



European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland

Briefing on 2025 Income and Poverty Data

MARCH 2026

INTRODUCTION

In March 2026 the Central Statistics Office published the [Survey on Income and Living Conditions \(SILC\) for 2025](#) (SILC). This Survey provides us with important information on income, poverty, and inequality in Ireland and the groups most impacted. Unfortunately it shows that Ireland fell well short of its target to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025 which was adopted in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025. This was a roll-over of the same target that was previously set for 2020, yet consistent poverty stands at more than double that figure, at 4.7%.

KEY POINTS: SURVEY ON INCOME & LIVING CONDITIONS 2025

- The **at-risk of poverty levels** increased from 11.7% in 2024 to 12.6% in 2025. In the same period, the levels of **deprivation** reduced marginally from 15.7% to 15.1%, but the level of **consistent poverty**, which is the combination of experiencing enforced deprivation and being at-risk of poverty was broadly unchanged, reducing from 5% in 2024, to 4.7%.

687,784
people at
risk of
poverty

824,249
people
experiencing
deprivation

256,554
people in
consistent
poverty

INCOME

- The median equivalised disposable income for individuals^[1] in 2025 was €31,767^[2]. This is an increase of €1771 (5.9%) from 2024. However, when inflation is taken into account the real value of this increase was 3.6%.

AT RISK OF POVERTY

- The at risk of poverty threshold increased to just under €19,060 in 2025. This is the 60% poverty line. The poverty line was €366.54 per week an increase of €21.62 since 2024.
- In 2025, 12.6% or over 687,784 people were at risk of poverty, up from 11.7% in 2024, and higher than 12.5% in 2022.
- Without the cost-of living measures 14.9% would have been at-risk of poverty.
- At risk of poverty rate for children was 16.9%. One in three of those who were unemployed (29.3%) and those unable to work due to a long-standing health problems (28.4%) were at-risk of poverty.
- Around one quarter of those in households with a single adult were at-risk of poverty in 2025 including households with single adults aged 65 and over (30.3%), single adults under 65 (20%) and lone parent families (17.1%).
- Three in ten (30.7%) of those at-risk of poverty were children despite only making up almost 23.4% of the population.
- Whether someone owned their own home or was renting or living rent free^[3] is a major determinant of whether someone is in poverty. In 2025 24.2% of those renting or living rent free were at-risk of poverty, more than three times those who owned their home (7.4%).
- Housing costs are a major factor in putting people at risk of poverty. If the cost of rent and mortgage interest were deducted from people's income the at risk of poverty rate would be 19.7% in 2025, instead of 12.6%. Almost half (45.2%) of those that stated they lived in rented or rent-free accommodation would have been at risk of poverty after their rent is deducted, compared to 24.2% beforehand. After rent deductions at-risk of poverty would have been 40.6% for those renting from a Local Authority, 58% for those living in accommodation rented with other forms of social housing supports such as the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rent Supplement and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and 42.6% for people living in accommodation rented without housing supports.

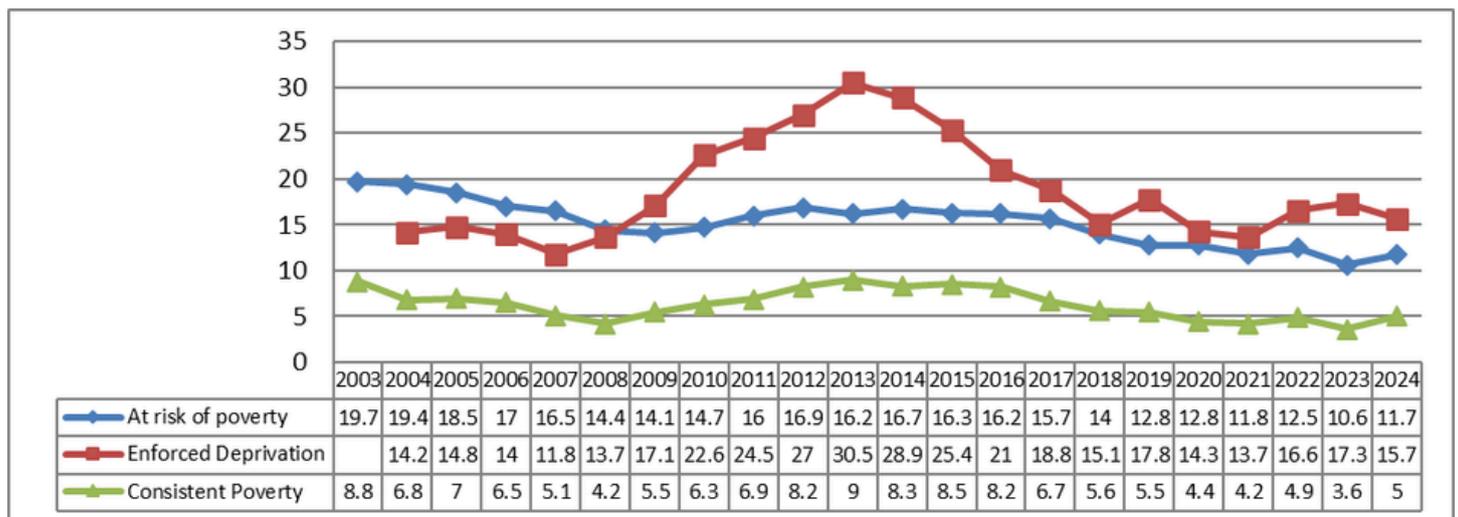
ENFORCED DEPRIVATION

- The percentage of people living in enforced deprivation decreased from 15.7% in 2024 to 15.1% (over 824,000 people) in 2025. This is those who could not afford at least two of eleven essential items.^[4] It was 17.3% in 2023, 16.6% in 2022 and 13.7% in 2021.
- While deprivation fell for some groups and remained the same for some it increased for lone-parent households who had children under 18 years of age, increasing from 46.3% in 2024 to 48.2% in 2025 and for households with one adult over 65 years (11.7% to 18.3%).
- Other groups with high deprivation levels included those unable to work due to long-standing health problems (39.2%); those who were unemployed (42.1%); and those living in rented or rent-free accommodation (31.9%).
- Just under one in five children (19.6%) was in enforced deprivation
- Almost one in ten of those in work experienced enforced deprivation 9.5%

CONSISTENT POVERTY

- Consistent poverty refers to those who are both at risk of poverty and who experience enforced deprivation. The Government target was to reduce consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025.
- Consistent poverty increased from 3.6% in 2023 to 5.0% in 2024, dropping slightly to 4.7% in 2025. This is over 256,000 people. It was 4.9% in 2022 and 4.2% in 2021.
- There was a big increase in consistent poverty among children, increasing from 4.8% in 2023 to 8.5% in 2024, dropping slightly to 7.8% in 2025. Children make up almost four in ten (37.8%) of all those in consistent poverty.
- Among other groups consistent poverty was highest for those who were unemployed (18.1%), those unable to work due to long-standing health problems (13.9%) and lone parent households (12%).
- Almost one in eight of those renting or rent free (12.2%) were in consistent poverty compared to 1.4% of those who owned their home. Those renting or living rent free make up over three quarters (80%) of those in consistent poverty.

Graph: Poverty Levels 2003-2024



Source: [CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2023](#) (Note: Change in how income is calculated from 2020 makes at-risk and consistent poverty data not fully comparable to data before this.)

2025 At Risk of Poverty 12.6%, Enforced Deprivation 15.1%, Consistent Poverty 4.7%

POVERTY LEVELS AMONG DIFFERENT GROUPS IN SOCIETY

The Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) highlights the level of poverty among different groups in society with some experiencing higher levels of poverty than the general population. This includes children, those who are unemployed or unable to work due to long-standing health problems, lone parent households and households with no-one at work, which have just a single adult under 65 years of age, and where someone is renting or living rent free. **This is highlighted in the table below.** However, it is important to highlight that SILC it does not include the poverty levels

among groups such as Travellers, Roma, migrants, and other ethnic minorities, disabled people specifically, or those who are homeless, and it cannot tell us what the impact of poverty has on people or communities, including disadvantaged socio-economic communities. The [Pobal HP Deprivation Index](#) uses census information to understand deprivation at local area level across the country.

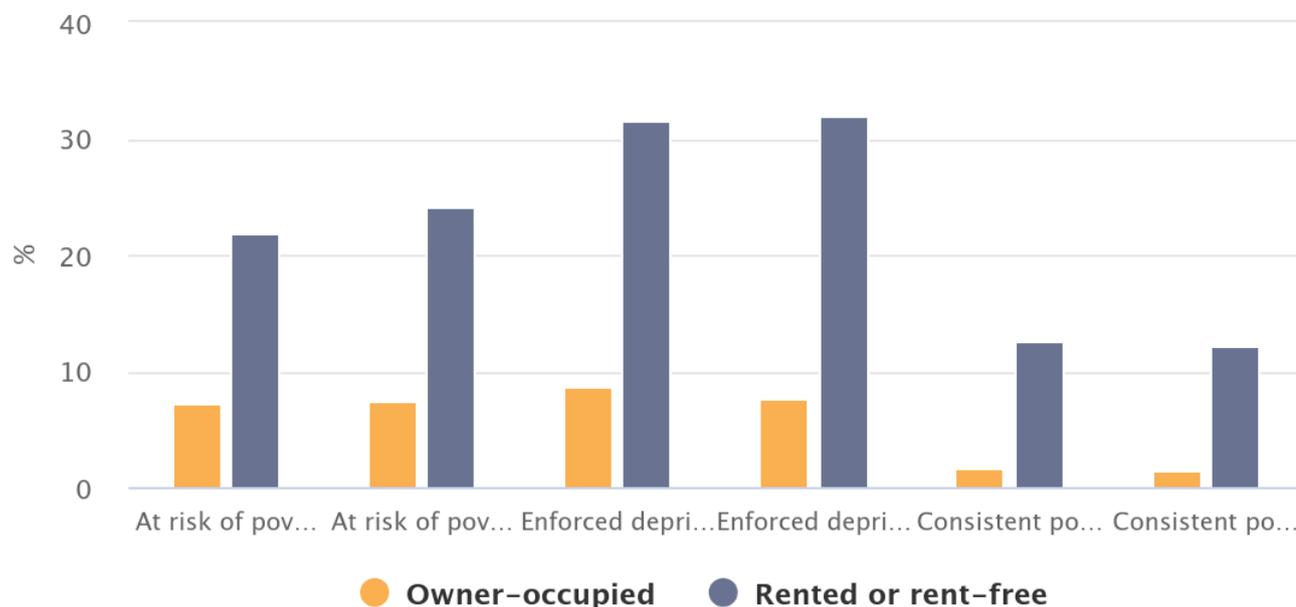
Table: Poverty Levels for Selected Groups 2025

Table: Poverty levels for selected groups	At Risk of Poverty	Enforced Deprivation	Consistent Poverty
General population	12.6%	15.1%	4.7%
Women	12.4%	15.6%	4.5%
Older people 65+	14.8%	9.8%	3.4%
Children	16.9%	19.6%	7.8%
Unemployed	29.3%	42.1%	18.1%
Employed	5.7%	9.5%	1.5%
Unable to work due to long-standing health problems	28.4%	39.2%	13.9%
Lone parent households with children under 18	17.1%	48.7%	13.4%
Household with one adult 65yrs and over	30.3%	18.3%	9.6%
Household with one adult under 65yrs	20%	21.7%	8.2%
Household with no-one at work	28.5%	29.6%	14.2%
Household where someone is renting or living rent free	24.2%	31.9%	12.2%
Household in owner occupied accommodation	7.4%	7.6%	1.4%

Full tables are available on [CSO SILC 2025](#) (Table 5.1)

Cost of Housing Huge Driver of Poverty - 2024 & 2025

Figure 5.10 Poverty and Enforced Deprivation Rates by Tenure and Year



Source: CSO Ireland
Highcharts.com

FACTORING IN THE COST OF HOUSING & COST OF LIVING MEANS POVERTY IS SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERSTATED

We need to begin a conversation about the manner in which poverty is calculated. Traditionally the definition which has been in use for decades is 'People are living in poverty if their income and resources (material, cultural & social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living which is acceptable by Irish society generally' and 'as a result..may be excluded & marginalised from activities considered the norm for other people in society.'

- However in practise, at risk of poverty is calculated as 60% of the median income (not average), currently €366.54 per week.
- Enforced Deprivation is interpreted as not being able to afford two of a list of eleven items. A list that radically needs to be updated.
- While Consistent Poverty is where people are at risk of poverty **and** experience enforced deprivation.
- It is important to recognise that without the ad-hoc cost of living payments from Government, 14.9% of people would have been deemed to be at risk of poverty.
- Meanwhile, the disproportionate cost of housing means that once housing costs are deducted, the amount of money people are left with, means that 19.7% of people would be considered at

risk of poverty, instead of 12.6%. Eight out of ten people in consistent poverty are in rented or rent free accommodation.

- It is therefore clear that the official figures hide a much darker reality for very many people living in Ireland. To really measure poverty these costs must be taken into account.
- We need to change tack. We need to agree a minimum standard of living below which, nobody should be expected to live. The MESL index is the most comprehensive barometer of this. All social welfare payments should be automatically benchmarked to this standard, and increased to reflect the cost of living. Combined with an expansion of public services, and targeted measures aimed at groups disproportionately impacted by poverty.

INEQUALITY

- Looking at the distribution of income, the richest 20% of the population had 3.9 times the wealth of the poorest 20%. While the richest 10% had more than ten times the wealth of the poorest 10%.
- The Gini coefficient measures income equality across the entire income distribution. A Gini coefficient value of 0% means perfect equality, indicating that income is distributed equally amongst all persons. A Gini Coefficient of 100% indicates perfect inequality where all the income is held by one person. In 2025 the Gini coefficient was 27.4%, an increase from 26.9% in 2024, meaning our society become slightly more unequal.



**The wealthiest
20% have 3.9
times the
income of the
poorest 20%**

CONCLUSIONS

1. The poverty data for 2025 showed that while deprivation levels and the numbers living in consistent poverty showed marginal reductions, the levels of those at-risk of poverty increased from 2024. This means that there has been an increase in those below the poverty line. Incomes have gone up and the one-off cost of living payments did help but the income levels of large numbers of people, whether from work or social welfare or both are not adequate to meet the cost of living. The National Minimum Wage, welfare and pension rates are not linked to the cost of living and have not kept pace with inflation. The cost of public services, including housing, greatly contributes to the overall cost.
2. The Government failed to achieve its commitment in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 to reduce the level of those in consistent poverty to 2% or less by 2025. SILC 2025 shows that tinkering around the edges is not sufficient. Progress towards the target cannot be achieved without measures that are sustained and tackle the structural nature of poverty.
3. In 2025 the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 finished, and the Government is preparing to launch a successor strategy. This strategy must effectively tackle the root causes of poverty through the implementation of a genuinely integrated strategy across all relevant

policies. This includes economic, social and environmental policy. It must ensure that everyone has access to an adequate income, affordable quality services and the opportunity to access a decent job. It must also involve proofing all relevant policy for its impact on poverty and give an effective and meaningful voice to those impacted by poverty in how policies are developed and implemented.

4. While the development of this new strategy is important, the necessary policies to tackle the causes of poverty are well understood by those experiencing poverty and their organisations, and solutions have been proposed to successive Governments. Poverty can and must be eliminated. It is essential that the Government acts immediately to implement the necessary policy changes to ensure everyone can live a life with dignity and participate fully in society. This is critical not just despite global challenges, but because of them.

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- **The full CSO Survey of Income and Living Conditions 2024 is available [here](#).**
 - **The EAPN Ireland's press statement following its publication can be found [here](#).**
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Footnotes:

[1] Median equivalised disposable income for an individual is the middle income after tax has been deducted, and it also takes account of differences in household size and the number of adults and children.

[2] The incomes for SILC 2025 relate to the year 2024.

[3] Renting or rent free includes: rent free, rented from a Local Authority, rented using other forms of social housing support and rented without housing supports.

[4] Two pairs of strong shoes; A warm waterproof overcoat; Buy new (not second-hand) clothes; Eat meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day; Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week; Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money; Keep the home adequately warm; Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year; Replace any worn out furniture; Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month; Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight for entertainment.



European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland

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. It has almost 170 members, which are mainly national and local anti-poverty groups, and is the Irish member of the European Anti-Poverty Network.

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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government supporting communities