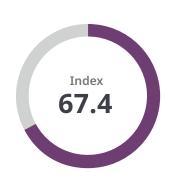# Portugal

Gender Equality Index 2023

Index 67.4

The data for 2023 Index is mostly from 2021.

Progress in gender equality

With 67.4 points out of 100, Portugal ranks 15th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 2.8 points below the score for the EU as a whole.[1]

Since 2010, Portugal's score has increased by 13.7 points, mainly due to improvements in the domains of time (+ 29.1 points) and power (+ 22.5 points). Since 2020, Portugal's score has increased by 4.6 points, which is one of the biggest improvements among the Member States for this period. This can be attributed to improvements in the domains of time (+ 20.3 points) and work (+ 3.1 points). Portugal has maintained the same position as in 2020, ranking 15th in the Index.

			Change since	
			2010	**2020**
SE	82.2		2.1	-1.7
NL	77.9		3.9	0.6
DK	77.8		2.6	0.0
ES	76.4		10.0	1.8
BE	76.0		6.7	1.8
FR	75.7		8.2	0.6
LU	74.7		13.5	1.2
FI	74.4		1.3	-1.0
IE	73.0		7.6	-1.3
AT	71.2		12.5	2.4
DE	70.8		8.2	2.1
EU	**70.2**		**7.1**	**1.6**
SI	69.4		6.7	1.9
IT	68.2		14.9	3.2
MT	67.8		13.4	2.2
PT	**67.4**		**13.7**	**4.6**
BG	65.1		10.1	4.4
LT	64.1		9.2	3.5
PL	61.9		6.4	4.2
LV	61.5		6.3	0.1
HR	60.7		8.4	0.0
CY	60.7		11.7	3.4
EE	60.2		6.8	-0.8
SK	59.2		6.2	3.2
EL	58.0		9.4	4.6
CZ	57.9		2.3	0.7
HU	57.3		4.9	3.1
RO	56.1		5.3	2.4

[1] The Gender Equality Index 2023 has been affected by certain changes in EU-wide surveys and through the use of the most up-to-date sources. For the first time, it benefits from EIGE's survey data on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities carried out across the EU in 2022, and from new data from the 2021 EWCTS survey (Eurofound). Regulation (EU) 2019/1700, which came into force from 1 January 2021, also introduced some changes into the EU-LFS. These methodological changes will affect nine indicators included in the domains of work, knowledge and time, together with their respective scores, as well as the overall Index and the analysis of intersecting inequalities using the respective indicators.

An analysis has been carried out of the possible impact that these changes may have had on the Index and on the interpretation of the corresponding time series. Despite the break in time series that the changes entail, the time series analysis can be considered adequate (see Index 2023 report).

Best performance

Portugal's highest ranking (9th out of all Member States) is in the domain of work, in which it scores 76.5 points. Portugal's score in this domain has increased by 3.1 points since 2020, and its ranking has risen by four places. Within this domain, the country performs best in the sub-domain of participation (90.0 points), where it ranks 5th in the EU. This is Portugal's highest ranking across all sub-domains, with an improvement of two places since 2020.

Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities in Portugal are strongly pronounced in the domain of health (84.1 points), in which the country ranks 23rd in the EU. Since 2010, progress in this domain has stalled (– 0.2 points), resulting in a drop in ranking from 20th place to 23rd. With a score of 85.1 points, the country has most room for improvement in the sub-domain of health status, in which it ranks 25th. In the sub-domain of health access, Portugal scores 94.6 points and ranks 24th out of all EU Member States.

Biggest improvement

Since 2020, the biggest improvement in Portugal's score has been in the domain of time (+ 20.3 points), moving the country's ranking up from 24th to 11th place. An improvement in the sub-domain of social activities (+ 21.6 points) has been the key driver of this change. As a result, the country's ranking in this sub-domain has risen 15 places to 11th. In the sub-domain of care activities, Portugal scores 80.3 points and ranks 12th in the EU.

A step backwards

Since 2020, Portugal's score has decreased slightly in the domain of money (– 1.1 points), taking the country down two places in the ranking to 21st in the EU. This change can be attributed to increasing gender inequalities in the sub-domain of economic situation (– 2.9 points), resulting in a drop in ranking for this sub-domain from 16th place to 19th. In the sub-domain of financial resources, progress has stalled since 2020, with Portugal scoring 63.3 points and ranking 19th (two places lower than in 2010).

Convergence

Upward convergence in gender equality describes increasing equality between women and men in the EU, accompanied by a decline in variations between Member States. This means that countries with lower levels of gender equality are catching up with those with the highest levels, thereby reducing disparities across the EU. Analysis of convergence patterns in the Gender Equality Index shows that disparities between Member States decreased over the period 2010–2021, and that **EU countries continue their trend of upward convergence**.

Looking more closely at the performance of each Member State, patterns can be identified that reflect a relative improvement or slipping back in the Gender Equality Index score of each Member State in relation to the EU average.

Portugal is *catching up* with other Member States. This means that its Gender Equality Index score was initially lower than the EU average, but has grown faster over time, reducing the gap.

Explore Portugal's Index results

	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Change since 2010	Change since 2020
Index	**53.7**	**54.4**	**56.0**	**59.9**	**61.3**	**62.2**	**62.8**	**67.4**	**13.7**	**4.6**
Work	**71.4**	**71.4**	**72.0**	**72.5**	**72.9**	**73.2**	**73.4**	**76.5**	**5.1**	**3.1**
Participation	85.6	84.1	85.4	86.6	87.8	88.2	87.8	90.0	4.4	2.2
Segregation and quality of work	59.5	60.6	60.8	60.7	60.6	60.8	61.4	65.1	5.6	3.7
Money	**71.8**	**71.7**	**70.9**	**72.1**	**72.8**	**73.6**	**74.7**	**73.6**	**1.8**	**-1.1**
Financial resources	60.4	60.7	60.3	61.2	61.2	62.3	63.1	63.3	2.9	0.2
Economic situation	85.3	84.8	83.5	84.8	86.8	87.0	88.4	85.5	0.2	-2.9
Knowledge	**50.1**	**54.9**	**54.8**	**55.1**	**55.7**	**56.5**	**56.7**	**58.7**	**8.6**	**2.0**
Attainment and participation	50.8	59.1	59.5	60.4	61.3	62.6	63.2	68.8	18.0	5.6
Segregation	49.5	51.0	50.6	50.3	50.7	51.0	50.9	50.1	0.6	-0.8
Time	**38.7**	**46.0**	**47.5**	**47.5**	**47.5**	**47.5**	**47.5**	**67.8**	**29.1**	**20.3**
Care activities	49.3	69.5	63.3	63.3	63.3	63.3	63.3	80.3	31.0	17.0
Social activities	30.4	30.4	35.7	35.7	35.7	35.7	35.7	57.3	26.9	21.6
Power	**34.9**	**29.7**	**33.9**	**46.7**	**51.1**	**53.6**	**55.5**	**57.4**	**22.5**	**1.9**
Political	41.9	42.4	48.7	56.7	59.0	62.6	64.5	65.1	23.2	0.6
Economic	20.4	12.6	16.4	36.3	44.9	47.9	46.9	44.7	24.3	-2.2
Social	49.6	49.3	48.9	49.4	50.4	51.4	56.6	64.9	15.3	8.3
Health	**84.3**	**84.4**	**83.6**	**84.5**	**84.6**	**84.8**	**84.5**	**84.1**	**-0.2**	**-0.4**
Status	83.3	84.6	82.6	84.0	84.2	84.5	85.4	85.1	1.8	-0.3
Behaviour	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.5	73.9	73.9	-1.6	0.0
Access	95.2	94.2	93.9	95.2	95.2	95.8	95.6	94.6	-0.6	-1.0

Explore Portugal's performance by indicator

		Portugal		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men

Work

		Women	Men	Women	Men
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89 population, 2021)*	51	60	42	57
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2021)	37	39	34	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (%, 15-89 employed, 2021)	32	9	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (%, 15+ workers, 2021)	29	35	29	37
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100, +15 population, 2015)	56	57	62	63

Money

		Women	Men	Women	Men
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS, +16 working population, 2018)	1367	1541	2321	2818
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS, 16+ population, 2021)	14506	14974	20261	21221
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (%, 16+ population, 2021)	19	17	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80 (16+ population, 2021)	18	18	20	20

Knowledge

		Women	Men	Women	Men
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%, 15-89 population, 2021)	27	19	28	26
	People participating in formal or non-formal education and training (15-74 population, 2021)	20	20	19	18
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (%, 15+ population, 2021)	38	18	43	21

Time

		Women	Men	Women	Men
Care activities	People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%, 18-74 population, 2022)	43	32	34	25
	People doing cooking and/or housework, every day (%, 18-74 population, 2022)	73	43	63	36
Social activities	Workers doing sporting, cultural or leisure activities outside of their home, at least daily or several times a week (%, 16-74 workers, 2022)	29	38	29	34
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (%, 16-74 workers, 2022)	10	16	11	15

Power

		Women	Men	Women	Men
Political	Share of ministers (%, 2nd quarter 2023)	34	66	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (%, 2nd quarter 2023)	37	63	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (%, 2023)**	32	68	30	70
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (%, 1st semester 2023)	33	67	33	67
	Share of board members of central bank (%, 2022)	20	80	28	72
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (%, 2022)	42	58	41	59
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (%, 2022)	67	33	38	62
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (%, 2022)	14	86	20	80

Health

		Women	Men	Women	Men
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+ population, 2021)	47	54	67	72
	Life expectancy at birth (years, Break in times series)	84	79	83	77
	Healthy life years at birth (years, 2021)	57	59	64	63
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%, 15+ population, 2019)***	83	62	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%, 15+ population, 2019)	26	30	38	43
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (%, 16+ population, 2021)	7	5	5	4
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (%, 16+ population, 2021)	14	13	5	5

* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week
** PT: Regional assemblies
*** EU: EIGE estimation

Source: Eurostat (education statistics, European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), EIGE (Survey on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities, Women and Men in Decision-Making).

Explore intersecting inequalities

		Women	Men	Gender gap 2014	2021	Gap change

Full-time equivalent employment rate (%, 15-89 population, 2021)*

Category	Group	Women	Men	2014	2021	Gap change
Family type	Couple without children	28	29	-2	-1	🟢
	Couple with children	88	100	-8	-12	🔴
Level of education	Low educated	29	48	-13	-19	🔴
	Medium educated	64	70	-4	-6	🔴
	High educated	80	82	-1	-2	🔴
Country of birth	Native born	49	59	-8	-10	🔴
	Foreign born	66	74	-7	-8	🔴

At-risk-of-poverty (%, 16+ population, 2021)

Category	Group	Women	Men	2014	2021	Gap change
Age groups	15/16-24	22	21	-2	1	🟢
	25-49	16	15	2	1	🟢
	50-64	18	19	-1	-1	🟡
	65+	23	17	4	6	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	24	22	1	2	🔴
	Without disabilities	16	15	1	1	🟡

Graduates of tertiary education (%, 15-89 population, 2021)

Category	Group	Women	Men	2014	2021	Gap change
Age groups	15/16-24	19	11	6	8	🔴
	25-49	45	29	11	16	🔴
	50-64	21	16	4	5	🔴
	65+	10	9	-2	1	🟢
Country of birth	Native born	26	18	5	8	🔴
	Foreign born	38	30	7	8	🔴

People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%, 18-74 population, 2022)

Category	Group	Women	Men	2014	2021	Gap change
Family type	Couple without children	18	10	4	8	🔴
	Couple with children	74	54	8	20	🔴
Disability	With disabilities	46	38	18	8	🟢
	Without disabilities	40	29	7	11	🔴

Self-perceived health, good or very good (%, 16+ population, 2021)

Category	Group	Women	Men	2014	2021	Gap change
Age groups	15/16-24	82	84	-1	-2	🔴
	25-49	70	74	-5	-4	🟢
	50-64	35	41	-8	-6	🟢
	65+	15	19	-6	-4	🟢
Disability	With disabilities	15	18	-2	-3	🔴
	Without disabilities	67	70	-2	-3	🔴

🟢 gender gap decreased (< -1 p.p.)   🟡 no change (gender gap increases/decreases between -1 and 1 p.p.)   🔴 gender gap increased (> 1 p.p.)

* FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week

Source: Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Health Interview Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, Structure of Earnings Survey), EIGE's survey on gender gaps in care, individual and social activities.

Violence

A lack of evidence to assess violence against women

No score is given to Portugal in the domain of violence, due to a lack of comparable EU-wide data.

Femicide

In 2021, 720 women were murdered by an intimate partner, family member or relative in 17 EU Member States, according to official reports. Portugal does not provide comparable data on intentional homicide.
Source: Eurostat, 2021

Violence at a glance

Intimate partner violence

No data is available. Data on intimate partner violence will be updated in 2024 using Eurostat data, complemented by the survey on violence against women carried out by FRA and EIGE.
Source: Eurostat, 2021

Sexual harassment at work

No data is available. Data on sexual harassment at work will be updated in 2024 using Eurostat data, complemented by the survey on violence against women carried out by FRA and EIGE.
Source: Eurostat, 2021

Istanbul Convention: state of play

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence. Portugal signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011, and ratified it in February 2013. The treaty entered into force in Portugal in August 2014.

The European Council approved the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention on 1 June 2023.

EIGE/FRA survey on violence against women

The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) will carry out a survey on violence against women (VAW II) in eight EU Member States (CZ, DE, IE, CY, LU, HU, RO, SE), which will complement the Eurostat-led data collection on gender-based violence and other forms of interpersonal violence (EU-GBV) in the remaining countries. The use of a unified methodology will ensure the availability of comparable data across all EU Member States. Data collection will be completed this year, and the results will be used to update the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index 2024, with its thematic focus on violence against women.

Thematic focus

The Gender Equality Index 2023 focuses on the socially fair transition of the European Green Deal. Its thematic focus analyses the following aspects:

- Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation
- Energy
- Transport
- Decision-making

The data was collected through various surveys, such as the EIGE 2022 survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities, as well as other EU-wide surveys.[1] The EIGE survey focused on gender differences in unpaid care, including links to transport, the environment and personal consumption and behaviour.

Focus 2023: The European Green Deal

Women in Portugal tend to choose environmentally friendly options more often than men

In 2022, 56 % of women in Portugal, compared with 46 % of men, regularly avoided plastic and/or single-use products, which is higher than the EU average (49 % and 42 %, respectively). Considerably more women (58 %) than men (48 %) regularly reported choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities. Around 34 % of women reported regularly avoiding animal products, compared with 27 % of men.

Even before the current energy crisis, single women were struggling

In 2021, 8 % of single women in Poland, compared with 7 % of single men, were unable to adequately heat their homes. The gender gap was most pronounced among lone parents, with 6 % of lone mothers reporting that they were unable to keep their homes warm, compared with 2 % of lone fathers. Similarly, 6 % of lone mothers and 2 % of lone fathers reported being in arrears on their utility bills in 2021. These figures are likely to have risen significantly with the ongoing energy crisis.

Women were highly underrepresented in the EU energy and transport sectors in Portugal, and in decision-making

There are notably fewer women than men working in the transport and energy sectors in Portugal. In 2022, only 34 % of workers in the energy sector were women.[2] Similarly, women accounted for just 20 % of workers in the transport sector in 2022. Women are also considerably underrepresented in some decision-making roles. In 2022, only 26 % of decision-makers in parliamentary committees focusing on the environment and climate change were women. Conversely, however, 80 % of senior administrators in national ministries dealing with the environment and climate change were women.

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[1] The following sources were used: the EIGE survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities; the European Social Survey; Eurostat-LFS; EU-SILC; education statistics; and the EIGE's WiDM.
[2] Low reliability

Green Deal in Portugal

	Portugal		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Public attitudes and behaviours on climate change and mitigation				
Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change (%, 15+, 2018)	54	55	62	61
Avoiding animal products (%, 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	34	27	31	23
Sometimes	47	44	43	41
Never	19	29	26	36
Avoiding plastic single-use products (%, 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	56	46	49	42
Sometimes	38	45	44	46
Never	6	9	7	11
Choosing environmentally friendly options in childcare activities (%, 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	58	48	51	49
Sometimes	39	44	41	41
Never	3	8	8	10
Choosing friendly options in housework activities daily (%, 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	66	59	59	53
Sometimes	30	35	35	39
Never	3	7	6	8
Tertiary graduates in natural sciences and technologies (%, 15+, 2021)				
Natural sciences and technologies	39	61	36	64
Natural sciences	62	38	56	44
Technologies	31	69	28	72
Energy				
People unable to keep the home adequately warm (%, +16, 2021)				
65+	26	23	8	6
Low educational attainment	26	22	12	12
Single	27	19	10	9
Lone parents	21	18	12	11
Non-EU migrants	19	17	12	13
People with disabilities	26	25	12	11
People with arrears on utility bills (%, +16, 2021)				
16-24	7	7	8	9
Low educational attainment	5	6	9	10
Single	27	19	10	9
Lone parents	21	18	12	11
Non-EU migrants	10	12	11	12
People with disabilities	5	7	8	9
Employed in the energy sector (%, +15, 2022)*	34	66	24	76
Transport				
People opting for low carbon-emission modes of transport (%, 16-74, 2022)				
Regularly	41	37	42	41
Sometimes	36	40	39	41
Never	23	23	19	18
People using the car as main means of transport during a typical week (%, 16-74, 2022)	72	75	66	70
People using public transportation as main means of transport during a typical week (%, 16-74, 2022)	31	27	32	29
People using walking as main means of transport during a typical week (%, 16-74, 2022)	43	37	46	43
Employed in the transport sector (%, 15+, 2022)	20	80	22	78
Decision-making				
Senior administrators in national ministries dealing with environment and climate change (%, 2022)	20	80	56	44
Members of parliamentary committees dealing with environment and climate change (%, 2022)	75	26	70	30

About Index

The Gender Equality Index is a tool for monitoring progress in gender equality across the EU over time. It measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 31 indicators. The Index uses a scale of 1 to 100, where 1 stands for total inequality and 100 for total equality.

Two additional domains are included in the Index, but do not impact a country's final score. The domain of intersecting inequalities highlights how gender inequalities manifest in combination with age, dis/ability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women monitors, measures and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

The Gender Equality Index 2023 also includes a thematic focus on the socially fair transition of the European Green Deal.

This year's edition of the Index includes a long-awaited update to the domain of time using the EIGE survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities.

EIGE's survey on gender gaps in unpaid care, individual and social activities

This EIGE survey focuses on gender differences in unpaid care in order to better understand how they impact the job opportunities, work-life balance, leisure and social activities of women and men. The survey aims to fill current data gaps and improve the capacity of the Gender Equality Index to capture changes in the domain of time in a more conceptually sound, coherent and regular way. The findings from this EIGE survey will contribute to monitoring the European Care Strategy and the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, as reducing the gender gap in care is a key objective of these strategies. The survey was carried out during the summer of 2022, and involved over 60,000 respondents aged 16-74 across the 27 EU Member States.

European Institute for Gender Equality

We are an independent centre and the primary source for information on gender equality in the European Union. We contribute to making the European Union become a Union of Equality, where women and men, girls and boys in all their diversity are free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our societies.

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