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Labour Force Survey

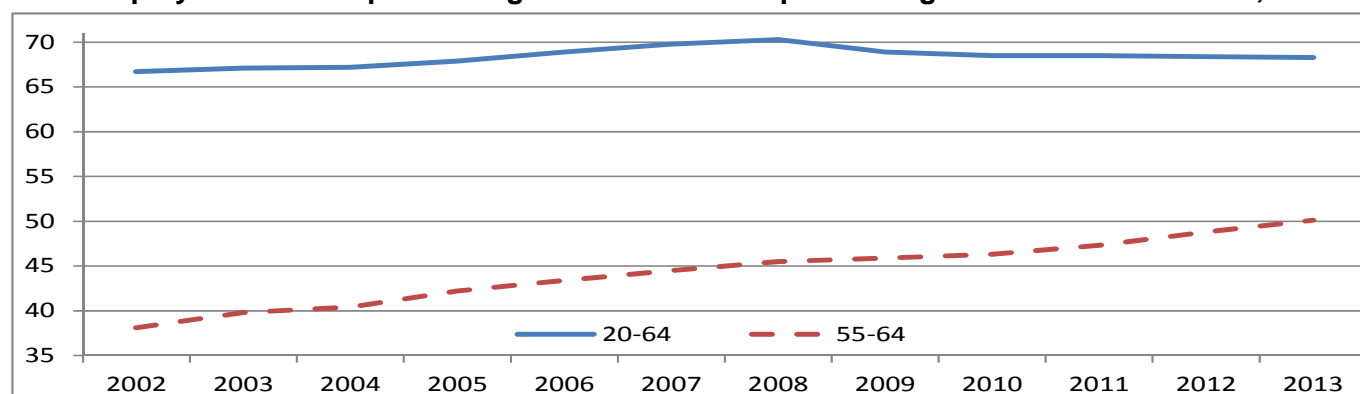
Employment rate for the population aged 20 to 64 in the EU28 down to 68.3% in 2013

Opposite trend for those aged 55 to 64

The employment rate¹ of the population aged 20 to 64 in the **EU28** showed a clear pattern during the last decade: it rose steadily from 66.7% in 2002 to 70.3% in 2008, then fell with the financial crisis to 68.9%, and has since continuously decreased to 68.3% in 2013. The Europe 2020 strategy² target is to have an employment rate of at least 75% in the **EU28** by 2020.

For the age group 55 to 64 in the **EU28**, the pattern is quite different: the employment rate has grown steadily from 38.1% in 2002 to reach 50.1% in 2013.

Employment rate of persons aged 20 to 64 and of persons aged 55 to 64 in the EU28, %



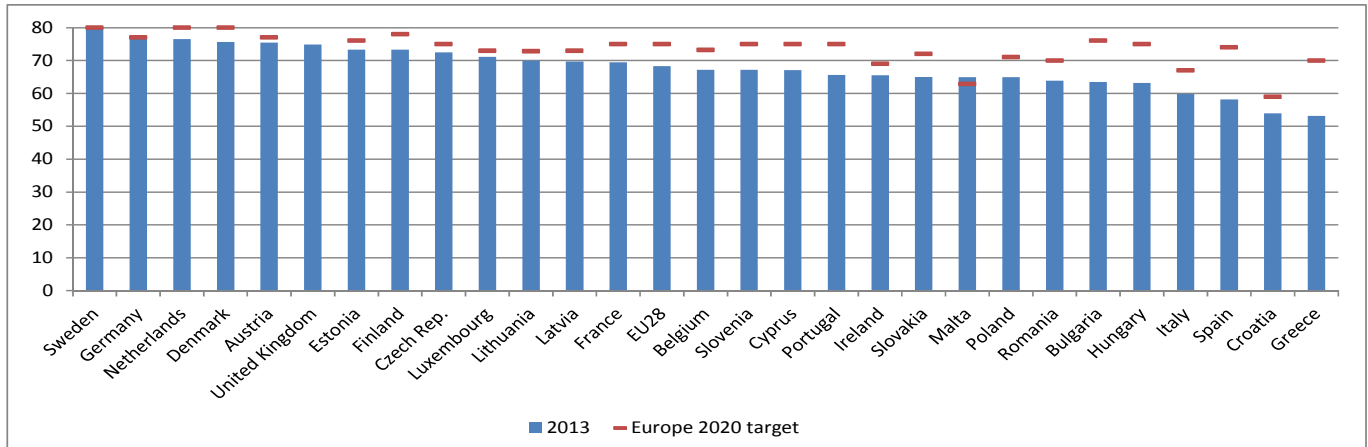
This information comes from an [article](#)³ issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2013 results of the European Labour Force Survey⁴. This survey collects data on employment and unemployment, as well as on a large range of other variables related to the labour market, of which only a small selection is shown in this News Release.

Germany and Malta: the only Member States with a nearly steady growth in the employment rate from 2002 to 2013

Among the Member States, the evolution of the employment rate for the age group 20 to 64 between 2002 and 2013 showed different patterns. Five broad groups could be distinguished: twelve Member States (**Bulgaria, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland**) showed the same evolution as the **EU28** average, meaning an increase until around 2008 and then a decrease. In nine (the **Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom**), the employment rate rose until around 2008, then fell, but then recovered or partially recovered. In four Member States (**Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria and Poland**), the employment rate rose until around 2008 and then remained almost stable. In **Portugal**, there has been an almost continuous fall since the beginning of the period, while **Germany and Malta** showed a nearly continuous growth over the whole period.

The divergence of the employment rates across Member States has increased after the financial crisis, with a difference between the highest and the lowest employment rates of 19.4 percentage points in 2010 and of 26.6 pp in 2013.

Employment rates for the age group 20 to 64 by Member State, 2013, %



Highest employment rates for those aged 20 to 64 in Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands

In 2013, the highest employment rates for those aged 20 to 64 were observed in **Sweden** (79.8%), **Germany** (77.1%), the **Netherlands** (76.5%), **Denmark** (75.6%), **Austria** (75.5%), the **United Kingdom** (74.9%), **Estonia** and **Finland** (both 73.3%), and the lowest in **Greece** (53.2%), **Croatia** (53.9%), **Spain** (58.2%) and **Italy** (59.8%). In 2013, only **Germany** and **Malta** reached their Europe 2020 targets.

Employment rates for the age group 20 to 64 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Europe 2020 target
EU28	66.7	67.1	67.2	67.9	68.9	69.8	70.3	68.9	68.5	68.5	68.4	68.3	75.0
Belgium	64.7	64.5	65.8	66.5	66.5	67.7	68.0	67.1	67.6	67.3	67.2	67.2	73.2
Bulgaria	56.5	58.7	61.2	61.9	65.1	68.4	70.7	68.8	65.4	62.9 _b	63.0	63.5	76.0
Czech Rep.	71.7	71.0	70.1	70.7	71.2	72.0	72.4	70.9	70.4	70.9 _b	71.5	72.5	75.0
Denmark	78.3	77.4	78.1	78.0	79.4	79.0	79.7	77.5	75.8	75.7	75.4	75.6	80.0
Germany	68.8	68.4	67.9	69.4	71.1	72.9	74.0	74.2	74.9	76.3	76.7	77.1	77.0
Estonia	69.1	69.4	70.3	72.0 _b	75.8	76.8	77.0	69.9	66.7	70.4	72.1	73.3 _b	76.0
Ireland	70.8	70.4	71.0	72.6	73.4	73.8	72.3	66.9 _b	64.6	63.8	63.7	65.5	69.0
Greece	62.7	63.8	64.4	64.6	65.7	66.0	66.5	65.8	64.0	59.9	55.3	53.2	70.0
Spain	62.8	64.0	65.0	67.2	68.7	69.5	68.3	63.7	62.5	61.6	59.3	58.2	74.0
France	68.6	69.7	69.1	69.4	69.3	69.8	70.4	69.5	69.2	69.2	69.4	69.5 _b	75.0
Croatia	57.9	58.4	59.7	60.0	60.6	62.3	62.9	61.7	58.7	57.0	55.4	53.9	59.0
Italy	59.2	60.1	61.6 _b	61.6	62.5	62.8	63.0	61.7	61.1	61.2	61.0	59.8	67.0
Cyprus	75.1	75.4	75.7	74.4	75.8	76.8	76.5	75.3 _b	75.0	73.4	70.2	67.1	75.0
Latvia	67.2	68.7	69.3	70.3	73.5	75.2	75.8	67.1	65.0	66.3 _b	68.1	69.7	73.0
Lithuania	68.0	70.7	69.2	70.6	71.6	72.7 _b	72.0	67.0	64.3	66.9	68.5	69.9	72.8
Luxembourg	68.4	67.2	67.7	69.0	69.1	69.6	68.8	70.4	70.7	70.1	71.4	71.1	73.0
Hungary	61.4	62.4	62.0	62.2	62.6	62.6	61.9	60.5	60.4	60.7	62.1	63.2	75.0
Malta	58.2	57.8	57.3	57.9	57.6	58.5	59.2	58.8	60.1	61.5	63.1	64.9	62.9
Netherlands	75.8	75.3	74.9	75.1	76.3	77.8	78.9	78.8	76.8 _b	77.0	77.2	76.5	80.0
Austria	70.9	71.3	69.6 _b	71.7	73.2	74.4	75.1	74.7	74.9	75.2	75.6	75.5 _b	77.0
Poland	57.7	57.3	57.0	58.3	60.1	62.7	65.0	64.9	64.3 _b	64.5	64.7	64.9	71.0
Portugal	74.1	73.1	72.7	72.3	72.7	72.6	73.1	71.2	70.5	69.1 _b	66.5	65.6	75.0
Romania	64.3 _b	64.8	64.7	63.6	64.8	64.4	64.4	63.5	63.3	62.8	63.8	63.9	70.0
Slovenia	70.0	68.1	71.0	71.1	71.5	72.4	73.0	71.9	70.3	68.4	68.3	67.2	75.0
Slovakia	63.2	65.0	63.5	64.5	66.0	67.2	68.8	66.4	64.6	65.0 _b	65.1	65.0	72.0
Finland	73.2	72.9	72.5	73.0	73.9	74.8	75.8	73.5	73.0	73.8	74.0	73.3	78.0
Sweden	78.8	78.5	77.8	78.1 _b	78.8	80.1	80.4	78.3	78.1	79.4	79.4	79.8	80.0
United Kingdom	74.3	74.7	74.9	75.2	75.2	75.2	75.2	73.9	73.6	73.6	74.2	74.9	-
Iceland	87.8	86.0	84.9	85.5	86.3	86.7	85.3	80.6	80.4	80.6	81.8	82.8	-
Norway	80.3	78.6	78.4	78.2	79.5	80.9	81.8	80.6	79.6	79.6	79.9	79.6	-
Switzerland	81.2	80.2	80.0	79.9	80.5	81.3	82.3	81.7	81.1 _b	81.8	82.0	82.1	-
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	:	:	:	:	43.9	45.0	46.3	47.9	48.1	48.4	48.2	50.3	-
Turkey	:	:	:	:	48.2	48.2	48.4	47.8	50.0	52.2	52.8	53.4	-

b Break in the series (for further information, see: EU LFS – data and publication – comparability over time and across countries⁵)

: Data not available - No national target or not applicable

Continuous increase in employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 in twelve Member States

For the age group 55 to 64, the evolution of the employment rate from 2002 and 2013 also differed at a Member State level. Four broad groups could be distinguished: twelve Member States (**Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden**) showed the same evolution as the **EU28** average, with increases across almost the whole period. In eleven (the **Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom**), the employment rate rose until around 2008, then fell, but then recovered or partially recovered. In four Member States (**Greece, Spain, Croatia and Cyprus**) an increase in their employment rate until around 2008 was followed by a continuous fall. In **Portugal**, there has been an almost continuous fall in the rate since 2002.

Sweden: only Member State with an employment rate above 70% for those aged 55 to 64

In 2013, the highest employment rate by far for those aged 55 to 64 was observed in **Sweden** (73.6%), followed by **Germany** (63.5%), **Estonia** (62.6%), **Denmark** (61.7%) and the **Netherlands** (60.1%). The lowest rates for this age group were registered in **Slovenia** (33.5%), **Greece** (35.6%), **Malta** (35.9%), **Croatia** (36.5%) and **Hungary** (38.5%).

Employment rates for the age group 55 to 64 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
EU28	38.1	39.8	40.4	42.2	43.4	44.5	45.5	45.9	46.3	47.3	48.8	50.1
Belgium	25.8	28.1	30.1	31.8	32.0	34.4	34.5	35.3	37.3	38.7	39.5	41.7
Bulgaria	27.7	30.7	33.3	34.7	39.6	42.6	46.0	46.1	43.5	44.6 _b	45.7	47.4
Czech Republic	40.3	42.3	42.5	44.5	45.2	46.0	47.6	46.8	46.5	47.7 _b	49.3	51.6
Denmark	57.3	60.7	61.8	59.5	60.7	58.9	58.4	58.2	58.4	59.5	60.8	61.7
Germany	38.4	39.4	41.4	45.5	48.1	51.3	53.7	56.1	57.7	59.9	61.5	63.5
Estonia	51.3	52.8	51.5	56.1 _b	58.5	60.0	62.4	60.4	53.8	57.2	60.6	62.6 _b
Ireland	48.0	49.2	49.5	51.6	53.1	53.8	53.7	51.3 _b	50.2	50.0	49.3	51.3
Greece	38.9	41.0	39.4	41.6	42.3	42.4	42.8	42.2	42.3	39.4	36.4	35.6
Spain	39.7	40.8	41.0	43.1	44.1	44.6	45.6	44.1	43.6	44.5	43.9	43.4
France	33.8	36.3	37.4	38.5	38.1	38.2	38.2	39.0	39.8	41.5	44.5	45.6 _b
Croatia	22.7	28.0	29.9	32.6	34.3	35.8	36.7	38.5	37.6	37.1	36.7	36.5
Italy	28.6	30.0	30.2 _b	31.4	32.5	33.8	34.4	35.7	36.6	37.9	40.4	42.7
Cyprus	49.2	50.2	51.3	50.6	53.6	55.9	54.8	55.7 _b	56.3	54.8	50.7	49.6
Latvia	42.6	41.8	45.9	49.5	53.3	57.7	59.4	53.2	48.2	50.5 _b	52.8	54.8
Lithuania	43.0	47.0	46.1	49.2	49.6	53.2 _b	53.0	51.2	48.3	50.2	51.7	53.4
Luxembourg	27.9	30.3	30.4	31.7	33.2	32.0	34.1	38.2	39.6	39.3	41.0	40.5
Hungary	25.0	28.9	30.4	33.0	33.6	33.1	31.4	32.8	34.4	35.8	36.9	38.5
Malta	30.2	32.2	31.2	30.8	29.8	28.5	29.3	27.8	30.4	31.8	33.6	35.9
Netherlands	42.0	44.5	44.6	46.1	47.7	50.9	53.0	55.1	53.7 _b	56.1	58.6	60.1
Austria	28.0	29.1	27.4 _b	31.8	35.5	38.6	41.0	41.1	42.4	41.5	43.1	44.9 _b
Poland	26.6	27.1	26.1	27.2	28.1	29.7	31.6	32.3	34.1 _b	36.9	38.7	40.6
Portugal	51.9	51.7	50.1	50.5	50.1	50.9	50.8	49.7	49.2	47.9 _b	46.5	46.7
Romania	38.5 _b	39.4	37.0	39.4	41.7	41.4	43.1	42.6	41.1	40.0	41.4	41.5
Slovenia	25.9	22.7	30.1	30.7	32.6	33.5	32.8	35.6	35.0	31.2	32.9	33.5
Slovakia	22.1	24.6	26.0	30.3	33.1	35.6	39.2	39.5	40.5	41.3 _b	43.1	44.0
Finland	47.8	49.6	51.1	52.7	54.5	55.0	56.5	55.5	56.2	57.0	58.2	58.5
Sweden	68.3	68.6	69.0	69.4 _b	69.6	70.0	70.1	70.0	70.4	72.0	73.0	73.6
United Kingdom	53.2	55.4	56.1	56.8	57.3	57.4	58.0	57.5	57.1	56.7	58.1	59.8
Iceland	87.1	82.4	78.9	84.3	84.3	84.7	82.9	80.2	79.8	79.2	79.1	81.1
Norway	67.0	66.3	66.1	65.5	67.4	69.0	69.2	68.7	68.6	69.6	70.9	71.1
Switzerland	64.6	65.8	65.2	65.1	65.7	67.2	68.4	68.3	68.0 _b	69.5	70.5	71.7
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	:	:	:	:	27.9	28.8	31.7	34.6	34.2	35.4	35.4	37.9
Turkey	:	:	:	:	27.7	27.2	27.5	28.2	29.6	31.4	31.9	31.5

^b Break in the series (for further information, see: [EU LFS – data and publication – comparability over time and across countries](#)⁵)

: Data not available

1. The employment rate represents employed persons as a percentage of the population in the same age group. The employment status is measured according to the definition of the International Labour Organisation. It should be noted that the employment situation of individuals depends on the availability of jobs as well as the decision/willingness to work among the population.
2. For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm.
See also the dedicated section on the Eurostat website:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/europe_2020_indicators/headline_indicators
3. **Eurostat**, Statistics Explained "**European Union Labour force survey - Annual results 2013**".
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Labour_market_and_Labour_force_survey_\(LFS\)_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Labour_market_and_Labour_force_survey_(LFS)_statistics)
4. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a large sample survey among private households. LFS data refer to the resident population and therefore LFS results relate to the persons resident in the country irrespective of the country where those persons work. This difference may be significant in countries with large cross-border flows. For further information, please see the Eurostat EU-LFS publication:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-TC-13-003
5. **Eurostat**, Statistics Explained "**European Union Labour force survey – data and publication**".
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey_%E2%80%93_data_and_publication

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