

There was an increase in poverty in early Elizabethan England for several reasons:

One reason was inflation. Prices of food and other goods were rising faster than wages. This meant that people couldn't afford to buy as much as they used to, and many people became poorer. Inflation was caused by things like population growth and the government debasing the coinage.

Another reason was problems in the wool industry. The wool trade had been very important for England's economy, but it was starting to decline. Some people lost their jobs in the wool industry, which made them poor. Also, rich landowners were turning farmland into pastures for sheep, which meant less work for farm laborers.

The population was growing quickly during this time. This led to more competition for jobs and housing, which made it harder for poorer people to find work and afford to live. More people meant that wages stayed low, while prices kept going up.

There were also problems with harvests. Bad weather led to poor harvests in some years, which made food prices go up even more. This made it harder for poor people to afford enough food.

The dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII had a lasting effect. Monasteries used to provide help to the poor, but when they were closed down, this source of charity disappeared. This left many poor people without support.

Lastly, there was a shift from feudalism to a more capitalist economy. This meant that some traditional forms of support for poor people, like common land, were disappearing. Landowners were enclosing common land, which took away a resource that poor people had used to support themselves.

In conclusion, poverty increased in early Elizabethan England because of economic factors like inflation and changes in industry, population growth, bad harvests, the loss of monastic charity, and changes in the economic system. All these things together made life harder for poor people and caused poverty to increase.