**Poverty and social inclusion**

Based on EU-SILC (European Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) each year results on poverty and social inclusion are published. Key indicators for Austria from EU-SILC 2020 and earlier years are available from the table below.

In 2020 17.5% of the population (1 529 000 people) were considered **at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion** in terms of the Europe 2020 strategy. 2.7% of the population were severely materially deprived, 13.9% were considered at-risk-of-poverty and 7.1% of those below 60 years of age were living in households with very low work intensity.

The **Europe 2020 strategy** for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has been aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion within ten years (observation period: 2008-2018). For Austria this meant a reduction of the target group by 235 000 people. The at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate dropped from 20.6% in 2008 to 17.5% in 2018, that was 187 000 persons less than in 2008. The targeted decrease was therefore reached by 80%. Another drop to 16.9% in 2019 (or by 227 000 people compared to 2008) resulted in the targeted decrease being reached one year after the target year by 97%. Recently, in **2020** the risk of poverty and social exclusion has increased slightly and not significantly to **17.5% or 1 529 000 people**(that is a decrease compared to 2008 by 170 000 persons).

With respect to the statistical margin of error, the variation from year to year must be interpreted cautiously. Nevertheless, the trend over the last several years clearly shows an overall downward tendency.

Projected to the Austrian population as a whole the figure – with 95% confidence – was between 16.1% and 18.9%, i.e. between 1 407 000 and 1 652 000 persons had to be considered as being **at risk of poverty or social exclusion**. They are either severely materially deprived or at-risk-of-poverty or living in a household with very low work intensity.

**Severely materially deprived** persons have living conditions severely constrained by a lack of resources, they experience at least four out of the following nine deprivation items: (1) cannot afford to pay rent or utility bills, (2) keep home adequately warm, (3) face unexpected expenses, (4) 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 TV, or (9) a telephone.

The **at-risk-of-poverty** rate is calculated on the basis of the equivalised household income, the available household income divided by the number of consumption equivalents in the household (see [Household Income](https://www.statistik.at/web_en/statistics/PeopleSociety/social_statistics/household_income/index.html)). People are considered to be at-risk-of-poverty if their equivalised household income is below an at-risk-of-poverty threshold of 60% of the national median household income. In 2020, the equivalised income median was €26 555. The at-risk-of-poverty threshold was therefore €15 933 for a single-person household, i.e. approximately €1 328 a month (12 times).

In **households with very low work intensity** the work intensity of all working-age household members (18-59 years, except students) was below the threshold of 20% of the theoretically attainable work intensity of the household during the past year. This indicator is reported for people aged less than 60.

Based on the national regulation (Einkommens- und Lebensbedingungen-Statistikverordnung ELStV) in EU-SILC 2012 register information was for the first time used to calculate components of household income and also for weighting purposes (see [Methodenbericht EU-SILC 2012](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=074631), PDF, 1MB). Advantages of this changed methodology – for former years only survey data is available – are an increase in the data quality and reduced burden for respondents to the survey. To monitor the Europe 2020 strategy which started with data of EU-SILC 2008 despite switching to register data in EU-SILC 2012, Statistics Austria has done a back-calculation for EU-SILC 2008-2011 with register data. The back-estimation of key indicators for 2008-2010 that was published in late 2013 is now replaced by a back-calculation on micro-data level (see [Documentation on the Register-based Back Calculation of EU-SILC 2008-2011 in Austria](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=081167), PDF, 656KB). Due to this methodological break changes in the indicators from 2007 to 2008 cannot be interpreted in terms of content.

On its website Eurostat provides indicators on social inclusion for all European countries in the section “[Statistics on Income and Living Conditions](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/data/main-tables)”.

Recent Eurostat publications on the topic containing cross-country comparisons can be found by clicking the following links:

* + [Living Conditions in Europe (2018 Edition)](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=102894), (PDF, 6MB)
  + [Monitoring social inclusion in Europe (2017 Edition)](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=123234), (PDF, 13MB)
  + [Quality of Life (2015 Edition)](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=102895), (PDF 13 MB)
  + [Statistics Explained Living Conditions](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Living_conditions)

To Eurostat´s comparative study [“Income and Living Conditions“](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=072013) (PDF, 6MB) Statistics Austria provides an article that shows the dynamics of change concerning deprivation in the EU member states based on EU-SILC longitudinal data. A more detailed version can be found as working paper (“[Towards an inclusion balance - accounting for gross change in Europeans' living conditions“](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=072014)(PDF, 3MB) in Eurostat´s series on methodological issues in EU-SILC. Material deprivation and child-specific indicators on deprivation are described in detail in the working paper “[Measuring Material Deprivation in the EU](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&dDocName=072015)” (PDF, 4MB)

Please consult our[German website](https://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/menschen_und_gesellschaft/soziales/armut_und_soziale_eingliederung/index.html) for tables and charts containing further information.