

Domain: Income and living conditions

IN 2024, NEARLY ONE IN FIVE ROMANIANS WERE AFFECTED BY POVERTY

- 19.0% of the usually resident population lived in a household with an equivalised disposable income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold¹, which is set at 60% of the median equivalised disposable income after social transfers;
- more than 1 in 6 persons (17.2%) were affected by severe material and social deprivation;
- 615 thousand persons under 65 years of age (4.3%) lived in households with very low work intensity².

AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY RATE

Estimated on the basis of the total disposable income, excluding the equivalent value of the consumption from the household's own resources, the **at-risk-of-poverty rate** (AROP) was 19.0% in 2024, 2.1 percentage points lower than the previous year.

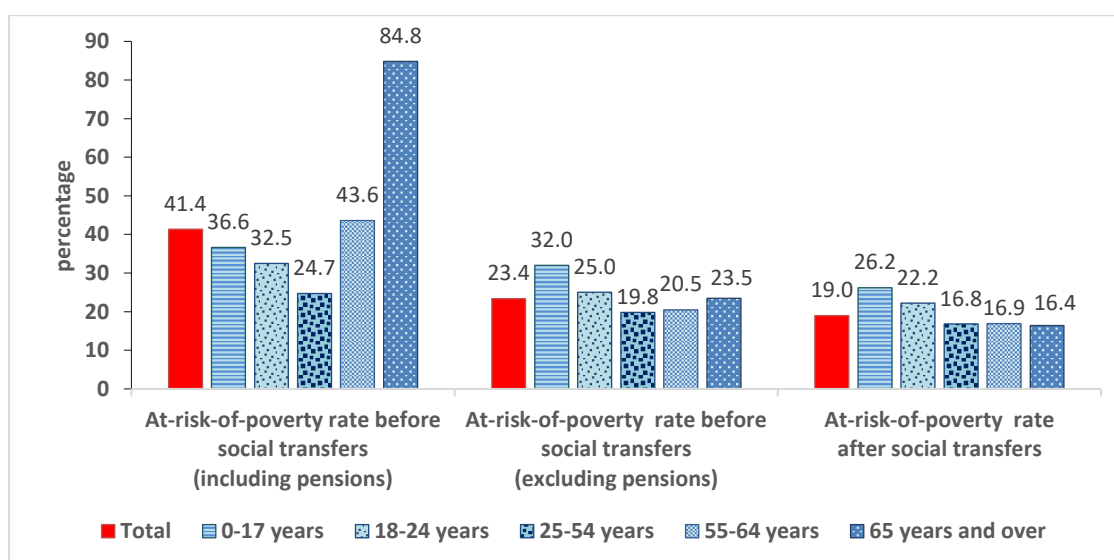
In absolute terms, the number of poor people amounted to 3595 thousand persons in 2024, 375 thousand persons less than in 2023, i.e. a decrease of 9.4% in the number of poor people.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate by gender in 2024 was 0.1 percentage points higher for women than for men (19.0% compared to 18.9%).

The highest incidence of poverty was among persons aged 0-17 years (26.2%) and among persons aged 18-24 years (22.2%).

The at-risk-of-poverty rate of the persons living in households with dependent children was 22.6% in 2024 (lower by 2.5 percentage points than the one of 2023, but higher by 8.6 percentage points than that of the persons living in households without dependent children).

At-risk-of-poverty rate before and after social transfers, by age group, in 2024



[The chart data can be accessed through the .xlsx file attached to the press release.](#)

¹ The value of the at-risk-of-poverty threshold was 23262 lei per year per person in 2024.

² Households where working-age adults worked less than 20% of their work-time potential during the previous 12 months.

Social transfers play an important part in the drop in the at-risk-of-poverty rate. If, in 2024, pensions and the other social transfers had not been paid, two fifths of the population (41.4%) would have lived below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold³ and, obviously, the situation would have worsened for elderly people (aged

65 years or over), as 84.8% of them would have been at risk of poverty. The same situation would have been reported for persons aged 55-64, but to a much lower extent (43.6%).

SEVERE MATERIAL AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

Due to the acute lack of financial resources, some people cannot afford to own goods, to make payments or to consume products which, at the current stage of socio-economic development, represent a minimum set of items that are required for a decent standard of living.

In 2024, the **severe material and social deprivation rate** was 17.2%, a decrease of 2.6 percentage points compared to the previous year.

The total number of persons affected by severe material and social deprivation amounted to 3266 thousand persons in 2024, of whom 52.9% women and 47.1% men.

The severe material and social deprivation affects the population to different degrees, depending on the age group and the income of the household. In 2024, the incidence of severe material and social deprivation is mainly higher in persons under 18 years of age (21.2%) and in elderly persons aged 65 years or over (19.6%).

VERY LOW WORK INTENSITY

In 2024, 615 thousand persons of those under 65 years of age lived in households **with very low work intensity** (households where working-age adults worked less than 20% of their work-time potential).

The number of people in households with very low work intensity decreased by 0.9 percentage points compared to the previous year (4.3% compared to 5.2%).

The breakdown of these people by gender shows that the number of women exceeded that of men by 89 thousand persons in 2024. The share of the persons under 65 years of age living in households with very low work intensity is higher for women than for men, by 1.4 percentage points (5.0% of women, compared to 3.6% of men).

AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION RATE

The **at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE)** was 27.9% in 2024, corresponding to 5.3 million persons⁴.

There is a drop of 4.1 percentage points in the value of the indicator compared to 2023, representing a decrease of 739 thousand persons.

The at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate affects women to a greater extent than men (28.4% of women and 27.4% of men).

Age plays an important part, with the AROPE indicator being higher for persons aged 0-17 years (33.8%) and young people aged 18-24 years (31.3%) and lower for persons aged 25-49 years (22.9%) in 2024.

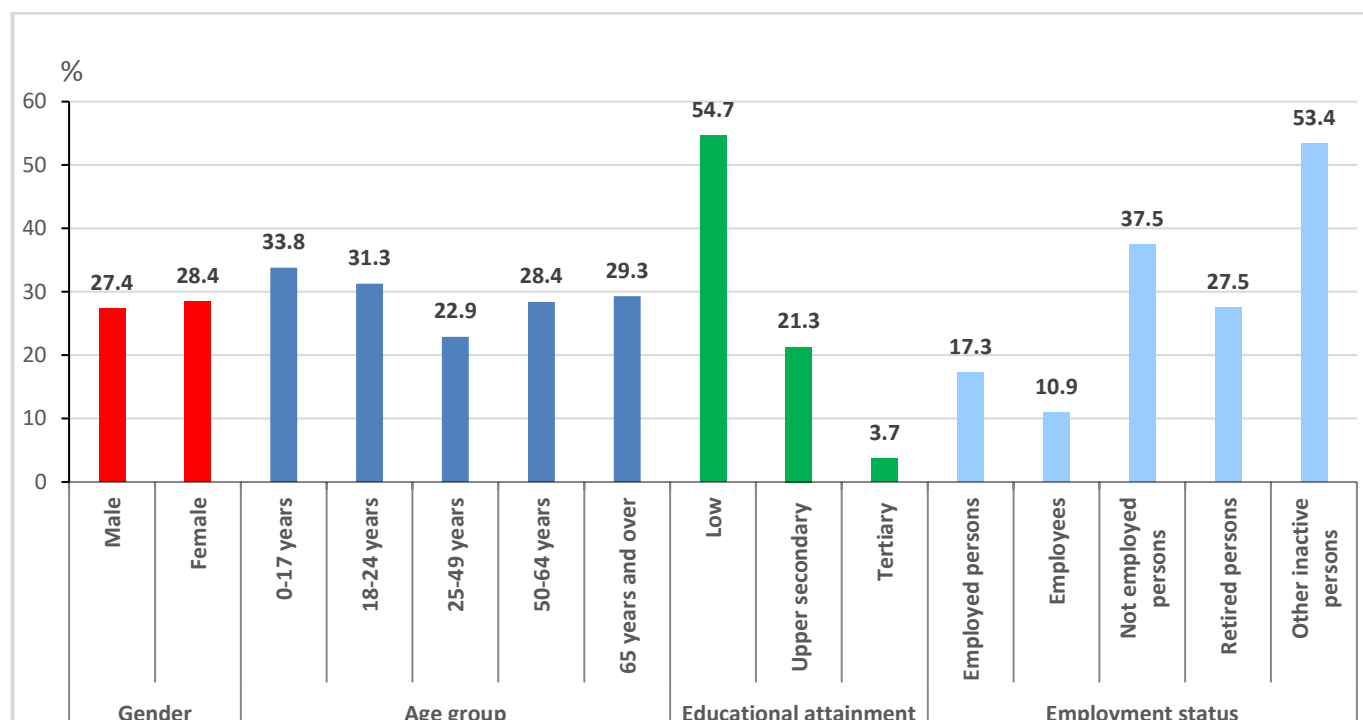
The share of the persons aged 65 years and over who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion was 29.3%. In 2024, 17.3% of the employed persons aged 18 years and over were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, compared to 37.5% of the not employed persons of the same age group.

The persons living in households without dependent children are at a lower risk of poverty or social exclusion (24.5%) than the persons living in households with dependent children (30.4%).

³ Set at 60% of the median disposable income per adult equivalent.

⁴ They were in at least one of the following situations: at risk of poverty, severe material and social deprivation, or they lived in households with very low work intensity.

Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by main categories of the population, in 2024



[The chart data can be accessed through the .xlsx file attached to the press release.](#)

The highest incidence of the AROPE indicator in 2024 was reported in the households consisting of two adults with three or more dependent children (50.9%), followed by the households with three or more adults with children (37.2%) and single-parent households, with a 36.5% incidence.

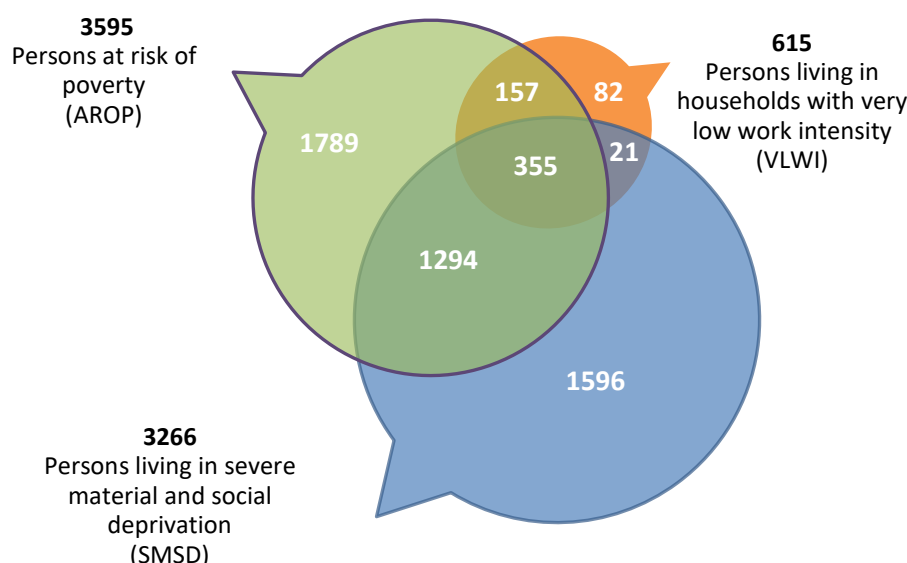
As regards the households without dependent children, the highest incidence was reported in single-person households (34.7%), compared to 17.6% in the households with three or more adults.

The risk of poverty or social exclusion also varies depending on the region. Its highest rate was reported in the South-East region (39.7%), followed closely by the South-West Oltenia region (35.1%), and its lowest rate was that of the Bucharest-Ilfov region (12.0%).

The **intersection of the components of the AROPE indicator** provides information for a detailed analysis of the impact of each of the three components on the evolution of the composite indicator.

Number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by type of risk, in 2024

- thousand persons -



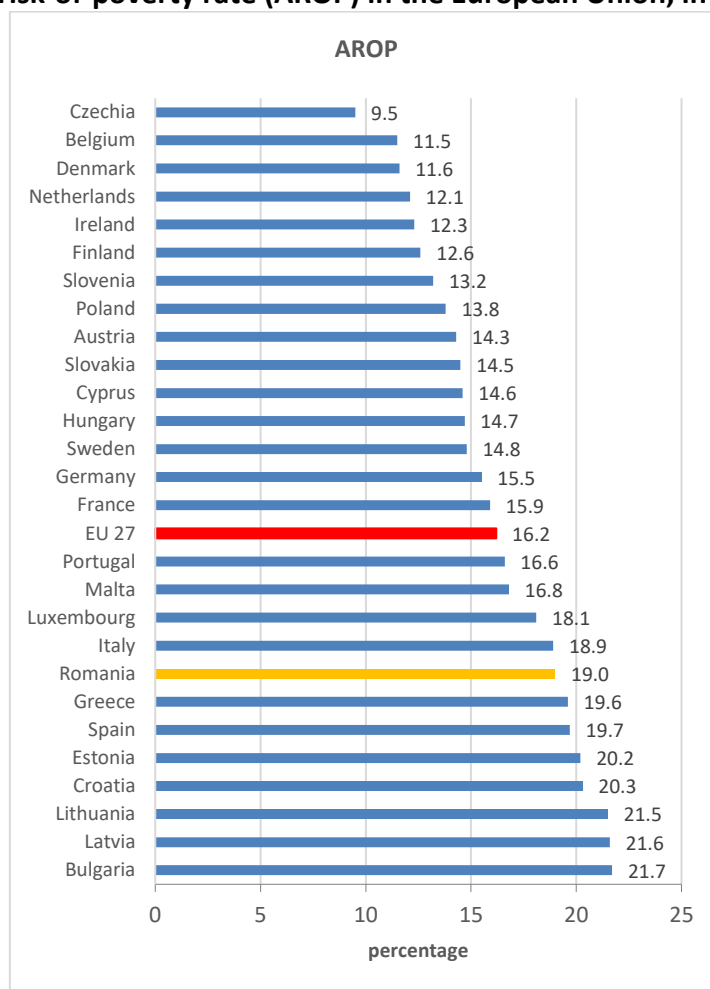
3595 thousand persons of the 5.3 million persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion were at risk of poverty, the most frequent of the three⁵ situations.

Some of the people at risk of poverty or social exclusion are in only one of the three situations. Approximately 1789 thousand persons were at risk of poverty but did not live in severe material and social deprivation and did not live in households with very low work intensity (the other two situations), 1596 thousand persons lived in severe material and social deprivation and 82 thousand persons lived in households with very low work intensity but were not affected by the other two situations. If one looks at the intersection of the components of the AROPE indicator (taken two at a time), one can see that

1294 thousand persons were at risk of poverty and lived in severe material and social deprivation, 157 thousand persons were at risk of poverty and lived in households with very low work intensity, and 21 thousand persons (the smallest figure) lived in households with very low work intensity and in severe material and social deprivation.

Approximately 355 thousand persons were simultaneously faced with all three situations: in other words, they were at risk of poverty, lived in severe material and social deprivation and lived in households with very low work intensity.

At-risk-of-poverty rate (AROP) in the European Union, in 2024



Additional information:

For an accurate interpretation of the indicators, please see the [Methodological explanations attached to the press release on the homepage](#). You can find further information (on poverty, severe material and social deprivation, the risk of poverty or social exclusion, international comparisons) in the statistical publication “Dimensions of social inclusion in Romania, in 2024”, date of issue October 31, 2025, as well as in the TEMPO-Online database on 14.11.2025.

The next press release – “The main indicators on poverty and social exclusion, in 2025” – will be issued on June 30, 2026.

Press release archive: <https://insse.ro/cms/en/comunicate-de-pres-a-view>

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⁵ a) risk of poverty, b) severe material and social deprivation,

c) living in households with very low work intensity.