

Sweden scores 73.7 points out of 100 in the Gender Equality Index 2025, ranking first in the EU. Its Gender Equality Index has increased by 4.2 points since 2015 and by 1.4 points since 2020. This improvement is mainly due to the domain of knowledge.¹

Sweden is improving in gender equality over time, and is performing better than the EU. The scores show that the distance from the EU average is reducing.



¹ The Gender Equality Index has been reviewed in 2025 (see About the Index below). The domain of time is calculated with the 2024 EIGE CARE survey. Index 2025 uses 2024 data for the most part and traces progress from a short-term (2020–2024) and longer-term (2015–2024) perspective. Greece and Romania have the same scores. Their position in the ranking is determined statistically based on the second decimal place of the Index score.

Best performance

Sweden ranks 1st in the EU both in the domain of work and in the domain of power (80.4 points and 80.3 points, respectively). For the domain of power the result is given by political power (88.3 points, 1st) and social power (97.6 points, 1st). For the domain of work, it is mainly due to the subdomain segregation and quality of work, in which it ranks 2nd with a score of 70.7 points.

Most room for improvement

The **most room for improvement** lies in the domain of time, in which Sweden holds the 23rd position in the EU with a score of 58.7 points. This is mostly due to social activities (60.6 points, 26th).

Biggest improvement

Sweden records its **biggest improvement** in the domain of knowledge, which has increased by 3.1 points since 2020. The main element influencing this result is attainment and participation, which grew by 7.1 points.

A step backwards

A **step backwards** has been observed in the domain of power, where the score has decreased by 0.8 points since 2020. The political power subdomain is the main factor of this fall back (- 3.5 points).

Explore Sweden's Index results

	2010	2015	2020	2025	Change since 2015	Change since 2020
Index	67.3	69.5	72.3	73.7	4.2	1.4
Work	70.4	75.1	77.6	80.4	5.3	2.8
Participation	88.1	91.4	91.1	91.5	0.1	0.4
Segregation and quality of work	56.2	61.7	66.1	70.7	9.0	4.6
Money	73.5	76.9	78.4	81.0	4.1	2.6
Financial resources	73.7	76.3	78.0	81.2	4.9	3.2
Economic situation	73.4	77.5	78.8	80.7	3.2	1.9
Knowledge	52.1	51.5	51.5	54.6	3.1	3.1
Attainment and participation	72.3	68.5	63.4	70.5	2.0	7.1
Segregation	37.5	38.6	41.8	42.3	3.7	0.5
Time	61.2	61.2	58.7	58.7	-2.5	0.0
Care activities	61.7	61.7	56.7	56.7	-5.0	0.0
Social activities	60.6	60.6	60.6	60.6	0.0	0.0
Power	60.0	65.7	81.1	80.3	14.6	-0.8
Political	85.2	88.6	91.8	88.3	-0.3	-3.5
Economic	34.9	44.1	62.1	60.2	16.1	-1.9
Social	72.6	72.6	93.6	97.6	25.0	4.0
Health	91.4	90.6	90.4	91.2	0.6	0.8
Status	94.7	92.9	92.9	94.4	1.5	1.5
Behaviour	88.3	88.3	88.0	88.0	-0.3	0.0

Explore Sweden's performance by indicator

		Sweden		EU	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Work					
Participation	Full-time equivalent employment rate (% , 15-89, 2023) ¹	55	63	44	59
	Duration of working life (years, 15+ population, 2024)	42	44	35	39
Segregation and quality of work	ICT specialists (% , 15-74, 2024)	24	76	20	81
	Managerial positions (% , 15-74, 2024)	45	55	35	65
	Low paid workers (% , 16+, 2024)	24	15	28	16
Money					
Financial resources	Median earnings (PPS, 18-64 employed population, 2024)	28442	33172	23000	29960
	Gender pension gap (65+, %, 2024)	23		25	
Economic situation	Median partner earnings ratio (18-64, %, 2024) ²	81	130	70	152
	In-work poverty of adults in single or single-parent households (% , 16+ employed population, 2024)	12	12	16	13
Knowledge					
Attainment and participation	Graduates of tertiary education (% , 30-34, 2024)	66	51	50	39
	Graduates in IVET (Initial vocational education and training) (% , 25-34, 2024)	15	24	27	34
Segregation	Graduated in tertiary education in EHW (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities and Art (tertiary students) (% , 2023)	77	23	75	25
	Graduated in tertiary education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) (% , 2023)	38	62	34	66
Time					
Care activities	Informal childcare (0-11) for more than 35 weekly hours (% , 16-74, 2024)	42	23	41	20
	Informal long-term care for more than 20 hours per week (% , 45-64, 2019)	23	10	20	13
	Housework chores every day (% , 16-74, 2024)	60	43	59	33
Social activities	Hours spent on leisure activities per week (% , 16-74, 2024)	26	43	30	43
	Voluntary, charitable or political activities at least once per week (% , 16-74, 2024)	9	14	13	17
Power					
Political	Share of ministers (% , 2024)	46	54	35	65
	Share of members of parliament (% , 2024)	46	54	33	67
	Share of members of regional assemblies/local municipalities (% , 2024) ³	48	52	32	68
Economic	Share of members of boards in largest quoted companies (% , 2024)	38	63	34	66
Social	Share of members of highest decision making body of the national Olympic most popular sport organisations (% , 2024)	51	49	23	77
Health					
Status	Self-perceived health, good or very good (% , 16+, 2024)	65	69	66	71
	Healthy life years at 65 in percentage of the total life expectancy (% , 65+, 2023)	64	68	44	50
Behaviour	People who don't smoke and are not involved in harmful drinking (% , 16+ population, 2019)	80	65	73	56
	People doing physical activities and/or consuming fruits and vegetables (% , 16+ population, 2019)	60	57	38	43

EU-LFS, EU-SILC, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), Eurostat health statistics, EIGE's CARE survey, EIGE, Gender Statistics Database, WMID.

¹ FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week.

² Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age.

³ Share of members in local municipalities for BG, EE, IE, CY, LT, LU, MT, SI.

The employment rates slightly decreased

In Sweden, the full-time equivalent (FTE) employment rate stands at 55 % for women and 63 % for men. Since 2015, both rates have fallen by 1 percentage point, though they remain among the highest in the EU. The widest gender gap and the lowest employment rates are found among people with lower levels of education.

Segregation in labour market reduced

The share of women among ICT specialists reached 24 %, after an increase of 5 percentage points since 2015. The portion of women holding a managerial position is 45 % – a figure that has improved by 5 percentage points over the past decade.

Employed people with low income declined

The portion of low-paid women¹ is 24 %, compared to 15 % of men. Both percentages have declined by 4 percentage points since 2015, so the gender disparity did not change.

Improvement in couples' earnings ratio

On average, women living in couples earn 81 % of their partner's earnings, while men earn 30 % more than their partner. The difference has shortened over the last decade. The widest disparity stands among couples with children.

In-work poverty decreased for both women and men

In Sweden, 12 % of employed women and men who live in single or single-parent households are at risk of poverty². These levels decreased for both genders during the last decade and by the same extent (– 5 percentage points).

Tertiary graduates increased

The portion of women holding a tertiary education degree is 66 %, compared with 51 % of men. Over the last decade, both shares have risen significantly, by 8 percentage points. The gender gap is more pronounced among people with disabilities.

Women's presence in STEM fields increased

More than three out of four graduates in EHW fields (Education, Health and Welfare, Humanities, and the Arts) are women. On the other hand, more than three out of five STEM graduates (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are men. Since 2015, women's share among STEM graduates has increased by 4 percentage points.

¹ Percentage of employed population receiving two thirds or less of the national median employee income, which covers gross employee cash or near cash income, gross non-cash employee income and employers' social insurance contributions.

² In-work at-risk-of-poverty is the percentage of employed persons who are at risk of poverty, meaning that their disposable household income (after social transfers) is below 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income.

Women spend more time than men on childcare and housework

In Sweden, 42 % of women devote over five hours per day to caring for children aged 0–11, compared with 23 % of men. Regarding household chores, 60 % of women carry them out on a daily basis, against 43 % of men. These gender gaps widen in older age groups.

The presence of women in politics remains largely unchanged

Women account for 46 % of ministers, a share that has remained unchanged since 2023. In parliament, they hold 46 % of seats (–1 percentage point since 2023), while in regional assemblies they make up 48 % of members, the same as in 2023.

Sweden does not have gender quotas for parliament, nor for listed quoted companies.

Slight increase of women's representation in quoted companies

Women represent 38 % of members on the boards of the largest quoted companies in Sweden, an increase of 2 percentage points since 2023.

Women's presence in sport organisations remains high

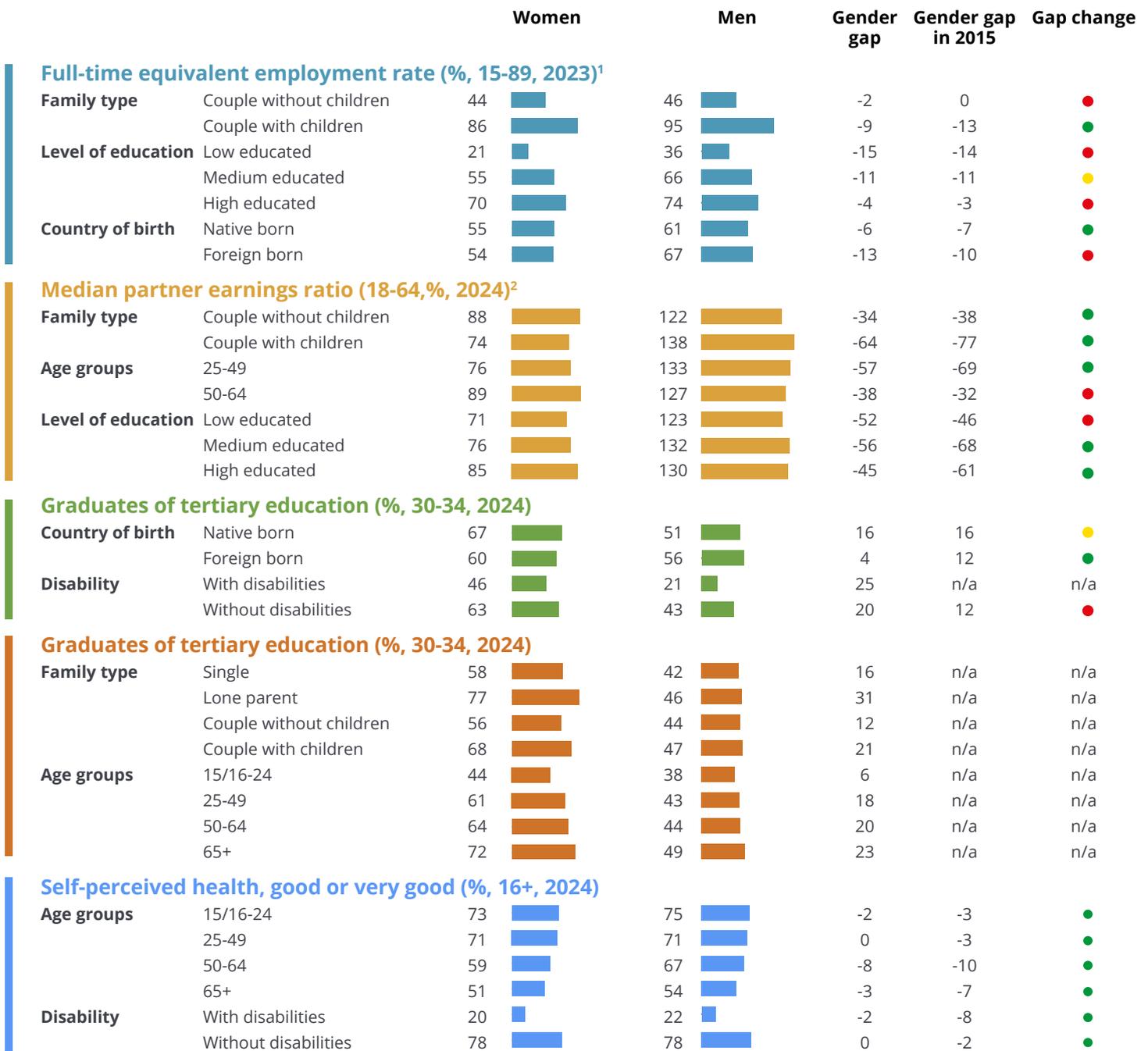
Women make up 51 % of the highest decision-making bodies in the most popular national Olympic sport organisations, the same share as in 2023.

Levels of self-perceived good health have declined

The percentage of women rating their health as 'good' or 'very good' is 65 %, and 69 % for men. Gender equality slightly improved, as men's share has decreased more than women's since 2020. Lowest levels of self-perceived health are recorded among people with disabilities and older generations.

Women aged 65 are expected to spend 64 % of their remaining life in good health, compared to 68 % for men. These figures have decreased for both women and men since 2020.

Explore intersecting inequalities



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

Eurostat (European Union Labour Force Survey, European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions), EIGE CARE survey.

¹ FTE employment rate measures employed persons in a comparable way, even though they may work a different number of hours per week. Family type is based on the relationships between the members of households. Children are only those economically dependent household members (i.e. aged below 18).

² Median of the annual earnings expressed as a percentage of a partner's earnings for coupled women and men in employment and in working age.

Violence against women

Violence against women is one of the additional domains of the Gender Equality Index. The 2024 edition of the composite indicator on violence against women is calculated on the basis of the EU-GBV survey on violence against women. The 2024 composite measure scores are not fully comparable with scores calculated in 2017.

Sweden's score for the domain of violence is 37.4 points, which is higher than the EU average.¹

The score for the subdomain of prevalence is 29.5 points, the subdomain of severity is 41.7 points and the subdomain of disclosure is 41.0 points.

- In Sweden, 53 % of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since the age of 15. This is 22 percentage points higher than the EU-27 average (31 %).
- Some 49 % of women have experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.
- Around 40 % of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months have not told anyone.

The **Istanbul Convention** is the most comprehensive international human rights treaty on preventing and combatting 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.

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

¹ More information can be found in the report 'Gender Equality Index 2024. Tackling violence against women, tackling gender inequalities'.

Violence against women

	Sweden Women	EU Women
Physical and/or sexual violence		
1 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator since age 15 (% , 18-74, 2021)	53	31 e
18-29	56	35 e
30-44	60	35 e
45-64	52	31 e
65-74	36	24 e
severe limitations	69	46 e
limited but not severely or not limited at all	52	30 e
some	62	40 e
some or severe	63	41 e
no limitations	49	28 e
intimate partner violence	31	18 e
non-partner violence	42	20 e
2 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by any perpetrator in the past 12 months (% , 18-74, 2021)	5	3 e
Femicide		
3 Women victims of intentional homicide by intimate partner or family member, rate per 100 000 inhabitants (2022)	0.19	:
family member	:	:
current or former partner	0.19	:
Health consequences of violence and multiple victimisation		
4 Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 (% , 18-74, 2021)	49	57 e
intimate partner violence	69	72 e
non-partner violence	30	37 e
5 Women having experienced health consequences of physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months (% , 18-74, 2021)	23 u	37 e
6 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from one or several types of perpetrators (non-partner, current partner or former partner) (% , 18-74, 2021)	52	31 e
Disclosure of violence to institutions or to anyone else		
7 Women having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months and have not told anyone (% , 18-74, 2021)	40	31 e
intimate partner violence	38	31 e
non-partner violence	49	38 e

EU-GBV survey on violence against women (Statistics | Eurostat (europa.eu))

Italy, the data based on Victimisation survey 2022-2023 (Le molestie: vittime e contesto – Anno 2022-2023 – Istat); women aged 18-70.

Femicide, Eurostat (crim_hom_vrel)

e: EIGE's estimation

u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)

d: definition differs

: not available

Gender stereotypes in Sweden

The Gender Equality Index 2025 present data on gender stereotypes across the EU and key findings alongside public perceptions of gender roles in each domain. The data shows how deeply engrained gender norms continue to influence our daily lives, choices and opportunities.

	Sweden		EU	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Gender stereotypes				
1 Men earn more than women because their jobs are more demanding (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	7	22	36	45
2 If childcare services are not available, mothers should stay at home with the child and fathers should prioritise their job (% , 16-74, 2024) <i>Agree or strongly agree</i>	13	25	33	42
3 A man's most important role is to earn money (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	9	14	40	45
4 Women should make most of the decisions on how to run a household (% , 16-74, 2024) <i>Agree or strongly agree</i>	14	19	36	38
5 A university education is more important for a boy than for a girl (% , 15+, 2017/22)¹ <i>Disagree or strongly disagree</i>	99	98	92	88
6 Women and men are treated in the same way at school / university (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Agree</i>	48	51	66	69
7 It is good for family wellbeing when fathers and mothers equally share parental leave (% , 16-74, 2024) <i>Agree or strongly agree</i>	76	75	82	78
8 Overall, men are naturally less competent than women to perform household tasks (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	17	21	49	48
9 Men are more ambitious than women in politics (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	11	10	46	48
10 Soft skills often attributed to women are important for being a good leader (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	86	80	65	61
11 Men are better treated by medical staff (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Agree</i>	46	30	22	16
12 Women and men are treated in the same way by medical staff (% , 15+, 2024) <i>Agree</i>	46	57	67	70
13 A man controlling his wife's finance is acceptable (% , 18+, 2024) <i>Acceptable</i>	21	35	26	46
14 If women share intimate pictures of themselves with someone, they are at least partially responsible if the image is shared online without their consent (% , 18+, 2024) <i>Tend to agree or totally agree</i>	26	32	42	45

Special Eurobarometer 545 on Gender Stereotypes
EIGE' CARE survey II
2017-2022 European Value Study 5, World Value Survey 7
Flash Eurobarometer 544 on Gender Stereotypes - Violence against women

e: EIGE's estimation

u: low reliability (estimate is based on 20 to 49 sample observations or if non-response for the item concerned exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%)

d: definition differs

: not available

EIGE's calculations, based on microdata

¹ 23 European countries out of 27 answered the question.

Men earn more because their jobs are more demanding

Fewer than one in ten women believe that men earn more because their jobs are more demanding, whereas over one in five men share this view. Agreement with this perception is more common among younger people.

Mothers are expected to stay home when childcare is unavailable

More than one in ten women believe that mothers should stay home with their children while fathers prioritise their work if childcare services are unavailable. One in four men share this view.

Men are better treated by medical staff

Almost half of women perceive that men receive better treatment from medical staff, compared with nearly one in three men who agree. Both shares are above the EU average.

About the Index

The Gender Equality Index, first launched in 2013, has become a cornerstone of gender monitoring in the European Union. More than a decade has passed since its first release and during this time, it has served as a valuable tool for benchmarking progress, identifying persistent gaps and supporting evidence-based policymaking across Member States. In 2025, the Index underwent a comprehensive review to strengthen its alignment with current EU policy priorities, integrate new data and update its methodology.

The Gender Equality Index measures gender gaps between women and men in six core domains – work, money, knowledge, time, power and health – and is composed of 27 indicators. Scores range from 0 to 100, where 0 reflects complete gender inequality and 100 represents full 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, disability, education, family type and migrant background (based on the country of birth). The domain of violence against women measures, monitors and analyses the most common and widely criminalised forms of violence against women across the EU.

Given the changes introduced to the Index, the entire time series has been reconstructed, applying the updated methodology to past years to ensure full comparability over time. Each indicator has been recalculated annually using the most recent data available for that specific year. As a result, the Index time series have been updated and the time series published up to 2024 will no longer be used. This revision preserves the accuracy of historical data while allowing consistent trend analysis under the new methodology.

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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