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# SEARCH

SPORT EDUCATION FOR ACTIVE  
AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP  
THROUGH HEALTH CARING



# **MODULE 4**

## **Economic induction related to sport**



## **SEGMENT 3**

**Sport and employment**

Aggregate data in the European Union shows that the contribution to employment produced by sports-related activities compared to total employment amounts to 2.12%.

In absolute terms, this figure corresponds to the number of people employed in the world of sport business in Europe amounting to 4.46 million.

However, this is above the share related to sport in gross value added (1.76%), which indicates that sport is a labor-intensive sector.

The largest number of sports-related jobs is concentrated in Germany, which has 1.15 million employees in the sports industry, with a significant weight on distribution of these professional figures within the Union. These 1.15 million employees represent 27% of all sports-related jobs in the EU.

The UK is the runner-up, with more than 610,000 employees, followed by France with more than 410,000 jobs in sport

# Overview

In 2019, 1.37 million people worked in sport within EU-27. In terms of gender balance, men (54%) outnumber women, a percentage aligned with the one observed in total employment (see Table 1).

The overview was even more specific when considering the age groups: in sports employment, the share of young people aged 15-29 amounted to 35 %, twice the share observed in total employment, while the 30-64 age group amounted to 63 % (17 percentage points lower than the share recorded for overall employment). As regards the level of education, 46 % of people employed in sport attained a middle level of education (ISCED 3-4 levels), followed by 39 % at a high level (ISCED 5-8) and 15 % at a low level (at most ISCED 2).

These percentages are close to the percentages recorded for the overall employment; low and middle levels of education are about two percentage points below the average of the overall employment, while high levels of education are higher than the average by more than four percentage points.

# Overview

## Employment in sport, EU-27, 2019

Socio-demographic characteristics		Number of persons employed in sport	Distribution of persons employed..	
			...in sport	...in overall employment
		(thousand)	(%)	
<b>Total</b>		1.365.8		
<b>Gender</b>	Women	622.7	45.6	45.9
	Men	743.1	54.4	54.1
<b>Age group</b>	Aged 15-29	473.0	34.6	17.5
	Aged 30-64	854.4	62.6	80.0
	Aged 65+	38.4	2.8	2.5
<b>Educational attainment level</b>	Low (ISCED 0-2)	203.9	14.9	17.2
	Medium (ISCED 3-4)	629.0	46.1	48.2
	High (ISCED 5-8)	529.4	38.8	34.4

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sprt\_emp\_sex, sprt\_emp\_age, sprt\_emp\_edu, lfsa\_egam and lfsa\_egised)

Hence the distribution of workers within the sports context is similar to the general one, and there is a great specialization of workers in this segment. More than 85% have a medium-high level of education.

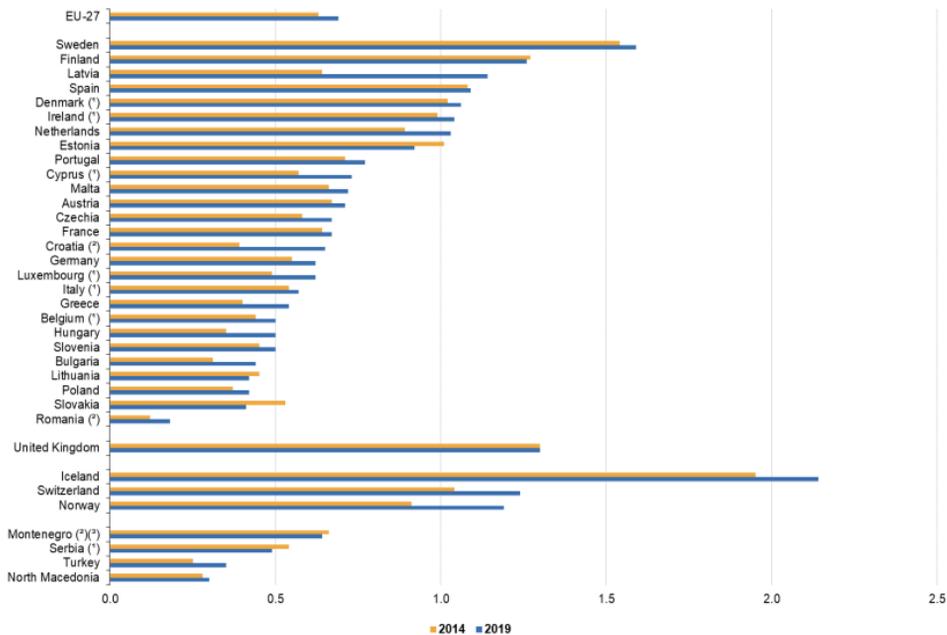
## **Increase in the number of employees**

In 2019, within the EU-27, the number of people employed in sport increased by almost 200 000 compared to 2014, which represents an overall increase of 17%. This increase was also observed in relative terms, as sports employment represents 0.69 % of overall employment in 2019, compared to 0.63 % in 2014 (see Table 2).

The number of people employed in sport increased in 24 of the 27 EU Member States between 2014 and 2019. Five Member States represented more than half of the total increase in sports employment in the EU-27: Germany, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy and France.

## Sport employment as a share of total employment, 2014 and 2019

(% of total employment)



(\*) Break in time series.

(\*) 2014: low reliability.

(\*) 2019: low reliability.

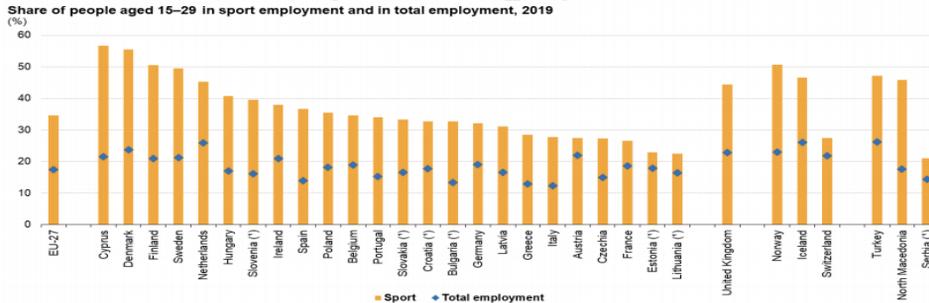
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sprt\_emp\_sex)

The present chart shows how employment levels related to the sport sector, out of the total "employed" per country, have increased in almost all the countries of the European Union.

In 2019, employment in sport represented 0.69 % of overall employment in the EU-27, ranging from 0.2 % in Romania to 1.6 % in Sweden (see Figure 2). In most EU Member States, employment rates in sport did not exceed the 1 % threshold; in addition to Sweden, only Finland, Latvia, Spain and Denmark exceeded 1 %. Compared to overall employment, jobs in sport still have a relatively small share, but the contribution of sport is steadily increasing: such increase has been observed in 23 of the 27 EU Member States.

# Youth employment

In the EU-27, the number of young people employed in sport has slightly increased by two percentage points: from 33 % in 2014 to 35 % in 2019 (see Figure 5). Considering reliable data for both years, among EU members, Cyprus had the highest increase of 14 percentage points, followed by Slovakia, Hungary and Sweden, each with an increase of 8 percentage points.



Note: Data for people aged 15–29 in sport employment not reliable and therefore not published for Luxembourg, Malta, Romania and Montenegro.

(\*) Sport employment: low reliability.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sprt\_emp\_age and ifsa\_egan)

# Employment and academic background

Taking into account the educational background of people employed in sport within EU-27 in 2019, 39 % completed tertiary education (see Figure 6). This figure was slightly higher than the share of tertiary graduates in overall employment (34 %).

In five EU Member States - namely Cyprus (73 %), Greece (58 %), Lithuania (55 %), Spain (54 %) and France (51 %) - at least half of those working in sport were tertiary graduates.

14 out of the 26 EU Member States with reliable data had a share of tertiary graduates below the EU-27 overall (39 %). The lowest percentages were observed in Denmark (22 %) and Finland (25 %). Compared to overall employment, Romania had the highest share of sports workers with tertiary education (ratio of 2.1), followed by Greece, Cyprus and Portugal (each with 1.6 ratio). On the other hand, in ten EU Member States, the share of tertiary graduates in sports employment was lower than in the overall employment.

**Keywords**

Employment



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