

Poverty rate

Dimension - Social Developments

Associated Key Factor:

Inequality and Social Exclusion

Data Source:

European Community Household Panel

European Social Statistics: Income, Poverty and Social Exclusion; 2nd report -- data 1994-1997

Eurostat, Unit E2, L-2920 Luxembourg

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/echpanel/info/data/information.html>

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Source.asp?vlnk=1311&More=Y>

General Availability:

Reporting unit: individual/household

Reporting level:

Reporting period: annually

Data available from 1994 to 2002

Availability by country:

1994 - 1999: EU-15

1994 - 1999: Member States (EU-15)

Data Source:

US Department of State

www.state.gov/

General Availability:

Reporting unit: individual/household

The indicator:

Poverty rate is the percentage of population the household income of which falls below a certain level, called the poverty line.

Description

Following Eurostat guidelines, the poverty line is fixed at 60 per cent of the average median income in a society. Individuals found living in households with income below this are said to be at-risk-of-poverty. The poverty line definition varies across countries and over time. Other definitions used in the past include 50 or 70 per cent of the average media income. In some countries the mean is used instead.

How is it measured?

Household income is first constructed. Each individual is then linked to its household income. The poverty threshold is determined with reference to the average but also taking into account the size of household and equivalence scales.

What are the advantages of the indicator?

The poverty rates can be measured for different social groups and also by country/region or type of community (rural/urban). Different socio-economic groups can be defined according to gender, age, citizenship, education, social class, household types, etc.

What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

Care is needed to ensure that sources are compatible and use the same definition of poverty line across countries. More generally, the problem with any threshold is that it is not discriminatory enough with regard to those that are to be found just above or just below the threshold.

What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

One of the Laeken indicators of the European Social Policy Agenda and for the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion

The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
Ageing and the labour market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migration and seasonal mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valorization of time and speed and daily mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valorization of time and speed and tourism/business travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing household structures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibilisation of the labour market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growth of transport demand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>