



**EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK IRELAND**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

22 February 2023

## **ALARMING CSO POVERTY FIGURES MUST BE A WAKE-UP CALL FOR GOVERNMENT**

**The latest poverty figures published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2022 make for sobering reading, and must serve as a wake-up call for the Government, the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland said today.**

“The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2022 highlights in stark terms the type of material poverty and the struggles many low-income households face just trying to purchase basic necessities and put food on the table,” **said Paul Ginnell, Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland.**

“EAPN Ireland and our members have consistently called for meaningful Government action beyond emergency responses in order to address the systemic root causes of poverty. This must be underpinned by a commitment to tackling income inadequacy, investing in public services that are accessible to all and supporting access to decent jobs for those who can work.”

“SILC 2022 has revealed staggering increases in poverty for single adult households and those over 65. Everyone, at whatever stage in life and whether working or not, should have an adequate income that enables them to have a decent life, to live with dignity, and to take a full part in society. There are a number of steps the Government can and must take to make this a reality,” **said Mr Ginnell.**

“We need to see social welfare rates benchmarked to a level that lifts people above the poverty line and provides them with a Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL), as well as the introduction of a living wage as calculated by the Living Wage Technical Group. The minimum wage continues to fall short of the Living Wage, despite the increase in January. These are needed in tandem with adequate investment in and ensuring the public delivery of quality public services and supports.”

“If the Government is to truly prioritise the eradication of poverty in our society, we need to see these steps reflected in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion. The mid-term review of the Roadmap must deliver ambitious commitments which are matched by effective implementation measures, and backed by adequate financing and a whole-of-Government approach.”

### **Key Findings from the CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2022:**

- 13.1% of people (671,000 people) were at risk of poverty in 2022, up from 11.6% in 2021. This figure is similar to the 2020 estimate of 13.2%, indicating that the decrease in 2021 may have been temporary and linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic measures.
- If COVID-19 income supports were excluded, the at risk of poverty rate would have been 20.5% in 2022.
- The weekly 60% at-risk of poverty line is now €301.91 for 2022.

- Those most at risk of poverty in 2022 were people who are unemployed (35.6%, up from 23.2% in 2021), followed by people unable to work due to long-standing health problems (35.2%).
- By age group, the largest year on year change in the at risk of poverty rate was in persons ages 65 or over, going from 11.9% in 2021 to 19.0% in 2022.
- By household composition, the at risk of poverty rate was highest amongst single adult households. One in three persons living in households composed of one adult aged 65 years and over (33.6%), or composed of one adult aged less than 65 years (32.0%) were at risk of poverty in SILC 2022.
- The at risk of poverty rate for individuals in households with one adult and one or more children aged under 18 was 23.8%, compared with 13.1% of persons living in two adult households with 1-3 children.
- 17.7% of people (or over 906,500 people) were experiencing enforced deprivation in 2022 compared with 13.8% in 2021.
- The deprivation rate for those at risk of poverty was 40.7% in SILC 2022 compared with 34.1% in 2021. The deprivation rate for those not at risk of poverty was 14.3% in 2022, compared with 11.2% in 2021.
- 5.3% of people (or more than 271,500 people) were found to be living in consistent poverty, up from 4.0% in 2021 (up over 70,000 from 2021).
- The consistent poverty rate was highest among persons unable to work due to long-standing health problems (19.7%) and the unemployed (18.0%), while it was lowest amongst those who were employed (2.3%).
- The consistent poverty rate for those living in owner-occupied dwellings was 2.2% compared with 12.9% for those living in rented or rent-free accommodation.
- Seven in ten people experiencing consistent poverty are living in rented or rent-free accommodation.
- The richest 20% of people had 4 times the income of the poorest 20% in 2022, compared with 3.8 in 2021

## ENDS

Contact: Tim Hanley, Policy and Communications Officer: 0863316608 / [tim.hanley@eapn.ie](mailto:tim.hanley@eapn.ie)

## NOTES:

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has today (22 February 2023) issued results from the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) for 2022. The CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) 2022 is available [here](#).
- SILC is a household survey covering a broad range of issues in relation to income and living conditions. It is the official source of data on household and individual income and provides a number of key national poverty indicators, such as the at risk of poverty rate, the consistent poverty rate, and rates of enforced deprivation. This report presents the results for 2022, using an income reference period of the 2021 calendar year.
- The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland is a network of 164 local, regional and national anti-poverty organisations and individuals. It is the Irish national network of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), which links groups fighting for the eradication of poverty across Europe. The Mission of EAPN Ireland is: 'To put the eradication of poverty at the top of the Irish and European policy agenda and empower groups working to end poverty to understand and influence policy-making.' EAPN Ireland supports members to influence national and European policy through training, information, collective action and networking.
- The at risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty rates Table:

<b>At risk of poverty, deprivation and consistent poverty rates 2022</b>									
	<b>At risk of poverty rate</b>			<b>Deprivation rate</b>			<b>Consistent poverty rate</b>		
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	13.1	11.3	13.1	13.6	12.9	16.3	4.5	3.6	5.0
Female	13.4	12.0	13.2	15.1	14.8	19.1	4.8	4.3	5.7
<b>Age group</b>									
0-17	16.4	13.6	15.2	18.9	17.0	19.9	7.2	5.2	7.5
18-34	12.9	8.7	7.8	14.2	15.2	19.8	3.9	3.4	4.0
35-49	11.2	10.0	10.7	14.4	12.8	18.3	4.7	3.3	4.6
50-64	14.6	14.4	14.6	13.0	13.9	16.0	4.8	5.0	6.6
65+	9.8	11.9	19.0	8.1	8.4	12.7	1.0	2.5	3.3
<b>Principal Economic Status (aged 16 years and over)</b>									
Employed	6.5	4.4	5.8	9.2	8.6	12.7	1.6	0.9	2.3
Unemployed	33.2	23.2	35.6	33.3	31.6	48.6	16.4	10.2	18.0
Retired	9.8	11.8	19.1	7.0	7.6	12.0	1.1	2.3	3.8
Unable to work due to long-standing health problems	33.4	39.1	35.2	37.0	39.6	44.3	16.2	19.2	19.7
Student, pupil	20.3	17.4	13.7	16.1	13.0	20.1	6.2	5.7	6.6
Fulfilling domestic tasks	20.7	19.5	23.8	16.5	15.6	23.1	5.8	5.1	7.9
<b>Highest education level attained (aged 16 years and over)</b>									
Primary or below	18.0	24.8	29.7	22.0	20.3	27.2	6.0	8.6	10.1
Lower secondary	18.6	19.4	22.6	20.0	20.7	23.5	6.9	6.3	9.7
Higher secondary	15.2	12.4	11.4	14.6	12.8	20.1	5.2	3.9	5.1
Post leaving cert	15.2	10.3	13.7	16.6	15.0	21.4	5.1	3.9	5.1
Third level non degree	10.0	5.8	12.3	10.0	9.2	17.3	2.6	0.8	3.6
Third level degree or above	6.4	4.3	4.1	6.9	6.8	7.9	1.5	1.3	1.4
<b>Household composition</b>									
1 adult aged 65+	20.5	21.5	33.6	10.6	12.1	16.8	2.2	4.3	8.1
1 adult aged <65	28.9	28.8	32.0	22.0	19.6	25.2	11.4	11.1	14.5
2 adults, at least 1 aged 65+	4.5	8.9	14.4	6.8	6.9	9.0	0.4	2.3	1.6
2 adults, both aged <65	8.5	8.2	6.1	11.7	15.3	17.9	3.5	3.4	2.2
3 or more adults	7.8	6.1	4.7	7.8	10.9	12.9	1.1	2.2	2.5
1 adult with children aged under 18	31.0	22.8	23.8	44.1	44.9	43.5	19.3	13.1	14.1
2 adults with 1-3 children aged under 18	9.9	9.1	13.1	12.4	10.7	17.7	3.0	3.0	5.3
Other households with children aged under 18	19.5	13.7	9.2	19.2	15.1	17.1	8.1	3.8	5.8
<b>Number of persons at work in the household</b>									
0	29.4	29.0	34.6	24.5	28.6	31.4	11.7	12.4	13.8
1	15.6	12.6	15.9	19.3	13.8	24.3	5.7	3.5	6.5

2	4.9	3.0	4.0	6.8	7.5	9.4	1.3	0.5	1.5
3+	4.0	3.6	2.4	7.7	6.0	7.9	0.0	0.0	1.9
<b>Tenure status</b>									
Owner-occupied	7.7	8.2	8.7	7.4	6.1	10.2	1.6	1.5	2.2
Rented or rent free	25.7	19.8	23.6	29.9	32.0	35.6	11.7	9.8	12.9
<b>Urban/rural location</b>									
Urban areas	13.3	10.5	12.4	15.8	15.8	19.6	5.4	4.7	5.7
Rural areas	13.0	13.9	14.7	11.2	10.2	13.9	3.1	2.6	4.6
<b>Region</b>									
Northern and Western	18.2	18.0	18.6	11.3	10.9	16.5	4.1	3.1	7.7
Southern	15.5	14.0	13.3	14.7	16.7	21.2	5.1	5.8	6.7
Eastern and Midland	10.1	8.0	11.1	15.1	13.0	16.0	4.5	3.1	3.7