

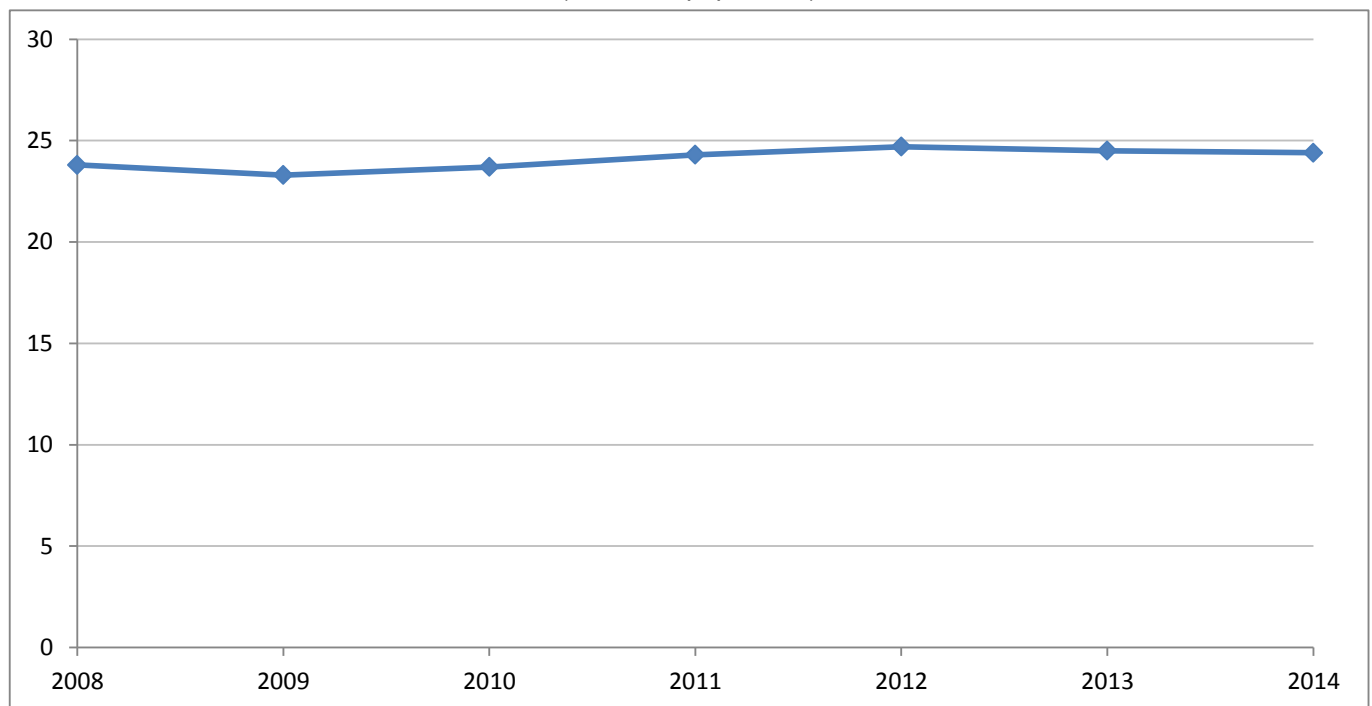
This News Release has been revised to correct an error in the last table. By error, the currency for Lithuania was stated as euro. The correct currency for the years 2008 and 2014 was the Lithuanian litas (LTL). We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
**The risk of poverty or social exclusion affected
 1 in 4 persons in the EU in 2014**
 122 million persons in this situation in the EU

In 2014, 122 million people, or 24.4% 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 a slight decrease in 2013 following three consecutive years of rise, the proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the **EU** remains in 2014 nearly stable but higher than its 2008 level (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 strategy.

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

At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in the EU, 2008-2014
 (% of total population)



EU aggregate: 2008 and 2009 data exclude Croatia. 2014 data include estimates.

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

In 2014, more than a third of the population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in three Member States: **Romania** (40.2%), **Bulgaria** (40.1%) and **Greece** (36.0%). 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** (14.8%), **Sweden** (16.9%), the **Netherlands** (17.1%), **Finland** (17.3%) and **Denmark** (17.8%).

Largest decrease in the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate in Poland, highest increase in Greece

Among Member States for which data are available, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate has grown from 2008 to 2014 in fourteen Member States, with the highest increases being recorded in **Greece** (from 28.1% in 2008 to 36.0% in 2014, or +7.9 percentage point), **Spain** (+4.7 pp), **Cyprus** (+4.1 pp), **Malta** (+3.7 pp), **Hungary** (+2.9 pp) and **Italy** (+2.8 pp). In contrast, the largest decreases among Member States without break in time series were observed in **Poland** (from 30.5% to 24.7%, or -5.8 pp), **Romania** (-4.0 pp) and **Slovakia** (-2.2 pp). At EU level, the percentage of total population being at risk of poverty or social exclusion has risen from 23.8% in 2008 to 24.4% in 2014.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, 2008 and 2014

	% of total population		in thousands	
	2008	2014	2008	2014
EU*	23.8	24.4	116 570	121 860
Belgium	20.8	21.2	2 190	2 340
Bulgaria**	44.8	40.1	3 420	2 910
Czech Republic	15.3	14.8	1 570	1 530
Denmark**	16.3	17.8	890	1 000
Germany	20.1	20.6	16 340	16 510
Estonia	21.8	:	290	:
Ireland	23.7	:	1 050	:
Greece	28.1	36.0	3 050	3 880
Spain	24.5	29.2	11 120	13 400
France	18.5	18.6	11 150	11 520
Croatia	:	:	:	:
Italy**	25.3	28.1	15 100	17 040
Cyprus	23.3	27.4	180	230
Latvia	34.2	32.7	740	650
Lithuania	28.3	27.3	910	800
Luxembourg	15.5	:	70	:
Hungary	28.2	31.1	2 790	3 040
Malta	20.1	23.8	80	100
Netherlands**	14.9	17.1	2 430	2 850
Austria	20.6	19.2	1 700	1 610
Poland	30.5	24.7	11 490	9 340
Portugal	26.0	27.5	2 760	2 860
Romania	44.2	40.2	9 420	8 550
Slovenia	18.5	20.4	360	410
Slovakia	20.6	18.4	1 110	960
Finland	17.4	17.3	910	930
Sweden	14.9	16.9	1 370	1 640
United Kingdom	23.2	:	14 070	:
Iceland	11.8	:	40	:
Norway	15.0	:	700	:
Switzerland	18.1	:	1 330	:

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten thousands

* Data for 2008 exclude Croatia.

Data for 2014 include estimates for missing Member States.

** Bulgaria and Denmark: break in series. Italy and the Netherlands: 2014 data are provisional.

: Data not available

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

17% of the population 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, 17.2% of the EU population in 2014 were at risk of poverty after social transfers, meaning that their disposable income was below their national at-risk-of-poverty threshold (see the corresponding table). This proportion of persons at risk of income poverty in the EU has increased compared with 2013 and also with 2008 (both 16.6%). As the thresholds reflect actual income distribution in the countries, they vary greatly between Member States and also over time. Across the EU Member States for which data are available, more than 1 in 5 persons was at risk of income poverty in **Romania** (25.4%), **Spain** (22.2%), **Greece** (22.1%), **Bulgaria** (21.8%) and **Latvia** (21.2%). The lowest rates were observed in the **Czech Republic** (9.7%), the **Netherlands** (11.6%) and **Denmark** (11.9%). Compared with 2008, the proportion of persons at risk of income poverty has increased in eighteen Member States for which data are available, and has decreased in five.

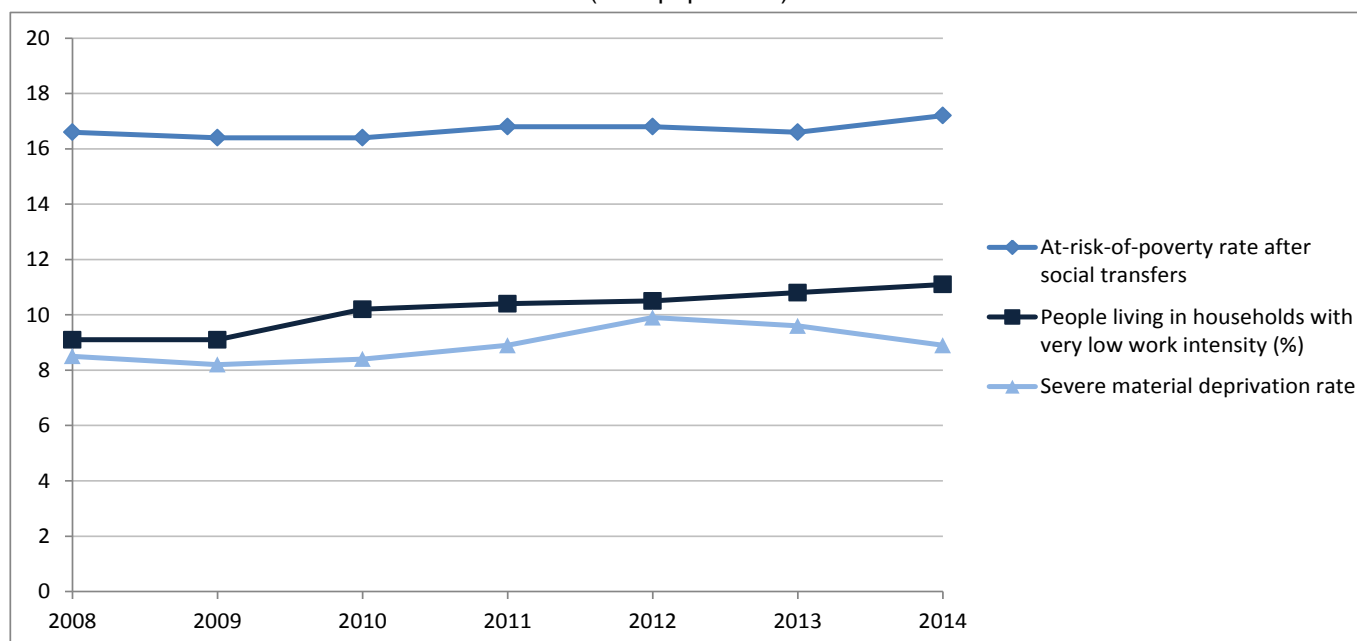
...9% severely materially deprived...

In the EU in 2014, 8.9% 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 of persons severely materially deprived in the EU has decreased compared with 2013 (9.6%) but remains higher than in 2008 (8.5%). The share of those severely materially deprived in 2014 varied significantly among Member States for which data are available, ranging from more than 20% of the total population in **Bulgaria** (33.1%), **Romania** (26.3%), **Hungary** (23.9%) and **Greece** (21.5%), to 5% or less in **Sweden** (0.7%), **Finland** (2.8%), **Denmark** and the **Netherlands** (both 3.2%), **Austria** (4.0%), **France** (4.8%) and **Germany** (5.0%). Compared with 2008, the proportion of persons severely materially deprived has increased in eleven Member States for which data are available, and decreased in twelve.

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

For low work intensity, 11.1% 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 constantly increased in the EU since 2008. In 2014, **Greece** (17.2%), **Spain** (17.1%) and **Belgium** (14.6%) had the highest proportions of those living in very low work intensity households, while **Sweden** and **Romania** (both 6.4%), **Slovakia** (7.1%), **Poland** (7.3%) and the **Czech Republic** (7.6%) had the lowest among Member States for which data are available. 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 **Germany**, **Poland** and **Romania**.

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



EU aggregate: 2008 and 2009 data exclude Croatia. 2014 data include estimates.

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 2014

	At-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (%)		Persons severely materially deprived (%)		Persons aged 0-59 living in households with very low work intensity (%)	
	2008	2014	2008	2014	2008	2014
EU*	16.6	17.2	8.5	8.9	9.1	11.1
Belgium	14.7	15.5	5.6	5.9	11.7	14.6
Bulgaria**	21.4	21.8	41.2	33.1	8.1	12.1
Czech Republic	9.0	9.7	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.6
Denmark**	11.8	11.9	2.0	3.2	8.5	12.1
Germany	15.2	16.7	5.5	5.0	11.7	10.0
Estonia	19.5	:	4.9	:	5.3	:
Ireland	15.5	:	5.5	:	13.7	:
Greece	20.1	22.1	11.2	21.5	7.5	17.2
Spain	20.8	22.2	3.6	7.1	6.6	17.1
France	12.5	13.3	5.4	4.8	8.8	9.7
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:
Italy**	18.7	19.6	7.5	11.5	9.8	12.0
Cyprus	15.9	14.4	9.1	15.3	4.5	9.7
Latvia	25.9	21.2	19.3	19.2	5.4	9.6
Lithuania	20.9	19.1	12.5	13.6	6.1	8.8
Luxembourg	13.4	:	0.7	:	4.7	:
Hungary	12.4	14.6	17.9	23.9	12.0	12.2
Malta	15.3	15.9	4.3	10.2	8.6	9.8
Netherlands**	10.5	11.6	1.5	3.2	8.2	11.1
Austria	15.2	14.1	5.9	4.0	7.4	9.1
Poland	16.9	17.0	17.7	10.4	8.0	7.3
Portugal	18.5	19.5	9.7	10.6	6.3	12.2
Romania	23.4	25.4	32.9	26.3	8.3	6.4
Slovenia	12.3	14.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	8.7
Slovakia	10.9	12.6	11.8	9.9	5.2	7.1
Finland	13.6	12.8	3.5	2.8	7.5	10.0
Sweden	12.2	15.1	1.4	0.7	5.5	6.4
United Kingdom	18.7	:	4.5	:	10.4	:
Iceland	10.1	:	0.8	:	2.6	:
Norway	11.4	:	2.0	:	6.5	:
Switzerland	15.7	:	2.1	:	3.3	:

* Data for 2008 exclude Croatia.

Data for 2014 include estimates for missing Member States.

** Bulgaria: break in series on material deprivation. Denmark: break in series on income variables. Italy and the Netherlands: 2014 data are provisional.

: Data not available

At-risk-of-poverty thresholds in the EU, 2008 and 2014
(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	2014	2008	2014	2008	2014
Belgium	euro	17 985	21 705	10 791	13 023	22 661	27 348
Bulgaria	BGN	4 247	6 476	2 548	3 885	5 351	8 159
Czech Republic	CZK	168 472	198 028	101 083	118 817	212 275	249 515
Denmark*	DKK	180 015	207 183	108 009	124 310	226 819	261 051
Germany	euro	18 309	19 733	10 986	11 840	23 070	24 864
Estonia	euro	5 547	:	3 328	:	6 989	:
Ireland	euro	22 995	:	13 797	:	28 973	:
Greece	euro	10 800	7 680	6 480	4 608	13 608	9 677
Spain	euro	12 628	13 269	7 577	7 961	15 911	16 719
France	euro	18 899	21 243	11 340	12 746	23 813	26 766
Croatia	HRK	:	:	:	:	:	:
Italy*	euro	15 639	15 821	9 383	9 493	19 705	19 934
Cyprus	euro	16 024	14 400	9 614	8 640	20 190	18 144
Latvia	euro	4 740	5 203	2 844	3 122	5 972	6 556
Lithuania	LTL	14 196	16 652	8 517	9 991	17 886	20 982
Luxembourg	euro	30 917	:	18 550	:	38 955	:
Hungary	HUF	1 105 926	1 354 933	663 556	812 960	1 393 467	1 707 216
Malta	euro	10 009	12 787	6 005	7 672	12 611	16 112
Netherlands**	euro	19 522	20 891	11 713	12 535	24 598	26 322
Austria	euro	19 413	23 211	11 648	13 926	24 461	29 245
Poland	PLN	15 720	22 399	9 432	13 439	19 807	28 223
Portugal	euro	8 143	8 229	4 886	4 937	10 260	10 368
Romania	RON	6 513	9 704	3 908	5 823	8 207	12 228
Slovenia	euro	10 893	11 909	6 536	7 146	13 725	15 006
Slovakia	euro	4 792	6 809	2 875	4 086	6 038	8 580
Finland	euro	19 794	23 702	11 876	14 221	24 940	29 865
Sweden	SEK	190 305	234 633	114 183	140 780	239 784	295 637
United Kingdom	GBP	15 068	:	9 041	:	18 986	:
Iceland	ISK	2 822 193	:	1 693 316	:	3 555 963	:
Norway	NOK	254 758	:	152 855	:	320 996	:
Switzerland	CHF	44 332	:	26 599	:	55 858	:

* Denmark: break in series on income variables. Italy and the Netherlands: 2014 data are provisional.

: Data not available

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

The **at-risk-of-poverty rate** is the share of people whose total household income (after social transfers, tax and other deductions) that is 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-income-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 2008-2014 (Greece, Cyprus) or stayed nearly stable (Spain, Italy and Portugal) due to the economic crisis.

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.

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

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.

For more information

The UN webpage dedicated to the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#).

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

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

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Vincent BOURGAIIS
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Production of data:

Jacopo GRAZZINI
Tel: +352-4301-31 753
jacopo.grazzini@ec.europa.eu

 [@EU Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)



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