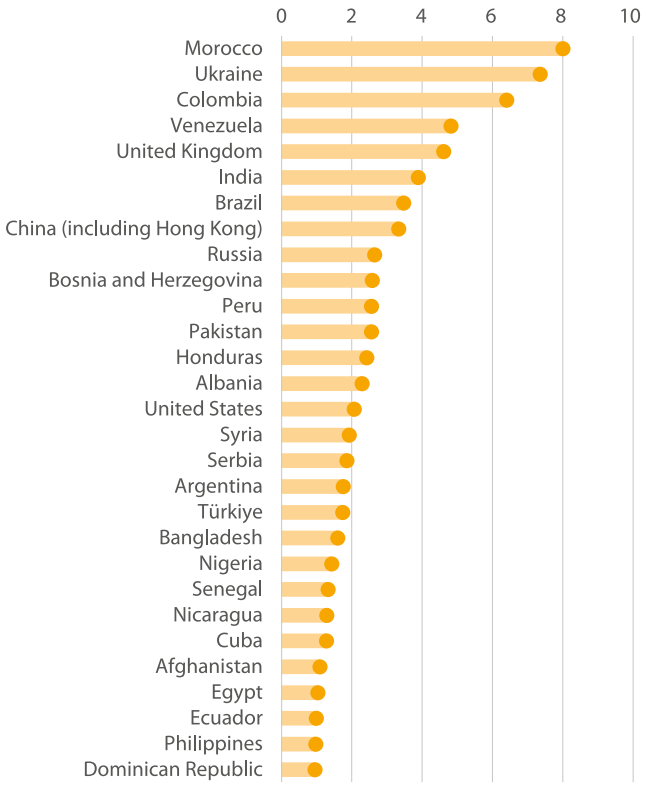


Note: immigrants whose previous residence was a non-EU country. Excluding Cyprus.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm12prv)

Around 1.9 million people immigrated to one of the EU Member States from a non-EU country during 2020; this was the lowest number of immigrants to the EU since 2014. A total of 956 000 people emigrated from a Member State to go to a non-EU country during the same year. It should be noted that these flows of people are based on country of previous residence – to and from the EU – and not on citizenship. As such, they include not only non-EU citizens but also EU citizens arriving in or leaving the EU.

Country of citizenship of non-EU citizens arriving in the EU, average 2018–2020
(%)



During 2020, 916 000 non-EU citizens arrived in the EU.

Based on average figures for 2018–2020, there were 29 countries of citizenship that each accounted for at least 1.0 % of all non-EU citizens arriving in the EU; note that these data do not include arrivals in all EU Member States. These 29 countries of citizenship collectively accounted for 78.4 % of all non-EU citizens arriving in the EU during the period under consideration. The largest communities of recent arrivals were Moroccan (8.0 % of all non-EU citizens arriving in the EU), Ukrainian (7.4 %) and Colombian (6.4 %).

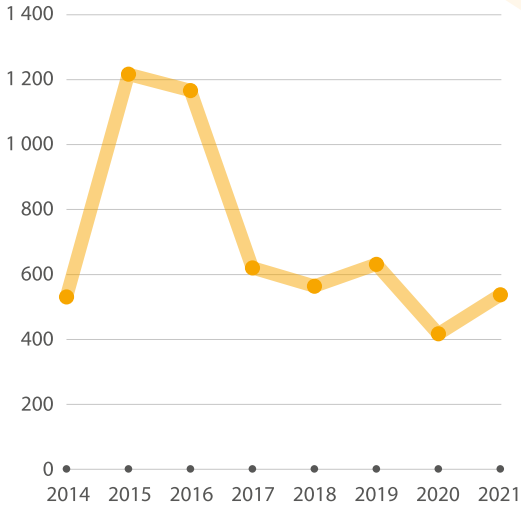
Note: excluding non-EU citizens arriving in Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, France, Cyprus, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Romania. Data are presented for countries of citizenship with at least a 1.0 % share of all non-EU citizens arriving in the EU. Rest of the world: 21.6 %.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_imm1ctz)

Number of first-time asylum applicants, EU, 2014–2021
(1 000)

Asylum is a form of protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in their country of citizenship and/or residence in particular for fear of being persecuted for various reasons (such as race, religion or opinion). An asylum applicant is someone who is seeking international protection but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined. As of the end of 2021, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that there were 4.6 million asylum seekers across the world.

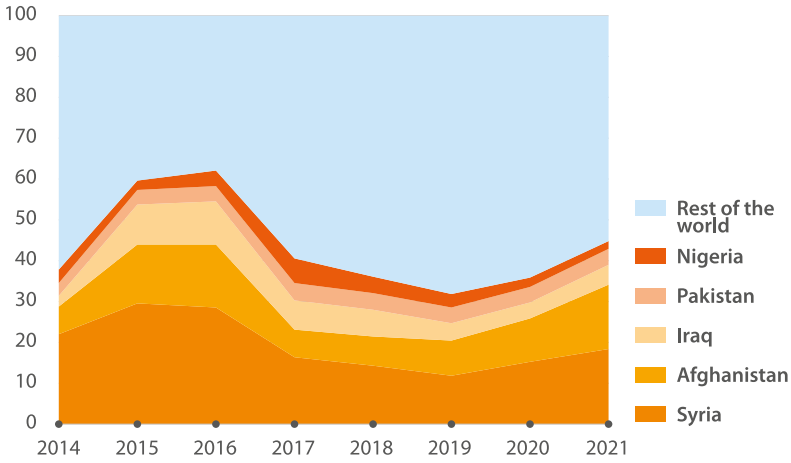
There were 537 000 first-time applicants for asylum during 2021 in the EU. This number was broadly in line with most recent years, but clearly lower than the notably higher numbers in 2015 and 2016 related to the Syrian migration crisis.



Note: non-EU citizens as applicants.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

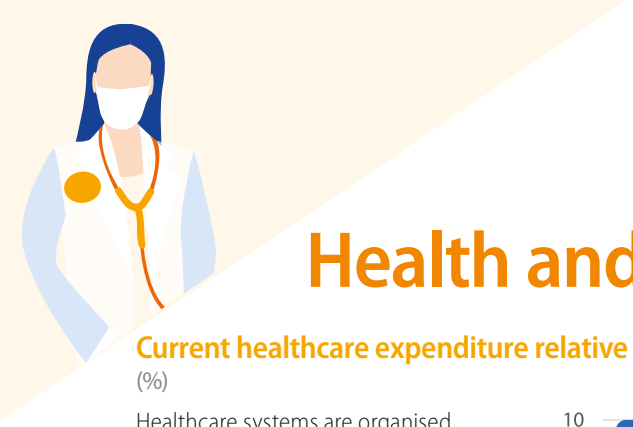
Country of citizenship of first time asylum applicants in the EU, 2014–2021
(%)



Note: data are presented for the five non-EU countries of citizenship with the largest number of first time applicants during the period from 2014 to 2021.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

Covering the whole period from 2014 to 2021, 5.7 million non-EU citizens made first time applications for asylum in the EU, an average of 711 000 per year. Just over one fifth (21.6 %) of the applicants during these eight years were Syrian and just over one tenth (11.6 %) were Afghans; the next largest shares were from Iraqis, Pakistanis and Nigerians.



Health and mortality

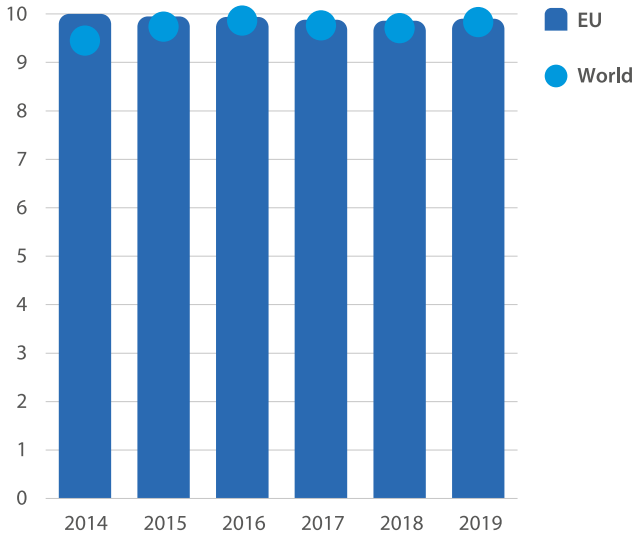
Current healthcare expenditure relative to GDP, 2014–2019

(%)

Healthcare systems are organised and financed in diverse ways. Public expenditure on healthcare is often funded through general taxation or social security funds. Private expenditure on healthcare mainly comes from direct household payments and private health insurance.

In 2019, current healthcare expenditure in the EU was equivalent to 9.9 % of GDP, in line with the world average (9.8 %). Within the EU, this ratio has been 9.9 % or 10.0 % since 2014. Worldwide, the ratio increased from 9.4 % in 2014 to 9.7–9.9 % from 2015 to 2019.

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



Current healthcare expenditure relative to GDP, 2019

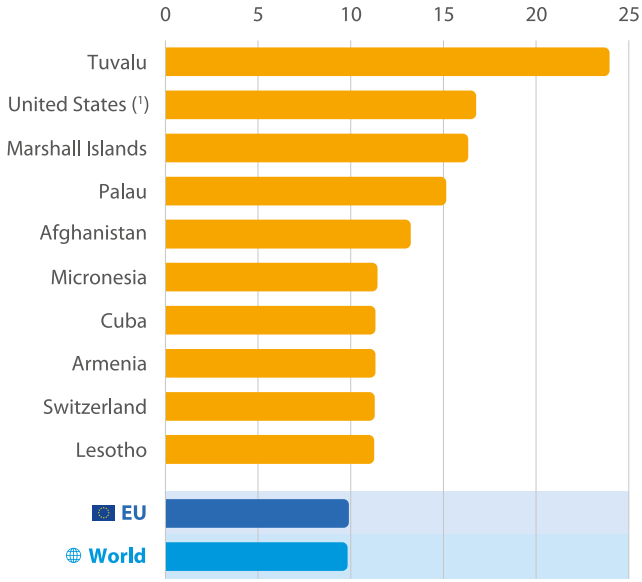
(%)

The ratio of current healthcare expenditure to GDP in 2019 was under 12.0 % in most countries of the world. Exceptions were the island nations of Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands and Palau, as well as the United States and Afghanistan. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Germany would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest ratios of current healthcare expenditure to GDP.

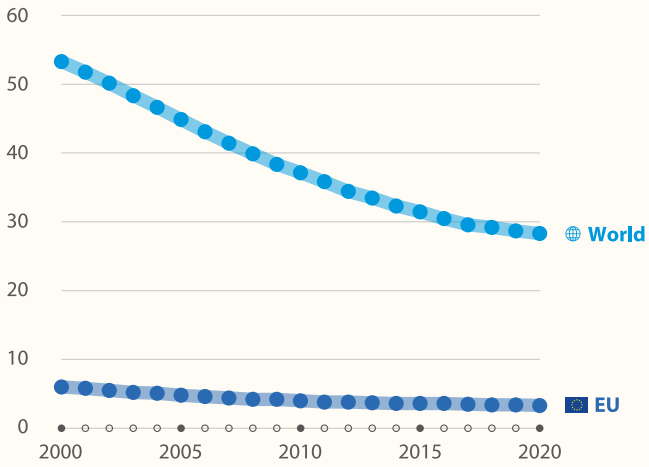
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest current healthcare expenditure relative to GDP. More recent data are available for the EU.

([1]) 2018.

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



Infant mortality rate, 2000–2020
(deaths per 1 000 live births)

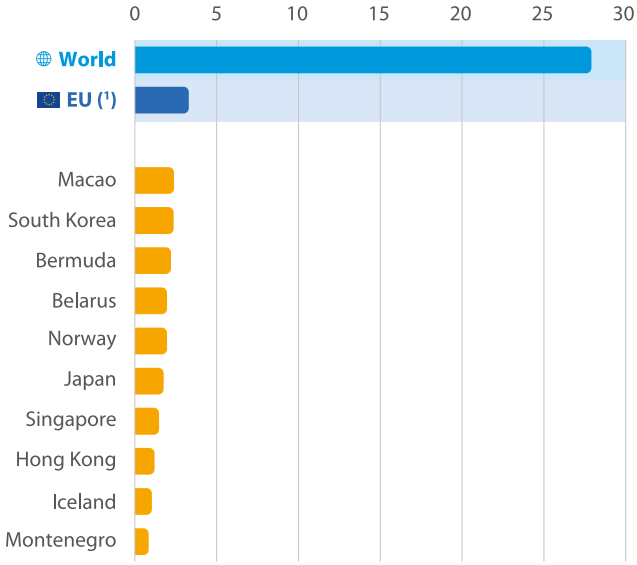


Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_minfind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

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

Between 2000 and 2020, infant mortality rates in the EU and the world almost halved. By 2020, the rate in the EU was 3.3 deaths per 1 000 live births, down from 6.0 deaths per 1 000 live births some 20 years earlier.

Infant mortality rate, 2021
(deaths per 1 000 live births)



By 2021, the infant mortality rate in the world had fallen to 27.9 deaths per 1 000 live births. Five countries in the world – Montenegro, Iceland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan – recorded rates below 2.0 deaths per 1 000 live births. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Estonia, Sweden, Slovenia and Finland would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the lowest infant mortality rates; the rates in Italy, Cyprus and Czechia were also lower than those in some of the 10 non-EU countries with the lowest rates.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 10 non-EU countries with the lowest infant mortality rates.

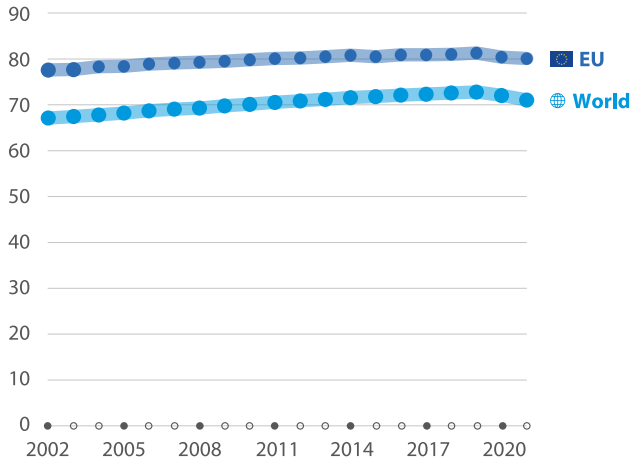
(1) 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_minfind) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Life expectancy at birth, 2002–2021
(years)

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 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 in the EU rose from 77.6 years in 2002 to 81.3 years by 2019. The world average rose from 67.1 years in 2002 to 72.8 years by 2019. The EU and world averages both fell in 2020 and 2021, reflecting at least in part the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



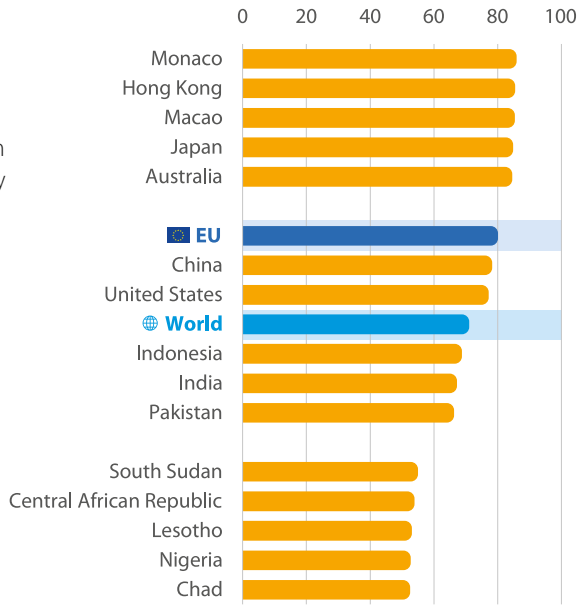
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_mlexpec) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Life expectancy at birth, 2021
(years)

In 2021, life expectancy at birth in the EU was 80.1 years, around nine years higher than the world average (71.0 years). Among the five most populous countries in the world, life expectancy at birth in 2021 ranged from 66.1 years in Pakistan to 78.2 years in China. The highest life expectancy at birth in the world was in Monaco (85.9 years), while Hong Kong and Macao also had life expectancies above 85.0 years. The five countries with the lowest life expectancies at birth were all in Africa; the lowest was 52.5 years in Chad.

Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the five 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 2022)



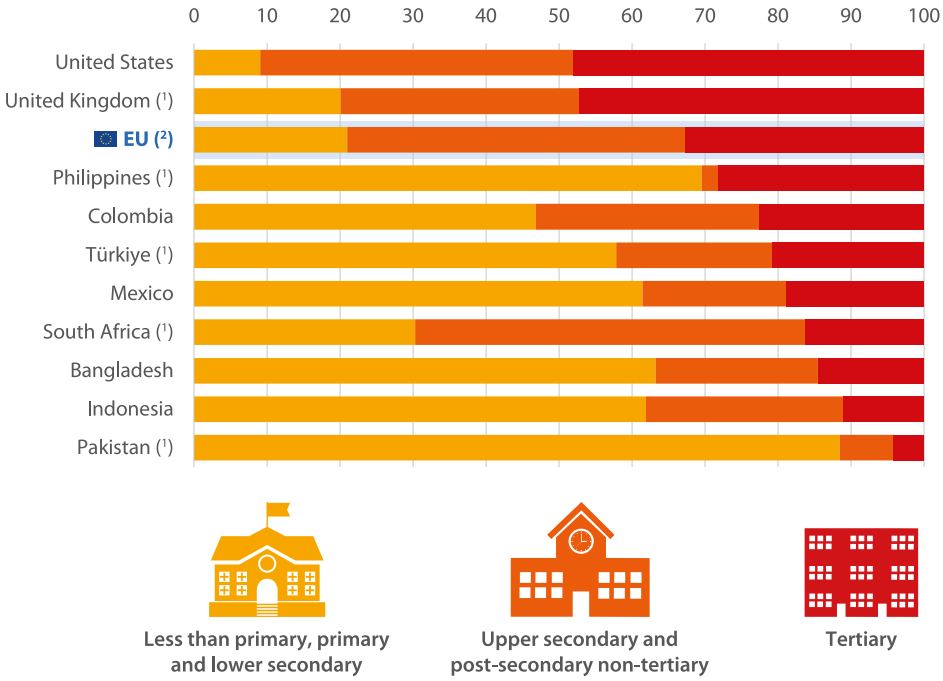
Education and training

People aged 25 years or more by highest level of educational attainment, 2020

(%)

In 2020, nearly one third (32.8 %) of people aged 25–64 years in the EU had completed (at least one 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 (46.3 %). Just over one fifth (21.0 %) had completed, at most, lower secondary education.

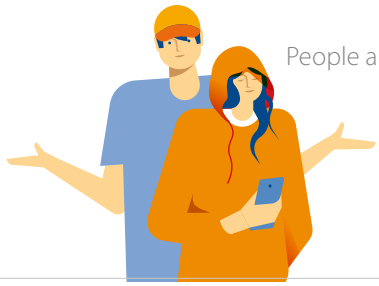
Recent data are presented for 10 non-EU countries. The United States (78.1 %) and the United Kingdom (47.2 %; 2019 data) had the largest shares of people aged 25 years or more with tertiary educational attainment. By contrast, in Pakistan 4.1 % (2019 data) of people aged 25 years or more had tertiary educational attainment.



Note: ranked on the share for tertiary. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a population of at least 50 million people with data for 2019 or 2020. More recent data are available for the EU.

(1) 2019.
(2) People aged 25–64 years.

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

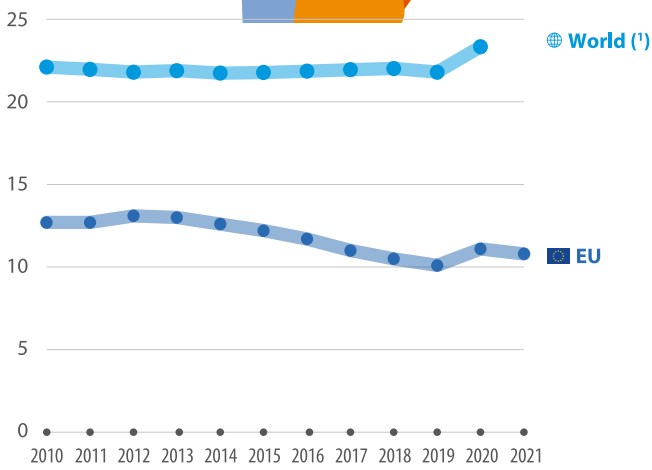


People aged 15–24 years not in employment, education or training, 2010–2021

(%)

In labour market policy, NEET is used as an abbreviation for young people who are not in employment, education or training. Factors that influence the proportion of young people who are NEET include the length of compulsory education, types of available educational programmes, access to tertiary education and training, and cultural issues such as the likelihood of taking on caring responsibilities with an extended family and/or the typical age of starting a family.

The share of people aged 15–24 years in the EU who were NEET fell from 13.1 % in 2012 to 10.1 % in 2019. Higher shares were recorded in 2020 and 2021, reflecting labour market difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. For comparison, the world average remained between 21.7 % and 22.1 % between 2010 and 2019 before increasing to 23.3 % in 2020.



(1) 2021: not available.

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

People aged 15–24 years not in employment, education or training, 2021

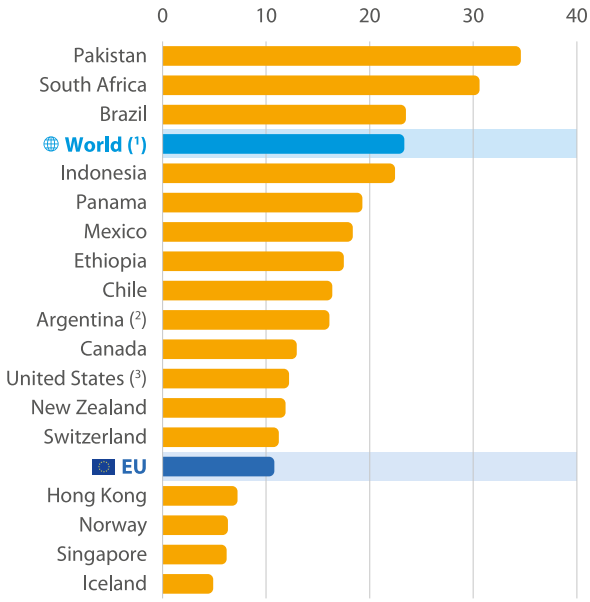
(%)

Among the countries for which data are presented, the highest NEET rates were in Pakistan (34.6 %) and South Africa (30.6 %). Brazil (23.5 %) and Indonesia (22.5 %) had values that were close to the world average. The lowest rate was in Iceland (4.9 %).

Note: data are presented for the EU and large or high-income non-EU countries with data for 2021.

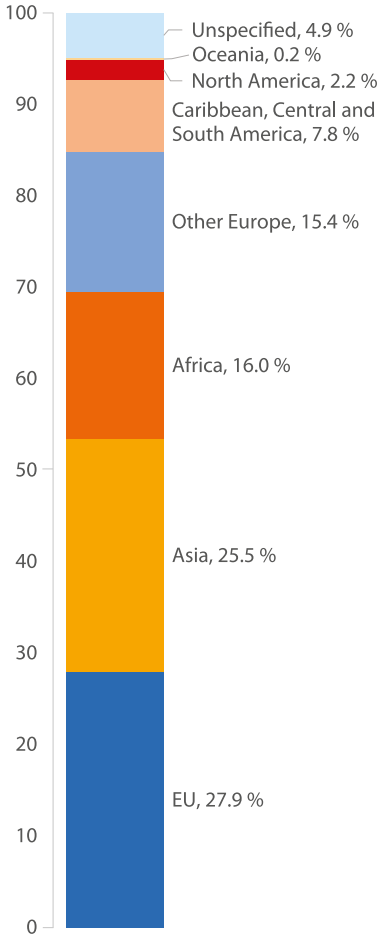
(1) 2020.
(2) Main cities or metropolitan areas only.
(3) Persons aged 16–24 years.

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



Tertiary education students from abroad by continent of origin, EU, 2020

(%)



In 2020, there were approximately 1.46 million internationally mobile students in tertiary education in the EU. This includes students from one EU Member State studying in another, as well as students from non-EU countries studying within the EU.

More than a quarter (27.9 %) of internationally mobile students in the EU in 2020 were mobile between EU Member States and just over another quarter were from Asia (25.5 %). Close to one sixth were from Africa (16.0 %) and a similar proportion were from elsewhere in Europe (15.4 %).

To which EU Member State internationally mobile students migrate reflects many factors, such as country and establishment entry requirements, perception of the quality of the educational establishments and their courses, language of instruction, cultural and historical ties, and geographical proximity. More than half of internationally mobile students in Cyprus, Latvia and Ireland were from Asia. Half of internationally mobile students in France were from Africa, while this share was just over one third in Portugal. The share of internationally mobile students that came from the Caribbean, Central and South America was over two fifths in Spain and Portugal, the share from North America was notably higher in Ireland than elsewhere, and the share from Oceania peaked at 0.7 % in Denmark.

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

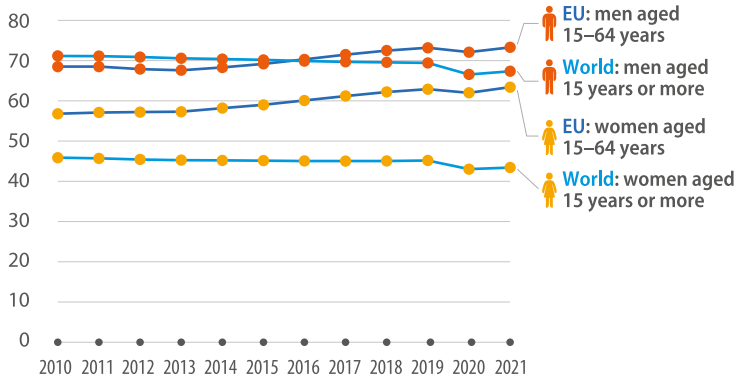
Source: Eurostat (online data code: educ_uoe_mobs02)

Labour market

Employment rate, 2010–2021

(%)

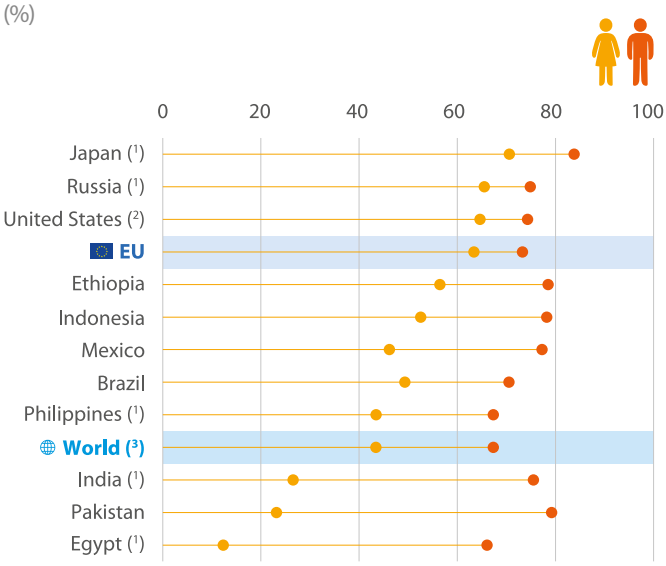
The employment rate is calculated, for a particular age group, as the share of employed persons in the population. EU employment rates for men and women aged 15–64 years generally rose between 2010 and 2019. In 2020, the rates dropped as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on labour markets, but they bounced back in 2021 to 73.3 % for men and 63.4 % for women. Comparing 2021 with 2010, the rate for men rose 4.8 percentage points and that for women rose 6.6 points. For the world average (covering persons aged 15 years or more), the initial development was different, with rates declining between 2010 and 2019. The world average rates also fell in 2020, but the rebound in 2021 was only partial, leaving the rate for men 3.8 points lower than in 2010 and that for women 2.3 points lower.



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

Employment rate of persons aged 15–64 years, 2021

(%)



Note that the focus of this subchapter on the labour market is on 2021. For some countries, the latest data are for 2020. Particular care should be taken due to this mixture of 2020 and 2021 data, bearing in mind the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour markets.

Among the most populous countries in the world, Japan (2020 data) had the highest employment rates both for men and for women while Egypt had the lowest rates. Russia (2020 data), the United States and the EU had the narrowest gender gaps in 2021, while the largest were in Egypt (2020 data), Pakistan and India (2020 data).

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: data not available for Bangladesh, China or Nigeria.

(1) 2020.

(2) Persons aged 16–64 years.
(3) Persons aged 15 years or more.

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

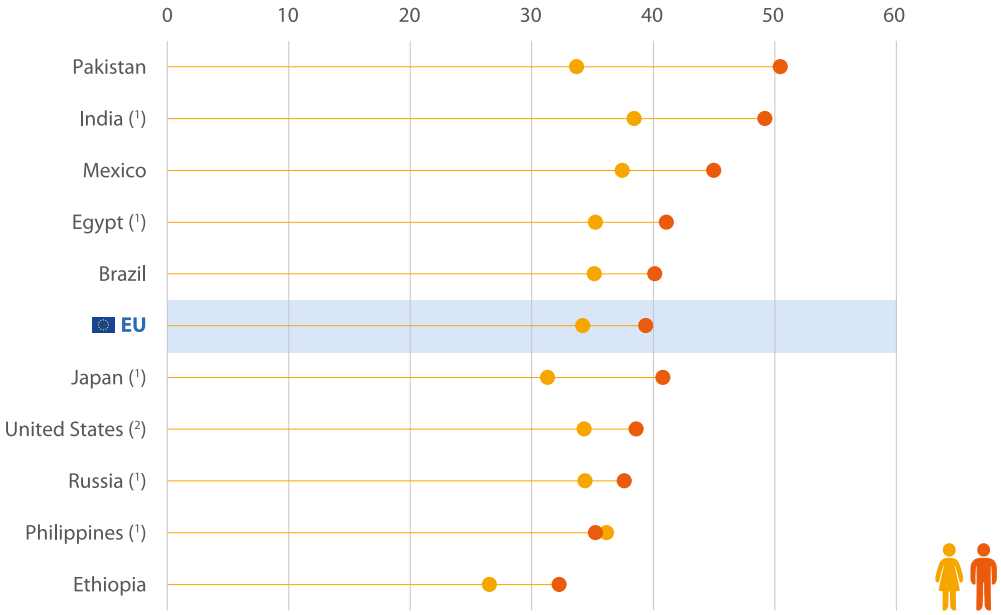
Average weekly hours worked in the main job by persons employed aged 15 years or more, 2021

(hours)

The mean weekly hours actually worked in 2021 by persons employed aged 15 years or more was 37.0 across the EU: for men it was 39.4 hours and for women it was 34.2 hours.

The average number of hours worked may reflect the legal, contractual or customary length of a typical working week as well as the incidence of part-time work. Two other factors that may influence national averages are the structure of the economy (with part-time employment more common in certain activities) and the structure of employment by working status, with working hours often varying between the self-employed (with or without employees), employees and family workers.

Among the most populous countries in the world, Pakistan and India (2020 data) had the highest average weekly hours in 2021 for men, while India and Mexico had the highest averages for women. The lowest average weekly hours actually worked, both for men and for women, were in Ethiopia.



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: data not available for Bangladesh, China, Indonesia or Nigeria.

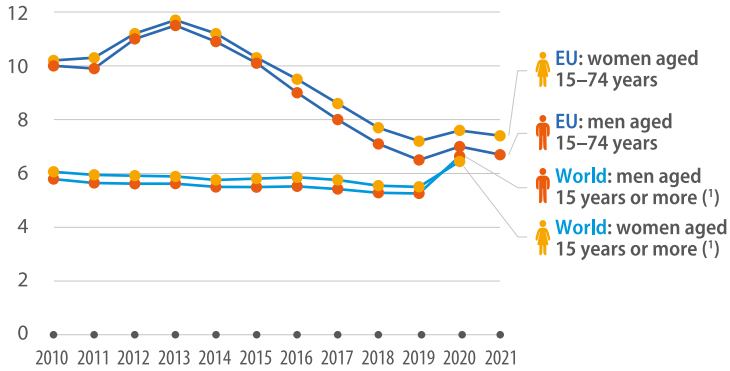
(1) 2020.
(2) Persons aged 16 years or more.

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

Unemployment rate, 2010–2021

(%)

The unemployment rate is calculated as the number of unemployed persons as a proportion of the labour force, the latter comprising all employed and unemployed persons.



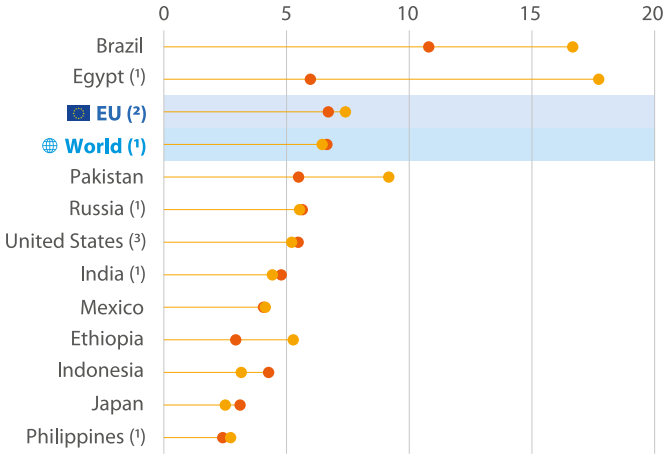
EU unemployment rates for men and women aged 15–74 years rose between 2010 and 2013 and then fell to lows in 2019. In 2020, the rates increased as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted on labour markets, but they dropped back somewhat in 2021 to 6.7 % for men and 7.4 % for women. Comparing 2021 with 2010, the rate for men fell 3.3 percentage points and that for women fell 2.8 points; the unemployment gender gap (with higher unemployment rates for women than for men) widened from 0.2 points to 0.7 points. For the world average (covering persons aged 15 years or more), unemployment rates for both sexes declined between 2010 and 2019 before increasing in 2020. The world unemployment gender gap remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2019, with a slightly higher rate for women. This situation was reversed in 2020 as the unemployment rate for women increased 0.9 points and that for men increased 1.3 points.

(1) 2021: not available.

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

Unemployment rate of persons aged 15 years or more, 2021

(%)



Among the most populous countries in the world, Brazil had the highest unemployment rate for men and Egypt (2020 data) and Brazil for women. The Philippines (2020 data) and Ethiopia had the lowest unemployment rates for men, while Japan and the Philippines (2020 data) had the lowest rates for women. Egypt and Brazil had the largest unemployment gender gaps (with higher unemployment rates for women 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: data not available for Bangladesh, China or Nigeria.

(1) 2020.

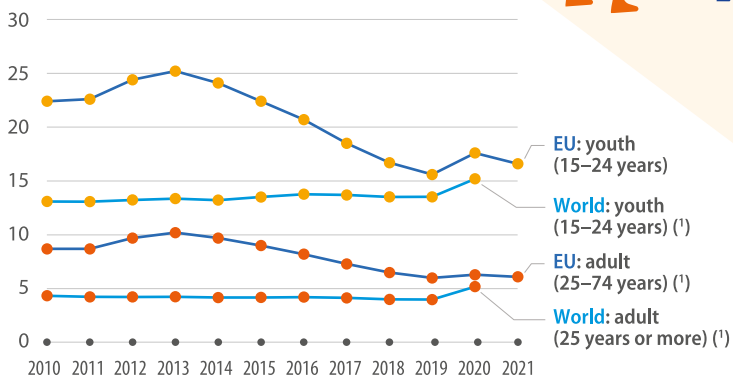
(2) Persons aged 15–74 years.
(3) Persons aged 16 years or more.

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

Youth and adult unemployment rates, 2010–2021

(%)

In the EU, the youth unemployment rate (for people aged 15–24 years) was substantially higher than the unemployment rate for people aged 25–74 years between 2010 and 2021. It rose from 22.4 % in 2010 to 25.2 % in 2013 before dropping to 15.6 % by 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions contributed to its increase, with youth unemployment rates of 17.6 % and 16.6 % in 2020 and 2021. For the world average, the youth unemployment rate between 2010 and 2020 was also considerably higher than the corresponding rate for people aged 25 years or more. The rate rose from 13.1 % in 2010 to a peak of 13.8 % in 2016, before dropping to 13.5 % in 2019. The world's youth unemployment rate increased to 15.2 % in 2020.

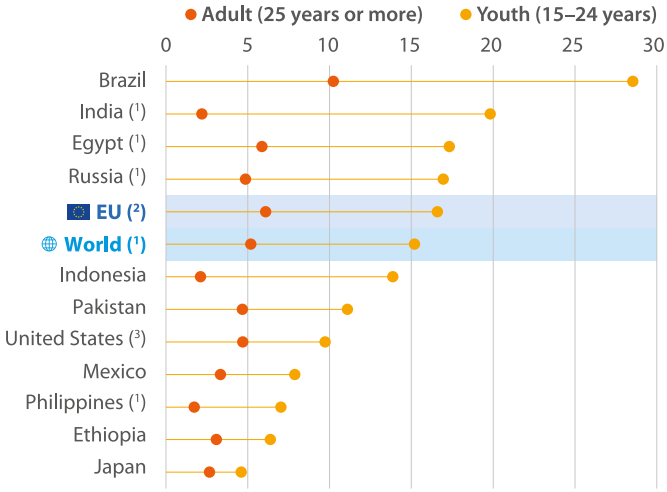


(1) 2021: not available.

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

Youth and adult unemployment rates, 2021

(%)



Among the most populous countries in the world, the highest youth unemployment rate in 2021 was 28.5 % in Brazil. The United States (young people aged 16–24 years), Mexico, the Philippines (2020 data) and Ethiopia recorded youth unemployment rates below 10.0 % in 2021, with the rate in Japan even lower, at 4.6 %.

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: data not available for Bangladesh, China or Nigeria.

(1) 2020.
(2) Adult: persons aged 25–74 years.
(3) Youth: persons aged 16–24 years.

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

Women in parliaments

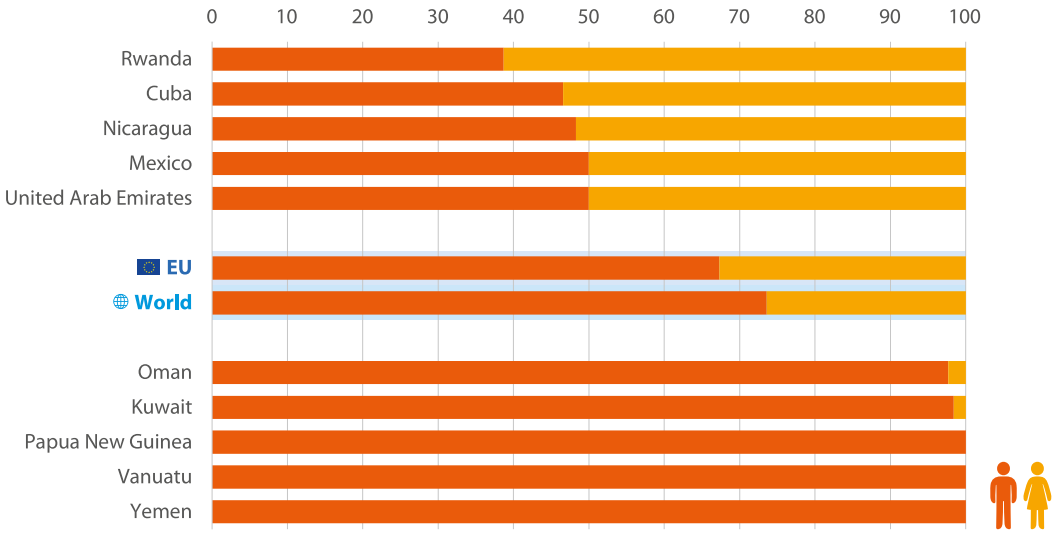
Seats held in lower chambers of national parliaments, July 2022

(%)

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

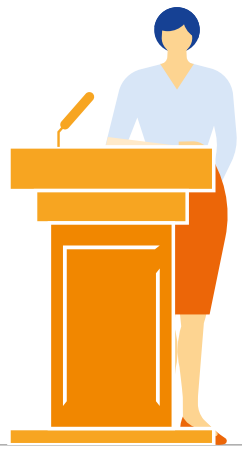
Women held 32.7 % of all seats in national parliaments across the EU in July 2022. The world average was 26.4 %. Worldwide, only three countries had a majority of women in their parliaments: Rwanda (61.3 %), Cuba (53.4 %) and Nicaragua (51.7 %). An equal number of men and women (50.0 %) had parliamentary seats in Mexico and the United Arab Emirates.

At the other extreme, there were three countries where no seats in parliament were held by women: Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu in Oceania and Yemen in Western Asia.



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

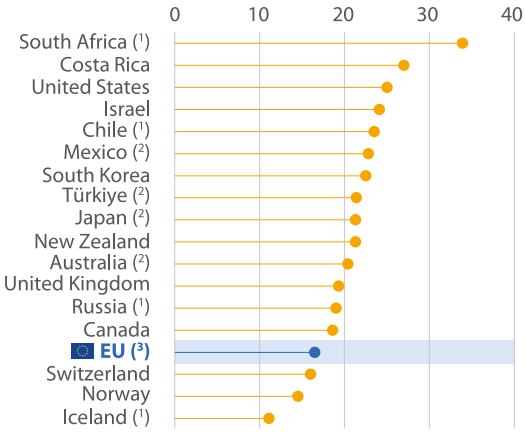
Source: the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Parline)



Living conditions

At-risk-of-monetary-poverty rate, 2019

(%)



The at-risk-of-poverty rate is an indicator of relative poverty: it is defined as the share of the population with an income below a certain national threshold. The data presented here are based on 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 of the 27 EU Member States.

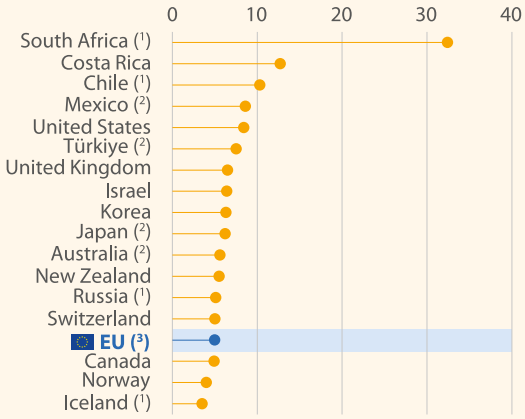
The at-risk-of-poverty rate in the EU was 16.5 % in 2019. Among the countries shown here, rates lower than in the EU were observed in Switzerland, Norway and Iceland (2017 data). The highest rate among the selected countries – approximately double that of the EU – was in South Africa (33.9 %; 2017 data).

Note: this indicator measures the proportion of the population with an equivalised disposable 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 and some non-EU countries.

(1) 2017.
(2) 2018.
(3) Calculated using a modified equivalence scale.

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

Quintile share ratio (S80/S20 ratio) for gross disposable income, 2019



The income quintile share ratio is calculated as the ratio of the proportion of equivalised disposable income received by the 20 % of the population with the highest income (the top quintile) compared with the proportion received by the 20 % of the population with the lowest income (the bottom quintile). The income quintile share ratio in the EU was 5.0 in 2019: in other words, the 20 % of the population with the highest income received 5.0 times as much income as the 20 % with the lowest income. Among the countries for which data are presented, narrower ratios (than in the EU) were observed for Canada, Norway and Iceland (2017 data). Income distribution was more unequal (according to this measure) elsewhere, most notably in South Africa.

Note: 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 and some non-EU countries.

(1) 2017.
(2) 2018.
(3) Calculated using a modified equivalence scale.

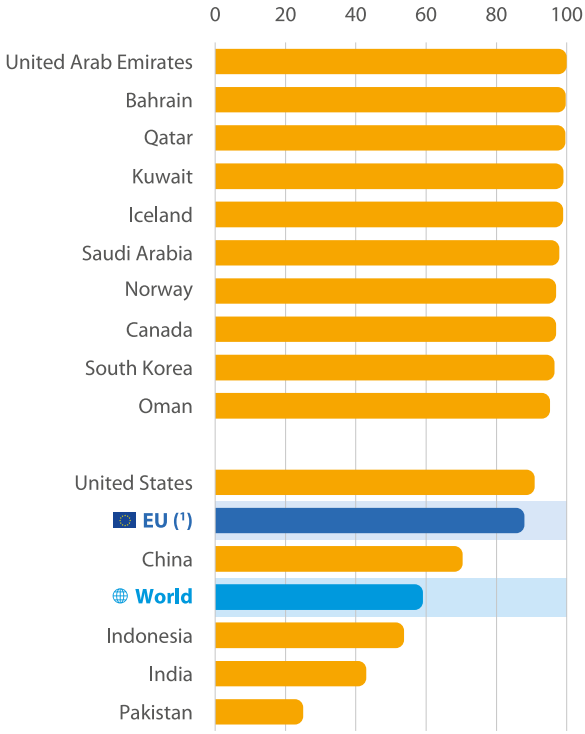
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_di11) and the OECD (Income Distribution and Poverty)

Digital society

Individuals using the internet within the previous three months, 2020

(%)

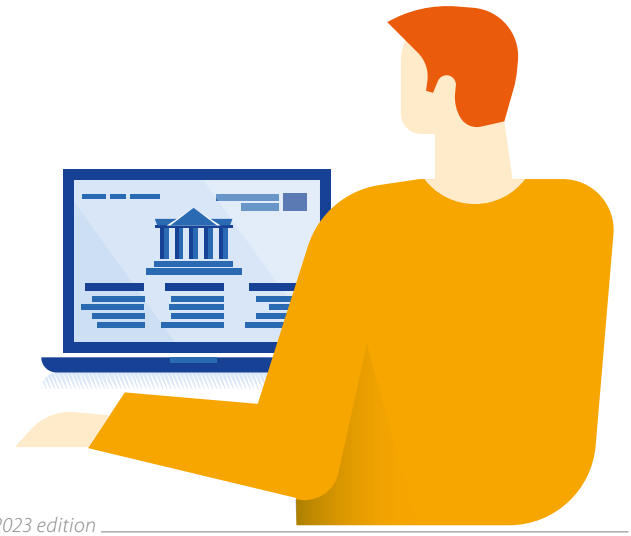
Information and communication technologies have become widely available across the globe, both in terms of accessibility as well as cost. By 2020, the share of individuals using the internet had become exhaustive (100 %) in a few countries, for example the Western Asian countries of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. Shares of 97 % or more were also observed in a few other Asian and European countries, as well as in Canada. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Luxembourg and Denmark would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest shares of internet use. The EU average (for persons aged 16–74 years) was 88 %, some 29 percentage points above the world average (59 %). Among the five most populous countries in the world, the shares of internet use in 2020 were quite diverse, ranging from 25 % in Pakistan to 70 % in China and 91 % in the United States.



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest rates of internet usage. More recent data are available for the EU.

(1) Persons aged 16-74 years.

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



2 Economy and trade

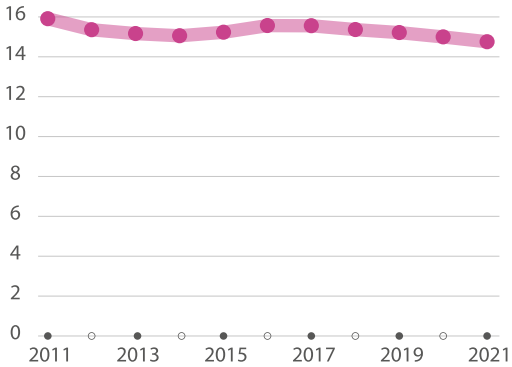
Gross domestic product

EU share of world GDP, 2011–2021

(%, based on international USD)

GDP provides a measure of the size of an economy. In 2021, the total economic output of the world, as measured by GDP, was valued at €81.3 trillion. Analyses for the share of each economy in the world total can be based on GDP converted 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 data presented here are based on the second of these approaches.

The EU's share of world GDP (based on international USD) fell from 15.9 % in 2011 to 15.0 % in 2014, recovered to 15.6 % in 2017, and then declined to 14.8 % by 2021.

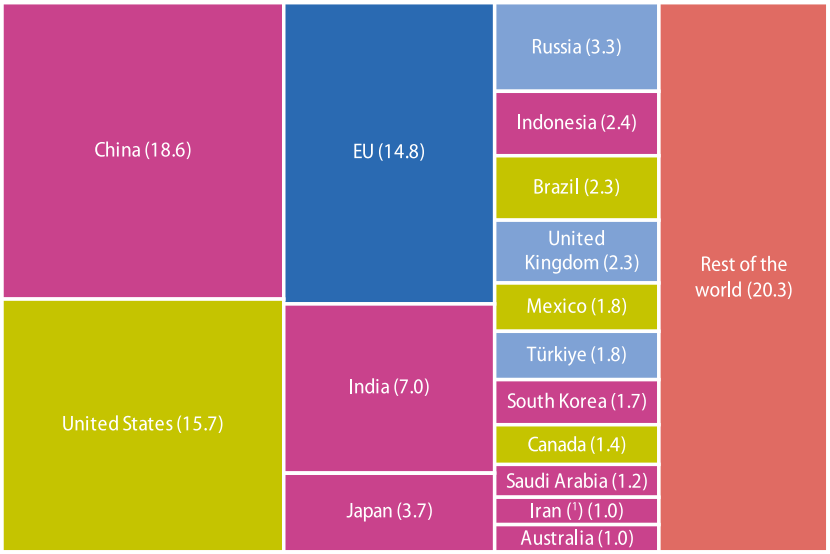


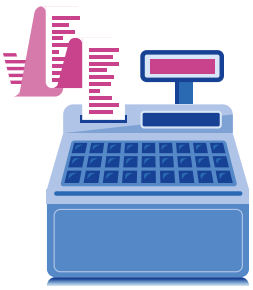
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

World GDP, 2021

(%, based on international USD)

In 2021, China and the United States had the largest shares of world GDP, contributing 18.6 % and 15.7 % respectively. A further 13 non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0 % of the world total. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Poland would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of world GDP. The world's 16 largest economies – the EU and 15 non-EU countries – collectively accounted for 79.7 %





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

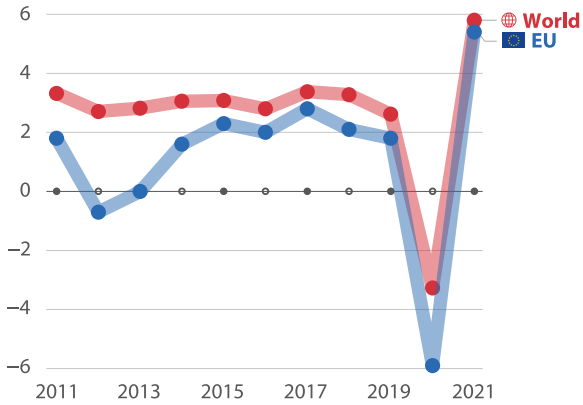
(1) 2020.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

Annual real change in GDP, 2011–2021
(%)

A volume measure of GDP is intended to facilitate comparisons of economic developments over time, as the impact of price changes (inflation and deflation) has been removed. The use of such a measure shows the 'real' change in GDP.

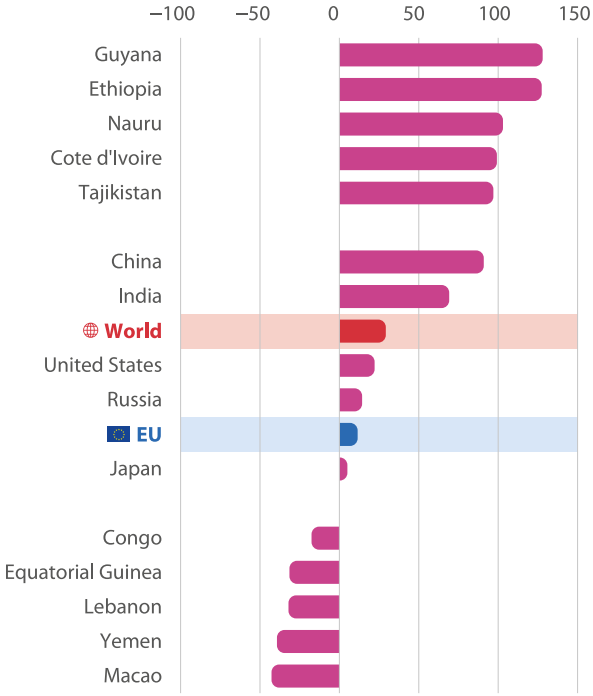
In real terms, world GDP increased every year from 2011 to 2019. In 2020, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, world GDP contracted 3.3 %; in 2021, it bounced back, up 5.8 %. The direction of developments for the EU were broadly similar: increases most years from 2011 to 2019, but with a small decrease in 2012; a sharp fall in 2020 (down 5.9 %); a strong but only partial rebound in 2021 (up 5.4 %).



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

Overall real change in GDP, 2011–2021
(%)

Between 2011 and 2021, the overall real change in world GDP was an increase of 29.3 %, the corresponding figure for the EU was an increase of 11.4 %. Among the five largest economies in the world, the real increases in GDP between 2011 and 2021 ranged from 5.1 % in Japan to 90.9 % in China. The GDP of three non-EU countries more than doubled in real terms during this period, namely Guyana in South America, Ethiopia in Eastern Africa and Nauru in the Micronesia subregion of Oceania. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Ireland would rank among the five countries in the world with the highest real change in GDP between 2011 and 2021.



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five largest economies and the five non-EU countries with the highest/lowest rates of overall real change in GDP.

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

Economic structure

Gross value added by economic activity, 2020

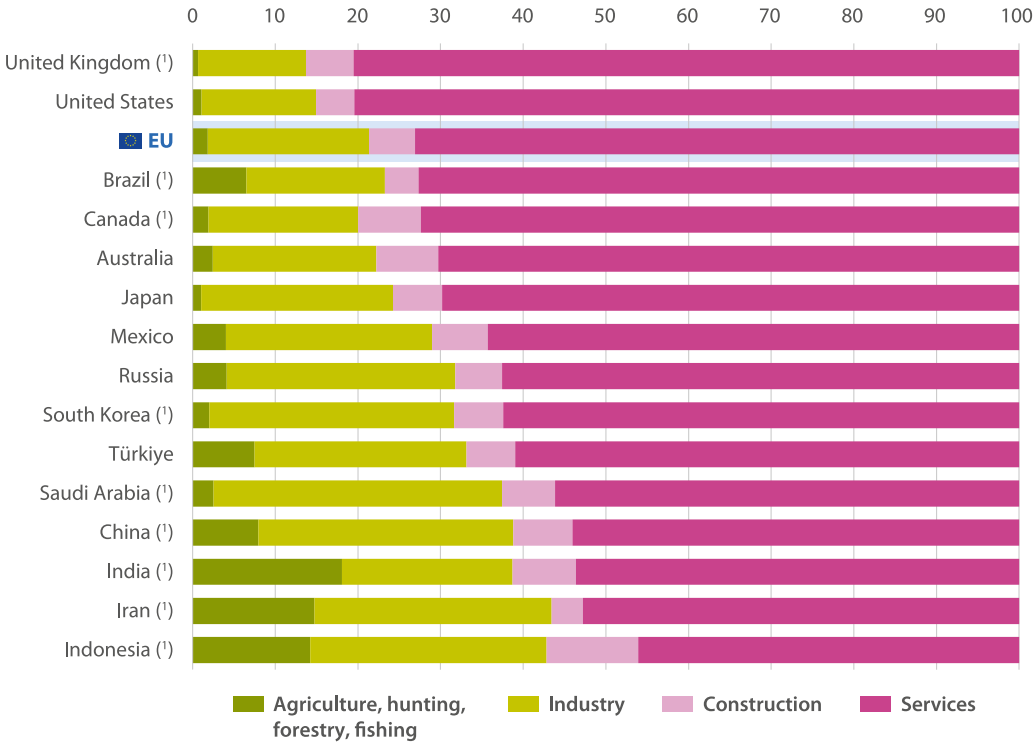
(% of total gross value added)

In 2020, services contributed nearly three quarters (73.1 %) of gross value added in the EU. Among the largest economies of the world, shares around four fifths were observed in the United Kingdom (80.5 %) and the United States (80.4 %). In the remaining large economies, the share of services was lower than in the EU, although services did provide more than half of all value added in each of the non-EU countries that are presented, except for Indonesia (where their share was 46.1 %).

Industry was the second largest activity in value added terms in 2020 in the EU (19.5 % of gross value added) as well as in all of the other large economies; among these countries, the share of industry peaked at more than one third (34.9 %) in Saudi Arabia and was lowest in the United Kingdom (13.1 %).

India (18.1 %), Iran (14.7 %) and Indonesia (14.2 %) were the only large economies where agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing contributed more than one tenth of gross value added in 2020. The lowest share of these activities among the large economies presented was in the United Kingdom (0.6 %) while the share in the EU was also relatively low (1.8 %).

Indonesia was the only large economy where construction contributed more than one tenth (11.1 %) of gross value added in 2020. The lowest share for construction was 3.8 % in Iran, while the share in the EU was 5.6 %.



Note: based on ISIC Rev.4. Ranked on the share of services. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0 % of world GDP.

(1) 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)

Consumer prices

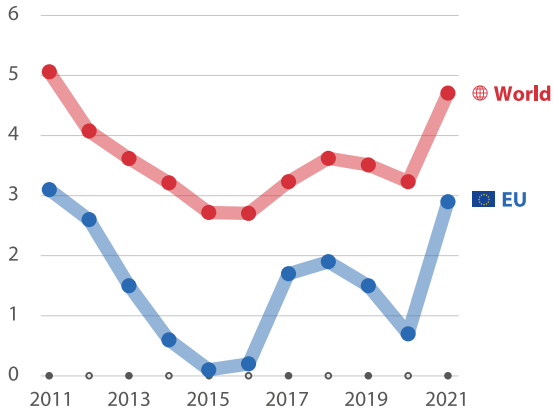
Consumer price indices reflect developments over time in the prices of consumer goods and services acquired, used or paid for by households.

The worldwide inflation rate in 2021 was 4.7 %, the highest it had been since 2011 (5.1 %) and clearly above the range (2.7–3.6 %) reported between 2013 and 2020. A similar situation was observed for the EU, as the 2.9 % increase in 2021 was also the highest since 2011 (3.1 %) and also the first above 2.0 % since 2012.

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

Annual change in consumer prices, 2011–2021

(%)

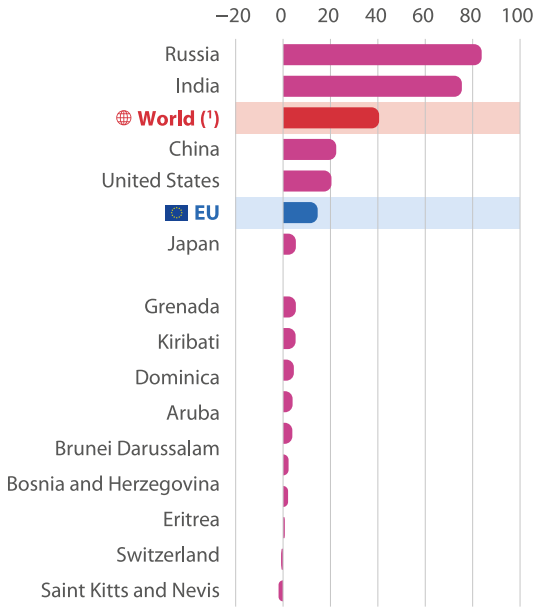


Overall change in consumer prices, 2011–2021

(%)

Across the world, consumer prices increased overall by an estimated 40.5 % between 2011 and 2021, while the corresponding increase for the EU was 14.6 %. Among the five largest economies in the world, consumer price increases between 2011 and 2021 ranged from 5.5 % in Japan to 83.9 % in Russia.

The consumer prices of two non-EU countries were lower in 2021 than they had been in 2011, down 0.8 % in Switzerland and 1.9 % in Saint Kitts and Nevis. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Greece and Cyprus would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the lowest overall changes in consumer prices between 2011 and 2021. High rates of inflation were experienced in several countries during the period under consideration: in Argentina and Zimbabwe, prices in 2021 were approximately 13 and 52 times as high as 10 years earlier; in South Sudan and Sudan they were at least 100 times as high; in Venezuela they were estimated to be 6 billion times as high.



Note: data are presented for the EU, the five largest economies and the 10 non-EU countries with the lowest overall change in consumer prices. Including estimates for some countries.

(1) Estimate made for the purpose of this publication.

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

Government finances

General government expenditure and revenue relative to GDP, 2020

(%)

The general government sector is composed of all levels of government, from central to the most local level and includes social security funds; it does not include public corporations.

The size of the government within an economy may be measured in terms of general government revenue or expenditure. The level of general government expenditure in relation to GDP was 53.0 % in the EU in 2020 while revenue was 46.2 %. Note that this was the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic: among the selected countries for which comparable data are available, all reported higher expenditure than revenue in 2020. Canada (53.9 %) and Norway (58.5 %) reported higher ratios of expenditure to GDP than did the EU; the lowest ratio among the selected countries was 30.1 % in Mexico.

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 2020 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 (OECD Data)

General government deficit relative to GDP, 2018–2020

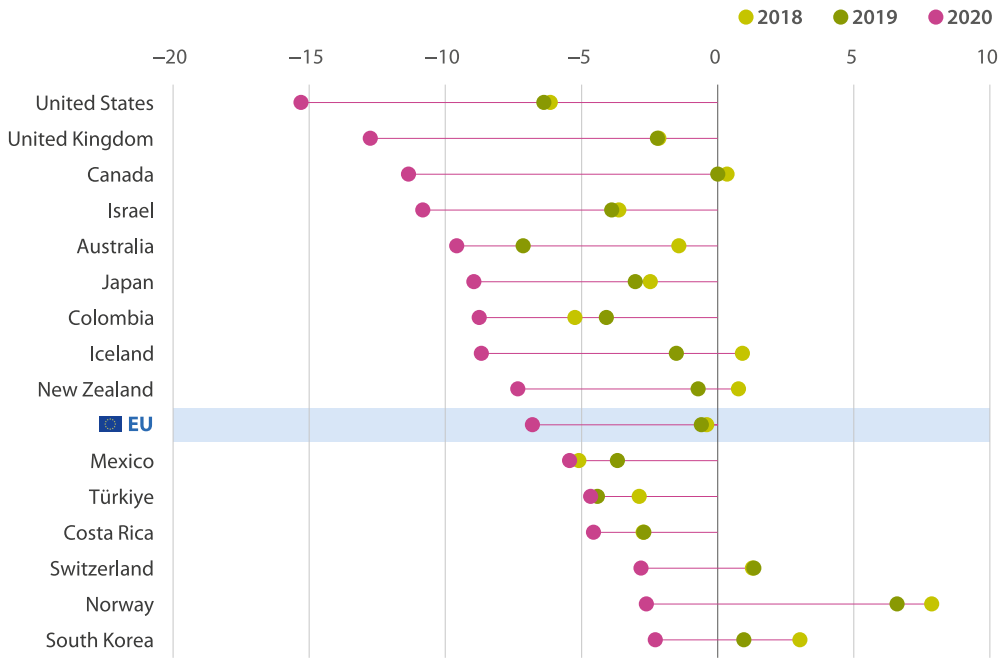
(%)

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 in 2018, 2019 and in 2020 are presented for the EU as well as 15 countries for which recent data are available. Norway, Switzerland and South Korea moved from a surplus in 2019 to a deficit in 2020. Canada moved from a balanced position in 2019 to a deficit in 2020. The EU and the remaining 11 countries reported a larger deficit in 2020 than they had in 2019.

The EU's government deficit relative to GDP widened from 0.6 % of GDP in 2019 to 6.8 % in 2020, an increase of 6.2 percentage points. The largest increases in the government deficits between 2019 and 2020 were in Canada and the United Kingdom (increases of 11.4 and 10.6 points respectively). The smallest increase was in Türkiye (where the deficit relative to GDP increased by 0.2 points).

The EU and all 15 of the selected countries reported deficits in 2020, reflecting – at least in part – government efforts to counter the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. The largest deficit in 2020 was in the United States (15.3 % of GDP), while deficits larger than 10.0 % of GDP were also recorded in the United Kingdom, Canada and Israel. Among the selected countries, the smallest deficits relative to GDP in 2020 were recorded in Switzerland, Norway and South Korea, all below 3.0 %.



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

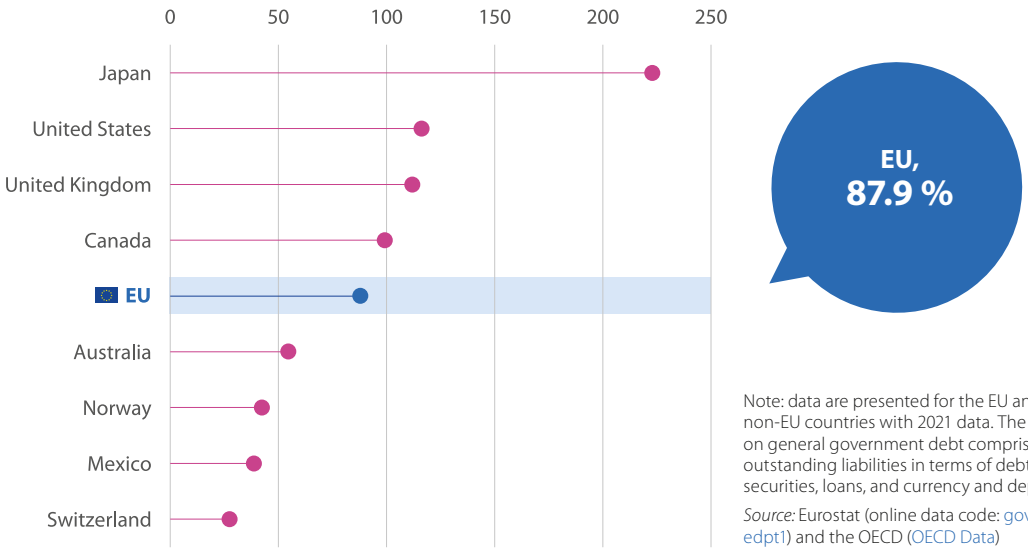
Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1) and the OECD (OECD Data)

General government debt relative to GDP, 2021

(%)

General government gross 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.

In the EU, general government debt was equivalent to 87.9 % of GDP at the end of 2021. Among the countries for which data are shown, general government debt was more than twice the level of GDP in Japan and was greater than GDP in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. By contrast, general government debt was less than half the level of GDP in Norway, Mexico and Switzerland.



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with 2021 data. The data on general government debt comprise outstanding liabilities in terms of debt securities, loans, and currency and deposits.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: gov_10dd_edpt1) and the OECD (OECD Data)

Foreign direct investment

World stocks of inward foreign direct investment, 2020

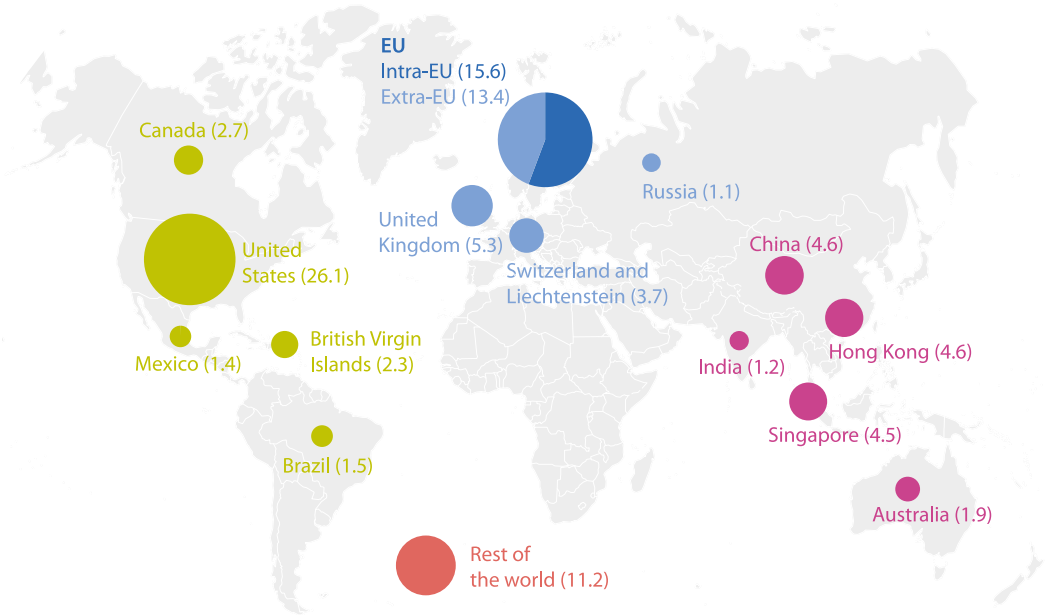
(%)

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is characterised by investment in new foreign plant/offices, or by the purchase of 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 seen in two ways: inward FDI, which are investment coming into the economy from abroad; outward FDI, which are investment from the economy going abroad.

For the EU, FDI may concern investment between individual EU Member States (considered as intra-EU FDI) or investment between a Member State and a non-EU country (extra-EU FDI). Collectively, all inward FDI stocks in the EU (intra- and extra-EU combined) represented more than one quarter (28.0 %) of world total at the end of 2020: intra-EU FDI accounted for 15.6 % of world stocks of inward FDI and extra-EU FDI accounted for a further 12.4 %.

Along with the EU, 13 non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0 % of world stocks of inward FDI in 2020: collectively, these 14 economies accounted for 88.8 % of the world total. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Cyprus and Sweden would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of world inward FDI stocks. The largest inward FDI stocks in 2020 were in the United States, as 26.1 % of inward stocks were located there. Apart from the EU, the next largest inward stocks were in the United Kingdom (5.3 % of the total).



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)

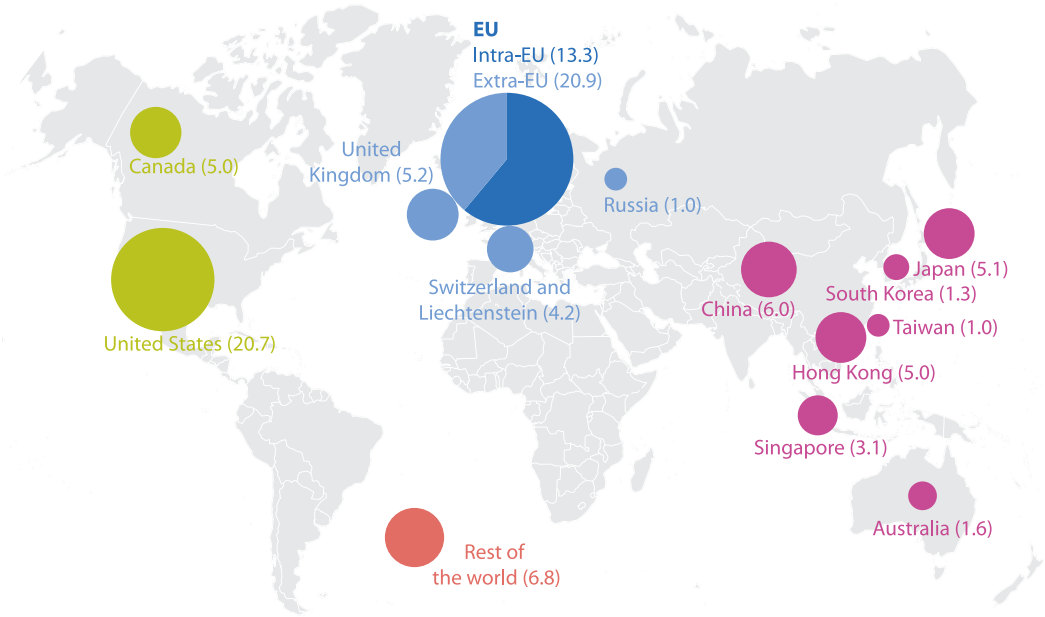
World stocks of outward foreign direct investment, 2020

(%)

Collectively, all outward FDI stocks from the EU (intra- and extra-EU combined) represented more than one third (34.2 %) of world stocks of outward FDI at the end of 2020: FDI held outside of the EU (extra-EU) accounted for 20.9 % and FDI from EU Member States held elsewhere within the EU (intra-EU) accounted for a further 13.3 %.

Along with the EU, 12 non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0 % of world stocks of outward FDI in 2020: collectively, these 13 economies accounted for 93.2 % of the world total. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), the Netherlands, Germany, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Sweden would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of world stocks of outward FDI. After the EU, the second largest outward FDI stocks in 2020 were held in the United States (20.7 % of outward stocks originated there), while China had the third largest share (6.0 %).

Information on the shares of world stocks of inward and outward FDI suggest that the origin of FDI is somewhat more concentrated (93.2 % of the world total from 13 economies) than its destination (88.8 % of the world total in 14 economies). Brazil, the British Virgin Islands (which is an offshore financial centre), India and Mexico ranked among the largest destinations of FDI, but not origins; Japan, South Korea and Taiwan ranked among the largest origins of FDI, but not destinations.



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.

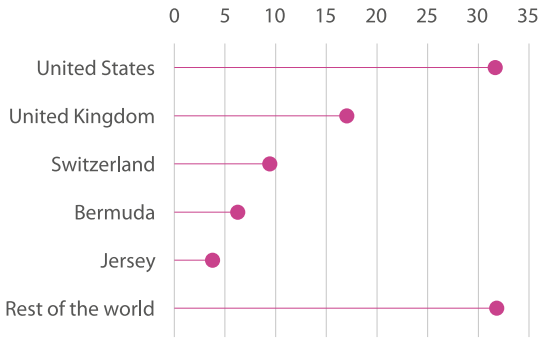
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos) and UNCTAD (FDI/MNE database)

Non-EU countries' stocks of foreign direct investment in the EU, 2020

(%)

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).

The United States held nearly one third (31.7 %) of the EU's inward stocks of FDI held by non-EU countries at the end of 2020, more than three times the share of any country other than the United Kingdom (which had the second highest share, 17.0 %). Switzerland held the third largest FDI stock in the EU, followed by two offshore financial centres – Bermuda and Jersey.



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

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos)

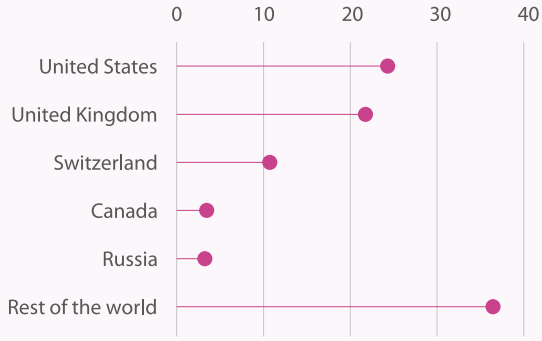
Non-EU countries' stocks of foreign direct investment from the EU, 2020

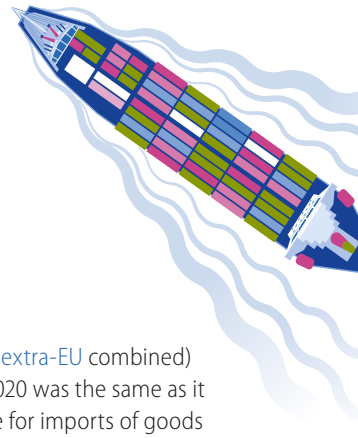
(%)

The same three countries were the top destinations for the EU's outward stocks of FDI held in non-EU countries at the end of 2020: close to one quarter (24.3 %) was in the United States, more than one fifth (21.8 %) in the United Kingdom and more than one tenth (10.7 %) in Switzerland.

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

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_fdi6_pos)





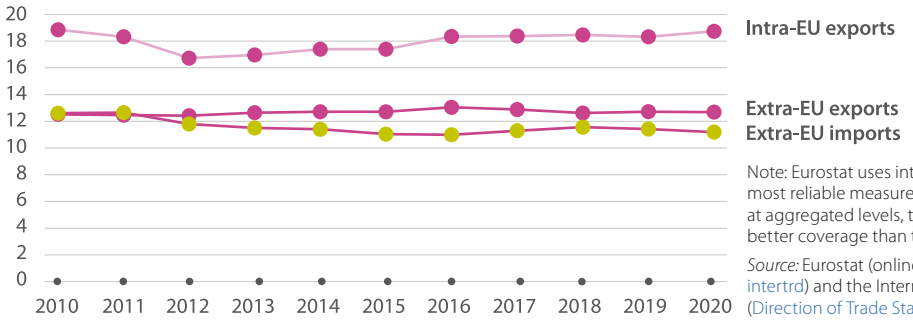
International trade – share of world trade

EU Member States' share of world trade in goods, 2010–2020

(%)

The EU Member States accounted for 31.4 % of world exports of goods in 2020 and 29.4 % of imports. Most Member States traded more within the EU than with countries outside the EU Member States. The combined Member States' trade with countries outside the EU accounted for 12.7 % of world exports of goods and 11.2 % of imports.

The EU's total share (intra- and extra-EU combined) of world exports of goods in 2020 was the same as it had been 10 years earlier, while for imports of goods the share was 1.2 percentage points lower, reflecting a fall in the share of imports from non-EU countries (extra-EU imports).



Note: Eurostat uses intra-EU exports as the most reliable measure of total 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)

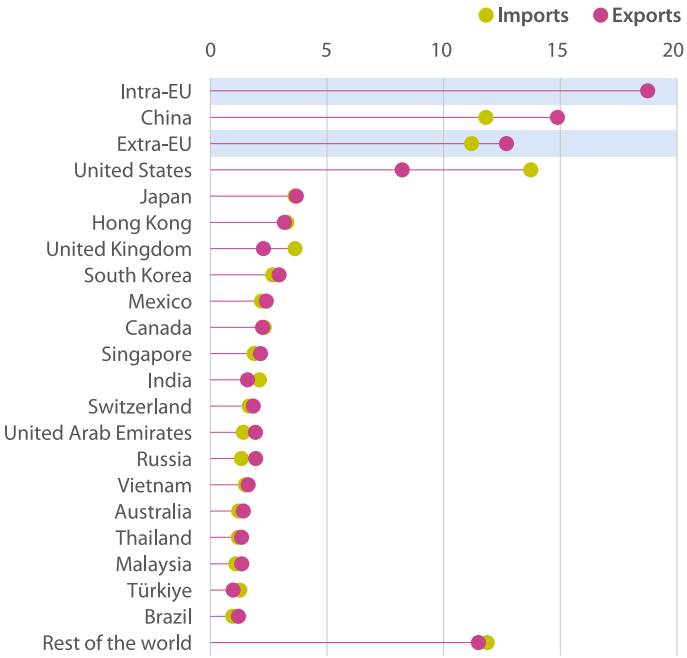
World trade in goods, 2020

(%)

Leaving aside intra-EU trade, China had the largest share of world exports of goods in 2020, with a share of 14.9 %. Behind China and the EU (12.7 %), the United States had the third largest share (8.2 %). Concerning imports of goods, the United States had the largest share (13.7 %), followed by China (11.8 %) and the EU (11.2 %).

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 world trade in goods. Calculating world trade for the EU as the sum of all Member States' trade, leads to a certain amount of double counting due to quasi-transit trade. Further information can be found here.

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

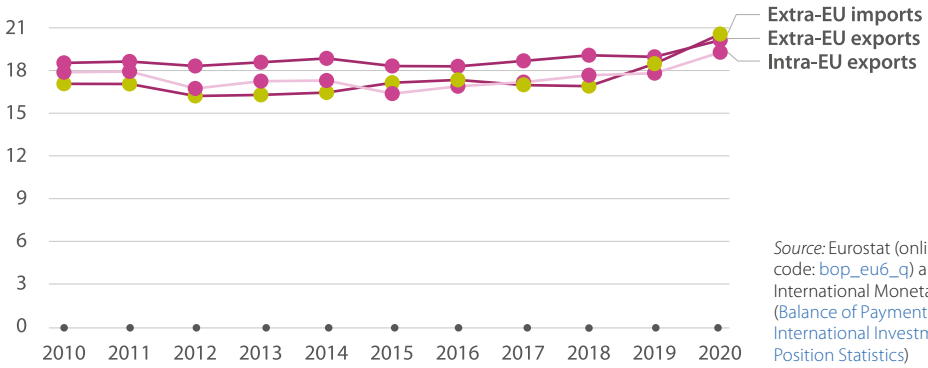


EU Member States' share of world trade in services, 2010–2020

(%)

The EU's contribution to world trade in services was even greater than for goods. The EU accounted for 39.7 % of world exports of services in 2020 and 39.5 % of imports. A small majority of each of these total shares was related to trade with non-EU countries, as the EU's extra-EU trade accounted for 20.2 % of world exports of services and 20.7 % of imports.

The EU's total share (intra- and extra-EU combined) of world exports of services in 2020 was 3.0 percentage points higher than it had been 10 years earlier, while for imports of services the share was 4.3 percentage points higher. These increases reflected increases in the share of exports and imports of services for both intra- and extra-EU trade.



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

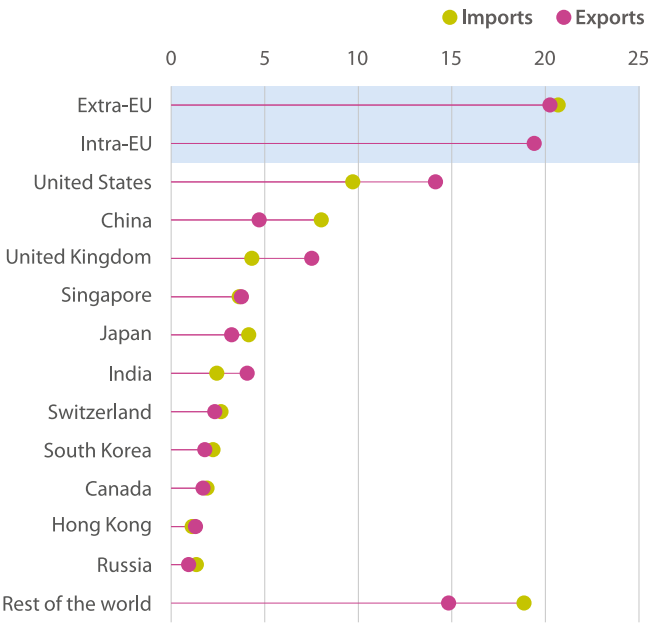
World trade in services, 2020

(%)

Both in terms of extra- and intra-EU trade, the EU's share of world trade in services in 2020 was higher than for any individual country for exports and for imports. Among non-EU countries, the United States had the highest shares for both flows, with 14.1 % of world exports of services and 9.7 % for imports. The United Kingdom was the second largest non-EU country in terms of exports of services (7.5 % of the world total), while China was the second largest in terms of imports (8.0 % of the world total).

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 world trade in services.

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



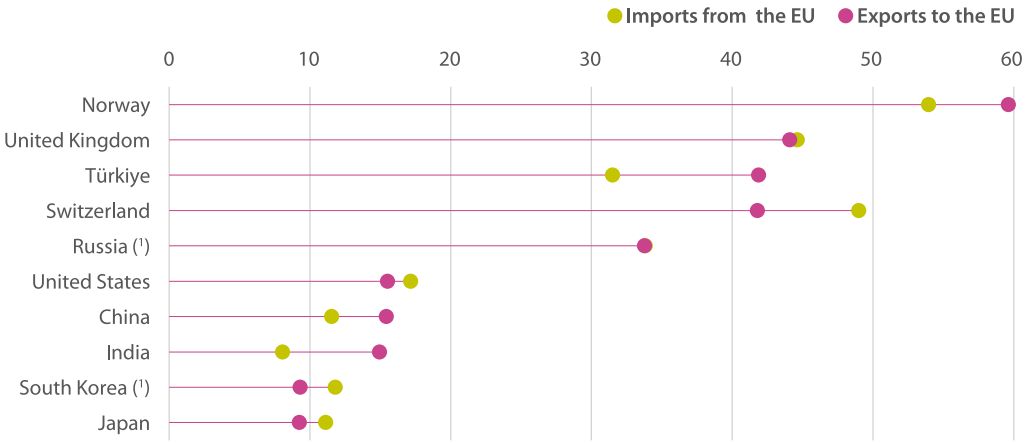
Trade between the EU and the rest of the world

Share of the EU as a trading partner, 2021

(%)

The 10 countries that had the highest levels of trade (exports and imports combined) in goods with the EU in 2021 were China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Russia (2020 data), Türkiye, Japan, Norway, South Korea (2020 data) and India.

For these countries, how important was the EU as a trading partner for goods? More than half of Norway's trade in goods in 2021 was with the EU, 59.6 % for its exports and 53.9 % for its imports. More than two fifths of goods exported from the United Kingdom, Türkiye and Switzerland were destined for the EU, while more than two fifths of the goods imported into Switzerland and the United Kingdom came from the EU. By contrast, less than one tenth of the goods exported in 2021 from Japan or South Korea (2020 data) were destined for the EU, while the EU was the origin of less than 10.0 % of all goods imported into India.

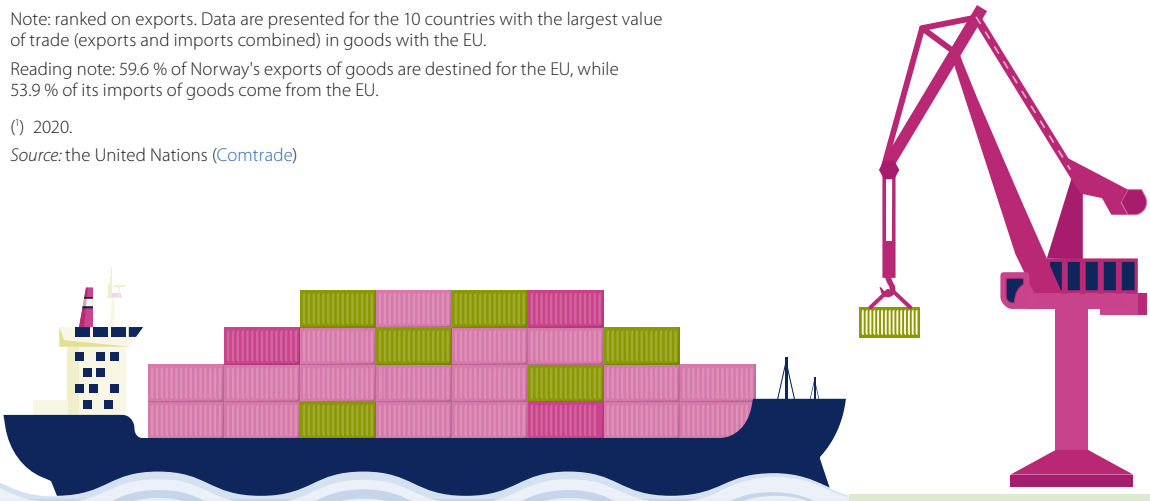


Note: ranked on exports. Data are presented for the 10 countries with the largest value of trade (exports and imports combined) in goods with the EU.

Reading note: 59.6 % of Norway's exports of goods are destined for the EU, while 53.9 % of its imports of goods come from the EU.

(1) 2020.

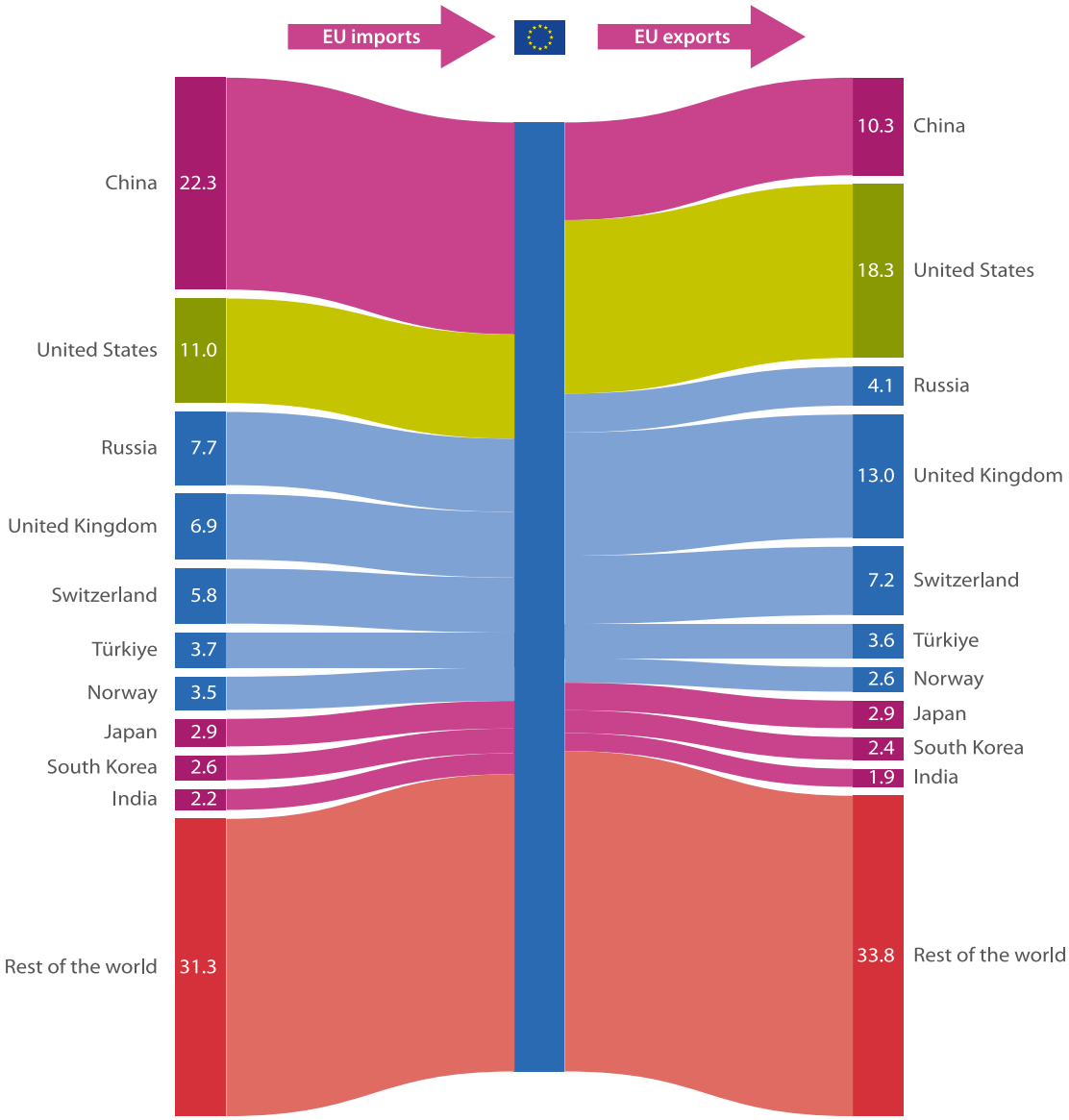
Source: the United Nations (Comtrade)



EU trade in goods, 2021

(%)

How important to the EU were its main partners for trade in goods? The EU's extra-EU exports of goods in 2021 were valued at €2 181 trillion and imports at €2 118 trillion, resulting in a trade surplus for goods. The EU's largest export market for goods was the United States (18.3 % of the extra-EU total) while the largest origin for imports was China (22.3 %). Among the 10 largest partners for trade in goods, the EU had a trade surplus with the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Türkiye and Japan.



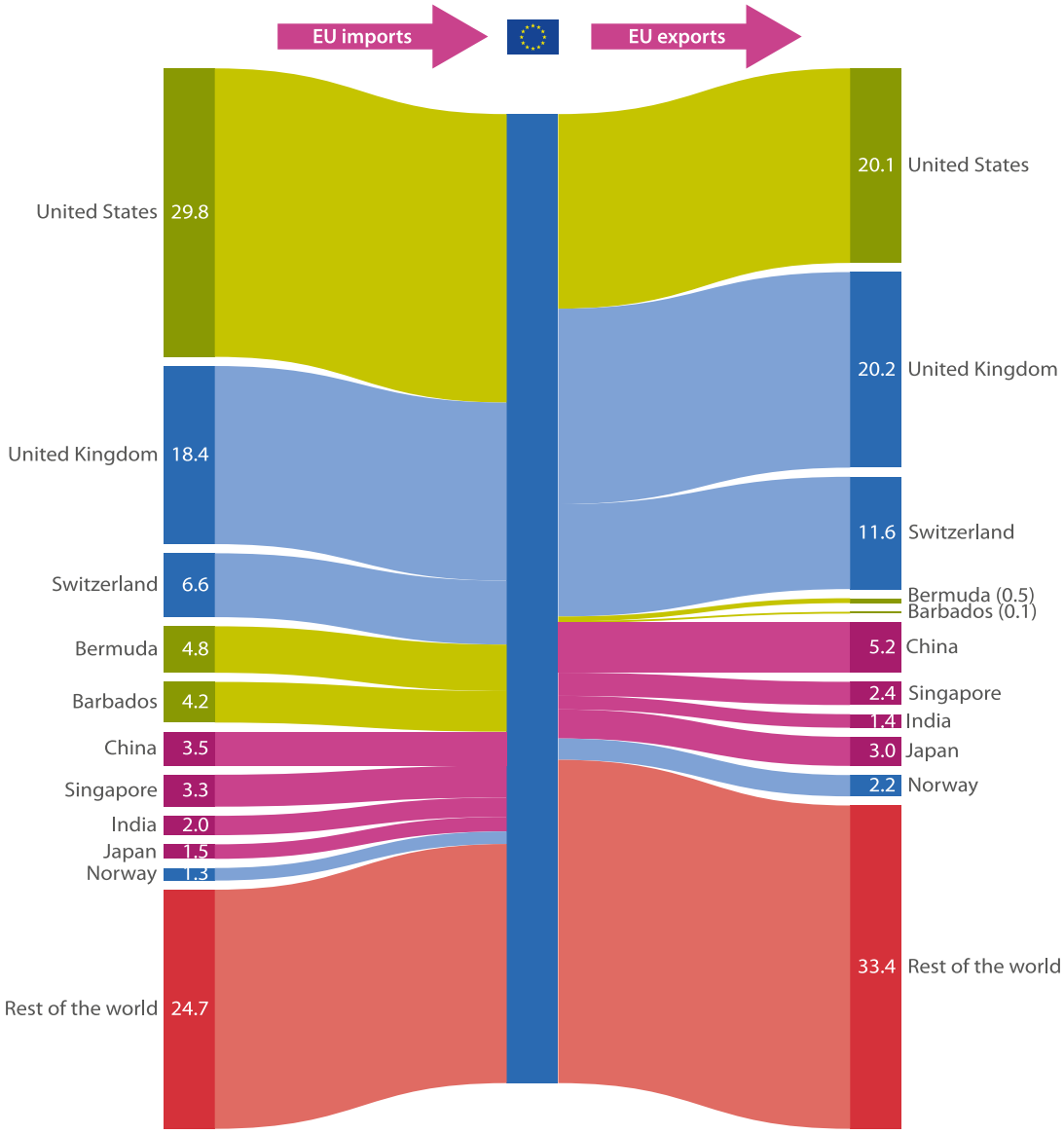
Note: ranked on imports. Data are presented for the 10 countries with the largest value of trade (exports and imports combined) in goods with the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

EU trade in services, 2020

(%)

For services, the EU's extra-EU exports in 2020 were valued at €910 billion and imports at €878 billion, resulting in a trade surplus. The EU's largest export market for services was the United Kingdom (20.2 % of the extra-EU total) while the United States was the principal origin of services imported into the EU (29.8 %). Among the 10 largest partners for trade in services, the EU had a trade surplus with Switzerland, the United Kingdom, China, Japan and Norway.



Note: ranked on imports. 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)

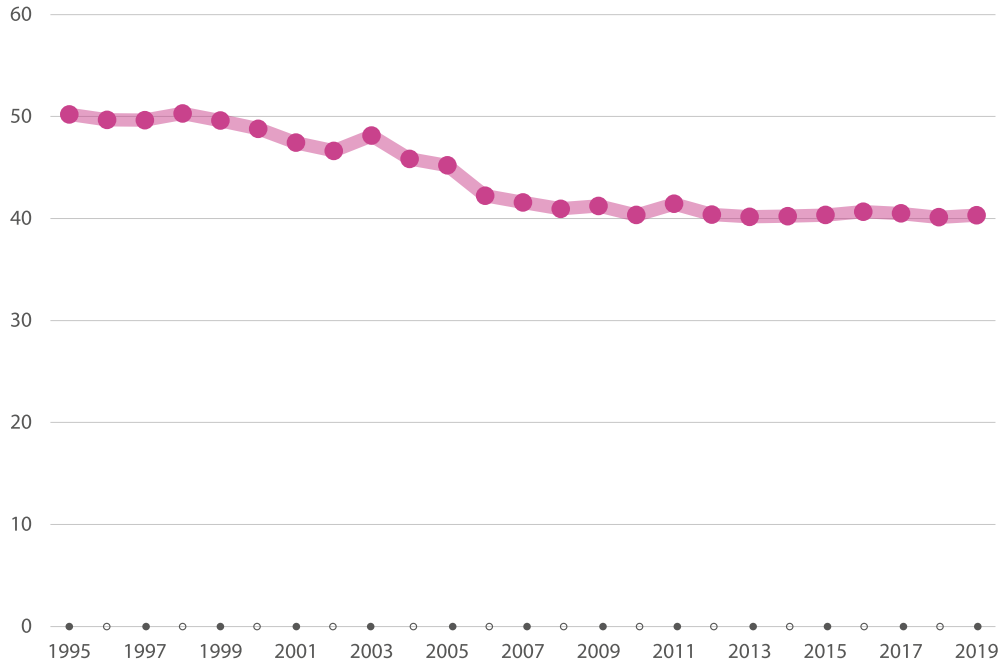
Tourism

EU share of the world total for international visitors, 1995–2019

(%)

There were around 2.40 billion international visitor ([1]) arrivals worldwide in 2019, in other words, before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the same year, there were 969 million international visitor arrivals in the EU; note that this total also includes arrivals of tourists from other EU Member States. As such, the EU hosted approximately 40 % of all international tourist arrivals worldwide. Having fallen from 50 % in 1995, this share was relatively stable between 2007 and 2019, in the range of 40–42 %.

([1]) International visitors are defined according to their country of residence, not according to their citizenship. As such, citizens residing abroad who return to their country of citizenship on a temporary visit are included as international visitors. Data on international visitors for the world exclude same day visitors (and therefore only cover overnight visitors, also called tourists) for some countries; the same is true for the data for some of the EU Member States included in the EU aggregate.

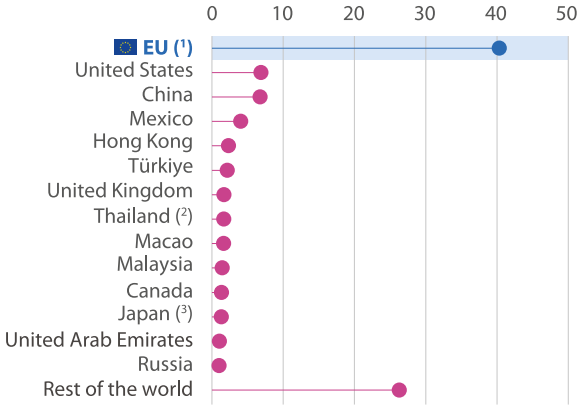


Note: includes intra-EU arrivals. Excluding same day visitors for some EU Member States.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators) and the World Tourism Organization (key tourism statistics)

World total for international visitors, 2019

(%)



The EU as a whole accounted for a much greater share of world international visitors in 2019 than did any non-EU country: its 40 % share in 2019 was close to six times the next highest share, 7 % in the United States. A total of 13 non-EU countries accounted for at least 1.0 % of the world total of international visitor arrivals in 2019; individually, 11 of the EU Member States 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.

(1) Includes intra-EU arrivals. Excluding same day visitors for some EU Member States.

(2) Excluding same day visitors.

(3) Underestimate: excluding arrivals of non-resident Japanese visitors.

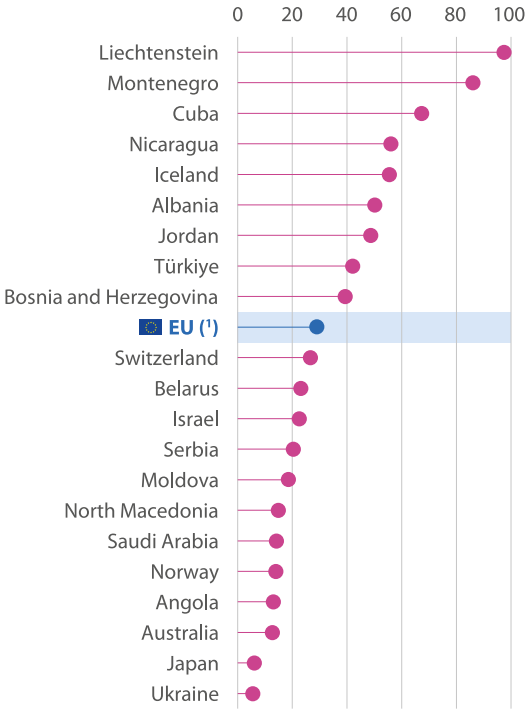
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators) and the World Tourism Organization (key tourism statistics)

Nights spent by international tourists among all nights spent in tourist accommodation, 2020

(%)

A tourist is a visitor who stays at least one night in collective or private tourist accommodation in a specified geographical area. Tourists can include residents (domestic tourists) and non-residents (international tourists). Note that the data presented for this indicator are for 2020, when tourism was strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions, with international tourism particularly hard hit.

In 2020, international tourists accounted for 29.0 % of all nights spent in tourist accommodation in the EU. Data for this ratio are also available for 21 non-EU countries: international tourists spent less than 10.0 % of all nights spent in tourist accommodation during 2020 in Ukraine and Japan, compared with 86.1 % in Montenegro and 97.4 % in Liechtenstein.



Note: data are presented for the EU and all non-EU countries for which 2020 data for domestic and inbound (international) tourists are available.

(1) Includes nights spent by intra-EU tourists.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_ninat) and the World Tourism Organization (key tourism statistics)

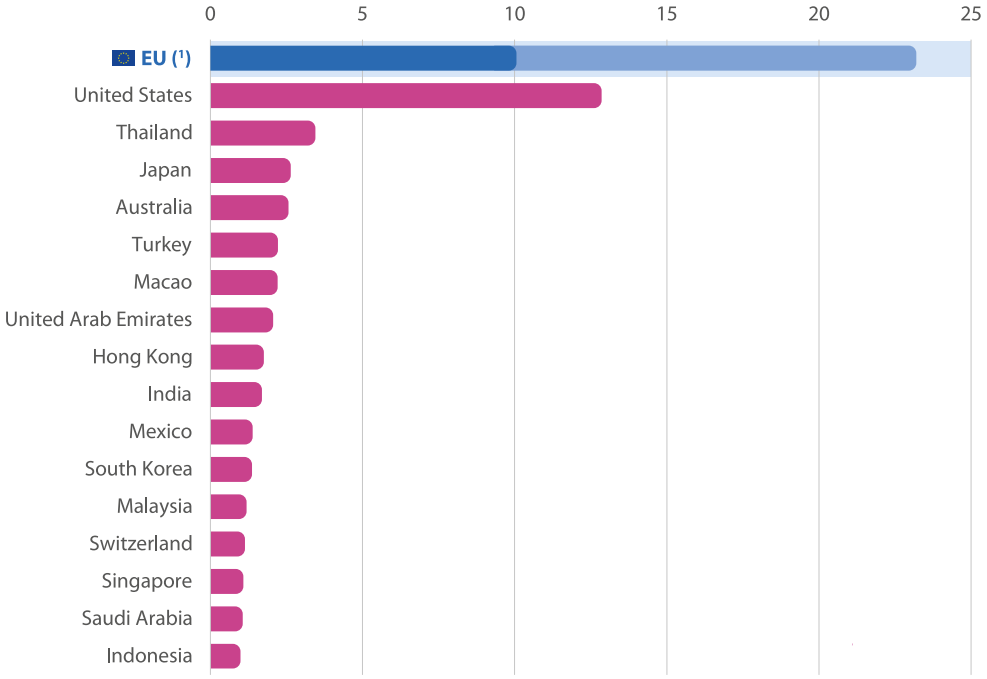
World total for receipts from international tourism, 2019

(%)

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

The EU received 23.2 % of worldwide receipts from international tourism in 2019: 13.1 % of the world total was from international tourism between EU Member States and 10.1 % was from tourists from non-EU countries. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Portugal, the Netherlands and Greece would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of worldwide receipts from international tourism.

There were 16 non-EU countries that received at least 1.0 % of worldwide receipts from international tourism in 2019. The United States had a 12.9 % share of worldwide receipts from international tourism, far higher than the shares recorded for other non-EU countries; the next highest was 3.5 % in Thailand.



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. Rest of the world: 37.1 %.

(1) Estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Dark blue shows extra-EU receipts while light blue shows intra-EU receipts.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_its6_det), the International Monetary Fund (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics) and the World Bank (World Development Indicators)

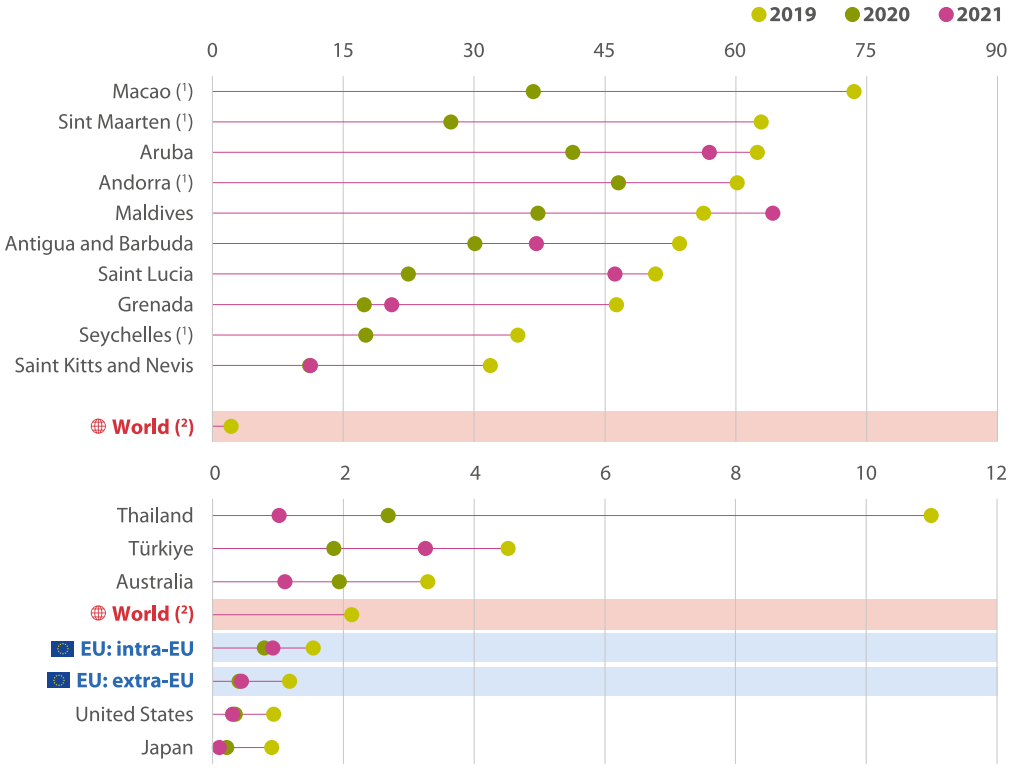
International tourism receipts relative to GDP, 2019–2021

(%)

International tourism receipts were valued at 2.7 % of GDP in the EU in 2019; this ratio fell to 1.2 % and 1.3 % in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Focusing on the 2019 data (before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic), the EU's total receipts were split between 1.5 % of GDP from international tourism between EU Member States and 1.2 % of GDP from international tourism from non-EU countries.

While the EU's total international tourism receipts relative to GDP were relatively close to the world average, many smaller countries, particularly those composed of islands, reported much higher ratios in 2019. For example, international tourism receipts in Macao in Eastern Asia were equivalent to 73.5 % of GDP in 2019. Six further non-EU countries recorded a ratio of international tourism receipts to GDP in excess of 50.0 % in 2019: Sint Maarten, Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Lucia in the Caribbean; the Maldives in Southern Asia; Andorra in Europe.

A comparison of this ratio for 2019, 2020 and 2021 shows the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on countries that were heavily dependent on international tourism. For example, international tourism receipts relative to GDP in Thailand fell from 11.0 % in 2019 to 2.7 % in 2020 and 1.0 % in 2021.



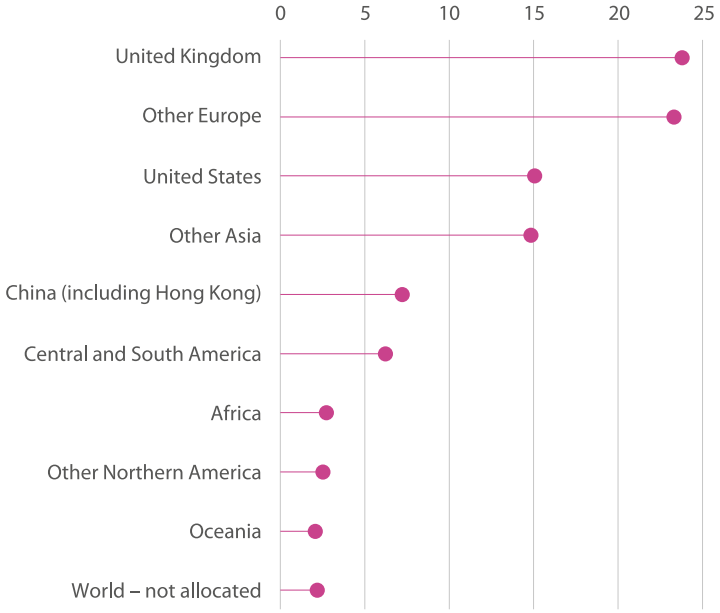
Note: ranked on 2019. Data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five non-EU countries with the largest world receipts from international tourism in 2019 and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest tourism receipts relative to GDP in 2019. The figure is presented in two parts with different scales: for ease of comparison, the world average is show in each part.

(1) 2021: not available.
(2) 2020 and 2021: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: bop_its6_det and nama_10_gdp), the International Monetary Fund (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics), the World Bank (World Development Indicators) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Analysis of Main Aggregates)

Country/continent of origin of tourist arrivals at EU tourist accommodation, 2019

(%, share of extra-EU total)



In terms of the number international tourists, the EU is a major destination. Data for 2019 – the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic – illustrate from which parts of the rest of the world tourists arriving at EU tourist accommodation had come.

In 2019, nearly half (47.1 %) of all international tourists from non-EU countries arriving at EU tourist accommodation came from elsewhere in Europe. More than half of these (23.8 % of the world total) came from the United Kingdom, the single largest non-EU country of origin for tourists arriving at tourist accommodation in the EU.

More than one fifth (22.1 %) of all tourists from non-EU countries arriving at EU tourist accommodation in 2019 were from Asia. A large share of these (7.2 % of the world total) came from China or Hong Kong.

Northern America was the origin of 17.8 % of tourists from non-EU countries arriving at EU tourist accommodation in 2019, with most of these (15.1 % of the world total) coming from the United States.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: tour_occ_arnraw)

Research and development

Research and development intensity, 2010 and 2020

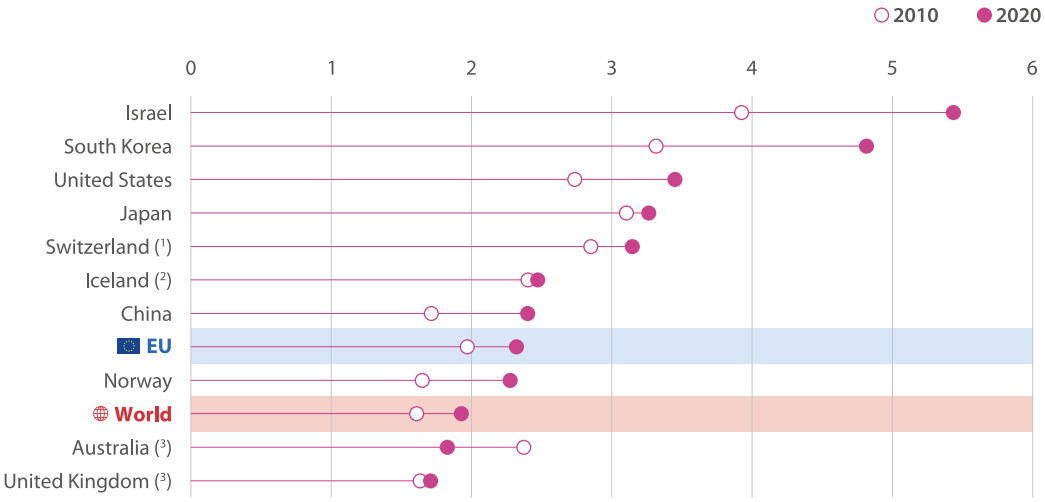
(%)

Research and development (R&D) and innovation are often considered as some of the primary driving forces behind competitiveness, productivity, economic growth and job creation Gross domestic expenditure on R&D is a key measure of the level of R&D activity performed in an economy ([1]).

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) in the EU was €311 billion in 2020. The relation between the level of GERD and GDP is known as R&D intensity: in the EU, it stood at 2.32 % in 2020. The world average for R&D intensity in 2020 was 1.93 %. The highest R&D intensities among non-EU countries were 5.44 % in Israel and 4.81 % in South Korea. The United States, Japan and Switzerland (2019 data) all recorded R&D intensities above 3.0 %.

If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Sweden, Belgium, Austria, Germany and Denmark would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest R&D intensities in 2020; the intensities in Finland, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Czechia were also above those of some of the top 10 non-EU countries.

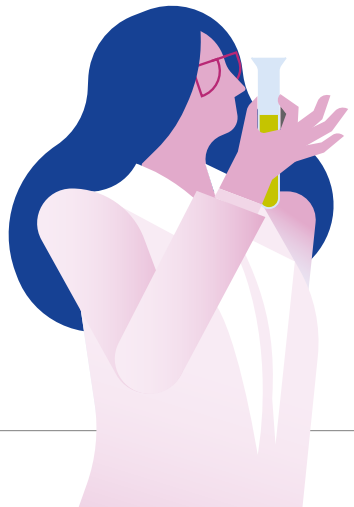
([1]) It includes R&D that is funded from abroad, but excludes payments made abroad.



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.

([1]) 2012 instead of 2010. 2019 instead of 2020.
([2]) 2011 instead of 2010.
([3]) 2019 instead of 2020.

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



3 Environment and natural resources

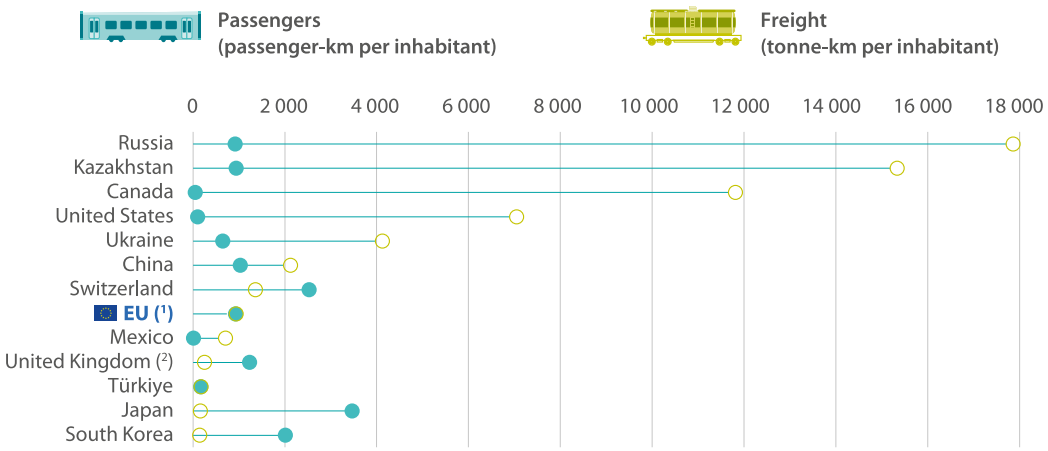
Transport

Rail transport relative to population size, 2019

Two particular units are used for transport measurement: tonne-kilometre (tonne-km) and passenger-kilometre (passenger-km). These represent the transport of one tonne of goods (freight) or one passenger over a distance of one kilometre.

EU rail passenger transport performance was 415 billion passenger-km in 2019, equivalent to 928 passenger-km per inhabitant; rail freight transport performance in 2019 was 400 billion tonne-km (excluding Belgium and Greece), equivalent to 941 tonne-km per inhabitant.

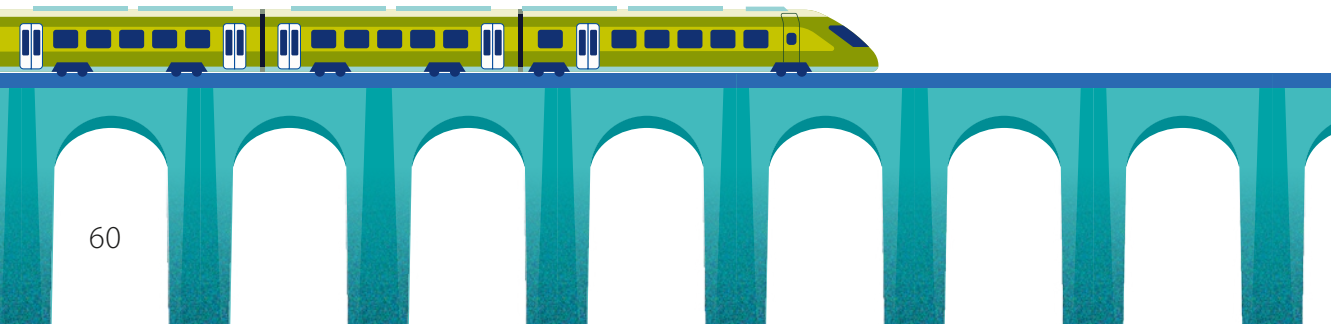
Rail passenger and freight data are presented for a selection of 12 non-EU countries. The extent of the use of rail transport in 2019 varied greatly between countries both for passenger and for freight transport. A relatively high use of freight and passenger rail transport was observed in Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Switzerland and China, and to some extent also in the EU. In Canada, the United States and Mexico, rail transport was focused mainly on freight transport, while passenger transport was dominant in Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom. Türkiye had a relatively low overall use of rail transport.



Note: ranked on freight transport. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with data for 2019 and at least 50 billion tonne-km of rail freight transport and/or at least 10 billion passenger-km of rail passenger transport. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

(1) Freight: excluding Belgium and Greece.
(2) Excluding Northern Ireland.

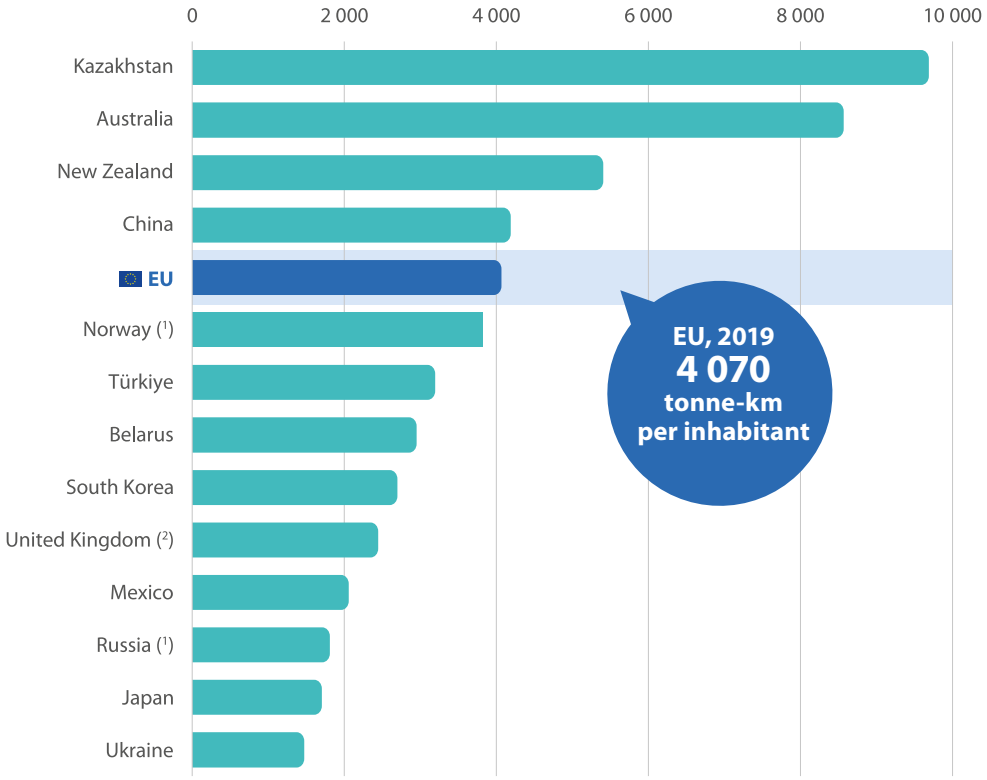
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: rail_pa_total, rail_go_total and demo_gind), the OECD (International transport forum) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)



Road freight transport relative to population size, 2019
(tonne-km per inhabitant)

The performance of road freight transport by hauliers registered in the EU was 1.82 trillion tonne-km in 2019, equivalent to 4 070 tonne-km per inhabitant.

Road freight data are presented for 13 non-EU countries. By far the highest levels of performance were in Kazakhstan and Australia, with averages of 9 690 and 8 570 tonne-km per inhabitant, respectively; the next highest were in New Zealand and China. High levels of road freight transport performance may reflect not only an extensive use of road freight transport, but also large distances that goods may be transported. The other nine non-EU countries for which data are presented all recorded lower levels of road freight transport performance than in the EU. An average per inhabitant of less than 2 000 tonne-km of freight was transported by road in 2019 in Russia, Japan and Ukraine.



Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with data for 2019 and at least 20 billion tonne-km of road freight transport. More recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

(1) Only including transport on the national territory.
(2) Excluding Northern Ireland.

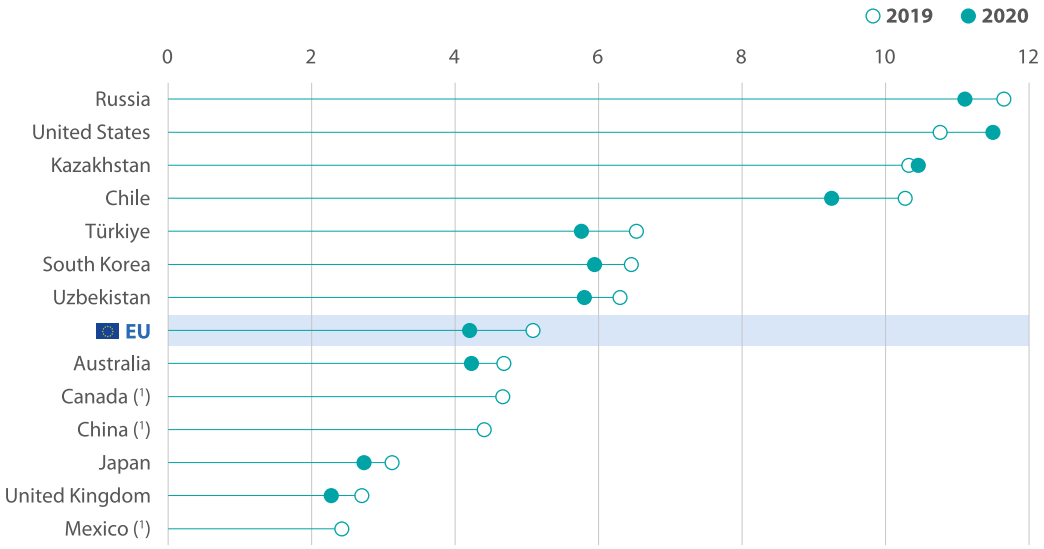
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: road_go_ta_tott and demo_gind), the OECD (International transport forum) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)

Road traffic deaths relative to population size, 2019 and 2020

(per 100 000 inhabitants)

In the EU, there were 5.1 road transport deaths per 100 000 inhabitants in 2019. Data for this ratio for 2019 are presented for 13 non-EU countries. Among these, the highest ratios of road transport deaths relative to population size were in Russia, the United States, Kazakhstan and Chile, all above 10.0 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants. The lowest ratios, below 3.0 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants, were in the United Kingdom and Mexico.

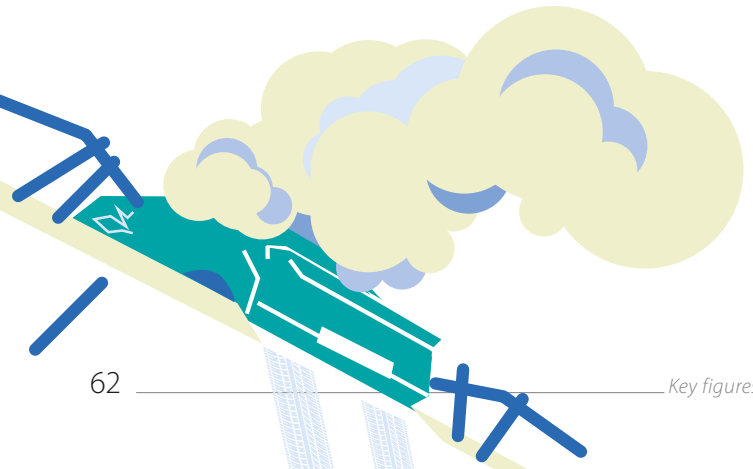
Data for 2020 are available for the EU and 10 of the non-EU countries. The ratio in the EU dropped from 5.1 to 4.2 deaths per 100 000 inhabitants between 2019 and 2020. In part, this can be attributed to less use of road transport during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example because related restrictions resulted in less people travelling for work, study or leisure purposes. Most of the non-EU countries also recorded a fall in this ratio between 2019 and 2020, but there were two exceptions – Kazakhstan and the United States.



Note: ranked on 2019. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with data for 2019 and at least 1 000 road traffic deaths.

(1) 2020: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: tran_sf_roadse and demo_gind), the OECD (International transport forum) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (World Population Prospects 2022)



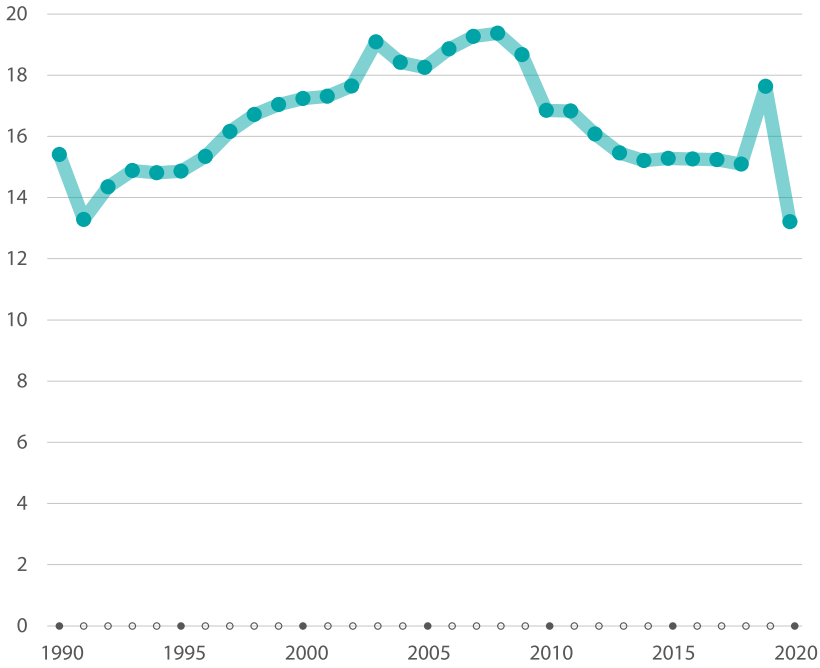
EU share of world air passengers carried, 1990–2020

(%)

Worldwide, the number of air passengers carried in 1990 was 1.02 billion. It passed through two billion in 2006, three billion in 2013 and four billion in 2018. In 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 crisis, it peaked at 4.56 billion. In 2020, as many flights were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions, the annual rate of change turned negative for only the fourth time since 1990. However, the decreases in 1993 (down 0.3 %), 2001 (down 1.1 %, impacted among other issues by the terrorist attacks in the United States) and 2008 (down less than 0.1 %, impacted by the global financial and economic crisis) were minor in comparison with the 60.3 % decrease observed in 2020.

The analysis of air passengers and freight carried that is presented in this publication is based on the nationality of the carrier (airline), not the origin or destination of passengers/freight.

The EU's share of world air passenger numbers fell from 15.4 % in 1990 to 13.3 % in 1991. Thereafter it increased most years until it reached a peak of 19.4 % in 2008. The EU's share subsequently fell most years as growth in the rest of the world outstripped that of the EU; by 2018, the EU's share was 15.1 %. The two most recent years for which data are available show contrasting developments: the EU's share increased to 17.6 % in 2019, but then dropped to 13.2 % in 2020 (its lowest share throughout the period under consideration).



13.2 % of world passengers carried in the EU in 2020

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

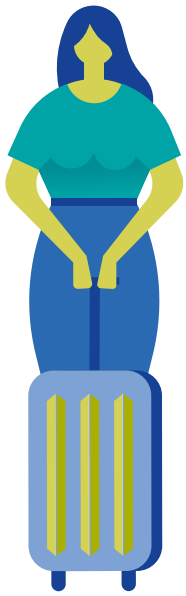
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

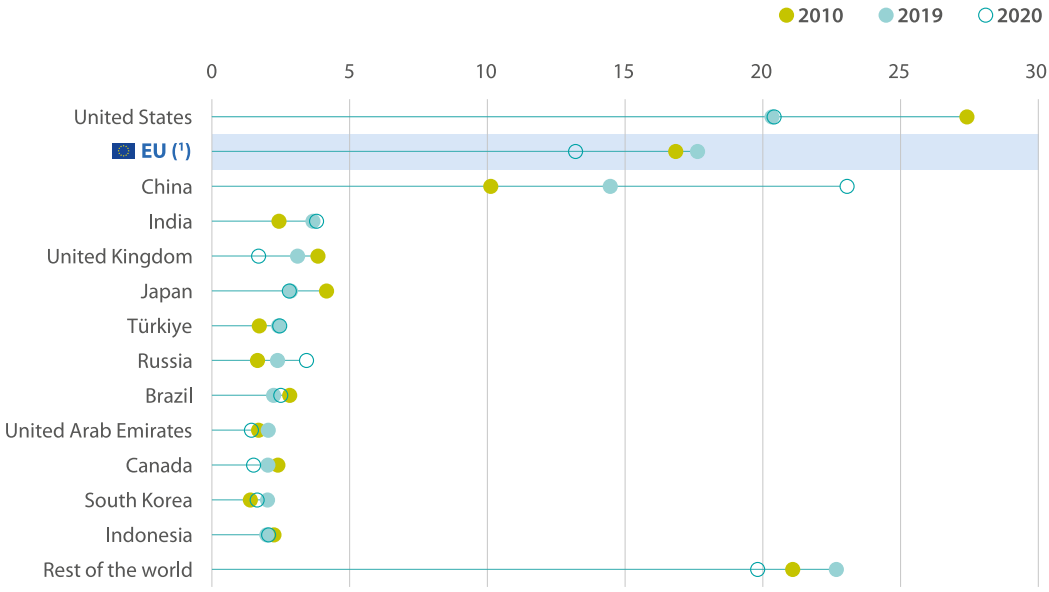
World air passengers carried, 2010, 2019 and 2020

(%)

In 2019, carriers from the United States had a one fifth (20.3 %) share of world air passenger numbers and Chinese carriers a 14.5 % share. Carriers from a total of 10 other non-EU countries had shares between 2.0 % and 3.7 %. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), carriers from Ireland and Germany would also rank among those with at least 2.0 % of world air passenger numbers in 2019.

Air passenger transport numbers decreased massively in 2020 and international air transport was hit particularly hard by the pandemic and related restrictions. Some countries with large domestic air passenger markets saw their carriers' share of world air passenger numbers rise. Most notable was the increase from 14.5 % in 2019 to 23.1 % in 2020 for Chinese carriers, overtaking carriers from the EU and the United States.





Note: data refer to aircraft passengers of air carriers registered in each country (or Member State of the EU). Ranked on 2019. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 2.0 % of world air passengers in 2019.

(1) 2010: excluding Denmark and Sweden.

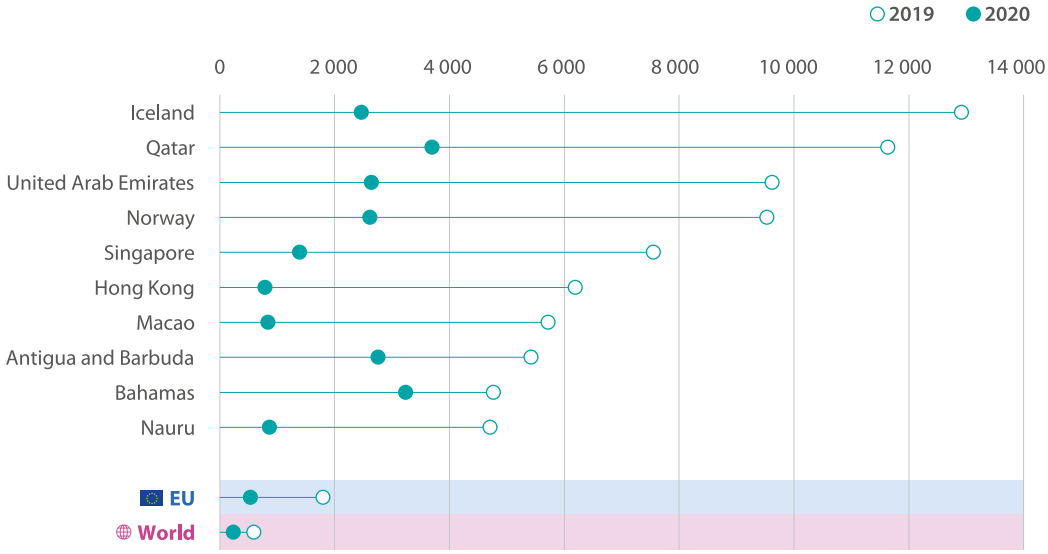
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_paoc)

Number of air passengers carried relative to population size, 2019 and 2020

(number per 1 000 inhabitants)

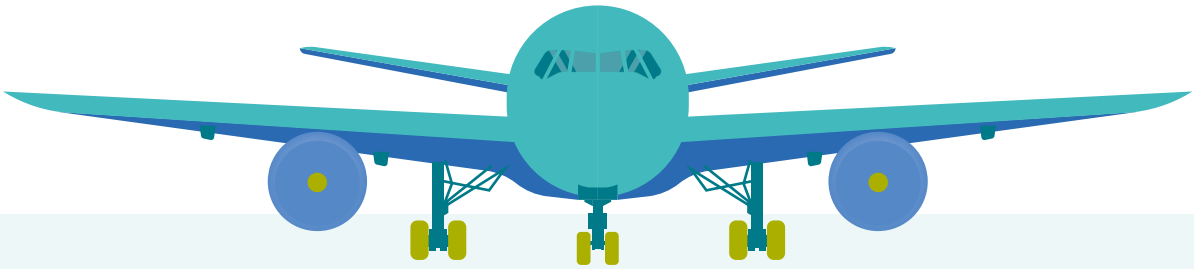
Relative to the size of the population, the number of air passengers carried by EU carriers in 2019 was 1 797 per 1 000 inhabitants. This was three times as high as the world average (593 per 1 000 inhabitants). The two highest ratios, both over 10 000 passengers per 1 000 inhabitants, were recorded for carriers from Iceland and Qatar.

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of air passengers carried relative to population size fell 70.3 % for EU carriers and 60.7 % worldwide. Among the 10 countries whose carriers had the highest ratios in 2019, the largest decreases in relative terms were observed for carriers from Hong Kong, Macao and Singapore in Asia, Nauru in Oceania, and Iceland in Europe, all down by more than 80.0 %.



Note: data refer to aircraft passengers of air carriers registered in each country (or Member State of the EU). Ranked on 2019. 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 2019.

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

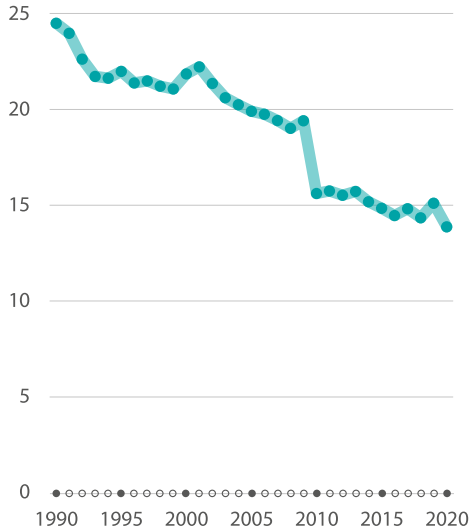


EU share of world air freight, 1990–2020

(%, based on tonne-km)

Worldwide, the quantity of air freight transported was 56.1 billion tonne-km in 1990 and this had risen to 221.5 billion tonne-km by 2019. In 2020, there was an 18.5 % decrease to 180.5 billion tonne-km.

The share of world air freight accounted for by EU carriers fell most years between 1990 and 2019, dropping from 24.5 % in 1990 to 15.1 % by 2019. In 2020, a further fall of 1.2 percentage points was observed, down to 13.9 %. For comparison, a notably larger fall was recorded in 2010 in the aftermath of the global financial and economic crisis and during the European sovereign debt crisis, down 3.8 percentage points.



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

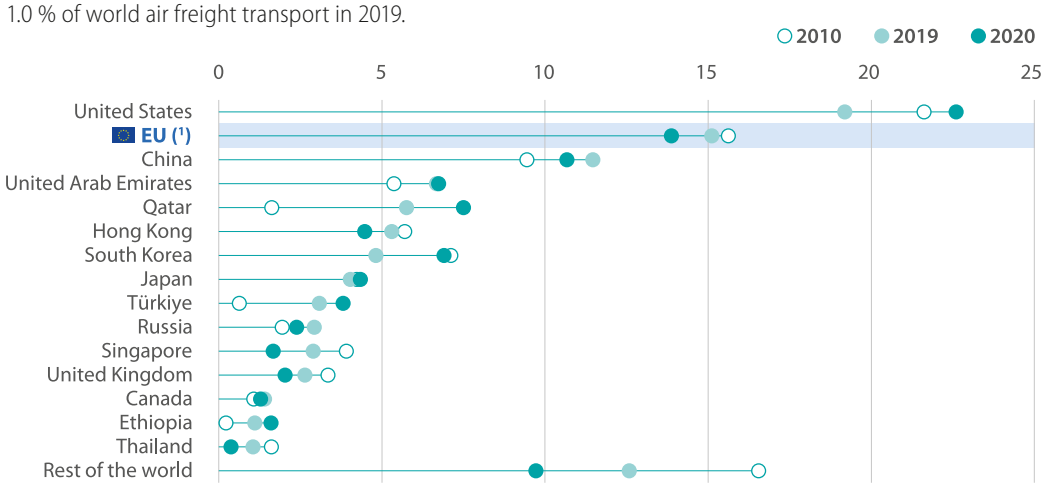
Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators); data with a different definition are published by Eurostat (online data code: avia_gooc)

World air freight, 2010 and 2020

(%, based on tonne-km)

In 2019, carriers from the United States had close to one fifth (19.2 %) of world air freight transport and Chinese carriers an 11.5 % share. Carriers from 12 other non-EU countries had shares between 1.0 % and 6.7 %. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), carriers from Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and France would also rank among those with at least 1.0 % of world air freight transport in 2019.

Between 2019 and 2020, the share of world air freight transport performed by carriers from the United States increased 3.4 percentage points. Carriers from South Korea and Qatar recorded the next largest increases in their shares. The largest decreases in shares were for carriers from Singapore and the EU, both down 1.2 points.



Note: data refer to freight carried by air carriers registered in each country (or Member State of the EU). Ranked on 2019. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0 % of world air freight in 2019.

(1) 2010: 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 2019

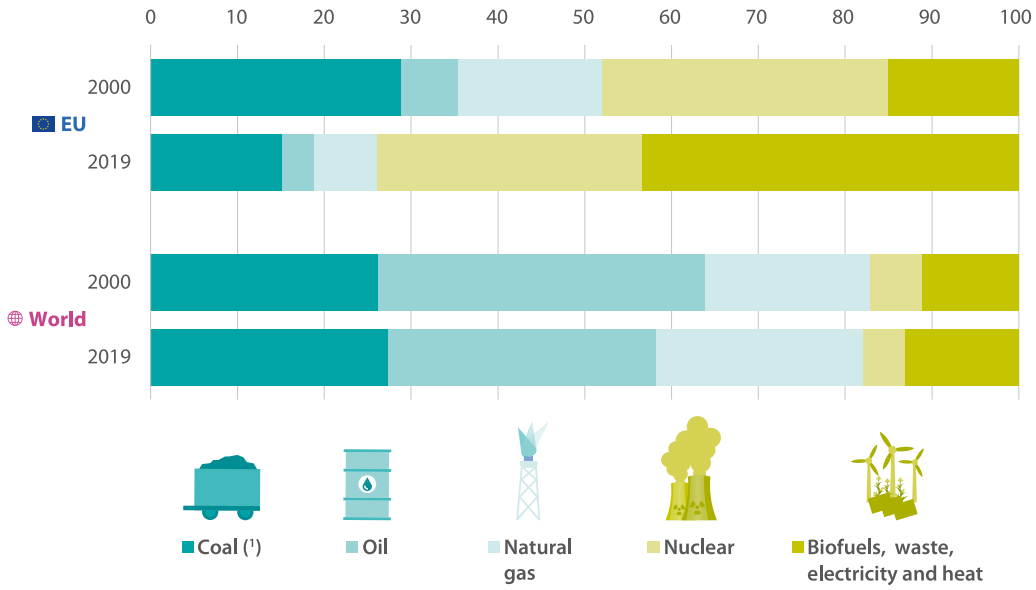
(%)

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

The contribution of the main fossil fuels to the EU's primary production in 2019 was 26.0 %. This was mainly coal (15.1 % of the primary production total), with smaller shares for natural gas (7.2 %) and oil (3.7 %). By comparison, the share of fossil fuels in the world's primary production was 82.0 %: oil (30.9 %) and coal (27.4 %) each made a greater contribution than all fossil fuels did in the EU, while the world share for natural gas (23.8 %) was also substantial.

In 2019, the share of primary production of energy provided by nuclear in the EU (30.5 %) was greater than that of fossil fuels, whereas nuclear provided a relatively small (4.9 %) share of world primary production. The share of biofuels, waste, electricity and heat was 43.4 % in the EU, the largest of the five energy sources illustrated; by contrast, this source contributed 13.1 % of the world total.

Between 2000 and 2019, the contribution of all types of fossil fuels to primary production of energy in the EU fell considerably, that of nuclear fell slightly and, consequently, that of biofuels, waste, electricity and heat increased substantially. Worldwide, the mix of energy sources changed less, with decreases for oil and nuclear and increases for the other sources, most notably for natural gas.



Note: more recent data are available from Eurobase for the EU.

(1) Includes all solid fossil fuels as well as oil shales/sands and peat.

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

World primary production of energy, 2000 and 2019

(%)

Primary production of energy in the EU totalled 24 billion gigajoules (GJ) in 2019, while worldwide production was 613 billion GJ.

The EU was responsible for 3.9 % of the world's primary production of energy in 2019. The world's largest primary producer was China, with 17.9 % of the total. The United States (15.7 %) and Russia (10.5 %) were the only other countries with more than one tenth of world production in 2019.

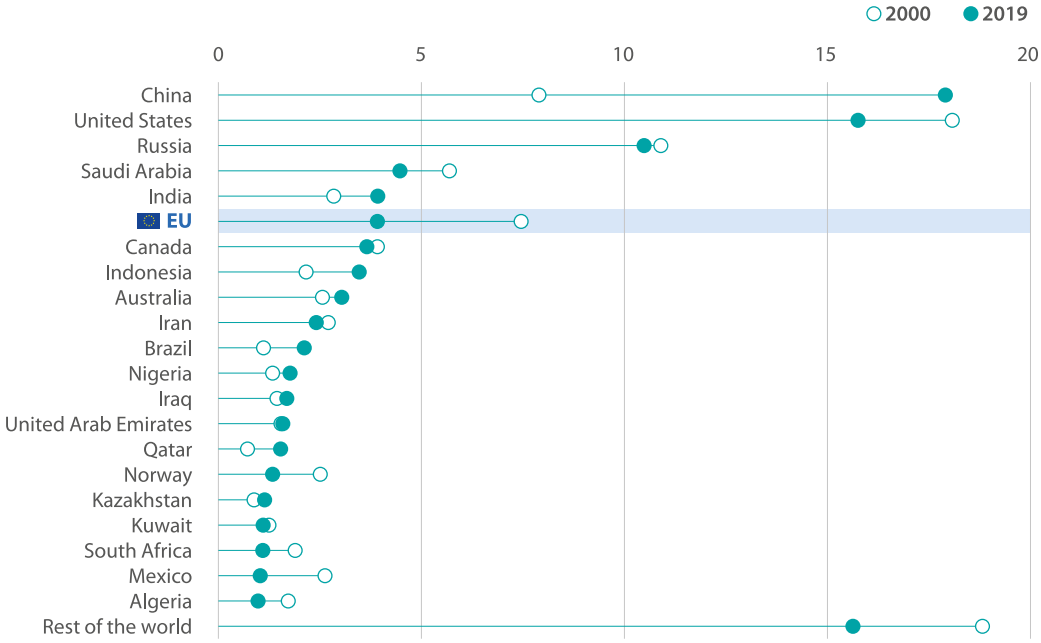
Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0 % of world primary production of energy. More recent data are available for the EU.

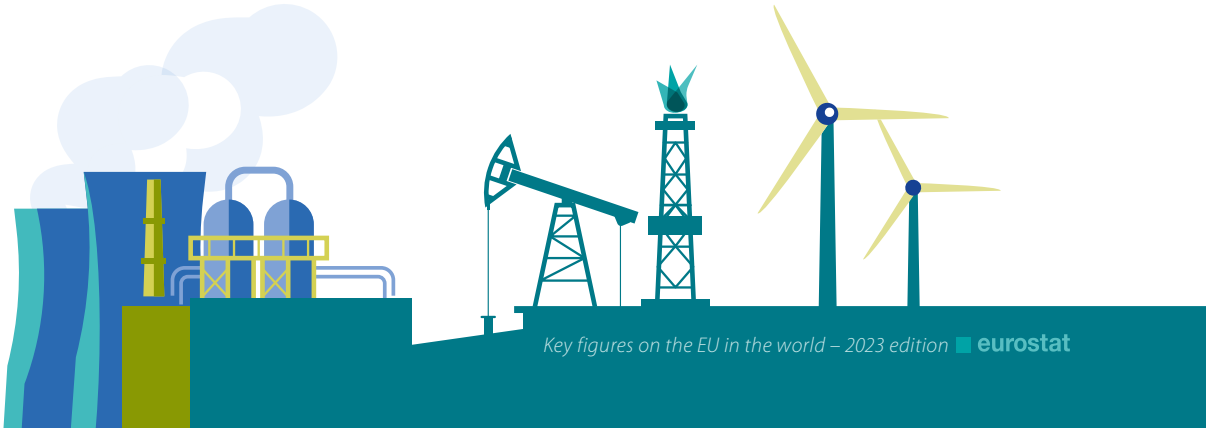
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Yearbook)

A further 17 non-EU countries contributed at least 1.0 % of the total, including:

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

Between 2000 and 2019, the EU's share of world production fell 3.5 percentage points; this was the largest fall among producers with at least 1.0 % of world production in 2019. The share also fell by at least 1.0 points in the United States, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Norway. By far the largest increase was in China, up 10.0 points, with increases of at least 1.0 points also in Indonesia, India and Brazil.





World imports and exports of energy, 2019

(%)

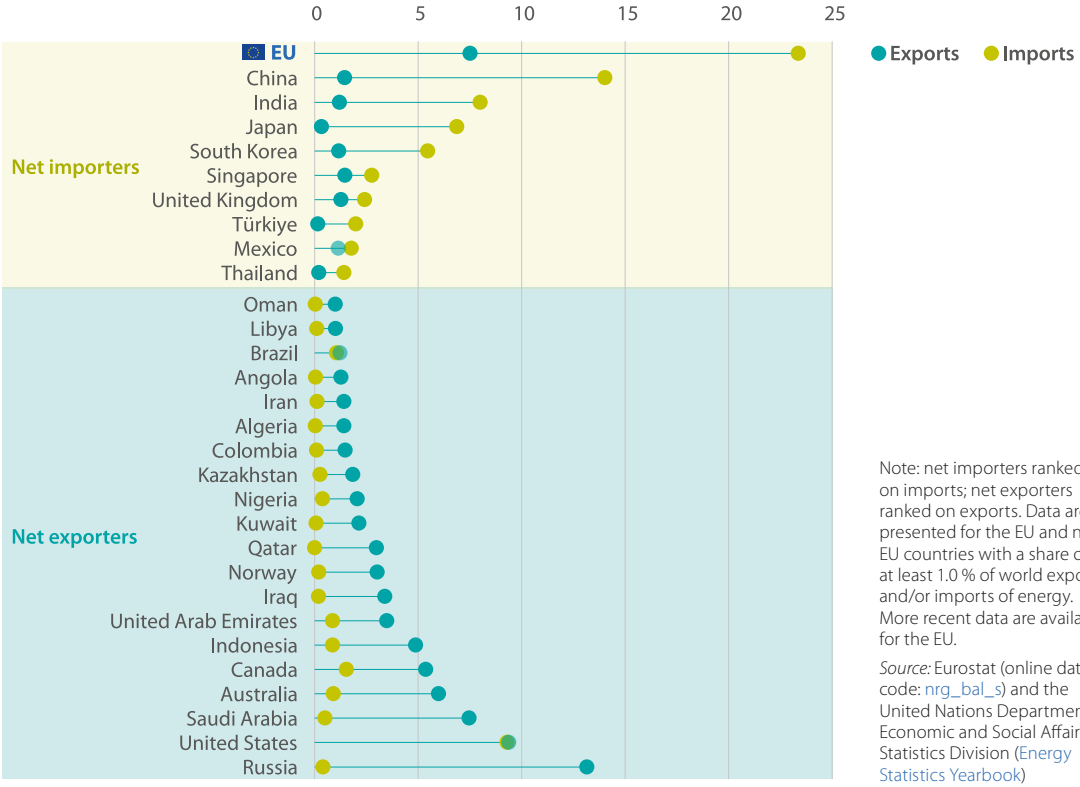
The main difference between levels of primary energy production and total energy supply is international trade: compared with demand, a shortfall of production needs to be met by net imports (the balance of imports minus exports) while a production surplus is accompanied by net exports.

In 2019, imports of energy into the EU totalled 57 billion GJ, while exports were 19 billion GJ. These values were equivalent to 23.4 % of worldwide imports of energy and 7.5 % of worldwide exports. The quantity of the EU's net imports of energy was greater than that for any non-EU country.

Among non-EU countries, the highest share of worldwide imports of energy in 2019 was recorded for China (14.0 % of the total), followed at some distance by the United States (9.3 %), India (8.0 %), Japan (6.9 %) and South Korea (5.5 %). Seven other non-EU countries accounted or at least 1.0 % of worldwide imports of energy in 2019. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and Poland would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of worldwide energy imports.

The highest share of worldwide exports of energy in 2019 was recorded for Russia (13.2 % of the total), followed among non-EU countries by the United States (9.4 %), Saudi Arabia (7.5 %), Australia (6.0 %), Canada (5.4 %) and Indonesia (4.9 %). A further 20 non-EU countries accounted or at least 1.0 % of worldwide exports of energy in 2019, mainly producers of fossil fuels. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), the Netherlands would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of worldwide energy exports.

Among the largest exporters and importers of energy products, Brazil and the United States had relatively balanced trade in 2019.

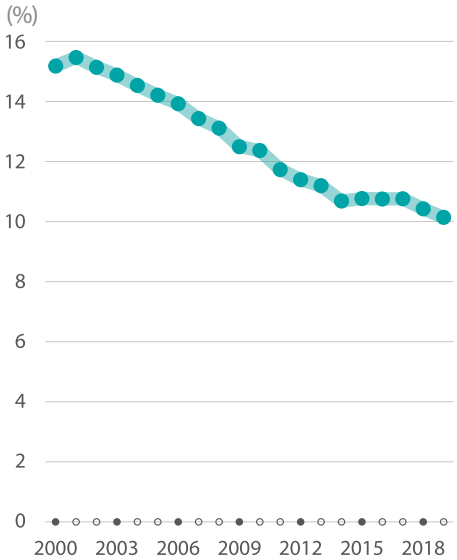


Note: net importers ranked on imports; net exporters ranked on exports. Data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0 % of world exports and/or imports of energy. More recent data are available for the EU.

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, 2000–2019

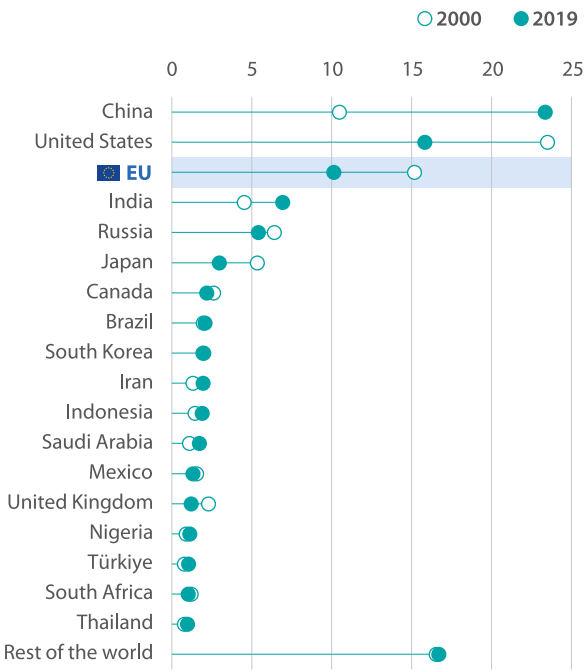


Total energy supply covers the supply to meet a territory's internal energy needs (therefore not including energy for international aviation and maritime bunkers). The supply is generally from primary production and net imports but also includes stock changes and recovered/recycled products.

Global total energy supply was 585 billion GJ in 2019 of which 59 billion GJ were in the EU. The EU's share of world total energy supply fell most years between 2000 and 2019, from 15.2 % to 10.1 %.

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

World total energy supply, 2000 and 2019



China (23.4 %) and the United States (15.8 %) had shares of world total energy supply in 2019 that were above that of the EU. A further 15 non-EU countries accounted or at least 1.0 % of world total energy supply in 2019. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Germany, France and Italy would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of world total energy supply.

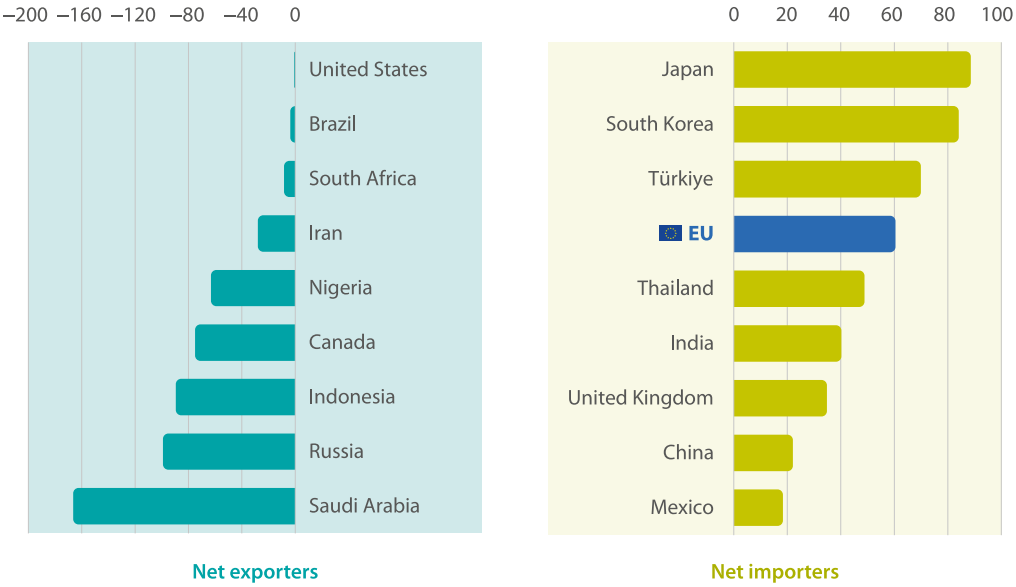
Between 2010 and 2019, the share of world total energy supply in the United States, the EU, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia all fell by at least 1.0 percentage points. The share in China increased 12.9 points (more than doubling) and there was also quite a large increase in India.

Note: 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)

Energy dependency rate, 2019

(%)



The extent to which net imports were important to meet energy needs can be seen from the energy dependency rate ([1]). This is calculated as net imports as a percentage share of gross available energy; the latter is broadly similar to total energy supply, but also includes energy for international aviation and maritime bunkers.

The energy dependency rate in the EU in 2019 was 60.5 %: as such, approximately three fifths of the energy available in the EU came from net imports.

Among the 17 non-EU countries that accounted or at least 1.0 % of world total energy supply in 2019, Japan (88.6 %), South Korea (84.1 %) and Türkiye (70.0 %) had higher energy dependency rates than in the EU. Thailand, India, the United Kingdom, China and Mexico were also dependent on net imports, but to a lesser extent than the EU in relative terms. Net exports were equivalent to 166.4 % of gross available energy in Saudi Arabia, the largest negative rate shown. Russia, Indonesia, Canada and Nigeria also recorded large negative rates.

([1]) Positive energy dependency rates are shown for net importers, whereas negative rates indicate net exporters. Apart from uncommon cases, for example involving relatively large stock changes, the highest energy dependency rate possible is 100 %, indicating total reliance on net imports and no primary production. For net exporters, there is no theoretical boundary and negative rates greater than 100 % can occur.

Note: different scales used for the two parts of the figure. Energy dependency is defined as net energy imports divided by gross available energy, expressed as a percentage. 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.

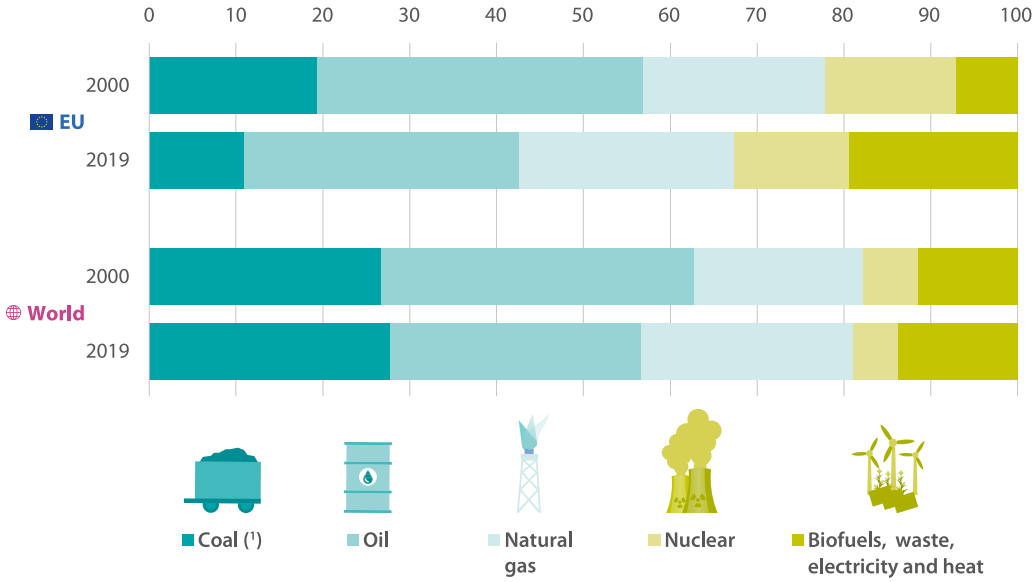
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nrg_bal_s) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (Energy Statistics Yearbook)

Structure of total energy supply, 2000 and 2019
(%)

The contribution of the main fossil fuels to the EU's total energy supply in 2019 was 67.4 %, mainly oil (31.7 %) and natural gas (24.7 %), with a smaller share for coal (10.9 %). By comparison, the share of fossil fuels for the world was 82.3 %: oil (28.8 %) and natural gas (24.5 %) each made smaller contributions to world total energy supply than they did within the EU, while the share for coal in world total energy supply (27.8 %) was 2.5 times as high as that observed in the EU.

In 2019, the share of total energy supply provided by nuclear in the EU (13.2 %) was 2.6 times as high as the world average (5.2 %). The share of biofuels, waste, electricity and heat was 19.4 % in the EU, clearly above this energy source's contribution (13.8 %) to the world total.

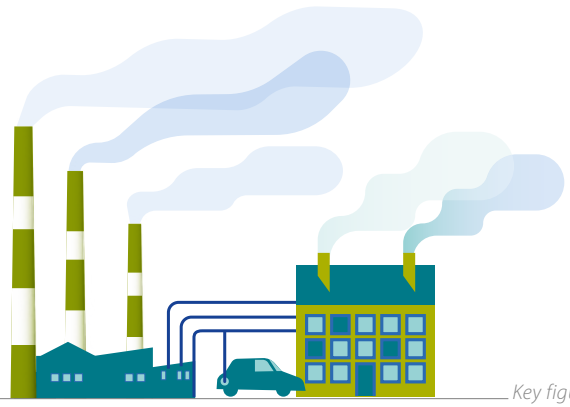
Between 2000 and 2019, the contribution to the EU's total energy supply of oil, nuclear and most notably coal fell. While the share of natural gas increased somewhat, the largest change was for the share of biofuels, waste, electricity and heat which increased substantially, as their share was 2.8 times as high in 2019 as in 2010.



Note: more recent data are available for the EU.

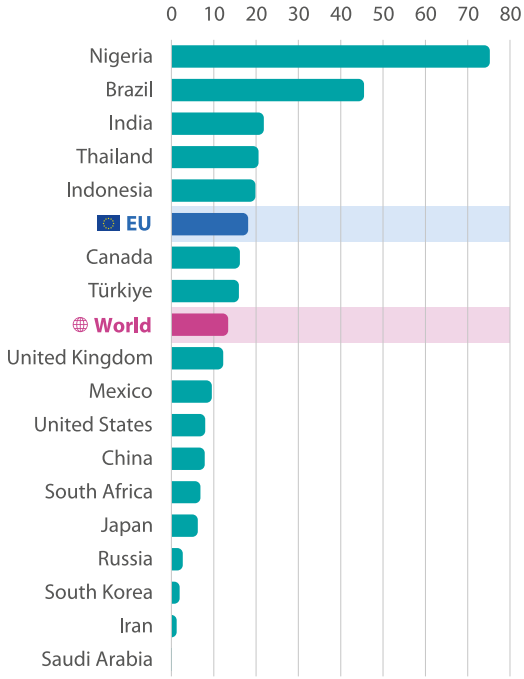
(1) Includes all solid fossil fuels as well as oil shales/sands and peat.

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



Renewables in total energy supply, 2019

(%)



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

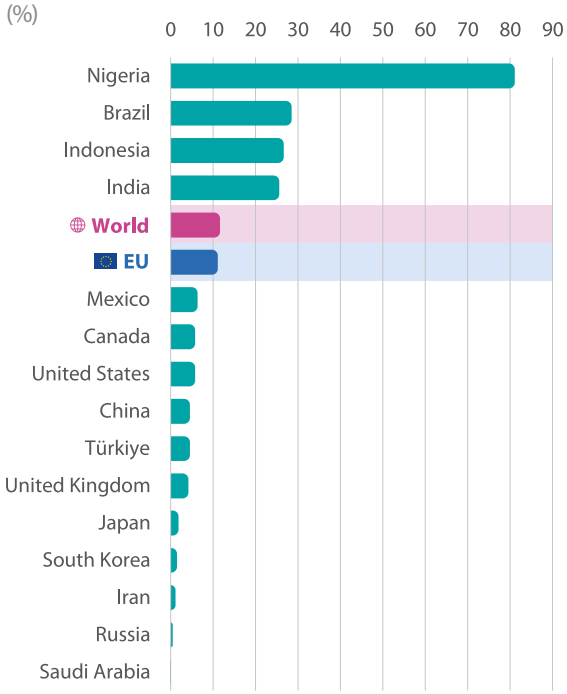
Renewables contributed 18.1 % of the EU's total energy supply in 2019, 4.7 percentage points above the world average (13.4 %). Among the 17 non-EU countries that accounted for at least 1.0 % of world total energy supply in 2019, Nigeria (75.2 %) reported that a majority of its supply was from renewables. At the other end of the ranking, renewables accounted for 0.0 % of total energy supply in Saudi Arabia.

Note: 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 Balances)

Renewables in final energy consumption, 2019

(%)



Final energy consumption is the total energy consumed by end users, such as households, industry and agriculture. It excludes energy used by the energy sector itself (including for deliveries and transformation) and non-energy use of energy products.

Renewables contributed 11.1 % of the EU's final energy consumption in 2019, 0.5 percentage points below the world average (11.6 %). Again, Nigeria (81.1 %) and Saudi Arabia (0.0 %) were at the top and bottom of the ranking among non-EU countries that accounted or at least 1.0 % of world final energy consumption.

Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0 % of world final energy consumption. 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, 2019

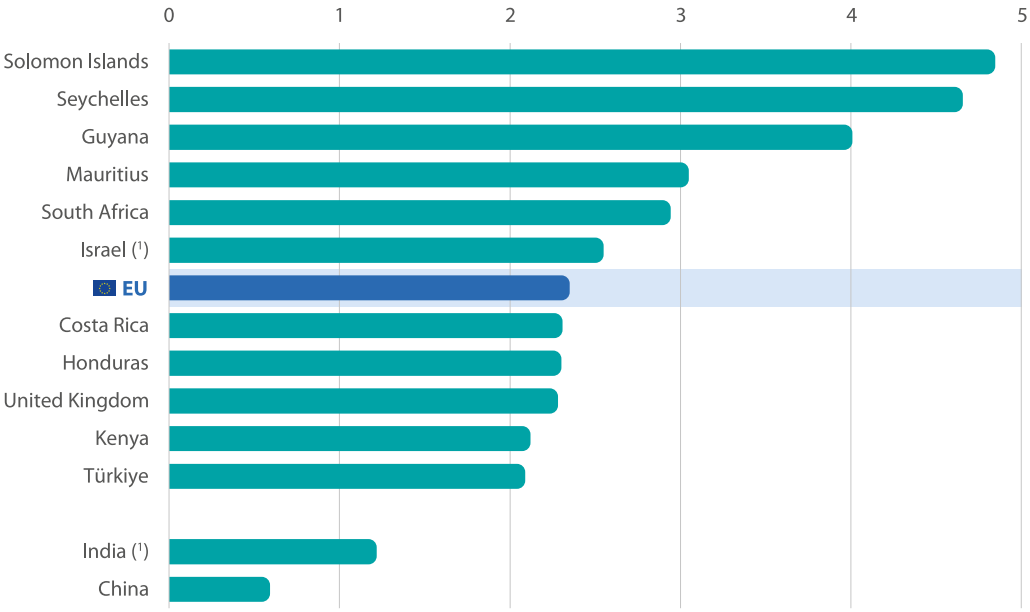
(%)

An environmental tax is a tax on something that has a proven, specific negative impact on the environment. Examples are taxes on energy, transport and pollution.

In 2019, the EU Member States raised €330 billion of revenue from environmental taxes, equivalent to 2.35 % of GDP. Six non-EU countries recorded higher ratios of revenues from environmental taxes to GDP than in the EU: the Solomon Islands, the Seychelles, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa and Israel (2018 data).

If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Croatia, Slovenia, Greece, Estonia, the Netherlands, Latvia and Italy would rank among the 10 countries in the world with the highest rates of environmental taxes; 12 more Member States had rates that were also higher than for some of the top 10 non-EU countries.

For comparison, these taxes were equivalent to 1.22 % of GDP in India (2018 data) and 0.59 % in China.



Note: data are presented for the EU, China, India and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest ratio of environment related taxes to GDP. Note: more recent data are available for the EU and some non-EU countries.

(1) 2018.

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

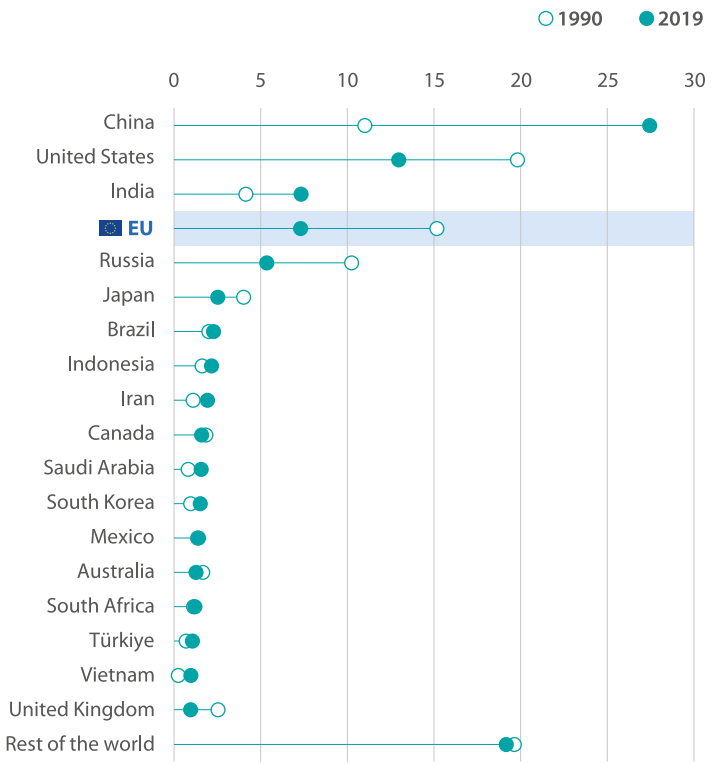
World greenhouse gas emissions, 1990 and 2019

(%)

Emissions of different greenhouse gases are converted to carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalents based on their global warming potential to make it possible to compare and aggregate them. According to the World Bank (based on data from Climate Watch), world greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 were 46.3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalents.

The EU's share of world greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 was 7.3 %. China alone accounted for more than one quarter (27.4 %) of world greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, more than double the share of the United States (13.0 %); India had the third highest share (7.3 %) among the 17 non-EU countries that accounted for at least 1.0 % of world greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Germany would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of world greenhouse gas emissions.

Between 1990 and 2019, the EU's contribution to world greenhouse gas emissions more than halved, falling 7.9 percentage points. The shares of the United States (down 6.9 points) and Russia (down 4.9 points) also fell substantially. The largest increase by far was observed for China, its share of world greenhouse gas emissions gained 16.4 points, while India's share was up 3.2 points.

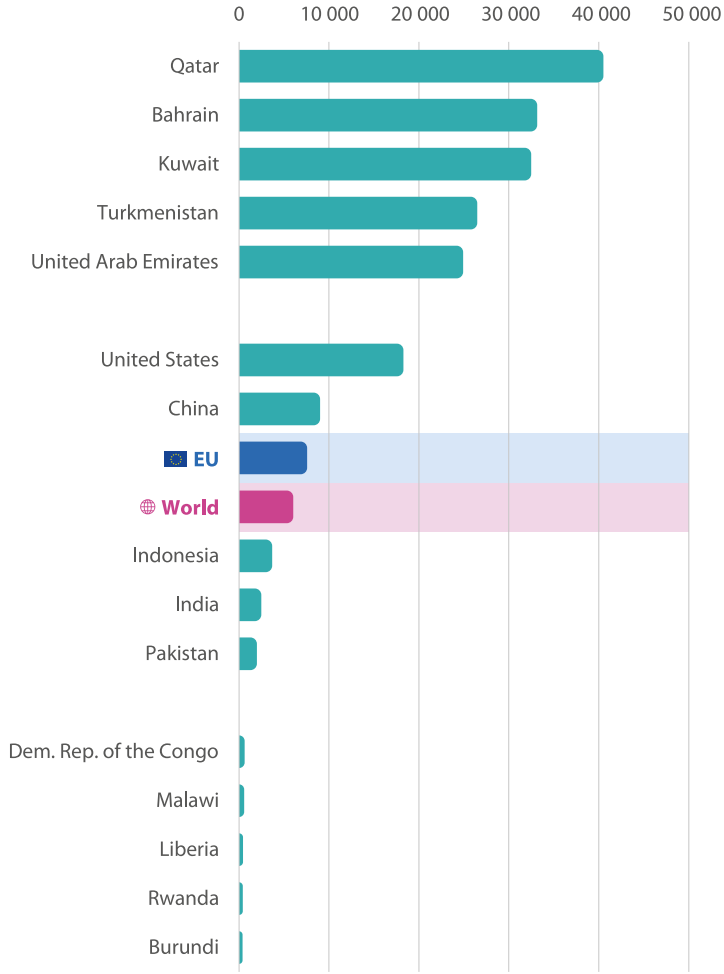


Note: data are presented for the EU and non-EU countries with a share of at least 1.0 % of world greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators) based on data from https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions relative to population size, 2019

(kilogrammes of CO_2 equivalents per inhabitant)



The intensity of greenhouse gas emission can be calculated as a ratio relative to population size.

People in the EU averaged 7.6 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents of greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, about 25 % more than the world average. Among the most populous countries in the world, average greenhouse gas emissions per inhabitant in 2019 ranged from 2.0 to 3.7 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents in Pakistan, India and Indonesia, and reached 9.0 and 18.3 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents in China and the United States.

Five oil and gas producing countries from Western and Central Asia recorded intensities that were at least 4.0 times the world average, with the highest intensity in Qatar (40.5 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents per inhabitant). The lowest intensities were recorded in African countries, with Malawi, Liberia, Rwanda and Burundi recording intensities that were less than 10.0 % of the world average.

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

Source: the World Bank (World Development Indicators) based on data from https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions

Land and land use

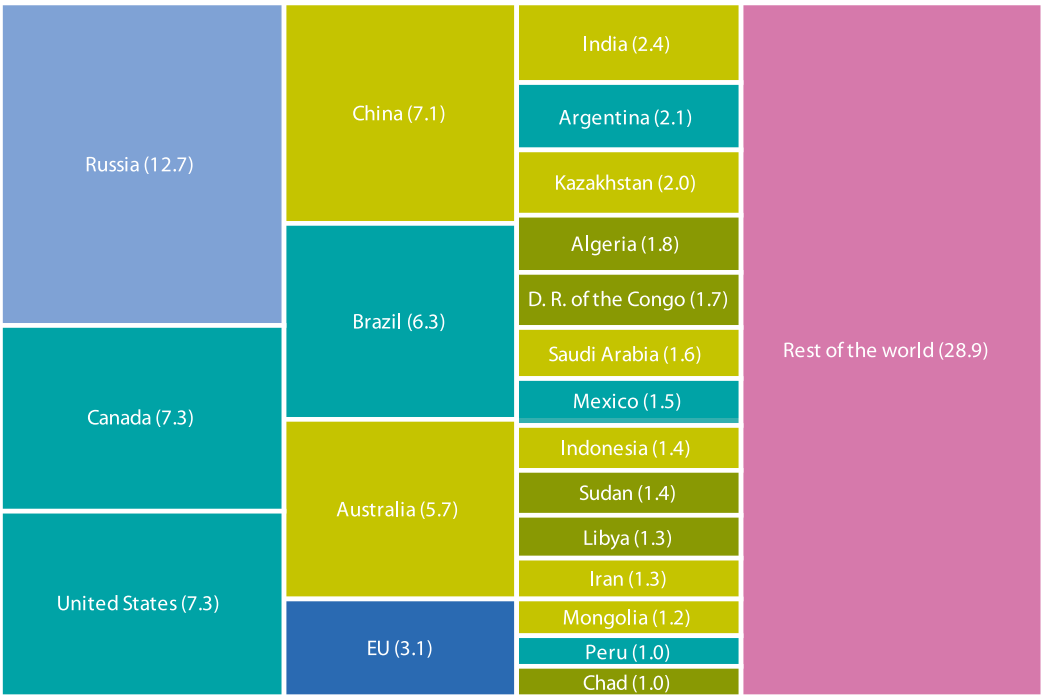
World total area, 2020

(%)

There are two main measures of the physical size of a territory: its total area and its land area (therefore excluding the area of inland waters). Examples of inland waters are lakes, rivers and transitional waters.

The total area of all countries in the world is estimated at 135.0 million km^2, approximately 26 % of the entire area of the Earth. Some 96.5 % of the total area is land and the remaining 3.5 % is inland waters.

The EU's total area is 4.2 million km^2, equivalent to 3.1 % of the world's total area. The largest country in the world is Russia, with 12.7 % of the world's total area, followed by three fairly similar sized countries: Canada (7.3 %), the United States (7.3 %) and China (7.1 %). Brazil and Australia are the only other countries that are larger in total area than the EU. A further 14 non-EU countries account for at least 1.0 % of the world's total area.



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

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

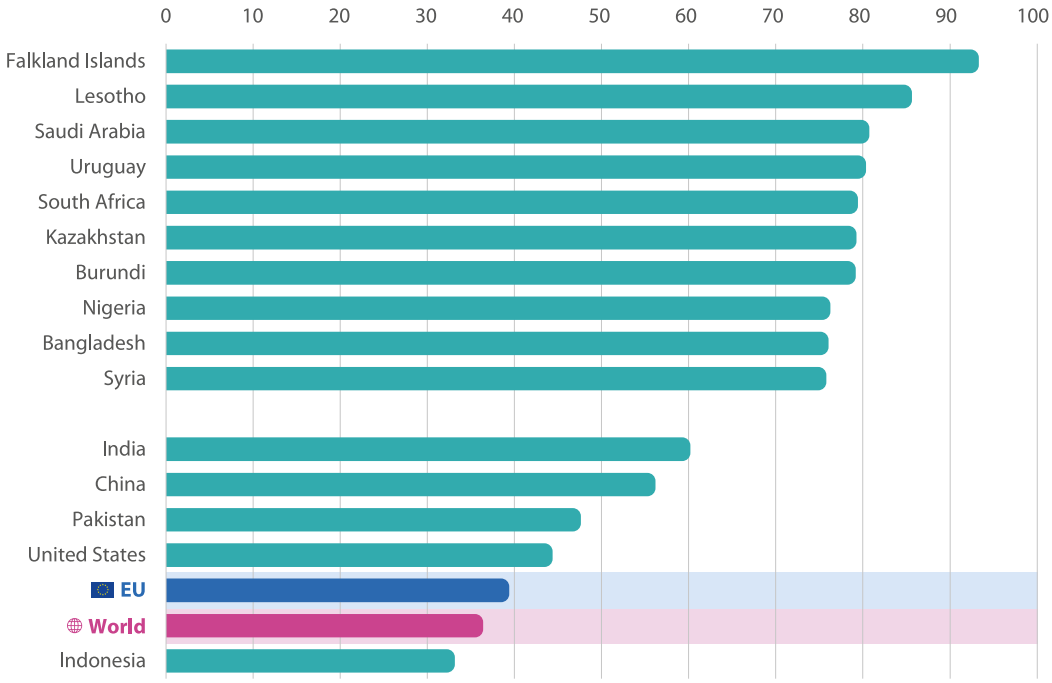
Land used for agriculture, 2020

(% share of land area)

One of the main uses of land is for agriculture.

The agricultural area of the world was 47.4 million km² (4.74 billion hectares) in 2020. This was equivalent to 36.4 % of the world's land area. The agricultural area of the EU was 1.62 million km² (162 million hectares), equivalent to nearly two fifths (39.4 %) of its land area; this share was a little above the world average. Among the most populous countries in the world, the share of land used for agriculture in 2020 ranged from 33.2 % in Indonesia to 60.2 % in China.

There were 10 non-EU countries where more than three quarters of their land area was used for agriculture. The highest share was 93.3 % on the Falkland Islands, while shares of more than four fifths were recorded for countries as diverse as Lesotho, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.



Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU, the five most populous countries and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest shares of land area used for agriculture.

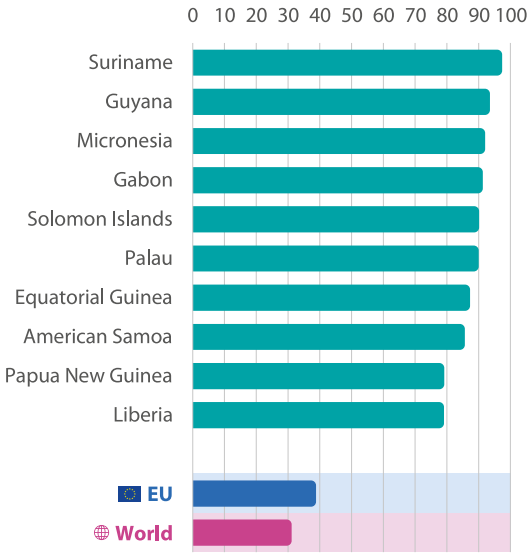
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_cpsh1 and reg_area3) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: land use)

Land area covered by forests, 2020

(%)

Beyond their economic function, forests have an impact on water resources, act as a stabiliser for the Earth's climate, and provide shelter/habitats to animal and plant life. The area of forests (note that other wooded land is excluded from the analysis) in the world was 40.6 million km^2 in 2020, equivalent to 31.1 % of the land area. The forest area of the EU was 1.59 million km^2, equivalent to nearly two fifths (38.8 %) of its land area.

There were eight non-EU countries where more than four fifths of their land area was covered in forest. The highest shares of all were 97.4 % and 93.6 % in the neighbouring South American countries of Suriname and Guyana.



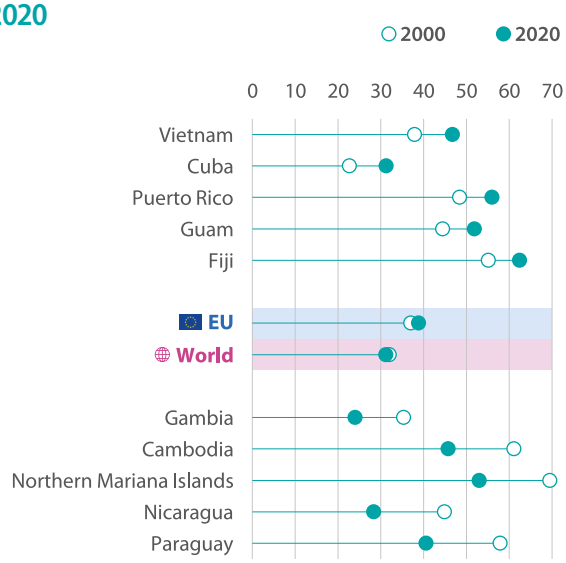
Note: data are presented for the world average, the EU and the 10 non-EU countries with the highest shares of land area covered by forests.

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

Land area covered by forests, 2000 and 2020

(%)

Across the globe, the ratio of forest to land area fell (down 0.8 percentage points) between 2000 and 2020, whereas the ratio in the EU increased (up 1.8 points). During this 20-year period, the largest increases were in Vietnam in South-Eastern Asia and Cuba in the Caribbean. In five countries, the share of land area covered by forests decreased by more than 10.0 points: The Gambia (Western Africa), Cambodia (South-Eastern Asia), the Northern Mariana Islands (Oceania), Nicaragua and Paraguay (Central and South America).



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

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

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

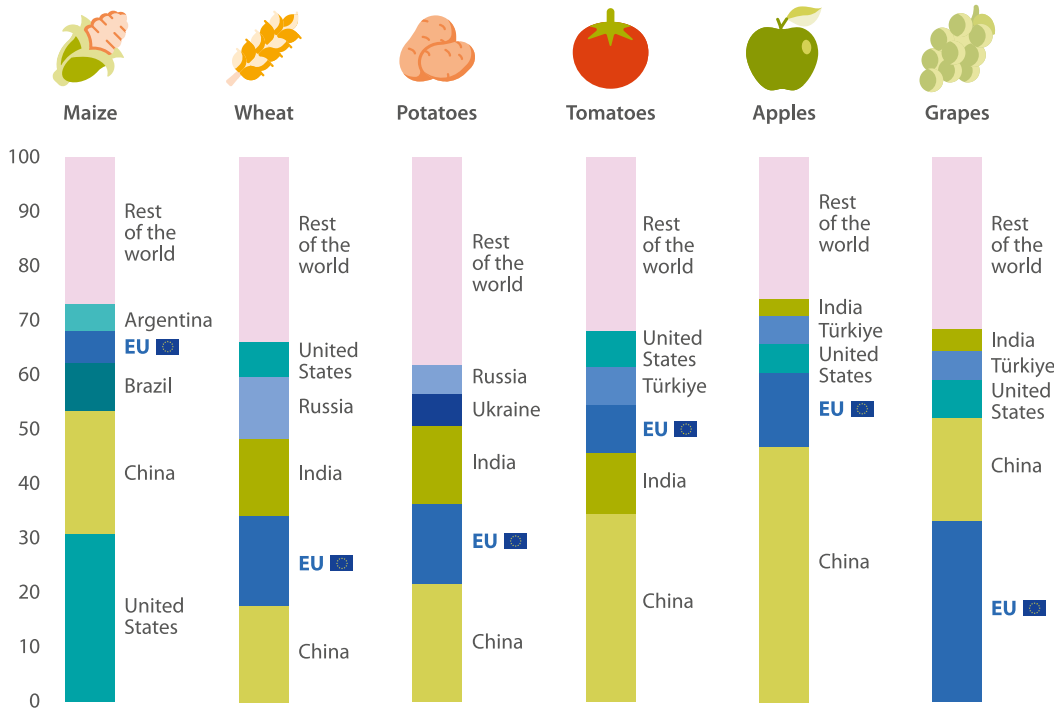
World production of selected crops, 2020

(%, based on tonnes)

Crop production statistics refer to harvested quantities. In 2020, world production of maize and wheat was 1 162 and 761 million tonnes respectively. The EU accounted for 5.8 % of the world maize harvest, considerably less than the 31.0 % and 22.4 % shares of the United States and China. The EU's share of world wheat production was 16.6 %, just behind China's 17.6 % leading share.

The world production of potatoes and tomatoes in 2020 was 359 and 187 million tonnes respectively. The EU's potato harvest contributed 14.7 % to the world total, the second largest share behind the notably larger Chinese share (21.8 %). The EU was the third largest producer of tomatoes, with an 8.9 % share of the world total; India's share was 11.0 %, while China contributed more than one third (34.7 %) of global production.

In 2020, world production of apples and grapes was 86.4 and 78.0 million tonnes respectively. China produced close to half (46.9 %) of the world's apple crop; the EU's 13.7 % share was the next largest. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Poland would rank among the four countries in the world with the largest apple harvest. The EU was the largest producer of grapes in the world, with a one third (33.3 %) share of the total. If EU Member States were considered individually, Italy, Spain and France would rank among the four countries in the world with the largest grape harvest, smaller only that of China (18.9 % of the world total).



Note: data are presented for the EU and the four non-EU countries with the highest levels of harvested production.

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

World production of meat and milk, 2020

(%, based on tonnes)

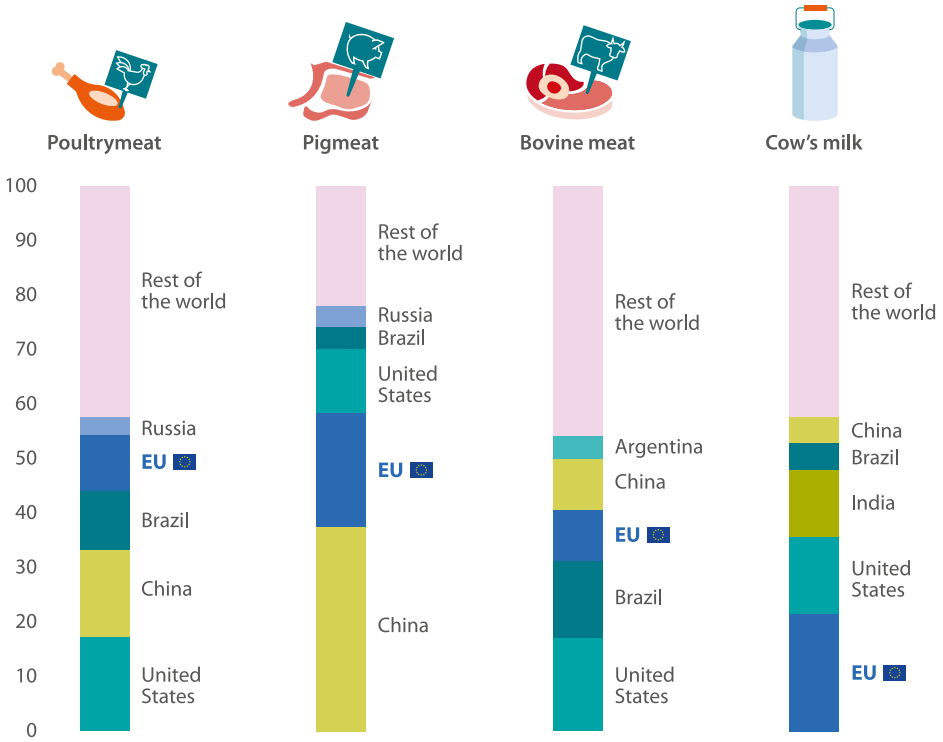
Meat production covers the carcass weight of slaughtered animals whose meat is declared fit for human consumption. In 2020, world production of meat from poultry, pigs and bovines was 133, 110 and 72 million tonnes respectively.

The EU accounted for 10.2 % of the world production of poultrymeat in 2020, just less than the 10.8 % share of Brazil, but considerably less than the 16.0 % and 17.4 % shares of China and the United States.

In 2020, the EU's share of world meat production from pigs was one fifth (21.0 %), second only to the share of China (37.4 %). If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Germany and Spain would rank among the four countries in the world with the largest production of pigmeat.

The production of meat from bovines in the EU was less than the other two meats presented and represented a 9.5 % share of world production. The United States (17.1 % of the world total) and Brazil (14.0 %) were the largest producers.

Milk production covers farm production of milk. It includes milk used as cattle feed, own consumption, direct sale and milk collected by dairies. The data presented here are for cows' milk only. World production of cows' milk in 2020 was 718 million tonnes. The EU was the largest producer of cows' milk, with more than one fifth (21.5 %) of the world total.



Note: data are presented for the EU and the four non-EU countries with the highest levels of meat and milk production.

([1]) Meat production in slaughterhouses only. Poultry: estimate made for the purpose of this publication.

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

World production of wood, 2020

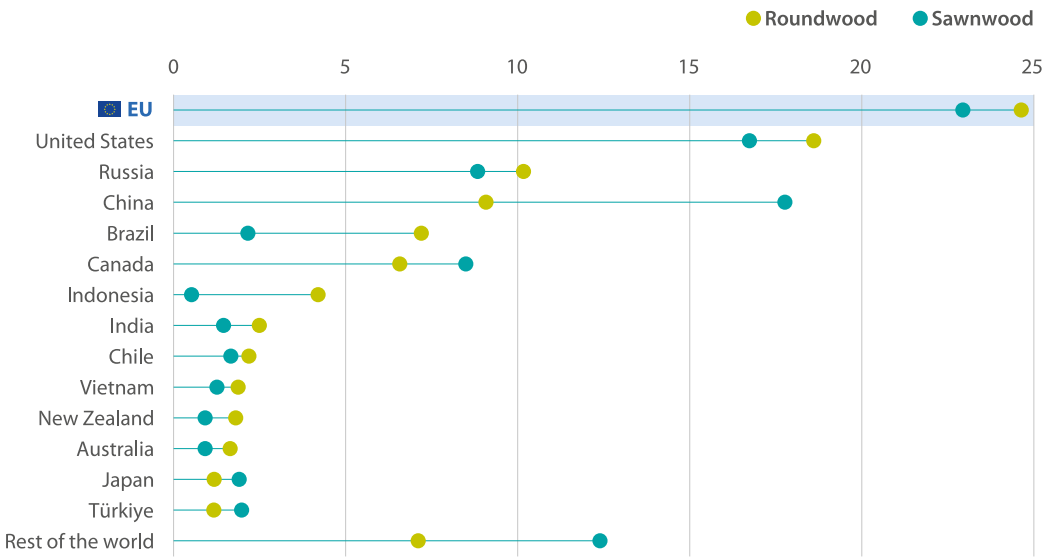
(%, based on cubic metres)

Roundwood production (also known as removals) comprises all quantities of wood removed from forests, other wooded land, or other tree felling sites. Sawnwood is produced either by sawing lengthways or by a profile-chipping process and is greater than 6 mm in thickness.

World production of roundwood in 2020 was 1.98 billion m^3 . Production in the EU was 489 million m^3, close to one quarter (24.6 %) of the world total. The United States (18.6 %) and Russia (10.2 %) were the only non-EU countries with shares of the world total above 10.0 %.

Production of sawnwood in the EU in 2020 was 108 million m^3. This was equivalent to 22.9 % of global production (473 million m^3), a larger share than in any non-EU country. China and the United States had the second and third highest production volumes of sawnwood, 17.8 % and 16.7 % respectively of the world total.

Combining the volume of production for roundwood with that for sawnwood, there were 13 non-EU countries with at least a 1.0 % share of the world total. If EU Member States were considered individually (rather than as part of the EU), Sweden, Germany, Finland, Poland, France and Czechia would also rank among the countries with at least 1.0 % of world roundwood and sawnwood production.



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 of wood (roundwood and sawnwood combined).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: for_basic and for_swpan) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAOSTAT: Forestry)

World fish capture, 2010 and 2020

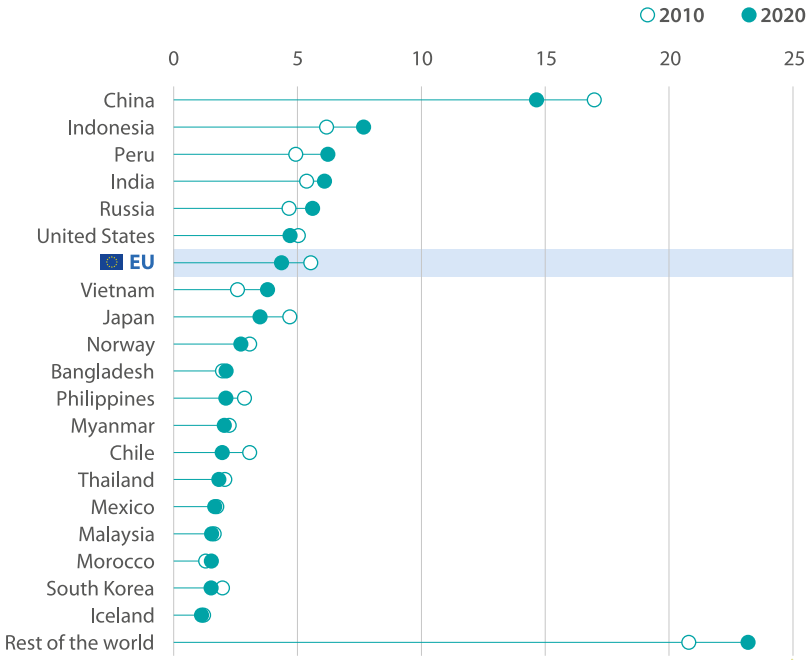
(%, based on tonnes)

The fish catch refers to catches of fishery products such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs and similar. Offshore, inshore and inland fishing are all included. The quantity is based on the live weight equivalent of the landed weight.

The total fish catch worldwide in 2020 was 90.3 million tonnes. The EU's catch was 3.9 million tonnes, equivalent to 4.4 % of the global total. Six non-EU countries caught larger quantities of fish in 2020 than the EU did: China (14.7 % of the world total), Indonesia (7.7 %), Peru (6.2 %), India (6.1 %), Russia (5.6 %) and the United States (4.7 %).

A further 13 non-EU countries caught at least 1.0 % of the world total, but a smaller share than that recorded for the EU.

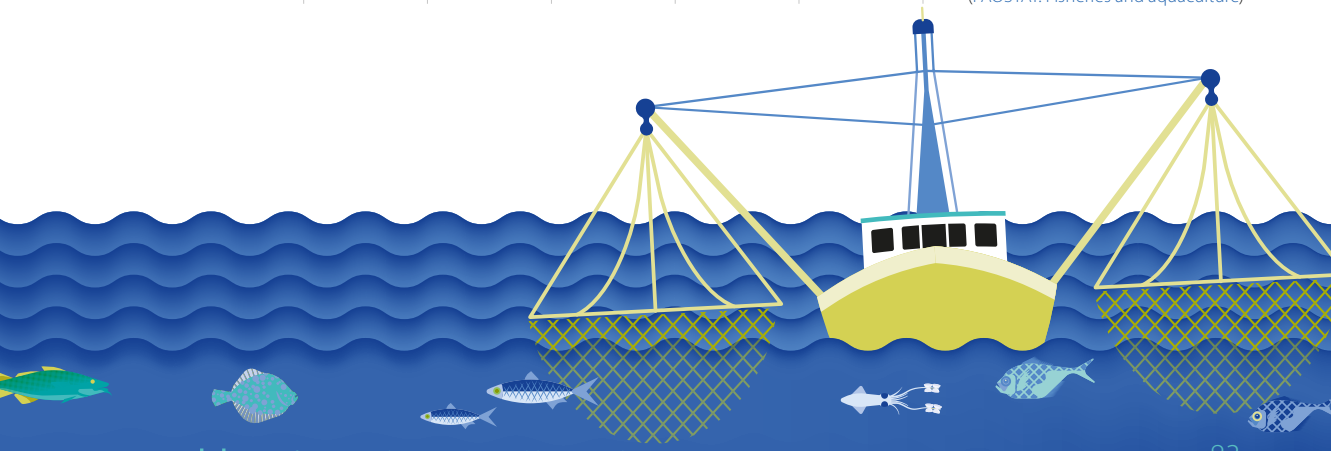
The world fish catch was 3.5 % larger in 2020 than in 2010. The EU's share of the world total decreased by 1.2 percentage points during this period; a similar decrease was observed in Japan and a larger decrease (down 2.3 points) in China. The largest increases in their shares of the world's fish catch were recorded for Indonesia (up 1.5 points), Peru (up 1.3 points), Vietnam (up 1.2 points) and Russia (up 1.0 points).



EU fish catch in 2020 3.9 million tonnes

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. 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: Fisheries and aquaculture)



World aquaculture production, 2010 and 2020

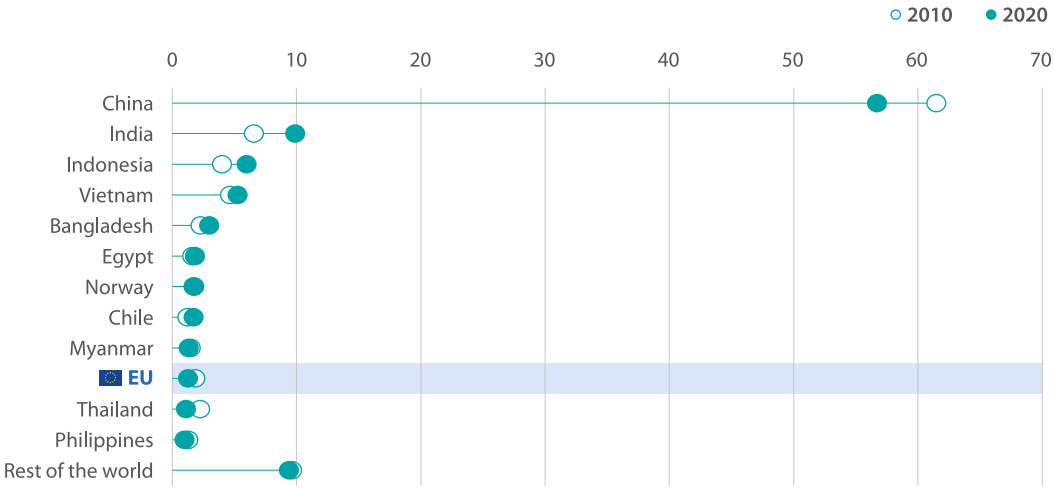
(%, based on tonnes)

The data on aquaculture of animals (also known as fish farming) refer to the farming of aquatic (freshwater or saltwater) organisms, such as fish, molluscs and crustaceans for human use or consumption, under controlled conditions.

World aquaculture production of animals in 2020 was 87.5 million tonnes, almost as much as the world's fish catch (just 3.1 % less). The EU's aquaculture production was 1.1 million tonnes, in other words a 1.3 % share of the world total. As such, the level of the EU's aquaculture production was just over a quarter (27.8 %) of the level of its fish catch.

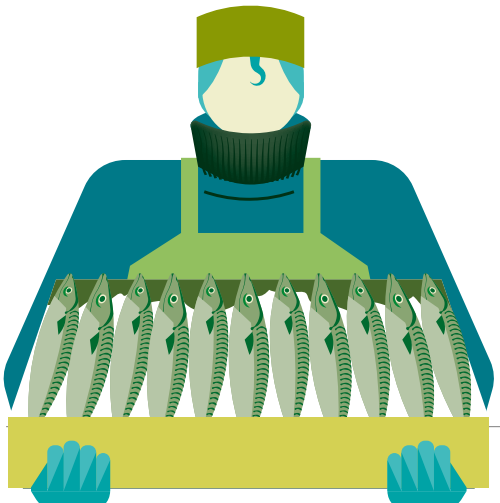
World aquaculture production of animals was heavily concentrated in just one country, as China had a 56.7 % share of the world total in 2020. Including China, nine non-EU countries recorded a higher level of aquaculture production than the EU: six of these were in Asia, the three others being Egypt, Norway and Chile. A further two Asian countries had a lower production than in the EU but had at least a 1.0 % share of the world total.

The world's production of aquaculture was 51.5 % larger in 2020 than 10 years earlier. Between 2010 and 2020, the EU's share of the world total decreased by 0.6 percentage points. Larger decreases were observed in Thailand (down 1.1 points) and China (down 4.8 points). The largest increases in their shares of the world's aquaculture production were recorded for India (up 3.3 points) and Indonesia (up 2.0 points).



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. 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: Fisheries and aquaculture)



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