Corrected press release: 14 163-082/26

[old: 18.8] 18.6% of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2025

Poverty by Europe 2030 definition rose by [old: 1,9] 1,7 percentage points

Correction notice 12 May 2026: Due to a data linkage error during the compilation of the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), the household income distribution and all related indicators had to be recalculated. The change resulting from the correction falls within the 95% confidence interval for the main indicators. The correction is highlighted in grey in the text. The old values are shown in brackets.

Vienna, 2026-04-29 – In 2025, [old: 1 699 000] 1 686 000 people in Austria were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, according to Statistics Austria's Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). The proportion of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion stood at [old: 18.8] 18.6%, which was [old: 1,9] 1.7 percentage points – or [old: 170 000] 157 000 people – higher than in 2024 (16.9%). Although average household income rose, not everyone benefited from this increase to the same extent.

"The percentage of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Austria has risen in 2025 – despite a significant increase in median household income. This median income, calculated in 2024, was [old: 8.7] 10.0% higher than a year earlier, as wages, salaries, pensions and many social benefits had been adjusted due to the high inflation of 2022 and 2023. However, not all sections of the population were able to benefit from this increase to the same extent. The proportion of people with a household income below the EU-defined at-risk-of-poverty threshold of 60% of median income rose from 14.3% in 2024 to [old: 16.0] 15.9% in 2025," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Household incomes have risen, but this increase is unevenly distributed

According to the latest survey on income and living conditions, EU-SILC 2025, private households in Austria had an average annual household income of [old: €50 709] €51 152 (median; EU-SILC 2024: €48 303). To make households of different sizes comparable, an equivalised net household income is calculated. Accordingly, individuals in private households had an average of [old: €36 114] €36 546 in equivalent net household income available annually, more than in the previous year (2024: €33 210).

While equivalised net household income in EU-SILC 2025 (based on 2024 annual income) rose by an average of [old: 8.7] 10,0% compared to EU-SILC 2024 (year 2023 annual income), individuals at the lower end of the income distribution did not benefit as much: At the threshold of the first decile—that is, among the 10% of individuals with the lowest equivalised net household incomes—incomes were only [old: 4.7] 7.4% higher than in the previous year—meaning the increase was [old: 4] 2.6 percentage points lower than in the middle of the distribution (see table 1).

Proportionally, the 10% with the lowest household incomes include a higher proportion of people without Austrian citizenship (20% of EU/EFTA nationals and [old: 36] 35% of third-country nationals), of unemployed (34%), and of people without a school-leaving certificate or with only compulsory education (16%). By household type, the 10% with the lowest incomes primarily include single-parent households ([old: 25]

27%), families with 3 or more children (18%), and men and women living alone (without a pension; [old: 19] 20% and [old: 18] 19%, respectively).

According to the EU definition, [old: 16,0] 15,9% are considered at risk of poverty

In 2025, [old: 1 448 000] 1 441 000 people or [old: 16,0] 15.9% of the population, had a relatively low household income below the threshold of 60% of the median equivalised net household income, that is, below [old: €21 668] €21 928 per year or [old: €1 806] €1 827per month. They were thus considered at risk of poverty according to the EU definition (see table 2). The increase compared to 2024 (1 288 000 people at risk of poverty, or 14.3%) is statistically significant.

The at-risk-of-poverty threshold is tied by definition to the median equivalised net household income, so it also rose by [old: 8.7] 10.0% compared to the previous year. However, table 1 shows that household incomes at the lower end of the income distribution did not rise to the same extent and this explains the higher rate of people at risk of poverty this year.

2.9% of the population was severely materially and socially deprived

A person is considered severely materially and socially deprived if, according to their own statement, they cannot afford critical EU-defined characteristics and activities of daily living (absolute poverty measure). These range from facing unexpected expenses amounting to €1 570 to being able to afford one vacation per year and an adequately warm home. For example, 17.8% of the population could not afford one week of holiday per year in 2025. Severe deprivation is only considered to apply when these problems compound and at least 7 of 13 items cannot be afforded. In Austria, according to EU-SILC 2025, this applied to 261 000 people, or 2.9% of the population. Thus, following a significant rise to 3.7% in 2023 and 2024, the number of people affected by this form of poverty has recently fallen significantly again (see table 2).

Low work intensity as a risk factor for poverty: 6.9% of those under 65 affected

If a household's earning potential is underutilised, this is considered a contributing factor to social exclusion: According to EU-SILC 2025, based on employment in 2024, 444 000 people under 65 were living in a household that was only using less than 20% of the household's employment potential, representing 6.9% of this age group. This figure has risen slightly compared to the previous year (2024: 390 000 people, or 6.0%; see table 2).

[old: 18.8] 18.6% at risk of poverty or social exclusion according to EU definition in 2025

According to the EU definition, a person is considered at risk of poverty or social exclusion if they belong to at least 1 of the 3 following risk groups for social exclusion: being affected by absolute poverty, being in a household with less than 60% of the median income, or being only marginally integrated into the labour market. Statistics Austria surveys these indicators annually for Austria to measure the poverty reduction targets set out in the European Commission's action plan "Europe 2030 Strategy – European Pillar of Social Rights". In 2025, [old: 1 699 000] 1 686 000 people ([old: 18.8] 18.6% of the population living in private households) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Of these, [old: 387 000] 392 000 people (4.3 % of the population) fell into 2 or 3 risk groups for social exclusion simultaneously and were therefore affected by multiple risks of exclusion.

People at risk of poverty are more often materially and socially deprived

The rise in the risk of poverty or social exclusion compared to the previous ([old: 1.9] 1.7 percentage points or [old: 170 000] 157 000 people) is, as reported, primarily attributable to the increased risk of poverty. The proportion of people in households with low work intensity has also increased slightly (within the statistical margin of error). By contrast, material and social deprivation has declined somewhat.

In general, a close link between income and standard of living is evident: the rate of material and social deprivation stands at 2.9% overall; among those at risk of poverty, however, it is [old: 10.1] 10.3% —more than 3 times as high.

The indicators presented may not all move in the same direction, owing to differences in measurement approach, reference period, and the specific living conditions and policy contexts they capture. The complexity of the EU's definition for measuring poverty is intended to provide a comprehensive picture of this multidimensional concept and the diverse challenges it entails.

Table 1: Development of equivalised net household income 2024–2025

... Individuals have less than ... Euro	Number of people	Equivalent income[1] in Euro				
	in 1 000	10 % (1st decile)	25 % (1st quartile)	50 % (median)	75 % (3rd quartile)	90 % (9th decile)
EU-SILC 2024 (Annual income in 2023)	9 028	17 245	24 613	33 210	43 983	57 483
EU-SILC 2025 (Annual income in 2024)	9 041	18 516	26 807	36 546	47 794	62 344
Change in income (%)	-	7,4	8,9	10,0	8,7	8,5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, EU-SILC 2024, 2025

1) Net disposable household income consists of earned income, investment income, pensions, and social benefits for all members of the household. Taxes and social security contributions are deducted, and other payments between households are added or subtracted. The analysis always covers a calendar year (the year prior to the survey). To make households of different sizes comparable, an equivalised net household income is calculated: the disposable household income divided by the sum of the person weights in the household. The person weights are calculated based on the EU scale: first person = 1.0; second and each additional person = 0.5, except for children under 14 years of age = 0.3.

Table 2: Risk of poverty or social exclusion in Austria in 2024 and 2025

Main indicator and sub-groups according to the Europe 2030 definition	2024		2025	
	Number of people per 1 000	Rate in %	Number of people per 1 000	Rate in %
Risk of poverty (low household income relative to the median)	1 288	14,3	1 441	15,9
Significant material and social deprivation (absolute poverty)	336	3,7	261	2,9
People in households with no or very low labour force participation[1]	390	6,0	444	6,9
At risk of poverty or social exclusion (in at least 1 out of 3 areas)	**1 529**	**16,9**	1 686	18,6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, EU-SILC 2024, 2025

1) Only persons aged 0 to 64.

Further documents are expected to be made available on our website on 19 May 2026. [Old: Detailed results and further information on poverty and household income can be found on our website. FAQs on poverty and social inclusion (in German only), along with additional text descriptions, charts, and tables, are also available there.]

Information on methodology, definitions:

EU-SILC: European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions. EU-SILC has been collecting information on the living conditions of people in private households in the European Union every year since 2003. Statistics Austria carries out this project for Austria, in which around 6 000 Austrian households are surveyed each year.

Notes on the data: The data collection for the EU-SILC 2025 survey took place from February to August 2025; the majority of deprivation indicators relate to the time of the survey. However, income (relevant for the at risk-of-poverty indicator) and employment intensity are mainly based on administrative data and refer to the calendar year preceding the survey, in this case the year 2024, in accordance with Eurostat specifications.

Absolute poverty in line with the European minimum standard of living: People are considered to be severely materially and socially deprived if they cannot afford at least 7 of the 13 deprivation items defined as the minimum standard of living: On a household level those are: (1) capacity to face unexpected expenses amounting to €1 570, (2) capacity to afford paying for 1 week annual holiday away from home, (3) capacity to pay rent, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or loans on time, (4) capacity to afford meat, fish or a vegetarian equivalent every second day, (5) ability to keep home reasonably warm, (6) replacing worn-out furniture, (7) having access to a car/van for personal use. At an individual level, for people aged 16 and over, those are: (8) having a satisfactory internet connection, (9) replacing worn-out clothing, (10) having two pairs of properly fitting shoes, (11) spending a small amount of money each week on oneself, (12) having regular paid leisure activities or (13) getting together with friends or family for dinner/drinks at least once a month. At least 7 of these 13 items must also apply to those under the age of 16, whereby at least 3 of these items must come from the household level (items 1 to 7). In addition, one of the individual items (8 to 13) also counts for individuals under the age of 16 if non-affordability of the respective item applies to at least half of the remaining household members aged 16 and over.

At-risk-of-poverty refers to a low household income in relation to the population middle: The net available household income is calculated as the sum of all earned income plus any income from capital and pensions as well as any social transfers of all household members. Taxes and social security contributions are deducted; other payments between households are added or deducted. The reference period is a calendar year. To make households of different sizes comparable, an equivalised net household income is calculated: using the EU scale, one adult is taken as the reference point and is allocated a weight of 1; for each additional adult, the assumed resource requirement increases by a weight of 0.5 and for each child under the age of 14, by 0.3.

In the EU, people are considered at risk of poverty if their equivalised (= needs-weighted per person) net household income is below 60% of the median equivalised net household income of the country. In Austria, according to EU-SILC 2025, this was [old: €1 806] €1 827 per month for people living alone, plus [old: €903] €914 for each additional adult in the household and [old: €542] €548 for each child under the age of 14.

This indicator does not allow for conclusions about the extent to which households can make ends meet with their disposable income. Depending on their life situation, households with the same income can achieve different standards of living, e.g., depending on whether they rent or own their home, or whether they have to bear health or long-term care costs.

People living in households with very low work intensity rate: A household with low work intensity utilises less than 20% of its earning potential in the previous year, calculated on the basis of all household members of working age (18 to 64) who are neither in education nor retired. This indicator is only calculated for people under the age of 65.

At risk of poverty or social exclusion = material and social deprivation OR at-risk-of-poverty OR very low work intensity: The target group for social inclusion and poverty reduction is defined by the European Union as people who meet at least one of the above criteria.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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