



Annex to the news release 'The economic poverty rates in Poland in 2022'

Methodological notes

Since the 1990s, Statistics Poland has regularly published economic poverty rates, estimated on the basis of the results of the Household Budget Survey, using various poverty thresholds. Taking into account several, rather than one selected line results, among others, from the fact that none of the lines has been defined in Poland as an official one and from the methodological point of view there is no reason to undoubtedly prefer one of them. Each threshold has advantages and disadvantages and a different interpretation.

Adopted **poverty lines** are as follows:

- Extreme poverty threshold is set on the basis of the subsistence minimum estimated by the Institute of Labour and Social Studies (IPISS) for 1-person employees' household. The subsistence minimum takes into account only those needs which cannot be postponed and consumption below this level makes it difficult to survive and constitutes a threat to human psychophysical development¹.
- 'Legal' poverty threshold is the amount which, according to the Law on Social Assistance, entitles to apply for a monetary benefit from social assistance system.
- Relative poverty threshold is determined as 50% of the mean expenditure of all households (calculated on the basis of Household Budget Survey).

Poverty rate is defined as a percentage of people in households in which expenditure level falls below the adopted poverty threshold. The expenditure includes, in addition to the amounts spent on consumption purposes, the value of products received free of charge, the value of own consumption as well as the so-called renovation fund, indicating households contributions for the fund covering the costs of renovation and modernisation of the residential building they live in.

In addition to indicators of the poverty rate, indicators of the **privation rate** are also estimated on the basis of the results of the Household Budget Survey. The privation threshold is calculated on the basis of the subsistence minimum estimated by IPISS. In the case of employee and self-employed households, the limit is the social minimum calculated for a 1-person employee household, while in the case of farmers, retirees, pensioners and recipients living on unearned sources, the limit is the social minimum calculated for a 1-person household of a pensioner. The social minimum is the threshold below which the needs of an individual are deprived of integration. Consumption expenditures lower than this level are not sufficient to perform professional work, continue education, maintain family ties and social contacts and participate in culture².

Privation rate is the percentage of people in households in which the level of expenditures (including the value of items received free of charge and the value of natural consumption, plus the renovation fund) was lower than privation threshold.

¹ Information on the subsistence minimum is available on the website of the Institute of Labour and Social Studies: <https://www.ipiss.com.pl/?zaklady=minimum-socjalne-oraz-minimum-egzystencji>

² Information on the social minimum is available on the website of the Institute of Labour and Social Studies: <https://www.ipiss.com.pl/?zaklady=minimum-socjalne-oraz-minimum-egzystencji>

In the case of extreme and relative poverty, as well as privation, in order to eliminate the effect of the demographic composition of households on the cost of living (household size and age of household members), the so-called original OECD equivalence scale has been used. According to this scale, weight 1 is attributed to the first person in the household at the age of 14 and over, weight 0.7 – to any other person at that age and weight 0.5 – to every child under 14. And thus the poverty or privation threshold for a 4-person household consisting of 2 adults and 2 children at the age under 14 is 2.7 times as high as that for a 1-person household.

For example, in the fourth quarter of 2022, for 1-person household, the extreme poverty line was PLN 835 and the relative poverty line PLN 1006. For 4-person household described above the extreme poverty threshold was PLN 2254 and relative poverty threshold was PLN 2717. As for privation, in the fourth quarter of 2022, for a 1-person household of employees and the self-employed, the privation line (social minimum) was PLN 1581, for an analogous household of farmers, retirees, pensioners and people living on unearned sources, it was PLN 1554. In the case of 4-person households (2 adults and 2 children up to 14 years of age), the limits were, respectively, PLN 4269 for households of employees and the self-employed, and PLN 4195 for households of farmers, pensioners, retirees and people living on unearned sources.

In the case of 'legal' poverty two amounts are applicable: for a person living alone (1-person household) and per person in multi-person households. Since January 2022, the threshold amounted to PLN 776 for 1-person household and PLN 600 per person in multi-person household.

The presented indicators of the poverty rate and privation rate are determined on the basis of the results of the year-round Household Budget Survey, therefore they represent an average level of the phenomenon for the period covering the whole year.

The results of statistical surveys conducted by the representative method are subject to random error. This also concerns the Household Budget Survey, on the basis of which the poverty and privation rates are estimated.

The tables in the Tabular Annex on economic poverty and privation rates by different population groups also present the values of the standard error of the estimates. The standard error is a measure of absolute error. It represents the uncertainty of the estimates presented in the tables referred to, expressed in percentage points. The value of the standard error makes it possible to determine the so-called confidence interval for the estimated parameter, i.e. the interval which, with a specified probability, includes its true value. Then the lower/upper limit of the confidence interval corresponding to a given probability is the parameter estimate decreased/increased by the value of the standard error multiplied by the appropriate value resulting from the normal distribution (for 95% probability equal to 1.96).

The presented data regarding economic poverty (extreme, relative and 'legal' poverty) and privation rates as well as the estimations of the standard error are given to 1 decimal place. Thresholds of economic poverty and privation have been rounded to full zlotys.

NOTES. The data presented in this study for 2021 differ from the values previously published by the Statistics Poland. These differences are due to the adoption of a new system of weights generalizing the results of the Household Budget Survey, on the basis of which indicators of economic poverty coverage are calculated. The new weighting system is based on the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021.

Tabular annex

Table 1. Poverty thresholds for selected household types^a (PLN)

Poverty thresholds:	1-person households			4-person households (2 adults and 2 children up to 14 years)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Extreme (subsistence minimum)	640	692	835	1727	1868	2254
Relative	799	891	1006	2157	2406	2717
'Legal' ^b	701	701	776	2112	2112	2400

^a The level of the thresholds refers to the 4th quarter of the year – on average per month. The values have been rounded to the full PLN.

^b Poverty line for a person living alone was: from October 2018 to December 2021 – PLN 701, from January 2022 – PLN 776. The line per person being a member of multi-level household was: from October 2018 to December 2021 – PLN 528, from January 2022 – PLN 600.

Table 2. Poverty rates by socio-economic groups of households (% of people in households)

Households a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
Employees	4.3	0.4	4.5	0.4	11.6	0.6	11.5	0.7	7.1	0.5	6.9	0.6
Farmers	11.8	1.8	8.5	1.6	25.8	2.6	19.2	2.3	17.6	2.2	12.1	1.9
The self-employed	2.6	0.6	2.9	0.8	9.6	1.3	9.5	1.4	6.2	1.1	6.8	1.3
Retirees	3.4	0.4	4.0	0.5	9.1	0.6	9.3	0.8	3.8	0.5	4.5	0.7
Pensioners	6.7	2.0	5.8	1.9	16.8	2.4	15.1	2.4	6.9	2.1	6.5	2.4
Living on unearned sources	14.8	2.6	12.3	2.6	28.0	3.4	27.9	3.6	22.0	3.1	20.6	3.4

Table 3. Poverty rates by household types (% of people in households)

Households a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
1-person	1.0	0.1	1.1	0.1	2.9	0.2	3.0	0.2	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1
Marriages ^a :												
without dependent children	1.1	0.1	1.5	0.2	3.7	0.3	4.2	0.3	0.7	0.1	0,8	0.1
with 1 dependent child ^b	0.9	0.2	1.2	0.2	4.0	0.4	4.2	0.4	1.0	0.2	1,1	0.2
with 2 dependent children	1.9	0.2	1.9	0.3	6.9	0.5	6.7	0.5	4.0	0.4	3.6	0.4
with 3 and more dependent children	6.3	1.0	6.9	1.0	16.2	1.5	17.4	1.7	13.6	1.4	14.4	1.6
Mother or father with dependent children	0.9	0.5	3.4	2.3	5.0	1.1	6.1	2.4	2.4	0.9	3.4	2.3

^a Including cohabiting couples.

^b A dependent child is a person up to the age of 14 or a person aged 15–25 with no own source of income and not married (or not living in cohabiting couple).

Table 4. Poverty rates in households with children aged 0–17 (% of people in households)

Households a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
With at least 1 person aged 0–17 years	5.9	0.5	5.9	0.5	14.9	0.7	14.3	0.8	10.4	0.6	10.1	0.8
with 1 person aged 0–17 years	4.6	0.6	4.0	0.6	11.7	0.8	9.6	0.8	6.3	0.7	4.7	0.6
with 2 persons aged 0–17 years	5.5	0.7	5.3	0.7	14.3	1.0	13.2	1.1	9.4	0.8	8.6	0.9
with at least 3 persons aged 0–17 years	8.5	1.1	9.2	1.3	20.2	1.5	21.8	1.9	17.4	1.5	18.8	1.8
Without persons aged 0–17 years	2.9	0.2	2.8	0.2	8.3	0.4	8.0	0.4	3.0	0.2	2.5	0.2

Table 5. Poverty rates by age (% of people in households)

People aged (in years) a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
0–17	5.3	0.4	5.7	0.5	14.0	0.7	14.1	0.8	10.2	0.6	10.4	0.8
18–64	4.8	0.3	4.5	0.3	12.2	0.5	11.4	0.5	7.1	0.4	6.4	0.4
65 and over	3.8	0.3	3.9	0.3	9.8	0.4	9.8	0.5	4.3	0.3	4.5	0.4

Table 6. Poverty rates in households with people by the presence of people with legally confirmed disabilities^a (% of people in households)

Specification a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
Households with at least 1 person with disabilities	7.3	0.8	6.7	0.9	18.1	1.2	16.2	1.3	10.7	1.0	9.7	1.1
of which:												
the head of the household with disabilities	7.6	1.6	4.9	0.9	20.4	2.5	15.5	2.0	10.5	2.2	8.1	1.8
at least 1 child up to the age of 16 with a disability certificate	5.2	2.2	6.5	2.1	15.5	3.7	12.0	2.7	11.0	3.3	10.2	2.7
Households without people with disabilities	4.3	0.3	4.3	0.3	11.2	0.5	11.0	0.6	6.8	0.4	6.6	0.5

^a In the case of people aged 16 and over as a person with disabilities is recognised a person who has a decision on the degree of disability issued by an appropriate adjudicating body. In the case of people up to the age of 16 as a person with disabilities is recognized a person who has a disability certificate (without deciding the degree).

Table 7. Poverty rates by education level of the head of the household ^a (% of people in households)

Education level of the head of household: a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
Not higher than lower secondary	12.2	1.7	11.3	1.5	27.3	2.0	24.8	2.2	15.7	1.8	15.1	2.0
Basic vocational/basic sectoral vocational	7.9	0.7	6.7	0.7	18.2	1.0	16.9	1.0	11.6	0.8	10.4	0.9
Secondary	3.7	0.4	4.5	0.6	11.5	0.7	11.4	0.8	6.5	0.5	6.5	0.7
Tertiary	1.4	0.3	1.8	0.3	4.5	0.5	5.3	0.5	2.9	0.4	3.2	0.4

^a The head of the household (defined as a reference person in Household Budget Survey) is a person at the age of 16 and over who gains permanent in the longer time, the highest income of all the household members.

Table 8. Poverty rates by place of residence (% of people in households)

Place of residence: a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate				Relative poverty rate				'Legal' poverty rate			
	2021		2022		2021		2022		2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.7	0.4	12.2	0.5	11.8	0.6	7.4	0.4	7.1	0.5
Urban areas total	2.4	0.3	2.3	0.3	7.4	0.5	7.6	0.5	4.0	0.4	3.8	0.4
by population:												
500 thous. or more	1.4	0.5	1.1	0.3	4.0	0.7	3.9	0.7	1.9	0.6	1.4	0.4
100–500 thous.	1.8	0.5	1.0	0.3	5.9	0.8	5.5	0.8	3.1	0.6	1.9	0.5
20–100 thous.	2.7	0.5	2.9	0.7	8.5	1.0	8.8	1.1	4.9	0.8	4.9	0.9
up to 20 thous.	3.6	1.0	3.9	0.8	11.0	1.5	12.1	1.4	5.9	1.2	6.6	1.2
Rural areas	8.3	0.6	8.3	0.7	19.5	0.9	18.1	1.1	12.5	0.7	12.1	1.0

Table 9. Privation thresholds for selected household types^a (PLN)

Privation thresholds:	1 – person households			4 – persons households (2 adults and 2 children up to 14 years)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Households:						
of employees and self-employed	1215	1334	1581	3280	3602	4269
farmers, employees, pensioners and living on unearned sources	1201	1316	1554	3244	3554	4195

^a The level of the thresholds refers to the 4th quarter of the year – on average per month. The values have been rounded to the full PLN.

Table 10. Privation rates by socio-economic groups of households (% of people in households)

Households:	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
Employees	42.1	0.8	40.9	0.9
Farmers	64.6	2.4	56.6	3.1
The self-employed	34.4	1.7	33.4	1.8
Retirees	36.6	0.9	35.6	1.1
Pensioners	45.7	2.5	47.9	2.7
Living on unearned sources	72.2	2.7	64.5	3.9

Table 11. Privation rates by household types (% of people in households)

Households: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
1-person	20.3	0.6	18.6	0.6
Marriages ^a :				
without dependent children	24.2	0.6	23.3	0.6
with 1 dependent child ^b	26.5	1.0	25.6	1.0
with 2 dependent children	36.5	1.0	34.2	1.0
with 3 and more dependent children	51.4	2.0	53.8	2.3
Mother or father with dependent children	31.5	2.6	29.2	2.9

^a Including cohabiting couples.

^b A dependent child is a person up to the age of 14 or a person aged 15–25 with no own source of income and not married (or not living in cohabiting couple).

Table 12. Privation rates in households with people aged 0–17 (% of people in households)

Households: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
With at least 1 person aged 0–17 years	48.3	0.9	46.1	1.0
with 1 person aged 0–17 years	42.3	1.1	38.4	1.2
with 2 persons aged 0–17 years	47.4	1.2	44.1	1.4
with at least 3 persons aged 0–17 years	57.9	1.9	58.5	2.2
Without persons aged 0–17 years	33.8	0.6	32.4	0.6

Table 13. Privation rates in households with people aged 0–17 (% of people in households)

People aged (in years) a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
0–17	47.1	1.0	45.8	1.1
18–64	41.8	0.7	39.8	0.7
65 and over	37.7	0.7	36.2	0.8

Table 14. Privation rates in households with people by the presence of people with legally confirmed disabilities^a (% of people in households)

Specification a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
Households with at least 1 person with disabilities	52.6	1.4	47.9	1.5
of which:				
the head of the household with disabilities	47.5	2.1	44.1	2.1
at least 1 child up to the age of 16 with a disability certificate	47.7	4.3	46.7	4.3
Households without people with disabilities	40.6	0.7	39.3	0.8

^a In the case of people aged 16 and over as a person with disabilities is recognised a person who has a decision on the degree of disability issued by an appropriate adjudicating body. In the case of people up to the age of 16 as a person with disabilities is recognised a person who has a disability certificate (without deciding the degree).

Table 15. Privation rates by education level of the head of the household ^a (% of people in households)

Education level of the head of household: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
Not higher than lower secondary	65.8	1.7	59.9	2.0
Basic vocational/basic sectoral vocational	55.1	1.1	51.7	1.3
Secondary	43.1	0.9	41.7	1.0
Tertiary	25.5	0.9	26.0	1.0

^a The head of the household (defined as a reference person in Household Budget Survey) is a person at the age of 16 and over who gains permanent in the longer time, the highest income of all the household members.

Table 16. Privation rates by place of residence (% of people in households)

Place of residence: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022	
	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.4	0.7	40.7	0.7
Urban areas total	34.3	0.8	33.0	0.9
by population:				
500 thous. or more	23.6	1.6	22.8	1.5
100–500thous.	30.2	1.4	30.4	1.5
20–100 thous.	39.4	1.6	36.0	1.7
up to 20 thous.	43.1	2.1	41.8	1.9
Rural areas	54.6	1.1	52.2	1.2