

# Expected duration of working life in the EU: 36 years

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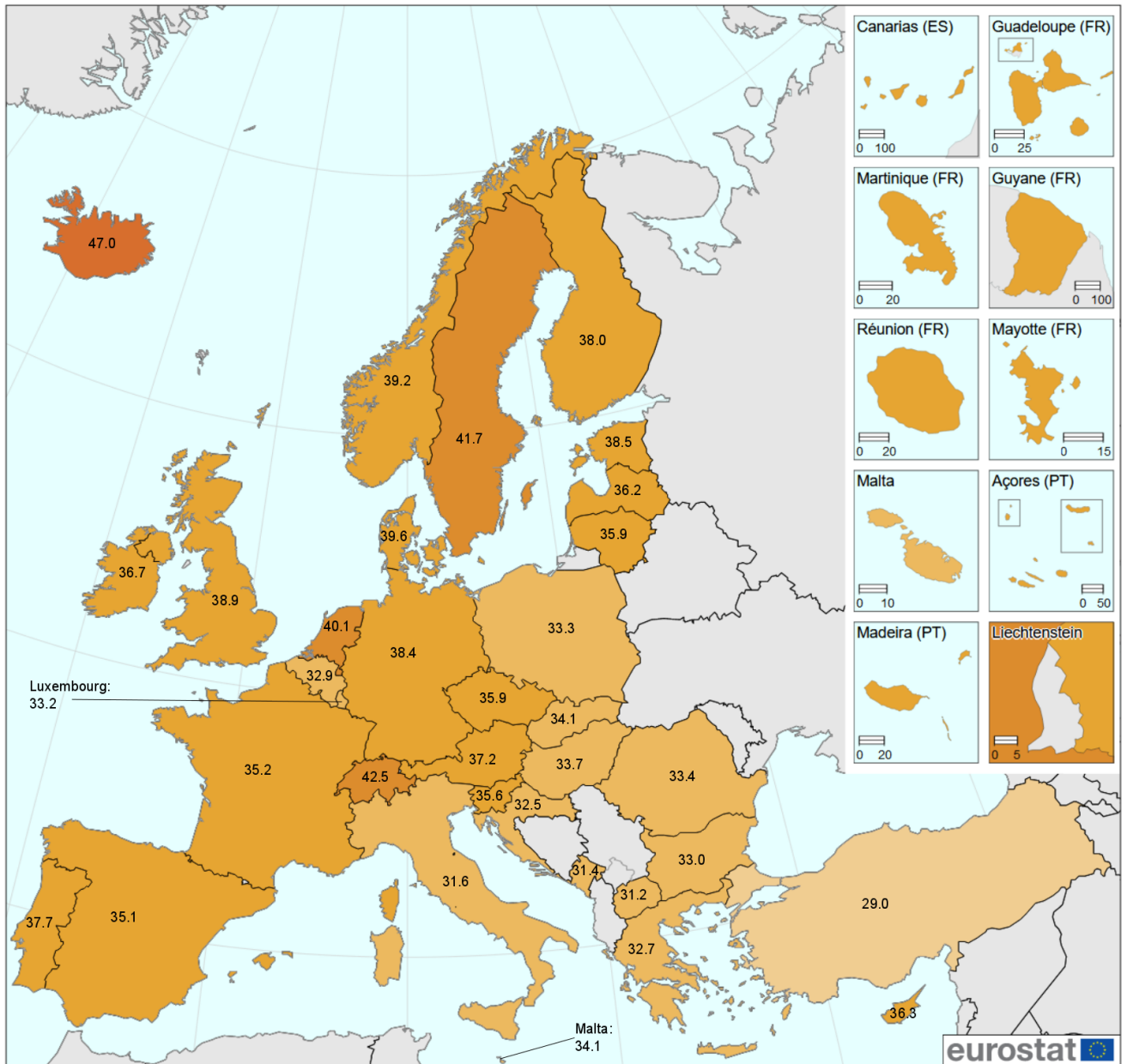
The duration of the working life indicator estimates how long a person who is currently 15 years old will be active in the labour market during his or her life, for a given country and year.



In 2017, the expected duration of working life in the European Union (EU) was 36 years, 3 years longer than in 2000. When the figures are examined at the level of EU Member States, the duration of working life ranged from 32 years in Italy to 42 years in Sweden.

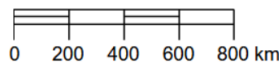
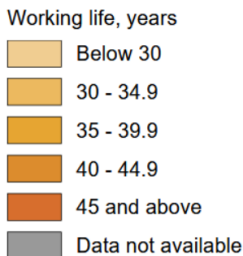
## Estimated duration of working life, by country

For a person who is 15 years old in 2017



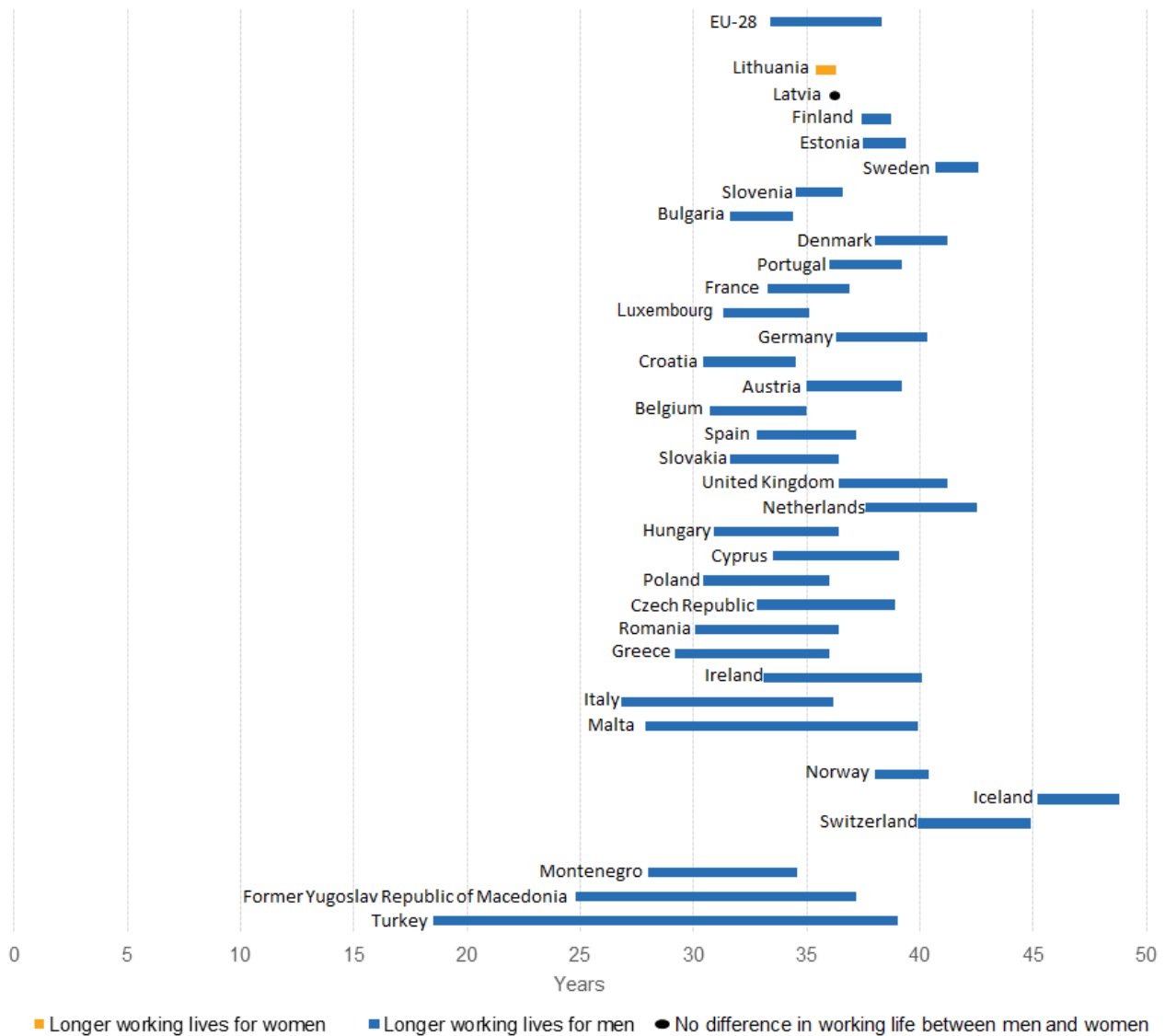
Years

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat  
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 07/2018



At the EU level, there was a difference of 5 years between men and women, with men at 38 years, and women at 33 years. The duration of working life was longer for men than for women in most EU Member States in 2017, with the exception of two countries (Lithuania and Latvia). Latvia had no difference in the length of working life between men and women, and in Lithuania the duration of working life was longer for women than for men. Among the EU Member States, Malta had the largest gender gap (12 years).

Expected average duration of working life for men and women and the gender gap, 2017, EU-28 and countries, years



Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi\_dwl\_a)



The data source is [here](#).

More statistics on the duration of working life can be found in the Statistics Explained article on this topic.

For information on labour market statistics in general, take a look at this [overview](#).

To contact us: [estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-user-support@ec.europa.eu)

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