



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

STATISTICS ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS 2009

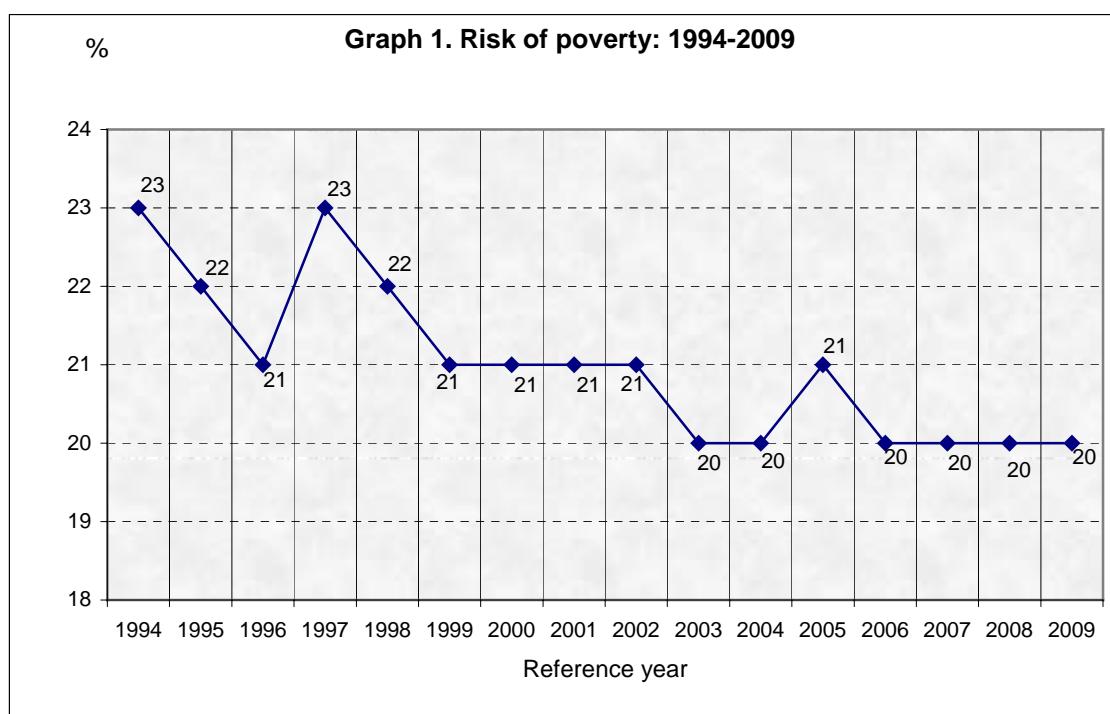
Risk of poverty

The Hellenic Statistical Authority announces the results of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU- Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) of households for the year 2009, with reference income period the previous calendar year (2008). This survey is the main source for comparable statistics on income distribution and social exclusion at European level.

A. Key statistical findings

- In 2009, 19.7% of the population were at risk of poverty. The abovementioned indicator, calculated with the same methodology, remained relatively stable during the last 14 years (1994-2008), for which there are available data, ranging from 20% to 23%.
- The risk of poverty for children aged 0-17 years (child poverty) came up to 23.7%, that is 4 percentage points higher than the corresponding percentage for the total population.
- The risk of poverty for people aged 65 year and over was 21.4%, recording a decrease of 0.9 percentage point in comparison with the previous year.
- The percentage of risk of poverty for the unemployed people was 38.1%, recording a significant increase of 2 percentage points compared with the previous year.
- The social benefits made the percentage of risk of poverty decrease by 3 percentage points.
- The pensions made the risk of poverty decrease by 19.3 percentage points
- The risk of poverty decreases by 3.3 percentage points after including income flows, such as non-cash income for employees and own consumption, in the disposable income.

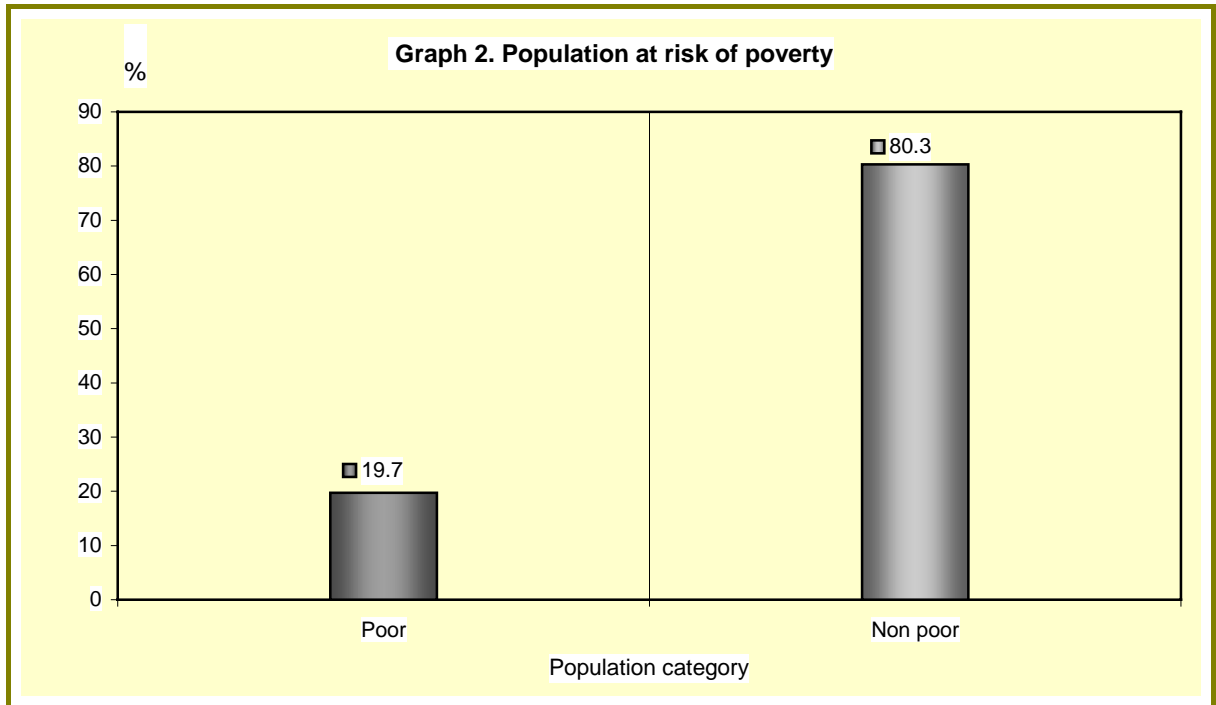
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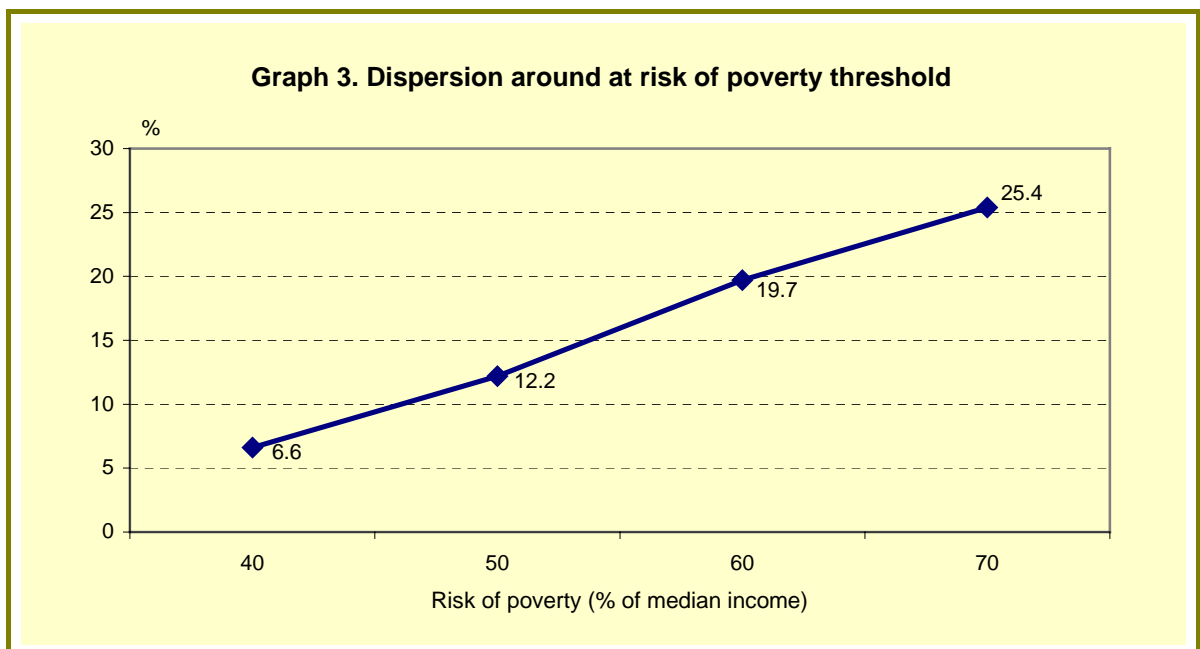
B. At risk-of-poverty rate and poverty threshold

At risk-of-poverty rate	19.7%
Poverty threshold for one-person household	6,897.30 euro
Poverty threshold for households with 2 adults and 2 dependent children under 14 years old	14,484.40 »
Average annual equivalised income	13,504.88 »
Average annual equivalised disposable income	23,394.73 euro

- The poverty threshold comes up to 6,897.30 euro per person annually and to 14,484.40 euro for households with two adult and two dependent children under 14 years old.
- The mean annual income comes up to 13,504.88 euro per person and the mean annual disposable income of the households of the Country to 23,394.73 euro.
- 845,000 households and their 2,147,108 members were at-risk-of-poverty

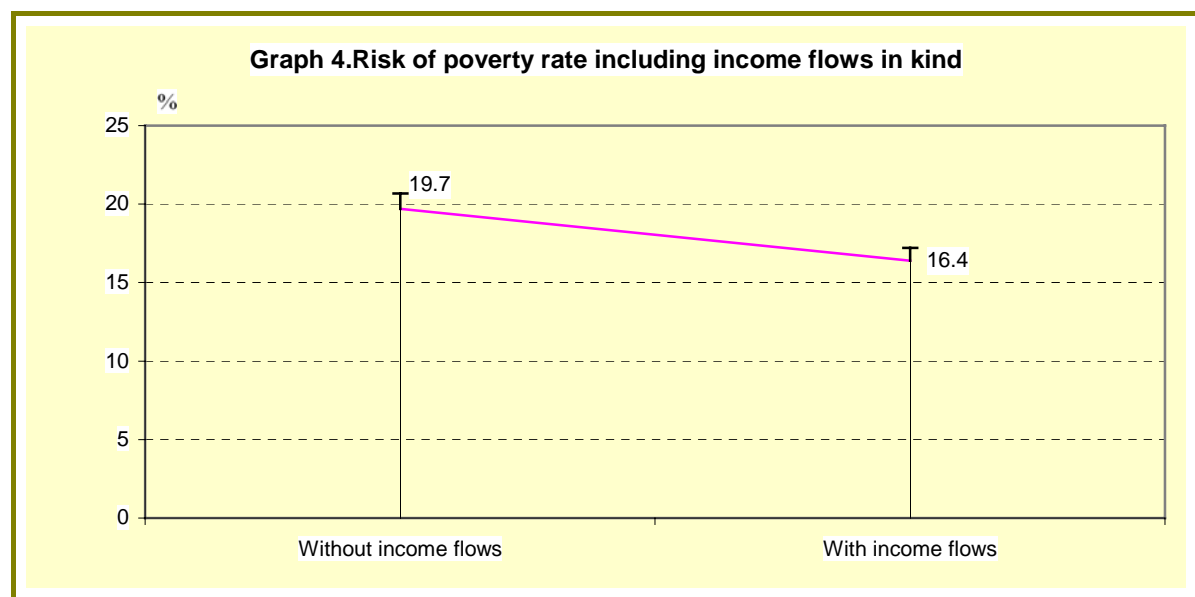


- The risk of poverty, calculated with dispersion around the risk of poverty threshold for 40%, 50% and 70% of the total equivalised disposable household income, comes up to 6.6%, 12.2% and 25.4%, respectively (graph 3).



C. Population at risk of poverty (including income flows in kind)

- The relative risk of poverty rate, after including income flows, such as ownership-occupancy, benefits in kind and own production in the disposable income, decreases by approximately 3.3 percentage points (graph 4).
- The major decrease is recorded for the age group “65 years old and over”, where the risk of poverty, after the income flows, dropped from 21.4% to 14.4% and for the age group “75 years old and over” where the risk of poverty dropped from 23.9% to 16.3%, thus recording a decrease of 7 and 7.6 percentage points respectively (table 2c).



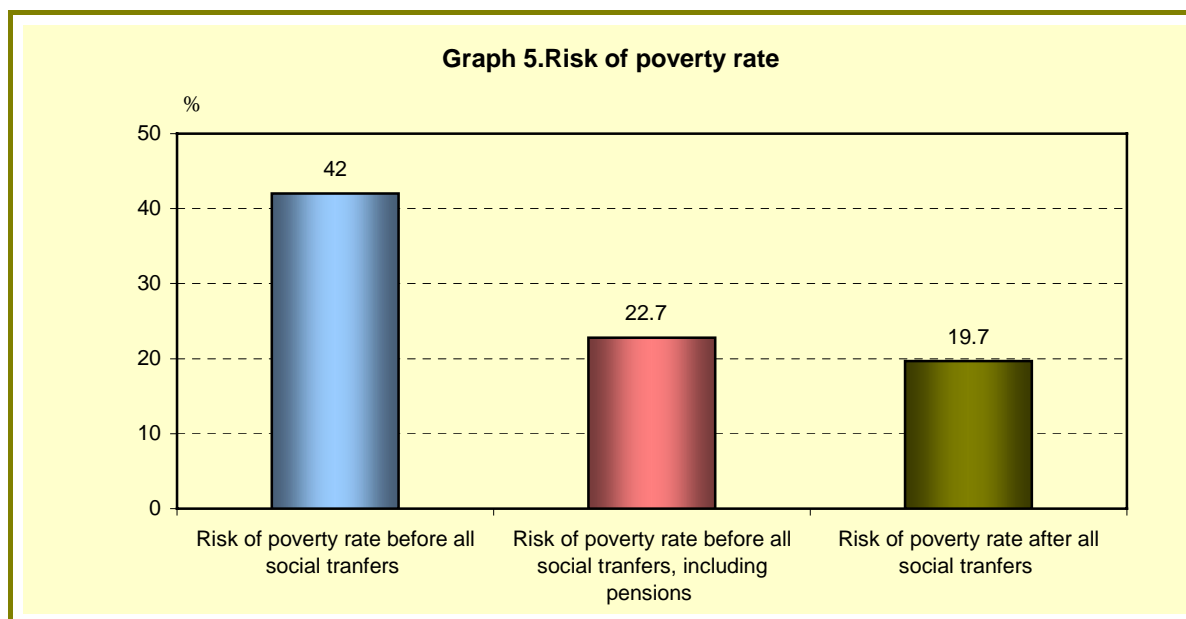
D. Social transfers make risk of poverty rate decrease approximately by half

- The risk of poverty rate before all social transfers (not including social benefits¹ and pensions² in the total disposable household income) comes up to 42.0%, while in the case where only the pensions are included without the social benefits, the risk of poverty rates drops to 22.7% (graph 5).
- The social benefits make the poverty percentage decrease by 3.0 percentage points.
- The pensions make the poverty percentage decrease by 19.3 percentage points.

¹ Social benefits include the social assistance (the allowance of social solidarity for pensioners –EKAS, a lump sum payment to poor households in mountainous and disadvantaged areas, allowances for children under 16 years old who live in poor households, allowances to repatriates, refugees, persons released from prison, drug-addicts, alcoholics, 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.

² Pensions include the old age pensions and the survivor's pension and benefits

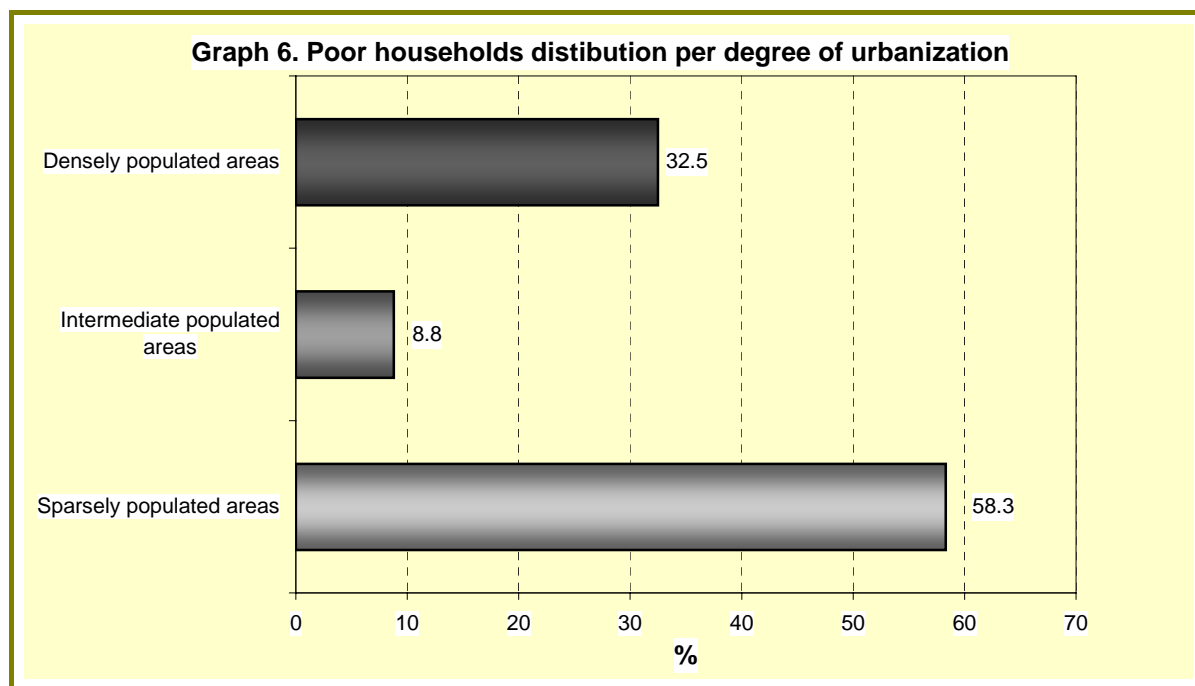
- The total of the social transfers make the poverty percentage decrease by 22.3 percentage points.
- The risk of poverty before all social transfers (not including social benefits and pensions in total the disposable household income) is estimated at 85.2% for persons aged 65 years and over, whereas after social transfer it is estimated at 26.7% of the aforementioned population, hence this decrease by 58.5 percentage points reflects the significant effect of social transfers and especially of pensions for this age group.



- The impact of pensions on the decrease of risk of poverty is smaller for the population aged 18-64 years. The relative risk of poverty, before social transfers, for this age group, is estimated at 33.3%, whereas after social transfers it is estimated at 20.8% of the abovementioned population, thus recording a decrease of 12.5 percentage points (tables 8a and 8b).
- The social transfers (including the pensions) represent 28.1% of the total disposable income of the country's households.
 - The pensions account for a significant share of the total disposable income, since they reach 24.8%.
 - The social benefits come up to 3.3% of the disposable income.

E. Characteristics of at risk-of-poverty population

- The risk of poverty rate is higher for females than for males, 20.2% and 19.1% respectively (table 2a). 28.3% of the single female households are threatened by the risk of poverty, while the corresponding percentage for single male households is 23.0% (table 4).
- The risk of poverty rate for children aged 0-17 years (poverty child) comes up to 23.7 % (table 2a).
- The risk of poverty rate for persons aged 65 year and over is calculated to be 21.4%, while for persons aged 18 to 24 years 22.2% (table 2a).
- 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 for persons in employment comes up to 13.8% (16.1% for males and 10.6% for females), for economically inactive to 26.5% and for persons in unemployment to 38.1% (table 3a).
- The relative at-risk-of-poverty rate for full time employees comes up to 12.5%, and for part-time employees to 26.9%.
- At-risk-of poverty rate for households that reside in owned dwelling is 18.5%, while for those residing in rented dwelling is 25.1% (table 5a). The risk of poverty for elderly people aged 75 years and over by tenure status comes up to 25.1% for owners and 11.7% for those who rent a house (table 5b).
- The risk of poverty rate for households with dependent children and without members in employment comes up to 43.3% of total number of households of these category, while the corresponding indicator for households without children and without persons in employment is 28.2% (table 6).
- The risk of poverty rate for single parent households with at least one (1) dependent child comes up to 32.1% of the households belonging in this specific category, while the corresponding indicator for households with 2 adults with one (1) dependent child is 22.3% (table 4).
- The risk of poverty rate is higher for households residing in sparsely populated areas than for those residing in densely populated and intermediate populated areas. The risk of poverty rate per degree of urbanization comes up to 32.5%, 8.8% and 58.3% for densely, intermediate and sparsely populated areas, respectively. (graph 6)



F. Relative at-risk-of-poverty gap

- The relative at-risk-of-poverty gap is the difference between the median equivalised income of persons below at-risk-of-poverty threshold and at-risk-of-poverty threshold, expressed as a percentage of at-risk-of-poverty threshold. This indicator comes up to 24.1% and this means that 50% of the poor have an income higher than 75.9% of the poverty threshold (6,897.30 euro), that is to say more than 5,235.00 euro, yearly, per person (table 9a).
- The highest relative at-risk-of-poverty gap (26.4%) is recorded among children aged 0-17 years, while for persons 65 years and over the corresponding percentage comes up to 14.7(table 9a)

G. Risk of poverty calculated on the basis of the 2005 poverty threshold (adjusted according to the harmonized index of consumer prices)

- The risk of poverty, calculated on the basis of the poverty threshold (adjusted according to the harmonized index of consumer prices for 2006-2009) for 2005, comes up to 16.2%, recording a slight decrease of 2.5 percentage points in comparison with the corresponding risk of poverty rate for 2009, calculated on the basis of the 2009 poverty threshold (table 10).

Conclusions

At risk-of-poverty population:

- Households with dependent children and without working members (43.3%)
- Females in unemployment (40.1%)
- Single parent households with dependent children (32.1%)
- Households with one adult aged 65 years and over (30.6%)
- Two adults households with three or more dependent children (28.6%)
- Households without dependent children and working members (28.2%)
- Single female households (28.3%)
- Children aged 0 – 17 years (23.7%)
- Persons aged 16-24 years (23.0%)

Some comments on the results

It should also be noted that population groups, being by inference poor, like homeless, persons living in institutions, Roma, etc., are not included in the survey.

Taking into account that the indicators are considerably influenced by various sub-categories of the population (age groups, household types etc.) it should be pointed out that these sub-categories aren't representative for the total population of the country in the sample. Another big category, which is not included in the sample, although influencing the poverty indicator, is "economic immigrants"

TABLES

Table 1. At-risk-of-poverty threshold (illustrative values)

Type of household	Euro
One person household	6,480.00
Household with 2 adults and 2 dependent children (younger than 14 years)	13,608.00

Table 2a. At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers, by age and gender
%

Age	Total	Female	Male
Total	19.7	20.2	19.1
0-64	19.3	19.8	18.8
0-15	23.6	-	-
0-17	23.7	-	-
16-64	18.3	18.9	17.7
18-64	18.1	18.7	17.5
16-24	23.0	23.6	22.5
18-24	22.2	23.1	21.3
25-49	17.9	18.4	17.4
50-64	16.8	17.6	15.9
65+	21.4	21.9	20.9

Table 2b. At –risk – of poverty rate for older people, after social transfers (by age and gender)
%

Age	Total	Female	Male
Total	19.7	20.2	19.1
0-59	19.3	19.6	19.0
0-74	19.3	19.9	18.7
60+	21.1	22.2	19.7
75+	23.9	23.6	24.3

Table 2c. At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers by age, including income in kind, imputed rent and own production

%

Age	Total
Total	16.4
0-64	18.4
0-17	21.4
18-24	20.9
25-49	15.4
50-64	14.5
65+	14.4
0-59	17.0
0-74	15.4
60+	15.9
75+	16.3

Table 2d At-risk-of-poverty rate for pensioners after social transfers, by gender

%

Total	Female	Male
18.4	19.2	17.8

Table 3a. At-risk-of-poverty rate, by most frequent employment status and by gender

%

Activity status	Total	Female	Male
At work	13.8	10.6	16.1
Not at work: total	23.9	25.6	21.1
Not at work: Unemployed	38.1	40.1	35.3
Not at work: Retired	18.4	19.2	17.8
Not at work: Other inactive	26.5	27.0	24.5

Table 3b. In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate (by full time/part time work)

Type of work	%
Full time	12.5
Part time	26.9

Table 4. At-risk-of-poverty rate, by household type

Household type	%
Total	19.7
Households with dependent children	22.3
Single parent with dependent children	32.1
Two adults with one dependent child	22.3
Two adults with two dependent children	22.4
Two adults with three or more dependent children	28.6
Three or more adults with dependent children	18.6
Households with no dependent children	17.4
Single household	26.4
- One adult younger than 64 years old	30.6
- One adult older than 65 years old	23.1
- Single female	28.3
- Single male	23.0
Two adults, at least one aged 65 years	17.2
Three or more adults with no dependent children	21.0

Table 5a At-risk-of-poverty rate, by accommodation tenure status, gender and selected age groups

%

Age	Owner			Rent		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Total	18.5	19.0	17.9	25.1	25.6	24.6
0-17	21.1	-	-	33.5	-	-
18-64	16.7	17.3	16.0	23.7	24.4	23.0
65+	21.8	22.2	21.3	17.3	18.2	16.0

Table 5b. At-risk-of-poverty rate for older people, by accommodation tenure status, gender and selected age groups

%

Age	Owner	Rent
60+	21.3	18.8
65+	21.8	17.3
75+	25.1	11.7

Table 6. At-risk-of-poverty rate, by work intensity of the household, by gender and selected age groups

Household type by work intensity	%
Households without dependent children and all members are working-household with work intensity=1 (maxwork)	9.3
Households without dependent children with work intensity between 0 and 1 (somework)	14.4
Households without dependent children and none is working-household with work intensity=0 (nonework)	28.2
Households with dependent children and all members are working-household with work intensity=1 (maxwork)	11.2
Households with dependent children with work intensity between 0,5 and 1 (somework)	30.2
Households with dependent children with work intensity between 0 and 0,5 (somework)	44.2
Households with dependent children and none is working-household with work intensity=0 (nonework)	43.3

Table 7a. Dispersion around at-risk-poverty-threshold

%

Threshold	Age	Total	Female	Male
40% of median equivalised disposable income	Total	6.6	6.8	6.4
	0-17	8.2	-	-
	18-64	6.6	7.0	6.3
	65+	5.0	5.1	4.7
50% of median equivalised disposable income	Total	12.2	12.7	11.8
	0-17	16.1	-	-
	18-64	11.7	12.3	11.2
	65+	10.2	11.0	9.2
70% of median equivalised disposable income	Total	25.4	26.2	24.6
	0-17	30.2	-	-
	18-64	23.1	23.8	22.3
	65+	29.2	29.9	28.2

Table 7b. Dispersion around at-risk-poverty-threshold for older people
%

Threshold	Age	Older people
50% of median equivalised disposable income	60+	11.2
	65+	10.2
	75+	11.1
70% of median equivalised disposable income	60+	28.4
	65+	29.2
	75+	31.7

Table 8a. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers, by gender and selected age groups (except pensions)
%

Age group	Total	Female	Male
Total	42.0	44.3	39.6
0-17	27.8		
18-64	33.3	35.1	31.5
65+	85.2	84.3	85.9

Table 8b. At-risk-of-poverty rate before all social transfers, by gender and selected age groups
%

Age group	Total	Female	Male
Total	22.7	23.7	21.6
0-17	25.2	-	-
18-64	20.8	21.5	20.1
65+	26.7	28.9	23.9

Table 9a. Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap after social transfers, by age and gender
%

Age group	Total	Female	Male
Total	24.1	24.1	24.4
0-17	26.4	-	-
18-64	26.1	26.9	25.4
65+	14.7	14.4	17.0

Table 9b. Relative median risk-of-poverty gap for older people by age group and gender
%

Age group	Total	Female	Male
65+	14.7	17.0	14.4
75+	14.6	18.2	14.3

Table 10. Risk of Poverty calculated on the basis of the 2005 poverty threshold (adjusted according to the harmonized index of consumer prices), per age group and gender.
%

Age group	Total	Female	Male
Total	16.2	16.7	15.8
0-17	19.9		
18-64	15.1	15.6	14.5
65+	16.8	16.0	17.5

EXPLANATORY NOTES

European Union - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions - EU- SILC

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.

Legal basis

The survey is being conducted upon the decision of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and according to the contract having been signed among Commission and the National Statistical Service of Greece, in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC).

Income reference period used

The income reference period is a fixed twelve-month period, namely the previous calendar year.

Coverage

The survey covered all the private households throughout the country, irrespective of their size or socio-economic characteristics. The following were excluded from the survey:

- Institutional households of all types (boarding houses, elderly homes, hospitals, prisons, rehabilitation centers, camps, etc.)
- Households with more than five lodgers and
- Households with foreigners serving in diplomatic missions.

Methodology

The survey is a *simple rotational design* survey, that was selected as most suitable for single cross-sectional and longitudinal survey. The final sampling unit is the household. The sampling units are the households and their members.

The sample for any year consists of 4 replications, which have been in the survey for 1-4 years. With the exception of the first three years of survey, any particular replication remains in the survey for 4 years, each year, one of the 4 replications from the previous year is dropped and a new one is added. In order to exist complete sample the first year of survey, the four panels began simultaneously. For the longitudinal component of EU-SILC, people who selected initially are interviewed for a period of four years equal with the duration of each panel.

EU-SILC survey is based on in two stage stratified sampling of households from frame of sampling, that has been created with base the elements of population census of the year 2001 and covers completely the reference population.

There are two levels of area stratification in the sampling design.

i) The first level is the geographical stratification based on the partition of the total country area into thirteen (13) standard administrative regions corresponding to the European NUTS II level. The two major city agglomerations of Greater Athens and Greater Thessalonica constitute separate major geographical strata.

ii) The second level of stratification entails grouping municipalities and communes within each NUTS II administrative region by degree of urbanization, i.e., according to their population size. The scaling of urbanization was finally designed in four groups:

- ≥ 30.000 inhabitants
- 5.000-29.999 inhabitants
- 1.000-4.999 inhabitants
- 0-999 inhabitants

Sample selection schemes

i) In this stage, from any ultimate stratum (crossing of Region with the degree of urbanization), say stratum h , n_h primary units were drawn (where the number n_h of draws was approximately proportional to the population size X_h of the stratum (number of households according to the last population census of the year 2001)).

ii) In this stage from each primary sampling unit (selected area) the sample of ultimate units (households) is selected. Actually, in the second stage we draw a sample of dwellings. However, in most cases, there is one to one relation between household and dwelling. If the selected dwelling constitutes of one or more households then all of them are interviewed.

Sample size In 2009, the survey is conducted in a final sample of 7,036 households and 18,035 members of those households, 15,045 of them are 16 years and over. The average is calculated in 2.6 members per household.

Weightings For the estimation of characteristics of survey, the data of each person and household of the sample were multiplied with a reductive factor. The reductive factor results as product of the following three factors (weights):

- a. The reverse probability of choice of individual, that coincides with the reverse probability of household.
- b. Reverse of percentage of response of households inside the strata.
- c. A corrective factor, which is determined at way what:

i) The estimation of persons by gender and age groups that will result by geographic region to coincide with the corresponding number, which was calculated with projection for the period of report of survey and was based on the vital statistics of population (census of population 2001 and births, deaths, immigration).

ii) the estimation of households at order of size (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5+ members) and at tenure status to coincide with the year of report that was calculated with projection that was based on the longitudinal tendency of census of population 1991 and 2001.

Methodology for measuring poverty According to the methodology for measuring poverty, the poverty line is calculated with its relative concept (poor in relation to others) and it is defined at 60% of the median total equivalized disposable income of the household, using modified OECD equivalised scale.

‘Equivalent size’ refers to the OECD modified scale which gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to other persons aged 14 or over who are living in the household and 0.3 to each child aged under 14. 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.

More specifically the income components included in the survey are:

- Income from work
- Income from property
- Social transfers and pensions
- Monetary transfers from other households and
- Imputed income from the use of company car.

Income components, such as imputed rent from ownership-occupancy, indirect social transfers, income in kind and loan interest are possible to influence significantly the results and is included in the survey from this year (2007), onwards.

As equivalent available individual income is considered the total available income of household after its division with the equivalent size of household. The equivalent size of household is calculated according to the modified scale of OECD.

It is pointed out that, in the distribution per person it is considered, that each member of household possesses the same income that corresponds in the equivalised disposable income. This means that each member of household enjoys the same level of living. Consequently in distribution per person, the income that is attributed in each person does not represent wages, but an indicator of level of living.

The total available income of household is calculated as the sum of incomes of members of households, (income from salaried services, from self-employment, pensions, benefits of unemployment, income from motionless fortune, familial benefits, regular pecuniary transfers etc) that is to say total of clean acceptances by the all sources of income afterwards the abstraction of by any chance benefits to other households. In this sum it should be added also the tax that potentially was returned and concerned in the liquidation of incomes of previous year.

Equivalence scale Equivalent size' refers to the OECD modified scale which gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to other persons aged 14 or over who are living in the household and 0.3 to each child aged under 14. Example: The income of household with two adults and two children under 14 years is divided with a weight $1+0,5+2*0,3= 2,1$, for household with two adults with 1.5 for household with 2 adults and 2 children of age of 14 years and more with 2.5 etc.

Dependent children As dependent children are considered the children of age until 16 years and children aged 16-24 that are economic inactive (pupil, students, soldiers etc)

- Indicators**
- Main indicators*
1. At-risk-of-poverty rate (after social transfers)
 - 1a. At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and gender
 - 1b. At-risk-of-poverty rate by most frequent activity status and gender
 - 1c. At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type
 - 1d. At-risk-of-poverty rate by accommodation tenure status
 - 1e. At-risk-of-poverty rate by work intensity of the household
 - 1f. At-risk-of-poverty threshold (illustrative values)
 2. Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap, by age and gender
- Secondary indicators*
3. Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold
 4. At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a moment in time
 5. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers by age and gender
 6. The gender pay gap

Indicators' definition *1. At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers.*

The 'at-risk-of poverty rate (after social transfers) is calculated as the percentage of persons (over the total population) with an equivalised disposable income below the 'at-risk of-poverty threshold' (i.e. the equivalised disposable income of each person is compared with the at-risk-of-poverty threshold).

2. Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap, by age and gender

The difference between the median equivalised disposable income of persons below the at risk of poverty threshold and the at-risk of poverty threshold itself, expressed as a percentage of the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. Gender and age breakdown and total.

3. Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold

The percentage of persons, over the total population, with an equivalised disposable income below 40%, 50% and 70% of the national median equivalised disposable income.

4. At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a moment in time

For a given year 't', the 'at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a moment in time is defined as the percentage of the population whose equivalised total disposable income in that given year is below a risk-of-poverty threshold calculated in the standard way for the earlier year 't-3' and then up-rated for inflation

5. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers by age and gender

5.1. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers by age and gender (except old-age and survivors benefits)

The 'at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers except old-age and survivors' benefits' shows the percentage of persons (over the total population) having an equivalised disposable income before social transfers except old-age and survivors' benefits below the national 'atrisk- of-poverty threshold'

5.2. At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers by age and gender (including old-age and survivors benefits)

The 'at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits' shows the percentage of persons (over the total population) having an equivalised disposable income before social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits below the national 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold'.

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, 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.

6. Mean equivalised disposable income

The equivalised disposable income is defined as the mean of the equivalised disposable income of each person.

References More information on the survey is available on the web-page of ELSTAT, www.statistics.gr, Section: Statistical Themes> Income – Expenditure> Income and Living Conditions».