



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE



**GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF  
THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE**

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF STATISTICAL SURVEYS  
DIVISION OF POPULATION AND LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS  
HOUSEHOLDS' SURVEYS SECTION

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**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**STATISTICS ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS  
2003**

The General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece announces the results on Statistics on Income and Living Conditions in households of year 2003 with reference income year the previous calendar year (2002). The survey has been conducted in a final sample of 6.655 private households and in 14.960 their members, throughout the country, aged 16 years and over.

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) consists part of a European Statistical System, to which all Member States participate and replaced, for the year 2003, the European Household Panel Survey, in order to succeed quality improvement of statistical data concerning poverty and social exclusion.

Basic aim of the survey is the study, both at national and European level, of households' living conditions mainly in relation to their income. This survey is the basic source for comparable statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at European level. The comparability of data is obtained by using commonly accepted questionnaires and primary target variables.

In this survey specific socio-economic magnitudes affecting population's living conditions are examined. Using the collected information our country calculates the structural indicators for social cohesion and produces systematic statistics on income inequalities, inequalities on households' living conditions, poverty and social exclusion.

More specifically by this survey 12 indicators, out of the 18 social cohesion indicators of Laeken, are calculated, concerning poverty and social inequality. These indicators, among other things, contribute in the configuration and practice of social policy in our country.

The poverty line is calculated within its relative concept (poor in relation with others) and it is defined at 60% of the median total equivalized disposable income of the household, using the modified OECD<sup>(1)</sup> equivalised scale, diversifies from the concept of absolute poverty (being poor when depriving of basic means for survival). As total equivalized disposable income of the household is considered total net income (that is income after deducting taxes and social contributions) received from all household members.

It is, hence, necessary to handle data carefully, given that income flows, like ownership-occupancy, benefits in kind and own production, being quite increased in our country, is not included. The pre-mentioned components can influence significantly the results and decrease relative risk-of-poverty for more than 2 percentages. Income components like imputed rent from ownership-occupancy, indirect social transfers, and income in kind and interest from loans will be included in the survey from the year 2007, onwards.

From the results is arising that:

- In 2003<sup>2</sup> the 21% of total population of Greece was at risk of poverty after social transfers, while in 2002<sup>3</sup> this percentage was risen in 20%.
- The risk of poverty before all social transfers (not including social benefits<sup>4</sup> and pensions<sup>5</sup> in the calculation of total disposable income) is risen in 41,2%, while in case that includes only the pensions and not the social benefits in 24,4%

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<sup>(1)</sup> The modified OECD scale attributes a weight of 1 to the first adult, 0.5 to each subsequent adult and 0.3 to each child aged less than 14

<sup>(2)</sup> EU SILC 2003: Income reference period is the calendar year of 2002

<sup>(3)</sup> ECHP 2002: Income reference period is the calendar year of 2001

<sup>(4)</sup> Social benefits include the social assistance (the allowance of social solidarity for pensioners –EKAS, a lump sum amount for assistance to poor households in mountainous and disadvantageous areas, allowances to children under 16 years old who live in poor households, allowances to repatriations, refugees, released from prison, drug-addicts, alcoholics,

- The risk of poverty, calculated with dispersion around the risk of poverty threshold in 40%, 50% and 70% of total equivalised disposable household income, is risen in 9,7%, 14,2% and 28.8%. respectively.
- The poverty rate, calculated with the same methodology, indicates relative stability during the 1994 and 2003, where we have available data for the measurement of poverty, ranges between 20% and 23% (rounded percentages).
- The poverty rate, calculated with the same methodology, indicates relative stability during the last 11 years, where we have available data for the measurement of poverty, ranges between 20% and 22% (rounded percentages).
- The threshold of risk of poverty is risen in 4.741,12 euro per person yearly and in 9.956,35 euro per households with two adult and two dependent children.
- Inequality of income distribution (S80/S20 quintile share ratio), the ratio of total equivalised disposable income received by the 20% of persons with the highest income (top quintile) to that received by the 20% of persons with the lowest income (lowest quintile) is risen in 6,6..
- The risk of poverty rate is higher in females (21,6%) in relation to males (20,4%).
- The risk of poverty rate for children aged 0-15 years (poverty child) is risen in 23,1% of this specific population.
- The risk of poverty rate for persons aged 65 year and over is calculated in 28,1%, while for persons aged 16 to 24 years in 25,2%.
- The relative at-risk-of-poverty gap is the difference between the median equivalised income of persons below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold and the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, expressed as a percentage of the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. This indicator is risen in 30,5% and this means that the 50% of poor enjoy higher income from 69,5% of poverty threshold.
- Persons in employment risk from poverty less than persons in unemployment and economically inactive (pensioners, persons fulfilling domestic tasks and care responsibilities etc.). The risk of poverty rate of persons in employment is risen in 14,2% and economically active in 26,2%.The difference between men's and women's average gross hourly earnings as a percentage of men's average gross hourly earnings (gender pay gap) is calculated in 11%.
- The households declare that cannot afford to fulfill some basic needs such as facing unexpected financial expenses in 46%, Paying for one annual holiday away from home in 52%, arrears on utility bills (rent, phone, electricity etc.) in 37% and ability to keep home adequately warm in 19%.
- Concerning housing conditions, the households declare as problems the leaking roof, damp walls/floors/ foundation or rot window frames or floor in 22 %, the 7% of the household live in rooms too dark or with not enough light and they have lack of bath or indoor toilet in 2% and 4%, respectively..

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allowances to long-standing unemployed aged 45-65, benefits to households that faced an earthquake, flood etc.) family, unemployment,, sickness, disability/invalidity benefits /allowances as well as the education allowances.

(<sup>5</sup>) Pensions include the old age pensions and the survivor's pension and benefits

In the following tables (tables 1-4) it is figured poverty rates according to household type, as well as the poor population distribution, for the year 2003 (Income reference period is the calendar year of 2002)

**Table 1.** Risk-of-poverty rate by household type  
%

<b>Household type</b>	<b>%</b>
Total no dependent children	19.2
1 person (total)	27.1
2 adults both < 65 years	16.0
2 adults at least one 65+ years	27.8
Other no dependent children	13.8
Total dependent children	22.6
Single parent at least 1 dependent child	32.8
2 adults 1 dependent child	13.4
2 adults 2 dependent children	15.8
2 adults 3+ dependent children	32.5
Other households with dependent children	29.8

**Table 2.** Risk-of-poverty rate by household type  
Distribution of poor population  
%

<b>Household type</b>	<b>%</b>
Total no dependent children	43.4
1 person (total)	9.1
2 adults. both < 65 years	7.1
2 adults. at least one 65+ years	13.4
Other no dependent children	13.8
Total dependent children	56.6
Single parent at least 1 dependent child	2.3
2 adults. 1 dependent child	6.8
2 adults. 2 dependent children	12.2
2 adults. 3+ dependent children	11.1
Other households with dependent children	24.2

**Table 3.** Risk-of-poverty rate by household type

Single households

%

Year	Total	Females	Males	< 65	65+
2003	100,0	30.1	21.5	18.1	36.6

**Table 4.** Poor population distribution in households with one member

(single households), according to gender and age

%

Year	Total	Females	Males	<65	65+
2003	100,0	72.4	27.6	34.2	65.8

More information about the survey and methodological note in <http://www.statistics.gr> (Category: statistical data / social statistics/ income and living conditions).

For further information on data:

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