

20 November: Universal Children's Day

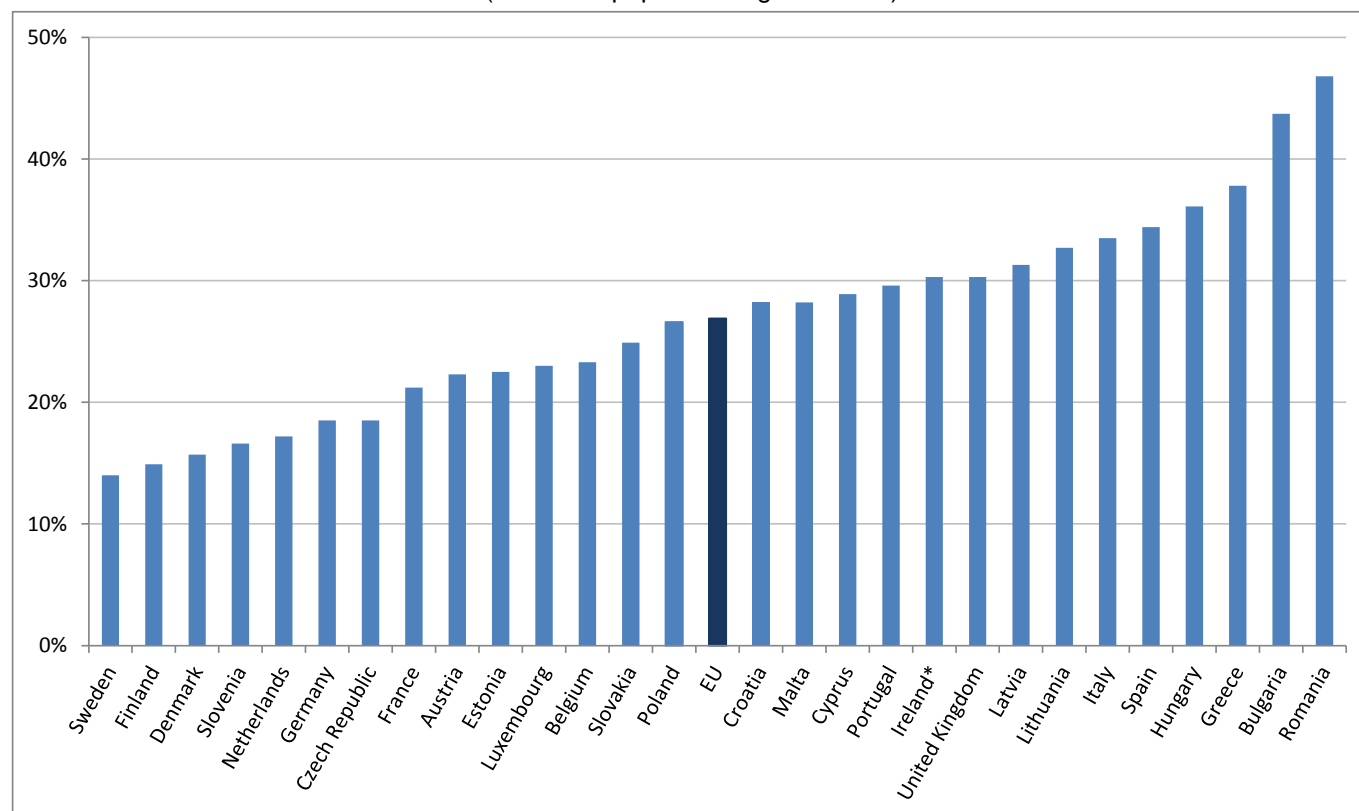
One in four children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU

25 million children in this situation in the EU

In 2015, around 25 million children, or 26.9% of the population aged 0 to 17, in the **European Union (EU)** were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were living in households in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or with very low work intensity. Since 2010, the proportion of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the **EU** has slightly decreased, from 27.5% in 2010 to 26.9% in 2015. However contrasting trends were observed across the EU Member States.

These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on the occasion of the Universal Children's Day celebrated on 20 November.

Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in the EU, 2015
(% of total population aged 0 to 17)



* 2014 data instead of 2015.

Share of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate highest in Romania and Bulgaria, lowest in EU Nordic Member States

In 2015 more than a third of children were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in six Member States: **Romania** (46.8%), **Bulgaria** (43.7%), followed by **Greece** (37.8%), **Hungary** (36.1%), **Spain** (34.4%) and **Italy** (33.5%). At the opposite end of the scale, the lowest shares of children being at risk of poverty or social exclusion were recorded in **Sweden** (14.0%), **Finland** (14.9%) and **Denmark** (15.7%), ahead of **Slovenia** (16.6%), the **Netherlands** (17.2%), the **Czech Republic** and **Germany** (both 18.5%) in 2015.

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

In approximately half of the EU Member States, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate has grown from 2010 to 2015, with the highest increases being recorded in **Greece** (from 28.7% in 2010 to 37.8% in 2015, or +9.1 percentage points), **Cyprus** (+7.1 pp), and **Italy** (+4.0 pp). In contrast, the largest decrease among EU Member States was observed in **Latvia** (from 42.2% to 31.3%, or -10.9 pp), followed by **Bulgaria** (-6.1 pp) and **Poland** (-4.2 pp). At the **EU** level, the percentage of the total population aged below 18 being at risk of poverty or social exclusion decreased by 0.6 pp from 27.5% in 2010 to 26.9% in 2015.

Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, 2010 and 2015

	% of total population		in thousands	
	2010	2015	2010	2015
EU	27.5	26.9	25 957	25 264
Belgium	23.2	23.3	526	543
Bulgaria	49.8	43.7	635	527
Czech Republic	18.9	18.5	354	348
Denmark	15.1	15.7	182	183
Germany	21.7	18.5	2 904	2497
Estonia	24.0	22.5	59	55
Ireland*	34.1	30.3	412	374
Greece	28.7	37.8	547	710
Spain	33.3	34.4	2 769	2 863
France	22.9	21.2	2 998	2 860
Croatia	29.4	29.0	233	233
Italy	29.5	33.5	3 046	3 505
Cyprus	21.8	28.9	39	50
Latvia	42.2	31.3	157	108
Lithuania	35.8	32.7	209	173
Luxembourg	22.3	23.0	24	24
Hungary	38.7	36.1	713	608
Malta	26.7	28.2	21	21
Netherlands	16.9	17.2	611	603
Austria	22.4	22.3	339	335
Poland	30.8	26.6	2 191	1 821
Portugal	28.7	29.6	562	536
Romania	48.1	46.8	1 859	1 760
Slovenia	15.2	16.6	56	63
Slovakia	25.3	24.9	227	237
Finland	14.2	14.9	156	161
Sweden	14.5	14.0	304	278
United Kingdom	29.7	30.3	3 824	3 948

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten thousands

* 2014 data instead of 2015.

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

Low levels of parental education significantly increase risk of poverty or social exclusion among children in all EU Member States

The proportion of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU decreases with the education level of their parents. In 2015, almost two thirds (65.5%) of all children whose parents had a low education level (at the most lower secondary education) were at risk of poverty in the EU in 2015, compared with 30.3% of children residing with parents who had a medium education level (upper secondary education) and 10.6% of children with parents with a higher education level (tertiary education).

This pattern held in all EU Member States in 2015. The largest differences between the share of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion who lived in a low and in a high education level household were found in **Slovakia** (94.4% of children in a low education level household compared with 11.0% in a high education level household; or a gap of 83.4 pp), **Bulgaria** (79.4 pp) and the **Czech Republic** (78.6 pp). In contrast, the smallest differences were observed in **Denmark** (34.7 pp), closely followed by **Estonia** (35.7 pp) and **Portugal** (38.4 pp).

**Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU (%),
by highest level of education attained by parents, 2015**

	Highest level of education attained by parents		
	Low	Medium	High
EU	65.5	30.3	10.6
Belgium	71.6	29.5	9.9
Bulgaria	89.5	36.1	10.1
Czech Republic	82.3	20.3	3.7
Denmark	41.9	18.4	7.2
Germany	78.7	23.7	8.1
Estonia	47.1	33.6	11.4
Ireland*	68.1	41.8	16.4
Greece	73.0	45.1	19.2
Spain	64.8	39.5	14.7
France	59.6	28.5	7.9
Croatia	80.1	28.5	7.9
Italy	64.0	30.0	11.6
Cyprus	67.5	37.6	13.8
Latvia	68.4	42.2	12
Lithuania	78.3	47.8	12.9
Luxembourg	49.9	20.1	9.5
Hungary	83.7	37.7	8.5
Malta	51.9	17.0	5.7
Netherlands	50.3	21.6	8.6
Austria	57.6	21.0	14.4
Poland	67.5	36.4	7.8
Portugal	45.6	25.9	7.2
Romania	77.8	44.5	7.5
Slovenia	50.2	24.2	7.5
Slovakia	94.4	26.2	11.0
Finland	56.0	23.3	7.5
Sweden	70.1	13.5	7.0
United Kingdom	62.6	33.0	16.1

* 2014 data instead of 2015.

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

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

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 are children, aged 0 to 17, living in all private households. 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.

Children 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 children live in households with living conditions constrained by a lack of resources that 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).

Children living in households with very low work intensity are those aged 0 to 17 who live in households where on average the adults (aged 18-59, excluding students) worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year.

The total number of **children at risk of poverty or social exclusion** is lower than the sum of the numbers of children in each of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion as some children are affected simultaneously by more than one of these situations.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to youth statistics.

Eurostat [database](#) on income and living conditions.

Eurostat [interactive infographic](#) on Young Europeans.

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