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SILC National Revisions

2003-2020



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2. Revisions to the 2020 SILC data

Results from SILC 2020 were updated on 6th May 2022 to better reflect the tenure distribution of Irish households Information note on revision SILC 2020. In SILC, weights are applied to the data to ensure the results are reflective of the population. The survey weights for 2020 SILC results were adjusted to better reflect the estimated household distribution within the rental sector. While this did not impact the overall at risk of poverty rate (unchanged at 13.2%), it did result in a reduction in the consistent poverty rate (4.7% compared with 5.0%). See <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/in/silc/informationnote-revisiontosilc2020/>

Main result changes due to revision of SILC 2020

Comparison of published SILC 2020 main results with revised results		
	Published 2020	Revised 2020
Income	€	€
Nominal household disposable income		
Median	43,101	43,915
Mean	52,539	52,941
Nominal equivalised disposable income per individual		
Median	23,675	24,013
Mean	27,595	27,762
At risk of poverty threshold (60% of median income)		
	14,205	14,408
Poverty & deprivation rates		
	%	%
At risk of poverty rate	13.2	13.2
Deprivation rate ¹	15.6	14.3
Deprivation rate for those at risk of poverty	38.3	35.3
Consistent poverty rate	5.0	4.7
Income equality indicators		
Gini coefficient (%)	28.8	28.5
Income quintile share ratio	4.1	4.1

3. Revision to the 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 SILC data

Data for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 was revised and released alongside the SILC 2017 data on 17th December 2018. The NUTS boundaries were amended on 21st November 2016 under Regulation (EC) No.2066/2016 and took effect from 1st January 2018 Please see <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/history> for further details.

As the CSO weight results in the SILC using NUTS3 groups, survey estimates have been revised to take account of these changes. The reweighted data from 2012 to 2016 inclusive is published with the SILC 2017 results and users should note that there is a break in the regional data series from 2012, as the results for the period 2004 to 2011 are published using the old NUTS groupings.

As the SILC is a sample survey, independent estimates of population and numbers of households are required each year to provide a weighting basis for the statistics produced from the SILC. When the results from a new Census of Population are published, the quarterly population estimates back to the previous Census of Population are revised. The results published for the SILC 2019 incorporate the new population estimates (as calculated from the Census of Population 2016) for each year from 2012 onwards into the weighting methodology.



As results for the SILC from 2012 through to 2016 are being revised due to the new NUTS3 region classifications and the post Census 2016 population and household estimates, the Income, Consumption and Wealth (ICW) division in the CSO took the opportunity to increase the use of administrative data in the SILC process. The process changes mostly relate to increased usage of administrative data for employee income variables and this has improved the quality of the data from 2012 onwards. While applying the process changes to the periods in question a number of corrections were made to further improve the quality of the data. The revised estimates for 'at risk of poverty', 'consistent poverty', 'enforced deprivation', Gini coefficient and quintile share ratio are not statistically significantly different from the pre-revision estimates.

4. Revision to the 2012, 2013 and 2014 SILC data

Before the 2017 revisions to SILC reference years 2012 to 2014, the results for these years had already been revised. These revisions arose following the identification of a processing error during the production of data for 2015. This processing error related to the method used to calculate Universal Social Charge (USC) and Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI). The error resulted in disposable income being under-estimated over the period (2012-2014). However, trends observed in the revised series mirror those of the previously published data. Earlier years are not affected.

5. Revision to the 2010 SILC data

The 2010 SILC results were amended following extensive investigation of anomalies in the data. In 2010, changes had been made to the processing of the data which resulted in an incorrect treatment in some cases of tax, income and pension contributions. This became clear when unusual trends in certain categories between 2010 and 2011 were further analysed. The revisions were carried out as a result of a processing error. The main effects of the amendment was a change in the 'at risk of poverty threshold' and in the 'at risk of poverty rate' (15.8% to 14.7%). There was no significant change in the deprivation and consistent poverty rates. Indicators of income inequality decreased e.g. the Gini coefficient went from 33.9% to 31.6%. Earlier years were not affected.

6. Revision to the 2003 SILC data

The first SILC results from the CSO were for the reference year 2003 and were published in January 2005. These results were revised following the application of improved re-weighting and calibration methods in line with EU recommendations. The effect of the revisions were to lower both the risk of poverty (from 22.7% to 19.7%) and consistent poverty (from 9.4% to 8.8%) measures. The comparability of year on year changes were affected in some cases by some adjustments to the survey procedures (see background notes of http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/eusilc/2004/eusilc_2004.pdf for more information). This was particularly the case with estimates for relatively small sub-populations, where relatively large sampling error