

16 March 2020 | 1100 hrs | 043/2020

The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) revealed that in 2019 the material deprivation rate stood at 8.4 per cent, whereas the severe material deprivation rate stood at 3.7 per cent.

EU-SILC 2019: Estimates of Material Deprivation and Housing Problems

The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) Survey is a harmonised statistical enquiry which aims to collect comparable data on income, health and disability, employment, and material deprivation. Statistics on material deprivation measure the perceived capacity, or otherwise, of households to afford a number of items from a set of nine standard items which were established at the European level as the most relevant components for the measurement of this variable (Table 1). As a result, two major constructs: the Material Deprivation indicator and the Severe Material Deprivation indicator, are deduced.

A person living in a household is deemed to be materially deprived if this person could not afford at least three of the nine deprivation items, and severely materially deprived if this person could not afford at least four items. In 2019, the material deprivation rate stood at 8.4 per cent, whereas the severe material deprivation rate stood at 3.7 per cent. Compared to 2018, these rates decreased by 0.3 per cent for the material deprivation and increased by 0.7 per cent for the severe material deprivation (Table 2).

When looking into specific deprivation items, 30.8 per cent of the surveyed population said that their household could not afford to pay for a one-week annual holiday away from home. Furthermore, 15.1 per cent said that their household would not be able to settle an unexpected financial expense of €725 and over. Moreover, 7.8 per cent of the respondents said that their household had been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments and another 7.8 per cent said that they were not able to keep their home adequately warm in winter. On the other hand, the number of persons who said that their household could not afford to own a washing machine, colour TV or telephone (including mobile phone) was negligible (Table 1).

Chart 1. Share of persons living in households who are materially deprived by age group: 2019

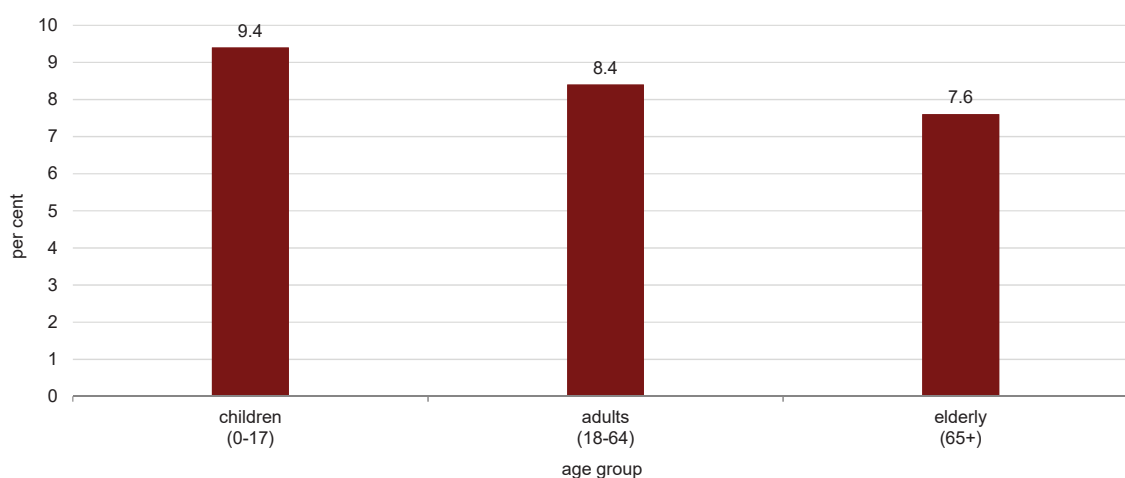


Table 1. Persons' perception of their household's capacity to afford various deprivation items: 2018-2019

Deprivation items	2018	2019	
	%	%	Number of persons
Household cannot afford to face unexpected financial expenses (€725 and over)	13.9	15.1	73,272
Household cannot afford to pay for one week's annual holiday away from home	30.6	30.8	149,501
Household has been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments	8.1	7.8	37,853
Household cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day	5.7	5.9	28,562
Household not able to keep the home adequately warm in winter	7.6	7.8	37,564
Household cannot afford a washing machine	[0.3]	:	:
Household cannot afford a colour TV	[0.2]	:	:
Household cannot afford a telephone (including mobile phone)	[0.4]	:	:
Household cannot afford a car	2.0	2.3	10,910

Notes:

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of:

1. Less than 20 reporting households; or
2. The non-response for the item concerned exceeds 50%

[] Figures to be used with caution: figures between 20 and 49 reporting households or with non-response for the item concerned that exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%.

Table 2. Material Deprivation and Severe Material Deprivation rates: 2018-2019

	2018	2019	
	%	%	Number of persons
Household is deprived of at least 3 items or material deprivation components	8.7	8.4	40,952
Household is deprived of at least 4 items or material deprivation components	3.0	3.7	18,004

In 2019, 4.8 per cent of children were living in severely materially deprived households. Furthermore, 3.7 per cent of adults aged between 18-64 years and 2.6 per cent of those aged 65+ were also considered to be severely materially deprived (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Share of persons living in households who are severely materially deprived by age group: 2019

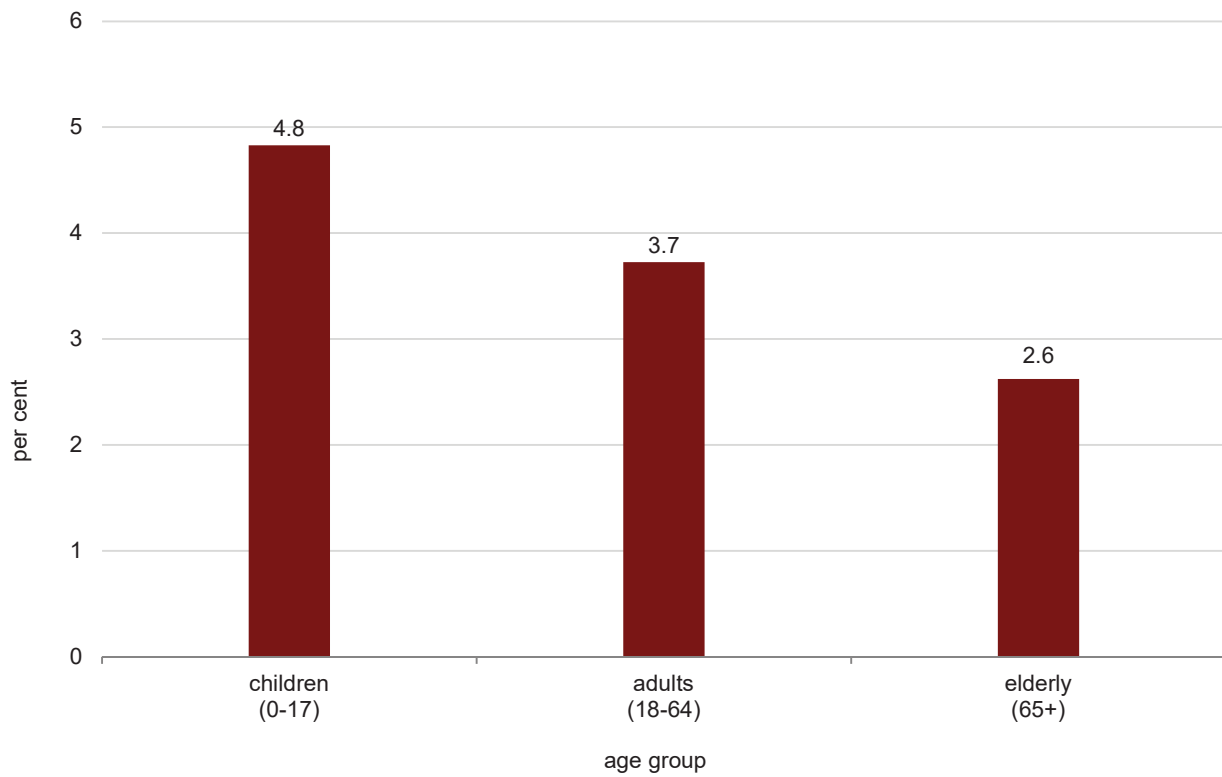
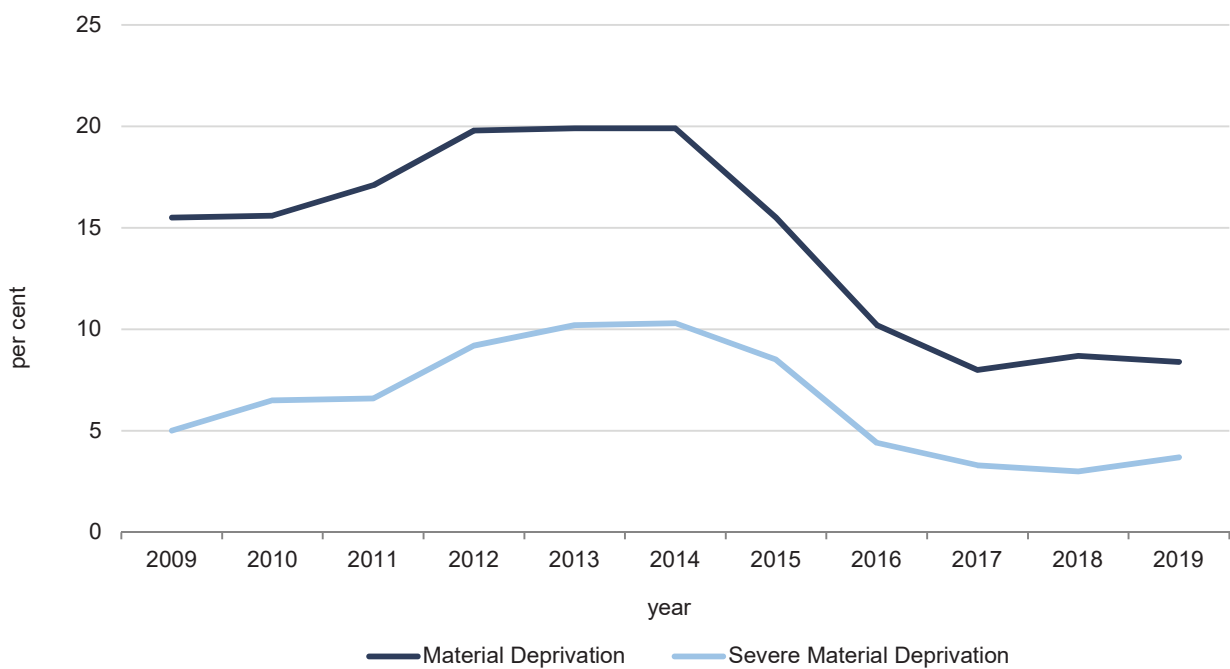


Chart 3. Percentage of persons living in Material Deprivation and Severe Material Deprivation over the past 10 years



Secondary indicators on material deprivation

The EU-SILC survey also collects supplementary statistics on material deprivation and social exclusion from persons aged 16 and over living in households, which complement the official statistic on severe material deprivation. The following is a summary of salient results emerging from the analysis of these indicators.

Less than five per cent of the surveyed population said that their household could not afford very basic needs, such as replacing worn-out clothes with new (not second-hand) ones, or, owning two pairs of properly-fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes).

When looking at the indicators which reflect the quality of life, 7.9 per cent indicated that they could not afford to get together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month, while 13.6 per cent stated that they could not regularly participate in a leisure activity (such as sports or attending a concert). In each quality of life/basic needs indicator, the percentage of females who could not afford an item was higher than the percentage of males (Table 3).

When respondents were asked whether they were able to spend small amounts of money each week for their own use or whether they have an internet connection for personal use at home, 12.0 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively said that they could not afford these. The 35-64 year old cohort had the highest percentage of persons who could not afford spending a small amount of money on themselves (13.0 per cent) while 3.9 per cent of those aged 65 and over could not afford a home internet connection for personal use (Table 4).

Chart 4. Share of persons living in households who cannot afford secondary deprivation items: 2019 (16 years and over)

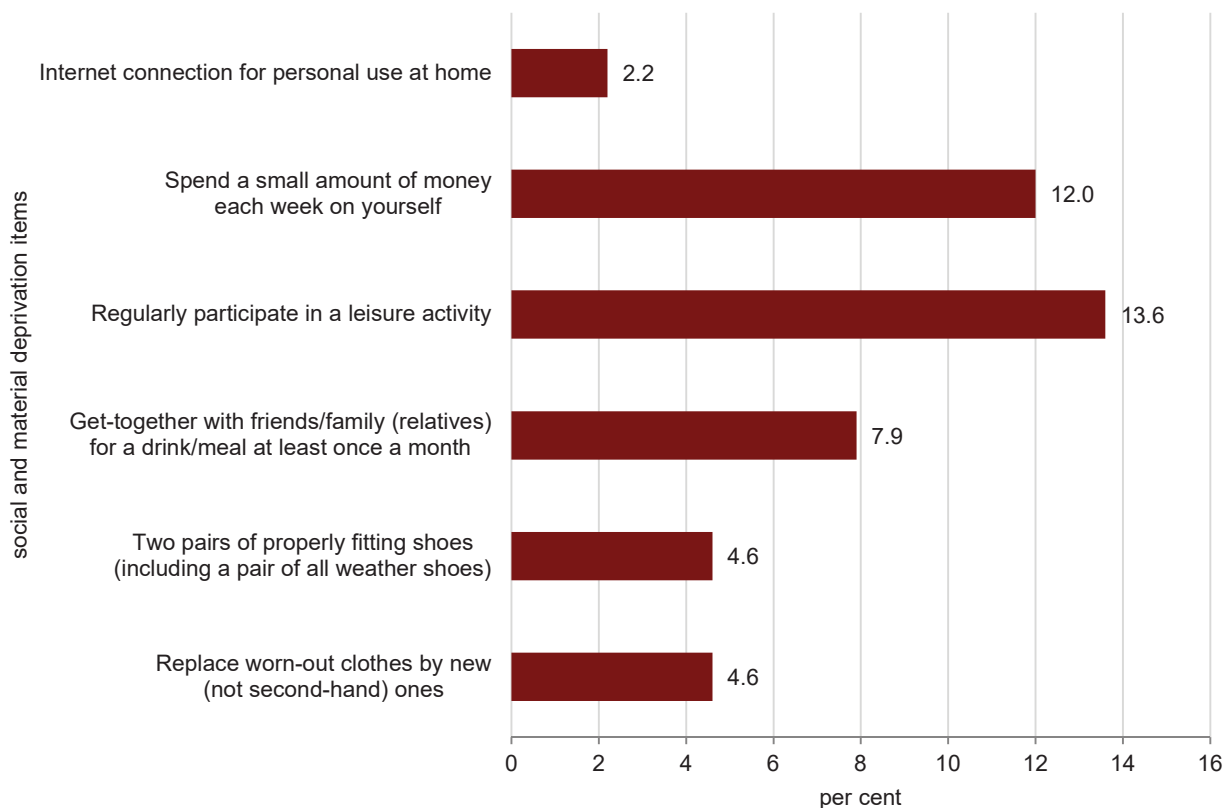


Table 3. Share of persons living in households by their responses to deprivation questions by sex: 2018-2019 (16 years and over)

	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
2018								
Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones								
Males	185,898	93.2	7,301	3.7	6,269	3.1	199,468	100.0
Females	176,415	90.7	10,252	5.3	7,787	4.0	194,454	100.0
Total	362,313	92.0	17,553	4.5	14,057	3.6	393,922	100.0
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)								
Males	187,186	93.8	8,167	4.1	4,116	2.1	199,468	100.0
Females	178,889	92.0	10,979	5.6	4,586	2.4	194,454	100.0
Total	366,074	92.9	19,146	4.9	8,701	2.2	393,922	100.0
Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month								
Males	170,698	85.6	11,879	6.0	16,913	8.5	199,490	100.0
Females	160,724	82.6	15,496	8.0	18,336	9.4	194,555	100.0
Total	331,422	84.1	27,375	6.9	35,248	8.9	394,046	100.0
Regularly participate in a leisure activity								
Males	138,966	69.7	24,763	12.4	35,761	17.9	199,490	100.0
Females	127,119	65.3	29,263	15.0	38,173	19.6	194,555	100.0
Total	266,085	67.5	54,027	13.7	73,934	18.8	394,046	100.0
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself								
Males	148,697	74.5	21,371	10.7	29,423	14.7	199,490	100.0
Females	141,172	72.6	26,014	13.4	27,268	14.0	194,454	100.0
Total	289,869	73.6	47,385	12.0	56,690	14.4	393,944	100.0
Internet connection for personal use at home								
Males	179,479	90.0	2,950	1.5	17,040	8.5	199,468	100.0
Females	168,244	86.5	4,507	2.3	21,804	11.2	194,555	100.0
Total	347,723	88.2	7,457	1.9	38,844	9.9	394,024	100.0
2019								
Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones								
Males	194,601	93.1	7,913	3.8	6,459	3.1	208,973	100.0
Females	180,703	90.6	10,696	5.4	7,970	4.0	199,368	100.0
Total	375,303	91.9	18,609	4.6	14,429	3.5	408,341	100.0
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)								
Males	198,117	94.8	7,594	3.6	3,262	1.6	208,973	100.0
Females	183,063	91.8	11,205	5.6	5,100	2.6	199,368	100.0
Total	381,180	93.3	18,799	4.6	8,362	2.0	408,341	100.0
Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month								
Males	181,705	87.0	13,573	6.5	13,678	6.5	208,956	100.0
Females	164,227	82.4	18,694	9.4	16,397	8.2	199,318	100.0
Total	345,932	84.7	32,266	7.9	30,076	7.4	408,274	100.0
Regularly participate in a leisure activity								
Males	150,797	72.2	24,743	11.8	33,416	16.0	208,956	100.0
Females	131,992	66.2	30,781	15.4	36,544	18.3	199,318	100.0
Total	282,789	69.3	55,524	13.6	69,961	17.1	408,274	100.0
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself								
Males	160,545	76.9	22,309	10.7	26,050	12.5	208,905	100.0
Females	149,927	75.2	26,742	13.4	22,610	11.3	199,280	100.0
Total	310,473	76.1	49,052	12.0	48,661	11.9	408,185	100.0
Internet connection for personal use at home								
Males	189,916	90.9	3,932	1.9	15,125	7.2	208,973	100.0
Females	176,256	88.4	5,021	2.5	18,091	9.1	199,368	100.0
Total	366,173	89.7	8,953	2.2	33,216	8.1	408,341	100.0

Note: Totals may not add up because of an element of non-response and due to rounding.

Table 4. Share of persons living in households by their responses to deprivation questions by age group: 2018-2019 (16 years and over)

	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
2018								
Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones								
16-34	119,901	95.5	4,514	3.6	[1,163]	[0.9]	125,579	100.0
35-64	173,370	93.4	7,990	4.3	4,204	2.3	185,565	100.0
65+	69,041	83.4	5,048	6.1	8,689	10.5	82,778	100.0
Total	362,313	92.0	17,553	4.5	14,057	3.6	393,923	100.0
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)								
16-34	120,342	95.8	4,287	3.4	:	:	125,579	100.0
35-64	174,140	93.8	8,772	4.7	2,654	1.4	185,565	100.0
65+	71,593	86.5	6,087	7.4	5,098	6.2	82,778	100.0
Total	366,074	92.9	19,146	4.9	8,701	2.2	393,921	100.0
Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month								
16-34	117,201	93.3	4,435	3.5	3,965	3.2	125,601	100.0
35-64	160,253	86.4	13,568	7.3	11,744	6.3	185,565	100.0
65+	53,969	65.1	9,372	11.3	19,539	23.6	82,880	100.0
Total	331,422	84.1	27,375	6.9	35,248	8.9	394,045	100.0
Regularly participate in a leisure activity								
16-34	103,055	82.0	13,129	10.5	9,416	7.5	125,600	100.0
35-64	128,579	69.3	28,524	15.4	28,462	15.3	185,565	100.0
65+	34,451	41.6	12,374	14.9	36,055	43.5	82,880	100.0
Total	266,085	67.5	54,027	13.7	73,934	18.8	394,046	100.0
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself								
16-34	100,938	80.4	12,555	10.0	12,108	9.6	125,601	100.0
35-64	138,561	74.7	24,277	13.1	22,727	12.2	185,565	100.0
65+	50,371	60.9	10,552	12.7	21,855	26.4	82,778	100.0
Total	289,869	73.6	47,385	12.0	56,690	14.4	393,944	100.0
Internet connection for personal use at home								
16-34	122,961	97.9	[1320]	[1.1]	[1,298]	[1.0]	125,579	100.0
35-64	173,536	93.5	2,789	1.5	9,240	5.0	185,565	100.0
65+	51,226	61.8	3,348	4.0	28,305	34.2	82,880	100.0
Total	347,723	88.2	7,457	1.9	38,844	9.9	394,024	100.0
2019								
Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones								
16-34	125,485	95.5	4,926	3.7	:	:	131,438	100.0
35-64	178,041	92.8	9,346	4.9	4,470	2.3	191,856	100.0
65+	71,777	84.4	4,337	5.1	8,933	10.5	85,047	100.0
Total	375,303	91.9	18,609	4.6	14,429	3.5	408,341	100.0
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)								
16-34	126,290	96.1	4,313	3.3	:	:	131,438	100.0
35-64	180,009	93.8	8,954	4.7	2,893	1.5	191,856	100.0
65+	74,882	88.0	5,531	6.5	4,633	5.4	85,047	100.0
Total	381,180	93.3	18,799	4.6	8,362	2.0	408,341	100.0
Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month								
16-34	121,706	92.6	6,773	5.2	[2,909]	[2.2]	131,388	100.0
35-64	165,016	86.0	15,578	8.1	11,245	5.9	191,839	100.0
65+	59,210	69.6	9,915	11.7	15,922	18.7	85,047	100.0
Total	345,932	84.7	32,266	7.9	30,076	7.4	408,274	100.0
Regularly participate in a leisure activity								
16-34	106,155	80.8	15,431	11.7	9,802	7.5	131,388	100.0
35-64	137,422	71.6	27,572	14.4	26,845	14.0	191,839	100.0
65+	39,212	46.1	12,521	14.7	33,314	39.2	85,047	100.0
Total	282,789	69.3	55,524	13.6	69,961	17.1	408,274	100.0
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself								
16-34	106,791	81.3	14,337	10.9	10,260	7.8	131,388	100.0
35-64	145,488	75.8	24,858	13.0	21,493	11.2	191,839	100.0
65+	58,194	68.5	9,856	11.6	16,907	19.9	84,958	100.0
Total	310,473	76.1	49,052	12.0	48,661	11.9	408,185	100.0
Internet connection for personal use at home								
16-34	128,739	97.9	[1,895]	[1.4]	:	:	131,438	100.0
35-64	180,742	94.2	3,746	2.0	7,368	3.8	191,856	100.0
65+	56,692	66.7	3,311	3.9	25,044	29.4	85,047	100.0
Total	366,173	89.7	8,953	2.2	33,216	8.1	408,341	100.0

Notes:

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of:

1. Less than 20 reporting households; or
2. The non-response for the item concerned exceeds 50%

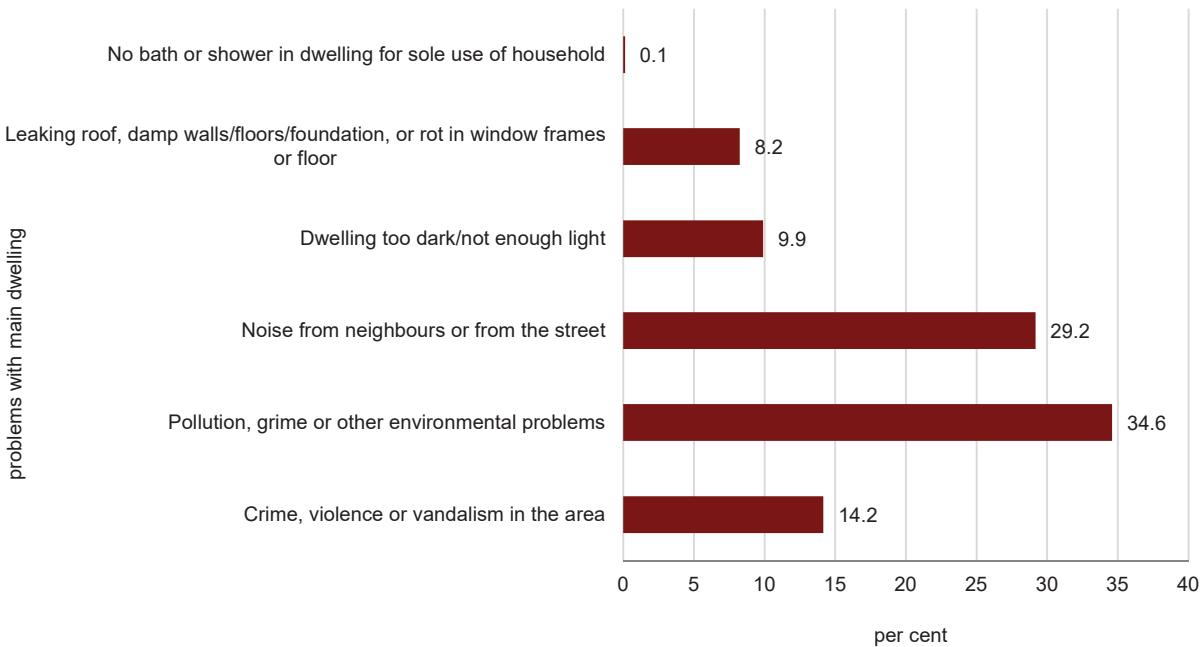
[] Figures to be used with caution: figures between 20 and 49 reporting households or with non-response for the item concerned that exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%.

Totals may not add up because of an element of non-response and due to rounding.

Problems with main dwelling

Households were also asked to state whether they were experiencing problems with their main dwelling. The most frequently reported problems were pollution, grime or other environmental problems with 34.6 per cent and noise from neighbours or from the street with 29.2 per cent. Respectively, 14.2 per cent and 9.9 per cent of the responding households reported problems with crime, violence or vandalism in the area and with the dwelling being too dark or not sufficiently well lit (Chart 5).

Chart 5. Share of households reporting problems in their main dwelling: 2019



Among the households which reported problems with their main dwelling in 2019, 48 per cent said that their household suffered from at least one problem, an increase of four percentage points when compared to the previous year (Chart 6). At district level, most districts recorded an increase in the share of reported problems when compared to the previous year. The only exception was the Southern Harbour district which recorded a drop of 0.5 percentage points in the share of households reporting at least one problem (Chart 7).

Chart 6. Households that reported exposure to pollution, grime or other environmental problems, noise from neighbours or from street, or crime, violence or vandalism in the area

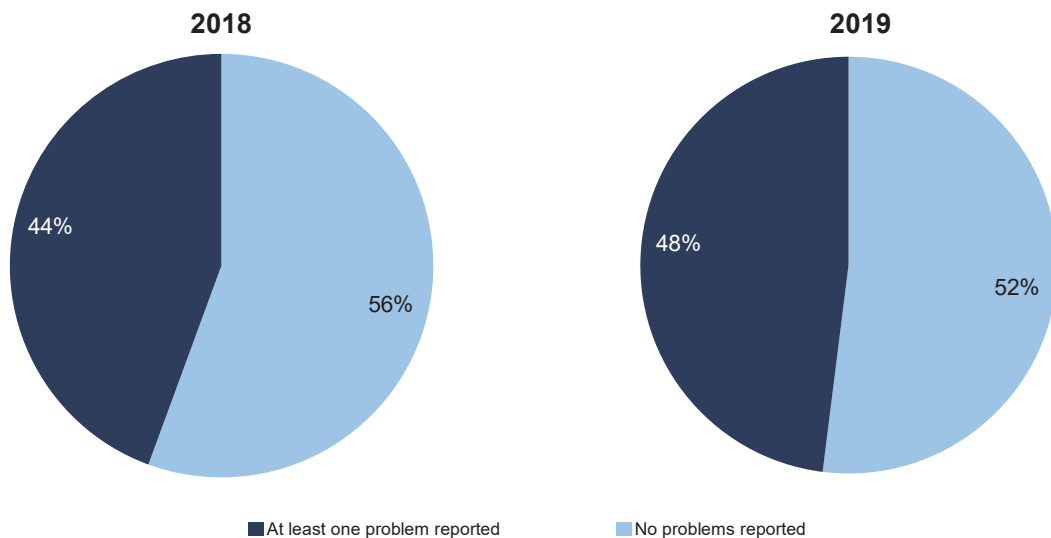
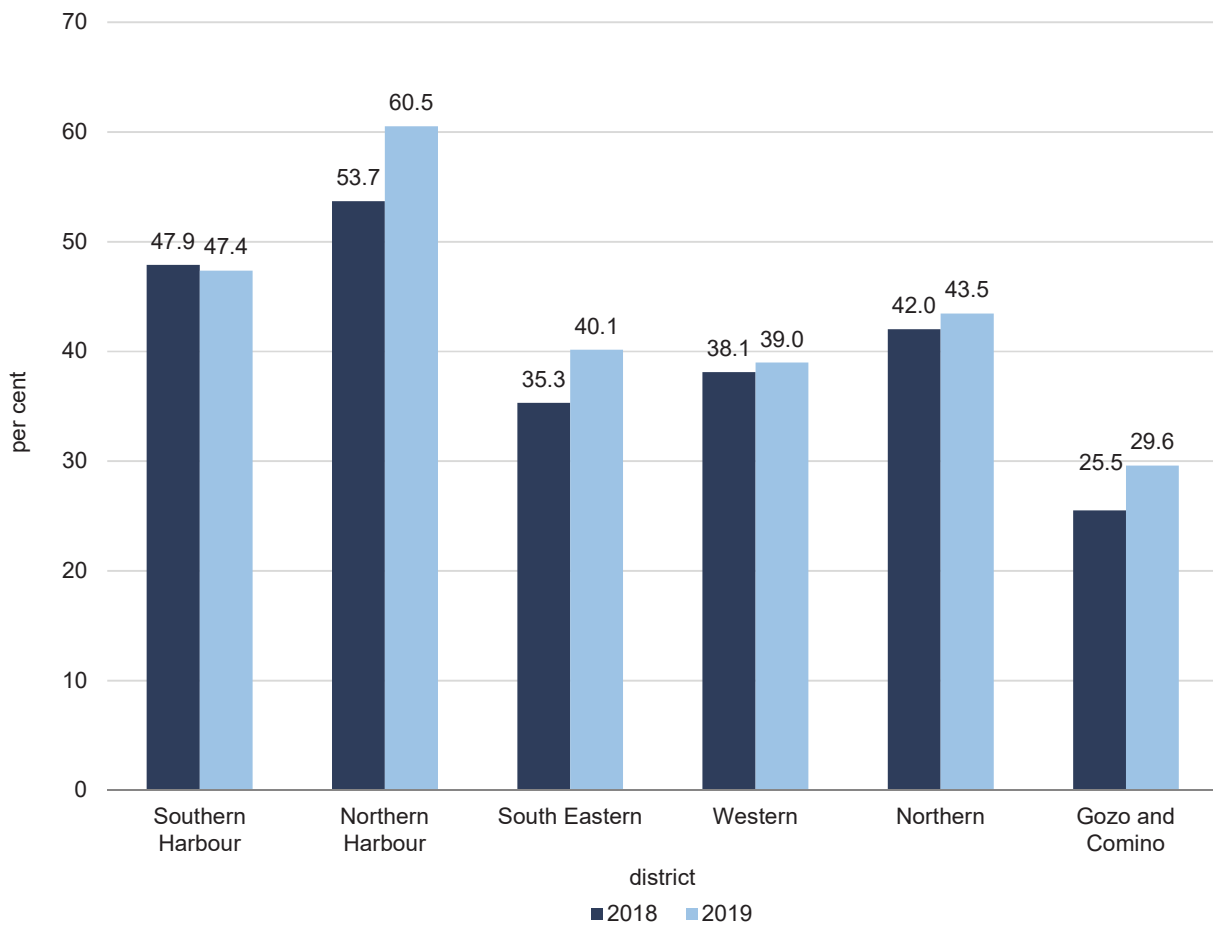


Chart 7. Households reporting exposure to pollution, grime or other environmental problems; noise from neighbours or from street; crime, violence or vandalism in the area by District: 2018-2019



Methodological Notes

Background

1. The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey is an annual enquiry conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) among persons residing in private households in Malta and Gozo. This survey was carried out under EU Regulation No. 1177/2003. The main scope of this survey is to enable the compilation of statistics on income distribution and indicators on monetary poverty. EU-SILC also serves to produce reliable quantitative information on social exclusion and material deprivation.
2. This survey has been carried out in Malta since 2005 and is carried out annually by all European Union Member States under a European framework regulation that came into force in 2004. Consequently, all work related to the EU-SILC survey is coordinated by Eurostat which, in particular, provides guidelines on the methodology that is implemented.
3. In 2019, the gross sample size was 4,522 households. Of these, 146 households were ineligible for the survey (i.e. addresses that did not actually exist, could not be located, non-residential addresses, permanently vacant dwellings or institutional households). Consequently, 4,376 households were approached for the interview. Of these, 3,785 completed the survey, resulting in a household response rate of 86 per cent. These households comprised 9,557 residents, of whom 8,351 were aged 16 and over.
4. The income reference year of the EU-SILC survey is one calendar year prior to the survey year. Therefore, the income collected in EU-SILC 2019 refers to calendar year 2018.

5. Definitions

Material Deprivation:

The following nine questions were asked to all households in order to determine whether they suffered from material deprivation:

- ability to face unexpected financial expenses;
- ability to pay for one week's annual holiday away from home;
- whether they have been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments;
- ability to have a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day;
- ability to keep home adequately warm in winter;
- own a washing machine;
- own a colour TV;
- own a telephone (including mobile phone);
- own a car.

Materially Deprived: Persons living in households who were not able to afford at least **three** of the nine deprivation items.

Severely Materially Deprived: Persons living in households who were not able to afford at least **four** of the nine deprivation items.

6. Key

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of:

1. less than 20 reporting households; or
2. the non-response for the item concerned exceeds 50%.

[] Figures to be used with caution: figures between 20 and 49 reporting households or with non-response for the item concerned that exceeds 20% and is lower or equal to 50%.

N/A Not applicable

7. Sample used for the EU-SILC survey was extracted from a database based on the Census of Population and Housing 2011.

8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=27>
9. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx