



Annex to the news release

'The economic poverty rates in Poland in 2023'

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 , for 1-person household, the extreme poverty line was 913 PLN and the relative poverty line PLN 1092. For 4-person household described above the extreme poverty threshold was PLN 2465 and relative poverty threshold was PLN 2949. As for privation, in the fourth quarter of 2023, for a 1-person household of employees and the self-employed, the privation line (social minimum) was PLN 1745, for an analogous household of farmers, retirees, pensioners and people living on unearned sources, it was PLN 1711. In the case of 4-person households (2 adults and 2 children up to 14 years of age), the limits were, respectively, 4711 PLN for households of employees and the self-employed, and PLN 4620 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. In the case of poverty and deprivation rates, it illustrates 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. Data for the years 2021-2023 throughout the study have been generalised on the basis of the results of the National Population and Housing Census 2021, taking into account additionally the structure of the population by age and gender (in addition to the urban-rural distinction and household size also used previously), and are therefore not directly comparable with the corresponding data for earlier years. Due to the updated generalisation, the results for 2021-2022 differ from those previously published.

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)		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Extreme (subsistence minimum)	692	835	913	1868	2254	2465
Relative	882	1008	1092	2383	2720	2949
'Legal' ^b	701	776	776	2112	2400	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		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
Employees	4.2	0.3	4.2	0.4	6.4	0.5	11.2	0.5	11.4	0.6	11.7	0.7	6.4	0.4	6.0	0.5	4.2	0.4
Farmers	10.6	1.6	8.7	1.5	14.1	2.3	25.3	2.4	20.3	2.4	26.8	2.9	15.5	1.9	11.7	1.7	9.4	1.9
The self-employed	2.7	0.6	3.2	0.8	3.8	0.7	8.9	1.1	8.7	1.2	7.9	1.0	5.2	0.8	5.8	1.0	2.5	0.6
Retirees	4.3	0.5	4.5	0.5	5.9	0.6	10.5	0.7	10.1	0.7	10.9	0.8	4.6	0.5	4.7	0.6	2.4	0.4
Pensioners	6.5	1.5	6.6	2.1	8.4	2.1	18.8	2.4	16.1	2.4	13.6	2.8	6.8	1.6	6.3	2.1	4.4	1.8
Living on unearned sources	14.5	2.4	12.8	2.6	17.9	2.7	27.9	3.0	27.7	3.4	28.6	3.2	20.5	2.8	16.6	2.9	14.8	2.8

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		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
1-person	1.0	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.6	0.2	2.8	0.2	3.0	0.2	3.2	0.2	1.2	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.7	0.1
Marriages ^a :																		
without dependent children	1.0	0.1	1.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	3.3	0.2	3.6	0.3	3.7	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.1
with 1 dependent child ^b	1.0	0.2	1.3	0.3	2.1	0.4	4.0	0.4	4.6	0.6	4.9	0.6	1.2	0.3	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.2
with 2 dependent children	2.1	0.3	1.8	0.3	3.4	0.5	7.6	0.6	6.8	0.6	7.4	0.7	4.2	0.4	3.4	0.4	2.2	0.3
with 3 and more dependent children	5.3	0.8	6.0	0.9	6.9	0.9	14.1	1.2	15.8	1.5	14.4	1.4	11.0	1.1	11.7	1.2	5.9	0.9

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

Households a – indicator value s – standard error	Extreme poverty rate						Relative poverty rate						'Legal' poverty rate					
	2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
With at least 1 person aged 0–17 years	6.2	0.5	6.0	0.5	8.2	0.6	15.4	0.7	14.8	0.8	15.3	0.8	10.4	0.6	9.7	0.7	6.4	0.5
with 1 person aged 0–17 years	5.6	0.6	4.7	0.7	7.3	0.8	13.7	0.9	12.6	1.0	14.0	1.0	7.8	0.7	5.9	0.8	4.7	0.6
with 2 persons aged 0–17 years	6.0	0.7	5.9	0.8	9.4	1.1	15.3	1.0	13.9	1.1	16.2	1.3	10.3	0.8	9.4	1.0	7.2	1.0
with at least 3 persons aged 0–17 years	7.7	1.1	8.1	1.1	8.3	1.1	18.5	1.4	19.8	1.7	16.2	1.6	15.5	1.3	16.6	1.6	7.9	1.0
Without persons aged 0–17 years	3.3	0.2	3.3	0.3	5.2	0.4	9.0	0.4	8.9	0.5	9.5	0.6	3.3	0.3	3.1	0.3	2.1	0.3

^a Data refer to households with children (persons) aged 0-17, regardless of whether they are supported by their parents (or other household members) or have their own source of income, such as a family pension or maintenance. In addition to parents and children aged 0-17, these households may also include other persons, such as older siblings, grandparents, brothers or sisters of one of the parents.

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		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
0–17	5.4	0.4	5.7	0.5	7.6	0.6	14.1	0.6	14.1	0.8	14.3	0.8	9.9	0.5	9.8	0.7	6.2	0.5
18–64	4.6	0.3	4.4	0.3	6.6	0.4	11.9	0.5	11.3	0.5	12.0	0.5	6.4	0.3	5.7	0.4	4.0	0.3
65 and over	4.2	0.3	4.2	0.3	5.7	0.5	10.6	0.5	10.4	0.5	11.0	0.6	4.6	0.3	4.6	0.4	2.7	0.3

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		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
Households with at least 1 person with disabilities	7.3	0.7	6.7	0.8	9.0	0.9	17.0	1.0	15.9	1.1	15.6	1.1	9.9	0.8	8.6	0.9	5.7	0.8
of which:																		
The head of the household with disabilities	7.8	1.2	6.4	1.2	8.2	1.6	19.2	1.8	17.1	2.0	13.0	1.8	9.8	1.5	8.8	1.6	4.0	1.3
at least 1 child up to the age of 16 with a disability certificate	6.1	2.3	6.9	2.3	7.6	2.2	14.7	3.4	11.2	2.7	12.3	2.7	12.0	3.2	8.3	2.4	5.4	1.8
Households without people with disabilities	4.1	0.3	4.1	0.3	6.1	0.4	11.1	0.5	10.8	0.5	11.5	0.5	6.1	0.3	5.8	0.4	3.8	0.3

^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 7. Poverty rates by education level of the reference person 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		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
Tertiary	1.6	0.3	2.2	0.3	3.5	0.5	4.8	0.5	5.3	0.5	6.3	0.6	2.8	0.4	3.2	0.4	2.2	0.4
Secondary	3.7	0.4	4.3	0.5	6.0	0.6	11.5	0.7	11.1	0.8	11.6	0.8	6.0	0.5	5.7	0.6	3.8	0.5
Basic vocational/basic sectoral vocational	7.4	0.6	5.9	0.6	9.5	0.7	17.1	0.9	15.8	0.9	17.1	1.0	9.9	0.6	8.3	0.7	5.9	0.6
Not higher than lower secondary ^b	11.6	1.4	11.8	1.5	12.8	1.5	26.5	1.8	26.5	1.9	23.0	1.9	14.4	1.5	14.7	1.7	7.5	1.2

^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.

^b Includes persons without education.

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

Wyszczególnienie a – wartość wskaźnika s – błąd standardowy	Extreme poverty rate						Relative poverty rate						'Legal' poverty rate					
	2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023		2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	4.7	0.3	4.6	0.3	6.6	0.4	12.1	0.5	11.7	0.5	12.2	0.5	6.7	0.3	6.2	0.4	4.1	0.3
Urban areas total	2.4	0.3	2.2	0.2	3.3	0.4	7.5	0.5	7.5	0.5	7.2	0.6	3.6	0.3	3.1	0.3	1.8	0.3
by population:																		
500 thous. or more	1.2	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.6	0.4	3.9	0.7	4.3	0.8	4.5	0.8	1.6	0.5	1.6	0.4	0.6	0.2
100–500 thous.	1.8	0.4	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.4	5.9	0.8	5.5	0.8	4.6	0.7	2.7	0.5	1.8	0.4	0.9	0.3
20–100 thous.	2.8	0.5	2.5	0.5	4.1	1.0	8.9	1.0	8.6	1.0	8.9	1.3	4.4	0.7	3.9	0.7	2.0	0.5
up to 20 thous.	3.9	0.8	4.1	0.6	5.4	1.0	11.0	1.3	11.4	1.2	10.2	1.4	5.4	0.9	5.1	0.8	3.9	0.8
Rural areas	8.0	0.5	8.1	0.7	11.5	0.8	18.9	0.9	17.9	1.0	19.7	0.9	11.4	0.6	10.8	0.8	7.5	0.6
Agglomeration rural areas	5.2	0.8	6.5	1.4	8.4	1.8	14.1	1.7	15.3	2.0	14.2	2.1	7.4	1.1	8.3	1.5	5.9	1.5
Non-agglomeration rural areas	9.0	0.7	8.6	0.7	12.4	0.8	20.6	1.0	18.7	1.2	21.4	1.0	12.8	0.8	11.7	1.0	8.0	0.6

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)		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Households:						
of employees and self-employed	1334	1581	1745	3602	4269	4711
farmers, employees, pensioners and living on unearned sources	1316	1554	1711	3554	4195	4620

^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: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
Employees	42.3	0.8	40.9	0.9	46.1	0.9
Farmers	63.7	2.4	56.4	2.9	66.5	2.7
The self-employed	34.6	1.6	34.0	1.7	37.9	1.9
Retirees	39.4	1.0	38.8	1.1	42.7	1.1
Pensioners	47.7	2.6	49.5	2.8	51.3	3.1
Living on unearned sources	69.8	2.8	60.3	3.8	65.2	3.5

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

Households: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
1-person	19.5	0.6	17.9	0.6	21.9	0.6
Marriages ^a :						
without dependent children	22.5	0.7	21.4	0.7	26.2	0.7
with 1 dependent child ^b	26.7	1.1	26.8	1.2	33.7	1.3
with 2 dependent children	39.4	1.2	35.1	1.2	42.0	1.3
with 3 and more dependent children	50.6	1.8	50.0	2.1	56.2	2.2
Mother or father with dependent children	30.6	2.5	29.3	2.4	32.3	2.1

^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^a (% of people in households)

People aged (in years) a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
With at least 1 person aged 0–17 years	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
with 1 person aged 0–17 years	50.5	0.9	47.6	1.0	53.3	1.0
with 2 persons aged 0–17 years	47.8	1.3	44.4	1.5	49.4	1.4
with at least 3 persons aged 0–17 years	50.4	1.3	46.4	1.5	54.3	1.5
Without persons aged 0–17 years	55.5	1.8	54.8	2.0	58.6	2.3
With at least 1 person aged 0–17 years	35.7	0.7	35.3	0.7	39.3	0.8

^a Data refer to households with children (persons) aged 0-17, regardless of whether they are supported by their parents (or other household members) or have their own source of income, such as a family pension or maintenance. In addition to parents and children aged 0-17, these households may also include other persons, such as older siblings, grandparents, brothers or sisters of one of the parents.

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		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
0–17	48.7	0.9	46.4	1.0	52.2	1.1
18–64	41.7	0.7	40.2	0.8	44.9	0.8
65 and over	40.6	0.8	38.9	0.8	43.4	0.9

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		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
Households with at least 1 person with disabilities	52.0	1.3	48.6	1.4	53.1	1.5
of which:						
the head of the household with disabilities	48.6	2.0	47.3	2.1	44.7	2.2
at least 1 child up to the age of 16 with a disability certificate	50.8	4.2	48.2	4.6	54.9	4.4
Households without people with disabilities	40.9	0.7	39.5	0.7	44.5	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		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
Tertiary	26.1	0.9	26.2	0.9	32.4	1.1
Secondary	43.8	0.9	41.8	0.1	45.5	1.0
Basic vocational/basic sectoral vocational	54.0	1.1	51.8	1.2	57.0	1.1
Not higher than lower secondary ^b	65.0	1.7	61.0	1.7	65.1	1.9

^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.

^b Includes persons without education.

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

Place of residence: a – indicator value s – standard error	2021		2022		2023	
	a	s	a	s	a	s
TOTAL	42.8	0.7	41.1	0.7	46.0	0.7
Urban areas total	35.1	0.8	33.9	0.8	38.3	1.0
by population:						
500 thous. or more	23.4	1.5	24.3	1.5	26.8	1.6
100–500thous.	30.3	1.4	30.1	1.4	32.5	1.5
20–100 thous.	41.1	1.6	36.2	1.7	42.4	2.0
up to 20 thous.	44.2	2.0	44.4	1.9	50.1	2.1
Rural areas	54.2	1.1	51.8	1.2	57.2	1.1
Agglomeration rural areas	46.5	2.3	45.2	2.5	49.2	2.7
Non-agglomeration rural areas	56.9	1.3	53.9	1.4	59.7	1.2