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At risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU27

In 2011, 27% of children aged less than 18 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Risk of poverty decreases with increasing education level of parents

In the **EU27**, children are at greater risk of poverty or social exclusion than the rest of the population. In 2011, 27% of children aged less than 18 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the **EU27**, compared with 24% of adults (aged 18-64) and 21% of the elderly (aged 65 and over). Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion are those who are 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.

In a majority of Member States, children are more affected by at least one of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion than the other two age groups. In 2011, the highest shares of those aged less than 18 who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion were registered in **Bulgaria** (52%), **Romania** (49%), **Latvia** (44%), **Hungary** (40%) and **Ireland** (38% in 2010), and the lowest in **Sweden**, **Denmark** and **Finland** (all 16%), followed by **Slovenia** (17%), the **Netherlands** (18%) and **Austria** (19%).

These figures come from a report² published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** and are based on data from the EU Statistics on Income and Living Condition (EU-SILC) survey³. Among others, the report looks at several factors affecting child poverty, such as the composition of the household in which the children live and the labour market situation of their parents.

Almost one child in two with parents of low education level is at risk of poverty in the EU27

Looking in more detail at monetary poverty, almost half of all children whose parents had a low education level⁴ (at the most lower secondary education) were at risk of poverty in the **EU27** in 2011, compared with 22% of children residing with parents who had a medium education level⁴ (at the most upper secondary education) and 7% of children with parents with a higher education level⁴ (tertiary education).

In all Member States, the risk of poverty for children decreased when the education level of their parents was high. The largest differences between the share of children at risk of poverty who lived in a low and in a high education level household were found in **Romania** (78% of children in a low education level household compared with 2% in a high education level household), the **Czech Republic** (76% and 5%), **Slovakia** (77% and 7%), **Bulgaria** (71% and 2%) and **Hungary** (68% and 3%), and the smallest differences in **Denmark** (17% and 5%) and **Finland** (24% and 6%).

Almost one child in three with a migrant background is at risk of poverty in the EU27

In the **EU27**, children who have a migrant background⁵, meaning that at least one parent was born in another country than the current country of residence, were at greater risk of monetary poverty than children whose parents were native born⁵. In 2011, 32% of children residing with at least one foreign born parent were at risk of poverty in the **EU27**, compared with 18% of children whose parents were native born.

This was the case in a majority of Member States. In **Estonia, Hungary** and **Malta** children with native born parents had a higher risk of poverty, while there was almost no difference between the two groups in the **Czech Republic**.

With regard to children who lived with at least one foreign born parent, the share of those at risk of poverty varied significantly between Member States in 2011, ranging from 15% in the **Czech Republic**, 17% in **Estonia** and 18% in **Malta** to 46% in **Spain**, 43% in **Greece** and 39% in **France**. The share of children at risk of poverty who lived with native born parents was lowest in **Denmark** and **Austria** (both 8%) and highest in **Romania** (33%).

At risk of poverty or social exclusion¹ by age group, 2011 (%)

	Total population	Children (less than 18)	Adults (18-64)	Elderly (65 and over)
EU27*	24.2	27.0	24.3	20.5
Belgium	21.0	23.3	20.0	21.6
Bulgaria	49.1	51.8	45.2	61.1
Czech Republic	15.3	20.0	15.1	10.7
Denmark	18.9	16.0	20.5	16.6
Germany	19.9	19.9	21.3	15.3
Estonia	23.1	24.8	24.2	17.0
Ireland**	29.9	37.6	29.7	12.9
Greece	31.0	30.4	31.6	29.3
Spain	27.0	30.6	27.2	22.3
France	19.3	23.0	20.1	11.5
Italy	28.2	32.3	28.4	24.2
Cyprus	23.5	21.8	20.8	40.4
Latvia	40.1	43.6	40.9	33.2
Lithuania	33.4	33.4	33.6	32.5
Luxembourg	16.8	21.7	17.6	4.7
Hungary	31.0	39.6	31.7	18.0
Malta	21.4	25.8	20.1	21.5
Netherlands	15.7	18.0	17.0	6.9
Austria	16.9	19.2	16.2	17.1
Poland	27.2	29.8	27.0	24.7
Portugal	24.4	28.6	23.2	24.5
Romania	40.3	49.1	39.0	35.3
Slovenia	19.3	17.3	18.7	24.2
Slovakia	20.6	26.0	20.6	14.5
Finland	17.9	16.1	18.0	19.8
Sweden	16.1	15.9	15.4	18.6
United Kingdom	22.7	26.9	21.4	22.7
Iceland	13.7	16.6	14.3	4.5
Norway	14.6	13.0	15.9	11.4
Switzerland	17.2	18.9	13.9	28.3
Croatia	32.7	32.2	32.5	34.0

* Estimated

** 2010 data

Children at risk of monetary poverty¹, 2011 (%)

	By highest level of education attained by parents ⁴ :			By country of birth of parents ⁵ :	
	Low	Medium	High	Native-born	At least one foreign-born
EU27*	49.2	22.4	7.5	18.3	31.5
Belgium	50.5	22.5	6.4	12.1	33.9
Bulgaria	71.4	18.1	2.4	27.9	u
Czech Republic	76.2	16.3	5.4	15.2	14.9
Denmark	17.3	12.0	5.3	7.8	24.8
Germany	55.1	21.5	6.7	14.2	24.8
Estonia	52.8	25.4	8.2	19.7	16.9
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:
Greece	50.2	28.7	7.9	19.8	43.1
Spain	48.1	25.3	12.7	23.2	45.5
France	52.5	23.7	5.7	14.1	39.3
Italy	46.3	22.6	7.5	24.4	33.5
Cyprus	33.5	14.8	4.3	8.9	22.0
Latvia	52.8	32.8	4.8	24.6	25.3
Lithuania	64.1	34.6	9.2	23.3	37.3
Luxembourg	40.5	18.6	8.2	11.4	24.5
Hungary	67.8	18.8	2.9	22.9	21.4
Malta	31.7	11.6	4.2	21.3	17.9
Netherlands	45.7	18.4	6.7	10.9	29.6
Austria	42.2	15.5	6.1	8.4	28.1
Poland	57.1	26.7	6.9	21.5	u
Portugal	31.1	14.1	4.5	20.6	26.7
Romania	78.3	27.3	1.8	33.3	u
Slovenia	39.0	20.0	4.0	12.8	23.8
Slovakia	77.1	24.4	7.0	21.0	u
Finland	23.9	18.1	5.9	10.0	26.6
Sweden	54.4	17.0	8.3	9.5	29.1
United Kingdom	42.0	20.8	9.5	16.2	23.2
Iceland	15.6	17.1	6.2	10.2	18.7
Norway	36.1	8.8	4.4	5.7	25.3
Switzerland	43.0	21.3	6.7	12.0	22.7
Croatia	59.8	21.3	5.6	19.8	27.4

* Estimated

: Data not available

u Data unreliable

1. **Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion** are those falling into at least one of the following three conditions:

- **Persons at-risk-of-poverty** live 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 using the following weights: 1.0 for the first adult, 0.5 for each other household member aged 14 or over and 0.3 for each household member aged under 14.
- **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 the adults aged 18-59 on average 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.

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. For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

2. Eurostat, **Statistics in Focus**, 4/2013, "**Children were the age group at the highest risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2011**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
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.
4. Refers to children living in a household with one or both parents and to the highest level of education attained by (at least one of) the parents. Data are classified according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED): low education corresponds to ISCED levels 0-2 (pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education); medium education corresponds to ISCED levels 3 and 4 (upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education) and high education corresponds to ISCED levels 5 and 6 (tertiary education).
5. A child is considered to have a migrant background if it has at least one foreign born parent. A child is considered to live in a household with 'native born' parents if both parents were born in the country of residence of the household, or in the case that only one parent lives in the household, if that parent is native born.

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