

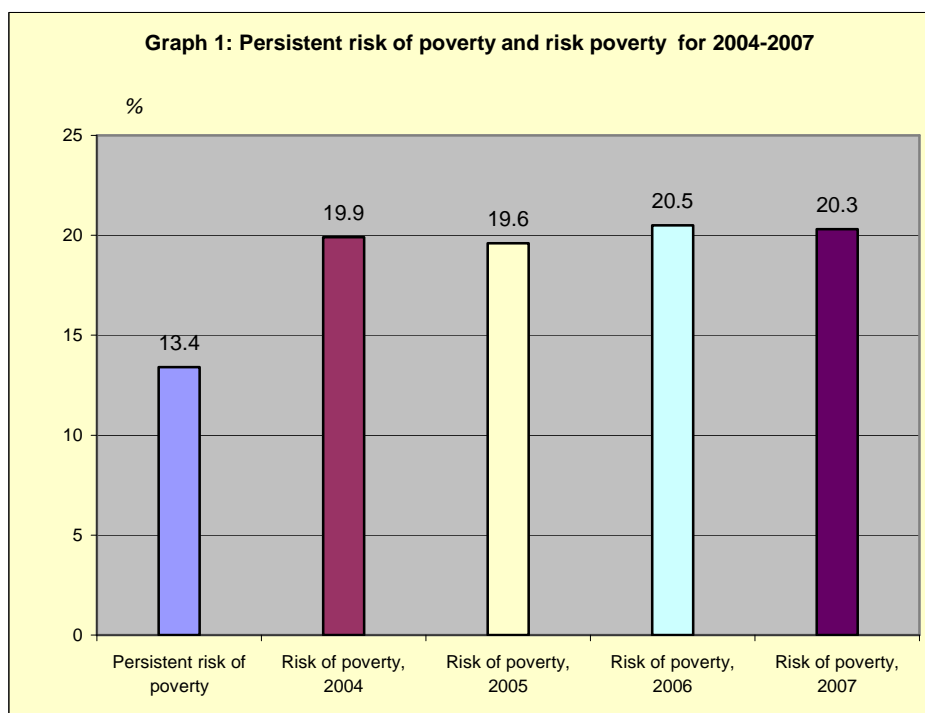
P R E S S R E L E A S E

STATISTICS ON INCOME AND LIVING CONDITIONS 2004 -2007

Persistent risk of poverty 2004 - 2007

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) announces the results of the persistent risk of poverty, based on the available data of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions of Households 2004-2007 (European Union - Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) with reference income period the previous calendar years 2003-2006. The Survey was carried out from April to June 2004-2007.

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- The persistent risk of poverty (where the **median** equivalised disposable income was below the 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold') for the year 2007 and for at least 2 of the previous years 2004, 2005 and 2006) came up to 13,4% of the total population, while for the same period the poverty risk rate was approximately 20% (Graph 1).
- In our country about 66% of the poor remained poor for at least two years during the period 2004-2007, while the highest percentage is recorded in Italy (73%) and the lowest in Denmark (37%) – (Table 5).
- The persistent risk of poverty is higher for women compared with men, 14% and 12.8%, respectively, for children 0-17 years (child poverty) came up to 12.8%, for people aged 65 years and over to 20.8%, while for people aged 18-24 years to 13,6% (Table 1).
- The persistent risk of poverty calculated on the basis of the percentage of persons, over the total population, with an equivalised disposable income below 40%, 50% and 70% of the **median** equivalised disposable income- came up to 2,3%, 7,1% and 20,3%, respectively (Table 3).
- The persistent risk of poverty (where the **mean** equivalised disposable income was below the 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold') for the year 2007 and for at least 2 of the previous years 2004, 2005 and 2006) came up to at 20,3% of the total population, while for the same period the poverty risk rate was approximately 29% (Table 2).
- The persistent risk of poverty calculated on the basis of the percentage of persons, over the total population, with an equivalised disposable income below 40%, and 50% of the **mean** equivalised disposable income- amounted to 5,5% and 13,2% respectively (Table 4).

TABLES

Table 1. Persistent risk of poverty after social transfers by gender and age groups
Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2004-2007

%				
At risk of poverty threshold	Age groups	Total population	Male	Female
60% of the median total equivalized disposable income	Total	13,4	12,8	14,0
	0-17	12,8	12,1	13,4
	18-24	13,6	18,5	8,6
	18-64	11,5	11,3	11,6
	18+	13,6	12,9	14,2
	25-49	9,9	9,3	10,5
	50-64	13,7	12,2	15,0
	65+	20,8	18,9	22,3

Table 2. Persistent risk of poverty after social transfers by gender and age groups
Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2004-2007

%				
At risk of poverty threshold	Age groups	Total population	Male	Female
60% of the mean total equivalized disposable income	Total	20,6	19,5	21,6
	0-17	22,4	21,0	23,9
	18-24	21,6	25,2	17,9
	18-64	17,5	17,0	18,0
	18+	20,2	19,2	21,1
	25-49	16,5	15,7	17,2
	50-64	17,8	15,8	19,6
	65+	29,4	27,6	30,8

Table 3. Persistent risk of poverty after social transfers by gender, selected age groups and dispersion around the risk of poverty threshold
EU- Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2004-2007

%				
At risk of poverty threshold	Age groups	Total population	Male	Female
70% of the median total equivalized disposable income	Total	20,3	19,3	21,2
	0-17	22,3	20,9	23,8
	18-24	21,5	25,2	17,7
	18-64	17,4	16,9	17,9
	18+	19,9	19,0	20,7
	25-49	16,3	15,6	17,1
	50-64	17,7	15,8	19,5
	65+	28,3	26,8	29,6
50% of the median total equivalized disposable income	Total	7,1	6,3	7,9
	0-17	6,2	5,8	6,5
	18-24	4,7	5,3	4,1
	18-64	5,2	5,1	5,4
	18+	7,3	6,4	8,1
	25-49	4,4	4,3	4,5
	50-64	7,2	6,6	7,8
	65+	14,4	11,5	16,7
40% of the median total equivalized disposable income	Total	2,3	2,1	2,6
	0-17	1,7	2,0	1,4
	18-24	0,9	0,9	0,9
	18-64	1,7	1,7	1,8
	18+	2,5	2,1	2,8
	25-49	1,8	2,0	1,5
	50-64	2,0	1,3	2,7
	65+	4,9	3,7	5,9

Table 4. Persistent risk of poverty after social transfers by gender, selected age groups and dispersion around the risk of poverty threshold

Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2004-2007

%				
At risk of poverty threshold	Age groups	Total population	Male	Female
50% of the mean total equivalized disposable income	Total	13,2	12,5	13,8
	0-17	12,8	12,1	13,4
	18-24	13,6	18,5	8,6
	18-64	11,2	11,0	11,3
	18+	13,3	12,6	13,9
	25-49	9,8	9,2	10,5
	50-64	12,8	11,4	14,1
	65+	20,4	18,4	22,0
40% of the mean total equivalized disposable income	Total	5,6	4,8	6,3
	0-17	4,0	4,8	3,2
	18-24	2,9	3,3	2,6
	18-64	3,9	3,6	4,1
	18+	5,9	4,8	6,9
	25-49	3,3	3,1	3,5
	50-64	5,4	4,9	5,9
	65+	12,8	9,5	15,5

Table 5 . Persistent risk of poverty after social transfers and risk of poverty for 2004-2007 by European Country
Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2004-2007

At risk of poverty threshold	Country	Persistent poverty 2007	Risk of poverty			
			2004	2005	2006	2007
60% of the median total equivalized disposable income	Austria	5,5	12,8	12,3	12,6	12,0
	Belgium	7,8	14,3	14,8	14,7	15,2
	France	6,4	13,5	13,0	13,2	13,1
	Denmark	4,7	10,9	11,8	11,7	12,5
	Greece	13,4	19,9	19,6	20,5	20,3
	Estonia	11,4	20,2	18,3	18,3	19,4
	Iceland	4,0	10,0	9,7	9,6	9,9
	Spain	10,1	19,9	19,7	19,9	19,7
	Italy	14,6	19,1	18,9	19,6	19,9
	Luxembourg	8,9	12,7	13,7	14,1	13,5
	Norway	5,9	10,8	11,4	11,3	12,4
	Finland	7,7	11,0	11,7	12,6	13,0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) is a part of a European Statistical System, to which all Member States participate and it replaced, for the year 2003, the European Household Panel Survey, in order to succeed quality improvement of statistical data concerning poverty and social exclusion. The principal 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 definitions 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 signed both by the 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 have a complete sample the first year of the survey, the four panels began simultaneously. For the longitudinal component of EU-SILC, the people who were selected initially are interviewed for a period of four years, equal to the duration of each panel.

EU-SILC survey is based on a two-stage stratified sampling of households from a frame of sampling that has been created on the basis of the results of the 2001 population census 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 division of the country into thirteen (13) administrative regions corresponding to the European NUTS II level. The two major city agglomerations of Athens and Thessalonica, "Greater Athens Area" and "Greater Thessalonica Area", respectively, constitute separate major geographical strata.

ii) The second level of stratification entails the grouping of 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 is consisted of one or more households then all of them are interviewed.

Sample size	The final sample size was 0.01% of the private households
Weightings	<p>For the estimation of the 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):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The reverse probability of choice of individual, that coincides with the reverse probability of household. Reverse of percentage of response of households inside the strata. A corrective factor, which is determined so as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the estimation of persons by gender and age groups that will result by geographic region coincides with the corresponding number, which was calculated with projection for the report period of survey and was based on the vital statistics of population (2001 population census and births, deaths, immigration). the estimation of households at order of size (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5+ members) and at tenure status coincide with the year of report that was calculated with projection that was based on the longitudinal tendency of 1991 and 2001 population censuses.
Methodology on measuring poverty	According to the methodology on measuring poverty, the poverty line is calculated with its relative concept (poor in relation to others) and it is fixed at 60% of the median total equivalized disposable income of the household, using modified OECD equivalized scale. Thus, it is diversified from the concept of absolute poverty (deprived of basic means for survival).
Income	<p>Total equivalized disposable income of the household is considered the total net income (that is income after deducting taxes and social contributions) received by all household members.</p> <p>More specifically the income components included in the survey are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income from work • Income from property • Social transfers and pensions • Monetary transfers from other households and • Imputed income from the use of company car. <p>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.</p> <p>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 to each person does not represent wages, but an indicator of level of living.</p> <p>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.</p>
Indicators' definition	<p><i>1. At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers.</i></p> <p>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).</p> <p><i>2. At-persistent-risk-of-poverty rate, by gender and selected age groups</i></p> <p>The 'at-persistent-risk-of-poverty rate by age and gender' shows the percentage of the population – in each gender and age category – living in households where the median equivalised disposable income was below the 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold' (calculated over all persons, who have been in the panel for four years at time <i>T</i>) for the current year and for at least 2 out of the preceding 3 years.</p> <p><i>3. Persistent at -risk-of-poverty rate, by gender and selected age groups</i></p> <p>The 'persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate by age and gender' shows the percentage of the population – in each gender and age category – living in households where the mean equivalised disposable income was below the 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold' (calculated over all persons, who have been in the panel for four years at time <i>T</i>) for the current year and for at least 2 out of the preceding 3 years.</p>

4. 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 or mean equivalised disposable income.

References

More information on the survey is available on the webpage of the Hellenic Statistical Authority www.statistics.gr, Section: Statistical Themes > Income – Expenditure/ Income and Living Conditions».