



## Monitoring the level of financial literacy in the EU

---

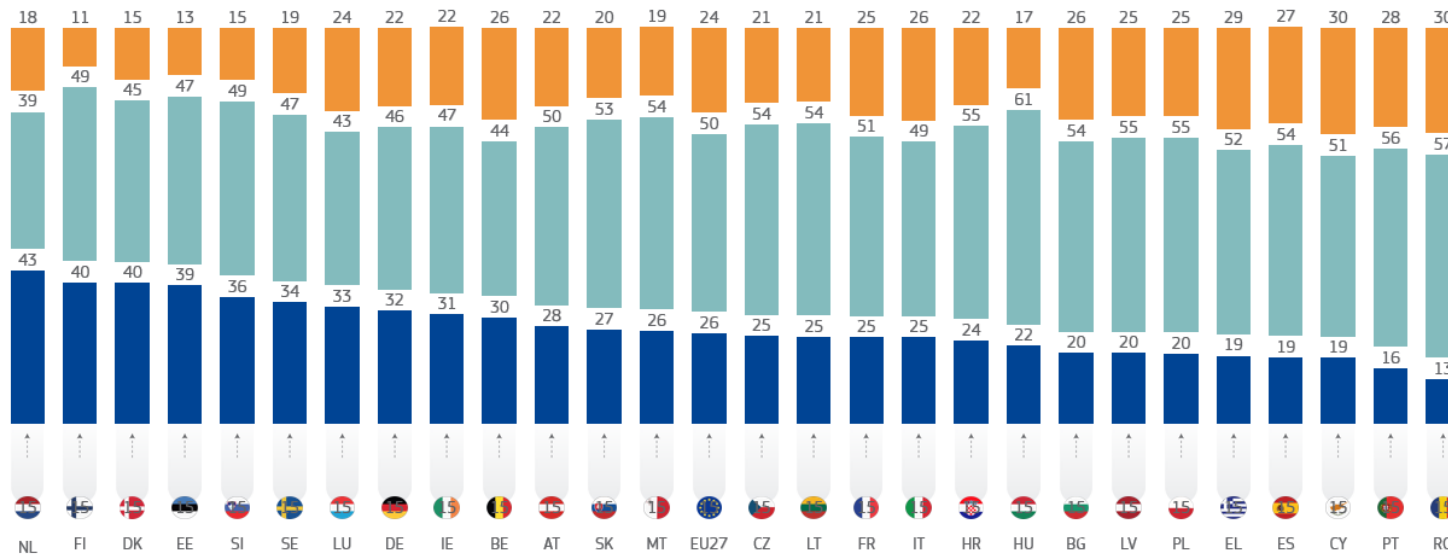
### Abstract

The results show that 18% of EU citizens display a high level of financial literacy, 64% a medium level, and the remaining 18% a low level. There are, however, wide differences across Member States. In only four Member States, more than one quarter of citizens score highly in financial literacy (the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Slovenia). The results also point to the need for financial education to target in particular women, younger people, people with lower income and with lower level of general education who tend to be on average less financially literate than other groups.

### Key findings

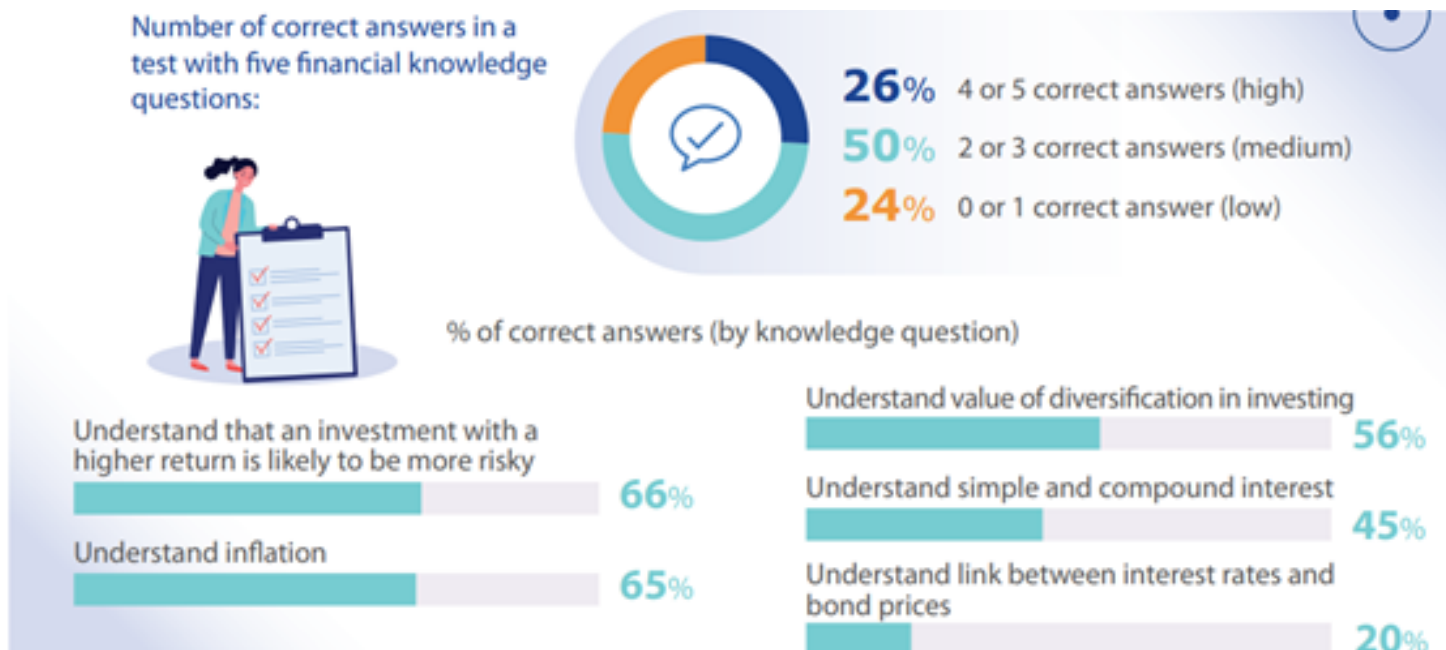
#### Financial knowledge

Only about **a quarter** of the respondents answered **at least four out of five questions on financial knowledge correctly**. Around **half** answered **only two or three questions correctly**, with **another quarter finding questions particularly challenging** (they either could not answer any questions correctly or managed to answer only one out of five). Among the best performers are the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and Estonia where about four in ten respondents display a high level of financial knowledge (43%, 40%, 40% and 39%, respectively).



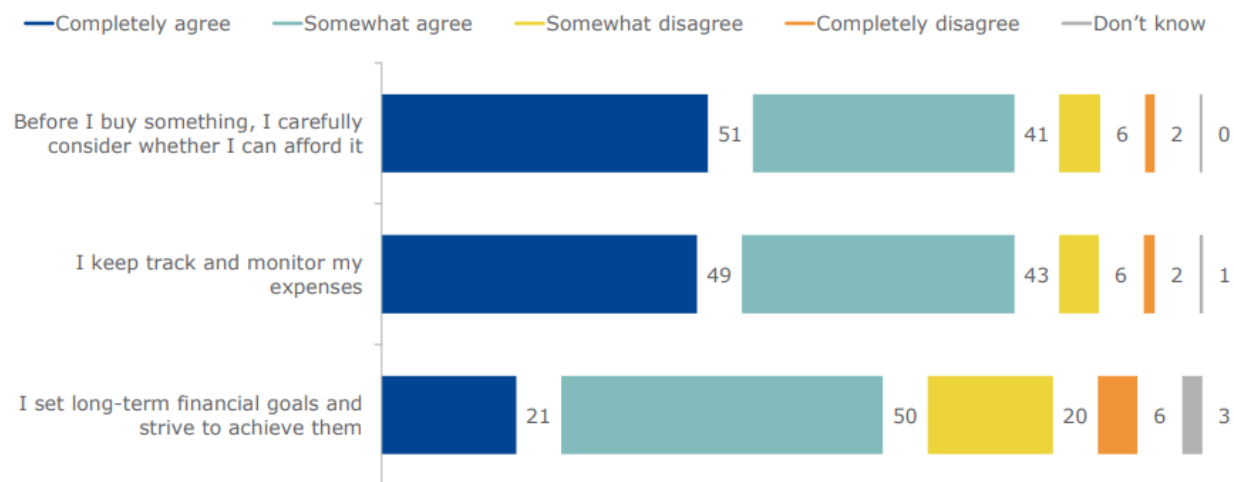
Most of the respondents (65%) comprehend **the impact of inflation and its potential consequences on purchasing power**. Only 45% of the respondents understand how **compound interest** works, despite the importance of this concept for managing personal finance and achieving long-term saving goals.

Regarding the understanding of **investment risks**, 66% of the respondents correctly associate higher returns with greater risks, while 56% rightly identify that investing in a diverse range of companies is likely to be less risky than investing in just one company. Finally, only 20% of the respondents demonstrate an understanding of **how interest rates affect bond prices**.



## Financial behaviour

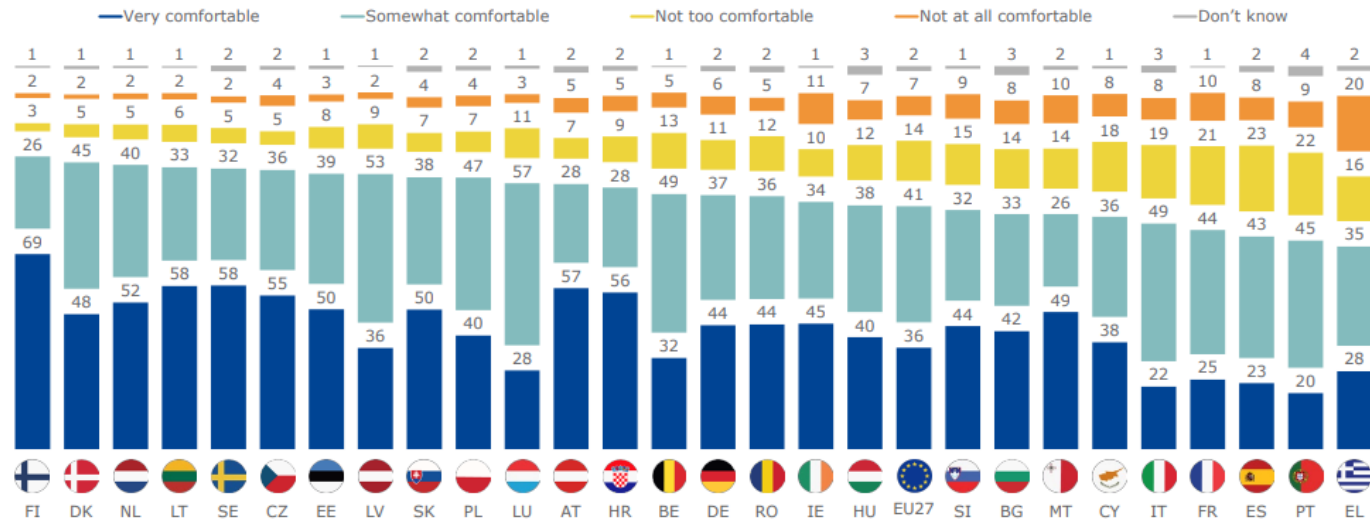
About nine in ten respondents across the EU agree that, **before they buy something, they consider whether they can afford it** (51% 'completely agree' and 41% 'somewhat agree' with this statement). A similar proportion of respondents agree that they **keep track and monitor their expenses** (49% 'completely agree' and 43% 'somewhat agree'). About seven in ten respondents agree that they **set long-term financial goals and strive to achieve them** (21% 'completely agree' and 50% 'somewhat agree').



Base: All respondents (n=26 139)

## Digital financial services

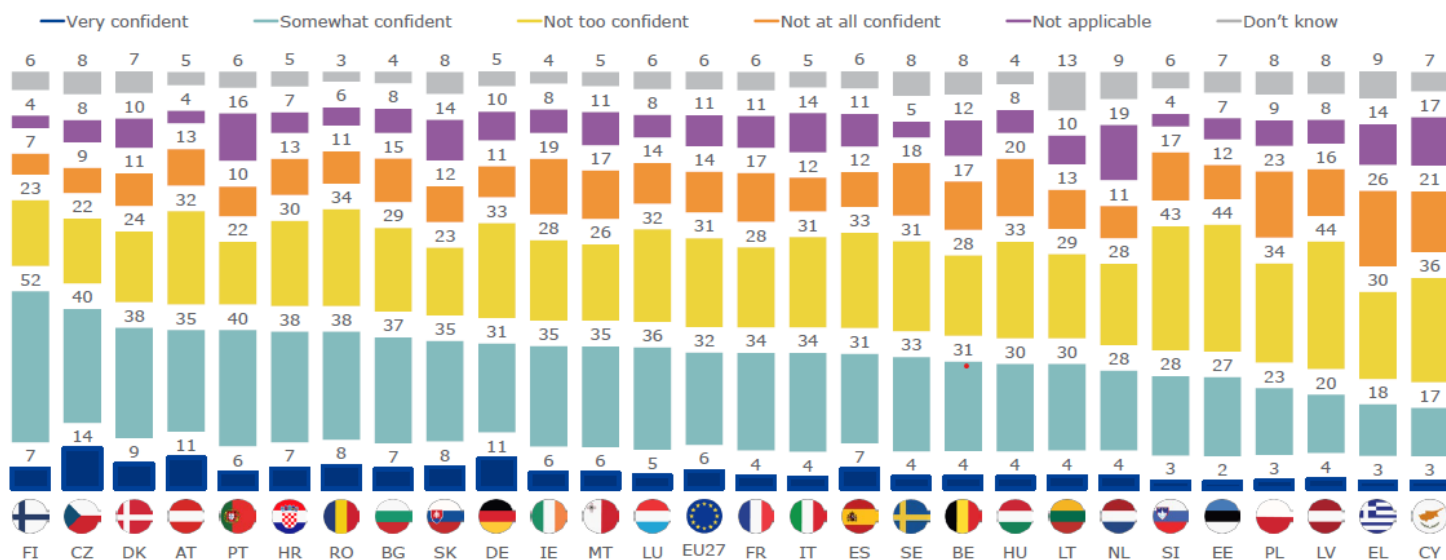
About three quarters of respondents across the EU report being **comfortable with using digital financial services, such as online banking or mobile payments**; 36% reply being 'very comfortable' and 41% 'somewhat comfortable'. This figure is more than 60% across all Member States, and is the highest in Finland (95%).



Base: All respondents (n=26 139)

## Investment advice received from a bank, insurer or financial advisor

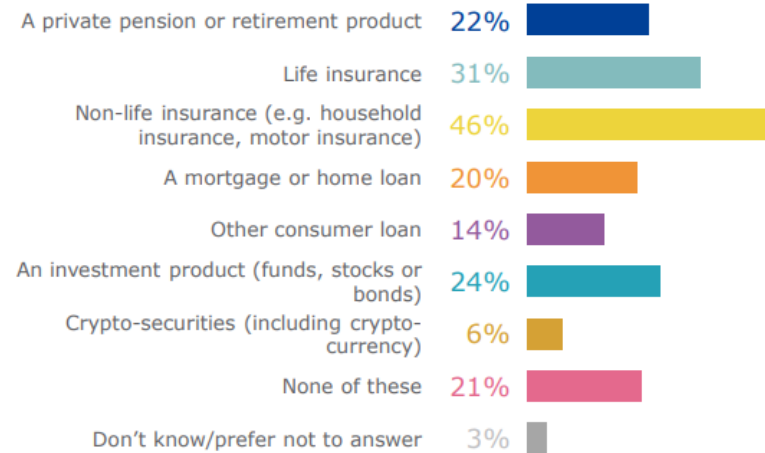
Only roughly one in three Europeans **trusts the investment advice they receive**. Only 38 % of EU respondents are confident that **the investment advice they receive from their bank, insurer or financial advisor is primarily in their best interest** (with 45% explicitly stating that they do not trust it). Nevertheless, the level of confidence in advice varies considerably among the Member States: citizens from Finland (59%), Czechia (54%), Denmark (47%) trust more in the advice received; citizens from Cyprus (20%), Greece (21%) and Latvia (24%) have much less trust.



Base: All respondents (n=26 139)

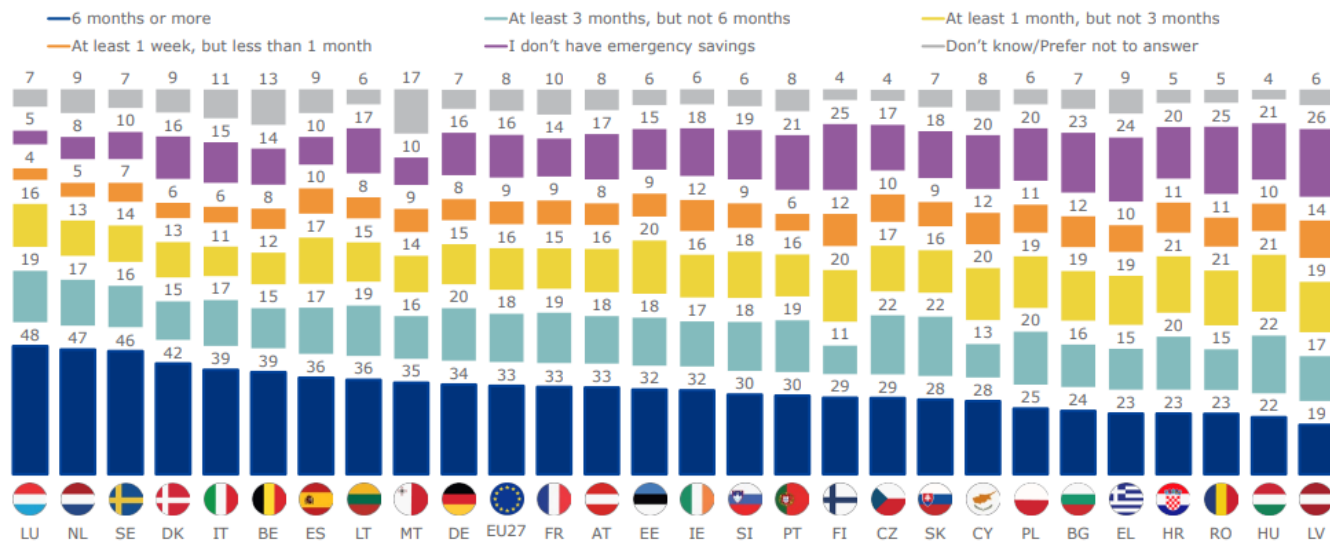
## Financial resilience and inclusion

Across the EU, 46% of respondents reply that they **have (or, in the past two years, have had) non-life insurance, such as household insurance or motor insurance**; 31% report to have (or, in the past two years, have had) life insurance. About a quarter of respondents (24%) reply the same about **an investment product (funds, stocks or bonds)** and 22% about a **private pension or retirement product**. One in five respondents answer that they **have (or, in the past two years, have had) a mortgage or home loan** and 14% reply the same for a **consumer loan**. Finally, 6% reply that they **have crypto-currencies (or to have had these in the past two years)**.



Base: All respondents (n=26 139)

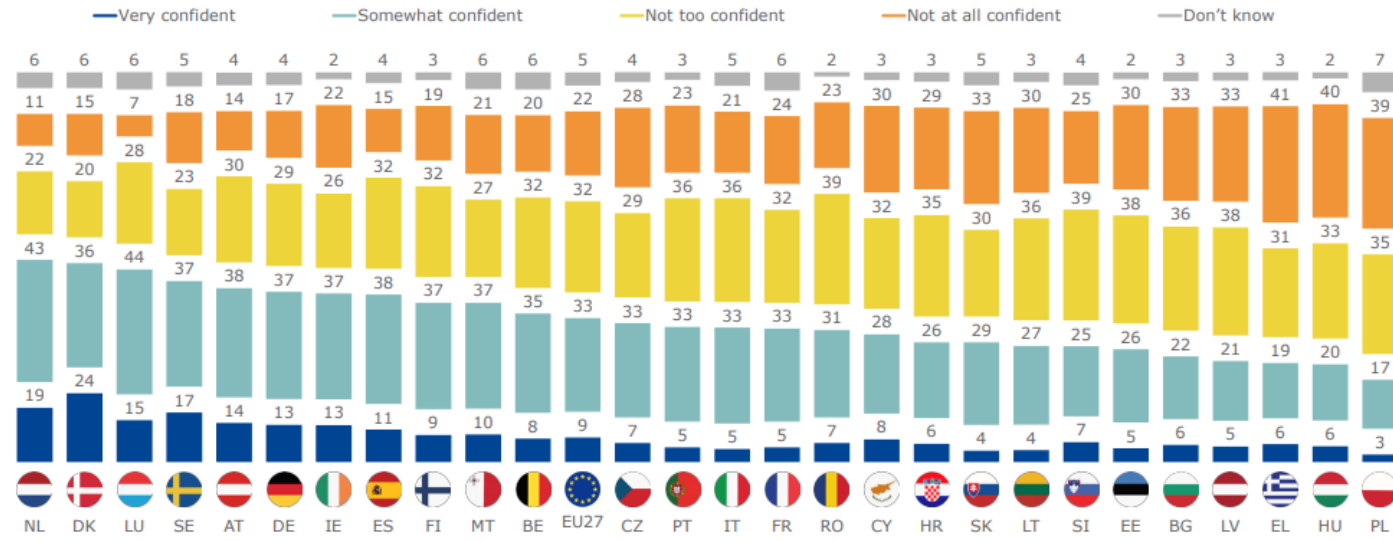
When asked **how long they would be able to continue to cover their living expenses, without borrowing any money or moving house, in case they lost their main source of income**, one third of respondents (33%) reply this would be six months or more, followed by 18% who state this would be at least three months (but not six months). Nevertheless, 16% of respondents state that they do not have any emergency savings.



Base: All respondents (n=26 139)

A majority of respondents across the EU feel 'not too confident' (32%) or 'not confident at all' (22%) that they **will have enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement years.**





Base: All respondents (n=26 139)

# Attachments

[Data annex](#)

[Country Factsheets in English](#)

[Presentation](#)

[Report](#)

[Summary](#)

**Fieldwork Date**

March 2023 - April 2023

**Publication Date**

July 2023

**EU Institution**

European Commission

**Themes**

Economy, Finance, Budget and

Taxation (</eurobarometer/surveys/browse/all/themes/000003>).

**Series**

Monitoring financial literacy

levels (</eurobarometer/surveys/browse/all/series/301240>).

**Methodology**

Online

**Requested by**

Financial Stability, Financial Services and  
Capital Markets Union

**Coverage Countries**

DE DK EE EL ES  
FI FR HR HU IE IT  
LT LU LV MT NL  
PL PT RO SE SI  
SK

## References

2953 / FL525

## Related links

Explore the dataset through the Open Data Portal

[\(\[http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2953\\\_FL525\\\_ENG\]\(http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2953\_FL525\_ENG\)\)](http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2953_FL525_ENG) 

---

Press Release ([https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/eurobarometer-survey-reveals-low-levels-financial-literacy-across-eu-2023-07-18\\_en](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/eurobarometer-survey-reveals-low-levels-financial-literacy-across-eu-2023-07-18_en)) 

---