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The European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) survey revealed that in 2020 the material deprivation rate stood at 8.7 per cent, whereas the severe material deprivation rate stood at 3.3 per cent.

EU-SILC 2020: 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. European statistics on material deprivation are compiled based on the perceived capacity, or otherwise, of households to afford a number of items from a set of nine standard items. These nine items were established at 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 2020, the material deprivation rate stood at 8.7 per cent, whereas the severe material deprivation rate stood at 3.3 per cent. Compared to 2019, these rates increased by 0.3 per cent for the material deprivation and decreased by 0.3 per cent for the severe material deprivation (Table 2).

When looking into specific deprivation items, 32.9 per cent of the surveyed sample said that their household could not afford to pay for a one-week annual holiday away from home. Furthermore, 16.3 per cent said that their household would not be able to settle an unexpected financial expense of €740 and over. Moreover, 7.2 per cent said that they were not able to keep the home adequately warm in winter and another 7.0 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 (Table 1).

Chart 1. Percentage of persons who lived in Material Deprivation and Severe Material Deprivation over the past 10 years

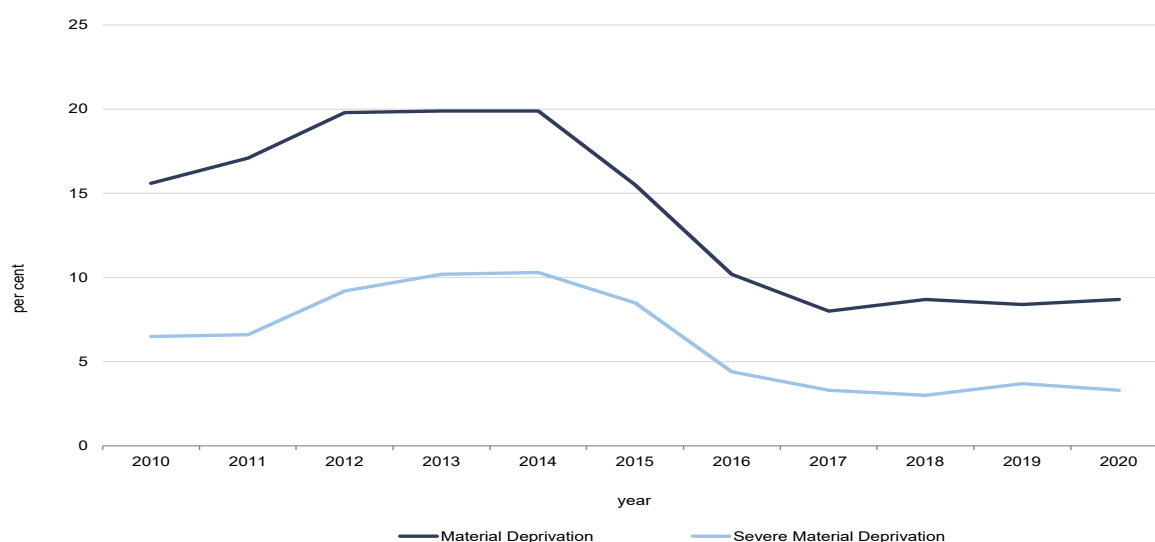


Table 1. Persons' perception of their household's capacity to afford various deprivation items by year

Deprivation items	2019		2020	
	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons
Household cannot afford to face unexpected financial expenses (€740 and over)	15.1	73,272	16.3	82,169
Household cannot afford to pay for one week's annual holiday away from home	30.8	149,501	32.9	166,210
Household has been in arrears on mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments	7.8	37,853	7.0	35,571
Household cannot afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day	5.9	28,562	6.0	30,180
Household not able to keep the home adequately warm in winter	7.8	37,564	7.2	36,305
Household cannot afford a washing machine	:	:	[0.5]	[2,409]
Household cannot afford a colour TV	:	:	:	:
Household cannot afford a telephone (including mobile phone)	:	:	:	:
Household cannot afford a car	2.3	10,910	2.4	11,949

: 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%.

Note: The estimated total number of persons living in private households was 484,683 in 2019 and 505,014 in 2020.

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

	2019		2020	
	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons
Household is deprived of at least 3 items or material deprivation components	8.4	40,731	8.7	43,733
Household is deprived of at least 4 items or material deprivation components	3.6	17,506	3.3	16,636

Note: The estimated total number of persons living in private households was 484,683 in 2019 and 505,014 in 2020.

In 2020, 3.9 per cent of children were living in severely materially deprived households. Furthermore, 3.0 per cent of adults aged between 18-64 years and 4.0 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 were severely materially deprived by age group: 2020

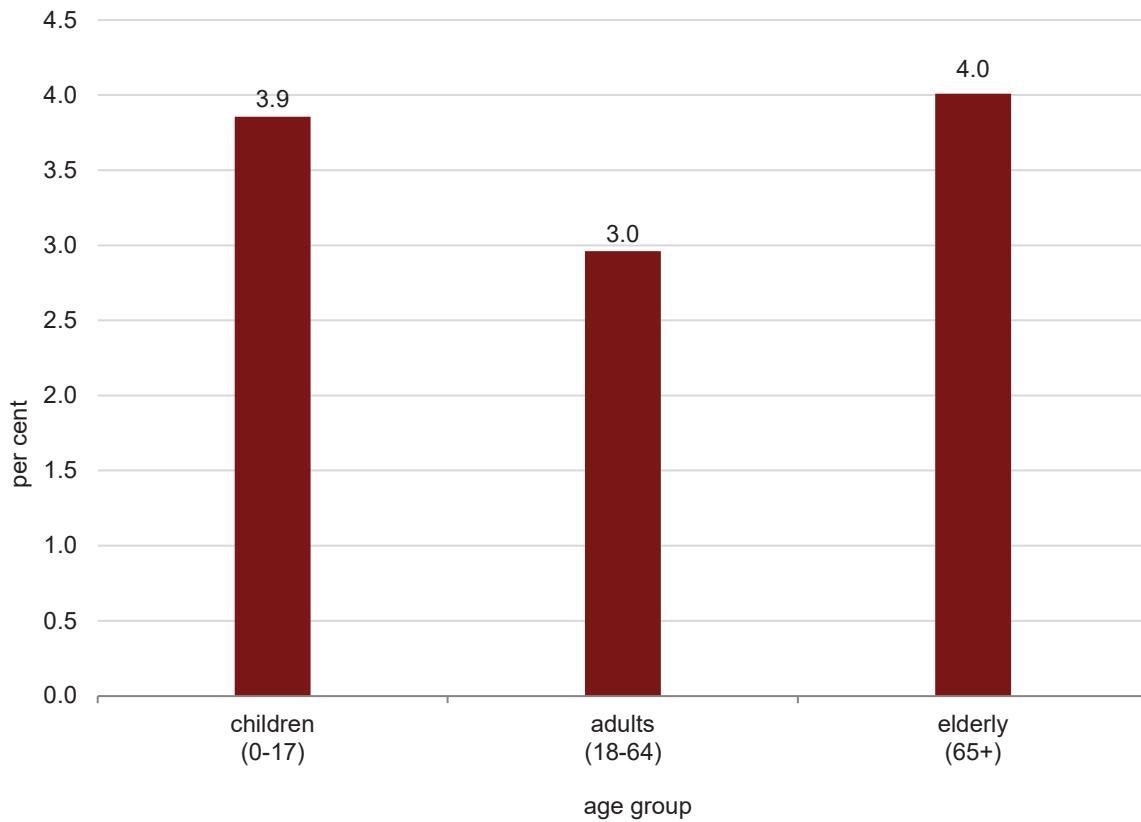
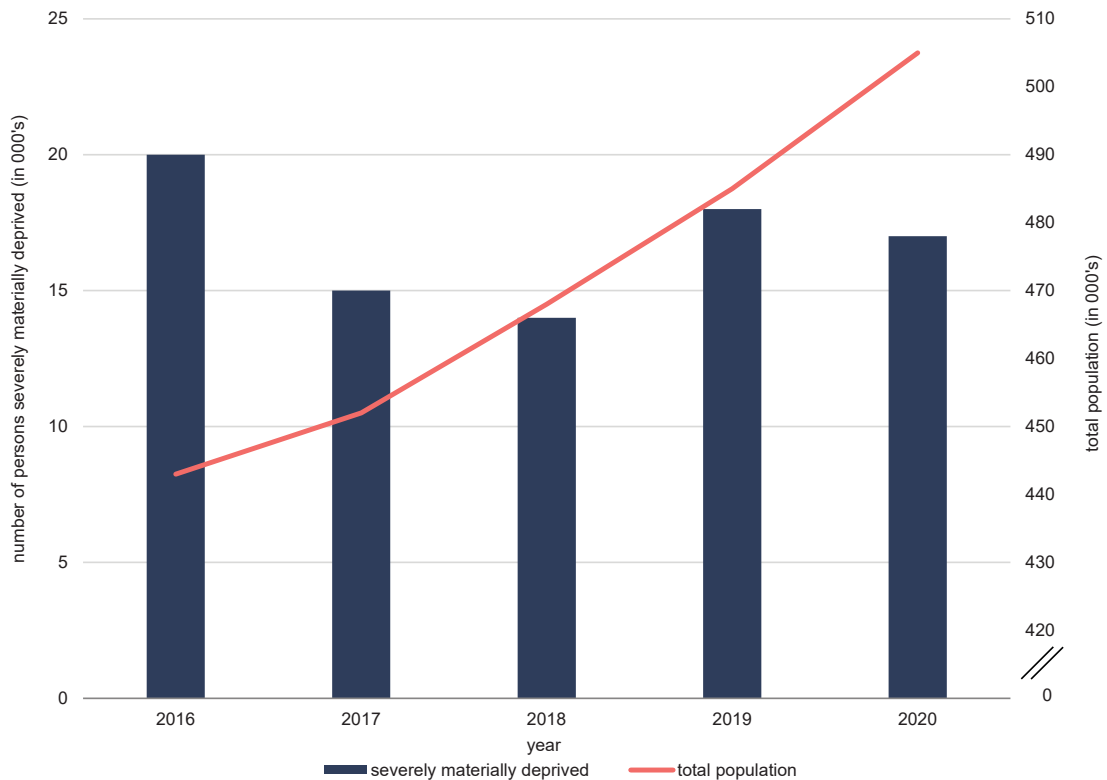


Chart 3. Severely materially deprived persons and the total population living in private households



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 six per cent of the surveyed sample 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, 7.4 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 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/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, 11.2 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively said that they could not afford these (Table 3). The 35-64 year old cohort had the highest percentage of persons who could not afford spending a small amount of money on themselves (12.9 per cent) while 3.6 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 who lived in households who cannot afford secondary deprivation items: 2020 (16 years and over)

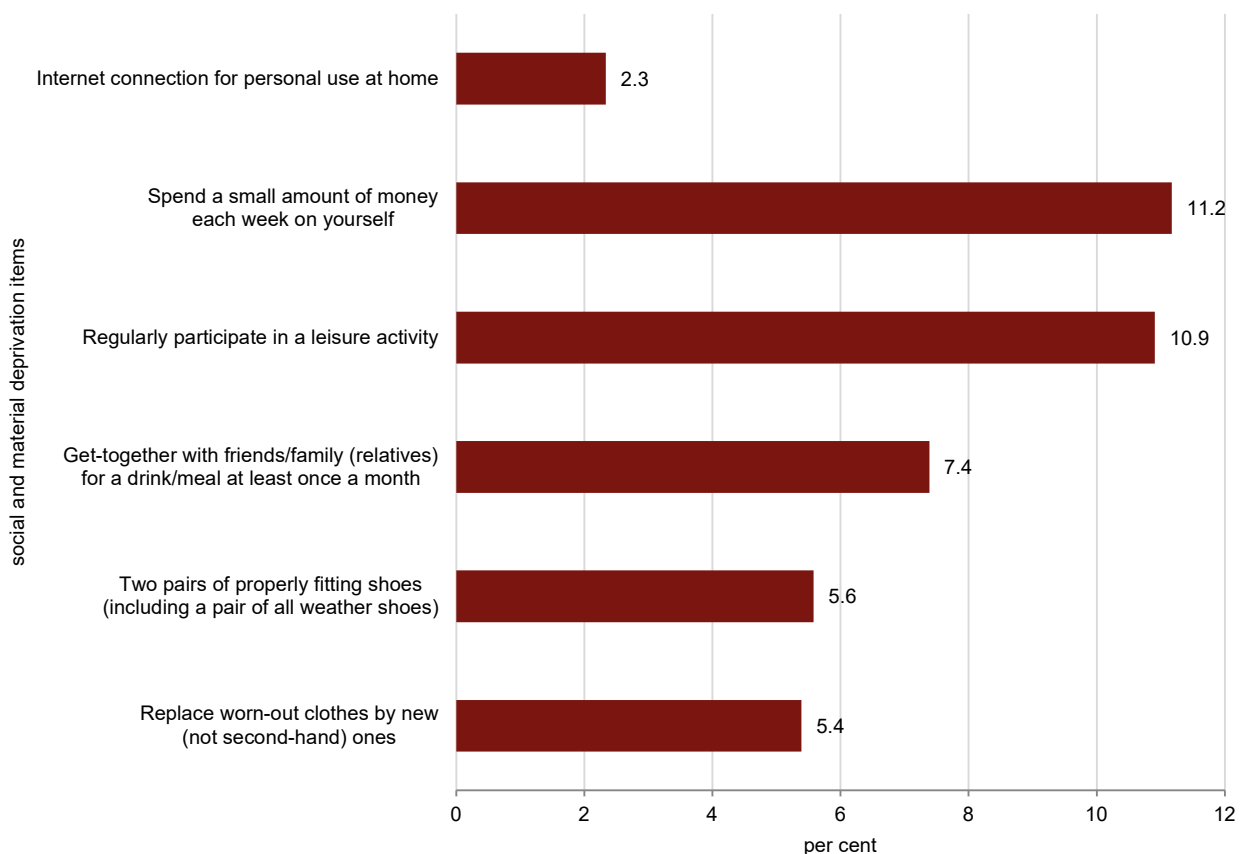


Table 3. Number and share of persons living in households by their responses to deprivation questions by year and sex (16 years and over)

	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
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
2020								
Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones								
Males	202,694	91.5	9,641	4.4	9,117	4.1	221,452	100.0
Females	183,038	89.4	13,322	6.5	8,403	4.1	204,763	100.0
Total	385,732	90.5	22,963	5.4	17,519	4.1	426,215	100.0
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)								
Males	205,772	93.0	9,617	4.3	5,905	2.7	221,294	100.0
Females	184,723	90.2	14,152	6.9	5,856	2.9	204,731	100.0
Total	390,495	91.7	23,770	5.6	11,761	2.8	426,025	100.0
Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month								
Males	177,614	80.2	14,704	6.6	29,134	13.2	221,452	100.0
Females	160,157	78.2	16,777	8.2	27,828	13.6	204,763	100.0
Total	337,771	79.2	31,481	7.4	56,962	13.4	426,215	100.0
Regularly participate in a leisure activity								
Males	135,694	61.3	21,325	9.6	64,433	29.1	221,452	100.0
Females	116,246	56.8	25,150	12.3	63,367	30.9	204,763	100.0
Total	251,940	59.1	46,475	10.9	127,800	30.0	426,215	100.0
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself								
Males	155,776	70.3	19,971	9.0	45,704	20.6	221,452	100.0
Females	141,437	69.1	27,640	13.5	35,668	17.4	204,745	100.0
Total	297,214	69.7	47,611	11.2	81,372	19.1	426,197	100.0
Internet connection for personal use at home								
Males	201,138	90.9	4,444	2.0	15,639	7.1	221,221	100.0
Females	182,455	89.1	5,514	2.7	16,697	8.2	204,666	100.0
Total	383,592	90.1	9,958	2.3	32,336	7.6	425,887	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 responses to deprivation questions by year and by age group (16 years and over)

	Yes		No - cannot afford		No - other reason		TOTAL	
	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%	Number of persons	%
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
2020								
Replace worn-out clothes by some new (not second-hand) ones								
16-34	129,963	93.7	6,051	4.4	[2,695]	[1.9]	138,710	100.0
35-64	183,453	91.9	10,832	5.4	5,432	2.7	199,716	100.0
65+	72,316	82.4	6,080	6.9	9,392	10.7	87,788	100.0
Total	385,732	90.5	22,963	5.4	17,519	4.1	426,215	100.0
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all weather shoes)								
16-34	130,213	94.0	6,204	4.5	[2,136]	[1.5]	138,553	100.0
35-64	185,643	93.0	11,019	5.5	3,023	1.5	199,684	100.0
65+	74,640	85.0	6,547	7.5	6,602	7.5	87,788	100.0
Total	390,495	91.7	23,770	5.6	11,761	2.8	426,025	100.0
Get-together with friends/family (relatives) for a drink/meal at least once a month								
16-34	122,493	88.3	7,864	5.7	8,353	6.0	138,710	100.0
35-64	162,273	81.3	15,839	7.9	21,604	10.8	199,716	100.0
65+	53,005	60.4	7,778	8.9	27,005	30.8	87,788	100.0
Total	337,771	79.2	31,481	7.4	56,962	13.4	426,215	100.0
Regularly participate in a leisure activity								
16-34	103,937	74.9	12,017	8.7	22,756	16.4	138,710	100.0
35-64	117,202	58.7	24,732	12.4	57,783	28.9	199,716	100.0
65+	30,802	35.1	9,726	11.1	47,261	53.8	87,788	100.0
Total	251,940	59.1	46,475	10.9	127,800	30.0	426,215	100.0
Spend a small amount of money each week on yourself								
16-34	105,243	75.9	12,460	9.0	21,008	15.1	138,710	100.0
35-64	140,266	70.2	25,740	12.9	33,692	16.9	199,698	100.0
65+	51,705	58.9	9,412	10.7	26,671	30.4	87,788	100.0
Total	297,214	69.7	47,611	11.2	81,372	19.1	426,197	100.0
Internet connection for personal use at home								
16-34	133,933	96.6	[1,966]	[1.4]	[2,734]	[2.0]	138,633	100.0
35-64	188,980	94.7	4,852	2.4	5,729	2.9	199,561	100.0
65+	60,679	69.2	3,140	3.6	23,874	27.2	87,693	100.0
Total	383,592	90.1	9,958	2.3	32,336	7.6	425,887	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%

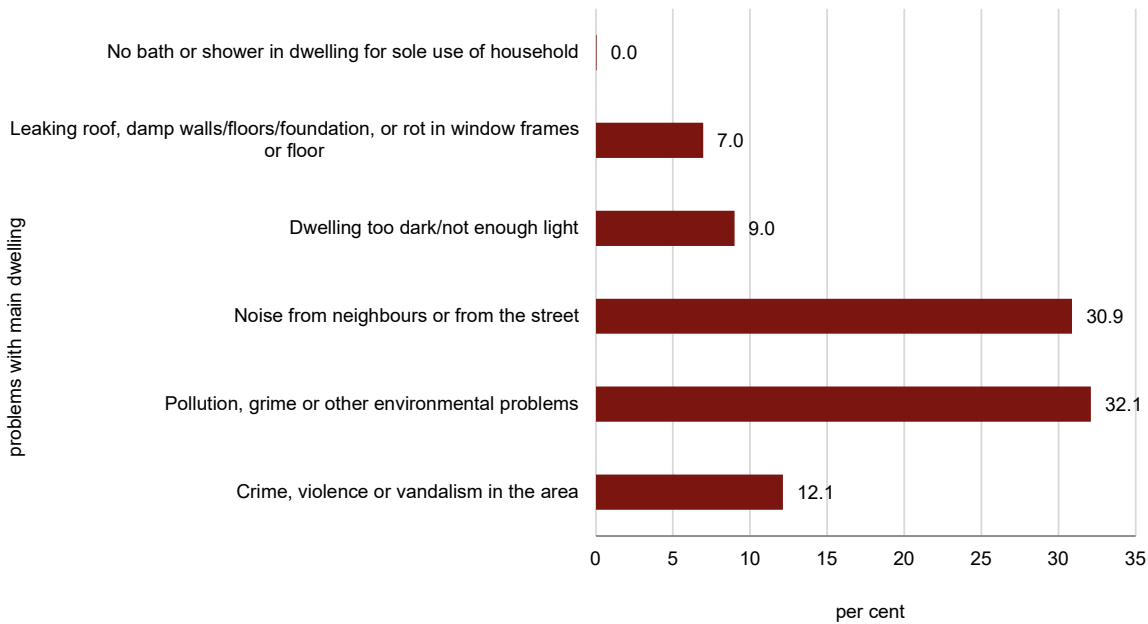
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Note: Totals may not add up because of an element of non-response and due to rounding.

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 32.1 per cent and noise from neighbours or from the street with 30.9 per cent. Furthermore, 12.1 per cent of the responding households reported problems with crime, violence or vandalism in the area and 9.0 per cent 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: 2020



Among the households which reported problems with their main dwelling in 2020, 46.0 per cent said that their main dwelling suffered from at least one problem, a drop of two percentage points when compared to the previous year (Chart 6). In 2020, the largest drops in the share of households reporting at least one problem were recorded in the Gozo and Comino and Northern Harbour districts, with decreases of 6.3 and 6.1 percentage points from 2019 respectively (Chart 7).

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

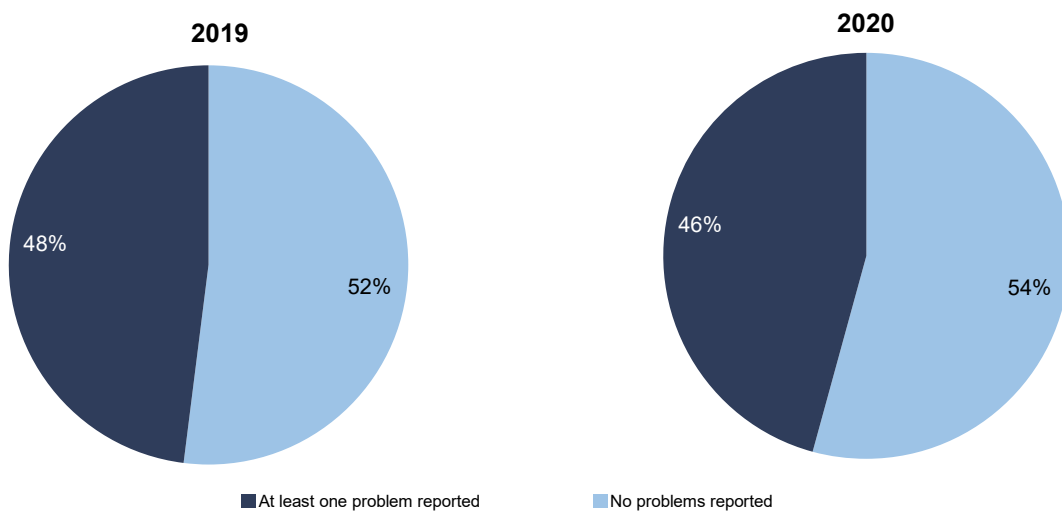
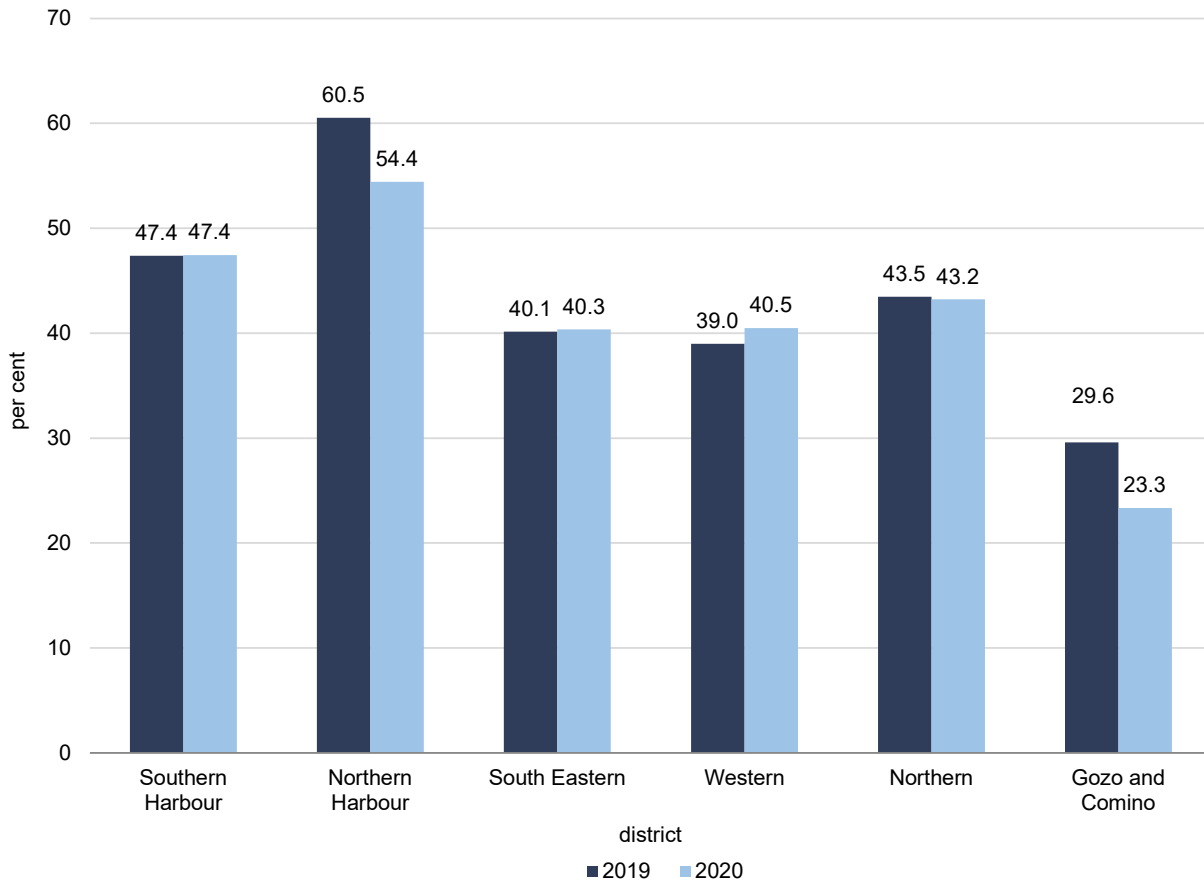


Chart 7. Households who reported exposure to pollution, grime or other environmental problems; noise from neighbours or from street; crime, violence or vandalism in the area by District



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 2020, the gross sample size was 4,460 households. Of these, 77 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, 4,383 households were approached for the interview. Of these, 3,826 completed the survey, resulting in a household response rate of 87 per cent. These households comprised 9,555 residents, of whom 8,323 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 2020 refers to calendar year 2019.

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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/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

