

5.10 Life expectancy and healthy life years

The life expectancy of men increased slightly again in Slovenia in 2012, while the life expectancy of women remained unchanged.

Assuming that the current mortality patterns remain unchanged, a girl born in 2012 can expect to live 82.9 years; a boy can expect to live 77 years, which is 4.8 months longer than a year earlier. Compared with 2005, life expectancy rose by 2.9 years for boys and 1.6 years for girls. The gender gap, which was widest at the end of the 1980s (8 years), narrowed to 5.9 years by 2012 (i.e. by almost 5 months compared with the previous year). In 2012 life expectancy in Slovenia was similar to the EU average (80.3 years¹); it remained lower than in older Member States (with the exception of Denmark) and higher than in the new Member States (except for Cyprus and Malta), which is conditional on the living standard and way of life. In 2011, life expectancy on average across the OECD countries exceeded 80 years for the first time in history. Increased longevity is attributed to improvements in living conditions, a reduction in certain risk factors (such as smoking) and progress in health care.² In Slovenia, a third of men and almost two thirds of women reach 80 years (i.e. die at the age of 80 or later).

After two years of decline, disability-free life expectancy measured in healthy life years³ increased in 2012.

A girl born in 2012 can expect 55.6 years of healthy life, while a boy can expect almost 11 months more (56.5 years). This is 1.8 years and 2.5 years more, respectively, than a year earlier, but significantly less for girls than in 2005 (60.1 years; similar for boys). The quality of life for women as measured by this indicator thus deteriorated significantly in the last three years. However, this indicator measures subjective perceptions, so the results can also indicate greater criticism and higher sensitivity to activity limitation in evaluating one's own position. Slovenia ranks at the bottom of the EU in terms of the healthy life

years indicator. The share of years spent without activity limitation in the total life expectancy is the third lowest in the EU (for both women and men). In contrast to life expectancy, which is longer for women than for men, in 2012 the expected number of years spent free of activity limitation for men was 0.9 years longer than for women, while in 2005 the difference was still 3.7 years in favour of women. The relative indicator for women is actually even worse, considering that women live longer than men – a girl can expect to live 66.7% of her life without limitations in everyday activities (2005: 74.3%) and a boy 77.3% (2005: 76.3%).

¹ SURS does not publish data on total life expectancy, while its data on life expectancy by gender differ slightly from those published by Eurostat due to methodological differences.

² OECD (2013), Health at a Glance: Europe 2013.

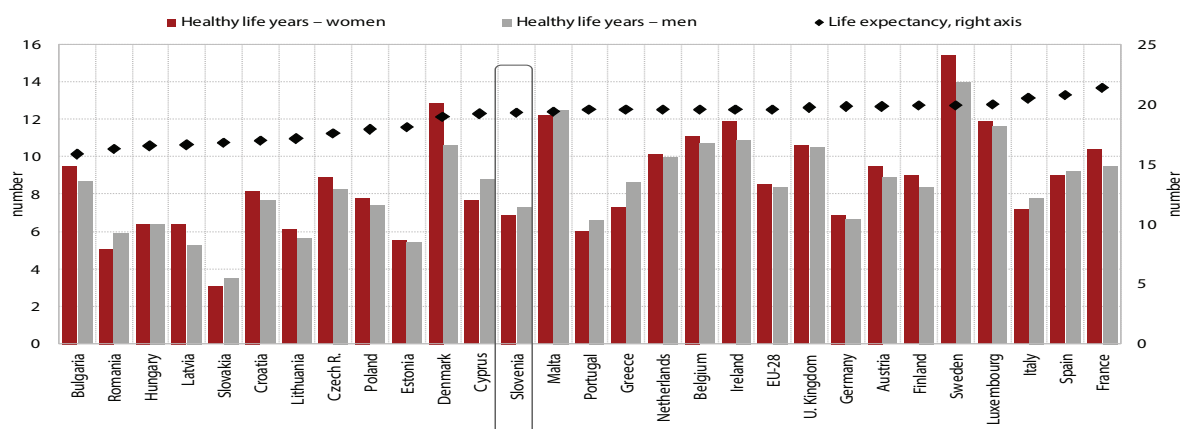
³ The indicator of healthy life years measures the number of remaining years that a person of a specific age is expected to live without any severe or moderate health problems. The notion of health problems is based on self-perceived disability and measures limitations in usual activities due to health problems that have lasted for at least six months. This is a composite indicator which combines mortality and health status data. In March 2012 Eurostat revised the data, so that the series from 2004 to 2010 was calculated anew.

Table: Life expectancy in Slovenia and EU Member States

	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
EU-28	N/A	N/A	78.5	78.9	79.1	79.4	79.6	79.9	80.3	80.3
Austria	76.9	78.3	79.5	80.1	80.4	80.6	80.5	80.8	81.2	81.1
Belgium	77.0	77.9	79.1	79.5	79.9	79.8	80.1	80.3	80.7	80.5
Bulgaria	71.0	71.6	72.5	72.7	73.0	73.3	73.7	73.8	74.2	74.4
Cyprus	77.4	77.7	78.7	80.1	79.8	80.6	81.0	81.5	81.2	81.1
Czech Republic	73.3	75.1	76.1	76.7	77.0	77.3	77.4	77.7	78.0	78.1
Denmark	75.3	76.9	78.3	78.4	78.4	78.8	79.0	79.3	79.9	80.2
Estonia	67.7	71.1	73.0	73.2	73.2	74.4	75.3	76.0	76.6	76.7
Finland	76.7	77.8	79.1	79.5	79.6	79.9	80.1	80.2	80.6	80.7
France	n. p.	79.2	80.3	80.9	81.3	81.4	81.5	81.8	82.3	82.1
Greece	77.5	78.2	79.5	79.8	79.7	80.2	80.4	80.6	80.8	80.7
Croatia	n. p.	n. p.	75.3	75.9	75.8	76.0	76.3	76.7	77.2	77.3
Ireland	75.5	76.6	79.0	79.3	79.8	80.2	80.2	80.8	80.9	80.9
Italy	78.3	79.9	80.9	81.4	81.6	81.7	81.8	82.2	82.4	82.4
Latvia	N/A	N/A	70.6	70.6	70.8	72.1	72.8	73.1	73.9	74.1
Lithuania	69.1	72.1	71.2	71.0	70.7	71.7	72.9	73.3	73.7	74.1
Luxembourg	76.8	78.0	79.6	79.4	79.5	80.7	80.8	80.8	81.1	81.5
Hungary	70.0	71.9	73.0	73.5	73.6	74.2	74.4	74.7	75.1	75.3
Malta	77.2	78.4	79.4	79.5	79.9	79.7	80.4	81.5	80.9	80.9
Germany	76.7	78.3	79.4	79.9	80.1	80.2	80.3	80.5	80.8	81.0
Netherlands	77.6	78.2	79.6	80.0	80.4	80.5	80.9	81.0	81.3	81.2
Poland	72.0	73.8	75.0	75.3	75.4	75.6	75.9	76.4	76.9	76.9
Portugal	75.4	76.8	78.2	79.0	79.3	79.5	79.7	80.1	80.7	80.6
Romania	69.3	71.2	72.3	72.8	73.3	73.5	73.6	73.8	74.6	74.5
Slovakia	72.4	73.3	74.1	74.5	74.6	74.9	75.3	75.6	76.1	76.3
Slovenia	74.7	76.2	77.5	78.3	78.4	79.1	79.4	79.8	80.1	80.3
Spain	78.1	79.3	80.3	81.1	81.1	81.5	81.9	82.4	82.6	82.5
Sweden	79.0	79.8	80.7	81.0	81.1	81.3	81.5	81.6	81.9	81.8
United Kingdom	76.7	78.0	79.2	79.5	79.7	79.8	80.4	80.6	81.0	81.0

Source: Eurostat Portal Page – Population and social conditions – Population – Demography – Mortality, 2014.
Note: N/A – not available.

Figure: Healthy life years at age 65 relative to life expectancy, 2012



Source: Eurostat Portal Page – Population and social conditions – Health – Public health, 2014; Eurostat Portal Page – Population and social conditions – Population – Demography – Mortality, 2014.