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At risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU27

In 2011, 24% of the population were at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Corresponding to around 120 million persons

In 2011, 119.6 million people, or 24.2% of the population, in the **EU27** were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, compared with 23.4% in 2010 and 23.5% in 2008. This means that they were at least in one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty¹, severely materially deprived¹ or living in households with very low work intensity¹. 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 strategy².

In 2011, the highest shares of persons being at risk of poverty or social exclusion were recorded in **Bulgaria** (49%), **Romania** and **Latvia** (both 40%), **Lithuania** (33%), **Greece** and **Hungary** (both 31%), and the lowest in the **Czech Republic** (15%), the **Netherlands** and **Sweden** (both 16%), **Luxembourg** and **Austria** (both 17%).

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** and are based on data from the EU-SILC survey³.

17% of the population in the EU27 at risk of income poverty...

Looking at each of the three elements contributing to being at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 17% of the population in the **EU27** in 2011 were at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers, meaning that their disposable income was below their national at-risk-of-poverty threshold¹. The highest at-risk-of-poverty rates were observed in **Bulgaria, Romania** and **Spain** (all 22%) and **Greece** (21%), and the lowest in the **Czech Republic** (10%), the **Netherlands** (11%), **Austria, Denmark** and **Slovakia** (all 13%). It is important to note that the at-risk-of-poverty rate is a relative measure of poverty and that the poverty threshold varies greatly between Member States. The threshold varies also over time and in a number of Member States it has fallen in recent years due to the economic crisis.

...9% severely materially deprived...

In the **EU27**, 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 home¹. The share of those severely materially deprived varied significantly among Member States, ranging from 1% in **Luxembourg** and **Sweden** to 44% in **Bulgaria** and 31% in **Latvia**.

...and 10% living in households with very low work intensity

As regards the indicator on low work intensity, 10% of the population aged 0-59 in the **EU27** lived in households where the adults worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year¹. **Belgium** (14%) had the largest proportion of those living in very low work intensity households, and **Cyprus** (5%) the lowest.

At risk of poverty or social exclusion¹, 2011

	Persons at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers	Persons severely materially deprived	Persons aged 0-59 living in households with very low work intensity	Persons falling under at least one of the three criteria (at risk of poverty or social exclusion)			
				% of total population			In millions, 2011
				2008	2010	2011	
EU27*	16.9	8.8	10.0	23.5	23.4	24.2	119.6
Belgium	15.3	5.7	13.7	20.8	20.8	21.0	2.3
Bulgaria	22.3	43.6	11.0	38.2	41.6	49.1	3.7
Czech Republic	9.8	6.1	6.6	15.3	14.4	15.3	1.6
Denmark	13.0	2.6	11.4	16.3	18.3	18.9	1.0
Germany	15.8	5.3	11.1	20.1	19.7	19.9	16.1
Estonia	17.5	8.7	9.9	21.8	21.7	23.1	0.3
Ireland	:	:	:	23.7	29.9	:	:
Greece	21.4	15.2	11.8	28.1	27.7	31.0	3.4
Spain	21.8	3.9	12.2	22.9	25.5	27.0	12.4
France	14.0	5.2	9.3	18.6	19.2	19.3	11.8
Italy	:	:	:	25.3	24.5	:	:
Cyprus	14.5	10.7	4.5	22.4	22.9	23.5	0.2
Latvia	19.3	30.9	12.2	33.8	38.1	40.1	0.9
Lithuania	20.0	18.5	12.3	27.6	33.4	33.4	1.1
Luxembourg	13.6	1.2	5.8	15.5	17.1	16.8	0.1
Hungary	13.8	23.1	12.1	28.2	29.9	31.0	3.1
Malta	15.4	6.3	8.3	19.6	20.3	21.4	0.1
Netherlands	11.0	2.5	8.7	14.9	15.1	15.7	2.6
Austria	12.6	3.9	8.0	18.6	16.6	16.9	1.4
Poland	17.7	13.0	6.9	30.5	27.8	27.2	10.2
Portugal	18.0	8.3	8.2	26.0	25.3	24.4	2.6
Romania	22.2	29.4	6.7	44.2	41.4	40.3	8.6
Slovenia	13.6	6.1	7.6	18.5	18.3	19.3	0.4
Slovakia	13.0	10.6	7.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	1.1
Finland	13.7	3.2	9.8	17.4	16.9	17.9	0.9
Sweden	14.0	1.2	6.8	14.9	15.0	16.1	1.5
United Kingdom	16.2	5.1	11.5	23.2	23.1	22.7	14.0
Iceland	9.2	2.1	6.2	11.8	13.7	13.7	0.0
Norway	10.5	2.3	7.1	15.0	14.9	14.6	0.7
Switzerland	15.0	1.3	4.7	18.6	17.2	17.3	1.3
Croatia	21.1	14.8	17.0	:	31.3	32.7	1.4

* 2011 data estimated

: Data not available

0.0 Less than 0.05 million

1. **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 members 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 4 out of the 9 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.

2. For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm.
3. The **EU-SILC survey** is the EU reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution, poverty and living conditions. More information can be found on the Eurostat website:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/income_social_inclusion_living_conditions/introduction.

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.

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