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EU-SILC 2022: Estimates of Material Deprivation and Housing Problems

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The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey 2022 revealed that the material and social deprivation rate stood at 9.6 per cent, whereas the severe material and social deprivation rate stood at 4.9 per cent.



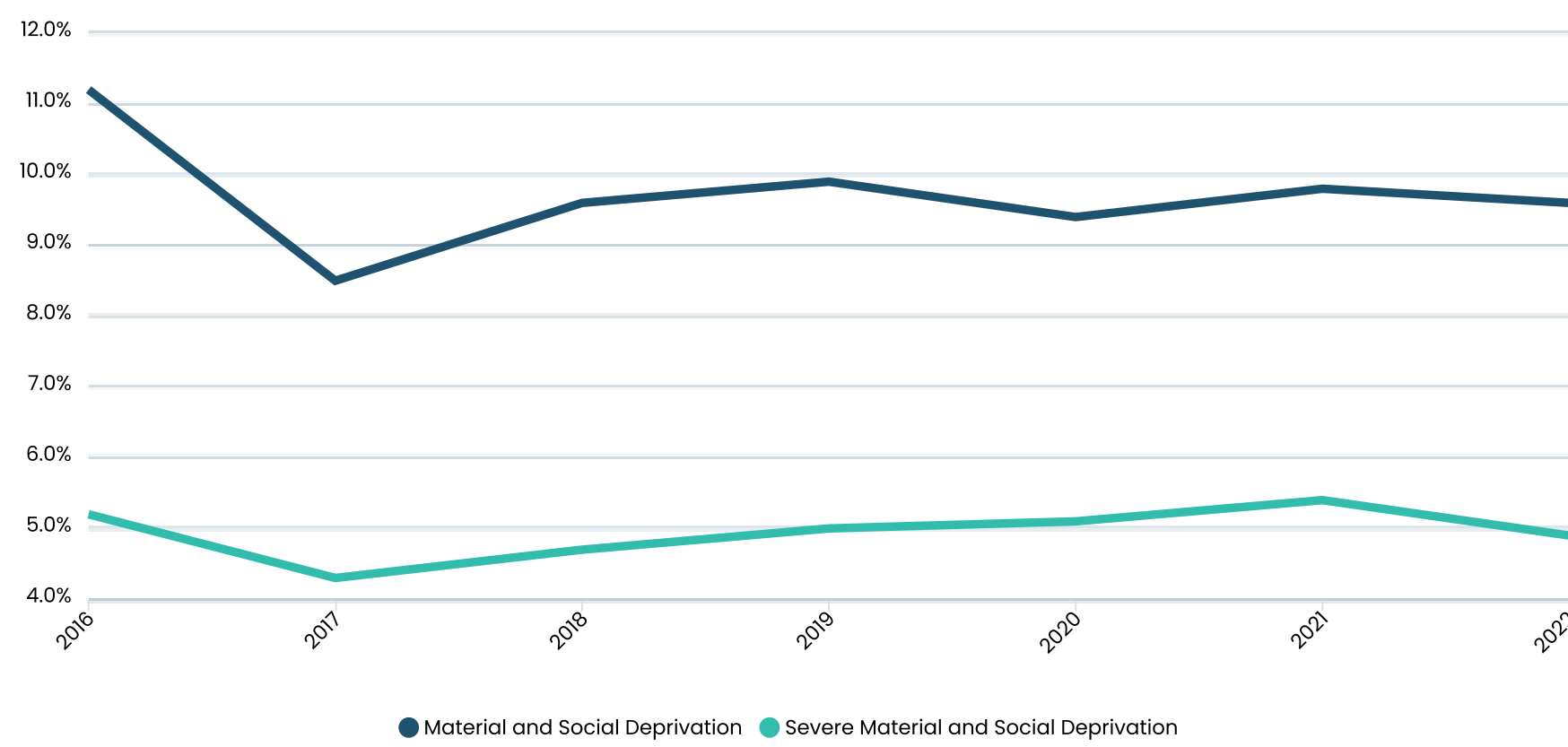
The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC) is a harmonised statistical enquiry which aims to collect comparable data on income, health and disability, employment, and material deprivation. European statistics on material deprivation are based on the perceived capacity, or otherwise, of households to afford a number of items from a set of 13 standard items. These standard items were established at European level as the most relevant components for the measurement of material and social deprivation (Table 1). From these components, two major constructs are derived from EU-SILC, being, the Material and Social Deprivation indicator and the Severe Material and Social Deprivation indicator.

A person living in a household is deemed to be materially and socially deprived if this person does not afford at least five of the 13 material and social deprivation items, whereas those who do not afford at least seven of these items are considered to be severely materially and socially deprived. In 2022, the material and social deprivation rate stood at 9.6 per cent, whereas the severe material and social deprivation rate stood at 4.9 per cent, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points, and 0.5 percentage points, respectively, when compared to 2021 (Table 2).

With reference to specific deprivation items, 33.3 per cent of the surveyed population stated that their household could not afford to pay for a one-week annual holiday away from home. Furthermore, 15.4 per cent declared that their household would not be able to settle an unexpected financial expense of €770 and over. Moreover, 7.6 per cent did not afford to keep the home adequately warm in winter and a further 6.1 per cent of the respondents stated that their household was in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments.

Chart 1. Percentage of persons living in Material and Social Deprivation and Severe Material and Social Deprivation

over the past 7 years



Personal indicators on material deprivation

In 2022, it was revealed that less than 6.6 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) (Table 1).

In 2022, 6.5 per cent of children were living in severely materially and socially deprived households. Furthermore, 4.2 per cent of adults aged between 18 and 64 years, and 6.1 per cent of those aged 65 and over were also considered to be severely materially and socially deprived (Chart 2).

Chart 2. Share of persons living in households who were severely materially and socially deprived by age group

Reference year: 2022

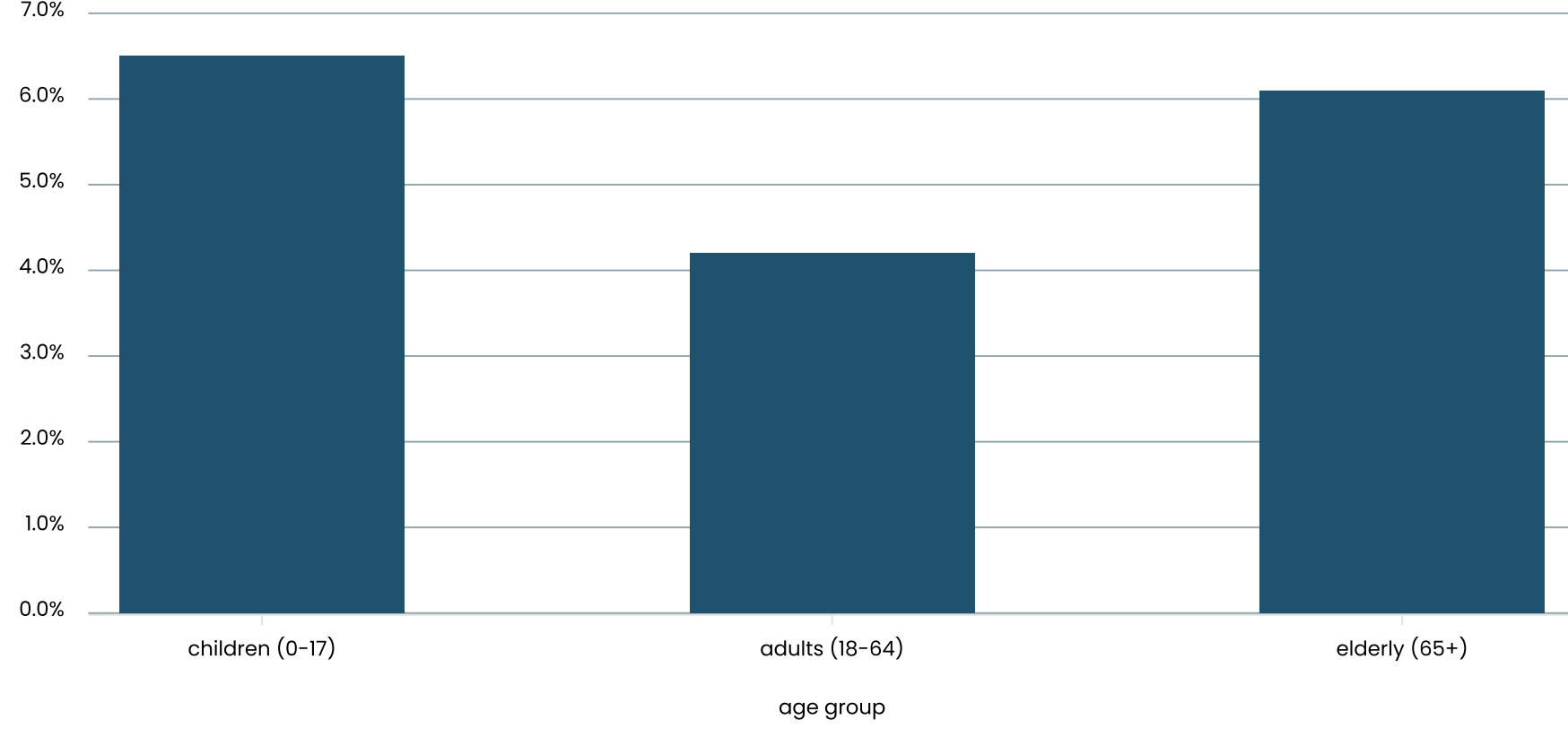


Chart 3. Severely materially and socially deprived persons living in private households

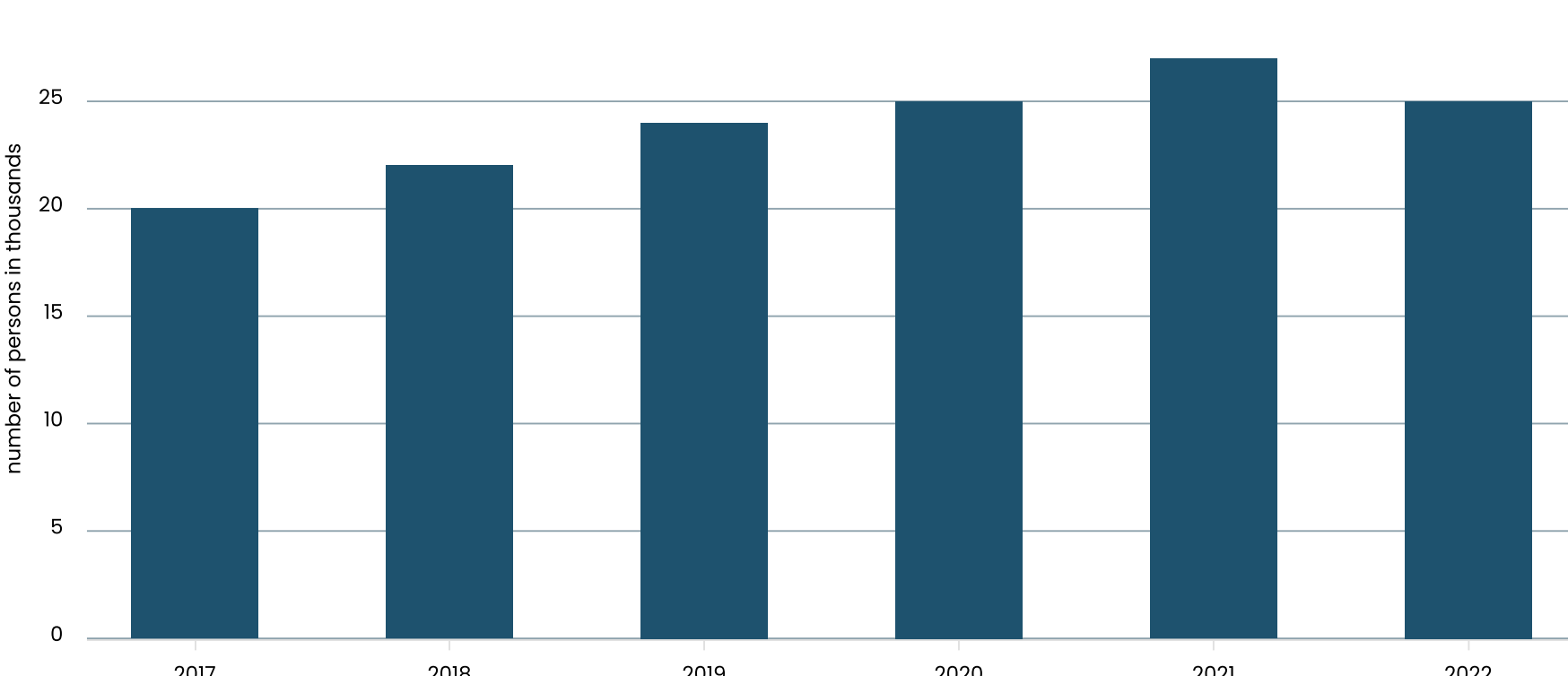
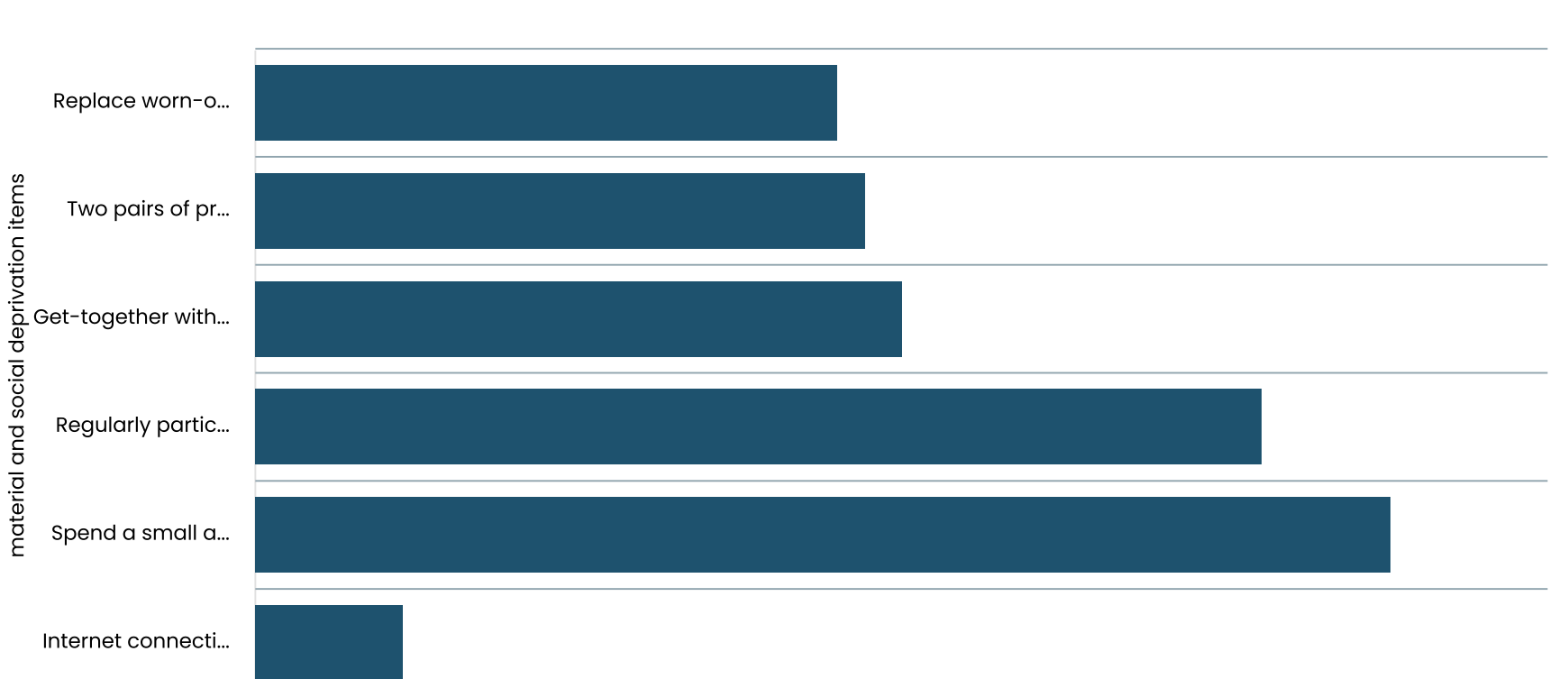


Chart 4. Share of persons living in private households that cannot afford personal deprivation items

2022 (16 years and over)



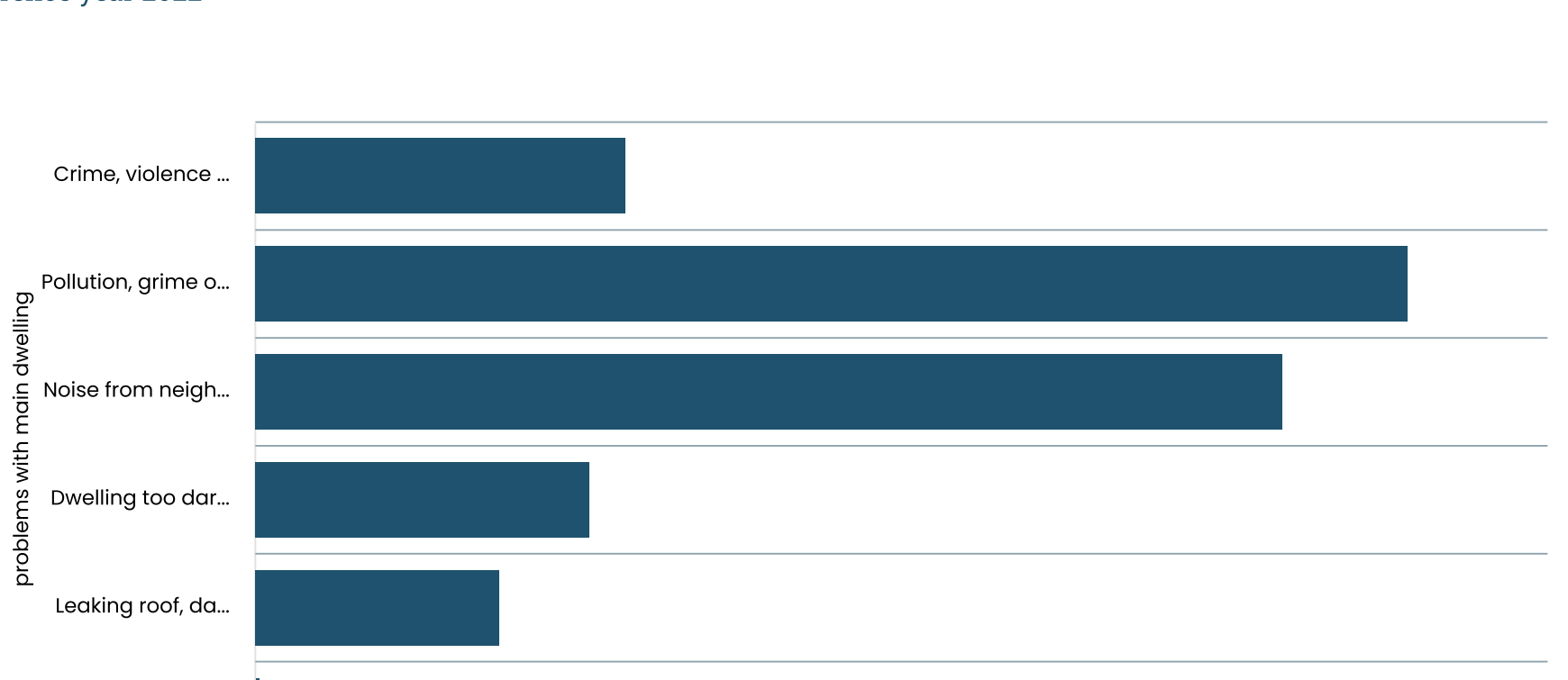
With reference to the indicators which reflect the quality of life, 7.0 indicated that they do not afford to get together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month. A further 10.9 per cent stated that they could not regularly participate in a leisure activity (such as sports or attending a concert). In each quality-of-life indicator, the percentage of females who could not afford an item was higher than the percentage of males (Table 3). In relation to the ability to spend small amounts of money each week for own use, and the availability of internet connection for personal use at home, 12.3 per cent and 13.7 per cent, respectively, declared that these are not afforded. The 65+ year-old cohort had the highest percentage of persons who could not afford spending a small amount of money on themselves (13.7 per cent). Furthermore, 3.9 per cent of those aged 65 and over could not afford an internet connection at home for personal use (Table 4).

Problems with main dwelling

Households were also asked to state whether they were experiencing problems with their main dwelling. The most frequently reported problems in 2022 were pollution, grime or other environmental problems (32.1 per cent), and noise from neighbours or from the street with 28.6 per cent. Of the responding households, 10.3 per cent reported problems with crime, violence or vandalism in the area, and 9.3 per cent said they had problems with the dwelling being too dark or not sufficiently well lit (Chart 5).

Chart 5. Share of households who reported problems in their main dwelling

Reference year 2022



Among the households which reported problems with their main dwelling, in 2022, 42.6 per cent declared that their household suffered from at least one problem, a drop of 2.7 percentage points when compared to the previous year (Chart 6).

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

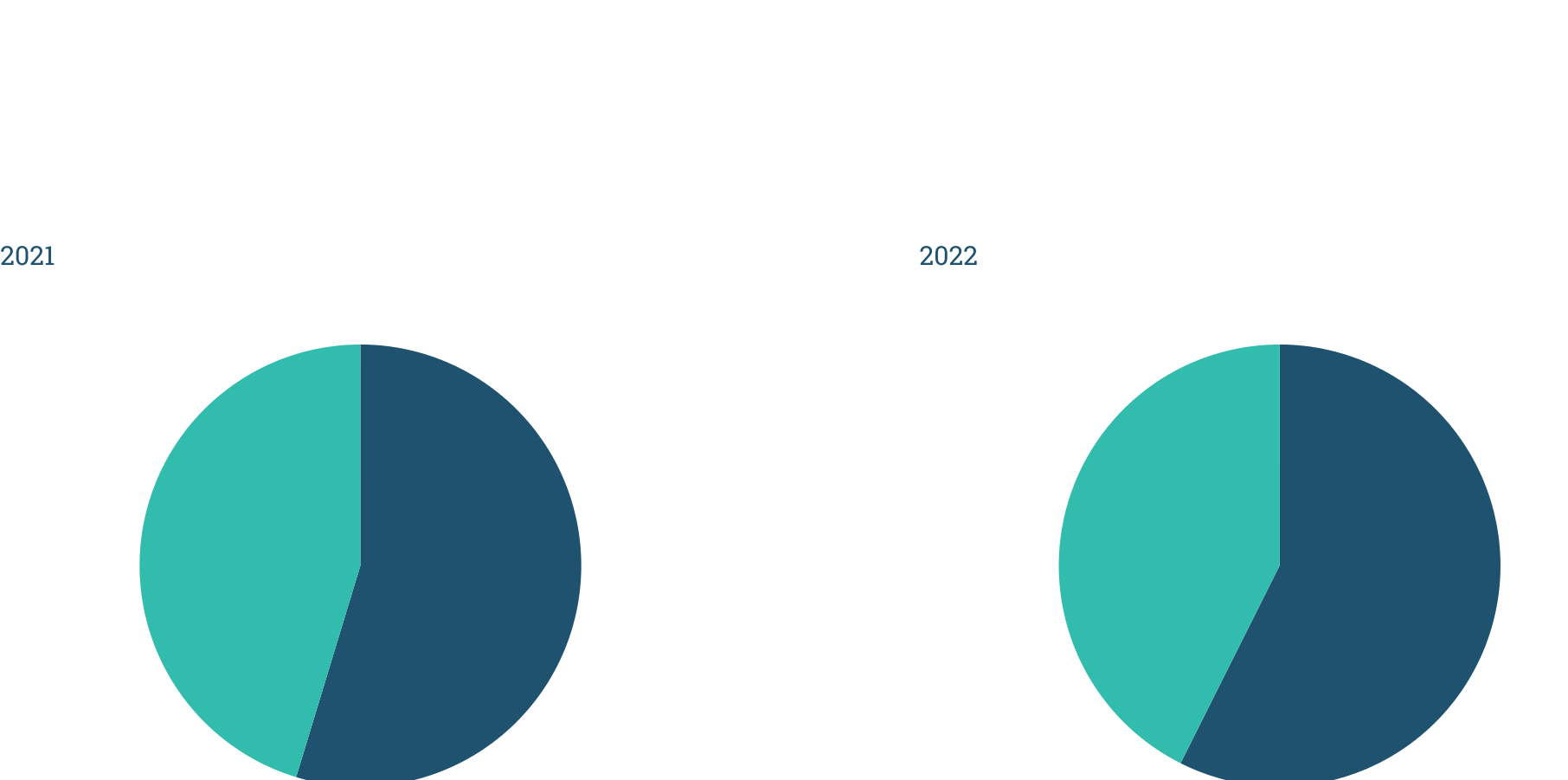


Table 1. Persons' perception of their capacity to afford various material and social deprivation items by year

Material and Social deprivation items	2021		2022	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
Household cannot face unexpected financial expenses ¹	79,530	15.7	78,728	15.4
Household cannot pay for one week's annual holiday away from home ¹	168,150	33.1	170,965	33.3
Arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments ¹	39,831	7.8	31,317	6.1
Household cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day ¹	31,445	6.2	38,612	7.5
Household cannot keep the home adequately warm in winter ¹	39,821	7.8	38,752	7.6
Household cannot afford a car ¹	9,216	1.8	7,439	1.5
Household cannot replace worn-out furniture	80,538	15.9	78,979	15.4
Person cannot replace worn-out clothes with some new ones ²	25,938	6.0	27,449	6.3
Person cannot afford to have two pairs of properly fitting shoes ²	26,519	6.1	28,644	6.6
Person cannot afford to spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself ("pocket money") ²	51,086	11.8	53,790	12.3
Person does not have regular leisure activities ²	45,065	10.4	47,781	10.9
Person cannot get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month ²	33,181	7.7	30,578	7.0
No access to internet connection ² at all	10,862	2.5	6,972	1.6

¹ These items are also used to compute the severe material deprivation and material deprivation indicators.

² Includes persons aged 16 or more.

Notes:

1. The estimated total number of persons living in private households was 507,822 in 2021 and 512,838 in 2022.
2. For household related items, figures reflect the number of persons within private households that cannot afford the given item.

Table 2. Material and Social Deprivation and Severe Material and Social Deprivation rates by year

	2021		2022	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
Persons deprived of at least 5 of the above items (materially and socially deprived persons)	49,769	9.8	49,298	9.6
Persons severe materially and socially deprived (lacking at least seven items out of the 13 material and social deprivation items)	27,334	5.4	25,370	4.9

Note: The estimated total number of persons living in private households was 507,822 in 2021 and 512,838 in 2022.

Table 3. Number and share of persons living in households by their capacity to afford deprivation items by year and sex (16 years and over)

	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL		Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
	2021								2022							
	Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones															
Males	196,287	87.4	11,858	5.3	16,360	7.3	224,505	100.0	208,286	91.7	12,297	5.4	6,666	2.9	227,249	100.0
Females	177,012	85.2	14,080	6.8	16,621	8.0	207,712	100.0	186,609	89.1	15,152	7.2	7,634	3.6	209,395	100.0
Total	373,299	86.4	25,938	6.0	32,981	7.6	432,217	100.0	394,895	90.4	27,449	6.3	14,300	3.3	436,643	100.0
	Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)															
Males	205,681	91.6	12,230	5.4	6,594	2.9	224,505	100.0	209,880	92.4	12,528	5.5	4,841	2.1	227,249	100.0
Females	187,126	90.1	14,289	6.9	6,298	3.0	207,712	100.0	188,077	89.8	16,116	7.7	5,202	2.5	209,395	100.0
Total	392,806	90.9	26,519	6.1	12,892	3.0	432,217	100.0	397,957	91.1	28,644	6.6	10,042	2.3	436,643	100.0
	Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month															
Males	166,389	74.1	15,817	7.0	42,299	18.8	224,505	100.0	196,141	86.3	13,393	5.9	17,714	7.8	227,249	100.0
Females	147,362	70.9	17,363	8.4	42,987	20.7	207,712	100.0	173,013	82.6	17,185	8.2	19,197	9.2	209,395	100.0
Total	313,751	72.6	33,181	7.7	85,286	19.7	432,217	100.0	369,154	84.5	30,578	7.0	36,912	8.5	436,643	100.0
	Regularly participate in a leisure activity															
Males	124,214	55.3	21,452	9.6	78,839	35.1	224,505	100.0	159,758	70.3	20,591	9.1	46,900	20.6	227,249	100.0
Females	105,761	50.9	23,613	11.4	78,339	37.7	207,712	100.0	135,438	64.7	27,190	13.0	46,767	22.3	209,395	100.0
Total	229,975	53.2	45,065	10.4	157,178	36.4	432,217	100.0	295,196	67.6	47,781	10.9	93,666	21.5	436,643	100.0
	Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself															
Males	150,077	66.8	22,943	10.2	51,485	22.9	224,505	100.0	175,723	77.3	22,556	9.9	28,969	12.7	227,249	100.0
Females	138,964	66.9	28,143	13.5	40,606	19.5	207,712	100.0	154,457	73.8	31,234	14.9	23,704	11.3	209,395	100.0
Total	289,041	66.9	51,086	11.8	92,090	21.3	432,217	100.0	330,180	75.6	53,790	12.3	52,673	12.1	436,643	100.0
	Internet connection for personal use at home															
Males	204,278	91.0	5,243	2.3	14,983	6.7	224,505	100.0	213,114	93.8	3,484	1.5	10,650	4.7	227,249	100.0
Females	185,253	89.2	5,619	2.7	16,840	8.1	207,712	100.0	193,681	92.5	3,488	1.7	12,226	5.8	209,395	100.0
Total	389,531	90.1	10,862	2.5	31,824	7.4	432,217	100.0	406,795	93.2	6,972	1.6	22,877	5.2	436,643	100.0

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

Table 4. Number and share of persons living in households by their capacity to afford deprivation items by year and age group (16 years and over)

	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL		Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
	2021								2022							
	Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones															
16-34	126,891	92.6	6,289	4.6	3,833	2.8	137,013	100.0	129,405	95.2	5,112	3.8	[1,351]	[1.0]	135,867	100.0
35-64	176,105	86.7	13,738	6.8	13,213	6.5	203,056	100.0	187,179	90.9	14,600	7.1	4,213	2.0	205,992	100.0
65+	70,303	76.3	5,910	6.4	15,935	17.3	92,148	100.0	78,312	82.6	7,737	8.2	8,735	9.2	94,784	100.0
Total	373,299	86.4	25,938	6.0	32,981	7.6	432,217	100.0	394,895	90.4	27,449	6.3	14,300	3.3	436,643	100.0
	Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)															
16-34	128,634	93.9	6,275	4.6	[2,104]	[1.5]	137,013	100.0	130,110	95.8	4,977	3.7	:	:	135,867	100.0
35-64	184,839	91.0	13,663	6.7	4,554	2.2	203,056	100.0	187,260	90.9	15,491	7.5	3,241	1.6	205,992	100.0
65+	79,333	86.1	6,581	7.1	6,234	6.8	92,148	100.0	80,587	85.0	8,176	8.6	6,022	6.4	94,784	100.0
Total	392,806	90.9	26,519	6.1	12,892	3.0	432,217	100.0	397,957	91.1	28,644	6.6	10,042	2.3	436,643	100.0
	Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month															
16-34	112,595	82.2	7,930	5.8	16,488	12.0	137,013	100.0	126,620	93.2	4,978	3.7	4,269	3.1	135,867	100.0
35-64	144,227	71.0	17,219	8.5	41,609	20.5	203,056	100.0	176,153	85.5	16,267	7.9	13,572	6.6	205,992	100.0
65+	56,929	61.8	8,031	8.7	27,188	29.5	92,148	100.0	66,381	70.0	9,333	9.8	19,070	20.1	94,784	100.0
Total	313,751	72.6	33,181	7.7	85,286	19.7	432,217	100.0	369,154	84.5	30,578	7.0	36,912	8.5	436,643	100.0
	Regularly participate in a leisure activity															
16-34	89,991	65.7	12,028	8.8	34,994	25.5	137,013	100.0	113,507	83.5	9,436	6.9	12,924	9.5	135,867	100.0
35-64	107,780	53.1	22,817	11.2	72,459	35.7	203,056	100.0	139,441	67.7	25,740	12.5	40,811	19.8	205,992	100.0
65+	32,204	34.9	10,220	11.1	49,724	54.0	92,148	100.0	42,247	44.6	12,605	13.3	39,932	42.1	94,784	100.0
Total	229,975	53.2	45,065	10.4	157,178	36.4	432,217	100.0	295,196	67.6	47,781	10.9	93,666	21.5	436,643	100.0
	Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself															
16-34	98,910	72.2	14,059	10.3	24,045	17.5	137,013	100.0	112,415	82.7	12,857	9.5	10,595	7.8	135,867	100.0
35-64	134,263	66.1	26,126	12.9	42,667	21.0	203,056	100.0	153,568	74.6	27,968	13.6	24,456	11.9	205,992	100.0
65+	55,869	60.6	10,901	11.8	25,379	27.5	92,148	100.0	64,197	67.7	12,965	13.7	17,622	18.6	94,784	100.0
Total	289,041	66.9	51,086	11.8	92,090	21.3	432,217	100.0	330,180	75.6	53,790	12.3	52,673	12.1	436,643	100.0
	Internet connection for personal use at home															
16-34	132,327	96.6	2,651	1.9	[2,036]	[1.5]	137,013	100.0	133,115	98.0	[1,151]	[0.8]	[1,602]	[1.2]	135,867	100.0
35-64	192,113	94.6	4,926	2.4	6,018	3.0	203,056	100.0	199,513	96.9	[2,151]	[1.0]	4,328	2.1	205,992	100.0
65+	65,091	70.6	3,286	3.6	23,770	25.8	92,148	100.0	74,167	78.2	3,671	3.9	16,947	17.9	94,784	100.0
Total	389,531	90.1	10,862	2.5	31,824	7.4	432,217	100.0	406,795	93.2	6,972	1.6	22,877	5.2	436,643	100.0

: 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 per cent;

[] 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%.

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

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Methodological Notes

1. Background

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.

The main scope of this survey is to enable the compilation of statistics on income distribution, relative poverty, material deprivation and social exclusion. This survey has been carried out in Malta since 2005, under European Regulation (EU) No. 1177/2003. This Regulation establishes criteria which ensure the production of high quality and harmonised results at European level. As from 2020, EU-SILC started to be carried out under a new regulation: Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples.

2. Sample size and response

The EU-SILC sample follows a rotational design whereby every household is surveyed for four consecutive years. This sampling methodology enhances consistency and thus allows for high quality cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis.

In 2022 the gross sample size was 4,891 households. Of these, 79 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, 4,812 households were approached for the interview. Of these, 4,163 completed the survey, resulting in a household response rate of 87 per cent. These households comprised 10,265 residents, of whom 8,921 were aged 16 and over.

3. Income reference period

The income reference year of the SILC survey is one calendar year prior to the survey year. Consequently, the income collected in SILC 2022 refers to the calendar year 2021.

4. Definitions

Material and Social Deprivation:

In 2017, a set of new Material and Social Deprivation (MSD) indicators were adopted by all the European Union (EU) Member States. The new indicators are the Material and Social deprivation (MSD) indicator and the Severe Material and Social Deprivation (SMSD) indicator. These indicators are based on 13 items: 7 household items and 6 personal items.

Household items:

- face unexpected expenses;
- afford one week annual holiday away from home;
- avoid arrears (in mortgage, rent, utility bills and/or hire purchase instalments);
- afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day;
- afford keeping their home appropriately warm;
- have access to a car/van for personal use;
- replace worn-out furniture.

Personal items:

- replace worn-out clothes with some new ones;
- have two pairs of properly fitting shoes;
- spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself ("pocket money");
- have regular leisure activities;
- get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month;
- have an internet connection.

These two indicators have replaced the Material Deprivation (MD) indicator and the Severe Material Deprivation (SMD) indicator, which were based on a smaller number of items (9 items). Compared to the previous indicator, the new MSD indicator includes 7 new items. The personal items, which are related to social deprivation, are all new, while only one household item (replace worn-out furniture) is a new item. Three items previously used for the computation of the MD and the SMD indicators (ability to afford a washing machine, a TV and a telephone) were not retained in the new MSD indicator.

Persons lacking at least five items out of the 13 material and social deprivation items are considered to be materially and socially deprived.

Persons lacking at least seven items out of the 13 material and social deprivation items are considered to be severely materially and socially deprived.

Percentages may not add up due to rounding.

5. 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

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

7. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

[Statistical Concepts](#)

[Metadata](#)

8. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

9. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).