

Europe 2020 headline indicators on education

Share of population aged 30 to 34 in the EU27 having completed tertiary education up to 36% in 2012

Share of early leavers from education and training down to 13% in 2012

Improving the EU's performance in education is one of the key objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy¹, adopted by the European Council in June 2010. Targets on education are to increase the proportion of persons having completed tertiary education and to reduce the number of early leavers from education and training. Today, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes the most recent data for the EU and Member States related to these targets.

In the **EU27**, 36% of persons aged 30 to 34 had completed tertiary education in 2012, compared with 34% in 2010 and 28% in 2005. The Europe 2020 strategy's target is that at least 40% of the population in this age group in the **EU27** should have completed tertiary education in 2020.

For early leavers from education and training, 13% of the population aged 18-24 in the **EU27** had at most lower secondary education and were currently not in further education or training, compared with 14% in 2010 and 16% in 2005. The target for 2020 for the **EU27** is to reduce the share to below 10%.

Proportion of those aged 30-34 who completed tertiary education ranges from 22% in Italy, Romania and Malta to 51% in Ireland

In 2012, the highest proportions of those aged 30 to 34 having completed tertiary education were found in **Ireland** (51.1%), **Cyprus** (49.9%), **Luxembourg** (49.6%) and **Lithuania** (48.7%), and the lowest in **Italy** (21.7%), **Romania** (21.8%) and **Malta** (22.4%). Eight Member States have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator (Denmark, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden).

On average in the **EU27**, a higher proportion of women aged 30 to 34 had completed tertiary education than men (40.0% compared with 31.6%). This was true for almost all Member States, with the largest gaps in **Estonia**, **Latvia** and **Slovenia**. For women, the proportion ranged from 23.2% in **Romania** to 57.9% in **Ireland**, while for men it varied between 17.2% in **Italy** and 50.4% in **Luxembourg**.

In 2012, the proportion of those aged 30 to 34 who had completed tertiary education increased compared with 2005 in all Member States. The proportion in particular almost doubled in **Latvia** (from 18.5% in 2005 to 37.0% in 2012), the **Czech Republic** (13.0% and 25.6%) and **Romania** (11.4% and 21.8%).

Share of early leavers from education and training ranges from 4% in Slovenia to 25% in Spain

In 2012, the lowest proportions of the population aged 18-24 who had at most lower secondary education and were currently not in further education or training were observed in **Slovenia** (4.4%), **Slovakia** (5.3%), the **Czech Republic** (5.5%) and **Poland** (5.7%), and the highest in **Spain** (24.9%), **Malta** (22.6%) and **Portugal** (20.8%). Nine Member States have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator (the Czech Republic, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden).

On average in the **EU27**, a lower proportion of women were early leavers from education and training than men (11.0% compared with 14.5%). This was true for all Member States, except **Bulgaria**.

In 2012, the proportion of early leavers from education and training decreased compared with 2005 in all Member States, except **Poland** and the **United Kingdom**. The most notable decrease was registered in **Portugal** (from 38.8% in 2005 to 20.8% in 2012).

Tertiary educational attainment

(% of those aged 30 to 34 having successfully completed tertiary education*)

	2005	2010	2012			Headline target
	Total	Total	Total	Men	Women	
EU27	28.0	33.5	35.8	31.6	40.0	40.0
Belgium	39.1	44.4	43.9	37.1	50.7	47.0
Bulgaria	24.9	27.7	26.9	20.5	33.6	36.0
Czech Republic	13.0	20.4	25.6	22.4	29.1	32.0
Denmark	:	41.2	43.0	33.7	52.6	40.0
Germany	26.1	29.8	31.9	31.0	32.9	-
Estonia	30.6	40.0	39.1	28.1	50.4	40.0
Ireland	39.2	50.1	51.1	44.0	57.9	60.0
Greece	25.3	28.4	30.9	27.6	34.2	32.0
Spain	38.6	40.6	40.1	35.0	45.3	44.0
France	37.7	43.5	43.6	38.5	48.6	50.0
Italy	17.0	19.8	21.7	17.2	26.3	26.0
Cyprus	40.8	45.3	49.9	43.6	55.5	46.0
Latvia	18.5	32.3	37.0	26.0	48.1	34.0
Lithuania	37.9	43.8	48.7	40.7	56.4	40.0
Luxembourg	:	46.1	49.6	50.4	48.9	40.0
Hungary	17.9	25.7	29.9	24.7	35.5	30.3
Malta	18.4	21.5	22.4	20.7	24.0	33.0
Netherlands**	34.9	41.4	42.3	39.9	44.8	40.0
Austria	20.5	23.5	26.3	26.0	26.6	-
Poland**	22.7	35.3	39.1	31.9	46.5	45.0
Portugal	17.7	23.5	27.2	24.3	30.1	40.0
Romania	11.4	18.1	21.8	20.5	23.2	26.7
Slovenia	24.6	34.8	39.2	29.5	49.6	40.0
Slovakia	14.3	22.1	23.7	19.4	28.2	40.0
Finland	43.7	45.7	45.8	36.7	55.4	42.0
Sweden	37.6	45.3	47.9	42.4	53.7	40.0
United Kingdom	34.6	43.0	47.1	44.0	50.2	-

* Tertiary education: International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 5 and 6

** The Netherlands: provisional data for 2012, Poland: provisional data for 2010-2012

- No national target for the United Kingdom. The definition of the current national target for Germany and Austria does not fully correspond to the definition of the data published in this table.

: Comparable data not available

Early leavers from education and training

(% of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and who are currently not in further education or training*)

	2005	2010	2012			Headline target
	Total	Total	Total	Men	Women	
EU27**	15.8	14.0	12.8	14.5	11.0	10.0
Belgium	12.9	11.9	12.0	14.4	9.5	9.5
Bulgaria	20.4	13.9	12.5	12.1	13.0	11.0
Czech Republic	6.2	4.9	5.5	6.1	4.9	5.5
Denmark	:	11.0	9.1	10.8	7.4	9.9
Germany**	13.5	11.9	10.5	11.1	9.8	9.9
Estonia	13.4	11.6	10.5	14.0	7.1	9.5
Ireland	12.5	11.5	9.7	11.2	8.2	8.0
Greece	13.6	13.7	11.4	13.7	9.1	9.7
Spain	30.8	28.4	24.9	28.8	20.8	15.0
France	12.2	12.6	11.6	13.4	9.8	9.5
Italy	22.3	18.8	17.6	20.5	14.5	15.0
Cyprus	18.2	12.7	11.4	16.5	7.0	10.0
Latvia	14.4	13.3	10.5	14.5	6.2	13.4
Lithuania	8.1	8.1	6.5	8.2	(4.6)	8.9
Luxembourg**	:	7.1	8.1	10.7	5.5	9.9
Hungary	12.5	10.5	11.5	12.2	10.7	10.0
Malta	:	24.8	22.6	27.5	17.6	-
Netherlands**	13.5	10.0	8.8	10.2	7.3	7.9
Austria	9.1	8.3	7.6	7.9	7.3	9.5
Poland**	5.3	5.4	5.7	7.8	3.5	4.5
Portugal	38.8	28.7	20.8	27.1	14.3	10.0
Romania	19.6	18.4	17.4	18.0	16.7	11.3
Slovenia	4.9	5.0	4.4	5.4	(3.2)	5.0
Slovakia	6.3	4.7	5.3	6.0	4.6	6.0
Finland	10.3	10.3	8.9	9.8	8.1	8.0
Sweden	10.8	6.5	7.5	8.5	6.3	9.9
United Kingdom	11.6	14.9	13.5	14.6	12.4	-

* "At most lower secondary education" means that the highest educational level attained by the person may be: early childhood education (ISCED 0); primary education (ISCED 1); lower secondary education (ISCED 2); or short upper secondary education of less than 2 years (ISCED 3c short).

** Provisional data for 2012, 2010-2012 for Poland

- No national target for the United Kingdom. The definition of the current national target for Malta does not fully correspond to the definition of the data published in this table.

: Comparable data not available

The reliability of data shown in brackets may be affected by small sample sizes.

1. 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

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