

At risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU28

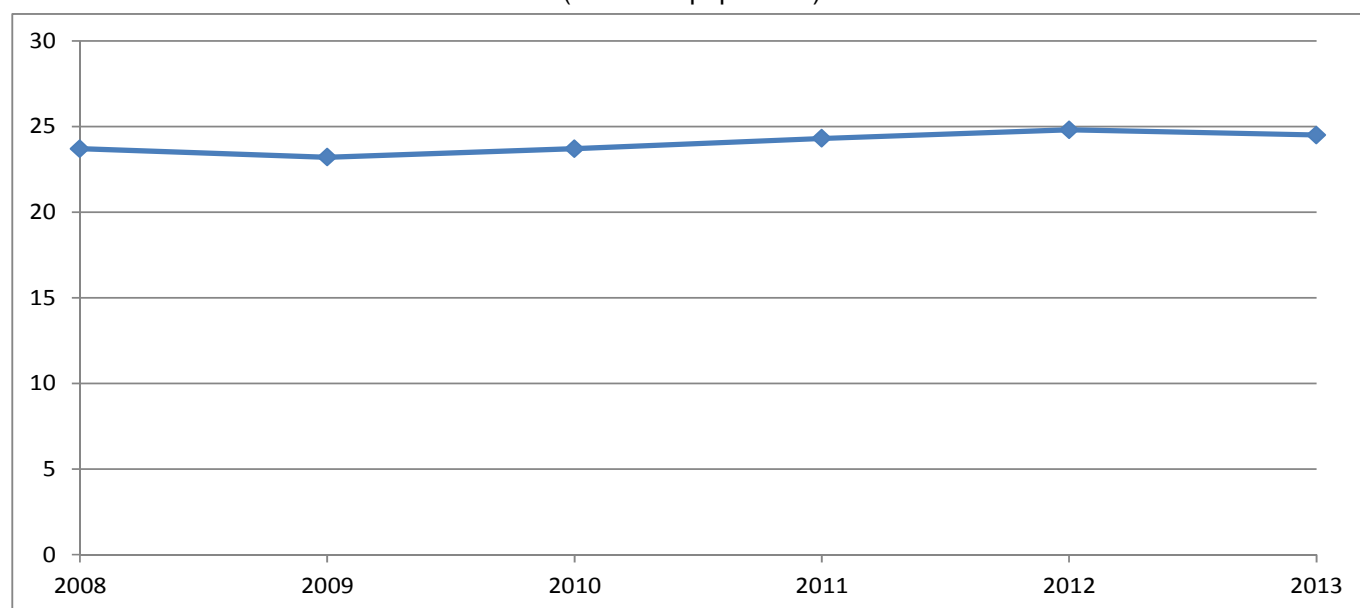
More than 120 million persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2013

Almost 1 out of every 4 persons in the EU in this situation

In 2013, 122.6 million people, or 24.5% of the population, in the **EU**¹ were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that these people were in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers² (income poverty), severely materially deprived² or living in households with very low work intensity². The proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the **EU28** in 2013 (24.5%) has slightly decreased compared with 2012 (24.8%), but is higher than in 2008 (23.8%). 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 strategy³.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** and are based on data from the EU-SILC survey⁴.

At risk of poverty or social exclusion² rate in the EU28, 2008-2013
(% of total population)



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

In 2013, more than a third of the population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in five Member States: **Bulgaria** (48.0%), **Romania** (40.4%), **Greece** (35.7%), **Latvia** (35.1%) and **Hungary** (33.5%). On the contrary, the lowest shares of persons being at risk of poverty or social exclusion were recorded in the **Czech Republic** (14.6%), the **Netherlands** (15.9%), **Finland** (16.0%) and **Sweden** (16.4%).

Among Member States for which data are available, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate has increased from 2008 to 2013 in most of the Member States, the only decreases being recorded in **Poland** (from 30.5% in 2008 to 25.8% in 2013), **Romania** (from 44.2% to 40.4%), **Austria** (from 20.6% to 18.8%), **Finland** (from 17.4% to 16.0%), **Slovakia** (from 20.6% to 19.8%), the **Czech Republic** (from 15.3% to 14.6%) and **France** (from 18.5% to 18.1%), while the share remained stable in **Belgium**.

At risk of poverty or social exclusion², 2008 and 2013

	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (Persons falling under at least one of the three criteria)				Persons at-risk- of-poverty after social transfers (%)		Persons severely materially deprived (%)		Persons aged 0-59 living in households with very low work intensity (%)	
	% of total population		in thousands		2008	2013	2008	2013	2008	2013
	2008	2013	2008	2013						
EU28*	23.8	24.5	116 580	122 650	16.6	16.7	8.5	9.6	9.1	10.7
Belgium	20.8	20.8	2 190	2 290	14.7	15.1	5.6	5.1	11.7	14.0
Bulgaria	44.8	48.0	3 420	3 490	21.4	21.0	41.2	43.0	8.1	13.0
Czech Republic	15.3	14.6	1 570	1 510	9.0	8.6	6.8	6.6	7.2	6.9
Denmark	16.3	18.9	890	1 060	11.8	12.3	2.0	3.8	8.5	12.9
Germany	20.1	20.3	16 350	16 210	15.2	16.1	5.5	5.4	11.7	9.9
Estonia	21.8	23.5	290	310	19.5	18.6	4.9	7.6	5.3	8.4
Ireland	23.7	:	1 050	:	15.5	:	5.5	:	13.7	:
Greece	28.1	35.7	3 050	3 900	20.1	23.1	11.2	20.3	7.5	18.2
Spain**	24.5	27.3	11 120	12 630	20.8	20.4	3.6	6.2	6.6	15.7
France	18.5	18.1	11 150	11 230	12.5	13.7	5.4	5.1	8.8	7.9
Croatia**	:	29.9	:	1 270	17.3	19.5	:	14.7	:	14.8
Italy	25.3	28.4	15 100	17 330	18.7	19.1	7.5	12.4	9.8	11.0
Cyprus	23.3	27.8	180	240	15.9	15.3	9.1	16.1	4.5	7.9
Latvia	34.2	35.1	740	700	25.9	19.4	19.3	24.0	5.4	10.0
Lithuania	27.6	30.8	930	920	20.0	20.6	12.3	16.0	5.1	11.0
Luxembourg	15.5	19.0	70	100	13.4	15.9	0.7	1.8	4.7	6.6
Hungary	28.2	33.5	2 790	3 290	12.4	14.3	17.9	26.8	12.0	12.6
Malta	20.1	24.0	80	100	15.3	15.7	4.3	9.5	8.6	9.0
Netherlands	14.9	15.9	2 430	2 650	10.5	10.4	1.5	2.5	8.2	9.4
Austria	20.6	18.8	1 700	1 570	15.2	14.4	5.9	4.2	7.4	7.8
Poland	30.5	25.8	11 490	9 750	16.9	17.3	17.7	11.9	8.0	7.2
Portugal	26.0	27.4	2 760	2 880	18.5	18.7	9.7	10.9	6.3	12.2
Romania	44.2	40.4	9 420	8 600	23.4	22.4	32.9	28.5	8.3	6.4
Slovenia	18.5	20.4	360	410	12.3	14.5	6.7	6.7	6.7	8.0
Slovakia	20.6	19.8	1 110	1 070	10.9	12.8	11.8	10.2	5.2	7.6
Finland	17.4	16.0	910	850	13.6	11.8	3.5	2.5	7.5	9.0
Sweden	14.9	16.4	1 370	1 600	12.2	14.8	1.4	1.4	5.5	7.1
United Kingdom**	23.2	24.8	14 070	15 590	18.7	15.9	4.5	8.3	10.4	13.2
Iceland	11.8	13.0	36	40	10.1	9.3	0.8	1.9	2.6	6.2
Norway	15.0	14.1	700	710	11.4	10.9	2.0	1.9	6.5	6.4
Switzerland	18.1	16.4	1 330	1 280	15.7	14.5	2.1	1.0	3.3	4.1

* EU27 data for 2008; EU28 estimates for 2013.

** Spain: change of data source in 2013 income data; Croatia: 2008 data on At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers estimated from Household Budget Survey; United Kingdom: Change of provider of cross-sectional EU-SILC data: until 2012 data were collected by the ONS, from 2012 onwards they are collected by the Department for Work and Pensions.

: Data not available

17% of the population in the EU28 at risk of income poverty...

Looking at each of the three elements contributing to being at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 16.7% of the **EU28** population in 2013 were at risk of poverty after social transfers, meaning that their disposable income was below their national at-risk-of-poverty threshold². The proportion of persons at risk of income poverty in the **EU28** in 2013 (16.7%) has decreased compared with 2012 (16.9%) but is slightly higher than in 2008 (16.6%). It is important to note that the at-risk-of-income-poverty rate is a relative measure of poverty and that the threshold varies greatly between Member States. It also varies over time: in a number of Member States the threshold has fallen in recent years due to the economic crisis. In 2013, more than 20% of the population were at risk of income poverty in **Greece** (23.1%), **Romania** (22.4%), **Bulgaria** (21.0%), **Lithuania** (20.6%) and **Spain** (20.4%). The lowest rates were observed in the **Czech Republic** (8.6%) and the **Netherlands** (10.4%). Compared with 2008, the proportion of persons at risk of income poverty has increased (based on EU-SILC data) in sixteen Member States and decreased in ten.

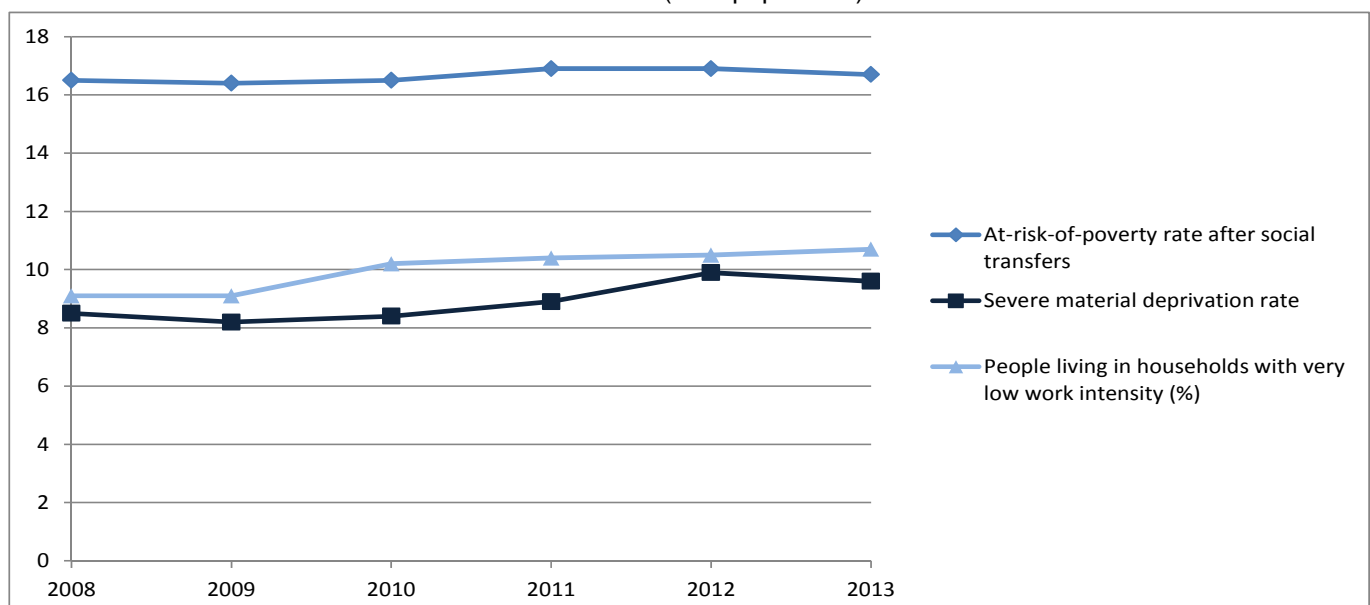
...10% severely materially deprived...

In the **EU28** in 2013, 9.6% 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 home². The proportion of persons severely materially deprived in the **EU28** in 2013 (9.6%) has decreased compared with 2012 (9.9%) but is still higher than in 2008 (8.5%). The share of those severely materially deprived in 2013 varied significantly among Member States, ranging from more than a quarter of the total population in **Bulgaria** (43.0%), **Romania** (28.5%) and **Hungary** (26.8%), to less than 5% in **Sweden** (1.4%), **Luxembourg** (1.8%), the **Netherlands** and **Finland** (both 2.5%), **Denmark** (3.8%) and **Austria** (4.2%). Compared with 2008, the proportion of persons severely materially deprived has increased in fifteen Member States, remained stable in **Slovenia** and **Sweden**, and decreased in nine.

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

For low work intensity, 10.7% of the population aged 0-59 in the **EU28** lived in households where the adults worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year². This proportion has constantly increased in the **EU28** since 2008. In 2013, **Greece** (18.2%), **Croatia** (15.9%), **Spain** (15.7%), **Belgium** (14.0%) and the **United Kingdom** (13.2%) had the highest proportions of those living in very low work intensity households, and **Romania** (6.4%), **Luxembourg** (6.6%), the **Czech Republic** (6.9%), **Sweden** (7.1%) and **Poland** (7.2%) the lowest. Compared with 2008, the share of persons aged 0-59 living in households with very low work intensity has increased in nearly all Member States, except in **Romania** (from 8.3% in 2008 to 6.4% in 2013), **Germany** (from 11.7% to 9.9%), **France** (from 8.8% to 7.9%), **Poland** (from 8.0% to 7.2%) and the **Czech Republic** (from 7.2% to 6.9%).

Evolution of the three components of the at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in the EU28, 2008-2013 / (% of population)



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.

1. EU27 data for 2008 and 2009, EU28 data for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.
2. **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.
3. For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm.
4. 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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