

Material deprivation – complementary variables

More than 1 in 10 people in the EU cannot afford to get together with friends or family for a drink

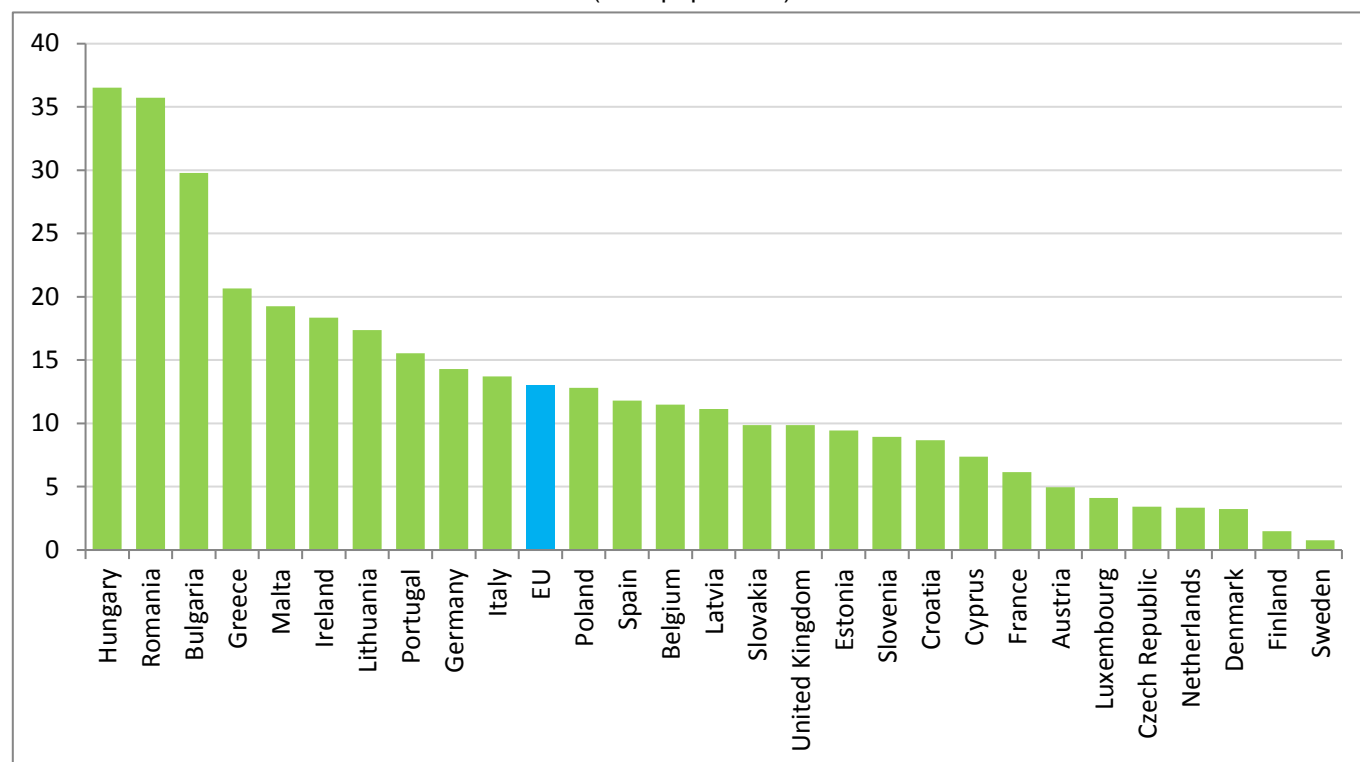
And 1 in 6 not able to participate in a leisure activity

13.0% of the population aged 16 or over living in the **European Union** (EU) reported in 2014 not being able to get together with friends/family for a drink or meal at least once a month due to lack of resources, while 17.8% could not afford to regularly participate in a leisure activity.

Working age people (aged 25 to 64) were slightly more affected. The shares in this age group stood at 13.9% and 19.6% respectively, while they were 11.0% and 16.3% for young people (aged 16 to 24) and 11.2% and 13.5% for the elderly (aged 65 or over).

These selected findings, extracted from a special data collection of 2014 on complementary variables on material deprivation, are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Inability to get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month, 2014
(% of population)



1 in 3 unable to get together with friends/family in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria

Around one third of the population in **Hungary** (36.5%), **Romania** (35.7%) and **Bulgaria** (30.0%) said they could not afford to get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month. High shares were also observed in **Greece** (20.7%), **Malta** (19.2%), **Ireland** (18.4%) and **Lithuania** (17.4%). The elderly in **Romania** are particularly affected: in the age group over 65, the share there reaches 43.0%. In **Hungary**, the share is higher among the young (40.0%).

At the opposite end the scale, the share was below 1% in all age groups in **Sweden**. Less than 5% of the population feel unable to get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month also in **Finland** (1.5%), **Denmark** (3.2%), the **Netherlands** (3.3%), the **Czech Republic** (3.4%) and **Luxembourg** (4.1%).

Inability to get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month, 2014 (% of population)

	Total	Of which		
		Aged less than 25	Aged 25-64	Aged 65 or over
EU	13.0	11.0	13.9	11.2
Belgium	11.5	11.5	12.1	9.6
Bulgaria	30.0	26.3	28.4	35.4
Czech Republic	3.4	2.4	3.8	2.9
Denmark	3.2	3.4	3.9	1.4
Germany	14.3	8.5	15.8	12.9
Estonia	9.4	4.8	8.9	13.6
Ireland	18.4	25.6	19.2	8.4
Greece	20.7	3.5	23.1	21.4
Spain	11.8	8.8	13.0	9.5
France	6.2	5.0	6.3	6.4
Croatia	8.7	4.3	8.8	10.9
Italy	13.7	9.1	15.0	12.4
Cyprus	7.4	3.8	8.7	5.4
Latvia	11.1	10.5	10.0	14.8
Lithuania	17.4	14.9	16.7	20.8
Luxembourg	4.1	3.3	4.6	2.7
Hungary	36.5	40.0	38.2	28.4
Malta	19.2	16.2	19.1	21.6
Netherlands	3.3	0.9	3.9	2.9
Austria	5.0	2.7	6.1	3.1
Poland	12.8	11.3	13.3	11.8
Portugal	15.5	11.9	15.8	16.5
Romania	35.7	37.6	33.3	43.0
Slovenia	8.9	6.2	9.0	10.4
Slovakia	9.9	10.0	9.7	10.4
Finland	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.1
Sweden	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.5
United Kingdom	9.9	14.1	12.2	1.2
Iceland	3.8	1.2	4.5	2.9
Norway	3.3	1.6	3.9	2.7
Switzerland	2.8	1.8	3.2	2.2
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29.1	18.7	31.2	30.2
Serbia	29.0	18.9	30.0	31.1

Very few unable to regularly participate in a leisure activity in Finland, Luxembourg and Sweden

Across Member States in 2014, more than half (56.1%) of the population in **Romania** could not afford to regularly participate in a leisure activity, followed by **Bulgaria** (37.5%), **Lithuania** (35.2%) and **Hungary** (32.4%).

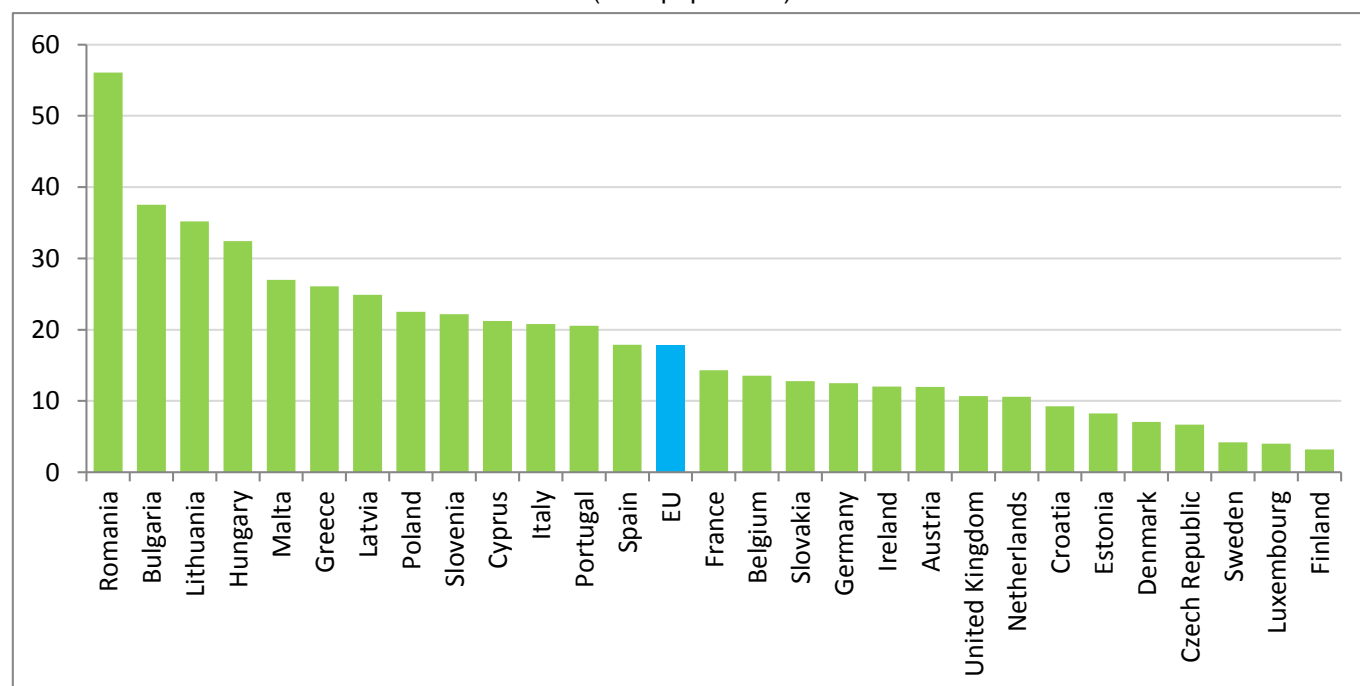
In contrast, less than 5% of the population feel unable to regularly participate in a leisure activity in **Finland** (3.2%), **Luxembourg** (4.0%) and **Sweden** (4.2%).

In most Member States, the working age population is particularly affected. The only exceptions are **Denmark**, **Ireland** and the **United Kingdom**, where the share is higher among the young, and **Estonia**, **Romania** and **Latvia**, where it is higher among the elderly.

Inability to regularly participate in a leisure activity, 2014 (% of population)

	Total	Of which		
		Aged less than 25	Aged 25-64	Aged 65 or over
EU	17.8	16.3	19.6	13.5
Belgium	13.5	12.7	14.7	10.4
Bulgaria	37.5	38.2	38.4	34.8
Czech Republic	6.7	4.5	7.5	5.3
Denmark	7.1	9.8	8.2	2.9
Germany	12.5	7.6	14.2	10.2
Estonia	8.3	4.0	8.6	9.8
Ireland	12.0	15.8	12.9	5.3
Greece	26.1	31.7	33.1	4.7
Spain	17.9	14.8	19.9	12.9
France	14.3	13.7	15.5	11.1
Croatia	9.3	6.5	10.5	7.0
Italy	20.8	15.7	23.1	17.0
Cyprus	21.2	15.7	25.0	10.8
Latvia	24.9	17.0	25.1	26.9
Lithuania	35.2	31.4	36.6	33.7
Luxembourg	4.0	3.3	4.6	2.1
Hungary	32.4	33.0	35.0	23.0
Malta	27.0	25.2	27.7	25.9
Netherlands	10.6	4.5	12.3	8.1
Austria	12.0	7.4	14.1	8.6
Poland	22.5	21.5	24.0	17.8
Portugal	20.6	20.8	22.9	14.1
Romania	56.1	56.1	55.6	57.8
Slovenia	22.2	19.3	23.7	18.4
Slovakia	12.8	11.7	13.2	11.8
Finland	3.2	3.2	3.7	2.1
Sweden	4.2	2.9	5.1	2.7
United Kingdom	10.7	14.9	11.9	5.2
Iceland	9.2	4.2	10.6	7.7
Norway	3.4	4.8	3.7	2.0
Switzerland	7.9	5.1	8.6	7.0
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	32.7	28.9	34.6	28.3
Serbia	31.4	23.1	34.7	25.6

Inability to regularly participate in a leisure activity, 2014 (% of population)



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

Only two out of the seven complementary variables on material deprivation collected are presented in this News Release. They are based on the EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) ad hoc module 2014. 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.

The **material deprivation** variables collected in the context of the ad hoc module are complementary to the usual items on deprivation used for the current indicator on the subject.

Material deprivation is enforced inability (rather than a choice not to do so) to afford some items considered by most people to be desirable or even necessary to lead an adequate life. The complementary variables on material deprivation cover the inability for persons aged 16 or over who are members of the household to afford the following items: to replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones; to get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month; to regularly participate in a leisure activity; to spend a small amount of money each week on yourself without having to consult anyone; internet connection for personal use at home; two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes); and to replace worn-out furniture.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on income, social inclusion and living conditions.

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

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