

65/2016 - 6 April 2016

7 April: World Health Day

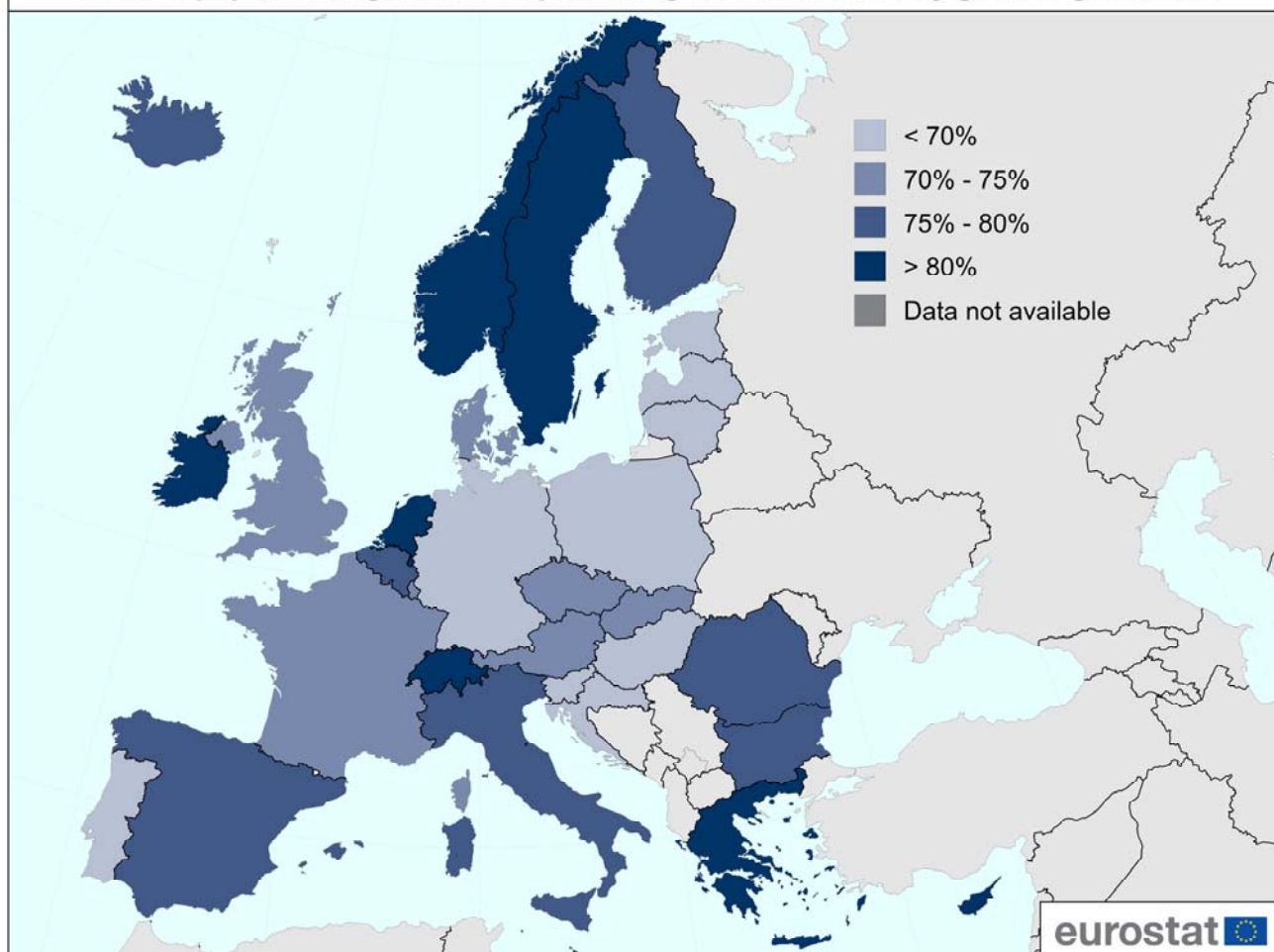
Almost three-quarters of people aged 25 to 64 in the EU feel healthy

Education level plays a role

Of all persons aged 25 to 64 living in the **European Union** (EU), around three-quarters perceived their health status as very good or good, slightly fewer than 20% as fair and below 7% as bad or very bad. Being an important socio-economic factor, the education level has an influence on health status: while just over 60% of the **EU** population aged 25-64 with a low education level perceived their health as very good or good, this proportion hit 85% for those with a tertiary education level. This pattern is observed for all ages between 25 and 64.

This information is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on the occasion of the World Health Day, celebrated each 7 April. The indicator presented in this news release only shows a small part of the large amount of data related to health available at Eurostat.

Share of population aged 25 to 64 perceiving their health as very good or good, 2014



Highest share of population feeling healthy in Greece and Ireland

Among the EU Member States in 2014, more than 8 out of ten persons aged 25 to 64 felt in very good or good health conditions in **Greece** (84.6%) and **Ireland** (84.2%), ahead of **Sweden** (82.9%), **Cyprus** (82.7%), **Malta** (82.6%) and the **Netherlands** (80.1%).

In contrast, the highest share of the population aged 25 to 64 perceiving their health as bad or very bad was recorded in **Croatia** (13.4%), followed by **Hungary** (11.4%) and **Portugal** (11.3%).

Self-perceived health, 2014 (% of population aged 25 to 64)

	Very good and good	Fair	Bad and very bad
EU	73.6	19.5	6.8
Belgium	79.0	13.4	7.6
Bulgaria	77.7	15.7	6.6
Czech Republic	(71.4)	(21.1)	(7.5)
Denmark	73.6	18.8	7.7
Germany	69.8	23.0	7.2
Estonia	(61.7)	(28.0)	(10.3)
Ireland	84.2	12.4	3.4
Greece	84.6	10.0	5.4
Spain	79.8	15.4	4.8
France	73.0	20.9	6.2
Croatia	65.3	21.3	13.4
Italy	78.7	15.4	5.9
Cyprus	82.7	14.0	3.3
Latvia	52.2	37.4	10.4
Lithuania	52.1	38.4	9.5
Luxembourg	74.6	17.8	7.6
Hungary	63.1	25.4	11.4
Malta	82.6	15.6	1.7
Netherlands	80.1	15.1	4.9
Austria	73.1	19.8	7.1
Poland	64.4	26.4	9.2
Portugal	52.9	35.8	11.3
Romania	79.6	15.1	5.3
Slovenia	69.9	22.2	7.9
Slovakia	71.8	20.4	7.8
Finland	76.1	19.8	4.1
Sweden	82.9	13.5	3.6
United Kingdom	(73.8)	(18.4)	(7.7)
Iceland	78.8	15.3	5.9
Norway	80.1	13.4	6.5
Switzerland	82.1	14.3	3.6

() Data with reduced reliability.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Highest gap in self-perceived health between low and high educated people in Poland, lowest in Bulgaria

A clear link can be established between educational attainment and self-perceived health. In general in the EU Member States, the higher the education level is, the higher the share of people feeling healthy is.

The largest difference between education levels in the share of people aged 25 to 64 perceiving their health as very good or good was recorded in 2014 in **Poland** (38.6% for people aged 25 to 64 with a low education level vs. 83.0% for those with a high education level, or a 44.4 percentage points difference), followed by **Croatia** (with a 42.8 pp gap) and **Slovenia** (42.4 pp).

At the opposite end of the scale, gaps of less than 20 percentage points were registered in **Bulgaria** (with a 17.7 pp gap), **Malta** (17.8 pp), **Spain** (18.3 pp) and **Greece** (19.0 pp). At **EU** level, the difference between the share of people aged 25 to 64 with low education level feeling healthy (61.3%) and that of people with high education level (85.0%) stood at 23.7 pp in 2014.

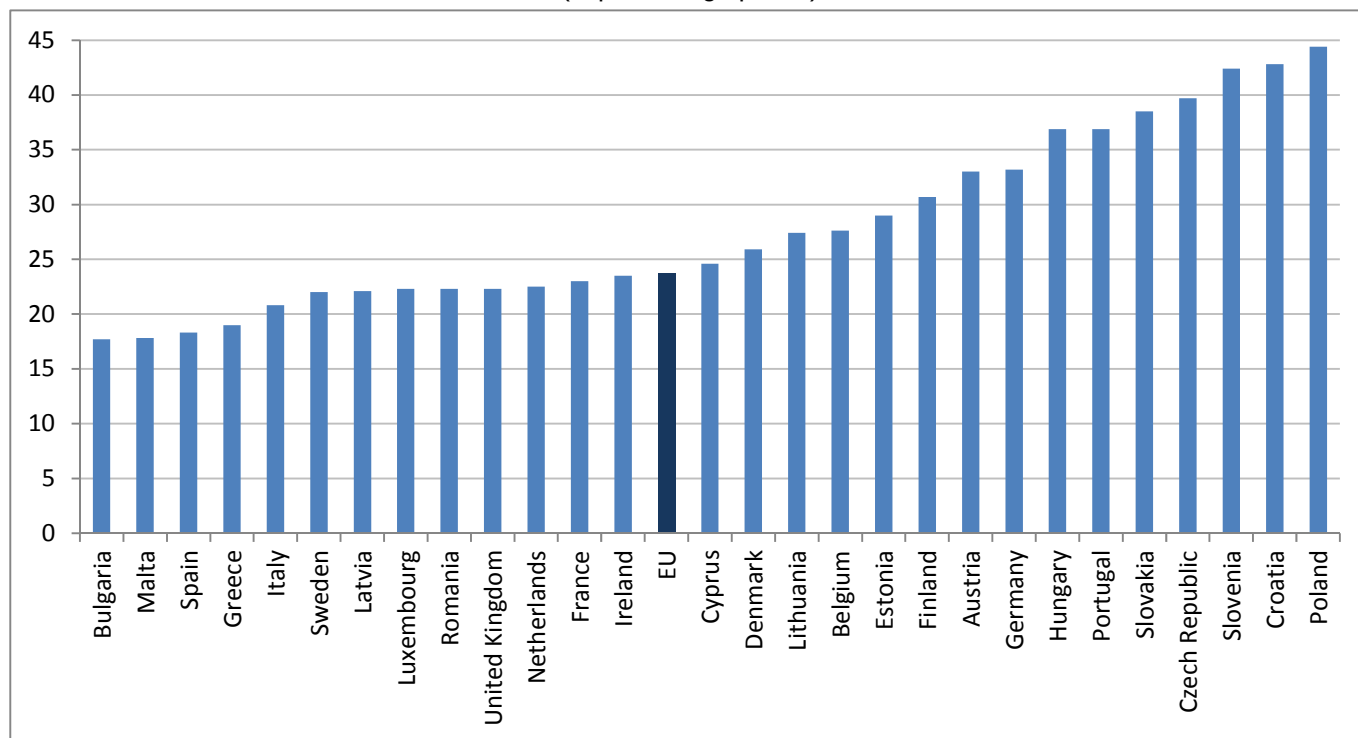
Share of people perceiving their health as very good or good, by education level, 2014
(% of population aged 25 to 64)

	Low education level	Medium education level	High education level	Gap between high and low education level (in pp)
EU	61.3	72.8	85.0	23.7
Belgium	60.7	79.6	88.3	27.6
Bulgaria	67.8	78.0	85.5	17.7
Czech Republic	46.3	(69.9)	(86.0)	(39.7)
Denmark	57.2	70.7	83.1	25.9
Germany	49.2	69.1	82.4	33.2
Estonia	(44.8)	(55.6)	(73.8)	(29.0)
Ireland	68.3	85.6	91.8	23.5
Greece	72.9	87.3	91.9	19.0
Spain	70.6	83.3	88.9	18.3
France	59.2	72.0	82.2	23.0
Croatia	39.6	68.5	82.4	42.8
Italy	68.2	83.3	89.0	20.8
Cyprus	67.4	83.0	92.0	24.6
Latvia	44.2	46.7	66.3	22.1
Lithuania	(44.1)	40.9	71.5	(27.4)
Luxembourg	62.8	76.3	85.1	22.3
Hungary	43.0	63.2	79.9	36.9
Malta	76.2	89.9	94.0	17.8
Netherlands	65.6	79.0	88.1	22.5
Austria	51.7	72.6	84.7	33.0
Poland	38.6	60.9	83.0	44.4
Portugal	40.5	66.2	77.4	36.9
Romania	70.3	80.7	92.6	22.3
Slovenia	44.2	68.2	86.6	42.4
Slovakia	46.9	69.5	85.4	38.5
Finland	54.3	73.2	85.0	30.7
Sweden	67.1	81.1	89.1	22.0
United Kingdom	(60.4)	74.2	(82.7)	(22.3)
Iceland	67.1	78.4	86.0	18.9
Norway	65.7	75.9	87.4	21.7
Switzerland	(65.7)	81.8	87.7	(22.0)

() Data with reduced reliability.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

**Differences in self-perceived health in the EU Member States for people aged 25-64
with low and high education levels, 2014**
(in percentage points)



Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

The source of the data on self-perceived health is the European Union Statistics of Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC). In this news release, it covers individuals aged between 25 and 64 living in private households.

The concept of **self-perceived health** is operationalized by a question on how a person perceives his/her health in general using one of the answer categories very good/ good/ fair/ bad/ very bad.

The **education attainment levels** of individuals are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) version of 2011 and are grouped as follows:

Low education level refers to ISCED levels 0-2: less than primary, primary and lower secondary education.

Medium education level refers to ISCED levels 3-4: upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education.

High education level, meaning tertiary educational attainment, refers to ISCED levels 5-8: tertiary education.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to health statistics.

Eurostat [database](#) on health status.

Eurostat [metadata](#) on health variables of EU-SILC.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on self-perceived health statistics.

The [WHO website](#) dedicated to the World Health Day.

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