

Women do more cooking and cleaning, men do more DIY and gardening

In all ten countries, women spent much more time than men on domestic work, ranging from 50% more in **Sweden** to 90% more in **France**. In nearly all countries, and in both relative and absolute terms, women did more food preparation, dish washing, cleaning, laundry and childcare, while men did more gardening, construction and repairs. Even if women spent more time than men on shopping and services in all countries, the relative share of this activity in the domestic activities of men was higher than for women.

Breakdown of domestic activities of women aged 20 to 74

	BE	DE	EE	FR	HU	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
Food preparation	22%	20%	27%	24%	29%	29%	23%	23%	23%	22%
Dish washing	8%	8%	9%	7%	10%	10%	6%	10%	7%	9%
Cleaning and upkeep	21%	21%	18%	25%	16%	19%	21%	14%	20%	16%
Laundry, ironing and handicrafts	14%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	12%	10%	11%	12%
Gardening	2%	4%	5%	3%	6%	9%	3%	5%	3%	4%
Construction and repairs	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Shopping and services*	13%	15%	10%	14%	8%	7%	14%	13%	15%	12%
Childcare	13%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	12%	13%	13%	15%
Other domestic work	5%	9%	9%	3%	6%	5%	6%	11%	7%	8%

Breakdown of domestic activities of men aged 20 to 74

	BE	DE	EE	FR	HU	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
Food preparation	14%	12%	13%	13%	9%	11%	15%	17%	19%	17%
Dish washing	6%	6%	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%	7%	7%	6%
Cleaning and upkeep	13%	18%	21%	16%	18%	20%	25%	13%	14%	14%
Laundry, ironing and handicrafts	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Gardening	11%	7%	7%	13%	20%	20%	4%	7%	9%	7%
Construction and repairs	15%	13%	20%	23%	11%	15%	15%	13%	12%	17%
Shopping and services*	16%	20%	12%	19%	10%	10%	19%	15%	17%	15%
Childcare	12%	7%	7%	6%	10%	7%	8%	11%	9%	12%
Other domestic work	10%	15%	14%	5%	20%	14%	8%	14%	10%	12%

* *Shopping* includes purchasing goods and circling around at shops or markets. *Services* includes visiting public offices, and commercial or personal services.

One third to one half of free time spent watching TV and video

In all countries men had more free time than women, ranging from 3% more in **Norway** to 24% more in **Slovenia**. Watching TV and video was the main free time activity for both men and women in almost all countries. Across the ten countries, both women and men spent between one-third (**Norway**, **Germany** and **Sweden**) and one-half (**Hungary** and **Estonia**) of their free time watching TV. Socialising accounted for around 20% of free time for women and about 15% for men, with the highest shares recorded in **Norway** (34% for women, 26% for men), and the lowest in **Estonia** (13% and 11% respectively).

Breakdown of free time activities of women aged 20 to 74

	BE	DE	EE	FR	HU	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
TV and video	45%	32%	48%	47%	56%	39%	39%	34%	44%	29%
Socialising	17%	22%	13%	18%	14%	21%	17%	23%	21%	34%
Reading	9%	12%	14%	9%	8%	9%	15%	11%	9%	11%
Sports and exercise	5%	9%	6%	9%	5%	10%	9%	8%	4%	8%
Resting	10%	6%	7%	2%	8%	11%	6%	8%	8%	4%
Hobbies and games	5%	8%	2%	5%	3%	3%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Volunteer work and help	3%	5%	5%	6%	3%	2%	5%	4%	5%	3%
Entertainment and culture	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%
Other free time	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%

Breakdown of free time activities of men aged 20 to 74

	BE	DE	EE	FR	HU	SI	FI	SE	UK	NO
TV and video	44%	34%	48%	45%	51%	40%	41%	37%	49%	35%
Socialising	13%	18%	11%	15%	15%	18%	14%	18%	16%	26%
Reading	10%	11%	12%	8%	8%	7%	12%	10%	8%	9%
Sports and exercise	7%	8%	9%	13%	6%	11%	10%	10%	6%	9%
Resting	8%	5%	7%	2%	8%	12%	7%	7%	5%	3%
Hobbies and games	8%	12%	3%	6%	4%	5%	6%	10%	8%	7%
Volunteer work and help	3%	5%	5%	6%	4%	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Entertainment and culture	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%
Other free time	4%	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%

1. Eurostat "How Europeans spend their time -Everyday life of women and men - Data 1998 – 2002", 140 pages, ISBN 92-894-7235-9, Paper version EUR 10 (excluding VAT), PDF version free download from Eurostat website. Available in English only.
2. In a Time Use Survey a representative sample of individuals completes a diary during one weekday and one weekend day distributed over the whole year. One has to bear in mind that the results are estimates and that sampling errors affect them. For small groups of individuals the errors may be large. The response rates vary between the countries. This has been taken into account in the estimation procedures. The results are considered to be representative for the population indicated in the tables. Ten countries have been included in this presentation because the survey methods used follow very closely the *Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys* published by Eurostat in September 2000. Data are also available for Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and Romania but have not been included since the survey methods used deviated from the European guidelines and comparable results could not be produced. Data for Spain, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Bulgaria will be available in the future.
3. Although the average time is an abstract measure and does not describe concrete everyday life at the individual level, it is the best indicator of time use at the aggregate level and allows comparisons between countries and population groups.
4. Time use activities are categorised into six basic groups:
 - *Gainful work* includes time spent on main and second jobs and related activities, breaks and travel during working hours, and on job seeking. The time spent on *study* at school and during free time is combined with gainful work.
 - *Domestic work* includes housework, child and adult care, gardening and pet care, construction and repairs, shopping and services, and household management.
 - *Travel* includes commuting and trips connected with all kinds of activities, except travel during working hours.
 - *Sleep* includes sleep during night or daytime, waiting for sleep, naps, as well as passive lying in bed because of sickness.
 - *Meals, personal care* also includes snacks and drinks, dressing, personal hygiene, making up, shaving, sexual activities and personal health care.
 - *Free time* includes all other kinds of activities, e.g. volunteer work and meetings, helping other households, socialising and entertainment, sports and outdoor activities, hobbies and games, reading, watching TV, resting or doing nothing, as well as *unspecified time use*.

In France long time periods spent on rest were coded as *sleep* and in the other countries as *rest* included in *free time*. In Norway socialising during meals was coded as *free time* and in the other countries as *meals*.

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