

159/2018 - 16 October 2018

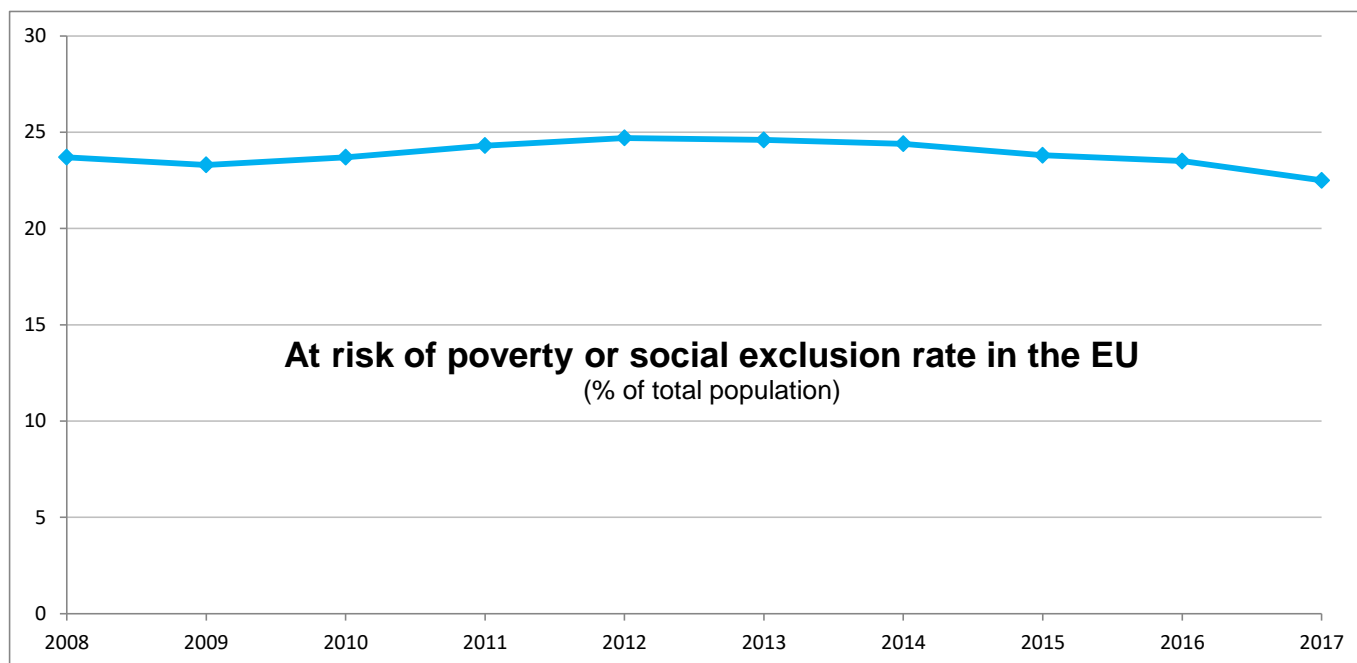
17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Downward trend in the share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU

But still around 113 million people in this situation

In 2017, 112.9 million people, or 22.5% of the population, in the **European Union (EU)** were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at risk of poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. After three consecutive increases between 2009 and 2012 to reach almost 25%, the proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the **EU** has since continuously decreased to 22.5% last year, 1.2 percentage points below its 2008 reference-point and 1 percentage point below the 2016 level. The reduction of the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is one of the key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. An [infographic](#) is also available on the Eurostat website.



2008 and 2009 data exclude Croatia. 2017 data have been estimated.
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Highest at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in Bulgaria, lowest in the Czech Republic

In 2017, more than a third of the population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in three Member States: **Bulgaria** (38.9%), **Romania** (35.7%) and **Greece** (34.8%). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest shares of persons being at risk of poverty or social exclusion were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (12.2%), **Finland** (15.7%), **Slovakia** (16.3%), the **Netherlands** (17.0%), **Slovenia** and **France** (both 17.1%) and **Denmark** (17.2%).

Largest decrease in Poland, highest increase in Greece

Among Member States for which 2017 data are available, the at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate has grown since 2008 in ten Member States, with the highest increases being recorded in **Greece** (from 28.1% in 2008 to 34.8% in 2017, or +6.7 percentage points), **Italy** (+3.4 pp), **Spain** (+2.8 pp), the **Netherlands** (+2.1 pp), **Cyprus** (+1.9 pp) and **Estonia** (+1.6 pp). In contrast, the largest decrease was observed in **Poland** (from 30.5% to 19.5%, or -11.0 pp), followed by **Romania** (-8.5 pp), **Latvia** (-6.0 pp) and **Bulgaria** (-5.9 pp).

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, 2008 and 2017

	% of total population		in thousands	
	2008	2017	2008	2017
EU*	23.7	22.5	116 070	112 917
Belgium	20.8	20.3	2 194	2 296
Bulgaria	44.8	38.9	3 421	2 767
Czech Republic	15.3	12.2	1 566	1 267
Denmark	16.3	17.2	887	980
Germany	20.1	19.0	16 345	15 516
Estonia	21.8	23.4	291	305
Ireland**	23.7	24.2	1 050	1 135
Greece	28.1	34.8	3 046	3 702
Spain	23.8	26.6	10 786	12 236
France	18.5	17.1	11 150	10 771
Croatia**	:	27.9	:	1 159
Italy	25.5	28.9	15 082	17 407
Cyprus	23.3	25.2	181	215
Latvia	34.2	28.2	740	544
Lithuania	28.3	29.6	910	843
Luxembourg	15.5	21.5	72	126
Hungary	28.2	25.6	2 794	2 465
Malta	20.1	19.2	81	83
Netherlands	14.9	17.0	2 432	2 864
Austria	20.6	18.1	1 699	1 563
Poland	30.5	19.5	11 491	7 273
Portugal	26.0	23.3	2 757	2 399
Romania	44.2	35.7	9 115	7 040
Slovenia	18.5	17.1	361	345
Slovakia	20.6	16.3	1 111	856
Finland	17.4	15.7	910	849
Sweden	16.7	17.7	1 528	1 765
United Kingdom**	23.2	22.2	14 069	14 359
Iceland**	11.8	12.2 ^p	36	40 ^p
Norway	15.0	16.1	701	841
Switzerland**	18.1	17.8	1 333	1 460

Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand : data not available p data provisional

* Data for 2008 exclude Croatia. Data for 2017 have been estimated.

** 2016 data instead of 2017

The source dataset can be found [here](#)

About 1 in 6 persons in the EU at risk of income poverty...

Looking at each of the three elements contributing to being at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 16.9% of the **EU** population were at risk of poverty after social transfers in 2017, meaning that their disposable income was below their national at risk of poverty threshold. This proportion has slightly decreased compared with 2016 (17.3%) but is still higher than in 2008 (16.6%). As the thresholds reflect actual income distribution in the countries, they vary greatly both between Member States and over time.

Across the EU Member States, more than 1 in 5 persons were at risk of income poverty in **Romania** (23.6%), **Bulgaria** (23.4%), **Lithuania** (22.9%), **Latvia** (22.1%), **Spain** (21.6%), **Estonia** (21.0%), **Italy** (20.3%) and **Greece** (20.2%). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in the **Czech Republic** (9.1%), **Finland** (11.5%), **Denmark** and **Slovakia** (both 12.4%), the **Netherlands** (13.2%), **France** and **Slovenia** (both 13.3%) and **Hungary** (13.4%). Compared with 2008, the proportion of persons at risk of income poverty has increased in nineteen Member States, for which data are available, remained stable in one and decreased in seven.

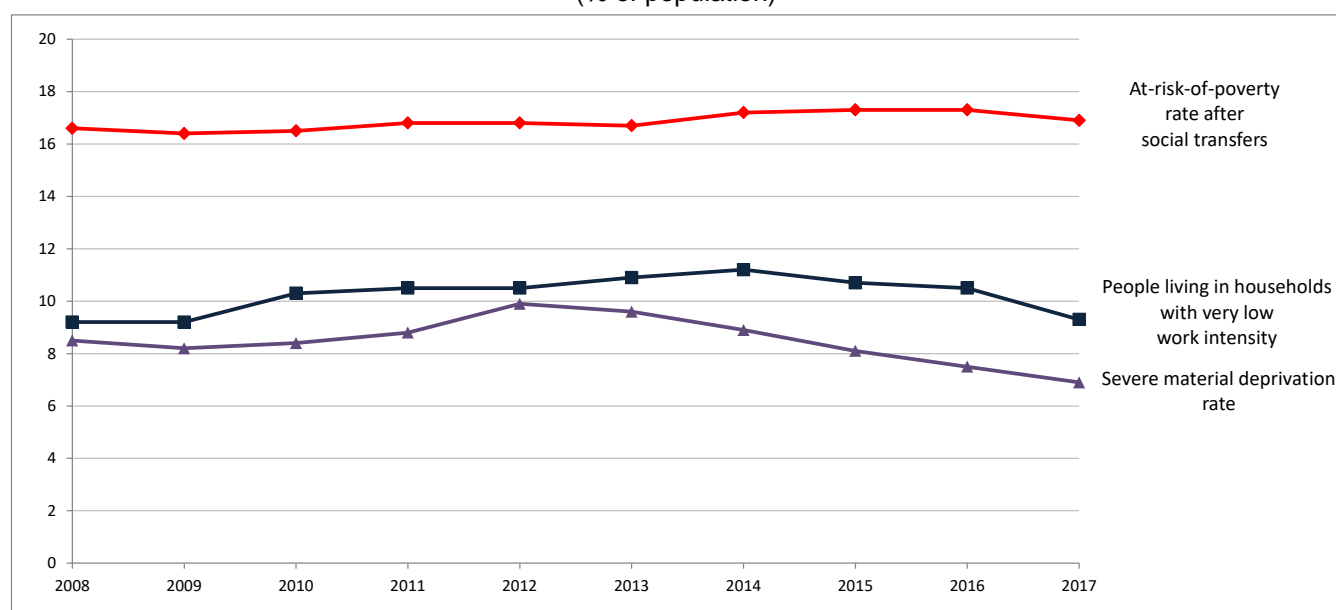
... 1 in 14 severely materially deprived...

In the **EU** in 2017, 6.9% of the population were severely materially deprived, meaning that they had living conditions constrained by a lack of resources such as not being able to afford to pay their bills, keep their home adequately warm, or take a one week holiday away from home. This proportion has decreased compared with both 2016 (7.5%) and 2008 (8.5%). The share of those severely materially deprived in 2017 varied significantly among Member States, ranging from 30.0% in **Bulgaria**, 21.1% in **Greece** and 19.7% in **Romania**, to less than 4% in **Sweden** (1.1%), **Luxembourg** (1.2%), **Finland** (2.1%), the **Netherlands** (2.6%), **Denmark** (3.1%), **Malta** (3.3%), **Germany** (3.4%), **Austria** and the **Czech Republic** (both 3.7%). Compared with 2008, the proportion of persons severely materially deprived has increased in nine Member States for which data are available, and decreased in eighteen.

...and 1 in 11 living in households with very low work intensity

Looking at low work intensity, 9.3% of the population aged 0-59 in the **EU** lived in households where the adults worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year. This proportion has decreased significantly compared with 2016 (10.5%) and is close to the 2008 level (9.2%). **Ireland** (18.2% in 2016), **Greece** (15.6%), **Belgium** (13.5%), **Croatia** (13.0% in 2016), **Spain** (12.8%), and **Italy** (11.8%) had the highest proportions of those living in very low work intensity households, while **Slovakia** (5.4%), the **Czech Republic** (5.5%), **Poland** (5.7%), **Estonia** (5.8%) and **Slovenia** (6.2%) had the lowest. Compared with 2008, the share of persons aged 0-59 living in households with very low work intensity has increased in eighteen Member States for which data are available, and decreased in nine.

Evolution of the three components of the at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in the EU, (% of population)



Data for 2008 and 2009 exclude Croatia. Data for 2017 data have been estimated.

The source dataset can be found [here](#) for at risk of poverty rate after social transfers, [here](#) for low work intensity and [here](#) for severe material deprivation.

The total number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is lower than the sum of the numbers of people in each of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion as some persons are affected simultaneously by more than one of these situations.

Components of the at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in the EU, 2008 and 2017

	At-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (%)		Persons severely materially deprived (%)		Persons aged 0-59 living in households with very low work intensity (%)	
	2008	2017	2008	2017	2008	2017
EU*	16.6	16.9	8.5	6.9	9.2	9.3
Belgium	14.7	15.9	5.6	5.1	11.7	13.5
Bulgaria	21.4	23.4	41.2	30.0	8.1	11.1
Czech Republic	9.0	9.1	6.8	3.7	7.2	5.5
Denmark	11.8	12.4	2.0	3.1	8.5	10.0
Germany	15.2	16.1	5.5	3.4	11.7	8.7
Estonia	19.5	21.0	4.9	4.1	5.3	5.8
Ireland***	15.5	16.6	5.5	6.5	13.7	18.2
Greece	20.1	20.2	11.2	21.1	7.5	15.6
Spain	19.8	21.6	3.6	5.1	6.6	12.8
France	12.5	13.3	5.4	4.1	8.8	8.1
Croatia**	:	19.5	:	10.3 ^p	:	13.0
Italy	18.9	20.3	7.5	10.1	10.4	11.8
Cyprus	15.9	15.7	9.1	11.5	4.5	9.4
Latvia	25.9	22.1	19.3	11.3	5.4	7.8
Lithuania	20.9	22.9	12.5	12.4	6.1	9.7
Luxembourg	13.4	18.7	0.7	1.2	4.7	6.9
Hungary	12.4	13.4	17.9	14.5	12.0	6.6
Malta	15.3	16.8	4.3	3.3	8.6	6.7
Netherlands	10.5	13.2	1.5	2.6	8.2	9.5
Austria	15.2	14.4	5.9	3.7	7.4	8.3
Poland	16.9	15.0	17.7	5.9	8.0	5.7
Portugal	18.5	18.3	9.7	6.9	6.3	8.0
Romania	23.6	23.6	32.7	19.7	8.5	6.9
Slovenia	12.3	13.3	6.7	4.6	6.7	6.2
Slovakia	10.9	12.4	11.8	7.0	5.2	5.4
Finland	13.6	11.5	3.5	2.1	7.5	10.7
Sweden	13.5	15.8	1.8	1.1	7.0	8.8
United Kingdom**	18.7	15.9	4.5	4.9 ^p	10.4	11.3
Iceland***	10.1	8.8 ^p	0.8	1.9 ^p	2.6	4.3 ^p
Norway	11.4	12.1	2.0	1.9	6.5	9.6
Switzerland***	15.7	14.7	2.1	1.5	3.3	5.5

: data not available.

p data provisional.

* Data for 2008 exclude Croatia. Data for 2017 have been estimated.

** 2016 data instead of 2017 for at risk of poverty and low work intensity

*** 2016 data instead of 2017

The source dataset can be found [here](#) for at risk of poverty rate after social transfers, [here](#) severe material deprivation and [here](#) for low work intensity.

At-risk-of-poverty thresholds in the EU, 2008 and 2017
(in national currency)

	Currency	Annual national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers)		Annual at-risk-of-poverty threshold			
				Single adult		Two adults with two children younger than 14 years	
		2008	2017	2008	2017	2008	2017
Belgium	euro	17 985	22 784	10 791	13 670	22 661	28 708
Bulgaria	BGN	4 247	7 022	2 548	4 213	5 351	8 848
Czech Republic	CZK	168 472	223 891	101 083	134 334	212 275	282 102
Denmark	DKK	180 015	218 764	108 009	131 258	226 819	275 643
Germany	euro	18 309	21 920	10 986	13 152	23 070	27 620
Estonia	euro	5 547	9 384	3 328	5 631	6 989	11 824
Ireland*	euro	22 995	22 407	13 797	13 444	28 973	28 233
Greece	euro	10 800	7 600	6 480	4 560	13 608	9 576
Spain	euro	13 966	14 203	8 379	8 522	17 597	17 896
France	euro	18 899	22 077	11 340	13 246	23 813	27 817
Croatia*	HRK	:	43 593	:	26 156	:	54 928
Italy	euro	15 640	16 542	9 384	9 925	19 706	20 843
Cyprus	euro	16 024	14 497	9 614	8 698	20 190	18 266
Latvia	euro	4 740	6 607	2 844	3 964	5 972	8 325
Lithuania	euro	4 111	6 134	2 467	3 681	5 180	7 729
Luxembourg	euro	30 917	36 076	18 550	21 645	38 955	45 455
Hungary	HUF	1 105 926	1 553 604	663 556	932 162	1 393 467	1 957 541
Malta	euro	10 009	14 496	6 005	8 698	12 611	18 265
Netherlands	euro	19 522	23 561	11 713	14 137	24 598	29 687
Austria	euro	19 413	24 752	11 648	14 851	24 461	31 187
Poland	PLN	15 720	25 940	9 432	15 564	19 807	32 684
Portugal	euro	8 143	9 071	4 886	5 443	10 260	11 429
Romania	RON	6 510	12 314	3 906	7 388	8 203	15 516
Slovenia	euro	10 893	12 713	6 536	7 628	13 725	16 019
Slovakia	euro	4 792	7 183	2 875	4 310	6 038	9 051
Finland	euro	19 794	23 987	11 876	14 392	24 940	30 223
Sweden	SEK	187 007	240 279	112 204	144 168	235 629	302 752
United Kingdom*	GBP	15 068	17 321	9 041	10 393	18 986	21 824
Iceland*	ISK	2 822 193	4 151 884 ^p	1 693 316	2 491 130 ^p	3 555 963	5 231 374 ^p
Norway	NOK	254 905	366 051	152 855	219 631	320 996	461 225
Switzerland*	CHF	44 332	47 258	26 599	28 355	55 858	59 545

: data not available

p data provisional

* 2016 data instead of 2017

The source dataset can be found [here](#) for income and [here](#) for thresholds

The **at risk of poverty rate** is the share of people whose total household income (after social transfers, tax and other deductions), available for spending or saving, is below the **at risk of poverty threshold**, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers.

This indicator does not measure wealth or absolute poverty but low income in comparison to other residents in that country.

The threshold depends on the income distribution in a country for a given year and varies with the composition of a household. It is therefore important to note that the 'at risk of poverty rate' is a **relative measure of poverty** and that the threshold varies greatly between Member States. It also varies over time as it follows the evolution of the national median disposable income: in a number of Member States the threshold has fallen over the period 2008-2017 (Greece and Cyprus) or stayed nearly stable (Spain and Italy).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

For 2008 and 2009 data for the EU aggregate excludes Croatia.

Methods and definitions

Data on the risk of poverty or social exclusion presented in this News Release are based on the EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The **EU-SILC survey** is the EU reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution, poverty and living conditions. More information can be found [here](#).

The reference population is all private households and their current members residing in the territory of a given Member State at the time of data collection. Persons living in collective households and in institutions are generally excluded from the target population as well as small and remote parts of the national territory amounting to no more than 2% of the national population.

Persons at risk of poverty are those living in a household with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). The equivalised income is calculated by dividing the total household income by its size determined after applying the following weights: 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to each other household member aged 14 or over and 0.3 to each household member aged less than 14 years old.

Severely materially deprived persons have living conditions constrained by a lack of resources and experience at least four out of the nine following deprivation items: cannot afford 1) to pay rent/mortgage or utility bills on time; 2) to keep home adequately warm; 3) to face unexpected expenses; 4) to eat meat fish or a protein equivalent every second day; 5) a one week holiday away from home; 6) a car; 7) a washing machine; 8) a colour TV; or 9) a telephone (including mobile phone).

People living in households with very low work intensity are those aged 0-59 who live in households where on average the adults (aged 18-59) worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year. Students are excluded.

The total number of **people at risk of poverty or social exclusion** is lower than the sum of the numbers of people in each of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion as some persons are affected simultaneously by more than one of these situations.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to statistics on income, social inclusion and living conditions.

Eurostat [database](#) on income and living conditions.

Eurostat [interactive infographic](#) on people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU.

The European Commission website dedicated to the [Europe 2020 strategy](#).


Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Renata PALEN
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu


Production of data:

Anna RYBKOWSKA
Tel: +352-4301-32 431
anna.rybkowska@ec.europa.eu

 [EurostatStatistics](#)

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

 [@EU_Eurostat](#)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu