

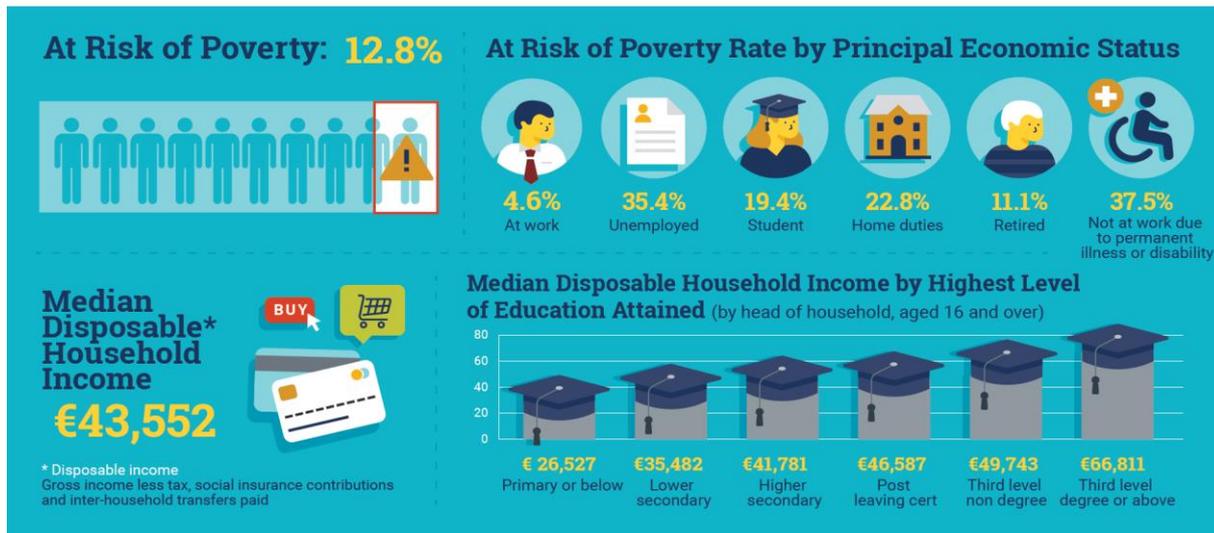


European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland

Briefing on 2019 Income and Poverty statistics (CSO - Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2019)



Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2019



Infographic shown on the CSO website of 2019 figures

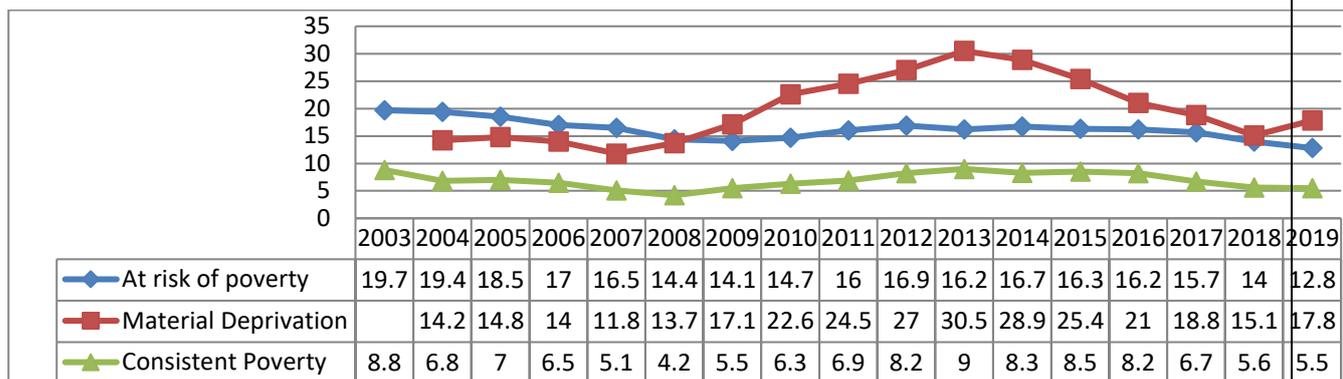
The Central Statistics Office recently published the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) for 2019. This report provides important information on income, poverty, and inequality in Ireland, how it has changed over the years and how it impacts on certain groups and households in society.

The SILC survey does not include the poverty levels among groups such as Travellers, migrants or those who are homeless, and it cannot tell us what the impact of poverty is on these communities. However it does tell us if Ireland is making progress towards its own poverty target, whether the policies it is using to address poverty are working and which groups are most at risk.

What is some of the headline information from the 2019 survey?

- The CSO's Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2019 shows a decrease in those at-risk of poverty and increase in material deprivation. Those who experience both and are in consistent poverty showed almost no change from 2018 to 2019.
- In 2019, 12.8% of the population were living below the poverty line (at risk-of poverty) of €14,723 per year or €275.72 per week.

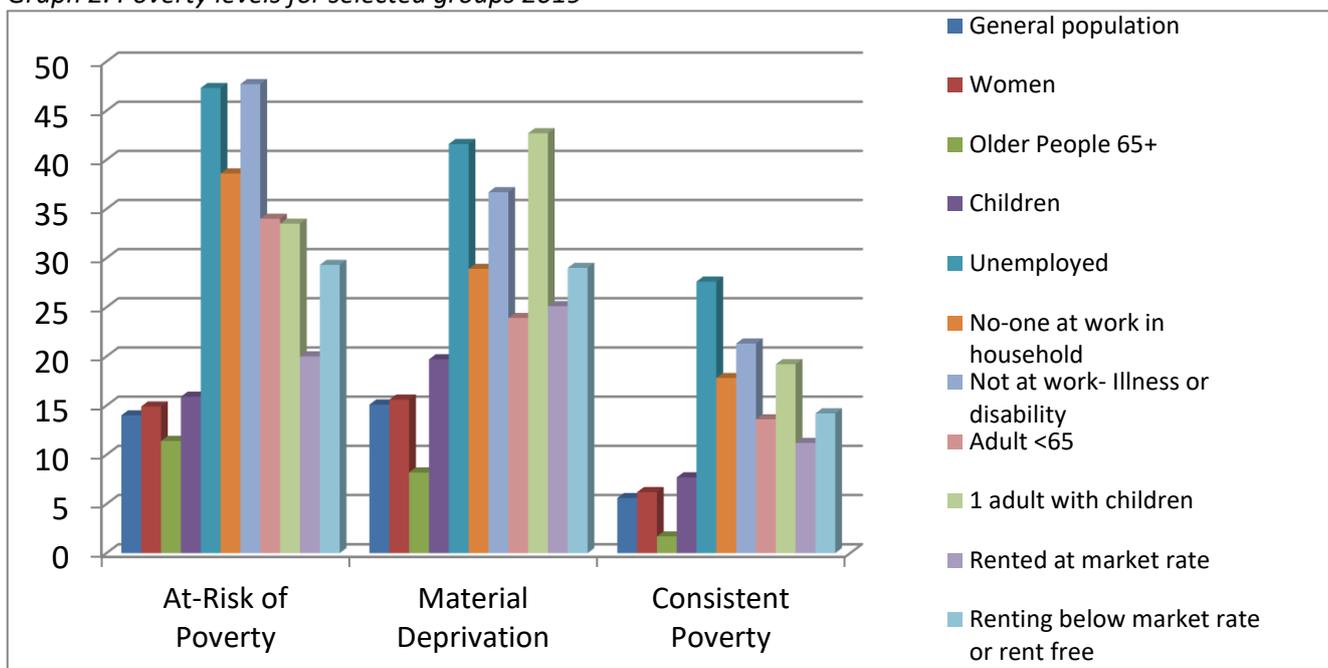
Poverty Data for 2003-2019 and Poverty for Specific Groups:



- The at-risk- of-poverty rate decreased by 1.2%, from 14.0% in 2018 compared to 12.8% in 2019. The at risk of poverty rate represents anyone on an income below 60% of the national median (middle) income.
- Material deprivation refers to those who cannot afford two or more of the eleven items considered essential¹. Material deprivation levels increased from 15.1% in 2018 to 17.8% in 2019, up 4% from a deprivation rate of 13.8% in 2008. This means that around 872,912 people experienced material deprivation in 2019.
- Consistent poverty refers to those who are both at risk of poverty and who experience material deprivation. Consistent poverty reduced from 5.6% in 2018 to 5.5% in 2019, which is not a significant decrease and is the same figure as consistent poverty in 2009.
- The consistent poverty rate being 5.5% and only down by .1% is not enough. This represents over 270,000 people. The Roadmap for Social Inclusion aims to reduce the national consistent poverty rate to 2% or less and to make Ireland one of the most socially inclusive States in the EU by 2025.
- The original national poverty target, set after the crash in 2012, was to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2020. This would have involved lifting more than 180,000 out of consistent poverty by 2020, compared to 2018. The Government has not met this target.
- While the consistent poverty in 2019 was 5.5% nationally, some groups in society are more likely to live in consistent poverty than others and have poverty rates well above the national average. This includes children with a consistent poverty rate of 8.1%; women at 5.6%; unemployed people at 20.2%; and those not at work due to illness or disability at 18.1%. Households with single adults under 65 years are at 2.3 %, households with one adult and children under 18 years old at 17.1%, with a consistent poverty rate of 13.5% in those living in rented accommodation.

¹ Two pairs of strong shoes; A warm waterproof overcoat; Buy new (not second-hand) clothes; Eat meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day; Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week; Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money; Keep the home adequately warm; Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year; Replace any worn out furniture; Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month; Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight for entertainment

Graph 2: Poverty levels for selected groups 2019



- Equivalised income is a measure of household income that takes account of the differences in a household's size and composition, and is made equivalent for all household sizes and compositions. The middle equivalised income in Ireland increased 4.8% from €22,872 in 2018 to €23,979 in 2019, while the average equivalised income increased 4.4% from €26,766 in 2018 to €27,941.²
- Income inequality is measured in two different ways and is reported as part of SILC. One is the Gini coefficient³ and the other is income quintile share ratio. In 2019 the Gini coefficient was 28.8% compared with 29.7% in 2018. This decrease is not statistically significant. In 2019 the quintile share ratio stood at 4.1, this indicates that the total income of the richest 20% was over four times that of the poorest 20%. The corresponding value for 2018 was 4.4, the change is not statistically significant.
- The general downward trend since 2014 indicates a decrease in income inequality across the total income distribution. Both the quintile share ratio and the Gini coefficient show a statistically significant decrease in income inequality between 2017 and 2019.

Conclusions

- Poverty levels are reducing, but still above pre-crisis levels, particularly in terms of the number of people in poverty. There are also people and groups in society who are particularly at risk and remain in consistent poverty.
- The Government has not achieved its aim to reduce poverty to 2% by 2020. The Government's National Economic Plan, which aims to help Ireland recover from the devastating consequences of COVID-19, must have a clear focus on reducing poverty and inequality if we are to meet the anti-poverty targets the Government has signed up to and meet the aims within the Roadmap for Social Inclusion strategy.

² To get the disposable income for an individual, the disposable (after tax) household income is divided by the household size, weighted for the number of adults and children, to get the disposable income for each person in the household. The median income is the middle of these, not the average.

• ³ If there was perfect equality (i.e. each person receives the same income) the Gini coefficient would be 0%. A Gini coefficient of 100% would indicate there was total inequality and the entire national income was in the hands of one person

- Addressing poverty can only be achieved in any effective way by implementing an integrated strategy across all relevant policies. This includes economic, social, and environmental policy. It must tackle the root causes of poverty and ensure access to adequate incomes, quality services, and decent jobs for those who can work. It must also involve proofing all relevant policy for its impact on poverty and giving an effective and meaningful voice to those impacted on by poverty in how policies are developed and implemented.
- The Government must ensure that all social and economic policies are put through a poverty impact assessment process to assess the impact of each policy on households living in consistent poverty, or at-risk of poverty, and to ensure that the implementation of Government policies and strategies do not have unintended negative consequences for those in society who are most marginalised.
- The full CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2019 are available [here](#) and EAPN Ireland's press release following its publication can be found [here](#).

Table 1: Poverty levels for selected groups

		At Risk of Poverty			Living in Deprivation			Consistent Poverty		
		2008	2018	2019	2008	2018	2019	2008	2018	2019
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
		State	14.4	14.0	12.8	13.8	15.1	17.8	4.2	5.6
Gender	Males	14.0	13.0	12.6	13.3	14.7	17.4	4.0	5.1	5.4
	Females	14.9	14.9	12.9	14.3	15.6	18.3	4.5	6.2	5.6
Age	0-17 years	18.0	15.9	15.3	18.1	19.7	23.3	6.3	7.7	8.1
	18-64 years	13.5	13.7	12.3	12.8	14.8	17.1	3.9	5.6	5.1
	65 years +		11.4	10.5		8.2	11.2	1.7	1.7	2.3
Economic Status	At work	6.7	5.1	4.6	6.6	9.5	11.4	1.1	1.6	1.3
	Unemployed	23.0	47.3	34.5	37.0	41.6	36.0	9.7	27.6	20.2
	Home Duties	21.7	23.2	22.8	17.5	21.0	24.2	6.9	8.4	9.9
	Not at work due to illness or disability	25.5	47.7	37.5	36.4	36.7	43.3	13.2	21.3	18.1
Household Composition	1 adult aged 65+	11.0	19.7	17.6	11.7	13.8		0.9	3.5	4.1
	1 adult aged <65	25.7	34.0	28.8	20.6	23.9		9.8	13.6	10.0
	1 adult with children aged under 18	36.4	33.5	29.7	35.9	42.7		17.8	19.2	17.1
Number of persons at work in household	0	32.7	48.6	38.6	30.5	34.2	28.9	13.2	21.3	17.8
	3+		2.1	0.5	5.9	10.5	8.6	0.9	0.0	0.0
Tenure status	Owner Occupied	11.4	9.9	9.1	8.7	12.6	10.0	2.3	3.5	2.5
	Rented at market rate	17.7	26.2	20.0	18.0	26.9	25.1	2.9	10.6	11.2
	Rented at below the market rate or rent free	29.6	31.2	29.3	40.1	37.6	29.0	16.4	16.6	14.2
Urban/rural location	Urban	11.9	13.6	16.2	14.3	16.0	19.8	4.2	5.5	6.5
	Rural	18.7	14.7	12.7	13.0	13.4	13.5	8.3	5.8	3.1
Region	Northern and Western	-	20.1	28.6	-	17.2	19.5	-	7.8	6.9
	Southern	-	15.0	13.3	-	15.2	17.1	-	6.5	5.7
	Eastern and Midlands	-	11.1	10.4	-	14.4	17.7	-	4.2	4.8