

SILC 2017: Provisional estimates of Social Deprivation and Housing problems

The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC) is a harmonised statistical enquiry which aims to collect comparable data on income, health and disability, employment, and material deprivation. This news release provides salient indicators on material deprivation in summary form, derived from the EU-SILC survey carried out in 2017.

European statistics on material deprivation are compiled basing on the capacity, or otherwise, of households to afford a number of items from a set of nine standard items, which were established at European level as the most relevant components for the measurement of this variable. The full list of material deprivation items used for the compilation of these statistics is shown in Table 1. As a result, two major constructs: the Material Deprivation indicator and the Severe Material Deprivation indicator, are deduced.

A household is deemed to be materially deprived (MD) if it does not afford at least three of the nine deprivation items, and severely materially deprived (SMD) if it does not afford at least four. In 2017, the material deprivation rate stood at 8.0 per cent, whereas the severe material deprivation rate stood at 3.3 per cent. Compared to 2016, these rates decreased by 2.3 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively.

From the point of view of age group, persons most affected by material deprivation emerged as those under 18 years of age (Chart 1). In 2017, an estimated one in ten children lived in conditions of material deprivation, while one in twenty children was in a state of severe material deprivation (Chart 2).

Chart 1. Share of Material Deprivation by age group

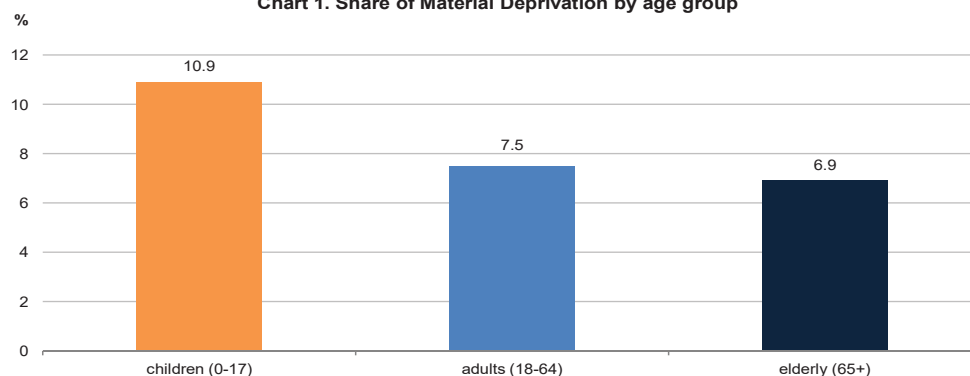


Chart 2. Share of Severe Material Deprivation by age group

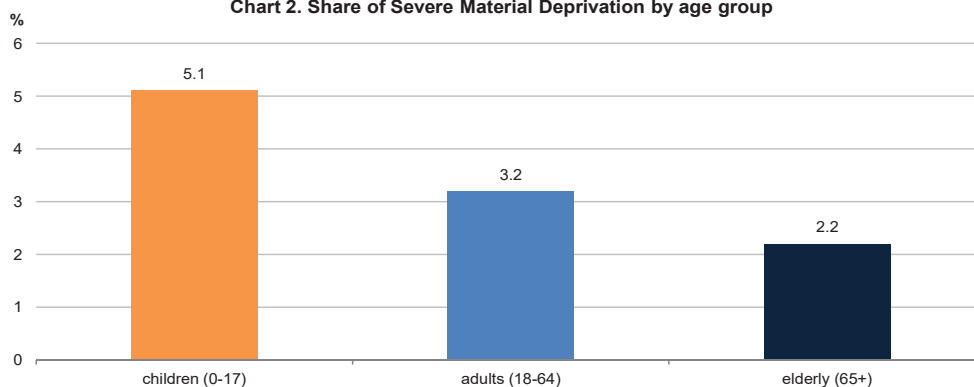
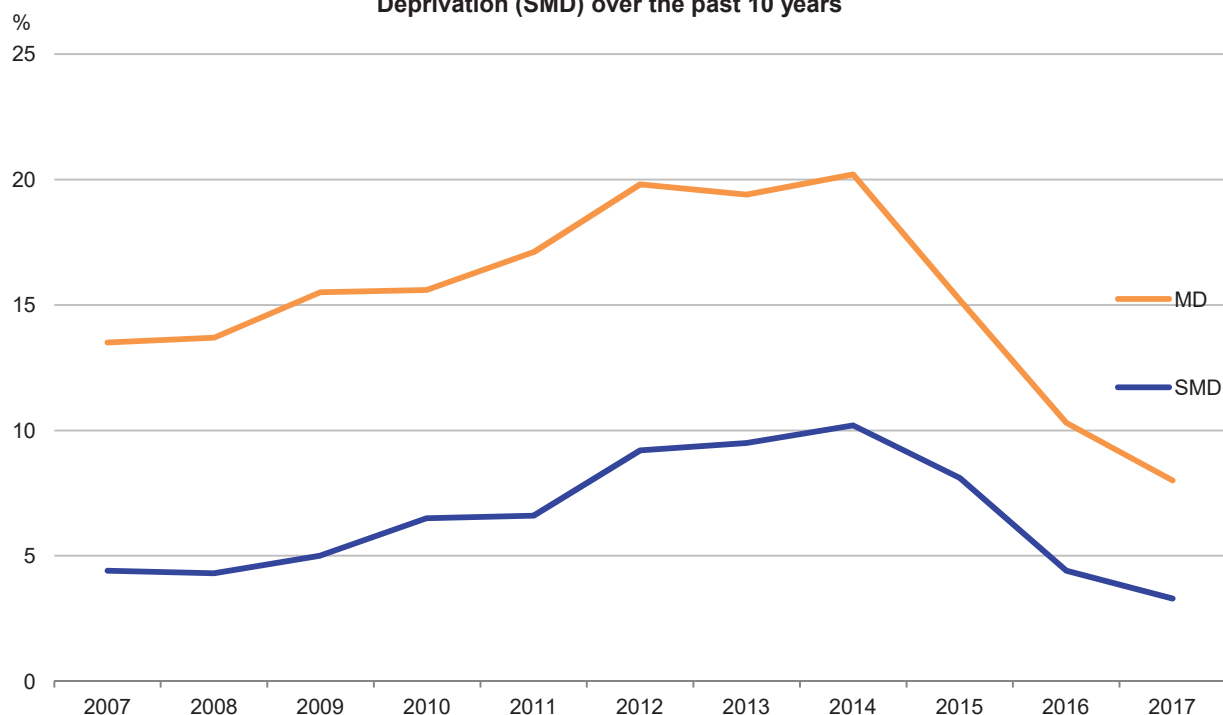


Chart 3. Percentage of persons living in Material Deprivation (MD) and Severe Material Deprivation (SMD) over the past 10 years



When looking into specific deprivation items, just over a third of the surveyed population, or 34.1 per cent, said that their household could not afford to pay for a one-week annual holiday away from home. Furthermore, 15.8 per cent said that their household would not be able to settle an unexpected financial expense of €650 and over. One in five persons said that their household had been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments. By contrast, persons who said that their household could not afford to own a washing machine, colour TV, or telephone (including mobile phone) was negligible, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Persons' perception of their household's capacity to afford various deprivation items: 2016-2017

Deprivation items	EU-SILC 2016	EU-SILC 2017	
	%	%	Number of persons
Household cannot afford to face unexpected financial expenses	20.8	15.8	67,836
Household cannot afford to pay for one week's annual holiday away from home	36.7	34.1	147,059
Household has been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments	9.2	5.8	25,017
Household cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day	7.4	6.0	25,893
Household not able to keep the home adequately warm in winter	6.8	6.6	28,565
Household cannot afford a washing machine	[0.4]	:	:
Household cannot afford a colour TV	:	:	:
Household cannot afford a telephone (including mobile phone)	:	:	:
Household cannot afford a car	2.3	1.7	7,310

: 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 with 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 (2016-2017)

	EU-SILC 2016	EU-SILC 2017	
	%	%	Number of persons
Household is deprived of at least 3 items of material deprivation components	10.3	8.0	34,596
Household is deprived of at least 4 items of material deprivation components	4.4	3.3	14,393

Secondary indicators on material deprivation

The EU-SILC survey also collects supplementary statistics on material deprivation and social exclusion from persons living in households aged 16 years and over, 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 they 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).

On the other hand, from the lens of indicators considered to reflect the quality of social life, 7.2 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 13.3 per cent stated that they could not regularly participate in a leisure activity (such as sport or attending a concert). In all instances mentioned below, females turned out to be more disadvantaged than 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, 11.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively said that they could not afford these. Those aged 35-64 were slightly less likely to afford spending a small amount of money on themselves (12.4 per cent) while those aged 65 and over (2.6 per cent) made up the largest proportion who could not afford a home internet connection for personal use (Table 4).

Table 3. Distribution of answers to deprivation questions by sex: EU-SILC 2017 (16 years and over)

	Replace worn-out clothes with new (not second-hand) ones						
	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	
Males	170,686	94.4	4,898	2.7	5,176	2.9	
Females	167,603	93.1	6,735	3.7	5,594	3.1	
Total	338,289	93.8	11,633	3.2	10,770	3.0	
	Owning two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)						
	Males	171,210	94.7	6,122	3.4	3,428	1.9
	Females	168,246	93.5	8,208	4.6	3,458	1.9
Total	339,456	94.1	14,329	4.0	6,886	1.9	
	Get together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month						
	Males	154,145	85.3	11,526	6.4	15,032	8.3
	Females	146,539	81.5	14,415	8.0	18,956	10.5
Total	300,684	83.4	25,941	7.2	33,989	9.4	
	Regularly participate in a leisure activity (such as sport, attending a concert)						
	Males	122,583	67.8	22,103	12.2	36,017	19.9
	Females	114,998	63.9	25,922	14.4	38,990	21.7
Total	237,581	65.9	48,025	13.3	75,008	20.8	
	Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself						
	Males	138,330	76.6	18,257	10.1	24,117	13.3
	Females	133,262	74.1	22,464	12.5	24,185	13.4
Total	271,592	75.3	40,721	11.3	48,301	13.4	
	Internet connection for personal use at home						
	Males	160,828	89.0	2,706	1.5	17,227	9.5
	Females	154,129	85.7	3,485	1.9	22,317	12.4
Total	314,957	87.3	6,191	1.7	39,544	11.0	

Note: Totals may not tally because of an element of non-response.

Table 4. Distribution of answers to deprivation questions by age: EU-SILC 2017 (16 years and over)

	Replace worn-out clothes with new (not second-hand) ones						
	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	
16-34	107,511	97.1	2,676	2.4	:	:	
35-64	163,075	95.0	5,836	3.4	2,722	1.6	
65+	67,703	86.5	3,120	4.0	7,478	9.6	
Total	338,289	93.8	11,633	3.2	10,770	3.0	
	Owning two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)						
	16-34	106,802	96.4	3,497	3.2	:	:
	35-64	163,449	95.2	5,693	3.3	2,491	1.5
65+	69,205	88.4	5,139	6.6	3,938	5.0	
Total	339,456	94.1	14,329	4.0	6,886	1.9	
	Get together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month						
	16-34	102,607	92.6	5,186	4.7	2,964	2.7
	35-64	146,453	85.3	13,892	8.1	11,252	6.6
65+	51,624	66.0	6,863	8.8	19,773	25.3	
Total	300,684	83.4	25,941	7.2	33,989	9.4	
	Regularly participate in a leisure activity (such as sport, attending a concert)						
	16-34	87,843	79.3	13,336	12.0	9,578	8.6
	35-64	116,935	68.1	24,920	14.5	29,743	17.3
65+	32,804	41.9	9,769	12.5	35,687	45.6	
Total	237,581	65.9	48,025	13.3	75,008	20.8	
	Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself						
	16-34	93,104	84.1	11,462	10.3	6,190	5.6
	35-64	132,315	77.1	21,249	12.4	18,034	10.5
65+	46,173	59.0	8,010	10.2	24,077	30.8	
Total	271,592	75.3	40,721	11.3	48,301	13.4	
	Internet connection for personal use at home						
	16-34	108,180	97.7	[1,405]	[1.3]	[1,172]	[1.1]
	35-64	159,884	93.2	2,778	1.6	8,972	5.2
65+	46,894	59.9	2,008	2.6	29,400	37.5	
Total	314,957	87.3	6,191	1.7	39,544	11.0	

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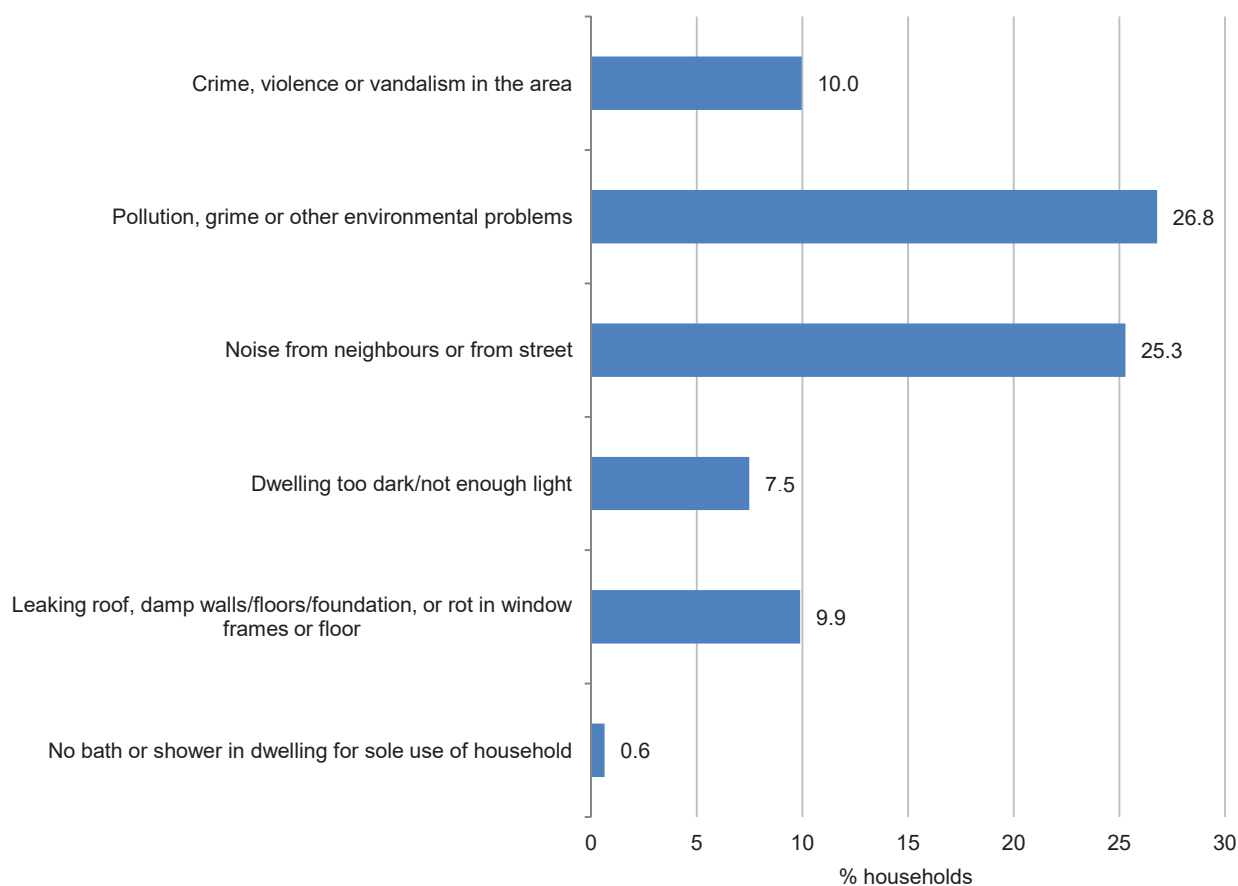
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Problems with main dwelling

Households were also asked to state whether they were experiencing problems with their main dwelling. A quarter of the surveyed households complained of noise made by neighbours or from the street (such as traffic, business, factories etc.). Problems with pollution, grime or other environmental problems were indicated by nearly 27 per cent of the households. Issues of crime, violence or vandalism in the area were a concern to one in ten households, as were issues of leaking roofs, damp walls/floors/foundation or rot in window frames or floor. A small share of households - less than 1 per cent - said that they did not have access to a bath or shower for the sole use of the household (Chart 4).

Chart 4. Share of households reporting problems in their main dwelling: 2017



In 2017, 40 per cent of households reported at least one of these problems. This share is 4 percentage points less than the rate derived the previous year (Chart 5). At the district level, most districts registered decreases in shares of reported problems when compared to 2016, the exception being the Western district. The Northern Harbour district had the highest share of households reporting such problems, at nearly 50 per cent. The lowest share of households reporting at least one of these problems was registered in the Gozo and Comino district, at 28.4 per cent.

Chart 5. 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:

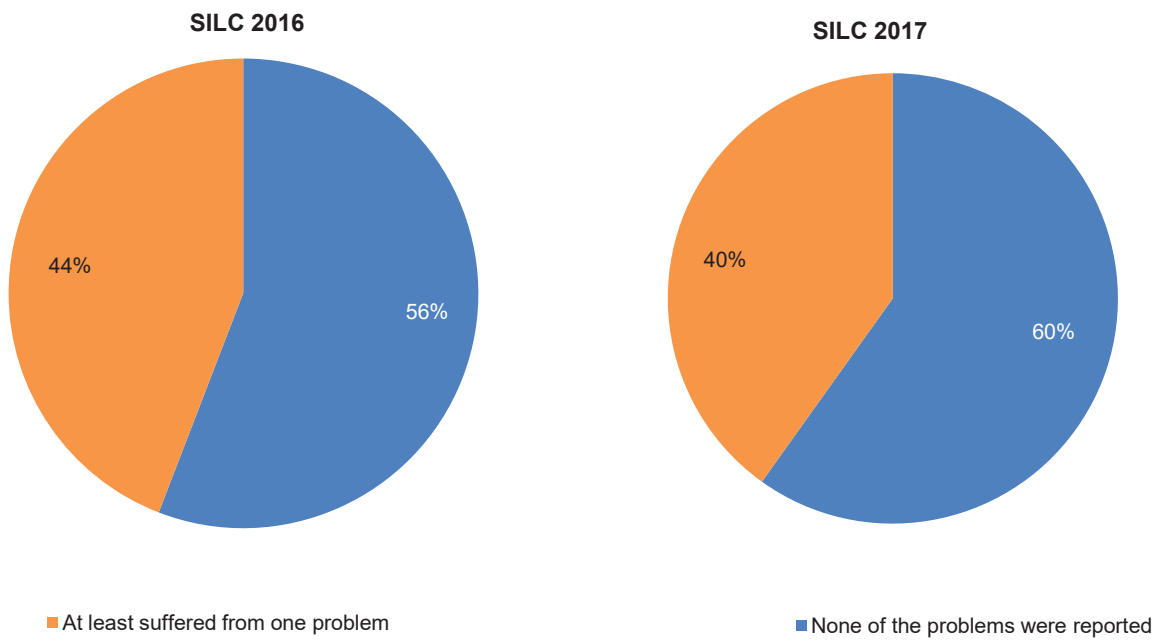
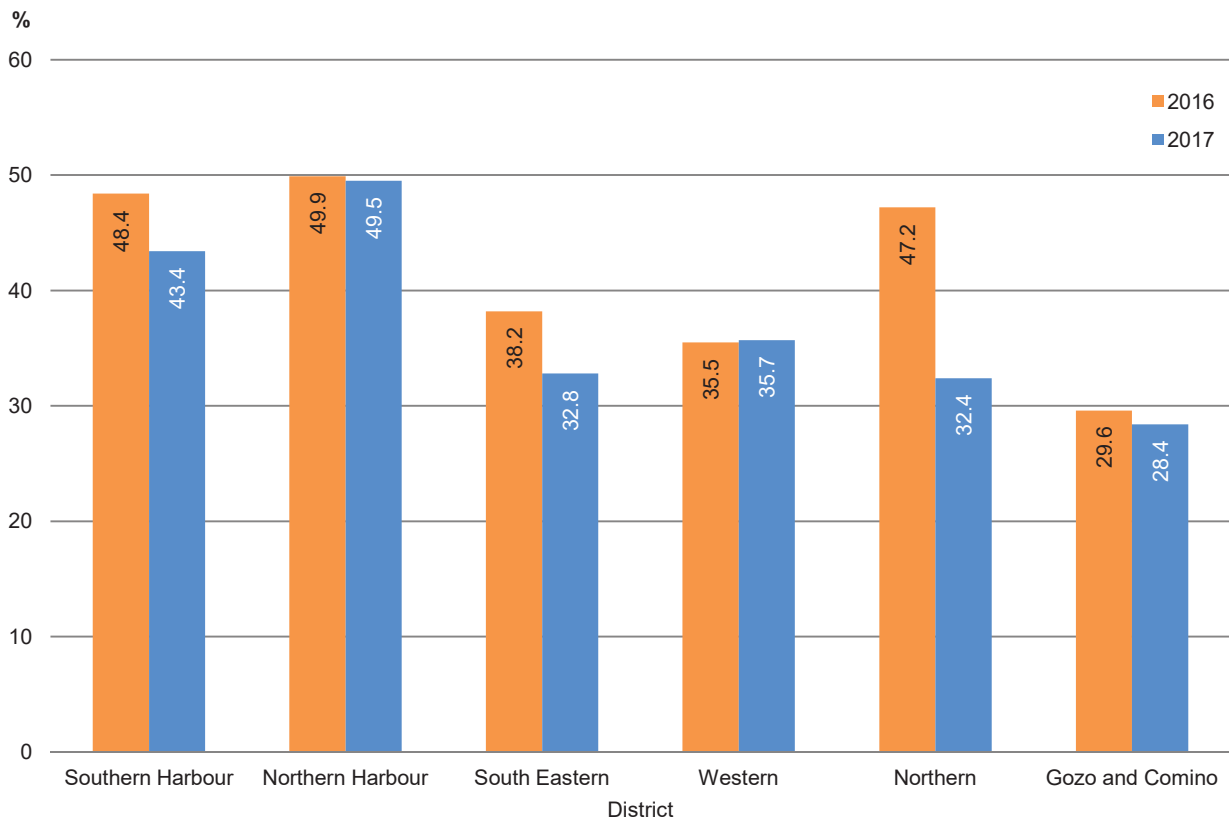


Chart 6. Households that reported exposure to pollution, grime or other environmental problems by District: SILC 2017



Methodological Notes

1. The Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (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 (EU. No. 1177/2003). The main scope of this survey is to enable the compilation of statistics on income distribution and indicators on monetary poverty. 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 SILC survey is coordinated by Eurostat which, in particular, provides guidelines on the methodology that is implemented.
3. In 2017, the gross sample size was 4,639 households. Of these, 148 households turned out to be 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, 4,491 households were approached for the interview. Of these, 3,902 completed the survey, resulting in a household response rate of 87 per cent. These households comprised 10,148 residents, of which 8,755 were aged 16 years and over.
4. The income reference year of the SILC survey is one calendar year prior to the survey year. Consequently, the income collected in SILC 2017 refers to the calendar year 2016.

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.

- Persons living in households who were not able to afford at least **three** of the nine deprivation items, are considered to be **materially deprived**.

- Persons living in households who were not able to afford at least **four** of the nine deprivation items, are considered to be **severely materially deprived**.

6. Key

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N/A Not applicable

7. Sample used for the 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:

Sources and Methods:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C1/Living_Conditions_and_Culture_Statistics/Pages/Statistics-on-Income-and-Living-Conditions.aspx

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