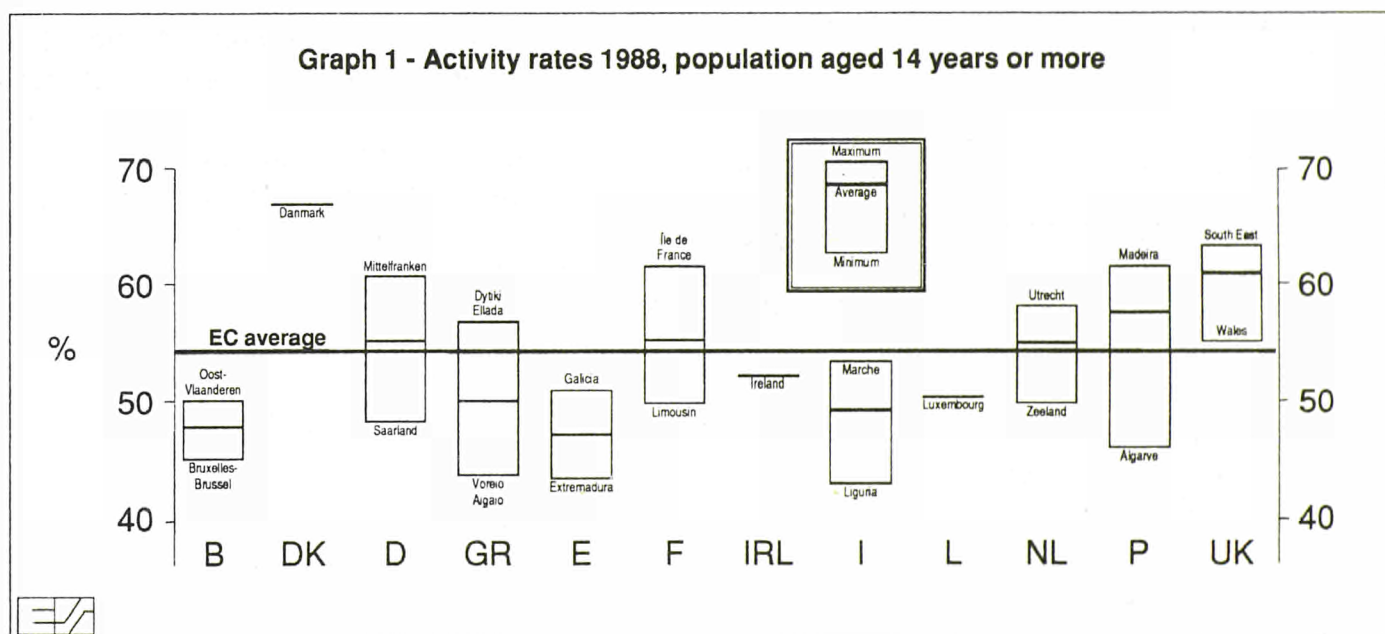


1990 □ 1

Activity rates¹⁾ in the Community in 1988

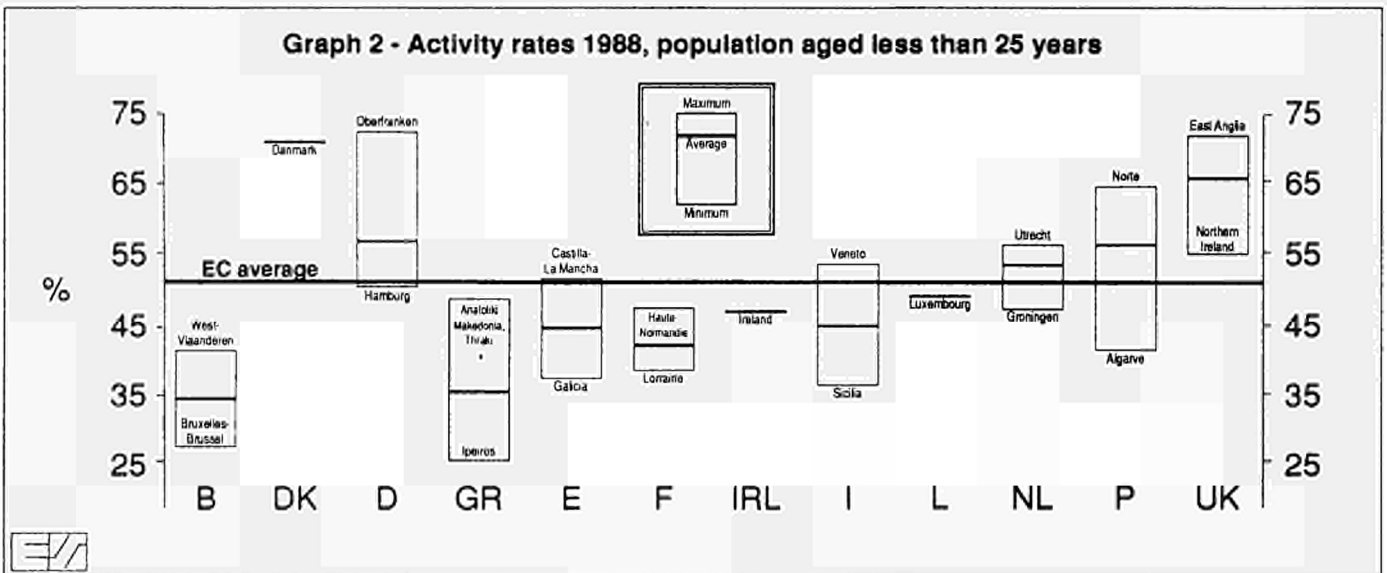
Analysis of activity rates is interesting from two points of view. Firstly, the movement and spread of the activity rates reflect important social realities like the number of years of schooling, the employment of women or the age of retirement; secondly, the activity rate throws another light on the unemployment rate, which is one of the most widely used indicators of the socio-economic balance of a region (see the methodological notes on page 11).

The source of the data is the Community Labour Force Survey, held in the 12 Member States in the spring of 1988. Graph 1 allows comparison of the national activity rates, both between Member States and with the Community average, and shows the upper and lower regional activity rates (Denmark, Ireland and G.D. Luxembourg each constitute one single region).



1) The activity rate is the ratio between the active population (employed and unemployed) and the total population of corresponding age.

Graph 2 - Activity rates 1988, population aged less than 25 years



The stability of the mean activity rate hides diverse trends.

In the Community as a whole 54% of persons aged 14 years or more are employed or are seeking employment; these form the 'active' population, as opposed to the so-called 'inactives' like students, housewives, retired or handicapped people.

The average activity rate of 54% remains remarkably stable, the global rise in the female activity rate compensating for the decrease in activity rates among men aged less than 25 or more than 55 years.

However the average activity rate not only

- conceals **important regional disparities:**

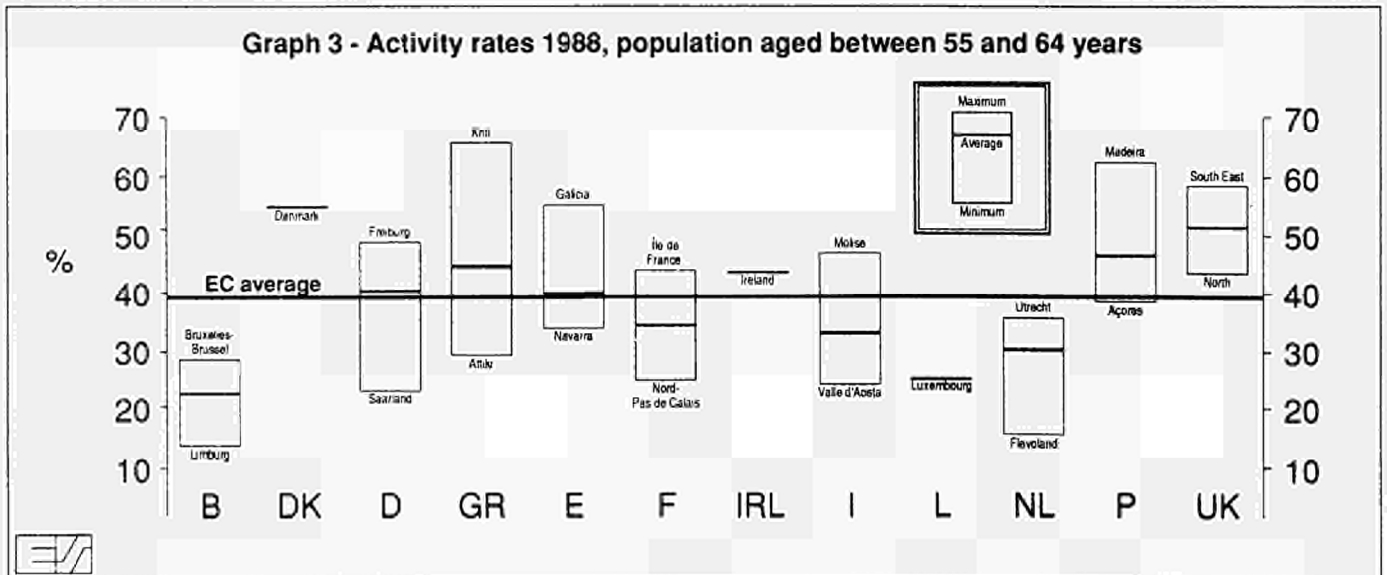
- the global activity rate reached 60% in the United Kingdom, in Bayern and Île-de-France, and as high as 67% in Denmark; on the other hand it was lower than 50% in Belgium and in most of the mediterranean regions;

but also

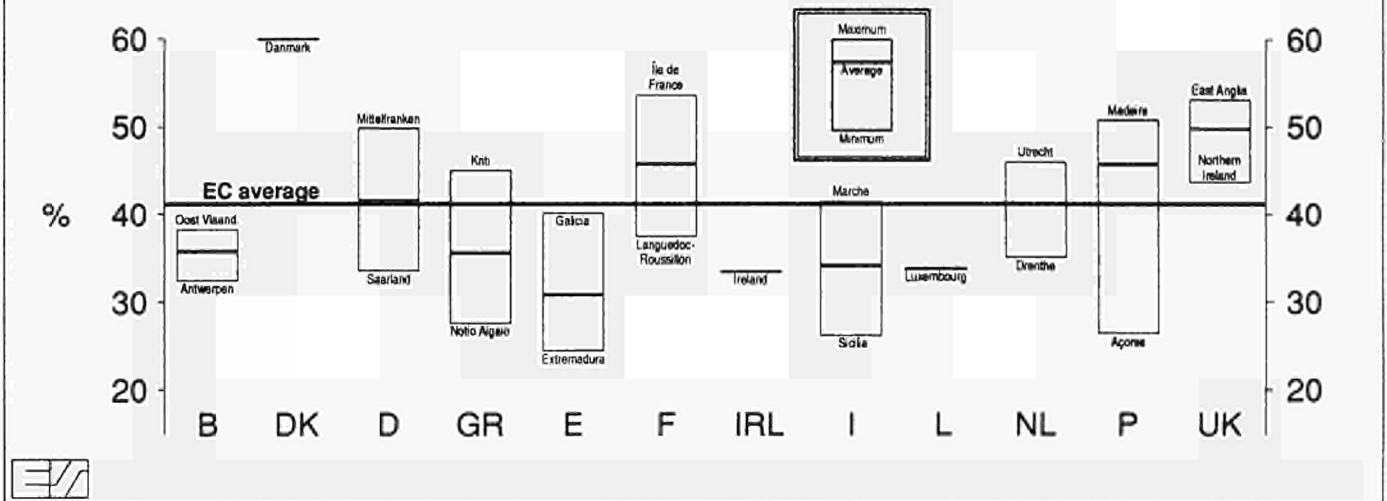
- masks the differing behaviour towards professional activities, of **four main population categories:**

- young people (between 14 and 24 years) who are mainly either 'actives' or students;
- men between 25 and 54 years who have a relatively uniform activity rate of 95% throughout the Community;

Graph 3 - Activity rates 1988, population aged between 55 and 64 years



Graph 4 - Activity rates 1988, women aged 14 years or more



- women aged between 25 and 54 for whom the activity rate has increased from 54% to 60% in 5 years but which depends very much on social habits and varies strongly between Member States, some regions having a rate more than double that of other regions (86% in Denmark, less than 43% in Spain and Ireland);
- persons aged between 55 and 64 years whose activity rate (Community average 40%), depends mainly on retirement age, and the share of self-employment.

having to cope with emigration of young 'actives').

Differences in the activity rates can also be attributed to such phenomena as:

- the organisation of training of young technicians; depending on whether it is with firms (apprenticeship) or in the school environment, the youngster will be considered as 'active' or not;
- the status given to students with a job, even a casual one, will affect whether the youngster is considered as 'active' or not.

Activity rates depend greatly on age and region.

The activity rate of young people (aged between 14 and 24 years) is between 40% and 60% in most of the regions; it is well above this level in Bayern, the United Kingdom and Denmark, and well below 40% in Belgium, Greece and southern Italy.

The female activity rate is 41% for the Community as a whole, but has a strong regional variation. It exceeds 50% in Île-de-France and the United Kingdom, and even reaches 60% in Denmark, but is around 30% in most of the island regions and in many of the Italian and Spanish regions.

It is generally lower than the national average in more urban regions like Bruxelles/Brussel, Hamburg, Berlin, Lazio (Roma), Madrid, Lisboa, no doubt due to higher levels of school attendance. A lower rate can also be characteristic of more traditional communities (where young women do not participate in professional life) or in regions of relative decline (which are

Persons aged between 55 and 64 years have a particularly low activity rate in industrial regions with declining coal and steel industries (early retirement): Hainaut and Limburg (B), Saarland (D) Lorraine (F), and Luxembourg. The activity rate for this age group is highest in Denmark, where retirement age is 70.

Activity rates 1988

(%)

| | ≥ 14 M+F | ≥ 14 M | ≥ 14 F | 14-24 M+F | 25-54 M | 25-54 F | 55-64 M+F |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| EUR12 | 54.1 | 68.1 | 41.2 | 51.0 | 94.4 | 60.2 | 39.6 |
| BELGIQUE-BELGIE | 47.9 | 60.7 | 35.9 | 34.6 | 92.7 | 59.2 | 22.8 |
| VLAAMS GEWEST | 48.9 | 62.1 | 36.4 | 36.1 | 94.0 | 58.4 | 22.2 |
| RÉGION WALLONNE | 46.8 | 59.2 | 35.5 | 33.9 | 91.7 | 59.7 | 22.1 |
| BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL | 45.1 | 57.1 | 34.8 | 27.6 | 87.7 | 62.0 | 28.9 |
| Antwerpen | 46.9 | 62.0 | 32.5 | 33.9 | 94.6 | 52.5 | 22.0 |
| Brabant | 47.6 | 59.7 | 36.7 | 28.3 | 91.8 | 62.8 | 26.9 |
| Hainaut | 45.6 | 57.5 | 34.8 | 33.8 | 89.9 | 59.7 | 19.5 |
| Liège | 48.2 | 60.1 | 37.3 | 35.9 | 93.4 | 62.2 | 22.6 |
| Limburg | 49.3 | 61.0 | 37.7 | 36.9 | 89.0 | 56.4 | 14.2 |
| Luxembourg | 46.4 | 60.7 | 32.8 | 34.7 | 93.0 | 55.4 | 25.5 |
| Namur | 46.0 | 59.2 | 33.8 | 34.2 | 91.6 | 55.1 | 23.1 |
| Oost-Vlaanderen | 50.2 | 62.6 | 38.3 | 38.2 | 95.2 | 61.6 | 23.1 |
| West-Vlaanderen | 49.5 | 62.6 | 36.9 | 41.4 | 94.1 | 59.3 | 23.8 |
| DANMARK | 67.0 | 74.3 | 60.0 | 70.9 | 95.0 | 86.5 | 55.1 |
| BR DEUTSCHLAND | 55.2 | 70.2 | 41.7 | 56.9 | 93.7 | 60.9 | 40.6 |
| SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN | 55.3 | 71.4 | 40.7 | 54.6 | 94.8 | 61.9 | 43.3 |
| HAMBURG | 55.3 | 68.3 | 44.4 | 50.3 | 90.6 | 68.0 | 47.5 |
| NIEDERSACHSEN | 53.5 | 67.8 | 40.5 | 57.8 | 93.9 | 60.9 | 39.2 |
| Braunschweig | 53.5 | 67.1 | 41.0 | 58.2 | 94.2 | 60.3 | 39.3 |
| Hannover | 53.6 | 67.6 | 41.1 | 55.0 | 92.8 | 64.8 | 40.9 |
| Lüneburg | 55.5 | 69.7 | 42.4 | 58.1 | 95.1 | 64.2 | 41.0 |
| Weser-Ems | 52.1 | 67.2 | 38.3 | 59.4 | 94.1 | 55.1 | 36.5 |
| BREMEN | 53.4 | 68.8 | 39.7 | 52.3 | 94.4 | 61.3 | 40.2 |
| NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN | 51.6 | 68.2 | 36.7 | 53.6 | 93.0 | 53.4 | 36.1 |
| Düsseldorf | 51.9 | 68.0 | 37.6 | 51.9 | 93.2 | 55.2 | 37.2 |
| Köln | 51.5 | 67.5 | 37.0 | 51.1 | 92.6 | 54.2 | 36.1 |
| Münster | 50.5 | 67.6 | 34.9 | 56.0 | 92.4 | 49.1 | 32.3 |
| Detmold | 53.3 | 68.9 | 39.3 | 54.5 | 94.1 | 58.7 | 44.4 |
| Arnsberg | 51.1 | 69.0 | 34.8 | 56.3 | 93.1 | 50.1 | 33.6 |
| HESSEN | 56.2 | 70.8 | 43.1 | 56.1 | 94.6 | 62.2 | 41.2 |
| Darmstadt | 57.7 | 72.3 | 44.4 | 55.6 | 95.0 | 63.3 | 45.1 |
| Giessen | 54.7 | 68.6 | 42.3 | 57.4 | 92.1 | 61.6 | 36.3 |
| Kassel | 53.3 | 68.0 | 40.0 | 56.3 | 95.5 | 59.2 | 34.2 |
| RHEINLAND-PFALZ | 54.6 | 71.1 | 39.6 | 60.3 | 95.6 | 55.3 | 39.4 |
| Koblenz | 53.5 | 69.3 | 38.6 | 62.3 | 95.9 | 54.0 | 37.1 |
| Trier | 51.7 | 70.3 | 35.0 | 58.8 | 93.8 | 50.8 | 40.6 |
| Rheinhausen-Pfalz | 56.3 | 72.7 | 41.4 | 59.0 | 95.8 | 57.2 | 40.8 |
| BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG | 57.7 | 72.3 | 44.3 | 56.3 | 93.8 | 62.9 | 47.2 |
| Stuttgart | 58.1 | 72.9 | 44.5 | 56.7 | 94.6 | 62.8 | 48.9 |
| Karlsruhe | 56.5 | 71.4 | 43.2 | 55.2 | 92.2 | 62.4 | 43.5 |
| Freiburg | 58.6 | 73.3 | 45.5 | 57.1 | 94.0 | 63.9 | 49.1 |
| Tübingen | 57.3 | 71.4 | 44.5 | 55.7 | 94.4 | 62.7 | 47.0 |
| BAYERN | 59.6 | 73.1 | 47.3 | 64.2 | 94.8 | 68.3 | 43.6 |
| Oberbayern | 60.4 | 73.9 | 48.2 | 58.8 | 95.1 | 67.7 | 45.6 |
| Niederbayern | 59.4 | 73.0 | 46.9 | 71.0 | 94.8 | 70.1 | 38.9 |
| Oberpfalz | 58.7 | 71.9 | 46.9 | 67.3 | 94.6 | 65.2 | 39.5 |
| Oberfranken | 59.6 | 73.2 | 47.6 | 72.3 | 95.5 | 72.9 | 43.5 |
| Mittelfranken | 60.8 | 72.8 | 49.9 | 64.5 | 93.7 | 73.3 | 43.4 |
| Unterfranken | 58.1 | 74.0 | 43.6 | 66.9 | 94.9 | 60.5 | 41.3 |
| Schwaben | 58.3 | 71.8 | 46.0 | 60.9 | 94.9 | 69.0 | 47.1 |
| SAARLAND | 48.3 | 65.0 | 33.6 | 56.0 | 91.1 | 50.2 | 23.2 |
| BERLIN (WEST) | 58.9 | 70.1 | 49.0 | 51.8 | 89.6 | 77.3 | 43.2 |

Activity rates 1988

(%)

| | ≥ 14 M+F | ≥ 14 M | ≥ 14 F | 14-24 M+F | 25-54 M | 25-54 F | 55-64 M+F |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| ELLADA | 50.1 | 66.6 | 35.2 | 35.6 | 94.5 | 50.2 | 44.8 |
| VOREIA ELLADA | 51.7 | 68.1 | 36.6 | 35.8 | 95.2 | 53.1 | 48.1 |
| Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki | 56.5 | 71.2 | 43.0 | 48.8 | 95.3 | 62.4 | 50.0 |
| Kentriki Makedonia | 50.6 | 66.5 | 36.0 | 33.4 | 95.1 | 52.2 | 44.9 |
| Dytiki Makedonia | 49.6 | 69.9 | 30.3 | 30.4 | 94.5 | 42.3 | 56.3 |
| Thessalia | 51.5 | 68.8 | 35.3 | 33.6 | 95.6 | 51.8 | 50.9 |
| KENTRIKI ELLADA | 54.0 | 68.6 | 40.3 | 36.6 | 95.6 | 57.0 | 59.2 |
| Ipeiros | 50.3 | 66.4 | 36.0 | 25.7 | 91.8 | 52.8 | 56.3 |
| Ionia Nisia | 54.0 | 66.2 | 43.0 | 39.9 | 96.9 | 64.5 | 58.3 |
| Dytiki Ellada | 56.9 | 69.9 | 44.4 | 40.4 | 96.4 | 61.3 | 61.5 |
| Sterea Ellada | 49.7 | 65.4 | 34.4 | 33.6 | 95.5 | 50.3 | 53.0 |
| Peloponnisos | 56.7 | 72.0 | 42.4 | 39.2 | 96.5 | 58.2 | 64.6 |
| ATTIKI | 46.1 | 63.5 | 31.1 | 34.3 | 93.1 | 45.2 | 29.4 |
| NISIA | 51.7 | 68.9 | 35.6 | 38.7 | 95.2 | 48.4 | 55.7 |
| Voreio Aigaio | 43.7 | 65.7 | 23.5 | 34.9 | 95.5 | 33.7 | 44.9 |
| Notio Aigaio | 48.7 | 70.9 | 27.7 | 42.7 | 94.2 | 38.1 | 42.9 |
| Kriti | 56.8 | 69.4 | 45.1 | 38.1 | 95.5 | 60.5 | 66.2 |
| ESPAÑA | 47.2 | 64.6 | 31.0 | 44.7 | 94.0 | 42.9 | 40.1 |
| NOROESTE | 49.2 | 62.5 | 37.0 | 38.5 | 92.6 | 52.4 | 50.0 |
| Galicia | 50.9 | 62.9 | 40.2 | 37.4 | 92.8 | 56.2 | 55.6 |
| Asturias | 46.2 | 61.0 | 32.2 | 40.4 | 91.1 | 46.7 | 41.9 |
| Cantabria | 46.1 | 63.6 | 29.8 | 39.6 | 94.6 | 44.3 | 37.8 |
| NORESTE | 46.4 | 63.6 | 30.3 | 41.6 | 94.7 | 44.2 | 36.8 |
| Pais Vasco | 47.3 | 63.8 | 32.0 | 39.5 | 94.2 | 45.7 | 34.6 |
| Navarra | 45.8 | 63.6 | 28.8 | 42.1 | 94.5 | 43.6 | 34.1 |
| Rioja | 46.5 | 65.7 | 28.2 | 39.9 | 95.7 | 41.9 | 40.7 |
| Aragon | 45.1 | 62.9 | 28.4 | 46.4 | 95.6 | 42.1 | 40.2 |
| MADRID | 46.0 | 65.3 | 29.0 | 37.7 | 95.2 | 41.6 | 40.9 |
| CENTRO | 44.3 | 63.3 | 26.1 | 46.3 | 93.7 | 36.8 | 40.3 |
| Castilla - Leon | 44.9 | 62.6 | 27.9 | 41.3 | 93.3 | 41.4 | 42.8 |
| Castilla - La Mancha | 43.8 | 64.2 | 24.4 | 51.5 | 94.8 | 31.0 | 39.7 |
| Extremadura | 43.4 | 63.7 | 24.4 | 49.6 | 92.9 | 33.9 | 35.3 |
| ESTE | 49.7 | 66.0 | 34.9 | 50.0 | 95.0 | 47.6 | 38.9 |
| Cataluña | 50.3 | 66.0 | 36.0 | 50.8 | 94.9 | 49.0 | 38.3 |
| Comunidad Valenciana | 48.9 | 66.1 | 33.1 | 49.2 | 95.2 | 45.4 | 38.8 |
| Balears | 49.3 | 65.6 | 34.6 | 45.9 | 95.3 | 47.8 | 46.2 |
| SUR | 45.4 | 64.7 | 27.5 | 46.1 | 92.8 | 34.9 | 37.0 |
| Andalucia | 45.1 | 64.8 | 26.8 | 45.9 | 92.6 | 33.9 | 37.0 |
| Murcia | 47.3 | 63.9 | 31.9 | 46.9 | 93.4 | 42.2 | 36.7 |
| Ceuta Y Melilla | 47.9 | 70.1 | 28.4 | 49.1 | 95.7 | 30.9 | 41.3 |
| CANARIAS | 48.5 | 67.1 | 30.4 | 42.1 | 93.2 | 41.1 | 38.5 |
| FRANCE | 55.3 | 65.7 | 45.9 | 42.2 | 95.8 | 70.9 | 34.7 |
| ÎLE DE FRANCE | 61.7 | 70.7 | 53.7 | 41.4 | 96.6 | 77.6 | 44.1 |
| BASSIN PARISIEN | 55.3 | 66.1 | 45.5 | 44.0 | 96.2 | 70.5 | 33.4 |
| Champagne-Ardenne | 56.7 | 68.9 | 45.5 | 42.6 | 96.6 | 68.6 | 39.7 |
| Picardie | 52.9 | 64.3 | 42.1 | 40.6 | 95.4 | 64.4 | 30.7 |
| Haute-Normandie | 57.3 | 68.6 | 47.2 | 47.6 | 97.0 | 68.9 | 34.3 |
| Centre | 54.0 | 63.2 | 45.6 | 43.9 | 96.4 | 74.9 | 33.1 |
| Basse-Normandie | 57.8 | 69.0 | 47.7 | 43.1 | 95.9 | 71.6 | 37.3 |
| Bourgogne | 54.1 | 64.2 | 45.2 | 47.3 | 95.9 | 73.9 | 27.3 |
| NORD - PAS-DE-CALAIS | 50.1 | 61.8 | 39.2 | 40.3 | 93.0 | 60.3 | 25.0 |

Activity rates 1988

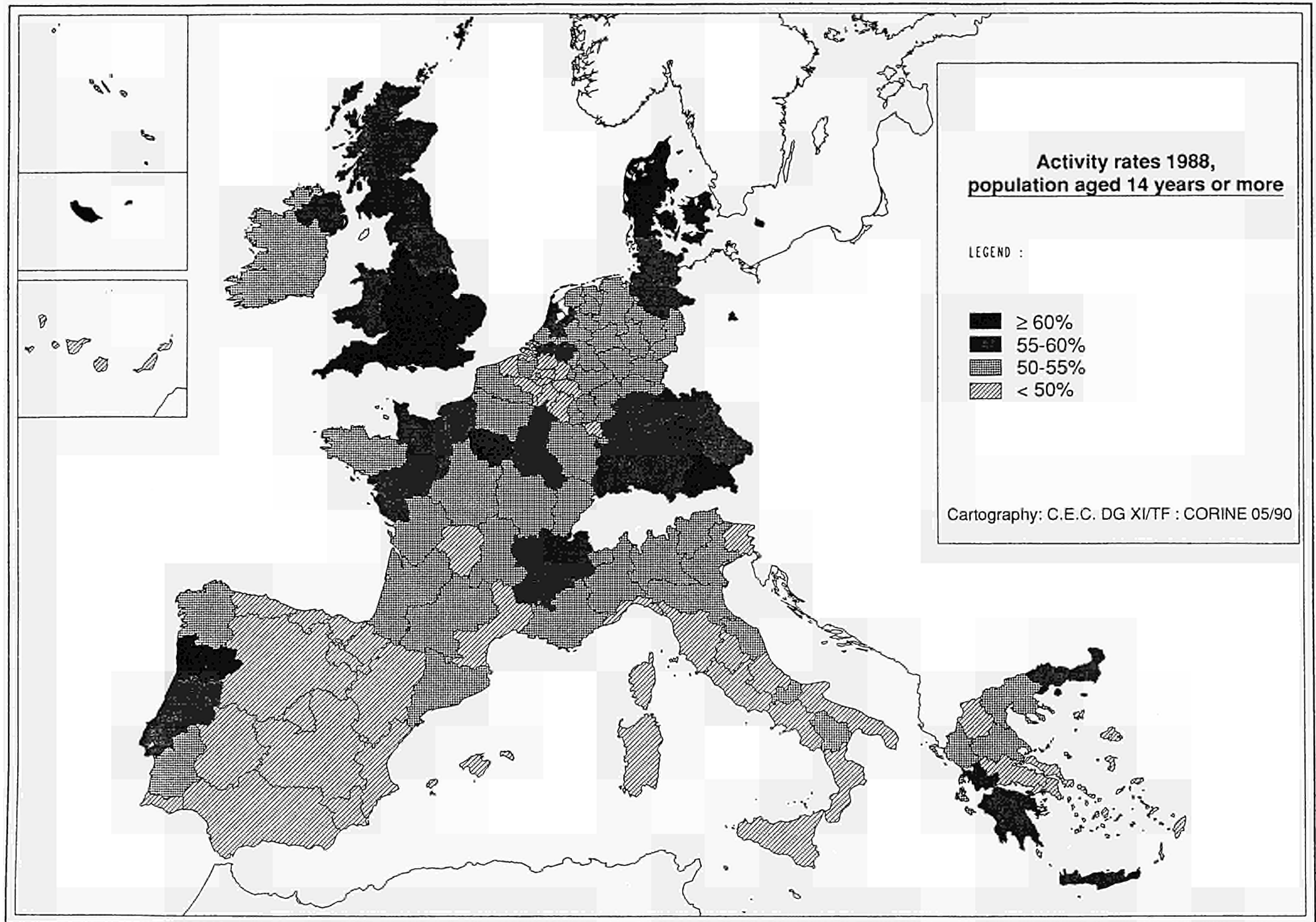
(%)

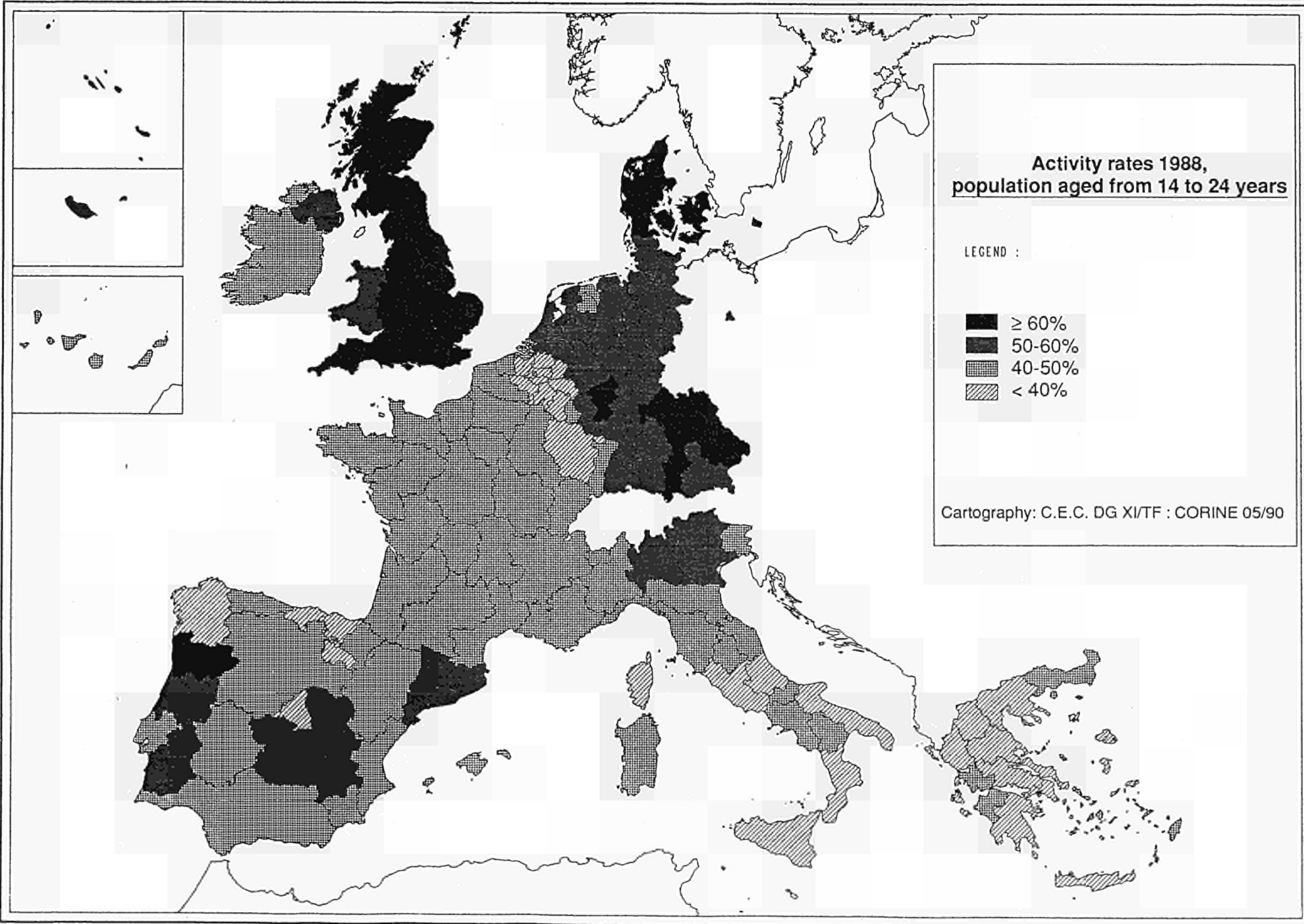
| | ≥ 14 M+F | ≥ 14 M | ≥ 14 F | 14-24 M+F | 25-54 M | 25-54 F | 55-64 M+F |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| EST | 55.0 | 67.2 | 43.8 | 42.6 | 96.0 | 65.3 | 29.9 |
| Lorraine | 51.9 | 65.0 | 39.8 | 38.6 | 95.2 | 61.0 | 25.7 |
| Alsace | 59.2 | 71.1 | 48.3 | 45.4 | 96.3 | 67.1 | 36.0 |
| Franche-Comté | 54.8 | 65.3 | 45.2 | 46.8 | 97.1 | 71.9 | 30.7 |
| OUEST | 55.1 | 65.2 | 45.8 | 42.8 | 95.8 | 72.9 | 32.6 |
| Pays de la Loire | 56.2 | 66.0 | 47.1 | 42.0 | 97.3 | 73.5 | 29.8 |
| Bretagne | 54.9 | 65.3 | 45.6 | 42.9 | 94.8 | 73.5 | 34.7 |
| Poitou-Charentes | 53.3 | 63.5 | 43.8 | 44.2 | 94.8 | 70.8 | 34.0 |
| SUD-OUEST | 52.8 | 62.2 | 44.0 | 41.5 | 95.3 | 72.6 | 36.7 |
| Aquitaine | 53.1 | 63.0 | 44.1 | 41.1 | 95.4 | 71.4 | 36.0 |
| Midi-Pyrénées | 53.3 | 62.3 | 44.9 | 41.8 | 95.3 | 74.2 | 38.4 |
| Limousin | 49.8 | 59.3 | 41.0 | 42.2 | 94.9 | 72.0 | 33.4 |
| CENTRE-EST | 56.2 | 66.1 | 47.2 | 42.4 | 96.7 | 72.1 | 34.6 |
| Rhône-Alpes | 56.5 | 66.6 | 47.4 | 42.4 | 96.7 | 70.8 | 34.3 |
| Auvergne | 54.9 | 64.2 | 46.3 | 42.1 | 96.8 | 78.1 | 35.4 |
| MEDITERRANÉE | 49.9 | 61.4 | 39.8 | 40.9 | 94.8 | 64.8 | 33.0 |
| Languedoc-Roussillon | 46.6 | 57.0 | 37.5 | 40.4 | 94.6 | 64.0 | 31.2 |
| Provence - Alpes - Côte d'azur | 51.8 | 63.6 | 41.4 | 41.2 | 95.3 | 65.7 | 34.3 |
| Corse | : | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| IRELAND | 51.8 | 70.3 | 33.5 | 47.0 | 94.0 | 42.1 | 43.9 |
| ITALIA | 49.3 | 65.7 | 34.2 | 44.9 | 94.2 | 50.7 | 33.4 |
| NORD OVEST | 48.4 | 62.9 | 35.1 | 47.5 | 94.3 | 56.8 | 29.0 |
| Piemonte | 50.3 | 64.0 | 37.8 | 49.4 | 94.4 | 59.2 | 28.6 |
| Valle d'Aosta | 50.7 | 64.7 | 37.6 | 49.1 | 93.7 | 57.8 | 24.3 |
| Liguria | 43.4 | 60.1 | 28.7 | 42.2 | 94.1 | 50.0 | 30.2 |
| LOMBARDIA | 51.8 | 67.7 | 37.3 | 51.4 | 95.1 | 55.8 | 27.7 |
| NORD EST | 50.6 | 67.4 | 35.2 | 51.7 | 94.3 | 50.3 | 29.9 |
| Trentino-Alto Adige | 52.1 | 69.4 | 36.2 | 51.9 | 94.0 | 51.0 | 32.1 |
| Veneto | 51.6 | 68.6 | 35.9 | 53.5 | 94.5 | 49.4 | 31.1 |
| Friuli-Venezia Giulia | 46.4 | 62.0 | 32.5 | 44.0 | 93.7 | 53.5 | 24.6 |
| EMILIA-ROMAGNA | 52.1 | 64.6 | 40.7 | 49.9 | 94.9 | 67.1 | 33.5 |
| CENTRO | 48.9 | 62.9 | 35.8 | 47.9 | 94.8 | 56.5 | 34.6 |
| Toscana | 47.2 | 61.4 | 34.0 | 48.4 | 95.0 | 54.6 | 32.1 |
| Umbria | 48.6 | 63.7 | 34.1 | 44.8 | 93.5 | 51.9 | 32.5 |
| Marche | 53.5 | 66.5 | 41.6 | 48.4 | 94.9 | 63.6 | 42.5 |
| LAZIO | 49.0 | 66.7 | 32.6 | 37.0 | 95.3 | 48.0 | 41.5 |
| CAMPANIA | 49.2 | 67.8 | 31.6 | 43.4 | 93.7 | 42.4 | 37.2 |
| ABRUZZI-MOLISE | 50.1 | 64.5 | 36.7 | 39.3 | 93.6 | 55.0 | 42.3 |
| Abruzzi | 49.3 | 63.8 | 35.8 | 37.3 | 93.4 | 53.8 | 41.0 |
| Molise | 53.1 | 67.1 | 40.2 | 46.5 | 94.6 | 59.9 | 47.2 |
| SUD | 47.2 | 64.2 | 31.5 | 38.6 | 92.6 | 44.7 | 35.5 |
| Puglia | 46.6 | 64.9 | 29.7 | 39.1 | 92.9 | 41.2 | 33.2 |
| Basilicata | 50.5 | 63.5 | 37.9 | 40.9 | 92.4 | 55.9 | 42.5 |
| Calabria | 47.6 | 63.0 | 33.0 | 37.1 | 92.0 | 48.5 | 37.3 |
| SICILIA | 45.8 | 66.8 | 26.3 | 36.4 | 93.9 | 36.7 | 36.0 |
| SARDEGNA | 47.4 | 65.0 | 30.9 | 43.0 | 92.0 | 41.6 | 30.5 |
| LUXEMBOURG (GRAND-DUCHÉ) | 50.4 | 68.1 | 33.9 | 49.1 | 96.1 | 46.6 | 25.4 |

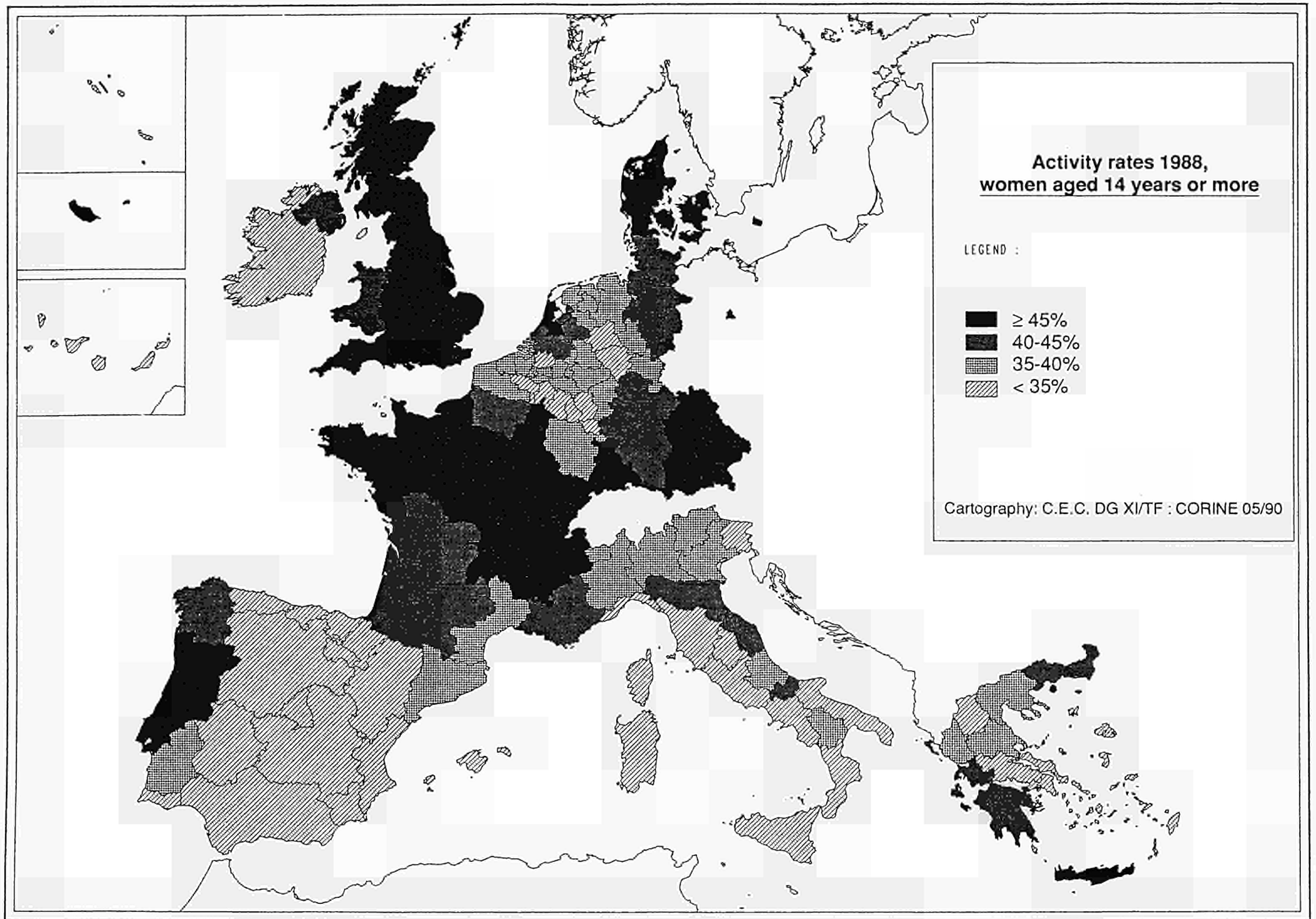
Activity rates 1988

(%)

| | ≥ 14 M+F | ≥ 14 M | ≥ 14 F | 14-24 M+F | 25-54 M | 25-54 F | 55-64 M+F |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| NEDERLAND | 55.0 | 69.1 | 41.3 | 53.4 | 93.2 | 55.1 | 30.5 |
| NOORD-NEDERLAND | 51.1 | 65.4 | 37.0 | 49.2 | 92.3 | 50.4 | 27.5 |
| Groningen | 51.6 | 64.6 | 38.9 | 47.3 | 91.9 | 55.7 | 26.6 |
| Friesland | 51.1 | 65.7 | 36.7 | 51.6 | 92.0 | 48.0 | 29.9 |
| Drenthe | 50.4 | 66.0 | 35.1 | 48.5 | 93.2 | 46.9 | 25.6 |
| OOST-NEDERLAND | 54.5 | 69.1 | 40.3 | 52.6 | 93.4 | 53.4 | 30.6 |
| Overijssel | 53.1 | 67.8 | 38.7 | 51.5 | 92.5 | 51.2 | 30.6 |
| Gelderland | 55.0 | 69.5 | 41.0 | 53.3 | 93.6 | 54.8 | 31.8 |
| Flevoland | 56.9 | 72.3 | 41.4 | 52.4 | 96.2 | 51.6 | 15.9 |
| WEST-NEDERLAND | 56.2 | 69.7 | 43.2 | 55.6 | 93.4 | 58.3 | 32.4 |
| Utrecht | 58.2 | 71.2 | 46.0 | 56.3 | 94.1 | 59.0 | 36.1 |
| Noord-Holland | 57.8 | 70.3 | 45.8 | 56.0 | 92.8 | 62.7 | 34.2 |
| Zuid-Holland | 55.0 | 69.4 | 41.3 | 55.8 | 93.5 | 55.8 | 30.6 |
| Zeeland | 49.8 | 64.4 | 35.6 | 48.4 | 94.9 | 49.5 | 27.7 |
| Zuid-Nederland | 54.8 | 69.5 | 40.1 | 51.8 | 93.1 | 52.1 | 27.8 |
| Noord-Brabant | 55.6 | 70.4 | 40.9 | 52.6 | 93.7 | 52.5 | 29.1 |
| Limburg | 53.1 | 67.8 | 38.6 | 50.2 | 92.0 | 51.4 | 25.6 |
| PORTUGAL | 57.6 | 70.7 | 45.9 | 56.3 | 93.6 | 64.7 | 46.8 |
| CONTINENTE | 57.6 | 70.5 | 46.3 | 56.3 | 93.6 | 65.3 | 46.6 |
| Norte | 60.1 | 72.5 | 49.2 | 64.6 | 92.5 | 64.3 | 45.3 |
| Centro | 57.3 | 69.0 | 46.9 | 55.3 | 93.6 | 66.0 | 50.5 |
| Lisboa E Vale Do Tejo | 57.5 | 70.9 | 45.7 | 47.9 | 94.8 | 67.0 | 46.2 |
| Alentejo | 51.0 | 64.9 | 38.5 | 56.9 | 92.9 | 63.6 | 46.8 |
| Algarve | 46.0 | 62.2 | 32.0 | 41.4 | 92.6 | 55.0 | 42.4 |
| AÇORES | 50.8 | 76.5 | 26.4 | 53.3 | 94.8 | 37.6 | 38.7 |
| MADEIRA | 61.7 | 74.8 | 50.9 | 57.7 | 93.0 | 65.8 | 62.8 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 61.0 | 72.9 | 49.9 | 65.7 | 95.0 | 70.7 | 51.8 |
| NORTH | 59.2 | 70.9 | 48.4 | 68.4 | 93.2 | 69.0 | 43.7 |
| YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE | 59.4 | 71.2 | 48.5 | 63.6 | 94.7 | 71.1 | 46.5 |
| EAST MIDLANDS | 61.5 | 72.8 | 50.7 | 66.2 | 95.6 | 71.7 | 49.3 |
| EAST ANGLIA | 63.0 | 73.6 | 53.1 | 71.8 | 97.1 | 73.3 | 55.7 |
| SOUTH EAST | 63.4 | 75.7 | 51.9 | 68.2 | 96.5 | 71.6 | 58.8 |
| SOUTH WEST | 60.4 | 71.9 | 49.8 | 67.8 | 96.6 | 72.4 | 52.3 |
| WEST MIDLANDS | 61.4 | 73.6 | 49.8 | 64.2 | 95.2 | 71.2 | 52.1 |
| NORTH WEST | 60.4 | 71.5 | 50.2 | 64.7 | 93.6 | 72.8 | 48.5 |
| WALES | 55.1 | 67.3 | 43.8 | 59.0 | 90.2 | 65.3 | 43.8 |
| SCOTLAND | 59.6 | 72.0 | 48.3 | 63.8 | 93.7 | 68.3 | 48.0 |
| NORTHERN IRELAND | 56.3 | 69.8 | 43.7 | 55.0 | 91.8 | 60.1 | 47.6 |







Methodological notes

1. The Labour Force Survey.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities, together with the national experts of the Member States, determine the content of the survey and provide a detailed description in a common coding scheme. The labour force characteristics of each person interviewed refer to his situation in a particular reference week.

The survey is intended to cover the whole of the resident population; but for technical and methodological reasons, and for the purposes of harmonising the field of survey, the Community results are compiled on the basis of the population of private households only.

As with any sample survey the results of the labour force survey are subject to sampling error, especially in the case of less populated regions where the reliability of the results is not always assured. Studies have shown that the regional representation of the survey is relatively weak in Greece, Spain and Portugal.

2. Basic definitions.

Persons in employment are those who during the reference week did any work for pay or profit, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent.

Unemployed persons are those persons of 14 years or older who, during the reference week were without work, currently available for work and were actively seeking work.

The **labour force or active population** comprises persons in employment and unemployed persons.

Inactive persons are those who are not classi-

fied as employed or unemployed.

The activity rate is the ratio between the active population and the total population of corresponding age.

3. Effect of the activity rate on the meaning of the unemployment rate.

An unemployment rate of about 25% for young people is often mistakenly interpreted as 'One in four young people is unemployed', instead of '**Among the active young people**, one in four is unemployed.' If the activity rate of young people reaches 40%, an unemployment rate of 25% does not mean that one in four young people is unemployed, but that one in ten young people is unemployed. In fact, the share of unemployed persons in the population as a whole equals the unemployment rate multiplied by the activity rate:

$$\frac{\text{unemployed}}{\text{population}} = \frac{\text{unemployed}}{\text{actives}} \times \frac{\text{actives}}{\text{population}}$$

The same unemployment rate of 33% among young people could be typical of a flourishing region A, where 7 out of 10 young people are inactive (students), 2 are in employment and 1 is unemployed - and of a region B having a less favourable socio-economic profile where 4 out of 10 young people are inactive, 4 are in employment and 2 are unemployed.

In Denmark, as in Belgium, about 6% of young people under 25 are unemployed. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate among young people in Belgium (18%) is twice as high as in Denmark (9%). This is the result of the convention of calculating the unemployment rate as a part of the unemployed in the active population, and not as a part of the total population.

For more information

Labour force survey : methods and definitions - EUROSTAT 1988
REGIO yearbook and REGIO database - EUROSTAT

