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First estimates for 2011

GDP per capita in the Member States ranged from 45% to 274% of the EU27 average in 2011

Based on first preliminary estimates for 2011[1], Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita expressed in Purchasing Power Standards[2] (PPS) varied from 45% to 274% of the **EU27** average across the Member States.

The highest level of GDP per capita in the EU27 was recorded in **Luxembourg**[3] with a level of more than two and a half times the EU27 average. The **Netherlands** were just above 30% of the average, while **Denmark**, **Sweden**, **Ireland** and **Austria** were between 25% and 30% above. **Finland**, **Belgium** and **Germany** were between 15% and 20% above the average, while **France** and the **United Kingdom** were between 5% and 10% above. In **Italy** and **Spain**, GDP per capita was around the EU27 average.

Cyprus was around 10% below the EU27 average, while **Slovenia**, **Malta**, **Greece**, the **Czech Republic** and **Portugal** were between 15% and 25% lower, and **Slovakia** was around 25% below. **Estonia**, **Hungary**, **Poland** and **Lithuania** were between 30% and 40% lower than the average, while **Latvia** was around 40% below, **Romania** around 50% below and **Bulgaria** 55% below.

These figures for GDP per capita, expressed in PPS, are published by **Eurostat, the statistical Office of the European Union**. They cover the 27 EU Member States, three EFTA countries, one acceding state, four candidate countries and two potential candidate countries.

Actual Individual Consumption per capita in the Member States ranged from 44% to 150% of the EU27 average

While GDP per capita is often used as an indicator of countries' level of welfare, it is not the only such indicator. An alternative welfare indicator, better adapted to reflect the situation of households, is Actual Individual Consumption (AIC) per capita[4]. Generally, levels of AIC per capita are more homogeneous than those of GDP but still there are substantial differences between the Member States. In 2011, AIC per capita expressed in PPS ranged between 44% of the EU average in **Bulgaria** to 150% in **Luxembourg**.

GDP and Actual Individual Consumption per capita in PPS in 2011, EU27 = 100

	GDP per capita	AIC per capita
EU27	**100**	**100**
Euro area (EA17)[5]	108	107
Luxembourg	274	150
Netherlands	131	113
Austria	129	117
Ireland	127	100
Sweden	126	115
Denmark	125	113
Germany	120	119
Belgium	118	111
Finland	116	112
United Kingdom	108	118
France	107	112
Italy	101	102
Spain	99	94
Cyprus	92	95
Slovenia	84	81
Malta	83	83
Greece	82	94
Czech Republic	80	70
Portugal	77	82
Slovakia	73	70
Estonia	67	57
Hungary	66	61
Poland	65	70
Lithuania	62	66
Latvia	58	56
Romania	49	47
Bulgaria	45	44
Norway	189	138
Switzerland	151	125
Iceland	110	107
Croatia	61	56
Turkey	52	58
Montenegro	43	53
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	36	41
Serbia	35	44
Albania[6]	31	34
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29	35

1. The figures are based on the latest GDP data for 2011 and the most recent PPPs available. Revised estimates will be published in December 2012.
2. The Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) is an artificial currency unit that eliminates price level differences between countries. Thus one PPS buys the same volume of goods and services in all countries. This unit allows meaningful volume comparisons of economic indicators across countries. Aggregates expressed in PPS are derived by dividing aggregates in current prices and national currency by the respective Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). The level of uncertainty associated with the basic price and national accounts data, and the methods used for compiling PPPs imply that differences between countries that have indices within a close range should not be over-interpreted.
3. The high GDP per capita in Luxembourg is partly due to the country's large share of cross-border workers in total employment. While contributing to GDP, these workers are not taken into consideration as part of the resident population which is used to calculate GDP per capita.
4. Indicators reflecting directly the situation of households are more adapted than GDP to reflect welfare. The level of consumption per head is one of these. In national accounts, Household Final Consumption Expenditure (HFCE) denotes expenditure on goods and services that are purchased and paid for by households. Actual Individual Consumption (AIC), on the other hand, consists of goods and services actually consumed by individuals, irrespective of whether these goods and services are purchased and paid for by households, by government, or by non-profit organisations. In international volume comparisons of consumption, AIC is often seen as the preferable measure, since it is not influenced by the fact that the organisation of certain important services consumed by households, like health and education services, differs a lot across countries. For example, if dental services are paid for by the government in one country, and by households in another, an international comparison based on HFCE would not compare like with like, whereas one based on AIC would. AIC is listed among the recommendations of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi report.
5. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.
6. The figure for Albania is based on preliminary Eurostat estimate of GDP.

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