

Work and health: international comparisons with the UK

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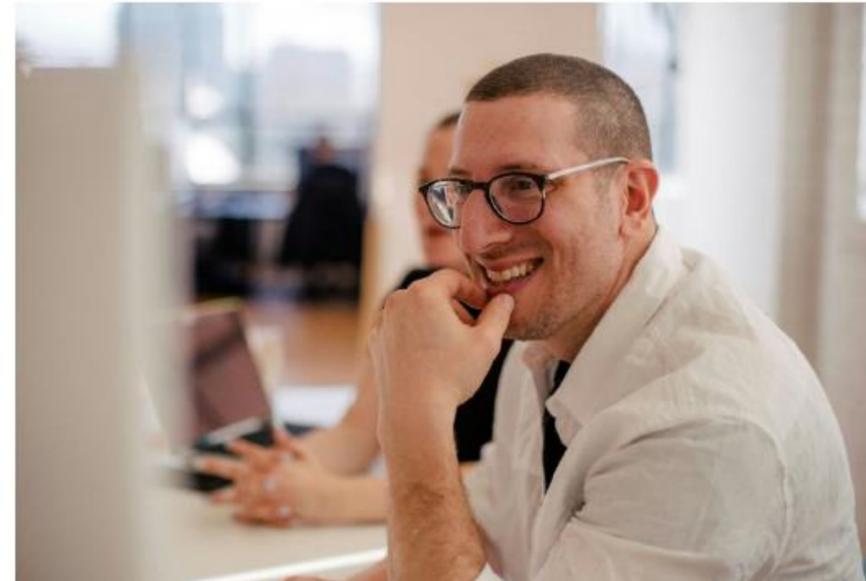

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Work and health: international comparisons with the UK

A report for the Commission for Healthier Working Lives

Authors: Nick Litsardopoulos, Jonny Gifford, Meghna Sharma, Astrid Allen,
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Research questions

- 1. How does the UK differ from comparable countries:**
 - the prevalence of ill health in the working age population?
 - the likelihood that ill health leads to worklessness?
- 2. What interventions exist overseas to improve this?**

EU15

EU members 1995 to 2004

- AT Austria
- BE Belgium
- DE Germany
- DK Denmark
- EL Greece
- ES Spain
- FI Finland
- FR France
- IR Ireland
- IT Italy
- LU Luxembourg
- NL Netherlands
- PT Portugal
- SE Sweden
- UK United Kingdom

Two parts to the research

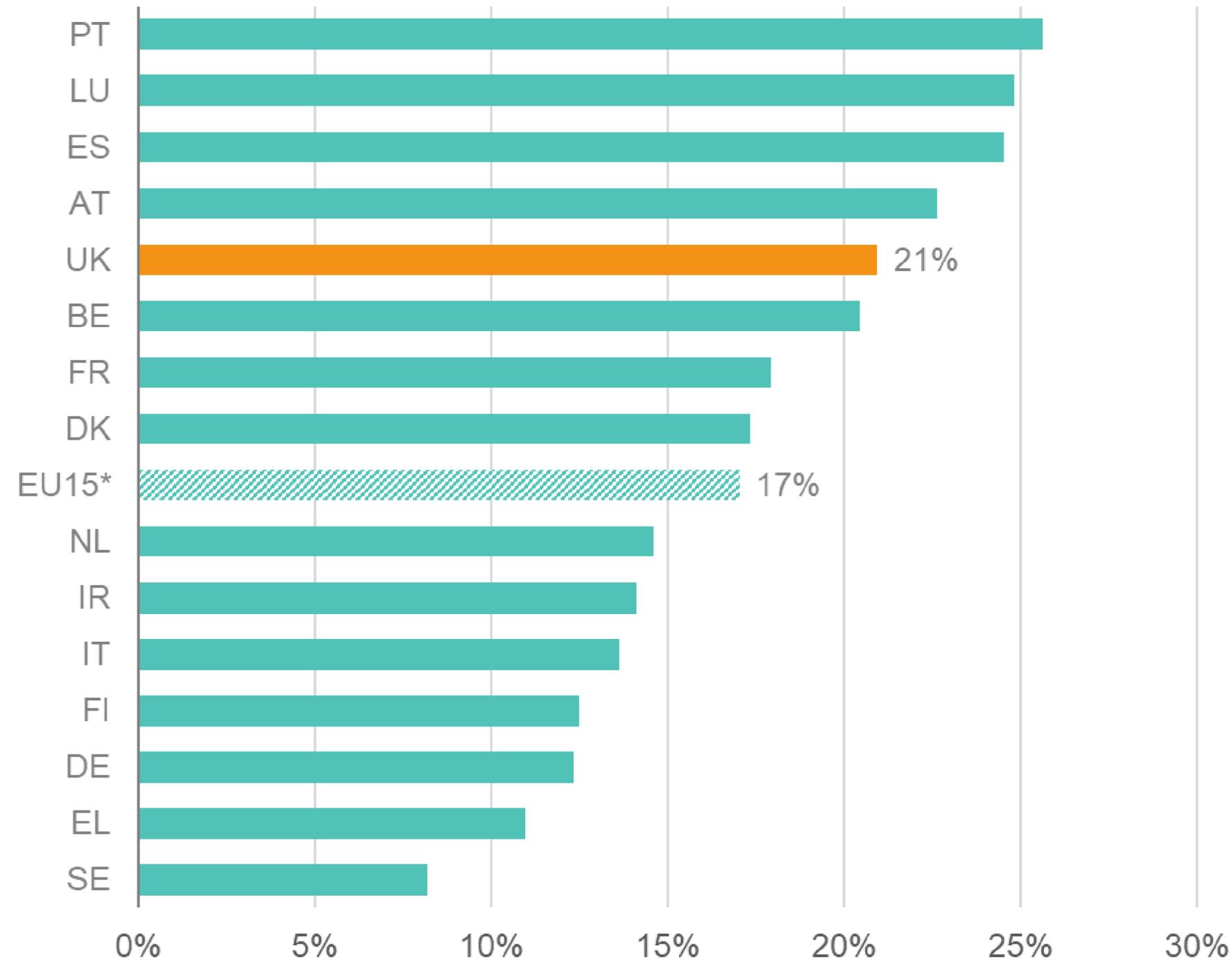
1. Data analysis of the EU15 in 2018 and 2022:

- *EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)*
- *Understanding Society: The UK Household Longitudinal Study (UKHLS)*

2. Rapid review of policy interventions on health and work in comparable non-UK countries.

1. UK sees more health limitations than many countries

% people aged 16-64 reporting LT ill health, EU15, 2022

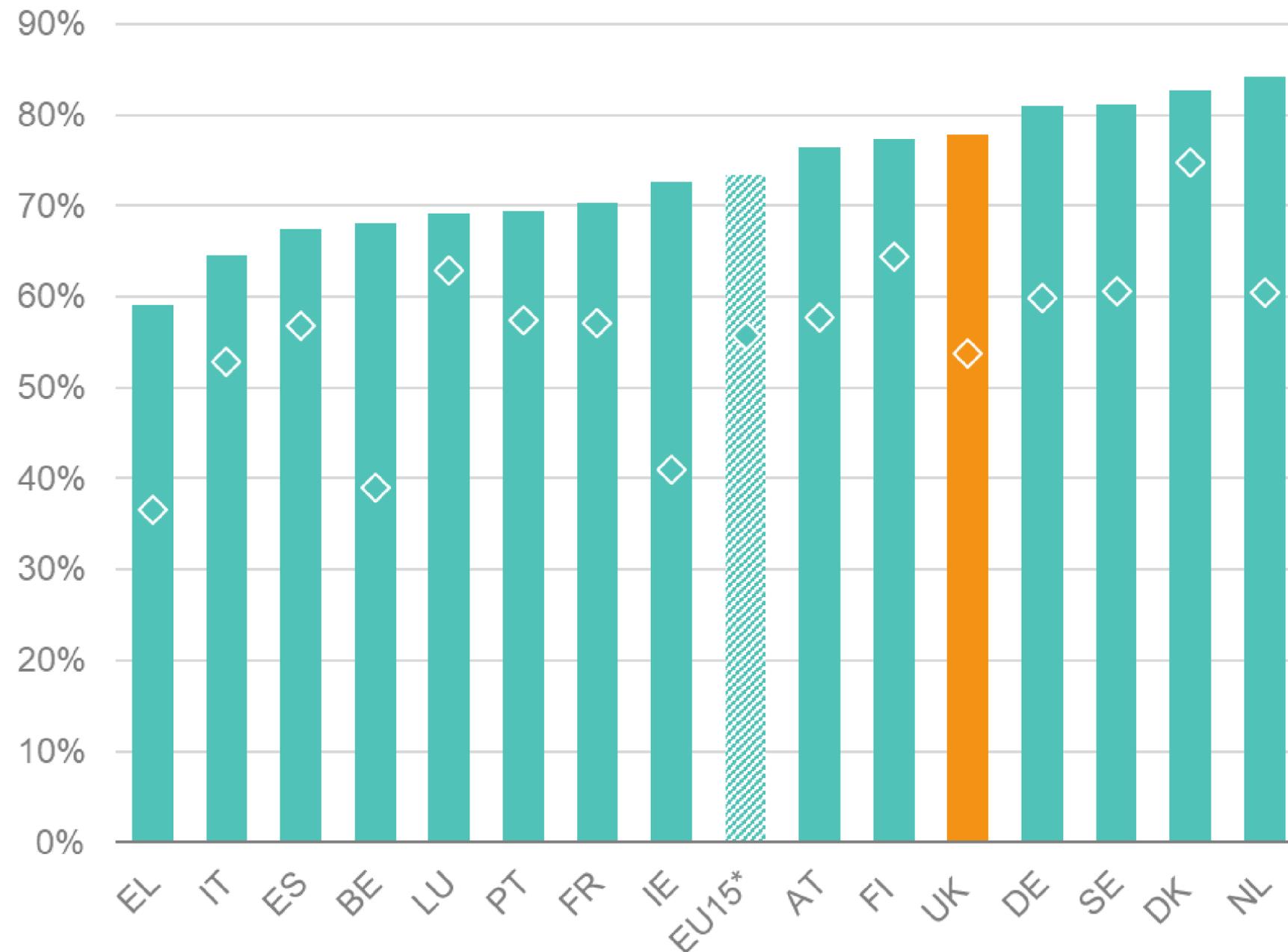


Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of EU-SILC and Understanding Society

2. UK has a high employment rate for those with good health, but a lower rate for those with ill health

Employment rates for people with & without LT ill health, 2022

■ Without health limitations ◆ With health limitations

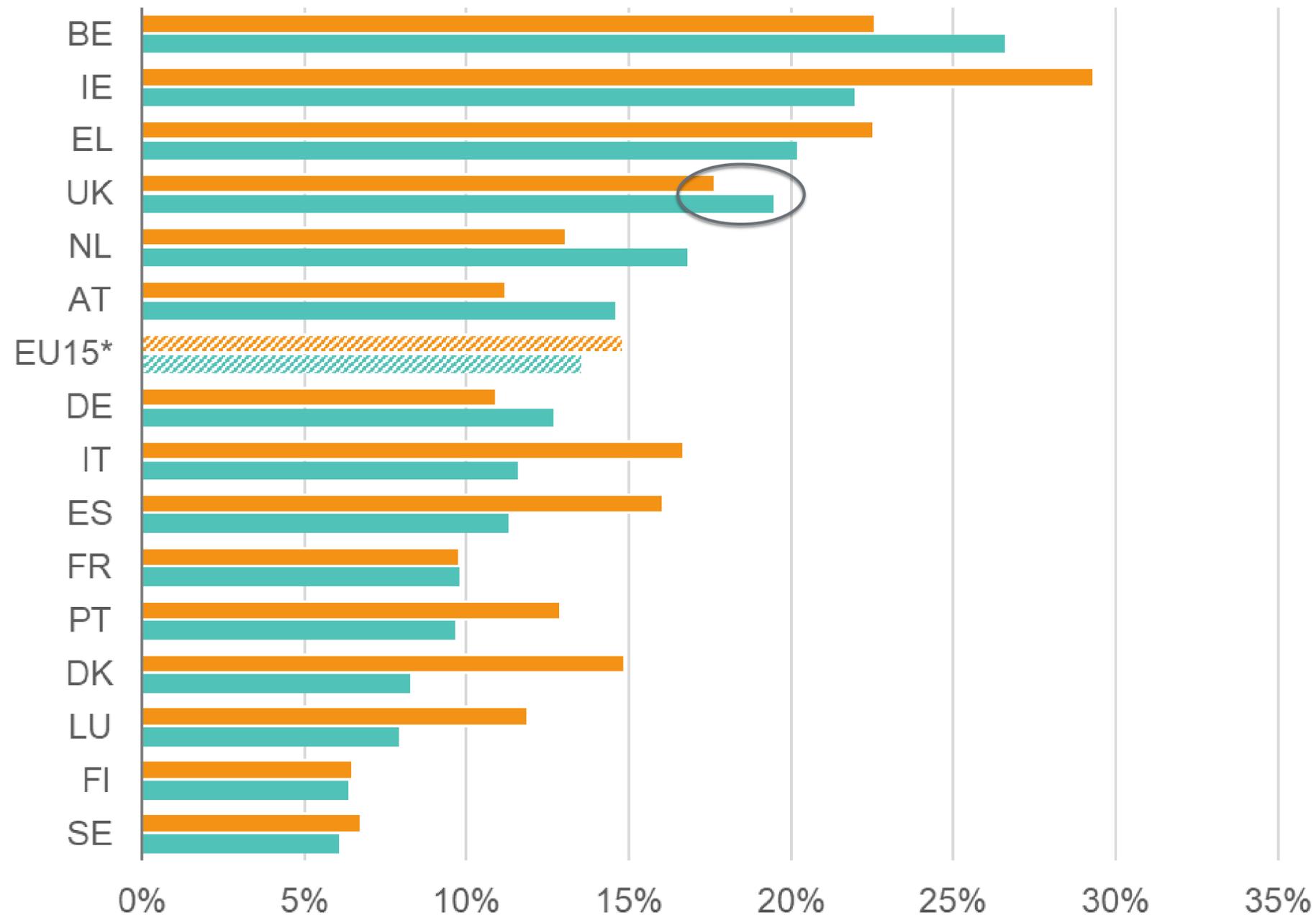


Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of EU-SILC and Understanding Society

3. In UK, health limitations mean a high likelihood of being out of work; others have improved

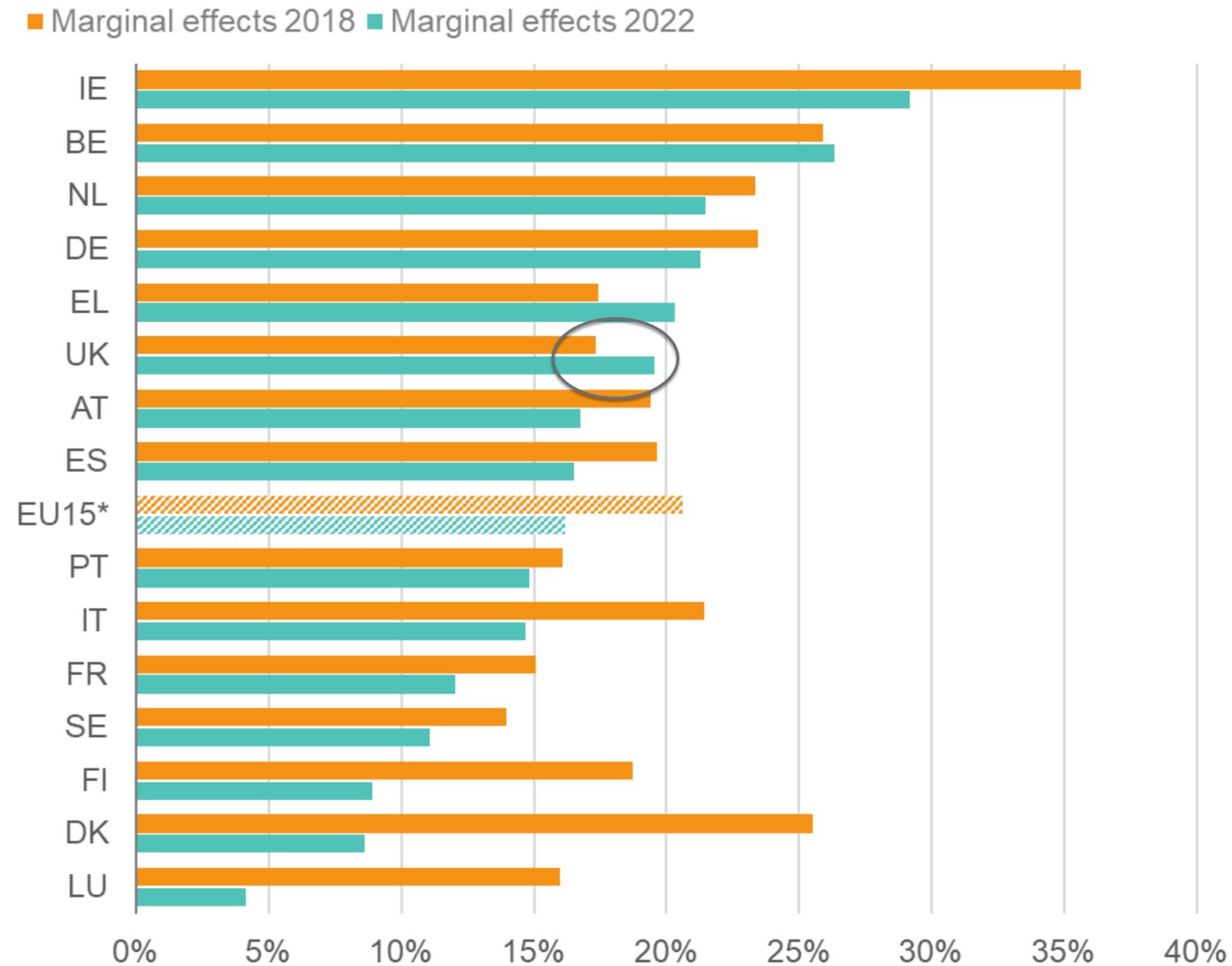
Country effect: likelihood of being out of work for 16–64-year-olds with health limitations

■ Marginal effects 2018 ■ Marginal effects 2022



4. Older UK workers were relatively well supported in 2018, but we've worsened as others have improved

Country effect: likelihood of being out of work for 55–64-year-olds with health limitations



Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of EU-SILC and Understanding Society

5. Younger UK adults with ill health fared the worst in employment outcomes in 2022 (EU15)

Country effect: likelihood of being out of work for 16–64-year-olds with health limitations

■ Marginal effects 2018 ■ Marginal effects 2022



Summary: work & LT ill health

Within the EU15 from 2018 to 2022:

- UK has one of the higher rates of LT ill health.
- UK has one of the largest ill-health ‘employment gaps’.
- The UK situation worsened post-pandemic for those with ill health :
 - Young: most likely to be out of work in EU15 (2022).
 - Older: more likely to be out of work (2022 cf. 2018).

It doesn't have to be this way:

ill health can have a much smaller impact on employment.

**Start here to address economic inactivity:
better combinations of support & incentives.**

**Work and health:
international comparisons with the UK**

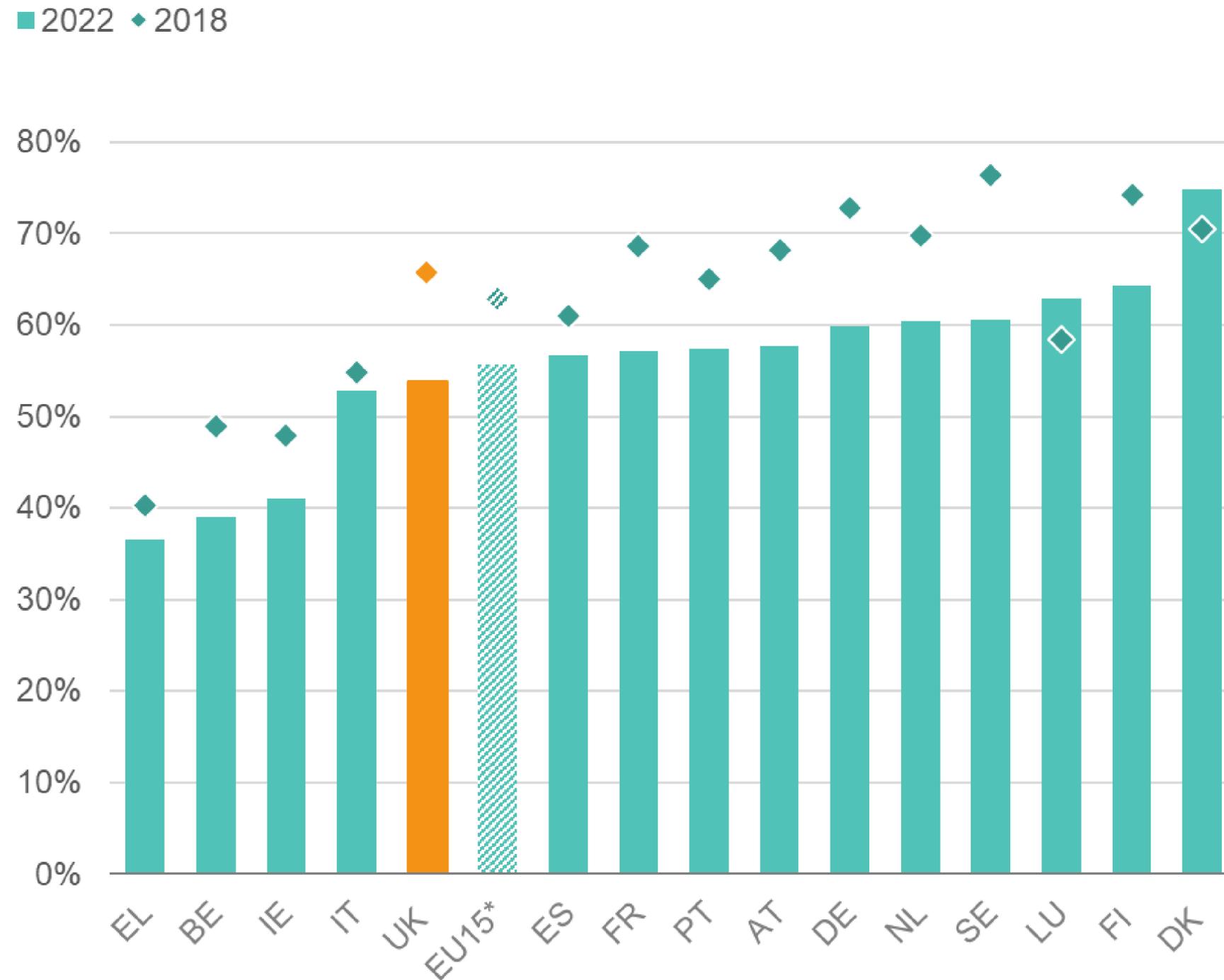
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Extra slides...

Fewer people with health limitations are in employment post-pandemic

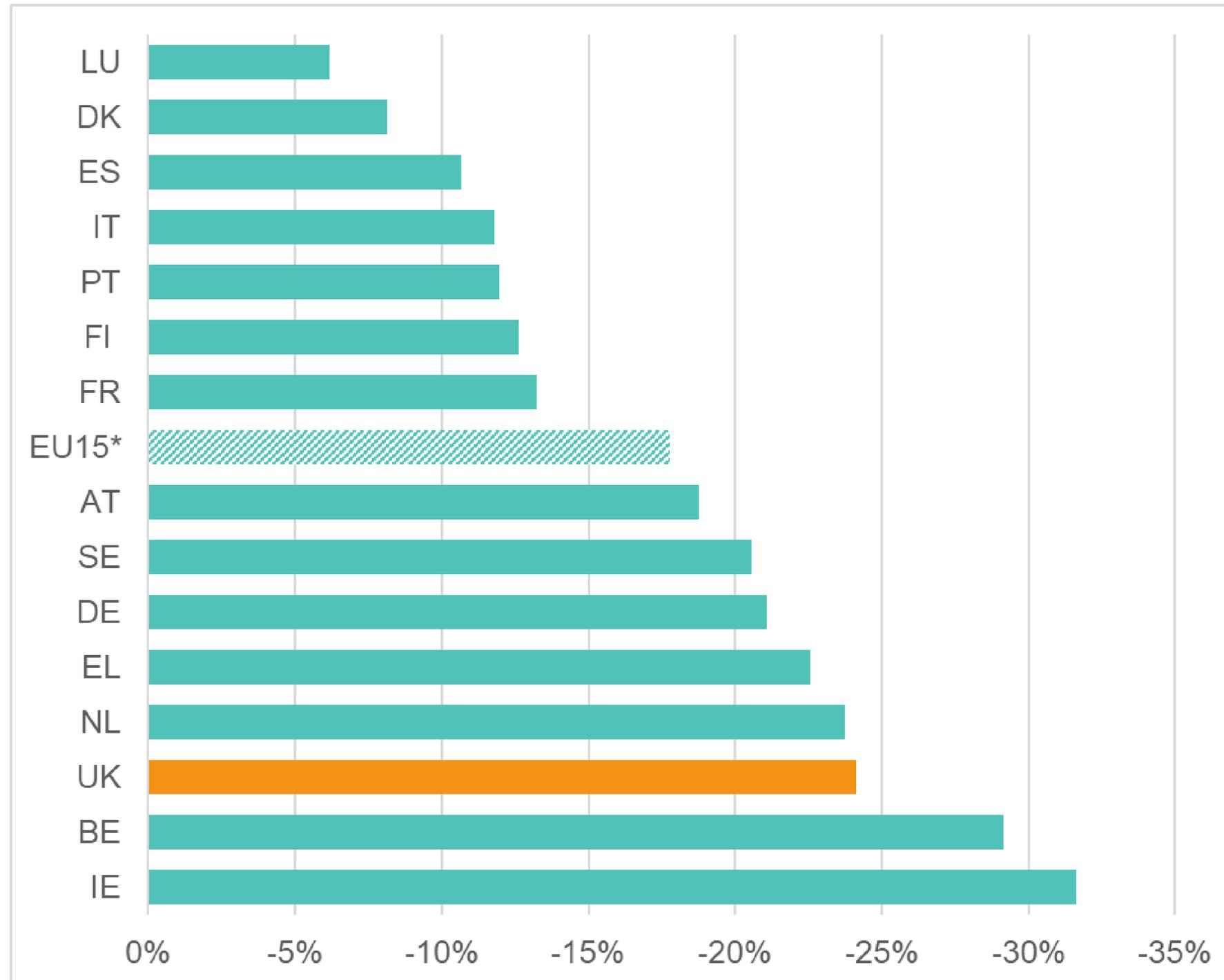
Employment rate for people with LT ill health, 2018 and 2022



Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of EU-SILC and Understanding Society

UK's ill health 'employment gap' is one of the widest

% point gaps in employment rates – aged 16-64, with and without health limitations; EU15, 2022



Source: Institute for Employment Studies analysis of EU-SILC and Understanding Society