Publication note on the German EU-SILC data in 2019 and 2020

From 2020 on, the EU-SILC survey has been integrated into the newly designed German microcensus[1].

For EU-SILC, a new rotation scheme and a full multi-mode-design were implemented along with completely new and complex IT tools for survey management and data collection. These changes have led to a break in the time series between 2019 and 2020. Income variables are the most affected by the break.

To allow our policy users to carry out comparisons between 2019 and 2020, Eurostat has re-estimated the number of people at-risk-of-poverty and consequently those at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and the corresponding indicators AROP and AROPE using the following method and the data were verified by DESTATIS.

In 2020, DESTATIS run two parallel data collections:

- A new microcensus-based data collection was started (with a new sample) ["new sample"];
- The previous data collection (based on the old sample) was extended for one more year (in 2020) to ensure some continuity of the longitudinal data collection ["old sample"].

Based on the assumption that the new sample allows identifying a level shift in the income distribution while the old sample is still capable of estimating year on year variations, especially because the same people were surveyed both in 2019 and 2020, the number of people at-risk-of-poverty in 2020 has been estimated on the old sample by sex and three age groups. Using the old sample, the growth factor between 2019 and 2020 was estimated as the 2020 value divided by the 2019 value. This growth factor was applied to the 2020 value from the new sample to obtain a break-free 2019 value for the number of people at risk of poverty. This recalculated number of people at-risk-of-poverty (AROP) has then also been used to calculate the number of people at-risk-of-poverty-and-social-exclusion (AROPE). The number of people in other AROPE categories (severe material and social deprivation; low work intensity; and intersections of the categories) remains unchanged.

In peps01n and li02 tables, "break free" estimated values are presented for Germany in 2019 for males, females and for the age groups "lower than 18", "18-64", "greater than 64". These estimated figures are used for the EU aggregates in 2019.

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[1] [Was ist der Mikrozensus? - Statistisches Bundesamt (destatis.de)](#) (in German)