



## Progress in gender equality in Sweden since 2010

With 83.9 out of 100 points, Sweden ranks 1st in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Its score is 15.9 points above the EU's score. Since 2010, Sweden's score has increased by 3.8 points but its ranking has not changed. Since 2018, Sweden's score and ranking have remained the same.

### Best Performance

With 94.6 points, Sweden's score is the highest in the domain of health; ranking 1st among all Member States. The country's best performance is in the sub-domains of health behaviour and status in which it ranks 1st and 2nd, respectively.

### Most room for improvement

Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domain of knowledge (75.2 points). Although Sweden ranks 1st in this domain, improvements could be made in the sub-domain of educational attainment in which the country ranks 4th.

### Biggest improvement

Sweden's score has improved the most in the domain of power (+ 6.7 points since 2010). With a score of 84.5 points, Sweden remains the 1st among all Member States in this domain. Improvements in the sub-domain of economic decision-making have powered this change (+ 12.0 points).

### A step backwards

Since 2018, Sweden's score has decreased by 1.4 points in the domain of money. Consequently, its ranking has dropped by four places to 10th place. This change is caused by a drop in Sweden's score in the sub-domain of economic situation (– 3.0 points since 2018).

### Scores 2019

### Change since

2014

2018

SE	83.9	3.8	0.1
DK	77.8	2.6	0.4
NL	75.9	1.9	1.8
FR	75.5	8.0	0.4
FI	75.3	2.2	0.6
ES	73.7	7.3	1.7
IE	73.1	7.7	0.9
BE	72.7	3.4	1.3
LU	72.4	11.2	2.1
DE	68.6	6.0	1.1
AT	68.0	9.3	1.5
EU	68.0	4.9	0.6
SI	67.6	4.9	-0.1
MT	65.0	10.6	1.6
IT	63.8	10.5	0.3
PT	62.2	8.5	0.9
LV	62.1	6.9	1.3
EE	61.6	8.2	0.9
BG	59.9	4.9	0.3
HR	59.2	6.9	1.3
LT	58.4	3.5	2.1
CY	57.0	8.0	0.1
CZ	56.7	1.1	0.5
PL	56.6	1.1	0.8
SK	56.0	3.0	0.5
RO	54.5	3.7	0.1
HU	53.4	1.0	0.4
EL	52.5	3.9	0.3

Explore Sweden's Index results						
	2010	2012	2015	2017	2018	2019
Index	80.1	79.7	82.6	83.6	83.8	83.9
Work	80.4	81.4	82.6	83.0	82.9	83.1
Participation	91.9	93.8	95.4	95.7	95.8	95.9
Segregation and quality of work	70.4	70.6	71.5	71.9	71.7	72.0
Money	85.3	85.3	87.5	86.8	86.8	85.4
Financial resources	75.9	77.4	82.3	82.1	82.0	81.9
Economic situation	95.8	93.9	93.1	91.9	91.9	88.9
Knowledge	70.7	70.9	72.8	73.8	74.2	75.2
Attainment and participation	74.4	75.6	78.5	80.2	80.5	82.6
Segregation	67.1	66.6	67.5	67.9	68.4	68.4
Time	84.5	83.5	90.1	90.1	90.1	90.1
Care activities	84.6	82.6	90.9	90.9	90.9	90.9
Social activities	84.3	84.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3
Power	77.8	75.2	79.5	83.4	84.2	84.5
Political	92.1	93.0	93.9	95.1	94.9	95.0
Economic	58.7	52.6	60.8	69.4	71.7	70.7
Social	87.1	87.1	87.8	87.9	87.8	89.8
Health	93.2	93.0	94.1	94.7	94.5	94.6
Status	95.7	95.7	97.4	96.9	96.3	96.4
Behaviour	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3	89.3
Access	94.5	94.2	95.8	98.0	98.1	98.2

Explore Sweden's performance by indicator		Sweden		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	FTE employment rate (%)	59	67	41	57
	Duration of working life (years)	41	43	33	38
Segregation and quality of work	Employed people in education, human health and social work activities (%)	42	12	30	8
	Ability to take one hour or two off during working hours to take care of personal or family matters (%)	35	47	22	26
	Career Prospects Index (points, 0-100)	67	68	62	63
Money					
Financial resources	Mean monthly earnings (PPS)	2628	3024	2333	2819
	Mean equivalised net income (PPS)	21940	23091	19495	20420
Economic situation	At-risk-of-poverty (%)	17	16	17	15
	Income distribution S20/80	25	22	20	20
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (%)	43	31	26	25
	People participating in formal or non-formal education (%)	46	32	17	16
Segregation	Tertiary students in education, health and welfare, humanities and arts (%)	54	30	43	21
Time					
Care activities	People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren, elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%)	29	27	37	25
	People doing cooking and/or household, every day (%)	74	56	78	32
Social activities	Workers doing sporting, cultural or leisure activities outside of their home, at least daily or several times a week (%)	51	55	27	31
	Workers involved in voluntary or charitable activities, at least once a month (%)	27	30	12	11
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (%)	52	48	34	66
	Share of members of parliament (%)	48	52	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies (%)	47	53	30	70
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors (%)	38	62	30	70
	Share of board members of central bank (%)	29	71	25	75
Social	Share of board members of research funding organisations (%)	58	42	39	61
	Share of board members of publically owned broadcasting organisations (%)	56	44	36	64
	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic sport organisations (%)	52	48	17	83
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (%)	73	79	66	71
	Life expectancy at birth (years)	85	82	84	79
	Healthy life years at birth (years)	73	74	65	64
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (%)	76	61	72	52
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (%)	58	56	35	40
Access	Population with unmet needs for medical examination (%)	5	4	3	3
	Population with unmet needs for dental examination (%)	2	3	4	4

# Explore intersecting inequalities

		Women	Men	Gender gap (p.p)	Gap change since 2015
FTE employment rate (%)					
Family type	Couple without children	54	51	3	●
	Couple with children	81	94	-13	●
Level of education	Low educated	24	40	-16	●
	Medium Educated	61	72	-11	●
	High educated	75	79	-4	●
Country of birth	Native born	62	68	-6	●
	Foreign born	51	63	-12	●
At-risk-of-poverty (%)					
Age groups	15/16-24	27	29	-2	●
	25-49	16	16	0	●
	50-64	10	11	-1	●
Disability	Without disabilities	19	17	2	●
	With disabilities	28	28	0	●
Graduates of tertiary education (%)					
Age groups	15/16-24	12	8	4	●
	25-49	57	42	15	●
	50-64	41	27	14	●
Country of birth	Native born	44	30	14	●
	Foreign born	40	35	5	●
People caring for and educating their children or grandchildren,elderly or people with disabilities, every day (%)					
Family type	Couple without children	4	3	1	●
	Couple with children	93	86	7	●
Disability	Without disabilities	31	28	3	●
	With disabilities	23	19	4	●
Self-perceived health, good or very good (%)					
Age groups	15/16-24	86	84	2	●
	25-49	80	82	-2	●
	50-64	66	72	-6	●
Disability	Without disabilities	80	83	-3	●
	With disabilities	22	23	-1	●

# Violence

## A lack of evidence to assess violence against women

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

During the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on mobility and increased isolation exposed women to a higher risk of violence committed by an intimate partner. While the full extent of violence during the pandemic is difficult to assess, media and women's organisations have reported a sharp increase in the demand for services for women victims of violence. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated pre-existing gaps in the prevention of violence against women and the provision of adequately funded victim support services.

Eurostat is currently coordinating a survey on gender-based violence in the EU but not all Member States are taking part. EIGE, together with the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), will collect data for the remaining countries to have an EU-wide comparable data on violence against women. Data collection will be completed in 2023, and the results will be used to update the domain of violence in the Gender Equality Index 2024.

## Violence at a glance

- 1 Femicide**  
In 2018, over 600 women were murdered by an intimate partner, a family member or a relative in 14 EU Member States, according to official reports. In Sweden, 22 women were killed by their partners in 2018. There is no available data on the number of women killed by a family member.  
Source: Eurostat, 2018
- 2 Physical and/or sexual violence**  
34 % of women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence, experienced it in their own home. 19 % of trans women, 12 % of lesbian women, and 10 % of bisexual women were physically or sexually attacked in the past five years for being LGBTI.  
Source: FRA's Fundamental Rights Survey and LGBTI Survey II, 2019
- 3 Harassment**  
50 % of women experienced harassment in the past five years, and 34 % in the past 12 months. 60 % of women with disabilities experienced harassment in the past five years, and 43 % in the past 12 months.  
Source: FRA's Fundamental Rights Survey, 2019
- 4 Cyberviolence**  
15 % of women were subjected to cyber harassment in the past five years, and 9 % in the past 12 months.  
Among women aged 16-29, 27 % experienced cyber harassment in the past five years, and 15 % in the past 12 months.  
Source: FRA's Fundamental Rights Survey, 2019
- 5 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**  
Between 11 % and 19 % of the 59 409 girls in the resident migrant population were at risk of female genital mutilation in 2011.  
Source: EIGE, 2018

## Istanbul Convention: state of play

The Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Sweden signed the Istanbul Convention in May 2011 and ratified it in July 2014. The treaty entered into force in November 2014.

## Index 2021 - thematic focus on health

The Gender Equality Index 2021 focuses on gender inequalities in health. The thematic focus analyses the following aspects of health in the EU:

- health status and mental health
- health behaviour
- access to health services
- sexual and reproductive health
- the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Sweden		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
<b>Health status and mental health</b>				
Healthy life years at age 65 (year, 2019)	17%	16%	10%	10%
Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (%, 2019)	75%	81%	48%	55%
Limitations in usual activities due to health problems at age 65 (%, 2019)	23%	18%	51% (e)	44% (e)
Self-rated mental well-being (WHO-5 scale 0-100) (18+, %, 2016)	63%	66%	62%	66%
With disabilities	54%	53%	50%	53%
Without disabilities	65%	68%	66%	69%
<b>Health behaviour</b>				
Heavy episodic drinking at least once a month (15+, %, 2014)	12%	29%	12%	28%
15-24	26%	33%	20%	31%
25-64	11%	32%	12%	30%
65-74	9%	20%	10%	21%
Physical activities outside working time (16+, %, 2017)	64%	65%	42% (e)	47% (e)
16-24	71%	76%	52% (e)	62% (e)
25-64	64%	64%	43% (e)	45% (e)
65-74	72%	66%	43% (e)	46% (e)
<b>Access to health services</b>				
Unmet needs for medical examination (16+, %, 2019)	5%	4%	3%	3%
Lone parents	7%	6%	5%	5%
65+	4%	3%	4%	3%
With disabilities	11%	15%	7%	6%
Difficulties in paying for unexpected medical expenses (+18, %, 2016)	3% (u)	1% (u)	19%	17%
Dental care	15%	9%	41%	35%
Mental health services	8%	4% (u)	39%	33%
Emergency healthcare	3% (u)	2% (u)	26%	23%
Other hospital or medical specialist services	5%	3% (u)	32%	29%
<b>Sexual and Reproductive health</b>				
Adolescent birth rate per 1.000 population (1) (15-19, number, 2019)	4%	n/a	11%	n/a
Unmet need for family planning (2) (15-49, %, 2020)	6%	n/a	5%	n/a
<b>The COVID-19 pandemic</b>				
Excess mortality (3) (population, %, 2016-2019 vs 2020-2021)	3%	10%	14%	17%



[Explore the 2021 Index](#)

## European Institute for Gender Equality

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is the EU knowledge centre on gender equality. EIGE supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all Europeans by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in Europe.

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