



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



STATISTICAL SERVICE
OF CYPRUS
1444 NICOSIA

CENSUS OF POPULATION 2021

"Take part, everybody counts"

www.census2021.cystat.gov.cy

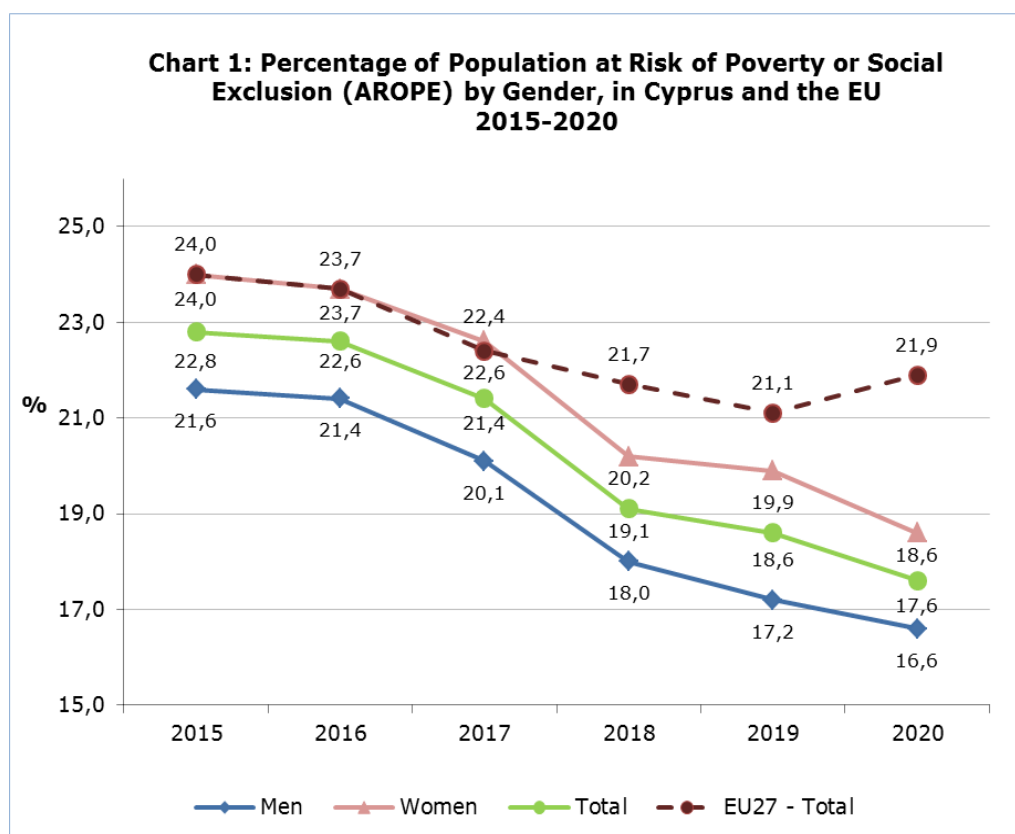
PRESS RELEASE

POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION (Revised Definition): 2020

At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE) 17,6%

The revised indicator At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE) is the main indicator to monitor the EU 2030 target on poverty and social exclusion (more information about the revision of the indicator in the methodological part). The relevant target refers to the reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030, and out of them, at least 5 million should be children.

According to the results of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2020, with income reference period the year 2019, based on the revised definition, 17,6% of the population or 156.000 persons were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE). Namely, 17,6% of the population was living in households whose disposable income was below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold or was severely materially and socially deprived or was living in households with very low work intensity.



This indicator exhibited an improvement in comparison with the previous year when it stood at 18,6%, continuing its downward trend of the recent years. This improvement is reflected in the percentages of both men and women, with 16,6% and 18,6% respectively, with women maintaining throughout the years their unfavorable position in respect to men. Over time, Cyprus records lower percentages at risk of poverty or social exclusion than the EU average. Chart 1 shows the evolution of this indicator in the years 2015 to 2020 in Cyprus and the EU.

At-Risk-of-Poverty Indicator (AROP)

The percentage of the population that was at risk of poverty, meaning that its disposable income was below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, exhibited a minor decrease, reaching 14,3% in respect to 14,7% that was in 2019. The highest percentage that this indicator has ever reached was 16,2% in 2015. The at-risk-of-poverty threshold in 2020 has increased to €10.022 for single person households compared to €9.729 which was in 2019 and to €21.047 for households with 2 adults and 2 dependent children compared to €20.431 in 2019.

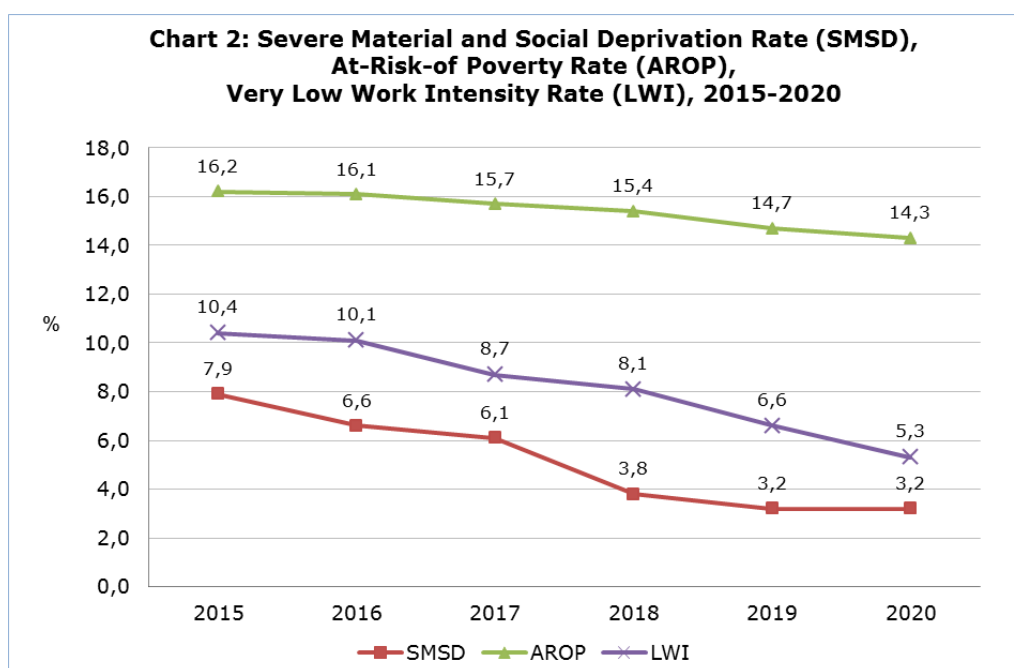
Severe Material and Social Deprivation Indicator (SMSD)

The percentage of the population that was severely materially and socially deprived, meaning that they were experiencing enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (7 related to the household and 6 to the individual), was 3,2% in 2020, remaining unchanged in comparison with 2019, following the continuous downward trend that was observed in the previous years. At the household level, the deprivation refers to the financial inability to face unexpected expenses, to pay their rent or utility bills or their loans, to keep their home adequately warm, etc., while at the individual level to the financial inability to spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself, to have regular leisure activities, to get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month, etc. (more information in the definitions in the methodological part).

Very Low Work Intensity Indicator (LWI)

The percentage of the population aged 0-64 years that was living in households with very low work intensity, meaning that the adults in the household worked less than 20% of their work potential during the past year, showed a decrease in 2020, reaching 5,3% in comparison to 6,6% in 2019.

In Chart 2 that follows, each of the three indicators contributing to the computation of the strategic indicator at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion is presented separately.



Table

Indicator			2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE)	Total	%	22,6	21,4	19,1	18,6	17,6
	Men	%	21,4	20,1	18,0	17,2	16,6
	Women	%	23,7	22,6	20,2	19,9	18,6
At-risk-of-poverty threshold	1 person households	€	8.412	8.698	9.202	9.729	10.022
	Households with 2 adults and 2 dependent children	€	17.665	18.266	19.323	20.431	21.047
At-risk-of-poverty rate by age (AROP)	Total	%	16,1	15,7	15,4	14,7	14,3
	0-17	%	17,1	16,5	17,3	16,7	16,1
	18-64	%	15,1	14,2	13,4	11,9	12,0
	65+	%	19,5	21,6	21,4	24,6	21,9
Severe material and social deprivation (SMSD)	Total	%	6,6	6,1	3,8	3,2	3,2
Percentage of population aged 0-64 living in households with very low work intensity, by gender (LWI)	Total	%	10,1	8,7	8,1	6,6	5,3
	Men	%	9,5	7,9	7,9	6,1	5,1
	Women	%	10,6	9,5	8,4	7,1	5,6

METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Survey identity

The survey on Income and Living Conditions of the Households (EU-SILC) is conducted in accordance to Regulation (EC) No. 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council and is used by the European Statistical Service (EUROSTAT) as the main source of comparable information among the member states of the European Union (EU) on matters related to poverty and social exclusion.

The main objective of the survey is the study of various socio-economic indicators, which affect the living conditions of the population, the compilation of systematic statistics in relation to the income inequalities, the inequalities in living conditions of the households, poverty and social exclusion, as well as the compilation of structural social cohesion indicators.

Coverage and data collection

The survey conducted in 2020, with income reference period the year 2019, covered a sample of 4.192 households in all districts of Cyprus, in both urban and rural areas.

The survey is carried out since 2005 on an annual basis with a rotational sample and consists of two components, the cross-sectional and the longitudinal one. The cross-sectional refers to a point in time or

period, whereas the longitudinal refers to the changes that arise on a personal level during a period of three to four years.

The data collection was carried out with personal and telephone interviews at the households using electronic questionnaires.

Definitions

At-risk-of-poverty threshold: is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income, which is calculated by dividing the total disposable income of the household (total disposable income of all its members after social transfers) by the equivalised household size, which is calculated using the following weights: First adult=1,0 unit, second and each subsequent household member aged 14 years and over=0,5 and each household member aged under 14=0,3.

At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE, revised definition): At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate is the percentage of the population who are: at risk of monetary poverty or severely materially and socially deprived or living in a household with a very low work intensity. Persons are only counted once even if they are present in several sub-indicators.

In 2021, the AROPE indicator has been revised according to the new EU 2030 target. The revision allows to better measure deprivation, as well as to better account for the social exclusion situation of those in the working age (more details in the following table).

Component	Europe 2030	Europe 2020
At-risk-of-poverty rate (AROP)	Share of persons with an equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold	Share of persons with an equivalised disposable income (after social transfers) below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold
Very low work intensity (LWI)	<p>The percentage of the population aged 0-64 that was living in households whose adults aged 18-64 worked less than 20% of their work potential during the past year.</p> <p>From the adults aged 18-64 are excluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students 18-24 • people who are retired according to their self-defined current economic status or who receive any pension (except survivor's pension) • people in the age bracket 60-64 who are inactive and living in a household where the main income is pensions (except survivor's pension) 	<p>The percentage of the population aged 0-59 years, that was living in households whose adults aged 18-59 years (excluding dependent children) worked less than 20% of their work potential during the past year.</p>
Severe material and social deprivation	<p>Severe material and social deprivation (SMSD):</p> <p>Severely materially and socially deprived is the population who cannot afford a certain good, service or social activities. It refers to the population experiencing enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items (6 related to the individual and 7 related to the household):</p> <p><u>At household level:</u> Cannot afford:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to face unexpected expenses, 2) a week holiday away from home, 3) to pay rent or utility bills or loans (to be confronted with payment arrears), 4) a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day, 5) to keep home adequately warm, 6) to have a car/van for personal use, 	<p>Severe material deprivation (SMD):</p> <p>Severely materially deprived is the population living in conditions severely constrained by a lack of resources. They experience at least 4 out of 9 of the following deprivation items:</p> <p>Cannot afford:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to pay rent or utility bills or loans 2) to keep home adequately warm, 3) to face unexpected expenses, 4) to eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, 5) a week holiday away from home, 6) a car, 7) a washing machine, 8) a colour TV 9) a telephone.

	<p>7) to replace worn-out furniture.</p> <p><u>At individual level:</u> Cannot afford:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to have an internet connection, 2) to replace worn-out clothes by some new ones, 3) to have 2 pairs of properly fitting shoes (including a pair of all-weather shoes), 4) to spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself, 5) to have regular leisure activities, 6) to get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month. <p>The 6 items at individual level are only collected for people aged 16 or over. For the children below 16 they are estimated by applying the rule: if at least half the number of adults in the household lack an item, then the children living in that household are considered deprived from that item.</p>	
--	---	--

For more information:

Statistical Service (CYSTAT) Website, subtheme [Living Conditions and Social Protection](#)

Contact

Demetra Costa: Tel:+35722605112, Email: dcosta@cystat.mof.gov.cy

Charalambos Charalambous: Tel:+35722602241, Email: chcharalambous@cystat.mof.gov.cy